

# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ORION



Adopted  
February 18, 2014



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for the Township's parks, recreation and pathways. It provides the Township with a roadmap and a guide to develop the parks and recreation system through 2018 and beyond. It is intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to remain eligible for grant programs.

The Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It begins with a description of the **Planning Process** which was used to develop the plan.

The plan then presents a **Community Description**, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community. The Township **Administrative Structure** is next described, including information on budget and funding. A detailed **Inventory of Parks, Recreation and Pathways** follows this section and describes the existing recreational resources located in and around Orion. This phase involved a review of demographics and the planning context to provide a foundation for the planning process. Township parks and facilities were inventoried and mapped to document existing resources and begin to assess their conditions. The information is organized into those three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and parks, recreation and pathway inventory

The **Needs Assessment** section presents the basis for action including park land comparison, park condition, recreation trends, recreation program analysis and input received from Township officials, staff, Committee representatives and residents. This phase in the planning process consisted of an analysis of the Township's parks, pathways and recreation system to determine recreation deficiencies and needs. A number of community engagement efforts were initiated to solicit ideas and suggestions from the community about their recreation preferences. Public participation was sought through an online questionnaire and an online mapping survey. Input was also solicited from Township officials, staff and committee representatives. An outstanding level of involvement was achieved with more than 500 people participating in the recreation planning effort.

Once needs were identified, the final phase involved formulating **Goals and Objectives** and a financially realistic **Action Program**. The parks and recreation issues identified through the needs assessment phase resulted in the following major goals for the Township's future parks and recreation system:

- Goal 1:** Maintain and renovate existing park facilities to provide, clean, safe, attractive and functional environments.
- Goal 2:** Develop park facilities that respond to residents' recreation needs and are financially sustainable.
- Goal 3:** Continue to develop and maintain the Township-wide non-motorized transportation system.

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**Goal 4:** Maintain and enhance the quality of parks, recreation and senior programming and services.

**Goal 5:** Provide for sustainable parks, recreation and senior services with fiscally sound administrative and operational strategies.

Actions or projects were further developed to support the community's vision for parks and recreation and provide for park planning and development. Recommended projects were summarized in a capital improvement plan which used a unique prioritization process to establish priorities. The following criteria were used to weigh and prioritize projects:

- Whether projects were necessary to maintain existing facilities;
- Whether projects responded to the desires expressed by Township residents;
- Whether projects improved accessibility of all users and supported existing and desired activities;
- Whether projects can generate much needed revenues;
- Whether projects had potential available funds for their realization such as grants, donations or other sources of funding.

The Action Program outlined priorities, costs and a financing strategy for implementation.

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# INTRODUCTION

The Charter Township of Orion began updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2013 to identify the park, recreation and pathway needs of the community through the year 2018. This update builds on the ideas set forth in the previous plans, makes recommendations for meeting the community's future recreation needs and presents an implementation strategy for parks and recreation system improvement.

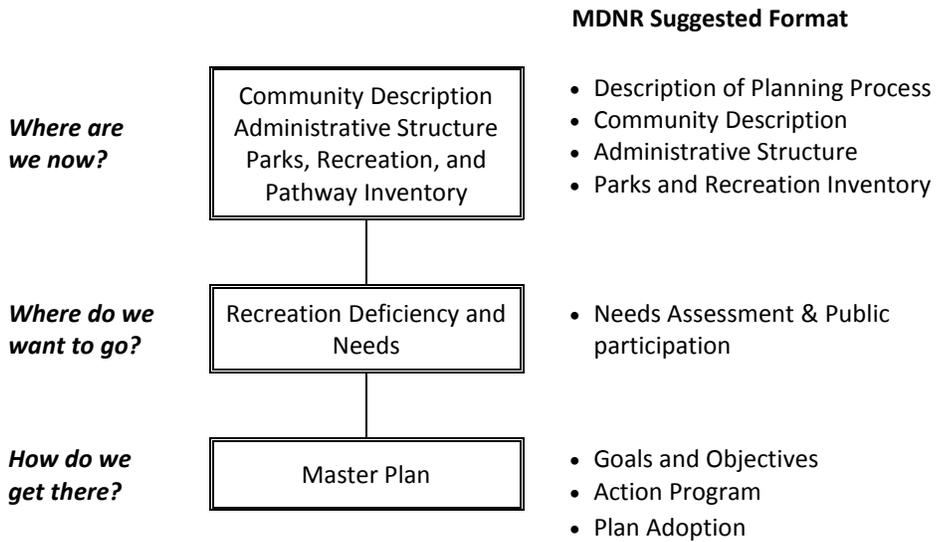
The Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for the Township's parks, recreation and pathways. It provides the Township with a roadmap and a guide to develop the parks and recreation system through 2018 and beyond. It is also intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to remain eligible for grant programs.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The process used to generate the plan consisted of three major phases which are described below.

1. **Where are we now?** This phase involved a review of demographics and the planning context to provide a foundation for the planning process. In this phase, Township parks and facilities were inventoried and mapped to document existing resources and begin to assess their conditions. The information is organized into three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and parks, recreation and pathway inventory.
2. **Where do we want to be?** The second phase in the planning process consisted of an analysis of the Township's parks, pathways and recreation system to determine recreation deficiencies and needs. A variety of public engagement efforts were initiated to solicit ideas and suggestions from the community about their recreation preferences. Public participation was sought through an online questionnaire and an online mapping survey. Input was also solicited from Township officials, staff and committee representatives.
3. **How do we get there?** Once needs were identified, the final phase involved developing plan elements to support the community's vision for parks and recreation and provide for park planning and development. Recommended projects were summarized in a capital improvement plan, accompanied by a financing strategy for implementation. This phase also included preparation of a full draft of the Plan, which was presented to Township staff and officials as well as the public for review and comment prior to adoption.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format.



### WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

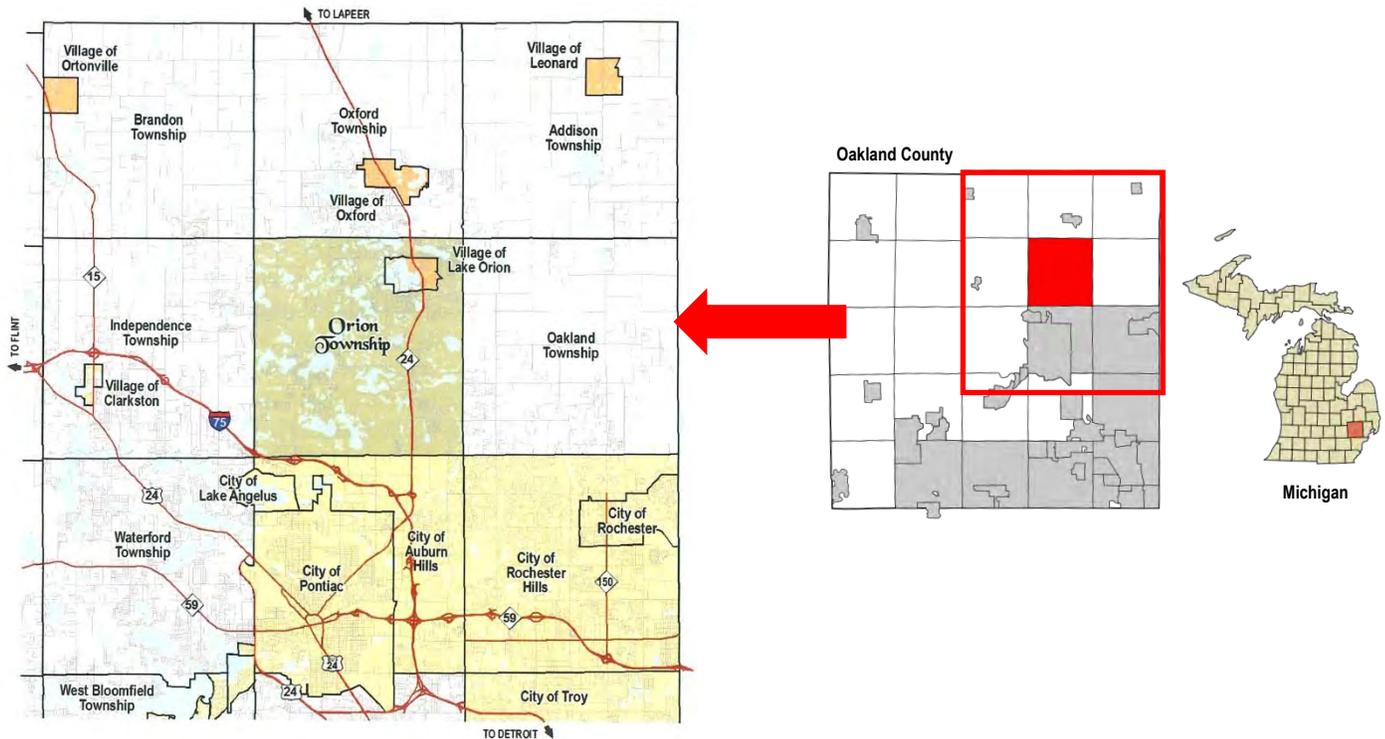
The Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* (2012). It begins with a description of the **Planning Process** which was used to develop the plan. The plan then presents a **Community Description**, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community. The Township **Administrative Structure** is next described, including information on budget and funding. A detailed **Inventory of Parks, Recreation and Pathways** follows this section and describes the existing recreational resources located in and around Orion. The **Needs Assessment** section presents the basis for action including park land comparison, park condition, recreation trends, recreation program analysis and input received from Township officials, staff, Committee representatives and residents, which helped in formulating the plan's **Goals and Objectives**. The **Action Program** then provides an action plan and strategies for implementation. Finally, the **Supporting Documents** include the resolutions and notices documenting the plan's adoption by the Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees.

# COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Located in northeast Oakland County, Orion Township is the planning area and jurisdiction covered by this plan. The Township is located along the northern edge of the Detroit metropolitan area. It is bordered by Independence Township to the west, Oxford Township to the north, Oakland Township to the east, and the Cities of Auburn Hills and Pontiac to the south. The Village of Lake Orion is situated in the northeast portion of the Township.

Lapeer Road (M-24), traveling north-south, is the main transportation artery in Orion Township. To the north, M-24 connects to the communities of Oxford and Lapeer. To the south, M-24 heads to Auburn Hills and connects with Interstate 75, the closest freeway to Orion Township. I-75 connects Orion Township to Downtown Detroit, approximately 35 miles to the southeast.

**Figure 1. Regional Context**



Source: Charter Township of Orion Parks and Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2008-2012

Oakland County is the second largest county in population in the State of Michigan. It is located in the north area of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) region. SEMCOG is the regional planning agency that conducts planning studies and maintains a comprehensive database of information about the following seven counties: St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Oakland, Wayne and Monroe. According to SEMCOG, the area which includes Orion Township is located in one of the fastest growing and more affluent areas of the region.

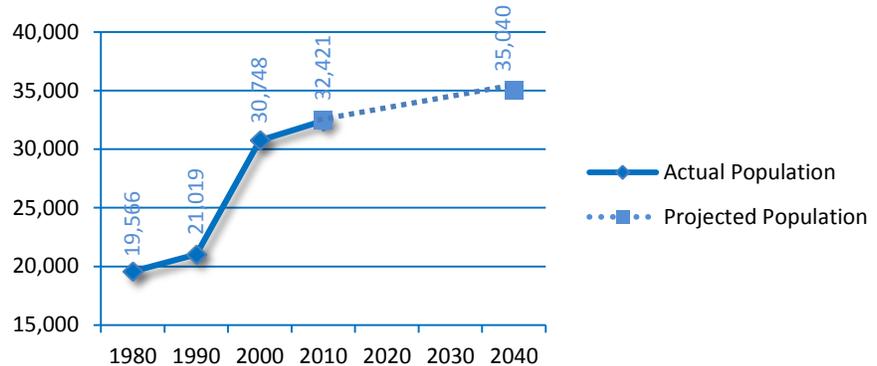
## POPULATION GROWTH AND CHARACTERISTICS

Orion's population characteristics can be summarized as follows:

- The Township was the thirteenth most populous community in Oakland County in 2010 with a population of 32,421.
- Since 2000, the population has increased 4.4% to total 33,529 in December 2012.
- Between 1990 and 2000 the number of households grew 50.7%, while the County only grew 14.8%. Between 2000 and 2010 the number of households continued to rise another 5.7%, while the County managed a 2.7% growth rate.
- The average household size remained constant at 2.77 between 2000 and 2010 as did the County's household size at 2.46.
- The median age of Orion Township residents is 38.4, while the County's median age is 40.2 years.
- Only 8.7% of Township residents are over 65 years old, which is below the County proportion of 13.2%.
- Households with seniors increased by 66% between 2000 and 2010 while households with children remain essentially the same. The County experienced a 20.9% increase in households with seniors and a 5.4% decrease in households with children.
- By 2040, the population is projected to be 35,040, an 8% increase from 2010.
- By 2040, the total numbers of households is projected to be 12,789, a 9.6% increase from 2010.
- By 2040, the average persons per household is projected to decrease to 2.73 persons, while the County is projected to decrease to 2.42 persons.
- By 2040, more than 20% of Orion Township population will be aged 65 or older.

The population of Orion Township has seen continued growth in the last 30 years, particularly between 1990 and 2000. SEMCOG estimates that 33,529 people lived in Orion Township at the end of 2012, and projects that 35,040 people will live in the Township in 2040. This represents a 66 percent growth between 1980 and 2010. In contrast, SEMCOG projects a population increase of only 8 percent between 2010 and 2040.

Figure 2. Population, 1980-2040



Orion Township had the following number of households since 1980:

- 6,674 in 1980,
- 7,331 in 1990,
- 11,048 in 2000, and
- 11,673 in 2010

SEMCOG estimates Orion Township had 12,077 households at the end of 2012. The number of households with children increased slightly from 4,778 in 2000 to 4,802 in 2010, reflecting a 0.5 percent increase, while the number of households with seniors increased significantly from 1,162 in 2000 to 1,929 in 2010, reflecting a 66 percent increase during the same period.

In summary, there has been a continued increase in population and households in the Township since 1980. Recent trends since 2000 indicate a leveling of the population and households, consistent with growth observed in Oakland County and in Southeast Michigan. Projections show that this trend will continue for both population and households, while household size will continue to decrease.

Table 1. Population and Households, 2000-2040

	2000 Census	2010 Census	SEMCOG Dec. 2012	SEMCOG 2040 Forecast
<b>Population</b>	<b>30,748</b>	<b>32,421</b>	<b>33,529</b>	<b>35,040</b>
<b>Households</b>	11,048	11,673	12,077	12,789
<b>Household Size</b>	2.77	2.77	2.76	2.73
<b>Households with Children</b>	4,778	4,802	n/a	n/a
<b>Households with Seniors</b>	1,162	1,929	n/a	n/a

n/a: not available

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile and U.S. Census Bureau

### Children and Seniors

Projections by SEMCOG indicate that by 2040, the number of children will decrease by 1,264, representing a 14 percent decrease from 2010 numbers. On the other hand, the number of people 65 years and older will increase by 4,497, representing a 160 percent increase from 2010. The population aged 35 to 59 is also projected to decrease by 18 percent between 2010 and 2040.

**Table 2. Age, 2010-2040**

	2010 Census	SEMCOG 2040 Forecast	Change 2010-2040
75+	1,046	3,737	2,691
65 - 74	1,766	3,572	1,806
60 - 64	1,626	1,774	148
35 - 59	13,195	10,883	-2,312
25 - 34	3,204	4,082	878
18 - 24	2,414	3,086	672
5 - 17	7,121	5,998	-1,123
0 - 4	2,049	1,908	-141

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile and U.S. Census Bureau

### Diversity

From 2000 to 2010, Orion became slightly more diverse with the white population decreasing from 93.6 to 89.3 percent of the total Township's population, while persons of other racial and ethnic origins increased. Blacks, Asians and other races make up 10.7 percent of the total population. Hispanics of any race comprise about four percent of the Township's population.

