

# KENSINGTON METROPARK MASTER PLAN



5 Year Update to 2017 - 2027



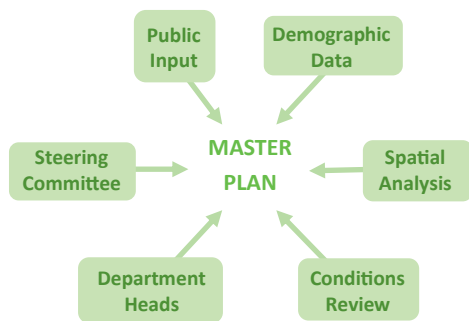
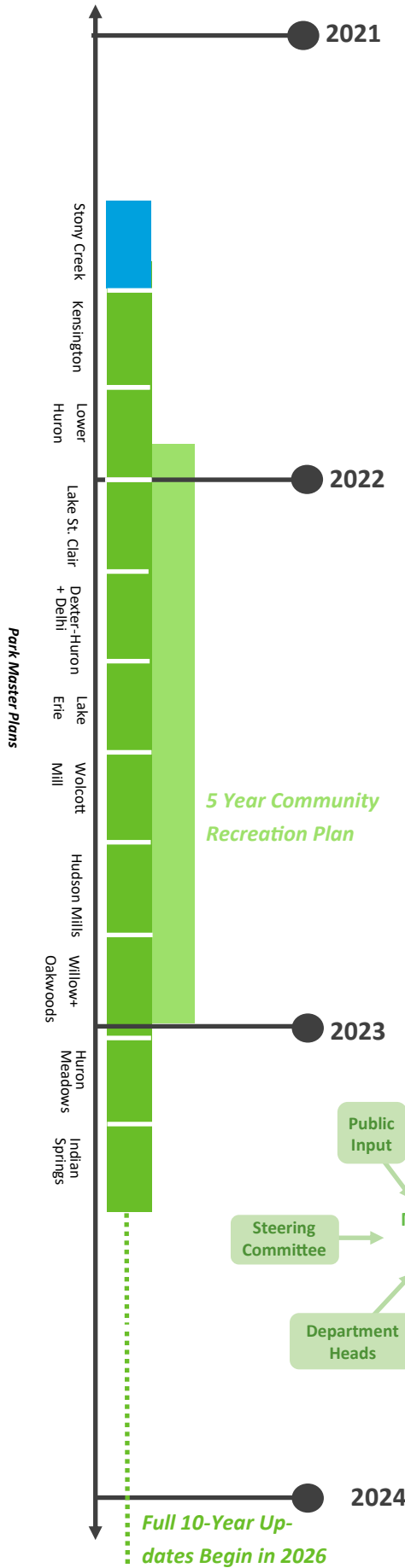
# Introduction

## Planning Process

The five-year update is an opportunity for each of the 13 Metroparks to review their master plan and make sure it is still relevant. This review includes 1) major changes to facilities, infrastructure and programming in the park; 2) updated needs and opportunities; 3) completed action items; and 4) any new actions necessary to implement the goals and policies for the park. One of the most important components 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 Planning and Development Department also included updates to the demographic and spatial data to inform recommendations. Demographic data looks at the density, age, income, language, and other factors of the regional population. Spatial data, usually analyzed through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) 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 staff conducted 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 met on 10/05/2021

# Revenue Sources

## 2019-2020 Operations Revenue

Revenue Source	2019 Total	2020 Total*	% of 2020 Revenue
Tolling	2,518,683.56	3,336,085.73	62.39
Golf	1,117,245.85	1,115,429.83	20.86
Spray Zone	273,639.82	149,414.79	2.79
Boat Rental	232,819.00	283,294.73	5.29
Farm	220,579.16	90,562.10	1.69
Picnic Shelter	111,725.00	69,587.50	1.30
Disc Golf	74,541.73	102,396.13	1.91
Boat Storage	75,740.00	70,353.18	1.31
Special Events	6,370.40	3,250.00	0.06
Island Queen	54,408.00	100.00	0
Nature Center	45,785.05	7,127.52	0.13
Miscellaneous	47,364.74	81,419.61	1.52
Mobile Learning	30,146.00	4,687.50	0.09
Cross Country Ski	5,098.13	10,069.26	0.19
Group Camp	8,782.36	6,994.51	0.13
Mobile Stage	11,100.00	850.00	0.02
Beach	3,806.01	10,377.68	0.19
Parkways	15,955.39	5,207.56	0.09
	<b>4,853,790.20</b>	<b>5,347,207.63</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*2020 Operations Revenue was irregular due to the COVID pandemic. 2019 totals are included for comparison.

