



SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP
PARKS, RECREATION and OPEN
SPACE PLAN
2011 – 2015

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PARKS, RECREATION and OPEN SPACE PLAN

2011 – 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Superior Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was prepared as an integral piece of the Township master plan. The five-year Plan is a guide for park and open space development and acquisition with the goals of providing equitable distribution of facilities for Township residents and maintaining and improving existing parks and recreational offerings.

The Plan concept is based on natural resources providing the framework for a park and open space system. It is also community based in order to provide a variety of an equitable distribution of facilities that best serve residents.

This document is composed of eight sections:

- I Introduction, Process and Administrative Structure
- II Township Description: cultural and physical
- III Recreation Inventory: standards, facilities, programs
- IV Recreation Deficiencies and Potentials
- V Goals and Policies
- VI Action Plan: facilities and programs
- VII Plan Implementation and Recommendations
- VIII Appendix

This organization leads to a comprehensive plan for improving recreation facilities and preserving open space, sensitive lands and improving existing parks.

The Plan complies with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for funding, but more importantly provides a tool for parks and recreation management for years to come. The proposals and policies developed in the Plan will work toward satisfying most of the local and Township-wide recreation deficiencies. In addition, the priorities established below will guide the Plan and phasing of projects as budgets allow. The Plan assumes a certain level of funding or financial resources which are not guaranteed. Therefore, without grants or public millage support, the Commission may be unable to implement all proposals in the Action Plan.

PARKS and RECREATION ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

1. Recreation Programs
 - o Youth Sports
 - o Youth Programs
 - o Educational Programs for At-Risk Youth
 - o Family Special Events
 - o Joint Programs with Ypsilanti Library District
2. Park Maintenance Program
 - o Maintenance of Existing Facilities
 - o Safety and Cleanliness
 - o Mowing
 - o Tree Maintenance
 - o Equipment Repair and Replacement
 - o Grading
 - o Remove Invasive Species
3. Park Improvement and Development Program
 - o Major Tree Maintenance and Plantings
 - o Top Dress, Over-seed, Fertilize and Aerate
 - o Resurface Courts
 - o Drainage Corrections
 - o Playground Equipment Replacement and Enhancement
 - o Structural Improvements
 - o New Playground Equipment, Shelters, Backstops, Parking Lots and Gates
 - o Improvement of Existing Parks
 - o New Development in New Parks
4. Park/Facility Acquisition
 - o Parks and Recreation Building in Cooperation with Ypsilanti Library District and Other Potential Partners
 - o Neighborhood Parks
 - o Township Facilities
 - o Trail System
 - o Trade, Lease, Policy, Donated and Acquired Land

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

A parks, recreation and open space plan is a tool to guide future growth and programming. It helps ensure that adequate recreation services are provided to a growing township, and will also lay the groundwork for Superior Township to take an even more active role in preserving its natural systems, environmental quality, recreational and educational opportunities.

The park, recreation and open space facilities for Superior Township are under the jurisdiction of the Township Park Commission, but must be planned in coordination with surrounding agencies offering recreational resources. This Plan is a comprehensive approach to guiding future acquisition, location, development, and programming for recreation and open space facilities. It also provides a detailed listing of current recreation and open space facilities, needs, and opportunities. The Plan will be the basis for future capital programming.

The Plan encompasses a broad range of recreation and open space facilities. It is divided into sections which are broken down into individual components. Section I provides introductory material to the Plan, including introduction, plan concept/orientation, planning process, assumptions, purpose, need for further study and administrative structure. Section II covers Superior Township's cultural and physical characteristics.

Section III is a comprehensive recreation inventory which includes park standards, facility standards and recreation programs. Section IV explores recreation deficiencies and potentials through surveys, a facility standards comparison, service areas and a Parks and Recreation Committee. Section V lists the goals and policies of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the five-year Plan.

Section VI is the action plan which includes recreation programs, park maintenance standards, park development and improvements, neighborhood park acquisitions, township park acquisitions, projected budgets and a development and acquisition schedule.

Section VII covers the plan implementation and recommendations including matching funds, alternative sources of funding and implementation, a parkland dedication policy, an open space preservation policy, bond issues and a millage . Section VIII is the project process reviewing the background, and discussing the process, approach, weaknesses of the process and strengths of the process. Section VIII is the appendix containing demographic statistics.

The Plan is designed to satisfy the requirements of state and federal agencies for funding.

PLAN CONCEPT/ORIENTATION

The Open Space and Recreation Plan was drafted keeping in mind the Growth Management Plan of the Township and its concept is two-fold. It is natural resource based, since natural systems comprise much of the open space areas and their preservation is critical to the integrity of the overall Plan. It is also community based in that the associated parks and facilities must serve the residents of the Township. Currently, some of the Township's communities are underserved by parks and programs.

PLANNING PROCESS

Superior Township's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan has evolved through valuable input and interactions between the Parks and Recreation Administrator, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Township Board, the Planning Commission, local land conservancies, DNR Soil Consultant, Township Planner, and consultants from the University of Michigan. Meetings between these parties and ongoing review helped to determine content, prioritize issues and set goals. The process resulting in the initial plan included data collection, content formulation, goal and policy formation, development and prioritization of action plan elements, implementation strategy and from this beginning the Plan has continued to evolve. Washtenaw County officials and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials have been instrumental in providing relevant information on such topics as fragile lands, demographics, and larger scale recreation resources.

Since the original plan was adopted, it has been periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changes in Park Commission concerns and community needs. The Township Planning Commission, the Township Planner, local land conservancies, the University of Michigan, and the Department of Natural Resources have been instrumental in this review process, as has the availability of two publications: Environmentally Significant Areas of Superior Township, 1992, by Ellen Elliott Weatherbee, and Superior Township, Historic Resources Inventory, 1994, by Ina V. Hanel.

This Plan updates the 2006 – 2010 Parks and Recreation Plan. The Plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Administration, adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission and adopted by the Township board in 2012.

ASSUMPTIONS

The Plan takes into account public needs and desires through surveys and committees, land capabilities and potentials through inventory and analysis, and recreation facilities distribution through facility standards evaluation. It also considers population growth and recreation trends in proposing future recreation and open space actions and policies.

The following list of assumptions provides reasonable parameters for the study, and a focus to develop goals, policies, and potentials:

1. Recreation and open space areas are important, necessary and beneficial to the physical and mental health of the population.
2. Provision and maintenance of public recreation and open space facilities is considered a basic and necessary governmental service.
3. Superior Township Parks and Recreation Department is the primary provider of public recreation and open space to Township residents, with surrounding governmental units being secondary providers.
4. Financial commitments for the operation, improvement, maintenance, development, and acquisition of public recreation and open space areas are necessary and must come from a variety of sources.
5. Financial resources for recreation and open space needs are limited, resulting in unfulfilled needs for facilities.
6. A reasonable distribution of recreation and open space opportunities is important based on population distribution, land availability, and available monetary resources.
7. Public recreation and open space areas will include diverse facilities to meet a variety of needs and demands.
8. Areas which are underserved by parks and contain few vacant properties may remain substantially underserved due to lack of available land for recreational purposes.
9. The Superior Township Growth Management Plan, public hearings and voting trends in the Township indicate that residents value preserving rural and open space areas.
10. Natural open space or conservation areas are necessary for the preservation of wildlife and their habitat and ecosystems. The natural setting and features of the Township will become more valued as urban growth and development continues, and pressure for further development can be expected.

PURPOSE

An open space and recreation plan is one part of an overall land use management plan. It must be coordinated with the various elements of a broader master plan: housing, land use, zoning, transportation, etc. The policies for these different segments will overlap and will affect an open space and recreation plan. Specific investigations will assist in determining the distribution of various facilities. The Plan objectives are to:

1. Preserve environmental quality and develop strategies for the long-term enhancement of environmental quality including natural systems, rural character, and visual character.
2. Provide a strong guide to direct the improvement, development, location and acquisition of recreation and open space facilities to fulfill goal and policy objectives.
3. Encourage citizen involvement through public forums, surveys, direct involvement in programs and maintenance, and any other methods possible.
4. Cooperate with other agencies that provide recreational opportunities in and around Superior Township and who provide open space systems that intersect Superior Township.
5. Provide a basis for establishing future funding sources, exploring tax-based and creative funding alternatives.
6. Provide a Plan that is compatible with regional and state recreational goals and objectives and satisfies requirements for state and federal funding.

NEED FOR CONTINUED STUDY

More detailed study of some issues is recommended to strengthen and enhance this Plan.

Future investigations should include:

- * Update and detail park master plans
- * Listing of goals common to Parks and other Township entities and plans for their realization
- * A master plan for creation of recreational programs
- * A plan for a future Parks and Recreation Building
- * Comprehensive search for alternative funding sources

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT

Superior Charter Township is governed by an elected seven member board. The Township Board is the legislative body responsible for carrying out the functions and operations of the local unit of government. To assist the Board in their public service and daily operations, they employ professional staff and appoint citizens to various committees and commissions.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The parks and recreation functions in Superior Township are the responsibility of an elected Parks and Recreation Commission, consisting of seven members, which meets on a monthly basis. Created by a vote of the people in 1974, the Park Commission is authorized by statute to employ staff and incur expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of Public Act 271, 1931, as amended. The Park Commission was also given the responsibilities of the Recreation Board, Public Act 156, 1917, by a Township Board resolution later that same year. Together these public acts created an elected policy-making Commission to maintain and operate all public park and recreation operations and services. The Township Board approves the Park Commission's direction by approving its annual budget.

TABLE I

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Parks and Recreation Commission's major revenue sources are authorized by the Township Board. These funding sources may include a general fund allotment, granted monies from public and private sources, a special Parks and Recreation millage, an issuance of township bonds for township parks, and the approval of selling unneeded property. The Township Board has chosen to provide the public service of Parks and Recreation through the current General Fund Millage, meaning a general fund allotment.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has traditionally operated on a very frugal budget, which has allowed for modest maintenance operations and recreation services.

As shown in Table 2, in recent years, outside funding through grants has become more difficult to obtain. This is primarily due to a poor state and national economy and has resulted in a paring back of some department costs, including the scaling back of recreational offerings. It should be noted that a \$400,000 payment, realized from the sale of the Parks and Recreation Building, earmarked for development of a new Parks Building within the next five years, is kept in a separate account.

TABLE 2
PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET
 2008 - 2012

Revenue	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Township	\$197,421	\$218,080	\$216,127	\$223,461	\$223,484
Interest	17,300	15,000	12,080	3,800	6,060
All Other	12,580	6,535	4,590	12,004	3,874
Expenditures					
Administration	\$74,833	\$75,077	\$69,989	\$76,985	\$71,071
Recreation	22,613	2,674	5,457	9,210	8,257
Maintenance	107,245	135,461	135,936	123,258	132,251
Park Development	800	5,531	9,415	18,500	15,839

In 1987, the Parks and Recreation staff began running the recreation programs, rather than contracting the services through other agencies. Programs were being offered with a firm "everyone plays" philosophy and the programs were offered in the parks near the Township residents' homes. Additional staff was hired in 1989 for recreation programming. A 1990 budget increase brought higher quality administrative services, recreation programs, special events and maintenance standards. The administrative staff of the Parks and Recreation Department grew in number, and many programs were developed. Re-evaluation of the program in 1994 brought about downsizing and reorganization due to budgetary constraints coupled with the departure of the current director to another position. Commissioners worked together to redesign the Department in order to decrease administrative expenses without cost to the programs in place. Later, further cuts were made due to financial constraints and duplication with neighboring programs. This new incarnation of the department is still evolving, but appears to be working efficiently, largely because of the excellent efforts by staff.

The Parks and Recreation Commission's staff is responsible for establishing and evaluating the needs of the community, providing the appropriate Parks and Recreation services, providing long-range planning and preparing capital improvement programs.

The current Superior Township Park Commission employs two permanent staff. The Administrator is responsible for all aspects of the operations for Parks and Recreation. The Park Maintenance Supervisor is responsible for maintenance of the parks. Other staff are either seasonal employees or contractual workers employed for a specific program or service, or volunteers.

The responsibilities of the Administrator in subsequent years shall include: oversight of maintenance and recreation programs, supervision of subordinate employees, grant coordination, budget preparation, public relations, record keeping and purchasing. All of these duties shall be with the concurrence of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATION PURPOSE

It is the purpose of Administration to assist the Parks and Recreation Commission in formulating policy, to carry out policies as they are established, to implement sound management and financial practices, to foster a positive public image for the Park Commission and to insure that quality park and recreation services are provided for the residents of Superior Township.

The function of Administration includes coordinating the efforts of the Commission, full-time staff, part-time employees, and actively enlisting and supervising volunteer efforts for the leisure benefit of the residents of Superior Township.

The Administrator of Parks and Recreation: supervises the work of two major divisions, recreation and parks maintenance; directs the long range comprehensive planning and public information programs; manages the annual budget (\$223,418 in 2012); and acts as liaison to other agencies and associations locally and on national matters pertaining to parks and recreation.

ADMINISTRATION GOALS

1. Comprehensive Service
Operate a well-balanced system of parks and recreation programs and facilities within the financial constraints of the budget.
2. Community Needs
Continually assess the needs of the community so that desired parks, recreation programs, facilities and funding sources can be considered by the Board and Staff for possible action.
3. Commission - Staff Relationship

Communicate ideas of the Commission to staff and vice-versa so each is informed on all aspects of the Parks and Recreation operations.

4. Effective Management

Plan, organize, direct, coordinate and control the Parks and Recreation Department's operations to effectively and economically achieve the department's goals and objectives.

5. Fiscal Responsibility

Manage tax dollars and other revenues in such a manner that costs are minimized while benefits are maximized.

6. Public Relations

Represent the Parks and Recreation Department through positive contacts with special interest, neighborhood, and community groups; develop a positive working relationship with the Board and Staff of other local units of government; communicate with the residents through the development of a comprehensive public relations program and maintain good communications with the Board regarding Parks' activities.

ADMINISTRATION OBJECTIVES

- A. Department Management
- B. Accessibility for Residents with Special Needs
- C. Budget Management
- D. Community Support
- E. Volunteer Effort
- F. Alternative Funding Strategies
- G. Five-year Parks and Recreation Plan
- H. Grant Administration

PARK MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the Park Maintenance administration to maintain a safe and desirable park atmosphere and to make improvements which enhance the quality of recreational opportunities in Superior Township.

The function of the maintenance administration includes coordinating maintenance schedules with recreation program offerings, implementing the equipment purchasing and park development programs, dealing with the public on a daily basis and fulfilling the maintenance

standards established jointly by the Administrator, the Park Maintenance Supervisor and the Park Commission.

GOALS

1. Park Standards
The parks should be maintained in a safe and aesthetically pleasing manner.
2. Park Improvements
The staff should plan, implement, evaluate and research new and desired park improvements which will enhance the parks for easier maintenance, as well as providing a better recreational value.
3. Maintenance Schedule
The parks maintenance schedule should be coordinated with recreation programs, daily duties, major projects and alternatives for varying weather conditions.
4. Staffing
The appropriate number of staff should be hired, trained and scheduled, within budget limits, to complete the desired tasks to fulfill the objectives outlined for park maintenance.

MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES

- A. Safety
- B. Staff Supervision
- C. Routine Duties
- D. Mowing
- E. Tree Maintenance
- F. Park Improvements & Projects
- G. Accessibility for Special Needs
- HI. Equipment
- I. Supplies/Tool Needs

RECREATION

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the recreation administration to provide recreational activities which will meet the needs of the community, to carry out procedures as they are established, to pursue an

active public relations program, to coordinate efforts with other agencies and businesses in the area and to evaluate the Department's direction in future planning.

The function of the recreation administration includes coordinating efforts with the maintenance programs, developing innovative and creative programs and special events, interviewing and recommending seasonal staff for hire, preparing specifications for purchases, seeking sponsorships, implementing the recreation budget and evaluating and preparing quarterly reports for the 2011 Action Plan. This is currently the responsibility of the Parks Administrator and a commission advisory group.

GOALS

1. Recreation Programs
Recreation programs will target youths. In order to provide quality services, procedures for registration will be defined and standard operating procedures determined for each program.
2. Sports Programs
The goal of all youth sports programs is to teach children the basic rules and skills of each sport and to develop teamwork skills and a feeling of self-confidence and self-worth. Team building will be the major emphasis in any youth sports program. A major component of all programs will be substance abuse counseling.
3. Media Relations
In order to expand its public awareness level, Parks and Recreation will make full use of both the print media, electronic media and local radio to publicize its programs.
4. Public Relations
Quality programs, competent staff, and access to administrative staff are the key elements in positive public relations. In order to maintain each of these objectives, the department will offer only programs and events which are within its current operational abilities.

Administrative staff will continue to maintain high visibility in the community through involvement in various community programs, projects, and events. Staff will also encourage participation by community groups.

5. Sponsorships
The three main goals of seeking sponsorships for programs, sports teams and

special events are:

- a. To obtain financial support,
- b. To increase media recognition from demonstrated business support and involvement in programs and events,
- c. To encourage local and area businesses to view program and event sponsorship as a means to directly enhance their visibility in Superior Township, while benefiting these programs.

6. Promotions

Innovative, attractive and eye-catching flyers, brochures, posters and signs are all effective means of establishing an identity for the department as a dynamic, desirable community service. They work to increase program and event exposure and attendance in concert with the media. In addition, the Superior Township Parks web page takes advantage of new technology to spread information about programs and services.

7. Recreation Staff Development

Program and events staff are the department's most visible link to the public. They must be skilled in the responsibilities and duties of their positions. They must always be conscious of the reflection of their words and actions on the department.

The goals of the department are:

- a. To assure that staff is supportive of the various ethnic and cultural experiences of participants for its recreation programs and events.
- b. To involve a variety of staff and volunteers in recreational events, in order to promote more community involvement.
- c. To hire staff from within the Township.

8. Purchasing - Equipment, Supplies, and Uniforms

Quality programs and events require quality equipment and supplies. The recreation equipment purchasing plan will seek to assure a beneficial experience for participants and to maintain the image of a provider of quality recreational opportunities.

The recreation equipment purchasing plan will seek to build a base supply of durable as well as consumable equipment and supplies.

9. Professional Development

In order to build professional and administrative skills and to increase the department's visibility in the professional community, it is necessary to be involved

in professional organizations and associations.

10. Budget

It is the goal of the department to effectively administer the 2011 - 2015 budgets and to remain fiscally sound.

RECREATION OBJECTIVES

- A. Youth Programs and Sports
- B. Adult Programs and Sports
- C. Media Relations
- D. Public Relations
- E. Sponsorships
- F. Promotions
- G. Recreation Staff Development
- H. Purchasing - Equipment/Supplies/Uniforms
- I. Professional Development
- J. Accessibility for Special Needs

ILLUSTRATION 1**SECTION II****TOWNSHIP DESCRIPTION****CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS****REGIONAL SETTING**

Superior Township is located approximately 40 miles west of Detroit, the state's principal city. The Township is three and one-half miles east of downtown Ann Arbor, and two miles north of downtown Ypsilanti. Superior Township is one of Washtenaw county's twenty townships and is part of the Southeastern Michigan Region. This region encompasses only seven percent of the State's land area, but more than fifty-three percent of its population. The southeastern region is the social, economic and industrial center of Michigan.

HISTORY

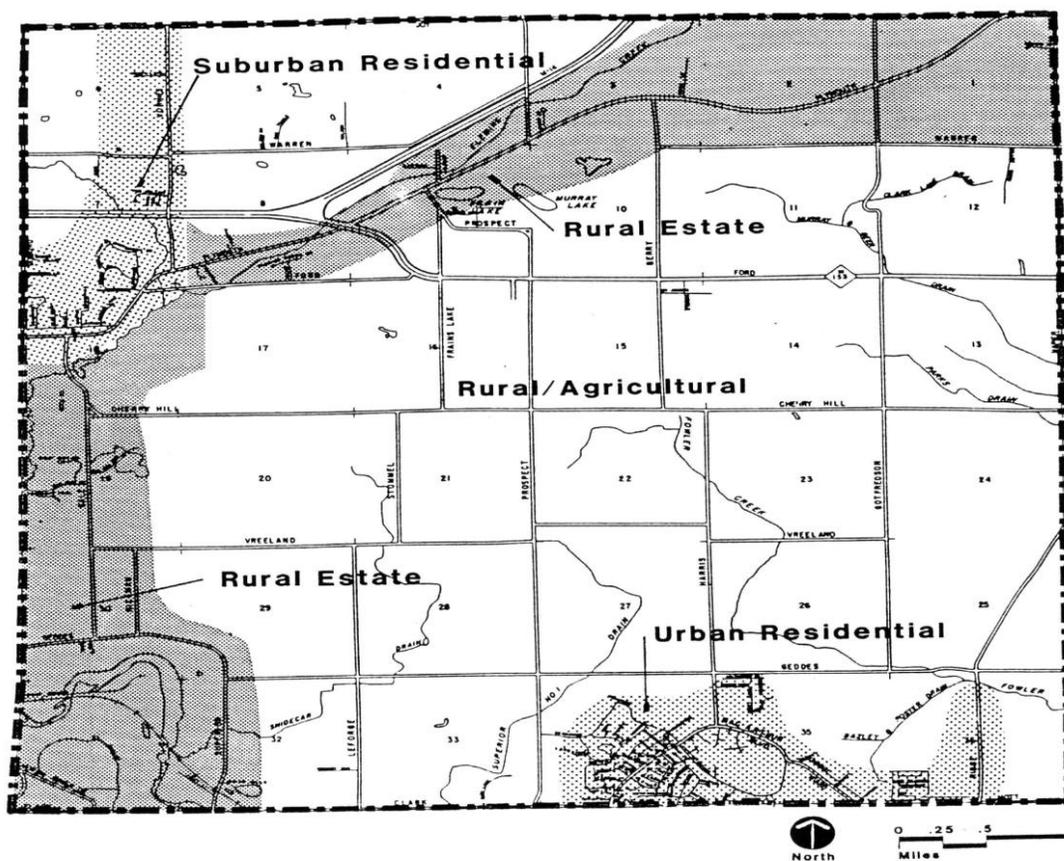
Superior Township was settled in the early nineteenth century by farmers who named the area for its fertile soils. The Village of Dixboro was the Township's only concentrated settlement until the beginning of World War II due to the availability of water (Fleming Creek) and an access route (Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road). World War II brought dramatic changes to this quiet agricultural community. In 1941 the Willow Run Bomber Plant was constructed in neighboring Ypsilanti Township. Willow Village, designed to house 15,000 to 20,000 employees and their families, spilled over into southeastern Superior Township. Following the War, the complex was

used to house returning veterans and University of Michigan students. It was not demolished until the middle 1950's. The project brought public water and sewer facilities to the Township which influence the pattern of growth to this day. The area now contains over seventy-five percent of the Township's population.

CULTURAL DESCRIPTION

Superior Township's population identifies with small neighborhoods, rather than a large central community. There is not a great deal of interaction between these communities. The residents tend to associate with one of the four school districts in the Township - Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Plymouth-Canton, and Willow Run - in addition to the cities at the borders of the Township. These populations will be described in Illustration 2 as the Urban Residential, the Suburban Residential, the Rural Residential, the Rural Estate and the Rural/Agricultural communities.

Illustration 2
Community Location



Urban Residential. This southern edge which associates with Ypsilanti is the most urban setting accounting for 75 percent of the Township's estimated 13,058 residents (2010 U.S. Census). They are concentrated in a three square mile residential area. It is the only part of the township with sewer and water service, explaining the population density and localized growth. Between 2000 and 2010 the Township experienced a 21.6 percent population growth, most of which was concentrated in the southern sector. These residents tend to be in the lower to middle income groups. They attend Ypsilanti and Willow Run schools, as well as private schools. This area of the Township has an especially active Neighborhood Watch program.

Suburban Residential. The Village of Dixboro and surrounding residences on one to two acre lots comprise the suburban residential community. They are oriented to Ann Arbor through proximity and street address and belong to the Ann Arbor School District. Population growth in this area has traditionally been slow and steady due to the absence of public utilities.

