

**Grass Lake Area  
Recreation Plan  
2016-2020 Edition**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Approved by the Grass Lake Area Joint Recreation Planning Advisory Committee ..... | April 28, 2015    |
| Adopted by Grass Lake Community Schools .....                                      | June 15, 2015     |
| Adopted by Grass Lake Charter Township .....                                       | July 14, 2015     |
| Adopted by the Village of Grass Lake .....   | May 5, 2015       |
| Approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources .....                     | March 1, 2016     |
| Expiration .....   | December 31, 2020 |
| Amended .....  | n/a               |

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Chapter 1

## **Community Description**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

The Grass Lake Area encompasses Grass Lake Charter Township and the Village of Grass Lake, comprising an area of approximately 48 square miles. The Township occupies approximately 47 square miles. The Village has an area of approximately 1 square mile.

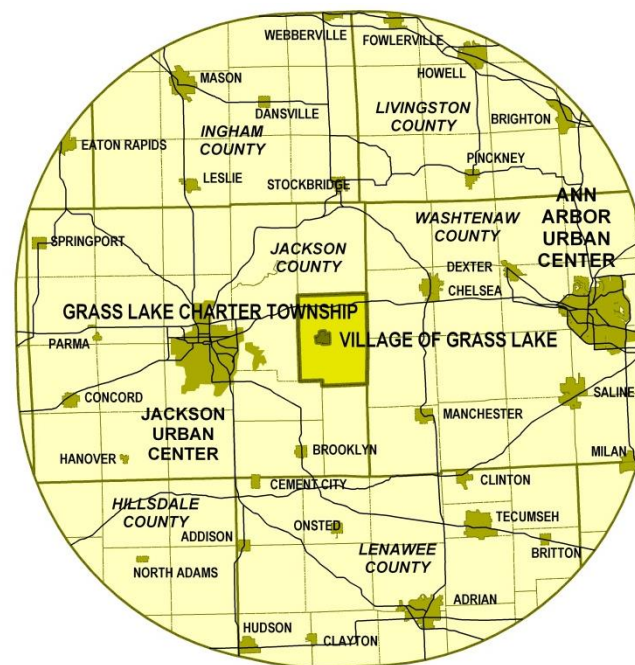
The first priority of the Village of Grass Lake and Grass Lake Charter Township is to jointly develop a plan which responds to the recreational desires of their citizenry and to plan for enhancements to the parks and recreational programs of the municipalities. The recreation plan will also provide a clear picture of the recreational opportunities available to residents regardless of who provides them. That review will catalogue nontraditional recreation opportunities such as historic districts/structures and shopping opportunities as well as traditional parks and recreation facilities.

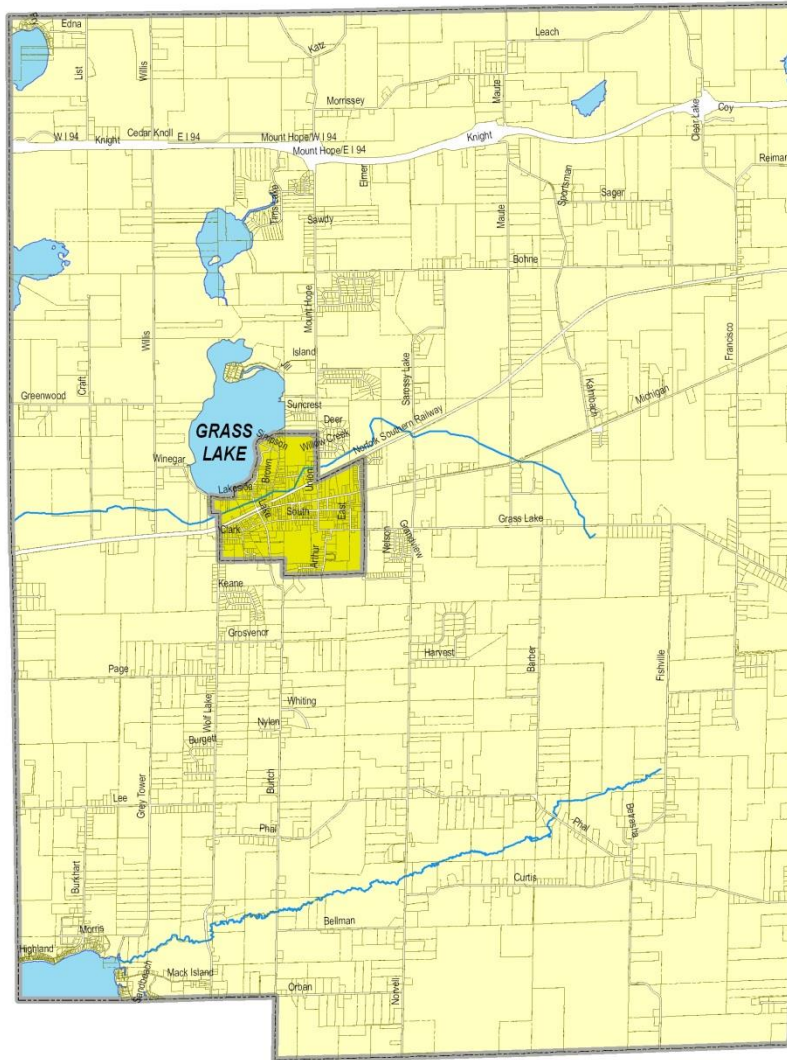
In addition to its rich network of aquatic features and close proximity to a couple of nearby urban centers, the Grass Lake Area is home to a variety of neighborhoods and developments. Further, the presence of a wide variety of recreational facilities and opportunities requires an intensive review of how those assets can be successfully integrated into the Area. With all those issues in mind, a sincere effort was spent in developing this plan which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in the Village and Township during the early years of the 21st Century.

### Location






The Grass Lake Area is located on the eastern border of Jackson County (please see the Location Map). Grass Lake Charter Township surrounds the Village of Grass Lake. Grass Lake comprises the northwestern border of the Village. Interstate 94 (I-94) and other regional roadways connect the Area to the nearby urban centers of Jackson and Ann Arbor (please see the Base Map).

### LOCATION





#### LEGEND

-  PROPERTIES
-  VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE
-  GRASS LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
-  LAKES & PONDS
-  RIVERS & STREAMS



NOT TO SCALE

## BASE MAP

## **A Brief Socioeconomic Summary**

The demographic composition of Grass Lake Area residents affects its recreational needs. Accordingly, pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief description of the local situation. Each of the components is described in greater detail in Appendix A of this document.

### ■ **Population History & Projections**

The 2010 population for the Grass Lake Area was 5,864, with the population increasing steadily between 1930 and 2010. Based upon this pattern, the population in 2020 is projected to be around 5,778 residents. Villagers comprised 20.6% of Area residents in 2010.

### ■ **Age & Sex of the Population**

'Baby Boomers' (people aged 45 to 64 in 2010) and 'Millennials' (people aged 5-24 in 2010) were the largest generations, estimated to comprise 57.3% of Area residents between 2009 and 2013. The median age of a Grass Lake Villager was 38.2 years compared to 41.9 years for all Area residents. The Area's population was almost evenly split between male and female residents.

### ■ **Household & Family Composition**

Families comprised an estimated 75.1% of Area households between 2009 and 2013. Children were present in an estimated 33.7% of households. Single-person households comprised 22.2% of households. The average household size was 2.58 people as compared to 2.45 people in the Village.

### ■ **Racial & Ethnic Composition**

Race and ethnicity were not significant issues between 2009 and 2013 regarding recreation given the estimated homogeneity of the population.

### ■ **Disabilities of Residents**

Grass Lake Area residents with at least one disability between 2009 and 2013 comprised an estimated 9.0% of the population. It is also important to note that older residents are more apt to have a disability, including an ambulatory difficulty, than their younger neighbors.

### ■ Income

The median household (\$61,332) and family (\$71,354) incomes for the Grass Lake Area was greater than that for the average American household between 2009 and 2013. The Area's per capita income (\$28,816) was also greater than that for the entire nation. Incomes are lower in the Village.

## The Health of Jackson County Residents

Obesity describes ranges of weight that are above healthy guidelines given a certain height. Body Mass Index is used to calculate an individual's ratio of height to weight. Generally, a person with a Body Mass Index score of 25.0 or greater is considered obese.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, 31.1% of Michigan residents were considered obese (the tenth highest in the nation),<sup>2</sup> with 34% of adults in Jackson County reporting being obese.<sup>3</sup> According to a report published by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and Institute for Health Care Studies, being overweight or obese substantially increases the risk for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, lipid disorders, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, psychological disorders, stress incontinence, and cancers of the endometrium, breast, prostate and colon.<sup>4</sup> In 2008, the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan showed that a poor diet and physical activity were second only to tobacco as the greatest cause for actual death in the United States in 1990 and 2000. Furthermore, a publication by the World Health Organization states that physical inactivity and a poor diet are large contributors to overweight and obesity.<sup>5</sup> According to the National Center for Chronic Disease

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Adult: Defining – DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/defining.html>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Data and Statistics — DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

<sup>3</sup> County Health Rankings. (2014). Adult obesity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2014/measure/factors/11/data>

<sup>4</sup> Kreulen, G. J. (2002). *Promoting healthy weight in Michigan through physical activity and nutrition (Informing the debate : health policy options for Michigan policymakers)*. East Lansing: Institute for Public Policy & Social Research and Institute for Health Care Studies at Michigan State University.

<sup>5</sup> World Health Organization. (2009). Unhealthy Diets & Physical Inactivity. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact\\_sheet\\_diet\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact_sheet_diet_en.pdf)

Prevention and Health Promotion, 26% of Jackson County residents reported being physically inactive,<sup>6</sup> placing it in the top 25 counties in Michigan for this measure. These statistics point to a need for more active recreational opportunities in all communities. Those opportunities may include providing more walkable neighborhoods as well as the provision of actual recreational opportunities such as athletic fields (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.) and courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, etc.) Factors of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning contributing to unhealthy weight according to the 2006 Jackson Community Report Card produced by the United Way of Jackson County include:

- “Inadequate community infrastructure limits the ability of people to be active. These include lack of accessible indoor and outdoor exercise facilities, neighborhood sidewalks, walking paths, and bicycle trails. Additionally, inclement weather, lack of adequate recreational opportunities, fear of unsafe neighborhoods, and unattractive/unpleasant local environments may prevent people from exercising.”
- “Programs and policies are necessary to promote smart community growth and the establishment of urban and rural environments supportive of physical activity. Active community environments provide access to safe favorable conditions for physical activity and promote the development of social support networks that encourage activity.”

The Michigan State University Report: *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan Through Physical Activity and Nutrition* (Kreulen, 2002), recommends cooperation among state and local units of government and residents in the promotion of active environments, including the following actions.

- “Develop walkable communities by widening and maintaining or building sidewalks, safe roadway crossings, and aesthetically pleasing areas.”
- “Encourage bicycling by developing, maintaining, and promoting the use of bike paths.”
- “Require [that] all urban planning and re-design incorporate the concepts of active community environments and thereby promote physical activity.”

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<sup>6</sup> County Health Rankings. (2014). Physical inactivity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2014/measure/factors/70/data>



Chapter 2

## **Administrative Structure**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

## Authorization

In response to identified recreation needs, the Grass Lake Township Board, the Grass Lake Village Council, and the Grass Lake Community Schools Board formed a Joint Recreation Committee to develop the *Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan* under the authority of Public Act 156 of 1917 (Recreation and Playgrounds). Grass Lake Charter Township also maintains its own parks and recreation committee under the authority of the legislation. The Act:

- “authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds” (emphasis added) It also allows those entities to:
  - “operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; vote and expend funds for the operation of such system.”
  - “operate such a system independently or they may cooperate in its conduct in any manner which they may mutually agree; or they may delegate the operation of the system to a recreation board created by any or all of them, and appropriate money, voted for this purpose, to such board.”
- The act also allows park systems to operate on “(1) property under its custody and management; (2) other public property;” and “(3) private property, with the consent of the owners.”

A copy of PA 156 of 1917 is available online at:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(jvpdab552sox\\_emek3mee3h55\)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Act-156-of-1917.pdf](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(jvpdab552sox_emek3mee3h55)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Act-156-of-1917.pdf)

**Please note that other state enabling legislation allows for the joint provision parks and recreation facilities in addition to planning for them. The Township, Village, and Schools may choose to form one of those organizational arrangements in the future.**

## Organizational Structure

The following bodies are involved in the provision of municipal recreation:

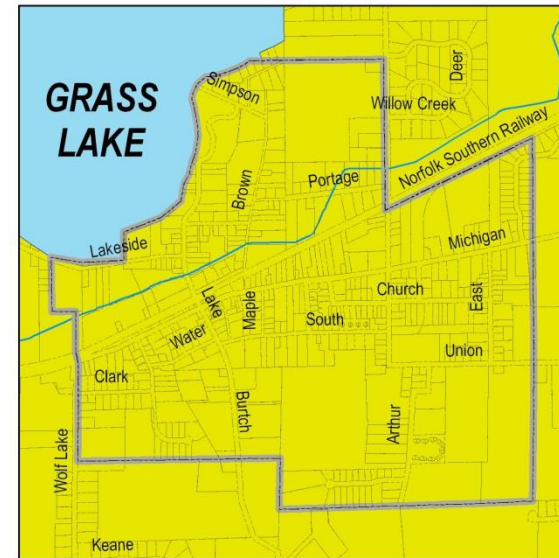
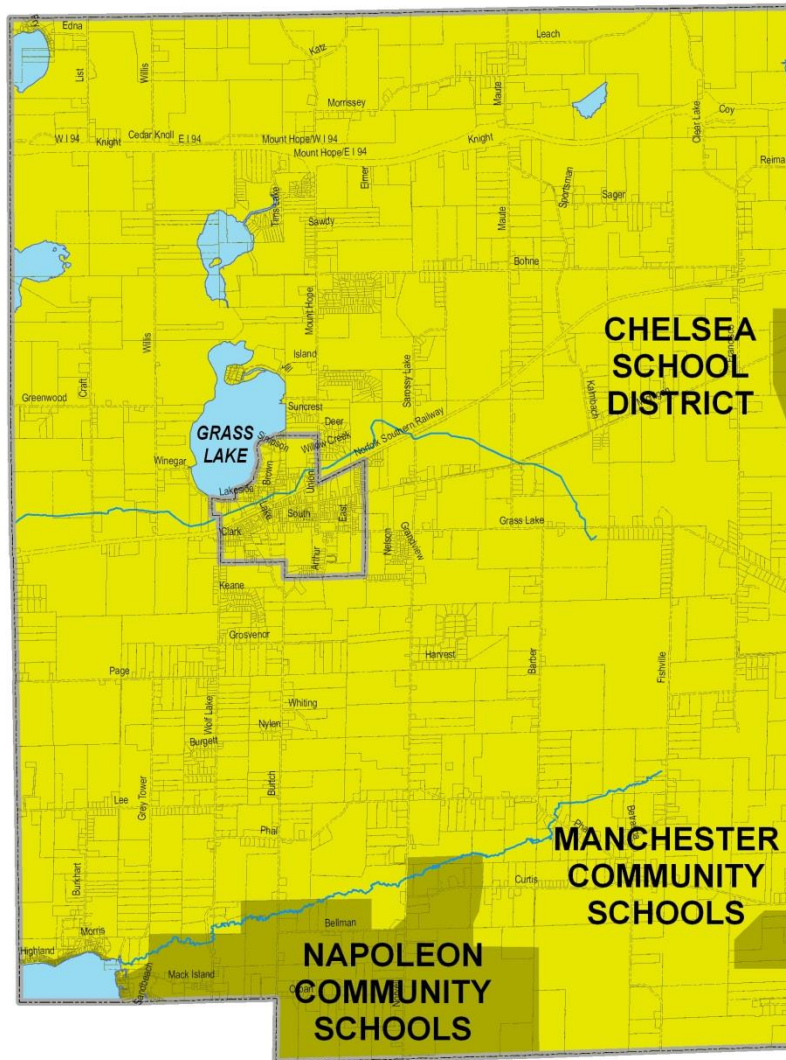
- **Grass Lake Charter Township.** A Recreation Board is responsible for planning, constructing, maintaining, programming, and administering the Township's recreation facilities. The Board is also charged with studying various recreation needs, advising the Township Board on recreation issues, and making appropriate budget requests.

### GRASS LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION STRUCTURE



The Recreation Board is comprised of the Township Supervisor and representatives from the GLSYL (Grass Lake Summer Youth League, the local AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) program, and local trail enthusiasts. Maintenance concerns brought before the Recreation Committee are addressed through the Township Supervisor. Recreational programs are coordinated through the various representatives serving on the Committee. The Township Board maintains final authority over Grass Lake Township's facilities. The Township Board is comprised of a Supervisor, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and 4 Trustees. The Township utilizes volunteers for specific projects and programs.

- **Village of Grass Lake.** The Village of Grass Lake does not have a recreation committee but is developing a Village Events Park. The Village Council is comprised of a President and 6 Trustees. The Village may utilize volunteers for specific projects.
- **Grass Lake Community Schools.** Grass Lake Community Schools serve the overwhelming majority of the Grass Lake Area. Although it is not served by a recreation committee, it does provide extensive recreation facilities to its students and the community. This coordination is the responsibility of the School's Community Services Director. The School Board is comprised of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and 3 Trustees. The Community Schools may utilize volunteers for specific projects.



#### LEGEND

- GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
- OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

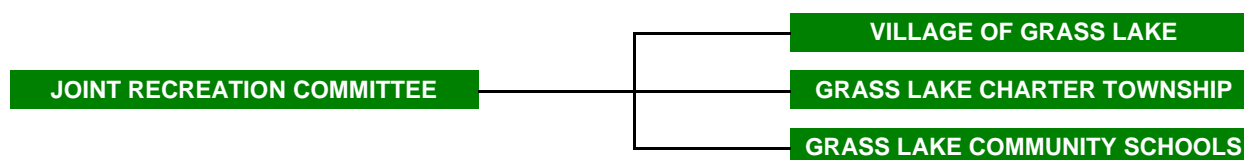


NOT TO SCALE

# SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- **Joint Recreation Planning.** The Joint Recreation Committee is responsible for the development of the Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan. The Joint Committee is also available to provide advice on recreation issues which impact the Village, the Township, and the Community Schools on an as needed basis. Membership is comprised of Grass Lake Township's Recreation Board, 1 official from the Village of Grass Lake and 2 officials from Grass Lake Community Schools. Staff from the Region 2 Planning Commission assisted the Joint Committee in the development of this document.

#### JOINT RECREATION STRUCTURE



### Sources of Funding

Grass Lake Charter Township, the Village of Grass Lake, and Grass Lake Community Schools identify several potential sources of revenue for its recreation facilities and programs:

- general tax fund dollars;
- grants awarded for specific projects; and
- donations from the general citizenry and philanthropic organizations.