### NEEDS

Diversify sources of revenue

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

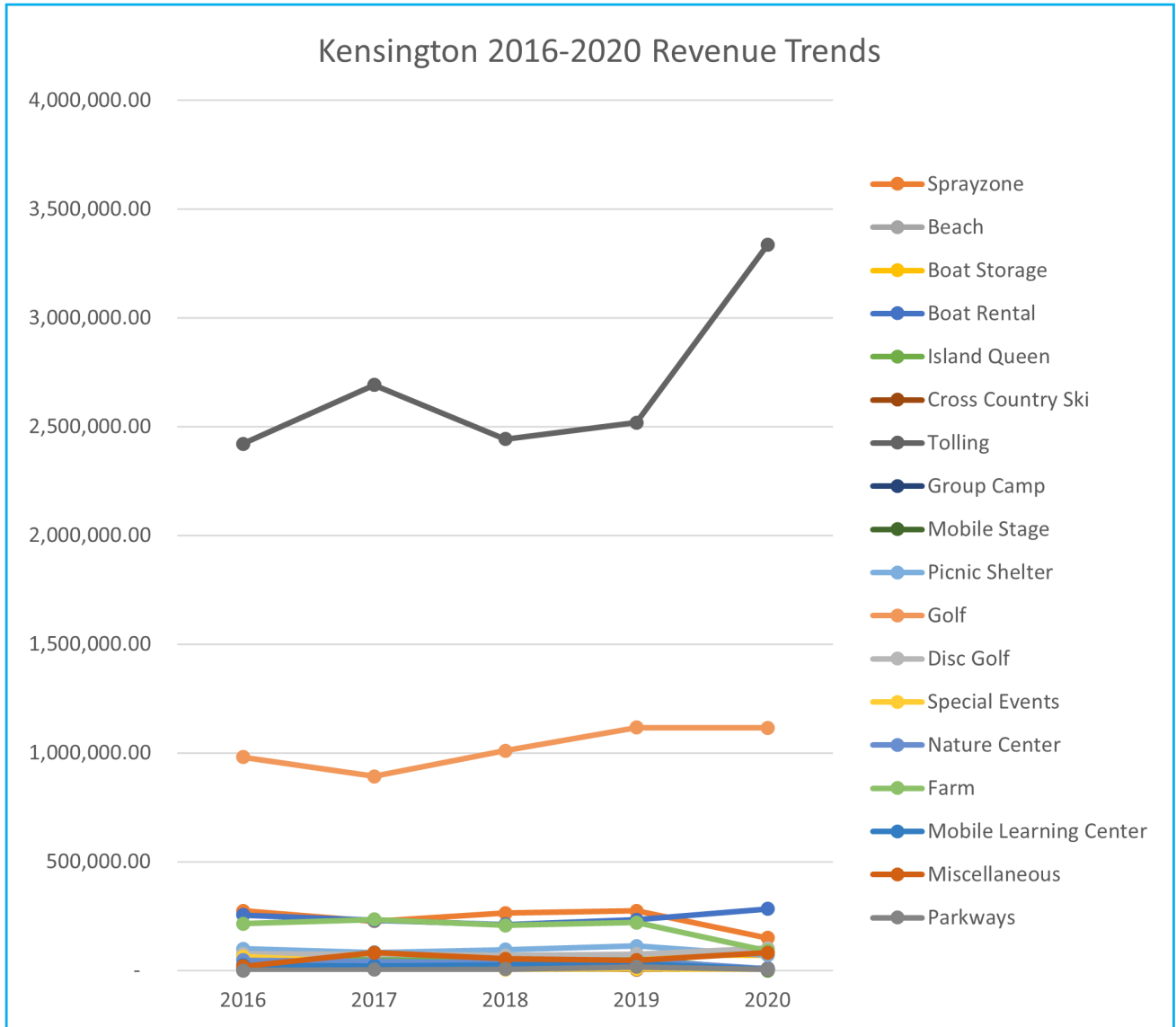
### OPPORTUNITIES

The Metroparks 2020 General Fund revenue equaled \$56,927,831, representing a nearly \$1.5M increase over 2019. At over \$5.3M in revenue in 2020, Kensington Metropark comprised nearly 9.4% of all Metroparks revenue.

Kensington’s budgeted 2021 operations revenues were \$4,821,428, while estimated 2021 operations expenses were \$7,850.857. Property tax and other revenue is therefore estimated to subsidize 38% of the Kensington operating budget for the year.

As the chart illustrates, over 80% of operating revenue comes from park entrance tolling and golf.

# Revenue Sources



**REVENUES TRENDING UPWARD**

Golf, Tolling, Boat Rental, Miscellaneous

**REVENUES TRENDING DOWNWARD (COVID-related)**

Farm Center, Nature Center, Spray Zone, Special Events, Island Queen, Mobile Learning Center

# 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 averaged close to 803,529 since 2016. Record entries of 953,800 were recorded in 2020. 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.

In 2019, the Metroparks season pass included a barcode that park staff could scan when visitors enter Kensington Metropark. The barcode was added so Metroparks staff could track which ZIP codes users are coming from to create better experiences, amenities and programming within the park system. Knowing where people are coming from also assists in identifying gaps in visitor characteristics so that the Metroparks can do a better job in sharing information about areas that may be underrepresented in terms of attendance.



