



City of Scottville

Mason County, Michigan

5-Year Park & Recreation Plan 2018 - 2022

Prepared by



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PREPARED FOR

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Mayor Pro-Tem	Marcy Spencer
Council Member	Leon Begue
Council Member	Sally Cole
Council Member	Tom Donald
Council Member	Sue Petipren

Park & Recreation Board

Chairperson	Kathy Dumas
Vice-Chair	Leon Begue
Member-at-Large	Mary Nichols
Member-at-Large	Justin Papes
Member-at-Large	Phil Yarbrough

City Manager—Amy S. Williams

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Section A – INTRODUCTION & COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Part 1 – Introduction & City History

This Parks and Recreation Plan is an update of the City of Scottville Recreation Plan, which was originally approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 1993 and updated in 1998. The purpose of this Plan is to provide a clear direction to decision makers regarding the future development of recreational facilities within Scottville and throughout the school districts that participate and contribute to those facilities: Mason County Central, Mason County Eastern, and Free Soil School District. In addition, to remain eligible for state and federal funds, the MDNR requires that an updated plan be submitted every five years. This is our five-year update covering the planning years 2018 through 2022.

The City of Scottville is located in the central portion of Mason County. Mason County is located on the western fringe of the north central portion of lower Michigan. Notable features within the county, aside from the Lake Michigan shoreline, include the Manistee National Forest, MDNR owned land, Pere Marquette River, and the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service which travels to Wisconsin.



Location Map

An important junction of the State's highway system is located in Scottville. US 31 and US 10 connect here, making the area highly accessible from both the north-south and east-west routes. The addition of a US-31 bypass around the western side of the City in recent years has increased the mobility of travelers to the area. Scottville is located between the townships, Amber and Custer. Additional nearby municipalities include the City of Ludington, Village of Custer, Manistee, Hart, Shelby and Pentwater.

Scottville's recorded history began in 1874 when the town was mapped as a station on the Pere Marquette's Railroad. It was first called Mason Center because of its location in the county. Later, it was renamed Sweetland, after James Sweetland, who built a sawmill here in 1878. Sweetland sold the mill a year later to Hiram Scott. Scott officially platted the land in 1882 and named it after himself. It was incorporated as a village in 1889 and as a city in 1907. Today, Scottville remains the agricultural center of Mason County.



Map of the City

Before any recreation plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand the needs of the community and its residents, what recreational opportunities already exist and what future projects and programs are relevant to the residents of the Community. This is based on the age, ability, population, density and the availability of recreational in the surrounding communities. This input is a critical component of this plan and the Community has united to develop a recreation plan to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the Community.

The foundation for the development of the Scottville Parks and Recreation Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community in the process to develop a Five Year Recreation Master Plan,
- Inventory and map existing Scottville recreational facilities,
- Build a strong foundation of Scottville area stakeholders in addressing the future Recreational needs and priorities of the Community,
- Enable the City of Scottville to be eligible for financial assistance based upon the Recreation Plan,
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals, objectives, and actions, and,
- Continue to support and implement improvements for barrier-free, Universal Access to Scottville area parks.
- Consistency with and expansion upon goals and objectives set forth in existing planning documents that deal partially or wholly with recreation.

The newly revised Recreation Plan intended use is to guide the City of Scottville officials on all future recreational and parks projects within the City of Scottville. Specifically, this plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the government entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This plan is written for the City of Scottville and it covers all aspects of park facilities and recreation within the community.

Part 2 – Social Characteristics

Population

The population of the City of Scottville is estimated to increase by 7 persons to 1221 between 2010 and 2016, or 0.6%. A positive increase in numbers, given the economic conditions from 2007 to early 2010. The County as a whole has experienced some small growth from 2000-2016.

Table 2-1 City of Scottville Population, 2000 -2016				
	2000	2010	2016*	% Change 2000-2016
City of Scottville	1,266	1,214	1,221	-3.6%
Mason County	28,274	28,705	28,876	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 &
* U.S. Census Bureau 2016 estimate

Median Age

While the overall population is the most important consideration, there are other characteristics to consider when planning for a community's recreation. The age distribution of a community influences the types of facilities and programs needed. Table 2 shows that the City's median age (32.3) is lower than the County but on par with the State of Michigan average. This would indicate that the City has a younger age base than the rest of the county due to a higher percentage of persons in the 18 and under age groups. Of course, the City should not ignore the other age groups since they still comprise a large proportion of the overall population.

Table 2-2 Median Age in City of Scottville, 2000-2016		
	2000	2016*
City of Scottville	35.1	32.3
Mason County	45.1	45.7
Michigan	33.5	32.8

* U.S. Census Bureau 2016 estimate

The size of families in Scottville follows the Ionia County and Michigan trend of staying fairly even when compared to the State of Michigan trend for smaller households. The general trend toward smaller family size may due to many factors including end of the baby boomer generation, divorce, widowed older persons and young people waiting longer to get married.

Table 2-3 Average Household Size in City of Scottville , 2000-2015			
	2000	2015	% Change 1990-2000
City of Scottville	2.51	2.50	0.00%
Mason County	2.37	2.37	0.0%
Michigan	2.49	2.18	-12.5%

* U.S. Census Bureau 2015 estimate

Income, Poverty and Employment

Year-around Scottville households had a median income of \$35,333 in 2016 estimates. This compares with \$42,004 for Mason County and \$49,576 for the State of Michigan. 122 persons were receiving food stamps in 2015. Reflecting the age of the population, 145 persons received Social Security income in Scottville in 2016, 84 with retirement income and 43 received supplemental Social Security income. The estimated labor force of Scottville (residents only) was 593 persons in 2016. The estimated yearly average employment was 538 persons, with 55 estimated to be unemployed, on average, or 9.3%.

Table 2-4 Scottville Employment and Unemployment, 2016	
Labor Force	593
Employment	538
Unemployment	55
Unemployment Rate	9.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2016

Physically Challenged

Subject	Scottville city, Michigan					
	Total		With a disability		Percent with a disability	
	Est.	Margin of Error	Est.	Margin of Error	Est.	Margin of Error
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	1,283	+/-169	215	+/-41	16.8%	+/-3.1
SEX						
Male	643	+/-99	103	+/-27	16.0%	+/-4.3
Female	640	+/-87	112	+/-29	17.5%	+/-3.9
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN						
White alone	1,242	+/-168	207	+/-40	16.7%	+/-3.1
Black or African American alone	0	+/-10	0	+/-10	-	**
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	7	+/-10	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-93.3
Asian alone	20	+/-22	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-55.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	+/-10	0	+/-10	-	**
Some other race alone	4	+/-7	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-100.0
Two or more races	10	+/-9	8	+/-9	80.0%	+/-49.1
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	1,149	+/-146	207	+/-40	18.0%	+/-3.2
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	97	+/-77	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-20.5
AGE						
Under 5 years	120	+/-40	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-17.0
5 to 17 years	285	+/-80	22	+/-15	7.7%	+/-4.9
18 to 34 years	267	+/-67	30	+/-21	11.2%	+/-7.9
35 to 64 years	455	+/-66	96	+/-28	21.1%	+/-5.5
65 to 74 years	95	+/-39	48	+/-26	50.5%	+/-18.3
75 years and over	61	+/-22	19	+/-14	31.1%	+/-19.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015 Estimates

The disability status of a population may be especially significant when considering recreational needs for a community. With 6.8% of the total the City population affected by some form of disability, these individuals may have difficulty participating in recreational programs, accessing facilities or even getting to designated public areas. Understanding the disability status of City's population may assist decision-makers in determining adequate programs and appropriate locations for recreational activities. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Part 3 – Physical Characteristics

Transportation Network

Scottville is directly served by one statewide arterial (trunk line), US 10, which forms a part of the city's main intersection in the Central Business District. The Michigan Department of Transportation established the US 31 bypass located outside the city limits to the west. The US 31 bypass extends northward and links with Manistee, Traverse City, Petosky and other points beyond. US 10 travels in a east-west direction that extends easterly from the Ludington area through the Scottville CBD to Reed City and Clare. The route then continues southeasterly toward Midland, Bay City and then toward Flint and Detroit. For the Scottville area, these two state trunk lines serve as important transportation routes. In addition, the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service located in Ludington provides a unique point of interest for many tourist and travelers.

Climate

The climate in and around Scottville is considered continental and is strongly influenced by Lake Michigan throughout most of the year. Spring and early summer temperatures are cooler than those observed in central and eastern Michigan because of prevailing westerly winds which blow across Lake Michigan. Similarly, temperatures of fall and winter are more mild. The area rarely experiences prolonged periods of either hot, humid weather in the summer or extreme cold during the winter.

Mean daily maximum temperatures during the summer months typically range between 74 and 78 degrees Fahrenheit, while the mean daily temperatures during the winter typically range between 15 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The annual precipitation is around 32 inches, with the average annual snowfall being 85 inches.

Topography & Land Forms

The topography of Scottville is characterized as fairly level except for the south and southeast portion of the city where the land begins to dip southeasterly toward the Pere Marquette River Flood Plain and its wetland areas.

To the northeast of Scottville, the topography is level. While to the northwest, as one approaches Hackert Lake, the topography of the area gradually climbs. Clay and sandpits are common to the west of Scottville. The amount of low-lying wetland areas increases as the Pere Marquette River travels toward Lake Michigan and the topography of the area falls from 650 feet above sea level to 600 feet.

Woodlands

Originally, Michigan was covered with a dense forest of deciduous trees. As the area was cleared for farming and development, or the trees were removed for timber, the area's forests were replaced by farm fields, open field areas, orchards and smaller forested areas containing both deciduous and coniferous trees. Much of the City's original vegetation has been replaced due to the land use patterns that typically develop within a densely populated community. Most of the natural vegetation in the City is located along the floodway/floodplain corridor along the Pere Marquette River.

