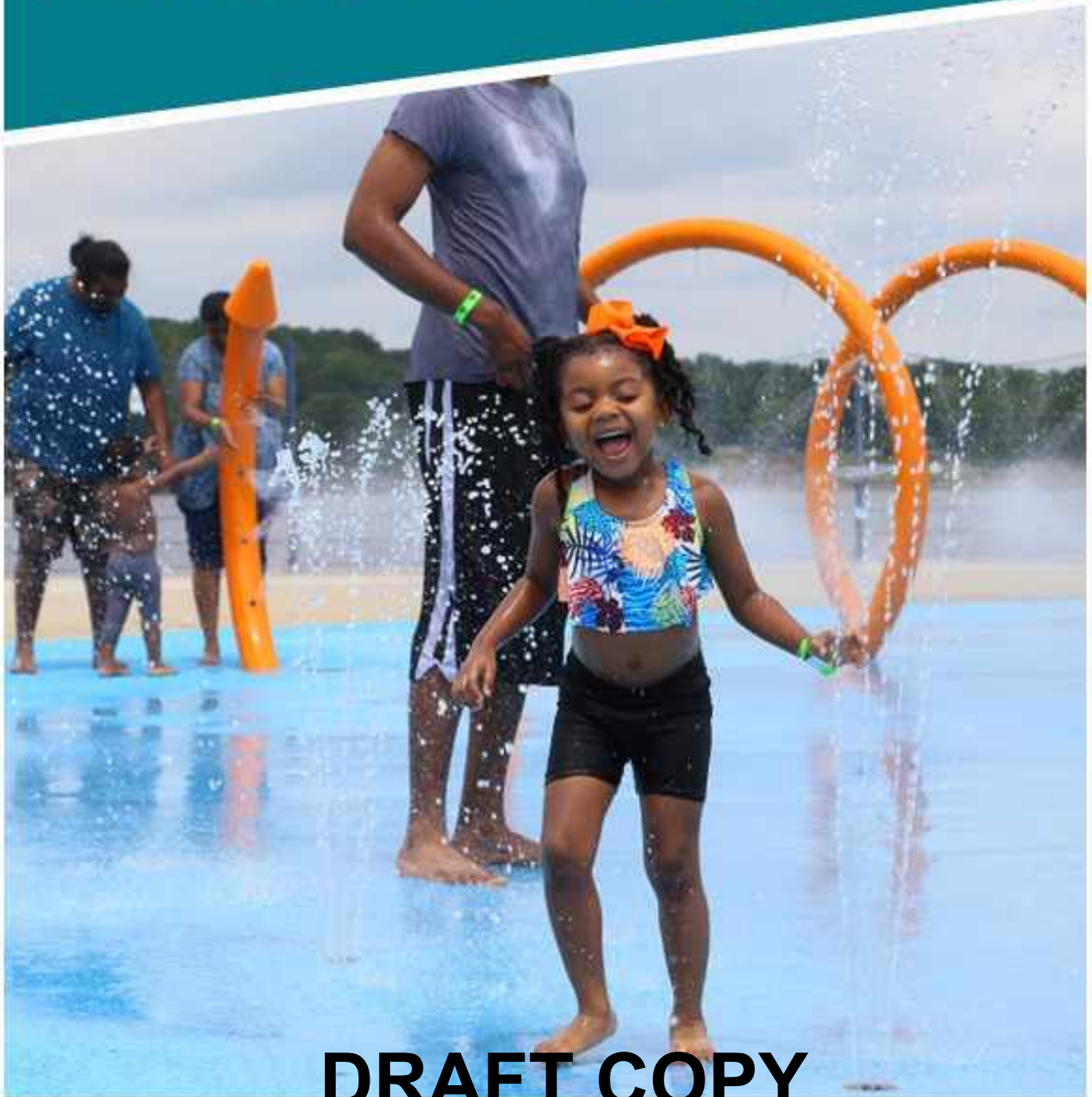


COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN 2023–2027



DRAFT COPY

**HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS
RECREATION PLAN
2023-2027**

SUBMITTED BY:
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
13000 HIGH RIDGE DRIVE
BRIGHTON | MICHIGAN | 48114
810-227-2757

PREPARED FOR:
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
PO BOX 30425
LANSING | MICHIGAN | 48909

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1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *2023-2027 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan* was approved by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) Board of Commissioners by resolution on December 8, 2022. The purpose of the recreation planning process is to develop recreation and resource conservation goals and objectives, and to establish recreation grant eligibility through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The following is a summary of the plan contents.

Community Description

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

Administrative Structure

This section includes details on the HCMA Board of Commissioners and staff, including organizational charts. The 2022 HCMA budget follows, identifying anticipated revenues and expenditures. Major redevelopment projects are highlighted, and the Capital Improvements, Major Maintenance, and Capital Equipment budget categories are described.

Between 2015-2019 volunteers contributed an average of more than 25,000 hours annually in addition to 9,865 hours during a global pandemic in 2020, and several partner organizations help HCMA provide the region with high-quality and innovative recreation.

Recreation Inventory

This section of the plan features an inventory of the recreation assets available at each of the 13 Metroparks. The inventory includes information on the general location, function, and history of the park, statistics, a park map, a biodiversity map outlining the location of critical natural resources, a list of grants received and map of corresponding encumbered land, and the findings of staff's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation for facilities at each park. In addition, an inventory of boating facilities was performed including location, purpose, size, accessibility, and site development, programs/events, and maintenance schedules.

The inventory then identifies all Metro, state, and county

parks in the five HCMA counties and enumerates the recreational facilities available in each.

Planning Process

The five-year update to the individual park master plans were utilized for the planning process, staff input meetings from the individual park master plans is summarized here to provide context. This section then describes the planning timeline and the various factors that informed the plan.

The *2023-2027 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan* utilized several strategies to solicit public input. A stakeholder meeting was held in each HCMA district (Western, Eastern, and Southern) to gather input from important partners. A representative survey of the five-county region was conducted by a contractor to determine recreational needs and interests. The results of this survey are summarized below. Finally, a public review period for 32 days followed by a public hearing was held at the December 2022 board meeting.

2022 HCMA Community Needs Assessment Survey

- Over 80% of households have visited Metroparks in the past year
- Over 80% of households support facility renovations
- The 5 highest priorities for system-wide facilities include:
 - Trails— paved, multi-use (walking, biking)
 - Beaches
 - Natural areas
 - Trails— unpaved, nature trails
 - Trails— unpaved, hiking
- The 5 highest priorities for system-wide recreation programs include:
 - Concerts
 - Bird/wildlife watching
 - Pet-friendly programs
 - Walking clubs/programs
 - Camping

Goals and Objectives

This section begins with an overview of demographic and economic trends in the region at large and each HCMA district, as well as access to recreational resources. The regional plans referenced in developing goals and objectives are listed, followed by an analysis of the HCMA fiscal outlook for the next five years. Regulatory issues taken into account for planning purposes are also described. The following goals were identified for the *2023-2027 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan*:

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

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

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

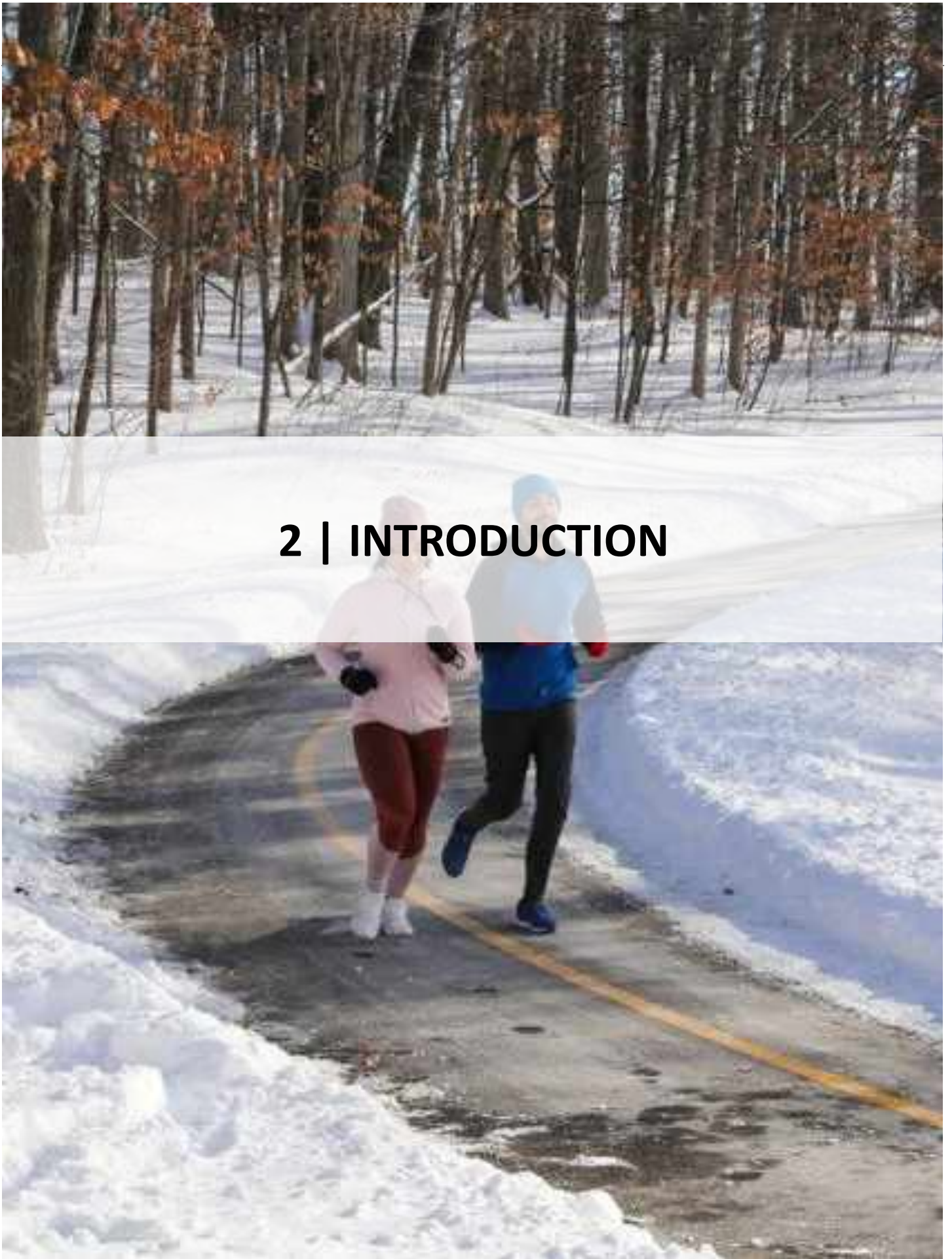
4. **STEWARDSHIP** | Protect and restore natural biodiversity while balancing resource management with recreational activities.

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

Action Plan

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





THE METROPARKS SYSTEM

History

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. Their 1937 vision 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.

The first acquisition took place in 1944. when a 385-acre parcel of land formed the beginning of Lake St. Clair Metropark. In 1945, 2,600 acres were acquired to form Kensington Metropark. The land for Lower Huron was secured with the help of a \$1,000,000 grant from the State Legislature in 1946. Only eight years after the Authority was established, land acquisition reached 6,300 acres.

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 0.2070 mills.



Land

Over their history the Metroparks have received several grants from the DNR for land acquisition and development of recreational facilities.¹ 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. The grants from the DNR and other sources have allowed the Metroparks to develop high-quality recreational facilities.

Trails

Trails have become increasingly popular and contribute to the character of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. The extent and diversity of trails mean that residents have numerous opportunities to get out and enjoy the natural areas of the Metroparks.

Infrastructure

The Metroparks contain a number of buildings, surfaces, and utilities. Many of these were constructed years or decades ago, and require maintenance to serve the recreational needs of park visitors.

Facilities	
Golf Courses	8
Disc Golf Courses	5
Playgrounds	78
Picnic Shelters	86
Picnic Areas	87
Tennis Courts	4
Pickleball Courts	3
Basketball Courts	15
Sand Volleyball Courts	35
Baseball Fields	21



¹ Grants received are listed for each park in Chapter 7 | Recreation Inventory



Facilities and Centers

The Metroparks feature a number of facilities that define their 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.

Seasonal Activities

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks offer a variety of recreational activities available year-round. During the warmer months, aquatic facilities such as pools are open to the public. Visitors can also take advantage of lakes through boat rentals, boat fishing, and swimming.

During the colder months, visitors can enjoy winter recreation activities. Sledding and cross-country skiing are popular, and some parks also offer ice fishing, snowboarding hills, and ice skating rinks.

Water Features

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks were established along two major waterways in Southeast Michigan: the Clinton River and the Huron River. The park system also features 14 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and 3,634 acres of inland lakes.



Land	
All land (acres)	~25,000
Encumbered for recreation	14,761
Leased for farming	491
Leased for recreation	450
Leased for utilities	24

Trails	
Nature/hiking	59
Paved/shared use	91
Equestrian	36
Snowshoeing	1
Cross country ski (traditional/skate)	85
Mountain biking	22
Maintenance path	81
Total (miles)	375

Aquatic Facilities	
Pools	4
Beaches	5
Spray pads	2
Boat launches	50
Canoe/Kayak launches	27
Boat rental facilities	7
Fishing platforms	18

Winter Facilities	
Ice skating areas	4
Sledding areas	8
Cross country skiing	10
Snowboarding	2

Infrastructure	
Buildings	475
Roads (miles)	68
Parking Spaces	19,332



MISSION

To bring the benefits of the parks and recreation to the people of southeast Michigan. All the people. All their lives.

VISION

To be a unifying force— and indispensable resource— in southeast Michigan: One Region. One Metroparks. Endless Experiences.

CORE VALUES

- **Access:** Make the Metroparks available to all in the region, regardless of race, age, income, gender, or ability.
- **Commitment:** Treat all employees, constituents, and stakeholders as partners in our shared mission and to enhance the health and well-being of all residents in southeast Michigan.
- **Diversity:** Embrace and reflect the region's richness— both its natural environment and the communities within it.
- **Equity:** Create a system that more fairly serves all individual, families, and communities across the region.





REGIONAL SERVICE AREA

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

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

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

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



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

COUNTIES

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

Livingston County

Livingston County is located halfway between Detroit and the state's capitol of Lansing, in the western part of Southeast Michigan. It encompasses 574 square miles and contains 20 municipalities. As of 2020, the county population is 193,866, an increase of 7.1% from 2010. A large portion of the population, 55.5%, works outside the county. The current leading job industry is *Information and Financial Activities*, which is projected to continue to grow through 2045, followed by *Retail Trade*.¹ Livingston County contains Huron Meadows Metropark in Green Oak Township and a portion of Kensington Metropark in Brighton Township.

Macomb County

Macomb County is the ninth-smallest of Michigan's 83 counties at 482 square miles, yet it ranks third in population, with 881,217 residents in 2020. Of the county's 27 municipalities three are among the ten largest communities in Michigan: Warren (3rd), Sterling Heights (4th), and Clinton Township (8th). Manufacturing is the leading industry, however it is forecasted to decline through 2045. Currently the fastest growing industry is *Healthcare Services*, which is projected to continue to increase through 2045. Located within Macomb County are three Metroparks: Wolcott Mill Metropark in Ray Township, Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township, and part of Stony Creek Metropark, most of which is located within Washington Township.

Wayne County

Wayne County is the nation's eighth-largest county and the most populous in the state with 1,844,886 residents. Its 43 local communities include smaller cities like Plymouth and Northville, as well as the City of Detroit. The auto industry was replaced in 2010 by *Knowledge-Based Services* as the leading work industry. After 2020, *Healthcare Services* is projected to transition into the leading industry through 2045. Wayne County contains four Metroparks. Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods Metroparks are all connected via parkland and trails within Van Buren Township and Huron Township. Lake Erie Metropark connected to Oakwoods Metropark by the Iron Belle Trail is located further south in Brownstown Township, near the border with Monroe County.



¹ SEMCOG 2045 Forecast, <http://semcog.org/plans-for-the-region/regional-forecast>

Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County contains 33 municipalities, including Ypsilanti, Chelsea, and Ann Arbor. Covering 706 square miles, Washtenaw County is home to three Metroparks: Hudson Mills Metropark in Webster and Dexter Townships, and Dexter-Huron and Delhi Metroparks in Scio Township. The county's population is projected to increase throughout 2045, from 372,258 in 2020. Growing job industries include *Professional and Technical Services & Corporate HQ* and *Healthcare Services*.

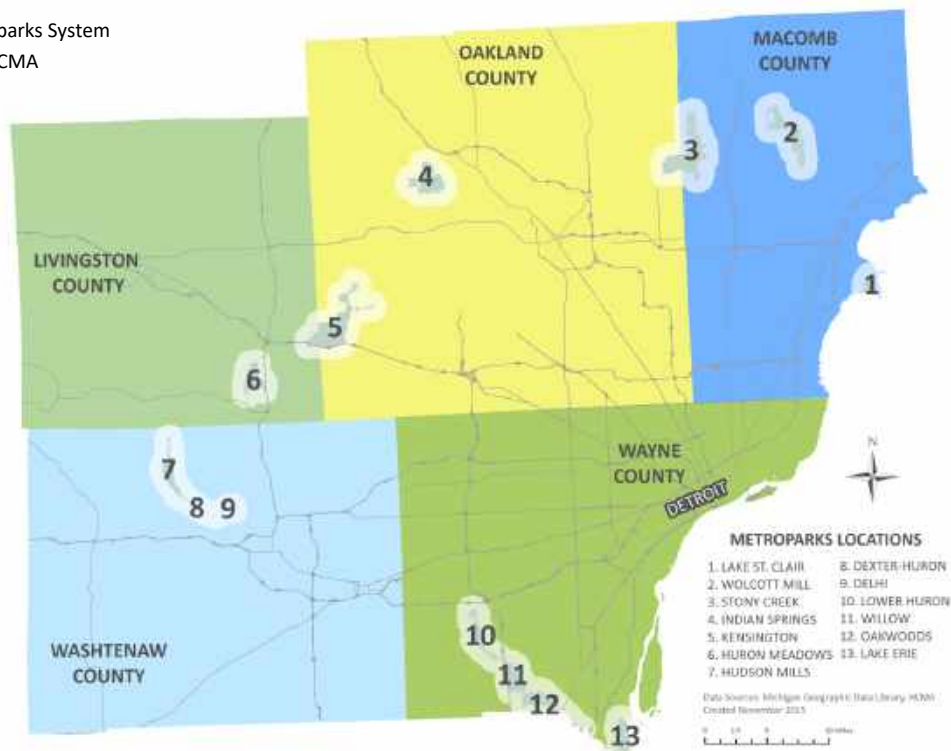
Oakland County

Oakland County covers 907 square miles and contains 61 municipalities, making it the largest by size of the five HCMA counties. Nearly 70% of residents work within the county and 14.2% of all people employed in Michigan work in Oakland County. Oakland County had a population of 1,274,395 based on Census 2020, which is projected to increase through 2045. During this period, Oakland County will begin to see a decline in *Retail Trade and Manufacturing*, and growth in *Professional and Technical Services & Corporate HQ*. The county contains Indian Springs Metropark in Springfield and White Lake townships, part of Stony Creek Metropark in Oakland Township, and a portion of Kensington Metropark in Milford and Lyon townships.

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



Figure 3.2 | Metroparks System
Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a yellow and grey life vest and white shorts, stands on a blue and green paddleboard on a calm lake. She is holding a black paddle. In the background, two other people are also on paddleboards. The water is clear, showing yellowish-green algae or reeds at the bottom. A large tree is on the left, and a blue sky is above. A semi-transparent white box with black text is overlaid in the center.

4 | ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

LEADERSHIP

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.

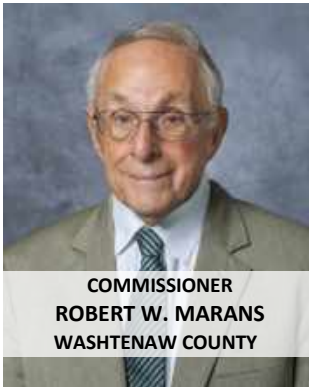
Two commissioners, appointed by the Governor of Michigan for a term of four years, serve as representatives at large. Five commissioners, one each to represent the counties of Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, and Washtenaw, are appointed for a term of six years by the board of commissioners of the above-named counties.

Director is the Chief Executive Office 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.

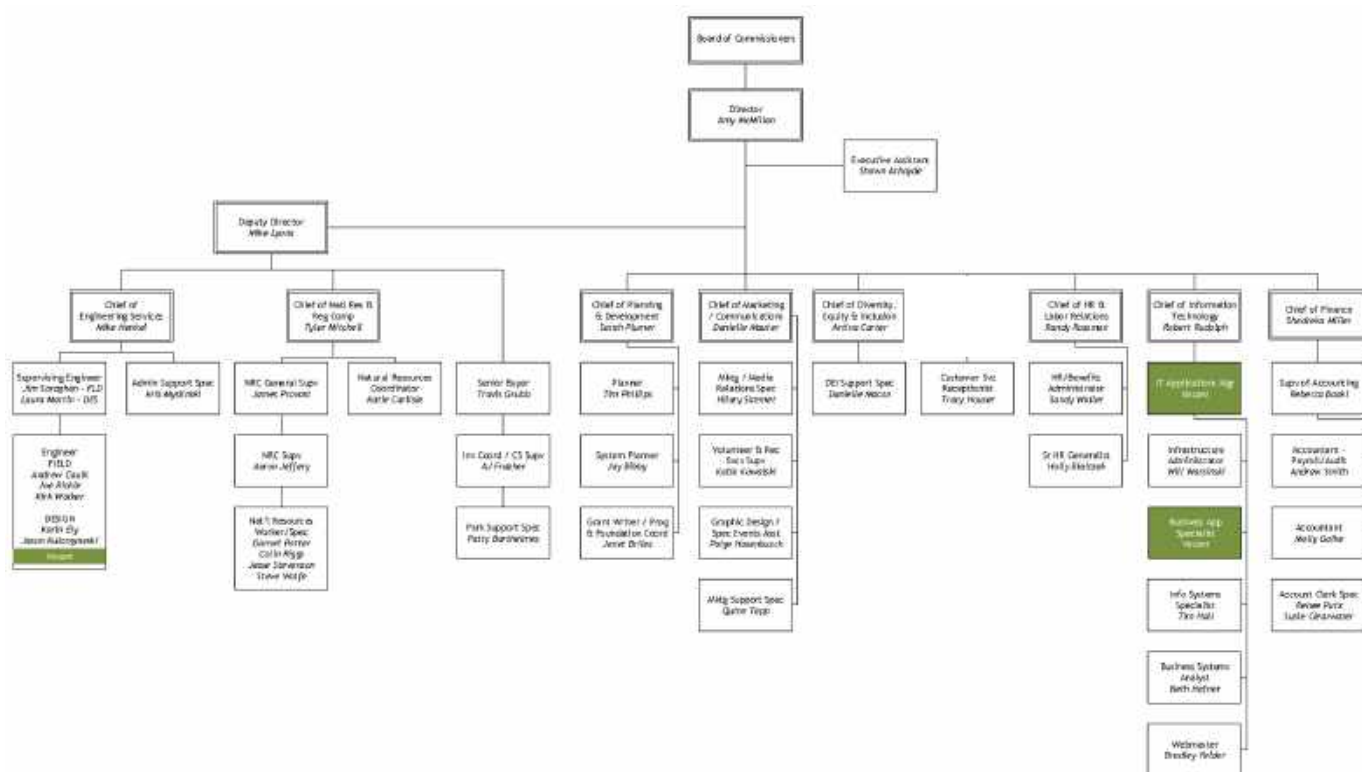
The **Metroparks Police** is an Operational Department tasked with ensuring that everyone can enjoy the parks in a safe and secure environment.



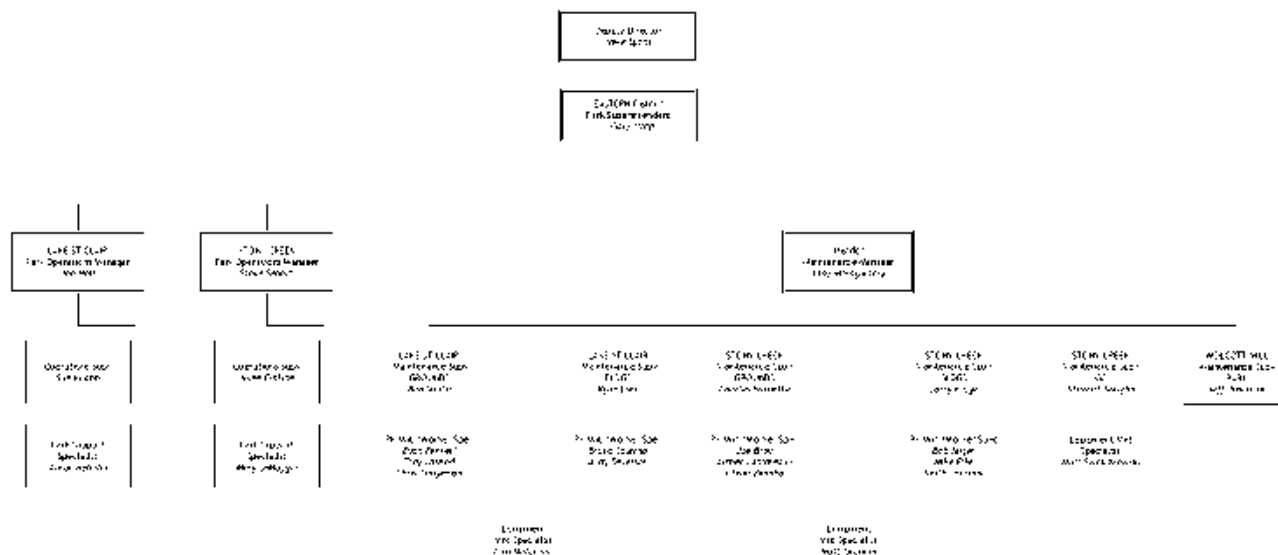
2023 Board of Commissioners



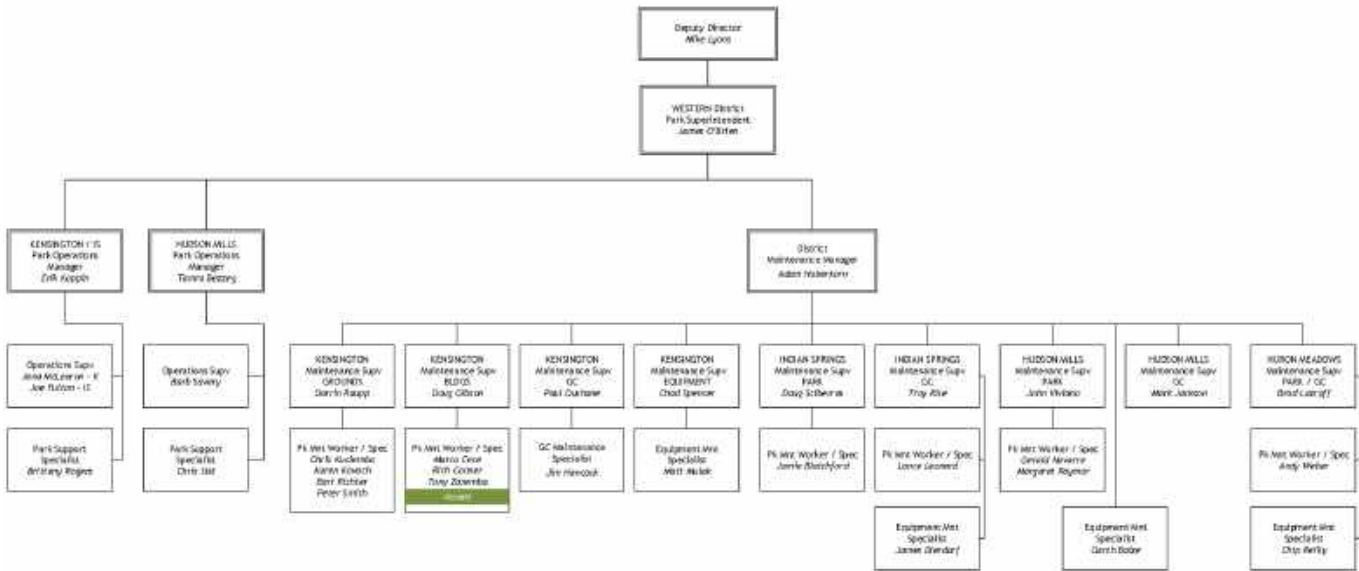
Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Administrative Office



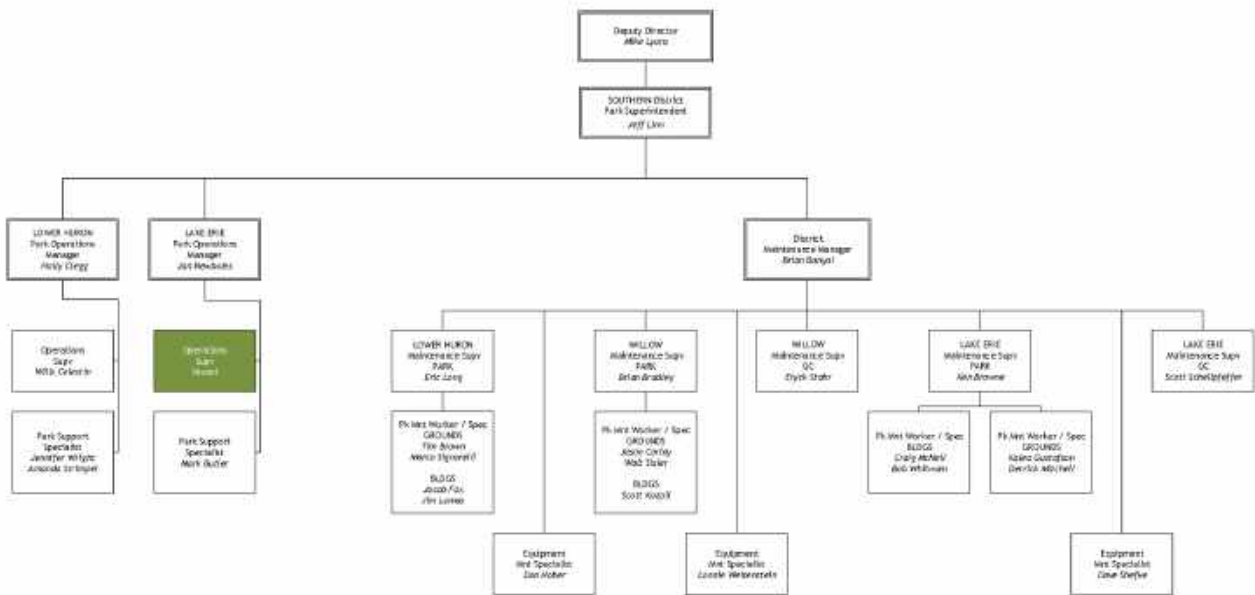
Huron-Clinton Metroparks Eastern District



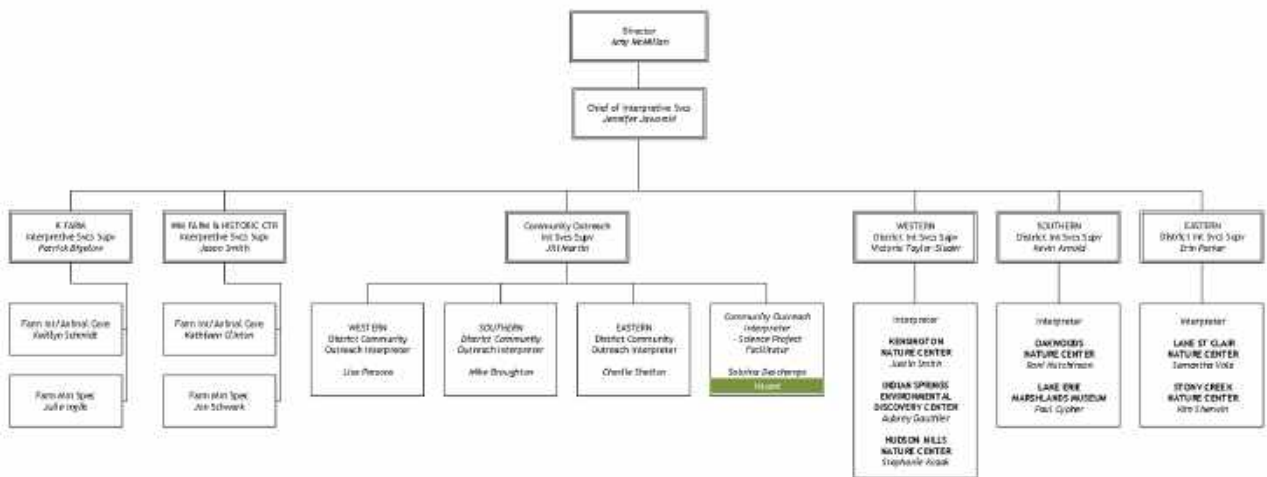
Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Western District



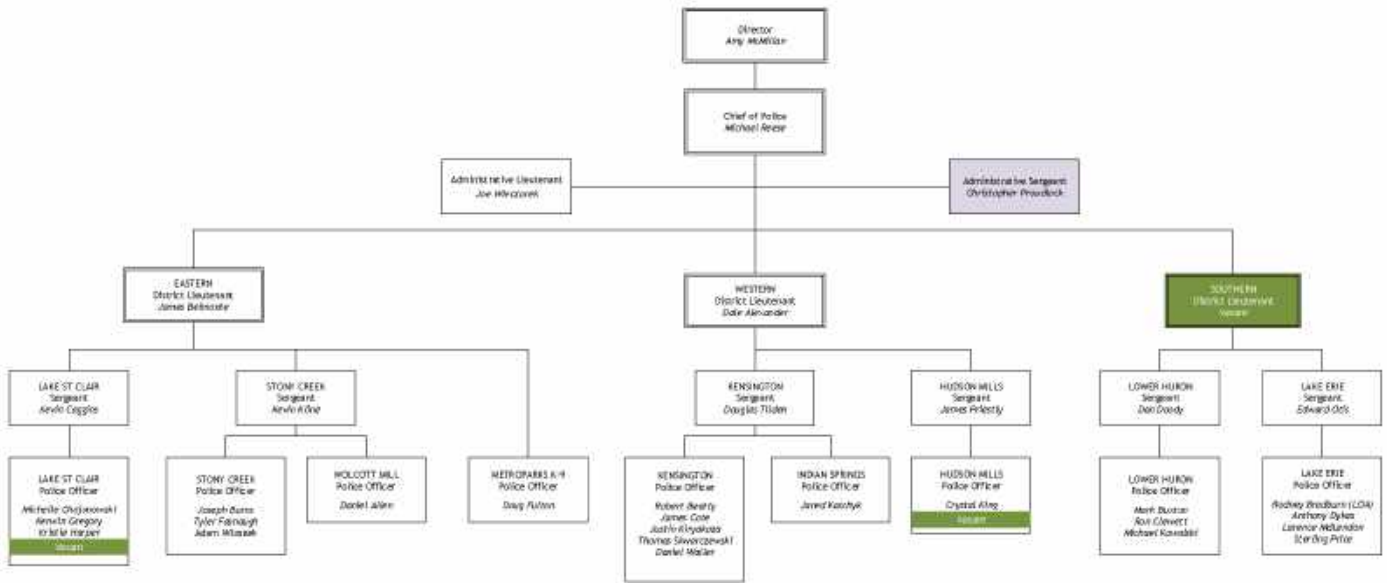
Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Southern District



Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Interpretive Services & Community
Outreach



Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Police Department



FUNDING

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks receive revenue from seven main sources, listed below from greatest to least.

Property Taxes

The single largest source of revenue for the Authority is derived from the ad valorem property tax levy within the five-county park district. The Board of Commissioners approved the 2017 tax rate of .2140 mills (reduced by Headlee override) upon each dollar of state taxable valuation. This rate was formerly .2500 mills. The Authority will not recover (increase) this millage rate due to Proposal A, which caps future taxable growth to the lower of the rate of inflation or 5%. The inflation factor for 2017 taxable values was 1.009%.

County	2017 Estimated Tax Levy
Livingston	\$1,728,341
Macomb	\$5,396,668
Oakland	\$11,010,893
Washtenaw	\$3,203,075
Wayne	\$7,893,747
Total Service Area	\$29,232,724

Park Operations

Examples of park activities that generate revenue are golf, tolling, aquatics, interpretive programs, boat rental, and many others.

Grants

This revenue category includes money the Authority will be receiving from an outside agency to help fund specific projects within the parks.

Donations/Foundation Support

The three major categories set up by the foundation are Annual Campaign, Grant Funding, and Major Gifts. The Annual Campaign includes memberships and general donations from patrons. Grant Funding includes grants applied for and given to the Foundation, and Major Gifts include large amounts of money presented to the Foundation for a restricted use within the Metroparks.

Interest

This category includes interest income derived from investments in Certificates of Deposit and U.S. Agency issues.

Sale of Capital Assets

The Authority has an annual auction in an effort to liquidate obsolete or unneeded equipment.

Other

This revenue source represents one-time or unusual payments. Past examples include insurance settlements, rate stabilization payments, and other minor items.

Revenue Source	2017 Budget
Property Taxes	\$29,932,724
Park Operations	\$19,809,193
Grants	\$802,990
Foundation Support	\$200,000
Interest	\$250,000
Sale of Capital Assets	\$270,000
Other	\$23,375
Total	\$51,287,282



2023 EXPENDITURES

Capital Improvement Projects

This covers construction projects that exceed the Authority's \$10,000 capitalization limit and enhance the recreational facilities such as park roads, trails, buildings, utilities, and other improvements.

Capital Equipment

This category includes any equipment having an individual value over \$5,000, such as staff vehicles, tractors, mowers, and other machinery necessary for staff to maintain and operate the parks.

Major Maintenance

The Authority classifies all non-recurring repair/maintenance projects that exceed \$10,000 as Major Maintenance expenses. These projects do not substantially improve or alter an existing facility, and therefore are not capitalized.

Operations

Expenditures within park operations can be classified as either personnel services or contractual services. Personnel services include wages and other related fringe benefits. Contractual services include all other types of expenditures.

Administrative

General administration expenses reflect the cost of running the Authority's centralized Administrative Office (AO), which covers full and part time employees, retirement group benefit participants, materials, supplies, and outside consultants utilized in managing the entire Metroparks system.

Expenditure Category	2023 Budget
Capital Improvements	\$10,334,336
Capital Equipment	\$3,414,100
Major Maintenance	\$4,082,813
Operations	\$44,266,829
Total	\$62,098,078

The Metroparks 2017 General Fund Budget¹ includes the strategic use of over \$10 million (25%) of Fund Balance to counteract many years of deferral of investment in and maintenance of aging facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. Metroparks staff have prepared the 2023 Budget with the following points in mind:

- 1) Address a backlog of deferred capital equipment replacements
- 2) Improve the image/quality of Metroparks facilities to a standard of excellence
- 3) Provide for a consistent level of support for natural areas throughout the Metroparks
- 4) Develop additional revenue through new and existing programs and fee structures.

The Metroparks Board of Commissioners and staff face the challenge of diversifying sources of revenue to a sufficient extent to cover not just operating costs, but also the needed capital maintenance and development. The use of fund balance in 2023 enables the Metroparks to "catch up," and buy time to develop a more fiscally sustainable model.



¹The Metroparks 2023 General Fund Budget can be found at <http://www.metroparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2017-Budget-Document-Final.pdf>

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers support the Metroparks in a variety of activities ranging from protecting natural resources to creating a more welcoming environment in recreational areas. Some of the activities involving volunteers include park and river clean-ups, removal of invasive species, garden and trail maintenance around nature centers, and animal helpers at the farm centers. Volunteers have also helped at golf courses and special events such as Heritage Holidays at Wolcott Mill.

