

# Charter Township of Kalamazoo Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan: 2020-2024



Charter Township of Kalamazoo  
Kalamazoo County

Adopted January 27, 2020



# Acknowledgements

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# Introduction

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The Charter Township of Kalamazoo has developed this five-year parks and recreation master plan after undertaking a thorough process of inventory, analysis, and public input collection. This plan is a road map for the parks and recreation decisions to be made over the next five years and beyond. This plan also makes the Charter Township of Kalamazoo eligible for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the plan has given the Township a better understanding of its residents' needs and desires for parks and recreation. The plan contains the following components:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Parks and Recreation Inventory
- Basis for Action Plan
- Action Plan

## Community Description

The Community Description provides a snapshot of the demographic, economic, and physical characteristics of Kalamazoo Township. This section identifies current trends and future community composition that affects parks, recreation, and cultural decisions and is a factor in creating the goals and objectives that appear in the Action Plan.

## Administrative Structure and Funding

The Administrative Structure and Funding component contains a description and illustration of the Township's parks and recreation organization. The current and projected expenditures and revenues and the grant history of the Township are also discussed in this chapter.

## Parks and Recreation Inventory

The Parks and Recreation Inventory is a compilation of all Township, local, regional, and private parks and facilities. It is important to understand what parks, facilities, and programs are available to Kalamazoo Township residents in order to assist in creating the Action Plan for future parks and recreation decisions. Some facilities included in the inventory may only be available for limited public use or available for a fee, but they provide additional recreation opportunities for Township residents.

## Basis for Action Plan

The Basis for Action Plan chapter includes a discussion of the planning and public input process as well as an analysis of the park land, service areas, and recreation facilities in the Township. Parks and recreation opportunities are reviewed using a number of methods, including comparing the community's current offerings to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community,

analyzing information gathered during public input processes, and consulting with the citizens and Township staff. The results presented in this section create the basis for the action plan.

## **Resource Inventory**

The Resource Inventory provides a description of key open space areas desirable for future protection as well as public access. These may be targets for acquisition or other public actions to protect the assets that they are.

## **Action Plan**

The Action Plan is the result of the extensive information gathered and analyzed through the planning process. The results of the effort are formulated into, and presented as, goals, objectives, and system-wide recommendations for the Township parks. Recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Township's parks and recreation facilities are described, and the tools necessary for the implementation of plan components are identified. The Five Year Capital Improvement Plan is also contained in this section. The plan organizes projects that will require significant capital investment in order to better manage the budget and equally distribute funds over a five-year period. The timing of the projects is flexible and may be changed depending on the availability of funding.

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# Chapter 1

## Community Description

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The purpose of this section is to describe the jurisdiction, focus and area covered by the Five Year Recreation Plan for the Charter Township of Kalamazoo. The various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of the Township provide a picture for determining future parks and recreational facility development and programming needs for the community. This information provides a useful resource when completing background information on grant applications.

### Jurisdiction

The Recreation Plan is for the Charter Township of Kalamazoo, which is exempt from annexation from contiguous cities or villages, and carries additional rights and responsibilities of home rule. The Township occupies the sixth position of sixteen townships on a map of Kalamazoo County. The cities of Parchment and Kalamazoo consumed through historic annexations approximately two-thirds of the initial Township area.

### Focus

This five-year plan will focus upon all aspects of recreation ranging from sidewalks, paths and little league ball fields to parks and a golf course. Various trails throughout the Township provide additional challenges and opportunities for the Recreation Plan.

The Township works with many other governmental units in the community to provide parks and recreation experiences to its residents, including:

- The Kalamazoo Public Schools that
  - sold the Wilson Recreation Park land to the Township circa 1995, and
  - leases the Lakewood Park land to the Township.
- The County of Kalamazoo through the Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds and Expo Center, which is located in the Township's Lakewood neighborhood. This facility provides a large variety of events and camping facilities. The County works closely with the Township to ensure the facility is an asset to the community. The County has agreed to provide sidewalks on the northern side of this site, and these sidewalks will integrate and complete a local sidewalk system. This system will enable the public to safely and easily reach various stores, shops and restaurants within the neighborhood.

The Township also partners with Kalamazoo County to support the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, which currently traverses the Township's Northwood and Westwood neighborhoods. The interconnecting trail system in Kalamazoo County will eventually link more than 140 miles of trails connecting Battle Creek to Lake Michigan in addition to D



Avenue to the City of Portage. People are now able to travel to the Kalamazoo Nature Center, which is located next to Northwood, and to other desirable locations for events and activities.

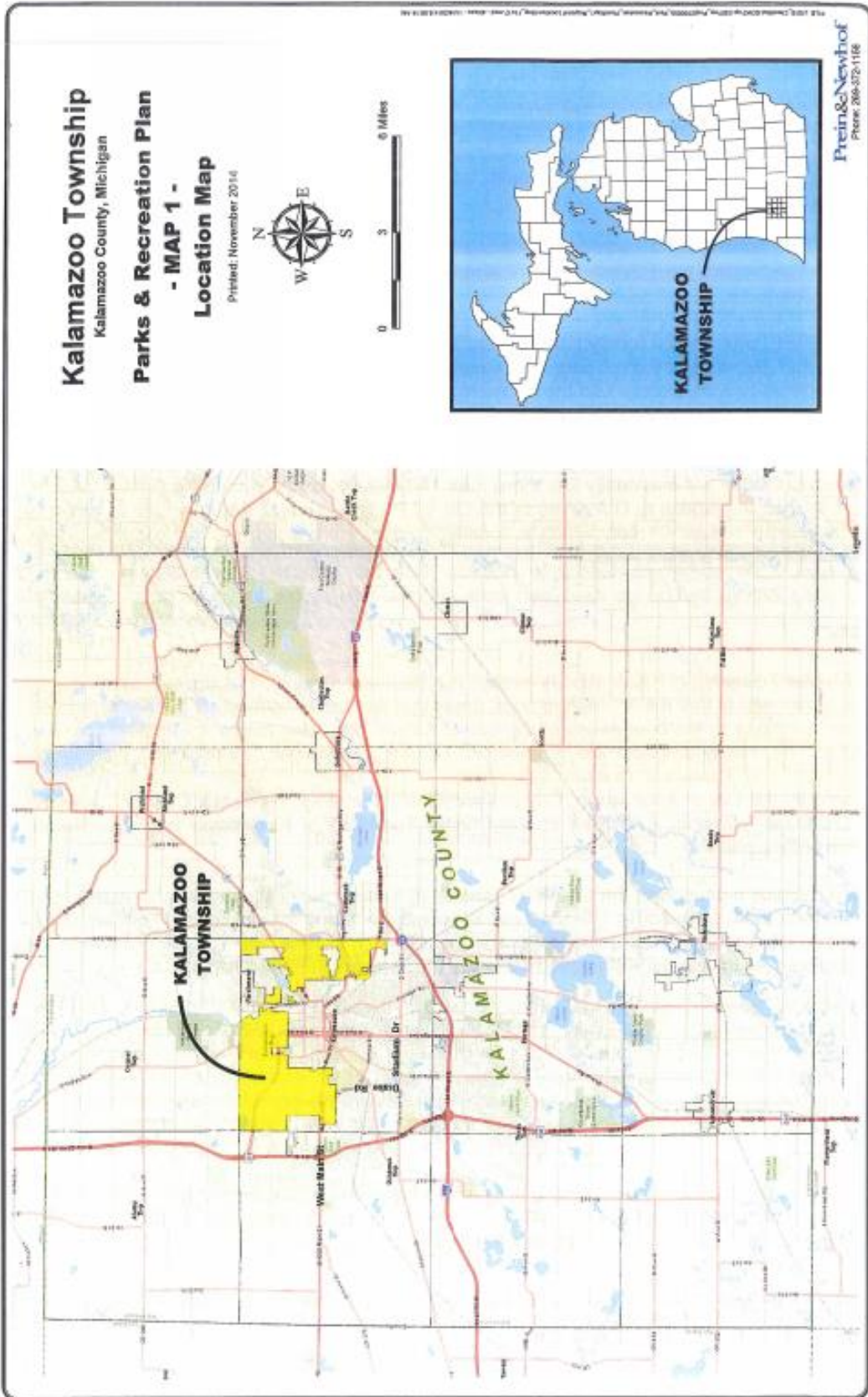
The Township also works with Kalamazoo County to support Markin Glen County Park, which borders the Township's Northwood neighborhood and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.

- KPEP, which has a facility bordering on the southeastern side of the Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds and Expo Center in the Lakewood neighborhood, as well as a facility in the Eastwood neighborhood. KPEP has provided labor to edge existing sidewalks and supports the sidewalks on Olmstead Road and Lake Street in the Lakewood neighborhood, to enable useful and safe walkways for KPEP's residents and the public.

## Area

The Charter Township of Kalamazoo is located in Kalamazoo County, in southwestern Michigan and is composed of four major neighborhood areas that are not all contiguous. Many areas of the Township share boundaries with the City of Kalamazoo. (See *Map 1 – Regional Location Map*.) The neighborhoods are Lakewood (south), Westwood (northwest), Northwood (northeast), and Eastwood (eastern boundaries). The Charter Township of Kalamazoo is bordered by the City of Kalamazoo, City of Parchment, Comstock Township, Cooper Township and Oshtemo Township. The area of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo is approximately thirteen square miles.

From a regional perspective, the Charter Township of Kalamazoo is located approximately one mile north of I-94, adjacent to US-131, and is accessible from State Routes M-96 and M-43. Also, the US-131 Business Loop from I-94 to US-131 serves the Charter Township of Kalamazoo. Portions of the Kalamazoo River are also present in the township.



## Demographic Characteristics

The following demographic report provides insight into the characteristics of the community. Age, household, and disability statistics for the Township are included. The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the type and quality of parks and recreation facilities and programs necessary to serve the Charter Township of Kalamazoo residents.

### Population and Housing

During the past 50 years, the Township has remained relatively static in population, as shown in Table 1.1. During the past 17 years, the Township had 3.8% growth while Kalamazoo County experienced a 8.9 percent growth in population and the State of Michigan lost 0.1 percent in population. At a population of 22,504 persons, Kalamazoo Township is one of the largest townships in terms of population in southwest Michigan, and the state. The average household size was 2.3 persons in 2000, 2.21 persons in 2011, and an average 2.59 persons in 2017 (2.59 persons/owner-occupied households and 2.30 per renter-occupied households). The population density in Kalamazoo Township is 2.98 person/acre (22,504/7,545.6 acres).

<b>TABLE 1.1 – POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS Kalamazoo Township, Kalamazoo County, and Michigan: 2000-2017</b>				
<b>Unit of Government</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2017 est.</b>	<b>% Change 2000-2017</b>
Kalamazoo Township	21,675	21,918	22,504	3.8%
Kalamazoo County	238,603	250,331	259,830	8.9%
State of Michigan (millions)	9.938	9.883	9.926	-0.1%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000-2010 (Summary File 1) & American Community Survey (ACS) 2017 estimate

### Population Projections

It is anticipated that the Township population will remain stable with fairly modest increases over the next several decades. While housing starts and development have seen a marked increase in 2013-2014, the age of current housing in substantial portions of the Township as well as the age of the Township population balance that growth potential. Large redevelopment efforts in the Eastwood and Lakewood neighborhoods as well as needed quality of life improvements – such as parks – will ensure sustainability of the Township’s population.

The 2014 Master Plan emphasizes that walkable recreation facilities have become key components to maintaining neighborhood stability. The Township’s shift in age distribution highlights a higher compatibility for this type of recreational activities. Additional efforts to minimize housing vacancies (2017 estimate of 8.8%), nuisance and code compliance issues, low homeownership, low property values, and weak market demand are needed. Targeted recreational development will assist in this effort for maintaining current population levels.

## Age of Population

TABLE 1.2 – AGE OF POPULATION Kalamazoo Township: 2012 – 2017				
Cohort	2012		2017	
	#	%	#	%
Under 5	1,391	6.3	1,704	7.6
5-14	2,906	13.1	2,621	11.6
15-24	3,223	14.6	4,074	18.1
25-34	3,892	17.6	3,303	14.7
35-44	2,850	12.9	2,898	12.9
45-54	2,490	11.3	2,934	13
55-64	2,410	11.0	1,900	8.4
65-74	1,720	7.8	1,593	7.0
Over 75	1,179	5.4	1,477	6.6

Source: U.S. Census, 2012 and 2017 ACS

Age statistics help direct the need for recreational projects. Although the Township has a significant senior population, it also has a substantial youth population that is active and needs an outlet for its energies. With the Kalamazoo Promise in place and the housing available in the Township, the community is a desirable place for young families and starter homes.

The Township has a significant number of seniors in both number and in percentage of the population. 2017 Census results indicate that approximately 13.6% of the Township's population are 65 or over. This number will continue to increase as the Baby Boomer generation ages; therefore, issues pertinent to older citizens are considered in this 5 Year Parks And Recreation Master Plan.

Youth have also grown in the Township in both number and percentage of the population. The Kalamazoo Promise college scholarship program may influence children to live within Kalamazoo Township. The 2017 Census results indicate that 22.6% of the population is under the age of 18. The recreation plan needs to address safe options for the young.

The age distribution of the Township's population highlights the need for age appropriate recreational options for all its citizens. A variety of offerings will be incorporated into this plan.

### Persons with Disabilities

Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning appropriate facilities and locations for existing and future recreational activities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all public services, including parks and recreation facilities, be subject to barrier-free requirements. The Act also requires that public recreation providers eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services.

Disability data is collected for three age groups. As the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with the figures for Kalamazoo

Township. According to the 2010-2012 American Community Survey, 2,688 of the 21,933 residents of Kalamazoo Township have a disability. Of those under 18 years, 4.8% or 184 have a disability. Of those aged 18-64, 11% or 1,522 have a disability. Of those 65 and over, 34% or 982 have a disability.

The information in Table 1.3 is broken down to show the various disability types, as measured and determined by the Census, present in the Township. From a facility design standpoint, all are important. The principles of Universal Design are based on the principles of providing spaces that can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone. The inventory of facilities in the Township will provide an analysis of accessibility.

<b>TABLE 1.3 – PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY Kalamazoo Township: 2010-2012</b>									
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Hearing Difficulty</b>	<b>Vision Difficulty</b>	<b>Cognitive Difficulty</b>	<b>Ambulatory Difficulty</b>	<b>Self-care Difficulty</b>	<b>Independent Living Difficulty</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>With a Disability</b>	<b>Percent Disabled</b>
<b>Under 5</b>	0	0	x	x	x	x	<b>1,391</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>5 to 17</b>	0	31	137	16	11	x	<b>3,817</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>18 to 64</b>	229	145	809	609	136	381	<b>13,854</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
<b>65+</b>	467	55	288	608	200	415	<b>2,871</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>34.2%</b>

Source: 2010 to 2012 American Community Survey

As part of a 10 million dollar, voter-approved bond millage for transportation improvements during 2015 - 2018, the Township implemented many non-motorized improvements that benefit persons who manage handicaps, including

- connecting 44 “orphaned” sidewalk-road crossing with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps where sidewalks formerly ended before reaching a street,
- 100 small repairs to high-use sidewalks,
- 2.8 miles of new sidewalks adjacent to primary and other busy roads, and
- 4 miles of signed bicycle routes.

## **Economic Characteristics**

Economic characteristics provide further evidence of the diversity of people and households in the Township. One of the key sub-groups within the Township are students, and this renter group makes up a notable percentage of the Township’s population. This group consists of a significant number of full-time students who do not make significant income. Therefore, the following statistics are impacted as a result.

The economic vitality of the Township is directly tied to the Kalamazoo metropolitan area and the rest of the State of Michigan, particularly the east side of the state which is facing unemployment rates and overall job loss much higher than what has been seen locally. The diversity of business and industry in the Kalamazoo region has lessened the impact of global changes in heavy industry, particularly in automotive manufacturing and related industries that, as a group, are the largest employers in the State. In 2019, Graphic Packaging announced a major initiative to grow in the Township and neighboring City of Kalamazoo. Other industries that are not manufacturing-oriented are experiencing slow growth including the healthcare industry and other high-tech industries.

## Employment

According to the American Community Survey estimates for 2017, there were 12,077 persons in Kalamazoo Township in the labor force, or about 65 percent of the population 16 years of age or older. Of those persons, 844 or 4.7% were listed as unemployed. As stated previously, a high percentage of college students living in Kalamazoo Township likely inflates this unemployment figure.

## Housing

The Township's relative health and recreational needs are measured, in part, by housing density, values and structures. Population density has increased slightly from 2.61 persons per acre in 2000 to 2.63 persons per acre in 2010, although more recent data is not currently available.

Median home values have increase from \$84,700 in 2000 to \$105,200 in 2010. When adjusted for inflation, this is a 2% decline in housing values by 2010. One unit or single-family homes were 66.0% of the housing in 2000. By 2012, 65.7% of the housing stock was one unit or single family homes.

Median rent has increased from \$560 in 2000 to \$733 in 2010, although more recent data is not currently available. This is a 3.3% increase by 2010. The housing stock in 2000 was divided by 4.9% being 2-4 units, 22.1% being 5 or more units, and 7.0% being mobile homes and other types of structures. The housing stock in 2012 changed to 4.4% being 2-4 units, 19.7% being 5 or more units, and 6.2% being mobile homes and other types of structures. The housing stock in 2017 is estimated to be 5.7% for 2-4 units, 22.4% for 5 or more units, and 5% for mobile homes.

Table 1.4 highlights the significant movement from owner-occupied housing to renter-occupied housing in the Township.

<b>TABLE 1.4 – HOUSING TENURE Kalamazoo Township: 2000-2017</b>			
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2017</b>
Owner-occupied	68.4%	63.9%	61.7%
Renter-occupied	31.6%	36.1%	38.3%

Source: US Census, 2010 to 2012 and 2017 American Community Survey

## **Income**

Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level where half of all households earn more and half of the households earn less. In 2000, the median household income was \$46,161, higher than in Kalamazoo County (\$42,022). In 2010, the median household income was \$54,588, which is a 10% decline when adjusted for inflation. In 2017, the median household income was \$48,670. The significant university student population in the Township certainly impacts this statistic as does the challenging economic times in which we find ourselves.

## **Physical Characteristics**

The following is a description of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo including land use, natural features, green infrastructure, historical resources and transportation. More specific information is contained in Chapter 4 of this plan.

### **Land Use**

The Township has been characterized by urban development for many years and remains as such. Challenges include the existence of aging residential neighborhoods and abandoned industrial sites. The neighborhoods are beginning to experience significant vacancies for housing and the beginnings of blight are being seen. Over 7% of housing units in the Township are classified as vacant.

### **Natural Features**

Chapter 4 has a more descriptive view of the Township. The four neighborhoods are described in some detail.

Lakewood's dominant feature is the Kalamazoo River. The neighborhood is located in a low-lying flood plain.

Eastwood is generally flat and gently rolling.

Westwood is gently rolling, although some severe slopes occur on both sides of Ravine Road. Wooded areas are concentrated south of West Main Street and south of Ravine Road. A natural drainage area exists in the extreme southern portion of the neighborhood.

Water resources are dominated by the Kalamazoo River traversing the Township in two places. The river flows from the east and exits the Township to the north. Rivers provide recreational and aesthetic assets to the community. The only other sizable body of water is the Consumers Sand and Gravel Company gravel pit in the southeastern quadrant of Nazareth Road and East Main.

### **Green Infrastructure**

Woodlands and agricultural lands data comprise a smaller portion of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo. The majority of these wood lots are or were privately owned. The wooded lots which



the Township could control occur in the Kalamazoo River flood plain. Most of these isolated wooded areas are located in the Northwood area.

### **Transportation**

Township residents rely upon local and recreational circulation systems to access parks and recreational facilities. The existing road system consists of an irregular road pattern. Portions of the Township are served by the City of Kalamazoo Metro Transit, providing a fixed bus route and on-demand system for the Kalamazoo region.

The Township is fortunate to be served by a substantial regional system including US-131, M-43, and I-94. The major east and west routes within the Township are M-43, Gull Road, and Stadium Drive. The major north and south routes are US-131 and Drake Road.

Access to recreational facilities can be difficult for certain segments of the population, primarily children and older adults. Existing recreation facilities are primarily located on busy roadways or in adjacent communities. Travel along rural roads or across major roads is required. Efforts have been made recently to expand bicycle routes non-motorized routes. Continued efforts are needed here. Coordinating efforts will help to ensure improved access.



