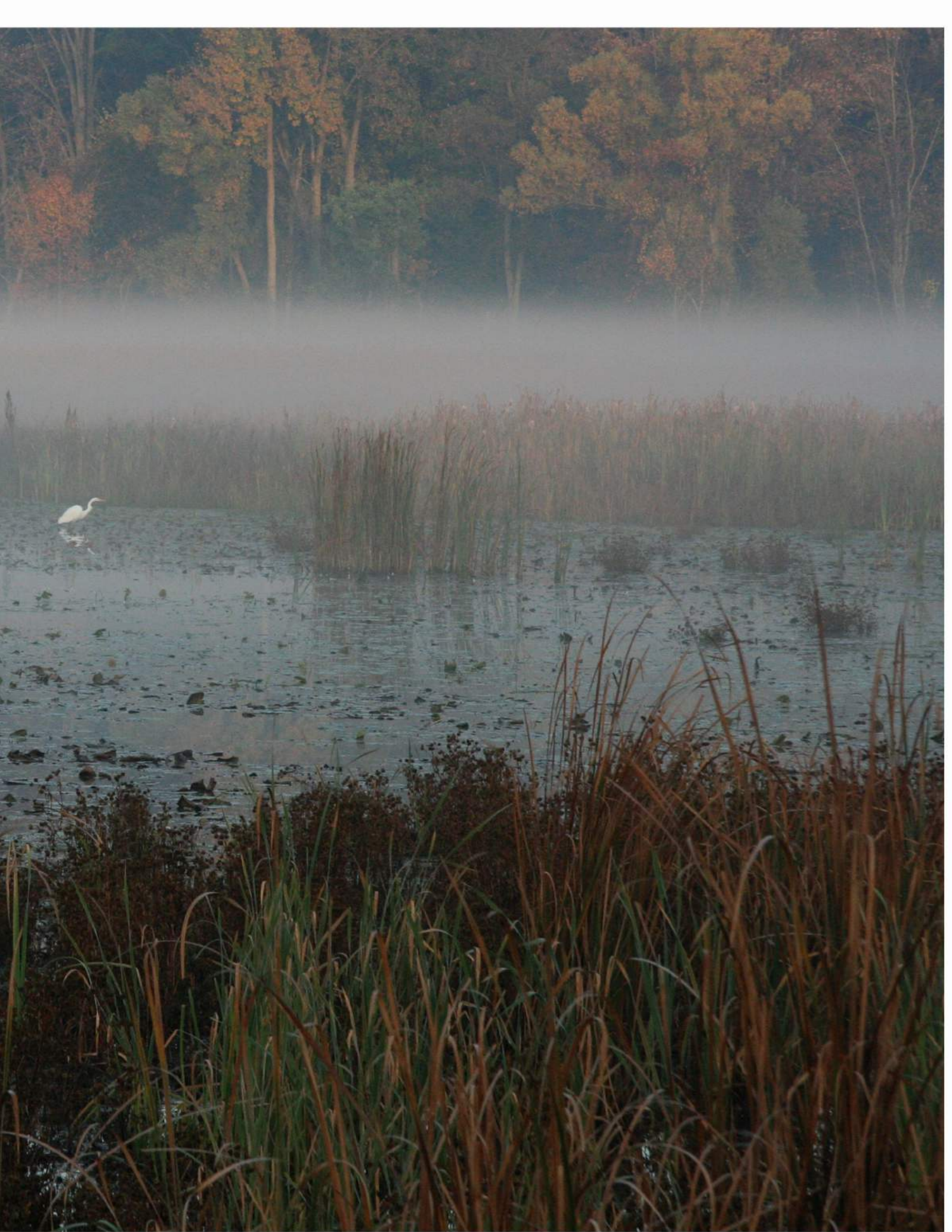




# KENSINGTON MASTER PLAN





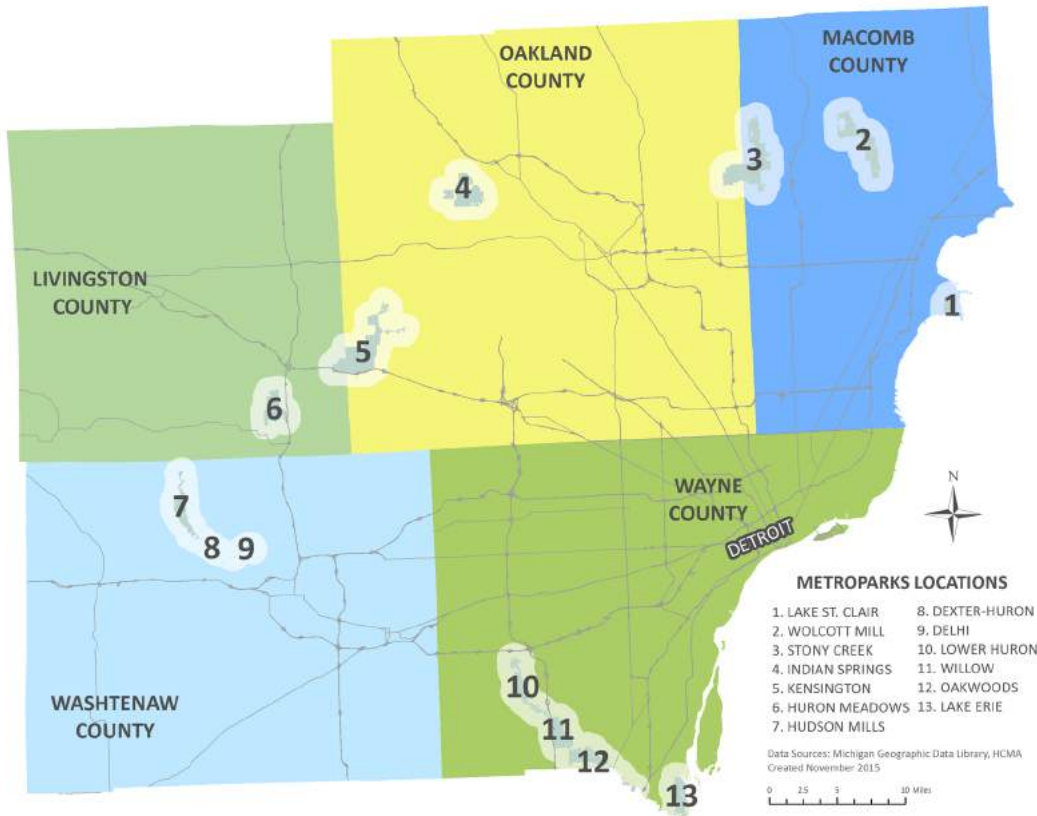


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# INTRODUCTION

## About the Metroparks

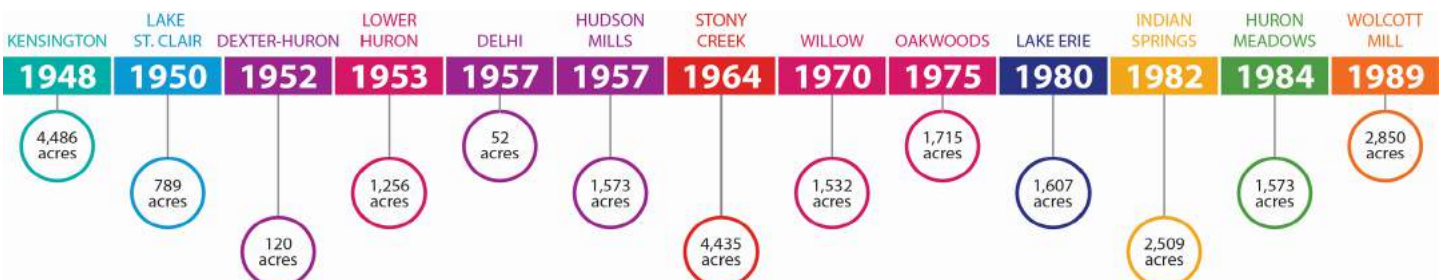


The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority was sanctioned by the Michigan State Legislature in Act No. 147 of the Public Acts of 1939. Named after the two longest rivers within its boundaries, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority is a regional park agency consisting of 13 Metroparks encompassing approximately 25,000 acres of land within a five county area in southeast Michigan.

Much credit can be given to Henry S. Curtis and Harlow O. Whittemore for making the Metroparks a reality. The 1937 vision for a park system proposed a series of parks connected by a long parkway extending from Lake St. Clair along the Clinton and Huron rivers to Lake Erie below the mouth of the Detroit River.

Funding of the parks began in 1942 with a property tax levy, limited to one-quarter of one mill. The rate today has been adjusted to .2146 mills.

### PARK DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



# Administration & Operations

## Board of Commissioners

A seven-member Board of Commissioners governs the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. The Board of Commissioners meets the second Thursday of each month, where they make policy decisions for the Authority, including approving expenditures, acquiring land, planning of new parks and facilities, approving fees and charges, awarding contracts through competitive bidding, and other matters necessary to provide regional recreation. The Board appoints staff officers for the Metroparks.

Two commissioners, appointed by the Governor of Michigan for a term of four years, serve as representatives at large. Five commissioners, one each to represent the counties of Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston and Washtenaw, are appointed for a term of six years by the board of commissioners of the above-named counties.

**Director** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Metroparks, provides leadership and executive oversight of all administrative and operational activities.

**Administrative Departments** provide administrative support to operations, and guide the organization towards its mission.

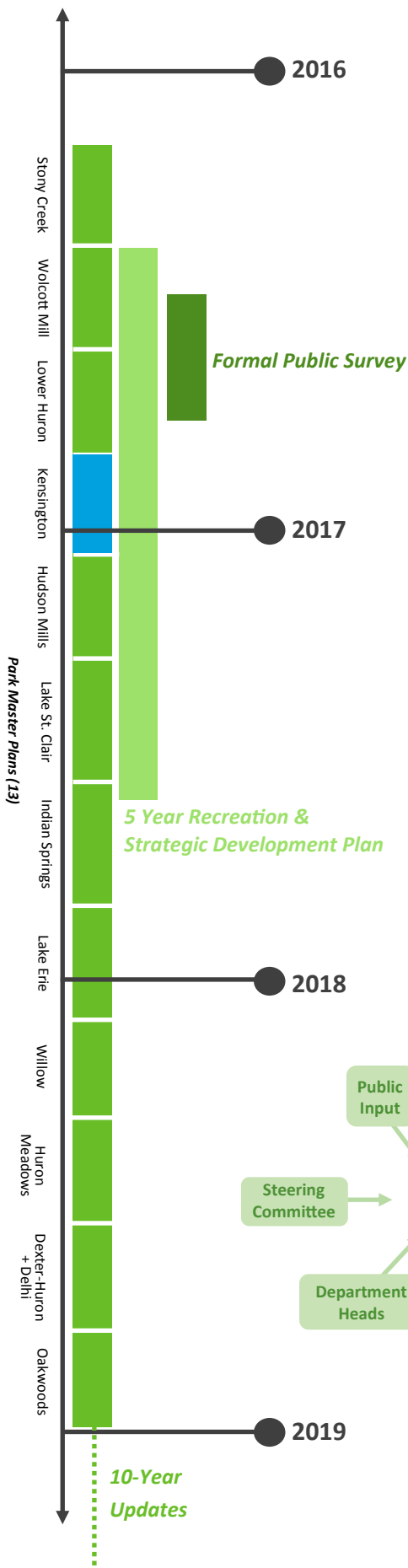
**Operational Departments** facilitate the day-to-day operations of the parks, making sure patrons have enjoyable and educational visits. They include Maintenance and Interpretive Services.

**Metroparks Police** ensure that everyone can enjoy the parks in a safe and secure environment.



# Introduction

## Planning Process

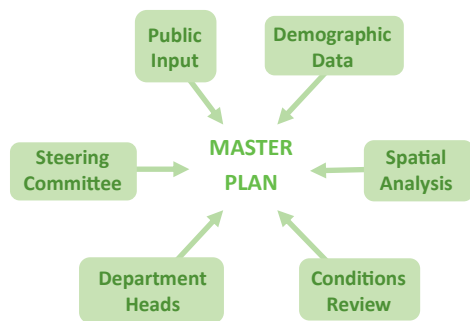


Several factors contribute to the recommendations that will be proposed for Kensington in the master plan. One of the most important is the public input collected through meetings, questionnaires, and online comments. This reveals the public's hopes and expectations for the park and significantly influences plan recommendations. A master plan steering committee was formed to include park employees with exceptional knowledge of Kensington and surrounding community, who along with the experienced Metroparks department heads provide their professional opinions.

The Metroparks Planning Department has scheduled an aggressive timeline for completing all 13 park master plans in three years. Each park will be given a planning window of six months, with overlap between parks. The order of the parks in the planning process was determined by staff based on current and planned park projects, planning need, geography, and park popularity.

The Planning Department collects demographic and spatial data to inform master plan recommendations. Demographic data looks at the density, age, race, income, language, and other factors of the regional population. Spatial data, usually analyzed through Geographic Information System software, looks at the physical location of the parks in relation to other recreation opportunities, transportation facilities, population centers, important natural resources, and more. Finally, the Planning Department conducts a review of park conditions to identify areas needing improvement and areas experiencing success.

The master plans are intended to be living documents, modified as needed to reflect changing conditions in the parks. However, they focus on park developments over the following ten years, and will be updated every decade through a formal planning process similar to the current one.



The Steering Committee for the Kensington Master Plan met on 11/02/16

# KENSINGTON TODAY

## Character



The following responses to our survey questions highlight the many facets of Kensington that form a unique experience. Visitors to the park are drawn from all over to the environment and recreation offered at the park. They care deeply about the natural resources that make Kensington a relaxing escape.

## NEEDS

Continue to draw diverse range of visitors to the park

Build on current popularity to attract new users

## OPPORTUNITIES

We started going to Kensington in the 50's and loved **getting out of the city environment**. Just keep letting nature be natural.

We **hike all throughout Kensington** an average of 5 times per week and are extremely pleased with the condition and quality of the trails and parkland.

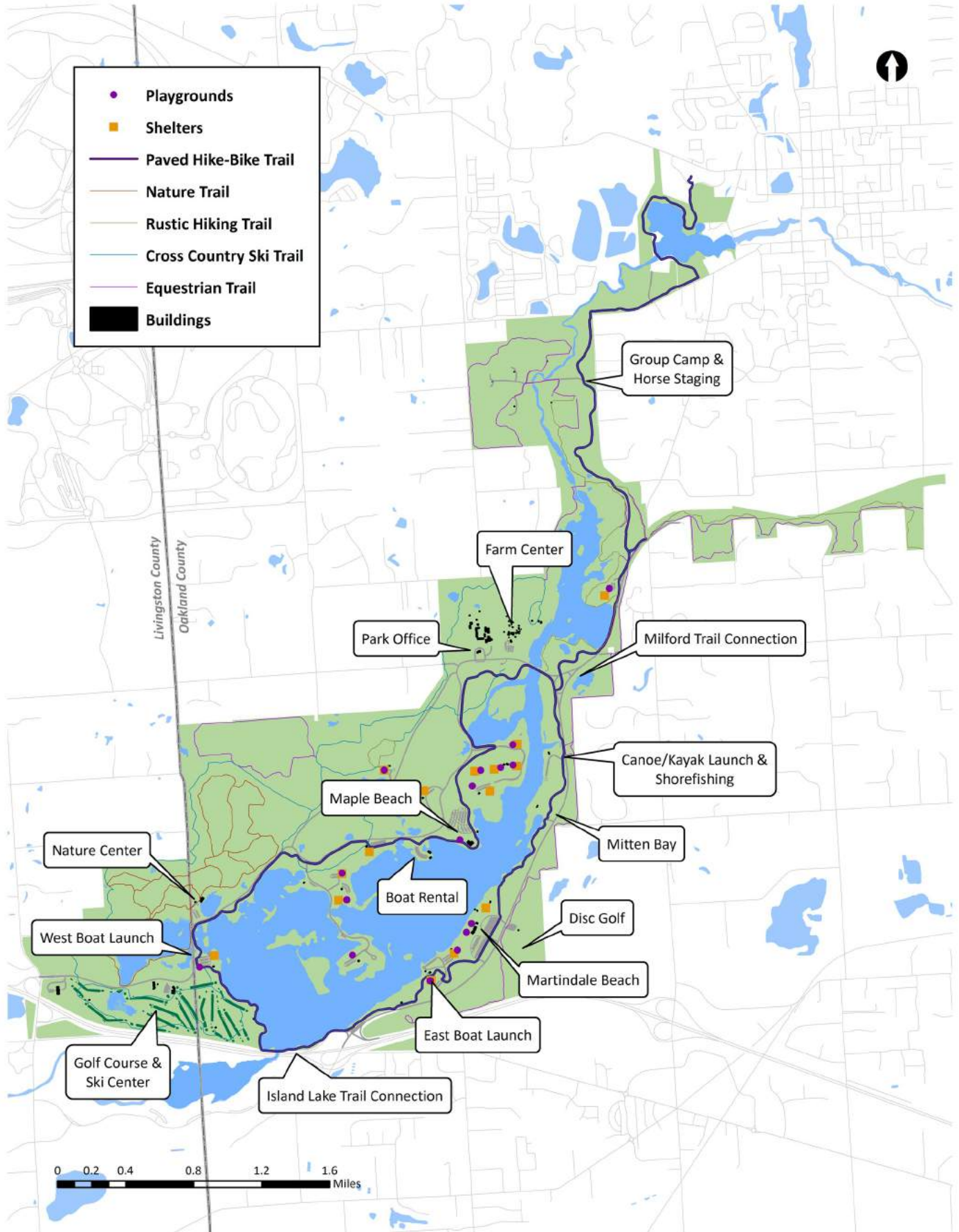
I live in the suburbs of Chicago and still make it there at least **five times a year!!**

We **trail ride** our horses there almost weekly and I **bird watch** there

Kensington Park has been a way for me to move through difficult times in my life. It provides a **protected and natural setting** that is respectful of animals and birds and also offers people a **great place for recreation** and enjoying nature.