General tax fund dollars are used for the maintenance and programming of the Township's and Community School's recreation facilities, as well as their administration (including the cost of producing this Plan). Grants are generally awarded for the acquisition of parkland and the development of a park or recreational facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.). Donations to be used at the discretion of the Township or the Village or for a specific facility or program are also accepted. A portion of the local match required of most grants may also come from the general fund or donations. Grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from several sources:

- **The Michigan Department of Natural Resources**
  - The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
  - The Land and Water Conservation Fund<sup>1</sup>
- **The Michigan Department of Transportation**
  - The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)<sup>2</sup>
- **The Jackson County Road Commission**
  - The 1% annual allocation of state transportation (Act 51) funds for non-motorized facilities.

## **Recreation Budgeting**

The recreation budget for Grass Lake Charter Township is used almost entirely for the maintenance and programming of its recreation facilities. The operating budget is currently around \$30,000 a year. Capital outlays are also made for projects including the development of this document, the preparation of grant applications, and the planning and construction of new recreation facilities. Grass Lake Community Schools uses its general budget to maintain and program the recreation facilities which serve its student body and the community. The Village of Grass Lake does not currently maintain a recreation budget.

## **Relationships with Other Public Agencies**

Grass Lake Community Schools and Grass Lake Charter Township and are not the only suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to Area residents.

### **Other School Districts**

Napoleon Community Schools serve the neighborhoods around Wolf Lake and 2 other districts protrude into the eastern border of the Area. The Jackson County Intermediate School District (which includes Grass Lake

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<sup>1</sup> This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.

<sup>2</sup> This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.



Community Schools) provides educational services to residents and local school districts. Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of the recreational facilities and programs provided by schools.

**Local, County, State, and Private Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Jackson County and nearby cities and villages, as well as some townships, maintain parks. The State of Michigan also provides a variety of recreational facilities although none of those facilities are located in the study area). A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around the study area.

Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of recreation facilities in the Grass Lake Area.



Chapter 3

## **Recreation and Resource Inventories**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

## Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Grass Lake Area

The recreation inventory is comprised of all of the parks and recreation facilities provided in the Grass Lake Area, not just those owned and managed by Grass Lake Charter Township, the Village of Grass Lake, or Grass Lake Community Schools. It is important to note that the wide variety of facilities is an incentive for people to visit the Area and to attract new residents and business. The facilities were identified through local knowledge and review of current and historic documents and maps.

Baseball and soccer facilities are located at the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park and the Township Office/Park. The Township wishes to improve those facilities. Soccer fields (2), baseball diamonds (4), and multiuse trails, including boardwalks and bridges, are proposed for the Sports & Trails Recreation Park. A fishing dock/pier is proposed for the Township Office/Park.

The Grass Lake County Park hosts an annual regional event of the Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association and will host the Stock Outboard National Championships in 2017. The Grass Lake Depot and Whistle Stop Park preserves the train depot, provides needed downtown green space, and serves as a community activity center and exhibition hall. These parks (currently maintained by the Township) are examples of facilities capable of attracting people and businesses to the Grass Lake Area. The Village provides no recreational facilities at this time.

### PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

|   | FACILITY   | SIZE     | DESCRIPTION   | BFA |
|---|--|----------|---|-----|
| A | GRASS LAKE COMM. SPORTS & TRAILS RECREATION PARK | 62 ACRES | 4 BASEBALL DIAMONDS AND 2 SOCCER FIELDS   | 4   |
| B | GRASS LAKE COUNTY PARK                           | 9 ACRES  | 1 PAVILION & OTHER PICNIC FACILITIES, 2 TENNIS COURTS, 1 PLAYGROUND, A SWIMMING AREA, AND A BOAT LAUNCH | 3   |
| C | GRASS LAKE DEPOT AND WHISTLE STOP PARK           |          | EXHIBITION HALL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER IN A HISTORICAL DEPOT AND SCENIC PARK SETTING             | 2   |
| D | GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP OFFICE/PARK                  | 14 ACRES | 3 BASEBALL FIELDS, DISC GOLF, TRAILS, AND COMMUNITY CENTER  | 3   |











George Long Elementary contains playgrounds, a nature trail, and other open spaces. Walkable nature trails are located on the grounds of the Elementary and High Schools. The football and track stadium, located on the grounds of the Grass Lake Middle School, are open to the general public when not utilized by students.

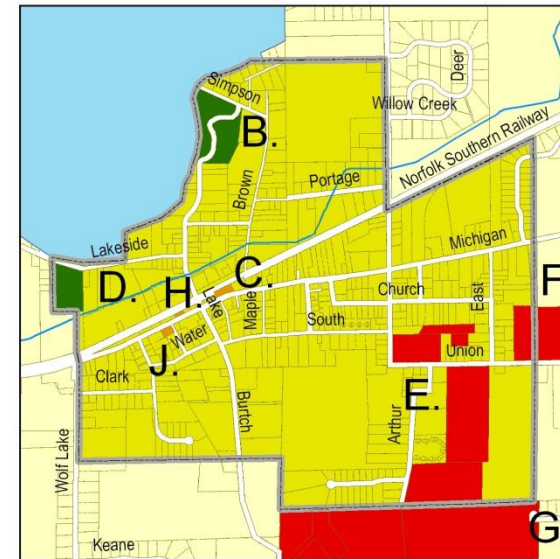
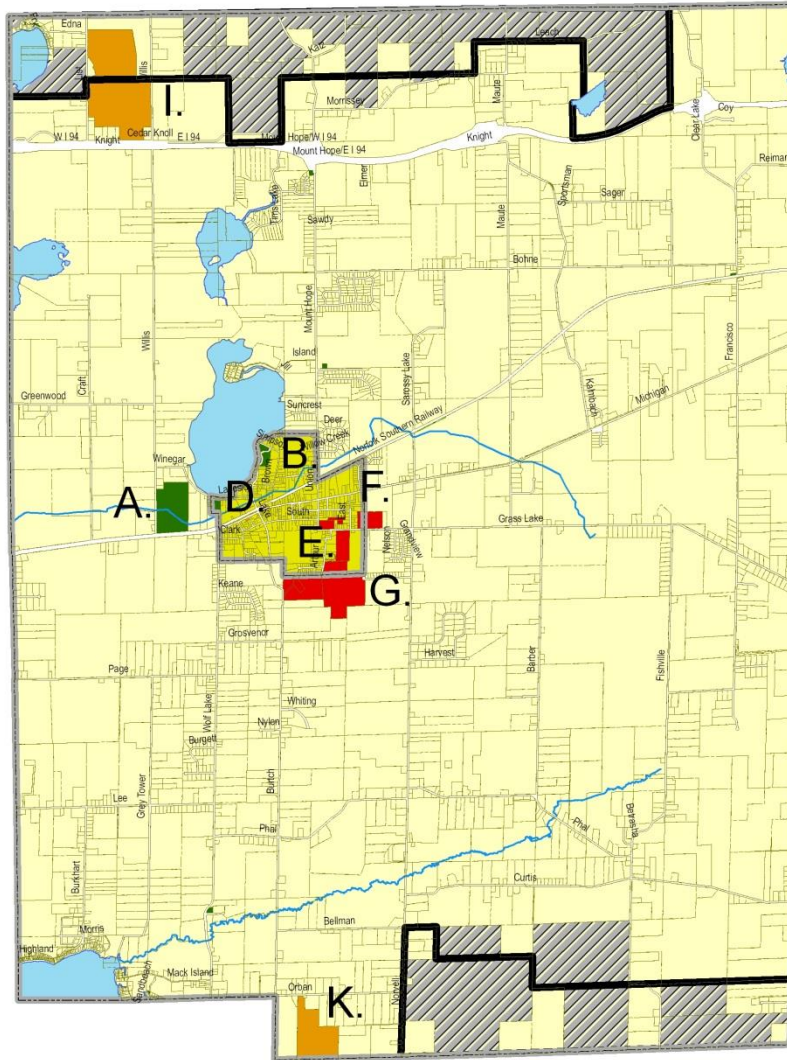
#### **GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RECREATION FACILITIES**

| <b>FACILITY</b>                   | <b>SIZE DESCRIPTION</b>                                       | <b>BFA</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|
| <b>E GEORGE LONG ELEMENTARY</b>   | <b>N/A PLAYGROUNDS AND A ½-MILE NATURE TRAIL</b>              | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>F GRASS LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> | <b>N/A 3 BASEBALL FIELDS AND A FOOTBALL AND TRACK STADIUM</b> | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>G GRASS LAKE HIGH SCHOOL</b>   | <b>N/A 1-MILE NATURE TRAIL</b>                                | <b>4</b>   |

The local branch of the Jackson District Library, golf courses, exercise facilities, and public campgrounds are great examples of quasi-public and private facilities whose mission directly serves the general public. The provision of needed open space and access to nature are often beneficial byproducts of the missions of nature centers and private campgrounds. It is also important to note that access to these resources already attracts seasonal residents and can be used to attract other visitors, potential residents, and new businesses to the Grass Lake Area.

#### **QUASI-PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

| <b>FACILITY</b>                   | <b>SIZE DESCRIPTION</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>H JACKSON DISTRICT LIBRARY</b> | <b>N/A LIBRARY COLLECTION</b>   |
| <b>I CALDERONE GOLF CLUB</b>      | <b>N/A 18-HOLES IN AN OPEN LINKS STYLE SETTING</b>  |
| <b>J CURVES</b>                   | <b>N/A FITNESS AND WEIGHT LOSS CENTER FOR WOMEN</b>   |
| <b>K APPLE CREEK CAMPGROUND</b>   | <b>N/A RECREATIONAL BUILDING, NATURE TRAIL, POOL, BALL FIELD, PICNIC TABLES, PLAY EQUIPMENT, AND HORSESHOES</b> |



**LEGEND**

- PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES
- GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RECREATION FACILITIES
- QUASI-PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES
- STATE GAME/RECREATION AREAS



# RECREATION



### Park Standards and Types

A park and recreation plan should also recognize and use appropriate park standards. The National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) recommends a minimum of 10 acres per 1,000 persons (please see Appendix C). The Grass Lake Area exceeds the need for approximately 51 acres in 2005 and 60 acres in 2020. The recreation facilities provided by the Schools, the Township, and the County generally function as a community and/or regional parks in the Grass Lake Area.

### Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

Grass Lake Charter Township was awarded 2 past grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Township received a \$28,500.00 grant in 1993 to acquire the property for the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park. A 1977 \$5,034.50 grant funded the construction of 2 tennis courts at the Township Office. The Village of Grass Lake has not been awarded any grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

| RECREATION GRANT HISTORY                         |           |      |  |
|--|-----------|------|--|
| PARK NAME  | PROJ. NO. | YEAR | USAGE  |
| GRASS LAKE COMM. SPORTS & TRAILS RECREATION PARK | TF-93-326 | 1993 | THE 58 ACRES OF LAND ACQUIRED WITH THE GRANT IS CURRENTLY USED AS A PARK       |
| GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP OFFICE/PARK                  | 26-01023B | 1977 | THE TENNIS COURTS CONSTRUCTED WITH THE GRANT WERE REPLACED BY A BASEBALL FIELD |

### Barrier-Free Access

It is important that recreation facilities be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, 14% of Grass Lake Area residents had at least one disability in the Year 2010. Each of the recreation facilities operated by Grass Lake Charter Township was also rated according to their level of barrier free access.<sup>1</sup> The number listed under the BFA column in that table equates to the barrier-free rating listed below:

<sup>1</sup> The analysis of barrier free access was provided by the Joint Recreation Committee, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

### BARRIER FREE ACCESS (BFA) ANALYSIS

| KEY | DESCRIPTION   |
|-----|---|
| 1 = | NONE OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES                 |
| 2 = | SOME OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES                 |
| 3 = | MOST OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREA MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES                  |
| 4 = | THE ENTIRE PARK MEETS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES                                  |
| 5 = | THE ENTIRE PARK WAS DEVELOPED/RENOVATED USING THE PRINCIPAL OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN |

### Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

A variety of other public agencies and private entrepreneurs also provide recreational opportunities to Grass Lake Area residents. It is important to note that the availability of nearby regional parks and recreation facilities is an incentive for people to visit the Area and to attract new residents and business.

#### State Parks

The State of Michigan maintains a number of recreational facilities within Jackson County. The Department of Natural Resources maintains a state park at the border with Lenawee County. The Waterloo State Recreation Area, which extends into the Township from the north, offers hiking and equestrian trails throughout its 10,000 plus acres. The Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center, located within the Waterloo State Recreation Area, has a main exhibit room where kids and families can discover that geology is fun. The Sharonville State Game Area, which extends into the Township from the south, offers a variety of hiking and riding trails, along with winter sports. Other state parks and state game and recreation areas are also located in the surrounding counties.

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

| STATE PARKS                | STATE GAME & RECREATION AREAS  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| WALTER J. HAYES STATE PARK | SHARONVILLE STATE GAME AREA    |
|                            | WATERLOO STATE RECREATION AREA |

### Other County Parks

The County provides a wide variety of regional recreational facilities such as winter sports areas, swimming beaches, and modern campgrounds including Grass Lake County Park. Surrounding counties and other providers also maintain park systems.

**JACKSON COUNTY PARK INVENTORY MATRIX**

| Park                 | Greenspace | Water Features | Benches | 18-hole golf Course | 9-Hole Golf Course | Driving Range | Modern Campground <sup>①</sup> | Ball Diamonds | Volleyball Court | Tennis Court | Basketball Court | Playground/Equipment | Winter Sports <sup>②</sup> | Restaurant/Meetings | Restrooms | Recreation Center/Gym | Trails/Paths/Sidewalks | Picnic Shelter/Pavilion | Picnic Area | Grills | Monuments/Markers | Swimming Beach | Boat Launch | Fishing |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|---------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 Clark Lake         | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  |                      |                            |                     | •         | •                     |                        |                         |             |        |                   |                |             | •       |
| 2 Clear Lake         | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             |         |
| 3 Gillett's Lake     | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              | •                | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   |                |             |         |
| 4 <b>Grass Lake</b>  | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  | •            |                  | •                    |                            |                     | •         |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              | •           | •       |
| 5 Lime Lake          | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |
| 6 Little Wolf Lake   | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             |         |
| 7 Minard Mills       | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             |         |
| 8 Pleasant Lake      | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               | •                              |               |                  |              | •                | •                    |                            |                     | •         |                       | •                      | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |
| 9 Portage Lake       | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |
| 10 Round Lake        | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |
| 11 Alfred A. Snyder  | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |
| 12 Sparks Foundation | •          | •              | •       | •                   | •                  | •             |                                | •             |                  | •            | •                | •                    | •                          | •                   | •         |                       | •                      | •                       | •           | •      | •                 |                | •           | •       |
| 13 Swains Lake       | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               | •                              |               |                  |              | •                | •                    |                            |                     | •         |                       | •                      | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |
| 14 Vandercook Lake   | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                | •             |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     | •         |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |
| 15 Vineyard Lake     | •          | •              | •       |                     |                    |               |                                |               |                  |              |                  | •                    |                            |                     |           |                       |                        | •                       | •           | •      |                   | •              |             | •       |

① Sixty modern campsites with water and electricity; hot showers, restrooms, a sanitary dump station & water.

② Sledding & toboggan hill, skating pond & warming house, cross country skiing.



**Other Local Parks**

Nearby cities and villages, as well as some townships, also provide parks and recreational facilities for their residents. Larger communities often host extensive park systems with regional facilities such as Jackson's Ella Sharp Park. Smaller cities, villages, and townships may also provide a small number of recreation facilities.

**Colleges and Universities**

Institutions of higher learning provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities. Grass Lake area residents can also avail themselves of the recreational facilities and programs hosted by the colleges and universities located in Jackson County:

**Spring Arbor University** – Spring Arbor University hosts the *Ganton Art Gallery*, “The gallery is one of the largest, single-room galleries in Michigan.”<sup>2</sup> The University also provides access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities.

**Jackson Community College** – Jackson Community College hosts the *George E. Potter Center*, which “is comprised of the most versatile and complete performing arts complex in the area.”<sup>3</sup>

**Private Parks and Recreation Facilities**

A wide variety of other private entities also provide recreational facilities.

**Camps** – Private camps, including the YMCA's Camp Storer, and the Girl Scout's Camp O' the Hills, are located in Jackson County, making them easily accessible to Grass Lake Area residents. In fact, the Boy Scout's Camp Teetonkah and Camp Fa-Ha-Lo are located in Grass Lake Charter Township. Camp Teetonkah contains camping, boat launch, fishing, swimming, playground, mini-golf ball diamond, picnic tables, and a community center. Camp Fa-Ha-Lo contains camping, hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, cabin rental, and archery.

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<sup>2</sup> Arts at the Arbor page on Spring Arbor University's website -- <http://www.spring.arbor.edu/Brix?pageID=11863>

<sup>3</sup> The George E. Potter Center page on Jackson Community College's website -- <http://www.jccmi.edu/events/pottercenter/theatres.htm>

**Lefglen Nature Sanctuary** – The 210 acre reserve contains wooded uplands, oak groves, cattail marches, swales, lakes, a tamarack bog and a flowering prairie.

**Other Golf Courses** – There are 21 public golf courses within 20 miles of the Village of Grass Lake, including the Calderone Farms Golf Club, according to GolfLink™. There are an additional 29 public courses within 30 miles of the Village.<sup>4</sup>

**Bowling Alleys** – There are 7 bowling alleys within 20 miles of the Village of Grass Lake, according to Mapmuse.<sup>5</sup> Most of them are located in Jackson County, but 2 are located in Ingham or Washtenaw counties.

**Sidewalks and Trails** – Several Village of Grass Lake streets include public sidewalks, which provide non-motorized access to a majority of its recreation facilities. Plans for approximately 2.4 mile of non-motorized trails to be constructed within the Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park are planned as well as a connection to approximately 2 miles of trails within the Village. Future plans include connecting the Township, School, and Village trails with the countywide framework of trails proposed in the *2002 Regional Trailway Study* (please see Appendix D), the trails proposed in the *Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan*, and the proposed trail to the future Leoni Millpond Park.

### National and State Historical Sites

The Grass Lake Area contains three historic sites that have state and/or national significance. There are also another fifty-four sites throughout Jackson County.

#### NATIONAL AND STATE HISTORICAL SITES

| STRUCTURE                       | ADDRESS/LOCATION   | REGISTERS* |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| SCHOOLHOUSE SQUARE APARTMENTS   | 661 E MICHIGAN AVE | NR         |
| MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD DEPOT | 210 E MICHIGAN AVE | SR HM      |
| POTTER FARM                     | 1916 NORVELL RD    | SR         |

\*NR = NATIONAL REGISTER ; SR = STATE REGISTER; AND HM = HISTORIC MARKER

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.golfink.com>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.mapmuse.com>



## **Recreational Programming**

Grass Lake Township's summer youth league baseball program utilizes the baseball fields located in the Township Office/Park and the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park. The local AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) program utilizes the soccer pitches that are also located in the Sports & Trails Recreation Park and the Township Office/Park. Many Grass Lake School athletic events, plays, and other student programs are open to spectators and audiences from the general public.

