



BERLIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2016

PARKS + RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Berlin Township has prepared a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to identify the parks and recreation needs of the community. This update builds on the ideas set forth in previous plans, makes recommendations for meeting the community's future recreation needs, and presents an implementation strategy for parks and recreation improvement.

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

WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

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

PLANNING PROCESS

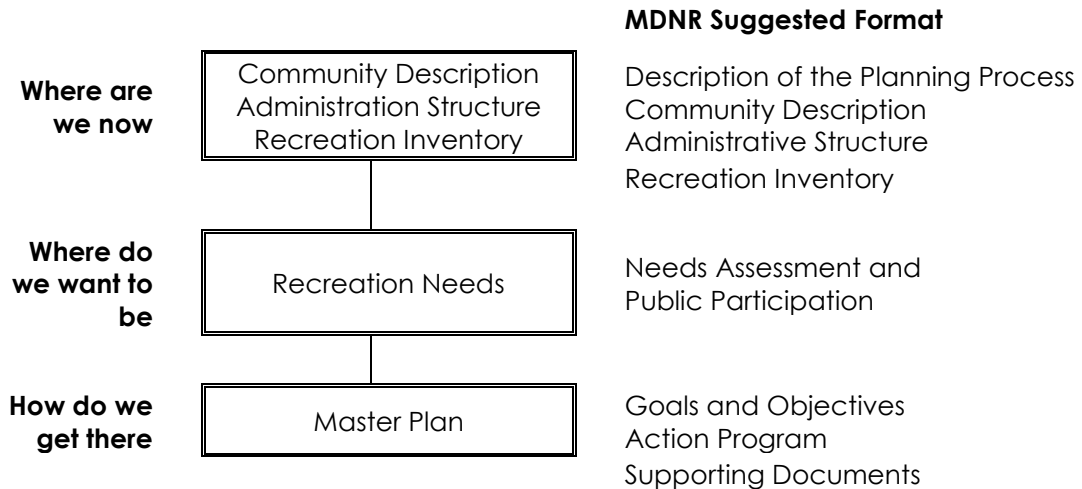
The process used to generate the plan consisted of three major phases which are described below:

1. **Where are we now?** This phase involved a review of demographics and the planning context to provide a foundation for the planning process. In this phase, parks and facilities were inventoried and mapped to document existing resources and begin to assess their conditions. The information is organized into

three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and recreation inventory.

2. **Where do we want to be?** The second phase in the planning process consisted of an analysis of the area's parks and recreation system to determine recreation deficiencies and needs. Public participation was sought through an online questionnaire to solicit ideas and suggestions from the community about their recreation preferences. Input was also solicited from public officials and staff at public meetings.
3. **How do we get there?** Once needs were identified, the final phase involved development plan elements to support the community's vision for parks and recreation and provide for park planning and development. Recommended projects were summarized in a project schedule, accompanied by strategies for implementation. This phase also included preparation of a full draft of the Plan, which was presented to the Planning Commission and Township Board, as well as the public for review and comment prior to adoption.

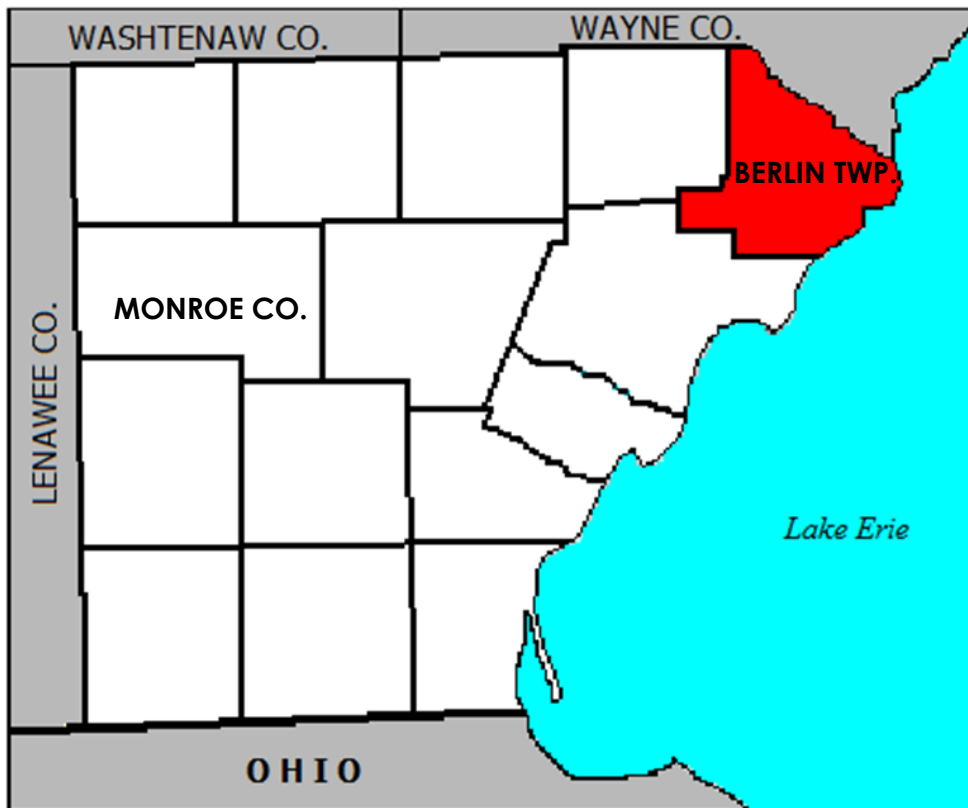
The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier.



DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

Berlin Township encompasses the jurisdiction within this Plan. Located in northeast Monroe County, the Township borders Ash Township to the west, Frenchtown Township and the Village of Estral Beach to the south, and the Village of South Rockwood, the City of Flat Rock and Brownstown Township to the north (Wayne County). Berlin is bounded by Lake Erie to the east.

Figure 1. Location Map



Source: Wikipedia

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

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

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the Township has shown continued growth over the past thirty years, greater than the growth experienced by the surrounding areas and Monroe County as a whole. Projections provided by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) also indicate continued growth in the future.

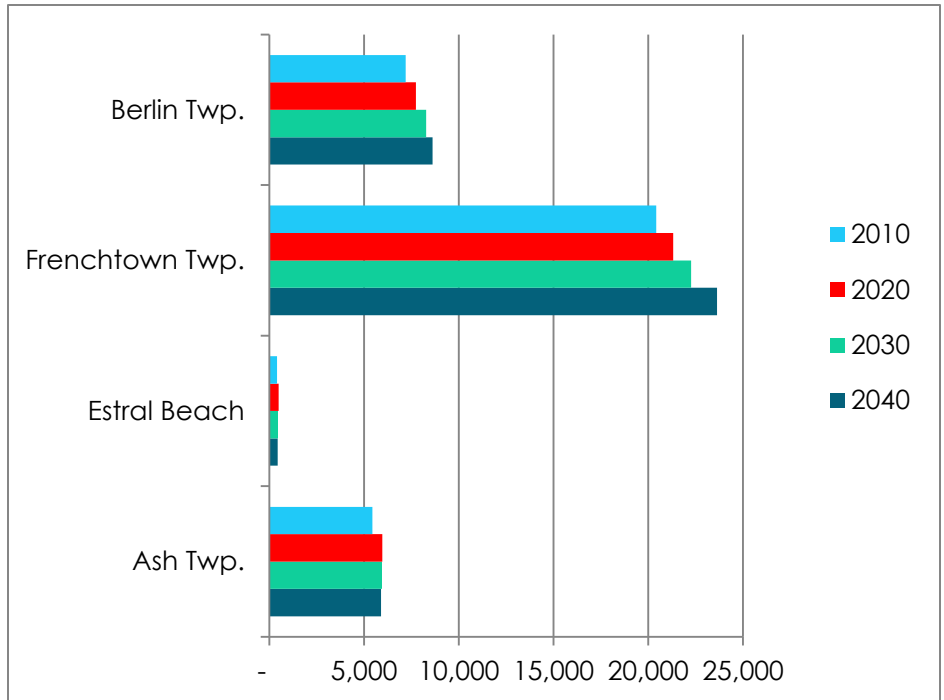
Table 1. Population, 1990-2040

	Census 1990	Census 2000	Census 2010	% Increase 1990-2010	SEMCOG 2040	% Increase 2010-2040
Berlin Township	4,635	5,153	7,206	55.5%	8,624	19.7%
Monroe County	133,600	145,945	152,021	13.8%	164,025	7.9%

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

Population trends in adjacent communities also indicate a leveling of the population. Figure 2 indicates the Monroe County communities surrounding Berlin Township are expected to experience only slight population increases or decreases between 2010 and 2040. Recent trends have also indicated a leveling in the number of households in the Township during the same time period. Projections show this trend will largely continue for both population and households.

Figure 2. Population Trends, Berlin + Neighboring Communities



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

Table 2. Household Types, 2000-2040

Berlin Township	Census 2000	Census 2010	SEMCOG 2040
Total Households	1,882	2,575	3,193
Households with children	716	1,010	n/a
Households with seniors 65+	309	501	n/a

n/a: not available

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

As presented in Table 2, Berlin Township had 2,575 households in 2010, an increase of 693 households from 2000. SEMCOG estimates Berlin will have 3,193 households in 2040.

Household trends generally indicate a decrease in the number of households with children and an increase the number of households with seniors. The number of households with children and the number of households with seniors over age 65 both increased between 2000 and 2010. Households with children increased 41% and households with seniors increased 62%.

Table 3. Age Characteristics, 2010-2040

Berlin Township	2010		2040	
Under 5	494	6.9%	501	5.8%
5-17	1,453	20.2%	1,380	16.0%
18-24	575	8.0%	485	5.6%
25-34	859	11.9%	995	11.5%
35-59	2,714	37.7%	2,873	33.3%
60-64	419	5.8%	541	6.3%
65-74	414	5.7%	824	9.6%
75+	278	3.9%	1,025	11.9%
Total	7,206	100%	8,624	100%

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

Projections indicate a decreasing trend in the children population and an increasing trend in the senior population. As shown in Table 3, children below the age of 18 make up about 27% of the total population in 2010, but are forecasted to decrease to approximately 22% by 2040; while the senior population is forecasted to increase during the same period, from about 9% of the total population in 2010 to 21% in 2040.

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

HOUSING AND BUILDING TRENDS

Between 2000 and 2010, Berlin Township experienced steady housing growth increasing 290 units. Single-family homes are predominant in Berlin Township, accounting for 77 percent of the housing stock. The other units in Berlin Township include 13 percent manufactured housing, 8 percent apartments, 2 percent duplexes, and less than 1 percent townhouses/attached condos. The median house value in 2010 was \$166,900, a decrease from \$194,881 in 2000.

Table 3. Housing Types, 2000-2010

	Census 2000	5-Yr ACS 2010	Change 2000-2010
Single-Family Detached	1,510	1,800	290
Duplex	32	9	-23
Townhouse/Attached Condo	15	0	-15
Multi-Unit Apartment	163	98	-65
Mobile Home/Manufactured Housing	250	732	482
Total	1,970	2,639	669

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

The general trend and growth in population, households, and housing units from 2000 and 2010 for Berlin Township is consistent with the downturn in the economy experienced by Southeast Michigan. However, the number of new residential building permits issued since 2010, as well as, other indicators seems to point to a renewed increasing trend in the future.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Agriculture and Open Space have been the predominate land use categories throughout the Township's history (62% Agriculture / 12% Recreation/Open Space) . These land uses categories continue to dominate the landscape in Berlin. Development of the Township has been affected most significantly by access to I-75 and I-275, which are both major highways in Michigan.

The Township has tremendous development opportunities due to waterfront property and large tracts of land that are mainly undeveloped; however inaccessible. Mixed-

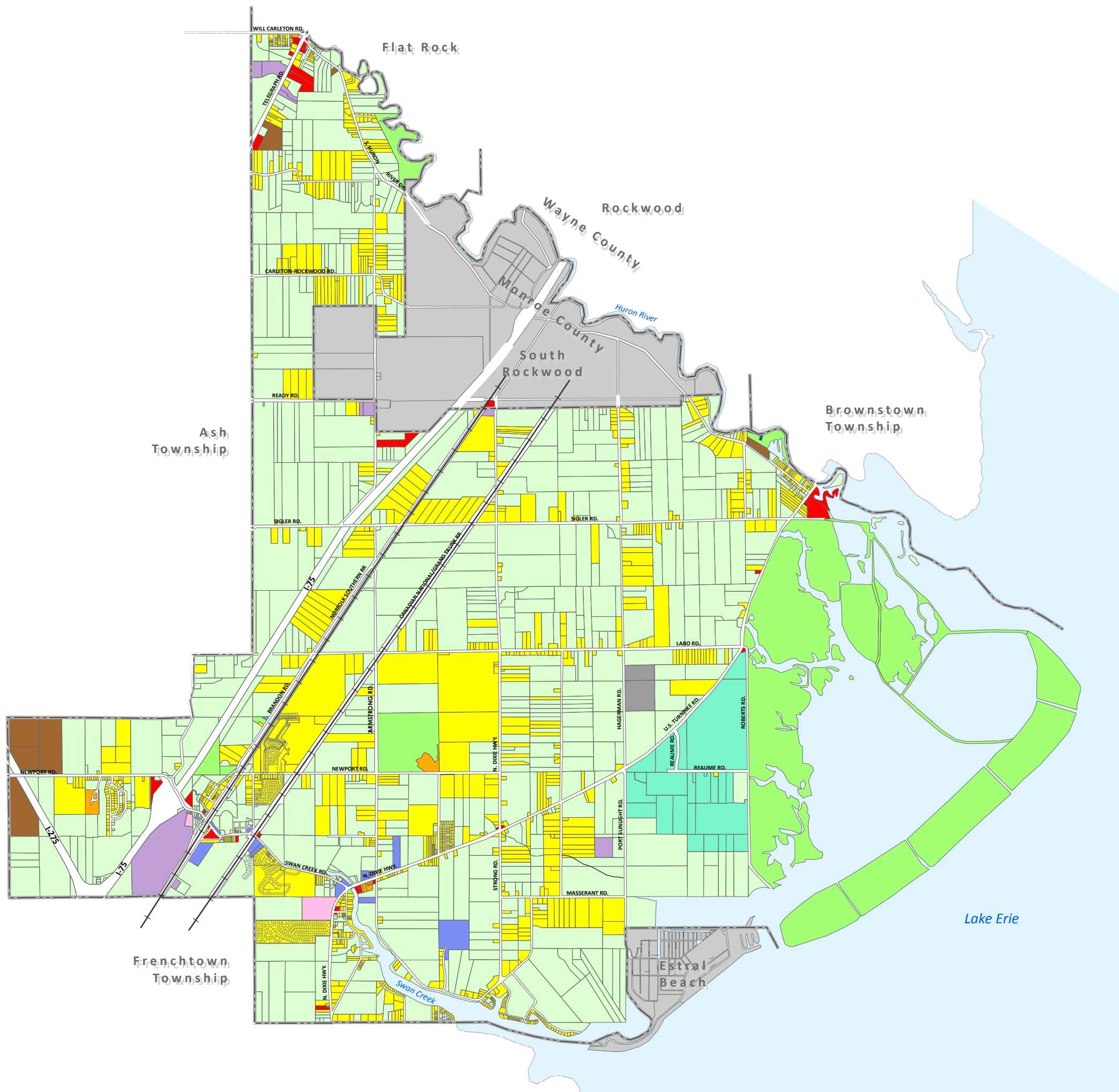
use development, such as marinas and residential developments can be developed in numerous locations adjacent to Lake Erie, Swan Creek, and the Huron River. Large tracts of vacant land remain in the Township's interior having potential for many uses including residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Table 5. Land Use Acreage