# Chapter 2

## Administrative Structure and Funding

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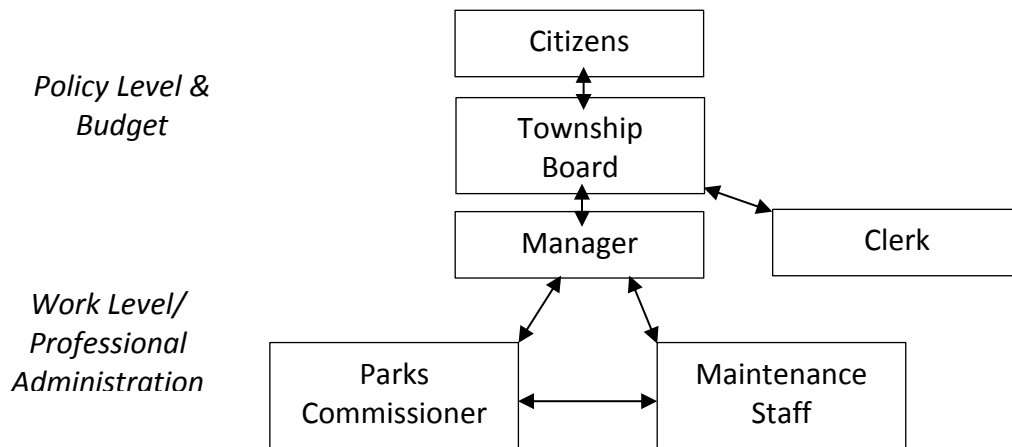
This chapter reviews the administrative structure and budget for parks and recreation within the Charter Township of Kalamazoo. Although the Township is the primary recreation provider for its mini- and neighborhood parks, several other providers of parks and recreation facilities in the community offer facilities, including Kalamazoo Public Schools, Kalamazoo County Parks, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, three little league baseball associations, and various private entities. The Township does not provide formal recreational programming for its residents, but several options are available through adjacent communities and private providers. Please see *Chapter 3* for further discussion regarding facility ownership and an inventory of all facilities in the Township including those not publicly owned.

### Administration

Providing parks and recreation opportunities to the Township begins at the top with the residents, who entrust these assets to the Township Board.

The Charter Township of Kalamazoo does not have a formal parks and recreation department. Administration and day-to-day management of the parks is the responsibility of the Township Manager's office, with input from the Recreation Commissioner. Township staff primarily conducts maintenance of park facilities and, to a lesser extent, community volunteers. The Township's Maintenance Department plays a key role in outlining maintenance schedules and best management practices. The Manager's Department is responsible for administration and day-to-day management of the parks facilities as well as the goals of this plan. (See *Figure 2.1 – Administrative Structure*.)

**FIGURE 2.1**  
**Administrative Structure**



## Volunteers

The Township maintains strong relationships with three Little League baseball associations, Friends of Kalamazoo Township Parks, volunteers serving Wilson Recreation Park and Jenks and Grand Pre Park, and neighborhood associations in the Eastwood, Lakewood, and Westwood neighborhoods, which offer valuable, volunteer assistance with maintaining Township parks.

## Public Entity Relationships

Kalamazoo Township partners with the Kalamazoo County Parks Department to provide programming and interpretive information to promote the use of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway (KRVT). Kalamazoo Township also works with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission to advance bike routes and lanes to better connect with the KRVT, as well as sidewalks and ADA-compliant curb cuts on public roadways.

## Parks and Recreation Funding

The Township's operating budget for parks and recreation for the 2019 fiscal year is \$23,500. The overall Township budget is \$9.12 million. The funds come from the Township's general fund and are generally utilized for maintenance and operations of the facilities and for special projects. Table 2.1 summarizes the parks and recreation budget for the actual expenditures in 2018, the adopted 2019 budget, and 2019 actual expenditures through October 31, 2019.

<b>TABLE 2.1 – RECREATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES 2018-2019</b>				
	<b>2018 Amended Budget</b>	<b>2018 Balance</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual (through 10/31/19)</b>
<b>Operating Supplies</b>	\$4,000	\$1,561	\$4,000	\$2,385
<b>Purchased Services</b>			\$500	\$182
<b>Utilities – Electric</b>	\$2,000	\$1,227	\$1,300	\$260
<b>Utilities – Water</b>	\$150	\$280	\$1,000	\$360
<b>Repairs – Maintenance Grounds</b>	\$5,000	\$2,859	\$5,000	\$2,625
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	\$2,000	\$0	\$11,700	\$8,613
<b>Total Parks Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,189</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$23,500</b>	<b>\$14,425</b>

Source: Charter Township of Kalamazoo, 2019

There is currently no independent revenue source for parks and recreation (e.g. user fees, millage, etc.) in the Township. Table 2.2 below illustrates the revenues to the Recreation Budget.

<b>TABLE 2.2 – RECREATION BUDGET REVENUES 2018-2019</b>				
	<b>2018 Amended Budget</b>	<b>2018 Balance</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual (through 8-31- 19)</b>
<b>Donations</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Recreation – Special Revenue Fund</b>			\$9,702	\$9,702
<b>Total Recreation Revenues</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,702</b>	<b>\$9,702</b>

Source: Charter Township of Kalamazoo, 2019

According to a community survey conducted in the fall of 2013, respondents indicated a preference for user fees, rather than a millage, to fund additional revenue needs for parks and recreation programs and projects.

## Parks and Recreation Grant History

Kalamazoo Charter Township has received a variety of state grants for Recreation improvements over the years. These are detailed in Table 2.3. Due to the age of some of the grants, specific information on some of the items was challenging to identify.

<b>TABLE 2.3 – RECREATION GRANTS</b>				
<b>Project</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Fund</b>
<b>Eastwood Township Park</b>	691-xxx	1976	\$14,177.72	LWCF
<b>FY 79 Consolidated Statewide Grant</b>	1060-J2	1978	\$4,010.75	LWCF
<b>Grand Prairie Park</b>	1122-xxx	1980	\$9,805.25	LWCF
<b>Grand Prairie Golf Course Acquisition</b>	1208-xxx	1981	\$92,513.87	LWCF
<b>Markin Glen River Access / Kalamazoo River Valley Trail</b>	TF99-082		\$57,000.00	MNRTF (Acquisition)
<b>Grand Prairie Golf Course</b>	TF405		\$45,000.00	MNRTF (Acquisition)

LWCF – Land and Water Conservation Fund  
MNRTF – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

In addition to the above identified grants from traditional state programs, the Township also was fortunate to receive grant funding through the First Steps program in 2007, 2008, and 2009. This program provided grants from the State of Michigan and distributed through the Kalamazoo County Department of Health to encourage healthy living habits, including exercise. The following

identifies the parks where this funding was utilized, projects that were implemented, grant amounts, and years.

<b>TABLE 2.4 – FIRST STEPS GRANTS</b>		
<b>Park &amp; Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>LAKWOOD PARK</b>		
Phillips Handicap Ramps	\$800.00	2007
Engineering & Design	\$3,302.79	2008
No Smoking Signs & Fasteners	\$355.00	2009
Sidewalk by Phillips	\$12,850.00	2009
<b>WILSON RECREATION PARK</b>		
Seats & Benches	\$1,727.31	2007
Walking track	\$4,495.00	2007
<b>STROUD PARK</b>		
Swing	\$10,372.00	2007
Walkway	\$4,300.00	2007
Concrete Animals	\$3,552.00	2008
Signs	\$500.00	2008

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# Chapter 3

## Parks and Recreation Inventory

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For the Parks and Recreation Plan and this inventory of facilities to be meaningful, it is necessary to consider recreation resources, not only in Kalamazoo Township, but also in surrounding jurisdictions. Township residents have ready access to parks in neighboring communities. Recognizing that people will cross these boundaries for existing recreation opportunities aids decision-makers in evaluating overall recreational needs and in allocating limited funds to land acquisition and park development.

Information used in this inventory was collected from previous parks and recreation plans for area communities, as well as aerial photography analysis and internet research. The following descriptions highlight the major amenities of each recreation facility.

### Township Parks

Kalamazoo Township operates seven parks, a golf course, and three community rooms. An inventory of the parks and facilities is presented below and shown on *Map 2 – Township Parks and Recreation Inventory* and *Table 3.1 – Township and Local Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory*. Each of the parks and facilities are broken into categories based on size and function. These categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association and are meant to aid in determining the primary purpose and uses of existing facilities in the Township. A brief assessment of the size, quality, and amount of wear and tear is included.

### Mini and Neighborhood Parks

**Mini parks** are small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in size and serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, usually within a one-quarter mile radius. These parks normally serve a limited, isolated, or unique population. **Neighborhood parks** are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation activities, such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. Kalamazoo Township owns seven facilities that range in size from 0.3 to 2.5 acres and can be classified as Mini or Neighborhood Parks and are described below. Although not noted here, eleven school facilities also serve this need in the community.

#### **Stroud Family Park** [*Westwood*]

The 1.5 acre park offers a playground designed for young children, two tennis courts, picnic areas, a perennial garden, and parking. The park is located south of Grand Prairie Road, across from Indian Prairie Elementary School. Kalamazoo Township maintains the park. The park is one component of a larger, active recreation area that also includes eight baseball fields located south of Stroud Family Park. The Westwood Little League operates and maintains the baseball facilities.

#### **Rynbrandt Park** [*Eastwood*]

The quarter acre park formerly offered two tennis courts, which were removed a few years ago due to their poor condition. These courts were installed with the financial assistance of an MNRTF grant,

but due to the condition and lack of use, were removed with DNR permission. Currently, the park provides opportunities for passive recreation and natural exploration for neighborhood residents.

**Jenks and Grand Pre** *[Westwood]*

The park includes perennial flower gardens, benches, trees, and ornamental shrubs in a grass lawn environment, maintained by community volunteers. The park is 0.3 acres in size located near the southern end of Jenks Avenue and Grand Pre Avenue at the point where the roads come together before joining to meet West Main Street.

**Lakewood Park** *[Lakewood]*

The park is approximately half acre in size and hosts playground equipment and a picnic shelter with tables. Kalamazoo Township leases this park from Kalamazoo Public Schools, which formerly operated an elementary school east of the park. Currently, Kalamazoo RESA operates a Head Start facility in the school building. The park represents the lone existing recreation opportunity in the Lakewood neighborhood.

**Scheid Park** *[Westwood]*

Since the approximately one acre parcel was donated to the township in 1943, neighborhood children have enjoyed passive recreational opportunities in the undeveloped land. In late 2012, neighbors and the township developed a management plan, which outlined the continued passive use of the property. In 2013, neighborhood-lead work sessions cleared many of the non-native trees and shrubs and began developing a walking trail. Per the management plan, a sign was installed in 2014 to mark the property as a township facility, and a bench was added along the trail at a scenic overlook.

**Academy and Grand Park** *[Westwood]*

Academy Street and Grand Avenue frame the edges of this one acre parcel of spacious trees and mowed grass. The open environment is typically used by immediate neighbors for playing catch with a ball or disk or enjoying more passive recreational pursuits.

**Wilson Recreation Park** *[Eastwood]*

The 2.5 acre site contains a large, mowed field, a paved walking path along the perimeter, playground equipment designed for young children, benches, and parking. The land was formerly a neighborhood school named Wilson School. The parcel is located in the heart of Kalamazoo Township's Eastwood neighborhood, near the Eastwood library branch, the Eastwood Fire Station, churches, a grocery store and other businesses.

**Grand Prairie Golf Course** *[Westwood]*

This 9-hole golf course is owned by the Township with management and operational responsibilities contracted out to a third-party concessionaire. Although the facility is primarily used to provide golfing opportunities during the fair-weathered months, area residents sled and cross-country ski on the course's varying topography when adequate depths of snow cover the ground.

**Community Parks**

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

that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community. Kalamazoo Township has no developed parks that can be classified as Community Parks.

## **Township Facilities**

Kalamazoo Township owns three community rooms, which are each attached to operational fire stations, and the Township Office. The community rooms are available to rent and can accommodate a range of group sizes. The community rooms also offer kitchen facilities. The rooms are generally used for neighborhood association meetings and a variety of other uses. On election days, the community rooms are utilized as precinct voting sites. The potential for future recreational use or programming at these spaces is limited however primarily due to the function of the site as a fire station more so than the space itself.

### **Eastwood Community Room** *[Eastwood]*

Attached to Fire Station 2, the Eastwood Community Room is located at the corner of E. Main Street and Woodrow Drive.

### **Northwood Community Room** *[Northwood]*

Attached to Fire Station 1, the Northwood Community Room is located on E. Mosel Road, west of Burdick Street.

### **Westwood Community Room** *[Westwood]*

Attached to Fire Station 4, the Westwood Community Room is located on Nichols Road.

### **Kalamazoo Township Office** *[Northwood]*

The Township Office is located in the approximate center of the township at the corner of Riverview Drive and Mount Olivet Road and is home to the Township offices. The township office building contains the Board Room, which has a flexible design to accommodate township board meetings, other public meetings, and multiple other uses. The Township Office is located adjacent to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, so trail users can utilize parking, bathroom and water services during general business hours. The Township Office property also hosts a reconstructed wetland, designed to improve the water quality of a wetland/stream system that feeds into the Kalamazoo River.

## **Undeveloped Township Parkland**

In addition to the developed park facilities, the Township also owns vacant properties that have the potential to be developed into active and/or passive recreational facilities that will serve the Township as community parks. We have classified them here as Community Parks. The five-acre Nolichucky parcel located north of the Kalamazoo River, surrounded by 65 acres of Georgia-Pacific-owned land offers a potential recreational area. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality initiated cleanup of the property in 2014. Georgia-Pacific also owns property in the Lakewood neighborhood with frontage on the Kalamazoo River. The company has been in discussion for years with the Township regarding donation of some or all of this property to the community for access to the river and other recreational purposes, which could include a boat livery and/or fishing pier.

## **Other Local Parks and Recreation Facilities**



Many of the communities near Kalamazoo Township have their own park facilities, and while not directly supported by Kalamazoo Township residents, these parks are generally open for Kalamazoo Township residents to use and enjoy.

## **Trails**

### **Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway**

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway (KRVT) currently includes 17 miles of 12' wide asphalt trail. Approximately three miles of the trailway are located in Kalamazoo Township and provide access from the township's Westwood and Northwood neighborhoods to the City of Kalamazoo and other locations. The most recent extension extends between the Eastwood and Lakewood neighborhoods into Comstock Township towards Galesburg and Battle Creek.

One terminus of the trailway's network of routes connects to the eastern limit of the Kal-Haven Trail State Park on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Oshtemo Township, providing seamless access to the City of South Haven and Lake Michigan to the west. Recently constructed trail spurs also connect to other local and regional recreation facilities, such as Markin Glen County Park and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Once completed, the trailway will include 35 miles of trail throughout Kalamazoo County, connecting Kalamazoo Township to Battle Creek's Linear Park in Calhoun County to the east. The trailway will eventually extend south to the Portage Creek Bicentennial Park Trail in the City of Portage as well.

### **Kal-Haven Trail State Park**

Kal-Haven Trail State Park is a 35-mile linear park connecting the City of South Haven on the western trailhead near Lake Michigan to the eastern trailhead on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Oshtemo Township. A former railroad corridor, the Kal-Haven Trail today is a crushed-limestone path offering opportunities for biking, hiking, equestrian recreation, and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter. The trailhead on 10<sup>th</sup> Street includes a parking lot, pit-toilets, benches, and a train caboose that serves as a small office and visitor center. From the western terminal located one mile west of Kalamazoo Township, the trailway seamlessly continues as the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway.

### **Arboretum Trailway**

Located immediately west of the Township's southwest corner, the Arboretum Parkway is located parallel and south of Arboretum Parkway in the City of Kalamazoo. The approximately one-mile trail features a winding, 8-foot-wide, asphalt pathway, which is dedicated to walking and running. Complementing the trailway, designated bicycle lanes are available adjacent to the vehicular lanes of Arboretum Parkway. The trailway is well used and readily accessible to adjacent, single-family homes in Kalamazoo and Oshtemo Townships and the City of Kalamazoo, as well as hundreds of off-campus and on-campus college students living in Kalamazoo Township and the City of Kalamazoo. In addition, the trailway passes in front of Kalamazoo Public School's Linden Grove Middle School.

## **Recreational Opportunities at Public, Educational Facilities**

When public schools are not in session, Kalamazoo Township residents enjoy the use of the school playgrounds and sports fields located within the Township, including:

- Kalamazoo Central High School, Grand Prairie Elementary, King-Westwood Elementary School, Hillside Middle School, Northeastern Elementary within the Kalamazoo Public School District,
- Northwood Elementary within the Parchment School District,
- Comstock Alternative High School within the Comstock School District, and

- Recreational fields, courts, facilities, pathways, and sidewalks, available at Western Michigan University, which borders the Township.

### **Local Parks and Facilities**

#### **Al Sabo Land Preserve**

The 741-acre preserve is on the north side of Texas Drive, near 10<sup>th</sup> Street, in Texas Township. While the preserve was created to protect groundwater supply wells, hikers and mountain bikers can explore diverse woodland and wetland habitats.

#### **Alamo Township Park**

Alamo Township Park measures 17 acres and is located on the north side of DE Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. In addition to picnic areas and restrooms, this park offers eight ballfields, hiking trails, and ample parking.

#### **Allegan State Game Area**

Located northwest of the city of Allegan, the state game area's 50,000 acres features hiking trails, hunting, and fishing in a wide variety of natural communities.

#### **Asylum Lake Preserve**

The 274-acre Asylum Lake Preserve is located on the west side of the City of Kalamazoo and is owned by Western Michigan University. The lake and adjoining property are preserved as a passive recreation area under an agreement between WMU and the City of Kalamazoo. It provides a popular hiking, walking, and fishing area for residents. The preserve also serves as a research area for WMU students and faculty.

#### **Bittersweet Ski Area**

Located near Otsego in Allegan County, Bittersweet offers managed slopes and instruction for downhill skiing and snowboarding.

#### **Borgess Health & Fitness Center**

Operated by Borgess Health as a medically-based fitness center, this facility includes a swimming pool, basketball court, racquetball court, indoor track, cardio and weight-lifting machines, and group exercise classes. Membership is available to the public.

#### **Bow in the Clouds Nature Preserve**

Located west of Nazareth Road, the 60-acre preserve is situated in portions of both Kalamazoo Township and the City of Kalamazoo. Owned by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the preserve features trails through various types of upland, forest communities and approximately 1000 feet of boardwalk and bridges to allow walkers to traverse a wetland and stream. The preserve is contiguous to Averill Lake. The trails are within walking distance of many Eastwood neighborhood residents. A new parking lot has recently been added to provide greater access to the public.



#### **Bronson Athletic Club**

Owned by Bronson Healthcare, this facility includes a swimming pool, basketball court, racquetball court, indoor track, cardio and weight-lifting machines, and group exercise classes. Membership is available to the public.

### **Chipman Preserve**

Owned by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, this 228-acre preserve is located on the north side of E. Main Street, between 30<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets in Comstock Township. The preserve has a parking lot and features five miles of easy to moderate nature trails through a variety of forests, old fields, as well as savanna and prairie restoration sites.

### **Eastwood Little League**

Located in Comstock, immediately east of Kalamazoo Township's Eastwood neighborhood, the Eastwood Little League offers numerous baseball fields on the 10 acres property. The property is owned and maintained by the Eastwood Little League Association.

### **Echo Valley**

Echo Valley is a privately owned winter park offering sledding, tubing, ice skating, and a warming house, located on H Avenue in Comstock Township.

### **Flesher Field**

The parcel is located on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, south of Stadium Drive in Oshtemo Township. Half of the 24 acre parcel is mowed and used for active recreation including soccer fields, a baseball field, two wiffleball fields, play equipment, unpaved walking paths, and a picnic shelter. The other half is wooded and used for passive recreation and natural resource protection. The park is currently undergoing substantial renovation.

### **Fort Custer Recreation Area**

The nearest State Recreation Area is the 3,300-acre Fort Custer Recreation Area just south of Augusta. Once owned by the federal government for use as a military training center during World War II, the land was transferred to the State in 1971. Amenities include hunting, fishing, swimming, mountain biking, camping (cabin, tent, and trailer), boating access to three lakes and the Kalamazoo River, winter recreation, and 25 miles of trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The North Country National Scenic Trail and the planned Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway both run through the Recreation Area.

### **Glenn Allen Island**

This 10-acre, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy preserve is located in Kalamazoo Township and is contiguous to the Kalamazoo River. Access is limited, but the preserve can be viewed from the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway's William and Lois VanDalson Bridge located south of Markin Glen County Park.



Glenn Allen Island

### **Gourdneck State Game Area**

Located approximately 10 miles south of Kalamazoo Township along US-131 in the City of Portage, the area offers approximately four square miles of State-owned recreation land for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. An access ramp to Sugarloaf Lake is located on Shaver Road, north of U Avenue.