Wetlands

The wetlands in the City are similar to the County in that wetlands with associated woodlands that existed during the time of large expanses of pre-settlement wetlands have been reduced to small, scattered upland areas or wetlands associated with floodway/floodplain areas. Upland wetlands have been reduced due to filling, subsurface drainage and drain construction undertaken to improve agriculture. Most upland wetlands are forested and are less than 20 acres in size. Both upland and coastal wetlands provide opportunities such as hiking, nature viewing, hunting, and environmental education.

- Provide commercial or recreational value to our human economy, by producing plants, game birds (ducks, geese) and fur bearing mammals - many fish are directly connected to wetlands, requiring shallow water areas for breeding, feeding and escaping from predators
- When wetlands occur adjacent to inland lakes or streams, they serve as nutrient traps that then enrich the larger body of water of which they are part

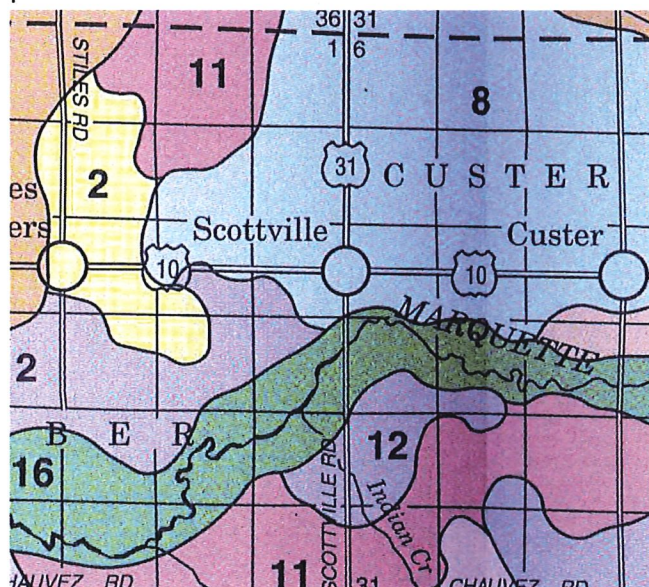
The last century has seen a greatly increased rate of wetland loss due to filling and drainage by man. Prior to World War II, drainage to expand agricultural lands accounted for most of this loss. Recently, much wetland destruction has been caused by commercial, industrial, and residential expansion. The estimated 11 million acres of Michigan wetlands existing in pre settlement times has now been reduced to less than 3 million acres. Recent legislation has slowed the loss rate somewhat but threats to these habitats, particularly the smaller wetlands, continue in many areas.

Prior to park & recreation development, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) should be consulted to review the results of a wetlands determination. The impacts of development within wetland areas should be carefully considered, and a permit from the MDNR should always be obtained if regulated wetlands are to be impacted.

Soils

General soil types found in Scottville include Ithaca–Arkona Series in northern 2/3 of the City with Kerston-Carlise-Glendonra association along the Per Marquette River. Coloma-Spink-Fern associations of soils are found in SW portion of the City. The Ithaca-Arkona soils are somewhat poorly drained with a depth to the top of a seasonal high water table ranges from 0.5 to 2 feet between October and May in normal years. Potential for surface runoff is medium to high. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or moderately low. Permeability is moderately slow or slow. Coloma-Spink-Fern association is somewhat excessively drained or excessively drained. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high or very high throughout. Permeability is rapid for the most part. These soils are very rarely flooded or rarely flooded for very brief or brief duration on stream terraces with slopes of less than 5 percent. Kerston-Carlise-Glendonra association soils are in nearly level areas or slight depressions, including old drainage ways, and on flood plains in river valley.

The map identifies three associations described above. The following information is taken from the Soil Survey of Mason County, Michigan.



SOIL LEGEND*

	AREAS OF NEARLY LEVEL TO VERY STEEP, EXCESSIVELY DRAINAGE TO MODERATELY WELL DRAINER SANDY SOILS AND AREAS OF DUNE LAND
	Dune land North of Old Quarry (government's association)
	Onion's Earth association
	Plankton's Clay association
	Top's Mippanovits association
	Lick's Mippanovits, sandy association
	NEARLY LEVEL AND TO STEEP, MODERATELY TO SOMEWHAT DRAINAGE, SANDY SOILS ON STREAM TERRACES AND FLOOD PLAINS
	Coloma-Spink-Fern association
	Old's (Kerston-Carlise-Glendonra) association
	NEARLY LEVEL AND TO STEEP, MODERATELY TO SOMEWHAT DRAINAGE, SANDY SOILS ON STREAM TERRACES AND FLOOD PLAINS
	Wash's Area association
	Deep's Water association
	NEARLY LEVEL TO VERY STEEP, MODERATELY DRAINAGE, WELL DRAINER, AND SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINER SOILS
	Perman's Iron association
	Fern's Area association
	Onion's Spine-Fern association
	Old's (Kerston-Carlise-Glendonra) association
	NEARLY LEVEL, VERY POORLY DRAINAGE AND POORLY DRAINER SOILS
	Madison's Area-Melic's Peasmequans association
	King's Area association
	Kerston-Carlise-Glendonra association

*The soils on this legend are described in the text under the heading "General Soil Map Units."

Compiled 1992

Water Resources & Drainage

The City of Scottville is located in the Pere Marquette River Watershed. The Pere Marquette River, which is the only water body in the city, has been designated AAA "Natural River" by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Land and Water Management Division, and as a "Wild and Scenic River" by the federal government. In 1970, the Michigan Legislature recognized that natural scenic rivers are a limited and fragile resource and passed the Natural River Act. The main objective of the Act was to establish a system of designated natural rivers for the purposes of preserving, protecting, and enhancing river environments in a natural state. Special regulations, such as 100-foot setbacks and vegetative strips

Fish and Wildlife

The area's wildlife is typical of that found in most of Lower Michigan. Common wildlife includes deer, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, muskrats, beavers, squirrels, rodents and other small mammals. The area is home to a variety of birds including owls, wild turkeys, pheasants and many others. The area is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including ducks and Canada Geese.

Utilities Services

The City of Scottville purchases water from the City of Ludington. The City of Ludington draws its water out of Lake Michigan and the water is treated and chlorinated before it is pumped to Scottville. Water is pumped to Scottville by a pump station and a 20" transmission main that extends from the City of Ludington's water system. The pump station is owned and operated by the City of Ludington. The pump station has a 500,000 gallon ground storage tank and contains two pumps, one electric pump and one gas operated pump. When the storage tank is in-service, the pump station has a capacity of 1,000 gpm. If the storage tank is out-of-service (for maintenance), the pump station capacity is reduced to 400 gpm. The pump station is located at the intersection of Brye Road and US-10. The transmission main extends east from the pump station and runs along US-10 and connects to Scottville's water system near Reinberg Avenue. Scottville's water usage is monitored by a metering station located at the intersection of Stiles Road and US-10.

The wastewater collection system assets consist of three "asset classes" which include:

- Wastewater Gravity Pipes
- Wastewater Pressure Pipes (Forcemains)
- Wastewater Manholes

There is 48,489 feet (9.2 miles) of sanitary sewer (gravity pipe and forcemains), 3 lift stations in the collection system, and 159 wastewater manholes connecting the gravity pipelines. These assets are in existing street rights-of-way or in easements dedicated for the assets use and maintenance. Once the waste water is collected, it is pumped via forcemain to Ludington for treatment.

Community Services

The Mason County District Library is located in Mason County in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. It is the district umbrella administration board under which the Ludington Public Library (city) and the Scottville Public Library (county) function. It consists of a seven-member board of trustees.

The Ludington Public Library is in the city of Ludington in Mason County. The Scottville Public Library is in Scottville which is about 10 miles to the east of Ludington on the edge of the county. Mason County has a population of about 28,000 that the public library administration system serves.

When the library district administration board was created in 1994 with the merger of the Ludington City Library and the County Library in Scottville - the promise was made to maintain as much as possible 2 fully functioning libraries - that neither would be considered a 'branch' of the other. The Mason County District Library is the formal name of the administration for both libraries. Under the Mason County District Library system umbrella these libraries are referred to as the Ludington 'branch' or the Scottville 'branch.' The Mason County District Library administration system itself is not any independent building. These libraries are each fully independent libraries maintaining the same open hours. The Mason County District Library is the formal name of the administration for both libraries but each library continues to be known as either the Ludington Public Library or the Scottville Public Library. The reason the board was established was to pool the resources of the city library (Ludington) with the county library (Scottville) and to eliminate duplication of services.¹The process was to develop a board of combining the resources of the city and county under one district library administration called the "Mason County District Library". It is designed to offer "enhanced service" over the separate city and county library operation.

Land Use

Scottville can be characterized as a small residential community of single family homes situated around a major "cross-road". In the immediate vicinity of the crossroad is the central core of the community's retail, social, and governmental activities. As such, this center is considered the Scottville Central Business District (CBD) and is also supported under the Downtown Development Authority.

