



Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission



Master Plan 2007-2011



2007-2011 Ingham County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Ingham County Officials

Board of Commissioners

Chairperson Marc Thomas, District 8
Vice-Chairperson Diane Holman, District 11
Vice-Chairperson Pro-Tem Mike Severino, District 15

Victor Celentino, District 1
Debbie De Leon, District 2
Tina Weatherwax-Grant, District 3
Rebecca Bahar-Cook, District 4
Andy Schor, District 5
Dale Copedge, District 6
Todd Tennis, District 7

Curtis Hertel, Jr. District 9
Mark Grebner, District 10
Deb Nolan, District 12
Randy Schafer, District 13
Steve Dougan, District 14
Tim Soule, District 16

Parks and Recreation Commission

Michael McDonald, Chair
Pamela Weil, Vice Chair
William Matt, Secretary
Dennis Propst
John Czarnecki
Commissioner Tina Weatherwax-Grant
Neila Tillman
Commissioner Dianne Holman
Pat Lindemann
Larry R. Smith

Table of Contents

About this Plan.....Page 5

Community Description.....Page 6

- Regional Context p.7
- Natural Resources p. 8
- Cultural/Man-Made Resources p.10
- Major Economic Zones p.12

Administrative Structure.....Page 14

- Ingham County Park & Recreation Commission p.15
- Existing Management Structure p.15
- Organizational Chart p.17
- Methods for Maintaining Facilities p.18
- Methods for Programming p.19
- Volunteers p.19
- Court Appointed Workers p.20
- Finance and Budget p.21
- Fees and Charges p.21

Recreation Inventory.....Page 24

- Ingham County Park Location Map p.25
- Our Parks
 - Baldwin County Park p.26
 - William Burchfield County Park p.28
 - Riverbend Natural Area p.29
 - Hawk Island County Park p.31
 - Kenneth Hope Soccer Complex p.33
 - Lake Lansing Boat Launch p.34
 - Lake Lansing North County Park p.35
 - Lake Lansing South County Park p.37
 - Rayner County Park p.39
 - Bunker Road Canoe Landing p.41
 - McNamara Canoe Landing p.42
 - Potter Park & Potter Park Zoo p.43
 - Heart of Michigan Trail p.44-45
- Accessibility Assessments p.46
- DNR Grant Inventory p.48
- Inventory of Other Public Land in Ingham County p.53
- Relationships with Schools and other Recreational Providers p.56
- Inventory of Lands and Facilities surrounding Ingham County p.59

Planning and Public Input Process.....Page 68

- Physical Inventories p.69
- Analysis of Recreation Plans p.69
- Public Focus Groups p.69
- Park User Comments p.69
- Commission Input p.70
- Staff Input p.70

Focus Group Needs Assessment.....Page 71

- Major Concepts p.72
 - Connect Parks with Trails & Greenways p.73
 - Acquisition of Parkland p.73
 - Undeveloped Natural & Quiet Areas p 73
 - Events and Activities to Attract People p.73
 - Recreational Opportunities with Dogs p. 74
 - Environmental Education & Interpretive Trails p.74
 - Campgrounds p.74
 - Multiple Use Parks p.75
 - Separate Conflicting Recreational Activities p.75
 - Water Park p.75
- Recommendations from Public Focus Groups p. 76
 - Recommendations for Short-Term Planning p.76
 - Recommendations for Long-Term Planning p. 77
- Conclusions: Major Concepts from Public Focus Groups p. 79

Park Staff and Commission Recommendations...Page 81

Goals, Objectives and Action.....Page 86

Public Review & Plan Adoption.....Page 93

- Resolution from Governing Body p.95
- Notice of 1/22/2007 Public Meeting p. 96
- Minutes from 1/22/2007 Public Meeting p.97-98
- Notice of 2/26/2007 Public Meeting p. 99
- Minutes from 2/26/2007 Public Meeting p. 100-101
- Park Commission Resolution forwarding Master Plan to Governing Body p. 102

About This Plan

In 2006, the Ingham County Park Commission and Ingham County Park Staff began identifying focus areas for the Departments 2007-2011 Master Plan. Through public focus group interviews conducted by Michigan State University, Commission involvement, and park management involvement, a number of goals and objectives were identified to serve as a general planning road map for the coming five years. This planning road map was developed in part by reflecting back upon the 2001-2006 Master Plan, and considering the opportunities and challenges the Park Commission faces through 2011.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission 2007-2011 Master Plan encompasses all of Ingham County. It would be remiss in realizing that many of our park facilities are utilized by residents within a tri-county region including Eaton and Clinton Counties. It is important that although this plan focuses on Ingham County, planning must also take into account current and future park areas in adjoining counties.



Regional Context

Ingham County is the southeastern most county within the Lansing tri-county region. The other counties which form this area are Eaton County to the west and Clinton County to the northwest. Located in the northwest corner of Ingham County is the City of Lansing, the primary link between the three counties. The tri-county region, located in the central portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, encompasses 1,700 square miles, with Ingham County claiming 560.7 square miles. Overall, 90% of the tri-county region is classified as rural or small town. Approximately 85% of Ingham County is rural. The other counties surrounding Ingham County are Shiawassee to the northeast, Livingston to the east, Washtenaw to the southeast, Jackson to the south, Calhoun to the southwest, and Ionia to the northwest. Major cities within this region are Lansing, Jackson, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek.

Population statistics indicate that Ingham County has a larger share of the population base than Eaton or Clinton. According to Census 2000, the population in the tri-county region was 447,728 in 2000, with 62% (279,320) found in Ingham County. Population in 1990 was 432,674 for the region, indicating an increase in population of 15,054 or 3.5% between 1990 and 2000. Ingham County population for the same period fell by 2,592 or 0.9%.

Within Ingham County there are 5 cities, 3 villages, 3 charter townships, and 3 unincorporated areas. They are as follows:

<u>Cities:</u>	East Lansing, Lansing, Leslie, Mason, and Williamston
<u>Villages:</u>	Dansville, Stockbridge, and Webberville
<u>Charter Townships:</u>	Delhi, Lansing, and Meridian
<u>Other Townships:</u>	Williamstown, Locke, Alaiedon, Wheatfield, Leroy, Aurelius, Vevay, Ingham, White Oak, Onondaga, Leslie, Bunker Hill, and Stockbridge.
<u>Unincorporated Areas:</u>	Haslett, Holt, Okemos.

Most of Ingham County's population is centered in the greater Lansing metropolitan area. Growth patterns tend to radiate primarily from the Lansing area outward, with growth decreasing as the distance from Lansing increases. There is a limited amount of commuting between the Lansing metropolitan area and outlying major cities such as Flint, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw. Most Ingham County residents work within the Lansing metropolitan area

NATURAL RESOURCES

Geographic profile

Ingham County topography is characterized as flat to gently rolling. Two major rivers traverse the county, the Grand River and the Red Cedar River. Several glacial eskers also pass through the county. Land uses include: 15% urban areas, 67% agriculture and open space, 14% woodland and 4% wetlands. Of the wetlands, only .5% is classified as water, including both rivers and lakes.

County Physiography

The soils of Ingham County are a direct result of glacial deposits made between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago. Soil properties vary depending on how the material was deposited. A key feature of Ingham County is that it contains one of the greatest concentrations of eskers in Michigan. Eskers are sand and gravel deposits of glacial streams which were confined by ice walls and left as ridges after the ice disappeared. The Mason esker extends for more than 35 miles, from the Looking Glass River southeast of DeWitt to southeast of Mason. In places, this feature has gravel ridges extending more than 35 feet high, with a trough ranging in width from 200 feet to over one-half mile. At its northern extension, the esker passes through Bancroft Park, in northeast Lansing, where a major portion has been preserved in its original form, and then further along into the west side of Groesbeck Golf Course. Mount Hope Cemetery is located on its central section. Remaining portions of the esker are difficult to follow, due to losses from mining operations or its convergence with other glacial deposits, such as moraines. However the original deposits which do still remain are of significant geologic and historic value.

The range in elevation in the county is from 800 feet to 1,000 feet above sea level. The topography in Ingham County ranges from nearly level to hilly, with a limited number of areas classified as steep.

County Soils

Soil in the county was deposited by receding glaciers, ranging in type from loam to sand to muck. Gravel deposits also make up some of these deposits, particularly from the eskers. Many of the sand and gravel deposits have been mined throughout this past century. Soils vary from well drained to very poorly drained, depending upon the soil type.

County Hydrology

Wetlands cover 4% of the county, with lakes and rivers accounting for 0.5%. Lake Lansing, located in the north-central part of the county, is the largest natural lake. Several smaller lakes are located in the southeastern portion of the county, but most of these are surrounded by muck soils. Natural water resources, particularly for recreation purposes, are extremely limited. The majority of the lands surrounding the existing lakes are privately owned.

Artificial draining and filling of wetlands had been practiced in the past. However, state law now prohibits this practice to a large extent. This is seen as a limiting factor by the development industry and a necessary precaution by those seeking wetland protections.

Both the Grand River and Red Cedar River are significant in their impact on the county. The Grand River flows to the north along the west side of the county. The Red Cedar River flows westward along the northern portion of the county. Both meet in Lansing and flow out toward the northwest corner. Ingham County is within the Grand River drainage basin.

County Vegetation

Ingham County lies in the deciduous forest zone in which the climax forest is Beech-Maple or Oak-Hickory. Farming throughout the past century has significantly reduced these original forests. The following vegetation groupings are typical within the county: agriculture, forest, swamp and marsh, river and lakeshore, and abandoned field.

Wildlife

Hunting is permitted in many areas throughout the county. Deer, woodcock, pheasant, quail, turkey, and rabbit are among those hunted. In addition to hunting, fishing is a popular recreational pastime, with some areas actively stocked.

Climate

The average winter temperature is 24.9 degrees Fahrenheit, with the average daily minimum temperature of 17.5 degrees. In summer the average temperature is 68.9 degrees, and the average daily maximum temperature is 80.2 degrees.

On average, 61% (18.1 inches) of annual precipitation falls from April through September. Average snowfall for a season is 39.4 inches.

The average relative humidity in mid-afternoon is approximately 62%. The humidity is higher at night, with an average of 83% by dawn.

CULTURAL/MAN-MADE RESOURCES

Historic Areas

There are several historically significant places within Ingham County. Individual homes and buildings have been designated by local communities as worthy of preservation and have been included in the state historical register.

Of equal value are the unique environments such as the Meridian Township Historical Village. These types of environments offer both learning opportunities and the preservation of historical artifacts and structures.

Land Use

Development within the county has gradually pushed outward from the Lansing metropolitan area. When infrastructure and land use are compared, the more intense land uses are directly associated with transportation, sewer, and water services.

Automobile

The people of Ingham County are dependent on the automobile for transportation. Other modes are available, but play a minor role in moving people. Roads are a corollary of autos and a means of connecting land uses and activity areas. Roads and highways in the county are part of the regional and state network. The freeways, particularly I-96, I-496, and U.S. Route 127, are routes to destinations outside of Ingham County. Commercial centers have located adjacent to these routes to take advantage of the access, and as a result have become destinations. Exit/entrance ramps illustrate where development has occurred.

Airports

The Capital City Airport, located north of Lansing, is the largest in the area. It is a full-service, all-weather, commercial-airline airport, serving the entire Lansing metropolitan area. In addition, there is one other small facility, Jewett Airport in Mason, which is used by crop dusters, small clubs and recreational pilots.

Railroads

Conrail, CSX, and Canadian National operate railroads in the county. Some railways are no longer in use.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

Ingham County has a limited number of designated bicycle routes. While some of these are paved shoulders of existing roads, many are pathways which must be shared with pedestrians. Pedestrian paths/sidewalks are available along most, but not all, major roadways.

Trails and paths in parks do accommodate a portion of the recreational demand. However, urban routes which access the county parks frequently are not safe or continuous connections and rural routes are limited by the availability of paved shoulders.

MAJOR ECONOMIC ZONES

There are two major economic corridor zones in Ingham County. Within these zones, most of the economic activity, both existing and forecast, is concentrated. This activity includes central business districts, shopping centers, office buildings, industrial and research parks, hospitals, colleges, universities, and other commercial activities of significance.

I-96/Grand River Avenue Corridor

This 15-mile long corridor varies in width from one-half mile to 3 miles. The general boundaries are I-96 to the south and M-43/Grand River Avenue to the north. The corridor stretches from Lansing in the northwest corner of the county, east through East Lansing, Okemos, Williamston, and Webberville.

Adjoining East Lansing is the Michigan State University campus. In the immediate surrounding area, most businesses support, or are supported by, the university in some way. East of the university are primarily commercial and residential developments, as well as a more recent influx of research parks and offices, particularly in the Meridian Township/Okemos area.

Much of the area between Okemos, Williamston and Webberville is rural, with some pockets of residential development. Williamston has become a destination for those shopping for antiques and has a healthy economic base. As the distance from Lansing increases, the types and number of businesses decrease proportionately. Proposed developments along the eastern half of this corridor include small to medium sized industrial parks, which would support primarily the surrounding communities.

US-127 Corridor

This 18-mile corridor is an extension from the City of Lansing. At its northern end, southeast of Lansing, it is bounded by US-127 and Cedar Street. From there it narrows down just north of Mason, where its boundaries change to US-127 and the Conrail Railroad. It then heads directly south into Leslie. The corridor varies in width from 2 ½ miles near Lansing, to an average of 1 mile.

This corridor is made up largely of commercial and industrial businesses. Plans indicate mid-sized to large (1,000 acre) industrial park developments along this route. These industrial parks are planned for the Lansing metropolitan area, Mason and Leslie.

Other Economic Development

In addition to these two corridors, there are other small areas of development. Most of this development is occurring within villages such as Dansville and Stockbridge, primarily in the form of industrial parks.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for 2005 was 6.2% for Ingham County (fedstats.gov).

Unique needs populations

There are small pockets of population groups throughout the county that have unique needs. In part, because it is the largest city in the county and also the state capitol Lansing maintains the highest concentration of minority populations and also the largest population with low incomes (based on estimated data from the Tri-County subsidized school lunch program). The city is also the largest provider of services to aid these population groups and even the county facilities are located in the city.

Other unique populations related to age (those under 18 and over 65 years of age) are more spread out over the county but still with dense pockets within the city of Lansing.

