

Oshtemo Charter Township Parks Department Accomplishments, Goals, Vision

2014 Accomplishments

Flesher Field

- Completed Phase 1 improvements, including construction of a parking lot, rain gardens, restroom building, asphalt path, and a new roof on the picnic shelter.
- Conducted a design charrette with Prairie Ridge Elementary School students for a new playground.
- Developed construction documents for Phase 2 improvements, selected Apex Contractors, Inc. to complete the improvements, and began construction.

Township Park

- Upgraded the disc golf course in preparation for the 2015 World Championship games, in cooperation with the K'Acres Disc Golf League. Improvements included drainage improvements and repair of eroded areas.
- Constructed a rain garden using grant funds and volunteer labor.
- Worked with Let's Serve Tennis Club to offer tennis lessons.
- Continued to replace picnic tables in poor condition with new picnic tables.

Grange Hall

- Developed contract documents for improvements that will provide barrier-free access to the Grange Hall.
- Submitted a successful grant request of \$30,000 to the MNRTF for the Grange Hall playground.

Drake Farmstead

- Helped coordinate removal of the carriage barn due to its deteriorated/condemned condition. Documented the architectural character of the barn prior to demolition.
- Accomplished donation of two vacant parcels north of the Drake Farmstead, approx. 11 acres total.
- Sought proposals for a marketing study to inform the development of a master plan for the 26 acre Drake Farmstead.

Non-motorized trails and Greenways

- Began a schematic plan and cost estimate for a non-motorized facility on 10th Street, from West Main to the Kal-Haven Trailhead. Held a public meeting for community input.
- Began a schematic plan and cost estimate for a non-motorized facility on KL Avenue, from Drake Road to the new charter school. Held a public meeting for community input.

Miscellaneous

- Included parks capital items in the Township's Capital Improvement Plan and identified strategies for accomplishing.
- Worked with the Friends of the Parks to build the parks endowment at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.
- Supported special events at Flesher Field, including Oshtemo Fun Day and the Scottish Highland Games, and picnic pavilion rentals at Township Park.

2015 Goals

Flesher Field

- Complete construction of Phase 2 improvements, including a new playground, a second picnic shelter, a gazebo with a garden area and paths, relocation of two wiffleball fields, benches, and landscaping.
- Hold a grand opening ceremony at Flesher Field as required by the MNRTF grant.

Township Park

- Install concrete pads for picnic tables in lawn areas.
- Continue to upgrade the disc golf course in preparation for the 2015 World Championship games. Repair the disc golf bulletin board and continue drainage improvements.
- Develop a conceptual plan for interpretive signs at Township Park using a "storybook trail" concept. Use the conceptual plan to seek grants in cooperation with the Oshtemo Branch Library.

Grange Hall

- Begin a feasibility study to determine funding options for improvements to the Grange Hall.
- Develop construction documents, select a contractor, and begin construction of the Grange Hall Playground using funds from a MNRTF grant.

Drake Farmstead

- Seek proposals for a master plan for the Drake Farmstead.
- Complete a marketing study and master plan for the Drake Farmstead.
- Begin a feasibility study to determine funding options for improvements to the Drake Farmstead.

Non-motorized Trails and Greenways

- Complete a schematic plan and cost estimate for a non-motorized facility on 10th Street, from West Main to the Kal-Haven Trailhead. Hold a second public meeting for community input.
- Complete a schematic plan and cost estimate for a non-motorized facility on KL Avenue, from Drake Road to the new charter school. Hold a second public meeting for community input.
- Identify a system of green corridors in the Township that can be used for non-motorized trails or environmental benefits such as wildlife corridors, groundwater recharge, scenic viewsheds, etc. Assess significant natural features and explore connections between existing recreation facilities.
- Install bollards in key locations along the M-43 bike path to prevent illegal vehicular traffic.

Miscellaneous

- Identify locations where trees, shrubs, or groundcovers are desired in order to reduce maintenance or provide environmental benefits at Township-owned properties. Install plant materials.
- Continue to implement the recommendations of the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Non-Motorized Plan.
- Increase community involvement in the Friends of the Parks by establishing a membership committee.
- Further develop a strategic plan for the long term funding of parks and discuss with Township Board.

Vision for 2016

Flesher Field

- Develop a restoration plan for the wooded area of Flesher Field. Submit an application to the MNRTF for funds to improve the trails and restore the woodlands.
- Promote the use of the new gazebo and garden area for weddings, concerts, and other special events.

Township Park

- Develop signage for the trails in the wooded portion of Township Park.
- Continue to seek grants for a "storybook trail" at Township Park.

Grange Hall

- Continue to seek funding for planned improvements to the Grange Hall.

Drake Farmstead

- Develop partnerships with local entities such as universities, schools, churches, and businesses for the use and support of the historic and agricultural uses of the Drake Farmstead.
- Seek funding for implementation of the first phase of the Drake Farmstead Master Plan.

Non-Motorized Trails and Greenways

- Begin process for land acquisition or conservation easements for critical parcels in a greenway where feasible. Develop a phased implementation schedule. Submit a MNRTF application for acquisition.
- Continue to install bollards in key locations along the M-43 bike path to prevent illegal vehicular traffic.

Miscellaneous

- Study alternatives for a neighborhood park on the east side of the Township near high density residential areas.
- Continue to identify locations where trees, shrubs, or groundcovers are desired in order to reduce maintenance or provide environmental benefits at Township-owned properties. Install plant materials.