

3 | COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

REGIONAL SERVICE AREA

The Metroparks are geared towards visitors from across the region enjoying a day trip, usually arriving in a vehicle. For this reason, the service area of the parks is considered to be a 30-mile radius (approximately 45-minute drive). As shown in the figure below, this encompasses all five HCMA counties as well as segments of several others.

This plan focuses on all aspects of recreation provided by the 13 Metroparks to the citizen of this five-county area, as well as current and future recreational needs that have not been met and that the Metroparks may consider addressing.

For some local residents, the Metroparks act as an everyday source of recreation, especially if few community parks exist nearby. A quarter-mile is the distance residents are likely to walk to each park, however, that pedestrian access is generally limited to designated points on the park boundaries.

As trail connections in Southeast Michigan grow, an increasing number of visitors will arrive at the parks by bicycle. The service area of the parks for attracting different types of cyclists may be studied in the future.

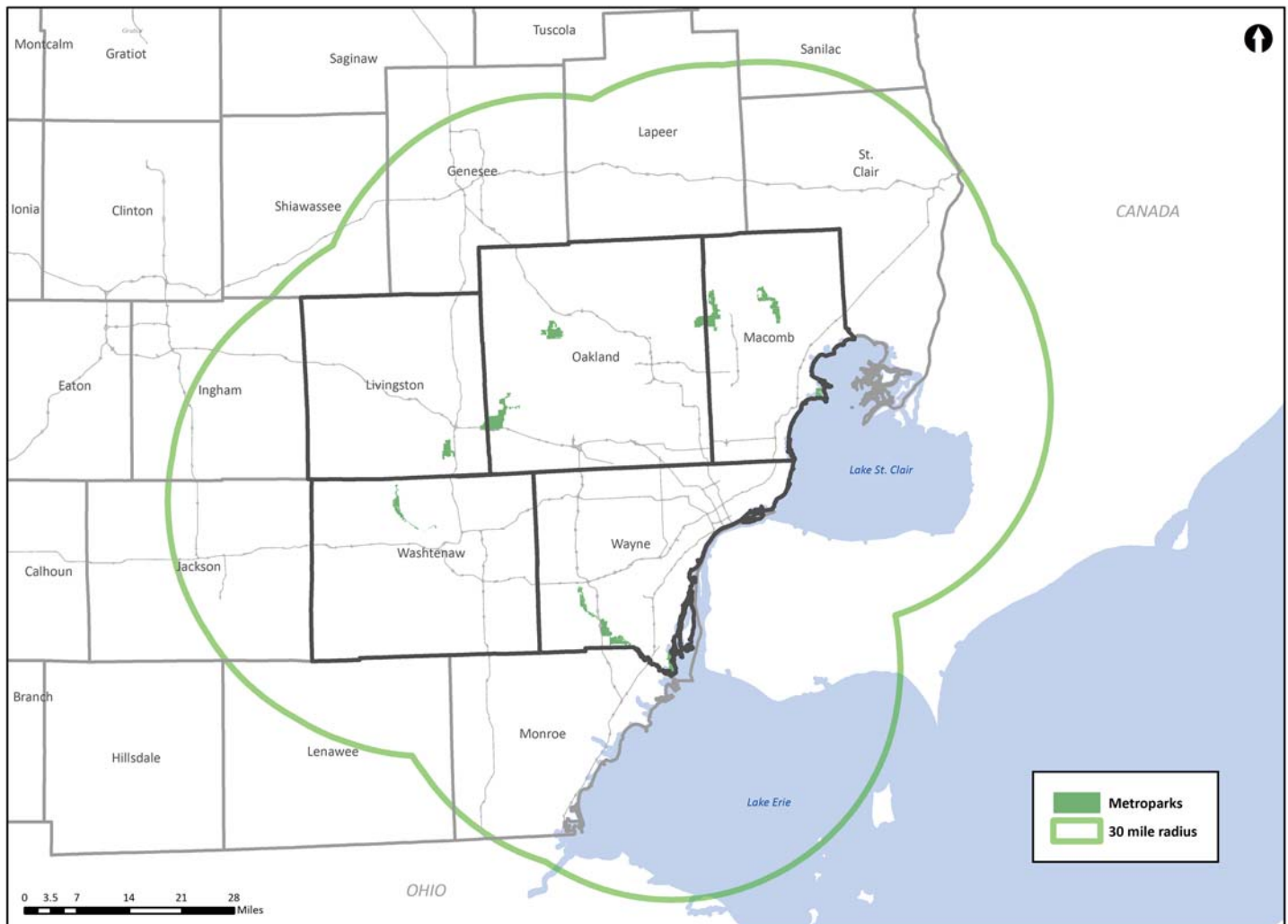


Figure 3.1 | 30-mile service area | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA

COUNTIES

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority serves the residents of Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties in Southeast Michigan. This five-county region includes the City of Detroit and its suburbs, as well as other cities such as Ann Arbor, Pontiac, and Mt. Clemens. The area hosts a high concentration of the state's businesses and industries and is home to over half the state's population.

Livingston County

Livingston County is located halfway between Detroit and the state's capitol of Lansing, in the western part of Southeast Michigan. It encompasses 574 square miles and contains 20 municipalities. As of 2016, the county population is 188,806, an increase of 4.3% from 2010. A large portion of the population, 57.1%, works outside the county. The current leading job industry is *Knowledge-Based Services*, which is projected to continue to grow through 2030, followed by *Services to Households & Firms*.¹ Livingston County contains Huron Meadows Metropark in Green Oak Township and a portion of Kensington Metropark in Brighton Township.

Macomb County

Macomb County is the ninth-smallest of Michigan's 83 counties at 482 square miles, yet it ranks third in population, with 868,144 residents in 2016. Of the county's 27 municipalities three are among the ten largest communities in Michigan: Warren (3rd), Sterling Heights (6th), and Clinton Township (10th). Manufacturing was at one point the leading industry, employing roughly one-third of the workforce. Currently the leading industry is *Knowledge-Based Services*, which is projected to continue to grow through 2030. Located within Macomb County are three Metroparks: Wolcott Mill Metropark in Ray Township, Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township, and part of Stony Creek Metropark, most of which is located within Washington Township.

Wayne County

Wayne County is the nation's eighth-largest county and the most populous in the state with 1,754,591 residents. Its 43 local communities include smaller cities like Plymouth and Northville, as well as the City of Detroit. The auto industry was replaced in 2010 by *Knowledge-Based Services* as the leading work industry. After 2020, *Private Education & Healthcare* is projected to transition into the leading industry through 2030. Wayne County contains four Metroparks. Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods Metroparks are all connected via parkland and trails within Van Buren Township and Huron Township. Lake Erie Metropark connected to Oakwoods Metropark by the Iron Belle Trail is located further south in Brownstown Township, near the border with Monroe County.



¹ SEMCOG 2040 Forecast, <http://semcog.org/plans-for-the-region/regional-forecast>

Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County contains 33 municipalities, including Ypsilanti, Chelsea, and Ann Arbor. Covering 706 square miles, Washtenaw County is home to three Metroparks: Hudson Mills Metropark in Webster and Dexter Townships, and Dexter-Huron and Delhi Metroparks in Scio Township. The county’s population is projected to increase throughout 2030, from 360,609 in 2016. Growing job industries include *Knowledge-Based Services* and *Private Education & Healthcare*.

Oakland County

Oakland County covers 868 square miles and contains 61 municipalities, making it the largest by size of the five HCMA counties. Nearly 70% of residents work within the county and 13.4% of all people employed in Michigan work in Oakland County. Oakland County had a population of 1,202,362 as of July 2016, which is projected to increase through 2030. During this period, Oakland County will begin to see a decline in *Retail Trade and Manufacturing*, and growth in *Knowledge-Based Services*. The county contains Indian Springs Metropark in Springfield and White Lake townships, part of Stony Creek Metropark in Oakland Township, and a portion of Kensington Metropark in Milford and Lyon townships.

Municipality Type	Wayne	Oakland	Macomb	Washtenaw	Livingston
Cities	34	30	13	6	2
Villages	0	10	3	2	2
Charter Townships	7	15	5	6	3
General law Townships	2	6	6	19	13
Unincorporated Communities	0	45	25	11	28
Total	43	106	52	44	48



Figure 3.2 | Metroparks System
Sources: MiGDL, HCMA