Environmental Issues

The Ingham County Parks Department is aware of the need to protect endangered and threatened species and other unique natural features that may exist within the county. Environmental reviews are requested from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on any park projects where it is appropriate.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission

The Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission was created under Act 261 of 1965. The Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission consists of the following ten members:

- (1) Chairperson of the Ingham County Road Commission, or another Road Commissioner designated by the Board of County Road Commissioners;
- (2) Ingham County Drain Commissioner;
- (3) Chairperson of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, if he or she is a resident of Ingham County; but if he or she is not a resident of Ingham County, then another representative of the Regional Planning Commission who is a resident of Ingham County shall be appointed by 2/3 vote of the Board; and
- (4) Seven members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, not less than one nor more than three of whom shall be members of the Board of Commissioners; and

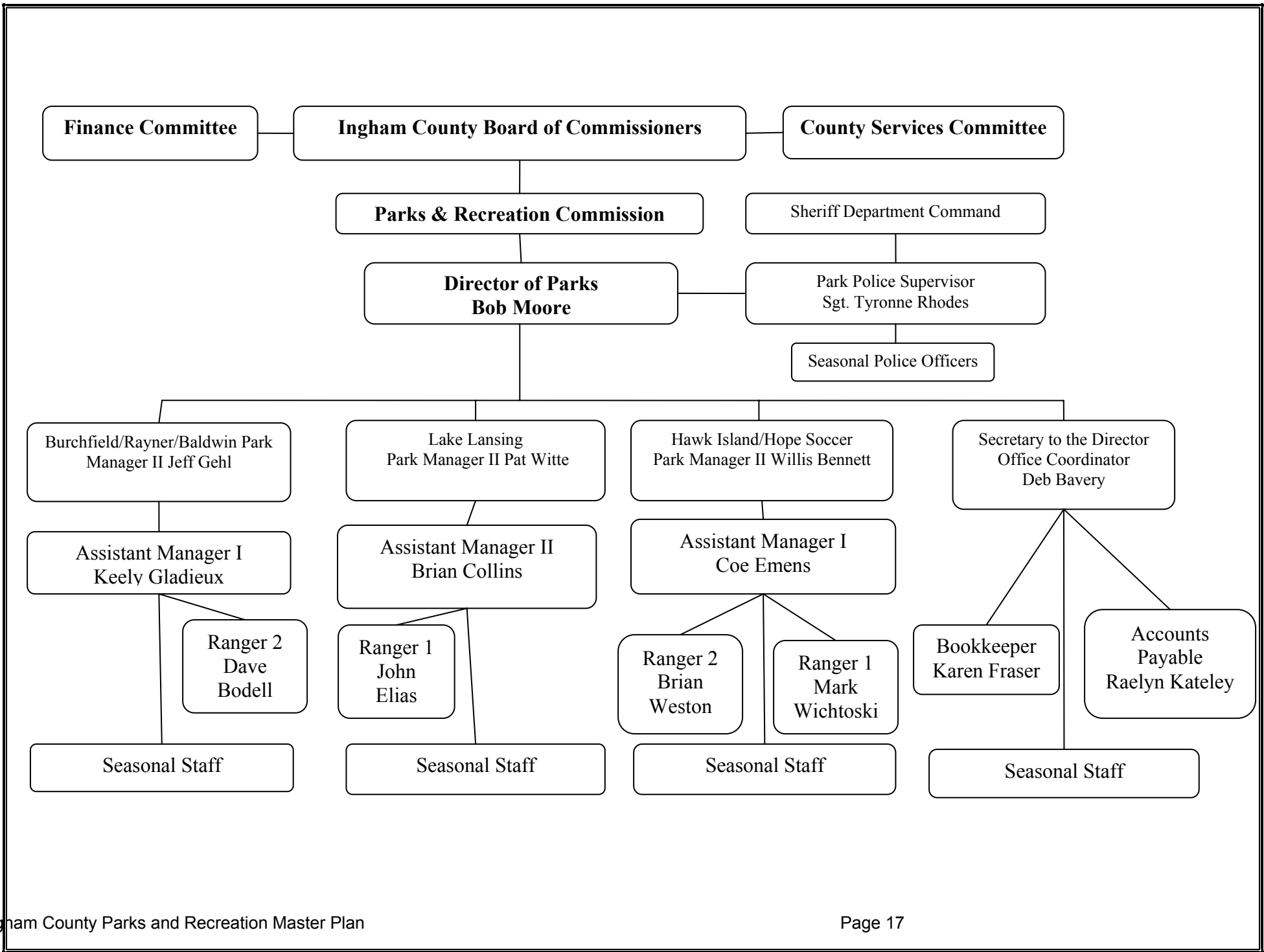
The Director of Parks reports directly to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

EXISTING MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Park and Recreation Commission establishes policies and procedures related to the day to day operation of the parks, consistent with existing County policies. The Director is responsible for coordinating the directives of the Parks and Recreation Commission, including implementing Board of Commissioner approved acquisition and development plans, making recommendations to the Commission, and performing liaison functions between the staff and Commission. All park staff report directly to the Director.

The permanent staff positions responsible for the management of the park and recreation system are:

	<u>Number of Positions</u>
Director	1
Park Manager II	3
Assistant Park Manager II	1
Assistant Park Manager	2
Ranger II	2
Ranger I	2
Police Sergeant	1
Office Manager	1
Bookkeeper	1
Account Clerk	<u>0.5</u>
TOTAL Positions	14.5



SEASONAL EMPLOYEES-SUMMER

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Positions</u>
Naturalist	2
Gatehouse Attendant	5
Rental Attendants	9
Head Ranger	1
Lifeguards	23
Lifeguard Supervisors	6
Rangers	15
Police Officers	7
Accounting Intern	1
Food Concession	5
Secretaries	<u>1</u>
Total:	75

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES-WINTER

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Positions</u>
Ski Rental Operators	4
Food Concession Operators	2
Gatehouse Attendant	1
Rangers	<u>6</u>
Total	13

All permanent positions are full-time, with the exception of the account clerk position. Seasonal positions are not designated as either full or part-time. Summer seasonal totals are from hire list for 2006. Winter seasonal totals are from the winter of 2005-2006.

METHODS FOR MAINTAINING FACILITIES

The three Park Managers and the three Assistant Park Managers are responsible for all facility maintenance and coordination of manpower and materials throughout the entire park system.

METHODS FOR PROGRAMMING

Programming functions are primarily performed by the Parks Director. Programs are designed to suit the current and projected needs of the park users.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an integral part in the operations and maintenance of county park facilities. Within the Ingham County Parks system, we have two types of volunteers, those that perform labor, and those who are active in various volunteer committees.

In 2006, more than 300 individuals and groups volunteered to perform physical labor within our county parks helping with tasks such as seal coating playgrounds, litter clean up, painting, and other various activities.

The *Friends of Ingham County Parks* has been an active group of committed volunteers who have assisted the Ingham County Parks Departments with volunteer coordination, project development, and project fundraising. Projects and committees that the *Friends* group developed include the following:

Projects

- Hawk Island Community Built Playground (2005)
- Lake Lansing Community Bandshell (2002)
- Lake Lansing Community Built Playground (1997)
- Rayner Park Community Built Playground (1995)

Committees (past and present)

- Friends of Ingham County Parks – Board of Directors
- Lake Lansing Band Shell Committee- Planned, raised funds for, and developed Lake Lansing Community Band Shell at Lake Lansing County Park South.
- Lake Lansing Band Shell Performance Committee – Develop and host a summer concert series at Lake Lansing County Park South in Meridian Township. Concerts are held every Friday evening from Memorial Day through Labor Day and are free to the public.

- Friends of Rayner Park
- Friends of Hawk Island Park
- Rayner Community Built Playground Committee – Planned, raised funds for, and developed playground at Rayner Park in Mason.
- Lake Lansing Community Built Playground Committee – Planned, raised funds for, and developed playground at Lake Lansing Park South in Meridian Township.
- Hawk Island Community Built Playground Committee – Planned, raised funds for, and developed playground at Hawk Island County Park in Lansing.

COURT APPOINTED WORKERS

In 2004, The Ingham County Parks Department partnered with the County Courts and the County Friend of the Court (FOC) to develop a Jail Alternative Sentencing Program (JASP) for persons who were in arrears of child support payments. Instead of jail time, these individuals were offered the opportunity to work within our parks for a designated period of time. Supervised by a crew leader, these work crews have afforded our parks department the opportunity to complete projects that would otherwise not have been possible. These projects included replacement of over 2500 foot of boardwalk at Lake Lansing Park North and construction of over 600 foot of new boardwalk at Hawk Island County Park. The work provided by these crews is above and beyond what the parks department has been able to do in prior years.

In 2005, 3449 bed days at the Ingham County Jail were saved through persons diverted to Ingham County Parks through the JASP program. It would have cost Ingham County tax payers approximately \$154,342 to house inmates for these 3449 days. In 2005, 3,941 Days (31,528 hours) additional labor hours were provided by utilizing the JASP program.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

The 2007 General Fund Budgeted Expenses are:

Maintenance/Operational \$2,034,878.00

The 2007 Enterprise Fund Budgeted Expenses are:

Maintenance/Operational \$234,679.00

The 2007 Capital Improvements Budget is:

\$1,583,500.00 (Includes GF dollars and other sources such as grants)

The primary source of General Fund Income is Ingham County property taxes. Other sources of income for the General Fund are state and federal grant monies and periodic donations and gifts. The Enterprise Funds are the revenues generated from user fees and concession profits.

FEES AND CHARGES

Fees are paid either in advance, or when the facility is used. Individual groups exempt or partially exempt from paying fees or charges are:

1. Youth groups (no fee for shelter use during weekdays)
2. Over 60 years of age (reduced boat rental fee)
3. Others, as reviewed by the Ingham County Parks Board, on an individual basis

Entrance Fees

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners retains the authority to implement entrance fees.

User Fees

The Ingham County Parks Board establishes fee rates for Ingham County Parks services. See Table.

USER FEES

Lake Lansing Boat Launch		Cross-country Ski Rental Lake Lansing & Burchfield	
Daily	\$ 5.00	Adults (weekends & holidays)	
Daily (Senior Citizen)	\$ 3.00	1st hour	\$ 4.00
Annual	\$ 50.00	2nd hour	\$ 3.00
Annual (Senior Citizen)	\$ 25.00	Additional hours	\$ 1.00
Pedal Boat Rental		Maximum	\$ 11.00
Weekday ½ hour	\$ 4.50	Children 12 and Under and Adults (weekdays)	
Weekends ½ hour	\$ 5.50	1st hour	\$ 4.00
Over 60 years (½ hour anytime)	\$ 1.00	Additional hours	\$ 1.00
Canoe & Kayak Rental		Maximum	\$ 6.00
1st hour	\$ 4.00	Environmental Day Camp	
2nd hour	\$ 4.00	Regular Session	\$ 75.00
3rd hour	\$ 2.00	Working Parents	\$ 100.0
Maximum/day	\$ 12.00		\$
Canoe Trips			\$
1 hour	\$ 10.00	Entrance Fees	
2 hours	\$ 12.00	Burchfield Park – Ingham County Residents	\$ 2.00
3-4 hours	\$ 15.00	Non-Residents	\$ 4.00
Moonlight Ski		All Other Parks* Ingham County Residents	\$ 2.00
Adults	\$ 6.00	Non-Residents	\$ 4.00
Children	\$ 3.00	*Lake Lansing & Hawk Island only charge on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through Labor Day.	

Pavilions/Picnic Shelters	One-half Shelter	Entire Shelter
Lake Lansing Park South – Main	\$80.00	\$150.00
Lake Lansing Park South – Lakeview	N/A	\$50.00
Lake Lansing Park North – Main	\$80.00	\$150.00
Lake Lansing Park North - Oak Knoll	N/A	\$50.00
Lake Lansing Park North – Sandhill	N/A	\$50.00
Burchfield Park – Overlook	N/A	\$150.00
Burchfield Park – Woodsong	\$80.00	\$150.00
Burchfield Park - Pine Knoll	N/A	\$50.00
Burchfield Park – Southridge	N/A	\$50.00
Burchfield Park - Spring & Fall-WSB	N/A	\$90.00
Burchfield Park - North Bluff	\$80.00	\$150.00
Burchfield Park - Deer Run	N/A	\$50.00
Rayner Park-Main	\$60.00	\$110.00
Baldwin Park-Riverview	N/A	\$45.00
Hawk Island – Red Tail	N/A	\$200.00
Hawk Island – Peregrine	\$50.00	\$100.00
Hawk Island – Kestrel	N/A	\$50.00

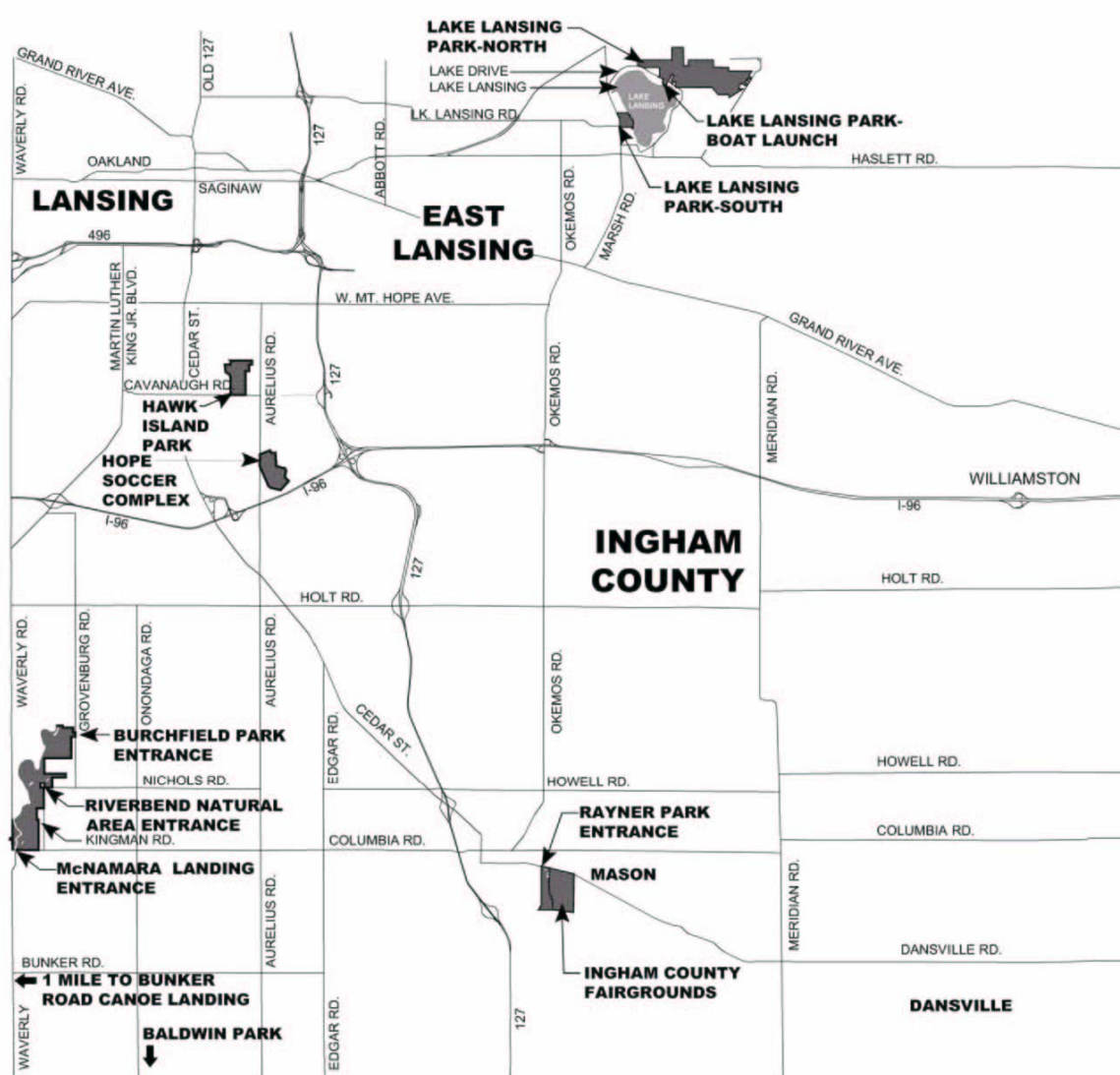
RECREATION INVENTORY

The recreation inventory was conducted by Ingham County Parks Department staff. The inventory for county park land was conducted through onsite visits to each of the park locations. Acreage was determined through existing park maps and legal descriptions. This inventory was performed in October 2006.

An inventory of other recreation lands in and around Ingham County has been included within this section. This inventory of other recreation lands has been included because it is important to monitor the ownership of land within the county in order to assist in the planning of new facilities or the possible acquisition of additional parkland within the county that would benefit the residents of Ingham County.