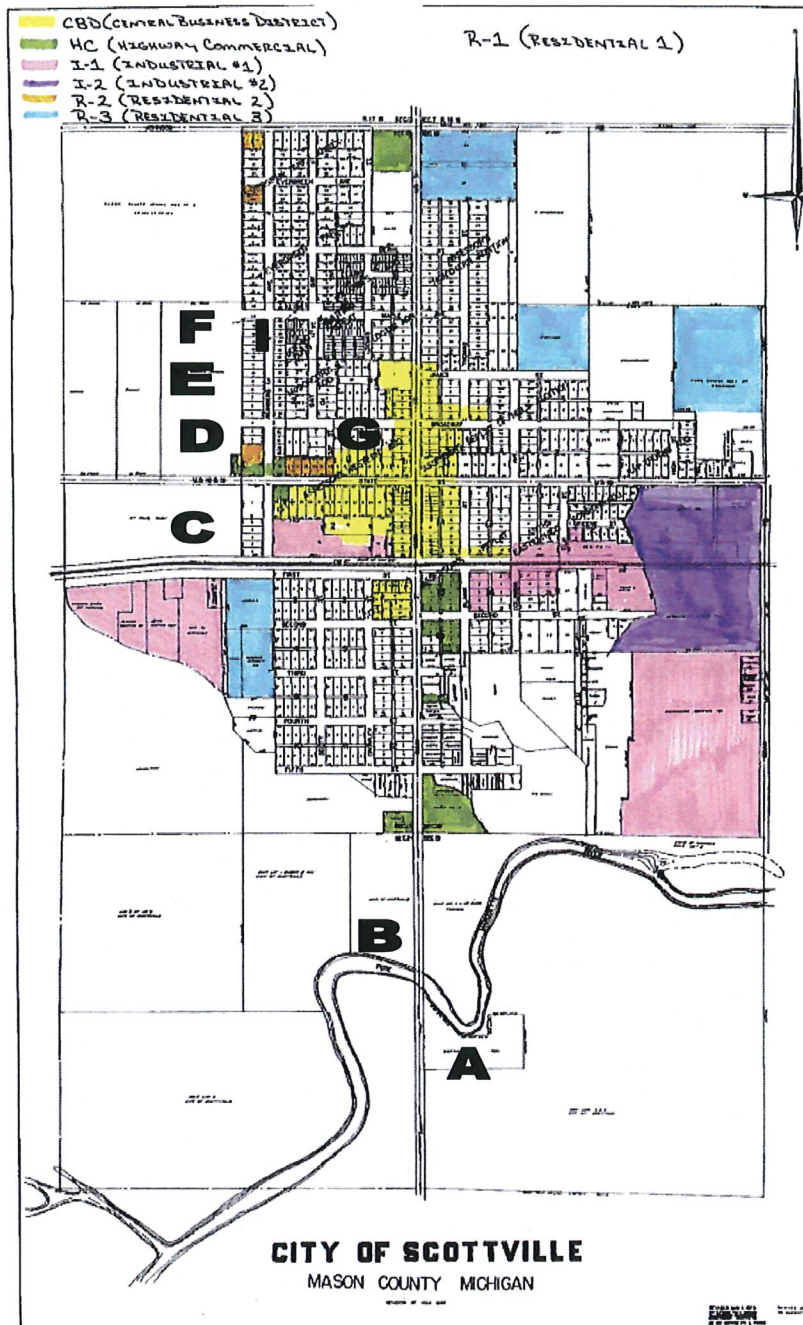
The environs surrounding the CBD and its adjacent residential areas are composed of large areas of public and private land which, for the most part, provide a transition from an urban center to low intensity rural farm country along its corporate limits. On the south, west and northwest sides within the city, there is much open space and flood plain (parkland, farmland, and school property). The northeast part of Scottville contains about 80 acres of vacant, undeveloped land.

There is a total of 912 acres of land within Scottville the greatest amount of which (38%) may be considered as undeveloped land that may be used for recreational purposes or as open space.

Low density single family residential development comprises the next greatest land use in the City, utilizing 29% of the land in Scottville. The following detail provides additional insight into the amount of land dedicated to residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial uses.

City of Scottville Land Use (Source: City of Scottville Land Use Plan, 1993)

Land Use	Acres	% of Area
Residential:	320	35%
Low Density – One Family	263	29%
Low Density – Two Family	21	2%
Multi-Family (more than two)	36	4%
Commercial:	48	5%
Central Business District	35	4%
Highway Commercial	13	1%
Institutional	72	8%
Recreational / Open Space	351	38%
Industrial	131	14%
TOTAL	912.	100%



Zoning Map w/ Park Locations

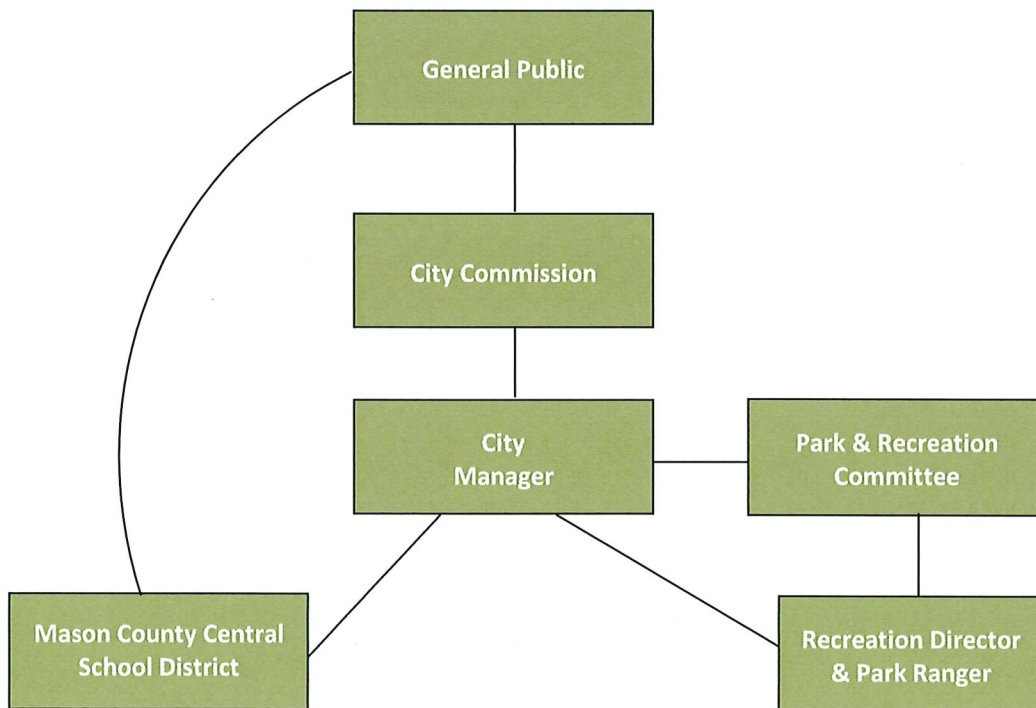
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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A Riverside Park - East | D Mason County Central Middle School | F Mason County Central High School |
| B Riverside Park - West | E Upper Elementary | G Scottville Elementary |
| C McPhail Field | | |

SECTION B - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Scottville is a Council/ City Manager form of government. The city commission members elect a mayor and mayor *pro tem* from among the seven. The City Manager oversees the general operations of the city and enforces the established commission policies. An organizational chart of the administrative functions within the City is included in the appendix.

The Scottville Parks and Recreation Program is administered and funded through the Scottville City Commission. The Parks and Recreation Committee members are appointed through the Scottville City Commission to provide oversight to the parks and recreation program. All decisions made by the Parks and Recreation Committee are forwarded to the Scottville City Commission for approval or adoption.

The City Manager is the liaison between the Parks and Recreation Committee and the City Commission and is responsible for the appointment and supervision of any staff recommended by the Committee. The Recreation Director and the Park Ranger report to the Parks and Recreation Committee on a regular basis. Their reports are to provide updates as to the day to day operations, as well as operational issues and other planning considerations. The chart illustrates the relationship among the various entities involved in recreation within the City. The administrative structure is as follows:



All maintenance for the city parks are performed by full time seasonal staff. The Scottville Department of Public Works performs any repairs of a technical nature at Riverside Park and McPhail Field.

The City of Scottville collaborates with Mason County Central Schools to run the Summer Ball Program which consists of t-ball, softball and baseball. The City of Scottville covers the costs of the maintenance of the fields which includes mowing, dragging and other maintenance items. The School collects the fee to play and uses that to purchase equipment needed for the players as well as to provide some maintenance support. The School also provides staff to line the fields prior to each game.

CITY OF SCOTTVILLE PARK & RECREATION PLAN 2018-2022

The City also collaborates with the Pop Warner Football to run a football program for the youth. Similar to above the City provides the maintenance to the field such as mowing and the Pop Warner Club collects fees for play. They also provide the equipment for the youth and assist with maintenance of the field and reimburse the city for the cost of water and electricity.

Scottville Recreation Dept. Budget Revenues			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total Revenues	\$3,725	\$2,880	\$1,030

Scottville Recreation Dept. Budget Expenditures			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total Expenditures	\$20,975	\$16,754	\$20,267

Expenditures from the funds of the Scottville Recreation Department consist of:

Salaries	Retirement	FICA
Retirement	Capital outlay	Professional & technical services
Workman's Compensation	Officials/referees	Gas, oil and grease
Staff development/conferences	Travel	Misc. expense
Utilities	Other supplies/materials	Equipment rentals
Operating supplies	Office supplies	Vehicle repair
Dues and fees		

The Scottville Riverside Park also operates on a fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Revenues and expenditures for the Riverside Park are generated out of designated Riverside Park Accounts within the General Fund of the City of Scottville. Oversight for both revenues and expenditures is provided under the City Charter to the City Manager and the City Commission. Capital expenditures vary substantially from year to year, depending on improvements made to the Park. In recent years that has included the addition of a swimming pool and the new restroom facility.

