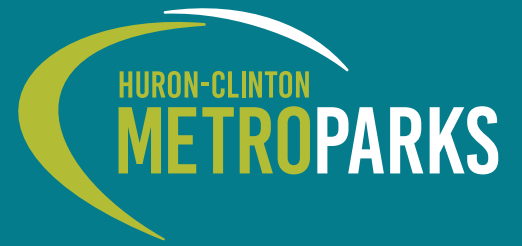
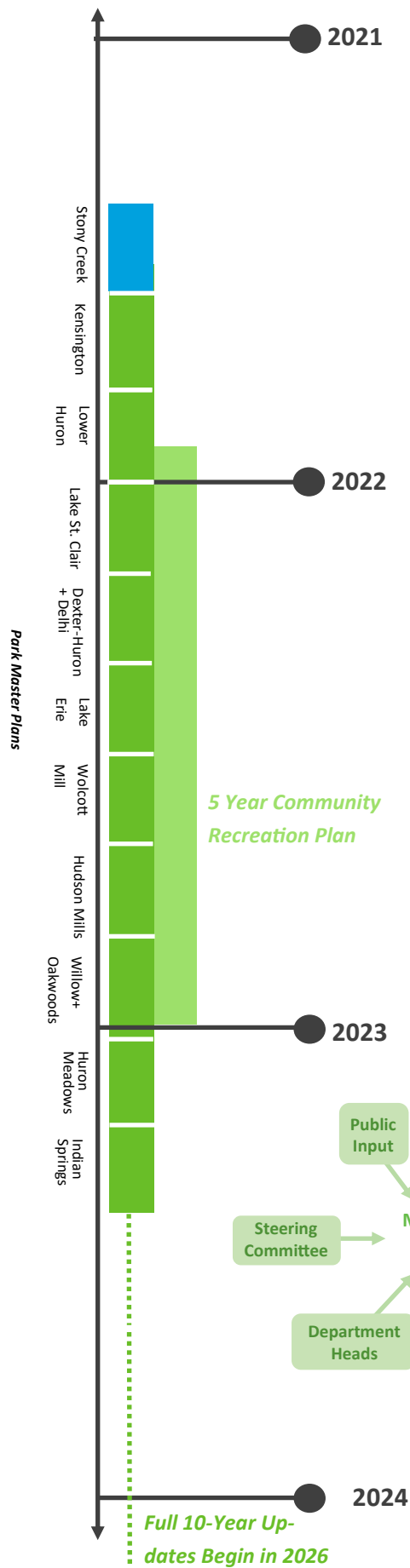


KENSINGTON METROPARK MASTER PLAN



5 Year Update to 2017 – 2027





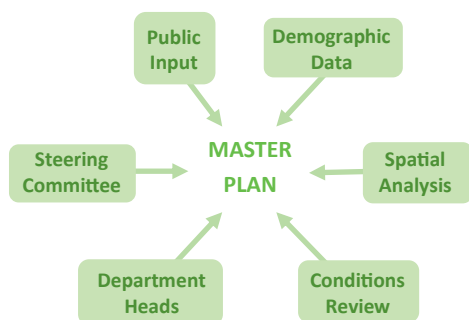
Introduction

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

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 Center	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
	4,853,790.20	5,347,207.63	100%

*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

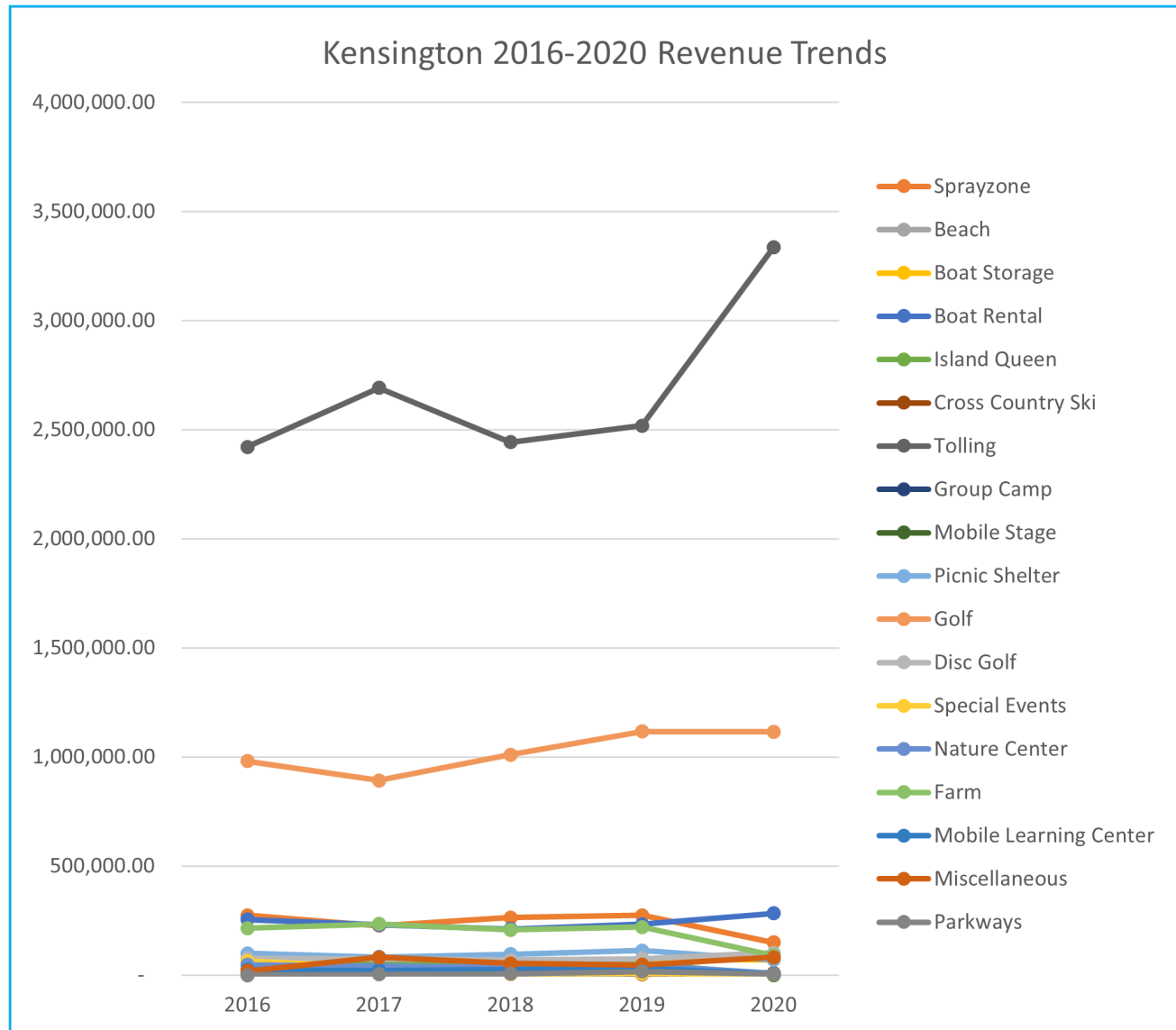
The Metroparks 2020 General Fund revenue equaled \$56,927,831, representing a nearly \$1.5M increase over 2019. At over \$5.3M in revenue in 2020, Kensington Metropark comprised nearly 9.4% 3% of all Metroparks revenue.

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

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

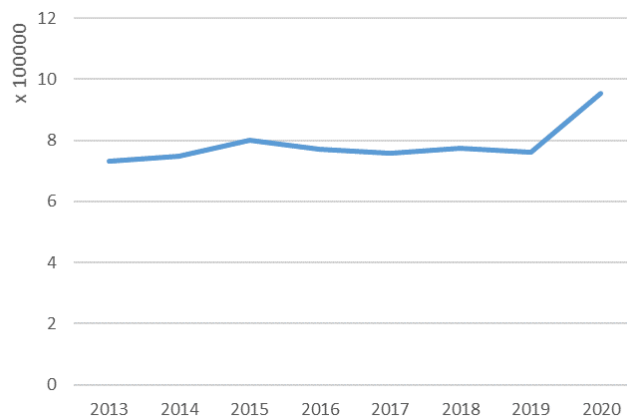
NEEDS

Maintain and build upon high vehicle entry rates

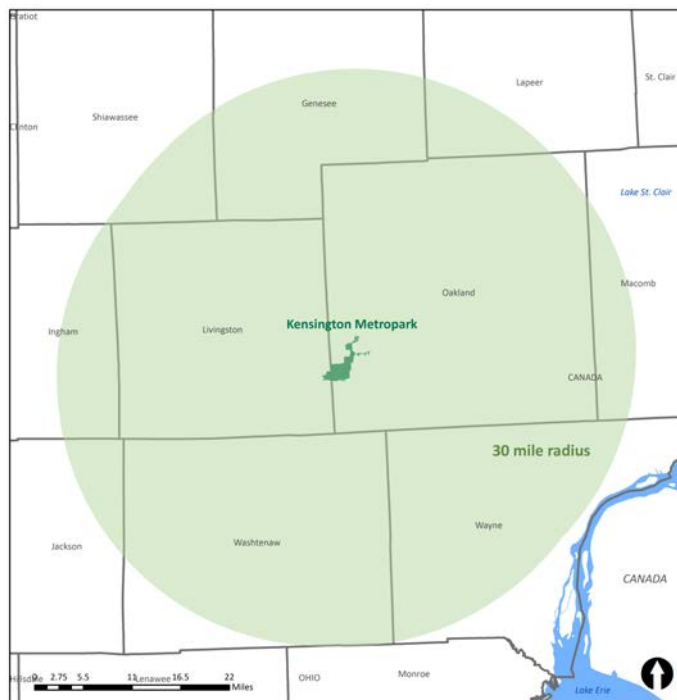
Take advantage of popularity to grow revenue and system awareness

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

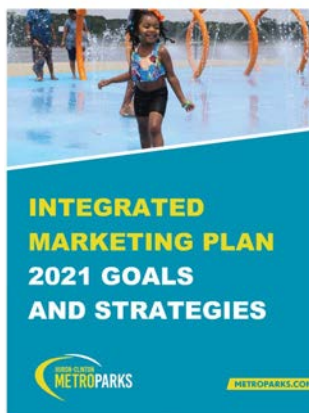
Educational and public programs looked much different than “average” in 2020. Staff adjusted to ever-changing situations of the pandemic to continue serving visitors on multiple platforms using virtual and hybrid programs, as well as small-group, in person, outdoor programs. These new practices will 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.

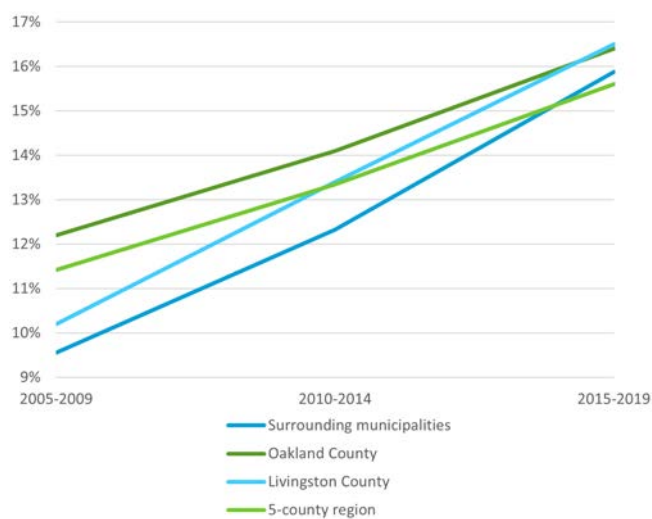
NEEDS

Address changing needs of new population demographics

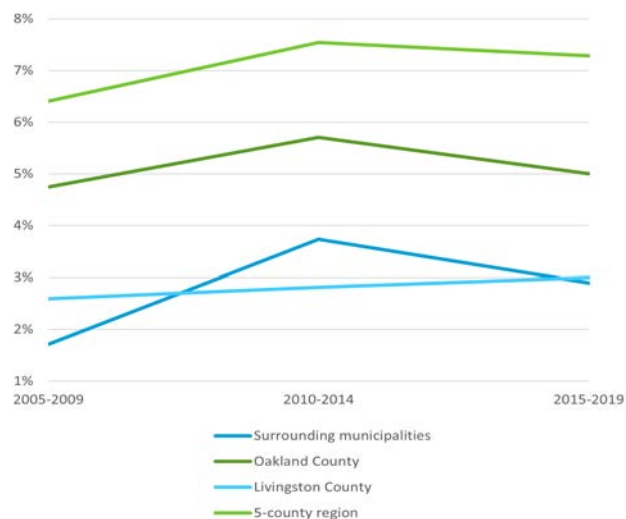
Draw new users with an accessible, welcoming park environment

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)



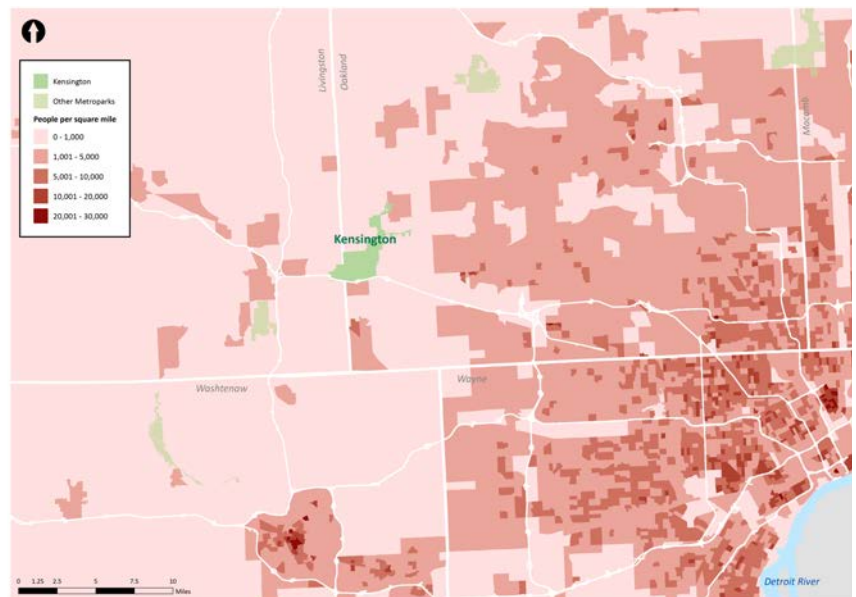
CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CARS AVAILABLE, FROM 2005-09 through 2015-2019 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)