Rural Estate. There are two large zones in the Township characterized by two to ten acre lot residential. The northern zone is a band stretching from the Village of Dixboro to the eastern edge of the Township toward Plymouth through proximity, street address and school district. The southern zone is located along the western edge of the Township between the Village of Dixboro and the Huron River. This area is oriented primarily to Ann Arbor, but is also close to Ypsilanti. Growth in these two areas of rural estate residential has been slow and steady. Growth has been augmented by the subdivision of formerly agricultural land. These zones are also characterized by middle to upper-middle income groups.

Rural /Agricultural. The remainder of the Township, primarily the middle portion, falls into the rural/agricultural zone. Much of this region is characterized by farms, but increasingly the agricultural areas are being infiltrated by rural residences. These people also associate with surrounding communities through proximity and street address.

Conclusion: In summary, there are four very divergent populations to satisfy in Superior Township, the Urban Residential the Suburban Residential, the Rural Estate and the Rural/Agricultural. Additionally, the fairly rural setting of Superior Township attracts visitors from more urban Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Canton and Plymouth who visit our rural parks. In planning recreation services for the Township, it is important to consider current population centers, future growth trends and changes in land use patterns.

Illustration 3
School Districts

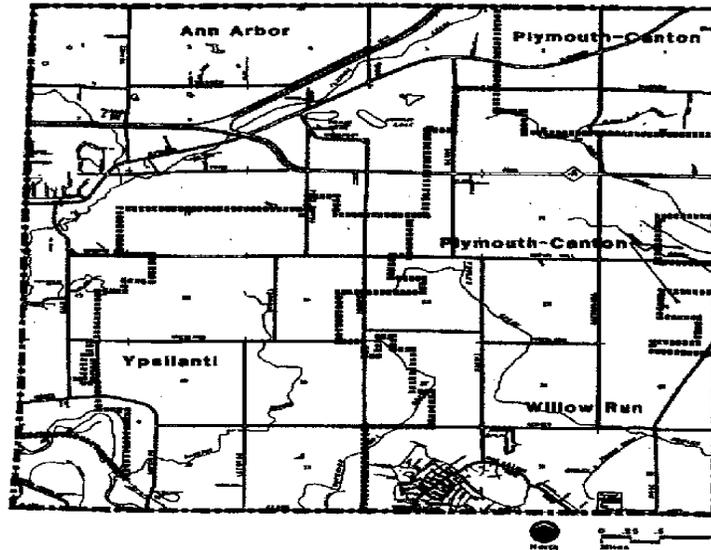
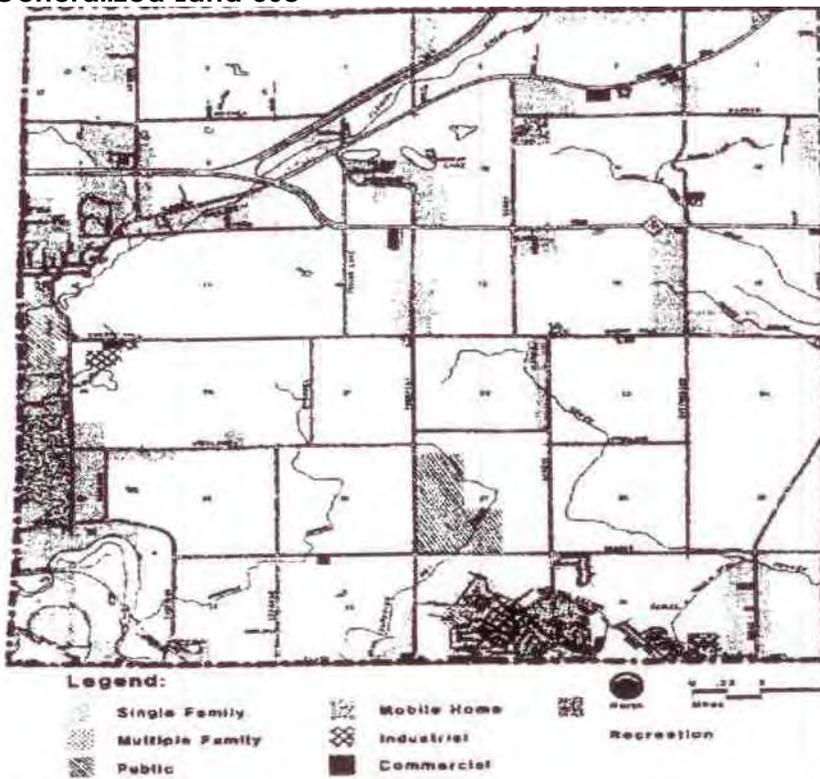


ILLUSTRATION 4
Generalized Land Use



LAND USE

Land use in Superior Township falls into three general categories: agricultural, rural/suburban residential and urban residential. Agricultural lands comprise approximately forty percent of the Township land area, rural/suburban residential approximately twenty-five percent and urban residential approximately five percent. A few, mostly small, commercial and industrial uses are located on scattered sites throughout the Township. The remainder of the land is open space, with the notable exceptions of Radrick Farms Golf Course and Matthaei Botanical Gardens on the western edge of the Township, Murray Lake Park east of Dixboro, and Hickory Creek Golf Course at Napier and Ford Roads. These recreational uses comprise approximately three percent of the Township's land area.

Agricultural land uses are concentrated in the central, eastern and north central portions of the Township. Rural/suburban residential uses are concentrated along the western edge of the Township, around Dixboro and along Plymouth Ann Arbor Road. Scattered large lot residential sites are located throughout much of the remainder of the Township. Urban residential is concentrated along the south border of the Township.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Although a significant percentage of the Township land area is in agricultural use, much of this land is threatened by speculative purchase by developers for subdivisions and large lot home sites. Residential use is particularly evident along Plymouth Ann Arbor Road in the northwestern corner of the Township where the major land use is no longer agricultural, but residential on large lots. Similar pressure for large lot development is evident in other areas designated for agricultural use. At the same time, it should be noted that little invasion of non-agricultural uses has occurred in the sections north of Geddes Road and generally west of Hickman Road. Land investors and developers own sites of vacant and agricultural land throughout the Township. Farmland owned by local farmers and residents who rent to farmers comprise approximately fifty percent of the actively farmed land.

Although this mix of farmer owned and leased agricultural land is not out of the norm for Michigan agricultural lands, the proximity of Superior Township to the growth centers in Ann Arbor, along M-14 and I-275, create pressure for residential development on this land. Farmers in the Township and local land conservancies are finding property difficult to keep, due to property tax pressure resulting from development of nearby land. The Township is now in the process of investigating buying development rights of agricultural properties in order to preserve farmland in the area.

Additionally, efforts are being made by Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor to preserve open space in the area through purchase of land or development rights and some proposed and completed purchases have included properties in Superior Township.

TRANSPORTATION

Superior Township is well situated for easy freeway access with M-14 running east-west through the Township, US-23 less than one mile to the west running north-south, and I-94 just two miles south going east-west. A well-defined grid system of roads exists connecting the Township from north to south and east to west. The principle surface roads are Ford, Prospect, Plymouth-Ann Arbor, Geddes, Clark, and Gotfredson. All roads south of Geddes Road are paved, while north of Geddes Road many are unpaved, fitting the more rural character. Prospect is the only paved road connecting the more urbanized southern half to the remaining rural northern half of the Township. Gale Road has been declared a Natural Beauty Road by the State as a result of a vote by the residents. Paving of this road may be prevented by voter desires.

Willow Run Airport is located just east of neighboring Ypsilanti Township. It is convenient as a general utility airport and services many local industries. Detroit Metropolitan Airport is situated just 20 - 25 minutes to the east in Wayne County. Air passenger service is available at this major airport.

Bicycle routes and pedestrian pathways are becoming increasingly important for transportation and recreation linkages within the Township and between adjacent communities. Plymouth, Ford, Dixboro, Prospect, and Geddes Roads are heavily used by people on bikes. People who choose to walk or ride mountain bikes utilize gravel roads. Superior Township, in cooperation with Washtenaw County, is actively establishing a network of non-motorized trails. The Huron River corridor presents an exciting opportunity to establish a continuous green belt zone and path system.

The southern communities of Superior Township are served by the Ann Arbor Transit Authority on regular routes. In addition, low cost Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) service is available to all Township senior citizens. Still the Township is very much dependent on the automobile for employment, social activities, and shopping.

ECONOMY

Over eighty percent of Superior Township's residents are employed in manufacturing, professional and retail trade occupations. The major employers in the area are Catherine McAuley Health Center, the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, auto-related industries and the public schools. Most of these sources should prove to be stable sources of employment in the future.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Superior Township has experienced rapid growth in recent years. The 2010 census showed the Township population to be 13,058, an increase of 21.6 percent over the 2000 population.

In 2010 there were 4,924 households containing an average of 2.65 persons per household. Superior Township is the ninth fastest growing community in Washtenaw County.

The population can be broken down into the following age categories:

Under 18 years of age	26.7%
Over 18 years of age	73.3%

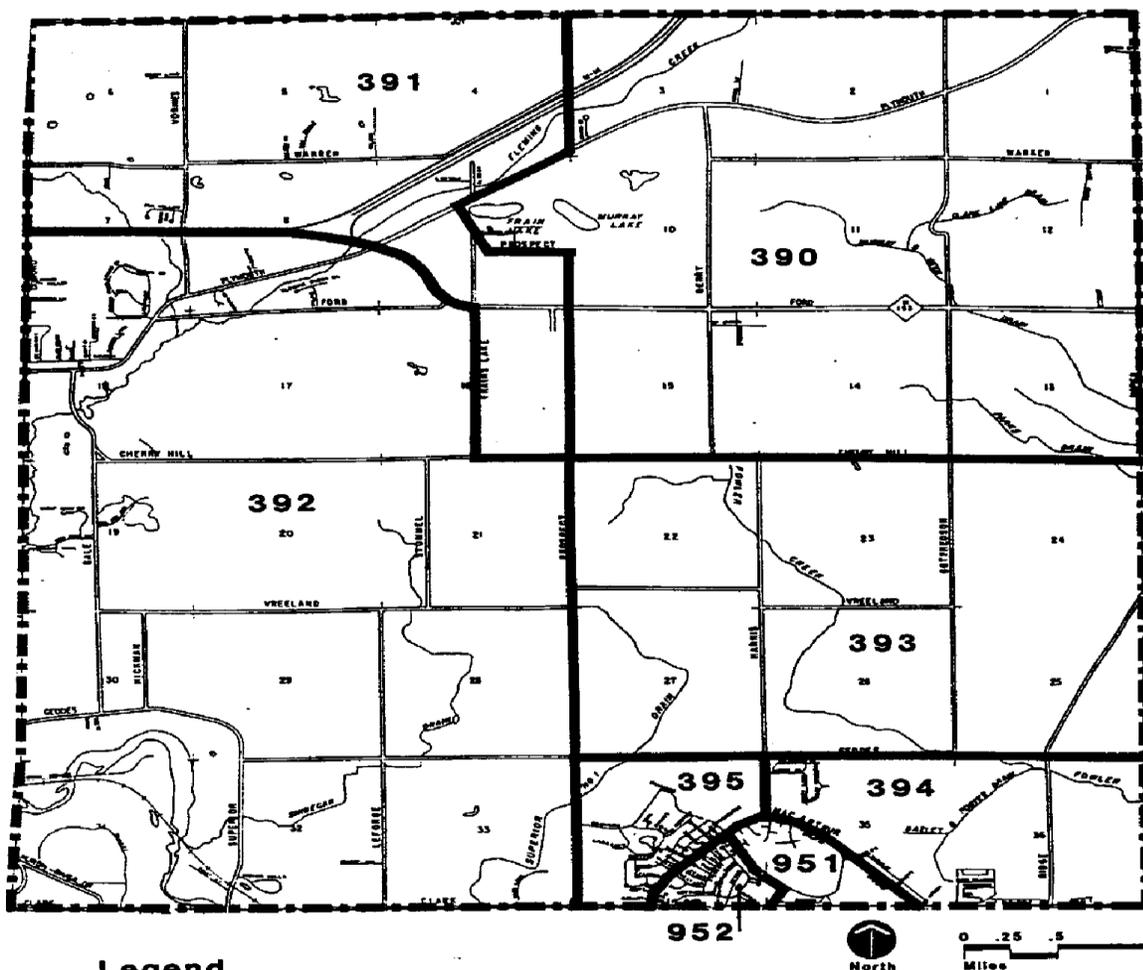
The 2010 Median Household Income was \$72,957 (a 1.6% decrease from the 2000 census.). The 2010 Per Capita Income was \$38,112 (1 6.8% decrease from the 2000 census).

These trends make more obvious the need for sensitive, long-range recreation and open space planning to serve a future population. In planning for increased recreation demand, it is important to recognize the locations where this growth is likely to occur. The southeastern portion, census tracts 394, 395, 951 and 952, of the Township is home to over 75 percent of the population. Due to the availability of public utilities this is likely, at least in the short term, to continue to be the most densely populated area of the Township. There are also more economically and culturally disadvantaged residents in this area. It should, therefore, receive considerable attention when providing new recreation opportunities.

CONCLUSION

Attention should be given to the recreation preferences of a target community. Due to demographic differences between the four communities, each will have different recreation priorities. Some communities have the benefit of large open spaces, while others have no parkland or open space within one-half mile walking distance. Some communities prefer the addition of passive recreation facilities, while others are in need of active recreation facilities.

Illustration 7
Census Tracts



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

GEOLOGY

Superior Township is located in a saucer of Mississippian Age rock. This substrate consists mainly of sandstone, limestone, shale, salt, and gypsum. Local geology was strongly influenced by glacial action.

SOILS

The predominant soils in the township are the Morley-Blount and St. Clair-Nappanee-Hoytville associations. These loam and clay soils of fine to medium texture glacial fill have a moderate available water capacity and slow permeability. About seventy-five percent of the Township's soils are considered suitable for agriculture. The remaining twenty-five percent are largely composed of wetlands or steep slopes which are unsuitable for agriculture or development. Most of the soils in the Township are not conducive to septic tank use due to the slow permeability, and therefore, pose a limit to potential development in areas without water and sewer lines.

TOPOGRAPHY

Superior Township is flat to moderately hilly, with a band of rolling hills running from the southwest to northeast corners. These moraine formations were deposited by the last glaciation. Slopes of 6-12 percent are common in the northern half of the Township. Slopes of 18 percent or greater occur along Gale Road near Cherry Hill Road, off Berry Road, and near Murray Lake. The southeast section is relatively flat, being of outwash plain origin. Elevations within the Township range from 710 to 937 feet above sea level.

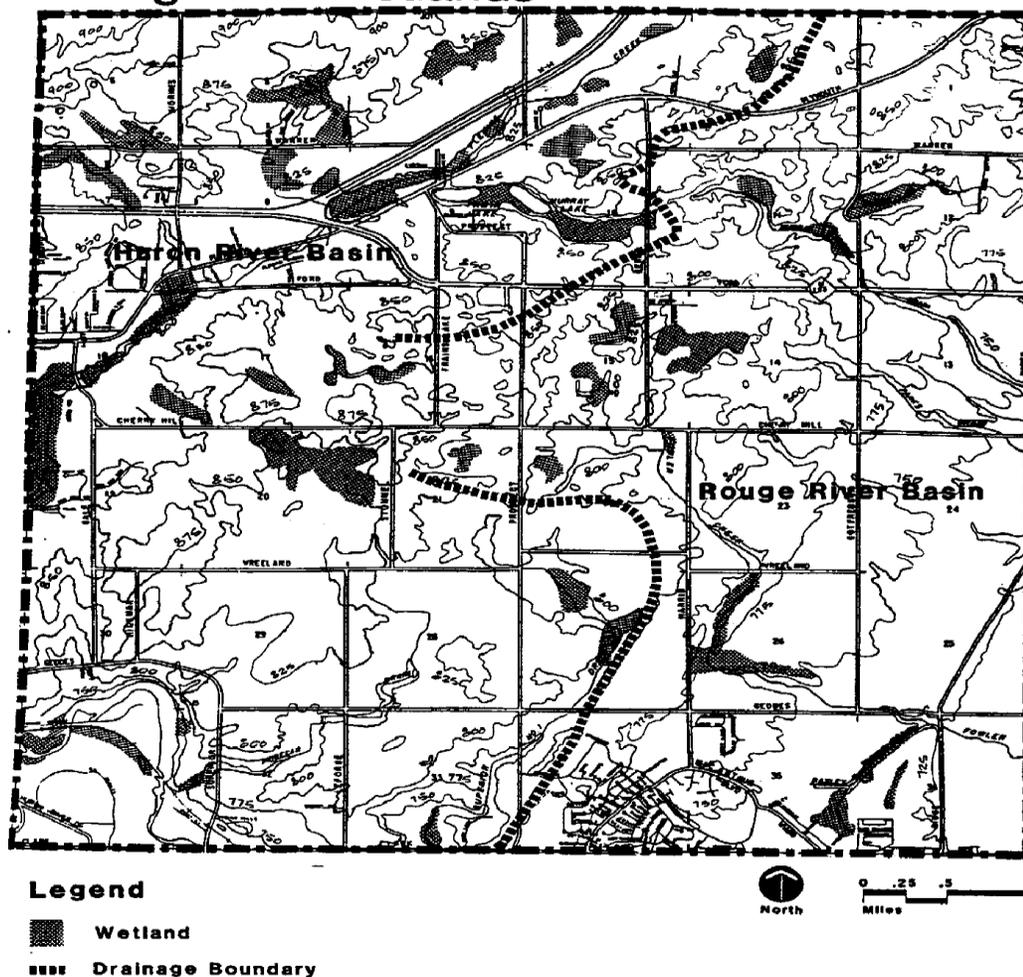
DRAINAGE

Superior Township lies in both the Huron River and Rouge River basins. The eastern portion of the Township drains to the Rouge River while the western portion drains to the Huron River. The Huron River and its tributary Fleming Creek are the two largest drainage courses in the Township.

GROUNDWATER

In Washtenaw County percolation of water into the soil directly from precipitation is the major source for groundwater recharge. Recharge from surface water bodies is also important, especially near the Huron River. Generally in the northeastern portion of Superior Township groundwater is available in ample quantities through the glacial fill. In the southeastern flat portion, of lake bed origin, groundwater is sometimes in low supply. Sensitive groundwater recharge areas exist in the general areas of Fleming Creek, the Huron River, and eastern edge of the Township. Movement of water through the soil and subsurface material is moderate to rapid, which can leave little opportunity to filter pollutants. Proposed future development in these particular areas should be evaluated for their affect on recharge aquifers. The exact location of underground aquifers is difficult to determine, and proposed uses may or may not adversely affect the water supply.

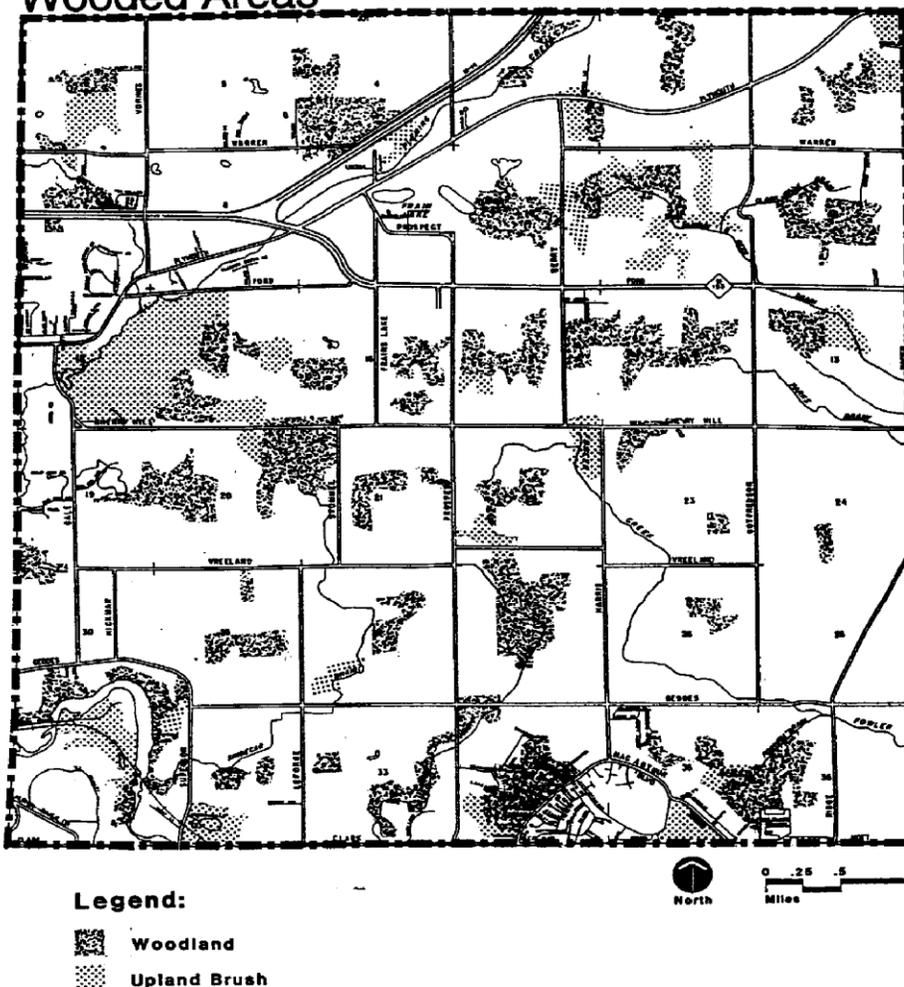
Illustration 8
Drainage and Wetlands



WETLANDS

There are an abundance of wetlands in the Township, most of which are located in the central and northern sections. The value of wetlands in filtering water, reducing runoff and flooding, providing essential wildlife habitat, and recharging groundwater cannot be overestimated. Some of these areas are forested, as defined by the Washtenaw County Planning Advisory Board (WCPAB) (ten percent tree cover). In addition, many of the wetlands are contiguous to lakes, rivers, and streams or are five acres or greater in size, placing them under regulation of state law. The WCPAB has determined that many of these wetlands are important for storm water storage. The WCPAB has also determined that some of these have been negatively impacted by agricultural practices and development. Superior Township adopted a wetlands ordinance in 1998 to specifically protect these delicate areas of the township.

Illustration 9
Wooded Areas



VEGETATION

Woodlands of five acres or greater in size cover 9.24 percent of Superior Township (1979 WCMPC). The 60 major wood lots, representing 22,678 acres, are comprised of oak-hickory, beech-maple, and river flood plain associations. Much of the woodland area is contained in remnant patches along drains and in agricultural fields, or in narrow corridors. Much of the more significant concentrations are associated with wetlands. While wooded areas are scattered throughout the Township, the majority are found in the more rural northern half. In a state that was once 95 percent forested, we must be concerned with preserving what remains of our woodlands. Woodlands provide a diverse environment for man, animals and plants, protect fragile slopes and lowlands from erosion and siltation, modify the environment from climate extremes, and enrich the soil. They provide visual diversity to the landscape as well. The natural areas should be preserved for what they are, and efforts should be made to link isolated patches to form vegetative and wildlife corridors. These areas could be used for nature study in

a passive recreation system, and a trail network could be incorporated with this greenbelt corridor. The Township has adopted ordinances that help in protecting these valuable resources.

WILDLIFE

Many mammals, amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl, birds of prey, game birds, and song birds inhabit Superior Township through its interconnected system of woodlands, wetlands, and fields. Some fish species can be found in the few open water bodies of sufficient size and depth, as well as in the Huron River and Fleming Creek.

Hunting with firearms is a popular recreational activity in Superior Township. Deer, rabbits and game birds are most commonly hunted. Most of this activity occurs on private lands and is restricted in the Township by ordinance.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The visual resources of Superior Township are strongly related to the rural character of the area. The Township is characterized by gently rolling topography, large open fields often separated by wood lots and hedgerows, remnant orchards, and marshes creating a diversity of land cover and contrast in height of materials. These are elements which are interesting, pleasing to the human eye and valued by residents. As there is presently little opportunity for experiencing this visual character from within, most of it is experienced through view sheds. Viewing opportunities are presented while driving down rural roads, with an abundance of fields, woodlands, and areas of open water. Such viewing opportunities are becoming rarer in surrounding communities, many of which have experienced development booms.

