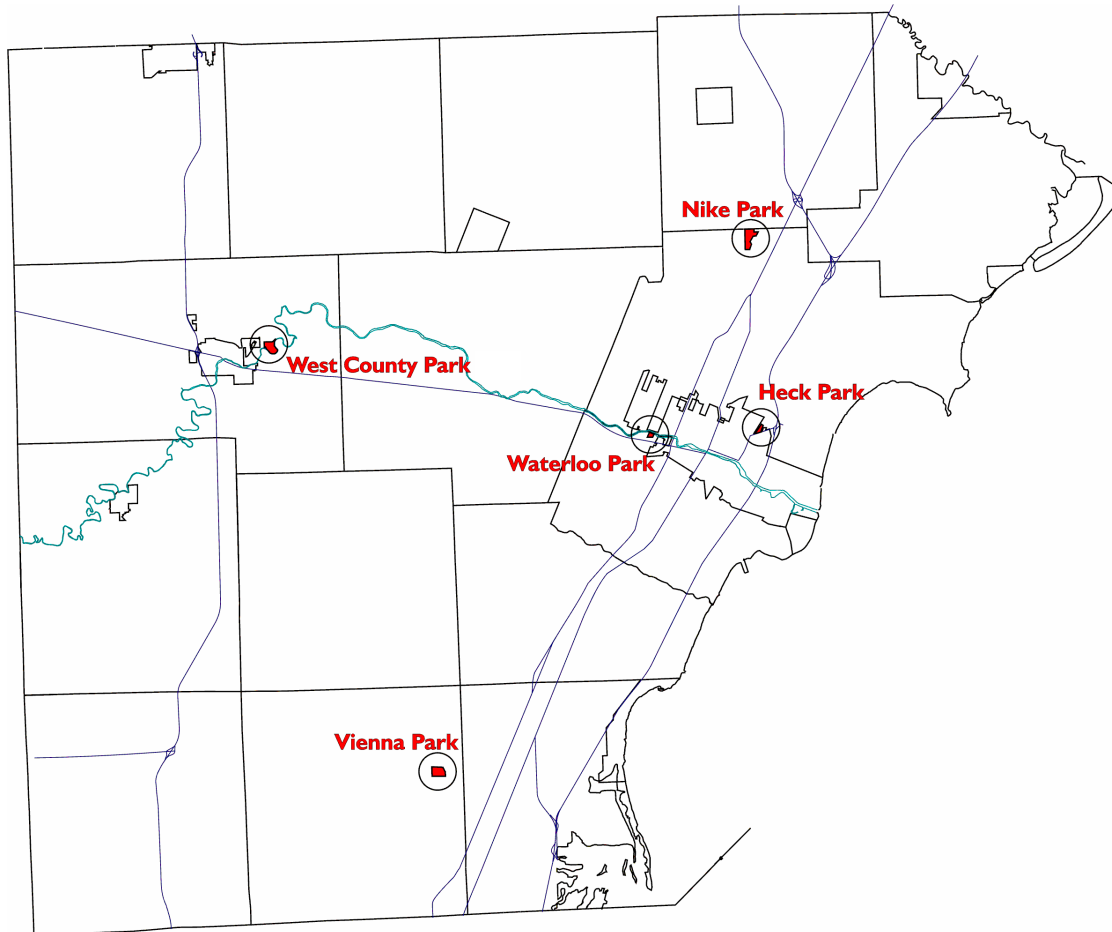


DRAFT



Monroe County

5-Year Recreation Plan

2013 - 2017

Monroe County, Michigan

Monroe County 5-Year Recreation Plan 2013 - 2017 Monroe County, Michigan

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
What this Plan Contains	1
Scope and Purpose of Plan	1
Planning Process	2
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION	3
Jurisdiction.....	3
Physical Characteristics.....	3
Population & Housing Characteristics.....	7
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE.....	17
Role of Commission	17
Staffing and Organization	17
Budget and Funding Sources	18
Role of Volunteers / Relationships with other Agencies	20
RECREATION INVENTORY	21
County Parks	21
State and Federal Sites	23
City and Township Parks.....	24
Neighborhood & Subdivision Parks	24
Public Schools.....	24
Public Access Sites	24
Trails	25
Campgrounds	25
Golf Courses	25
Marinas.....	26
Gun Clubs / Shooting Ranges	26
Miscellaneous Recreational Facilities	26
Regional Recreation – Existing Facilities	47
Regional Recreation – Plans and Visions	47
Accessibility Assessment.....	54
Grant Status Report	55
PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS	57
Recreation Survey.....	57
Survey Results.....	57
Park Commission Public Hearing	62
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	63
Goals.....	63
Five-Year Action Plan	66
ACTION PROGRAM	67
Implementation Strategies	68
APPENDIX	71

INTRODUCTION

WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

The Monroe County Recreation Plan begins with an **Introduction** containing a brief overview of the plan’s purpose as well as a description of the planning process. The plan presents a **Community Description**, providing information on both the physical and social characteristics of the community. The plan then gives a brief outline of the park system’s **Administrative Structure** including information on budget, staffing, and organization. This section is followed by a detailed **Recreation Inventory** which describes the existing recreational resources of Monroe County and the southeast Michigan region. A **Public Input Process** section presents the results of a public survey and describes the other opportunities the public was given to have input in the planning process. The **Goals and Objectives** section then presents the plan’s priorities and the **Action Program** presents these priorities in terms of an implementation program. Finally, the **Appendix** includes resolutions documenting the plan’s adoption by the Recreation Commission and the County Board.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF PLAN

Parks and recreation in Monroe County provides our community with a wide variety of benefits. Recreation contributes to the mental and physical health of county residents, providing a place for exercise, physical activity, relaxation, play and sports. Parks provide valuable open space and help to protect environmental resources. The economy of Monroe County depends heavily on tourism, recreation, and the enjoyment derived from living, working, and playing in a community which is able to provide a wide range of recreational and leisure time pursuits. The “Quality of Life” in Monroe County is linked to the recreational and leisure time opportunities which parks and recreation provide – and in turn this “Quality of Life” can serve as a stimulus in attracting economic development to the community.

The purpose of the Monroe County Recreation and Open Space Plan is to identify existing recreational opportunities, to assess the need for future recreational needs, to provide direction for the future development of parks and recreational programs, and to develop programs and strategies in order to meet the growing recreational demands of a changing population.

This is the sixth comprehensive recreation plan prepared for Monroe County. The first plan was written in 1985 as an element of the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Update and was prepared by the Monroe County Planning Department and Commission. This plan was revised and updated in 1991, 1997, 2002 and 2007. All of these plans served to give direction to the

development and improvement of Monroe County's park system over the past twenty eight years.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Monroe County Recreation and Open Space Plan was prepared with input from a variety of sources, including the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Monroe County Planning Department and Commission, the Monroe County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, and the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. The general public was involved in the planning process – both by providing input at the public meetings and public hearings and by participation in a county-wide mail survey of attitudes, beliefs, and opinions regarding parks and recreation.

The Parks and Recreation Commission had the responsibility of overseeing the plan's development. Specific tasks involved: description and analysis of existing conditions, formulation of goals and objectives, and development of a five-year action program. The Planning Department provided technical assistance and support to the Park's Commission and was involved in all phases of plan preparation. The County Board of Commissioners was involved primarily in plan review and adoption.

The following table illustrates the role which various parties played in the development of specific portions of the Plan:

	Public Survey	Recreation Inventory & Community Description	Goal Formulation	Action Program	Public Hearing	Plan Adoption
Monroe County Parks & Recreation Commission		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monroe County Staff		✓	✓	✓	✓	
General Public	✓				✓	
Monroe County Board of Commissioners					✓	✓



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

In planning for the future recreational needs of the community, it is essential to understand the community being planned for – both the community of people to be served and the physical resources in which the community is situated. The needs and condition of the citizens of Monroe County will define what types of recreational opportunities are appropriate, while the physical resources will determine where and how these opportunities are to be provided. The purpose of this chapter of the Plan is to provide an overview of the human and physical resources of Monroe County with the goal of understanding the unique needs of the human community and the unique opportunities within the physical community.

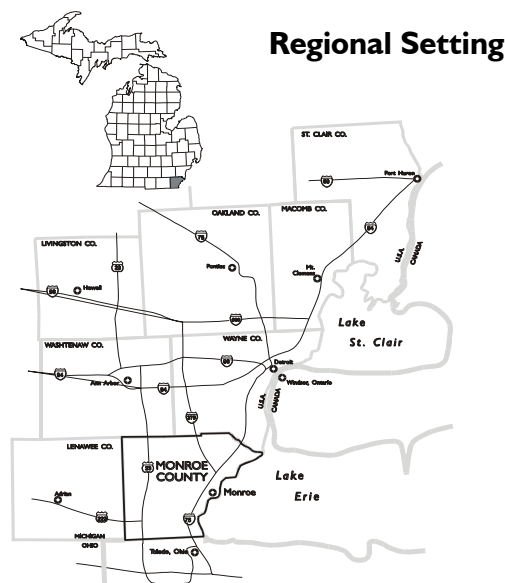
JURISDICTION

This recreation plan is intended to serve the County of Monroe, Michigan. By preparing this plan, the Monroe County Parks Commission recognizes their responsibility to adequately plan for the future recreational needs of the county and to oversee the development of existing and future parks and park facilities, as well as other recreational programs, ventures, and systems, such as trails, open spaces, and natural areas.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

REGIONAL SETTING

Monroe County, located in the extreme southeastern corner of the State of Michigan, is bounded on the east by Lake Erie, on the west by Lenawee County, on the south by Lucas County and Toledo, Ohio, and on the north by Wayne and Washtenaw Counties. Although Monroe County is influenced by the large urban areas to the north (Detroit) and south (Toledo), the community has remained, for the most part, as a mixture of small and medium sized towns and rural areas.



TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

Monroe County is in an area of little topographic relief with landforms and soils a result of glaciation and its position as a coastal area on the Great Lakes. The soils of Monroe County are generally silt loams and clay loams, with some large areas of sandy soils in the west part of the County. These soils are well suited for agricultural use, especially when drained, but often have limitations for development, primarily due to wetness and inability to support on-site wastewater treatment facilities. Poor drainage and wetness often present challenges in the development of recreational facilities and careful attention needs to be paid to surface and sub-surface drainage when designing recreational sites in most areas of the County.

SURFACE WATERS

Surface waters in Monroe County include an extensive Lake Erie coastline as well as a network of rivers, streams, and drains, which, for the most part, flow in an easterly direction draining into Lake Erie. The largest river in the County is the River Raisin. The River Raisin provides great opportunities for outdoor recreation, especially fishing and canoeing, with the large areas of open space fronting the river also having potential for a wide variety of recreational pursuits. The Lake Erie coastal zone also has great potential to provide for recreational needs, including swimming, boating, hunting and fishing.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Monroe County contains a variety of natural areas, including woodlands, wetlands, shorelines, and open space. Woodlands in Monroe County include both upland and lowland hardwood forests. However, little remains of the extensive pre-settlement forest communities of the area, with most of the present woodlands being small (10 - 60 acres) woodlots scattered throughout the County. The remaining woodlands in the County do provide potential for recreation, especially for hiking, natural history interpretation, and scenic beauty.

The wetlands in Monroe County are similar to the woodlands in that the large expanses of pre-settlement wetlands, both coastal and upland, have been reduced to small, scattered areas. Coastal wetlands have been reduced primarily due to shoreline structure such as dikes and seawalls, but significant wetlands exist at Pte. Mouille, Sterling State Park, Pte. Aux Peaux State Wildlife Area, Erie Marsh, and Plum Creek Bay. Endangered plant species in Monroe's coastal wetlands include the Rose Mallow and the American Lotus. Upland wetlands have been reduced due to filling, subsurface drainage and drain construction undertaken to improve agriculture. Most upland wetlands are forested and are less than 20 acres in size. Both upland and coastal wetlands provide opportunities such as hiking, nature viewing, hunting, and environmental education.

Wildlife resources are an especially important factor in recreational pursuits in Monroe County. Three State Game Areas (Pointe Mouille, Erie, and Petersburg) provide opportunities for hunting and viewing wildlife. The newly established Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which includes Lake Erie coastal areas in Monroe County, has a great potential for offering water and wildlife related recreational opportunities. The coastal marshes provide habitat for a great diversity of wildlife, including several endangered or threatened species of reptiles and birds as well as large numbers of migratory waterfowl. Fishing is also a significant wildlife related recreational pursuit. Lake Erie is especially noted for its walleye and perch fisheries, while the River Raisin provides significant opportunities to catch bass, pike and other game fish.

LAND USE

Monroe County is primarily an agricultural county, with over 50% of its land area in cropland. Major crops include corn, wheat, soybeans, sugar beets, tomatoes, and potatoes. Residential land uses are concentrated in the Monroe and Bedford areas, with other concentrations in the small towns and villages in the County, including South Rockwood, Dundee, Maybee, Petersburg, Luna Pier, Milan, and Carleton. Major industrial areas in the County include the Fermi II nuclear power plant (Frenchtown), the Monroe Power Plant (Monroe), the Whiting Power Plant (Luna Pier), ACH (Monroe), North Star Steel (Monroe), Guardian Glass (Ash) and Delta Corp. (Monroe). Many other small industries, quarries, landfills, and warehouses are located in the County, primarily in the Monroe area and in Bedford Township. Commercial uses are also concentrated in the Monroe area, especially in the I-75 and Telegraph Road corridors.

All of the local communities in Monroe County have zoning ordinances and local land use plans. The County of Monroe also has a Comprehensive Plan including a recreation component and a future land use map. Most of the local land use plans include areas designated for open space and/or recreation. In general, these areas reflect existing recreational facilities, as well as areas such as flood plains, old quarries, and other sites poorly suited for urban development.

MONROE COUNTY 2008 LAND USE

land use	acres	percent
Agricultural	193,439	54.2%
Single-family residential	110,716	31.0%
Multiple-family residential	880	0.2%
Commercial	8,398	2.4%
Industrial	8,134	2.3%
Governmental/Institutional	5,780	1.6%
Park, recreation, & open space	10,066	2.8%
Airport	316	0.1%
Transportation, Commun., & Utility	14,036	3.9%
Water	4,981	1.4%
TOTAL	356,746	100.0%

source: SEMCOG.

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

A combination of federal and state highways and county and local roads provides Monroe County with an excellent transportation system within the County, as well as linkages to recreational facilities throughout the region. Monroe County is crossed by three major highways: I-75, which runs north-south in the eastern part of the County; I-275 which has a terminus near Newport and connects Monroe County with Metro airport and the western suburbs of Detroit; and US-23 which runs north-south in the western part of the County. M-50 is the major state highway providing an east-west transportation corridor.

Much of the urbanized areas of Monroe County are served by public utilities including sewer and water, including the City of Monroe and most of Frenchtown, Monroe Township, and Bedford Township. Most of the rural areas of the County are served by septic systems and wells. An extensive network of natural gas pipelines provide easy access to these utilities for most areas of the County.

CLIMATE

Monroe County has a moderate climate, with temperatures normally ranging from 10 degrees in winter, to 90 degrees in the summer. Annual average precipitation totals approximately 30.09 inches of rainfall to 10 to 50 inches of snowfall. Average relative humidity is 45 percent.

Warmest Month: July

Average Maximum Temperature: 83.1 degrees

Average Minimum Temperature: 63.4 degrees

Coldest Month: January

Average Maximum Temperature: 31.7 degrees

Average Minimum Temperature: 19.2 degrees

TOURISM

As a relatively rural area located near the large urban centers of Detroit and Toledo, Monroe County receives large numbers of tourists and tourism is an important element in Monroe County's economy. Monroe's location and access to major highways brings in tourists whose destination is Monroe County as well as those who are just passing through. Many of Monroe County's tourist attractions are related to outdoor recreation. The many marinas and boat ramps along the Lake Erie and River Raisin shorelines attract people from throughout the region, as does the fishing and hunting opportunities of the coastal wetlands. Nature enthusiasts are also drawn to Monroe's coastal marshes to view the large numbers and diversity of resident and migratory birds. The many orchards, berry farms, nurseries, and other farm related business in the County attract tourists during the appropriate seasons. Visitors interested in history are also drawn to Monroe to visit the River Raisin 1813 battlefield site, which has recently become the River Raisin National Battlefield Park under the management of the National Park Service, and many of the other historic structures, sites, museums and festivals throughout the County.

POPULATION & HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Monroe County's human resources consist of a diverse population base with diverse recreational needs. Anticipated changes in the size, distribution, and age composition of the population will affect the need for current and future recreational facilities.

Monroe County is home to 152,021 people, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, an increase of 4.2% from the 2000 figure of 145,945. The most recent population estimate for the county is 151,434 (July 2012, SEMCOG), indicating a stable population base.

There are two major centers of population in Monroe County – the City of Monroe area, which includes the City of Monroe, Monroe Township, and Frenchtown Township, and the Bedford Township area, including Bedford, Erie, and Whiteford Townships and the City of Luna Pier. The rest of the County is more or less rural in nature, with several small cities and villages distributed throughout.

Populations with unique needs are fairly well distributed throughout the County. Higher concentrations of low-income persons, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities tend to be more concentrated in the more urban communities of Luna Pier, City of Monroe, and the Village of Carleton.

In addition to examining the numbers and distribution of people within Monroe County, it is important to understand something of the population characteristics of the community. The following tables contain information on race, age, education, employment, income, disability status, and housing characteristics of Monroe County.

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

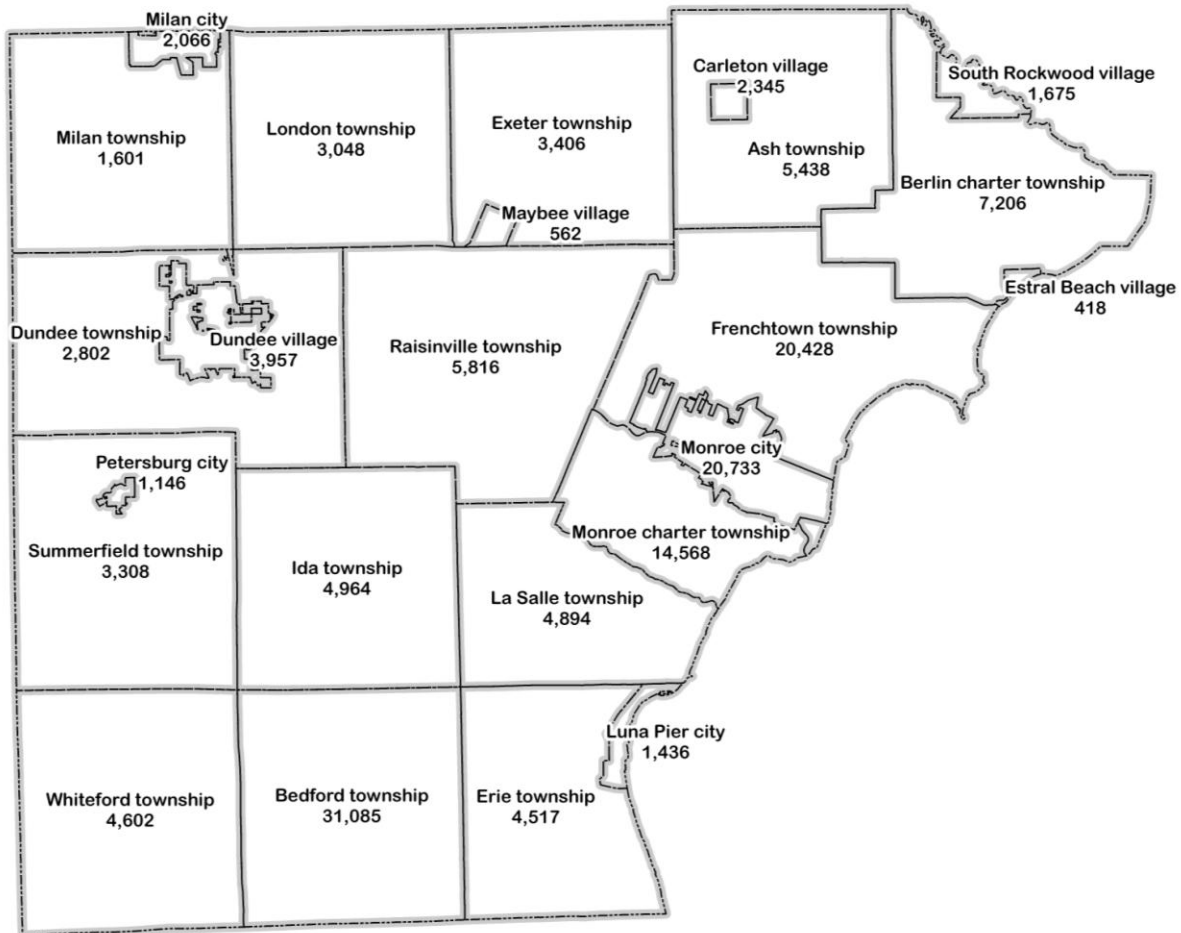
Population projections for Monroe County predict a steady increase in population, with the number of persons increasing 8.4% to 164,720 between 2010 and 2040 and the number of households increasing by 16.5% to 67,823. These projections, which were developed by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments in April, 2012, indicate that the County's population will continue to grow and will continue to be concentrated in the Monroe and Bedford areas. The recreational needs of the County's residents will most likely continue to grow in the future, and will continue to be strongest near those areas with the greatest concentrations of population, although the growth of areas which are currently rural will create additional needs for recreational facilities in outlying areas.