All ages are welcome to volunteer at the Metroparks, as individuals or in groups. One-time and long-term volunteer opportunities are available. School groups, college classes, scout groups, corporations, and individuals help out as volunteers, as well as special interest groups such as CRAMBA-IMBA (the Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association, part of the International Mountain Bicycling Association), Beyond the Seed, Audubon Society, Hawkwatch, and the Huron and Clinton River Watershed Councils.

As 2020 was an unprecedented year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping people safe and healthy was the top priority for the Metroparks. The Metroparks Volunteer program adjusted to do so by creating a responsive volunteer services program plan and continued to be a very popular destination with 538 extraordinary volunteers who put in 9,865 hours of work during a global pandemic. When valued at an entry level wage, this volunteer work represented \$93,224 worth of labor benefit. When valued at independent sector wages, this work provided a \$268,328 labor benefit to HCMA.



STATE/COUNTY/MUNICIPAL/OTHER
RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENTS

The Metroparks are part of a broader system of recreation and green space that includes local, county, and state parks, greenways, and blueways. Integrating planning and development efforts with the local community is encouraged for enhancing connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen the regional identity. Besides recreational opportunities, the Metroparks play an important role in the region for economic development, natural resources protection, and education.

In order to best serve the residents of southeast Michigan and use resources wisely, the goal for future development in any particular Metropark is to offer unique facilities that fill recreation voids in the geographic area where the park is located. This is achieved by maintaining positive working relationships with the surrounding communities. Examples of such efforts include leasing Metroparks owned land for local recreation, partnering with both the Huron River Watershed Council and Clinton River Watershed Council, offering opportunities for review and comment on Master Plan updates, local site plan review and permitting of eligible projects implemented throughout the park system, and coordination of trail development and maintenance.



PARTNERSHIPS*Regional*

- Consumers Energy Foundation
- Central Michigan University
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited
- Ford Motor Company
- Four County Community Foundation
- General Motors
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Honda
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative
- Metro/University Region Nonmotorized Advisory Committee
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MParks)
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)
- Semi Wild
- Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- Stewardship Network
- The Nature Conservancy
- Toyota
- Trail Life USA
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Detroit Zoological Society
- University of Michigan Dearborn

Macomb County

- American Sailing Institute (ASI)
- Armada National Honor Society
- Clinton River Mountain Biking Association, a chapter of the

International Mountain Bicycling Association (CRAMBA-IMBA)

- HEART Lab
- Leadership Macomb
- Macomb Audubon Society
- Macomb Community College
- Macomb County 4-H
- Macomb County Blue Economy initiative
- Macomb County Great Head Start
- Macomb County Health Department – Healthy Kids
- Harrison Township Parks and Recreation
- Harrison Township Library
- Healthy Futures Coalition
- Macomb County Trailways
- Macomb County Water Resources Advisory Council
- Macomb Master Gardner
- Macomb Orchard Trail Commission
- Macomb Parks and Recreation
- Michigan ISD
- Motor City Chain Gang
- Simple Adventures Paddlesport Rental and Delivery
- Creekfleet Sailing
- SMART
- Stony Creek Disc Golf League
- UHY Advisors Inc.
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wolcott Mill Trail Riders Association

Oakland County

- American Sailing Institute (ASI)
- Chief Pontiac Programs
- Heavener Canoe Rental
- Huron Valley Audubon Society
- Huron Valley Trail Council
- Kensington Trail Riders Association
- Lake Orion High School
- Michigan Nature Association
- Oakland Audubon Society
- Oakland County Parks and Recreation
- Oakland County Trail, Water & Land Alliance (TWLA)
- Oakland University
- Western Oakland County Trailway Management Council

Livingston County

- Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority

- Livingston Outdoor Network

Washtenaw County

- Skip's Canoe Rental
- University of Michigan
- Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS)
- Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Wayne County

- Detroit Audubon Society
- Detroit River Western Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
- Downriver Linked Greenways
- Detroit Public Schools
- Detroit Outdoors
- Detroit Parks Coalition
- Huron River Fishing Association
- International Wildlife Refuge
- Wayne County Parks and Recreation
- Wyandot of Anderdon Nation
- Wayne State University



HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY**Act 147 of 1939**

AN ACT to provide for the incorporation of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority; to permit the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb, or certain of such counties, to join in a metropolitan district for planning or promoting or for acquiring, constructing, owning, developing, maintaining and operating, either within or without their limits, parks, connecting drives, or limited access highways, or any combination of these activities; to provide for the assessment, levy, collection and return of taxes therefor; to provide for the issuance of revenue bonds; to authorize condemnation proceedings; to provide a referendum thereon; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- Am. 1998, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 23, 1999

119.51 Huron-Clinton metropolitan authority; incorporation, counties.

Sec. 1. As may hereinafter be provided in this act, the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb, or certain of such counties, may by vote of the electorate thereof, join to form a metropolitan district as a body corporate, to be known as the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, for the purpose of planning, promoting, and/or for acquiring, constructing, owning, developing, maintaining and operating, either within or without their limits, parks and/or limited access highways, as well as such connecting drives as may be deemed necessary or convenient to provide access to and between the same.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.51
Compiler's Notes: This act has been adopted by the counties enumerated in this section.

119.52 Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority; definitions.

Sec. 2. As used in this act, parks shall be defined as areas of land, with or without water, developed and used for public recreational purposes, including landscaped tracts, picnic grounds, playgrounds, athletic fields, camps, foot, bicycle and bridle paths, motor vehicle drives, wildlife sanctuaries, museums, zoological and botanical gardens, facilities for bathing, boating, hunting and fishing, as well as other recreational facilities for the use and benefit of the public.

Limited access highways shall be defined as highways especially designed for through traffic, over which owners or occupants of abutting land have no easement or right of light, air or access by reason of the fact that their property abuts on the highway. Such highways may be parkways, with or without landscaped roadsides, from which trucks, busses and other commercial vehicles are excluded, or they may be freeways open to use by all common forms of highway traffic.

Connecting drives shall be defined as boulevards, or free access roads, with or without parklike features, leading to or connecting parks and/or limited access highways.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.52

119.53 Powers; co-operation; charges; succession to rights; vote.

Sec. 3. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, either acting alone or in cooperation with the department of conservation, the state highway department, any board of county road commissioners, or any federal or other state or local body having authority to construct and maintain parks or highways, shall have the power to make plans for and promote, and/or to acquire, construct, own, operate and maintain, within or without the limits of the metropolitan district, parks, connecting drives, and/or limited access highways. Said authority may fix and collect fees and charges for use of facilities under its control, and, for its uses, may sell or purchase lands and may acquire and succeed to any or all the rights, obligations, and property pertaining to parks or highways of the state or of any county, city, village, or township comprising territory within the limits of the said metropolitan district: Provided, That no county, city, village, or township shall surrender any such rights, obligations, or property without the approval thereof by a majority vote of the electors of any such county, city, village or township, voting on such proposition.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.53

119.54 Board of commissioners; election and appointment, term.

Sec. 4. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority shall be directed and governed by a board of commissioners, 1 to be elected from each county of the metropolitan district by the boards of supervisors of the respective counties, and 2 to be appointed by the governor of Michigan. The elected commissioners shall be electors of their respective counties, and the appointed commissioners shall be electors of the

metropolitan district. The appointed commissioners shall serve for 4 year terms or until their successors are appointed, except that for the first board 1 shall be appointed for a 2 year term. The terms of the elected commissioners shall be staggered so that not more than 1 term shall expire in any 1 year, and after the first board no terms shall be less than 6 years. For the first board the terms of the elected commissioners shall be in the order of the populations of the several counties, the commissioner from the most populous county having the longest term.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.54

119.55 Board of commissioners; meetings; organization; employees.

Sec. 5. The commissioners shall hold a meeting within 1 month after their selection, on the call of the chairman of the board of supervisors of the most populous county of the metropolitan district, at such time and place as he may designate. Such meeting shall elect a chairman, who must be a member of the board of commissioners, and a secretary and a treasurer, who need not be members. The board shall also, from time to time, select and employ such other officers and employees and engage such services as shall be deemed necessary to effectuate its purposes.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.55

119.56 Board of commissioners; records; accounts; treasurer's bond.

Sec. 6. The commissioners shall cause to be kept a written or printed record of every session of the board, which record shall be public. They shall also provide for a system of accounts to conform to any uniform system required by law, and for the auditing at least once yearly of the accounts of the treasurer by a competent certified public accountant or by the auditor general of the state. The board shall require of the treasurer a suitable bond by a responsible bonding company, such bond to be paid for by the board.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.56

119.57 Board of commissioners; levy of tax, procedure.

Sec. 7. The commissioners may levy for the purposes of the authority a tax of not more than 1/4 mill upon each dollar of the assessed value of the property of the district. The board shall ascertain the total taxes or appropriation required for any year and shall thereupon certify to the board of

supervisors of each county comprising the district the necessary tax rate to raise such amount, which shall be uniform in the district, and shall take into consideration the ratio that the total assessed valuation of each respective county bears to the total assessed value of all property, real and personal in said entire district according to the last assessment in each of said respective counties. All taxes shall be assessed, levied, collected and returned as county taxes under the general property tax law. All moneys collected by any tax collecting officer from the tax levied under the provisions of this section shall be transmitted to the authority to be disbursed as provided in this act.

The subjects of taxation for the district purposes shall be the same as for state, county, and school purposes under the general law.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.57

119.58 Revenue bonds; issuance; lien.

Sec. 8. For the purposes of acquiring, purchasing, constructing, improving, enlarging, extending, or repairing any revenue-producing recreational facilities, the commissioners may issue self-liquidating bonds in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 94 of the Public Acts of 1933, as amended. Such bonds shall not impose any liability upon the district but shall be secured only by the property and revenues of the facilities for the purchase and construction of which they were issued. Such bonds shall not be sold for less than par, and shall bear interest at a rate not in excess of 6 per cent. The commissioners shall have power to create a lien on such facilities as security for the payment of the bonds.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.58

Compiler's Notes: For provisions of Act 94 of 1933, referred to in this section, see MCL 141.101 et seq.

119.59 Property, purchase, gift or devise; condemnation, procedure.

Sec. 9. For the purposes of the authority as herein defined, the commissioners may purchase, accept by gift or devise or condemn private property. If by condemnation, the provisions of Act No. 149 of the Public Acts of 1911, as amended, being sections 3763 to 3783, inclusive, of the Compiled Laws of 1929, or such other appropriate provisions therefor as exist or shall be made by law, may

be adopted and used for the purpose of instituting and prosecuting such condemnation proceedings.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.59
 Compiler's Notes: For provisions of Act 149 of 1911, referred to in this section, see MCL 213.21 et seq.

119.60 Referendum.

Sec. 10. The foregoing local act shall be submitted to the electors of the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb at the regular election in November, 1940. The secretary of state is hereby required to certify the said local act to the various clerks of the several counties named in the manner required by law. It shall be the duty of the board of election commissioners of each county above named to prepare ballots for the use of electors in all precincts in the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb, in the manner required by law, which ballots, after setting forth the foregoing local act in full, shall be in substantially the following form:

"Vote on local act incorporating into the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority the metropolitan district including the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb.

"Shall the above local act be approved and adopted?

"Yes ()

"No ()."

It shall be the duty of the board of election commissioners in each above named county to deliver the ballots so prepared to the inspectors under the general election law. All votes cast upon said local act shall be counted, canvassed, and returned in the same manner as is provided by law for counting, canvassing, and returning votes cast for state officers.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.60

119.61 Referendum; approval by two or more counties; resubmission; governing body.

Sec. 11. If a majority of the electors voting thereon at any election in 2 or more of the above named counties, which are contiguous, shall vote "yes" on the proposal, then all the counties so approving shall constitute a metropolitan district, and the Huron-Clinton metropolitan authority shall be a corporation having all the powers, duties and obligations provided for in this act.

The governing board shall consist of the 2 commissioners appointed by the governor and of the elected commissioners from the counties so approving.

If a majority of the electors in any county should vote "no" on the approval of a Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the project may again be submitted to the electors in such county or counties, by their respective boards of supervisors or by petitions signed by at least 10 per cent of the electors therein. Such county or counties shall become part of the metropolitan district whenever at a later election a majority of the electors in such county or counties shall vote "yes".

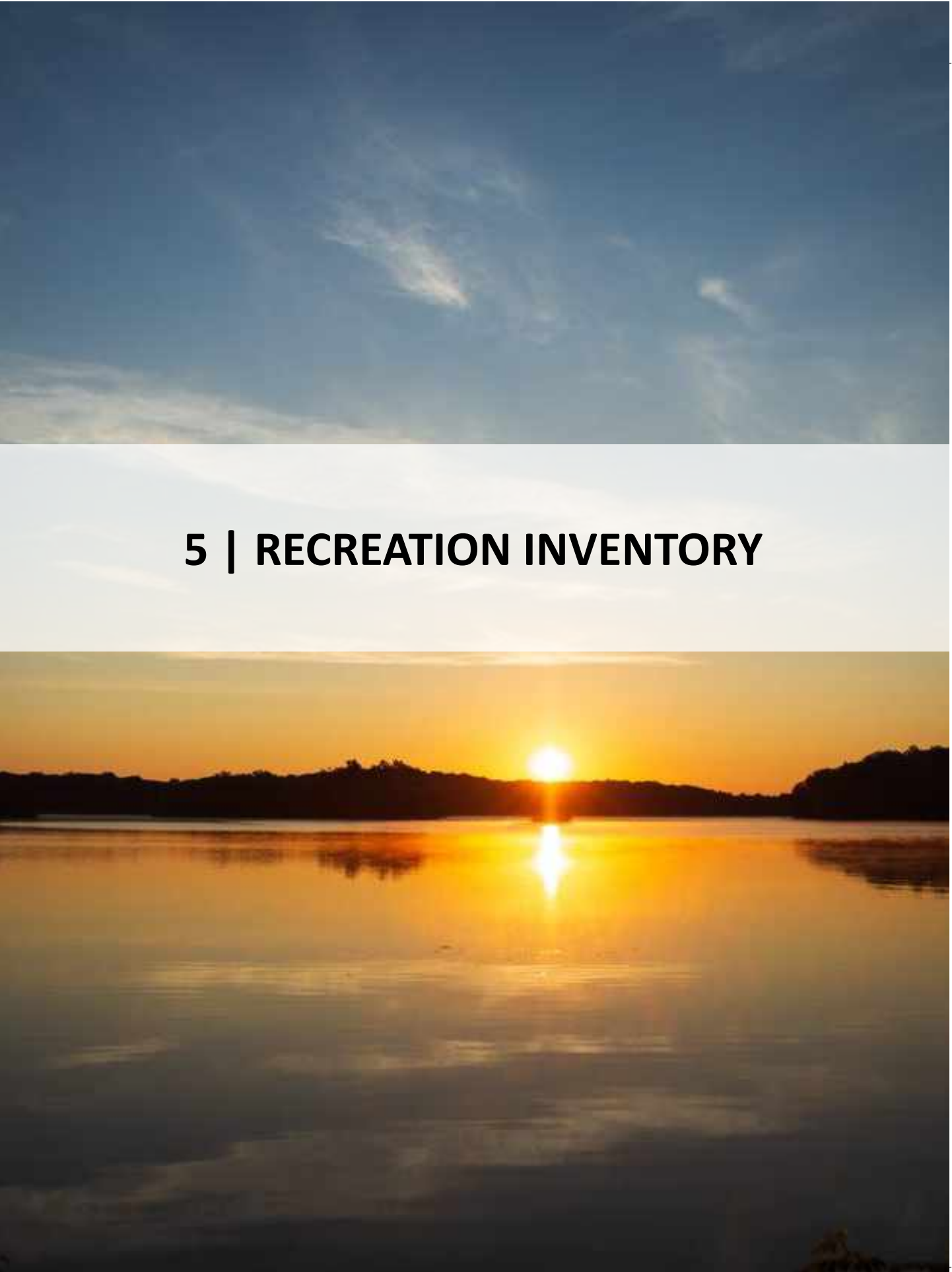
History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.61
 Compiler's Notes: This act has been adopted by the counties enumerated in MCL 119.60.

119.62 Violation of MCL 168.1 to 168.992 applicable to petitions; penalties.

Sec. 12. A petition under section 11, including the circulation and signing of the petition, is subject to section 488 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.488. A person who violates a provision of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992, applicable to a petition described in this section is subject to the penalties prescribed for that violation in the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992.

History: Add. 1998, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 23, 1999





5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

This chapter includes a recreation inventory for each of the 13 individual parks comprising the Metroparks system. In order to complete the inventory of park infrastructure, natural areas, facilities, programs, and cultural histories, the Planning and Development Department collaborated with staff in the Operations, Interpretive Services, Natural Resources, and Engineering departments. Working with staff at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Planning and Development Department recently reviewed and confirmed the boundaries of encumbered land within each park. Accessibility evaluations for park facilities were conducted by Planning and Development staff through field work using resources suggested in the MDNR Guidelines and tools purchased for that specific purpose.

The following items are provided for each Metropark:

- Park information page explaining the general location, classification, size, function, and history of the park, along with tables detailing trail miles, facility counts, and neighboring municipality master plans.
- Park map showing the land, water resources, and major facilities in the park.
- Biodiversity map outlining the location of critical natural resources, explained on the following page.
- Map of land encumbered by various grants, including the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Table showing grant details and current conditions.
- Broad findings of staff's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation for facilities at each park (detailed assessments are provided in the ADA Transition Plan).

The recreation inventory also includes a section on existing

recreational boating facilities including improved and unimproved locations where residents can access water. The inventory includes:

- Name and location of facility
- General purpose of the facility
- Size of facility
- ADA accessibility
- Site development plan
- Marketing, events and partnerships
- Current dredging needs, dredging cycle, approximate volume of dredge material and disposal location
- Annual maintenance schedule
- Minor or small scale infrastructure replacement schedule
- Large scale maintenance and replacement schedules (docks, buildings, etc.)

Finally, the Planning and Development Department conducted an analysis of state and county parks and recreation facilities. A location map and chart identifying specific facilities and activities within each park is included for each of the five counties within the Metroparks service area. The location map also highlights other selected private and public recreational facilities in context of the state, county, and Metroparks resources.



BIODIVERSITY

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.

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 embracing and reflect the region's richness-both its natural environment and the communities within it. 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.



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

ACCESSIBILITY

Although original accessibility guidelines applicable to local municipalities were published in 1990, several additions related to recreation facilities were added between 2000-2004. Given these additions, parallels between these guidelines and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, which are applied to a building if any federal monies or uses are involved, a combined version of the ADA-ABA was introduced in 2004. During this timeframe, outdoor standards were also created to apply ADA standards to outdoor natural environments in addition to structures that were built. These standards are known as the Federal Outdoor Area Technical Guidelines. Although these standards are currently only enforceable for federal facilities, they provide the Metroparks with best practice guidelines to meet inclusive policy and philosophy goals.

The combined ADA-ABA guidelines resulted in the 2010 Accessibility Standards, which were adopted as one comprehensive universal standard for federal and local jurisdictions in July 2010 and posted on the Federal Register in September 2010. The 2010 Accessibility Standards hereafter referenced as “2010 Standards” became enforceable in March 2012.

In 2018, the Metroparks Planning and Development Department revisited the Authority’s 1994 ADA Transition Plan and conducted a thorough assessment of all physical barriers within the 13 Metroparks. The 2010 Standards address common elements of the “built environment,” such as buildings, parking lots and access routes, as well as recreational facilities such as amusement rides, play equipment, boat docks and launches, fishing piers, swimming pools, golf and mini-golf courses and shooting facilities. While they have not yet been adopted for state and local governments, guidelines for developed outdoor areas have been introduced. In 2013, these guidelines became enforceable standards for all federally-owned areas. Experts expect these same guidelines will eventually be adopted for state and local governments as well.

Within the 2010 standards, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recommended priorities in order for barrier removal. The priority system developed by the DOJ was modified to create a priority ranking for park and recreation facilities. The

integration of the transition plan with master planning and capital improvement planning is key to completing the tasks identified in the transition plan. The Metroparks include a general funding line item for each park for accessibility improvements in the general budget.

Moving forward, top priority projects will be added into annual capital and major maintenance improvement projects and identified in the 5-year Community Recreation Plan and 10-year master plans.

The ADA Transition Plan¹ can be reviewed for a detail of actions to be taken at each Metropark by priority ranking. The first priority identified by the DOJ, “Approach and Entrance” was defined as the park entrances, restroom entrances, the larger day-use parking lots within the parks and access routes from those parking lots to the primary facilities they serve. The second through fourth priorities address recreational opportunities at the parks. The fifth priority is defined as non-essential support, facility services. The sixth priority has been assigned to physical barriers in structure that have been identified in master plans needing further study. Finally, the seventh priority refers to physical barriers that would impede a park employee but not the general public.



¹ Huron-Clinton Metropark website, <https://www.metroparks.com/planning-and-development/#DOCUMENTS/ADA-Transition-Plan.pdf>

INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

Historically, the Metroparks took a reactionary approach to infrastructure management, making repairs and improvements to buildings, roads, and other systems only when issues arose. When it became evident that this method had become ineffective, HCMA staff initiated a more proactive approach. In 2010, the Engineering Department began utilizing roadway asset management software (Roadsoft) to prioritize transportation-related projects based on age and wear-and-tear.¹ To build upon this effort, a roof management program was established in 2013, and a picnic shelter assessment was conducted in 2014. A Geographic Information System (GIS) database was developed, enabling engineering and planning staff to map property lines, natural features, built features, and utilities, among other assets.

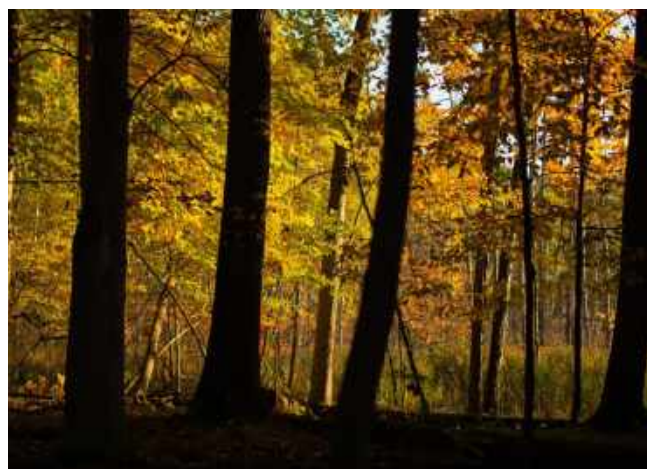
At present, there exists a fair amount of knowledge about the roofs, buildings, roads, trails, and park structures (e.g. picnic shelters, boat launches) throughout the Metroparks. These assets have been determined by the Engineering Department to be in good condition, save for the known replacements needed (e.g. Lake Erie Wave Pool, Lake St. Clair North Marina). Assets requiring further investigation to determine condition include the various boardwalks and all underground infrastructure throughout the park system.

In late 2016, HCMA was awarded over \$1.9M in Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Program grant funding. Per the grant requirements, the Metroparks conducted an inventory and conditions assessment of the Metroparks sanitary infrastructure (e.g. pump systems, septic systems, pipes, manholes) for the purpose of building an asset management database. In addition, a Stormwater Management Plan was completed in 2019 which identified project recommendations regarding stormwater conveyance structure maintenance and replacement, streambank restoration, shoreline protection, and green infrastructure projects throughout the system. Consultants were hired to conduct the inventory and assessment and to recommend a software system for housing the acquired data. By implementing this 3 year grant project, HCMA now has an opportunity to begin taking a more comprehensive approach

to asset management by incorporating asset classes into the newly-developed database over time. Asset classes relevant to the Metroparks would include:

- Sanitary
- Buildings (envelope, electric, plumbing)
- Roads
- Parking lots
- Trails (by type)
- Bridges (by type)
- Electrical supply/grid
- Communication (fiber optic, copper)
- Park structures (e.g. picnic shelters, playgrounds, boardwalks, tollbooths)
- Water (including wells)
- Dams
- Shoreline protection (e.g. seawalls, riprap areas)
- Natural features (Michigan Natural Features Inventory categories)
- Stormwater systems

As indicated in the *21st Century Infrastructure Commission Report*² released in late 2016 by the Michigan Infrastructure Commission, “strategic investments in preventative maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of infrastructure assets is much more cost-effective than reconstructing the ‘worst first.’” Once inventories are completed for each asset class, it will be possible for HCMA staff to more fully comprehend the system-wide deferred infrastructure maintenance burden and prioritize projects accordingly, based on available resources.



¹ Initially, only roads were included in the Roadsoft system. As of 2017, the system will be expanded to include paved, shared-use trails throughout the Metroparks system.

² State of Michigan Governor’s website, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/21st_Century_Infrastructure_Commission_Report_555079_7.pdf

LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK

Lake St. Clair Metropark is located on the eastern edge of Macomb County, just south of Anchor Bay. All of the park is within Harrison Township.

At its northernmost extent, Lake St. Clair Metropark nearly reaches South River Road. To the east it runs along the Black Creek, to the west it extends to Jefferson, and its southern boundary is Lake St. Clair. The park is situated on the mouth of the Clinton River.

Lake St. Clair hosts several activities, especially water recreation, boating, birdwatching, and picnics. The park's scenic Huron Point extending into the lake makes it unique, along with the 50-meter swimming pool, splash pad, and beautiful nature trails.

Cultural History

The majority of Lake St. Clair Metropark property was a Great Lakes Coastal marsh. It was used by Native Americans and early settlers for fishing, hunting, and trapping. Because the soil was mostly wetland within the boundaries of the park, there were no permanent homesteads. The sandy ridge naturally created a beach that was an important resting place for travelers in canoes and for migrating birds. Various rare species of birds such as the endangered Piping Plover and threatened Common Tern nested on the point and the island.

Journals and records remain from Henry Schoolcraft and David Bates Douglas from a stop at Huron Point during their Voyageur Canoe expedition to the upper Great Lakes.

Activities

- Swimming in the pool or lake
- Relaxing on the beach
- Splashing in the Squirt Zone
- Birdwatching
- Boating and fishing
- Skiing, sledding, ice skating, and ice fishing in the winter
- Observing nature on the trails
- Enjoying a round of golf, foot golf, or adventure golf
- Kiteboarding and windsurfing

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	789

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	7 / 34
Service bldgs / avg age	12 / 62
Comfort stations ¹ & Bathhouse/ avg age	6 / 56
Road miles	4.4
Parking lot acreage	36.5
Playgrounds	2
Percent of park mowed	20
Picnic shelters	12
Sand volleyball courts	10
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	2
Tennis courts	3
Pickleball courts	3
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	6
Public boat/kayak launches	11

Path & Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	3.74
Nature Trails	1.97
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	1.92
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	6.32
Total	13.95

Community Plans

Harrison Township and Macomb County	
North Branch Greenway Plan	2020
Macomb County Parks and Natural Resources Master Plan	2020-2024
Mobilize Macomb Non-Motorized Plan	2017
SEMCOG Green Infrastructure Vision	2014

¹A comfort station is a detached restroom building equipped with plumbing. The number does not include restrooms incorporated into other buildings or pit toilets without plumbing.

Park Overview

Figure 5.1 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



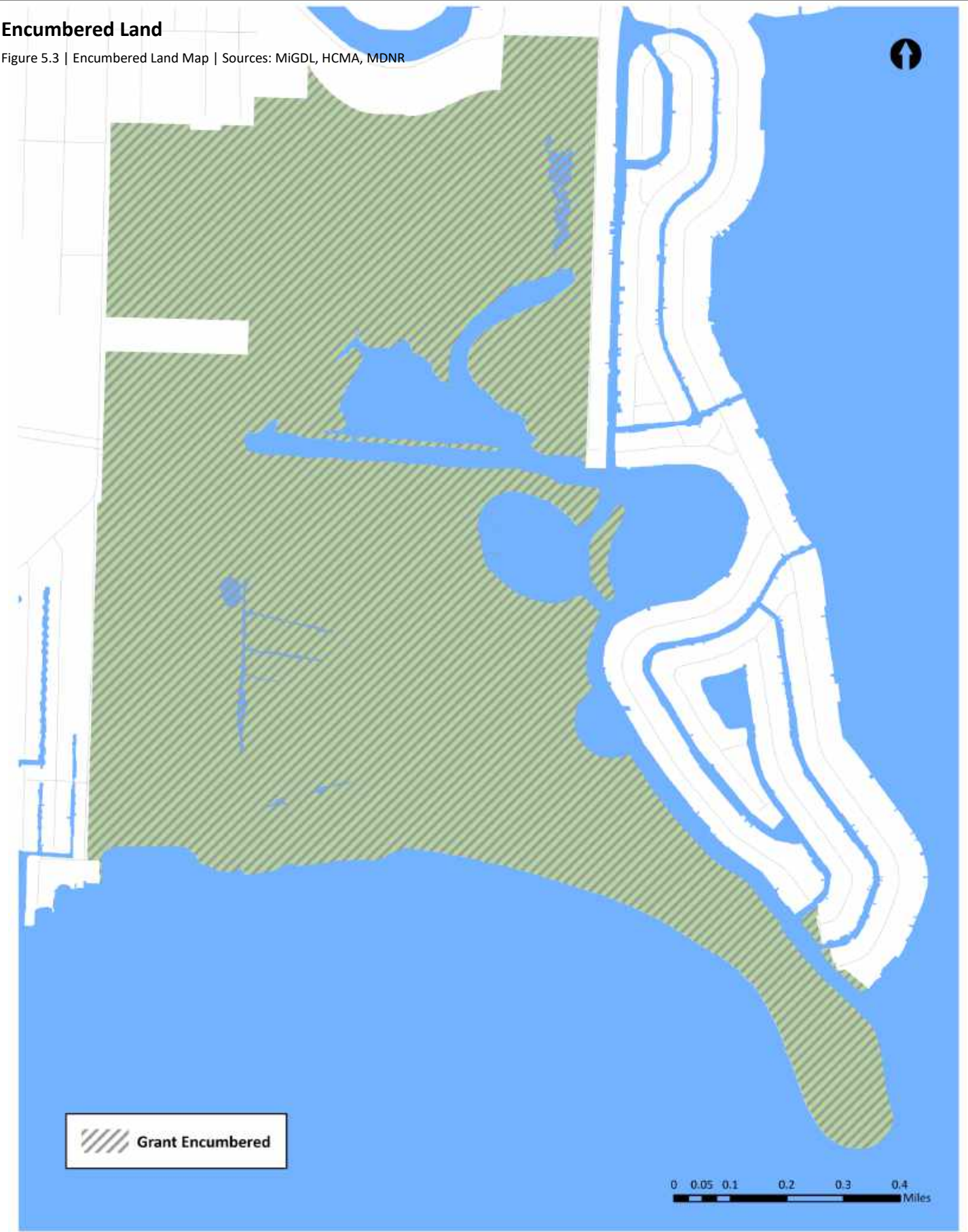
Biodiversity

Figure 5.2 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.3 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name—Grants	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
TF87-085	Metro Beach Nature Center	1987	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	Nature Center plans renovations/facility standardization
CM00-067	Metro Beach Pointe Shoreline Trail	2000	Development	Closed	\$ 450,000.00	General maintenance to railing/benches
TF12-057	Lake St. Clair Metropark Land Acquisition	2012	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 94,000.00	No conversion, boundary maintained within park
USDA-FS-2018-GLRI	LSCM Coastal Wetland Filtration Enhancement at Black Creek	2018	Restoration	Closed	\$ 160,000.00	Shoreline restoration/ educational programming
2020-0023	EGLE Lake St. Clair Metropark Beach Restoration	2020	Restoration	Monitoring and maintenance	\$ 406,628.40	Beach restoration
90020.1148	SEMCOG Lake St. Clair Transportation Equity	2021	Transit Connectivity Pilot Project	Closed	\$ 40,000.00	Transit access in partnership with Harrison Township
2022-306A-019	EGLE Lake St. Clair Metropark Accessible Launch	2021	Development	Closed	\$ 389,726.00	Accessible kayak launch at Black Creek



KENSINGTON METROPARK

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 located 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, along with Camp Dearborn to the north.

Kensington is the largest Metropark, with a wide variety of recreational activities available. Its long hike-bike trails, sprawling forests, Kent Lake, and facilities such as the Farm Center and Nature Center make it extremely popular.

Cultural History

The park is named after the town of Kensington, which was founded in 1832 and located on the Huron River at the Detroit-Lansing toll road (later Grand River). It was once a bustling settlement, serving travelers with a bank, hotels, and taverns. The bank is known for producing its own independent notes in 1838. The fallout from this, along with the lack of a railroad stop, contributed to the town's decline. By the 1930s it was a ghost town.

The Labadie brothers of Detroit spent several years in the area surrounding Kensington. Jo Labadie, an early labor leader, spent his summers here from 1912 to 1933. The remains of his summer home can be seen along the Aspen Trail. Jo's brothers, Oliver and Hubert, ran a fishing lodge and filmed several silent movies. The most notorious residents of the area were the Purple Gang, prohibition era gangsters.

Activities

- Swimming and splashing at Martindale Beach
- Biking or strolling the paved trails, equestrian trails
- Skiing, ice skating, sledding, and tobogganing in winter
- Golfing and disc golfing
- Walking the nature and hiking trails
- Fireworks, maple sugaring, horse drawn wagon rides
- Paddling, boating and Island Queen ferry on Kent Lake

- Farm Center and Nature Center

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	4486

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	9 / 31
Service bldgs / avg age	19/ 50
Comfort stations / avg age	12 / 31
Road miles	14.9
Parking lot acreage	40.01
Playgrounds	19
Percent of park mowed	8.8
Picnic shelters	18
Sand volleyball courts	4
Baseball fields	5
Fishing platforms	5
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	1
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	3

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	13.55
Nature Trails	7.09
Rustic Hiking Trails	6.19
Equestrian Trails	17.4
Cross Country Ski Trails	12.17
Mountain Bike Trails	2.09
Other Paths	19.8
Total	78.3

Community Plans

Milford Township	
Recreation Master Plan	2019
Milford Community Master Plan	2017

Brighton Township	
Master Plan	2020

Lyon Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2014
Master Plan	2012
Lyon Center Vision Plan	2009

Green Oak Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2015
Master Plan	2014

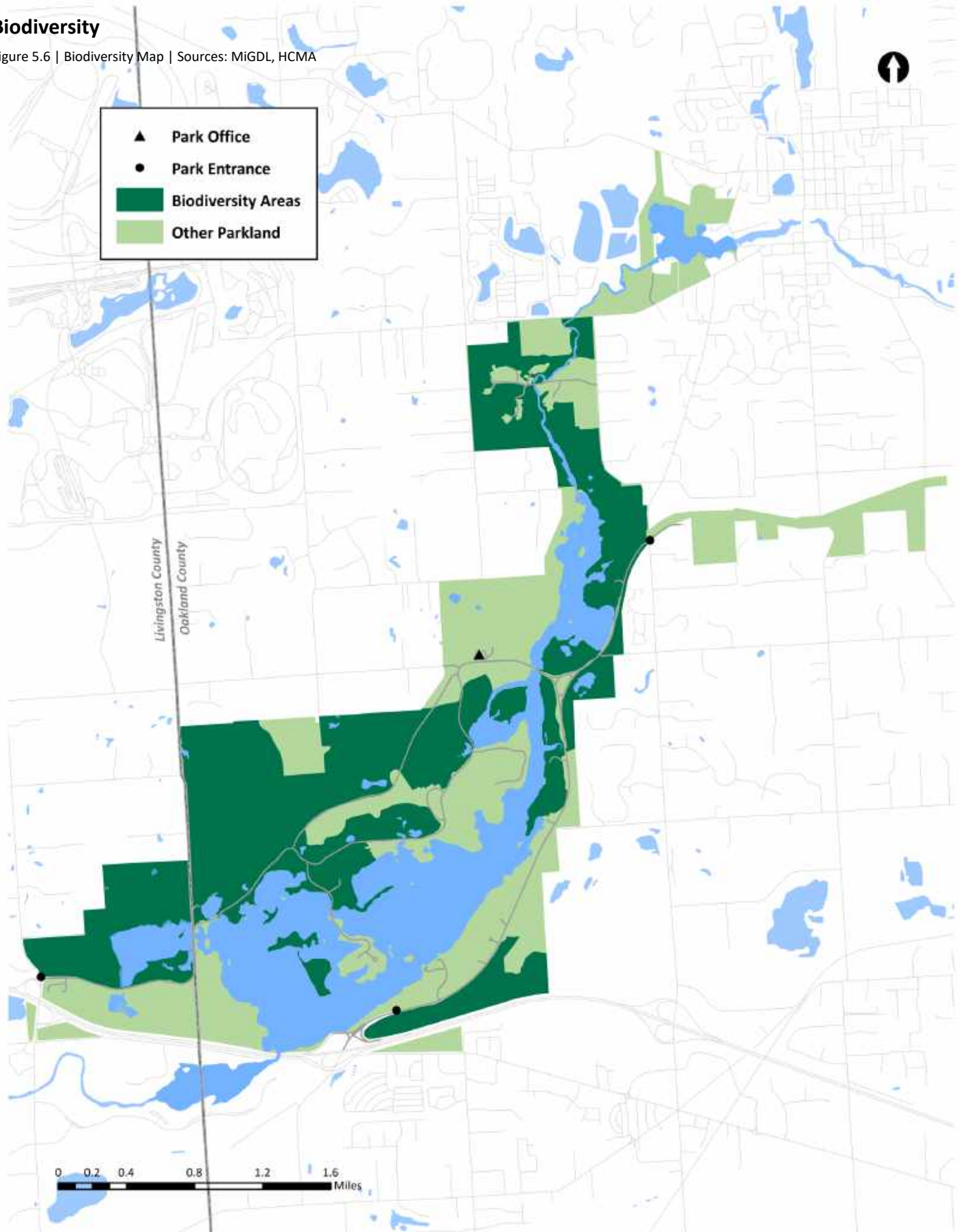
Livingston County	
Livingston County Master Plan	2018
Livingston County Trails Plan	2020

Figure 5.5 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



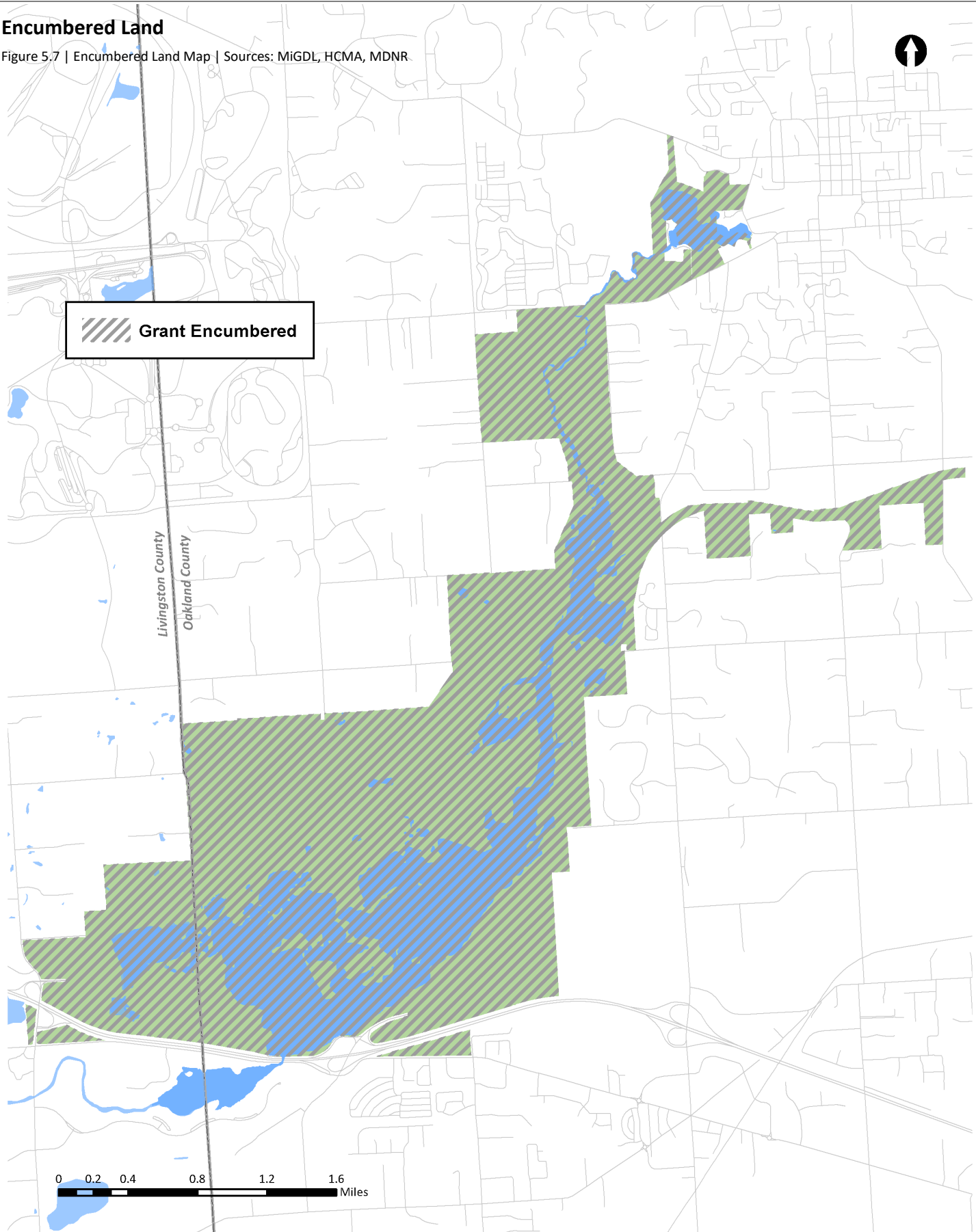
Biodiversity

Figure 5.6 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.7 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00169	Kensington Metropark #2	1969	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 45,937.50	Still maintained as park
26-00146	Kensington Metropolitan Park	1969	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 42,000.00	Still maintained as park
26-00617	Kensington Hike-Bike Trail	1975	Development	Closed	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-00856	Kensington Hike/Bike Trail	1977	Development	Closed	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-01319	Kensington Hike-Bike Trail	1984	Development	Closed	\$ 127,500.00	General maintenance
BF89-614	Nature Center Kensington	1989	Development	Closed	\$ 300,000.00	Facility upgrades
TF08-033	Kensington Metropark - Milford Trail Connector	2008	Development	Closed	\$ 315,000.00	General maintenance
TF11-018	Kensington Metropark Nature Center Pond Overlook	2011	Development	Closed	\$ 94,000.00	Additional amenities added to support grant
TF19-0049	Kensington Metropark West Boat Launch Area Development	2022	Development	Closed	\$ 308,000.00	Accessible kayak launch and amenities



DEXTER-HURON AND DELHI METROPARKS

Dexter-Huron and Delhi Metroparks are located in north central Washtenaw County. Both parks are within the boundaries of Scio Township. Dexter-Huron is partially within the City of Dexter.

