

CHAPTER 3:

PARKS AND RECREATION



In This Chapter:

- Administrative Structure for Parks and Recreation
- Parks and Recreation Inventory
- The Blueways of St. Clair
- Trails and Greenways

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

AUTHORITY

Port Huron Township has two major groups that oversee various aspects of parks and recreation in the township. The first group, the Parks Commission, consists of five members that are elected to four year terms and are accountable to the electorate. The commission is responsible for recreation planning, goal setting, park maintenance, and developing policies and budgets. The second group, the Recreation Board, initiates and manages most of the parks and recreation activities the public partakes in. These daily activities are funded by an annual budget allocation from the Township Board.

The basis for the operation of a Park Commission is found in the compiled laws of the State of Michigan. Port Huron Township operates under PA 359 of 1947 as amended. The Township has had recreation plans approved in 1999, 2006, and 2015 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) per its recreation plan guidelines booklet: *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans*.

PARK COMMISSION

The Park Commission has the authority to maintain and manage the Township's parks and recreational places. There are no formal requirements for the member's specific duties; however, each Park Commissioner is responsible for determining strengths and opportunities for Township parks, as well as monitoring, supervising, problem solving, and determining the needs for their designated parks. All of the parks' needs, bills, and problems are considered at the commission's monthly meetings.

The commission receives budget approval for the administration of their duties from the Township Board through the Township Clerk's Office. In the name of the Township, the Park Commission may accept gifts, grants, devise of suitable land for parks and recreational places, and bequests of money for the acquisition and improvement of land for parks and recreation purposes. Per the township attorney, the Township Board is the only board authorized to buy, own, and sell property, including the initiation of the condemnation of land for such purposes in accordance with the condemnation laws of the State.



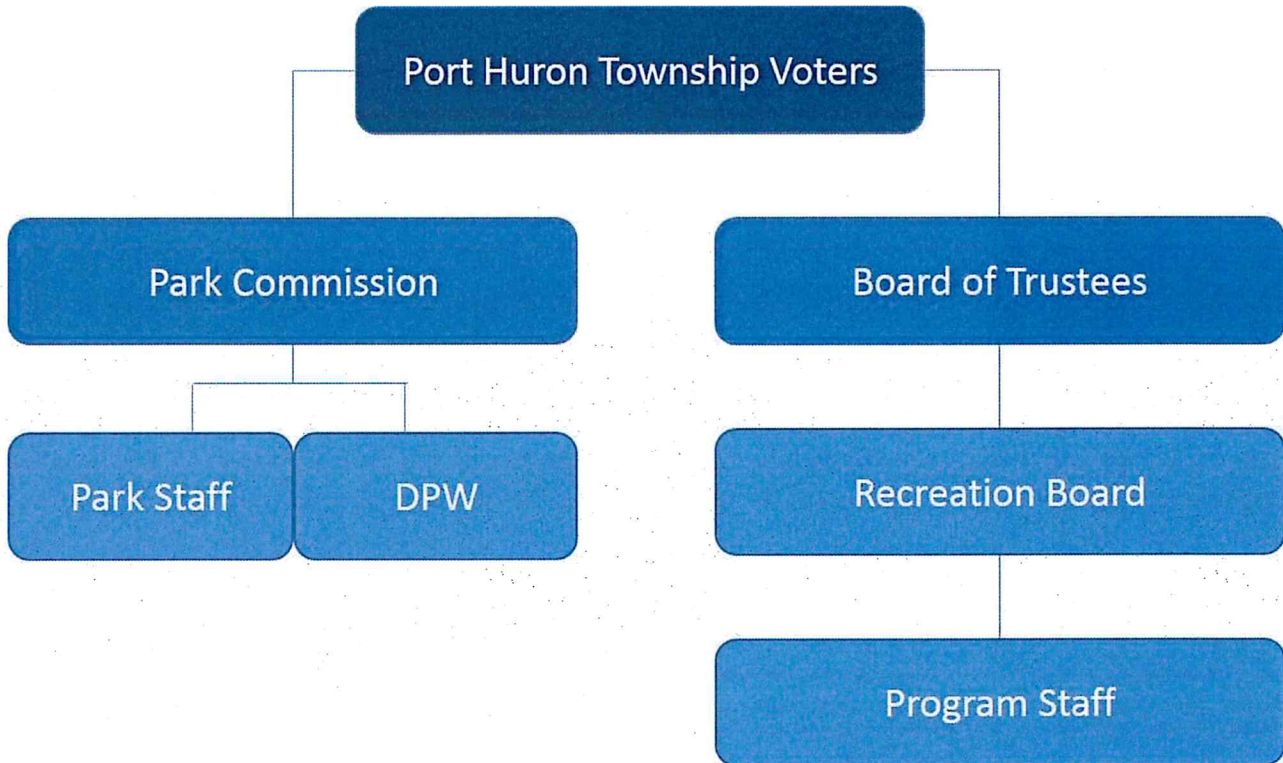
The Park Commission pays approximately \$15,000 (current cost) to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for some landscaping, maintenance, and repairs. In addition, the Park Commission works with the DPW to pay for equipment maintenance and the purchase of grounds and maintenance items.

The Park Manager handles minor repairs, locks gates, mows the parks, drags and lines the softball fields, and performs other miscellaneous maintenance tasks.

RECREATION BOARD

The nine member Recreation Board is appointed by the Township Board. Despite not adopting formal by-laws, the Chairman of the Recreation Board also acts as

FIGURE 3-1: PORT HURON TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART, PARKS AND RECREATION



the Chairman of the Park Commission to maintain consistency between the board and the commission. The Recreation Board members’ salaries are paid from an annual budget allocation from the Township Board. The Recreation Board does not have any full-time staff due to a lack of funding.

PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET AND FUNDING

In 2021, the total revenue from the Park Fund was \$325,625 with \$295,000 from tourist accommodations and \$30,625 from facility rentals and leases. The majority of the revenue, currently and historically, has been brought in by the Port Huron Township RV Park, which was sold in June 2022.

The Township Board and Park Commission have a strong working relationship since the Park Commission oversees the maintenance and management of the parks and the Township Board approves the commissioner’s budgets.

Recreation Department expenditures for 2021 included:

- \$45,000 for the Recreation Department
- \$157,000 for Bakers Field Park
- \$322,405 for the Park Fund

ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) has a countywide millage for parks and recreation in St. Clair County. PARC dedicates 75% of the millage revenues to parks and recreation facilities that serve a countywide audience and distributes the remaining 25% of the millage revenues to local governments for the enhancement or expansion of local parks and recreation programs and facilities.

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

PROJECT	YEAR	GRANT AMOUNT	PROJECT TYPE	PUBLIC ACT
Purchase of Bakers Field	2001	\$375,000	Acquisition	PA 81 of 2001
Bakers Field Park Development	2009	\$282,000	Development	PA 23 of 2009

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 2022

Since 1995, the amount of money distributed to local communities has totaled more than \$17 million and has had a positive impact on the delivery of local parks and recreation services. The amount of local distribution is based on the number of residents living in each municipality. From 1995 to 2021, a total of \$989,711 has been distributed to Port Huron Township for parks and recreation activities.

