

# Charter Township of Oshtemo

## Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

### 2014-2018



Charter Township of Oshtemo  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan  
Adopted: December 10, 2013



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# Acknowledgements

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# Introduction

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Oshtemo Charter Township has developed this five year parks and recreation master plan after undertaking a thorough process of inventory, analysis, and public input collection. This plan is a road map for the parks and recreation decisions to be made over the next five years and beyond. This plan also makes Oshtemo Charter Township eligible for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the plan has given the Township a better understanding of its residents' needs and desires for parks and recreation. The plan contains the following components:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Parks and Recreation Inventory
- Basis for Action Plan
- Action Plan

## Community Description

The Community Description provides a snapshot of the demographic, economic, and physical characteristics of Oshtemo Township. This section identifies current trends and future community composition that affects parks, recreation, and cultural decisions and is a factor in creating the goals and objectives that appear in the Action Plan.

## Administrative Structure and Funding

The Administrative Structure and Funding component contains a description and illustration of the Township's parks and recreation organization. The current and projected expenditures and revenues and the grant history of the Township are also discussed in this chapter.

## Parks and Recreation Inventory

The Parks and Recreation Inventory is a compilation of all Township, local, regional, and private parks and facilities. It is important to understand what parks, facilities, and programs are available to Oshtemo Township residents in order to assist in creating the Action Plan for future parks and recreation decisions. Some facilities included in the inventory may only be available for limited public use or available for a fee, but they provide additional recreation opportunities for Township residents.

## Basis for Action Plan

The Basis for Action Plan chapter includes a discussion of the planning and public input process as well as an analysis of the park land, service areas, and recreation facilities in the Township. Parks and recreation opportunities are reviewed using a number of methods, including comparing the community's current offerings to national recreation guidelines for the size of the

community, analyzing information gathered during the public input process, and consulting with the Parks and Recreation Committee and Township staff. The results presented in this section create the basis for the action plan.

## **Action Plan**

The Action Plan is the result of the extensive information gathered and analyzed through the planning process. The results of the effort are formulated into, and presented as, goals, objectives, and system-wide recommendations for the Township parks. Recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Township's parks and recreation facilities are described, and the tools necessary for the implementation of plan components are identified. The Five Year Capital Improvement Plan is also contained in this section. The plan organizes projects that will require significant capital investment in order to better manage the budget and equally distribute funds over a five-year period. The timing of the projects is flexible and may be changed depending on the availability of funding.

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# Chapter 1

## Community Description

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The Community Description is a picture of the various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of Oshtemo Charter Township. This information provides valuable insight when determining future parks and recreation facility development and programming needs for the community, and is a useful resource when completing background information on grant applications.

### Regional Setting

Oshtemo Charter Township is located on the west side of Kalamazoo County, abutting the west side of the City of Kalamazoo. The Township is bordered by Alamo Township to the north, Alma Township to the west, Texas Township to the south, and the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Charter Township to the east. All are in Kalamazoo County, except Alma Township, which is in Van Buren County. See *Map 1 – Regional Location*.

The first settlement in Oshtemo Charter Township was recorded in 1830, and the Township was established later that decade in 1839. The Township has grown and prospered given its proximity to Kalamazoo, I-94, and US-131. The development of the community has been evident in residential, office, industrial, and commercial growth. Beautiful rolling hills and rural atmosphere in close proximity to employment, universities and colleges, and major transportation routes have made Oshtemo an attractive place to live, work, and play.

### Demographic Characteristics

The following demographic report provides insight into the characteristics of the community. Age, household, and disability statistics for the Township are included. The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the type and quantity of parks and recreation facilities and programs necessary to serve Oshtemo Charter Township residents.

#### Population and Housing.

Over the past 50 years, Oshtemo has been transformed from an agricultural area to a predominantly suburban township with a rapidly rising population. The population has continued to grow steadily over the past decade, as shown in *Table 1.1*. Oshtemo Township's population saw a 28% increase from 2000 to 2010. At the same time, the population of Kalamazoo County as a whole grew just 5 percent while the State of Michigan lost population.

According to the 2010 Census, the average household size in Oshtemo Township is 2.21 persons. The U.S. Census Bureau defines two types of households: family households are those consisting of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption. Nonfamily households consist of people living alone and households which do not have any members related to the householder. The 2010 Census indicated that

there were 9,708 total households in Oshtemo Township, 4,787 of which were family households, or 49.3%. This percentage is low when compared to Kalamazoo County, with 59.9% family households. Of the total households in Oshtemo Township, 2,160, or 22.2% have children under 18 years. Again, this percentage is slightly low when compared to Kalamazoo County as a whole, which has 29.5% of households with children under 18 years. 2,356 households, or 24.3%, have individuals 65 years and over in Oshtemo Township. This percentage is slightly above Kalamazoo County at 21.9% of households.

Housing units are also quantified in the 2010 Census. There were 10,657 housing units in Oshtemo Township, an increase from 7,551 units indicated in the 2000 Census. Oshtemo Township has a higher percentage of renter-occupied housing units than the County in general, at 49.5% and 36.1% respectively. Of the renter-occupied housing units in the Township, 36.8% are in the 15-24 year category for age of householder. (US Census QT-H2) Oshtemo Township has several multi-family residential developments that cater to college students, which likely accounts for the higher percentage of renter-occupied housing units and nonfamily households.

<b>TABLE 1.1 - POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS</b> Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo County, and Michigan: 2000-2010			
<b>Unit of Government</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>%Change 2000-2010</b>
<b>Oshtemo Township</b>	<b>17,003</b>	<b>21,705</b>	<b>28.0</b>
Kalamazoo County	238,603	250,331	5.0
State of Michigan (Millions)	9.938	9.883	-0.6

Source: U.S. Census, 1970-2010 (2010 Data, Table DP-1)

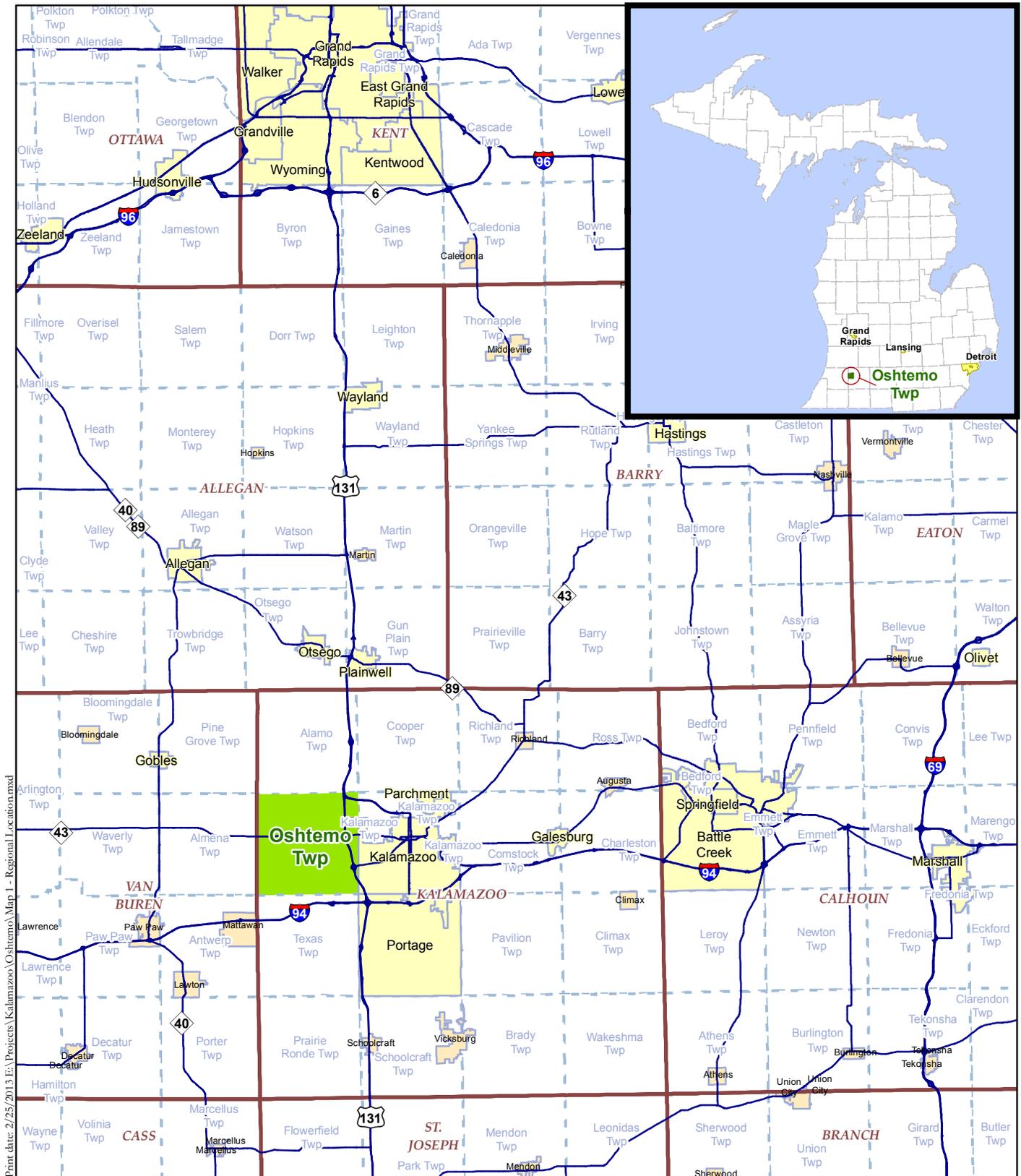
### Population Projections

The Township's Master Plan projects that population will continue to increase in the Township, with an estimate of 26,737 residents in 2020 and 39,321 in 2040. See *Table 1.2*. This increase in population will create additional park and recreation demands.

<b>TABLE 1.2 - POPULATION PROJECTIONS +</b> Oshtemo Township: 2000-2040						
	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>2010 Census</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>% Change 2010-2040</b>
<b>Projected population</b>	<b>17,003</b>	<b>21,705</b>	<b>26,737</b>	<b>32,041</b>	<b>39,321</b>	<b>81%</b>

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, and Oshtemo Township

+ Assumes slow growth in multi-family units due to depletion of land zoned R-4



Print date: 2/25/2013 E:\Projects\Kalamazoo\Oshtemo\Map 1 - Regional Location.mxd

## Map 1: Oshtemo Township Regional Location



9-27-13

**Oshtemo Charter Township**  
**Kalamazoo County, Michigan**

Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
 Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
 Oshtemo Township GIS Department

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These population and housing statistics indicate that the Township has grown significantly in recent years, and it appears that growth will continue. The majority of future growth will continue to be directed to the eastern portion of the Township, consistent with the Township Master Plan. This area is located in the Kalamazoo Public School District (KPS) and therefore eligible to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise, a scholarship program announced in November 2005 that offers up to 100% of college tuition and mandatory fees for KPS students. It is also where new and anticipated commercial growth has been occurring and is planned along West Main Street and Stadium Drive. Finally, a new elementary school was constructed on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and a new middle school was constructed on Drake Road just across the Township border, which may attract additional families to the eastern half of the community. These are trends and factors to be considered when making decisions regarding facility location and land acquisition.

### **Age of Population**

For recreation purposes, age is an important statistic to follow as well. *Table 1.3* shows the Township's population by age. The 60-74 year old group experienced the largest percent growth from 2000 to 2010 at 72% followed by the 15-24 year old age group which saw growth of 52%. The Township has also seen a significant growth in the 75 years and over group at 39%. *Table 1.3* also shows that the 60-74 years group grew as a percentage of the total population greater than any other group; this group made up 9% of the population in 2000 and 12% in 2010.

It should be remembered that the Township has a significant senior population both in terms of total number of seniors as well as the percent of the total population that they comprise. 4,417 persons, or 20% of the population, were 60 years or older according to the 2010 Census.

The Baby Boomer generation began reaching age 65 beginning in 2009; this Master Plan should recognize that they, along with existing senior citizens (those already 65 or older), will represent a significant part of the population, larger than at any time in the past, and have unique needs regarding recreation. As the population of the Township becomes generally older, issues that are pertinent to older citizens need to be considered in this 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; for instance, improving access to existing park amenities.

Growth in the 15 to 24 year old group can be attributed to increased housing catering to students. The 2008-2010 American Community Survey estimated that 4,148 residents of Oshtemo Township were enrolled in college or graduate school. Recreation needs related to student-aged population will also need to be considered in this Plan.

TABLE 1.3 – AGE OF POPULATION Oshtemo Township: 2000, 2010					
Cohort	2000		2010		% Change of Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Under 5 years	x	x	1,184	5.5%	
5 to 9 years	x	x	1,105	5.1%	
10 to 14 years	x	x	1,1086	5.0%	
15 to 24 years	3,430	20.2%	5,230	24.1%	52%
25 to 44 years	4,696	27.6%	4,977	22.9%	6%
45 to 59 years	3,030	17.8%	3,706	17.1%	22%
60 to 74 years	1,508	8.9%	2,596	12%	72%
75 and over	1,313	7.7%	1,821	8.4%	39%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,003</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>21,705</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: U.S. Census, 2010 (Table DP-1)

X indicates that data was not collected for these age categories in the 2000 Census.

The age of the population is important when planning park and recreation facilities and programs in a manner that is consistent with, and proportionate to, these characteristics; thus a variety of offerings are necessary.

### Persons with Disabilities

Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning appropriate facilities and locations for existing and future recreational activities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all public services, including parks and recreation facilities, be subject to barrier-free requirements. The Act also requires that public recreation providers eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services.

Disability data is collected for three age groups. As the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with the figures for Oshtemo Charter Township. According to the 2008-2010 American Community Survey, 2,577 of the

20,893 residents of Oshtemo Township have a disability. Of those under 18 years, 4% or 151 have a disability. Of those aged 18-64, 10% or 1,364 have a disability. Of those 65 and over, 33% or 1,062 have a disability.

The information in *Table 1.4* is broken down to show the various disability types, as measured and determined by the Census, present in the Township. From a facility design standpoint, all are important. The principles of Universal Design are based on the principles of providing spaces that can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone. The inventory of facilities in the Township will provide an analysis of accessibility.

<b>TABLE 1.4 – PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY Oshtemo Township: 2009-2011</b>									
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Hearing Difficulty</b>	<b>Vision Difficulty</b>	<b>Cognitive Difficulty</b>	<b>Ambulatory Difficulty</b>	<b>Self-care Difficulty</b>	<b>Independent Living Difficulty</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>With a Disability</b>	<b>Percent Disabled</b>
<b>Under 5</b>	23	0	x	x	x	x	<b>1,171</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>5 to 17</b>	24	0	129	0	0	0	<b>2,767</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>18 to 64</b>	214	303	579	707	258	654	<b>14,287</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>9.6%</b>

Source: 2009 to 2011 American Community Survey

## **Economic Characteristics**

Economic characteristics provide further evidence of the diversity of people and households in the Township, and also reveal the impact of high-density student housing. As shown above, this renter group makes up a notable percentage of the Township's population and consists of many full-time students that do not make significant income. Accordingly, it has a substantial impact on the statistics that are presented.

The economic vitality of Oshtemo Township is directly tied to the Kalamazoo metropolitan area and the rest of the State of Michigan, particularly the east side of the state which is facing unemployment rates and overall job loss much higher than what has been seen locally. The diversity of business and industry in the Kalamazoo region has lessened the impact of the global changes in heavy industry, particularly in automobile manufacturing and related industries which, as a group, are the largest employers in the State. Other industries that are not manufacturing-oriented are experiencing slow growth including the healthcare industry and other high-tech industries.

### **Employment**

According to the American Community Survey estimates for 2008 - 2010, there were 11,787 persons in Oshtemo Township in the labor force, or about 67 percent of the population 16 years of age or older. Of those persons, 1,317 or 11.2% were listed as unemployed. As stated previously, the high percentage of college students living in Oshtemo Township likely inflates this unemployment figure.

### Construction Values

Similar to other communities throughout the country, the annual value of new construction in Oshtemo Township slowed dramatically beginning in 2008. Construction increased slightly from 2010 to 2011, although values are nowhere near those seen earlier in the decade. The Township saw the greatest value of new construction in 2003 due to the construction of two apartment complexes that year.

<b>TABLE 1.5 - VALUE OF NEW CONSTRUCTION Oshtemo Township: 1993-2011</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Value</b>
1993	\$28,355,487
1994	\$24,904,165
1995	\$22,786,133
1996	\$33,951,590
1997	\$35,089,734
1998	\$35,757,355
1999	\$43,876,874
2000	\$75,579,511
2001	\$51,444,840
2002	\$45,896,661
2003	\$100,879,920
2004	\$64,400,203
2005	\$46,689,255
2006	\$84,985,321
2007	\$67,928,067
2008	\$32,100,563
2009	\$18,211,362
2010	\$3,072,600
2011	\$4,894,900
<b>Annual Average:</b>	<b>\$47,813,944</b>

Source: Oshtemo Township Building Department, 2012

### Income

Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level where half of all households earn more and half earn less. In 2000, the median household income in the Township was \$38,433, lower than in Kalamazoo County (\$42,022). In 2010, the median household income in the Township had dropped to \$35,802, again lower than

Kalamazoo County. This is likely due to the large presence of full-time students within the Township, many of whom do not have full-time jobs. (2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates Selected Economic Characteristics (DP03))

## **Physical Characteristics**

The following is a description of the physical characteristics of Oshtemo Charter Township, including land use, natural features, historic resources, and the transportation network. This information is important in understanding the potential for the type, location, and extent of future park and recreation improvements.

### **Land Use**

The Township has historically been a rural community, but is continuing to develop into a thriving community with a variety of land uses.

The predominant land uses in Oshtemo are residential, agricultural open space, and increasingly commercial as the Township continues to become a major shopping and retail center in the western Kalamazoo region including neighboring counties. Many of the single-family residential units are located in platted subdivisions or similar developments creating a neighborhood demand for park facilities. However, nearly half of the housing units in the Township are multi-family units, most of which are located in large complexes. While many of these provide some recreational amenities to their tenants, there are likely other recreational needs to be addressed. The Township has begun to experience an increase in commercial developments, particularly along West Main Street (M-43). Its impact has yet to be fully realized, but the Township must plan accordingly to ensure valuable natural features are protected and potential park development opportunities are capitalized upon.

### **Natural Features**

Natural features are an important element of the character of Oshtemo Township, particularly in the less developed western portion of the community. Natural features are not easily restored after they are impaired, and they provide numerous existing and potential parks and recreation opportunities.

One of the most unique features in the Township is its topography. The rolling hills and valleys are unusual in this region. This topography creates a unique and scenic landscape that attracts many to the community. Although it may be feasible to build on some of the slopes, it may not be advisable due to drainage and erosion concerns. These are areas that should be targeted for future acquisition if protection is desired. Not only will this protect important and sensitive areas, but it will also provide interesting natural places for passive recreational use.

Water features and wetland areas are scattered throughout the Township. Water features are generally valued for their views and the sense of tranquility that they provide. Wetlands are located primarily near the small lakes. The Township Master Plan indicates that water is the smallest undeveloped land use category, comprising 3% of undeveloped land and just over 1.6% of total land in Oshtemo Township.

Wetlands are identified by the Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS) maps and the National Wetland Inventory (NWI), which shows mostly combinations of wetlands with wetland soil areas. Wetlands connected to or within 500 feet of an inland lake, pond, river, or stream

and/or those 5 acres in size or greater are regulated by Part 303, Wetland Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994. The Township should look to land developers to preserve these and other important areas during the development review process. Sensitive wetland areas can also be incorporated into parks and passive recreational spaces to provide greater protection.

Another important natural feature in Oshtemo are wooded areas. Woodlands comprise over 33% of total land area in Oshtemo. Woodlands are found throughout the Township, and play an important role in species habitat, air quality, and recreation. Where development occurs in proximity to these woodlands, preservation should be a priority as recreational use of these woodlands – including hiking, biking, or simply natural areas – can become an amenity for the development.

### **Green infrastructure**

Green Infrastructure has been defined as “our nation’s natural life support system – an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas; greenways, parks, and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches and forests; and wilderness and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to the health and quality of life for American’s communities and people.”<sup>1</sup> By mapping the Township’s natural features, parks, agricultural lands, and open spaces, we can begin to identify a network of greenways and take steps to acquire or protect them. This system of connected greenways will allow for the movement of wildlife, plants, and people throughout the Township and beyond.

### **Historic Resources**

Oshtemo Charter Township has a rich history dating back nearly 200 years. Despite the rapid growth and the new development that is occurring throughout the community, evidence of the Township’s history can be seen in all parts of the Township. Scattered historic homes and farmsteads are a reminder of the life of the settlers in the 1800’s, and the intersection of Stadium Drive and 9<sup>th</sup> Street retains some of the remnants of the original settlement at that location.

The Township has created an Historical Overlay Zone (HOZ), which can be used anywhere in the Township for historic sites. The standards of the HOZ provide for the protection of the character of historic sites through increased landscaping and setback requirements of developing, neighboring properties. The Recreation Inventory includes several key historic resources that have been identified by the community.

### **Transportation**

Township residents rely on the local and regional circulation networks to access parks and recreational facilities. The existing road system consists of an irregular grid network of roads. Portions of the Township are served by the City of Kalamazoo’s Metro Transit, which provides a fixed route bus system for the Kalamazoo region. Additionally, the entire Township is served by the on-demand Metro County Connect service. To ensure that an integrated public transit system is provided at a county-wide level, the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority was formed in 2006 to work collaboratively with Metro Transit to provide quality public transportation alternatives to Township residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Benedict, M and E. McMahon. Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse Monograph Series. Washington D.C. Autumn 2002.

The Township is fortunate to be served with a substantial regional transportation network, including US-131, M-43, and nearby I-94. The major east-west roads within the Township are M-43 (West Main Street) and Stadium Drive. The major north-south roads within the Township are US-131, Drake Road, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and Van Kal Street.

The system of roads in and near Oshtemo provides reasonably good access by automobile to recreation facilities in the Township and in surrounding communities. M-43, US-131, and I-94 provide connections to regional and state recreational facilities, as well as shopping and entertainment venues in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, and Lake Michigan shoreline communities.

Access to recreation facilities can be difficult for certain segments of the population, primarily children and older adults. Existing recreation facilities are primarily located on busy roadways or in adjacent communities, which requires travel on rural roads or across major roads and highways. Efforts have been made recently to expand the bike lanes and non-motorized pathways throughout the Township, but continued work should be done to improve the pedestrian and bicycle access to recreation facilities and other nodes of activity. Coordinating these efforts with adjacent communities will improve access tremendously.

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## Chapter 2

# Administrative Structure and Funding

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This chapter reviews the administrative structure and budget for parks and recreation within the Charter Township of Oshtemo. Although the Township is the primary recreation provider by way of the two Township parks, there are several other providers of parks and recreation facilities in the community including Kalamazoo Public Schools, Van Buren County, Kalamazoo College, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, and various private entities. The Township does not provide formal recreational programming for its residents, but there are several options available through adjacent communities and private providers. Please see *Chapter 3* for further discussion regarding facility ownership and an inventory of all facilities in the Township including those not publicly owned.

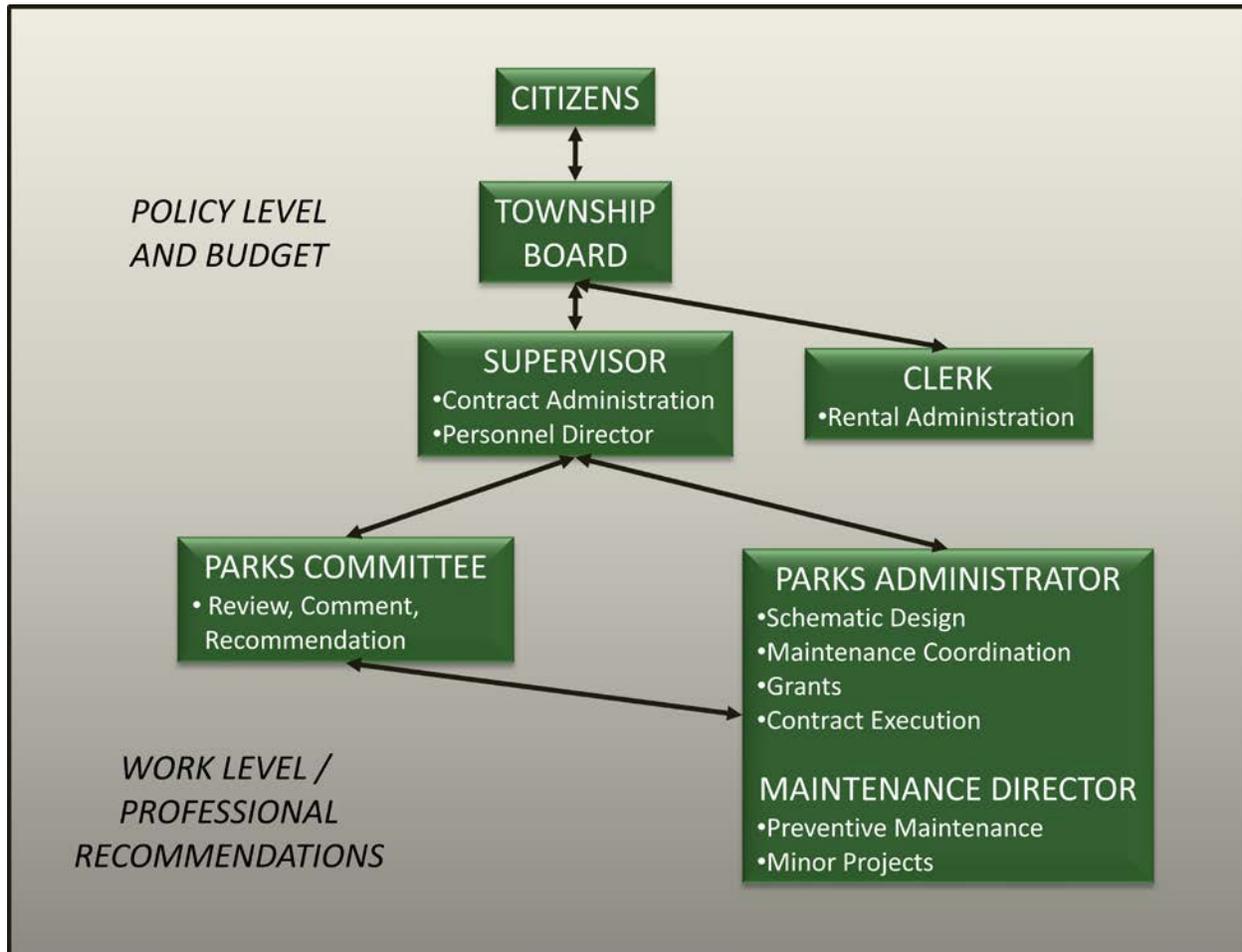
### Administration

Oshtemo Charter Township does not have a formal parks and recreation department. Administration and day-to-day management of the parks is the responsibility of the Township Supervisor's office, with assistance from a Parks Administrator. Maintenance of park facilities is primarily conducted by Township staff, with the exception of snowplowing of trails and paths, which are contracted to private companies. The Township's Buildings and Grounds Committee plays a key role in outlining maintenance schedules and best management practices. (See *Figure 2.1 – Administrative Structure*.)