**Table 3. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2010**

	2010 Census	
White	28,942	89.3%
Black	870	2.7%
Asian	724	2.2%
Multi-Racial	448	1.4%
Other Race	108	0.3%
Persons of Hispanic Origin	1,329	4.1%

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile and U.S. Census Bureau

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### Education

Orion Township residents are well educated. According to the American Community Survey, 42 percent of the population above age 25 held a bachelor's or higher degree in 2010. This exceeds the SEMCOG area at 29 percent and is comparable to Oakland County at 42 percent.

### Income

The median household income in Orion Township was \$78,037 in 2010, down by 19 percent from 2000. The per capita income amounted to \$33,490, down by 16 percent from 2000. The American Community Survey reports an increase in the number of persons in poverty from 3 to 6 percent of the Township's population and an increase in the number of households in poverty from 2.9 to 5.6 percent.

### Employment

According to Census 2010, the strongest employment sectors in the Township in 2010 were retail trade, manufacturing, knowledge-based services, and services to households and firms. While a loss of employment in retail trade is projected, the sectors showing the most gain in the future include knowledge-based services, private education and healthcare, leisure and hospitality, and natural resources, mining and construction.

**Table 4. Employment by Industry, 2010-2040**

	2010 Census	2040 Forecast	Change 2010- 2040
<b>Natural Resources, Mining and Construction</b>	829	1,055	226
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1,431	1,527	96
<b>Wholesale Trade, Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b>	344	440	96
<b>Retail Trade</b>	1,722	1,483	-239
<b>Knowledge-based Services</b>	1,227	1,702	475
<b>Services to Households &amp; Firms</b>	1,181	1,269	88
<b>Private Education and Healthcare</b>	930	1,309	379
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	965	1,198	233
<b>Government</b>	838	922	84
<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>9,467</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>1,438</b>

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile

## HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Growth in the local housing stock continued to exceed population growth between 2000 and 2010, which corresponds with the decrease in household size. The number of housing units increased by 748 units, or 6.5 percent between 2000 and 2010, while the population has increased by 5.4 percent during the same period.

While single family homes are predominant at 78 percent, multi-unit apartments account for 13 percent of the housing stock. Based on building permits since 2010, both these types of housing have continued to increase.

**Table 5. Housing, 2000-2010**

	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change 2000-2010	New Units Permitted 2010-2013
<b>Single-Family Detached</b>	9,047	9,604	557	167
<b>Duplex</b>	38	35	-3	0
<b>Townhouse/Attached Condo</b>	530	772	242	0
<b>Multi-Unit Apartments</b>	1,448	1,588	140	77
<b>Manufactured Houses</b>	456	268	-188	0
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>11,519</b>	<b>12,267</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>244</b>

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile and U.S. Census Bureau

While renter-occupied units have increased between 2000 and 2010, most housing units in Orion, 78 percent, are still owner-occupied compared with 17 percent units renter-occupied. Seven percent of units were vacant in 2010, an increase of almost 80 percent from the 2000 number.

**Table 6. Housing Tenure, 2000-2010**

	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change 2000-2010
<b>Owner Occupied Units</b>	9,314	9,592	278
<b>Renter Occupied Units</b>	1,734	2,081	347
<b>Vacant Units</b>	469	842	373
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>11,517</b>	<b>12,515</b>	<b>998</b>

Source: SEMCOG Community Profile and Five-year American Community Survey

According to the American Community Survey, the Township's median housing value in 2010 was \$218,900, representing a decrease of \$34,960 from 2000 to 2010. Similarly, the median gross rent was \$834 in 2010, representing a \$146 decrease from the 2000 number.

## LAND USE PATTERNS AND DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Orion has experienced significant changes over the past decades which can be summarized as follows:

- Between 1998 and 2008, over 4,500 acres of vacant land has been lost to a combination of residential, commercial, and industrial developments.
- Housing development over the years has spread from the Village of Lake Orion and Gingellville to the periphery of the Township, as new roads were constructed or improved. Since 1990, the Township has experienced a 41% increase in residential land use.
- In 1979, there were 4,962 acres of land in agricultural use; in 1989, only 650 acres were still being farmed, while current data indicate that all farmlands remain fallow or on the verge of transition.
- Orion Township is on the northern fringe of a major concentration of economic activity centered near the 1-75/M-59 interchange and is influenced by the growth of the Oakland County's "Automation Alley."
- Office uses are primarily located along the three main north/south road corridors within the Township (Lapeer, Joslyn, and Baldwin Roads), with the largest concentration along Lapeer Road.
- The largest concentrations of commercial uses are in proximity to residential developments along the Lapeer and Baldwin road corridors.
- Industrial growth has concentrated in the southern portions of the Township.
- A large amount of land, approximately 24%, is devoted to recreation and conservation. This includes the state-owned Bald Mountain State Recreation Area and Orion Oaks County Park.
- According to SEMCOG, Orion's land dedicated to parks, recreation and open space is much greater than adjacent Townships including Independence Township (9%), Oxford Township (9%), and Oakland Township (19%).

Prior to 1950, development in Orion was concentrated around the Village or in the Township's southwest portion. The Village of Lake Orion served as the center of commerce and government activity for residents living on nearby lakes and farms. The lakes were an attraction and densely developed cottage subdivisions developed around them. Many of these cottages have been converted into permanent residences over the years. On the west side, a small settlement known as Gingellville, consisting of a few homes and businesses, was developed in the vicinity of Baldwin and Gregory Roads.

Scattered residential development occurred around Tommy's Lake and at the Township's northwest side. Scattered industrial uses formed along the Township's southern border, along Clarkston Road at the railroad tracks and in the northwest area along Indianwood Road.

Agriculture was, at one time, one of the most predominant land uses. As recently as 1979, the Oakland County Planning Division recorded agricultural use on about 22 percent of all land. Most agriculture has now ceased in Orion Township. Empty barns and silos remain on scattered sites throughout the Township as reminders of the Township's history.

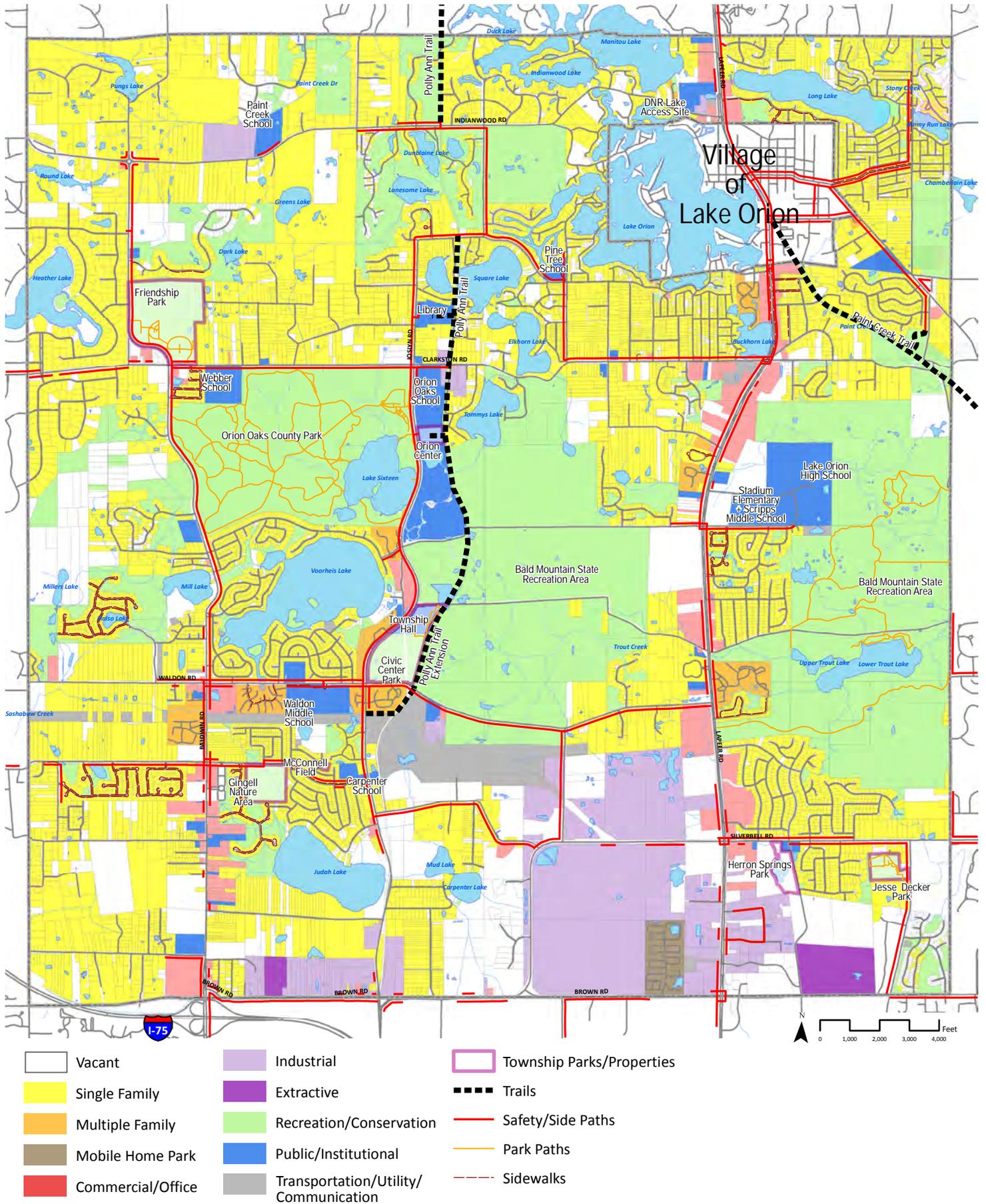
Other large portions of the Township are heavily wooded or wetlands, providing an ideal habitat for wildlife. These large expanses of unspoiled lands help to impart the rural image that residents consider so appealing. Over 5,200 acres of land are now protected within the Orion Oaks County Park and Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. The Township's park system also adds additional recreational lands.

**Table 7. 2008 Land Use**

	Acres	Percent
<b>Vacant</b>	2,659	12.05%
<b>Single-family Residential</b>	7,653	34.69%
<b>Multiple-family Residential</b>	266	1.21%
<b>Mobile Home Park</b>	72	0.33%
<b>Commercial/office</b>	536	2.43%
<b>Industrial</b>	1,308	5.93%
<b>Public/Institutional</b>	609	2.76%
<b>Recreation &amp; Conservation</b>	5,383	24.40%
<b>Transportation, Communication and Utility</b>	345	1.56%
<b>Water</b>	1,698	7.70%
<b>Road &amp; Railroad ROW</b>	1,530	6.94%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>22,059</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Oakland County Data

**Figure 3. Existing Land Use**



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## NATURAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES

*The Township's natural features can be described as follows:*

- *The Township has a vast natural resource system of lakes, wetlands, woodlands, rolling hills, and open spaces, the majority of which are contained within State and County lands.*
- *The greatest slopes exist adjacent to several residential developments in the northern and eastern portions of the Township. The industrial developments (extraction uses) around the Brown Road area also exhibits significant topographic relief.*
- *Some of the soils found within the Township are problematic for development, including limitations for septic systems and susceptibility to wetness and flooding.*
- *The Township contains numerous wetlands, mostly adjacent to lakes and streams, all of which play an important role in the control of water quality, storm water management, and the provision for critical wildlife habitat.*
- *As the Township continues to grow, woodlands are being lost to development. While many wooded areas are associated with wetlands, woodlands located outside of the State and County park system are in jeopardy.*

The natural features of Orion Township have played a major role in influencing growth and development. Like much of Michigan's southern Lower Peninsula, the Township's landscape was formed through glacial action. The movement of the glaciers shaped the topography and created many different types of soils. Plant communities, in turn, developed in response to soil conditions.

### *Geology, Topography and Soils*

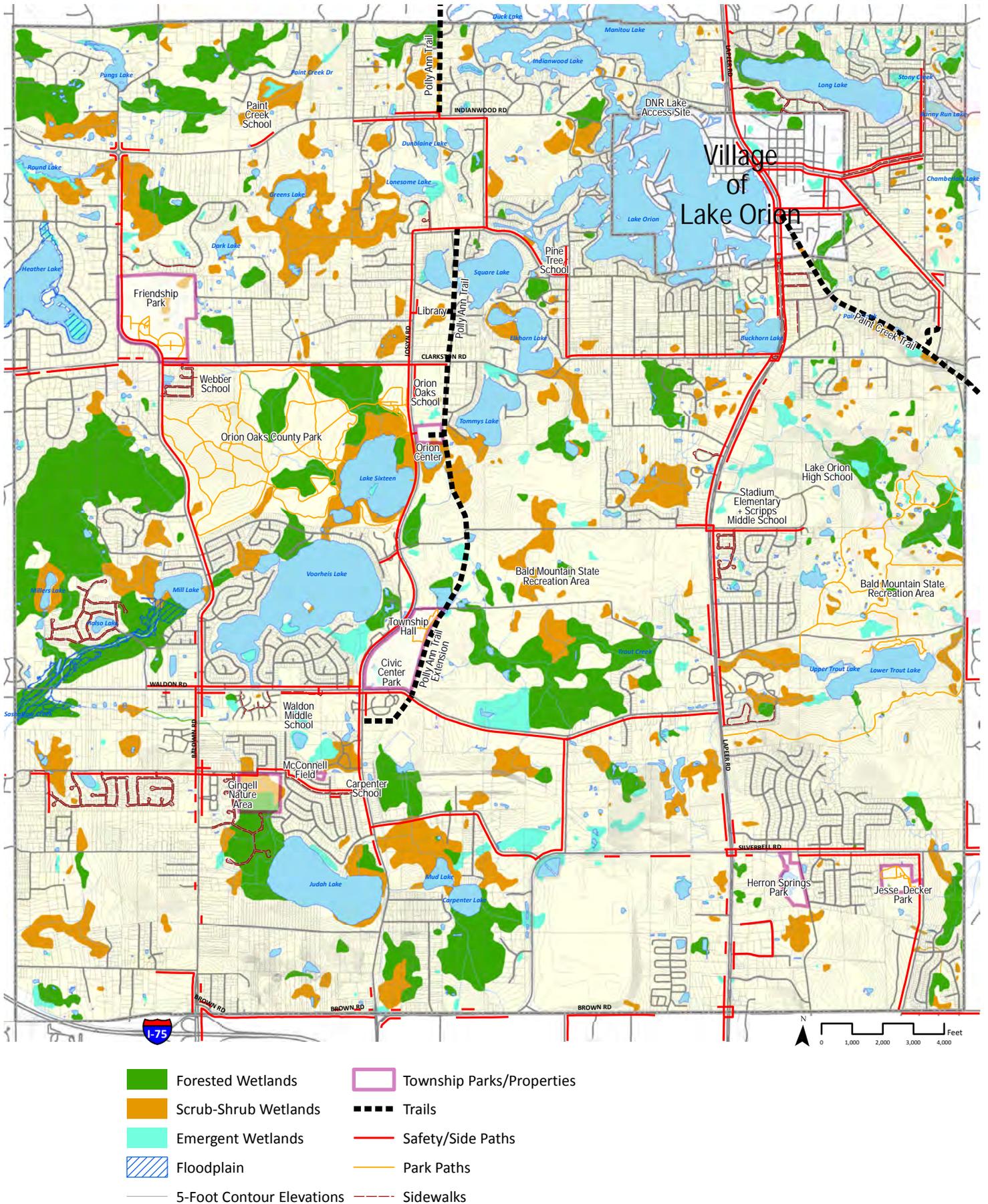
Orion Township's basic topography is made up of gentle, rolling hills. The average elevation is approximately 1,000 feet above sea level. The Township has bedrock formations of limestone, shale, sandstone, a clay subordinate, and surface formations of sand and gravel. The sand and gravel were deposited by running waters from melting glaciers.

