

SECTION 2

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



HOLLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP **COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN** **SECTION 2**

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1847 and incorporated as a charter township in 1968, Holland Charter Township is located in the southwest portion of Ottawa County, Michigan, approximately 30 miles southwest of Grand Rapids. Holland Charter Township encompasses an area of approximately 29-square miles. It is separated from Lake Michigan by Park Township to the west, which is approximately 4 miles wide. About two-thirds of the southern boundary of the Township is formed by the City of Holland. A significant feature of the Township is Lake Macatawa, a 1,780 acre lake, roughly one quarter of which is in Holland Charter Township. The north and east boundaries of the Township are formed by Olive and Zeeland Townships. The governing Board of Trustees conducts policy and legislative functions of the Township government. This elected Board consists of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and four Trustees. The Board is responsible for, among other things, passing ordinances, setting policy, addressing community concerns and adopting the annual budget. The Township Manager is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the governing board, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the government, and hiring and directing other officials and employees of the government.

HISTORY

The Michigan Legislature created Holland Township on March 16, 1847. The Township was named Holland at the behest of the Reverend Albertus C. Van Raalte. Earlier in 1847, Reverend Van Raalte had led the first of what would become many groups of colonists from the Netherlands. By 1853, 1,418 people had arrived to tame the wilderness. By 1860, Holland Township was home to 1,991 residents. Many lived in settlements that have become little-remembered ghost towns while others established farmsteads.





SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION

The study of population growth trends and changing indicators such as age, education, income, and employment are primary to developing a basic understanding of the recreational needs for the Township. Population estimates, July 1, 2019, there were 38,690 people and 13,503 households (2014-2018). This represents an 8.8% change from April 2010 to July 2019 with population census numbers of 35,636 from April 2010. The racial makeup of the township was 71.6% White alone, 2.6% Black or African American, 0.2% American Indian and Alaska Native, 10% Asian alone, Hispanic or Latino of any race were 26.9% of the population. The average household size was 2.79. The age distribution was 27.5% under the age of 18, 7.2% under 5 years, 10.7% 65 years or over. The median household income was \$62,281 and the per capita income in past 12 months is \$26,532. About 10.7% were below the poverty line.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/RESOURCE INVENTORY

TOPOGRAPHY

Holland Charter Township does not have “dramatic” changes in topography but it does have elevation changes that span from low elevations of 574 feet above sea level to a maximum elevation of 694, a total elevation change of just 116 feet across the Township. Some of the area along the Macatawa River and some of the small streams and tributaries exhibit elevation changes up to 30 feet over a short distance, so topographic change is often anything but gradual or regular in these areas. The topography of Holland Charter Township generally consists of level ground to gently rolling hills.

WATER RESOURCE

Holland Charter Township is home to one primary body of water, Lake Macatawa; one primary river, the Macatawa River; and several small streams and drainage channels. Lake Macatawa is approximately 1,780 acres in overall area. It has an average depth of 12 feet with a maximum depth of 40 feet. About 40 percent of the Lake is less than five feet deep. The Macatawa River flows through the lake emptying directly into Lake Michigan in neighboring Park Township. For this reason, Lake Macatawa is considered to be a drowned





river mouth lake. Both bodies of water provide many recreational opportunities, such as, boating, fishing, kayaking, etc.

SOIL

Most of the soils in Holland Charter Township were formed by materials deposited during glacial activity. Other factors of soil formation include wind deposited material, alluvial soils in floodplains, and organic soils. A soil survey of Ottawa County was conducted in 1972 by the United States Department of Agriculture. This survey revealed that within the Township, 69 separate soil types can be found. The soil types are categorized into five broad categories – sand, sand-loam, loamy sand, loam and clay.

WETLANDS

Many wetlands and organic soils are typical in this area. The Macatawa River has created significant wetlands in the lands immediately adjacent to it.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation system provides a backbone for accessibility and guides how people travel. Road conditions affect the amount and type of traffic on any particular road. The conditions of a road will affect the amount and type of traffic on any particular road. Furthermore, the transportation system encompasses more than the roadway system to include all the means by which residents move around within the Township and regionally, whether by public transportation, bicycling and walking, air, rail, or other means.





LOCATION MAP





ZONING MAP