### **Kalamazoo City Parks**

The City of Kalamazoo operates a large municipal parks and recreation department, with over 35 facilities available to area residents. Facilities near Kalamazoo Township residents that are popular with township residents include the following:

- **Frays Park**

The park measures 11 acres in size and is located on Canterbury Avenue, east of Drake Road. Park amenities include play equipment, picnic facilities, tennis and volleyball courts,

and an 880-foot running track. The park is located within walking distance for hundreds of Kalamazoo Township households living in the Westwood neighborhood.

- **Knollwood Park**

Knollwood Park measures 20 acres and is located at the south end of Greenwood Avenue near Westbrook Street with a play area, picnic facilities, soccer fields, disc golf, and walking trails.

- **Mayors' Riverfront Park**

The park measures 380 acres and is located on Mills Street near downtown Kalamazoo, on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway. It offers basketball courts, a playground, pavilion and picnicking, paved trails along the Kalamazoo River, and a canoe launch. It is also home to a municipal baseball stadium and football stadium.

- **Milham Park**

This 49 acre park on East Kilgore Road includes trails, picnic facilities, ball fields, and playgrounds interspersed on land surrounding the Portage Creek. Immediately adjacent is the publicly owned and maintained Milham Park Golf Course. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail extension south to Portage is planned to run adjacent to Milham Park prior to connecting to the Portage Trail system on the south side of Kilgore Road.

- **Rockwell Park**

Located at 1106 Trimble, this 4.6-acres park features amenities for basketball, tennis, picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and toilets.

- **Sherwood Park**

Located adjacent to the southwest corner of Kalamazoo Township's Eastwood neighborhood on Wallace Avenue, Sherwood Park features very large shade trees, grills, picnic tables and a small playground.

- **Spring Valley Park**

This 226-acre park offers a variety of picnic areas, playground equipment, fields, tennis courts, a paved walking trail highlighting the identification of mature trees, and parking. This large open space is accessible to adjacent neighbors and neighborhoods as well as employees of commercial facilities along Gull Road south of the park. It also has several large parking area allowing it to serve as a Community Park for a broader area of residents. With minor improvements, an existing trail running from the park west to Riverview Drive can provide access to the park from the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.

- **Verberg Park**

Verberg Park is situated west of the Kalamazoo River between Paterson Street and Gull Road. The park offers playground equipment, generous open space, and a parking lot accessible off Paterson Street, which provides greater opportunities for access to the adjacent Kalamazoo River and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway, which runs through the park. Reasonable accommodations for launching small watercraft are also available.

- **VerSluis-Dickenson Softball Complex**

This park focuses on multiple softball fields. It also features open, grass fields, which are utilized for a variety of informal uses as well as the organized youth football teams and competitions by the Kalamazoo Ultimate Disc League.

- **Woods Lake Park**

The park is 6.5 acres located on Oakland Drive north of Parkview Avenue on the shores of Woods Lake. Substantial upgrades and renovations occurred in 2015. The facility offers picnic facilities, a swimming beach, fishing, canoe launch, restrooms, small playground, and a nature walk.

### **Kalamazoo County Parks**

Kalamazoo County owns and operates six parks, three of which are within easy access of Kalamazoo Township residents, as well as the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway (KRVT). In addition to the previously described KRVT, Kalamazoo County Parks Department manages the following facilities:

- **Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds and Expo Center**

Located in Kalamazoo Township's Lakewood neighborhood, the fairgrounds offers open space, paved roads for walking when events are not occurring, picnic facilities, and limited camping during specific events such as the county fair. Indoor events of all shapes and sizes occur at the center almost daily creating a variety of recreation opportunities.

- **Cold Brook County Park**

Located northwest of Climax, Cold Brook County Park's 276 acres feature a popular campground and swimming beach, three lakes (Blue, Long, and Portage Lakes), wetlands, a boat launch, a pier, disc golf, fishing, hiking trails, volleyball and softball areas, and pavilions.

- **Markin Glen County Park**

Markin Glen Park straddles North Westnedge Avenue in Cooper Township, immediately north of Kalamazoo Township's Northwood neighborhood. G Avenue marks the park's southern boundary. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway and the Kalamazoo River comprise the park's eastern boundary. Operated by the Kalamazoo County Parks Department since 1988, the park offers area residents barrier-free access to 160 acres of woodlands, meadows, and lakeshore. Amenities include fishing, camping, a swimming beach, tennis courts, picnic facilities, and an extensive system of trails.

- **Prairie View County Park**

Located on the shores of Gourdneck and Hogsett Lakes, the 210 acre park offers a swimming beach, five picnic shelters, a dog park, nature trails, boat ramp, row boat rental, fishing, playgrounds, soccer field, volleyball, softball, sledding hill and warming shelter.

- **River Oaks County Park**

Located 5.5 miles east of Kalamazoo Township, between East Michigan Avenue and the Kalamazoo River in Comstock Township, River Oaks County Park offers a complex of soccer fields, ball diamonds, picnic shelters, trails, bathrooms, and parking.

- **Scotts Mill County Park**

The park's 110 acres offer an 1870s-era, water wheel-powered mill, picnic shelter, hiking trails, fishing, and playground.

**Kalamazoo Rugby Football Club facility.** This private rugby football club is developing a field off Nichols Road in the Township. The site is in the process of seeking approval.

### **Kalamazoo Community Soccer Complex**

This facility on Drake Road just to the east of the Township boundary contains 10 soccer fields and is home to six different soccer leagues. Restrooms and support facilities are provided as well.

**Kalamazoo Nature Center**

The Nature Center is located on North Westnedge Avenue approximately five miles north of the City of Kalamazoo and is one of the oldest nature centers in the United States. With 1,100 acres of protected open space, the Kalamazoo Nature Center offers opportunities for hiking, nature study, and interpretive programs for children and adults. A nominal admission fee is waived for supporting members of the Center. The Nature Center is accessible via the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway and offers free parking to trail users.

**Kellogg Biological Station**

The Kellogg Biological Station is located north of Augusta and near Gull Lake and is operated as a research and teaching facility of Michigan State University. In addition to research facilities and Extension offices, the station includes the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary and the Kellogg Farm and Dairy Center. Guided and self-guided tours of the bird sanctuary and dairy center are available for a minimal charge.

**Kellogg Bird Sanctuary**

Located approximately 12 miles east of Kalamazoo Township, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary features a 0.75 mile, paved trail for visitors to view waterfowl and birds of prey, as well as educational displays concerning ecology and natural history in the Sanctuary's visitor center. The site is managed by Michigan State University.

**W. K. Kellogg Experimental Forest**

The 716-acre forest is open to the public for biking, hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. The site is managed by Michigan State University.

**Kindleberger Park**

The 40-acre Kindleberger Park is located on the south side of Park Avenue in the City of Parchment. Amenities include four Little League baseball diamonds, two softball diamonds, roller hockey and tennis courts, picnic pavilions, two playgrounds, paved trails, and a formal garden with gazebo, which can be reserved for special events.

**KL Avenue Nature Preserve**

Opened by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in 2012, this 70 acre nature preserve features wooded, rolling hills, walking paths, and a small parking area. The site is located at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and KL Avenue in Oshtemo Township.

**Kleinstuck Preserve**

This 48-acre nature preserve offers passive recreation and trails for walking and cross-country skiing through upland forest adjacent to wetland communities of swamp forest, shrub carr and marshland. The preserve features native wildflowers in the spring and a diverse bird population. Located in the City of Kalamazoo, the preserve is owned and managed by Western Michigan University, which promotes educational research, along with Kalamazoo College and other educational interests.

**Lillian Anderson Arboretum**

Located adjacent to the Oshtemo Township Park and owned by Kalamazoo College, the 140-acre Lillian Anderson Arboretum provides an important recreational resource for both the college and the community. While conservation and research are the primary objectives of the facility, low-impact recreation such as hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing is permitted.

**Meadow Run Dog Park**

Located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Oshtemo Township, this 25 acre, privately owned facility offers exercise space and other amenities for dogs and their owners for a fee.

**Merrill Park**

Located at the intersection of Comstock Street and River Street in neighboring Comstock Township, Merrill Park offers two basketball courts, a lighted softball field, playground equipment, a shelter, tables and grills, a boat launch to the Kalamazoo River, as well as open space for other activities.

**North Country National Scenic Trail**

The only federal park or recreation facility near Kalamazoo Township is the North Country National Scenic Trail, which crosses the northeast corner of Kalamazoo County. Like other National Scenic Trails, including the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail, the North Country Trail is administered by the National Park Service and maintained through the cooperation of local trail groups. While only 1,800 off-road miles of the planned route have been formally designated, the trail will be the longest off-road hiking trail in the United States when completed, stretching 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota.

**Northwood Little League**

Located in Cooper Township, immediately north of Kalamazoo Township's Northwood neighborhood and immediately south of Markin Glen County Park, the facility contains five fields of various sizes and configurations.

**Oshtemo Township Park**

This approximately 70 acre parcel features both a hilly, wooded area for passive recreation with trailways, and an active recreation area with paved loop trails, a playground, picnic shelters, tennis/pickleball courts, basketball courts, a wiffleball field, and a heavily used, 18-hole disc golf course. The site is located behind the Oshtemo Township Hall on West Main Street, immediately east of the Lillian Anderson Arboretum.

**Portage City Parks**

The City of Portage, located south of Kalamazoo Township, maintains more than 15 parks and recreation facilities. Several of these are larger parks with significant amenities or locational advantages to attract attention of Township residents. These include:

- **Bicentennial Park and Celery Flats**

The 205-acre park is located along the Portage Creek with 3.5 miles of multi-use trail, over eight miles of paths, canoeing, fishing, playgrounds, shelters and picnicking. The park also contains the Celery Flats Interpretative Center and historical area. Celery Flats highlights the heritage of celery farming in Portage and Kalamazoo County and includes four relocated structures as part of the historical area. The facilities are available to rent for events.

- **Harbors West Park**

The park measures 6 acres and is located near Angling Road, north of Milham Avenue. Park amenities include basketball and volleyball courts, roller hockey rink, play equipment, picnic facilities, and walking/biking trails.

- **Haverhill Park**

Haverhill Park measures 4 acres and is located on Hampton Street, east of Oakland Drive. The park includes basketball and tennis courts, roller hockey rink, play equipment, picnic

facilities, and biking trails. Haverhill Park is located along the Northwest Portage Bikeway, a 2.8 mile section of paved, off-road, multi-use trail in the northwest area of the City.

- **Millennium Park**

The one-acre park contains a reflecting pond, fountain, and an amphitheater for entertainment during the summer. In the winter, the park is converted to an outdoor skating rink with opportunities for skate rentals.

- **Oakland Drive Park**

The park measures 19 acres and is located on the west side of Oakland Drive at Schuring Road. Oakland Drive Park offers multiple sports facilities (basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts; soccer and softball fields), picnic tables and grills, playground, walking trails, and a sledding hill.

- **Westfield Park**

Westfield Park measures 12 acres and is located at the intersection of Milham Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Multiple sports facilities (basketball, tennis, soccer, volleyball, softball field), picnic tables and grills, and a playground are located at the park.

### **Public Lake Access Points**

Several lakes outside of the Township have public access points with boat launches managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. They offer opportunities for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. Some also include access for swimming, though none have an improved beach. Nearby lakes include Fish Lake, North Lake, Wolf Lake, and Eagle Lake.

### **Robert Morris Park**

Comstock Township's 40-acre park offers a pavilion, an award-winning disc golf course, and ADA-accessible sidewalk through the park.

### **Texas Drive Park**

The park is located on Texas Drive between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, and provides amenities including a playground, park benches, picnic pavilion, basketball court, soccer/football field, and paved trails in the five acre park.

### **Timber Ridge Ski Area**

Timber Ridge is located in Pine Grove Township, northeast of the City of Gobles in Van Buren County. This commercial facility offers multiple winter recreation opportunities, with 15 downhill ski and snowboard runs, five chairlifts, a snow tubing area, and instructional classes.

### **Van Buren State Park**

This 400-acre park features a mile of sandy beach and high dune formations on Lake Michigan. Located south of South Haven, it offers visitors an opportunity to swim, hike, and picnic. A play area and campground with 220 sites is also available.

### **Wenke Parks, North and South**

Straddling King Highway and the Kalamazoo River, the sites offer parking, picnic facilities and scenic views of the Kalamazoo River.

### **West Hills Athletic Club**



Located on 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Oshtemo Township, this indoor facility is owned by Western Michigan University. It offers ten indoor tennis courts, an indoor track, cardio and weight-lifting machines, and group exercise classes. Membership is available to the public.

#### **West Portage Little League Complex**

This baseball and softball complex on 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Center Street and Milham Avenue contains 16 different fields for all varieties of games and levels of play. An equipment shelter and restroom and concession facility is also provided.

#### **Westwood Little League**

Located immediately north of Kalamazoo Township's Stroud Family Park on Grand Prairie Avenue, Westwood Little League hosts eight baseball fields and a concession building. The facility is owned and maintained by the Westwood Little League Association.

#### **Westwood United Methodist Church**

Located near the corner of M-43/West Main Street and Nichols Road, Westwood UMC offers yoga and other fitness classes to church members and others in the community.

#### **Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center**

Owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center on M-43 in Almena Township provides the public with a chance to learn about the State's fisheries management and conservation efforts. Outdoor observation ponds and an indoor interpretive center, both free of charge, teach all ages about the biology, habitats, and management of Great Lakes fish species.

#### **Yankee Springs Recreation Area**

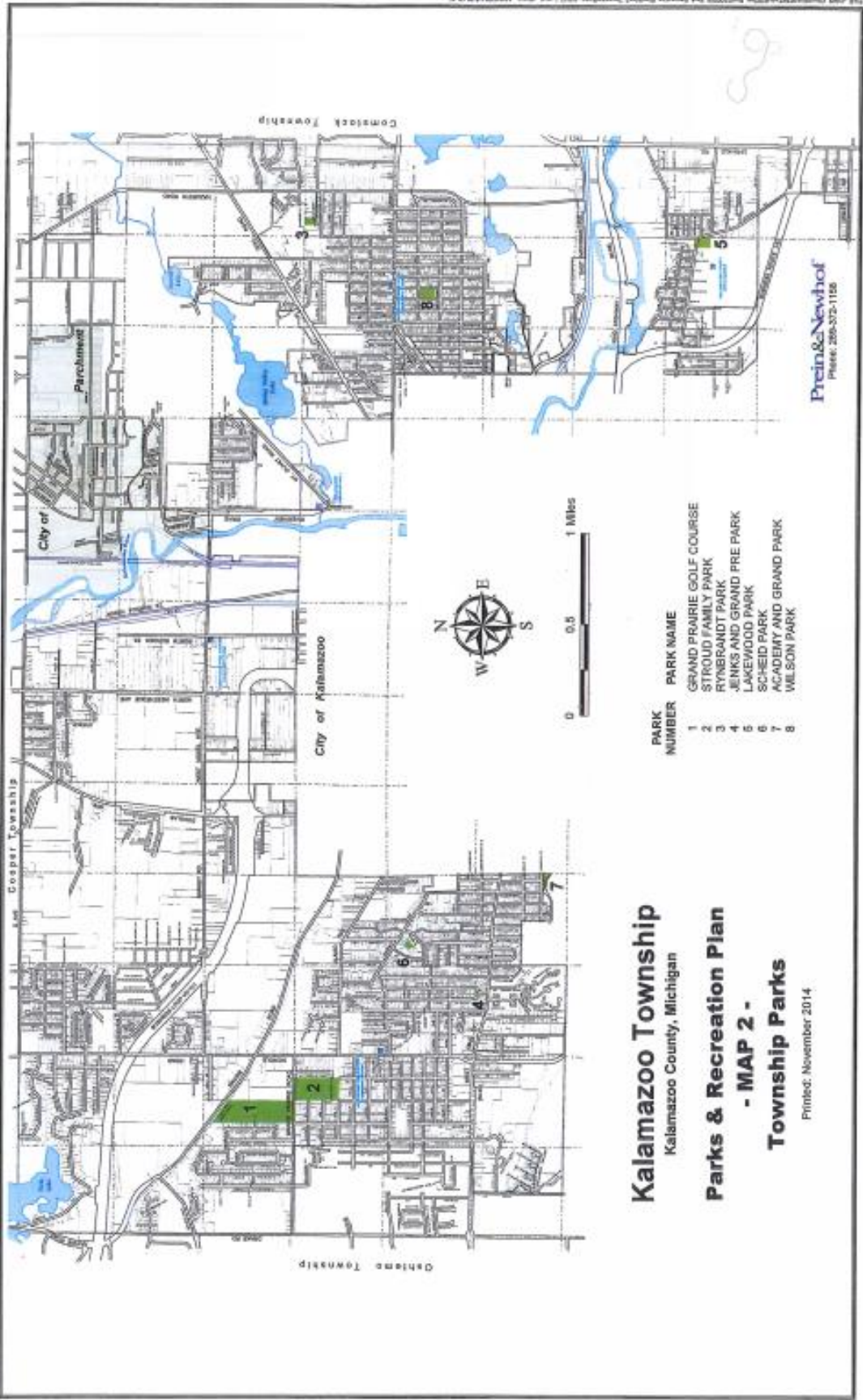
Located in Barry County, the recreation area features 30 miles of hiking trails, 12 miles of mountain bike trails, 9 miles of horseback trails, two public beaches, fishing, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling, modern and rustic campgrounds, and much more.

## **Barrier-Free Accessibility**

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. In accordance with the MDNR standards, Kalamazoo Township facilities were evaluated based on a five-point system to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility: has limited sight or is blind; uses a wheelchair; has a hearing impairment or is deaf; uses a walking aid; and/or has a mental impairment. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings for Township, City of Kalamazoo, and City of Portage parks and facilities can be found in *Table 3.1 – Township and Local Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory*.

- **Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

- **Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.
- **Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
- **Level 5.** The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.



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**Table 3.1 – Township and Local Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory**

Facility Name	Acres	Barrier-Free Assessment	Baseball/Softball/Whiffle ball	Multi-purpose Field	Basketball Courts	Disc Golf Course	Ice / Roller Hockey Rink	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Pavilion	Picnic Facilities	Play Equipment	Equestrian Trails	Running Track	Hiking/Walking Trails	Bicycle Trails/Paths	Swimming	Sledding Hill	Fishing	Boat Launch	Camping	Hunting	Nature Area/Garden
<b>Township Parks</b>																								
Stroud Family Park	1.5	3		•					•		•	•	•			•								
Rynbrandt Park	0.25	1														•								•
Jenks & Grand Pre Park	0.3	1																						•
Lakewood Park	0.5	2									•	•	•											
Scheid Park	2.1	1														•								•
Academy & Grand Park	1	1		•																				•
Wilson Recreation Park	2.5	3		•	•							•	•			•								

Facility Name	Acres	Barrier-Free Assessment	Baseball/Softball/Whiffle ball	Multi-purpose Field	Basketball Courts	Disc Golf Course	Ice / Roller Hockey Rink	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Pavilion	Picnic Facilities	Play Equipment	Equestrian Trails	Running Track	Hiking/Walking Trails	Bicycle Trails/Paths	Swimming	Sledding Hill	Fishing	Boat Launch	Camping	Hunting	Nature Area/Garden	
<b>Local Trails</b>																									
Arboretum Trailway	1 mile																								
Kal-Haven Trail State Park	35 miles											•		•									•		•
Kalamazoo River Valley Trail	17 miles																								•
<b>Local Parks &amp; Facilities</b>																									
Al Sabo Land Preserve	741																								•
Alamo Township Park	17		•	•							•	•	•												
Allegan State Game Area														•						•	•	•	•	•	•
Asylum Lake Preserve	274																								•
Bittersweet Ski Area																									
Borgess Fitness Center			•		•				•	•					•				•						
Bow in the Clouds Nature Preserve	60																								•
Bronson Athletic Club	-				•				•	•					•										
Chipman Preserve	228																							•	•
Eastwood Little League			•																						
Echo Valley																									
Flesher Field	24		•	•				•			•	•	•		•										•
Fort Custer Recreation Area			•	•						•	•	•	•		•		•	•		•	•	•			•
Glenn Allen Island	10																								•



City of Portage Parks:																					
Bicentennial Park/ Celery Flats	205																				
Harbors West Park	380																				
Haverhill Park	4																				
Millennium Park	1																				
Oakland Drive Park	19																				
Westfield Park	12																				
North Country National Scenic Trail																					
Robert Morris Park	40																				
Texas Drive Park	5																				
Timber Ridge Ski Area																					
Van Buren State Park	400																				
Wenke Parks, North & South																					
West Hills Athletic Club	-																				
West Portage Little League Complex	-																				
Westwood Little League	10																				
Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery																					
Yankee Springs Recreation Area																					

N/A = Information Not Available



## Private Recreation Facilities

### Golf Courses

Within a few miles of Kalamazoo Township, there are a number of public and private golf courses. Brief information on local courses is provided in the table below:

<b>Course Name</b>	<b># Holes</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Location</b>
Hickory Ridge Golf Course & driving range	27 holes		Comstock Township
The Prairies Golf Club	18 holes	par 72	Oshtemo Township
Ridgeview Golf Course	18 holes	par 71	Oshtemo Township
Heritage Glen Golf Club	18 holes	par 72	Almena Township
Crestview Golf Course	18 holes	par 70	Cooper Township
Red Arrow Golf Course	9 holes	par 34	City of Kalamazoo
Milham Park Golf Course	18 holes	par 72	City of Kalamazoo
Grand Prairie Golf Course	9 holes	par 30	Kalamazoo Township
Shamrock Hills Golf Club	18 holes	par 66	Pine Grove Township

### Kalamazoo College

Kalamazoo College is located in the City of Kalamazoo and is the home to 1,340 students and a number of recreational facilities, some of which are available to Township residents. The college's athletic and recreational facilities include Anderson Athletic Center (basketball, volleyball, weight rooms, dance studio, sauna and training room), Angell Field/Calder Fieldhouse (football), Mackenzie Field (soccer), Markin Racquet Center (tennis, racquetball and squash), Natatorium (swimming and diving), Softball Field, Stowe Stadium (tennis), Woodworth Field (baseball), as well as the Lillian Anderson Arboretum located off-campus in Oshtemo Township.