U.S. CENSUS POPULATION - MONROE COUNTY

year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
population	75,666	101,120	119,215	134,659	133,600	145,945	152,021
% change		25.2 %	15.2 %	11.5 %	(0.8 %)	9.2 %	4.2 %

source: U.S. Census of Population (1950 – 2010)

2010 POPULATION - MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITIES



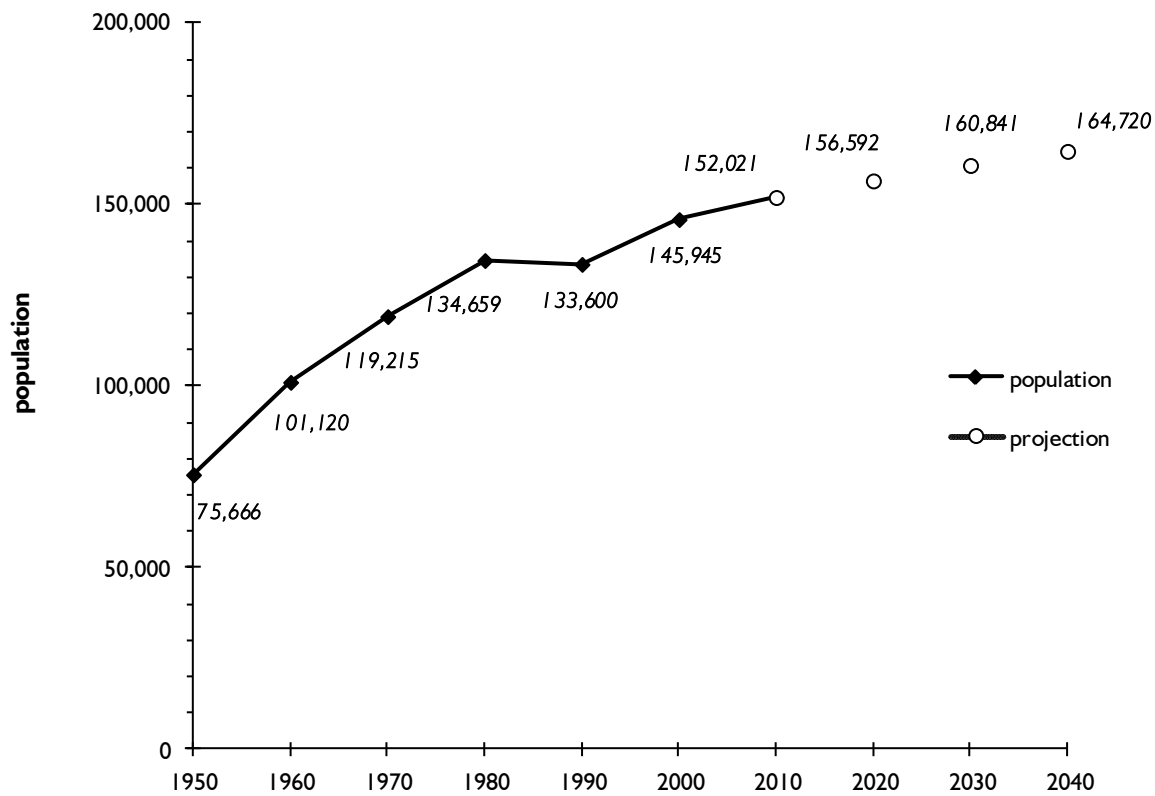
source: 2010 U.S. Census of Population

POPULATION PROJECTIONS 2010 – 2040 MONROE COUNTY

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	percent change 2000-2030
population	152,021	155,690	156,592	158,332	160,841	163,180	164,720	8.4%
households	58,230	60,815	62,539	64,305	66,071	67,189	67,823	16.5%

source: SEMCOG 2040 Regional Development Forecast (2012)

**POPULATION GROWTH
1950 – 2040
MONROE COUNTY**



source: US Census & SEMCOG 2040 Regional Development Forecast (2012)

**POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLDS
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
2000 & 2010**

	population			households		
	2000	2010	% change	2000	2010	% change
Monroe County	145,945	152,021	4.2%	53,772	58,230	8.3%
Ash Township	5,048	5,438	7.7%	1,803	2,050	13.7%
Bedford Township	28,846	31,085	7.8%	10,327	11,885	15.1%
Berlin Charter Township	5,154	7,206	39.8%	1,882	2,575	36.8%
Carleton Village	2,562	2,345	-8.5%	998	953	-4.5%
Dundee Township	2,728	2,802	2.7%	978	1,026	4.9%
Dundee Village	3,613	3,957	9.5%	1,389	1,539	10.8%
Erie Township	4,549	4,517	-0.7%	1,789	1,781	-0.4%
Estral Beach Village	486	418	-14.0%	179	183	2.2%
Exeter Township	3,212	3,406	6.0%	1,092	1,222	11.9%
Frenchtown Township	20,777	20,428	-1.7%	7,733	7,958	2.9%
Ida Township	4,944	4,964	0.4%	1,622	1,751	8.0%
La Salle Township	5,001	4,894	-2.1%	1,765	1,832	3.8%
London Township	3,024	3,048	0.8%	1,009	1,102	9.2%
Luna Pier City	1,483	1,436	-3.2%	592	608	2.7%
Maybee Village	505	562	11.3%	170	205	20.6%
Milan City	1,720	2,066	20.1%	684	808	18.1%
Milan Township	1,660	1,601	-3.6%	610	613	0.5%
Monroe Charter Township	13,491	14,568	8.0%	5,312	5,719	7.7%
Monroe City	22,076	20,733	-6.1%	8,594	8,238	-4.1%
Petersburg City	1,157	1,146	-1.0%	423	449	6.1%
Raisinville Township	4,911	5,816	18.4%	1,691	2,094	23.8%
South Rockwood Village	1,284	1,675	30.5%	450	687	52.7%
Summerfield Township	3,233	3,308	2.3%	1,098	1,195	8.8%
Whiteford Township	4,481	4,602	2.7%	1,582	1,757	11.1%

Source: 2000 & 2010 US Census

**POPULATION PROJECTIONS
2010 – 2040
MONROE COUNTY**

								change 2010-2040	change 2010-2040
Community	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	number	%
Monroe County	152,021	155,690	156,592	158,332	160,841	163,180	164,720	12,699	8.4%
Ash Twp	5,438	5,905	5,975	5,838	5,956	6,033	5,902	464	8.5%
Bedford Twp	31,085	32,383	33,078	33,961	34,800	35,752	36,181	5,096	16.4%
Berlin Twp	7,206	7,408	7,740	8,227	8,388	8,495	8,624	1,418	19.7%
Carleton	2,345	2,432	2,545	2,670	2,713	2,600	2,580	235	10.0%
Dundee	3,957	4,337	4,304	4,295	4,470	4,576	4,696	739	18.7%
Dundee Twp	2,802	3,003	2,924	2,930	2,997	3,108	3,093	291	10.4%
Erie Twp	4,517	4,929	4,765	4,652	4,645	4,644	4,635	118	2.6%
Estral Beach	418	520	495	484	456	444	446	28	6.7%
Exeter Twp	3,406	3,426	3,323	3,249	3,172	3,153	3,159	-247	-7.3%
Frenchtown Twp	20,428	21,121	21,319	21,832	22,266	22,803	23,633	3,205	15.7%
Ida Twp	4,964	5,024	4,763	4,751	4,808	4,834	4,857	-107	-2.2%
LaSalle Twp	4,894	5,130	5,115	4,943	4,873	4,888	4,851	-43	-0.9%
London Twp	3,048	3,171	3,080	3,130	3,099	3,012	3,049	1	0.0%
Luna Pier	1,436	1,586	1,603	1,590	1,600	1,599	1,594	158	11.0%
Maybee	562	556	562	633	671	737	734	172	30.6%
Milan (Monroe)	2,066	2,183	2,199	2,253	2,295	2,402	2,400	334	16.2%
Milan Twp	1,601	1,727	1,668	1,630	1,681	1,692	1,669	68	4.2%
Monroe	20,733	19,818	19,899	19,800	19,995	20,352	20,164	-569	-2.7%
Monroe Twp	14,568	14,241	14,513	14,893	15,233	15,280	15,515	947	6.5%
Petersburg	1,146	1,088	1,146	1,158	1,202	1,305	1,426	280	24.4%
Raisinville Twp	5,816	6,077	5,922	5,855	5,882	5,830	5,790	-26	-0.4%
S. Rockwood	1,675	1,734	1,741	1,783	1,836	1,911	1,953	278	16.6%
Summerfield Twp	3,308	3,215	3,274	3,228	3,247	3,160	3,115	-193	-5.8%
Whiteford Twp	4,602	4,676	4,639	4,547	4,556	4,570	4,654	52	1.1%

source: SEMCOG 2040 Regional Development Forecast (2012)

2010 CENSUS PROFILE – MONROE COUNTY

Sex and Age	number	%	Population & Households	number	%
Total	152,021	100.0	Total Population	152,021	100.0
Male	75,013	49.3	Group Quarters Population	1,462	1.0
Female	77,008	50.7	Household Population	150,559	99.0
Under 5 years	8,719	5.7	Housing Units	62,971	100.0
5 to 9 years	9,841	6.5	Households (Occupied Units)	58,230	92.5
10 to 14 years	11,053	7.3	Average Household Size	2.59	
15 to 19 years	11,219	7.4			
20 to 24 years	8,608	5.7	Household Types	number	%
25 to 29 years	8,146	5.4	Total Households	58,230	100.0
30 to 34 years	8,371	5.5	With seniors 65 +	14,466	24.8
35 to 39 years	9,464	6.2	Without seniors	43,764	75.2
40 to 44 years	10,727	7.1	Two or more persons, no children	24,993	42.9
45 to 49 years	12,491	8.2	Live alone, 65 +	5,447	9.4
50 to 54 years	12,744	8.4	Live alone, under 65	8,251	14.2
55 to 59 years	11,237	7.4	With children	19,539	33.6
Median age (years)	40.3		Race and Hispanic Origin	number	%
16 years and over	120,055	79.0	Non-Hispanic	147,354	96.9
18 years and over	115,344	75.9	White	140,609	92.5
21 years and over	109,311	71.9	Black	3,144	2.1
62 years and over	25,529	16.8	Asian	837	0.6
65 years and over	20,392	13.4	Multi-Racial	2,265	1.5
18 years and over	115,344		Other	499	0.3
Male	56,314		Hispanic	4,667	3.1
Female	59,030		Educational Attainment (highest level attained)	number	%
65 years and over	18,065		Graduate / Professional Degree	6,033	5.9
Male	8,825		Bachelor's Degree	11,328	11.1
Female	11,567		Associate Degree	9,082	8.9
			Some College, No Degree	24,433	24.0
			High School Graduate	38,574	37.8
			Not High School Graduate	12,509	12.3

Jobs by Industry	number	%
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	5,515	10.3
Manufacturing	5,171	9.6
Wholesale Trade,	4,853	9.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities		0.0
Retail Trade	6,548	12.2
Knowledge-based Services	8,679	16.1
Services to Households & Firms	5,253	9.8
Private Education & Healthcare	6,182	11.5
Leisure & Hospitality	5,643	10.5
Government	5,917	11.0
Total	53,761	100.0
Income	income	
Median Household Income (in 2010 dollars)	\$55,366	
Per Capita Income (in 2010 dollars)	\$25,520	
Ann. Household Income	number	%
\$200,000 or more	1,051	1.8
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,878	3.2
\$125,000 to \$149,999	2,993	5.1
\$100,000 to \$124,999	5,391	9.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8,973	15.4
\$60,000 to \$74,999	6,676	11.5
\$50,000 to \$59,999	5,311	9.1
\$45,000 to \$49,999	2,379	4.1
\$40,000 to \$44,999	3,005	5.2
\$35,000 to \$39,999	2,940	5.0
\$30,000 to \$34,999	3,141	5.4
\$25,000 to \$29,999	2,977	5.1
\$20,000 to \$24,999	2,923	5.0
\$15,000 to \$19,999	2,816	4.8
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2,609	4.5
Less than \$10,000	3,235	5.5
Total	58,298	100.0

Poverty	number	%
Persons in Poverty	13,552	9.0
Households in Poverty	5,375	9.2
Housing Type	number	%
Single Family Detached	47,129	74.9
Duplex	1,952	3.1
Townhouse / Attached Condo	1,417	2.3
Multi-Unit Apartment	6,561	10.4
Mobile Home	5,864	9.3
Other	7	0.0
Total	62,930	100.0
Housing Tenure	number	%
Owner occupied	46,496	73.8
Renter occupied	11,734	18.6
Vacant	4,741	7.5
Total Housing Units	62,971	100.0
Housing Value	value	
Median housing value	\$161,800	
Median gross rent	\$733	
Housing Value	number	%
\$1,000,000 or more	206	0.4
\$500,000 to \$999,999	506	1.1
\$300,000 to \$499,999	4,678	9.9
\$250,000 to \$299,999	3,213	6.8
\$200,000 to \$249,999	6,724	14.3
\$175,000 to \$199,999	4,367	9.3
\$150,000 to \$174,999	7,251	15.4
\$125,000 to \$149,999	4,999	10.6
\$100,000 to \$124,999	4,931	10.5
\$80,000 to \$99,999	2,530	5.4
\$60,000 to \$79,999	1,819	3.9
\$40,000 to \$59,999	1,605	3.4
\$30,000 to \$39,999	698	1.5
\$20,000 to \$29,999	828	1.8
\$10,000 to \$19,999	1,315	2.8
Less than \$10,000	1,378	2.9

Disability Status	number	%
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population with a disability	148,819	100.0
	18,516	12.4
Population under 5 years	8,185	100.0
with a disability	66	0.8
with a hearing difficulty	66	0.8
with a vision difficulty	0	0.0
Population 5 to 17 years	27,885	100.0
with a disability	915	3.3
with a hearing difficulty	189	0.7
with a vision difficulty	36	0.1
with a cognitive difficulty	879	3.2
with an ambulatory difficulty	47	0.2
with a self-care difficulty	430	1.5
Population 18 to 64 years	94,564	100.0
with a disability	10,704	11.3
with a hearing difficulty	3,783	4.0
with a vision difficulty	969	1.0
with a cognitive difficulty	4,186	4.4
with an ambulatory difficulty	4,752	5.0
with a self-care difficulty	1,929	2.0
with an independent living difficulty	3,565	3.8
Population 65 years and over	18,185	100.0
with a disability	6,831	37.6
with a hearing difficulty	3,196	17.6
with a vision difficulty	1,064	5.9
with a cognitive difficulty	1,396	7.7
with an ambulatory difficulty	3,944	21.7
with a self-care difficulty	1,220	6.7
with an independent living difficulty	2,489	13.7

source: 2010 US Census SFI; 2010 American Community Survey (3-year and 5-year estimates); SEMCOG

The following conclusions regarding Monroe County's population with respect to recreational needs can be made, based on the above data:

- An increasing population will mean an increasing demand for recreational facilities.
- The large numbers of persons under age 18, over age 65, and persons with disabilities create demand for unique recreational facilities. The segment of the population over age 65 is expected to grow at a rapid pace over the next several decades.
- Population is growing the fastest in the following areas: Bedford Township, Frenchtown Township, Monroe Township, and Berlin Township.
- As incomes and housing values rise, recreational interests will change.
- Persons with low incomes and persons with disabilities are concentrated in the areas in and around the City of Monroe, as well as other locations

Monroe County's human resources consist of a diverse population base with diverse recreational needs. Anticipated changes in the size, distribution, and age composition of the population will affect the need for current and future recreational facilities.



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

ROLE OF COMMISSION

Monroe County's recreational programs and facilities are administered by a ten member Parks and Recreation Commission formed on May 23, 1989 under Public Act 261 of 1965. The Commission members, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners, hold regular meetings on the first Monday of each month, and have special meetings as needed.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is charged with overseeing the operation of the Monroe County Park System under policies and procedures approved by the County Board of Commissioners. This includes studying county facilities and identifying facility and recreational needs, developing both comprehensive plans and facility plans, recommending rules and regulations regarding behavior in County Parks, and, in general, assuring that the County Park System is operating efficiently and is meeting the needs of the public.

The mission statement of the Parks Commission, adopted in 2007, is as follows:

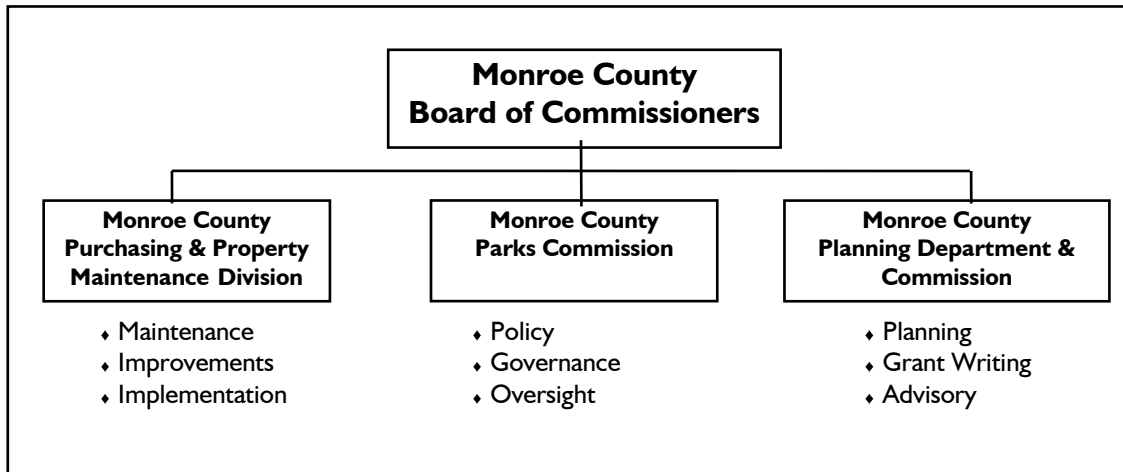
It is the mission of Monroe County Parks and Recreation to plan, acquire, develop, and maintain, in cooperation with all interested individuals and groups, a responsive, efficient, and creative natural resource based park and recreation system available to all citizens, composed of a variety of services, park areas and special facilities that contribute to the well-being of the individual, the family, and the social and economic health of the Monroe County community.

STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION

The maintenance, management and development of the County Parks is the responsibility of the Director of Purchasing and Facilities. Prior to 1995 the parks maintenance was under the Building and Grounds Division of the County Auditor, but in 1995 this function was given to the Drain Commission, which already had a work crew and equipment for drain maintenance. In 2003 parks maintenance was transferred to the property maintenance department (Buildings and Grounds).

The Parks Commission works closely with the County Planning Department, which provides staff to the Parks Commission and serves the Commission in an advisory capacity. The Planning Department is involved primarily in recreation planning, facility design, and grant writing.

Organizational Chart



BUDGET AND FUNDING SOURCES

The Parks and Recreation budget for 2013 is \$177,197. This budget does not include the amount budgeted for the Parks Commission itself (\$3,450 for items such as printing, per diem, mileage). The parks budget is derived from the annual county budgeting efforts and is funded through the County's general fund. This budget includes primarily operations and maintenance of the county parks, but also includes grounds maintenance of several other county properties.

Capital improvements to the parks comes from a separate budget developed as part of an overall county capital improvements planning process. Several parks projects were included in the list of recommended capital improvements, although little funding exists for the implementation of the majority of the recommended projects for FY 2013.

2013 & 2014 Parks and Recreation Budget (Park Commission)

208 PARKS AND RECREATION FUND						
75110 PARKS AND RECREATION-MAINT			2012	2012		
ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2011 ACTUAL	AMENDED BUDGET	EXPENDITURES EXPECTED	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
			THROUGH OCTOBER	THROUGH DECEMBER		
208-75110-729000	PRINTING AND IMAGING	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 300
208-75110-741000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 1,058	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
208-75110-810000	BOARD PER DIEM	\$ 1,890	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
208-75110-810020	BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL	\$ 312	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
208-75140-741000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ -	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,358	\$ -	\$ -
	TOTAL	\$ 3,260	\$ 4,908	\$ 4,908	\$ 3,450	\$ 3,550

2013 & 2014 Parks and Recreation Budget (Park Operations)

101 GENERAL FUND						
75100 PARKS AND RECREATION						
ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2011 ACTUAL	2012 AMENDED BUDGET THROUGH OCTOBER	2012 EXPENDITURES EXPECTED THROUGH DECEMBER	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
101-75100-705000	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 38,730	\$ 38,730	\$ 38,730	\$ 38,730	\$ 38,730
101-75100-707100	PART TIME EMPLOYEES	\$ 10,071	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
101-75100-709000	LONGEVITY	\$ 575	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 625	\$ 625
101-75100-711000	OVERTIME PAY-STRAIGHT TIME	\$ 1,662	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400
101-75100-711100	OVERTIME-TIME AND 1/2	\$ 2,514	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
101-75100-715000	SOCIAL SECURITY	\$ 4,097	\$ 4,111	\$ 4,111	\$ 4,036	\$ 4,036
101-75100-716000	EMPLOYERS-RETIREMENT	\$ 7,413	\$ 9,721	\$ 9,721	\$ 10,155	\$ 10,155
101-75100-716010	EMPLOYERS-RET HEALTH CARE	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,782	\$ 17,782	\$ 19,119	\$ 19,119
101-75100-717000	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	\$ 132	\$ 133	\$ 133	\$ 52	\$ 52
101-75100-718000	WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	\$ 1,634	\$ 923	\$ 923	\$ 702	\$ 702
101-75100-719000	HEALTH INSURANCE	\$ 5,113	\$ 4,874	\$ 4,874	\$ 5,430	\$ 5,430
101-75100-720000	LIFE INSURANCE	\$ 72	\$ 72	\$ 72	\$ 73	\$ 73
101-75100-721000	OPTICAL INSURANCE	\$ 36	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 34	\$ 34
101-75100-722000	DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 217	\$ 183	\$ 183	\$ 193	\$ 193
101-75100-723000	DISABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 107	\$ 108	\$ 108	\$ 106	\$ 106
101-75100-741000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 3,661	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
101-75100-744000	UNIFORMS & CLOTHING	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
101-75100-748000	FUEL, GAS & OIL	\$ 6,200	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
101-75100-801600	CONTRACT SERVICES-OTHER	\$ 33,909	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
101-75100-826000	LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERV	\$ 125	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
101-75100-851000	TELEPHONE	\$ 577	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 500	\$ 500
101-75100-911000	GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 1,597	\$ 1,355	\$ 1,355	\$ 542	\$ 542
101-75100-921000	ELECTRICITY	\$ 4,780	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
101-75100-922000	WATER AND SEWAGE	\$ 162	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
101-75100-934000	MAINTENANCE-EQUIPMENT	\$ 2,106	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
101-75100-935010	MAINTENANCE-PARKS & GROUNDS	\$ 22,528	\$ 28,929	\$ 28,929	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,000
101-75100-935050	MAINT-HECK PARK VETERAN'S AREA	\$ 13	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
101-75100-977000	C.O.-MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
101-75100-981000	CAPITAL OUTLAY-VEHICLES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	TOTAL	\$ 165,464	\$ 179,456	\$ 179,456	\$ 177,197	\$ 177,197

2012 Capital Improvements Plan – Recommended Projects

	RANK	SCORE	PROJECT NAME	Total Cost
	1	1422	Emergency Medical Service Enhancement Project - Cent. Disp.	\$63,551
	2	1309	Enterprise-Wide Energy Conservation Projects - Year 1	\$1,181,390
	3	1170	Radio Console Technology Enhancement Project - Cent. Disp.	\$562,574
	4	1149	Museum Rooftop Units Replacement	\$28,500
	5	1138	Employee Parking Lot Asphalt Paving	\$18,000
	6	1104	Stoner-Kemmerling Facility Roof Replacement	\$40,000
	7	1092	Coop Extension Office Facility Roof Replacement	\$63,500
	8	1072	Security Panels for Emergency Egress Doors - Youth Center	\$20,000
	9	1039	Courthouse Roofing & Ornamental Maintenance	\$55,000
	10	1030	Corrections Grade Furniture - Youth Center	\$30,000
	11	1017	Female Holding Cell - Sheriff	\$22,000
	12	993	Main Jail Roof Replacement	\$130,277
☆	13	988	Nike Park Asphalt Pavement – Drive and Parking	\$45,000
	14	889	Animal Control Asphalt Paving - Drive & Svc. Area	\$20,000
☆	15	846	Nike Park Basketball and Volleyball Facilities	\$25,000
	16	844	Youth Center Exterior Facia Covering	\$25,000
	17	833	Courthouse Exterior Preservation	\$55,000
☆	18	830	Vienna Park Exercise and Walking Trail	\$45,000
☆	19	828	Nike Park Exercise and Walking Trail	\$40,000
	20	824	Kitchen Appliance Upgrade - Youth Center	\$27,839
☆	21	814	Habitat Area Development at County Parks	\$55,000
☆	22	813	Nike Park Disc Golf Course	\$16,800
☆	23	811	Nature Trail Improvements – Vienna Park	\$15,000

☆ park projects

ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS / RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Monroe County parks system has benefitted from its relationship with volunteers and outside public and private agencies. Volunteer groups representing specific recreational pursuits have been granted to opportunity to improve county parks with their volunteer efforts. Radio controlled aircrafts, dog training groups, sports leagues, disc golfers, equestrians and other park users have voluntarily made improvements to county parks in the course of pursuing their recreational activities. Scout groups, 4H clubs, and student groups have planted trees, improved trails, and improved habitat in county parks. Although not entirely voluntarily, jail inmates have proved to be a valuable source of labor in county parks and the relationship with the County Sheriff and work release program has benefited both the parks and the program. County businesses have frequently donated supplies and materials to the county parks, and have volunteered time and labor as well. Garden clubs have planted and maintained landscape areas.