In order to receive these funds, communities must submit an annual report and show evidence of “maintenance of effort” to assure the funding is used to expand opportunities rather than to supplant existing local funding. Local governments must document their financial support for parks and recreation services has been maintained at a level equal to or greater than the amount they spent prior to the 1994 millage election.

St. Clair County PARC also donated the ADA-accessible kayak launch at both Bakers Field Park and the 40th Street Pond.

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

Since 1972, Port Huron Township has been awarded four MDNR grants, two of which were withdrawn. Grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has been instrumental in assisting the township in making recreation investments. Table 3-1 presents a description of all MDNR grants received by Port Huron Township.

Additionally, the Hoover School Park was developed with an MDNR Clean Michigan Initiative grant and the Wm. P. Thompson Pond received grant funding assistance through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

RECREATION PROGRAMS, COLLABORATION, AND VOLUNTEERS

The Township collaborates with the County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Blueways of St. Clair, the members of the community, and other organizations to offer recreational programming and amenities.

The Township offers a six-week, drop-in Summer Recreation Program for children registered in kindergarten through the age of 14. The program includes special days with contests, parties, tournaments, and field trips. Two supervisors and a number of volunteers work at the program.

Each October, the Township holds a Fall Festival in one of the township parks. This family-oriented event offers hayrides, carnival games for kids, a magic show, fire truck tours, inflatables, and refreshments. Typically, a local orchard has a variety of fall items for sale. In addition, the Township holds a holiday decorating contest open to all residents and outdoor movie nights in the township parks.

RECREATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

Port Huron Township’s residents are able to utilize a variety of recreational resources at the regional, county, and local levels, as well as through privately-owned facilities. This section describes those resources.

LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND FACILITIES

The Township owns and operates just over 216 acres of parkland, including the Lions Club Park, Memorial Park, the Wm. P. Thompson Pond, the Michigan Road Little League Park, the Hoover School Park, and Bakers Field Park. Additionally, the Township owns 70 acres of undeveloped land immediately south of the Little League Park at Michigan Road and Moak Street, as well as subsidizing the funding for the Port Huron Township Museum. The following pages include a profile of each park in Port Huron Township.

ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION

In accordance with the MDNR’s recreation plan guidelines booklet, an accessibility evaluation was completed for each park within the township. The evaluation was conducted by planners from the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission. In July 2022, each facility was compared to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and given a ranking from 1-5, where:

- 1 = none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2 = some site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 3 = most site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 4 = all site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 5 = the facility meets the Principals of Universal Design



LIONS CLUB PARK



HIGHLIGHTS:

- 10 Acres
- Black River Access
- Stocks Creek Access
- Public Service Building
- Playground
- Picnic/Shelter Facilities
- Sledding Hill
- Fishing Platforms
- In-Ground Stoves
- Picnic Tables
- Portable Restrooms

Accessibility Rating: 2

MEMORIAL PARK



HIGHLIGHTS:

- 58 Acres
- Black River Access/Frontage
- Picnic Tables
- Outdoor Pavilions
- Playground Equipment
- AYSO Soccer Fields
- Basketball Court
- Softball Diamonds
- Volleyball Court
- Bleachers
- Fishing
- Birding
- Walking Paths

Accessibility Rating: 3

Wm. P. THOMPSON POND



HIGHLIGHTS:

- 65 Acres
- Spring-Fed Lake
- Six Gazebos
- Outdoor Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Two 124-foot Accessible Fishing Piers
- ADA-Accessible Kayak Launch
- Public Restrooms

Accessibility Rating: 3

MICHIGAN ROAD LITTLE LEAGUE PARK



HIGHLIGHTS:

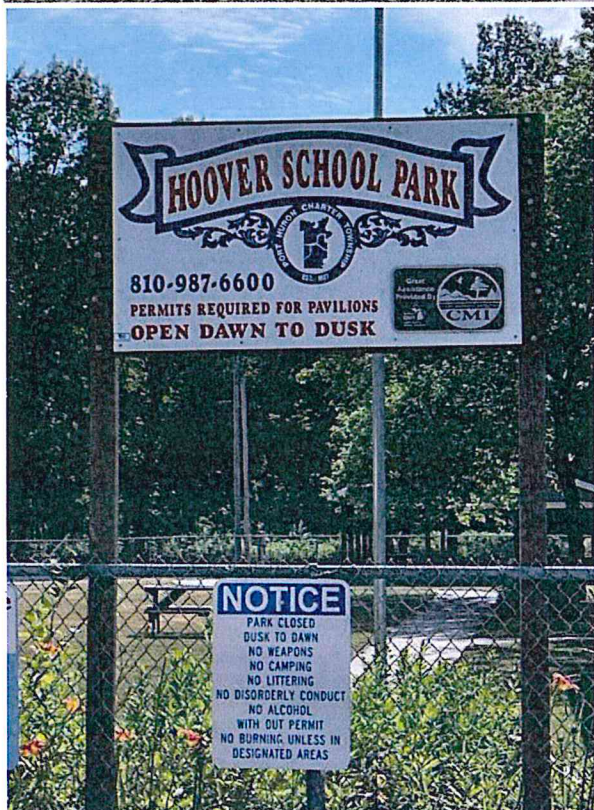
The Port Huron Township Little League owns 10.6 acres of property along Michigan Road, north of Moak Street with three baseball diamonds. The Township owns the adjacent 9.4-acre parcel that has two additional diamonds.

The 20-acre park provides bleachers, a concession stand, and several out buildings.

Accessibility Rating: 2



THE HOOVER SCHOOL PARK



HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1.5-Acre Neighborhood Park
- Multi-Use Basketball Courts
- Outdoor Pavilions
- Playground
- Restrooms

Accessibility Rating: 2

BAKERS FIELD PARK



HIGHLIGHTS:

- 61.5 Acres
- Boat Ramp
- ADA-Accessible Kayak Launch
- ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier
- Trails
- Pickleball/Tennis Courts
- Picnic Areas

Accessibility Rating: 3

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MUSEUM



HIGHLIGHTS:

The Port Huron Township Board also subsidizes funding for the operation of a museum highlighting the Francis Malane Schoolhouse and restored train caboose located behind the Port Huron Township Hall.