Ingham County Parks Location Map



Baldwin County Park
Ingham County Parks Department

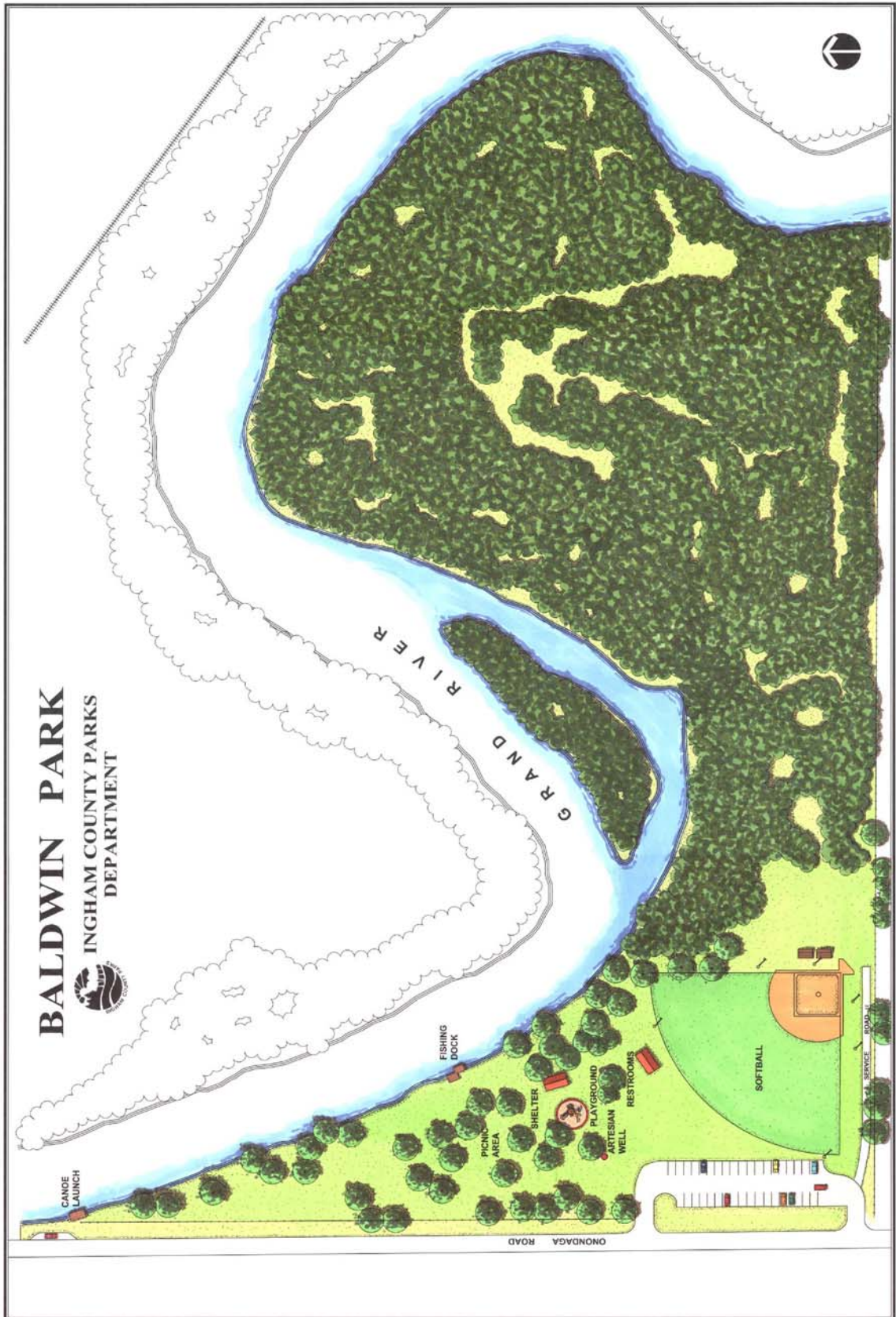


Acreage: 16 acres
Park Classification: Community Park
Annual Visitation: 21,405

Baldwin Park is located in the far southwest corner of the county, in Onondaga Township, along the Grand River. This was once the site of an Indian campground and later an early Ingham County settlement.

Major existing facilities include:

- Canoe Launch
- Fishing
- Picnic grounds & shelter
- Playground
- Softball diamond
- Artesian Well



William Burchfield County Park

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreege: 539 acres (with Riverbend Natural Area)
Park Classification: Large Urban Park
Annual Visitation: 94,331

Burchfield Park contains the Riverbend Natural Area within it, making Burchfield Park the largest in Ingham County. It is located along the central western edge of the county, south of Lansing, along the Grand River. The land is mostly wooded with some grass areas. The distance from Lansing is 8 miles.

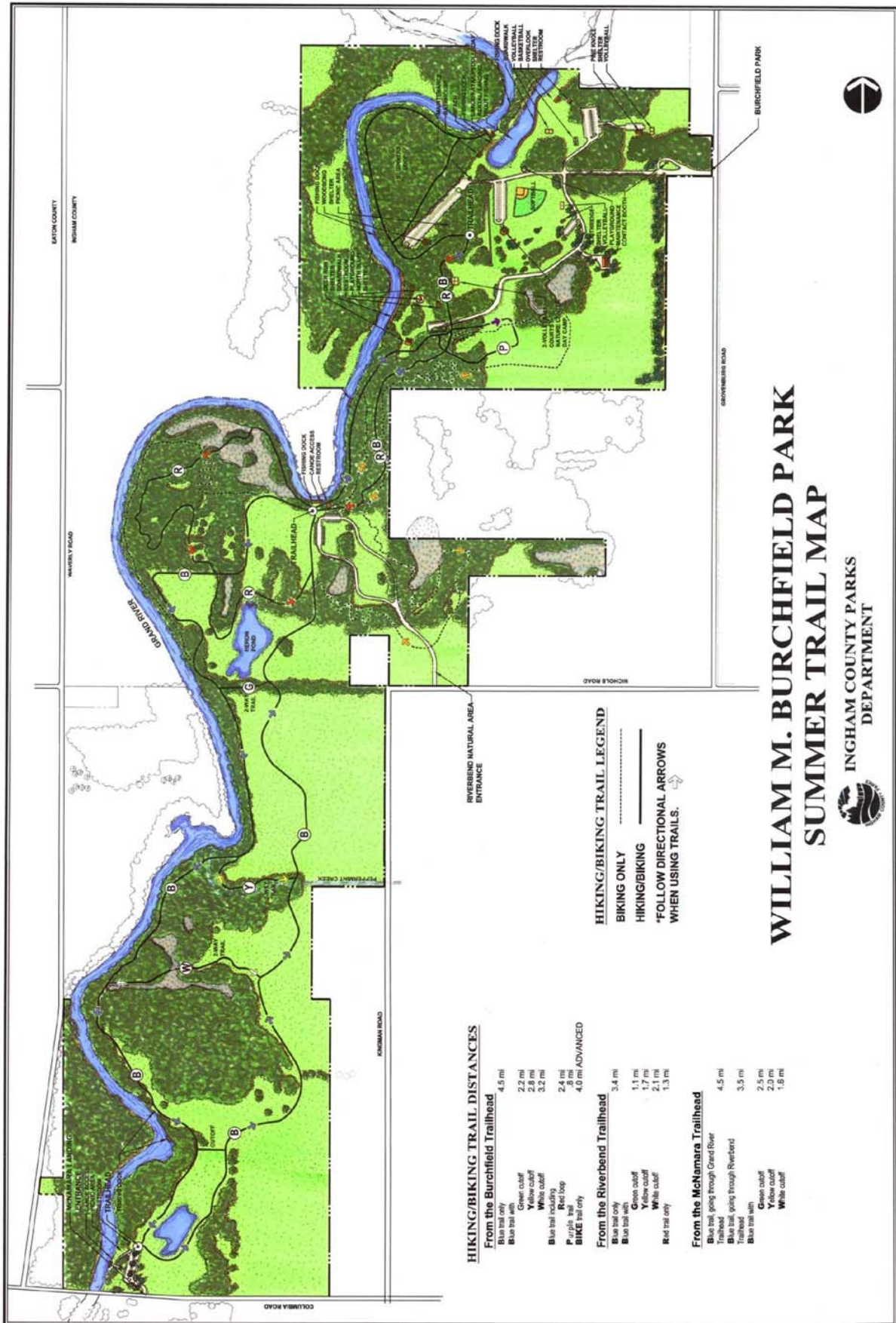
Major existing facilities at Burchfield & Riverbend include:

Softball Diamond	Picnic Grounds & Shelters	Canoe & Kayak Rental
Bank and boat fishing	Playgrounds	Pedal boat rental
Swimming beach	Volleyball courts	Tobogganing
Hiking trails	Stocked fishing pond	Sledding Hills
Warming lodge & snack bar	Horseshoe pits	Cross-Country skiing
Nature Day camp	Ski rental	Mountain Bike Trails

Riverbend Natural Area
Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 539 acres (w/Burchfield Park)
Park Classification: Natural Resources Area
Annual Visitation: 27,466



Hawk Island County Park

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 100 acres
Park Classification: Large Urban Park
Annual Visitation: 401,265

Hawk Island is Ingham County's newest county park. Although only open fully since 2002, it already has the highest annual visitation numbers within our park system. It is located on Cavanaugh Road, ¼ mile west of Aurelius, adjacent to and south of Lansing's Scott Woods Park. This 100 acre parcel includes a 35 acre lake and 1 mile multi-use asphalt path encompassing the park.

Major existing facilities at Hawk Island County Park include:

Swimming beach	Snack bar	Fishing boardwalk
Picnic grounds and shelters	Bath house	Playground
Asphalt pathway	Volleyball courts	Pedal boat & rowboat rental
Splash pad	Horseshoe pits	Sledding Hill
		Winter Warming Building



Hawk Island
County Park

Kenneth Hope Soccer Complex

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 30 acres
Park Classification: Sports Complex
Annual Visitation: 71,340

The Kenneth A. Hope Soccer Complex is a premier complex with six playing fields, which opened in 2000. The complex is a state of the art, tournament ready facility with fields developed by Michigan State University Turf Research Center. It has been designed and developed to meet the growing need for quality fields for the Greater Lansing area soccer enthusiasts and tournament players statewide.

Lake Lansing Boat Launch

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 4 acres
Park Classification: Special Use (Public Boat Access to Lake Lansing)
Annual Visitation: 120,550

The Lake Lansing Boat Launch is the only public launch site on Lake Lansing (400 acres). The boat launch has the majority of its visitation during the summer months but is also used during the winter as a parking area for those wishing to ice fish on the lake.

Lake Lansing North County Park

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 411 acres
Park Classification: Large Urban Park
Annual Visitation: 124,964

Lake Lansing North County Park is located to the northeast of Lake Lansing, lying north of Lake Drive in Haslett. A good portion of the park is wooded upland consisting of mature oaks and maples. Much of the park is marshlands, consisting of pine plantations and transitional field grasses. The distance from downtown Lansing is approximately seven miles.

Major existing facilities at Lake Lansing North include:

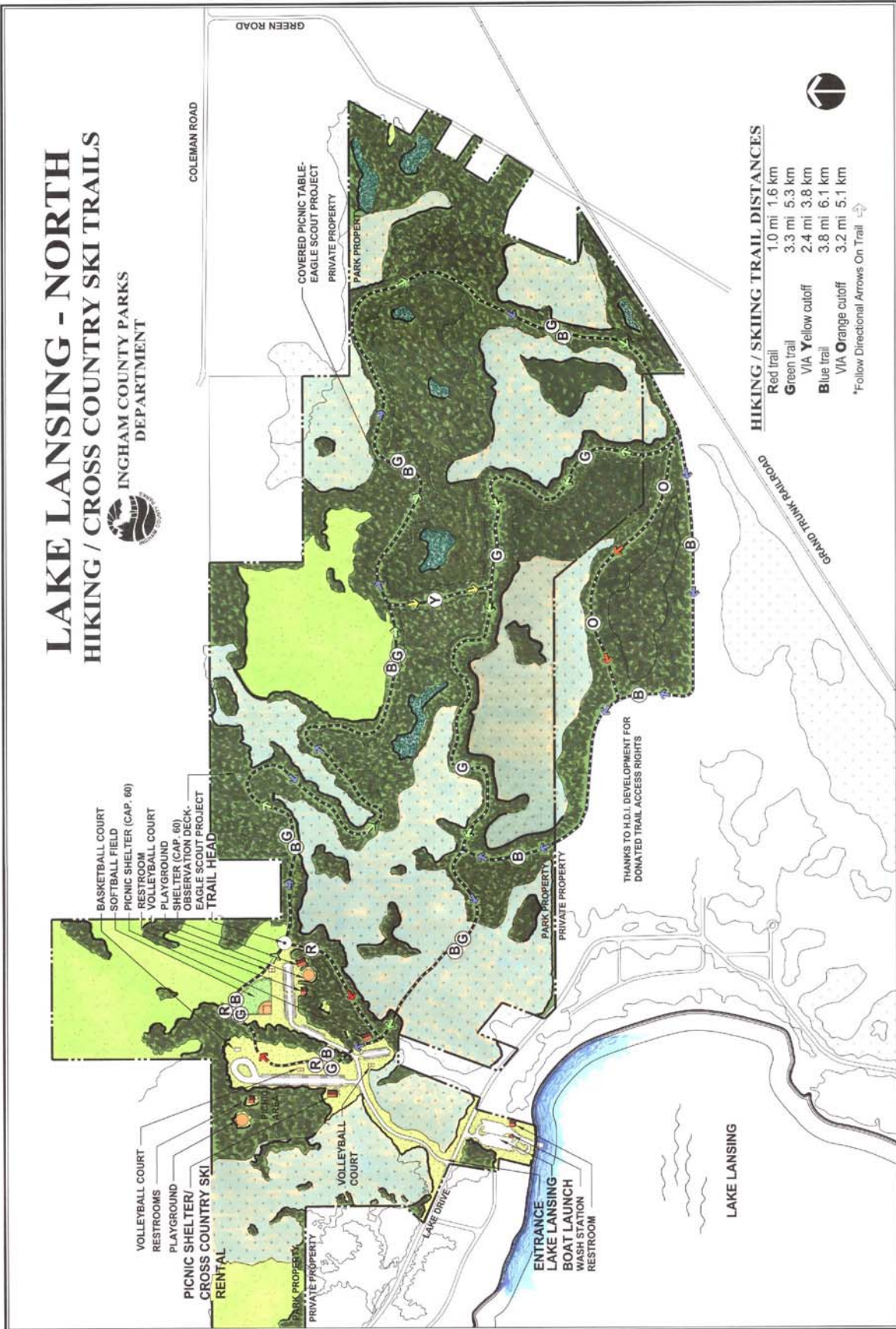
Softball diamond
Hiking trails
Boardwalks
Horseshoe pits

Nature study areas
Picnic grounds & shelters
Playgrounds
Volleyball courts

Cross-country skiing
Cross-country ski rental
Winter warming lodge

LAKE LANSING - NORTH

HIKING / CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS



Lake Lansing South County Park

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 30 acres

Park Classification: Large Urban Park

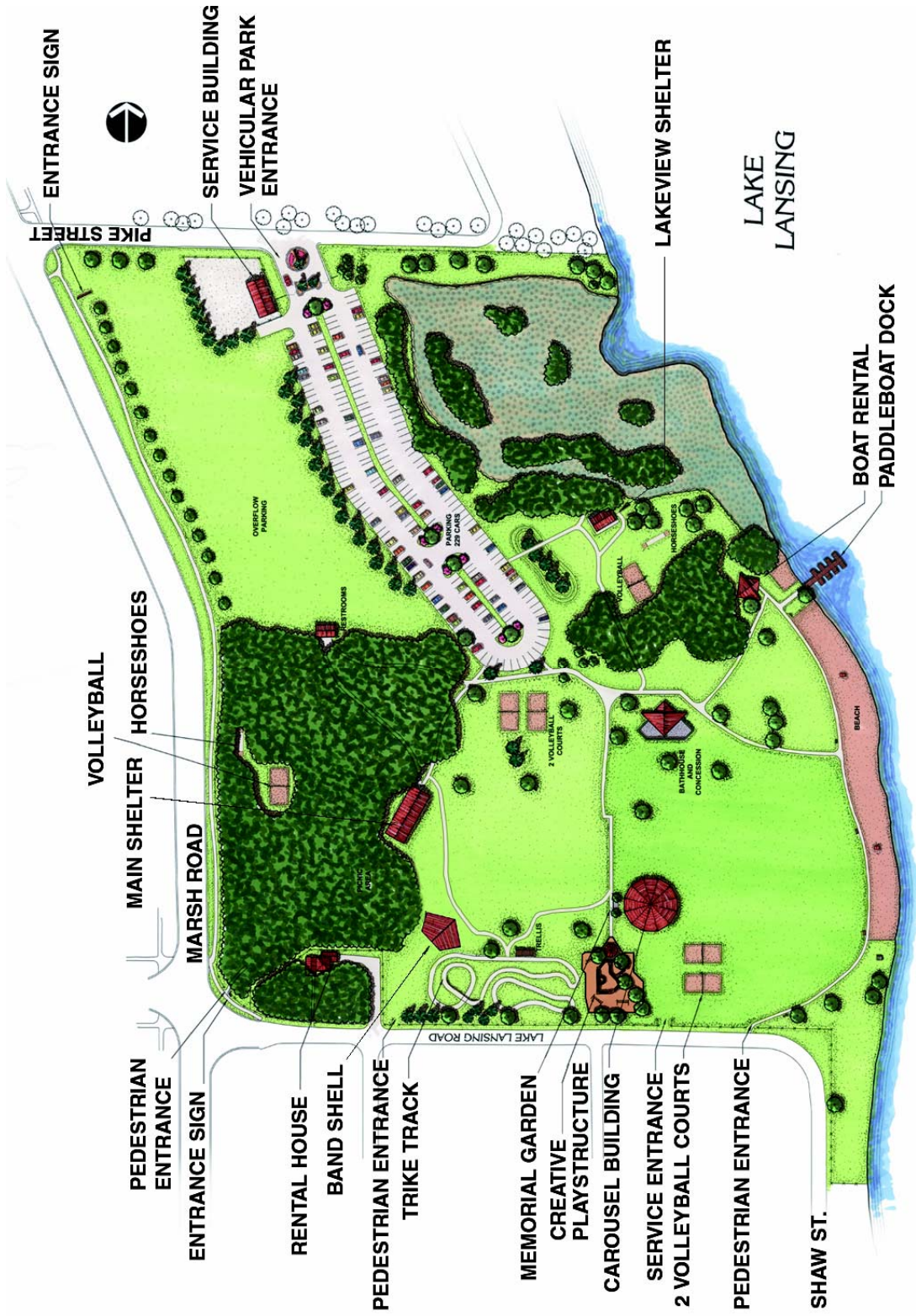
Annual Visitation: 183,500

Lake Lansing Park-South is located at the N.E. corner of Lake Lansing Road and Marsh Road in Meridian Township. The park was formerly the site of a popular amusement park. The old carousel building has been preserved and remains on location. The park is very popular during the warm months because of its sandy swimming beach. A community band shell hosts free concerts which draw crowds in excess of 700 on Friday nights during summer months.