## **Resource Inventory**

In addition to recreation facilities, the Grass Lake Area is also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources.

### **Topography**

The highest elevation in the Grass Lake Area reaches approximately 1,011 feet above sea level and the lowest point is approximately 930 feet above sea level. Generally, the township's land surface is level to gently rolling, and contains rolling hills and low board valleys.

### **Soils**

Soils in the Grass Lake Area are primarily comprised of the Spink-Ormas Houghton and the Boyer-Oshtemo-Houghton soil associations, which are deep, nearly level to rolling, and vary from well-drained to very poorly drained, with sandy, loamy and mucky soils which were formed in glaciofluvial deposits or in organic material. Soils in the Boyer-Hillsdale-Houghton association, found along the northern border of the Area, are deep, rolling to very steep to nearly level, well drained to very poorly drained loamy and mucky soils.

### **Water Resources**

There are a total of 717 acres of water area in the Grass Lake Area, including lakes, streams, and wetland areas. Major bodies of water include Grass, Tims, Notten, and parts of Goose, Little Pleasant, and Wolf Lakes. Fish resources include: bluegill, sunfish, pike, perch, and a variety of bass. Wetlands are also scattered across the Area. The water in these areas is rich in nutrients. Subsequently, they contain many types of insects, fish,

waterfowl, frogs, and other animals. They also serve to replenish the water table. Preservation of wetlands for both recreational/educational uses as well as for groundwater protection is critical. They provide recreation in the form of hunting and fishing, both of which have an economic benefit to the community. In addition, wetlands function as areas for education, such as nature trails, hiking, boating, bird-watching, and photography.

**Woodlands**

Woodlots of 40 or more acres are considered a major natural resource. Due to the length of time that trees require to reach maturity, much care should be given to their protection. The type and quality of trees are evaluated before any wooded areas are harvested. The most significant stands of hardwood trees in Grass Lake Charter Township are in the southern portion of the township.

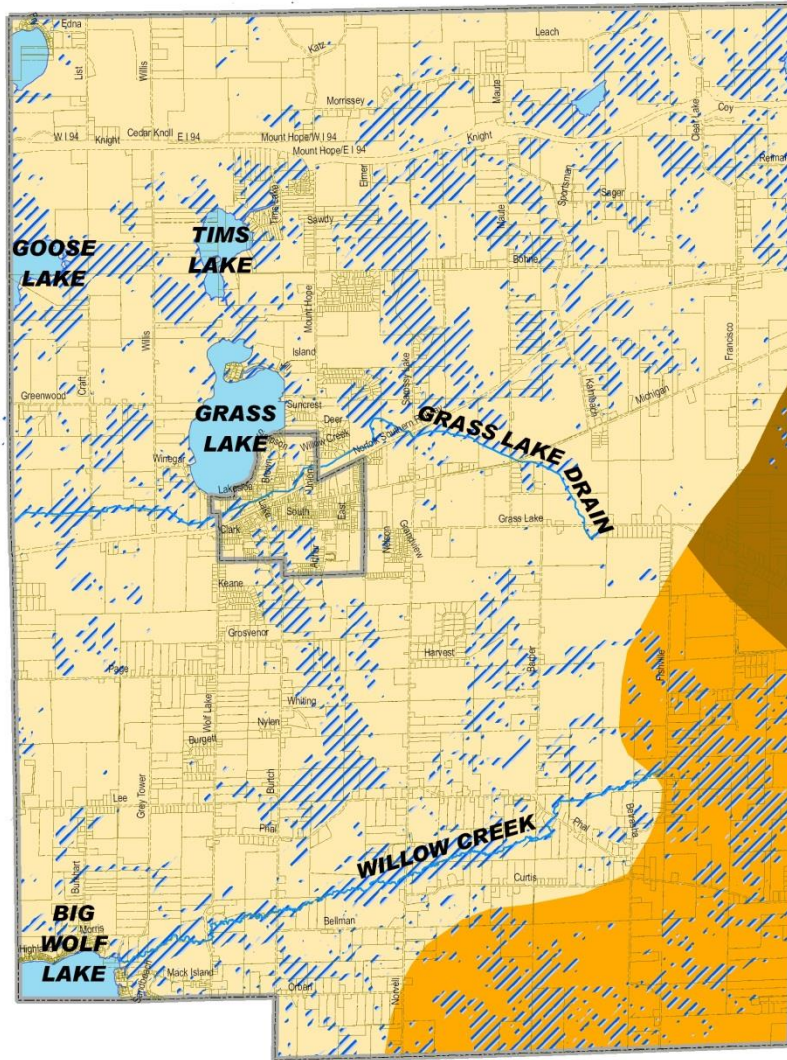
**Greenways**

The Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan “identifies a network of greenways proposed throughout Jackson County. This network generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands. The network recognizes these areas as a part of Jackson County’s natural system which should be preserved. The preservation of this system helps to assure high quality surface water, wildlife habitat and movement, diversity, and can be used to help define urban growth.” The following map shows the greenways recommended for the Grass Lake Area. Please see Appendix B of this Plan in order to view the entire greenways map and the supporting text.

**Land Use**

The Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan includes a generalized plan for future development in Jackson County (please see Appendix B for a future land use map for Jackson County and the accompanying text). Residential neighborhoods are planned around the Village of Grass Lake, as well as a limited commercial district. Industrial development is also planned along interstate 94 (I94), north of the Village. Much of the Township is located in the County’s Agricultural Preservation Area.





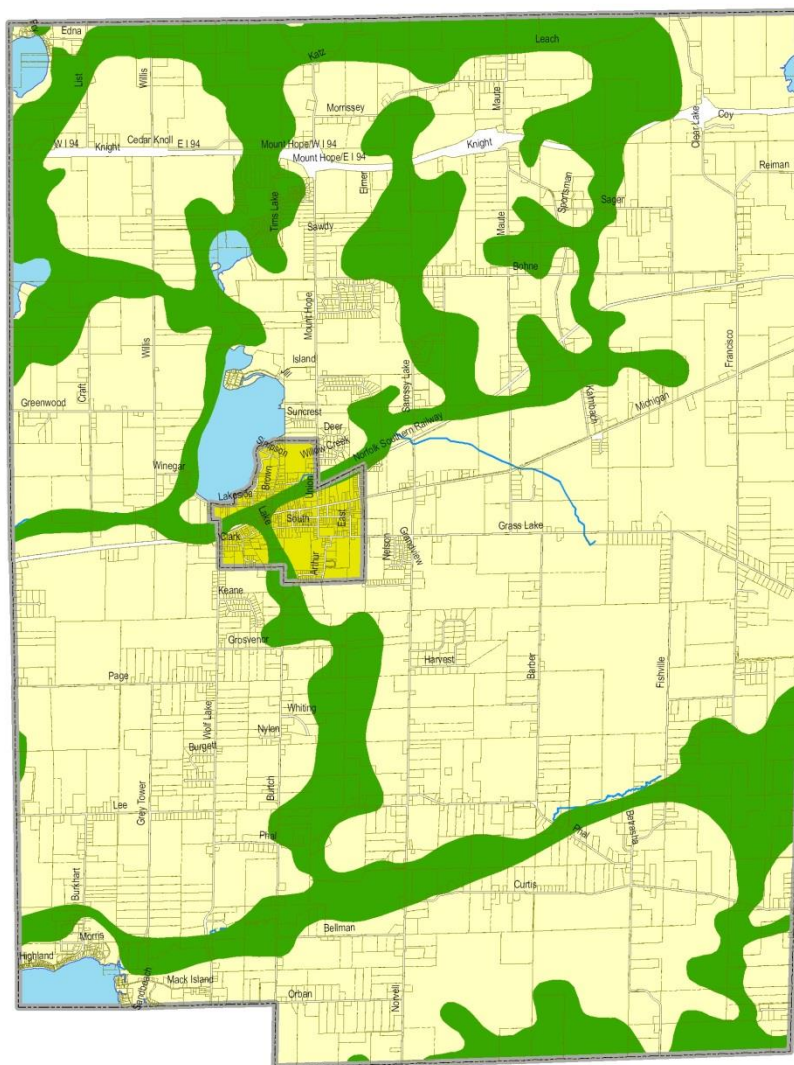
#### LEGEND

- LAKES & PONDS
- RIVERS & STREAMS
- WETLANDS
- UPPER GRAND WATERSHED
- RAISIN WATERSHED
- HURON WATERSHED






NOT TO SCALE

## HYDROLOGY



## LEGEND

-  POSSIBLE GREENWAYS  
 LAKES & PONDS  
 RIVERS & STREAMS



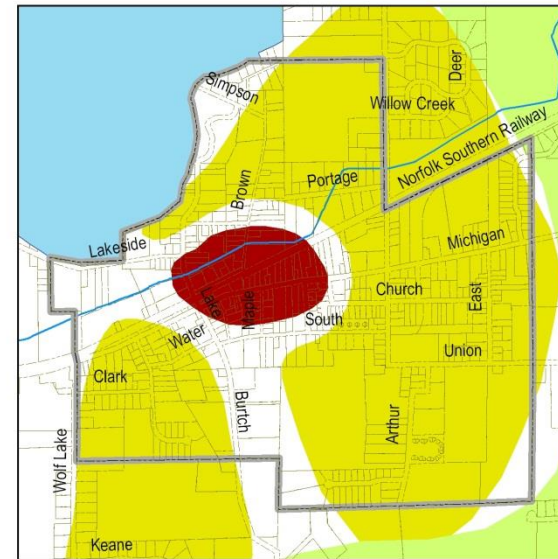
NOT TO SCALE

JACKSON COMMUNITY  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
**GREENWAYS**



# Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

## 3-18



COMMERCIAL LAND USES

INDUSTRIAL LAND USES

RESIDENTIAL LAND USES

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AREA

LAKES & PONDS

RIVERS & STREAMS



NOT TO SCALE

# JACKSON COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## FUTURE LAND USE

Chapter 4

**Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

## Description of the Planning Process

The development of this edition of the Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan included the following steps:

1. The Township recognized the need to update the Recreation Plan and invited the Village and the Community Schools to participate, increasing the scope of the plan to cover all jurisdictions. A Joint Recreation Planning Committee was formed to oversee the development of the Plan.
2. Region 2 Planning Commission staff was hired to review the development of the 2016-2020 edition of the Recreation Plan.
3. A special meeting of the Township Board was held on the Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park on **March 18, 2015**. The meeting was open to the public and advertised.
4. A survey was included in the Grass Lake Times, published on **February 12, 2015**.
5. The Joint Recreation Planning Committee utilized the input collected from the public involvement efforts to revise and update the goals and objectives and action program included in the last edition of the Recreation Plan.
6. The Recreation Planning Committee provided the plan for public review from **March 23 through April 23, 2015** and held a public hearing on **April 28, 2015**. The Plan was approved by the Commission and recommended for adoption by the Village Council after the public hearing was closed (please see Appendix E).
7. The School Board adopted the Plan on **June 15, 2015**, the Township Board adopted the Plan on **July 14, 2015**, and the Village Council adopted the Plan on **May 5, 2015** (please see Appendix E).

## Description of the Public Input Process

A variety of methods were employed to incorporate public input into the development of this recreation plan:



### Public Meeting before the Township Board

A special meeting of the Grass Lake Township Board was held on **March 18, 2015**. The subject of the meeting concerned the Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park. The update of the Recreation Plan, needed to apply for additional state recreation grants, was also discussed. A notice of the meeting was distributed throughout the Area (please see the notice).

Supervisor Stormont gave an update from the time of purchase of the land for the Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park from the Zick family in February of 1997 to the present.

The comments from all present were very supportive of the Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park and willing to help where ever possible to get it fully developed.



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[www.grasslakect.com](http://www.grasslakect.com)  
 e-mail [jims@grasslakect.com](mailto:jims@grasslakect.com)

#### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Grass Lake Charter Township Board will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday March 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall, 373 Lakeside Drive.

The subject of this meeting is in regard to updating the 5 year Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan.

All organizations and interested persons in the Village and Township of Grass Lake are encouraged to attend this informational meeting and provide input and support for the continuing development of the Grass Lake Community Sports and Trails Recreation Park. The updated 5 year Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan is required for grant applications.

Jim Stormont, Supervisor

### Recreation Survey

A short 8-question survey was included in *The Grass Lake Times* which was published on **February 12, 2015**. A total of 69 surveys were returned.

The first question concerned the adequacy of recreational facilities and opportunities available to Area residents. Recreational opportunities were considered adequate by approximately 51% of respondents (n=67). However, approximately 45% indicated that they are not adequate.

|   | YES         | NO          | N/A       |
|---|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>1. Do you believe that adequate recreational opportunities and facilities are provided to community residents?</b> | 34<br>50.7% | 30<br>44.8% | 3<br>4.5% |

The second question concerned the appropriate priority the Village and Township should place on parks and recreation. Approximately 88% of respondents (n=68) agreed that a higher priority should be placed on parks, non-motorized trailways, and recreation. However, approximately 7% of respondents did not agree.

|  | YES         | NO        | N/A       |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>2. Do you believe that the local governments need to place a higher priority on parks, non-motorized trailways, and recreation?</b> | 60<br>88.2% | 5<br>7.4% | 3<br>4.4% |

The third question concerned the importance of recreation programs to the future of the Area. Recreational facilities and programming for seniors, adults, and youth were considered to be important by 100% of respondents (n=67).

|  | YES          | NO        | N/A       |
|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>3. Do you believe recreational facilities and programming for seniors, adults, and youth are important to the future of the Grass Lake Community?</b> | 67<br>100.0% | 0<br>0.0% | 0<br>0.0% |

The fourth question concerned the awareness of respondents to current recreation plans. Approximately 54% of respondents were aware of current plans. However, approximately 46% were not aware.

|   | YES          | NO           | N/A         |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>4. Are you aware of the current recreation plans for the Grass Lake Community?</b> | <b>37</b>    | <b>31</b>    | <b>0</b>    |
|   | <b>54.4%</b> | <b>45.6%</b> | <b>0.0%</b> |

**5. How many times have you participated in or visited our community recreational activities/facilities in the past 12 months?**

|                    |           |              |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>0 Times</b>     | <b>10</b> | <b>14.7%</b> |
| <b>1-10 Times</b>  | <b>35</b> | <b>51.5%</b> |
| <b>11-20 Times</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>19.1%</b> |
| <b>20+ Times</b>   | <b>10</b> | <b>14.7%</b> |

The fifth question concerned the number of times respondents visited an Area park or recreation facility within the last year. Approximately 51% of respondents (n=68) visited between 1 and 10 times. Approximately 19% visited between 11 and 20 times and 15% visited more than 20 times. However, approximately 15% did not visit a park or recreation facility.

The sixth question concerned support for a millage to further develop, maintain, and enhance parks and recreation in the Area. Approximately 74% of respondents (n=66) indicated support for a millage. However, approximately 12% opposed a millage. It should also be noted that approximately 14% responded N/A.

|  | YES          | NO           | N/A          |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>6. Would you support a recreation millage to further develop, maintain and enhance the community parks, non-motorized trails, and recreation?</b> | <b>49</b>    | <b>8</b>     | <b>9</b>     |
|  | <b>74.2%</b> | <b>12.1%</b> | <b>13.6%</b> |

The seventh question concerned voting activity within the last year. Approximately, 90% of respondents (n=67) voted in the last year. However, approximately 12% did not vote

|   | YES          | NO          | N/A         |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>7. Have you voted in the past 12 months?</b> | <b>60</b>    | <b>6</b>    | <b>1</b>    |
|   | <b>89.6%</b> | <b>9.0%</b> | <b>1.5%</b> |

**8. What types of additional recreation facilities and services would you like to see provided for community residents?**

|                             |    |       |
|-----------------------------|----|-------|
| #1 non-motorized trailways  | 35 | 17.0% |
| #2 kayak/bicycle rentals    | 25 | 10.0% |
| #3 dog park                 | 23 | 11.2% |
| #4 basketball courts        | 21 | 10.2% |
| #5 ice skating rink         | 18 | 8.7%  |
| #6 tennis courts            | 15 | 7.3%  |
| #7 adult softball league    | 14 | 6.8%  |
| #8 sand volleyball courts   | 12 | 5.8%  |
| #9 soccer league            | 11 | 5.3%  |
| #10 skate park              | 10 | 4.9%  |
| #11 baseball league         | 9  | 4.4%  |
| #12 football league         | 6  | 2.9%  |
| #13 adult basketball league | 10 | 2.6%  |
| #14 adult soccer league     | 10 | 2.6%  |

The eighth question concerned possible recreation facilities and services for the Area. Respondents were able to choose from the following:

- Non-motorized trailways
- Kayak and/or bicycle rentals
- Dog park
- Ice skating rink
- Skate park
- Basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts
- Soccer, baseball, football, adult softball, adult soccer, and adult basketball leagues
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Respondents were able to choose as many of the facilities and services as they desired. Multiuse trails were the #1 selection. Kayak and/or bicycle rentals were the #2 selection. A dog park was the #3 selection. Basketball courts were the #4 selection. An ice skating rink was the #5 selection.

**Grass Lake Charter Township and the Village of Grass Lake will continue to survey residents. That information may alter the types of recreation facilities proposed for Area parks.**

## Chapter 4

### One Month Review Period

The recreation plan was submitted for public comment for a one month period beginning on **March 23, 2015** and ending on **April 23, 2015**. A notice announcing the meeting was published in the Grass Lake Times on **March 23, 2015** (please see the notice). The plan was available for review in the offices of the Township, the Village, the School Board, and the Grass Lake Branch of the Jackson District Library. The recreation plan was also available for review online at the Village website ([www.villageofgrasslake.com](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com)), the Township website ([www.grasslakect.com](http://www.grasslakect.com)), the Community Schools website ([www.grasslake.schools.com](http://www.grasslake.schools.com)), and the Region 2 website ([www.region2planning.com](http://www.region2planning.com)).

### Commission Meetings

All meetings of the Joint Recreation Planning Committee, the Township Board, the Village Council and the School Board were open to the public.

### Regional Coordination

The required transmittal letters were sent to the Jackson County Parks Department and the Region 2 Planning Commission (please see the letters).

## Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes

### Grass Lake Charter Township Recreation Plan

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Grass Lake Charter Township, the Village of Grass Lake, and Grass Lake Community Schools are finalizing a jointly prepared recreation plan which makes them eligible to apply for grants through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The document will also be used as a fundraising tool for proposed projects as well as a promotional tool for the Grass Lake Area.