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Agricultural	10,683.28	61.57%
Single-Family Residential	3,302	19.03%
Multiple-Family Residential	31.52	0.18%
Manufactured Housing Park	223.64	1.29%
Office	4.69	0.03%
Commercial	91.97	0.53%
Light Industrial	155.13	0.89%
Heavy Industrial	35.06	0.20%
Quarry/Landfill	605.16	3.49%
Institutional	86.62	0.50%
Recreation/Open Space	2,070.89	11.93%
Utility	58.37	0.34%
Waterfront Marina	2.77	0.02%
TOTAL	17,351.46	100.0%

Source: Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc. from SEMCOG data

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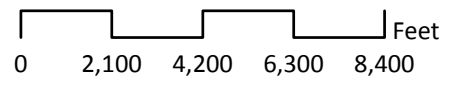
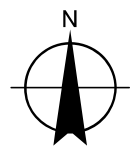


- Agricultural
- Single Family Residential
- Multiple Family Residential
- Manufactured Housing Park
- Office
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Quarry/Landfill
- Institutional
- Recreation/Open Space
- Utility
- Waterfront Marina

Figure 3

EXISTING LAND USE

Berlin Charter Township
Monroe County



Basemap Data Source: Monroe County Planning



NATURAL FEATURES

Berlin is situated in an area abundant in natural resources. These include Lake Erie, the Huron River, Swan Creek, the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area and agriculturally productive soils. These resources are fragile and can be easily damaged through pollution, erosion, and uncontrolled development. It is important to understand the hazards that could befall these resources, and to address measures to manage and protect the frail equilibrium between man and nature.

The Township's topography is relatively flat due to glacial activity that produced a series of pro-glacial lakes over much of Monroe County. This glacial action has left the Township with deposits which eventually became productive agriculture soils over much of Berlin, although the underlying glacial fill has resulted in drainage problems. This glacial activity has also left deposits of sand and gravel with economic potential for mining which has become sought after within the Township.

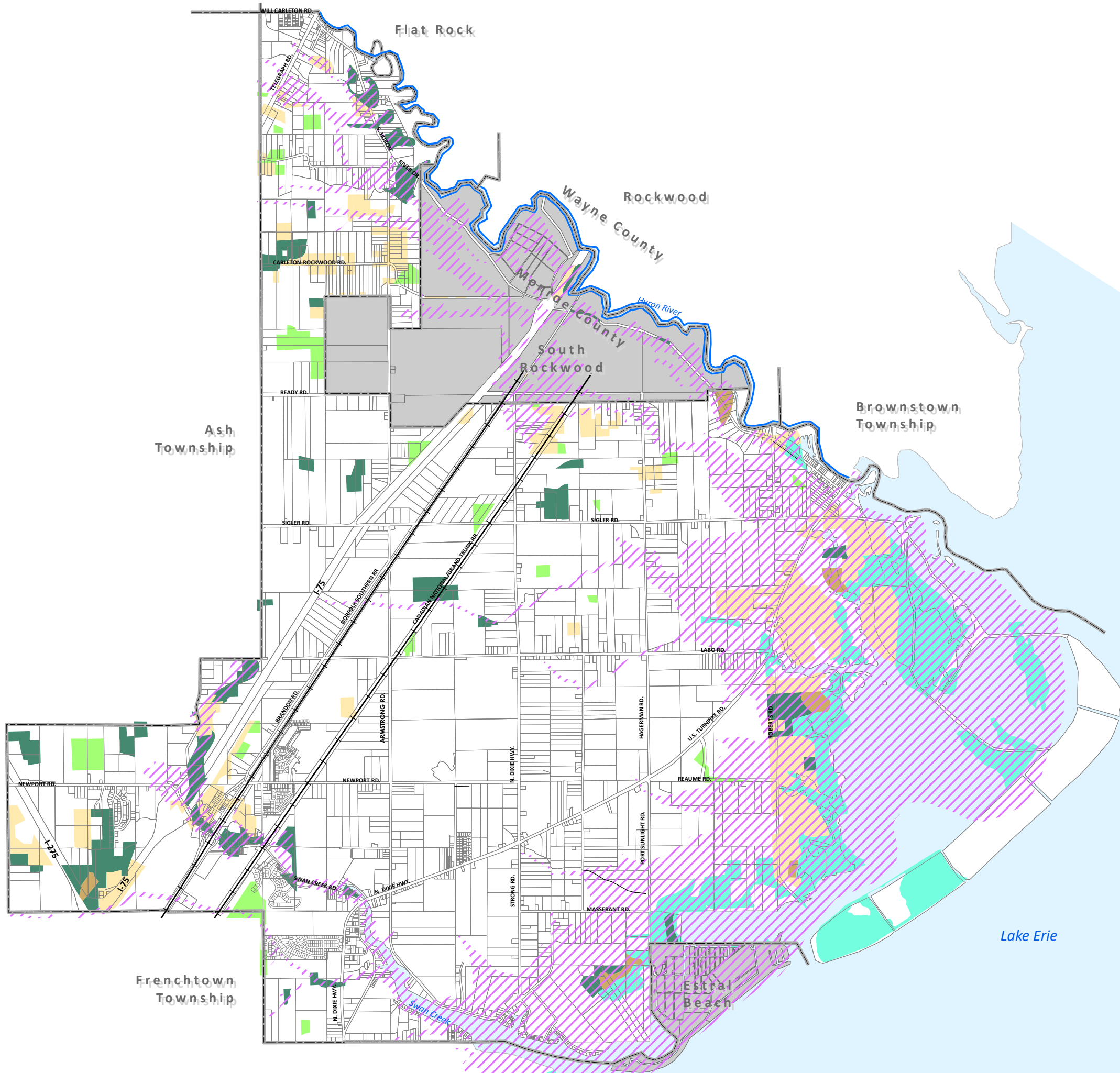
Due to a seasonal high-water table, the soil types found in the Township are severely limited for septic system or on-site waste disposal use. As a result, water and soil pollution problems stemming from septic system use became apparent in the 1970's. The Township constructed a sanitary sewage disposal system to help mitigate the pollution caused by septic system use. The Township's soils are generally suitable for agricultural purposes if adequately drained.

Berlin is one of eight coastal communities in Monroe County situated on Lake Erie. All surface waters from the various drainage systems are of local origin, with Swan Creek (upper reaches in Midland County) and Port Creek having their upper reaches Ash Township.

Segments of Berlin Township seasonally flood due to stream overflows or from high lake levels. The entire Township is located either in the 100-year flood plain or the 500-year flood plain based upon the latest FEMA updated mapping. The eastern one-third of the Township is encompassed within the 100-year flood plain which is primarily wetland area, and does not contain soils suitable for high-density or high-impact development. The remaining portion of the Township is considered part of the 500-year flood plain area.

Scattered areas of woodlands are located throughout the central and western portions of the Township. Much of the Township's forested areas were cleared for timber and prepared for cultivation by the area's early settlers. The Township's wetlands are generally associated with other water features present such as Lake Erie, the Huron River and Stony Creek, and are concentrated along the eastern boundary of the Township at Lake Erie.

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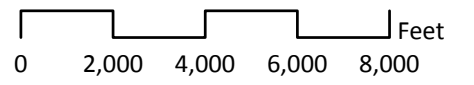
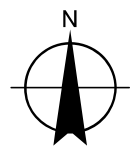
- Grassland & Shrub Area
- Hardwood Forest
- Shrub/Scrub Wetland
- Forested Wetland
- Wetland
- 100-Year Floodplain

The whole Township, with the exception of the extreme north bordering Flat Rock, is in the 500-year floodplain

Figure 6

NATURAL FEATURES

Berlin Charter Township
Monroe County



Map Data Source: Monroe County Planning and SEMCOG Land Cover Data



REGIONAL PARKS AND PLANNING INITIATIVES

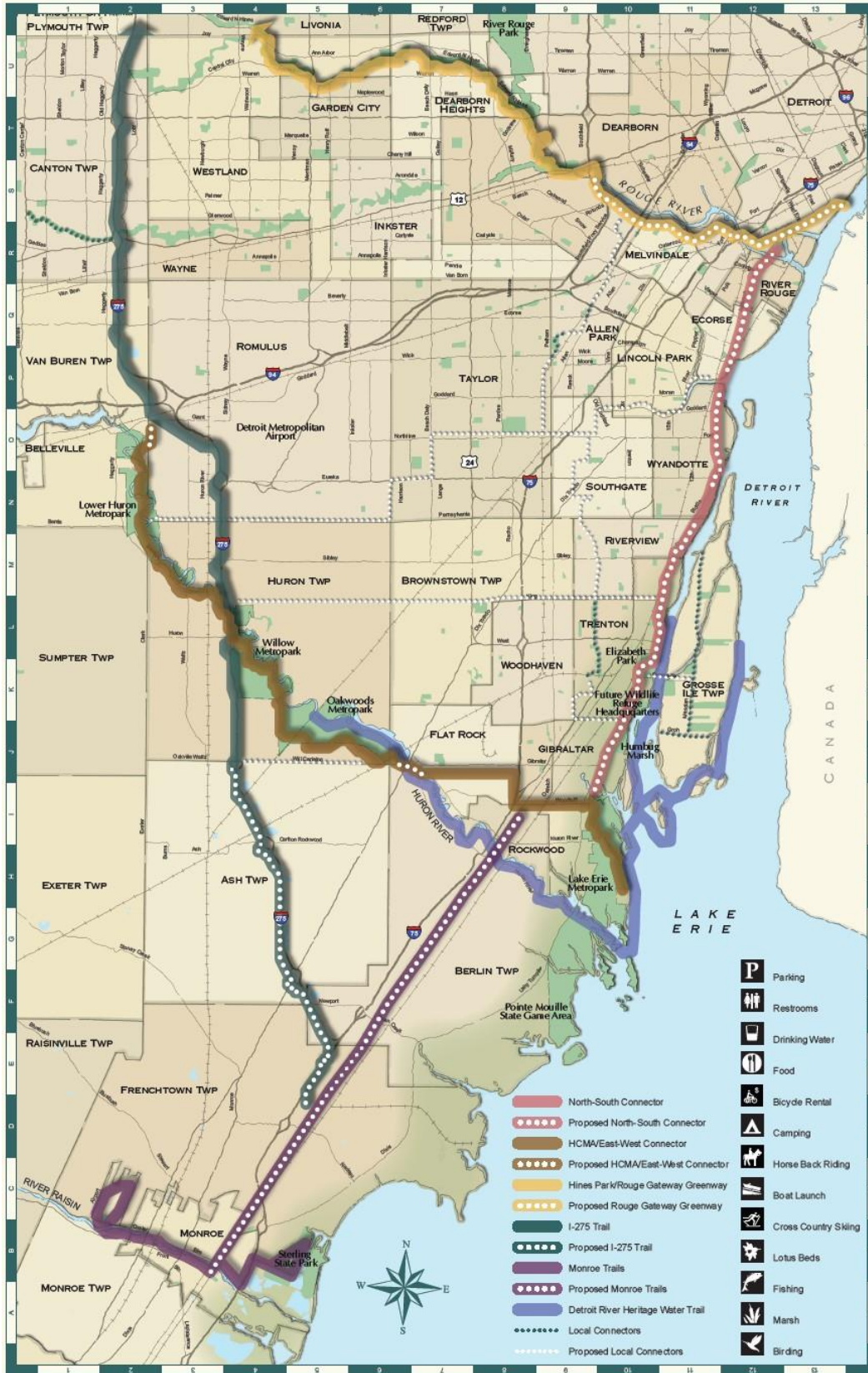
While change is inevitable and growth in population and housing will occur, Berlin Township is committed to managing growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for all their residents. A number of planning initiatives related to parks and the environment,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

Several regional planning initiatives have been undertaken in the past 10-15 years providing a variety of ways to connect regional recreational opportunities throughout Southeast Michigan.

The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative is a regional non-motorized pathway vision for the Downriver region. It is envisioned that this regional pathway system will connect the 17 Downriver communities and Wayne County through a network of trails and greenways, and will feed the link to a rapidly forming regional and statewide system of greenways. The effort to produce a coordinated, functioning, non-motorized system is an essential factor in the quality of life for the Downriver communities.

Berlin Township plays a critical role in the plans connection of northern and southern pathways, as a major segment of the proposed "Monroe Trail" that follows I-75 is located in Berlin Township. Further, a connection at the I-75/I-275 interchange is also demonstrated as a primary connection point along the I-275 trail.

