

# APPENDIX 7: PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY



# Public Input Summary

Over the duration of the Transition Plan and other recently completed planning documents, the Metroparks Planning and Development Department ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. The process included input on questionnaires, email blast to stakeholders, social media postings and online comments based on the draft plan posted on the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Planning Department Website. This public input summary takes into account any common themes related to accessibility that could further refine the project prioritization for the Transition Plan. Overall, the input received confirmed the prioritization of approach and entrances being in close proximity and connected to facilities. Restrooms, nature centers, and paved trails were the most popular choice for facility upgrades which would align with those priorities identified in the plan for accessible barriers being removed. Further comments suggest additional consideration for accessibility when planning for transportation options and site selection for passive and active recreation opportunities along with ensuring inclusivity for all age groups.

## Overview of Input Opportunities

**2018-2022 Metroparks Community Recreation Plan ETC Survey** – the public outreach process included a region-wide survey conducted by ETC Institute to provide a representative sample of Southeast Michigan residents. This public input summary included prioritizing renovations projects which would be related to accessibility improvements based on ADA compliance.

**Public Input Survey** – The creation of the Recreation Programming Plan currently being developed included an online survey that was recently completed. The Transition Plan obtained input related to accessibility from the 2,876 participants that took part in the survey and summarized.

### **Stakeholder Email Blast-**

On October 1, 2019 an email blast with a brief questionnaire was sent to stakeholder groups (Fair Play Coalition) to obtain feedback on accessibility needs was made available for the duration of the planning process.

### **Social Media Postings-**

Social media posts during the last two weeks of September encouraging the public to comment on the Huron-Clinton Metroparks ADA Transition Plan DRAFT with a link to the website.

**Huron Clinton Metroparks Planning Department Website** – the public could email comments on the website for two weeks in October, 2019.

## **2018-2022 Metroparks Community Recreation Plan ETC Survey**

The system-wide ETC survey resulted in the following prioritized projects.

### **Benchmarking for Metroparks**

Reasons for preventing the use of parks and recreation facilities and programs more often?

Lack of accessibility National average was 4% of responses while the Metroparks 2017 survey to this question was 3% of responses.

### **Highest Priorities for Renovation of Facilities**

- Restrooms
- Nature Centers
- Trails-Paved, multi use
- Picnic Shelters
- Trails-unpaved
- Playgrounds
- Boardwalks
- Canoe/kayak launches
- Aquatic facilities
- Campgrounds
- Splash Pads
- Boat ramps
- Other

## Recreation Programming Plan Public Input Survey

In August of 2019, the Metroparks released a survey to the public in several formats to get feedback and input on recreational programming, camping, and park use. Of the 2876 written comments to various questions, 18 of those referred directly to accessibility. Those comments are summarized as follows:

When asked, “If you are not a frequent visitor of the Metroparks, let us know why”, there were five comments out of the 270 related to accessibility. Respondents cited having physical injuries, or handicapped family members, which makes getting around difficult. Specific needs included proximity to comfort stations at all times, and lack of transportation due to disabilities.

- When asked, “What can be done to improve your favorite events or programming”, there were six comments out of 946 related to accessibility. Respondents cited restroom accessibility upgrades, parking lots and restrooms are far, and lack of paved connections from handicap parking to trails. Others responded that there is a need for more action track wheelchairs, and to provide more adaptive recreation opportunities for families.
- When asked, “Do you think the Metroparks are missing opportunities related to events and programming?”, there were four comments out of 845 related to accessibility. Respondents cited the need for programming to be more inclusive of special needs children and young adults, and more encouragement of sensory friendly programs, and programs dedicated to people with disabilities.
- When prompted for any additional comments, three comments of the 514 related to accessibility. Respondents cited closer parking for handicapped users at Wolcott Mill and Farm, identifying camping sites that are accessible for wheelchair users, and closer parking at Kensington.

### Questionnaire Response Comments

If you are not a frequent visitor, let us know why: (5 comments out of 270)

- still work and have a handicapped spouse who needs a restroom frequently and immediately
- Walking on uneven ground is very difficult
- I have a spinal cord injury that requires the use of a wheelchair for mobility. Outdoors & Recreational facilities throughout Michigan have done an excellent job over the years in addressing and eliminating the architectural barriers that prohibit access for wheelchair users. Wheelchair users now can have an enjoyable experience.
- Husband is handicapped, so getting around can be difficult.

- I use to frequent Lake St Clair Metro Park very often but I've become disabled and lost my transportation so I just can't get there hardly at all anymore

What can be done to improve your favorite events or programming (6 of 946)

- Upgrade restrooms
- Allow parking alongside roadways, especially where views are best. It is ridiculous for people like myself to have to park in lots 1/4 to 1/2 mile or further away from places I would like to paint and try to haul my gear since I have mobility issues. The park is VERY UNFRIENDLY to people with mobility issues/handicaps who have trouble walking a long way and who are alone without support staff/family. The same problem exists with not enough bathrooms away from parking lot areas.
- Provide paved path from handicap parking to paved walking path
- I like the new action track wheelchair availability, would like more of them
- More Adaptive Recreation opportunities for my child and entire family
- More accessible bathrooms

Do you think the Metroparks are missing opportunities related to events and programming? (4 of 845)

- Yes, I think that I don't see encouragement dedicated to people of color and people with disabilities
- I would love to see some programs for those with special needs
- Some kind of program inclusion of special needs children and young adults
- have you considered programming specifically for children and adults with autism and other sensory disabilities?