The Grass Lake Charter Township Recreation Plan will be available for review by the general public during the following one-month public comment period:

**MARCH 23, 2015 THROUGH APRIL 23, 2015**

The Recreation Plan will be available for review in the administrative offices of the Village, the Township, the Grass Lake Community Schools, and the Grass Lake Branch of the Jackson District Library during their normal hours of operation. The document will also be available for review 24 hours a day online at the following websites:

GRASS LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP – [WWW.GRASSLAKECT.COM](http://WWW.GRASSLAKECT.COM)

VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE – [WWW.VILLAGEOFGRASSLAKE.COM](http://WWW.VILLAGEOFGRASSLAKE.COM)

GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS – [WWW.GRASSLAKESCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.GRASSLAKESCHOOLS.COM)

REGION 2 PLANNING COMMISSION – [WWW.REGION2PLANNING.COM](http://WWW.REGION2PLANNING.COM)

Please direct your comments on the Grass Lake Charter Township Recreation Plan to:

JIM STORMONT, SUPERVISOR  
PHONE - (517) 522-8464 EXT. 124  
FAX - (517) 522-4955

You are also invited to attend, and provide testimony, during the Public Hearing on the Grass Lake Charter Township Recreation Plan scheduled for:

TUESDAY,  
APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> @ 6:00 PM  
GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP OFFICE  
373 LAKESIDE DRIVE



**Public Hearing**

A public hearing on the recreation plan was held on **April 28, 2015** at 6:00 pm at the Grass Lake Township Office, during a meeting of the Joint Recreation Planning Committee. A notice announcing the meeting was published in the Grass Lake Times on February 19, 2015 (please see the public notice). The meeting took place prior to the vote on the resolution recommending adoption of the Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan by the Village Council, Township Board, and Community Schools Board (please see the meeting minutes).

**Other Planning Efforts**

Comprehensive/master and other recent planning efforts in the Grass Lake Area (each of which included a public involvement component) often included a recreation component:

**Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan** — “The purpose of [the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan] is to establish policies to guide the future growth and development of the Jackson Community. These policies, established at the community-wide level, are intended to assist local units of government, including the County’s villages, townships, and the City of Jackson as they develop, amend, and implement their community plans, and zoning ordinances.” A total of 16 goals and their associated policies and actions were developed. Several of those goals had a recreation component (please see Appendix B for a full listing of the policies and actions associated with the goals):

- Create a Walkable Community
- Historic Preservation
- Culture
- Preservation of Open Space

**Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002** — The Jackson County Trailway Committee (JCRTC) was initiated by residents of Jackson County active in the development of Trailways. The process of developing the Trailway Vision Plan began with two public meetings. Both meetings provided information to the public and were intended to gain input to guide the vision plan. The Trailway Vision Plan is a map of Jackson County showing potential trail routes. No trails proposed in that study traversed either the Village of the Township. However, there is the potential for trails within the Township and/or the Village to connect to non-motorized fa-

cilities proposed to the north, west, and south (please see Appendix D for a detailed summary of the entire Study).

**2015 – 2019 City of Jackson and Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan** — The City and County of Jackson developed its recreation plan in 2015. The following objectives from that report are pertinent to the Grass Lake Area:

- **Goal 1:** Develop lines of communication, collaboration, and cooperation with other local communities and recreation providers.
- **Goal 2:** Develop a non-motorized trail network.
- **Goal 3:** Renovate existing parks and recreation facilities.
- **Goal 4:** Provide recreation programs and events.



Chapter 5

## **Goals and Objectives**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

## Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were developed for the recreation plan:

### Goal #1

Develop designated park lands to provide all Grass Lake Area residents with recreation facilities that meet acceptable standards, thus providing public outdoor recreation opportunities while also preserving the open space and natural features of the land retained for these purposes.

- Maintain physical quality of existing facilities through an appropriate and adequate repair and maintenance program at municipal and school facilities.
- Build new recreation facilities to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and renovate existing facilities to those standards where possible.
- Continue planning/development of a 1½ mile trail connecting the Sports & Trails Recreation Park on the west side of the Township with the Leoni Millpond Park (in Leoni Township) along the Grand River head water creek to the west of the Township.
- Support land use planning efforts consistent with the master plans in the Grass Lake Area which encourage preservation of valuable farmland, open space, wetlands, and other sensitive areas.
- Develop cooperation between the Village and the Jackson County Parks Department for developing and/or renovating recreation facilities in the Grass Lake County Park.
- Continue the development of the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park as proposed in its master plan, and as proposed by the MSU Small Town Design Initiative.
- Provide opportunities for a healthier lifestyle through exercise.

### Goal #2

Provide public recreation facilities and non-motorized trails and coordinate recreation programs.

- Adopt the multi-jurisdictional park and recreation commission as the Grass Lake Area's advisory body to coordinate facility development, scheduling of events and promotion among the township, village, school district, and quasi-public and private commercial facilities.



- Meet the facility needs for local programming such as soccer and baseball/softball teams for all ages, and tournaments at township and school facilities.
- Work towards providing the proposed recreation facilities included in this five-year plan, with annual reviews of the Action Plan for necessary amendments.
- Facilitate/promote intergovernmental cooperation in fulfilling the vision for trails in the Grass Lake Area.

**Goal #3**

Promote Grass Lake Area parks and recreation facilities and programs to attract the seasonal population and tourists as well as new residents and businesses.

- Coordinate special events programming with the Grass Lake Area Historic Society, the Whistle Stop Park Association, and the Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce.
- Help the Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce prepare a brochure (and updates, as necessary) describing available attractions, activities, programming, and recreation facilities for Grass Lake Area.
- Create a link for information and schedules of activities at the Sports and Trails Recreation Park and other Area recreation facilities on local governmental websites.
- Work with the Jackson Convention and Tourist Bureau (through the I-94 Corridor Tourist Information Center) to publicize community events, list special events on the quarterly events brochure they publish, become involved in promotion of the area through the West Michigan Tourist Association, and research possible participation on an advisory board or citizens' council for the Bureau.
- Construct new facilities, renovate existing facilities and develop new special events that will encourage and increase our recreation park usage. Work with Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation non-motorized Transportation Plans.
- Acquire additional land and/or easements for networking into the proposed countywide trail system and connecting to other local trail networks.
- Improve, augment, and upgrade existing trails and other non-motorized facilities (including sidewalks where needed).

- Connect parks, recreation facilities, and other attractions (e.g., schools, libraries, and other municipal buildings as well as commercial and residential areas) within the Grass Lake community.

### **Background Information**

Input into developing the goals and objectives listed above included:

- Existing recreation facilities available to the residents of the Grass Lake Area regardless of the provider;
- Other plans and studies which impact the provision of recreation in the Grass Lake Area;
- The health, age, and disabilities of the residents of the Grass Lake Area;
- Possible funding and acquisition opportunities for land and facilities in the Grass Lake Area; and
- Responses from the recreation survey and other opportunities for comment from Grass Lake Area residents.

### **Tourism and Economic Development**

The physical environment of the Grass Lake Area is of high quality. The presence of Grass Lake and other resources already attracts seasonal residents. Development of a coordinated park system and recreation facilities may attract additional visitors as well as new year-round residents and businesses to the Area.

### **Collaboration with Other Recreation Providers**

People seldom live, work, shop, and recreate solely within the boundaries of a single municipality. Therefore, it makes sense to cooperate with overlapping and adjacent authorities who also provide recreational facilities and programs in Grass Lake Area. It may also make sense for the Village, Township, and/or Community Schools to concentrate on a specific project because a project addressing another identified recreation want/need is planned by a nearby provider.

There may also be an opportunity for jurisdictions to share the cost of developing and/or maintaining a park. For example, the Village has no municipal park although Grass Lake County Park is located within the municipal limits. There may be an opportunity for the Village to locate some of the recreation facilities proposed in this plan within the county park. It is also important to note that other facilities, such as a non-motorized trail system, often take an intergovernmental approach to plan, develop, and/or maintain.

### **Sports Facilities and Programs**

Respondents to the recreation survey indicated a need for various sports leagues (i.e., soccer, baseball, softball, football, and basketball) for Grass Lake Area youths and adults. At least eight baseball and softball diamonds are available to the residents of the Grass Lake Area, which appears to be adequate. However, they need to be improved to different degrees and will always need to be maintained. The Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park was designed to accommodate multi-purpose fields in addition to the baseball diamonds and soccer field which already exist.

### **Health, Age, and Disabilities of Residents**

The 2010 US Census revealed that 12.5% of Grass Lake Area residents at least 5 years of age or older were disabled that year. The number of people with disabilities is likely to increase as the population continues to age. This data highlights the need for recreation facilities to be built to the requirements of the ADA (American with Disabilities Act). Restrooms and other support facilities should be made accessible as well as playground equipment, non-motorized trails, and other active recreation facilities.

Development of a trail system and other less intensive yet active recreation facilities serve older and disabled residents. Those facilities will also be an important component of combating obesity by providing residents with a convenient way to be more active. It is important to note that obesity and generally being overweight were included as concerns within the 2010 Jackson County Community Report Card and the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan. The establishment of a non-motorized transportation network is an important component of combating this health issue. For example, the Comprehensive Plan developed the following objectives to address that issue:

- “Sidewalks should be encouraged to be provided in neighborhoods, subdivisions, and site condominium projects; and commercial areas.”
- “Pedestrian networks are encouraged to be developed which link subdivisions, neighborhoods, business districts, downtown areas, recreational areas; and connected to a system of regional pedestrian and bicycle trails.”

- “Within downtown areas of the County pedestrian travel should be given priority over automobile and vehicular travel.”
- “Several recreation plans for local units of government call for the construction of recreational trails. In addition, the Jackson County Trailways Plan recommends several additional trails and trail extensions. These recommendations should be implemented as funding becomes available. Finally, trailways should be coordinated with the plans for trails in adjacent counties.”

### **Trail Development**

Multiuse trails were the number one choice of respondents to the recreation survey. The Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park was designed to accommodate trails in addition to the recreation facilities which already exist. The Jackson County Regional Trailway Study and the City of Jackson and Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan, and the Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan also propose a variety of non-motorized facilities to which trails serving the Grass Lake Area can connect. This effort includes the proposed trail connecting to the Leoni Millpond Park; and providing a 4 foot shoulder on Wolf Lake Rd, Mt. Hope Rd. and Michigan Ave. The Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan also promotes walkable communities in general and the establishment of greenways (please see Appendix B).

Chapter 6

## **Action Program**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*



## **Action Program**

The action program was initially prepared based upon citizen input during the preparation of the 2000-2005 Recreation Plan and updated as the program scope expanded. Although the program is very ambitious, the Grass Lake Community recognizes and supports the needs and benefits of providing recreational facilities. The following project listing is obtainable through in-kind donations, investor contributions, annual general funds for maintenance, and grants:

### **1. Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park**

- Develop multi-purpose facilities (which can also be used for football)
- Install lights on two baseball fields
- Acquire 7.5 acres of land for trails
- Purchase lighting for the cross country ski trails
- Design and construct an indoor recreation facility
- Construct paved roads and parking lots
- Purchase additional playground equipment to comply with ADA regulations

### **2. Township Office/Park**

- Design and construct a seawall and fishing dock/pier (400 feet lake frontage)
- Convert office into a Community Center

### **3. Grass Lake County Park**

- Add additional recreation facilities (e.g., sand volleyball, horseshoe pits, badminton courts, etc.)

### **4. Whistlestop Park**

- Preserve and renovate the historic facilities for contemporary use.

### **5. Grass Lake Community Schools Campus**

- Update existing recreation facilities

- Baseball and softball diamonds
- Soccer fields
- Football fields/stadium
- Develop a community fitness facility open to the residents of the Grass Lake Area.

#### **6. Non-Motorized Trails**

- Upgrade the cross-country trail on the high school campus of the Grass Lake Community Schools
- Design and construct 1.8 miles of trails in the Village.
- Design and construct 3.1 miles of trails in the Township.
- Design and construct the Leoni Millpond Park trail loop (4 miles)
- Design and construct 5.5 miles of trails connecting to county trails, including wider shoulders connecting north and south Mt. Hope Rd. and a pedestrian lane connected to the I-94 bridge.
- Design and construct 4.5 miles of trails connecting to Heart of The Lakes Area trails and the Lefglen Nature Sanctuary.
- Design and construct a 10 mile trail from Grass Lake to Chelsea (Michigan Avenue)

### **Background Information**

The Plan's goals are the basis for the action program listed above.

#### **Goal #1**

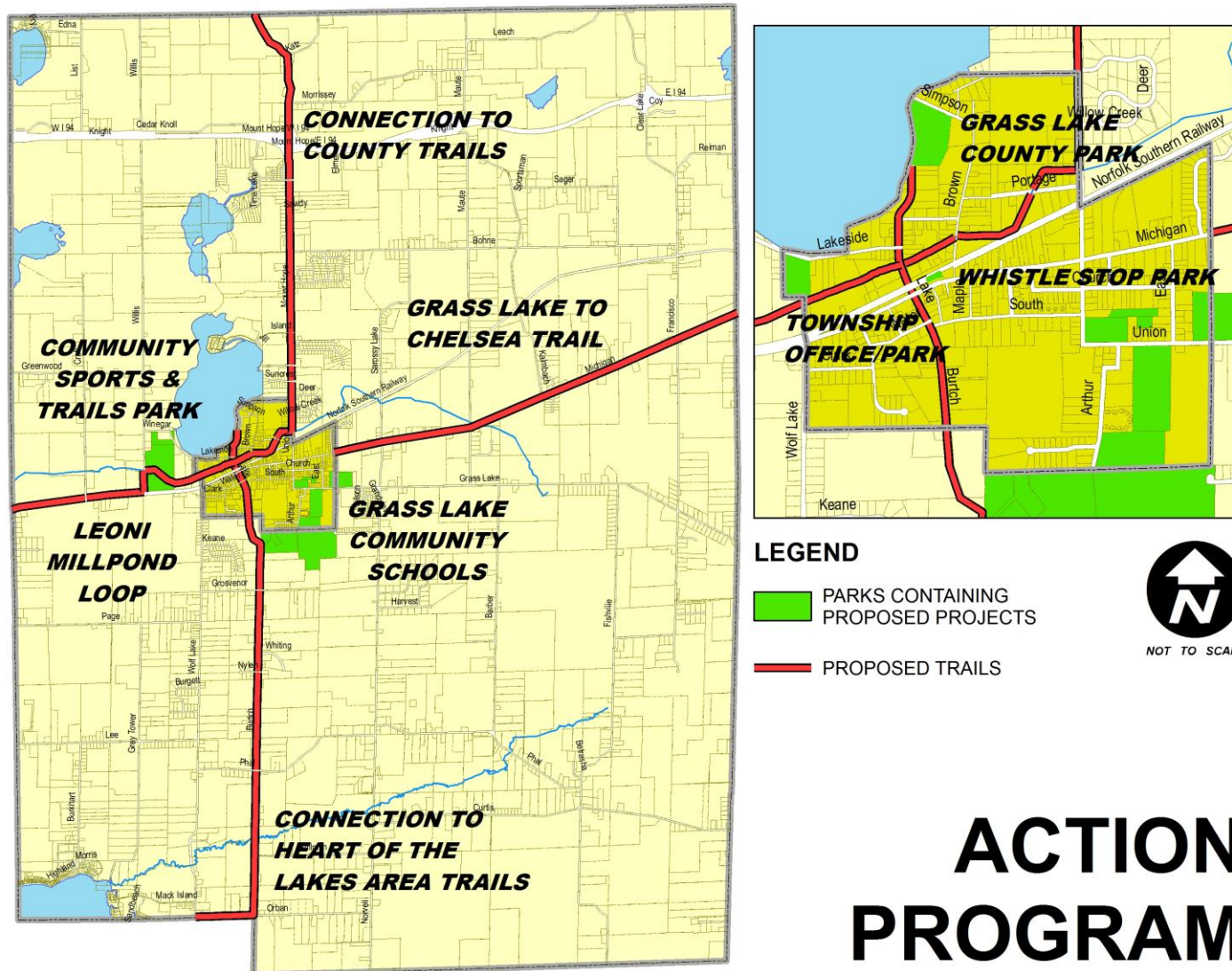
Completion of the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park is an integral objective of this plan as are the trails. When completed, the facility will also provide opportunities for an active lifestyle, empowering Grass Lake Area residents to loose or maintain their weight and prevent the public health issues that often result from obesity. Improvements to active recreation facilities located at the Township Office/Park and on the campus of the Grass Lake Community Schools are also important components of the strategy of a healthy lifestyle.

**Goal #2**

Trails are also an important objective of this plan. Some of the proposed trails will connect with other nearby pathways, creating a non-motorized network which will enhance the benefit to Grass Lake Area residents. Other trails provide access to nature. The proposed facilities will also allow for existing recreation programs to grow and for other programs identified in the recreation survey to be initiated.

**Goal #3**

Development of a coordinated parks and recreation system augments the quality of the physical environment. This strategy can help to draw more tourists, residents, and businesses to the Grass Lake Area. Proposed improvements to the Township Office/Park and the Grass Lake County Park will attract these people as well as serve existing residents. Completion of the projects supported by the other goals of the plan will also help to fulfill this goal.





Appendix A

## **Population Summary**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*



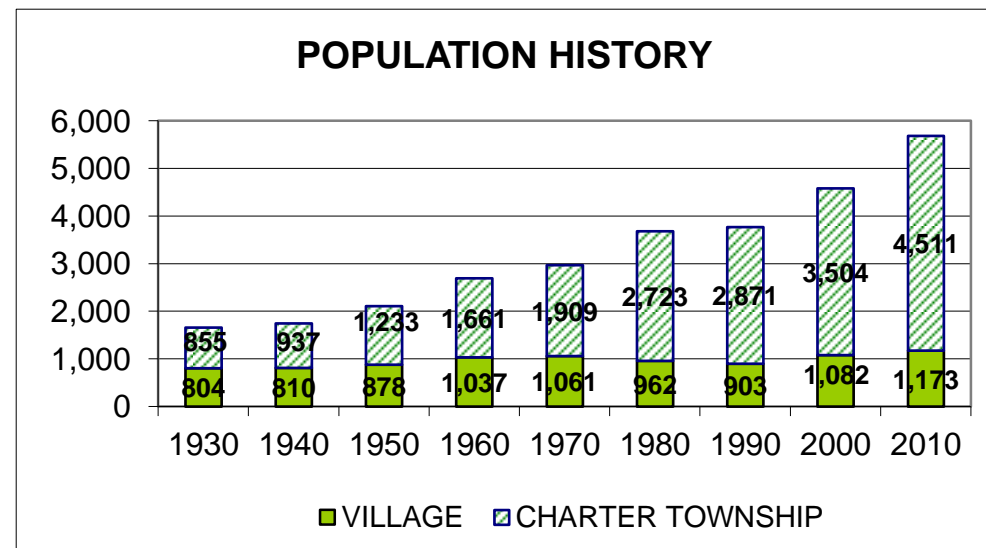
The Grass Lake Area is comprised of Grass Lake Charter Township and the Village of Grass Lake. The composition of Grass Lake residents has an effect upon the recreational needs of the Area. For example:

- × **Population History & Projections** – establish the need for general recreational facilities (standards for which are based upon the size of the population).
- × **The Age & Sex of the Population** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among various age groups and gender interests.
- × **Household & Family Composition** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced between family-oriented and individual activities.
- × **Racial & Ethnic Composition** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among the various interests of racial and ethnic groups.
- × **The Disabilities of Residents** – establish the need for special recreation facilities and disability accommodations to general recreation facilities.
- × **Income** – helps to illustrate the need for publicly-funded recreational facilities.

