



Village of Saranac

Ionia County, Michigan

5-Year Park & Recreation Plan 2018 – 2022

DRAFT

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Section A – INTRODUCTION & COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Part 1 – Introduction & Village History

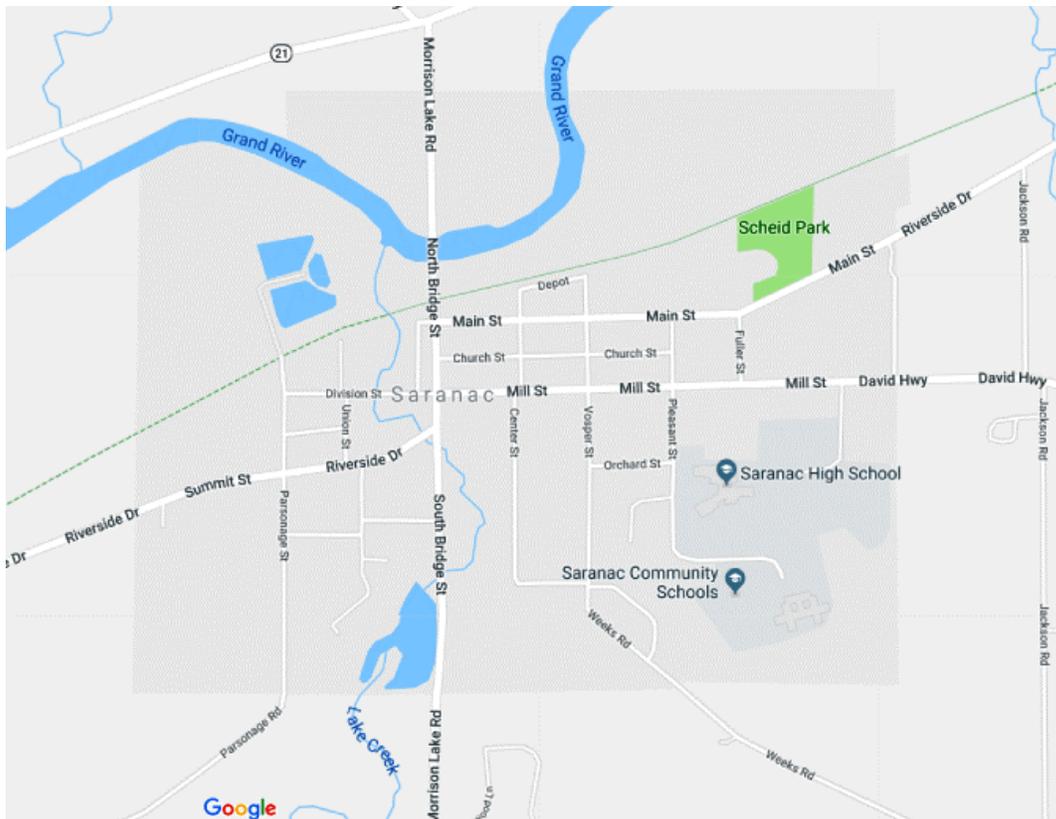
The jurisdiction of this plan falls within the Village limits and is prepared for the citizens of Saranac. That said - the extent of the plan’s focus must account for residents of the surrounding rural townships focusing all aspects of recreation opportunities provided by Village facilities.

The Village of Saranac (pop. 1312 in 2015 estimates) is located along the Grand River in Boston Township within Ionia County, which is in the south-central portion of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. The Village is comprised of 642 total acres of area. Saranac is approximately midway between the communities of Ionia in the east, and Lowell (Kent County) in the west. Saranac lies about 30 miles east of the Village of Grand Rapids, 40 miles west of Lansing and 45 miles north of Battle Creek. It typifies small town values and sense of community. Bridge-fest festival is held every year in August to celebrate the Village’s current and past connection to the Grand River.

Saranac has a well-managed government with a strong commitment to quality of life as supported by their excellent infrastructure including municipal water and sewer systems and extensive riverfront access and park acreage.



Location Map



Map of the Village

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

The intended use of the newly revised Recreation Plan is to guide the Village of Saranac officials on all future recreational and parks projects within the Village of Saranac. 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 government entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This plan is written for the Village of Saranac and it covers all aspects of park facilities and recreation within the community.

Part 2 – Social Characteristics

Population

The population of the Village of Saranac is estimated to decrease slightly by 14 persons to 1312 between 2000 and 2016, or 1.0%. A modest decrease in numbers, given the economic conditions from 2007 to early 2010. The County as a whole has experienced fairly slow growth from 2000-2016.

| Table 2-1 Village of Saranac Population, 2000-2016 | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| | 2000 | 2010 | 2016* | % Change 2000-2016 |
| Village of Saranac | 1,326 | 1,325 | 1312 | -1.0% |
| Ionia County | 61,518 | 63,905 | 64,064 | 4.1% |

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 Village’s median age (38.5) is on par with the County average. This would indicate that the Village 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 Village should not ignore the other age groups since they still comprise a large portion of the overall population.

| Table 2-2 Median Age in Village of Saranac 2000-2016 | | |
|--|------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2016* |
| Village of Saranac | 37.0 | 38.5 |
| Ionia County | 32.9 | 37.9 |
| Michigan | 33.5 | 32.8 |

* U.S. Census Bureau 2016 estimate

The size of families in Saranac 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 be 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 Village of Saranac , 2000-2015 | | | |
|--|------|------|--------------------|
| | 2000 | 2015 | % Change 2000-2015 |
| Village of Saranac | 2.33 | 2.31 | -0.8% |
| Ionia County | 2.64 | 2.64 | 0.0% |
| Michigan | 2.49 | 2.18 | -12.5% |

* U.S. Census Bureau 2015 estimate

Income, Poverty and Employment

Year-around Saranac households had a median income of \$30,142 in 2015 estimates. This compares with \$49,124 for Ionia County and \$49,576 for the State of Michigan. 162 persons were receiving food stamps in 2015. Reflecting the age of the population, 203 persons received Social Security income in Saranac in