Community Influences

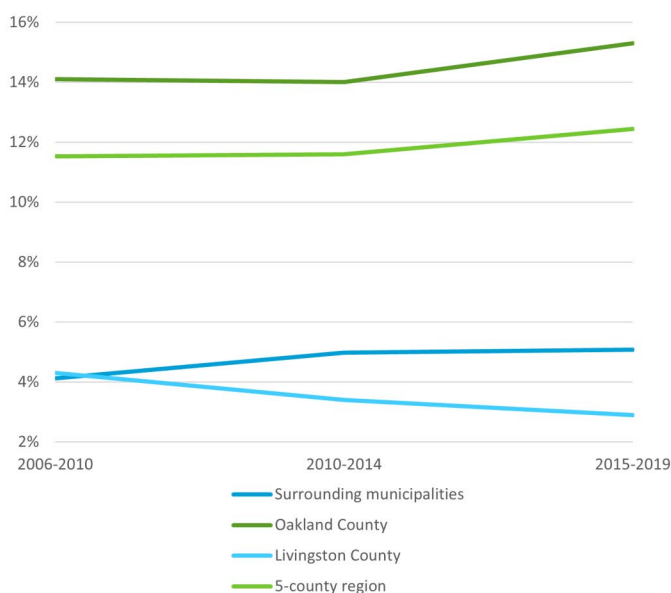
As shown below, Kensington is located past the western edge of the suburban ring around Detroit, largely in the midst of rural low-density areas with less than one thousand residents per square mile. It does touch slightly higher-density areas of Milford to the north and Lyon Township to the south. All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

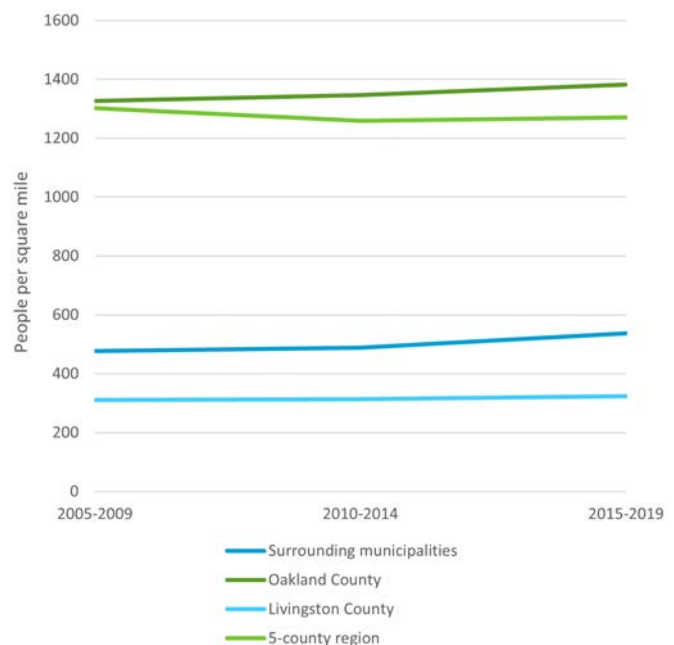
Although most households in the area still speak English as their first language, Oakland County and the 5-county region as a whole are seeing increases in the percentage of households that speak languages other than English at home. While there was a decrease in this metric in Livingston County over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

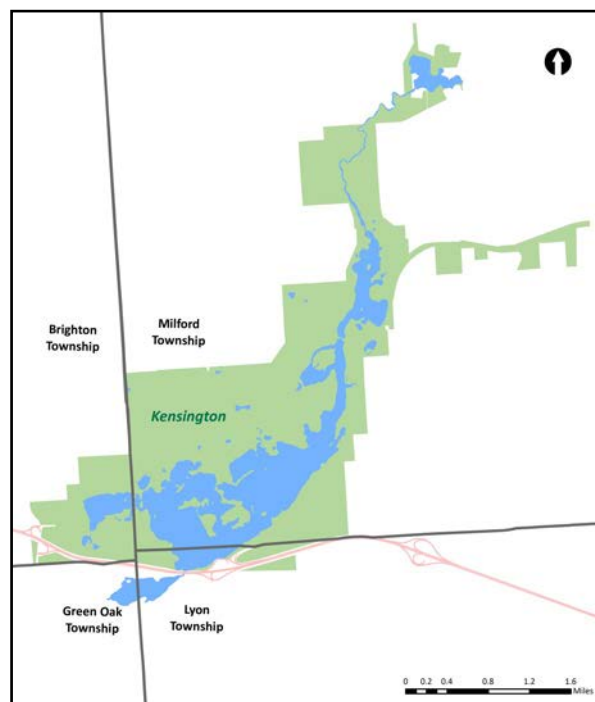
Livingston County (master plan update 2018; countywide trails plan 2020)

- 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..

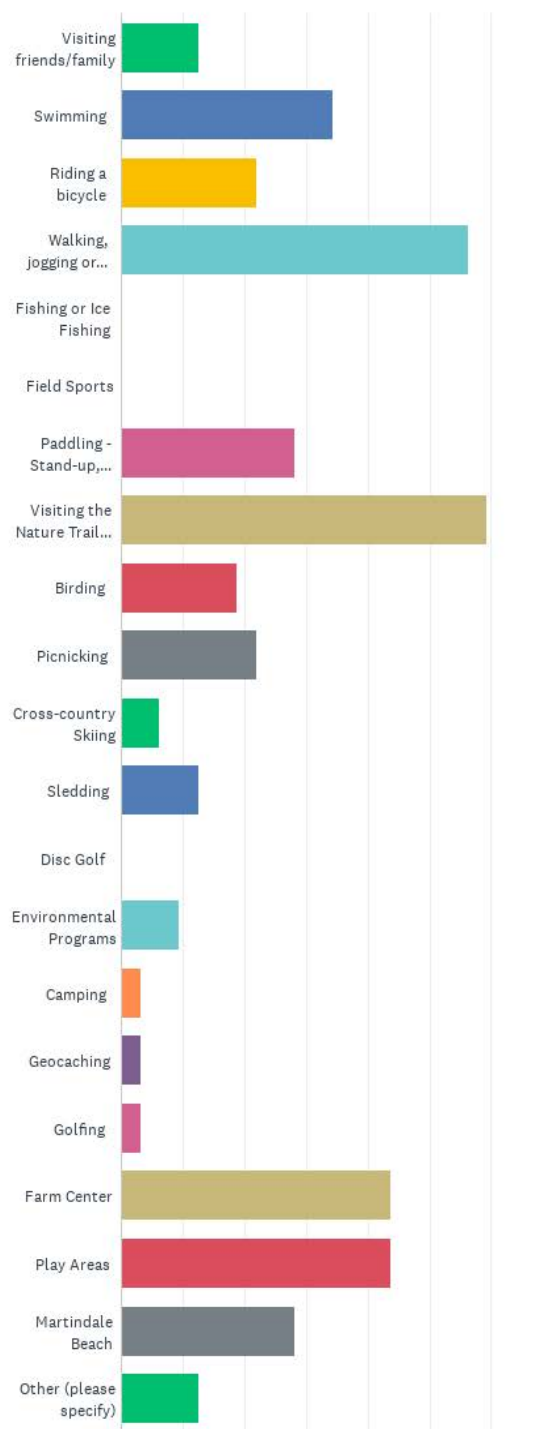
The most popular activity was hiking the nature trails and visiting the nature center followed by walking or jogging along hike-bike trails. Other popular activities included visiting the farm center, play areas, and swimming.

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

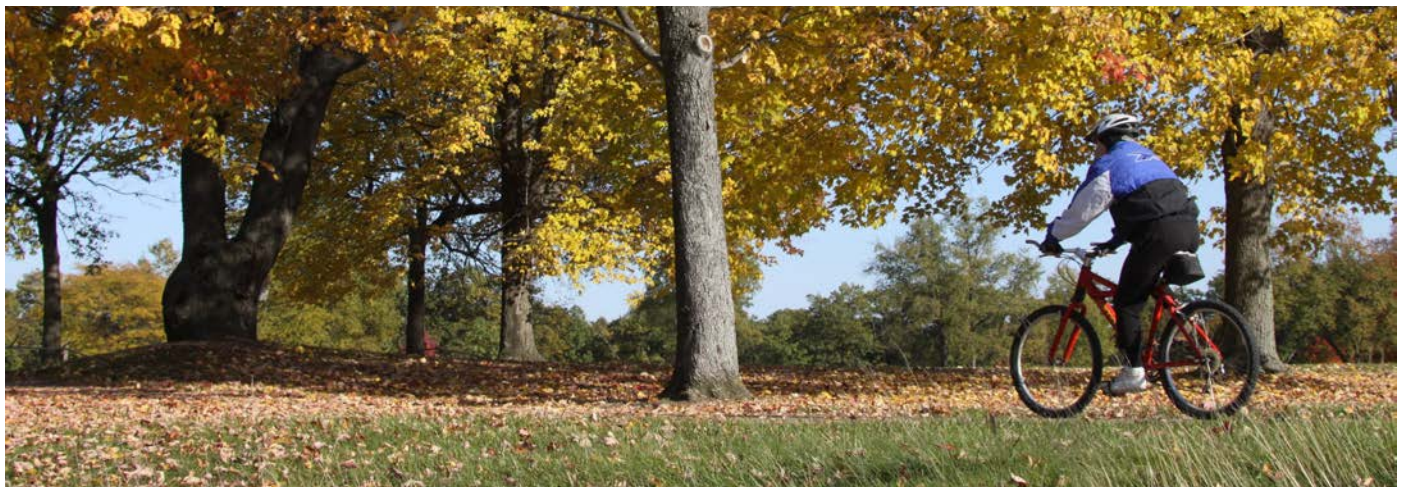
- Build on current popularity to attract new users
- Create a resilient network of biodiverse areas in the park
- Draw new visitors with programming/education based on history of park
- Redevelop park areas to better serve visitors and environment
- Provide unique recreational facilities to draw visitors 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 (accessible parking, furnishings)	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	\$500,000		x		Near completion
Nature Center interior/exterior building renovations	Engineering	Interpretive, Maintenance	Contractors	\$100,000		x		Phasing updates underway
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

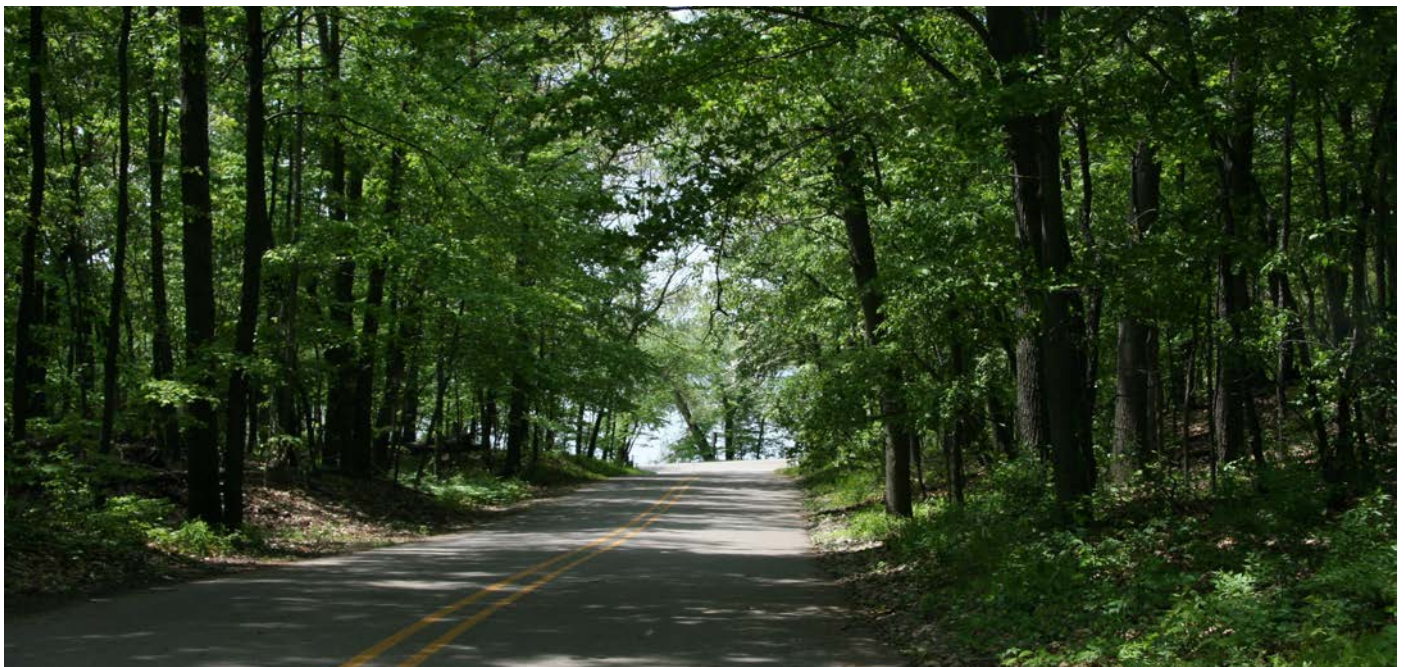
Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)	Status
Pavement projects (list developed annually, as needed)	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various		x	x	Ongoing
Accessibility improvements, including interiors 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)	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
Park Office building condition assessment	Engineering	Planning, Operations, Maintenance		staff time		x		Not started
Initiate studies for mountain bike trails, research site selection with respect to conflicting activities, flora and fauna and grant opportunities	Planning	Operations		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: UV disinfectant added and determine capacity of mechanical room for addition of features catering to wider age range of users	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](#)



Need for improved connectivity

Action Plan

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.