### Kalamazoo Rugby Football Club

This facility is currently under development on Nichols Road in Kalamazoo Township.

### Western Michigan University

Western Michigan University is located in the City of Kalamazoo with over 25,000 students and a number of recreational facilities, some of which are available to Township residents. Western is also home to the Miller Auditorium, the third largest concert hall in Michigan. The athletic and recreational facilities include the Student Recreation Center along with the Donald Seelye Athletic Center (football and indoor practice facility), Waldo Stadium (football), Read Fieldhouse (basketball, volleyball and gymnastics), Lawson Arena (hockey and figure skating), Gable Natatorium (swimming), Hyames Field (baseball), Ebert Field (softball), Sorenson Courts/West Hills Athletic Club (tennis), Kanley Track (track and field), WMU Soccer Complex, The Moors Golf Course, as well as Kleinstuck Preserve and Asylum Lake located off-campus in the City of Kalamazoo.

# Chapter 4

## Basis for Action Plan

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An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community, as they serve as a basis for the development of the action plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process, and consultation with Township staff and the Parks Committee.

### Planning and Public Input Process

#### Planning Process

The Kalamazoo Township Board, through the Planning Commission and a sub-committee of its members, directed the development of the Kalamazoo Charter Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Citizen and Township input played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the Township's parks and recreation facilities. The plan process included seven tasks that are discussed below.

- **Task One: Community Description.** The first task was to obtain a description of Kalamazoo Township's physical and social characteristics. These include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population statistics including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, household types, employment, and income.
- **Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding.** The second task was to obtain and review the administrative structure of the Township's parks and recreation organization. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for the Township as well as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant history.
- **Task Three: Parks and Recreation Inventory.** The parks and recreation inventory included site visits and written descriptions of facilities in Kalamazoo Township including Township parks, local parks, and private facilities. A list of neighboring communities' facilities, City, County, State, as well as National Parks within a short distance of Kalamazoo Township is also included. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation activities, types of equipment, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities.
- **Task Four: Public Participation.** Public participation was solicited from a variety of means, including
  - A professional Community Survey in 2013, which continues to provide meaningful public input.
  - In 2019, face-to-face contacts during public events in 2019,
  - electronic survey tools such as Survey Monkey, Facebook, and
  - email were utilized to seek more public input.

A complete summary of the comments received is provided in *Appendix B*. In addition, the Planning Commission considered the Plan at its December 5, 2019 meeting at which time the Plan was approved by resolution to recommend to the Township Board. And, the Township Board held a public hearing and approved the Plan on January 27, 2020.

See *Appendices B, D, and E* for a summary of all public involvement activities and results.

- **Task Five: Analysis.** Based on the data collected from tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Township staff and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Six: Action Plan.** Upon completion of the analysis, the information and comments gathered through the public input sessions, plan research, and Township consultation were reviewed and goals and objectives were created to provide a framework for the action plan. This resulted in the creation of the five-year plan with a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption.** The plan was made available for public review for over 30 days. The Planning Commission recommended the final document to the Township Board at their regular meeting on December 5, 2019. It was forwarded to the Township Board for a public hearing and adoption on January 27, 2020. See *Appendices C and D* for adoption documentation and meeting minutes.

### **Public Review Period**

The plan was made available for public comment from December 20, 2019 1 to January 27, 2020. A copy of the public notice is included in *Appendix E*. An electronic copy of the plan was posted on the Township website and notice of the availability of the draft was emailed to key stakeholders including public meeting attendees, neighborhood associations, and other community leaders and volunteers. A hard copy of the plan was made available at the Township Hall.

### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held by the Township Board at the Kalamazoo Township Hall on January 27, 2020, to obtain comments from residents and users about the plan. The Board adopted the plan following the public hearing on January 13, 2020. The resolution and meeting minutes are contained in *Appendices D and E*, respectively.

## **Park Land Analysis and Service Areas**

Kalamazoo Township owns and maintains approximately 8.2 acres of parks and recreation facilities. The built out nature of the Township along with its unique borders and geography result in an emphasis on mini and neighborhood park facilities to support the recreation needs of the immediate neighborhood. Larger recreation needs are accommodated by private entities, schools, or within adjacent communities.

As required by the MDNR, the Kalamazoo Township parkland and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA's updated guidelines were set more than 18 years ago, the MDNR

still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results given that these guidelines were set nearly two decades ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, is encouraged to establish its own needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation. Recreation needs are often better documented through public input rather than relying only on the national guidelines. The NRPA guidelines and the MDNR standards were considered in the development of the action plan but not weighted heavily. The information gathered during the public input process and administrative discussions greatly directed the action plan.

*Table 4.1 – Kalamazoo Township Park Land Acreage Analysis* and the following discussion compares the amount of park land as it relates to the conditions in the Township and the MDNR standards based on the 2010 Census population of 21,700. Park classifications used by the MDNR are defined as follows:

- **Mini/Neighborhood Park.** Mini/Neighborhood parks serve an area up to a one-half mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size. All of the parks in the Township are mini or neighborhood parks. They are dispersed throughout the Township and located within the neighborhoods of the community to serve residents typically without need to drive for active or passive recreation opportunities.

Based on the table below, the Township would appear to have sufficient Mini / Neighborhood park space. When considering new park development, if mini or neighborhood parks are considered, the Township should consider portions of the Township that are underserved or have less access to the existing park facilities. These are primarily in the Northwood neighborhood, particularly as it continues to grow. In instances of new residential development, facilities could be required as part of the overall development.

- **Community Park.** Community parks typically serve an area within one-half to three miles and are between 30 to 50 acres in size. There are no developed parks in the Township that are classified as community parks. However, there are several examples of such facilities in surrounding jurisdictions such as the City of Kalamazoo, City of Parchment, and surrounding Townships. If these were considered in the analysis, the Township would likely exceed the recommended acreage. It is important to note this as all of these facilities (along with several school and private recreational opportunities) are within short distance of Township residents. Nonetheless, these facilities are outside of the Township's control, and issues such as maintenance, safety, access, and cost are monitored and addressed by other entities. If additional park facilities are acquired or developed in the Township, facilities of this type should be targeted.
- **School Park.** There are three school districts in the Township – Kalamazoo Public Schools, Parchment School District, and Comstock Public Schools – and several educational facilities within the community. Many of these, particularly the elementary schools, have playgrounds and/or open space associated with them that provide additional recreational opportunities for nearby residents.

- Regional Park.** Regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local park land and help balance the deficiencies in facilities. Kalamazoo Township is fortunate to have a new regional park within its borders. The Bow in the Cloud Preserve accounts for about 60 acres of regional park land. The park does not fulfill all of the recommended acreage for regional park land, as there is a deficiency of almost 160 acres. However, it should be noted that a number of regional parks are within a short distance from the Township despite not being within its borders.

According to the above guidelines, Kalamazoo Township exhibits a surplus in mini/neighborhood park land but a deficiency in community and regional park land. Nonetheless, the Township’s park land is supplemented by the abundance of park land surrounding the community. (It should be noted that this analysis does not take into consideration the demand or the population of the surrounding communities. It merely inventoried the facilities that were available in the region to Township residents.) Overall, the Township is providing smaller, quality park space designed provide for the immediate recreation needs of the surrounding residents. Broader recreation needs requiring more land, facilities, and/or resources are accommodated by other providers.

As a largely built-out, urban community, opportunities for expanded recreational development are slim. Therefore, it is likely that Kalamazoo Township will continue to rely on these other partners and entities to provide for the needs of its residents. Some opportunities do exist in the northern portion of the Township, particularly as new development occurs. In addition, land currently being mined for sand and gravel will eventually be reclaimed and redeveloped, which also provides opportunity for recreational consideration.

<b>TABLE 4.1 Kalamazoo Township Park Land Acreage Analysis</b>				
<b>Park Classification</b>	<b>NRPA Guideline Minimum Acres/1,000 Residents<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Recommended Acreage for Kalamazoo Township<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Township Park Land</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP Surplus (Deficiency)<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Mini/ Neighborhood</b>	0.25 – 2.0	5.5 – 43.8	8.2	2.7 - (35.6)
<b>Community</b>	5.0	109.6	0	(109.6)
<b>Subtotal</b>	-	<b>115.1 – 153.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>(106.9) – (145.2)</b>
<b>Regional</b>	10.0	219.2	60 <sup>4</sup>	(159.2)
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>334.3 – 372.6</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>(276.1 – 314.4)</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Based on 2010 U.S. Census estimate of 21,918

<sup>3</sup> Based on acreages for park land located in Kalamazoo Township.

<sup>4</sup> Bow in the Clouds Preserve

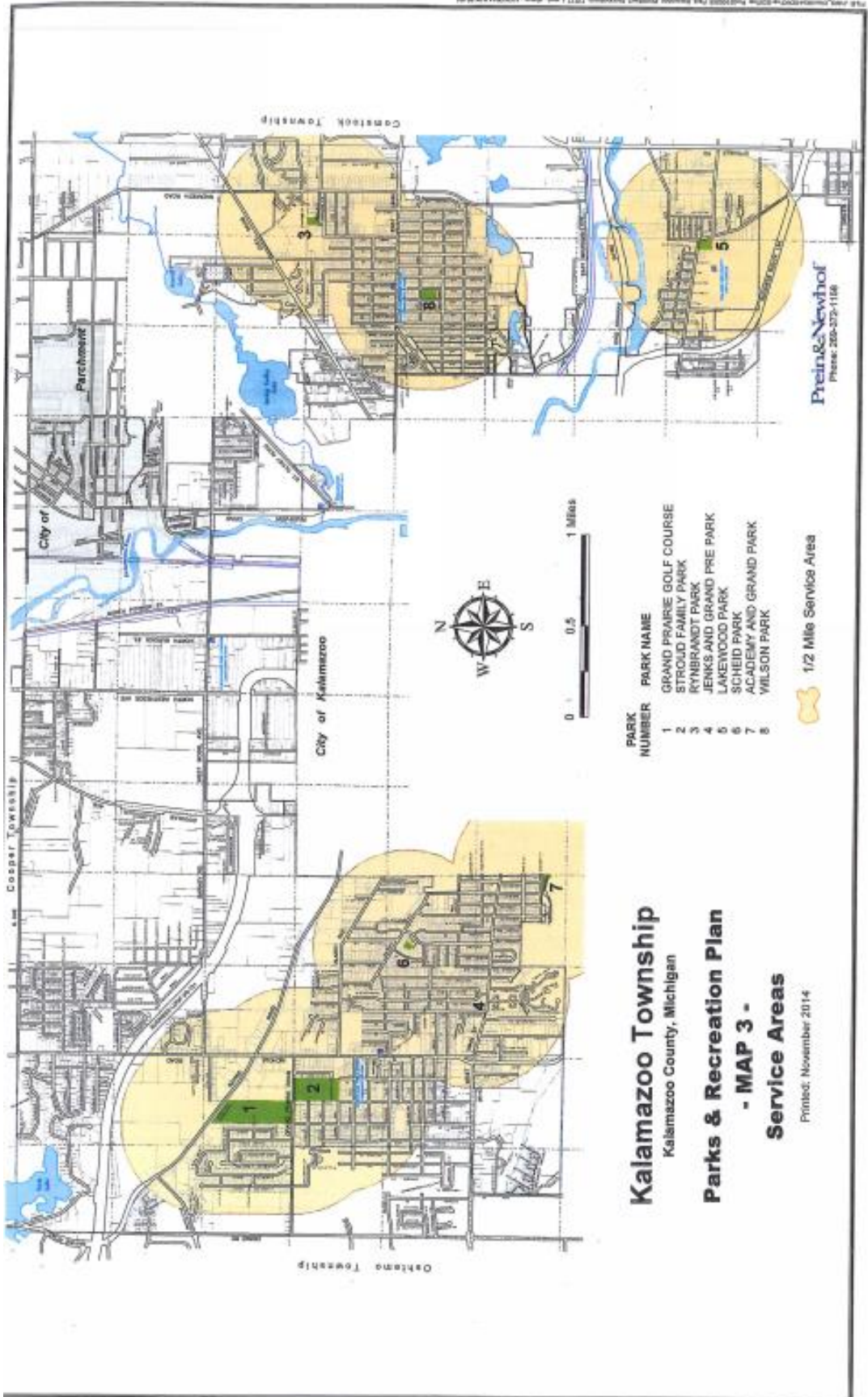
Although it is important to consider the overall amount of park land in the Township, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the Township. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to closely consider where the residents in the Township live. The MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in Kalamazoo Township that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

Mini/Neighborhood Parks, 0.25 – 0.5 miles; Community Parks, 0.5 – 3.0 miles; Regional Parks, 30 minute driving time.

The parks and recreation service areas for the Township's community parks are shown on *Map 3 – Parks and Recreation Facilities Service Area*. For the purposes of measuring the service area, a radius of a half mile was used for mini / neighborhood parks. Only the service boundary of the Township-owned facilities was included in the analysis in order to fully evaluate the service area of those facilities under Township control.

As noted above, the Northwood neighborhood in particular is lacking proximity to Township-owned recreation facilities. The facilities in the Township are fairly evenly distributed among the other three neighborhoods. The Northwood neighborhood has the most undeveloped land available and has been experiencing the greatest amount of new growth and development. Therefore, as this growth continues, consideration for a community park or other recreation facility to serve these residents should be given.

The service area of community parks is larger and extends to a greater number of Township residents. Acquiring larger parcels of land for community park development is more difficult. However, if the opportunity to acquire additional land comes available, the Township should explore these opportunities to address the need for additional facilities.



**Kalamazoo Township**  
 Kalamazoo County, Michigan  
**Parks & Recreation Plan**  
**- MAP 3 -**  
**Service Areas**

Printed: November 2014

PARK NUMBER	PARK NAME
1	GRAND PRAIRIE GOLF COURSE
2	STROLD FAMILY PARK
3	RYNBRANDT PARK
4	JENKS AND GRAND PRE PARK
5	LAKEWOOD PARK
6	SCHMIDT PARK
7	ACADEMY AND GRAND PARK
8	WILSON PARK

 1/2 Mile Service Area



**Prein&Newhof**  
 Phone: 262-372-1188



## Facilities Analysis

In addition to park land, existing facilities were compared against the recommended guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and MDNR to determine if they are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions in Kalamazoo Township, information obtained during the public input opportunities, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. *Table 4.2* indicates the recommended guideline and facilities, the number of facilities in the Township, and the surplus or deficiency of facilities. The comments below the table provide further perspective and assist in identifying key issues related to specific facilities.

In *Table 4.2*, the column labeled “Township Facility” identifies facilities and amenities provided within parks operated by the Township. As described in Chapter 3, most of the facilities in the Township are strictly open space with limited active recreation amenities provided. The vast majority of the active recreational amenities provided to Township residents are offered by private recreational facilities or at larger parks in other communities. Therefore, the statistics in *Table 4.2* (and *Table 4.1* above for that matter) do not present a positive picture for the Township parks, but that does not mean that the parks and recreation needs of Township residents are not being met. Simply that they are being satisfied through a network of facilities including both Township and non-Township facilities.

<b>TABLE 4.2 Kalamazoo Township Facility Analysis</b>				
	<b>NRPA Minimum Guideline<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>NRPA Recommended Facilities<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Township Facility</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP Surplus (Deficiency)<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Baseball/ Softball</b>	1/5,000	4	0	(4)
<b>Basketball</b>	1/5,000	4	1	(3)
<b>Football</b>	1/20,000	1	0	(1)
<b>Golf Course 9 Hole</b>	1/25,000	1	0	(1)
<b>Golf Course 18 Hole</b>	1/50,000	1	1	0
<b>Ice Rink</b>	1/50,000	1	0	(1)
<b>Playground</b>	1/3,000	7	3	(4)
<b>Running Track</b>	1/20,000	1	0	(1)
<b>Soccer</b>	1/10,000	2	0	(2)
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	1/20,000	1	0	(1)
<b>Tennis</b>	1/2,000	11	4	(7)
<b>Trails</b>	1 system/ region	1	1 <sup>6</sup>	0
<b>Volleyball</b>	1/5,000	4	0	(4)

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

<sup>2</sup> Based on 2010 U.S. Census estimate of 21,918.

<sup>3</sup> Based on facilities located in Kalamazoo Township.



### **Athletic Fields (Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Football, Running Tracks)**

The different types of athletic fields are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need.

- **Baseball/Softball Fields.** Although there are no Baseball or Softball Fields within the Township parks, there are four large baseball complexes within close proximity to the Township: Eastwood Little League, Northwood Little League, Westwood Little League, and Versluis Dickinson Park. As all of these are immediately adjacent to the Township border, it would appear that the Township's need for such fields is satisfied. The future demand for and use of all of these fields should be explored before further development.
- **Soccer Fields.** According to the national guidelines, there is a deficiency of soccer fields in the Township. Again, however, when consideration is made for field areas located at schools as well as the large soccer complexes – public and private – in adjacent communities, the need does not appear present for Kalamazoo Township to provide extensive soccer facilities. That being said, while it may not be necessary for the Township to provide exclusive soccer facilities, soccer can be played on open fields which can also be used for impromptu lacrosse practices, Ultimate Frisbee games, or flag football. Such open spaces play an important role in active, free recreation spaces. As parks are developed / redeveloped in the Township, consideration for multi-purpose field space should be considered to accommodate not only soccer but other field games as well on an impromptu basis.
- **Football Fields.** There is a deficiency of one football field based on the Township's population. However, football facilities are available at the area high schools as well as the universities and the City of Kalamazoo's Mayor's Riverfront Park. Although many of these are not available for public use, it can be assumed that the provision of football facilities is currently being met by these facilities. At this time there does not appear to be a need for additional football fields.
- **Rugby Field.** A private rugby football club is developing a field in the Township. The site is in the process of seeking approval.
- **Running Tracks.** There are several running tracks in the area, including one outdoor track at a City of Kalamazoo park, plus several other indoor and outdoor tracks available at the various athletic centers, schools and campuses throughout the area. Despite the noted deficiency of one track for the Township, it appears that this need is being met at this time.

### **Court Sports (Basketball/Gymnasiums, Tennis, Volleyball)**

The different types of courts are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need.

- **Basketball Courts/Gymnasiums.** Basketball courts and gymnasiums are typically heavily used. Outdoor and indoor courts are popular in most communities and gym time can be scarce given the weather conditions in the area. There is a deficiency of three courts in the Township. It should be noted that school facilities were not included in the analysis, so in fact there may actually be a surplus of facilities. However, the Township should explore providing additional outdoor courts when improving existing or developing new parks and the inclusion of basketball courts/gymnasiums if construction of indoor facilities is considered in the future.

- **Tennis/Pickleball Courts.** There is a deficiency of seven tennis courts in the Township. Tennis courts have traditionally not been well used in the Township and in two instances have been removed from Township parks due to lack of use and maintenance. Nonetheless, as our population gets older, tennis is a popular active recreation pursuit, and provisions should be considered to accommodate this growing interest. There are no pickleball courts in the Township.
- **Volleyball Courts.** The need for indoor and outdoor volleyball courts is currently not being met according to the national guideline for the Township. Considering gymnasiums in schools that are used for organized volleyball, however, there does not appear to be a need for additional volleyball courts in the Township at this time.