CONCLUSION

Despite past development, Superior Township still is an area rich in physical features. It has an interesting mix of woodlands, wetlands and fields creating a very pleasant rural character. The natural and open space systems and patterns created should be recognized in planning recreation facilities. These areas can provide residents with parks, recreation, and open space systems which can be used as a tool to preserve natural elements and rural character. The physical diversity available in the Township is especially unique in terms of rapidly-developing surrounding communities. It is in the best interests of the Township to unify efforts in Planning, Parks, Administration, and the private sector toward preservation of these assets.

SECTION III

RECREATION INVENTORY

PARK STANDARDS

The following classification system is based on recommendations in Roger A. Lancaster's Recreation, Park and Open space Standards and Guidelines, 1983. They have been modified to better fit the particular characteristics of Superior Township and the needs of its residents.

Mini-Park. A mini-park is a small recreational area of less than two acres.* It typically has some play equipment, such as a climbing structure or swings, or a basketball court, but no active game fields. It is intended to serve only the immediate community within a 1/4 mile radius.

Neighborhood Park. A neighborhood park is an intensive recreational area ranging from two to twenty acres.* It offers extensive opportunities, and includes play equipment, game fields, basketball and tennis courts, and picnic areas. Most are capable of serving a population within a 1/2 mile* radius.

Community Park. A community park is a large recreational area of 15 to 50 acres* offering a variety in recreation, including play equipment, game fields, basketball and tennis courts, picnic areas, natural areas, and nature trails. A park of this kind is likely to be frequented by people within a one mile* radius.

Township Park** A township park is a multi-purpose facility for intense recreation. It is an athletic complex for field games and court games associated with intensive programming. This facility contains a special feature that people would be willing to drive to, such as a nature area, water access, a golf course, a softball complex or a community center building. A community center would potentially house a gymnasium, swimming pool and meeting rooms. This facility is intended to serve a majority of the township.

Regional/Metropolitan Park. A regional park reserve is an area of relatively undeveloped quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, trail uses, and possibly active play areas. Generally 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development. It is an area of 1000 or more acres serving several communities within one hour driving time.

Nature Preserve/Wildlife Sanctuary. A nature preserve/wildlife sanctuary can vary in size from a mini-park to as large as a regional park***. It is an area to be set aside primarily to function as a

means of preserving undisturbed open space and/or specific habitat. It may include, but should not be restricted to, water resources, meadows, upland brush, woodlands, and wetlands. It would include only minimal facilities, such as paths or access points. These areas could range from one or two acres up to 1000 or more, and would serve all communities by preserving our natural heritage. Bio-diversity and habitat continuity should be stressed; human intrusion should be minimal.

* Standard adjusted to meet local needs or capabilities.

** Standard not included in Lancaster's Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines.

*** Standard added by Superior Township Park Commission.

TABLE 3
FACILITY STANDARDS

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Number</u>
Outdoor Basketball Court*	1 per 3,000 people
Indoor Basketball Court*	1 per 3,000 people
Tennis Court*	1 per 3,000 people
Softball Field*	1 per 2,000 people
Baseball Field	1 per 5,000 people
Soccer Field*	1 per 3,000 people
Football Field*	1 per 20,000 people
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000 people
Volleyball Court	1 per 5,000 people
Indoor Ice Rink	1 per 51,000 people or per region
Outdoor Ice Rink (Artificial)*	1 per 20,000 people
Swimming pool*	1 per 20,000 people
18-Hole Golf Course*	1 per 25,000 people
Rifle Range	1 per 50,000 people
Archery Range	1 per 50,000 people
Nature Trails	1 system per region
Horseback Riding Trails*	1 system per 9,000 people
Cross Country Ski Trails*	1 system per 9,000 people
Fishing Access*	2 locations per township
Community Center*	1 per township
Bicycle Trails*	Continuous system connecting recreational, educational and community facilities and other points of general community interest.
Picnic Areas*	Areas developed according to public interest and site availability.
Parking*	Adequate parking should be provided at most recreation or open space sites. Number of spaces will depend upon the intensity and type of site use.

REFERENCE: Seymour Gold, Roger A. Lancaster, Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards, DNR

* Standard adjusted to fit local needs and capabilities.

RECREATION RESOURCES

FACILITIES

Since the Parks and Recreation Department was formed in 1974, its primary responsibility has been park maintenance.

In the last few years more effort has been made to improve conditions at parks, provide better play equipment, and acquire more park land. Not until 1987 was a serious attempt made to offer programs as a service to Superior Township's residents. Since then, progress has been made in this area to accommodate Township residents' needs with a limited budget. Demand for improved facilities has accompanied this increase in programming and use of parks. Currently facilities are adequate at some of the Township's parks but insufficient or in disrepair at others. Table 3 illustrates the features of each park.

TABLE 4

PARK FEATURES

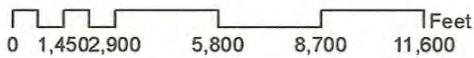
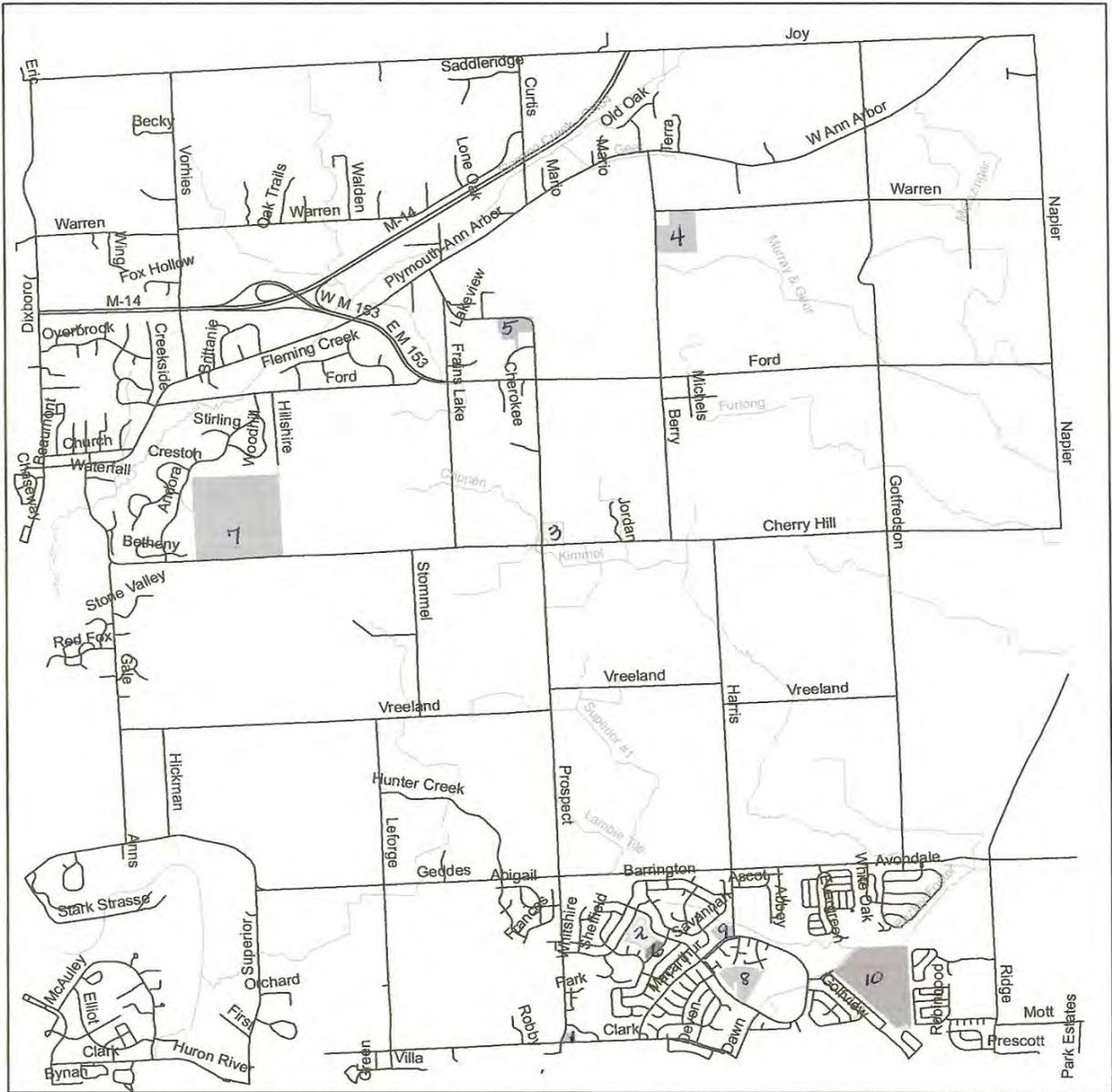
PARK	Acres	Bathroom	Comm. Bldg.	Shelter	Picnic Area	Water	Parking	Benches	Play Equip.	Tennis Court	Basketball	Ball Field	Bleachers	Open Field	Trails	Nature Area	Garden Plots
Community	18				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	
Fireman's	5	◆	◆		◆		◆							◆		◆	
Harvest Moon	31.5			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆			◆		◆	
Norfolk	3.6			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆						◆	◆	
Schroeter	32.7						◆							◆	◆	◆	
Schock/Old Township Hall	5	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆						◆		◆	
Cherry Hill Nature Preserve	160						◆	◆						◆	◆	◆	
Oakbrook	11.4				◆	◆		◆	◆			◆		◆			
North Prospect	15.0													◆	◆	◆	

ILLUSTRATION 10



SUPERIOR
TOWNSHIP

Charter Township of Superior Parks



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CALL (734) 480 - 5502



Superior Township Parks

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Parks Administration Building | 6 Norfolk Park |
| 2 Oakbrook Park | 7 Cherry Hill Preserve |
| 3 Schock Park & Old Township Hall | 8 Community Park |
| 4 Schroeter Park | 9 Fireman's Park & Maintenance Shop |
| 5 North Prospect Park | 10 Harvest Moon Park |

Oakbrook Park (2 on map). Oakbrook Park, a neighborhood park, was acquired in an exchange with the Willow Run School District for property adjacent to Cheney School in the late 1980s. Previously a vacant, not maintained field, the Township workers and volunteers cleaned it, graded it, and had it seeded. The Township was awarded a grant in 1990 to develop the park. It now has a picnic area, a seating area, a drinking fountain, play equipment, a ball field, and an open field for organized and unorganized activities(see Illustration 20 for the park layout).

Community Park (8 on map). As a neighborhood park, Community Park receives intense use. It is located in a heavily populated urban area. Of its 18 acres, about 10 acres are open, and these are heavily used. The remainder of the property is wooded with informal trails running through to surrounding neighborhoods. Open areas of the park include a ball field, play equipment, and a tennis court. See Illustration 21 for the park layout.

Fireman's Park (9 on map). This small neighborhood park has access to community room and bathrooms at the fire station, which makes it convenient for special events and regularly scheduled recreation programs. In addition, a parking lot and field are available. The Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti Public Library is also housed here, allowing for joint participation of events. See Illustration 22 for the park layout.

Harvest Moon Park (10 on map). Harvest Moon, also a neighborhood park, is the largest neighborhood park in the system, although only about 10 acres are used by the Harvest Lane neighborhood. A grant obtained from the Michigan DNR allowed for improvements to this park, including the establishment of a wetland and grading, which helped alleviate drainage problems. Installation of a new basketball court and the addition of benches and paved walkways were also done at that time. The park has a shaded picnic area, a new play structure, the only outdoor basketball court on Township property, and informal trails through the woods. See Illustration 23 for the park layout.

Norfolk Park (6 on map). Norfolk Park is a small neighborhood park which has a portion of open space. It has a shelter which is used by the neighborhood as well as by people in surrounding communities. The area is used for picnicking, and is connected by a path to Oakbrook Park. See Illustration 20 for the park layout.

Schroeter Park (4 on map). Schroeter Park, a regional park, is an undeveloped natural area which is mainly used by horseback riders, walkers, and cross-country skiers. It has trails through a

field and woodland for horseback riding, skiing, and hiking. See Illustration 19 for the park layout.

Schock Park/Township Hall (3 on map). Schock Park, used as a community park, is located in the center of the Township. It has a picnic area and a display of antique farming equipment. The maintenance shop for the Parks Department is housed on this property. In addition, it is a historical site, as the old township hall building is located on the property. This historic facility functions as a meeting room and has been used to house some of the summer recreation programs.

Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (7 on map). Located in the northwestern part of the township on Cherry Hill Road, this nature preserve is approximately 160 acres and was purchased in 1998, in collaboration with the Superior Land Conservancy and the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, through a grant from the Michigan DNR. The property has a variety of terrain, from wetlands to woods and meadows and is home to a variety of wildlife. A trail system has been established and improvements such as bridges have been added with help from local community groups and Eagle Scouts.

North Prospect Park (5 on map). Located in the northwestern part of the township on Prospect Road, north of Ford Road, this newest park is an undeveloped natural area, which is used principally for walkers. Rough trails have been cut.

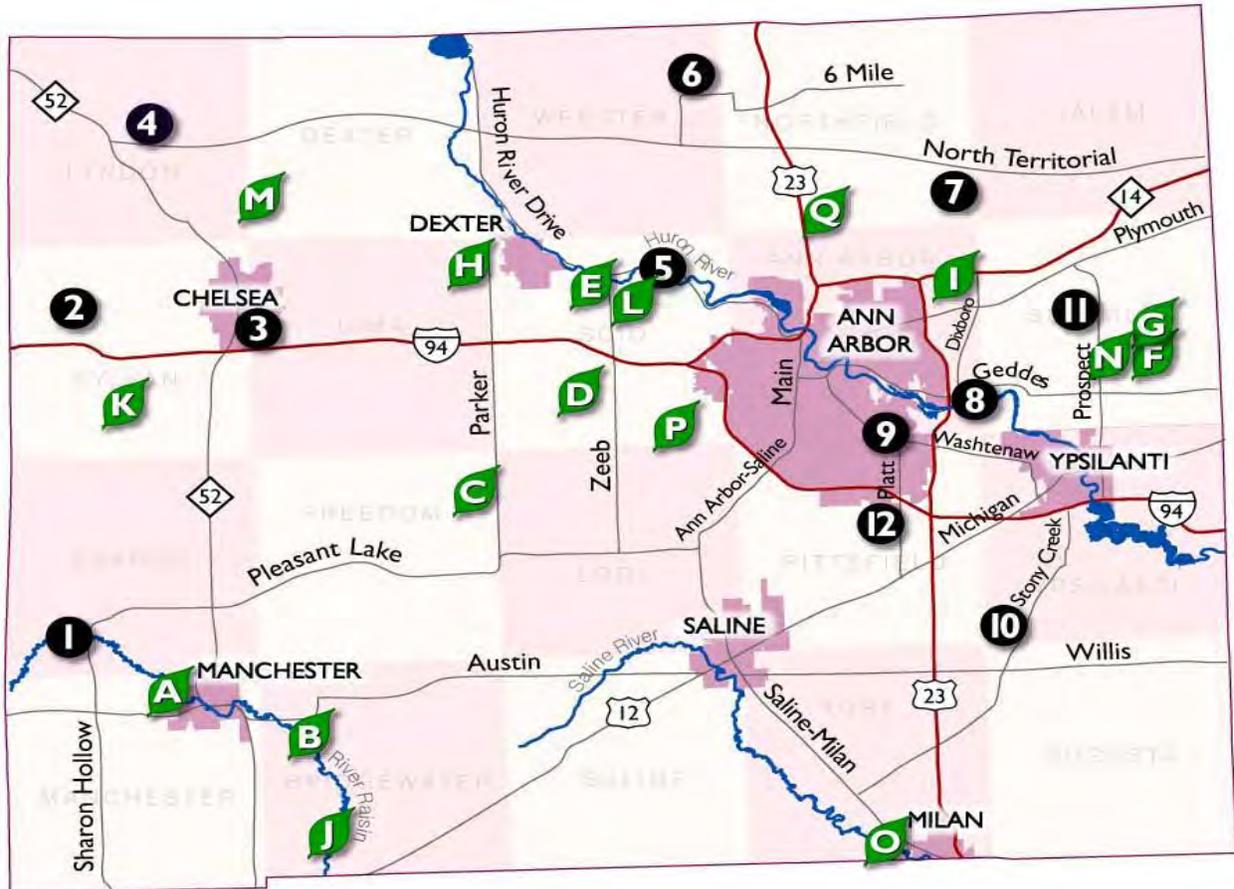
LOCAL LAND CONSERVANCIES

In recent years, Superior Land Conservancy, along with its parent organization, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, as well as the Superior Land Preservation Society, have protected significant acreage within the Township. Many of these protected areas are accessible for passive use by the public, including the LeFurge Property, the Conservancy Farm and Springhill Nature Preserve. Regular events, such as spring and winter walks and full-moon campfires are hosted by these local groups.

COUNTY HELD PROPERTIES

Washtenaw County owns passive use properties in the Township. These include the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve and the Meyer Preserve.

**ILLUSTRATION 11
WASHTENAW COUNTY RECREATION**



- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Sharon Mills Park | A. Leonard Preserve |
| 2. Cavanaugh Lake Park | B. Ervin-Stucki Preserve |
| 3. Pierce Lake Golf Course & Park | C. Brauer Preserve |
| 4. Park Lyndon | D. DeVine Preserve |
| 5. Osborne Mill Park | E. Burns-Stokes Preserve |
| 6. Independence Lake Park | F. LeFurge Woods Preserve |
| 7. Park Northfield | G. Kosch-Headwaters Preserve |
| 8. Parker Mil Park | H. Miller & Smith Preserve |
| 9. County Farm Park/Meri Lou Murray Rec. Center | I. Raymond F. Goodrich Preserve |
| 10. Rolling Hills Water Park | J. Riverbend Preserve |
| 11. Superior Center | K. Squiers Preserve |
| 12. Swift Run Dog Park | L. Fox Science Preserve |
| | M. West Lake Preserve |
| | N. Meyer Preserve |
| | O. Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve |
| | P. Scio Woods Preserve |
| | Q. Northfield Woods Preserve |

OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES

Washtenaw County. Washtenaw County offers a variety of recreational opportunities throughout its geographical boundaries. Several county owned parks are located in the Township (see Illustration 11).

Schools. The Township is served by four school districts: Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Plymouth-Canton, and Willow Run. Approximately seventy-five percent of the Township's population resides in the Willow Run Community School District. These four districts do provide recreation resources, however, they are not accessible to all residents. See Illustration 3 on page 26.

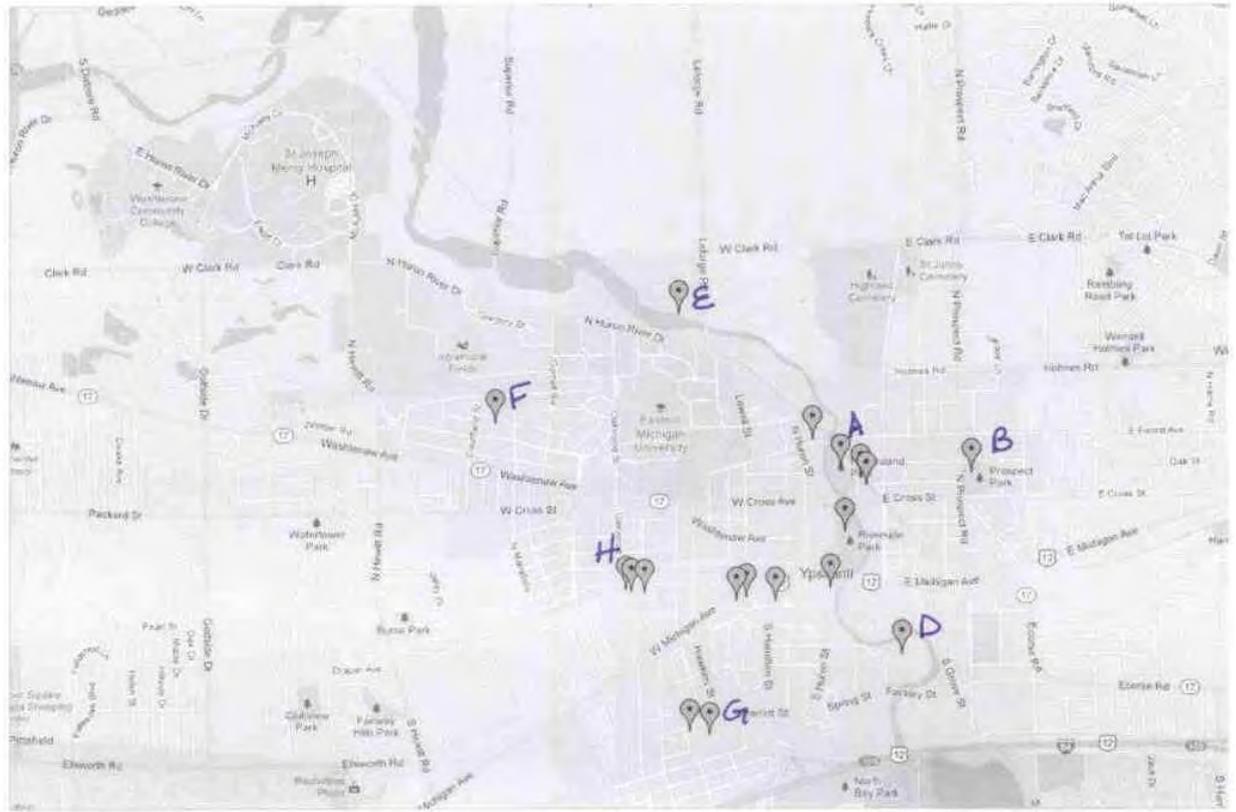
Until recently, Cheney Academy was the only public school operating in Superior Township. Cheney, which belongs to Willow Run Community Schools and was located in the southeastern part of the Township, was closed in 2011. It housed playground facilities, gym, ball fields, and classrooms, which were available to the community by arrangement, but these are no longer accessible. Freeman School, located in the northwestern portion of the Township, is not currently used by the Ann Arbor School District as an education facility, however the school does have indoor and outdoor recreational facilities which are presently not available to the Township for programming. Willow Run Community Schools owns a parcel on Harris Road which could potentially be used by the Township for recreation.

Private and Quasi-Public Recreation. The following sources offer a variety of special recreational opportunities in the Township:

- Radrick Farms Golf Course - University of Michigan
- Matthaei Botanical Gardens - University of Michigan
- Huron Valley Tennis Club
- Plymouth Orchards (hayrides, petting farm)
- The "Green" (playground, ice rink) - Dixboro United Methodist Church
- Girl Scouts of America
- Boy Scouts USA
- 4-H Clubs
- Murray Lake Club and boat rental
- Catherine McAuley Health Center (ball field, nature trails)
- Arbor-Joy Golf Driving Range

The City of Ypsilanti. The City of Ypsilanti also satisfies recreational needs for some of Superior Township residents. Ypsilanti owns eight facilities located on Illustration 12.