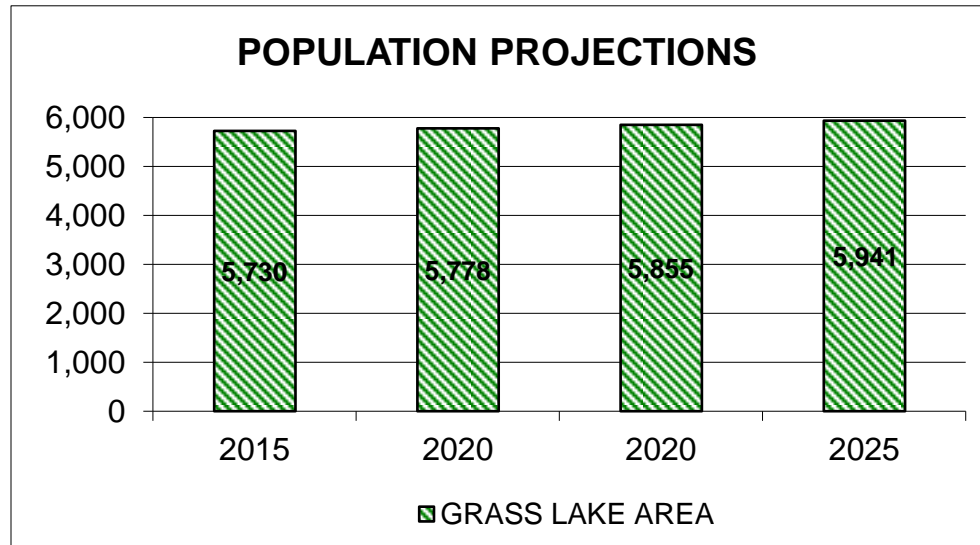
### Population History & Projections

The Grass Lake Area was home to 5,684 people in the 2010, according to the US Census. Village of Grass Lake residents comprised 20.6% of the Area's population, down from 23.9% and 23.6% in 1990 and 2000, respectively.

The 2040 population projections utilized in this plan were developed for the Jackson Area Comprehensive Transportation Study's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan "based on previous trends as depicted in" historic



U.S. Census data “and on the Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) forecast data developed for the Michigan Department of Transportation. The REMI data forecast is based upon the Cohort Survival methodology in association with economic development factors for a particular jurisdiction.” The data was then “straight-lined” to obtain the 5-year increments.



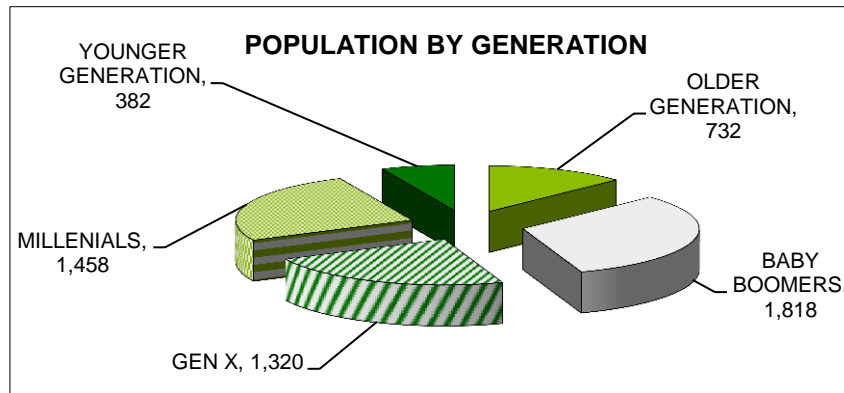
As the adjacent figure depicts, the Grass Lake Area is projected to grow in the foreseeable future, increasing 0.8% by 2015, 1.7% by 2020, 3.0% by 2025, and 7.9% by 2040. The US Census estimated the population of the Area to be 5,725 in 2012. The population will be fairly stable for all rural (including Grass Lake) and urban Jackson County townships, with a slight population increase of 1.9% and 1.0%, respectively, by 2040. However, a slight population loss of 1.2% is projected for all of Jackson County due to the City of Jackson which is projected to lose 11.2% of its population by 2040.

### American Community Survey

*The use of estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) provides more up-to-date demographics. Reporting jurisdictions the size of the Grass Lake Area are provided five-year average estimates on a regular basis. The reporting period utilized for this plan is 2009-2013.*

## Age & Sex of the Population

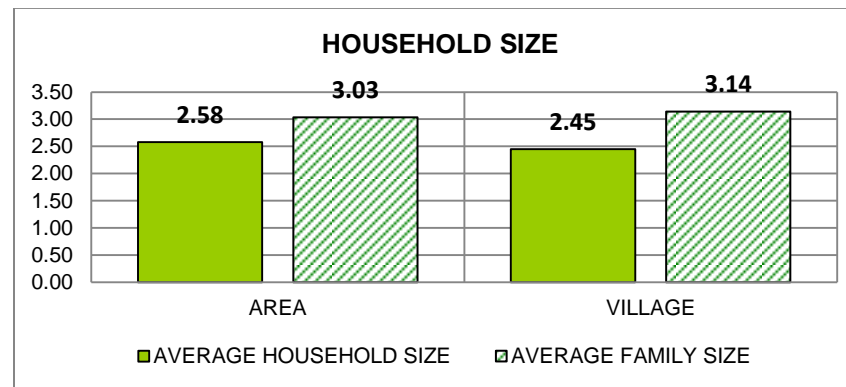
The estimated median age of a Grass Lake Area resident during the 2009 to 2013 time period was 41.9 years, higher than the estimated 35.8 years for the nation. The estimated median age of a Village resident was only 38.2 years. As the figure below illustrates, 'baby boomers' –people between 45 and 64 years of age in 2010– accounted for an estimated 31.8% of the population. 'Millennials' –people between 5 and 24 years of age in 2010– accounted for an estimated 25.5% of residents. 'Gen X' –people between 25 and 44 years of age in 2010– accounted for an estimated 23.1% of the population. 'Older generations' –people at least 65 years of age in 2010– accounted for an estimated 12.8% of the population. 'Younger generations' –people less than 5 years of age in 2010– accounted for an estimated 6.7% of the population. The Area's population was almost evenly split between male (50.3%) and female (49.7%).



|                 | AREA  | CHARTER TOWNSHIP | VILLAGE |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|---------|
| TOTAL           | 5,710 | 4,395            | 1,315   |
| MALE            | 2,872 | 2,270            | 602     |
| FEMALE          | 2,838 | 2,125            | 713     |
| UNDER 5 YEARS   | 382   | 308              | 74      |
| 5 TO 9 YEARS    | 385   | 279              | 106     |
| 10 TO 14 YEARS  | 393   | 335              | 58      |
| 15 TO 19 YEARS  | 395   | 298              | 97      |
| 20 TO 24 YEARS  | 285   | 173              | 112     |
| 25 TO 34 YEARS  | 402   | 215              | 187     |
| 35 TO 44 YEARS  | 918   | 755              | 163     |
| 45 TO 54 YEARS  | 916   | 713              | 203     |
| 55 TO 59 YEARS  | 459   | 344              | 115     |
| 60 TO 64 YEARS  | 443   | 376              | 67      |
| 65 TO 74 YEARS  | 416   | 355              | 61      |
| 75 TO 84 YEARS  | 252   | 195              | 57      |
| 85 YEARS & OVER | 64    | 49               | 15      |

## Household & Family Composition

There were an estimated 2,189 households in the Grass Lake Area between 2009 and 2013 and 24.5% of them were located in the Village of Grass Lake. Families comprised an estimated 75.1% of Area households and those with children under 18 years of age comprised an estimated 33.7% of all households. Married couples comprised an estimated 66.6% of households and those with children under 18 years of age comprised an estimated 28.2% of all households. Single-parent families comprised an estimated 5.5% of households. Nonfamilies comprised an estimated 24.9% of Area households. Householders living alone comprised an estimated 22.2% of households and people 65 years of age or older living alone comprised 8.0% of all households. The average household size for the Area was estimated to be 2.58 people and the average family size was estimated to be 3.03 people. The average household size for the Village was estimated to be 2.45 people and the average family size was estimated to be 3.14 people.



## Racial & Ethnic Composition

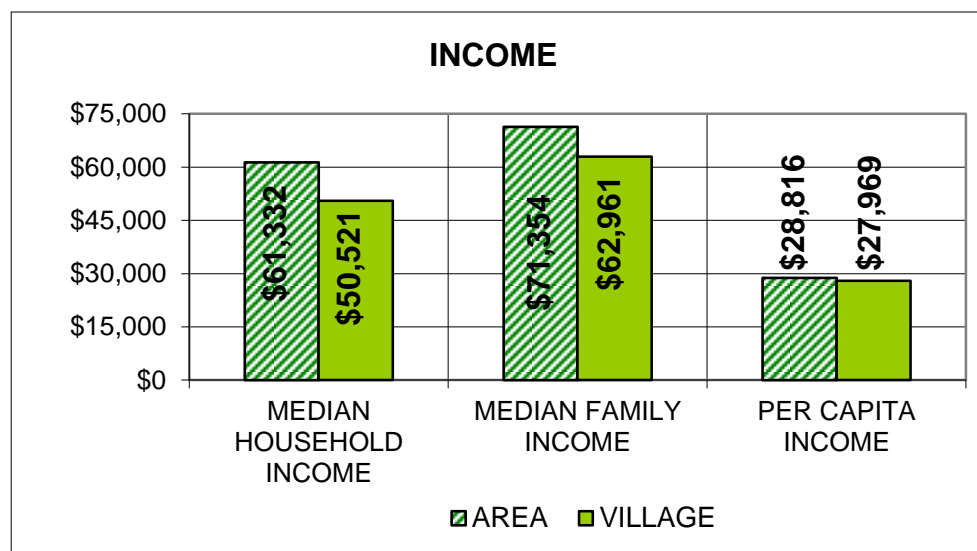
Race and ethnicity are not significant issues regarding recreation given that an estimated 96.6% of Grass Lake Area residents were white between 2009 and 2013 and only an estimated 2.5% of residents were Hispanic.

## Disability of Residents

Grass Lake Area residents with at least one disability between 2009 and 2013 comprised an estimated 9.0% of the population. Age is often a determining factor regarding disabilities, especially ambulatory difficulties. For example, it is estimated that no children under 5 years of age were disabled and only 4.4% of kids between the ages of 5 and 17 were estimated to have some type of a disability. No children had an ambulatory difficulty. An estimated 8.1% of people between the ages of 18 and 64 were estimated to have some type of a disability and an estimated 35.8% of them had an ambulatory difficulty. In comparison, an estimated 15.8% of people 65 years of age or older and 94.9% of them had an ambulatory difficulty.

## Income

The estimated median household income in the Grass Lake Area (\$61,332) between 2009 and 2013 was greater than the median household income estimated for the United States (\$53,046) or the Village (\$50,521).<sup>1</sup> The median family income in the Area (\$71,354) was also greater than the median household income estimated for the United States (\$64,719) or the Village (\$62,961). The per capita income in the Area (\$28,816) between was greater as well than the median household income estimated for the United States (\$28,155) or the Village (\$27,969).<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The median income means that ½ of the incomes were greater and ½ were less than the amount.

<sup>2</sup> Per capita income is the average income for all residents (i.e., the sum of all household incomes divided by the total population).

Appendix B

**Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*



## Selected Health Concern – Overweight and Obesity Risk Factors<sup>1</sup>

*“Many argue that ‘urban sprawl’ has contributed to ‘waistline sprawl’ in that it supports an automobile-friendly environment rather than an environment where other modes of active transport (walking, cycling, and other non-motorized vehicles) are encouraged.”*

“The US Surgeon General has called for action to prevent and decrease overweight and obesity. The Health consequences of overweight and obesity have been labeled as ‘a public health issue that is among the most burdensome faced by the nation.’ This national health problem manifests itself in premature death and disability, high health care costs, loss of productivity, and social stigmatization. According to the Surgeon General’s call to action ‘To Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, 2001,’ there are many factors which cause overweight and obesity. ‘For each individual, body weight is determined by the combination of genetic, metabolic, behavioral, environmental, cultural, and social economic influences. Behavior and environmental factors are large contributors to overweight and obesity and provide the greatest opportunity for actions and interventions designed for prevention and treatment.’”

“The availability of data regarding overweight and obesity specific to the area of Jackson County is lacking. Data regarding obesity for the State of Michigan is available through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, 2001). The data reveals that in 1991, 15.2% of the State’s population was obese. At that time, Michigan’s rate of obesity was tied for third highest in the Nation with the State of West Virginia. Only the states of Mississippi and Louisiana exceeded Michigan in the rate of obesity. In the year 2001 Michigan’s rate of obesity had climbed to 24.4%, the third highest state in the nation, following the states of Mississippi and West Virginia. Sixty-one percent of Michigan’s population is either obese or overweight.”

### Obesity Trends, Michigan 1991-2001

| Year | % Obese |
|------|---------|
| 1991 | 15.2    |
| 1995 | 17.7    |
| 1998 | 20.7    |
| 1999 | 22.1    |
| 2000 | 21.8    |
| 2001 | 24.4    |

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2001

<sup>1</sup> This section was excerpted from the Demographics Chapter of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025.

### Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000

“The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, an agency of the Center for Disease Control provides data on the actual causes of death in the United States for the year 2000. The category ‘Poor Diet / Physical Inactivity’ ranks second, in terms of the percentage of all deaths, at 16.6%, closely behind tobacco use at 18.1%.”

### Factors Contributing to Unhealthy Weight

“The report ‘Health Policy Options for Michigan Policy Makers: Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan Through Physical Activity and Nutrition’ identifies factors which contribute to unhealthy weight. While several factors contribute to this problem, the report identifies factors which are of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning. The report notes:

‘Physical and Social environmental barriers are present in Michigan that negatively affect physical activity and nutrition. Inadequate community infrastructure limits the ability to be active. These include lack of accessible indoor and outdoor exercise facilities, neighborhood sidewalks, walking paths, and bicycle trails. Additionally, inclement weather, lack of adequate recreational opportunities, and unattractive or unpleasant local environments may prevent people from exercising.’

‘Programs and policies are necessary to promote smart community growth and the establishment of urban and rural environments supportive of physical activity. Active community environments provide access to safe favorable conditions for physical activity and promote the development of social support networks that encourage activity.’<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Kreulen Pg. 10

### Actual Causes of Death, United States 1990 and 2000

| Cause                                    | % Of Deaths |      |
|--|-------------|------|
|  | 1990        | 2000 |
| Tobacco                                  | 19          | 18.1 |
| Poor diet and <b>physical inactivity</b> | 14          | 16.6 |
| Alcohol Consumption                      | 5           | 3.5  |
| Microbial Agents                         | 4           | 3.1  |
| Toxic Agents                             | 3           | 2.3  |
| Motor Vehicles                           | 1           | 1.8  |
| Firearms                                 | 2           | 1.2  |
| Sexual Behavior                          | 1           | 0.8  |
| Illicit Drug Use                         | <1          | 0.7  |

Source: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

“The report notes that various state departments, community planners, and community members should work together to promote active environments. The report also lists a series of policy recommendations, including the following specific recommendations relative to what the report labels ‘active community environments.’<sup>3</sup>

1. Develop walkable communities by widening and maintaining our building sidewalks, safe roadway crossings, and aesthetically pleasing areas.
2. Encourage bicycling by developing, maintaining, and promoting the use of bike paths.
3. Require all urban planning and re-design - incorporate the concepts of active community environments and there by promote physical activity.”

### **Issues, Goals, Policies & Actions<sup>4</sup>**

“The purpose of [the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan] is to establish policies to guide the future growth and development of the Jackson Community. These policies, established at the community-wide level, are intended to assist local units of government, including the County’s villages, townships, and the City of Jackson as they develop, amend, and implement their community plans, and zoning ordinances.”

“The policies formulated and adopted as a result of the process in preparing the Jackson Comprehensive Community Plan primarily address land use and development issues which either transcend the boundary lines of local units of government, or are county-wide in nature. This regional perspective is critical. The strength of our governmental structure which is comprised of 19 townships, 6 villages and the City of Jackson, is the ability to deliver local government that is close to the people. Within the planning process this governmental structure provides each local unit the opportunity to determine how its community should grow and develop, and ultimately, the shape and form of the future community. The weakness in this arrangement of local units of government is the tendency to overlook the implications of decisions which have regional significance.”

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<sup>3</sup> Kreulen Pg. 18

<sup>4</sup> This section was excerpted from the Issues, Goals, Policies & Actions Chapter of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025.

A total of 16 land use issues were identified. Issues with a recreation component are reprinted in their entirety:

#### Land Use Issues

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Create a Walkable Community                       | Urban Development                              |
| Farmland Preservation                             | Overzoning and Strip Commercial Development    |
| Historic Preservation                             | Protection of Ground and Surface Water Quality |
| Planning Coordination                             | Wetlands                                       |
| Maximum Housing Choice                            | Preservation of Open Space                     |
| Open Ethical Governance and Citizen Participation | Economic Diversity                             |
| Sewer and Water Extension                         | Innovative Planning and Zoning                 |
| Culture   | The Movement of People and Goods               |

#### Create a Walkable Community

“The automobile is firmly embedded in our culture. It simultaneously offers a measure of freedom; and yet also limits the freedom of movement both for the younger and older segments of our population, and to our citizens generally, through traffic congestion. In our urban areas, space is consumed for parking which negates the possibility for the creation of compact pedestrian-oriented development patterns. The automobile allows us freedom to work in distant places and live in rural areas, but also requires an expansive network of roads and highways to get us there.”

“Considerable attention has been focused recently on the health of our citizens. Physical inactivity and obesity of our citizens has been defined by health professionals as a serious threat to community health and well-being. While it is acknowledged that every citizen is free to make individual choices regarding means and mode of transportation, there is a need to insure that our communities are walkable. Indeed, within the concept of community, social contact and interaction, the sense of human scale, and community identity, are elemental.”