Major existing facilities at Lake Lansing South include:

Swimming beach	Community Band Shell	Tricycle track
Bath house	Picnic grounds & shelters	Volleyball courts
Horseshoe pits	Playground	Ice fishing
Pedal boat & rowboat rental	Snack bar	Fishing dock

Lake Lansing Park - South



Rayner County Park

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 62 Acres
Park Classification: Large Urban Park
Annual Visitation: 141,474

Rayner Park is located within the Mason City limits, adjacent to the Ingham County Fairgrounds. The park offers wooded areas with mature trees, and open fields for sports activities and picnicking. The distance from downtown Lansing is 15 miles.

Major existing facilities at Rayner Park include:

Softball Diamond
Basketball court
Hiking Trail

Horseshoe pits
Picnic grounds & shelter
Playground

Soccer Field
Restroom Facility



Bunker Road Canoe Landing

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: 5 acres
Park Classification: Special Use (Boat Launch)
Annual Visitation: Not recorded

This state owned parcel provides the county a canoe and small boat access to the Grand River, via a long-term lease arrangement. The launch is located two hours upstream from Burchfield Park and 1 ½ hours downstream from Eaton Rapids.

McNamara Canoe Landing

Ingham County Parks Department



Acreage: included in Burchfield Park
Park Classification: Special Use (Boat Launch)
Annual Visitation: Not recorded

Ingham County leases this small access point from the State of Michigan, thus providing a canoe landing approximately 45 minutes upstream from the Burchfield Park canoe livery. Currently, there is not a boat ramp available.



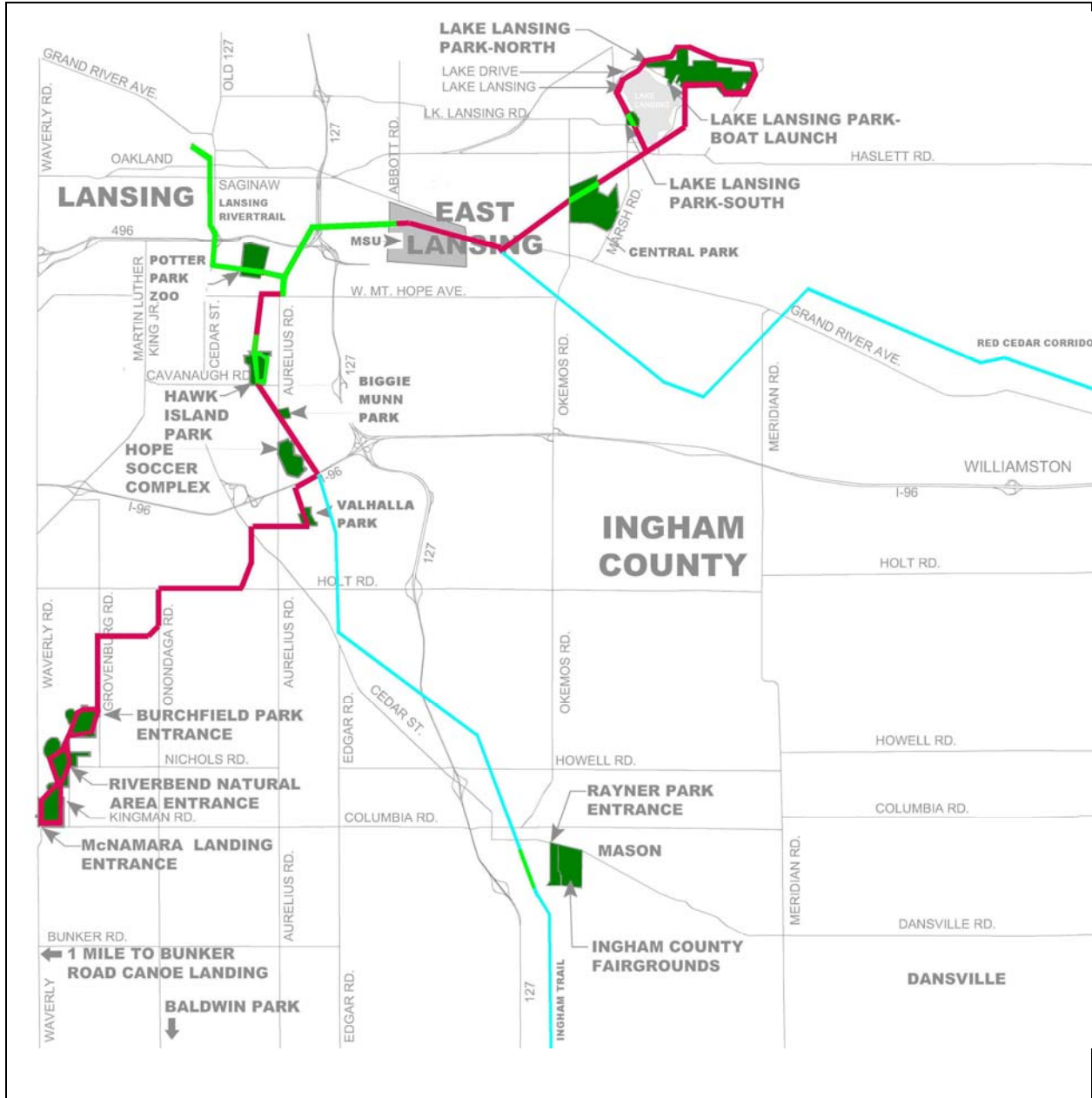
POTTER PARK & POTTER PARK ZOO

In November 2006, Ingham County voters approved a millage that will transfer the operation and maintenance of Potter Park and Potter Park Zoo from the City of Lansing to Ingham County. Upon a signed lease agreement between the City of Lansing and the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, Ingham County will assume operations commencing on July 1, 2007.

It is anticipated that there will be facility and park improvements that will be necessary within Potter Park and/or Potter Park Zoo. The extent of the improvements is not known at the time of the preparation of the Master Plan.

Assuming there will be projects where grant assistance is sought, public hearings will be held and a Master Plan amendment will be presented to the Michigan DNR at such time. It is also of importance to note that the City of Lansing has included Potter Park in their Master Plan until the County assumes operation. The zoo portion of the park also has their own Master Plan as there are other funding sources for which the zoo is eligible.

Heart of Michigan Trail



Legend

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Future Expansion

Heart of Michigan Trail System

The 23 mile long Heart of Michigan Trail System has been established as a high priority of the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission. The trail would connect several major capital area parks including Ingham County's Lake Lansing Park, Potter Park, Hawk Island Park, Burchfield Park, and the Hope Soccer Complex and the City of Lansing's Scott Woods Park, Meridian Township's Central Park, and Delhi Township's Valhalla Park. It is anticipated that The Heart of Michigan Trail System would serve as a spine for further trail development to be established eventually along the Red Cedar to Webberville and south to Leslie.

The advantages of focusing on The Heart of Michigan segment are that it is closest to the population center of the county, and connects all of the major parks in the area. Cooperative efforts will be essential to the success of the project. Meridian Township, Delhi Township, and the City of Lansing all have included the segments of the trail within their boundaries in their Pathway or Park and Recreation Master Plans. Meridian Township has completed a segment of the trail through its Central Park and is contemplating further funding of the trail through its 2006 Pathways Program. Lansing just completed a portion of the trail in 2006 and has plans to complete two more sections between 2007 and 2008.

If the funds were available tomorrow, and if consultants were used for the entire project including right of way acquisition, it could probably be accomplished in 4 to 5 years. More realistically, since the Parks Department would attempt to maximize the amount of grant money available for the project, the time frame for completion would be closer to a decade.

Given the parameters noted above, it is projected that \$10.9 million will be needed to finance construction of the Heart of Michigan Trail. Half of that amount (\$5.45 million) is projected to be provided by the county, and the remainder from grants and other local units of government. It is estimated that it will realistically take 10 years to construct all of the phases, given the extended grant processes, the right of way acquisition process, and construction time involved.

Accessibility Assessments

One of the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission’s goals are to offer facilities, and services that are accessible to all persons regardless of their ability. Considerable legislation exists to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to participate in recreation opportunities. Most significant is “The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990” (ADA) which was enacted “to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.”

The assessment of Ingham County Park areas is based upon provisions of the ADA. The assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves, as well as the access routes to them. The following ranking system was utilized:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Park	Rank	Comments/Suggestions to improve accessibility
Baldwin	4	
Burchfield	3	
Riverbend Natural Area	2	
Hawk Island	5	Increase number of accessible tables and grills
Hope Soccer Complex	5	
Lake Lansing Boat Launch	4	
Lake Lansing North	3	Add a sidewalk from parking area to playgrounds
Lake Lansing South	4	
Rayner	4	Add a sidewalk from playground to bathrooms
Bunker Canoe Landing	2	
McNamara Canoe Landing	3	

It is important that residents are aware of the many recreational opportunities available and the accessibility of these recreational opportunities within our park system. The Ingham County Parks Department is in the process of developing a brochure or pamphlet that will focus on accessibility within our park system. This informational brochure will be available to residents and park guests.

In 2006, wheelchairs were made available for public use at the three major park facilities within our system, Hawk Island Park, Lake Lansing Park, and Burchfield Park. It is our hope that the addition of these wheelchairs will allow persons with limited mobility the opportunity to better navigate through our parks, thus creating a more desirable experience.

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

This section of the 5 year Master Plan outlines Ingham County parkland that has either been acquired or developed through grant programs administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This list has been formulated from a "Recreation Grant History" report provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in November of 2006.

It is important to note that "Grand River Park", which is referenced in numerous grants, has subsequently had its name changed to "Burchfield Park". The name of the park was changed to Burchfield to honor an individual and to avoid confusion with an existing Grand River Park within the City of Lansing.

26-00559 1975 Lake Lansing Park \$167,795.36

Ingham County purchased Lake Lansing amusement park in 1974 and between 1975 and 1976, grant 26-00559 assisted the county in developing Lake Lansing County Park in Meridian Township. Scope items of the project included parking, picnic area w/landscaping, fire rings, tables & water system, paths, shelter renovation, restroom building, reforestation, site clearing, bathhouse/concession building, landscaping, beach walkway and a tot lot.

With minor updates, the original facilities developed through grant 26-00559 still exist at Lake Lansing Park South. The current use of the park includes a swimming beach, picnic shelters and picnic areas, along with bathhouse facilities, a community playground and a newly constructed community band shell.

26-00702 1976 Grand River Park \$20,559.00

Grant was for the acquisition of an 85 acre parcel of land which was developed along with other contiguous parcels as a multi-use regional park. The acquisition included approximately 3/5 of a mile of Grand River frontage.

The land acquired through this grant is part of Riverbend Natural area. The natural area is used for hiking/biking trails in the summer and cross country ski trails in the winter months. There is also a boat landing on the Grand River which is used for launching of canoes and kayaks and is also utilized for fishing.

26-00830 1977 Lake Lansing Park North \$158,212.12

Grant allowed for the acquisition of 253 acres of land at Lake Lansing Park North in Meridian Township. Development of picnic areas was also completed with this grant.

Over 125,000 visitors in 2005 enjoyed the many recreational opportunities available at Lake Lansing Park North. Features that attract people to Lake Lansing Park North are the hiking trails, picnic areas and shelters, ball field, cross country skiing, and nature observation. The picnic area developed with grant 26-00830 is still used extensively by the public.

26-01007 1978 Grand River Park \$112,824.69

Grant was for the development of winter sports area at Burchfield Park which included the following items:

- 2-700ft toboggan runs
- "Kiddie" sledding hill
- Lighting
- Large sledding hill
- Winter sports building
- Gravel Parking area

All of the items and areas developed through this grant are still utilized as a winter sports area during the winter season. The winter sports building is also utilized during non-winter times by various community groups such as Cub Scout troops as a meeting place and for a park administered Nature Day Camp.

26-01060 U 1978 Lake Lansing North \$146,000.00

Grant allowed for the development of the Albert White picnic area at Lake Lansing North Park in Meridian Township. Development items included the following:

- Gravel roadway and parking area
- Picnic area
- Restrooms
- Electricity and water to site
- Shelter
- Picnic Shelter
- Ball field

Over 125,000 visitors in 2005 enjoyed the many recreational opportunities available at Lake Lansing Park North. Features that attract people to Lake Lansing Park North are the hiking trails, picnic areas and shelters, ball field, cross country skiing, and to observe nature. The areas developed with assistance from grant 26-01060U are still

used extensively by the public. Additional development that has taken place within the Albert White picnic area includes a handicap accessible concrete path linking the restrooms to the picnic shelter and also to the parking areas.

TF630 1982 Grand River Park \$120,000.00

TF800 1984 Grand River Park \$120,000.00

Grant TF630 and Grant TF800 assisted in the acquisition of land adjacent to Grand River Park in Delhi Township. The land that was acquired became part of Grand River Park.

Burchfield County Park serves as a regional park that attracts residents from throughout the County. Facilities present at the park include a swimming beach, picnic areas, a playground, ball field, and winter sports area.

26-01287 1984 Grand River Park \$14,186.00

Grant 26-01287 involved the construction of the following scope items at Grand River (Burchfield) Park.

- Picnic Shelter and Grills - Roadway and Parking
- Volleyball Court - Tot Playground
- Picnic tables

The above mentioned items are still utilized at Burchfield County Park.

TF86-133 1986 Lake Lansing Park \$375,000.00

Grant TF86-133 assisted in the acquisition of approximately 270 acres adjacent to Lake Lansing Park North in Haslett. The land was previously undeveloped except for existing nature trails maintained by the County Parks with permission from the previous landowner.

The land acquired with the assistance of this grant still remains undeveloped except for maintained nature trails and boardwalks. The trails are used extensively by runners and walkers during the warm months and used as cross country ski trails during the winter months.

TF91-093 1991 Grand River Park \$300,000.00

Grant #TF91-093 provided for the development of the “North Bluff” area at Burchfield Park. Included in the development were the following items:

- 2 picnic shelters
- Fishing/canoe dock
- Play area
- Roads
- Parking areas

The North Bluff area still serves the original purpose of the grant that was obtained. There have been no major changes to any of the scope items from TF91-093.

TF92-183 1992 Lake Lansing Park \$294,300.00

Grant BF92-183 assisted in the acquisition of approximately 32,331 square feet of property, of which 241' is lake frontage on Lake Lansing in Haslett. This portion of land is adjacent to Lake Lansing Park South. The land acquired is currently a manicured lawn area which is utilized by beach goers as a place to lounge, sunbath, and picnic on the grass. This area is also utilized by onshore fishermen.

As part of a recent grant application to the DNR Trust Fund for the “Lake Lansing Trail”, a dock will be constructed on this property, extending into Lake Lansing for the purpose of providing increased fishing opportunities for park users.

BF92-182 1992 Lake Lansing Boat Launch \$48,750.00

Grant BF92-182 allowed for the construction of a handicap accessible restroom facility, a boat wash station and landscaping. These facilities remain and are used by the 120,000 people that utilize the boat launch annually. The restroom facility recently had a new roof installed in 2004 pursuant to the Ingham County Parks roof replacement schedule.

BF93-164 1993 Hope Soccer Complex \$744,000.00

Grant BF93-164 provided funds for the development of the Hope Soccer Complex located in Lansing. A joint project with the City of Lansing, the Hope Soccer Complex provided a much needed facility for the growing sport of soccer. The Hope Soccer complex was developed on an old landfill. Scope items included:

- Earthwork
- Utilities
- Bleachers
- Paved Parking & Drives
- Six Soccer fields
- Restroom/Concessions
- Maintenance Building

TF93-165 1993 Solomon Pit Acquisition \$900,000.00

Grant #TF93-165 provided funds for the acquisition of the Solomon Gravel Pits located in Lansing. The former gravel pits are now Hawk Island County Park. The gravel pits were developed with assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through grants #TF99-111, #CM99-388, and #26-01628. These three grants used to develop Hawk Island County Park are detailed later in this section.