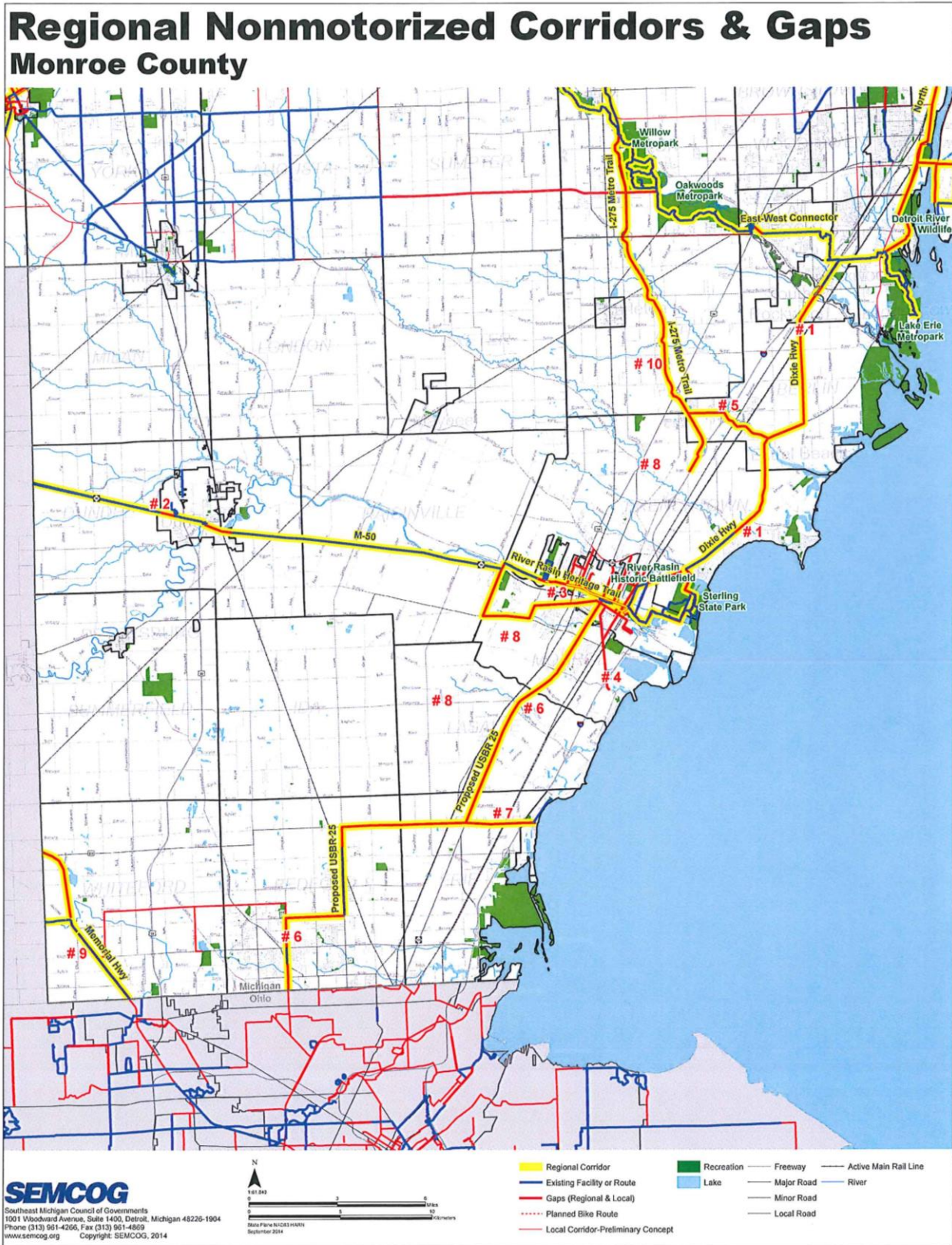
Figure 5. Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative



Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Plan for Southeast Michigan (2014 – Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)) ties all the components of the region's non-motorized system together into an identified system and benchmarks existing facilities, identifies deficiencies, visions and provides implementation strategies for the various communities. The plan was guided by a Plan Advisory Team comprised of MDOT, County, and local governmental agencies and various interest groups.

The Monroe County Non-motorized Corridors and Gaps Map produced by SEMCOG lists the #1 gap in the county's regional system is along Dixie Highway which connects the main east-west regional connection to Monroe through South Rockwood, Berlin Township, and Frenchtown Township. The fifth ranked regional gap in Monroe County is also located exclusively in Berlin Township providing a connection from the I-275 Metro Trail (west) to the proposed Dixie Highway route (east) noted above.

Figure 6. Monroe County Regional Non-motorized Corridors + Gaps - SEMCOG



Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is located along the lower Detroit River and western shoreline of Lake Erie. It was established in 2001 as the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America. The authorized refuge boundary includes islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of shoreline. The refuge is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is focusing on cooperative management agreements with the various industries, government agencies, and others within the refuge boundaries.

The Township's shoreline along Lake Erie is included as part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge area.

Figure 7. Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge



Brancheau Unit



Fix Unit



Strong Unit

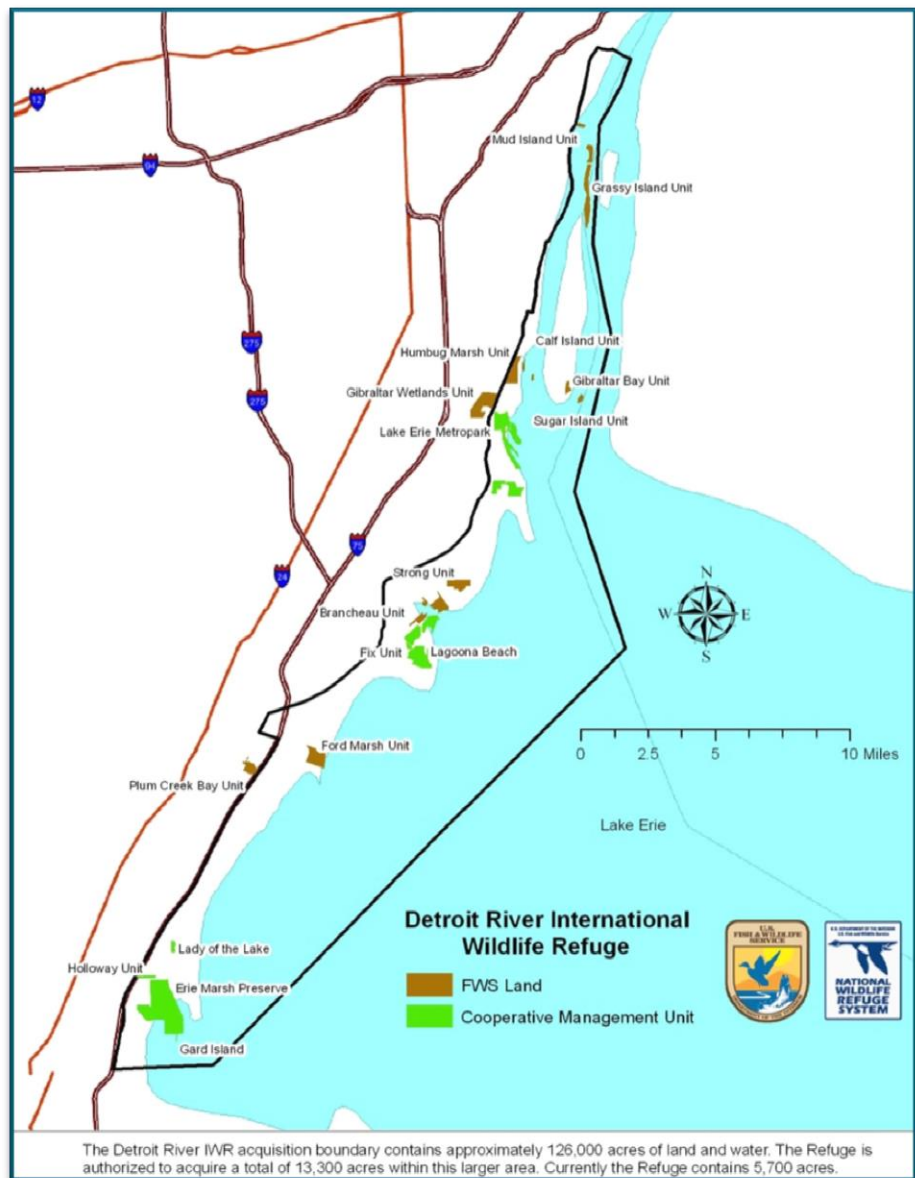


Figure 9. Huron River Inset - Detroit Heritage River Water Trail



Huron River

Flat Rock to Labo Park in Berlin Township to Lake Erie

For an “Up North” experience, paddle the Huron River out of Flat Rock. The kayak launch is located on Church Street south of North Huron Drive. Your paddle will meander on the Huron River to Labo Park where paddlers can take a short break before continuing on the NPS Hulls Trace Unit Launch near Lake Erie.

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ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The management and planning for parks and recreation services in Berlin Township is the responsibility of the Township Board.

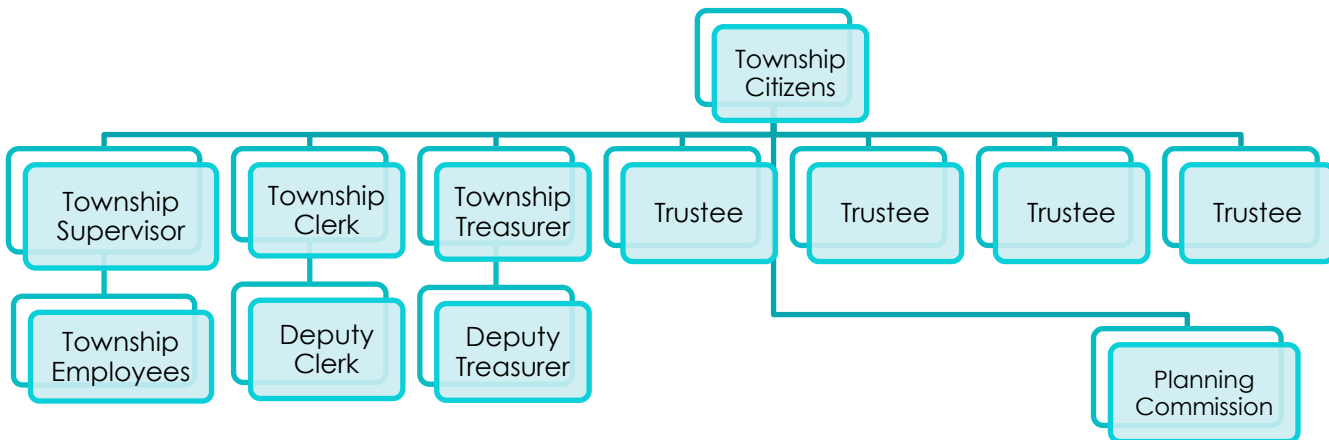
ADMINISTRATION

Currently, there is no standing Recreation Commission or Advisory Board. One recommendation of this Plan is to establish a Recreation Advisory Committee. In the interim, the Township Planning Commission services as the Recreation Commission.

An elected Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer, and four Township Trustees, all with four-year terms, govern Berlin Township. The Township Supervisor has the responsibility for maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. The Township Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month, at which time recreation issues within the Township are addressed. Budgeting for recreation and facilities maintenance is submitted on an annual basis.

The full-time Township Supervisor oversees the Department of Public Works and all contracted maintenance, which is responsible for maintenance of the Township's recreation. The Township does not currently have a Director of Parks and Recreation.

Figure 10. Organizational Chart



FUNDING AND BUDGET

In the 2015 Fiscal Year, the Township had an annual operating budget of \$23,860, which is expected to increase to \$45,500 in 2016. Maintenance of the Township's recreation facilities in the 2015 Fiscal Year received Township funding through part of two accounts: Parks and Recreation (\$15,000) and Halls and Grounds (\$89,000).

The 2015 final adopted budget for Halls and Grounds (including Township Hall, Senior Center, utilities, equipment, and Township Park facilities) is \$89,000. The proposed Parks and Recreation budget of 2016 is \$45,500 (See Table 6 below).

Table 6. Budget

Description	2014	2015	2016
	Actual Prior Year	Estimated Current Year	Recommended
Recreation Fees	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Repairs + Maintenance Supplies	-	-	\$3,000
Planner Fees	-	\$1,360	\$8,000
Contracted Repair + Maintenance	-	\$1,000	\$1,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	\$5,000	\$2,000
New Equipment	-	\$15,000	\$20,000
Engineering Fees	-	-	\$10,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,500	\$23,860	\$45,500

CURRENT FUNDING

Funding for Parks and Recreation is generated from the General Fund, donations, fundraising, and grants. The Township has the option of requesting a millage from voters for additional parks and recreation funding.

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Township works closely with the Airport, Jefferson, and Flat Rock School Districts, as well as the Villages of South Rockwood and Estral Beach regarding recreation programming available to Township residents.

Currently, the responsibility for recreational programming lies solely with the individual school districts. Recreation facilities owned by the schools are maintained by school district maintenance staff and part-time seasonal employees.

Volunteers assist with the organization and preparation (e.g. attending meetings, gathering sponsorships and donations, etc.) of civic events and fundraisers. They also volunteer for various roles and responsibilities during these events.

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RECREATION INVENTORY

Berlin Township residents have a variety of recreational opportunities available to them, ranging from neighborhood parks to large regional parks containing thousands of acres. The inventory consists of a compilation of parks found in the Township and the surrounding region. The inventory is then used to provide an assessment of the Township's facilities compared with state and national standards.

The Township contains over 4,813 acres of recreational land including State, County, and Township parks, school grounds, marinas, and subdivision parks. Most recreation land is under the control of outside agencies like the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), Monroe County, local school districts, and neighborhood associations.

Pointe Mouillee State Game Recreational Area represents the largest recreational/open space area in the Township with approximately 4,000 acres. It encompasses the entire eastern shore line of the Township and juts out into Lake Erie due to dredging deposits.

LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Robert D. Laginess Park

The Township owns and maintains a community park located on Brandon Road south of Labo Road. The 40-acre park includes:

- A play structure
- A swing-set
- A slide
- Benches
- A picnic pavilion
- A 1,155 square foot meeting building



Future plans for Laginess Park include: a new play structure, community center building, and expanded parking areas. See Figure 12 for a conceptual plan.

Lillian Park

This mini-park is located within the Lillian subdivision. This 0.4 acre park includes:

- A play structure

Merrill Park

Merrill Park is an undeveloped Township mini-park located along the south bank of Swan Creek.

REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

DNR Boat Launch

The DNR Boat Launch offers access to Swan Creek and Lake Erie. A small fishing deck, picnic area, and parking are provided.

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA)

Another large open space area is located on the south-side of the Huron River. This area is owned by the HCMA, but the property is not accessible to the public due to the single-family residential properties that abut it.

Pointe Mouille State Game Area

Pointe Mouille Recreational Area represents the largest recreational / open space area in the Township containing approximately 2,000 acres. It takes up the entire eastern shore line or Township boundary and juts out into Lake Erie, near the mouth of the Huron River due to dredging deposits. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Pointe Mouille is one of the largest fresh water marsh restoration projects in the world consisting of wetlands, diked marshes, and river bayous.



Waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland wildlife, as well as bald eagles are the primary attractions at this site. Visitors can walk or hike along the water control dikes for a good look at muskrats, waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and birds-of-prey (osprey). This recreational area provides some of the best shorebird viewing in the state especially in late summer and early fall.