Figure 4 shows areas of the Township where steep slopes are prevalent. Slopes exceeding eight percent gradient are located immediately north of the Hi-Hill Subdivision, on the east side of M-24 north of Silverbell Road. The sloping land on the east side of Lapeer Road extends northward to Clarkston Road. Near Clarkston and Kern Roads, there exists a wooded area with steep banks down to Paint Creek. Much of the sloping land on the east side of Lapeer Road lies within the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.

Another general area of steeply sloping land is in the northwest part of the Township, particularly around the Baldwin and Clarkston Roads intersection. The view from Baldwin Road at certain points is striking, with folds and cuts in hills accented by large tree stands which frame views of more distant hills. Steep slopes are also prevalent in the southwest part of the Township near Gregory and Judah Roads. The hills along Judah and Joslyn Roads provide a particularly scenic view of Lake Judah.

According to the Soil Survey of Oakland County, compiled by the Soil Conservation Service, the Township is made up of three general soil categories. The first category covers the western two-thirds of the Township. It is called the Oshtemo-Spinks-Houghton soil series. The Oshtemo-Spinks soils are nearly level to steep, well drained and sandy, which makes them suitable for development. The pockets of Houghton soils are found in depressions and in association with streams and lakes. They are very poorly drained and mucky soils. The second largest soil category is called the Riddles-Marlette-Houghton soil series. The Riddles-Marlette soils are nearly level to steep well drained to moderately well drained and loamy. These soils are suitable for development; however the higher water content of the Marlette soils is a limitation for buildings with basements and septic fields. This soil series is found in the eastern third of the Township. The last major soil category is called Urban Land-Spinks-Oshtemo, and is found around Lake Orion and in the very southwest corner of the Township. These soils are highly disturbed, urban soils on nearly level to rolling hills, generally well drained and sandy. They are also suitable to further development.

Figure 4. Natural Features



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### *Water Resources*

Over the years, the prime residential developments in Orion Township have been built around the Township's many lakes. Most residents appreciate the recreation and scenic value of the lakes. However, the lakes represent only one component of the community's extensive, inter-connected water system that also includes streams, creeks, wetlands and floodplains. The Township is part of the Clinton River watershed, which drains to the Clinton River and ultimately into Lake St. Clair.



Lower Trout Lake

Orion Township contains approximately 500 acres of emergent wetlands, over 2,000 acres of forested wetlands and almost 1,500 acres of scrub-shrub wetlands, for a total of 17 percent of the Township's land area. As shown on Figure 4, most of these wetlands are adjacent to lakes or streams. Large wetland areas are found west of Baldwin Road between Waldon and Clarkston Roads, surrounding Judah, Mud and Carpenter Lakes in the southern portion of the Township, along both sides of Indianwood Road in the northwest portion of the Township and between Waldon and Greenshield Roads in the central portion of the Township.

Generally, floodplains are associated with Sashabaw Creek, on the west side of the Township (Figure 4). They are designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with the 100-year floodplain generally recognized as unsuitable for development and fill activities.

### *Woodlands*

Tree stands and woodlands are another important natural feature of Orion. Figure 4 identifies significant tree stands, consisting predominately of hardwoods, evergreens, or lowland brush. Many of the significant tree stands are found in combination with other natural features, such as wetlands or steep slopes. For example, 50 percent of the Township's wetlands are wooded. The Bald Mountain State Recreation Area and Orion Oaks County Park contain hundreds of acres of heavily wooded land. The Township's designated Natural Beauty Roads, Clarkston Road east of M-24, Greenshield Road, Nakomis Road and Kern Road on the east side of the Township also provide important tree stands.

### *Cultural and Scenic Resources*

Based on a Reconnaissance Survey of Historic Architectural Resources conducted by The Mannik and Smith Group in 2006, there are 27 properties in the Township that meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

There are significant examples of many architectural styles such as Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic, Queen Anne, French Second Empire, Bungalow and others. Also, there are some good examples of carriage houses, barns and other outbuildings from throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

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## PLANNING INITIATIVES

While change is inevitable and growth will occur, Orion Township is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities and overall quality of life for all residents. A number of planning initiatives related to parks, the environment, as well as pathway planning and development took place in the region and in Orion Township.

### Natural Resources Planning

#### *2004 Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas*

In 2004, staff from the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services worked with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) staff to identify potential conservation areas within the County. MNFI maintains a continuously updated information base of Michigan's plants and animal species, natural communities and other natural features that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern. The study led to the identification of high, medium and low priority sites worthy of preservation (Figure 5).

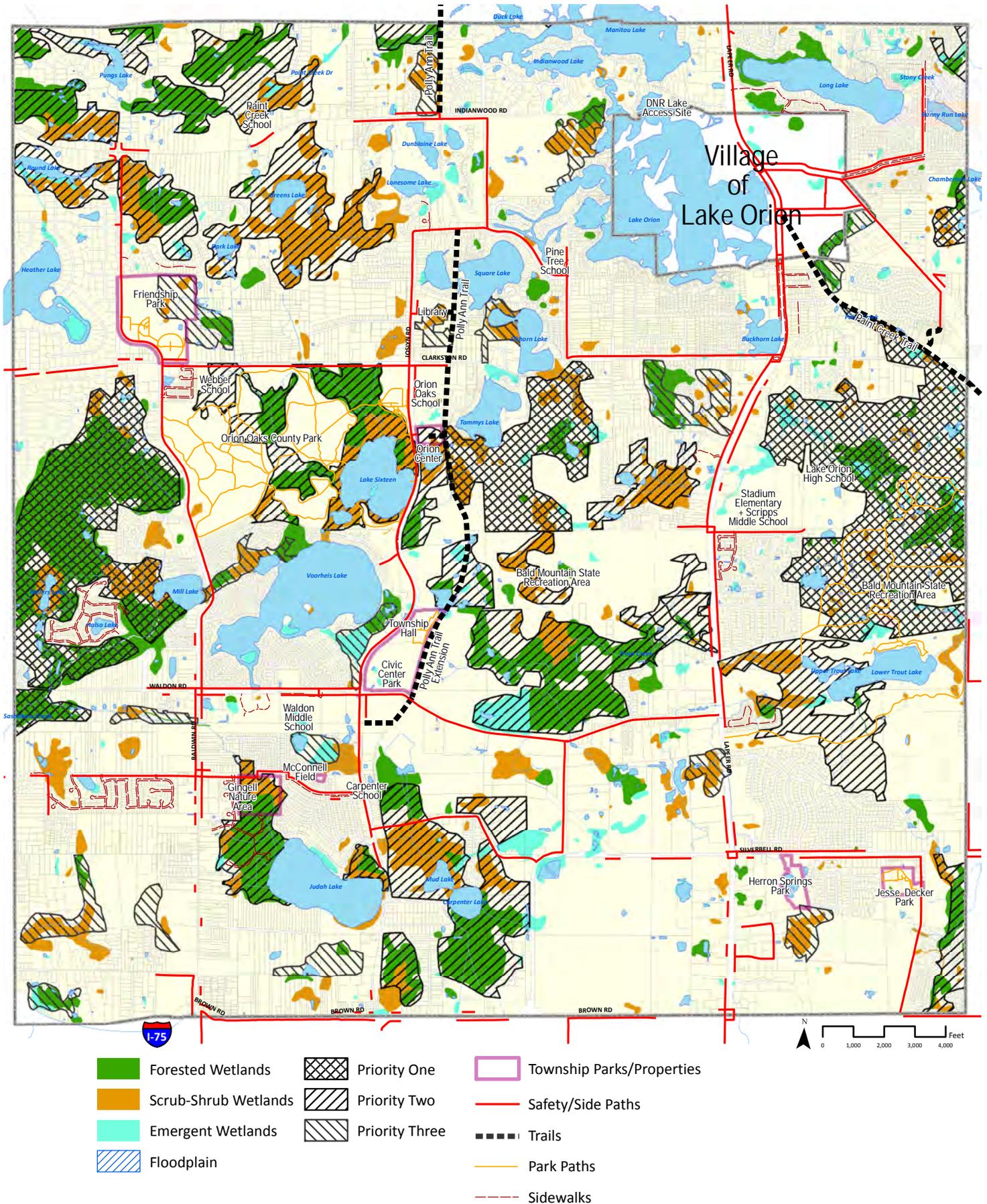
Based upon this study, Orion Township has five priority one or highest ranked, sites and numerous priority two and three sites. Three of the five highest priority sites are located within lands already preserved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The priority one sites west of Baldwin Road between Clarkston and Maybee Roads are located in close proximity to several developed areas. Portions of this area may be lost to development, but the preservation of the remaining areas and their associated links to other natural ecosystems may be desirable for protection and recreation through acquisition or other means.

#### *2005 Orion Township Green Infrastructure Mapping*

Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services facilitated a workshop with Orion Township officials in 2005 to identify a green infrastructure network for the Township. The object of the exercise was to pinpoint an interconnected network of wetlands, woodlands, greenways, parks, natural areas and other open spaces that would support wildlife habitat, maintain natural ecological processes and contribute to the health and quality of life of Township residents.

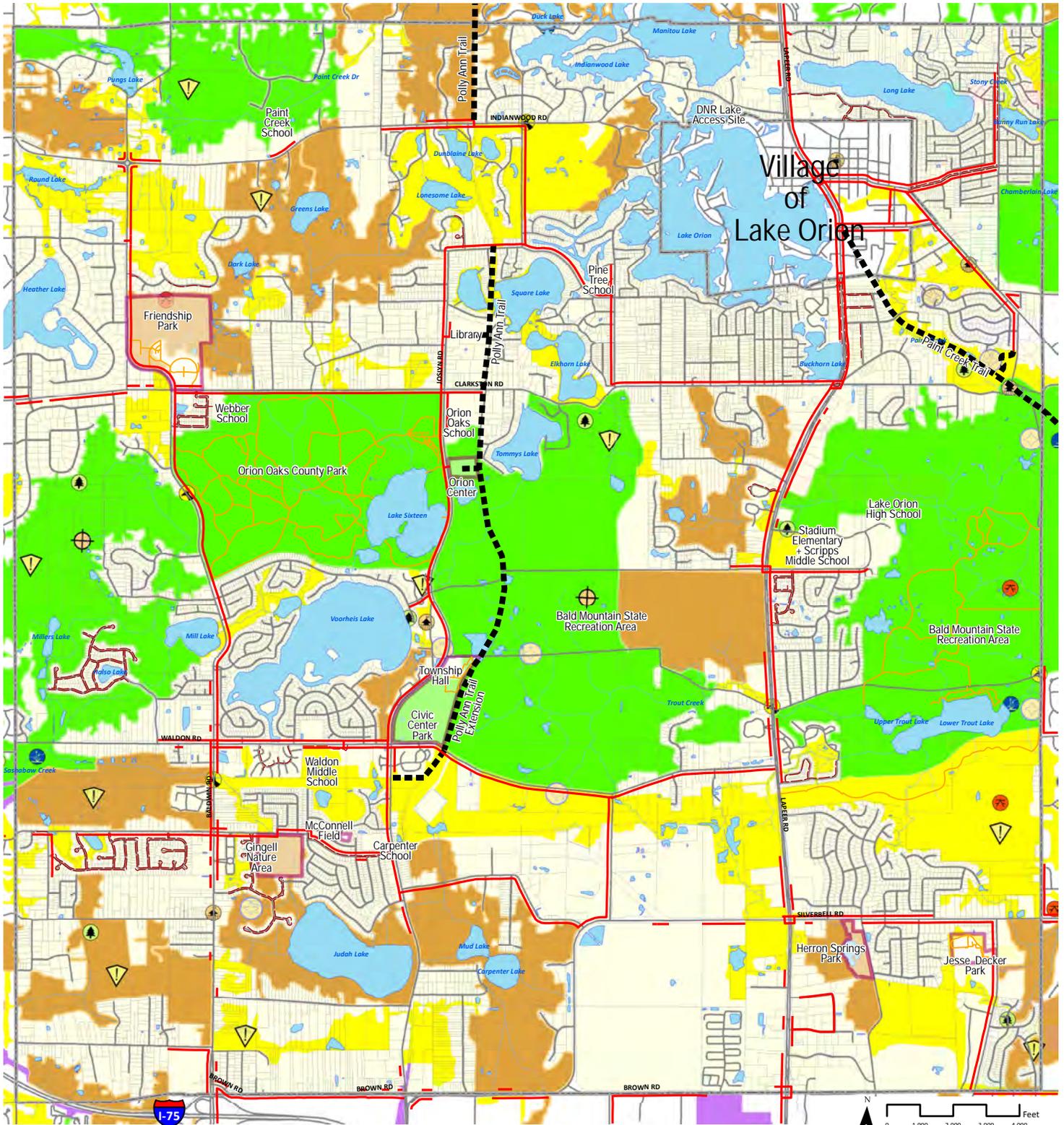
As shown on Figure 6, areas of Orion Township designated as anchors, or hubs, for this network include Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, Orion Oaks County Park, Mill Lake and Paint Creek. The remainder is comprised of various sites and links that connect the hubs with the smaller, yet environmentally significant, lands. Other green infrastructure elements include the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails, which are classified as recreation links. In addition, nine acquisition targets are shown, as well as five potential conservation easements, several wildlife crossings, a riparian corridor, two priority Road-bounded areas and one priority water body. The latter priority locations were identified because they face significant development pressure.

Figure 5. Priority Conservation Areas



Source: Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Report, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, MDNR + MSU

Figure 6. Green Infrastructure



- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #00FF00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Hub                    |  |  |  |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #A52A2A; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Site                   |  |  |  |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FFFF00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Link                   |  |  |  |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #800080; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Other Restoration Link |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |

Source: Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision, Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

## Trail and Pathway Planning

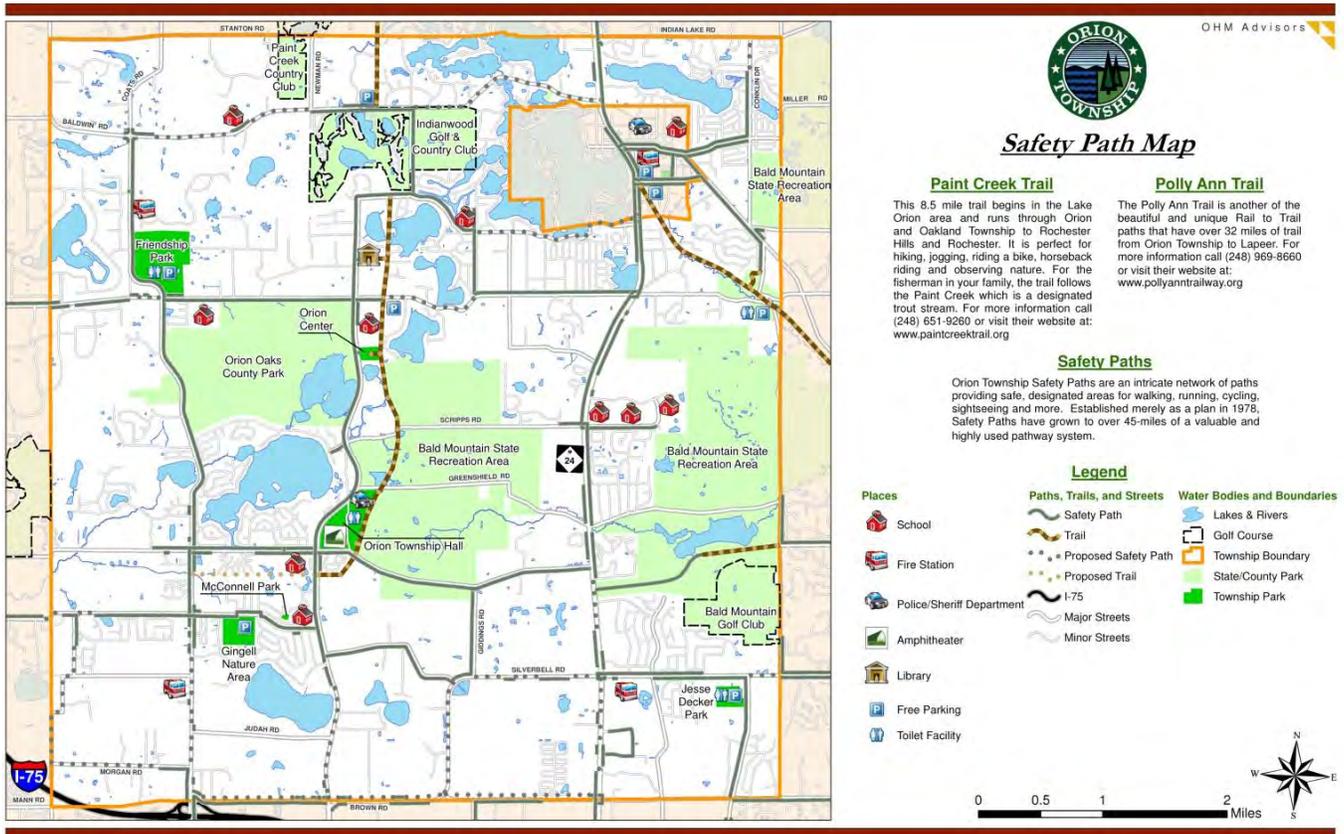
A vast network of safety or roadside paths is found throughout Orion Township. The network includes more than 45 miles of pathways. The Township also includes portions of two regional trails including the Paint Creek Trail, Polly Ann Trail and the Polly Ann Trail Extension. Expansive trail networks are also found within Orion Oaks County Park and Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.