I go frequently just to see the **succession of blooms** throughout the seasons!

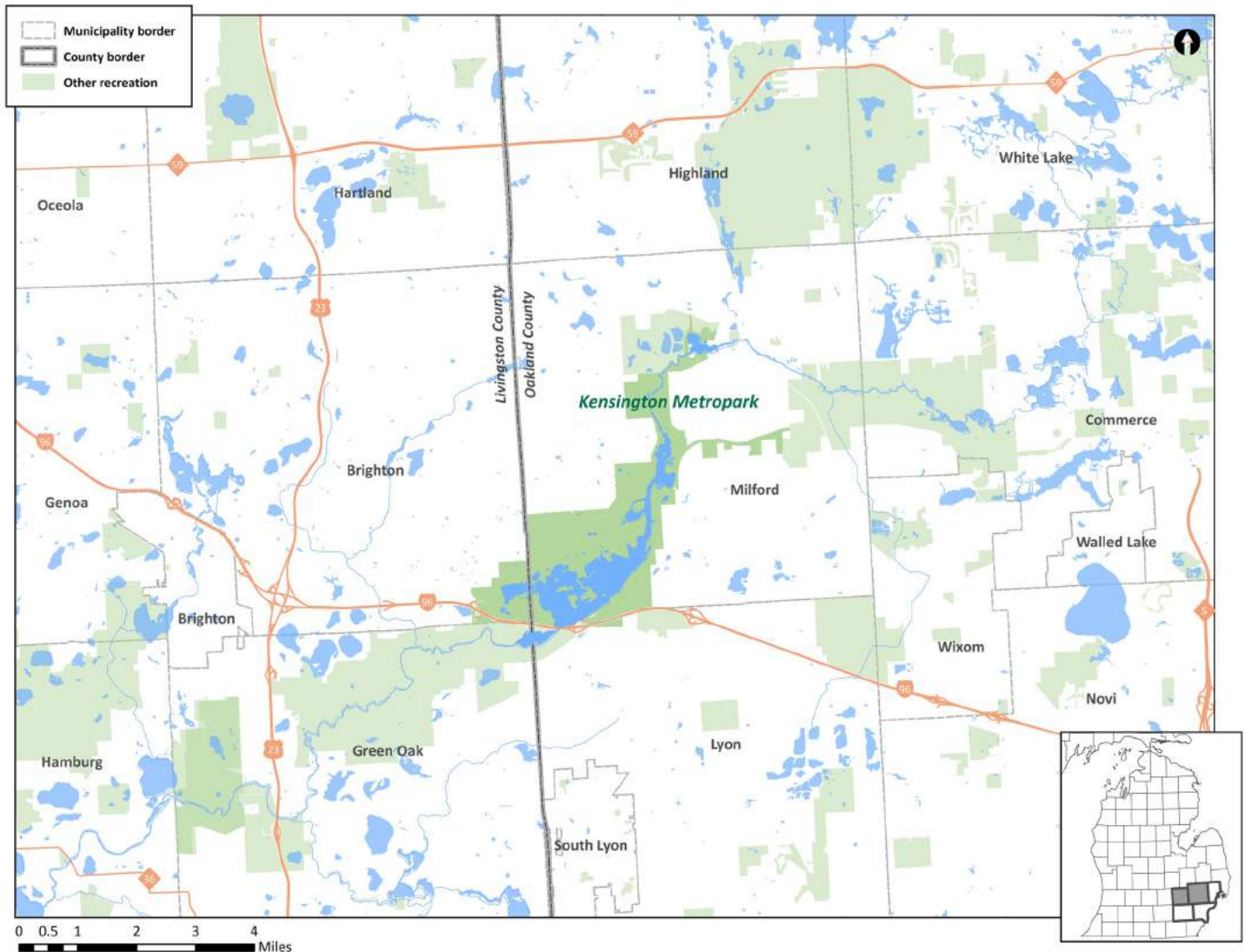




## Location

Kensington Metropark is located on the border of Livingston and Oakland counties in southeast Michigan. The park sits in the southern portion of both counties. Most of the park is within Milford Township, but Brighton and Lyon Townships also contain portions of the park, and Green Oak Township contains less than an acre.

At its northernmost extent, Kensington reaches Mill Pond, to the east it reaches beyond Old Plank Road, its western boundary is Kensington Road, and to the south it extends just past I-96 to Grand River. The park is situated on the Upper Huron River and contains most of the dammed, 1,200-acre Kent Lake. A trail connects the park to Island Lake State Recreation Area to the south and Proud Lake Recreation Area to the east.



**NEEDS**

- Define and protect areas with important biodiversity features
- Create a resilient network of biodiverse areas in the park

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life present in a given area, often measured by number and distribution of species. It is important to preserve because it provides humans with ecological services such as clean water and oxygen, leads to greater resistance and resilience during natural and human-caused disturbances, and reduces the risk of disease.

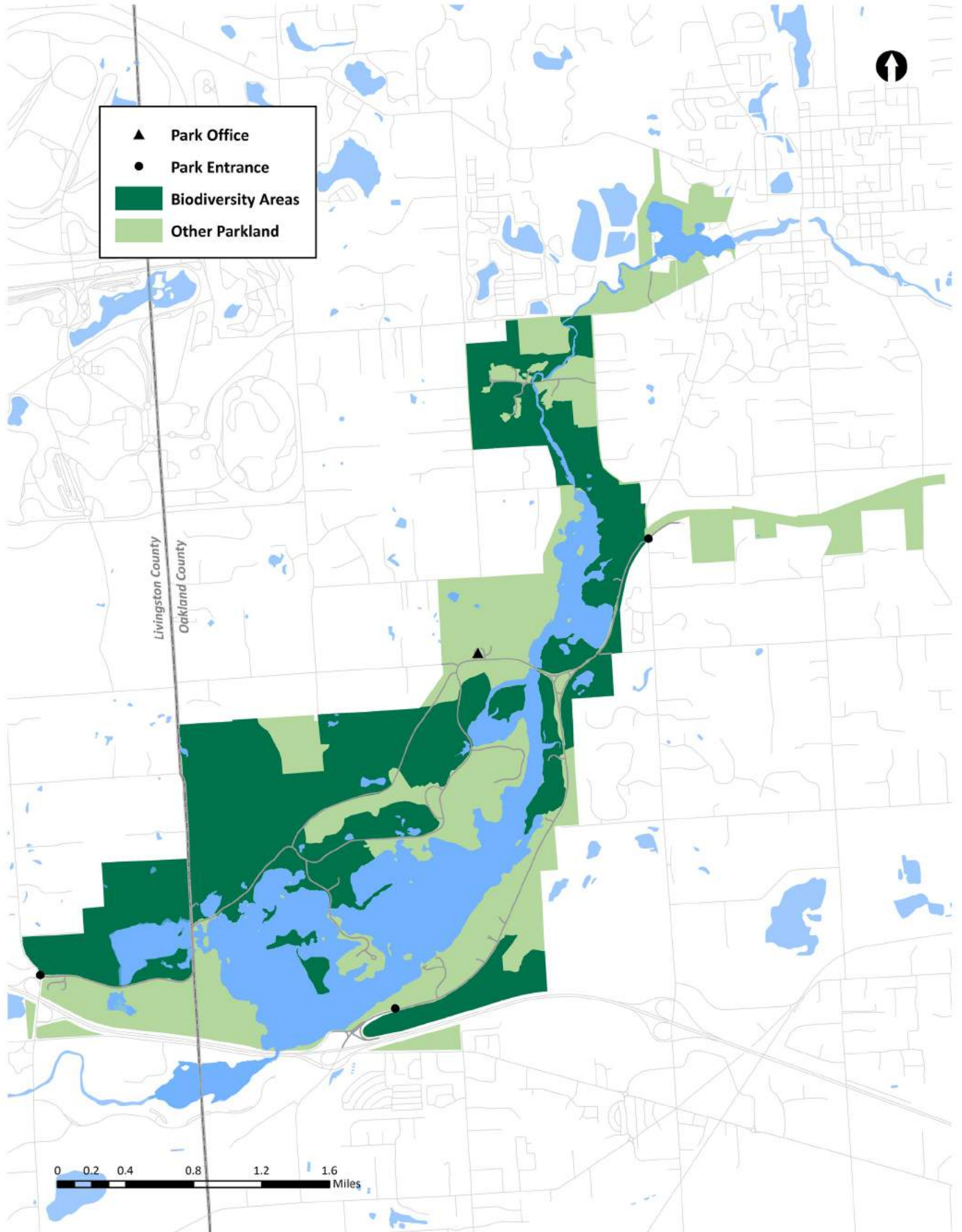


## Biodiversity Areas

Identifying biodiversity areas can help inform the development of current and future park amenities, allowing the Metroparks to fulfill its mandate and mission statement of protecting the natural resources of the communities it serves. Development within biodiversity areas is carefully reviewed to minimize unnecessary disruption.

The following criteria for determining biodiversity areas were adapted from a matrix that the Natural Resources Department uses to determine work priorities throughout the park system. The following page shows a map of proposed biodiversity areas in Kensington.

Metric	What	Why	Metric	What	Why
<b>Elemental Occurrence</b>	the presence of a species under legal protection, or of a complete system recognized as in condition similar to pre-settlement	statutory, occurrences protected by law from intentional take	<b>Percent Invasive Species Cover</b>	percentage of total acreage with invasive plant coverage	areas with few invasive species require less work, have greater return on investment
<b>FQA (Floristic Quality Assessment)</b>	presence of plant species likely to occur in conditions similar to pre-settlement	determines the ecological value of a system based on its floral assemblage	<b>Community Ranking</b>	rank assigned by the state due to natural community rarity or rate of decline	assesses the vulnerability of each natural community within the state
<b>FQI Connectivity</b>	the presence of a quality habitat (greater than 35 FQI) within 100 feet of another	connected habitats provide diverse resources and facilitate migration, increase species fitness	<b>Wetlands</b>	the presence of wetlands	wetlands tend to have greatest diversity, and are also critical to promote healthy water resources
<b>Size</b>	acreage of the habitat in question	large habitats provide more diverse resources and facilitate migration, increase species fitness, resilience	<b>Habitat Connectivity</b>	the presence of a complementary habitat within 100 feet of another	connected wetlands promote genetic diversity conservation and water quality



## NEEDS

Better educate about and preserve important cultural features

Draw new visitors with programming/education based on history of park

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Ghost Town

The park is named after the town of Kensington, which was founded in 1832 and located on the Huron River. The center of town was located at the Detroit-Lansing toll road (later Grand River) and County Line Road (later Labadie). The first building was a sawmill, and it grew until it was once a bustling settlement, serving travelers with a bank, hotels, and taverns. One of the original stockholders of the bank, Kingsley S. Bingham, later became governor of Michigan and lived in a house that still stands in Green Oak Township. The bank was also known for producing its own independent notes in 1838. The fallout from these notes, along with opposition to a railroad stop and a dam, contributed to the town's decline. By the 1930s it was a ghost town, and development of Kensington Metropark began in the 1940s with the damming and expansion of Kent Lake. The last town building to stand, the Kensington Baptist Church, was levelled in 1953 by Reverend Morris of Novi. Traces of the town can still be seen in a nearby cemetery and scattered foundation remnants.



The wildcat notes issued by the Kensington Bank

## Cultural History



Kensington property prior to development and damming

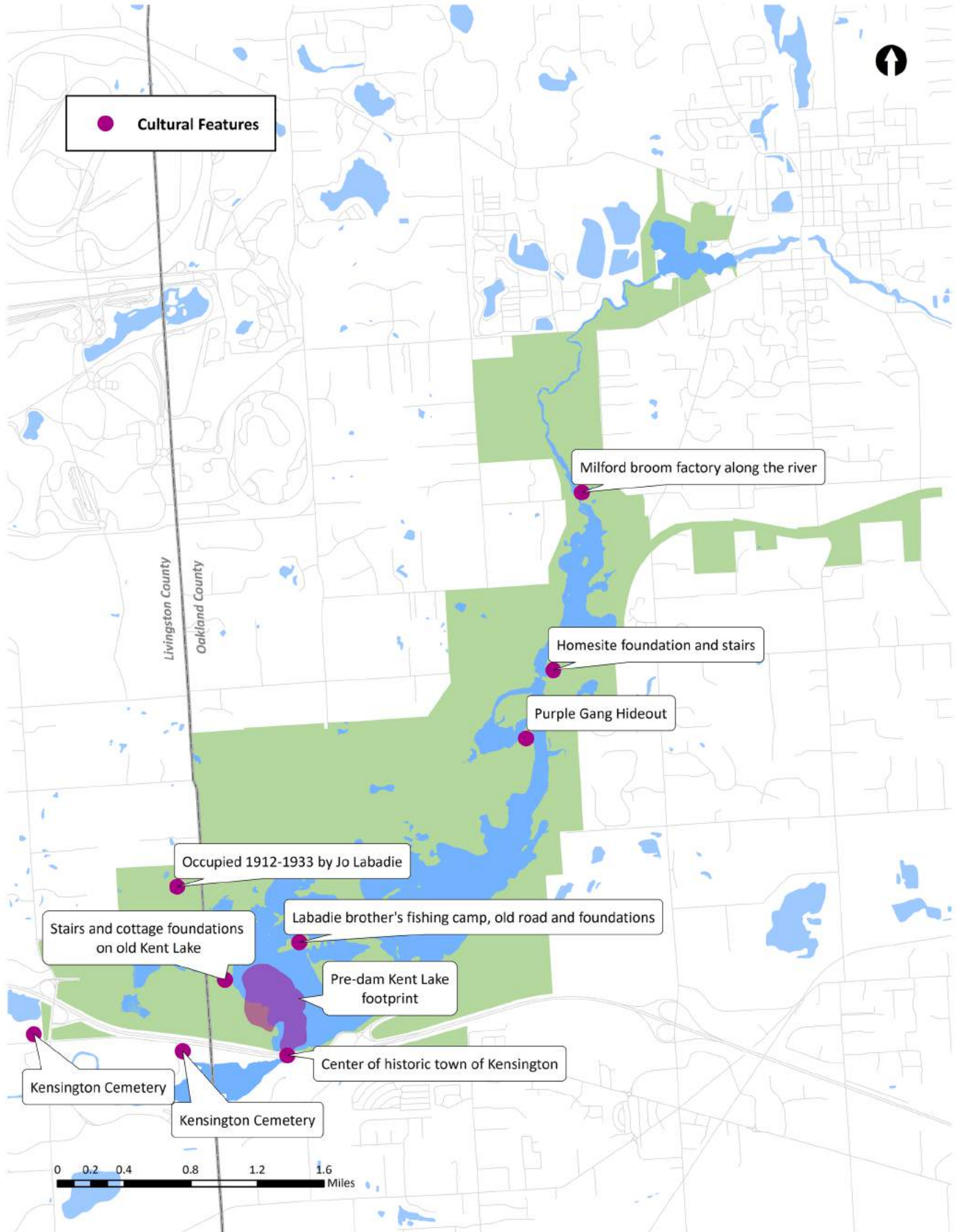
### Building a Lake

During the life of the town of Kensington and up until construction by HCMA began in 1946, Kent Lake was a small sixty-acre swimming and fishing hole, described as “swampy” and hardly noticeable from the road. HCMA leadership saw the potential for a huge center of water recreation since few large lakes existed in the immediate vicinity. A dam was erected across the Huron River, flooding Kent Lake into 1,200 acres in order to accommodate the large numbers of anticipated swimmers, fishers, and boaters.