One of the largest volunteer efforts in the parks has been the work of the Vietnam Veterans who have adopted a portion of Capt. Norman W. Heck Jr. Memorial Park. The park has benefitted from the dedicated efforts of the VVA Chapter 142 and others for many years.

A recently established volunteer organization, The Friends of the Academy Preserve, has been working diligently to raise the necessary funding to assist the county in acquiring a portion of the IHM property for use as a public open space.

The Parks Commission has welcomed the participation of school groups in developing the county parks to meet the needs of students. The Dundee High School cross country team uses the West County Park for running and has assisted in the development of the site. The Airport High School soccer team has work with Nike Park to develop practice soccer fields.



RECREATION INVENTORY

Monroe County contains a variety of recreational sites. These facilities vary in terms of ownership (State, county, local, schools, private), size (small neighborhood playgrounds of less than one acre to large nature preserves and State Game Areas with thousands of acres), and type (playgrounds, sports facilities, community parks, etc.). The purpose of this section of the plan is to describe the full range of recreational facilities in Monroe County, with the ultimate goal of determining what are the County's deficiencies or needs. A secondary purpose of this in-depth inventory is to assist other recreation providers with a complete inventory for other planning efforts, as well as to serve as a guide to those individuals seeking recreational opportunities.

COUNTY PARKS

Monroe County has five county parks under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission consisting of 221 acres of land. The county parks are intended to serve the entire county, and all the parks (except West County Park) have restrooms, parking areas, play equipment, and picnic shelters.

Heck Park is a park which formerly was jointly owned and operated by the City of Monroe and Monroe County, but is now under the sole ownership of Monroe County. A Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been developed at the site which is overseen by a special Heck Park Committee, which has members from the Park Commission, the County Board, and the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 142. After having been closed for over a year due to a road/railroad grade separation construction project, Heck Park has since been improved by the addition of a small Vietnam War museum and pavilion to the existing veterans memorials in the park. A sledding hill was developed in conjunction with the road project, and, more recently, a 2007 grant has allowed the development of new parking areas, walking paths, shelters, play and exercise areas, basketball courts, benches, grills, landscaping, and drainage improvements. A habitat improvement project has recently (2012) converted a portion of mowed lawn to native prairie vegetation.

Nike Park, located on Newport Road in Frenchtown, was originally part of a World War II Nike missile base and was acquired from the federal government. A 1999 DNR grant allowed for the development of an accessible play area, pathways, and parking improvements. Also present in this park is a picnic area, play equipment, and large areas of open space. Cooperative agreements with private clubs has resulted in the development of a model aircraft flying area and an area for beagle training and competitions is under development. An antique tractor show which attracts visitors from near and far is a major annual event at the park. A proposal is currently under consideration to add a disk golf course to the site. A small section of a remote corner of the park is difficult to access due to its location on the opposite side of a county drain and is farmed by the adjacent owner. A habitat improvement

project has recently (2011) converted a portion of mowed lawn to native prairie vegetation.

Vienna Park in Bedford Township was originally acquired from the state highway department after it was used, in part, as a sand pit for road construction. The park has a small pond and natural area as well as active recreational facilities. A 1999 grant also allowed for the development of trails and new play equipment at this park. In 2001 the disc golf course was improved and expanded to 18 holes. More recent improvements include paved parking areas, greatly improved ball diamonds, and the development of soccer fields. A habitat improvement project has recently (2011) converted a portion of mowed lawn to native prairie vegetation.

Waterloo Park is located on the River Raisin at the end of Mulhollen Drive in Monroe Township. Although it is the smallest county park, with only 9 acres, it has many facilities, including a fishing pier, canoe landing, paved path, exercise equipment, and playground, all designed to be barrier-free. The park is a popular site for shelter rentals and serves as the site of an annual fishing derby.

West County Park consists of sixty acres on Rightmire Road in Dundee Township. Much of this site, which fronts the River Raisin and was formerly mostly farmland, was enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in 2002 and was planted to a mixture of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. The addition of trails, small shelters, parking areas, and benches have made this site an attractive nature preserve. A Native American memorial project was initiated in 2010 to create a small gathering space and tribute area.

In addition to the formal county parks, Monroe County owns and operates a variety of other properties which benefit the public and serve as sites for outdoor recreation. **Loranger Square**, the Monroe courthouse square in downtown Monroe contains about 1.5 acres of lawns and landscaped areas, a large pavilion, a fountain, picnic tables, plazas, and open space used for a wide variety of public purposes including festivals, picnics, concerts, weddings, and political rallies. **St. Antoine's Cemetery** in the City of Monroe consists of about 1.2 acres in the City of Monroe near the River Raisin which preserves the site of the oldest Catholic cemetery in Monroe. The site was rediscovered in 1999 during construction of a subdivision and was purchased by the county to serve as a memorial. The site contains a small turn-off/parking area, mowed lawn, landscaping, and a walkway leading to memorial monuments. The **Navarre-Anderson Trading Post** in Frenchtown Township is a county owned historical site consisting of 5.6 acres of restored and re-created historic structures, a historic school house repurposed as a country store, interpretive information, and scenic open space along the River Raisin.

Finally, **The Academy Preserve** is a project which has received funding from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund to acquire about 130 acres of land in the City of Monroe and Frenchtown Township for the purpose of a public land preserve. Although much of the land that was proposed for acquisition has been sold for the development of a new headquarters for La-Z-Boy Inc., the potential still remains for the county to acquire a smaller amount of land, including about 40 acres of oak savanna and open space, as well as Sisters Island in the River Raisin and the riverfront property immediately opposite the island.

STATE AND FEDERAL SITES

The United States government owns and operates two important outdoor recreational facilities in Monroe County. In 2010, the US Department of Interior's National Park Service took over land formerly owned by Monroe County, as well as other property, to form the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. This site commemorates the 1813 battle which took place on this location. Recreational facilities include an interpretive museum and outdoor displays and open space. A park master planning project is under development.

In 2001, the Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) established the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge to build a sustainable future for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie ecosystems. The refuge consists of nearly 6,000 acres of unique habitat, including islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands within an authorized boundary extending along 48 miles of shoreline, including all of Monroe County's Lake Erie coastal areas. Units within Monroe County include the Brancheau, Strong, Fix, Lagoon Beach, Ford Marsh, Plum Creek Bay, Lady of the Lake, Holloway, Erie Marsh Preserve, and Gard Island. Not all units are owned by the FWS or are open to the public.

State of Michigan facilities in Monroe County include a variety of park-types, including State Parks (Sterling), State Game Areas (Erie, Petersburg, and Pte. Mouliee), and public access sites. Sterling State Park is one of Michigan's most heavily used State Parks, with its renovated campground, swimming beach, hiking trails, fishing, boating, and nature study opportunities. A recent land acquisition has created a pedestrian and bicycle connection to the park directly from the City of Monroe. The three State Game Areas (Erie, Petersburg, and Pte. Mouille) offer hunting and fishing, as well as opportunities for hiking and nature study. Other State owned properties which are used for recreation include the rest areas on US-23, I-75, and I-275, as well as public access sites on Bolles Harbor and Swan Creek. The MDOT rest area at Otter Creek contains an interesting playground which was designed to meet universal accessibility standards.

The State also owns other undeveloped land in the County which has potential for recreational use. The State Highway Department (MDOT) owns

several parcels along I-75 and I-275 which contain ponds (former borrow pits) that have the potential to be turned into parks (Clean Water Beach, a privately owned recreational facility in Milan Township which was purchased from the state, was once a borrow pit).

CITY AND TOWNSHIP PARKS

These parks are, in general, intended to serve an entire community, and not just a single neighborhood. A typical park in this category would be about 10 acres and would include facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic sites, trails, parking, and restrooms. Users of city/township parks may travel up to 5 or 10 miles to participate in recreational activities. In Monroe County, these parks are located primarily in the more densely populated communities of the City of Monroe and Frenchtown and Bedford Townships and contain a wide variety of facilities.

NEIGHBORHOOD & SUBDIVISION PARKS

Neighborhood and subdivision parks are parks which are designed to serve people living within walking distance (approximate radius of about one half to one mile). This type of park generally lacks parking or restrooms, but provides features such as playgrounds, benches, and basketball, or tennis courts. In some communities the dedication of park land is a requirement of a subdivision or mobile home park ordinance, and as such, these parks are often owned and maintained by the neighborhood which they serve. Other neighborhood parks are owned by the municipality. As indicated by the map, neighborhood and subdivision parks in Monroe County are located mainly in the Monroe and Bedford areas. Frenchtown and Bedford Township have a large number of subdivision and neighborhood parks, while the City of Monroe has mainly city owned neighborhood parks.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School grounds often provide valuable recreation land for communities as well as recreational programming. In Monroe County, several of the school districts team up with the local communities to provide joint recreational services. The Monroe, Airport, and Bedford School Districts in particular provide an active Community Education Program with extensive recreational opportunities. In general, the public school grounds around Monroe County provide playgrounds and athletic field. Private and parochial schools also offer some recreational opportunities. However the use of school property and facilities is strictly limited, at best to only non-school hours, and to the policies of the individual schools and school districts.

PUBLIC ACCESS SITES

As a coastal community, Monroe County provides residents with a selection of public access sites on Lake Erie as well as on the River Raisin. The access sites vary, from sites capable of launching large boats to canoe and kayak landings

and fishing piers. In addition to the sites listed below, Detroit Edison is proposing to open two access sites on their property - one off of Dunbar Road east of I-75 and one near the warm water discharge at their Monroe Power Plant site. Canoe access to the River Raisin is also possible in the City of Petersburg (Fernstrom Park), the Village of Dundee (north of M-50, behind library), the West County Park site, the River Raisin Canoe Livery in Raisinville Township (see Misc. Facilities), and at both the Ida-Maybee Road bridge and the Raisinville Road bridge. Fishing sites are also present at Sterling State Park and at Luna Pier's fishing pier.

TRAILS

Public trail systems include the River Raisin Heritage Trail, the I-275 trail, and various other trails and pathways within existing parks.

The River Raisin Heritage Trail is the designation given to the Sterling State Park trail system and its connection, within the City of Monroe, to the River Raisin Battlefield site. The system also includes the City's Riverwalk pathway system, and the pathways and sidewalks and paved shoulder/bike path along Elm Avenue and North Custer, currently terminating at the historic Navarre-Anderson Trading Post.

Several local parks have extensive paved and unpaved pathways, including Munson Park (City of Monroe), Monroe Charter Township Park, and the Bedford Community Parks, including Anstead, Parmalee, White, Indian Creek and Samaria.

A bicycle path within the I-275 right-of-way was developed when the highway was constructed in the 1970's, but has been closed for many years after having fallen into disrepair. However, the I-275 Metro Trail, as it is now known, has been restored into usable condition for I-96 to I-94 in Wayne and Oakland Counties, but has not yet been extended south into Monroe County.

CAMPGROUNDS

Camping opportunities in Monroe County are available mainly in private campgrounds, with the exception of Sterling State Park. The campgrounds listed below are all licensed and have been inspected by the County Health Department. The listed campgrounds are all open to the public. Other licensed campgrounds exist in Monroe County, but are for private use. Camping is allowed at the County Fairgrounds for special events only.

GOLF COURSES

There are twenty golf courses in Monroe County, plus additional driving ranges, giving area residents ample opportunity to participate in this form of recreation. Golf is becoming an increasingly popular sport for both men and women and many of the area courses offer lessons, leagues and tournaments. There are no municipally owned courses in the county, and some of the courses are open only to members.

MARINAS

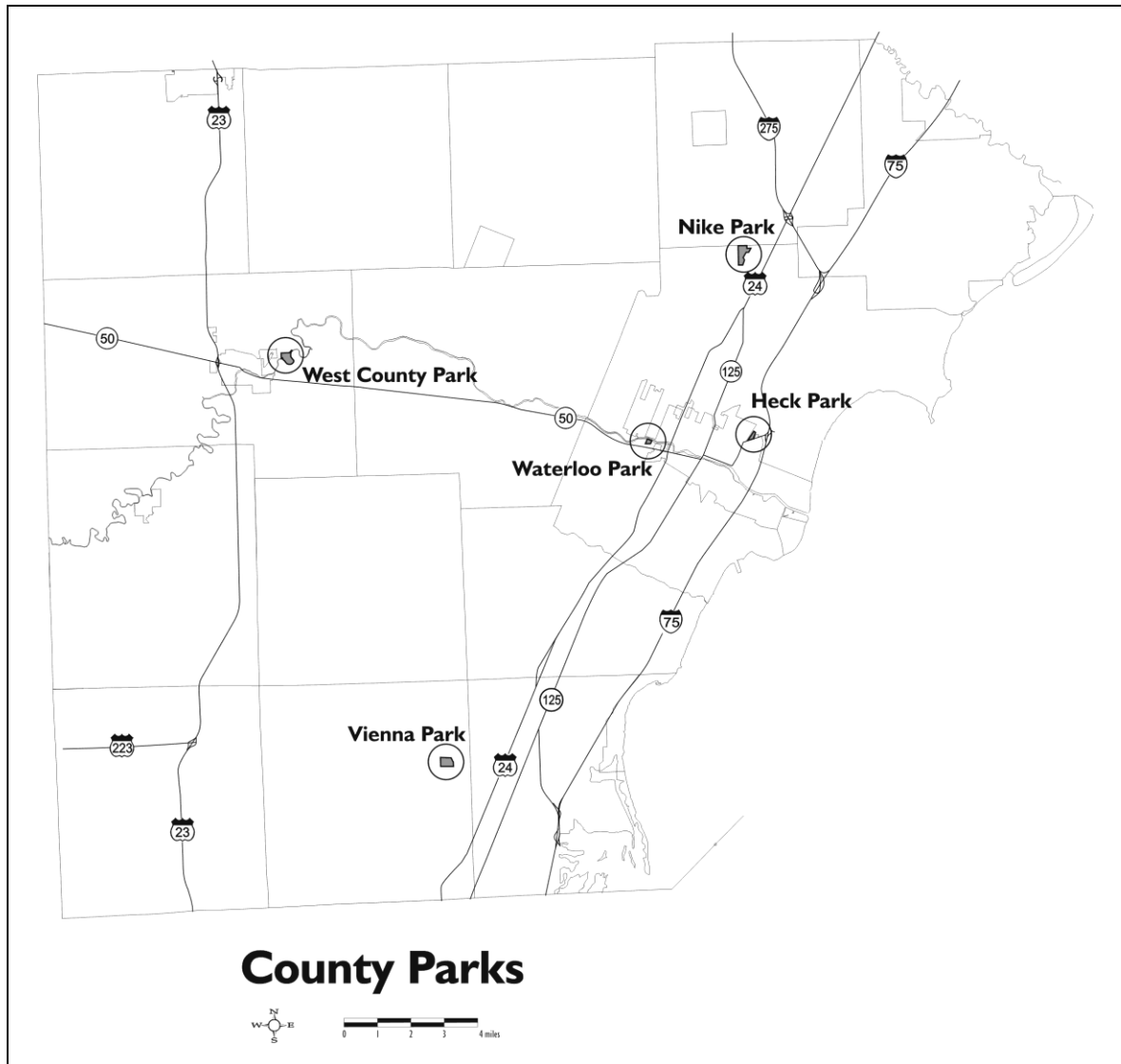
Monroe County has thousands of boat slips in privately owner marinas up and down the Lake Erie coast line. The marinas vary widely in terms of size and facilities. Indoor boat storage, charter fishing, oil and gasoline sales, bait and tackle, boat rental, and other services are available at selected locations. Many of the marinas in the county are too small to accurately depict on the attached map and were simply referred to as “small marinas”.

GUN CLUBS / SHOOTING RANGES

The many sportman’s clubs in Monroe County reflect the area’s heritage as one of the region’s premier waterfowl hunting areas. Monroe County contains 14 shooting ranges, most of which are private clubs, which have facilities for archery, skeet, target shooting, and other firearm activities. A “hunting preserve” in Milan Township provides for the shooting of pheasant.

MISCELLANEOUS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

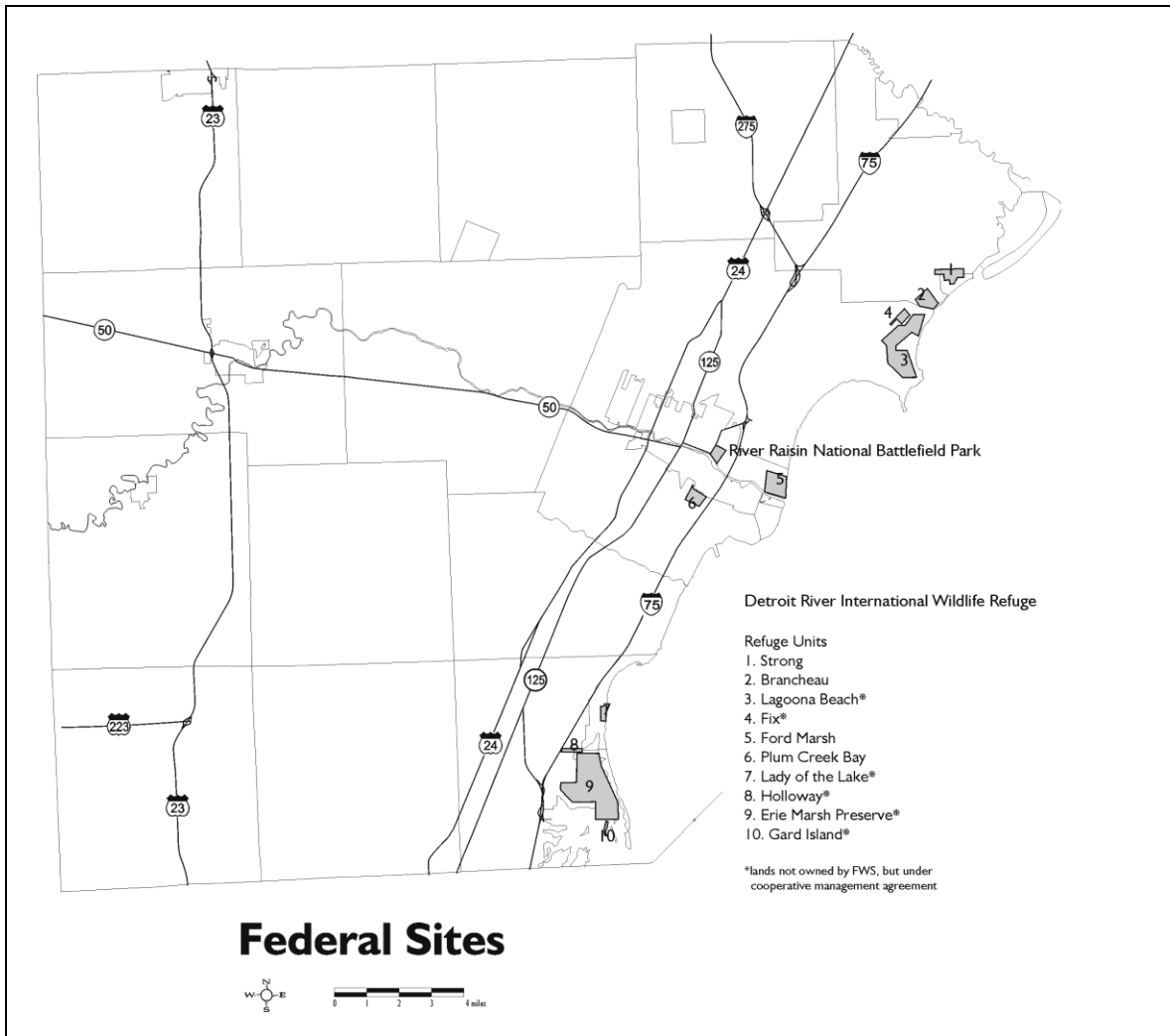
This category contains those facilities that do not fall into any of the above categories, but still could be considered as recreational sites in some fashion. Included are private recreational facilities, such as bowling alleys, riding stables, and swimming clubs. Also included are private nature preserves, sports fields, and historic sites.