Providing parks and recreation opportunities to the Township begins at the top with the residents, who entrust these assets to the Township Board. The Parks Committee is a subcommittee of the Township Board that serves as an advisory body and oversees the planning, management and budgetary decisions regarding parks in the Township. Two members of the Township Board volunteer to sit on the Committee and are appointed by their peers. In addition, two residents are appointed by the Board to serve on the Committee.

The Parks Committee meets once a month and is provided with a budget dedicated from the Township's general fund. This budget helps maintain and improve the Township parks and facilities. The Parks Administrator is the key staff person within the Supervisor's Department responsible for administration and day to day management of the parks facilities as well as the goals of this plan.

**FIGURE 2.1**  
**Administrative Structure**



### Volunteers

The Oshtemo Friends of the Parks was created in 2011 by the Township Board, recognizing the need to use the volunteerism and philanthropy of residents and businesses to further the quality of life in the Township via parks. The mission of the citizen volunteers is to promote the expanded stewardship and preservation of natural features within the community, to further the development and maintenance of existing and future parks in keeping with adopted park plans, and to effectively advocate Township parks as community resources for all to enjoy. One of their major endeavors is the annual Consumers Sunburst Run, a 5K/10K run to raise funds for the Parks.

In 2006, a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was formed to help recreate a village-like atmosphere at the site of the original Township settlement at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Stadium Drive. Through zoning and development standards adopted in 2008, the Oshtemo Village area is on the way to becoming a compact, walkable, mixed-use environment. A streetscape master plan completed in 2010 recommended a variety of improvements, including development of public open space on an underutilized property at the northwest corner of the intersection of Stadium and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Oshtemo Historical Society (OHS) was formed in 2004 to help with the preservation of key historic structures. Their mission is to preserve and disseminate knowledge of the history of the surrounding area. The primary focus of the OHS has been the rehabilitation of the Drake Farmstead, which has benefited from thousands of volunteer hours of work on the house and grounds. In addition, the Society meets monthly to learn about a variety of historic topics and discuss ways to preserve the Township's historic structures.

In addition, the Township maintains strong relationships with the Oshtemo Rotary Club, the Kalamazoo Wiffleball League, and a disc golf organization called the Basket K'Acers. Volunteers from each organization have been invaluable in helping to construct, maintain, and help raise funds for Township parks.

### **Public Entity Relationships**

A new paved loop trail linking Township Park to its next door neighbor, the Oshtemo branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, was constructed in 2012. Building on this connection, the Friends of the Parks partnered with the library to provide outdoor family programs in the summer of 2012 and 2013. This valuable new partnership opens up exciting possibilities for programming and interpretive information.

## **Parks and Recreation Funding**

The Township parks and recreation operating budget for the 2013 fiscal year is \$289,500. This is 4.6% of the total \$6,350,765 budget for the Township. The funds come from the Township's general fund and are generally utilized for maintenance and operations of the facilities and for special projects. *Table 2.1* summarizes the parks and recreation budget for the actual expenditures in 2012, the amended budget in 2013, and the requested budget for 2014.

<b>TABLE 2.1 – PARKS BUDGET EXPENDITURES 2012-2014</b>			
	<b>2012 Actual Expenditures</b>	<b>2013 Amended Budget</b>	<b>2014 Projected Budget</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	\$12,854	\$34,292	\$29,573
<b>Consultants</b>	\$6,015	\$32,000	\$55,500
<b>Utilities</b>	\$11,831	\$14,000	\$14,000
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	\$70,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
<b>Capital Improvements &amp; Development</b>	-	\$65,750	\$72,500
<b>Capital Improvements through Grants</b>	\$466,439	\$58,000	x
<b>Grant match</b>			\$36,000
<b>Supplies and Maintenance Services</b>	\$33,898	\$34,200	\$36,700
<b>Drake Homestead</b>	\$11,009	\$10,993	\$12,000
<b>Contingency</b>	-	\$5,265	
<b>Total Parks Expenditures</b>	<b>\$612,046</b>	<b>\$289,500</b>	<b>\$291,273</b>

Source: Oshtemo Charter Township, 2013

There is currently no independent revenue source for parks and recreation (e.g. user fees, millage, etc.) in the Township with the exception of a small amount of funding collected from rental fees for the Township Park picnic shelter, the Community Center, the Grange Hall, and limited other special events. *Table 2.2* below illustrates the revenues to the Parks Budget and shows that the greatest source of revenue is transfers from the General Fund with only small amounts coming from independent revenue sources.

<b>TABLE 2.2 – PARKS BUDGET REVENUES 2012-2014</b>			
	<b>Actual 2012 Budget</b>	<b>Amended 2013 Budget</b>	<b>2014 Projected Budget</b>
<b>Donations</b>	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Rental Fees – Grange Hall</b>	\$4,160	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Rental Fees – Community Center</b>	\$12,610	\$9,000	\$10,000
<b>Park Reservation Fee (new in 2009)</b>	\$1,180	\$1,000	\$2,500
<b>Interest</b>	\$521	\$0	\$100
<b>Transfer from General Fund</b>	\$118,159	\$100,000	\$62,373
<b>Carryover</b>	\$250,000	\$177,000	\$213,800
<b>Total Parks Revenues</b>	<b>\$810,815</b>	<b>\$289,500</b>	<b>\$291,273</b>

Source: Oshtemo Charter Township, 2013

With a Parks and Recreation Plan in place, the Township Board may consider seeking a millage to help fund the Parks budget. Any decision on whether or not to seek a millage will depend on the fiscal constraints of the general fund and the specific parks and recreation goals expected to be realized both in the near future and long-term.

## **Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund**

In 2008 the Oshtemo Township Board approved the establishment of the Oshtemo Charter Township Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The fund was started with an initial contribution of \$150,000, which was the remainder of a much larger grant made by The Upjohn Company to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation in 1988. Originally, the funds were marked for road improvements around the KL Landfill site. However, when these repairs were deemed unnecessary, these remaining funds were made available to Oshtemo Township for their parks, recreation, and open space projects, prompting establishment of this Fund. The fund provides an opportunity for community members, businesses, and other interested parties to contribute to park and recreation priorities. Distributions of money must be approved by the Township Board. As an endowment fund, the earnings of the fund, and not the principal, are available for spending. This will ensure the longevity of the fund. The fund represents a sustainable, independent revenue source specifically for Parks and Recreation in the Township. Since it was established, all earnings have been reinvested in the fund in order to build for the long term growth and maintenance of the parks system. It has grown to \$212,000.

## **Parks and Recreation MNRTF Grant History**

Oshtemo Township has received three state grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The first grant (TF 86-074) was awarded in 1986 and totaled \$117,600 for the acquisition of 68 acres of land for the Oshtemo Township Park. In 2010, a development grant of \$500,000 was awarded for improvements to Oshtemo Township Park. A third grant was awarded in 2012 and will total \$300,000 for improvements to Flesher Field Park.

# Chapter 3

## Parks and Recreation Inventory

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For the Parks and Recreation Plan and this inventory of facilities to be meaningful, it is necessary to consider recreation resources not only in Oshtemo Township but also in surrounding jurisdictions. Township residents have ready access to parks in neighboring communities. Recognizing that people will cross these boundaries for existing recreation opportunities aids decision-makers in evaluating overall recreational needs and in allocating limited funds to land acquisition and park development.

Information used in this inventory was collected from previous parks and recreation plans for area communities, as well as aerial photography analysis and internet research. The following descriptions highlight the major amenities of each recreation facility and provide a key to *Map 3 - Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities*, which shows the location of each facility. The grid number identified for some facilities refer to the location of the site on *Map 3*.

### Township Parks

Oshtemo Township operates two parks, four historic community buildings, and a township hall. It also owns two undeveloped properties that are proposed for future parkland.

An inventory of the parks and facilities is presented below and shown on *Map 2 –Township Parks and Recreation Inventory* and *Table 3.1 – Township and Local Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory*. Each of the parks and facilities are broken into categories based on size and function. These categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association and are meant to aid in determining the primary purpose and uses of existing facilities in the Township. A brief assessment of the size, quality, and amount of wear and tear is included.

### Mini and Neighborhood Parks

Mini parks are small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in size and serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, usually within a one-quarter mile radius. These parks normally serve a limited, isolated, or unique population. Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation activities, such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. Oshtemo Township owns one facility that can be classified as a Mini/Neighborhood Park. Although not noted here, school facilities can help serve this need in the community.

#### **Grange Hall [grid D3]**

Grange Hall is located on North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in the northwest quadrant of the Township. The building contains an upper and lower level available for rent to Township residents. The lower level has capacity for 50 people with a complete kitchen, and the upper level can hold up to 150 people and offers a full stage. The building lacks barrier-free access, which limits the number of groups interested in using it. However, a dance group and a Grange Association utilize the building

regularly. Despite its limitations, the historic building is attractive and in good condition. The site also contains a swing set, picnic area, and basketball court, classifying it as a neighborhood park.

## **Community Parks**

Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents in the area. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The intent of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within one-half to three miles of the park. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community. Oshtemo Township has two developed parks that can be classified as Community Parks.

### **Flesher Field Park [grid E4]**

This park measures 24 acres in area and is located on 9<sup>th</sup> Street south of Stadium Drive. Half of the park is mowed and used for active recreation and half is wooded and used for passive recreation and natural resource protection. Flesher Field includes soccer fields, one baseball field, two wiffleball fields, play equipment, unpaved walking paths, a flower garden, and a picnic shelter. The Township's annual Fun Day occurs at Flesher Field every summer. Although the park has been carefully maintained, the active portion of the park is used often by many sports leagues and community groups and is showing signs of wear and tear. Lack of accessibility is also an issue. A master plan for the park was completed in 2009. Funding for the first of three phases of improvements is in place and construction will occur in the fall of 2013. Phase 1 will include replacement of the parking lot and restroom building and construction of a .17 mile paved loop trail. Fundraising for Phase Two is underway.

### **Oshtemo Township Park [grid D4]**

This park measures roughly 70 acres in area and is located behind the Township Hall at West Main and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. It features both an active recreation area and a hilly, wooded area for passive recreation. Based on a master plan for the park completed in 2009, major upgrades were completed in 2012, thanks in part to funding from a MNRTF development grant. Accessible new amenities include two paved loop trails, a playground, an additional picnic shelter, two tennis courts, two basketball courts, a wiffleball field, restroom building, and parking lot. Minor improvements were also made to the existing 18-hole disc golf course and to the many unpaved walking trails in the wooded area of the park. A new overlook was also constructed in 2012. The park has become extremely popular, attracting many more visitors following these improvements. With the recent upgrades, most of the park is in excellent condition. One exception is the disc golf course, which is heavily used throughout the year and is showing wear and tear.

## **Township Facilities**

In addition to the Grange Hall, there are four other community buildings that are owned and maintained by the Township. Unlike the Grange Hall, however, there are no specific recreational amenities provided at these facilities. Each is significant for cultural and/or historical purposes, and because they are publicly owned, they each hold the potential for future park or recreation development at some scale.

**Drake Farmstead** *[grid D5]*

The Drake Farmstead is located on fifteen acres on the west side of Drake Road, north of the Maple Hill Mall. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012, the site contains an historic brick farmhouse that is owned by the Township and cared for by the Oshtemo Historical Society. The Drake Farmstead is the site of the first settlement and school in the Township. A number of improvements have been done to the home and future plans include a museum, historical research room and event space. The Township expanded the property in 2012 and plans to conduct a master planning process with public input in 2014 to determine the best use of the property.

**Old Oshtemo Township Hall** *[grid D4]*

The Old Township Hall is located on South 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The hall was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004 for its historical significance and vernacular architectural style. It is used as a meeting place by a 4-H club. The building is not accessible and lacks permanent restroom facilities.

**Oshtemo Community Center** *[grid E4]*

The Oshtemo Community Center is located on Parkview Avenue near the intersection of Parkview and Stadium Drive. The center is a historical fire station that was renovated into two separate rooms that hold between 40 and 60 people. The rooms are available for use by Township residents for a small rental fee. It is accessible and in excellent condition.

**Oshtemo Township Hall** *[grid D4]*

The Township Hall is located at West Main and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets and is home to the Township offices and the Oshtemo Fire Department House #1.

## Undeveloped Township Parkland

In addition to the developed park facilities, the Township also owns two vacant properties that have the potential to be developed into active and/or passive recreational facilities that will serve the Township as community parks. We have classified them here as Community Parks.

**KL Avenue Landfill** *[grid E3]*

This capped, former landfill occupies 87-acres of land on KL Avenue, just east of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Currently, the area is divided into four parcels, of which the Township owns one 22.5 acre parcel. The remaining three parcels are owned by Kalamazoo County. Additionally, the Township owns a vacant 26-acre parcel directly to the west of the landfill site. Much potential exists for a partnership with Kalamazoo County to develop a park on the 113-acre site.

**Stadium Park Way Park** *[grid E4]*

A second vacant, Township-owned parcel is the 17-acre parcel of land at the end of Stadium Park Way which was part of 36 acres of land formerly identified as the Viking Die Cast and Midwest Aluminum properties. The once contaminated land was cleaned by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality prior to the Township's acquisition in 2003. All 36 acres were acquired by the Township with two small parcels subsequently sold off and this 17-acre parcel, with a pond and woods, retained for a future park.

## Local Parks and Recreation Facilities

Many of the communities near Oshtemo Township have their own park facilities, and while not directly supported by Oshtemo residents, these parks are generally open for Oshtemo residents to use and enjoy and within a short distance of the Township.

### Trails

#### **Kal-Haven Trail State Park** *[grids C1 – C4]*

Oshtemo Township contains the eastern trailhead of the Kal-Haven Trail State Park, a 35-mile linear park connecting Kalamazoo to the City of South Haven on the Lake Michigan shoreline. A former railroad corridor, the Kal-Haven Trail today is a crushed-limestone path offering opportunities for biking, hiking, equestrian recreation, and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter. The trailhead on 10<sup>th</sup> Street includes a parking lot, pit-toilets, benches, and a train caboose that serves as a small office and visitor center.

#### **Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway** *[grids C1 – C4]*

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway currently includes 17 miles of 12' wide asphalt trail. One terminus is at the Kal-Haven Trailhead on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, providing access to downtown Kalamazoo and beyond. Recently constructed trail spurs also connect to other local and regional recreation facilities, such as Markin Glen County Park and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Once completed, the trailway will include 35 miles of trail throughout Kalamazoo County, connecting Oshtemo to Battle Creek's Linear Park in Calhoun County to the east. The trailway will eventually extend south to the Portage Creek Bicentennial Park Trail in the City of Portage as well.

### Local Parks

#### **Al Sabo Land Preserve** *[grid F4]*

The 741-acre preserve is on the north side of Texas Drive, near 10<sup>th</sup> Street, in Texas Township. While the preserve was created to protect groundwater supply wells, hikers and mountain bikers can explore diverse woodland and wetland habitats.

#### **Alamo Township Park** *[grid C4]*

Alamo Township Park measures 17 acres and is located on the north side of DE Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. In addition to picnic areas and restrooms, this park offers eight ballfields, hiking trails, and ample parking.

#### **Gobles Sports Fields** *[grid C1]*

The sports fields are located just east of the City of Gobles on County Road 388 and comprise 32 acres of land. The four baseball diamonds and two soccer fields are jointly maintained by the City and Pine Grove Township.

#### **Kendall Park** *[grid C2]*

Kendall Park is a half acre park with a picnic shelter in the hamlet of Kendall, at the corner of County Road 388 and 27<sup>th</sup> street. The Kal-Haven Trail runs through Pine Grove Township, with an access point on 27<sup>th</sup> Street just south of Kendall Park.

**Stroud Family Park** *[grid D5]*

The park includes 1.5 acres of active recreation land on the south side of Grand Prairie Road, west of Nichols Road, in Kalamazoo Township. Facilities include eight ballfields, four tennis courts, picnic areas, and parking.

**Texas Drive Park** *[grid F4]*

The park is located on Texas Drive between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, and provides amenities including a playground, park benches, picnic pavilion, basketball court, soccer/football field, and paved trails in the five acre park.

**City of Kalamazoo Parks**

The City of Kalamazoo operates a large municipal parks and recreation department, with over 35 facilities available to area residents. The facilities nearest to Oshtemo Township are Frays Park, Knollwood Park, and Woods Lake Park. Mayor's Riverfront Park and Milham Park are also popular facilities in the City among Township residents.

**Frays Park** *[grid D5]*

The park measures 11 acres and is located on Canterbury Avenue, east of Drake Road. Park amenities include play equipment, picnic facilities, tennis and volleyball courts, and an 880-foot running track.

**Knollwood Park** *[grid E5]*

Knollwood Park measures 20 acres and is located at the south end of Greenwood Avenue near Westbrook Street with a play area, picnic facilities, soccer fields, disc golf, and walking trails.

**Mayor's Riverfront Park** *[grid D6]*

The park measures 380 acres and is located on Mills Street near downtown Kalamazoo. It offers basketball courts, a playground, pavilion and picnicking, paved trails along the Kalamazoo River, and a canoe launch.

**Milham Park** *[grid E6]*

This 49 acre park on East Kilgore Road includes trails, picnic facilities, ball fields, and playgrounds interspersed on land surrounding the Portage Creek. Immediately adjacent is the publicly owned and maintained Milham Park Golf Course.

**Woods Lake Park** *[grid E5]*

The park is 6.5 acres located on Oakland Drive, north of Parkview Avenue and offers picnic facilities, a swimming beach, fishing, canoe launch, restrooms, and a nature walk.

**City of Portage Parks**

The City of Portage, southeast of Oshtemo Township, maintains more than 15 parks and recreation facilities, five of which, Bicentennial Park and Celery Flats, Harbors West, Haverhill, Oakland Drive Parks and Westfield are readily accessible to Township residents.

**Bicentennial Park and Celery Flats** *[grid F6]*

The 205-acre park is located along the Portage Creek with 3.5 miles of multi-use trail, over eight miles of paths, canoeing, fishing, playgrounds, shelters and picnicking. The park also contains the Celery Flats Interpretative Center and historical area. Celery Flats highlights the heritage of celery

farming in Portage and Kalamazoo County and includes four relocated structures as part of the historical area. The facilities are available to rent for events.

**Harbors West Park** *[grid F5]*

The park measures 6 acres and is located near Angling Road, north of Milham Avenue. Park amenities include basketball and volleyball courts, roller hockey rink, play equipment, picnic facilities, and walking/biking trails.

**Haverhill Park** *[grid F5]*

Haverhill Park measures 4 acres and is located on Hampton Street, east of Oakland Drive. The park includes basketball and tennis courts, roller hockey rink, play equipment, picnic facilities, and biking trails. Haverhill Park is located along the Northwest Portage Bikeway, a 2.8 mile section of paved, off-road, multi-use trail in the northwest area of the City.

**Millennium Park** *[grid F6]*

The one acre park in the heart of the shopping district contains a reflecting pond, fountain, and an amphitheater for entertainment during the summer. In the winter, the park is converted to an outdoor skating rink with opportunities for skate rentals.

**Oakland Drive Park** *[grid F5]*

The park measures 19 acres and is located on the west side of Oakland Drive at Schuring Road. Oakland Drive Park offers multiple sports facilities (basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts; soccer and softball fields), picnic tables and grills, playground, walking trails, and a sledding hill.

**Westfield Park** *[grid F5]*

Westfield Park measures 12 acres and is located at the intersection of Milham Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Multiple sports facilities (basketball, tennis, soccer, volleyball, softball field), picnic tables and grills, and a playground are located at the park.

**Additional Facilities**

**Asylum Lake Preserve** *[grid E5]*

The 274-acre Asylum Lake Preserve is located on the west side of the City of Kalamazoo and is owned by Western Michigan University. The lake and adjoining property are preserved as a passive recreation area under an agreement between WMU and the City of Kalamazoo. It provides a popular hiking, walking, and fishing area for residents. The preserve also serves as a research area for WMU students and faculty.

**Bronson Athletic Club** *[grid F4]*

This facility, located south of the Township on Elm Valley Drive, is owned by Bronson Healthcare. It includes a swimming pool, basketball court, racquetball court, indoor track, cardio and weight-lifting machines, and group exercise classes. Membership is available to the public.

**Kalamazoo Community Soccer Complex** *[grid E5]*

This facility on Drake Road just to the east of the Township boundary contains 10 soccer fields and is home to six different soccer leagues. Restrooms and support facilities are provided as well.

**Kalamazoo Sportsplex** *[grid E4]*

Sportsplex, a commercial facility, is located just south of the Township boundary on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The facility contains the 22,000 square foot S.W.A.T. Fitness Club, 100,000 square foot Twin Star Ice

Arena with two sheets of ice, 9ine Lounge and Grill, The Sportsplex is home to the Twin Star Outlaw hockey team and Kalamazoo Figure Skating Club.

**Kindleberger Park** *[grid D6]*

The 40-acre Kindleberger Park is located on the south side of Park Avenue in the City of Parchment. Amenities include four Little League baseball diamonds, two softball diamonds, roller hockey and tennis courts, picnic pavilions, two playgrounds, paved trails, and a formal garden with gazebo, which can be reserved for special events.

**KL Avenue Nature Preserve** *[grid E3]*

This 70 acre nature preserve is located at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and KL Avenue. It was opened by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in 2012. The site is wooded with rolling hills, walking paths, and a small parking area. Its proximity to the Township's KL Avenue Landfill site offers exciting possibilities for a green infrastructure connection.

**Lillian Anderson Arboretum** *[grid D4]*

Located adjacent to the Oshtemo Township Park and owned by Kalamazoo College, the 140-acre Lillian Anderson Arboretum provides an important recreational resource for both the college and the community. While conservation and research are the primary objectives of the facility, low-impact recreation such as hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing is permitted.

**Mattawan Little League Baseball Fields** *[grid F2]*

Located on Front Street in the Village of Mattawan, the Mattawan Little League Baseball Fields provide area teams with nine diamonds available for practice and games on 22 acres of land.

**Meadow Run Dog Park** *[grid E4]*

Located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Oshtemo Township, this 25 acre, privately owned facility offers exercise space and other amenities for dogs and their owners for a fee.

**West Hills Athletic Club** *[grid E4]*

Located on 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Oshtemo Township, this indoor facility is owned by Western Michigan University. It offers ten indoor tennis courts, an indoor track, cardio and weight-lifting machines, and group exercise classes. Membership is available to the public.

**West Portage Little League Complex** *[grid F5]*

This baseball and softball complex on 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Center Street and Milham Avenue contains 16 different fields for all varieties of games and levels of play. An equipment shelter and restroom and concession facility is also provided.

## Barrier-Free Accessibility

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. In accordance with the MDNR standards, Oshtemo facilities were evaluated based on a five-point system to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility: has limited sight or is blind; uses a wheelchair; has a hearing impairment or is deaf; uses a walking aid; and/or has a mental impairment. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings for Township, City of Kalamazoo, and City of

Portage parks and facilities can be found in *Table 3.1 – Township and Local Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory*.