Farm Center Spring Festival



Popular Martindale Beach

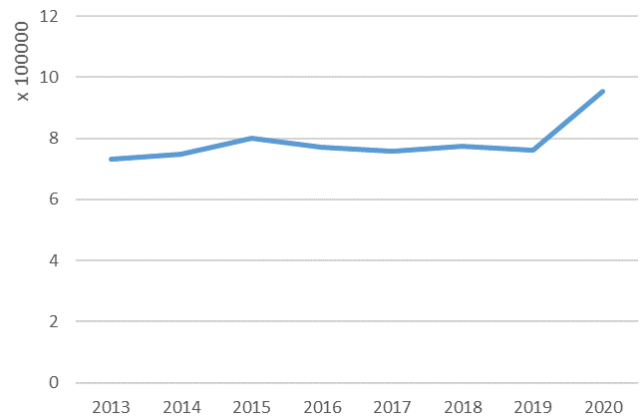
## NEEDS

Maintain and build upon high vehicle entry rates

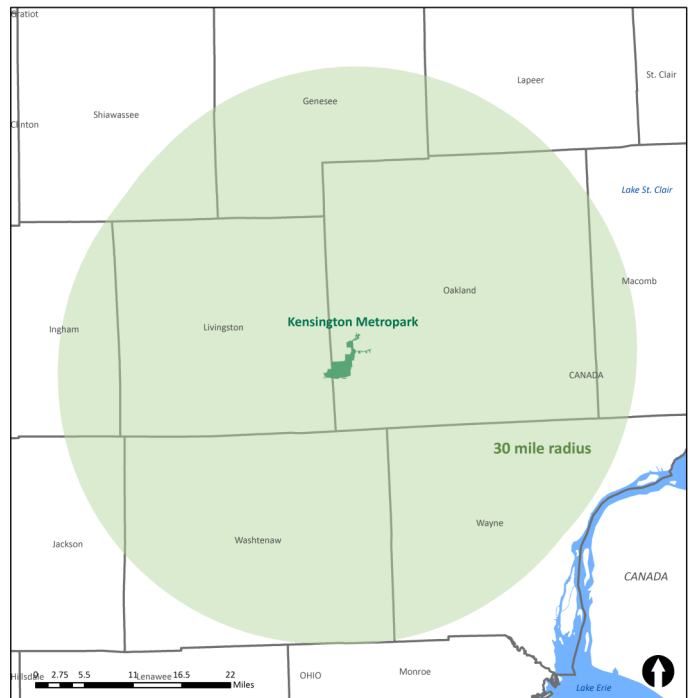
Take advantage of popularity to grow revenue and system awareness

## OPPORTUNITIES

VEHICLE ENTRIES 2013-2020



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

### 2021 Integrated Marketing Plan

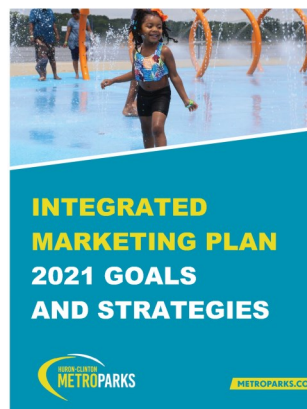
Educational and public programs looked much different than “average” in 2020. Staff adjusted to ever-changing situations of the pandemic to continue serving visitors on multiple platforms using virtual and hybrid programs, as well as small-group, in person, outdoor programs. These new practices will carry over into 2021 and staff will continue working collaboratively to provide exciting new experiences for the Kensington communities in ways that are safe and engaging.

### 2020-2022 Recreation Programming Plan

In 2019, the Metroparks amended the 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan to include a Recreation Programming Plan.

An important element of programming is accessibility and ensuring all programs, events, and services are compliant with the American Disability Act (ADA) requirements.

To achieve this, the Metroparks has begun self-evaluation of all programming and services offered by each department. Each program was categorized into groups of similar activities (e.g. programs, events, activities) and will then be analyzed each activity in terms of vision, hearing, and mobility barriers that may exist.



# 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 has been rising steadily over the last 10 years in Livingston County, even while falling somewhat in the immediate surrounding communities, Oakland County, and the 5-county region.

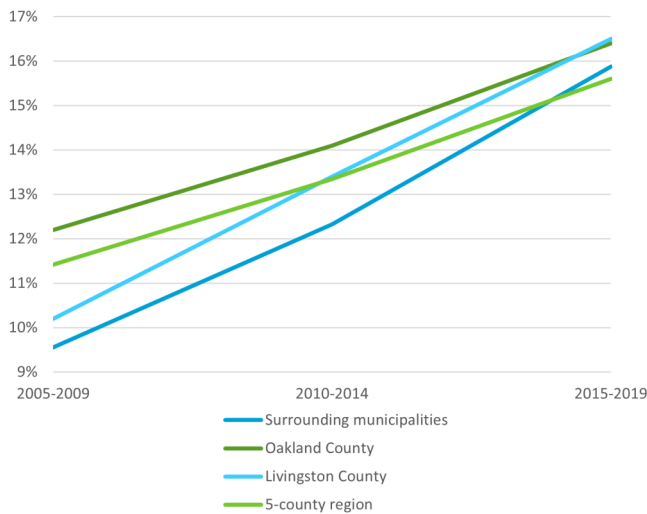
### NEEDS

Address changing needs of new population demographics

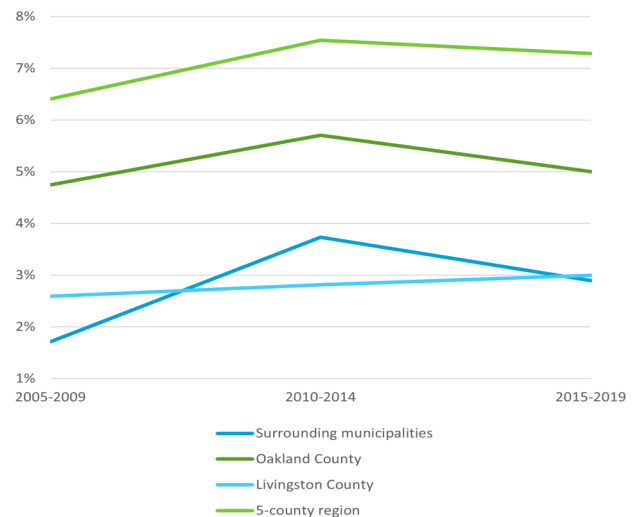
Draw new users with an accessible, welcoming park environment

### OPPORTUNITIES

The percentage of individuals over 65 years of age continues to rise 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.