2016, 122 with retirement income and 153 received supplemental Social Security income. The estimated labor force of Saranac (residents only) was 508 persons in 2016. The estimated yearly average employment was 476 persons, with 32 estimated to be unemployed, on average, or 6.6%.

| Table 2-4 Saranac Employment and Unemployment, 2016 | |
|---|------|
| Labor Force | 508 |
| Employment | 476 |
| Unemployment | 32 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.9% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2016

Physically Challenged

| Subject | Saranac village, Michigan | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | Total | | With a disability | | Percent with a disability | |
| | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error |
| Total civilian noninstitutionalized population | 1,312 | +/-208 | 305 | +/-72 | 23.2% | +/-5.1 |
| SEX | | | | | | |
| Male | 670 | +/-113 | 144 | +/-46 | 21.5% | +/-6.2 |
| Female | 642 | +/-116 | 161 | +/-50 | 25.1% | +/-6.9 |
| RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN | | | | | | |
| White alone | 1,269 | +/-203 | 299 | +/-72 | 23.6% | +/-5.3 |
| Black or African American alone | 9 | +/-14 | 0 | +/-10 | 0.0% | +/-82.3 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone | 7 | +/-11 | 4 | +/-6 | 57.1% | +/-38.8 |
| Asian alone | 0 | +/-10 | 0 | +/-10 | - | ** |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | 0 | +/-10 | 0 | +/-10 | - | ** |
| Some other race alone | 0 | +/-10 | 0 | +/-10 | - | ** |
| Two or more races | 27 | +/-31 | 2 | +/-4 | 7.4% | +/-21.2 |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino | 1,199 | +/-199 | 280 | +/-70 | 23.4% | +/-5.2 |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 70 | +/-47 | 19 | +/-25 | 27.1% | +/-30.8 |
| AGE | | | | | | |
| Under 5 years | 133 | +/-69 | 0 | +/-10 | 0.0% | +/-15.5 |
| 5 to 17 years | 251 | +/-70 | 28 | +/-19 | 11.2% | +/-7.5 |
| 18 to 34 years | 214 | +/-69 | 30 | +/-20 | 14.0% | +/-9.0 |
| 35 to 64 years | 540 | +/-101 | 165 | +/-54 | 30.6% | +/-8.1 |
| 65 to 74 years | 92 | +/-29 | 44 | +/-21 | 47.8% | +/-16.9 |
| 75 years and over | 82 | +/-36 | 38 | +/-21 | 46.3% | +/-17.8 |

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 23.2% of the total the Village 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 the Village'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

Location & Transportation Network

In addition to the historical role of the Grand River as the major transportation route of the past, the Village of Saranac is now served by several major highways. Interstate 96, connecting Detroit with Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon, has an interchange six miles southwest of the Village. Highway access via M-21, another important east-west statewide route, is located north of the Village just outside of the Village limits. The north-south connection from Saranac to these east-west highways is provided by Morrison Lake Road in the south and Hawley Highway in the north. The one prominent east-west rail line is now part of the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail.

Climate

The Village of Saranac's weather, like all of West Michigan's, influences the recreational opportunities available throughout the year. The area can support a variety of activities throughout the year from swimming to skiing. Generally, January is the coldest month (23.5 average daily temperature) and has the highest snowfall (10.9 inches). July is generally the warmest month in the County (72.2 average daily temperature). June usually has the highest average precipitation (3.39 inches) and February generally has the lowest average (1.47 inches). Prevailing winds are from the west.

Topography & Land Forms

Saranac lies along the Grand River valley which at this point, in its lengthy course across the State, occupies the deeply cut channel of an old glacial drainage way. Within the Village, Lake Creek has cut a steep stream bank as it flows northward towards the Grand River. The emptying of Mill Pond on the southwest edge of the Village limits after the dam was removed has left a depression. The southern part of the Village is high compared to its northern portion.

The soils associated with this loping river terrace (Mancelona-Fox-Boyer Association) are well drained loams underlain by sand and gravel. Major limitations to developing these soils include susceptibility to erosion (depending on degree of slope), stoniness, and droughtiness. Soils found within the floodplain of the Grand River are represented by level, or nearly level, poorly drained organic soils that are subject to excessive wetness (Carlisle-Choctah-Sloan Association).

Woodlands

Vegetation varies from open farmlands to dense woods. These woods consist of mature stands of hardwoods, mainly along the Grand River basin to softwood areas. Extensive flood plains and wetlands exist also, north and south of the Grand River basin.

Wetlands

The wetlands in the Village 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.

The Wetlands Map shows wetland areas that serve to provide wildlife habitat, stormwater storage, water quality improvement, natural scenery and other benefits. Generally these areas exhibit severe limitations for the use of individual waste disposal systems. A majority of the wetlands are located along the various waterbodies such as rivers, creeks, streams, drainage ditches and other water bodies.

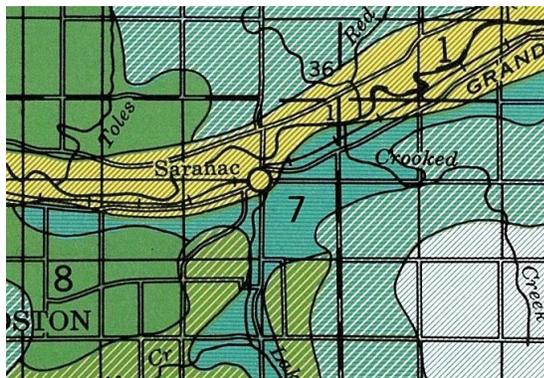
3 million acres. Recent legislation has slowed the loss rate somewhat but threats to these habitats, particularly the smaller wetlands, continue in many areas.