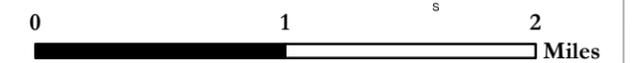
- **Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may be completely barrier-free.
- **Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
- **Level 5.** The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

# Map 2: Township and Local Parks & Recreation Inventory

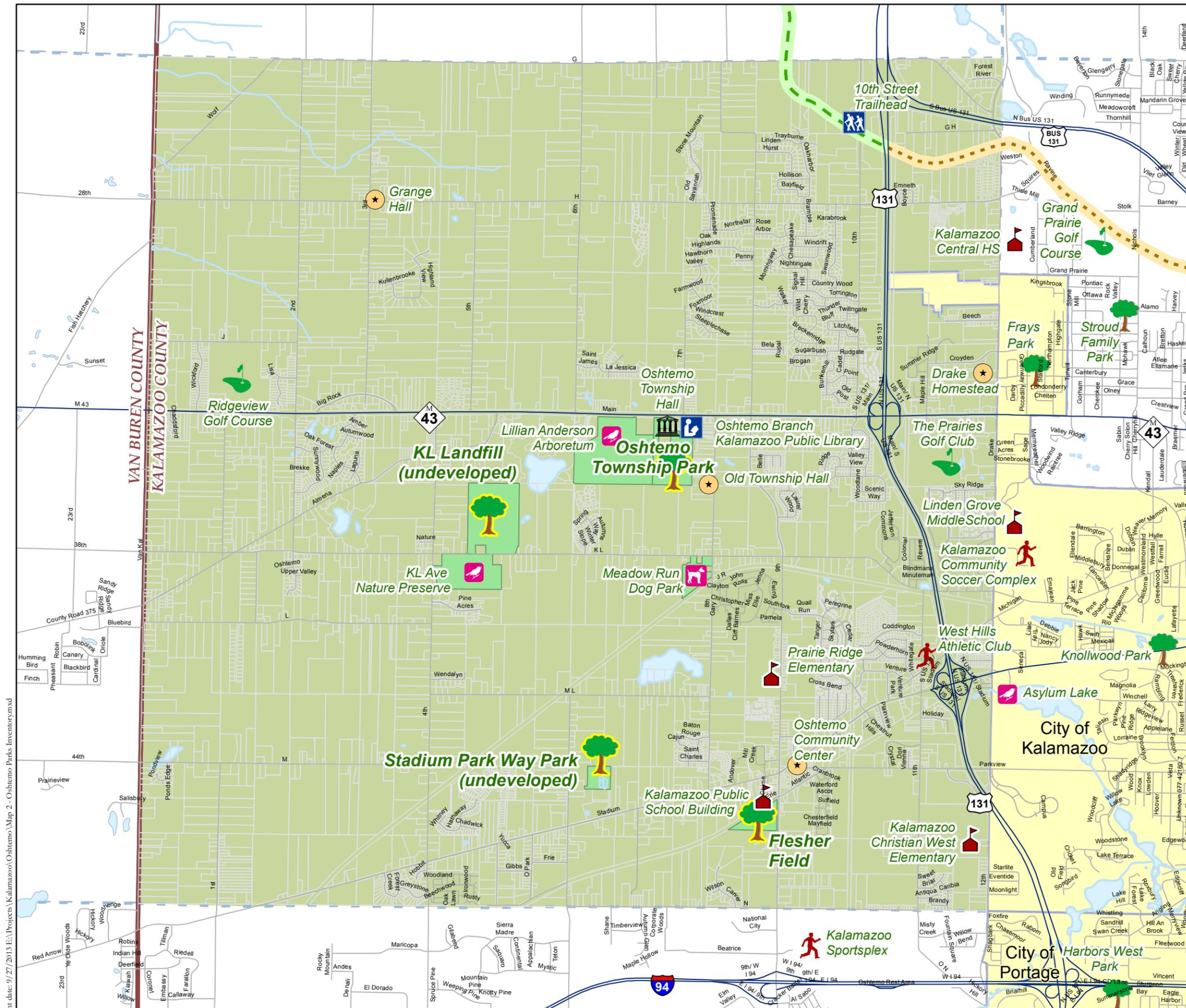
Oshtemo Charter Township  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

## Parks and Recreation Facilities

-  Township Hall
-  Township Park
-  Other Municipal Park
-  Township Facility
-  Sports Facilities
-  Golf Course
-  Nature Area
-  Trailhead
-  School
-  Library
-  Dog Park
-  State Highways
-  Kal-Haven Trail State Park
-  Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
-  Local Roads
-  Cities
-  Township Boundaries
-  Oshtemo Twp



Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
Oshtemo Township GIS Department



**Table 3.1 – Township and Local Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory**

Facility Name		Acres	Barrier-Free Assessment	Baseball/Softball	Wiffleball	Basketball Courts	Disc Golf Course	Ice/Roller Hockey Rink	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Pavilion	Picnic Facilities	Play Equipment	Equestrian Trails	Running Track	Hiking/Walking Trails	Bicycle Trails/Paths	Swimming	Sledding Hill	Fishing	Boat Launch	Camping	Hunting	Nature Area
Township Parks	Flesher Field	24	3	1	2				•			•	•	•			•								•
	Oshtemo Township Park	70	3		1	2	•			2		2	•	•			•								•
	Former KL Avenue Landfill	22.5	-	<i>Undeveloped</i>																					
	Stadium Park Way Park	17	-	<i>Undeveloped</i>																					
Township Facilities	Drake Farmstead	15	3																						
	Grange Hall	2.3	3			•							•	•											
	Old Oshtemo Township Hall	-	3																						
	Oshtemo Community Center	-	3																						
	Oshtemo Township Hall	-	5																						
Local Trails	Kal-Haven Trail State Park	35 miles	3												•		•	•							
	Kalamazoo River Valley Trail	17 miles	3														•	•							
Local Parks	Al Sabo Land Preserve	741	N/A														•	•							•
	Alamo Township Park	17	N/A	8								•	•	•			•								
	Gobles Sports Fields	32	N/A	4					2																
	Kendall Park	0.5	N/A										•					•							
	Stroud Family Park	1.5	N/A	8						4		•	•	•											
	Texas Drive Park	5	N/A			•			•			•	•	•			•	•							
City of Kalamazoo	Frays Park	11	4						•	•		•	•			•									
	Knollwood Park	20	2						•	•			•	•			•								
	Mayor's Waterfront Park	380	5	•		•			•				•	•			•	•							
	Woods Lake Park	6.5	4										•					•							
City of Portage	Bicentennial Park/Celery Flats	205	5									•	•	•			•	•			•				•
	Harbors West Park	6	5			•		•			•	•	•				•	•							
	Haverhill Park	4	5			•		•	•				•	•				•							
	Millennium Park	1	5					•					•					•							

**Table 3.1 – Township and Local Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory**

Facility Name		Acres	Barrier-Free Assessment	Baseball/Softball	Wiffleball	Basketball Courts	Disc Golf Course	Ice/Roller Hockey Rink	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Pavilion	Picnic Facilities	Play Equipment	Equestrian Trails	Running Track	Hiking/Walking Trails	Bicycle Trails/Paths	Swimming	Sledding Hill	Fishing	Boat Launch	Camping	Hunting	Nature Area
	Oakland Drive Park	19	5	•		•			•	•	•		•	•			•			•					
	Westfield Park	12	5	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	•											
Additional Facilities	Asylum Lake Preserve	274	N/A																						•
	Bronson Athletic Club	-	N/A			•					•					•			•						
	Kalamazoo Community Soccer Complex	-	N/A						10																
	Kalamazoo Sportsplex	-	5					2											•						
	Kindleberger Park (Parchment)	40	N/A	2	4			•		•		•	•	2			•	•							
	Lillian Anderson Arboretum	140	2														•								•
	Mattawan Little League Fields	22	N/A	1	8																				
	Meadow Run Dog Park	25	N/A																						
	West Hills Athletic Club	-	N/A							10							•								
	West Portage Little League Complex	-	N/A	16																					

N/A = Information Not Available

## Regional Recreation Resources

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While these parks are not owned by Oshtemo Township, they provide active and passive recreational opportunities to the residents of the community. Regional facilities are provided by Kalamazoo County, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service. The facilities are shown on *Map 3 – Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities*.

### Kalamazoo County

Kalamazoo County owns and operates six parks, two of which are within easy access of Oshtemo Township residents.

#### **Markin Glen Park** [*grid C6*]

Markin Glen Park, which straddles North Westnedge Avenue north of G Avenue in Cooper Township, was originally a private estate that was transferred to the City of Kalamazoo for use as a park. The County took control of the park in 1988, and with the opening of the west side of the park six years later, area residents enjoy barrier-free access to 160 acres of woodlands, meadows, and lakeshore. Amenities include fishing, camping, a swimming beach, tennis courts, picnic facilities, and an extensive system of trails.

#### **Prairie View Park** [*grid H6*]

Located in Schoolcraft Township and owned by the County since 1960, Prairie View Park offers regional-scale amenities such as boat launches and a swimming beach on Hogset Lake. Multiple sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and hiking trails round out the available facilities. A beach house with fireplace provides winter-time patrons with a warm place to gather.

### State of Michigan

#### **Fort Custer Recreation Area** [*grid D10*]

The nearest State Recreation Area is the 3,000-acre Fort Custer Recreation Area just south of Augusta. Once owned by the federal government for use as a military training center during World War II, the land was transferred to the State in 1971. Amenities include hunting, fishing, swimming, mountain biking, camping (cabin, tent, and trailer), boating access to three lakes and the Kalamazoo River, winter recreation, and 25 miles of trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The North Country National Scenic Trail and the planned Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway both run through the Recreation Area.

#### **Gourdneck State Game Area** [*grid G5*]

Located southeast of Oshtemo Township along US-131, the area offers approximately four square miles of State-owned recreation land for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. An access ramp to Sugarloaf Lake is located on Shaver Road, north of U Avenue, in the City of Portage.

#### **Public Lake Access Points** [*multiple locations*]

Several lakes outside of the Township have public access points with boat launches managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. They offer opportunities for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. Some also include access for swimming, though none have an improved beach. Nearby lakes include Fish Lake [*grid D2*], North Lake [*grid C2*], Wolf Lake [*grid D2*], and Eagle Lake [*grid*

*F3].* Bonniecastle and Dustin Lakes are located in the Township, but neither offer a public lake access point.

**Van Buren State Park** *[not on map]*

This 400-acre park features a mile of sandy beach and high dune formations on Lake Michigan. Located south of South Haven, it offers visitors an opportunity to swim, hike, and picnic. A play area and campground with 220 sites is also available.

**Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center** *[grid D2]*

Owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center on M-43 in Alma Township provides the public with a chance to learn about the State's fisheries management and conservation efforts. Outdoor observation ponds and an indoor interpretive center, both free of charge, teach all ages about the biology, habitats, and management of Great Lakes fish species.

**National Park Service**

**North Country National Scenic Trail** *[grids A10 – C10]*

The only federal park or recreation facility near Oshtemo Township is the North Country National Scenic Trail, which crosses the northeast corner of Kalamazoo County. Like other National Scenic Trails, including the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail, the North Country Trail is administered by the National Park Service and maintained through the cooperation of local trail groups. While only 1,800 off-road miles of the planned route have been formally designated, the trail will be the longest off-road hiking trail in the United States when completed, stretching 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota.

**Private Recreation Facilities**

**Formula K Family Fun Park** *[grid F2]*

The park is a commercial recreation facility located on Main Street in Mattawan, just south of I-94. Available attractions include go-karts, paintball, bumper cars, miniature golf, an arcade and snack bar, and more. It operates during the extended summer season.

## Golf Courses

Within ten miles of Oshtemo Township, there are a number of public and private golf courses. Brief information on local courses is provided in the table below:

TABLE 3.2 Area Golf Courses				
Course Name	# Holes	Rating	Location	Grid
The Prairies Golf Club	18 holes	Par 72	Oshtemo Township	D5
Ridgeview Golf Course	18 holes	par 71	Oshtemo Township	D3
Thornapple Creek Golf Club	18 holes	par 71	Alamo Township	C4
Heritage Glen Golf Club	18 holes	par 72	Almena Township	E1
Crestview Golf Course	18 holes	par 70	Cooper Township	B6
Red Arrow Golf Course	9 holes	par 34	City of Kalamazoo	D6
Milham Park Golf Course	18 holes	par 72	City of Kalamazoo	E6
Grand Prairie Golf Course	9 holes	par 30	Kalamazoo Township	D5
Shamrock Hills Golf Club	18 holes	par 66	Pine Grove Township	B1

### **Kalamazoo College** [grid D6]

Kalamazoo College is located in the City of Kalamazoo and is the home to 1,340 students and a number of recreational facilities, some of which are available to Township residents. The college's athletic and recreational facilities include Anderson Athletic Center (basketball, volleyball, weight rooms, dance studio, sauna and training room), Angell Field/Calder Fieldhouse (football), Mackenzie Field (soccer), Markin Racquet Center (tennis, racquetball and squash), Natatorium (swimming and diving), Softball Field, Stowe Stadium (tennis), and Woodworth Field (baseball).

### **Kalamazoo Nature Center** [grid C6]

The Nature Center is located on North Westnedge Avenue approximately five miles north of the City of Kalamazoo and is one of the oldest nature centers in the United States. With 1,100 acres of protected open space, the Kalamazoo Nature Center offers opportunities for hiking, nature study, and interpretive programs for children and adults. A nominal admission fee is waived for supporting members of the Center.

### **Kellogg Biological Station** [grid B10]

The Kellogg Biological Station is located north of Augusta and near Gull Lake and is operated as a research and teaching facility of Michigan State University. In addition to research facilities and Extension offices, the station includes the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary and the Kellogg Farm and Dairy Center. Guided and self-guided tours of the bird sanctuary and dairy center are available for a minimal charge. The nearby **Kellogg Experimental Forest** [grid C10] is also affiliated with Michigan State University. Limited recreational opportunities, including picnicking, hiking, bow hunting, and self-guided tours are available at the Experimental Forest.

### **Timber Ridge Ski Area** [grid B2]

Timber Ridge is located in Pine Grove Township, northeast of the City of Gobles in Van Buren County. This commercial facility offers multiple winter recreation opportunities, with 15 downhill ski and snowboard runs, five chairlifts, a snow tubing area, and instructional classes.

**Western Michigan University** *[grid E5]*

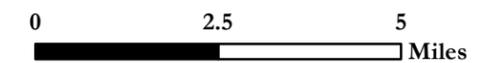
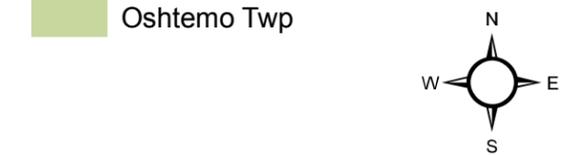
Western Michigan University is located in the City of Kalamazoo with over 25,000 students and a number of recreational facilities, some of which are available to Township residents. Western is also home to the Miller Auditorium, the third largest concert hall in Michigan. The athletic and recreational facilities include the Student Recreation Center along with the Donald Seelye Athletic Center (football and indoor practice facility), Waldo Stadium (football), Read Fieldhouse (basketball, volleyball and gymnastics), Lawson Arena (hockey and figure skating), Gable Natatorium (swimming), Hyames Field (baseball), Ebert Field (softball), Sorenson Courts/West Hills Athletic Club (tennis), Kanley Track (track and field), WMU Soccer Complex, and The Moors Golf Course.

# Map 3: Regional Parks & Recreation Facilities

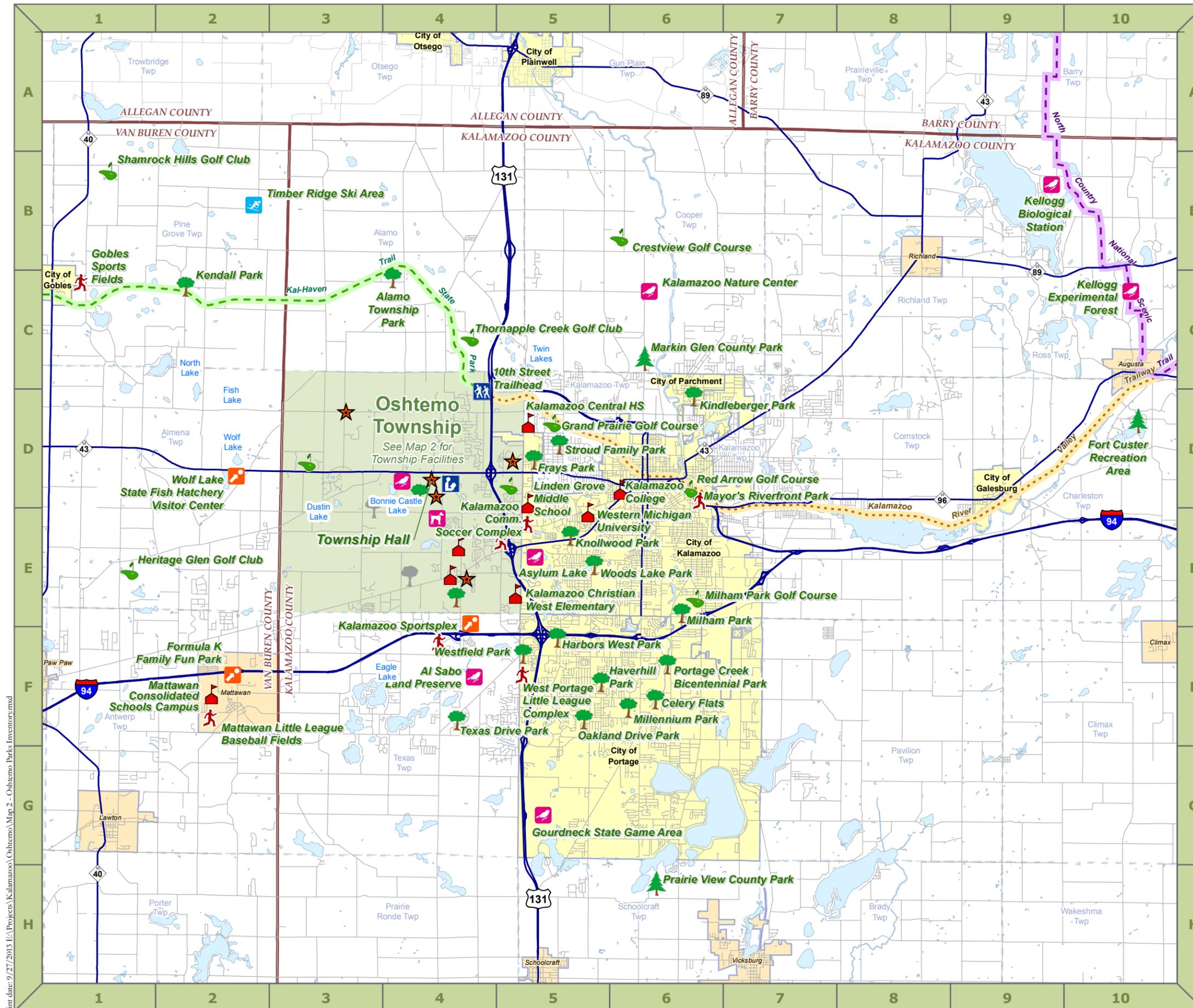
Oshtemo Charter Township  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

## Parks and Recreation Facilities

-  State or County Park
-  Municipal Park
-  Undeveloped Park
-  Township Facility
-  School
-  Library
-  Sports Facilities
-  Golf Course
-  Natural Area
-  Ski Area
-  Trailhead
-  Other Recreation Facility
-  Dog Park
-  North Country National Scenic Trail
-  Kal-Haven Trail State Park
-  Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
-  State Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Cities
-  Villages
-  Township Boundaries
-  Oshtemo Twp



Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
Oshtemo Township GIS Department



# Chapter 4

## Basis for Action Plan

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An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community, as they serve as a basis for the development of the action plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process, and consultation with Township staff and the Parks Committee.

### Planning and Public Input Process

#### Planning Process

The Oshtemo Township Board, through the Parks Committee, directed the update of the Oshtemo Charter Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Citizen and Township input played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the Township's parks and recreation facilities. The plan process included seven tasks which are discussed below.

- **Task One: Community Description.** The first task was to obtain a description of Oshtemo Township's physical and social characteristics. These include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population statistics including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, household types, employment, and income.
- **Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding.** The second task was to obtain and review the administrative structure of the Township's parks and recreation organization. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for the Township as well as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant history.
- **Task Three: Parks and Recreation Inventory.** The parks and recreation inventory included site visits and written descriptions of facilities in Oshtemo Township including Township parks, local parks, and private facilities. A list of neighboring communities' facilities, City, County, State, as well as National Parks within a short distance of Oshtemo Township is also included. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation activities, types of equipment, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities.
- **Task Four: Public Participation.** The public participation process included two public meetings held in the new picnic shelter at Township Park on June 18 and 24 to gather information from the public about parks and recreation. This input supplements the extensive public participation process conducted in 2008, which included a survey mailed to 2,800 residents, public meetings, park visits, and focus group meetings.

In addition, the Parks Committee held regular meetings on the plan, the Friends of the Parks was involved throughout the process, and a public hearing was held by the

Township Board for input on the plan prior to adoption. See *Appendices A, D, and E* for a summary of all public involvement activities and results.

- **Task Five: Analysis.** Based on the data collected from tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Township staff and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Six: Action Plan.** Upon completion of the analysis, the information and comments gathered through the public input sessions, plan research, and Township consultation were reviewed and goals and objectives were created to provide a framework for the action plan. This resulted in the creation of the five-year plan with a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.
- **Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption.** Once consensus was reached among the Parks Committee, the plan was made available for public review for one month, from October 1<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Parks Committee recommended the final document to the Township Board at their regular meeting on November 21, 2013. It was forwarded to the Township Board for a public hearing and adoption on December 10, 2013. See *Appendices C and D* for adoption documentation and meeting minutes.

### Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held to gather information about parks and recreation. The meetings were held on the evening of June 18, 2013 and the afternoon of June 24, 2013 in the new pavilion at Township Park, next to the playground. Thirteen adults and approximately eight children attended the first meeting and nine adults and approximately 10 children attended the second. Although the groups may not have been as large as desired, their contributions to the process were still significant.

An overview of the parks and recreation planning process was presented, followed by a summary of the Township's efforts and accomplishments related to park improvements.

Adult participants were asked for their feedback on four topics:

- Recent and proposed improvements to Township Park and Flesher Field
- The Drake Farmstead and the Grange Hall, recreation facilities owned by the Township with improvements desired in the future
- Non-motorized connections
- Any other park and recreation-related comments or suggestions.

Children were encouraged to attend the meeting as well. They gathered around a picnic table outside the pavilion and were given the opportunity to use sticky dots to "vote" for the play equipment they liked best as pictured on a poster board. They also had the opportunity to draw a picture of their favorite things to do at the park and to design a park for their friends, family and neighbors.

A complete summary of the comments received is provided in *Appendix A*. A summary of common themes which were considered in preparing the Action Plan can be found below:

- Township Park: feedback on the 2012-2013 park improvements was overwhelmingly positive. Suggestions included maintenance improvements needed on the disc golf course and restoration of the wooded area of the park.

- Flesher Field: much support was expressed for a spray park as proposed in the Flesher Field Master Plan. More shade near the playground was also requested.
- Drake Farmstead: participants suggested that a new barn be constructed with accessible restrooms and meeting/rental space. A trail system was suggested in the 10 acre parcel recently acquired by the Township, and that more acreage be added to the Farmstead in the future.
- Grange Hall: the existing swings and basketball court are used throughout the day. The building is well used, but it would be used more often if it was accessible. It could be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Non-Motorized Trails: a greenway corridor should be considered to connect Township Park and the Lillian Anderson Arboretum with the County, Township, and South West Michigan Land Conservancy properties on KL Avenue.
- Other: a master plan is needed for the Township's Stadium Parkway Park property. A small park is needed in the Westport area.

As stated previously, extensive public input was collected as part of the process to develop the previous Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Most of the feedback presented and collected at that time is still relevant. Therefore, the summary of results from the 2008 Community Survey has been included in *Appendix E*.

### **Public Review Period**

The plan was made available for public comment from October 1 to November 1, 2013. A copy of the public notice is included in *Appendix D*. An electronic copy of the plan was posted on the Township website and e-mailed to a broad audience, including public meeting attendees, neighborhood associations, and other community leaders and volunteers. A hard copy of the plan was made available at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library and at the Township Hall.

One comment received by e-mail during the public review period was that a public sledding hill is needed in the Township. Other comments received were primarily for clarification purposes. The sledding hill suggestion was further incorporated later in this Chapter.

### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held by the Township Board at the Oshtemo Township Hall on December 10, 2013 (*tentative*) to obtain comments from residents and users about the plan. The Board adopted the plan following the public hearing on December 10, 2013. The resolution and meeting minutes are contained in *Appendices C and D*, respectively.

## **Park Land Analysis and Service Areas**

Approximately 360 acres of parks and recreation facilities exist within Oshtemo Township, with 150 acres owned and managed by the Township. Of the remaining 210 acres, 140 are owned by Kalamazoo College and maintained as an arboretum and 70 are owned by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and maintained as a nature preserve. As required by the MDNR, the Oshtemo Township park land and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA's updated guidelines were set more than 18 years ago, the MDNR still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results given that these guidelines were set nearly two decades ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, is encouraged to establish its own needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation. Recreation needs are often better documented through public input rather than relying only on the national guidelines. The NRPA guidelines and the MDNR standards were considered in the development of the action plan but not weighted heavily. The information gathered during the public input process and administrative discussions greatly directed the action plan.