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY



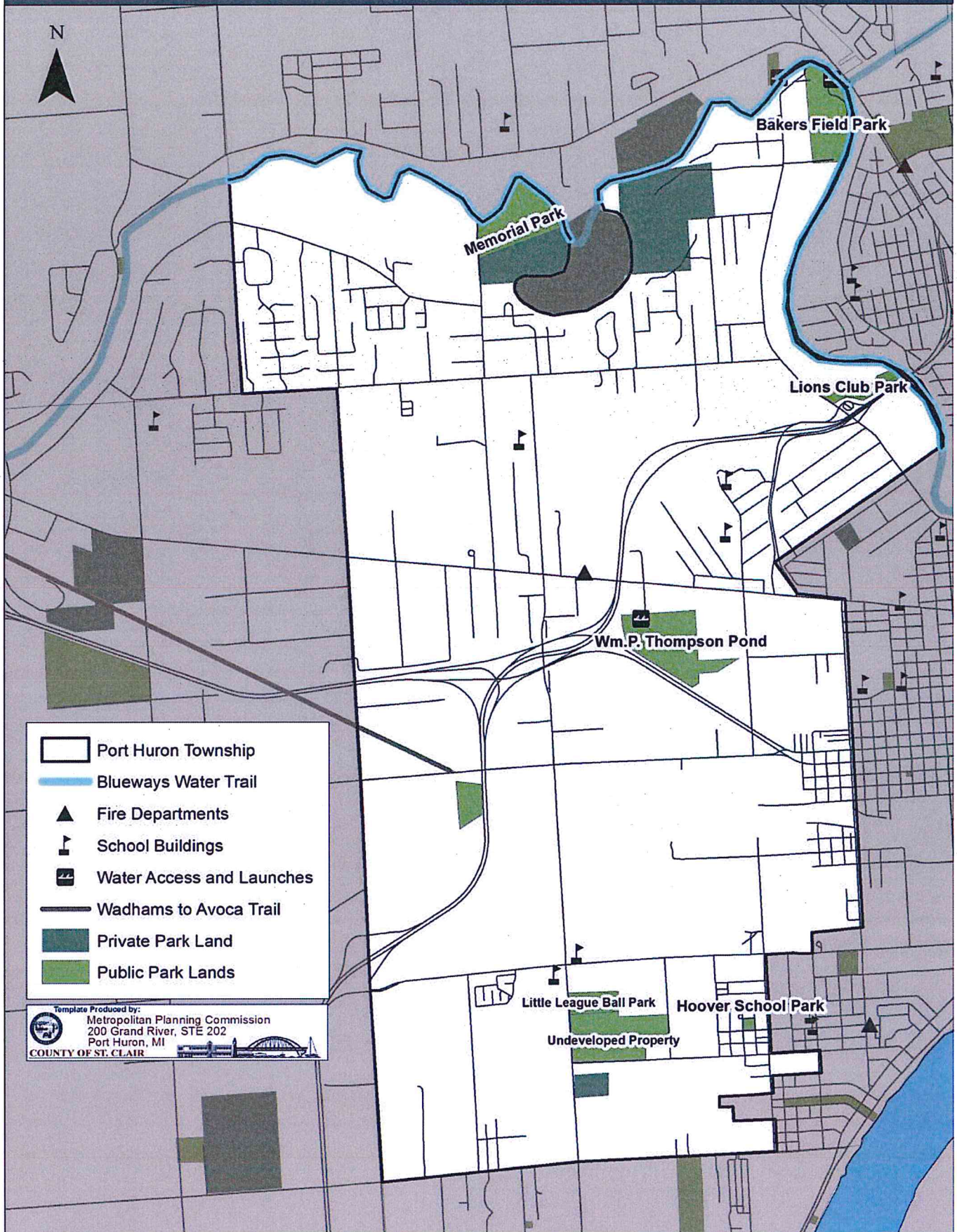
HIGHLIGHTS:

- 56 Acres & adjacent 14 Acres
- Undeveloped
- Natural Woods & Shrubbery

Accessibility Rating: 1

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

MAP 3-1: PORT HURON TOWNSHIP PARKS



PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN PORT HURON TOWNSHIP

There are numerous private recreation facilities within the township including:

- Black River Boat Club: Private modern club and boat slips.
- Black River Country Club: Privately-owned 18-hole golf course with a modern clubhouse. Public is welcome.
- Bridge Harbor Yacht Club: Privately-owned modern clubhouse with a swimming pool, tennis courts, and individually-owned boat slips.
- Elks Lodge Golf Club: Private 18-hole golf course with a modern clubhouse. Open to members and guests.
- Glacier Point Ice Skating Arena: Two ice skating rinks.
- The Port Huron and Detroit Historical Society Museum
- Soccer Association in Park #3: Multi-use courts and soccer fields.
- Riverside Sports Academy: Gym on Michigan Road south of Dove Road.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

There are numerous parks and recreation facilities in neighboring communities, including Clyde Township, Kimball Township, the City of Marysville, and the City of Port Huron. The tables below contain an inventory of facilities located within these communities.

TABLE 3-2: CLYDE TOWNSHIP

Park	Acres	Amenities
Bills Bearss Park	20	Playground, ballfields, soccer fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, pavilion, basketball court, concessions, restrooms
Firefighters Park	1	Playground, ball diamond, basketball court, picnic facilities, ice skating
Clyde Township Hall Park	1	Playground, tennis courts, picnic areas, pavilion, restrooms
Jake Simpson Wilderness Park	17	Basketball courts, inline skating, playground, pickleball court
Riverfront Park	1.8	Undeveloped

TABLE 3-3: KIMBALL TOWNSHIP

Park	Acres	Amenities
Township Park #1 - Sutherland	46	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, pond access, fishing access, bathing beach, trails, tennis courts, picnic areas, restrooms
Township Park #2 - Smiths Creek Park	3	Playground, basketball courts, ice skating, trails, picnic areas

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

TABLE 3-4: CITY OF PORT HURON PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Acres	Amenities
Lakeside Park	17.7	Playgrounds, volleyball courts, lake access, concessions, bathing beach, restrooms, splash pad, freighter watching
Lighthouse Park	7.9	Playgrounds, lake access, bathing beach, restrooms, freighter watching
Blue Water Bridge Park	3.7	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Thomas Edison Park	9.0	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Pine Grove Park	13.7	Playground, ballfields, river access, fishing access, rails, picnic areas, restrooms, concessions, pavilion, freighter watching
Lincoln Avenue Turnout	0.5	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
Keifer Park	0.9	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Municipal Office Grounds	1.8	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Wastewater Treatment Plant	1.1	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Lincoln Park Turnout	0.6	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Fort Street Dock	0.8	River access, marina, fishing access, trail, restrooms
Quay Street Dock	1.0	River access, marina, fishing access, ADA-accessible kayak launch, restrooms
Southside Dock & Park	1.25	River access, fishing access
River Street Dock	9.1	River access, marina, fishing access, restrooms
12 th Street Dock	1.8	River access, boat ramps, fishing access, restrooms
Riverside Boat Ramp	5.7	River access, boat ramps, fishing access, restrooms
Sanborn Park	41.7	Playground, ballfield, basketball court, swimming pool, trails, tennis courts, restrooms
Palmer Park	7.8	Playground, ice skating, trails, community center, restrooms
Gratiot Park	1.8	Playground, basketball courts
Mansfield Park	0.8	Playground
Optimist Park	3.2	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating, picnic areas
White Park	3.4	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating
20 th & Court Street Park	2.5	Swimming pool, restrooms
11 th & Division Tot Park	1.0	Playground
19 th & Division Tot Park	0.5	Playground
Knox Field	6.5	Ballfields, basketball courts, restrooms
Lincoln Park	9.8	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating, picnic areas, freighter watching
16 th & Dove Park	14.5	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, restrooms
Haynes Park	1.17	Playground, ice skating

PARKS AND RECREATION

TABLE 3-4: CITY OF PORT HURON PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)

12 th & Jenks Tot Park	0.44	Playground
Heritage Park on the Quay	0.21	River access, marina, fishing access
Flag Plaza Park	1.20	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
McMorran Place		Special events, performances, concessions, restrooms
Renaissance Tot Park	0.47	Playground