KENSINGTON MASTER PLAN





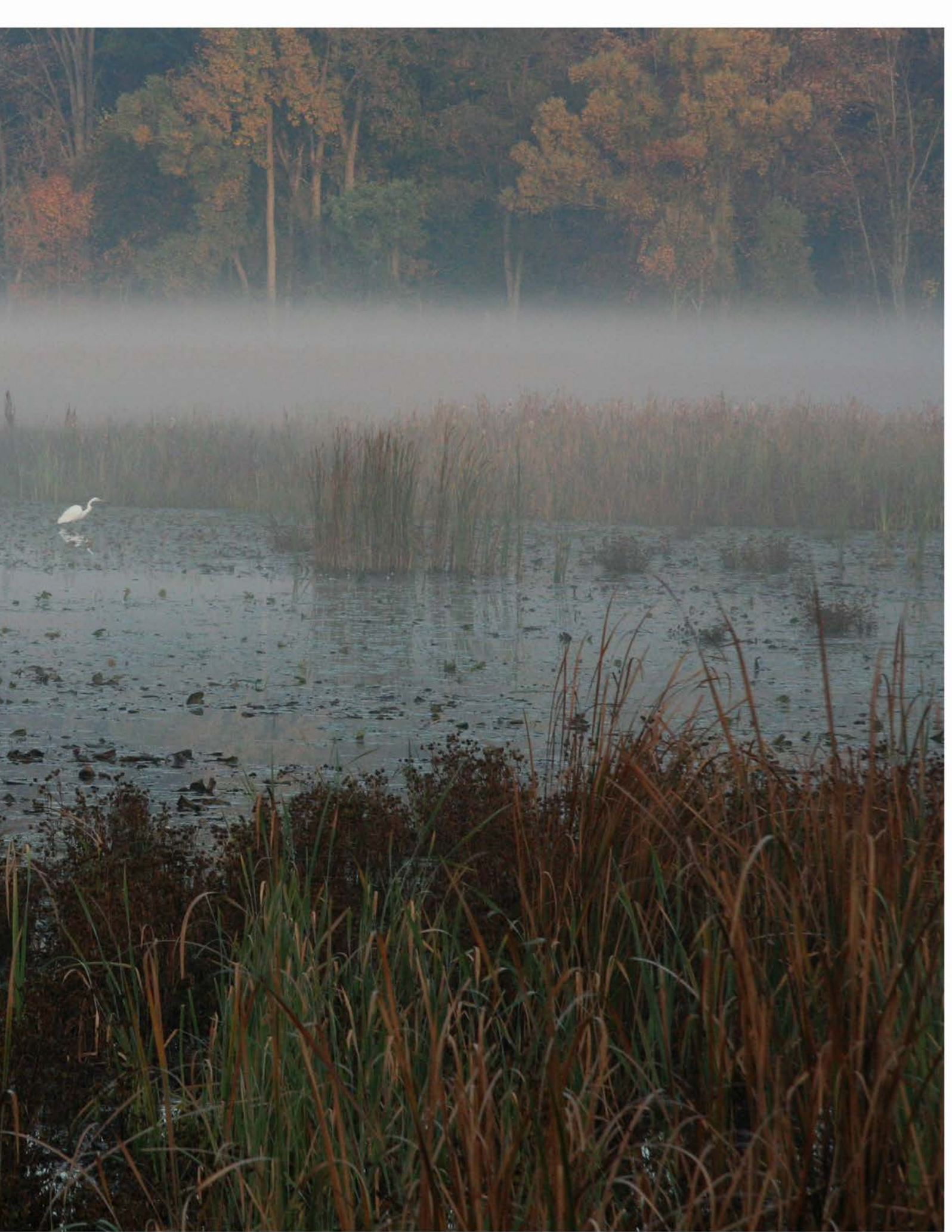
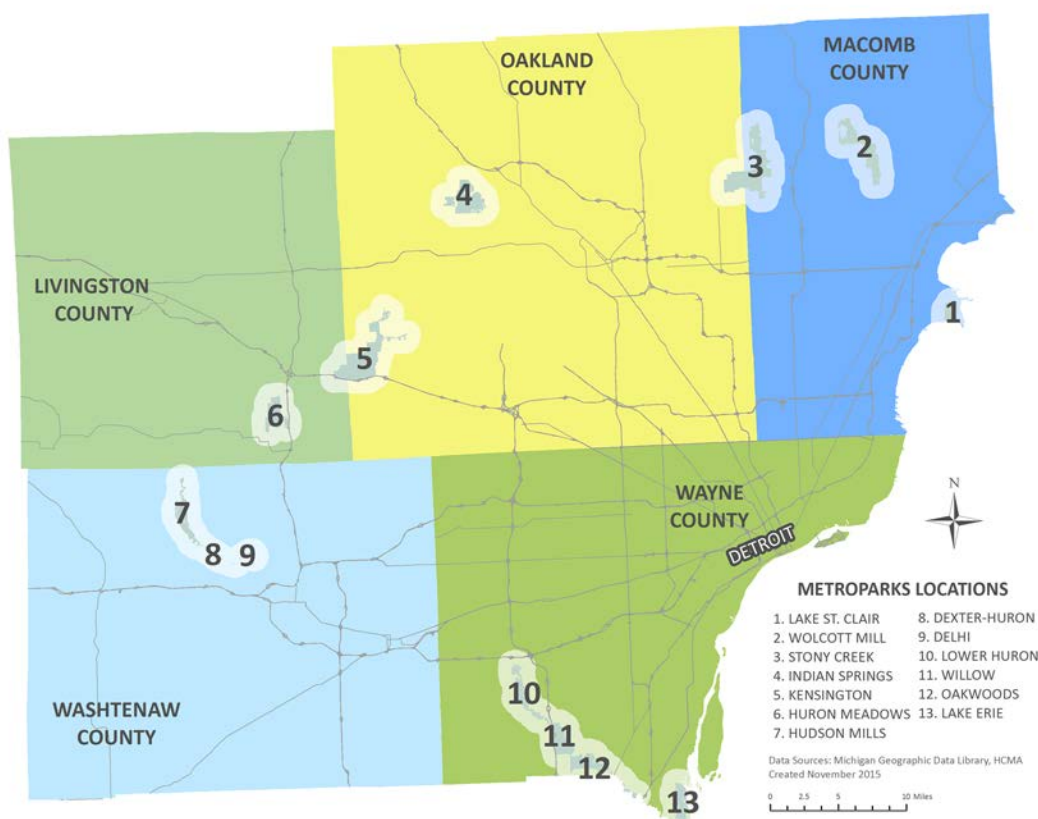


Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
ABOUT THE METROPARKS	5
ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS	6
PLANNING PROCESS	7
KENSINGTON TODAY	8
CHARACTER	8
LOCATION	10
BIODIVERSITY AREAS	11
CULTURAL HISTORY	13
INFRASTRUCTURE	15
FACILITIES & CENTERS	18
LAND	20
WAYFINDING	22
TRAILS	23
ACCESSIBILITY	25
REVENUE	27
REVENUE SOURCES	27
VISITORS	28
PROGRAMS & EVENTS	29
COMMUNITY INFLUENCES	30
POPULATION	30
PROJECTS & INITIATIVES	32
PUBLIC INPUT	34
OUTREACH PROCESS	34
RESULTS	35
ACTION PLAN	38
NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES	38
PROJECT LIST	39
PLANS, STUDIES, & INITIATIVES	43
KEY PROJECTS	46

INTRODUCTION

About the Metroparks

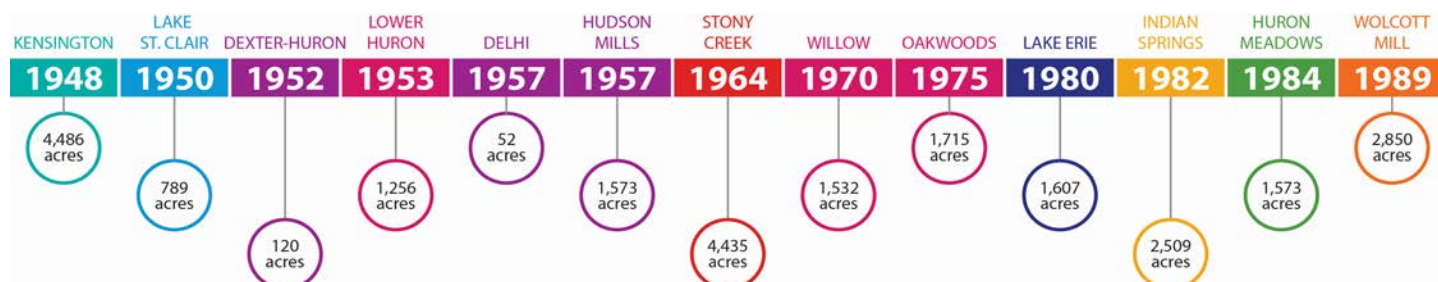


The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority was sanctioned by the Michigan State Legislature in Act No. 147 of the Public Acts of 1939. Named after the two longest rivers within its boundaries, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority is a regional park agency consisting of 13 Metroparks encompassing approximately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

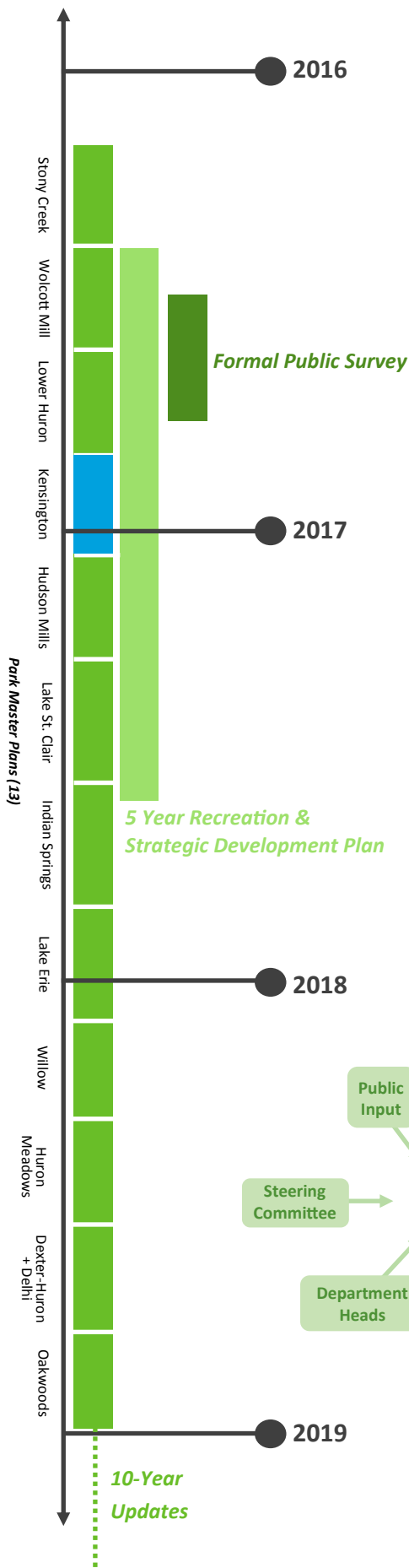
Operational Departments facilitate the day-to-day operations of the parks, making sure patrons have enjoyable and educational visits. They include Maintenance and Interpretive Services.

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



Introduction

Planning Process

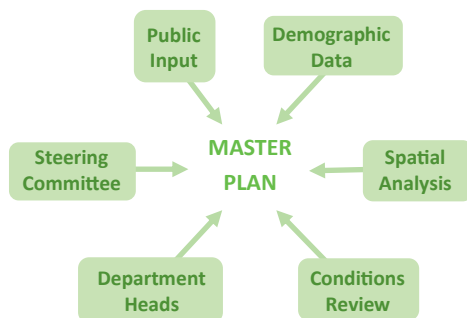


Several factors contribute to the recommendations that will be proposed for Kensington in the master plan. One of the most important is the public input collected through meetings, questionnaires, and online comments. This reveals the public's hopes and expectations for the park and significantly influences 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.

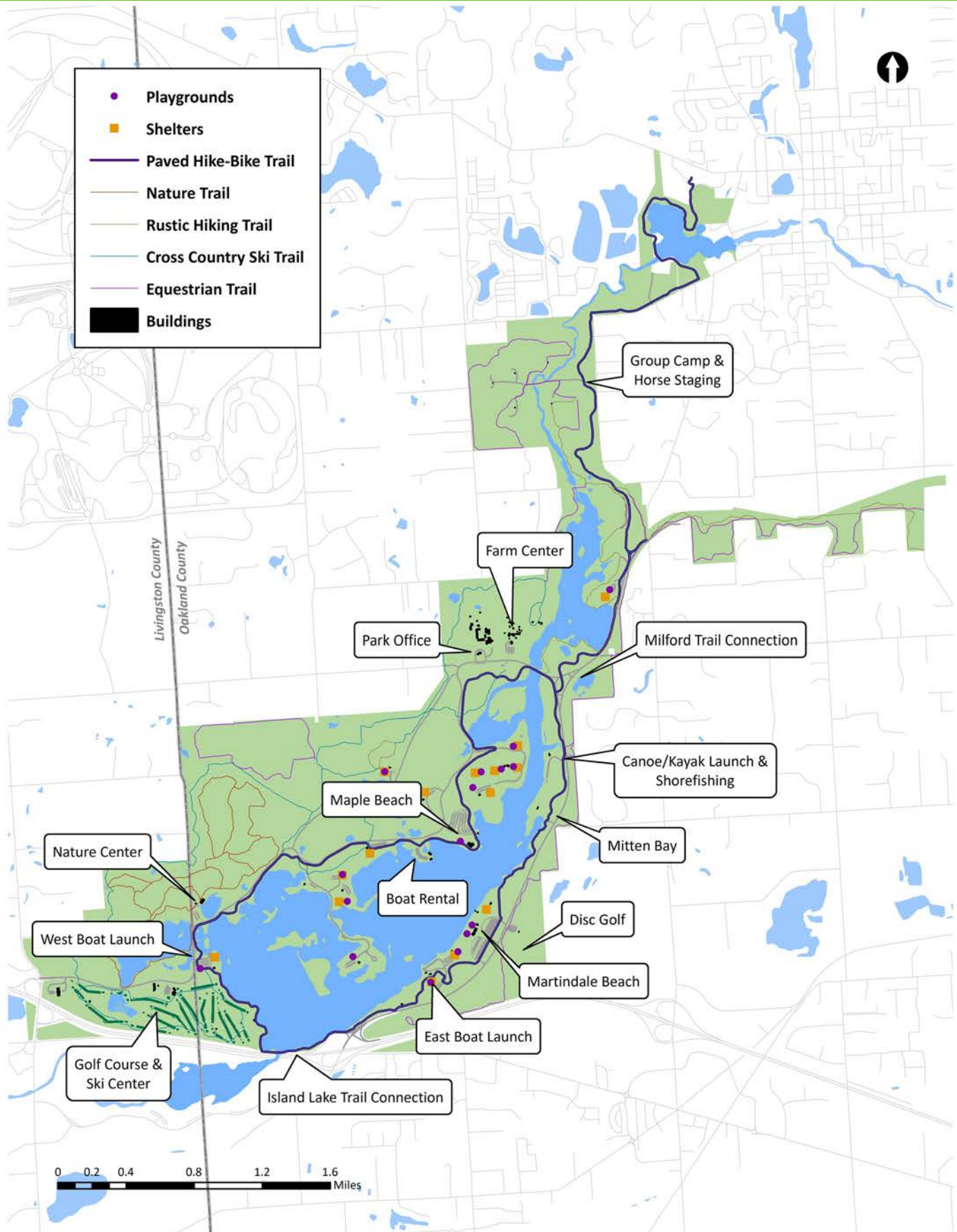
We **hike all throughout Kensington** an average of 5 times per week and are extremely pleased with the condition and quality of the trails and parkland.