### The Labadies

The area that is now Kensington has seen some notable residents in the past. The Labadie brothers of Detroit spent several years in the area. Jo Labadie, an early labor leader, spent his summers here from 1912 to 1933. The remains of his summer home and other buildings can be seen along the Aspen Trail. Jo's brothers, Oliver and Hubert, ran a fishing lodge on what is now one of the islands in Kent Lake. They also filmed several silent movies in and around what is now Kensington Park.

The most notorious residents of the area was the Purple Gang. Legend has it, these prohibition era gangsters had a hideout, along the Huron River, in what is now known as Possum Hollow.



# Infrastructure

In order to serve the varied needs of park visitors, Kensington contains a number of buildings, surfaces, facilities, and activity areas. Many of these were constructed years or decades ago, meaning that they may need to be repaired or replaced in the near future.

Kensington is the largest Metropark, with a wide variety of recreational activities available. The infrastructure necessary to maintain these includes roads, parking lots, piers, trails, pipes, utilities, picnic shelters, and much more. Since maintaining infrastructure is costly, it is important going forward to avoid overbuilding and collocate facilities to minimize paving, pipes, and other materials. Several recreation areas managed by state, county, and local governments are close to Kensington, and a goal in the planning process is to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure in the park complement and do not duplicate those nearby.



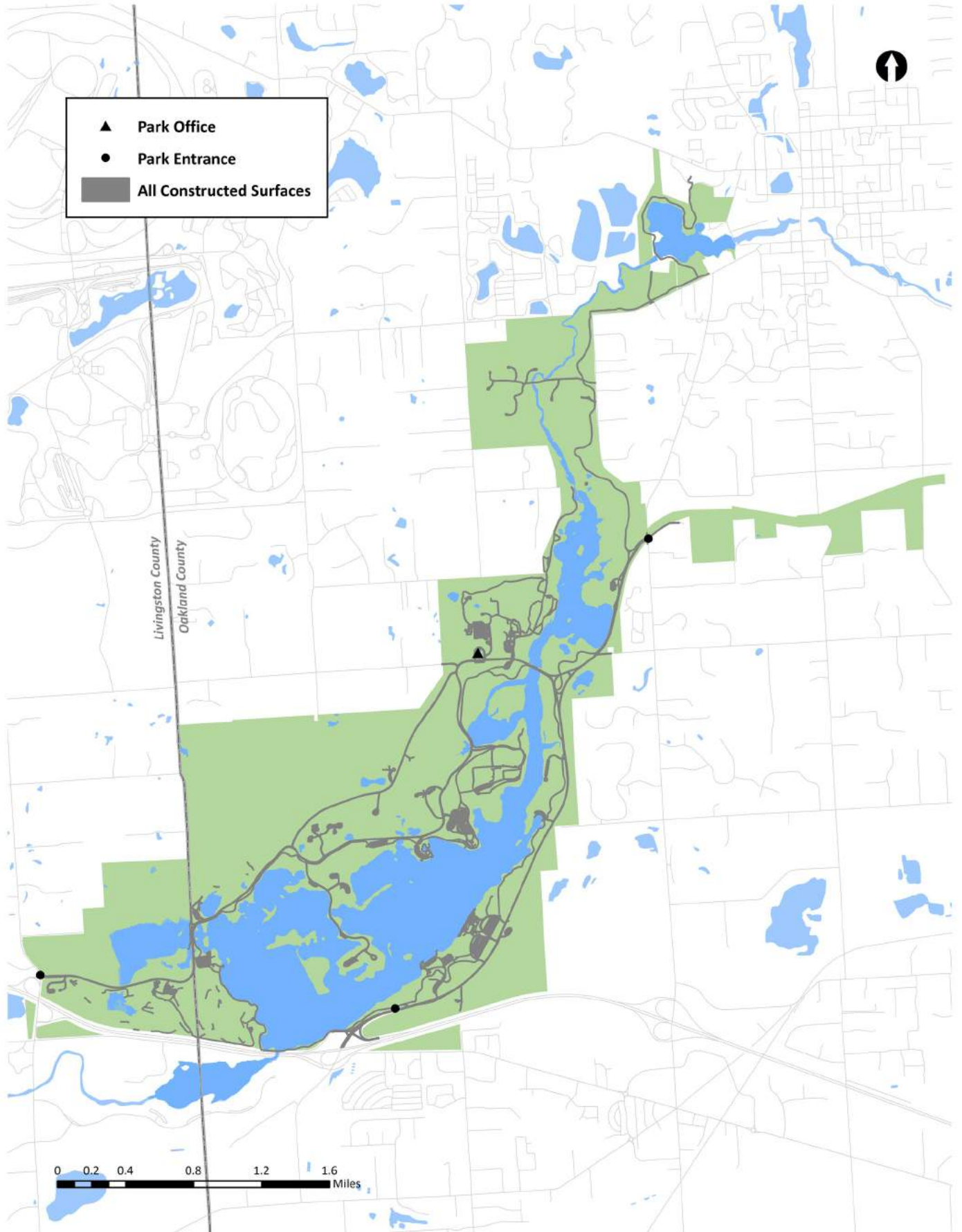
## NEEDS

Address aging and overbuilt infrastructure

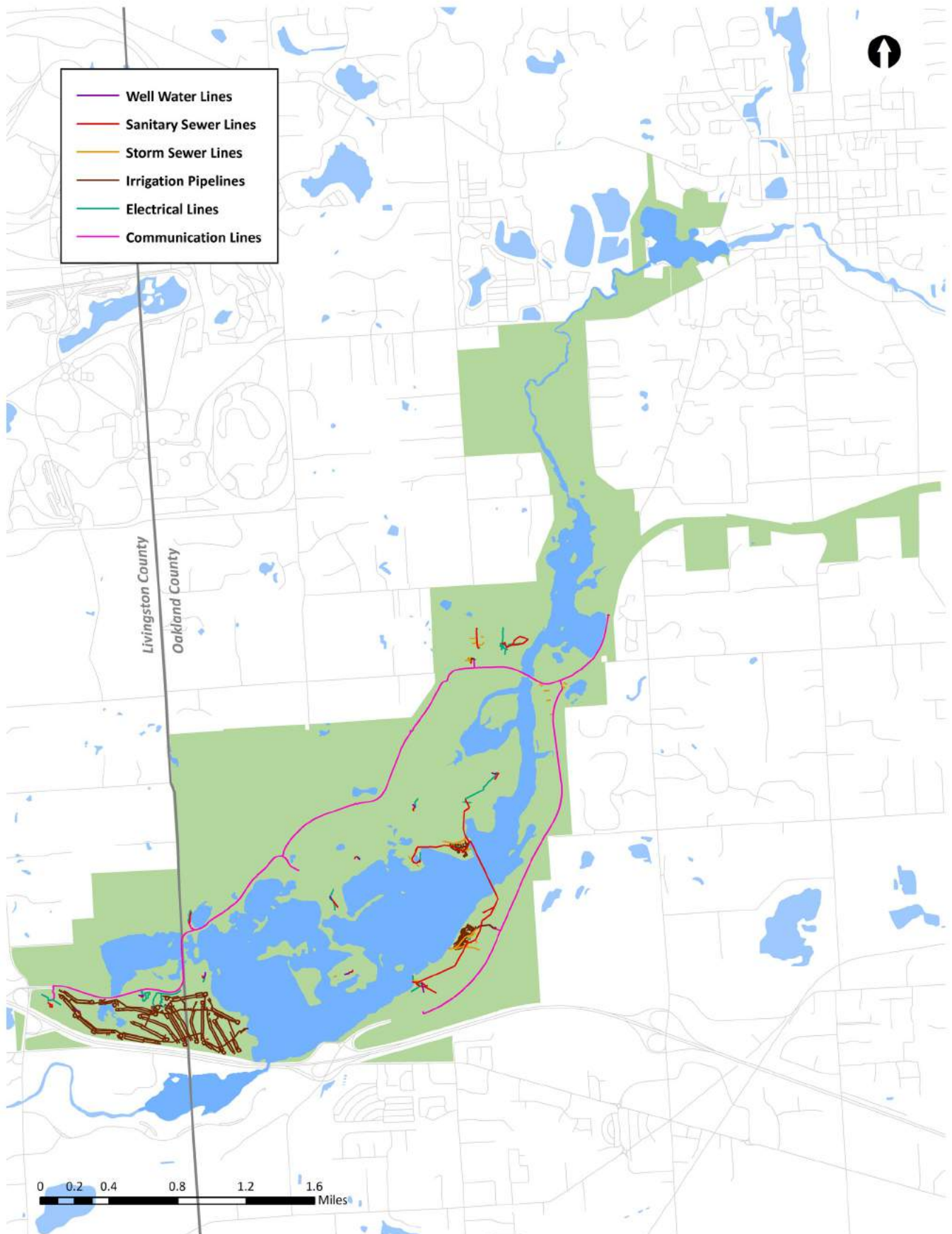
Redevelop park areas to better serve visitors and environment

## OPPORTUNITIES

Kensington Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	12 / 26
Service bldgs / avg age	16 / 42
Comfort stations / avg age	9 / 28
Paths & trail miles	57.41
Road miles	14.9
Parking lot acreage	37.83
Playgrounds	20
Percent of park mowed	8.8
Picnic shelters	18
Sand volleyball courts	8
Baseball fields	7
Fishing platforms	5
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	3









### Nature Center

The Nature Center houses reptiles and amphibians with interpretation for children and families, and hosts various educational activities. It is surrounded by miles of nature trails traversing lakes, forests, and fens.

### Golf Course

This is one of the most popular golf courses in the Metroparks system, and regularly hosts leagues and outings. Scenery to enjoy while playing includes forests and the great expanse of Kent Lake.

### Martindale Beach

This popular beach allows for swimming, wading, and relaxing on the shores of Kent Lake. It includes a waterslide and a splash pad as well as refreshments, and is full of kids and adults trying to cool off during the summer months.



## Facilities & Centers

Kensington features a number of facilities that define its character and enhance the recreational experience of visitors. Some of these either require an admission fee, are available for rentals, or sell concessions, supplementing park revenue. As with all park infrastructure, it is a priority to keep the facilities well-maintained and replace them when no longer functional.

### Farm Center

The Farm Center draws families from around the region to learn about the life cycle and habits of cows, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, and more. With regular educational programming, seasonal activities, and a new summer farmer's market, this is a hub of activity throughout the year.



# Kensington Today

The Metroparks are moving towards a more data-driven approach to developing facilities. In order to best serve the residents of southeast Michigan and use resources wisely, the Planning Department has identified the location of similar facilities and programs. The goal for future development is to avoid duplication and instead offer unique facilities that fill recreation voids in the geographic area where the park is located.

The map below shows the location of aquatic facilities, golf and disc golf, neighborhood sports facilities, and interpretive programs that compete with those offered at Kensington. Although the general area shown on the map is recreation-rich, especially in terms of public beaches on the lakes to the northeast, Kensington offers unique opportunities in the immediate vicinity. Still, it should be noted that 22 public beaches can be found within five miles of the park.

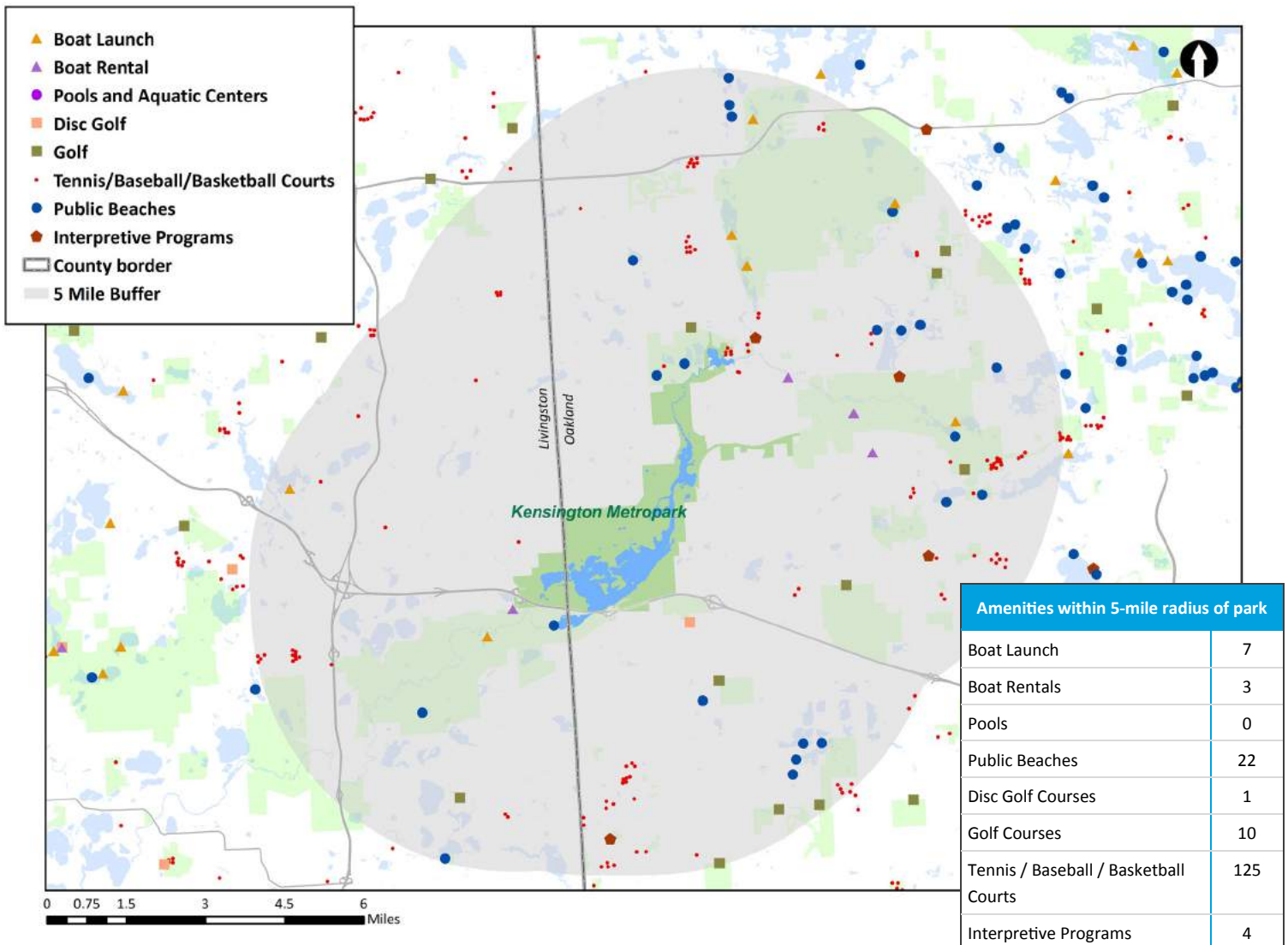
## NEEDS

Identify areas of facility duplication

Provide unique recreational facilities to draw visitors from across the region

## OPPORTUNITIES

## NEARBY FACILITIES



## NEEDS

Work with county to address park boundary issues

Create good working relationship with neighbors and partner organizations

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Grants

Over its history Kensington has received several grants from the DNR for land acquisition, trail development, and more. The land specified as the project area of those grants was encumbered in perpetuity—meaning it may never be converted into a private or non-recreational use. Almost all of Kensington is encumbered, as shown on the following page.

The generous grants from the DNR and other sources have allowed the Metroparks to develop Kensington into the hub of high-quality recreation that it is today.



### Encroachments

The Planning Department has worked with Kensington park staff to identify external encroachments on park boundaries. These include private development on park property, dumping waste, and breaking through fence lines. Together with a new combined map of county parcels in relation to historic HCMA-created parcels, this will help staff resolve existing property issues.

Since Kensington abuts several residential backyards, it is important to work with neighbors to discourage illegal paths into the park and identify areas where a formal pedestrian entry point may be necessary to serve a neighborhood.

