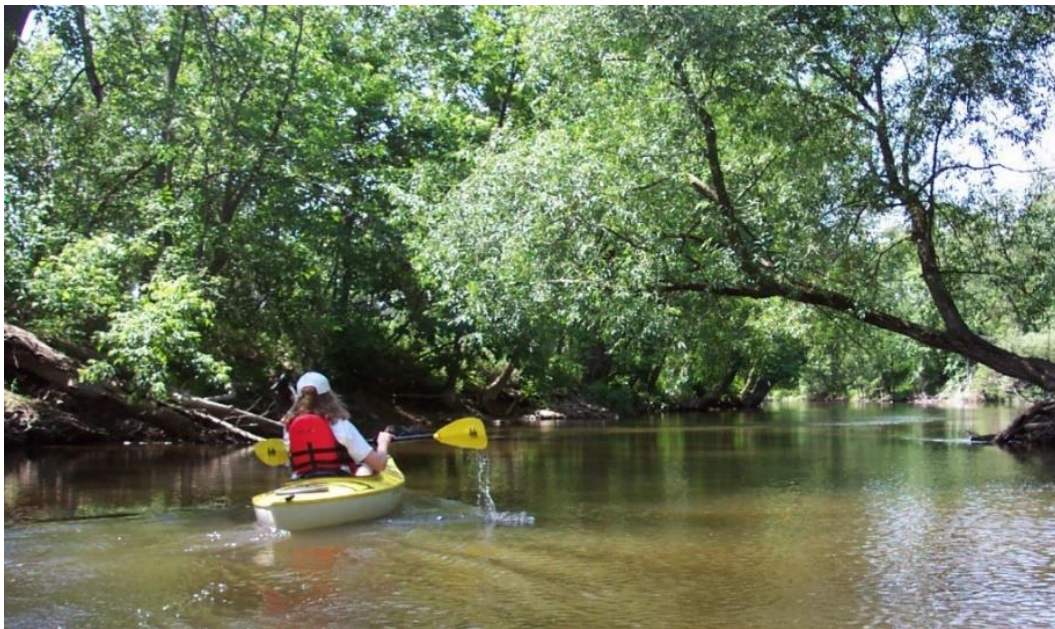


**SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR 2023-2027**



SHIAWASSEE COUNTY
Parks & Recreation Commission



2016 Plan Accomplishment-National Park Service Designation of the River along Five County Parks as a National Water Trail

**Prepared Under the Direction of Public Input and the
Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission**

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 15, 2022

I. DEDICATION:

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is dedicated to the citizens of Shiawassee County and to all travelers and visitors who wish to engage the outdoors about our country scenic landscape through the use of our County Parks and the other public recreational outlets available in the region.

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners will oversee the public hearings, plan adoption process and capital improvements budgeting. Members, elected by district, are:

- District 1 Marlene Webster
- District 2 Gregory Brodeur, Chairman
- District 3 Gary Holzhausen
- District 4 Brandon Marks, Vice-Chairman
- District 5 Brad Howard
- District 6 Cindy L. Garber
- District 7 John B. Plowman

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Commission guided the planning process and provided oversight for the public input phase of the project. Year-to-year, the Commission proposes a budget with capital improvements and operational line items, elects officers, oversees park operations, secures philanthropy and volunteerism, and adopts park rules and standards. The appointed members, consisting of those persons and positions detailed in Public Act 261 of 1965 include:

- Cody Baker, Chair, At-Large Appointee
- Tony Newman Vice-Chair and County Drain Commissioner
- Larry Johnson Director, Health Dep't & at-large appointee
- Ric Crawford Shiawassee County Road Commission
- Brad Howard County Commissioner Representative
- John Plowman County Commissioner Representative
- Bonnie Reno Recording Secretary, At-Large Appointee
- Michael Carr At-Large Appointee
- Constance Cobley At-Large Appointee
- Chris Klawuhn At-Large Appointee
- Zach Nicholson At-Large Appointee

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INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 PLAN

On May 10, 2022, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission authorized the preparation of the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Plan. The adopted plan becomes the template for achieving the stated goals, objectives and actions. Information gathering and public input is part of the process. Park facilities, improvements in the past five years, conditions and needs will be evaluated in the Plan. To accomplish these plan elements, the Commission has been assisted once again in the Plan preparation with Town Plans LLC of Owosso with graphics assistance from Rowe Engineering of Flint, Michigan.

The timing of the planning process leads to a late 2022 adoption date. The discipline of the planning process offers a way to look at the parks with fresh eyes. Immersed in plan implementation work for the past five years, the Commission has not dedicated time for comprehensive parks planning. This has been the time for that effort.

There is a context to the planning process that proceeds within five influences:

- 1) Advances in sustaining and compelling attention for maintenance has accompanied park system growth.
- 2) Another influence is the enabling removal of the dam at Shiatown County Park and the resultant return to a natural flow of the Shiawassee River since its first impoundment in 1840. Together with recent reforestation work, a new site plan will respond to the riverside alterations and other new objectives for that expanded park.
- 3) There is a third interest arising in Shiawassee County and that is the interconnections between all open public and quasi-public spaces with the Covid-induced trends for closer-to-home outdoor recreation. Cities, Villages, nearby State-owned land and non-profits special use areas have a qualified presence in this 535 square-mile county. A regional perspective assists in the understanding of the existing and potential roles of improved leisure-time activity in the public realm. An appreciation of the physical connections roadways and trails offer continued perspectives and patterns of open space use for the health and vigor of the area's population.
- 4) A fourth and practical interest is to re-establish Shiawassee County's eligibility for matching grant programs, principally the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the federally funded (through the State of Michigan) Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Plan will identify other resources that will become available from the influence of an adopted comprehensive parks and recreation plan. Parks Commissioner

marketing initiatives for philanthropy and volunteerism continues to influence the implementation phase of planning.

- 5) A step back from the details of county park planning offers a vision of an ongoing worthwhile resource and that is the river focus of five of the park system's seven parks. The Shiawassee River courses over 41 lineal miles in Shiawassee County that is now part of a State Water Trail and National Water Trail. The strategic location of the county parks on the Trail not only offer rural open space recreation, but provides quality access to the increasingly popular fishing and paddling outings for residents and visitors. A newly published book on the History of the Shiawassee River reveals the inspirational legacy of the county parks.

A repeating theme in the Plan is to view the parks in many ways for the benefits they offer. Quality of life is an established measure of community and personal sustenance. Parks hold a special distinction in:

- cultural economic development,
- alleviation of social problems,
- physical and mental health benefits,
- environmental and civic stewardship.

The Plan will point out these benefits throughout the text. The document will offer a substantial basis for continued support for the role that County government and the Shiawassee community of individuals and organizations play in the well-being of the existing resource and the ambitiously planned advances in the County park system.

To feature past and future aspects of the county park system the next two pages demonstrate accomplishments in the past five years and trend influences for the next five years.



Two images of nature play settings—affordable to parks and creative for children

PARK CHANGES and TREND INFLUENCES SINCE THE 2016 PLAN

>Park Improvements since the 2016 Plan:

- With the contributing and leading role of five county parks that have river access, the State of Michigan, in its first year of doing so, established the Shiawassee River as a State Water Trail.
- Similarly, the National Park Service established the River as America's 23rd National Water Trail in 2016.
- Geeck Meadows Park expanded with a four-acre riverside donation of land from a conservation trust owner.
- The Shiatown hydroelectric dam structure, with a \$700,000 investment over a period of years, was finally removed in 2020 and returned a lively, picturesque riffle zone to its pre-Euro American settlement state.
- With the Shiatown dam removal, expert legal work revealed fee simple ownership for the county of 105 acres of the former reservoir bed, now a usable platform for trail, forest and prairie evolution and the county's first regional level park site, now in the planning phase.
- Henderson Park with state grant assistance received a \$228,000 restoration, tree planting and facility expansion investment. The roadside gate, once a seasonal closure device, was recessed to allow year-round use of the 1.6 mile loop trail and paddle craft launch facility. Barrier free upgrades positively affected every use area of the park.
- The County Board of Commissioners established a full-time parks maintenance position to better address public expectations for cleanliness, wear and tear on facilities, forest management, pavilion readiness, and more reliable mowing scheduling intervals.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission established a new vault toilet design for accessibility, improved venting, structural strength and ease of cleaning with three recently installed and two more pending.
- Pine Grove Park was recommissioned for public use after decades of closure with longstanding boundary issues favorably settled and plans for a new water trail landing underway.
- Shiatown, Geeck Meadows and Henderson Parks all have modern very functional paddlecraft landings with new water trail guide signs completed and underway.
- Shiatown's riverside parking lot was expanded to accommodate the dramatic increase in park user rates; a new vault toilet design was developed and installed there with the Durand Rotary Club's financial aid.
- Shiatown Park's dam removal restoration work was punctuated with the \$32,000 reforestation of the two-acre disturbed grounds area of the former dam's power house works—for a total of 90 balled and burlap trees and 90 flowering riverside shrubs for bank stabilization and beauty. The State of Michigan recently returned the two acre hydro-dam parcel to the County it owned since 1995 from a privately held hydro project (failed) tax reversion.

>Trend influences on the 2023-2027 Five-year Plan:

- Population declines, especially in the family formation age groupings affect the overall County economy and the areas of emphasis for park improvement. Elderly population numbers increase as a percentage of the population.
- Health conditions of the population worsen in the areas of heart disease and obesity with both trends arguing attention for walkable outdoor exercise.
- The County economy is not progressing well enough with lower income households showing little progress on their status with outcomes stressing affordability for leisure time pursuits. This trend is countered positively through providing expanded local recreational outlets for families who may benefit from the great influences parks have for mental and physical health.
- Covid reduced the public assembly areas with use of the County pavilions. More attention is required on marketing use of the pavilions as the public and their restored gatherings emerge from the pandemic.
- During Covid the county parks offered a safe outlet for expanded safe distancing use of its natural resource areas, pathways, the river and separated picnicking sites. The result has been a renewed cognizance of the parks role for healthy, safe distancing options during inevitable forthcoming communicable flu seasons and associated viruses.
- Budgets for parks remain stable and offer optimism that plans, together with philanthropy and state/federal grants-in-aid, may be fulfilled.
- The park plans foresee some big ticket items, not quite at the level of the Shiatown Dam, but considerable enough with
 - the desired sidewalk and ramp linkage between the east-west Shiatown Parks,
 - the park expansion opportunity at West Haven where an 1885 iron bridge, distinguished historic site, and another water trail access facility await,
 - the Kerby Park 1960 two-room school house potential for public use in part or as community center event and/or educational hall,
 - Aggressive loop trail development at Geeck Meadows, Lytle Road, Shiatown and Pine Grove. Each park shall encourage physical activity.
 - Solution to the Walnut Hills Campground strategically located riverside site with improved public access, also with limited seasonal access.
- Improved administrative capacity within the existing county departmental organization for grants-in-aid applications, grant administration and reporting and a recent offer from a grant coordinator position in the County economic development office.
- An upgrade of park site kiosks for disseminating information on park uses, pavilion rentals, conservation education, local bicycling, and park rules.
- Improved awareness and commitment to the benefits of affordable, popular creative play spaces in lieu of entire reliance on play structures.

SECTION I. INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING

The five-year recreation plan will integrate community planning efforts county-wide to better define the role and opportunities present with the existing and future County park system. With five cities and six villages and three urbanizing townships within Shiawassee County, recreation is sufficiently recognized as part of community life with a number of facilities and open spaces to serve the public. The natural resource that is well-ingrained throughout ten (10) of the County's local municipalities is the Shiawassee River. The River is a recently designated National Water Trail, a credible greenway that is navigable and country scenic in aspect. The watershed for the river is mostly rural with a 70-year recent history of non-farm dispersed commuter settlement. Woodlots, wetlands and farmsteads dominate the landscape. The non-farm settlement is largely on one-to-ten acre lots with some subdivisions interspersed throughout the townships. The commuter era to Lansing, Flint and metro-Detroit job markets has quieted in the past thirty years. For now urban pressure on rural areas has abated and offers local planning entities the opportunity to evaluate and preserve greenspace and advocate for green infrastructure expansion.

What this means for the County Park system, in addition to its prime role for river access and recreation facilities, is its responsibility for modeling best watershed management practices (including green infrastructure) and raising public consciousness for the National Water Trail. The five county parks (and the plan's proposed addition of a sixth and even seventh park) situated along the banks of the Shiawassee River stretch evenly from the south county area to the north county boundary. These strategic locations, together with urban riverside parks, contribute to equitable access for the health and quality of life in pristine settings and examples of best practices in the watershed.

With respect to County park facilities, the village and city parks will be assessed for their facilities and needs so as to best define an alternative role of the rural county park system's accommodations. Public access for urban places to the planning process will assist in pinpointing those elements where the County Park system is in the best position to offer.

The five-year plan includes a regional review period when other local and regional planning entities may contribute ideas and comments about the plan's emphasis on integration of recreation and greenway plans. Throughout the planning period, public participation has been encouraged and marketed so that the five-year plan reflects ongoing inputs as well as commentary at the public hearing conclusion of the planning effort.

SECTION II. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION & INFLUENCES ON THE PARKS PLAN

The planning entity is Shiawassee County, a Michigan municipal corporation, with a County parks system. A feature of the plan is a county-wide recreation perspective that integrates all municipal parks, public open spaces, greenways and non-motorized and roadway transportation routes. A principal aspect of this Plan is to describe the county parks system within the larger milieu, a system consisting of seven County parks with five strategically located along the Shiawassee River. Quite distinct from many municipal recreational entities, there is no county funded or managed recreation programming. Facilities have developed historically as deemed beneficial for the context of the park and the more asset-focused role county parks have played since their inception. The park system developed concurrently with the passage of the County and Regional Parks Act 261 of 1965. The map on Page 14 illustrates the elongated spatial dimension of the park system. Urban areas are highlighted and demonstrate the rural dominance of the county landscape that illustrates the accompanying rural locations of the County parks.

SECTION II A. Population and Health Characteristics. The population and health indicators should have an influence in the make-up and areas of emphasis for the County's parks and recreation facilities. Before arriving at the conclusions that lead to facility strategies, some numbers are in order.

Population. See Appendix A-1 for an extended narrative on demography as it relates to parks. For a number of reasons total population in Shiawassee County is in decline. At a local level this is a distant condition from the panic of the 1960's when dire results were projected from the population growth 'bomb'. The County's population peaked in the 1970's at around 72,000 residents. The 2020 Census shows 68,094 and the 2021 state estimate is at 67,877. The projections for residents through 2045 are even lower at 64,000. The responsible influences are no net in-migration, the aging of population, the fertility rate decline, together with deaths exceeding births (854 to 661 in 2020). The unknown in all this is the rate of international migration that, with US policy evolution, might offset decline and predicted favored climate change moderation in the Great Lakes State with resultant in-migration.

Appendix A-2 is a table of population characteristics in comparison with neighboring counties. Significant numbers show a rising poverty rate, fewer building permits for new housing, the relatively lower per capita incomes rates, and a lower percentage of individuals with a higher education degree.

Shiawassee County is centrally located in a triangle of urbanized metropolitan areas (Lansing, Flint, and Bay-Saginaw-Midland). With a central city of Owosso and four other small cities, six villages and sixteen townships, the context for planning a park system is rural/urban with moderate sprawl settings (from the commuter era of 1950-1990) and very little pressure for development at this time. There remains sufficient occupancy and settlement density in the County to justify a parks and recreation system with a variety of leisure activity options and preservation of open space and natural areas.

Another demographic/economic impact available for parks and recreation strategies is the confidence one may have in supplying a variety of close-to-home open space and recreational facility options for so many residents who do not have the resources for longer travel and extended stay expenses.

A declining demographic influence on the parks plan is the metric that evaluates park systems on types of facilities recommended per 1000 residents. With the considerable inventory of in-place play outlets, the pressure for more facilities is lessened while at the same time influencing improvements for what already exists.

Health Indicators. With respect to the health of county residents, two indicators lead to parks strategies. These are *heart disease and obesity*. As is the case of all counties in Michigan, heart disease is the leading cause of death. The rate of death from this cause per 100,000 persons is 196. Only Genesee County among neighboring counties exceeds that number. The obesity rate continues to climb alarmingly with Shiawassee County showing the 8th largest growth rate among Michigan counties with the present number at 37% of the adult population! Health leaders in the County point to this number as the greatest need category for public action with exercise, a strategic park offering, being one of the most important offsets from obesity.

From these numbers, county parks with their sufficient expanses in forest, fields, pathways and waterways offer outlets for exercise in the forms of walking, biking and paddling together with the refreshing influence of being outdoors in rural settings of county parks.

SECTION II B. The Local Economy, Social Characteristics, and Housing. The approach to relaying Census economic and housing information is to highlight contrasts with averages for the State of Michigan and adjoining counties in the data offering at Appendix A-2. These bullet points summarize the state and local conditions, unless otherwise noted, all in 2020:

- Age of housing in the County for 1939 or earlier built homes is 24.4% versus 15.3% at the State level.

- Higher mobility rates is a dynamic of importance to relative health in a local economy. The percentage of persons living in the same house for 1 year was 91% in Shiawassee County versus 86% for Michigan.
- House values in the County were \$127,500. For the same year the State average was \$162,200. Clinton County, a proximate barometer to Shiawassee County, averaged \$185,500 per dwelling unit.
- Educational attainment is significantly less in the County with only 17.8% obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher. The State level is 30%. Once more Clinton County is even higher at 32.1%.
- Unemployment in June, 2022 was 4.9% in the County (ranked 27th in the State) with the State at 4.3%. Job quality remains a concern as well as the high chronically idle population that is not counted as unemployment.
- Per capita income was \$29,554 in the County and \$32,854 at the State level. There is a blunt contrast once again with Clinton County's \$37,513.
- One contrast—the poverty level in the County was 11.6% yet 12.6% for the State.
- Median household income was \$56,436 for the County and \$59,234 for the State. Clinton County was at a steep contrast with \$72,490.
- When compared to five neighboring counties, Shiawassee County had the greatest decline in GNP at 3% from 2017 to 2020.
- Between 2010 and 2020 there was a 10% decline in net earnings by place of residence. Earnings are in contrast with the two other income categories of Dividends/Interest/Rents and Transfer Receipts with a 25% increase! (Transfers include Social Security and, welfare).
- Issued building permits were lowest in Shiawassee County.

Together with the data at Appendix A-2, the Bureau of Economic Analysis chart on the next page shows the weaker status of the County with respect to change in Gross National Product, even less than the traditionally harder hit counties at Genesee and Saginaw.

The implications from the above data to the County park system lie in the relative unaffordability of discretionary use of household income for recreation and the public's reliable support for recreation and parks development through voted millage or bond authorizations. The economic conditions explain limited expenditures for parks throughout the County. To counteract these conclusions, the same line of reasoning from the demographic and health reports from above lead the plan's emphasis on affordable closer-to-home recreation. Leisure time pursuits are critical components to quality of life under these economic conditions.

**SHIAWASSEE AND NEIGHBORING COUNTIES
GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT % GROWTH (OR DECINE)**

COUNTY	2017 GNP	2020 GNP	% CHANGE (ALL DECLINES)
SHIAWASSEE	\$1,543,878	\$1,496,778	-3.0%
CLINTON	\$2,008,719	\$1,975,557	-1.6%
INGHAM	\$14,710,443	\$14,579,594	-0.1%
LIVINGSTON	\$6,596,436	\$6,303,545	-2.9%
GENESEE	\$14,417,152	\$14,117,264	-2.0%
SAGINAW	\$7,363,949	\$7,294,697	0.9%

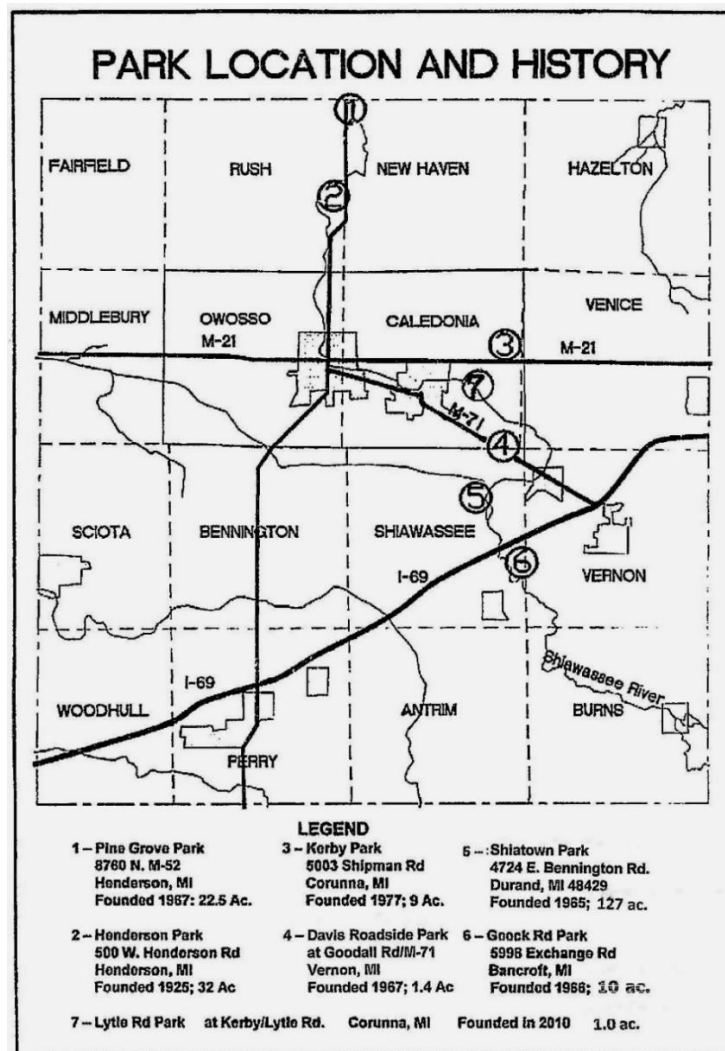
There is even more to the argument for the public’s attention on behalf of parks, open space and recreation. A detailed and compelling outline of the positive side of the economic and health influences with parks and trails is found in Appendix O. Recent pandemic influences on mental health have garnered widespread support for stress relief in open space/natural areas. A scan of that narrative shows there are many findings and statistics that solidify the foundation of support for local parks, open space and trails, especially the natural resource-rich County parks with their lower requirement for development funding than the intensive use parks of our cities and villages.

SECTION II C. Transportation and Park Locations. The County consists of Interstate Highway I-69 (SW to the east County line), State Highways M-21 (east-west), M-71 (Owosso to Durand) and M-52 (bisecting the County east and west and running from Oakley on the north to south of Perry. The county road system features favored routes at Lansing Road that parallels I-69, the N-S State Road from Morrice to Chesaning, Hibbard Road from M-71 to the west County line, and Juddville Road that serves east-west traffic for the north side of the County. Much of the remainder of the County road system consists of narrower asphalt and gravel roads with sloped berms to adjoining roadside drains. These less frequently traveled ways offer a safer foundation for recreational loop bike tours about the parks.

Mention is made of these transportation routes in Appendix K that demonstrates bicycling non-motorized routes and trails near parks. Of the routes listed above, Lansing Road represents a regional-scale east-west bicycling resource in the south County. This is a former State Highway built

to higher standards with respect to lane widths and paved berms. The route connects many municipalities, other counties and regional open spaces.

Public transportation includes the corporate headquarters for the Indian Trail Bus Company in Owosso, an active AMTRACK station in Durand with destinations east to Port Huron/Canada and west to Chicago. There is a county-wide dial-a-ride bus service. Many agencies, institutions and churches have transit vans for their clientele. There is no taxi service based in the County with a lesser presence on the trendy Uber ride sharing and its clones. The State Highways and Interstate I-69 are viewed on the map below in the context of county parks locations:



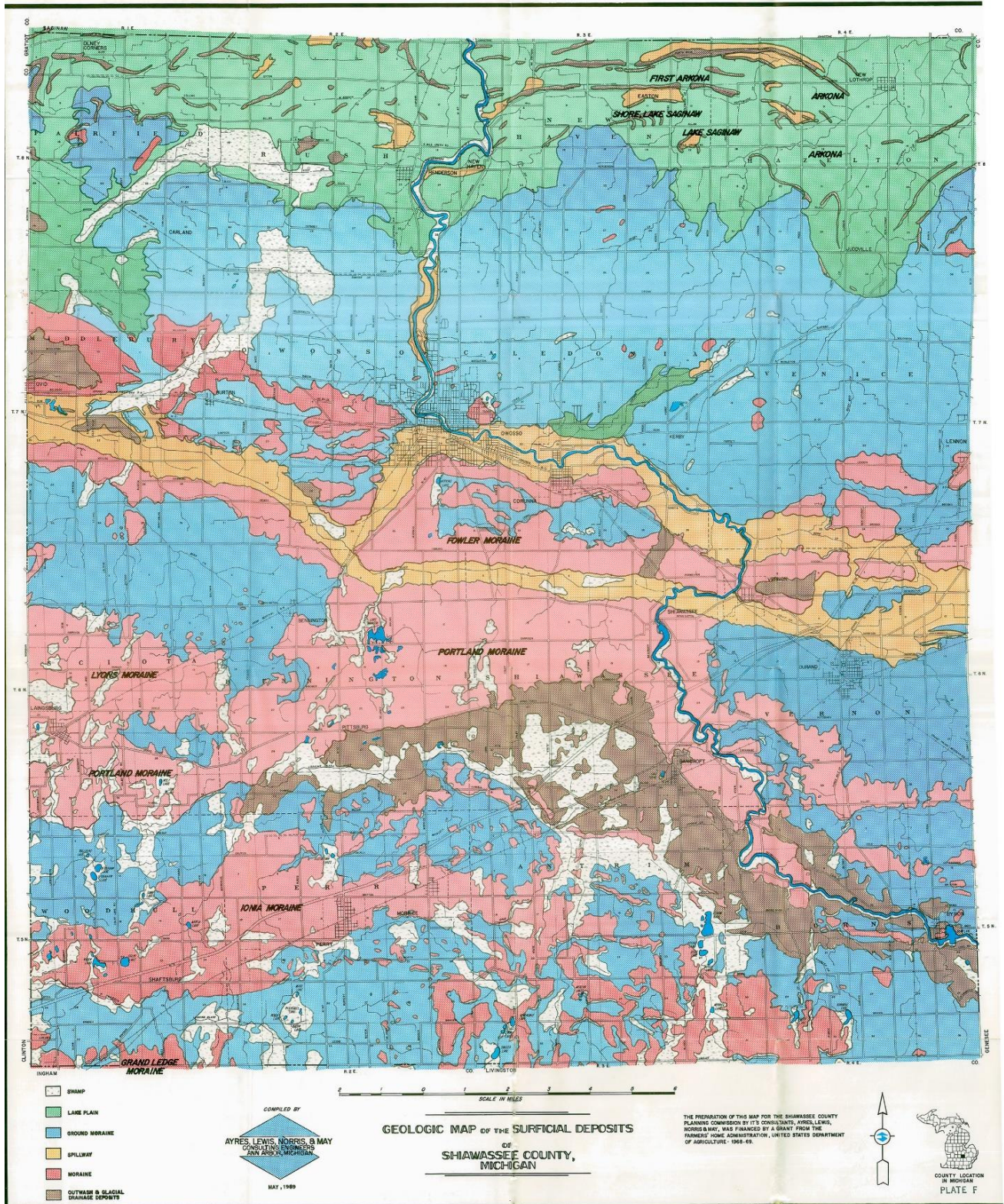
To sum the transportation connection to the Plan, access to the rural parks is via personal vehicle, school bus outings, bicycling and walk-ins from scattered, adjoining settlements.

SECTION II D. Physical Characteristics. Shiawassee County is divided in half with respect to landforms. The north half follows the east-west State Highway Route M-21. The north county consists of level till plain and lacustrine plains. The till plain breaks the north half line at Corunna and continues southeasterly through Durand to the county line. The balance of the County's south landscape is principally low moraines, glacial outwash channels and wetlands. This landscape is picturesque and enjoyed by vast rural settlement patterns on 1-to-10 acre parcels. There are few lake bodies and those that exist are usually 5-to-10 acres in size and highly eutrophic, meaning they are in advanced stages of muck bottom development, dissolved oxygen depletion, and algae. Hopkins Lake in Owosso is a prime example of this ordinary post-glacial process. Unfortunately, lawn feeding and stormwater transport of agricultural fertilizers hasten the process of eutrophication.

There are four (4) dominant river systems in the County with only one being navigable. Lately there have been reports from the Drain Commission that clearing on the Looking Glass River has resulted in some paddlers (to the dismay of some surprised riparians). The Shiawassee River is a credible Midwest waterway from Byron to Oakley than has an hour-glass shaped watershed narrowing in the Owosso/Corunna area. The river is very weather responsive with less consistent ground water support that is common in northern Michigan streams. It can reach very low flows for more than a month in the July to early September period. In 2022 that extended into six months.

The northeast County is drained by the Misteguay Creek that offers a greenway break in the lacustrine plain but without public access or use areas. The Maple River flows east-to-west in a broad scenic outwash valley that is a mile wide and flanked by moraine uplands. Its headwaters are near Shiatown and the stream exits the County at Ovid. The Looking Glass River is two-branched and drains the Southwest County. Its course includes generous greenway areas and concentrations of forested lowlands. The streamflow itself is minor yet its presence creates a very attractive landscape enjoyed by rural landowners but with very little public access or use areas. Recreational bicycling routes suggested in this Plan offer access to this rolling landscape.

See the surface geology map on the next page for a grasp of the natural resource base of Shiawassee County, at least from a surface landform and waterway perspective. The Shiawassee River's course evolved from three stages of flow alterations all creating fall-lines where the riffles offer evidence of the glacial retreat and subsequent new courses north and west for this river. The geology is the basis for the extra attraction of the county parks for paddle sports. The elevation fall is significant enough to enjoy the current's force.



The surface geology map explains much of the qualities of the river-based County Parks system that follows the Shiawassee River waterway. The River flows through all of the glacial landform types present in the County. The glacial history explains the periodic riffles and falls in the river elevation.

In Owosso, originally named 'Big Rapids', the river courses northerly at a 90 degree turn (Native Americans called it the "Big Bend") where 10-14 thousand years ago, a waterway cut a valley wall upstream to Owosso and captured the river to its lower outlet in Lake Huron. This too created the scenic gorge-like character of steep valley walls and many manageable riffle points between large glacial erratic boulders. Another illustration of the dramatic events of river piracy is the fall in river level at Pine Grove Park at the north county boundary where the adjoining landowner measured a 10-foot fall in the river from the south park boundary where it meets the state highway then northerly to the Johnstone Road Bridge! In the early 1900's, Consumer's Power owned the land ostensibly for a hydro-electric power dam that never ensued.

The physical characteristics together with the country scenic settlement pattern, wetland forests, and several destinations establish the baseline for a Plan strategy to elevate the river into the plan's points of emphasis and focus.

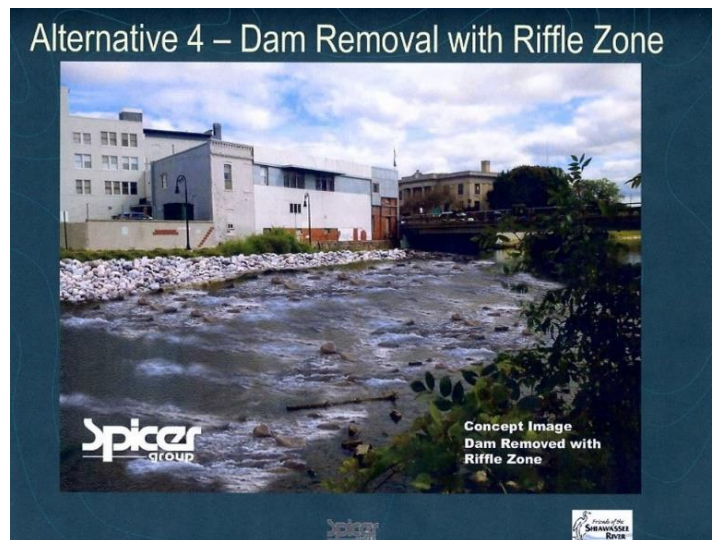


Image of a return to the "big rapids" in Owosso upon advised weir removal

SECTION II E. Greenways, Open Space and Conservation Areas. With respect to environmental values evident in the nature of the riverside county parks, some mention of the natural resource base within the county should address greenways, open space and conservation areas.

Open Space. The entire county, outside of municipalities may be described as *country scenic*. Over 60% of the county is prime farmland. With deep topsoil and level terrain, there has been a transition from the smaller farm fields of the 1950's, when agricultural policies and equipment advances began, led to a more industrial-scale agricultural setting. Tree-lined fence rows were removed in favor of more efficient, larger crop fields. This characteristic is concentrated for the northern half of the county with its level

and now well-drained landscape. The larger farm field phenomenon is also present on a diagonal from Owosso to Durand and south of Perry and west of Byron. While the fence row fields of old had their own attractiveness and importance to wildlife (especially North American ring-necked pheasants, bobolink and quail), there are times of the year with the winter wheat harvest looming in July when this landscape is a colorful blend of straw-colored fields with sunflowers, green soybean, sugar beet, alfalfa, and soybean crops on endless horizons and big skies. Road and bike tours of farmsteads and these fields offer a refreshing summer pastime. The balance of upland open space in the south county is larger acreage non-farm settlement, some crops, and pastureland on a rolling moraine terrain that is equally scenic for bicyclists and road tours. This topography offers a more enclosed view scape with more attention to details of country estates, vegetation, wildlife, waterways and unique terrains. To that end, attention to bicycling safer routes in attractive rural environs is a worthwhile pursuit to public interest in quality of life planning and implementation—a regional park concept in its own right.

Greenways. As described earlier in the plan, there are four river systems in the County that have associated tree-lined courses through lengthy stretches of waterways. The Shiawassee River is the most significant with an in-county 41-mile length and is amply provided with public access points. Most of the in-river experience is tree-lined with large expanses of wetland and floodplain sections that are deeply forested. Except for the in-city/village riverside settlements and uses, this river is sufficiently wild with a satisfying current to provide recreational and natural area experiences for a large user population. Even in the urban settings, the City of Owosso owns 16,000 lineal feet of river frontage, and most of it is green public open space.



Becalming water trail segment viewed from a ridge on the YMCA Camp-Bancroft looking across to Geeck Road County Park.

In October, 2016, the 88-mile segment from Holly to Chesaning was designated a National Water Trail. Later in 2019, a State Water Trail title for the same segment was bestowed from the State of Michigan's first round of land and water trail nominations. At the heart of qualifying that designation lies the five County parks with riverside access facilities. In no small way the surface area of the river, with so many access points may be perceived an extension of the county parks at 1,400 generous acres of water surface area. That area equates to the most endowed regional parks in major metro areas. To appreciate the accomplishments of this waterway's designation, the National Park Service standards achieved for this river's qualifications for a water trail in its system are found in Appendix N. The Commission's time to maintain meeting the standards would be well spent, even expected.



The Maple River flows east-to-west between Hibbard and Bennington Roads in a glacial spillway valley that is a mile wide. It joins the Grand River in Clinton County. This small stream/drain could not have cut that expansive valley; the valley was the outlet for glacial meltwaters of the larger Lake Erie in that epoch. Gravel pits are found all along this valley along with associated excavated lake areas that are now ponds, campgrounds, and housing developments. Owing to its fertile, well-drained floodplain soils, the valley is largely farmland with a narrow tree line along its course. Few have described this river as a greenway in the more natural state sense. The Maple River retains some natural qualities at many points along its course.

The Looking Glass River is another product of the last receding glacier with its passage starting in Antrim Township on the south county line and arcing towards Laingsburg where it eventually flows onto the City of Portland and its confluence with the Grand River. This river and associated wetlands and tributaries is a credible greenway and natural influence on the preservation of open space. Except for Rose Lake with its Vermillion Creek (the south branch of the Looking Glass River), there is no parkland or publically held

property along its course or along its tributaries. Suggested bike routes, detailed later in the plan, will enhance recreational bicycling access to this area for scenic enjoyment. Misteguay Creek drains northeast Shiawassee County with a narrowly defined galleria forest (tree-lined) that transitions directly into farmland or open meadow. There are no public lands along this creek. A dry reservoir impoundment enacting only during flood conditions is south of New Lothrop and has not developed into parkland or public access. It plays a small role as a conservation area with little publicity.

Conservation Areas. The principle centrally located conservation land area, not in a public park, is the DeVries Nature Conservancy on North M-52 a few miles north of Owosso. This is an educational and recreational facility with no-till agriculture, public vegetable garden, natural components play areas for children, environmental programming and hiking/exercise trails. There is a canoe dock landing there on the Shiawassee River that offers a rest break and Conservancy interpretive education between the lengthier run between Owosso and Henderson County Park.

Another area that has scale and natural area characteristics, but not in public ownership, is the four square-mile forested wetlands plain northwest of Bancroft and bisected by State Road. Locals have called this area Rattlesnake Island for the small upland areas within the wetland. In the past year the Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy has acquired 70 acres with public access in this spot with the intent to protect the native landscape. The Conservancy intends to acquire more sensitive lands in the County.

There is another space of conservation significance in the County and its local name is Austin Twin Lakes. This 1.5 mile by 1 mile natural area was locally promoted for state park status in 1975, but it was decided to favor a Sleepy Hollow State Park to the west. It remains unprotected except for responsible practices of land owners. There is a relic eastern white cedar forest plot from cold spring ground water conditions that creates the northern Michigan ecosystem necessary for its existence. It is not the intent of the Plan to promote a county park here in the time frame of this Plan. An entirely different development pressure environment and economic growth scenario might elevate the landscape for more serious public involvement. This area would be a credible investment for the newly active Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy.

Lastly a 50-acre wooded parcel owned by Owosso Public Schools, named Kiwanis Acres, is a place for ecology studies. It does not have the character of a public place, parklike or otherwise but is a nice break in the privately owned area south of Owosso with an engaging landscape interest.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE & PURPOSES

In 1969, the Shiawassee County Board of Supervisors established the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission under the authority of Michigan Public Acts, P.A. 261 of 1965. The Commission, as the Act directs, consists of 10 members that include a representative of the County Board of Commissioners, the Drain Commission, a County Road Commissioner, and six (6) other members appointed at large. Memberships are rotated on a three-year appointment basis. The Commission has By-Laws that specify officers, budget preparation, elections and the meeting process. The County Treasurer, as the Act directs, serves as the Commission's treasurer.

The authority to establish a five-year plan is provided for in the Act. Additionally in May of 2022, the County Board of Commissioners voted a special allocation for the preparation of a Plan for their consideration. The Act also requires that the Plan is filed with the Department of Natural Resources.

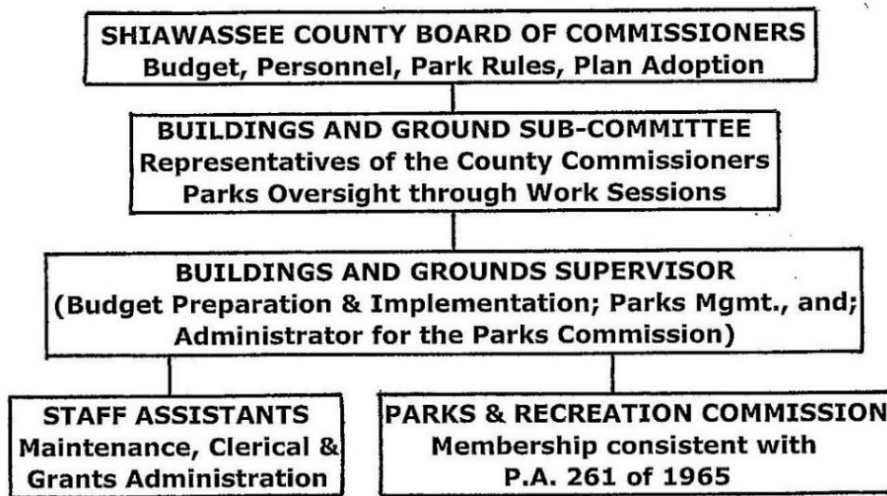
The Commission has a broad slate of powers and responsibilities enabled within the details of Act 261. These include:

- Acquisition of property (interestingly, there is no mention of parkland sales)
- Development and operation of facilities
- Custody of the control and management of all real and personal property acquired by the Commission
- Duty to install park roads and parking facilities
- Allocation of funds that the County government appropriates
- Adopt rules for park operations with vehicle control and civil penalties
- Right to contract for police services
- Right to charges and fees for use of county parks and facilities
- Condemnation of property for purposes with the scope of the Act
- Acceptance of gifts and grants-in-aid
- Employment of personnel for parks operations and maintenance

The Parks Commission has been a member of the Michigan Association of the County Parks and Recreation Officials (MACPRO) and benefits from educational programs and information sharing with other County Parks Commissions. The other MACPRO members with County settings and scale similar to Shiawassee County include the counties of Clinton (notably, the "Green Space Commission"), Gratiot, Ionia, Barry, Cass, Eaton and Lapeer. A cursory scan of these other systems shows a consistent supportive level of attention to their parklands. See Appendix H for a chart on other comparably populated and structured counties and their park systems.

SECTION III A. Department Services. Shiawassee County is a Michigan municipal corporation formed in 1836. In Michigan county governments carry out duties delegated by the State (prosecution, land records etc). Counties are also enabled to carry out programs that benefit primarily the local populations. In that capacity the County Board of Commissioners oversees a Buildings and Grounds Department that includes maintenance of park facilities and staff assistance to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The executive assistant for the Commissioners provides ample organizational support for the Commission. The greatest change, and a beneficial one, since the last parks plan has been the hiring of a full-time seasonal parks maintenance position. Higher standards of maintenance have been established, especially for restrooms and cleanliness. The Buildings & Grounds Department head attends and reports at Parks Commission meetings. The authority to delegate policy and levels of maintenance within the parks remains with the County Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee of the Board of Commissioners.