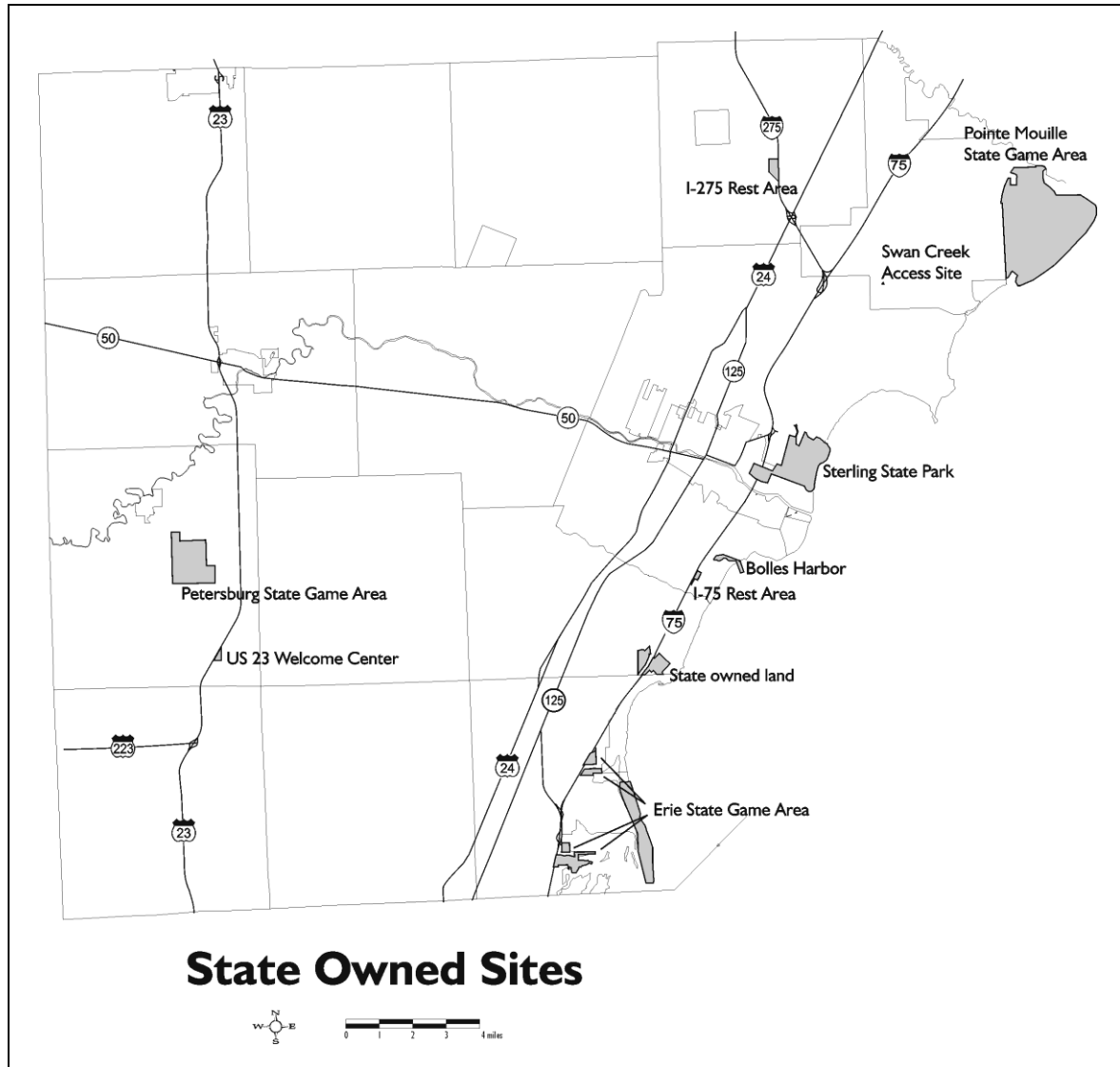


<u>park</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Heck Park	Monroe City	Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum, parking, restrooms, pavilion (seating approximately 30 adults), paved trails, playground, basketball court, sled hill, grills playground, exercise court, picnic area	15
Nike Park	Frenchtown Twp.	picnic area, soccer fields, playground, model aircraft area, dog training area, soccer fields, grills, horseshoe pits, parking, porta johns, 2 picnic pavilions (13 total picnic tables)	80
Vienna Park	Bedford Township	5 ball diamonds, soccer fields, natural area, picnic areas, playground, 18-hole disc golf course, grills, horseshoes, parking, porta johns, 5 picnic	57

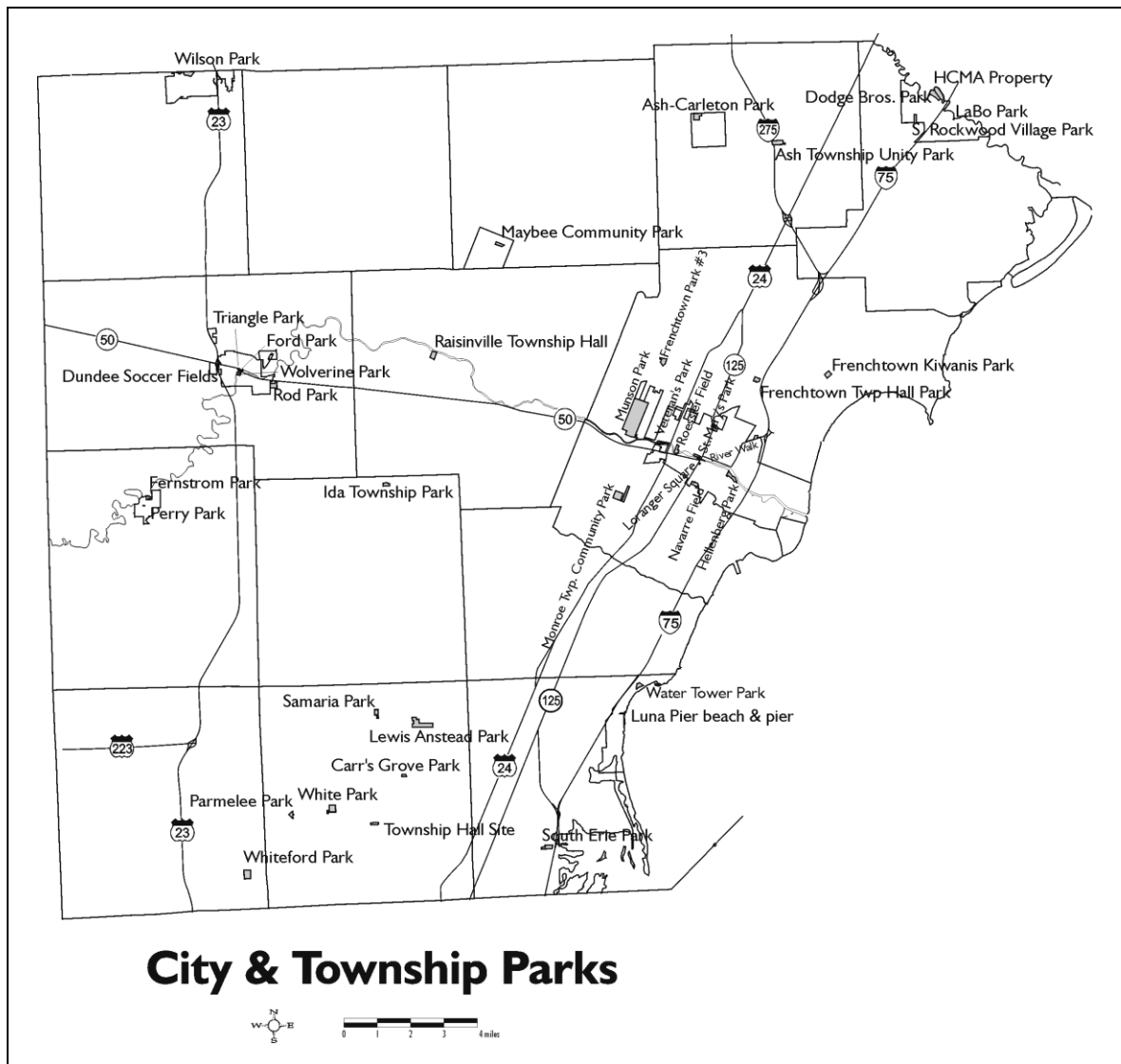
pavilions (38 total picnic tables)

Waterloo Park	Monroe Township	paved walking path, accessible fishing pier, river access, canoe landing, exercise court, picnic shelter, grills, playground, horseshoes, parking, porta johns, 2 picnic pavilions (21 total picnic tables)	9
West County Park	Dundee Township	natural habitat, river access, benches, shelters	60
			<hr/> 221





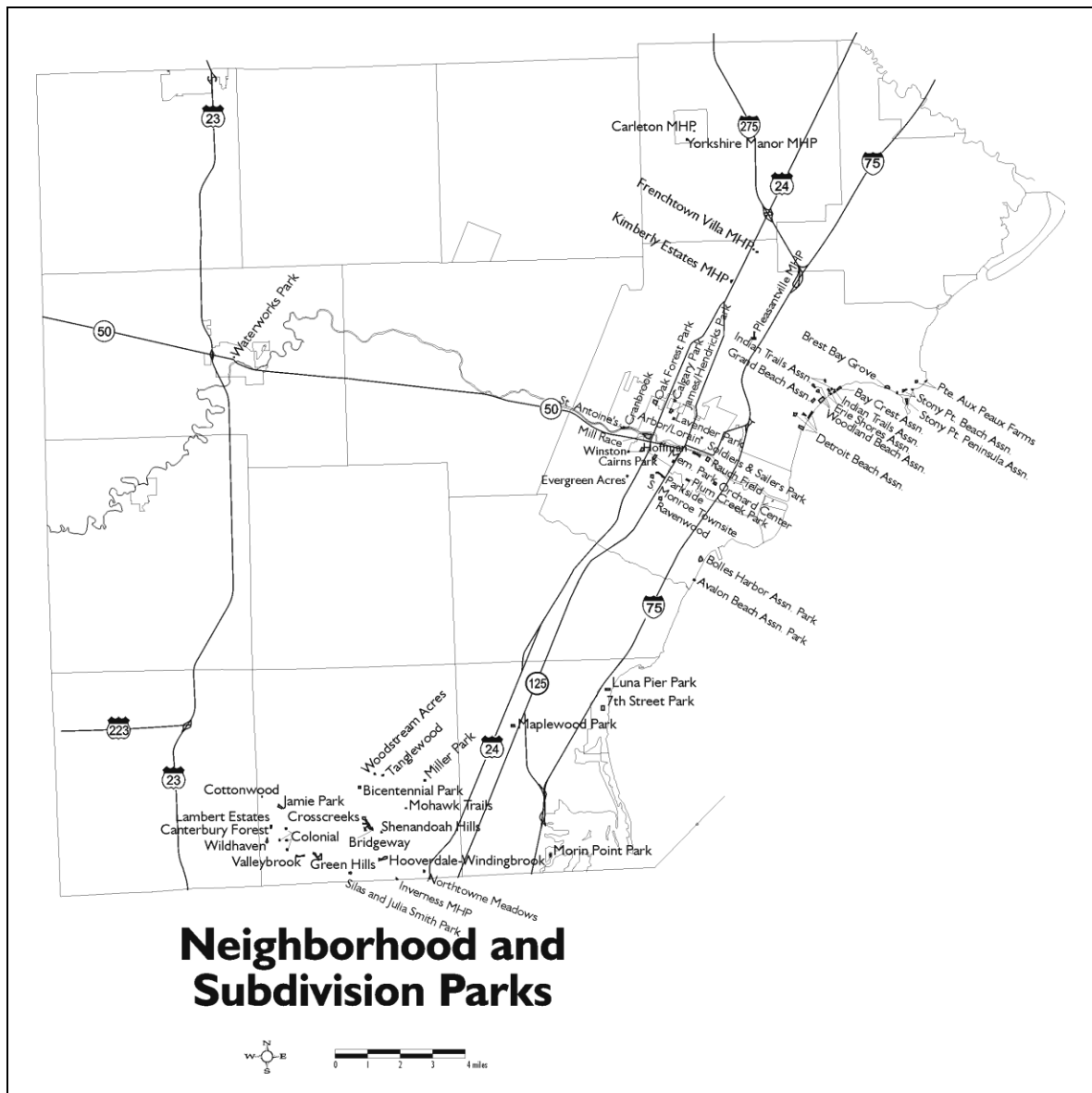
<u>park</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Sterling State Park	Monroe /Frenchtown Twp.	Lake Erie beach, boat launch, campground, play ground, nature trails	1,300
Petersburg State Game Area	Summerfield Twp.	hunting	935
Pte. Mouille State Game Area	Berlin Twp (also Wayne Co.)	hunting, fishing, shooting range, boat ramp	3,466
Erie State Game Area	Erie Township	hunting, boat launch	1,519
I-75 Rest Area	Monroe Twp.	rest rooms, picnic area, tourist information	25
US-23 Rest Area	Summerfield Twp.	rest rooms, picnic area, tourist information	28
I-275 Rest Area	Ash Twp.	rest rooms, picnic area, tourist information	35
Bolles Harbor Access Site	Monroe Twp.	boat launch, fishing, restrooms, parking	77
Otter Creek Access Site	LaSalle Twp.	Lake Erie access, fishing pier, restrooms	26
Swan Creek Access Site	Berlin Township	boat ramp, fishing, restrooms	2
			7,413



<u>park name</u>	<u>community</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Ash Twp. Unity Park	Ash	proposed – ball diamonds, trail, water recreation	27.3
Carr Park	Bedford	picnic shelter, playground, ball diamond, tennis, basketball	5.3
Lewis Anstead Park	Bedford	trails	56.0
Parmelee Park	Bedford	nature trails, basketball, playground, picnic sites, lighted ball diamonds, tennis courts	8.8
Samaria Park	Bedford	playground, community center building, picnic sites, trails, ball diamonds	13.2
White Park	Bedford	playground, picnic sites, ball diamonds, exercise trail, basketball, tennis	28.1
Ash-Carleton Park	Carleton	ball diamonds, playground, trails, picnic sites, tennis, natural area, basketball	23.1
Rod Park	Dundee Twp.	ball diamonds, natural area	19.1

township/city parks (cont.)

<u>park name</u>	<u>community</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Dundee Soccer Fields	Dundee Village	soccer fields	7.8
Ford Park	Dundee Village	river access, picnic sites	2.9
Triangle Park	Dundee Village	gazebo, benches	0.2
Wolverine Park	Dundee Village	playground, basketball, tennis, horseshoes, boat ramp, fishing, picnicing, community bldg.	4.0
South Erie Park	Erie	playground, ball diamonds, picnic sites	18.1
Frenchtown Kiwanis Park	Frenchtown	ball diamonds, playground, picnic sites, natural area	14.8
Frenchtown Township Hall Park	Frenchtown	ball diamonds, playground, picnic sites, tennis courts, walking trail, sledding hill, rec. building	12.2
Frenchtown Park #3	Frenchtown	under development - softball, soccer, playground	16.0
Ida Township Park	Ida	playground, horseshoes, pathway, picnic area	10.8
Luna Pier beach & pier	Luna Pier	fishing pier, picnic sites, Lake Erie beach	6.4
Water Tower Park	Luna Pier	playground, ball diamond, tennis, basketball, picnic area	12.4
Maybee Community Pk.	Maybee	ball diamonds, playground	10.9
Wilson Park	Milan City	ball diamonds, trails, picnic sites, playground	24.0
Hellenberg Park	Monroe City	ball diamonds, river access, natural area	13.0
Loranger Square	Monroe City	picnic tables, historic site, gazebo, fountain	1.0
Munson Park	Monroe City	ball diamonds, playground, soccer fields, picnic sites, sledding hill, tennis courts	240.0
Navarre Field	Monroe City	ball diamonds, tennis courts, playground	8.5
River Walk	Monroe City	riverside walking path	0.9
Roessler Field	Monroe City	ball diamonds, river access	11.1
St. Mary's Park	Monroe City	playground, amphitheater, picnic sites, tennis, basketball	3.4
Veteran's Park	Monroe City	playground, river access, picnic areas	7.8
Monroe Charter Twp. Community Park	Monroe Twp.	ball diamonds, nature trail, nature center, basketball, volleyball, tennis, playground	37.0
Perry Park	Petersburg	playground	0.4
Fernstrom Park	Petersburg	river access, picnic sites	8.2
Raisinville Township	Raisinville	undeveloped, river access, natural area	17.9
Dodge Bros. Park	S. Rockwood	natural area, river access	25.8
HCMA Property	S. Rockwood	natural area, river access	34.5
LaBo Park	S. Rockwood	fishing access, picnic sites	0.4
Village Park	S. Rockwood	ball diamonds, ice skating	10.2
Whiteford Park	Whiteford	ball diamonds, trails, soccer	80.0
			<hr/> 821.5



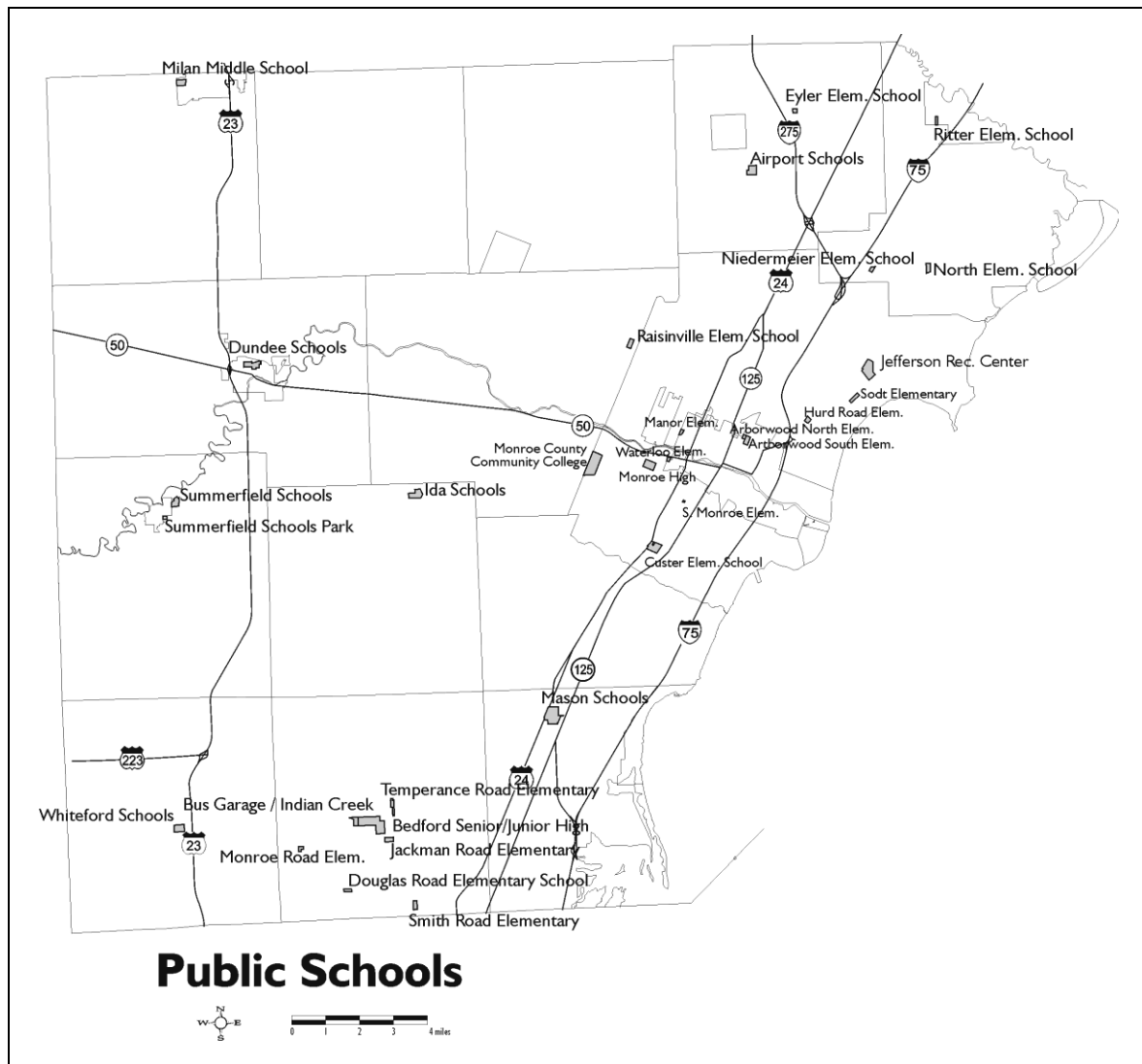
<u>park name</u>	<u>community</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Bicentennial Park	Bedford	gazebo, foot bridge	1.0
Bridgeway	Bedford	none	2.6
Canterbury Forest	Bedford	none	0.9
Colonial (Cranbrook)	Bedford	playground, picnic tables	0.9
Colonial (Middlebury)	Bedford	none	1.3
Colonial (Ridgedale)	Bedford	none	1.2
Colonial (Wellsley)	Bedford	none	1.2
Cottonwood	Bedford	none	0.3
Crosscreeks (Indian Creek)	Bedford	none	14.6
Crosscreeks (Ryan Common Area)	Bedford	none	1.7
Green Hills Community	Bedford	pool, clubhouse, tennis	13.4
Hooverdale - Windingbrook	Bedford	none	8.7

neighborhood & subdivision parks (cont.)

<u>park name</u>	<u>community</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Inverness	Bedford	playground	0.7
Jamie Park (Kimberly Oaks)	Bedford	none	4.8
Lambert Estates	Bedford	none	1.2
Miller Park	Bedford	play area	1.6
Mohawk Trails	Bedford	playground, basketball	0.3
Shenandoah Hills	Bedford	none	0.5
Silas and Julia Smith Park	Bedford	picnic sites, basketball, playgrounds	2.1
Tanglewood	Bedford	none	0.8
Woodstream Acres	Bedford	none	0.8
Northtowne Meadows	Bedford	playground, tennis court	1.6
Valleybrook Park	Bedford	none	2.8
Wildhaven	Bedford	none	3.2
Carleton MHP	Carleton Village	playground	0.2
Yorkshire Manor MHP	Carleton Village	playground	0.4
Waterworks Park (Jaycees)	Dundee Village	playground	0.3
Maplewood Park	Erie Township	playground, ball diamond, basketball, picnic area	4.1
Morin Point Park	Erie Township	playground	1.6
Bay Crest Assn.	Frenchtown	beach access	4.0
Brest Bay Grove	Frenchtown	beach, playground, picnic	5.5
Detroit Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	beach	2.3
Detroit Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	playground	4.2
Detroit Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, basketball	5.4
Detroit Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, picnic shelter	7.3
Erie Shores Assn.	Frenchtown	beach access, picnic grounds	0.7
Erie Shores Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, picnic, basketball, ball diamond	2.1
Frenchtown Villa	Frenchtown	pool, clubhouse	0.4
Frenchtown Villa	Frenchtown	playground	0.6
Grand Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, tennis, basketball, ball diamond, picnic	4.7
Indian Trails Assn.	Frenchtown	ball diamond	0.6
Indian Trails Assn.	Frenchtown	play equipment, tennis court, basketball	1.0
Indian Trails Assn.	Frenchtown	beach access, club house	1.0
Indian Trails Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, basketball	1.5
Kimberly Estates	Frenchtown	pool, tennis, clubhouse	1.5
Pleasantville	Frenchtown	basketball	5.1
Pte. Aux Peaux Farms Assn	Frenchtown	beach access	3.2
Pte. Aux Peaux Farms Assn	Frenchtown	play equip., shelter, basketball, ball diamond	2.7
Stony Pt. Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	none	0.5
Stony Pt. Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	beach access	1.0
Stony Pt. Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, basketball	3.2
Stony Pt. Peninsula Assn.	Frenchtown	play area, swings	5.0
Woodland Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, ball diamond	2.9
Woodland Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	ball diamond	3.1

neighborhood & subdivision parks (cont.)