TABLE 3-5: CITY OF MARYSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Acres	Amenities
Marysville City Park	58	Playgrounds, soccer fields, basketball courts, trails, tennis courts, picnic areas, restrooms, amphitheater, picnic shelters, ballfields, sledding hill, freighter watching
Marysville Boardwalk	1.4	River access, boat ramp, bathing beach, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Morton Park	10	Playground, soccer field, ice skating, inline skating, picnic table/areas, restrooms, picnic shelters, skate park, parking area, trails/walking track
Mermaid Park	0.7	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
4th Street Park	35	Trails
Chrysler Beach	2	Playground, bathing beach, river access, fish cleaning station, concessions, restrooms, charging stations, fishing pier, gazebo, trail, picnic areas, ADA accessible, boat launch, kayak launch
Ravenswood Road Park	39	Ice skating, trails
Washington Road Park	5.4	Native trees
Huron Road Park	1.4	Ice skating
New Hampshire/6th Street Park	1	Ice skating
Delaware Road Park	0.3	Ice skating
Connecticut Road Park	0.3	Ice skating
Municipal Golf Course	152.7	Golf course, restrooms, freighter watching

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

STATE OF MICHIGAN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The State of Michigan owns and manages 22,178 acres of resource-based facilities in St. Clair County, including Algonac State Park, Lakeport State Park, the Port Huron State Game Area, the St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Refuge, the St. John's Marsh Recreation Area, and a mini-game area in St. Clair Township.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Port Huron Area School District operates two school sites in Port Huron Township - Michigamme Elementary and Central Middle School. Numerous recreation facilities are available at these sites. Michigamme includes a full range of playground equipment, small baseball diamonds, and large open play areas. The middle school site includes an exercise station, basketball court, baseball diamond, practice football field, and open play area.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

St. Clair County currently owns eight properties committed to parks and recreation activities that total 1,010 acres.

- Goodells County Park 366 acres
- Columbus County Park 411 acres
- Fort Gratiot County Park 30 acres
- Woodsong County Park 33 acres
- Fort Gratiot Light Station 5 acres
- Blue Water River Walk County Park 5 acres
- North Channel County Park 10 acres
- Marine City Dredge Cut Access 0.34 acre
- Wadhams to Avoca Trail 160 acres (12 miles long)

GOODELLS COUNTY PARK

The park's facilities include a Visitor Center, two playgrounds, river and fishing access, a seasonal ice skating rink, trails, four picnic shelters, a community center, historic buildings, a BMX track, a radio-controlled model airplane airfield and truck track, a butterfly garden, five special events buildings, a Splashpad, equestrian facilities, and areas for outdoor events.

The Splashpad has 11 spray features that include two water cannons, five dumping buckets, ground geysers, and a rainbow water tunnel. The Splashpad is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and admission is free. In February 2006, the County received a Facility Design Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) for the Goodells County Park Splashpad. This award recognized the Splashpad as the first water play facility in the state that uses and recycles water that is supplied by a well rather than a municipal water system.

The Historic Village at Goodells County Park contains the Lynn Township Schoolhouse (1885), and the C.C Peck and Company Bank (1908). Visitors will also see the Columbus Bible Church (1860), the Murphy/Ryan Farmhouse (1872) and the Mudge Log Cabin (1863). The latest addition to the Historic Village is the Columbus Bible Church. The Church was moved to the park and restored, complete with its twelve-foot tall windows and bell tower.

MAP 3-2: ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

St. Clair County Parks & Recreation

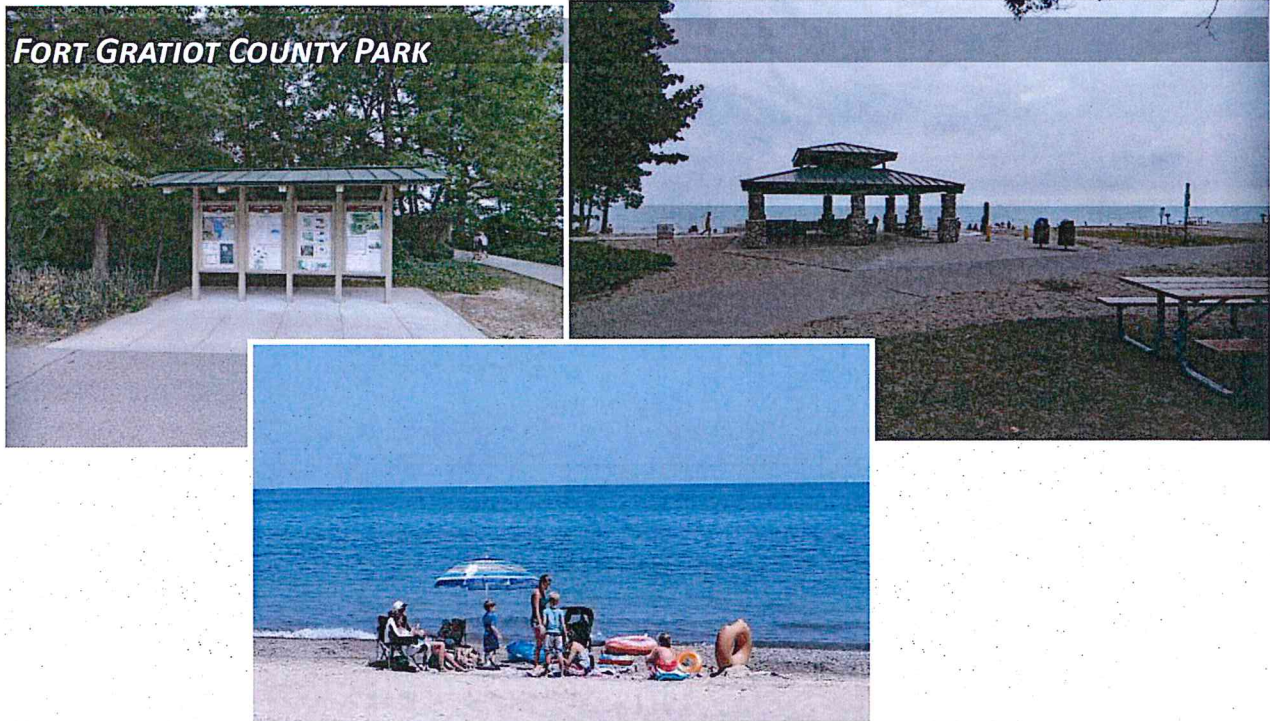


Legend

Facility

- Trail Head
- park
- Greenways
- Interstate
- Local Highways and Ramps
- CSS Minor Civil Division
- Major Watercourses

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN



FORT GRATIOT COUNTY PARK

COLUMBUS COUNTY PARK

Through five separate transactions, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) owns 411 acres of property in Columbus Township. In 2007, PARC used a \$1.4 million Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant to secure 291 acres for the park and used a \$65,800 MNRTF grant to secure the final 26 acres in 2016.

Phase 1 construction at the park was completed in early 2010, which included construction of the main entrance on Bauman Road, a park roadway, a 100 space parking lot, erosion control and drainage improvements, underground utilities, a water well, and development of a lighted sledding hill.

Other facilities at the park include mountain biking trails, walking trails, horse trails, fishing access, and permit only hunting. The Belle River provides 1.6 miles of water frontage in the park. A historic gambrel roof barn was restored by Columbus Township and is located at Columbus County Park near Bauman Road. The barn is used for maintenance and storage.

In 2012, an energy efficient park lodge was constructed with modern restrooms, a picnic pavilion, offices, and storage rooms. Activities at the lodge include picnics, weddings, educational programs, and meetings.