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.

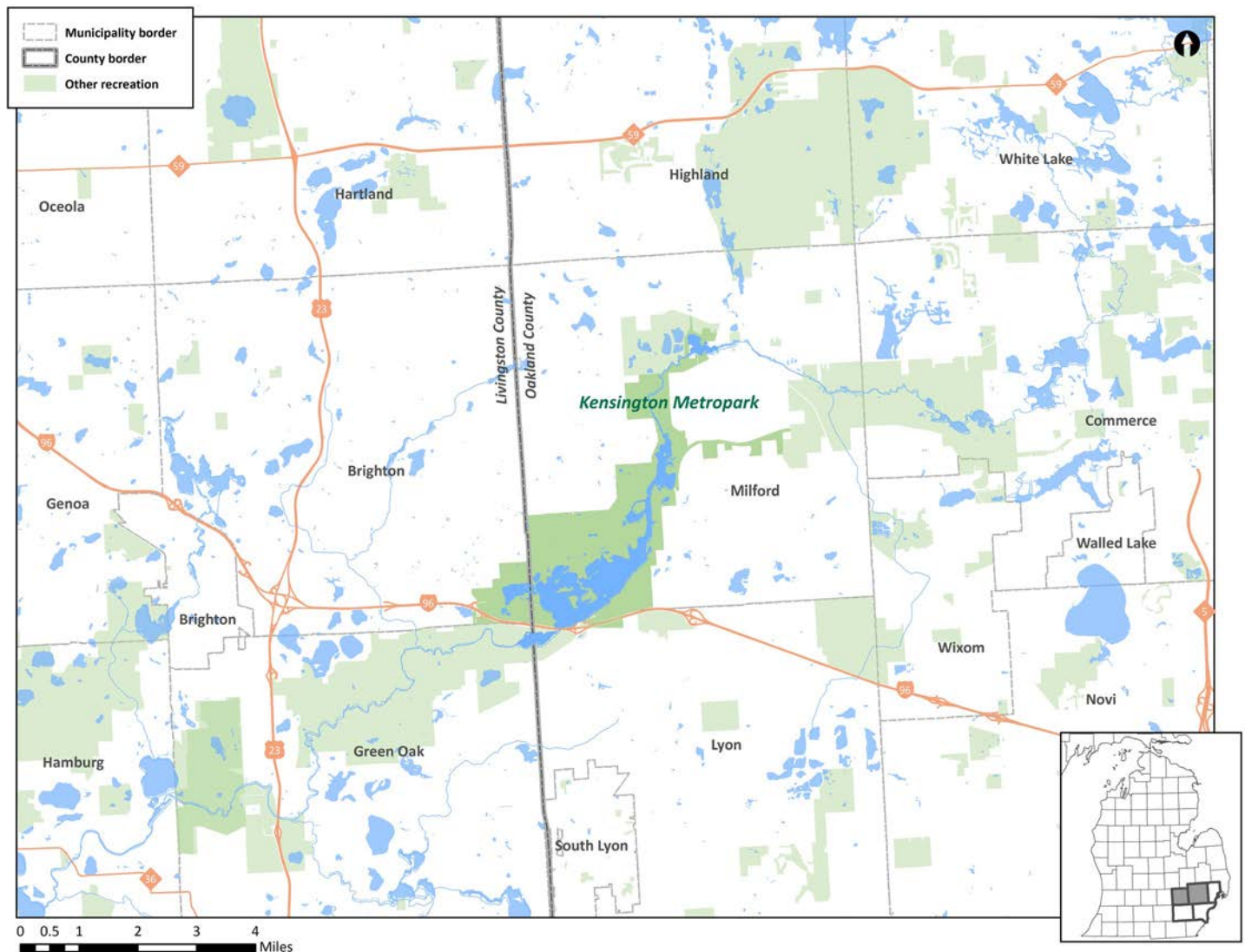
I go frequently just to see the **succession of blooms** throughout the seasons!



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.

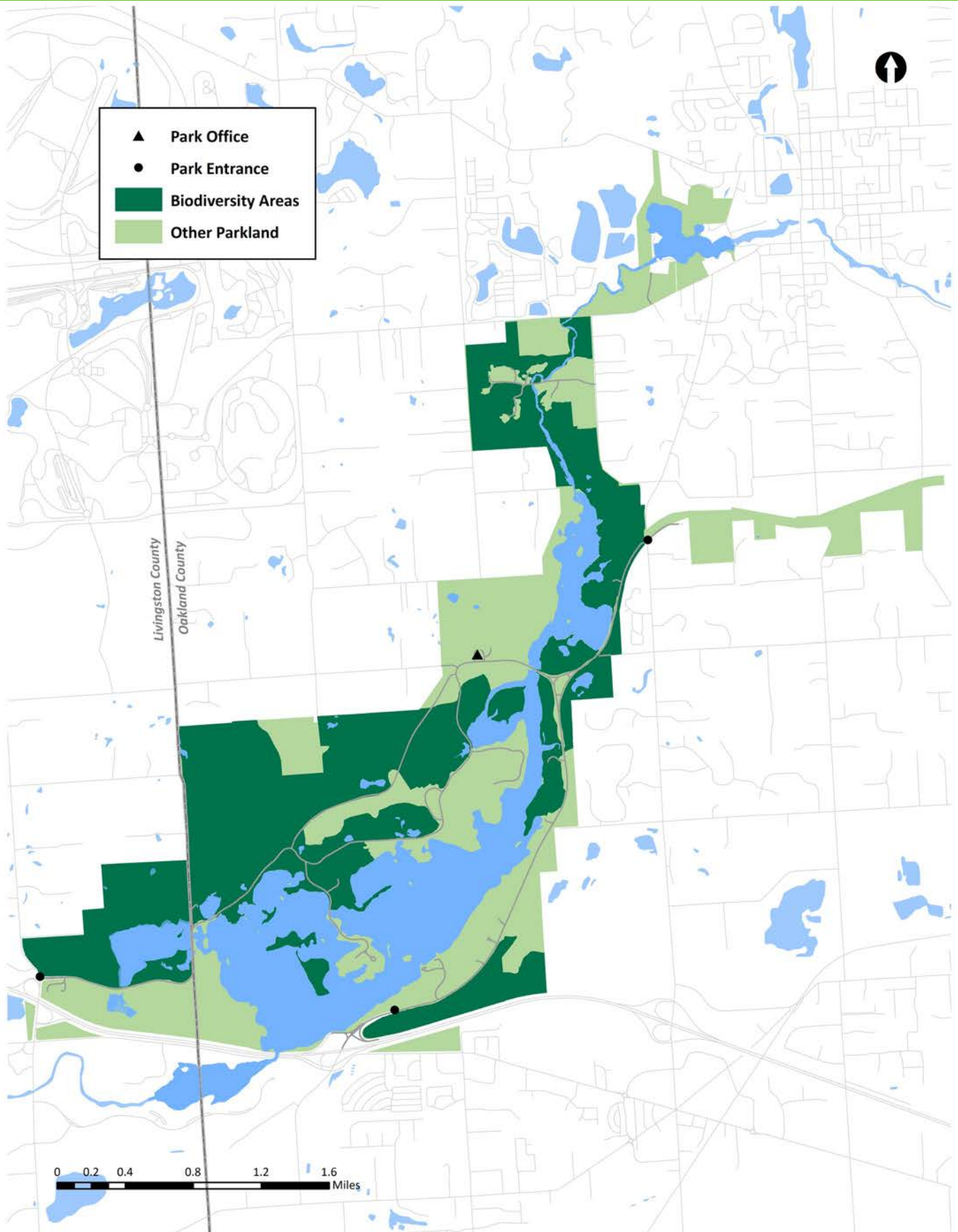


Biodiversity Areas

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
Elemental Occurrence	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	Percent Invasive Species Cover	percentage of total acreage with invasive plant coverage	areas with few invasive species require less work, have greater return on investment
FQA (Floristic Quality Assessment)	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	Community Ranking	rank assigned by the state due to natural community rarity or rate of decline	assesses the vulnerability of each natural community within the state
FQI Connectivity	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	Wetlands	the presence of wetlands	wetlands tend to have greatest diversity, and are also critical to promote healthy water resources
Size	acreage of the habitat in question	large habitats provide more diverse resources and facilitate migration, increase species fitness, resilience	Habitat Connectivity	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

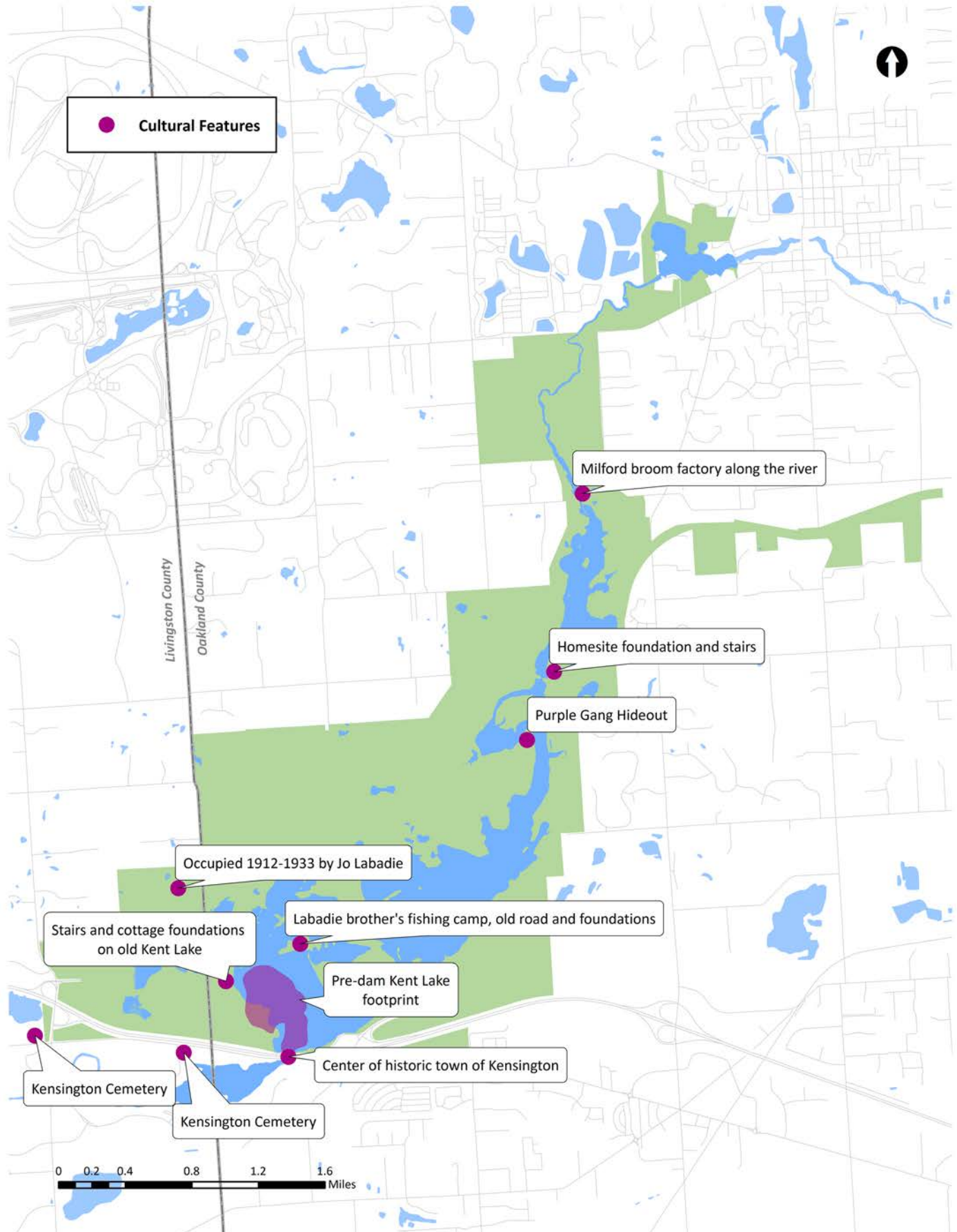
Building a Lake

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.