Shiawassee County Parks Organizational Chart



Newly established reforestation project at the Shiatown County Park

SECTION III B. Current and Projected Budget. The most impactful aspect of the budget transition from 2021 to 2022 is the addition of a seasonal full time parks maintenance position. County Commissioners and Parks Board members realized that the work accomplished in Henderson Park and at Shiatown Park required additional maintenance. Higher standards for the conditions of the parks have been established. Special maintenance duties, in addition to routine maintenance (mostly mowing and trash collection), are now a part of the care for the new play spaces, planting zones, invasive species, paddler access facilities and four new pit toilets. The significance of cash contribution is a reflection of the annual donation to the County from Waste Management Inc. that operates a sanitary landfill and recycling facility in Lennon. This grant is conditioned with a “green” fund stipulation to foster upgrades to a variety of environmental conditions in Shiawassee County.

**COUNTY PARKS
BUDGET, 2021 & 2022**

	2021 Actual	2022 Budgeted
Total Revenues <i>Description:</i>		
1) State Grants	\$7,088	\$21,300
2) Revenue -- Rentals	\$2,440	\$1,440
3) General Fund	\$12,363	\$42,006
4) Cash Contributions	\$51,500	\$50,000
Total:	\$73,391	\$114,746

	2021 Actual	2022 Budgeted
Total Expenditures <i>Description:</i>		
1) Salaries	\$4,666	\$48,343
2) Employee Benefits	\$2,510	\$13,403
3) Per Diem Commissioners	\$2,000	\$1,500
4) Operating Supplies	\$1,032	\$2,500
5) Contractual Services	\$26,685	\$8,000
6) Mileage	\$393	\$1,000
9) Capital Outlay	\$36,105	\$40,000
Total:	\$73,391	\$114,746

The projected budget for the Parks is a year-to-year process. As this plan nears the budget allocation time, the County Commissioner liaison to the budget process has explained the availability of substantial funds for some big ticket item capital outlays in the plan—the West Haven iron bridge, trails and the Kerby school renovation. In addition, staff time allocation (under the salaries figure) will be established for the first time for grant management that includes applications, budget tracking, contract compliance and reporting.

SECTION III C. Volunteers. Since the 1965 inception of the park system, the County parks system has relied significantly on volunteers for special area park maintenance and facility development needs. These include:

- The Durand Am-Vets have adopted Geeck Road Park and together with maintenance, recently constructed a picnic pavilion with barbecue.
- Volunteers conduct an annual parks clean-up.
- Some park grassy areas are mowed by volunteers
- Park stewards offer general park care
- Modern Woodmen (Inc.) plants trees in parks
- An individual clears and maintains the trail at Pine Grove Park
- An individual has maintained Davis County Park.

The estimated value of volunteer hours in pre-Covid 2019 was \$15,000 and that has been deemed reflective of any year. Much higher volunteer numbers are cited in the nine county park systems this plan references on many measures. More giving is made possible with outreach.

SECTION III D. Relationships with Other Public and Quasi-Public Entities. The County Parks, by their nature, provide desired space for others to conduct events and install facilities. Recent activity includes:

- The Durand Am-Vets conduct two events per year at Geeck Road Park.
- Kerby Road Park has hosted an annual motorcycle club event
- Chef's Canoe Launch operates a private livery that serves Byron, Geeck Road and Shiatown Park and two other water trail points.
- The Friends of the Shiawassee River conduct stream sampling activities (macroinvertebrate populations) to track water quality conditions twice a year at Henderson and Shiatown County Parks.
- In 2013, the Friends of the Shiawassee River installed "improved water access locations" (MDNR standard) at Henderson Park, Lytle Road Park and Geeck Road Park—a gift of \$12,000.
- In 2019, together with EGLE's Dam Safety Unit and Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative funding, the Friends of the Shiawassee River and

a state assigned contractor completed the removal of the condemned Shiatown County Park Dam and restored the vicinity-a huge endeavor.

- In 2021 and 2022, three outside source entities contributed \$32,000 to the reforestation of the two-acre dam removal area disturbed grounds. Ninety trees and ninety shrubs were planted with County staff and over 50 volunteers. Follow-up maintenance is practiced.
- Caledonia Township has allocated resources and funds to the facilities and maintenance at Kerby Road Park.
- The Shiawassee Conservation District has recently contracted with the County for cost sharing invasive species control and eradication. Other services from this agency are possible especially in the reforestation area and the pollinator prairie development in parks where grass-mowed areas will be converted to prairie grasslands.
- The Eagle Scout program has recently sponsored two projects at Henderson Park. This park also enjoys volunteer activity from ABBA's House Men's Group.
- The YMCA camp operates group canoe outings from its camp near the Geeck Road Park to Shiatown County Park.
- Durand Rotarians paid for a new vault toilet structure at Shiatown Park and Corunna Rotarians clean Lytle Park and have installed facilities.

SECTION IV. INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

A qualified parks plan includes a comprehensive parks inventory that lists parks, natural areas, other public spaces and recreation facilities within or near the County planning area. A County-wide map displays park areas in general and other recreation facilities and places viewable at that scale. The planning consultant for the plan conducted the field inventory of all parks in Shiawassee County and the adopted recreation plans of other municipalities.

For the regional inventory, a chart is employed to show the general parks and their facilities throughout the County. This will be helpful in measuring the national recreation standards against what is offered for this county's population. The inventory helps avoid duplication of services where they are already provided for or planned to be offered in the near future.

For a broader scan of leisure time activity, the inventory describes what is called "special recreation facilities and programs". Some require membership or fees. Many are quasi-public that permit facility access under reasonable terms and standards. For example Rose Lake offers the general public 4,000 acres within and along the SW county border as a guest of those who pay fees

for hunting and fishing licenses. These payees have privileges but they do not preclude others' year-round access to the natural resource areas. Most visitors to Rose Lake are the general public in pursuit of leisure time outings that include mountain biking, hiking, a gun range, and cross country skiing.

For the County Parks a separate chart of parks facilities will detail the facilities and acreages, and will be accompanied with site layout maps. Each park will have a narrative description of conditions and suggested potential improvements or changes to the parks. The planning process will later repeat the site map features into the Goals, Objectives and Action Program.

The Inventory proceeds to accessibility evaluation of county parks and a plan for compliance with 2010 ADA standards. The full report is in Appendix J.

The Plan will proceed to provide an accounting of previous, grant activity. That will be followed with a description of the programming activities in the County parks. Lastly, a resource inventory is provided for select areas in the County slated for County park expansion or specially designated greenspaces or greenway corridors desired for protection by others.

SECTION IV A. Regional Park and Recreation Inventory—Public Parks.

A series of consultant charts at Appendices C and D (plus E, F & G) list all the municipalities in the County with park acreages and facilities. Many municipalities have more than one park; however, facilities are condensed to a scan of available recreation outlets to the County population. The chart at Appendix E lists all accessible school parks and inventories facilities and acreage. Two charts at Appendix F and G list types of parks in the municipal and county/state inventory to identify adequacies of the various park type settings that should exist within a region. Broad categories of recreational activity are compared to national standards to ascertain sub-standard conditions or compliance for facilities/park types.

By any standard, the charts at Appendices C, D, E, F, G & H reveal adequate facilities in public Municipal and County parks. School facilities including ball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, tracks, river frontage and pavilions are included as most of these are publically accessible during off-school times. Public and school facilities number as follows:

- Baseball and softball fields (74)
- Pavilions (49) – (many constructed on school grounds since 2015)
- Picnic Tables with Grills (54)
- Playgrounds and Playfields (100)
- River and Fishing Access (Hopkins Lake and the Shiawassee River w/29 riverside points)

- Benches (90) (likely undercounted)
- Sledding Hills (10)
- Multi-Use Trails and School Running Tracks (21)
- Urban Forests (11)

When all municipality parks and school parks are coupled, the outdoor activity options for settled municipal areas are plentiful and provide outlets for all County residents and visitors to pursue leisure time enjoyment. A proliferation of organizations provide volunteer time for programming athletic activity. These programs associated with park facilities enliven the recreational atmosphere of every community with park space.

There are other park facility types in the Suggested Standards that exist in private and quasi-public recreation sites oriented to public access. There, one finds the list of campgrounds, golf courses, recreation courts, swimming beaches and running tracks. Campgrounds, golf courses and swimming beaches are described in the next section under "Special Recreation Facilities." When compared to published standards, all three categories are served above the minimum standards without prohibitive user fees. With respect to recreation courts and running tracks, the public access (after-school, weekends, summer and holidays) opportunities for these offer 4 running tracks and 60 recreation courts with balanced distribution about the County.

The park types at the larger scale are inventoried for area residents' leisure time opportunities. Appendices B & C reveal few parks at a larger acreage. The list of Large Urban Parks, Regional/Metro Parks, Natural Resource Areas, and Greenways shows only a modest qualification of County parks to the national standards. Acreage is not the measure for those standards but the narrative description of the character of the parks defined in Appendix F defines the qualitative user expectation. The needs analysis in Section V-1 of the Plan establishes a local plan-adopted standard for adequacy of park types in the regional context.

In response to the favored leisure time activity in public places, the inventory of **trails** reveals:

- A multi-use trail in the Mid-County that connects the Cities of Owosso and Corunna through Caledonia Township. The trail now requires maintenance and is very popular at up to 10,000 yearly user trips.
- Hiking/biking trails in Owosso's Collamer Park. There are 3 miles of trails maintained by volunteers from a mountain biking club.
- County trails include pathways under ½ mile each at Pine Grove, and Shiatown Parks. Henderson Park recently installed a 1.6 mile trail.
- Four trail miles of at the Mid-County's DeVries Nature Conservancy.

- Seven (7) miles of trails for equestrians, bikers, cross county skiers and hikers at Rose Lake Wildlife Research Station State Park. There are another nine (9) miles at Rose Lake contiguous to these in-county trails in neighboring Clinton County. Equestrian pathways on the County Fairgrounds are used in conjunction with equestrian events at that site.
- A 0.7 mile paved accessible trail in Shaftsbury, a Woodhull Township Park open to the public without regard to residency.
- Sleepy Hollow State Park (nearby in Clinton County) with 16 miles of multi-purpose trails. Despite the location a few miles west of Shiawassee County, this park is deemed by locals as “their” de facto state park.
- The 8-mile rails-to-trails section from Owosso to Ovid in the west central county area that continues for another 112 miles from Ovid in an elongated arc to Alma. (map on Page 47)
- The in-development 1-mile interpretive trail at Byron High School.
- The Shiawassee River offers for a 41-mile paddling trail, named in the Plan as part of the 88-mile Shiawassee River National Water Trail with out-of-county connections easterly to Holly and northerly to Saginaw City’s south limits where the River combines with the Tittabawassee to form the Saginaw River and an excursion-scale paddling opportunity. Appendix M offers a map of access points for paddlers and fishers.

Detailed description of County Park facilities are located a few pages from this section. What is line-itemed above is graphically portrayed in a County Public Open Space, Connectivity and Recreation map at Page 47.

Section IV B. Special Recreation Facilities. Throughout Shiawassee County and at adjacent locales, many leisure time pursuits exist and effectively offer the public recreational options vaster than municipal park systems can provide. The purpose in mentioning these sites is to arrive at a more holistic view and appreciation of recreational outlets. While public parks maintain their stature as the most equitable and accessible way to pursue leisure time activities, other areas, often called “*third person*” recreational providers, supplement the lives of those who choose active lifestyles. With many of the providers, there is a special benefit of indoor play for the cold weather season. Golf courses and campgrounds are grouped in their respective categories. The remainder of sites are listed by location.

Campgrounds. There are six private campgrounds open to the public with almost 1300 campsites. Their value is increased when the accommodation of swimming beaches is mentioned. Shiawassee County is the second “driest” county in the State of Michigan with respect to surface water area (Sanilac County, the driest, happens to have 40 miles of Lake

Huron shoreline). That statistical technicality essentially isolates Shiawassee County at the bottom of Michigan’s otherwise renowned legacy as the Great Lake state both with inland water bodies and the Great Lakes shorelines. All six campgrounds have swimming beaches; the Holiday Shores beach is not public, even for a fee.

Holiday Shores	Durand	600 sites
Myers Lake	Byron*	114 sites
Moon Lake	Perry	60 sites
Walnut Hills	Bancroft/Byron	210 sites
Campgrounds R Us	Owosso/Ovid	122 sites
Sleepy Hollow St. Park	Laingsburg*	181 sites

*These two sites are across the County line but are perceived by in-County residents as nearby, frequented facilities. The north ½ of the County has no campgrounds but sites elsewhere are within a reasonable half-hour’s drive.



Walnut Hills Family Campground with fee structure for the public to bathe

Golf Courses. Despite the closure of two golf courses in Shiawassee County in the past 10 years, there remain six (6) golf facilities in the County. As with campgrounds, the golf courses are in the south half of the County. An exception is the Owosso Country Club five miles north of Owosso that is private. The other courses are public and include:

Pine Hills	Laingsburg	18 Holes
Dutch Hollow	Durand	18 Holes
Holiday Meadows	Durand	9 Holes
Glenbrier	Perry	18 Holes
Corunna Hills	Corunna	9 Holes
Willowbrook	Byron	18 Holes

In list fashion what follows are other Special Recreation Facilities, including wintertime pursuits and sorted by location:

Owosso Area:

YMCA (no pool; other programming and facilities common to a YMCA)
DeVries Nature Conservancy—outdoor education, trails and sleigh museum
Two Fitness Gyms—open to public w/fees
Owosso HS Pool—open swim nights
Martial Arts Center—youth emphasis
Lions Ball Field
Capital Sports Center (indoor playfield)
Owosso Motor Sports
Owosso Speedway
Golf Driving Range
Shiawassee Art Gallery
Curwood Castle Historic Site
1225 Railroad Museum & Grounds
Owosso Schools Open Swim
Shiawassee Historic Museum
Hit 'n Pitch Indoor Practice
Shepard's Indoor Go-Kart Track
3 Fraternal Clubs—quasi-public
Senior Center
Owosso Schools Track
Owosso Schools Walking to Stay Fit (hallways of the high school)
Owosso Schools Water Aerobics (pool)
MUCC Conservation Club (w/archery)
Kiwanis Acres (60 acres--outdoor educ'n
Planet Fitness & Fitness Coliseum
Former Bennington golf course, now Fortitude Outdoor Training Course

Corunna Area:

Bowling Center – 24 lanes; leagues
Indoor Inflatables Play Center
Shiawassee Dog & Gun Club (w/archery)
Community Hall
Corunna Schools Aerobics Program (pool)
Corunna Schools Track
County Fairgrounds (annual fair plus year-round programming for 4-H and equestrian events with state-wide attraction)
Corunna Schools-Walking to Stay Fit (hallways of the high school & elementary school)
Corunna Schools Community Ed—Heavenly Tumblers (gymnastics)
Aqua Zumba—choreographic workout in pool

Durand-Vernon-Byron Area:

Byron Yoga
Durand Bowling Center
Durand Sportsman's Ass'n
Durand Union Station and History Museum
Durand Senior Center
Durand Schools Track

Perry-Morrice-Laingsburg:

Morrice Senior Center
East Lansing Aquatic Center
Lake Lansing Parks
Perry Schools Track

Bancroft:

Bancroft Community Hall; YMCA Day Camp

Laingsburg:

Looking Glass Sportsman's Club
Ed Beavers Interpretive Trail
Expressions Studio of Dance

Ovid:

Bowling Center

Regional Scale Recreation: There are three prominent and regional scale public park facilities within day-trip distance for all county residents that includes”:

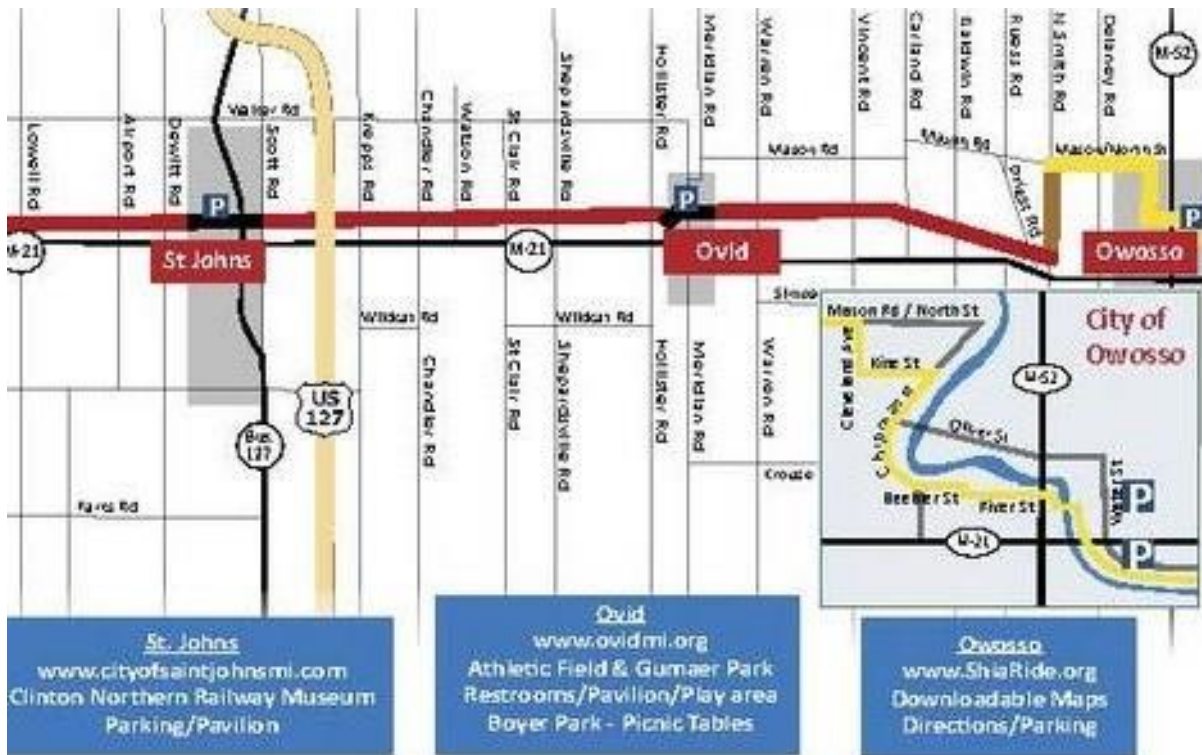
1) *Rose Lake State Wildlife Research Area*--south of Laingsburg. This State “Park” (as labeled by some state websites) is a 4,140 acre natural area for hiking, birding, hunting, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and cross country skiing. Over half of Rose Lake is in neighboring Clinton County.

2) *Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge* NE of New Lothrop (out-of-county). The 10,000 acre refuge is noted for birding, especially migrating waterfowl. There are 12 miles of hiking/biking trails. A 10,000 acre state reserve lies west and adjacent to the refuge for hunting and boating. The lower Shiawassee River watershed is generously dedicated to public open space, not just the River.

3) *Sleepy Hollow State Park*—west of Laingsburg. This 2,678-acre State Park is very popular for Shiawassee County residents as it offers premium camp sites, a swimming beach, fishing and paddling on the reservoir, and 16 miles of hiking, snow-shoeing, cross country skiing and mountain biking trails.

*The Special Category of **TRAILS**.* Already referenced above in some of the municipalities, the inventory of trails falls outside the county park realm but merits attention for their location in-county and includes the following opportunities:

- 1) The 3.5-mile James Miner Trail between Owosso and Corunna that follows the Shiawassee River and accommodates both bicycles and walkers/runners.
- 2) The 8-mile trail section within the County of the CIS Trail that connects Owosso Township with the City of Ionia has a total of 41 miles regionally. This is a rail/trail that meets all standards for trail access, and width and benefits from a maintenance endowment fund. A signed roadway connection to the City of Owosso’s James Miner Bikeway link is provided (5 miles point-to-point).
- 3) The Voight Family Loop Trail. This three-quarter mile trail circles the Shiawassee River in central Owosso and is multi-modal in a sense that it serves the 1226 Rail Museum patrons for a recreational option for tourists. Its proximity to high density population settlement establishes a convenient higher use pattern for walkers. A recent grant will upgrade this trail’s long standing need for improvements,



Owosso to Ionia Trail Section-East End

- 4) Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area State Park. This public park has around 7 miles of woodland trails in its Shiawassee County portion and another 8 miles of trails, with some meadow walks, in the Clinton County side. All hiking trails are also open to mountain bikers and cross country skiers.
- 5) The DeVries Nature Conservancy, Owosso. This public site has 4 miles of riverside trails and meadow walks for hikers and cross country skiers. Youth recreational programming is offered.
- 6) Sleepy Hollow State Park. A few miles west of Laingsburg, the trail system contains 16 miles of multi-purpose trails through woodlands. Hiking, bicycling, cross country and snow-shoeing are most popular.
- 7) Collamer Park, City of Owosso. Walking and mountain biking trails offer three miles of urban forest access on a scenic kame and kettle (a product of continental glaciation) landscape. An east park/west park boardwalk connector awaits investment to create a loop walk.

Non-motorized transportation. Bicycling city, village and county roads has a long and rich history for enthusiasts and some casual users. The Shiawassee Freewheelers Bicycle Club tied closely to Owosso bike shop that opened in

1972 drafted a biking atlas for county roads with several destinations averaging 6 to 100 miles with shorter rides possible on the hi-lighted routes. With a few exceptions, the routes are not signed or paint-striped with designated lanes. With the exception of State Highway M-52, the pavement widths are not adequate for paint-striping and most berms are too sloped and coarsely graveled. In sum bicycling outside city and village limits is primarily for enthusiasts with endurance, safety, and higher performance bicycles. The plan will pose short loop alternatives for casual outings about county parks. Later in the plan at Appendix K, there is a sampling of 37 recreational bicycling routes and destination routes between the county parks and nearby towns.

Within city and village limits with lower traffic volumes, curbed streets and wider lanes, bicycling is more inclusive to users and some family use. Owosso, for example, has 70 miles of sidewalks, and with the exception of the downtown core, these are open to cyclists and especially safer with smaller children and strollers. There is no inventory of sidewalks about the County and they are only commonplace in most cities and some of the villages.

The recreational list does not include the many churches with recreational facilities and programming for their parishioners and guests. In Owosso alone, there are five indoor church site gymnasiums, some with scheduled public play times. These places offer colder weather exercise options. Other commonly attributed church facilities, often in walkable neighborhoods, include open space, landscaping, available pavilions, youth programs, and playgrounds.

Section IV C. The County Parks—Description/Facilities

There are seven (7) County parks in the Shiawassee County park system. The park distribution has a north-south orientation that follows the Shiawassee River. The parks are on the north-south dividing line of the County and east of it. An earlier map on Page 14 of the Plan shows the distribution of the park system. In Appendix I, there are park map sketches of each of the landscapes with a list of existing and proposed facilities.

The evolution of the park system started with Henderson County Park in 1925 with later additions occurring in the mid to late 1960's when Act 261 was adopted. Two exceptions: a) Lytle Road Park, a paddle boat launch site to the River, was formally established twelve years ago with a land transfer from the Shiawassee County Road Commission; b) Kerby Park from Corunna Schools in 1977.

A special asset of the County parks is their rural location with natural settings. If there is a brand for the county parks it would say, "*An assembly of forests,*

fields, pathways and waterways.” There is an advantage to children for play spaces where activity is more varied and emotionally fulfilling than can be experienced in organized sports. Playtime—especially unstructured, imaginative, exploratory play—is increasingly recognized as an essential component of wholesome child development. Studies show that children who played among the trees, rocks and uneven ground of natural play areas tested better for motor fitness, especially in balance and agility. The County parks offer that alternative to its citizenry while outdoors in their natural settings.

At a total of 204 acres, the system is comparatively small when other similarly-situated counties are examined. The consultant generated table at Appendix H shows the key characteristics of nine other similar-setting county park systems that have a central city of average size and surrounding smaller cities and villages and mostly rural settlement. Population levels are above and below that of Shiawassee County, but close enough to draw some comparisons. These will be detailed in the summary of this section of the plan. At this point each park will be described together with its facilities and planning issues posed for decision making in the planning process of this plan.

The parks, from north to south are as follows:

Pine Grove Park. The 22.5 acre park fronting State Highway M-52 on the north county line was established in 1967 from a State grant for the land purchase. The majority of the site (80%) is a white pine plantation from which the park’s name is derived. There is frontage on the Shiawassee River but along a steep embankment with 100 lineal feet of access at river level at the base of a hillside and adjoining a privately owned flood plain parcel/campsite of similar size to the park. The chief purpose of the park, based on user practices but not design, has been as a roadside rest area. The principle character of the park is a high quality level landscape with few limitations for park use and improvement despite its peripheral location on the northern county boundary. Locations on the river bank, especially in the SE corner of the park show ongoing erosion conditions that are not sufficiently stabilized. Park improvements are few and include:

*A pavilion-no tables Water supply (disconnected) Scenic forest pathway
Open space meadow River frontage for viewing Fishing/paddler access*

For budgetary reasons Pine Grove Park, now reopened, had been decommissioned for the past 15 years with both the port-a-john withdrawn and water supply pump disassembled. Except for the road way along the frontage there is limited mowing. Plans for the park are resolved in the five-year scope to improve the trail, upgrade the pavilion facilities, create a trail head parking

facility on the south end and construct a paddle boat access at the base of the hill or neighboring parcel.



Existing river frontage at Pine Grove lowlands—1 acre of land



Optional landing from adjoining parcel proposed for trade to gain superior access to the River and an essential link in the National Water Trail system for the River.

County personnel should remain vigilant with the 17-acre adjoining floodplain parcel where acquisition would contribute greatly to the county park system's emphasis on river frontage and remarkably scenic setting.

Photo Page of County Park Images



Citizen Scientists at Henderson Park



Shiatown West Park Fishing Access



Corunna Rotary Club Bench Donation



Geeck Meadows Accessible Site



Kerby Park Playfield



Pine Grove Park Trail to Riverside Area

Henderson Riverside Park. The senior 'member' of the park system, established in 1924, remains a rustic county park landscape. This is a relatively narrow, elongated 32-acre site that stretches east-west along the course of the Shiawassee River. The river boundary includes a steep, very scenic embankment with two lowland river access points at the east and west ends of the park. There are two gate entrances with a connecting interior park roadway. The park is 70% forested. Park facilities include:

*Three pavilions
Two water supplies
Paddleboat launch
Open space playfields*

*Three playgrounds
Two restrooms
New 1.6 mile accessible loop walking trail
Many Trailside Benches*

*Volleyball/Horseshoes
Several Picnic sites*



Novel Trail Use at Henderson



"It takes a Village..."—2022 Acknowledgements

The park planning issues and opportunities include some remaining items from a recent comprehensive grant project that will be addressed in the action plan. They relate to invasive species management and creative play spaces. An operational feature of the park had been noted by many river access users and that was the locked gate system at the park that closed the park too early in the fall and too late in the spring. With recent grant funds, the east gate has been recessed and offers direct year-round river access while protecting the remainder of the desired seasonal park closure period.

Kerby Community Park. The only active park in the system that is not on the river is a former country school house grounds. The Corunna Public Schools granted this parcel to the County in 1977 with the stipulation that it remains a public parcel for recreational use. Just off State Highway M-21, a few miles east of Corunna, this *community* park is a mowed field with a former 1960 era two-room school house within this 9-acre parcel. The north 2 acres are deliberately maintained meadow with no park facilities. There is a nice

adjoining lake that is a former borrow pit for marl, less than 10 feet from the north boundary, yet with no access for park users. Park facilities include:

*Three pavilions (reservations possible) Volleyball court Restrooms
Park equipment storage Ball diamond Playground equipment*

The park planning opportunities will address barrier free accommodations, a feasibility study for a community/educational center at the former schoolhouse, parking supply at Pavilion A, a viewing platform on the north side with a planned 3,000' accessible walking path, relocated backstop for the ball diamond, driveway gate replacement on Shipman Road with a new fence that includes a walk-through opening. The level character of the park fields suggests constructing serpentine fill ridges near play areas. A new play structure will attract more frequent use of the pavilions. Tree planting opportunities abound at this park. A pickle ball court will supplement pavilion use. Together with Shiatown Park, Kerby Park has the greatest upgrade schedule in the 5-year scope of the master plan.

Lytle Launch Park. Located at the intersection of Kerby Road and Lytle Road in Caledonia Township, this special one-acre use park was officially entered into the County park system with a 2010 land grant from the Shiawassee County Road Commission. The land was an excess piece and part of the property required to build the Lytle Road Bridge and supportive embankment areas. At one acre, the park is small but strategically located for a paddlecraft landing and launch. It functions effectively as a landing for paddlers departing at Vernon Village Park and Shiatown County Park two and three hours respectively upstream. Observations of park users include frequent roadside rest and enjoyment of the riverside, mostly lunch stops. With two entrances, the park driveway provides ample maneuvering space for group outings with associated boat trailers. The park facilities aside from a new boat launch is a river view bench, a new pit toilet and picnic table/grill overlooking the River. The walkable west half is wooded with many massive virgin timber specimens and some observed fishing "holes".

Planning issues and opportunities include replacement of the guard rail at the picnic site with a more suitable split rail fence, street trees, handicapper parking designation, rustic walking path upgrade and a river users' paddling directional sign. Since 2008 the park enjoys the Corunna Rotary Club's attention with donations, construction, and caretaking.

Arthur Davis Roadside County Park. With 437 feet of frontage along State Highway M-71 and Goodall Road, this 1.4 acre undeveloped park north

of Vernon Village lends itself to a roadside rest area except for its setting. First, M-71 is an eleven mile long state highway connecting the mid-county to I-69 and the Durand-Vernon area. A highway rest area is not needed for this short highway segment near urban services and parks at each end. Secondly, the park lies in a swale relative to the highway with many poorly drained areas running in a north-south orientation the length of the park. With agricultural farmland about this site, the park offers a forested break in the landscape that already provides a pleasant drive on a major highway between cities.

For planning purposes this park provides 666' frontage along the abandoned Ann Arbor Railway, long desired by area interests for a bikeway between Corunna and Durand that eventually may link with the new CIS trail from Owosso Township to Ionia and beyond. The park could serve as a rest stop area for hikers and bikers. There is no need for on-site parking in this park but it offers a three-space location along Goodall Road when needed. The County does not sign this park and it is effectively decommissioned until a rail-trail develops. There is value in simple open space conservation.

An additional merit to the park is for tree plantings from youth projects and nature interests to introduce native species to this landscape. The varying soils already support White Pine, Red Oak and Red Maple growth. Deliberately arranged brush piles offer wildlife habitat and protection. A volunteer has contributed time for site maintenance. The photographs below show the park landscape and the hoped for rail trail on the former Ann Arbor Railway bed.



Davis Park – landscape setting



Davis Park – Ann Arbor Rail Trail Rail Bed

Shiatown Regional Park. Shiawasseetown began as a public square in an unincorporated settlement in 1836. A small number of homes, hotel and post office ensued and the initial dam and power mill was built in 1840. The

anticipated city, rail service, and state capital never developed. Prior to European-descendent settlement in the County, Native Americans occupied the river landscape and their most significant village in the region was nearby.

What changed the Shiatown settlement was a hydroelectric dam with reservoir in 1904. 1911 ownership and upgrades by Consumer's Power Company established a 15-foot head at the spillway and a 160-acre reservoir. After Consumer's was finished with the hydroelectric facility, the dam, partial reservoir, and associated real estate were donated to two townships in 1955, that later transferred to the County in 1972. The County actually assumed park operations in 1965. In 2011 the dam was condemned by its owner, the State of Michigan, and it has been removed in gradual steps since then. In 2020 the structure was entirely removed, and the parcel and access rights has been recently transferred back to the County [Explanation: the dam and some access lands were deeded by the county to a private hydroelectric firm and later tax reverted to the State]. The dam removal enabled a slate of benefits that include:

- Outstanding aquatic ecology recovery for free flowing fisheries and macroinvertebrate dynamics
- A paddleboat landing strategically located on the National Water Trail
- Shoreline fishing and paddleboat fishing excursions from Geeck Road County Park to Shiatown
- A 105-acre addition to the county park on the former reservoir bed that offers future woodland areas and a mile-plus loop trail system
- The opportunity to connect the West Park and East Park with a sidewalk on Bennington Road with ascending, accessible ramp to the west park.
- A completed 2-acre reforestation/restoration of the disturbed deconstruction grounds of the former hydro power facilities
- Exposure of a former river crossing in pioneer days with the existence of an emergent corduroy log road that has been mostly preserved
- Site opportunity in the south park for an osprey nest now in construction
- An end to the drownings below the dam and the filling of the scour hole where those occurred that is now a starkly contrasting gravel island.

As the park is situated in this plan, there are now 107 acres of land with an East, West and South park separated by the river with Bennington Road connecting the two parcels. A former gangplank across the dam connected the parks, and a trail was developed for that reason. The three park areas and trails function separately as stand-alone open spaces at this time. A new pedestrian sidewalk on Bennington Road has become a priority for this location as a trail system and park connector.

The park can be described as river-oriented in almost all aspects. The supportive real estate along the river is substantial enough to regard this park as a significant county-wide resource area both in its past usage and future potential. Its uniqueness stems from the strategic location of a fall in the river. The reservoir provided power boat racing recreation throughout the 1940's to the early 1960's. After the 2020 dam removal to its former riverbed level, it will be apparent that the river drops here where it exhibits a concentrated area of brisk currents, more aptly stated "riffle zones".

The West Park is an historic place with its one-block sized town square of Shiatown together with the land between the square and the River. About 3.5 acres of slightly sloping grounds offer enough parkland for traditional park facilities. The balance of the West Park upland area, 9 acres, is an adjacent deeply entrenched, forested drain and the upland forested area south of the drain. The forest is second-growth timber dominated by black locust trees—not a desired end for the preferred pre-settlement forest types of this area (oak-hickory). There was an era when Black Locust was a popular site restoration tree on sub-soil disturbed areas such as this woodlot. Trails through the woods lead to the former dam and circle back to the pavilion and town square. A steep bluff on the upland park area offers views of the river and to the new landscape where the reservoir once existed. The new South Park is 105 acres and already requires phragmites control treatments while natural re-vegetation returns elsewhere to the vacated reservoir bottomlands.

The East Park is an 11-acre landscape mostly related to the former hydroelectric facility and reservoir. The majority of this area is a hillside that is land managed as meadow and volunteer reforestation. Invasive species control (e.g., autumn olive) is planned. An abandoned park road lies between the hillside and the former reservoir—it will become a walking path. The river access for boating (canoes, kayaks and john boats), river viewing, and fishing is the most popular use of the East Park. The parking includes a new lot at the boat access point near Bennington Road and a small parking lot for the picnic area on Newberry Rd. The access driveway from Bennington Road to Newberry Road is reopened and offers an entry/exit loop for the lower level parking area. A small woodlot (1.5 acres) lies on the other side of Newberry Road and has never had park improvements and is considered part of the East Park as an open space preservation area. All of the aforementioned features are envisioned in the Site Plan. Existing park facilities include:

*West/South Park--Pavilion Park trails Horseshoes Play equipment
Historical markers Town Square Fishing access point
Picnic Tables/Grilles Open Space (107 Acres-new) New Pit Toilet*

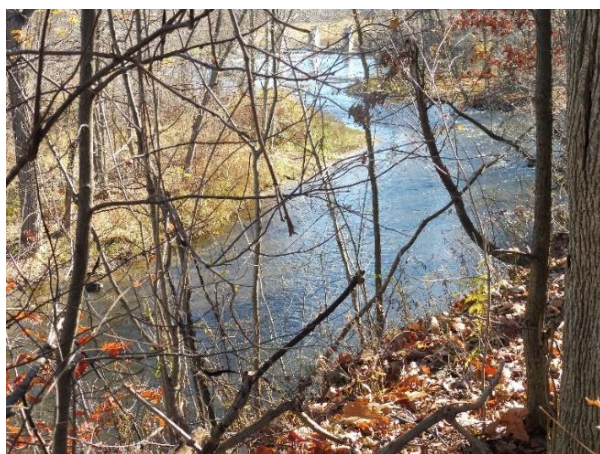
East Park--Pavilion Restroom Play equipment Sledding hill
Paddle boat launch Fishing access points (2) with pathways
New 2-acre reforestation area New Pit Toilet New road access

Park issues and opportunities are many and these are addressed later in the Objectives and Action Plan sections of the Plan:

- Pedestrian connection between the West Park and East Park
- Play equipment maintenance and additions to West Park
- Fishing access improvements for both sides of the park
- New walking trail on the East Park with wildlife scenic viewing platform at SE corner
- Completion of an osprey nest platform in the south bottomlands
- Invasive species management and reforestation of some of the meadow lands at the East Park hillside
- Viewing platform on the river bluff of West Park and another viewing platform for the east park at the southeast corner on the river embankment
- Invasive plant species control in the South Park bottomlands with ongoing phragmites treatment
- Accessibility play area safety upgrades
- Information kiosk for bicyclists and paddlers
- Nature playscape designs for the two pavilions
- Accessible facilities and approaches for facilities including paved parking H/P spaces
- 'Park closes at dusk' signs and associated enforcement
- Better defined parking area/capacity from reopened Bennington entrance access and the Newberry Road hilltop parking area



Viewing Platform Site—E. Shiatown



Bluff Viewing Platform Site—W. Shiatown

Geeck Meadows Park. Nestled in a valley floodplain, the 10-acre Geeck Road Park is the most bucolic, pastoral landscape in the system. The meadow-like park lies near the Village of Bancroft and west of Durand. There is a welcoming sense of arrival here at the base of three approach roads to a well-maintained parking lot. Leading from the lot are two pavilions and a paddle boat launch to the Shiawassee River. The park is level with mostly mowed grounds. The Amvets Durand #2273, have also built park facilities. In 2019, a property owner, in response to the 2016 park plan survey of adjoining owners, donated an adjacent 4-acre riverfront parcel that adds walkable spaces, nature viewing and fishing/viewing activity. Geeck facilities include:

<i>Two pavilions, one accessible</i>	<i>Playground equipment</i>	<i>7 picnic sites</i>
<i>Park benches</i>	<i>Boat launch</i>	<i>Horseshoes</i>
<i>Pathways to facilities</i>	<i>Raised flower beds</i>	
<i>Information kiosk</i>	<i>New vault toilet</i>	

Park planning issues and opportunities include decisions on

- riverside and street tree plantings and natural areas development,
- an exercise loop trail,
- better access to paddleboat landing,
- selected rough grounds site grading,
- an Historic Site marker noting the location of the 1840’s Exchange Trading Post across the River,
- Access trail and fishing piers on newly acquired river frontage lands,
- Renaming the Park to promote a brand, i.e., “Geeck Meadows Park”,
- Routine use of the kiosk for many education and information items.
- Conversion of west side mowed grounds to a pollinator prairie



Geeck river side tree planting zone with a 25-foot setback for deep rooted plants



2013 Paddle Boat Launch – Geeck Park

Summary of River Frontage Parks.

The five County parks on the Shiawassee River have significant frontage to engage the Plan’s principal goals, objectives and actions for the upcoming five years and beyond. The total river frontage within the park boundaries is 3.4 miles and is distributed as follows:

<u>River Elevation</u>	<u>Park Name</u>	<u>River Frontage</u>
639’ asl	Pine Grove Park.....	900 feet
667’ asl	Henderson Park.....	3,180 feet
739’ asl	Lytle Launch Park.....	640 feet
781’ asl	Shiatown Park West.....	700 feet
781’ asl	Shiatown Park East.....	900 feet
783’ asl	Shiatown Park Bottomlands East	3,575 feet
783’ asl	Shiatown Park Bottomlands West	3,575 feet
800’ asl	Geeck Meadows Park	4,100 feet
<i>Total River Frontage.....</i>		17,770 feet

There is a 4.55’/mile fall in river elevation that offers a steady, sometimes swift current, aka, “riffle zones”. The county parks effectively add that river length to its open space system, to wit: That 3.4-mile figure is the accessible fishing and scenic walk frontage in a public park setting. For paddlers the number is viewed as much greater and may be expressed in this manner: there are 35 miles of waterway between Geeck Road Park and Pine Grove Park that, for a paddler’s experience, is the length of county park river frontage available for public use. To view this river even more regionally from the dam/canoe launch at Byron to the take-out at Chesaning, there is a total of 48 miles of paddling. With the removal of two major dams in the past few years, this is an open, unobstructed blue highway/river trail and substantial improvement to fisheries and water quality—essentially, a 1,600-acre regional water park.

At a public forum on the River, a representative of the National Park Service revealed survey results that placed the Shiawassee River in 7th place among Michigan’s 63 navigable rivers for paddlers. The NPS consultant stated that 62% of kayaking occurs within an hour’s drive of one’s home, a confirmation of this plan’s emphasis. The standards for the establishment of a National Water Trail were confirmed already in place, and the Friends of the Shiawassee River achieved that 2016 nomination from the National Park Service. Later, this Plan supplements the water trail designation with even more river frontage county park expansion proposals. Upgrades at Six Mile Creek, Pine Grove and Walnut Hills Family Campground are addressed.

PHOTO PAGE OF PARK SITES, WORK AREAS AND 3 PROPOSALS



Tubing from Shiatown to Vernon



Constructing Henderson Loop Trail-2022

Three Proposals:



1) Shiatown Sidewalk Connector



2) Proposed Site-West Haven Launch



3) Walnut Hills Private Launch Upgrade



Henderson Park's Play Structure
2017 MNRTF Grant Achievement

Section IV D. County-Wide Map Representation of the Parks and Open Space Inventory.

See **the map on the next page** for many of the features presented in the Inventory section of this Plan. Owing to map scale limitations, the city, village and school park facilities cannot be detailed. Maps of those park and open space areas have been completed as part of the inventory but are posted elsewhere on the County parks web page for reference and use.

The map supports road biking at a regional scale. Suggested bike routes are the red-lined roads that connect cities, villages and regional places of interest or destinations. Four significant roads with dotted lines on the map show suggested arterial roadways/bikeways in the four County quadrants.

Another purpose of this map is to establish a foundation for advocating year-to-year improvements to these favored roadways for directional signs, pavement widening, shoulder enhancements, and marketing. It is anticipated that cities and villages will benefit from a regional perspective and support united policies and investments for healthful lifestyles.