FORT GRATIOT COUNTY PARK

Fort Gratiot County Park is located off M-25 on Metcalf Road in the northeast part of St. Clair County. This 30-acre park offers breathtaking views of Lake Huron and 852 feet of shoreline and beach. It also includes picnic areas, restrooms, a children's playground, and paved walking trails. Other park improvements include the addition of ADA-accessible restrooms and a playscape in 2007, an overflow parking area in 2008 and two picnic pavilions and additional sections of boardwalk on the beach in 2009.

Fort Gratiot County Park is also home to the 1971 Tunnel Explosion Memorial that was erected in 2007 to commemorate the construction accident that took the lives of 22 men working on the water intake tunnel located beneath the park. The 1971 Water Tunnel Explosion committee raised funds for the memorial. The Michigan Historic Commission dedicated a State Historical Marker at the site to mark the 40th anniversary of

the tragedy.

WOODSONG COUNTY PARK

In 2008, St. Clair County purchased the 33-acre Camp Woodsong site from the Michigan Waterways Council of the Girl Scouts of America. The property is located in Clyde Township off of Abbottsford Road at the east end of Rynn Road. Woodsong County Park is a passive park that provides opportunities for nature watching and studying, hiking, biking, and water activities on the Black River, such as canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.

The rustic trails follow the natural terrain by traversing along the scenic, steep slopes that travel down to 2,800 feet of Black River shoreline. Additionally, the Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association (CRAMBA) continues to rapidly develop two-track and single-track mountain bike trails that follow the steep ridges next to the Black River. Currently, three of the proposed four miles of designated mountain bike trails have been completed.

In 2017, a canoe and kayak launch was added using a \$50,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). While the launch itself is fully accessible, the steep trail leading from the parking lot to the launch is not ADA accessible.

FORT GRATIOT LIGHT STATION

The Fort Gratiot Light Station is the oldest lighthouse in Michigan. As the shipping needs on the Great Lakes increased in the 1820's, there was a need for a navigational aid at the mouth of the St. Clair River. In August 1825, the first lighthouse was built in Port Huron, Michigan. The original tower was located near the base of the present day second span of the Blue Water Bridge. It was 32 feet high above ground level, 18 feet in diameter at the base, and tapered to nine feet across at the top.

The Coast Guard maintained the Fort Gratiot Light Station from the 1930's until they moved next door into the new station that was built in 2004. The property was officially transferred to St. Clair County in 2010.



PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

Restoration of the lighthouse was completed in 2013, and other property repairs and additions have been made using Michigan Coastal Zone Management Grant funding. The restoration of the tower was made possible by the "Save America's Treasures" grant program and a match from the City of Port Huron. The tower reopened for tours in Summer 2012. The Port Huron Museum serves as a partner in leading site tours, programming, and private reservations. Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light Station raise funds for building restoration projects and provides volunteers.

BLUE WATER RIVER WALK COUNTY PARK

Blue Water River Walk County Park is a former railroad switch yard that has been partially restored to a coastal wetland. The wetland features three ponds, marshland, and native plants. The habitat is home to amphibians, such as frogs and toads, and is a popular nesting and feeding spot for migratory birds. A boardwalk with interpretive signs educate visitors about wetlands and allows them to get close to the wetland without disturbing its natural features. North of the wetland is a picnic pavilion, a shade trellis, walkways, landscaping, an artificial lawn activity area, picnic tables, grills, and benches. Future developments include a children's playground, restrooms, and another pavilion.

The Blue Water River Walk is a paved pathway that travels through the park and is part of the Bridge to Bay Trail System. It begins at Desmond Landing to the north and travels southwest to 10th Street. The Blue Water River Walk is owned by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County. St. Clair County Parks leases and maintains the grounds.

PINE RIVER NATURE CENTER

The St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency's Pine River Nature Center is an educational facility whose mission is to promote the awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the Blue Water Area's natural and cultural heritage. The center provides programs for local schools to enhance their science and mathematics curricula with outdoor-based field studies correlated with the Michigan Curriculum Framework as well as offers outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities for area residents.

The Pine River Nature Center opened in May 2003 and sits on 111-acres of property with over 4,800 feet of the Pine River meandering through it. Since opening, over 21,900 students from around St. Clair County have visited the center for programs. Activities and events at the center include:

- Opportunities to hike over two miles of trails (open daily from dawn to dark).
- Browse the indoor displays and live animals.
- Read about nature or do research in the library.
- Attend public programs, including star gazing parties and nature walks.
- Volunteer to help with special events and school programs.
- Adopt-a-Trail.
- Visit the universally-accessible (ADA) tree house.

THE BLUEWAYS OF ST. CLAIR

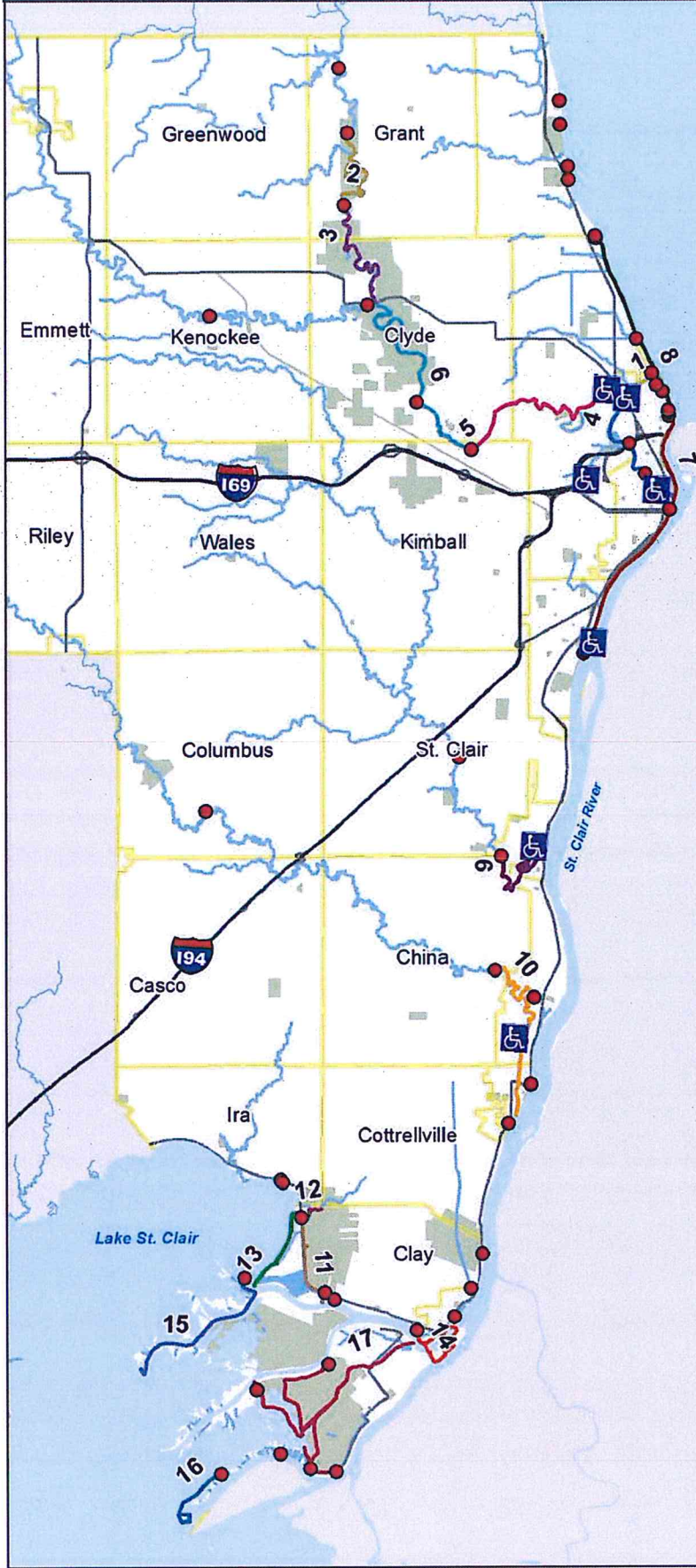
The Blueways of St. Clair is a system of 17 water trails, totaling 151 miles, in nine unique bodies of water. The Island Loop National Water Trail, the Fort Gratiot Sojourn, and the Lake Huron Paddle run within the township or along its border. More information can be found at www.BluewaysOfStClair.org.