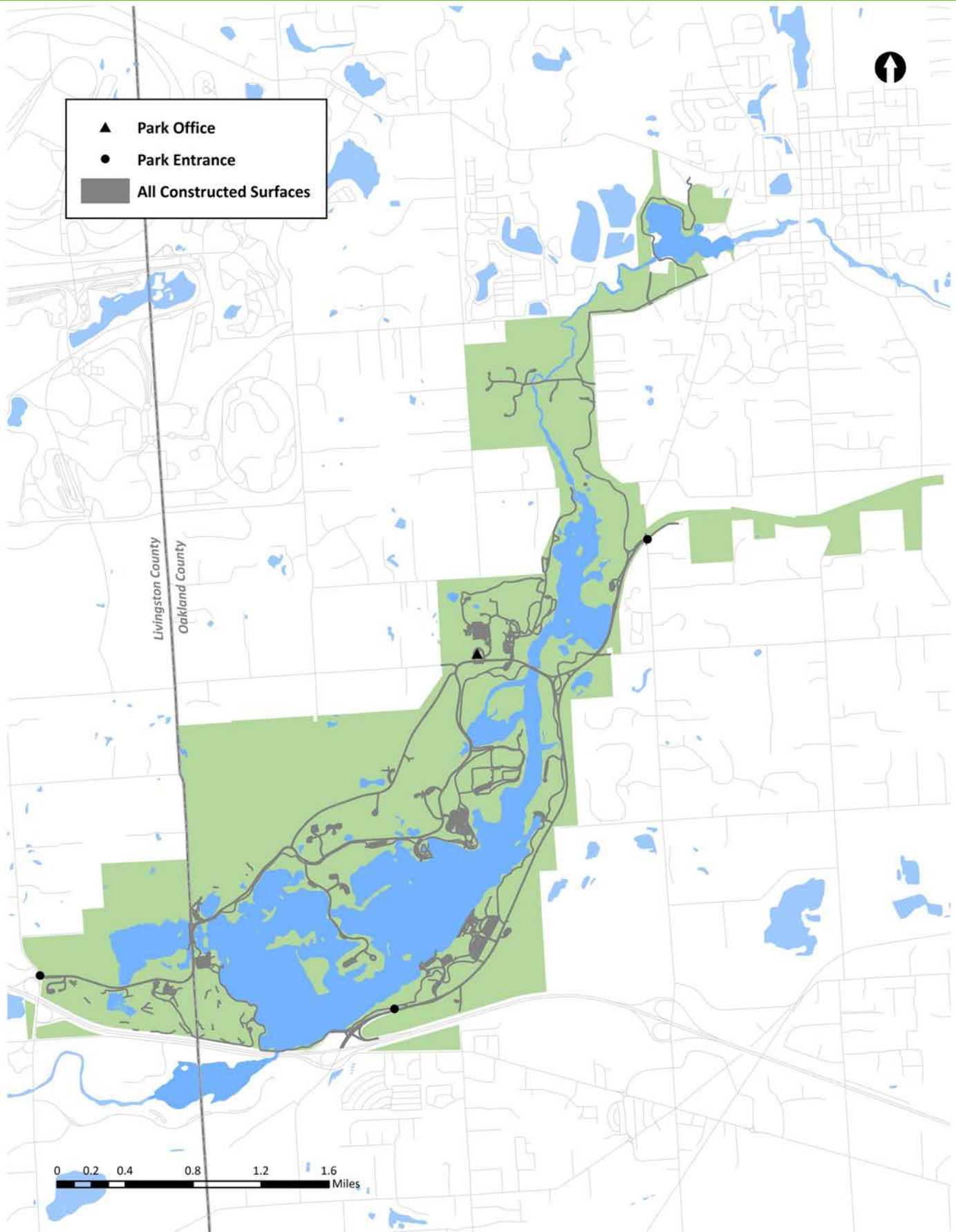
NEEDS

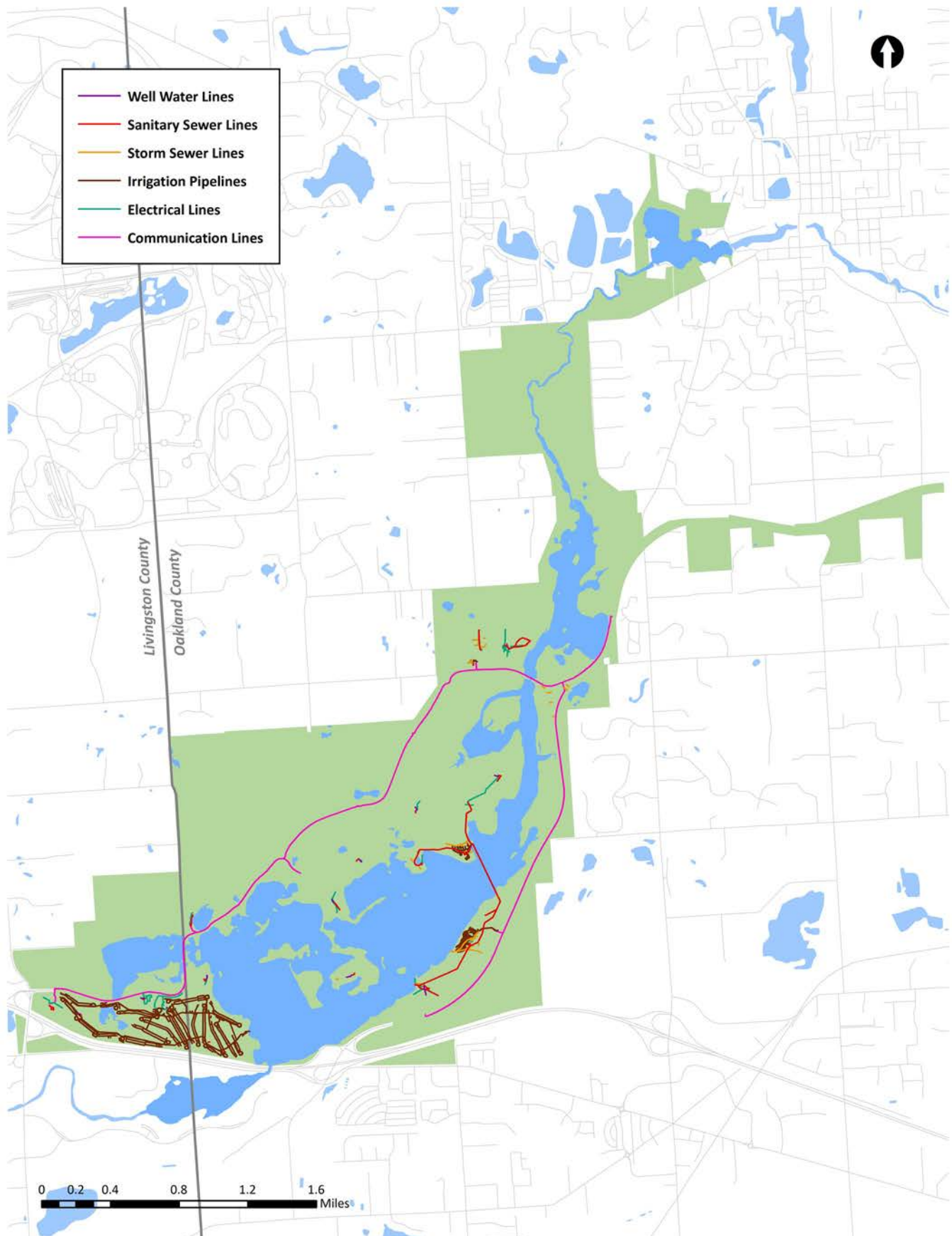
Address aging and overbuilt infrastructure

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.



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.

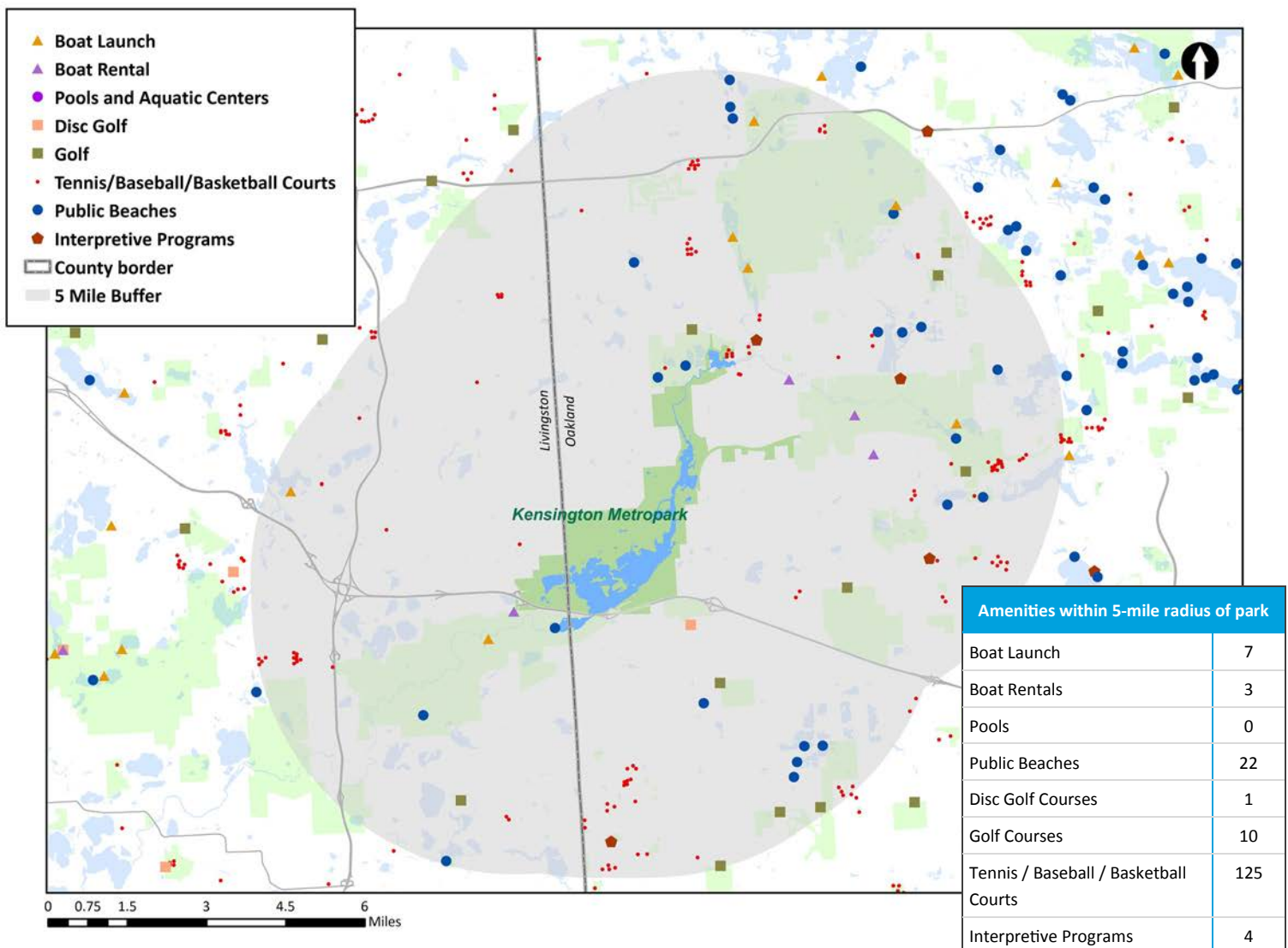
NEEDS

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

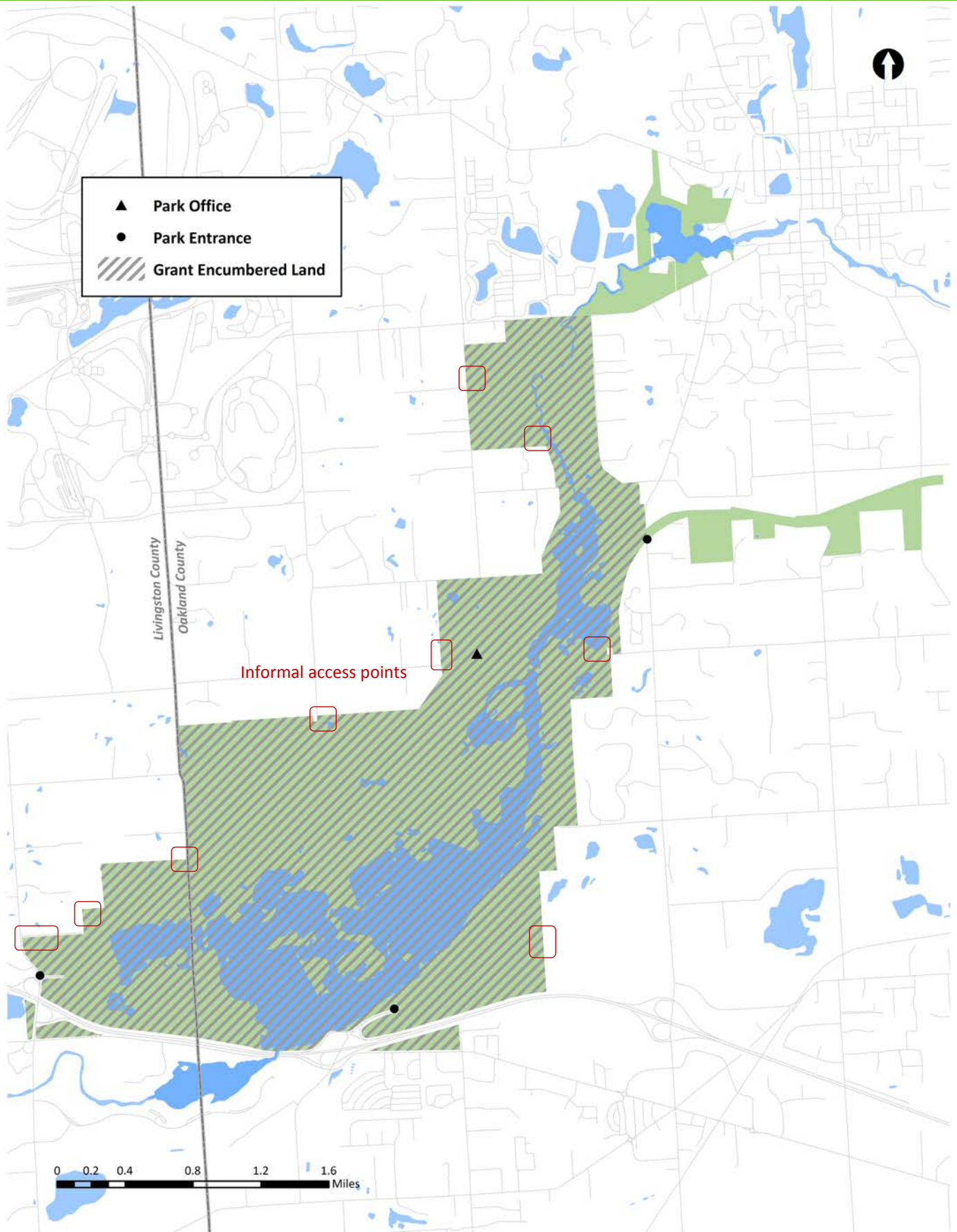
Certain spots on the park border are open to pedestrian access but not formally designated as an entrance. These must be monitored and considered in the planning process. Individuals may park on adjacent streets and enter the park on foot, affecting the tolling revenue of the park and potentially causing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

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.