At their northernmost extent, Dexter-Huron reaches Mast Road, and to the east Delhi runs to Huron River Drive. Their western boundary is Central Street, and to the south they extend to the railroad tracks. The parks are situated on the Upper Middle Huron River and are in a designated Natural Rivers district. The Border-to-Border trail runs through both Dexter-Huron and Delhi and is in the planning phase to connect Delhi to the City of Ann Arbor.

Delhi and Dexter-Huron are, respectively, the smallest and second-smallest parks in the Metroparks system. Distinct from the large regional parks, they are valued for quick escapes into nature and for the land and water trails running through them. They contain far fewer facilities than other parks, and are administered out of Hudson Mills Metropark. These two parks are primarily used for biking and hiking, paddling, picnicking, and passive recreation.

Cultural History

Delhi — In 1831 Jacob Doremus came from New York and set up a sawmill on the banks of the Huron River. He later founded the Michigan Village, which residents renamed Delhi (pronounced Del-hi, not Deli), likely after a New York town.

At its peak Delhi was host to four different mills, two on each side of the river. The town met its demise in 1917 when a tornado struck and Delhi was leveled, with the exception of a few houses. In 1957 the former village of Delhi became Delhi Metropark. The only remains are a few houses outside the park, and the park name itself.

Dexter-Huron — With an intention to harvest the water power of the Huron, railroads and other companies bought land along the river in the late 1800s. Soon after the purchases, steam power made water power obsolete, and no confirmed mills or dams were built at this location. Risk of flooding prevented other types of development.

Dexter-Huron Metropark was previously owned by Ford Motor Company and operated by the Washtenaw County Road Commission as a roadside picnic area. The Metroparks assumed control of the 180 acres in 1952.

Activities

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trail
- Strolling the rustic trail
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Enjoying a softball game
- Taking a calming walk on the labyrinth

Statistics

Park Classification		
	Dexter-Huron	Delhi
Park Type	Region/Metro	Region/Metro
Park Size (Acres)	120	52

Infrastructure		
	Dexter-Huron	Delhi
Public bldgs / avg age	0	0
Service bldgs / avg age	0	0
Comfort stations / age	1 / 32	1 / 22
Road miles	0.41	0.22
Parking lot acreage	1.6	2.84
Playgrounds	2	3
Percent of park mowed	9.9	58.4
Picnic shelters	3	1
Sand volleyball courts	0	0
Baseball fields	0	2
Fishing platforms	0	0
Tennis courts	0	0
Ice skating rinks	0	0
Basketball courts	0	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	1	2

Trail Miles		
	Dexter-Huron	Delhi
Hike-Bike Trails	1.9	0.9
Nature Trails	0	0
Rustic Hiking Trails	0.16	0
Equestrian Trails	0	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	0	0
Mountain Bike Trails	0	0
Other Paths	0.07	0.13
Total	2.13	1.03

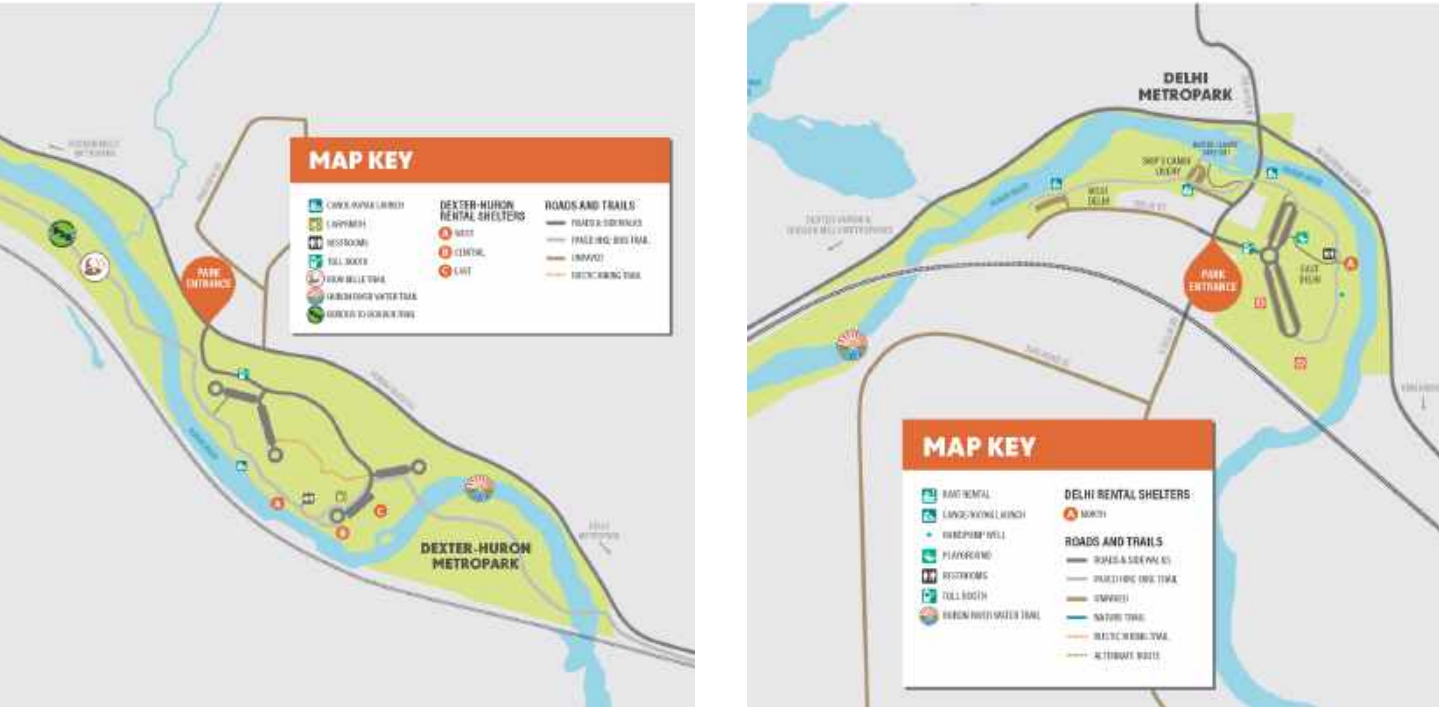
Community Plans

Scio Township	
Master Land Use Plan	2021

City of Dexter	
Master Plan	2019
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2021

Park Overview

Figure 5.9 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Biodiversity

Figure 5.10 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.11 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name—Grant	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
BF98-088	Delhi Metropark Children's Play Area	1998	Development	Closed	\$ 36,400.00	General upkeep, ADA parking improvements
TF20-0021	Dexter-Huron Metropark– Launch and Picnic Area Renovation	2023	Development	Open	\$385,500.00	Accessible kayak launch with picnic area



LOWER HURON METROPARK

Lower Huron Metropark is located in the southwest section of Wayne County in Southeast Michigan. Four municipalities include portions of Lower Huron: Van Buren, Sumpter, and Huron townships, along with the City of Romulus.

At its northernmost extent Lower Huron reaches Huron River Drive. Its eastern boundary is Waltz Road/Huron River Drive, to the west it reaches Haggerty Road, and to the south it extends to Savage Road. The park sits on the Huron River.

A paved hike-bike trail runs the length of the park and connects it with Willow and Oakwoods Metroparks, then continues all the way to Lake Erie Metropark. It is also a segment of the statewide Iron Belle Trail.

Lower Huron is popular for picnicking and fishing, and its Turtle Cove Family Aquatic Center. Along with launches for paddlers on the popular Huron River Water Trail, a National Park Service-designated National Water Trail, these elements make up the primary recreational infrastructure of the park.

Cultural History

Several archaeological studies have been conducted at Lower Huron in the past decades, resulting in the discovery of artifacts from both Native American and European settlements. Sites identified include burial grounds, campsites, dwellings, kilns, commercial structures, tool manufacture areas, and farmsteads.

The Schulz Mill Dam is no longer standing, but the pilings can be seen within the park. The mill is still in operation just outside the park and sells feed and other grain products. Other mills that once stood on current park property but no longer exist include Johnson Mill and Otis/Stewart Mill.

Founded during the first half of the 1800s, Mt. Pleasant Village no longer existed by the time of the Civil War. It can still be seen on historical maps, marked at the edge of current Lower Huron boundaries.

Activities

- Swimming and splashing at Turtle Cove
- Biking the paved trail
- Ice skating in winter
- Walking the nature and hiking trails
- Fishing, picnicking, and paddling down the Huron River
- Camping at the rustic and group campgrounds
- Enjoying a game of tennis or basketball

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1256

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	2 / 39.5
Service bldgs / avg age	2 / 18.5
Comfort stations-Bath house/ avg age	11 / 30.7
Road miles	8.66
Parking lot acreage	20.09
Playgrounds	10
Percent of park mowed	22.6
Picnic shelters	10
Sand volleyball courts	3
Baseball fields	2
Fishing platforms	2
Tennis courts	1
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	3
Public canoe/kayak launches	3

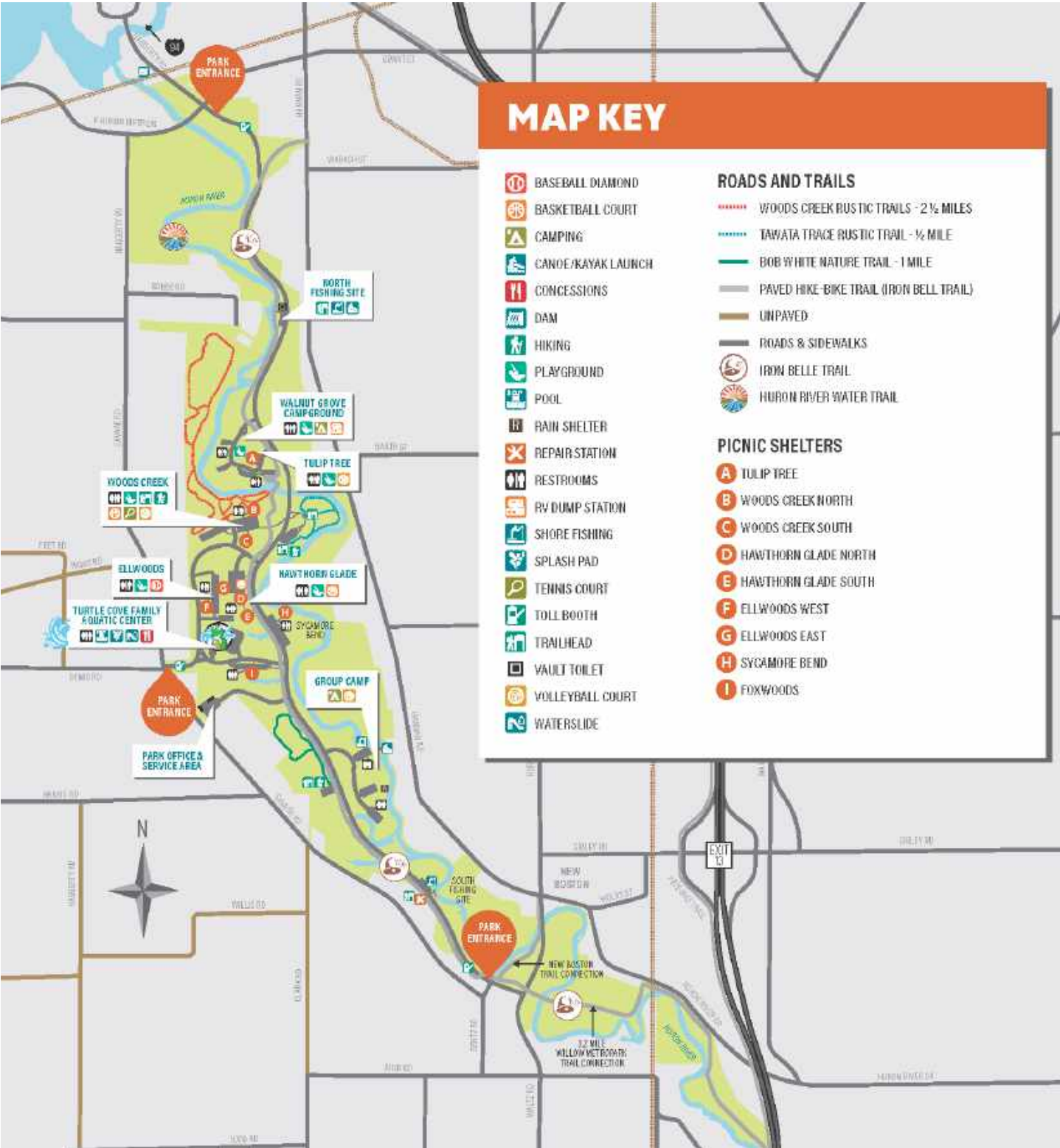
Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	4.94
Nature Trails	0.82
Rustic Hiking Trails	2.81
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	0
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	2.61
Total	11.18

Community Plans

Van Buren Township	
Parks and Recreation Plan	2022
Master Plan	2020
Sumpter Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2011
Master Land Use Plan	2005
Huron Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004
City of Romulus	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2021
Master Plan	2019

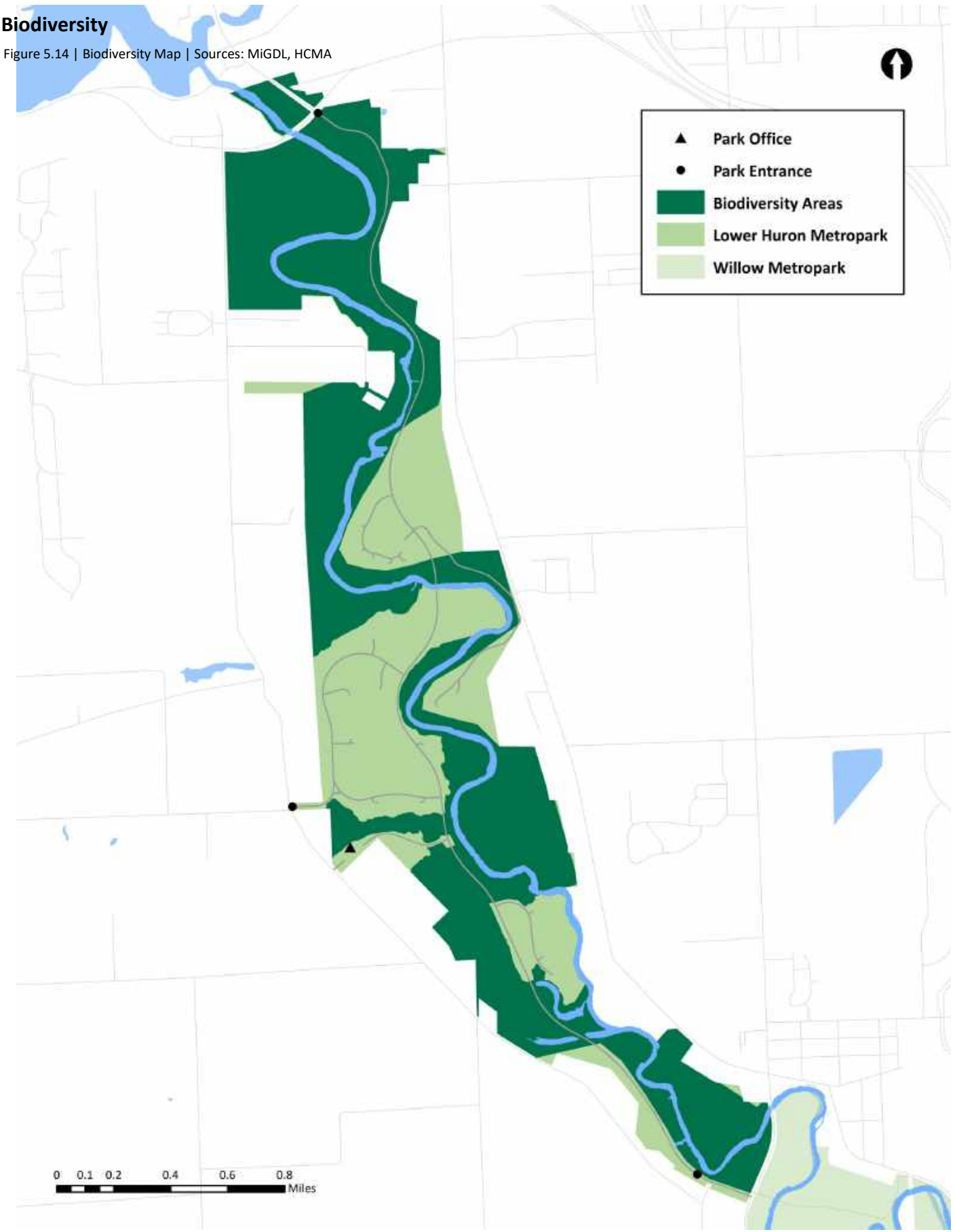
Park Overview

Figure 5.13 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



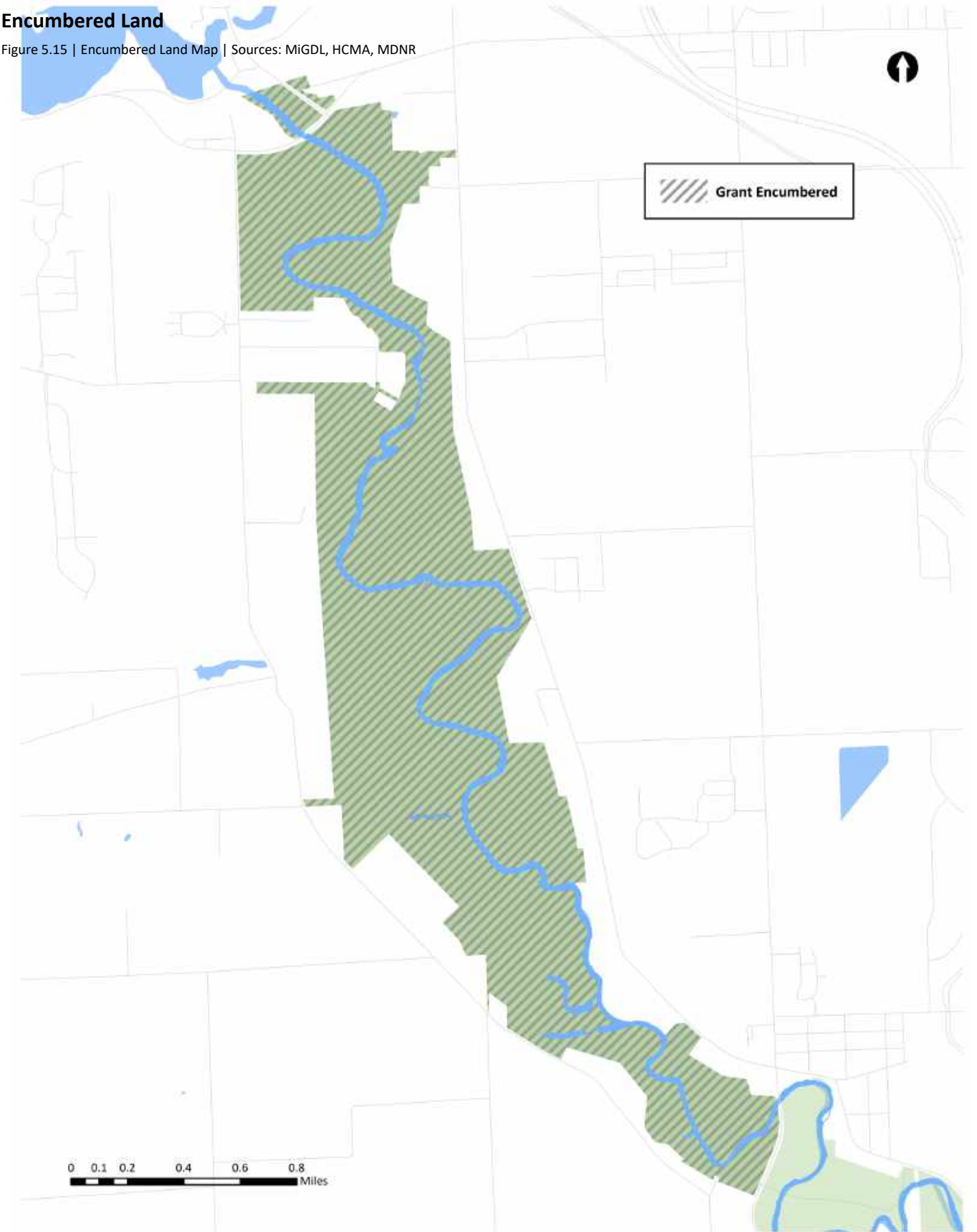
Biodiversity

Figure 5.14 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.15 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00025	Lower Huron Metropark Woods Creek Picnic Area	1965	Development	Closed	\$ 18,700.00	General maintenance, no conversion
BF93-153	Lower Huron and Willow Metroparks	1993	Development	Closed	\$ 170,000.00	General maintenance, no conversion
TF00-069	Lower Huron Metropark Fishing Access Boardwalks	2000	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	General maintenance, no conversion
LW 18-0050	North Fishing Site Renovation	2019	Development	Closed	\$ 288,800.00	General maintenance, no conversion
IBTMG 19-21/19-22	Lower Huron Iron Belle Trail Extension	2023	Development	Open	\$ 82,075.00	Under construction
LW 26-01843	Lower Huron Metropark– Off-Leash Dog Area Development	2025	Development	Open	\$ 330,800.00	Under design
LW 26-01842	Lower Huron Metropark– Walnut Grove Campground Development	2025	Development	Open	\$ 600,000.00	Under design



HUDSON MILLS METROPARK

Hudson Mills Metropark is located in Washtenaw County, near its northern border with Livingston County. Most of the park is in Dexter Township, with a small amount extending into Webster Township. The park abuts the City of Dexter.

At its northernmost extent, Hudson Mills reaches McGregor Road. To the east it runs along Dexter-Pinckney, its western boundary is Huron River Drive, and to the south it extends nearly to Central Street. The park is situated on the Upper Middle Huron River and is in a Natural Rivers district.

Hudson Mills is primarily used for biking and hiking, picnicking, paddling, golfing and disc golf. A portion of the Border-to-Border trail runs through Hudson Mills and connects with the City of Dexter, attracting cyclists and runners. The maple sugaring event is a popular draw in the spring, and hayrides through the forest bring out families in the fall.

Cultural History

The boundaries of Washtenaw County were established in 1822, and a settlement called Hudson Mills grew near the intersection of North Territorial Road and Dexter-Pinckney Road.

The settlers utilized the great water power of the Huron River. In 1827, Cornelius Osterhaut built a sawmill, which cut the lumber for the settlers' homes, shops and barns. In 1846, a gristmill was located on the river at this site, followed by a cider mill and a plaster mill. The gristmill was known as Hudson Mill, and primarily processed wheat and corn. A general store, hotel, and pulp mill were later established.

The hamlet of Hudson was prosperous as long as the mills were running. However, in 1903, the pulp mill was sold and relocated to the new owner's farm in Webster Township.

Activities

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trail
- Strolling the nature trail
- Cross country skiing in winter
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Canoeing and kayaking the National Water Trail
- Taking on both disc golf courses
- Enjoying a round of golf
- Playing tennis, volleyball, and more

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1573

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	2 / 35.5
Service bldgs / avg age	4 / 36.3
Comfort stations / avg age	3 / 35
Road miles	3.22
Parking lot acreage	5.77
Playgrounds	4
Percent of park mowed	9.5
Picnic shelters	3
Sand volleyball courts	6
Baseball fields	4
Fishing platforms	0
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	1
Public canoe/kayak launches	5

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	7.3
Nature Trails	1.9
Rustic Hiking Trails	0.16
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	3.8
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	7.4
Total	20.58

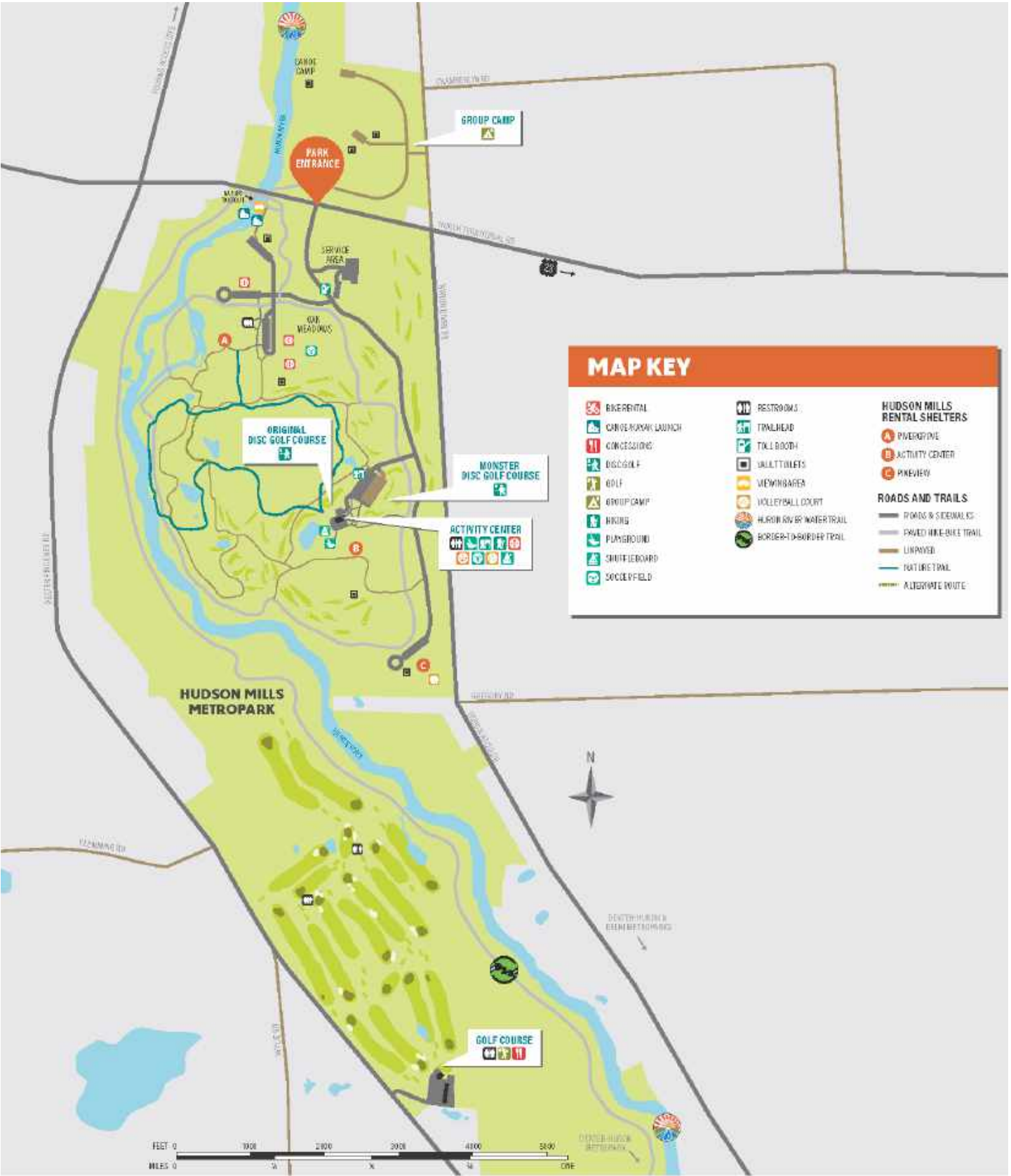
Community Plans

Dexter Township	
Master Plan	2011
Webster Township	
Master Plan	2022
City of Dexter	
Master Plan	2019
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2021



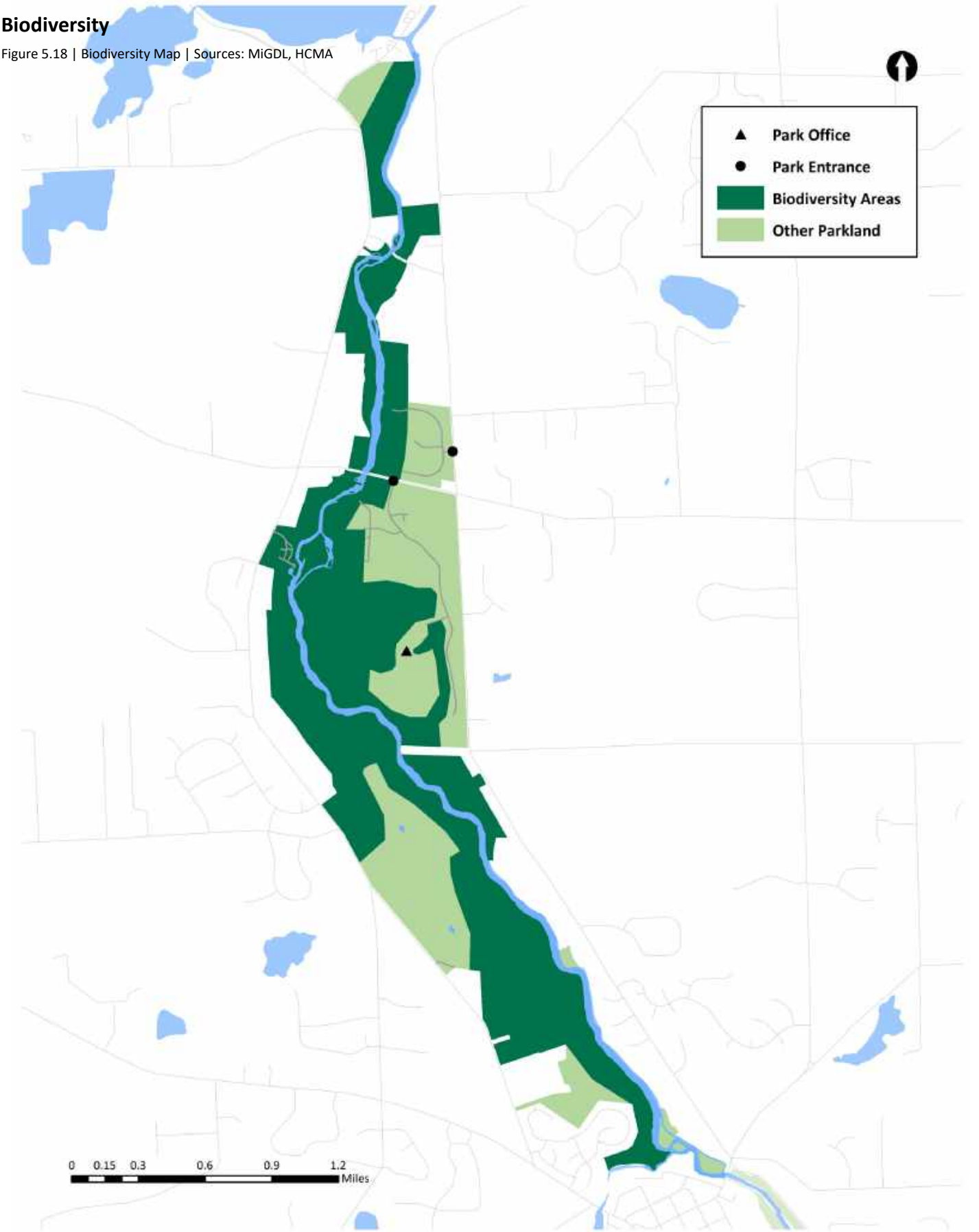
Park Overview

Figure 5.17 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



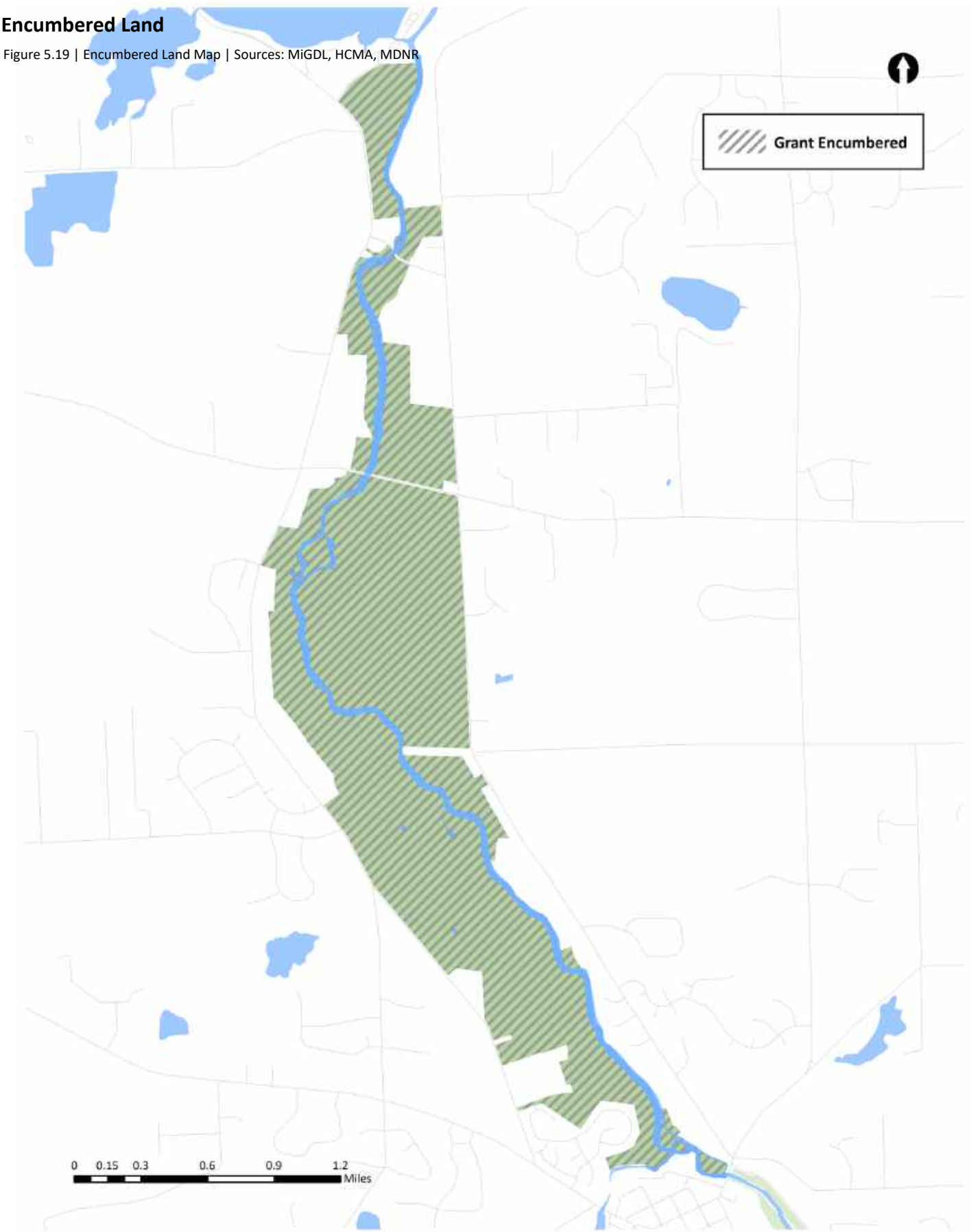
Biodiversity

Figure 5.18 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.19 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-01146	Hudson Mills Hike-Bike Trail	1980	Development	Closed	\$ 78,500.00	General maintenance
TF03-023	Hudson Mills Metropark Hike/Bike Trail	2003	Development	Closed	\$ 361,000.00	General maintenance
TF10-040	Hudson Mills Hike/Bike Trail Development	2010	Development	Closed	\$ 500,000.00	General maintenance
TF14-0129	Hudson Mills Metropark Property Acquisition	2014	Acquisition	Closed	\$75,000.00	General maintenance
TF19-0013	Hudson Mills Metropark Rapids View Development	2022	Development	Closed	\$453,300.00	General maintenance

STONY CREEK METROPARK

Stony Creek Metropark is located on the border of Oakland and Macomb counties in Southeast Michigan. It is approximately halfway between M-59 and the Lapeer County border. Three municipalities contain portions of the park: Oakland, Washington, and Shelby townships. The park also borders the City of Rochester Hills.

At its northernmost extent, Stony Creek reaches 31 Mile. To the east it reaches Mound Road, its western boundary is Sheldon Road, and to the south it extends between 25 and 26 Mile. The park is situated on the North Branch of the Clinton River.

Stony Creek features a wide variety of recreational activities, including mountain biking trails, a public campsite, and a beach with a large, modern playground. In 2021 the recently redeveloped Shelden Trails opened as a premier mountain biking experience but are used year-round as hiking and skiing trails as well. 17 miles of trails wind their way through the hilly historic grounds. Passive recreation is also an important aspect of the park, and the Inwood trails to the north of the park provide miles of gorgeous rustic hiking for those in search of an escape. Similar to Kensington, Stony Creek Lake was created through damming the Clinton River.

Cultural History

Stony Creek includes several interesting cultural and historical sites, such as the remains of the grand Shelden family estate. The Buckhorn Disc Golf Course sits on the site of the old Buckhorn Tavern that served residents and travelers in the 1800s, and the Inwood Trails cross the area where William Inwood Sr. discovered Native American artifacts.