Most of the Pointe Mouille State Game Area is open to public hunting during appropriate seasons. Restrooms are available at the area headquarters. A boat ramp and fishing are also available at this site.

Jefferson Recreation Center

The Jefferson Recreation Center located on Williams Road in Frenchtown Township offers a variety of fitness activities and classes for members including a pool, basketball and volleyball courts, walking/running track, racquetball courts, locker rooms and sauna.

Flat Rock Community Center

Membership at the Flat Rock Community Center is available to Berlin Township residents. The Community Center offers a pool, fitness/weight area, walking/running track, basketball court, volleyball court, banquet facilities, and classroom/meeting space. Child care is also available during scheduled times.

SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

North Elementary School

North Elementary School is part of the Jefferson School District located 22 acres on North Dixie Highway in the southwest portion of the Township. The school grounds contain many recreation amenities including: ballfields, basketball courts, play equipment, a picnic area, a gymnasium, an auditorium, and restroom facilities.



Niedermeier Center for Education

Formerly Niedermeier Elementary School, the Niedermeier Center for Education is part of the Airport School District located on S. Newport Road. The elementary school was closed in 2011, but the facility has been repurposed as an alternative high school. A play structure is still available at this 10 acre site.

Ritter Elementary School

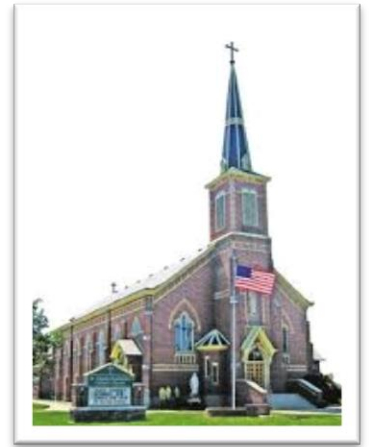
Ritter Elementary Schools is part of the Airport School District contains 10 acres and is located on Carleton Rockwood Road. The school grounds include: ballfields, a play structure, and restroom facilities.

St. Charles Elementary School

St. Charles is a parochial elementary school located on 9.65 acres at the intersection of Swan Creek Road and Dixie Highway. Recreation amenities on the school grounds includes: ballfields, a play structure, and restroom facilities.

Newport Fireman's Park

Located on Brandon Road just south of Laginess Park encompassing 5 acres of land, the Newport Fireman's Park offers a variety of recreation amenities such as: a ballfield, a sand volleyball court, a play structure, picnic area, kitchen, indoor dining, and restroom facilities.



Swan Yacht Basin

Swan Yacht Basin is located along Swan Creek off of Trombley Road offering full-service marina facilities. This includes: an on-site mechanic and parts department, slips, shore power, navigational night lights, a gas dock, inside and outside storage areas, and an on-site convenience store.

Lake Pointe Marina

Lake Pointe Marina is located along the Huron River off of US Turnpike Road offering boat storage, docks, and slips.



Swan Creek Boat Club

Located along Swan Creek off of Brancheau Road, the Swan Creek Boat Club has two harbor entrances off the creek. Their boat wells are equipped with electricity and city water service. A pump-out station and fuel dock are also available, in addition to a restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, and showers. Additional outdoor amenities include: a grill, picnic tables, and a play structure.

Thorne Brothers at Lilac Golf Course

Thorne Brothers at Lilac is a public golf course located centrally in the Township on Armstrong Road. The course's amenities include: a restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, a driving range, and a practice green.



Westburn Golf and Country Club

Located off Huron River Drive, the Westburn Golf and Country Club is an 18-hole private golf course. On-site amenities include: a pro-shop, a driving range, and a restaurant.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Berlin Township relies upon the school districts, area churches, and neighboring communities for recreation programming.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND GRANT-ASSISTED PROJECTS

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

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

Each of the Township parks was evaluated using the MDNR ranking system. The specific elements that were evaluated included parking, paths of travel from parking to activities areas, activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restrooms and surfacing. Laginess Park ranked a 2 having some facilities/park areas meeting accessibility guidelines. Lillian Park and Merrill Park both ranked a 1 as they are either undeveloped, or minimally developed.

In 2000, Berlin Township received a Clean Michigan Initiative Grant (Project #CM00-333 - \$23,390) for development of a Modular play structure, swings, slide, and accessible pathway within Laginess Park.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON

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

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

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

Table 7 presents a comparison of the NRA suggested parkland standards with existing, developed parks based on the Township's current population 7,206 (2010) and SEMCOG's projected population 8,264 (2040). According to this comparison, local parks do not meet the acreage for total *close-to-home* parkland. However, the residents of Berlin are well-served by the school grounds located in the community and the regional park facilities provided by the state, DNR, and HCMA that are located nearby.

Table 7. Comparison to Suggested Parkland Acreage Standards

Type of Park	NRPA Standard Acres/1,000 Population	Suggested Per 2010 pop- 7,206	Suggested Per 2040 pop- 8,264	Existing
<i>Close-to-Home Parkland</i>	6.25 – 10.5 acres	45 – 76 acres	52 – 87 acres	41 acres
Regional Parks	15 – 20 acres	93 – 124 acres	124 – 165 acres	223 acres
School Property	-	-	-	52 acres

RECREATION DEFICIENCIES

Table 7 compares the existing community parkland acreage to recommended standards, based on current and projected population. The current system is slightly deficient in the amount of acreage recommended for community parks. However, the greater deficiency is the lack of adequate recreation facilities within the park. The numbers presented do not address the quality of existing parks and recreation facilities within the Township. Upon closer examination, limitations or deficiencies are apparent due to location accessibility, maintenance, level of development, and individual size of existing park lands. These include:

1. **Reliance on School Sites:** Cooperation between the Township and school districts provide for efficient use of park land. However, school facilities are concentrated in the southwest portion of the Township. Moreover, there are limitations associated with utilizing the school sites because of use of the facilities are first available to the school athletic teams and scheduled programs, and then open to the general public on a request basis. Middle school and high school facilities are located outside of the Township. Further, access to North Elementary School is limited on weeknights and weekends due to a locked entrance gate.

2. **Barrier-Free Facilities:** Access to parks can be improved not only by installing additional barrier-free pathways, but by providing wayfinding signage to the parks and within the parks, better field identification; large print on signage, and Braille for those who are visually impaired, and strategically located barrier-free parking and drop-off areas. Modular play equipment and accessible pathways have been installed at Laginess Park. However, resilient surfacing and additional barrier-free measures should be considered at Laginess Park, as well as Lillian M.

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3. **Program Deficiencies:** The Township provides limited recreational programming in conjunction with the Village of South Rockwood. Each of the three school districts provides recreational programming for the residents that reside within their respective district. These programs are very beneficial and provide an excellent community service. Three programs are not, however, uniform in terms of the amount of programming provided.

Both the City of Flat Rock and Jefferson Schools have recreation centers available to Township residents for a small additional fee. Both facilities have pools, fitness centers, athletic classes, walking track, and senior facilities.

The Airport School District provides recreational programming including intramural sports for elementary and middle school aged children.

4. **Facility Deficiencies:** While the Township's recreation facilities deficiency can partially be satisfied by existing school sites and regional parks, local conditions, interests, and trends must be considered. School sites may provide certain facilities, such as football and athletic fields; however, access to school athletic facilities may be limited. Private businesses may also provide some facilities and services in addition to recreational opportunities available in adjacent communities.
5. **Service Areas:** The northern and eastern portions of the Township are not serviced by any active recreation park facilities, with the exception of facilities located within South Rockwood. Additional mini-parks should be set aside as part of residential subdivision development to serve the immediate residents of that development. A neighborhood park should be acquired or set aside along Newport Road, between I-75 and I-275, to service projected residential growth in that area.
6. **Administration:** As mentioned previously, programming is limited and not provided directly through the Township. If a future need for Township recreation programming presents itself, the citizens may have to pass a millage to fund such activities. A Recreation Advisory Board should be established to make recommendations on facilities, programs, and services.
7. **Maintenance:** An on-going maintenance program must be set up to ensure continued upkeep of existing and new equipment and facilities. Yearly inspections of playground equipment and fall-zone surfacing should be conducted to determine maintenance needs.

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- 8 . **Protection of Open Space:** Protection of the Township's natural features should be a priority in any recreation facility development.
- 9 . **Safety:** Safety and the perception of safety are important to increasing the use of existing parks. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a national program aimed at increasing the perception of safety for a normal user and the perception of risk for a would-be offender. The CPTED's premise notes the "proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and an improvement in the quality of life" (National Crime Prevention Institute, 1986). CPTED is encompassed by four principles:
- *Natural Surveillance* - The placement of physical features, activities, and people in such a way as to maximize visibility.
 - *Natural Access Control* – The physical guidance of people coming and going from a space by the judicious placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping, and lighting.
 - *Territorial Reinforcement* – The use of physical attributes that express ownership, such as fences, pavement treatments, art, signs, and landscaping.
 - *Maintenance* – Regular maintenance gives the impression that parks and other facilities are cared for and watched. Poor maintenance makes the parks and facilities feel abandoned and encourage vandalism and graffiti.

The Township should adopt and utilize the CPTED program in their facilities. The Michigan Municipal League performs an annual risk management assessment of all municipal facilities including parks. Recreation staff should perform and keep inspection logs for each facility to help prioritize on-going maintenance, repair, and replacement.

STATE AND NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends on a national level and in Michigan provide insight into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and therefore may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The Outdoor Foundation regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. According to the Outdoor Foundation, nearly 50 percent of Americans (141.9 million) ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation in 2012. Table 8 lists the top five outdoor activities.

Table 8. National Sports Participation, 2010

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

Source: *Outdoor Participation Report, 2013, The Outdoor Foundation*

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

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

- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the expected increase of seniors.
- Additional recreation options and/or non-motorized connections to existing regional facilities would further support the recreation needs of residents.
- Enhance existing and/or provide additional outlets for water access along Swan Creek, the Huron River, and Lake Erie

PUBLIC INPUT

To create a master plan that reflects the preferences, needs, and values of Berlin Township, the planning process included community outreach forums. Public input was received through a public workshop and an online survey.

Public Workshop

The public was invited to attend a workshop held during a Planning Commission meeting on October 19, 2015 to discuss and gather input for the 2015 Berlin Master Plan

update. The event was attended with approximately 15 people who participated and provided comments and suggestions.

Following a presentation which provided background information about the Recreation Master Plan process and specific information related to upgrades to Laginess Park.

- Laginess Park is too far from population sell and buy property closer to downtown.
- Fishing pond and sledding hill
- Ice skating rink
- Sand volleyball
- Trails – non-motorized and shared use paths

Online Survey

During the months of mid-November through mdi-January, residents were invited to provide ideas and suggestions for parks, trails, and the recreation system through an online survey from the Township's website.

The online questionnaire was designed to solicit feedback on a broad spectrum of issues for the community. Forty (40) respondent surveys and comments were received and tabulated. Key findings from the survey are outlined below:

- Walking / Hiking and Trail sports are the most regularly participated activity for respondents.
- The majority of respondents feel the parks and recreation facilities do not meet their needs very well.
- Future development of walking/biking paths, nature trails, picnic areas, and playground structures are the most sought after.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Once a draft Parks and Recreation Plan was completed, it was made available for a 30-day public review. The availability of the draft plan for public review was advertised in the Monroe Evening News and on the Berlin Charter Township website. Copies were placed at the Township Offices, the Newport Branch Library, the Senior Center, and the Township website.

No comments were received.

The public input into the plan culminated in an advertised public hearing held on April 25, 2016. After the hearing, the Township Board adopted the plan by resolution (See Appendix).

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

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

GENERAL LONG-RANGE GOALS

- 1. Expand Recreation Opportunities.** Increase recreation opportunities, particularly outdoor park facilities and trails, which meet the needs of all segments of the population including youth, young adults, families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.
- 2. Address Residents' Preferences.** Provide parks and recreation facilities and programs that are based on the preferences of residents in the Township.
- 3. Maintain Fiscal Responsibility.** Develop parks and recreation facilities and programs based on a sound fiscal policy. Consider the use of volunteers, state, and federal funding programs, and other funding sources.
- 4. Natural and Aesthetic Qualities of Parks.** Provide parks and recreation facilities that not only satisfy recreation needs, but also complement the topography and natural terrain and contribute to the aesthetic (rural) quality of the Township.
- 5. Cooperation with the School District.** Cooperate with the three school districts in the planning and programming of parks and recreation facilities. Written agreements of cooperation should be entered into when appropriate.
- 6. Reduce Duplication of Services.** Strive to reduce duplication in recreation services. Overall recreation planning should consider existing facilities and programs offered by the school district, adjacent municipalities (e.g. Village of South Rockwood and City of Flat Rock), and other agencies.
- 7. Consider Maintenance Needs.** Consider the cost of maintenance and operation in designing new recreation facilities. Projections of costs should be compared to future revenue projections for the life of the facilities.

-
8. **Upgrade Existing Facilities.** Maximize the use of parks and recreation facilities by upgrading existing facilities to make them safer and more accessible.
 9. **Improve Accessibility.** Improve accessibility to parks, recreation facilities, and programs by residents of Berlin Charter Township, particularly for youth, young adults, families, elderly, and persons with disabilities. Provide trail and pathway linkages from neighborhoods and business districts to parks and school sites.
 10. **Continue the Planning Process.** Maintain the on-going parks and recreation planning process. The parks and recreation master plan should be reviewed annually and updated at least every five years.
 11. **Promotion.** Continue to promote activities and special events sponsored by the Township and the school districts, using all types of media.

A brochure should be developed depicting park and school facilities with a schedule of dates and activities of annual events. A list of key officials and contact information should also be included.

S P E C I F I C G O A L S A N D O B J E C T I V E S

1. **Improve the Functionality of Pointe Mouille.**
 - a. Discuss developing activities and facilities to serve a broader range of users. New activities/facilities could include canoe/kayak rental, interpretive foot/water trails and an educational interceptive center.
 - b. Improve poorly maintained existing facilities at recreation areas such as roads, boat launches, fishing piers, and parking areas.
 - c. Discuss development of a public marina at the east shore of the park.
 - d. Provide better amenities such as public restrooms, signs, trails, and observation areas.
2. **Create a Linear Recreational Network within the Township.**
 - a. Develop a linear pathway along Swan Creek.
 - b. Designate low traffic rural roads as bike routes.
 - c. Create non-motorized trails along utility and railroad rights-of-ways.
 - d. Connect with regional Downriver Greenways Initiative pathway system to the north via Lake Erie Metropark.

3. Improve access and safety of existing Township parks.

- a. Replace existing playground equipment that meets industry safety standards and ADA requirements.