**Goal:** *“Community plans, development decisions, and ultimately the shape and form of our communities shall offer the opportunity for employment, commerce, recreation, and social interaction within community centers and neighborhoods which are walkable.”*

**Policies and Actions**

1. "Within defined community centers and neighborhood areas as identified in this plan, and the plans of local communities of government in Jackson County, development should be promoted which is compact and which fosters higher densities."
2. "Sidewalks should be encouraged to be provided in neighborhoods, subdivisions, and site condominium projects; and commercial areas."
3. "Pedestrian networks are encouraged to be developed which link subdivisions, neighborhoods, business districts, downtown areas, recreational areas; and connected to a system of regional pedestrian and bicycle trails."
4. "Parking shall be encouraged to be located in areas that do not impede pedestrian travel."
5. "Within downtown areas of the County pedestrian travel should be given priority over automobile and vehicular travel."
6. "Local communities should review their commercial zoning districts to promote commercial uses which thrive on pedestrian traffic to be grouped together, and to assure that commercial uses which are oriented toward vehicular traffic are established as permitted uses in separate commercial zoning districts. Small commercial areas which offer goods and services to neighborhood areas should be encouraged."
7. "Communities should review their patterns of residential distribution and attempt to promote and strengthen neighborhoods which offer parks, elementary schools, and neighborhood commercial areas within walking distance."
8. "Several recreation plans for local units of government call for the construction of recreational trails. In addition, the Jackson County Trailways Plan recommends several additional trails and trail extensions. These recommendations should be implemented as funding becomes available. Finally, trailways should be coordinated with the plans for trails in adjacent counties."

**Historic Preservation**

"The community of today grew out of the community of the past. Current development patterns, street networks, neighborhoods, clusters of buildings, and single buildings themselves are reflective of the unique mix of culture and history in which the Jackson Community grew and developed. This unique history gave the community identity and is a reflection of community heritage."

“Today’s mass culture, and the influence of the mass media, in conjunction with the consolidation and growth of businesses and industries within the economy has resulted in development which is a replica of development which is occurring in communities across the nation. Forces of community development today tend to result in ubiquity. Sameness results in a loss of identity.”

“As our economy has grown nationally, and the implications of this growth have been experienced locally, both the benefits and the liabilities of such growth become manifest. While products have become more varied and accessible, the commercial delivery system which provides these products through “big box” stores, and drive-thru “fast-food” restaurant has tended to reduce the diversity and appearance of the urban landscape. As a result, the importance of historic preservation has never been greater, and over time becomes more and more important to maintain community identity and diversity. The preservation of historic buildings and structures provides a vital link to our heritage.”

**Goal:** *“Jackson County communities shall identify historic and cultural resources and develop policies, programs, and regulations to promote their continued use and survival.”*

#### **Policies and Actions**

1. “Historic and unique community features, structures, and buildings should be identified, mapped and preserved.”
2. “Jackson County communities should educate developers, and the public at large, about the availability of tax credits offered through the State of Michigan for historic preservation, and encourage this application of these credits.”
3. “Local planning commissions should consider the impacts of development decisions on historic and cultural resources.”

#### **Culture**

“The concept of a community implies more than simply a place to live, work, engage in commerce, and play. Communities are places of social interaction, where people meet face to face. Communities provide the structure necessary for cultural growth and development.”



“Communities are places where governance occurs. They’re places where people pray. They’re places where information is exchanged. Communities are elementally important in our cultural system, acting as clearing-houses for all that makes people human. They are the bartering places for the exchange of ideas and cultures. The Comprehensive Plan should support this important role.”

**Goal:** *“Community Centers should facilitate social interaction and assemblage, and provide a space for, and enhance, culture.”*

#### **Policies and Actions**

1. “Buildings and structures which facilitate or enhance our culture: city, township, and village halls; schools; libraries; museums; and churches should be identified, mapped, and protected.”
2. “Indoor and outdoor places of public assemblage and opportunity for public gathering should be promoted within our community centers.”
3. “Communities should inventory, promote, and maintain their public spaces, and promote their use and safety.”

#### **Preservation of Open Space**

“To many citizens in Jackson County, the rural areas of the County are appealing because of the open space which exists there. Many residents have, in fact, selected home sites in rural areas because of the open rural quality such areas afford. Obviously, with additional development in rural areas comes a loss in open space and the values which attracted rural development in the first place.”

**Goal:** *“Preservation of Open Space shall be encouraged.”*

#### **Policies and Actions**

1. “Local units of government are encouraged to apply cluster-zoning provisions to preserve open space and maintain rural character.”
2. “Policies contained within this report to encourage development to be located within existing urban and developed areas and to encourage higher densities should be implemented.”

## **The Community Plan<sup>5</sup>**

“The Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide guidance for the future growth and development of the Jackson County area. The Plan was prepared in accordance with generally accepted practices for the development of comprehensive plans.”

1. “The Plan is long-range. The Plan provides a policy guide for growth and development from the date of adoption of the Plan in 2005, through the year 2025. It is intended to provide a long-range vision for the Community based upon anticipated economic growth, population and household projection, the existing pattern of development, and preferred growth and development patterns.”
2. “The Plan is intended to be general in nature rather than specific. Because the Plan is a statement of policy, it is expressed as a generalized, or conceptual, plan for future land use, rather than indicating specific land uses for specific parcels of land.”
3. “The Plan is intended to be flexible. The Plan can be amended following the adherence to legal requirements as established in state law. Communities, and the events which affect them, are subject to change over time. The Plan is not intended to be static, but can be revised as needed to respond to change in circumstance.”
4. “The Plan is a statement of policy. It is advisory in nature, setting forth the vision for the future.”

## **Greenways Plan**

The “Greenways Plan’ for the Jackson Community, identifies a network of greenways proposed throughout Jackson County. This network generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands. The network recognizes these areas as a part of Jackson County’s natural system which should be preserved. The preservation of this system helps to assure high quality surface water, wildlife habitat and movement, diversity, and can be used to help define urban growth.”

“Much of the Greenways Plan tends to be self-implementing. Development in wetland areas is limited by the practical difficulties associated with the development of these of lands. Soils in these areas are wet, compressive strength to support development is lacking, and the cost of developing in wetland areas is high. In addi-

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<sup>5</sup> This section was excerpted from the Plan Chapter of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025.

tion, wetlands are protected by the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994.”

“The prohibition of all forms of development within this area is not necessary. Some very low-density development can be incorporated without damage to the integrity of the greenway. Roads and highways transect the network at numerous locations throughout the County. As this Plan is further developed and implemented it may be likely that there are strategic points within the network that require some type of preservation action. In some locations the width of the greenway is very narrow. Conservation easements may be a good means of assuring continuity in these areas.”

“The Greenways Plan sets a foundation for the development of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan within the natural system which exists in Jackson County. In some instances greenways may help to define urban areas and separate these urban areas from rural areas of the County.”

“For all of the foresaid reasons and simply so citizens have the opportunity for contact with nature, the implementation of the Plan would significantly improve the quality of life in Jackson County.”

### **The Land Use Plan**

The “Land Use Plan sets forth a spatial vision for the future growth and development of the Jackson Community. It is intended, generally, to promote future development within areas which are currently developed. These areas tend to contain the infrastructure necessary to support growth and development. They are areas where higher densities and intensities of land use are to be encouraged. The Plan recognizes the importance of making the urban areas which exist within the County better places to live. The Plan focuses cultural amenities within these areas, and encourages beautification and redevelopment programs, and special attention to the provision of parks in neighborhood areas, and the provision of a network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways. Generally, as a matter of governmental policy development within rural areas is to be discouraged.”

“The Plan identifies industrial, commercial, residential and agricultural and open space areas. Industrial areas are clustered within the community at locations where existing industrial land uses already exist, and where infrastructure is sufficiently provided, or proposed to be provided to accommodate these intense uses. As such, industrial areas are located along major transportation arteries which afford access to jobs for the residents of

Jackson County, as well as transportation to other regions of the state and nation for receipt [sic] of materials for the production process, and the distribution of goods and products produced in the Jackson area.”

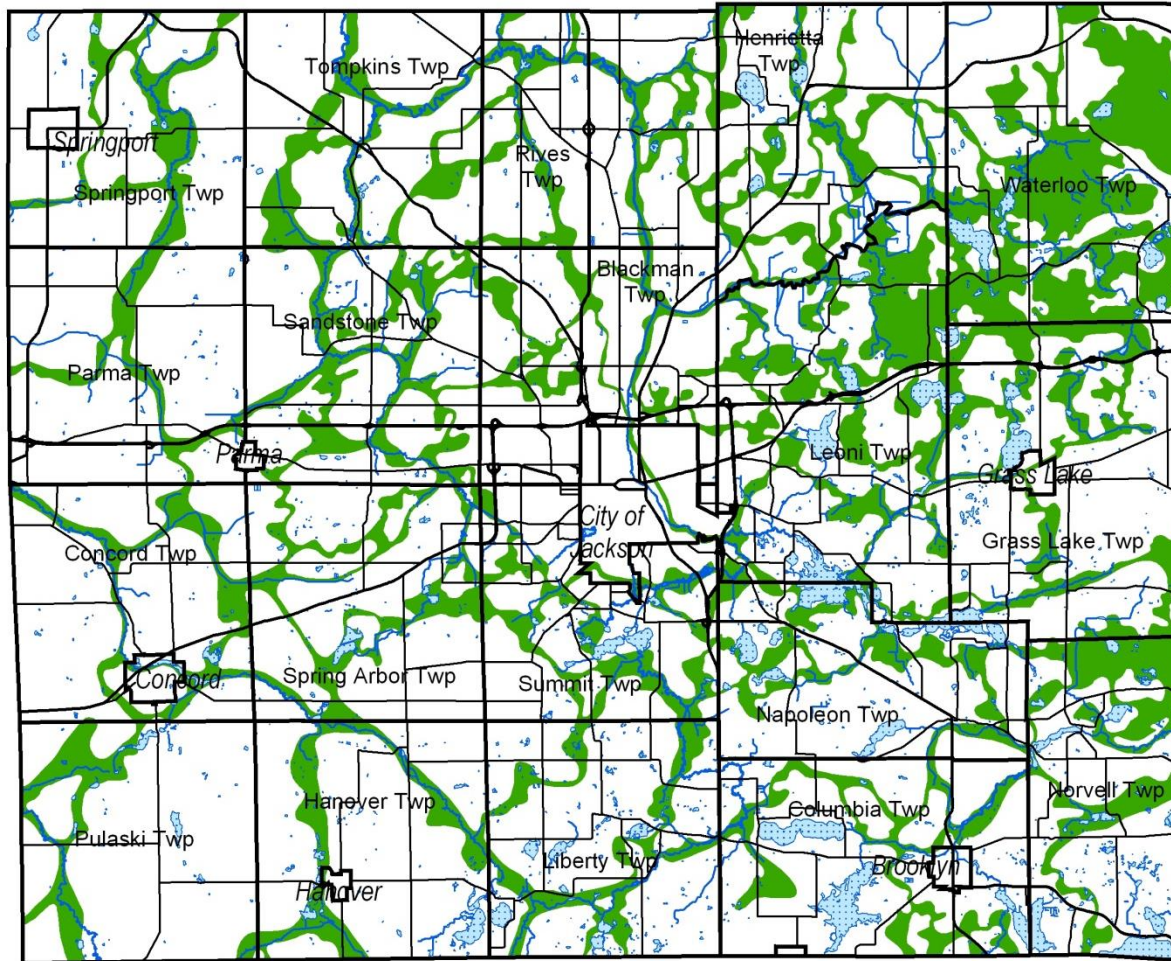
“Proposed commercial areas follow existing patterns of commercial development, and allow for commercial expansion within, and adjacent to, these commercial areas. Continued growth and development of small commercial areas in rural villages and population settlements is encouraged. Small commercial development which would serve neighborhoods, though not shown on the Plan Map, [is] encouraged to be developed. The Plan supports the development of” intensive and compact commercial areas “in which many commercial services are offered to customers within in a small area. This pattern of commercial development will reduce the need for automobile travel.”

“The principles which have been applied to the location of industrial and commercial uses on the land use plan also apply to residential uses. Generally, areas proposed for higher intensity residential development are located in areas of existing residential development. These areas are associated with the urban area of the City of Jackson, and urbanizing portions of Blackman, Leoni, Spring Arbor, and Summit Townships.”

“Additional urban development is proposed in lakes areas where sewer systems exist or are planned, and in the Village areas of Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Parma and Springport. Further development is proposed in the unincorporated areas of Michigan Center, Spring Arbor and Vandercook Lake.”

“Residential development in rural areas will continue, but should not be encouraged. Within rural areas local townships should pursue and encourage clustered housing with secured, permanent open space to be preferred over large lot single family development.”

“Existing agriculture should be encouraged in rural areas of the County, particularly where there are prime soils, or productive farms.”



Jackson Community  
Comprehensive Plan  
Jackson, Michigan

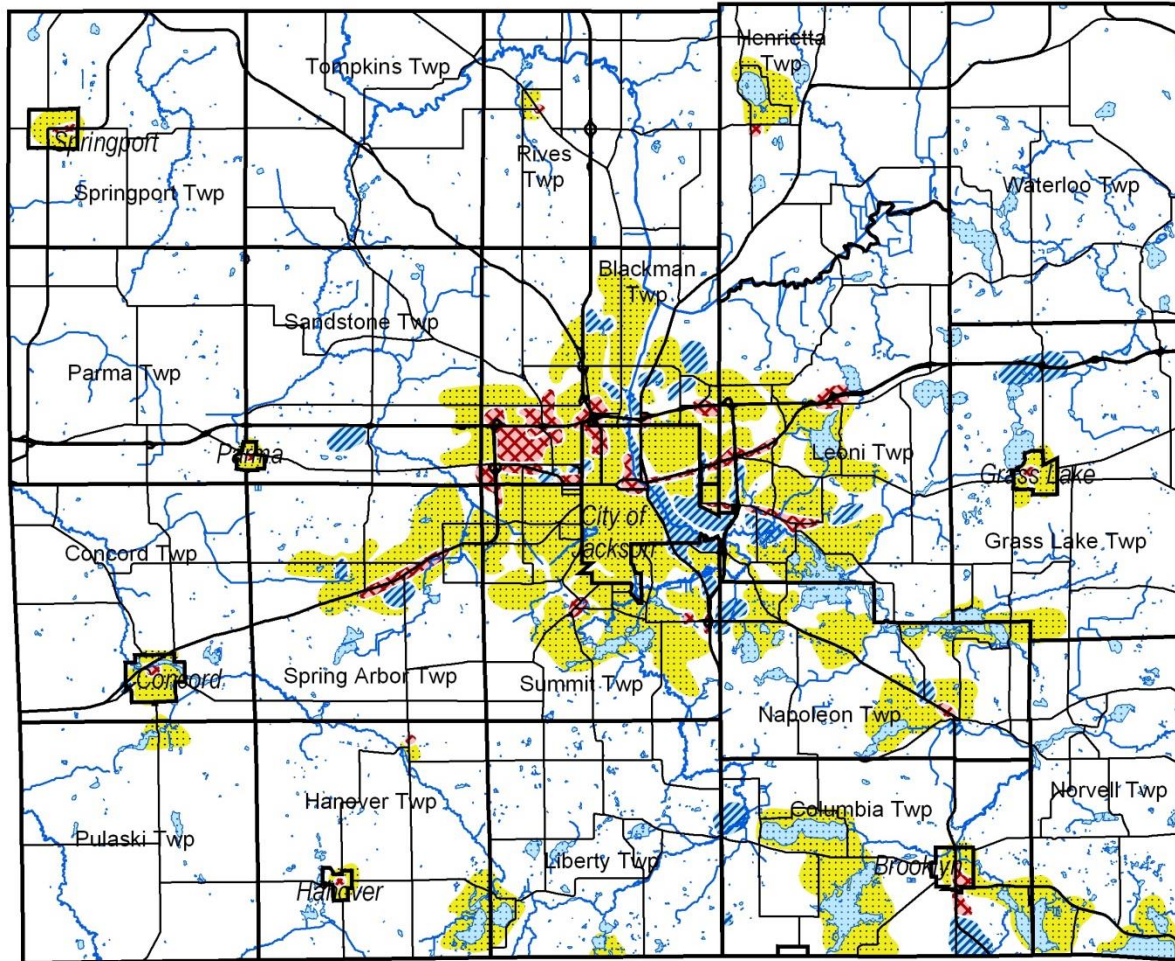
Map 18  
**Jackson County  
Greenways Plan**

Legend

Greenways

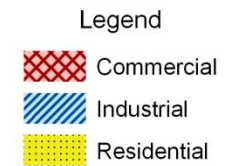






Jackson Community  
Comprehensive Plan  
Jackson, Michigan

Map 19  
**2025**  
**Jackson County**  
**Land Use Plan**







Appendix C

## **Recreation and Resource Inventories**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

**NRPA PARK STANDARDS**

| TYPE OF AREA                    | USE  | SERVICE AREA   | SIZE           | ACRES/<br>1,000 | SITE FEATURES  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------|-----------------|--|
| MINI-PARK                       | SPECIALIZED FACILITIES THAT SERVE A CONCENTRATED OR LIMITED POPULATION OR SPECIFIC GROUP SUCH AS TOTS OR SENIOR CITIZENS.  | LESS THAN ¼ MILE RADIUS.   | 1 ACRE OR LESS | 0.25 TO 0.50    | WITHIN NEIGHBORHOODS AND IN PROXIMITY TO APARTMENT COMPLEXES, TOWNHOUSES OR HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.   |
| NEIGHBORHOOD PARK OR PLAYGROUND | AREA FOR INTENSE RECREATION ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS FIELD GAMES, COURT GAMES, CRAFTS, PLAYGROUND APPARATUS AREA, SKATING, PICNICKING, WADING POOLS, ETC.   | ¼ TO ½ MILE RADIUS TO SERVE A POPULATION UP TO 5,000 — A NEIGHBORHOOD. | 15 ACRES       | 1 TO 2          | SUITED FOR INTENSE DEVELOPMENT. EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO NEIGHBORHOOD POPULATIONS. GEOGRAPHICALLY CENTERED WITH SAFE WALKING AND BIKE ACCESS. MAY BE DEVELOPED AS A SCHOOL PARK FACILITY |
| COMMUNITY PARK                  | AREA OF DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. MAY INCLUDE AREAS SUITED FOR INTENSE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, SUCH AS ATHLETIC COMPLEXES, LARGE SWIMMING POOLS. MAY BE AN AREA OF NATURAL QUALITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION, SUCH AS WALKING, VIEWING, SITTING, AND PICNICKING. MAY BE ANY COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE, DEPENDING UPON SITE SUITABILITY AND COMMUNITY NEED. | MORE THAN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD — 1 TO 2 MILE RADIUS.                       | 15+ ACRES      | 5 TO 8          | MAY INCLUDE NATURAL FEATURES, SUCH AS WATER BODIES, AND AREAS SUITED FOR INTENSE DEVELOPMENT. EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO NEIGHBORHOOD SERVED.  |

SOURCE: ROGER A. LANCASTER, ED; 1983. RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA: NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION, P. 56-57.