CHANGE IN PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER 65 YEARS, FROM 2005-09 through 2015-2019 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)



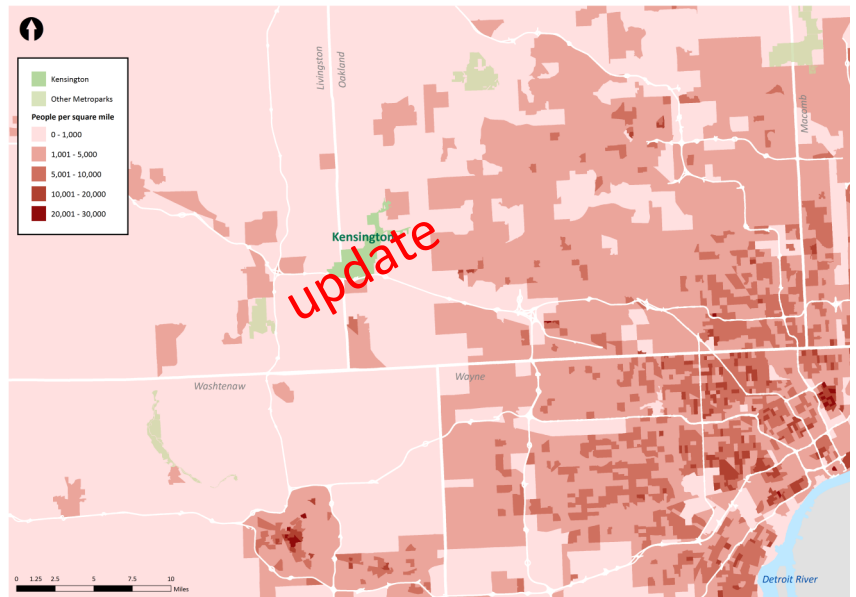
CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CARS AVAILABLE, FROM 2005-09 through 2015-2019 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)

# Community Influences

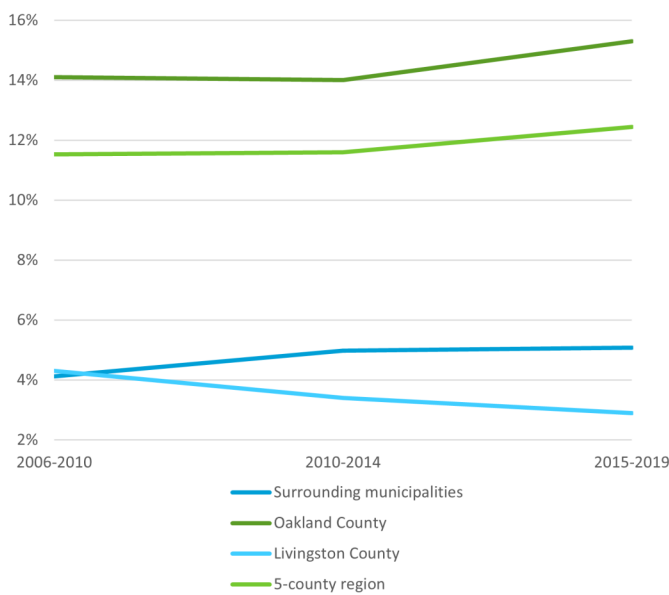
As shown below, Kensington is located past the western edge of the suburban ring around Detroit, largely in the midst of rural low-density areas with less than one thousand residents per square mile. It does touch slightly higher-density areas of Milford to the north and Lyon Township to the south. All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

Since 2014, the population density has increased across the board for the 5-county region, Livingston and Oakland counties, and the municipalities surrounding Kensington.

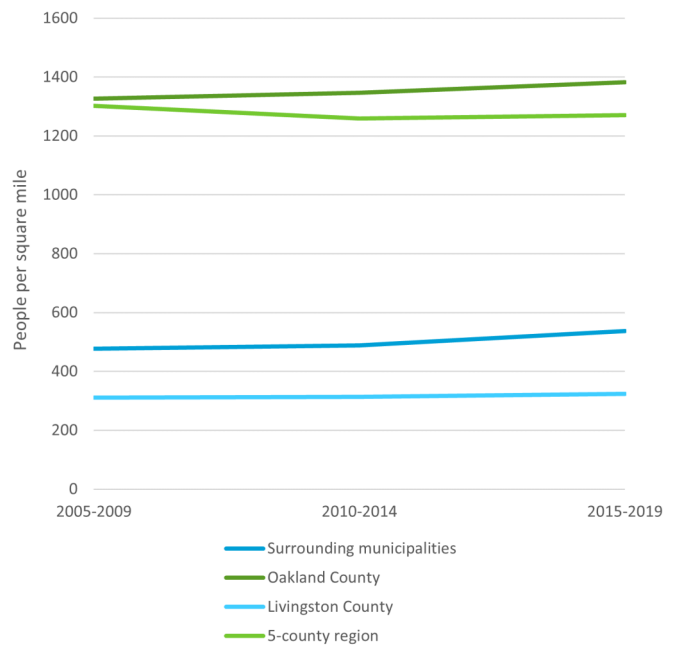
Although most households in the area still speak English as their first language, Oakland County and the 5-county region as a whole are seeing increases in the percentage of households that speak languages other than English at home. While there was a decrease in this metric in Livingston County over the last 10 years, the percentage of households in municipalities immediately surrounding Kensington that speak a language other than English has held steady over the last 5 years.



POPULATION DENSITY BY CENSUS TRACT, 2010-14



CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS SPEAKING LANGUAGE BESIDES ENGLISH AT HOME, 2006-10 through 2015-2019  
(Source: US Census American Community Survey)



CHANGE IN AVERAGE POPULATION DENSITY, 2005-09 through 2015-2019  
(Source: US Census American Community Survey)



## NEEDS

Improve park connectivity with community

Create good working relationship with surrounding municipalities

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Milford Township (no update since 2017)

- 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
- Trail and trailhead investments (2020 Capital Improvement Plan)

### Brighton Township (master plan update 2020)

- As gravel sites in the eastern border of the Township reach the end of their useful life, they will be redeveloped consistent with surrounding land uses
- Plan to develop first active Township park on Kensington Road between Buno and Jacoby Roads