4. Develop Lake Erie, Huron River, and Swan Creek as recreational resources.

- a. Provide access areas such as modern boat launches with amenities such as restrooms and parking areas for vehicles with boat trailers.
- b. Develop linear parks and trails adjacent to Lake Erie, Huron River, and Swan Creek to provide recreation opportunities, preserve shore, and to abate the damage associated with flooding.
- c. Connect non-motorized trails in the Township to Lake Erie Metro Park and the Downriver Linked Greenways System.

5. Establish a Recreation Advisory Committee.

- a. Create a Recreational Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Township Board regarding facilities, programs, funding, and annual events.

6. Protect the Township's natural resources from contamination and development where practicable.

- a. Wise use of natural resources and preservation of wooded areas, groundwater recharge areas, roadside trees, wetlands, scenic views, farmlands, and unique wildlife and bird habitats is a high planning priority that serves as the basis for all other planning and development goals and policies.
- b. Take all reasonable steps to prevent surface and ground water pollution, contamination of the soils, air pollution, and noise pollution. Toward this end, consider adopting up-to-date performance and environmental standards and implement them throughout the Township.
- c. Continue to cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies for the purposes of enforcing environmental regulations under their jurisdiction, such as wetlands and soil erosion control regulations.
- d. Discourage development in areas with a high water table known to be flood-prone in order to reduce leachate from on-site septic systems.

-
- e. Seek methods to eradicate evasive species.
- 7. Recognize the Township is prone to flooding due to its location relative to Swan Creek, the Huron River, and Lake Erie. All attempts to minimize flooding due to developing in floodplains shall be taken.**
- a. Restrict development in floodplains and flood prone areas to the extent possible and practicable by law. Establish riparian setbacks.
 - b. Preserve floodplains in their natural state to be used for recreational purposes, scenic beauty, and to prevent additional flooding downstream.
- 8. Preserve natural features such as wetlands and woodlands.**
- a. Develop a natural features ordinance for wetlands and woodlands protection.

GENERAL PARKS AND RECREATION OBJECTIVES

- 1. Optimize Park Use.** Optimize the use of all parks and recreation facilities through multiple use of park space, adequate maintenance, and timely repair and replacement of facilities.
- 2. Recreation Programs.** Continue to support and expand recreation programs and events in cooperation with the school districts.
- 3. Acquisition and Expansion.** Consider purchasing additional land for parks and recreation use. Land acquisition efforts should be guided by three principal objectives:
 - a. The need for uniform geographic distribution of facilities.
 - b. The need for adequately-sized parks.
 - c. Access to water features.
- 4. Needs survey.** A township-wide recreation needs survey should be completed on a regular basis to determine with greater accuracy the recreation needs and desires of community residents.
- 5. Park Design and Landscaping.** Enhance the appearance of all parks, recognizing the significance of parkland to the overall character and image of the Township. A five-year landscaping/tree planting and lighting program should be developed for all parks and passive areas.

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- 6. Promotion.** Prepare and update a brochure showing park and school facilities, with a schedule of dates, times, and activities for special events. A list of key officials and contact information should be included.

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ACTION PROGRAM

Belin Township has identified the following action items relating to how they intend to meet, or work towards meeting the Plan's goals and objectives over the next five years.

Accessible Pathways: Provide additional accessible pathway links within parks (e.g. Laginess Park) to facilities and program areas. Improve field identification, larger print on signage and Braille for those who are visually impaired. Strategically locate barrier-free parking and drop-off areas.

Non-Motorized Pathway Plan: Prepare a non-motorized pathway master plan for the Township identifying existing pathways, gaps, and future development of sidewalks, pathways, and bike lanes throughout the Township. Provide design standards, sign guidelines, and estimated development costs and identify possible funding sources.

Develop missing links in the Township's non-motorized pathway system between neighborhoods, schools, regional parks, business districts, and existing regional non-motorized pathway networks. Investigate the use of abandoned railroad corridors for rails-to-trails.

A Trail Connection Opportunities Map (Figure 11.) demonstrates potential future connections.

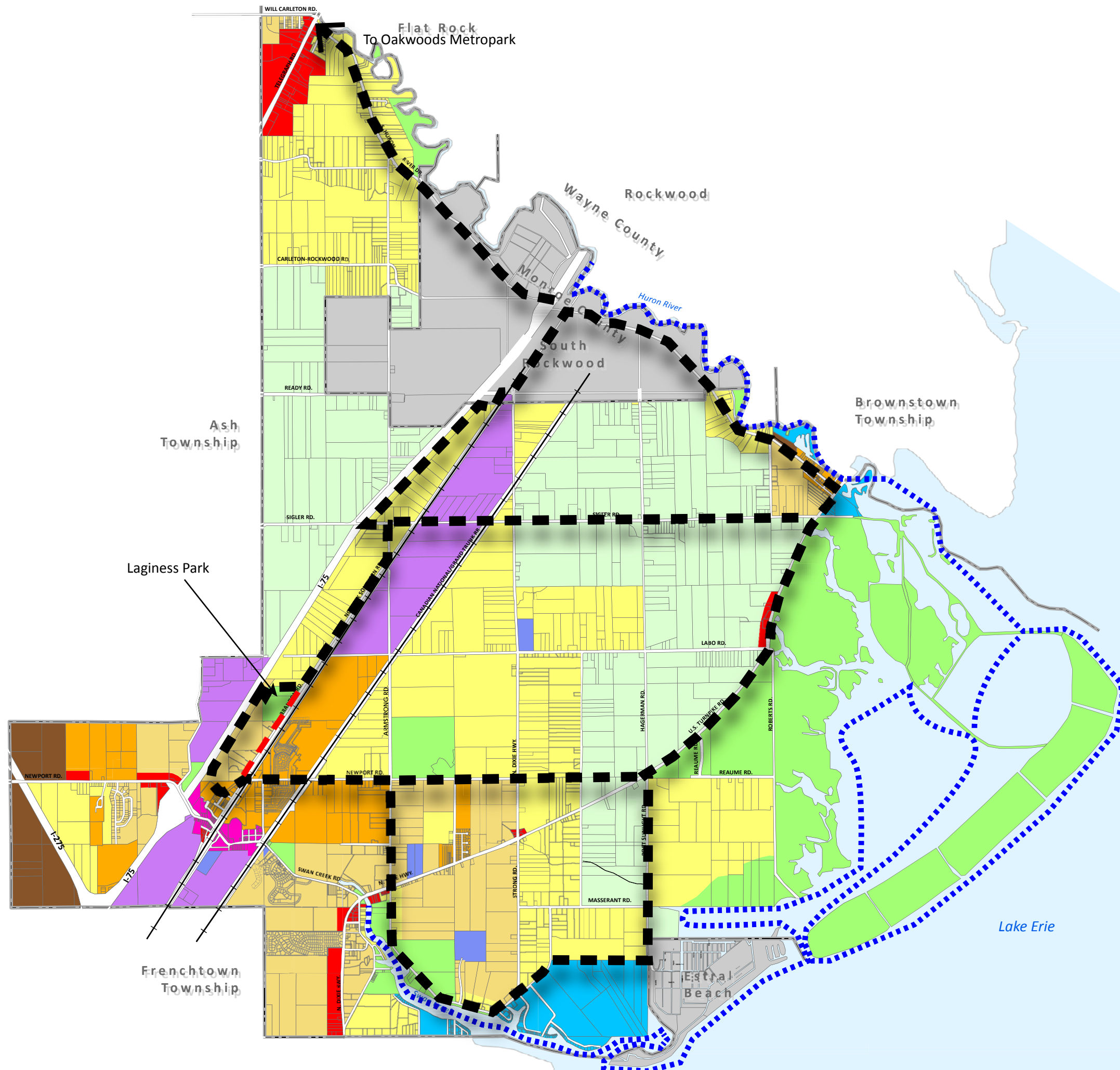
Interpretive Panels: Install additional interpretive panels and wayfinding signs within the park system to educate residents and promote stewardship.

Sports Facilities: Install sports facilities to meet the demands of the community.

Laginess Park: A master plan for Laginess Park is provided in Figures 12 and 13. Proposed facilities include: a looped pathway; community center; expanded parking; new picnic shelter; updated play structure; sandbox with water feature; benches; parks signage/wayfinding; and additional landscaping.

Programming: Work with the school districts and adjacent communities to develop more programming options for youth and seniors within the Township.

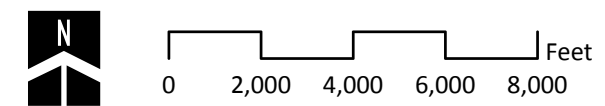
Park Acquisition: Identify future parkland that provides water access to the Huron River and Swan Creek.



- Agricultural
- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- High Density Residential
- Manufactured Housing Park
- Waterfront Development
- Commercial
- Mixed Use
- Public
- Recreational
- Industrial
- Proposed Monroe County water trail
- Proposed Berlin Township trail system

TRAIL CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES

Berlin Charter Township
Monroe County



Basemap Data Source: Monroe County Planning

NORTHWEST CORNER
SECTION 31
T5S, R10E

NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE
SECTION 31

TO HURON RIVER /
OAKWOODS METROPARK /
DETROIT INTERNATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

P.O.B.
PARCEL B

S31°24'14"W
150.00'

N86°24'27"E(M) N88°52'55"E(R) 1451.96'(M) 1451.98'(R)
N86°24'27"E 600.00'

S86°24'27"W 600.00'
N86°24'27"E 600.00'

PARCEL B
1.69 ACRES±

S31°24'14"W/
N31°24'14"E
150.00'

AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

OUTER LOOP TRAIL - 1.0 MILES /
NORTH LOOP TRAIL - 0.85 MILES

PARCEL A
40.76 ACRES±

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

N33°11'55"E 804.47'(R)
N30°42'58"E 803.84'(M)

N00°20'10"E 739.00'(R)
N02°08'05"W 739.88'(M)

AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

PROPOSED EXPANDED PARKING

SOUTH LOOP TRAIL - 0.5 MILES
INNER LOOP TRAIL - 0.16 MILES

PROPOSED NEW PICNIC SHELTER

EXISTING CONCRETE PAD TO BE REMOVED

UPDATED PLAY STRUCTURE

CONIFER WIND SCREEN (TYPICAL)

EXISTING PICNIC SHELTER

RADIO ANTENNA

P.O.B.
PARCEL A

NEW PARK SIGNAGE

PROPOSED NEW BUILDING
EXISTING
COMMUNITY CENTER

BRANDON ROAD
(66 FEET WIDE)

TO NEWPORT-FIREMAN'S PARK

FOREST

S87°31'22"W(M) WEST(R) 928.70'

WEST 1/4 CORNER
SECTION 31
T5S, R10E

EAST-WEST 1/4 LINE
SECTION 31

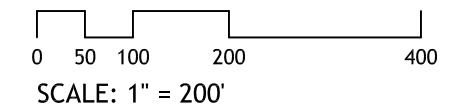
CENTER OF SECTION
SECTION 31
T5S, R10E

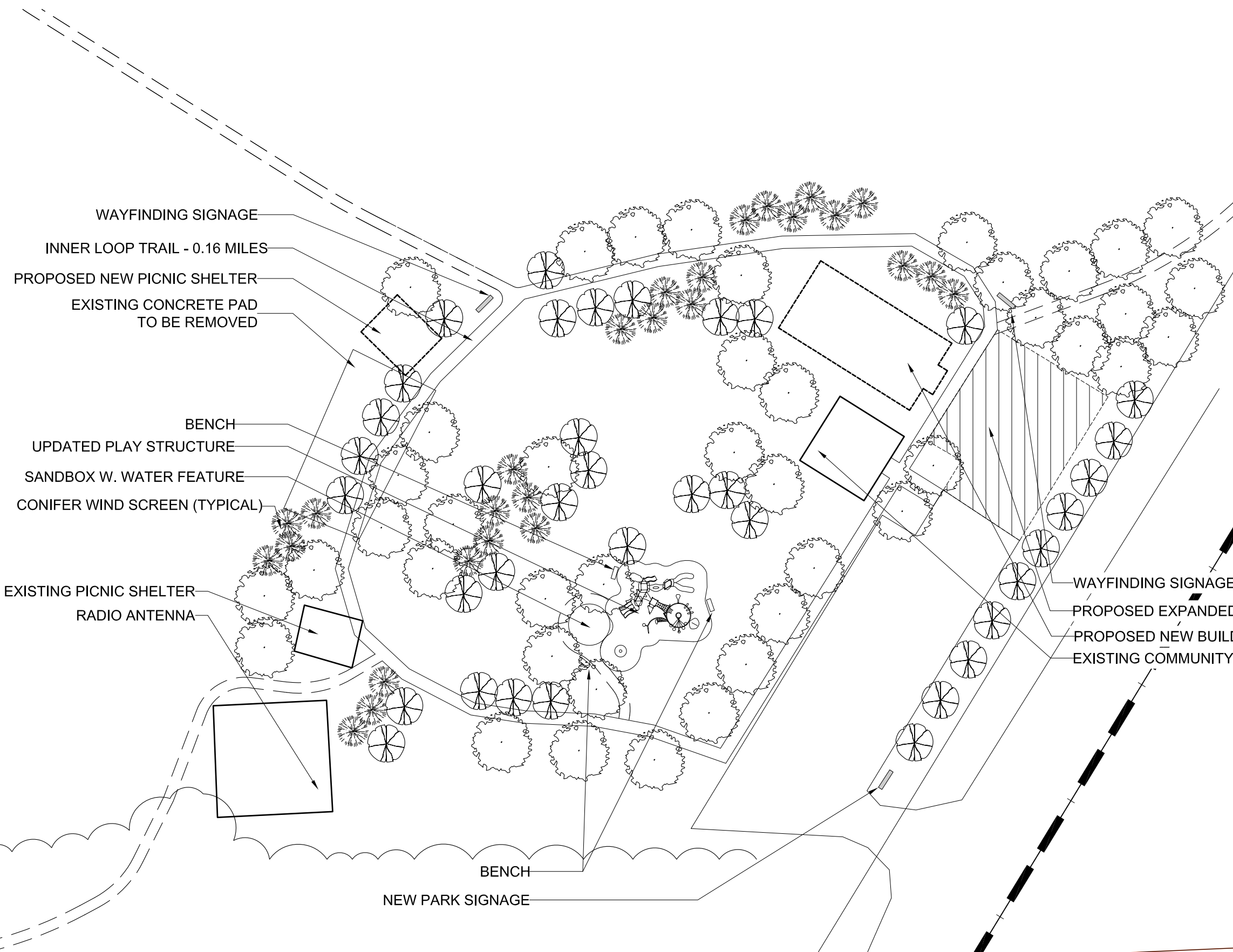
NOTES:

- Proposed loop pathways can be either mowed path or limestone fines. If connected to regional path system, paths should be either limestone fines, asphalt, or concrete.
- Regional trail planning will require consultation and cooperation with surrounding communities and relevant authorities, e.g. MDOT and MDNR.
- Agricultural fields should be preserved to the largest extent possible.
- Central trail forming edge of north / south loop should roughly follow path of ephemeral spring.
- Any upgrades to park facilities are required to meet ADA standards, including accessibility to playground equipment and safety surfacing under playground equipment.
- The proposed tree configuration is intended to use conifers as a wind screen for winter months and deciduous trees to provide shade/cooling in summer months.