Scottville Riverside Park Revenues			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Camping Fees	\$97,248	\$114,689	\$102,650
Other Park Revenues	\$15,759	\$16,277	\$17,454
Grant Contributions	-		-
Total Revenues	\$113,007	\$130,966	\$119,908

Scottville Riverside Park Expenditures			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total Expenditures	\$85,698	\$94,292	\$97,590

Expenditures from the funds of the Scottville Riverside Park consist of:

Salaries	Fringes	Equipment rentals
Operating supplies	Telephone and utilities	Equipment Repair
Office supplies	Community promotion	Insurance and bonds
Dues and memberships	Pool maintenance	Capital outlay
Misc. expense		

SECTION C – DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

Community recreational facilities cannot be effectively provided without some basis from which the type, quantity, location, need, and priority for that facility has been determined. Several methods for determining a community's recreation needs and priorities have been identified. These include observed use levels for existing facilities, comparisons of recreational facilities between similar communities, unique opportunities for certain types of facilities, guidelines or standards based on quantity per population, and projected population growth, to identify a few methods.

Existing recreation opportunities can be compared to recreation standards to determine deficiencies. However, great care must be taken to apply common sense and knowledge of the community. These standards will be used only in conjunction with other methods to determine recreation deficiencies and priorities.

It is highly recommended that additional effort be put forth to solicit comments from residents in close vicinity to or who may be negatively impacted by future projects. Public review and comment was done when this plan was in its draft stage.

In 1998 the Scottville Recreation Committee was organized to evaluate the original community 1993 Plan, collect and analyze available information and data, as well as provide guidance to the private consulting firm hired to work with the City and complete the 1998 Parks and Recreation Plan update.

In 2014 the City of Scottville turned back operation of the Summer Ball Program Mason County Central Schools, however, the City still partners with the School in a collaborative effort to run the program by sharing expenses for the program. The City has also in 2017 partnered with Scottville Pop Warner Football to bring a youth football program to McPhail field. Similar to the collaborative effort with the school, the city cost shares for the football program.

For this Recreation Plan, a public strategic planning workshop was facilitated by City, City Staff and planning consultant on November 2, 2017. At the workshop, it was determined that a strong desire existed within the City to improve the recreational facilities throughout the City but with an emphasis on the developing the second phase of campground improvements at Riverside Park.

The purpose of the strategic planning process was to receive direct input from key individuals within the community relative to the identification and ranking of the community's current recreation needs. The issues and needs were identified and discussed at the January 4, 2018 workshop and are incorporated into this document. A draft copy of this plan was placed on file at the City Hall and a public notice was placed in the local newspaper (see appendix) to invite further public comment on the plan. The information contained in the draft report was presented to the City Commission at a public hearing on January 22, 2018 to further allow public comment to discuss the issues and needs of the community.

On January 22, 2018, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Scottville City Commission, the 5 year plan was formally adopted. Meeting minutes and resolution are attached (see appendix).

SECTION D – EXISTING RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

An essential element of a recreation plan is the inventory of local and regional, public and private recreation facilities that are available to a community’s resident. Such an inventory provides a basis from which a comparison can be made of existing recreation opportunities with the community’s identified recreation needs. This inventory process also identifies barrier-free facilities. This will ensure that citizens with disabilities will fully enjoy these facilities. Involving advocate organizations and utilizing the knowledge of the City staff will help facilitate this element of the inventory process. Further, this facility inventory establishes the foundation from which a recreational improvement program can be developed and implemented. The included map below shows the location of City owned recreational facilities.

1 – CITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The City of Scottville has two main parks that serve the community that are distinctive in their differing character. McPhail Field is an active recreation park with athletic fields and courts while Riverside Park is a more passive recreational and camping facility

Park	Size	Facilities	
McPhail Field	16.5 Acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 Youth Ball Diamonds ▪ 1 Adult Softball Diamond (lighted) ▪ 1 Hardball/Softball Diamond (90 feet) ▪ 2 Tennis Courts ▪ 1 Full Size Soccer Field ▪ 1 Mid-Size Soccer Field ▪ 2 Small Soccer Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 Picnic Tables ▪ 2 Restrooms with Water ▪ 2 Drinking Fountains ▪ Concession Stand ▪ Press Box ▪ Bleachers ▪ Cub Scout Building for Meetings and Storage ▪ Playground



Park	Size	Facilities
Riverside Park South of Pere Marquette River	93 Acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 52 Campsites, with water and electric, cable TV ▪ 10 Primitive Campsites ▪ Playground and Kiddy Train ▪ Heated Pool ▪ Basketball Court ▪ 2 Shuffleboard Courts ▪ 2 Horseshoe Pits ▪ A Day Picnic Area ▪ BBQ Pit ▪ 108 Picnic Tables ▪ 2 Handicap Accessible Set of Restrooms with Showers ▪ 1 with Laundry Facility ▪ 3 Shelters with Cement Pads, 1 with electrical, 2 with Fireplaces ▪ Water Supply and Sanitary Disposal Station ▪ 2 Paved Parking Areas ▪ Group Campsite on Pere Marquette River (Primitive) ▪ 1 Mile Nature/Hiking/X Country Ski Trail ▪ Outdoor Volleyball Court ▪ Site of Western Michigan Old Engine club ▪ 2 Fishing Piers ▪ Gazebo



Park	Size	Facilities
Riverside Park North of Pere Marquette River	10.0 Acres	Boat Launch Fish Cleaning Station Handicap Bathrooms 2 Portable Docks Paved Parking Lot (40 Cars w/ Trailers) Boat Launch and Canoe Landing Picnic Tables and Grills



2 – SCHOOL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

In addition to the City and county recreation facilities, there are public schools with recreation facilities located in and around the region. They are briefly described as follows.

Public Schools

The Mason County Central School District provides public education to the residents of the City of Portland and the surrounding area. The school system’s enrollment in 2016 was 1297 students. The District has four schools, all of which are located in the City.

- **Scottville Elementary** - 201 West Maple Street, Scottville, MI. 6.9 acres and 4.2 for recreation. Grades pre-K through 2. Facilities include playground, six basketball courts, soccer field and gymnasium.



- **Upper Elementary School** - 505 West Maple Street, Scottville, MI. 9 acres and 6.5 for recreation. Grades 3 through 5. Facilities include soccer fields, playground, basketball court and gymnasium.
Mason County Central Middle School - 310 West Beryl, Scottville, MI. 40 acres and 36 for recreation. Facilities include baseball field, softball field, football field, 8-lane all-weather track, gymnasium, outdoor basketball hoops, outdoor science laboratory, outdoor covered Pavilion, concession stand/restroom/team building, bleachers and pressbox.
- **Mason County Central High School**- 210 W. Broadway, Scottville. 13.8 acres and 8 for recreation. Facilities include 1 backstop for pickup Baseball/Softball Game, practice Football Field, Gymnasium and Soccer Field (Practice)



3 – PRIVATE FACILITIES

There are a number of private facilities in and around Scottville which include recreation amenities. While they provide public access to varying degrees, they are important in providing recreation opportunities. Some of these facilities are listed below.

Location	Facilities
Senior Citizen Center	Meeting areas for Social/Recreational Activities
Country Lanes Bowling Center	16 Lanes Restaurant Cosmic Bowling Game Room League Bowling – Men, Women, Youth Open Bowling
Victory Township	2 Ballfields
Riverton Township	2 Ballfields
Branch Township	1 Ballfield 1 Basketball Court with 2 Hoops Small Playground
Village of Fountain	2 Ballfields
Custer (owned by St. Mary's Catholic Church)	2 Ballfields Bathroom and Water

4 –REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

West Shore Community College

Located near the geographical center of the county in Victory Township, has many facilities that are made available to the Mason County community. Included is a swimming pool, a large field house that includes gyms, wellness center, handball courts, and many other sport and health-related and recreation related activities. The college has been a leader in recreation since it was established over 30 years ago. The West Shore Community Ice Arena was completed in 2003 on its campus and has been very popular with Mason County residents. In 2012, the college added a disc golf course.

White Pine Village

White Pine Village is an historic community of over thirty restored buildings on 23 acres, dedicated to preserving and presenting Mason County's history. The Village is operated by the Mason County Historical Society and is located in PM Township on South Lakeshore Drive on the Buttersville Peninsula. The buildings contain thousands of artifacts that help interpret their setting in the history of the area. Small-town Michigan life in the late 1800's and beyond is shown in such historic buildings as the blacksmith's shop, clock museum, chapel, and old-fashioned ice cream parlor. A trapper's cabin and restored 1800's farmhouse are among the many other attractions.

Mason County Fairgrounds

The fairgrounds property is owned by the county and is leased to the Western Michigan Fair Association. Located on the north side of US-10 in Pere Marquette Charter Township, this 50-acre site features 115 camp sites, a community center, three horse arenas, several barns and a grand stand with 3,500 seats.

Mason County Campground and Picnic Area

This facility is located in PM Township on property owned by the Ludington Pumped Storage Project (jointly owned by Consumers Energy and DTE Electric). It was originally constructed by the plant owners in 1972 as part of the project's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license requirements. The facility is operated under a long-term lease by the Mason County Parks & Recreation Commission. The Mason County Campground includes 56 wooded campsites and several camping cabins along with a pavilion, playground, and a nature trail.

Mason County Disc Golf and Picnic Area

The Mason County Picnic Area, located across from the campground on the south side of Chauvez Rd, includes a large pavilion that seats up to 350 people that can be rented for public and private functions. This area also includes three 24-goal disc golf courses, which are operated by the Mason County Disc Golf Organization under a license from Mason County. The courses are very popular and state – wide annual disc golf tournaments have often been held here.