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

The predominant soil in the Village is the Mancelona-Fox-Boyer association. This is described as level to steep, well drained loamy soils, underlain by sand and gravel. The northeast corner of the Village contains soils in the Matherton-Sebawa-Wasepi association. These are described as level, yet poorly drained loamy soils underlain by sand and gravel found along the Grand River floodplain. The Mancelona-Fox-Boyer associations are generally suitable for development.

Generally, well-drained, coarse-textured soils provide the most suitable foundations. Poor soil stability occurs with soils containing large concentrations of organic material, such as muck, silt, and clay. The areas of poor soil stability are concentrated in low-lying and poorly drained areas adjacent to rivers and creeks. In these low lying areas, the presence of water in and near the surface contributes to frost heave, compression, shrinkage, and swelling.



Water Resources & Drainage

The most noticeable natural feature within the Village is the Grand River which flows into the Village from the north and forms a loop as it exits in the northwest. This river loop represents nearly two miles of river frontage within the Village (including both sides of the river). Another predominant natural feature within the Village is Lake Creek which flows through the center of the Village from the south and enters the Grand River within the northwest corner of the Village. Generally, land drainage is east and west to Lake Creek, except nearer to the Grand River where it flows south and north.

Lake Creek flows from Morrison Lake which is five miles directly south of Saranac. The 325-acre Morrison Lake is the nearest inland lake to Saranac and does have a public access site.

Floodplains

The floodplains associated with the Grand River occupy a significant area within the Village. Part of the Central Business District lies on the southern edge of the floodplain. It is important to maintain the integrity of the floodplain and its ability to handle the overflow of the flooding rivers. When a portion of the floodplain is built on or filled in to accommodate development, it forces flood waters onto other properties.

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.

Water Supply

The Village is supplied by 2 wells No. 4 and 5 both of which are in regular service. The firm capacity is defined as the capacity delivered with the largest well out of service. The MDEQ recommends the firm capacity of any water supply system meet or exceed the maximum day demands placed in the system.

One 400,000 gallon elevated storage tank currently supplies water pressure and emergency storage to the Village water customers. The storage tank is located south of the High School. The tank was constructed in 2001.

The Village of Saranac water distribution system is composed of 80% of Ductile Iron (DI) watermain and the remainder of the water distribution system is Cast Iron (CI), 20%.

Waste Water Treatment Facility

The Village of Saranac (Village) owns and operates Wastewater Storage Lagoons (WWSL) and a wastewater collection system that provides sanitary sewer services to the Village. The WWSL is regulated by the MDEQ under Michigan's Wastewater Stabilization Lagoon General Permit.

The WWSL was originally constructed as a facultative lagoon system with four lagoons. The 1993 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project provided the first upgrade for the facility which included the construction of an influent flow splitter structure, the construction of a Generator Building to house a new mobile generator, and rehabilitation work to the Influent Pump Station. The 2008 Wastewater System Improvements project raised the permitted capacity to its current capacity of 0.16 mgd.

Community Services

Police Department

The mission of the Ionia County Sheriff's Office is to provide a professional, ethical, and committed law enforcement service to all citizens of Ionia County while partnering with community leaders, citizens, businesses, and employees to decrease crime and encourage growth within our communities. Saranac is a community which relies on the County Department for day to day law enforcement.

Fire Department

The Saranac Community Volunteer Fire Department serves the Village of Saranac, as well as Keene, Boston, Berlin and Easton Townships. With 24 active volunteers, the department is dedicated to preserving public safety, health, welfare, and property from fire, natural disaster, hazardous conditions, medical emergencies, or other situations.

Ambulance Department

One of the newest additions to the Life EMS Ambulance stations is expected to provide improved emergency coverage for the southern and western parts of Ionia County.

The new building is located at 7071 Jordan Lake Rd. and Grand River Avenue. The station is in a prime location to quickly service the areas of Lake Odessa, Saranac and Clarksville.

Public Library

The Saranac/Clarksville Library System exists to foster life-long learning by providing resources and technology to enhance our communities. The two libraries service areas include all of Boston and Campbell Townships, the South one half of Keene Township, and West one-half of Berlin Township, this amounts to over 8,000 persons.

In 1999, Ionia County passed a one-mill tax to support the libraries in the county. The millage is collected and distributed in lieu of voluntary contributions from the townships. This millage allows the library's to operate on a known amount of revenue.

Also at this time the county libraries formed an association called Ionia County Library Association, representing Lake Odessa, Belding, Lyons, Ionia and Saranac. ICLA meets periodically to discuss common goals and problems confronting the libraries.

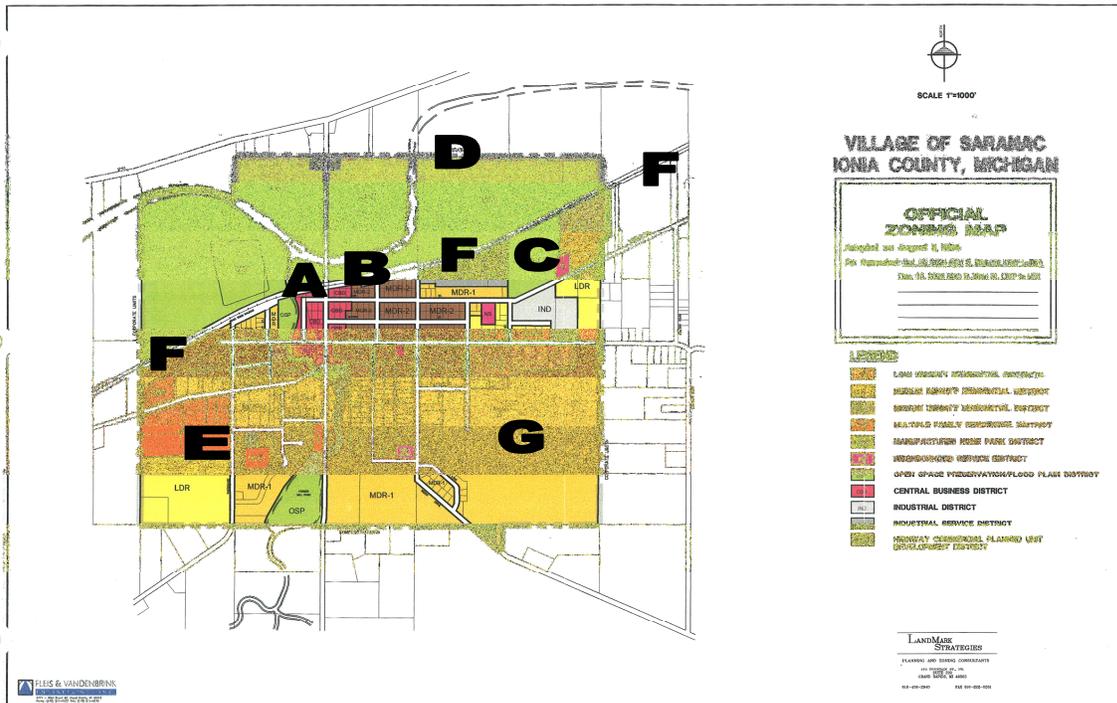
In the spring of 2001 the exterior of the Saranac Library was renovated. The windows and front entrance were changed to make the building warmer and brighter. The building now has the look of earlier times. It has also served as an inspiration for other downtown renovations.