LAGINESS PARK
PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN

Berlin Charter Township
Monroe County





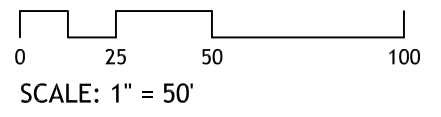
WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
 INNER LOOP TRAIL - 0.16 MILES
 PROPOSED NEW PICNIC SHELTER
 EXISTING CONCRETE PAD
 TO BE REMOVED
 BENCH
 UPDATED PLAY STRUCTURE
 SANDBOX W. WATER FEATURE
 CONIFER WIND SCREEN (TYPICAL)
 EXISTING PICNIC SHELTER
 RADIO ANTENNA
 BENCH
 NEW PARK SIGNAGE

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
 PROPOSED EXPANDED PARKING
 PROPOSED NEW BUILDING
 EXISTING COMMUNITY CENTER

- NOTES:
- Proposed loop pathways can be either mowed path or limestone fines. If connected to regional path system, paths should be either limestone fines, asphalt, or concrete.
 - Any upgrades to park facilities are required to meet ADA standards, including accessibility to playground equipment and safety surfacing under playground equipment.
 - The proposed tree configuration is intended to use conifers as a wind screen for winter months and deciduous trees to provide shade/cooling in summer months.
 - The sandbox water feature may be a simple pump which children can operate to have access to water.
 - Benches can be made ADA accessible by adjoining them to the accessible surface. They must, however, be placed outside of the equipment's fall zone.

LAGINESS PARK DETAIL PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN

Berlin Charter Township
 Monroe County



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Recreation Passport program offers funding for the development of outdoor public recreation facilities by local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500

and maximum requests are \$45,000 in 2015. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Applications are due on April 1st.

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

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

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

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

Seek Other Sources of Funding: Berlin Township should investigate other sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should continue to be pursued aggressively to raise funding for parkland acquisition and development.

ON - LINE SURVEY SUMMARY

ON - LINE SURVEY

During the time period of mid-November 2015 through mid-January 2016, Berlin residents were invited to participate in an on-line survey to provide ideas and suggestions related to the City's Recreation Plan update. The survey was made available through the City website, and was advertised through the Monroe Evening News.

Forty (40) persons provided responses to the survey. Of the total respondents, 76% were residents of Berlin Township.

When asked what types of recreation activities do you or your family members regularly participate in, respondents ranked the following activities (in order of most responses to least):

1. Walking/Hiking and Trail Sports
2. Nature Activities
3. Fishing
4. Court Sports/Playgrounds (tied)
5. Field Sports
6. Picnicking

Respondents indicated they participated at recreation activities mainly in the following (Top 5) locations (ranked most responses to least):

1. Sterling State Park
2. Lake Erie Metropark
3. Pointe Mouille State Game Area
4. DNR Boat Launch
5. Oakwoods Metropark

When asked if parks and recreation facilities meet their needs, respondents claimed:

1. They don't meet our needs very well (35.9%)
2. They meet our needs adequately (30.77%)
3. They meet our needs completely (15.38%)
4. They meet our needs very well (10.26%)
5. They don't meet our needs at all (7.69%)

Respondents indicated the top 5 types of recreation facilities that should be considered for future park development should be (ranked by highest weighted average to least):

1. Walking/Bicycling Paths or Trails
2. Nature Trails
3. Picnic Areas and Pavilions

4. Playground Structures

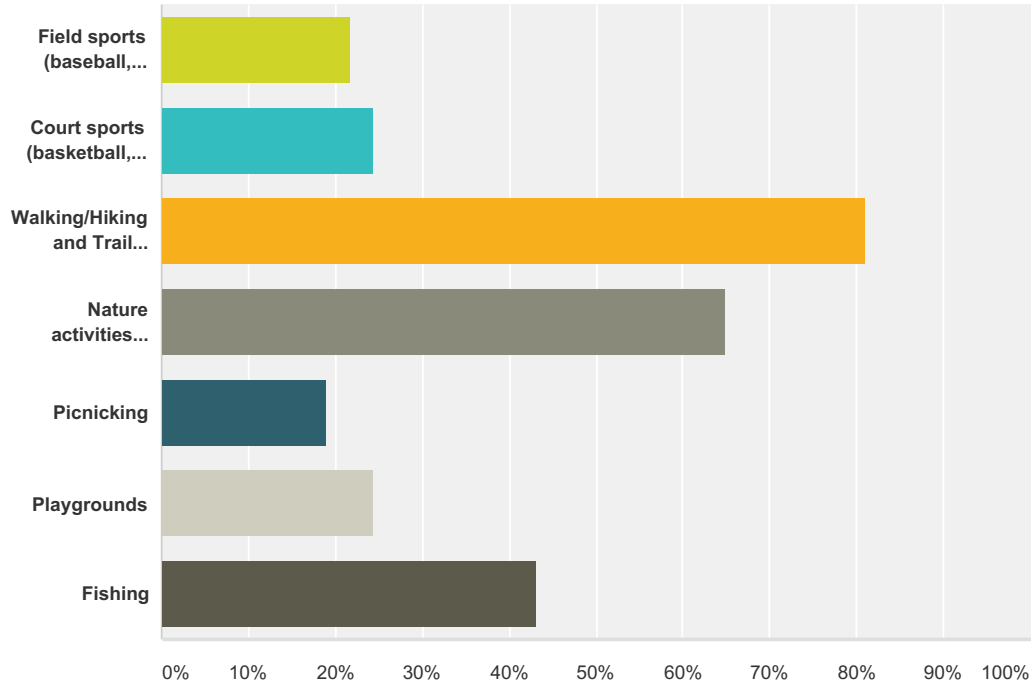
When asked how important the listed recreation programs were respondents ranked the following in order to importance (ranked by highest weighted average to least):

1. Adult Fitness and Wellness
2. Senior Programs
3. Youth Sports and Fitness
4. Senior Trips
5. Special Events
6. Summer Camps

The entire survey summary included tables, graphs, and open-ended responses are provided in the pages following.

Q1 What types of recreation activities do you or your family members regularly participate in? Choose all that apply.

Answered: 37 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Field sports (baseball, softball, football, soccer, Lacrosse, etc.)	21.62% 8
Court sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball, etc.)	24.32% 9
Walking/Hiking and Trail sports (walking/running, bicycling, rollerblading, etc.)	81.08% 30
Nature activities (nature walks, bird watching, etc.)	64.86% 24
Picnicking	18.92% 7
Playgrounds	24.32% 9
Fishing	43.24% 16
Total Respondents: 37	

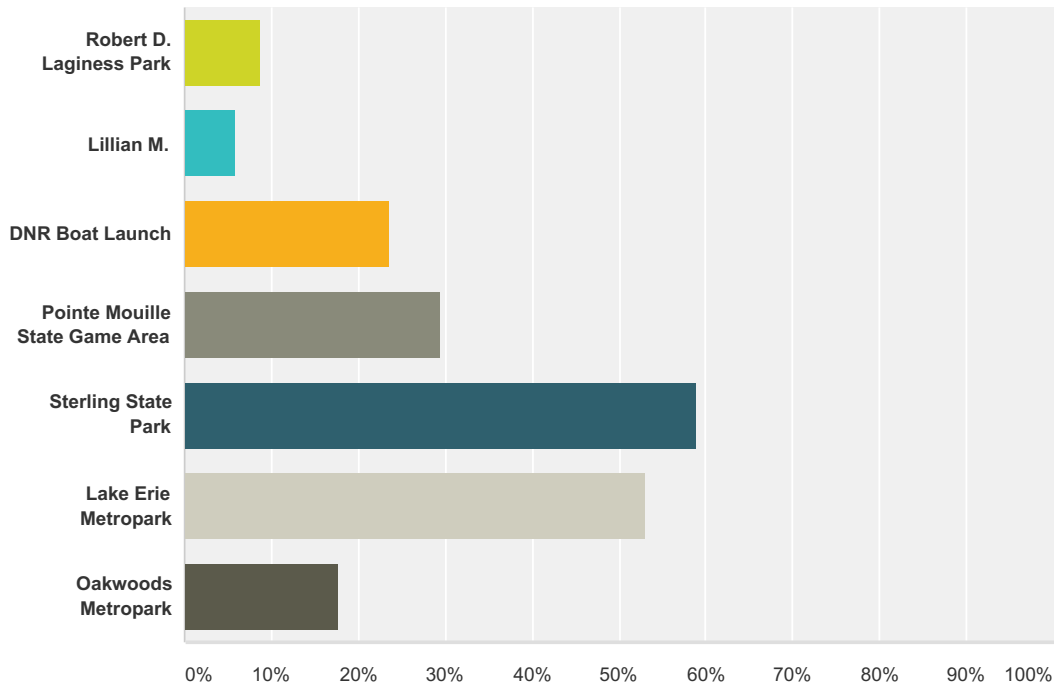
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Senior Center	12/23/2015 2:12 PM
2	kayaking and fishing	12/20/2015 9:38 PM
3	Boating	12/8/2015 2:47 PM
4	Board Games Water Sports Quiet Time	12/6/2015 3:47 PM
5	Hunting	12/5/2015 7:57 PM

Q2 Where do you participate in recreation

Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey

activities? Choose all that apply.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses
Robert D. Laginess Park	8.82% 3
Lillian M.	5.88% 2
DNR Boat Launch	23.53% 8
Pointe Mouille State Game Area	29.41% 10
Sterling State Park	58.82% 20
Lake Erie Metropark	52.94% 18
Oakwoods Metropark	17.65% 6
Total Respondents: 34	

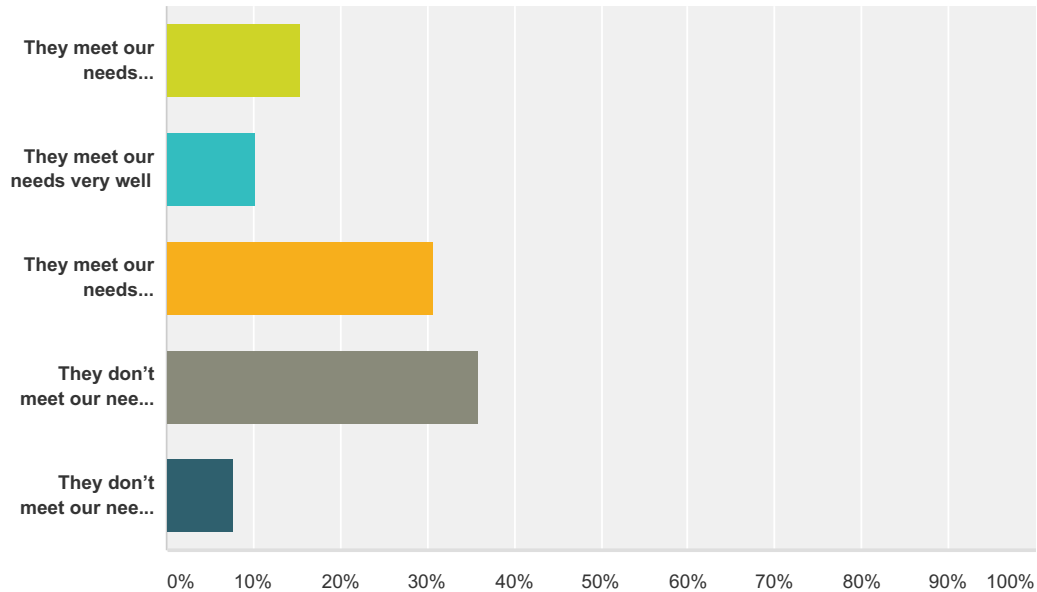
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Splash Pads (Woodhaven & Brownstown)	12/26/2015 8:56 PM
2	Township basement	12/23/2015 2:12 PM
3	Home - Bird watching	12/23/2015 2:00 PM
4	Fishing - Bolles Harbor	12/23/2015 1:57 PM
5	Dodge park for kayaking and Labo Park	12/20/2015 9:38 PM
6	Just moved to S. Rockwood. Looking for tennis courts.	12/18/2015 6:41 AM
7	Frenchtown Nedeau Rd. Park	12/6/2015 3:47 PM
8	Can't go to Laginess park to many drug deals	12/5/2015 7:57 PM
9	Frenchtown	12/4/2015 5:28 PM

Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey

10	Back Roads, and the sub is a mess	12/4/2015 4:52 PM
11	crosswinds marsh	12/4/2015 2:58 PM

Q3 Do nearby parks and recreation facilities meet your and/or your family's recreation needs?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 1