ISLAND LOOP NATIONAL WATER TRAIL

MAP 3-3: BLUEWAYS OF ST. CLAIR

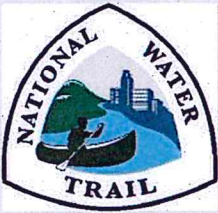


www.BluewaysOfStClair.org



Lake Huron

The Island Loop National Water Trail



ADA Kayak/Canoe Launch

Public Land

Water Access Points

Water Trails

- 1, THE ISLAND LOOP ROUTE
- 2, THE NORMAN BRIDGE PADDLE
- 3, THE BLACK RIVER EXPERIENCE
- 4, BLACK RIVER URBAN PADDLE
- 5, THE FORT GRATIOT SOJOURN
- 6, THE WADHAMS BRIDGE RUN
- 7, BLUE WATER BRIDGE EXCURSION
- 8, LAKE HURON PADDLE
- 9, PINE RIVER PADDLE
- 10, BELLE RIVER ROUTE
- 11, ST JOHNS MARSH EXPLORER
- 12, BEAUBIEN CREEK ROUTE
- 13, THE BOUVIER BAY JOURNEY
- 14, RUSSELL ISLAND LOOP
- 15, THE SNY LOOP
- 16, MUSCAMOOT BAY TO GULL ISLAND
- 17, KRISPIN BLUEWAY

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

The 10.2-mile Island Loop National Water Trail was the first national water trail to be designated in Michigan and the 14th in the United States. It navigates between the United States and Canada for 2.5 miles and meanders through Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township, and the City of Port Huron. The trail makes a loop from the Black River to the Black River Canal to Lake Huron into the St. Clair River and back to the Black River. It also passes the oldest lighthouse in Michigan, the Thomas Edison Museum, the Huron Lightship Museum, and the Acheson Maritime Center.

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

There are several significant multi-use paths in Port Huron Township and the region. A greenway refers to trails or pathways designed for non-motorized traffic that connect residential areas to other residential areas or commercial districts. Greenway resources refer to the total collection of trails and parks within a community or geographic area, including both land and water areas.

St. Clair County's countywide trails plan illustrates a system of trails and conservation corridors with significant natural features, such as soils, hills and valleys, drains, streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes, shoreline, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. The plan's objective is to maintain the natural features in a balanced ecological state, while allowing communities to grow in a controlled manner.

WADHAMS TO AVOCA TRAIL

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail is a 12-mile trail located on property owned and maintained by PARC, and is managed as if it is a county park. The trail starts at Avoca, travels east through Wadhams, and ends at Lapeer Road west of the I-94 overpass on the outskirts of the City of Port Huron. There are plans to extend this trail northwest to Yale, as well as to connect it to the Bridge to Bay Trail through Port Huron Township and heading east toward the St. Clair River.

BRIDGE TO BAY TRAIL

The ad hoc Regional Trails Governing Board is working with St. Clair County and 13 local communities to develop a 54-mile long network of non-motorized recreational trails linking the shoreline communities of New Baltimore (Macomb County), Algonac, Marine City, St. Clair, Marysville, Port Huron, and Lakeport. Over 25 miles of paved trail have already been constructed in various sections utilizing funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and private grants. Future plans call for the Bridge to Bay Trail to connect with the Macomb Orchard Trail in Richmond and the Wadhams to Avoca Trail as part of the Great Lake to Lake Trail Route #1, which extends from South Haven to Port Huron.

TRAILS IN PORT HURON TOWNSHIP

The Township has three primary non-motorized trails including:

- A separated side path along Water Street from I-94 to West Water.
- A separated side path along Lapeer Road, from 32nd Street to Michigan Road.
- A trailhead for the Wadhams to Avoca Trail located on Griswold.

There are additional plans for a separated side path along Strawberry Lane, from Water Street to Bakers Field Park.

PROPOSED TRAILS AND CONNECTORS IN PORT HURON TOWNSHIP

St. Clair County, along with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and numerous local and regional partners, developed an updated countywide trails plan in 2019 that identifies existing gaps in countywide non-

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

The 10.2-mile Island Loop National Water Trail was the first national water trail to be designated in Michigan and the 14th in the United States. It navigates between the United States and Canada for 2.5 miles and meanders through Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township, and the City of Port Huron. The trail makes a loop from the Black River to the Black River Canal to Lake Huron into the St. Clair River and back to the Black River. It also passes the oldest lighthouse in Michigan, the Thomas Edison Museum, the Huron Lightship Museum, and the Acheson Maritime Center.

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

There are several significant multi-use paths in Port Huron Township and the region. A greenway refers to trails or pathways designed for non-motorized traffic that connect residential areas to other residential areas or commercial districts. Greenway resources refer to the total collection of trails and parks within a community or geographic area, including both land and water areas.

St. Clair County's countywide trails plan illustrates a system of trails and conservation corridors with significant natural features, such as soils, hills and valleys, drains, streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes, shoreline, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. The plan's objective is to maintain the natural features in a balanced ecological state, while allowing communities to grow in a controlled manner.

WADHAMS TO AVOCA TRAIL

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail is a 12-mile trail located on property owned and maintained by PARC, and is managed as if it is a county park. The trail starts at Avoca, travels east through Wadhams, and ends at Lapeer Road west of the I-94 overpass on the outskirts of the City of Port Huron. There are plans to extend this trail northwest to Yale, as well as to connect it to the Bridge to Bay Trail through Port Huron Township and heading east toward the St. Clair River.

BRIDGE TO BAY TRAIL

The ad hoc Regional Trails Governing Board is working with St. Clair County and 13 local communities to develop a 54-mile long network of non-motorized recreational trails linking the shoreline communities of New Baltimore (Macomb County), Algonac, Marine City, St. Clair, Marysville, Port Huron, and Lakeport. Over 25 miles of paved trail have already been constructed in various sections utilizing funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and private grants. Future plans call for the Bridge to Bay Trail to connect with the Macomb Orchard Trail in Richmond and the Wadhams to Avoca Trail as part of the Great Lake to Lake Trail Route #1, which extends from South Haven to Port Huron.