### Informal Access Points

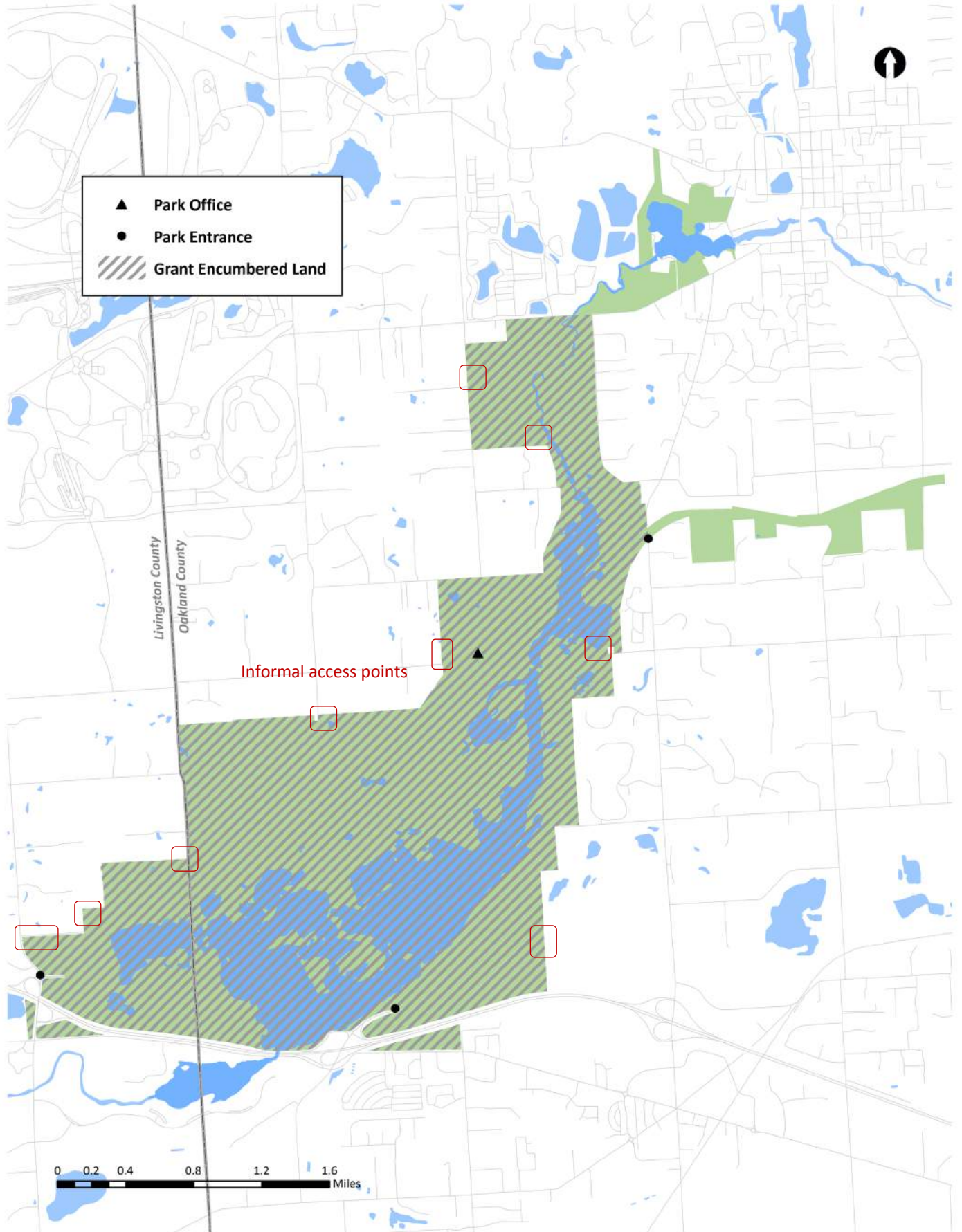
Certain spots on the park border are open to pedestrian access but not formally designated as an entrance. These must be monitored and considered in the planning process. Individuals may park on adjacent streets and enter the park on foot, affecting the tolling revenue of the park and potentially causing negative traffic impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

### Easements

Kensington contains various utility easements, meaning that utility providers are allowed to use certain sections of land to run power lines or other equipment, in order to provide service to the surrounding area. In the future, the Metroparks will collaborate with surrounding municipalities and agencies to link into existing utilities rather than building park-specific utilities—thus furthering the vision of a lean, efficient park system.

### Adjacent Property Uses

Property uses adjacent to the park include single-family residential and industrial, and a small amount of commercial.



# Wayfinding

## Vehicular Wayfinding

### Standardization

Currently Metroparks include signage installed at various times with various standards and designs. This does not reinforce the parks working together as a system and can be confusing for visitors. As older signs reach the end of their lives, they will be replaced with new, standardized signs.

### Simplicity

In many parks, including Kensington, an abundance of signage is not necessarily useful for directing visitors. Minimizing duplication of signs and expressing sign information simply will make navigation easier for users of the park.

### Symbols

Symbols are useful for expressing information in a small amount of space, and also make park facilities more accessible for visitors who have trouble reading or speaking English. A standard set of symbols has been developed to be used in wayfinding signage.

## Trail Wayfinding

### Standardization

Trail types present in the Metroparks include shared use, mountain bike, ski, nature and rustic, and equestrian. Despite their different functions, these trails together create a complete recreation system, so signage will be based on a uniform template.

### Flexibility

In order to serve the differing needs of users on these various trail types, the signage template will allow for removable panels and be customized to fit the needs of that user group.

### Legibility

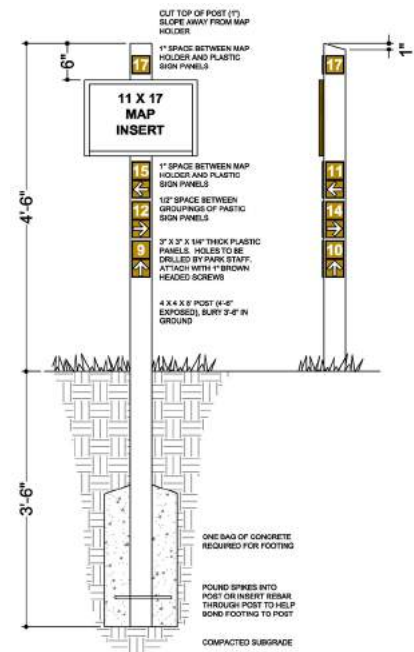
For many people, the easiest way to orient oneself in a new environment is through use of a map. For greater ease of use, all new trail wayfinding signs will include a map marked with a “you are here” symbols and the location of important park features and amenities.

## NEEDS

Replace outdated, confusing, inconsistent signs

Create consistent, convenient wayfinding system to give visitors confidence

## OPPORTUNITIES

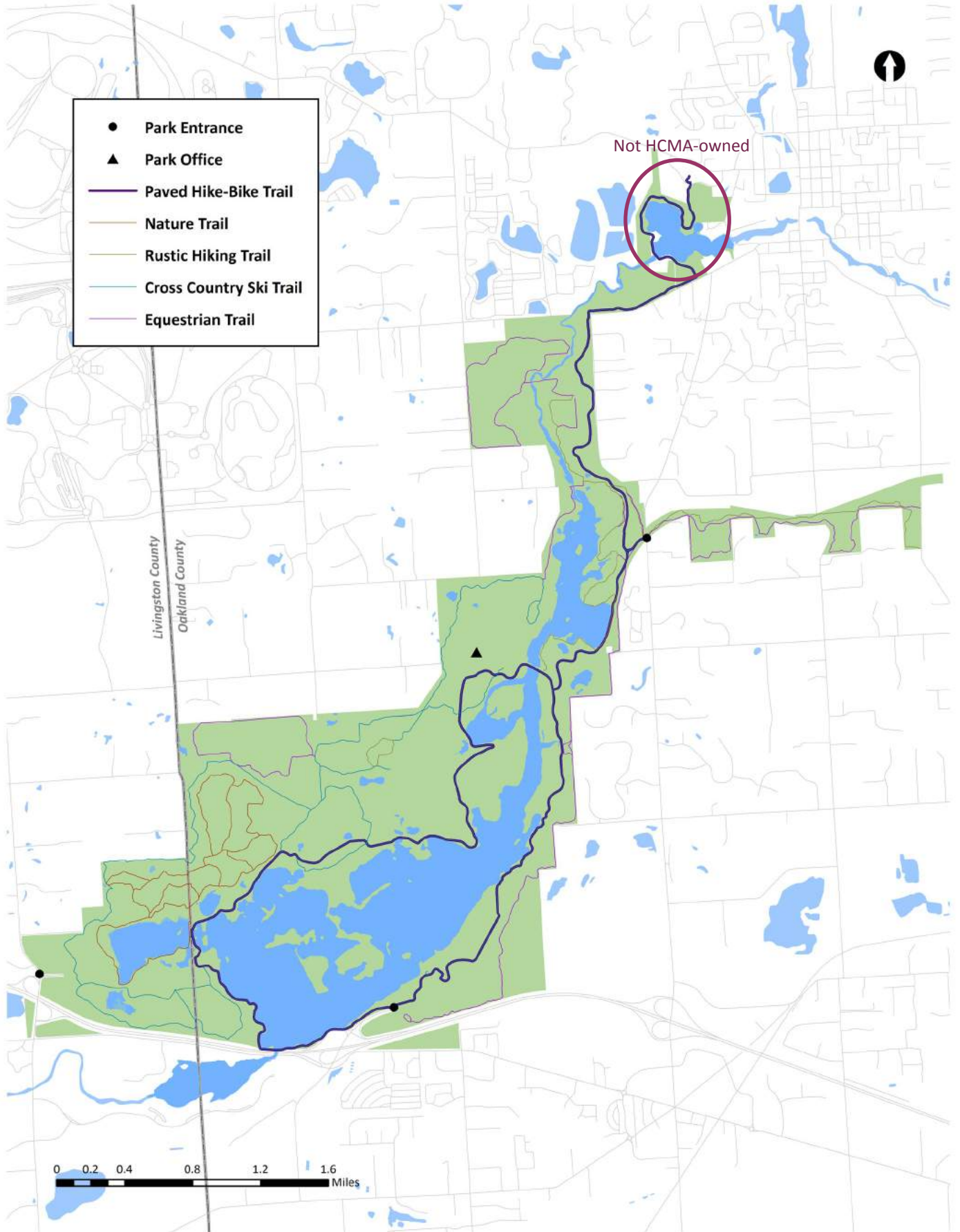


## Trails

As part of the master planning process, staff have categorized and defined the various types of trails in the park, inventoried the miles, and specified the uses and design of each. This formal listing allows for assessment of availability of trails for various users in comparison to user group demand. It will also lead to more standardized maintenance and rule enforcement processes.



Trail Type	Miles in park	Allowed Uses	Prohibited Uses	Surface
<b>Shared-Use Trail (Hike-Bike Trail)</b>	12	Non-motorized traffic and pets.	Horses and motorized vehicles such as golf carts, scooters and hover-boards.	10' wide, typically asphalt, some small sections may be concrete or boardwalk.
<b>Nature Trail</b>	7.09	Pedestrian use only; hiking and walking. Snowshoeing is permitted on all Nature Trails except those designated for cross-country skiing. Cross-country skiing is permitted on designated trails only.	Motorized vehicles, running, jogging, pets, bikes and horses.	Trail surfaces vary and include asphalt, aggregate, mulch and compacted earth. Portions of these trails are accessible, but most are not ADA-compliant.
<b>Rustic Hiking Trail</b>	6.19	Pedestrian use only; running, jogging and pets. Snowshoes and cross-country skiing are permitted on designated trails only.	Motorized vehicles, bikes and horses.	Width and material vary, often dirt trails.
<b>Equestrian Trail</b>	17.4	Horses and Pedestrians; cross-country skiing is permitted in the winter on designated trails only.	Motorized vehicles, bikes, snowshoes and pets.	Typically dirt single track, trail widths vary.
<b>Cross-Country Ski Trail</b>	11	Cross-country skiing only. Many are used for other activities during the summer.	Motorized vehicles, snowshoes, hiking, bikes, horses and pets.	Snow covered.
<b>Huron River Water Trail</b>	6.2	Canoeing and kayaking	Other uses are present in river but are not considered part of water trail.	Water





# Accessibility

To remain compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Metroparks are responsible for ensuring that park space is accessible to all members of the public. In the development of this master plan, planning staff has taken an active role in locating the less accessible park amenities, so that all guest can enjoy the park. A survey of several areas has resulted in a list of accessibility issues present at Lower Kensington Metropark These areas are highlighted below and shown on the map on the following page.

**NEEDS**

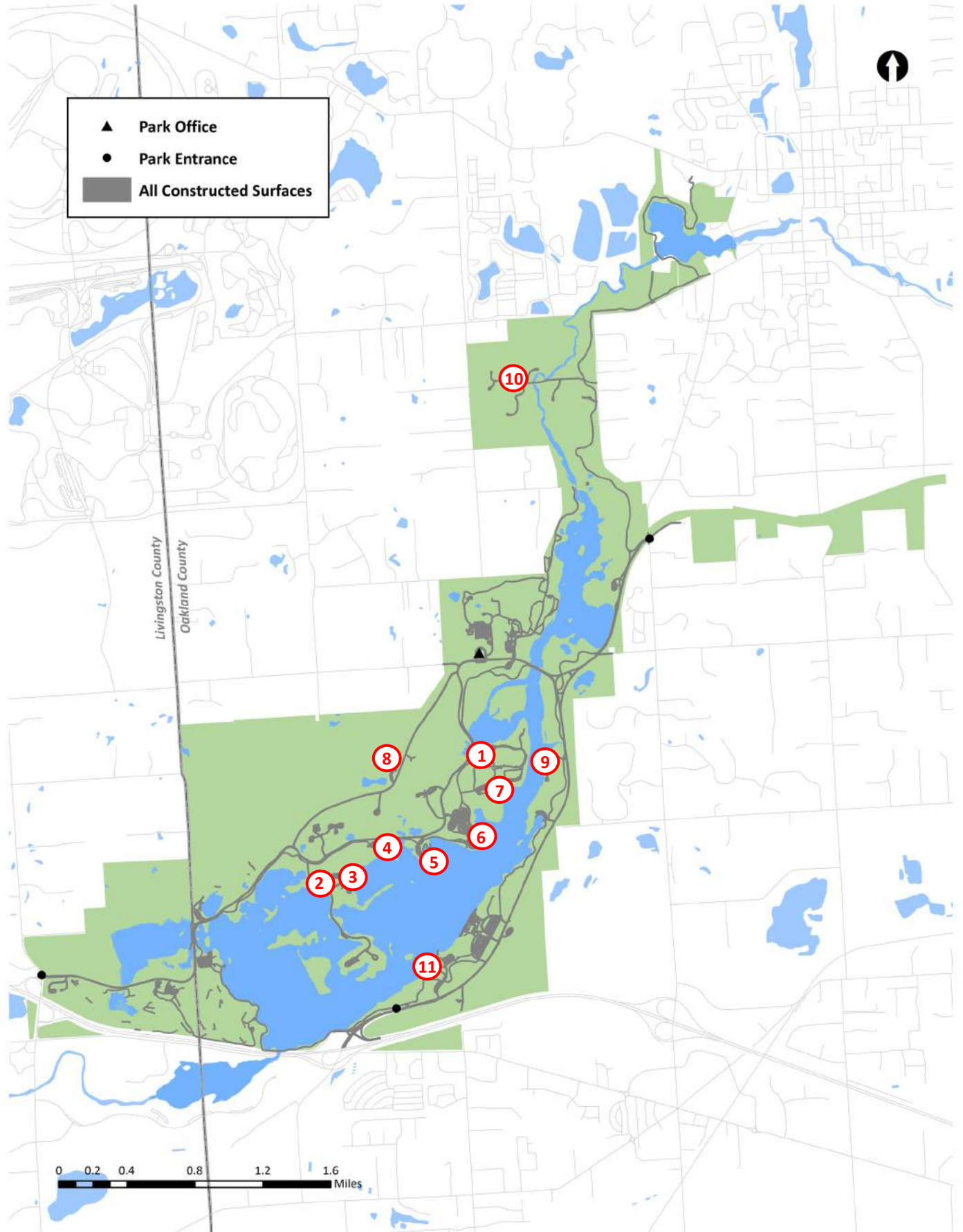
Pursue improvements to park accessibility

Ensure that users of all abilities feel empowered to take full advantage of the park

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Area	ID #	Description
Hike-Bike Trail	1	There are likely sections near Playfield that have slopes greater than 5%
Island Drive	2	Needs accessible pathway to the vault latrines.
Hickory Ridge	3	An accessible walkway is needed to both picnic shelters, and should link the shelters to restroom building.
Baywoods	4	An accessible walkway is needed to both picnic shelters, and should link the shelters to restroom building.
Boat Rental	5	The main walk to the boat rental may be too steep. An ADA kayak launch is needed.
Maple Beach	6	The main walk to the beach may be too steep, need for ADA access to beach/water.
Playfield / Possum Hollow	7	Access walks needed to multiple shelters (2) and a play area. These walks should provide access to the restroom buildings in the picnic area. The fit trail is not ADA accessible. Additional walkways to restrooms.
Spring Hill	8	Vault latrines are likely not accessible.
Shore Fishing	9	The vault latrines are not accessible.
Group Camp	10	The vault latrines are not accessible.
East Boat Launch	11	Requires accessible kayak launch system and launch surface, and accessible routes to toilet, water source, and picnic area.