### **Ice Rinks**

The national guideline reveals that there is a need for one ice rink in the Township but a surplus of several rinks when including the surrounding area, those being the Wings Stadium West facility, which contains two rinks, Wings Stadium and Annex, and Lawson Ice Arena at Western Michigan University. The City of Portage maintains an outdoor skating rink at Millennium Park. The popularity of skating continues to rise, but users frequently travel to neighboring communities to participate in their clubs and on their teams. At this time there does not appear a need for the Township to explore an indoor ice rink given the significant resources necessary to construct and maintain such a facility, as well as the existing facilities in the area. However, the Township could consider an outdoor ice rink at either an existing facility or in the development of an undeveloped property.

### **Playgrounds**

Currently a majority of the playgrounds are located in adjacent communities or at educational institutions, and there is a deficiency of four in the Township according to the national guideline. Most of the larger Township parks have playground facilities to serve the neighborhood children. The playgrounds should be ADA accessible and be located throughout the Township in close proximity to residential areas to better serve the entire population.

### **Swimming Pools**

Based on the guidelines, the Township is in need of one swimming pool. However, there is a surplus of pools in the surrounding area including the Kik Pool (outdoor) in downtown Kalamazoo, and the indoor pool at Kalamazoo Central High School. Pools are a large capital expense for construction and maintenance, but could be a potential project when funds become available. A popular alternative that has been implemented often is a splash pad that provides water features and elements without the same expense.

### **Golf Courses**

Kalamazoo Township owns and maintains the Grand Prairie Golf Course, a nine hole golf course. Several additional golf courses exist within close proximity of the Township. Therefore, there is a surplus of golfing opportunities within the area. There is no need for the Township to pursue additional golf course facilities.

### **Trails**

The Township and surrounding area are fortunate to have a number of trail systems, including regional systems. The Township is committed to continue to expand the existing trails and to increase non-motorized connectivity throughout the Township. The Township should continue

their efforts with non-motorized trails and pathways and coordinate with surrounding communities to further enhance all of the systems.

### **Passive Recreation**

It is important that the Township provide opportunities for passive recreation and un-programmed activities such as picnicking or nature observation. When developing and improving parks, provision of picnic areas, benches, open spaces, and other amenities that further enhance passive recreation opportunities should be a priority. Several of the existing Township parks are designed specifically for this purpose.

# Chapter 5

## Resource Inventory

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The purpose of this section is to identify open space land that may be desirable for future protection and/or public access through acquisition or other means due to the natural features present, as well as an accounting of land that is already protected.

### Natural Features

The Charter Township of Kalamazoo encompasses a wide variety of physical resources and landscape features. The quality and quantity of these natural attributes have and will continue to be a determining factor in the types of recreational patterns and land uses occurring in the neighborhoods. The natural features of significance are discussed as follows:

### Topography

While topography in the Charter Township of Kalamazoo is generally level or rolling, several areas exist in the Township where the slope of the terrain is in excess of five percent. Land with slope less than five percent is generally considered desirable for development requiring minimal if any grading. Land areas with slopes ranging from five to twelve percent can be developed with careful grading and conservation measures. Land area with slopes in excess of twelve percent should not be developed except for recreational and open space activities.

In the Lakewood neighborhood, the dominant physical characteristic is the Kalamazoo River and adjacent low-lying flood plain. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has classified the river as a second quality, warm water mainstream. Davis Creek flows into the river from the south. Lakewood's terrain is generally flat to gently rolling with higher elevations occurring in the southern portion of the neighborhood.

With the exception of the southern portion, the Eastwood neighborhood is generally flat to gently rolling. The Northwood neighborhood provides for some unique soil conditions and other features. A dominant characteristic is the Kalamazoo River and the accompanying flood plain lying to the east. Relatively abrupt changes in elevation occur west of Douglas Avenue, the result of glacial activity. Ravines and sharp relief can be found in this vicinity.

Most of the Westwood neighborhood topography is gently rolling, although some severe slopes occur on both sides of Ravine Road. Wooded areas are concentrated south of West Main Street and south of Ravine Road. A natural drainage area exists in the extreme southern portion of the neighborhood.

## Soils

Soils are divided into three groups: 1) soils with good natural drainage, 2) soils with marginal drainage, and 3) soils with very poor drainage.

Soils with good natural drainage are of sandy gravel texture. These soils are stable in nature requiring minimal building foundations. Percolation rates for septic tank purposes are good. Well-drained soils are found in the western half and northeastern quarter of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo.

Soils with marginal natural drainage generally occur in the transitional zones between high and low lying areas of the township. Although these soils are generally buildable, requiring minimal foundation work, soil conditions should be evaluated prior to proceeding with major development.

Poorly drained soils are those of muck and silt texture. These soils are found in low-lying areas along the Kalamazoo River and along other natural drainage courses in the Township. Characteristic of muck-type soils are instability, making them generally unbuildable without extensive foundation work, a high water table yielding occasional standing water, and a poor percolation rate making them unsuitable for septic tanks.

## Water Resources and Wetlands

The largest body of water in the Charter Township of Kalamazoo is the Kalamazoo River traversing the township in two places. The river flows from the east and exits the Township to the north. Rivers provide recreational and aesthetic assets to the community. At one time, the Kalamazoo River was so polluted it did not serve these purposes. As the water quality improved, however, the rivers are now used for recreational purposes such as fishing and boating although health warnings are in effect for eating fish from the river. The only other sizable body of water is the Consumers Sand and Gravel Company gravel pit in the southeastern quadrant of Nazareth Road and East Main. When completely mined, this body of water could become a recreational asset.

Land areas along the Kalamazoo River are designated flood plains. These areas represent the 100-year flood plain as calculated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Because flood plains are subject to seasonal flooding and serve as both wildlife refuges and recreational areas, development should be discouraged.

Some marshy areas occur within the Township. Marshes are usually associated with poor soil conditions and seasonal standing water. Marshes also provide excellent retention areas for storm water and ground water recharge.

Since wetlands act as Nature's sponge to absorb surface waters during flooding periods, the Township may consider acquiring floodplain lands (including historically floodplain properties that were filled and developed, but are still vulnerable to flooding) for passive and recreational purposes as one measure for adapting to flooding risks.

## Woodlands and Agricultural Lands

Woodlands and agricultural lands data comprise a smaller portion of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo. The Township does not have an agriculture land classification in its Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

The majority of wood lots are privately owned. The wooded lots that the Township could control occur in the Kalamazoo River flood plain. Most of the wooded area is located in the Northwood area.

Most of the lands used for agricultural purposes is located north of Mosel/Barney Road and west of North Westnedge Avenue and include truck farming with soils primarily of the organic-muck type and grain crops in areas with sandy and gravelly soil types.

## Existing Land Use

The Charter Township of Kalamazoo possesses an extremely wide range of land uses within its boundaries. This is reflective of the historical nature of the community, its unique natural resources, and access to major transportation routes. Most of the Township is developed, although some vacant and agricultural land is present in outlying areas. Redevelopment of some sites is also occurring as older uses are replaced.

Residential uses are situated throughout the Township, although the Westwood and Eastwood neighborhoods possess a much higher concentration of residential uses than Northwood and Lakewood neighborhoods. The Westwood and Eastwood neighborhoods have a land area that is greater than 50% residential in nature while Northwood and Lakewood are less than 20% in residential nature.

Commercial land uses are located throughout the Charter Township of Kalamazoo area with the most prominent being in the Lakewood neighborhood while other commercial areas are in the other three neighborhoods. Industrial uses are situated in the Northwood, Lakewood and Eastwood areas encompassing approximately 10% of the Township area.

Vacant land has diminished over time, with the highest level of underdeveloped land in the Northwood area, which also has the highest level of agricultural land. Lakewood also is approximately one-third vacant. However, a great deal of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo's vacant land is severely limited in its development potential due to slope, soils, lack of access or flood plain constraints.

The last major land use category is public/semi-public uses including governmental buildings, schools, parks and hospitals. Borgess Hospital, the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, schools and the Grand Prairie Golf Course occupy a significant portion of these public/semi-public land acres.

## 2020 Master Plan Amendment

The Charter Township of Kalamazoo identifies a number of areas for potential open space uses (pages 46-47).

- The former Georgia Pacific manufacturing plant has been demolished and provides a large waterfront site in addition to having the former Nolichucky property, which is now owned by the Township in Lakewood (page 13). These properties could provide access to the Kalamazoo River in addition to providing a recreational area.
- Northwood offers the most development potential in the Township. It possess several active gravel extractions and processing operations, reclaimed sites offer possibilities for mixed-use developments and incorporating substantial amounts of open space (page 22).
- Expansion of the Kal Haven Trail (page 46).

# Chapter 6

## Action Plan

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By using a comprehensive planning process, Kalamazoo Township has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Township's parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

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

The Action Plan is organized into three sections:

- Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives
- System Wide Recommendations
- Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Throughout the period of the Five Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan: 2015 – 2019, Kalamazoo Township periodically evaluated and updated the progress made to implement the plan. A Status Update on Kalamazoo Township's Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan was a document that was used as an effective instrument to review and focus continued efforts to implement the plan (see Appendix I).

### **Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives**

To provide a guideline for decision-making, Kalamazoo Township has developed a list of goals and objectives based on the results of the previously described analysis and public input. The following goals and objectives are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation in the Township. These goals and objectives should be reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

**Goal #1: Non-Motorized Connectivity – Improve non-motorized connectivity in the Township, including both sidewalks and bikeways.**

**Objectives:**

- Continue to evaluate and implement the township's non-motorized plan, which provides a publicly vetted guide for future non-motorized facility development.
- Identify and pursue funding for additional sidewalks, trails, and pathways.
- Provide connections to parks, neighborhoods, schools, and major areas of activity.
- Establish non-motorized connections to Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.



- Coordinate non-motorized planning with neighboring communities.
- Maintenance of existing sidewalks and other non-motorized transportation elements.
- Provide facilities that enhance quality of life of residents with emphasis on children and aging adults.

**Goal #2: Utilize Parks and Recreation as a means to Improve Quality of Life in Township Neighborhoods**

**Objectives:**

- Ensure all Township residents have safe, easy access to parks and recreational amenities in the Township.
- Provide amenities and experiences desired by the residents and neighbors in a manner that will enhance the experience of living there.
- Increase access to the Kalamazoo River as it crosses through the Township particularly for recreational purposes such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and observing nature.

**Goal #3: Existing Facilities Maintenance and Improvement – Continue to maintain and improve existing parks and recreation facilities.**

**Objectives:**

- Provide continuous improvements to Township park facilities.
- Include upgrades to playground facilities at existing parks to better meet the needs of the neighborhood and users of the facilities.
- Identify and provide funding for annual improvements to Township facilities that maintain or exceed current levels.
- Manage and remove overgrowth and excess landscape material that creates visibility issues and unpleasant environments.
- Adhere to high standards of maintenance, recognizing that beautiful, well-maintained parks and recreation facilities are a source of pride for the Township and reflect our community's priorities to protect natural features and improve quality of life.
- Continue to improve safety and accessibility at parks.
- Explore opportunities for preventative maintenance and for reducing long-term maintenance requirements of parks and recreation facilities through strategic planning and improvements such as reducing mowed areas.
- Encourage greater volunteer participation in maintenance activities, particularly in regards to care and maintenance of flowerbeds and planting areas.
- Focus active recreation improvements on major parks – Stroud, Wilson Recreation, Lakewood – to provide further recreational opportunities for youth and families in the Township.

**Goal #4: Establish Passive Recreation Facilities at Existing Undeveloped / Underutilized Sites.**

**Objectives:**

- Determine how best to utilize the existing undeveloped and underdeveloped properties as recreational assets and develop plans to implement those ideas.
- Develop amenities in park facilities to include those identified by the Township as well as by residents through the public input process.

- Focus on primarily passive recreational activities with amenities including benches and paths.
- Ensure spaces are well kept and maintained.
- Since wetlands act as Nature’s sponge to absorb surface waters during flooding periods, acquire floodplain lands (including historically floodplain properties that were filled and developed, but are still vulnerable to flooding) for passive and recreational purposes as one measure for adapting to flooding risks.

**Goal #5: Marketing & Publicity – Ensure Community is Aware of the Park Facilities.**

**Objectives:**

- Prepare digital maps of the park facilities to ensure residents are aware of their location.
- Develop information about parks and recreation opportunities in the Township and the region and include with maps on the Township website.
- Work with existing publicity / media outlets to spread information about the Township facilities.
- Encourage greater coordination and buy-in from neighborhood associations to support upkeep and oversight of the facilities.
- Consider hosting special events and promotions at and/or about the parks to increase awareness and support for the parks.

**Goal #6: Safety & Security – Ensure the Township Park Properties have the Highest Degree of Safety and Security for residents and users.**

**Objectives:**

- Evaluate screening, overgrown landscaping, and lighting to ensure the facility does not provide hidden areas for criminal activity.
- Address vandalism or opportunities for vandalism immediately.

**Goal #7: Serve All Populations with Parks and Recreation – Provide a range of parks and recreation facilities to meet the leisure needs of all segments of the population.**

**Objectives:**

- As the Township population continues to age and evolve, provide for park development and improvement to reflect this development.
- Develop facilities to meet the physical needs and ability levels of all park users.
- Provide facilities for park users of all ages.
- Consider users with all ranges of abilities and needs when designing facilities.

**Goal #8: Funding – Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system.**

**Objectives:**

- Pursue all available funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance, including local sources, foundations, state and federal grant programs, local businesses, and other sources.
- Explore opportunities for greater private sector participation in the provision of recreation and leisure services in the Township.
- Coordinate efforts with local interest groups and recreation providers and create partnerships for providing these resources.
- Develop long-range projections of costs and revenues as a management tool.
- Consider establishment of a non-profit entity to encourage volunteerism and philanthropy for the parks.

**Goal #9: Planning – Maintain an ongoing parks and recreation planning process.**

**Objectives:**

- Review and update the parks and recreation plan, particularly the five-year capital improvement plan, annually.
- Provide for citizen input in recreation planning and decision-making.
- Encourage input from children and families when designing playgrounds and other youth-oriented recreation facilities.

## System Wide Recommendations

In addition to capital investments into programs and facilities, Kalamazoo Township must also evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The following are system-wide recommendations that should be evaluated annually and used in the long-range planning of parks and recreation.

- **Non-Motorized Connections.** Kalamazoo Township is committed to providing non-motorized connections with pedestrian and bicycle pathways and connecting neighborhoods to the existing regional trail systems. The development of more connections is a high priority to residents in the Township as well, as indicated through the public input process. The Township should continue to develop connections, particularly linking the parks, neighborhoods, and Township facilities, as well as major activity areas.
- **Barrier-Free Accessibility.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier-free accessibility at all public facilities. It is important to provide access to Township facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents may enjoy them. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier-free accessibility including proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access.
- **Continued Public Involvement.** The Township should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and recreation facilities. This can be accomplished with focus groups, public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at Township events. Another opportunity for public involvement would be to encourage volunteer participation in projects, programs, and maintenance.

- Maintenance.** With a number of different properties under Township control and under various degrees of improvement, it is critical that they are well maintained. These properties represent the Township. Therefore, even if there are no improvements made to the properties, they should be well kept in compliance with Township policies. Facilities on developed properties should be kept in good working order and safe for use. These properties often set the tone for the neighborhood, and proper maintenance will have benefits beyond the park.

## Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. *Table 5.1 – Five Year Capital Improvement Plan* incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes. The funding source for all of the proposed projects and expenditures is included in the table as well.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2019 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

TABLE 5.1 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan			
Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost <sup>1</sup>	Funding Source(s)
<b>Year 1: 2020</b>			
2020	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 20,000	TF, PD, RP
2020	Non-motorized improvements and connections	\$150,000	TF, G
2020	Signage and marketing for park properties	\$10,000	TF
2020	Park maintenance	\$5,000	TF
2020	Repair / resurface parking at Stroud Family Park	\$12,000	TF, G, RP
2020	Toddler playground equipment at Wilson Rec. Area	\$24,000	TF, G, PD
<b>Year 1 Total</b>		<b>\$221,000</b>	
<b>Year 2: 2021</b>			
2021	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 20,000	TF, PD, RP
2021	Non-motorized improvements and connections	\$150,000	TF, G
2021	Park maintenance	\$5,000	TF
2022	Pickball/tennis court improvements for Stroud Family Park	\$50,000	TF, G, PD, RP

2022	Purchase floodplain parcels in Lakewood	\$40,000	TF, G, PD, RP
<b>Year 2 Total</b>		<b>\$175,000</b>	
<b>Year 3: 2022</b>			
2022	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 20,000	TF, PD, RP
2022	Non-motorized improvements and connections	\$150,000	TF, G
2022	Boat launch on donated property in Lakewood	\$250,000	TF, PD, G
2022	Park maintenance	\$5,000	TF
2022	Asphalt track around Rynbrandt Park	\$75,000	TF, G, RP, PD
2022	Patch and resurface asphalt parking lot & trail at Wilson Recreational Area	\$10,000	TF, G, PD, RP
2023	Purchase floodplain parcels in Lakewood	\$40,000	TF, G, PD, RP
<b>Year 3 Total</b>		<b>\$510,000</b>	
<b>Year 4: 2023</b>			
2023	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$20,000	TF, PD, RP
2023	Non-motorized improvements and connections	\$150,000	TF, G
2023	Park maintenance	\$5,000	TF
2023	Purchase floodplain parcels in Lakewood	\$40,000	TF, G, PD, RP
<b>Year 4 Total</b>		<b>\$175,000</b>	
<b>Year 5: 2024</b>			
2024	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 20,000	TF, PD, RP
2024	Non-motorized improvements and connections	\$150,000	TF, G
2024	Park maintenance	\$5,000	TF
<b>Year 5 Total</b>		<b>\$175,000</b>	
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
<b>TF</b>	Township Funds		
<b>G</b>	Grants		
<b>PD</b>	Private Donations		
<b>RP</b>	Recreation / Education Partner <sup>2</sup>		

<sup>1</sup>Cost figures represent conservative, best estimates based on current visions and design goals. As projects are considered for development and potential funding, more detailed plans will be developed with accurate cost estimates to ensure adequate funding is available. The estimates shown above are to be used for general planning purposes only.

<sup>2</sup>Recreation / Education Partners are the entities and organizations responsible for providing the recreational and educational programming and activities in Kalamazoo Township.

# Appendix A

## Status Update on 2015-2019 Plan

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### Status update on Kalamazoo Township's Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

April 10, 2017 (most recently updated on October 3, 2019)



#### Background

The Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo adopted the current Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan: 2015-2019 in January 2015, which contains an extensive list and description of park facilities for residents to enjoy, including:

- The following Kalamazoo Township parks and recreational facilities:
  - Grand Prairie Golf Course
  - Kalamazoo Township-owned mini-parks
    - Academy & Grand Park
    - Jenks & Grand Pre
    - Lakewood Park
    - Rynbrandt Park
    - Scheid Park
    - Stroud Family Playground
    - Wilson Recreation Area
- several other park and recreation options within the township, including public school playgrounds, the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, the Bow in the Clouds preserve, and other facilities, and
- regional parks, such as nearby Markin Glen County Park, Fray's Park, Oshtemo Township Park, Kindelberger Park, and others.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources encourages this type of regional perspective to maximize opportunities by complimenting resources.

The Plan also lists the following, publically vetted objectives to support parks and recreation services during the 2015-2019 period. Now, at this mid-point of the Plan, is an appropriate time to review the objectives.

**Goal 1: Non-motorized Connectivity – Improve non-motorized connectivity in the Township including both sidewalks and bikeways**

Kalamazoo Township’s approximately 63 miles of sidewalks and other non-motorized features are accessible, linear, recreational facilities, which that enable non-motorized connections between homes, parks and recreational facilities, and other destinations.



Status of objectives:

In 2016, the following measures were completed:

- The township connected the Westwood neighborhood to Western Michigan University by constructing a critical segment of sidewalk between Sabin Street and M-43/W. Main.
- Bicycle boulevard routes were signed in the Eastwood and Westwood neighborhoods to guide casual bicyclists on relatively quiet, 25 mph routes that connect the neighborhoods to near-downtown Kalamazoo; the routes were designed in cooperation with the City of Kalamazoo, who is working to complete its segment.
- The township constructed or repaired sidewalks on both sides of Grand Prairie Avenue, connecting residents to two public schools, Stroud Family Park, Westwood Little League, and improved access to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway via a sidewalk at Drake Road.
- The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County implemented East Main Street’s Road Diet, which supported multiple transportation options by converting 4 traffic lanes into two traffic lanes, a center-turn lane, a set of signed bicycle lanes, and ADA-compliant sidewalk connections to roadways.
- Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program volunteers revitalized a section of sidewalk at Olmstead Road and enhanced community spirits in the Lakewood neighborhood.