Land Use

The Village is comprised of 642 total acres of area. Residential land uses account for over one third of the total land uses in the Village. Commercial and Industrial uses together comprise around 10% of all land uses. In general, undeveloped lands (including those used for parks and agriculture) make up approximately 54% of the total land in the Village while developed lands account for 46%.

Originally, the development of Saranac was tied to the historical role of the Grand River as the major transportation route during the region's settlement and the commercial exploitation of the region's resources, particularly timber and agricultural products. As the river's role diminished and other transportation routes dominated, Saranac became and remains a retail and service center for the surrounding agricultural areas. Development of the railroad approximately parallel to the river, as well as construction of M-21 north of the Village and I-96 approximately 3.5 miles to the south, have historically influenced the location of industrial and commercial land uses within the Village.

Zoning Map w/ Park Locations



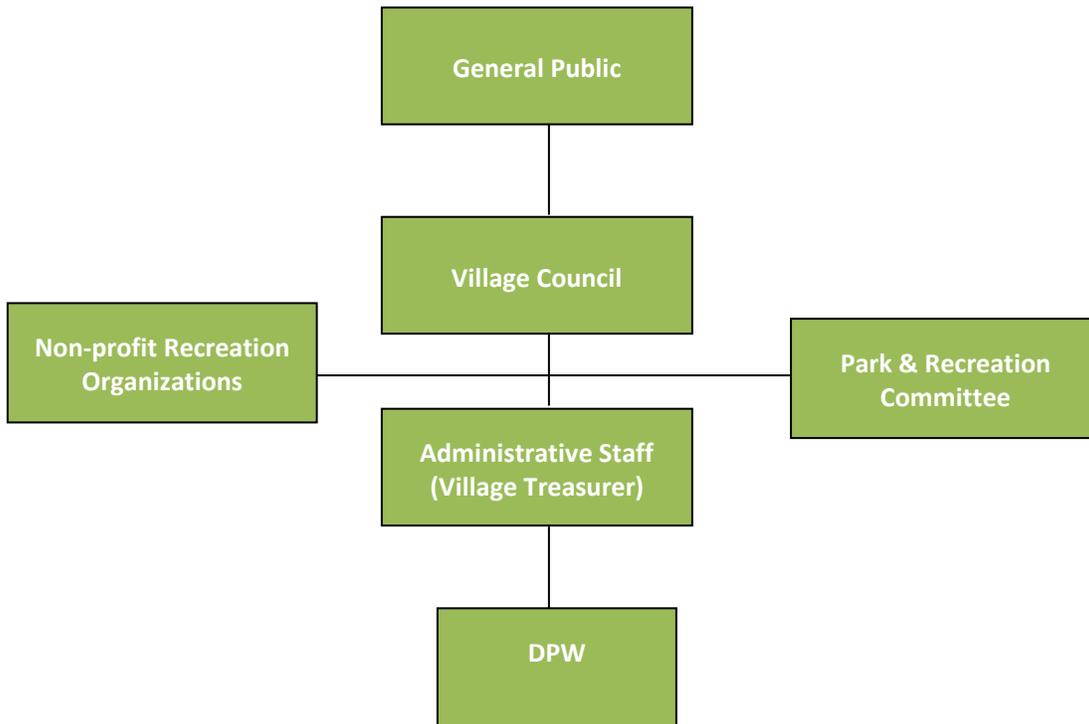
| | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|--|----------|----------------------------------|
| A | Boat Launch Park | D | Village Nature Park | G | Saranac Community Schools |
| B | Riverwalk Park | E | Saranac Senior Center | | |
| C | Scheid Park | F | Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trailway | | |

SECTION B - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Recreation planning is a method for anticipating and arranging recreational improvements so that they may be implemented on a reasonable schedule and without an adverse effect on a community's administrative and financial structure. An effective recreation plan will recognize the practical relationship between a community's administrative structure and its ability to follow through on a recommended recreational improvement program.

Saranac is a General Law Village with an elected Village President and six-member Village Council. From the membership of this Village Council, the Village President annually appoints a five-member Park Committee. This Park Committee meets on a monthly basis and serves in an advisory capacity to the Village Council. It makes recommendations to the Council in regard to recreational policy, park management, and an annual budget for park operation and maintenance. The Village Treasurer, appointed, is responsible for overseeing the disbursement of funds for these purposes.

The chart illustrates the relationship among the various entities involved in recreation within the Village. The administrative structure is as follows:



Maintenance for park facilities is undertaken by a crew consisting of a Department of Public Works supervisor and three full-time general maintenance workers. Flexible part-time summer staff is used when the workload dictates. This crew also works on other Village projects in addition to the parks. Inmates on a Work Release program from the nearby Ionia Correctional Facilities have from time to time assisted laborers on specific Village maintenance projects.