In the next few plan sections, the adequacy of parks and open spaces with their linkages, both roadways and greenways, is assessed for the county residents. In comparison, Shiawassee County, a country scenic setting, does not have the extent of acreage of public open spaces found in most counties elsewhere. The plan will demonstrate the adequacy of outdoor opportunities with respect to “fillers” as in: a) quasi-public places; b) private-for-fee open spaces, and; c) adjoining county facilities with special recognition of Sleepy Hollow State Park and Clinton County’s Motz Park for its free swimming beach.

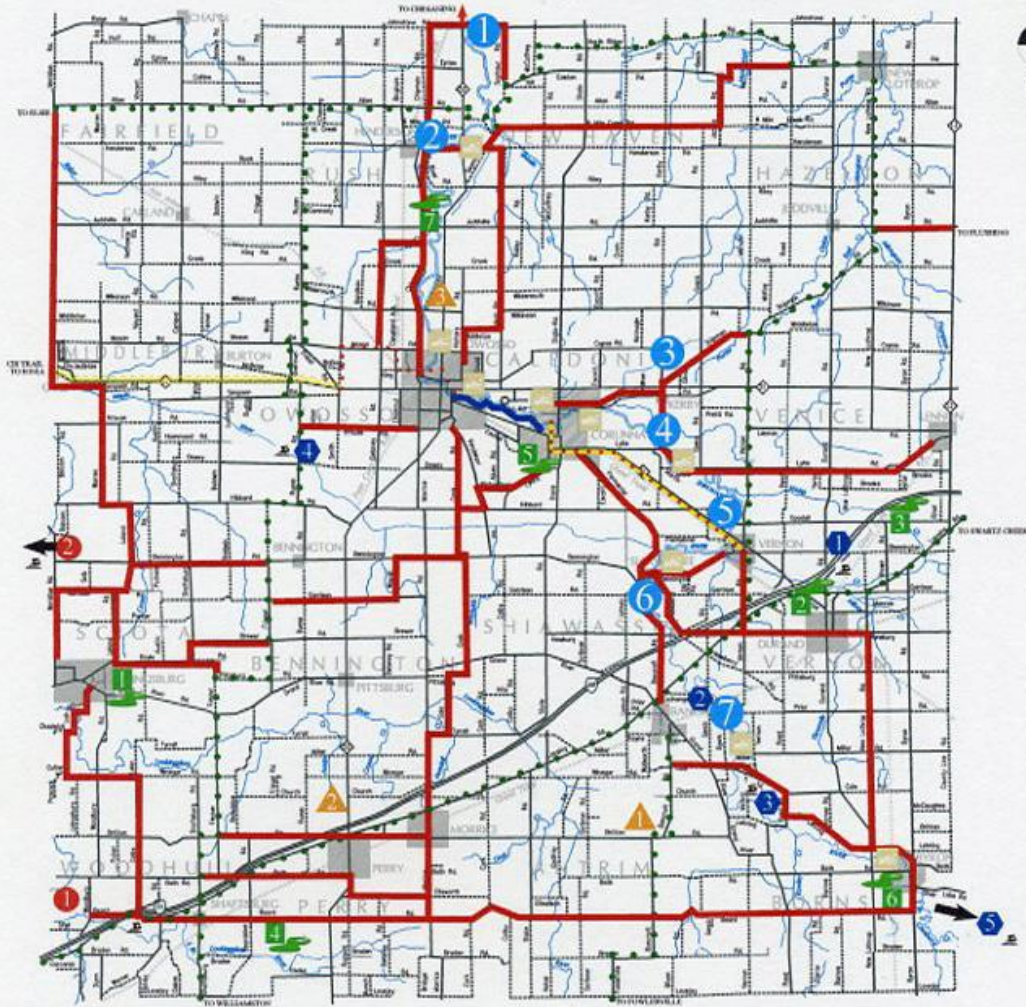


Sleepy Hollow State Park Reservoir



Clinton County's Motz Park-(No fees)

LIVE HEALTHY SHIAWASSEE!!!



COUNTY RECREATION

COUNTY-OPERATED PARK PROPERTIES

- 1. PINE GROVE PARK
- 2. HENDERSON PARK
- 3. KERBY ROAD PARK
- 4. LYTLE ROAD PARK
- 5. DAVIS ROADSIDE PARK
- 6. SHIATOWN PARK
- 7. GECK ROAD PARK

CAMPGROUND/PRIVATE PROPERTIES

- 1. HOLIDAY SHORES
- 2. YMCA CAMP
- 3. WALNUT HILLS
- 4. CAMPGROUNDS R US
- 5. MYERS LAKE

GOLF COURSES

- 1. PINE HILLS
- 2. DUTCH HOLLOW
- 3. HOLIDAY MEADOWS
- 4. GLENBRIER
- 5. CORUNNA HILLS
- 6. WILLOWBROOK
- 7. OWOSSO COUNTRY CLUB

STATE-OPERATED PARK PROPERTIES

- 1. ROSE LAKE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AREA STATE PARK
- 2. SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK

CONSERVATION ZONE PROPERTIES

- 1. RATTLESNAKE ISLAND WETLAND (PRIVATE)
- 2. AUSTIN TWIN LAKES NATURAL AREA (PRIVATE)
- 3. DEVRIES NATURE CONSERVANCY

LEGEND:

- EXISTING PAVED ROAD
- - - EXISTING GRAVEL ROAD
- REGIONAL BIKEWAYS
- CIS MINER CONNECTOR
- PROPOSED CORUNNA/DURAND TRAIL
- JAMES MINER RIVER TRAIL/VOIGHT LOOP TRAIL
- CITY OF OWOSSO
- FRED MEIJER CLINTON-IONIA-SHIWASSEE TRAIL
- ON-ROAD DESTINATION ROUTE
- ☐ CANOE LAUNCH
- ☐ SHIAWASSEE RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL
- ☐ SWIMMING/BEACH ACCESS

SECTION V. PLANNING METHODS.

SECTION V A. Comparison of Park Facilities and Park Types to Suggested Recreational Standards.

The MDNR Parks Plan Guidebook offers a chart of suggested recreational standards. Reference that chart at Appendix D. There are two other sources of standards referenced from the *National Recreation and Parks Association and the seminal planning profession's Standards for Outdoor Recreation Areas, 1965* that details park facility needs based on a facilities per capita basis. The standards are compared with the public park systems in the County. Municipal parks with higher density population areas work better with standards. Smaller population county park systems that offer natural resource areas have their own perspectives about adequacy. The earlier narrative in the Inventory section of the Plan summarized the adequacy of facilities for city and village parks in the County. Little mention is made for the five-month late fall, winter, early spring recreation options, either indoor or outdoor. There is a widespread need for attention here.

The Relevance of Regional Park Standards. At the regional and county level, parks are deemed better adjudged for a county's adequacy and fit for natural resource areas, trails, regional/metro parks and greenways. In that context for Shiawassee County, if Rose Lake, the CIS Trail and Sleepy Hollow State Park are not considered, there is a substantial shortfall of regional/metro park areas and natural resource areas. The county parks have some qualities of the park definitions of park types expected in a County, but they are comparatively small parks for that scale. Henderson County Park has the feel of a regional park but not the size one would expect of a regional park. The three areas—Rose Lake, the CIS Trail and Sleepy Hollow—offer another benefit to the analysis, and that is their location on the west half of Shiawassee County with respect to the history-based eastern location of County Parks. That balancing effect has had even greater impact for the west County since the 2015 opening of the CIS Rail Trail from Owosso to Ovid and far beyond.

The riverside county parks—five of the seven in the system—are inherently natural resource areas with the Shiawassee River, a substantial southern Michigan waterway, dominating the Plan's sense of purpose and value for nature. Within all the Appendix charts, there is no acreage standard for natural resource type parks. There may be a shortage of space, forests and trails; nevertheless, the river is the heritage of the County Park system and the heritage of County history. To sum, *the riverside open space sites are the key revelation of the inventory and comparison analysis with the standards.*

A select number of park types featured at Appendix F and Appendix G are aligned with the county park settings. Three park types in the Appendix charts are a better fit to higher density areas for the approximately 32,000 urbanites within the County's 69,000 persons—that is, the mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks are not evaluated for the County Park system needs. These park types are found to be adequate for urban area parks.

The regional park evaluation is worthy of analysis for the County public. One park in Owosso, partially developed for regional park use meets the urban area standard for regional acreage (Collamer Park's 160 acres). This Plan counts Rose Lake as a regional park with its no-fee public access year-round to multi-use trails in a forested environment. Owing to its location in the extreme southwest of the County, the standard is only met if one adds the Owosso Park into the analysis. Another park type, natural resource areas, have no numerical criterion. Portions of Henderson and Pine Grove parks are natural areas, yet are smaller. Shiatown added 105 acres, and once trailed and reforested, it becomes a regional park. The other two County parks are a closer fit to one park type category—"community parks". Kerby Park at 9 acres is a community park and it serves the settled areas of Caledonia Township and Corunna. Geeck Meadow Park feels like a community park but does not serve an adjacent municipal environment unless Durand and Bancroft are considered sufficiently nearby. Neither of these parks is large enough to strictly fit the community park type standard for acreage.

Comparisons to Other County Park Systems. More comparisons to the adequacy of parks and recreation at the County level are made possible with the listing of other Michigan county parks in counties comparable in size to Shiawassee County. See the revealing chart at Appendix H. The chosen counties are all in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula and are comparable in population and structured with its largest city at the center of its county. The most difficult aspect of comparisons, among many, is the prevalent natural resource characteristics of these other counties. Most have many lakes with a longer history of public ownership on lakefronts. River systems such as that of Shiawassee County parks reflect the rise in importance of rivers in the mid-1960's when the EPA adopted clean water standards that made river systems more attractive for recreation. Michigan's long standing preference for boating and swimming on its world-class lake settings overwhelmed the value of rivers for recreation (with some notable exceptions such as the AuSable, Pine, Pere Marquette and Sturgeon Rivers). In that context the lesser ranked Shiawassee County park system with no lakes but with a credible Mid-West class fishable waterway is better understood.

The County parks system is smaller than the nine other compared parks systems despite meeting the average population of 70,000. At 204 acres, it is well below the 318-acre average for the other parks. Hillsdale and Clinton County are smaller systems but have lakes and swimming beaches as do the others. Nearly all parks in the nine other counties, except Lapeer County's two waterslide parks, are concentrated on natural resource areas as are those of Shiawassee County. As acreage of county park lakes is included in the other county park systems area totals, the Shiawassee River, being a National and State Water Trail, is navigable, fishable and accessible. To repeat, the river, much like a lake, adds 800 acres of surface water for waterfront recreational activity within the park system's 41-mile operational area.

Funding Levels for Park Systems. Funding per capita is low in Shiawassee County with only Hillsdale and Lenawee reflecting the lower end of the funding level. The average per capita spending for parks in the ten counties is \$2.42 with sources from millage, non-profit contributions, user fees and general fund allocations. Shiawassee County's funds are general fund allocations and most years averaged 61 cents per capita. In a study of Pennsylvania towns it was revealed that the per capita park expenditures average \$19 for smaller towns and \$51 in larger towns (but not metro areas). This compares with the cities in the County that average from \$9.50 per capita to \$53 per capita. Natural resource park systems, a county park trait, together with rural and town population totals are by their nature much lower in per capita expenditures. For sustainable maintenance, the lower numbers are not considered funding shortfalls for landscapes that do not require as many park facilities maintenance and capital investment dollars. Recent County Commissioner allocations tripled the per capita allocation to \$1.65. Six of the ten county park systems have full time employees with part-time seasonal employees commonly added. Building and grounds departments are associated with park management and maintenance. Most of the park systems are organized under Act 261 as is that of Shiawassee County's.

Six Special, Regional Park-like Standards—Evaluation.

- 1) Acres/capita. From the standpoint of County-wide acreage, the recognized general standard of having 8-10 acres of public parkland per 1,000 persons is a fraction below the County's 8 acres per 1,000. There are 545 acres of public parkland in all County locations or 7.9 acres per 1000 persons. Any effort to calculate a need to expand park acreage by a few acres to meet the standard should be subordinate to the availability of the planning process's revelation of a natural resource site adjacent to an existing park or other sites

- meeting criteria and goals and objectives of the Plan. See the important park expansion criteria section of the Plan, Section 5-D.
- 2) Campgrounds. At 1,300 campsites and with ongoing expansions, the six private campgrounds designed for public access through fees exceed the available campsites in all the other nine comparison counties. The moderate fee structures and quality of facilities, for most, result in a finding that campsites are adequate and accessible to all citizens of Shiawassee County. There is no statistical standard in Appendix G to measure adequacy of campsites.
 - 3) Running Tracks. The standard is 1 running track per 20,000 persons. That would indicate 3 to 4 tracks for public use in the County. There are five running tracks in public schools distributed equitably about the county for public use after school hours and also excepting times of team practice and meets. Reports from athletic directors explain that these open tracks are popular with local citizenry. It is concluded that there is no need for planning a running track in the county park system. Joggers may opt for the trail system in Owosso, the 3-mile Miner Trail, and the relatively new 8 miles in the CIS trail system.
 - 4) Beach Areas. There are no beach areas; however, all of the campgrounds have swimming beaches. Two offer a day use swimming pass (for a fee) for non-campers. Walnut Hills has recently added an inflatable device water park. Swimming availability will be discussed more in the objectives and action plan section of the Plan.
 - 5) Swimming Pools/Beaches. There are no public swimming pools or beaches. In urbanized areas one would expect 1 swimming area per 20,000 persons. That population level is not present in the County municipalities. The City of Owosso pool, open to all county residents at the time, was closed 15 years ago for budgetary reasons and years of observation of low use levels for what was deemed a well-managed and maintained facility. Oddly, there is no shortfall finding of swimming pools in public surveys. Available swimming programs at Owosso, Durand and Corunna pools offer public access with the added benefit that their programs occur in the colder months when winter recreation options are considerably lacking. Affordable commercially manufactured above ground pools are omnipresent in hundreds of back yards. Two private campgrounds offer public day use fees for non-camper swimmers. Motz County Park (free) and Sleepy Hollow State Park sand beaches in Clinton County are nearby.
 - 6) Golf. The standard for golf courses is exceeded with the six private courses that are considered accessible to the public for the affordable green fees and distance traveled from anywhere in the County.

- 7) Trail Systems. The standard is one trail system per park planning area. The newly opened CIS trail meets that standard and has created a public planning process for connectivity and additions to the system. Consider a unique perspective: the Shiawassee River is a 'blue water highway' trail of equivalent significance to the region.

CONCLUSION OF THE COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION, INVENTORY AND PARK STANDARDS EVALUATION.

The present section on park standards measurements and inventory observations does not complete the planning process to determine park needs. The public input phase that follows also contributes to what may be needed for the parks system (a right orientation converts needs to "opportunities") prior to concluding the objectives/actions for a five-year strategy. The needs analysis reveals the following:

1. The municipal park types in the smaller acreage range that are active play areas are more than adequate for the urban population together with the open access policy of these parks to the rural population. There is a county-wide 60-acre shortfall in community parks with Durand, Perry and Owosso offering potential solutions for this park type. Many of the parks would benefit from more frequent routine maintenance.
2. There is no completed regional park in the County with the wide span of recreational facilities, urban forests and natural resource areas. Collamer Park in Owosso has the acreage to meet the standard but is underdeveloped owing to budget restrictions and the design challenges posed by a bisecting wetland and a missing parcel to permit better access and functionality. Rose Lake meets the acreage standard but is limited to trail activity and is located in the extreme SW corner of the County. Users of Rose Lake are guests of the hunters whose license fees pay for that place. The review of potential conservation areas funded through conservation non-profits active in the area shows some optimism for longer term development of natural resource areas.
3. Park facilities found in municipal and county parks are adequate. These include picnic tables with grills, playground equipment, open space play areas, pavilions, ball diamonds, urban forests, benches, golf courses, running tracks, sledding hills, riverfront paddling and fishing access. Upgrades are possible for some of facility types and are site specific.
4. The park maintenance inventory reveals shortcomings and the need for policies on defined Level of Maintenance (see Appendix P) standards and responsive funding and/or volunteer contributions. Together with the issues with facilities and grounds keeping conditions, special challenges persist with water supply and restroom facilities. Recent County Parks Commissioners actions and budgeting upgrades show attention to:

Sustainability, a word that means: Management, Protection of the Resource and Restoration of worn landscapes, signs and facilities.

5. Accessibility standards are at level 1 to 3 in all county parks and may be upgraded in many ways for each County park. See the evaluation of accessibility at Appendix J. The Capital Improvements Schedule at Section VI B shows attentive upgrades for access to park facilities.
6. The County parks, when compared to other county park systems, have been under-funded but recently revived in the past two years. The five-year plan persuades continuation of that recent trend together with the use of State grant-in-aid programs.
7. The County parks, when evaluated for the natural resource areas offered with the Shiawassee River, offer a substantial foundation for park system development and the anchorage of the National Water Trail status. The river frontage at 3 miles and the river's water surface at 800 acres between launches and landing between county parks provides a park acreage perspective of adequacy for regional parks. Every river segment between launch sites/parks and landings/parks is a parkway, sometimes called a "blue water highway", with endless scenic vistas and a Midwest prominent ranking for its small mouth bass fishery.
8. Swimming beaches are a consequence of the County's lack of surface water—essentially last in the State of Michigan. A few very small lakes and converted gravel pit lakes to campgrounds with swimming beaches meet a need but fall short of what is customarily expected at the county level anywhere in Michigan. Continued day-pass beach use for non-campers is encouraged in the Plan.
9. The overall public open space/parkland adequacy in the County almost meets the standard. Still there is only 1% of the land in the County dedicated to public use, and that statistic is largely influenced by the size of Rose Lake Wildlife Station (deemed a state park by the MDNR).
10. The inventory's list of quasi-public facilities and programs reveals an accommodating umbrella of church facilities and programming, clubs, school parks and gym facilities, private recreation, and membership recreation. Consideration of this aspect of the facilities inventory reveals the impact of alternatives for leisure time pursuits and their adequacy. Many of the entities in this category offer special use open space, park like activities, recreational programming, and winter play options that are not found in the public parks at either the County or municipal levels. Accessibility to the public is available in most respects, affordable, and even non-fee based.
11. The fiscal conditions in the county evidenced by shortfalls in public education support, declining infrastructure, number of professions, level

of education, population decline, aging, health conditions, youth age-group decline, and a long-standing culture of restraint in public endeavors are all indicators of an influence against ambitious progress in the public parks and recreation arena. Volunteer action and philanthropy have contributed measurably and regularly to the park system with respect to recreation programming. Measured, persistent progress is the learned expectation for the County parks system's past response to balancing interests and funding future facility upgrades.

12. The needs of the County parks are varied and interspersed with those that are listed above. The specific park treatments are detailed in Section VII of the Plan, "Objectives and Action Plans" and in the Appendix I park sketch maps and improvements lists.

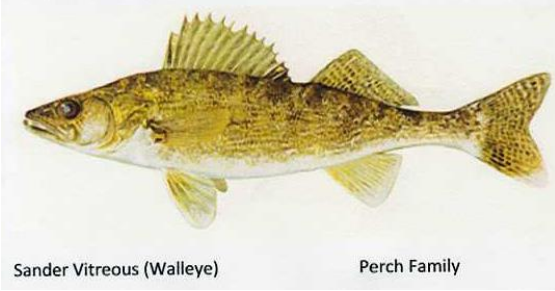
13. Fishing is rarely presented in parks needs analyses charts. That void is a shortcoming when popularity of the sport is taken into consideration. One in six Americans cast a fishing rod in 2021. Most headed to a fresh water location to fish. Fishing, as a form of relaxation, is also the relentless practice of hope (next time we'll do better). Another park standard, not often measured, is the benefit to our frame of mind. Although warming waters preclude any chance of a return to trout fishing in the County's rivers (and some say a setback for walleye recovery), small mouth bass fishing and the other twelve sport fish thrive in the Shiawassee River. The county parks systems frontage along the river, together with many fishing access spots, not to mention something more to do while paddling, shows a recreational offering comparable to any Michigan park system for that activity.

The importance of fishing to recreation in the County parks merits a colorful display on the next two pages of sport fish photos available in the River. Walleye are a recent addition with the latest removal of two dams and pending elimination of three weirs in the City of Owosso.

14. Conservation practices are relevant to meeting recreation standards. For example public parks can afford the time it takes for tree plantings to mature and shade water bodies to lower water temperatures. County parks along the river can arise as illustrations of natural plantings along a 50-foot setback strip on river banks to prevent erosion. Natural resource parks can demonstrate and educate the public about invasive species control measures. A recent Shiawassee District Conservation Service invasive species inventory revealed the presence of a variety of plants throughout open space areas of the parks and is attached in the Appendix.

SHIAWASSEE RIVER SPORT FISH PHOTO SHEET

A Symbol of Opportunity:



Sander Vitreus (Walleye)

Perch Family

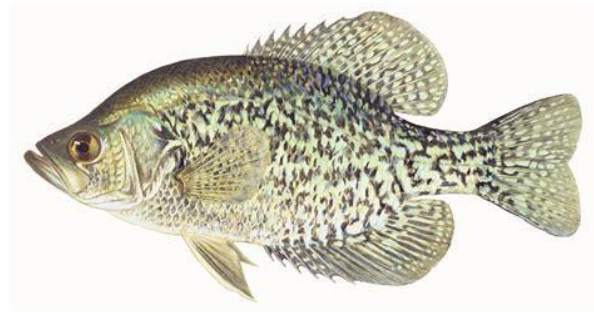
Walleye



Large Mouth Bass



Small Mouth Bass



Crappie



Northern Pike



Blue Gill

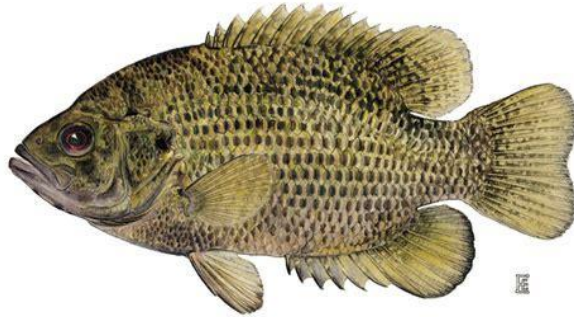


Channel Catfish

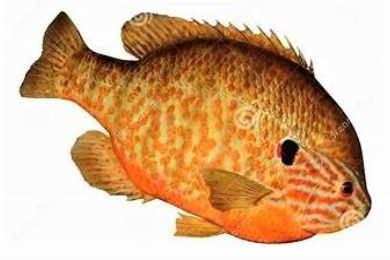
SHIAWASSEE RIVER SPORT FISH PHOTO SHEET – Continued



Bullhead Catfish



Rock Bass



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Green Sunfish



Long Eared Sunfish



Warmouth

Note: Yellow Perch are listed as being in the River but are uncommon. Schools of beneficial sucker fish are routinely spotted while paddling, but they are not in the sports fishing category.

Section V B. Public Input Process

A. PUBLIC INPUT: SURVEYS. Local surveys are quite limited in response rate and frequency. This plan conducted a voluntary, simplified “Surveymonkey” of recreational use and preferences. There are also a few surveys in local municipalities that provide some patterns for analysis. Public input is the important other partner to park facility planning that attempts to manage the inherent qualities of county park landscapes and the preferred ways for area citizens to use their leisure time.

State of Michigan Reporting. The State of Michigan reveals recreational demand and goals in its Michigan Department of Natural Resources Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (spanning 2018 to 2022). The Plan reveals some indicators of Michiganders’ preferences:

- Walking for pleasure is the highest activity (confirmed with local surveys)
- Camping and fishing showed a slight decline from the previous survey but are still strong
- Nature viewing/photographing fish, birds and other wildlife has more participants than hunting and fishing combined.

The report cites three priorities for Michigan public outdoor spaces to effect:

- a) public health improvement,
- b) accessibility upgrades, and
- c) quality experiences, a preference that is a clear benefit for tourism.

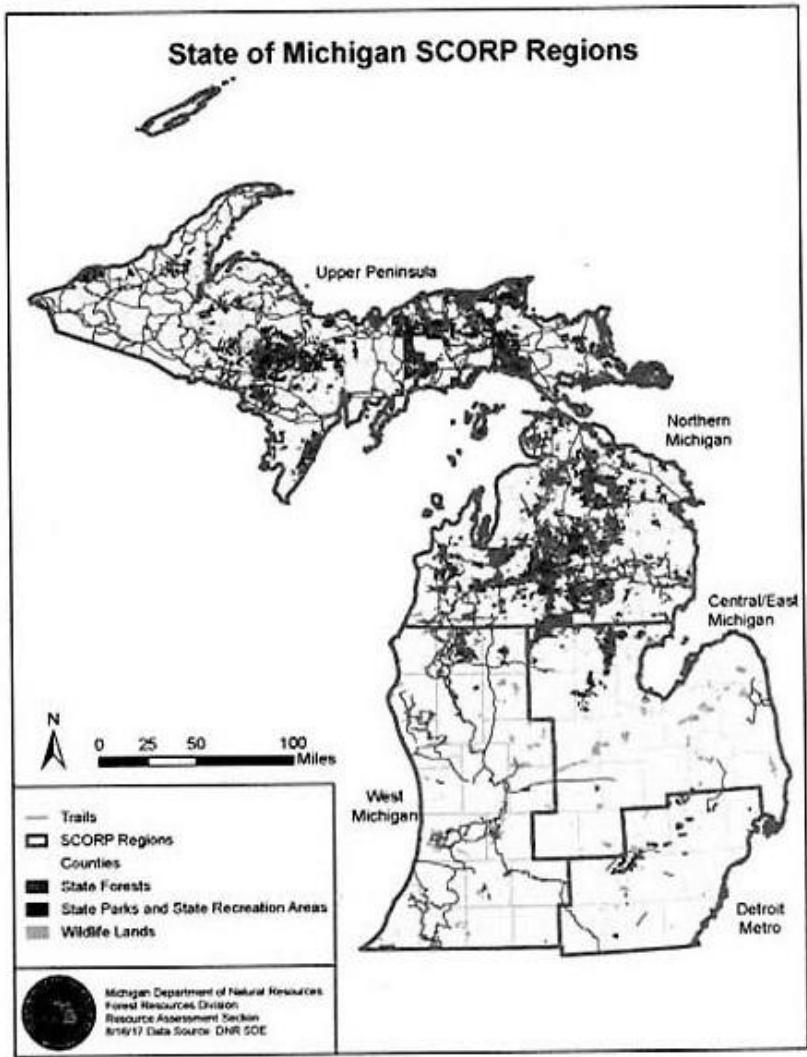
To believe in the accomplishment potential of these priorities, there is a rewarding statistic—63% of Michigan residents participate in some type of outdoor recreational activity. The county parks system plan and character of the parks are positioned to supportively respond to these priorities.

In response to the walking priority, Michigan has a mission and brand to be The Trail State—that does not confine trails to state facilities but encouragement for all levels of public lands to include trails in their open space developments. The State ranks the best of trails, both water and land (the Shiawassee River is now a State-designated water trail).

A popular theme arises in the State Survey--SUSTAINABILITY. For public areas, the word, often used but misunderstood, elevates:

- attention to management actions in parks,
- protection of the resource, and
- restoration of worn or poorly maintained spaces.

The MDNR Plan has a revealing state-wide map that shows Michigan’s regions and their offerings of larger scale open space and parks areas. The map below is a stark portrayal of the void in Central Michigan (mostly the Thumb and Saginaw Bay/River Watershed). Shiawassee County particularly stands out in the void of state and regional-scaled facilities. Genesee County, similarly white-spaced on the map, compensates with a widespread equitably spaced county park system on lakes and reservoirs. One takeaway from this map is that local park plans may confidently proceed with plans to set aside vaster acreages of open space and regional-class parklands to compare with the predominance of spaces elsewhere about the State. Collaboration of park facilities among smaller divisions of government (counties, cities, villages and townships) to afford this enlargement response is a rational response.



Map of Michigan Open Space Regions—Note the voids in the Saginaw Bay Watershed region

Results from Other Local Municipality Surveys.

The public input surveys (part of their master planning) in Shiawassee County were conducted in the past for the cities of Owosso, Corunna, Durand, Laingsburg and Perry. Each of the surveys offered segments for level of use/activity and on needs assessment. None of the surveys reflected an adequate response rate to rely upon the answers as being statistically significant; nevertheless, the responses have value, when considered as a whole (1718 responses), especially where themes repeat themselves in four of the five communities.

- 1) Owosso: In order of highest responses...
 - a. Highest needs in the Parks: Restrooms, Plantings and Benches
 - b. Use of Leisure Time in City Parks: Walking/Hiking, Bicycling, Trail Use
 - c. Most Popular Recreational Activity Anywhere: Canoeing, Camping, Bicycling
- 2) Corunna: In order of highest responses...
 - a. Favorite park attractions: Play Structure, Historical Village, Walking Paths, Sledding, Community Center, Pavilions, Shiawassee River
 - b. Needs: Trail maintenance and regional open space connections
- 3) Laingsburg: in order of highest responses...
 - a. Primary uses of parks: Organizational events, Play, Exercise
 - b. Regional recreational preferences: Sleepy Hollow State Park, East Lansing Aquatic Center
 - c. With limited funds what is most important: Basic maintenance and cleanliness; 85% endorsement of natural resource parks
 - d. Note: No clear indicator when asked about needs
- 4) Perry: In order of highest response...
 - a. Jubilee Park main uses: Walking/Hiking, Bicycling, Playground
 - b. Veterans Memorial Park: Organized events
 - c. Needs for the future: Non-motorized links to other open space areas in the region, Trails, Playground Equipment
- 5) Perry Community Visioning Session: In order of response...
 - a. 1st, Non-Motorized Trails
 - b. 2nd, Playgrounds
 - c. 3rd, Community Gardens
- 6) Durand:
 - a. High priority: recreational programming and beautification
 - b. Average priority: accessibility needs and trails

County Parks planning is consistent with repetitive survey themes from the five cities in the areas of trails, plantings, non-motorized connections to open spaces, paddle outings, bicycling, and improvements to and maintenance of cleaned play spaces and their support facilities. The contrast to county parks lies in the urbanites' emphasis on programming.

PUBLIC INPUT AND PARTICIPATION PLANNING:

On May 19, 2022, the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners authorized funding for the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission's preparation of a Parks and Recreation Plan. Town Plans LLC, the selected consultant, met with the Parks Commission and a Sub-Committee through a series of open meeting planning sessions from May, 2022 to December, 2022.

In a first effort to leverage existing resources to provide park and recreation services to county residents, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission extended an offer to municipalities within the County to collaborate directly with the development of the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Members of the respective planning and parks commissions were especially encouraged to participate with an invitation that Town Plans attend meetings for valued feedback. They all received the, "What would you do with \$100 for the parks?" survey (offered in the Appendix).

As a second means for public input, the Parks Board solicited comments and perspectives from those who live near the County Parks. A direct mailing and an invitation to attend open meetings were extended to approximately 80 property owners. Their responses follow later in this plan section.

A third initiative was to conduct a speaker series with service clubs, organizations and other public bodies throughout the County. At those meetings attendees were asked to complete the \$100 survey question and offer commentary after introduction to the county parks facilities and plans.

A fourth initiative involved advertising in printed media and social media to offer input to the Plan. This included the "SurveyMonkey" on the County's Facebook site with results reported later. Newspaper advertisements posted the public meeting schedule for an early December, 2022 Parks Board meeting where the public was encouraged to submit written comments or attend the meeting to participate in the parks planning sessions. The required County Commissioner public hearing for plan adoption was posted separately.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT FROM THE INITIATIVES TO SEEK COMMENTARY.

Several presentations of the park plan findings have been made to Shiawassee County area organizations. At each presentation comments were requested so that the parks plan might reflect what is on the mind of those citizens who are a credible cross section of the area's leaders in community service. The commentary from each presentation was pointed on particular issues or opportunities and are summarized below:

1) *Durand Rotary Club on October 4, 2022*

Durand Rotarians oversee periodic clean-up and added improvements to Shiatown County Park. Their responses at the meeting focused on that park and the planned footbridge to connect the east and west parks divided by the River. Cleanliness scored very highly.

2) *Caledonia Township Board on October 17, 2022*

Board members listened to a presentation on one of the two County parks within the township boundary—that is, Kerby Community Park. All planned features were explained with supplemental photographs and maps. Every upgrade in the park garnered support and the seeds for engagement of the Township with the park upgrades were planted.

3) *Owosso Kiwanis Club on October 18, 2022*

The Kiwanians have a long standing relationship with an Owosso City Park; nevertheless, their interest in the content of the seven parks' future was keen and observant. The feedback on their preferences for particular aspects of the parks was clearly dominant in favor of creating a parklet at West Haven with the iron bridge preserved. Next in order of preference were Restrooms, Natura Play Areas, Cleanliness and a Footbridge connector at Shiatown.

4) *Shiawassee Kiwanis Club on October 19, 2022*

Restrooms and their cleanliness gained the most attention. The Shiatown Footbridge Connector was the second most frequently discussed upgrade with an expansion for a West Haven park that included the preservation of the iron bridge and a launch.

5) *Corunna Rotary Club on October 20, 2022*

On a positive note, attendees focused on the demographic trends in Michigan in favor of a long term repopulation and growth for the area in response to Michigan's tempered position with climate change. Shiatown Park was most favored for investment owing to its historic importance to the region and the ability of a park to feature that. They recommitted their interest in supporting gains at Lytle Launch Park.

- 6) *Owosso Rotary Club on November 2, 2022*
 Members questions dealt mostly with the water trail and the information available on how long trips were and what to expect on the trail. The survey question sheet revealed a strong preference for the Shiatown Footbridge Park Connector, then Restrooms/cleanliness, the West Haven Iron Bridge restoration and accessibility.
- 7) *Neighborhood Survey Responses taken August to September, 2022.*
 Eighty surveys were mailed with self-addressed envelopes to every property owner within two parcels of a park boundary. The survey included a concise narrative of each of the parks with their potential upgrades noted. The survey invited the addressed owners to a Parks Board meeting on August 11, 2022; however, no person took advantage of that. The thirteen returned surveys showed the following tendencies and specific commentary:
- ✓ The most prominent recreational activity for the households was walking and hiking followed by swimming/beach time, and camping/travel preferences. The first answer is a compatible choice for the character of most of the county parks.
 - ✓ Shiatown County Park was the most used of the parks.
 - ✓ Ratings on a number of park features and operations showed these levels of very good tending to very poor responses—
 - Variety of facilities—average to poor
 - Cleanliness—average to poor
 - Landscape character—average to very good
 - Maintenance—below average
 - Things to do—below average
 - Accessibility—average to good
 - Safety—average to good
 - ✓ One questions with an interesting way of inquiring about preferred upgrades “gave” each respondent a choice on what options they would spend \$100. The greatest amount of “cash” was directed to *walking paths*, then equally among *maintenance, play equipment and improved parking*.
 - ✓ Comments at the end of the survey were frequent with the most poignant remarks requesting “Closed at Dusk” signs; better parking options at Shiatown for the middle lot, and; solutions to Kerby Parks “tired” appearing facilities and grounds.
- 8) *SurveyMonkey results received over the summer of 2022.*
 A Parks Board member organized and led this survey document featured on Facebook and in a newspaper article about its availability. There were 310 responses to respondents’ information, then five key

questions with one offering multiple answers. No commentary space was provided in this survey instrument—perhaps a limitation of *SurveyMonkey*. A copy of the survey structure is at Appendix S-2.

- ✓ Age grouping of respondents equally spanned the 30 year-old to elderly classifications
- ✓ Interestingly 70% of those answering were from cities and villages with their own park systems
- ✓ Respondents recreational choices for themselves spanned the list equally
- ✓ One-fifth of the respondents had visited a county park with 80% intending to revisit them
- ✓ The survey offered seven categories to rate them from very good to very poor; results as follows—
 - Maintenance—average to good
 - Things to do—good only
 - Landscape—good to very good
 - Accessibility—poor (many here) to good
 - Safety—almost at average to good
 - Events—poor to very poor

In sum the predominant responses hovered at ‘average’.

- ✓ The top initiatives desired for the parks were first and foremost, *restrooms*, then followed by *walking trails*. An interesting higher frequency of response was for *better access to the River* where most Park Board members would believe the four launch sites were very well designed and maintained. It was informative to read so many wanting county-adaptable features for *more benches, more tree plantings, more information kiosks, improved cleanliness, more equipment and greater accessibility*. Few checked the *group activity* option despite rating the parks as being “poor” for this area of park programming.

Once again the public response induced discussion among Parks Board members with a maximum effort to interject the stronger expressed points from this survey into the Plan.

9) *Response Chart of State of Michigan Top Outdoor Recreation Activities Survey of 2018—total participation days:*

Relaxing outdoors 436,642,901 75%

Walking outdoors, including dog walking 576,132,624 74%

Visiting parks or playgrounds 150,420,905 67%

Sightseeing and/or driving for pleasure 200,974,504 64%
 Visiting nature centers or historic sites 36,465,987 56%
 Swimming outdoors 99,130,632 54% Picnicking 58,330,039 53%
 Fishing 77,266,345 41% Team or individual sports outdoors 84,751,341 37%
 Wildlife viewing and/or photography (including birding) 108,373,278 36%
 Hiking/backpacking 48,025,953 34% Jogging/running 137,149,463 34%
 Canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, or wind surfing 26,960,187 32%
 Road biking 68,469,091 31% Motorized boating 49,747,531 31%
 Sledding/tubing 23,677,874 30% Tent or rustic camping 28,629,569 30%
 Shooting sports (including archery) 52,810,204 30%
 Modern or RV camping 40,259,553 25%
 *Biking of any kind (road or off road) N/A 40%
 *Camping of any kind (modern, RV, tent or rustic) N/A 39%
 *Hunting of any kind (big game, waterfowl, upland, or small game) N/A 20%

Much of this data is corroborated in the existing County park facilities and the plan for improvements where 12 of the top 14 user activity preferences in this State survey are developed or in development in the County parks.

- 10) *The Five City Parks Commissioners Survey Response*: Strong emphasis on maintenance/cleanliness, then pathways/trails
- 11) *Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission public input meeting of December 8, 2022*. No comments were received. Note: from an earlier communique, the Shiawassee Conservation District requested more plan presence for invasive species management.

Note: Specific mention should be made to the survey popularity of a connecting footbridge at Shiatown Park. In response an engineering report revealed a \$1,000,000 cost to a footbridge, a cost in excess of any local standard for a singular park item. The Parks Commission then substituted a connecting sidewalk between the east and west Shiatown Parks for construction within the six-year Capital Improvements Plan schedule.

SECTION 5 C. Translation of Standards, Public Input, and Data to Needs.

There are references to needs throughout the Plan narrative that are summarized here. The influences on needs have been many and include:

- Local and State/National Preference Surveys
- Community Characteristics—Demographic, Physical, and Economic
- Local and National standards as compared with the County inventory
- Public input from public presentations and meetings
- Analysis of natural resource assets of County Park lands
- Inventory of valued sites adjacent to the parks for expansion
- Accessibility evaluations
- Parks Commissioner’s goals and objectives work sessions

A most direct analysis in the Plan may be read in a table format that is located two pages ahead where needs are detailed from many of the above bullet points. There, the specific needs are revealed in summary format about adequacies and needs of the local and county parks systems.

The needs are reflected in plan sections to follow:

- ✓ action plans;
- ✓ capital improvements plan;
- ✓ individual park site plans;
- ✓ county wide connectivity plan;
- ✓ operational areas—funding, partnerships, level of maintenance, and;
- ✓ Shiawassee River frontage parks response to active waterfront plans.

The tables at Section VII B & C are a response to the five-year strategy for park upgrades and operations that surfaced from analysis, surveys and meeting workshops. The number and diversity of inputs enriches the confidence in the Parks and Recreation Commission’s recommendations—a necessary reflection of the County community’s preferences and needs.

A Special Mention for Trees and Forests. A dedicated narrative in the Plan is to recognize support for the natural resource setting of the parks with an expanded program of tree planting. What was once forest lands offer a response that may be called “*ReLeaf Shiawassee Parks.*” The genius of nature, some call it the “world wide web” lies in the root zone where a diversity and concentration of trees support each other with disease and pest control, nutrients, and carbon sequestration. Some forestry researchers personify the phenomenon by demonstrating how trees *communicate* with one another in the root zone. The parks have ample open spaces for mutually supportive role of trees through reforestation. The Parks’ advantage rests on their long-standing public status and built-in patience—it takes over 100 years for a forest to mature.

Consulting foresters remark that climate zones are moving northward and trees cannot walk. Forest can expand up to 3,000 feet a year as treelets often

track preferred climates toward the poles. To keep up with the pace of today's temperature changes, they need to be going six to ten times as fast. Species selection in park area reforestation needs to take into account the climate conditions with the attendant need to rely on professional foresters. Five of the park site plans in the Appendix will show reforestation areas for Henderson, Shiatown, Geeck, Pine Grove, and Kerby Parks. Species selection is of paramount importance with recent involvement of a professional forester. Follow-up maintenance of the forest resource is an attendant responsibility.

Now **to return to the response to park standards**, the planning period open to input throughout the process extended from August 2022 through December, 2023—six months of analysis, surveys, goal setting sessions and public meetings. All along the way planning products were generated in the form of charts, illustrations and maps. Professional engineering expertise was employed. Professional community planners carried the evolving plan over the entire planning period. Practical funding limitations were incorporated and translated into opportunities where low maintenance and higher levels of funding support were revealed.

The Plan is a response to the two key processes in planning: 1) *Relevant information/good data, and;* 2) *Public participation.* The Plan follows the MDNR outline for grant eligible 5-year plans. In these contexts, the park plan becomes the official statement of Shiawassee County's park system—a reliable reservoir for grant-in-aid considerations, philanthropy, motivation, volunteerism, annual budgeting, and foundation for future planning. The chart on the next page offers a way of translating needs and analysis into park plan products.



Optional Play Facility (called a 'ga-ga' court) for a Kerby Park supplement to aid increased pavilion use—there is a \$1,300 investment cost for this pictured kit—there is no park standard for play corrals.