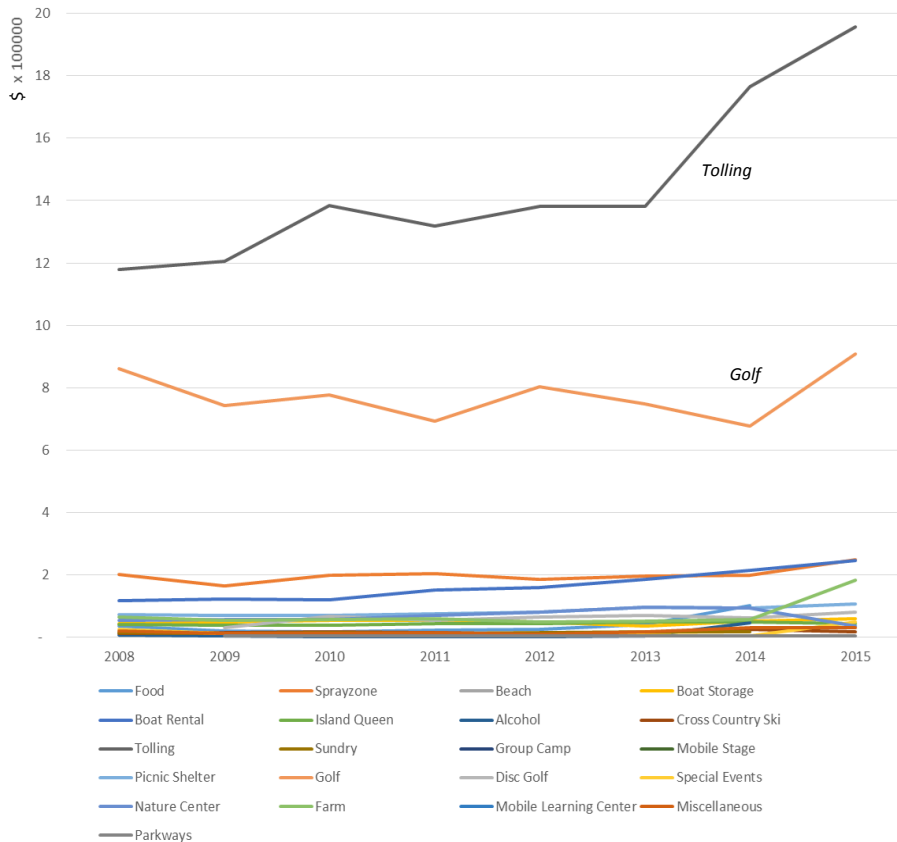
By working with the ADA Checklist provided by the ADA National Network and the Institute for Human Centered Design, the Metroparks are able to prioritize accessibility improvements of park entrances, services, public restrooms, and other park amenities. The areas mentioned in addition to others, were identified using the recommended methods chosen by the aforementioned organizations for all HCMA parks.



# REVENUE

## Revenue Sources

REVENUE TRENDS—2008-2015



## NEEDS

Diversify sources of revenue

Offer new and exciting activities/ programs to visitors to both boost tolling and gather user fees

## OPPORTUNITIES

The Metroparks 2015 General Fund revenue equaled \$48,477,108. Kensington’s 2015 operations revenue was approximately \$4,019,627, comprising 8.3% of all Metroparks revenue.

Kensington’s budgeted 2017 operations revenues are \$4,284,308, while estimated 2017 operations expenses are \$6,906,369. Property tax and other revenue will subsidize 38% (\$2,622,061) of the Kensington operating budget.

As the chart illustrates, nearly all revenue comes from park entrance tolling and golf.

### 2015 Operations Revenue

Revenue Source	2015 Total	% of Revenue	Revenue Source	2015 Total	% of Revenue
Tolling	1,957,245.92	48.69	Island Queen	44,101.50	1.10
Golf	908,796.32	22.61	Nature Center	35,706.94	0.89
Sprayzone	249,207.62	6.20	Miscellaneous	29,294.73	0.73
Boat Rental	245,919.04	6.12	Mobile Learning Center	23,794.25	0.59
Farm	183,579.67	4.57	Cross Country Ski	18,404.15	0.46
Picnic Shelter	105,975.00	2.64	Group Camp	11,469.14	0.29
Disc Golf	79,233.34	1.97	Mobile Stage	7,850.00	0.20
Boat Storage	60,361.25	1.50	Beach	6,435.30	0.16
Special Events	48,927.00	1.22	Parkways	3,325.75	0.08

**TOTAL: 4,019,626.92**

# Revenue

## Visitors

Kensington Metropark is a regional park and can draw from the 3,566,644 people that live within a 30 mile radius (approximately a 45-minute drive) of the park. Certain events and activities may draw visitors from greater distances.

Vehicle entries to Kensington Metropark have hovered between 700,000 and 800,000 since 2008, high even in relation to other popular Metroparks. Weather often plays a role in attendance to the park; activity areas greatly affected by weather are the trails, beaches, boat rental, disc golf course and golf course. This may explain the dips in attendance visible in 2011 and 2013

Consolidation of statistical information is needed to better assess vehicle entries, park users, event attendance, event participants and activity participation within the park. This information will help with marketing of events, activities and future analysis of the park.



Farm Center Spring Festival



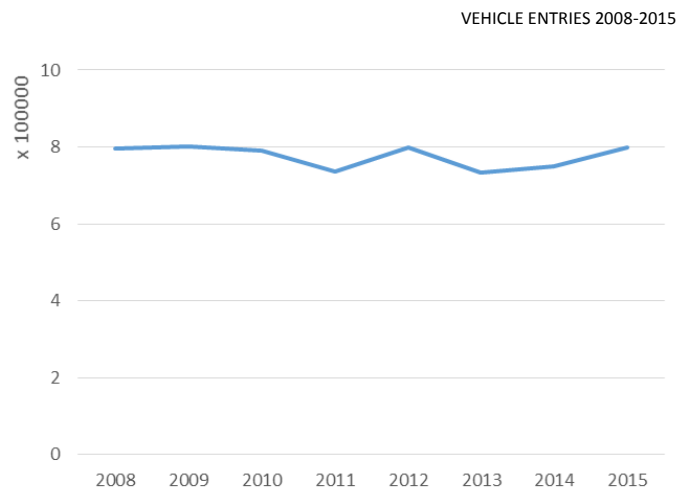
Popular Martindale Beach

### NEEDS

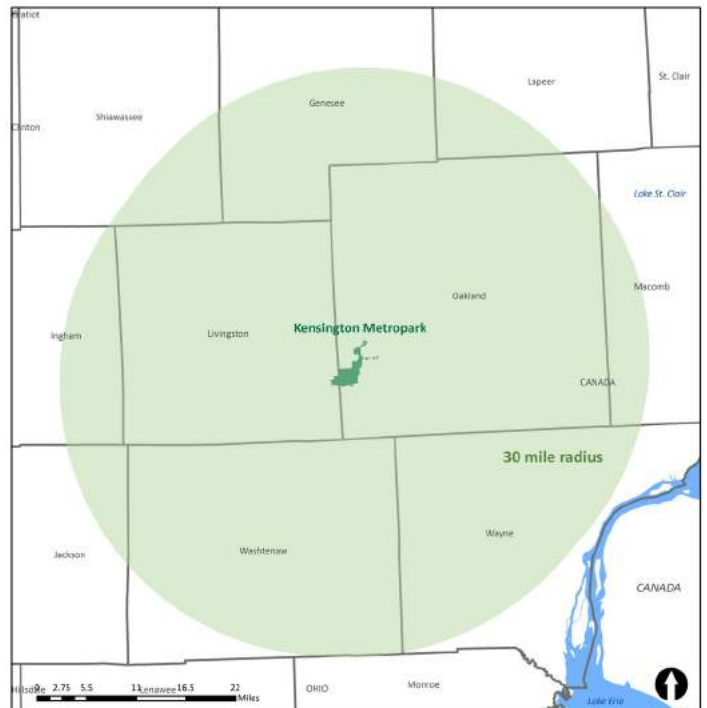
Maintain and build upon high vehicle entry rates

Take advantage of popularity to grow revenue and system awareness

### OPPORTUNITIES



Kensington Metropark 30-Mile radius



## Programs & Events



Michigan Philharmonic



Down and Dirty Mud Run



Colonial Kensington

### NEEDS

Increase revenue and visitation

Build on enthusiasm of Kensington visitors with exciting, engaging programs and events

### OPPORTUNITIES

Kensington hosts scores of events each year, organized either by park staff or outside groups. Many of these are interpretive programs for both children and adults to explore the natural and cultural assets of the park. Some promote artistic enrichment, and others encourage physical activity or advocate for a cause. Both the Farm Center and the Nature Center host a full schedule of programs throughout the year. All are essential parts of the Kensington experience, and part of what makes this a premier regional park.

Recent events include:

- Discraft Great Lakes Open Tier for the Pros
- US Amateur Disc Golf Championships
- BIA of MI Fishing Tournament & Picnic
- Fireworks
- Michigan Philharmonic Concert
- Kensington Marathon
- Canoe/Kayak Race
- Colonial Kensington
- Rainbow Connection Walk for Kids
- Merrell Down & Dirty Mud Run
- Life Challenge Walk
- Kensington Critters
- Beasts at the Beach
- Breeding Bird Survey
- Butterfly Count
- Summer Solstice Campfire
- Bug's Eye View
- International Mud Day
- Explorer's Day Camp
- Colonial Kensington
- Voyageur Canoe Trip
- Farmer for a Day
- Kensington Women's Adventure
- After Dark at the Farm

# COMMUNITY INFLUENCES

## Population

The population of the communities surrounding Kensington is aging rapidly and changing in mobility. The percentage of households without access to an automobile is rising in the region and Oakland County, and the greatest rate of change is in the municipalities directly surrounding Kensington. The Metroparks were created at the time of the auto boom, when it was assumed that every family would have a car to take out to the countryside on the weekends. Since habits and lifestyles are changing, the Metroparks must look into innovative ways to provide access to the parks for all.

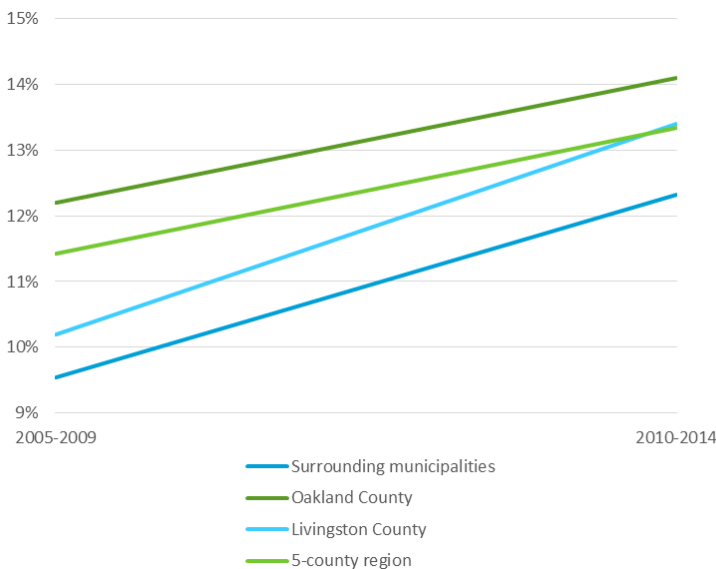
The percentage of individuals over 65 years of age is rising quickly in the region, Oakland and Macomb counties, and communities surrounding the park. The steepest climb is occurring in Livingston County. Older adults have distinct needs, often requiring accommodations for mobility and accessibility of park features such as trails and buildings. This is important to keep in mind when planning the future of a park serving an older population.

### NEEDS

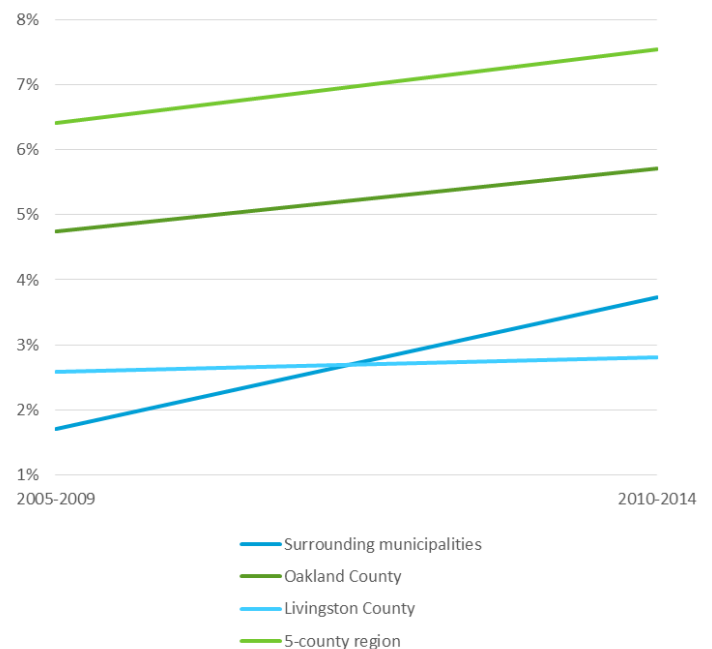
Address changing needs of new population demographics

Draw new users with an accessible, welcoming park environment

### OPPORTUNITIES



CHANGE IN PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER 65 YEARS, FROM 2005-09 through 2010-14 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)



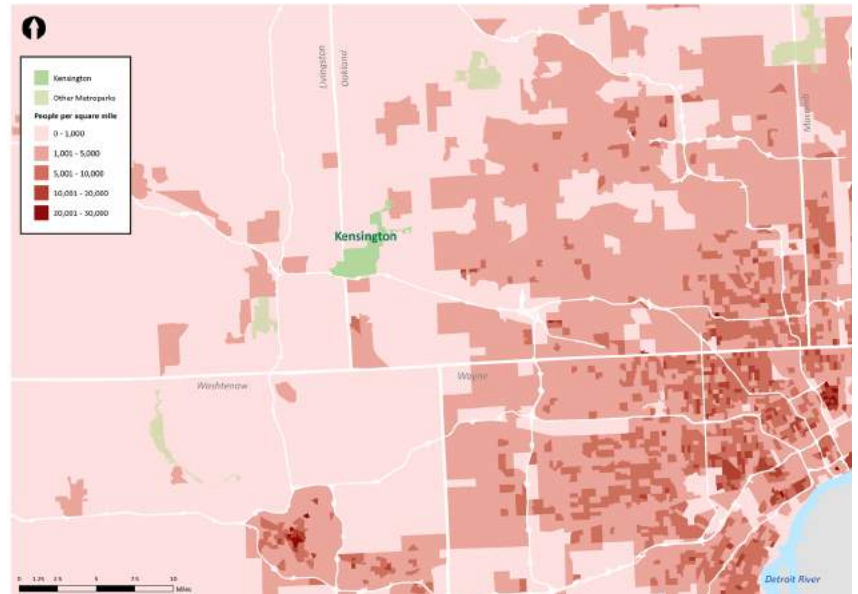
CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CARS AVAILABLE, 2005-09 through 2010-14 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)

# Community Influences

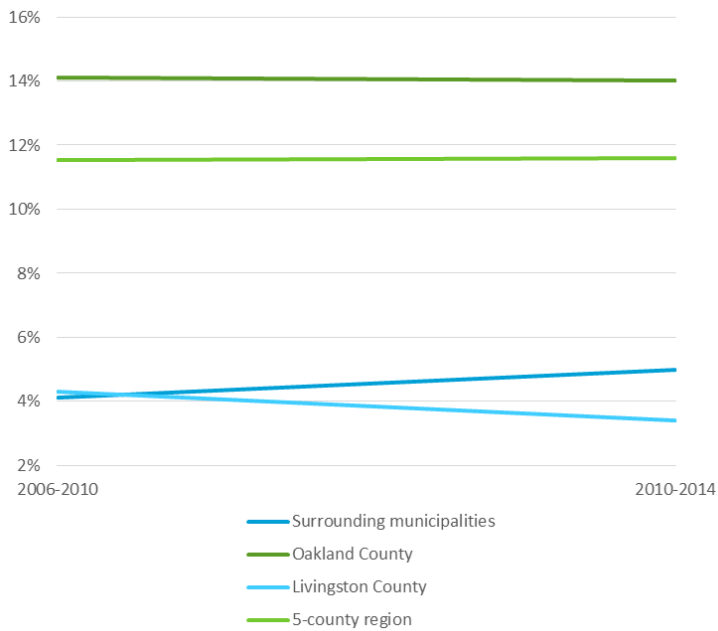
As shown below, Kensington is located past the western edge of the suburban ring around Detroit, largely in the midst of rural low-density areas with less than one thousand residents per square mile. It does touch slightly higher-density areas of Milford to the north and Lyon Township to the south. All this creates unique land use and park access challenges and opportunities.