ILLUSTRATION 12 CITY OF YPSILANTI PARKS

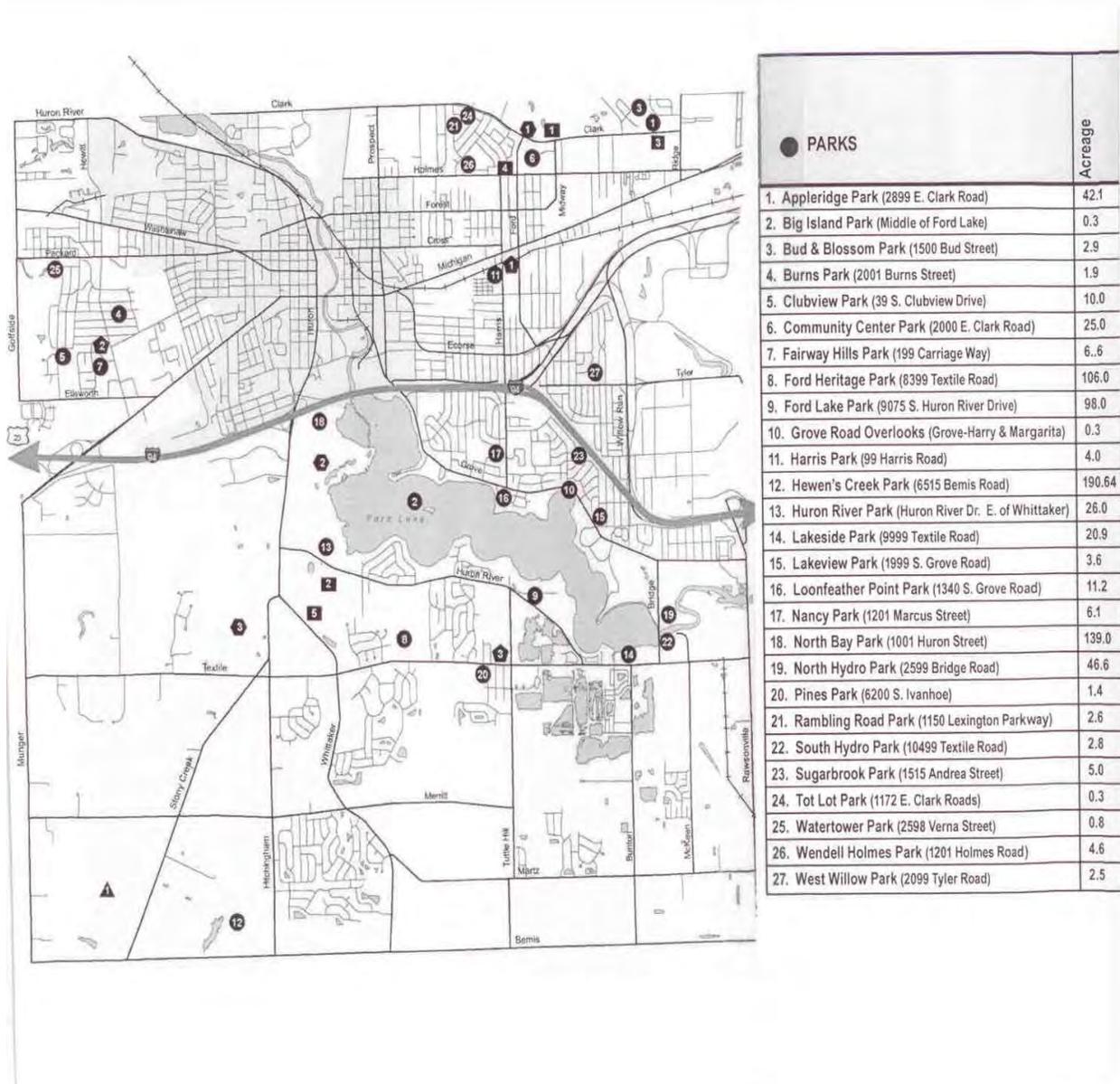


- A. Frog Island Park
- B. Prospect Park
- C. Riverside Park
- D. Waterworks Park
- E. Peninsula Park
- F. Candy Cane Park
- G. Parkridge Park
- H. Recreation Park

College & University Facilities. Washtenaw Comm. College, Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan are close to Superior Township. Washtenaw Comm. College has a recreational facility available by membership. Both universities have extensive recreation facilities, however, these facilities are not readily available to Superior Township residents. Residents may take advantage of some programs offered by the universities, particularly in the area of spectator sports. Both universities have facilities which host a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational and athletic programs. These facilities are used to full capacity by the universities for their own educational needs. Therefore, use by Superior Township residents is limited by actual available time left open for the general public. Township residents may take advantage of either university's facilities by following the policies set forth by the host university. A user pass is required by both universities to gain access to facilities.

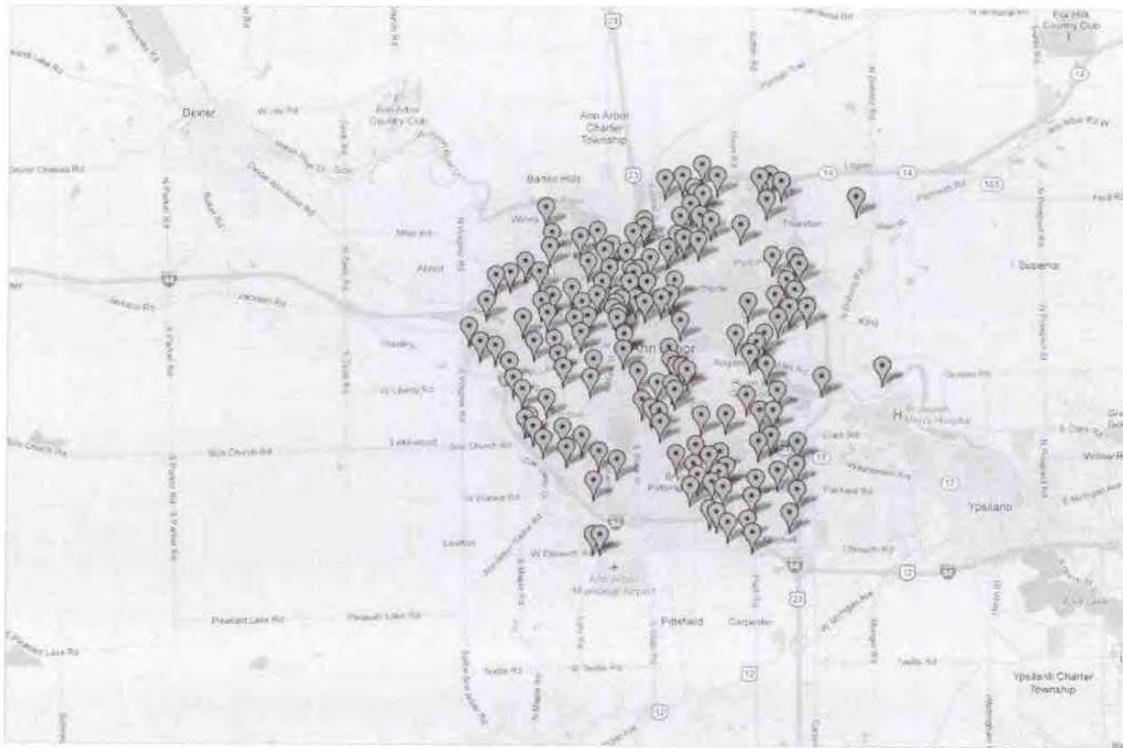
Ypsilanti Township. Ypsilanti Township operates a number of recreational facilities to serve its residents. In 1990, the Joint Ypsilanti Recreation Organization, JYRO, came under the direction of Ypsilanti Township. All of the parks located around Ford Lake are water-based recreation facilities. Illustration 13 shows the locations of Ypsilanti Township parks. Following is a listing of facilities operated by Ypsilanti Township:

**ILLUSTRATION 13
YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP PARKS**



City of Ann Arbor. Ann Arbor has a substantial recreation system totaling 146 park and school facilities. Illustration 14 indicates those parks operated by Ann Arbor:

**ILLUSTRATION 14
ANN ARBOR PARKS**



City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Sites
 Google Map for City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Sites
 Public - 34,106 views
 Created on Oct 2, 2008 · By Ann Arbor · Updated Jun 30, 2009

-  Allmendinger
More info
-  Ann Arbor Senior Center
More info
-  Arbor Hills Nature Area
More info
-  Arbor Oaks
More info
-  Arboretum Nature Area
More info
-  Argo Nature Area
More info
-  Badër
More info
-  Bandemer
More info
-  Barton Nature Area
More info
-  Baxter
More info
-  Beckley
More info
-  Belize
More info
-  Berkshire Creek Nature Area
More info
-  Bird Hills Nature Area
More info
-  Black Pond Woods Nature Area
More info

RECREATION PROGRAMS

As late as 1988, Superior Township Parks and Recreation offered no structured recreation and leisure opportunities in any of the Superior Township parks.

After a change in administration late in 1988, the Parks and Recreation Commission developed a dynamic strategy to directly respond to the Township's need for quality recreation and leisure opportunities in its parks. The strategy for program development hinged in building a "core user group" that would not over-burden the limited staff and facilities of the department, while at the same time gaining additional public awareness of the Parks and Recreation Commission's role in enhancing the quality of life in Superior Township. As this user group matured, there would be a natural progression in needs for additional programming and, in turn, increased facility development to meet programming demands. Limited budget and changes in personnel resulted in refinements to this plan, but the core sentiments remain. Current offerings are limited to Parks hosted events, with an effort to stage these programs in a variety of parks and include as many residents as possible.

The first step in program development has been to target the age group that would meet the "core user group" requirements. Five to 14 year-olds are a target age group for several reasons:

1. There was a stated need from Township residents.
2. Programming could be done within limitations imposed by facilities and budgets.
3. There is a large concentration of young families in the areas of Superior Township that are most highly populated.
4. Involving young children in recreation programs creates parental involvement.

Since the adoption of this strategy, the Parks and Recreation Commission has continually re-evaluated the effectiveness of programs, and has shifted focus and innovated offerings, concentrating especially on programming for young children and at-risk youth.

In its initial efforts, Parks adopted the traditional method of "building" a department through sports programs was the chosen path, but with a twist. Parks and Recreation decided to develop its own particular place in the market by offering youth sports programs that emphasize personal growth, teamwork, and skill building rather than competition, as outlined in the National Standards For Youth Sports. The department has always been committed to providing a personal experience to its participants through accessible staff and administration. Parks and Recreation youth sports programs strive to involve the entire family in the experience through

community-based events.

Youth programs are also neighborhood-oriented. This accomplishes a secondary goal of getting residents into the parks in their neighborhood on a regular basis, leading to increased casual, non-programmed active and passive use of the park and a greater awareness of the park system.

In addition to sports programs, there is also an easily identifiable void in positive leisure opportunities available to school-aged children immediately after school, during the evenings, and on weekends. These times, in addition to daytime hours during summer vacation, offer no structured programming for children aged 4-14 years. Accordingly, Parks and Recreation for many years offered a summer recreational program based on an educational model with equal components of games, sports, arts and crafts, and culturally enriching activities. This program was quite successful, but when the local school systems offered free summer programs, our Summer Learning Camp lost enough participants that this offering was reevaluated.

Currently, we hold monthly special events during the summer that vary from year to year, depending on the interests of the community. Each event provides an activity, refreshments and a take-away art project or prize for each child. Events are held in various parks, to provide the broadest coverage possible.

Superior Township does not have an easily-identifiable concentration of special populations in the sense of mental and mobility impairments. However, recognizing that there are such individuals in our community, we are making every effort through building renovation, program offerings and park amendments to accommodate all residents in compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act."

Also, Parks and Recreation must deal with the realities of a large segment of its youth population which is considered "high risk" due to the environment in which they live. In addition to the special considerations of programming to expose the children in this group to positive, enriching experiences often lacking in their home environment, programs must deal with behavioral problems that are a result of emotional impairments, and provide leisure education as well. Nutrition is also a concern for many of these children. Because Cheney Academy in Superior Township qualifies for federal lunch programs, Parks and Recreation has been able to take advantage of a federal program to provide lunches and snacks to playgrounds in the southeastern section of the Township during our Summer Learning Camp at no cost (except

administrative) to the Department. The playground program, which serves this segment, has in the past relied largely on the Park Commission's ability to secure grants through various public and private funding sources. In addition to these programs, Superior Township has joined with other neighborhoods in the area in applying for grants and developing joint programs for at-risk youth. Currently, with funding sources increasingly scarce, the Commission has had to scale back on some of its programs, but continues to serve at-risk youth with its summer special programs.

Superior Township's senior population is served by long-established programs in Dixboro, Ann Arbor Township, Ypsilanti Township and in the City of Ann Arbor. Seniors also benefit through Parks and Recreation's association with the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, which provides traveling opportunities for senior citizens. Parks is currently working on plans for additional programs to serve seniors, in cooperation with other local service organizations.

The spirit of cooperation between the Parks and Recreation Department and the administration of Willow Run Community Schools has allowed increased access to the School District's facilities in the past. This expanded the Department's ability to provide programs to adults and school aged children that it would not otherwise be able to offer. However, the current economic climate has resulted in the closing of schools, which makes these cooperative ventures less likely in the near future.

The philosophy of the Parks and Recreation Commission reflects its belief that offering a variety of recreation and leisure opportunities greatly enhances the quality of life for all Township residents. It is the goal of the Parks and Recreation Commission to continue to provide programs that offer a balance of sports, enrichment, and cultural opportunities to the residents of Superior Township.

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation programs and facilities that will set the standard for the future development of the Township. It is this dedication to excellence and growth that has shaped the recreation plans that will serve Superior Township Parks and Recreation in the future.

Superior Township currently offers a variety of programs to its residents in the way of youth and adult activities and special events. Program offerings have changed over the years, and will continue to change in response to community needs and feedback. There are no fees associated with these programs in order to allow accessibility to all. The following is a listing of

the programs scheduled to be offered in 2012:

TABLE 5
RECREATION PROGRAM INVENTORY

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>PARK</u>	<u>ACTIVITY/PROGRAM/EVENT</u>
April	Fireman's	Easter Egg Hunt
June	Fireman's	Kites & Rockets
July	Oakbrook	Kickball
August	Community	Basketball
October	Norfolk	Pumpkin Carving

OTHER RECREATION PROGRAMS

Ypsilanti Township. Historically, Ypsilanti Township Parks and Recreation has been linked to the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission by its ability to provide recreation programs and facilities the Superior Township Parks and Recreation department was unable to provide to its own residents due to a lack of funding for staff and facilities.

Today, Ypsilanti Township Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of recreation and leisure services for youth, adults, and senior citizens. Youth sports leagues include soccer, basketball, t-ball, coaches pitch, softball, youth pitched baseball, track and field. League programs are competitive in nature with the goal of preparing participants for a higher level of play. Ypsilanti Township Parks and Recreation has a well-established dance program at its civic arena. The Ypsilanti Township Civic Arena and outdoor facilities host adult sports leagues as well as drop-in recreation at the gymnasium and racquetball courts.

Local Recreation Groups. Over the years, Superior Township Parks have also been host to various recreational groups, including soccer and softball teams.

Local School Districts. Ann Arbor, Plymouth, Ypsilanti, and Willow Run Schools provide educational and swimming programs for Superior Township residents in their jurisdiction.

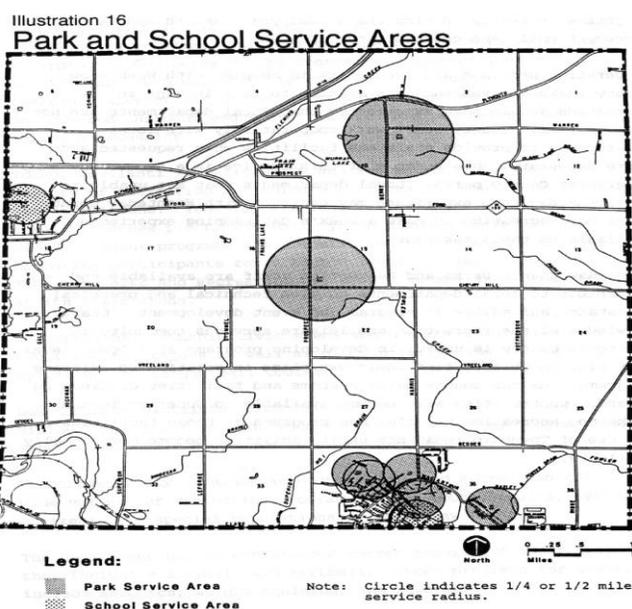
Washtenaw County. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of recreation programming for youth, adults, senior citizens, and special populations in Washtenaw County.

The department has an established co-rec program of adult leagues that include volleyball and softball. Other programs for adults include aerobics, weight training, and aquatics.

Programming for youth begins with tumbling/movement classes and arts and crafts for children as young as 3 years old. The County works in cooperation with the Ann Arbor Public Schools to provide lunchtime recreation during the school year. Youth sports include soccer, t-ball, and coaches pitch leagues.

Cooperative programs and events are in keeping with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation's mission to fill in gaps in recreation and leisure experiences that local departments are not able to fill. County staff work cooperatively with local departments to provide staff and facilities when requested and where necessary. One example of this service is a summer day camp program at County parks. Local departments that are unable to provide a day camp experience may contract with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation to make a week's day camping experience available to their residents.

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation staff are available and accessible to local departments to give technical and practical assistance and advice in program and event development. Staff knowledge of the recreation and leisure services community in Washtenaw County is useful in developing programs at a local level that will be able to find their own place in relation to existing programs. As the county parks systems and facilities continue to expand, opportunities will become available to Superior Township Parks and Recreation to offer new programs at those facilities for the use of Township residents until facilities become more locally available.



SECTION IV

RECREATION DEFICIENCIES AND POTENTIALS

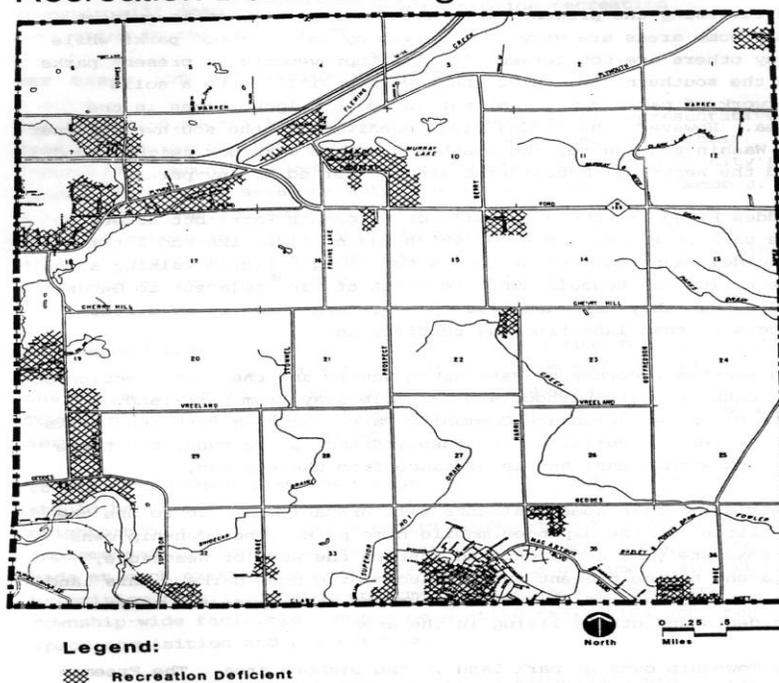
Parks, recreation and open space deficiencies were determined through several investigations and comparisons. They were evaluated by mapping both neighborhoods that are served by facilities and neighborhoods that are not currently accommodated. Meetings were held with Township officials and the Planning Consultant to determine prospective growth and increases in population. Areas that are or might be deficient in park land were identified. Existing area plans for future development have also been studied. Assessments of land that is presently owned by the Township, but not developed, were made. There is much pressure for development in the Township. Recognizing this, the current Township government has been careful to take into consideration the effects of development on the character of the area. Large developments are strongly encouraged to include open space and tot lots to provide recreational opportunities to the residents.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS PROJECTED WITH PARK POTENTIAL

Several new developments are planned for the near future in the Township. These are either in the current planning stages or have already been approved.

- 1. Autumn Woods** - 64 attached units on 20 acres at Prospect and Clark
Status: Construction ongoing.
- 2. Bromley Park Condominiums** - 228 attached units on 50.7 acres at Geddes and Gotfredson Road
Status: Construction ongoing.
- 3. Brookside** - 371 single family detached houses on 138.8 acres at Prospect and Geddes
Status: Construction ongoing
- 4. Golfview** - 196 single family detached houses on 45.9 acres off of Wiard Rd.
Status: Construction ongoing
- 5. Prospect Pointe** - 374 single family detached houses 168 acres at the southwest corner of Prospect and Geddes
Status: Construction ongoing.

Illustration 17
Recreation Deficient Neighborhoods



RECREATION DEFICIENT NEIGHBORHOODS

In reviewing the present plans and developments, it is evident that some areas are very well served by neighborhood parks while many others are not served at all. Improvements in present parks in the southern portion of the Township will create a solid network of parks capable of serving most neighborhoods in the area. However, the Geddes Ridge subdivision, the southwest corner of Washington Square, the south end of the Oakbrook neighborhood, Prospect Pointe subdivision and the WestRidge Mobile Park are not served by any parks.

Geddes Ridge is within 1/2 mile of Fireman's Park. Access to the park is via Harris Road, which now has a non-motorized trail. The Willow Run Schools own five acres of land adjacent to Geddes Ridge, but they have not developed it, and there is no direct access to that land from the subdivision.

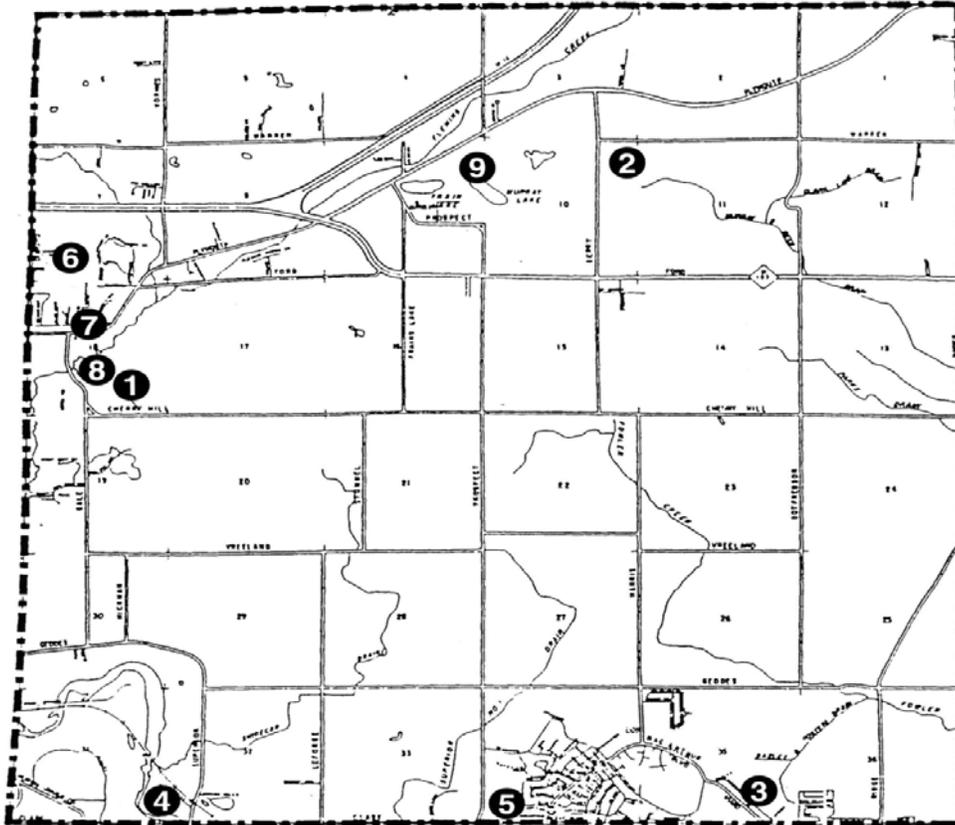
The southwest corner of Washington Square and the south section of the Oakbrook neighborhood are 1/2 mile away from park land. Within a mile radius are Community Park, Oakbrook Park and Cheney School playground, but these are not within easy access distance from these areas.

The Township owns no park land in the Dixboro area. The Freeman School site of 40 acres has playground equipment which is used by the local residents, along with a nature area. The

Dixboro Methodist Church owns the Village Green in Dixboro, which is used for community gatherings, as well as a tot lot for the Co-operative Nursery School. There is also a ball field. As this area expands and more people move in, the Township will need to consider how to provide recreation activities to this population.