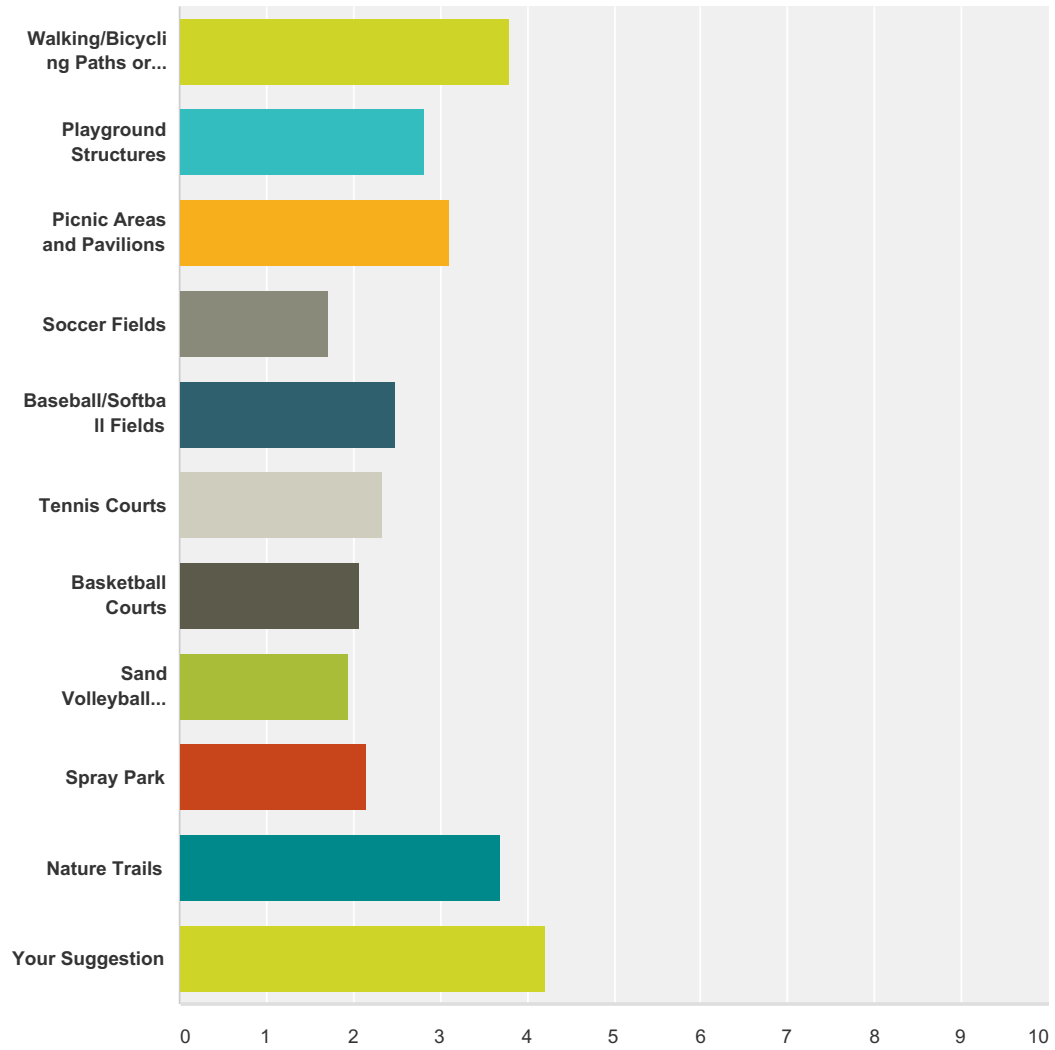


Answer Choices	Responses
They meet our needs completely	15.38% 6
They meet our needs very well	10.26% 4
They meet our needs adequately	30.77% 12
They don't meet our needs very well	35.90% 14
They don't meet our needs at all	7.69% 3
Total	39

Q4 What types of recreation facilities, if any, should be considered for future park development? Please mark each of the following facility on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not important at all and 5 is extremely important.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 2

Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey



	1- Not Important at All	2- Slightly Important	3- Somewhat Important	4- Very Important	5- Extremely Important	Total	Weighted Average
Walking/Bicycling Paths or Trails	5.26% 2	13.16% 5	10.53% 4	39.47% 15	31.58% 12	38	3.79
Playground Structures	15.63% 5	25.00% 8	28.13% 9	25.00% 8	6.25% 2	32	2.81
Picnic Areas and Pavilions	14.29% 5	11.43% 4	34.29% 12	28.57% 10	11.43% 4	35	3.11
Soccer Fields	56.25% 18	25.00% 8	12.50% 4	3.13% 1	3.13% 1	32	1.72
Baseball/Softball Fields	21.21% 7	33.33% 11	27.27% 9	12.12% 4	6.06% 2	33	2.48
Tennis Courts	36.36% 12	18.18% 6	30.30% 10	6.06% 2	9.09% 3	33	2.33
Basketball Courts	37.50% 12	28.13% 9	28.13% 9	3.13% 1	3.13% 1	32	2.06
Sand Volleyball Courts	43.75% 14	21.88% 7	31.25% 10	3.13% 1	0.00% 0	32	1.94
Spray Park	41.94% 13	25.81% 8	12.90% 4	12.90% 4	6.45% 2	31	2.16

Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey

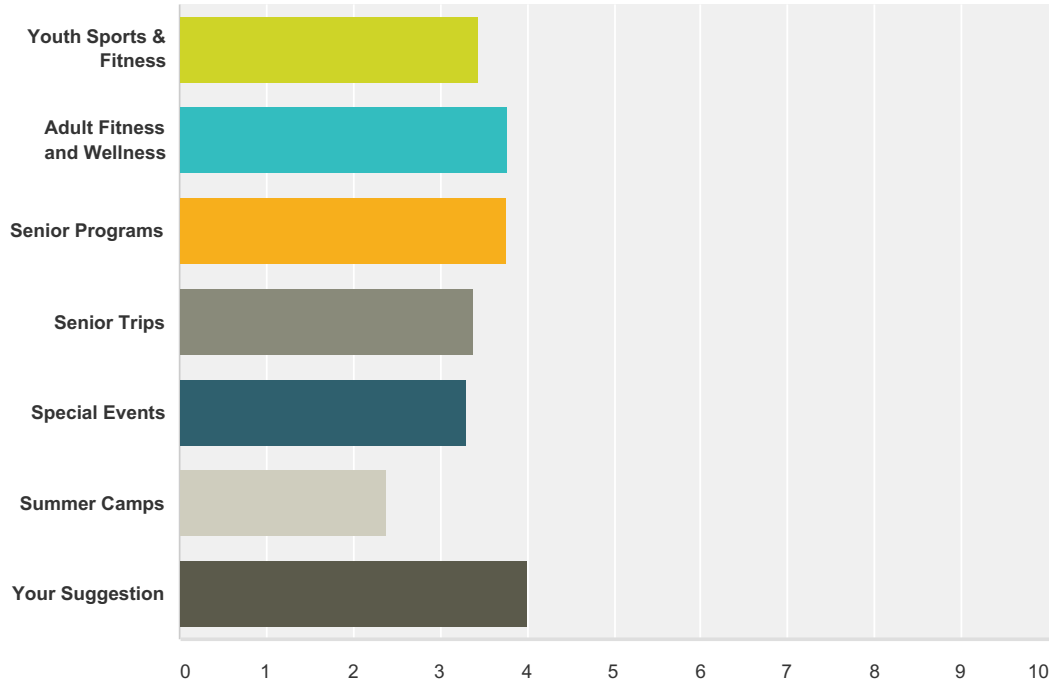
Nature Trails	10.81% 4	5.41% 2	13.51% 5	43.24% 16	27.03% 10	37	3.70
Your Suggestion	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	55.56% 5	9	4.22

#	Please list your suggestion below	Date
1	Connect into greenway trails	1/3/2016 8:19 PM
2	While the township does not have a recreation little league a lot of the kids play in Frenchtown however Frenchtown struggles with enough fields for practicing. It would be nice for kids here in the township to have a field or two to practice at. Right now you have multiple teams trying to practice at the two private fields in the township both St. Charles and Firemens Association Park	1/2/2016 10:34 AM
3	Splash Pad & Playground	12/26/2015 8:58 PM
4	Larger senior center, soft chairs	12/23/2015 2:12 PM
5	Bird watching, nature photography	12/23/2015 2:11 PM
6	We need garbage and recycling added to our taxes. The dumpster does not suffice for the whale t.s.	12/23/2015 2:09 PM
7	Indoor wallyball court	12/23/2015 2:01 PM
8	Dog Park	12/23/2015 1:55 PM
9	A park that can allow easier access for putting in and taking out kayaks and canoes. Portaging is difficult at Labo park and Dodge park has nothing but mud and gravel, it's a rough spot. If tennis courts are put in, there should be lights available for night playing in the summer	12/20/2015 9:41 PM
10	This question is poorly worded	12/8/2015 3:47 PM
11	totlot activities for youngsters, (what is Spray Park)	12/6/2015 3:48 PM
12	Water park or public swimming pool	12/4/2015 1:14 PM

Q5 How important to you are the following recreation programs? Please mark each of the following program on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not important at all and 5 is extremely important.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 1

Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey



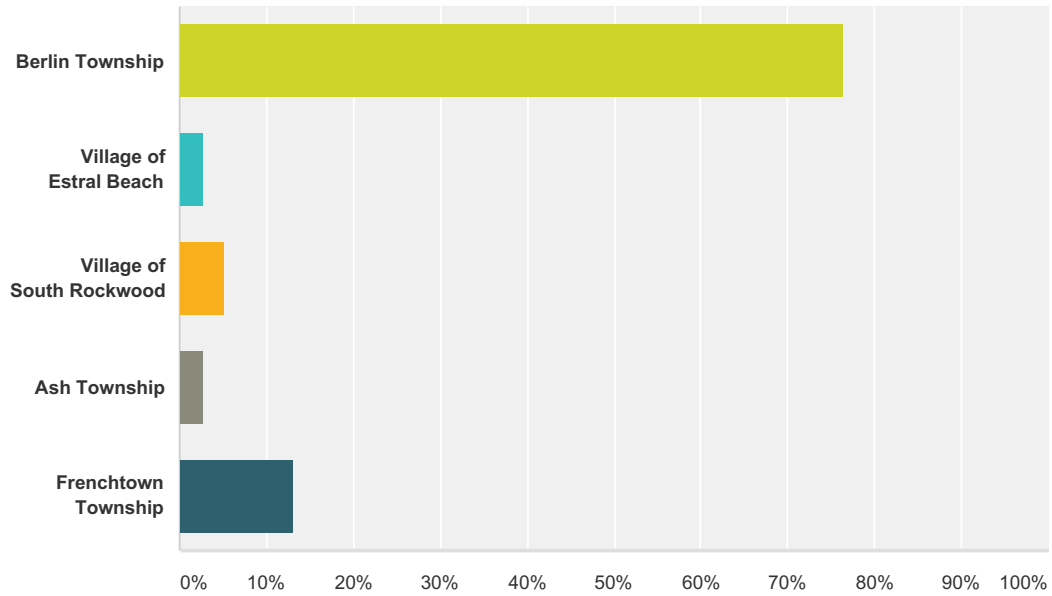
	1- Not Important At All	2- Slightly Important	3- Somewhat Important	4- Very Important	5- Extremely Important	Total	Weighted Average
Youth Sports & Fitness	12.50% 4	12.50% 4	12.50% 4	43.75% 14	18.75% 6	32	3.44
Adult Fitness and Wellness	5.71% 2	14.29% 5	8.57% 3	40.00% 14	31.43% 11	35	3.77
Senior Programs	10.81% 4	10.81% 4	10.81% 4	27.03% 10	40.54% 15	37	3.76
Senior Trips	13.51% 5	13.51% 5	24.32% 9	18.92% 7	29.73% 11	37	3.38
Special Events	16.13% 5	6.45% 2	25.81% 8	35.48% 11	16.13% 5	31	3.29
Summer Camps	37.93% 11	17.24% 5	17.24% 5	24.14% 7	3.45% 1	29	2.38
Your Suggestion	0.00% 0	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	0.00% 0	60.00% 3	5	4.00

#	Please list your suggestion below	Date
1	Summer Recreational Game & Crafts Daycamps at Park	12/26/2015 9:00 PM
2	Bus service for seniors.	12/23/2015 2:10 PM
3	Card tournaments	12/23/2015 2:01 PM
4	A very clean park for any program is necessary	12/8/2015 3:47 PM
5	Special Events listed above consist of ????????	12/6/2015 3:48 PM

Q6 Where do you live?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 2

Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey

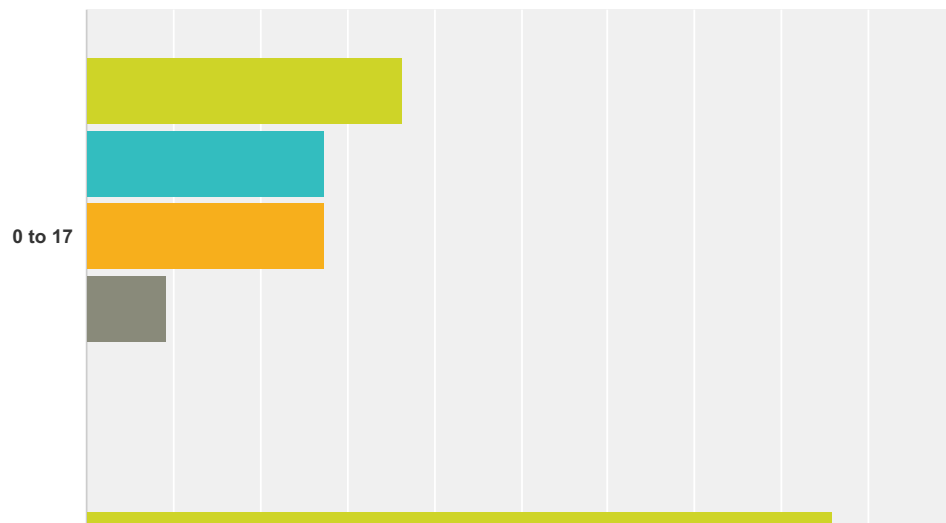


Answer Choices	Responses
Berlin Township	76.32% 29
Village of Estral Beach	2.63% 1
Village of South Rockwood	5.26% 2
Ash Township	2.63% 1
Frenchtown Township	13.16% 5
Total	38