TABLE OF NEEDS FROM STANDARDS, SURVEYS AND ANALYSIS

	<i>Areas of Park System Needs</i>	<i>As Influenced from these Park Plan Analytical Sources</i>
A	Fishing Access	National/State surveys/local inventory revelations/natural qualities of the park setting
B	Park System Expansion Criteria. Historic Preservation, and Survey Results	National Water Trail Plan filling gaps in the water trail access; <u>History of the Shiawassee River</u> book revelations at County Parks; respondent expectations for walking trails
C	Recreational biking offerings; Live healthy goals	Bike Route Plan Established Showing Loop Trails about all the parks; Data revelations on health needs of county citizens
D	Marketing Efforts; Websites; Brochures; Kiosks; Events	Data on underused pavilions; Evaluation of web park system web presence; only two kiosks in the parks; QR codes commonplace these days
E	Public Health Data; Demographic Data on household conditions	Needy households for close-to-home recreation; imposing obesity numbers; mental health benefits of parks
F	Physical geography of the area; active waterfront goals; recreation surveys	Few park like environments in the Saginaw Basin; Existence of five county riverside parks; more opportunities for river access
G	Park maintenance conditions; survey desire for cleanliness and restrooms	Status of County Park budgets; higher bar for performance with a Level of Maintenance statement; evaluation of restrooms
H	National and State Water Trail Standards; Area Economic Development	Water Trail Plan's evaluation of adequacy of exiting waterfront access locations; the value of travelers, tourists and visitors
I	Environmental Goals	Few riverside natural landscapes in the parks; over-mowed areas favorable to pollinator prairies; recent invasives survey
J	Outdoor Exercise; Natural Play Spaces	Dominant survey responses from every source for walking paths; county citizen health conditions; revelations of natural play space preferences and benefits
K	Operational Efficiencies; Cleanliness	Excess mowing areas; observed pit toilet cleanliness; expanded opportunities for volunteers and partnerships
L	Doable, ready capital improvements to the Parks	Expanded state funding for parks; park plans in place for projects to gain funding; recent foundation partners revealed; ready philanthropy and volunteerism recruitment
M	Park Size-Regional Like Systems	Market perception of the 500 acre river area accessible to expansive county park locations; Shiawass town growth

The above chart is the product of prior referenced and cited national and state standards that relate to many recreational features. The earlier Plan sections achieved those references. One confirmation is the absence of need for more urban-like park features in the County parks with more than adequate provision elsewhere for those feature categories, e.g., playgrounds, camping sites, sledding hills, beaches, off-road biking, sports and play fields, running tracks, and recreational programming. The County park system is not devoid of some of these facilities but subordinate to the county parks' natural resource characteristics.

Another mention is a fitting addition to this plan section and that is the perspective of **tourists** (with their closely associated “travelers and visitors”). The character of county parks are a fine response to why people “tour”. Tourists now want to *experience* a destination rather than just see or sit in it. They want to connect to the culture, the history, and the landscape of a place. In response the county parks offer tourists a slate of experiences that help fulfill other tourist assets in the region.

The following county park features support the active tourist:

The five-year plan and existing facilities of the parks offer healthy exercise on the looped trails designed for a traveler’s stopover on these shorter pathways.

- The linear park that is the Shiawassee River National Water Trail is anchored with the County’s five riverside access points and plans for two others in the five year plan. A livery at Walnut Hills offers travelers without watercraft a chance to experience this trail.
- Two county parks, Geeck and Shiatown, have rich histories and stories that will be told with signs and QR codes on kiosks.
- Every county park with pavilions for gatherings offer maps at kiosks for healthy and nicely scaled bicycle loops averaging five miles on low volume traffic county roads.
- Fishing opportunities are at every riverside park with increased attention to establishing access points at favored fishing “holes”.
- Children will experience the county parks unique position in offering creative play spaces with fond memories of a family trip.
- Reunions for travelers and visitors to gatherings will find both pavilions and eventually a rental hall at Kerby Road Park—a unique rental hall that is outfitted with a complete community park setting about it that includes that everyone-can-play sport--pickle ball.

With a response to tourism and the other public inputs for park facilities, the knowledge of needs and opportunities offers an ongoing guide to Parks Commissioners for attention to visitors with the park development strategies.

SECTION V D. Criteria for Facility Expansion and Park Acquisition

The Parks and Recreation Commission, at the earliest stage of parks planning established the policy to achieve a prescribed Level of Maintenance for existing parks and facilities before embarking on park facility improvements or park expansion. The benefit of stating criteria for facility expansion and open space acquisition is in the prioritization of possible activities revealed in the Inventory section of the Plan, public input, and the needs analysis. There are

potential facility developments and open space additions to the park system that are consistent with the findings of the planning process and are financially and operationally feasible.

Criterion 1: Low maintenance improvements with capital investment costs identifiable with lesser reliance on the County general fund provide a basis for park facility and acreage improvements:

- Based on the needs analysis, both Kerby Park and Geeck Meadows Park are community parks. Community parks contain minimum acreages that neither park can achieve; however, there are a few facility upgrades with low maintenance obligations that can elevate these parks to the larger community's use, especially park loop walking paths.
- Beginning in 2012 the Shiatown County park reservoir was emptied as a result of the dam removal there. Opportunities are now present at that park to help elevate this park to *regional park* status, mostly in terms of total acreage and trails. With a 105-acre addition of county-owned land, opportunities for low maintenance walking paths arise and help complete path loops for the existing park area to permit a healthful walking distance. The needs analysis shows public health advances with outdoor exercise. Shiatown Park's south central location in the County conveniently serves three of the five county cities and four of the six villages together with the preponderance of the county's non-farm settlement in rural areas.
- Park facility improvements are also best when they are consistent with plan goals, and are donated to the parks with post-construction maintenance assistance from partners.

Criterion 2: The natural resource qualities of five of the county parks with Shiawasse River frontage provide justification for park facilities and expansion to respond to Plan goals of river trail expansion and public input favoring trails. Local and State surveys confirm pathway development. To that end these park facilities and land areas are deemed consistent with this criterion:

- A fishing pathway access location on the west bank of the river in the bottomlands addition at Shiatown Park, and at the area below the dam -- both the east and west embankments. The Geeck addition and Lytle path offer new fishing site locations.

- The county-wide movement to improve the National and State Water Trail together with river access improvements in the parks for parking, and paddle boat launches.
- Pathway loops completion at Shiatown, Kerby and Geeck Parks.

Criterion 3: Park expansion outside the park boundaries may be justified when natural resource areas, filling of gaps in the river trail system, or linkages between county parks are identified as beneficial upgrades from the park planning process; moreover, these additions would have the attributes of low maintenance and high attractiveness for private funding towards expenses of the additions. To that end, four known park plan elements arise at this time for consideration in the five-year plan:

- Park System Addition #1—Consider a combined bicycle route, cultural historical designation, and river access point that is located at the unincorporated West Haven settlement between Pine Grove County Park and Henderson Road County Park. There, the closed Six Mile Creek Road and the 1886 Six-Mile Creek Iron Bridge offer a fishing and paddling river access and a walking, nature viewing and needed north county bicycling crossing. A spectacular history, to wit: the former coal mining area, a rail spur from Owosso and site of the Estey Furniture manufacturing plant together with one of the most scenic Kentucky-style ‘hollers’ in the County draw considerable attention for County-wide and regional interest in this area.



Six-Mile Creek 1886 Iron Bridge—restoration priority

- Park System Addition #2—the 17-acre floodplain lowlands east of Pine Grove Park offer a gap-filling link in the river trail. This

privately owned parcel also lies in a deep river valley. Its adjacency to the existing park offers trade lands potential with County-owned lands or acquisition funding assistance from MDNR grant sources. The expansion would involve low maintenance improvements for the highest and best uses as a conservation area. The land owner is reluctant to sell at this time but its attributes merit continued reference in the Plan and a resolution to the land trade option within five years.



Shiatown Bottomlands Add'n



View West to Shiatown Bottomlands

- Park System Addition #3: The Walnut Hills Family Campground has the strategic launch/landing facility between Byron Village and Geeck parks river access facilities. The site is the only livery paddlecraft rental on the water trail. The launch here takes paddlers through the most historic area of the water trail—a rich telling of Native American’s, trading posts, and land trail crossings for pioneers. The launch is in disrepair and the site is a jumbled affair of parking and maneuvering area. A concept upgrade plan in the Appendix shows a potential resolution of the predicament.

- Park System Addition #4: For an interim strategy to #2 above, Pine Grove Park would experience a land exchange (no cost) of a portion of the south park area to obtain superior, affordable, monitored river frontage at the Johnstone Road Bridge bottomlands. A willing landowner awaits negotiations on the details.

SECTION VI. GOALS, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE & SUMMARY SHEET OF PARK UPGRADES BY CATEGORY

SECTION VI A. Ten Goals with Objectives and Action Plans—2023 to 2027

Goals are visions for the future of Shiawassee County’ parks without a reference to a specific time period for implementation. A park system with clear, non-conflicting goals tends to forge ahead and make progress. Objectives are more specific and detail an outcome often in a specified time period. Objectives often assign responsibility. These goals were prepared after the Parks and Recreation Commission examined:

- demographic and economic status of the area,
- the conditions of our parks,
- national standards for facilities and programs in public parks,
- the unique characteristics of our County and region, and
- the interests of our citizens expressed during the planning process.

Before the goals statement was prepared, it was observed that there is no ground swell of support for major spending to create substantial amounts of open space and even less support for diverting money away from schools and essential local government services to fund the operations of parks. Past practices of buying open space, building community facilities, and operating recreation programs, when combined with inevitably inadequate funding, have evolved into a legacy of neglect. Park maintenance and cleanliness and strategic advances in smaller increments characterize this era of park administration and development. Grants-in-aid offer opportunity for some higher end park upgrades listed in the capital improvements schedule.

A significant positive outlet that will reveal itself in this Plan is the low impact work that may be accomplished on the waterfront of the five riverfront parks. This is an opportunity to expand access to the riverbanks for people-oriented uses and concurrent restoration actions to riverbank ecology.

In that same positive action theme, the parks’ landscapes offer an environmental opportunity to demonstrate the emerging field of climate change practices, principally carbon storage benefits of trees and subsequent tree plantings, even reforestation of park sections. Local survey responses bear out this meritorious point of emphasis.

Another contemporary movement that has sustaining influence is that *Partnerships for Parks* is a good means to increase citizen, community, and private sector involvement with the local parks. Mobilizing citizen and institutional initiatives can generate resources and creativity that would not

otherwise be available to the County. This Plan establishes an expectation that an expanded support structure is required to maintain and improve existing park facilities. Oversight of volunteerism and replenishment of volunteers becomes a parks administration and Parks Commissioners duty. Communicating opportunities rise to prominence in the plan's objectives and action strategies. The Parks and Recreation Commission's diverse composition routinely reveals means and paths to county park improvements.

Objectives are time-based as well because they are expected to be accomplished within the five-year plan. Related actions are listed below the objectives. The chart at the next section following the goals statement (Section VIIB) summarizes the actions in the individual parks and in the overall park system. Cost estimates evolve from goal setting. Responsible parties and the many potential funding resources are added. *A more detailed description of the nature of most funding sources is found in Appendix Q.*

Goal #1) to recognize and communicate the benefits of parks and recreation to promote healthy life styles, relieve environmental stress, attract visitors and tourists, offer recreational outlets for youth, attract retirees, enhance property values, and preserve the natural environment.

- Objective: The Parks and Recreation Commission will continue to use media, outreach, and marketing tools to offer the County parks as a means to healthier life styles, educational resources and exemplary best management practices for natural environment settings.

- **Actions:**

- Create a tri-fold brochure on the County Parks and offer it in display racks and available counter tops in public places about the County
- The County parks website page will be updated and current. The page will release news items on volunteer activity and ways to become involved
- The park system will expand social media digital connections to the public with park information "apps" for cell phone users in the example of securing pavilion reservations and audio tours.
- A philanthropic 'wish list' for park improvements will be posted and marketed
- Groups will be encouraged to conduct events in the county parks that involve, e.g., bike rides, fund raisers for their causes, annual company picnics,

health walks, and place-based education for all, especially youth

- Build the adopted brand for the county parks: *"forests, fields, pathways and waterways."*
- Every park will have an information kiosk to communicate water trail information, paddling conditions, bike loop trails about each park, applicable rules and safety information, *boat washing* to avoid aquatic invasive species spread, and QR codes for other information categories of interest



Sampling of kiosk signs at Geeck Meadows County Park and a Fenton park

Goal #2) to set as the first priority and to avoid an all too commonplace legacy of neglect in public parks—follow these practices: a) park maintenance, especially cleanliness at pavilions and restrooms; b) routine repairs of facilities; c) accessibility upgrades; d) replacement of worn signs and facilities, and; e) retrofitting and repositioning of the existing parks.

- Objective: Develop Level of Maintenance standards and a policy document for all parks to support those who have the responsibility of carrying out those duties.
 - **Actions:**
 - Parks Commission to define and adopt Level of Maintenance expectations for—identification of lower maintenance opportunity areas of parks, standards for safety, and minimum periodic work schedule for facilities that, by their nature, fall into disrepair.
 - Establish an accessibility plan and investment schedule for handicapped persons to use park facilities

- Define cleanliness and recycling opportunities and achieve the standard
- Design against vandalism and budget for vandalism
- Objective: Parks Commission to adopt an annual schedule of special maintenance duties that are otherwise subject to limited budget resources.
 - Actions:
 - Employ safety-first points of emphasis on many fronts
 - Make improvements for accessibility to park facilities
 - Continue the new full-time seasonal maintenance position for the parks
 - Periodically hold Commission meetings at parks for fine tuning special and routine maintenance preferences
- Objective: Through marketing and word-of-mouth relationships, expand the existing slate of volunteers for a prepared list of doable parks duties and improvements.
 - Actions:
 - Identify a coordinator to oversee the program
 - For each park identify duties suitable for volunteer work
 - Provide cost share funding for maintenance materials
 - Routinely use media to extol volunteerism, especially youth engagement
 - Establish criteria for naming rights of pavilions, trails and the island at Shiatown Park for reliable and significant involvement
 - Continue a tree memorial practice at each park for public expression of honored persons

Goal #3) to recognize the County’s fiscal limitations that imposed limits on previous park plan objectives and prepare a plan that is feasible under these conditions and close to the nature of the park properties land resource.

- Objective: Rely on the park’s natural assets with lower cost improvements on the landscape in contrast to facilities construction that would expect to be funded from the County general fund and require a higher level of maintenance.
 - Actions:
 - As maintenance is upgraded for existing parks, concentrate on pathway loops, conservation areas, tree planting, environmental demonstration sites, interpretive signs, river access for paddlers and fishers, and operational efficiency upgrades

- The P&R Commission is to review conditions and submit annual budget requests to the County Commissioners that meet minimum standards for park maintenance
- With volunteers, complete roadway and riverside native tree and shrub plantings along river courses. Install interpretive signs at specimen tree and shrub sites
- With volunteers and philanthropy, implement reforestation projects on low maintenance meadowlands at Shiatown, Kerby, and Geeck Road parks while preserving scenic view corridors at some sites
- With philanthropy and grants-in-aid, expand and upgrade pathways at Shiatown, and Pine Grove parks
- Through project donations, install park perimeter exercise paths at Shiatown, Kerby and Geeck Parks. Add viewing platform on the north end overlooking Leslie Lake in Kerby Park
- Provide play spaces in natural settings for unstructured imaginative play

Goal #4) to accomplish the parks improvements (that have regional service characteristics) through partnerships with other government units, state and federal financial sources, philanthropy, and local organizations. Trail ways and greenways leading to, from and through the County shall be at the forefront of this effort.

- Objective: Prepare an annual project plan for funding needed park improvements and communicate the plan.
 - Actions:
 - Parks commissioners and support personnel to meet with “host” townships (that have county parks within their borders) for a particular year’s objectives for parks and request ideas for assistance and means to accomplish plans
 - Attend to the Facebook page to engage park “friends” with reports on accomplishments, scenic photography, pictures of the public’s use of parks and calls for philanthropy. Post TikTok videos in that fashion.
 - Identify an on-call grant application writer to approach state and federal government and non-profit entities for grants-in-aid. Develop local match strategies
 - Publish maps from a bicycle route atlas of routes between open spaces, especially County parks and city

- and village parks along the Shiawassee River. Place on website and share with such as the CIS trail group
 - Install directional signs on kiosks at the park parking areas that show the recreational loop bicycle rides and destination based bicycle rides to open space and places of interest areas about the parks
 - Address restroom facility needs, especially at Pine Grove with upgraded access to all restroom facilities
 - Clearly establish grants administration personnel within the county system or the SEDP's new program for grant compliance, procurement, bidding, and reporting
- Objective: Work with the Shiawassee County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the County Historical Society, the Shiawassee Conservation District, the Friends of the Shiawassee River, the Shiawassee River National Water Trail Coalition, public health agencies, and other established interest groups in the County to expand resources and to build the context of County Parks into the regional quality of life fabric for area residents.
 - Actions:
 - Create an initial map of public open space and their interconnections and update the map every few years together with marketing and display in public places
 - Assure a place for County Parks in the publications and websites of other entities
 - Expand Michigan Historic Sites plaques/signs at Shiatown and Six Mile Creek. To economize, design and install "home-made" historic information signs elsewhere
 - For critical public health needs and refreshment, expand trail systems throughout the parks
 - Continue an invasive species management program, reforestation, and natural resource management efforts
 - Expand inclusiveness accommodations for the disabled population through accessible pathways, approachable play and picnic spaces, viewing platforms at scenic places, dedicated parking and barrier free restrooms

Goal #5) to apply a mix of recreational standards, facilities service levels, unique qualities and capacities of each park, benchmarking from other Counties, and information from surveys, focus group and interest groups in arriving at the recommendations for park improvements.

- Objective: Apply the results of the park facilities and park type analysis into the Plan to each Park's strategy list together with scheduling, cost estimates and identification of responsible entities.
 - Actions:
 - Elevate the facility characteristics of a *community park* to the plans for Kerby Road Park
 - Expand upgrades to Shiatown Park lands to incorporate the bottomlands of the former reservoir, thus elevating the park to regional park status together with park facilities characteristics of a *regional park* type
 - Better incorporate the five county parks fronting the Shiawassee River into the brand/image for the State and National Water Trail designations
 - Periodically evaluate National Water Trail compliance expectations with the seven best management practices outlined in Appendix N
 - Evaluate all pavilions for attractiveness and accessory things-to-do to increase rentals
- Objective: Develop an initial prioritization scheme for park improvements and a continuity of effort over the years for reevaluation of priorities.
 - Actions:
 - Adopt a six-year Capital Improvements Schedule (CIP) for each park and each improvement in the parks. The CIP spreadsheet shall provide prioritization of improvements, maintenance levels, names of responsible entities, cost estimates, public involvement opportunities and scheduling.
 - Establish a time for updating the CIP schedule and its priorities at the last organizational meeting of the year and communicate the results to appropriate parties for budgeting processes and public involvement
 - Comply with By-Laws and play a greater role in submitting an annual parks budget request to County Commissioners.

Goal #6) to improve the publicly owned riverbanks and adjoining lands along the Shiawassee River for advances in natural vegetation, illustrative contributions to climate change, fishing access, paddling, non-point source pollution practices, walkways and park-to-park bikeways.

- Objective: Adopt a program of incremental advances in the riverside parks for natural landscaping and access to the river in each of the parks
 - Actions:
 - On each park map identify park maintenance practices that establish a 25-foot or more buffer from the top of bank for natural deep-rooted vegetation without mowing. Preserve periodic access points for fishing, canoeing and river viewing with more benches
 - Within and about the 25-foot+ buffer, identify tree locations and native tree species, native grasses and wildflowers for planting in that realm for each riverside park. Add educational signs about the plantings for identification and information about their role
 - Improve fishing access locations for barrier free access
 - Build trail and pathway systems with the plan specified, durable surface material for walkable loops and to the fishing and river view locations; design for accessibility and apply weed control of the paths regularly
 - Coordinate with the Friends of the Shiawassee River for ongoing Stream Team macroinvertebrate river bottom sampling to record water quality conditions over time. Publicize the data through communicating results to media about the parks' and river environmental status.
 - With Conservation District assistance, plant *pollinator prairie habitats* where mowing may be reduced
 - Improve river access at Pine Grove Park bottomlands, with a new access point at Six-Mile Creek (West Haven) and an upgraded facility at Walnut Hills Campground.
 - Install water trail directional/information signs at the parks to explain routes, environmental issues, and historical/cultural aspects of the Shiawassee River
 - Install small solar powered devices for security lighting

■ **Goal #7)** to establish short-term and long-term development strategies. In the short term, existing parks that are considered park resources for the present and future shall accomplish a complete development and maintenance plan prior to the acquisition of new areas, unless... natural resource areas are acquired as a conservation zone and improved river access for the National Water Trail.



Friends of the River stream bed citizen science--Henderson



Example of fishing access site at Shiatown

- **Objective:** Expand the park system criteria (in concert with the Shiawassee National Water Trail development) to key sites that are beneficial for river access and historic/cultural significance.
 - **Actions:** (to rephrase some of Goal 6 actions)
 - Improve access to the bottomlands at Pine Grove Park through coordination with the private property owner of the bottomland area.
 - Work towards a new County Park at historic West Haven halfway between Henderson Park and Pine Grove Park for river access and the restoration of the 1885 Six Mile Creek Road Iron Bridge for pedestrian and bicycling traffic
 - For longer term continue negotiations with Walnut Hills Family Camp for upgraded access at this key access link in the water trail, improved parking, a new access driveway and better connection to the livery
 - Support the Village of Chesaning for a planned downtown access facility at the end point of the water trail, a point anticipated since the 2016 nomination of the National Water Trail

Objective: Work with partners in the public realm to investigate possibilities for conservation zones at the Rattlesnake Island (as locals have named it) wetlands grouping, Kiwanis Acres in Bennington Township and the Austin Twin Lakes natural area north of the City of Perry.

- **Actions:**
 - Identify Land Conservancies in Michigan and communicate the worth of these areas with the intent for their investment over time for preservation

- Seek environmental evaluation funds to reveal the qualities of these areas as a marketing tool to Michigan Land Conservancies
- Continuously communicate these interests with the Shiawassee Conservation District

Goal #8) to maintain receptivity for agreements between the County and other local governments and entities on any number of park conditions or opportunities, e.g., joint oversight, financing, usage and maintenance of certain recreational facilities and areas.

- Objective: Identify the entities with a geographic connection to parks or a thematic relationship with parks for the purpose of joint oversight of the parks or aspects of the parks.
 - Actions:
 - Scan State enabling acts that offer inter-local agreements for presentation to other public bodies together with a request for their engagement in county parks maintenance and development
 - Each park to be equipped with a list of connected entities, their chief contact and a relevant Park Commissioner or County staff person
 - List possibilities for others’ engagement with the parks
 - Continue these park-organization partnerships: Geeck-Durand AmVets, Shiatown-Durand Rotary, Lytle-Corunna Rotary, and Kerby-Caledonia Township
- Objective: Work to develop more accessibility to recreational facilities that are privately owned or quasi-public to provide leisure time opportunities to the public.



*Walnut Hills Private Launch
New Landing Upgrade Need*



*Corunna Rotary Bench at Lytle
Accessibility Upgrade Need*

Photo Page of Park Images Related to Goals, Objectives and Actions



Pre-launch Conditions at Shiatown-May, 2016



Today's Launch at Shiatown



Kerby Park Volleyball Court maintenance need and supply of poles and in-season net



Henderson Park accessibility pathway need



Kerby Park north to become a pollinator prairie with a loop pathway through it



Henderson Park Loop Trail Section—2022 with this scenic segment along the River

- Actions:
 - Acknowledge swimming beaches at campgrounds that offer day-use access to their swimming beaches and where accomplished, market that opportunity together with related county parks marketing efforts
 - Promote nearby recreational and historical sites and experience activities along the National Water Trail

Goal #9) to renovate and reposition the parks into alternative marketing themes such as an “outdoor special event center”, “health and fitness system”, “neighborhood enhancement investments,” or “cultural-historic park”. Encourage park and/or facility naming for ongoing development and maintenance support. Emphasize market opportunity for sustaining the parks together with market demand.

- Objective: Together with implementation of the five-year plan, set aside meeting time of the Parks and Recreation Commission for fashioning authentic identifiers for county parks and facilities.
 - Actions:
 - List park locations and facilities for naming rights, e.g. the island at Shiatown Park, improved playgrounds, reforestation areas, pavilions, and canoe landings
 - Use trailhead signs for relabeling trails with information for health and fitness and naming recognition
 - Gain state recognition and signs for Historic Sites Registry at Shiatown and Six Mile Creek in West Haven. Develop locally designed historic sign placards for Geeck, Kerby, and Henderson
 - Use project signs where there are new park investments
 - Build identification with park neighbors for watchful eyes, caretaking walks, and interpreter guides
 - Rename parks for their function, e.g., Lytle Landing Park, Geeck Meadows Park, Shiatown Regional Park, Henderson Riverside Park, and Kerby Community Park
 - Establish native plant areas in the parks for interested citizenry to adopt and care for trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and grasses
 - Create a monarch butterfly milkweed habitat and a migration route from Oakley to Byron with county park sites being among principle linking sites

- Objective: Use image building with social media and public relations tools to reflect the unique, highly valued properties of the natural resource character of the parks, especially Geeck, Shiatown, Henderson and eventually Pine Grove parks.
 - Actions:
 - Make speakers available to present park features to service clubs, annual meetings of “first cousin” organizations, and schools
 - Use the close-to-home advantages of county parks for lower income households to experience the parks’ open space qualities and healthful benefits from exercise; maintain affordability
 - Endorse youth organization & school trips to county parks and supply guides for the learning experience in the example of the reforestation site at Shiatown; expand interpretive signs for the new forest

Goal #10) to identify and pursue incremental improvements for non-motorized transportation from every Shiawassee County home to every park and open space area through pathways, accommodating low traffic volume County roads, rail trails, and bikeways.

- Objective: Accomplish a comprehensive non-motorized transportation plan for Shiawassee County.
 - Actions:
 - Coordinate the County park plans with the efforts of the Miner Trail group, bicycle organizations and health advocate institutions to create the comprehensive plan for non-motorized transportation
 - Work with the County Road Commission to understand possibilities for bike-friendly County roads, signs and the means for upgrading berms on best traveled roadways for bikers.
 - Work with the interests to expand the CIS rail trail from Ovid to Owosso to connect with the James Miner Trail, and eventually a new rail trail between Corunna and Durand. Emphasize the road biking connections to County Parks off these trails.
 - If the rails-to-trails segment between Corunna and Durand happens, reopen Davis Roadside Park as a rest area for trail users.

- o Market Appendix K for the park kiosk posting actions in the Plan Supplement on Shiawassee Bicycling.



Goal #8 Example: Mid-County campground with swimming pass availability. Private enterprise venture; deemed sufficient facility type for basic recreational outlets

SECTION VI B. Capital Improvements Schedule, Costs & Funding Sources

Based on the goals, actions and objectives, the Plan implementation of physical improvements to the parks is charted below into a 15-year Capital Improvements Plan schedule where each park has its own set of actions and a prioritization of actions within one of three time stages 5 year (Short Term), 10 year (Medium Term) & 15 years (Longer Term) to completion. There is a cost estimate of the plan's short and medium term actions, and a projection of funding sources for each action item. This Plan will be updated at the Commission's annual budget request process to the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners.

The action items above that are not physical improvements in the parks but are processes, especially marketing initiatives and grant administration, are intended to be implemented every year of the Plan according to priorities of the Parks and Recreation Commission.



Osprey Nest Design Samples for New Bottomlands Addition to Shiatown Park.

The next six pages, coincidentally the end of the Plan text (followed by the Appendix sections), offer charts of the Capital Improvements Plan for all the parks. These are graphic representations of the goals, objectives, actions, public input, and needs analysis. The last two pages of the CIP are a summary statement of all the park actions by category of activity. This is a valuable chart for a better understanding the nature of the parks plans through organizing the sought after facilities and operations under seven headings, e.g., *waterfront upgrades, walking/hiking, environmental.*

The CIP schedule herein is not to be confused with the CIP process followed under the Michigan Planning Acts whereby Planning Commissions lay out a six-year plan for improvements, a process more closely aligned with city, township and village governments with public works and street departments.

Appendix Q offers an array of grant sources. Shiawassee County has experience with two of them (LWCF & MNRTF) at Pine Grove Park and Henderson Park (two in the 1980's and one at Henderson just completed).

This schedule does not prioritize park investments. With the exception of the last three parks listed in the succeeding Capital Improvements Charts (all await opportunities for action within the plan's timeframe), all other upgrades fall within the five-year scope. A likely exception is that some will not occur in that time period owing to the capacity of the system to conduct all the work involved. Of the \$1,248,700 investment outlays, a fair measure of local expenditures, after grants and donations, is 50% or less than that number.

CHART OF 6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE

2023-2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN SCHEDULE

Page 1 of 4

<i>Park Name and Project List</i>	Estimated Cost	Potential \$ Sources
SHIATOWN COUNTY PARK		
WEST and SOUTH PARK:		
Upland park area trail; 4500 lf (2,000' new)	\$25,000	lwcf
Lowland trail loop; 5,300'x6'x8" @\$2.45/sqft	\$80,000	lwcf;msg
Invasive species control area tree plantings	\$5,000	gf; wm; fpp
18 space parking both sides of Ash Street	\$5,000	gf; wm
Accessibility Path and Two Tables; West Pavilion	\$2,000	lwcf
Shiawassee town/Michigan Historic Place Marker	\$800	wm
Information kiosk	\$400	gf
Upland Viewing Platform at Embankment	\$5,000	lwcf; wm; fpp
Small Play Structure -- West Side Pavilion Area	\$20,000	lwcf; wm
EAST PARK:		
Loop Trail -- East Park North Section; 2,540 lf	\$35,000	lwcf
Concrete launch approach 8'x40'/restoration	\$3,000	gf
Viewing Platform East Side	\$2,000	gf
Accessibility Path & Tables -- Newberry Rd. Pavilion	\$2,000	lwcf
Expanded 15 Space Parking Newberry Rd.	\$3,000	lwcf
Bennington Road Sidewalk and Ramp to West Park	\$50,000	lwcf; wm; msg
5 Park Benches--Along Trails and at Play Areas	\$4,000	lwcf
3 Concrete Handicapped Parking Spaces	\$3,000	gf; wm
Park closes at dusk sign at lower parking lot	\$250	gf
Park sign about east side history & information kiosk	\$1,100	gf
Invasive species control area & selected tree plantings	\$5,000	fpp; gf
Sub-Total:	\$251,550	
GEECK MEADOWS COUNTY PARK		
Park Entrance Sign--(rename 'Geek Meadows?')	\$600	gf
Loop Trail; 3,400 lf; (@ \$2.20/sq.ft.)	\$60,000	wm; gf
Tree Plantings Various Locations & Roadside	\$5,000	wm; gf
Upgrade Kayak Launch connector to Lot	\$2,000	gf
Upgrade Barrier Free Path to west pavilion	\$1,200	gf
Two Directional Signs	\$800	wm
Solar Powered Security Light/post at Parking Lot	\$800	gf
Convert west side mowing area to pollinator prairie	\$5,000	fpp; wm; gf
Creative Play space area at East Pavilion	\$2,000	wm; gf; vol
Two Barrier Free Tables to west pavilion	\$1,600	gf
Invasive species control	\$3,000	fpp; gf
Historic Sign for Exchange Trading Post	\$300	gf
Upgrade accessibility to Vault Toilet & H/P parking	\$1,000	gf
Four Park Benches (one at Kayak Launch)	\$2,800	gf
Sub-Total:	\$86,100	

<i>Park Name and Project List</i>	Estimated Cost	Potential \$ Sources
HENDERSON RIVERSIDE COUNTY PARK		
Creative play spaces; central and west pavilions	\$10,000	gf grant match
More work at pollinator area planting site	\$500	wm
Sub-Total:	\$10,500	

KERBY ROAD COUNTY PARK		
New Roof at School House	\$15,000	gf
Refurbish School House 40'x70'@\$120/sq.ft.	\$330,000	gf; wm
Trail Loop Installation; 2,500lf @\$2.16/sq.ft.	\$35,000	lwcf
Lakeside 10' Viewing Platform at north Trail Loop	\$4,000	wm; lwcf
Play Sructure north of South Pavilion	\$20,000	wm;lwcf
Pickle Ball Court, fenced	\$20,000	wm; lwcf
Recyclable Trash Receptacles	\$200	
Information Kiosk	\$400	gf
Upgrade 2 Gravel Parking Areas @\$2.50/sq.ft	\$18,000	wm; gf
Relocate Ball Diamond Backstop	\$500	gf
Accessibility Paths and Tables at all Pavilions	\$4,500	lwcf
Serptintine mound with creative play spaces	\$5,000	wm
Add four park benches trailside and play areas	\$3,200	lwcf
Selected Trees and pollinator prairie area	\$15,000	cfg
Invasive Species Management unmowed area	\$3,000	fpp
Shade Trees at Benches and Play Areas	\$4,000	cfg; lwcf
Sub-Total:	\$477,800	

PINE GROVE_M-52 COUNTY PARK		
Upgrade Trail Loop; 800lf; & two benches	\$12,000	lwcf
Accessibility approach to Pavilion	\$1,500	gf; wm
Accessibility picnic table at Pavilion	\$800	gf; wm
Accessible Vault Toilet with grab bars	\$8,000	gf; wm
Upgrade drain crossing pedestrian bridge	\$400	gf
New Parking/Drive at south park for launch site*	\$30,000	lwcf; msg
New launch site at base of hill with bench & signs*	\$6,000	lwcf; msg
27 step stairway and kayak chute at hill*	\$6,000	lwcf; msg
Two Trash receptacles	\$800	gf
Invasive species management	\$2,000	gf, fpp
Private Property Signs at kayak landing*	\$400	gf
Information kiosk at south parking lot*	\$400	gf
Sub-Total:	\$68,300	

*Indicates optional park improvements if Six Mile Creek is developed as a new landing site or a land exchange for bottomlands launch at Johnstone Bridge to the east.

<i>Park Name and Project List</i>	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources
-----------------------------------	----------------	---------------------------

LYTLE ROAD LAUNCH COUNTY PARK

Information Kiosk	\$400	gf
Accessibility path to vaykt toilet; add grab bars	\$800	wm
Invasive species management	\$1,500	
Replace guard rail with split rail fence	\$1,000	fpp
h/p parking sign and h/p picnic table	\$800	fpp
Roadside and riverside trees	\$3,000	fpp
450' Path widening (to 4') to bridge & 2 benches	\$5,000	fpp
Sub-Total:	\$12,500	

A. J. DAVIS ROADSIDE PARK*

Acquire Ann Arbor Railroad Property	\$0	By Others
Construct Raiil Trail Corunna to Vernon	\$0	By Others
Park Sign Along Trail	\$300	future
Three Bay Parking Lot on Geeck Road	\$3,000	future
Two Trailside Benches	\$1,600	future
Trailside Plantings and Wildflowers	\$2,000	future
Sub-Total:	\$6,900	

*This parklet is decommissioned and only reopened upon development of a Corunna to Durand Rail Trail

NEW COUNTY PARK--WEST HAVEN LAUNCH

Acquire land along Six Mile Creek Road-1 acre	\$40,000	nrtf; wm; grants
Restore Iron Bridge	\$200,000	nrtf; msg
Construct roadside parking area -- nine spaces	\$9,000	nrtf; msg
Information Kiosk & Trash Receptacle	\$600	gf
Accessible Vault Toilet with grab bars	\$8,000	wm; msg
State of Michigan Historic Place Sign	\$800	gf
Install Kayak Landing and Signs	\$8,000	wm
Sub-Total:	\$266,400	

LEASE/PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT WITH WALNUT HILLS FAMILY CAMP

Land Interests/Easement/Lease/Legal	\$10,000	wm
Upgrade Launch Facility	\$3,000	wm
Accessible Vault Toilet with grab bars	\$8,000	wm
Parking Lot and Loading Zone Area	\$30,000	wm
Perimeter Fencing	\$6,000	wm
Gate Controls/New Entrance	\$10,000	wm
Information Kiosk & Arrival/Landing Signs	\$900	gf
Launch Site Bench & Recyclable Trash Receptacle	\$750	gf
Sub-Total:	\$68,650	msg (all projects)
GRAND TOTAL -- ALL PARK UPGRADES	\$1,248,700	

NAME OF FUNDING SOURCE	Source Symbols
Land and Water Conservation Fund	LWCF
Mich Natural Resources Trust Fund	NRTF
State Recreation Passport Grants	PG
Michigan Spark Grants	MSG
Community Forestry Grants	CFG
County General Fund & bldgs/gds staff	GF
County Waste Management Green Fund	WM
Bridge Restoration Funding	MDOT
Foundations, Philanthropic, Partnerships	FPP
Volunteer Labor, Materials and/or Equipment	VOL

The image below is the cover page of a report at [Appendix T](#). The collaborative efforts of the Shiawassee Conservation District demonstrate a benefit of data/reports in planning for park improvements.

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY

Conducted by the



SHIAWASSEE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

JUNE, 2022

SECTION VI C. Chart of Planned Park Facilities and Operational Upgrades by Seven Categories

Page 1 of 2

Park Category	Plan Feature
ACTIVE WATERFRONTS	>Canoe launches at West Haven, Lerhing Bridge and Pine Grove
	>Fishing Piers at Geeck and Shiatown
	>More benches along river banks with paths
	>Land Exchange at Pine Grove Park
	>Land Acquisition at West Haven
	>Promote Friends of the Shiawassee River water quality research in all five riverside parks
	>Marketing National Water Trail
	>Paddling Information Signs at launches and kiosks
	>Tree line Geeck's selected waterfront areas
	>Name the Shiatown Island
	>Arched footbridge to Shiatown Island
	>Water Trail information signs at all launches
	>Lytle Park riverside path and fishing access
	>Geeck's new park addition fishing access
WALKING/HIKING	>Loop pathways at Geeck, Shiatown, Lytle, Pine Grove and Kerby Parks
	>A.J. Davis Park development upon creation of Corunna to Durand rail trail
	>Bennington Road Sidewalk East-West Park Connector at Shiatown
	>Routinely attend to Level of Maintenance Standards for pathways
FISHING	>Maintain and plant shade trees along waterfront favorable to fish habitat
	>Maintain river brush and fallen trees along park shorelines for fish habitat
	>Support Walleye migration from Byron Launch to Chesaning through dam removals
	>Post sport fish photo pages at kiosks
	>Permit small fishing boat access at launches
BIKING	>Supply information kiosks at all parks with road biking loop maps
	>West Haven 1885 Iron Bridge Restoration for cross-County and bike loop Connector Route
	>Encourage Road Commission non-motorized transportation investment for selected bikeway route road berm upgrades
	>Marketing of Destination and Recreational Loop Bike Rides at County Parks

Park Category	Plan Feature
ENVIRONMENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>>Invasive plant species control at all parks--ongoing <li>>Nature play areas at Shiatown, Kerby, Geeck and Henderson <li>>Encourage friends of the Shiawassee River stream team operations in riverside parks <li>>Roadside tree plantings at Geeck Meadows <li>>Native grasses, wildflowers and shrub plantings along all riverfronts at 25'-50' depths from top of banks. <li>>Convert many mowed areas to pollinator prairies at Shiatown, Henderson, Kerby and Geeck <li>>Selected area tree plantings at Kerby and Shiatown
PARK FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>>18 space parking both sides of Ash Street at Shiatown <li>>Complete mid-lot parking facility at Shiatown <li>>Expand hilltop parking lot at Shiatown to 15 spaces <li>>Construct viewing area at Shiatown West on trail at edge of embankment <li>>Install park closes at dusk signs at all parks <li>>Install history information signs at Geeck, and Shiatown <li>>Upgrade parking lot to launch path at Geeck <li>>Implement accessibility plan at all parks for tables, path surfaces, and grab bars at toilets <li>>Refurbish Kerby school house for public use <li>>Expand/Upgrade parking lots for Kerby Park <li>>Install pickleball court at Kerby Park <li>>Acquire and invest in comprehensive parklets for riversides at West Haven and Lehring Bridge
OPERATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>>Implement Level of Maintenance Plan <li>>Expand marketing for philanthropic gifts <li>>Increase operational and facility partnerships <li>>Upgrade rules enforcement procedures <li>>Create grant coordinator position <li>>Routinely schedule accessibility conditions and corrections

SECTION VII. Local Adoption of the Five-Year Plan

Before plan adoption the text to this point has established and evaluated:

- the legacy park installations since 1965
- the natural character of the parks and facilities inventory
- the evaluation of national and regional park standards for the county population
- comparisons to vicinity parks and operations
- conditions of the area economy
- organizational matters, budgets, grant sources, and
- the publics' input from a variety of sources.

Then plan was produced and prepared for public review, public hearings and ultimately plan adoption through the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners. Efforts were made with local news articles, website postings, public presentations with five local organizations, legal notices, library plan copies for public scrutiny, consultations with park neighbors and five city planning commissioners and their park commissioners, and plan transmittals to regional and county planning commissioners.

After two published advertisements, a public hearing was held by the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners on December 15, 2022. After the public hearing and consideration of comments at the referenced hearing, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Plan and directed the adopted plan for transmittal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for its review, comment and revision requests, if any, and approval. The evidence of the legal notices for the hearing, and minutes of the hearing, together with the adoption resolution are available in the Appendix of this Plan at Appendix sub-sections X, Y and Z.

SECTION VIII. APPENDIX SECTION

Throughout the main text of the Plan, references are made to more detailed data resources, park standards tables, expanded subject areas, site plans and MDNR required plan adoption information. The information, together with many sections of the main text offer, in addition, guides and tools for park management. The Plan becomes a contemporary reference document for the use of administrators and parks commissioners throughout the term of the Plan.

APPENDIX A-1 – POPULATION DATA AND TRENDS

Shiawassee County's population **declined 3.6%** from the **70,638** people who lived there in **2010**. For comparison purposes, the population in the US **grew 6.5%** and the population in Michigan **grew only 0.9%**.