Any additional comments? (3 of 514)

- Make the parks accessible to handicapped people with mobility issues!! Allow roadside parking so we can paint without having to walk so far because we have to park in a faraway parking lot from where we need to go. Also, allow wooden boardwalks on beaches because we can't all walk in sand without balance issues. Basically, the parks generally are not set up to handle the needs of aging patrons like myself who have enjoyed the parks for years, and are now being severely limited due to all these access issues. I know the parks are busy and get a lot of use, but not everyone is in their 20's-30's-40's and the parks do not serve aging seniors who are alone well at all. I have enjoyed the parks since I was a kid, but as I am now a 65 year old widow with mobility issues and no one to drop me off close to things and go park the car, it is increasingly more and more difficult to access the parks, especially Kensington where I usually go. Also, there are NEVER enough picnic tables anywhere. They are always taken over by large family groups and I am tired of trying to find a table when I am just one person and there aren't any left. You also need a lot more benches everywhere. In short, the word is "access" on many levels for people who want to keep using the parks as we age.
- Better, CLOSER parking for handicapped, but ambulatory people would be great. Walking to Wolcott mill or farm is a challenge for some of my family.
- They need to identify what camping sites that are accessible for wheelchair users.

## STAKEHOLDER EMAIL BLAST

On October 1, 2019, the following email blast was sent to 13 stakeholders (FAIR Play Coalition)

*Good Morning FAIR Play Coalition,*

*The Metroparks has completed a draft version of the ADA Transition Plan. The public engagement process is critical to obtaining the community's input and for the adoption of the Plan.*

*The draft plan will be posted online for your review until October 9, 2019 on the Planning and Development Department webpage <https://www.metroparks.com/about-us/planning-department-2/> for public comment prior to the Plan presented at a Board of Commissioners meeting on October 10, 2019.*

*Please share comments, suggestions, and questions with Nina Kelly, Chief of Planning and Development at [Nina.Kelly@metroparks.com](mailto:Nina.Kelly@metroparks.com) or phone at 810-494-6043. Thank you!*

### Stakeholder email blast responses

No comments received.

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTINGS

The following social media postings were posted on Facebook and Twitter. A total of 3,321 people were reached with 36 engagements, 7 likes, and 2 shares.

**Post Details**

**Huron-Clinton Metroparks**  
Published by Gina Aguzzi (V) · October 1 · 🌐

Your Metroparks are seeking public input on our updated ADA Transition Plan. Your Metroparks are committed to serving everyone in all the communities that visit our 13 Metroparks. This plan outlines our on-going dedication to making facilities and activities more accessible to all audiences. To view the plan and submit feedback please visit <https://www.metroparks.com/about-us/planning-department-2/>. You may also provide comments at our upcoming board meeting on October 10th, 10:30 a.m at our Administrative Office.

**METROPARKS.COM**  
**Planning and Development Department - Huron-Clinton Metroparks**  
The Planning and Development department supports the responsible improvements of the Metroparks with the focus of expanding and...

🟢 **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**  
Boost this post for \$20 to reach up to 4,600 people.

**1,326** People Reached    **36** Engagements    [Boost Post](#)

Jay Bibey, Jennifer Walter Gross and 3 others    2 Shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    🌐

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**Performance for Your Post**

**1,326** People Reached

**7** Likes, Comments & Shares

<b>5</b> Likes	<b>5</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
<b>0</b> Comments	<b>0</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
<b>2</b> Shares	<b>2</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**29** Post Clicks

<b>0</b> Photo Views	<b>15</b> Link Clicks	<b>14</b> Other Clicks
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**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

<b>1</b> Hide Post	<b>0</b> Hide All Posts
<b>0</b> Report as Spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

**Tweet Analytics**

**Metroparks @MIMetroparks**  
Your Metroparks are seeking public input on our updated ADA Transition Plan. To view the plan and submit feedback please visit <https://www.metroparks.com/about-us/planning-department-2/> ... You may also provide comments at our upcoming board meeting on October 10th, 10:30 a.m at our Administrative Office.

**Impressions**    **1,995**  
times people saw this Tweet on Twitter

## **METROPARKS WEBSITE POSTING**

On September 25 2019, the following message of the ADA Transition Plan Draft was posted for 2 weeks for public comment on the Metroparks planning and development website:

*Public Input Opportunities*

*ADA Transition Plan [PDF]*

*For questions please contact Nina Kelly at [nina.kelly@metroparks.com](mailto:nina.kelly@metroparks.com) or call 810-494-6043.*

### **Website Comment Box and Email Comments**

No comments were received.