### Green Oak Township (no update since 2014)

- 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,

### Oakland County

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

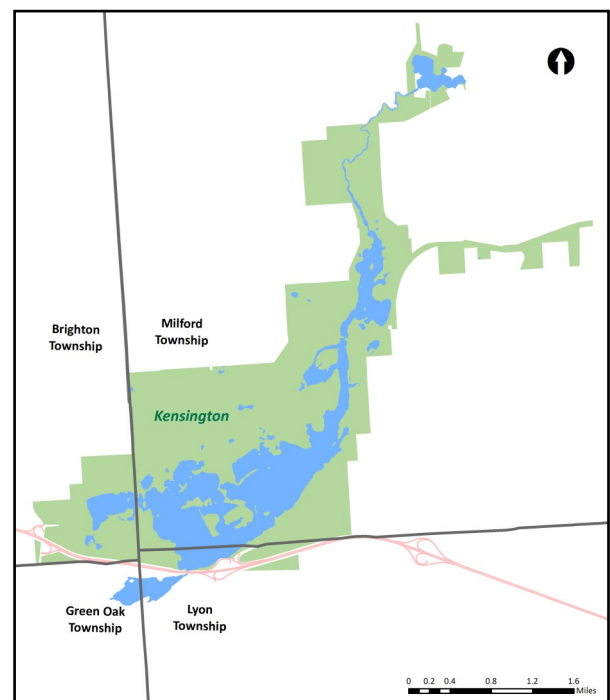
### Livingston County (master plan update 2018; countywide trails plan 2020)

- Work to connect recreation assets throughout the County in coordination with HCMA, MDNR, and other partners

### Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority Parks & Recreation Master Plan (no update since 2017)

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

MUNICIPALITY MAP



## Supporting Plans

### Community Recreation Plan

The Kensington Master Plan is aligned with the Metroparks Community Recreation Plan 2018-2022 that creates an inventory of existing facilities and resources, identifies community and recreation and open space needs and sets a plan of action for a 5-year period. To be eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and Waterways grants, a community must have an approved 5-Year Plan on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by February 1 of the year they intend to apply.

### Marketing Plan

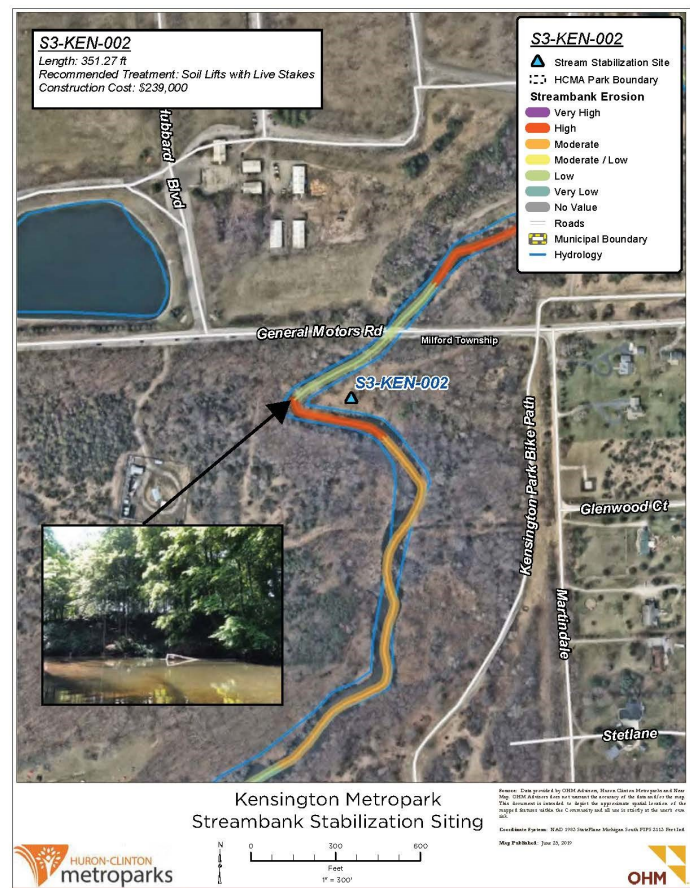
Realizing the importance of marketing and communication, the Kensington Master Plan will coincide with updates to the Marketing Plan 2021 Goals and Strategies, developed annually by the Marketing and Communications Department. Both are living documents that will closely follow both present and future marketing trends and work in collaboration amongst various departments.

### ADA Transition Plan

The Metroparks Board of Commissioners approved an updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan in November 2019. Moving forward, top priority projects will be added into annual capital and major maintenance improvement projects and identified in the Five-Year Community Recreation Plan and 10-year master plan (five-year amended) developments.

### Stormwater Management Plan

The Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), approved by the Board of Commissioners in 2019, provides a comprehensive review and analysis of the existing stormwater conveyance system for improvement and maintenance projects that prioritize reduction of impacts on water quality. It includes concepts and preliminary details for the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of the stormwater system for each Metropark (separated into individual chapters). Vetted by a committee of administrative departments and Kensington operations and maintenance staff, recommendations include green infrastructure development, shoreline and streambank restoration, and culvert and outfall cleanouts and replacements. Cost estimates were developed for each project, and calculation tables were included to help with budgeting (adjusting for inflation) in the future.