*Table 4.1 – Oshtemo Township Park Land Acreage Analysis* and the following discussion compares the amount of park land as it relates to the conditions in the Township and the MDNR standards based on the 2010 Census population of 21,700. Park classifications used by the MDNR are defined as follows:

- **Mini/Neighborhood Park.** Mini/Neighborhood parks serve an area up to a one-half mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size. The only Township facility to be classified as a Mini/Neighborhood Park is the Grange Hall. This need is also being served by schools, residential open spaces, and other nearby park facilities. Based on the table below, the Township is deficient by 3 - 41 acres in this category, but when other local parks in the area are considered, that need is largely mitigated. When considering new park development, the Township should give some consideration to smaller mini/neighborhood parks, particularly in areas near existing and new residential development. In instances of new residential development, facilities could be required as part of the overall development.
- **Community Park.** Community parks typically serve an area within one-half to three miles and are between 30 to 50 acres in size. The Township owns 133.5 acres of community park land, thus exceeding the recommended 108.5 acres. However, it should be noted that 39.5 acres of the community park land is currently undeveloped. In addition to the Township-owned land, there are 1,773 acres of local park land that is categorized as community parks. These parks include those within a short distance of the Township in the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, and the surrounding Townships. Oshtemo, in conjunction with the adjacent parks, greatly exceeds the recommended acreage, but this should be considered with some caution. Portions of the Township, particularly in the north and west, are not served adequately by Township-owned parks, particularly developed park land. The majority of the residents live on the east side of the Township, but opportunities to acquire land in these underserved portions of the Township should be explored as these areas develop or land becomes available.
- **School Park.** There are three school districts in the Township, two of which have no facilities in the community – Otsego Public Schools and Mattawan Consolidated Schools. The Kalamazoo Public School District owns two facilities in the Township, both located near the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Stadium Drive. There is a small playground associated with the former Chime school, located adjacent to Flesher Field. The building remains under the ownership of Kalamazoo Public Schools and has housed a variety of programs since the elementary school closed in 2008. It currently houses a strict discipline academy that benefits all area school districts by offering alternative

placement for students that have been expelled or dropped out of school. Prairie Ridge Elementary is located on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. It has a large playground which is fully accessible.

- **Regional Park.** Regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local park land and help balance the deficiencies in facilities. Oshtemo Township is fortunate to have a regional park within its borders. The Lillian Anderson Arboretum accounts for 140 acres of regional park land. The park does not fulfill all of the recommended acreage for regional park land, as there is a deficiency of 77 acres. However, it should be noted that a number of regional parks are within a short distance from the Township despite not being within its borders.

According to the above guidelines, Oshtemo Township exhibits a surplus in community park land but a deficiency in mini/neighborhood and regional park land. The Township's park land is supplemented by the abundance of park land surrounding the community. (It should be noted that this analysis does not take into consideration the demand or the population of the surrounding communities. We merely inventoried the facilities that were available in the region to Township residents.) Overall, the Township is providing high quality park space to serve its residents, although this analysis and the following map illustrate there are improvements in the distribution of that service that could be made.

**TABLE 4.1**  
**Oshtemo Township Park Land Acreage Analysis**

Park Classification	NRPA Guideline Minimum Acres/1,000 Residents <sup>1</sup>	Recommended Acreage for Oshtemo Township <sup>2</sup>	Township Park Land	Local Park Land	OVERALL TOTAL	TOWNSHIP Surplus (Deficiency) <sup>3</sup>	OVERALL Surplus (Deficiency) <sup>4</sup>
<b>Mini/Neighborhood</b>	0.25 – 2.0	5.4 – 43.4	2.3	23.5 <sup>5</sup>	25.8	(3.1 - 41.1)	20.4 - (17.6)
<b>Community</b>	5.0	108.5	133.5	1,773.0 <sup>6</sup>	1,906.5	25.0	1,798.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	-	<b>113.9 – 151.9</b>	<b>135.8</b>	<b>1,796.5</b>	<b>1,932.3</b>	<b>(16.1) - 21.9</b>	<b>1,818.4</b>
<b>Regional</b>	10.0	217.0	140.0 <sup>7</sup>	-	140.0	(77.0)	(77.0)
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>330.9 – 368.9</b>	<b>275.8</b>	<b>1,796.5</b>	<b>2,072.3</b>	<b>(55.1 - 93.1)</b>	<b>1,741.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 2010 U.S. Census estimate of 21,700

<sup>3</sup> Based on acreages for park land located in Oshtemo Township.

<sup>4</sup> Based on acreages for park land located in Oshtemo Township and local park land adjacent to Oshtemo Township.

<sup>5</sup> Local Mini/Neighborhood Parks: Harbors West Park, Haverhill Park, Kendall Park, Stroud Family Park, Texas Drive Park, Woods Lake Park.

<sup>6</sup> Local Community Parks: Al Sabo Land Preserve, Alamo Township Park, Asylum Lake Preserve, Bicentennial Park/Celery Flats, Frays Park, Gobles Sports Fields, Kindleberger Park, Knollwood Park, Mattawan Little League Fields, Mayor's Waterfront Park, Oakland Drive Park, Westfield Park.

<sup>7</sup> Lillian Anderson Arboretum.

Although it is important to consider the overall amount of park land in the Township, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the Township. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to closely consider where the residents in the Township live. The MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in Oshtemo Township that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows: Mini/Neighborhood Parks, 0.25 – 0.5 miles; Community Parks, 0.5 – 3.0 miles; Regional Parks, 30 minute driving time.

The parks and recreation service areas for the Township's community parks are shown on *Map 4 – Parks and Recreation Facilities Service Area*. For the purposes of measuring the service area, a radius of one-and-a-half miles was used for community parks. Only the service boundary of the Township-owned facilities was included in the analysis in order to fully evaluate the service area.

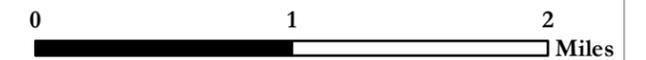
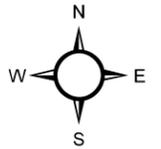
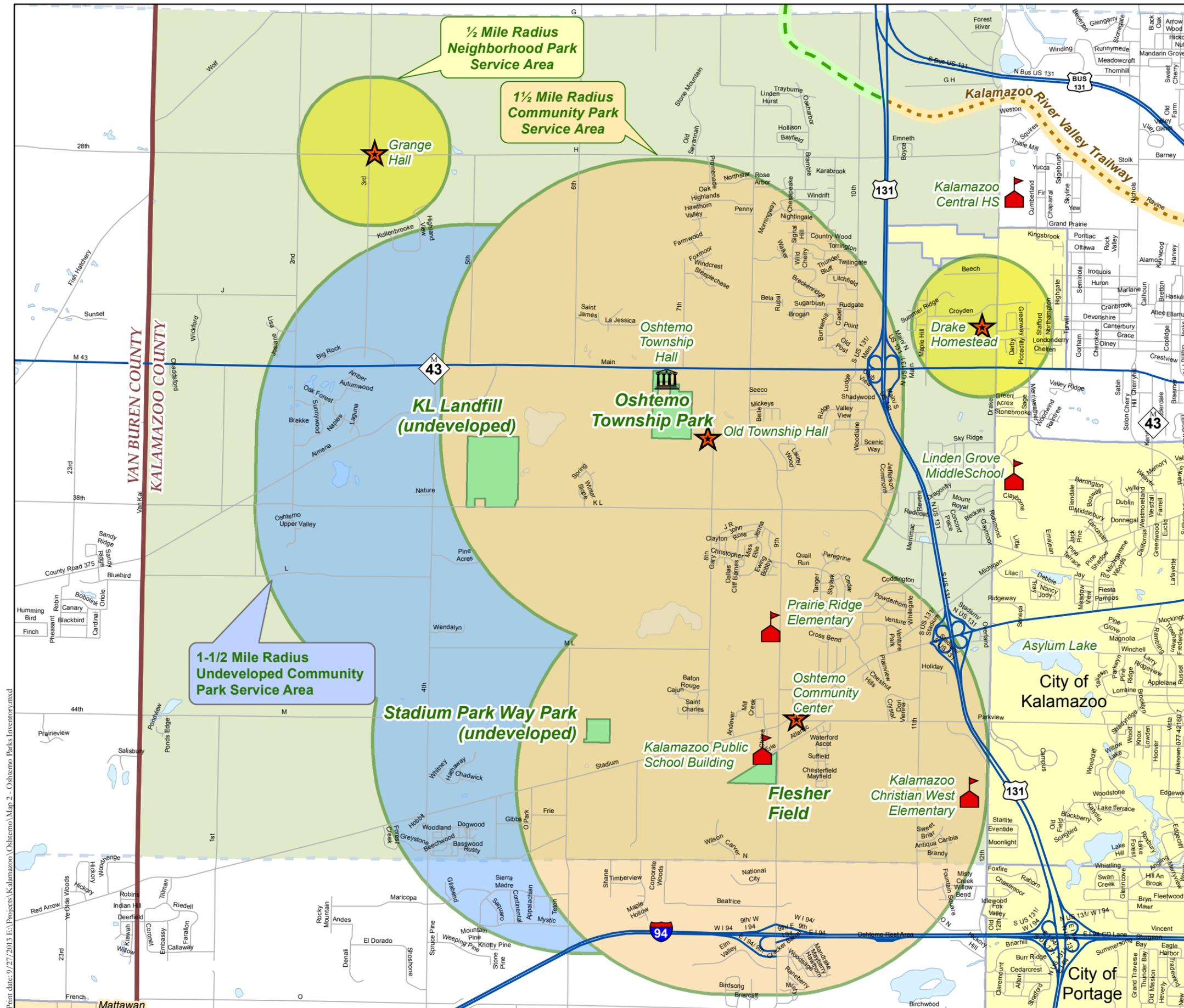
As noted above, the areas in the northwest and southwest quadrants of the Township are lacking proximity to all Township-owned properties. The two developed parks are located in the central and southeast areas of the Township, thus limited to the east half of the Township. The only mini/neighborhood park in the Township is the Grange Hall, and the facilities provided there are limited. Much of the recent population growth in the Township has been on the east side of the Township. Smaller neighborhood parks should be developed in this area to serve the existing and future residential neighborhoods. Also, as development moves west in the Township, additional parks should be considered to serve a larger number of residents.

The service area of community parks is larger and extends to a greater number of Township residents. Acquiring larger parcels of land for community park development is more difficult. However, if the opportunity to acquire additional land comes available, the Township should explore these opportunities to address the need for additional facilities.

# Map 4: Parks and Recreation Facilities Service Area

Oshtemo Charter Township  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

-  Oshtemo Township Hall
-  Township Facilities
-  Schools
-  Oshtemo Township Parks
-  Kal-Haven Trail State Park
-  Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
-  State Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Township Boundaries
-  Oshtemo Township
-  Cities



Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
Oshtemo Township GIS Department

## Facilities Analysis

In addition to park land, existing facilities were compared against the recommended guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and MDNR to determine if they are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions in Oshtemo Township, information obtained during the public input opportunities, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. *Table 4.2* indicates the recommended guideline and facilities, the number of facilities in the Township, and the surplus or deficiency of facilities. The comments below the table provide further perspective and assist in identifying key issues related to specific facilities.

In *Table 4.2*, the column labeled “Township Facility” identifies facilities and amenities provided within parks operated by the Township. The column labeled “Local Facility” identifies facilities and amenities provided by parks operated by other entities or communities. This information is included to demonstrate that while certain amenities may not be provided by the Township, the need is being fulfilled within the larger community by other facilities. Some of these facilities may be located in other communities, and we did not consider the population of these other communities or the demand for the use of these facilities by these populations. Therefore, the surpluses may not be as great as demonstrated below due to the use of these local facilities by the broader regional population in addition to the Township residents.

TABLE 4.2 Oshtemo Township Facility Analysis							
	NRPA Minimum Guideline <sup>1</sup>	NRPA Recommended Facilities <sup>2</sup>	Township Facility	Local Facility	TOTAL	TOWNSHIP Surplus (Deficiency) <sup>3</sup>	OVERALL Surplus (Deficiency) <sup>4</sup>
<b>Baseball/ Softball</b>	1/5,000	4	4 <sup>5</sup>	54 <sup>6</sup>	58	(0)	54
<b>Basketball</b>	1/5,000	4	2	10 <sup>7</sup>	12	(2)	8
<b>Football</b>	1/20,000	1	0	1	1	(1)	0
<b>Golf Course 9 Hole</b>	1/25,000	1	0	2 <sup>8</sup>	2	(2)	1
<b>Golf Course 18 Hole</b>	1/50,000	1	0	7 <sup>9</sup>	7	(1)	6
<b>Ice Rink</b>	1/50,000	1	0	4 <sup>10</sup>	4	(1)	3
<b>Playground</b>	1/3,000	7	3	11 <sup>11</sup>	14	(4)	7
<b>Running Track</b>	1/20,000	1	0	3 <sup>12</sup>	3	(1)	2
<b>Soccer</b>	1/10,000	2	1	17 <sup>13</sup>	18	(1)	16
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	1/20,000	1	0	3 <sup>14</sup>	3	(1)	2
<b>Tennis</b>	1/2,000	11	2	23 <sup>15</sup>	25	(9)	14
<b>Trails</b>	1 system/ region	1	4 <sup>16</sup>	11 <sup>17</sup>	15	3	14
<b>Volleyball</b>	1/5,000	4	0	5	5	(4)	1

<sup>1</sup> Source: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983.;

Mertes, J.D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 2010 U.S. Census estimate of 21,700.

<sup>3</sup> Based on facilities located in Oshtemo Township.

<sup>4</sup> Based on facilities located in Oshtemo Township and local facilities adjacent to Oshtemo Township.

<sup>5</sup> Includes wiffleball fields.

<sup>6</sup> Baseball/Softball: Alamo Township Park, Gobles Sports Fields, Kindleberger Park, Mattawan Little League Fields, Mayor's Waterfront Park, Oakland Drive Park Stroud Family Park, Westfield Park, West Portage Little League Complex.

<sup>7</sup> Basketball: Harbors West Park, Haverhill Park, Mayor's Waterfront Park, Oakland Drive Park, Texas Drive Park, Westfield Park.

<sup>8</sup> 9 Hole Courses: Red Arrow, Grand Prairie.

<sup>9</sup> 18 Hole Courses: Thornapple Creek Heritage Glen, Crestview, The Prairies and Milham Park, Ridgeview, Shamrock Hills.

<sup>10</sup> Ice Rink: Kalamazoo Sportsplex, Western Michigan Univ., Millennium Park (outdoor).

<sup>11</sup> Playgrounds: Alamo Township Park, Stroud Family Park, Texas Drive Park, Frays Park, Knollwood Park, Westfield Park, Harbors West Park, Haverhill Park, Oakland Drive Park, Kindleberger Park.

<sup>12</sup> Running Tracks: Frays Park, Bronson Athletic Club, West Hills Athletic Club

<sup>13</sup> Soccer: Gobles Sports Fields, Knollwood Park, Mayor's Waterfront Park, Oakland Drive Park, Texas Drive Park, Westfield Park, Kalamazoo Community Soccer Complex.

<sup>14</sup> Swimming Pools: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Sportsplex, Bronson Athletic Club,

<sup>15</sup> Tennis: Stroud Family Park, Frays Park, Knollwood Park, Westfield Park, Haverhill Park, Oakland Drive Park, Kindleberger Park, West Hills Athletic Club .

<sup>16</sup> Township Trails: Flesher Field, Oshtemo Township Park, Kal-Haven Trail State Park, Lillian Anderson Arboretum.

<sup>17</sup> Local Trails: Al Sabo Land Preserve, Alamo Township Park, Bicentennial Park/Celery Flats, Harbors West Park, Haverhill Park, Kindleberger Park, Knollwood Park, Mayor's Waterfront Park, Oakland Drive Park, Texas Drive Park.

### **Athletic Fields (Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Football, Running Tracks)**

The different types of athletic fields are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need.

- **Baseball/Softball Fields.** The Township's fields include one baseball field and three wiffleball fields. We have included wiffleball fields with this category although they are not specified in the national guideline. The analysis of these fields in the Township indicates that the recommended facilities are provided, with a significant surplus of 54 fields when all local facilities are taken into account. A majority of the area fields listed are located in Portage, Alamo Township, Kalamazoo Township, Parchment, and Mattawan. Despite the surplus with the adjacent area facilities, there may be a need to provide additional fields within the Township's boundaries. An active wiffleball league holds frequent games and tournaments on the three wiffleball fields in the Township. This is unique to the region as there are few other facilities available for wiffleball leagues and contests. The future demand for and use of all of these fields should be explored because there may be a need for non-competitive recreational fields though the need for competitive fields is being met by other facilities.
- **Soccer Fields.** According to the national guidelines, there is a deficiency of one field in the Township but a surplus of 16 fields when including all facilities in the area. The reality of the numbers is that there has been a considerable increase in the number of youth and adults participating in soccer, which has resulted in a large demand for practice and game fields. Soccer fields are also used for other sports' practices and games, such as lacrosse, flag football, and ultimate frisbee. If the demand continues to increase and the need arises, the Township should consider the development of additional fields. The Township should also examine the current usage of area soccer fields by soccer and other user groups, such as football or lacrosse, as this may put strain on existing and future fields or indicate the need for additional facilities. The development of multi-use fields that can be used for soccer may be the best alternative.
- **Football Fields.** There is a deficiency of one football field based on the Township's population. However, football facilities are available at the area high schools as well as the universities and the City of Kalamazoo's Mayor's Riverfront Park. Although many of these are not available for public use, it can be assumed that the provision of football facilities is currently being met by these facilities. At this time there does not appear to be a need for additional football fields.

- **Running Tracks.** There are three running tracks in the area, including one outdoor track at a City of Kalamazoo park, plus several other indoor and outdoor tracks available at the various athletic centers, schools and campuses throughout the area. Despite the noted deficiency of one track for the Township, it appears that this need is being met at this time.

### **Court Sports (Basketball/Gymnasiums, Tennis, Volleyball)**

The different types of courts are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need.

- **Basketball Courts/Gymnasiums.** Basketball courts and gymnasiums are typically heavily used. Outdoor and indoor courts are popular in most communities and gym time can be scarce given the weather conditions in the area. There is a deficiency of two courts in the Township and an overall surplus of eight courts. It should be noted that school facilities were not included in the analysis, so the surplus can be assumed to be higher. However, the Township should explore providing additional outdoor courts when improving existing or developing new parks and the inclusion of basketball courts/gymnasiums if construction of indoor facilities is considered in the future.
- **Tennis Courts.** There is a deficiency of nine tennis courts in the Township and a surplus of fourteen when including the surrounding area. Tennis courts constructed in Township Park in 2011 are heavily used, so the Township should consider constructing additional tennis courts at existing parks or include them in future parks.
- **Volleyball Courts.** The need for indoor and outdoor volleyball courts is currently not being met according to the national guideline for the Township. Including the surrounding area, there is a surplus of one court. Considering gymnasiums in schools that are used for organized volleyball, this surplus may be even greater. There does not appear to be a need for additional volleyball courts in the Township at this time.

### **Ice Rinks**

The national guideline reveals that there is a need for one ice rink in the Township but a surplus of three rinks when including the surrounding area, those being the Kalamazoo Sportsplex facility, which contains two rinks, and Lawson Ice Arena at Western Michigan University. The City of Portage maintains an outdoor skating rink at Millennium Park. The popularity of skating continues to rise, but users frequently travel to neighboring communities to participate in their clubs and on their teams. At this time there does not appear a need for the Township to explore an indoor ice rink given the significant resources necessary to construct and maintain such a facility, as well as the existing facilities in the area. However, the Township should consider an outdoor ice rink at either an existing facility or in the development of the two undeveloped properties.

### **Playgrounds**

Currently a majority of the playgrounds are located in adjacent communities, and there is a deficiency of four in the Township according to the national guideline. One of the existing Township playgrounds was recently updated, and the other two existing facilities should be updated and new ones constructed at new facilities as they develop. The playgrounds should be ADA accessible and be located throughout the Township in close proximity to residential areas to better serve the entire population.

**Swimming Pools**

Based on the guidelines, the Township is in need of one swimming pool. However, there is a surplus of two pools in the surrounding area. Pools are a large capital expense for construction and maintenance, but could be a potential project when funds become available.

**Golf Courses**

Two golf courses exist within Township boundaries, and seven additional courses exist in the surrounding area, though none are Township-owned. The national guideline indicates there is a surplus of one 9-hole course and six 18-hole courses when including the surrounding area. It appears there is an adequate number of golf courses at this time, and there is no need for the Township to pursue additional golf course facilities.

**Trails**

The Township and surrounding area are fortunate to have a number of trail systems, including regional systems. The Township is committed to continue to expand the existing trails and to increase non-motorized connectivity throughout the Township. The Township should continue their efforts with non-motorized trails and pathways and coordinate with surrounding communities to further enhance all of the systems.

**Passive Recreation**

It is important that the Township provide opportunities for passive recreation and un-programmed activities such as picnicking or nature observation. When developing and improving parks, provision of picnic areas, benches, open spaces, and other amenities that further enhance passive recreation opportunities should be a priority.

**Sledding**

A lack of public sledding hills in the Township was raised by a resident during the public comment period. The Township recognizes the need to provide opportunities for outdoor activities in winter, and sledding is a popular activity for youth in the area. When developing and improving parks, provision of a sledding hill and other winter activities should be considered.

# Chapter 5

## Action Plan

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By using a comprehensive planning process, Oshtemo Township has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Township's parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

A complementary component of the Action Plan is the Capital Improvement Plan. Action strategies that may require significant capital investment from the community have been organized into a five-year plan. The specific projects have been prioritized in the Capital Improvement Plan in order to better manage the parks and recreation budget and distribute the projects over a five-year cycle. The timing of these projects may be influenced, moved, or eliminated depending upon economic conditions, available funding, and/or grant awards. However, the spirit and intent of the project priorities are well defined in the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Action Plan is organized into three sections:

- Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives
- System Wide Recommendations
- Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

### **Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives**

To provide a guideline for decision making, Oshtemo Township has developed a list of goals and objectives based on the results of the previously described analysis and public input. The following goals and objectives are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation in the Township. These goals and objectives should be reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

#### **Goal #1: Non-Motorized Connectivity – Improve non-motorized connectivity in the Township.**

##### **Objectives:**

- Identify and pursue funding for additional sidewalks, trails, and pathways.
- Provide connections to parks, neighborhoods, schools, and major areas of activity through neighborhood greenways or bicycle and pedestrian focused corridors.
- Coordinate non-motorized planning with neighboring communities.
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle paths that are separate from the vehicular routes where possible. Utilize natural features areas as greenway connections where possible.
- Create a multi-purpose pathway crossing over US-131 at M-43 (West Main Street) and at Stadium Drive.
- Create a multi-purpose pathway connecting the Oshtemo Village District to West Main Street and to the Kal-Haven Trailhead.

- Create a neighborhood greenway as an east-west corridor connecting neighborhoods, parks, and businesses, as an alternative to using Stadium Drive.
- Continue to work toward implementation of the Township’s Non-Motorized Facilities Plan.

**Goal #2: Existing Facilities Maintenance and Improvement – Continue to maintain and improve existing parks and recreation facilities.**

**Objectives:**

- Provide continuous improvements to Oshtemo Township Park and Flesher Field.
- Make improvements to the disc golf course at Township Park, which is heavily used throughout the year and showing signs of deterioration.
- Improve the Grange Hall so that it is accessible to all segments of the community. Include upgrades to the playground facilities to better meet the needs of the neighborhood.
- Identify and provide funding for annual improvements to Township facilities that maintain or exceed current levels.
- Adhere to high standards of maintenance, recognizing that beautiful, well maintained parks and recreation facilities are a source of pride for the Township and reflect our community’s priorities to protect natural features and improve quality of life.
- Continue to improve safety and accessibility at parks.
- Explore opportunities for preventive maintenance and for reducing long term maintenance requirements of parks and recreation facilities through strategic planning and improvements such as reducing mowed areas.
- Explore opportunities for the “greening” of the parks and facilities through improvements such as field maintenance, reestablishment of native plantings, stormwater improvements, lighting upgrades, and energy audits.
- Encourage greater volunteer participation in maintenance activities, particularly in regards to care and maintenance of flower beds and planting areas.

**Goal #3: Maximize and Expand Use of Facilities – Fully develop and utilize parks and recreation facilities based on the multiple-use concept, whereby a variety of active and passive opportunities are provided in each park.**

**Objectives:**

- Include a broad range of facilities within each park where feasible.
- Develop park sites to their optimal use in consideration of changing community needs and resource limitations.
- Develop amenities in park facilities to include those identified by the Township as well as by residents through the public input process.
- Maintain a logical balance between active and passive pursuits in the parks.
- Increase the recreation opportunities available at the Drake Farmstead while respecting the integrity of the historic landmark.
- Build on the successful relationship with the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library by continuing to partner on projects and programs made possible by the library’s close proximity to Township Park.
- Seek additional collaborative relationships for the shared use, maintenance, and operation of the Township’s park and recreation facilities.