In 2017, the following measures were completed:

- New sidewalks were constructed along particularly busy roads (Nazareth Road, Olmstead Road, and Sunnyside Drive).
- 44 “orphaned sidewalks” (where sidewalks end in grass lawns before reaching a roadway) and curb & gutters were replaced with ADA-compliant ramps to eliminate physical barriers.

In 2018, the following measures were completed:

- approximately 100 more sections of deficient sidewalk were repaired to correct areas where the elevation of adjoining sidewalk slabs differed by two or more inches and where concrete slabs were broken enough to inhibit use.
- The northern end of Nazareth’s sidewalk was completed adjacent to Aldi and Speedway.
- An engineered study was completed to explore options for better connecting bicyclists, pedestrians, and persons who use wheelchairs to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail between Grand Prairie and Ravine via the west side of Nichols Road and via Tamarack Street.
- The Board of Trustees updated an ordinance to require properties owners to remove grass turf and over-grown vegetation from sidewalk corridors in order to promote barrier-free use of sidewalks.

In 2019, a list of priority, potential non-motorized projects were identified for 2020 and Prein & Newhof is preparing a proposal for engineering and implementation costs, including:

- more repairs to raised/broken sidewalks and orphaned sidewalk corners, and
- a new sidewalk on a portion of Seminole Street (between Grand Prairie Road and Ottawa Street) to connect the Westwood Neighborhood to schools and parks.
- Discussions continue to encourage Kalamazoo County to complete the missing portion of sidewalk on the south side of Lake Street, adjacent to the county’s Fairground & Expo Center.
- Discussions continue with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County to support safe, non-motorized features associated with primary roads.

**Goal 2: Utilize parks and recreation as a means to improve quality of life in Township neighborhoods**

Status of objectives:

- The Township has received positive feedback from residents concerning recent improvements (particularly the quality of the parks’ maintenance and the sidewalk improvements) and aims to continue to enhance infrastructure and public awareness of recreational opportunities.



**Goal 3: Existing Facilities Maintenance and Improvement – Continue to maintain and improve existing parks and recreation facilities**

Status of objectives:

- Lakewood Park & Stroud Family Park: Removed obstructing vegetation in 2015 & 2016 (see Goal 6).
- Stroud Family Park: Repainted sign and purchased new playground equipment in preparation for a 2017 installation (including edging and wood chips).
- Many residents are enthusiastically volunteering as “Friends of the Park” to support the parks’ infrastructure by maintaining plantings, picking up trash, and reporting findings and feedback to the township. (Also see Goal #5).
- The Township Maintenance staff has a management plan for mowing lawns.
- A private waste hauling company now collects garbage from wheeled carts each week at Lakewood Park, Stroud Family Park, and Wilson Recreation Area.
- Restroom services will continue to be available at Stroud Family Park and Wilson Recreational Area.
- The playground equipment in Lakewood Park, Stroud Family Park, and Wilson Recreation Area received additional installations as needed of engineered wood chips to enhance safety (also see Goal #6).



Lakewood Park – older mulch



Lakewood Park with new mulch in 2017

- Stroud Family Park received an additional play structure in 2017.
- The asphalt pathway and parking lot was patched and resealed at Wilson Recreational Area in August 2019.
- Broken picnic tables and cooking grills were repaired in 2016 in Lakewood Park and Wilson Recreation Area. And, the Kalamazoo Public Schools replaced its broken, white vinyl fence in Lakewood Park in 2017.
- In Lakewood Park, the pavilion’s posts and the fire truck play equipment were painted.
- Stroud Family Park: gaps in the tennis courts were filled in 2018.

- Community volunteers installed a bench in Scheid Park.



Anticipated measures:

- An environmental management plan is forming for the Academy & Grand Park, which highlights 1) tree planting (to replace non-native locust trees with native trees), 2) the park’s role in absorbing surface waters for the larger area, and 3) maintenance of the eastern portion of the park’s natural area where organic park materials are recycled/compost on-site.
- Evaluate the tall, metal fencing that exists between Stroud Family Park’s parking lot and Grand Prairie Avenue.
- Public input solicited during a public event held in Wilson Recreation Area in August 2019 suggested an added playground feature for toddlers in Wilson Recreation Area.

**Goal 4: Establish passive recreation facilities at existing underdeveloped/underutilized sites**

Status of objectives:

- Discussions with neighbors and others are increasing public awareness of the intentional, planned, passive use for Rynbrandt Park, Academy & Grand Park, and Jenks & Grand Pre Park.



**Goal 5: Marketing and Publicity – Ensure community is aware of the park facilities**

Status of objectives:

- The former Recreation Commissioner Mark Miller individually highlighted a park during Board of Trustees meetings.
- The township newsletter occasionally promotes township parks.
- The parks portion of the township’s website was enhanced in Spring 2019.
- To enhance public awareness, existing park signs were repainted for Stroud Family Park, Lakewood Park, and Wilson Recreation Park. And, first-ever signs were installed at Jenks & Grand Pre Park and Rynbrandt Park.
- An Eastwood Neighborhood gathering was held in August 2019 at Wilson Recreational Area.



Anticipated measures:

- Feature the township’s parks on Public Media Network’s “Kalamazoo Township Roundtable” program.
- A postcard mailed to township residents could promote the township website in general (the prime message) as well as highlight parks and recreation opportunities.
- Wilson Recreational Area could host an event, such as a fun 0.21K walk around the asphalt track.
- Solicit more “Friends of the Parks” volunteers to help with specific needs (e.g., Master Gardeners and others to help maintain plantings, a resident acting as a "Parks Champion" to weekly visit a park to pick up trash and report new findings to the Parks & Recreation Commissioner (also see Goal #3).



**Goal 6: Safety & Security – Ensure the Township park properties have the highest degree of safety and security for residents and users**

Status of objectives:

- Obstructing vegetation was removed from Lakewood Park, which makes the park more visible and safe. Likewise, non-native vegetation was cleared or thinned in much of Sheid Park as part of plant restoration project, which also increased openness and a sense of safety.
- Over multiple years, the playground equipment in Lakewood Park, Stroud Family Park, and Wilson Recreation Area received fresh installations of engineered wood chips to enhance safety.
- Kalamazoo Public Schools replaced the broken fence located on the east side of Lakewood Park to avoid the safety risks from the broken fence’s sharp edges.
- A slide in Wilson Recreation Area is being replaced in June 2019 to enhance safety.
- All parks: “Friends of the Park” are continually solicited to maintain oversight of the parks safety needs, as well as picking up trash, tending vegetative plantings, and other contributions.

**Goal 7: Serve All Populations with Parks and Recreation – Provide a range of parks and recreation facilities to meet the leisure needs of all segments of the population.**

Status of objectives:

- As part of its commitment to Complete Streets, the Township continues to enhance the availability and quality of sidewalks as linear parks for the recreation and transportation needs of all residents.
- Continue to encourage input from citizens, the Planning Commission, and township staff.

**Goal 8: Funding – Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system.**

Status of objectives:

- A grant proposal to fund a pilot snow clearing project along busy West Main Street was discussed with a local foundation. Unfortunately, the proposal was denied by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Educational efforts continue to motivate property owners to maintain and clear their sidewalks.

Anticipated measures:

- Identify and promote a process for accepting donations and memorials of funds or materials (plantings, bench, etc.).
- Continue to seek grant opportunities.

**Goal 9: Planning – Maintain an on-going parks and recreation planning process**

Status of objectives:

Anticipated measures:

- Create a Parks Citizen Committee: Potentially enlist “Friends of the Park”, Maintenance staff, the Township Manager, a member of the Planning Commission, and the Parks & Recreation Commissioner to identify and discuss needs and plans. Share the committee’s findings with the Planning Commission and the Township Board of Trustees in order to promote communications, ideas, and useful dialog.

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# Appendix B

## Public Input Collected

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To gather meaningful information for the Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan, Kalamazoo Township solicited public input from a variety of means, ranging from a professional Community Survey in 2013, as well as face-to-face contact during public events, electronic survey tools such as Survey Monkey, Facebook, and email in 2019. The findings of the Community Survey offer highly quantitative data that reflects the community because it is based on a large, professional survey with a 95% level of confidence. The other survey tools provide valuable, qualitative data from individuals.

### Summary

The following briefly distills common themes gathered from the public feedback sources:

- Kalamazoo Township residents value parks -- both Kalamazoo Township and regional parks.
- Respondents generally appreciated the maintenance and cleanliness of the Township parks.
- Open space and natural features are important features for many residents.
- Individual suggestions for new park features focused on play equipment for toddlers, pickleball, basketball, and a dog park.
- The Community Survey documented residents' preference for user fees and other revenue sources to finance park expenditures, versus increasing general fund contributions.
- Respondents indicated relatively strong support for maintaining and adding sidewalks and bicycle pathways as forms of linear parks and recreation facilities, which some respondents used to walk, jog, and bicycle between parks.
- A disproportionate number of respondents live in the Township's Westwood Neighborhood.

The survey findings illustrate a challenge to balance some residents' desire to increase recreational features with other residents' interest in preserving open space. A related challenge involves some individual residents' desire for the Township to increase expenditures to finance new recreational features with overall preference to limit general fund expenditures for parks. Wilson Recreational Park illustrates a successful example of this balance, where the resident-led design of the park intentionally maintained a large open field for a variety of uses (to mimic the openness of the pre-existing school playground), complemented by areas dedicated to specific uses, including a playground area, a picnic/grilling area, and a walking track.



## Community Survey

Kalamazoo Township received valuable, public input concerning parks and recreation issues as a component of a community survey conducted during the fall of 2013. 353, randomly selected, registered voters responded to the survey, which insured a solid, 95% confidence level in the findings. Survey findings related to parks and recreation included the following:

- Survey respondents were least impressed with the current state of street maintenance, followed by the repair and accommodations for bicycles and foot traffic. In contrast, respondents most highly valued the quality of the township’s fire, recycling, and police services.
- From a pool of 18 services, respondents prioritized the following seven services for funding. The remaining 11 services were significantly lower priorities to respondents.
  1. Road maintenance (favored by 77% of respondents)
  2. Law enforcement (favored by 72% of respondents)
  3. Fire response (favored by 63% of respondents)
  4. Emergency medical response (favored by 58% of respondents)
  5. Economic development (favored by 41% of respondents)
  6. **Sidewalk repair (favored by 39% of respondents)**  
 Support was fairly consistent across different demographics, but was strongest among citizens who lived in the township for one year or less, age 25-34 years, lived in an apartment or condo, or resided in precincts #7 (Hillside Middle School), 8 (Hope Reformed Church) and 15 (Westland Meadows) in Westwood or precinct #10 (Eastwood Fire Station) in Eastwood.  
 Support was weakest among residents who earned relatively higher incomes, age 18-24 years, completed some high school education, households that include parents who are 65 or older, homeowners living on larger lots, or lived in precinct #9 (Second Christian Reformed Church) in the northwest corner of the township or precinct #14 (Sunnyside UMC) in Eastwood.
  7. **Adding bike/walk paths (favored by 36% of respondents)**  
 Support was strong among citizens who lived in the township for 5 years or less, age 18-34 years, completed a college or graduate degree, earned over \$100,000 per year, households with children age 12 or under, lived in an apartment, or live in precinct #5 (Westwood Fire Station) or #15 (Westland Meadows) in Westwood.  
 Support was weakest among citizens who were 65 years old or older, completed some high school education, lived in a household with a parent age 65 or older, male, or lived in precinct #2 (Northwood Fire Station) in Northwood or precinct #3 (King-Westwood) in Westwood.
- The following overall scores rate respondents’ satisfaction with the following components of parks and recreation on a 0-10 scale (with 10 indicating the most satisfaction):
  - Access for the disabled (7.1)

- Quality of facilities (7.0)
- Facilities meet your needs (6.9)
- Public safety/security (6.7)
- Variety of Facilities (6.6)

In general, satisfaction levels were relatively higher among respondents aged 65 years or older, college graduates, occupants of a condo or house on a relatively large lot (1-10 acres). In general, satisfaction levels were relatively lower among newer residents of the Township, young adults, respondents who completed some high school, and residents of precincts #8 (Hope Reformed Church) and #11 (Lakewood Fire Station).

- 44% of respondents favored raising user fees to fund recreation facilities and programming. 27% preferred reducing the level of services. 23% opted for privatizing services. In contrast, only 12% of respondents supported raising taxes for recreation facilities and programming.
- Assuming a hypothetical situation that finances are not available to fund current service levels of services, 23% of respondents supported raising additional funding for parks and recreation services, while 33% of respondents opposed additional funding and 44% were undecided.
- Support for additional funding was relatively stronger among newer residents of the Township, younger citizens, more educated respondents, households with children, occupants of condos and apartments, and residents in precincts #5 (Westwood Fire Station), #7 (Hillside Middle School), and #10 (Eastwood Fire Station).
- Based in large part on the survey findings, the Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees adopted a set of goals in March 2014 to help focus the board's attention in 2014 and 2015. The goals include measures to:
  - Enhance non-motorized transportation features, such as
    1. evaluating the Township in terms of Complete Streets, specifically including walkability, bikeability, Safe Routes to Schools,
    2. developing an objective method for evaluating and prioritizing the installation of new sidewalks where they do not currently exist
    3. promoting the repair of existing sidewalk deficiencies,
    4. creating a GIS-based map of the Township's non-motorized assets, and
    5. exploring non-motorized options (including bike lanes, trailways, and sidewalks) to better connect the Eastwood and Lakewood areas to other neighborhoods, downtown Kalamazoo, and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway.
  - Promote existing and future recreational opportunities by
    1. identifying and evaluating current recreational assets and needs by updating the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan,



2. promoting local and regional recreational opportunities, using the Township's website, Township newsletter and other media,
3. seeking funding opportunities from local foundations, MDNRE, and other partners,
4. improving park signage, and
5. installing a bike rack at the township office, which is located across Riverview Drive from a portion of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway.

The Board accepted the 2014/2015 goals with the understanding that the listing serves to guide and focus the board's efforts, but the document is flexible to modify the goals as needed over time.

## **Soliciting Public Input at Community Events**

Public input was solicited at two community events, including:

- **Westwood Ice Cream Social.**

On July 26, 2019, residents of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo and the City of Kalamazoo noted their most frequent use of the following park facilities:

- Kalamazoo County's Markin Glen County Park,
- The City of Kalamazoo's Fray's Park, and
- Oshtemo Township Park located on West Main Street.

- **Eastwood Neighborhood Gathering**

On a Saturday in August 2019, Kalamazoo Township residents shared the following input at the Eastwood Neighborhood Party held at the Wilson Recreation Area:

- appreciation and use of the walking pathway at Wilson Recreation Area, which was recently patched and resealed.
- preference for more playground features for toddlers
- desire for the Township to repair broken areas of concrete sidewalk as a feature that promotes exercise, non-motorized transportation, and aesthetics.

## Survey Monkey via Facebook

In an effort to seek public input via social media, the Township designed and solicited input for residents in September 2019 to friends of the Township's Facebook page, asking them to participate in a Survey Monkey instrument. Eight residents shared the following input:

1. *Which parks in the Kalamazoo area do you visit? (6 respondents answered and 2 respondents skipped the question)*

### Responses

- Oshtemo Township Park, Asylum Lake Preserve
- Wilson
- Kindleberger
- Frays Park and Kalamazoo River Valley Trail
- Oshtemo Park (behind firestation on 43). Milham park. Bronson park if not too many homeless people being loud, peeing out in the open, begging for money.

2. *Do you or your household members use sidewalks or pathways to exercise or commute?*

### Responses

- Yes (4 responses)
- No (4 responses including 1 from a non-Kalamazoo Township resident)

3. *Of the Kalamazoo Township parks, which is your favorite?*

### Responses

- Grand Prairie Golf Course (1 response or 12.5% selected)
- Academy Park (1 response or 12.5% selected)
- Wilson Recreational Area (1 response or 12.5% selected)
- None; I do not visit any of the parks (5 responses or 62.5% selected)
  - they're too small - also a golf course is not a park
  - Closest to home.
  - Use it.
  - I need to visit some kazoo township parks, glad to have the list in question #3

4. *Please check all of the items that prevent you or your household from using Kalamazoo Township parks?*

### Responses

- a) I do not know where some parks are located. (4 respondents or 50% selected)
- b) I do not feel safe. (1 respondent or 12.5% selected)
- c) Not accessible for people with disabilities. (1 respondent or 12.5% selected)
- d) Limited parking. (0 respondents selected)
- e) Not within walking/bikig distance. (3 respondents or 37.5% selected)
- f) Quality of facilities. (4 respondents or 50% selected)
- g) I do not pay golf. (2 respondents or 25% selected)
- h) The parks do not offer amenities that I use. (2 respondents or 25% selected)
- i) Nothing – I am a regular user of Kalamazoo Township parks. (0 respondents selected)

- j) Other, please specify. (4 respondents or 50% selected)
  - o No bus service from home to park.
  - o Needs to be repaired and updated with fixtures for adults and toddlers.
  - o I do not care for the influences of other children on my children, some are VERY inappropriate for young children.
  - o Do you have Pickleball courts?

5. *What would you like to keep the same regarding Kalamazoo Township parks?*

1 response

- The parks are always clean and well maintained.

6. *What would you like to improve regarding Kalamazoo Township parks?*

4 responses

- we don't have many parks - sidewalks, paths, bike lanes, etc. on the westside of Kalamazoo.....mainly commercial development and traffic - lots of traffic
- Greater number of parks and more accessibility (ways to get to the parks). Comment provided by a non-Kalmaazoo Township resident.
- Update equipment. Newer playground equipment is designed for all age groups and make the parks more useful to all residents. They really need some equipment designed for toddlers
- Diversity of recreation facilities at parks as well as ecological restoration in parks

7. *Where do you reside?*

Responses

- Eastwood Neighborhood (2 responses)
- Lakewood Neighborhood (0 responses)
- Northwood Neighborhood (0 responses)
- Westdood Neighborhood (5 responses)
- City of Kalamazoo (0 responses)
- Other (1 respondent)

## Fillable Surveys solicited from email contacts

In another effort to reach out to residents to solicit public input via electronic means, in November 2019, a survey was distributed via email to hundreds of individuals who previously voluntarily subscribed to receive information about new township newsletters and other community-oriented information. 32 people responded.

The email survey included the following qualitative and quantitative questions:

1. *Which parks (both inside and outside Kalamazoo Township) do you or your household members visit most often (please specify by name)?*

### Responses

- Have not visited any area parks in many years.
- Oshtemo Township on West Main; Frays Park in Westwood Neighborhood
- Meadow Run Park and Spring Valley Park
- Kal-Haven Trail and Kalamazoo River Valley Trail
- Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, Kleinstuck Preserve, Oshtemo Township Park, Lillian Anderson Arboretum, Spring Valley Park, Kal-Haven Trail, Kellogg Experimental Forest, Mayor's Riverfront Park, Asylum Lake, Blanche Hull preserve and Frays Park.
- Wilson Park /Bronson Park
- Kal-Haven Trail, Asylum Lake, Nature Center
- None.
- Stroud Family Park, Markin Glen, Kindleberger Park.
- Within Township – Academy Park. Live nearby and nice for walking our dog. Outside Township – Bronson Park – during the holidays, enjoy the lights.
- Frays Park, Bronson Park, XC skiing, and Grand Prairie Golf Course.
- Frays Park.
- Yankee Springs State Park, Lillian Anderson Arboretum, Al Sabo, Academy Park.
- Since my daughters are older, late middle school and high school now, we don't visit the local parks so much. The ones we're more likely to use are beach or dunes areas nearby. I would, however, like to get them involved in learning golf, so this summer, we may be visiting the Grand Prairie golf course a lot more. This is a great location to get the kids outside exercising and off the phones.
- We visit Merrill Park in Comstock, Wenke Parks (North and South) and Cooper Park because we enjoy being on the water. We also use the City Parks (Verberg and Mayor's Park) with the kayaks. In the township, I take my great-nieces to the Lakewood Park because it is close and they like the play equipment. We also go to the nature center. In Chicago I love millennial park downtown!
- Jenks & Grand Pre Park.
- Currently: Fairmount Dog Park and Asylum Lake Preserve. In the past, before we moved to Westwood, we also frequented Prairie View County Park.
- Frays Park.
- Markin Glen (east) lease walk, Prairie View Park dog park, Vicksburg.