While on average the 5-county region is falling in population density, the population in the municipalities surrounding Kensington has stayed largely constant over the past ten years. Staying aware of development changes in the area will be important to gauge recreation needs.

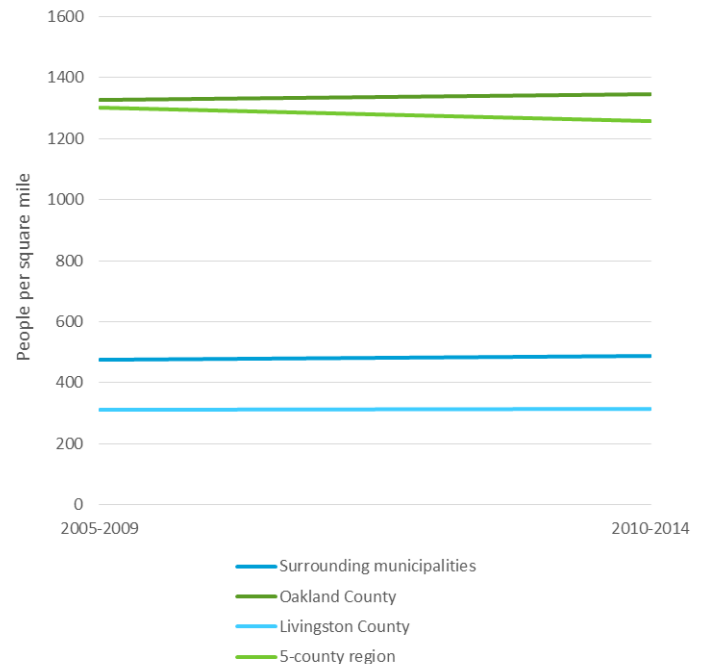
Although most households in the area still speak English as their first language, the communities around Kensington are seeing an increase in households speaking languages other than English at home. Because of this growing linguistic diversity the Metroparks are working towards more universal signage design, with a focus on easily understandable symbols.



POPULATION DENSITY BY CENSUS TRACT, 2010-14



CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS SPEAKING LANGUAGE BESIDES ENGLISH AT HOME, 2006-10 through 2010-14 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)



CHANGE IN AVERAGE POPULATION DENSITY, 2005-09 through 2010-14 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)

## NEEDS

Improve park connectivity with community

Create good working relationship with surrounding municipalities

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Milford Township

- Joint master plan with Village of Milford
- Planning for population increase, Smart Growth
- Gradual transition of urban to rural districts
- Metroparks included in master plan
- Interest in non-motorized collaboration

### Lyon Township

- Conservation of remaining open areas
- New zoning categories to accommodate development
- Need for senior housing options
- Interest in conservation easements and land trusts
- Interest in non-motorized collaboration

### Brighton Township

- Aging residents may require limited mixed use developments
- Planning for cluster developments and service boundaries to preserve open space
- Planning for new trails and pedestrian safety

### Green Oak Township

- Balancing commercial development and open space
- Planning for cluster developments and service boundaries to preserve open space
- Created Path and Greenway Plan

### Huron River Watershed Council

- Improve climate resiliency of communities on the watershed
- Green infrastructure for local governments program
- Collaboration in stormwater management efforts
- RiverUp! program supporting placemaking in river towns
- Huron River Water Trail partner facilitation

## Projects/Initiatives

Understanding the goals and plans of municipalities bordering and/or containing Kensington is essential for a collaborative, comprehensive planning process. Planning staff researched the published master plans and recreation plans of surrounding municipalities, counties, and regional agencies. These provided a basic idea of the direction planned for each, especially regarding land use, development, and recreation.

### Oakland County

- Green Infrastructure Vision linking Kensington to other open space and recreation

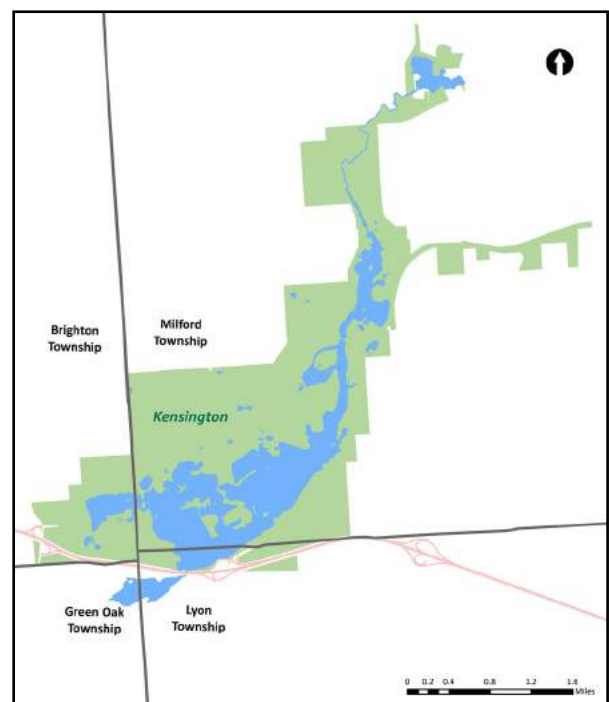
### Livingston County

- Development of land bequeathed to county as parks that complement existing recreation

### Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority

- Work with regional recreation providers to expand opportunities and improve connectivity

MUNICIPALITY MAP





# Community Influences

## Relevant Planning Documents

### Kent Lake Subwatershed Management Plan, 2002

*“The anticipated increase in development and subsequent hard surfaces in the Kent Lake Subwatershed, combined with the loss of open space, is expected to cause an increase in an already excessive nonpoint source pollution situation.”* pg. vii

### Green Oak Charter Twp Master Plan, 2014

*“The Township acknowledges the greater need for non-motorized transportation facilities, and the Township’s desire to maintain and expand the Lakelands Trail pathway system for residents to safely walk or bicycle, linking local recreational and open spaces, like Island Lake State Recreation Area, with residential areas, schools, community facilities and shopping.”* pg. 116

### Milford Community Master Plan, 2009

*“Maintain a policy of controlled growth based upon the principles of “concurrency” – requiring facilities and services at the time of development and “sustainability” – making community planning decisions that will benefit, not burden or penalize, the community’s future generations.”* pg. 13

### Brighton Twp Master Plan, 2014

*“Development within the Township should be directed to areas that can best sustain the physical changes to the landscape without negatively impacting the community’s natural features. Those areas which are not well adapted to development, or if developed may have major impacts to other parts of the community, should be protected. The conservation of these natural features will also increase the quality of life for Township residents.”* pg. 62

### Charter Twp of Lyon Master Plan, 2012

*“In Lyon Township a complete street policy would ensure that options for pedestrians and bicyclists, in addition to cars, are incorporated into our daily transportation decisions. ... The availability of multiple modes of transportation improves the safety of the Township’s roadways and provides residents and visitors with options to access key commercial recreational, and employment centers in the community and the region.”* pg. 7-19

### SEMCOG Green Infrastructure Vision for SE Michigan, 2014

*“Public accessibility to the green infrastructure network is paramount, including access to parks, trails, water, and ensuring public spaces are designed for all residents.”* P 1

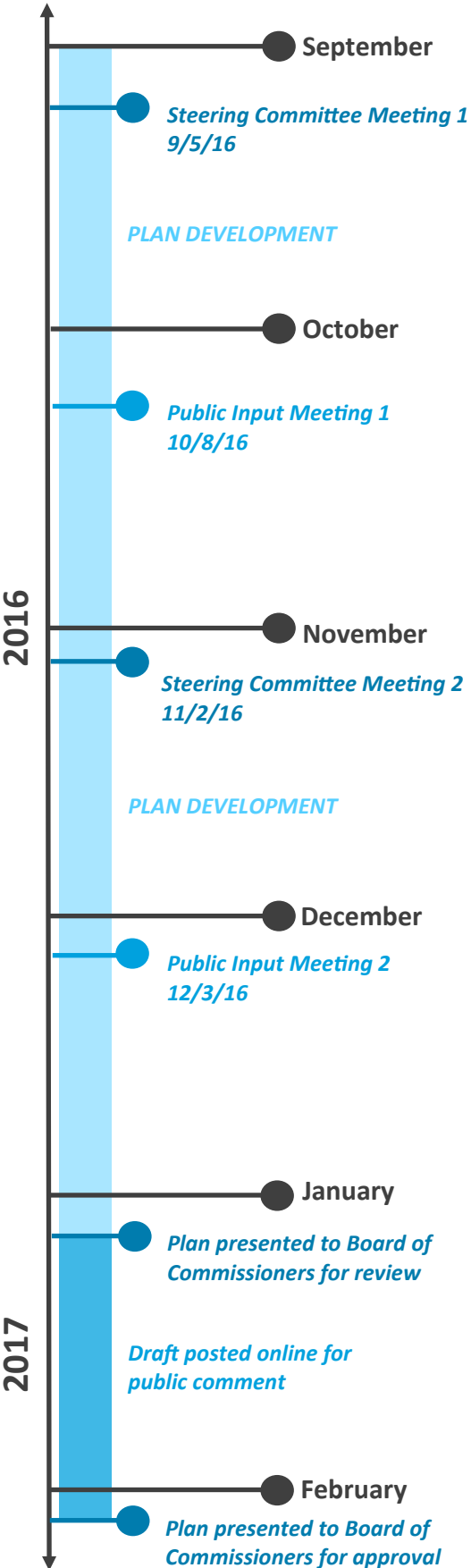
Since the development and land use decisions of bordering communities and other governmental agencies directly impact the park, these neighbor master plans were reviewed and taken into account when creating this document. The opinions and ideas expressed by residents and leaders in these municipalities give Kensington a wider context and in many cases underscore the importance of the park’s resources to citizens.

Kensington is part of a broader system of recreation and green space that includes other Metroparks as well as local, county, and state parks and greenways. Due to this, recreation and green infrastructure plans were also considered in creating the Kensington Master Plan. Many communities are currently advancing their non-motorized networks, seeking grant funding to create greenways and paths, and cooperating to provide linked green and recreation spaces to their constituents.

Several other state, county, and local parks are located close to Kensington Metropark, leading to exciting opportunities for non-motorized connections and collaboration among agencies.

# PUBLIC INPUT

## ← Outreach Process



Since this park belongs to the people of southeast Michigan, the Planning Department aimed to include the public in multiple stages of the planning process.

The planning process began with a meeting of the steering committee, which identified organizations and individuals with significant investment in the park for targeted invitations to the public meeting. A strategy for soliciting general participation in the public meeting was also discussed.

The next step was a public meeting with community members to gather initial ideas about the direction of the park. A general park feedback survey was posted online and advertised both by Metroparks social media and by staff distribution of flyers to libraries and community centers in the surrounding areas.

These ideas were taken into account, along with staff feedback and other data, in developing initial recommendations. These were then presented to the public at a second meeting, and feedback was collected, analyzed, and incorporated into a draft Master Plan document.

This document was posted online in January for final public comment, which influenced the final Master Plan sent to the Board of Commissioners for approval in February.

### Public Meeting 1 - 10/8/16

- Explanation of and timeline for the planning process
- General park information and map
- Regional map on which participants placed stars to indicate their place of residence in relation to the park
- Exercise in which participants placed pom-poms representing resources in jars representing activities, expressing their opinion on where investments should be made
- Opportunity to fill out survey in person

### Public Meeting 2 - 12/3/16

- Short presentation on survey results, community influences, and intended projects
- Opportunity for participants to write down feedback on intended projects

## Results

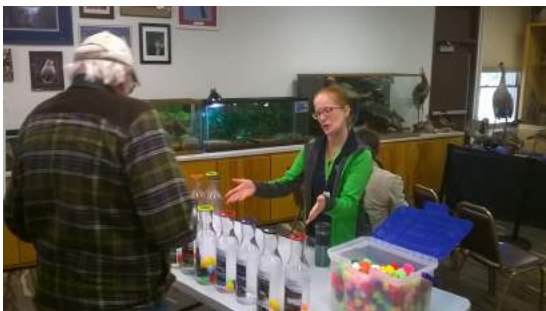
An overwhelming theme throughout all public participation was concern for the natural areas in Kensington and a desire to keep the park “wild.” In the pom-pom investment activity, the Natural Resources category was by far the most popular, followed by the Nature Center and Biking/Hiking. Golf/Disc Golf and Fishing received the fewest votes.

Natural resources advocates were active participants throughout the public input process for the Kensington master plan. In between the first and second public meetings, representatives of local Sierra Club groups reached out to express further concern over the extent and timing of mowing in Kensington and other Metroparks. The Crossroads group, representing 1,000 members, passed a resolution encouraging the Metroparks to reduce mowing on roadsides and to cease or more appropriately schedule regular mowing of natural areas. Individuals from two additional groups, representing over 7,000 members combined, also signed this letter.

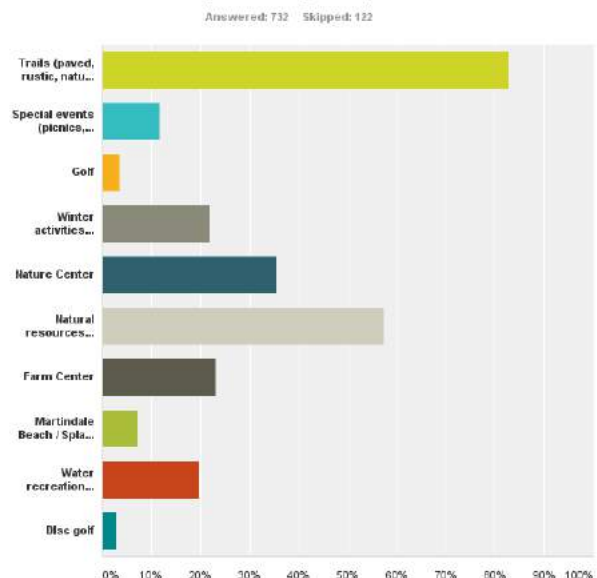
A large number of mountain biking enthusiasts also responded to the questionnaire. They expressed appreciation for the connector trail that runs through the east arm of Kensington into Proud Lake State Recreation Area, but felt that the park would benefit from more mountain biking trails, including a complete loop.



At the second public meeting, planning staff presented the action plan items for participant input. Participants at this meeting continued to voice their interest in reduced mowing and brush cutting, which will be taken into consideration during the revision of the Grasslands Management Plan by the Natural Resources department in 2017. They also supported locating new development projects in already developed areas of the park.



**Q6 What is your favorite part of the park or activity within Kensington Metropark?**  
Examples are given for each category.  
(Choose up to 3.)