Illustration 18

Potential Parks & Recreation



POTENTIAL PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

1. *Cherry Hill Nature Preserve*. This 160 acre property was officially placed in the Park Commission purview after acquisition through a joint effort of the Superior Land Conservancy, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and Superior Township. Trails have been established and features such as boardwalks and bridges have been added to this exquisite nature preserve to enhance its value as a passive use park. Current planned improvements are for greater access for visitors who may be physically challenged. Cherry Hill will continue to provide

- residents with a publicly accessible wildlife/nature preserve.
2. *Schroeter Park*. This park can be improved as a community park in the future to better serve the northern neighborhoods as they grow. With its special natural character and its potential to be linked through an open space plan, this park could be a centerpiece for a more extensive park system. This park could also benefit from trail improvements
 3. *Harvest Moon Park*. This neighborhood park borders on the WestRidge Mobile Home Park. An organized trail system and thinning of vegetation to increase visibility could make the playground accessible to WestRidge residents. As a more local facility would be preferable, it would be possible to develop the southeast end of the property for active recreation. This approach would still leave a large section of wooded area between the two active portions.
 4. *Superior Road*. This property is located between the Huron River and First Street. It would give the Township its much desired river access. It would also continue an important conservation link between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. With its special water feature, this could be a township park facility, however acquisition of property here is unlikely.
 5. *Parks and Recreation Building*. As parks' needs increase, a dedicated building for Parks and Recreation activities needs to be established. Current negotiations are proceeding with Superior Township, Ypsilanti Public Library and Willow Run Public Schools in the hopes of a potential agreement among the parties which will benefit all in this endeavor. Other options include possibly reworking an existing Township building for this purpose.
 6. *Freeman School*. The Ann Arbor School District no longer uses this property as an elementary school. It is now leased to local organizations. The Township has used the classroom and playground facilities in the past, and it is possible to pursue a lease arrangement with the School District to establish a neighborhood park for the Tanglewood/Dixboro area.
 7. *The "Green"*. The "Green" in Dixboro is a playground operated by the Dixboro United Methodist Church. This area has been used cooperatively with Parks and Recreation in the past. Cooperative efforts could be expanded in the future to provide recreational opportunities to the northern communities in the Township.
 8. *Murray Lake*. A park on Murray Lake would serve a local need and Township-wide need for water access.
 9. *Conservancy Lands*. Parks and Recreation has worked cooperatively in the past with the Superior Land Conservancy to establish programs that benefit both

groups. Superior Land Conservancy and Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy own approximately 400 acres in the Township suitable for passive recreation, along with other acreage protected as conservation easements. Cooperative efforts could be expanded in the future.

SECTION V

GOALS AND POLICIES

The mission of the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide, to all people within the Township, recreation and park opportunities that will enhance the quality of life, promote greater enjoyment and happiness within individuals and family groups and sustain greater mental and physical health for residents of the Township.

The goals and policies for this plan are derived to meet the challenge of the Commission's mission. They were developed by considering all the resources available and desires and needs of the people for parks, recreation and open space facilities.

Goal 1:

Broaden the range of recreational facilities to achieve a balance in opportunities offered to all citizens. Provide an optimal level of recreation services with available resources. Parks and programs shall meet the needs of all people in the Township.

- a. Design parks and recreation programs to meet the needs of all users regardless of age, sex, race, religion, socio-economic position, national origin, sensory, physical or mental capabilities and location of residence in the Township.
- b. Maintain and rehabilitate existing facilities and programs to increase public enjoyment and ensure public safety.
- c. Develop current facilities and acquire new facilities to meet unfilled demand, and satisfy recreation deficient areas.
- d. Offer a balance of accessible recreational opportunities to individuals, families and groups in passive and active recreation, structured and non-structured activities in a variety of locations and times.
- e. Provide opportunities that are responsive to changing community needs.
- f. Perform an annual formal evaluation of existing activities and facilities.
- g. Seek universally designed facilities intended to cover the full range of the life span for

- potential users and increased opportunities for the handicapped.
- h. Initiate a Township-wide sign system to identify park facilities and to provide visitor direction to reach those facilities.
 - i. Identify potential park and recreation areas within the Township, and establish a priority for their acquisition, development and funding.
 - j. Create programs that allow for overlap and sharing of costs and facilities. Indoor facilities should be multi-functional and changing seasonal use of facilities should be accommodated.
 - k. Implement a wide range of recreation programs for the elderly utilizing already established senior programs.
 - l. Provide opportunities that stimulate and sustain good mental and physical health, promote greater enjoyment and happiness, and instill positive social values.
 - m. Encourage participation of the Township residents by keeping them informed about park locations, recreation programs and special events.
 - n. Monitor public opinion and needs through the most effective means available (i.e. public hearings, public surveys and population trends).
 - o. Continue to improve park and facility security.
 - p. Install site amenities that will improve facility security and user safety.
 - q. Secure from all residential developers a parkland or monetary contribution toward the development of new recreation facilities.

Goal 2:

There shall be an integrated recreation and open space system.

- a. Linkages should be provided between recreation areas and open space systems in the form of multi-use paths.
- b. Where possible, natural corridors should be planned between open space components to form an open space network for human users, wildlife, vegetation and conservation.
- c. Work to expand collaboration with other groups to facilitate these goals (i.e. Superior Land Conservancy, Superior Land Preservation Society, Washtenaw County and Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy).

Goal 3:

Parks and open space resources shall be fully utilized.

- a. Develop existing parks that are underused or capable of better serving the needs of the community.
- b. Acquire new parkland to serve presently recreation deficient neighborhoods and new residential developments.
- c. Improve accessibility of recreational facilities through path linkages, public transportation, vehicular approach and parking.
- d. Improve accessibility and programming for disadvantaged residents through specialized programs on a low or no cost basis to participants.

Goal 4:

Ensure conservation and preservation of natural resources.

- a. Jointly with other concerned groups provide reasonable access to sensitive natural areas and offer interpretive information to encourage public awareness and to allow for public enjoyment while ensuring the least disturbance to the area.
- b. Attempt to acquire property along the Huron River to help achieve a continuous conservation linkage in cooperation with neighboring agencies.
- c. Attempt to preserve sensitive lands through acquisition, conservation easements, tax incentives and other appropriate land control policies.
- d. Promote the concept that continuity in parkland is compatible not only with preservation of natural resources but with passive recreational activities, such as walking and biking.
- e. Encourage the preservation of visual access zones to parkland and open spaces.
- f. Discourage any dumping in and/or filling of environmentally significant areas that would threaten the ecological balance or appearance of the area.
- g. Continue to seek energy conservation methods and techniques.
- h. Establish a tree replacement and tree identification program.
- i. Work to expand collaboration with other groups to facilitate these goals (i.e. Superior Land Conservancy, Superior Land Preservation Society and Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy).

Goal 5:

Cooperate and coordinate with other agencies and Township residents to provide recreational and open space opportunities. Maximize opportunities and minimize conflict.

- a. Promote the sharing of programs, financial resources and human resources between other governmental jurisdictions and residents, where possible, to realize

economies of effort.

- b. Encourage the private sector to provide recreation and open space facilities for public use.
- c. Provide opportunities for citizen involvement and advice in the planning and implementation of parks, programs, facilities, contracts, leases, administrative practices and policies.
- d. Continue to stress the importance of a positive relationship with the Township Board, schools, and other agencies.
- e. Encourage citizen participation in committees, councils and as program volunteers and parks stewards
- f. Create a master list of volunteers and their skills that could be used to provide increased and improved service to the general public.
- g. Work to expand collaboration with other groups to facilitate these goals (i.e. Superior Land Conservancy, Superior Land Conservation Society and Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy).

Goal 6:

To achieve a sound financial basis.

- a. Consider all possible funding sources to include stable Township funding, a millage, grants, dedication, volunteers, private organizations and user fee assessment.
- b. Seek and explore alternative methods of financing capital improvements, as well as elements of the operating budget.
- c. Ensure eligibility for state and federal funding of open space and recreational facilities by following state and federal guidelines for park, recreation and open space development.
- d. Promote fundraising events.
- e. Work with other agencies in cooperative revenue-generating efforts (i.e. Community Partnership).
- f. Involve local businesses in Parks' projects, when possible.

Goal 7:

To continue to improve the Parks and Recreation Department in order to better serve the residents of Superior Township.

- a. Implement low cost staffing alternatives, such as co-op education, work-study programs, recreation student volunteers and other related programs that will allow for an increase in effectiveness at low cost.

- b. Stress the value of education programs for volunteers, i.e. volunteer coaches should attend coaches clinics for certification and training.
- c. Develop and implement a marketing plan for recreation classes, programs, events and facilities.
- d. Develop a Township-wide public relations program.
- e. Seek participatory management by involving all staff in the budget and decision-making process.
- f. Complete and adopt needed policy, i.e. personnel manual, rules and regulations, by-laws, etc.
- g. Develop a staff training program which is comprehensive in nature, to address all levels of personnel.
- h. Ensure that Parks and Recreation rules and regulations for park and facility use is adopted as a Township ordinance.

SECTION VI

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan makes recommendations for recreation programs, existing park development and improvements, neighborhood park acquisitions and township park acquisition. In addition, it sets standards for maintenance and park facility costs. It also proposes a recreation policy for future developments.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Superior Township Parks and Recreation is dedicated to providing quality programs to residents of Superior Township in Superior Township to meet their stated recreation and leisure needs and priorities.

The goals and objectives of Parks and Recreation's programs vary according to the special needs, both economic and cultural, of the neighborhoods they serve.

The recreation inventory is designed to demonstrate the Parks and Recreation Commission's strategy for program growth over the next five years. Program growth and quality standards depend heavily on the department's ability to work in cooperation with the public school systems, local units of government, and, most importantly, a stable source of funding that allows

for the improvement and expansion of facilities to meet constantly growing, more sophisticated user demands.

Superior Township Parks and Recreation believes that residents of Superior Township deserve quality recreation and leisure opportunities regardless of their economic status or ethnic/cultural backgrounds.

In order to provide quality programs and to increase the benefit of current programs, facilities must be continuously improved and upgraded. As programming continues to grow, facilities will face greater use demands, requiring the addition of amenities such as electricity to expand the hours available for use.

Whenever possible, Superior Township Parks and Recreation seeks to encourage cooperative programming with local recreation and leisure service agencies to avoid duplication of services and to provide residents with programs that the Department cannot offer on its own, due to lack of funding or adequate facilities. Parks and Recreation maintains close ties with other local agencies and governments, including Ypsilanti Township, Community Action Network, Peace Neighborhood Center and Willow Run Schools in order to act as an information network for area programming and events for seniors and special populations.

Superior Township has a limited recreation budget and the current economic situation requires frugal planning. Our goals are more limited, but we remain committed to providing high quality recreational programs and remain optimistic that we will be able to expand these offerings in the future.

TABLE 6

PROJECTED RECREATION PROGRAMS

x = program already in place
 - = no program as yet
 + = program planned to add

SEASON	AGE GROUP	ACTIVITY/PROGRAM/EVENT	12	13	14	15	16	17
SPRING	0-3 yrs.	Playgrounds	X	X	X	X	X	X
	4-8 yrs.	After School Programs	-	-	-	-	+	+
		Nature Study	X	X	X	X	X	X
		Soccer*	X	X	X	X	X	X
	9-12 yrs.	After School Programs	-	-	-	-	+	+
		Softball	-	-	-	-	+	+
		Nature Study	X	X	X	X	X	X
	13-16 yrs.	Cooperative Events	X	X	X	X	X	X
		Softball	-	-	-	-	+	+
		Nature Study	X	X	X	X	X	X
		Nature Study	X	X	X	X	X	X
		Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+
	Families	Special Events	-	+	+	+	+	+
	Seniors	Cooperative Special Events	-	-	+	+	+	+
		Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+

* Parks are made available for this, however we are not overseeing

SEASON	AGE GROUP	ACTIVITY/PROGRAM/EVENT	12	13	14	15	16	17	
SUMMER	0-3 yrs.	Playgrounds	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	4-8 yrs.	Bike Registration, Safety & Rodeo	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		Day Camp	-	-	-	+	+	+	
		Nature Study	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	9-12 yrs.	Playgrounds	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		Soccer*	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		Day Camp	-	-	-	+	+	+	
		Softball	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Nature Study	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	13-16 yrs.	Playgrounds	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		Soccer	-	-	-	+	+	+	
		Nature Study	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		Slow Pitch Softball	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Adults	Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+
	Families	Special Events	-	+	+	+	+	+	
		Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Seniors	Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+

* Parks are made available for this, however we are not overseeing

SEASON	AGE GROUP	ACTIVITY/PROGRAM/EVENT	12	13	14	15	16	17	
FALL	0-3 yrs.	Playgrounds	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	4-8 yrs.	After School Activities	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Basketball Camp	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Nature Study	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	9-12 yrs.	Playgrounds	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		After School Activities	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Basketball Camp	-	-	-	-	+	+	
	13-16 yrs.	Nature Study	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		After School Activities	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Basketball	-	-	-	-	+	+	
	Adults	Nature Study	x	x	x	x	x	x	
		Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+	
		Families	Cooperative Special Events	x	x	x	x	x	x
			Seniors	Cooperative Special Events	x	x	x	x	x
		Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+	

SEASON	AGE GROUP	ACTIVITY/PROGRAM/EVENT	12	13	14	15	16	17
WINTER	0-3 yrs.	Playgrounds	X	X	X	X	X	X
		Nature Study	X	X	X	X	X	X
	9-12 yrs.	After School Activities	-	-	-	-	+	+
		Basketball	-	-	-	-	+	+
	13-16 yrs.	Nature Study	X	X	X	X	X	X
		After School Activities	-	-	-	-	+	+
		Basketball	-	-	-	-	X	X
		Nature Study	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Adults	Walking Club	-	-	-	-	+	+
	Families	Winter Walkabout	-	-	-	+	+	+
	Seniors	Cooperative Events	-	-	+	+	+	+
		Winter Walkabout	-	-	-	+	+	+

PARK MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

In general, there are two levels of maintenance for Superior Township parks. All parks will be assigned a maintenance class in the subsequent individual park action plans. A Class A park requires less maintenance than a Class B park. Table 9 compares yearly costs per acre of maintenance items for Class A and Class B parks. A Class A park costs a total of \$825.00 per acre to maintain each year. It costs 2.5 times the Class A rate to maintain a Class B park each year. Yearly maintenance costs for additional items not common to each park, such as hard courts, would be an added expense. Current park maintenance practices are approaching a Class B level of maintenance for the Township's active recreational areas.

Our current park maintenance plan has an emphasis on using native plants and trees when planting and we are fortunate to have a natural resources consultant, who also provides some of the native plants. Additionally, we have performed prescribed burns in our passive use parks on a regular basis, which has helped promote favorable conditions for native plants. Unfortunately, control of invasive species in these areas is still a constant battle.

TABLE 7
MAINTENANCE CLASSES IN 2012

Maintenance Item	Class A	Class B
Park Inspections	\$ 275.00	\$ 510.00
Litter Control	425.00	540.00
Mowing	340.00	625.00
Vegetation Trimming	-	160.00
Fertilization	-	765.00
Aeration	160.00	160.00
Tree Maintenance	160.00	450.00
General Maintenance/Repair	340.00	765.00
Total	\$1,700.00	\$3,975.00
Additional		
Play Equipment	-	\$2,200.00
Parking Lots	-	675.00
Hard Courts	-	1,100.00
Ball Field	-	1,500.00

TABLE 8
PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT COST STANDARDS IN 2012

<u>Development Item</u>	<u>Mini .5-2 Acres</u>	<u>Neighborhood 5-15 Acres</u>	<u>Community 15-25 Acres</u>
Land Acquisition	\$10,000-34,000	\$50,000-115,000	\$200,000-850,000
Grading/Seeding	10,000-23,000	10,000-70,000	
Play Equipment	25,000-85,000		
Swings	5,000-11,000	5,000-12,000	
Benches, Tables, Grills, Fountain	3,000-11,000	10,000-23,000	
Landscaping	5,000-12,000	103,000	
Ball Field	17,000	15,000-45,000	15,000-170,000
Basketball Court*	5,000	5,000-8,000	8,000-12,000
Tennis Court		35,000-58,000	35,000-57,000
Shelter*		20,000-57,000	
Bathrooms		15,000-28,000	15,000-28,000
Parking (\$1,250/car)		3,500-8,000	7,000-12,000
8' Jogging Path*		12,500-27,000	24,000-62,000
Exercise Stations		5,000-17,000	5,000-34,000
Soccer Goals		4,000-9,000	4,000-9,000

*Costs are based on:

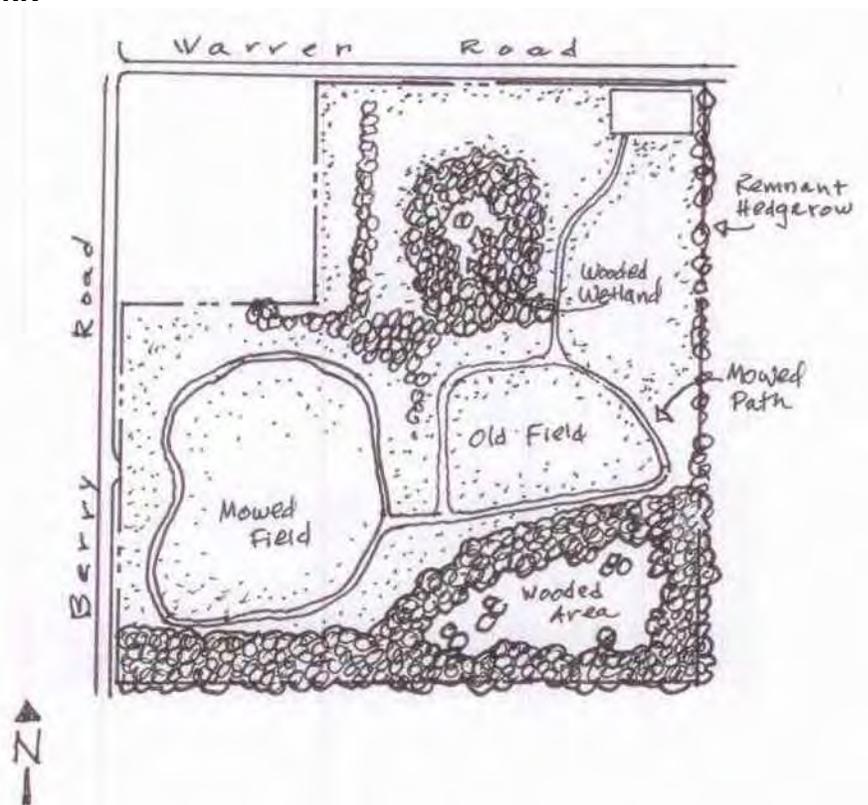
Basketball Court: 1/2 ct. - \$11,000, 3/4 ct. - \$17,000, full ct. - \$28,000

Shelter: 10x20 - \$23,000, 20x44 - \$51,000, 24x60 - \$74,000

Jogging Path: 1/4 mile - \$14,000, 1/2 mile - \$25,000, 1 mile - \$51,000

PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT COST STANDARDS

ILLUSTRATION 19 SCHROETER PARK



LOCATION. Schroeter is a 33 acre park located at the southeast corner of Berry and Warren Roads.

HISTORY. The park was willed to Superior Township by Mr. and Mrs. Schroeter. Under the conditions of the will, the park is limited to passive recreational uses.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. This northern community is characterized by large rural residential acreage, a few farmsteads and extensive open spaces. However, as a township facility, this park has the potential to be used by residents from throughout the Township.

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, AND MAINTENANCE. The park is a beautiful natural space. It has a small informal parking lot, an open field, wooded areas, trails and a wetland. Its inhabitants include deer, rabbits and birds. Trails through the park are used by horseback riders, cross-country skiers, and walkers enjoying the wooded areas and open space. The field area is mowed only periodically and is being allowed to return to a more natural state. Currently,

maintenance of this park is limited to mowing of trails and, periodically, of the field, trail maintenance and occasional prescribed burns.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, AND MAINTENANCE. The parking lot needs regular maintenance and a gravel surface. The fencing and old gate need to be repaired, and a gate system needs to be completed. The trails need regular grooming and those in the woods need wood chips applied. Land to the east and south should be acquired if possible to increase the natural area of the park and link the park to a larger open space system. Interpretive signs should be designed and installed relating to the wildlife and vegetation common to the site. The old field areas should be mowed once a year to enhance wildflower growth, or, with the help of the University of Michigan Botanical Garden Staff and local Fire Departments periodically subjected to controlled burns to encourage meadow growth. Recreation programming in Schroeter Park must be conducive to both its rustic qualities and the provisions stated in Mr. Schroeter's will. Because its natural beauty is such a large contrast to the more urban southeastern sections of the Township less than 5 miles away, structured youth nature study programs that are designed to interact with summer playground programs at Community Park and Harvest Moon Park would add a new dimension to the leisure opportunities and education of these playground participants. Walks guided by a naturalist during each season to highlight the natural features would be an excellent addition. During the winter, the park can be used as a site for cross country ski instruction and for passive, non-instructional use. Although the park does not have adequate facilities for competitive events, programming should include the large number of horse/stable owners near and around the park. A steward is needed for this park.

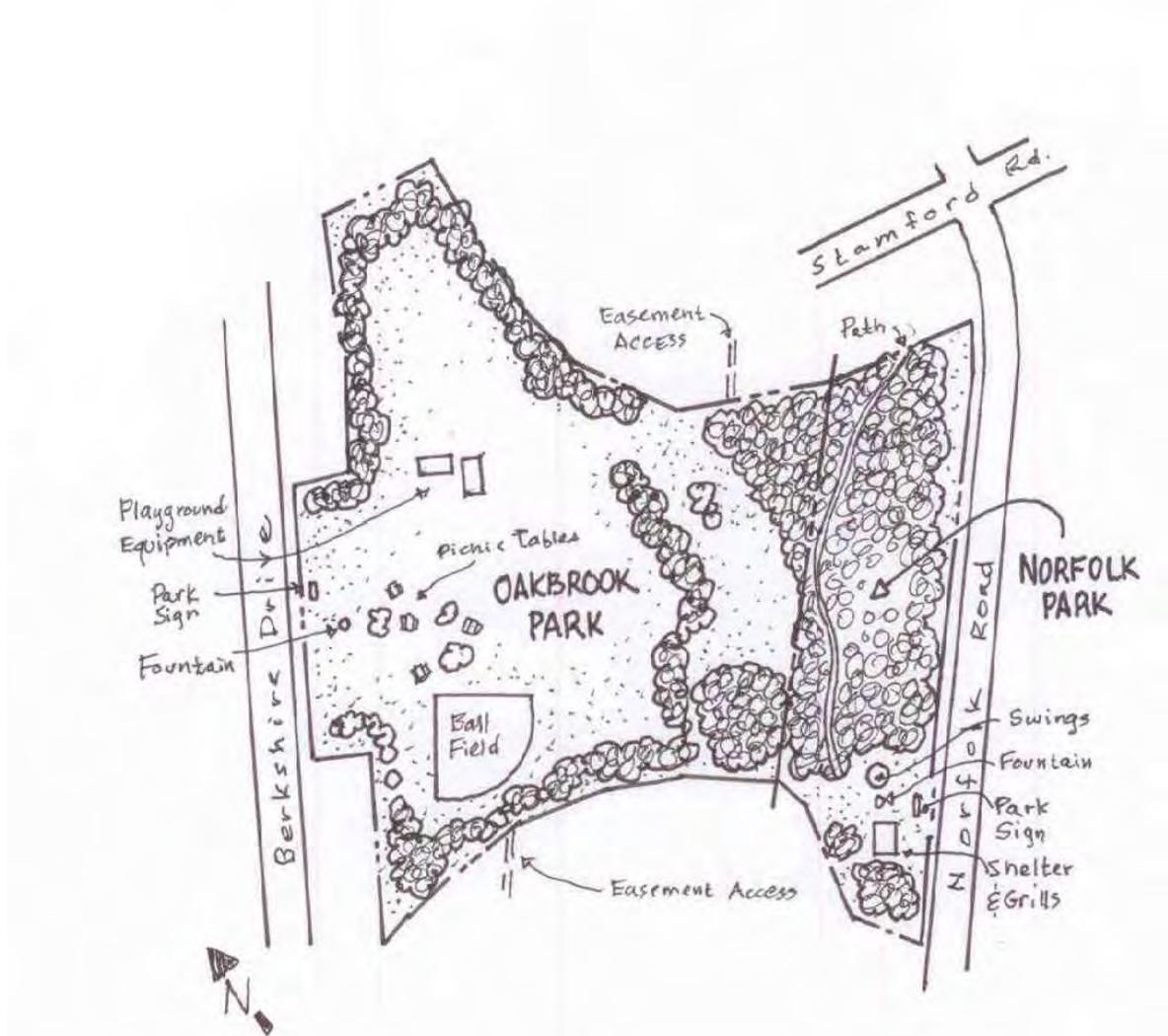
RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1, 2, and 4 in Section V, satisfy the intent of the donation and respond to community desires to provide a nature area and develop an open space system.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Trail System	\$7,000
Prescribed Burn (every other year)	2,000
Picnic Area	6,000
Trash Receptacles	1,000
Interpretive Signs	5,000
Maintenance of Park	3,500/year

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation Budget

**ILLUSTRATION 20
OAKBROOK PARK & NORFOLK PARK**



OAKBROOK PARK

LOCATION. Oakbrook is an 11 acre park located on the south side of Berkshire Road between Sheffield and Stamford.