- Stroud Park, Frays Park, Kleinstuck, Anderson Arboretum, Asylum Lake, Nature Center, and further afield.
- Stroud, Jenks & Grand Pre, Sheid Park, Fletcher Field, and Oshtemo.
- Kalamazoo Nature Center.
- Frays Park in Westwood.
- Wilson Recreation Area.
- Markin Glen, the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, and Kindleberger.
- Markin Glen.
- Kal-Haven Trail and Kalamazoo College's Lillian Anderson Arboretum.
- None.

2. *Do you or your household members use sidewalks or pathways to exercise or commute? Yes or No.*

Responses

- Yes: 19
- No: 8
- Additional comments:
  - Our neighborhood does not have sidewalks. We decided when we moved to our neighborhood that we would take advantage of living near Nazareth College and we walk our dogs around Nazareth to avoid traffic because otherwise we would need to walk on the road. This is especially helpful when it is very dark in the winter evenings.
- No response (3)

3. *Of the Kalamazoo Township parks, which is your favorite and why?*

- Grand Prairie Golf Course
- Stroud Family Park, located near Westwood Little League and Indian Prairie Elementary School
- Rynbrandt Park, located on Eastwood's Edna Boulevard
- Jenks & Grand Pre Park, off West Main Street
- Lakewood Park, near the Fairgrounds
- Sheid Park, located off Westwood's Pinehurst Boulevard
- Academy Park, located south of Berkley Street
- Wilson Recreation Area in Eastwood
- None; I do not visit any of Kalamazoo Township parks. Please explain why.

Responses

- Jenks & Grand Pre Park and Stroud Family Park - I run past or through both of these frequently; Is Frays not Township? I run this one very frequently.
- Jenks & Grand Pre Park.
- Green space and low developed pathways (i.e. benches with unpaved trails).
- Wilson Recreation Area. Close to my home (only missing a toddler area) I enjoy walking the track for exercise. Its' usually clean.
- Stroud Family Park.
- Academy Park.
- Stroud Family Park.
- Grand Prairie Golf Course, but no interest or incentive to go to other parks.

- This is closest to where I live and adjoins Westwood Little League where my daughters play or umpire.
- Lakewood Park because it's close to our home.
- Jenks & Grand Pre Park. It's in my neighborhood.
- Stroud Family Park. Located close to our house. Downside, I'm pretty sure dogs are not allowed, so we usually don't go here.
- Grand Prairie Golf Course. Walk my dog in winter; golf in summer. Not sure (why I do not visit other township parks).
- Stroud Family Park. I walk around Stroud Family Park and Frays Park which is part of Kalamazoo city, because both are close to me in Westwood. It's good to have parks as a part of housing developments as they encourage people to walk there and give children a place to play outdoors.
- Stroud Family Park (nice picnic shelter and tennis courts) and Jenks & Grand Pre Park (nice green space).
- Grand Prairie Golf Course. I golf, occasionally.
- Wilson Recreation Area due to proximity.
- None; I do not visit any of Kalamazoo Township parks (9 responses, with additional comments below)
  - Only use walking trails.
  - If I wanted green space to play on, I'd use the island area right in front of my house!
  - We live very close to Spring Valley Park and we will occasionally walk our dogs around the lake. Otherwise, we go to Meadow Run Park, a privately run dog park where we know our dogs will be safe and secure and have a space to run. If the Township had a private dog park we would absolutely sign up and become members without hesitation.
  - I did not know that there were parks.
  - No particular reason. Frays is convenient and has Pickleball courts. Haven't visited any of the parks listed, except Grand Prairie, but we don't golf anymore.
  - Markin Glen and the KRVT are close to us. Kindleberger, being adjacent to the Parchment Library, is also convenient.
  - Only lived here 6 years.
  - Stroud Family Park. I walk a dog there, and we both always have a good time!

4. *What aspect of Kalamazoo Township parks would you like to keep the same?*

Responses

- None; I do not visit any of Kalamazoo Township parks.
- Please keep a porta potty at Stroud Family Park year around! I would love it if you also had a water fountain here.
- I appreciate the care and maintenance that keeps the parks clean and attractive. I frequently go by Stroud Park and Academy Park, as well as the Jenks & Grand Pre Park.
- All parks should have a playground for children, possibly a track to exercise, picnic tables when it is the season and lights. basketball courts
- We like to go & grill out periodically.
- Green space, open area.

- Accessibility and availability to everyone in the neighborhoods.
- Clean, good maintenance.
- Accessibility. I think the parks are, for the most part, easy to access and utilize.
- The parks are good because they exist, and we need parks and the green space they provide! Picnic tables are important for having picnics. They are well maintained and mowed, and that is nice.
- Like all the little, local pocket parks.
- Good maintenance, safe, easily accessed.
- I play pickleball at Frays Park. It is close to my house so very convenient. Nice courts. Not crowded usually.
- I'm new here so have not discovered all the parks around K Township. I'll start searching them all out. I do walk almost every day in Westwood and wish the township would finish the sidewalks and repair sections where slabs are broken or uneven. It's easy for older people to trip and doctors these days are insisting that older people need to walk everyday outside. Also remind residents to keep the sidewalks clean of debris. Doctors these days are insisting that older people get in 5,000 – 10,000 steps, i.e. walk outside. Also remind residents to trim grass so it does not cover the sidewalk and clean debris such as branches (tripping hazard), toys, etc. This is the way we get to parks! Even in winter. Lots of people including children walk in Westwood. We shouldn't have to walk in the roads. Just finish the sidewalks Please!
- Open access with no unique entrance fees.
- Access and upkeep.
- I would like the upkeep of the parks to continue, especially in the summer when families use them for picnic and parties. It is good that they are mostly clean and have well-used trash containers.
- No response (7 responses).

5. *What would you like to improve regarding Kalamazoo Township parks?*

Responses

- I would love to have more of them, with more area to run including water fountains and porta potty year around.
- We would love a gated access dog park where Township residents were required to pay a yearly fee and show proof of vaccinations to become members.
- I am not sure how to accomplish this, but perhaps draw residents' attention to the parks, so that they know where they are and how residents can use them. I have walked or run up Pinehurst hill many times and am still not sure where one goes to find Sheid Park.
- Preserve more green space. Development is eating up too much woods.
- Some of these parks need better lighting to be able to see when activities are being held or extracurricular activities to support the schools. I would like to see some basketball hoops/courts or at least one thing unique about each one which would make it a draw. For example: Basketball courts at one, baseball field another etc....
- Make all playgrounds safer for the kids (if they haven't been updated recently). Maybe have more picnic tables & places to grill.

- I would like access to West Main Hill (Academy Park) through Western’s parking lot at the end of Nelson. That way we could avoid having to walk on West Main. I think we would visit Academy Park more often if we could cut through Western’s parking lot.
- Tennis and/or pickle ball courts and Stroud Park.
- Sponsorship of school concerts, arts & crafts shows, neighborhood.
- Picnics/gatherings, etc.
- Develop more parks.
- Perhaps something that would be useful might be a few additional picnic tables with grills for a couple of the parks.
- The parks need to be connected to other places (parks, shopping areas, bus stops) by bike trails and walking trails and sidewalks. I wish we could access the river at a township park, maybe inside or at the edge of the superfund site that is located in Lakewood, for kayak launching and other riverside activities. Maybe you could talk to somebody at the Kalamazoo Watershed council about possibilities. My husband and I would go to the parks more if there were more birdwatching opportunities, which could be created by natural native plantings and trees. We love parks and would like more parks, for bicycling, kayaking and walking.
- More native plant plantings for pollinators and other habitat.
- Parking could be improved (when I drive).
- Tennis court repair at Stroud Park.
- Pickleball courts would be bonus!!
- Equipment investment, feature, culture.
- I would like to see dog waste pickup bags in all parks with signs saying, “Treat this park as you would your own yard”. I would also like to see public safety officers cruise slowly through, from time to time.
- No response (7 responses).

6. *Where do you reside? (Responses)*

- Eastwood (4 responses)
- Lakewood (1 response)
- Northwood (1 response)
- Westwood in Kalamazoo Township (21 responses)
- Westwood in the City of Kalamazoo
- Other
- No response (3 responses)

## Public Hearings

On December 5, 2019, the Kalamazoo Township Planning Commission publicly discussed the plan and adopted a resolution to recommend adoption of the plan by the Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees. No public comments were received.

The Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees held a public hearing on January 27, 2020. One resident responded to express interest in a gazebo in Wilson Recreational Area’s picnic area.



# Appendix C

## Funding Sources

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### Funding Sources

The recreation improvements proposed in the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan can be financed with a combination of resources. There are several potential funding sources available for parks and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades. In addition to the general fund, other potential sources of funding are described below.

#### Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects or to operate recreation facilities. A millage is an effective way to divide costs over time among all of the taxpayers in the Township to provide matching grant funds or finance entire projects. A millage allows more flexibility with how the money is allocated than with a bond.

#### User Fees

The Township can charge reasonable fees to the users of specific recreation facilities and for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park and recreation facilities and programs. Other Michigan communities have established user fees for the use of swimming pools, tennis courts, lighted athletic fields, and indoor facilities.

#### Recreation Bond

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. *General Obligation Bonds* are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. *Revenue Bonds* are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenue. The bonds are then retired by using income generated by the project.

#### Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The State of Michigan offers three grant programs that can assist with acquisition and/or development of park land, and a fourth grant program targeted toward community forestry activities that can be used on park land.

##### **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)**

MNRTF provides funding assistance for the public acquisition of land for recreation or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty. A limited amount of funding may be used for the development of public outdoor recreation facilities. This fund is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. The development grants are between \$15,000 and \$300,000 and there is no limit on the amount for acquisition projects because they depend upon the value of the property. A local minimum match of 25% is required for all projects. This grant is generally utilized for implementing large park projects and land acquisition. Applications must be postmarked by April 1<sup>st</sup> for both acquisition and development projects.

Each year the Trust Fund Board of Trustees decides on priority project types which will receive emphasize for funding. At this time, those priorities include:

1. Trails (including water trails)
2. Wildlife/Ecological Corridors and Winter Deeryard (acquisition only)
3. Projects Within an Urban Area

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for public outdoor recreation. This fund is directed at community recreation and trailway improvements that preserve natural resources. The grants are a minimum of \$30,000 and a maximum of \$75,000 with a local match of 50% required for all projects. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and a fourth criterion based on the type of proposed project. Applications are due March 1<sup>st</sup> for grants.

### **Recreation Passport Grant**

Money for this fund is derived from a portion of the sale of the Recreation Passport, which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit – or window sticker – for state park entrance. This grant program funds local development projects. Renovating and improving existing parks is the focus of the grant, but the development of new parks is eligible. Grants can range from a minimum of \$7,500 to a maximum of \$150,000. The application deadline is April 1.

### **Community Forestry Program**

This program is designed to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products. The program pays up to 50% of the project costs and requires a 50% non-federal match.

### **Conservation Easements**

A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique can also be used to preserve open space if it is not feasible or practical for the Township to acquire the land. Rather than obtaining fee simple, or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an easement to the property.

### **Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships**

Reduced funding for the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands. The Township could consider creating or modifying the fee structure for the use of Township parks and facilities. The fees could be utilized for facility development, maintenance and upgrades, and/or programming. The fees would ensure continued high quality parks and facilities for Township residents.

### **Donations**

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

### **Foundations**

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

# Appendix D

## Resolution of Approval

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To be added following public review.

# Appendix E

## Notices and Meeting Minutes

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA December 5, 2019 THURSDAY 7:00 P.M.

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA: THIRD REVISION

- #1 Call to Order
- #2 Roll call and recognition of visitors
- #3 Approval of the agenda for the December 5, 2019 meeting.
- #4 Approval of the meeting minutes for November 7, 2019
  
- #5 Scheduled Reviews
  - 5a. none
  
- #6 Public Hearings
  - 6a. none
  
- #7 New Business
  - 7a. Planning Commission calendar for 2020
  - 7b. Annual report to the Township Board
  
- #8 Old Business
  - 8a. Parks & Recreation Plan – Draft plan for review (emailed) – **set public hearing date**
  - 8b. Capital Improvements Program text – review and send to Board
  - 8c. Recreational Marijuana text:
    - Designated consumption areas, temporary events & event organizer issues
  - 8d. Master Plan – 5 year update is mandatory – preliminary draft - emailed
  - 8e. Other zoning text amendments/issues:
    - Solar regulations – per C. Mihelica [see Sec. 8.02, TT. In your ordinance book]
    - Outdoor Events regulations v. General Ordinance regulations
    - Escrow rules – Planning Commission approval requirement
    - Nonconforming lots
  - 8f. 1825 Ravine Rd. – Bishop Construction – revised site plan
  - 8g. 2105 N Burdick – authorization for escrow if needed
  
- #9 Open Discussion
  - 9a. Members of the Audience.
    - Question re: rezoning C-2 zone on north side of Lake St. to I-1 extending the I-1 from the south side across the street to the north. For medical marijuana grow.
    - Question re: 8.02, AA. Mini-warehouses, 4. b. requirement for brick exterior on side facing a street.
    - Auto sales 60' setback from intersection for driveway on existing auto repair shop
    - R-2 zone – native plant grower as horticulture or lesser nonconformity?
  
- #10 REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD REPRESENTATIVE.
- #11 REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP ZBA REPRESENTATIVE.
- #12 COMMENTS FROM PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS.
- #13 REPORT OF THE PLANNER/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR.
- #14 REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY.
- #15 ADJOURNMENT.

The public may attend this meeting for your information and comments. Please contact the Planning & Zoning Department if you have any questions at (269) 381-8085.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF KALAMAZOO  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Recommending Adoption of the  
Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2020-2025**

**December 5, 2019**

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo Charter Township has established a Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to prepare and Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township and make planning recommendations for the Township's park facilities to the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo Charter Township has the authority, pursuant to the Charter Township Act, specifically MCL 42.14, to maintain and operate public parks and their facilities and to exercise the powers and functions both expressed and implied by the grant of such authority including the development of recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board directed the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to work with Township Staff to develop a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after undertaking a thorough process of inventory, analysis and public input, the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee has prepared a 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Kalamazoo Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee has provided for extensive public input of the same and are recommending the adoption of the 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Township has, pursuant to state guidelines, made the 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan available for public review, both at the Township Hall and on the Township's website commencing on November 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Township published the Notice of 30-day Public Review Period and Public Hearing on January 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission, upon recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, recommends to the Township Board the adoption of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation master Plan.

A motion was made by Hathcock, seconded by Mihelich to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": Denise Hartsough, Jeremy Hathcock, Christopher Mihelich, William Chapman, Henry Dingeman, Fred Nagler.

The following voted "Nay":

The following "Abstained":

The Planning Commission Chair declared that the Resolution has been adopted.

  
Fred Nagler, Chair  
Planning Commission

\*\*\*\*\*  
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Excerpt of the Minutes of a meeting of the Kalamazoo Charter Township Planning Commission, held on December 5, 2019, at which meeting seven members were present and voted upon the same as indicated in said minutes; that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark E. Miller, Clerk  
Charter Township of Kalamazoo

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF KALAMAZOO  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN**

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KALAMAZOO, KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the public is invited to offer comments on a proposed new 5-year recreation plan for Kalamazoo Charter Township. The public comment period on the plan will be open from December 20, 2019 through January 27, 2020. Comments may be submitted in writing by residents or interested parties to the Township Clerk, Mark Miller in person at 1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 or via email [clerk@ktpw.org](mailto:clerk@ktpw.org). A copy of the draft plan has been forwarded by the Township Planning Commission to the Township Board for public hearing and potential adoption on January 27, 2020. Comments submitted prior to the date of the public hearing will be transmitted to the Township Board.

A public hearing and comment taking on the draft plan will be held on January 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Township Hall, 1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004. Comments may also be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. The Township Board may adopt the plan at the same meeting, following the public hearing.

A draft of the proposed recreational plan has been posted on the Township's website at [www.ktpw.org](http://www.ktpw.org) and is available from the Township Offices Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

Kalamazoo Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Kalamazoo Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Kalamazoo Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP  
By: Mark E. Miller, Clerk  
1720 Riverview Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI  
269-381-8080  
[www.ktpw.org](http://www.ktpw.org)





1720 Riverview Drive  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004  
Tele: (269) 381-8080  
Fax: (269) 381-3550  
www.ktwp.org

## Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda January 27, 2020

The "Regular Meeting" of the Board of Trustees of the *Charter Township of Kalamazoo* will be held at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, January 27, 2020, in the *Charter Township of Kalamazoo* Administrative Offices, 1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004-1056 for the purpose of discussing and acting on the below listed items and any other business that may legally come before the Board of Trustees of the *Charter Township of Kalamazoo*.

**1 – Call to Order**

**2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

**3 – Roll Call of Board Members**

**4 – Addition/Deletions to Agenda** (Any member of the public, board, or staff may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected.)

**5 – Public Comment on Agenda and Non-agenda Items** (Each person may use three (3) minutes for remarks. If your remarks extend beyond the 3 minute time period, please provide your comments in writing and they will be distributed to the board. The public comment period is for the Board to listen to your comments. Please begin your comments with your name and address.)

**6 – Consent Agenda** (The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with in one Board Motion without discussion.)

**Approval of:**

- A. Minutes of January 13 2019 Work Session Meeting
- B. Minutes of January 13, 2019 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
- C. Payment of Bills in the amount of \$40,959.07

**Receipt of:**

**7 – Public Hearings**

- A. Public Parks and Recreation Plan

**8 - Unfinished Business**

- A. None at this meeting

**9 – New Business**

- A. Request to adopt resolution approving Public Parks and Recreation Plan
- B. Request to adopt Zoning Ordinance 613 Text Amendment on non-conforming parcels
- C. Request to adopt Adult Use Marihuana Establishments opt-in Ordinance 614
- D. Request to accept Ordinance 615 allowing the Zoning Administrator to take performance guarantee in some situations for first reading
- E. Request to accept Zoning Ordinance 616 amendments for Excess grower and infrastructure for marijuana special licenses for first reading
- F. Request to adopt resolution approving Tax Payment Designee Appointments
- G. Request to approve changing the location of the March 9 Township Board meetings to Kalamazoo Central High School
- H. Request to approve cancellation of the April 27, 2020 Board of Trustee meeting due to conflict with the Michigan Township Association Annual Conference
- I. Request to approve Kalamazoo Township Police Officers Association (KTPOA) 2019-2022 agreement
- J. Request to authorize the use of the Westwood Fire Station and grounds by the Westwood Firefighter's Association to host the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 31, 2020.

**10 – Items removed from Consent Agenda**

**11 – Board Member Reports**

Trustee Strebs  
Trustee Hathcock  
Trustee Leigh  
Clerk Miller  
Treasurer Miller  
Trustee Leuty  
Supervisor Martin

**12 – Attorney Report**

**13 – Manager Report**

**14 – Public Comments**

**15 – Adjournment**

Posted January 24, 2020

  
Dexter Mitchell, Manager  
Charter Township of Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo Township Board meetings are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. Individuals with disabilities requiring special assistance must contact the Township, giving five business days notice by writing or calling: Donald Martin, Charter Township of Kalamazoo Supervisor, 1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-1099. Telephone: (269) 381-8085

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF KALAMAZOO  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
ADOPTED JANUARY 27, 2020**

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Kalamazoo has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2020 through 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Kalamazoo has been in the process of developing a 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Kalamazoo Charter Township in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS the Township has established a Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to prepare a draft 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation plan, and

WHEREAS the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee presented the draft plan to the Township Planning Commission at its meeting of December 5, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Kalamazoo Planning Commission is made up of representatives from the Township as required by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Michigan Planning Enabling Act; and

WHEREAS by Resolution the Charter Township of Kalamazoo Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the draft 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Kalamazoo Charter Township to the Township Board, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Kalamazoo Charter Township Board on January 27, 2020 to provide an opportunity for all residents of the Township to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Kalamazoo Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Kalamazoo has developed the plan as a guideline for improving parks, recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the township, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Township Board wishes to adopt said Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Kalamazoo Board hereby adopts the draft 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Kalamazoo Charter Township as the 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the township

Motion was made by Trustee Leuty and seconded by Trustee Strebs to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following voted "Aye": Supervisor Donald D. Martin, Clerk Mark E. Miller, Treasurer Sherine M. Miller, Trustees Nicolette Leigh, Steven C. Leuty, Jennifer A. Strebs and Jeremy L. Hathcock.

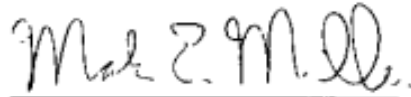
The following voted "Nay": None.

The following were absent: None.