TF99-111 1999 Hawk Island County Park \$493,000.00

Grant #TF99-111 assisted in the development of Hawk Island County Park in Lansing. Scope items included:

- Restroom/Shelter
- 2 picnic shelters
- Maintenance Building
- Picnic Area
- Landscaping
- Boardwalk/Fishing Dock
- Signage
- Roads & Parking areas

All original scope items remain at Hawk Island County Park.

CM99-388 1999 Hawk Island County Park \$733,340.00

Grant #CM99-388 assisted in the development of Hawk Island County Park in Lansing. Scope items included:

- Concession/Bathhouse
- Roads/Parking
- Beach establishment
- Utilities

26-01628 2004 Hawk Island County Park \$150,000.00

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant provided money for the development of a new water splash pad at Hawk Island County Park in Lansing. The splash pad entails brightly colored features which spray, drop, squirt, and cascade water randomly, providing for interactive water based recreational activity for park users.

Park visitation has increased sharply since Hawk Island opened. The first fully operational year in 2003 experienced 238,000 visitors. Two years later in 2005, visitation topped 400,000. It is anticipated that visitation will continue to rise accordingly over the next few years.

**INVENTORY OF OTHER PUBLIC LANDS
AND FACILITIES WITHIN INGHAM COUNTY**

Within Ingham County, Delhi and Meridian townships have recreation plans which may have some regional impact. These townships have the highest population counts of the county, excluding the cities of Lansing and East Lansing. Williamstown Township contains elements which have potential for regional impact.

Delhi Township

Delhi Township is located immediately south of the City of Lansing, and contains the unincorporated area of Holt. In terms of natural resources, Delhi Township has many existing eskers, which are elongated ridges of sand and gravel deposited by the glaciers. Delhi Township has more miles of these eskers than any other township in the tri-county region. The Mason Esker, which originates in Mason, passes directly east of Holt, and extends through Lansing to the Looking Glass River. The Mason Esker, due to its abundance of gravel, is of special geological interest. In addition, the gravel pits resulting from the excavating done by the gravel mining operations are potential recreation areas.

Most of the parks within Delhi Township are small neighborhood or community parks. These provide facilities for active sports such as softball, soccer, tennis and basketball. The township's goals are to acquire more park lands along the Mason Esker, as well as in the northwest section of the township.

Meridian Township

Meridian Township is located immediately east of East Lansing. A great deal of growth has occurred in this township within the last ten years, prompting the township to take a serious approach to parkland acquisition and protection.

The Meridian Township's park system consists of over 870 acres of land at 27 sites, including two large community parks, Central Park (243 acres), and Meridian Riverfront Park (200 acres). A special feature of Central Park is the Historical Village. Individual historic buildings from the region have been relocated to the "village" since 1973. To date, there are 5 main buildings. The village hosts two holiday events, in July and December, and is open to the public every Saturday from July through September. Central park also offers sports fields, hiking trails, a nature area, fishing lake, picnicking and a play area. Because it is adjacent to the Red Cedar River, Meridian Riverfront Park has potential for river recreation corridor linkage. This park has canoeing, a nature area, interpretive center, and trails. The township also has other smaller parks ranging in size from 1-70 acres. These parks offer areas for nature-based recreation as well as sports.

Williamstown and Onondaga Townships

On a regional scale, Williamstown and Onondaga Townships currently have limited recreation impact. Via the Red Cedar and Grand Rivers, however, these townships have the potential to develop two significant recreation corridors. The development of recreation corridor systems, linking Williamstown Township to the City of Williamston, and both townships to their neighboring municipalities, would give them more regional impact. Neither township has plans for recreation corridor development at this time. Williamstown Township, lying east of Lansing along the growing corridor between Lansing and Detroit presents the best opportunity for developing parkland. In particular, Williamstown Township has parcels along the Red Cedar that would fit the description of a regional sized park.

Other Ingham County Townships

The remaining townships within Ingham County do not have a significant regional impact at this time.

City of Williamston

The City of Williamston has a few parks which could have a limited regional impact. Deer Creek Park and the Community Center offer park facilities with mostly woods and wetlands, sports fields and a play lot. The city holds festivals here in the summer. Williamston also has several parks which access the Red Cedar River: Memorial Park, McCormick Park, and open space near their wastewater treatment plant. Each of these areas has the potential of becoming part of a larger recreation corridor along the Red Cedar River thus, having more regional impact.

City of Lansing

The City of Lansing has several properties which are regional in nature. Potter Park (98.5 ac), includes a zoo, picnic area and pavilions, a portion of the city's rivertrail system, and canoe rentals. The annual attendance in 1990 exceeded 380,000.

Fenner Nature Center (126 ac), contains primarily natural areas, conducts environmental education and summer day camps, and nature walks. Crego Park (200 ac), is undeveloped at this time due to contamination removal proceedings. Lansing intends to develop this area as a revenue producing facility when the cleanup is completed. Lansing has plans to expand Fenner Nature Center and Crego Park in the future.

In general, Lansing is interested in developing one or more types of revenue producing recreation facilities, such as a tennis center, basketball center, water park, or adventure golf.

Lansing has been successful in developing an urban Rivertrail system along both the Grand River and Red Cedar River. They have been continually expanding and improving the system, with great potential for adjoining it to other county parks along these rivers. At various points along the Rivertrail near downtown, park space widens out to allow picnicking, an amphitheater and large festival grounds.

Lansing contains many other parks within its boundary, however these function more as neighborhood and community parks.

Lansing Community College offers performing arts through the Dart Auditorium. Public interaction with the college is primarily limited to the performing and visual arts.

City of East Lansing

A city facility, Abbott Road Park (130 ac), is a partially wooded city park with significant wetlands. It is currently undeveloped, however, the city may develop it as one or more of the following: a golf course, competition ball fields, trails and nature study area. East Lansing Soccer Park is located on the north side of Abbott Road Park and a water park facility with additional ballfields is located across the road.

East Lansing would like to link all its major parks with a Bike Path Park Tour system. The trail would link the MSU campus, and Lansing's Rivertrail system.

Other Cities and Villages within Ingham County

The cities of Mason and Leslie, and the villages of Dansville, Stockbridge, and Webberville offer little or no recreation on a regional scale.

Michigan State University

Michigan State University, located in East Lansing, satisfies many aspects of regional recreation. The overall campus is in excess of 5,150 acres. Athletic facilities support everything from Big Ten sports teams to youth camps and competitions, utilizing both outdoor and indoor facilities. Outdoor athletic facilities include Spartan Football Stadium and practice field, soccer field, running track, baseball field, two Forest Akers 18-hole golf courses, intramural athletic fields, 40 tennis courts, platform tennis, volleyball and canoeing. Indoor facilities satisfy many of the regional demands including swimming, racquetball, basketball, ice skating, hockey, weight-lifting, and running track. Garden facilities include Beal Gardens, the new Horticulture Gardens, and the Lewis Landscape Arboretum. In addition, Baker Woodlot, Sanford Natural Area, Beal Pinetum, and Red Cedar Natural Area provide some trails and beneficial green buffers. Culturally, MSU offers Abrams Planetarium, the Kresge Art Center, and MSU Museum. There are several locations for plays and concert events, including the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, the Auditorium, and Fairchild Theater. Several other smaller facilities on campus also support these types of performance events. In addition, large events are also held at the Breslin Student Events Center, Jenison Fieldhouse, and Munn Ice Arena.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS AND OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

School facilities; provide another recreation opportunity to the public. However, the availability of these facilities to the general public varies by school district. Facilities provided by school district relate closely with local programming and facilities. Joint use of these facilities is the foundation for many parks and recreation programs in Ingham County. Please refer to the Recreation Inventory section of this Master Plan for a detailed listing of recreation facilities provided by school districts.

Ingham Intermediate School District:

The Ingham Intermediate School District is a regional school district which serves the 12 local school districts of Ingham County. Its purpose is to assist local districts in achieving their educational goals to provide equal opportunity for students.

Michigan State University, Lansing Community College, and other institutions of higher learning are filling needs of their student population with their facilities. Generally, these facilities are not available to the public at large, because of education priorities and use by the student body and staff. Although this report discusses outdoor and indoor recreation in the traditional sense of sports, these institutions contribute significantly to the cultural aspects of recreation and special activities.

RECREATION PROGRAM INVENTORY

All parks and recreational land and facilities in the county are programmed to some extent. The parks are open certain hours, a specific number of cars and/or boats are allowed in at one time, and areas and facilities are designated for a particular use. Areas may be reserved by the public for special occasions. Programming on this level occurs throughout the park and recreation system.

Programming on a more intensive scale generally occurs at the township or city level. Those communities having no formal setup to administer programming rely on schools, volunteers and special interest leagues, such as 4-H, to coordinate themselves and their activities. Those communities without parks and recreation departments are in the following townships: Alaieton, Aurelius, Bunker Hill, Locke, Onondaga, Wheatfield, and White Oak. The following townships also do not have parks and recreation departments. However they do have municipalities in them that do: Ingham, Leroy, Leslie, Stockbridge, Vevay, and Williamstown.

Recreation programming by the county is designed to supplement those programs at the local level. To this end, Ingham County provides the facilities for field sports, water recreation, winter recreation, trails, day camp, picnicking, and playground. Programs available at Burchfield Park include: Exploring Nature Day Camp, self-guided nature trails, cross-country skiing, trout fishing, and canoeing. Lake Lansing North offers a self-guided nature trail and cross-country skiing. Programming of the sports areas, such as soccer and softball, are left up to individual recreation groups.

Ingham County School District Recreation Facilities:*

Dansville

- 1 football field
- 2 baseball fields
- 2 softball fields
- 2 soccer fields

East Lansing

- 3 swimming pools
- 1 football stadium
- 2 baseball fields
- 3 softball fields
- 8 soccer fields
- 8 tennis courts

Haslett

- 1 swimming pool
- 1 football stadium
- 2 baseball fields
- 1 softball field
- 3 soccer fields
- 1 track
- 11 tennis courts

Holt

- 2 swimming pools
- 1 football stadium
- 1 baseball field
- 3 softball fields
- 3 soccer fields
- 1 track
- 2 T-ball fields
- 10 tennis courts

Leslie

- 1 football field
- 1 baseball field
- 1 softball field
- 1 track
- 3 tennis courts

Okemos

- 3 swimming pools
- 2 football field
- 2 tracks
- 19 soccer fields
- 6 baseball fields
- 17 softball fields
- 22 tennis courts
- 7 playgrounds

Mason

- 6 soccer fields
- 2 baseball fields
- 6 softball fields
- 1 football field
- 1 swimming pool
- 5 playgrounds
- 8 tennis courts
- 1 track

Stockbridge

- 1 baseball field
- 5 softball field
- 1 football field
- 1 track
- 1 playground

Waverly

- 1 baseball field
- 2 softball fields
- 4 football fields
- 7 soccer fields
- 10 tennis courts
- 5 basketball courts
- 1 track
- 6 playgrounds

Webberville

- 1 baseball field
- 1 softball field
- 1 football field
- 2 tennis courts
- 1 playground
- 1 basketball court

Williamston

- 1 baseball field
- 3 softball fields
- 1 football field
- 2 soccer fields
- 2 basketball courts
- 1 track
- 1 pedestrian trail (.5 mile)
- 1 playground

Lansing

- 10 swimming pools
- 2 football stadiums
- 41 baseball/softball fields
- 1 soccer field
- 4 tracks
- 3 tennis courts

*Information has been provided by schools and is subject to change.

INVENTORY OF LANDS AND FACILITIES SURROUNDING INGHAM COUNTY

Eaton County

Eaton County, located immediately west of Ingham County, has three parks of regional impact: Fitzgerald Park, Fox Memorial, and Lincoln Brick.

Fitzgerald Park (78 ac), in Grand Ledge, is located on the Grand River. It offers trails, a nature center, picnic areas, 3 pavilions, fish ladder, small canoe livery, play lot, sledding hill, and sports facilities. Across the river is Lincoln Brick Park (90 ac), which has trails, picnic area, and play lot. Future development of Lincoln Brick Park will include a 22 unit campground, boat launch, and swimming. Eaton County employs a full time naturalist for its park system.

Fox Memorial (100 ac), in Potterville, includes a picnic area with 2 pavilions, play area, gravel pit swimming, fishing, and trails.

Woldumar Nature Center, although privately owned, operates as a not-for-profit organization. Woldumar is open to the public year-round, and has regional impact as a nature area dedicated to the preservation of and education about the natural environment. Its 188 acres encompass a variety of ecosystems, including wetlands, a river, a mature maple-beach forest, pine forest plantation, successive farm communities, and wildflowers. It contains 5 miles of foot trails, with cross-country skiing during the winter, which are all open to the public from dawn to dusk. Programs include 8 weeks of day camps during the summer, educational field trips during the school year, and family-oriented programs on the weekends.

Clinton County

Clinton County does not currently have County owned and maintained parks, although there are several parks located within the County. Within the county are several state-owned properties. See Inventory of State Lands following this section

The Clinton County Board of Commissioners created the Green Space Commission in October of 2000 to serve as the PA 261 Parks and Recreation Commission for Clinton County. The Green Space Commission is charged with developing a Green Space Plan for the County.

Dewitt Township, Clinton County

Within the township, there are limited applications for regional parks. In their Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan, DeWitt Township lists deficiencies in sports facilities such as softball diamonds and tennis courts, and bike routes. Again, the potential exists for linkage with an Ingham County recreation corridor for bicycles, and other types of non-motorized transportation.

Jackson County

Jackson County contains several county parks and a few state parks and recreation areas. Most of these are focused on the small inland lakes within the county. Activities at most parks include swimming, boating, picnicking, and camping. Regional impact would be minimal.

Shiawassee County

Parks within the county are small with few recreational facilities. Most of the county is farmland; therefore residents of this county are potential users of Ingham County parks.

Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County touches the southeast corner of Ingham County. It contains Ann Arbor as its major city, and supports some of the fringe metropolitan Detroit development. A 4 acre water fun park exists within Rolling Hills Park, located in the southeast section of the county. Facilities include a wave pool, swimming pool, and splash pool, body and tube water slides, a children's water slide, a waterfall, large play water sculpture, sand play area, volleyball courts, concrete and turf sunbathing areas, concessions and bath house. It serves a maximum of 1,500 people. The overall park is 150 acres.

Independence Lake Park (300 acres), is located in the central northern portion of the county. Washtenaw County estimates that approximately 30% of its users are non-residents. The main facilities are beaches, boating and picnicking.

Calhoun County

Calhoun County is located near the southwest corner of Ingham County. The regional parks within it are Binder Park Zoo, Winter Park, and a Michigan Audubon sanctuary.

Ionia County

Ionia County is located near the northwest corner of Ingham County. The county fairground is the site of the Worlds Largest Free Fair, which attracts visitors from neighboring counties each summer.

Livingston County

Livingston County borders the eastern edge of Ingham County. Most of its recreational attractions are in its southeast section, which include the Mt. Brighton Ski Resort (private), and three state parks (see the Inventory of State Lands for further information).

INVENTORY OF STATE LANDS IN AND AROUND INGHAM COUNTY

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 4,300 acres of land in Ingham County. Within Ingham County, these lands are a limited resource because they either serve as game areas or are inaccessible to the public. However, state-owned lands do offer more recreational amenities in some of the surrounding counties. Natural areas, mostly wetlands, have been preserved for public use and enjoyment. The following lists the lands in Ingham and its surrounding counties, and their corresponding acreage and major characteristics.

**TABLE 1
STATE RECREATION LAND IN AND AROUND INGHAM COUNTY**

LOCATION	ACREAGE
Ingham County	
Dansville State Game Area	4,200.0
Meridian Baseline Historic State Park	___87.5
Ingham County Total	4,287.5
Eaton County	
3 Mini-Game Areas	600.0
Eaton County Total:	600.0
Clinton County	
Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center*	3,574.0
Sleepy Hollow State Park*	2,684.5
Maple River State Game Area (3,420 ac are in Gratiot Co.)	6,500.0
Clinton County Total:	12,758.5
Livingston County	
Gregory State Game Area	3,400.0
Unadilla Wildlife Area	700.0
Oak Grove State Game Area	2,000.0
Pinckney Recreation Area*	14,020.0
Brighton Recreation Area*	4,913.0
Island Lake Recreation Area*	3,466.0
Livingston County Total:	28,499.0
<u>Grand Total:</u>	<u>46,145.0</u>

*State lands (29,638.5 acres) offering recreational facilities other than hunting and fishing as their primary function.