HISTORY. The property was purchased by the Willow Run Community Schools. A 1985 open-ended lease agreement between the School District and the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission allowed the Commission to develop the open field into a park. The lease agreement included a trade of "Liberty Park" for the use of Oakbrook Park. In 1988 the neighborhood encouraged and approved the Commission's desire to develop the open space into a usable recreation area. At the time, the overgrown field was full of abandoned construction materials and was an eyesore to the community. Through the neighborhood's volunteer help and Township farmers' loaned equipment, the park was cleaned, graded and

seeded. In 1989 an application was submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for grant assistance. The Commission was awarded an \$80,000 Recreation Bond Grant (25% local match) to develop Phase I of the park (see below for development items).

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. This is a middle class neighborhood with a variety of cultural influences. There are approximately 500+ homes and 134 condominiums in the surrounding community.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. The grant allowed for many changes to this formerly empty field. Oakbrook Park now contains a ball field (recently renovated and regularly maintained), play equipment, and picnic areas. A possible Phase II will add a hard surface play area, a jogging path and safety lighting. There has been considerable controversy in the neighborhood over whether a shelter, bathrooms or off-street parking should be included in the development of this park. The neighbors whose homes are on the park do not desire such amenities, while those who live a little further away find these features attractive. These sensitive issues should only be addressed in the future and resolved when the residents have had time to determine what facilities best meet their needs. Currently, portable toilets are occasionally provided during the peak recreational season for special events. Required maintenance entails regular upkeep of the grounds and occasional repair of equipment. The ball field is groomed annually.

Oakbrook Park has been host to youth programs and events for Superior and Ypsilanti Townships. It has been used as a practice field for t-ball, coaches pitch, and youth soccer teams in the neighborhood. Playground equipment and playing fields are used regularly, making this park a gathering place for children and families. Playground facilities were updated in 2009 and planting of native species, to enhance the park, is an ongoing process.

RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1 and 3 in Section V, satisfy the residents' desires established in a survey and a public hearing, and serve an otherwise park-deficient neighborhood.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Basketball Court	\$45,000
Jogging Path	45,000
Shelter	20,000
Safety Lighting	23,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation Budget, Grants

NORFOLK PARK

LOCATION. Norfolk is a 4 acre park located on North Norfolk Street between Sheffield and Stamford at the east end of Oakbrook Park. See illustration 20, Oakbrook Park, for the Park layout.

HISTORY. This park was donated by the subdivision developer in 1978. The land donation and park development was part of a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant project in 1978. The Superior Jaycees helped install a trail in the wooded area as a community service project. Norfolk has been one of the Commission's most used parks, mainly due to the shelter. Family picnics and neighborhood gatherings have been a very popular activity in the park. Norfolk is connected by a trail to Oakbrook Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. This is a middle class neighborhood with a variety of cultural influences. The park serves an immediate neighborhood of 75 to 100 homes, but is also visited by people living outside of the neighborhood, due to the available picnic shelter.

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. This small park is heavily wooded and has a small amount of open space. A trail system meanders through the wooded portion and another trail connects it to Oakbrook Park.. An approximately 20' x 20' shelter is located in the largest open space. A small flat area near the shelter is used for casual volleyball by picnickers. There are two cooking grills and two park benches, a swing set and a drinking fountain. The Parks and Recreation Department occasionally schedules programs at this park. Maintenance amounts to regular grass mowing and removal of brush and dead wood in the wooded area, which is partly accomplished through neighborhood volunteers.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. The trails are in need of some grading and complete resurfacing with wood chips. An increase in the amount of flat play area by re-grading would be beneficial to the users. The park also needs yearly maintenance to remove brush and dead wood. Because of the limited amount of open space, Norfolk Park will remain essentially a place for passive picnicking. Due to its link to Oakbrook Park, Norfolk will act as an easement of sorts to Oakbrook dwellers east of Berkshire to walk through to reach Berkshire programs and events. Until there is shelter in the adjoining Oakbrook Park property, many programs will also "spill over" into the shade and shelter of Norfolk Park.

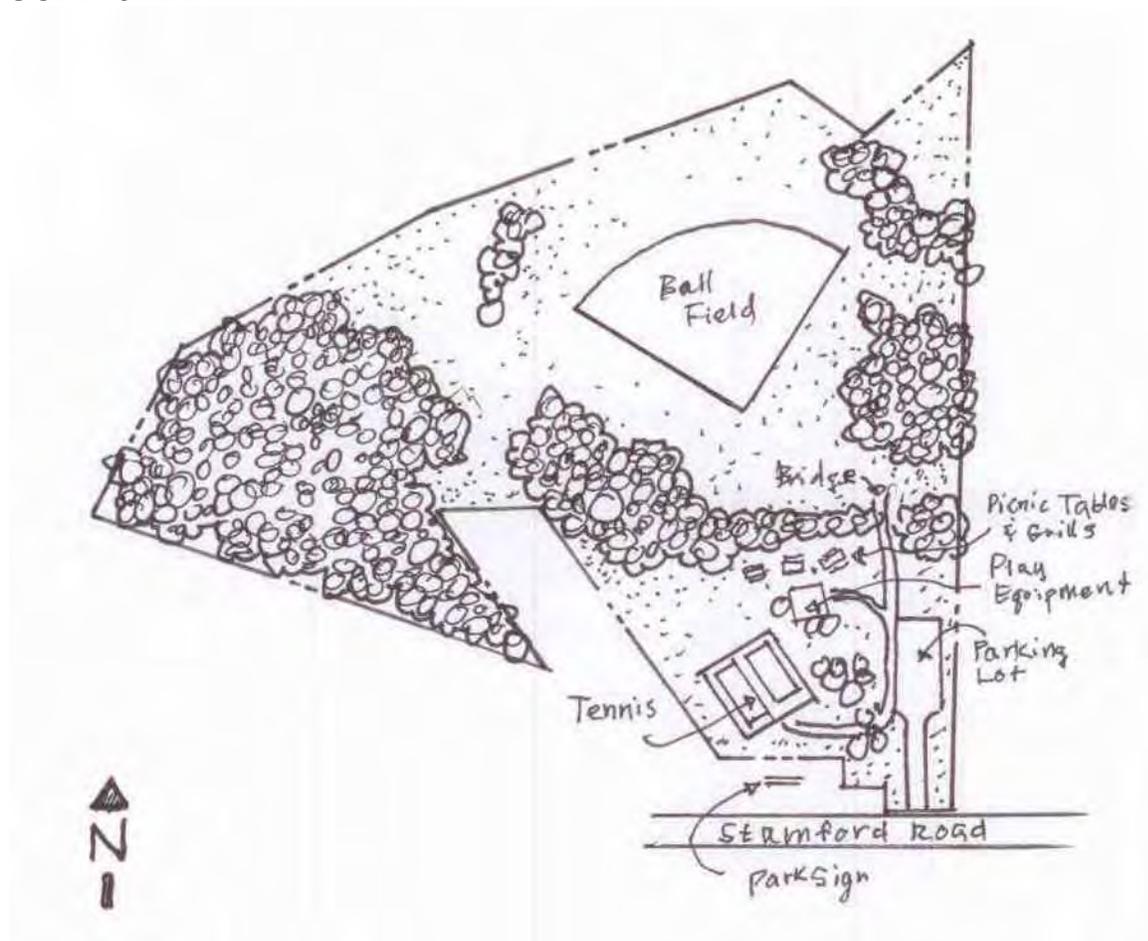
RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1 and 3 in Section V and help keep the park in a safe, usable condition.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Trail Resurfacing	\$6,000
Playground Equipment	15,000
Brush and Dead Wood Removal	10,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation Budget, Volunteer Workers and Donations

**ILLUSTRATION 21
COMMUNITY PARK**



LOCATION. Community is an 18 acre parcel located on the north side of Stamford Road, across the street from Cheney Academy.

HISTORY. Community Park was part of the same Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant that acquired and developed Norfolk Park. The 1978 grant developed two tennis courts, a ball field,

play equipment and a parking lot. In 1989, the Parks and Recreation Department implemented a plan to increase participation in park activities by the surrounding neighborhoods. The first strategy was to establish a maintenance plan to increase visibility and safety in the park. The second was to begin running a playground program during the daytime and youth T-ball in the evenings. In 1999 the play equipment was replaced.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. The park is bounded on the north and east sides by the Township's major apartment complexes. It is also the closest park to the Township's largest and oldest subdivision, Washington Square. There are over 500 apartments and 500 homes around the park. The residents are in the low to middle income brackets, and many apartments and some of the homes are government subsidized

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. Almost one-half of this 18 acre park is wooded. Informal paths run through the woods connecting the park to surrounding communities. The play equipment and recreation facilities mentioned above are concentrated in about ten acres of open space. The park has been a major focus of our tree maintenance program. Pruning the trees has allowed better visibility through the park. There are weekly mowings through the growing season and daily garbage and park inspections through the heavy use times. The ball field is groomed annually.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. Some of the equipment and facilities in this park are in need of rehabilitation. The parking lot and drainage ditch need to be improved and the tennis courts will need resurfacing. A security light was recently installed in the parking lot. As expressed in the 1978 grant application, a shelter is needed to facilitate Departmental programs and community desires for picnicking and large gatherings. In addition, this community is considering a basketball court at this site. The park will be maintained as a class "B" park with daily inspections and garbage pick up, weekly mowings and regular tree maintenance.

Community Park is host to T-ball, softball and coaches pitch teams for games and practices, as well as summer programs. Although there are no permanent restrooms of any sort in the park, portable toilets are available during programs. As facilities come up to standards, youth pitched baseball, adult softball, tennis lessons, and soccer leagues will use the park.

RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1 and 3 in Section V, help meet the recreation standards set in Section III, and ensure the park is maintained in good condition.

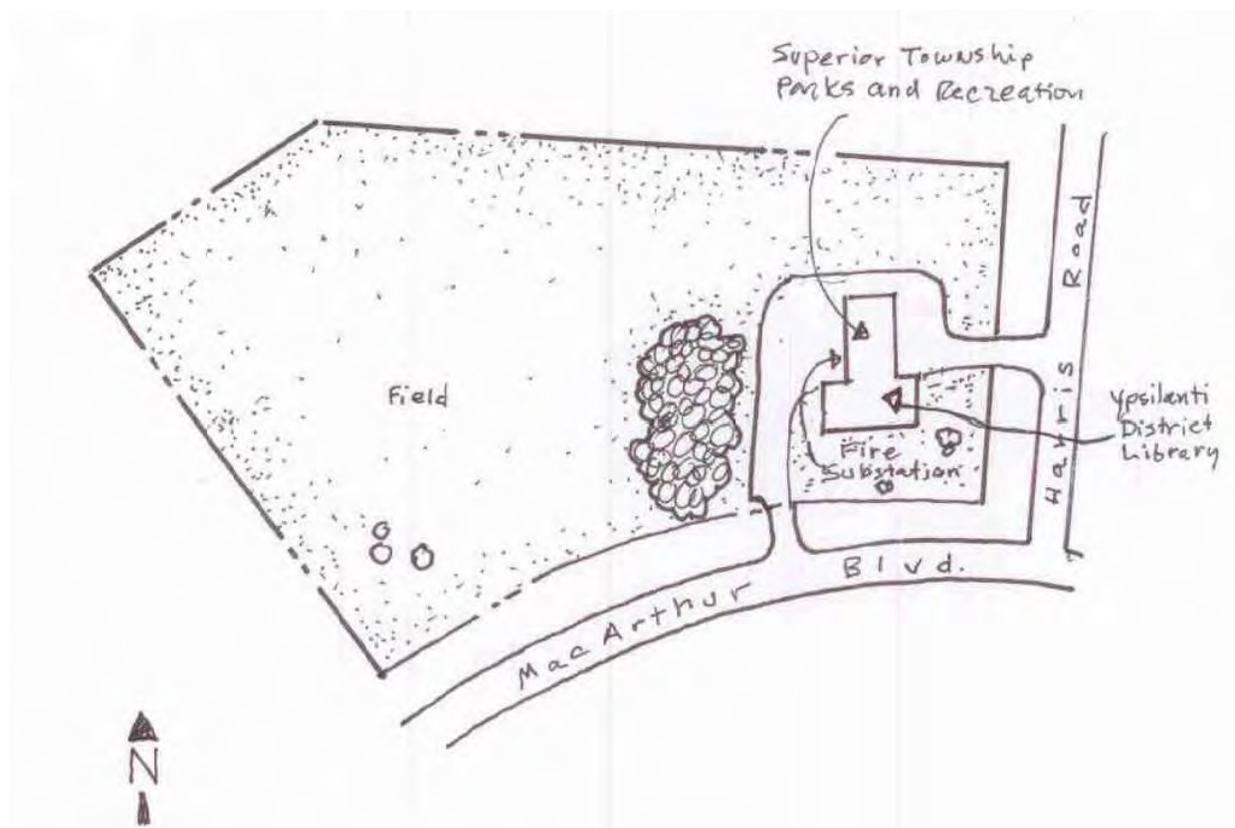
PROJECTED COSTS

<u>Items</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Parking Lot Paving	\$31,000
Ball Field Top Dressing	7,000
Tennis Court Resurfacing	15,000
Shelter	20,000
Basketball Court	30,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation Budget, Grants

ILLUSTRATION 22
FIREMAN'S PARK



LOCATION. Fireman's is a 5 acre park located on the corner of Harris Road and MacArthur Boulevard.

HISTORY. This park was created when four additional acres were acquired by the Township for park purposes when the fire substation (on 1 acre) was built in 1974. The only amenities placed at that time were two backstops. A branch of the Ypsilanti Public Library moved into part of the substation in 2009.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. The community which uses this facility is located in the new development adjacent to the park and on the south side of MacArthur Boulevard.

Unfortunately, this site has not been adopted as extensively by the community as have other park areas however, use of the park has grown since the library opened.

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. The structure houses the fire substation and the Parks & Recreation Department's shop and garage and is home to a branch of the Ypsilanti Public Library.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. With some improvements, this park could better satisfy the community's need for a neighborhood park. The open field area needs to be graded for field games and soccer goals installed. A picnic area has been designated with tables and benches, and a shelter for this would be a good addition.

The available and accessible bathrooms make Fireman's Park a prime site for special events programming especially for small children. The Park has been used for T-ball and coaches pitch practices, and will become a game site when a permanent backstop is installed. The large open space is ideal for youth soccer. Areas surrounding this park are scheduled for large-scale development, so making park improvements to serve these future neighborhoods would be a proactive step for the Township. The non-motorized trails in the Township now provide greater access to Fireman's.

RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1 and 3 in Section V and satisfy the standards for a neighborhood park.

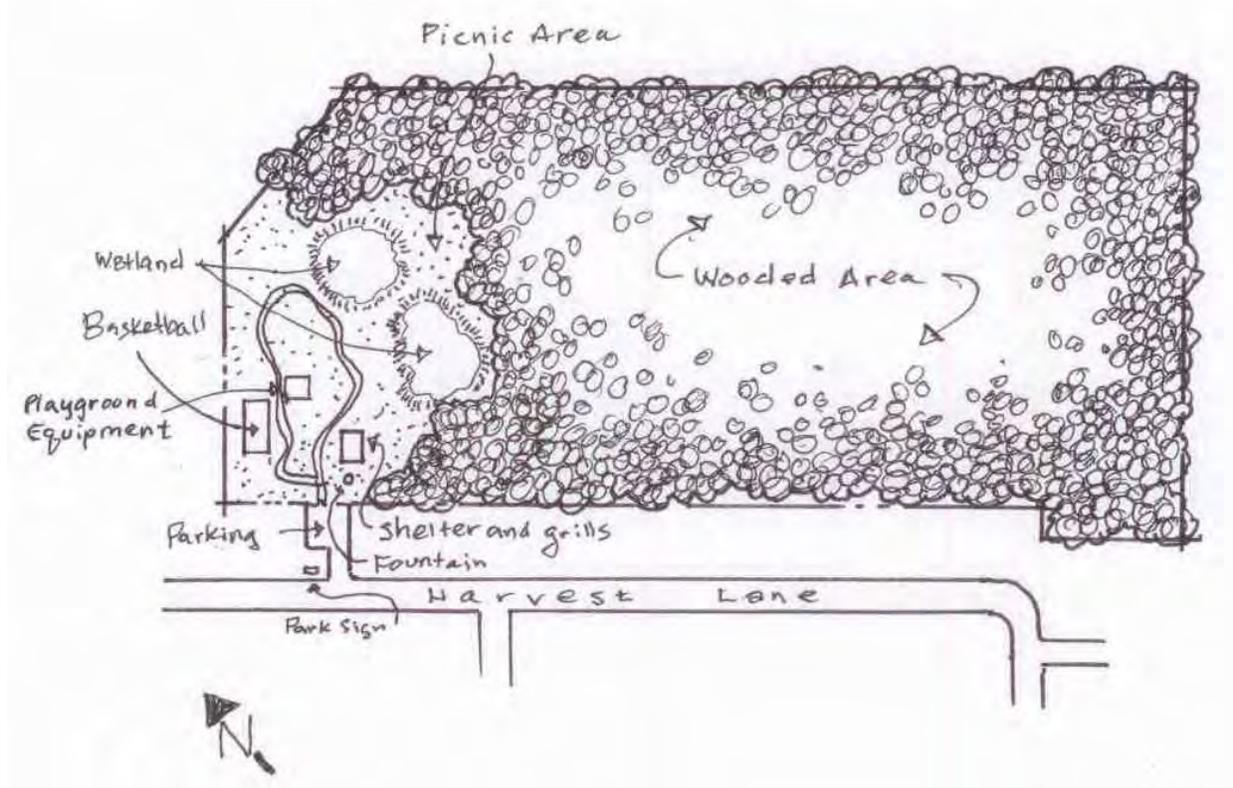
PROJECTED COSTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Picnic Tables	\$3,000
Soccer Goals and Equipment	9,000
Grading and Seeding	17,000
Picnic Shelter	20,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation Budget, Grants, Volunteer Workers and Donations

ILLUSTRATION 23 HARVEST MOON PARK



LOCATION. Harvest Moon is a 32 acre park located in the southeast portion of the Township to the east of Wiard Road. The park extends south to the Township border and east to the WestRidge Mobile Home Park. Its main access is off Harvest Lane.

HISTORY. The acreage was acquired for recreation needs and open space preservation. Before its donation, nearly eight acres of land apparently was cleared of its topsoil on the west end of the park. The clearing left a flat open area, which has been utilized for an active recreation area. The subsoil has never supported a good stand of turf, and the area has never drained properly. The remainder of the site is wooded and supports a variety of wildlife. In the last ten years the park was re-landscaped, utilizing a matched grant from the Michigan DNR. This resulted in a tremendous improvement to park drainage. During this rehab new playground equipment and a new basketball court were added.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. The surrounding neighborhood was developed at the same time as the housing provisions were for the Willow Run Bomber Plant. The original residents and their families continue to live in the neighborhood. It is a very tight-knit community which has grown up together. Their friends and family utilize the park on a daily basis most of the year. Currently, the population in this neighborhood is older, but the facilities are still enjoyed.

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. The park has a play structure, a covered picnic structure, a basketball court, a parking lot and a drinking fountain. Maintenance of the Park has been a regular mowing, garbage pick-up and playground equipment inspection. An ongoing program of native plantings is in place.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. Expansion of operations in this park should include a replacement of the existing picnic shelter with a larger one. Additionally, an annual community event to be held in this park is desirable for neighborhood unity.

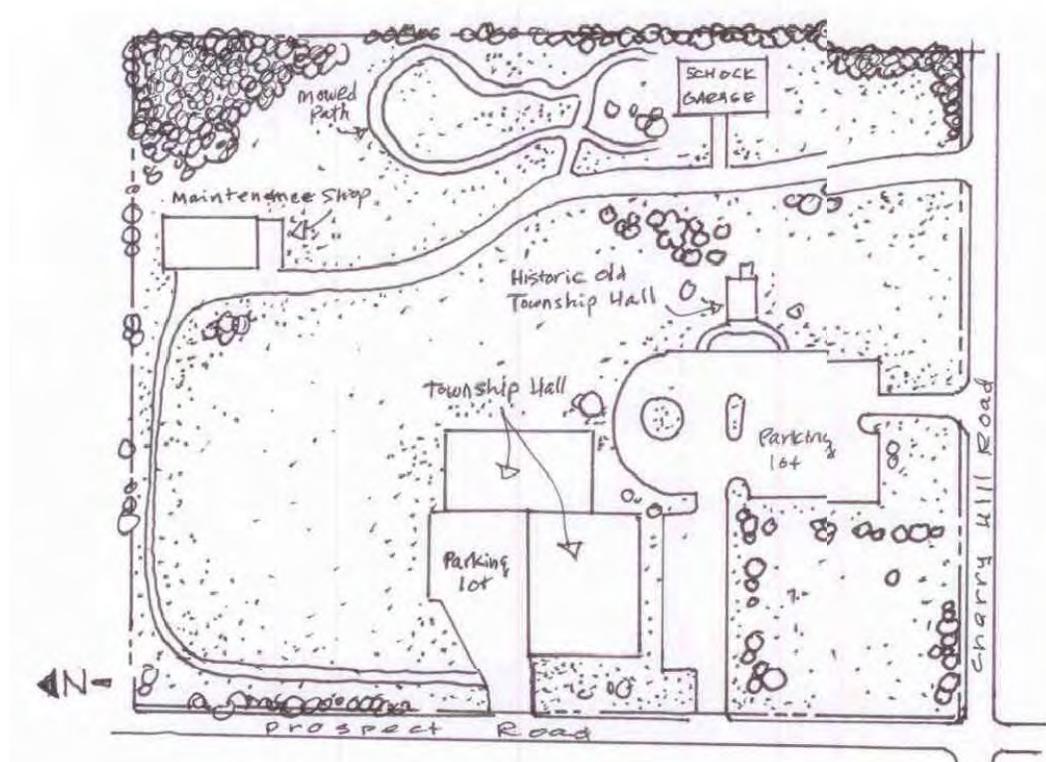
RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1, 3, and 7 in Section V, maintain the park in good condition and make it a better facility for programs.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Picnic Shelter	\$20,000
Basketball Court Resurfacing	11,000
Landscaping	5,000
Lighting	2,500
Fencing	5,000
Trail System to Neighborhoods	10,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation budget, Grants, Volunteers and donations

ILLUSTRATION 24 TOWNSHIP HALL/SCHOCK PARK



LOCATION. The Township Hall and Schock Park are located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Cherry Hill and Prospect Roads on a 5 acre plot of land.