The Detroit and Lake Orion Railway ran between the two cities starting in 1899, changing to Detroit United Railway after track extension to Flint and consolidation. The line was later extended all the way to Imlay City, but went out of business in 1934. Today, a line of raised ground near the Boat Launch is all that remains of the railway.

Activities

- Boating and fishing on 500-acre Stony Creek Lake
- Swimming at one of two beaches, inflatable water slide
- Hiking, mountain and road biking, running, inline skating
- Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and high ropes course
- Snowboarding, sledding, and ice fishing
- Golfing at the 18-hole regulation golf course

Statistics

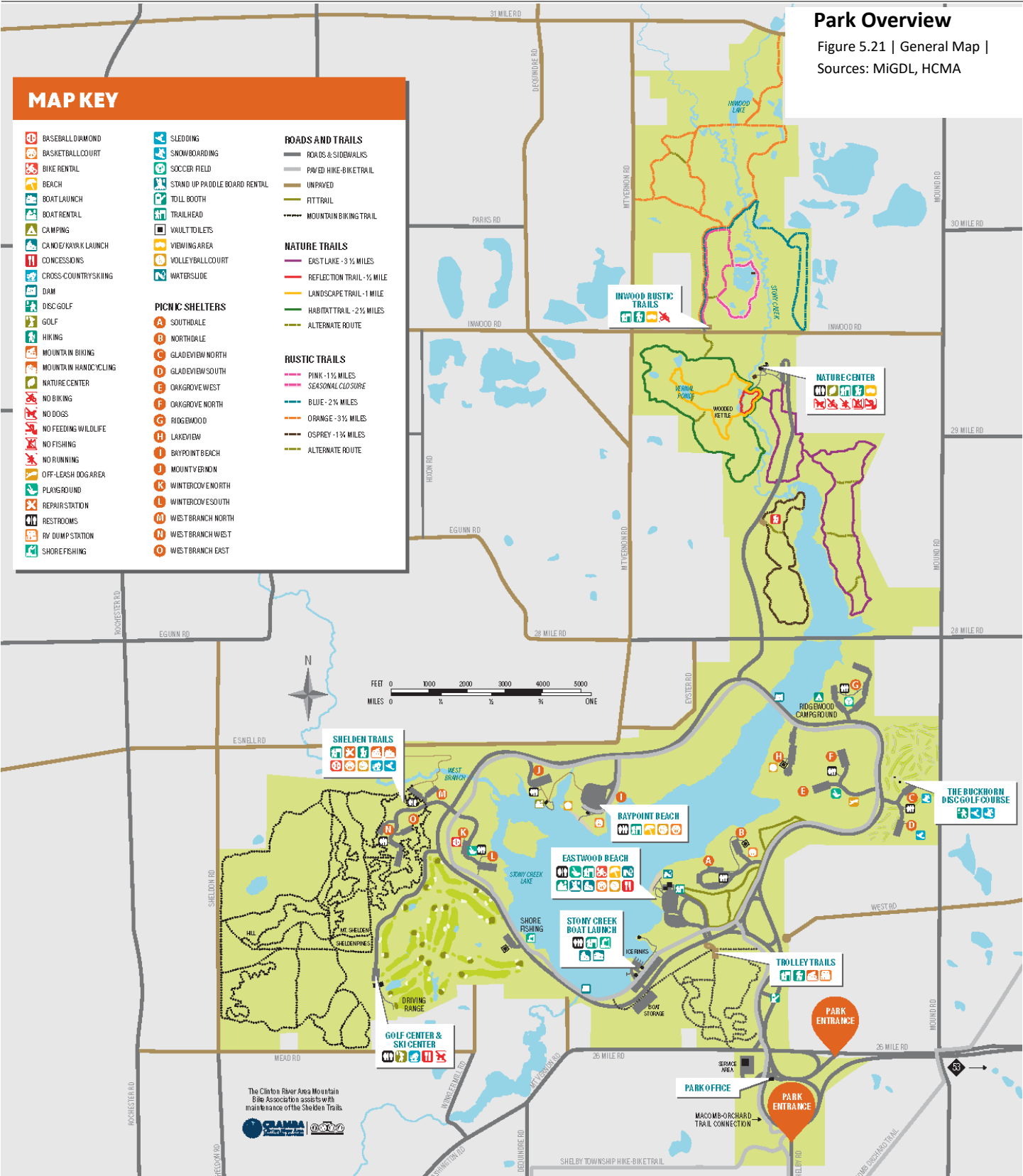
Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	4435

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	6 / 45
Service bldgs / avg age	5 / 49
Comfort stations / avg age	9 / 34.8
Road miles	14.33
Parking lot acreage	37.52
Playgrounds	14
Percent of park mowed	8.2
Picnic shelters	15
Sand volleyball courts	3
Baseball fields	2
Fishing platforms	1
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	4
Public canoe/kayak launches	2

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	7.66
Nature Trails	9.89
Rustic Hiking Trails	15.62
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	14.71
Mountain Bike Trails	16.8
Other Paths	16.39
Total	81.07

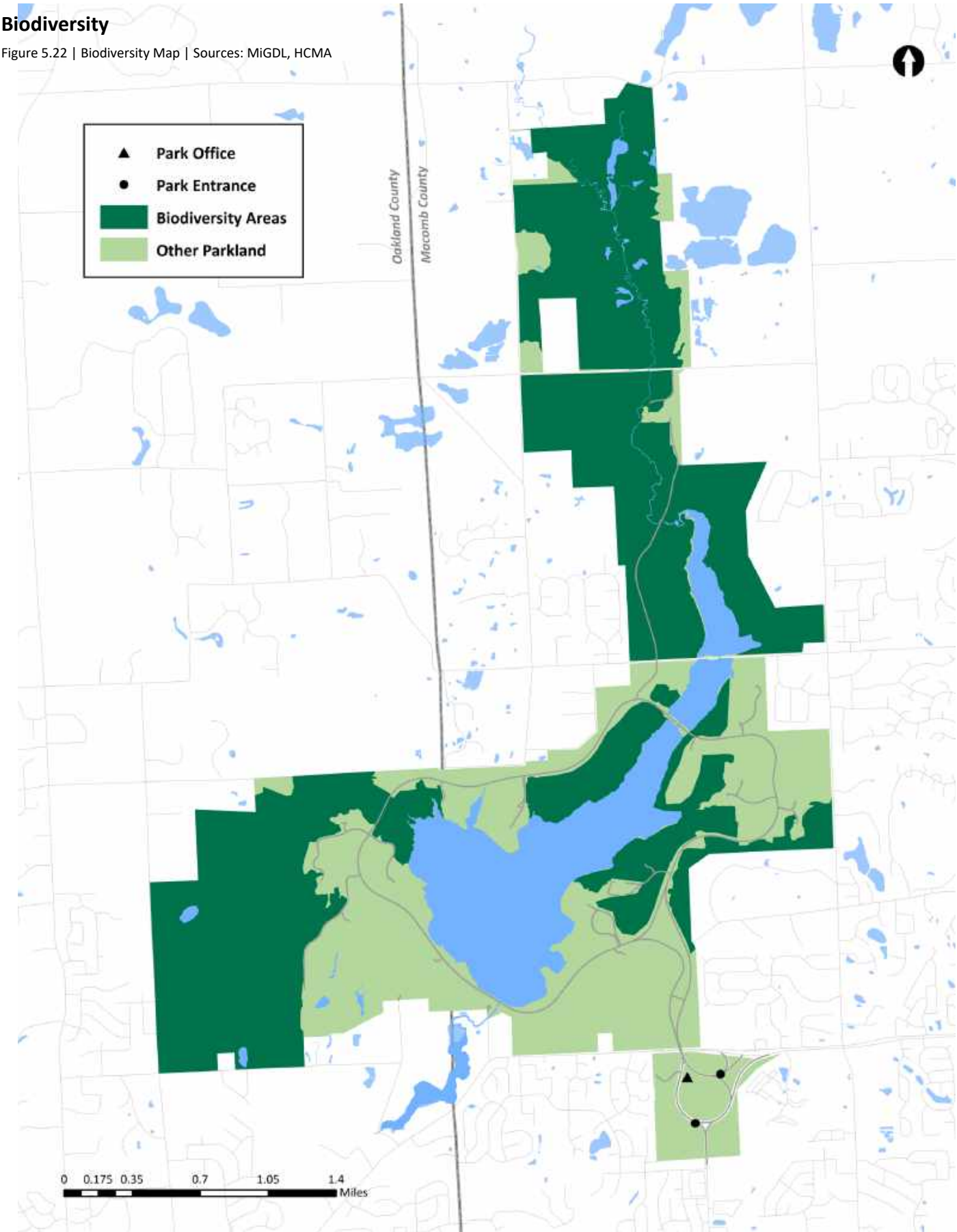
Community Plans

Washington Township	
Master Plan	2005
Oakland Township	
Recreation and Land Preservation Master Plan	2020-2024
Master Plan	2017
City of Rochester Hills	
Master Plan	2018
Shelby Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2016-2021
Master Plan	2017



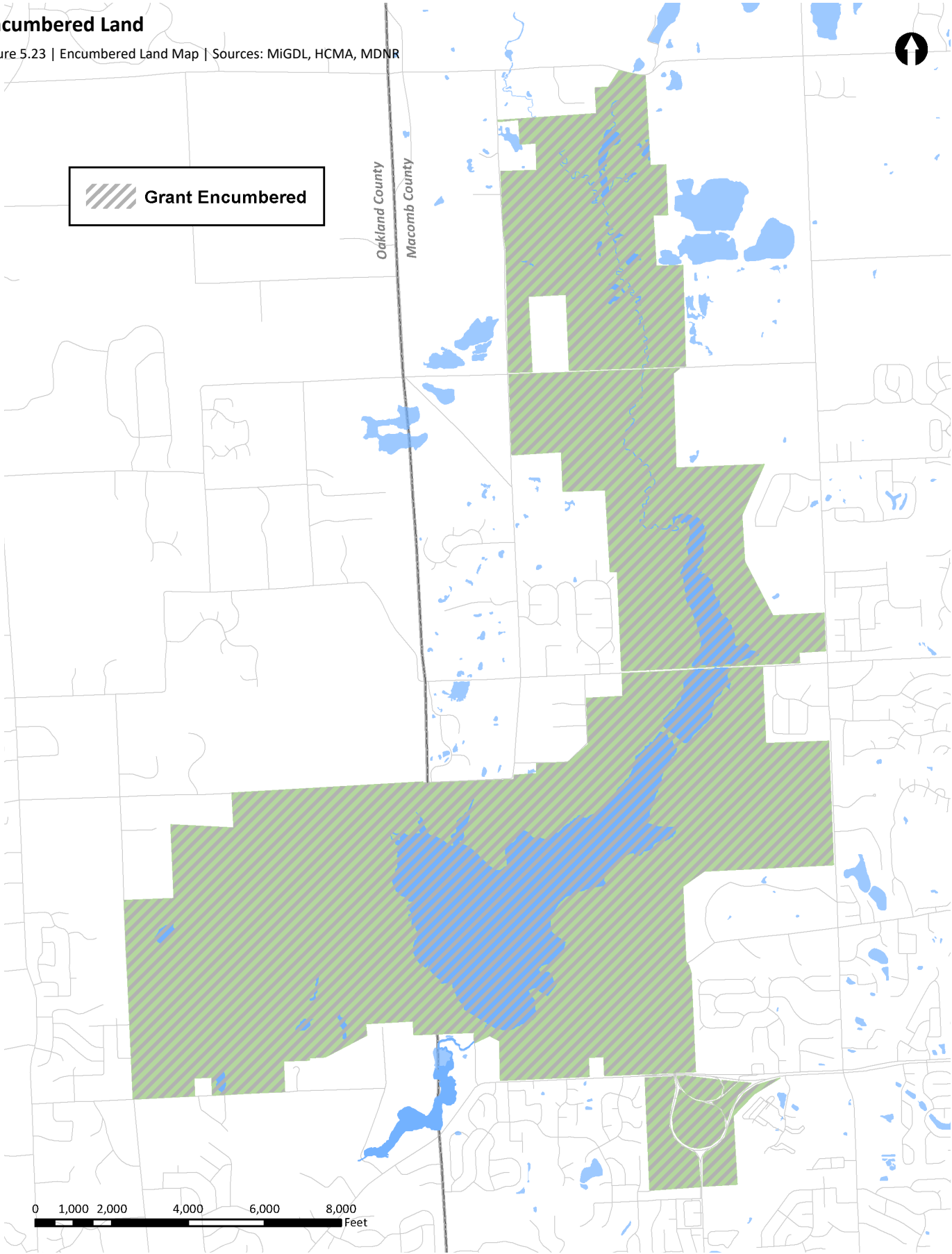
Biodiversity

Figure 5.22 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.23 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00022	Stony Creek West Branch - Winter Cove	1965	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 198,050.00	Structure renovations to meet standards, additional trail facilities, basketball court
26-00059	Stony Creek Enlargement #1	1967	Acquisition	Mitigation Com	\$ 144,049.00	DEQ conservation easement remains public recreation
26-00070	Stony Creek Metropolitan Park #2	1967	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 142,230.00	Upgraded boat launch complex per modern standards, additional beach amenities added
26-00618	Stony Creek Hike-Bike Trail	1975	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-00857	Stony Creek Hike/Bike Trail	1977	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
TAP 209683	26 Mile Stony Creek Connector Trail	2021	Development	Completed	\$ 227,660.00	General maintenance
TF 19-	Stony Creek Metropark– Off-Leash	2022	Development	Completed	\$ 138,500.00	General maintenance



WILLOW METROPARK

Willow Metropark is located in Wayne County, near its southern border with Monroe County. All of the park is within Huron Township.

At its northernmost extent, Willow nearly reaches Huron River Drive. To the east it runs along Willow Road, its western boundary is Waltz Road, and to the south it extends to Willow Road. All the active recreation in the park is located east of I-275. The park is situated on the Lower Huron River, and contains part of the trail running from Lower Huron Metropark to Lake Erie Metropark, a segment of the Iron Belle Trail.

Willow is primarily used for swimming, biking and hiking, picnicking, paddling, fishing, sledding, and disc golf. This is one of the most densely developed parks, featuring a number of recreational facilities in a relatively small land area. Some facilities, surrounding the Willow Pool, were built for a different era and different recreational trends and will need to be reimaged through the planning process. The access it provides to both the I-275 trail and the Lower Huron to Lake Erie trail make it an important non-motorized crossroads.

Cultural History

The portion of the park near the north entrance was part of the Wyandot Reservation from 1818-1842. A cabin once stood here where Mary McKee, granddaughter of a Wyandot chief, was born in 1838. She would remain here until 1843, when her family was relocated to Kansas. Later, she would return to the Midwest and share her knowledge of Wyandot culture and history with an anthropologist.

Willow Metropark contains a historic cemetery, known as the Huron Township Cemetery or "Fay and Smith Cemetery." It is located between Big Bend and Indian Ridge.

Activities

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trail
- Swimming in zero-depth entry pool with water slide, basketball, and spray features
- Taking family to the lit sledding hills
- Cross country skiing
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Playing disc golf, basketball, volleyball, and more
- Enjoying a round of golf
- Sledding and ice fishing in winter

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1532

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	5 / 42
Service bldgs / avg age	7 / 42.6
Comfort stations / avg age	7 / 40
Road miles	6.08
Parking lot acreage	16.91
Playgrounds	10
Percent of park mowed	21
Picnic shelters	8
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	0
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	2
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	7.7
Nature Trails	0
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	3.85
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	8.59
Total	20.14

Community Plans

Huron Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004



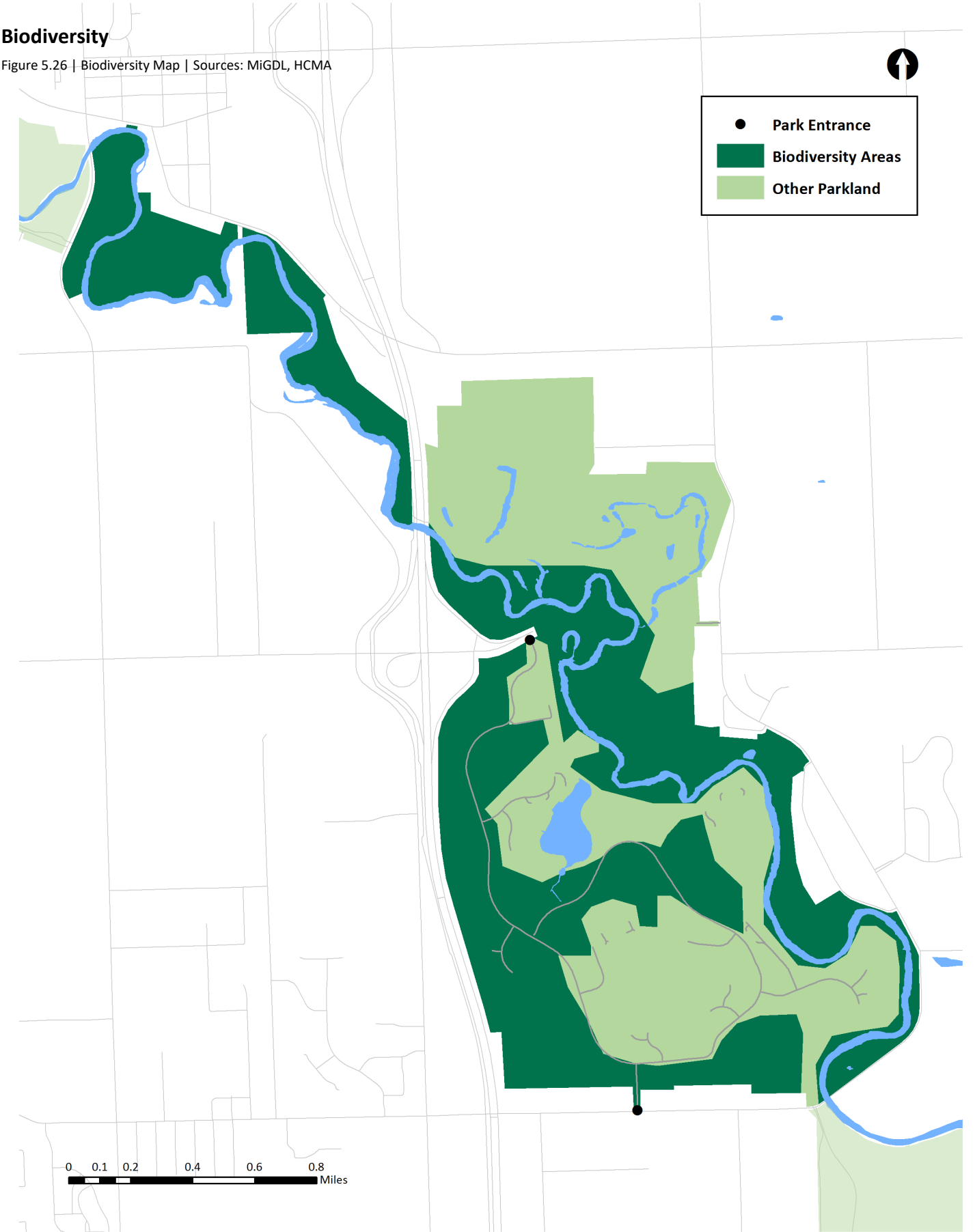
Park Overview

Figure 5.25 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



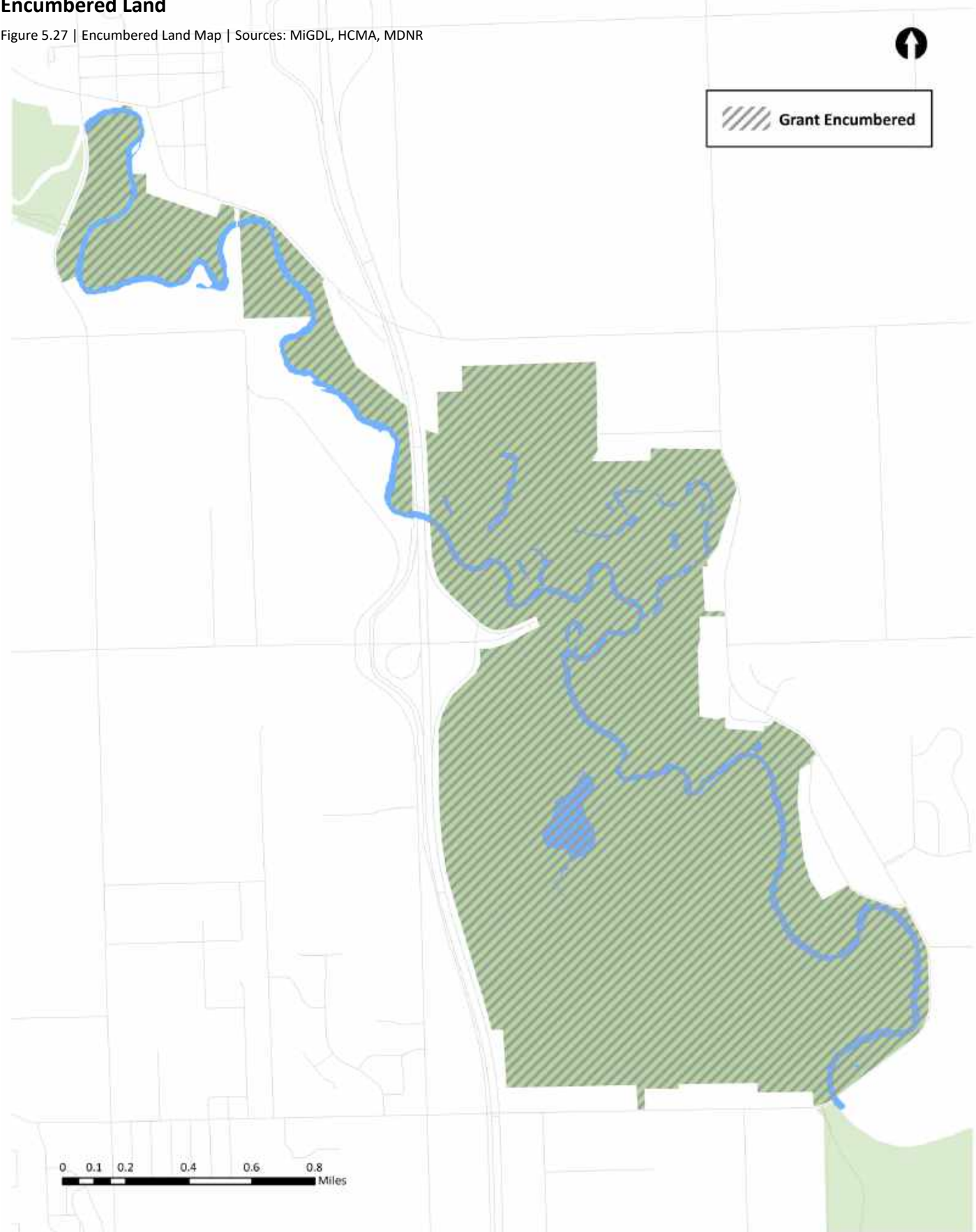
Biodiversity

Figure 5.26 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.27 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
BF89-196	Willow Metropark - Wayne County	1989	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	Renovations and repurposing of buildings being planned, no conversion will take place
BF90-170	Willow Metropark Hike/Bike Trail	1990	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	General maintenance
NFWF 2008.21. 070943	Increasing Resiliency of Huron River Floodplain in Willow Metropark	2025	Development	Open	\$ 501,592.49	Design/construction

OAKWOODS METROPARK

Oakwoods Metropark is located in southern Wayne County, near the border of Monroe County. The park is mostly within Huron Township, with a small section extending into the City of Flat Rock.

At its northernmost extent, Oakwoods reaches Huron River Drive. To the east it abuts the Huron River, it extends to the west near Romine Road, and to the south it reaches the county line. The park is situated on the Lower Huron River, and includes a portion of the trail running from Lower Huron Metropark to Lake Erie Metropark, a segment of the Iron Belle Trail.

Oakwoods is one of the least-developed parks in the Metroparks system. It focuses on passive recreation, trails, and protection of natural resources. It contains far fewer facilities than other parks, and is administered out of Lower Huron Metropark.

This park is primarily used for biking and hiking, paddling, picnicking, shore fishing, and horseback riding. The Nature Center is another important component of Oakwoods, providing interpretive programs for visitors. Oakwoods plays a unique role in the string of southern Metroparks due to its natural character. Keeping the park largely preserved and undeveloped is a priority.

Cultural History

The vast majority of the park was part of the Wyandot Reservation from 1818-1842 under the Treaty of St. Mary's. Numerous archaeological digs have been performed within the park by staff and other experts. These digs have revealed both historic and prehistoric artifacts, showing that the Native Americans have been utilizing this site for thousands of years.

The center of the park is the former site of a meat packing plant. This area contains a wealth of historical artifacts, many dating back 50-100 years, when there were houses located along the Old South Huron Rd.

Activities

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trails
- Enjoying nature and birdwatching
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Shorefishing and Voyageur canoe outings
- Visiting with Hawkeye the Hawk
- Equestrian trails

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1715

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	1 / 43
Service bldgs / avg age	1
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0
Percent of park mowed	3.5
Picnic shelters	0
Sand volleyball courts	0
Baseball fields	0
Fishing platforms	0
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	2

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	3.88
Nature Trails	4.69
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	6.82
Cross Country Ski Trails	2.89
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	0.59
Total	18.87

Community Plans

City of Flat Rock	
Master Plan	2007
Huron Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004



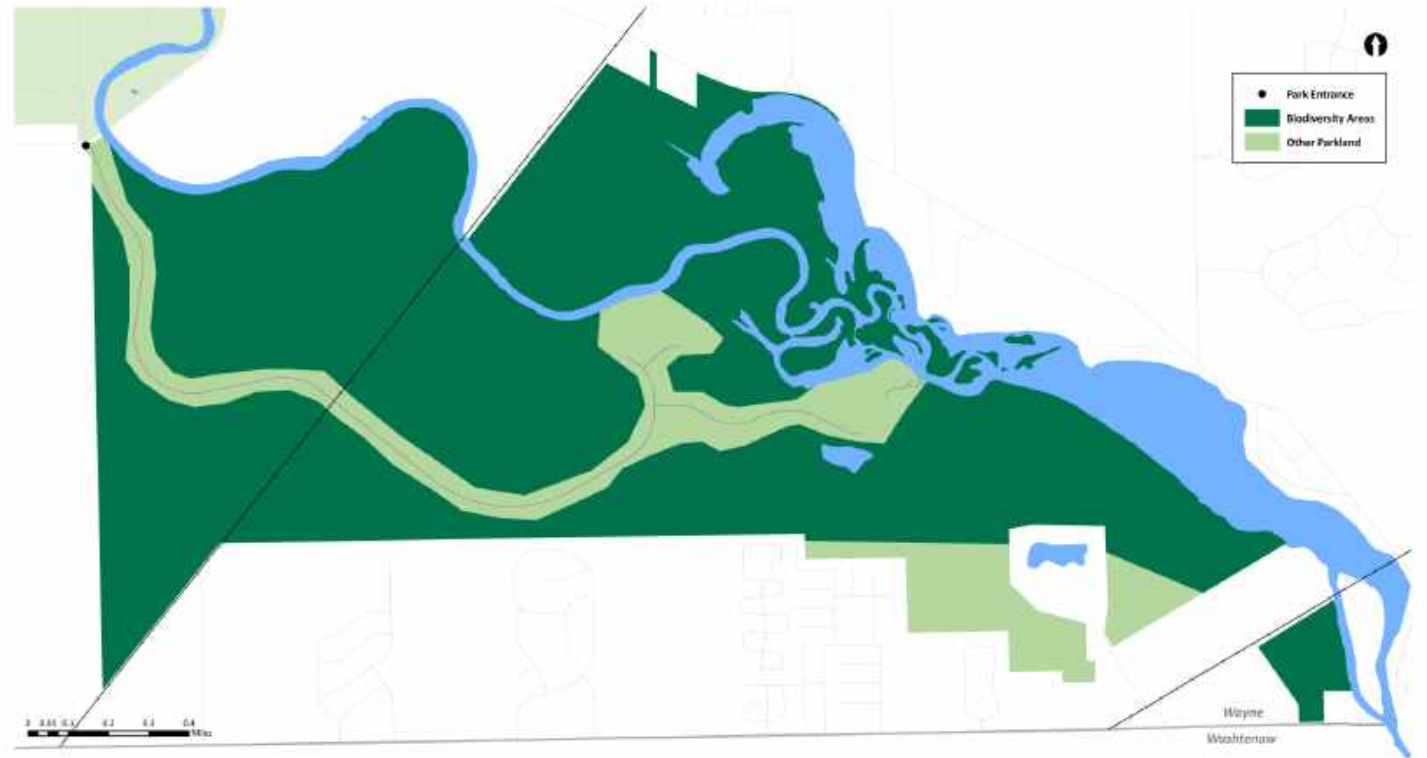
Park Overview

Figure 5.29 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Biodiversity

Figure 5.30 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.31 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
LW 26-01821	Oakwoods Metropark - Accessible Nature Trail Development	2024	Development	Open	\$ 248,000.00	Design of accessible pathway and amenities along with Nature Center building improvements

LAKE ERIE METROPARK

Lake Erie Metropark is located in Wayne County, on its southern border with Monroe County. Most of the park is within Brownstown Township, with the northern section extending into the City of Gibraltar.

At its northernmost extent, Lake Erie reaches South Gibraltar Road. To the east is Lake Erie's shoreline, its western boundary is Jefferson Road, and to the south it abuts Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. The park is situated at the mouth of the Huron River.

A wide variety of recreational activities are available at Lake Erie Metropark. The park is notable for its expanse of beautiful shoreline, much of which can be enjoyed on the hike-bike trail, nature trails, or boardwalks. It is a nationally recognized birding area with high-quality habitat. At the north end of the park, the Great Wave Pool and Food Bar has been drawing families to enjoy summer fun for decades.

Cultural History

The village of Brownstown moved locations several times during its history, but prior to the War of 1812 it was located partially with the northern border of the park. Various projectile points have been found along the shoreline, suggesting a former Native American presence.

French Long Lots, also known as ribbon farms, can be seen along the southern portion of the park. These properties are long and narrow, with the short border along a waterfront. Consequently, all properties had water access, a valuable commodity for the newly arrived.

The cannon monument located at the north end of the park is directly related to the efforts of Dr. Hal C. Wyman. A prominent physician in late 19th century Detroit, he was also a history buff. Using his own funding, he secured the cannons for a monument honoring soldiers from the War of 1812.

Activities

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking
- Exploring the Marshlands Museum and nature trails
- Spending a day at the wave pool and picnicking
- Boating and kayaking
- Cross country skiing in winter
- Birdwatching and shore fishing
- Playing tennis, volleyball, basketball, and more
- Enjoying a round of golf

Statistics

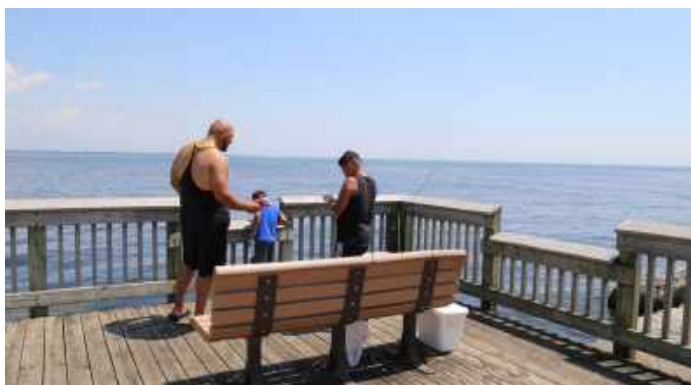
Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1607
Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	7 / 34
Service bldgs / avg age	8 / 31
Comfort stations / avg age	1 / 11
Road miles	4.96
Parking lot acreage	21.79
Playgrounds	3
Percent of park mowed	12
Picnic shelters	5
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	1
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	2
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	3
Nature Trails	2.69
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	3.85
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	7.09
Total	16.63

Community Plans

City of Gibraltar	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2014-2019
Master Plan Update	2021

Brownstown Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2022
Master Plan	2008



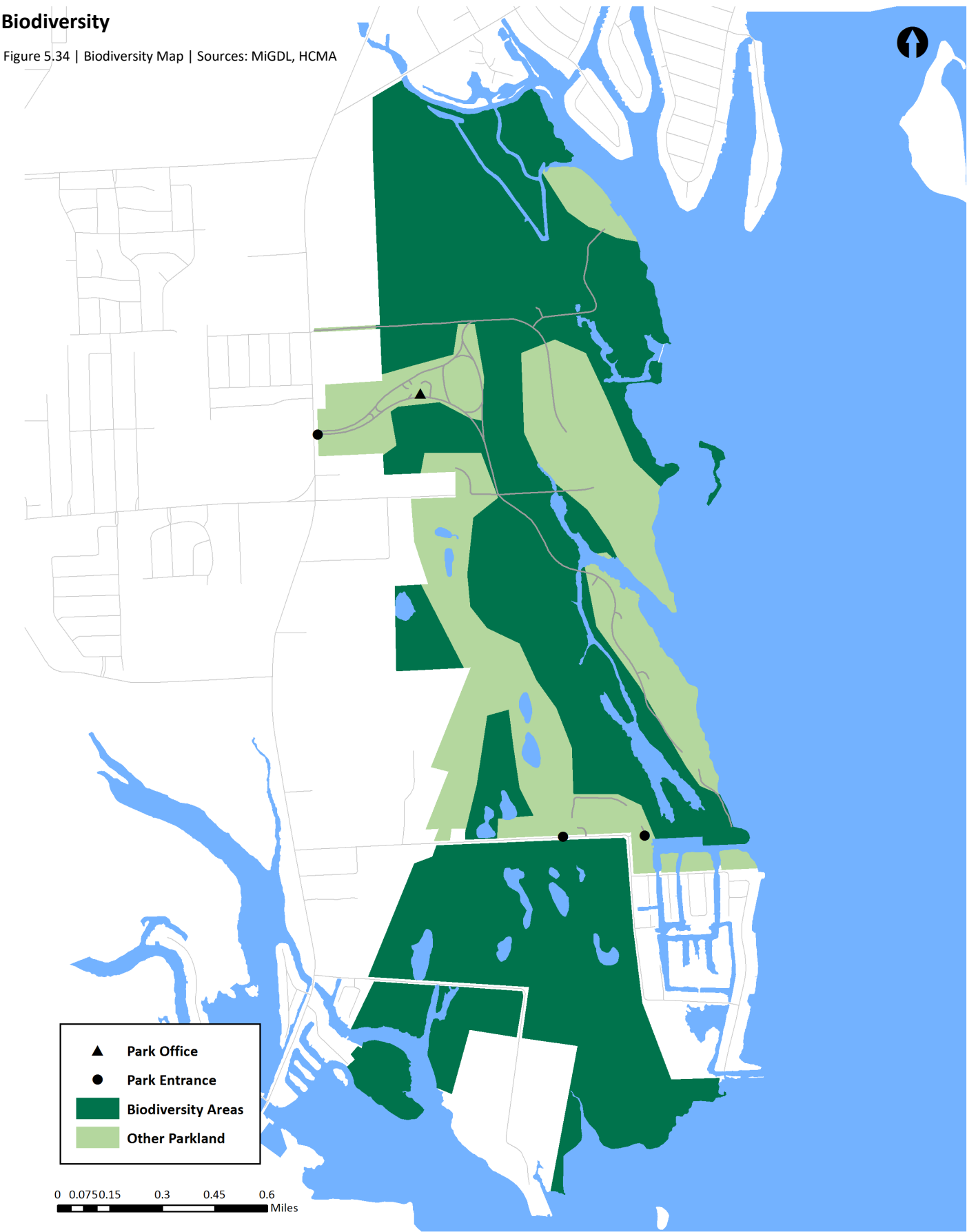
Park Overview

Figure 5.33 | General Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA



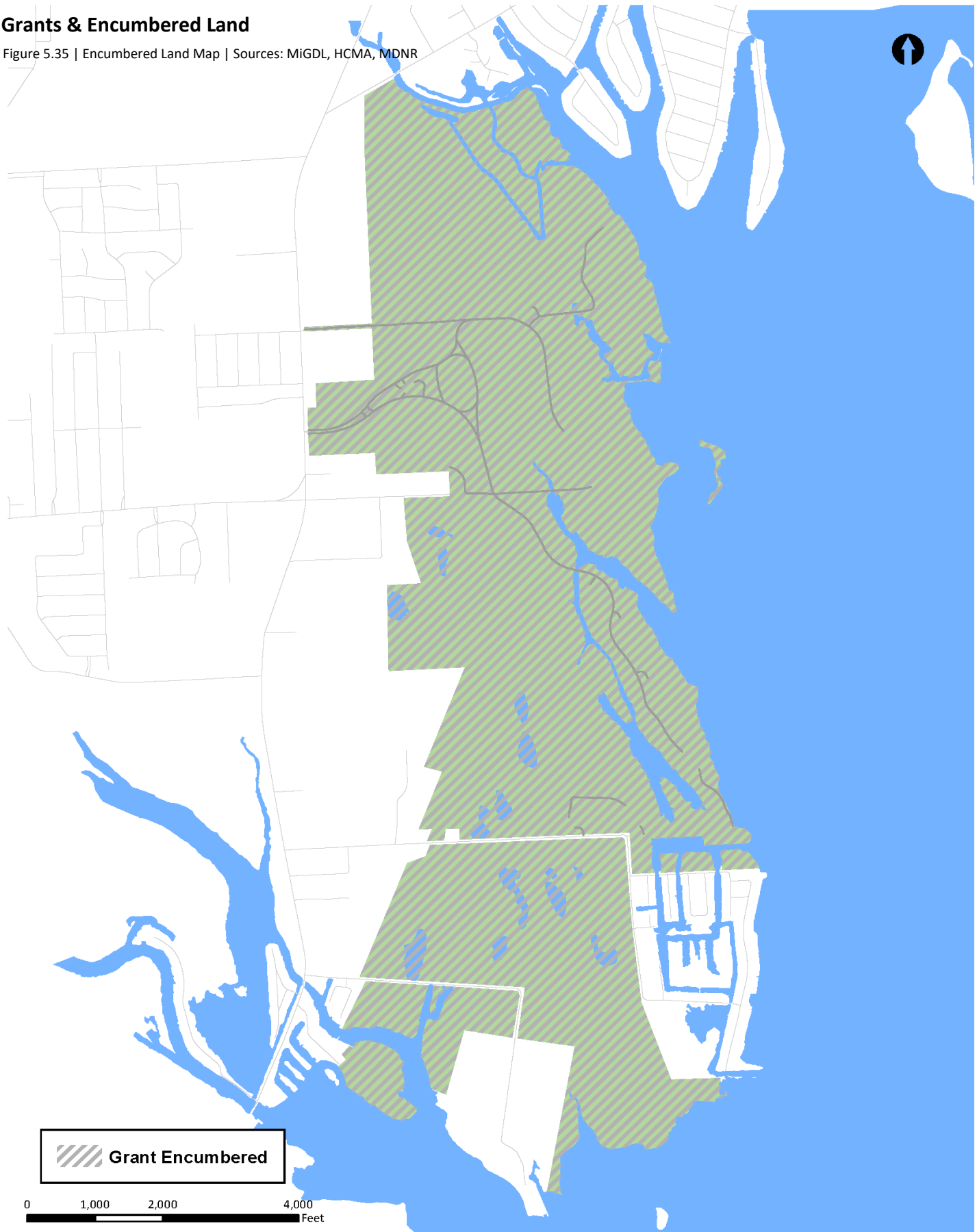
Biodiversity

Figure 5.34 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Grants & Encumbered Land

Figure 5.35 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-01383	Lake Erie Metropark Play Area	1985	Development	Closed	\$ 175,000.00	Renovated playground and additional amenities added to wave pool along with minor upgrades to pool facility
BF90-197	Lake Erie Metropark Wildfowlers Museum - Ph. 2	1990	Development	Closed	\$ 750,000.00	Continued use as museum/nature center
BF93-152	Lake Erie MP - Trail	1993	Development	Closed	\$ 115,500.00	General maintenance –no conversion
TF95-088	Shoreline Trail	1995	Development	Closed	\$ 375,000.00	General maintenance—no conversion
TF99-117	Lake Erie Metropark Marina Point Fishing Site	1999	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	Continued use –no conversion
TF01-041	Lake Erie Metropark Hike-Bike/Shoreline Trail	2001	Development	Closed	\$ 199,800.00	General maintenance– no conversion
LW 26-01822	Lake Erie Metropark Accessible Launch Development	2024	Development	Open	\$ 245,000.00	Design in progress
TF21-0016	Lake Erie Metropark Cherry Island Trail Improvements	2024	Development	Open	\$ 871,800.00	Design in progress
EPA 00E03125	Lake Erie Metropark Green Infrastructure Improvements	2025	Development	Open	\$ 657,743.00	Design in progress



WOLCOTT MILL METROPARK

Wolcott Mill Metropark is located in Macomb County in Southeast Michigan. It is approximately halfway between M-59 and the Lapeer County border. This is the largest Metropark in the system to be located solely within one municipality, in this case Ray Township.