TRAILS IN PORT HURON TOWNSHIP

The Township has three primary non-motorized trails including:

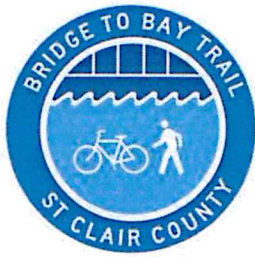
- A separated side path along Water Street from I-94 to West Water.
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PROPOSED TRAILS AND CONNECTORS IN PORT HURON TOWNSHIP

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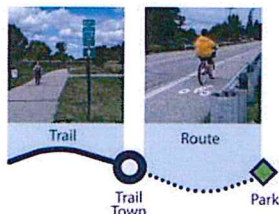
MAP 3-4: BRIDGE TO BAY TRAIL



The Bridge to Bay Trail is a diverse trail system of boardwalks, riverwalks, rail trails and bike paths that extends along 50 miles of shoreline across St. Clair County, Michigan. Experience picturesque views, charming towns, parks and beaches, freighter watching and the blue waters of Lake Huron, the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair.

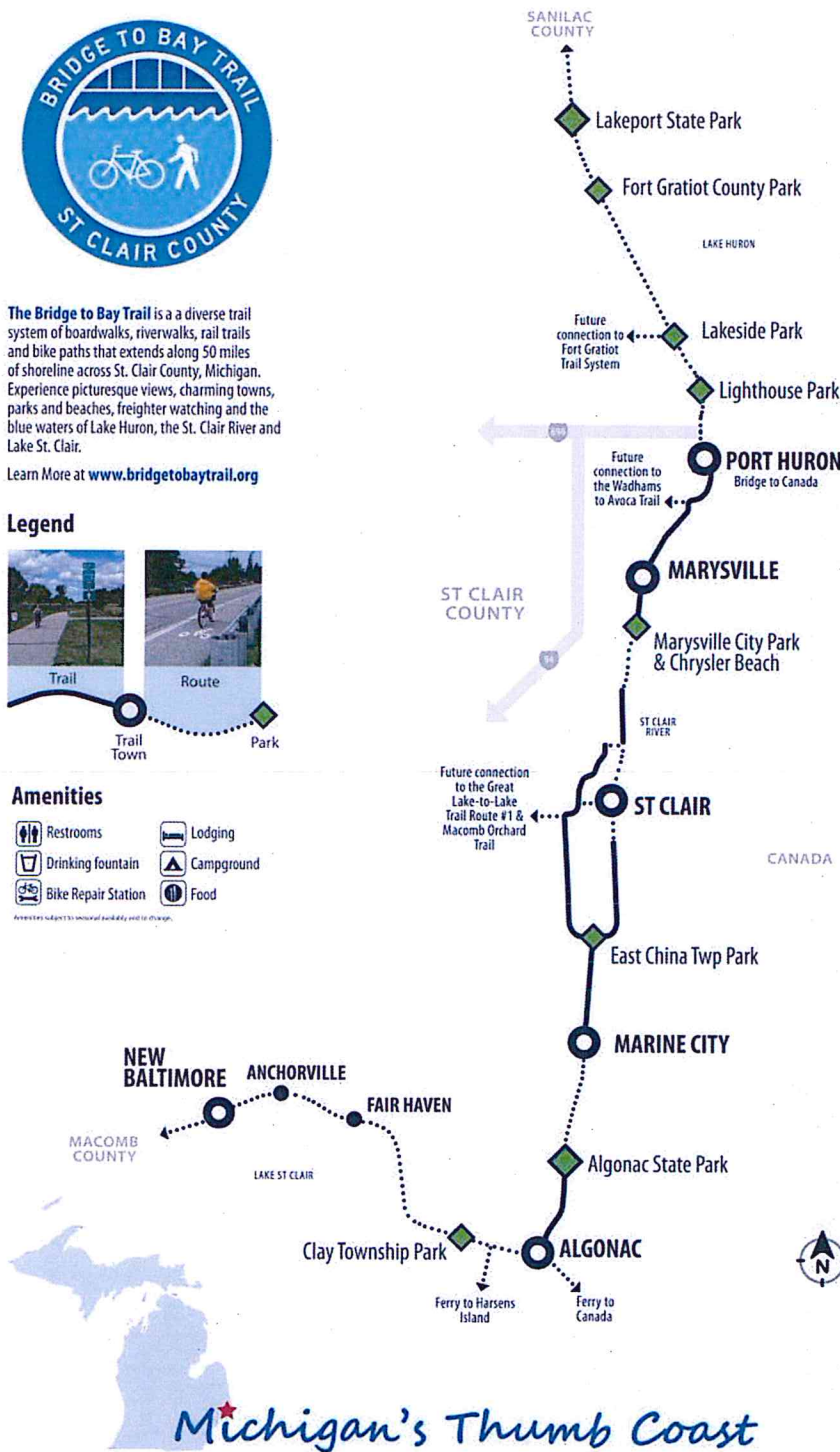
Learn More at www.bridgetobaytrail.org

Legend

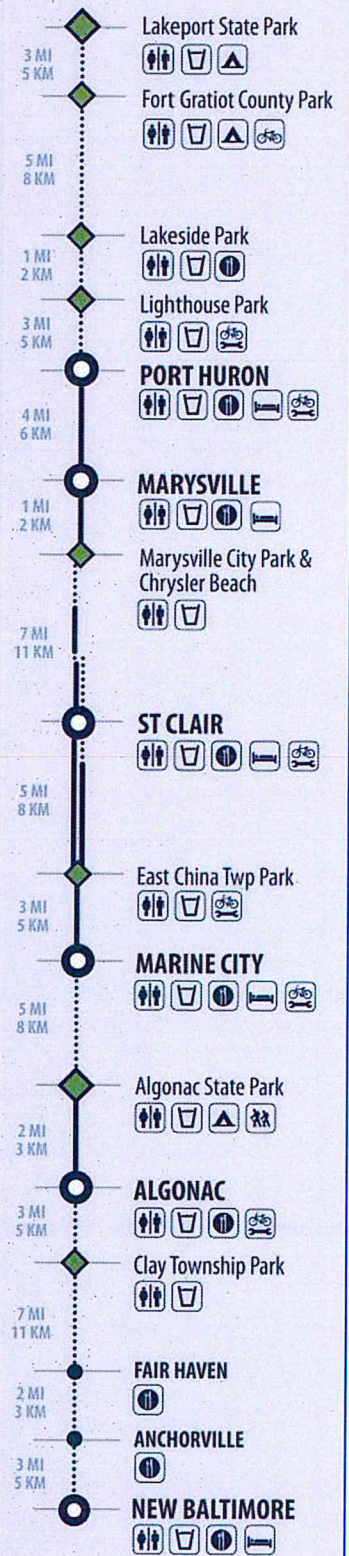


Amenities

- Restrooms
 - Drinking fountain
 - Bike Repair Station
 - Lodging
 - Campground
 - Food
- AMENITIES SUBJECT TO SEASONAL AVAILABILITY AND TO CHANGE.



BRIDGE TO BAY TRAIL



PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

motorized trail networks, identifies preferred alternatives to eliminate those gaps, and prioritizes the timing and sequencing for completing needed connections. The overarching goal is to complete the Bridge to Bay Trail and Wadhams to Avoca trail networks, which includes connecting to the Macomb Orchard Trail and the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail Route #1, which runs from South Haven in the western part of the state to Port Huron in the eastern part of the state.