# Community Influences

## Relevant Planning Documents

### SEMCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for SE Michigan, 2020

*"In recent years, Southeast Michigan has made great progress toward a more comprehensive regional bicycle and pedestrian system. As walking and biking infrastructure continues to expand and connect, so have the plans, programs, and policies that support its use. Current conditions in the region provide a strong foundation for bicycle and pedestrian mobility, however,*

### Livingston County Master Plan, 2018

*"The intent of the Livingston County Master Plan is to provide a big-picture, county-wide approach to planning in Livingston County that focuses on the planning features that connect our twenty local units of government. Livingston County does not currently have a county-wide zoning ordinance, so the Livingston County Master Plan is intended to influence both the master*

### Milford Twp. Recreation Master Plan, 2019

*"Desired Complete Streets Improvement — Install a non-motorized segment along Hickory Ridge Trail south to Kensington Metropark." pg. 46*

*"Work with HCMA and the MDNR and support the development of multi-use hike, bike, pedestrian, and equestrian trails between Kensington Metropark and Proud*

### Brighton Twp. Master Plan, 2020

*"Enhance the quality of life in Brighton Township by encouraging the conservation of prime natural amenities such as water bodies, floodplains, open space, wetlands, woodlots, aquifers, and*

### Livingston County Trails Plan, 2020

*"Based on past plans and stakeholder input, nine corridors were identified as potential near term trail connections for Livingston County. These focus corridors build off the Great Lake to Lake Trail and connect parks, trails and areas of higher*

### SEMCOG Parks & Recreation Plan for SE Michigan, 2019

*"SEMCOG has a variety of resources to support regional stakeholders in parks, trails, and recreation planning. This includes regional coordination, developing regional planning tools such as the ParkFinder and Trail Explorer, and providing guidance on grant applications, plan development, data analysis, or other parks and recreation*

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

*"The green infrastructure network should be approached as a system, regardless of ownership. Local, regional, state, federal, and private owners of the network should coordinate activities in order to provide an efficient, systems-*

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



Over the duration of the Kensington Master Plan Update process, the Metroparks Planning and Development Department ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. The process could be followed at public outreach events with input on questionnaires, an online survey, and online comments based on the draft plan posted on the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Planning and Development Department Website.

### Online Public Survey– 8/20/21

An online survey was developed to gather general information about park visitors and their use of the park as well as recommendations for improving features and amenities offered at the park. The survey was made available for the duration of the planning process. A total of 32 responses to the survey was collected. The public could find the survey on hard copy questionnaires, social media blasts, metroparks website, and the QR-Code made available at the movie night event.

### Public Outreach Event Movie Night– 8/20/21

Located at Kensington Metropark, members of the public attending the movie night event had the opportunity to learn about the park and planning process for the Master Plan Update and provide input regarding their needs and opportunities and provide feedback on key projects identified along with suggesting further ideas.

### Steering Committee Meeting 1 - 10/05/21

This first meeting involved staff reviewing the master plan goals and action plans and participated in a brainstorming activity for updates to the needs and opportunities.

### Steering Committee Meeting #2– 11/23/21

The second meeting involved staff reviewing updates to the needs and opportunities, public input survey results, and draft action plan.

### Planning and Development Department Webpage– 11/29/21

The public had the opportunity to review the draft plan and provide comments for final public input and possible refinements prior to presentation to the Board of Commissioners October meeting.

### Board of Commissioners Meeting– 12/08/21

The Plan was recommended for Board approval with the public provided an opportunity to participate during the public commentary period.



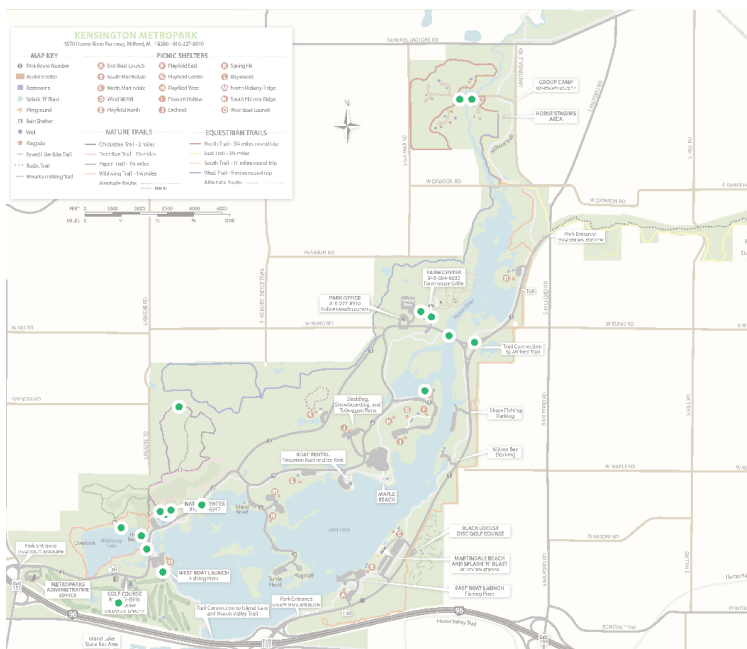
# Results

The survey responses, both written and submitted online, offered more insight into the needs of park patrons. A strong desire for both viewing and protection of the wildlife and their habitat. Also, the need for trails to be continually maintained and groomed for year-round enjoyment. Sustainability was also a common theme with the public needs with strong support for recycling and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Opportunities suggested targeting seasonal employment for teenagers and young adults, expanded programs that offer free family events and interactive self-guided park and trail tours.