CUT TOP OF POST (1") SLOPE AWAY FROM MAP HOLDER

6"

11 X 17 MAP INSERT

1" SPACE BETWEEN MAP HOLDER AND PLASTIC SIGN PANELS

1" SPACE BETWEEN MAP HOLDER AND PLASTIC SIGN PANELS

1/2" SPACE BETWEEN GROUPINGS OF PLASTIC SIGN PANELS

3" X 3" X 1/4" THICK PLASTIC PANELS. HOLES TO BE DRILLED BY PAIR STAFF, ATTACH WITH 1" BROWN HEADED SCREWS

4 X 4 X 8 POST (4'-6" EXPOSED, BURY 3'-6" IN GROUND)

ONE BAG OF CONCRETE REQUIRED FOR FOOTING

POUND SPIKES INTO POST OR INSERT REBAR THROUGH POST TO HELP BOND FOOTING TO POST

COMPACTED SUBGRADE

4'-6"

3'-6"

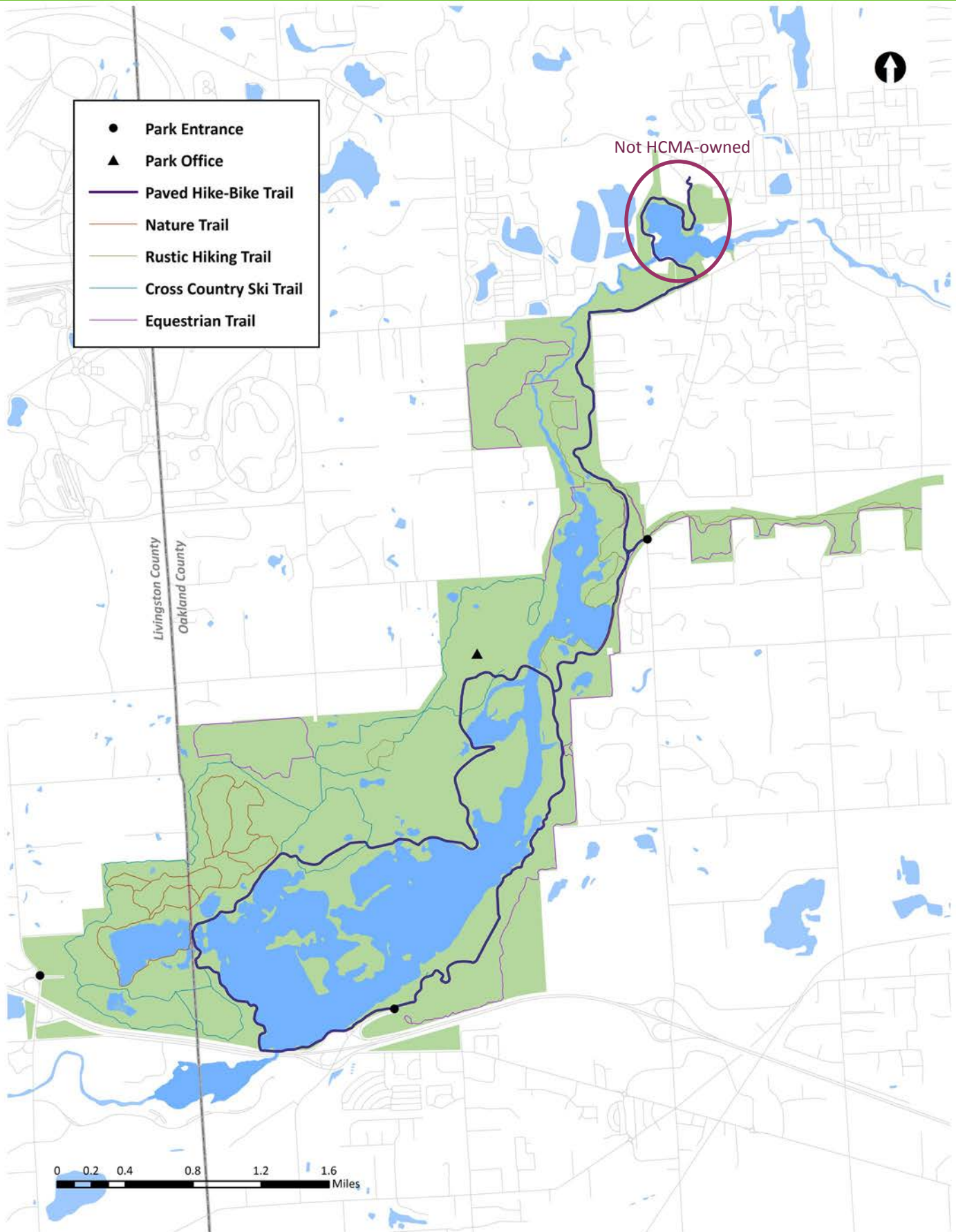
1"

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
Shared-Use Trail (Hike-Bike Trail)	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.
Nature Trail	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.
Rustic Hiking Trail	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.
Equestrian Trail	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.
Cross-Country Ski Trail	11	Cross-country skiing only. Many are used for other activities during the summer.	Motorized vehicles, snowshoes, hiking, bikes, horses and pets.	Snow covered.
Huron River Water Trail	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

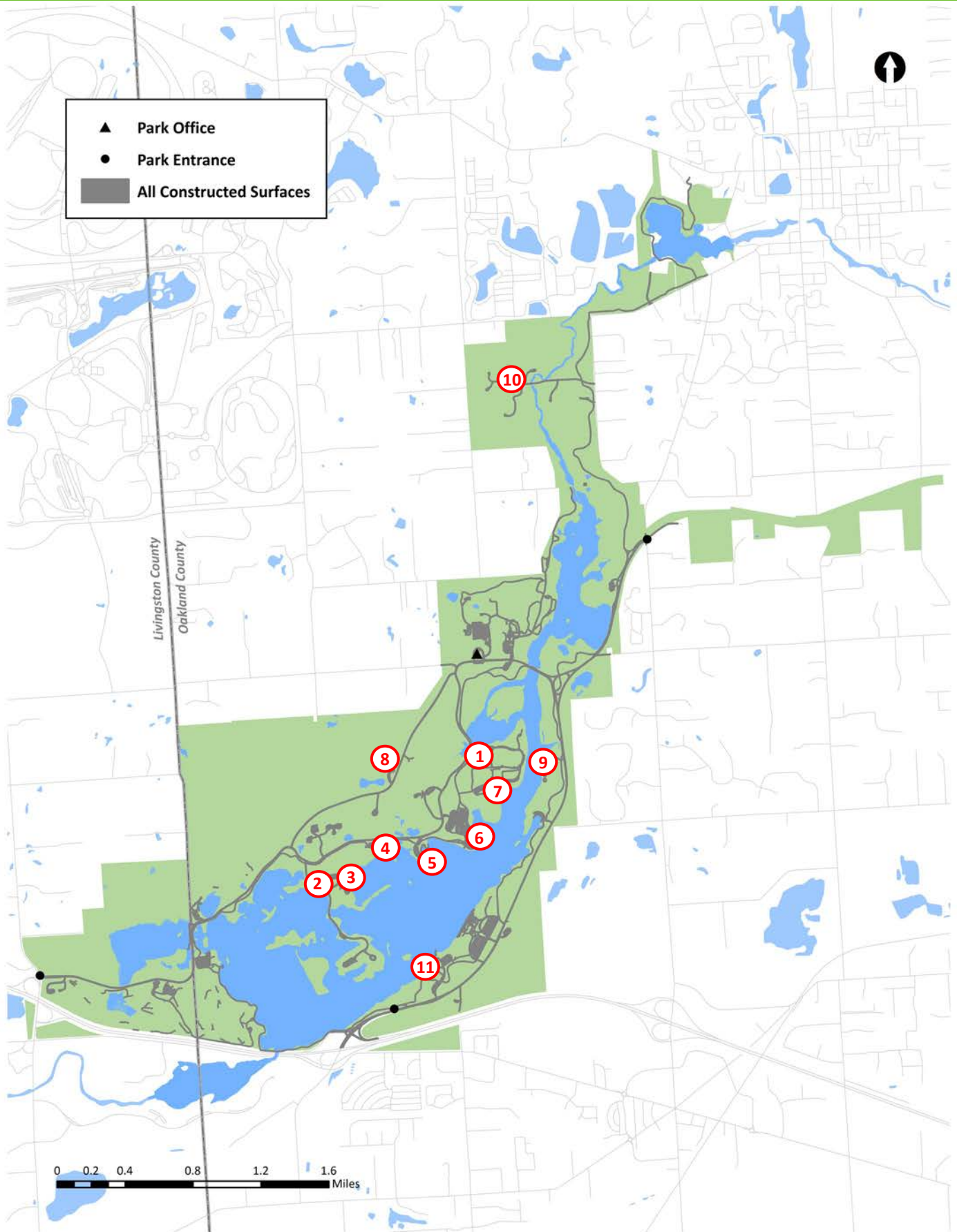
Pursue improvements to park accessibility

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.

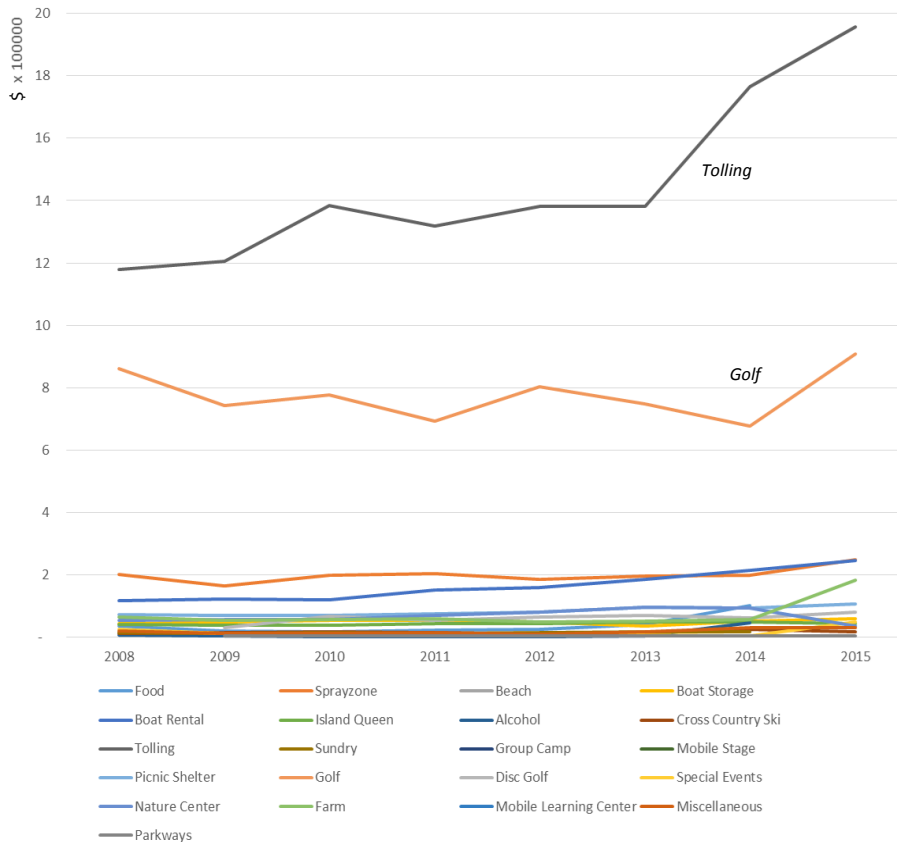
By working with the ADA Checklist provided by the ADA National Network and the Institute for Human Centered Design, the Metroparks are able to prioritize accessibility improvements of park entrances, services, public restrooms, and other park amenities. The areas mentioned in addition to others, were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

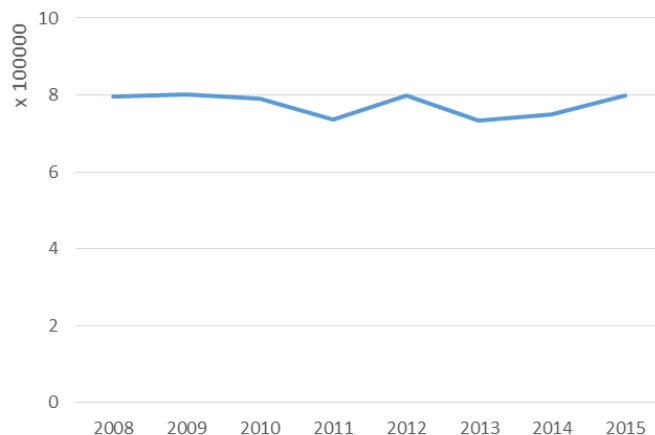
NEEDS

Maintain and build upon high vehicle entry rates

Take advantage of popularity to grow revenue and system awareness

OPPORTUNITIES

VEHICLE ENTRIES 2008-2015



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.