**Village Expenditures and Budgets
2015-2017**

| Park operation and maintenance (fiscal year ending in February) | |
|--|--------------|
| Year | Expenditures |
| 2015 | \$39,552 |
| 2016 | \$41,530 |
| 2017 | \$45,237 |

The annual operation and maintenance funds listed above were used for grounds upkeep, and repairs to park facilities.

Recreation

Volunteer support from the Hunting and Fishing Club and the Boston/Saranac Historical Society is utilized for specific needs. Saranac Public Schools provide recreation opportunities. The Village and the School have worked together on providing soccer facilities and continue to have a very good working relationship.

The Village is an active participant in the Midwest Regional Trail Network providing both funding and staff participation for the planning and construction of the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail project.

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.

For this Recreation Plan, a public strategic planning workshop was facilitated by recreation committee members, Village Staff and planning consultant on November 9, 2017. At the workshop, it was determined that a strong desire existed within the Village to improve the recreational facilities throughout the Village but with an emphasis on developing a new restroom facility at Scheid Park, developing a new tot lot play area, the addition of more trails and improving existing trails within the Village Nature Park to promote increased access to the river areas.

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 November 9, 2017 workshop and are incorporated into this document. A draft copy of this plan was placed on file at the Village Office 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 Village Council at a public hearing on **February 19, 2018** to further allow public comment to discuss the issues and needs of the community.

On **February 19, 2018**, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Saranac Village Council, 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 residents. 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 Village 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.

1 – VILLAGE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Boat Launch Park. The Village acquired land and constructed a boat and canoe launch located along the Grand River, west of Bridge Street. The 2-1/2 acre Boat Launch Park is a special use facility serving the surrounding area that contains a parking area, picnic area and launching facilities providing very convenient access for boaters and fishermen who use the Grand River. All facilities are in good condition. This popular addition to the Village was partially funded with grant funds administered through the MDNR.

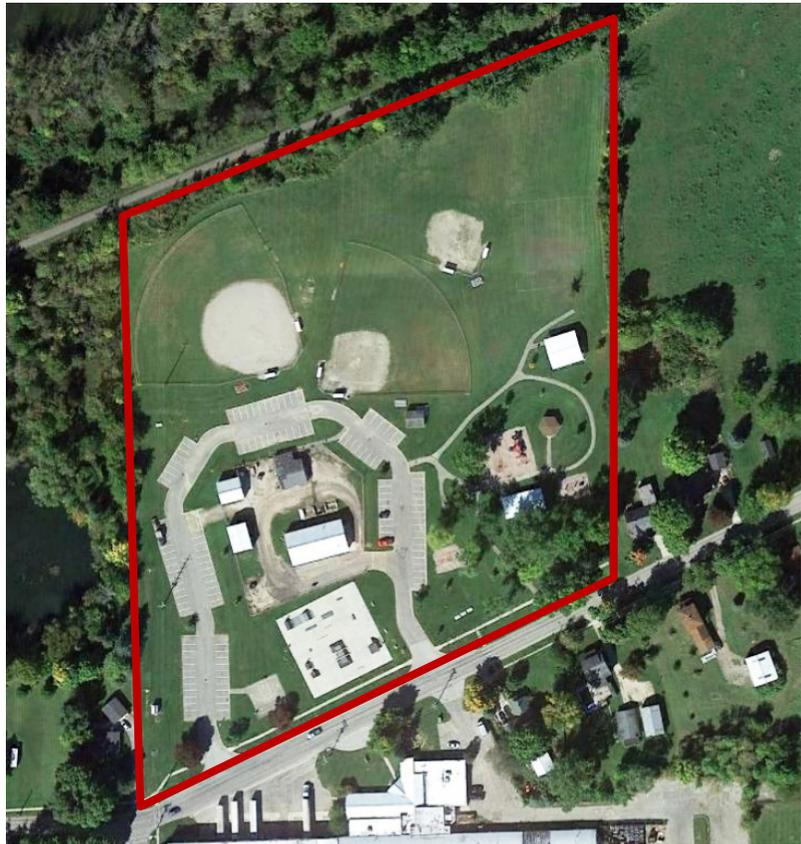
The recent acquisition of the southern parcel will help further develop the park into a community gathering place and provide opportunities for a community building and trailhead parking area with a link to the nearby Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trailway.



Accessibility Assessment: 3

Scheid Park. The Village of Saranac owns and operates Scheid Park. This 11-acre neighborhood park is located in the northeast portion of the Village but serves the entire Village. Following is a listing of the recreational facilities provided at the park – unless noted, all in fair/good condition. (BF= barrier free).

Scheid Park serves as the focal point for summertime activity within Saranac. While records for transient park use are not kept, in 2017 a total of 40 reservations were recorded for the use of the three picnic facilities during the summer months. These reservations represented family, corporate, and organization activities during the period of May through September.



| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three picnic shelters • Picnic tables and grills (BF) • Animal character springs • New play structure • Tot swing set (poor condition) • Four seat swings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three little league baseball fields with spectator seating (2 in poor condition) • One half court basketball court (BF) • Parking facilities (BF) • Paved Paths (BF) • Skate park facilities (BF) • Restrooms (poor condition) |
|---|---|

Accessibility Assessment: 2

Many of these improvements were funded in part by a Michigan Recreation Bond Fund grant.

In addition, the Saranac area Little League utilizes the baseball facilities at the park on a regular basis. During the 2017 season, the League’s members held all scheduled games and regular practices at the park. The field area of the park is also utilized for “Rocket” football leagues and occasionally as a practice soccer field for a local soccer organization. The current site is now nearly completely utilized, with only limited ability to support new facilities. Plans call for restoration of the existing restroom facility

Saranac Village Nature Park. The Village acquired land along the Grand River and subsequently developed this as a natural resource area and park trail in 2003. Both acquisition and development grant through the MNRTF were used for the creation of this park. The acquired property possesses natural ascetics favorable to numerous outdoor activities. Phase I was constructed with grant assistance from the MDNR Trust Fund. The park is 63 acres in size, offers the following barrier free features serving the Village and surrounding townships – all in excellent condition.