### Orion Township Safety Paths

Over the last 30 years, the Township has been extremely successful in establishing safety/roadside paths along most of its major roads. In 1988 and again in 1998 and 2008, Orion voters approved a one-quarter mil safety path levy. The millage is for the continued funding of the maintenance and construction of the Township's safety paths.

The system is both developer and Township driven. Developers are, on one hand, required to provide safety paths in conjunction with all new construction in accordance with the Township Safety Path Plan (Figure 7). On the other hand, the Township builds safety paths where conflicts are prevalent, where access to key destinations is important, such as schools and community facilities and where there are gaps.

Figure 7. Safety Path Map

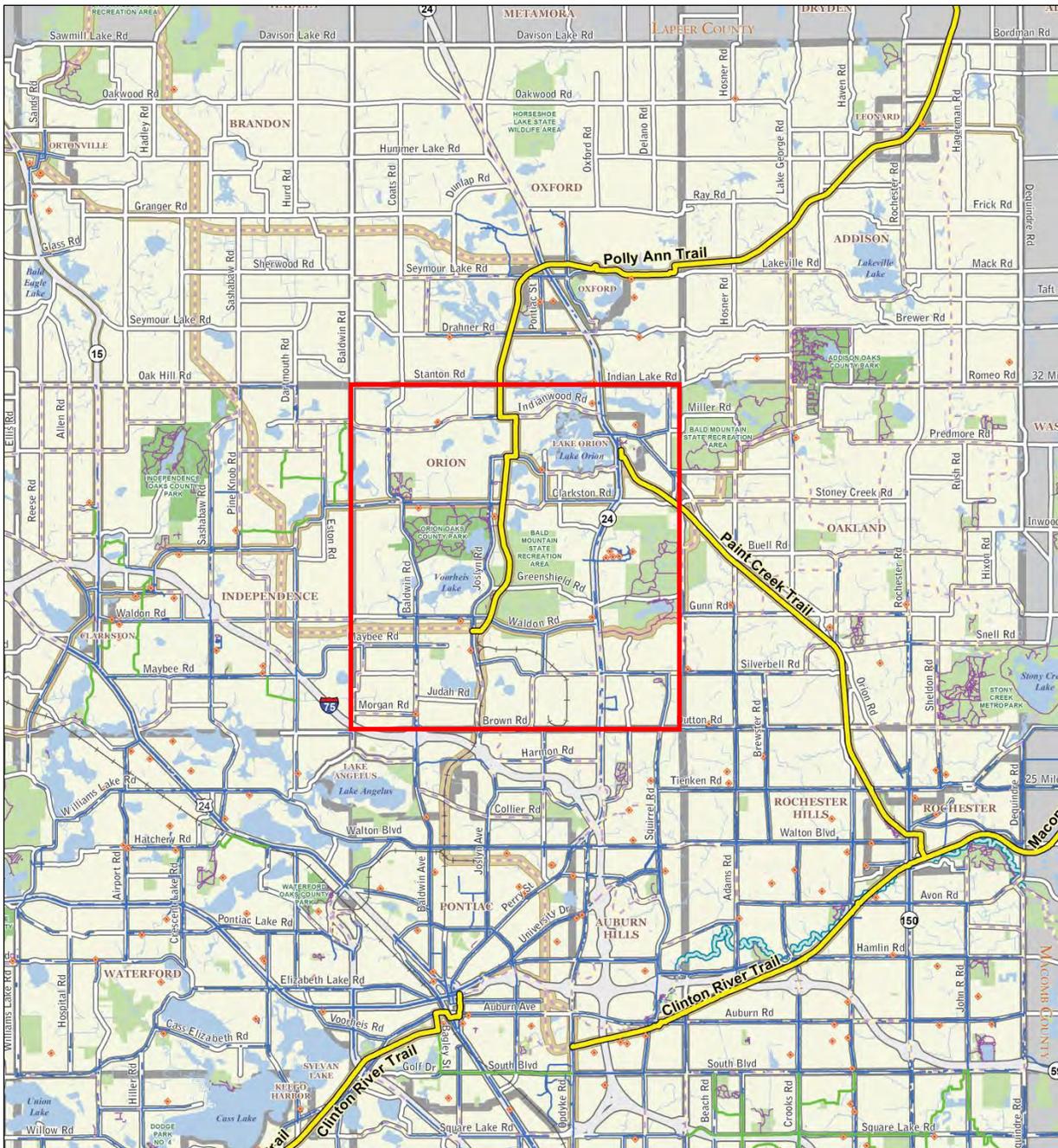


Source: Orion Township

## Regional Trail Vision

Orion Township's system of non-motorized paths and trails is part of a larger, regional non-motorized system for Oakland County and the larger Southeastern Michigan Region. A number of governmental and non-governmental agencies such as Oakland County, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, SEMCOG and the Michigan Trail and Greenway Alliance have conducted studies and developed visions for future non-motorized systems with the goal of interconnecting existing trails, paths and greenways and expanding the regional system. The latest regional vision is illustrated in Figure 8 below.

**Figure 8. 2012 Oak Routes**



Source: Oakland County Parks



# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

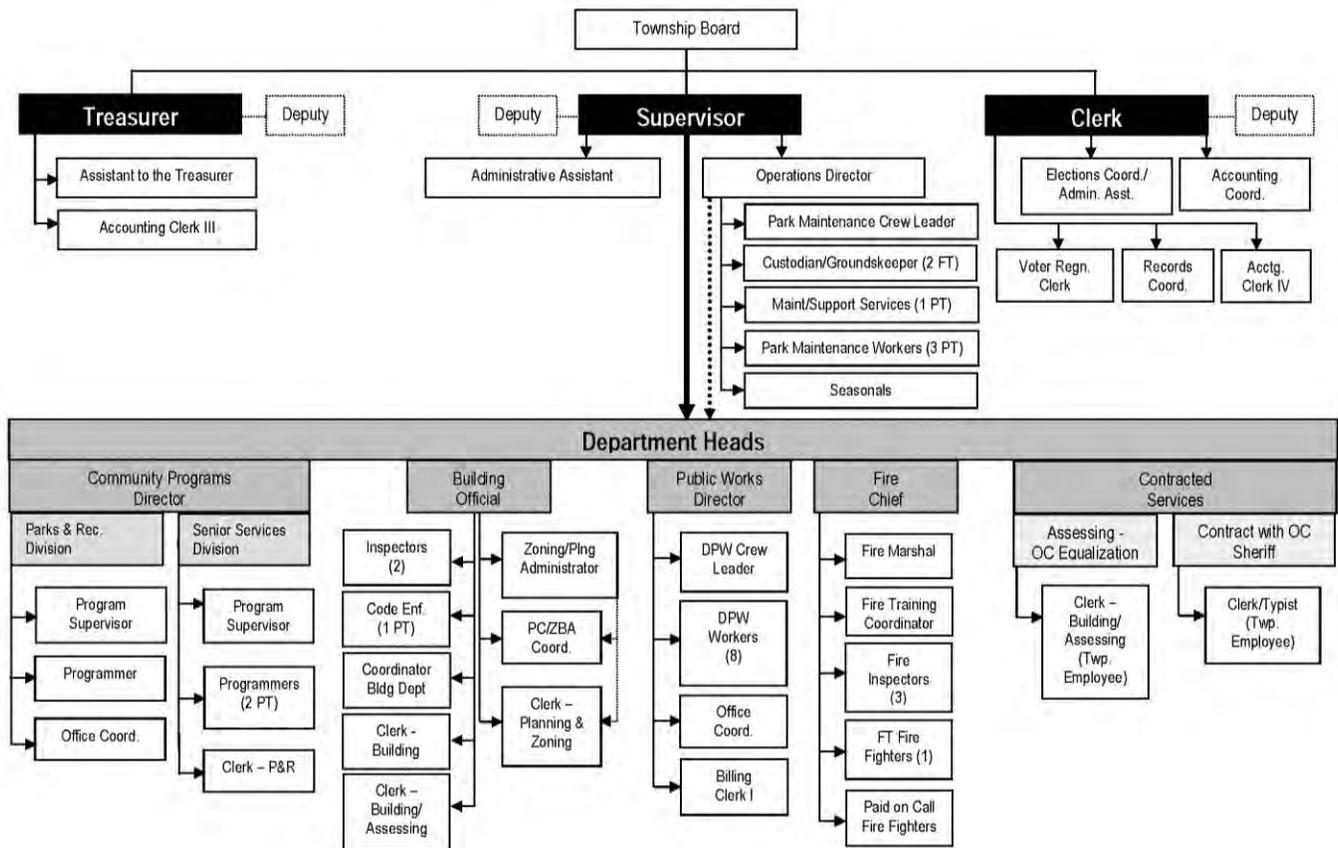
Since 2012, management and planning for parks and recreation in Orion Township are primarily completed by the Community Programs Department which combines both Parks and Recreation and Senior Services. Figure 9 depicts the organizational structure of the Township and how these divisions fit into the overall governmental structure.

The Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Safety Path Advisory Committee are responsible for advising on parks, paths and recreation policies, projects and programs. In addition, the Senior Advisory Council at the Orion Center is composed of both Township staff and others and provides input to the Senior Services staff and Township. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was formally established under Michigan Public Act 156 of 1917. The primary responsibilities of this group of officials are to plan and recommend improvements to current park and recreation facilities and to advise on the development of recreation programs.

The mission of Orion Township Parks and Recreation is:

*To maintain a strong community by creating and preserving attractive, safe environments that provide opportunities of lifelong activities that promote the wellbeing of all individuals and families.*

**Figure 9. Charter Township of Orion Organizational Chart**



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## ADMINISTRATION

The director of the Community Programs Department is responsible to the Township Supervisor and the Township Board of Trustees. The Director oversees a variety of activities including:

- Coordination and development of park facilities and recreation programs,
- Budget and payroll,
- Personnel hiring, training and assigning,
- Park policy,
- Recreation and athletic programs and leagues,
- Publicity and advertising, and
- Supplies and park equipment purchases.

The Director is aided by five full-time and two part-time staff, including a program supervisor, a recreation programmer and an office coordinator in the Parks and Recreation Division, and a program supervisor, two part-time programmers and a clerk in the Senior Services Division.

The Operations Director, directly under the Township Supervisor, handles maintenance of the parks and building grounds and assists in construction and park improvement projects. The Operations Department includes a park maintenance crew leader, two custodians/groundskeepers, a part-time maintenance/support service staff and three part-time maintenance workers. In addition seasonal employees are hired every summer.



## FUNDING AND BUDGET

Funding for parks and recreation activities in Orion Township is generally supported by the Township's General Fund, user fees and grants. It is distributed into several funds: Community Programs, which combines both Senior Activities and Parks and Recreation, as well as Buildings and Grounds.

In addition, there is a Safety Paths Fund and a General Capital Improvement Fund. These funds are supported by the Township General Fund and by a voter-approved safety paths millage. Originally approved in 1988, the quarter mill safety path tax was re-approved by voters in 1998 and in 2008 to continue for another 10 years, until 2018.

A budget summary showing the various funds that support parks and recreation activities in Orion Township from 2008 to 2013 is presented in Table 8.

Personnel salaries and benefits account for the majority of departmental expenditures. Community Programs revenues come from program fees, league participation charges and athletic field and pavilion rentals.

**Table 8. Orion Township Budget Summary**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Expenses</b>						
Senior Activities	\$283,103	\$269,267	\$249,715	\$261,869	0	0
Parks and Recreation	\$934,525	\$792,702	\$740,257	\$833,836	0	0
Community Programs	0	0	0	0	\$622,572	\$732,100
Buildings and Grounds	\$382,434	\$350,627	\$251,302	\$224,130	\$739,446	\$858,000
Safety Paths	\$172,178	\$229,180	\$472,835	\$275,387	\$478,442	\$1,636,830
General Capital Improvement Fund	\$102,419	\$410,311	\$1,544,707	\$3,393,170	\$254,500	\$1,408,000
<b>Revenues</b>						
Senior Activities	\$81,777	\$54,627	\$60,934	\$31,227	0	0
Parks and Recreation	\$187,365	\$172,720	\$156,019	\$217,124	0	0
Community Programs	0	0	0	0	\$209,314	\$211,950
Safety Paths	\$516,645	\$456,674	\$456,583	\$513,430	\$356,454	\$329,105
General Capital Improvement Fund	\$2,940	\$167,269	\$3,808,301	\$412,728	\$233,095	\$1,533,000

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## VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers, service clubs, community groups, governmental agencies and private businesses play an active role in supporting the high quality facilities and services provided by Orion Township. The Community Programs Department works on a cooperative basis with other Orion Township departments as well as other local, county, regional and state agencies.

The Community Programs Department coordinates programming with the Village of Lake Orion, the Lake Orion Community School District and Oakland County Parks. The Department also coordinates programs with several publicly and privately-owned facilities in and around Orion Township such as Mulberry Hills and Beaver Creek Golf course, Great Lakes Athletic Club, Times Square Riding Academy, Palace of Auburn Hills, Meadowbrook Theater and others. These organizations own and maintain various recreational facilities that are used by the Orion Township Community Programs Department and community residents.

Other organizations run various athletic recreation programs independently from the Township. Some of them use the facilities owned by the Township, however, they are responsible for all expenses related to the programs. The sport organizations that are available to community residents include: Lake Orion Dragons Youth Football, Lake Orion Liquid Lightning Swim Team, Lake Orion Youth Baseball League, Lake Orion Girls' Softball League, Orion Chargers Baseball Club, Lake Orion Men's Softball League, Alliance Gold Soccer Club, Orion Oxford Soccer League, St. Joseph Baseball & Softball, Michigan Youth Flag Football and Cheerleading, Lake Orion Youth Wrestling Club and the Horseshoe Club.

Service clubs and community groups also play a significant role in providing additional volunteer labor and financial support for park facilities and programs. Some of these groups include:

- American Legion - Post #233,
- Kiwanis Club of Oxford/Orion,
- Orion/Oxford Optimist Club,
- Lake Orion Lions Club,
- Boy Scouts of America,
- Lake Orion Girl Scouts,
- Friends of the Orion Township Library,
- Orion Art Center,
- Orion Area Chamber of Commerce, and
- Friends of Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.