**Goal #4: Establish Parks and Recreation Facilities at Existing Undeveloped Sites.****Objectives:**

- Determine how best to utilize the KL Landfill and Stadium Park Way Park properties as recreational assets and develop plans to implement those ideas.
- Develop amenities in park facilities to include those identified by the Township as well as by residents through the public input process.
- Coordinate with Kalamazoo County and the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy to partner on long range planning for their KL Avenue properties, both of which are near the KL Landfill property.

**Goal #5: Park Land Acquisition and Development – Explore opportunities and provide funding for park site and land acquisition.****Objectives:**

- Increase recreation opportunities in the Oshtemo Village District by acquiring and developing land for a pocket park.
- Acquire park land in areas and for populations underserved by current facilities.
- Incorporate amenities and facilities missing in the Township or identified as a priority in the parks.
- Consider acquisition, development rights, or easements to protect sensitive environmental lands and natural resources with environmental importance or scenic beauty and to create recreational non-motorized corridors.
- Consider establishment of a green corridor to connect Township Park and the adjacent Lillian Anderson Arboretum with land on KL Avenue owned by Kalamazoo County, Oshtemo Township, and the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.
- Explore partnerships with other governmental entities to develop parks and recreation facilities.

**Goal #6: Serve All Populations with Parks and Recreation – Provide a range of parks and recreation facilities to meet the leisure needs of all segments of the population.****Objectives:**

- As the Township continues to develop, provide for future park development and more uniform distribution of facilities, in terms of both geography and population.
- Develop facilities to meet the physical needs and ability levels of all park users.
- Provide facilities for park users of all ages.

**Goal #7: Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources – Protect natural and cultural features, such as wooded areas, wetlands, wildlife habitat, natural drainage ways, and historic structures and facilities.****Objectives:**

- Identify important and recognized natural features and open spaces in the Township.
- Preserve natural features within park sites to the maximum extent feasible, in consideration of the proposed multiple-use character of the Township's parks.

- Develop programs and utilize sites in a manner that results in a greater appreciation of the Township's natural resources.
- Incorporate natural and historic resource protection, including protection of groundwater recharge areas, into the parks and recreation program whenever the opportunity presents itself.
- Identify funding for upgrades and maintenance of historic facilities in the Township.
- Restore and preserve the natural areas of the Township's parks to improve habitat, prevent the spread of invasive species, and increase the enjoyment of park users.
- Conduct a Natural Features Inventory to identify high priority sensitive areas and green corridor networks that will allow for the movement of plants, animals and people.

**Goal #8: Funding – Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system.**

**Objectives:**

- Pursue all available funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance, including local sources, the Township endowment, a parks and recreation millage, state and federal grant programs, local businesses, and other sources.
- Explore opportunities for greater private sector participation in the provision of recreation and leisure services in the Township.
- Coordinate efforts with local interest groups and recreation providers and create partnerships for providing these resources.
- Develop long-range projections of costs and revenues as a management tool.
- Continue to build the Oshtemo Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund.
- Support the efforts of the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks, a non-profit organization created by the Township Board of Trustees to encourage volunteerism and philanthropy for the parks.

**Goal #9: Planning – Maintain an ongoing parks and recreation planning process.**

**Objectives:**

- Review and update the parks and recreation plan, particularly the five-year capital improvement plan, annually.
- Provide for citizen input in recreation planning and decision-making.
- Encourage input from children and families when designing playgrounds and other youth-oriented recreation facilities.

## **System Wide Recommendations**

In addition to capital investments into programs and facilities, Oshtemo Township must also evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The following are system wide recommendations that should be evaluated annually and used in the long-range planning of parks and recreation.

- **Non-Motorized Connections.** Oshtemo Township is committed to providing non-motorized connections with pedestrian and bicycle pathways and expanding the existing trail systems. The development of more connections is a high priority to residents in the

Township as well, as indicated through the public input process. The Township should continue to develop connections, particularly linking the parks, neighborhoods, and Township facilities, as well as major activity areas.

- **Barrier-Free Accessibility.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier-free accessibility at all public facilities. It is important to provide access to Township facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents may enjoy them. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier-free accessibility including proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access.
- **Continued Public Involvement.** The Township should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and recreation facilities. This can be accomplished with focus groups, public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at Township events. Another opportunity for public involvement would be to encourage volunteer participation in projects and programs through the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks.
- **Acquisition of Park Land.** New opportunities to acquire or set aside additional sensitive or recreational land areas should be explored. Priority should be placed on portions of the Township furthest from existing park facilities as well as areas near significant residential development. Along with the acquisition of land in environmentally sensitive or outlying areas of the Township, smaller parks should be created throughout Oshtemo to better serve the population centers of the Township. The smaller parks could be created as development in the Township occurs.

## Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. *Table 5.1 – Five Year Capital Improvement Plan* incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes. The funding source for all of the proposed projects and expenditures is included in the table as well.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2013 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

<b>TABLE 5.1 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Facility/Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>
<b>Year 1: 2014</b>			
2014	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 15,000	TF
2014	Natural Features Corridor Planning	\$ 2,000	TF
2014	Drake Farmstead Master Plan	\$ 10,000	TF
2014	Land acquisition – Drake Farmstead property	\$ 35,000	TF
2014	Drake House Improvements	\$ 28,000	TF, PD
2014	Flesher Field Phase II Improvements	\$455,000	TF, G
2014	Disc Golf Maintenance at Township Park	\$ 7,500	TF, RP
2014	Kal-Haven Trail to West Main Street- Trail Design	\$ 10,000	TF
2014	Grange Hall Contract Documents	\$ 25,000	TF
<b>Year 1 Total</b>		<b>\$587,500</b>	
<b>Year 2: 2015</b>			
2015	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 15,000	TF
2015	Land acquisition – Drake Farmstead property	\$ 35,000	TF
2015	Drake House Improvements	\$ 28,000	TF, PD
2015	Land acquisition/easement – greenway corridor	\$ 25,000	TF, G, PD
2015	Grange Hall playground	\$ 25,000	TF, G
2015	Township Park interpretive signage	\$ 15,000	TF, G, RP
2015	Grange Hall Improvements	\$250,000	TF, G, PD
<b>Year 2 Total</b>		<b>\$393,000</b>	
<b>Year 3: 2016</b>			
2016	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 15,000	TF
2016	Township Park Natural Area Restoration Plan	\$ 5,000	TF
2016	Land acquisition/easement – greenway corridor	\$ 25,000	TF
2016	Oshtemo Village pocket park master plan	\$ 10,000	TF
2016	Oshtemo Village pocket park development	\$500,000	TF, G, PD
2016	Drake House Improvements	\$ 28,000	TF, PD
2016	Flesher Field Phase III Improvements	\$400,000	TF, G
<b>Year 3 Total</b>		<b>\$983,000</b>	
<b>Year 4: 2017</b>			
2017	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$ 15,000	TF
2017	Stadium Parkway Park Master Plan	\$ 5,000	TF
2017	Drake House Improvements	\$ 28,000	TF, PD
2017	Land acquisition/easement – greenway corridor	\$ 25,000	TF
2017	Kal-Haven Trailhead to West Main St. Trail Development	\$500,000	TF, G, PD
2017	East West Corridor Trail Design	\$ 10,000	TF
<b>Year 4 Total</b>		<b>\$583,000</b>	

<b>Year 5: 2018</b>			
2018	Park Equipment and Improvements	\$15,000	TF
2018	Drake Farmstead Improvements	\$500,000	TF, G, PD
2018	East West Corridor land acquisition/easement	\$20,000	TF, G, PD
<b>Year 5 Total</b>		<b>\$535,000</b>	
<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>			
<b>TF</b>	Township Funds		
<b>G</b>	Grants		
<b>PD</b>	Private Donations		
<b>RP</b>	Recreation / Education Partner		

<sup>1</sup>Cost figures represent conservative, best estimates based on current visions and design goals. As projects are considered for development and potential funding, more detailed plans will be developed with accurate cost estimates to ensure adequate funding is available. The estimates shown above are to be used for general planning purposes only.

<sup>2</sup>Recreation / Education Partners are the entities and organizations responsible for providing the recreational and educational programming and activities in Oshtemo Township.

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# Appendix A

## Public Meeting Summary

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Two public meetings were held to gather information for the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The meetings were held on the evening of June 18, 2013 and the afternoon of June 24, 2013 in the new pavilion at Township Park, next to the playground. The meetings were well advertised with an article in the Township newsletter, flyers posted in the park, a press release to the local newspaper, and e-mail correspondence sent to Township staff and Board members, neighborhood associations, recreation groups, and residents that had expressed an interest in the process. Thirteen adults and approximately eight children attended the first meeting and nine adults and approximately 10 children attended the second. Although the groups may not have been as large as desired, their contributions to the process were still significant.

The meetings were conducted by Township staff and started with an overview of the parks and recreation planning process. A summary of the Township's efforts and accomplishments related to park improvements followed. Adult participants were then asked for their feedback on four topics:

- Recent and proposed improvements to Township Park and Flesher Field
- The Drake Farmstead and the Grange Hall, recreation facilities owned by the Township with improvements desired in the future
- Non-motorized connections
- Any other park and recreation-related comments or suggestions.

Children were encouraged to attend the meeting as well. They gathered around a picnic table outside the pavilion and were given the opportunity to use sticky dots to "vote" for the play equipment they liked best as pictured on a poster board. They also had the opportunity to draw a picture of their favorite things to do at the park and to design a park for their friends, family and neighbors.

Everyone who participated got fully engaged in these discussions and made some terrific suggestions. Below, we list all of the comments and ideas that were generated through this process at the two events.

### **Township Park**

- Improvements are terrific. We love the park, the dog fountain.
- Thank you for a wonderful, fun park!
- Love the play equipment and trails.
- Playground is good, like the multiple facilities, levels of play, climbing stuff, universal design.
- Playground area could use more benches.
- Hard to keep track of kids at playground. Woods are close by, a security concern.
- Like the loop trails. Small kids like to bike them.
- A trail map is needed– wooded area is confusing.
- Wooded area needs to be cleaned up – overhanging branches, trash, etc.
- Consider adding Braille to signage.
- Happy with the increased use of the park throughout the day.

- Disc golf is very popular, it attracts many park users.
- The pavilion is reserved every weekend in June.
- Trees, shade and natural look of the park is good.
- Very dark in the park at night, as experienced during the movies in the park. Should solar lights or other low key lighting be added, or would that attract users to the park when it is closed?
- Some of the new trees that were planted last summer did not survive and should be replaced.
- Fencing is needed between the basketball courts and driveway to keep kids/balls safe.
- Water drains onto the floor of the pavilions. Be sure to avoid this in future improvements at Flesher Field.
- Disc golf leagues would like to see improvements made to the course. There is erosion that needs to be stabilized in various places. Retaining walls may be needed.
- The level of maintenance required should be considered for everything that we do in the parks, especially planting beds that require weeding.
- Need a volunteer coordinator to build a base of volunteers for parks.

### **Flesher Field**

- More trees, shade needed near playground.
- Add a splash/spray park for kids to splash in. This is especially important since we don't have a local water park. (Several expressed support of this concept!)
- All future improvements should be low maintenance.
- Will the pavilion be reservable after the improvements are complete?
- Can the existing playground equipment be reused?

### **Drake Farmstead**

- Existing barn is unsafe and needs to be demolished.
- There are some things that can be salvaged from the barn before it is demolished.
- Entry drive needs to be cleaned up, trees trimmed.
- In the long term, the barn should be replaced to restore the look of the farmstead.
- The new barn could include accessible restrooms, meeting space, and office space. This would allow the house to be a house.
- House and barn could be rented for functions.
- Ten acre parcel that was purchased from K College provides flexibility in parking, possible uses of the property. It needs cleanup work but could have a nice trail system.
- A sign is needed to identify the property. Should be consistent with other Township park signs.
- Drake Farmstead should be integrated with the rest of the Township's parks.
- Acquire acreage to the north to have a buffer and more open space, create a green oasis surrounded by commercial uses.
- It needs to become more well known in the community so that people value it.

### **Grange Hall**

- Existing swings and basketball court are used throughout the day.
- Building is pretty well used. Would be used more if accessible. Would also be a good polling location if it was accessible.
- Could be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Need \$250,000 for improvements.

- It needs to be promoted more, become well known in the community. Many residents aren't aware of it.
- A general rental issue: the community center is rented by one group every Sunday, which makes it difficult for others to use it.
- Community center could possibly be used for a winter farmers market.

### **Non-Motorized Trails**

- A trail or sidewalk is needed along KL from Drake to 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- A greenway corridor should be considered to connect Township Park and the Lillian Anderson Arboretum with the County, Township, and South West Michigan Land Conservancy properties on KL Avenue.
- Problem with people driving on the trails. Bollards need to be added to block access.
- More, more, more trails needed around/to town!
- Keep as many trees and natural grasses as possible when creating trails.

### **Other**

- A skate park is needed in the Township.
- A pool, with or without a fitness center, is needed in the Township. Would attract the growing senior population.
- Sidewalks needed along Stadium west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Consider developing a master plan for the Stadium Parkway Park property.
- Small park is needed in the Westport area. There are no parks in the neighborhood.
- Look to Holland Township's trail system. How was it implemented?

### **Kids Vote on future Flesher Field play equipment**

- Geodesic ball climbing structure – 16 dots
- Tire swing – 13 dots
- Four person twirler – 11 dots
- Skateboard on two springs – 10 dots
- Old fashioned merry go round – 9 dots
- Big tunnel slide – 9 dots
- Space age climbing thing - 6
- Firetruck, bulldozer, and school bus pretend play climbers – 4 dots each
- Basic swing, double slide, rock climbing wall – 3 dots each
- Three person thing on two springs, one person spinner, twisty slide – 2 votes each
- Duck on a spring – 1 vote

## Public Meeting on Oshtemo Township Parks

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Oshtemo Township Park Pavilion

### Speakers Agenda

**7:00 Welcome**

**Greg Milliken**

- Open the meeting, thank people for coming, explain that we are updating our 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan and asking for their feedback on park issues.
- We will try to keep the meeting to an hour. Staff will be available after the meeting if anyone has questions or issues they would like to discuss in more detail.
- Introduce Township Board members present – Deb Everett, Dave Bushouse, Libby HC, others? Also Roger Taylor as Parks Committee representative.
- Introduce Peggy Warlick and Grace Borgfjord from the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks.

**7:05 Friends of the Parks**

**Peggy Warlick/Grace Borgfjord**

- Briefly describe the mission and accomplishments of the Friends of the Parks. Let people know that they can request to be added to the FOP mailing list in order to receive notice of volunteer opportunities and fun activities in the parks.

**7:10 Input session**

**Karen High**

- To guide the input portion of our meeting, flip chart sheets have the following titles:
  - Township Park and Flesher Field
  - Drake House and Grange Hall, two historic properties owned by the Township
  - Non-motorized connections, like a trail connection to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail/Kal-Haven Trailhead, other non-motorized trails
  - Any other comments, park or recreation facilities needed?
- Discussion item #1 - Open the meeting to comments on Township Park and Flesher Field: what do you like best about our accomplishments so far, what are you looking forward to once Flesher Field is upgraded, what should we do differently next time, etc.
- Discussion item #2 - Open the meeting to comments on the Drake House and Grange Hall: How would you like to use these historic community resources?
- Discussion item #3 - Open the meeting to comments on trail connections.
- Discussion item #4 - Open the meeting to anything else that we haven't covered. Do you feel that we need additional parks? Recreation facilities, like a skate park for example?

**8:00 Adjourn**

# Public Meetings on Oshtemo Township's Parks



**When:** Tuesday, June 18 at 7 pm and  
Monday, June 24 at 4 pm

**Where:** Oshtemo Township Park Pavilion  
behind Township Hall, 7275 West Main  
*(In case of bad weather, meetings will be held  
in the Township Hall Meeting Room.)*

**We'd like your feedback on parks!**

Please plan to attend one of our upcoming public meetings to let us know what you like most about Oshtemo Township Park, what we can improve on as we make upgrades to Flesher Field and other Township properties like the Drake House and the Grange Hall, possible future projects like a trail connection to the Kal-Haven Trail, and more.

**Kids are invited too!** We want to hear what they like about our parks and playgrounds.

**Questions?** Contact Karen High,  
Oshtemo Township Parks Administrator, at 216-5223

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 7, 2013**

**Celebrating Oshtemo Parks Successes, Planning For Future Improvements**

Judging by the number of kids on the new playground each day, word is out about the recent upgrades to Oshtemo Township Park. Tennis, pickleball, and basketball players have also discovered the new facilities at Township Park, and families and school groups are filling both picnic pavilions. Add in the disc golf and wiffleball league players, and Township Park is bustling! At Flesher Field, construction will begin after Labor Day on a newly configured parking lot, restroom building, and 0.17 mile paved loop trail. Improvements at both parks were made possible with grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Grant funding is currently being sought for a second phase of improvements at Flesher Field, including a new playground, picnic shelter, garden area with a gazebo, and relocation of two wiffleball fields.

Township officials are thrilled with the positive response to their investment at Oshtemo Township Park and anticipate a similar response when the upgrades to Flesher Field are complete. Feedback on these improvements, as well as input on future park projects, is being sought at two public meetings. Future park projects to be discussed will include a paved trail to connect Oshtemo Township neighborhoods with the Kal-Haven Trail, upgrades to Township-owned historic properties (the Drake House and Grange Hall), plus identification of other park needs. Kids are invited to join the conversation and to provide feedback on the types of play equipment they most enjoy.

Public meetings will be held on **Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** and on **Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** Both meetings will be held in the Township Park Pavilion, located behind the Oshtemo Township Hall at 7275 West Main Street. In case of bad weather, meetings will be moved to the Oshtemo Township Hall meeting room. The format of both meetings will be the same. For more information, please contact Karen High, Oshtemo Township Parks Administrator, at (269) 216-5223.

XXX

Contact: Karen High, Oshtemo Township Parks Administrator  
(269) 216-5223 or [khoshtwp@oshtemo.org](mailto:khoshtwp@oshtemo.org)

# Appendix B

## Funding Sources

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### Funding Sources

The recreation improvements proposed in the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan can be financed with a combination of resources. There are several potential funding sources available for parks and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades. In addition to the general fund, other potential sources of funding are described below.

#### Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects or to operate recreation facilities. A millage is an effective way to divide costs over time among all of the taxpayers in the Township to provide matching grant funds or finance entire projects. A millage allows more flexibility with how the money is allocated than with a bond.

#### User Fees

The Township can charge reasonable fees to the users of specific recreation facilities and for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park and recreation facilities and programs. Other Michigan communities have established user fees for the use of swimming pools, tennis courts, lighted athletic fields, and indoor facilities.

#### Recreation Bond

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. *General Obligation Bonds* are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. *Revenue Bonds* are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenue. The bonds are then retired by using income generated by the project.

#### Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The State of Michigan offers three grant programs that can assist with acquisition and/or development of park land, and a fourth grant program targeted toward community forestry activities that can be used on park land.

##### Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

MNRTF provides funding assistance for the public acquisition of land for recreation or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty. A limited amount of funding may be used for the development of public outdoor recreation facilities. This fund is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. The development grants are between \$15,000 and \$300,000 and there is no limit on the amount for acquisition projects because they depend upon the value of the property. A local minimum match of 25% is required for all projects. This grant is generally utilized for implementing large park projects and land acquisition. Applications must be postmarked by April 1<sup>st</sup> for both acquisition and development projects.

Each year the Trust Fund Board of Trustees decides on priority project types which will receive emphasize for funding. Those for 2013 include:

1. Trails (including water trails)
2. Wildlife/Ecological Corridors and Winter Deeryard (acquisition only)
3. Projects Within an Urban Area

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for public outdoor recreation. This fund is directed at community recreation and trailway improvements that preserve natural resources. The grants are a minimum of \$30,000 and a maximum of \$75,000 with a local match of 50% required for all projects. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and a fourth criterion based on the type of proposed project. Applications are due March 1<sup>st</sup> for grants.

#### **Recreation Passport Grant**

Money for this fund is derived from a portion of the sale of the Recreation Passport, which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit – or window sticker – for state park entrance. This grant program funds local development projects. Renovating and improving existing parks is the focus of the grant, but the development of new parks is eligible. Grants can range from a minimum of \$7,500 to a maximum of \$45,000. A 25% minimum match is required. The application deadline is April 1.

#### **Community Forestry Program**

This program is designed to provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forestry activities, management plans, inventories, planting and other maintenance activities. Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources are looked upon highly. Applications are due each summer with maximum grant requests of \$20,000.

#### **Conservation Easements**

A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique can also be used to preserve open space if it is not feasible or practical for the Township to acquire the land. Rather than obtaining fee simple, or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an easement to the property.

#### **Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships**

Reduced funding for the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands. The Township could consider creating or modifying the fee structure for the use of Township parks and facilities. The fees could be utilized for facility development, maintenance and upgrades, and/or programming. The fees would ensure continued high quality parks and facilities for Township residents.

#### **Donations**

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the

donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

**Foundations**

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

**Endowment Fund**

As described in *Chapter 2, Administrative Structure and Funding*, the Oshtemo Charter Township Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund is housed at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The fund provides an opportunity for community members, businesses, and other interested parties to contribute to park and recreation priorities. Distributions of money must be approved by the Township Board. As an endowment fund, the earnings of the fund, and not the principal, are available for spending. The fund represents a new, independent revenue source specifically for Parks and Recreation in the Township. Since it was established, all earnings have been reinvested in the fund in order to build for the long term growth and maintenance of the parks system. It has grown to \$212,000. Donations can be made to the Endowment Fund by visiting [www.kalfound.org](http://www.kalfound.org).

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# Appendix C

## Resolution of Approval

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Recommending Adoption of the  
Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018**

**December 5, 2013**

WHEREAS, Oshtemo Charter Township has established a Parks Committee to review park facilities and operations within the Township and make recommendations to the Township Board on park matters; and

WHEREAS, Oshtemo Charter Township has the authority, pursuant to the Charter Township Act, specifically MCL 42.14, to maintain and operate public parks and their facilities and to exercise the powers and functions both expressed and implied by the grant of such authority including the development of recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board directed its Planning Department and Parks Committee to work with Staff to develop a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after undertaking a thorough process of inventory, analysis and public input, the Parks Committee has prepared a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 for Oshtemo Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Committee has provided for extensive public input of the same and is recommending the adoption of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 to the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Township has, pursuant to state guidelines, made the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 available for public review, both at the Township Hall and on the Township's website commencing October 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Township published the Notice of 30-day Public Review Period and Public Hearing on October 1, 2013, and December 3, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Committee has reviewed the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Parks Committee recommends to the Township Board the adoption of the Charter Township of Oshtemo Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018.

A motion was made by Deborah Everett, seconded by Elizabeth Heiny-Cogswell, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye":

Roger Taylor, Deborah Everett and Elizabeth Heiny-Cogswell

The following voted "Nay": None

The following "Abstained": None

The Parks Committee Chair declared that the Resolution has been adopted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGER TAYLOR, Chair  
Parks Committee

\*\*\*\*\*

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Excerpt of the Minutes of a meeting of the Oshtemo Charter Township Parks Committee, held on December 5, 2013, at which meeting three members were present and voted upon the same as indicated in said Minutes; that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KAREN J. HIGH, Parks Administrator

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Adopting Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018**

**December 10, 2013**

WHEREAS, Oshtemo Charter Township has the authority, pursuant to the Charter Township Act, specifically MCL 42.14, to maintain and operate public parks and their facilities and to exercise the powers and functions both expressed and implied by the grant of such authority including the development of recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board directed its Planning Department and Parks Committee to work with Staff to develop a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after undertaking a thorough process of inventory, analysis and public input, the Parks Committee has prepared a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 for Oshtemo Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Committee has provided for extensive public input of the same and is recommending the adoption of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 to the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Township has, pursuant to state guidelines, made the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 available for public review, both at the Township Hall and on the Township's website commencing October 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Township published the Notice of 30-day Public Review Period and Public Hearing on October 1, 2013, and December 3, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board has sought and received public affirmation at the public hearing of December 10, 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Oshtemo Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 is hereby adopted and shall remain in effect until further amended by the Township.

A motion was made by Deborah Everett, seconded by Lee Larson, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye":

Elizabeth Heiny-Cogswell, Deborah Everett, Nancy Culp,  
Dave Bushouse, Lee Larson and Dusty Farmer

The following voted "Nay": Nancy Carr

The following "Abstained": None

The Supervisor declared that the Resolution has been adopted.