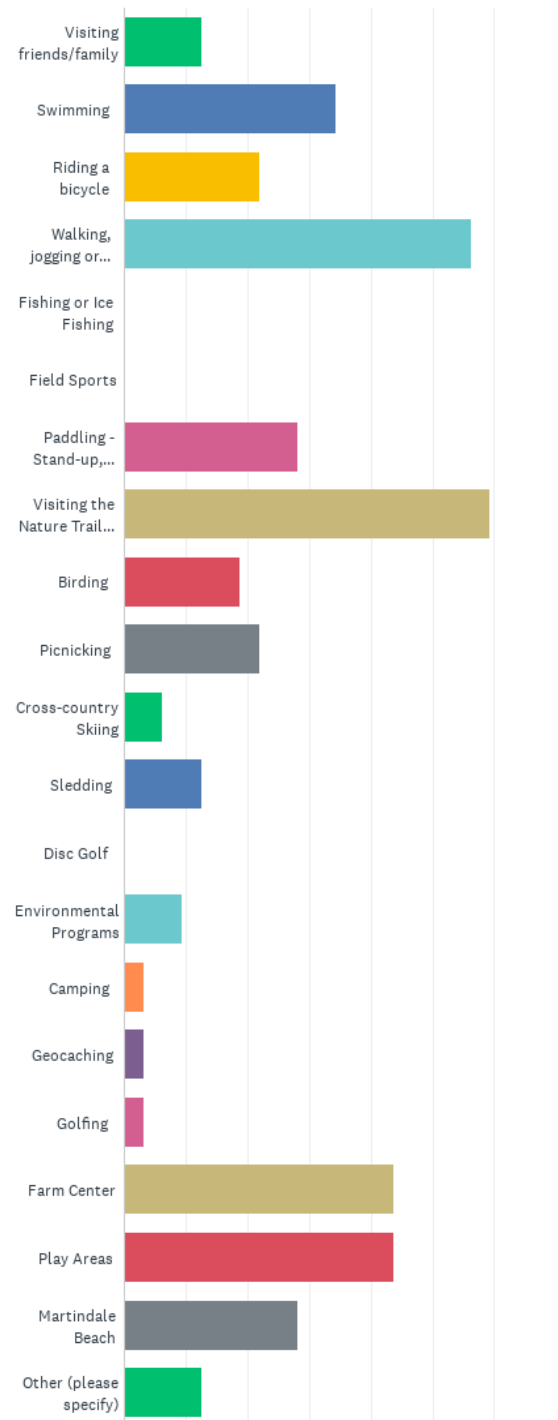
The most popular activity was hiking the nature trails and visiting the nature center followed by walking or jogging along hike-bike trails. Other popular activities included visiting the farm center, play areas, and swimming.

Local bicycle enthusiasts recently formed the "Hometown Bicycles advocacy group," comprised of folks in the Brighton area advocating for trails and bike facilities. They are interested in safe non-motorized connections across Livingston County.

Red circles on the map show the survey responders favorite spots in the park



## When you visit Kensington, what activities are you typically doing?



# 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. [5-year updates are in blue text](#)

### 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

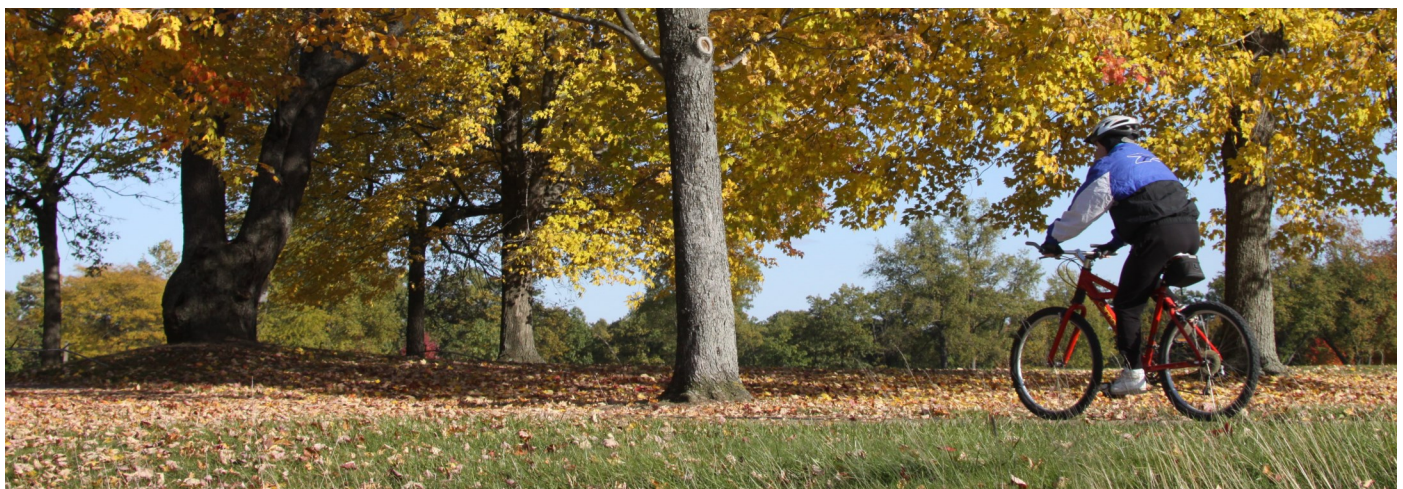
- Build on current popularity to attract new users
- Create a resilient network of biodiverse areas in the park
- Draw new visitors with programming/education based on history of park
- Redevelop park areas to better serve visitors and environment
- Provide unique recreational facilities to draw visitors 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)	Status
Implement Maple Beach redevelopment plan ( <a href="#">accessible parking, furnishings</a> )	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$500,000		x		Near completion
Nature Center interior/exterior building renovations	Engineering	Interpretive, Maintenance	Contractors	\$100,000		x		Phasing updates
Implement Nature Center parking and circulation plan	Engineering	Planning, Interpretive	Contractors	TBD		x		Conceptual plan completed
Martindale Beach: construct new picnic shelter and toilets at south end	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$100,000		x		Not started
Implement Farm Center selective redevelopment plan	Engineering	Interpretive, Planning, Operations, Maintenance	Contractors	TBD		x		Phasing updates underway
Implement Mitten Bay redevelopment plan	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x		Not started