The Community Programs Department actively collaborates with area organizations, non-profits and other governmental programs at local, county, state and national levels. The Orion Interagency Council meets six to eight times a year with over 25 educational, recreational and human service organizations. This group jointly plans and coordinates community events,

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activities, programs and classes with a goal to not duplicate services. It also collaborates on creating a community calendar.

The CO3 Committee: Collaboration, Coordination and Cooperation, meets four to six times a year and is hosted by Orion Township Community Programs. This group is made up of 18 to 20 local community programmers from local, county and state parks, art centers, trail directors, library, Downtown Development Authority staff and local agencies. It also works on coordination and non-duplication of programs and events, community calendars collaboration and collaboration on grants and activities.

The Community Programs Department plans an annual Pastors Brunch with area churches, an annual Volunteer Recognition, and sponsors and holds two annual expos – the Growing Green and Recycling Expo and the Senior Caregiver Expo – both held in the spring.

The Community Programs Department is a member of several professional organizations including Michigan Parks and Recreation Association and the Michigan Association of Senior Centers Staff and programs are working on organizational and professional certification programs in both organizations.



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# PARKS, RECREATION AND PATHWAYS

Orion Township contains a variety of public parks, trails and safety paths which allow residents and visitors to engage in various recreational pursuits, such as walking or biking on trails, playing or watching sports, attending community events and enjoying the outdoors. This section describes the recreational resources that provide these recreation experiences. The information was derived from a variety of sources including documents and web pages of the related agencies or organizations, as well as field observations.

## RECREATION FACILITIES

Orion Township provides community parks that focus on meeting the recreation needs of the community. In addition to the Township park facilities and properties, there are school, adjacent community, private and regional facilities offering recreation opportunities to Orion Township's residents. Figure 10, on the next page, depicts the location of the parks and recreational resources contained within Orion Township.

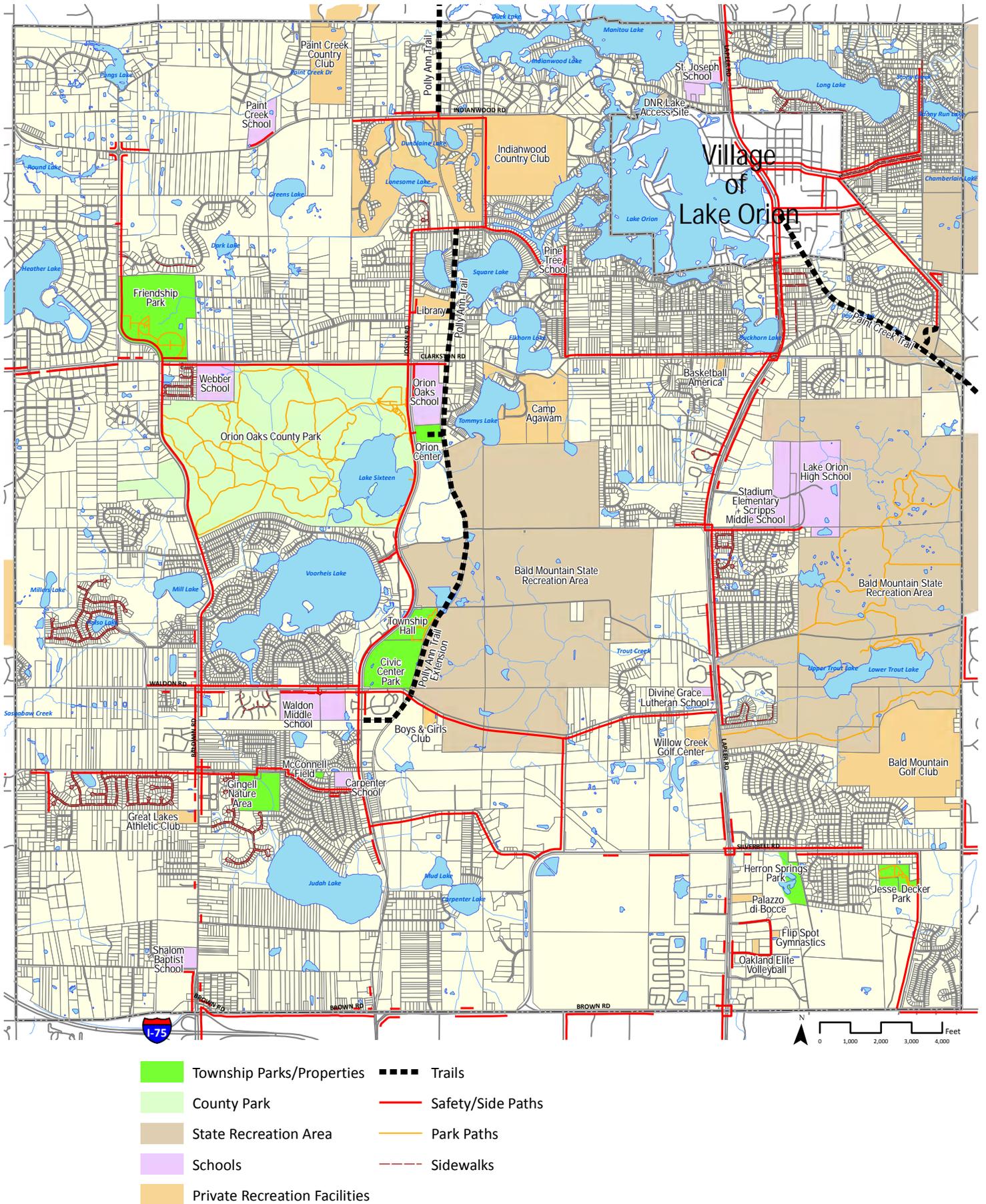
### Local Recreational Facilities

The Township owns and operates eight municipal parks and properties that total 243 acres of Township-owned developed park land and properties and 77 acres of undeveloped park land. They include Civic Center Park, Friendship Park, Jesse Decker Park, McConnell Field, Gingell Nature Area the Orion Center, and the recently acquired Herron Springs park property. In addition, the Township owns and manages over 45 miles of safety paths and its share or approximately 5 miles of trails including the Paint Creek Trail, the Polly Ann Trail and the Polly Ann Trail Extension.



Friendship Park Gazebo

**Figure 10. Parks and Community Facilities**



## Civic Center Park

Civic Center Park is a 78.86-acre community park located on Joslyn Road north of Waldon Road with access from both roadways. Because of its central location adjacent to the Township's municipal offices, the park is heavily used by Township residents. It incorporates the following facilities:

- 3 lighted baseball fields (regulation size),
- 7 soccer fields,
- 2 basketball courts,
- 1 volleyball court,
- 2 shuffleboard courts,
- Sheardy Pavilion (60 people at tables) with attached restrooms,
- 1 play structure,
- Limestone surface park trails,
- Wildwood Amphitheater,
- Access to the Polly Ann Trail,
- Parking areas.



### **Friendship Park**

With 134.97 acres of land, Friendship Park is the largest Township-owned property. It is located at the intersection of Baldwin and Clarkston Roads with access from Clarkston Road. This community park is also heavily used by Township residents. The park's building houses summer camps, preschool classes, yoga, tai chi and safety classes. The park incorporates the following facilities:



- 4 baseball fields (regulation size),
- 4 soccer fields and 4 practice soccer fields,
- 1 play structure (to be installed in 2013),
- Picnic shelter (40 people at tables),
- Park building with restrooms (indoor and outdoor access), indoor multi-purpose meeting room, small kitchen (45 people at tables or 75 seats) and covered outdoor portion (75 people at tables),
- Wedding gazebo/shelter (100 people in area),
- Historic Howarth Schoolhouse and Porritt Barn,
- Pond,
- Limestone surface park trails, and
- Parking areas.



## *Jesse Decker Park*

With 24.65 acres of land, Jesse Decker Park is the newest Orion Township community park constructed in 2009. It is located in the southeast corner of the Township on Squirrel Road south of Silverbell Road. About 8 acres of land, purchased at a later date, remain undeveloped. The park includes the following facilities:

- 1 baseball field,
- 1 football field,
- 2 tennis courts,
- 1 play structure and play equipment,
- Sledding hill,
- Picnic shelter (40 people at tables),
- Asphalt and limestone surface park trails,
- Heron Springs nature area,
- Parking area, and
- Portable restrooms.





### ***McConnell Field***

McConnell Field is a 1.30-acre Township property located in a residential neighborhood north of Maybee Road in the southwest portion of the Township. The property includes an informal fenced in ball field used and maintained by the Lake Orion Youth Baseball League.



### ***Gingell Nature Area***

This property includes 38.90 acres of upland forests and wetlands located on Maybee Road in the southwest portion of the Township. There is currently no developed public access to the property.



### ***Orion Center***

The Orion Center was built on Joslyn Road in 2011 on an 11.06-acre property. It incorporates a variety of indoor recreation facilities that are available for parties, weddings, meetings and other events. Although largely undeveloped, the property is contiguous and provides access to the Polly Ann Trail. Facilities include:

- Large parking area,
- Small parking area by Polly Ann Trail,
- Outdoor patio,
- 3 large contiguous meeting rooms (up to 200 guests),
- Large kitchen,
- Multi-purpose room (30-40 people),
- Game room (30-40 people),
- Orion Room (12 people),
- Community Programs Department administrative offices,
- Senior fitness room,
- Yoga room, and
- Arts and crafts room.



### ***Herron Springs Park Property***

This recently acquired property includes 30.16 acres of land and is located in proximity to Silverbell Road and Bald Mountain Road in the southeast corner of the Township. There is currently no developed public access to the property.

## Paths and Trails

As discussed previously, Orion Township owns and operates an extensive system of safety/side paths along its major road corridors. There is currently a continuous and interconnected paved pathway system along portions of Silverbell, Maybee, Waldon, Clarkston, Baldwin and Indianwood Roads. This system connects parks, schools and many of the major community facilities.



Family Bicycling

In addition, the Polly Ann Trail and Polly Ann Trail Extension, built for the most part on a former railroad bed, run north-south through the center of the Township. The Polly Ann Trail runs for a total of 14.2 miles in Oakland County from Scripps Road in Orion north through Oxford Township and the Village of Lake Orion. It continues north for an additional 20 miles in Lapeer County. A trail extension of 1.11 miles was added south from Scripps to Waldon Roads and connects to Joslyn Road through a utility corridor easement. A total of 3.57 miles of the Polly Ann Trail are located in Orion Township.



Polly Ann Trail

While the Trail is owned and managed by the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council (with membership from Orion Township as well as the other communities), the extension is owned and maintained solely by Orion Township. The Polly Ann Trail and Extension connect many of the Township's major community facilities: Orion Oaks School, the Orion Township Public Library, Orion Center, Township Hall and Civic Center Park. In addition, it is adjacent to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area and in close proximity to Orion Oaks County Park.

The 8.9-mile Paint Creek Trail begins in the Village of Lake Orion and runs southeast through the Townships of Orion and Oakland to Rochester Hills and Rochester. It follows Paint Creek and is of limestone surface. A total of 1.58 miles of the trail is located within Orion Township. The trail is owned and managed by the Paint Creek Trailway Commission with membership from Orion Township and the other communities.



Paint Creek Trail

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## Village, School and Private Recreation Facilities

In addition to the Township facilities, there are school, village and private parks and recreation facilities located in Orion Township. These facilities are shown on Figure 10 and are briefly described as follows.

### School Facilities

The Lake Orion Community Schools operate nine schools within Orion Township as well as the Community Education Resource Center. These school facilities play a major role in the provision of recreation opportunities in the Township and are listed below.



- Carpenter Elementary, located at the intersection of Joslyn and Flintridge Roads, comprises 11.6 acres of land with a ball field, soccer field, four basketball hoops, play structures and equipment, walking track and an indoor gymnasium.
- Orion Oaks Elementary, located at the intersection of Joslyn and Clarkston Roads, includes 43.66 acres of land and features three ball fields, five soccer fields, four basketball hoops, play structure and equipment, picnic tables and an indoor gymnasium.
- Paint Creek Elementary, located on Indianwood Road in the northeast portion of the Township, contains 26.37 acres of land and offers a ball field, soccer field, four basketball hoops, play structures and equipment, walking trails and an indoor gymnasium.
- Pine Tree Elementary, on Pinetree Road includes 10.18 acres with a ball field, two small soccer fields, two basketball courts and play structures and areas.
- Webber Elementary, located on Clarkston Road, contains 36.22 acres with a soccer field, four basketball hoops, play structures and equipment, the Moose Tree Nature Preserve and an indoor nature center and gymnasium.
- Waldon Middle School, located on Waldon Road west of Joslyn Road, includes 50 acres with a football field, three ball fields, four soccer fields, two basketball hoops, running track and an indoor gymnasium.
- Lake Orion High School, Scripps Middle School, Stadium Drive Elementary and the Community Education Resource Center are all located on a 172-acre campus on Scripps Road, east of Lapeer Road. Stadium Drive Elementary includes three basketball hoops, play structures and equipment and an indoor gymnasium. Scripps Middle School incorporates a football field, soccer field and an indoor gymnasium. Other facilities consist of a football stadium (Dragon Stadium), five ball fields, soccer fields, eight tennis courts, volleyball courts, running track, concessions, outdoor restrooms, a high ropes course and an indoor gymnasium and natatorium. The Community Education Resource Center is an indoor facility that is used for a variety of educational activities and hosts the majority of the recreation programs and classes offered by the school district.



### *Village of Lake Orion*

The Village of Lake Orion occupies the northeast portion of Orion Township and maintains six parks totaling about 10 acres of park land: Atwater, Children's, Green's, Meek's, Swiss Village and Unger Parks as well as the Orion Art Center. They include ball fields, basketball, a beach, horseshoe area, a gazebo, picnic areas, playgrounds and park pathways.



### *Private Recreation Facilities*

There are a number of private recreation facilities in Orion. Although they do not provide public access, they are important in providing recreation opportunities to Township residents. Some of these facilities are listed below.

- Bald Mountain Golf Course, an 18-hole golf course located on Kern Road in the southeastern corner of the Township, occupies 211 acres of land and features a clubhouse.
- Camp Agawam, owned by the Boy Scouts of America, is located on Clarkston Road. The 100-acre property is heavily wooded and fronts Tommy's Lake. While the camp closed in 2012, it features three lodges, a picnic pavilion, campsites, a beach, archery range and a high ropes course.
- The Great Lakes Athletic Club is located on Baldwin Road, south of Maybee Road. It sits on a 13.35 acre property and includes an outdoor pool and water slide. Indoor facilities include a pool, three racquetball courts, two basketball courts, a rock wall, three fitness studios and an indoor track.
- Indianwood Golf and Country Club is located on Indianwood Road on a 395-acre property which features an 18-hole golf course, as well as a historic castle-like club house, a banquet center and outdoor pool.
- Mulligan's Golf Center is a large golf driving range facility with a miniature golf course located on Joslyn Road just south of Township limits in Auburn Hills.
- Paint Creek Country Club is located on Stanton Road in the north portion of the Township. It features an 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and banquet center, outdoor pool and tennis courts.
- Palazzo di Bocce is an indoor bocce ball facility and restaurant on Lapeer Road and includes several bocce ball courts.
- Willow Creek Golf Center is located on Lapeer Road on a 21.54-acre property which includes a golf driving range, miniature golf course and two soccer fields.



Many other open spaces and recreation facilities are also offered in some of the Township's residential developments. Rolling Meadows, Marina Pointe, Bunny Run Country Club, the Hills at Indianwood and many other residential developments include private parks and common open spaces which offer pools, beaches, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic areas and additional recreation amenities.