State Land Descriptions:

Ingham County

Dansville State Game Area (4,200 ac) is located south of Dansville. It is primarily wetlands, and used mainly for hunting and fishing. It has very little recreational impact within Ingham County.

Meridian Baseline Historic State Park (87.5 ac) is located on the center portion of the south county line. It is the site of the original survey monument used to establish the Base Line and Meridian Line of Michigan and is undeveloped.

Some state owned land is located in the northwest section of Onondaga Township along the Grand River on Gale Road. Due to the Smithfield Dam located further west in Eaton County, the river widens out here to create a small lake, making fishing the primary use for this site. The DNR has spoken with Ingham County Parks in the past about maintaining this land as a county park.

Eaton County

Throughout Eaton County are several small state owned parcels (600 acres total), designated as Mini-Game Areas. Due to their size and little known locations, these areas have no regional impact.

Clinton County

There are three large state owned parcels in Clinton County Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area (3,574 ac), is located near the southeast corner of the county. This park offers hiking, horseback riding, trails, a shooting range, hunting and fishing. Rose Lake also falls into the southwest portion of Shiawassee County.

Sleepy Hollow State Park (2,678 ac), located southeast of St. Johns, is in the eastern central area of the county. It provides camping, swimming, fishing, hunting, trails, picnicking, and a boat launch.

Maple River State Game Area (6,500 total ac, 3,080 ac. within Clinton Co.), located in the northwest corner of the county, is a linear park along the

Maple River. Its primary function is hunting and fishing in the fields, forest, river and wetlands. The DNR is completing facilities which will make hunting and fishing handicap accessible at this location.

Livingston County

Livingston County is located east of Ingham County. It contains six state land parcels. Pinckney (14,020 ac), Brighton (4,913 ac), and Island Lake (3,466 ac), are all large state recreation parks located in the southern portion of the county. These provide camping, swimming, boating, hiking, picnicking, hunting, and fishing. Brighton also provides horseback riding. Kensington Metropolitan Park is also in the southeast area of the county. Due to the distance from the larger metropolitan areas of Ingham Co., most Ingham County residents who would visit these parks more than likely live in the southeast portion of the county.

Game areas include Gregory State Game Area (2 parcels totaling 3,400 ac), and Oak Grove State Game Area (2,000 ac). There is also (700 ac) in the southwest corner of Livingston County known as the Unadilla Wildlife Area. These game and wildlife areas primarily offer hunting and fishing, but also provide some hiking trails.

Jackson County

Jackson County, located immediately south of Ingham County, contains two areas of state land. Waterloo Recreation Area is in the northeast area of the county and provides camping, fishing, hunting and picnicking facilities. Sharonville State Game Area, located southeast of Jackson, provides hunting facilities.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES

A variety of private and other public recreation facilities exist within and outside of Ingham County. The following list consists of established facilities:

Golf Courses

Ingham County

- Groesbeck
- Waverly
- Indian Hills
- Forest Akers West
- Lake O' the Hills
- Willow Creek
- Branson Bay
- Meridian Sun
- Oak Lane
- Walnut Hills
- Ironwood Links
- Red Cedar
- Sycamore
- Forest Akers East
- Lansing Country Club
- Brookshire Inn
- Mason Hills
- Chisolm Hills
- El Dorado
- Eagle View
- Wheatfield Valley

Eaton County

- Olivet
- Bonnie View
- Ledge Meadows
- Centennial Acres
- The Players Club
- Butternut Brook
- Grand Ledge
- Twin Brook

Clinton County

- Royal Scot
- Chardell
- Twin Oaks
- Clinton County
- Hawk Hollow
- Highland Hills
- Prairie Creek
- Huckleberry Creek
- The Emerald at Maple Creek
- Timber Ridge

Shiawassee County

- Pine Hills
- Glenbrier
- Brad Van Pelt's Club

Ionia County

- Portland
- Morrison Lake

Livingston County

- Dama
- Faulkwood Shores
- Huron Meadows
- Marion Oaks
- Rush Lake Hills
- Willow Brook
- Dunham Hills
- Hartland Glen
- Ironwood
- Oak Pointe
- Tyrone Hills
- Woodlands

Water Parks

- Pleasure Island - Muskegon Co.
- Wildwater Adventure - Muskegon Co.
- Rolling Hills Water Park - Washtenaw Co.
- East Lansing Aquatic Center - Ingham Co.
- Red Oaks Water Park - Oakland Co.
- Waterford Oaks Water Park- Oakland Co.
- Four Bears Water Park - Oakland Co.

Nature Centers

- Woldumar Nature Center (188 acres)

Campgrounds

- Lansing Cottonwood -PJ Family -Ingham County Fairgrounds
- Moon Lake -Wheel Inn

Athletic Clubs

- Court One
- Michigan Athletic Club

Dance

- Holt Masonic Hall
- Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dance Club
- International Folk Dancers

Ice Skating

- ARC Ice Sports

Roller Skating

- Edru Roller Skating Arena

Skiing, Downhill

- Alpine Valley Ski Resort
- Pine Knob Ski Resort
- Mt. Brighton Ski Resort

Skiing, Cross-Country

- Mt Brighton Ski Resort

Indoor Sports Complex

- The Summit, Lansing

Theater, Stage

- Boarshead Michigan Public
- Lansing Civic Players Guild
- The Riverwalk
- Wharton Center for Performing Arts
- Pine Knob Outdoor Concert Theater

Amusement Places

- Big League Batting Center
- FunTyme
- East Lansing Kart Track

Horseback Riding

- Nottingham Equestrian Center
- Hickory Ridge Riding Stables

Exhibition and Conference Centers

- Lansing Center
- Kellogg Center

Arts, Science & Education

- Lansing Art Gallery
- Impression Five Museum
- Kresge Art Museum
- MSU Museum
- Abrams Planetarium
- MSU Cyclotron
- R.E. Olds Museum
- Michigan Women's Historical Center
- Michigan Museum of Surveying

PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Ingham County Parks Commission provides recreational facilities and lands that are owned and utilized by the residents of Ingham County. It is therefore imperative that the views and ideas expressed by these residents first and foremost serve as a guideline when developing future plans for the parks system. The input of both the Commission and the staff is also important as they will have the responsibility to ensure that the ideas and concepts viewed as important by the public are put into action. The following section describes the process by which planning information and public input was obtained.



PHYSICAL INVENTORIES

Both the physical and cultural features which comprise Ingham County's recreation resource base and the interconnecting transportation linkages were included in this Master Plan using information from a variety of park, county, state and national sources.

ANALYSIS OF RECREATION PLANS

Recreation plans, including the Meridian Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the City of Lansing Parks & Recreation Master Plan, were obtained from most of the incorporated communities within Ingham County. Improvements to and extension of the River Trail, regionalization of Potter Park Zoo, development and distribution of a regional park map, development of regional park and trail systems, construction and operation of skateboard parks and at least one BMX biking facility, and swimming pool modifications/water fun park were noted. Plans were also gathered from nearby cities and adjacent counties. Other communities that did not have planning documents were contacted by telephone. Information concerning existing and future facilities and programs which might affect the Parks Commissions decisions was considered.

PUBLIC FOCUS GROUPS

Public input was sought through the use of focus group interviews with Ingham County residents. Twenty-one focus groups were held to discuss the wants and needs of Ingham County residents in relation to their County Park system. To insure representation of the population, preexisting groups (e.g., church groups, service clubs, and governing councils) were selected and interviewed based on the following characteristics: geographic location within Ingham County, affiliation with a specific form of recreation or sport, age, ethnicity, gender, physical disability, and other special interests. Both users and nonusers of parks participated in the interviews.

PARK USER COMMENTS

Citizen comments are received through surveys distributed to park pavilion users and informally from park users' interaction with park staff on site. Although a formal analysis of these comments has not been conducted, these views were included in the planning process through staff interviews.

COMMISSION INPUT

The Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission provided valuable input for the development of goals, objectives, and actions to be taken to address the major concepts developed by the residents of Ingham County. During Park Commission meetings and Park Planning Committee Meetings, the Master Plan was discussed.

The main concepts that were identified by the residents of Ingham County were reviewed and Commissioners independently ranked each concept. The results of these rankings closely resembled both the rankings by the public and those of the park staff. The similarity in the priorities identified by the public, the commission, and the staff is a strong indication that the Commission and staff have a finger on the pulse of the community. This has proven to be beneficial in the planning for the future of the Ingham County Parks.

STAFF INPUT

Meetings were held with staff of the Ingham County Parks Department. The purpose of these meetings was to gain an understanding of the main operational and management issues facing the Parks Commission. Recreation and Park deficiencies were identified by staff. The need for non-motorized pathways connecting parks was identified as a high priority by park staff. Acquiring new park land and/or disposing of inappropriate parks is viewed as important, as well as incorporating new, innovative, or unique recreation facilities. Another concern is the need to achieve a balance between the development of facilities and preserving the natural values of the landscape. Meeting the needs of senior citizens, handicapped and minorities is important. Finally, maintaining financial stability of the County Park system as it develops further is a concern.

The staff strongly believed that the basic goal of the Ingham County Park system should be to serve on a regional level. Regional parks generally should continue to be the providers of day-use recreation experiences involving sports facilities, picnicking, trail walking, riding (including mountain bikes), swimming, and other beach activities for a large number of county residents. More specific ideas and concepts are included in the "Park Staff and Commission Recommendations" section of this Master Plan.

FOCUS GROUP NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Michigan State University was contracted to develop and administer public focus group interviews to determine what the residents of Ingham County viewed as important in the future for their county park system. This section of the Master Plan identifies major concepts coming from these focus group interviews. Focus group recommendations for both short-term and long-term planning are also included in this section.



MAJOR CONCEPTS

Major concepts were identified through the public focus group interviews conducted by Michigan State University. Much of this section was taken directly from the report developed by Michigan State University entitled “Assessing the Recreational Needs of Ingham County Residents”. The major concepts identified are provided in Table 1. The numbers in Table 1 represent the number of times that a particular concept was discussed as desirable across 21 focus group interviews held in Ingham County in the summer and fall of 2006.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CONCEPTS

Table 1: Major concepts developed by Ingham County Residents

MAJOR CONCEPT	COMBINED RESPONSES: DESIRE CONCEPT
Trails, Greenways, Connectivity of Parks	55
Acquisition of More Parkland	45
Undeveloped Natural/Quiet Areas	32
Events and Activities to Attract People	32
Recreation Opportunities for Dog Owners Dogs on Leash in Some Parks Dog Park	32 29
Environmental Education/Interpretive Trails	26
Campground (unspecified)	21
Multiple Use Parks	19
Separate Activities (e.g., separate hike & bike trails)	18
Waterpark	16

Funding sources available for the projects and acquisitions include the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Another

major funding source in relation to trails is the Michigan Department of Transportation. Other smaller funding sources such as private grants should also be explored as possibilities.

CONNECT PARKS WITH TRAILS & GREENWAYS

Connecting parks with trails and greenways was listed as a high priority by residents of Ingham County. Residents supported this idea for recreational purposes; however, many discussed the importance of connecting parks with trails and greenways to provide transportation/commuting options.

ACQUISITION OF PARKLAND

Another high ranked major concept was the acquisition of more parkland. Sixteen of the 21 focus groups discussed the importance of this concept as a priority for Ingham County Parks. Very few residents were opposed to acquiring more parkland.

UNDEVELOPED NATURAL & QUIET AREAS

Many focus group interviews stated an interest in having more undeveloped natural and quiet areas within Ingham County Parks. For most participants, this was envisioned more for nature purposes; although, for participants in senior groups, it was envisioned more for solace in a separate area of the parks away from loud noise and children's areas. The concern was that the county now focuses too much development on active recreation, which is detrimental to the purposes for which the parks were originally created.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES TO ATTRACT PEOPLE

A common unprompted response and discussion among focus group participants pertained to entertainment and events in the parks to attract people. Participants suggested this concept as both something they would like to see in the future, and as a way to better inform people about the county parks. Some of the ideas expressed were winter activities, free concerts, festivals, health walks, fitness days, fun walks tied to holidays like Halloween, tree planting, powwows, grandparent/grandkid fishing day,

community events for families and college students, and a “County Park Week” that focuses on Ingham County Parks.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH DOGS

Many focus groups made mention to the idea of additional recreational opportunities for dog owners within County Parks. The two concepts were, developing a dog park, and secondly, allowing increased opportunities for dogs on leash in parks. These two concepts were combined within this Master Plan to reflect an overall concept of providing recreational opportunities to dog owners. Having dogs in Ingham County Parks continues to be debated. However, 17 of the 21 focus groups supported dogs being on a leash in some parks.

Having a dog park in Ingham County was a popular discussion topic. Many residents expressed interest in a park where they could take their dog to exercise and perhaps interact and play with other dogs off leash. There was some opposition to this idea, mostly relating to fears about the negative interactions between dogs unfamiliar with one another.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

A popular concept emerging from the focus group data is the (re)introduction of environmental education and interpretive trails to Ingham County Parks. Residents encouraged teaching children, along with adults, about plants, animals and park ecosystems both for its simple, intrinsic value and to obtain knowledge that is hard to receive in today’s busy world. Young and old, as well as urban and rural participants spoke out in favor of this concept.

CAMPGROUNDS

In response to the aided concept of campgrounds, there was support. There were several ideas as to the most acceptable type in Ingham County with most favoring rustic, tent-only type campgrounds and ample vegetative screening between sites. Though the idea of campgrounds resonated well with some participants, others felt that they were an unnecessary waste of scarce resources in Ingham County. Park Commissioners thought that exploring the concept of renting cabins or yurts should be

undertaken. It was also brought up that organized group camping areas (Burchfield Park specifically) would be a valuable addition to our Park system.

MULTIPLE USE PARKS

Parks that provide for multiple recreational uses was a common need and desire expressed through public focus groups. According to the focus group interviews, Participants were pleased with some of the current multi-use designs in parks and would like to see this design continue giving options for a variety of people and a variety of recreation activities in the same area.

SEPARATE CONFLICTING RECREATION ACTIVITIES

The idea of separating conflicting recreation activities surfaced in some focus groups. Mainly the ideas expressed a desire to separate bikes from pedestrians and to separate passive from active recreation areas. The idea of separating conflicting recreation activities needs to be addressed when providing multiple use parks as described above.

WATERPARK

Some participants supported the idea of a water park. However, there were nearly as many concerns expressed, about the county's role in providing a water park. Some feared its ability to sustain itself. The opponents referred to the East Lansing Aquatic Center and whether or not Ingham County could support two water park facilities. The primary supporters were young people (high school and college) in both rural and urban groups.

The idea of a water park was not viewed as a high priority among residents, commissioners, and park staff. The public focus groups for the 2012-2016 should revisit the concept of a county run water park to gauge the support in the future.

It is important to note that residents, when discussing a water park, were speaking of a large water based recreation facility with water slides, wave pools, and other large scale aquatic components. This is important to note because a differentiation must be made between a "water park" and a "splash pad". A splash pad is a small, zero depth area where water shoots, cascades, and pours out of structures

(i.e. a playground with water). Hawk Island County Park added a splash pad in the summer of 2006 which has been well received by the visitors to that park. The success of this facility should be taken into account and the possibility of adding additional “splash pads” at other park locations should be considered.

Recommendations from Public Focus Groups

The focus group interviews conducted by Michigan State University allowed for in-depth discussions, by both users and nonusers of Ingham County parks, of their current recreation behaviors, reasons for visiting and not visiting parks, and their desires for future recreation opportunities. Focus group interviews were unique in this respect and provided a richness of response and personal connection to participants not found with other methods.

Channels were established throughout the county for further outreach efforts by the Ingham County Parks Department. The parks department is urged to pursue these opportunities quickly as relationships are subject to change over time.