Appendix D

## **Non-Motorized Multiuse Trails**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

## **Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002**

The Jackson County Regional Trailway Committee (JCRTC) was initiated by residents of Jackson County active in the development of trails. The JCRTC consisted of members from the community who saw the need to assist in the coordination of the trail development efforts of the Jackson County Parks Department, the City of Jackson's Parks Department, Summit Township, Blackman Township, Spring Arbor Township, the Falling Waters Trail Committee, and the Lakelands Trail effort. The committee acquired funds through donations from the Weatherwax Foundation, Region 2 Planning Commission, Foundation for a Healthy Community (an umbrella organization of Allegiance Health), and a private donation to hire the Lansing-based Landscape Architects and Planners, Inc. (LAP) to help guide the community in the development of a county wide vision plan for trails.

The Trailway Vision Plan is a map of Jackson County showing the potential trail routes. The process of developing the Plan began with two public meetings. Both meetings provided information to the public and were intended to gain input to guide the vision plan. A preliminary Plan was presented at three public meetings. This allowed the community additional opportunities to comment on the plan and participate in its development. The Plan was then presented to the JCRTC for final comments. The final Plan has been included in this report.

The following goals and objectives represent the JCRTC's vision for trails and its past experience in trail development. These goals and objectives will guide the planning approach in development of the Jackson Regional Trailway Study:

- Provide a basis for potential greenways/trails development by researching and furnishing technical data, thus identifying connections to natural, cultural, and scenic features (including ecological habitat, historical landmarks and aesthetic elements).
- Work collaboratively with the JCRTC, local interest groups, planning officials, and the general public in developing greenways/trails plan which provides a rational base for the best trail route(s).
- Propose the safest trails, roadways, river routes, and crossings.
- Communicate the pros and cons of the potential route(s) for the greenways/trails.
- Plan for access points (trail heads), rest rooms, parking lots, and other support facilities.

- Recommend operations/maintenance systems for the greenways/trails.
- Recommend development standards for the greenways/trails.

**Lakelands Trail – 15.4 Miles**

“The Lakelands Trail will serve as a connection between the City of Jackson and Jackson County and the counties of Ingham, Livingston, and Washtenaw. This trail will be an extension of the existing Lakelands Trail that runs through Livingston County.

The Lakelands Trail will be developed on an abandoned railroad bed. A trail head is proposed at the beginning of this trail . . . [at] the City of Jackson’s Waste Water Treatment Plant. This trail is envisioned to connect the townships in northeast Jackson County, forming linear parks and walking loops.”

**Henrietta Loop – 19.9 Miles**

“This trail will improve an existing bike route in Henrietta Township. The proposed route has multiple stops along the way, including Pleasant Lake County Park, [the] Munith Picnic Area, and many restaurants and stores. Pleasant Lake County Park is a potential trail head.”

**Portage Lake Trail – 6.5 Miles**

“The Portage Lake Trail branches off of the Lakelands Trail. It would improve an existing bicycle route, which offers a pleasant ride through some of the Waterloo State Recreation Area. It also passes the Portage Lake County Park, which may serve as a trail head.”

**North Trail – 7.6 Miles**

“This trail is proposed to tie into the Lakelands Trail and head north along the Grand River up to Lansing Avenue, just south of Losey Road. From this point, the trail would travel north along Lansing Avenue to Ingham County. . . . [Possible] trailheads could be located at the Maple Grove Bridge Access Site.”

**Blackman Township Loop – 8 Miles**

“This trail system is designed as a loop within the Township. The loops will connect the residential areas with the natural area north of I-94. The property is part of the flight zones of Reynolds Municipal Airport, which can-



not be developed. This trail will also have the potential to connect to the North Trail, Lakelands Trail, Jackson Inter-City Trail, and the Airport Trail.”

**Inter-City Trail – 7.5 Miles**

“The trail starts at Weatherwax Drive and runs [northeast] along an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The trail continues through the Martin Luther King Center grounds and then heads northwest along Airline Drive toward the Central Business District (CBD). This trail connects the CBD with the city’s parks, schools, and neighborhoods. The trail crosses the new Consumer’s Energy headquarters along the south bank of the Grand River. The Trail continues along the Grand River to the Farmer’s Market, the Jackson County Fairgrounds and the [Armory Arts Village (old National Guard armory and Southern Michigan Prison)]. After crossing North Street a pedestrian bridge will cross the Grand River to connect to Lions Park and the Lakelands Trail.”

**Airport Trail – 5.5 Miles**

“The Airport Trail serves as a connection from Blackman Township to the Falling Waters Trail. This trail loops around the airport then heads south towards the Falling Waters Trail. It passes through multiple residential areas, Lumen Christi High School, and the Cascades Golf Course. It also joins with the Jackson Intercity Trail, which joins a potential route to Ella Sharp Park.”

**Falling Waters Trail – 10.5 Miles**

“The Falling Waters Trail is the gateway to the west . . . [connecting] to the southwest end of the Intercity Trail and [traveling] west through Summit and Spring Arbor Townships to the Village of Concord. . . . An arm of the trail could connect the [settlement of] Spring Arbor to the north. Another arm of the trail could make the connection to Swains Lake County Park in Concord by using the existing trail along Pulaski Road. . . . It is our understanding that future trails are envisioned in Calhoun County to the west. It would be possible to connect these trails to provide a route to Albion and the City of Battle Creek.”

**Hanover Trail – 8.9 Miles**

“This trail is designed on an abandoned railroad bed much like the Falling Waters and Lakelands Trails. However, this is suggested as an alternate trail because land ownership along the rail bed has reverted back to pri-

vate owners. To gather these properties into a single public ownership would be a challenging task. A possible trail head for this trail could be [the Alfred A.] Snyder County Park in Horton.”

### **Summit Township Loop – 7.2 Miles**

“The Summit Township Loop serves as a major connector linking multiple features and neighborhoods within Summit Township. This trail would start and finish in Ella Sharp Park and have connections to the Dahlem Nature Center, the Jackson Community College Campus, the Jackson Intermediate School District Complex, . . . and Vandercook Lake County Park. There is also a potential connection to the South Trail and the Falling Waters Trail. Jackson Community College is a good location for a potential trail head.”

### **Ella Sharp Park Trail and Sparks Foundation County Park – 4.4 Miles**

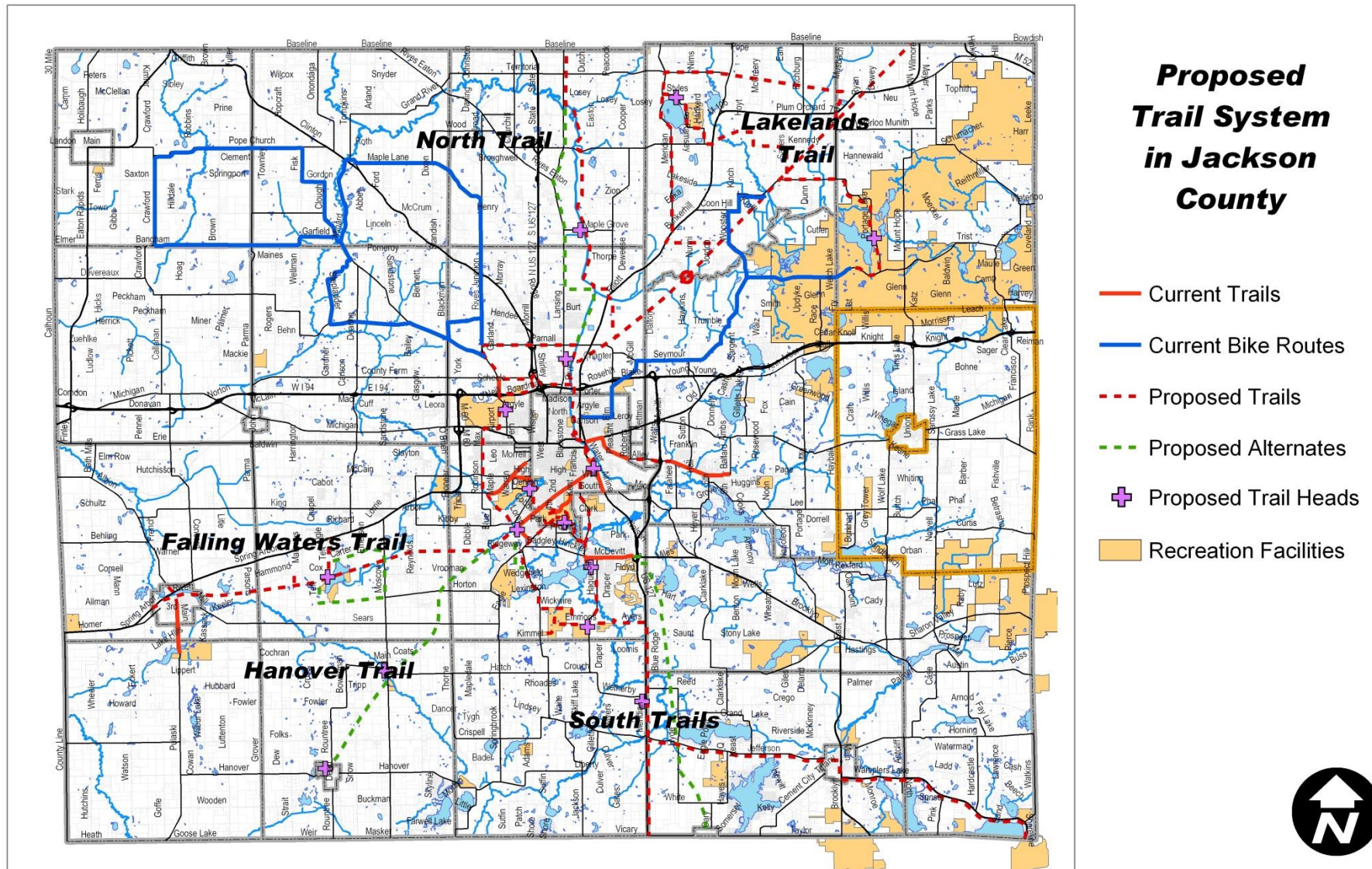
“This trail loops around many areas within Ella Sharp Park and is needed to separate vehicular traffic from pedestrian traffic. It will also use part of the Intercity Trail to [Sparks Foundation (Cascades) County Park]. Both of these parks have the potential to be used as trail heads.”

### **South Trail – 19.5 Miles**

“The South Trail is proposed to run parallel to U.S. 127 within the right-of-way of the highway. The trail would be designed to use previously built but now abandoned highway bridges and road bed. These areas will accommodate a proposed trail. Austin Blair Roadside Park might be a possible trail head, with approval of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). . . . The main route has an arm that stretches from U.S. 127 through Brooklyn to the W.J. Hayes State Park [via Jefferson Road and M-124 (the existing Mark Harrison Trail)]. This trail has the potential of connecting to the River Raisin Greenway, currently under development, in Tecumseh, Michigan.”

### **Connection to Existing Trail on Page Avenue - 0.3 Miles**

“Page Avenue has an existing [8-foot] wide trail. The proposed trail would cross U.S. 127 and connect with the City of Jackson. A route could be developed from the existing trail into the River Raisin Greenway in Tecumseh. Though a route for this connection has not yet been planned, it could potentially tie into the Sharonville State Wildlife Management Area before entering Washtenaw County.”



## Provisions for Non-Motorized Transportation in ‘Act 51’

Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, and commonly referred to as ‘Act 51,’ created the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) which is the mechanism for distributing the state gas tax to eligible transportation agencies (e.g., the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); county road commissions; and city and village departments of public works (townships are served through road commissions)). ‘Act 51’ also contains Michigan’s legal system for classifying roads<sup>1</sup>:

- state trunklines (e.g., Interstate (I), United States (US), and Michigan (M) routes);
- county primary roads and city and village major streets; and
- county, city, & village local roads and streets).

### Non-Motorized Provisions in ‘Act 51’ (Sec. 10k)

‘Act 51’ requires that a reasonable amount—or at least a value not less than 1%— of an agency’s annual MTF allocation shall be expended on the construction or improvement of non-motorized services and facilities. However, funds can be spent over a period not to exceed 10 years. ‘Act 51’ also states that non-motorized facilities may be established in conjunction with or separate from already existing highways, roads and streets; new road construction; and road reconstruction and that those facilities shall be established when a highway, road or street is being constructed, reconstructed or relocated.

**‘Act 51’ provides a potential funding source for the development of non-motorized facilities which the Village of Grass Lake and Grass Lake Charter Township should explore. However, since ‘Act 51’ was passed into law in order to facilitate mobility (i.e., transportation and economic development), only projects which can fulfill a transportation need as well as a recreation opportunity are eligible for this funding.**

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<sup>1</sup> State trunklines, county primary roads, and village and city streets are all MTF-eligible facilities. However, this is not true for all local streets and roads.

**WORK CREDITABLE AGAINST THE SEC. 10K EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK   | CREDITABLE WORK  | ELIGIBLE COSTS        |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>NON – ROAD FACILITIES</b>  |  | <b>ENG.</b>           | <b>CONST.</b>         |
| <b>SHARED USE PATHS (AS A PROJECT)</b>  | ALL ENGINEERING / CONSTRUCTION   | 100%                  | 100%                  |
| <b>SHARED USE PATHS (AS PART OF A ROAD PROJECT)</b>   | 1) ALL PATH RELATED CONSTRUCTION;<br>2) NON-PATH WORK IN THE ROAD PROJECT, NECESSITATED BY THE PATH COMPONENT (E.G. EXTRA FILL, CULVERT EXTENSION, ETC); AND<br>3) PRORATED ENGINEERING COSTS. | PRORATED <sup>1</sup> | 100% OF 1) & 2)       |
| <b>SHARED USE STRUCTURES</b>  | ALL ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION   | 100%                  | 100%                  |
| <b>BICYCLE PARKING</b>  | ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION   | 100%                  | 100%                  |
| <b>SIDEWALKS, RAMPS &amp; CURB CUTS</b>   | ALL ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION   | 100%                  | 100%                  |
| <b>SIGNS, PAVEMENT MARKINGS, &amp; SIGNALS</b>  | ALL WORK SPECIFICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NON-MOTORIZED FACILITY AND ITS PEDESTRIAN/NON-MOTORIZED USERS  | 100%                  | 100%                  |
| <b>ROAD FACILITIES</b>  |  | <b>ENG.</b>           | <b>CONST.</b>         |
| <b>BIKE LANES AND ASSOCIATED SIGNAGE / PAVEMENT MARKINGS</b>  | THAT PORTION OF THE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION THAT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE BIKE LANE   | PRORATED              | PRORATED <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>SHOULDER PAVING (AS A PROJECT)</b>   | ALL ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION   | 100%                  | 100%                  |
| <b>SHOULDER PAVING (AS A PART OF OTHER ROAD/BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, OR WIDENING WORK)</b> | THAT PORTION OF THE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION THAT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PAVING SHOULDER PORTION OF THE WORK   | PRORATED              | PRORATED <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>ROAD &amp; BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, &amp; WIDENING</b>                                | THAT PORTION OF THE OUTSIDE LAND WIDTH IN EXCESS OF THE MINIMUM DESIGN WIDTH FOR MOTOR VEHICLES  | PRORATED              | PRORATED              |

<sup>1</sup> PRORATION:  $E_{NM} = (C_{NM} / C_{TOT}) \times E_{TOT}$ , WHERE E=ENGINEERING \$\$ & C=CONSTRUCTION \$\$

<sup>2</sup> PRORATION:  $C_{NM} = (W_{NM} / W_{TOT}) \times C_{TOT}$  WHERE W=WIDTH OF ROADWAY AND C=CONSTRUCTION \$\$

NOTE: ONLY ROAD/BRIDGE PROJECTS AY ITEMS WHICH INCLUDE THE NON-MOTORIZED WIDTH IN THE WIDTH PRORATION



**Project Eligibility**

Eligible non-motorized facility improvements include but are not limited to:

- On-road facilities — non-motorized accommodations built in a roadway (e.g., shoulder paving; a share of road/bridge construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, or widening, and striped bicycle lanes);
- Off-road facilities — are accommodations which occur off the edge of a road or street although they may still be within its right-of-way (e.g., ramps and curb-cuts where paths or sidewalks cross roadways, bicycle parking facilities; and signs, pavement markings, and signals); and
- Sidewalks.

‘Act 51’ states that the 1% set-aside may not be attributed to a non-motorized project:

- when the cost of establishing the non-motorized facilities would be disproportionate to needs;
- where the establishment of non-motorized facilities would be contrary to public safety;
- where adequate non-motorized facilities already exist;
- where local matching funds are not available (e.g. projects using federal funds); or
- where previous expenditures and projected expenditures for non-motorized facilities exceed 1% of the agency’s MTF allocation, thus making additional expenditures discretionary.

Since MTF funding can only be spent on eligible roads and streets, the 1% set-aside can only be attributed to eligible roads and streets in the case of on-road facilities. It should also be pointed out that all improvements must meet established design criteria for non-motorized facilities. ‘Act 51’ also requires agencies to consult with their MDOT development region in the preparation & submittal of a 5-year program of non-motorized projects. However, this requirement has yet to be clarified by MDOT.