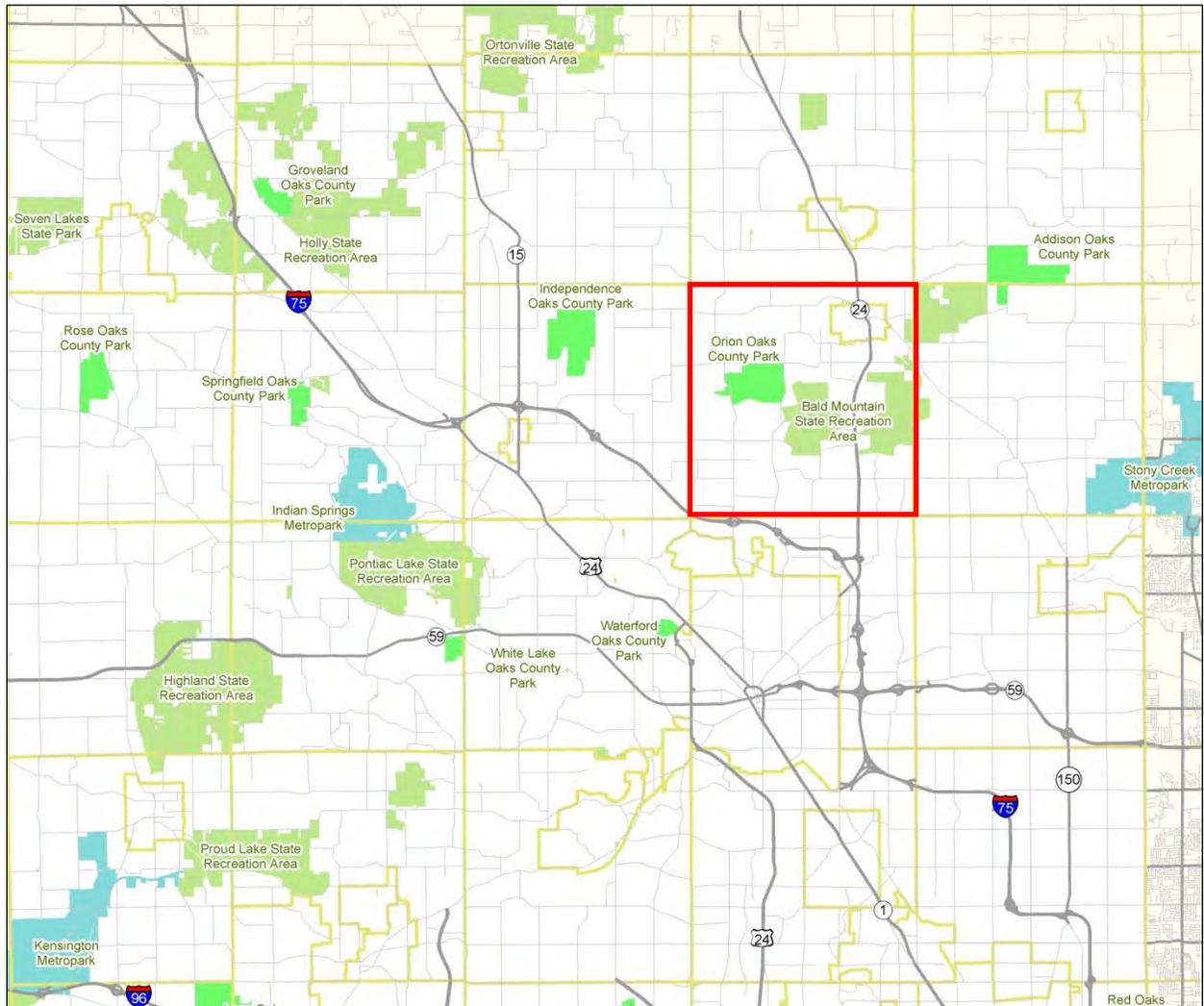
## Regional Recreational Facilities

There are about 3,770 acres of park land owned by Oakland County and the State of Michigan in Orion Township. These parks and natural areas are considered regional recreational facilities.

In addition, there are over 30,000 acres of state-owned parks and recreation areas, 13,700 acres of Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) metroparks and over 17,000 acres of county-owned parks and recreation areas in adjacent communities.

These regional facilities incorporate large areas and provide recreation opportunities such as swimming, boating, hiking, hunting, camping and golfing, which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Figure 11 depicts the location of the regional parks around Orion Township and Table 9 lists the recreational activities they offer. A detailed description of the state and county-owned parks located within Orion Township follows.

**Figure 11. Regional Recreation Facilities around Orion**



Source: Oakland County Parks

Table 9. Regional Parks

		State Recreation Areas						HCMA Metroparks				Oakland County Parks						
		Bald Mountain Rec Area - 4,637 Ac.	Highland Rec Area - 5,903 Acres	Holly Rec Area - 7,817 Acres	Ortonville Rec Area - 5,400 Acres	Pontiac Rec Area - 3,745 Acres	Proud Lake Rec Area - 4,700 Acres	Seven Lakes State Park - 1,434 Ac.	Indian Springs Metropark - 2,215 Ac	Kensington Metropark - 4,486 Acres	Stony Creek Metropark - 4,461 Ac.	Wolcott Mill Metropark - 2,625 Ac.	Addison Oaks - 1,140 Acres	Groveland Oaks - 362 Acres	Independence Oaks - 1,276 Acres	Orion Oaks - 916 Acres	Springfield Oaks - 332 Acres	Waterford Oaks - 185 Acres
Passive	Picnicking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Playground	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Trails	Nature/Hiking Trail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Paved Trail	●							●	●	●		●	●	●		●	
	Mountain Biking Trail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●				●			
	Equestrian Trail		●		●	●	●		●		●							
	Cross-country skiing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		
	Snowmobiling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●										
Water Activities	Swimming Beach	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●	●			
	Swimming Pool																●	
	Water Park/Splash Pad/Slide							●	●				●				●	
	Boat Launch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●				
	Boat Rental			●			●	●		●		●	●	●	●			
	Canoeing/Kayaking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
	Shore/Boat Fishing	●	●	●		●	●		●				●	●	●			
Dock Fishing	●	●	●		●				●				●	●				
Winter & Seasonal Activities	Ice Fishing	●	●	●		●						●		●	●			
	Ice Skating								●	●				●				
	Sledding							●	●	●							●	
	Tobogganing								●	●							●	
	Hunting	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●			●			
Interpretive Facilities	Nature Center							●	●	●				●				
	Farm/Learning Center								●		●					●		
	Garden															●		
Court & Turf Games	Ball Field											●		●				
	Sand Volleyball		●				●	●		●		●	●	●			●	
	Horseshoe Pit		●		●		●	●				●	●	●			●	
	Table Tennis																●	
	Disk Golf			●					●	●	●	●						
	Golf Course/Driving Range							●	●	●	●					●		
Misc.	Dog Park		●									●			●			
	Banquet/Event Facility									●		●				●	●	
	Skate Park/Motorcross											●					●	
	Radio Control Flying Field		●	●	●						●							
	Shooting Range	●			●													
	Horse Stable		●									●				●		
Camping	Rustic Campsite	●	●		●	●												
	Modern Campsite			●		●	●	●				●	●					
	Cabin/Lodge	●	●	●			●					●	●					
	Group Camping	●	●	●		●	●		●		●		●					

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### ***Bald Mountain State Recreation Area***

This recreation area includes 4,637 acres of land, the majority of which are located in Orion Township, offering some of the steepest hills and most rugged terrain in southeastern Michigan. Camping is limited to rustic cabins, but the extensive trails, inland lakes, trout streams and wild game provide recreation opportunities all year long. Bald Mountain State Recreation Area includes the following activities and facilities:



Bald Mountain State Recreation Area

- Swimming on Lower Trout Lake,
- Boat launch on several lakes,
- Canoeing and kayaking,
- Fishing for trout, pan fish, northern pike and largemouth bass,
- Rustic cabins, group camping and rustic camping,
- Picnic shelters,
- Playground,
- 15 miles of marked nature trails and cross-country skiing,
- Eight miles of groomed cross-country skiing,
- Hunting,
- Shooting range, and
- Seven miles of snowmobile trails.

### ***DNR Lake Access Site***

A state-owned 3.5-acre access site to Lake Orion is found along Indianwood Road. The property includes a parking lot and boat launch.

### ***Orion Oaks County Park***

The park preserves more than 927 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands. The primary features of the park are a dog park and Lake Sixteen which offers a boat launch and a wheelchair accessible fishing dock. Activities and facilities include:

- Dog park (with fenced-in area and lake access),
- Boat launch,
- Fishing,
- Ten miles of hiking trails and mountain biking trails,
- Parking areas from Clarkston, Baldwin and Joslyn Roads, and
- Ice fishing and cross-country skiing.



Orion Oaks County Park

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

A variety of recreation programs are available to the residents of Orion Township. Many of these programs are offered by Orion Township as well as other recreation providers including Lake Orion Community Schools, the Village of Lake Orion, Oakland County Parks and private recreation groups.

Table 10 presents the list of the programs available to residents of Orion along with the age group targetted by each program. Programs offered by Orion Township focus on programs for pre-school/elementary-age children and starter sports activities, Township organized youth sports, youth enrichment classes and specialized camps, adult fitness and wellness programs, adult sports, adult enrichment classes, senior health and wellness, senior enrichment classes, senior clubs, senior trips and community-wide special events.

**Table 10. Recreation Programs**

Recreation Programs	Age Group						Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over	
<b>Orion Township</b>							
<b>Special Events</b>							
Tool Swap Meet/Garage Sale	●	●	●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Closet Clean-out	●	●	●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Senior Orion All Class Reunion					●	●	Orion Center
Concerts in the Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	Wildwood Amphitheater
Lone Ranger Day					●	●	Orion Center
Summer Sizzle	●	●	●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Big Rig Gig	●	●	●	●	●	●	Friendship Park
Free Music on the Porch	●	●	●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Barn Daze	●	●	●	●	●	●	Friendship Park
Made in the Mitten	●	●	●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Boo Bash	●	●			●		Orion Center
Dance at the OC					●	●	Orion Center
Global ReLeaf					●	●	Orion Center
Fairy Tea Party	●	●			●	●	Orion Center
The Bunny Bop	●	●			●	●	Orion Center
Growing Green Expo	●	●	●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Titanic - Shipwrecked at the Orion Center					●	●	Orion Center
Mom 2 Mom Sale	●	●			●	●	Orion Center
Meet and Greet with Senator					●	●	Orion Center
Mother's Day Tea					●	●	Orion Center
5-K Dragon Dash			●	●	●	●	Orion Center
How to Find My Next Job				●	●	●	Orion Center
Coffee House Night			●	●			Orion Center
North Oakland Caregiver & Senior Expo					●	●	Orion Center

Recreation Programs	Age Group						Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over	
<b>Youth Sports and Fitness</b>							
Junior Golf League			●				Mulberry Hills Golf Course
Adult & Junior Golf League			●		●		Mulberry Hills Golf Course
Adaptive Softball			●	●	●		Friendship Park
SNAG-Starting New At Golf		●	●				Orion Center
Start Smart Baseball	●						Civic Center Park
Baseball for Squirts		●					Civic Center Park
Spring Kiddy Soccer Community Programs	●						Civic Center Park
Spring Kiddie Kickers - OOSL	●						Friendship Park
Instructional Sand Volleyball		●	●				Civic Center Park
Jason Thompson Baseball Clinic		●	●				Friendship Park
Jason Thompson Hitting + Pitching Clinic		●	●				Friendship Park
Jason Thompson Fall Recreation Baseball League		●	●				Friendship Park
<b>Youth Enrichment Programs and Camps</b>							
Creative Writing Class				●	●	●	Orion Center
Kindermusik Village	●						Orion Center
Kindermusik ABC Laugh & learn	●						Orion Center
Beginner Horseback Riding Lessons		●	●	●	●	●	Times Square Riding Academy
Flying Fingers Club - Kids Sign Language		●	●				Orion Center
Dream Pillow		●	●				Orion Center
Sibling Teasing and Conflict Family Workshop		●	●				Orion Center
Friendship Rules with Rules	●						Orion Center
Home Alone Training			●				Orion Center
Babysitter Training			●				Orion Center
Boating Safety course			●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Kids Summer Introductory Keyboarding Class		●	●				Orion Center
Natural Beauty for Teens				●			Orion Center
Off Road Vehicle Safety Course			●	●	●	●	Friendship Park
British Soccer Camp - Minikicker Camp	●	●					Civic Center Park
British Soccer Camp - Half-day Player Development Camp		●	●	●			Civic Center Park
British Soccer Camp - Golden Goal		●					Civic Center Park
British Soccer Camp - Full Day Player Development Camp			●	●			Civic Center Park
Orion Outdoor Adventure		●	●				Friendship Park
Alliance Academy Soccer Camp		●	●	●			Civic Center Park
Horseback Riding Camp		●	●	●	●	●	Times Square Riding Academy
Next Level Shooting Camp		●					Oakland Elite Training Facility
Next Level Fundamental Basketball Camp		●					Oakland Elite Training Facility
Complete Skills Camp	●	●					Oakland Elite Training Facility
FUNDamental Summer Volleyball Camp		●	●				Oakland Elite Training Facility
Girls Empowered - American Girl Camp & Friendship		●					Orion Center
Girls Empowered - Little Girls Empowered American Girl Being Me	●						Orion Center
Kids Empowered - Diary of a Wimpy Kid		●					Orion Center
Kids Empowered - Kid Power	●						Orion Center
Kids Empowered - Bully Proof Me!		●					Orion Center

Recreation Programs	Age Group						Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over	
Kids Empowered - Getting Ready for Kindergarten	●						Orion Center
<b>Adult Fitness and Wellness</b>							
HEF Bootcamp					●	●	Friendship Park
Tai Chi					●	●	Orion Center
Hatha Yoga (Several Levels)					●	●	Orion Center
Yoga with Ease (Several Levels)					●	●	Orion Center
Zumba (Several Levels)					●	●	Orion Center
Line Dancing					●	●	Orion Center
Defense Seminar					●	●	Orion Center
Women's Health & Wellness Seminar					●	●	Orion Center
Home Sweet Home Class - Rolled Truffles					●	●	Orion Center
Oakland County Health Dept. Flu Shots					●	●	Orion Center
Beekeeper					●	●	Orion Center
<b>Adult Sports</b>							
Prime Time Soccer					●	●	Friendship Park
Adult & Junior Golf League			●		●	●	Mulberry Hills Golf Course
Adult Softball League					●	●	Civic Center & Friendship Park
Men's Rec League - Just for FUN					●	●	Civic Center & Friendship Park
Coed Rec League - Just for FUN					●	●	Civic Center & Friendship Park
Coed Class "C" League					●	●	Civic Center & Friendship Park
Orion Lakers						●	Civic Center Park
<b>Adult Enrichment Programs</b>							
Ukrainian Egg Painting Workshop					●	●	Orion Center
Calling All Crafters					●	●	Orion Center
The Art and Skill of Telegraphy			●	●	●	●	Orion Center
Soul Collage Workshops					●	●	Orion Center
You Can Make Your Own Baby Food					●	●	Orion Center
Creative Writing Class					●	●	Orion Center
Ipad and Tablet 101					●	●	Orion Center
Michigan Mushrooms					●	●	Orion Center
<b>Senior Health and Wellness</b>							
These Feet Were Made for Walking						●	Orion Center
Senior Hearing Screening & Evaluation						●	Orion Center
Senior Consumer Protection Seminar						●	Orion Center
Alzheimer Support Group						●	Orion Center
Orion Biking Group						●	Orion Center
Orion Walking Group						●	Orion Center
Stay Stronger Longer Exercise Group						●	Orion Center
Time to Train						●	Orion Center
Women's Health and Wellness Seminar						●	Orion Center