Recommendations for Short-term and On-going Planning from Public Focus Groups

1. As was true in 1998/99, walking, biking, fishing, picnicking, running, hiking, playing with children, swimming and bird watching/nature viewing continue to be the most popular forms of outdoor recreation activities to the residents of Ingham County. To the extent possible, Ingham County’s parks should continue to provide ample opportunities for these activities.
2. Continue coordinating purchases, easements or donations of land corridors for multi-use (biking, walking, running, hiking, etc.) trails that link public parklands, regardless of administering authority.
3. Continue to make county residents aware of the parks and what they have to offer. Develop favorable media relationships. Use free coverage whenever possible through press releases, public service announcements, and local public television programming. Urge programming agencies using county park facilities to do the same. Use pavilion rental contacts to distribute information. Provide

information in “welcome” packages distributed by realtors. Use schools, senior centers, and senior housing for presentations and/or distributions of printed materials. Provide brochures in churches, bike shops, bus stops, schools, senior centers and MSU orientation packages

4. Do more to communicate the accessibility of park facilities in all media. Such messages should include safety and security resources and procedures. Such information is not only important for temporarily or permanently disabled persons but also for the increasingly older segment of park visitors.
5. Participants did not express a desire for fees. There are pockets of opposition, largely on philosophical grounds. Fees were accepted and even expected for equipment rentals. Visitors should be made aware of the uses of fee revenues. For example, signs indicating that entrance fees were used for a capital improvement project should be posted at the construction site. To lessen opposition, the policy of free entrance on weekdays, annual sticker discounts, and free passes for those who request them should be continued. Fees at the Potter Park Zoo should be lower for county residents.
6. Continue efforts to implement fair policies regarding dogs in parks. This is a contentious issue with both dog lovers and dog opponents voicing strong opinions. Continue to work toward the completion of the dog park in Scott Woods near Hawk Island. Continue to allow dogs to be allowed on leashes only in some parks. Implement rules and means to encourage and enable persons with dogs to pick up after them and dispose of dog waste properly.
7. Either make capital improvements at Baldwin Park or pursue the possible transfer of the park to Onondaga Township.

Recommendations for Long-term Planning from Public Focus Groups

1. Create opportunities for and investigate and coordinate ways of promoting the parks via entertainment and events. These would include existing opportunities, such as winter activities, free concerts, and all-day experiences (e.g., hike/bike/picnic/swim or sled/ski/skate/bonfire), which are appreciated but need to be promoted more effectively. Other events include, but are not necessarily limited to, festivals, health walks, fitness days, fun walks tied to holidays like

Halloween, tree planting, powwows, grandparent/grandkid fishing day, community events for families and college students, and a “County Park Week” that focuses on Ingham County Park. Events like these increase awareness of what the county parks have to offer, with the likelihood of increased attendance and support.

2. Almost antithetical to the above point about entertainment is the need, expressed by a number of groups, to keep the balance in favor of passive, nature-based, “quiet” experiences over active, “loud” forms of recreation. In general, most groups felt the balance was appropriate now and would not like to see it swing toward athletic fields and commercial entertainment, as examples. Areas for improvement include more trails, more quiet areas for adults who want some separation from crowds and the louder parts of parks, and more environmental education activities (including nature walks and plant/tree identification). Not all trails have to be designed for “active” forms of recreation. For example, a “tree trail” would also be appropriate and consistent with the purpose of county parks.
3. Investigate possibilities for acquisition of future parkland in Ingham County. Outside the Greater Lansing area there was particular interest in more parkland on the eastern side of the county, where there currently is a deficit. Opportunities exist through cooperative arrangements in the Williamston/Webberville area and Stockbridge (not necessarily acquisition of more parkland but assistance in maintenance of a section of the Lakeland Trail).
4. Improve accessibility and usability for older persons, including, but not necessarily limited to more paved trails and benches along existing trails for resting.
5. The current multi-use aspect of Ingham County parks resonated well with the focus groups and is consistent with the above recommendations for a balance between passive, nature-based forms of recreation and community events/programs oriented toward non-traditional activities or users. However, focus group participants also realized that achieving such a balance could at times create conflict. They therefore suggested that certain uses (e.g., hiking and biking, playgrounds and quiet areas, dog walking) be separated where possible.

Conclusions: Major Concepts from Public Focus Groups

The acquisition of more parkland surfaced in most group discussions and was not necessarily related to location and convenience. Some participants living in outlying areas requested land acquisition for convenient access. Many others based the need on a desire for more open space and natural areas in general. Participants who had to travel more than approximately 45 minutes to reach an Ingham County park tended to seek alternatives, including Kensington Metropark and state parks.

Connection of parks and recreation areas through trails and greenways was another strong concept that emerged in the focus group data. Participants would like to be able spend extended periods of time engaged in outdoor recreation without hiking, rollerblading, or biking in heavy traffic or packing up families and equipment to travel from park to park by car. Instead, participants said they go “up north” or to larger state parks for such experiences. Again, the connecting trails would also offer an alternative to automobile travel.

Trails were clearly important to focus group participants as they emerged from the discussions in three different ways: trails that connect parks, interpretive trails, and the more typical walking/hiking type of trail. These trail types do not have to be separate entities. One nice design feature of trails is that they can serve multiple purposes. For example, trails that connect parks also serve as hiking/walking trails. Portions of hiking/walking trails can be designed to interpret natural features and processes.

Another theme was the strong desire for more undeveloped nature and/or quiet areas. As noted above, participants expressed an interest in environmental education and interpretive trails as well as general all-purpose hiking and walking trails within the parks. In combination, these concepts indicate a warning not to shift the balance away from nature-based forms of outdoor recreation.

Most participants were supportive of dogs on leash in some parks. There is still disagreement on this topic as some think that dogs do not belong in county parks. Participants were also supportive of a dog park both in addition to and as an alternative to having dogs in parks.

In terms of specific facilities, participants were generally pleased with the existing parks. They voiced a desire for multiple use parks and the idea of separate activities (i.e., separate hiking and biking trails). When suggested, water parks were supported largely by student groups. There was concern about whether the county should be the provider of water parks and if such facilities would be self-sustaining. Campgrounds were supported, although definitions of “camping” varied widely from primitive to lodges, with primary emphasis being on the more rustic type of tent campground. Furthermore, many participants did not see campgrounds as being a county priority.

PARK STAFF AND COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS



Both the Park and Recreation Commission and the staff of the Ingham County Parks played a vital role in the development of this Master Plan. Through staff interviews and commission input, concepts and ideas were developed that will help to guide decision making over the next five years. The ideas and concepts developed are included in this section.

The Park staff and Commission should keep abreast of new and innovative trends in recreational activities and facilities and explore the possibility of providing some of these new facilities and activities to the residents of Ingham County. One such example is splash pads. Hawk Island County Park is home to the first Splash Pad in Mid-Michigan. Popular in Canada for years, the benefits of splash pads are just being realized in the United States. Few residents were aware of what a “splash pad” consisted of, however, once introduced at Hawk Island Park, the pad has been very successful. Another innovative facility that would provide a new form of recreation to the residents of Ingham County is that of a snow tubing hill. Users sit or lie on an inflated snow tube and slide down preformed “chutes” of snow. Unlike traditional sledding hills, users and their tubes are then pulled by a lift back up to the top of the hill. Snow making machines are also essential in the operation of a tubing hill in order to extend the timeframe that the tubing hill can be used.

Two of the public focus groups responded negatively about the current situation with Baldwin Park in Onondaga. These two groups were located in communities near the park and thus had a vested interest in its welfare. The Park Commission agreed that it should look at ways to remedy the problems addressed at Baldwin Park. Possible solutions include increasing the maintenance or capital projects at the park or, as was mentioned during the focus group sessions, look at transferring this property back to the Township level.

Other ideas:

“We should provide an area with our parks for weddings, maybe a gazebo, or designated area.”

The idea of increased marketing and advertising efforts was brought up during the staff meetings. Several ideas and concepts were mentioned by staff including:

“We need to advertise all parks and activities more through radio and TV”.

“Residents should be able to purchase annual entrance permits online.”

“We should develop an email list to provide coupons, etc to residents for activities within our parks.”

“We mail out newsletters twice a year. We should maybe think about distributing coupons in the newsletter or even in brochures.”

“Banquet Hall Facility”

“Continue building non-motorized pathways – extend west and east from Lansing”

“Acquisition of Park land East of Lansing towards Williamston and Webberville should be investigated because that area is growing as more people move further from Lansing and more are commuting from these areas to the Detroit area”

“Add a Dog Park at Lake Lansing North”

“Add a Mountain Bike Trail at Lake Lansing North”

“More outdoor sports activities such as disc golf should be investigated”

“Rock Climbing wall”

“The beach playground at Burchfield Park is in need of replacement, much of the original equipment has been removed due to safety concern, so there are only a few pieces of playground equipment remaining”.

“Due to the success of the Splash Pad at Hawk Island, we should look at the possibility of providing one at Lake Lansing Park South, because it is a similar park to Hawk Island.”

“Provide new Winter sports activities”

“Additional nature trails”

“Privacy walls and curtains in restrooms (updates)”

“Handicap accessibility to tables and grills in picnic areas”

“Better utilization of the Winter sports Building at Burchfield Park.”

“Many Park patrons ask about the history of Lake Lansing South Park, since it used to be an old amusement park and had other interesting features. A historical display of some sorts would be a nice addition. “

“Eliminate toboggan runs at Burchfield Park and put in a tubing hill”

“Acquisition should address more than just the simple purchase of private land. We should identify other land that may now be in non-private hands; other units of government (State, Township, City, and public schools) to see if ICPD might be best for future stewardship.”

“Dogs on leash with severe (very expensive) fines to those who unleash their animals.”

“#1 Priority would be to maintain what we have.”

“I think we should concentrate on things we can do with current staff and funding. New, expensive things might be nice, but the taxpayers of Ingham County would have to pay for them somehow. Lets face it, people don't like to pay taxes or entrance fees or any kind of fees. They think every good thing should be free.”

“Activities in parks especially those of a more urban feeling could include checkers/chess tables for intergenerational games for older adult social opportunities. I think that the older adult gets forgotten as we plan for parks there are other games other than shuffleboard that are more interesting to get our mature folks out and active.”

“More pavilions for users - Picnic Tables - Small Patios.”

“More playground equipment.”

“Bathroom Facilities Upgraded - new & more - close to play equipment”

“We must continue to recruit, train, mentor & retain high quality seasonal employees. Make them feel that they are valued, part of a team, and that the parks profession is more than just a nice summer job. One reason why so many people in the focus groups had positive things to say about our parks was because they felt safe and had enjoyable experiences. That doesn't happen without well-trained people-oriented staff (seasonals, law enforcement, etc).”

“These 3 items (Environmental Education, Separate Activities, and Undeveloped Natural/Quiet Areas) should be considered parts of a general theme of not over-developing our parkland. People still want to be able to escape to nature, have some peace and quiet and learn about their environment.”

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION

The information obtained through public focus groups interviews coupled with Park Staff and Park Commission recommendations laid the foundation for the goals and objectives of this Master Plan. The Ingham County Parks Department and the Ingham County Parks Commission will use these goals and objectives as decision making guidelines during the next five years.



Goal 1: Acquire Easements and develop trails that connect major recreation, cultural, economic, and business centers on a regional level.

Objective 1a: Recreational AND Transportation Corridor.

Trails should be viewed not only as a recreation asset within Ingham County, but should also be viewed as a viable alternative to motorized transportation. Trails should provide connections to important business centers, recreational and environmental features. They should also link into neighborhoods and provide families and children a safe route to both recreational areas and school facilities. They should also provide cross-county connectivity and links to trail systems in surrounding communities.

Objective 1b: Governmental Cooperation.

To develop a true system of trails that will function to serve the residents of Ingham County as well as provide regional linkages, it will be necessary to work in partnership with other governmental agencies. Ingham County is currently working with Meridian Township, Delhi Township, and the City of Lansing on various sections of the Heart of Michigan Trail system. The Ingham County Parks Commission should continue to partner with other municipalities and governmental agencies for the development and maintenance of trail systems. Governmental cooperation should also be viewed in terms of funding for trail systems. The collective financial resources of both the County and local municipalities should be coupled with State and Federal granting agencies to ensure the funding for trail development and maintenance exists.

Objective 1c: Maintenance of existing and future trails.

The Park Commission needs to ensure that with the development of trails throughout the County, that the maintenance and upkeep of these trails is taken into account. Cooperative maintenance agreements with other agencies should be explored along with continued operational/maintenance funding.

Action Plan: The Commission should continue to research and identify key linkages for the Heart of Michigan Trail system (pages 44-45) and pursue the development of these areas. The completion of the Lake Lansing portion of the Heart of Michigan Trail system is of high priority. An existing MDNRTF grant will allow for the construction of the trail from Lake Lansing Park South in Meridian Township to Park Lake Road. The second phase of the Lake Lansing Trail would link Park Lake Road to the campus of Michigan State University where it would link into the campus trail system and the Lansing River Trail.

Developing non-motorized pathways within County Park facilities should also be a priority of the Commission. The development of non-motorized paths within parks would provide a linkage mechanism to the Heart of Michigan Trail system whereas trail users could access various areas of each park via the trail. Consideration should be given to the development of trails around the interior park areas in order to make a continuous trail system. A loop system has been established at Hawk Island County Park and has been very well utilized. Whereas one of the main goals of the Heart of Michigan Trail system is to link park areas, it is essential to develop these in-park trails for connectivity purposes.

Possible funding sources for the expansion of the Heart of Michigan Trail system include the Michigan DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Land & Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Department of Transportation, Ingham County Capital Improvement monies, and by partnering with other local governmental entities within Ingham County.

Goal 2: Maintain adequate active and passive open space to meet the needs of the community

Objective 2a: Acquire, develop and/or preserve parkland within Ingham County.

Objective 2b: Identify key geographic areas within Ingham County that could facilitate the development of a regional park facility.

Action Plan: The Park Commission will explore the feasibility of acquiring land that becomes available for sale or through donation. The Park Commission will also consider acquiring existing park and/or recreation land within Ingham County from other agencies should the opportunity present itself. Possible funding sources for acquisition include grants administered by the Michigan DNR.

The Park Commission should also consider acquisition opportunities that would provide for the expansion of the Heart of Michigan Trail system. Such land acquisition would include both linear strips of land and/or small parcels that would accommodate a parking area or resting area along the trail route.

In order to continue the longstanding policy of the board of commissioners, the transfer of smaller parks such as Baldwin Park should be pursued as part of an effort to acquire other larger properties.

Goal 3: Provide Undeveloped Natural & Quiet Areas within Ingham County Parks.

Objective 3a: Protect and enhance current park areas that provide quiet passive areas.

Objective 3b: Develop passive park facilities and open space throughout the county to serve the needs of the residents.

Action Plan: Identify appropriate locations for undeveloped natural & quiet areas within Ingham County Parks. In any new acquisition and development projects, care should be taken to ensure that there are both active and passive recreation areas within the park.

Goal 4: Provide Entertainment activities within Ingham County Parks that serve to attract people to the park facilities.

Objective 4a: Better publicize existing entertainment activities within parks.

Objective 4b: Increase the entertainment offerings within County Parks.

Action Plan: The commission should explore ways in which to better market the existing entertainment activities within the parks. Current entertainment includes free summer concerts at Lake Lansing Park South, Free Days during the summer at Hawk Island, Lake Lansing, and Burchfield Parks, and Free Winter sports Days at Lake Lansing Park North and Burchfield Park. The Commission should also look at ways to provide additional County sponsored activities which provide opportunities for entertainment within the park system. Recreation Programming in general is handled by local Park and Recreation agencies throughout Ingham County. The Ingham County Parks Department should work with these agencies and make them aware of their opportunities to provide programming within county park facilities.

Goal 5: Provide additional park areas for dog owners to recreate with their dogs.

Objective 5a: Work cooperatively with other agencies to provide such facilities.

Objective 5b: Work cooperatively with dog owners to determine feasibility and locations of new dog parks.

Action Plan: A county run dog park may require grant dollars in order to be feasible. There is currently a group of residents developing a dog park adjacent to Hawk Island County Park. The Parks Commission should continue to support this endeavor through financial support and other means as necessity dictates. Staff brought up the idea of developing a dog park facility at Lake Lansing North due to the large number of persons that utilize the park with the dogs.

Goal 6: Provide areas for “dogs on leash” in some parks.

Objective 6a: There are currently areas that allow for dogs on leash within existing Ingham County Parks. Explore the possibility of establishing additional areas for dogs and their owners to recreate.

Objective 6b: Increase public knowledge as to the many areas within Ingham County Parks where dogs are currently allowed.

Action Plan: Explore the possibility of allocating additional areas where dogs and their owners may recreate. Funding for the concept of “dogs on leash” does not require grants and would create a minimum expense from general fund dollars.