- Parking area for 40 automobiles
- Picnic area
- River Overlook which provides direct access for fishermen
- One mile of paved pedestrian trails through scenic areas
- Toilet facility
- Wetland educational opportunities

Accessibility Assessment: 4



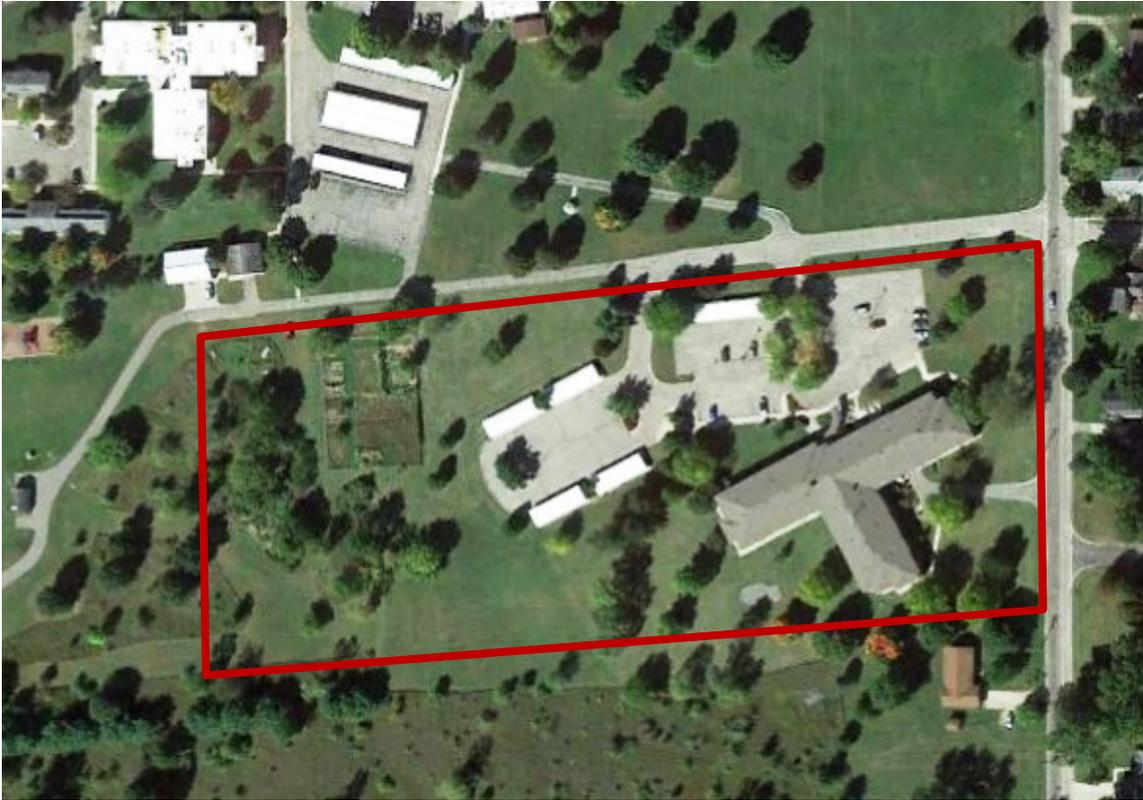
Saranac Riverwalk Park. The Village acquired land along the Grand River at it's own expense and subsequently developed this facility in 2006 with a MDNRTF grant. The property preserves about 1/3 of a mile of Grand River shoreline and connects the Nature Park to the downtown area and the Historical Depot Museum to other areas and serves as a natural resource area and connector trail park. This park is 5 acres in size and offers the following barrier free features – all in new condition.

- Parking area for 16 automobiles – shared with the Depot Museum
- Picnic area (Depot Museum shelter)
- Bench seating
- River Overlook which provides direct access to the shoreline
- 0.36 mile of paved pedestrian trails through scenic wooded wetlands, uplands and along the Grand River – south bank.

Accessibility Assessment: 4



Saranac Senior Center. There continues to be an ongoing need to maintain outdoor amenities oriented toward the senior citizen population residing at the Senior Citizen Complex in Saranac. The Village DPW has been mowing pathway through the property. These paths are being used.



Because space is not abundant, it is suggested that land owned by the Village be utilized to support such uses as picnic areas, trails and benches and maintaining a park facility. It is the Village's intent to assist in the coordination of such improvements and to gain the financial support of local service organizations and apply for a MNRTF grant in the near future.

Accessibility Assessment: 2

To enhance the above described community facilities, the Village, over the last fifteen years has successfully participated in eight specific land acquisitions and /or park improvement projects totaling **\$811,518** utilizing local monies and various State and Federal grant funds. These projects have resulted in a total Village expenditure of **\$452,708** (plus engineering) and grant funds of **\$410,810**. This is an excellent ratio that maximizes grant funding.

2 – SCHOOL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Saranac Public Schools. Two primary school facilities belonging to the Saranac Public School District are clustered within short distance of each other in the near southeast portion of the Village. These include an elementary school, middle school and high school.

The local chapter of the American Youth Soccer Organization presently utilizes the school's soccer field facilities for its organized soccer program as well as a privately owned practice field located on Mill Street.

The Elementary School has the following playground equipment:

- indoor gym
- soccer field
- various slides, swings sets, monkey bars, etc



Located in association with the High School are:

- football field/track
- practice football field
- baseball field
- softball field
- indoor gym

3 – PRIVATE FACILITIES

There are a number of private facilities in and around Saranac which include recreation amenities. While they do not provide public access, they are important in providing recreation opportunities. Some of these facilities are listed below.