At its northernmost extent Wolcott Mill reaches 31 Mile. Its eastern boundary is Ray Center Road, to the west it nearly reaches Romeo Plank, and to the south it extends to 26 Mile. The park is situated on the North Branch of the Clinton River.

Unlike other Metroparks, the nodes of activity in Wolcott Mill are not connected by roads. Each one is accessible through a separate park entrance, and to drive from one to another requires exiting the park. Although these nodes will likely remain separated for vehicular traffic in the near future, plans are underway to improve non-motorized connections among the various centers of activity.

The historic nature of the park means that the average building age is much higher than that of other parks in the system. Several date back to the mid-1800s. Preservation of these structures is important and pose special maintenance challenges.

Cultural History

The gristmill that gives this park its name dates back to the mid-1800s, when milling was an essential industry in Michigan and Macomb County. The mill was built in 1845 by one of the important early families in the county, the Freemans, and passed through several other hands before being sold to Frederick Beech Wolcott in 1878.

After Wolcott's death in 1921, his children continued operation of the mill, converting to electrical power and selling flour to bakeries in Detroit. The mill closed in 1968, was briefly planned as an agricultural campus for Macomb Community College, suffered vandalism and the removal of the house structure, and was transferred to HCMA ownership in 1979.

Activities

- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Learning about farm animals and history
- Picnicking
- Photography

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	2850

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	9 / 120
Service bldgs / avg age	3 / 44
Comfort stations / avg age	3 / 83
Road miles	1.82
Parking lot acreage	4.13
Playgrounds	1
Percent of park mowed	2.1
Picnic shelters	3
Sand volleyball courts	1
Baseball fields	0
Fishing platforms	1
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	0

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	0
Nature Trails	3.03
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	8.62
Cross Country Ski Trails	0
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	15.83
Total	27.48

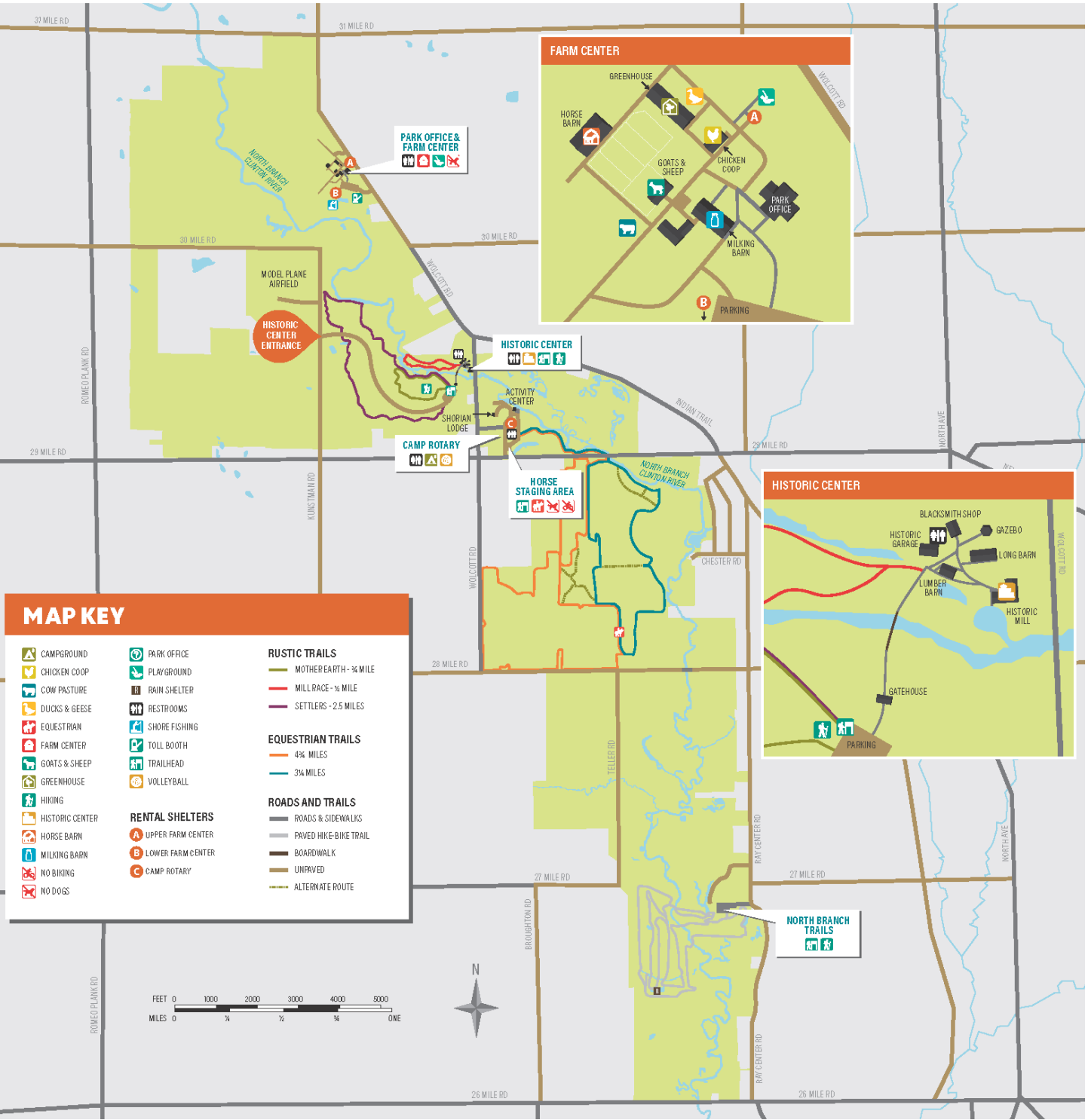
Community Plans

Ray Township	
Master Plan Update	2016



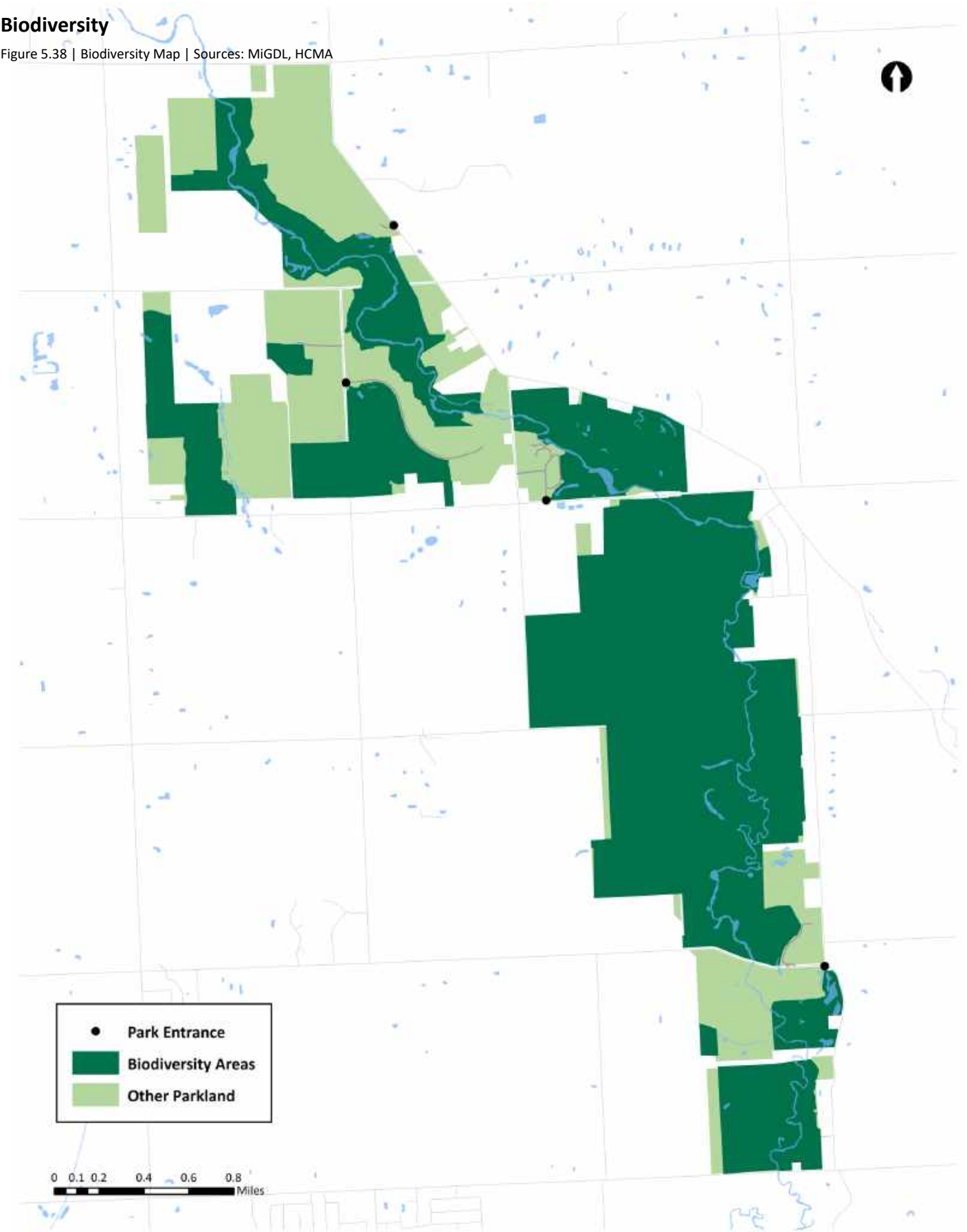
Park Overview

Figure 5.37 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



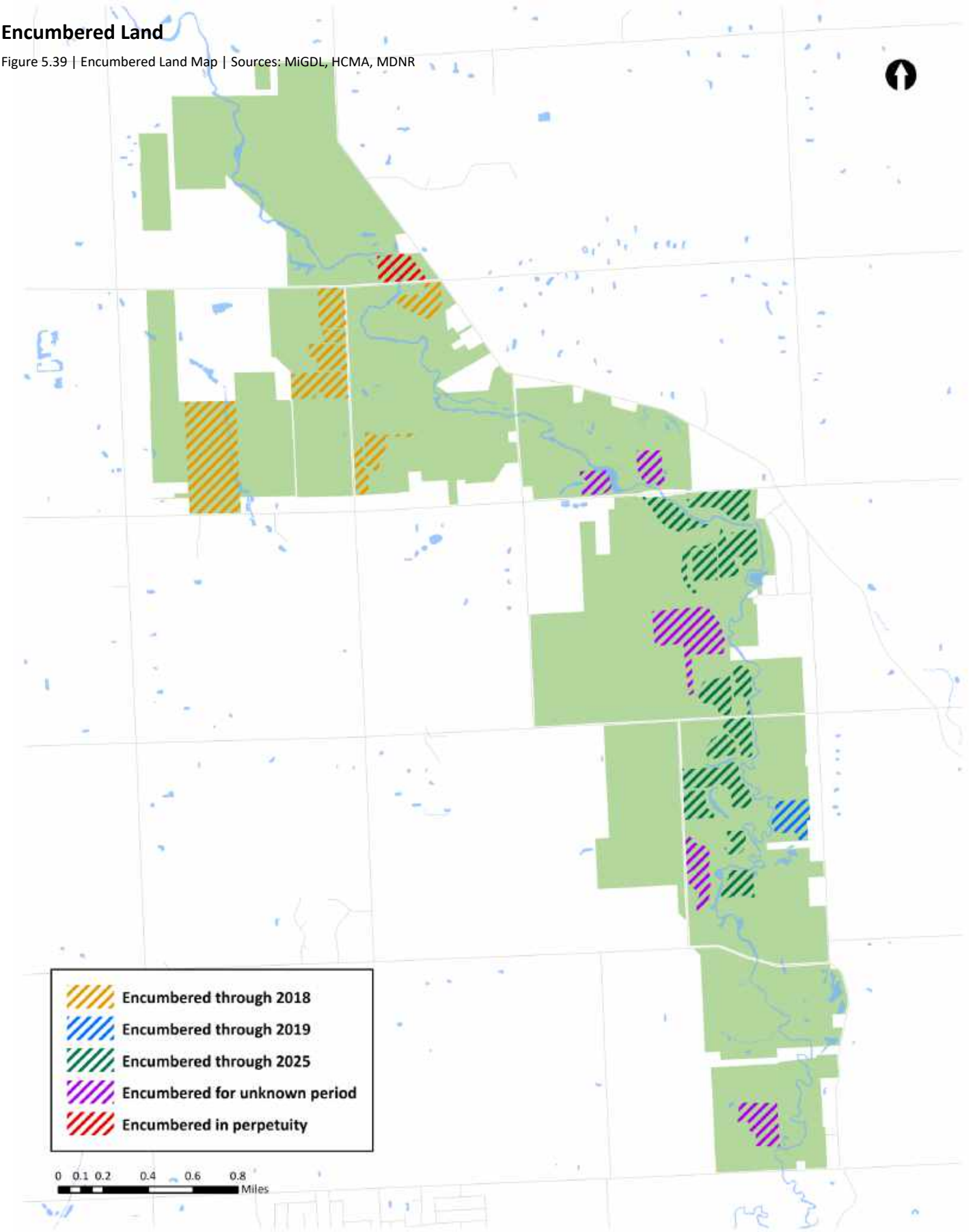
Biodiversity

Figure 5.38 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.39 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Encumbered through	Type	Amount	Current Condition
26-00857	Conversion Mitigation—Stony Creek	2012	Perpetuity	Mitigation	-	No conversion of use
-	USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Native Prairie Restoration*	2008	2018	Restoration	\$16,653	Maintained
-	EPA GLRI Floodplain Restoration*	2016	unknown	Restoration	\$352,147	Maintained
-	DEQ Section 9 Grant /USFWS Floodplain Restoration*	2015-16	2025	Restoration	\$290,960	Maintained
-	DTE Community Forests Grant Forest Restoration*	2016	2019	Restoration	\$6,186	Maintained

*These grants were not awarded through the LWCF, Trust Fund, Clean Michigan, or Recreation Bond programs.



INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK

Indian Springs Metropark is located in the western half of Oakland County. Most of the park is within Springfield Township, but the southern portion extends into White Lake Township.

At its northernmost extent, Indian Springs nearly reaches Big Lake Road. To the east it runs along the railroad line and reaches Crosby lake, to the west it extends beyond Hillsboro Road, and its southern boundary is White Lake Road and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. The park is situated on the Upper Huron watershed, at the headwaters of the river.

Indian Springs is primarily used for hiking, golf, cross country skiing, and family outings. The Spray 'n' Play has several children's attractions for family enjoyment, such as a climbing wall, playground, and splash pad. The Environmental Discovery Center features an underwater pond viewing room and helps visitors of all ages learn about the high-quality habitat preserved through this park. It also provides a beautiful rental space for special events.

Cultural History

About 12,000 years ago, Native Americans were the first to walk the land around Indian Springs Metropark, creating foot trails through what is now Oakland County. During the 1800s, European settlers arrived to find land rich with rivers, lakes, prairies, and dense white pine forests – perfect for farms, new homes and settlements. The foot trails became roads while prairies became farms. Pine forests were cut and non-native plants and animals were introduced, changing the character of the land.

In 1833, the Garner brothers from New York traveled the foot trails from Pontiac, slept outside overnight, and likely built a temporary shelter on the way to their new property. They were one of the first families to settle in this area.

Activities

- Cross country skiing in winter
- Exploring the Environmental Discovery Center
- Strolling the nature trails and native plant garden
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Horseback riding
- Spending time at the Spray 'n' Play
- Enjoying a round of golf
- Holding weddings and events at the banquet facility

Statistics

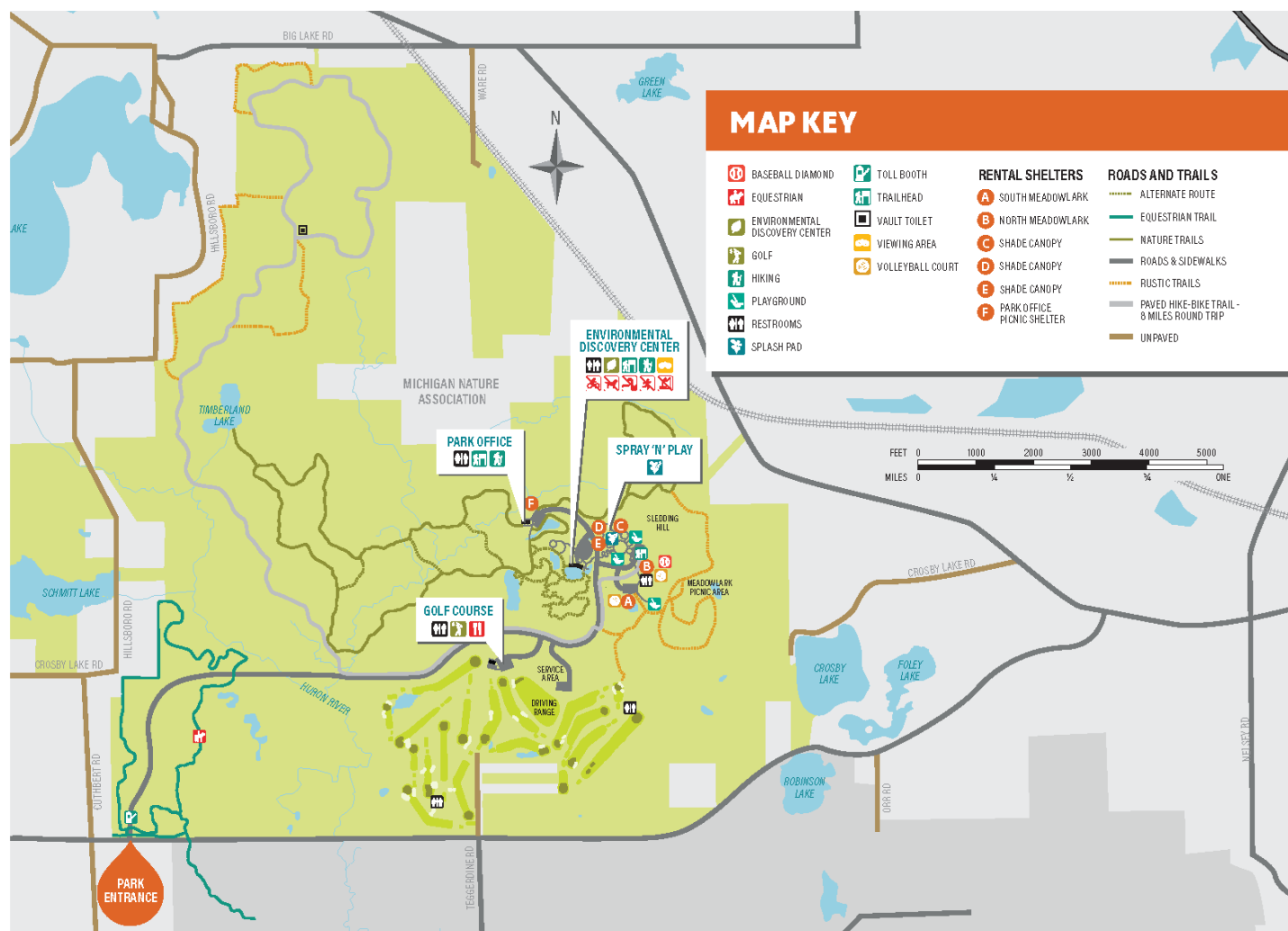
Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	2509
Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	3 / 30
Service bldgs / avg age	4 / 29
Comfort stations / age	1 / 26
Road miles	3.44
Parking lot acreage	4.74
Playgrounds	2
Percent of park mowed	2.7
Picnic shelters	5
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	0
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	0
Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	5.08
Nature Trails	7.27
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	2.81
Cross Country Ski Trails	11.49
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	6.98
Total	33.63

Community Plans

Springfield Township	
Parks and Recreation Plan	2019
White Lake Township	
Master Plan for Land Use	2010

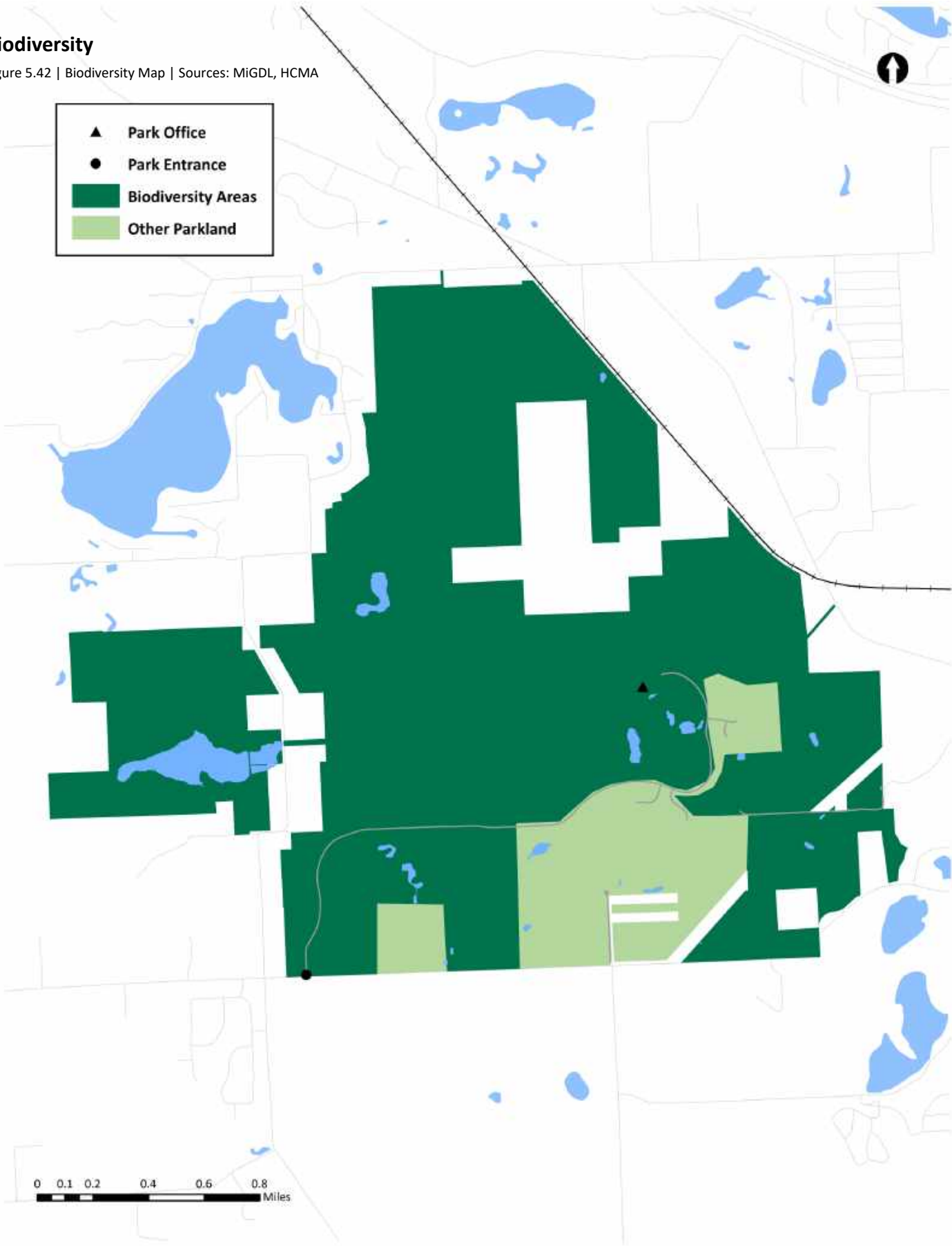


Figure 5.41 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



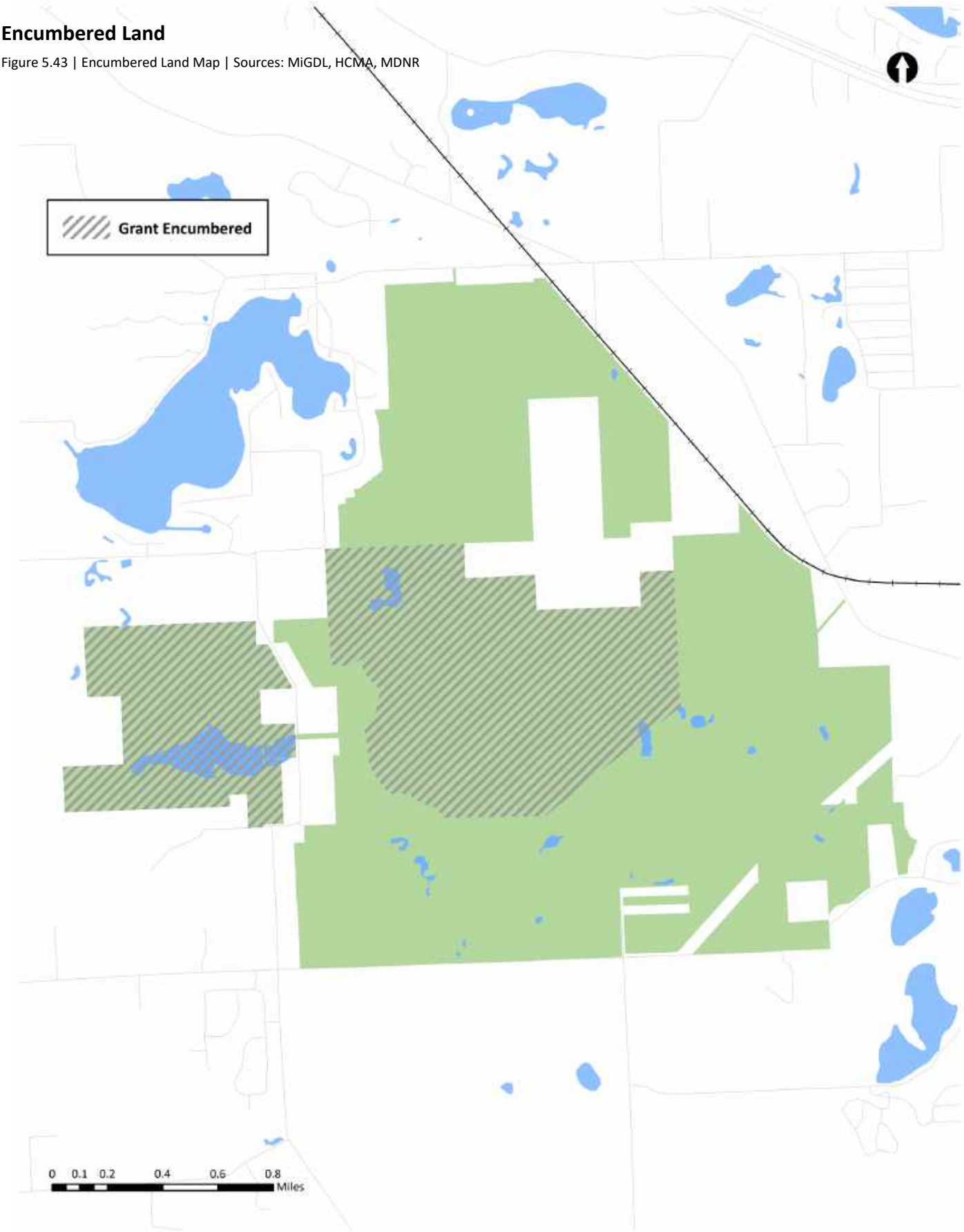
Biodiversity

Figure 5.42 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.43 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
26-01490	Indian Springs Nature Trail	1992	Development	Closed	\$ 65,000.00	Amenities added
TF07-028	Indian Springs Metropark Land Acquisition	2007	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 1,426,000.00	Continued use for hiking and nature observation



HURON MEADOWS METROPARK

Huron Meadows Metropark is located in Livingston County, near its southern border with Washtenaw County. All of the park is within Greek Oak Township, and it abuts Hamburg Township.

At its northernmost extent, Huron Meadows reaches Maltby Road. To the east it borders Whitmore Lake Road and US-23, to the west it extends about halfway between Rickett and Hamburg Roads, and its southern boundary is Winans Lake Road. The park is situated on the Chain of Lakes creekshed within the Huron River watershed.

Huron Meadows is primarily used for hiking, fishing, paddling, skiing, picnic outings, and golf. Cross-country skiing has become an extremely popular activity at this park due to the extensive, well-maintained trails. This requires trail maintenance and grooming, as well as snow-making in dry periods.

Cultural History

The area enclosed by Huron Meadows Metropark was the first land to be tilled by settlers in Livingston County. Stephen Lee and Almon Maltby arrived in Michigan from New York to take advantage of the fertile soils. Lee built a saw mill on Ore Creek, north of the park, in what is now Downtown Brighton. Their children, Hannibal Lee and Henry Maltby, purchased more land in the area for agriculture and grazing. Other land holders purchased land south of where Hammel road is now, but the 1832 Black Hawk War in Illinois and Wisconsin stirred fears, and the land changed hands several times.

The land that is now the golf course and Maltby Lake area was acquired in 1977, completing Huron Meadows Metropark. The herd of cattle and bison that grazed here are gone, replaced by white-tailed deer and Canada geese. Because the land was never heavily developed, many portions of the park are rich in biodiversity.

Activities

- Exploring the rustic hiking trails
- Cross country skiing in winter
- Canoeing and kayaking on the Huron
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Fishing on the pier
- Playing volleyball, baseball, soccer, and more
- Enjoying a round of golf

Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1573

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 22
Service bldgs / avg age	3 / 28
Comfort stations / avg age	2 / 19
Road miles	2.12
Parking lot acreage	3.49
Playgrounds	2
Percent of park mowed	2.8
Picnic shelters	3
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	2
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	0
Nature Trails	0
Rustic Hiking Trails	9.45
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	12.67
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	7.95
Total	30.07

Community Plans

Green Oak Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2021
Master Plan	2014

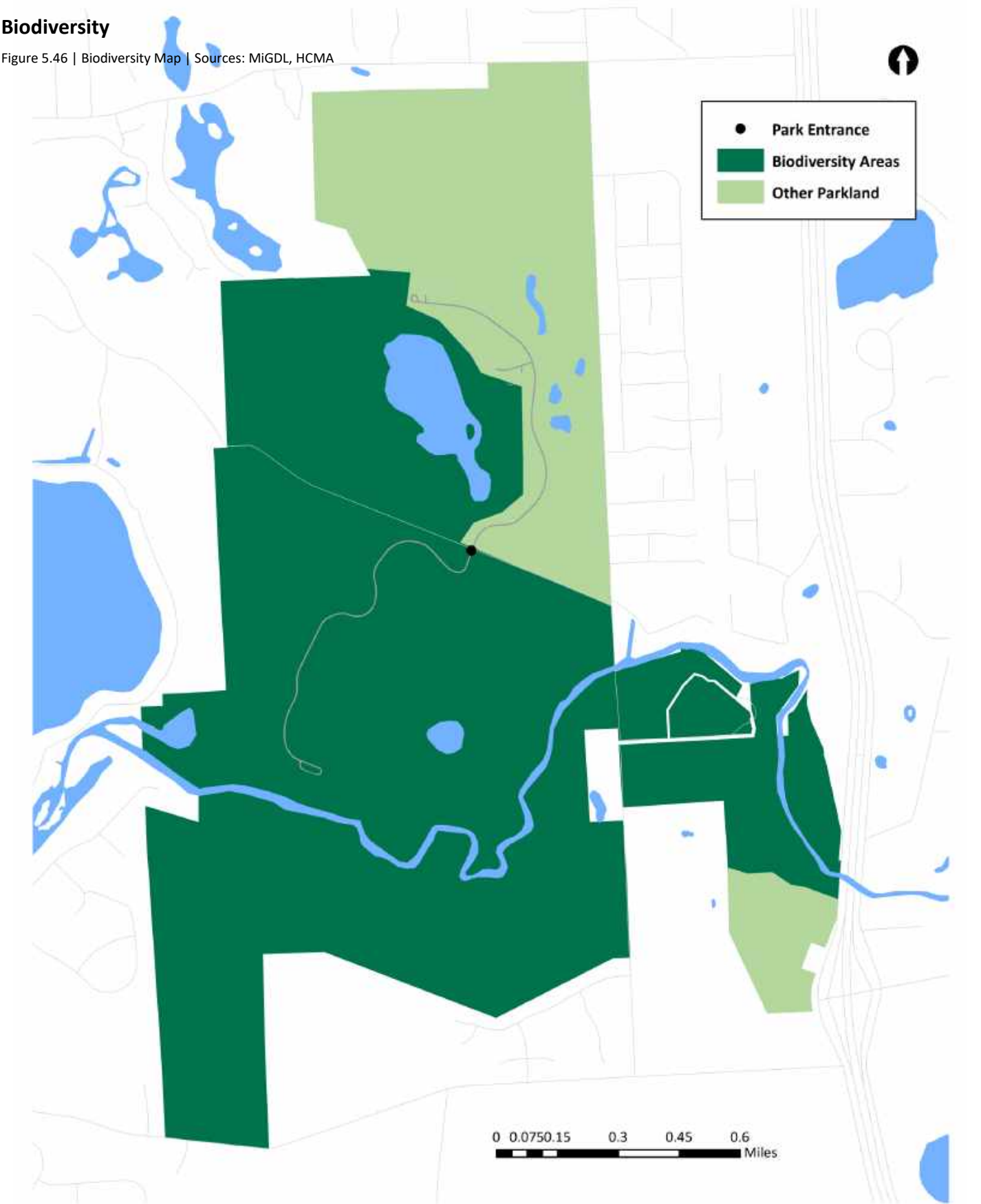


Figure 5.45 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



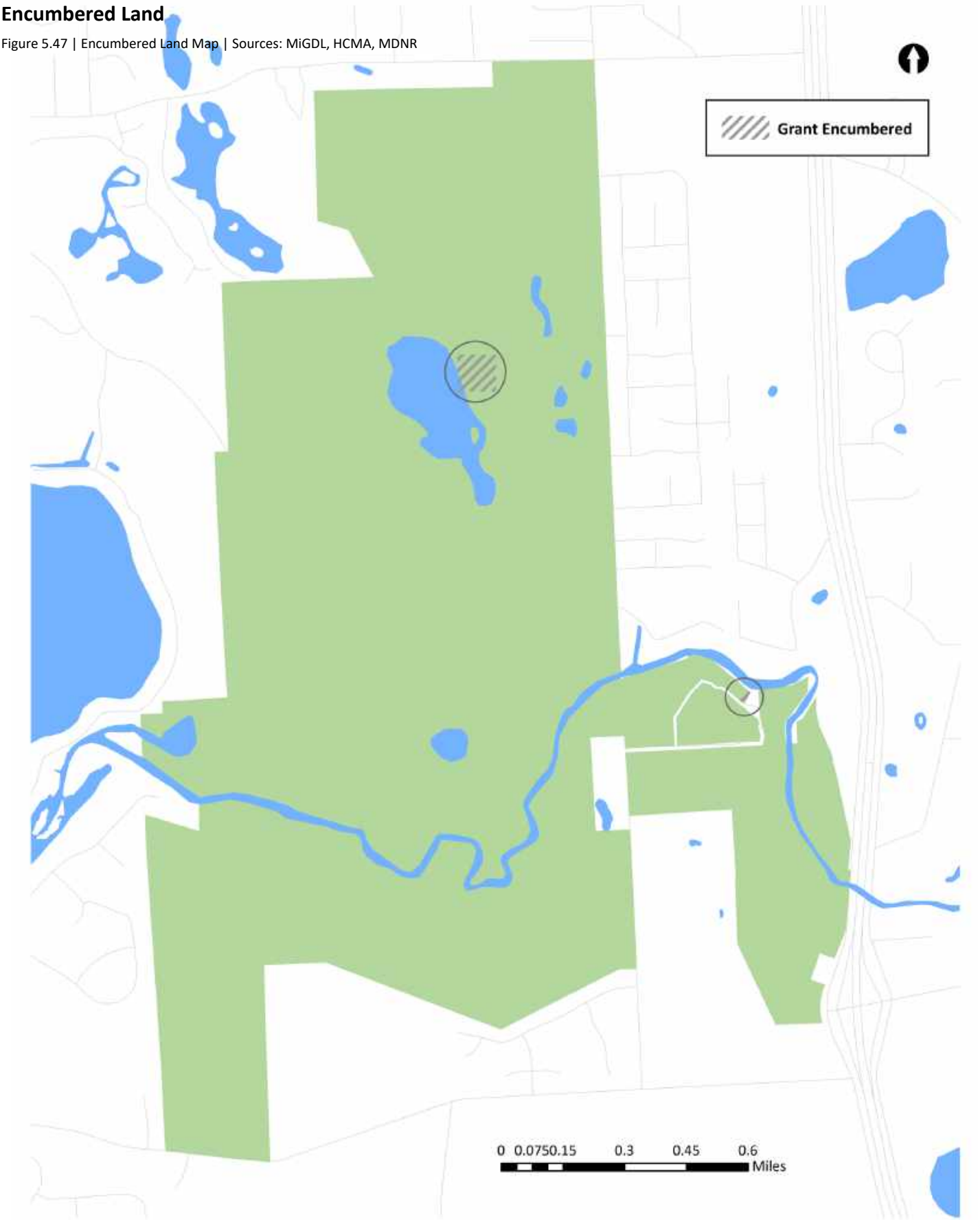
Biodiversity

Figure 5.46 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.47 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
26-00201	South Metropolitan Parkway (Huron Meadows)	1970	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 7,000.00	Maintained within park boundary—no conversion
TF99-118	Maltby Lake Access and Play Area	1999	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	General maintenance



5 | RECREATION INVENTO-*Boating Inventory***South Marina Recreational Harbor**

The South Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the southeast side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, an accessible floating dock, a restroom with showers and kiosk, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The marina overall purpose is to better serve the public by providing a family-friendly, accessible marina that boaters and park patrons can enjoy for generations. The marina renovation will serve the Macomb County and Great Lakes region by helping to retain jobs in the marine, fishing, and event industries.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The South Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVENTO-

Boating Inventory

North Marina Recreational Harbor

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Boating Inventory

Daysail Launch– Boating Access Site

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVENTO-*Boating Inventory***Boat Launch– Boating Access Site**

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVEN-

Boating Inventory

Mitten Bay Docking

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Boating Inventory

West Boat Launch

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVENTO-*Boating Inventory***East Boat Launch**

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Boating Inventory

Lake Erie Marina– Recreational Harbor

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Boating Inventory

Lake Erie Boat Launch

The Boat Launch located at Lake Erie Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

5 | RECREATION INVEN-

Boating Inventory

Stony Creek Boat Launch

The North Marina Recreational Harbor is one of two marina basins, located on the north side at Lake St. Clair Metropark (Figure 5.1). The marina includes fixed finger piers, seawall, a nearby comfort station and picnic shelter, lighted walkway and associated utilities.