Deborah L. Everett  
DEBORAH L. EVERETT, Clerk  
Oshtemo Charter Township

\*\*\*\*\*

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Excerpt of the Minutes of a meeting of the Oshtemo Charter Township Board, held on December 10, 2013, at which meeting all members were present and voted upon the same as indicated in said Minutes; that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

Deborah L. Everett  
DEBORAH L. EVERETT, Township Clerk

# Appendix D Notices and Meeting Minutes

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
County of Kalamazoo

ss. Deja McMenam

Being duly sworn deposes and say he/she is Principal Clerk of

**m** **THE KALAMAZOO GAZETTE**  
DAILY EDITION

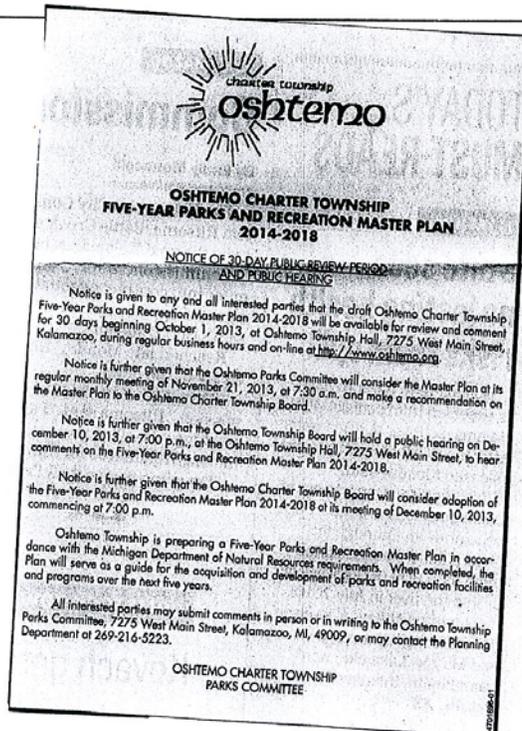
a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Kalamazoo and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day(days) \_\_\_\_\_

October 1 A.D. 20 13

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1 day of October 2013

Janice M. Ringler  
JANICE M. RINGLER  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Kent

My Commission Expires: 10/03/2014  
Acting in the County of Kent



STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
County of Kalamazoo

ss: Deja McHenry

Being duly sworn deposes and say he/she is Principal Clerk of



**THE KALAMAZOO GAZETTE**  
DAILY EDITION

a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Kalamazoo and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day(day(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

December 3 A.D. 2013

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of December 2013

Janice M. Ringler  
JANICE M. RINGLER  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Kent  
My Commission Expires: 10/03/2014  
Acting in the County of Spit



**OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
2014-2018**

**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD  
AND PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is given to any and all interested parties that the draft Oshtemo Charter Township Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning October 1, 2013, at Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, during regular business hours and on-line at <http://www.oshtemo.org>.

Notice is further given that the Oshtemo Parks Committee will consider the Master Plan at its regular monthly meeting of November 21, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. and make a recommendation on the Master Plan to the Oshtemo Charter Township Board.

Notice is further given that the Oshtemo Township Board will hold a public hearing on December 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, to hear comments on the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018.

Notice is further given that the Oshtemo Charter Township Board will consider adoption of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 at its meeting of December 10, 2013, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Oshtemo Township is preparing a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the Plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities and programs over the next five years.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to the Oshtemo Township Parks Committee, 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009, or may contact the Planning Department at 269-216-5223.

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PARKS COMMITTEE

**Parks Committee  
Meeting Summary  
December 5, 2013  
9:30 am**

Members present: Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Deb Everett, Roger Taylor.

Others present: Rick Everett, Millard Loy, Karen High, Nelson Nave, Larry Harris.

Roger Taylor called the meeting to order.

**Grange Hall Design Review**

Nelson Nave, Architect, stated that he had developed more detailed plans for the Grange Hall based on comments received at the last Parks Committee meeting. He began his presentation with the lower level and described the scope of work proposed. He indicated that the existing restrooms will need to be gutted, in part due to termite damage in the walls. The new restrooms will each have one toilet, one sink, with a urinal in the Mens restroom. Nelson noted that due to space limitations, it wasn't possible to have a second toilet in the Womens restroom. A cabinet near the restroom will be removed. The Committee requested that a baby changing station be located in each restroom. The existing closet under the stairway will remain but it will be divided and new doors will be added to create two smaller, more functionally sized closets with a coat room. The kitchen area will be rearranged, with the sink reoriented and the counter shifted. The mechanical room will remain unchanged, but the stairway will be rebuilt and drywalled on the bottom. A stoop and concrete sidewalk will be added outside the back door. The existing windows on the lower level will be replaced with vinyl windows, and three new windows will be added on the south side.

Nelson then presented plans for the addition. He stated that the walls would be 12' tall with room for art, banners, or memorabilia, and that the addition will be insulated so it won't require much heat or air conditioning. He suggested including a floor board heater in the stairway, but no air conditioning. The Committee agreed. Nelson described the elevator, which will have 36" wide doors and a capacity of 1400 lbs. It will require a pit, pit ladder, and mechanical room in the lower level. The elevator will need to be inspected annually. Nelson added that the pit may need a sump or oil separator, noting that specific requirements would depend on the manufacturer of the elevator.

In describing the plans for the main level, Nelson noted that the Building Code allows 200 persons upstairs for dancing and 100 persons downstairs for dining. However, parking isn't adequate for 300 people and the current capacity set by the Township is 150. The Committee agreed to continue to use 150 as the capacity. Nelson described the small bathroom proposed on the upper level, which could be bid as an alternate. He noted that a window is proposed to be added on the west side. In a discussion on the stairs to the stage, the Committee recommended that the stairs not extend into the room at all, that they be set into the stage instead, so that the dance floor isn't obstructed. Nelson also noted that a storage area will be removed. No changes are proposed to the ceiling in the upper level, though insulation could be blown into the attic. Libby noted that the room gets very hot during dances and better ventilation would be beneficial. An attic fan was suggested, though there were concerns over the noise generated by attic fans. In a discussion on storage needs, it was suggested that Karen contact the Grange organization and the dance group to ask about their storage needs.

Larry Harris, Landscape Architect, was present to begin a discussion on the site work needed at the Grange. After discussion, the Committee agreed that minimal changes are needed to the parking lot at this time. The basketball court and proposed play ground should remain. The site should be revised to

better accommodate pedestrian access from the church parking lot, which allows shared parking with Grange Hall users as needed, and vice versa. A bioswale or rain garden wrapping around the building is desired to accommodate runoff, though it was noted that the location of the septic system needs to be determined. Uplighting the tree in the right of way was suggested to provide some attractive outdoor lighting during evening events. Additional oak tree planting in the right of way was also suggested. Further changes may be needed in the future if the adjacent parcel is purchased and the fire station is relocated. Larry suggested that he meet with the Township prior to the next Parks Committee meeting to work out more details.

In closing, the Committee requested that color plans for both the site and the building be ready in the first quarter of 2014 for grant writing purposes. They noted that a cost estimate is also needed. Nelson suggested that he contact a contractor for an accurate estimate. He noted that the fee for producing a cost estimate would be approximately \$500, and he offered to pay for half of the fee since he won't have to spend time preparing a cost estimate himself. The Committee agreed.

**Resolution Recommending Adoption of the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Karen presented the resolution recommending the adoption of the Plan to the Township Board. She noted that the Township Board will hold a public hearing and adopt the Plan by resolution on December 10, 2013. After discussion, a motion was made by Deb Everett and seconded by Libby Heiny-Cogswell to adopt the resolution. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted "aye": Roger Taylor, Deb Everett, and Libby Heiny-Cogswell.

**Next meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 16 at 7:30 am.**

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
Township Board Meeting  
December 10, 2013**

Township Board work session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**  
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Clerk Deb Everett  
Treasurer Nancy Culp  
Trustee Dave Bushouse  
Trustee Nancy Carr  
Trustee Dusty Farmer  
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Greg Milliken, and 4 interested people.

**KCSD Activity Report** – Sgt. Todd Meyers was present and provided information on recent KCSD activity in the Township.

**Update – KL Landfill** – Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell and Attorney Porter advised there has been discussion with MDEQ regarding permitting properties located in the Groundwater Restricted Use Zone (GRUZ) to keep wells for irrigation after connecting to municipal water, low levels of 1,4 Diethylene Dioxide have been found on the west side of Van Kal Street and in 2014 the State will be reviewing acceptable levels of the chemical.

**Update – Non-Motorized Facilities** – Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised work continues on the proposed non-motorized facilities on Drake Road, KATS staff will make application on behalf of the Township to the State for funding and another meeting will be held in early 2014 with residents of North Drake Road.

**Discussion – 2013 Community Survey Results** – Julie Pioch, Public Policy Educator for MSU Extension, reviewed the results of the recent community survey.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**  
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Clerk Deb Everett  
Trustee Dave Bushouse  
Treasurer Nancy Culp  
Trustee Nancy Carr  
Trustee Dusty Farmer  
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Greg Milliken, and 4 interested people.

Trustee Carr commented she felt the November 12<sup>th</sup> minutes were not clear that the increase for the Police Protection Special Assessment would be billed on the 2013 winter taxes. Motion by Larson, second by Carr to approve the November 12<sup>th</sup> minutes with the clarification. Carried.

Trustee Carr inquired what grave openings and grave sales on the Receipts & Disbursements Report were and how many occur each year. Clerk Everett advised graves are sold and when a burial is needed, there is an opening/closing charge; approximately 25 per year. Motion by Larson, second by Culp to approve the Receipts & Disbursements Report. Carried.

**2014 PROPERTY & LIABILITY POLICY**

Trustee Carr inquired what the term Inland Marine means in the proposed Property & Liability Policy. Jon Koets from the Ted Hartleb Agency advised it refers to items the Township owns that are used away from Township property, i.e., equipment on fire vehicles. Motion by Everett, second by Larson to approve the 2014 policy in the amount of \$62,266. Carried.

**2013 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

Trustee Carr inquired regarding the budget adjustment for Trustees salaries. Clerk Everett advised it was due to the budgeted amount being more than actual expenditures with the excess being used to balance the line item for payroll taxes where actual expense is more than was budgeted. Motion by Culp, second by Farmer to approve the 2013 budget adjustments.

**BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell provided recommendations for Board/Committee appointments and advised there will be additional recommendations in January.

Board of Review – appoint Kim Bourner as Alternate to fill the term expiring 12/31/2014.

DDA – reappoint Jack Siegel to a 4 year term ending 12/31/2017.  
reappoint Bruce Betzler to a 4 year term ending 12/31/2017.  
appoint Grant Taylor to a 4 year term ending 12/31/2017.

Friends of the Parks – appoint Robb Smalldon to a 2 year term ending 12/31/2015.

Planning Commission – reappoint Millard Loy to a 3 year term ending 12/31/2016.

Public Media Network Representative – appoint Trustee Bushouse as primary and Trustee Carr as alternate.

ZBA - reappoint Cheri Bell to a 3 year term ending 12/31/2016.  
appoint Jim Sterenberg to a 3 year term ending 12/31/2016.  
appoint Bob Anderson as Alternate to a 3 year term ending 12/31/2016.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Farmer to approve the Board and Committee Appointments. Carried.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Paul Ecklund, representing the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority advised he will be attending Township Board meetings periodically to keep the Board apprised of their activities, the system is on goal to reach three million bus route rides and 100,000 county connect rides this year. He also advised there is now an app available for tracking when the next bus will arrive at a particular stop.

**OSHTEMO ROTARY PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR FLESHER FIELD  
UPDATE ON FLESHER FIELD PHASE II GRANT APPLICATION**

Steve Kinney, representing the Oshtemo Rotary Club presented a pledge of \$20,000 to be paid over a five year period to replace the roof on the Rotary Pavilion at Flesher Field. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell thanked the Rotary Club for this current and their past contributions to the parks.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Larson to accept the pledge from the Oshtemo Rotary Club. Carried.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell announced the Township has been awarded a second \$300,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for Phase II improvements at Flesher Field. She noted this is the third MNRTF grant the Township has received in four years.

**UPDATE – 2013 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

Planning Director Milliken reviewed the results of the recent community survey; they will be available on the Township web page.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 5 YEAR PARKS & RECREATION PLAN**

Parks Administrator Karen High advised staff had worked with the Parks Committee, held public hearings and a public comment review period as required to update the Five Year Master Park Plan and presented a resolution from the Parks Committee to adopt the plan.

In response to questions from Trustee Carr, Ms. High advised while advertising was done for the public input sessions the turnout was disappointing, the \$300,000 grant just awarded is for Phase II at Flesher Field, and the Township must have a Five Year Master Park Plan to be eligible to apply for the MNRTF grants.

There was no public comment.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented she would recommend a change to the Administrative Structure chart to remove policy as a function of the Parks Sub-Committee.

Motion by Everett, second by Larson to adopt the 2014 – 2018 Five Year Park Plan with the change requested by Ms. Heiny-Cogswell. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Carr-no, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Larson-yes, Farmer-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

#### **RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY (CIA)**

As discussed at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Attorney Porter presented a resolution of intent to establish a Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) through Public Act 280 of 2005. Discussion included clarifying the purpose of implementation is to assist communities with funding infrastructure improvements in commercial corridors, similar to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) by capturing tax revenue on increases in taxable value; it was noted property assessments would not be affected by being included in the Authority boundaries, thus it does not involve a tax increase to the property owner above what would normally occur, while there is a Corridor Improvement Authority Board, the Township Board would approve proposed plans or any change in the boundaries. The proposed corridor would include properties abutting the west side of Drake Road within 500 feet and properties abutting the north and south sides within 500 feet of KL Avenue between Drake Road and South 11<sup>th</sup> Street. There was comment that perhaps it should be extended to Parkview Avenue.

Grant Taylor, 2928 Sunset Road, inquired who would develop a plan and oversee the projects and could the Authority purchase property; Attorney Porter advised projects would require approval of the Township Board, and the Authority can purchase property.

Motion by Larson, second by Culp to adopt the resolution of intent to establish a Corridor Improvement Authority and set the Public Hearing for January 14<sup>th</sup>. Roll call showed Farmer-yes, Larson-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Carr-no, Bushouse-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

#### **2014 POLICE PROTECTION AGREEMENT**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a proposed 2014 Police Protection agreement with Kalamazoo County noting it contains the same language as in recent years. She advised a list of requested contract items were submitted to the Sheriff's Office in early October with the understanding some or all could not be accomplished at the start of 2014 but requested to have all in any amended contract negotiated in 2014. She further noted the Police Committee and Board have identified objectives for any increased contract to provide increased performance and measureable outcomes and contract negotiations will move forward with these in mind; a renegotiated contract will likely come back to the Board in 2014.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Farmer to approve the 2014 Police Protection agreement. Carried.

#### **KELLISON WOODS PHASE II STREET SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

A petition from residents of Kellison Woods Phase II to contract with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission for the top coat of asphalt on a currently unfinished private road was before the Board. Attorney Porter noted current property owners unknowingly purchased unbuildable lots as the unfinished roads are in violation of the Site Condominium Act. He further noted a property owner has placed the necessary funds in escrow to pay for the project, the Township is assisting by setting up the special assessment district to contract with KCRC to include it in their bidding process and work plan.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Larson to adopt a resolution accepting the plans and cost estimates for the Kellison Woods Phase II road project special assessment district and set a public hearing for January 14<sup>th</sup>. Roll call showed Everett-yes, Larson-yes, Farmer-yes, Culp-yes, Carr-yes, Bushouse-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

#### **UPDATES**

##### **2014 PROJECTED YEAR END FUND BALANCES/LAWFUL TOWNSHIP EXPENDITURES**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell provided information regarding year end fund balances noting comments made at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Information regarding lawful expenditures the Township may make was also provided.

**FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN (FSA) AMENDMENT**

A resolution to amend the Flexible Spending Account Benefit Plan (FSA) was before the Board. It was noted change in Federal law now allows employees to carryover up to \$500 in their FSA account. It was also noted these are not Township funds, rather, deductions authorized by employees.

Motion by Everett, second by Farmer to adopt the resolution to approve the amendment to the FSA plan. Roll call showed Culp-yes, Carr-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Larson-yes, Farmer-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

**218 AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

A resolution to amend the Township's 218 agreement was before the Board. Attorney Porter advised the original agreement established in 1959 excluded part time employees from Social Security tax provided they were in a qualified retirement plan. He noted the agreement needs to be amended to designate that "paid on call" firefighters are the employees now covered by the agreement.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Culp to adopt the resolution to amend the Township's 218 agreement to designate excluded employees as "paid on call" firefighters. Roll call showed Heiny-Cogswell-yes, Bushouse-yes, Carr-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Larson-yes, Farmer-yes.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Farmer commented the Lighthouse Community Church on South 11<sup>th</sup> Street will be presenting a live nativity program on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT**  
Township Clerk

**Attested: ELIZABETH HEINY-COGSWELL**  
Supervisor

# Appendix E

## Community Survey Results (2008)

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***This community survey was conducted in April 2008 for the 2009-2013 Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It continues to provide relevant and useful information for planning future parks and recreation facility improvements. Therefore, this summary of the results from that effort is presented here so that the valuable information it contains continues to be utilized.***

At the end of April, 2,800 surveys were distributed to a sample of residents in Oshtemo Charter Township. The size of the sample was chosen in order to generate statistically valid results.<sup>1</sup> The survey was designed by the Parks Committee and Planning Department. It was a four-page survey with 17 questions, which provided the Township with 82 unique pieces of information. Respondents were given four weeks to fill out the survey and return it in an enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope. In total, 676 individuals returned their surveys for a response rate over 24%. This was a positive result considering the sheer volume of responses and the length of the survey. In addition, it exceeds the volume necessary to achieve statistical validity (558).<sup>1</sup> (A sample of the survey is included at the end of this appendix.)

### Demographic Analysis

A number of demographic questions were asked on the survey in order to understand who the respondent was and understand more about the answers they were providing. For example, their geographic location in the Township, their age, or the presence of children can have a big impact on their recreation preferences.

Table 1 below summarizes some of the demographic findings from the survey. The average respondent was from the northeast quadrant of the Township, a homeowner, employed, between 50 and 65 years old, and has lived in the Township for almost 15 years. Over 75% of respondents did not have children at home. Of those that did have children, the majority (31%) is 0-5 years old, and the remaining age groups are fairly evenly distributed.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2000 Census indicated that there were 7,551 occupied households in the Township. We used 8,000 for the purposes of calculating the sample since there has been an increase in the last eight years. We also assumed we would receive at least a 20% response rate. To achieve a 95% confidence ( $\pm 4\%$ ), a minimum of 2,790 surveys had to be distributed to the population of 8,000. A response rate of 20% would generate 558 survey responses to obtain validity.

**Table 1 – Demographic Summary Table**

This table summarizes the results from the demographic questions asked on the survey.

Age Group	Children	Percent of Children
0-5	95	30.8%
6-10	78	25.3%
11-15	75	24.4%
16-18	60	19.5%

Age Group	Respondents	Percent
< 25	10	1.5%
25-34	54	8.1%
35-49	139	20.9%
50-64	280	42.0%
>65	183	27.5%

<b>Avg. Yrs in Township</b>	15.05
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Children in Household	Percent
No	75.8%
Yes	24.2%

Description	Respondents	Percent
Student	11	1.6%
Employed	369	55.1%
Retired	251	37.5%
Stay-At-Home	29	4.3%
Other	10	1.5%

Tenure	Respondents	Percent
Rent	23	3.5%
Own	636	96.5%

The survey was designed and distributed so that we could determine where respondents were living in relation to four sub-regions of the Township. The Township was divided into quadrants geographically by KL Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Region 1 (northeast) is the most heavily represented at 34.1%. It is followed by Region 4 (southeast), 27.3%; Region 2 (northwest), 22.8%; and Region 3 (southwest), 15.9%. Of the 2,800 surveys that were distributed, 2,000 were sent to homeowners, 500 to residents of rental properties, and 300 to residents of manufactured housing parks. Although this does not match the exact proportion of the population that exists in the Township, the distribution was selected due to the higher response rate that was anticipated from homeowners.

The survey also asked respondents if they were aware that you can rent Township facilities such as the Community Center, Drake Homestead, and Grange Hall (Q14). Although a majority indicated that they were aware of this (54.6%), it was not an overwhelming majority. In fact, some respondents who answered “yes” indicated that they learned as a result of this question. If this is a service that the Township would like to make more popular, additional education and marketing will be necessary, particularly among younger residents in the Township who were far less knowledgeable about the opportunity than older residents.

## Existing Facilities

Many of the questions on the survey dealt with the respondents' perceptions of existing park facilities in Oshtemo Charter Township. In general, respondents seemed satisfied with the recreation facilities. When asked to rate their general satisfaction with the Township's Parks Facilities (Q7), the average score was 3.65 with over 56% of respondents circling "4" or "5". However, respondents who indicated that they had been to a park more than 10 times in the last year had an average of 3.85 (compared to an average of 3.27 for those who said they did not visit a park at all.) The majority of respondents – 36.7% – responded that they had not visited any park in the past year. However, as shown in Table 3 below, the frequency of park visits was influenced greatly by the presence of children in the household.

**Table 2 – Park Satisfaction**

Question 7 measured respondents' satisfaction with the Township's Parks Facilities.

Satisfaction	Respondents	Percent
<i>1 – Very Unsatisfied</i>	18	3.5%
<i>2 – Unsatisfied</i>	30	5.8%
<i>3 – Neutral</i>	177	34.4%
<i>4 – Satisfied</i>	180	34.6%
<i>5 – Very Satisfied</i>	113	21.7%

**Table 3 – Frequency of Visits**

Question 7 also asked how often respondents visited parks in the past year. The presence of children in the household clearly increases the frequency of visits.

Frequency	Respondents	Percent	Percent by Households with Children
<i>0 times/year</i>	244	36.7%	13.0%
<i>1-5 times/year</i>	207	31.2%	34.2%
<i>6-10 times/year</i>	102	15.4%	20.5%
<i>11-25 times/year</i>	73	11.0%	23.0%
<i>&gt;25 times/year</i>	38	5.7%	9.3%

Another part of Question 7 asked respondents to list what parks they visited in the last year. Respondents were provided with a blank line to list as many parks and facilities as they wanted. Responses were quite varied with facilities throughout the region generating visits from residents in the Township. By far, the most popular parks are the two Township facilities. The other popular facilities are those located within the Township. (It should be noted that the instructions for this question asked respondents not to list Kal-Haven Trail because there were separate questions addressing that facility in particular.) The eight facilities that generated the highest number of responses are shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4 – Parks Visited Most Often**

Park facilities that respondents indicated they visited in the last year (Q7). They are listed in order in terms of the number of surveys on which they were listed. The percentage is the percent of the total number of respondents to the survey. (The percent does not equal 100% because respondents were permitted to enter more than one facility.)

Park Facilities	Responses	Percent of Respondents
<i>Oshtemo Township Park</i>	231	34.2%
<i>Flesher Field</i>	187	27.7%
<i>Lillian Anderson Arboretum</i>	36	5.3%
<i>Kal-Haven Trail State Park</i>	30	4.4%
<i>Markin Glen County Park</i>	26	3.8%
<i>Al Sabo Preserve</i>	24	3.6%
<i>Milham Park</i>	18	2.7%
<i>Kalamazoo Community Soccer Complex</i>	12	1.8%

Respondents were then given an opportunity to state the reasons why they visited these parks. We hoped to find out what activities they participated in at these facilities as well as what amenities or characteristics attracted them to various places. Again, we received a wide variety of responses, particularly due to the open-ended nature of the question. Many of the responses referred to specific activities, park amenities, characteristics of the facilities, and events that take people to the park. Of the various activities mentioned, walking / walking the dog was the most often mentioned. Various responses involving grandchildren were also very popular.

When asked specifically about the Township Park facilities, many of the same activities and characteristics were also referenced here. It is clear from the comments here that these facilities are popular as a result of their proximity to people's homes and the cleanliness and maintenance, as we will see later on as well.

**Table 5 – Reasons Respondents Visit the Parks**

Another subset of Question 7 asked respondents why they visit the parks they listed. They were given room to provide multiple answers. Similar responses were grouped into categories. The percentage is a percent of the total respondents to the survey. The top 15 reasons are provided here.

Reason to Visit Park	Respondents	Percent
<i>Walk</i>	84	12.4%
<i>Grandchildren</i>	69	10.2%
<i>Recreation / activities / play / entertainment / games</i>	54	8.0%
<i>Playground</i>	42	6.2%
<i>Picnic</i>	35	5.2%
<i>Trails / hike</i>	31	4.6%
<i>Get outdoors / peace / quiet / nature study / view wildlife / birding</i>	29	4.3%
<i>Events / Oshtemo Days / dump day</i>	27	4.0%
<i>Disc Golf / frisbee</i>	24	3.6%
<i>Enjoyment / fun / relaxing</i>	21	3.1%
<i>Children</i>	18	2.7%
<i>Biking / mountain biking</i>	17	2.5%
<i>Exercise</i>	15	2.2%
<i>Soccer</i>	13	1.9%
<i>Cross-country ski / ski</i>	13	1.9%

The survey also asked specifically about respondents' use of the Kal-Haven Trail. On average, respondents used the trail 5.3 times over the past year. For this question, a blank was provided, and respondents were instructed to estimate the number of times in the past year that they have used the Trail. Not surprisingly, the two regions on the north side of the Township (Regions 1 and 2) had much greater usage of the Trail than the two on the south side (Regions 3 and 4) due to the proximity of the Trail. The average usage in Regions 1 and 2 was 8.13 times and 7.14 times over the past year respectively, while in Regions 3 and 4, the averages were 1.51 and 2.55 respectively. The Trail is also most popular with individuals in the 35-64 year old age categories.