Directly above: photo credit Instagram @detroitdj

## Questionnaire Response Topics

### Access

- Reduce cost
- Improved path connectivity
- Improved parking at Windfall Hill, Nature Center, Maple Beach
- Add annual pass entry lane
- Improve ease of access for photographers
- Access to beaches
- Coordination with other agencies
- Improved access to restrooms

### Environment

- Reduce and better time mowing
- Remove invasives and plant natives
- Reduce paving
- Stop culling animals
- Focus on preserving habitat
- Provide quality birding experience

### Maintenance

- Improve trail maintenance
- Keep trash cleared
- Remove water obstructions
- Keep bathrooms cleaned
- Maintain disc golf course
- Maintain equestrian trail
- Improve road and trail pavement
- Keep lake clear

### Facilities

- Expand watercraft rentals
- Improve nature center
- Improve sand, features on beaches
- Add bike rentals
- Update aged buildings
- Improve canoe campground, launches
- Add public campground
- Add sports courts
- Add pool
- Add play areas
- Enhance farm area
- Need for golf course driving range
- Add mini cabins

### Programming

- Relax geocaching rules
- Publicize activities
- Have older children activities
- Add cross country ski events
- Add more historical events
- Relax insurance requirements
- Host native planting events
- Sell birding items
- Offer volunteer naturalist opportunities
- Improve concerts
- Improve police patrol

### Safety/Signage

- Address user conflict among cars, bikers, walkers, runners, pets
- Better enforce speeding/traffic rules
- Add bike lanes on the roads
- Provide more signage for rules
- Provide better wayfinding signage and trail maps
- Patrol nature trails
- Enforce ban on smoking
- More interpretive signage

### Trails

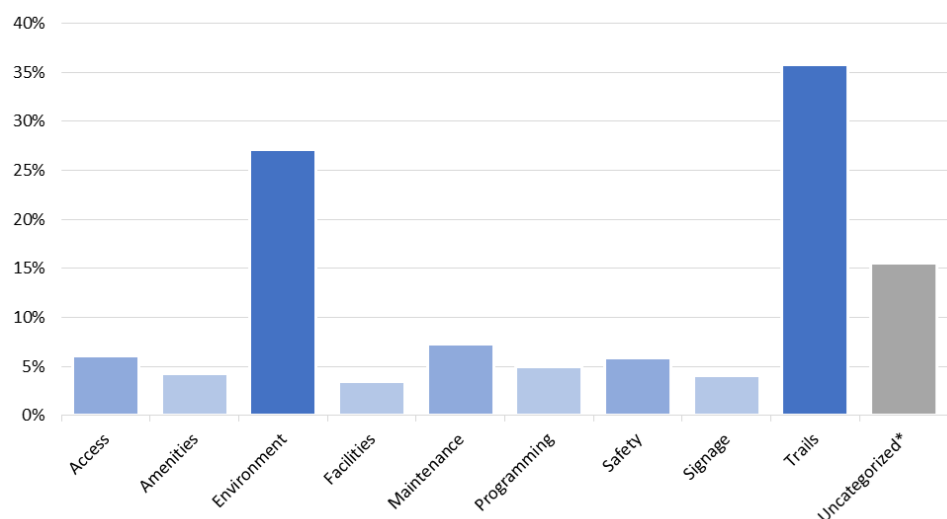
- Add dirt running trails
- Add more hiking trails
- Add more cross country ski trails
- Add mountain and fat biking trails
- Add more bike paths
- Protect nature trails

### Amenities

- Add more drinking fountains, water for horses/dogs
- Improve/add bathrooms
- Add benches
- Increase food options
- Add more trash cans
- Firewood delivery in campsites
- Add recycling bins in picnic areas

This chart shows the distribution of questionnaire response topics, as categorized by planning staff. Some responses fell into more than one category, so they add up to more than 100%.

\*Uncategorized responses lacked specific suggestions or consisted of only positive remarks.



## Participation



The Kensington Master Plan online and hard copy questionnaire received 854 responses, and 64 individuals attended the two public meetings. As shown below, the questionnaire drew responses from twenty counties in Michigan, as well as a handful from other states.

## NEEDS

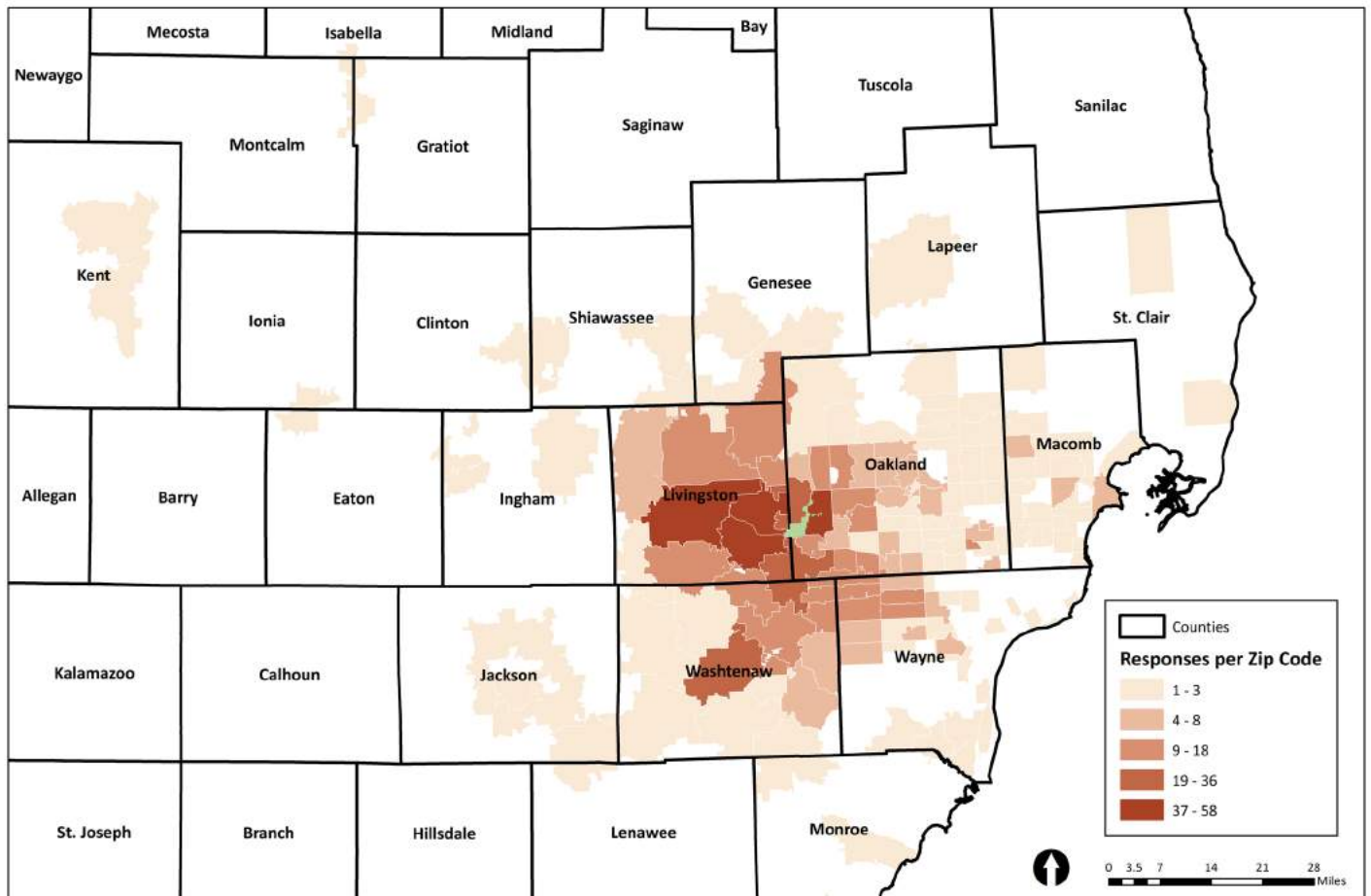
Incorporate variety of opinions and user groups into master plan

Create vibrant park through robust, transparent public outreach

## OPPORTUNITIES



## Questionnaire Response Zip Code Map



# Action Plan

## Needs & Opportunities

Based on the assessment of park conditions, demographic research and spatial analysis, public input, and staff input, the needs and opportunities listed throughout this document were developed.

### Needs

- Continue to draw diverse range of visitors to the park
- Define and protect areas with important biodiversity features
- Better educate about and preserve important cultural features
- Address aging and overbuilt infrastructure
- Identify areas of facility duplication
- Work with county to address park boundary issues
- Replace outdated, confusing, inconsistent signs
- Diversify sources of revenue
- Maintain and build upon high vehicle entry rates
- Increase revenue and visitation
- Address changing needs of new population demographics
- Improve park connectivity with community
- Incorporate variety of opinions and user groups into master plan



### Opportunities

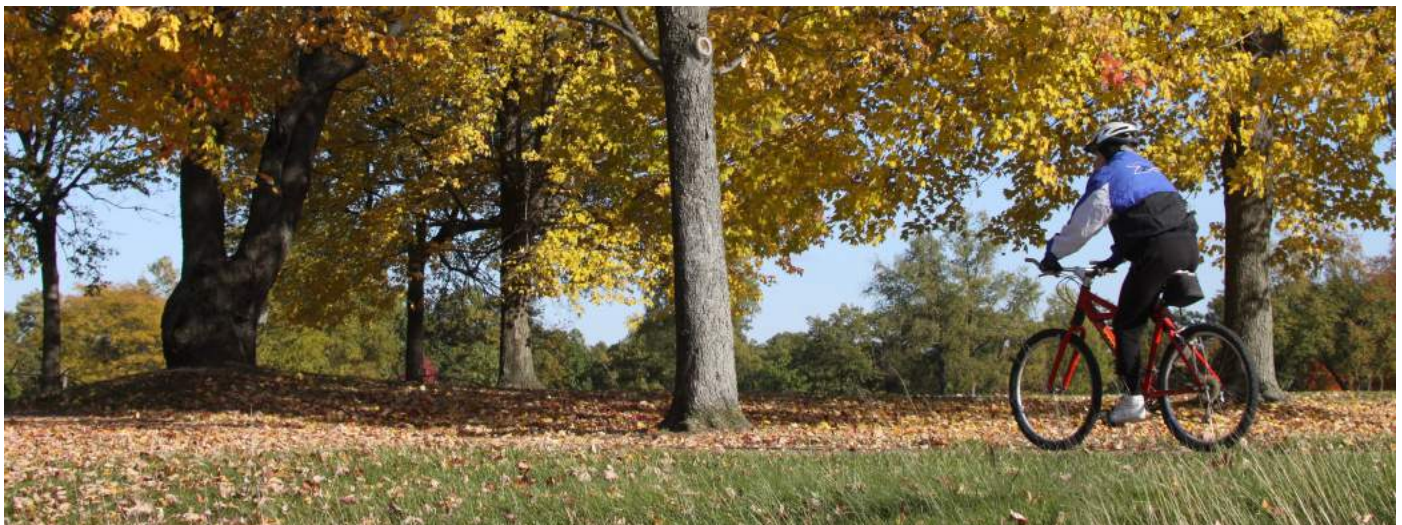
- Build on current popularity to attract new users
- Create a resilient network of biodiverse areas in the park
- Draw new visitors with programming/education based on history of park
- Redevelop park areas to better serve visitors and environment
- Provide unique recreational facilities to draw visitors from across the region
- Create good working relationship with neighbors and partner organizations
- Create consistent, convenient wayfinding system to give visitors confidence
- Offer new and exciting activities/programs to visitors of the park to both boost tolling and gather user fees
- Take advantage of popularity to grow revenue and system awareness
- Build on enthusiasm of Kensington visitors with exciting, engaging programs and events
- Draw new users with an accessible, welcoming park environment
- Create good working relationship with surrounding municipalities
- Create vibrant park through robust, transparent public outreach



With these in mind, the following list of projects, plans, and studies was developed. Major and minor projects have been identified as priorities and assigned a timeline, and the accompanying studies have been listed. These pages should serve as a blueprint for the future of the park over the next ten years.

# Large Facilities

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Implement Maple Beach redevelopment plan	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$500,000	x	x	
Implement Park Office/HCMA Administrative Office redevelopment plans	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$2,500,000	x		
Nature Center interior/exterior building renovations	Engineering	Interpretive, Maintenance	Contractors	\$100,000	x		
Implement Nature Center parking and circulation plan	Engineering	Planning, Interpretive	Contractors	TBD	x	x	
Martindale Beach: construct new picnic shelter and toilets at south end	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$100,000		x	
Implement Farm Center selective redevelopment plan	Engineering	Interpretive, Planning, Operations, Maintenance	Contractors	TBD	x	x	
Implement Mitten Bay redevelopment plan	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x	



# Infrastructure / Small Facilities

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Pavement projects (list developed annually, as needed)	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various	x	x	x
Accessibility improvements, including interiors and walkways - parkwide	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various	x	x	
Fit Trail sign and equipment replacement	Planning	Engineering, Operations		\$25,000	x		
East Boat Launch: pier and wave breaker replacement, reconstruct trailer parking area	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD	x	x	
Hike-bike trail: wall replacement (east), decking repairs along I-96	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$320,000	x		
Implement high ropes course development plan	Planning	Administrative, Operations, Maintenance	Go Ape (partner)	TBD	x		
Black Locust Disc Golf Course: install vault latrine	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$50,000	x		
Implement Orchard Picnic Area selective redevelopment plan	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x	
Implement Playfield Picnic Area selective redevelopment plan	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x	
Update play structures as needed	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD	x	x	x
Update site furnishings (benches, fencing, parking blocks, etc.) as needed	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD	x	x	x
Playfield pit toilet replacement	Engineering	Planning, Operations		\$125,000		x	
Group Camp bridge deck rehabilitation and railing replacement	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD	x	x	

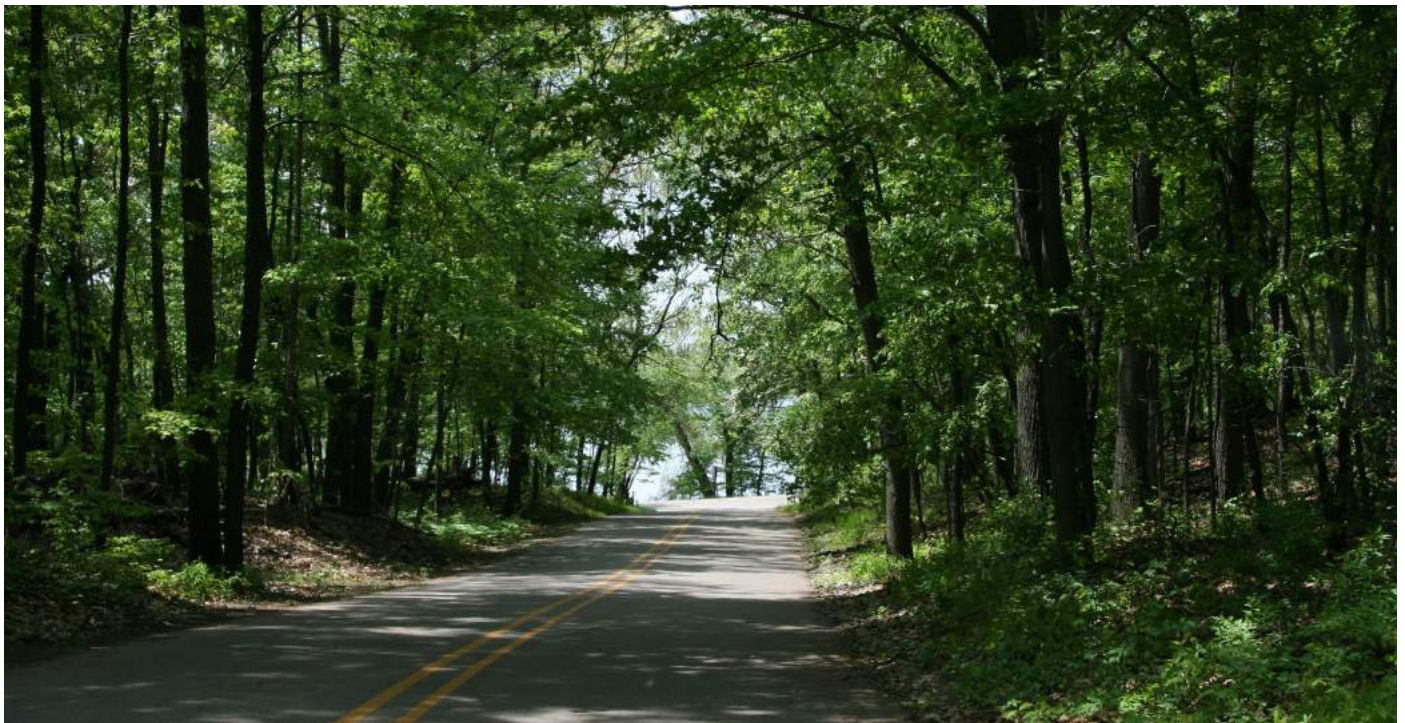


# Natural Resources

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Vegetation and Invasive Species Management (annual)	NR	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$30,000	x	x	x
Landscape tree diversification (annual)	NR	Planning, Operations		\$3,500	x	x	x
Sustainability initiatives	NR	Planning, Engineering, Interpretive		\$3,500	x	x	x
Hazardous waste removal (annual)	NR			\$1,000	x	x	x
Early detection, rapid response. Invasive species surveys and control in high quality natural areas (annual)	NR	Interpretive	NGOs	\$10,000	x	x	x
Deer cull to maintain deer at roughly 15/ square mile.	NR	Police		staff time	x	x	x
Geese and Mute Swan Management	NR	Operations, Interpretive		\$5,000	x	x	x
Lake Vegetation Monitoring and Treatments (annual)	NR		Contractors	\$37,000	x	x	x
Oak Barren/ Savanna/ Prairie Restoration (multiple sites, Group Camp, East Border, Spring Hill, Hickory Ridge)	NR		USFWS, TNC, MDNR, NGO's	\$150,000	x	x	
Wastewater treatment facilities upgrade (lagoon, comfort stations)	Engineering	Operations, NR	MDEQ	TBD	x		
Conduct Prescribed fire in adapted native communities	NR		Contractors	\$4,000	x	x	x
Oak wilt control and prevention	NR	Operations, Interpretive	MDNR	\$4,500	x	x	x
High quality fen and tamarack swamp restoration	NR		MDNR, NGO's	\$50,000	x	x	x
Storage Building Upgrades (chemical, fuel, and equipment)	NR	Operations		\$5,000	x		
Phragmites Control	NR		Contractors	\$5,000	x	x	x