Pere Marquette Charter Township

Operates a very active parks and recreation program. The township has four parks and is the only township to pay a per-capita fee to the City of Ludington for their children to attend activities sponsored by the Ludington Recreation Department. The township parks commission operates a 44-site campground on the high banks above Lake Michigan and has several hundred feet of beach on Lake Michigan for public use. Memorial Tree Park on Lincoln Lake is a 37-acre day use park and has a ball diamond and a large picnic shelter with a building containing flush toilets. Suttons Landing Park, located on the Pere Marquette River near Old Highway 31 has a large modern picnic shelter with flush toilets, a boardwalk on the river with handicap fishing positions, and a boat launch ramp on the river that connects to Lake Michigan. Pere Marquette Shrine located on Lakeshore Drive has been recently rebuilt, and the area provides parking and a boat launch ramp on the east side into Pere Marquette Lake

Ludington State Park

Located on M-116, approximately 8 miles north of Ludington, and is situated so that it boasts long water frontages on both Lake Michigan and Hamlin Lake. This park has 344 modern campsites, two ski trails, encompasses the Sauble River Mason County between Hamlin Lake and Lake Michigan, a camp store and restaurant, along with boat rental and launching facilities. Ludington State Park is undoubtedly the largest visitor attraction to the county.

Nordhouse Dunes

A hiking trail begins at the end of Nurnburg Road on the north side of Hamlin Lake and continues for a distance of 14.5 miles through the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area north of Ludington State Park and touches Lake Michigan, finally ending at the Lake Michigan Recreation Area.

Pere Marquette River

A popular fishing and canoeing stream, classified as a National Scenic River and State Natural River. The Forest Service controls much of the river and provides various landings and facilities for those who navigate the stream.

Lake Michigan Recreation Area

This popular area is comprised of family and group campsites that are both scenic and natural. The area adjoins Lake Michigan to the west and Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area to the south. It is located about 15 miles north of the City of Ludington on Forest Trail 5629, and has for public use 99 paved spur campsites each of which has a fire ring and picnic table with a lamp holder, half of which are barrier free. The area also has Lake Michigan swimming beaches, observation decks, picnic sites with playground, and over three miles of graveled bicycle and hiking paths.

Golf Courses

Lakeside Links Golf Course is a 213 acre, 27-hole course located on Chauvez Rd west of PM Highway near the Pumped Storage Project. It includes a clubhouse, snack bar and associated amenities. A nine-hole golf course together with seven tennis courts is part of the development at the gated community of Epworth Heights in the northwest corner of the Township near the Lincoln River. While these facilities are not generally open to non-residents, the tennis courts have been made available for use by the Ludington High School.

Two additional just across the Lincoln River in Hamlin Township are Lincoln Hills and Hemlock Golf Clubs. Lincoln Hills is an 18-hole course bordering in-part along Lake Michigan that also has three tennis courts along with a clubhouse and associated amenities. A membership is generally needed for use of the Lincoln Hills facilities. Hemlock Golf Club, located nearby in Hamlin Township on W Decker Rd, is an 18-hole course that opened in 2002 with a clubhouse and associated amenities. Like Lakeside Links, the Hemlock Club is open to the public and does not require a membership.

5 – BARRIER FREE EVALUATION & UNIVERAL ACCESS

The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation are subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. This planning process should include methods to ensure that the City park and recreation system is accessible to persons with disabilities. The City completed an evaluation of existing facilities in 2010 to determine if they are barrier-free.

When looking at areas to determine their accessibility to all people, we started by asking these simple questions:

Can a person who has a sight or hearing disability, uses a wheelchair, uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, has a mental disability that affects learning and understanding, safely and independently:

- *Get from the arrival place to the activity area?*
- *Do what others do in the area?*
- *Move around the area?*
- *If not, what is getting in the way?*
- *How can this barrier be removed?*

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Common components that need to be looked at to answer these basic questions include: parking, paths of travel from parking, street or sidewalk to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, signage, support facilities such as restrooms, surfacing, and communications required for recreation programs and general use of a facility or area. The existing parks were evaluated on the following criteria and scored 1-5.

5- Facility is fully accessible. Features and facilities meet and exceed the Uniform Building Code and take into consideration Universal Design principles. Main elements such as the washrooms, entrances, parking, and amenities are barrier free.

4- Majority of the facility is accessible; however there are some accessibility barriers. Some improvements are needed to make the facility fully accessible.

3- Facility is partially accessible. Barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.

2- Facility is partially accessible. Barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.

1- Facility has poor accessibility. Accessibility barriers may exist at entranceway, recreation area and washrooms. Alternate facility is recommended if barrier free access

The flowing is a chart with each of the City parks with their respective accessibility ranking:

Park Name		Parking	Walks	Restrooms	Observation Decks	Pavilions	Playground	Boat Launch	Fish Cleaning Station
Riverside Park East	Accessibility rating	4	4	4	4	4	3	n/a	n/a
Riverside Park West	Accessibility rating	2	2	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2
McPhail Field	Accessibility rating	2	1	3	n/a	2	2	n/a	n/a

Universal Access

Another often overlooked category is Universal Access. This practice goes way beyond typical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations to practice “common and equal experiences for all.” The goal of universal access is, throughout concept and design phases, to incorporate technology, materials and other considerations that promote equal opportunities for people of varied abilities. These concepts should be kept in the forefront as a prime consideration in the 5-year Master Plan and individual parks or projects as they develop and progress.

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Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations:
Archery range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stations ▪ Route to retrieval area for each target ▪ Targets also usable with cross bows ▪ Arrow back stop to limit retrieval distance ▪ Larger maneuvering spaces to accommodate archers with shooting assistants
Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Routes over the beach and into the water, can be portable/temporary matting if it needs to be taken in and out for beach cleaning/dragging or in the off season ▪ Wide enough for side by side walking/passing ▪ At beach route end have an accessible area at the water's edge large enough to park multiple chairs while the owners are in the water ▪ With a transfer system at the water's edge so people can get down to the ground level and into the water
Boardwalk wetland and water access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 feet minimum width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass ▪ Edge treatment to prevent roll/step off ▪ If side rails are used, more than 25% must lowered for easy viewing in various places along the boardwalk ▪ Interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.
Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All sites and amenities ▪ Accessible surface on all sites, including rustic sites ▪ Larger spaces to accommodate side lifts on campers and vehicles ▪ Accessible tables, grills (15 " minimum, 34 " maximum height), and fire rings on all sites ▪ Centrally located restrooms on easy routes from each site
Camping Cabins and Yurts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Larger clear space and maneuvering spaces in between all furnishings, including when all are in use (beds, tables/chairs with people seated at the table, shelves within lowered reach ranges, lowered wall hooks, etc.) ▪ Larger clear space thoughtfully located for typical portable items such as coolers, luggage, equipment/food bins/tubs, etc.
Canoe/kayak/boat launch:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wider route so someone can hand wheel boat on dolly to launch pulling boat next to them if they are in a wheelchair or two person carry down ▪ Accessible surface to water's edge and into water at launch ▪ More gentle slopes for easier entry and exit when hand wheeling a boat ▪ Some type of "rack" to stabilize boat at a transferable height then some type of mechanism/roller system to move, while seated in the boat, into the water Some means of transfer assistance such as overhead bars ▪ Some type of wench system to help pull boat out of water back into the rack to exit/transfer out. ▪ If there is a dock provide a transfer system on the dock so a person can be seated on the dock to transfer over to a boat in the water that is in some type of a stabilizer rack ▪ Adaptive kayaks available for use Shore station with a platform (instead of "V" rack) with a transfer system on the deck of the shore station, located next to a dock so someone could roll/get on the platform and lower it to the right level to transfer into a boat

Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations:
Fishing dock/pier and observation/viewing decks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than 25% of the rails are lowered in various locations or no rails at all with only an edge treatment to prevent roll off ▪ Sitting benches (all with backs and arm rests) scattered about so anglers can choose to sit or stand to fish ▪ Tackle box stands next to one bench end (not both) leaving one end clear space for sitting side by side with someone in a wheelchair ▪ A variety of fish landing cutaways strategically placed ▪ Variety of accessible opportunities—over-water fishing, shore fishing, in-water fishing, etc. ▪ Transition plates between access route and deck/pier
Nature center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc. ▪ Creative use of technology such as mp3 players for auditory descriptions (this gives the info. directly to the individual) closed loop assistive listening devices and closed circuit captioning of all interpretive presentations ▪ All displays at lowered heights for sitting or standing viewing ▪ All operating mechanisms that are operable with one hand and do not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than minimum number of accessible spots ▪ Each connected directly to an accessible route to the park elements and NOT into the traffic flow ▪ Thoughtfully located nearest the activity entrance, which might require multiple lots (some near the beach, some near the playground, some near the bathhouse, etc.)
Picnic areas and elements: Pavilions, picnic tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All located on accessible routes ▪ all tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc. accessible ▪ Level routes onto pavilions with no changes of level from path to pavilion surface ▪ Wider routes and clear space with firm surface around all elements so someone with mobility limits can easily move around the element (table, grill, etc.) ▪ A variety of table styles, some with clear sitting space on the side, some with extended table tops on the end ▪ Some fixed tables to ensure they remain accessible (not moved off into a grassy or sandy area, etc.) ▪ Clear space all around each element so people can approach and use the grill, fire ring, etc. from the front, back and either side ▪ Grills you can lower/raise the cooking surface with one hand ▪ Raised fire building surfaces so you can place wood without leaning too far over from a standing or seated position
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ramps and transfers ▪ Has both ramp and transfer access to all play components ▪ Ramps to every “getting on spot” or “sit/stand & do it spot” of every play component ▪ Transfer system from the ground up to the main deck located near the exits of slides and climbers furthest from the ramp onto the structure ▪ Only unitary safety surface such as poured-in-place or rubber tiles NOT any loose fill materials likes shredded rubber, wood chips, engineered wood fiber, or any other non-unitary surface material