The County's population has lessened in the past 40 years. Despite the loss, the figures below illustrate a relatively steady level of occupancy:

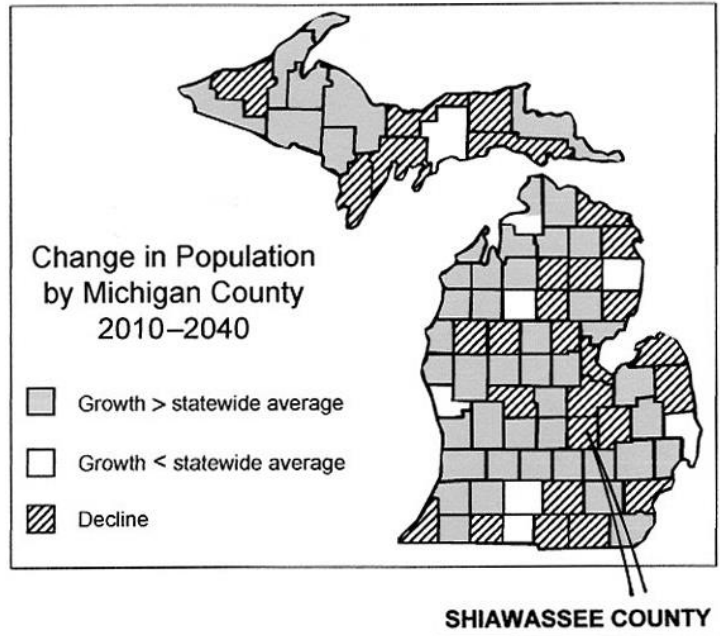
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percentage Change from prior #</u>
2020	68,094	-3.6%
2010	70,638	-1.5%
2000	71,714	+2.6%
1990	69,877	-1.9%
1980	71,240	--

Another way of stating the condition is that the population has declined 4.4% since 1980. The County is influenced with economy setbacks in Genesee and Saginaw counties with their historic reductions in auto worker and auto supplier jobs. Smaller family size is the greatest influence on the County's population decline. Out-migration is an added factor but unfortunately operative most importantly within the family formation age groups.

The data effect of family size is better understood when the increasing number of dwelling units stands in contrast. For example there were 24,464 dwelling units in the County in 1980. That figure grew to 30,289 in 2020 for an increase of 5,825 dwelling units or a 23.8% increase. Contrast that with the population decline of 4.3% for the same time period to understand the influence of average family size.

The map below from Donald Grimes at the University of Michigan's Social Research Center shows the 30-year expectation for lowering population numbers for the County. For the purpose of parks planning based on facilities and park type standards, the five-year Plan will use the 68,000 population number.

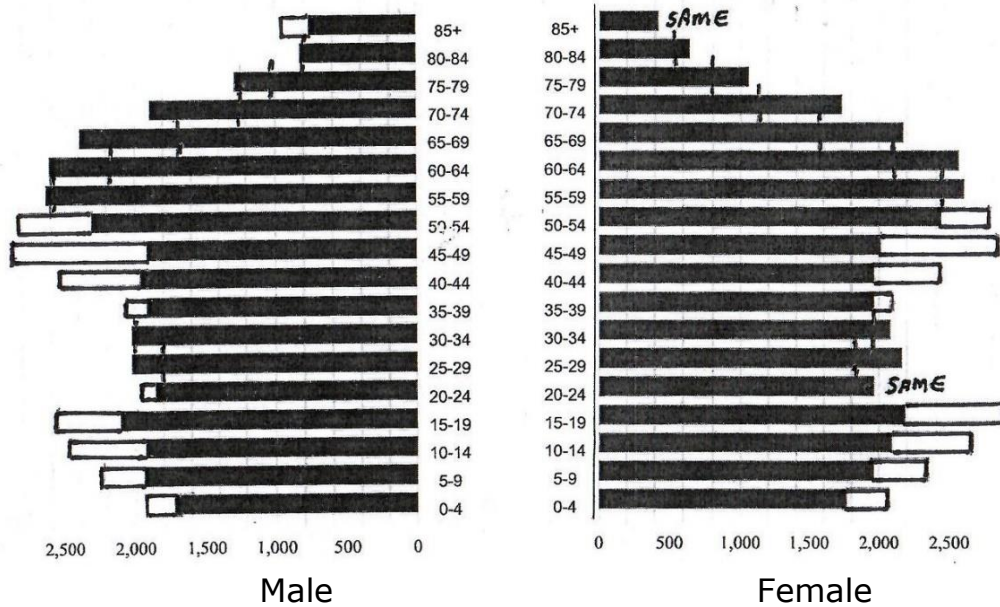
On this map the influence from and dependence on Genesee County and Saginaw County is portrayed consistently with the data. Growth in the Lansing region is confined to a few townships in SW Shiawassee County and slight compared with other suburban areas about Lansing in Clinton, Ingham and Eaton counties. Overall Michigan, since 2010 has been the sixth worse state in the Union with respect to population growth—only 44,000 new residents in that 10-year time period.



Summary statement: Shiawassee County’s population in 2045 is projected to be 64,050. With the decline in family formation and fertility rates, only net in-migration and immigration can reverse this trend. Neither have had a positive influence in the recent past. What is positively influential on the parks is the number of households has increased—a changed audience to rationalize a steady-state progression for county parks.

Aging. The aging of Shiawassee County, and much of Michigan, has been progressing for the 65+ year olds for many decades. That most recent median age level, 2020, is 43 years (up from 41.3 in 2010) with Michigan at 39.8 (up from only 39.3) years. This is not reflective of growth areas of the U.S. The percentage of the 65+ age group for the overall population is 18.2 % (up from 16.4% in 2010) to 17.1% (15.4%, State in 2010). The U. Of Michigan Population Studies Center projects that nearly 1 in 4 Michigan residents will be over 65 years-old unless international in-migration has its observed historical effect on age levels elsewhere in the country. Consider the dynamics of the age-structure pyramid that combines 2010 and 2020 Census tabulations.

The pyramid shows 2010 in two ways. The first is an extended rectangle in each respective age grouping to show a greater number of persons in 2010, and the second is a set of tick marks above and below each grouping show a lesser representation for that age group in comparison to 2020. The left chart is male and the right chart is female. There is a slight statistical bias in the graphic owing to 1400 less people in 2020. That decline spreads out the entire chart without too great a bias for reflecting the changes in the past 10 years:



AGE STRUCTURE PYRAMID COMPARISON 2010 (blank rectangles and tick marks) AND 2020—Census Bureau Data

There are two declines of note for both genders. The first is the 35 to 54 years drop in 2020 and the second is the 0 to 19 decrease. The middle age falloff in the chart translates into a 21% decline. The 2020 advances are in the older age groupings. The annual fourth Friday count for all county schools shows the present number of students is only 75% of what were in schools in 2010. That is 1 in 4 less students in a relatively short time span.

Within all households, the 0 to 34 age groups comprise only 40.8% of households versus 44.2% at the state level. This family formation “crowd” comprises a high level of participation rates for park and recreation. By 2030 seniors will outnumber children in Michigan thus an accent on passable trails.

Race/Diversity. This statistic is important for its reflection on diversity within a community and an indicator of vibrancy. Economic statistics show a statistically significant correlation with various measures of diversity and prosperity for a given metro area. Shiawassee County does not have racial diversity. Its numbers reveal a stark contrast with State levels:

Racial Composition – 2020 American Community Survey

	<u>Caucasian</u>	<u>Afr-Amer.</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>2 Or More Races</u>
State of Michigan	80.4%	15%	5.3%	3.7%	2.6%
Shiawassee County	97.4%	1.2%	3.1%	0.7%	1.5%

The Hispanic category is double counted with Caucasians with the way persons filled out their race on the Census forms. The Hispanic population percentage has had the greatest growth over ten years yet still slight in totality.

Michigan Population Trends. The University of Michigan Population Statistics Center projects various demographic attributes through 2040. These are State level projections that are important for understanding the context in which the park system might operate and develop.

- There will be a net loss of population in exchange with other states. Michigan was second to last in population growth, 2010-2020.
- There will be few immigrants. With 36,000,000 refugees worldwide the Truman/Biden cap of refugees has declined from 110,000 in prior years to 18,000 today. Testimonial evidence of refugees enriching company and community culture is not widespread.
- Total employment will be dropping compared to the U.S. (+7%)
- The percentage of aging persons will continue to advance.
- The Hispanic race showed the most increase since 2010 and will continue to represent a higher percentage.

At U.S. levels in 1990, there were 71 births for women at ages 15-49. In 2019 that figure declined to 58 births. More revealing is that surveys show 44% of Americans aged 18 to 49 are not likely to have children. This trend has the expected implications on parks.

The topic of demography has implications with a park planning process. Within the State of Michigan and Shiawassee County there are shifts, the most important being the affordability of parks and their recreation programs with a declining population and relative well-being. These numbers have adverse effects on property values and the consequential public funds available to parks and recreation. Greater representation of older populations recreate differently, mostly passive activity, and require attention to accessibility. Shiawassee County's relatively poor health conditions for so many and higher levels of poverty command accessibility considerations in parks, affordability of park use, and attention to walkability. The homeowner housing characteristics are slightly higher than the State's. Owner occupancy is 70% versus 61% for Michigan. That difference is a product of the County's rural/urban character over higher density Michigan metro-areas with alternative housing. This statistic does not influence park plan decision making, except for what is deemed a lesser park needs for the large lot rural homeowners with their own open spaces.

Will the demographic “imperative” (influential data trends) force choices in the event of limited budgets in the example of contrasting facilities shown in the photographs? Each has a place in the parks with the greatest challenge to being greater accessibility considerations with related images shown below:



and...



APPENDIX A-2: CENSUS DATA – BORDERING COUNTIES

CENSUS DATA BORDERING COUNTY COMPARISONS

COUNTY	Pop'n 2010	Pop'n 2020	% Change	Pop'n 2021*	POP/Sq.Mi.	65 and over	Under 18	Households	House Units	Med House \$
SHIAWASSEE	70,648	68,094	-3.62%	67,877	133	19.0%	20.8%	27,762	30,269	\$127,500
CLINTON	75,382	79,128	4.97%	79,426	133	17.5%	22.1%	30,182	32,155	\$185,500
LIVINGSTON	180,967	193,866	7.13%	195,014	320	17.9%	20.8%	77,728	72,905	\$256,100
INGHAM	280,895	284,900	1.43%	284,034	505	13.9%	19.7%	114	124,349	\$143,900
GENESEE	425,790	406,211	-4.60%	404,208	669	18.0%	22.3%	170,581	192,902	\$119,500
SAGINAW	200,169	190,124	-5.02%	189,591	250	19.6%	21.4%	78,980	88,036	\$106,200
MICHIGAN	9,883,640	10,077,331	1.96%	10,050,811	175	17.7%	21.5%	3,980,408	4,629,611	\$162,600
Regional Avg Except Liv'n	170,543	N/A	-2.30%	N/A	338	17.6%	21.3%	N/A	N/A	\$136,520

*Estimate

COUNTY	Per Cap Inc	Med HH Inc	Living In Poverty	Bachelor's Educ	% Working	Commute Time-Min	Persons/HH	Owner Occupancy	Bldg Permits	Live in Same House 1 yr
SHIAWASSEE	\$29,544	\$56,436	11.60%	17.8%	59.3%	27.4	2.43	76.9%	73	91.0%
CLINTON	\$37,513	\$72,490	7.90%	32.1%	63.7%	24.2	2.59	82.1%	341	89.7%
LIVINGSTON	\$41,039	\$84,272	5.30%	36.5%	65.1%	32.0	2.60	85.1%	571	90.5%
INGHAM	\$30,728	\$55,523	13.80%	39.2%	64.5%	20.7	2.40	58.8%	571	76.9%
GENESEE	\$28,696	\$50,269	18.30%	21.5%	57.6%	26.3	2.35	70.0%	485	87.5%
SAGINAW	\$28,628	\$49,565	15.90%	22.1%	56.8%	21.9	2.34	71.5%	245	88.2%
MICHIGAN	\$32,854	\$59,234	12.60%	30.0%	57.2%	24.6	2.45	71.7%	19,735	86.6%
Regional Avg, Exc Liv'n	\$31,022	\$56,857	13.50%	26.5%	60.4%	24.1	2.42	71.9%	N/A	86.7%

APPENDIX B – MUNICIPAL FACILITIES, EXCEPT COUNTY PARKS

FACILITY	Municipality Name**													TOTAL FACILITIES
	OWOSSO CITY	CORUNNA CITY	DURAND CITY	PERRY CITY	LAINGS-BURG CITY	VERNON VILLAGE	BYRON VILLAGE	LENNON VILLAGE	MORRICE VILLAGE	BANCROFT VILLAGE	OID VILLAGE	WOODHULL TWP		
Basketball Courts	1**		5	2	2	1	1			1		1		14
Tennis Courts	2				2	1			2					7
-Pickle Ball Courts	1				1									1
Beach Volleyball	2	1			1	1	1							6
Ball Fields	9	9	5	3	4	2	1	3	2	3	5	3		49
Soccer	5	1	1	1	1						2			10
Playground Structures	3	2	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1		21
Ice Skating/In-Line	2	1	1											4
Sledding Hill	3	1	1	2				1						8
Trails	6	2			1						1	1		11
Picnic Tables w/Grills	10	17	7		6		1	3			2			46
Benches	20	15	6	2	14	2	3	2			5	6		75
Pavilions	8	4	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	2		32
Skate Park	2				1									3
Disc Golf	1	1												2
Horseshoes		8												8
Amphitheater/Gazebo	2	3	1		1									6
Community Ctr/Historic	2	2	1	1					1					7
Urban Forests	1	1									1			3
Open Space Playfield	6	2	3	2	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		20
Splash Park	1													1
Fishing/Water Frontage	8	3				2								13
River Paddling Access	4	2				1	1							8
Rest Rooms/Porta Johns	6	2	3	2	2	1	1	1		1	2	1		22
Drinking Water	4	2				1						3		10
PARK ACREAGE	260	107	31	24	37	6	9	5	6	3	35	20		543

*A chart on school grounds facilities is provided elsewhere in this Plan and effectively expands several park-like facilities equitable throughout the County.
 **The Village of new Lothrop and all other townships do not have parks; some townships contribute resources to other's parks.
 ***Numbers indicate quantity of facilities; in this example the city of Owosso has one basketball court in its entire system.

APPENDIX C--COUNTY PARKS FACILITIES

PARK FEATURES/FACILITIES:	PARK NAME:							Totals:
	Henderson	Shiatown	Kerby	Geeck	Lytle	Pine Grove	A.J. Davis	
Pavilions With Picnic Tables	3	2	3	2		1		11
Picnic Sites w/grills	5	1	2	4	1			13
Benches	12		2	2	1			17
Playgrounds/Playscapes	3	2	1	2				8
Open Space Play Areas	2	2	2	2	No	1	No	9
Sledding Hill		1						1
Beach Volleyball	1		1					2
Open Space Fields/Ballfields	2		1			1		4
Trails-Hiking/Exercise	1	1				1		3
Horseshoes*	4	2	1	2				9
Viewing Deck/Area		1						1
Fishing/Water Frontage	3	3	No	2	2	1	No	10
River Paddling Access	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes*	N/A	5
Information Signs/Kiosks	2	1		1				4
Woodlots/Natural Areas	2	2	No	No	No	1	1	7
Drinking Water	4	1				1		6
Pit Toilets/Rest Rooms	3	2	1	1	1			8
Historic Sites		1		1				2
Parking Spaces	50	40	45	20	10	50	2	217
PARK ACREAGE	32	128	9	10	1.5	23	0.5	204
Facilities Not Present in County Parks:	NOT YET APPLICABLE							
Disc Golf								
Splash Park								
Ball Diamonds w_infields								
Ice Skating or Skate Park								
Community Center								
Trails for Biking								
Band Shelter/Gazebos								
Tennis or Pickle Ball								
Campsites and/or Swimming								
Soccer/ga ga courts								
Basketball								

*Pine Grove River Access Unimproved

APPENDIX D – Page 1 of 3 – Recreational Facility Standards

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
BADMINTON	1620 sq. ft.	Singles - 17' x 44' Doubles - 20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on all sides.	Long axis north-south.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access.
BASKETBALL 1. YOUTH	2400-3036 sq. ft.	46'-50' x 84'	Long axis north-south.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
2. HIGH SCHOOL	5040-7280 sq. ft.	50' x 84'				
3. COLLEGIATE	5600-7960 sq. ft.	50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides.				
HANDBALL (3-4 WALL)	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall. 1000 for 3-wall	20' x 40' - Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting.
ICE HOCKEY	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Rink 85' x 200' (minimum 85' X 185'. Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area).	Long axis north-south if outdoors.	Indoor- 1 per 100,000. Outdoor- depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting number of units. Best as part of multi- purpose facility.
TENNIS	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court. (2 acres for complex.)	36' x 78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north-south.	1 court per 2000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/ community park or near school site.
VOLLEYBALL	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30' x 60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides.	Long axis north-south.	1 court per 5000	½ - 1 mile	Same as other court activities (e.g., badminton, basketball, etc.).
BASEBALL 1. OFFICIAL	3.0-3.85 A minimum	• Baselines-90' Pitching distance-60.5' Foul lines-min. 320' Center field-400'+	Locate home plate so pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound to run east-northeast.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
2. LITTLE LEAGUE	1.2 A minimum	• Baselines-60' Pitching distance-46' Foul lines-200' Center field-200' - 250'		Lighted- 1 per 30,000		

APPENDIX D – Page 2 of 3 – Recreational Facility Standards

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
FIELD HOCKEY	Minimum 1.5A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Fall season-long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, or soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
FOOTBALL	Minimum 1.5A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
SOCCER	1.7 to 2.1A	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' minimum clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
GOLF-DRIVING RANGE	13.5A for minimum of 25 tees	900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis southwest/northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of golf course complex as a separate unit. May be privately operated.
1/4-MILE RUNNING TRACK	4.3A	Overall width-276' length-600' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest/southeast with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
SOFTBALL	1.5 to 2.0A	Baselines-60' Pitching distance-45' (men) - 40' (women). Fast pitch field radius from plate-225' between foul lines. Slow pitch-275' (men) - 250' (women). 120' x 80'	Same as baseball.	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼- to ½- mile	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
MULTIPLE RECREATION COURT (BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS)	9,840 sq. ft.		Long axis of courts with primary use north-south.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	In neighborhood or community parks.
TRAILS	N/A	Well defined head. Capacity- Rural trails 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails-90 hikers/ day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	

APPENDIX D – Page 3 of 3 – Recreational Facility Standards

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
ARCHERY RANGE	Minimum 0.65A	300' length x minimum 10' between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range. Minimum of 30' clear space behind targets. Minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker.	Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/metro park complex.
COMBINATION SKEET AND TRAP FIELD (8 STATION)	Minimum 30A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within two superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within two superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast/southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/metro park complex.
GOLF 1. PAR 3 (18- HOLE) 2. 9-HOLE STANDARD 3. 18-HOLE STANDARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-60A • Minimum 50A • Minimum 110A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average length varies- 600-2700 yards • Average length 2250 yards • Average length 6500 yards 	Majority of holes on north-south axis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - - • 1/25,000 • 1/50,000 	1/2 to 1 hour travel time	9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18-hole course can accommodate 500-550 people a day. Course may be located in community, district, or regional/metro park.
SWIMMING POOLS	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 to 2A site.	Teaching-minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive-minimum of 25m x 16m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun	1 per 20,000 Pools should accommodate 3% to 5% of the total population at a time.) N/A	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
BEACH AREAS	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	1/2 to 1 hour travel time	Should have sand bottom with slope a maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks.

Adapted From:

- Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983.
- Mertes, J. D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.

APPENDIX E – SCHOOL PARK FACILITIES

FACILITY	School District Name*										Total Facilities
	OWOSSO	CORUNN A	DURAND	PERRY	LAINGSBURG	BYRON	OVID	NEW LOTRHOP	MORRICE		
<i>Number of Play Sites</i>	9	4	3	3	4	1	3	3	1	31	
Basketball Courts	12	6	6	2	1		2	2		31	
Tennis-Public Access	16	8	8	2	2		8		2	46	
Beach Volleyball										0	
Baseball--Public Access				2				1		3	
Softball-Public Access	4	1	1	2	2			1		11	
Soccer-Public Access	3		2	3	3					11	
Running Track Access	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	
Playgrounds	7	3	2	2	3	3	2	1		20	
Playfield	6	1	2	1	2	2	2	2		16	
Sledding Hill	1									1	
Trails						1				1	
Pavilions										0	
Rest Rooms/Porta John										0	
Amphitheater/Gazebo	1									0	
Fishing/Water Frontage	1					1				2	
River Paddling Access	1					1				2	
Urban Forests		1				1				2	
Drinking Water										0	
Benches	2									2	
PLAYSITE ACREAGE	36	11	12	11	12	5	10	7	3	107	

*Includes private and parochial schools within the respective school districts.
 Note: Byron Area Schools' riverside interpretive trail is in development.

APPENDIX F – Municipal Park Types & Standards for Park Types

PARK TYPES AND STANDARDS--All Municipal Parks Except County and State Parks

APRA Standards in parentheses**	Municipality Name and Acreage Per Park Type***											
	Dweseo City	Cocoma City	Esrand City	Perry City	Lulamburg City	Vierson Village	Byron Village	Lennon Village	Morrise Village	Bancraft Village	David Village	Woodhull Twp
Mini-Park (0.25-1 ac)	One-0.25 ac	Two-1 ac	Two-1 ac									
Neighborhood School Parks (1-5 ac)	One-5 ac	Two-1 ac	Two-1 ac	Two-13 ac	Two-7 ac			One-5 ac		Two-3 ac	One-3 ac	
Neighborhood School Parks (5-15 ac)	Eight-35 ac	Three-11 ac	Three-13 ac	Two-11 ac	One-12 ac	One-2 ac	One-5 ac	One-5 ac	One-5 ac	One-3 ac	One-10 ac	
Community Parks (30-50 ac)	Five-8 ac	Two-14 ac	Two-17 ac		One-18 ac	One-6 ac	One-2 ac	One-6 ac				One-20 ac
Special Use Park	Two-8 ac											
Large Urban Park (50-75 ac)		One-25 ac										
Natural Resource Area	One-8 ac	One-40 ac										
Reg'l Metro (200+ac)	One-164 ac											
Greenways (varies)	One-13 ac											
Sports Complex (25 ac)	Three-35 ac	One-15 ac										
Biking Trails (5 miles)***	4 miles											
Biking Trails (15-25 mi)												
Water Trails (varies)	5 miles	3 miles				2 miles	1 mile					
Man Bldg (5 mi loop)	4 miles											
Cross Country Skiing (0.5-3 mi)	5 miles											
Hiking Half Day (0.25-5 mi)	2 miles											
Hiking Full Day (5-15 mi)												
Hiking Primitive (5 mi mini)												
Snowshoes (5 mi loop)	3 miles											
Annual Park Budget ****												
Per Capita Expenditure	260	107	31	24	37	6	9	5	6	3	35	20
PARK ACREAGE												

* See the companion chart for County Parks and other regional public access spaces.
 ** Parks are credited as a park type even if the acreage is below the APRA standards for park size. This especially applies for Community Park types.
 *** Some trails are multi-purpose, therefore the overall trail mileage should not be compounded. Trails effectively add to park acreage totals.
 **** Annual park budgets for major municipalities are blended into the public works budgets and are not itemized; expenditures are mostly maintenance related.
 Note: The Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail connects with other trails in Central Michigan to form a 125 mile rail trail. The Shiawassee County stretch is 8 miles long.

APPENDIX G – COUNTY AND STATE PARK TYPES & STANDARDS

PARK TYPES	PARK TYPES -- County, Special Use, and State Parks/Trails											
	Name and Acreage Per Park Type*											
	Shiatown County Park	Henderson County Park	Geack Rd. County Park	Kerby Rd. County Park	Lyle Rd. County Park	Pine Grove Park	CIS Meijer Trail****	James Miner Trail	Voight Loop Trail	Rose Lake Wildlife Station	Sleepy Hollow St. Park	Shiawassee River Nat'l Water Trail
Note: NRPA Standards Apply**												
Mini-Park (0.25-1 ac)												
Neighborhood (1-5 ac)												
Neighborhood School Parks												
Comm'n'y Parks (30-50 ac)				9 acres								
Special Use Park					1 acre							
Large Rural Park (50-75 ac)		32 acres										
Natural Resource Area	100 acres		10 acres			22 acres				4140 acres	2678 acres	1500 acres
Reg'l Metro (200+ac)												
Greenways (varies)												
Sports Complex (25 ac)												
Biking Trails (5 miles)***								4 miles				
Biking Trails (15-25 mi)							8 miles				16 miles	
Water Trails (varies)												41 miles
Mtn Biking (5 mi loop)										7 miles	16 miles	
Cross Entry Skiing (0.5-3 mi)							8 miles			7 miles	16 miles	
Hiking Half Day (0.25-5 mi)									.75 miles	7 miles	16 miles	
Hiking Full Day (5-15 mi)							8 miles	4 miles		7 miles		
Hiking Primitive (5 mi min)												
Equestrian (5 miles)												
Snowshoe (3-mile loop)										7 miles	5 miles	
										7 miles	16 miles	
SERVICE AREA *****	Regional	Regional	Sub-region	Sub-region	Sub-region	Regional	Regional	Sub-region	Municipal	Regional	Regional	Regional

*See the companion chart in this Plan for the Cities and Villages within Shiawassee County

**Parks are credited as a park type even if the acreage or mileage are below the NRPA standards for either park size or distance.

***Some trail are multi-purpose; therefore, the overall trail mileage should not be compounded in the example of Rose Lake and other multi-purpose trails.

****The Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee (aka "CIS") trails to trails bikeway connects with other like trails in Central Michigan to form a 125 mile system.

*****Service area definitions are: "regional" is county-wide; "sub-region" is up to half the county; "municipal" is limited within a city boundary

APPENDIX H – COMPARISONS WITH 10 COUNTY PARK SYSTEMS

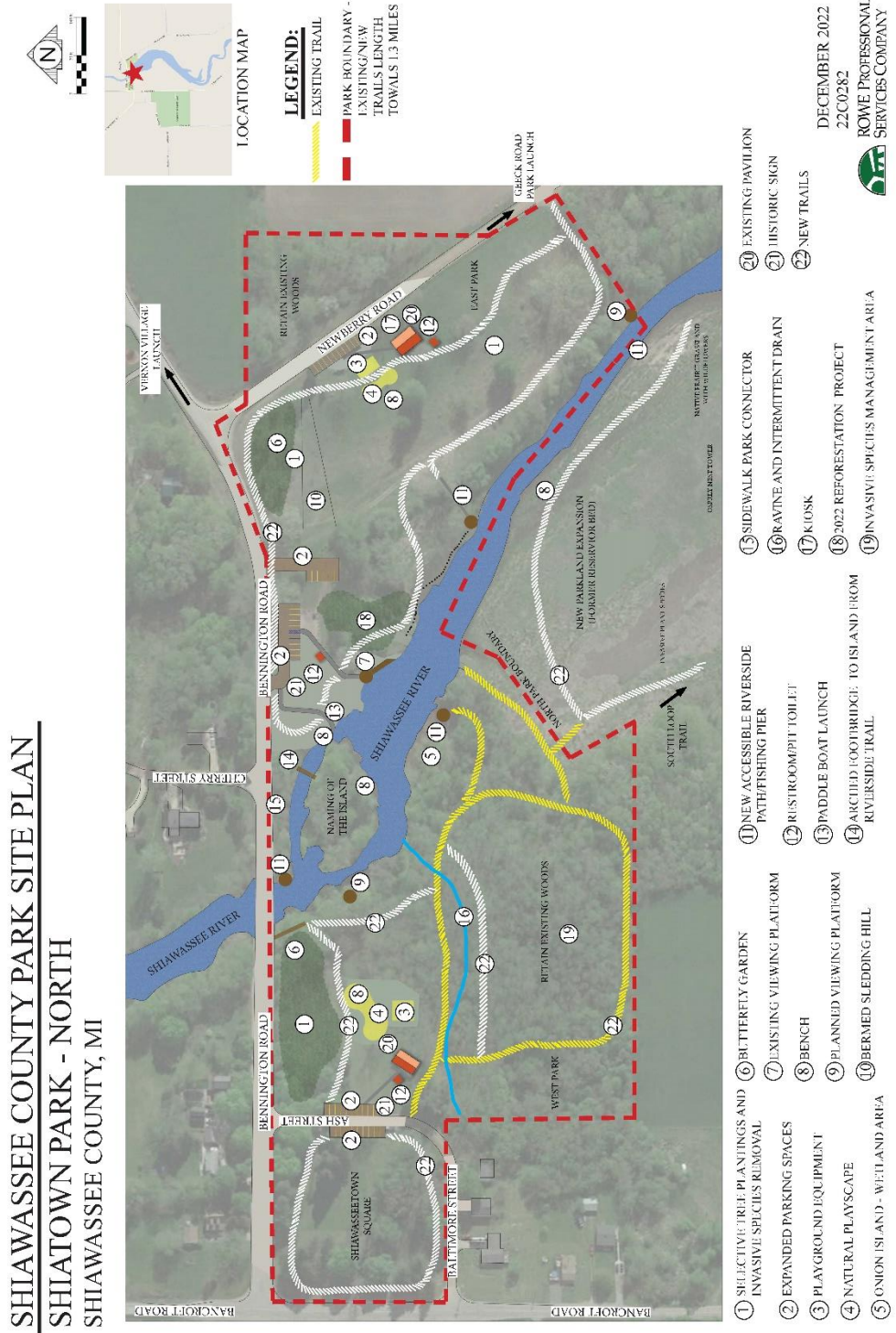
County 2020 Population (- means decline)	Operational Features	Number of Parks	Recreational Features	Total Park Acreage	Annual Budget & Per Capita	Notes
Barry 62,423 (-)	County Wide Millage 1/4	3 Parks, one at 310 acres	Swimming; Historic Park; Iron Bridge	383	\$581,000 \$9.31	Value of Volunteers is \$100,000; CIP is \$2 million
Cass 52,053 (-)	Full Time Director	6 parks; one regional; 94 lakes in county	2 swimming beaches; recr'l programming	930	\$190,000 \$3.65	Volunteers at \$70,000; CIP is \$3,000,000
Clinton 78,957 (+)	Clinton Greenspace Comm'n	3 Parks, with two beach parks	Swimming, Native Prairie; Hiking	315	\$183,801 \$2.33	90,000 Visitors; \$3,600,000 CIP
Eaton 109,730 (+)	4 FTE's Staff; & Seasonal	10 Parks; with Grand Ledges	Swimming; Playhouse; River access; Trails	825	\$625,000 \$5.65	2 mil Proposal- \$2,200,000 annual
Ionia 64,401 (-)	1.5 Employees; Act 261	3 Parks; Bertha Brock riverside	camping; lodges; disc golf; hiking	390	\$110,000 \$1.84	Maintenance challenge; CIP at \$1,250,000
Gratiot 41,878 (-)	Act 261 Board; 1 FTE	2 parks each with swimming	swimming; launches; disc golf	165	\$556,000 \$9.14	.34 millage support; 36% budget CIP
Hillsdale 45,707 (-)	No FTE's	4 parks	swimming; man-made fishing ponds	228	\$25,000 \$0.55	General fund only; low scale system
Lapeer 87,975 (-)	1.5 Employees	2 Parks; Revenues equal expenses	2 water slide parks	149	\$212,445 \$3.23	Also has Ortonville Rec'n Area at 4,100 acres
Lenawee 98,310 (-)	Act 156 of 1917	6 Parks Plus 3500 acres in 2 state parks	Mostly natural area parks	419	\$40,000 \$0.25	Bldgs & Grds overseer; annual revenues at \$42K
Shiawassee 68,176 (-)	Act 261 Board; no FTE's	7 parks and DeVries Nature Cons'y	5 riverfront parks on National Water Trail	204	\$114,000 \$0.60	CIP at \$1,550,000; new full time seasonal maintenance

Notes: Most of the counties, with Shiawassee being one exception, have lake districts within them with many other park entities involved, including state parks. In contrast, no other county has a river comparable to the Shiawassee River with 28 access points on an 88-mile National Water Trail from Holly to Chesaning.

APPENDIX I: SITE PLANS FOR THE COUNTY PARKS

The succeeding ten pages are maps of the parks and one private park showing existing facilities and planned upgrades. The features relate to the capital improvement schedules at Section VI.B in the Plan's main text.

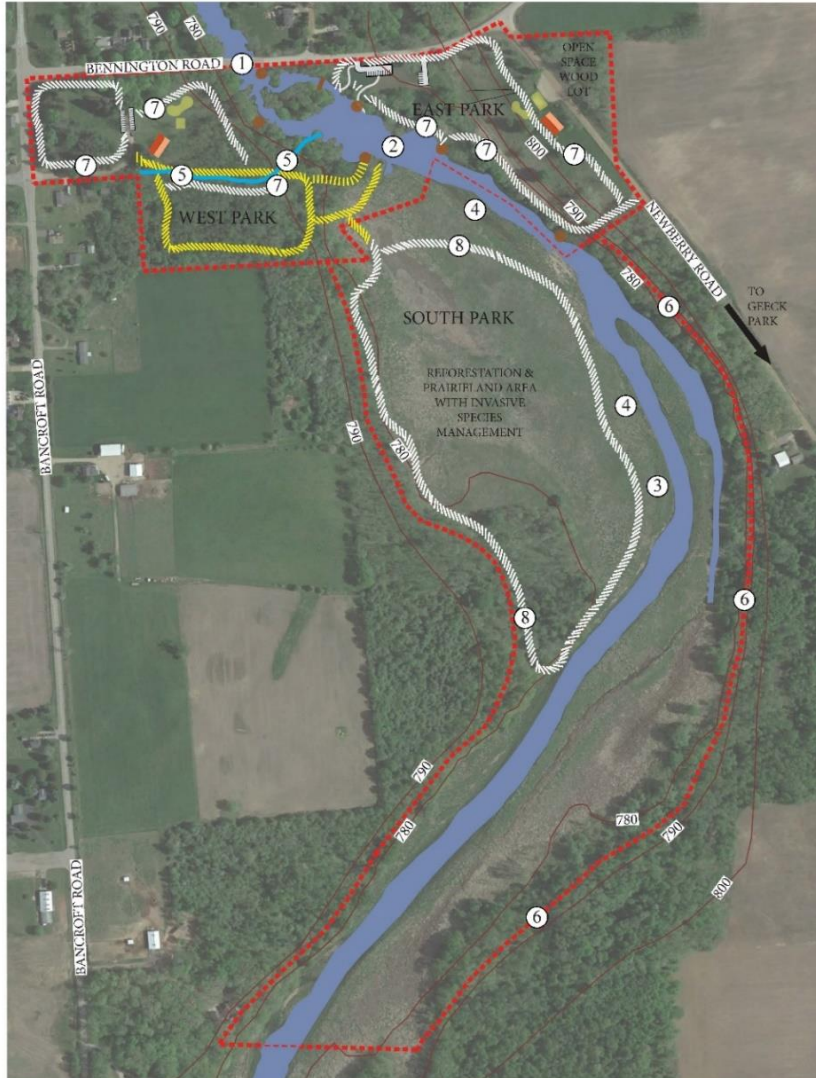
APPENDIX I-1: Shiatown Regional Park—North Section



ADDITIONAL DETAIL TO SHIATOWN NORTH SITE PLAN > preserve view corridor for east side pavilion >Plant botanical sites along bottomlands trail >Indicate on signs bike/roadway routes for destination & recreation loops

APPENDIX I-2: Shiatown Regional Park Site Plan—South Section

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARK SITE PLAN
 SHIATOWN PARK - SOUTH
 SHIAWASSEE COUNTY, MI



- ① BENNINGTON ROAD SIDEWALK CONNECTOR
- ② EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURE
- ③ OSPREY NEST
- ④ BENCH
- ⑤ RAVINE AND INTERMITTENT DRAIN
- ⑥ EASTERN AND WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE ON CONTOUR 786'
- ⑦ NEW TRAIL
- ⑧ SOUTH PARK NEW TRAIL

LEGEND:

EXISTING TRAIL

PARK BOUNDARY

SOUTH PARK:
 105 ACRE SITE
 1 MILE - SOUTH PARK TRAIL



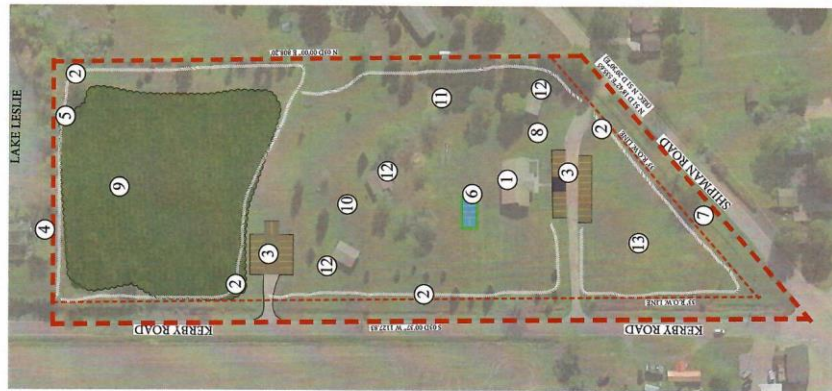
DECEMBER 2022
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 ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

APPENDIX I-3: COUNTY PARK MAP SKETCH—KERBY RD. PARK

KERBY PARK SITE PLAN SHIAWASSEE COUNTY, MI



NOTE:
ASSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL PARK
FEATURES



LEGEND:

-----PARK BOUNDARY

- ① 1960 2-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE CONVERSION WITH EXISTING WATER SUPPLY AND RESTROOM
- ② ACCESSIBLE LOOP TRAILS WITH 4 BENCHES
- ③ PARKING LOT UPGRADES AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES
- ④ NEGOTIATED LAKE VIEW RIGHTS
- ⑤ VIEWING PLATFORM
- ⑥ PICKLEBALL COURT
- ⑦ TREE LINE ALONG SHIPMAN ROAD
- ⑧ INFORMATION KIOSK
- ⑨ REFORESTATION/POLLINATOR PRAIRIELANDS/INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT
- ⑩ MOVABLE SERPENTINE RIDGE WITH CREATIVE PLAY SPACES
- ⑪ VOLLEYBALL COURT
- ⑫ EXISTING PAVILION
- ⑬ OPEN SPACE PLAY FIELD

OCTOBER 2022
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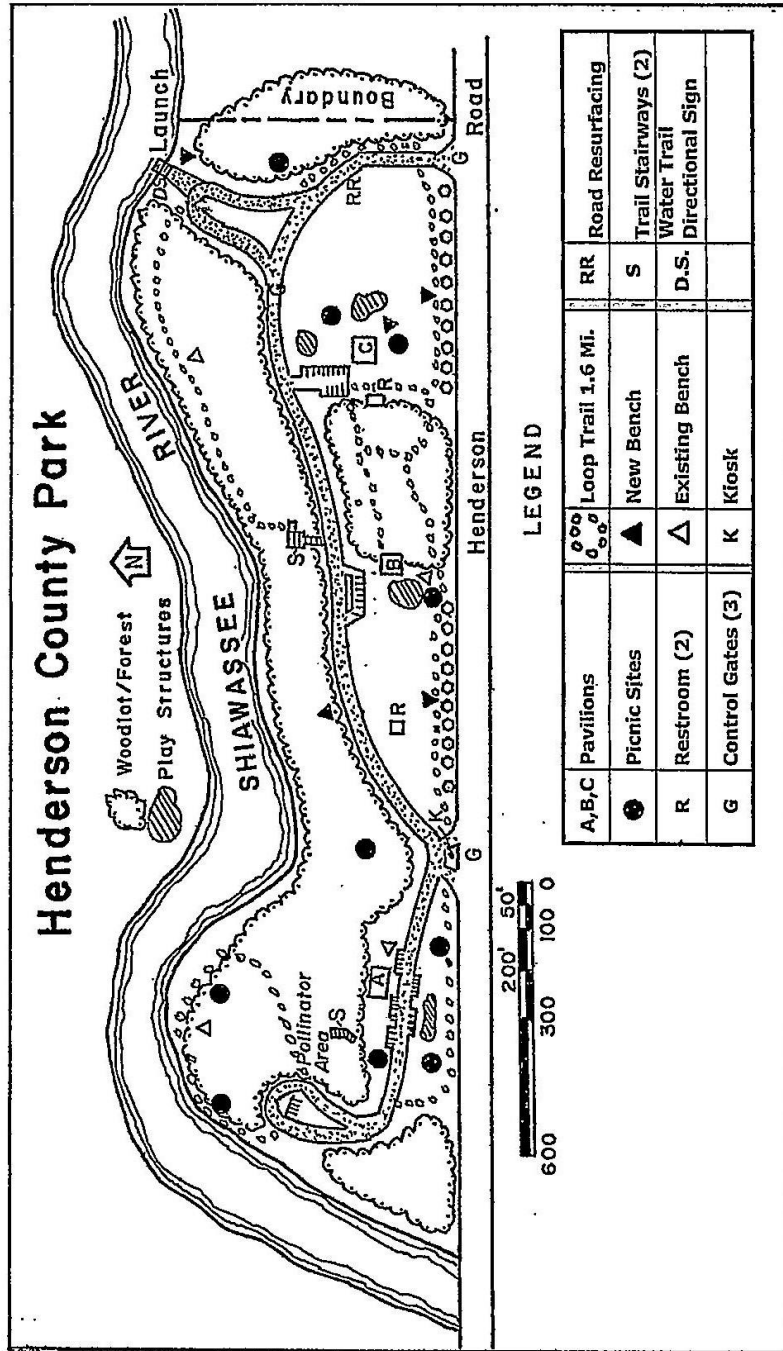


ADDITIONAL DETAIL TO KERBY SITE PLAN:

>Trail length is 2,600 feet

>Create unstructured play areas near one or more pavilions for imaginative playtime
>Install a ga-ga court near the pickle ball court
>Park is poised to achieve *universal design* rating