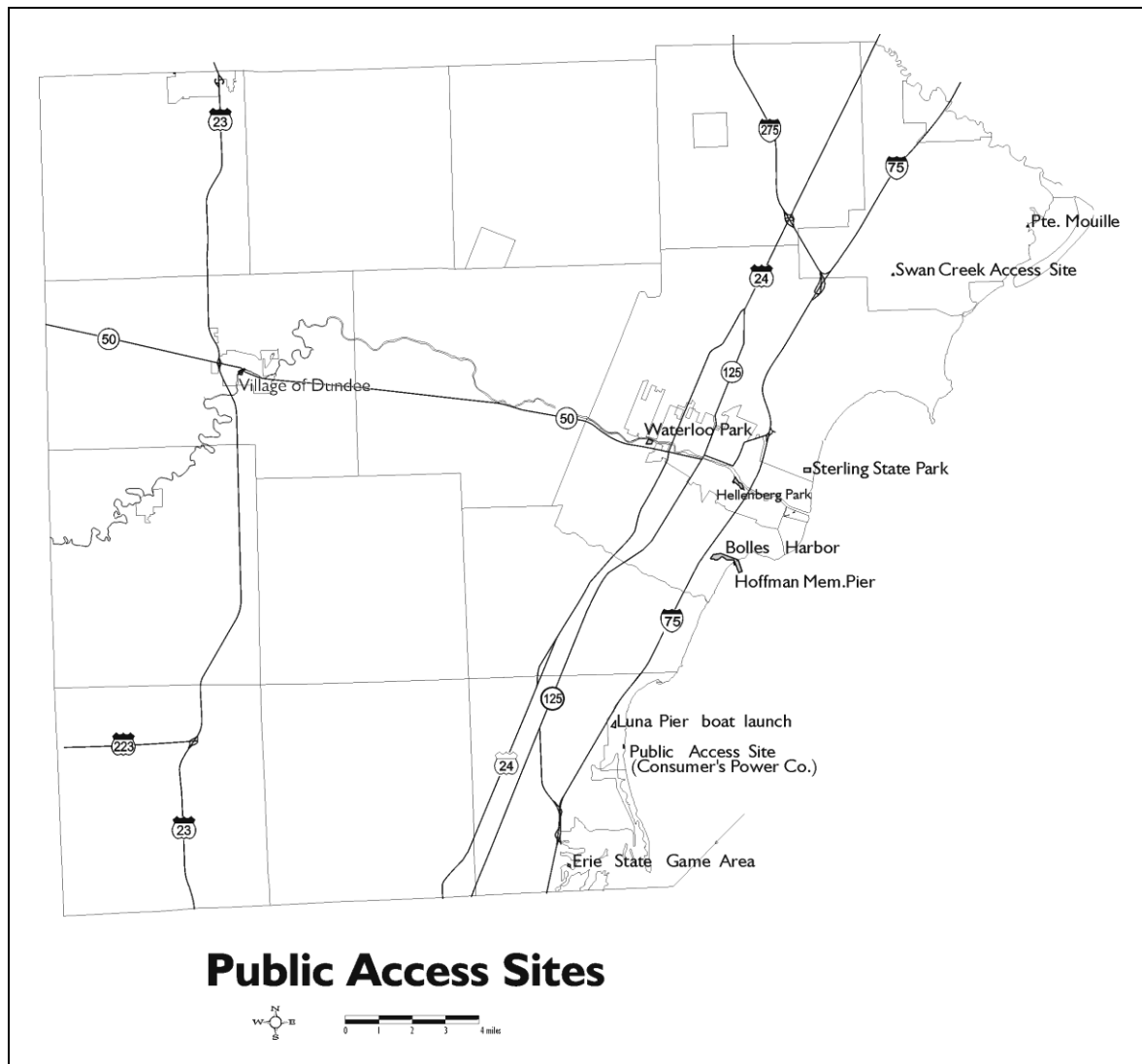
<u>park name</u>	<u>community</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Woodland Beach Assn.	Frenchtown	playground, beach	10.5
Luna Pier Park	Luna Pier	playground	0.6
Seventh Street Park	Luna Pier	playground, ball diamond	0.9
Arbor/Lorain Park	Monroe City	playground	0.1
Cairns Field	Monroe City	playground, ball diamond	4.2
Calgary Park	Monroe City	playground, pavilion	2.0
Cranbrook Park	Monroe City	picnic area, natural area	7.2
Depot Square	Monroe City	none	0.1
Hoffman Park	Monroe City	playground, picnic area	5.2
James / Hendricks Park	Monroe City	none	2.3
Lavender Park	Monroe City	tennis, playground, picnic	1.3
Memorial Park	Monroe City	benches, cemetery	0.7
Mill Race Park	Monroe City	river access	11.0
Oak Forest Park	Monroe City	natural area	8.2
Orchard Center	Monroe City	playground, basketball	2.6
Plum Creek Park	Monroe City	playground, Basketball, picnic area	2.0
Rauch Park	Monroe City	playground	3.4
Soldier & Sailors Park	Monroe City	playground, benches, shuffleboard, horseshoes	5.2
St. Antoine's Park	Monroe City	historic site, benches	0.3
Winston Park	Monroe City	playground, benches	0.3
Evergreen Acres	Monroe Twp.	none	0.9
Avalon Beach Assn. Park	Monroe Twp.	beach access, basketball	1.0
Bolles Harbor Assn. Park	Monroe Twp.	playground, basketball, tennis, ball diamond	8.0
Parkside	Monroe Twp.	river access	4.7
Ravenwood	Monroe Twp.	playground, shelter	2.0
S. Monroe Townsite	Monroe Twp.	playground, ball diamond, basketball, tennis	4.6
			<hr/> 233.6



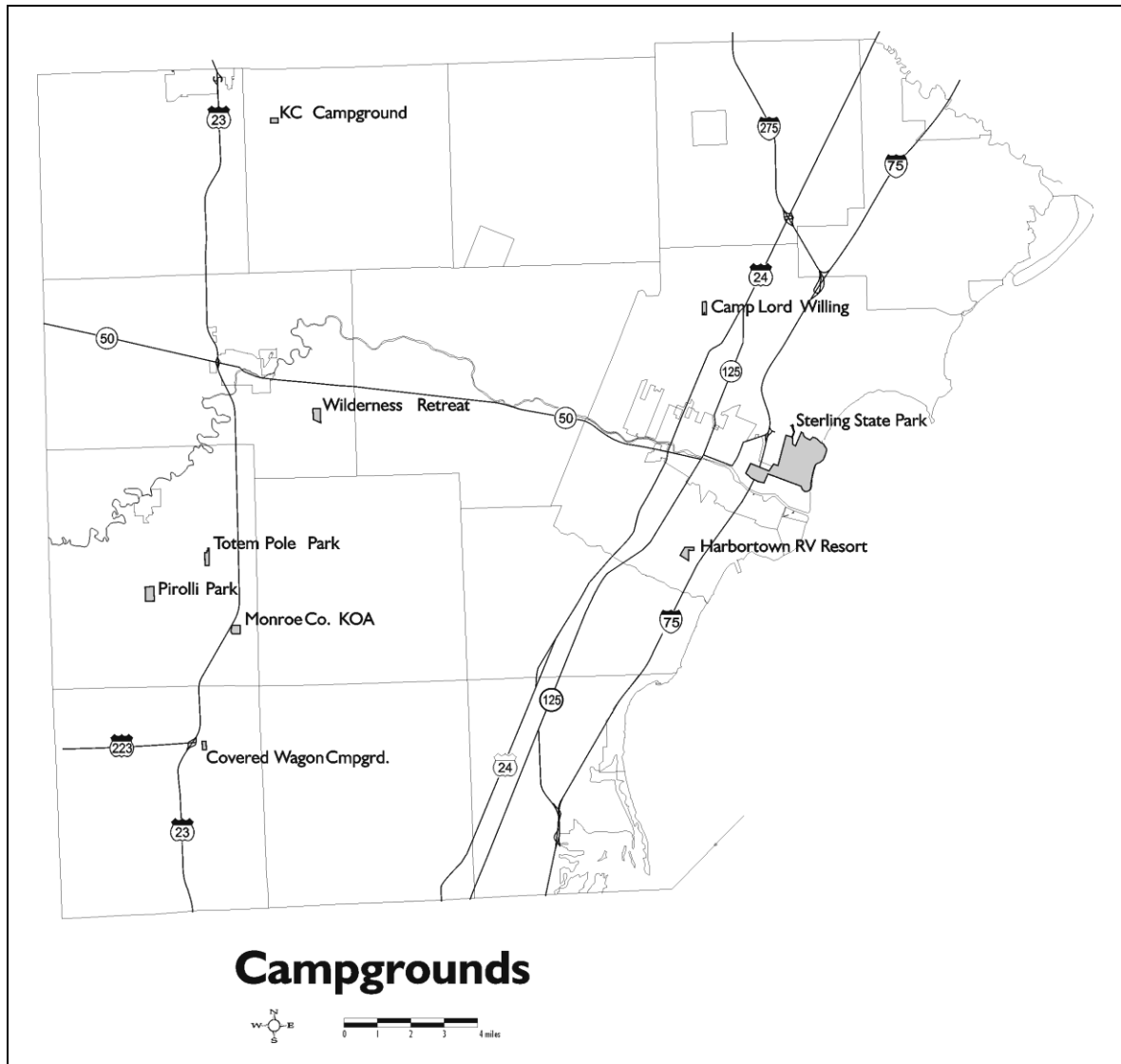
<u>school</u>	<u>community</u>	<u>acres</u>
Airport Schools	Ash	40.4
Eyer Elem. School	Ash	9.6
Bedford Senior/Junior High School	Bedford Twp.	152.9
Bus Garage / Indian Creek	Bedford Twp.	22.8
Douglas Road Elementary School	Bedford Twp.	11.5
Jackman Road Elementary	Bedford Twp.	20.1
Monroe Road Elementary	Bedford Twp.	12.6
Smith Road Elementary	Bedford Twp.	17.7
Temperance Road Elementary	Bedford Twp.	21.9
Niedermeier Elem. School	Berlin Twp.	9.9
North Elem. School	Berlin Twp.	21.5
Dundee Community Schools	Dundee	52.0

public schools (cont.)

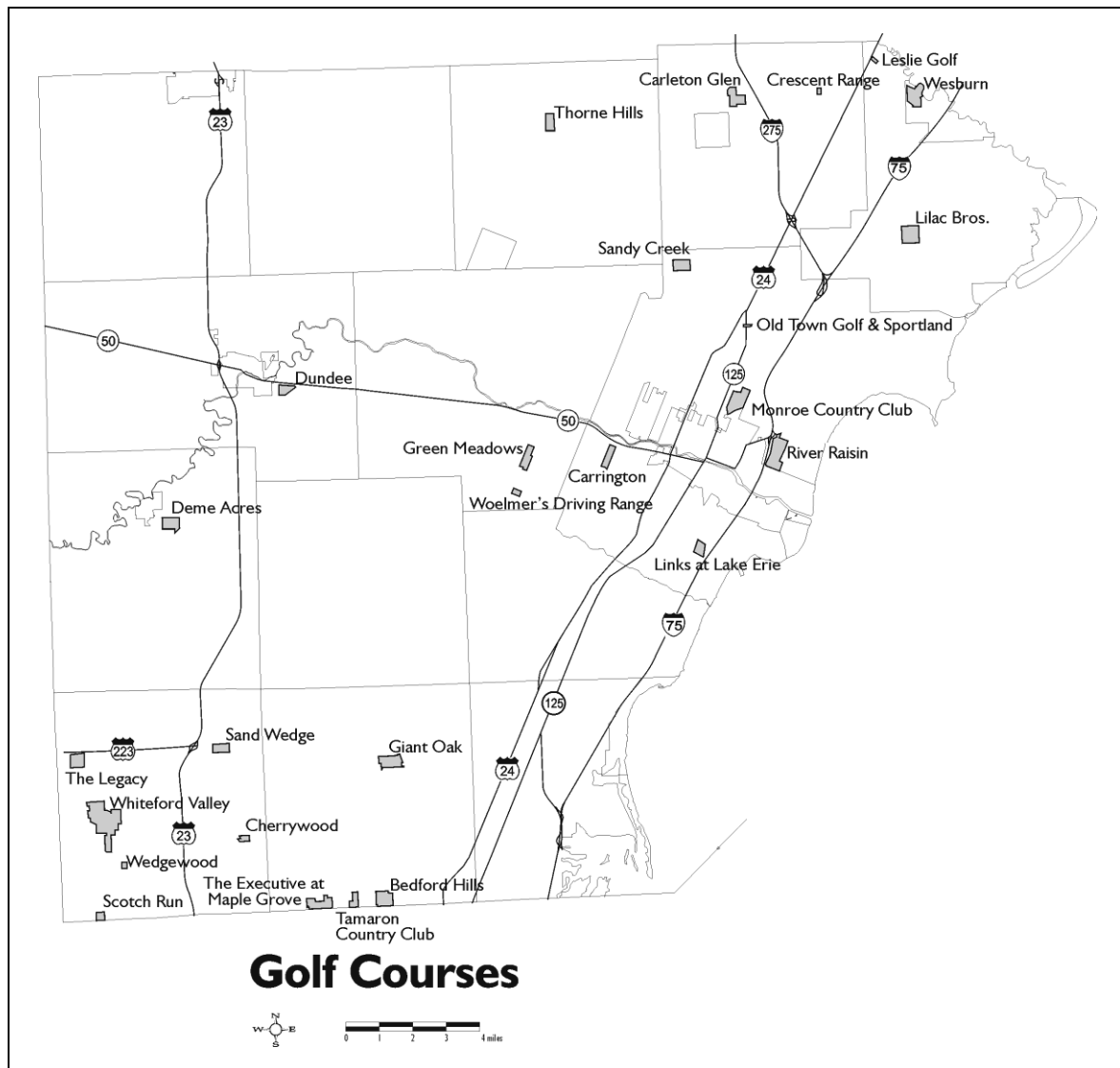
<u>school</u>	<u>community</u>	<u>acres</u>
Mason Schools	Erie Twp.	115.0
Hurd Road School	Frenchtown Twp.	12.9
Jefferson Rec. Center	Frenchtown Twp.	86.7
Sodt Elementary	Frenchtown Twp.	18.5
Ida Public Schools	Ida Twp.	48.2
Milan Middle School	Milan	28.2
Arborwood South Elem. School	Monroe	20.2
Arborwood North Elem. School	Monroe	6.7
Manor Elem. School	Monroe	8.8
Custer Elem. School	Monroe Twp.	53.6
Monroe Co. Community College	Monroe Twp.	127.7
Monroe High School	Monroe Twp.	46.7
S. Monroe Elem. School	Monroe Twp.	1.7
Waterloo Elem. School	Monroe Twp.	6.8
Raisinville Elem. School	Raisinville Twp.	21.5
Ritter Elem. School	South Rockwood	9.2
Summerfield Schools	Summerfield Twp.	30.6
Summerfield Schools Park	Summerfield Twp.	7.0
Whiteford Schools	Whiteford Twp.	38.6
		<hr/> 1,081.5



<u>site</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>owner</u>	<u>facilities</u>	<u>acres</u>
Pte. Mouille Access Site	Berlin	State of Michigan	boat launch	1.0
Swan Creek Access Site	Berlin	State of Michigan	boat launch, restrooms	1.3
Wolverine Park	Dundee Village	Village of Dundee	boat launch	4.0
Game Area	Erie	State of Michigan	boat launch	2.9
Sterling State Park	Frenchtown	State of Michigan	boat launch, docks	1,300
Luna Pier boat launch	Luna Pier	City of Luna Pier	boat launch	9.0
Public Access Site	Luna Pier	Consumers Power	fishing access	1.5
Hellenburg Park	Monroe	City of Monroe	boat launch	2.0
Bolles Harbor	Monroe Township	State of Michigan	boat launch, restrooms	77.1
Hoffman Mem. Pier	Monroe Township	Monroe Township	fishing pier	0.4
Waterloo Park	Monroe Township	Monroe County	fishing pier, canoe landing	11.3



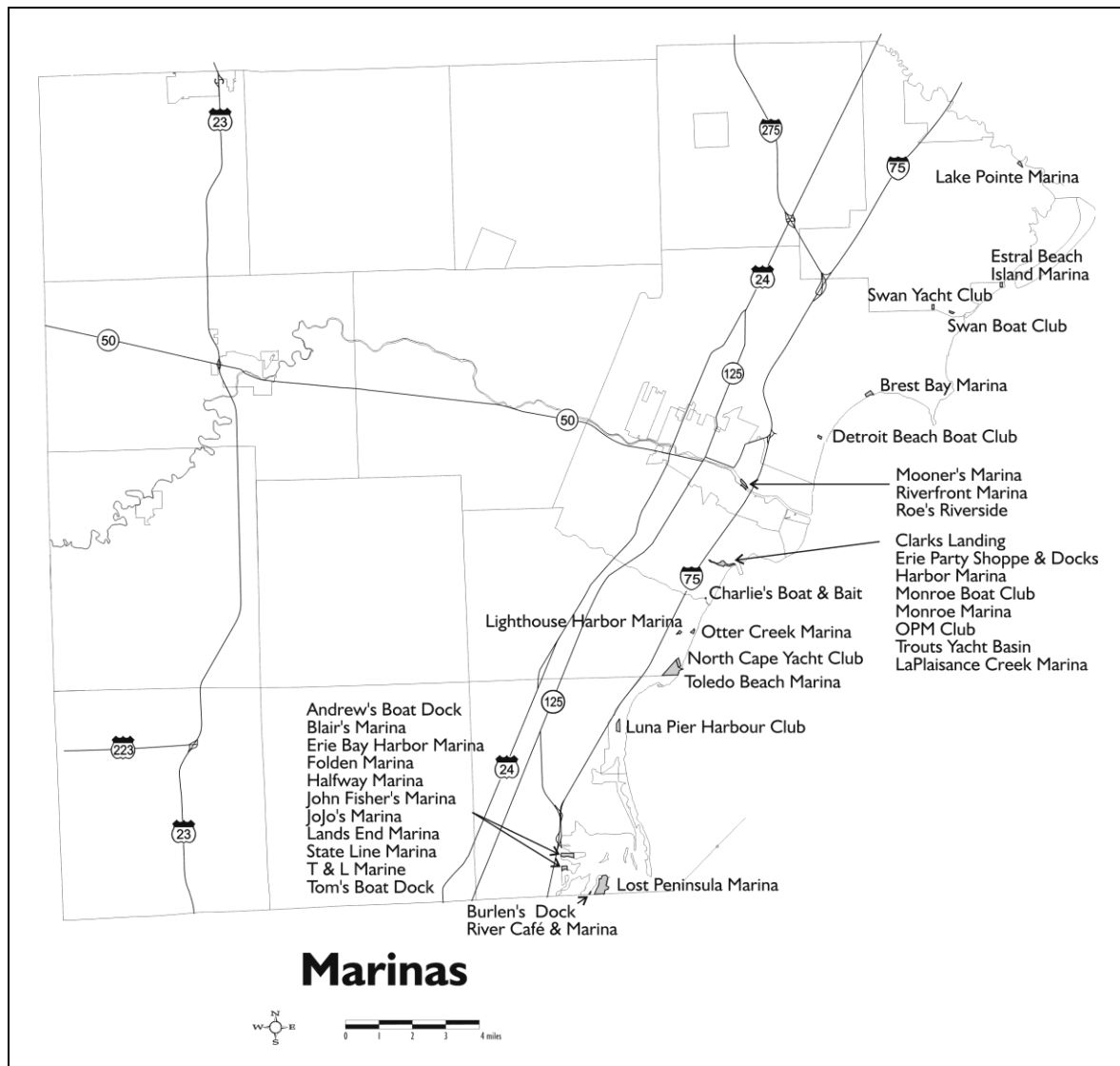
<u>campground</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>modern sites</u>	<u>primitive sites</u>	<u>acres</u>
Wilderness Retreat	Dundee Twp.	50	0	50.5
Camp Lord Willing	Frenchtown	30	36	28.2
Sterling State Park (public)	Frenchtown	256	0	1,300.0
KC Campground	London	50	50	20.6
Harbortown RV Resort	Monroe Twp.	250	0	30.5
Monroe Co. KOA	Summerfield	249	0	41.9
Pirolli Park	Summerfield	100	50	68.7
Totem Pole Park	Summerfield	121	0	34.6
Covered Wagon Campgrd.	Whiteford	100	13	18.7
		1206	149	1593.7



<u>course</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>holes</u>
Carleton Glen Golf Club	Ash	18
Crescent Range Practice Center	Ash	driving range
Bedford Hills Golf Club	Bedford	27
Giant Oak Golf Course	Bedford	27
The Executive at Maple Grove	Bedford	18
Tamaron Country Club	Bedford / Toledo, OH	18
Leslie Golf Inc.	Berlin	driving range
Wyndridge Golf Course	Berlin	18
Dundee Golf Club	Dundee Twp.	9
Thorne Hill Golf Course	Exeter	18
Monroe Country Club	Frenchtown	18
Old Town Golf & Sportland	Frenchtown	9 (par 3)
River Raisin Golf Course	Frenchtown	36 (2 x 18)

golf courses (cont.)