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Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations:
Playgrounds (Con't)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On deck transfer platform at the entry point of every slide ▪ On deck transfer platform with one open transfer side and one side with transfer steps to every entry/exit point of every climber, so kids climbing up can get down to the deck to move to another component, as they may have left an assistive device at the ground ▪ A good variety of things to manipulate that make noise or music, have high contrast/bright colors, games that two kids can play (to foster social interaction), Braille and sign language panels to teach awareness, easy to operate with just one hand with a whole fist (does not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate) ▪ Different high contrast colors for decks versus transfers so kids with low vision can perceive a change in level ▪ Play panels are located at heights so they can be used from a seated position or standing
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than the minimum number of accessible units ▪ Multiple unisex/single user toilet rooms/units so opposite sex care givers can assist; also good for parents of young children of the opposite sex so kids aren't sent alone into the multi-user restroom ▪ Thoughtfully located near areas of activity such as play areas, beaches, fishing piers, etc. ▪ Accessible door pulls and water faucet handles - all accessible port-a-johns, again big enough for individual use or care giver/parental assistance.
Skiing/sledding hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible route to top (no steps), possibly using a "magic carpet" lift ▪ Level surface for sled mounting at hill top ▪ If staffed, provide ATV transport or have policy that allows personal ATV use ▪ Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer
<p>Sports fields/courts</p> <p>Fields: soccer, football, baseball, etc.</p> <p>Courts: tennis, basketball, bocce, horseshoes, etc.</p> <p>Other: skate parks, frisbee golf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Routes to both sides of all fields and courts, not just end zones ▪ Accessible seating spaces both ground level and elevated if risers/bleachers are provided ▪ Accessible seating spaces scattered throughout all viewing areas and levels with companion seating on both sides of the space ▪ All lowered service windows at all concession areas ▪ Wider gate openings into court areas (tennis, bocce, basketball) and skate parks to accommodate wider sports wheelchairs ▪ Routes to both horseshoe pits and along both sides of the route between pits ▪ Level routes onto bocce courts with sitting benches at both ends

Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations:
Trail: nature trail, walkway, pathway, etc (Con't)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-use trail - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass ▪ Walkways within a site – at least 6 feet wide and have slopes under 2% ▪ Regional trail system - at least 10 feet wide, with 1 foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2% ▪ Unitary surface like concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been “stabilized” or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers ▪ Transition plates between trail and pedestrian bridges, decks, etc. ▪ Contrasting color treatment of the surface and textured surface treatments such as brushed concrete at intersections or interpretive stations to cue people who have vision impairments that there is something to pay attention to at that spot ▪ Close to level cross slopes (side to side) and very gentle running slopes, no steep sections, larger (greater than 60” X 60”)level areas at all turns and intersections ▪ Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty ▪ Accessible amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc.

The goal of full accessibility is stated as a primary goal in the action plan outlined by the City.

6 – RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Mason County Central School District and the City act in the capacity of a regional recreation provider. Although most recreational activities take place within the City of Scottville, the recreational programs and activities serve the Mason County Central, Mason County Eastern and Free Soil School Districts. These three school districts comprise more than fifty percent of the land area in Mason County.

Softball : The City of Scottville, in conjunction with the City of Ludington and the Village of Custer, has actively been building a fast-pitch softball program of statewide significance. In addition to running three local fast-pitch softball leagues, the cities also host four fastpitch tournaments. Local softball leagues include the following:

- Men’s Fast-pitch Softball League (14 Teams, 210 Players)
- Women’s Fast-pitch Softball League (14 Teams, 210 Players)
- Youth Leagues, Fast-pitch and Hardball (5 Leagues, 600 Players)
- 18 and Under Fast-pitch Girls League (4 Teams, 55 Players)

Major Fast-pitch Softball Tournaments include:

- State District Fast-pitch Softball: host site for many years
- State Finals Fast-pitch Softball: host site for several years
- Stacy Ruba Memorial Women’s Post-Season tournament: 9 teams
- Snowball Johnson Memorial Weekend Tournament: 20-24 teams
- Clancy Shafer Tournament; women’s teams, held 3rd weekend in June
- 4th of July Tournament: 12 teams
- Gold Coast Tournament teams, held 2nd weekend in July
- Willie Strzynski Tournament: 16 teams, held Father’s Day weekend

Swimming – Scottville also offers a swimming lesson program, which is typically attended by approximately 400 children. Swim instruction takes place at West Shore Community College’s Recreation Center Pool.

Pop Warner Football – The YMCA Pop Warner Association began in 1995 with 10 teams from four contiguous counties. It presently has over 70 football teams representing 10 counties. In addition, there are also over 25 cheer teams contributing to the fun and excitement on Saturdays in the fall, The Scottville area has over 300 participants in the program.

Aerobic Conditioning – West Shore Community College opened a new recreational program in October of 1998 at the now WSCC Wellness Center which focuses on aerobic circuit training to improve muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and weight loss. The Center is open to all persons age 15 and above at a relatively nominal cost of \$75 for four months. Persons 60 years and over need only pay a \$25 lab fee.

The Mason County Fairgrounds: a 128-acre site at which the annual county fair is held.

Scottville Clown Band Shell: Summer Concert Series.

Pump Storage Campground and Recreation Area – Camping and picnic facilities are available from Memorial through Labor Day weekends. The picnic area has a 27-goal Disc Golf Course and the recreation area has a Radio Controlled Flying Field available to AMA members. The Pump Storage Facility is leased from Consumers Energy.

2-Ball Basketball Skills Competition – Scottville is a local host of the 2-Ball Basketball Skills Competition, which is sponsored by the Detroit Pistons – NBA.

Hershey Track and Field Meet – Scottville is a local host of the Hershey Track and Field meet, which is sponsored by Hershey's Track and Field Youth Program, Hershey Chocolate of North America.

Diamond Skills Competition – Scottville is a local host of the Diamond Skills Competition, which is sponsored by Fleer Major League Baseball.

Rail Trails – One of the better known Rail-Trails in Michigan is the Hart-Montague trail which has 22 miles of paved surface. This trail is located approximately 25 miles from the City of Scottville. A shelter building is available, at each of the unique small towns along the trail. Trails that are located closer to home include those found in Riverside Park around camping areas and along the Pere Marquette River.

Nifty Fifties Car Show: Held annually in July in Downtown Scottville.

Old Engine Club Annual Show and Education Day: The Old Engine club Annual Show is held in the first week of August each year and they also sponsor an annual education day for four different school districts during the second week in September. This provides elementary school students a view of turn-of-the-century technology (the 1900's that is!)

Scottville Summer Funfest: A family event including the Chicken BBQ sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and held at the West Michigan Old Engine Club Pavilion in the month of July.

The Harvest Festival: Sponsored by the Scottville Chamber of Commerce. Includes the Harvest Kids and Grand Parade, a Craft Show, a Tractor Pull, carnival rides and much, much more. Held in September each year in Downtown Scottville.

Community Barn Dance: Held at the grounds of the Old Engine Club, a Community Barn Dance and hayride event is held during the month of October.

The Scottville Clown Band – Scottville Clown Band is known throughout the country, playing at various festivals and events throughout the year. The Band, along with a variety of other musical acts, take turns entertaining the community of Scottville every Tuesday night during the summer at the Optimists Band Shell. A great deal of community pride revolves around the band, which provides scholarships to children and represents several generations of residents.

7- PAST GRANT STATUS

Below is a summary of past grants used to fund recreational improvements in the City. A complete Post-Completion Self Certification report for each is included in the appendix.

A.	Project No. CM99-044	Riverside Park bathhouse and Service Center	Status Closed
B.	Project No. TF05-008	Riverside Boat Launch Site Improvements	Status Closed
C.	Project No. TF05-009	Riverside Park Campground Redevelopment	Status Closed
D.	Project No. 26-00307	Scottville River Park Improvements	Status Closed
E.	Project No. 26-00697	McPhail Park Improvements	Status Closed
F.	Project No. 26-01541	River Park Improvements	Status Closed

SECTION E – ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE AND RATIONALE

In defining the action program, the formulation of community goals and objectives for the provision of recreation is a vital component. The goals and objectives represent the purposes for a community's role in providing recreation to its residents as well as outlining the direction that the community's effort should take in the long term. Goals are the general targets for which a community aims for while objectives are the specific steps that can be taken towards that goal. A recreation plan identifies those actions that can be undertaken to implement the objectives and fulfill the community's goals.

The goals and objectives for the City in meeting the recreation needs of residents are outlined below.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1

Provide comprehensive community based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all Scottville area residents.

Objectives:

The various input received from the community during this planning process has provided many suggestions for improvements in our park facilities and recreational programs. The City of Scottville will continue to use these suggestions to guide their planning for the future.

Potential Actions:

- A. Continue to add amenities and support facilities to the current Scottville park facilities based upon community input and current needs of the community.
- B. Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- C. Insure that improvements and upgrades to existing park facilities are handicap accessible, where feasible.
- D. Construct restroom facilities, play areas, ADA parking, picnic facilities and other recreational facilities as priority items identified in community workshops.
- E. Promote low water and native planting restoration whenever practical especially in the addition of bioswales, rain gardens and stabilization plantings in areas of erosion.
- F. Look at options for improving educational and interpretive signage in all the parks including signs for persons of various disabilities.