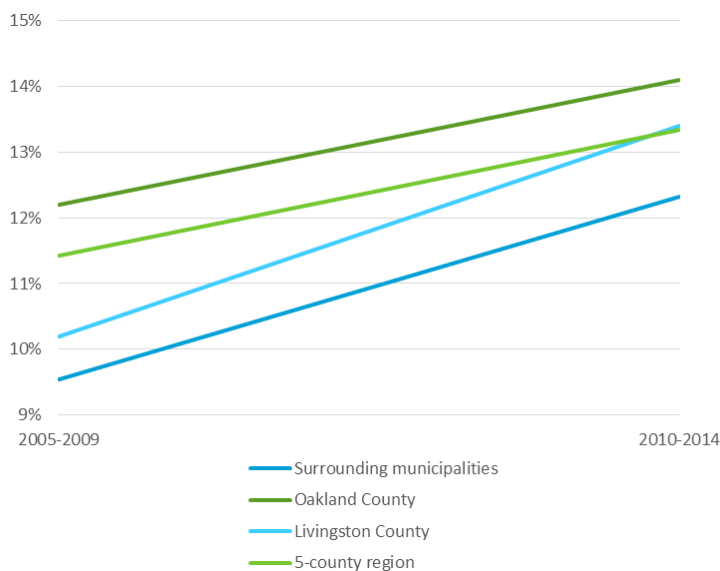
The percentage of individuals over 65 years of age is rising quickly in the region, Oakland and Macomb counties, and communities surrounding the park. The steepest climb is occurring in Livingston County. Older adults have distinct needs, often requiring accommodations for mobility and accessibility 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

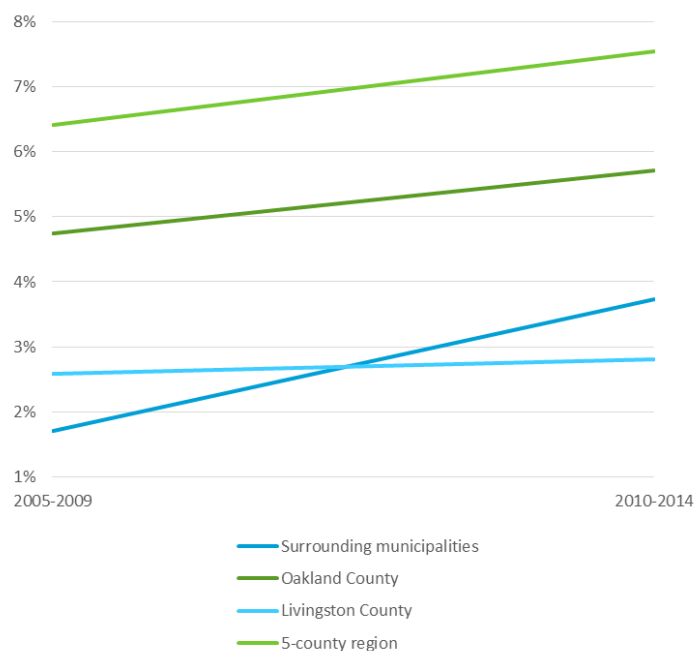
Address changing needs of new population demographics

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)



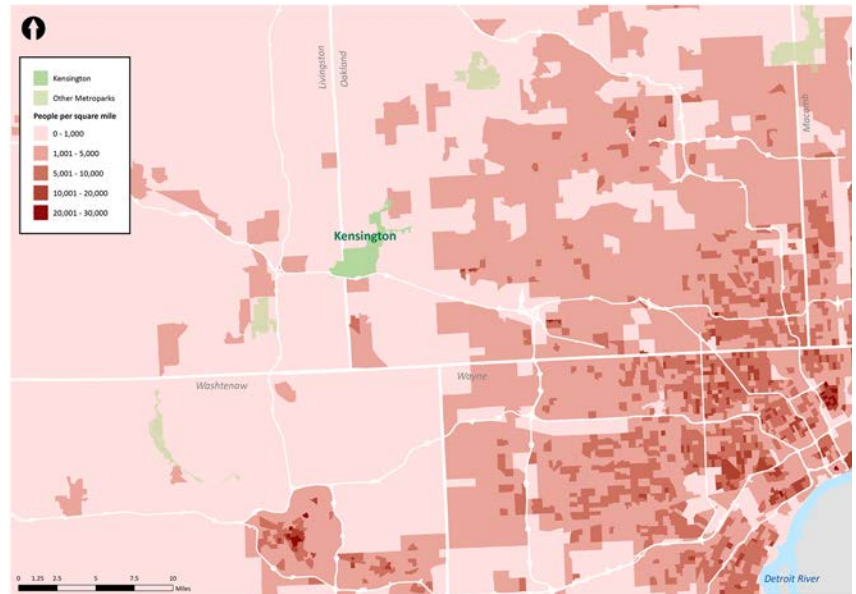
CHANGE IN PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CARS AVAILABLE, 2005-09 through 2010-14 (Source: US Census American Community Survey)

Community Influences

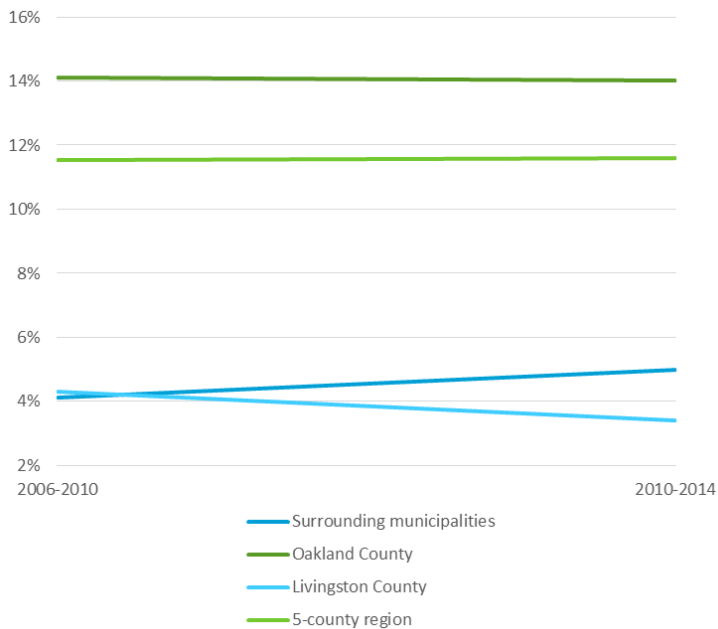
As shown below, Kensington is located past the western edge of the suburban ring around Detroit, largely in the midst of rural low-density areas with less than one thousand residents per square mile. It does touch slightly higher-density areas of Milford to the north and Lyon Township to the south. All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

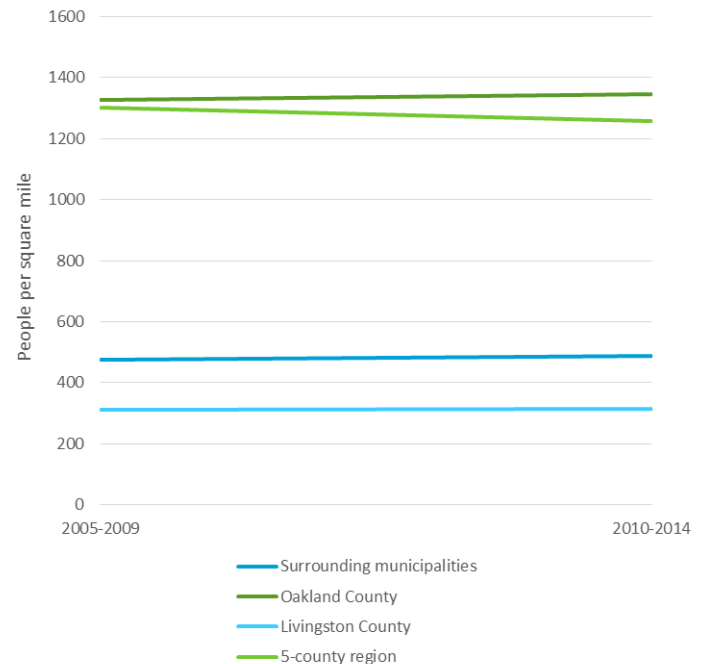
Although most households in the area still speak English as their first language, the communities around Kensington are seeing an increase in households speaking languages other than English at home. Because of this growing linguistic diversity the Metroparks are working towards more universal signage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

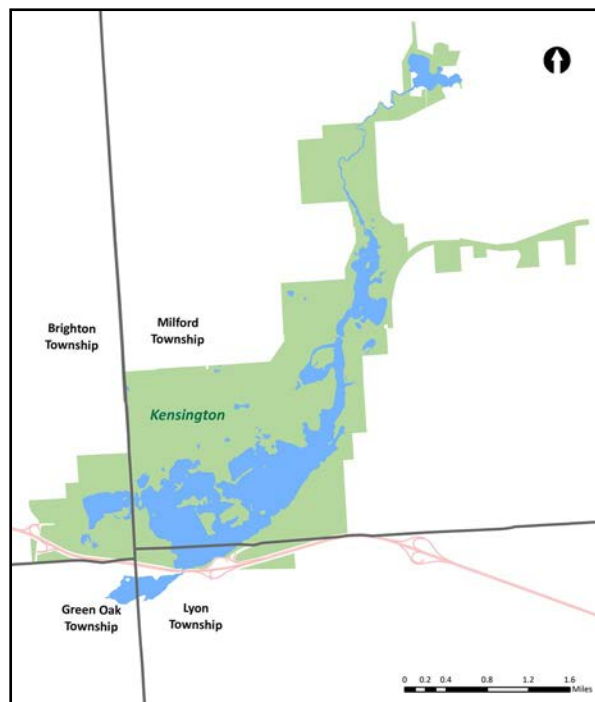
Livingston County

- 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.



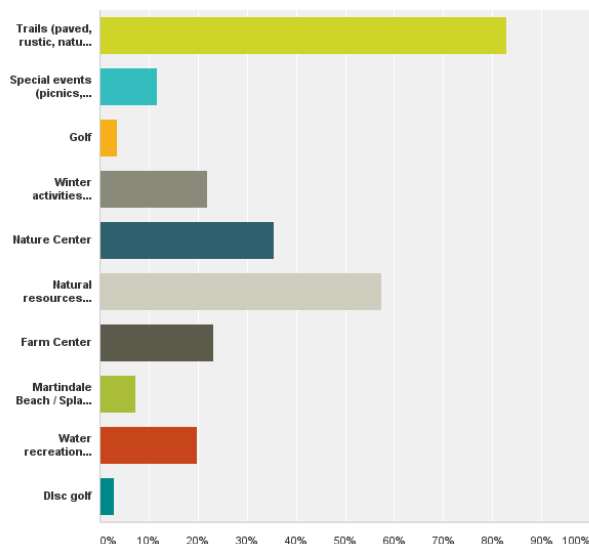
At the second public meeting, planning staff presented the action plan items for participant input. Participants at this meeting continued to voice their interest in reduced mowing and brush cutting, which will be taken into consideration during the revision of the Grasslands Management Plan by the Natural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



Directly above: photo credit Instagram @detroitdj

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

Answered: 732 Skipped: 122



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

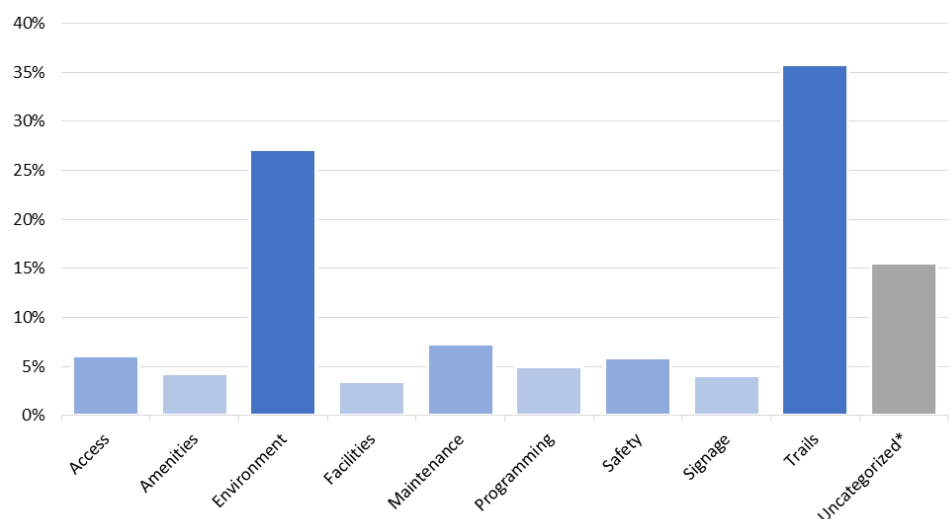
- Add dirt running trails
- Add more hiking trails
- Add more cross country ski trails
- Add mountain and fat biking trails
- Add more bike paths
- Protect nature trails