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

#### CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Kalamazoo Charter Township Board held on January 27, 2020, the original of which resolution is on file in my office, that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act; that a quorum of the Board was present and voted in favor of the resolution; and that the minutes of the meeting will be or have been made available as required by the Open Meetings Act



Mark E. Miller, Clerk

Please note at the time that the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan was submitted, the 1-27-2020 meeting minutes of the Board of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo were not available and are pending Board approval on February 10, 2020. However, the meeting minutes are available on-line at [www.ktwp.org](http://www.ktwp.org).

# Appendix F

## Non-Motorized Facilities Plan

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### Non-Motorized Facilities Plan

The Township recognizes the residents' desire to have non-motorized facilities to access goods and services, connect to and between recreational and residential areas, and increase opportunities for physical activity to promote healthful life styles. Wider paved shoulders, bicycle paths, and sidewalks, as indicated on the following maps taken from the Non-Motorized Plan will be pursued by the Township to accomplish this end.

The non-motorized plan maps contained within the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan are the most current and will be continuously updated in the future. A separate, standalone Non-Motorized Plan provides additional details and specific recommendations for providing non-motorized connections and improvements to the transportation network within the Township. The Township will look to this Plan during the site plan review process to determine what is required as properties develop and redevelop as well as in identifying priority projects for the Township to undertake. It is important that the non-motorized plan continue to be updated and consulted as the Township continues to grow.

### Historical background

- The Kalamazoo Township Planning Commission created a Non-motorized Transportation Master Plan created with input from dozens of residents and coordinated by a planning consultant. The Board of Trustees adopted the plan in December, 2014.

Given the overwhelming need for improvements identified in the Non-motorized Master Plan, a Non-motorized Implementation Committee consisting of three township residents and two board members prioritized improvements that:

- promote Safe Routes to Schools,
  - correct existing non-motorized infrastructure to make it more fully functional, such as
    - repairing broken sidewalk slabs, and
    - correcting “orphaned” sidewalks, which, for example, end in grass before reaching a road or end at a curb, which is a physical barrier to a person using a wheelchair or walker and replacing the barriers with ADA-compliant ramps,
  - connect users to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway, which passes through Kalamazoo Township's Northwood and Westwood neighborhoods, and
  - emphasize sidewalks on the road commission of Kalamazoo County's primary roads and other busy roads, where pedestrian needs are greatest.
- In June 2015, the Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustee adopted a Complete Streets Ordinance, which reflects the community's commitment to supporting a network of transportation elements for safely driving, walking, bicycling, and other means to move within the township.

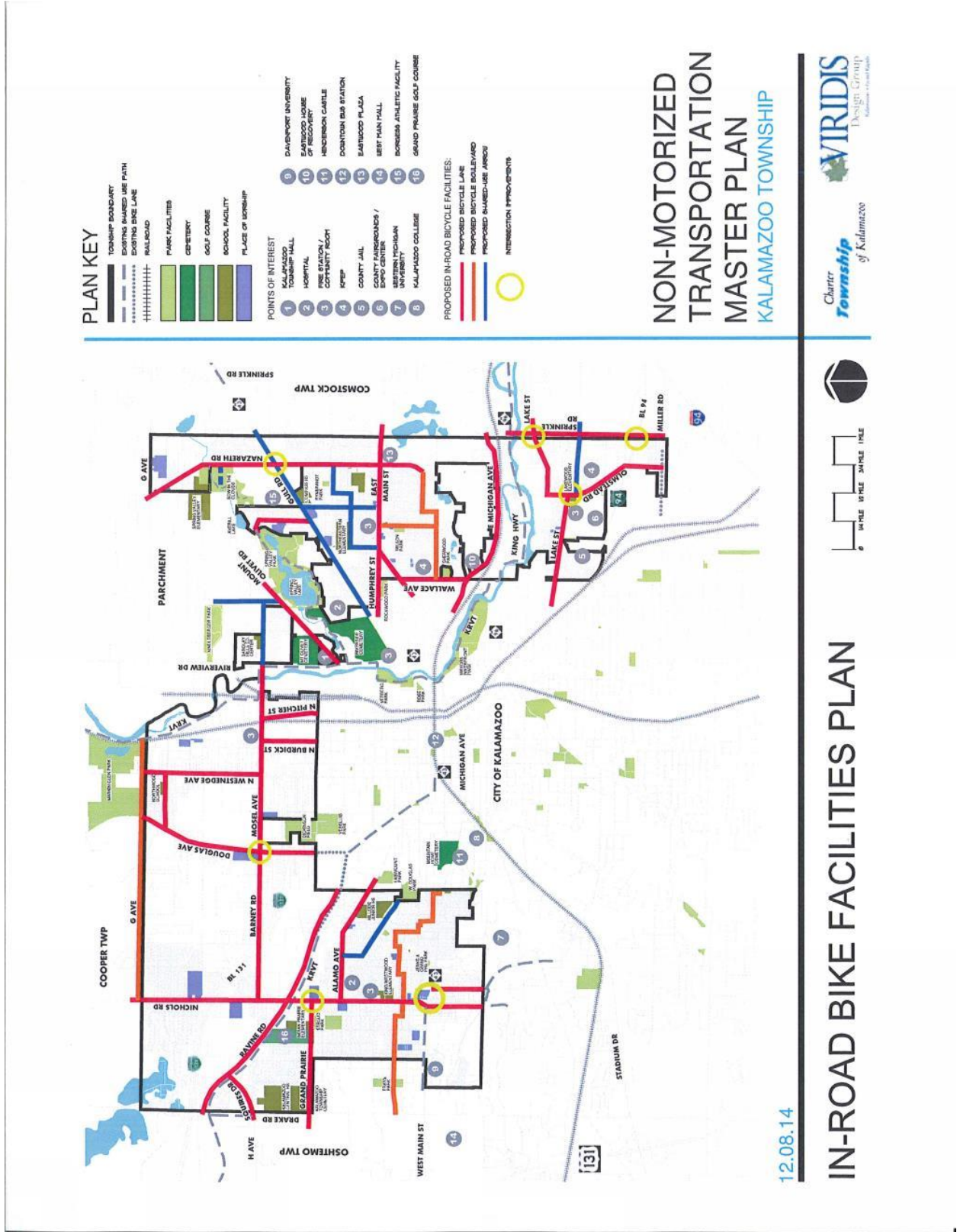
- In February 2015, a voter-approved Transportation Bond financed \$10 million worth of road and non-motorized transportation improvements. From 2015 – 2018, Kalamazoo Township partnered with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County to plan and implement road and road drainage improvements projects primarily, as well as many non-motorized improvement projects, including:

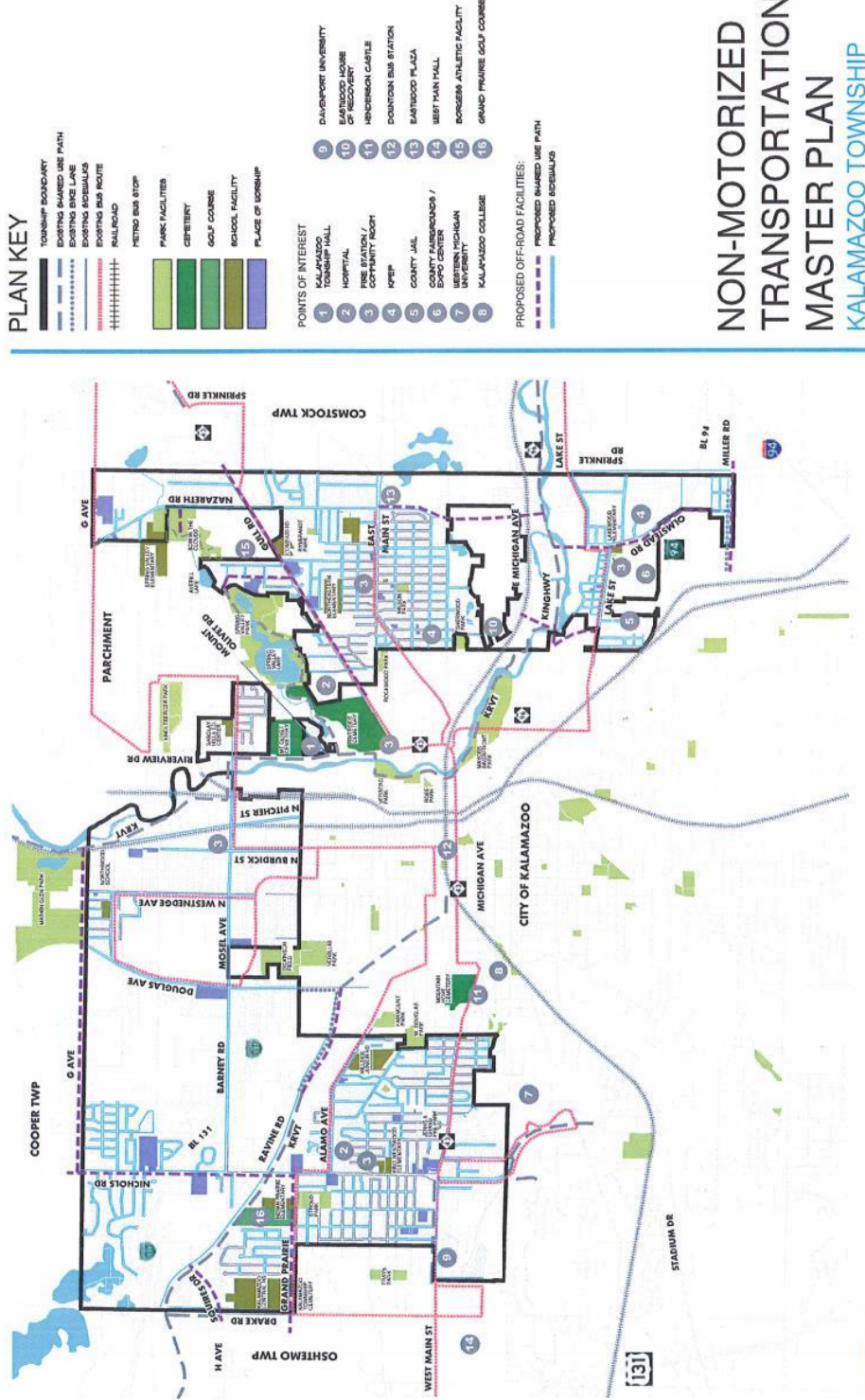
- 44 “orphaned” sidewalks installed to connect existing sidewalks to roadways and to replace curb and gutter barriers with ADA-compliant ramps (see photo, right),
- over 100, small sidewalk repairs (each consisting of typically 1-7 concrete slabs) on high-use, existing sidewalks,
- 4+ miles of signed, bicycle routes on E. Main Street and Drake Road, as well as bicycle boulevards through Eastwood and Westwood, and
- 2.8 miles of new sidewalks adjacent to primary and other busy roads, including portions of Grand Prairie Road, Nazareth Road, Sunnyside Drive, Kendall Avenue, Olmstead Road, and West Main Street/M-43.



- In its 2020 budget, Kalamazoo Township included modest funds to continue non-motorized transportation improvements with a limited scope of non-motorized improvements, such as sidewalk repairs and new sidewalk repairs, new sidewalk construction, and other non-motorized transportation improvements, according to the guidelines of the Non-motorized Implementation Committee (see above).







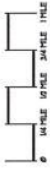
**PLAN KEY**

- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
  - EXISTING SHARED USE PATH
  - EXISTING BIKE LANE
  - EXISTING SCENARIOS
  - EXISTING BUS ROUTE
  - RAILROAD
  - RETRO BUS STOP
  - PARK FACILITIES
  - CEMETERY
  - GOLF COURSE
  - SCHOOL FACILITY
  - PLACE OF WORSHIP
- POINTS OF INTEREST**
- 1 KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP HALL
  - 2 HOSPITAL
  - 3 FIRE STATION / COMMUNITY ROOM
  - 4 KPER
  - 5 COUNTY JAIL
  - 6 COUNTY AUDIENCES / COURT HOUSE
  - 7 WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
  - 8 KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
  - 9 DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY
  - 10 EARLEWOOD HOME OF RECREATION
  - 11 HERRICK CASTLE
  - 12 DOWNTOWN BUS STATION
  - 13 EARLEWOOD PLAZA
  - 14 BEST MAN HALL
  - 15 BORGES ATHLETIC FACILITY
  - 16 GRAND PRAIRIE GOLF COURSE
- PROPOSED OFF-ROAD FACILITIES:**
- PROPOSED SHARED USE PATH
  - PROPOSED SCENARIOS

**NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN  
KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP**

12.08.14

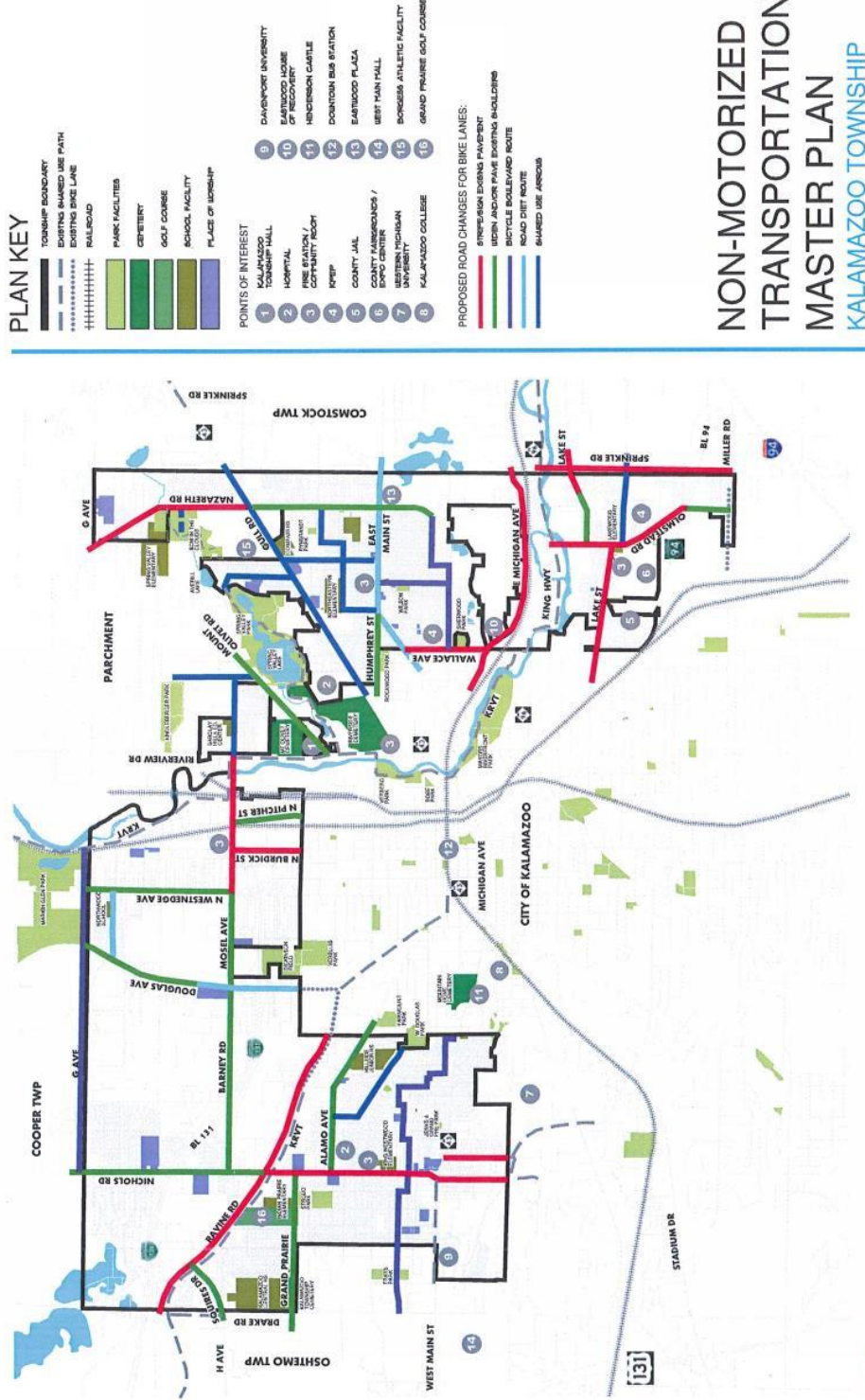
**OFF-ROAD FACILITIES PLAN**



Charter Township of Kalamazoo







**PLAN KEY**

- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- EXISTING BIKE LANE
- EXISTING BIKE LANE
- ++++ RAILROAD

- PARK FACILITIES
- CEMETERY
- GOLF COURSE
- SCHOOL FACILITY
- PLACE OF WORSHIP

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- 1 KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP HALL
- 2 HOSPITAL
- 3 FIRE STATION / COMMUNITY ROOM
- 4 KOPF
- 5 COUNTY JAIL
- 6 COUNTY EMERGENCIES / EPPC CENTER
- 7 MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
- 8 KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
- 9 DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY
- 10 EARWOOD HOME OF RECOVERY
- 11 HEICKSON CASTLE
- 12 DOWNTOWN BUS STATION
- 13 EARWOOD PLAZA
- 14 WEST MAIN HALL
- 15 BORGESM ATHLETIC FACILITY
- 16 GRAND PRAIRIE GOLF COURSE

**PROPOSED ROAD CHANGES FOR BIKE LANES:**

- EMERGENCY EGRESS PAVEMENT
- WIDE AND/OR PAVED EXISTING SHOULDERS
- BICYCLE BOULEVARD ROUTE
- ROAD DIET ROUTE
- SHARED USE ARROWS

**NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP**

12.08.14

**IN-ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN**



Charter Township of Kalamazoo



# Appendix G

## Transmittal Letters

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF KALAMAZOO  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Recommending Adoption of the  
Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2020-2025**

**December 5, 2019**

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo Charter Township has established a Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to prepare and Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township and make planning recommendations for the Township's park facilities to the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo Charter Township has the authority, pursuant to the Charter Township Act, specifically MCL 42.14, to maintain and operate public parks and their facilities and to exercise the powers and functions both expressed and implied by the grant of such authority including the development of recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board directed the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to work with Township Staff to develop a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after undertaking a thorough process of inventory, analysis and public input, the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee has prepared a 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Kalamazoo Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee has provided for extensive public input of the same and are recommending the adoption of the 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Township has, pursuant to state guidelines, made the 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan available for public review, both at the Township Hall and on the Township's website commencing on November 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Township published the Notice of 30-day Public Review Period and Public Hearing on January 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission, upon recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, recommends to the Township Board the adoption of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo 2020-2024 Five-Year Parks and Recreation master Plan.

A motion was made by Hathcock, seconded by Mihelich, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": Denise Hartsough, Jeremy Hathcock, Christopher Mihelich, William Chapman, Henry Dingeman, Fred Nagler.

The following voted "Nay":

The following "Abstained":

The Planning Commission Chair declared that the Resolution has been adopted.

Fred Nagler  
Fred Nagler, Chair  
Planning Commission

\*\*\*\*\*

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Excerpt of the Minutes of a meeting of the Kalamazoo Charter Township Planning Commission, held on December 5, 2019, at which meeting seven members were present and voted upon the same as indicated in said minutes; that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark E. Miller, Clerk  
Charter Township of Kalamazoo

## **Appendix H**

# **Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports**

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This section does not apply to the current plan. The Charter Township of Kalamazoo 2015 – 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan included the most recently applicable Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports.



# COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

## CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR through MiRecGrants **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than February 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

### PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:

Charter Township of Kalamazoo 2020 - 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.

County

Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

Kalamazoo Township

Kalamazoo

January, 2020

### PLAN CONTENT

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

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

Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart

Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming

Current Funding Sources

Role of Volunteers

Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

**Recreation Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:**

Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities

Articles of Incorporation

3. RECREATION INVENTORY

Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)

Accessibility Assessment

Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

**X  6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

X  Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

X  Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice December 20, 2019

Type of Notice Newspaper, website, & posting

Plan Location Kalmaazoo Township Hall & website

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 37 days

X  Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice December 20, 2019

Name of Newspaper Kalamazoo Gazette

Date of Meeting January 27, 2020

X  Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting (available at [www.ktwp.org](http://www.ktwp.org), pending Board approval on 2-10-2020)

**X  7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**X  8. ACTION PROGRAM**

**9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

X  1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 27, 2020

X  2. Official resolution of the Planning Commmission Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: December 5, 2020

X  3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: Jan. 29, 2020

X  4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: Jan. 29, 2020

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

Charter Township of Kalamazoo *includes the required content, as indicated*  
(Local Unit of Government)

*above and as set forth by the DNR.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government      Jan. 29, 2020  
Date

**This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.**