HISTORY. The Township Hall was developed in 1952 in the center of the Township to be accessible to all areas of the Township. The five-acre parcel supports the Township offices, the main fire station, a community room and the park maintenance shop. Adjacent Schock Park was acquired by the Township in 1983, through an agreement with the Schock family. The Old Township Hall was moved to this site in 1987, renovated and is used for meetings of Parks and other groups. Township Hall was expanded in 2001.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. Township Hall, located in the geographic center of the Township and is located on Prospect Road, a main Township artery. Although surrounded by farms and large rural residential lots, it serves the entire Township.

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. The Township Hall is used extensively for regular programs and special events because of the Board Room and bathroom facilities. Maintenance of the building is provided through the Township's services. Most of the grounds

are maintained as parkland. The park is mowed, inspected, litter removed, and trees maintained regularly. The Old Township Hall currently serves to house the Park Commission meetings and other neighborhood groups. The Parks' Maintenance Barn is located at this site.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. Improvements need to be made to the Parks Maintenance Barn and workshop, which are located on this property. Additionally, Schock Park should be improved to provide a picnic area easily available for park visitors and Township Hall visitors and employees.

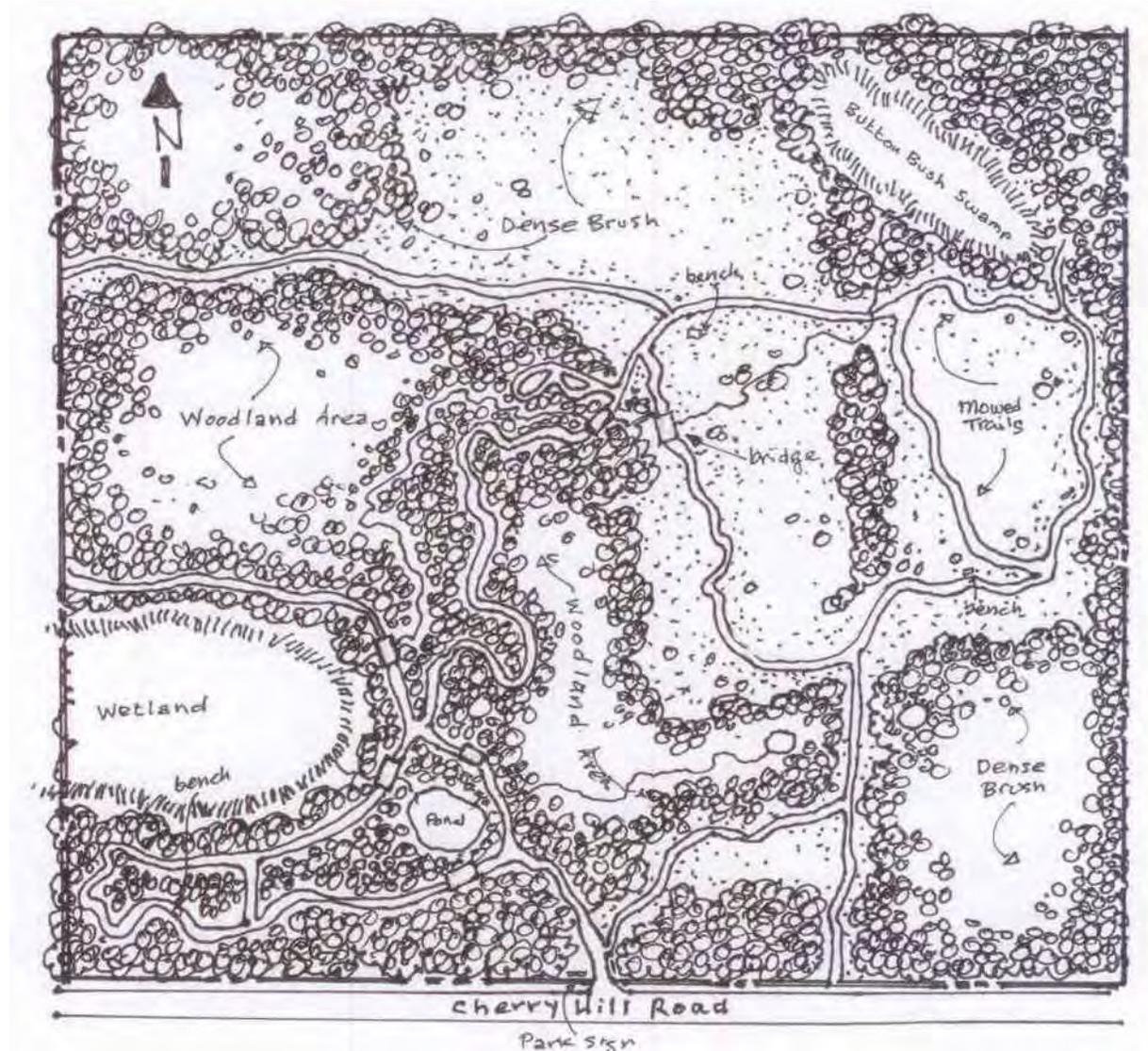
RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1 and 3 in Section V and partially satisfy the established need for a community center.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tables and Benches	\$5,000
Picnic Area Shelter	20,000
Landscaping (perennials)	6,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation budget, In-Kind Services, Volunteers and donations

Illustration 25
CHERRY HILL NATURE PRESERVE



LOCATION. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve is a 160 acre passive use park located on the north side of Cherry Hill Road, between Stommel and Gale Roads

HISTORY. The Nature Preserve was acquired in 1997 through a cooperative effort of Superior Township, the Superior Land Conservancy and the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. The Preserve was put under the purview of the Park Commission in 2001.

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. The Nature Preserve encompasses 160 acres of varied terrain, including meadows, wetlands and wooded areas. As it is a passive use park, development is minimal, mostly consisting of a trail system and interpretive signs. The Preserve is heavily used by walkers, bikers and skiers, along with regular study groups who use the

park by request. Aside from trail maintenance, an annual burn is done in different areas of the Preserve each year and control of invasives is an ongoing process. Additional improvements to the Preserve (bridges, trail markers, bird houses, etc.) have been made with cooperation from a variety of volunteers, including the Superior Land Conservancy, Superior Land Preservation Society, Boy Scouts of America and Ellen Kurath, a native plant expert and volunteer

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. Continuing improvements to trails is vital, as is the burn program and invasive species control. The meadow area has become increasingly overgrown with invasives and a meadow restoration project, including invasives removal and regular mowing would be a way to regain this area. This extensive project has been started. Long term goals include the creation of a boardwalk for wetland trails, a boardwalk to allow access for the disabled and an observation deck for all to enjoy.

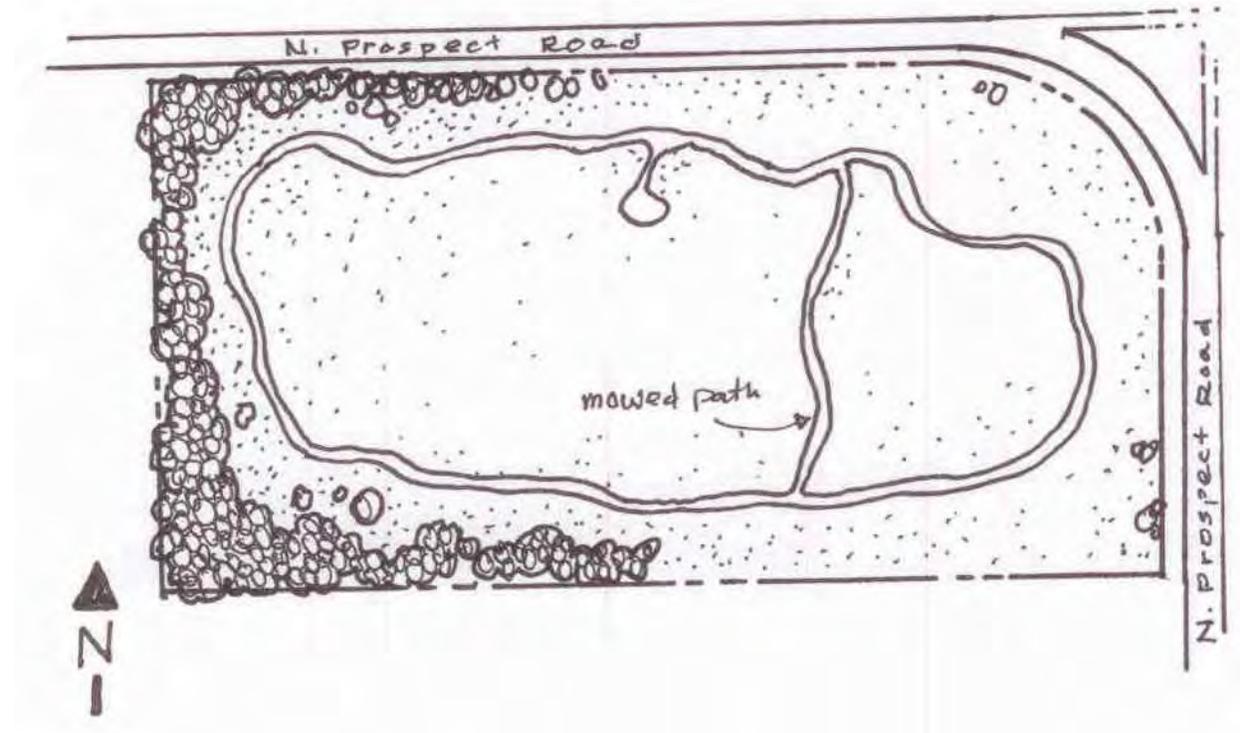
RATIONALE. The Preserve is the most heavily used park in the Township. Improvements would address items in Goals 1,2,3,4,5 and 7 in Section V.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Boardwalk & Observation Deck	\$100,000
Wetlands Boardwalk	200,000
Prescribed Burn	4,000
Benches	5,000
Trail Improvements Per Year	5,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation Department budget, Grants

ILLUSTRATION 26
NORTH PROSPECT PARK



LOCATION. This 15 acre park is located on Prospect Road, north of Ford Road, in the northern part of the Township.

HISTORY. In late 2002 the Township purchased this property, along with property at the corner of Ford and Prospect Roads. The parcel at Ford and Prospect was purchased for the relocation of Fire Station #1, from Township Hall, which occurred in 2004. Parks began brush-hogging the future park in mid-2004. In 2009, Parks named the property North Prospect Park.

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. This newest Township park is largely open space, which had been cleared for possible development. Holes and ruts, left from test holes and heavy equipment, have largely been filled in. A program of native plant introduction has begun with the help of local volunteers.

PROPOSED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND MAINTENANCE. An ongoing program of native plantings and control of invasive species is needed. Possible improvements should include the addition of benches, trails and picnic facilities.

RATIONALE. These improvements fulfill goals 1, 3, 4 and 7 in Section V.

PROJECTED COSTS

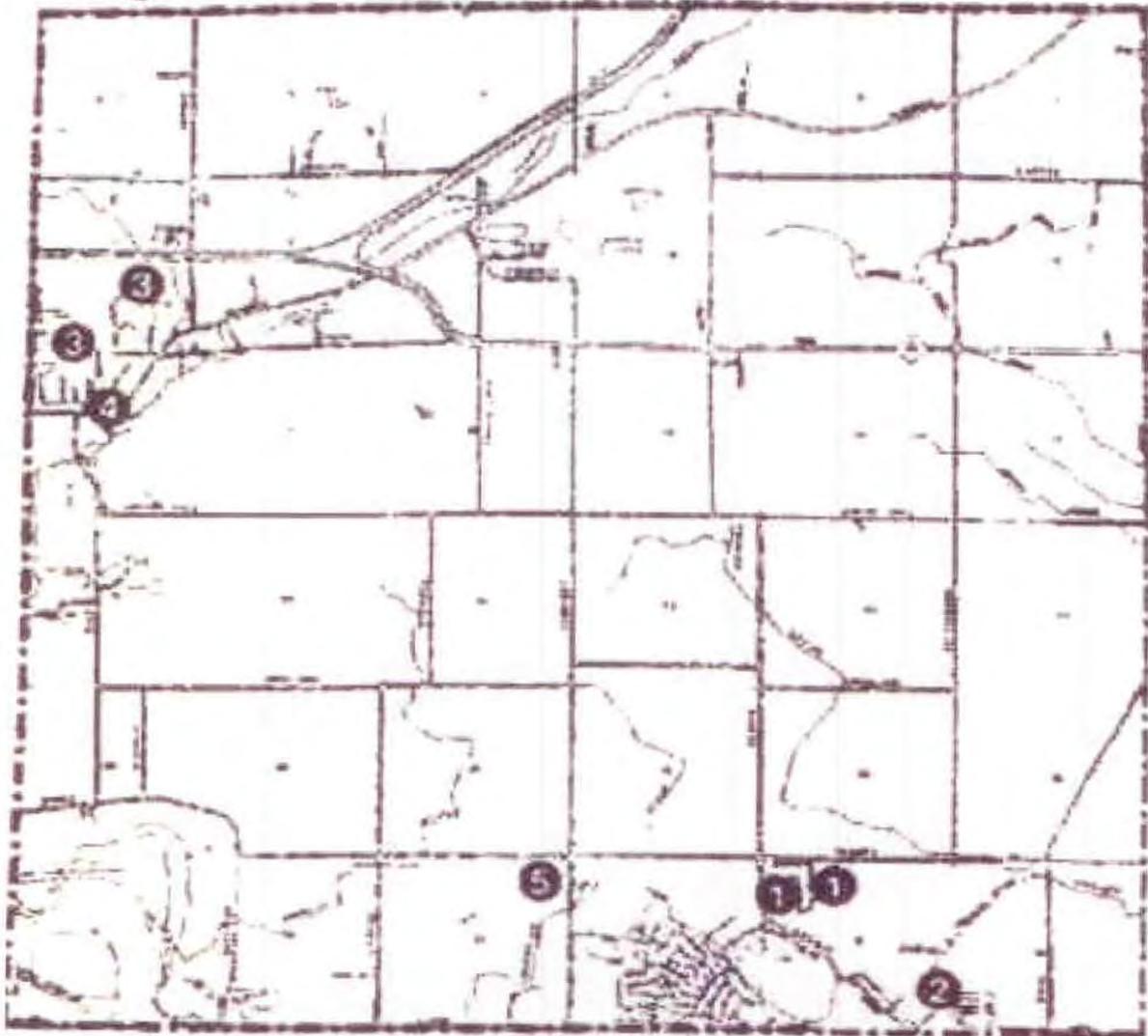
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tables and Benches	\$6,000
Trails	20,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation budget, In-Kind Services, Volunteers and donations

ILLUSTRATION 27

Neighborhood Park Aquisitions



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ACQUISITIONS

The following locations are suggested for acquisition to satisfy neighborhood recreation deficiencies. Some of the proposed locations are specific sites, while others are general, because several options exist. The potential sites are identified on illustration 25.

1. Geddes Ridge
2. WestRidge
3. Tanglewood
4. Dixboro
5. Prospect/Geddes SW

1. GEDDES RIDGE

LOCATION. The Geddes Ridge Subdivision is located southeast of the Geddes Road and Harris Road intersection.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. The Subdivision consists of approximately 160 middle class homes. The neighborhood is made up of families with young children. These are first homes for many of these families. The neighborhood is very active.

PARK DEFICIENCY. There is no park in this Subdivision. The closest facility is Fireman's Park. This park does not meet neighborhood needs, because children must cross 45 mph Harris Road to access it. The residents desire a location to walk, push a stroller, or ride a bike to meet individual recreation needs and neighborhood social needs. They would like a park with playground equipment, a drinking fountain, and a ball field.

PROPOSAL TO MEET NEEDS. There are two options available at this time to satisfy the neighborhood's needs.

- Option 1: Negotiate an agreement with Willow Run Community Schools to utilize the property on Harris Road. Develop the land with typical neighborhood park facilities, including a parking lot off Harris Road and a possible linkage along the stream to Fireman's Park and Oakbrook Subdivision.
- Option 2: Acquire land or lease the property on MacArthur Boulevard which is vacant. This parcel is zoned recreation/conservation and falls in the flood plain.
- Option 3: Facilitate access to other parks, possibly through expanded trail system.

RATIONALE: This particular community has requested a neighborhood park. Both of these sites have advantages and disadvantages. Either of them will satisfy a range of needs for parkland in this community. All of these sites would fulfill goals 1 and 3 in Section V. Option 1 is preferred by local residents, according to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Committee. It would provide a local recreation facility with easy and safe accessibility. A trail system, through Washtenaw County, is in progress and this may be the easiest short-term solution.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Land Acquisition	Lease
Neighborhood Park Equipment and Facilities	\$40,000-70,000
Programming	5,000
Maintenance (Class "B")	6,000-14,000/year

FUNDING SOURCES

Programs and maintenance would come from the Parks and Recreation budget. Funds for land use would come from grants or possibly donation of funds or land.

2. WESTRIDGE

LOCATION. WestRidge Mobile Home Park is located in the southeast corner of the Township. Access to the Park is from Ridge Road.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. The neighborhood consists of 363 lots for mobile homes.

PARK DEFICIENCY. WestRidge has three spaces of 500-1000 square foot recreation areas and a small community room. These recreation areas are located between homes, and are too small for active play. The residents need play equipment, an open field play area, a hard surface play area for court sports.

PROPOSALS TO MEET NEEDS. There are three options available to satisfy the need for a neighborhood park in this area.

Option 1: Ensure that park area is provided in the next phase of the Mobile Home Park development, and furnish the park with typical neighborhood park equipment and facilities.

Option 2: Provide access to Harvest Moon Park and develop a new neighborhood park at the east end with typical equipment and facilities.

Option 3: Develop a neighborhood park on nearby Township land with typical equipment and facilities.

RATIONALE. This acquisition or park development will satisfy a park deficient community. It will also satisfy goals 1 & 3 in Section V to provide recreational opportunities to all residents in the Township.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Neighborhood Park Equipment and Facilities	\$60,000-135,000
Trail to Harvest Moon Park	5,000
Maintenance	7,000-14,000/year

FUNDING SOURCES

If the park is part of the Mobile Home Park development, the land can be donated to the Township. If Harvest Moon Park or other Township land is utilized, there will be no land acquisition costs. Funding for equipment and facilities will be sought from the developer, donations and grants. Programming and maintenance costs would be covered by an increased Parks and Recreation budget.

3. TANGLEWOOD

LOCATION. Tanglewood Subdivision is located to the northeast of the Village of Dixboro. The main entrance to the Subdivision is at the intersection of Ford Road and Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. Tanglewood is comprised of approximately 100 homes on large pieces of property, and there are plans for additional homes in the neighboring Creekside Development. Fleming Creek runs along the edge of the development as an inaccessible commons ground.

PARK DEFICIENCY. The homes in the Subdivision are built on one to two acre lots, and there is an inactive commons area along Fleming Creek. There is no recreational space for the Subdivision residents to play or picnic near their homes. There is a need for a mini-park or neighborhood park in Tanglewood as well as larger scale needs in the Dixboro area.

PROPOSALS TO MEET NEEDS. There are several options to be considered in satisfying the recreational needs in this neighborhood.

Option 1: A use agreement or acquisition could be obtained from the Ann Arbor School District, allowing the Township to take advantage of the indoor and outdoor recreation facilities at Freeman School. This school is no longer used as an

elementary education facility, but is primarily leased by Domino's Farms.

Option 2: A parcel of land in the development could be purchased to develop a mini-park.

Option 3: The "Green" is an open space area in Dixboro. It is owned and operated by the Dixboro United Methodist Church. A use agreement could be negotiated with the Church to use the facility as a neighborhood park and to program activities, however care should be taken not to jeopardize the aesthetics of this unique area in the Township.

RATIONALE. Neighborhood residents have requested a park for their Subdivision. A park would satisfy a recreation deficient neighborhood, and fulfill goals 1 and 3 in Section V.

PROJECT COSTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Land Acquisition (1/2 acre)	\$25,000/Donation
Neighborhood Park Equipment and Facilities	35,000-68,000
Use or Lease Agreement	hourly/trade

FUNDING SOURCES

The Tanglewood community is a financial resource for park acquisition and development. If a use agreement is negotiated, funding for development, maintenance and programming could be obtained through a stable Parks and Recreation funding source.

4. DIXBORO

LOCATION. The Village of Dixboro is located in the northwest portion of the Township. It lies on either side of Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road between Fleming Creek and Dixboro Road.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION. The historical Village of Dixboro is a close-knit community which was built around the Dixboro United Methodist Church. It is the oldest settlement in the Township.

PARK DEFICIENCY. Dixboro residents have two facilities available for recreation, the "Green" owned and operated by the United Methodist Church, and Freeman School. The "Green" is an active recreation area adjacent to the Church which offers a playground for general use. Freeman School, on the west side of Dixboro, has indoor and outdoor recreation facilities available to the public. However, at this time Domino's Farms leases the school building for its

recreation uses. This situation leaves the local community deficient in play equipment, a ball field, and a basketball court.

PROPOSAL TO MEET NEEDS. Three options are possible to improve the recreation facilities in Dixboro.

Option 1: A use agreement for Freeman School would enable the Township to offer classrooms, a community room and bathroom facilities in addition to playground facilities. The high potential for programming the school facilities would serve the Township needs well.

Option 2: A use agreement with the Church involving the "Green" could better serve local residents by offering more facilities and increased programming.

Option 3: A long-term lease of the "Green" could allow the Township greater flexibility in providing recreational opportunities, including grant development money.

RATIONALE. All of the above options will satisfy the recreation need in the Dixboro community. They all meet goals 1, 3, and 5 in Section V. Option 3 allows the greatest potential for active recreation and classroom opportunities.

PROJECTED COSTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
The "Green"	Use/Lease Agreement
Freeman School	Use/Lease Agreement

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Parks and Recreation budget

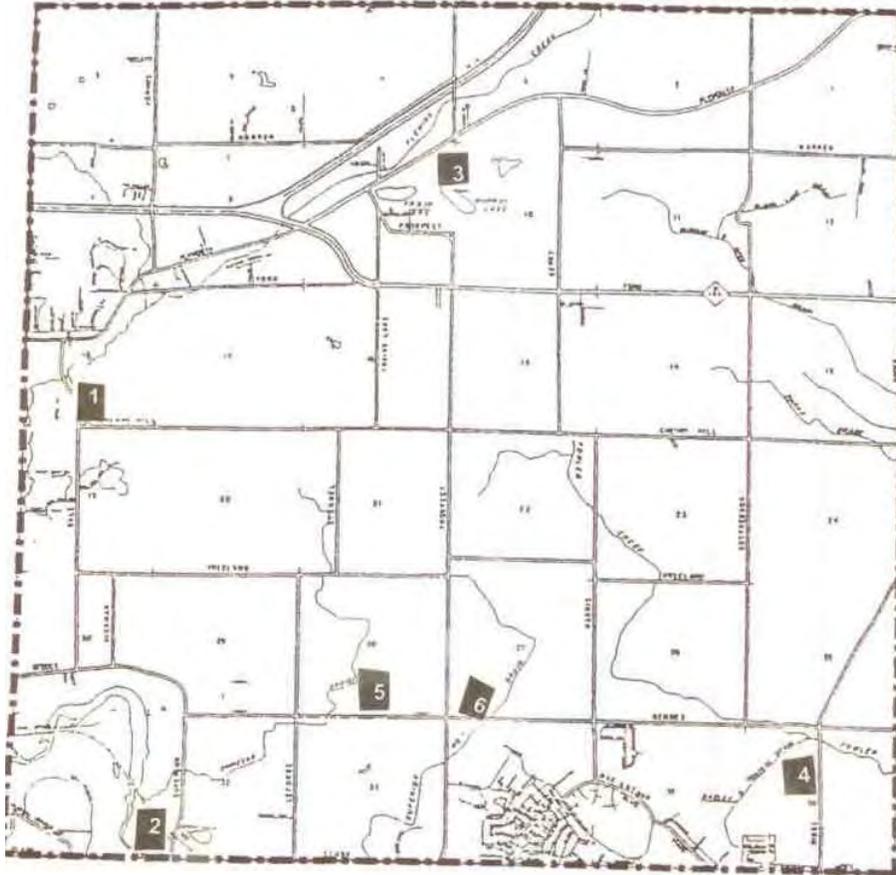
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS - RECREATION POLICY

Each subdivision should have adequate park and recreation space available for its residents. In the future, developers of new subdivisions or technological parks will be strongly encouraged to set aside one to five acres of space appropriate for active recreation. This is currently suggested by the Township Planning Commission when reviewing such plans.