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

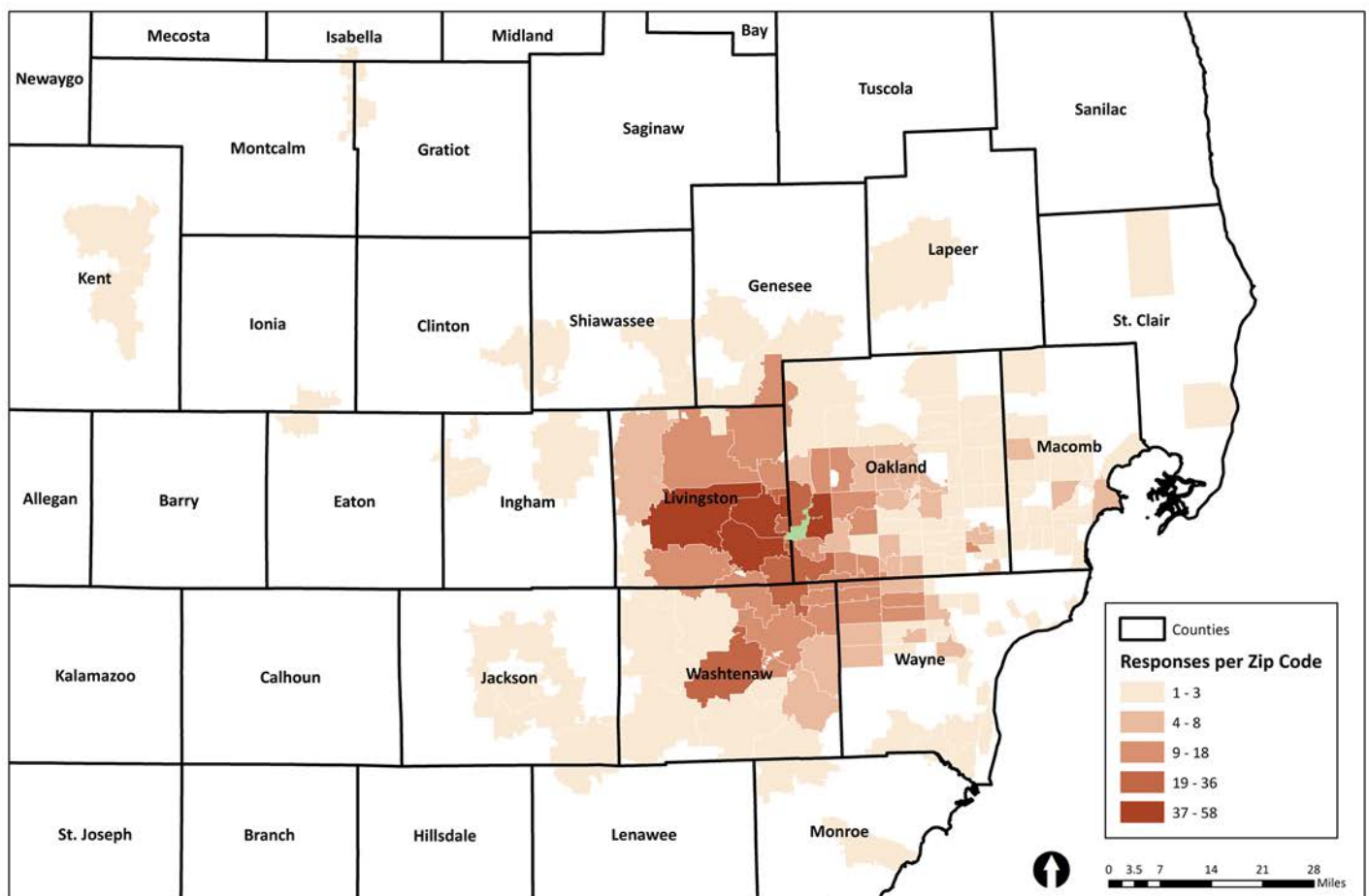
Incorporate variety of opinions and user groups into master plan

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

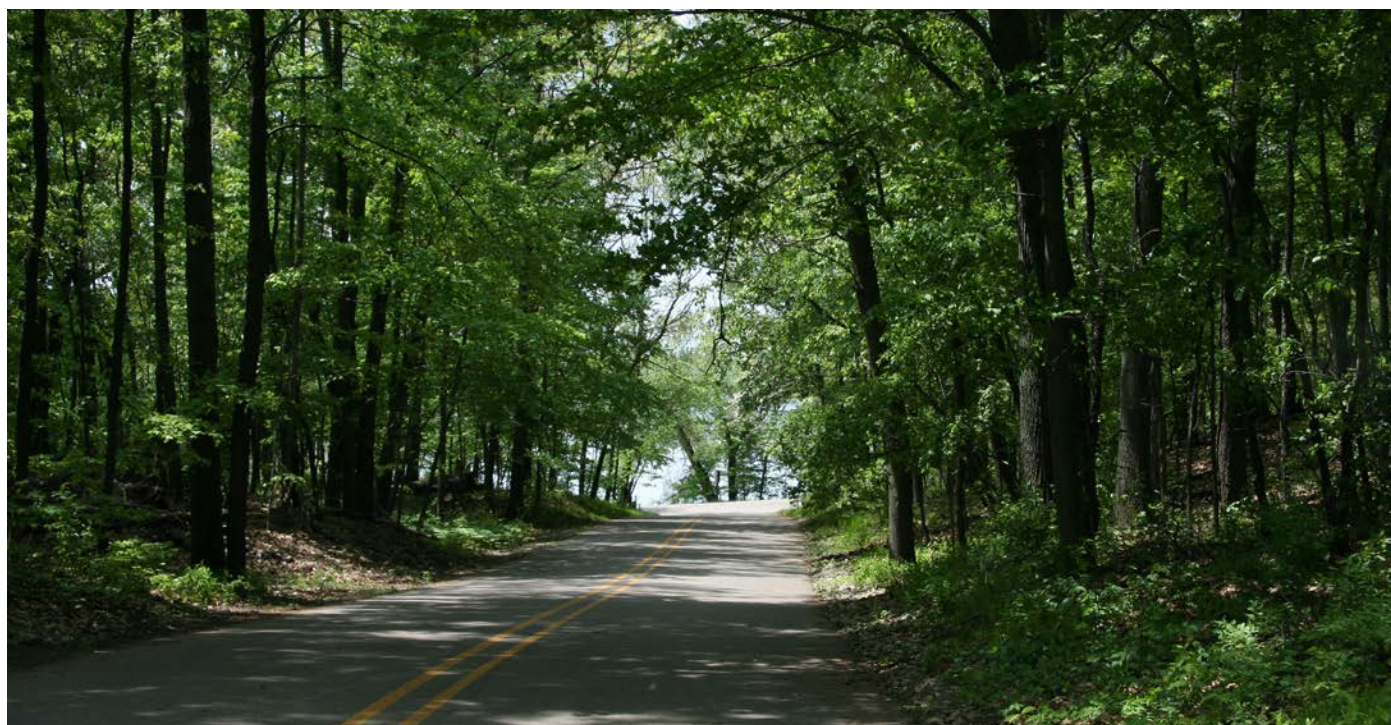
Description	Dept. Lead	Other Depts.	Other Partners	Cost Estimate	Short-Term (2017-2021)	Mid-Term (2022-2026)	Long-Term (10+ years)
Pavement projects (list developed annually, as needed)	Engineering	Planning, Operations	Contractors	various	x	x	x
Accessibility improvements, including interiors and walkways - 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		

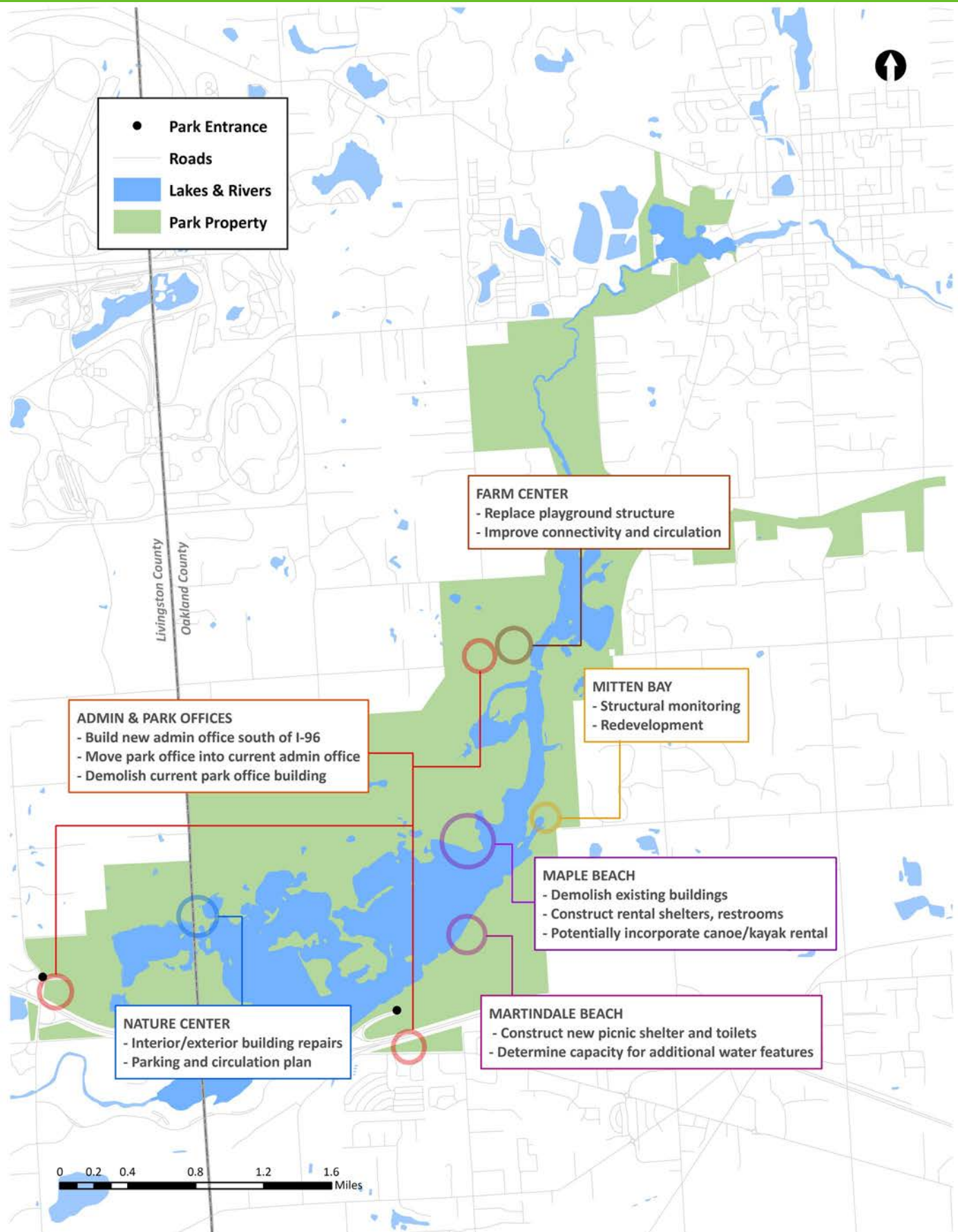
Area Plans/Studies/Initiatives (cont'd)

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



Action Plan

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**

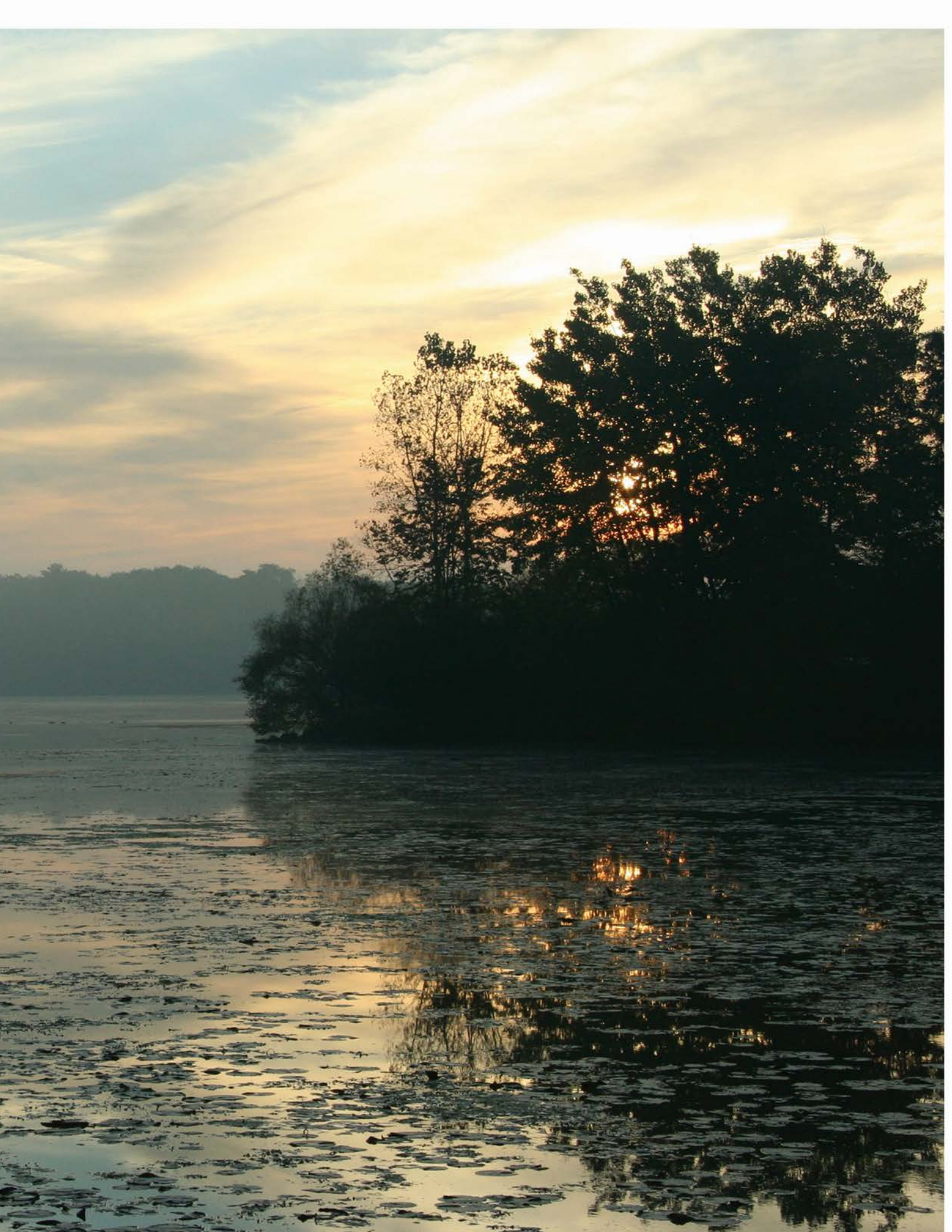
Disc Golf is a popular activity at Kensington, and the course has grown beyond the capacity of the current portable toilets. Permanent vault latrines will be constructed to better serve visitors.

- **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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