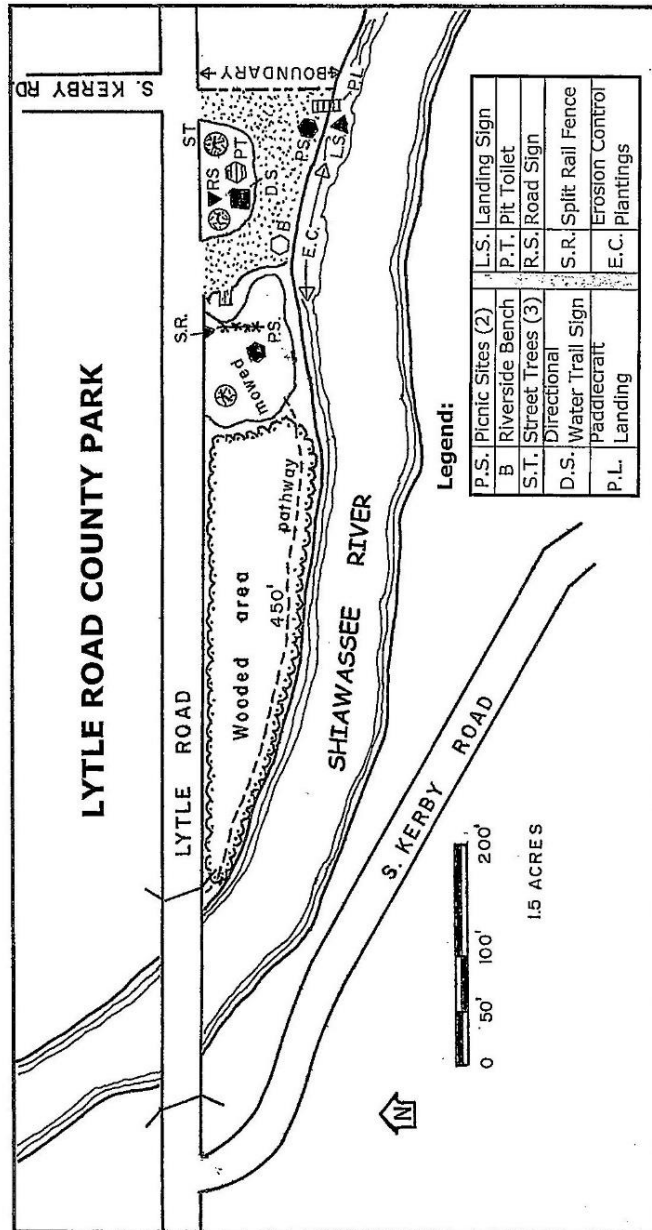
APPENDIX I-4: COUNTY PARK MAP-HENDERSON PARK



ADDITIONAL DETAIL TO HENDERSON SITE PLAN:

- >Post on kiosks a map of County paddling take-out/put-in points and pavilion rental details
- >Post on kiosks recreational bike loop roadway rides and destination route to upstream and downstream canoe launch sites at Pine Grove Park, DeVries Nature Conservancy, and Owosso's Harmon Patridge Park
- >Create unstructured play areas near one or more pavilions for imaginative playtime

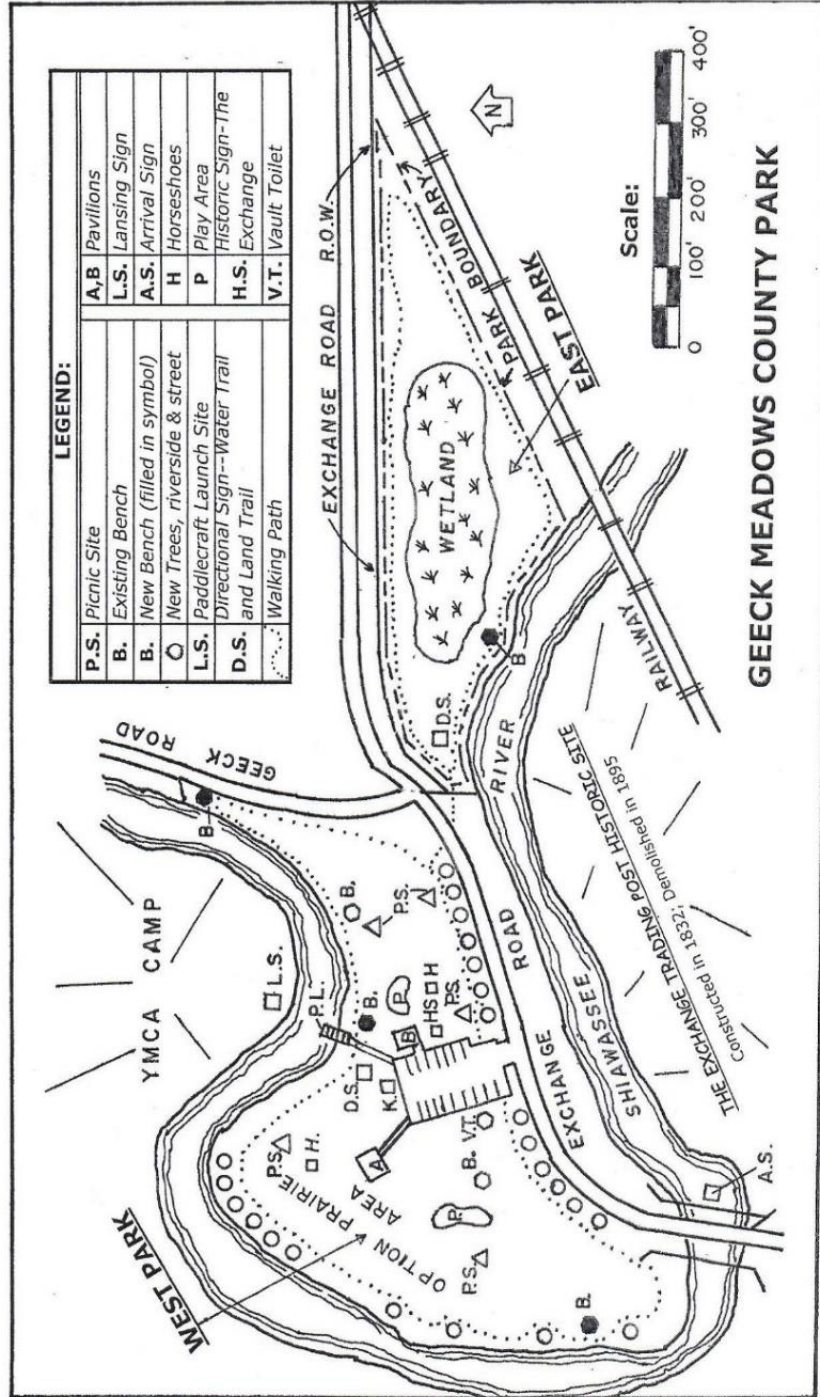
APPENDIX I-5: COUNTY PARK MAP SKETCH—LYTLE RD. PARK



ADDITIONAL DETAIL TO LYTLE SITE PLAN:

- >Replace guardrail at picnic site with natural fencing
- >plant roadside trees and native landscaping
- >Build fishing site access path on west end to the Lytle Road Bridge
- >Construct an information kiosk and add County river guide for paddlers
- >Add to kiosk recreational loop bike trails to country scenic areas and destination bike trails to upstream canoe launch and Corunna
- >Add picnic table near launch and barbecue spit
- >Add deep-rooted riverbank shrubs to eroded and barren areas
- >Add handicapper parking space at picnic site and accessible pathway to wheelchair accessible table

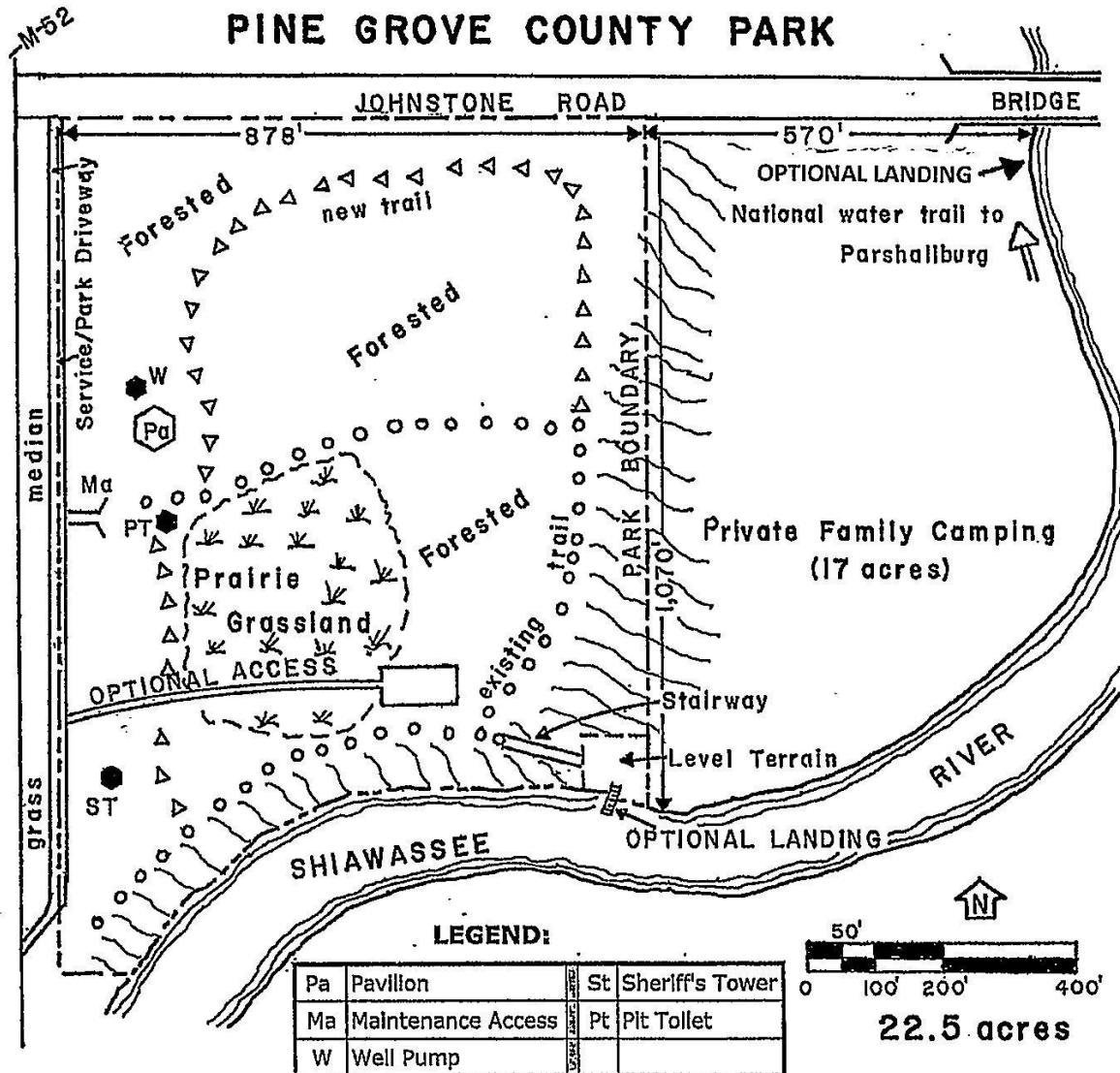
APPENDIX I-6: PARK SKETCH—GEECK MEADOWS PARK



ADDITIONAL DETAIL TO GEECK SITE PLAN:

- >Construct barrier free approach to west pavilion and two accessible tables
- >Use existing sign board kiosk for recreational loop bike rides and directional biking options including upstream and downstream canoe landings at Shiatown Park and Walnut Hills Campground
- >Create unstructured play areas near one or both pavilions for imaginative playtime

APPENDIX I-7: COUNTY PARK MAP—PINE GROVE PARK

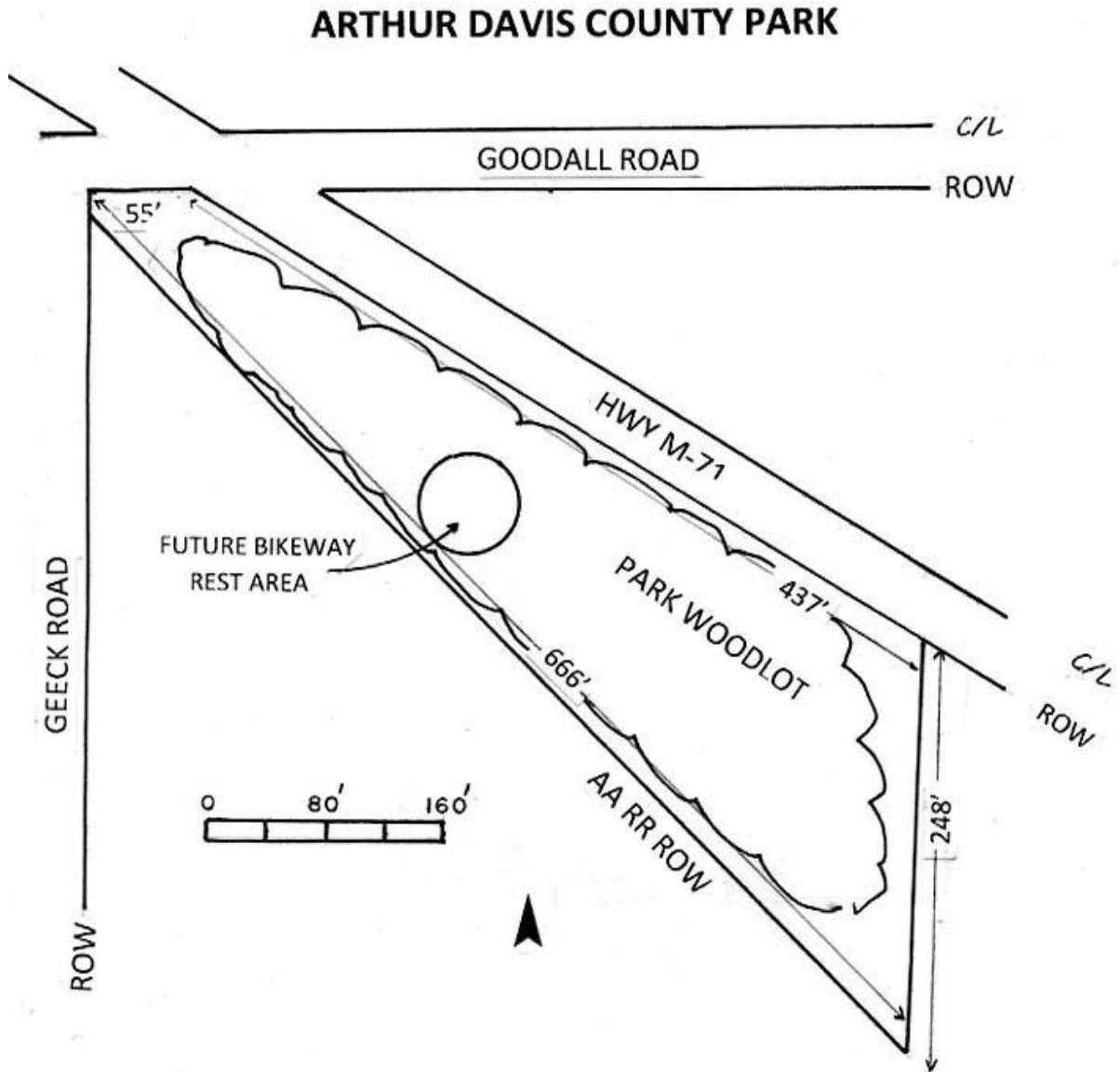


- NOTES:**
- 1) The West boundary is 1,300 feet long.
 - 2) "Optional" indicates only if Six Mile Creek isn't developed; otherwise, this is a signed emergency take out only.
 - 3) Parking is on the Service Driveway/requires 2 H/P spaces

ADDITIONAL DETAIL TO PINE GROVE SITE PLAN:

>Add 4 benches >Add picnic tables to pavilion >Install pit toilet >Upgrade accessibility facilities >Add paddle boat landing on one of two river bottomlands locations and access drive parking area unless Six Mile Creek is developed as such then make this landing for emergencies only >Add information kiosk on upper and lower parks for biking options, both a loop recreational system and destination based routes to Oakley and upstream and downstream paddle boat launches/landings

APPENDIX I-8: ARTHUR DAVIS COUNTY PARK MAP SKETCH



ADDITIONS TO DAVIS PARK SITE PLAN:

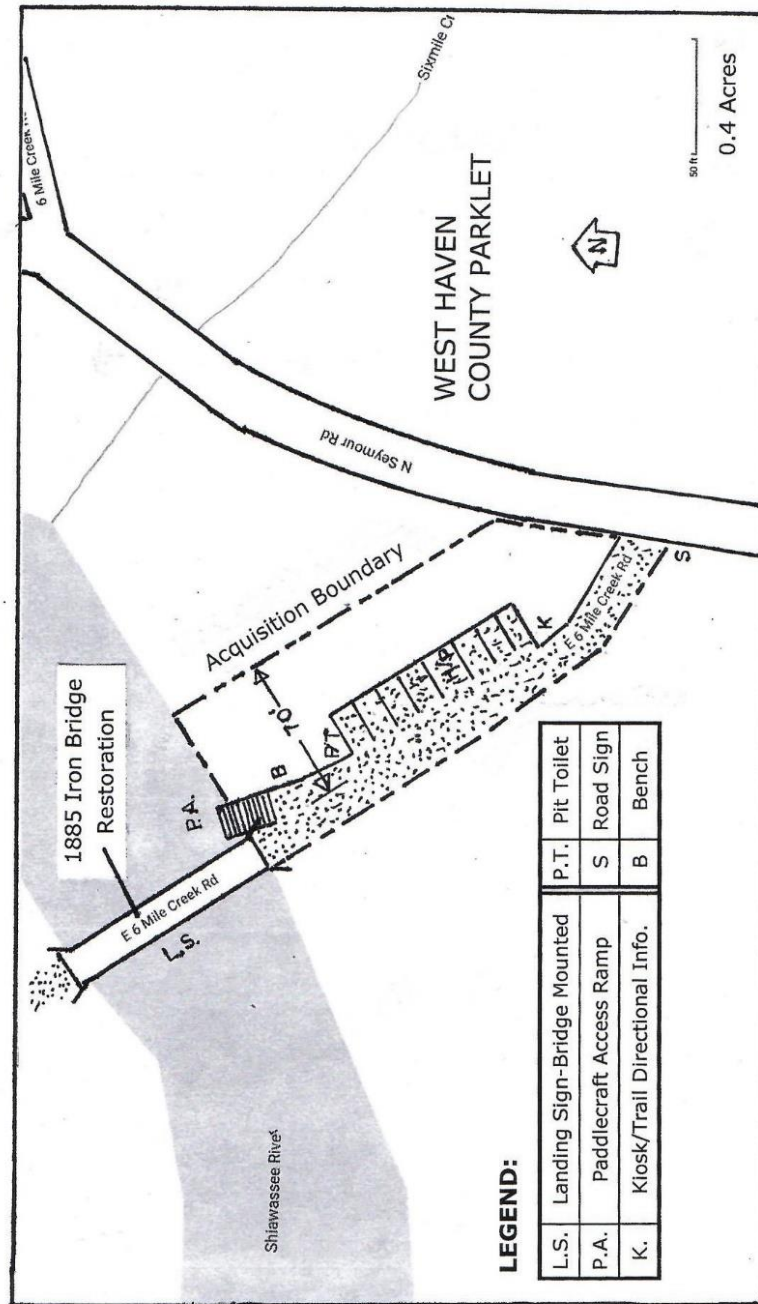
>Native Tree, Grasses and Wildflowers Species Planting—At selected areas of need or opportunity with volunteer recruitment and commemoration plantings

>Maintain natural habitats >Continue decommissioned status

>If Corunna to Durand Rail Trail happens, reopen park with trailside rest area

>Add three to four parking spaces at the intersection of Geeck and Goodall Roads for volunteer work on plants and trees

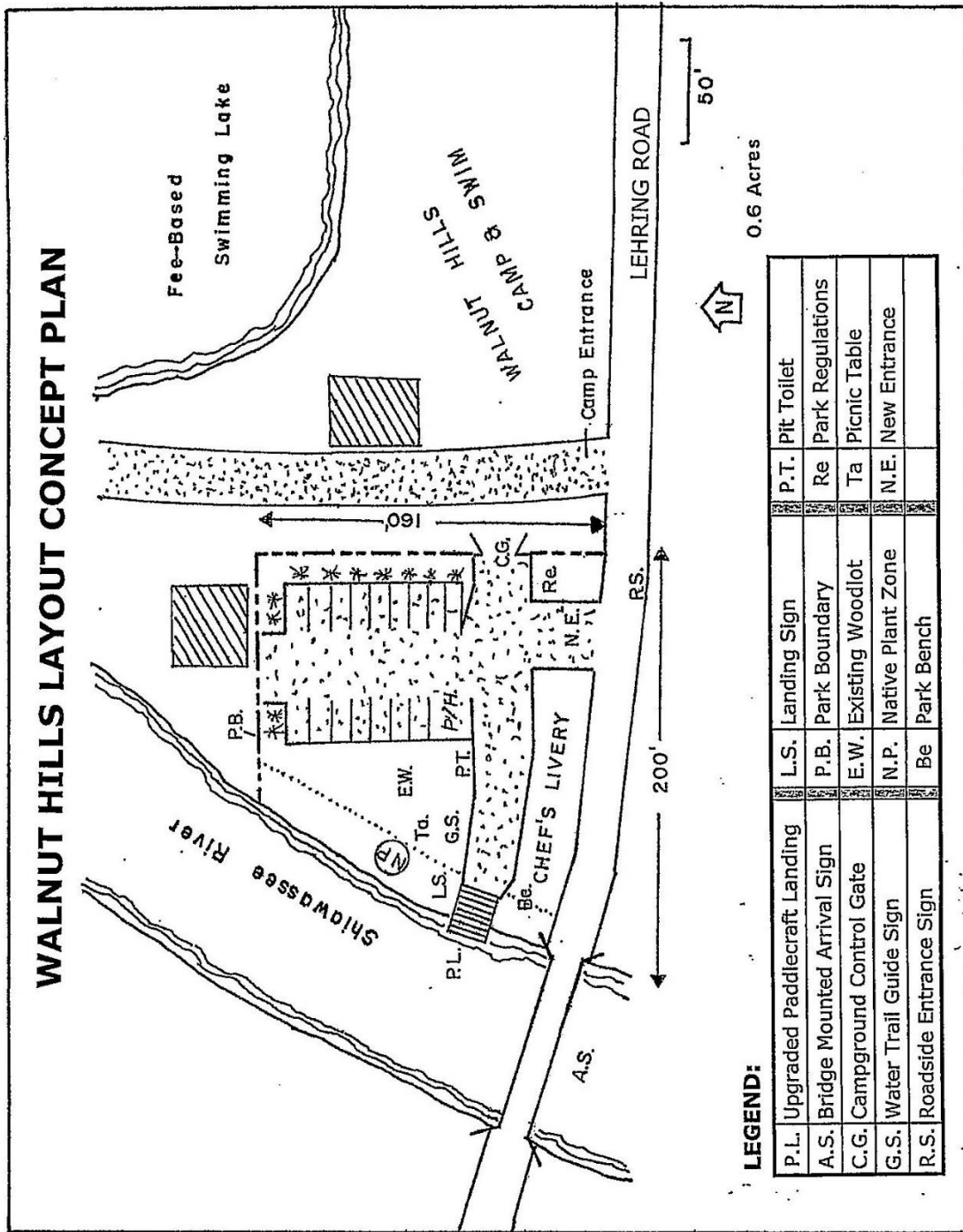
APPENDIX I-9: COUNTY PARK MAP SKETCH NEW HAVEN – aka WEST HAVEN – (PROPOSED)



CONCEPT PLAN IN THE 2023-2027 PARKS PLAN:

- >Restore 1886 Iron Bridge for Non-Motorized Transportation Use and Scenic Viewing Area
- >Acquire land on north side of closed Six Mile Creek Road
- >Fill closed Six Mile Creek roadside area with enough gravel for an 8-bay parking lot to serve the paddle launch
- >Install Launch and access pathway at base of bridge
- >Add pit toilet at parking area
- >Add directional signs, information signs and bridge use signs

APPENDIX 1-10: WALNUT HILLS CONCEPT PLAN



NOTE: The plan incorporates an updated launch concept proposal on what is private property to maintain an option in the Plan with the owner's consent about the means for upgrading the site to a most usable-friendly layout and extension of the paddling season on the National Water Trail.

**APPENDIX J – ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES AND BARRIER
FREE EVALUATION OF COUNTY PARK FACILITIES—Prepared
by Phil Hathaway, Town Plans LLC**

Recreational areas, facilities, and programs play an important role in the life of the community; therefore it is essential that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these areas and any programs provided. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and these laws apply to parks and other recreation lands and programs controlled and operated by local units of government. According to 2019 American Community Survey estimates, almost 8 percent of the State’s non-senior population has one or more disabilities. For Shiawassee County that percentage increases to 12.3%--a compelling number to add emphasis to compliance with accessibility upgrades.

Under the State Utilization of Public Facilities by the Physically Limited Act (1966 PA 1, as amended) all public facilities, including improved areas used for recreation, must meet the barrier free design requirements contained in the state construction code. Under this act, the administration and enforcement related to barrier free design requirements are vested in the local or state government agency responsible for issuing a building permit. If the project does not require a building permit, administration and enforcement of barrier free design requirements are vested in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

The Department of Justice published revised regulations for Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 “ADA” in the *Federal Register* on September 15, 2010. It is a civil rights act with no “grandfather clause” for exempting public facilities. These regulations adopted revised, enforceable accessibility standards called the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*, “2010 Standards” or “Standards”. The 2010 Standards set minimum requirements for newly designed and constructed or altered state and local government facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.



Geeck Park barrier-free “long” table with bench openings for wheel chairs

On September 26, 2013, the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (known as the Access Board) issued updated guidelines, entitled the Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. These guidelines are the most current version and are enforceable under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards for federal agencies on November 26, 2013. They should eventually be adopted as enforceable standards for Title II and III agencies, but until that occurs, the existing ADA Standards must be followed when the two conflict. Included in the Outdoor Guidelines are technical provisions for the number and types of recreation facilities including camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails and beach access routes. While none of these guidelines has yet been adopted for Title II and III agencies, they represent the best information available on developing barrier free recreation facilities.

One guideline that is particularly important and emphasized in the Plan is the trail surface material standard when hard surfaces are not present. The trail material specification immediately below is an optimal standard that achieves accessibility and mobility for walkers and wheel chairs. Trails widths are to be maintained at six feet minimum.

TRAIL MATERIAL STANDARDS FOR BARRIER FREE PASSAGE

Use 100 percent calcium carbonate derived from natural limestone.

Provide 100 percent crushed aggregate in accordance with the table:

Grading Requirements for Crushed Natural Aggregate

<i>Crushed Calcium Carbonate Aggregate</i>	<i>Sieve Analysis -- Total Percent Passing</i>							<i>Loss by Washing</i>
<i>Aggregate</i>	<i>3/8 inch</i>	<i>#4</i>	<i>#8</i>	<i>#16</i>	<i>#30</i>	<i>#50</i>	<i>#100</i>	<i>#200</i>
<i>Surface Course</i>	<i>95-100</i>	<i>70-95</i>	<i>40-60</i>	<i>25-45</i>	<i>20-35</i>	<i>15-30</i>	<i>10 to 25</i>	<i>8 to 16</i>

This Appendix section proceeds to ranking the Shiawassee County parks’ accessibility improvements. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines was used to evaluate the parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5 and is described as follows:

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

Each of the County parks was evaluated using this ranking system. The transition plan schedule with costs for the parks is also reflected in the Capital Improvements Plan in the main text to elevate all parks to at least a Level 3 ranking. The Table on the next two pages provides the result of this assessment.

Current and future park projects are designed to comply with accessibility guidelines and standards of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Current deficiencies regarding accessibility are mainly the result of older equipment or facilities which pre-date ADA standards. It is the intent of Shiawassee County Parks to retrofit these facilities with park upgrade and renovation projects. A generalized list of planned park improvements with accessibility are:

- 1) P/H parking at new parking lots in Shiatown
- 2) Barrier free picnic tables in the pavilions
- 3) Barrier free pathways from parking areas to pavilions and play spaces
- 4) Achieve universal design status for Kerby Park
- 5) Accessible viewing decks at Shiatown
- 6) Accessible East Park-West Park connector footbridge or sidewalk for Shiatown
- 7) Accessible trail on native prairie lands at Shiatown bottomlands
- 8) Accessible trail exercise loops at Pine Grove, Geeck and Kerby Parks
- 9) Maximized accessible natural play spaces in all parks where they are installed
- 10) Accessible restroom facilities where restrooms are provided



Henderson County Park's newly constructed barrier free loop trail in use prior to landscaping and benches now in place since the photograph

The tables below show a great deal of attention to treatment of accessibility surfaces as in the above photo.

ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION OF SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS/ PAGE 1 OF 2

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Park Improvement Design Actions</i>
PINE GROVE	1	Pavilion Access not barrier free	Construct access pathway from lot to pavilion
90 % Level Terrain		Trail is level but not barrier free	Install firm surface trail
		When vault toilet is constructed, provide minimum space standards & grab bars	
		When tables supplied to pavilion assure two have P/H access	Two compliance tables
		No P/H Parking	Supply 2 P/H spaces w_signs
HENDERSON	3		
80% Level Terrain Pavilion A: Pavilion B: Pavilion C:		P/H Parking signs & surface okay	
		No Play Area Access	Install firm surface pathways
		No Pathway to Pavilion	Install firm surface pathway
		No freestanding picnic sites have accessibility paths	Make one site accessible
		Bathroom servicing Pavilion A and Pavilion B not barrier free	Remodel to accommodate
		No Pathway to Play Area	Install firm surface pathway
		P/H parking provided	
		No Pathway to Pavilion	Install firm surface pathway
		No Pathway to Play Area	Install firm surface pathway
		Bathroom is barrier free; no path	Install firm surface pathway
		Some existing trail segments are exempt owing to terrain	all new planned trail segments are on level terrain
		LYTLE	1
All Park Areas on Level Terrain		No P/H parking	Install space at picnicking table/barbecue site
		Narrow fence opening to picnic site	Widen opening
		P/H parking area surface rough	Top dress w/crushed limestone
		River viewing bench inaccessible	Install concrete pad & approach pathway

ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION OF SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS/ PAGE 2 OF 2

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Park Improvement Design Actions</i>
SHIATOWN	2		
Rolling Terrain			
West Park:		No P/H Parking Signs, space or Surface	Install two compliant spaces
		No Pathway to Pavilion	Install firm surface pathway
		No pull-up tables	Install two compliant tables
		4" gap from land to pavilion surface	Ramp from land to surface
		Play area inaccessible	Install firm surface pathway
		Trails are terrain exempt	Future accessible trail sections in plans
East Park:	2	River Access Lot-No P/H Parking	Install P/H space w/sign; top dress parking surface
		Newberry Rd Lot-No P/H Space	Install P/H space w/sign; top dress parking surface
		No Pathway to Pavilion	Install firm surface pathway
		No Pathway to Play Area	Install firm surface pathway
		Tables/Site Grade & Maneuvering are compliant	
KERBY	2	Consider meeting universal design standard for this park	
All Level Terrain			
Pavilions A, B, & C		No P/H Parking--Both Lots	Install 2 P/H spaces with sign & top dress lot with firm material
		No Pathways to Pavilions	Install firm surface pathways
		Picnic Tables are Compliant	For all three pavilions
		No Pathways to two play areas	install firm surface pathways
		Restrooms are barrier free	
		Sidewalk to restrooms in depression and flooded after rain	Elevate sidewalk
GEECK	2		
All Level Terrain		No P/H Parking Spaces	Install two parking spaces at path entrance to each pavilion
		No firm surface to West pavilion	Install firm surface pathway
		Play areas inaccessible	install firm surface pathway
		Install P/H play equipment	Refer to commercial outlets for availability and types
		Parking Lot surface loose	Top dress P/H parking areas on lot with firm material
		East Pavilion Completely Compliant	

APPENDIX K – BICYCLING DESTINATION ROUTES AND RECREATIONAL LOOP ROUTES TO AND FROM COUNTY PARKS

Introduction. This Appendix section references routes for recreational road biking to and from County Parks. Contrast this focus with the County-wide connectivity map on Page 48 that features regional biking routes between urban areas and major parks. The ordinary rider safety precautions apply for country road cycling here there are no dedicated bike lanes or wider pavement roadways. Many of these roads have 24' pavement widths with narrow gravel shoulders. For the selected routes, that condition is offset by relatively lower traffic volumes. The suggested routes are deemed appropriate for adolescent and adult bicyclists. Nevertheless, the recreational benefits to that experience level offers rewarding and healthful outings as part of a park visit or transportation link to other open space areas.

There is an addendum to this Plan that is adopted by reference in the Plan's adoption and that is a bicycling plan for Shiawassee County. It is entitled, "**Bicycling to Destinations in Shiawassee County and Environs.**" In that document, also posted on the County website, are maps and graphics of bicycling destinations that are greater than park-to-park directions. There are guides for county rural road routes, four recommended regional roadway maps, bicycle circuit regional maps for significant biking outings, bike trail plans especially a new rail trail section from Corunna to Durand, roadside signing recommendations, and a guide to funding resources. The Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission is not the intended administrator for much of the elements in the bicycling plan supplement; however, the Plan, as a county plan, incorporates the regional parks and open space perspective to open the door to other public and quasi-public initiatives for implementation and expectant grant funding.

Connectivity in this context means destination bicycle routes between county, state or local parks. Mileage information is provided. Recreation loop routes are bike loops starting and ending at a county park. The recreation routes are relatively shorter and designed intentionally so as a supplemental park activity to a county park visit. Below, one park biking concept at Kerby Park is featured with a number of bicycling options. It is recommended that, after review, revisions over time, and actual trial runs, that the eventual recommended routes are posted on an informational sign in a kiosk at the parking areas of the parks and the park system website. The entire list of 37 routes is posted on the County Parks website.

Illustration of Kerby Road Park Bicycling. Located near State Highway M-21, no routes advise use of that highway except for suggested crossings. There are two suggested recreational loop routes and three connectivity routes. Ambitious bikers could add other destinations to the connectivity routes; the three listed in this plan have proximity to destinations where other routes might begin. Below are two illustrations of bike rides (out of 37 mapped route options)...

Illustration Recreational Loop Ride #1: *Country Scenic Loop north—Length is 6.2 miles*

North on N. Kerby Road at Park Entrance to Copas Road;
West on Copas Road to Notnagle Road;
North on Notnagle Road to Wilkinson Road;
East on Wilkinson Road to N. Geeck Road;
South on N. Geeck Road to Shipman Road;
Southwest on Shipman Road to Kerby Park.

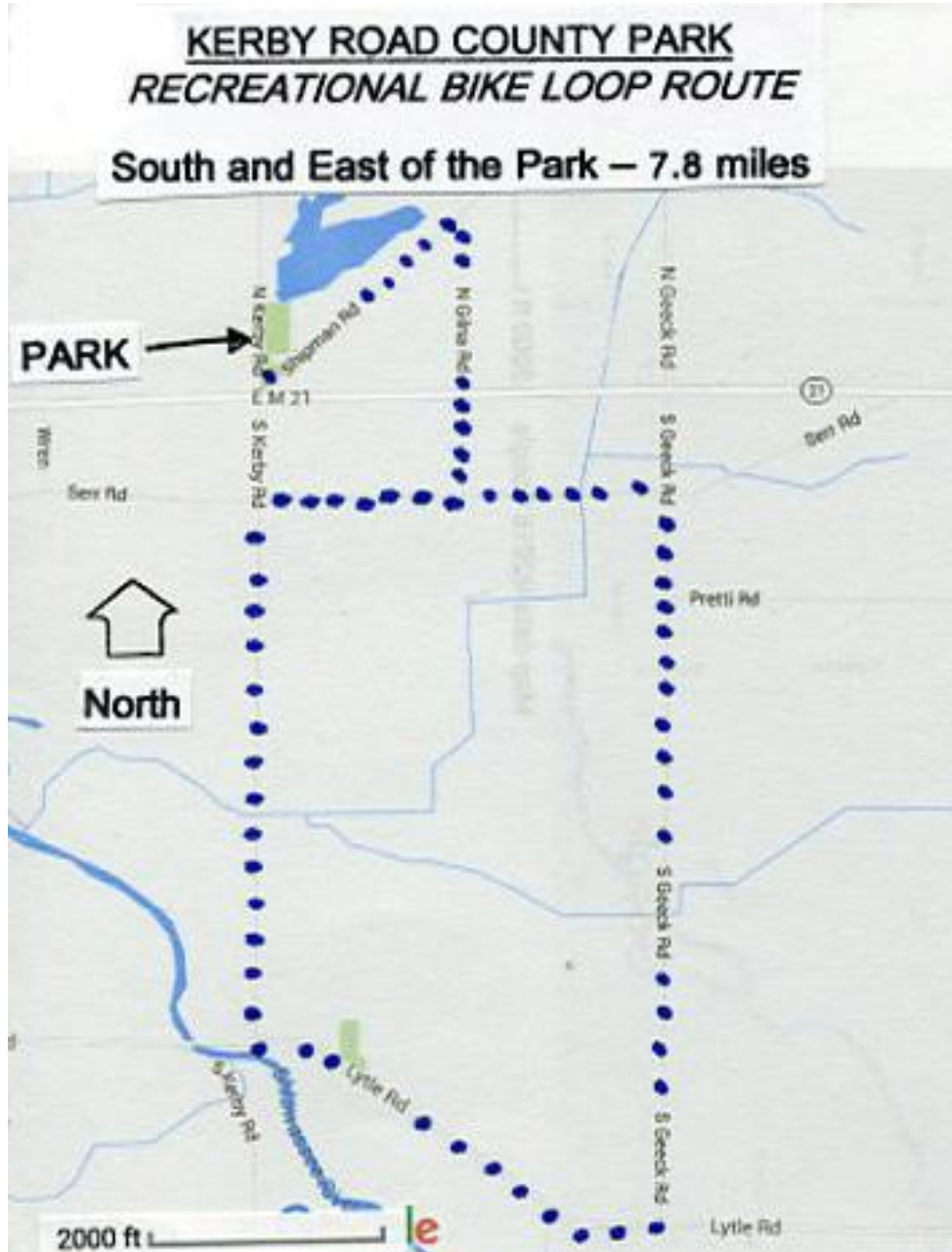
Appendix L: Illustration of 1 of 36 Recreational Loop Rides; e.g., Kerby County Park



Illustration Recreational Loop Ride at Kerby Park: *Country Scenic Loop south—Length is 7.8 miles*

Northwest on Shipman Rd from Park Entrance to Gilna Rd
South on Gilna Road (proceed across M-21) to Serr Road;
East on Serr Road to S. Geeck Road;
South on S. Geeck Road to Lytle Road;
West on Lytle Road (intermediate stop at Lytle Rd. Park) to Kerby Road;
North on Kerby Road to Serr Road;
East on Serr Road to Gilna Road;
North on Gilna Road to Shipman Road;
Southwest on Shipman Road to Kerby Park.

Appendix L: Second Illustration of a Recreational Loop Ride):



These rides are designed for a 30-to-45 minute outing, ostensibly, during a multi-purpose park visit or as a stand-alone activity. Much longer bike rides are possible on the rural roadways and are featured on a map at Page 47 of the Plan. Those longer rides are destination routes between cities and villages and selected regional open space places. A companion document for bicycling about the parks is found on the County's website.

APPENDIX L – THE SHIAWASSEE RIVER FISHING RESOURCE

“Significant fishery” - Based on records from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the University of Michigan’s Museum of Zoology, more than seventy species of fish have been collected from the Shiawassee River since the early 1900s. The middle segment of the Shiawassee River generally supports diverse and stable cool and warm water fish communities. Recreational sport fisheries are good for smallmouth bass, rock bass, northern pike, white sucker, redhorse suckers, and channel catfish. Recent DNR, Fisheries surveys at Chesaning indicate a significant spawning run of Saginaw Bay walleye which have become a benefitting species with the Shiawassee Town Dam removal, in conjunction with fish passage at now dam-free Corunna. The Shiawassee River has also been found to contain habitat that would be beneficial to lake sturgeon rehabilitation if accessible.

Endangered species habitat – The Michigan Natural Features Inventory indicates aquatic species for Shiawassee County and the Shiawassee River of concern are:

Fish - pugnose shiner (endangered), lake sturgeon (threatened)

Mussels – elk toe (special concern), slippershell (threatened)

Reptiles – Blanding's turtle (special concern)

In addition, The Michigan Wildlife Action Plan indicates for the Shiawassee River, species of special conservation need are:

black redhorse	lake sturgeon	striped shiner
brown bullhead	river chub	
golden redhorse	stonecat	

Key migratory fish habitat – In conjunction with the Corunna Dam removal, the removal of Shiawassee Town Dam now allows passage and new habitat for Saginaw Bay spawning walleye, as well as for all other native species. There have been at least two reports of lake sturgeon in the Shiawassee River received by DNR, Fisheries (source: Joe Leonardi, DNR Fisheries--personal communication). Additionally, the Shiawassee River has been identified as habitat for the State threatened sturgeon popularly labeled, “the living dinosaur”. Saginaw WIN has recently sponsored and coordinated a five-year project for sturgeon spawning at Chesaning.

The fishing experience is enhanced with land management practices for continued or improved fish habitat. The best environments include natural shading (trees), dense riverside shrubs and ground cover extending into the waterway, fallen and partly submerged trees, gravel beds for laying eggs, and natural “holes” in the riverbed. The County parks can provide educational examples to the public about best management practices and benefit the quality of the fishing experience in the parks with these measures:

- Tree and shrub plantings

- Avoidance of mowing within at least 25 feet of the top of bank; together with tree plantings, follow with deep rooted shrub and ground cover plantings
- Erosion control programs at the park and upstream to avoid siltation and filling of natural deep spots in the river
- Erosion control and stormwater management to avoid siltation and street debris from covering gravel beds
- Avoidance of use of fertilizers in the park and upstream to prevent extreme water vegetation coverage of the waterways
- When opening the river for navigation, remove the least amount of tree fall area in the river for a navigation channel
- Dam removals in Owosso where the purpose of the dams is outlived and removal of the abandoned Caledonia Township-located causeway at the brick plant.