Goal 7: Provide increased environmental education opportunities to Ingham County residents.

Objective 7a: Increase attendance at Environmental Day Camp.

Objective 7b: Expand the opportunities for self-guided nature walks through Ingham County Park facilities.

Objective 7c: Expand the opportunities to introduce young and old to outdoor recreation such as fishing.

Action Plan: In the last two years, Nature Day Camp has been reintroduced at Burchfield County Park in Delhi Township. This day camp focuses on providing young children the opportunity to explore the natural environment including day hikes, animal identification, and other fun activities. Through camp surveys completed by parents and camp participants, the nature day camp has proven to be very successful. The Parks Department has also recently begun holding a

fishing derby each summer where area youth are invited to catch trout at a stocked pond within Burchfield County Park. It is the intention of the Parks Department to continue to offer these programs, and to advertise the availability of these programs to residents of Ingham County. Additional programming and the development of “self-guided” nature trails should be explored.

Goal 8: Provide Parks that promote multiple recreation uses.

Objective 8a: Maintain adequate active and passive open space to meet the needs of the community

Objective 8b: Explore the possibility of developing unique and innovative recreational facilities that expand the current park uses.

Action Plan: The Ingham County Parks Commission currently develops parks with the idea of providing multiple uses within one facility. The newest park to the system, Hawk Island County Park, exemplifies this concept. Multiple uses at Hawk Island include such recreational activities as a paved walking path, swimming beach, community built playground, water splash pad, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, and a sledding hill. Residents during the focus group interviews confirmed their desire to have different recreational options at each park. The concept of providing multiple use parks should continue with any new land acquisition or when redesigning current park areas. New and innovative recreational opportunities that should be explored include both winter and summer activities. New summer activities include facilities such as water splash pads, while winter activities include such activities as snow tubing.

PUBLIC REVIEW & PLAN ADOPTION

Since the 2007-2011 Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan helps to establish a framework for decision making, the input from the public was viewed as essential. There were numerous ways in which public input was sought, they are outlined as follows:

Focus Group Sessions

Public Focus Groups were held through Michigan State University to solicit public comments and recommendations. This information is described in detail in previous sections of this master plan.

Public Meetings to solicit input

Two public meetings were held to solicit comments and recommendations regarding the draft master plan before it was finalized and adopted by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. The public meetings were conducted at least one month apart to allow for ample time for the public to review the document. These public meetings were advertised in the Lansing State Journal. (see p 96 – p 101)

Electronic (world wide web)

The Master Plan was made available on the Ingham County website for interested citizens to view. The availability of the plan in electronic format was advertised along with the public meetings. (see p 96 & p 99)

RESOLUTION FROM GOVERNING BODY

ADOPTED - MARCH 27, 2007
Agenda Item No. 9

Introduced by the County Services Committee of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE INGHAM COUNTY PARKS FACILITY MASTER PLAN

RESOLUTION #07-061

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted a revised County Parks Master Plan for Ingham County; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Facility Master Plan is intended to provide general guidelines for the orderly development of the County Park system; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain eligible for state and federal grant programs it is necessary that the Parks Facility Master Plan be updated every five years; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission recommends to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners that the 2007-2011 Ingham County Parks Facility Master Plan be approved.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopts the 2007-2011 Ingham County Parks Facility Master Plan as presented by the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the goals and objectives for 2007 through 2011, as stated in the Master Plan, shall be construed as desirable goals only with no implied commitment on the part of the Board of Commissioners to fund any particular recommendation contained therein.

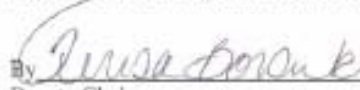
COUNTY SERVICES: Yeas: De Leon, Tennis, Copedge, Nolan, Severino, Dougan
Nays: None Absent: None Approved 3/20/07

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, Mike Bryanton, Clerk for the County of Ingham, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ingham, Michigan on March 27, 2007 as appears on record in my office, and that I have compared the same with the original and that it is a true transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County at Mason, Michigan this 28th day of March, 2007.

MIKE BRYANTON, INGHAM COUNTY CLERK

By  _____
Deputy Clerk

L11016



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS, INC.
 120 E. Lenawee
 Lansing, MI 48919
 State of Michigan, County of Ingham

IN THE MATTER OF: NOTICE
 INGHAM COUNTY PARKS

Ann Lyon

Being duly sworn, says that he/she is authorized by the publisher of Lansing State Journal., to swear that a certain notice, a copy of which is annexed here to, was published in the following publication:

1. Published in the English language for the dissemination of general and/or legal news, and
2. Has a bonfide list of paying customers or has been published at least once a week in the same community without interruption for at least 2 years, and
3. Has been established, published and circulated at least once a week without interruption for at least one (1) year in the community where the publication is to occur.

LANSING STATE JOURNAL 1/8/07


 Ann Lyon

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 8TH

DAY OF JANUARY, 2007

CARRIE A. SAVAGE
 NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF EATON
 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: SEPTEMBER 4, 2007
 ACTING IN THE COUNTY OF EATON



LSJ-1-6

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION 121 E. Maple Street, Suite 102, Mason, Michigan 48854 January 22, 2007

The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission held a Public Hearing at the Human Services Building, Conference Room C, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Board Members

Present: Pam Weil, Neila Tillman, Dennis Propst, Bill Matt, Mike McDonald, Susan McGillicuddy, John Czarnecki, Larry R. Smith

Absent: Pat Lindemann and Commissioner Weatherwax-Grant

Also Present: Director of Parks Robert Moore, Recording Secretary Debra Bavery, Assistant Park Manager Brian Collins, and East Lansing resident Rosemary Smith

Public Hearing - 6:07pm

Presentation of a Draft of the Ingham County Parks Department Master Plan

Chair McDonald called the Public Meeting to order at 6:07pm and stated the purpose and the rules of the Public Hearing.

Assistant Park Manager Brian Collins presented the draft Master Plan along with a power point presentation outlining the highlights and major concepts of the Master Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding concepts #1 (Connect Parks with Trails & Greenways, #2 (Acquisition of Parkland), #3 (undeveloped Natural and Quiet Areas), and #4 (Events and Activities to Attract People). All members present were in agreement regarding the wording of these concepts in the Master Plan. During the discussion of major concept #5 (Recreational Opportunities with Dogs) Mr. Czarnecki stated that it was his feeling that dogs were a vested interest group and do not represent the county as a whole. Mr. Propst stated that the dog comments in the Master Plan did not come from a dog group, focus groups were representative of the county. Ms. Weil stated that when the dog park opens it will eliminate the need to open up more park land to dogs on leashes. Mr. Moore stated that there are a lot of problems with dogs, and maybe the department is not meeting the need. Ms. McGillicuddy spoke about the different rules for different parks and the confusion it creates, however, she felt that a dog park would solve the problem. Ms. Weil felt that acknowledging the issue of dogs in the park as a valid reality, and making a place for them such as the dog park is a step in the right direction. Mr. Propst stated that the issues of dog parks and waterparks were prompted conversations. Mr. Matt stated that Mr. Propst statement maybe lends weight to Mr. Czarnecki's comment because they were prompted conversations. Chair McDonald stated that the Master Plan is the justification for grants that are submitted and it was his opinion that the funding would not be available for a dog park. Ms. Weil spoke about her belief that running dogs off-leash is very healthy for dogs, and with no dog park available citizens are forced to break the law.

Mr. Moore talked about concept #6 (Environmental Education & Interpretive Trails) and #7 (Campgrounds). He stated that the subject of cabins did not come up in discussions with focus groups this time. He further stated that staff has looked hard at the use of yurts for rustic camping at Burchfield Park, but hasn't figured out how to make it work in our present system. Mr. Moore reported that the reason the department doesn't aggressively promote overnite camping is so the county is not competing with places like Camp Kiwanis. Ms. McGillicuddy and Chair McDonald agreed that there are facilities in the area that currently fill that need. Mr. Czarnecki stated that it is a good way for the young to experience the out of doors.

Discussion ensued regarding concepts #8 (Multiple Use Parks), #9 (Separate Conflicting Recreational Activities), and #10 (Water Park), and all members present were in agreement.

Mr. Collins finished his presentation and stated that there will be another public hearing in February and the Parks & Recreation Commission will be asked to adopt the Ingham County Parks Facility Master Plan at that time.

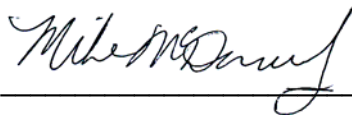
Mrs. Bavery reported that there was no correspondence to enter into the record.

Limited Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:53pm.



Michael McDonald, Chair



Debra Bavery, Recording Secretary

L10943

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS, INC.
120 E. Lenawee.
Lansing, MI 48919
State of Michigan, County of Ingham

IN THE MATTER OF: NOTICE

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS

Rachelle Franklin

Being duly sworn, says that he/she is authorized by the publisher of Lansing State Journal., to swear that a certain notice, a copy of which is annexed here to, was published in the following publication:

1. Published in the English language for the dissemination of general and/or legal news, and
2. Has a bonfide list of paying customers or has been published at least once a week in the same community without interruption for at least 2 years, and
3. Has been established, published and circulated at least once a week without interruption for at least one (1) year in the community where the publication is to occur.

LANSING STATE JOURNAL

2/12/07


Rachelle Franklin

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 12TH

DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2007

CARRIE A. SAVAGE
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF EATON
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: SEPTEMBER 4, 2007
ACTING IN THE COUNTY OF EATON



LSJ- 2-2

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT
121 E. Maple Street-PO Box 178
Lansing, MI 48954
(517) 876-2233

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN

A Public Hearing will be held February 20, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the Human Services Building, Conference Room C, Second Floor, 5303 S. Cedar, Building #13, Lansing, Michigan. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to hear suggestions and comments from interested citizens who wish to have their ideas and concerns taken into account before the Master Plan is finalized. The plan is available for public review at the Ingham County Parks Department office, 121 E. Maple Street, Lansing, Michigan, at the Ingham County Parks Website www.ingham.org/parks, or by calling (517) 876-2233. Written comments may be directed to the Ingham County Parks Commission at the address listed above.

Michael McDaniel, Chair

LSJ-2-2 2/12/07

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION 121 E. Maple Street, Suite 102, Mason, Michigan 48854 February 26, 2007

The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission held a Public Hearing at the Human Services Building, Conference Room C, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Board Members

Present: Pam Weil, Neila Tillman, Dennis Propst, Bill Matt, Mike McDonald, Commissioner Dianne Holman, John Czarnecki, Larry R. Smith

Absent: Pat Lindemann and Commissioner Weatherwax-Grant

Also Present: Director of Parks Robert Moore; Recording Secretary Debra Bavery; Assistant Park Manager Brian Collins; Commissioner Todd Tennis; East Lansing resident Rosemary Smith; Haslett resident Bill Sech; Flying Aces representatives Bob Strobel, Gary Andrews, and Aaron Walker

Public Hearing - 6:06pm

Presentation of a Draft of the Ingham County Parks Department Master Plan

Chair McDonald called the Public Meeting to order at 6:06pm and stated the purpose and the rules of the Public Hearing.

Assistant Park Manager Brian Collins passed out copies of the draft Master Plan to members of the public and outlined the highlights and major concepts of the Master Plan.

Flying Aces representative Gary Andrews spoke about past discussions regarding the Hope Soccer Complex and his proposal for redevelopment of the site for model airplanes. He further stated that his proposal was presented to the City of Lansing, and that a city engineer had stated that the proposal was feasible. Mr. Andrews reported that at that point in time the relationship between the County and the Flying Aces was terminated as a result of their removal from the system and a site was established at Elm Park. Mr. Andrews posed the question "Why does the County not consider a dual use of a public facility that is owned by the citizens of Lansing as feasible, especially since the City has said it is a viable option?" Mr. Andrews requested an answer to his question. Mr. Czarnecki asked that the group put their questions in writing, and stated the Commission would review their issues at the next meeting. Chair McDonald agreed and asked Mrs. Bavery to provide notification to the group of the next meeting.

Mr. Moore disagreed with Mr. Andrew's statement regarding the City of Lansing's determination that the site was a viable one for his proposal. Mr. Moore stated that he was told by the City of Lansing that the Parks Department had exceeded their authority, and that the City has not at any time said a gas collection system was unnecessary. Commissioner Holman stated that one of the priorities in the Master Plan is multiple land use.

Mr. Strobel, Flying Aces representative, stated that he was disappointed that his organization wasn't notified of meetings relating to the Master Plan. He spoke further of their teaching program which involves 2 to 12 students 8-12 years old. He further stated that the Parks Department knew the Flying Aces were interested in the sport and the Parks Department let them down in the Master Plan process.

Mrs. Bavery reported that there was no correspondence to enter into the record.

Chair McDonald asked for additional public comment. Mr. Andrews stated that as an owner of public property it is incumbent upon the Commission to grant his group access to public process. It was his feeling that the

Flying Aces were denied that because of a prejudice that became apparent to them and had a devastating impact on a number of the members. As a result the organization decided drop the request for use of the Hope Soccer Complex. He further stated that the City of Lansing feasibility study did include costs which could be covered by DNR recreation funds, Brownfield funds, corporate funds, etc. He also stated that some individuals had no respect for other individuals or had a bias that was unidentified. Mr. Czarnecki asked that Mr. Andrews keep his comments to the Master Plan and not an individual. Mr. Andrews ended his comments by stating that the Master Plan is bogus. Chair McDonald assured the newer members of the Commission that the historical records of the Commission's interaction with the Flying Aces would be made available.

Haslett Resident, William Sech, spoke regarding the use of Lake Lansing Park North trails. His concern primarily centered around the rezoning of property adjoining Lake Lansing Park North to higher density by HDI builders and this concerns him due to the fact that the property has been used intensively by park users. He stated that HDI has been generous to allow the public use of their property in the past, however now they are talking about wanting to develop the land. He felt that acquisition of this property should be a higher priority in order to keep what exists currently at Lake Lansing Park North. Mr. Czarnecki asked if Mr. Sech was talking about actually purchasing the properties or easements? Mr. Sech talked about the property where the dredged materials from Lake Lansing were deposited. In response, Mr. Moore stated that he appreciated Mr. Sech bringing that subject up and indicated that the County owned that property. Ms. Weil stated that she had been a member of the Commission for a long time and the problem is that making detailed acquisition statements carries problems and legal issues. She further stated that it is necessary to keep the Master Plan general in nature with respect to future items. Mr. Moore indicated that the Parks Department had had discussions with HDI, and agrees the land should be acquired if they are willing to sell, however HDI has stated that they are open to keeping the loop trail intact and have verbally agreed to provide the cost of boardwalk to assist the Parks Department's development of the trail system in order to retain the present trail configuration. Chair McDonald reiterated the fact that the property is not for sale at this time. Commissioner Holman spoke about the spoils site and how there are very strict guidelines regarding how it is capped, removed, or how access is granted to the site. Mr. Moore stated that the property has developed deep fissures and it was supposed to be capped, but never was. Mr. Collins reported that he and the Lake Lansing Park Manager reviewed the site, and there are definite issues that are cause for concern. Chair McDonald thanked Mr. Sech for his comments.

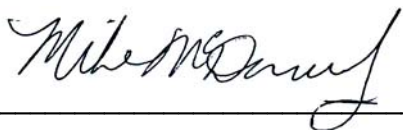
Mr. Walker also commented about the section "Multiple Use Parks" on page 75 of the Master Plan, and indicated that had the Flying Aces been invited they could have talked about contests, other activities, and other groups in the area that are involved in model airplane activities. Mr. Walker asked that the Commission consider the possibility of a model aviation facility. Chair McDonald thanked Mr. Walker for his comments and interest in the public hearing.

Limited Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.



Michael McDonald, Chair



Debra Bavery, Recording Secretary

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of February 26, 2007

RESOLUTION #04-07

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PARKS FACILITY MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted a revised County Parks Master Plan for Ingham County; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Facility Master Plan is intended to provide general guidelines for the orderly development of the County Park system; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain eligible for state and federal grant programs it is necessary that the Parks Facility Master Plan be updated every five years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission recommends to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners that the 2007 Ingham County Parks Facility Master Plan be approved.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the goals and objectives for 2007 through 2011, as stated in the Master Plan, shall be construed as desirable goals only with no implied commitment on the part of the Board of Commissioners to fund any particular recommendation contained therein.

Moved by Ms. Weil and Supported by Mr. Matt that Resolution #04-07. **Yes-8; No-0.**
MOTION CARRIED.