Purpose

The North Marina has been closed for the last few seasons due to recent high water levels and general facility deterioration. When in operation, the North Marina serves as a transient facility and is mainly popular among powerboaters. The park hosts event throughout the season, including the Metro Boat Show which hosts vendors in and around the marina and is open to the public.

Size

The marina has 24 slips total, all for transient boaters when in operation. While boaters are certainly the primary focus in design, the Metroparks recognize that the marina is often used by park walkers, anglers during the off-season, and for visitors attending one of many events that occur in this space including the Metro Boat Show and several world-class fishing tournaments.

ADA Evaluation

The marina currently does not meet all guidelines for ADA accessibility. The North Marina comfort station, walkways, parking lot, and boat slips are all in need of accessibility improvements based on staff ADA evaluation of all facilities in 2018 for the ADA Transition Plan.



Site Development Plan			
Year	Action	Park Type	Cost
		Park Size (Acres)	1715

Marketing, events, and partnerships	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 49
Service bldgs / avg age	0
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0

Dredging Statistics	
Dredging needs	3.88
Dredging cycle	4.69
Approximate volume of dredge material	0
Disposal location	6.82

Annual Maintenance Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Minor Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

Large Infrastructure Maintenance Replacement Schedule	
Master Plan	2007
Parks and Recreation Plan	2017

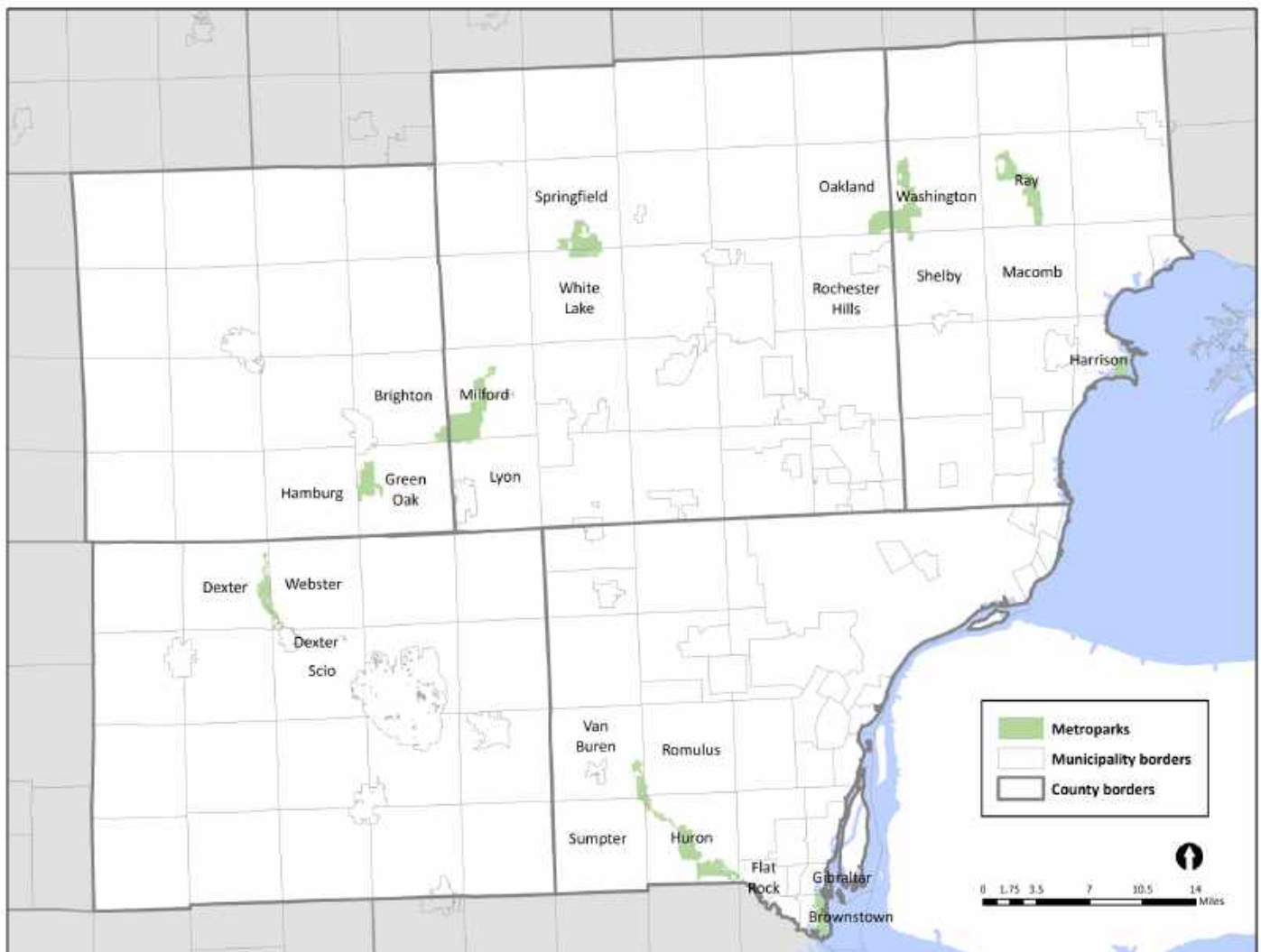


Figure 5.49 | Municipality Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA

The above map identifies all municipalities that either contain or border a Metropark. Although the Metroparks serve residents from across the five-county area, these municipalities are particularly relevant to the planning process. HCMA staff work with municipal staff to request building and signage permits, to develop trail connections, to address encroachments, and much more. The residents of these cities and townships benefit from extraordinary natural and recreation resources so close to their homes. In a region that suffers from excessive sprawl, the parks protect undeveloped land and make Southeast Michigan more beautiful.



REGIONAL RECREATION ANALYSIS

The five counties served by the Metroparks contain a wide array of recreational facilities operated by state, county, and local governments. Understanding what activities and amenities are offered at each helps the Metroparks create unique attractions that fill recreational gaps and complement existing facilities. The Metroparks welcome collaboration with other providers of recreation, as evidenced by regional trail linkages, reciprocal waterpark overflow agreements, invasive species management cooperation, and other partnerships.

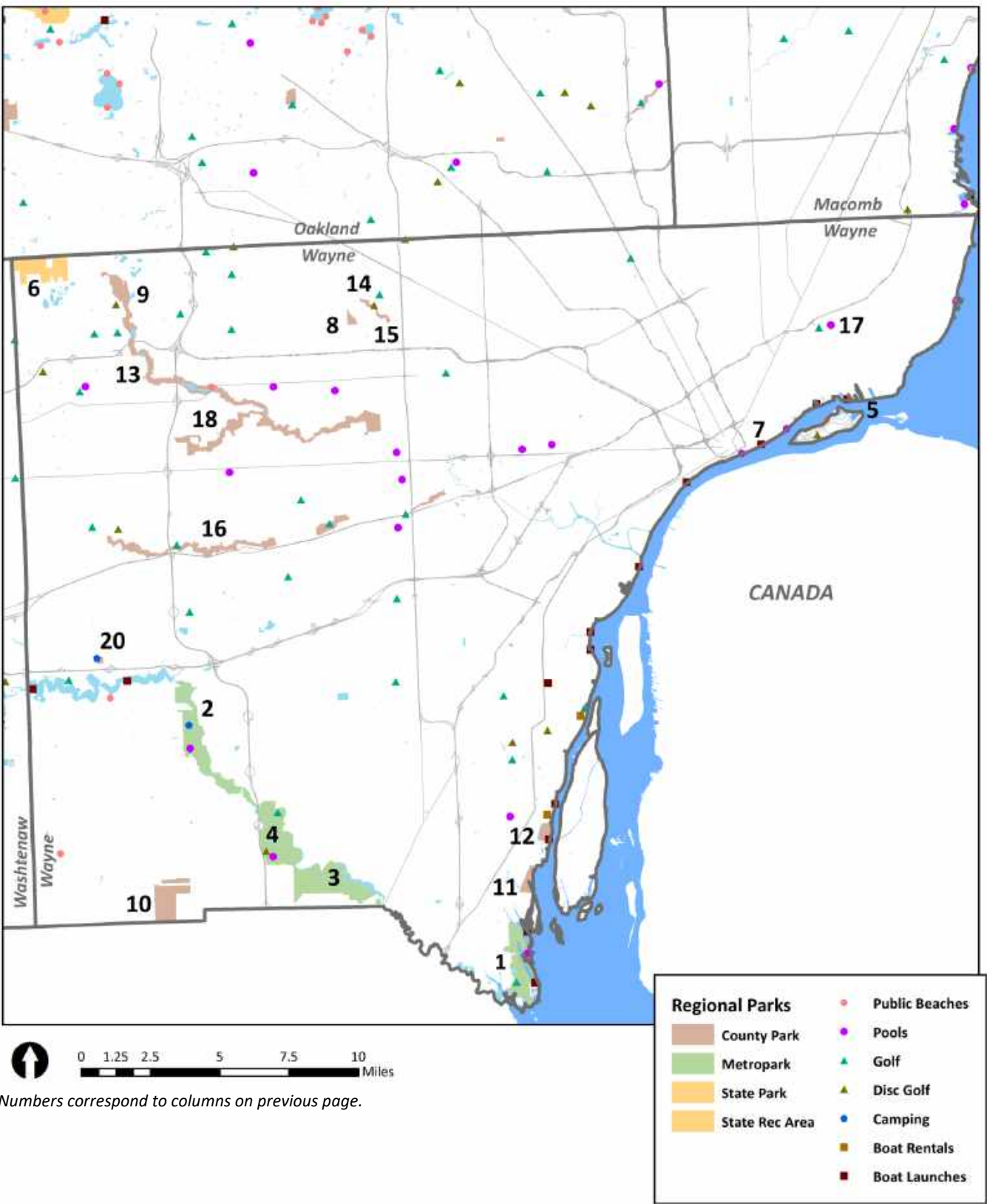
Due to the large land area covered by these five counties, the following charts and maps identify only state and county recreation. The local parks throughout this region are too numerous to include, but remain important locations for daily recreational activities.

The chart for each county notes the activities and facilities available in each park as a means of comparison. These are accurate to the best knowledge of Metroparks staff, but may contain errors or omissions. The numbers at the top of each park column correspond to that park's location on the county map. These maps also highlight the distribution of select recreational facilities: public beaches, pools, golf courses, disc golf courses, campgrounds, boat launches and rental sites.



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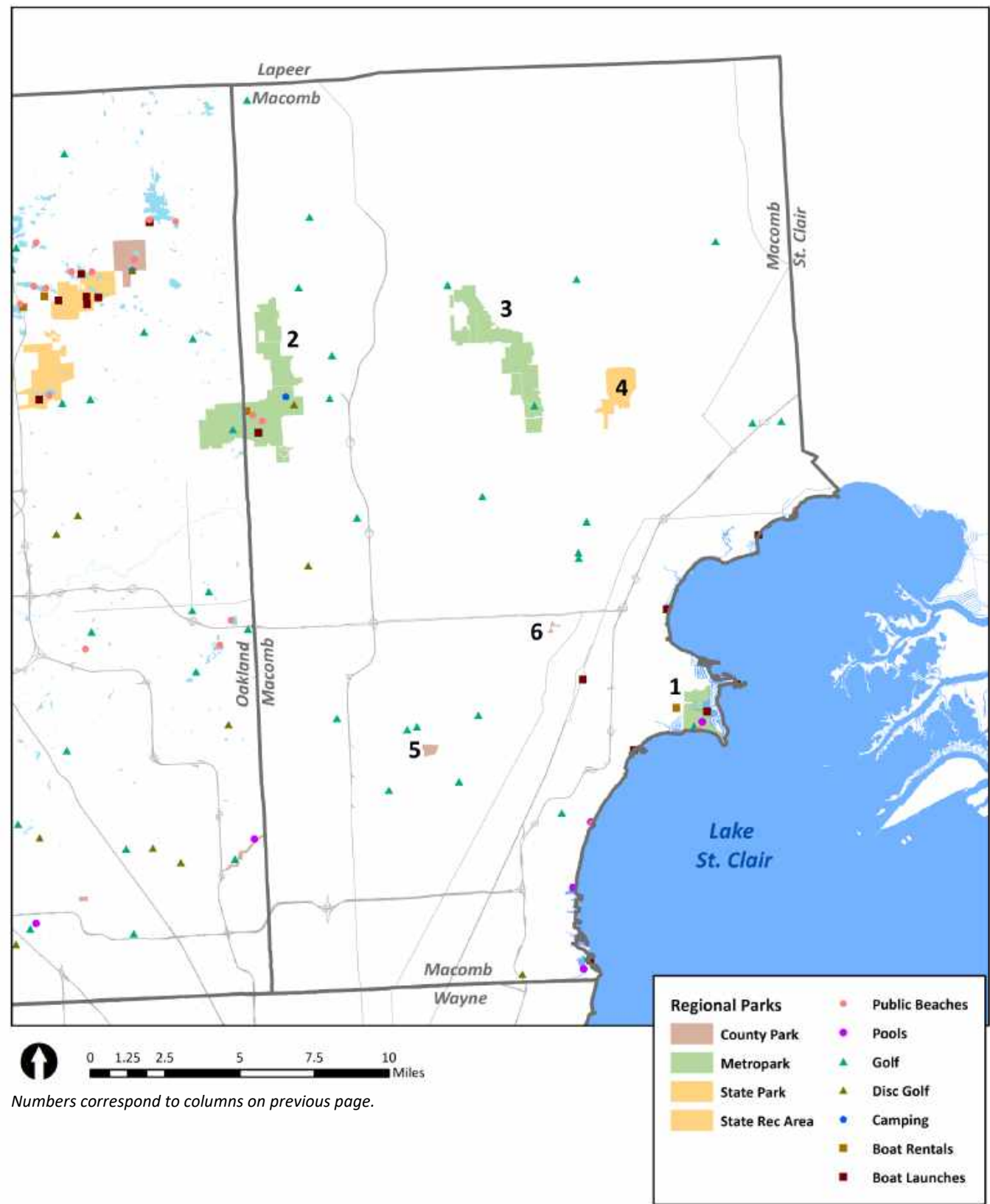
Figure 5.50 | Wayne County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Wayne County website



Macomb County

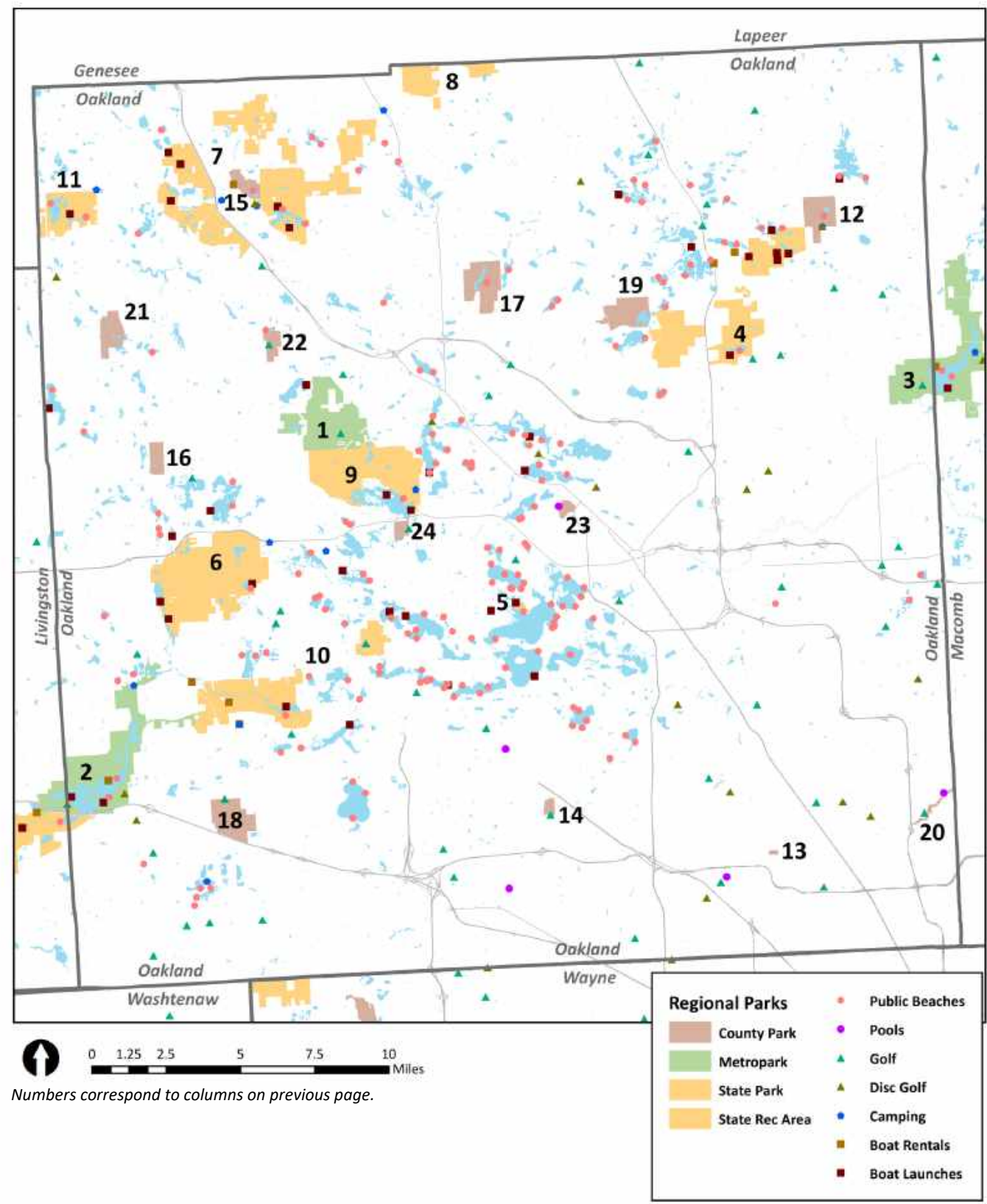
		1	2	3		4		5	6			
MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION INVENTORY	HCMA	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Stony Creek Metropark	Wolcott Mill Metropark	MDNR	Wetzel State Park	COUNTY	Freedom Hill	Nicholson Nature Center	TOTAL ACREAGE		
PARK ACREAGE	ACRES	789	4435	2850	8074	900	900	100	N/A	9174		
PICNICKING												
PLAYGROUNDS												
MARKED HIKING TRAILS												
MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS												
SHARED-USE PATH (HIKE-BIKE)												
NATURE TRAILS												
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS												
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING												
SNOWMOBILING												
SWIMMING BEACH												
SWIMMING POOL												
SPRAY PAD												
INFLATABLE SLIDES/OBSTACLES												
BOAT RENTAL												
BOAT LAUNCH												
MARINA												
CANOEING / KAYAKING												
SHORE FISHING												
DOCK FISHING												
BOAT FISHING												
ICE FISHING												
ICE SKATING												
ICE SAILING												
SLEDDING												
TOBOGGANING												
HUNTING												
NATURE STUDY AREA												
NATURE CENTER												
FARM												
GARDENS												
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS												
MUSEUM												
TENNIS												
BASKETBALL												
SHUFFLEBOARD												
IN-LINE HOCKEY												
SKATE PARK												
SOCCER												
SOFTBALL / BASEBALL FIELD												
GOLF COURSE												
FOOT GOLF												
DISC GOLF												
SHOOTING RANGE												
BMX BIKE TRACK												
EVENT FACILITIES												
COMMUNITY FACILITY												
RUSTIC CAMPSITES												
MODERN CAMPSITES												
CABIN RENTAL												
GROUP CAMPING												
CANOE CAMP												

Figure 5.51 | Macomb County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Macomb County website



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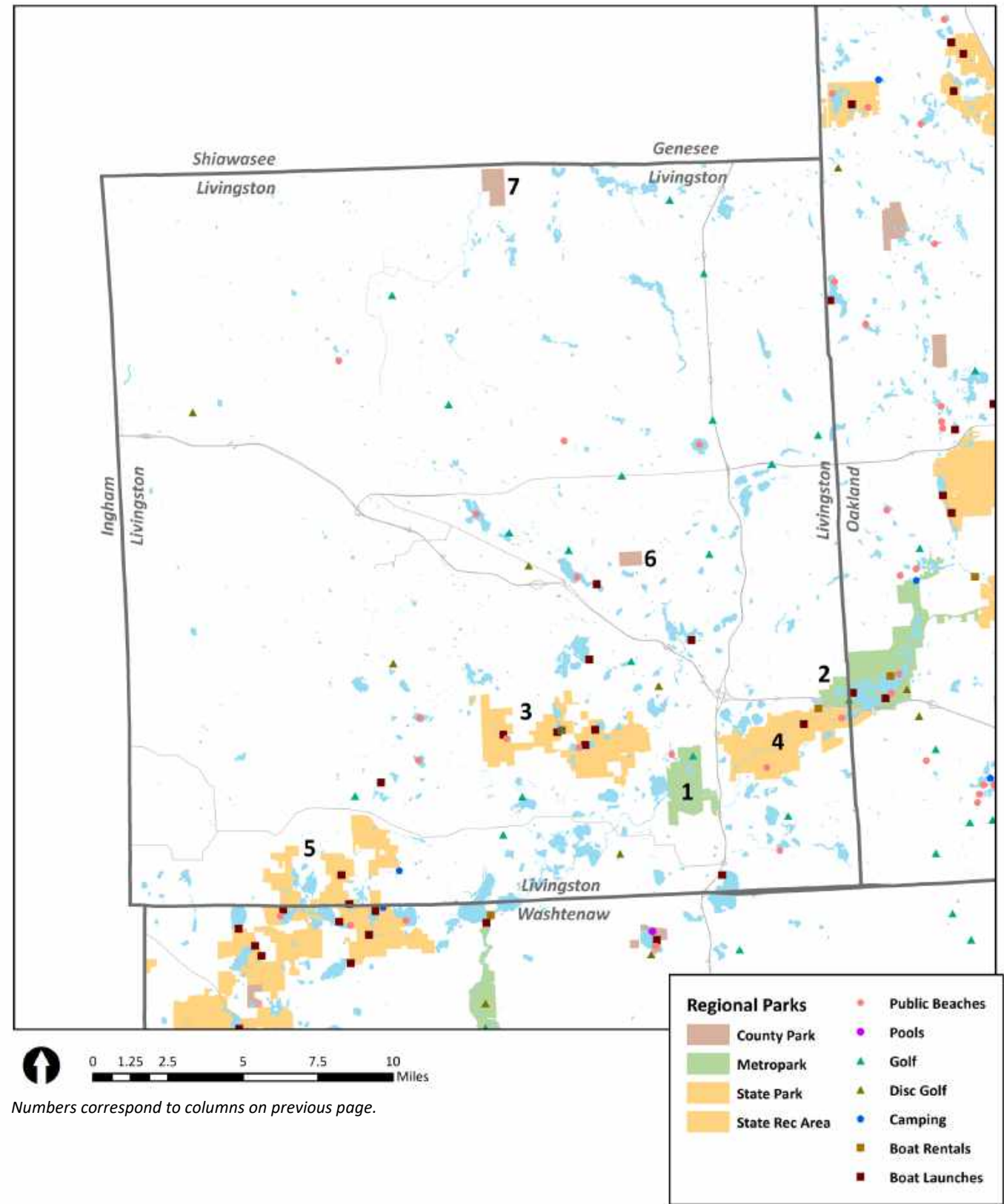
Figure 5.52 | Oakland County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Oakland County website



Livingston County

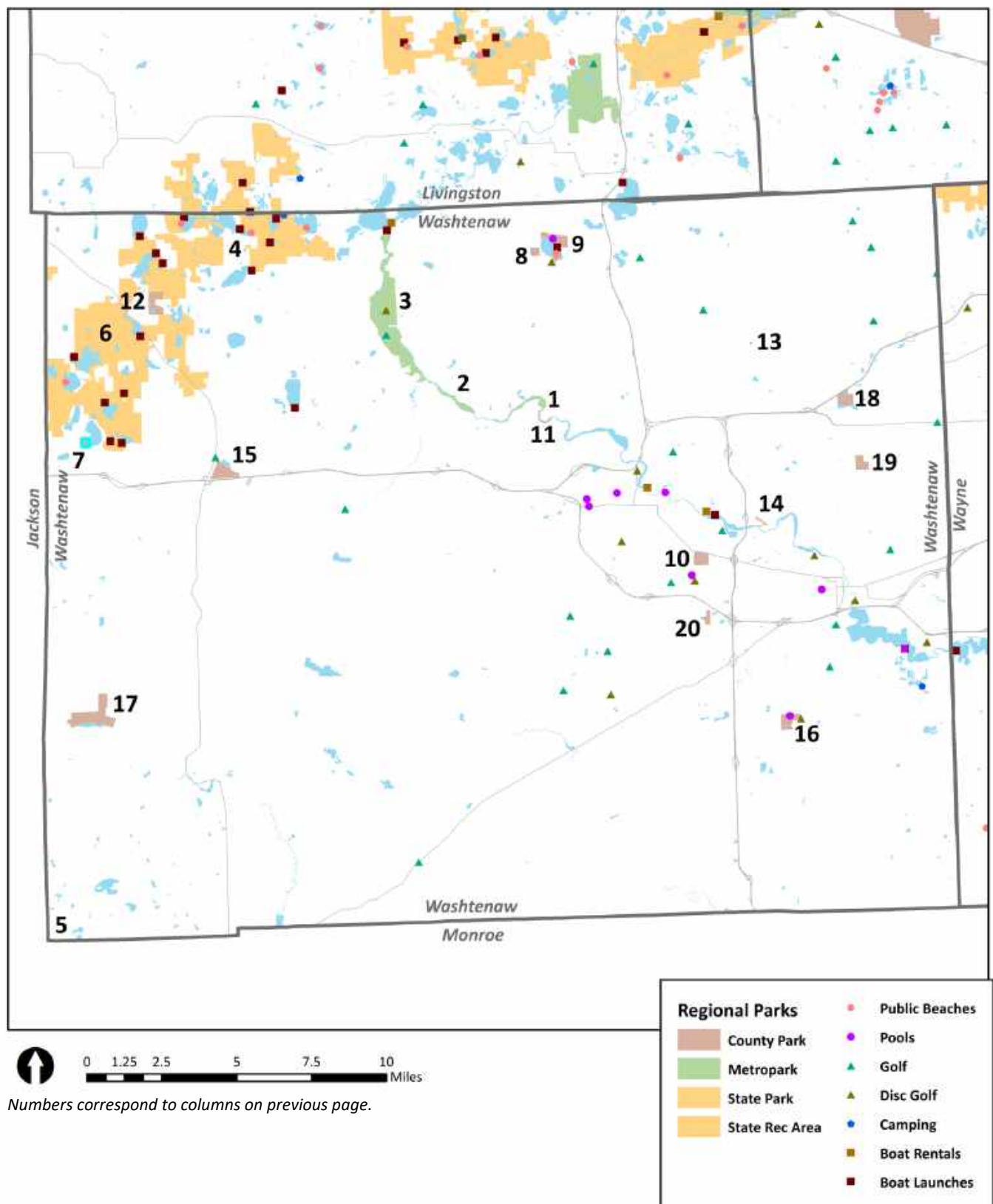
		1	2		3	4	5		6	7			
LIVINGSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION INVENTORY	HCMA	Huron Meadows	Kensington Metropark	MDNR	Brighton Rec. Area	Island Lake Rec. Area	Pinckney Rec. Area	COUNTY	Fillmore Park (2017)	Lutz Park	TOTAL ACREAGE		
ACREAGE	ACRES	1573	4486	6059	4947	3466	3245	11658	198	300	18713		
PICNICKING													
PLAYGROUNDS													
RUSTIC TRAILS													
MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS													
SHARED-USE PATH (HIKE-BIKE)													
NATURE TRAILS													
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS													
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING													
SNOWMOBILING													
SWIMMING BEACH													
SWIMMING POOL													
SPRAY PAD													
INFLATABLE SLIDES/OBSTACLES													
BOAT RENTAL													
BOAT LAUNCH													
MARINA													
CANOEING / KAYKING													
SHORE FISHING													
DOCK FISHING													
BOAT FISHING													
ICE FISHING													
ICE SKATING													
ICE SAILING													
SLEDDING													
TOBOGGANING													
HUNTING													
NATURE STUDY AREA													
NATURE CENTER													
FARM													
GARDENS													
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS													
MUSEUM													
TENNIS													
BASKETBALL													
SHUFFLEBOARD													
IN-LINE HOCKEY													
SKATE PARK													
SOCCER													
SOFTBALL / BASEBALL FIELD													
GOLF COURSE													
FOOT GOLF													
DISC GOLF													
SHOOTING RANGE													
BMX BIKE TRACK													
EVENT FACILITIES													
COMMUNITY FACILITY													
RUSTIC CAMPSITES													
MODERN CAMPSITES													
CABIN RENTAL													
GROUP CAMPING													
CANOE CAMP													

Figure 5.53 | Livingston County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Livingston County website



[illegible]

Figure 5.54 | Washtenaw County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Washtenaw County website



A photograph of a group of people walking outdoors on a dirt path. In the foreground, a man in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is walking towards the right. To his left, a woman in a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and pants is walking. Further back, another person in a light blue shirt and white shorts is visible. The background consists of green trees and a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the text "6 | PLANNING PROCESS" in bold black font.

6 | PLANNING PROCESS

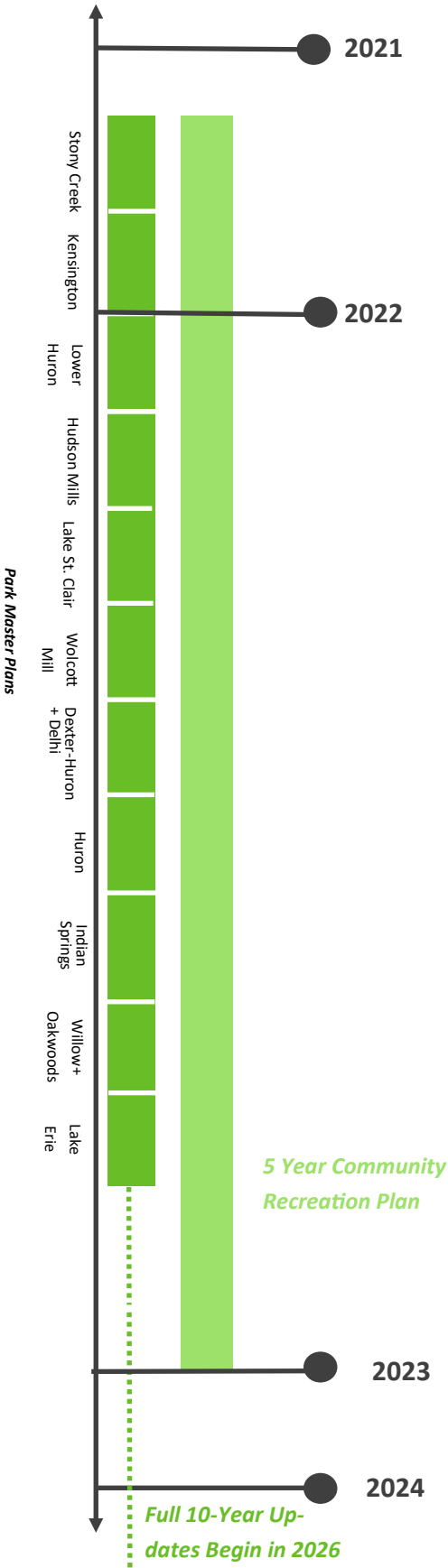
MASTER PLANS

Preceding with this update to the system-wide Five-Year Recreation Plan, the Planning Department recently completed an aggressive timeline for a five-year update to the 10 year master plans for each of the 13 Metroparks in 2022.

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. The review included 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, regional survey, 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 Hudson Mills 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. Demographich 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.



RECREATION PLAN

The Five-year Recreation Plan process takes into account not only accepted recreation standards, but the diverse demographics, opportunities, and interests of the broad population the Metroparks serve. Preparation for the plan began in **2021**, when the planning department worked to consolidate system-wide and regional information. The Demographic Analysis section provides a context for planning efforts, detailing the economic and social landscape of Southeast Michigan. Since the last approved plan, the department evaluated facilities at each park for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance (detailed assessments are provided in the ADA Transition Plan).

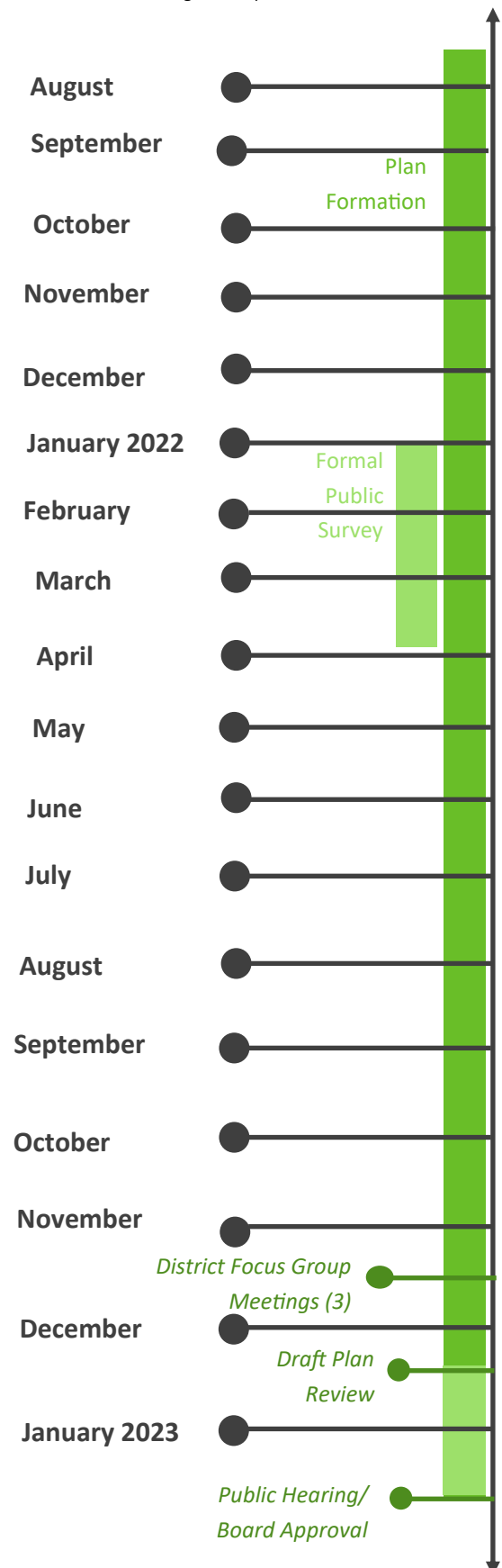
A comprehensive description of each park, with maps and facility lists, was complete. The department worked to inventory all major parks in the five-county area and provide location maps. The regional recreation inventory in the preceding chapter identifies other recreational facilities available to residents. An infrastructure analysis was also conducted on Metroparks facilities to determine the overall state of roads, utilities, buildings, and more.

The population of the five-county HCMA service area is approximately 4.4 million people. Given that the Metroparks encompass nearly 25,000 acres, the system meets the NRPA minimum recommendation of five acres of regional park per 1,000 people (see following page). It does not meet the maximum recommendation of 10 acres per 1,000 people, but state parks and large county parks provide additional space serving similar recreation needs in the area.

In 2022, the public outreach process continued. The planning department identified municipal leaders and recreational partners whose voices were important to include in district-wide stakeholder meetings. The company selected to conduct a region-wide survey, ETC Institute, sent mailings to a representative sample of Southeast Michigan residents. Results from the meetings and survey were incorporated into the draft document.

The draft plan was posted on the Metroparks website with a notice of availability on **December 9, 2022** following a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on **December 8, 2022**. The public hearing was held on **January 12, 2023** followed by the Board approval at the same meeting. The notice, meeting resolution and minutes are found in the appendix.

Figure 6.2 | Recreation Plan Timeline



National Recreation and Parks Association Guidelines for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways¹

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres / 1,000 Population
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	0.25 to 0.5 A
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼- to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	1.0 to 2.0 A
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable-depends on function.	Variable
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.	5.0 to 8.0 A
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.	Variable.
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	Variable.
Regional / Metropolitan Park	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.	Located to serve several communities within 1 hour driving time.	Optimal size is 200+ acres, but size varies based on accommodating the desired uses.	5.0 to 10.0 A
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.	Variable.
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single- purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Variable.
Private Park/ Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Variable.

¹ MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans

Public Input

The process of creating the Recreation Plan involved three different methods of public input, designed to reach distinct segments of the population and together form a holistic image of the recreation needs in the Metroparks service area. In addition to these methods, the feedback from individual park master plans was taken into account.

Stakeholder Meetings

Supplemental stakeholder meetings were held to ensure that the voices of those user groups and partners already invested in and contributing to the Metroparks would be heard, in addition to the representative sample of the region.

One meeting was held for each of the three Districts of HCMA management: Eastern, Western, and Southern. Representatives from all municipalities and counties surrounding the parks were invited. Other participants were chosen based on their organization's role in maintaining or programming some recreational element within the Metroparks, with the intent to keep the groups small and manageable.

Attendees at the stakeholder meetings expressed a desire to work more closely with the Metroparks in the future. They saw trails, open space, and green infrastructure as priorities in their communities or organizations and identified ways in which the Metroparks could assist them in meeting growing recreation needs.

Organizations whose representatives attended the stakeholder meetings or provided their input include:

- Michigan DNR
- Washtenaw County Parks
- Oakland County Parks and Recreation
- SEMCOG
- Wayne County Parks
- Macomb County Planning and Economic Development
- Washington Township

Attendees at the **Western District stakeholder meeting** listed trails, canoeing and kayaking, and nature observation as popular recreation activities for their constituents, with connectivity as a key component. A few municipal representatives expected increased residential growth in their communities, leading to increased demand as well as need for greater accessibility. Partnership with the

Metroparks was seen as valuable for Huron River access and enhanced trail systems, and participants generally expressed a desire for more extensive collaboration.

Attendees at the **Southern District stakeholder meeting** were also very interested in trail connections and coordination among park agencies. They further noted the importance of water facilities such as Turtle Cove to their residents. Municipalities expect to see residential growth in the areas near the Metroparks, and emphasized the desire for close relationships with Metroparks to meet recreational needs.

Attendees at the **Eastern District stakeholder meeting** provided input on partnerships with surrounding communities and businesses for new development and additional revenue sources in the parks. Specifically, creative collaboration on initiatives for trails, signage opportunities, and emergency facilities were suggested to foster creative long term solutions for both Metroparks and community needs.

Public Review and Public Hearing

The draft Recreation Plan was posted to the Metroparks website planning page along with hard copies made available at each of the 13 Metroparks for public review and comment. A summary of the public comments received during the public review can be found in the appendix. The public hearing on the Draft Recreation Plan document was held at the regular monthly Board of Commissioners meeting on January 12, 2022. It was advertised on the Huron-Clinton Metroparks website home page, event page, and planning page, as well as in an email to stakeholders and a notice in local newspapers (see appendix).

Representative Regional Survey

The Metroparks worked with a consultant to conduct a formal survey targeting a representative sample of the Southeast Michigan community. It was geared toward both individuals who currently use the parks, and those who do not use the parks but may have unmet recreational needs. The consultant utilized advanced statistical methods to ensure that underrepresented groups were reached, and offered survey participation in Spanish, Arabic, and other languages.

Results from this survey can be found below and on the

following pages. This summary was prepared by the consultant who conducted the survey, ETC Institute. A copy of the survey instrument can be found in the appendix.