Goal 2

Provide quality leisure time activities with special consideration given to improve health and fitness.

Objectives:

The Community's recreational facilities and programs offer the community an opportunity to enjoy nature and take part in activities that will improve health and fitness. The Scottville community realizes the importance of providing top quality park facilities and programs and also would like to continue to improve the health and fitness of its residents.

Potential Actions:

- A. Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population.
- B. Add recreational facilities based upon recreation trends and input from the community.

Goal 3

Provide additional non-motorized trails for recreational and transportation use.

Objectives:

Providing the community with trail system which is our “safe highway” across the community connecting our schools, parks and the downtown district is a high priority in our community.

Potential Actions:

- A. Expand the accessible trail system in the Scottville area with a focus on continuing to connect our existing parks, neighbors and destination points.
- B. Connect Scottville’s trail system to neighboring communities.
- C. Explore cooperative effort with the surrounding communities to promote, manage, oversee, plan and seek joint funding for trails in the regional area and to avoid duplication of efforts and to enhance the connectability of the trails and ensure the best regional outcomes.
- D. Develop system of wayfinding signage to aid users in navigating and utilizing park facilities

Goal 4

Provide recreation opportunities that focus and take advantage of Scottville area water resources.

Objectives:

Many residents and visitors comment on the natural beauty of our trails and parks in Scottville which utilize the Pere Marquette River as a focal point. They also responded that they also felt it was important to develop recreational opportunities that take advantage of what the river has to offer. This can be very important to local residents as well as those interested in visiting the community. The Pere Marquette River recreational opportunities can be seen as an economic development tool.

Potential Actions:

- A. Develop opportunities with other agencies in our community to educate our residents about our local natural resources.
- B. Enhance fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities on the Pere Marquette River.
- C. Enhance and expand our use of our natural resources for festivals and special events.
- D. Promote stormwater run-off quality control measures to improve water habitat for fish.

Goal 5

ACQUIRE AND RETAIN PUBLIC LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Objectives:

As the Scottville community continues to grow our local officials need to be conscious of the need for acquiring additional park land as it becomes available.

Potential Actions:

- A. Retain existing parkland and acquire new public lands to meet the future recreational needs of the community.
- B. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural features in the Scottville area.
- C. Develop programs for evaluating future land acquisition.
- D. Preserve floodplains and wetlands for recreation purposes whenever possible.
- E. Acquire property adjacent to existing park properties whenever possible to allow for the greatest flexibility and offer economy of sharing infrastructure when expanding or adding recreation activities to existing dedicated parklands.

Goal 6

CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF SCOTTVILLE AREA RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROMOTE THEM TO OUR LOCAL CITIZENS AS WELL AS TO VISITORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Objectives:

Several respondents indicated in the past that they were not aware of all the parks that were available in our local community. They also indicated that they were not aware of all the adult and youth recreational programs that we offered in our local recreation department.

Potential Actions:

- A. Develop additional print and web based media to describe existing recreational opportunities available to the residents of our service area.
- B. Develop additional print and web based media to describe and highlight our existing park facilities.

Goal 7

DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF PARK FACILITIES THAT PROMOTE FOUR SEASON USE.

Objectives:

Provide residents with opportunities for recreation that provide multiple seasons of use within the City and the respective park facilities.

Potential Actions:

- A. Construct compatible yet diverse uses within the parks that promote spring, summer, fall and winter uses.
- B. Explore options for all-season facilities such as warming shelters and restrooms in the parks as appropriate.

Goal 8

CONTINUE THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPTS AT ANY AND ALL CITY PARK LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARK'S DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN.

Objectives:

Develop new and expanded facilities and programs at the park including new restrooms, picnic facilities, paved parking, walking paths, new play equipment and lighting.

Potential Actions

- A. Improve restroom facilities.
- B. Provide for universally accessible play areas, picnic facilities and shelters
- C. Provide for paved parking areas and trails to provide barrier-free access to all areas.
- D. Improve signage for any visually or physically impaired park users

Goal 9

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY BY PROVIDING MULTI-GENERATIONAL, FULLY ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT EFFICIENTLY UTILIZE AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

Objectives

- A. Develop a variety of recreational facilities that reflect the changing and diverse needs of the City residents.
- B. Improve existing recreational facilities to more effectively fulfill the needs of City residents and to encourage regular use of these facilities.
- C. Develop certain recreational facilities as identified by the survey and needs assessment and establish priorities for their development.
- D. Utilize design, construction, and maintenance practices that maximize the benefits provided for the resources expended.
- E. Plan improvements that offer both active and passive recreation opportunities.
- F. Develop unique recreational opportunities for elderly and physically challenged citizens. Every recreational opportunity should be fully accessible to all individuals whenever possible.
- G. Provide play areas that are in conformance with the "Playground Equipment Safety Act".

Goal 10

CREATE NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION.

Objectives:

As Michigan continues to struggle it is important to take advantage of collaborations and partnerships as a cost effective way to offer recreational programs in the community.

Potential Actions:

- A. Coordinate existing recreational projects and programs with the Mason Central Area Schools, Mason County, Pere Marquette Township, Victory Township, Riverton Township, Branch Township, Village of Fountain, Village of Custer, MDOT, and volunteer groups and look for ways to utilize existing facilities such as well as expanding recreational programs as new facilities are developed.
- B. Encourage the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities in the formation of a regional recreational advisory board in an effort to combine resources and avoid duplication of facilities and services.
- C. Utilize public and private sector cooperation in the promotion of recreation and the improvement of recreational opportunities.
- D. Encourage the participation of volunteers in the development of recreational facilities.

Goal 11

TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION IN THE CITY BY REASSESSING COMMUNITY RECREATION NEEDS, TRENDS, AND CHARACTERISTICS.

Objectives

- A. Periodically update this Recreation Plan.
- B. Develop an expanded survey to ensure public needs and desires in areas of parks & recreation.
- C. Expand and develop community park advocates through the ongoing efforts the existing parks & recreation advisory board.
- D. Provide opportunities for the involvement of City residents in the identification, selection, and development of recreational facilities.
- E. Monitor the effectiveness of the City's efforts in fulfilling identified goals and objectives by providing opportunities for City residents to evaluate the progress of recreational development.
- F. Monitor the effectiveness of the City's efforts in providing fully accessible opportunities for City residents.
- G. Facilitate regular meetings of the Recreation Board.

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RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A variety of factors, including community characteristics, population trends, existing recreation facilities, and identified recreation needs, contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for plan implementation. These specific recommendations represent the actions that can be undertaken to achieve the objectives that have been directed towards a community's recreation goals. These recommended actions also represent the substance and purpose of a recreation plan - the development of a strategy for effectively closing the gap between existing recreation opportunities and recreation needs. A general statement can be made that 1/2 of the properties currently operated as park facilities in the City have basic facilities such as paved parking areas, paved walks and restroom facilities. There is in some areas however a lack of additional ADA accessible walks that is a concern regarding ADA accessibility at the other City owned parks.

Comparison to Recreation Standards

The recommended standards for recreation facilities by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Building Michigan's recreation future are listed below. The table compares the recreational planning standards with the facilities that are currently available within Scottville. It should be noted, however, that several of the recreation standards listed below are not always well suited to rural communities. Fewer, but larger, facilities generally serve a broader base of the population in a rural area than many, smaller and mid-sized facilities that are intended to meet the needs of a highly concentrated population.

	Activity/Facility	Standard	Need	Existing	Deficiency
1	Local Park Land (acres)	10/1,000	15	110.5	0
2	Baseball (Official)	1/5,000	3	2	1
3	Baseball (Little League)	1/5,000	3	2	1
4	Softball	1/15,000	3	2	1
5	Football	1/20,000	1	1	0
6	Basketball (outdoor)	1/15,000	3	4	0
7	Picnic Tables	1/1,200	75	108	0
8	Playgrounds	1/3,000	5	2	3
9	Volleyball	1/5,000	3	1	2
10	Tennis (outdoor)	1/14,000	4	4	0
11	Boat Launch (parking)	1/400	37.5	40 with	0
12	Campground (sites)	1/150	100	62	38
13	X-Country Ski Trails (miles) 1/10,000	1/10,000	1.5	1	.5
14	Hiking Trails (miles)	1/5,000	3	1	2
15	Nature Areas (acres)	1/50,000	1	1	0
16	Nature Trails (miles)	1/20,000	1	1	0
17	Snowmobile trails (miles)	1/3000	5	0	5
18	Land Open to Snowmobiling (acres)	10/1,000	15	0	15
19	Bicycle Trails (miles)	1/40,000	1	0	1
20	Ice Rink (outdoor)	1/20,000	1	0	1
21	Sledding Hills	1/40,000	1	0	1
22	Swimming Pool (outdoor)	1/40,000	1	1	0

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Deficiencies According to Recreation Standards A comparison of existing city facilities to recreation standards revealed that the following facilities are needed to service Scottville residents and those in surrounding communities.

1 Little League Diamond	5 miles of cross-country ski trails
3 Playgrounds	3 Miles of Hiking Trails
2 Volleyball Courts	1 Mile of Bike Trail
38 Campground Sites	5 Miles of Snowmobile Trails, with 15 acres of Land
1 Sledding Hill	1 Outdoor Ice Rink

In instances of emerging areas of recreational needs, such as the development of non-motorized trails, it is logical to expect that the project limits will need to be established by the identification of key connection points that should not be excluded or limited by geo-political boundaries. The City should explore the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities such as Pere Marquette Township, Victory Township, Riverton Township, Branch Township, the Village of Fountain and the Village of Custer in the formation of a regional recreational advisory board in an effort to combine resources and avoid duplication of facilities and services.