Campgrounds - In addition to State and County Campgrounds, there is a privately operated campground in area. A description of the facilities is as follows.

Alice Springs RV Campground

Alice Springs RV Park and Resort is family owned and operated. Located off M-66, this Michigan campground features RV camping, tent sites and great company. The park offers over 121 Full Hook-up RV sites, unlimited rustic sites, up to 60' in length, Cable TV, WiFi available throughout the Park, Scheduled Activities, Large Convenience Store, Fishing, Swimming, Horse Shoes and more. Upon completion, the RV park will have 444 Full Hook-up sites, group camp areas, cabins and park models.

Miscellaneous Private/Commercial Recreation Facilities

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Candlestone Golf Course | Belding | public - 18 holes |
| Morrison Lake Country Club | Clarksville | public - 18 holes |
| Portland Country Club | Portland | private |
| Rolling Hills Golf Course | Ionia | public - 9 holes |
| Shadow Ridge Golf Course | Ionia | public - 9 holes |
| Forest Hills Family Nudist Club | Near and west of Saranac | Nudist camp resort |
| Double R Ranch | Smyrna | 600 acres, Flat River, canoe livery, 100 campsites, trails, stables |

4 –REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail

The 17-mile Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail is nearing completion. In 2015, 1.75 miles of paved trail was extended east from downtown Ionia to the Prairie Creek bridge, connecting with the Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee (CIS) Rail Trail. The project included construction of a beautiful new pedestrian bridge providing safe passage over busy M-66. The Michigan DNR is currently seeking funding to improve the 7-mile section of trail connecting Saranac with the city of Lowell.

The first 8.25 miles of trail from Saranac to Ionia was completed in 2013. This exceptionally scenic section of trail travels along the edge of the Grand River and through the Ionia State Recreation Area, with no road crossings, for a peaceful, serene commune with nature. It also includes an amazing five restored railroad bridges, including one towering bridge spanning 466 feet across the mighty Grand River. Trail users have reported a lot of wildlife sightings along this stretch of trail, including whitetail deer, turkey, great horned owls, eagles, a wide range of waterfowl, and even the rare pine marten.

The trail surface consists of about one mile of asphalt pavement through Saranac, and about 3.75 miles of pavement through the city of Ionia, with the rest of the trail in between surfaced with finely screened and compacted crushed limestone. Saranac and Ionia offer plenty of parking, stores and eating establishments. The Saranac Depot serves as the trailhead in Saranac and includes a nature trail, picnic area, and a historical museum, all situated beside the river. In downtown Ionia, public parking is available on Adams Street, one block east of the new M-66 bridge.

Ionia County Bertha Brock Park

Bertha Brock Park is a 186 acre Ionia County park located two miles west of the Village of Ionia on M-21. It is a regional park that serves Ionia County and surrounding areas. Bertha Brock Park offers a campground, camping cabins, rental lodges, play areas, picnic shelters, hiking trails, sledding hill, play structures, and various family oriented recreational activities.

Ionia State Recreation Area

This recreation area is located at 2880 West David Highway, southwest of the Village Ionia. This 4,085 acre facility located between Saranac and Ionia in Ionia County has 50 campsites and offers a variety of opportunities including picnic facilities, playground equipment, swimming, boating, a beach house, a boat launch, hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Sleepy Hollow State Park

Located in Clinton County, this park offers modern and group camping facilities, a swimming beach on Ovid Lake, fishing, canoeing, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling opportunities, hunting, horseback riding trails, and mountain biking.

Yankee Springs Recreation Area

Located in Barry County, this park offers a boat launch site and fishing, picnic areas, hiking, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling opportunities, hunting, horseback riding trails, and mountain biking.

Saranac State Game Area

Located in Clinton and Ionia Counties and containing 2,373 acres, this area has been dedicated for wildlife conservation and management by the DNR Wildlife Division.

5 – BARRIER FREE EVALUATION & UNIVERSAL 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 Village park and recreation system is accessible to persons with disabilities. The Village completed an evaluation of existing facilities in the fall of 2017 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?*

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 marginally 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 Village parks with their respective accessibility ranking:

| Park Name | Boat Launch Park | Scheid Park | Riverwalk Park | Village Nature Park | Senior Center |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Accessibility* | 3/4** | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 |

** The Boat Launch Park will improve to a 4 accessibility rating once the recently MNRTF park improvements for 2018 are completed.

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.

| 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. |
| Type of Recreation Facility | Universal Access Design Considerations: |
| Canoe/kayak/boat launch (Con’t) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 |
| 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

- 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.

- 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

Type of Recreation Facility

Universal Access Design Considerations:

Playgrounds

- 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 like shredded rubber, wood chips, engineered wood fiber, or any other non-unitary surface material
- 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 <p style="text-align: center;">Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer</p> |
|----------------------|--|



- | | |
|---|--|
| Sports fields/courts | <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 |
| Fields: soccer, football, baseball, etc. | |
| Courts: tennis, basketball, bocce, horseshoes, etc. | |
| Other: skate parks, frisbee golf | |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 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 Village.

6 – RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The service area of the Saranac Parks and Recreation Department is the Saranac School District as no other units of local government in the school district provide any type of recreational programs. The working relationship with Saranac Public Schools is very good. The Recreation Department offers numerous activities utilizing school facilities year round. The Director also coordinates with the Community Education Director to ensure we do not duplicate services to the residents of the Community and to the School district residents. The Department offers programming to the entire school district population for both youth and adults (approx. 12,000), for example youth after-school athletics, high school intramural basketball, adult volleyball and basketball, numerous summer sports clinics, camps and special events see complete list below:

7- PAST GRANT STATUS

Following is a Grant Inventory and breakdown of these projects and the grant and local funds expended over and above those itemized and discussed above.