We also asked people what they did when they visited the Kal-Haven Trail. This too was an open-ended question giving respondents an opportunity to provide a number of different responses to this question. The most popular activity on the trail is definitely biking. Over 2/3 of the respondents who indicated that they visited the Trail said that they biked there last year. Walking and hiking was another popular activity practiced by almost half of those who visited.

**Table 6 – Reasons to Visit Kal Haven Trail**

Respondents also listed the reasons they visited the Kal-Haven Trail. Again, they were given room to provide multiple answers. Similar responses were grouped into categories. The percentage is a percent of the total respondents to the survey. Also provided is the percentage of the total number of people (231) who indicated they used the Kal-Haven Trail at least one time during the last year (Q7). The top six responses are provided here.

Reason to Visit Trail	Respondents	Percent	Percent of Respondents Who Use the Trail
<i>Bike</i>	154	22.8%	66.7%
<i>Walk / Hike</i>	110	16.3%	47.6%
<i>Run</i>	26	3.8%	11.3%
<i>Cross-country ski</i>	9	1.3%	3.9%
<i>Wildlife / birds / plant study / nature</i>	9	1.3%	3.9%
<i>Snowmobile</i>	5	0.7%	2.2%

When respondents were asked about their satisfaction with Township facilities, a pair of open-ended, follow-up questions was asked. For those who responded that they were unsatisfied with the Township facilities or neutral, we asked them what could be done to improve the parks. For those that said that they were satisfied, we asked them what it was that they liked. All of the responses for these and the other open-ended questions are provided in the appendix for the Plan. The results are summarized here.

In terms of what could be done to improve the parks, a wide variety of ideas were generated. The most popular suggestions were related to trails. Generally, respondents wanted improvements to existing trails (such as better definition and marking) or they wanted additional trails. Another popular sentiment was to make the facilities larger and/or add more equipment. Specifically, children's play equipment was most often mentioned. In terms of the performance of the facility, bathrooms stood out as the item respondents were most critical of. Their concerns ranged from wanting more, wanting more access, cleanliness, and odor. Similarly, picking up litter, providing more trash cans, and not having overflowing trash cans was also a common theme. In terms of amenities that respondents would like to see, benches, shade (particularly at Flesher Field), more picnic tables, and a dog park were regularly mentioned.

**Table 7 – How to Improve the Parks**

Respondents who indicated that they were unsatisfied with the Township Parks were asked what could be done to improve them. The following are all of the suggestions that generated at least three responses. The percentage is a percent of the total respondents to the survey.

<b>Ways to Improve Twp Parks</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<i>More Trails / better trails</i>	26	3.8%
<i>Bathroom issues</i>	18	2.7%
<i>Make bigger / more equipment</i>	17	2.5%
<i>Benches</i>	9	1.3%
<i>Dog park</i>	8	1.2%
<i>More shade</i>	7	1.0%
<i>Trash cans / more / litter</i>	7	1.0%
<i>Beautification / landscaping</i>	6	0.9%
<i>Number / more parks</i>	5	0.7%
<i>Picnic tables / shelter</i>	5	0.7%
<i>Activities</i>	5	0.7%
<i>Tennis courts</i>	4	0.6%
<i>Maintenance</i>	4	0.6%
<i>Pool</i>	3	0.4%
<i>Baseball fields</i>	3	0.4%
<i>Change sand to wood chips</i>	3	0.4%
<i>Improve entry / access</i>	3	0.4%

Respondents who indicated they were satisfied with the Township Park facilities told us what they liked about the parks, and the cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep of the facilities was an overwhelming comment from the respondents. Over half of the people who responded to this question indicated that this was one of the reasons that they like the Township Parks. They also mentioned specifically the playground equipment and variety of activities for children. The proximity to their homes was also a significant reason respondents liked these parks. Finally, the natural setting, trails, and pleasant / quiet atmosphere were the other most significant reasons selected.

**Table 8 – What Do You Like about the Parks**

Respondents who indicated that they were satisfied with the Township Parks were asked what they liked about the facilities. The following are all of the suggestions that generated at least three responses. The percentage is a percent of the total respondents to the survey.

<b>What Do You Like about Twp Parks</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<i>Clean / well maintained / upkeep</i>	122	18.0%
<i>Stuff for kids / playground</i>	40	5.9%
<i>Accessibility / availability / close to home</i>	38	5.6%
<i>Natural setting / outdoors / open</i>	31	4.6%
<i>Trails</i>	27	4.0%
<i>Pleasant atmosphere / quiet</i>	19	2.8%
<i>Picnic facilities / pavilion</i>	11	1.6%
<i>Good equipment</i>	11	1.6%
<i>Features / activities</i>	10	1.5%
<i>Bathroom / Port-a-potty</i>	9	1.3%
<i>Disc Golf</i>	8	1.2%
<i>Attractive / beauty</i>	8	1.2%
<i>Safe</i>	7	1.0%
<i>Size</i>	7	1.0%
<i>Parking</i>	6	0.9%
<i>Trash</i>	4	0.6%
<i>Trees / shade</i>	4	0.6%
<i>Free</i>	3	0.4%

The final open-ended question regarding the Township Parks that we asked was regarding their level of comfort while visiting a Parks facility. Earlier, we indicated that we had asked if they felt comfortable at the Township Parks. The response was generally positive. We then asked them what could be done to make them feel more comfortable. We received a lot of great ideas, all of which are included in the appendix. Some of the most popular include providing more seating and better visibility, better lighting, surveillance cameras, more security patrols including on-foot volunteers, and snake and insect control.

Question 10 asked respondents to rate the performance of Township facilities in seven different categories: beauty, cleanliness, safety, size, handicap access, convenient location, and maintenance. Respondents were also given the opportunity to list another standard by which the performance of the parks should be judged. Question 10 asked whether the Township facilities rated negative (1), neutral (2), or positive (3) for each category. Table 9 below shows the average scores from Question 10, all of which are between neutral (2) and positive (3).

**Table 9 – Existing Facility Performance**

Question 10 evaluated the performance of existing recreational facilities based on seven characteristics. Respondents were asked in Question 10 if the performance of the facilities is negative (1), neutral (2), or positive (3) for each of the characteristics.

Characteristic	Q10 Average
<i>Convenient Location</i>	2.65
<i>Cleanliness</i>	2.54
<i>Maintenance</i>	2.52
<i>Safety</i>	2.48
<i>Beauty</i>	2.46
<i>Size</i>	2.40
<i>Handicap Access</i>	2.26

Convenient Location and Cleanliness had the highest average scores for Question 10, while Handicap Access had the lowest average score. Interestingly, for Handicap Access, this was the item out of this group that was most often skipped indicating that respondents may have known the least about it. Written comments in the survey and responses to the other questions support the high marks given to the Township facilities for their cleanliness and maintenance. There were no significant differences based on region, age, or presence of children. The only interesting finding was that generally, the more that respondents visited parks, the more positive they felt about these qualities across the board.

Question 11 asked some specific questions about the parks and recreation services offered by the Township. The four questions asked about park facilities, the amount of park facilities provided, and their distribution across the Township. Responses ranged from poor (1) to excellent (5). The average for most of the questions was near satisfactory (3), indicating that while there are many in the Township who are satisfied, there are a significant number of people that rate the amount, variety, and distribution of park facilities in the Township as less than satisfactory.

Interestingly, the average scores were lowest among those groups that use the facilities the most. For example, those that used park facilities more than 10 times responded with an average of 2.94 on 11a regarding the amount of park land and 2.84 to 11b regarding the number of park facilities. Meanwhile, those that said they never visited the parks responded with a 3.31 and 3.27 for those same questions. Similarly, people with children were more critical of the amount of parkland and facilities than those without children. It could be an indication that those that use the facilities the most want more and feel there are not enough, while those that do not make use of the current facilities feel that adding more would not be the best use of current resources.

**Table 10 – Township Parks Attributes**

Respondents were asked how they would rate the following attributes associated with parks and recreation in the Township: poor (1), fair (2), satisfactory (3), good (4), or excellent (5). The results show that those that use the parks more often are more critical.

How would rate the following attributes?	Average	# of Park Visits		Children in HH	
		0	>10	No	Yes
<i>11a. The amount of developed parkland</i>	3.09	3.31	2.94	3.13	2.99
<i>11b. The number of park facilities</i>	2.99	3.27	2.84	3.02	2.92
<i>11c. The distribution of park facilities</i>	3.20	3.30	3.17	3.21	3.17
<i>11d. The variety of recreation opportunities</i>	3.06	3.16	3.11	3.08	3.00

## Priorities for the Future

Another goal of this survey was to determine the recreation priorities of the Township residents. By asking different types of questions, we could determine the types of park facilities they would like to have built over the next few years as well as the goals and objectives they would like the Township to address in their plan.

Question 12 listed 20 different recreational facilities in alphabetical order. Respondents were asked whether they felt there was a need for each of these facilities in Oshtemo Township: no (1), neutral (2), or yes (3). They were also given the opportunity to provide other potential facilities. The results are presented in Table 11 below. Trails and paths are clearly a priority as these were highly rated by Township residents. Uses that would be unique in the Township – such as the sledding hill, outdoor ice rink, dog park, and skateboard park – scored across the board and will provide useful information for goal setting.

**Table 11 – Facility Priorities**

A list of 20 recreational facilities was presented in alphabetical order. Respondents were asked whether there was a need for each facility in Oshtemo Township: no (1), neutral (2), or yes (3). The items are listed in order based on the average score for the entire Township. In addition the average based on the number of visits to parks respondents made is also provided.

	Average	# Visits			
		0	1-5	6-10	>10
<i>Walk / Hike / Jog Trails</i>	2.52	2.31	2.61	2.52	2.65
<i>Paved Bicycle Paths</i>	2.44	2.28	2.49	2.46	2.57
<i>Picnic Shelters</i>	2.34	2.21	2.43	2.43	2.26
<i>Nature Center / Gardens</i>	2.32	2.12	2.42	2.43	2.40
<i>Playgrounds / Equipment</i>	2.31	2.10	2.40	2.39	2.41
<i>Sledding Hill</i>	2.28	2.10	2.28	2.39	2.47
<i>Cross-country Skiing Trails</i>	2.19	2.01	2.22	2.16	2.44
<i>Tennis Courts</i>	2.18	2.02	2.23	2.20	2.28
<i>Outdoor Ice Rink</i>	2.14	1.94	2.19	2.32	2.26
<i>Baseball / Softball Fields</i>	2.12	1.98	2.22	2.12	2.12
<i>Basketball Courts</i>	2.08	1.90	2.17	2.09	2.15
<i>Dog Park</i>	2.07	2.04	2.08	2.01	2.18
<i>Mountain Biking Trails</i>	2.07	1.89	2.12	2.12	2.27
<i>Soccer Fields</i>	1.95	1.81	2.03	1.88	2.02
<i>Swimming Pool</i>	1.91	1.72	1.96	2.01	2.03
<i>Disc Golf</i>	1.88	1.72	1.94	1.89	1.99
<i>Amphitheater / Bandstand</i>	1.85	1.68	1.98	1.94	1.78
<i>Shuffleboard / Bocce Ball</i>	1.81	1.68	1.84	1.86	1.88
<i>Beach Volleyball</i>	1.77	1.57	1.85	1.76	1.94
<i>Skateboard / BMX Park</i>	1.65	1.50	1.69	1.77	1.70

We also provided the average scores based on the response to the number of visits that were made to a park facility. Notice the contrast between the respondents who did not visit a park facility and those that did. Generally, the order of preference and priority is about the same with a few variations, but the magnitude of support and desire for some of these facilities is significantly greater for those respondents who more frequently used the parks.

When the responses from the various regions are compared, two trends were apparent. In general, region one in the northeast quadrant of the township had lower average scores indicating they feel there is not much need for additional facilities in the Township. However, the difference between region 1 and other regions, particularly region 4 in the southeast quadrant, was particularly vast for baseball/softball and soccer fields. For baseball/softball it was 1.99 to 2.21 and for soccer it was 1.84 to 2.05. There could be a number of reasons for this that may be worth exploring, but it is an interesting statistic. The other trend was in comparison to regions 1 and 2, particularly with some of the uses similar to those offered by the Kal-Haven Trail. For cross-country skiing, dog park, mountain bike trails, and nature center, region 1 was significantly lower than region 2, and in almost every case these regions were the high and low. Providing easier access to the Kal-Haven Trail may accommodate these residents in the northwest region.

When the comparison is made based on age groups, the youngest age groups - <25 and 25-34 – almost always have the highest average. The greatest difference between these age groups and the others occur with facilities for more active recreational pursuits. These would include baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, beach volleyball, dog park, mountain bike trails, paved bicycle path, sledding hill, and tennis courts.

Not surprisingly, the presence of children made a difference with those items that would be most popular with kids. The most significant differences between respondents with children and those without occurred with mountain bike trails, outdoor ice rink, paved bicycle path, playgrounds / equipment, and sledding hill.

Besides just types of facilities to construct in the future, the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will also establish policies and priorities for decision making by the Township for the next five years. Question 15 asked respondents about eight different priorities that are likely to be considered among those as the Parks Committee and Township Board begin to develop their list of Goals and Objectives for the Plan. The public responses to these priorities will likely influence those decisions. The responses are summarized in Table 12 below. The table shows the average results based on the entire Township and is also broken down based on the number of times respondents visited township park facilities. Once again, this had a significant impact on the response to this question. For the Township as a whole, all of the priorities scored well (between satisfactory (3) and good (4)). As we look at the responses based on number of visits, those that visited the parks feel much more strongly that these items should be a priority for the Township. While this is logical, it is still meaningful as it would be telling if the people who used the parks did not think that it should be a priority for the Township.

**Table 12 – Recreation Priorities**

Eight recreation priorities that are likely to be considered or developed into Goals and Objectives in the Plan were evaluated by the respondents based on their importance: not important (1), somewhat not important (2), neutral (3), somewhat important (4), important (5).

	Average	Visits			
		0	1-5	6-10	>10
<i>Purchasing land to preserve natural areas</i>	3.60	3.18	3.75	3.75	3.94
<i>Building pathways</i>	3.57	3.13	3.75	3.55	3.97
<i>Expanding amenities and activities</i>	3.46	2.95	3.71	3.62	3.72
<i>Acquiring more park land</i>	3.29	2.69	3.47	3.35	3.94
<i>Improving maintenance</i>	3.26	3.04	3.32	3.46	3.34
<i>Preserving historic homes and sites</i>	3.22	3.02	3.33	3.31	3.29
<i>Developing smaller neighborhood parks</i>	3.18	2.77	3.41	3.24	3.39
<i>Improving barrier free accessibility</i>	3.18	2.95	3.27	3.34	3.22

Age also seemed to have an impact on the response to this question. Younger age groups felt building pathways, acquiring more parkland, expanding amenities and activities, and developing smaller neighborhood parks were a much higher priority than the older age groups.

One priority that the Township has already been addressing is pathways. There are two types of bicycle ways existing in the Township and plans for expansion of both: bike lanes, which are paved portions of the shoulder of the road, and bike paths, which are separated from the road. Question 13 asked respondents how comfortable they are using each of these types of bicycle ways for various types of bicycling activities. Responses were on a 1-5 scale ranging from very uncomfortable to very comfortable. In general, respondents were not comfortable with the use of bike lanes and were more tolerant of the use of bike paths.

**Table 13 – Bike Lanes and Bike Paths**

Respondents were asked about their comfort using bike lanes and bike paths for various bicycling activities. They checked (1) very uncomfortable, (2) uncomfortable, (3) neutral, (4) comfortable, or (5) very comfortable for each item.

	Bike Lane	Bike Path
<i>Leisurely Ride with Family</i>	2.43	4.03
<i>Ride for Exercise</i>	2.83	4.01
<i>Commuting to Work</i>	2.54	3.59
<i>Children Riding Alone</i>	1.77	3.20

The noticeable trend in these results is that once it involves children, the results dropped, with the exception of the leisurely ride on the bike path. That is something many people have done before, and they are comfortable with. It is a controlled environment.

## Funding

Once the Township Board has established their priorities for the next five years, they must begin to consider how those priorities will be funded. One method to consider is through a millage request. Question 16 asked whether respondents would support an increase in millage rates on their property taxes to fund Parks and Recreation activities. Specifically, the survey asked if they would be willing to support a 0.5 millage increase (\$35 per \$70,000 in taxable value) to fund each of four activities: creating parks, maintaining parks, purchasing land, and building trails and sidewalks. The average responses were around neutral in all cases. The Township wide results for Question 16 are presented in Table 14 below.

**Table 14 – Parks and Recreation Millage**

Respondents were asked if they would support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for each of the following Parks and Recreation activities. The Township average is presented as well as the percent of total survey respondents that gave each response.

	Township Avg.	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
<i>Creating Parks</i>	2.85	29.7%	12.0%	18.8%	22.3%	17.2%
<i>Maintaining Parks</i>	3.15	20.8%	9.7%	20.6%	31.7%	17.1%
<i>Purchasing Land</i>	2.83	31.0%	12.0%	19.0%	19.5%	18.5%
<i>Building Trails and Sidewalks</i>	3.21	24.5%	9.3%	12.8%	26.9%	26.4%

Looking at the data for each of the activities, the responses are distributed broadly across all four options. With large percentages of responses at both ends of the spectrum, clearly this was a polarizing question. Over 92% of those responding to the survey answered this set of questions. Besides the basic demographic questions, these were the most often answered questions. In order to better understand the responses, we conducted further investigation into the data and the various subsets of the population. The tables below show how the results varied based on age group, presence of children, whether or not you visited the Township parks, and region.

**Table 15 – Recreation Millage by Age Group**

Respondents were asked if they would support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for creating parks, maintaining parks, purchasing land for parks, or building trails and sidewalks. They indicated if they strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), were neutral (3), agreed (4), or strongly agreed (5). This breakdown based on age groups shows that the younger age groups are the most supportive of a millage rate for recreation, and that the older age groups are the least supportive at this time. [The highest score in each column is shown in bold and the lowest score in italics.]

	16a. Creating Avg.	16b. Maintaining Avg.	16c. Purchasing Avg.	16d. Trails Avg.
<i>&lt;20 and 20-34</i>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>3.51</b>	<b>4.05</b>
<i>35-49</i>	2.81	3.24	2.71	3.24
<i>50-64</i>	2.77	3.05	2.78	3.21
<i>&gt;65</i>	2.72	3.08	2.69	2.86

**Table 16 – Recreation Millage by Presence of Children**

Respondents were asked if they would support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for creating parks, maintaining parks, purchasing land for parks, and building trails and sidewalks. They indicated if they strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), were neutral (3), agreed (4), or strongly agreed (5). This table breaks down the results by the presence of children. Those with children were more supportive of the possibility of a millage request, likely due to the higher use of the park facilities.

	16a. Creating Avg.	16b. Maintaining Avg.	16c. Purchasing Avg.	16d. Trails Avg.
<i>Children in HH</i>	3.23	3.49	3.10	3.58
<i>No Children in HH</i>	2.73	3.03	2.73	3.10

**Table 17 – Recreation Millage by Frequency of Visits**

Respondents were asked if they would support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for creating parks, maintaining parks, purchasing land for parks, or building trails and sidewalks. They indicated if they strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), were neutral (3), agreed (4), or strongly agreed (5). This table breaks down the results by the frequency of visits to Township park facilities. As would be expected, the more often the respondent frequented the park facilities, the more likely they were to support a millage. [The highest score in each column is shown in bold and the lowest score in italics.]

	16a. Creating Avg.	16b. Maintaining Avg.	16c. Purchasing Avg.	16d. Trails Avg.
<i>No Visits</i>	2.27	2.64	2.26	2.57
<i>1-5 Visits</i>	3.01	3.27	3.02	3.42
<i>6-10 Visits</i>	3.04	3.38	2.91	3.41
<i>&gt;10 Visits</i>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>3.89</b>

**Table 18 – Recreation Millage by Region**

Respondents were asked if they would support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for creating parks, maintaining parks, purchasing land for parks, or building trails and sidewalks. They indicated if they strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), were neutral (3), agreed (4), or strongly agreed (5). This table breaks down the results by the region of the Township they lived. Although there were not significant differences between the regions, Region 4 always had the highest average and Region 2 was usually the lowest. This is likely related to the proximity of these residents to park facilities. [The highest score in each column is shown in bold and the lowest score in italics.]

	16a. Creating Avg.	16b. Maintaining Avg.	16c. Purchasing Avg.	16d. Trails Avg.
<i>Region 1 (NE)</i>	2.92	3.08	2.86	3.13
<i>Region 2 (NW)</i>	2.71	3.04	2.79	3.10
<i>Region 3 (SW)</i>	2.81	3.11	2.76	3.17
<i>Region 4 (SE)</i>	<b>2.95</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>3.42</b>

Question 17 also dealt with funding recreation improvements. However, this question dealt with some alternatives besides just taxation - general fund, user fees, millage, grant money, and private sources – and asked what source of funding should be used for funding parks and recreation priorities. The results are shown in Table 19 below. In general, respondents appear to believe that it is agreeable to use other people's money - through grants and donations to fund parks and recreation activities, but were not quite as agreeable when it came to their own money – special millage rates and user fees.

**Table 19 – Parks and Recreation Funding**

Five possible sources of funding for parks and recreation priorities were identified. Respondents were asked whether they strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), were neutral (3), agreed (4), or strongly agreed (5) that each source of funds should be used for each activity. The Township average is presented as well as the percent of total survey respondents that gave each response.

Source of Funding	Township Avg.	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
<i>Township General Fund</i>	3.46	12.3%	7.1%	25.0%	33.2%	22.4%
<i>User Fees</i>	3.07	19.7%	15.7%	21.3%	24.1%	19.2%
<i>Special Millage</i>	2.59	32.3%	14.3%	24.6%	20.4%	8.5%
<i>Grant Money</i>	4.13	4.4%	3.0%	12.0%	36.9%	43.8%
<i>Private Sources / Donation</i>	4.17	4.2%	2.0%	12.7%	34.4%	46.7%

There was nothing too different that came out of the data when Question 17 was broken down by different sectors of the population. The results and trends were very similar to those seen and demonstrated above for Question 16. Not surprisingly, people who **did not** visit the parks strongly disagreed (1) that funding should come from a special millage, and people who **did** use the parks frequently strongly disagreed (1) that funding should come from user fees.

## Summary

The results discussed above provide an overview of the quantitative information that is available from the Community Survey. However, there is much more that could be learned from this data and from these results, not to mention all of the comments that were submitted as well. These comments and the other submittals provided for many of the items above are provided in the appendix of the Plan.

We encourage the Township to do a follow-up survey in a few years. It should be shorter and does not necessarily need to be the same format. However, after implementing some of the action items that will be put forward in this Master Plan, you would be able to see if that impacts any of these results and if perceptions change as a result of your actions.

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# Oshtemo Charter Township

## Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan

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Dear Resident of Oshtemo Charter Township,

Oshtemo Charter Township seeks the opinion of Township residents like you on recreation priorities for the next five years. This public input, along with input from focus groups and public meetings, will be incorporated into the Township's Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We want to know what **you** think about existing and potential recreation facilities in the Township.

The Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is currently under development, so please take a few minutes **NOW** to have one person in your household complete this survey and return it in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope by **May 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will be discussing the results from this survey at two public meetings (where additional public input will be collected) to be held June 17 and June 25. (Check with Township for time and location.) Because only a select sample of Township residents were sent surveys, your prompt response to this survey is greatly appreciated and is critical to the Plan's development! We **need** to know what residents like **you** want for the future of your parks!

Thank you for being a part of the Oshtemo Charter Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Should you have an interest to further participate in this process or to donate time, money, or property to the Township for Parks and Recreation, please call the Planning Dept. at (269) 216-5223.

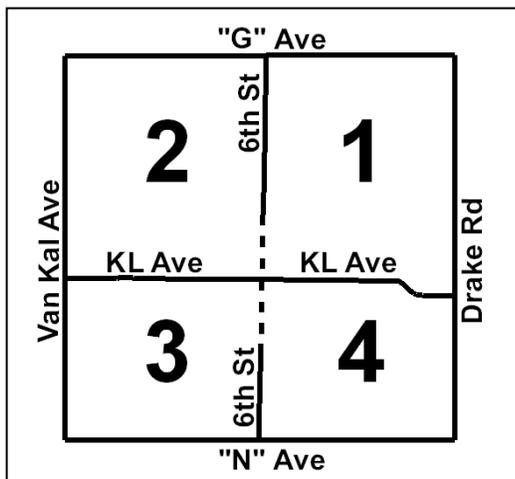
Sincerely,

John VanDyke  
Supervisor

Neil Sikora  
Chairman, Parks Committee

The following information will be helpful as you respond to this survey:

- The following are the only parks maintained by Oshtemo Charter Township: **Oshtemo Township Park** (on West Main Street) and **Flesher Field** (on S 9<sup>th</sup> Street)
- The following are maintained by other entities: **Markin Glen, Kal-Haven Trail, Al Sabo Land Preserve, Kalamazoo Community Soccer Complex, Lillian Anderson Arboretum, West Hills Athletic Complex, the Alamo Ball Fields, and any school facility.**



1. The map to the left has been divided into four segments. Please circle the number below that matches the area on the map in which you currently live: (circle one)  
 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4
2. Do you own or rent your residence? (circle one)  
**OWN**                      **RENT**



10. Please indicate your opinion as to the performance of the existing Township park facilities: (check the box: 1= negative, 2=neutral, 3=positive.)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
a. Beauty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Handicap access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Convenient location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Size	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. How would you rate the Township Parks and Recreation services? (check the box: 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=satisfactory, 4=good, 5=excellent)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. The amount of developed parkland	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. The number of park facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. The distribution of park facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. The variety of recreation opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>				

12. Do you believe there is a need for the following facilities in Oshtemo Township? (If the facilities already exist, are more needed?) [check the box: 1=no; 2=neutral; 3=yes]

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
a. Amphitheater/Bandstand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Picnic Shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Baseball/Softball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	m. Playgrounds/Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n. Shuffleboard/Bocce Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Beach Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	o. Skateboard/BMX Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Cross-country Skiing Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	p. Sledding Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Disc Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	q. Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Dog Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	r. Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Mountain Biking Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	s. Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Nature Center/Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	t. Walk/Hike/Jog Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Outdoor Ice Rink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	u. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Paved Bicycle Paths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	v. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. How comfortable are you using bike lanes and/or bike paths for the following...: (check the box: 1=very uncomfortable, 2=uncomfortable, 3=neutral, 4=comfortable, 5=very comfortable). [Note: A bike lane is a paved portion of the shoulder of the road, and a bike path is paved path that is separated from the road.]