# Signage

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Roadside wayfinding/directional signage updates - parkwide	Planning	Maintenance, Operations		\$15,000	x		
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage improvements - Nature Center	Planning	Maintenance, Interpretive, Operations		\$10,000	x		
Wayfinding and interpretive signage improvements - Farm Center	Interpretive	Planning, Operations, Maintenance		\$15,000		x	
Updates to trailheads	Planning	Maintenance, Interpretive, Operations		\$1,500 per structure	x	x	x
Improve road crossings	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD	x		



# Area Plans/Studies/Initiatives

After identifying the need for changes or improvements based on user feedback and staff research, in-depth evaluation and planning must be carried out to gain a detailed understanding of problems and opportunities and determine the best strategies based on existing conditions and resources. Sometimes a process to formally monitor facility usage and gauge popularity is necessary. These studies often result in a scope of work, a work plan, and in some cases a site plan that give staff a roadmap for planned changes. Recommended studies are listed below:

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Update trail maps to show opportunities for walking/hiking/trail running	Graphics	Planning		staff time	x		
Oak wilt monitoring and prevention (annual)	NR	Operations	MDNR	staff time	x	x	x
Maple Beach redevelopment plan: demolish existing buildings, construct rental shelters and restrooms, consider incorporation of canoe/kayak rental	Planning	Engineering, Operations, Maintenance		staff time	x		
Farm Center selective redevelopment plan: replace playground structure, improve connectivity and circulation, enhance user experiences	Planning	Interpretive, Engineering, Operations, Maintenance		staff time	x		
Park Office redevelopment plan: relocate and redevelop park office at park entrance	Planning	Engineering, Operations, Maintenance		staff time	x		
HCMA Administrative Office development plan	Executive	Administrative	Consultant	TBD	x		
Nature Center parking, circulation, and building plan: parking lot reconstruction, trail improvements, paved trail connectivity to West Boat Launch (overflow parking)	Planning	Engineering, Interpretive, Operations		staff time	x		

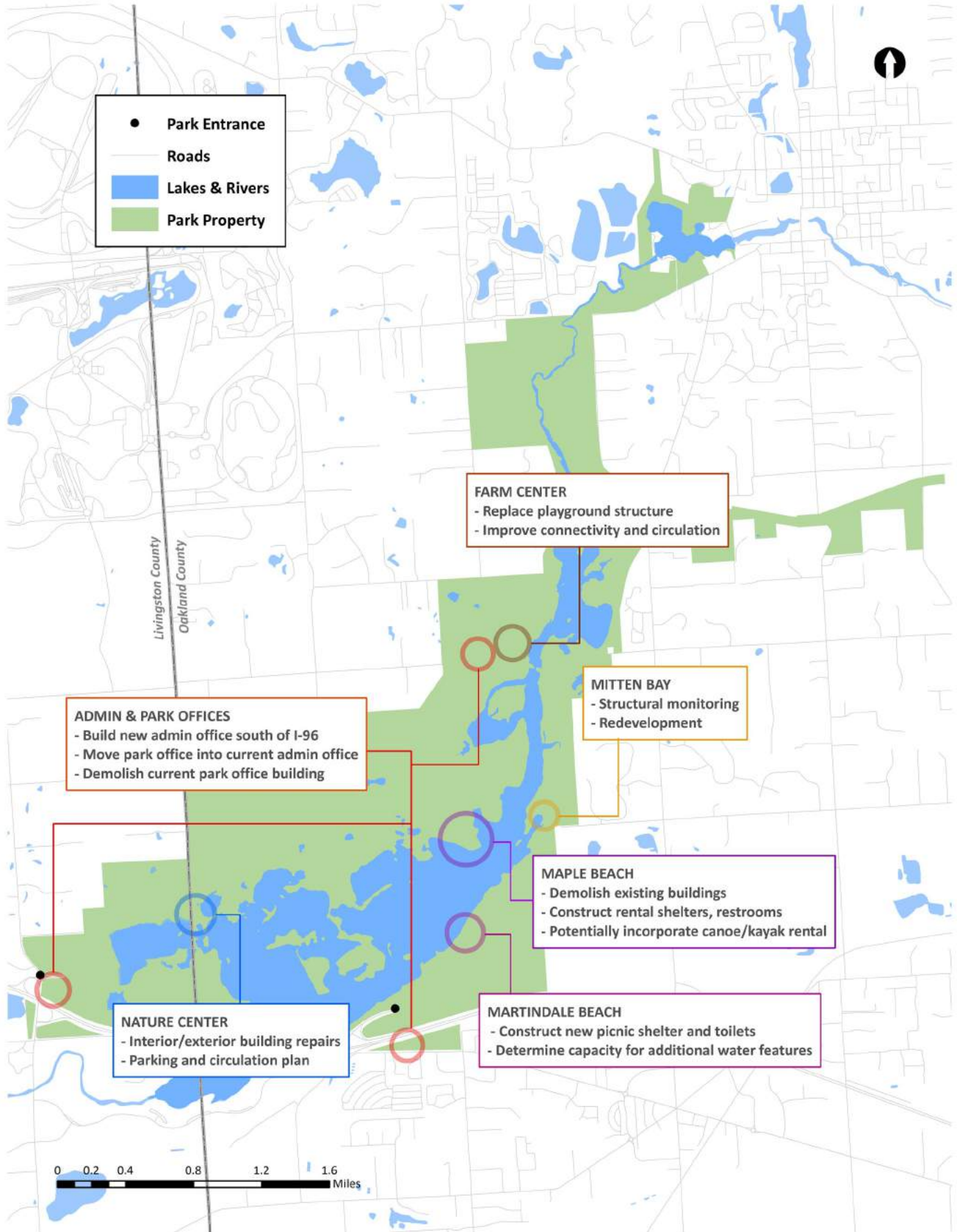
## Area Plans/Studies/Initiatives (cont'd)

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Mitten Bay structural monitoring	Engineering	Operations, Maintenance		staff time	x		
Windfall Hill Picnic Area use monitoring to determine future	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time	x		
Mitten Bay redevelopment plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations, Maintenance		staff time	x		
Martindale Beach picnic shelter site plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time	x		
Martindale Beach Splash 'n' Blast renovation plan: determine capacity of mechanical room for addition of features catering to older youth	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time	x		
Orchard Picnic Area selective redevelopment plan: enhanced winter activities for year-round use	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x	
Playfield Picnic Area selective redevelopment plan: replace Fit Trail signage (potential relocation), remove small play areas, add large playground	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x	
High ropes course site selection and development plan	Planning	Administrative, Operations, Maintenance	Go Ape (partner)	\$10,000	x		
Eastern massasauga rattlesnake population assessment	NR	Interpretive	Consultants	\$40,000	x		
Fisheries Assessment and creel survey	NR		MDNR	\$25,000	x		
Grassland Management Plan (biennial review)	NR	Operations, Interpretive		staff time	x	x	x

## Area Plans/Studies/Initiatives (cont'd)

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Establishment of a comprehensive Oak Wilt monitoring and treatment protocol	NR	Operations	MDNR	\$10,000	x		
Deer program evaluation (vegetation study)	NR	Interpretive	Contractors	\$30,000	x		x
Establish Invasive Species Control Tracking Website	NR	IT	MNFI, MISIN	staff time	x		
Comprehensive wildlife surveys and mapping (Birds, insects, freshwater mussels)	NR	Interpretive	Consultant, MNFI, NGOs	\$35,000	x		x
Reorganize maintenance area to consolidate operations and improve circulation	Engineering	Planning, Operations, Maintenance		TBD	x	x	
Lake and River Access Evaluation: canoeing, kayaking, kiteboarding, windsurfing	Planning	Engineering, Operations	Huron River Watershed Council	TDB	x	x	
Integrate/enhance concessions at various locations, potentially Boat Rental, Disc Golf course, and Maple Beach	Operations	Planning, Engineering		TBD		x	x





# Key Projects

## Maple Beach

2017-2021

Maple Beach facilities date to the 1950s, and were built to better accommodate the high demand for public swimming in that time. It was an extremely popular beach for decades. Recreation trends have changed so that keeping the beach open regularly was no longer justified by attendance. The deteriorating bathhouse has been demolished, and a redevelopment plan will be created to construct a shelter/event facility that will fill a recreational need while taking advantage of beautiful Kent Lake views. The canoe/kayak rental currently located at the Boat Rental may also be shifted to this facility.

### Needs:

- More relevant and up-to-date facilities

### Solutions:

- Demolish outdated bathhouse
- Construct shelter/event facility



## Farm Center

2017-2021

The Farm Center has facilities dating from 1993 to 2005, and has long been providing visitors with valuable experiences of farm animals and agricultural practices. The connectivity and circulation of the site will be evaluated, and the outdated playground structure will be replaced with a new, more accessible facility. The hope is to refine the focus of the area and enhance the user experience.

### Needs:

- Improved connectivity
- Refined focus

### Solutions:

- Replace play structure
- Assess paths and roads
- Relocate canoe/kayak launch



# Action Plan

## Nature Center

2017-2021

The first nature center to open in the Metroparks system, this structure was built in 1956 with an addition in 1991. It has facilitated decades of discovery and education about the natural world. In order to continue that legacy into the future, the center will undergo interior and exterior repairs. Parking and connectivity to the building and trails will also be evaluated and improved.

### Needs:

- Improved connectivity
- Building maintenance

### Solutions:

- Redevelop parking and connector paths
- Carry out interior and exterior repairs



## Martindale Beach

2022-2026

This has long been a popular Kensington attraction, with the addition of major facilities in 2008 enhancing the visitor experience. Now, in order to maintain Martindale as a regional draw for water recreation, the splash pad will be renovated to include more exciting features for a greater variety of play features.

### Needs:

- Draw wider range of visitors

### Solutions:

- Add to Splash Pad features





## Action Plan

### Park Office & HCMA Administrative Office

2022-2026

The Administrative Office for HCMA was built in 1986, and is insufficient for the current needs of administrative staff. It lacks necessary storage space, meeting rooms for the increasingly important interdepartmental collaboration, and a board room that can accommodate high levels of public participation. With the construction of this new office, the old administrative building will be repurposed to house the park office operations. The current park office, built in 1967, is deteriorating and lacks adequate space for staff.

#### Needs:

- More space for meetings and storage
- Updated structures

#### Solutions:

- Build new Administrative Office at different location
- Shift Park Office into current Administrative Office building



### Mitten Bay

This boat docking facility was built in 1965 and provides access to sailing opportunities on beautiful Kent Lake. Due to the age and wear on this facility, structural monitoring will be ongoing in the next five years to ensure that the facility is sound. Based on the results of that monitoring, a redevelopment plan will be created for the area.

#### Needs:

- Ensure structural soundness

#### Solutions:

- Monitoring and redevelopment



## Other Projects

- **Walkway and interior accessibility improvements**

Due to growing awareness that park facilities do not meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, increasing accessibility will be an ongoing focus. Buildings will be rebuilt and retrofitted to improve ease of access, and paved paths will be constructed to better connect parking with recreational activities.

- **Fit Trail sign and equipment replacement**

The current Fit Trail equipment and signage is out of date and worn. Clear, engaging signage will be added to complement new, modern fitness equipment.

- **High Ropes Course**

The 2017 season will see the opening of the High Ropes Course at Stony Creek, operated by Go Ape. Based on the experience with this course, a plan will be created for implementing a similar course at Kensington.

- **Update of trail maps**

Current maps do not accurately reflect trail availability within the park. Trails will be properly classified and mapped in conjunction with the signage updates.

- **Disc Golf vault latrine**

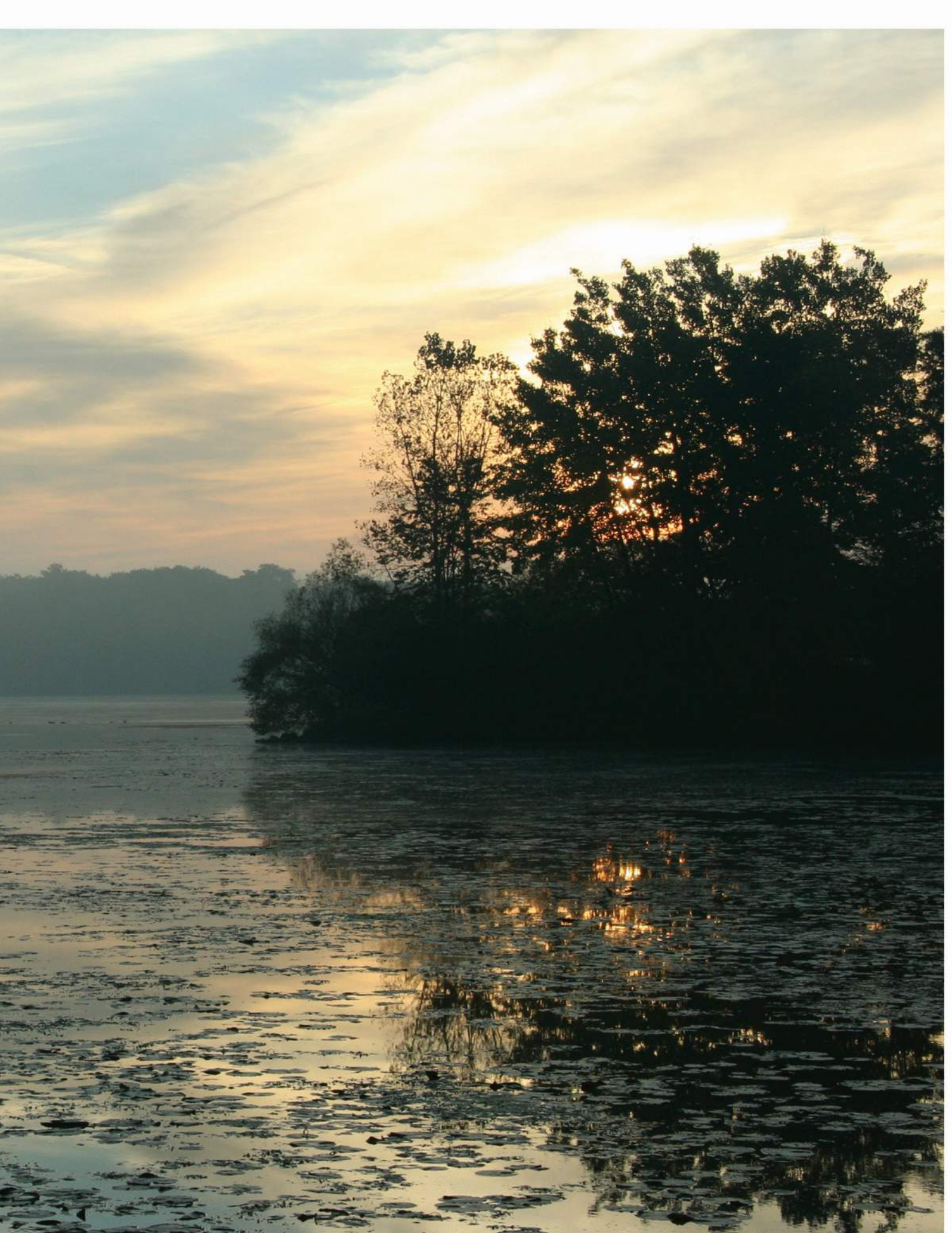
Disc Golf is a popular activity at Kensington, and the course has grown beyond the capacity of the current portable toilets. Permanent vault latrines will be constructed to better serve visitors.

- **Orchard and Playfield redevelopment**

Orchard picnic area will be redeveloped with an emphasis on dual summer-winter facilities. Playfield picnic areas will be redeveloped to better concentrate activities and add a large play structure.









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