## Non-Motorized Facility Safety Standards

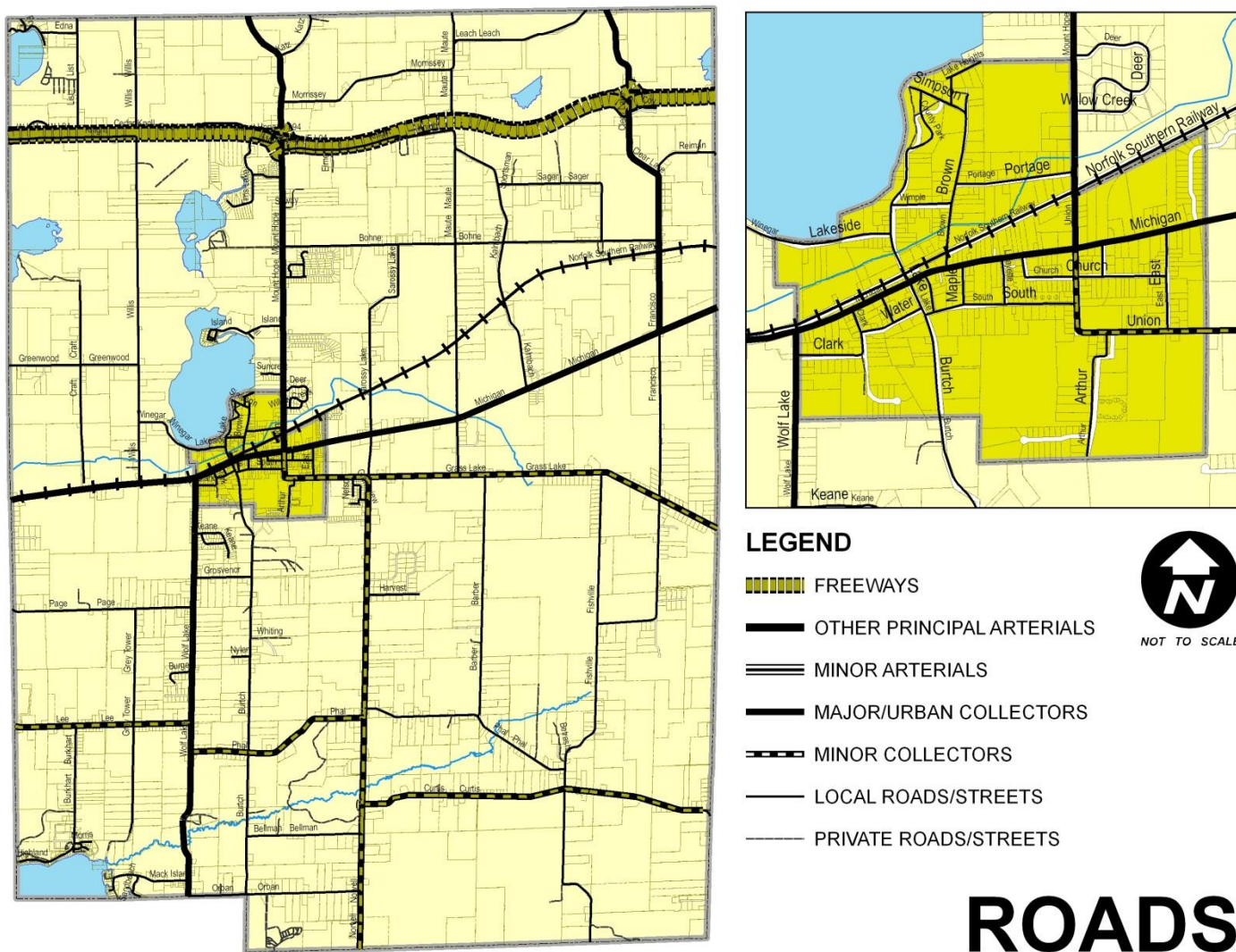
Safety is a concern when designing non-motorized facilities. What should be the minimum standard for the type of non-motorized facility to build given the type of roads or streets they augment? The National Functional Classification (NFC) System classifies roads according to their importance (i.e., how busy they are):

- **Principal Arterials** — interstates and other freeways, state (e.g., US and M) routes between large cities, and important surface streets in large cities
- **Minor Arterials** — state routes between smaller cities; medium-important surface streets in large cities; and important surface streets in smaller cities
- **Collectors** — county farm-to-market roads (major and minor) and various connecting streets in large and smaller cities (urban)
- **Local Roads/Streets** — residential streets and lightly traveled county roads; and
- **Private Roads/Streets** — local roads streets that are owned and maintained privately.

The Grass Lake Area hosts principal and minor arterials, urban/major collectors, local streets, and private streets. The following non-motorized standards are encouraged based upon those types of roadways:

### Recommended Non-Motorized Standards

| Road/Street Type                       | Facility Type(s)                        |
|--|---|
| Freeways and Other Principal Arterials | Multiuse Paths                          |
| Minor Arterials                        | Sidewalks/Multiuse Paths                |
| Urban/Major Collectors                 | Sidewalks and bike lanes/Multiuse Paths |
| Minor Collectors                       | Sidewalks and bike lanes                |
| Local Roads/Streets                    | Sidewalks                               |
| Private Roads/Streets                  | Sidewalks                               |





Appendix E

**Small Town Design Initiative**  
***Michigan State University***

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

GRASS LAKE  
GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP  
MICHIGAN

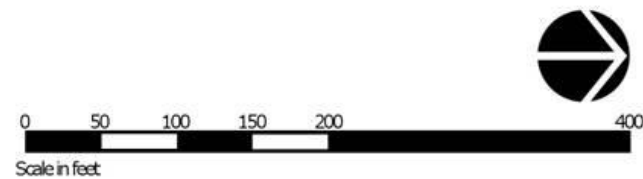
Grass Lake - Jackson County Park

SMALL TOWN DESIGN INITIATIVE

MSU



Grass Lake County Park Concept Plan  
 Grass Lake Township, Michigan  
 Small Town Design Initiative  
 Michigan State University





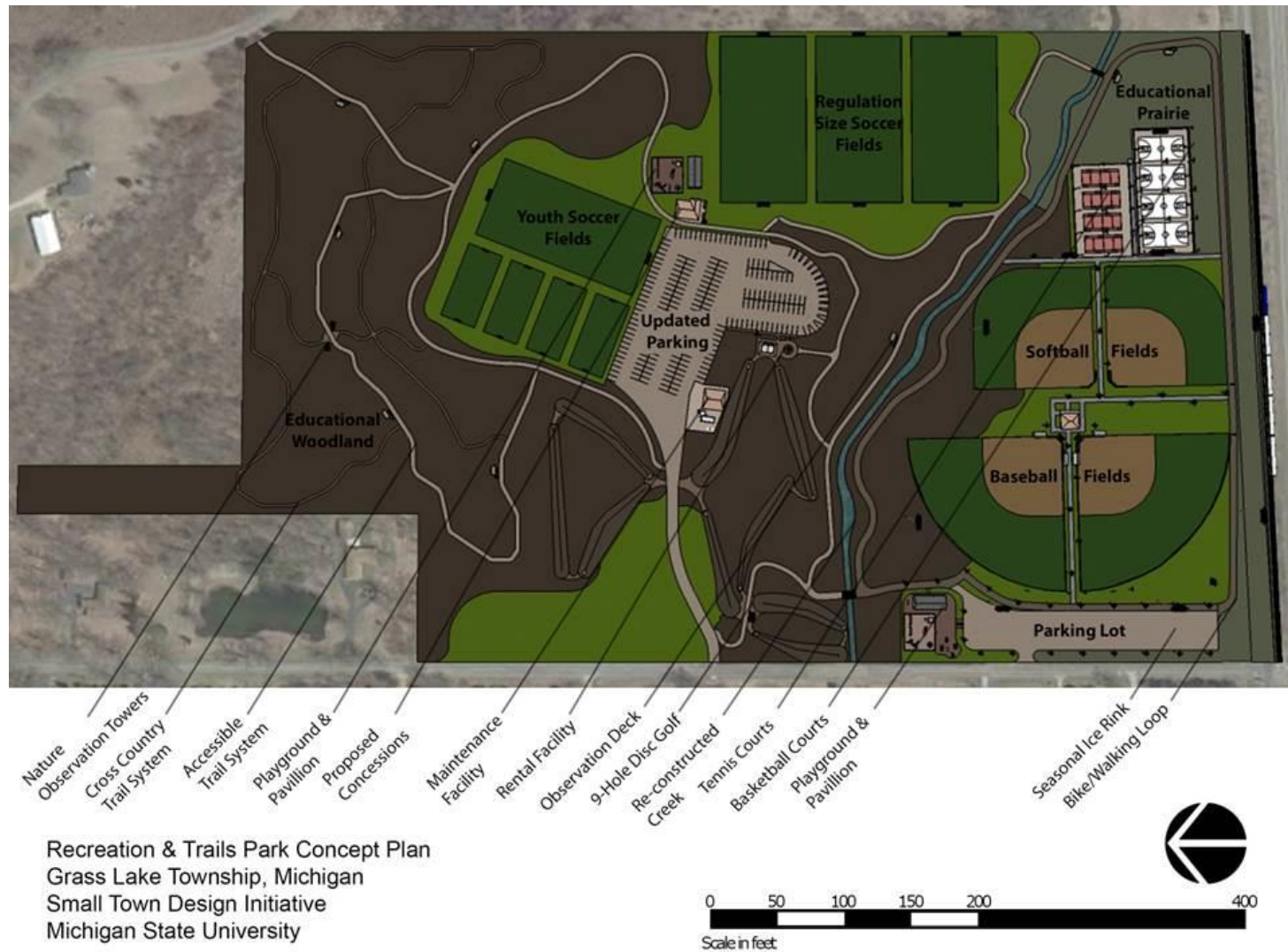
GRASS LAKE  
GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP  
MICHIGAN

Grass Lake Community Sports and Trails  
Recreation Park

SMALL TOWN DESIGN INITIATIVE

MSU



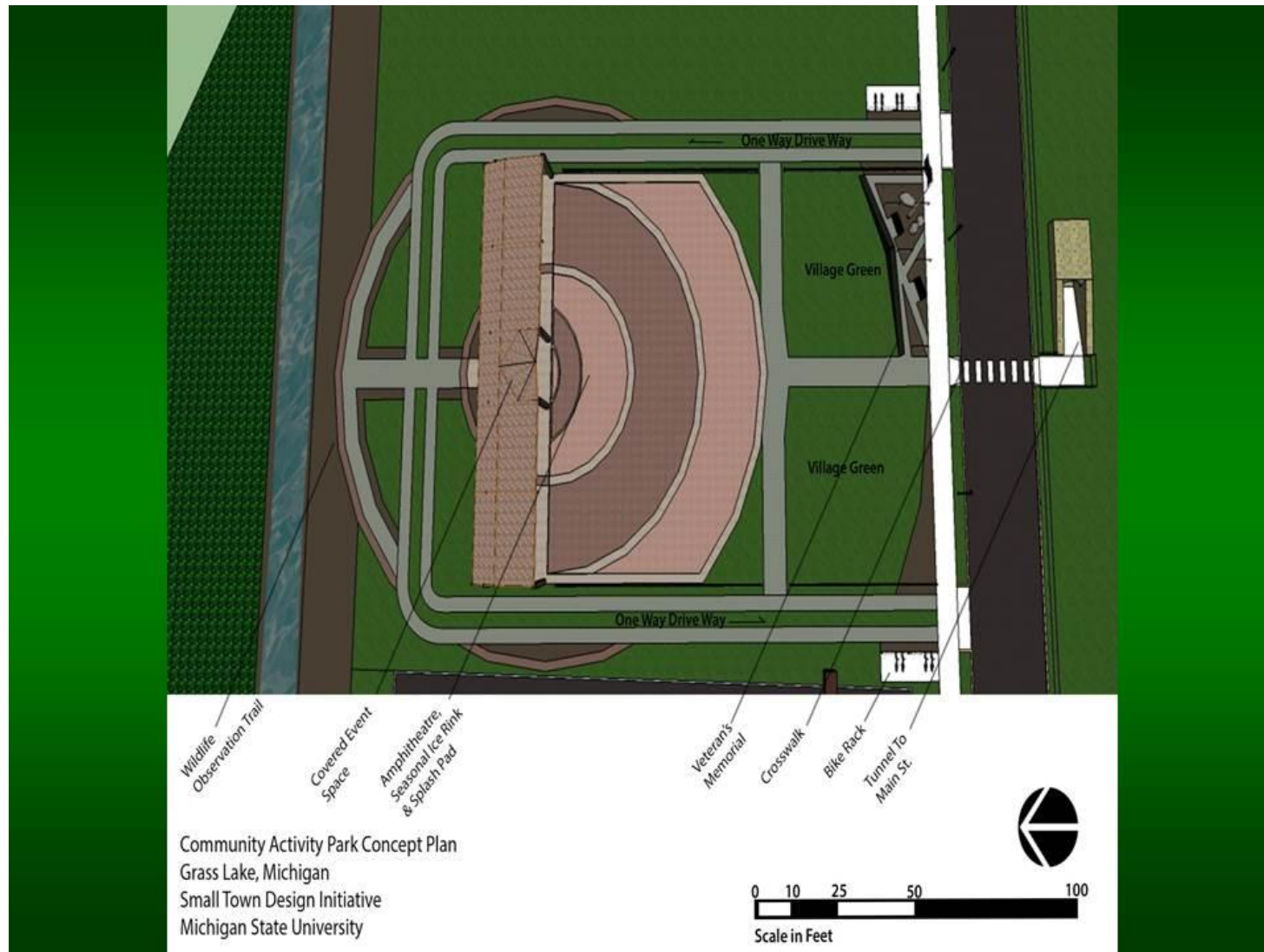


GRASS LAKE  
GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP  
MICHIGAN

Community Events Park

SMALL TOWN DESIGN INITIATIVE

MSU





Appendix F

**Grass Lake Area Wellness Survey**  
***Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative***

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

*2016-2020 edition*

Residents living in the geographic area of the Grass Lake School District (our community) are working with the Chelsea-Area Wellness Foundation (CWF) to make our community a healthier place to live and raise our children. The purpose of this survey is to get input from our community members regarding what they think about plans to improve health and increase wellness for all of us. The results of this survey will be used to determine what interventions would have the most positive impact for our community.

1. Your Gender:

■ Male = 31

■ Female = 86

2. Please enter your home zip code

■ 49240 = 100

■ 49203 = 3

■ 49259 = 1

■ 49201 = 11

■ 48118 = 2

■ 49202 = 1

3. Live in Village of Grass Lake?

43 of 103 surveyed

4. The Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative works for positive interventions regarding **moving more, eating better, avoiding unhealthy substances and connecting with others in a positive way**. Please rank which elements you would be most interested in receiving helpful information, 1 through 4, with 1 being the most important.

|                  | Female   |          |          |          | Male     |          |          |          | Combined |          |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                  | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Move More        | 35       | 16       | 11       | 5        | 12       | 8        | 3        | 5        | 17       | 4        | 0        | 0        |
| Eat Better       | 20       | 36       | 12       | 1        | 9        | 9        | 7        | 2        | 13       | 5        | 1        | 2        |
| Avoid Substances | 8        | 6        | 15       | 33       | 2        | 5        | 8        | 12       | 11       | 5        | 2        | 3        |
| Connect          | 7        | 7        | 26       | 24       | 5        | 3        | 9        | 9        | 6        | 9        | 5        | 1        |

5. Please rank the following four interventions by how you feel would most effectively prompt community members to **exercise more**. Mark each item 1 through 4, with 1 being the most important.

More regular exercise would be achieved by our community if we had the following:

- A. Developed and maintained sidewalks; make them ADA accessible
- B. Add biking routes and racks
- C. Enhance or add lighting & crosswalks for safe walking/riding routes
- D. Improvement of existing playgrounds & addition of equipment (benches, lighting, water fountains, etc.) @ local parks



|                 | Female   |          |          |          | Male     |          |          |          | Combined |          |          |          |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                 | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> |
| A – Developed   | 30       | 14       | 11       | 15       | 5        | 8        | 8        | 4        | 3        | 9        | 4        | 3        |
| B – Add         | 22       | 24       | 10       | 15       | 7        | 7        | 3        | 4        | 14       | 5        | 1        | 0        |
| C – Enhance     | 8        | 20       | 19       | 16       | 4        | 2        | 7        | 11       | 2        | 10       | 5        | 2        |
| D – Improvement | 11       | 15       | 19       | 18       | 10       | 2        | 6        | 5        | 4        | 11       | 2        | 3        |

- “Need signage for events”; “Improve Village/Twp. electronic signage, bulletin in town. All information should be displayed for more community involvement”.
- “Sponsor 5K walk/run w/ focal information on nutrition (spring/summer/fall).”
- “I would like to see funding for low income children to be able to participate in organized youth sports programs.”

6. We want our community to be a healthier place. Please let us know how many are in your household by age group:

|                 |                  |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Ages 0-11 = 116 | Ages 11- 18 = 51 | Ages 19- 29 = 33 | Ages 30-40 = 71 |
| Ages 41-50 = 64 | Ages 51-60 = 45  | Ages 61-70 = 18  | Age 70+ = 7     |

7. Following are some interventions that may move us to **eat more fruits and vegetables** every day. Mark the items in order of importance, 1 through 5, with 1 being the most important.

- A Initiate a community garden  
 B Make better use of our Farmer's Market  
 C Initiate nutritional labeling at area restaurants  
 D Educate consumers to the importance of eating fruits and vegetables  
 E Further promote where consumers can easily find fresh fruits and vegetables  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other? Please describe:

|              | Female   |          |          |          |          | Male     |          |          |          |          | Combined |          |          |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|              | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> |
| A – Initiate | 16       | 12       | 8        | 7        | 20       | 5        | 7        | 5        | 7        | 2        | 3        | 9        | 3        | 6        | 0        |
| B – Make     | 46       | 21       | 6        | 5        | 0        | 11       | 8        | 5        | 1        | 1        | 14       | 5        | 1        | 0        | 1        |
| C – Initiate | 5        | 8        | 16       | 17       | 25       | 2        | 3        | 5        | 4        | 13       | 1        | 2        | 8        | 4        | 6        |
| D – Educate  | 9        | 6        | 19       | 16       | 11       | 4        | 3        | 9        | 8        | 2        | 2        | 7        | 87       | 3        | 1        |
| E – Further  | 3        | 23       | 16       | 13       | 7        | 4        | 5        | 5        | 5        | 5        | 8        | 9        | 2        | 2        | 0        |

- “I am becoming a Peer Advocate in two months or less time (Recovery Technology)“,  
“They are all great ideas”
- “Encourage local restaurants to have healthy veg/fruit selections, entrees, etc.”
- “Come together for healthy eating community potluck once a month or every two months while at the same time having conversations about how to eat healthier as individuals, families and community as a whole.”

8. If we want to help community members **avoid unhealthy substances**, like tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and inappropriate use of prescription drugs, what are the most important interventions that could be put into place? Mark the items below in order of importance, 1 through 5, with 1 being the most important.

- A Easier access to drop-off points for safe disposal of unused prescription medication  
 B Sponsor AA, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anon and like support groups  
 C Provide more educational programs  
 D Sponsor more social activities that do not include unhealthy substances  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other? Please describe:

|             | Female   |          |          |          | Male     |          |          |          | Combined |          |          |          |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|             | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> |
| A – Easier  | 15       | 17       | 11       | 19       | 7        | 1        | 4        | 11       | 5        | 4        | 8        | 2        |
| B – Sponsor | 7        | 13       | 23       | 17       | 2        | 10       | 14       | 3        | 2        | 12       | 6        | 0        |
| C – Provide | 19       | 20       | 19       | 7        | 8        | 9        | 6        | 2        | 7        | 8        | 2        | 2        |
| D – Sponsor | 25       | 15       | 8        | 10       | 8        | 8        | 4        | 6        | 10       | 9        | 2        | 0        |

- “More teen recovery activities”, “Never a user or around users to know”, “More stuff to do in the village”, Like the Big Red Barrel program, “Get program in schools”. Grass Lake Community Pharmacy accepts most unused prescriptions plus DTC items at all times.”
- “Have teens come up with creative videos of what happens if you abuse certain substances like the “Do not text while driving” videos on TV.”

Thank you for participating in this survey. You can get involved with the Initiative by searching for **Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative** on the **world wide web**, or on **Facebook**. Or you can call 517-522-8464.

**If you are interested in receiving updates from the Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative** and/or would like to participate in improving our overall community wellness, please share the information below:

Name:

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E-Mail Address:

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Phone Number:

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