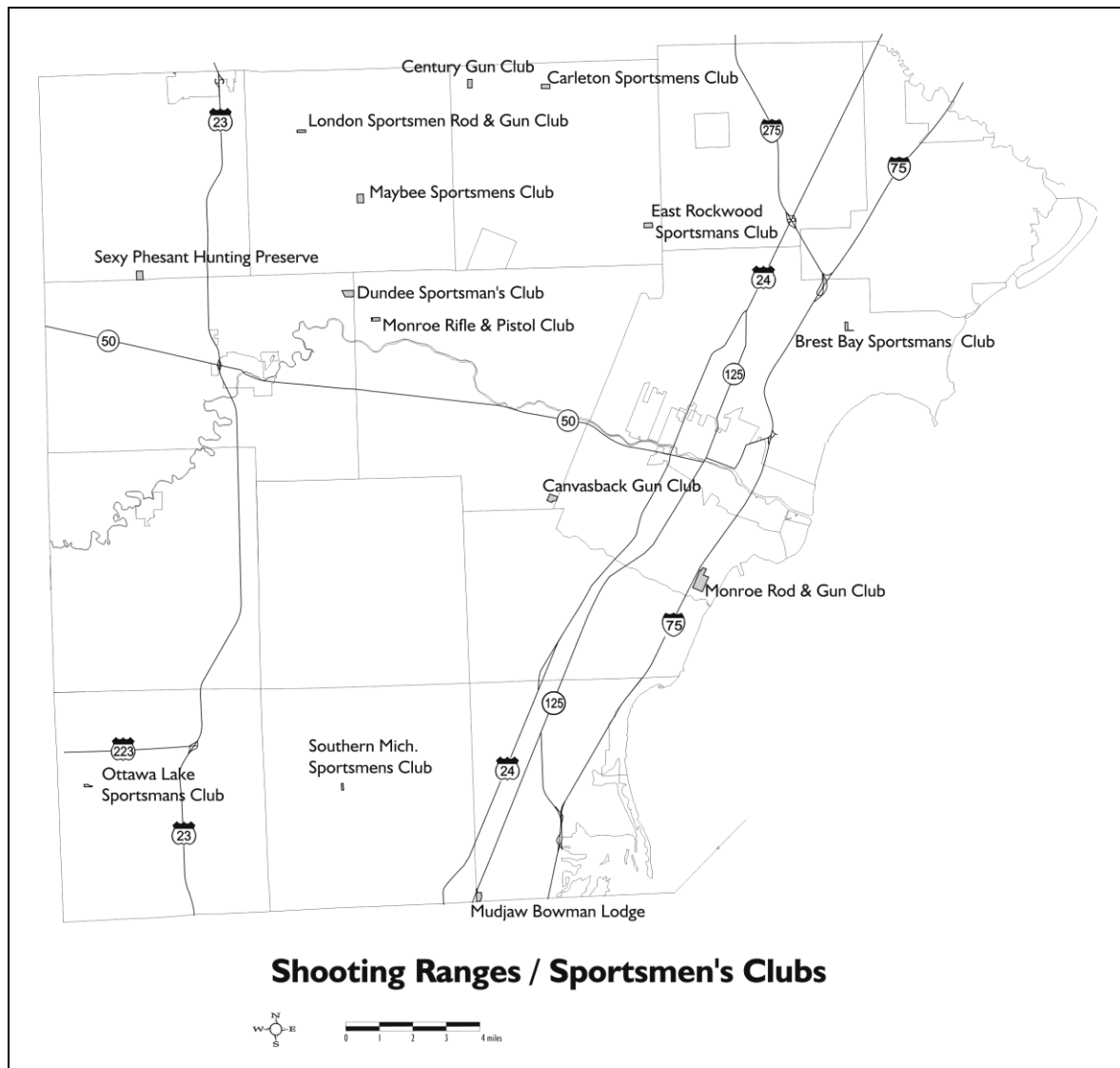
<u>course</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>holes</u>
Carrington Golf Club	Monroe Twp.	18
Links at Lake Erie	Monroe Twp.	18
Green Meadows	Raisinville	18
Woelmer's Driving Range	Raisinville	driving range
Deme Acres	Summerfield	18
Wesburn Golf & Country Club	S. Rockwood Village	18
Scotch Run Golf Center	Whiteford	9
Cherrywood	Whiteford	9
Sand Wedge	Whiteford	18
The Legacy by Arthur Hills	Whiteford	18
Wedgewood Golf Range	Whiteford	driving range
Whiteford Valley Golf Course	Whiteford	72 (4 x 18)



<u>marina</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>boat slips</u>
Lake Pointe Marina	Berlin	68
Swan Boat Club	Berlin	127
Swan Yacht Club	Berlin	29
Andrew's Boat Dock	Erie	145
Blair's Marina	Erie	80
Burlen's Dock	Erie	35
Erie Bay Harbor Marina	Erie	227
Folden Marina	Erie	22
Halfway Marina	Erie	39
John Fisher's Marina	Erie	32

marinas (cont.)

<u>marina</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>boat slips</u>
JoJo's Marina	Erie	57
Lands End Marina	Erie	32
Lost Peninsula Marina	Erie	300
River Café & Marina	Erie	6
State Line Marina	Erie	141
T & L Marine	Erie	10
Tom's Boat Dock	Erie	39
Estral Beach Island Marina	Estral Beach	69
Brest Bay Marina	Frenchtown	358
Detroit Beach Boat Club	Frenchtown	94
Lighthouse Harbor Marina	LaSalle	177
North Cape Yacht Club	LaSalle	150
Otter Creek Marina	LaSalle	75
Toledo Beach Marina	LaSalle	555
Luna Pier Harbour Club	Luna Pier	392
Roe's Riverside Bait & Tackle	Monroe City	14
Riverfront Marina	Monroe City	155
Mooner's Marina	Monroe City	34
Charlie's Boat & Bait	Monroe Twp.	50
Clarks Landing	Monroe Twp.	24
Erie Party Shoppe & Docks	Monroe Twp.	70
Harbor Marine	Monroe Twp.	20
Monroe Boat Club	Monroe Twp.	88
Monroe Marina	Monroe Twp.	42
OPM Club	Monroe Twp.	28
Trout's Yacht Basin	Monroe Twp.	94
LaPlaisance Creek Marina	Monroe Twp.	68
		<hr/> 3,946

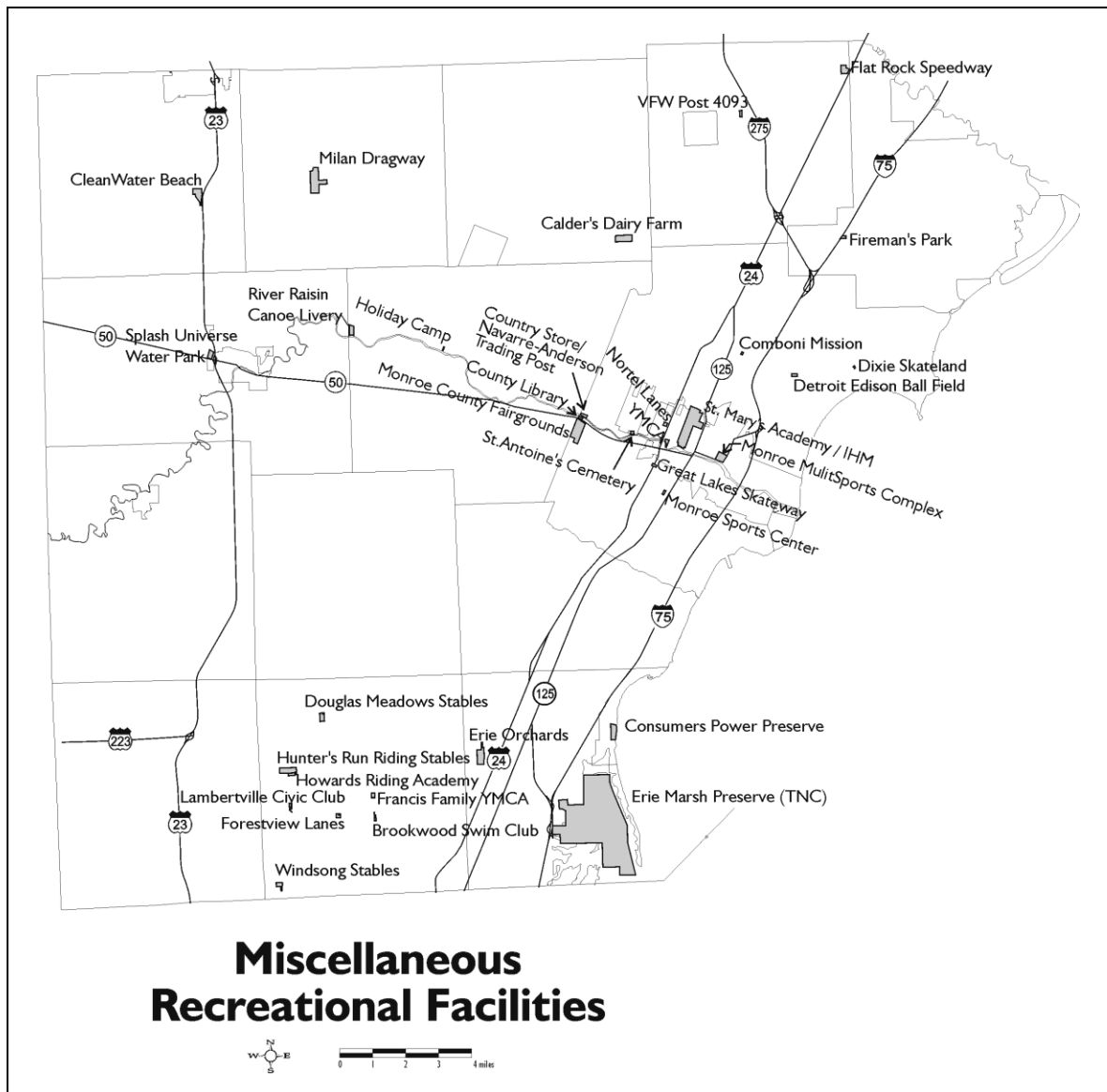


range/club

Southern Mich. Sportsmen's Club
 Dundee Sportsman's Club
 Mudjaw Bowman Lodge
 Carleton Sportsmen's Club
 Century Gun Club
 East Rockwood Sportsman's Club
 Brest Bay Sportsman's Club
 London Sportsmen Rod & Gun Club
 Maybee Sportsmen's Club
 Sexy Pheasant Hunting Preserve
 Monroe Rod & Gun Club
 Monroe Rifle & Pistol Club
 Canvasback Gun Club
 Ottawa Lake Sportsman's Club

township

Bedford Twp.
 Dundee Twp.
 Erie Twp.
 Exeter Twp.
 Exeter Twp.
 Exeter Twp.
 Frenchtown Twp.
 London Twp.
 London Twp.
 Milan Twp.
 Monroe Twp.
 Raisinville Twp.
 Raisinville Twp.
 Whiteford Twp.



<u>facility</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>acres</u>
Flat Rock Speedway	Ash Twp.	race track	32
VFW Post 4093	Ash Twp.	ball diamonds, picnic shelter	8
Brookwood Swim Club	Bedford Twp.	private swim club	5
Douglas Meadows Stables	Bedford Twp.	private stables	21
Forestview Lanes	Bedford Twp.	bowling, volleyball	9
Howard's Riding Academy	Bedford Twp.	private stables	11
Hunter's Run Riding Stables	Bedford Twp.	private stables	50
Lambertville Civic Club	Bedford Twp.	sports fields, clubhouse	8
Soda Park	Bedford Twp.	ball diamonds	20
Windsong Stables	Bedford Twp.	private stables	17
Fireman's Park	Berlin Twp.	picnic area, shelter	7

miscellaneous facilities (cont.)

<u>facility</u>	<u>location</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>acres</u>
Erie Marsh Preserve (TNC)	Erie Twp.	nature preserve, waterfowl hunting	2,217
Erie Orchards	Erie Twp.	pick-your-own fruit, tours, cider mill	65
Calder's Dairy	Exeter Twp.	farm tours, animals	61
Comboni Mission	Frenchtown Twp.	soccer fields	3
Country Store/Trading Post	Frenchtown Twp.	historic site, River Raisin access	3
Detroit Edison Ball Field	Frenchtown Twp.	private ball fields	8
Dixie Skateland	Frenchtown Twp.	skating rink	2
Milan Dragway	London Twp.	drag strip	136
Consumers Power Preserve	Luna Pier	natural area, Lake Erie beach	48
Heath Beach	Milan Twp.	swimming pond	53
Monroe YMCA	Monroe	indoor recreation center - pool, gym, classrooms, etc.	9
Nortel Lanes	Monroe	bowling alley	6
River Raisin Battlefield Site	Monroe	historic site	1
St. Mary's / IHM	Monroe	extensive grounds used for soccer, jogging, skating	265
Great Lakes Skateway	Monroe Twp.	roller skating rink	6
Monroe County Fairgrounds	Monroe Twp.	fairgrounds, special events, auditorium	112
Monroe County Library (Ellis)	Monroe Twp.	picnic area, River Raisin access	6
Monroe Sports Center	Monroe Twp.	bowling alley	5
Holiday Camp	Raisinville Twp.	special education camp	1
River Raisin Canoe Livery	Raisinville Twp.	canoe rentals	25

REGIONAL RECREATION – EXISTING FACILITIES

Within 60 miles of Monroe there are a variety of recreational facilities available to County residents. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) operates 13 Metroparks totaling 23,630 acres. Activities provided by the Metroparks include nature trails and interpretive centers, picnic areas, swimming beaches, boating, golf, cross-country skiing, and other activities aimed primarily at serving a regional population base. The Toledo area also runs a Metropolitan Park District consisting of 7 regional parks and 2 greenspace parks in the northwest Ohio area.

A large number of Michigan State Parks are located in southeastern Michigan. These parks offer activities such as water access, camping and hiking.

Other recreational facilities in the area which serve a regional or even national market include: Cedar Point amusement park, Greenfield Village, the Detroit and Toledo Zoos, and Belle Isle.

REGIONAL RECREATION – PLANS AND VISIONS

The last 5 years has seen the refinement and implementation of a variety of regional recreational developments which cross county boundaries and serve a regional population.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is located along the lower Detroit River and western shoreline of Lake Erie. It was established in 2001 as the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America. The authorized refuge boundary includes islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of shoreline. The refuge is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is focusing on cooperative management agreements with the various industries, government agencies, and others within the refuge boundaries.

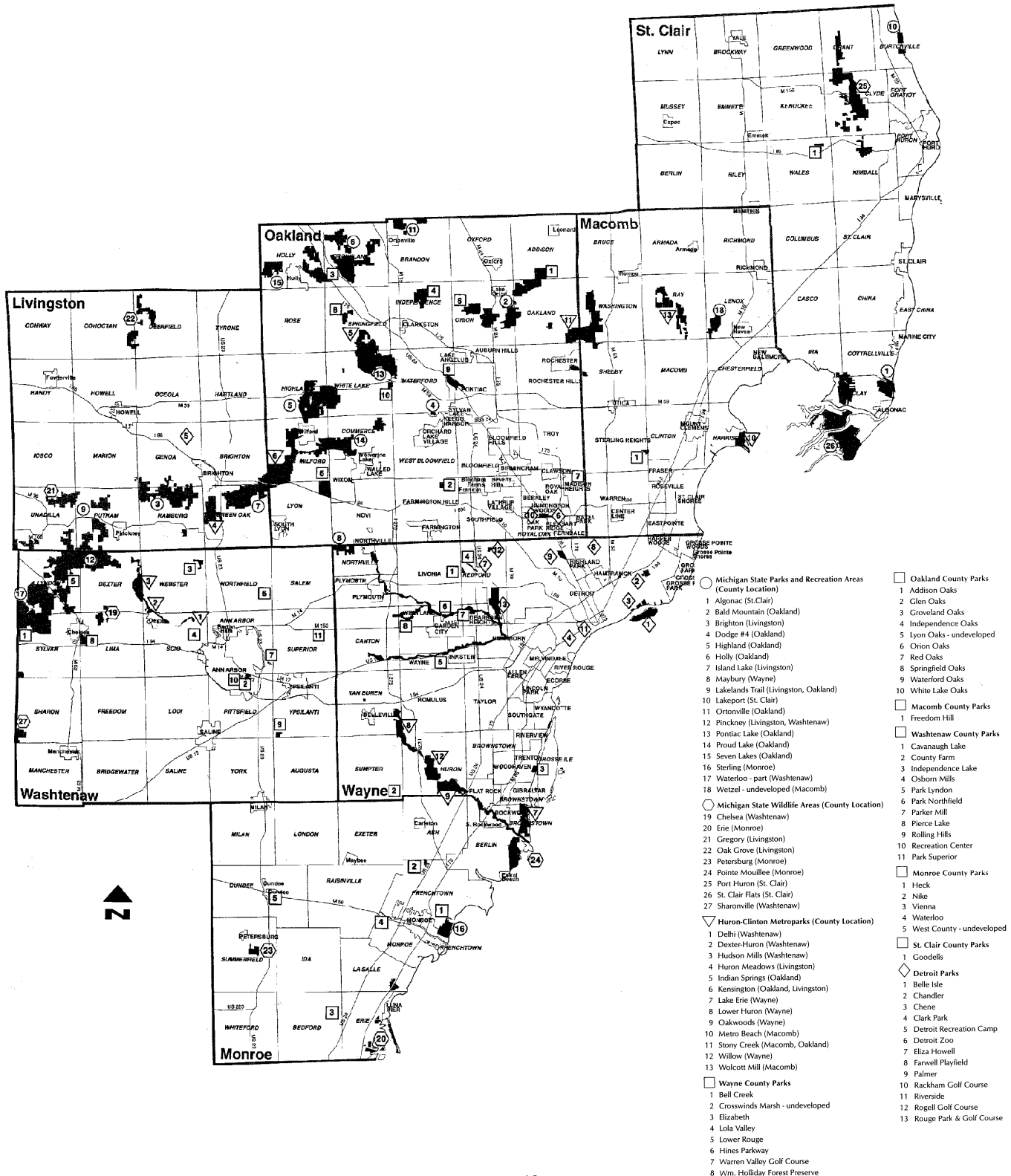
The Regional Vision for the Detroit Heritage River Water Trail is a network of recreational trails along the Detroit, Huron, Raisin, and Rouge Rivers. It is planned to encourage small boaters to recreate and experience the natural, cultural, and historic resources offered along these routes.

The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative is a regional non-motorized pathway vision for the Downriver region. It is envisioned that this regional pathway system will connect the 17 Downriver communities and Wayne County through a network of trails and greenways, and will feed and link into a rapidly forming regional and statewide system of greenways. The effort to produce a coordinated, functioning, non-motorized system is an essential factor in the quality of life for the Downriver communities.

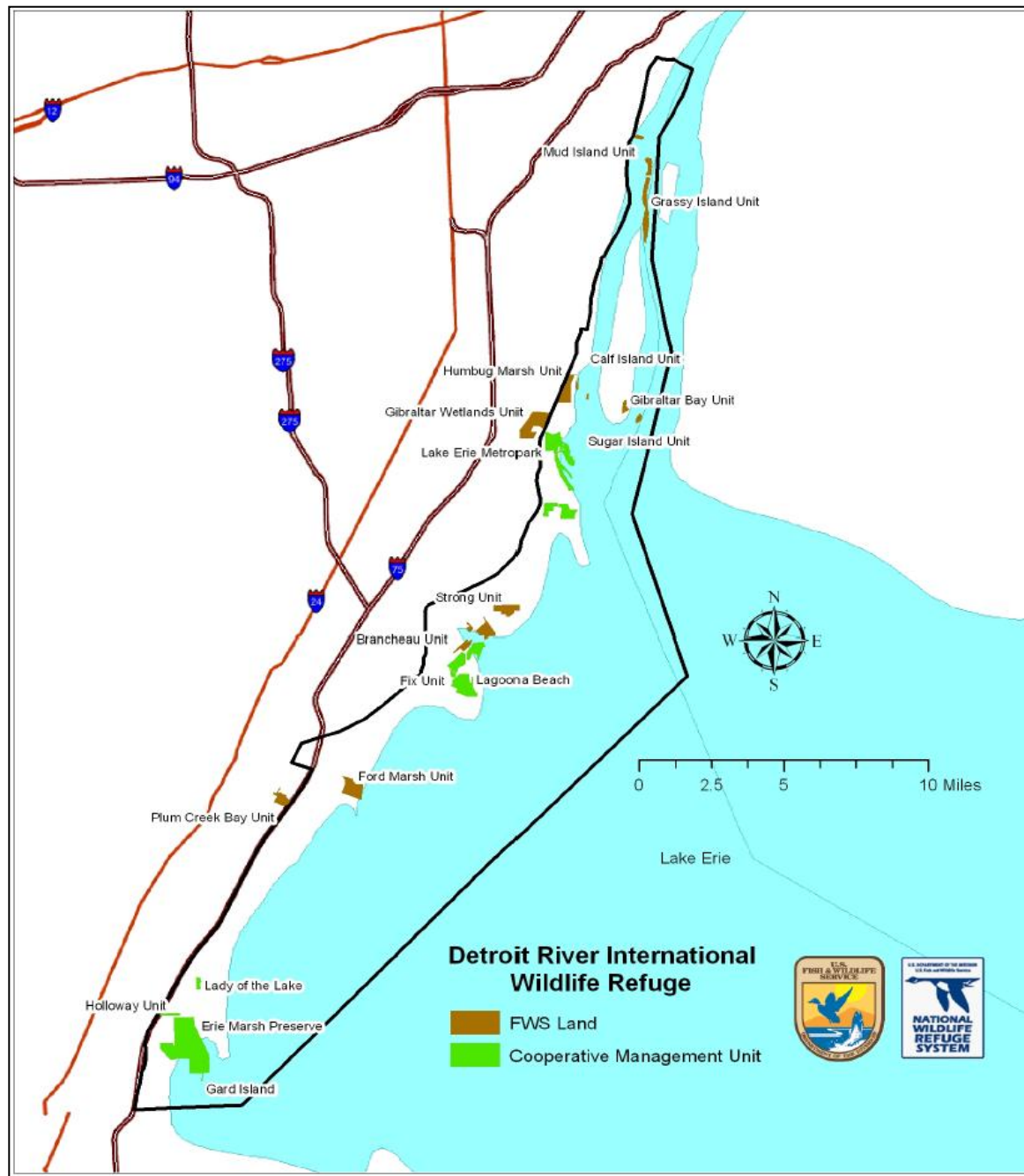
The Southeast Michigan GreenWays Initiative is a comprehensive effort aimed at expanding and enhancing the natural landscape of the region. One result of this five year concentrated effort which began in 2001 was to develop and refine a regional vision of linked trails and greenways. Greenway plans

were developed at the county level for each of the seven southeast Michigan counties and were combined to collaboratively create a seamless vision for non-motorized community connections and linkages.

