



1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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The *2018-2022 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan* was approved by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) Board of Commissioners by resolution on September 14, 2017. The purpose of the recreation planning process is to develop recreation and resource conservation goals and objectives, and to establish recreation grant eligibility through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The following is a summary of the plan contents.

Community Description

The Metroparks serve the residents of Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Wayne, and Washtenaw counties in Southeast Michigan. Since the creation of the Authority through Public Act 147, the system has developed into 13 Metroparks containing approximately 25,000 acres of land for public use. Detailed information is presented on each of the five counties within the HCMA service area, including economic trends that are relevant to the planning process.

Administrative Structure

This section includes details on the HCMA Board of Commissioners and staff, including organizational charts. The 2017 HCMA budget follows, identifying anticipated revenues and expenditures. Major redevelopment projects are highlighted, and the Capital Improvements, Major Maintenance, and Capital Equipment budget categories are described.

Volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours to natural resources projects alone in the past year, and several partner organizations help HCMA provide the region with high-quality and innovative recreation.

Recreation Inventory

This section of the plan features an inventory of the recreation assets available at each of the 13 Metroparks. The inventory includes information on the general location, function, and history of the park, statistics, a park map, a biodiversity map outlining the location of critical natural resources, a list of grants received and map of corresponding encumbered land, and the findings of staff's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation for facilities at each park.

The inventory then identifies all Metro, state, and county parks in the five HCMA counties and enumerates the recreational facilities available in each.

Planning Process

Although not directly involved in the recreation planning process, public participation from the individual park master plans is summarized here to provide context. This section then describes the planning timeline and the various factors that informed the plan.

The *2018-2022 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan* utilized several strategies to solicit public input. A stakeholder meeting was held in each HCMA district (Western, Eastern, and Southern) to gather input from important partners. A representative survey of the five-county region was conducted by a contractor to determine recreational needs and interests. The results of this survey are summarized below. Finally, a public review period for 43 days followed by a public hearing was held at the September 2017 board meeting.

2017 HCMA Community Needs Assessment Survey

- Usage of Huron-Clinton Metropark facilities is high
- There is support for funding renovations throughout the system
- The 5 highest priorities for system-wide facilities include:
 - Beaches
 - Trails-paved, multi-use
 - Trails-unpaved, hiking
 - Nature centers
 - Picnic areas
- The 5 highest priorities for system-wide recreation programs include:
 - Farmers market
 - Concerts
 - Movies in the park
 - Pet-friendly programs
 - Bird/wildlife watching programs

Goals and Objectives

This section begins with an overview of demographic and economic trends in the region at large and each HCMA district, as well as access to recreational resources. The regional plans referenced in developing goals and objectives are listed, followed by an analysis of the HCMA fiscal outlook for the next five years. Regulatory issues taken into account for planning purposes are also described.

The following goals were identified for the *2018-2022 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan*:

1. INNOVATION | Modernize the Metroparks and develop new revenue streams.

2. MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE | Repair, maintain, and improve core park infrastructure.

3. EDUCATION & AWARENESS | Develop and enhance programming, communication, and outreach efforts.

4. STEWARDSHIP | Protect and restore natural biodiversity while balancing resource management with recreational activities.

5. SUSTAINABILITY | Prioritize employee development, environmental health improvements, and financial stability.

Action Plan

In light of the public input and priorities identified by staff, this last section turns the goals and objectives listed previously into specific action items for the next five-years, both system-wide and park-specific. Each item includes a summary and cost estimate and references the goal and objective it supports.