There are two trail gaps identified in Port Huron Township:

The first gap proposes the following facilities:

- Griswold – protected bike lanes/side path from the trailhead to where Oak Street begins, about 1.8 miles.
- Oak Street - protected bike lane for about 1.8 miles.
- And then up 7th Street to the water via an advisory lane.
- Another option is a new off road facility connecting 27th to 10th Street on the north side of the rail corridor.

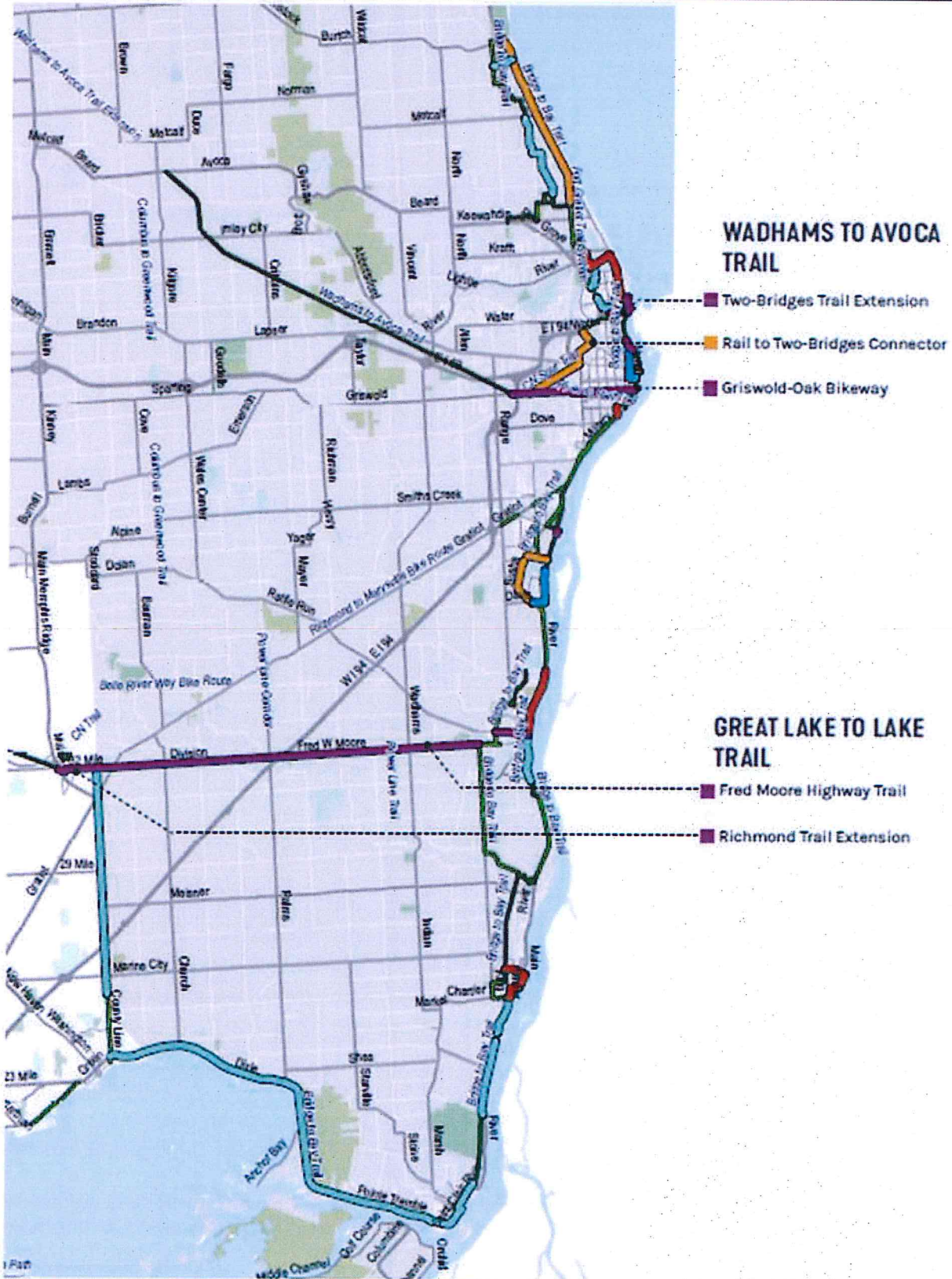
The second gap proposes the following facilities:

- Off-street path that connects Griswold to Lapeer diagonally along a CN rail spur.
- Protected bike lanes from Lapeer to Water Street
- Protected bike lanes on Water Street
- A side path on 32nd Street
- Side path on the Lapeer Connector

The Township should collaborate with partners, including the St. Clair County Road Commission, to implement



MAP 3-5: WADHAMS TO AVOCA TRAIL, PLANNED CONNECTIONS



PORT HURON TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

MAP 3-6: WADHAMS TO AVOCA TRAIL, PROPOSED CONNECTIONS



the St. Clair County Trails Plan and assist in developing a fully-connected regional trail network.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND FACILITY COMPARISON

An essential task during the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the township as a basis for an action plan. This task can be accomplished by asking township officials to provide insights into needed improvements, asking people what they desire, and by comparing the township to established recreation standards based on the size of the community and its service area.

PARK ACREAGE AND FACILITY COMPARISON

The Township's existing recreation facilities were compared against the guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to determine if the existing facilities are adequate to meet residents' needs in comparison to national standards. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors, including existing conditions, public input, programming desires, and site conditions.

Table 3-6 identifies the NRPA guideline for each facility type, the recommended and existing number of facilities, and the surplus or deficiency. The list of recreation uses in Table 3-6 is not exhaustive. The table

TABLE 3-6: PARK LAND ACREAGE AND FACILITY ANALYSIS, PORT HURON TOWNSHIP						
Park/Activity	Standard	Population (2020)	Population (2045)	Recommended Size/ Population 2020	Recommended Size/ Population 2045	Existing Acreage/ Facilities
Community Park	5-8 acres per 1,000 residents	10,792	12,266	54-87 acres	62-99 acres	216 acres
Children's Play lot	1 lot per 3,000 residents	10,792	12,266	3	4	3
Basketball Court	1 court per 10,000 residents	10,792	12,266	1	1	3
Softball/Baseball Diamond	1 diamond per 5,000 residents	10,792	12,266	2	3	8
Nature Trails	1 trail per 20,000 residents	10,792	12,266	0	0	0
Golf Course	1 course per 25,000 residents	10,792	12,266	0	0	0
Tennis Court	1 court per 2,000 residents	10,792	12,266	5	6	1
Soccer Field	1 field per 10,000 residents	10,792	12,266	1	1	15
Ice Rink (Outdoor)	1 per 20,000 residents	10,792	12,266	0	0	0
Volleyball Court	1 court per 5,000 residents	10,792	12,266	2	2	1

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

shows the township has a deficiency in tennis and volleyball courts based on recommended standards. It is important to note recreation planning standards must be used in concert with other information, such as regional interests, parks and recreation trends, demographics, citizen mobility, unique natural areas, neighboring communities' parks and recreation opportunities, and tourism impacts, to fully understand actual public needs. Generally, these issues are mitigated when they are addressed through recommended standards and proactive updates to the Recreation Plan every five years to garner new citizen input and assess current trends.