	<u>Bike Lane</u>					<u>Bike Path</u>				
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. Leisurely Ride with Family	<input type="checkbox"/>									
b. Ride for Exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>									
c. Commuting to Work	<input type="checkbox"/>									
d. Children Riding Alone	<input type="checkbox"/>									

14. Are you aware that you can rent certain Township facilities such as the Community Center (Stadium Dr) and the Grange Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave)? (circle one) **YES NO**

15. In considering priorities for the next five years, how important are each of the following? (check the box: 1=not important, 2=somewhat not important, 3=neutral, 4=somewhat important, 5=important)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. Building pathways to connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, and the Kal-Haven Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. Acquiring more park land	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. Developing smaller neighborhood parks throughout the Township	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. Improving the maintenance of existing parks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e. Expanding the amenities and activities available at the Township Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
f. Improving barrier-free accessibility at parks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
g. Purchasing land to preserve natural areas, wetlands, habitat areas, and other similar resources	<input type="checkbox"/>				
h. Preserving historic homes, buildings, and sites	<input type="checkbox"/>				
i. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>				

16. Would you support up to an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for the following Parks and Recreation responsibilities: [Note: 0.5 mills equals \$35 per \$70,000 in taxable value of property.] (check the box: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. Creating parks on vacant land.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. Maintaining, upgrading, and improving existing parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. Purchasing land for additional parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. Building trails and sidewalks.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>				

17. Do you agree or disagree that funding for parks and recreation priorities should come from...: (check the box: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. Township General Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. User Fees	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. Special Millage	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. Grant Money	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e. Private Sources / Donation	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Are there any other changes, improvements, or additions that you would like to see involving parks, parks facilities, or other parks and recreation functions? Also, if you would like to be involved in future Township Parks and Recreation efforts, please provide your contact information here, and we will be sure to contact you. Thanks!

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*Thank you for your participation! Please return this survey by **May 21<sup>st</sup>**.*

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# Appendix F

## Non-Motorized Facilities Plan

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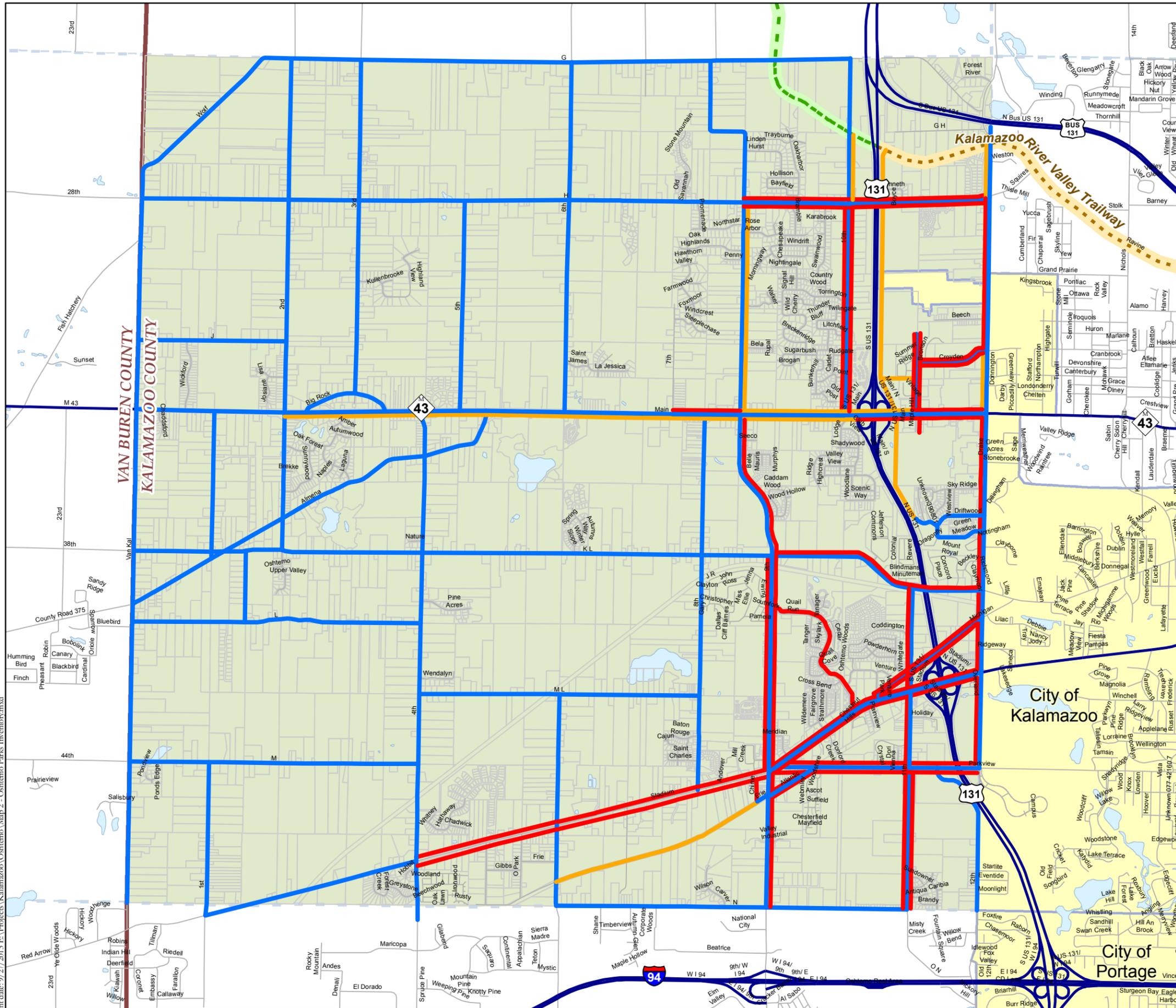
### Non-Motorized Facilities Plan

The Township recognizes the residents' desire to have non-motorized facilities to access goods and services, connect to and between recreational and residential areas, and increase opportunities for physical activity to promote healthful life styles. Wider paved shoulders, bicycle paths, and sidewalks, as indicated on *Map 5 – Oshtemo Township Non-Motorized Plan* and *Map 6 – Oshtemo Township Non-Motorized Plan and Township Parks and Facilities*, will be pursued by the Township to accomplish this end.

The non-motorized plan contained within the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the most current and will be continuously updated in the future. A separate, stand alone update to the non-motorized plan provides specific recommendations for key corridors with the Township. The Township will look to these documents during the site plan review process to determine what is required as properties develop and redevelop as well as in identifying priority projects for the Township to undertake. It is important that the non-motorized plan continue to be updated and consulted as the Township continues to grow.

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Print date: 9/27/2013 1:31:31 PM Projects\Kalamazoo\Oshtemo\Map 2 - Oshtemo Parks Inventory.mxd

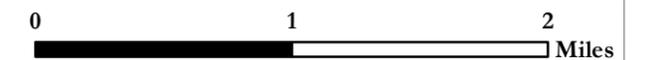
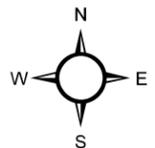


# Map 5: Oshtemo Township Non-Motorized Facilities Plan

Oshtemo Charter Township  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

## Non-Motorized Plan Facilities Type (2013)

-  Path
-  Sidewalk
-  Lane
-  Kal-Haven Trail State Park
-  Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
-  State Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Cities
-  Township Boundaries
-  Oshtemo Twp



Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
Oshtemo Township GIS Department

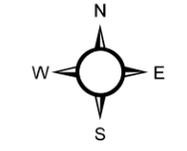
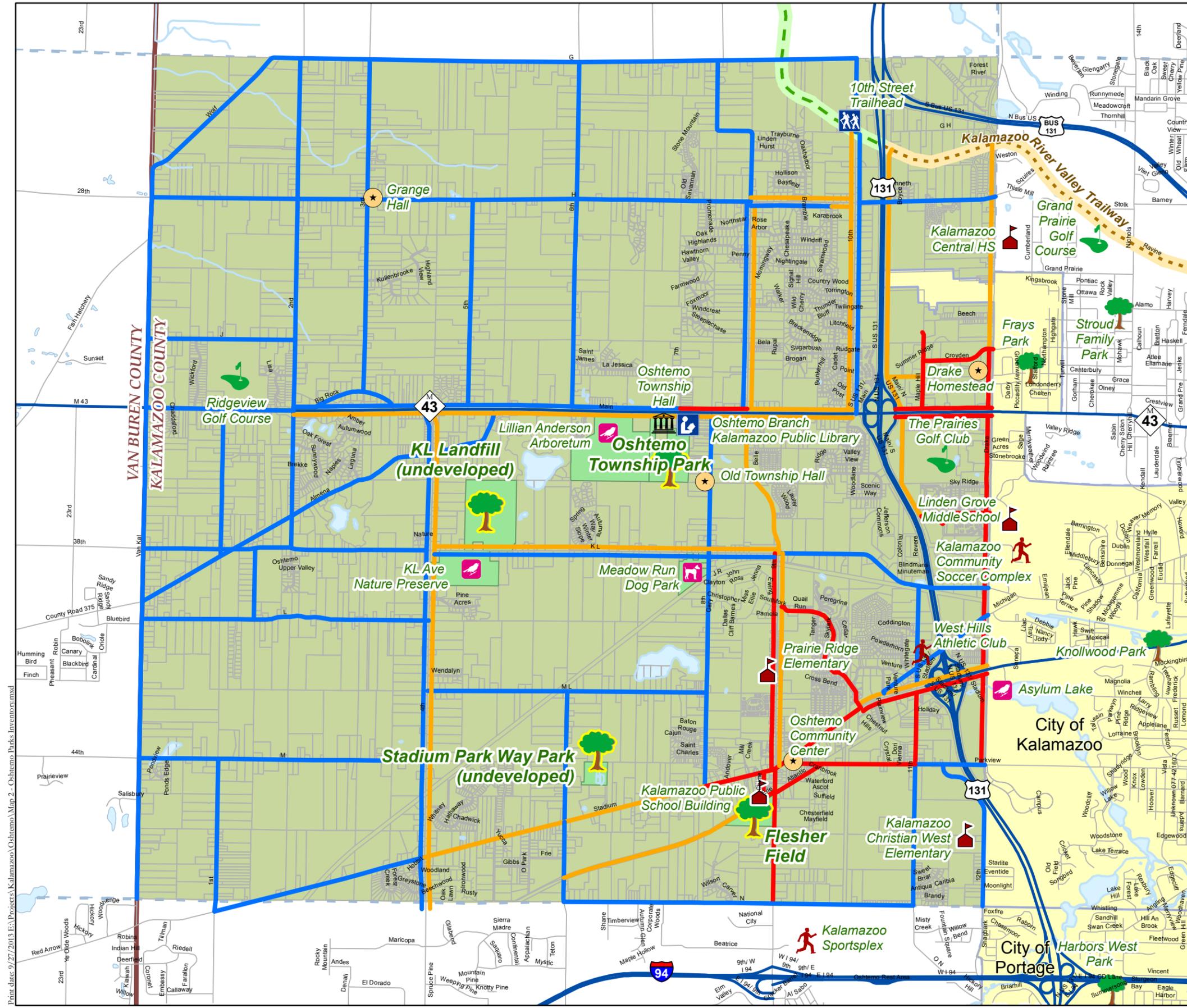
# Map 6: Non-Motorized Plan with Township Parks and Facilities

Oshtemo Charter Township  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

- Parks and Recreation Facilities**
- Dog Park
  - Township Hall
  - Township Park
  - Other Municipal Park
  - Township Facility
  - Sports Fields
  - Golf Course
  - Nature Area
  - Trailhead
  - School
  - Library

**Proposed Non-Motorized Routes (2008)**

- Path
- Sidewalk
- Lane
- Kal-Haven Trail State Park
- Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
- State Highways
- Local Roads
- Cities
- Township Boundaries
- Oshtemo Twp



Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
Oshtemo Township GIS Department

Print date: 9/27/2013 8:13:53 AM; Project: Kalamazoo\Oshtemo\Map 2 - Oshtemo Parks Inventory.mxd

# Appendix G

## Township Parks Maps

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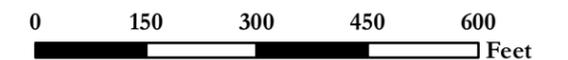
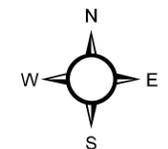




# Map 7: Flesher Field Park Map

Oshtemo Charter Township  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

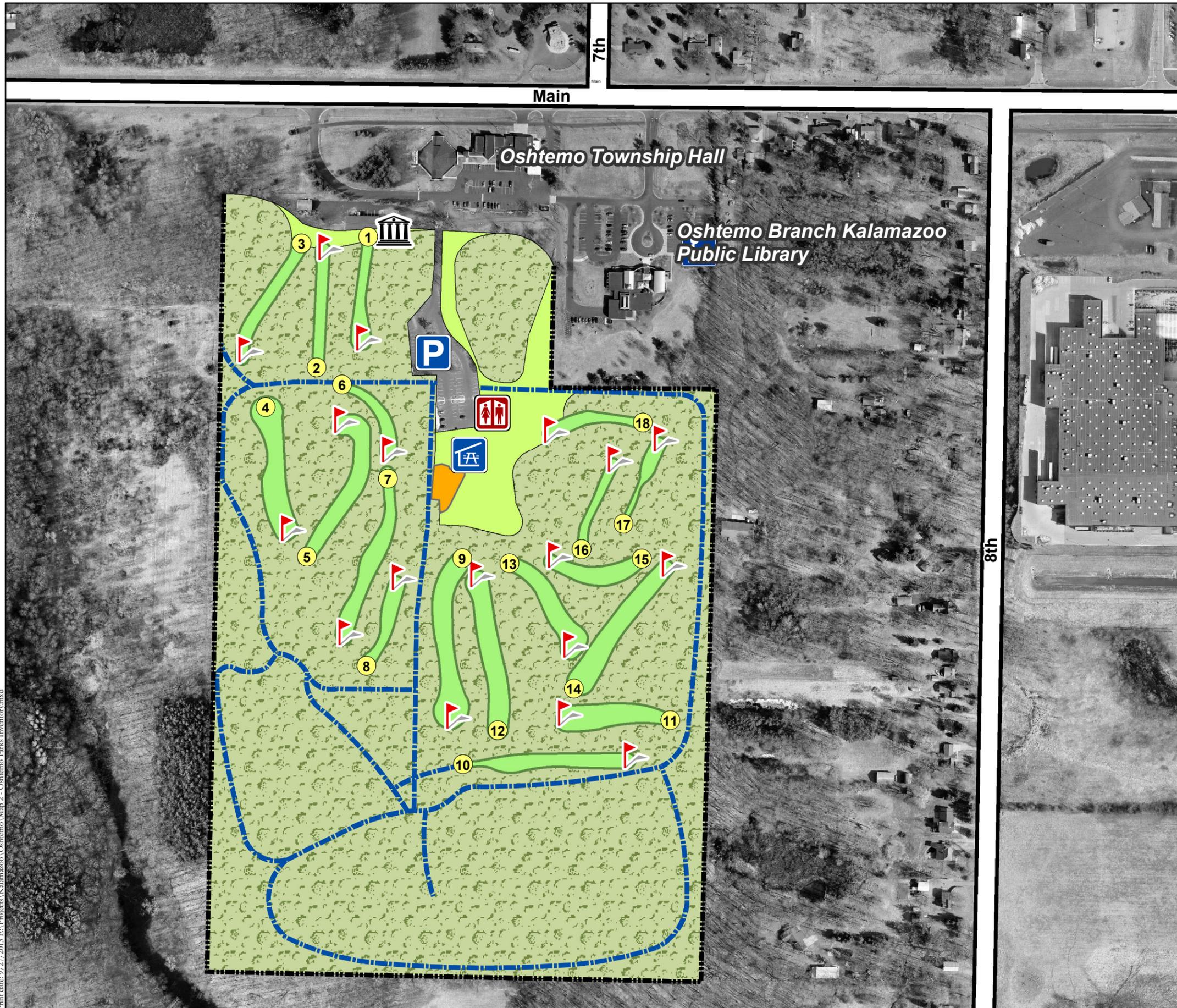
-  Open Space / Field
-  Playground
-  Wooded Area
-  Existing Nature Path
-  Park Boundary
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Restrooms
-  Parking Area
-  School



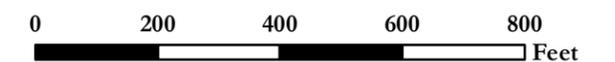
Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
Oshtemo Township GIS Department

# Map 8: Oshtemo Township Park

Oshtemo Charter Township  
Kalamazoo County, Michigan



- Disc Golf Fairway
- Open Space / Field
- Playground
- Wooded Area
- Existing Nature Path
- Guardrail - Park Boundary
- Paved Path
- Disc Golf Tee
- Disc Golf Basket
- Picnic Shelter
- Restrooms
- Parking Area
- Township Hall
- Library



Base Map Source: MiGDL v6b & v7b  
Data Source: Oshtemo Township, 2013;  
Oshtemo Township GIS Department

# Appendix H

## Post-Completion Self-Inspection Report



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

### PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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

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

GRANTEE: Oshtemo Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF86-074 and TF10-113      PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition and Development

PROJECT TITLE: Oshtemo Township Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Park acquisition in 1986. Park development in 2010.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee) <u>Oshtemo Township</u>	Contact Person <u>Karen High</u>	Title <u>Parks Administrator</u>
Address <u>7275 West Main Street</u>	Telephone <u>269 216-5223</u>	
City, State, ZIP <u>Kalamazoo, MI 49009</u>	Email <u>khigh@oshtemo.org</u>	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

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

---

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

---

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

---

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
The wooded portion of the park is hilly and has unpaved paths. It is not accessible to persons with disabilities.

---

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

Picnic Shelters, Play Area, Restroom Building, Wiffleball Field, Basketball Court, Tennis courts, Parking Lot Improvements, Paved Loop Trail, Unpaved trail improvements, Disc golf improvements.

---

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

SITE QUALITY	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/> <hr/>	
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/> <hr/>	
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/> <hr/>	
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/> <hr/>	
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Restroom maintenance and trash removal are completed daily during warmer months.</u>	
<u>Parking lot is plowed as needed in winter.</u>	
<hr/> <hr/>	
GENERAL	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<hr/> <hr/>	
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/> <hr/>	
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Pavilion rental fee - see attached.</u>	
<hr/> <hr/>	
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?	
<u>Open all year, dawn to half hour after dusk.</u>	

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

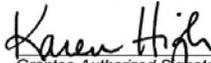
**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Township Park is now one of the nicest parks in the region, thanks to the grant funds provided by the MNRTF. It is a beautiful place to visit, and many people have discovered it. Park usage has increased dramatically and we receive positive feedback on a regular basis.

**CERTIFICATION**

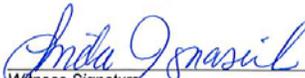
*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Karen High  
Please print

  
Grantee Authorized Signature

12/16/2013  
Date

Linda Ignasiak  
Please print

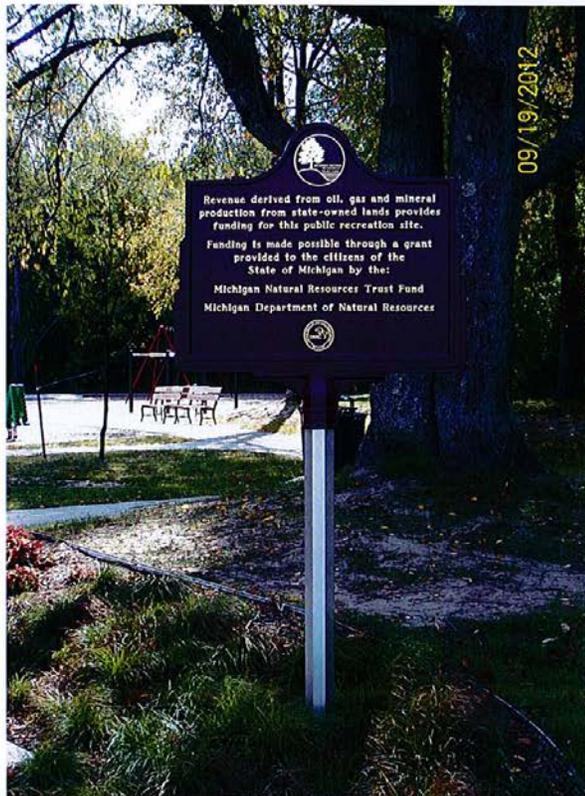
  
Witness Signature

12/16/2013  
Date

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



Oshtemo Township Park  
TF 10-113  
Park Entry Sign



Oshtemo Township Park  
TF 10-113  
Program Recognition Plaque



OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP PARK  
7275 West Main Street  
PAVILION RENTAL AGREEMENT



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(must be age 21 or older) (photo ID required)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If not a resident, are you a Township property and/or business owner \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Location of property owned if not a resident: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address of Business if not a resident \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Rental Day/Date Requested \_\_\_\_\_

Rental Period Requested \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Full Day

Description of Event \_\_\_\_\_

If other than a family event provide name of group and group contact person & phone #:

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number in group \_\_\_\_\_

I will be present at the event during the entire rental period and in consideration of accepting my application, on behalf of myself and my group or organization using the pavilion, I agree to release Oshtemo Township from any and all responsibility for injuries or property damage whatsoever arising from participation in the above activities. I assume liability for any & all damage to the pavilion. I have read and agree to the terms stated above as well as the Pavilion and Park rules. **I have read & agree to comply with the rules for use and cancellation policy.** \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial here)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Fee per 3 hour block: (circle applicable fee)

Oshtemo Taxpayer, Resident, Property/Business Owner    Weekday—\$35.00    Weekend—\$ 50.00  
Non Taxpayer, Resident, Property/Business Owner        Weekday—\$70.00    Weekend—\$100.00

The pavilion is not considered rented until the rental fee is received. Rental fee must be paid at time of reservation—see cancellation policy on back.

There will be a \$30.00 fee charged if your check is returned.

Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date paid \_\_\_\_\_

DL\_\_\_\_ Calendar\_\_\_\_ Web\_\_\_\_ Maint\_\_\_\_ History\_\_\_\_ Reserved Sign\_\_\_\_ Certificate\_\_\_\_        6/2013/janssen

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# Appendix I

## Transmittal Letters

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7275 W. MAIN STREET, KALAMAZOO, MI 49009-9334  
269-375-4260 FAX 375-7180 TDD 375-7198  
www.oshtemo.org

December 16, 2013

Mr. Lee Adams  
Southcentral Michigan Planning Council  
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue, Room 101  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Subject: 2014-2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Adams:

Enclosed is a copy of the Charter Township of Oshtemo 2014-2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We have submitted this plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for certification and the Kalamazoo County Department of Planning and Community Development to ensure cooperation and coordination of recreation planning efforts.

On December 5, 2013, the Oshtemo Township Parks Committee held a meeting to discuss the plan and passed a resolution recommending adoption of the plan to the Township Board. The Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees held a public hearing and formally adopted the plan on December 5, 2013.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (269) 216-5223.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen High".

Karen High  
Parks Administrator

Enclosure



7275 W. MAIN STREET, KALAMAZOO, MI 49009-9334  
269-375-4260 FAX 375-7180 TDD 375-7198  
www.oshtemo.org

December 16, 2013

Ms. Lotta Jarnefelt, Director  
Kalamazoo County Department of Planning and Community Development  
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Subject: 2014-2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Dear Ms. Jarnefelt:

Enclosed is a copy of the Charter Township of Oshtemo 2014-2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We have submitted this plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for certification and the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council to ensure cooperation and coordination of recreation planning efforts.

On December 5, 2013, the Oshtemo Township Parks Committee held a meeting to discuss the plan and passed a resolution recommending adoption of the plan to the Township Board. The Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees held a public hearing and formally adopted the plan on December 5, 2013.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (269) 216-5223.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen High".

Karen High  
Parks Administrator

Enclosure

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