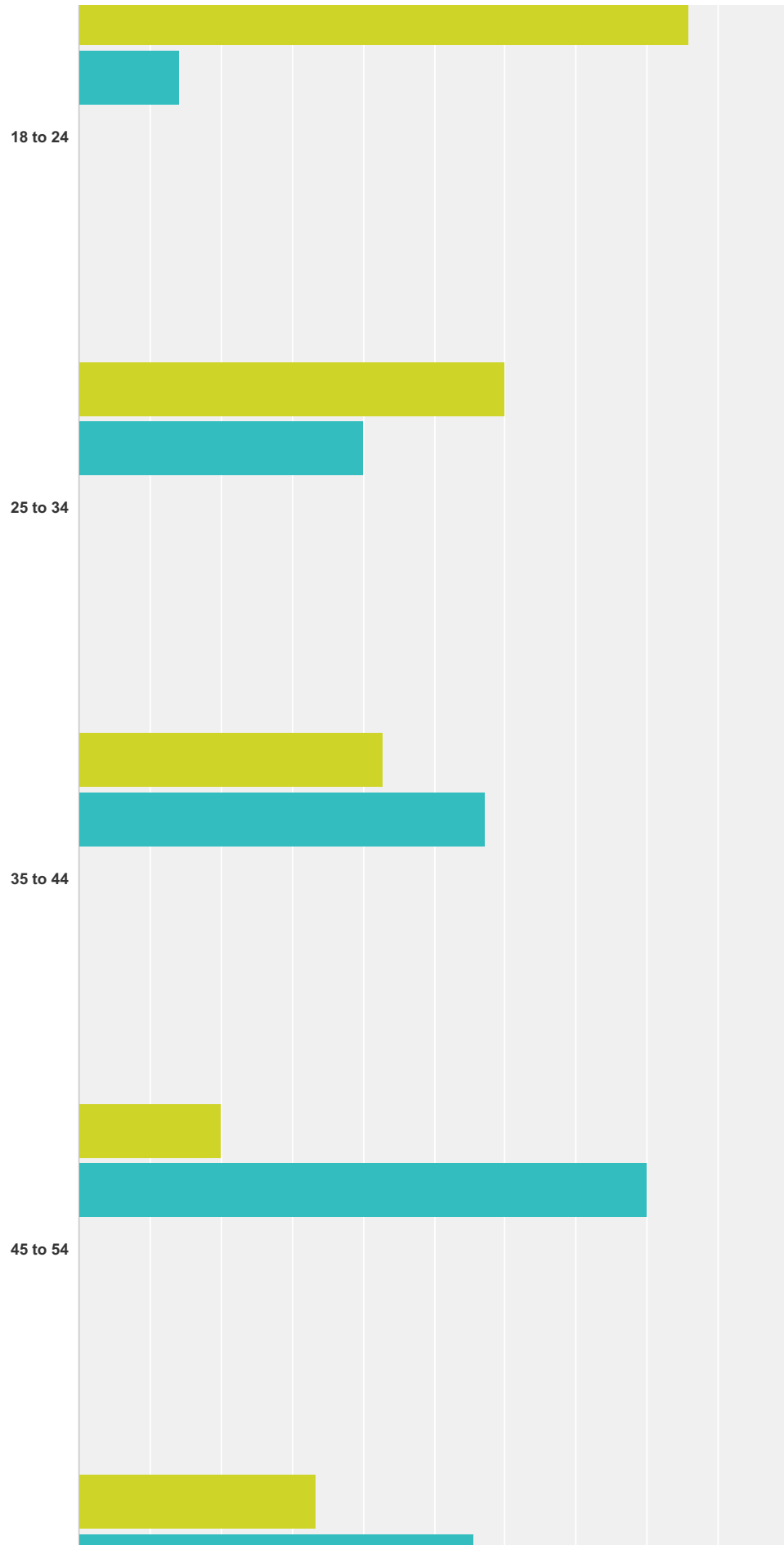
#	Other (please specify)	Date
	There are no responses.	

Q7 What are the ages of people living in your household?

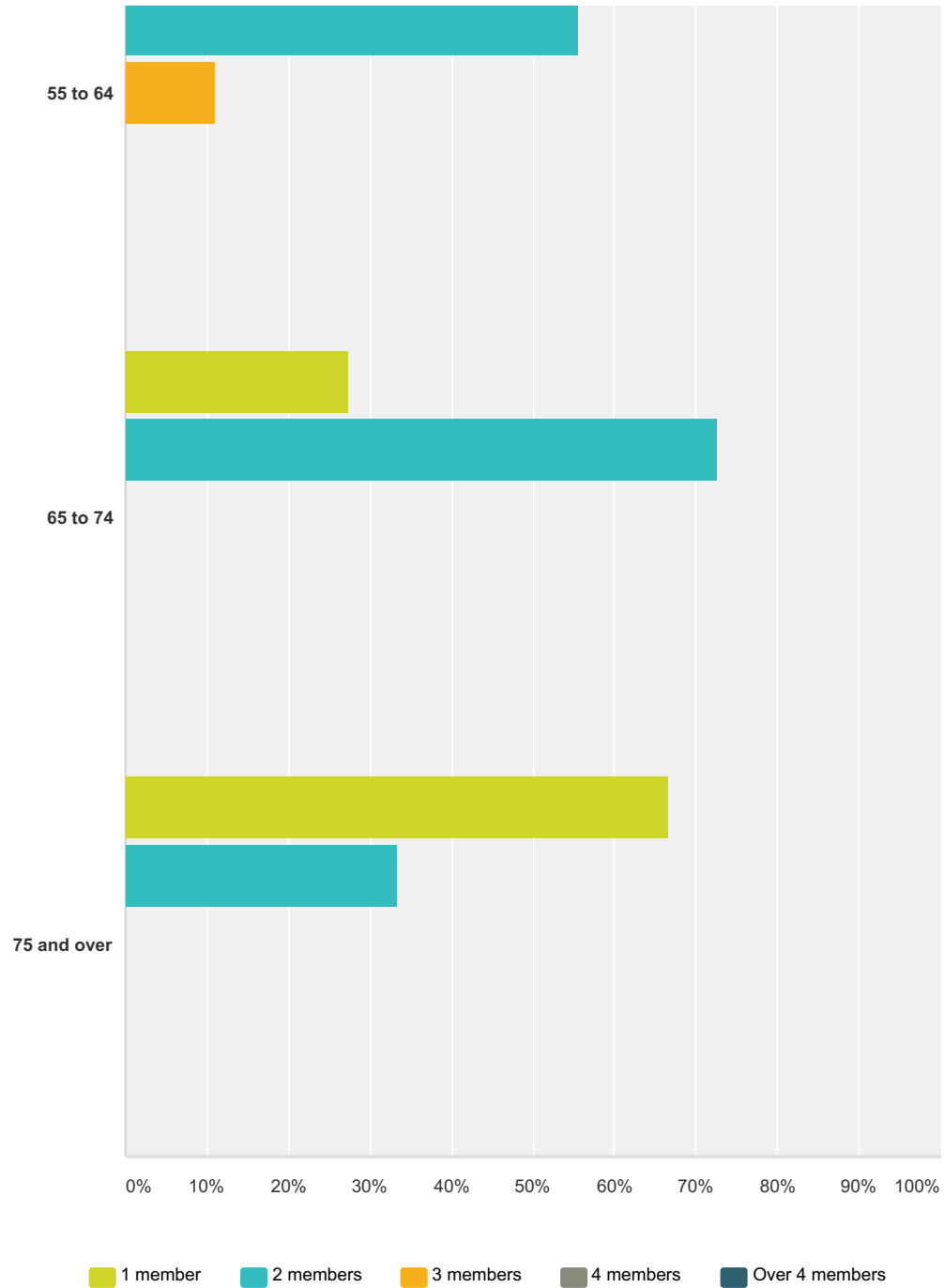
Answered: 37 Skipped: 3



Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey



Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey



	1 member	2 members	3 members	4 members	Over 4 members	Total
0 to 17	36.36% 4	27.27% 3	27.27% 3	9.09% 1	0.00% 0	11
18 to 24	85.71% 6	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7
25 to 34	60.00% 3	40.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5
35 to 44	42.86% 3	57.14% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7
45 to 54	20.00% 2	80.00% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10

Berlin Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey

55 to 64	33.33% 3	55.56% 5	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9
65 to 74	27.27% 3	72.73% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11
75 and over	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Berlin Township Planning Commission Resolution of Endorsement Parks and Recreation Master Plan

March 21, 2016

WHEREAS, development of adequate parks and recreation facilities requires a pro-active plan based on a combination of community input, analysis of existing conditions, analysis of the basic needs for current and future residents, parks and recreation planning expertise, as well as prioritized improvements programs and potential funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the foundation of the plan is established with the Action Program consisting of overall goals and supporting objectives and specific Action Program for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the plan provides recommendations for park and recreation facilities, and recreation programming with a prioritized list of capital improvements for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the Berlin Township Planning Commission along with the assistance of Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc. has prepared the Berlin Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan which includes all the above elements; and

WHEREAS, said plan is represented to meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, thereby making the City eligible for State and Federal grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, Berlin Charter Township followed a planning process that contained public involvement, through regular monthly meetings, an on-line survey and a public workshop with stakeholders and recreation providers for the purpose of soliciting community input on said plan; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berlin Charter Township Planning Commission hereby endorses and recommends to the Township Board adoption of the 2016-2020 Berlin Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

BERLIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING 04/25/16 PG.1

The Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Berlin Charter Township Board held at 8000 Swan View Newport, Michigan was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Karl Reaume, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL: Supervisor Karl Reaume, Clerk Denise E. Sovey-Meyer, Treasurer Deborah Masserant, Trustees Marvin Reaume, Robert D. Masserant, Jerry Tomlinson and Dave Reaume.

A quorum was present, the meeting proceeded. Township Planner Laura Kreps, Township Engineer Jim Hollandsworth and Fire Chief Bob Cousino were present. Approximately five residents were in attendance.

MOTION #1: by Sovey-Meyer seconded by M. Reaume to Open the Public Hearing
ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL No: NONE
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

MOTION #2: by Sovey-Meyer seconded by M. Reaume to approve the agenda as presented.
ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL No: NONE
MOTION CARRIED

No comments were received.

MOTION #3: by D. Reaume seconded by Tomlinson to close the Public Hearing at 7:32pm.
ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL No: NONE
MOTION CARRIED

Additions and changes to the agenda were as follows: ADD New Business #6 First reading of Berlin Charter Township Parks and Recreation Ordinance Amendment ordinance No. 82D-2.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #4: by M. Reaume seconded by Sovey-Meyer to approve the agenda as amended.
ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL No: NONE
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #5: by R. Masserant seconded by D. Masserant to approve the Berlin Charter Township regular meeting minutes (04/11/16) and Election Commission meeting minutes (04/11/16)
ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL No: NONE
MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

**Berlin Charter Township Board
Resolution of Adoption of
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
2016 - 2020**

WHEREAS, Berlin Charter Township has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan that describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2016 – 2020; and

WHEREAS, a site inventory of all parks and recreation facilities was conducted; and

WHEREAS, an online survey was conducted in the Township in November 2015 through January 2016 to discuss existing conditions, past results, goals and objectives, and community needs; and

WHEREAS, a draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared and required a 30 day public review period and was available for public review for in excess of 30 days at the Township Offices during regular business hours; and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held on October 19, 2015 at the Waste Water Treatment Plant after the 30-day public review period in order to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2016 the Planning Commission recommended approval of said draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, development of adequate parks and recreation facilities requires a pro-active plan based on a combination of community input, analysis of existing conditions, analysis of the basic needs for current programs and potential funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Berlin Charter Township followed a planning process that contained public involvement, through an online survey and public workshop for the purpose of soliciting community input on said draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Berlin Township Planning Commission with the assistance of Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc. has developed the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the benefit of the entire community and as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides recommendations for park and recreation facilities with a list of capital improvements for the next five years and includes overall goals and supporting objectives and a specific action program for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, said draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan is designed to meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, thereby making the Township eligible for State and Federal grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berlin Charter Township Board hereby adopts the 2016-2020 Berlin Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Berlin Charter Township.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Sovey-Meyer

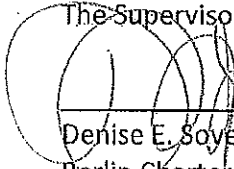
Second offered by Board Member R. Masserant

Upon roll call vote the following voted "aye": D. Reaume, Tomlinson, R. Masserant, Sovey-Meyer, K. Reaume, D. Masserant, M. Reaume.

"nay": NONE

Absent: NONE


The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.



Denise E. Sovey-Meyer, CMC
Berlin Charter Township

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Clerk of Berlin Charter Township hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an excerpt of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Township Board held on April 25, 2016, at which meeting the above Resolution of Adoption of Berlin Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016 - 2020 was adopted; all members of the Township Board present voted as indicated in said minutes; and that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.



Denise E. Sovey-Meyer, CMC
Berlin Charter Township

berlinrecreationpd

Berlin Charter Township Planning Commission

Notice of Parks and Recreation Draft Plan Availability for Public Review and Comment and Notice of Public Hearing

Berlin Charter Township has prepared a 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide the future development of parks and recreation with the Township. The public is welcome to view a copy of the draft plan for review and comments. Copies of the draft plan can be viewed during regular business hours at:

- Berlin Charter Township Office, 8000 Swan View, Newport, MI 48166
- Berlin Senior Center, 8000 Swan View, Newport, MI 48166
- Newport Branch Library, 8120 N. Dixie Highway, Newport, MI 48166
- On the Berlin Charter Township website (www.berlinchartertwp.com)

Your written comments will be accepted until April 25, 2016 and can be sent to Denise Sovey-Meyer CMC, Berlin Charter Township Clerk, 8000 Swan View, Newport, MI 48166 or denise@berlintwp.net.

In addition, anyone interested in providing further comments will be provided an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held by the Berlin Charter Township Board on the proposed plan at 7:30 PM on April 25, 2016 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (8000 Swan View, Newport, MI 48166).

The meeting is open to the public under the Michigan's Open Meeting Act. Persons with disabilities, who require assistance to participate or attend this public meeting, are requested to contact the Township 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Denise Sovey-Meyer CMC,
Berlin Charter Township Clerk

March 18, 2016



CARLISLE

WORTMAN
associates, inc.

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

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

May 3, 2016

Monroe County Parks and Recreation
106 E. First Street
Monroe, MI 48161

Re: 2016-2020 Berlin Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan

Dear Monroe County Parks and Recreation:

On behalf of Berlin Charter Township, I am pleased to submit one copy of the 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan on a CD which was adopted by the Township Board on April 25, 2016. Berlin Charter Township has prepared this document with the assistance of Carlisle|Wortman Associates, Inc. Please include this document with your files for future reference. Please also copy the MDNR grants section on any comments received by your agency.

This plan was made available to the public starting on March 18, 2016 and concluding with a public hearing, held on April 25, 2016. It was adopted by the Township Board on April 25, 2016.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.

John L. Enos, AICP

Principal

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.

Laura K. Kreps, AICP

Associate



CARLISLE

WORTMAN
associates, inc.

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

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

May 3, 2016

SEMCOG

1001 Woodward Avenue

Suite 1400

Detroit, MI 48226

Re: 2016-2020 Berlin Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan

Dear SEMCOG:

On behalf of Berlin Charter Township, I am pleased to submit one copy of the 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan on a CD which was adopted by the Township Board on April 25, 2016. Berlin Charter Township has prepared this document with the assistance of Carlisle|Wortman Associates, Inc. Please include this document with your files for future reference. Please also copy the MDNR grants section on any comments received by your agency.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.

John L. Enos, AICP

Principal

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.

Laura K. Kreps, AICP

Associate

Richard K. Carlisle, *President* Douglas J. Lewan, *Executive Vice President*

R. Donald Wortman, *Principal* John L. Enos, *Principal* David Scurto, *Principal* Benjamin R. Carlisle, *Principal* Sally M. Elmiger, *Principal*
Brian Oppmann, *Associate* Laura K. Kreps, *Associate*