Preferably, there would be an active space furnished with typical neighborhood park facilities. The development should be responsible for providing the facilities with the Township Parks and Recreation direction. Typical facilities should include:

1. Grading and seeding
2. Landscaping
3. Play equipment structure
4. Ball field (with available space)
5. Hard surface play area (as feasible)
6. Wading pool (optional)

Refer to the Proposed Parkland Dedication Policy in Section VII for guidelines.

ILLUSTRATION 28**Township Park Aquisitions**TOWNSHIP PARK ACQUISITIONS

Township parks are so named because they offer special opportunities or features to residents and they service the entire Township. The facilities described are generally located on Illustration 26 for reference (some have multiple locations).

The following is a list of proposed facilities:

1. Cherry Hill Preserve
 2. Huron River/Superior Road
 3. Murray Lake
 4. Trail System
 5. Bike Path System
 6. Schroeter Park Addition
- Open Space Land Acquisition/Preservation (not designated on map)
 - Parks Building (not designated on map)

1. Cherry Hill Preserve

PARK DEFICIENCY. This 160 acre property has been an important recent acquisition for several reasons. This parcel was noted in Environmentally Significant Areas of Superior Township, 1992, by Ellen Elliott Weatherbee as being an “excellent natural area”, and habitat to many indigenous species. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (now and in the past) has strongly emphasized the preservation of open space and the survival of sensitive ecosystems. This area of the Township has very little in terms of Park property at this time, and pressure to develop the area is fierce. This acquisition not only provides a public natural area in the vicinity of Dixboro, but benefits the entire Township and surrounding communities. The availability of this parcel adds an exceptional natural area to the Parks of Superior Township and is currently the most used park in the Township. The need remains, however, to facilitate accessibility for those with more limited physical capabilities.

PROPOSAL TO MEET NEEDS. The Park Commission has coordinated efforts with our staff and other groups, including Boy Scout troops, church groups and other volunteers, to help make this popular park accessible and enjoyable to its many visitors. In order to extend the accessibility to those with special needs, we are proposing a modification to the parking area and also add boardwalks to viewing platforms, which will allow enjoyment of the park without having to navigate rough terrain. An extended plan also includes a boardwalk area surrounding a wetland, which would make it more accessible to all, while minimizing the effects of visitors on the ecosystem.

RATIONALE. Acquisition of this property fulfills goals 1,3,4,and 5 in Section V, and opens opportunities for passive recreation to a previously under served section of the Township. Parks contributions would aid in making the Preserve more available to users.

PROJECTED COSTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Short Boardwalk Establishment	\$25,000
Parking Area and Signs	5,000
Viewing Platforms	35,000
Long Wetland Boardwalk	50,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Superior Township General Fund, Grants, Volunteers and Donations

2. HURON RIVER/SUPERIOR ROAD

LOCATION. This property is located along the Huron River to the west of Superior Road.

DESCRIPTION. The 22.48 acre parcel lies primarily in the flood plain. One-half of the site is a disturbed brushy open field. The other half is covered with a juvenile woodland. It provides access to the Huron River and offers views of the River and wooded slopes beyond.

NEEDS. The Township has no water access to offer its residents. There is no facility in the Township for fishing, canoeing, or swimming. This section of the Township also has no parks to offer nearby neighborhoods, making them park deficient.

PROPOSAL TO MEET NEEDS. Acquire the parcel on the Huron River and develop it as a passive recreation facility. Provide a fishing dock, a shelter, picnic area with tables, a trail system which can connect to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, and a parking lot.

RATIONALE. Residents have expressed a concern for preserving natural systems, and this acquisition would preserve a portion of the riverfront. It would ensure a natural system linkage and trail system linkage with Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. In addition, it would fulfill goals 1, 2, 4, and 5 in Section V of providing water access to residents and preserving open space.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Land Acquisition	Easement, Donation, \$15,000+/acre
Fishing Dock	\$23,000
Shelter and Picnic Area	40,000
Trail System	23,000
Parking Lot	21,000

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Millage, Grant, Parks and Recreation budget

3. MURRAY LAKE

LOCATION. Murray Lake is a small water body located between Plymouth Ann Arbor Road and Ford Road near Prospect Road.

DESCRIPTION. Murray Lake is bordered on the south side by large single family lots. A large portion of the Lake is used for commercial recreation. Memberships are sold to the public for

private use of the Lake.

NEEDS. The Township lacks any public water access for swimming, boating and fishing. It is also lacking park facilities with special features to offer residents.

PROPOSALS TO MEET NEEDS. Acquisition of the commercial recreation property or other sizable parcel on Murray Lake would enable the Township to offer waterfront recreation to all residents. The need to develop facilities would be minimal at the commercial site, as they are already in place.

RATIONALE. This acquisition would fulfill goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of providing water access to all residents and to satisfy community desires to develop waterfront recreation opportunities.

<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Land Acquisition	Unknown

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Bonds, Millage, Parks and Recreation budget, User fees, Washtenaw County budget

4. TRAIL SYSTEM

LOCATION. The construction of a trail system has begun, in a cooperative effort with Washtenaw County. Illustration 29 showing natural features can be used to identify potential zones which can be used as linkages and passive recreation nature areas, as these trails are planned. Trails will also be located along observed main bicycle routes, such as Plymouth Ann Arbor Road and Prospect Road.

DESCRIPTION. The trail system will accommodate walkers, joggers and bicyclists. It is intended to serve as a direct path to travel across the Township, as a linkage between parks and neighborhoods, and as an opportunity to experience natural features.

NEEDS. Walking, running and bicycling are popular recreational activities. The trails already constructed are popular and well used. Continuation of this project will be a boon to the Township. In rural areas, people walking running or bicycling use the shoulder of roads or the roadway itself as a course.

PROPOSALS TO MEET NEEDS. The Township is continuing to develop a paved trail system for multiple use utilizing easements, right-of-way, and acquired lands, connecting parks, neighborhoods and communities. In cooperation with the Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning, further development of this system will serve to greatly benefit our residents.

RATIONALE. This proposal meets goals 1 and 2 in Section V in providing passive recreational opportunities. It also addresses Township residents' desires to develop a trail system.

PROJECTED COSTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Trail Design and Open Space Plan	\$20,000
Trail Construction	30,000/year, according to plan
Trail Maintenance	3,000/per year

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Millage, Parks and Recreation budget, Washtenaw County funds

5. BIKE PATH SYSTEM

LOCATION. Plymouth Road has extra wide shoulders from Napier Road west to M153. These were funded by MDOT as a bikeway. The bikeway stops at M153 through Dixboro, but picks up again at Dixboro Road and continues west. Additionally, complete Geddes Road bikeway from west end of Township to east.

DESCRIPTION. Plymouth and Geddes Roads are two-lane rural roads through farmland and rural housing on large acre lots. The roads curve and offers interesting scenery for bikers. The bikeways are used extensively in the summer and during good weather year-round.

NEEDS. The two miles from M153 to Dixboro Road along Plymouth Road does not have wide shoulders and poses a hazard for bikers trying to connect the two bikeways. These two miles should have the shoulders widened and improved to make this well-used bikeway safer.

PROPOSALS TO MEET NEEDS. Investigate ways to improve the shoulders of Plymouth Road from M153 to Dixboro through the Washtenaw County Road Commission and MDOT. Funding would have to come from the Road Commission or the State, as it is in their jurisdiction. Plans are underway for this to be done.

6. SCHROETER PARK ADDITION

NEEDS. Most of the Park is open at this time. A small portion is wooded. To improve the quality of the Park as a natural area, additional land is needed. More trails are needed to serve users, especially horseback riders and cross-country skiers. In addition, this land could connect to a larger conservation zone increasing its value as a nature park.

PROPOSAL TO MEET NEEDS. Superior Township will attempt to acquire property to the east and/or south of the existing park, possibly in conjunction with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and the Superior Land Preservation Society. It will then design and construct a trail system to be used by walkers, joggers, cross-country skiers and horseback riders. The parcel to the east is covered by tall grasses and brushy vegetation. The parcel to the south is covered by an oak woodland.

RATIONALE. This acquisition will fulfill goals 1, 2, and 4 in Section V in providing a nature area and protecting natural systems.

<u>PROJECTED COST</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
East Property	Unknown
South Property	Unknown
Trail Design	\$15,000
Trail Construction	Unknown

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Millage, Parks and Recreation budget

7. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION

LOCATION. Illustration 28 can be used to identify areas of significant natural features which form an open space system or conservation zone.

DESCRIPTION. The composite natural features include woodlands, upland brush, wetlands, open water and streams. The areas identified constitute zones of wildlife habitat, migration corridors, environmentally sensitive ecosystems, and quality visual areas.

NEEDS. The increasingly unique rural character of Superior Township is based on the existence of these natural features, open fields and agricultural activity. To preserve this quality, the Township needs to ensure the preservation of an open space system.

PROPOSALS TO MEET NEEDS. The Township will investigate all methods of preserving an open space system, possibly in collaboration with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and the

Superior Land Preservation Society. A Natural Features Survey and Historical Features Survey were made of the Township, indicating many areas that need protection. As it is impossible for the Township to obtain all of the appropriate lands, it will be necessary to develop creative approaches to encourage private residents to preserve open space elements. The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and the Superior Land Preservation Society have established precedents concerning conservation easements and tax abatements for conservation, which can be implemented. The Township can acquire some lands, use easements to set aside land, and offer tax incentives to preserve lands. The Township is also investigating Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) as a means to preserve agricultural property. An open space system must be integrated with Washtenaw County's open space network as well. See the Proposed Open Space Preservation Policy in Section VII.

RATIONALE. Open space acquisition or preservation will conserve natural resources and scenic quality and will increase passive recreation opportunities. It will also fulfill goals 1, 2, 4, and 5 in Section V.

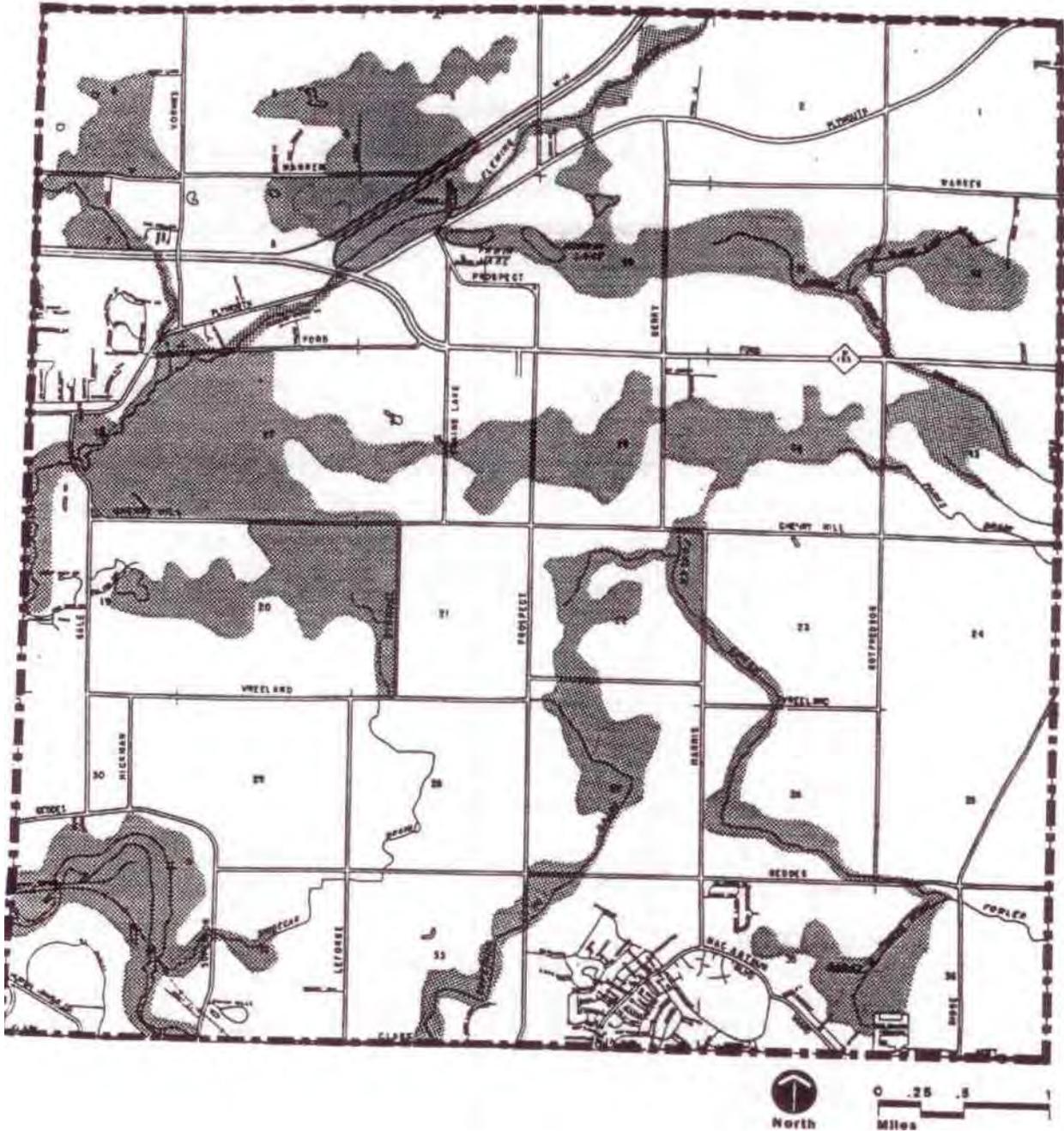
<u>PROJECTED COSTS</u>	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Open Space Study & Trail Design	\$20,000
Implementation	35,000/year

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

Millage, Township, Parks and Recreation budget, Cooperative Efforts with other interested groups

ILLUSTRATION 29

Conservation Zone



SECTION VII

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS **FUNDING PARK AND OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

BOND ISSUES

In the past, financial support for public capital improvement projects, such as new park facilities, has come from donations and grants. The Schroeter Park property was willed to the Township and a small piece of property was donated with a life lease. Funds from the Township through taxes have supported only operations and maintenance. To date, the Township has not used bond issues as a means of acquiring or improving parks. Bonds offer the advantage of providing lump sums of money with which to undertake large or expensive acquisition or development projects, and until the sums are actually spent, they can earn interest to partially offset the interest to be paid on those same borrowed funds. State law requires that bond revenues be expended within three years of the sale of the bonds. It is permissible, however, to exercise bonding authorization in segments, so that a commitment to a bonding program can be stretched over a longer period by spacing sales of the bonds. Bonds have the disadvantage of substantial long-term interest costs while still requiring taxation to retire them, but because both principal and interest payments are fixed, their effects would be mitigated somewhat by continued inflation.

MILLAGE

An operative millage extending over a number of years has two distinct advantages: (1) it is a stable system of funding, without commitment to long-term payments of interest and principal, and (2) because it is based on assessed valuation of properties in the community, revenues will increase as the total valuation increases. The disadvantage is that a millage does not provide lump sums for substantial purchases or development projects. Instead, it may encourage piecemeal acquisition and development, which is not always beneficial. However, if the voters approve a millage with part of its revenue pledged to a specified purchase or project, the millage could be used over a period of years to complete an undertaking should total cost exceed the annual millage revenue. A levy of one-half mil per dollar of assessed valuation of taxable property in the Township in 2011 would produce approximately \$271,371.

MATCHING FUNDS

Bond issues and millages can be designed to generate federal and/or state grants and matching funds. In the past it has been possible to obtain matching funds (a federal or state

dollar for each Township dollar applied to a particular project) for some park acquisitions and development projects.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS

Other capital funding sources for parks include:

1. Grants, especially cooperative grants with other concerned communities.
2. Appropriations from the Township General Fund - when prompt commitment of funds is necessary and funds are available in the parks budget.
3. User fee assessments - if potential facilities are developed, such as a community center, an athletic complex or a golf course.
4. Gifts or bequests - which cannot be anticipated but should be encouraged and sought.
5. Revenue Bonds.

OTHER OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION

In addition to the previous strategies, the Township should consider all means possible to improve its parks and open space resources. Included in these methods are:

1. Gifts of property, materials and supplies.
2. Donations of property with life-long lease arrangements.
3. Donations of volunteer services, which have been extremely valuable in maintaining and improving parkland in this Township.
4. Transfers of property from other public agencies, such as Washtenaw County and public schools.
5. Exchanges of property with other agencies, corporations, or individuals, such as public schools.
6. Multiple, alternating or sequential uses of Township and/or other public properties or corporate-owned land; e.g., playgrounds on subsurface water storage/recharge sites or on Drain Commission lands, game courts on school parking lots and street closings and relocations.
7. Property condemnation.
8. Tax foreclosures.
9. Negotiated leases (preferably perpetual), zoning easements, conservation easements and developer dedication.

PROPOSED PARKLAND DEDICATION POLICY

GUIDELINES

Superior Township is responsible for providing recreation resources to Township residents.

Opportunities for recreation within neighborhoods is a high priority for the Township Parks and

Recreation Commission. To fulfill this goal, there is a need to establish guidelines for parkland dedication in new developments. Said guidelines will help the Township negotiate with developers uniformly with known desires. This approach will hopefully provide equitable recreation resources for the benefit of all Township residents. The proposed policy is based on the parkland dedication policy developed by the City of Ann Arbor.

At the time of Township review of a site plan, subdivision plat or planned unit development, each developer will be requested to dedicate land for parks and recreation purposes to serve the immediate and future needs of the residents of the development, or consider cash contributions in lieu of requested land dedication, or a combination of both, in accordance with the criteria outlined below. Such dedication parameters are not mandatory in the absence of State enabling legislation, but rather, discretionary by the petitioners. It is recommended that a process be adopted that will enable the Parks and Recreation Commission or director to review appropriate site plans.

PARKLAND STANDARD

To establish a standard for amounts of neighborhood parkland, the existing neighborhood parkland was inventoried. A ratio was determined between the amount of parkland and number of residents in order to set a desired standard. This standard will be applied to future developments. Such a policy ensures that future residents will be served as well as current residents. It also ensures that current residents will not bear the full cost of providing neighborhood parks for future residents.

CRITERIA

According to 2010 census statistics from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, in 2010 the average household in the Township was composed of 2.65 persons. There are currently 280 total park acres in the Township, of which 66 may be considered neighborhood parkland, or approximately 4 acres per 1,000 residents.

The total need shall be 4 acres of land per 1,000 persons, or .011 acre per housing unit. The need shall apply to site plans and plats with more than eight units.

To the extent possible, parkland dedications should be contiguous with other parkland or open space features. In small developments, requiring small amounts of parkland, this approach will provide a more usable recreation area.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION POLICY

The preservation of open spaces in Superior Township is important to many residents and critical to the survival of sensitive ecosystems in the Township. It is important to preserve natural landscapes and wildlife habitat by conserving woodland, wetlands, flood plains and natural linkages to form a continuous conservation zone. Illustration 27 indicates a potential conservation zone by connecting woodlands, wetlands and drainage courses. A contiguous natural system is vital for the establishment of animal and vegetative migration corridors. At the same time, a contiguous natural system can be used as a pathway to connect different areas of the Township. This policy does not demand or expect that all of the area shown will be preserved or set aside. Rather, it suggests that the areas shown possess significant natural features that would compliment a conservation zone.

It is recommended that the Township pursue policies that will facilitate the preservation of open spaces. There are many possible methods to achieve this preservation without trying to acquire all of the land which falls into a potential conservation zone.

Utility easements and railroad rights-of-way offer opportunities to connect larger natural areas. They can also be used for pathway connections. A use or lease agreement could be negotiated with the respective agency at little cost to the Township, but provide otherwise difficult to establish natural and pathway linkages.

Drainage easements are another method of connecting natural systems. Drainage courses must be preserved as they run through developments, and some of the associated easements may be suitable for paths.

Road rights-of-way have potential for developing pedestrian connections. Road improvement projects along major thoroughfares should incorporate a pedestrian/bicycle path in the right-of-way.

Scenic easements can be utilized to protect visual access to special Township features. Such an easement might be considered along the Huron River and around Fleming Creek Pond to prevent development from disturbing views of natural areas.

A conservation easement can be granted by a private citizen, under the Conservation and

Historic Preservation Easement Act of 1980, to a government body or organization that will place restrictions on the use of a piece of land. This would establish a permanent easement that might be used as a natural linkage.

When other means of preserving open space are not feasible, the Township may consider acquisition of parcels with significant natural qualities, possibly with the cooperation of other interested public or private parties. It is desirable that such an investment would not only preserve open space and habitat, but serve as a passive recreation nature area for residents. This use would require very little development and provide a special opportunity for the Township.

RECYCLING POLICY

The Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to promoting the recycling of usable materials. Superior Township officials and residents realize there is a limit to materials that can be stored in landfills. They are aware of the dangers of environmental damage caused by such wasteful policies. The commission will support the Township's endeavor to create a facility for the collection of reusable materials and yard waste as a responsible action.

TABLE 9

BUDGET PROJECTIONS

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Township	\$230,189	\$237,095	\$244,208	\$251,534	\$259,080
Interest	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100
All Other	103,900	3,900	153,900	3,900	103,900
Total	340,189	247,095	404,208	261,534	369,080
Expenditures					
Administration	73,203	75,399	77,661	79,991	82,391
Recreation	8,200	8,200	8,300	8,300	8,300
Maintenance	136,219	140,306	144,515	148,850	153,316
Park Development	122,567	23,190	173,732	24,393	125,073
Total	340,189	247,095	404,208	261,534	369,080

The budget projections shown are based in part on grant funding, and so are speculative. Lower priority items will depend on grant funding.

TABLE 10

PARK AND OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

<u>PARK</u>	<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Cherry Hill	Boardwalk	\$100,000	P&R Budget & Grants	2013
Fireman's Park	Soccer goal and equipment	9,000	P&R Budget	2013
Schroeter	Trail System	7,000	P&R Budget	2013
Norfolk	Shelter repairs	5,000	P&R Budget	2013
Town Hall/Schock	Landscaping	6,000	P&R Budget	2013
Harvest Moon	Basketball Court Resurfacing	11,000	P&R Budget	2014
Schroeter	Picnic Area	6,000	P&R Budget	2014
Community	Tennis Court Resurfacing	15,000	P&R Budget & Grants	2014
Harvest Moon	Trails to Neighborhoods	10,000	P&R Budget	2014
Cherry Hill	Boardwalk	200,000	P&R Budget & Grants	2015
Oakbrook	Shelter	20,000	Grants	2015
Harvest Moon	Shelter Repair	20,000	P&R Budget	2015
Town Hall/Schock	Shelter	20,000	P&R Budget	2015
Fireman's	Shelter	20,000	P&R Budget	2016
Harvest Moon	Fencing/Lighting	7,500	P&R Budget	2016
Cherry Hill	Benches	5,000	P&R Budget	2016
North Prospect	Tables/Benches	6,000	P&R Budget	2016
Schroeter	Interpretive Signs	5,000	P&R Budget	2017
Oakbrook	Basketball Court	45,000	P&R Budget & Grants	2017
Oakbrook	Jogging Path	45,000	Grants	2018
Community	Parking Lot Resurfacing	31,000	Grants	2018

SECTION VIII

APPENDIX

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

	<u>Superior Township</u>	<u>Washtenaw County</u>
Total population 2010	13,058	344,791
White	7,443	248,594
Black	3,891	43,099
All Others	1,724	53,098
Number of Households	4,924	137,193
Median Family Income	\$82,114	\$76,471
Housing Vacancy Rate	7.5%	7.0%
Median Housing Value	\$222,900	\$183,600
Median Rent	\$587	\$569

Source: SEMCOG