Recreation Programs	Age Group							Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over		
<b>Senior Trips</b>								
Frederick Meijer Gardens						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Meadow Brook Theatre						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Greenfield Village						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Orion Seniors and Ernie						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Eppinger Manufacturing Company						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Rochester Hills Museum & Van Hoosen Farm Tour						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Japanese Tea & Garden Tour						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Cranbrook Art Museum & Planetarium Tour						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Tiger Baseball						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Detroit Zoo						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Oakland County Farmers' Market						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Bronze Museum						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Meadow Brook						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Spring Play LOHS						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Meadow Brook Luncheon on the Aisle						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Detroit Model Railroad Club						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Oakland County Communications Bureau						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Birmingham Historical Museum						●		Leaves from Orion Center
Baldwin Stage in Royal Oak						●		Leaves from Orion Center
<b>Senior Clubs and Enrichment Programs</b>								
Breakfast Club						●		Various
Dinner Club						●		Various
Gardening Club						●		Orion Center
Pinochle/Euchre Club						●		Orion Center
Photography club						●		Orion Center
Learn to Knit/Crochet club						●		Orion Center
Spanish Language club						●		Orion Center
Stay Stronger Longer Exercise club						●		Orion Center
Guitar Class						●		Orion Center
Orion Painters class						●		Orion Center
Orion Crafters						●		Orion Center
Line Dancing, Next Step						●		Orion Center
Ham Radio club						●		Orion Center
Quilting Club						●		Orion Center
Ukrainian Egg Painting Workshop						●		Orion Center
<b>Village of Lake Orion Programs</b>								
Summer Swimming Program	●	●	●	●				Green's Park
<b>Lake Orion Community Schools Programs</b>								
<b>Preschool Enrichment</b>								
Kiddy Sports	●							Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Youth Rembrandt's Preschool Drawing	●							Comm. Ed. Resource Center

Recreation Programs	Age Group						Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over	
Piano	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Miss Margee's Terrific Toddlers	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Miss Margee's Family Fun	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Miss Margee's Preschool Pals	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Miss Margee's Smart Start	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
<b>Youth Enrichment</b>							
Fairy Princess Ballet	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Jazz/Acro Dance		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Musical Theater		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Cartooning		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Beginning Guitar Class			●	●			Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Junior Golf		●	●				Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Little Ninjas Karate	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Karate		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Beginner Archery		●	●				Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Young Rembrandt's Elementary Drawing		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Zumba for Kids by LA Dance		●	●				Blanche Sims Gym
Baton Twirling – Competitive Team Level One		●	●	●			Orion Oaks Gym
Baton Twirling – Competitive Team Level Two		●	●	●			Orion Oaks Gym
Baton Twirling – Pom Pom Team		●	●	●			Orion Oaks Gym
Baton Twirling – Solos		●	●	●			Orion Oaks Gym
Baton Twirling - Duets		●	●	●			Orion Oaks Gym
Beginner Archery		●	●	●			Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Dodge Ball		●					Carpenter Gym
After School Spanish		●					Various
Boating Safety			●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Legos – Junior Vehicle Engineering		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Legos – Vehicle Engineering		●	●				Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Camp Wanna Have Fun Spring Break Camp		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Canine Obedience and Tricks for Kids		●	●	●			Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Babysitting 101			●	●			Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Home Alone Basics			●				Comm. Ed. Resource Center
<b>Youth Dance and Gymnastics</b>							
Twinkle Little Starz	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
All Starz Boyz Gymnastics		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Rising Starz Girls Gymnastics		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Shooting Starz		●	●				Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Diaper Dancing	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Preschool Ballet	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Ballet/Tap/Jazz		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Jazz/Pom/Hip Hop		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center

Recreation Programs	Age Group						Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over	
<b>Summer Youth Camps/Sports Camps</b>							
Princess Camp	●	●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Gymnastics Camp	●	●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Starz Performing Arts Camp	●	●	●				Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Preschool Piano Camp	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Piano Camp		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
All About Michigan	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Science Camp	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Outer Space	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Miss Margee's Summer Camps	●						Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Camp ExplOrion			●				Lake Orion High School
Camp Wanna Have Fun		●					Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Dragon GAP Xtreme Adventure Class			●				Lake Orion High School
Dragon GAP Police Academy Camp			●				Lake Orion High School
Explore the Outdoors Zany Adventure Camp		●					Lake Orion High School
Dragon GAP Basketball Camp		●					Orion Oaks Gym
Little Dragon Multi-Sports Camp	●						Orion Oaks Gym
Mini Dragon Multi-Sports Camp	●	●					Orion Oaks Gym
Varsity Dragon Multi-Sports Camp		●					Orion Oaks Gym
Flag Football Camp		●	●				Scripps Football Field
Tennis		●	●	●			Lake Orion High School
Yoga Camp	●	●					Yoga for Life
Junior Golf Camp		●	●				Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Disc Golf Camp			●	●			Lake Orion High School
Dragon Basketball Camp		●	●	●			Lake Orion High School
Speed, Agility & Quickness Camp		●	●	●			Lake Orion High School
Boys Lacrosse Camp		●	●				Lake Orion High School
Girls Lacrosse Camp			●	●			Lake Orion High School
<b>Aquatics</b>							
Open Swim	●	●	●	●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
Swim Classes	●	●	●	●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
Aqua-Fitness Classes			●	●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
Beginner Diving Academy				●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
Lifeguarding Class				●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
Scuba Class				●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
Water Safety Instruction Course				●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
Masters Swimmer			●	●	●	●	Lake Orion High School
<b>Adult Enrichment</b>							
Acrylic Painting					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Watercolor Painting					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Pottery					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Basic Drawing					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Scrapbooking/Crafting Night					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center

Recreation Programs	Age Group						Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over	
Bridge					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
CPR-Adult, Child & Infant, AED- Adult					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
CPR/AED Recertification – Adult, Child & Infant					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
First Aid - Basic					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Ballroom Dancing with Starz					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Classic Ballroom					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Latin Ballroom					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Ballroom Combo					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Beginner Clogging	●	●	●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Country Line Dancing					●	●	Waldon MS
Country Western Couples Class					●	●	Waldon MS
Birding for Beginners			●	●	●	●	High School/ Moose Tree
Beginning Guitar Class			●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Puppy/Dog Training	●	●	●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Boating Safety			●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
<b>Adult Special Interest</b>							
Photography					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Getting Paid to Talk, Making Money with Your Voice					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Golf for Adults and Teens			●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Reality Compounding in an Extreme World					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Weight Loss Challenge					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Divorce: What You Need to Know					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Women’s Self Defense Workshop			●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Wills, Trusts & Probate					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Genealogy 101				●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
IPad 101				●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Foster Care, Adoption and the Child Welfare System					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
<b>Health and Fitness</b>							
Tai Chi for Health					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Volleyball Co-Ed					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Volleyball Seniors						●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Zumba					●	●	Various
Pilates					●	●	Various
Yoga					●	●	Starz Studio
Jazz Barre Stretch Workout					●	●	Broadway Dance
Strength Training					●	●	Various
Basketball Mens					●	●	Various
Karate Teens/Adults			●	●	●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Moxie Combo					●	●	Webber/Paint Creek Gym
Cardio Kickboxing					●	●	Paint Creek Gym
Maximum Motivation Bootcamp					●	●	Webber Gym

Recreation Programs	Age Group						Location
	Preschool 0 to 5 years	Elementary 6 to 10 years	Junior High 11 to 13 years	High School 14 to 18 Years	Adult 18 to 55 Years	Senior 55 and Over	
<b>Adult Education</b>							
GED Prep & Testing					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Microsoft Office/Access/Excel					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Pharmacy Technician					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Computer Security & Maintenance					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
Home Care Assistant					●	●	Comm. Ed. Resource Center
<b>Oakland County Parks Programs</b>							
Camp Wilderness at Independence Oaks	●	●	●	●			Independence Oaks
Golf Leagues	●	●	●	●	●	●	Various
Boat/Canoe/Kayak Programs	●	●	●	●	●	●	Various
Nature Center Events	●	●	●	●	●	●	Independence & Red Oaks
Fishing Programs	●	●	●	●	●	●	Various
Outdoor Adventures	●	●	●	●	●	●	Various
Platform Tennis		●	●	●	●	●	Waterford Oaks
Waterpark Events	●	●	●	●	●	●	Red & Waterford Oaks
<b>Private Sports Organizations</b>							
Lake Orion Dragons Youth Football		●	●				Lake Orion High School
Lake Orion Girls Softball League		●	●	●			Various
Lake Orion Men's Softball League					●	●	Various
Lake Orion Youth Baseball League		●	●	●			Various
Alliance Gold Soccer Club		●	●	●			Various
Orion Oxford Soccer League		●	●				Various
Lake Orion Horseshoe Club			●	●	●	●	Lake Orion Children's Park
Lake Orion Liquid Lightning Swim Team		●	●	●			Lake Orion High School
Michigan Youth Flag Football and Cheerleading		●	●				Lake Orion High School
Lake Orion Youth Wrestling Club		●	●	●			Various
Orion Chargers Baseball Club		●	●	●			Various

Sources: Orion Township Website, November 22, 2013; Orion Township Outreach, Spring 2013; Orion Township Outreach, Summer 2013; Lake Orion Community Education Services Schedule of Classes, Winter 2013; Lake Orion Community Education Services, Spring/Summer 2013; Lake Orion Website, November 22, 2013.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT & GRANT ASSISTED PROJECTS

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing access to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines was used to evaluate the accessibility of the area parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5 as follows:

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines,
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines,
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines,
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines, and
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Each of the developed parks and properties was evaluated using the ranking system noted above. The specific elements that were evaluated include parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restrooms and surfacing. Table 11 presents the results of this evaluation.

**Table 11. Accessibility Assessment**

Park	Rank	Description
<b>Civic Center Park</b>	3	Most of the park complies with ADA standards, however, accessible routes should be developed to soccer fields and portable restrooms
<b>Friendship Park</b>	4	Additional accessible routes should be built to the park's activity areas
<b>Jesse Decker Park</b>	4	All the park's facilities comply with ADA standards
<b>McConnell Field</b>	1	There are no accessible parking or accessible routes to the park's activity areas
<b>Orion Center</b>	4	All the property's facilities comply with ADA standards

Orion Township has taken great strides to ensure that its facilities comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. All new park construction projects in Orion are designed to meet or exceed the most recent requirements of the ADA while existing facilities are being brought into compliance with park renovation and upgrade projects.

Orion Township has been awarded three Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants since 1980. Grant funding from the state has been instrumental in developing recreation facilities on park properties. Table 12 presents a description of all MDNR grants received including the current use and condition of the grant-assisted park facilities.

**Table 12. MDNR Grant Assisted Projects**

Grant Number	Description	Grant Amount	Current Use/condition
<b>26-0110411 1980 LWCF</b>	Civic Center Park Pavilion/Restroom	\$32,500	The park pavilion is well-utilized and maintained in good condition
<b>BF89-389 1989 BF</b>	Civic Center Park Ball Field Lighting for Two Fields	\$40,500	The lighting is maintained in good condition and has allowed extended use of the fields
<b>CM99-084 1999 CMI</b>	Friendship Park Recreation Support Building	\$295,991	The facility is well-cared for and well-used by the community

BF: Recreation Bond Fund

LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund

CMI: Clean Michigan Initiative

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A critical component in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs and desires of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks and recreation system. Needs and preferences provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives that lead to an action plan. To assess needs and desires, consideration was given to current recreation trends and input from community stakeholders, public officials, staff and residents of Orion Township. This was combined with an analysis of the parks and recreation system including park maintenance needs, recreation program and user fees analysis.

## PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum amount of park land to adequately serve a given population. The NRPA guidelines provide minimum park land standards that are applicable nationwide for recreation planning purposes. While the NRPA standards are useful benchmarks addressing minimum park acreage, a parks and recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community.

According to the NRPA, parks are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and regional parks. The mini, neighborhood and community parks are the close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities. In Orion, all developed Township parks may be considered as close-to-home parks. According to NRPA standards, the suggested amount of close-to-home park land is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks serve a broader area. For Orion Township residents, regional parks include the county and state-owned recreation facilities described in the preceding chapter. According to NRPA standards, the suggested amount of close-to-home park land is 15 to 20 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Table 13 presents a comparison of the NRPA suggested park land standards with existing area parks based on the 2010 population (32,421). According to this, the Township currently meets the minimum standards for *close-to-home* park land. Moreover, as described earlier, Orion includes a lot of regional parks and schools offering additional recreation opportunities.

**Table 13. Comparison to Suggested Park Land Acreage Standards**

Type of Park	NRPA Standard Acres/ 1000 Population	NRPA Standard Applied	Existing
Close-to-Home Park land	6. 25 - 10. 5 Acres	219 - 368 Acres	243 Acres
Regional Parks	15 - 20 Acres	526 - 701 Acres	65,000 Acres+
Schools			350 Acres

*A comparison of the amount of close-to-home park land in adjacent Townships with NRPA minimum standards revealed that:*

- *Independence Township has 234 acres of park land for a population size of 21,421 in 2010. When applying the NRPA suggested park land standards, Independence Township meets the minimum standards (NRPA standard applied: 140 to 365 acres). The amount of close-to-home parks in Independence Township is within the NRPA suggested range.*
- *Oxford Township includes 517 acres of park land for a population of 17,090 in 2010. When applying the NRPA suggested park land standards, Oxford Township exceeds the minimum standards (NRPA standard applied: 112 to 180 acres). The amount of close-to-home parks in Oxford Township is more than twice the minimum amount suggested by NRPA.*
- *Oakland Township contains 1,092 acres of park land for a population size of 23,478. When applying the NRPA standards, Oakland Township exceeds the minimum standards (NRPA standard applied: 110 to 177 acres). The amount of close-to-home parks in Oakland Township is more than six times the minimum amount suggested by NRPA.*

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## NATIONAL AND STATE RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends on a national level and in Michigan provide insight into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and therefore may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The Outdoor Foundation regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. According to the Outdoor Foundation, nearly 50 percent of Americans (141.9 million) ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation in 2012. Table 14 lists the top five outdoor activities.

**Table 14. National Sports Participation, 2010**

Activity	Participation
1. Running, Jogging & Trail Running	53.2 million
2. Freshwater, Saltwater & Fly Fishing	46.0 million
3. Road Biking, Mountain Biking & BMX	42.3 million
4. Car, Backyard & RV Camping	38.0 million
5. Hiking	34.5 million

Source: Outdoor Participation Report, 2013, the Outdoor Foundation

These trends are consistent with trends observed in Michigan. According to a telephone survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2013-2017 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the top ten outdoor recreation activities are: biking (all types), camping, fishing, walking outdoor (including dog walking), hiking (all types), playing outdoor games/sports, hunting or trapping, swimming (all types), boating and visiting playgrounds.

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of Orion can be summarized as follows:

- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the expected increase of seniors.
- There is a trend towards implementing community-wide non-motorized transportation systems to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable community. Orion Township has been forward-thinking with the establishment of safety paths along its major road corridors which are a great asset to the community.
- Orion Township contains a vast amount of county and state-owned land and regional trails within its boundaries. Connecting to these systems and partnerships with the various recreation providers are desirable to maximize the community's recreation potential.

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To create a master plan that reflects the recreation preferences, needs and values of Orion Township, the planning process included multiple forums for community outreach. Public input was received through an online survey, an open house, stakeholder interviews and a meeting with staff. A total of more than 500 people participated in the recreation planning effort. This level of involvement is outstanding for a community of Orion's size.

### Resident Surveys

During the month of August and September 2013, Orion Township residents were invited to provide ideas and suggestions for the Township's parks, paths and recreation system through an online survey and an online mapping tool available from the Township's website. Township staff worked diligently in soliciting input from residents and the surveys were advertised in the Community Outreach newsletter, postcards and articles published in the Oakland Press and the Orion Review.

