

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION



HOLLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Parks, Recreation and Open Space are important elements of all communities and reflect positively on the quality of life for residents. In recent years, a more holistic approach to recreational planning has been encouraged, stretching beyond the boundaries of traditional parks to include sidewalks, linear trails, greenways, town squares, plazas and other publicly and privately owned lands. In addition to the human benefits of recreation and open space, there are also important environmental benefits such as water resource protection, reduced vehicular traffic and plant and wildlife protection. The youth of the community are given places to go and activities to participate in that provide positive and constructive ways for them to use their leisure time. Families can find fun and inexpensive means of getting together with their friends and neighbors in a manner that builds a positive image of the community. The elderly also benefits from such programs in ways that provide for healthy and happy retirement.

PLAN PURPOSE

This 2021 Holland Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a guide for the future development of recreation opportunities for the residents and visitors of the Township. The plan addresses current recreation issues and identifies future needs of the community and the means for meeting those needs over the up-coming five-year period. It addresses both short and long-range goals and objectives and identifies an action program by which these goals and objectives can be accomplished. In addition, the plan serves as an educational tool to acquaint local officials and residents of the need for a sound and balanced recreation program.

This Plan has been developed both to reflect the needs and goals of the community and to meet the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for qualifying for Federal and State funding assistance. These funds are available for land acquisition, facility development, and improvements to new and existing parklands.





PLAN SCOPE

The scope of this plan includes the Township’s active and passive recreation facilities, undeveloped open space and linear “green” corridors. Recreational programming is also an important consideration. The area of the plan is essentially limited to the Township boundaries. However, consideration is also made of neighboring municipal facilities and regional facilities that influence use patterns. In terms of time, the Capital Improvement Schedule of this document covers development over the next five years. However, the Goals and Objectives developed to guide recreation planning may continue to be relevant for many more years to come.

The following Parks and Recreation Plan is an outgrowth of the impending need for increased recreational programs and facilities as the population of Holland Charter Township and the surrounding area grows and diversifies. A well-conceived strategy for the acquisition of land, the development of facilities, expansion of programs, and the continuation of on-going operation and maintenance practices will assist the Township in meeting future recreational and leisure-time needs as they develop.

This recreation plan identifies facility and program needs that are expected to occur, develops short and long-range goals and objectives, and presents an action plan and justification for the implementation of the goals and objectives and the maintenance of existing and resulting facilities. The plan is task specific on the short range elements and more generalized on the long range elements to allow some degree of flexibility to respond to changes in need or interest at the local level. Deviations to the plan would, however, be subject to review and analysis prior to the modification of this plan.

LOCATION MAP