- 1. Grand River Boat and Canoe Launch** **Status:: Closed**
Grant Source: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND – GRANT NO.TF 89-024 Land
Acquisition of the entire park area
Total Acquisition Cost \$14,054
Village Expenditure \$3,654
Grant Amount \$10,400
- 2. Scheid Park Improvements** **Status:: Closed**
Grant Source: MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND – GRANT NO. BF 89-345
Total Project Cost \$175,182
Village Expenditure \$50,182
Grant Amount \$125,000
- 3. Grand River Boat and Canoe Launch Construction** **Status:: Closed**
Grant Source: MDNR WATERWAYS COMMISSION ANDN FEDERAL DINGELL - JOHNSON (LWCF FUNDS) GRANT NO. 116-89
Total Project Cost \$60,358
Village Expenditure \$45,918
Grant Amount \$14,440
- 4. Scheid Park Expansion** Re-named - Saranac Village Nature Park) **Status:: Closed**
(Grant Source: MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND- LAND ACQUISITION OF THE ENTIRE PARK AREA GRANT NO, TF98-074
Total Acquisition Cost \$60,000
Village Expenditure \$24,000
Grant Amount \$36,000
- 5. Saranac Village Nature Park – Phase I** **Status:: Closed**
Grant Source: MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND – GRANT NO. TF 01-092
Total Construction Cost \$268,193
Engineering Fees \$23,900
Village Expenditure \$102,723
Grant Amount \$165,470

6. **5 acre Riverfront** **Status:: N/A**
(Future Riverwalk Park – see #7)
Total Acquisition Cost \$22,000
Village Expenditure \$22,000
Grant Amount \$0- *Land Acquisition of the entire park area*
7. **Riverwalk Park Development** **Status:: Closed**
Grant Source: : MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND – GRANT NO. TF04-059
Total Construction Cost \$105,893
Village Expenditure \$46,393
Grant Amount \$59,500
8. **Scheid Park - Skate Park Facility** **Status: N/A**
Total Construction Cost \$105,838
Additional Equipment in 2009 \$52,000
Village Expenditure \$105,838
Grant Amount \$0
9. **Boat Launch – 1.6 Acre Acquisition** **Status: Closed**
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND – GRANT NO. TF-12-079
Total Acquisition Cost \$100,000
Village Expenditure \$26,000
Grant Amount \$74,000
10. **Boat Launch Park Improvements** **Status: Active**
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND – GRANT NO. TF-16-0182
Total Development Cost \$259,500
Village Expenditure \$78,000
Grant Amount \$181,500

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 Village 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 Saranac 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 Village of Saranac 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 Saranac 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 Village'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 Saranac Village Council 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 a 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 Saranac area with a focus on continuing to connect our existing parks, neighborhoods and destination points.
- B. Connect Saranac’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 connect-ability 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 Saranac area water resources.

Objectives:

Many residents have commented on the natural beauty of our trails and parks in Saranac which utilize the Grand River as a focal point. They also responded that they felt it was important to develop recreational opportunities that take advantage of what our river has to offer. This can be very important to local residents as well as those interested in visiting the community. The Grand 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 Grand 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 Saranac community plans for the future, 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 Saranac 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 SARANAC 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 are 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 Village 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.
- C. Review options for winter ice skating area.
- D. Explore options for community pool with Saranac Area Schools.

Goal 8

CONTINUE THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPTS AT ANY AND ALL VILLAGE 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. Provide additional non-motorized trails to better connect community destinations and areas.
- E. Improve signage for any visually or physically impaired park users

Goal 9

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE VILLAGE 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 Village residents.
- B. Improve existing recreational facilities to more effectively fulfill the needs of Village 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 Saranac Community Schools, Ionia County, Keene Township, Boston Township, City of Ionia, MDOT, and

volunteer groups and look for ways to utilize existing facilities 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 PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE NATURAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES WITHIN THE VILLAGE.

Objectives

- A. Identify and inventory those natural and historical features that reflect the unique character of the Village.
- B. Minimize the impact of recreational activities on the integrity of the Village's natural and historical resources.
- C. Take advantage of the extensive Grand River frontage for recreational development.
- D. Purchase waterfront or green space properties as opportunities arise.

Goal 12

TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION IN THE VILLAGE 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 of the existing Park & Recreation Committee.
- D. Provide opportunities for the involvement of Village residents in the identification, selection, and development of recreational facilities.
- E. Monitor the effectiveness of the Village's efforts in fulfilling identified goals and objectives by providing opportunities for Village residents to evaluate the progress of recreational development.
- F. Monitor the effectiveness of the Village's efforts in providing fully accessible opportunities for Village residents.
- G. Facilitate regular meetings of the Park & Recreation Committee.

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 Village 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 Village owned parks.

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 Village should explore the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities such as Boston Township, Keene Township, City of Ionia and Ionia County 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 with surrounding Village and township representatives, a common goal of the need for the development and improvements of the following were top priorities:

1. Improving restroom facilities at Scheid Park
2. Improving playground for 2-5 age group and 6-12 age group at Scheid Park
3. Additional paved pathways at the Village Nature Park.
4. Improving existing pathways at the Village Nature Park.
5. Provide improved observation/fishing platforms along the Grand River,

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 Village. 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 Village 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 | Scheid Park – Restroom Building and ADA Improvements – Parking, ADA walks, and rain gardens | \$300,000 | Goals 1,2,4,7,8 | \$200,000 MNRTF \$100,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations |
| 2019 | Playground Improvements | \$150,000 | Goals 1-5 | \$100,000 MNRTF \$50,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations |
| 2020 | Various Park Master Plan | \$6,500 | Goals 1-11 | \$6,500 local |
| 2021 | Trailway Improvements and Observation Decks | \$200,000 | Goals 3,7,8,9 | \$180,000 MNRTF or MDOT TAP Program \$90,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations |
| 2022 | Recreation Plan Update | \$5,000 | Goal 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 Village.

1. General Funds

The Village’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 Village’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 Village. 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 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 is 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.

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 \$150,000 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 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 Villages 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 (Village, 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.