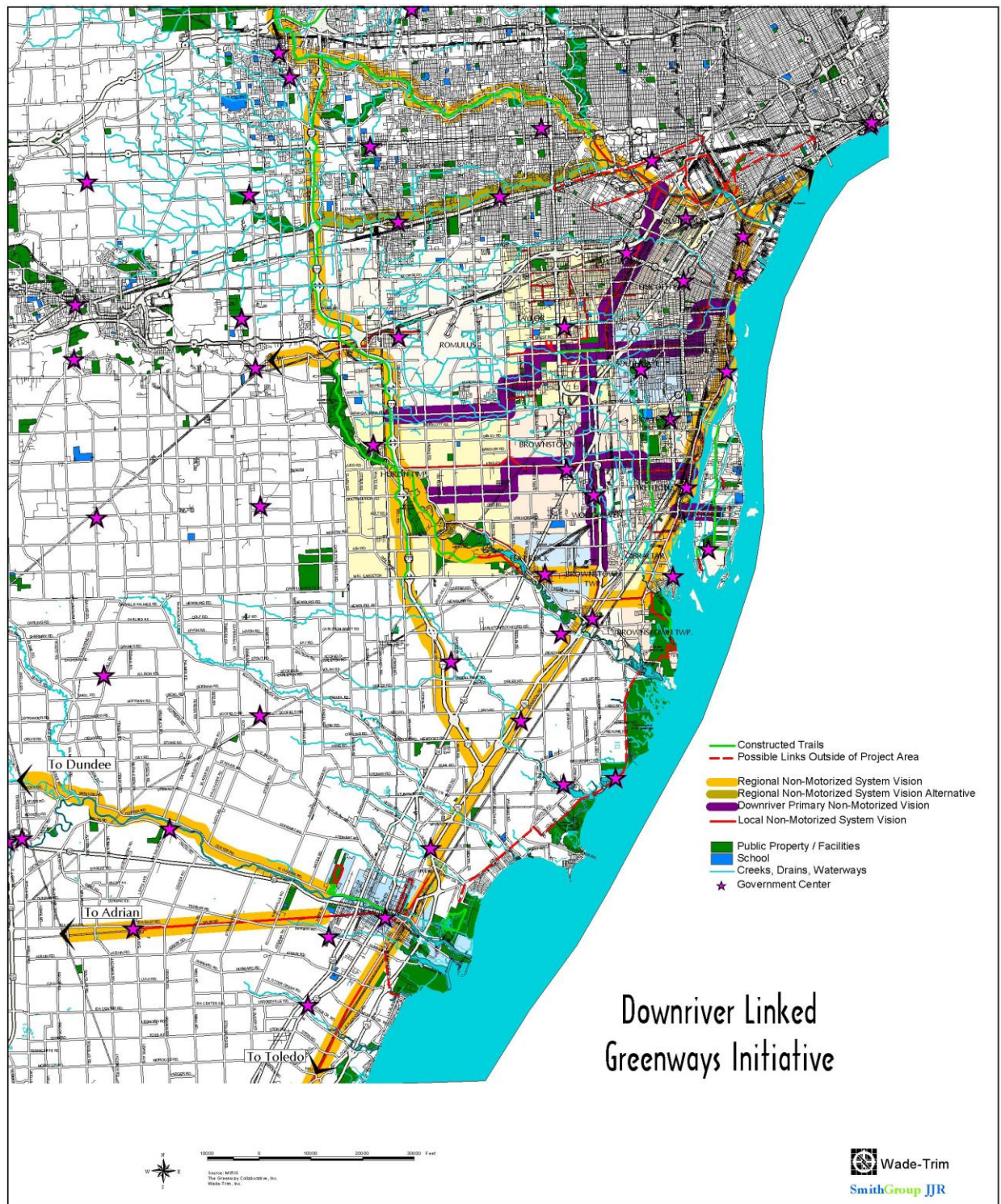
Regional Recreational Facilities - Southeast Michigan



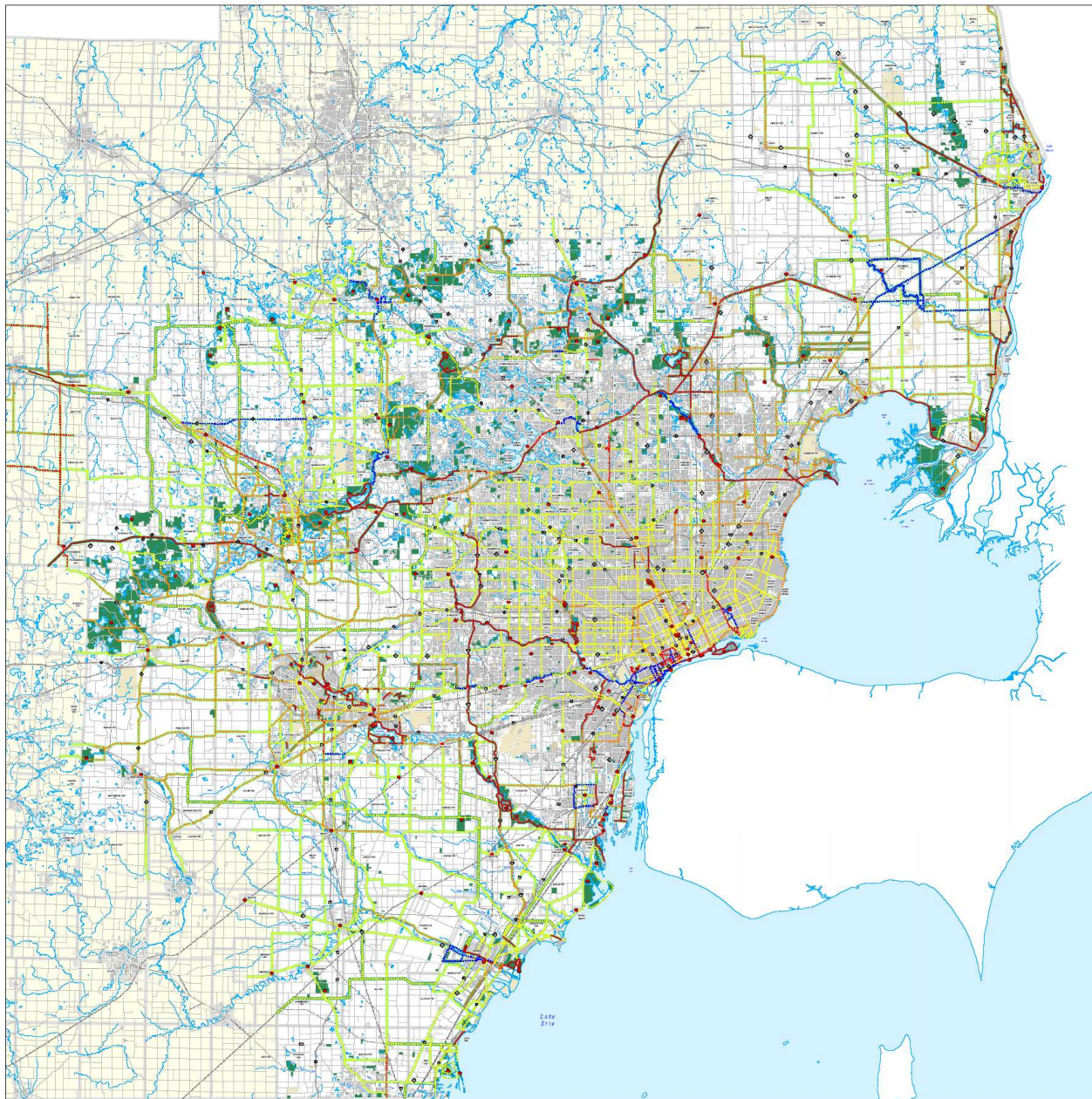
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge



Downriver Linked Greenway Initiative



Southeast Michigan Greenway Initiative Regional Vision



Regional Trails and Greenways Vision

**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
THE SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Made possible through financial support provided by
The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan's
Greenways Initiative

Greenway System Legend:

A greenway network is composed of three basic parts:
links, hubs and sites.

Greenway Links
Links are the heart of the greenway system.
They are the major connections between hubs.

Type of Link

Official Corridor
Historic Water Corridor
Other Corridor (e.g. Greenway or Greenway)

Status of Link

Existing or Planning Corridor
Under Development
Detailed Design (Study Corridor)
Planned (Included in a Region)
Preliminary Corridor

Greenway Hubs

Hubs are the anchors of the system, such
as major parks and major cultural destinations.

Greenway Sites
Sites are smaller features than hubs that serve
as points of interest and important destinations.

Corridor
Parks and Open Space

Legend for Other Symbols

City, Village and Township Boundary

Water

County Properties

Selected Large Private Properties

Primary Road

Local Road

Railroad

Power Transmission Line - Basement

Power Transmission Line - 175' Over

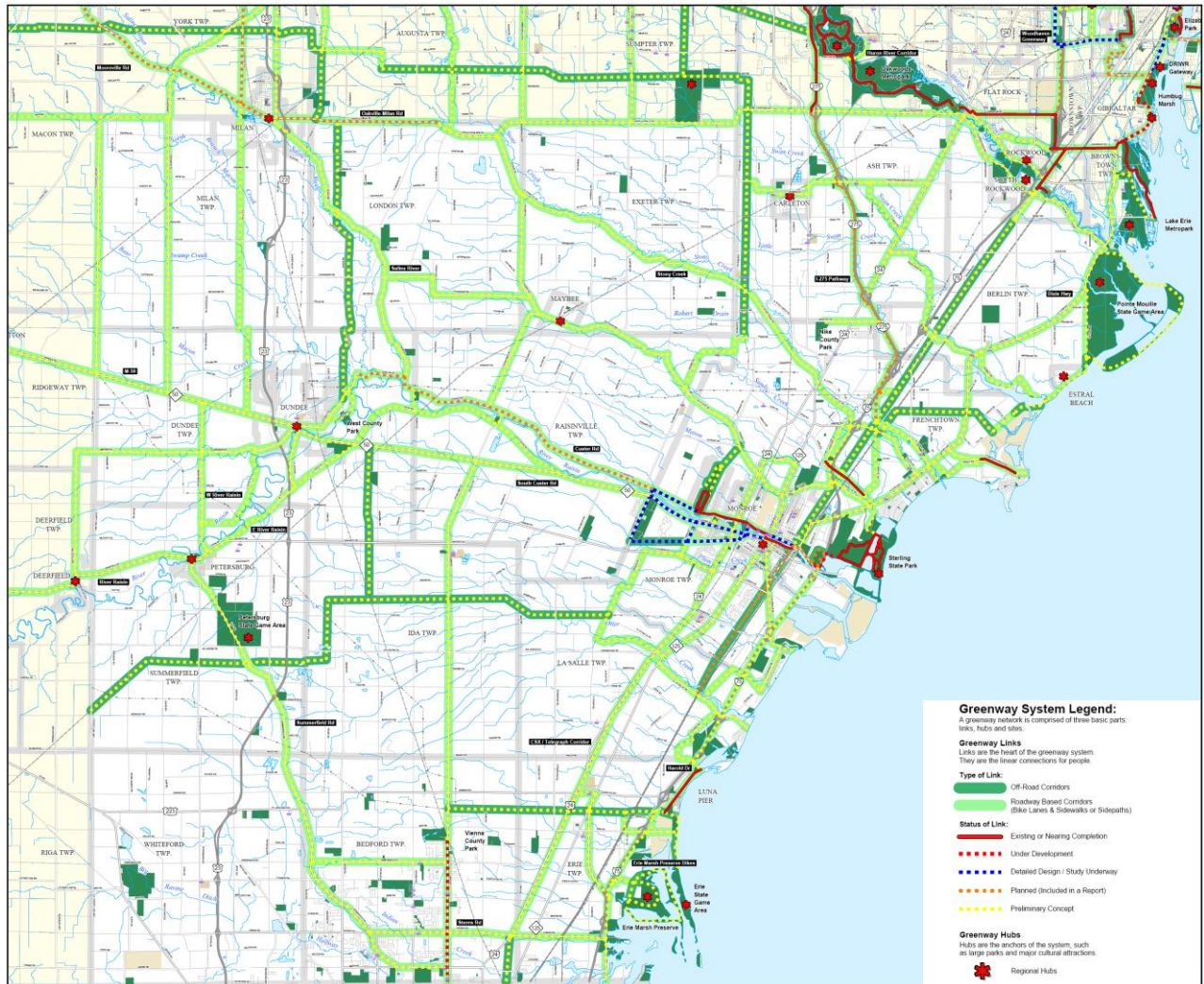


A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
dedicated to the development and
maintenance of greenways and
recreation facilities.

Prepared by:
The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan
Planning, Policy and Research Department

November 11, 2008

Southeast Michigan Greenway Initiative Monroe County Detail



Regional Trails and Greenways Vision Monroe County



Monroe County Planning
Department & Commission



Made possible through financial support provided by
The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan's
GreenWays Initiative



NORTH

Miles
A mile takes between 15 and 20 minutes
to walk and 4 to 8 minutes to bike not
accounting for delays.

Prepared by:
THE GREENWAY COLLABORATIVE, INC.
Greenway, Trail, Open Space, and Recreation Planning
November 17, 2008

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The Monroe County Park System is intended for the use by all persons, regardless of their disability status. It is the intent of the County to comply with the appropriate accessibility standards and guidelines for play areas, outdoor developed areas, parking areas, and other facilities which fall under the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All recent improvements to the County Parks have been designed with to comply with or exceed accessibility guidelines and standards, and to retrofit, when appropriate, those facilities which pre-date ADA standards.

Not only is it important, and, in fact, required, to meet current ADA standards, it is also important to plan and design recreation facilities for “Universal Access.” By developing parks to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design, it will not be necessary to ‘retrofit’ or to add special features to make facilities usable by persons with disabilities. All park features should be designed and built with “universal design” principals -- that they should be usable by as many people as possible, for people of all ages and abilities, without the need for large added costs.

The following table rates the county parks in terms of current accessibility standards and guidelines:

Rating system:

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

<u>Park</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Heck Park	4 the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
Nike Park	3 most of the park meets accessibility guidelines (an accessible pathway system would help tie together park elements, such as swings, restrooms, play area, parking)
Vienna Park	3 most of the park meets accessibility guidelines (an accessible pathway system would help tie together park elements, such as swings, shelters, restrooms, play area, parking)
Waterloo Park	4 the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
West County Park	3 most of the park meets accessibility guidelines (trail surface is not entirely accessible)

GRANT STATUS REPORT

The County of Monroe has been fortunate to have received a variety of grants which have been used to develop and improve the county parks. The following is a listing of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants which have been received by the County. Additional post-completion information is included in the plan appendix.

park	year/grant number	type of grant	project elements	condition
Heck Park	1972 LWCF 26-00425	Land and Water Conservation Fund	shelter, parking, road, fence, picnic tables, grills, etc., water system, bleachers	most of project elements removed – past useful life (bleachers moved to Vienna Park; fencing still in place)
Vienna Park	1972 LWCF 26-00331	Land and Water Conservation Fund	shelter, restroom, parking, 2 ball diamonds, drainage, motorized trails	intact
Nike Park - Parcel B	1975 LWCF 26-00615	Land and Water Conservation Fund	road, restrooms, parking, picnic site furnishings, play equipment, fencing, 2 shelters, utilities, trail	play equipment replaced; restrooms no longer functional
Vienna Park - Phase 3	1980 LWCF 26-01138	Land and Water Conservation Fund	disc golf, basketball court, landscaping, trails, sign, fence, picnic site furnishings	intact
Waterloo Park – Phase 1	1989	Michigan Inland Fisheries Cooperative Grant	accessible fishing pier, riverside trail, fishing platforms	intact
Waterloo Park - Phase 2	1990 BF 90-98	Recreation Bond Fund	accessible fitness and playground areas, renovate parking & driveways, ½ mile fitness path, shoreline stabilization	intact
Nike & Vienna Parks - Playground Safety Project	1999 CM-99-00	Clean Michigan Fund	replace or relocate play equipment to safe accessible surface, signs, gates, paths	intact
West County Park	2002 DTE 02-09	DTE Energy Tree Planting Grant	tree seedling plantings	intact
West County Park	2003	Community Tree Planting Seedling Grant	tree seedling plantings	intact
River Raisin Battlefield -Interpretive Development	2000 BF-00-200	Recreation Bond Fund	interpretive walking trail, shelter, parking, native plantings	intact (now owned by National Park Service)

park	year/grant number	type of grant	project elements	condition
Heck Park – Emerald Ash Borer Tree Planting Grant	2005 EAB 05-18	Emerald Ash Borer Tree Planting Grant	removal of dead trees and replacement	intact
Heck Park – Trail, Shelter, and Fitness Project	2005 LWCF 26-01650	Land and Water Conservation Fund	entry drive, parking, picnic site furn., play & fitness area, basketball court, site amenities	intact
Academy Preserve Acquisition Project	TF 08-111, TF 09-163	MNRTF	land acquisition	on-going



PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The residents of Monroe County take an active role in planning for their community's recreational opportunities. The County Parks Commission tries to be responsive to citizen needs and desires for parks and recreation. County residents are encouraged to attend all public meetings and to comment on draft plans and at public hearings related to parks and recreation.

County residents were given three specific opportunities to have input into this plan, as well as having been welcome to attend all public meetings at which the plan was discussed. Early in the planning process a citizen survey was conducted which let citizens comment on the types of facilities, parks and policies they desired. Once the draft plan was completed and made available to the public, the Parks Commission held a public meeting at which comments were taken and considered before the plan was adopted and a recommendation was made to the County Board of Commissioners. Finally, the Board of Commissioners gave the public a final opportunity for comment before the plan's adoption.

RECREATION SURVEY

In order to gain a high degree of citizen input into the recreation planning process, a community survey was undertaken as part of the 2013 Recreation Plan. The Parks Commission developed a mail survey, which was essentially identical to the survey conducted in 2008. The survey was mailed to 1,000 county residents, selected at random from a list of registered voters.

The survey was mailed on September 4, 2012 and included a cover letter, questionnaire, and a postage paid return envelope. In addition, 30 surveys were sent to people who had rented park shelters during the previous 12 months. A total of 241 completed surveys were returned in their enclosed, postage paid envelopes, including 13 from the shelter rental sample – a return rate of 24.1%. This number of returned surveys gives the results an error rate of roughly 6.2%.

The survey, which consisted of a single two sided letter-sized page, contained three sections which asked specific recreation related questions. In addition, the back side had an additional section asking demographic related questions about family size, age, and residency. There was also a space provided for write-in comments. A copy of the survey form is in the Appendix.

Although any response rate below 50% may introduce additional error due to the bias created by differences in background or opinions between respondents and non-respondents, the purpose of the survey was to give the public an opportunity to have input into the planning process. The 241 respondents provided valuable feedback and input, and is a number much higher, and presumably much less biased, than the number of people who could be expected to attend a public hearing or public input session, regardless of how well publicized.

SURVEY RESULTS

Below are the compiled results of the survey. The number of persons answering each question are in parentheses.

In your opinion, how important are the following types of parks:

	extremely important	very important	important	somewhat important	not important	
Small neighborhood parks and playgrounds	33.3%	30.8%	24.8%	7.3%	3.8%	(234)
Large sports parks with ball diamonds and soccer fields	23.4%	32.3%	22.6%	17.0%	4.7%	(235)
Nature preserves with forests, wildlife, and hiking trails	43.2%	28.6%	16.7%	7.7%	3.8%	(234)
Bicycle trails, walking paths, greenways	41.0%	31.2%	15.8%	7.3%	4.7%	(234)
Outdoor water parks with pools, ponds, or beaches	24.8%	18.8%	24.4%	18.8%	13.2%	(234)
Indoor recreation centers with swimming pools, basketball courts, and classrooms	24.9%	20.6%	27.0%	16.3%	11.2%	(233)
Multi-purpose parks, with active sports areas, playgrounds, & natural areas	29.5%	34.2%	23.1%	8.1%	5.1%	(234)
Historic sites, monuments and memorial parks	27.2%	22.8%	27.2%	19.8%	3.0%	(232)

Which of the following facilities would you like to see more of in Monroe County? (230)

37 ball diamonds	68 outdoor ice rinks	90 natural areas / open space
24 soccer fields	19 indoor ice rinks	61 outdoor swimming pools
70 playgrounds	13 golf courses	54 indoor swimming pools
82 picnic areas	19 disc golf courses	57 wave pools
123 walking trails	32 outdoor bball courts	77 swimming beaches - Lake Erie
87 fitness/exercise trails	18 indoor basketball courts	61 swimming beaches - inland lakes or ponds
120 nature trails	90 fishing piers	65 historic sites, monuments, memorials
17 ski trails	70 rifle/archery ranges	31 other (write in) :
118 bicycle trails	38 boat ramps	

- dog park (4)
- racquetball courts (3)
- camp grounds
- four wheeler parks
- horseback riding stables
- indoor multi-activity
- indoor softball
- indoor tennis
- bike lanes on highways
- more adaptive rec for kids & adults w/ special needs
- orienteering courses

- pre-school dedicated and fenced playgrounds with mini out-buildings / houses and roads
- public hunting areas
- rest area with facilities, handicap accessible
- shore fishing areas
- skate parks
- sledding hills
- tennis courts
- things for seniors
- tot-lots
- walking trails with rustic overnight sites & firepits

Please answer the following questions:

	<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>	
Should Monroe County purchase property now for future park development?	70.4%	29.6%	(226)
Should Monroe County develop an indoor recreation center?	53.3%	46.7%	(225)
Should Monroe County take a more active role in providing parks and recreation?	83.6%	16.4%	(225)
Would you support a millage in order to fund an improved county-wide park system?	68.7%	31.3%	(227)
Would you support a millage in order to fund a county-wide trail and bicycle path system?	64.8%	35.2%	(233)

The following table is a summary of the topics addressed by the people who wrote in comments in the space provided on the survey form. A total of 84 people wrote in comments. The number refers to the number of people who wrote in similar comments:

bike trails / bike paths / bike lanes	12
no taxes / no millages	7
walking paths / hiking trails	6
dog park	5
indoor facilities	5
am not a park user	5
more / better play equipment	5
park users should pay to use parks	5
more activities for children / youth	5
centrally located parks	5
wouldn't mind paying a tax for parks	4
what we have is good enough / improve what we have	4
better lake access	4
parks need updating	4
better maintenance	4
pool/swimming	3
river walks	3
nature parks / walks	3
more west county recreation	2
more picnic areas	2
wave pool	2

Please list the ages of the people in your household:

Average household size: **2.83 persons (Monroe County = 2.59)**

Number of persons in household:

	number	percent	percent (Monroe County)
6 or more persons:	7	3.0%	3.4%
5 persons:	21	9.1%	6.7%
4 persons:	43	18.6%	14.8%
3 persons:	36	15.6%	16.9%
2 persons:	103	44.6%	34.7%
1 person:	21	9.1%	23.5%
total:	231	100.0%	100.0%

Age Distribution:

	number	percent	percent (Monroe County)
age 80+:	19	2.9%	3.7%
age 70-79:	42	6.4%	5.4%
age 60-69:	89	13.6%	10.2%
age 50-59:	113	17.3%	15.8%
age 40-49:	86	13.1%	15.3%
age 30-39:	76	11.6%	11.7%
age 20-29:	48	7.3%	11.0%
age 10-19:	110	16.8%	14.7%
age 0-9:	71	10.9%	12.2%
total:	654	100.0%	100.0%

Location of Respondents

Which City, Village, or Township do you live in:

Ash	4	Ida	7
Carleton	6		
Bedford	21	LaSalle	10
Lambertville	12	London	3
Temperance	11	Milan	2
Samaria	1	Azalia	1
Berlin	9	Monroe	42
Newport	12	Monroe City	1
S. Rockwood	1	Monroe Twp	16
Dundee	11	Raisinville Twp	6
Dundee Twp	1	Summerfield	1
Village of Dundee	2	Petersburg	3
Dundee City	1	Whiteford	5
Erie	3	Ottawa Lake	1
Luna Pier	4	Toledo, OH	2
Exeter	5	TOTAL	236
Maybee	1		
Frenchtown Twp	31		

Zip Code	Post Office	respondents	percent	percent (Monroe County)
48162	Monroe (north)	54	22.8%	19.1%
48161	Monroe (south)	36	15.2%	17.6%
48182	Temperance	25	10.5%	14.3%
48166	Newport	23	9.7%	7.2%
48144	Lambertville	21	8.9%	6.1%
48131	Dundee	14	5.9%	4.7%
48117	Carleton	12	5.1%	6.7%
48145	LaSalle	9	3.8%	2.2%
49270	Petersburg	8	3.4%	3.7%
48140	Ida	6	2.5%	2.4%
49267	Ottawa Lake	6	2.5%	2.7%
48160	Milan	5	2.1%	3.1%
48157	Luna Pier	4	1.7%	0.5%
48133	Erie	3	1.3%	3.1%
48179	S. Rockwood	3	1.3%	3.3%
48159	Maybee	2	0.8%	2.1%
48110	Azalia	1	0.4%	0.1%
48177	Samaria	1	0.4%	0.1%
43613	Toledo, OH	1	0.4%	---
43623	Toledo, OH	1	0.4%	---
48191	Willow	--	---	0.2%
49229	Britton	--	---	0.1%
49238	Deerfield	--	---	0.3%
49276	Riga	--	---	0.5%
TOTAL		235	100.0%	100.0%

SURVEY CONCLUSIONS

The results of the survey show strong support from the public for parks in general, but especially for trails and natural areas. When asked which types of parks were most important, the most frequently selected was “Nature Preserves with forests, wildlife, and hiking trails” followed closely by “Bicycle trails, walking paths, and greenways.” The least support was provided for the more heavily developed types of parks, including outdoor water parks, recreation centers, and large sports parks.