The inventory of freshwater fish species in the Shiawassee River is extensive and is offered in this Appendix as a reference tool for both the parks and educational benefit. The 54 fish are:

Black bullhead	Gizzard shad	Shorthead redhorse
Black crappie	Golden redhorse	Silver redhorse
Black redhorse	Greater redhorse	Smallmouth bass
Blacknose shiner	Green sunfish	Spotfin shiner
Blackside darter	Hornyhead chub	Stonecat
Blackstripe topminnow	Johnny darter	Striped shiner
Bluegill	Lake sturgeon	Trout perch
Bluntnose minnow	Largemouth bass	Walleye
Bowfin	Logperch	Warmouth
Brook silverside	Longear sunfish	White bass
Brown bullhead	Mimic shiner	Yellow bullhead
Central mudminnow	Northern hogsucker	Yellow perch
Central stoneroller	Northern pike	Channel catfish
Pumpkinseed	Common carp	Quillback
Common shiner	Rainbow darter	Common white sucker
Redfin shiner	Creek chub	River chub
Emerald shiner	Rock bass	Fathead minnow
Roseyface shiner	Freshwater drum	Sand shiner

Invasive species are not deemed a native fish as are those in the above list. The invasive occupants include:

- Oriental weatherfish (released from aquariums) upstream of the Byron Millpond
- Round Goby—colonized in the whole watershed and especially adverse to small and largemouth bass
- Zebra mussel—not a fish but harmful to fisheries

- Sea lamprey—migrates to the Shiawassee Dam from Saginaw Bay. Treated every five years with lampricide

Boat washing is emphasized about the State to avoid the spread of aquatic invasive species. The county parks should include educational information and methods on their kiosks.

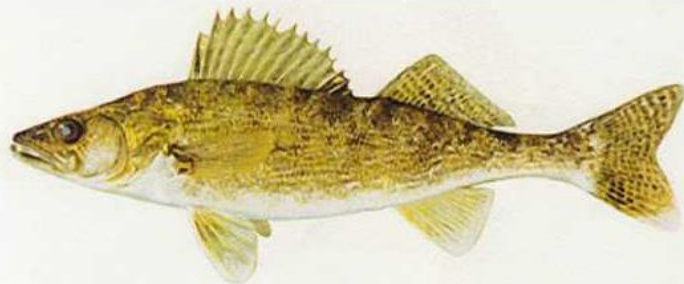
Another mention of water quality programming includes the MDNR fishery survey conducted every five years and the Friends of the Shiawassee River stream team macro-invertebrate surveys from Byron to Henderson—an annual event. The latter survey is an indicator of the health of the fishery. These information sources offer both an evaluation tool for past best management practices and a recommendation for prioritization of increased best management practices into the future.

The two prize fish of river restoration efforts that benefit from obstruction removal:



2022 Sturgeon release Chesaning

A Symbol of Opportunity:



Sander Vitreous (Walleye)

Perch Family

Walleye present after dam removals



Weir removal target at Chipman Rd-Owosso

WATCH FOR THESE Aquatic Invaders!

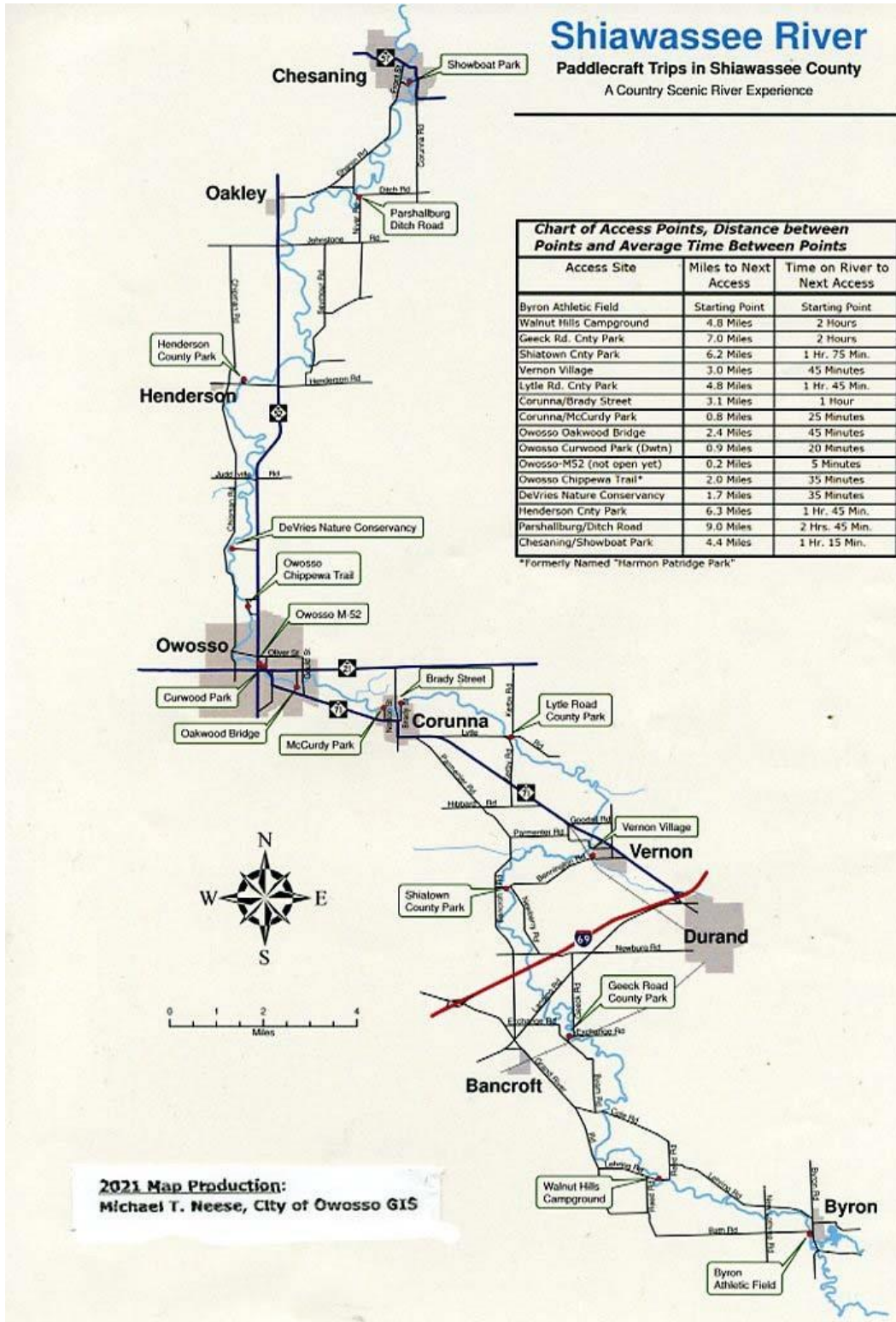
<p>NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL</p> <p>< 1.8 in. long</p> <p>Brown in color Typically found in coldwater streams</p> <p>5-8 uniformly sized shells</p>	<p>RED SWAMP CRAYFISH</p> <p>2-5 in. in length</p> <p>raised bright red eyes - cover body & legs</p>
<p>SNAKEHEAD</p> <p>tan with dark brown mottling</p> <p>sharp teeth</p> <p>long anal fin</p>	<p>BLACK CARP</p> <p>blackish-brown scales grading to black gray to white on belly</p>
<p>GRASS CARP</p> <p>large scales that appear cross-hatched</p> <p>eyes sit even with mouth</p>	<p>SILVER CARP</p> <p>light silver with white belly</p> <p>eyes sit below mouth</p> <p>keel</p>
<p>BIGHEAD CARP</p> <p>dark gray with dark blotches</p> <p>eyes sit below mouth</p>	<p>Need more info on these species? For more information and to report sightings, visit www.michigan.gov/invasives</p>

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT | MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURE | This document is waterproof and tear-proof! 800-662-0278 | www.michigan.gov/invasives

A sampling of Invasive Species

APPENDIX M

SHIAWASSEE RIVER WEST SECTION WATER TRAIL PADDLE ROUTES



APPENDIX N
SHIAWASSEE RIVER ACHIEVED STANDARDS and the
EXPECTATIONS FOR A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL
WATER TRAIL

The Plan recognizes the recent achievement of national recognition of the Shiawassee River as a National Water Trail. The requirements have been met. The five County Parks contribute well to this entitlement that few rivers in the country have achieved. It is beneficial for the working master plan to offer this NPS reference tool for Parks & Recreation Commissioners to employ in qualifying and sustaining this nomination.

The National Water Trail Criteria and Seven Best Management Practices

As a subset of the national recreation trail designation, trails in the National Water Trails System must meet the four criteria for National Recreation Trail designation as follows:

1. The trail (and its access points) must be open to public use and be designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices, in keeping with the anticipated use. Water trail access points that demonstrate state-of-the-art design and management are especially encouraged to apply for national water trail designation.
2. The trail is in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.
3. The trail will be open for public use for at least 10 consecutive years after designation.
4. The trail designation must be supported by the landowner(s), (public or private), on which access points exist.

In addition to the national recreation trails criteria, a designated water trail **must** incorporate the following best management practices:

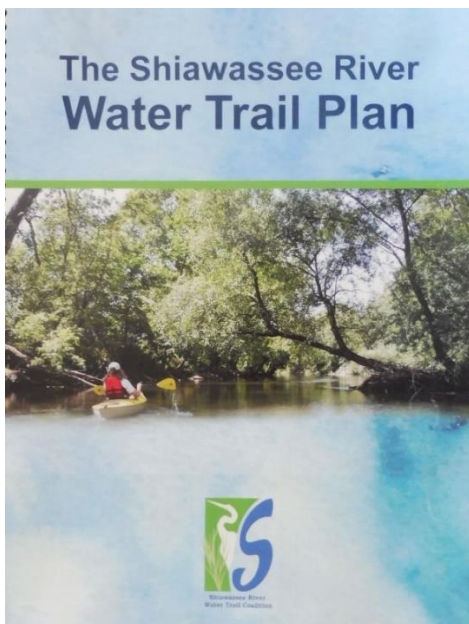
- ***Recreation Opportunities:*** The water trail route has established public access points that accommodate a diversity of trip lengths and provide access to a variety of opportunities for recreation and education.
- ***Education:*** The water trail users are provided with opportunities to learn about the value of water resources, cultural heritage, boating skills, and outdoor ethics.
- ***Conservation:*** The water trail provides opportunities for communities to develop and implement strategies that enhance and restore the health of local waterways and surrounding lands.
- ***Community Support:*** Local communities provide support and advocacy for maintenance and stewardship of the water trail.

- **Public Information:** The public is provided with accessible and understandable water trail information, including details for identifying access and trail routes; cultural, historic, and natural features; hazards; and water quality. The water trail is promoted to the community and broad national audience.
- **Trail Maintenance:** There is a demonstrated ability to support routine and long-term maintenance investments on the water trail. Facilities are designed, constructed, and maintained by incorporating sustainability principles.
- **Planning:** Maintain a water trail plan that describes a vision, desired future conditions, and strategies to strengthen best management practices.

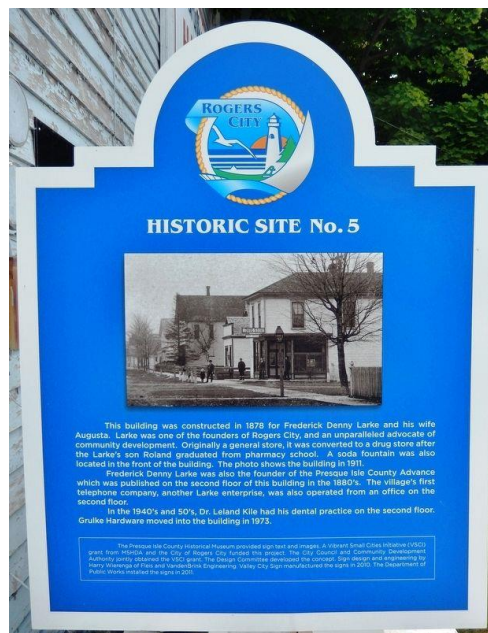
Under the heading recreation opportunities, the Plan supports upgrading the Walnut Hills Campground to a public access facility when the owner is amenable to the transition. This is plan component is a need to extend the paddling season beyond the camp’s limited season. The West Haven/Six Mile Creek site is another needed interim facility to break the lengthy extent of the paddling trip from Henderson County Park to Parshallburg.

The other six Best Management Practices relate to many of the goals of the master plan where objectives and actions address maintenance, marketing, education, conservation and community engagement.

With the use of kiosks in the County parks, information on the best management practices will be offered and supported. In addition the Parks Board will coordinate with the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition to advance all seven BMP’s listed immediately above.



A companion plan to the Parks Plan



Example of educational sign for the Parks

APPENDIX O

ECONOMIC, HEALTH and ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS of PARKS, TRAILS and OPEN SPACE

To justify investment of resources public bodies must be convinced that parks and recreation efforts deliver public benefits, meaning benefits that apply to most people in a community. The benefits attributed to parks and open spaces are organized into three categories that are also subdivided into TEN PUBLIC BENEFITS.

I. Economic Development.

1. Attracting tourists.
 - ✓ Available attractions
 - ✓ Parks and recreation system attractions
 - ✓ Non-profit "partners" attractions
2. Enhancing real estate values.
 - ✓ People will pay more to live close to natural park areas.
 - ✓ Subsequent higher property taxes to local governments
 - ✓ Aggregate payment to local government often sufficient to pay annual Debt charges required to pay bonds for the park improvements.
3. Attracting businesses.
 - ✓ Parks attract highly educated professionals
 - ✓ Quality of life is a major component for where people choose to live
4. Attracting retirees.
 - ✓ A clean growth industry is the increasing number of relatively affluent, active retirees.
 - ✓ The decision to settle is guided by two factors: climate and recreational opportunities.

II. Alleviating Social Problems.

5. Preventing youth crime.
 - ✓ Early stimulant in the parks movement of the twentieth century.
 - ✓ Social support from adult leaders
 - ✓ Intense and individualized attention to participants
 - ✓ A sense of group belonging
 - ✓ Relative benefit of return on investment versus vandalism, crime, and idleness
6. Healthy lifestyles.
 - ✓ Key to controlling health care costs is prevention
 - ✓ Parks and recreation facilitate improvements in physical fitness

- ✓ Parks and recreation facilitate positive emotional, intellectual, and social experiences
 - ✓ People with wellness have a proclivity to act during their free time, rather than merely to be acted on.
7. Environmental stress.
- ✓ Parks in urban settings have a restorative effect that releases the tensions of modern life, especially in urban settings.
 - ✓ The cost of environmental stress in terms of work day's lost and medical care is likely to be substantially greater than the cost of providing and maintaining parks.
8. Unemployment and underemployment.
- ✓ Basic physiological needs that many people derive from work are difficult to acquire when they are working in low-level service jobs that are unfortunately the major growth positions in the economy. For unemployed such needs may be totally unmet.
 - ✓ The needs are self-esteem, peer group recognition, ego satisfaction from achievement, a desire to be successful, excitement and self-worth.
 - ✓ For a growing number of people these needs will be fulfilled in their familial or leisure milieus or they will not be fulfilled at all.

III. Environmental Stewardship.

9. Historical preservation.
- ✓ Preserving historical remnants as part of a parkscape offers lingering evidence to remind people of what they once were, who they are, what they are and where they are. The Parks are replete with history.
10. The natural environment.
- ✓ People turn to the natural environment, preserved by human action as a park, wilderness or wildlife refuge for something they cannot get in the built environment.
 - ✓ Parks play a role in preserving our natural life support system—the green infrastructure of a region connected by waterways, wetlands, woodlands, greenways, conservation lands and wildlife habitat.
 - ✓ Green infrastructure is planned and protected before development.

With a few high profile exceptions, Shiawassee County parks have quietly and reliably improved in small increments to supply many of the benefits from this list. This plan believes that the parks can do better and offers avenues for improvement especially with healthy lifestyles, contact with the natural environment and illustrative of best management practices for a better environment.

DETAILS ON ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TRAILS.

160 million Americans are participating in outdoor adventure activities that contributes \$730 billion to the U.S. economy and supports 6.5 million jobs across the United States. Active outdoor recreation retail sales are second only to the telecommunications industry. "Leisure literacy" is increasing on a national level and activities, together with their variety, are on the rise. Further, baby boomers are active retirees. Activities reporting greatest growth are snowshoeing (+83.4%), kayaking (+23.3%) and trail running (+22.1%). It has also been shown that 1 in 4 Americans choose their vacation destination based on available outdoor activities.

In recent nationwide surveys by the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Home Builders, home buyers ranked trails as the second most important amenity among a list of 18 choices. Quiet, safe streets and neighborhoods ranked #1.

An MDOT 2014 study found that the total annual economic impact of bicycling equals \$668 million. Sixty-three million dollars of that figure comes from bicycling retail revenue and thirty-eight million is the total annual spending associated with bicycling events and vacations in Michigan. Thirty-nine percent of state residents stated that road bikes were their primary bicycle type while thirty-one percent chose mountain bikes.

In Midland, Michigan, a study of the Pere Marquette Trail found that 8 of 10 trail users also visited a business along or near the trail. Businesses along the Hart-Montague Trail a 22-mile trail in West Michigan, found that their sales revenue increased 25 to 30 percent within the first six months of the trail's existence.

In a 2010 State of the State survey conducted by the MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, over 80 percent of respondents indicated trails and parks were *somewhat to very important* to economic recovery.

Based on Michigan's 2007 survey, the Michigan Horse Council estimates the horse industry contributes \$2.5 billion to the state's economy and generates more than \$40 million in taxes each year. A 2006 MSU study estimated an approximately \$351 million in direct and secondary economic impact generated annually by equestrian trail riders. Recreational horseback riders are growing in numbers faster than any other segment of the horse industry. The Shiawassee County Fairgrounds horse show facilities are a State level preeminent feature.

DETAILS ON HEALTH IMPACT OF TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE.

The benefits of exercise are well-known. Exercise, such as that provided by most trail activities, is a key component of any weight loss effort, protection against developing diabetes, improvement of symptoms of mild to moderate depressions at

a magnitude comparable to some pharmacological agents, and a positive influence in warding off premature death.

Trails provide natural, scenic areas that cause people to want to be outside and physically active. In southeastern Missouri, 55% of trail users stated they are exercising more now than before the existence of a nearby trail.

An earlier section of the plan reports on a strategic plan of our local health department that rated obesity as the top concern for community public health. Other indicators raising concern are:

- Top US military officers report that 27 percent of young adults are too overweight to serve in the military. The percent who were rejected for the military for overweight reasons rose by 70 percent from 1995 to 2008. This statistic is being raised as a cause for national security concerns.
- University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio research arm indicates that an inactive lifestyle in youth and middle age may contribute to an increased risk of dementia in old age. Recent data show brisk walking deters dementia.
- The cost of physical inactivity among Michigan citizenry is estimated at nearly \$9 billion per year. When stated in per capita terms, the cost of physical inactivity for each Michigan adult resident is \$1,175 per year.
- In a recent study, some 70% of US mothers reported that they played outside nearly every day as children; only 31% of their children do.
- Per capita park visits have been dropping since the dawn of the digital era.
- Only about 10% of American teens spend time outside every day.
- Harvard School of Public Health says American adults spend less time outdoors than they do inside vehicles—less than 5% of their day.

Some positive perspectives on outdoor play and exercise for mental health benefits are reported in National Geographic Magazine, June 2016 issue. Some key points are:

- David Strayer, University of Utah cognitive psychologist: “When we slow down, stop the busywork, and take in beautiful natural surroundings, not only do we feel restored, but our mental performance improves too.”
- Strayer proceeds to explain that nature nurtures us. The ability to voluntarily focus attention and ignore distractions is crucial to solving problems and completing tasks. Modern life sometimes requires more of the resource that we have—and once it’s depleted, prolonged and concentrated effort leads to mental fatigue, loss of effectiveness and stress.
- Forest walks in Switzerland for kindergartners fosters more self-confidence and an independent spirit.
- Forest walks can decrease our stress hormone by as much as 16%.
- Attending to stimuli in peaceful, natural environments—trees, flowing water, nature sound—is a different type of experience. It doesn’t require a prolonged effort or an act of will to avoid distractions. Researchers say this kind of focus

allows the brain to disengage and restore its capacity for directed attention. Research reveals that nature can improve creativity by up to 50%.

- At the University of California-San Francisco Children’s Hospital, pediatricians are writing prescriptions for young patients and their families to visit nearby parks. They use marketing tools as well with maps and brochures. The hospital works with local transit to provide transportation to parks and programs for entire families. As one physician quoted a Korean proverb, “body and soil are one.”
- In a Finland study it was found that a 40 to 50 minute walk is enough for physiological changes and mood changes and improved attention. It recommends “five doses” a month.
- Environmental psychologists at the University of Michigan explain that it’s the visual element in natural environments—sunsets, streams, wildflowers, butterflies—that reduce stress and mental fatigue. Such stimuli promote a gentle, soft focus that allows our brains to wander, rest and recover from the “nervous irritation” of city and suburban life.

A 2000 Michigan State University survey about the Pere Marquette trail in Midland, Michigan, found that 73% of trail users reported improvement in their health.

The evidence is mounting about mental and physical health benefits, and the public response has been and can be expanded trail development and maintenance, access to natural resource areas of a community, and marketing opportunities.

6 Gifts of Trees

Trees have tremendous gifts to share, including the ability to make all our lives better and healthier.

What gifts do trees provide and how does our planet benefit?

1. **Climate resilience.** Trees’ food-making process involves absorbing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it. This helps remove greenhouse gases that cause climate change.
2. **Clean air.** Trees are good for our health. They produce oxygen for us to breathe, and remove harmful pollution/pollutants from the air.
3. **A boost to your health.** Time in nature—like a walk among the trees in a city park—correlates with a drop in anxiety and depression. Trees help both our mental and physical well-being.
4. **Clean water.** Trees filter water, making your drinking supply cleaner and more reliable. Trees store and filter more than half of the U.S. water supply.
5. **A home for the wildlife we love.** Forests create habitat at ground level, the top of their canopies, and everywhere in between. All these habitats in a single area allow many diverse species to thrive.
6. **Cooler temperatures.** Temps are rising and heat waves are getting longer. A neighborhood tree’s shade acts like a natural AC and can even help keep down the energy costs of our actual AC systems.



Park pathways for exercise, walking, biking, running and in-line skating (on paved areas)

The Nature Conservancy 

 **PLANT A BILLION TREES**



Advocacy for Investments in Trees

APPENDIX P: LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Introduction. “*Level of Maintenance*” is a term to define where in the parks maintenance duties are expected and to what extent. For the purposes of this Plan, park maintenance shall fall into two categories: 1) routine maintenance, and; 2) special maintenance. The purpose of inclusion into the Plan is for the benefit of the Parks Commissioners awareness of what it takes to manage and maintain the parks in more pristine condition and to maintain oversight in concert with the county employees servicing them.

I. Routine Maintenance.

For ‘everyday’ park duties, these tasks are well-known and mostly carried out by personnel on ‘automatic pilot’. The recent game changing upgrade for routine improvement at the parks has been the County Commissioner designation of a full-time seasonal maintenance position in the Department of Buildings and Grounds. Some out-sourcing may remain; however, most areas of attention may be expected to take place with capable, available personnel.

It should be noted that park maintenance is not about equipment replacement. When something is worn or a new roof is needed, items such as these are in the Department’s annual budget request for replacement or capital improvement. Routinely a six-year capital improvements plan updated annually should be in place to project and schedule the facility replacement needs in addition to the park facility additions slated elsewhere in this Plan. Without a schedule, decisions may be ‘off the cuff’ and thus divert limited funds away from priorities.

Level of maintenance is a term to define the expected reoccurrence or condition of a maintenance item when attended to, e.g., mowing at what grass height or frequency? Or the condition of a pathway for park user’s satisfaction. When is a trash container serviced—half-full, full or upon presence of something unappealing? There is a learned behavior with level of maintenance when the culture of the park care is one of excellence and service oriented to park users.

Six of the seven County parks receive routine maintenance. The seventh park, A.J. Davis Park at the intersection of M-71 and Goodall Road, is decommissioned and is left to nature with the observed response being a healthy woodlot with understory development that is showing signs of the climax forest that will overtake the area in decades to come.

Routine maintenance involves traditional caretaking tasks that include:

- Mowing with most of it being grass/lawn settings at 4" grass height; special maintenance will define places in particular parks for a periodic brush mower cut attention especially converted prairie grounds and the mowed pathways through them. To reduce lawn mowing, the Parks Commission shall designate park areas for taller grass/brush cutting.
- Refuse and Litter 'Patrol'. Trash containers, some designated for recyclables, are concentrated at pavilions and paddle craft launches. Some signs have been required to advise park users to refrain from dumping household trash. Park rules with enforcement powers back up this instruction. Litter patrol is a directed attention for detail care among park workers, dedicated park users and recruited volunteers.
- Bathroom and Pavilion Cleaning. With the increase in the installation of vault toilets, emphatic park survey results and Commissioners emphasize cleanliness at these facilities and a ready supply of toilet paper and sanitation dispensers. Desired continued use of pavilions that includes reservations based on fees require attention to detail with pavilion floors and tables. A few responsibilities slip into 'special maintenance' that are detailed later in this appendix section.
- Security lighting bulb replacement. Consider a transition to solar powered lighting when replacing the posts and fixtures.
- Pathway clearance. The walking paths are routinely cleared of fall leaves, debris (twigs too), interfering above grade branches and vegetation and surfaces smoothed where rutted for any reason. Weed control is considered special maintenance.

II. Special Maintenance.

Special maintenance includes any item not on the routine maintenance check list from the above narrative. They are observed issues or called for actions in this Plan or other controlling issue paper. The nature of special maintenance is that not all needs may be foreseen or routinely attended. Issues arise and, once again, instructed, observant park workers will see the need to address a condition.

The special tasks include but are not limited to:

- Roadway and parking lot grading. With gravel being the predominant surface material on lots and park roads, rutting is inevitable. Some of this work will be contracted out. Small stockpiles in identified maintenance "yards" in the parks may offer gravel or crushed limestone supplies.

- Weed control in many settings. The pathways and parking lots should be weed free. Periodic weed removal is necessary. Paths are especially vulnerable to narrowing from encroaching borderline weeds. The original pathway widths are designed to serve passing pedestrians and wheelchairs with plenty of room for everyone.
- Pressure washing vault toilet liners. The interior of the toilet liners are subject to staining and bacterial growth that is both repulsive and unhealthy. This is an as-needed treatment, and if surveys are an indicator, that chore supersedes anything else in the maintenance set of responsibilities.
- Worn and damaged sign replacement. Tired looking signs or vandalized signs signal park neglect to users and its caretakers. Outdated messaging on signs demands supervisory attention and subsequent replacement. Kiosks should have up-to-date information messaging in its content. Enhancing sign design is a park friendly effort to go beyond simple text messaging and framing. If signs are establishing rules, they need to be updated at the bottom of that message where it should reference the enabling legislation backing those rules as provided for in Public Act 261 of 1965 (the same act that established the Parks and Recreation Commission).
- Sand at horseshoe pits. Assure that the popular pits are level, freshened when necessary, upright backboards and pits are to be free of foreign material and weed growth about them.
- Invasive species treatment. These weeds and trees won't go away and will spread if unattended. The assistance of the Shiawassee Conservation District should continuously be called upon for evaluations of conditions and a reliable, good source for co-paying treatments.
- Tree "surgery" and replacement. County parks, together with its meadows, are about the trees and forests where present. An arborist evaluation of work to be accomplished should be a biannual check-up with follow up contracted services.
- Vandalism. Vandalism should be expected after design efforts to deter vandalism are in place. When vandalism occurs, the repairs should be expedited in the same level of priority as power washing vault toilet liners. Vandals copy other vandals when it is evident that care is not exercised.
- Paddlecraft Launches. River silts will settle onto the concrete ramps and have to be shoveled free. Henderson and Shiatown are particularly susceptible to annual deposits from high waters. A half

hour shoveling takes care of this every late spring. Longer term paving solutions of the ramp approaches are needed.

- River Clean-ups. An annual event occurs around August at river access locations throughout the County. This is a partnership with the County and should be encouraged to keep the water trail experience at a high level of quality. The other clean-up duty is to keep the river itself clear in the immediate vicinity of the launch for both paddler approaches and launches. Shiatown is a good example of periodic and necessary in-river clearing work.
- Woody debris management. Other organizations and volunteers attend on occasion to the in-river blockage of tree trunks and debris piles. The County should be pro-actively cognizant of downstream hazards from its four (soon to be five) launch sites and work with others on reopening stream segments.



Shiatown Launch siltation clean up



Henderson Horseshoe pits w/o backstop



Shiatown Tree 20-Gallon water bag with mulch allowing trickle irrigation and liquid fertilizer treatments.



Henderson Recycling Receptacle
New in 2022

APPENDIX Q

FUNDING RESOURCES FOR PARKS IMPROVEMENT

Local units of government may apply for State Funding at the state level, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), the shorter term Spark Fund, and the Recreation Passport Grants. These grants continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development. Other funding sources are mentioned in this section of the Plan. The County has limited experience in these grants for two of its parks (see the closure reports later in the Appendix. All State funded projects must apply digitally through the MIGrants web site and have a current 5 year plan on file with the State.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. The most recent program emphasis areas included trails and river public access. General goals of the program are to:

- Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use, and enjoyment;
- Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use;
- Meet regional, county, and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and,
- Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum development funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. There are no minimum/maximum funding levels for land acquisition grants. Applications are due by April 1 for acquisition projects and development projects.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has recently been on trail way systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields, and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 (\$60,000 total project costs) and maximum grant requests are \$500,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are due no later than April 1, each year.

Recreation Passport Grants: PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. The passport will be required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites.

The grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks facilities, but the development of new park facilities is eligible. Minimum Request \$7,500/Maximum Request \$150,000. The required local match is at least 25% and local match may include "soft" sources, not just cash. Grants are awarded annually at the end of December. Projects under \$15,000 do not require a licensed engineer's plans.

Michigan Spark Grants: This is a new program with ARP Federal funds in response to the adverse effects of Michiganans from the COVID pandemic. This only extends through the 2023 fiscal year so accessing this fund is an early step in the plan implementation process. There are three rounds of funding with the first round beginning in December, 2022. No local match is required.

Michigan Transportation Enhancement Grants facilitate capital improvements for non-motorized transportation (e.g. foot and bicycle trails), as well as transportation aesthetics (e.g. roadside landscaping), improvements in transportation related water quality, and historic preservation related to transportation. One important application of such funds is for the preservation and development of abandoned railway corridors into conversion for hiking, bicycling and in-line skating. This is also a priority use of the MNRTF. In total, approximately \$20 million is annually available on a competitive basis in Transportation Enhancement Grants.

In addition, Michigan Public Act 51 of 1951 as amended, commonly referred to as the **Michigan Transportation Fund Act**, mandates in Section 247.660k that counties use a reasonable amount, but not less than 1% of the funds they receive annually from the Michigan Transportation Fund, for non-motorized transportation services and facilities. This may include facilities established in conjunction with existing roads, such as bike lanes, as well as those separate from roads, such as developing and maintaining a rail-trail.

Community Forestry Grants. Local units of government are eligible for up to \$20,000 in any given year for assistance in tree planting programs.

Foundation Grants and Philanthropic Donations. Park facilities, in contrast to general support for parks, are attractive places for foundations and philanthropic gifts. With a parks plan in place, an official statement of the local government, investments by these entities are secure; they have passed public support tests through hearings and input. It has been reported recently (Hillsdale College) that only 14 percent of charitable giving in our country comes from foundations, and only five percent from corporations. The rest comes from individuals, and the bulk of it comes from small givers at an average rate of \$2,500 per household per year. The most popular categories of donations are environmental, youth recreation and exercise, accessibility, and play spaces. Of special note is the Shiawassee Community Foundation with grant cycles throughout the year, has at least four foundation funds that directly support the plans and purposes of County Parks.

Waste Management County Green Fund. The Waste Management Lennon Landfill incorporates a tipping fee revenue into its fee structure and annually grants monies to the County for green programs---hazardous waste collections, tire collections, recycling and county parks. Some funds may be accumulated over a period of years to build a sufficient local match for the more significant and desired park improvements.

Volunteer Labor, Equipment and Materials. Any number of actions in the Parks Plan may be accomplished in their entirety through volunteers. It is the duty of the Parks Commission to communicate and market opportunities for citizens and entities to exercise their community service spirit in the county parks.

Land Exchange. The county may use land resources in a park that reflect excess real estate where a better adjoining parcel in the system might become available.

APPENDIX R
PHILANTHROPIC, GIFTS, and VOLUNTEER DONATION
OPPORTUNITIES

“A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.” E. Trueblood

The 2023-2027 Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes many tangible, desired improvements that are compatible with philanthropy and volunteerism. Each park contains goals and actions that range from small scale to large scale upgrades for the public’s enjoyment of the outdoors. A comparison review of nine other county park systems shows a considerable gap in the value of Shiawassee parks volunteerism and that of the other parks. There is a great deal of room for improvement with the companion need in the administrative system to receive and direct volunteerism.

It is believed that the attraction to the County Parks--and the official statement that is the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan--for gifts and donations of time is a credible outlet for support from a variety of sources. The basis for that optimism is multi-faceted and includes:

- A long-term Shiawassee County commitment to maintenance, repairs and operations that demonstrate ongoing appreciation for contributed time and gifts;
- The objective to provide alternative and convenient places for outdoor exercise and the beneficial effects from leading healthy lifestyles;
- The natural character of the county park landscapes, especially the five waterfront parks, to gain close-to-home access to communing with nature;
- The available spectrum of donations that range from secure cash allocations to the Parks through the County Treasurer at one end of the spectrum to hands-on park improvements with ongoing volunteer operational activity at the other end—with all the variable options in between;
- The Park Plan’s contemporary focus on environmental qualities for public access to natural landscapes with attendant educational opportunities and outlets for personal expression of values;
- The MDNR-approved Plan’s eligibility for the many grants-in-aid programs that provide generous funding ratios yet still require local cash infusions;
- The Park’s prime suitability to the four highest expressed interests of the public during their leisure time outdoors—that is, walking/hiking, fishing, bicycling and paddle boating, and;
- The role the County Parks serves for accommodating the outdoor experience objectives of travelers and visitors to the area and the nomination of the River for a National Water Trail.

The list of needs and desires for the Parks is organized into categories of giving. The categories are inherently compromised, in part, because they can be looked upon in other ways where a blend of means for public contributions is possible. For example, a cash gift for a park bench might include a work-session for an organization, or tree plantings might be followed with caretaking in the early years of growth. Users of this resource are encouraged to think freely about those mix-and-match possibilities with expectations for others' involvement, endowment reserves for upkeep, and hands-on experiences.

- I. Park Facilities (in general or specific) that benefit most from cash contributions through the County Treasurer:
 - a. Local funding campaigns to match grant requirements for...
 - i. A new footbridge over the former Shiatown Dam site to connect the East and West Shiatown Parks
 - ii. The restoration of 6-Mile Creek 1886 iron bridge in West Haven
 - iii. Osprey Nest at Shiatown County Park
 - iv. Native Grasses and Wildflowers prairie at Shiatown bottomlands
 - v. Viewing platforms at Shiatown and Kerby Parks
 - vi. Barrier Free fishing platform at Shiatown
 - vii. Property acquisition for a Six-Mile Creek West Haven County parklet and expansion at Pine Grove County Park into the adjoining bottomlands for a necessary river access point.
 - b. Trees
 - c. Park benches along all the trails and at scenic overlooks
 - d. Exercise loop paths at Geeck, Shiatown, and Kerby Parks
 - e. Barrier free picnic tables for all pavilions
 - f. 'Ga ga' corral at Kerby Park
 - g. Island naming opportunity at Shiatown Park

- II. Park Facilities that benefit from combinations of cash, work sessions, equipment donations, and materials donations with a lesser reliance on grants:
 - a. Parking lot at Shiatown's West park—grading, gravel curb blocks
 - b. Park bench installations and donations
 - c. Construction of viewing platforms at Shiatown and Kerby parks
 - d. Construction of Nature play areas near all pavilions and playgrounds
 - e. Construction of information kiosks in all parks for bike routes, park rules, pavilion rentals, and paddle boating
 - f. Planting and maintenance of monarch butterfly gardens in all parks
 - g. Dedication tree plantings along riversides, park reforestation areas, shade trees, and roadsides
 - h. Native plantings and maintenance along riversides and the Shiatown bottomlands prairie
 - i. Barrier free accessibility pathways to all pavilions and play areas

III. Volunteerism Emphasis

- a. Participation in Friends of the Shiawassee River Stream Team water quality sampling sites at County Parks
- b. Cleanliness and clean-up campaigns—special event/routine services
- c. Maintenance of the Walking Trails
- d. Maintenance of tree plantings, butterfly gardens, and native plants

Contributors to the Parks are advised to contact the Shiawassee County Buildings and Grounds Superintendent staff office. To identify locations for engagement, the Parks website contains site maps of the parks in the Parks Master Plan document. Parks and Recreation Commissioners may decide to expand their role in volunteer recruitment and inject this role into a fixed agenda item for their meetings.

There are relatively close-by Native Plant outlets available for planning and planting Shiatown’s bottomlands, river shoreline deep-rooted grasses, wildflowers and shrubs, and monarch butterfly migration gardens. The following list is a sampling with no intent to endorse their products or services:

- 1) Shiawassee Conservation District, Owosso – Annual Spring Native Plant Sale (989-723-8263, extension 3)
- 2) Prairie Moon Nursery Catalog—www.prairiemoon.com
- 3) Designs By Nature, Laingsburg (517-651-6502)
- 4) Wildtype Native Plant Nursery, Mason (517-244-1140)
- 5) Native Plant Nursery, Ann Arbor (734-677-3260)
- 6) Michigan Wildflower Farm, Portland (wildflowers@voyager.net)
- 7) Hidden Savanna Nursery, Kalamazoo (info@hiddensavanna.com)
- 8) Four Seasons Nursery, Traverse City (231-932-7400)

Shiawassee County-based landscape nurseries are also a source for special orders and an inventory of some native plants, especially ground cover.

Beneficial riverside photo samples:



25-foot setback with native plants



Joe Pye Weed—healthy deep-rooted shoreline plant

APPENDIX S

THE TWO SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

(See Text at Section V-B for Report on Results)

Appendix S-1 "The \$100" Question to 175 Community Leaders



SHIAWASSEE COUNTY
Parks & Recreation Commission

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS SURVEY--\$100 QUESTION

On what priorities for specific Parks, System Expansions, or Features would you spread a not-to-exceed \$100? (for example, \$25 on Cleanliness, \$25 on Maintenance and \$50 on Geeck Meadows Park)

_____ Kerby Park _____ Shiatown Park _____ Henderson Park

_____ Lytle Park _____ Geeck Park _____ Pine Grove Park

_____ A.J. Davis Roadside Park

_____ Acquire/Develop West Haven Launch/1885 Iron Bridge Restoration

_____ Acquire or Lease, then Develop a Lehring Road Launch Site

_____ *Shiatown Footbridge Park Connector* _____ *Kerby School Renovation*

_____ *Partnering for a Corunna-to-Durand Rail Trail*

_____ Handicapper Access _____ Field Sports Areas _____ Cleanliness

_____ Playground Equipment _____ Nature Play Creative Play Areas

_____ Water Supply _____ Restrooms _____ Landscaping/Trees

_____ Walking Paths/Trails _____ Picnic Sites _____ Maintenance

_____ Benches _____ More or Upgraded Waterfront Access

_____ Administration _____ Recreation programming

_____ Other (list)

Appendix S-2: The General Public Facebook "SurveyMonkey";
See text at Section V-B for a report on results

THE QUESTIONS	QUESTION CHOICES FOR RATING PARK ASPECTS	Answer choices to Question 10 on favored initiatives (randomly listed)
1) What recreational activities do you and members of your household like to do outside your home? (check top 3 activities)	Very Good	1) Cleanliness; 2) Maintenance; 3) Restrooms;
2) Have you visited any of the County Parks? (check all that apply)	Good	4) Riverfront Access; 5) Information/Signs;
3) Do you plan on revisiting any of the Shiawassee County Parks?	Average	6) Playground Equipment;
4) How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Variety of facilities	Poor	7) Benches; 8) Trails;
5) How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Cleanliness	Very Poor	9) Picnic Sites; 10) Walking/Hiking Paths;
6) How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Landscape/Beauty		11) Landscaping/Trees 12) Outdoor Events;
How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Maintenance of facilities		13) Water Supply; 14) Group Fitness;
How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Things to do		15) Handicap Accessibility;
7) How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Accessibility		16) Field Sport Areas
8) How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Safety		
9) How would you rate the following facilities for the County Parks??? >> Events		
10) What initiatives would you like to see funded in the Shiawassee County Parks? (check top 3 initiatives):		

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY



SHIAWASSEE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Shiawassee County Parks Invasive Species Survey 2022

Conducted by Shiawassee Conservation District staff throughout June 2022

For more information contact: **Melissa Higbee**
989-723-8263 ex 3
melissa.higbee@mi.nacdn.net

Survey Goal:

The Shiawassee Conservation District's goal for this survey was to identify invasive species threatening the ecosystems of our county parks and to provide technical assistance to the parks committee for invasive species management.

County Parks

1. Henderson Park

Henderson Park is a 28-acre park made up of mixed hardwood forests on the bluffs and vegetated lowlands that follow along the Shiawassee River located in Rush Township. There are numerous recreational opportunities available such as ball fields, horseshoe pits, a playscape, walking trails, and a canoe/kayak launch on the east end of the park. There are numerous grills, picnic areas, pavilions, and restrooms located throughout the park.

2. Shiatown Park

Shiatown is an approximately 100-acre park situated along the banks of the Shiawassee River located in Shiawassee Township, encompassing the former dam site and the Old Shiawassee Town Square. The east side of the park hosts a boat launch, playscapes, and picnic amenities surrounded by a large shrubland and vegetated riverbank. The west side of the park has numerous walking trails and pavilions; located on this side is a large hardwood forest and wetland complex on the site of the old Shiawassee Pond.

3. Geeck Road Park

Geeck Road Park, located at the intersection of Geeck and Exchange Roads on the border of Shiawassee and Vernon Townships, is a roughly 6-acre open area along the banks the Shiawassee River. The park has a seasonal wetland complex with tree clusters throughout as well as pavilions, pit toilet, and picnic amenities.