# Infrastructure / Small Facilities

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)	Status
Pavement projects (list developed annually, as needed)	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various		x	x	Ongoing
Accessibility improvements, including interiors and walkways - parkwide	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various		x	x	Ongoing
Fit Trail sign and equipment replacement	Planning	Engineering, Operations		\$50,000		x		Not started
EV stations in parking lots for electric vehicles	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x		Not started
Hike-bike trail: wall replacement (east), decking repairs along I-96	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$320,000		x		Not started
Black Locust Disc Golf Course: install vault latrine	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$50,000		x		Not started
Implement Orchard Picnic Area selective redevelopment plan	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x		Phasing underway
Implement Playfield Picnic Area selective redevelopment plan	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	TBD		x		Not started
Update play structures as needed	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD		x	x	Ongoing
Update site furnishings (benches, fencing, parking blocks, etc.) as needed	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD		x	x	Ongoing
Playfield pit toilet replacement	Engineering	Planning, Operations		\$125,000		x		Not started
Group Camp bridge deck rehabilitation and railing replacement	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD		x		Not started
Golf course vault latrine	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$50,000		X		Not started



# Natural Resources

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

# Signage

Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)	Status
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage improvements - Nature Center	Planning	Maintenance, Interpretive, Operations		\$10,000		x		Ongoing
Wayfinding and interpretive signage improvements - Farm Center	Interpretive	Planning, Operations, Maintenance		\$15,000		x		Ongoing
Updates to trailheads	Planning	Maintenance, Interpretive, Operations		\$1,500 per structure		x	x	Ongoing
Improve road crossings	Engineering	Planning, Operations		TBD		x		Ongoing
Wayfinding signage improvements Spring Hill	Planning	Operations		TBD		x		Not started
Updated signage for entrance and facility signs	Marketing	Planning		TBD		X		Not started



# 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)	Status
Update trail maps to show opportunities for walking/hiking/trail running	Graphics	Planning		staff time	x			Completed
Oak wilt monitoring and prevention (annual)	NR	Operations	MDNR	staff time		x	x	Ongoing
Maple Beach redevelopment plan: demolish existing buildings, construct rental shelters and restrooms	Planning	Engineering, Operations, Maintenance		staff time	x			Completed
Farm Center selective redevelopment plan: improve connectivity and circulation, enhance user experiences	Planning	Interpretive, Engineering, Operations, Maintenance		staff time		x		Ongoing
<a href="#">Park Office building condition assessment</a>	Engineering	Planning, Operations, Maintenance		staff time		x		Not started
Nature Center parking, circulation, and building plan: parking lot reconstruction, trail improvements for Wildwing and Deer Run, paved trail connectivity to West Boat Launch (overflow parking)	Planning	Engineering, Interpretive, Operations		staff time		x		Not started

## 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)	Status
Mitten Bay structural monitoring	Engineering	Operations, Maintenance		staff time		x		Not started
Windfall Hill Picnic Area use monitoring to determine future	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x		Ongoing
Mitten Bay redevelopment plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations, Maintenance		staff time		x		Not started
Martindale Beach picnic shelter site plan	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x		Not started
Martindale Beach Splash 'n' Blast renovation plan: <a href="#">UV disinfectant added</a> and determine capacity of mechanical room for addition of features <a href="#">catering to wider age range of users</a>	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x		Not started
Orchard Picnic Area selective redevelopment plan: enhanced winter activities for year-round use	Planning	Engineering, Operations		staff time		x		Not started
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		Not started
Eastern massasauga rattlesnake population assessment	NR	Interpretive	Consultants	\$40,000		x		Ongoing
Fisheries Assessment and creel survey	NR		MDNR	\$25,000		x		Ongoing
Grassland Management Plan (biennial review)	NR	Operations, Interpretive		staff time		x	x	Ongoing

## 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)	Status
East Boat Launch Circulation Study	Planning	Operations		staff time		x		Not started
Pilot transit study with LETS	Planning	Operations	LETS	Staff time		X		Not started
Establishment of a comprehensive Oak Wilt monitoring and treatment protocol	NR	Operations	MDNR	\$10,000		x		Done?
Deer program evaluation (vegetation study)	NR	Interpretive	Contractors	\$30,000		x	x	Ongoing
Establish Invasive Species Control Tracking Website	NR	IT	MNFI, MISIN	staff time		x		Ongoing
Comprehensive wildlife surveys and mapping (Birds, insects, freshwater mussels)	NR	Interpretive	Consultant, MNFI, NGOs	\$35,000		x	x	Ongoing
Reorganize maintenance area to consolidate operations and improve circulation	Engineering	Planning, Operations, Maintenance		TBD		x		Ongoing
Lake and River Access Evaluation: canoeing, kayaking, kiteboarding, windsurfing	Planning	Engineering, Operations	Huron River Watershed Council	TDB		x		Ongoing
Integrate/enhance concessions at various locations, potentially Boat Rental, Disc Golf course, and others	Operations	Planning, Engineering		TBD		x	x	Ongoing



# Action Plan

## Nature Center

2022-2026

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
- Restrooms need accessible updates
- Deer Run and Wildwing accessible improvements



## 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
- Replacing ballfield with a shelter
- Accessibility features and amenities



# Action Plan

## Park Office

2022-2026

The current park office, built in 1967, is deteriorating and lacks adequate space for staff. Next step would be a comprehensive building assessment and a comprehensive redevelopment plan.

### Needs:

- More space for meetings and storage
- Updated services and building elements

### Solutions:

- Building assessment
- Redevelopment vs new construction for park office
- Cost comparison of alternatives



## Mitten Bay

2022-2026

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



# Key Projects

## Farm Center

2022-2026

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 more accessible facility. The hope is to refine the focus of the area and enhance the user experience.

### Needs:

- Improved connectivity
- Refined focus

### Solutions:

- [Green house](#)
- Assess paths and roads
- [Wayfinding signage](#)
- [Erosion and drainage improvements](#)





## 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.

- **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.

- **Regional gap feasibility studies in non-motorized connectivity**

With growing momentum for safer non-motorized facilities in the region, gaps identified connecting Kensington Metropark with Huron Meadows Metropark, State parks, and other local community parks and greenways.