Survey Results Summary

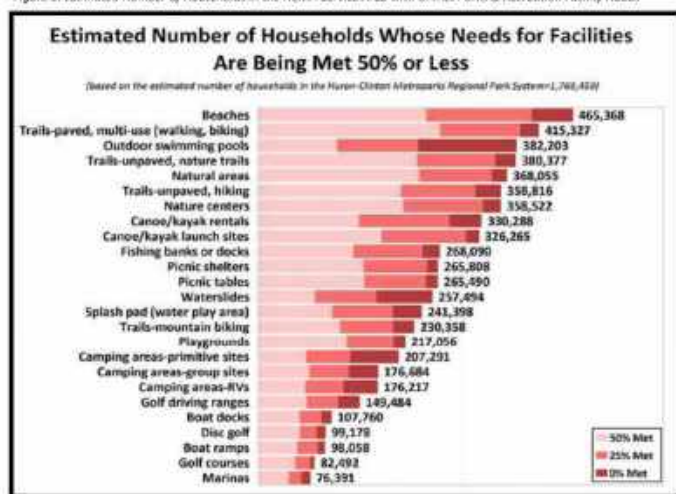
Prepared by ETC Institute

Parks & Recreation Facility Needs in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Service Area

Households were asked to identify if they had a need for 25 facilities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the HCMA service area that had the greatest “unmet” need for various parks and recreation facilities. The four facilities with the highest percentage of households whose needs are currently not being met (0%), somewhat met (25%), or partly met (50%) are listed below.

- Beaches – 465,368 households (26.3%)
- Paved multi-use trails for walking and biking – 415,327 households (23.5%)
- Outdoor swimming pools – 382,203 households (21.6%)
- Unpaved trails, nature trails – 368,055 households (21.5%) The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 25 facilities are shown in the graph below.

Figure 2: Estimated Number of Households in the HCMA Service Area with Unmet Parks & Recreation Facility Needs



Importance of Parks & Recreation Facilities in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Service Area

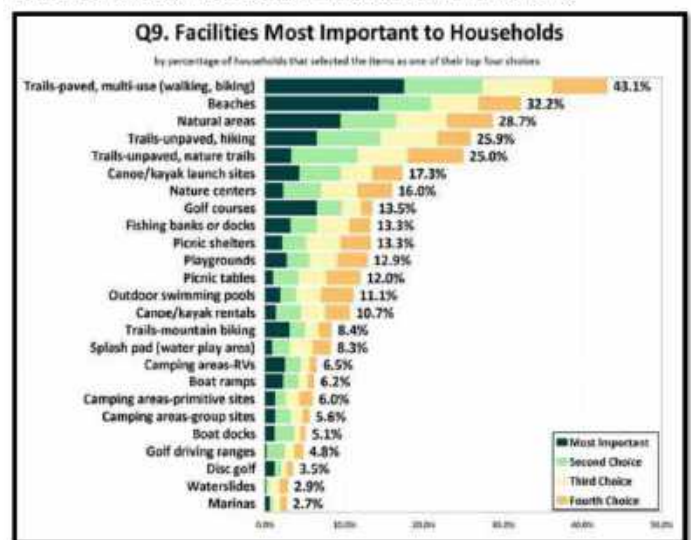
In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC

Institute also evaluated the importance that households placed on each one. Based on the sum of households' top four choices, the five most important Parks and Recreation facilities to households are listed below.

- Paved multi-use trails for walking and biking (43.1%)
- Beaches (32.2%) □ Natural areas (28.7%)
- Unpaved trails for hiking (25.9%)
- Unpaved trails, nature trails (25.0%) The percentage of households that selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the graph below.

The percentage of households that selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the graph below.

Figure 2: Level of Importance of Parks & Recreation Facilities to Households in the HCMA Service Area



Priorities for Parks & Recreation Facility Investments in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Service Area

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs:

- the importance that households place on each facility/amenity/ activity/program
- how many households have unmet needs for the facility/amenity/activity/program

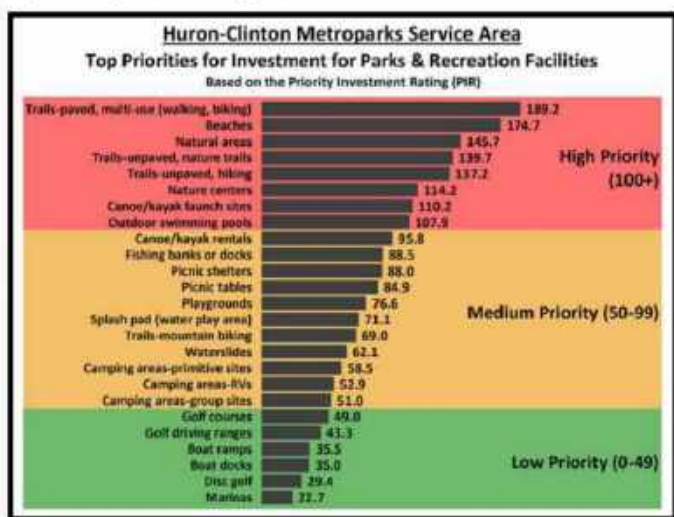
Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in the report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the eight facilities that were rated as high priorities for investment are listed in the table below (Table 2).

Facility	Priority Investment Rating (PIR)
<i>Trails-paved, multi-use (walking, biking)</i>	189.2
<i>Beaches</i>	174.7
<i>Natural areas</i>	145.7
<i>Trails-unpaved, nature trails</i>	139.7
<i>Trails-unpaved, hiking</i>	137.2
<i>Nature centers</i>	114.2
<i>Canoe/kayak launch sites</i>	110.2
<i>Outdoor swimming pools</i>	107.9

Table 2: Facilities Considered High Priorities of Investment Based on Priority Investment Rating (PIR)

The Priority Investment Ratings for each park and recreation facility is shown in the graph below.

Figure 3: Priority Investment Rating for Parks & Recreation Facilities in the HCMA Service Area

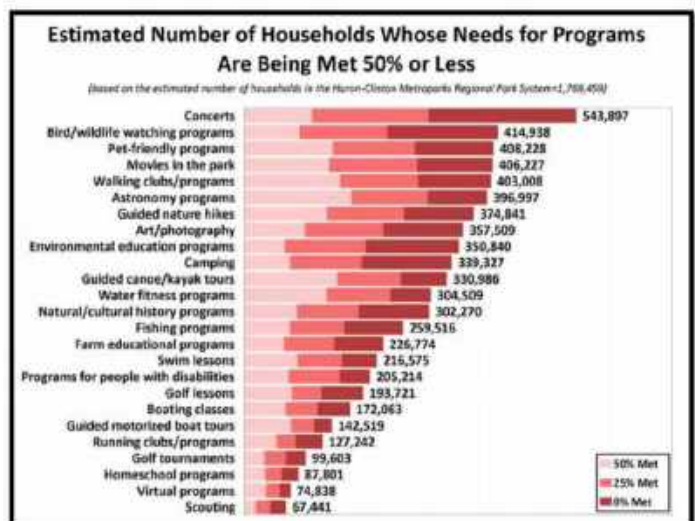


Parks & Recreation Program Needs in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Service Area

Households were asked to identify if they had a need for 25 programs and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the HCMA service area that had the greatest “unmet” need for various parks and recreation programs. The four programs with the highest percentage of households whose needs are currently not being met (0%), somewhat met (25%), or partly met (50%) are listed below.

- Concerts – 543,896 households (30.7%)
- Bird/wildlife watching programs – 414,938 households (23.5%)
- Pet-friendly programs – 408,228 households (23.1%)
- Movies in the park – 406,227 households (23.0%)

Figure 4: Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Programs Are Being 50% Met or Less

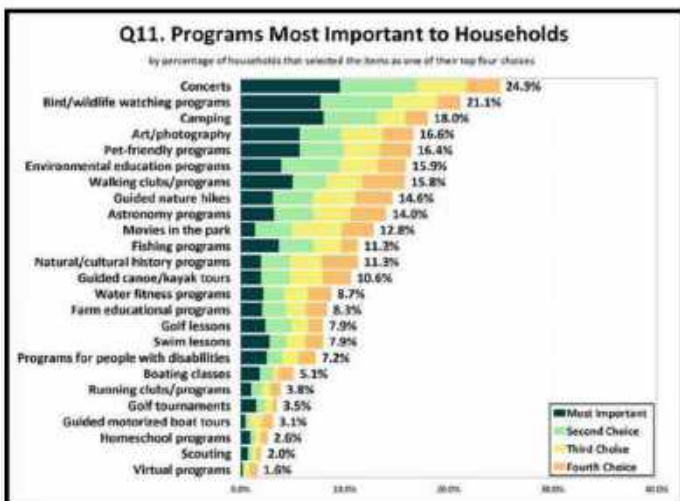


Importance of Parks & Recreation Programs in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Service Area In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also evaluated the importance that households placed on each one. Based on the sum of households' top four choices, the five most important Parks and Recreation programs to households are listed below.

- Concerts (24.9%)
- Bird/wildlife watching programs (21.1%)
- Camping (18.0%) □ Art/photography (16.6%)
- Pet-friendly programs (16.4%) The percentage of households that selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the graph below.

The percentage of households that selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the graph below.

Figure 5: Percentage of Households That Chose the Parks & Recreation Program as One of Their Top Four Most Important Choices



Priorities for Parks & Recreation Program Investments in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Service Area The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs:

- the importance that households place on each facility/amenity/ activity/program

- how many households have unmet needs for the facility/amenity/activity/program

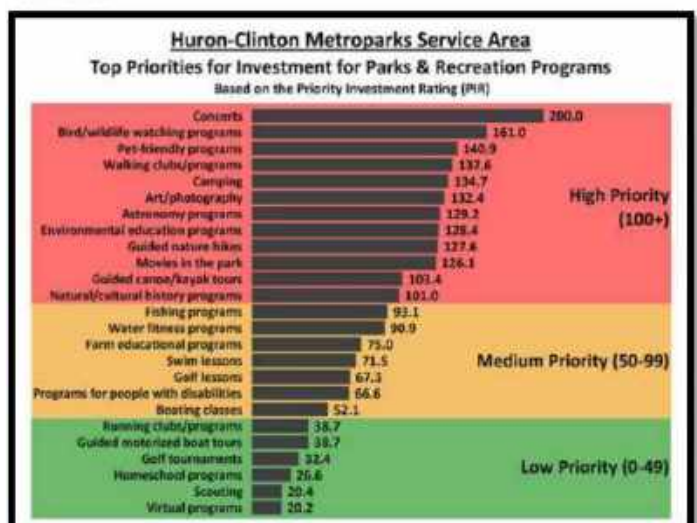
Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in the report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the 12 programs that were rated as high priorities for investment are listed in the table below (Table 9).

Program	Priority Investment Rating (PIR)
Concerts	200.0
Bird/wildlife watching programs	161.0
Pet-friendly programs	140.9
Walking clubs/programs	137.6
Camping	134.7
Art/photography	132.4
Astronomy programs	129.2
Environmental education programs	128.4
Guided nature hikes	127.6
Movies in the park	126.1
Guided canoe/kayak tours	103.4
Natural/cultural history programs	101.0

Table 9: Facilities Considered High Priorities of Investment Based on Priority Investment Rating (PIR)

The Priority Investment Ratings for each park and recreation

Figure 6: Priority Investment Rating for Parks & Recreation Programs in the HCMA Service Area



Huron-Clinton Metroparks: Facilities & Parks Most (93.9%) of households indicated that they have heard of Huron-Clinton Metroparks; 3.8% had not and 2.3% were not sure. Over two-thirds (67.8%) of households indicated that, prior to receive the survey, they were aware of the difference between the Huron-Clinton Metroparks system and other park systems operated by the State of Michigan, counties, and cities in Southeast Michigan. Thirty two percent (31.9%) indicated they were not, prior to the survey, aware of the difference and 0.3% did not provide a response.

Over half (54.9%) of households feel there are enough parks and greenspace areas within a 15-minute drive from their residence; 36.3% do not feel this way and 8.8% did not provide a response. The table below shows the percentage of households, by location, that feel there are or are not enough parks/greenspace areas within a 15- minute drive of their residence.

Table 16: Q7. Do you feel that there are enough parks and greenspace areas within a 15-minute drive of your residence?

	Livingston County	Macomb County	Oakland County	Washtenaw County	Wayne County (Outside of Detroit)	Detroit, MI (City)
Yes	71.1%	59.0%	64.1%	75.8%	38.7%	59.8%
No	28.9%	41.0%	35.9%	24.2%	61.3%	40.2%

Households in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw counties, and the City of Detroit are more likely to feel that there are enough parks and greenspace areas within a 15-minute drive of their residence than households, outside of Detroit, in Wayne County.

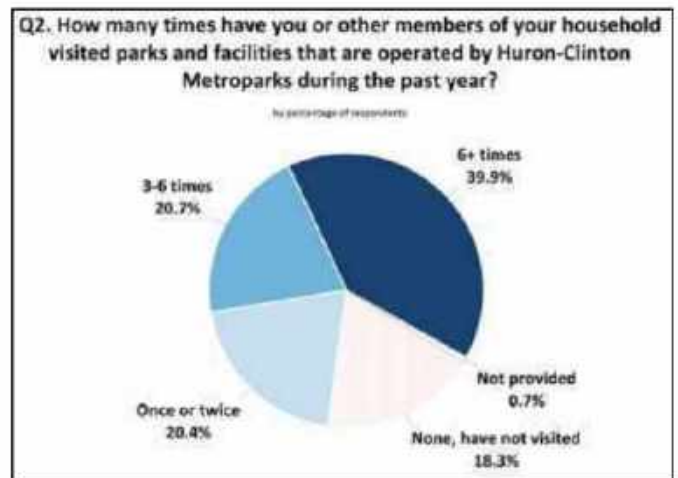
Over one-third (35.0%) of households feel there are enough parks and greenspace areas within a 10-minute walk of their residence; 57.1% do not feel that there are enough and 7.9% did not provide an opinion. The table below shows the percentage of households, by location, that feel there are or are not enough parks/greenspace areas within a 10-minute walk of their residence.

Table 17: Q6. Do you feel that there are enough parks and greenspace areas within a 10-minute walk of your residence?

	Livingston County	Macomb County	Oakland County	Washtenaw County	Wayne County (Outside of Detroit)	Detroit, MI (City)
Yes	40.3%	35.5%	40.7%	56.0%	20.2%	38.8%
No	59.7%	64.5%	59.3%	44.0%	79.8%	61.2%

Households in Washtenaw County are more likely to feel that there are enough parks and greenspace areas within a 10-minute walk of their residence than households in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne (outside of Detroit) counties, and the City of Detroit.

The majority (60.6%) of households responded that during the past year, they had visited parks and facilities that are operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks at least 3 times or more; 20.4% had visited once or twice, 18.3% had not visited during the past year, and 0.7% did not provide this information. Of the households that had visited parks and facilities that are operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks, during the past year, 66.0% indicated they had purchased an annual permit vehicle pass, 22.7% purchased a daily permit vehicle pass, 6.7% did not purchase a vehicle pass, and 4.5% did not remember what type of vehicle pass they had, if any.



Households were asked which four parks and facilities, operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks do they use most often. Based on the sum of households' top four choices, the following four parks and facilities had the highest percentage of responses, as being used the most often by households:

- Kensington Metropark (48.8%)
- Stony Creek Metropark (31.0%)
- Lake St. Clair Metropark (20.4%)
- Lower Huron Metropark (16.1%)

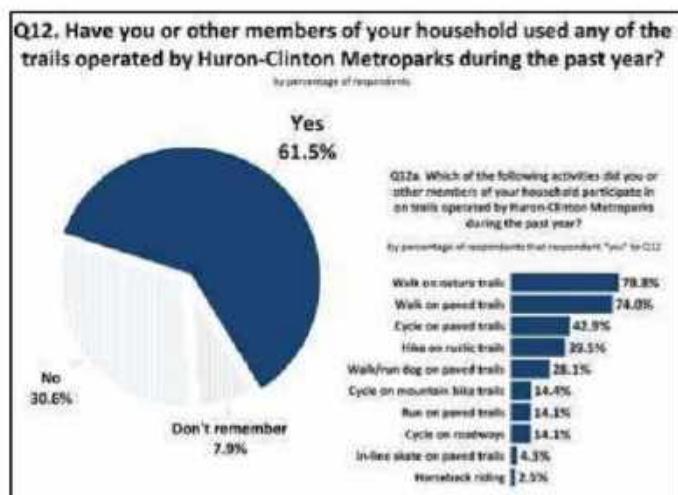
asked what reasons prevent them from using parks and facilities, operated by Huron

- Clinton Metroparks, more often, the top five reasons were: ☐ I do not know what is being offered (38.2%)
- The location is not convenient (32.7%)
- I do not have time to visit parks (16.5%) ☐ I do not know the locations of facilities (13.6%)
- The cost/fees are too high (12.1%)

Huron-Clinton Metroparks: Trails

The majority (61.5%) of households indicated that during the past year they have used trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks; 30.6% have not and 7.9% did not remember. Of the 61.5% of households that used these trails, the top five activities that households participated in are listed below.

- Walk on nature trails (78.8%)
- Walk on paved trails (74.0%)
- Cycle on paved trails (42.9%)
- Hike on rustic trails (39.5%)
- Walk/run dog on paved trails (28.1%)



Huron-Clinton Metroparks: Renovations

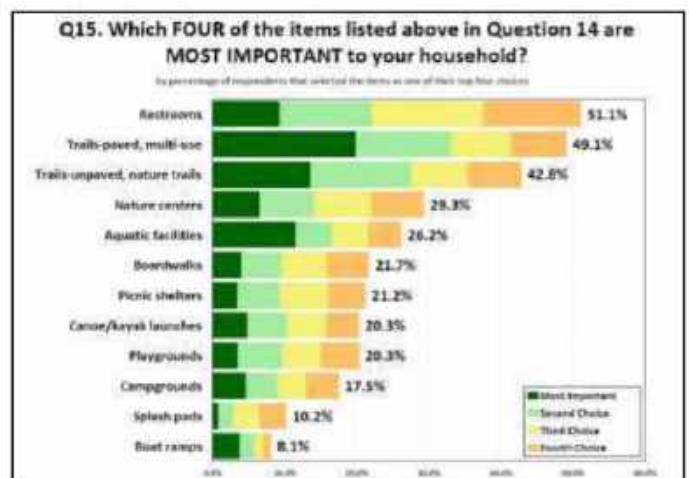
Households were asked what level of support they would have for various renovations that could be considered to be made to the Huron-Clinton Metroparks System.

At least two-thirds of households indicated they would be “very supportive” of the following possible renovations:

- Restroom renovations (85.2%)
- Paved, multi-use trails (74.4%)
- Unpaved trails, nature trails (71.8%) ☐ Nature centers (67.9%)

Of the list of 12 possible renovations, households were asked to rate their top four choices, and based on the sum of households’ top choices the following three were rated as the most important to households:

- Restroom renovations (51.1%)
- Paved, multi-use trails (49.1%)
- Unpaved trails, nature trails (42.8%)



The top three most important renovations to households in the Counties of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, and Washtenaw and the City of Detroit were restrooms, paved/multi-use trails, and unpaved trails/nature trails. The most important renovations to households outside of Detroit, in Wayne County, were restrooms (49.6%), aquatic facilities (32.6%), and picnic shelters (31.6%).

Additional Findings

Seventy-two percent (71.9%) of households believe that since the beginning of the Pandemic, parks, trails, and open space have been important to improving mental health and physical health and fitness; 5.6% do not believe it is important and 6.5% did not have an opinion.

At least two out of five households use the following ways to learn about Huron-Clinton Metroparks facilities, programs, and services.

- Metroparks website (56.5%)
- Web/Google searches (49.1%)
- Friends/family/neighbors (40.4%)

The following six methods are household's most preferred ways to learn about Huron-Clinton Metroparks facilities, programs, and services:

- Metroparks website (54.4%)  Web/Google searches (39.6%)
- Social media (25.9%)
- Friends/family/neighbors (25.0%)

Households were asked, from a list of various aquatic features, whether they feature was one that is strongly needed, somewhat needed, or not needed in the community. At least four out of five households believe the following six aquatic features are either "strongly" or "somewhat" needed in their community:

- Family-oriented warm water pool (86.9%)
- Warm water pool for swim lessons or therapy (86.9%)
- Area for water fitness (86.1%)
- Outdoor seasonal leisure pool (85.6%)
- Lap lanes for recreational lap swimming (80.3%)
- Outdoor spray ground (80.0%)

Households were then asked which three aquatic features they felt were most needed in their community. Based on the sum of households' top three choices, the following four features are most needed in their community:

- Family-oriented warm water pool (39.7%)
- Area for water fitness (33.1%)
- Warm water pool for swim lessons or therapy (26.3%)
- Outdoor seasonal leisure pool (26.1%)

The table at the top of the following page shows the percentage of households, by location, that chose the various aquatic features as one of their top three choices as being the most needed in their community. The top three aquatic features with the highest percentage of responses are red and bolded.

Table 18: Q20. Which three of the aquatic features do you feel are most needed in the community? (Sum of the top three choices)

	Livingston County	Macomb County	Oakland County	Washtenaw County	Wayne County (Outside of Detroit)	Detroit, MI (City)
Area for water fitness	27.6%	32.1%	32.9%	31.7%	39.5%	31.9%
Competition swimming	2.5%	3.7%	3.6%	2.5%	5.4%	2.5%
Deep water area	7.1%	9.2%	5.5%	8.9%	7.7%	8.8%
Family-oriented warm water pool	36.3%	42.3%	35.7%	33.5%	39.3%	40.8%
Lap lanes for recreational lap swimming	16.1%	19.6%	19.7%	24.5%	13.3%	18.9%
Lazy river	26.7%	28.0%	25.6%	19.6%	17.0%	29.5%
Outdoor seasonal leisure pool	25.1%	25.2%	26.6%	25.9%	23.0%	28.3%
Outdoor spray ground	13.2%	16.6%	14.1%	10.1%	12.6%	12.5%
Warm water pool for swim lessons or therapy	24.8%	30.3%	21.6%	23.0%	31.4%	26.3%
Whirlpool/hot tub	9.6%	13.7%	9.4%	7.6%	11.4%	12.3%



At least three-quarters of households think it is very important to;

- manage stormwater to protect water quality and reduce flooding (80.5%)
- maintain roads, parking lots, and other park infrastructure (77.5%)
- plant trees for shade and cooling and to absorb carbon dioxide (75.4%)

Based on the sum of household's top three choices, the top four most important sustainable issues in their community are listed below.

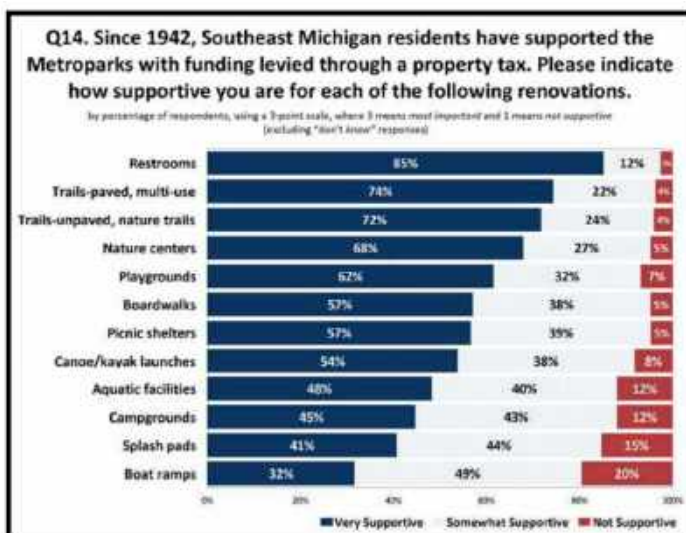
- manage stormwater to protect water quality and reduce flooding (50.0%)
- maintain roads, parking lots, and other park infrastructure (38.2%)
- reduce waste by recycling and composting (27.5%)
- plant trees for shade and cooling and to absorb carbon dioxide (26.8%)



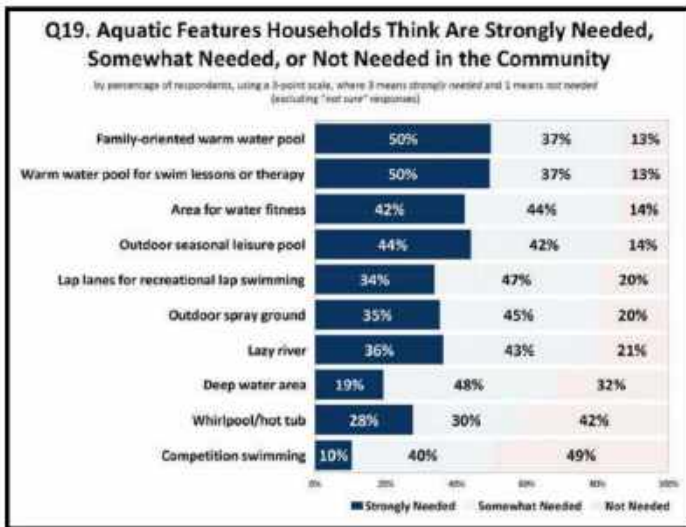
Conclusions & Recommendations

When analyzing the facilities offered by Huron-Clinton Metroparks the same three items that were the most important to households and had the highest level of unmet need were: beaches, paved trails for multi-use, and natural areas. When analyzing the programs offered by Huron-Clinton Metroparks the same two items that were the most important to households and had the highest level of unmet need were: concerts and bird/wildlife watching programs. Focusing on adding concerts, bird/wildlife watching programs, beaches, and paved trails for multi-use would provide the greatest benefit for the largest number of residents within the region. Huron-Clinton Metroparks could also ensure they are reaching the greatest number of households in the region by focusing resources on paved trails for multi-use and natural areas. Over 1 million households have a need for paved multi-use trails and natural areas in the region.

Households were given a list of 12 different facilities and were asked to indicate how supportive they would be of Metroparks using their tax dollars to fund renovations for each. Based on the sum of very supportive and somewhat supportive responses the three facilities which received the highest levels of support are: restrooms (97.4%), paved trails for multi-use (96.3%), and unpaved trails/nature trails (96.0%). The graph below shows the level of support for all 12 facilities.



Households were given a list of 10 different aquatic features and were asked to indicate if the feature was needed, somewhat needed, or not needed in their community. Based on the sum of strongly needed and somewhat needed responses the three features that had the highest responses were: family-oriented warm water pool (86.8%), warm water pool for swim lessons or therapy (86.9%), and an area for water fitness (86.1%). The graph below shows the level of need for aquatic features in the community.



In order to ensure that Huron-Clinton Metroparks continues to meet the needs and expectations of their service area, ETC Institute recommends that they sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The facilities and programs with the highest PIR ratings are listed on the right.

Facility Priorities

Facility	Priority Investment Rating (PIR)
<i>Trails-paved, multi-use (walking, biking)</i>	189.2
<i>Beaches</i>	174.7
<i>Natural areas</i>	145.7
<i>Trails-unpaved, nature trails</i>	139.7
<i>Trails-unpaved, hiking</i>	137.2
<i>Nature centers</i>	114.2
<i>Canoe/kayak launch sites</i>	110.2
<i>Outdoor swimming pools</i>	107.9

Programming Priorities

Program	Priority Investment Rating (PIR)
<i>Concerts</i>	200.0
<i>Bird/wildlife watching programs</i>	161.0
<i>Pet-friendly programs</i>	140.9
<i>Walking clubs/programs</i>	137.6
<i>Camping</i>	134.7
<i>Art/photography</i>	132.4
<i>Astronomy programs</i>	129.2
<i>Environmental education programs</i>	128.4
<i>Guided nature hikes</i>	127.6
<i>Movies in the park</i>	126.1
<i>Guided canoe/kayak tours</i>	103.4
<i>Natural/cultural history programs</i>	101.0



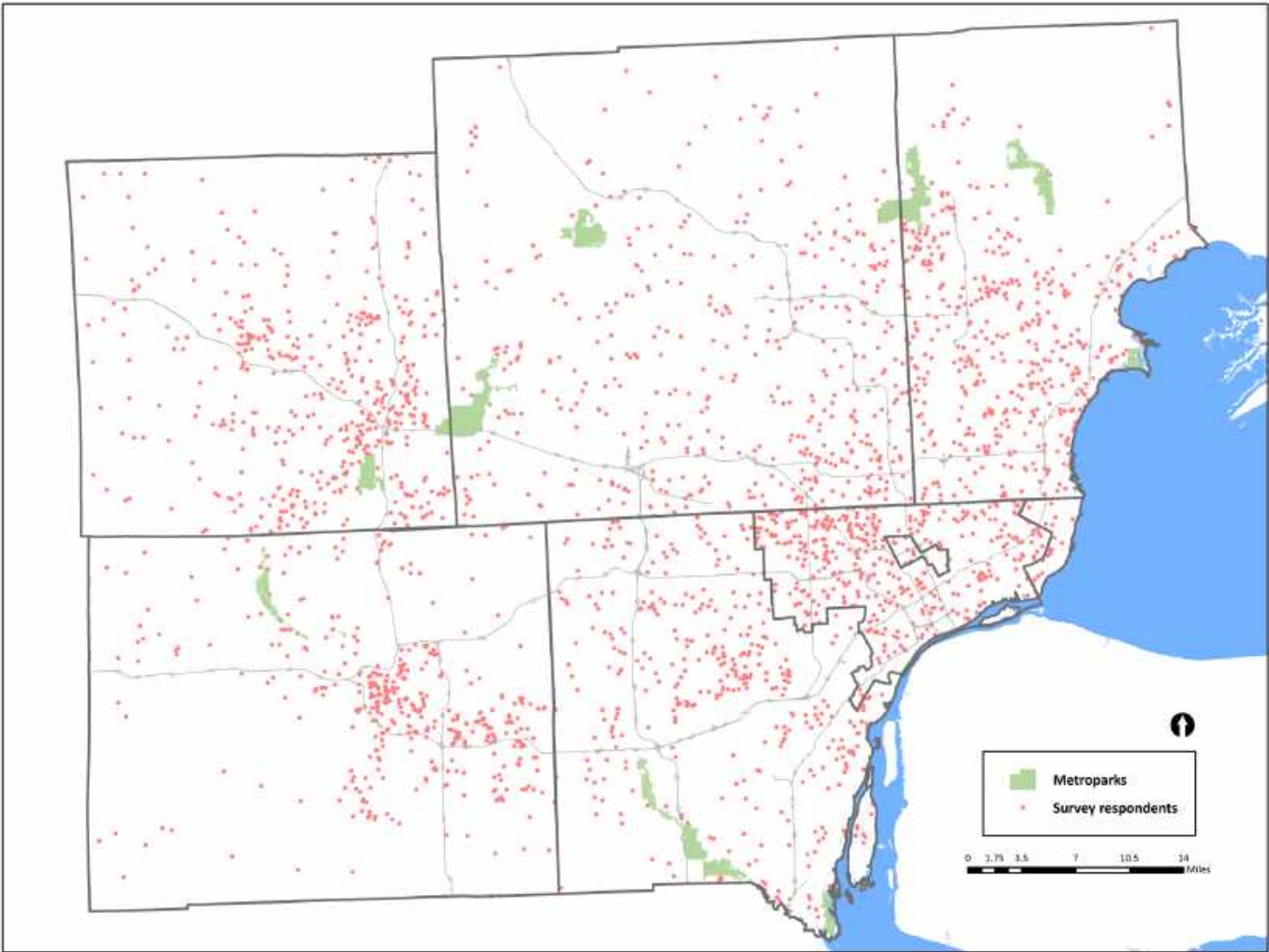


Figure 6.3 | Survey Respondent Map | Sources: MiGDL, ETC Institute



7 | GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



7 | GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives listed in this plan stem from the Metroparks mission statement, vision statement, and core values, and build upon the goals defined in the 2018-2022 Recreation Plan. The following factors highlighted previously in this plan contributed to formulation of the updated goals and objectives:

- **Infrastructure age and condition**—aging infrastructure will need to be addressed within operational budgeting and additional workforce.
- **ADA compliance**—improvements needed throughout the park system, especially in parking lots, launches, and sports facilities.
- **Biodiversity areas**—large swaths of undeveloped areas in the parks are high-quality habitats for a variety of species and should be protected.
- **Regional recreation facilities**— most Metroparks are in close proximity to at least one state or county park, necessitating complementary recreation offerings.
- **Public input process**—feedback gained through a representative regional survey, three district stakeholder meetings, comments received, public review period and a public hearing.

The following were additional major factors in determining goals and objectives, and are considered in detail in this chapter:

- **Demographic information**—an aging population with a fluctuating economic outlook requires innovative recreation approaches.
- **Regional plans**—most planning documents show a desire for environmental protection, non-motorized connections, and regional collaboration.
- **Regulatory obligations**—various regulations limit the ability of the Metroparks to develop certain areas, among other restrictions.



REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks serve five counties, nearly 300 municipalities, and a collective population of 4.5 million. Accurate demographic and consumer spending data is necessary to understand population trends and ongoing socioeconomic changes, which are included in the formulation of the Recreation Plan goals and objectives. The data in the following sections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

Consumer Expenditures

The Bureau of Labor & Statistics (BLS) produces annual surveys of consumer spending habits for residents of various regions throughout the country. *The Consumer Expenditures Survey*¹ characterizes consumer spending habits in a variety of categories, some of which are relevant to the Metroparks.

Income Trends

In the Midwest region, consumer units² have an average income of \$81,523 before taxes, trailing the West and Northeast regions. Consumer units with reference persons³ between the ages of 45 and 54 earn the highest nationwide, an average of \$116,195 before taxes in 2020. Those with reference persons under 25 and older than 75 have similar pre-tax incomes: \$44,259 and \$41,495, respectively.

Spending Trends

According to the BLS *Consumer Expenditures 2020*⁴ report, national spending has increased across all income brackets as personal income has risen. From 2019 to 2020, the average spending per consumer unit decreased by 2.7%, or \$61,334. In this time period, average pre-tax income increased by 1.8%. Married consumer units with an oldest child over 18 years old participate in the most spending, averaging \$136,768 for 2020.

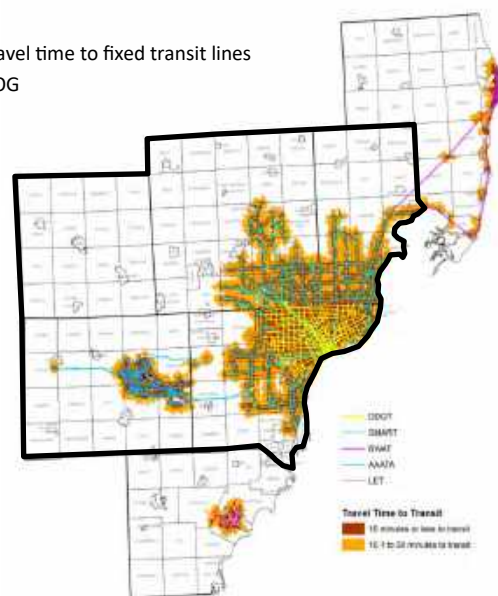
Consumer units in the Midwest region spend the most on the *Entertainment*⁵ category. In comparison, consumer units nationwide tend to spend 1% less of their income on this category. Income and spending on entertainment and admission fees may serve as an indicator of spending habits on park programs.

From 2019 to 2020, spending on transportation has decreased, reaching an average of \$9,826. While spending on vehicle purchases increased by more than \$129 (2.9%), spending on gasoline and motor oil decreased 25.1% in this time period. These trends impact accessibility to the Metroparks through personal transportation.

Access to Parks

The *Access to Core Services*⁶ report generated by SEMCOG measures and benchmarks accessibility for seven core services— fixed-route transit, jobs, health care facilities, supermarkets, parks, schools, and libraries. These core services are major destinations that residents need to access on a regular basis.

Figure 7.1 | Travel time to fixed transit lines
Source: SEMCOG



¹Consumer Expenditures Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data>

² According to the BLS: "Consumer units include families, single persons living alone or sharing a household with others but who are financially independent, or two or more persons living together who share expenses." The average number of people in a consumer unit is around 2.5.

³ According to the BLS a Reference Person is: "The first member mentioned by the respondent when asked to 'Start with the name of the person or one of the persons who owns or rents the home.' It is with respect to this person that the relationship of the other consumer unit members is determined."

⁴ Consumer Expenditures - 2022, Bureau Of Labor & Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/consumer-expenditures/2020/pdf/home.pdf>

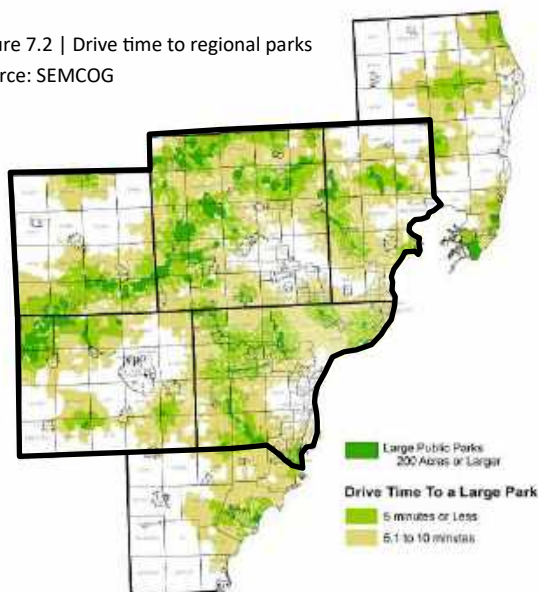
⁵ Includes fees for participant sports; admissions to sporting events, movies, concerts, and plays; health, swimming, tennis and country club memberships; fees for other social, recreational, and fraternal organizations; recreational lessons or instruction; rental of movies, and recreation expenses on trips.

⁶ Access to Core Services in Southeast Michigan, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. <http://semcog.org/Access>

Currently, households within Southeast Michigan have access to five fixed-route transit systems: Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority (AAATA), Blue Water Area Transit (BWAT), Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), Lake Erie Transit (LET), and Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART). Residents face low levels of walkability to and from bus stops, and are bound by limited travel distances based on fixed routes. Figure 7.1 on the previous page shows the travel time to these routes.

The Metroparks serve a large regional land area, and access to transportation impacts access to the parks. Figure 7.2 (below) shows the drive times from Southeast Michigan households to regional parks, defined as parks larger than 200 acres. Although 75% of households in the region are within a 10-minute drive to a large regional park, less than 15% of households are within a 30-minute transit trip to a regional park. Gaps in access to large parks by automobile may be mitigated by pedestrian access to local parks and schools.

Figure 7.2 | Drive time to regional parks
Source: SEMCOG



Focus Populations

SEMCOG outlines accessibility issues for *Transit-dependent Households*, *Households in Poverty*, and *Senior Households*. These groups have been identified as the most affected by low access to automobiles, and are more likely to use and rely on alternative forms of transportation. An understanding of how transportation options impact these populations allows the

Metroparks to better plan and organize outreach to these communities.

Overall 12.5% of households in the region are **Transit-dependent households**, which either do not have access to an automobile or have fewer cars than workers. Fixed-route transit service is more than a 10-minute walk away for 35% of these households, and more than a 30-minute walk away for 20% of these households. This reduces the ability of residents in those households to take advantage of important resources such as regional parks. Residents are faced with limited transit operating hours, long travel distances, high rates, and limited walkability to core services such as parks.

Households below the poverty threshold, defined as an annual income of less than \$20,090 for 3 people, make up 13% of all households in Southeast Michigan. The walking access to fixed-route transit for households in poverty mirrors that of transit-dependent households, and the two categories overlap.

Households with older adults are becoming more numerous as communities in Southeast Michigan age. Generally located in less centralized areas, this population is expected to grow 37.2% through 2040. Such an increase will generate demand for transportation and services that cater to older adults. This segment of the population faces exceptional barriers to access, with over 50% of households outside a 10-minute walk from fixed-route transit.

HCMA District Demographic Shifts¹

Eastern District

The HCMA Eastern District is primarily in Macomb County and contains three Metroparks: Wolcott Mill, Lake St. Clair, and Stony Creek.