4. Lytle Road Boat Launch

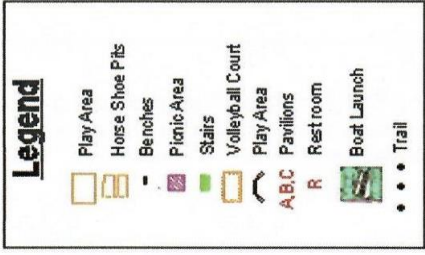
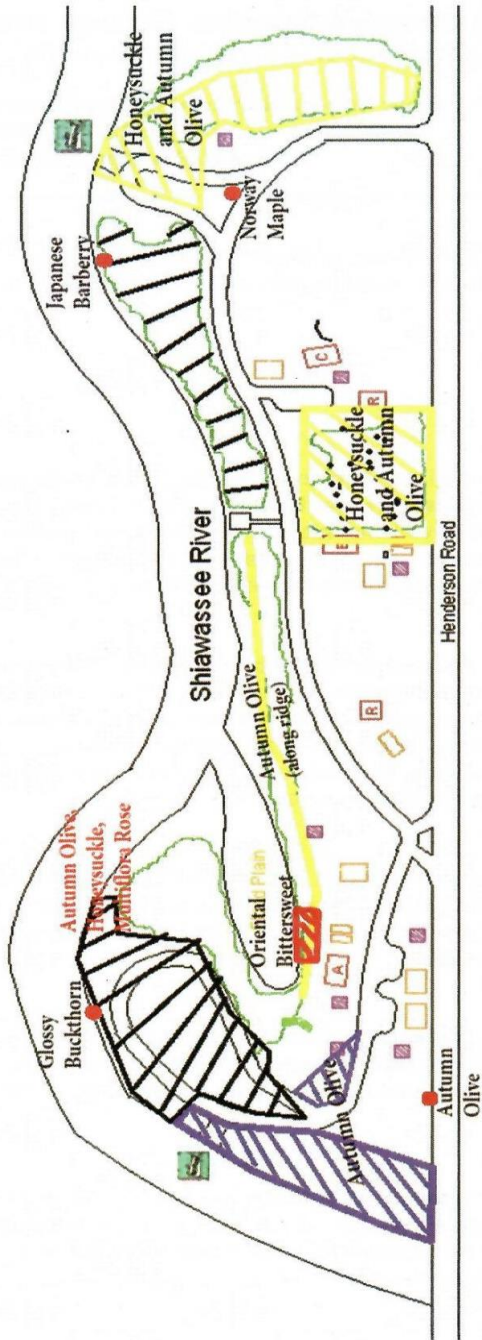
(Lytle Road Boat Launch) is a small natural area on the banks of the Shiawassee River at the intersection of Lytle and Kerby Roads in Caledonia Township. There is river access surrounded by shaded riverbanks along with a few grills and picnic tables.

5. Kerby Park

Kerby Park is an 8-acre park located at the intersections of Kerby, Shipman, and M-21 roads in Caledonia Township. This park is located on the old Kerby School grounds, and has multiple pavilions, picnic amenities, play structures and a large bathroom building. There are a few large trees scattered throughout the park. There is a roughly 2 acre un-mowed area with large shrubs throughout.

APPENDIX T—INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)

Henderson Park



Aerial view of Henderson Park

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)

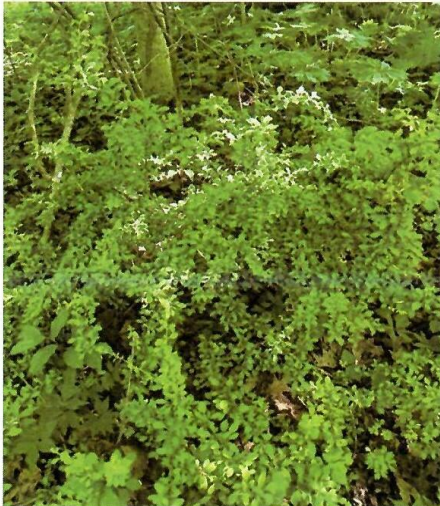
Henderson Park

Invasive Species Detected:

- Autumn Olive
- Honeysuckle
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Multiflora Rose
- Japanese Barberry
- Norway Maple
- Glossy Buckthorn

Management Recommendations:

- Work with Conservation District to have a forest management plan written
- Control Japanese barberry, glossy buckthorn, and oriental bittersweet before an infestation starts
- Begin removal of dense autumn olive in western section of park. Replant areas with native trees or a native seed mix
- Avoid piling debris and brush along steep slopes to help prevent erosion
- Consult with Conservation District on native tree species to be planted as memorials

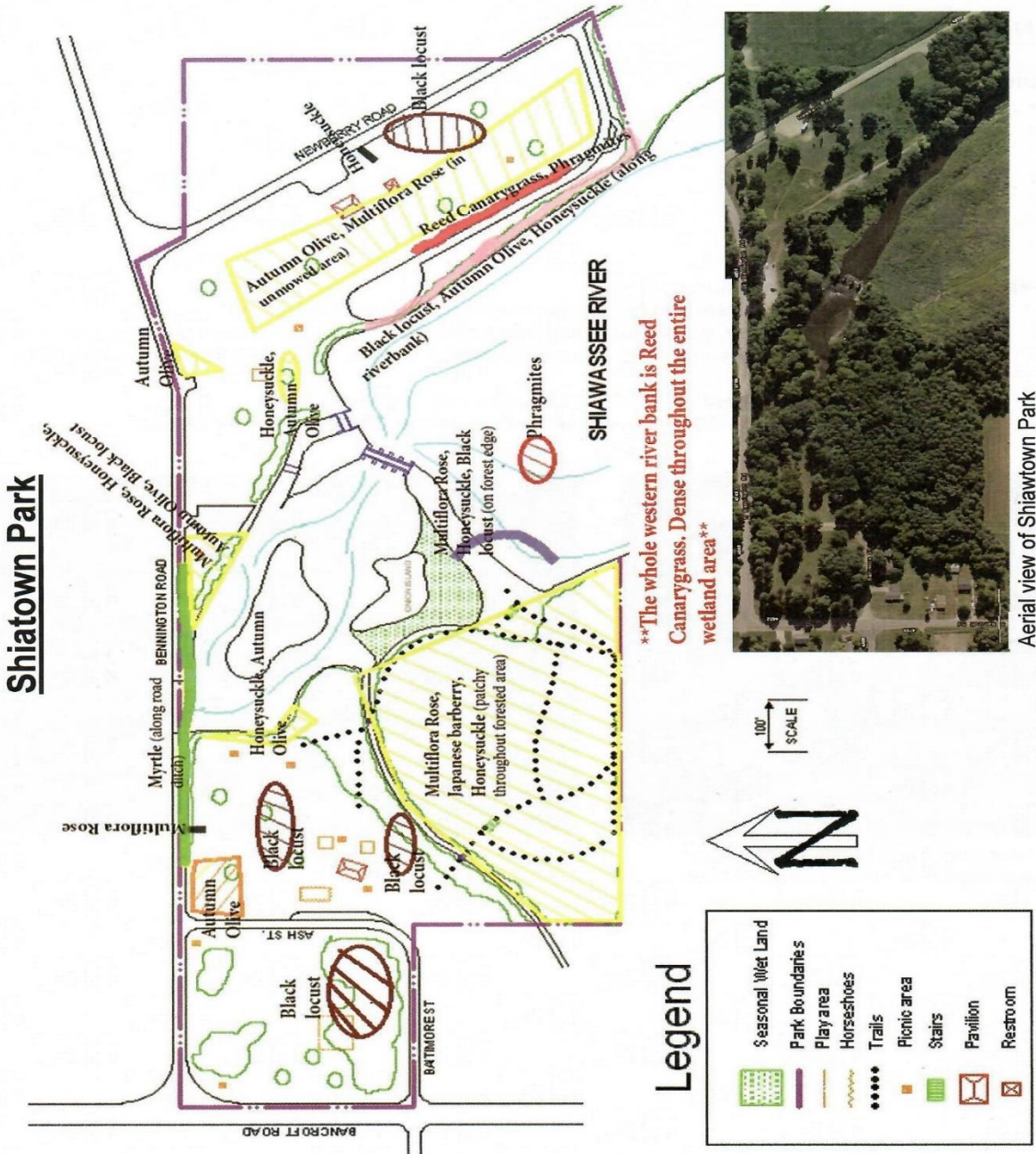


Japanese barberry located on the riverbank trail near the boat launch



A brush pile on the steep banks of the river

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)



APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)

Shiatown Park

Invasive Species Detected:

- Autumn Olive
- Honeysuckle
- Multiflora Rose
- Black Locust
- Japanese Barberry
- Reed canarygrass
- Phragmites
- Myrtle

Management Recommendations:

- Continue treating invasive shrubs in the woodlot on the western bank
- Continue treatment of phragmites patch to control it from spreading throughout park
- Begin treating invasive reed canarygrass and then replant areas with native seed mix
- In the un-mowed shrubland on eastern bank that is full of invasive shrubs, remove invasive shrubs and plant the area to a native pollinator habitat
- Remove black locust trees and plant with native hardwood trees. Confer with Conservation District to match tree species to soil type
- Begin phased treatment of invasive shrubs located throughout the park



Dense reed canarygrass on western bank



Shrubland full of invasive autumn olive and multiflora rose

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)

Geeck Road Park

Invasive Species Detected:

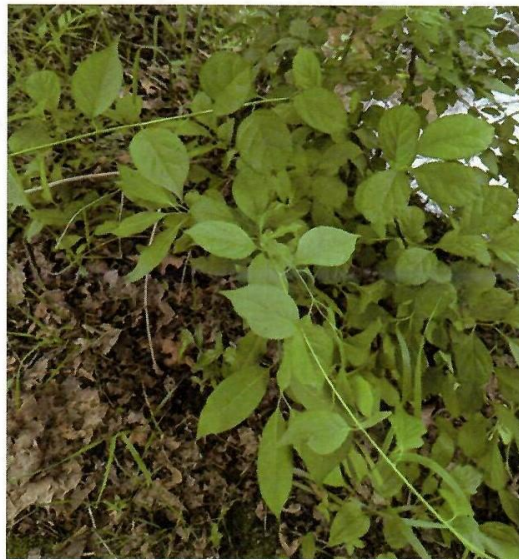
- Autumn Olive
- Honeysuckle
- Multiflora Rose
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Creeping Jenny
- Bindweed
- Reed Canarygrass
- Giant Ragweed

Management Recommendations:

- Begin treatment of oriental bittersweet before an infestation begins
- Start phased removal of invasive species on the riverbanks. Replant areas with native grasses and trees to help combat erosion
- Treat invasive ground cover, creeping jenny and bindweed, along vernal pool area
- Treat the invasive shrubs located throughout park



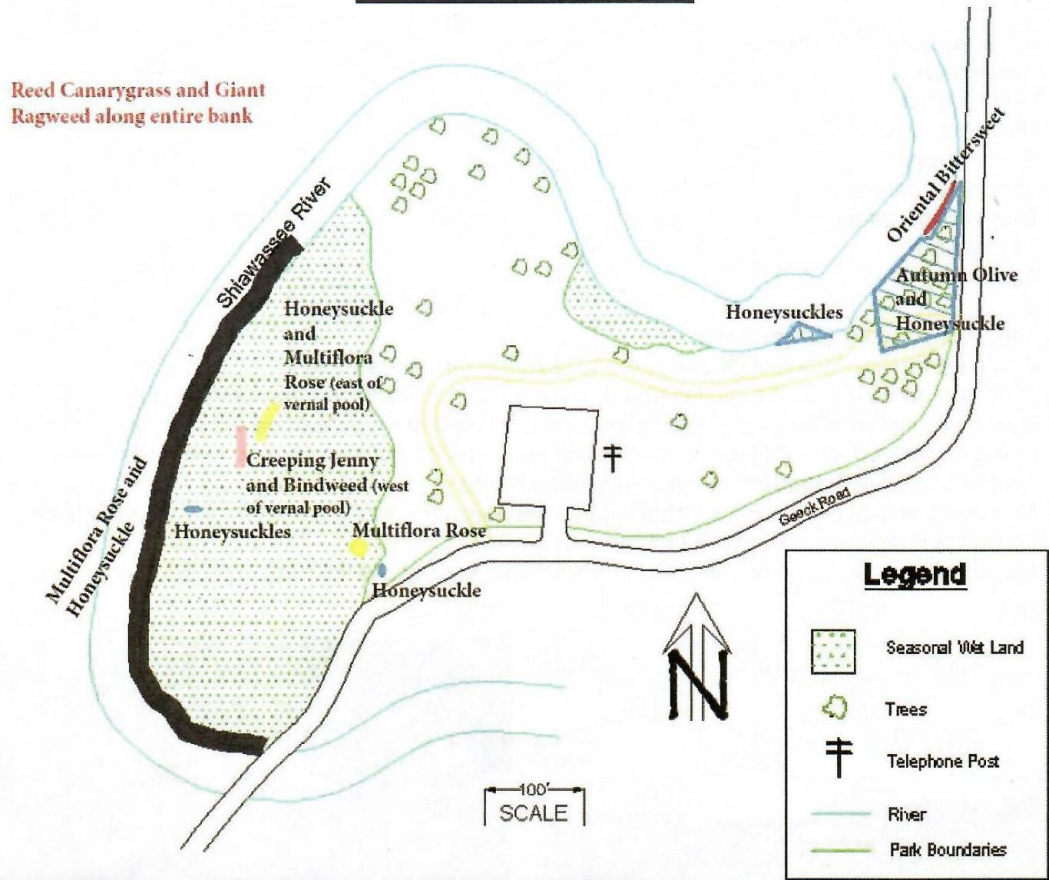
Bindweed



Oriental bittersweet found along the riverbanks on the eastern edge of park

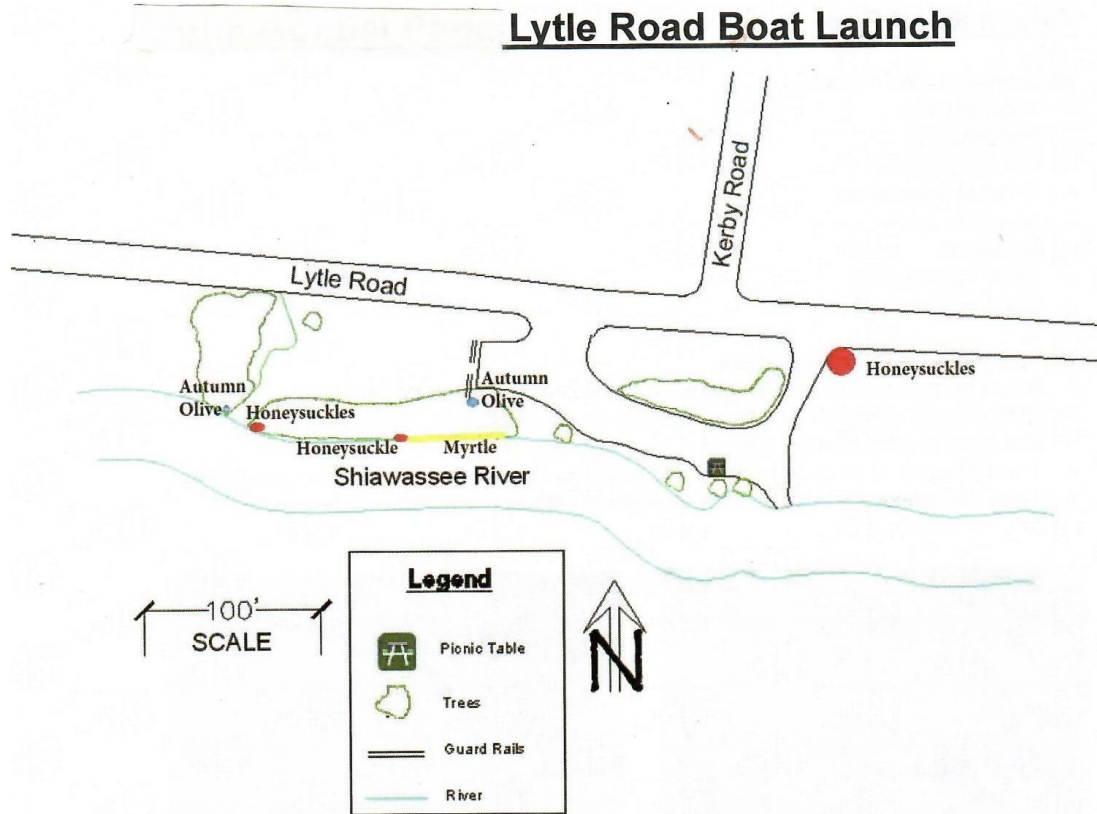
APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)

Geeck Road Park



Aerial view of Geeck Road Park

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)



Aerial view of Lytle Road Launch Park

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)

Lytle Road Boat Launch

Invasive Species Detected:

- Autumn Olive
- Honeysuckle
- Myrtle

Management Recommendations:

- Treat invasive shrubs throughout park
- Treat and remove invasive myrtle. Replant area with native seed mix



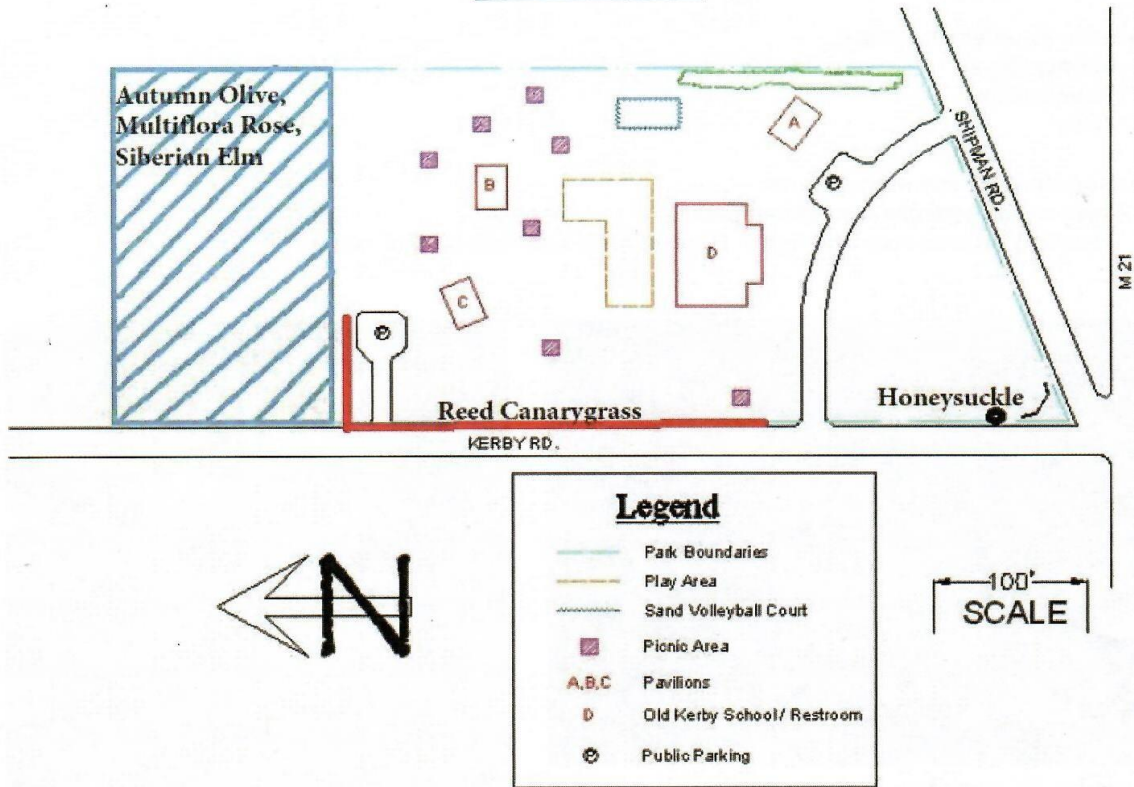
Dense myrtle along riverbank



Invasive honeysuckle shrub along riverbank

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd)

Kerby Park



Aerial view of Kerby Park

APPENDIX T – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY (cont'd-last page)

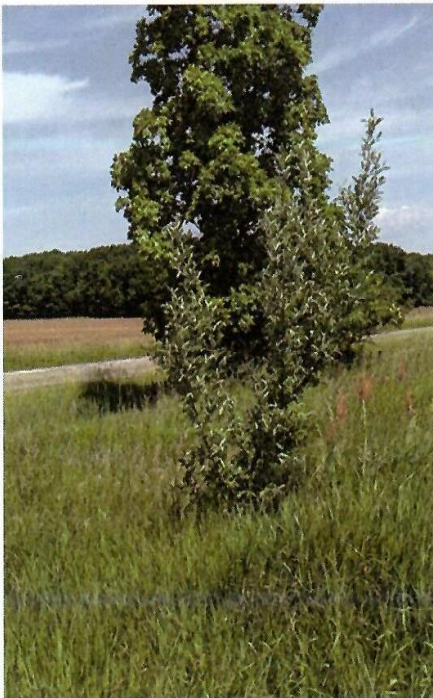
Kerby Park

Invasive Species Detected:

- Autumn Olive
- Honeysuckle
- Multiflora Rose
- Siberian Elm
- Reed Canary Grass

Management Recommendations:

- Treat invasive shrubs in un-mowed area and remove. Mow this area and replant to a native mix
- Control reed canarygrass located along ditchlines throughout the park



Autumn olive located off the northern parking area



One of the many multiflora rose shrubs found throughout the un-mowed area

APPENDIX U-1 (Page 1 of 3)

MDNR GRANT CLOSURE REPORT – PINE GROVE COUNTY PARK



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat 897 (1964), and Part 715, of PA 431 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
 (Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: SHIAWASSEE COUNTY

PROJECT BF 89-510 PROJECT TYPE: ACQUISITION

PROJECT TITLE: PINE PARK

PROJECT SCOPE: ACQUIRE 20 ACRES FOR A NEW COUNTY PARK

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) SHIAWASSEE COUNTY	Contact Person PHILIP HATHAWAY	Title PLANNING CONSULTANT
Address 201 N. SHIAWASSEE STREET	Telephone 989-277-7846	
City, State, ZIP CORUNNA, MI 48817	Email philhath@gmail.com	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s) Yes No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) Yes No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. Yes No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain Yes No

Park was only recently recommissioned, and a sign manufacture is in progress.

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. Yes No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes No

APPENDIX U-1 (PAGE 2 OF3) – MDNR Grant Closure Report—Pine Grove Park

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Maintenance is routinely scheduled for mowing, cleaning and litter removal.		--
GENERAL		
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site? Year-round		
COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)		

APPENDIX U-1 (Page 3 of 3)—MDNR Grant Closure Report – PINE GROVE PARK

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<i>I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.</i>		
Philip B. Hathaway, Pres. Town Plans Please print	<i>Philip B. Hathaway</i> Grantee Authorized Signature	1/21/16 Date
Julie Hebert, Ex Asst; Shiawassee Cnty Please print	<i>Julie Hebert</i> Witness Signature	1-21-16 Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

APPENDIX U-2 (Page 1 of 3)

MDNR GRANT CLOSURE REPORT – HENDERSON COUNTY PARK 1983 Grant



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
 (Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND
 FUND

GRANTEE: SHIAWASSEE COUNTY

PROJECT 26-00083 PROJECT TYPE: Park Improvements

PROJECT TITLE: Henderson Park Improvements

PROJECT SCOPE: New Facilities--Canoe Launche, Pavilion, Stairway, Restroom, Pier

To Be Completed By Local Government Agency (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) SHIAWASSEE COUNTY	Contact Person PHILIP HATHAWAY	Title PLANNING CONSULTANT
Address 201 N. SHIAWASSEE STREET	Telephone 989-277-7846	
City, State, ZIP CORUNNA, MI 48817	Email philhath@gmail.com	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
 If yes, please describe change(s). Yes No
No evidence of a fishing pier having been constructed

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) Yes No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. Yes No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
 If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. Yes No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. Yes No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes No

APPENDIX U-2: MDNR Grant Closure Report – Henderson Park of 1983 (Page 2 of 3)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Mowing, cleaning, and road grading are maintenance items secheduled for mowing as rainfall dictates, cleaning bi-weekly or as needed and road grading as needed.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
\$50 per pavilion event use

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
Daytime only from Mid-April to Mid-October

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

APPENDIX U-2: MDNR Grant Closure Rpt. – Henderson Park of 1983 (Page 3 of 3)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<i>I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.</i>		
Philip B. Hathaway, Pres. Town Plans Please print	<i>Philip B. Hathaway</i> Grantee Authorized Signature	1/21/16 Date
Julie Hebert, Ex Asst; Shiawassee Cnty Please print	<i>Julie Hebert</i> Witness Signature	1-21-16 Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



LWCF Commemorative Sign (bottom center of Park Sign) for Grant # 26-00083.

APPENDIX U-3: MDNR Grant Closure Rpt. – Henderson Park of 2017 (Page 1 of 3) Note: Project completed in 2022



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: SHIAWASSEE COUNTY

PROJECT NUMBER: TF 17-0194

PROJECT TYPE: PARK IMPROVEMENT


PROJECT TITLE: HENDERSON COUNTY PARK

PROJECT SCOPE: COMPREHENSIVE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

To Be Completed By Local Government Agency (Grantee)		
Name of Agency (Grantee) SHIAWASSEE COUNTY	Contact Person TIM HILL	Title DIRECTOR-BLDGS & GROUND
Address 1024 N. SHIAWASSEE STREET	Telephone 989-743-2220	
City, State, ZIP CORUNNA, MI 48817	Email thill@shiawassee.net	
SITE DEVELOPMENT		
Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s).		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
WALKING TRAIL EXTENSION; ACCESSIBLE PLAY STRUCTURE; PARKING EXPANSION PAVILIONS NOW ACCESSIBLE FOR APPROACHES AND TABLES		
Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
SITE QUALITY		
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

APPENDIX U-3: MDNR Grant Closure Rpt. – Henderson Park of 2017 (Page 2 of 3)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

<p>Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>No</p> <p><u>Park has year-round maintenance with full-time personnel in fair weather season</u></p> <p><u>Winter maintenance is on an as needed basis, mostly driveway/parking plowing.</u></p>
<p>GENERAL</p> <p>Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>No <input type="checkbox"/>N/A</p> <p>Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. <input type="checkbox"/>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>No</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>No</p> <p><u>Pavilion Rental Option at \$25.00 per rental</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?</p> <p><u>daytime use year-round</u></p>
<p>COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)</p> <p>See project grant photo and park entry sign:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

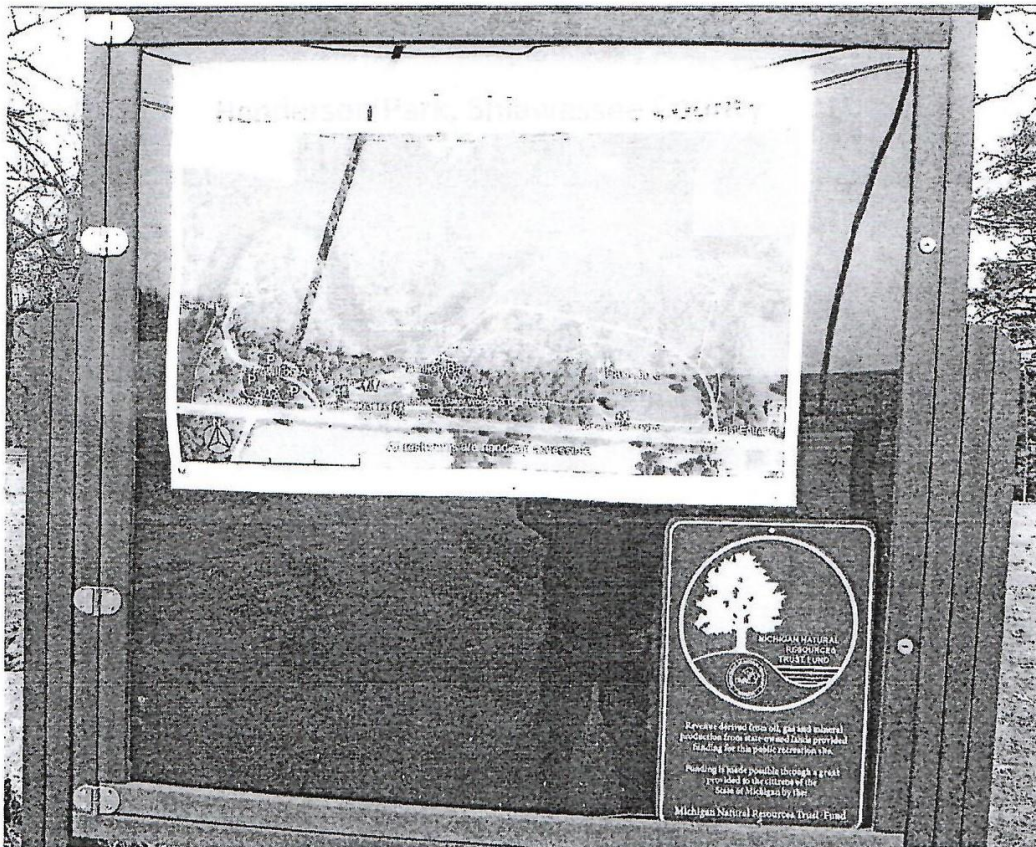
Required Park Entry Sign Photo Displayed Above

APPENDIX U-3: MDNR Grant Closure Rpt. – Henderson Park of 2017 (Page 3 of 3 that includes a photograph of the NRTF sign)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<i>I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.</i>		
Tim Hill Please print	 Grantee Authorized Signature	12-30-22 Date
Morgan Knox Please print	 Witness Signature	12-30-22 Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



Required MNRTF Sign Crediting Participating Grant Source

APPENDIX V -- PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST—page 1 of 2



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

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

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

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, 2023-2027		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
SHIAWASSEE COUNTY	SHIAWASSEE	DECEMBER, 15, 2022

PLAN CONTENT
<p>INSTRUCTIONS: Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations <p>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. RECREATION INVENTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</p>

APPENDIX V -- PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST—page 2 of 2

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

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

Date of the Notice November 4, 2022

Type of Notice Legal

Plan Location 3 Libraries and County Commissioner's Office

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 33 Days

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

Date of Notice November 4, 2022

Name of Newspaper Shiawassee Independent

Date of Meeting December 7, 2022

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

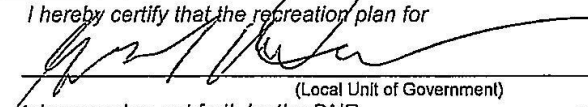
APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: December 15, 2022
- 2. Official resolution of the County Parks and Recreation Commission Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: December 7, 2022
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: December 16, 2022
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: December 16, 2022

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for _____ includes the required content, as indicated above and as set forth by the DNR.



 (Local Unit of Government)

Greg Brodeur, Chairman 12-15-22
 Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
 RESOURCES
 P.O. BOX 30425
 LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

 Date

By: _____
 Grants Management Date

APPENDIX W-1: GLS REGION V PDC LETTER OF ADOPTED PLAN



Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners

December 19, 2022

Surbeck Building
201 N. Shiawassee St.
Corunna, MI 48817

Telephone
989-743-2233

Fax
989-743-2284

Greg Brodeur
Chairman
District 2

Brandon Marks
Vice Chairman
District 4

Marlene Webster
District 1

Brad Howard
District 5

Gary W. Holzhausen
District 3

Cindy Garber
District 6

John Plowman
District 7

To: Mr. Derek Bradshaw, Director
GLS Region V Planning & Development Commission
1101 Beach Street, Room 111
Flint, Michigan 48502-1470

Re: Adopted Plan Transmittal for the Shiawassee County 2023-2027
Five-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Dear Mr. Bradshaw:

On December 15, 2022, the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Plan is submitted to GLS Region V under separate cover in digital format to the e-mail address posted on the GLS Region V website. The Plan is forwarded to GLS Region V in partial fulfillment of the State of Michigan requirements for eligibility of funding assistance of the park improvements detailed in the Plan.

The Plan's focus is on the seven (7) park system for Shiawassee County Parks. There are regional perspectives within the Plan's inventory, analysis, and development upgrades that may be of interest to regional planners.

Please direct any remarks to the County Parks and Recreation Commission c/o Morgan Knox, Executive Assistant at 201 N. Shiawassee Street, Corunna, MI 48817 or at MKnox@shiawassee.net.

If you should have any questions, please direct them to the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission consultant, Mr. Phil Hathaway, Town Plans LLC, at (989) 277-7846 or e-mail him at philhath@gmail.com.

Thank you for the Region V PDC regional planning services to Shiawassee County.

Sincerely,

Greg Brodeur, Chairman
Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners

Enclosure: Digital copy attachment of the Plan e-mailed under separate cover

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**APPENDIX W-2: SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PLANNING
COMMISSION LETTER OF ADOPTED PLAN**



**Shiawassee County
Board of Commissioners**

Surbeck Building
201 N. Shiawassee St.
Corunna, MI 48817

Telephone
989-743-2233

Fax
989-743-2284

Greg Brodeur
Chairman
District 2

Brandon Marks
Vice Chairman
District 4

Marlene Webster
District 1

Brad Howard
District 5

Gary W. Holzhausen
District 3

Cindy Garber
District 6

John Plowman
District 7

December 19, 2022

To: Mr. Peter Preston, Planning Director
Shiawassee County Planning Commission
208 N. Shiawassee St., Second Floor
Corunna, Michigan 48817

Re: Adopted Plan Transmittal for the Shiawassee County 2023-2027
Five-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Dear Mr. Preston:

On December 15, 2022, the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Plan is submitted to the County Planning Commission under separate cover in digital format to the e-mail address posted on the County's website. The Plan is forwarded to the Commission in partial fulfillment of the State of Michigan requirements for eligibility of funding assistance of the park improvements detailed in the Plan.

The Plan's focus is on the seven (7) park system for Shiawassee County Parks. There are regional perspectives within the Plan's inventory, analysis, and development upgrades that will be of interest to county planners in their review of master plans, zoning ordinances and amendments, zoning appeals, and site plans.

Please direct any remarks to the County Parks and Recreation Commission c/o Morgan Knox, Executive Assistant at 201 N. Shiawassee Street, Corunna, MI 48817 or at MKnox@shiawassee.net.

If you should have any questions, please direct them to the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission consultant, Mr. Phil Hathaway, Town Plans LLC, at (989) 277-7846 or e-mail him at philhath@gmail.com.

Thank you for the County Planning Commission's services to Shiawassee County.

Sincerely,


Greg Brodeur, Chairman
Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners

Enclosure: Digital copy attachment of the Plan e-mailed under separate cover

An Equal Opportunity Employer

APPENDIX X-2 – PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PLAN ADOPTION RESOLUTION

Shiawassee County Parks & Recreation Commission

December 7, 2022 6:00pm

Meeting Site: Capitan Center Bldg., Corunna

Minutes written and submitted by Bonnie Reno, Secretary

EXCERPTS RELATING TO THE PARKS PLAN ADOPTION

Members Present: Cody Baker, Chair, Michael Carr (General Public); Constance Cobley (General Public); Chris Klawuhn (Environment Health); Larry Johnson (Health Dept); Zach Nicholson (General Public); John Plowman (Bd of Commissioners); Bonnie Reno (General Public). Guest/Audience included Tim Hill Grounds & Parks Supervisor; Phil Hathaway, Town Plans Consultant

- *Call to Order* – Cody B. called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- *Roll Call* was taken – Quorum was present.
- *Call to the Public* – No One Announced
- *Approval of the November 2022 meeting minutes as written* – John P. motioned with Michael C. seconded. Motion carried.
- *New Business*

Parks 2023-2027 Master Plan adoption

Phil H reviewed the sub-committee discussion from Tuesday, December 6, 2022 sharing the three posters of mapping of parks and trails. Phil provided the Ten 2023-2027 Five Year Park Plan Features handout to all board members that also includes the Ten Influences on the Plan Features. This meeting agenda item was the key item/issue where the public had been invited to speak. The item/agenda item was noted through a newspaper legal notice in the Independent News. No one appeared at this meeting to speak before the Parks and Recreation Commission. There was not any type of media message nor letter received by any board member addressing the Master Plan Adoption agenda item. Discussion followed including the park improvements since the 2016 plan was in place.

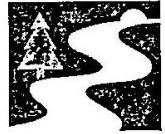
Phil H distributed the Resolution document to be presented at the Board of Commissioners meeting next week. Said resolution document was read by the Parks and Recreation members with total agreement to the language.

Larry J made the motion to adopt the Parks and Recreation 2023-2027 Master Plan.

Connie C seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by all members present. The Resolution document was signed by Cody Baker, Chairman and Bonnie Reno, Secretary. The original will be given to the Board of Commissioners with a copy to be maintained by both

Bonnie Reno, Secretary and by Morgan Knox, Executive Assistant currently located in the Surbeck Bldg., Corunna, MI.

APPENDIX X-3 – SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION OF PLAN ADOPTION



**SHIAWASSEE COUNTY
Parks & Recreation Commission**

RESOLUTION

**SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
(hereinafter, "Commission")**

**RE: SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
FIVE-YEAR PLAN, 2023-2027
(hereinafter "Plan")**

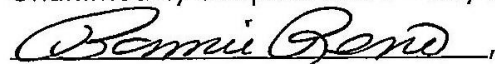
WHEREAS, The Commission has prepared the Plan in compliance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources minimum standards and content for a park plan, and;

WHEREAS, The Plan, after: 1) public input from many sources; 2) examination of expected standards for park systems; 3) comparisons of Shiawassee County park facilities to local parks and other county park systems of similar population; 4) evaluation and analysis of demographic, economic and public health conditions, and; 5) an overview of the existing county parks qualities and physical characteristics with consideration for park expansion opportunities on the Shiawassee National Water Trail, and;

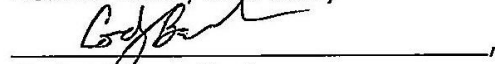
WHEREAS, action site plans for the parks and two proposed mini-parks have been prepared together with a six-year capital improvements plan derived from goals and objectives; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby adopts the Plan and directs County staff to transmit the Plan to the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners for its elevation and adoption as the County's official statement to guide the succeeding five-years of park care, budgeting and implementation of the Plan provisions.

Unanimously adopted this 7th day of December, 2022,



Bonnie Reno, Secretary



Cody Baker, Chairman

**APPENDIX Y-1: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXERPT
MINUTES—PARKS PLAN PUBLIC HEARING –PAGE 1 OF 2**

EXCERPT

**MINTUES OF THE SHIAWASSEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ON THE MATTER FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FIVE YEAR 2023-2027
SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

At the regular meeting of the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 in the Commissioner Chambers, Surbeck Building, Corunna, Michigan: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brodeur at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Invocation was offered by Commissioner Webster.

Roll call found Commissioners Webster, Holzhausen, Howard, Garber, Marks, Plowman and Chairman Brodeur present. It was moved by Commissioner Plowman, seconded by Commissioner Garber to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Plowman, seconded by Commissioner Webster to move into a Public Hearing for the Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Chairman Brodeur offered public comment: Cody Baker, David Lossing and Phil Hathaway spoke. It was moved by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Howard to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried. Public Hearing closed at 5:37 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Marks, seconded by Commissioner Holzhausen to **approve model plan adoption Resolution 22-12-13** for the Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Motion carried with the following roll call vote of 7 yeas: Commissioners Webster, Holzhausen, Howard, Garber, Marks, Plowman and Chairman Brodeur. 0 nays.

Model Plan Adoption Resolution #22-12-13 Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan:

WHEREAS, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027, and

APPENDIX Y-1: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXCERPT
MINUTES—PARKS PLAN PUBLIC HEARING –PAGE 2 OF 2

WHEREAS, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Shiawassee County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and park system natural resource conservation plan, and

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 15, 2022, at the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners Meeting Chambers to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Shiawassee County, and

WHEREAS, after a six-month public input process, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to adopt the Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the 2023-2027 Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Yeas: Nays: Absent:

I, Morgan Knox, Executive Assistant, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 15th day of December, 2022. <> _____

APPENDIX Y-2: SHIAWASSEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PARKS PLAN ADOPTION RESOLUTION

**Plan Adoption Resolution #22-12-13
Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan**

WHEREAS, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027, and

WHEREAS, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Shiawassee County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and park system natural resource conservation plan, and

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 15, 2022, at the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners Meeting Chambers to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Shiawassee County, and

WHEREAS, after a six-month public input process, the Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to adopt the Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the 2023-2027 Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: M/A

I, *Morgan Knox*, Executive Assistant, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 15th day of December, 2022.

Morgan Knox

<<Seal here, if a seal is available>>

APPENDIX Z-2 – AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION—SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Shiawassee Independent
1907 W. M-21
Owosso, MI 48867

STATE OF MICHIGAN }
 } ss.
--COUNTY OF SHIAWASSEE}

IN THE MATTER OF: Shiawassee County Commissioners Public Hearing

Robbin J. Stinson Being duly sworn, says that he/she is authorized by the publisher to swear that a certain notice, a copy of which is attached hereto 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 bonafide 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. Have been established, published and circulated at least once a week without interruption for at least one year in the county where the publication is to occur.

Shiawassee Independent 12-4-22
Date Published
[Signature]
Robbin J. Stinson

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 9 day of December, A.D., 2022

[Signature]
Notary Public

App. 12/01/2021
Exp 05/10/2028
County Antrim
acting in Shiawassee County

030 Announcements
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
A public hearing on the 2023-2027 Shiawassee County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan will be conducted at a regular meeting of the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners on December 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Shiawassee County Com-

030 Announcements
missioners meeting chambers at 201 N. Shiawassee Street, Corunna, MI 48817. A copy of the Draft Plan may be viewed on the Shiawassee County website. The public is invited to submit comments on the Plan through public comments at the hearing or, prior to the hearing, to Chairperson Greg Brodeur at the Commissioners Administration Office at the above address, through telephone at 989-743-2233, or via e-mail to mknox@shiawassee.net The purpose of this hearing is for consideration and adoption of a new Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Persons with disabilities needing assistance should contact Morgan Knox, Executive Assistant, at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations for many types of impairment.