When asked to choose what types of facilities were more needed, the most frequently selected (in order) were: walking trails, nature trails, bicycle trails, natural areas/open space, fishing piers, and fitness/exercise trails.

The public felt that the County should take a more active role in providing parks and recreation (83.6%) and that the County should purchase property now for future park development (70.4%). A fair amount of support was expressed for the concept of a millage to fund an improved park system (68.7%) and for a trail and bicycle path system (64.8%).

The low response rate may have introduced bias into the results. It is very likely, however, that the survey respondents were the type of people who are more interested in parks than the general public and more likely to be park users. The demographic characteristics of respondents shows a fairly similar correlation between age, family size, and location of residence with that of the county population as a whole.

PARK COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

After having the draft plan on file and available for public review for thirty days, the Park Commission held an advertised public hearing on February 11, 2013 to give the public a final opportunity to have input or to comment on the plan. A total of 3 members of the public attended the hearing, with two persons making general comments on the need for trails and access to Lake Erie. No specific changes to the draft plan were suggested by the public. The minutes of the hearing are included in the Appendix.

After the public hearing and after considering the comments of the public and some minor changes suggested by staff, the Parks Commission passed a motion to adopt the plan and to recommend approval by the Board of Commissioners. Copies of the final plan were transmitted to the Monroe County Planning Commission, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Copies of the Parks Commission Resolution, the Board of Commissioners Resolution, public notices regarding plan availability and public hearings, and letters of transmittal are included in the Appendix of this document.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following mission statement and the list of goals and objectives was developed by the Parks Commission after an evaluation of the previous plan's goals, a study of the existing recreational facilities and programs in the county, the results of public input through the recreation survey, and by their own observations of the deficiencies and needs of the County Park System. The goals tend to be general statements of desired outcomes, while the objectives are more concrete actions that should be taken in order to achieve the stated goals.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Monroe County Parks and Recreation to plan, acquire, develop, and maintain, in cooperation with all interested individuals and groups, a responsive, efficient, and creative natural resource based park and recreation system available to all citizens, composed of a variety of services, park areas and special facilities that contribute to the well-being of the individual, the family, and the social and economic health of the Monroe County community.

GOALS

GOAL #1: MAINTAIN WHILE MAKING SELECTED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS

Objectives:

- provide recreational opportunities for all county residents regardless of race, sex, age or physical condition
- provide safe, clean, and enjoyable parks
- improve opportunities for 4-season recreation in County parks
- improve opportunities for walking, biking, and other trail-based recreation in the County parks
- improve natural habitat in County parks
- improve opportunities for natural resource based recreation in County parks

GOAL #2: DEVELOP A COUNTY-WIDE TRAIL SYSTEM

- plan and refine a vision for a county-wide trail system which would serve as both a recreational facility as well as a non-motorized transportation system which would connect together communities, parks, and other points of interest within Monroe County as well as linking with other regional trail systems
- organize the appropriate management and implementation structure to construct, operate, and maintain the system

GOAL #3: INCREASE USE OF COUNTY PARKS

Objectives:

- provide diverse recreational opportunities
- develop informational campaign and resources using various media and multi media to promote awareness of Monroe County recreational opportunities. Expand use of website to provide information and access to data regarding recreational opportunities
- implement universal design principals within the County parks, and at a minimum assure barrier-free access to all facilities
- provide opportunities for recreational programs within County parks and partner with community groups with common recreational goals supported by the County
- continue to improve signs and entrances at all County parks where needed to enhance park visibility and appearance
- develop a schedule of nature walks and interpretive educational material at county parks and other sites
- increase volunteer partnership efforts to use and improve the County parks
- promote the County parks as sites for large festivals or gatherings

GOAL#4: ENCOURAGE USE OF RIVER RAISIN & LAKE ERIE

Objectives:

- provide canoe and kayak landings for safe and responsible use at County sites
- develop interpretive water trail and guide booklet
- improve and restore wildlife habitat in coastal areas
- provide opportunities for and promote fishing as a recreational pastime in Monroe County

GOAL #5: ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL PARK FACILITIES

Objectives:

- acquire access sites on Lake Erie, rivers, and/or ponds
- acquire or preserve linear parks and greenways for trails and conservation
- acquire woodlands, wetlands and other natural areas for preservation
- encourage preservation of open space and natural areas through the purchase of development rights, conservation easements, and means other than outright acquisition

GOAL #6: DEMONSTRATE TO POLICYMAKERS AND FUNDING SOURCES THE VALUE OF PROVIDING NECESSARY RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY & EFFICIENTLY OPERATE THE PARK SYSTEM

Objectives:

- continue to explore alternative organizational approaches to managing the park system
- hire/procure additional seasonal maintenance staff/contractors, as needed to properly maintain parks
- continue to utilize public and private grant programs for funding park development
- investigate alternative sources of funding for park programs, including donations, bonds, and millages
- maintain appropriate fee schedules charged for regular and special uses of parks while incentivizing the parks as viable gathering sites

GOAL #7: IMPROVE COOPERATION AND REPRESENTATION WITH OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Objectives:

- seek cooperative arrangements with other providers such as school districts, local park commissions, private recreational interests, etc.
- participate in and coordinate with national, state and regional recreation planning organizations (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Recreation and Parks Assn. (MRPA), Southeast Michigan State, Regional and County Parks System (SPARCS), SEMCOG, TMACOG, Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), Toledo Area Metroparks, Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority - Parks Advisory Committee, Downriver Linked Greenways, Detroit Heritage River Water Trail, National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, The Nature Conservancy, etc.)

FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

LAND

- Acquire property for future park development. Desired attributes for future parks should contain one or more of the following features:
 - accessible to county residents
 - frontage on Lake Erie, River Raisin, or other waterways
 - significant natural features, i.e. wetlands, forests, prairie, wildlife
 - pond suitable for fishing, and/or skating
 - large enough to provide for a variety of recreational pursuits
 - aesthetic features (water features, topography, scenic views)
 - significant cultural or historic values
- Acquire corridors for trail and greenway development
- Encourage preservation of open space and natural areas

FACILITIES / AMENITIES

- Walking / Hiking / Nature trails (Vienna Park, Nike Park, West County Park)
- Continue development of West County Park – canoe/kayak launch, trail improvements, scenic view development, winter recreation
- Improve habitat for wildlife and native vegetation (all parks)
- Improve opportunities for environmental education and nature study (all parks)
- Improved playground areas (all parks)
- Improve / maintain attractive entrances, including signage and landscaping (all parks)
- Soccer field improvements (Nike & Vienna Parks)
- Exercise course/facilities (Nike & Vienna Parks)
- Pave parking area (Nike Park)
- Design and develop 18-hole disc golf course (Nike Park)
- Volleyball and basketball development (Nike Park)
- Renovate and upgrade park pavilions (Vienna Park, all parks)
- Expand and improve dugout facilities (Vienna Park)
- Develop a system of recreational trails / bike paths / multi-use trails
- Incorporate universal design principles at all parks
- Public access and natural area restoration at the Academy Preserve (potential)

PROGRAMS

- Develop River Raisin & Lake Erie canoe and kayak guide with maps, information, routes, etc.
- Enhance the Monroe County Parks and Recreation guide and map
- Facilitate and support organized sports leagues in county parks, including soccer, softball, disc golf, etc.
- Continue to promote the use of county parks for sponsored activities and programs
- Organize a campaign to increase awareness and support for County Parks
- Continue to enhance the County Parks web site for expanded usability

ORGANIZATION

- Assure resources necessary for overseeing the maintenance, development, and organization of the county parks and of recreational programs.



ACTION PROGRAM

The following table represents the specific actions recommended to be accomplished during the five-year planning horizon. This program should be viewed as being flexible, however, as grant funding, land availability, citizen input, and other factors will determine the specific actions necessary to meet the plan's goals and objectives.

project	tasks	cost estimate
Heck Park Improvements	improve entrance, develop interpretive signage, expand 4-season recreation opportunities	\$15,000
Vienna Park Improvements	develop trail system & exercise course, improve access, improve pavilions, improve dugouts	\$120,000
Waterloo Park Improvements	improve natural habitat, upgrade exercise and play areas, improve fishing/water access opportunities, improve entrance, develop interpretive signage	\$80,000
West County Park Improvements	improve access, trail improvements, water access	\$70,000
Nike Park Improvements	develop trail system & exercise course, improve access, pave parking areas, design and develop disc golf course, develop basketball and volleyball facilities	\$190,000
Habitat Improvement	continue to convert appropriate areas from turf grass to native vegetation, prepare sites for seeding or planting, develop program for maintaining natural areas	\$60,000
Public Information	expand website, develop maps and guides, arrange tours and programs	\$15,000
Land acquisition for future park development	research suitable sites, raise necessary funds, purchase property	\$1,000,000 +
Greenway /trail development	refine plans, seek funding, develop partnerships, acquire easements, construct trails	\$1,000,000 +
Academy Preserve Development	provide public access, natural area restoration, trail and parking lot development, fencing, interpretive facilities	\$250,000
Natural area preservation	identify and evaluate sites and habitats worthy of preservation, explore preservation methods and funding opportunities, establish county-wide system of nature preserves	unknown

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended as a means of achieving the plan goals:

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program is a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Program administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The LWCF Program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. Funds to local governments are provided on a 50/50 basis.

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

This grant program was established by the Kammer Recreational Land Trust Fund Act (PA 204 of 1976) and uses revenues from oil and gas wells for acquisition and development of recreational lands on a 75/25 match basis. The MNRTF provides for natural resource protection and outdoor recreation. By law, no more than 25 percent of the Trust Fund revenues available for appropriation each year can be used for development, therefore the majority of funding is allocated for acquisition projects.

MICHIGAN NATURAL RECREATION GRANT PASSPORT PROGRAM

This grant program was established by PA 32 of 2010 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 minimum grant amount is \$7,500 and the maximum grant amount is \$45,000.

FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING

In recent years, the Federal Revenue Sharing Program has provided local moneys for public purposes including recreational facilities. These funds may not be used for “local match” with any project receiving other federal assistance. The availability of revenue sharing moneys is somewhat variable from year to year depending upon congressional action to fund the program, however, this source may be utilized by the County depending on the availability of other sources.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

General obligation debt may be assumed by the County. Certain other bonds may be issued by the municipality after Board approval and after a required

interval to permit referendary petitions to be filed requesting a vote by the public.

BUILDING AUTHORITY

A building authority may be formed to finance a variety of local facilities. Among these projects may be the acquisition of land for parks and park improvements.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO FINANCING (GENERAL FUND REVENUE)

A widely used financial tool involves the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) method. This type of financing is best suited to programs that can be broken down into small enough units to make the financing practical on a yearly basis (i.e., through annual capital budgets). Funds may also be accumulating from year-to-year in the public improvements fund. Financing under the PAYGO method is the current means of providing the County's local match funds for recreation facility improvements that require grant-in-aid assistance.

LOCAL PARKS MILLAGE

It is unlikely that any large parks project could be achieved without widespread public support. In addition, public support for large projects would need to be accompanied by financial support in terms of a millage issue dedicated to local parks and recreation. Despite a previous unsuccessful attempt, the Park Commission should continue to consider this dedicated source of funding for park maintenance and/or capital improvements.

REVENUE BONDING


Revenue bonds may be sold to finance revenue producing recreational facilities. The repayment of principal and interest is payable only from revenues generated by the facility. Revenue bonds do not constitute a general obligation of the community. The debt limit for this type of bond is limited only by the amount of revenue the facility is capable of producing. The income must be sufficient to pay operating costs as well as the principal and interest on the bonds. Until sufficient operating reserves are acquired, an additional 50 percent of revenue from the facility is required over the yearly bond obligation as a safety factor. This additional revenue requirement is often referred to as "cover". Revenue bonds issued by a building authority or county backed issues do not require the additional "cover" because they are backed by the full faith and credit of the governmental unit.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

As well as the large grant programs administered by the Recreation Services Division of the DNR, there are several smaller grant programs which are occasionally available. Programs are currently available to provide matching funds for the development of boat launch facilities and related appurtenances (Waterways Division), to provide access to public waters (Fisheries Division), and for tree planting programs (Forestry Division).

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

The County could investigate additional sources of funding over the five year planning period. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund raising events, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods which have worked in other communities to raise funding for parks and park improvements.



APPENDIX

Survey Form

Public Notices

Resolutions of Adoption

Certification Checklist

Letters of Transmittal

SURVEY FORM

Monroe County Parks & Recreation Survey

INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer each question by checking the appropriate box and then return the survey in the enclosed, postage paid envelope. Thank you for your input!

In your opinion, how important are the following types of parks:


	extremely important	very important	important	somewhat important	not important
Small neighborhood parks and playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large sports parks with ball diamonds and soccer fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature preserves with forests, wildlife, and hiking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle trails, walking paths, greenways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor water parks with pools, ponds, or beaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor recreation centers with swimming pools, basketball courts, and classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multi-purpose parks, with active sports areas, playgrounds, and natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic sites, monuments and memorial parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Which of the following facilities would you like to see more of in Monroe County?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ball diamonds | <input type="checkbox"/> outdoor ice rinks | <input type="checkbox"/> natural areas / open space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> soccer fields | <input type="checkbox"/> indoor ice rinks | <input type="checkbox"/> outdoor swimming pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> golf courses | <input type="checkbox"/> indoor swimming pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> picnic areas | <input type="checkbox"/> disc golf courses | <input type="checkbox"/> wave pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> walking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> outdoor basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> swimming beaches - Lake Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fitness/exercise trails | <input type="checkbox"/> indoor basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> swimming beaches - inland lakes or ponds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nature trails | <input type="checkbox"/> fishing piers | <input type="checkbox"/> historic sites, monuments, memorials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ski trails | <input type="checkbox"/> rifle/archery ranges | <input type="checkbox"/> other (write in) : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bicycle trails | <input type="checkbox"/> boat ramps | |

Please answer the following questions:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Should Monroe County purchase property now for future park development? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Should Monroe County develop an indoor recreation center? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Should Monroe County take a more active role in providing parks and recreation? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Would you support a millage in order to fund an improved county-wide park system? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Would you support a millage in order to fund a county-wide trail and bicycle path system? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |

over 

(page 2)

Please enter your zip code here:

Which City, Village, or Township do you live in:

Please list the ages of the people in your household

Please use this space to write in any comments you may have on parks and recreation in Monroe County:

Thank you for your participation in this important survey!!!



Monroe County Parks & Recreation Commission

125 East Second Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161

734 • 240 • 7267

September 1, 2012

Dear Monroe County Resident,

The Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission has chosen your name at random to take part in an important survey!

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions and then return the survey form in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope. All individual responses will be kept confidential, but you will be able to view the compiled results at the County's website when they are available (www.co.monroe.mi.us).

The results of the survey will help your Parks and Recreation Commission decide on priorities as part of our recreation planning process.

We put a high value on public participation, so please fill out this survey and help us work together to decide on the future of Monroe County Parks and Recreation.

Sincerely yours,

Millard Nieswender, Chairman
Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission

P.S. Please try to return your survey form by October 1st. If you have any questions about this survey, please call the Monroe County Planning Department at 240-7375.

NOTICE OF PLAN AVAILABILITY & PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

This notice was published in the Monroe Evening News on January 11, 2013 and was posted in the County Courthouse and on the County's website during the thirty day public review and comment period. The plan was available for download off the county's website and copies were sent to all 16 county library branches. Notices were posted in the county courthouse and copies were available to the public at the County Planning Department.

**Monroe County 2013 - 2017 Recreation Plan
Notice of Plan Availability for Public Review
and Comment**

**&
Notice of Public Hearing**

A draft 5-year Recreation Plan for the County of Monroe is available for public review and comment. Anyone interested can send comments to the Parks Commission or will be given an opportunity to comment at the following public hearing:

Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission
Monday, February 11, 2013 at 6:00 pm
Monroe County Courthouse
125 East Second Street, Monroe, MI 48161

Written comments may be sent to the:

**Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission
c/o Monroe County Planning Department
125 East Second Street
Monroe, MI 48161**

or email:
rpeven@monroemi.org

Copies of the plan are on file at the following locations:

**Monroe County Planning Department, 125 East 2nd Street, Monroe
and at all branches of the Monroe County Library System**

A copy of the plan is also available on the County's website:
<http://www.co.monroe.mi.us>

For more information contact:
Robert Peven, Monroe County Planning Department, 734-240-7383

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. The County of Monroe will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the learning impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon one week's notice to the County of Monroe. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Monroe by writing or calling the following:

Aundrea Armstrong, Human Resources Department
125 East Second Street, Monroe, MI 48161
Voice (734) 240-7295 and TDD (734) 240-7300

January 11, 2013

DRAFT - February 11, 2013
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

**RESOLUTIONS OF ADOPTION
CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST
LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL**

MONROE COUNTY 2013-2017 RECREATION PLAN

Resolution of Adoption - Parks and Recreation Commission

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission was formed by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners under Public Act 261 of 1965, and;

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission has the authority to study and ascertain the need for county parks and recreation facilities and whether this need is being met, and to prepare and adopt a coordinated plan of areas and facilities to meet this need, and;

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed a Recreation Plan which ascertains the need for recreation facilities in Monroe County and sets forth a program to develop and maintain the County park system in order to meet these needs, and;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Monroe County have had the opportunity to have input into the Plan through community surveys, public meetings, and public hearings,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, that the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission adopts the Monroe County 2013 Recreation Plan and recommends that the Plan be forwarded to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, the Monroe County Planning Commission, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their approval.

Date: February 11, 2013

Ayes: ____

Nays: ____

Abstain: ____

Absent: ____

Millard Nieswender, Chairman
Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission

MONROE COUNTY 2013-2017 RECREATION PLAN

Resolution of Adoption – County Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission was formed by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners under Public Act 261 of 1965, and;

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission has the authority to study and ascertain the need for county parks and recreation facilities and whether this need is being met, and to prepare and adopt a coordinated plan of areas and facilities to meet this need, and;

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed a Recreation Plan which ascertains the need for recreation facilities in Monroe County and sets forth a program to develop and maintain the County park system in order to meet these needs, and;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Monroe County have had the opportunity to have input into the Plan through community surveys, public meetings, and public hearings,

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission has approved the plan after holding an advertised public hearing and has now sent the Plan to the Board of Commissioners for final approval,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, that the Monroe County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Monroe County 2013-2017 Recreation Plan and recommends that the Plan be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their approval.

Date: February 20, 2013

Ayes: ____ Nays: ____ Abstain: ____ Absent: ____

Jerry Oley, Chairman
Monroe County Board of Commissioners

I, Audrey Lewis, Clerk of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held on February 20, 2013.

**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:

List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

☐ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**☐ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

- ☐ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- ☐ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- ☐ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation
- ☐ Programming
- ☐ Current Funding Sources
- ☐ Role of Volunteers
- ☐ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations
- Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only**
- ☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of
- ☐ Participating Communities
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation

☐ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

- ☐ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ☐ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☐ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ☐ Accessibility Assessment
- ☐ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

☐ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**☐ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

☐ **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 _____

Type of Notice _____

Plan Location _____

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 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 _____

Name of Newspaper _____

Date of Meeting _____

☐ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☐ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☐ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

☐ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT**

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: _____

☐ 2. Official resolution of the _____ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____

☐ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: _____

☐ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: _____

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*

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

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
PO 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



Monroe County Parks & Recreation Commission

125 East Second Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161

734 • 240 • 7267

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

from: Millard Nieswender, Chairman
Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission

to: Monroe County Planning Department
Robert Peven, Director

date: February 20, 2013

The attached Monroe County Recreation Plan was approved by the Parks Commission at a meeting held on February 11, 2013 and by the County Board of Commissioners on February 19, 2013. The plan will be sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Parks Commission.

Please contact me if you have any comments or concerns regarding this plan.



Monroe County Parks & Recreation Commission

125 East Second Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161

734 • 240 • 7267

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

from: Millard Nieswender, Chairman
Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission

to: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Paul E. Tait, Executive Director

date: February 20, 2013

The attached Monroe County Recreation Plan was approved by the Parks Commission at a meeting held on February 11, 2013 and by the County Board of Commissioners on February 19, 2013. The plan will be sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Parks Commission.

Please contact me if you have any comments or concerns regarding this plan.