Macomb County will experience a significant demographic shift through 2045: the 25-54 age group will see a 1.3% decrease, although it will remain the largest age group. The senior population (over 65 years old) will increase 74% to 241,730 residents, becoming the second-largest age group.

From 2010 to 2020, the median income of households in the county increased 1% to \$64,641, which corresponds to the increase in national household income. The largest income bracket in the county is \$75,000—\$99,999, representing 14%

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

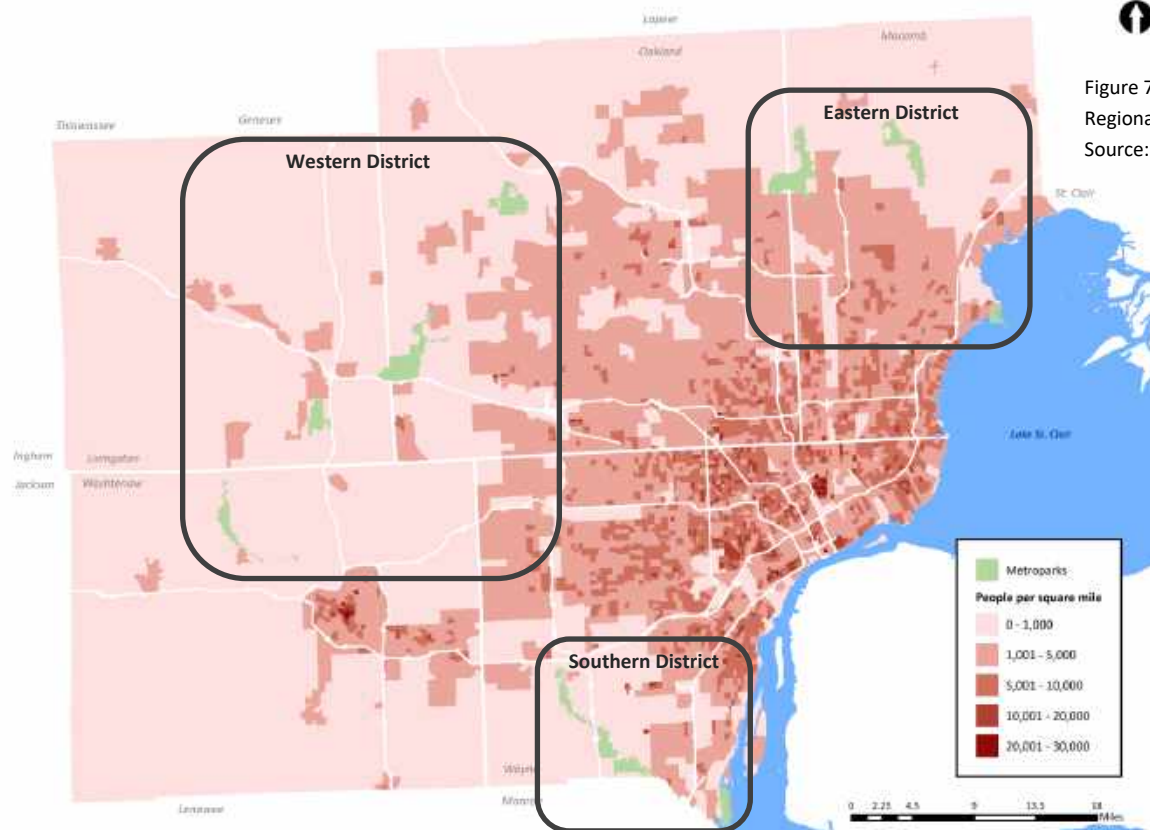


Figure 7.3
Regional population density
Source: U.S. Census, MiGDL

of households. Households below the poverty line represent 9.9% of the population.

Macomb County is also changing racially. Between 2000 and 2010 the African-American population increased 3.97%, and other groups increased slightly. While the largest racial group in the county is still white, this group has decreased 8.4%.

Southern District

The HCMA Southern District includes four Metroparks, all located in Wayne County: Lower Huron, Willow, Oakwoods, and Lake Erie.

Wayne County is projected to decrease in population across most age groups through 2040. The most dramatic increase will be the senior population, (over 65 years old), as seen in other counties. In 2045 the largest group will be residents under 25-54 years of age, which will constitute 39% of the population, followed by the senior population representing 19% of the population.

Just as national income has increased, so has the median income of households within Wayne County. From 2010 to 2020, the median annual income decreased 1.5%, to \$49,359. Similar to the Eastern District, the largest income bracket is

\$75,000-\$99,999, representing 11% of households. In 2020, 19.8% of the population was below the poverty line.

Western District

The HCMA Western District contains six Metroparks: Indian Springs, Kensington, Huron Meadows, Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, and Delhi. The district is comprised of Oakland County, Livingston County, and Washtenaw County, so the data for this district is an average of the three counties.

Similar to other districts, the Western District will see a shift in demographics through 2045. While the number of residents ages 55-64 will decline, the senior population is projected to increase 130%, to 447,775. By 2045, residents under the age of 25 will make up the majority of the district's population, mostly consisting of children ages 5-17.

Among the Western District counties, households with annual incomes of \$75,000-\$99,999 make up 13% of the population, and those with incomes of \$200,000 or more constitute another 12%. Within Oakland, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties, 8.7% of the households are in poverty. Of the three, Washtenaw County has the highest percentage of households in poverty.

REGIONAL PLANS

The following plans were consulted to understand the challenges facing and the resources available to the region at large. With a good grasp of the intentions of other regional agencies, the Metroparks can focus on complementary goals and objectives and more efficiently serve the region's citizens.

SEMCOG	
Increasing Shared Prosperity for a Resilient Economy Comprehensive Economic Development	2021
Access to Core Services in Southeast Michigan	2016
Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan	2020
Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan	2014
2045 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan	2019
2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program	2022
Parks and Recreation Plan for Southeast Michigan	2019
Governor	
21st Century Infrastructure Commission Report	2016
The Future of Michigan's Parks and Outdoor Recreation	2012
Watershed Councils	
The Chain of Lakes Watershed Management Plan	2007
Lake St. Clair subwatershed management plan	2006
Middle Huron River Watershed Management Plan, Section 2	2020
Clinton River East Watershed (CREW) subwatershed management plan	2006
The Lower Huron Watershed Management Plan	2012
The Upper Huron/Kent Lake Subwatershed Management Plan	2006
Stony Creek and Paint Creek Subwatershed Plan	2006
MDOT	
2023-2027 Five-Year Transportation Program	2022
State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2023-2026	2022
2035 State Long-Range Transportation Plan	2012
DNR	
Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018-2022	2018
2022-2032 Michigan DNR Trails Plan	2021
Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan 2017-2022	2017
Counties	
Macomb County Blue Economy Strategic Development Plan	2012
Macomb County 2020-2024 Comprehensive Parks and Natural Resources Master Plan	2020
Oakland County Parks and Recreation 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027	2022
Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan 2023-2027	2022
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission 2020-2024 5-Year Recreation Master Plan	2020
Wayne County Parks Master Plan 2022-2026	2022



FISCAL OUTLOOK

The Metroparks finance and accounting staff compiled the 2018 to 2022 projected general revenue and expense assumptions for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements found below. (The definitions for these categories are found in the funding section of Chapter 4, Administrative Structure.) Anticipated revenues are based on “net” tax levy with captured taxes due to tax abatements and tax increment financing initiatives. No projected growth or decline in toll charges or permit fees over the five years is assumed. Expenditures for personnel costs for both park operations and the administrative office reflects the HCMA Employee Association contract increases. Potential major maintenance repairs are included to keep up with an ever-increasing level of aging infrastructure. Capital improvements are projected based on staffs recommended schedule of projects. Similarly, equipment is projected based on recommended replacement cycles for major equipment.

Revenue										
	2018	Change	2019	Change	2020	Change	2021	Change	2022	Change
Property Tax	31,375,000	102%	31,845,000	102%	32,325,000	102%	32,970,000	102%	33,600,000	102%
Operating Tolls	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%
Operating Golf	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%
Operating Aquatics	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%
Other/Possible Donation (small growth)	4,000,000	1.013	4,050,000	1.013	4,100,000	1.012	4,150,000	1.012	4,200,000	1.012
Total Revenue	51,775,000		52,275,000		52,725,000		53,370,000		54,000,000	



Financing to provide 2023 Budget for BOC packet for December

7 | GOALS &

Fiscal Outlook

Expenses										
	2018	Change	2019	Change	2020	Change	2021	Change	2022	Change
Admin Office	9,560,000	102%	9,900,000	102%	10,240,000	102%	10,610,000	102%	11,000,000	102%
Park Operations	34,600,000	102%	35,870,000	102%	37,180,000	103%	38,560,000	103%	40,020,000	103%
Major Maintenance	2,400,000	32%	1,122,500	70%	1,147,500	102%	1,000,000	87%	1,000,000	100%
Total Operating Expenses	46,560,000	92%	46,892,500	102%	48,567,500	103%	50,170,000	103%	51,021,000	103%
Operating Surplus	0		0		0		0		0	
Land Acquisition	0		0		0		0		0	
Capital Need	5,080,000		1,710,000		2,910,000		3,000,000		3,000,000	
Total Capital Improvement	5,250,000		1,710,000		2,910,000		3,000,000		3,000,000	
Capital Equipment	1,800,000		1,500,000		1,500,000		1,500,000		1,500,000	
Total Expense	58,690,000		51,820,000		55,890,000		57,670,000		59,520,000	

REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS

The constraints placed on the Metroparks by various agencies must be taken into account in the formulation of goals and objectives, to ensure safety, equality, and sound environmental stewardship in addition to engaging recreation.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The *2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design*¹ regulates any new or modified facilities in the park, including boating facilities, fishing piers, golf courses, playgrounds, pools, and sports areas. Government agencies are also required to develop a transition plan to remove barriers to access from current facilities. The Metroparks are committed to achieving compliance with ADA and will work towards the higher standard of Universal Design wherever feasible.

Compliance projects that can be addressed immediately include parking space signing and striping and small-scale paving. When a large amount of paving is necessary to make all facilities on a site accessible, it is more effective long-term to wait until redevelopment of the site is appropriate and arrange facilities in an accessible design. Since many of the Metroparks were designed and built decades ago, the current arrangement of facilities is sprawling and does not take into account varying levels of ability. Clustering new development into accessible nodes of activity will not only allow more people to enjoy the facilities, but will also decrease impervious surfaces and preserve open space.

When sites are redesigned or newly constructed, attention will be given to appropriate measurements and design criteria at recreational facilities noted in ADA 2010. In the future it may be necessary to hire a consultant to survey the accessibility of building interiors and make recommendations for improvements.

Occupational Safety and Health Act

This act provides standards for design and procedure in facilities or areas where individuals are employed.² The regulations cover exit routes, noise exposure, hazardous materials, environmental controls, fire protection, heavy machinery, and more. The Metroparks are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all employees.

Natural Rivers District

Four of the Metroparks are subject to regulations for the Natural River-designated segment of the Huron River: Huron Meadows, Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, and Delhi. The Huron is the only river in Southeast Michigan with Natural River designation.

Additional requirements must be followed for development near the river in these parks, which guide the plans for each facility's future. The Michigan Natural Rivers Act,³ passed in 1994, gave power to both state and local agencies to protect rivers of uniquely pristine nature that must be protected from detrimental development. Local governments are encouraged to create zoning guidelines regarding use of the river frontage; otherwise the state zoning regulations apply. These rules usually cover allowable development types, setbacks, and dimensions within the land 50-200 feet from the river on each side.

The Metroparks are committed to working within the Natural Rivers District zoning to develop park amenities sensibly in the four parks noted above. The goal is to maintain the integrity of the river and frontage while still providing recreational resources that serve all users.

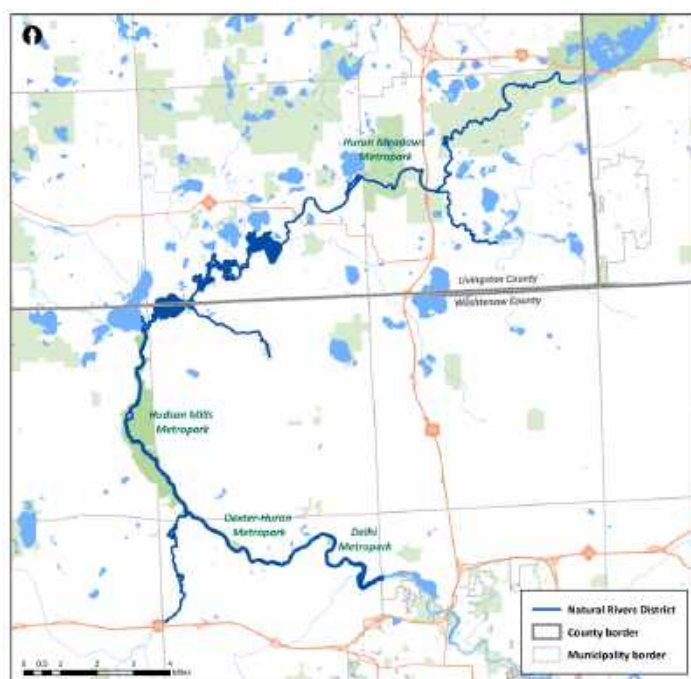


Figure 7.5 | Huron River Natural River System | Source: MDNR

¹ United States Access Board, <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards>

² United State Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Act, <https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/>

³ MDNR, Citizen Tools for Natural Rivers, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/CitizenTools_NR_320951_7.pdf

Clean Water Act

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) has implemented a storm water management program to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the Waters of the State within its jurisdiction. This plan has been developed to fulfill the requirements for Part I, Section B of the State of Michigan's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit (MIS049000) for Storm Water Discharges from Separate Storm Water Drainage Systems (MS4s).¹ Although it operates under a Jurisdictional Permit, HCMA has been participating in the watershed planning process with the Stony/Paint Creek, Lower Huron, and Kent Lake Sub-watershed Groups. HCMA has property within both the Huron and Clinton River Watersheds, and a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) has been implemented within the requested area of coverage as determined by the urbanized areas outlined in the General Permit.

The purpose of the SWMP is to develop a program to implement the six minimum measures as required by the General Permit, which include:

- Public Education Plan (PEP)
- Public Involvement and Participation Plan (PIP)
- Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP)
- Post Construction Storm Water Management Program for New Development and Redevelopment Projects
- Construction Storm Water Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

These six minimum measures are designed to minimize the negative impacts or reduce discharge of pollutants within the storm water conveyances of the Metroparks to the Maximum Extent Possible (MEP). The MEP requirement will be met by:

- Educating the public, HCMA employees, and vendors on potential negative impacts of storm water discharge on receiving waters.
- Training appropriate HCMA staff on the investigation of illicit connections and discharges, including those from on-site disposal systems (OSDS), with emphasis on outfall observations/screenings, safety issues, and naturally occurring phenomena.
- Implementing a system for identifying and eliminating

illicit discharges and connections to the MS4s, including outfall observations and follow-up sampling.

- Locating and accurately mapping the storm water conveyances and outfalls owned and operated by the HCMA within the requested area of coverage.
- Determining the ownership of other significant storm water conveyances in the HCMA and initiating a process to bring any "orphan" drains under proper jurisdiction.
- Working with the Drain Commissioner and County Department of Public Health in their efforts to develop and implement an OSDS inspection program.
- Coordinating HCMA IDEP efforts with other local communities and impacted County agencies.
- The identification and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to comply with the minimum measures of Part I, including cooperation with other permittees as necessary to assure compliance.
- The identification and implementation of BMPs to comply with storm water related requirements established in a corrective action plan, to meet TMDLs as applicable.
- Demonstration of effectiveness or environmental benefit of the program.



¹ US EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources>

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Candidate

Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the eastern massasauga rattlesnake (EMR) as Federally Threatened under the Endangered Species Act on Sept. 29, 2016.¹ EMR populations have substantially decreased due to many issues including habitat loss and fragmentation, human persecution, and disease. EMR are known to occur at four Metroparks (Stony Creek, Kensington, Indian Springs, and Hudson Mills), and have been the focus of past research and study at all of these locations.

HCMA has obtained protection for management activities that may cause incidental harm to individual snakes or their habitat by signing the Certificate of Inclusion to the MDNR's CCAA. The purpose of the CCAA is to conserve and enhance habitat that will maintain viable EMR populations, while reducing uncertainty that landowners face in managing lands with federally listed species.

Management activities covered by the CCAA include: wetland protection, cultivation, mowing and hydro-axing, chemical controls, trail/pathway management, prescribed burns, forest management including brush removal and invasive species control, and water level manipulations. Previous habitat management has led to the persistence of EMR populations on HCMA property. The CCAA does not require significant changes to current management activities.

To be considered for the CCAA the Natural Resources Department submitted a draft EMR Implementation Plan (EMRIP) to the MDNR. This plan highlights which areas are considered Managed Lands and Unmanaged Lands.

Unmanaged Land

These are lands that are enrolled in the CCAA but are not considered important to the long-term sustainability of EMR and may be incompatible with EMR management, such as campgrounds or golf courses. Managers do not need to implement conservation strategies on these lands and may actively discourage massasauga use. Landowners are still covered for incidental take. HCMA has identified roughly 21,000 acres of Unmanaged Land throughout the park system.

Managed Land

This land is considered most important to the long-term sustainability of EMR and has been identified as holding EMR. HCMA has identified 3,554 acres of Managed Lands in the four parks known to have EMR populations.



¹ US Fish & Wildlife Service Endangered Species, <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/reptiles/eama/eama-fct-sht.html>

7 | GOALS & OBJECTIVES

After considering all of the factors presented in the previous pages, HCMA staff developed the following five goals and corresponding objectives. The goals are meant to be broad, comprehensive categories that each encompass aspects of the vision to which the Metroparks aspire. The objectives are intended to describe a path forward for meeting the goals, moving into greater specificity. Finally, in the next chapter, these objectives will be broken down into actionable tasks with timelines and cost estimates.



1 INNOVATION

Modernize the Metroparks and develop a system that is more equitable for communities across the region..

- 1.1** Use new technology to increase connectivity and efficient communication throughout the system.
- 1.2** Construct and repurpose buildings to provide administrative and operations staff with workspaces that maximize employee productivity and wellness.
- 1.3** Redevelop targeted areas with innovative takes on current recreation programming and facility trends to attract and retain a strong user base.



2 MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Repair, maintain, and improve core park infrastructure.

- 2.1 Adopt a comprehensive and preventative approach to infrastructure management, maintaining an accurate inventory and investing in updates and staffing resources accordingly.
- 2.2 Continue to present visitors with a clean, functional, and pleasant park experience with excellent maintenance standards.
- 2.3 Continue transition to ADA accessibility in all park system facilities regardless of race, age, income, gender, or ability, with an eye towards universal design.



3 EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Develop and enhance programming, communication, and outreach efforts.

- 3.1 Enhance visitors' understanding of and appreciation for Metroparks natural features and cultural history through updated interpretive exhibits, programs, and signage.
- 3.2 Community partnerships to leverage ongoing programs, site improvements, shared technologies, and knowledge and education.
- 3.3 Provide proactive community engagement opportunities to foster a greater sense of accountability in staff and ownership in the public.



4 STEWARDSHIP

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

- 4.1 Maintain clean, fresh water resources that facilitate both extraordinary recreation and healthy ecosystems.
- 4.2 Restoration of natural areas in the Metroparks to be exemplary metropolitan habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna.
- 4.3 Use early detection and rapid response to prevent disease and invasive species from damaging natural areas in the parks.



5 SUSTAINABILITY

Prioritize employee development, environmental health improvements, and financial stability. Become a leader for the region in sustainable practices.

- 5.1 Increase focus on environmental sustainability throughout the Metroparks system, especially focusing on implementation of the Climate Action Plan to be completed in 2023.
- 5.2 Invest in the valuable human resources of the park system through staff education and enrichment.
- 5.3 Implement a diverse funding strategy to ensure financial resilience into the future.





8 | ACTION PROGRAM

This chart provides planned projects for the next five years, listed by park. Descriptions and financial estimates are provided for each, in addition to goal identification and a timeline following the key below:

- **Now** | 2023
- **Soon** | 2024-2025
- **Later** | 2026-2027
- **Ongoing/As Needed**

Projects identified beyond five years will be evaluated for incorporation into the individual 10 year Master Plans and will also be considered in the next Recreation Plan 2028-2032. A list of projects beyond five years are listed in the Appendices.

SYSTEM-WIDE

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
New branding conversion of park signage	Marketing update	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing	1.1, 1.3, 3.1
Climate Action Plan initiatives	Climate Action Plan	TBD	General Fund/ Grants/ Partnerships	Ongoing	5.1
Annual recreational programming and events	Recreational programming committee	TBD	General Fund/ Grants/ Partnerships	Ongoing	1.3, 3.2, 3.3
Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure and parking stations	Engineering site selection identified optimal locations	TBD	General Fund/ Grants/ Partnerships	Ongoing	5.1
Stormwater monitoring	Partnership with water resource commissions	5,000	Partnerships/ General Fund	Ongoing	4.1
Increase attendance in recreation programming	Increase attendance counts by providing programming that fits the needs of residents in service area	TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Now	1.3, 3.3, 5.3
Accessibility updates on website	Provide information on accessibility of park facilities and programs	TBD	Staff time	Now	2.3
Develop staff wellness program	Continue investing in staff education and skills in meeting sustainable goals	TBD	General Fund	Now	5.2
Enhance Friends of the Metroparks program	Identify project programs, and partnerships through the Metroparks Foundation	TBD	Partnerships	Now	5.3
Improve inclusivity and diversity	Develop, partner or promote programming opportunities that reflect service areas cultural and ability diversity	TBD	Partnerships/staff time	Ongoing	2.3, 3.4, 3.5

8 | ACTION PROGRAM

SYSTEM-WIDE, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Provide adaptive and sensory-friendly programming	Ensure there is a variety of educational and recreational opportunities available throughout the year	TBD-	Partnerships/staff time	Ongoing	2.3,3.2
Formalize partnerships, where appropriate	Develop MOUs as necessary with partners	-	Staff time	Ongoing	3.2
Provide swimming lessons	Use pools throughout the system to provide and/or host swimming lessons	345,000	General Fund/ Grants	Ongoing	1.3
Update trail maps	Include opportunities for walking/hiking/trail/running	-	Staff time	Ongoing	1.1, 3.1
Develop signature events	Plan signature events for each district and/or Metroparks that are unique to that park's character	TBD	Operations/ Recreation programming	Ongoing	1.3,3.1
Improve fishing access and quality	Evaluate fishing access and quality throughout park system	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	4.1
Habitat restorations/ enhancements	Continued efforts based on short term priority project areas identified by Natural	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	4.2
Monitoring/surveying flora and fauna	Continued efforts based on short term priority project areas identified by Natural	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	4.2
Detection/prevention of oak wilt	Continued efforts based on short term priority project areas identified by Natural	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	4.3
Invasive species mitigation efforts focusing on emerging threats	Continue to implement land and water based invasive species control (e.g. frog bit)	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	4.3

8 | ACTION PROGRAM

SYSTEM-WIDE, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Herpetological Survey	Detecting and tracking reptiles and amphibians in their habitats.	\$15,000	General Fund/ Partnerships	Ongoing	4.1,4.2,4.3
Reducing waste at park events and partnership events	Continue to assess the need for improved and sustainable recycling initiatives	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	4.1,5.1
Develop and enhance staff training programs	Continue investing in staff education and skills in meeting sustainable goals	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.2
Stormwater Management Plan (SWP) initiatives	Use SWP as guidance for green infrastructure improvements	TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Ongoing/As Needed	4.1
Continue growth of partnerships for transit initiatives	Expand pilot project at LSC to other parks in system	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships	Ongoing	1.1, 2.2
Staff attendance at appropriate parks/ recreation conferences	Continue investing in staff education and skills in meeting sustainable goals	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.2
Assessments of nature trail boardwalks, bridges, and other built infrastructure	Inspections and maintenance checks on built infrastructure	TBD	Staff	Ongoing/As Needed	2.1
Accessibility improvements	Continued implementation of accessible facilities per ADA Transition Plan	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	2.3
Develop fundraising campaigns	Identify projects and programs for partnerships with fundraising campaigns	TBD	Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	5.3
Seek sponsorships for large events	Identify projects and programs for partnerships with sponsors	TBD	Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	5.3

SYSTEM-WIDE, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Utility line replacements	Implement GIS asset management and replace utilities if required for site improvements	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	2.1
Expand transit initiatives system-wide	Continue to work with partners on transit access to metroparks	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	1.3
Provide trail connectivity to surrounding communities	Continue partnership with local communities and other agencies on trail development	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	5.1
Dam studies (Stony Creek, Kensington, Oakwoods, Lower Huron)	Assess needs for repair and maintenance of dam infrastructure	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	2.1
Road, lot, and hike-bike trail paving projects over 5-year period	Maintenance of existing infrastructure requiring paving	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	2.2
Roof replacements	Maintain existing structures requiring roof replacement	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	2.2
Develop accessible natural surface hiking trails within each District	Evaluate suitable sites for pedestrian use	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	2.3
Interpretive exhibit updates	Continued programming improvements with educational/interpretive exhibit updates	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1
Enhance public engagement opportunities	Facilitate public input opportunities with each development project	N/A	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	1.1 3.3
Explore off-leash dog facility in Western District	Evaluate site selection including surrounding communities	NA	General Fund	Later	1.3

SYSTEM-WIDE, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Explore opportunities for emerging recreational trends	Perform feasibility and market analysis	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	1.3
Explore land acquisition for the purpose of protection and stewardship	Adhere to Land Acquisition/ Divestment HCMA policy	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	4.1
Investigate status of HCMA leased properties for planned renewal/ divestment/restoration/ recreation	Determine status and determine future land use based on HCMA and community plans	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	4.1
Mowing reduction plans	Update mowing reduction based on best practices	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.1
Assessment of Huron River shoreline erosion both in river and riparian areas	Prioritize streambank stabilization projects	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.1
Develop environmental review process in early planning stages for each development project	Desktop review of sensitive natural features, regulatory constraints, and restoration activities	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.1

8 | ACTION PROGRAM

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Maintenance Area redevelopment	Replace multiple structures with one large maintenance building. Improve stormwater drainage from site Include screening from park exit road	\$1,500,000	General Fund	Now/Soon	1.2, 4.1, 5.1
North Marina improvements	Replace seawall and building. Determine future use of area	\$1,000,000	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	1.3, 2.2
Nature Center redevelopment and renovation	Building renovations for improved accessibility and interpretive opportunities. Incorporate nature playscape	\$500,000	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	1.2, 1.3, 2.3, 3.1
Repair east and west boardwalks		\$430,000	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	2.2, 2.3
Replace underground power line		\$800,000	General Fund	Soon	1.1, 2.1
Seek acquisition of property to reconnect the Black Creek Marsh to the Clinton River	Review and perform due diligence for consideration in purchasing	N/A	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	2.1,4.1
Rebuild nature trail bridges (2)	Modify aging bridges for ADA access	\$160,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, stormwater, marsh	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1
Hike-bike trail connectors from Daysail to Tot Lot and to West Playfield	Develop approximately 2,800 lf of new hike-bike trail to connect multiple park facilities	\$150,000	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	1.3
Park Office and Food Bar redevelopment	Redevelop and possibly separate the Park Office and Food Bar (Beachside Grill)	\$3,000,000	General Fund	Later	1.3, 2.3

8 | ACTION PROGRAM

LAKE ST. CLAIR, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Meadow Loop Trail accessibility and amenities improvements	Improve overall accessibility , regular maintenance of water control structures	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	2.1,2.3
Pool/Bathhouse improvements	Determine future use of area. Redevelop with modern water feature(s) based on demand	\$1,000,000	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3, 2.3
North Marsh recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/ kayaking	TBD	General Fund	Later	2.3, 3.1
Parking lot redevelopment Phase 3 & 4 (completion)	Complete redevelopment project from first phases completed in 2014	\$2,500,000	General Fund	Later	2.2
Install comfort station at former roller rink site	Improve service to visitors renting picnic shelters on the Point road	\$350,000	General Fund	Later	1.3, 2.2, 2.3
Develop plan for Adventure Golf facility and strategy	Determine future use of the area	TBD	Staff time	Later	1.3
Adult changing room at south marina	Remodel existing restroom at south marina	TBD	Staff time	Later	1.3
Continue growth of partnership with SMART on transit improvements	Evaluate pilot project as the baseline and continue transit investments	TBD	Staff time	Ongoing	1.1,5.1

KENSINGTON

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Maple Beach improvements	Include accessible parking and furnishings	TBD	General Fund	Now/Soon	1.3
Hike-bike trail redevelopment (loop)	Complete redevelopment of paved trail surrounding Kent Lake.	\$2,000,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Park office building condition assessment	Engineering study of existing park office facility	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.2
Farm Center selective redevelopment	Incorporate a larger play area for visitors. Improve accessibility to the Living History Village and rental fire pits. Improve conditions for farm animals. Develop greenhouse for educational and revenue-generating opportunities	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	1.3 3.1
Nature Center parking and circulation improvements	Reconstruct parking lot, improve circulation, accessibility and stormwater management.	\$1,000,000	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	2.2
Restroom addition at Equestrian Staging Area/ Milford Connector Trail	Explore partnership involvement with Milford to develop concept	TBD	General Fund/ Grant/Village of Milford	Soon	2.1, 2.3
East Boat Launch parking and circulation improvements	Redevelop parking lot to account for boat trailer length. Improve accessibility.	\$500,000	General Fund/ Grant	Later	2.2
Martindale Beach Splash 'n' Blast renovation plan: UV disinfectant added and determine capacity of mechanical room for	Evaluate capacity of existing filtration system. Develop new slide feature to enhance the existing water park.	\$2,000,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
West Boat Launch pier replacement	Replace dilapidated piers. Improve lake accessibility	\$260,000	General Fund	Later	1.3,2.3

KENSINGTON, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Orchard Picnic Area selective redevelopment	Enhance winter activity amenities	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Mitten Bay selective redevelopment plan	Ensure structural soundness and monitor	\$690,000		Later	1.3
Martindale Beach improvements	Construct new picnic shelter and toilets at south end	\$100,000	General fund	Later	1.3
Install CXT units at Black Locust disc golf, golf course, and group camp	Replace vault latrines and port-a-johns with permanent structures.	\$600,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Playfield Picnic Area selective redevelopment	Remove dilapidated fitness trail stations. Develop large playground and associated parking lot to support higher intensity of use.	\$1,000,000	General Fund	Soon/Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Hike-bike trail, equestrian trails, x-country ski trails, mtb trails, Farm Center	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1,3.2
Pilot transit study with LETS	Replicate pilot project performed at Lake St. Clair with SMART	TBD	General Fund	Soon	5.1
Nature Center interior/ exterior building renovations	Phased improvements	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.2

8 | ACTION PROGRAM

DEXTER-HURON/DELHI

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Border-to-Border trail extension	Southern extension from Dexter-Huron through Delhi to Ann Arbor (Washtenaw County PARC as project lead)	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Now/Soon	5.1
Parking lot redevelopment	Expand existing lot to account additional capacity anticipated with Border-to-Border Trail extension.	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.3,2.2
River recreation access improvements at East Delhi	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/ kayaking.	TBD	General Fund/ Huron River Watershed Council	Soon	1.3,4.1
Redevelop playground	Replace playground equipment at Delhi	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Canoe livery improvements	Work in partnership with concessionaire to improve operations	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Soon	2.2,2.3
East Delhi trailhead with B2B trail extension planned	Washtenaw County PARC leading project	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Soon	5.1
Van Curler Preserve nature trail connector into Dexter-Huron	Scio Township leading project	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Soon	5.1

LOWER HURON

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Development of Woods Creek Accessible Trail (play area to restrooms)	Accessibility improvement project	TBD	General Fund	Now	2.2
Tawata Trace underpass restoration	Infrastructure upgrade	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.3
Install above-ground fuel storage at service yard		TBD	General Fund	Soon	5.1
Investigate partnership with Rolling Hills waterpark	Mitigation plan for overflow days	TBD	General Fund	Soon	13.2

8 | ACTION PROGRAM

LOWER HURON, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Adaptive ballfield	Explore collaboration with partners	TBD	General Fund/ Partners/Grants	Later	2.2,2.3
Turtle Cove renovations	Develop new slide feature to enhance the existing water park. Incorporate additional shade structures and rental shelters.	\$4,000,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
Redevelop comfort station at Walnut Grove Campground	Include shower facility for campers.	\$400,000	General Fund	Later	1.3,2.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1,3.2
Bob White trail restoration	Aggregate 1 mile nature trail with trailhead	TBD	General Fund	Later	3.1,3.2
Demolition of former park office	Following employee transition to new park office at Willow	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.1
Turtle Cove path and crosswalk to Foxwoods	Construction of a path with crosswalk improvement	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.1
Prioritize accessible paths from Hawthorne Glade North shelter and Tulip Tree shelter	Construction of a path with crosswalk improvement	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.1
Tulip Tree septic pump grinder		TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.1
Equalization of culverts; assessment, replacement, abatement		TBD	General Fund	Later	1.1
Foxwoods improvements	Restroom expansion, removal of ice skating sign and 2 dams, existing	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.1

HUDSON MILLS

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Additional tollbooth		TBD	General Fund	Later	2.2
Develop small playground at Oak Meadows		TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Later	2.2
Accessible trailhead with bike repair station		TBD	General Fund/ Grants		5.1
Planning for portage improvements at Flook Dam (partnership)		TBD	General Fund/ Partnership	Later	5.1
Hike-bike trail reconstruction (loop)	Complete replacement of pavement on loop trail. Develop connector from loop trail to Activity Center	\$400,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2.2.3
Development and expansion of additional recreation facilities, pickleball, disc golf, splash pad		TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Later	5.1
Develop connector trail to Portage Lake		TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Later	5.1
Install CXT units and family/bike camping, replace fire pits, seatings, tree plantings, invasive species management at Group Camp/Canoe Camp	Improve restroom amenities for groups and individuals using camping facilities	\$100,000	General Fund/ Grants	Later	1.3
Develop kayak launch at Bell Rd.			General Fund	Later	5.1

HUDSON MILLS, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Border-to-Border trail extension known as Northwest Passage Trail	Northern extension out of Hudson Mills to the Lakelands Trail in Livingston County (Washtenaw County PARC as project lead). Specific route to be determined.	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Later	5.1
Implement Activity Center selective redevelopment plan	Evaluate outdoor space for opportunities. Make accessibility improvements to restrooms. Incorporate additional revenue-generating opportunities.	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3,2.2
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, x-country ski trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1,3.2

STONY CREEK

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Buckhorn disc golf improvements	Building utilities, new baskets	TBD	General Fund	Later	5.1
Water and gas line improvements	Bring gas line into park to serve Stony Creek Landing and Eastwood Beach	\$150,000	General Fund	Now	2.1
Baypoint Beach redevelopment	Develop comfort station. Incorporate space for food truck parking. Incorporate accessible beach access.	\$500,000	General Fund/ Grant	Now/Soon	1.3
Golf course irrigation and pump house replacement		\$2,300,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Eastwood Beach selective redevelopment	Renovate building/site/ parking lot circulation for operational efficiency.	TBD	General Fund	Soon/Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trails, mtb trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, As needed	3.1,3.2
Re-align paved trails to further separate road and recreational cyclists (multiple areas). Add bike lanes where feasible		TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	1.3
Dam (2) mechanism/ assembly redevelopment		TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	5.1
Develop Dam Hazard Mitigation Plan		TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	5.1
Bicycle pump track/skills area		TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3
Build permanent water slide	Sustainable initiative on energy and water savings	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3

WILLOW

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Develop fishing pier at Big Bend	Replacement of Lower Huron south fishing site	TBD		Soon	1.3
Food bar and bathhouse redevelopment	Determine future use of the area and building(s) based on demand. Evaluate parking need	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2
Disc golf improvements at Acorn Knoll	Partially relocate disc golf course	TBD	General Fund	Soon	3.1, 3.2
Implement Washago stream restoration/use master plan		TBD	General Fund	Soon	5.1
Golf course: replace irrigation lines, UST with AST		TBD	General Fund	Ongoing	5.1

OAKWOODS

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Develop playground near Nature Center	Develop accessible playground highlighting new nature center exhibit theme	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Now/Soon	2.2, 2.3
Flat Rock dam removal feasibility study	Investigate feasibility of removing the Flat Rock dam	745,000	NOAA Grant	Now/Soon	2.1
Flat Rock dam removal design project	Following feasibility study of removing the Flat Rock dam	730,000	NOAA Grant	Later	2.1
River recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for canoeing/kayaking	\$50,000	General Fund	Later	2.3, 3.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, equestrian trails	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2

LAKE ERIE

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Food bar redevelopment plan		TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.2
Marshlands Museum renovations	Replace exhibits. Renovate building interior and exterior	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3, 2.3, 3.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, x-country ski trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2
Golf cart fleet replacement		TBD	General Fund	Later	2.2, 2.3
Implement Marina selective redevelopment strategy; mixed use	Adhere to consent order	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	2.2, 2.3
Hike-bike trail connectors to park office, marina	Longer looped trail connectivity improvements	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	2.2, 2.3
Implement Great Wave Area selective redevelopment strategy		11,500,000	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	5.1, 1.3
Implement shoreline stabilization in Cove Point area		TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	5.1
Continue growth of partnership with SMART on transit initiatives		TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/ Grants	Later	5.1
Boat launch selective redevelopment strategy: shoreline stabilization, fish		TBD	General Fund/ Grants		5.1

WOLCOTT MILL

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Camp Rotary revenue generation strategy; Activities to supplement and camping uses		TBD	General Fund	Later	2.2 , 2.3
Develop connector path between Farm Center & Historic Center	Connect the two facilities by crossing the river and utilizing part of an existing trail system	\$600,000	General Fund	Later	1.3 , 3.1
Historic Center selective redevelopment	Develop event facility for groups larger than what is allowable at Camp Rotary, incorporating classroom and office space. Replace comfort station. Develop and implement interpretive signage plan. Replace exhibits in the mill.	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	1.3 3.1
Farm Center selective redevelopment	Redevelop select buildings to improve animal facilities. Replace playground equipment. Incorporate additional classroom, office, and storage space. Develop and implement interpretive signage plan.	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	1.3 3.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, wagon trail	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1 , 3.2
North Branch trail connection		TBD	General Fund	Later	5.1

INDIAN SPRINGS

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Replace bridges on nature trails		\$200,000	General Fund	Soon	2.1
Golf course pump house replacement , parking lot improvements, UST		\$800,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Splash pad restrooms/ changing area		TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	2.2, 2.3
Old maintenance building upgrades		TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Schmitt Lake trail amenities development	Develop parking and trailhead off of Crosby Lake Road for access to rustic trails.	\$85,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
Meadowlark Playground redevelopment	Replace aging equipment and reorganize play areas. Relocate playground nearer to existing comfort station.	\$600,000	General Fund	Now	1.3
EDC selective redevelopment	Evaluate building space use and make renovations to ensure balance of use as an event and educational facility.	TBD	General Fund	Later	2.2
Expand the hike-bike trail into a loop	Develop extension of existing trail to enable visitors to enhance experience for visitors and encourage increased trail usage.	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2

HURON MEADOWS

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Develop Huron River south connectivity plan		TBD	General Fund	Soon	3.1
Develop tollbooth at Golf Course	Park is lacking tollbooth currently	\$140,000	General Fund	Soon	5.3
River recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/ kayaking	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3, 4.1
Maltby Lake recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/ kayaking. Incorporate parking, comfort station	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3, 4.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	rustic trails, x-country ski trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2
Replace Sunset Ridge playground		TBD	General Fund, Grants	Later	1.3
Explore accessible kayak launch along entire Huron River corridor		TBD		Later	1.3



Resolution of Adoption

Public Meeting Minutes

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