In the opening discussions at the November 2, 2017 workshop, a common goal of the need for the development and improvements were as follows:

1. Campground Upgrades to include updating campsites 25-53 in the back camping loop, upgrades to include new electrical, water & cable lines. Paving of existing drives addition of camping cabins and upgrades to existing pavilions.
2. Upgrades to McPhail field to include paving the existing drives and parking areas, bring in additional opportunities such as redevelopment of tennis courts to offer more diverse options. The tennis court redevelopment would explore options for pickleball, half-court basketball, four square and other court games. Additional updates may include the addition of a walking track and the possibility of a universally accessible pathway through portions of the park.
3. Universal Access to existing city playgrounds. Verify that existing playground equipment meets current safety standards and upgrade equipment as necessary.

The following recommendation and capital improvement schedule outlines and assigns relative priorities to activities and projects that can be implemented in both the short-term and long-range future to improve recreational opportunities in the City. Those activities and projects that can be undertaken during the five-year planning period (2018-2022) have been summarized in a Capital Improvement Program Schedule (**Table 4**). This schedule includes cost estimates as well as possible funding sources for each suggested project.

While these projects are recommended for implementation during the planning period, they are highly dependent upon financial and administrative feasibility. It is also suggested that the City take advantage of any unscheduled opportunities that may arise. Such opportunities can be evaluated and included in this plan as an amendment to the schedule.

TABLE 4
Capital Improvement Schedule

Year	Project	Est. Cost	Justification	Funding Source
2018	Riverside Park Improvements – Campsite upgrades, cabins, utilities & paved drives	\$600,000	Goals 1,4,7,8,9	\$300,000 MNRTF \$300,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations
2019	Various Park Master Plan	\$6,500	Goals 1,10,11	\$6,500 local
2020	McPhail Fields – Parking, ADA walks, playfields and rain gardens	\$250,000	Goals 1,2,7,8,9	\$160,000 MNRTF \$90,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations
2021	Playground surface improvements	\$50,000	Goals 8,9	\$30,000 Passport \$20,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations
2022	Recreation Plan Update	\$5,000	Goal 1,10, 11	\$5,000 local

Abbreviations

MDNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources
LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund
TAP -Transportation Alternatives Program

MDOT – Michigan Department of Transportation
MNRTF- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

FINANCING MECHANISMS

The following paragraphs briefly outline existing sources of funds for financing the future recreational improvements in the City.

1. General Funds

The City’s general fund has been the primary source of funds for operating and maintaining its current facilities. Future site improvements, acquisition, and development will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities. Consequently, recreation planning has to be coordinated with the yearly budgeting process for the City’s general funds.

2. Donations and Gifts

The availability of donated land, labor, equipment, and funds from individuals and organizations is an attractive and effective way to improve recreational opportunities in The City. Over the past few years, several groups and individuals have contributed significantly. Such support should be encouraged to continue.

3. Multi-jurisdictional Funding

One of the primary goals of establishing a trail authority comprised of adjacent townships would be to establish a joint source of funding for acquisition, development and maintenance of multi-jurisdictional trail projects. It is too premature to discuss levels or formulas for financial participation/contribution, but by forming such a coalition, the individual cities and townships will collectively be in a stronger position in seeking future matching grants than if pursuing projects individually.

4. Non-local Financial Assistance

Many communities seek outside sources of funds to supplement their local sources when providing recreational improvements. There are several programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that can provide some financial assistance to local recreation projects. Funding amounts available to communities vary from year to year depending on Federal support and State legislative agendas.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation that funds projects such as nonmotorized paths, streetscapes, and historic preservation of transportation facilities that enhance Michigan's intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. These investments support place-based economic development by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability and improving the quality of life. The program uses Federal Transportation Funds designated by Congress for these types of activities. Some key information on the TA program are as follows:

- Funding will be reduced from the current \$23 million a year to \$14-16 million a year. Project funding will be more competitive than previously with the average per capita award in the \$44-50 per person range.
- Minimum match is still 20% however historic average is 34% and the 2011 average was 44% local match to grant. Any project request for over \$2,000,000 total project cost must be 50%-50%. The most favorable grant request will likely be in the \$500,000 range.
- Regional Trails will still be a priority, as will urban area streetscapes. Museums and historic preservation projects will be phased out for funding consideration.
- Preliminary grant application review with regional staff is encouraged to determine competitive nature of project and gather suggestions from TE staff. Project narratives should focus on intermodal transportation opportunities as they relate to the larger picture in the community, traffic calming, improving safety and improving water quality through best management practices.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** is administered by the MDNR. The MNRTF program utilizes the royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. The CMI program is the result of the passage of Proposal C of 1998.

Any unit of government, including school districts, may apply for grants to develop or acquire land(s) for public recreation or resource protection purposes. Application forms are available on February 1 of each year. The application deadlines are April 1 and September 1, of each year. The MDNR submits a list of recommended projects to the legislature the following January and funds are available after legislative appropriation, usually the following fall.

All local units of government must provide a local match of at least 25 percent of total project costs. For **MNRTF** development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000, and the maximum is \$300,000. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. Outdoor recreation support buildings and other facilities are eligible for development funding, as is the renovation of existing recreation facilities.

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All applicants must have a current DNR-approved community recreation plan, documenting the need for project proposal.

In addition, any private individual may nominate land for public acquisition under this program. All nominations are reviewed by the MDNR for possible acquisition and the landowner is not required to be the person nominating a parcel of land for public acquisition. Nomination forms are available at any time from the DNR Recreation Division, and may be submitted to the Department year round.

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (**LWCF**) program makes money available to the States for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. From 1965 to 1996, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received over \$100 million in LWCF assistance for more than 1,500 projects, over 1,100 of which have been grants to local governments. The objective is to provide grants to local units of government and to the State to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation.

Applications are evaluated on established criteria including project need, capability of applicant, and site and project quality. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants with a \$30,000 minimum and \$100,000 maximum funding limit. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval. Criteria are spelled out in the "Recreation Grants Selection Process" booklet given to all applicants.

PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the **Recreation Passport** which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. The passport will be required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites. Ten percent of remaining revenue will be used to fund the **Recreation Passport local grant program**. A 25% minimum local match is required for the Passport grant program with a maximum grant amount of \$75,000 and a minimum of \$7,500.

The grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but the development of new parks is eligible. In addition, projects must fulfill the following requirements in order to be eligible:

- Current annual capital improvement plan (CIP) – plan must include the proposed project. If your community does not have a CIP, you must have a current approved recreation plan on file with the DNR.

Organizations with an interest in developing fishing conditions in their areas may be able to get financial assistance from a program established through the **State Game and Fish Protection Fund**.

This fishing development grant is offered through the MDNR and can be as much as \$200,000 annually, in cash or in-kind services. Projects eligible for funding include: culvert modifications for improved stream flow; livestock or sheet erosion control projects; the development of spawning riffles, fish cover structures, or spawning reefs; and the construction of fishing piers and rough fish barriers.

The MDNR accepts grant proposals from organized fishing groups and local units of government. In all cases, projects are able to approach other sources such as the federal government for additional matching funds.

The **Historic Preservation Grant Program** is administered by the Department of State with funds made available through the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. The intent of the program is

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to conduct surveys of architectural, engineering, archaeological, and historic resources, to identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and to plan for the protection of those cultural/recreational resources.

The funds for this program are apportioned by the National Park Service directly to the State, which, in turn, allocates funds on a project-by-project basis to local governments, organization, and individuals.

In Michigan the Historic Preservation Grant program is administered by the Michigan Department of State. The amount of assistance is up to 50% of the project expenses. Grantees are reimbursed at the completion of the project for work done within the days of a contract between the Department of State and the grantee. EXPENSES INCURRED PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT ARE NOT ALLOWABLE PROJECT COSTS AND WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED.

The **Inland Fisheries Grant Program** offers grants up to \$30,000 for projects that enhance the state's aquatic resources. This program may be applicable to the scenic overlook fishing platforms and educational kiosks.

The City is committed to review all available funding sources and prepare the necessary plans, reports, cost estimates, and funding applications, to achieve the goals of this recreation plan.

Waterways Program Grants are funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund from state marine fuel tax and water craft registrations. By law, administration of the Waterways Program is through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and overseen by the Department's Parks and Recreation Division.

Grants provide funding assistance for design/engineering and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities throughout the state. Only local units of government (city, City, township, or county) and public universities are eligible. Applicants may cooperate with community/sports organizations in the implementation of projects. On-site investigation by DNR, Parks and Recreation Division staff may be required to determine suitability of proposed work. Applicant may also be required to document area boating demand. Greater priority may be given to projects for which a local applicant documents match capabilities equal to or greater than the percentage of project cost they are required to provide. The local match can include in-kind expenses as long as they are well-documented.

Applications, and all required information, must be received by 5:00 p.m, **April 1st**. If April 1st falls on a weekend, the deadline would be the last State working day prior to April 1st. The application review and funding process for projects is from April 1st until an appropriation is approved by the Legislature. This can take up to 18 to 24 months. Notification of approval for engineering and smaller sized construction projects may occur within six months after completed application form and proper documentation are received. Funding for construction is not released until permits are secured.

5. Millage

In an effort to raise matching funds or fund projects with local money, many community leaders have placed ballot proposals before their residents for a dedicated increase in their existing mill property tax to fund park maintenance and repair, including care for new parks and newly acquired parks, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as safety and security improvements. Establishment of a Park Improvement/Development, Maintenance and Repair Millage will assure that parks and facilities will be maintained at the level of quality expected by park users and that new parkland will have adequate amenities.