The online questionnaire and mapping exercise were designed to solicit feedback on a broad spectrum of issues for the community. More than 400 surveys and comments were received and tabulated. Key findings from the surveys are outlined below. A complete tally of the responses gathered is attached in appendix to this report.

#### 1. *Park and Path/Trail Visitation and Improvements*

Friendship and Civic Center Parks are the most visited park facilities in Orion Township followed by the Township paths and trails. Almost half the respondents have visited these two parks more than 10 times during the past year. A summary of specific suggestions for park improvements are noted below.

##### Friendship Park

- Addition of the second entrance from Baldwin Road with additional parking,
- Development of new baseball fields (some lighted and smaller size),
- Improvement of baseball fields (infield, better grass quality, electricity near diamonds, bleacher, scoreboard, overhead safety net, cover dugouts, batting cage and concession),
- Resurfacing/paving drive and parking,
- Addition of parking closer to both soccer and baseball fields,
- Addition of a picnic pavilion by existing baseball field with permanent restrooms,
- Replacement of the play structure,
- Addition of basketball courts with lights,
- Addition of sand volleyball courts,
- Addition of a splash park/playground,
- Addition of a skate park, and
- Planting of shade trees and other landscaping.

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### **Civic Center Park**

- Improvement of baseball field (infield, drainage, cover dugouts, overhead safety nets, lights, batting cage, concession and fenced outfield),
- Development of new ball fields (smaller size),
- Improvement of soccer fields (drainage and seating),
- Addition of parking by baseball fields,
- Installing additional playground equipment,
- Upgrading basketball courts,
- Addition of a skate park,
- Updating existing restrooms,
- Improvement of park's pathways and trails,
- Improvement to Polly Ann access (signage), and
- Addition of a picnic pavilion with permanent restrooms at south end (soccer/Wildwood Amphitheater).

### **Paint Creek Trail**

- Connection to Polly Ann Trail,
- Connection to Township safety paths,
- Continuing the great maintenance,
- Addition of drinking fountains/stations and trash cans, and
- Improvement to trail surface (asphalt, reduce dust, mud, etc.).

### **Township Safety Paths**

- Connection to Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails,
- Development of new safety paths (on all main roads, Lapeer Road, Indianwood Road, Baldwin Road and Maybee Road, etc.),
- Clearing vegetation,
- Improvement to trail surface (crack repair, repair of uneven patches/segments and debris removal),
- Installation of path amenities (restrooms, drinking fountains and trash cans),
- Crosswalk improvements (Baldwin, M-24, Joslyn at Library, Orion Center and Township Hall), and
- Improvement to signage (caution/warning signs for motorists and path users at intersections).

### **Polly Ann Trail & Extension**

- Connection to Paint Creek Trail,
- Connection to Township safety paths,
- Development of Joslyn/Indianwood segment through golf course,
- Improvement/development of trailheads and access points at Indianwood Road, Waldon Road/Civic Center Park (restrooms, drinking fountains and benches/picnic area),
- Clearing vegetation,

- 
- Improvement to trail surface (asphalt, grading and material replacement), and
  - Improvement to signage (mile markers, caution/warning signs and directional signs).

#### **Orion Center**

- Improvement to outdoor patio area,
- Addition of a playground,
- Highlighting the connection to the Polly Ann Trail,
- Addition of dance floors in the Center, and
- Addition of a pool to the facility.

#### **Jesse Decker Park**

- Improvement of football field (grading, irrigation and grass surface renewal),
- Improvement of baseball field (outfield surface grading and irrigation),
- Development of new ball fields,
- Addition of permanent restrooms,
- Improvement of driveway entrance and parking areas,
- Installation of additional playground equipment, and
- General park maintenance.

#### **McConnell Field**

- Improvement of parking,
- Improvement of ball field, and
- Addition of a picnic area/shelter.

#### **Gingell Nature Area**

- Development of parking,
- Development of nature trails, and
- Addition of a small picnic area.

## **2. *New Park Facilities/Amenities***

Respondent's top choices for new park facilities/amenities are **walking/bicycling paths/trails, nature trails, baseball/softball fields, playground structures, picnic areas and pavilions and indoor fitness/exercise/sport facility.**

The rankings in this section of the survey send a clear message that these facilities should be the priorities for future park development except for the indoor facilities. While 55 percent of respondents indicated that an indoor fitness/exercise/sport facility is extremely or very important, 31 percent of respondents also feel this is not important at all or only slightly important.

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### 3. *New Recreation Programs*

Top recreation program areas respondents indicated as extremely or very important include **youth sports and fitness, adult fitness and wellness, youth summer camps, adult sports and leagues, nature education programs and special events.**

### 4. *Safety Paths and Trails*

Respondents were asked to rate a number of path/trail issues. **Maintenance, safety/security and quality of the map** are the top answers for high or excellent ratings. **Warning/directional signs, awareness of destinations and knowing where to report problems** are the answers that garnered to lowest ratings.

When asked to rate various maintenance tasks, respondents top choices are **overall pavement surface quality, pavement surface crack repair, boardwalk maintenance and pavement surface quality at driveways & intersections.** **Side and overhead brush removal and gravel and debris removal** followed very closely.

Specific top suggestions for new paths or trails include:

- Indianwood Road between Lapeer Road and Baldwin Road (Paint Creek to Polly Ann Trails),
- Joslyn/Indianwood segment through golf course,
- Gaps along M-24-Lapeer Road,
- Gaps along Baldwin Road,
- Polly Ann Trail extension from Joslyn to Baldwin Roads,
- Clarkston Road (east of Polly Ann Trail to Paint Creek and west of Baldwin Road),
- Connections to various community facilities (High School, local parks, Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, etc.),
- Heights Road, east of Pine Tree, and
- Silverbell Road.

### 5. *Overall Township Parks, Paths and Recreation*

The following improvements received the highest priority for improvement to the overall Township parks, paths and recreation system:

1. Maintain/renovate existing parks,
2. Maintain/improve existing paths and trails,
3. Develop new facilities at existing parks,
4. Develop more sports fields,
5. Provide lighting at ball fields, and
6. Develop more paths and trails.

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## Open House

The public was invited to attend an open house held at the Orion Center on October 16, 2013. Notices were published or posted in the Orion Review, Oakland Press, on Facebook and e-mail invitations were sent to 20,000 program participants and to all public officials and other community stakeholders, which included the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Safety Path Committee, Senior Advisory Council at the Orion Center, Planning Commission, Township Board of Trustees, Polly Ann Trail Commission, Paint Creek Trail Commission, Oakland County Parks, Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, Orion Schools, Orion Interagency Council. Those who attended the open house provided valuable suggestions for improvements.

The open house included five stations: 1-park facilities, 2-Township paths and trails, 3-recreation programs, 4-partnerships and collaboration and 5-administration. Participants were asked to indicate their preferences for the ideas and suggestions garnered from the online surveys for the parks facilities and Township paths. They were also asked to answer questions at the other stations.

Key findings from the Open House are outlined below.

### *Park Improvements*

Top choices for park improvements are listed below.

#### **Friendship Park**

- Development of new baseball fields with parking and picnic shelter/restrooms,
- Development of an entry drive from Baldwin Road,
- Improvements to existing baseball fields,
- Planting shade trees and other landscaping throughout site, and
- Replacement/addition of play structures for different age groups.

#### **Civic Center Park**

- Improvement of existing baseball fields,
- Addition of a skate park, and
- Addition of a picnic pavilion with permanent restrooms at south end of park.

#### **Jesse Decker Park**

- Addition of a permanent restrooms,
- Improvement of existing football field, and
- Installation of a splash park.

### **Township Staff Input**

*The Community Programs staff provided comments and suggestions for improved recreation programming. Comments are summarized as follows:*

- *Program marketing should be expanded due to the limitations of the current Township's website. Improving the website to make it more user-friendly would help online class registrations. Another option would be a separate Community Programs website.*
- *The Orion Outreach, which lists all the offered programs, should be available online.*
- *Desired improvements regarding marketing involve increasing identity branding of the Orion Center and the Community Programs Department and a revamped brochure and Facebook look.*
- *Suggested improvements for the Orion Center include a new LED sign along Joslyn Road, patio furnishings, a 20' X 40' tent for special events, outdoor fitness/exercise stations, bocce ball courts or other court games, and the trailhead for the Polly Ann Trail. A washer/dryer is also needed for the Department's use.*
- *General park improvements suggested include a building a pole barn for maintenance equipment at Friendship Park to re-purpose the Porritt Barn for programming, development of accessible horseshoe courts at Civic Center Park, better signage at all parks, adding lights at baseball fields at Friendship Park, additional athletic fields, and restrooms near Wildwood Amphitheater.*

### **Orion Center**

- Improvement of the Polly Ann Trail trailhead with signage and pedestrian/bike link from Joslyn,
- Improvement of outdoor patio areas, and
- Addition of an LED sign.

### **Gingell Nature Area**

- Development of nature trails with boardwalk and wetland observation deck, and
- Development of an entry drive, park sign and small parking area.

### **Township Paths and Trails**

Top choices for path development and improvements are listed below.

- Connection between Polly Ann and Paint Creek trails,
- Heights Road, east of Pine Tree,
- Clarkston Road, east of Polly Ann Trail to Paint Creek, west of Baldwin Road,
- Gaps along M-24/Lapeer Road,
- Joslyn/Indianwood Roads - segment through golf course,
- Improvement of crosswalks along Baldwin, Lapeer and Joslyn Roads, and
- Addition of pathways amenities such as drinking fountains, benches and trash cans.

### **Stakeholder Interviews**

In the fall of 2013, 13 telephone interviews were conducted with key stakeholders and community leaders. The interviewees represented a variety of organizations: Lake Orion Dragons Youth Football, Lake Orion Liquid Lightning Swim Team, Lake Orion Youth Baseball League, Alliance Gold Soccer Club, St. Joseph Baseball and Softball, the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce, Lake Orion Community Education, Orion Township Library, Orion Art Center, Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, Oakland County Parks, Polly Ann Trail Management Council and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. The purpose of the interviews was to identify issues and challenges facing the community.

The sports organizations and leagues expressed the central need to improve existing fields as well as an essential need for additional baseball fields and/or extending play through lighting fields for evening use. The community groups generally recognized and appreciate the relationship they have with the Township. Ideas for future partnerships and collaborations include community-wide outreach efforts and marketing to increase awareness of all the various community events and programs. The trail groups are interested in specific collaborations with the Township in terms of increasing access to the trails, coordinating trail events and programs, providing additional path/trail amenities and controlling vandalism.

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## **PARK FACILITY NEEDS**

Park maintenance needs were assessed through an interview with the Operations Director. Maintenance needs for each park are listed below.

### **Friendship Park**

- Repair and restore Howarth Schoolhouse,
- Replace all signage,
- Remove and replace park building flooring,
- Develop an access road from the main drive to the baseball fields,
- Install a Park sign at the corner of Clarkston Road and Baldwin Road,
- Add new and larger no parking signage to main drive,
- Repair wash out area on main drive, and
- Resurface main drive.

### **Civic Center Park**

- Reseal Wildwood Amphitheater,
- Add adequate lighting to Wildwood Amphitheater,
- Create a larger walking path between soccer fields 3 and 4, and
- Install Polly Ann Trail signage.

### **Friendship Park and Civic Center Park**

- Replace and repair rotted wood at all irrigation pump houses,
- Repaint in Spring,
- Repaint all light posts,
- Resurface baseball fields and add clay tiles around bases, and
- Repaint all soccer goals and replace damaged goals.

### **Jesse Decker Park**

- Run electrical,
- Fix drainage problems on baseball field #1,
- Build a maintenance pole barn, and
- Build storage shed.

### **All Parks**

- Re-seal parking lots,
- Sand, repair and paint all wooden picnic tables,
- Identify and create an invasive species list and plan of action,
- Replace all signage, and
- Install metal sleeves on all wooden sign post and fencing.

### **Safety Paths**

- Repair and reseal all safety path boardwalks.

## RECREATION PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Based on participation numbers for 2013, special events are the recreation activities that attract the most participants in Orion Township. Top events include Concerts in the Park (total of 4,755 over several concerts), the Senior Expo (685), Summer Sizzle (450), Big Rig Gig (415), Barn Daze (317) and Growing Green (300). These programs are all community-wide events that are free or have a minimal parking charge. When considering the expenses and revenues related to the programs including staff time, sponsorships and parking revenues, the events that generated the most revenues include the Senior Expo, Ladies Night-Out, Big Rig Gig, Senior All Class Reunion, Growing Green and Boo Bash.

*The true cost of providing recreation programs involve both direct and indirect costs. Direct costs include the salaries paid and supplies used to offer the programs. The indirect costs include utility costs for indoor space and administrative time spent planning and promoting recreation programs. If a price is set to recover direct costs only, the balance of the costs is being subsidized by the community.*

*A community's policy for establishing program fees should be based on the desired cost recovery percentage for each category of programs offered. The different options include:*

- *Charge no fee and subsidize the program entirely (0% cost recovery), which may be appropriate for outdoor concerts and some community special events.*
- *Charge a nominal fee to recover partial costs (10 to 90% cost recovery), which may be appropriate for senior trips, special events, or other programs.*
- *Charge a fee to recover only direct costs, which may be appropriate for youth and adult classes.*
- *Charge a fee to recover both direct and indirect costs (100% cost recovery), which may be appropriate for adult fitness classes.*
- *Charge a fee to recover all costs plus a profit (more than 100% cost recovery), which may be appropriate for youth and adult sports, specialized sport and summer camps.*



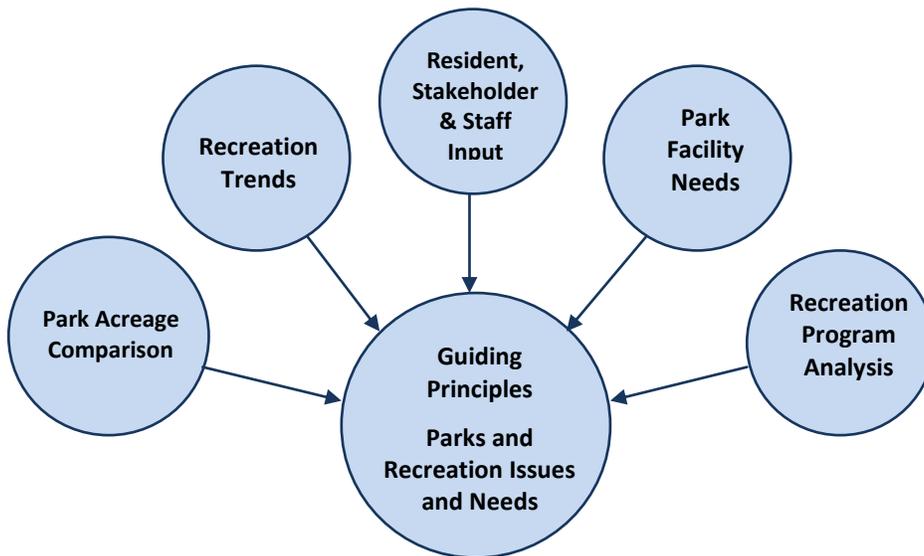
Enrollment for senior trips in 2013 generally varied from 10 to 14 participants with the exception of the Summer Tiger Baseball trip which attracted 40 participants. When looking at all the related revenues and expenses involved with the trips, none of the senior trips generated revenues and they generally had to be subsidized by the Township.

Participation in classes and programs offered by Orion Township in 2013 indicate that the most popular programs and classes are Orion Outdoor Camp, Summer Adult Softball, Zumba Gold, Yoga, AARP Tax Preparation class, Spring Kiddie Soccer, Safety Class, Jason Thompson Fall Ball, Smart Start Baseball and Alliance Soccer Camp. Top revenue producing classes generally correspond to the programs that have the most participants and include: Summer Outdoor Camp, Summer Adult Softball, Jason Thompson fall Ball, Yoga, Alliance Soccer camp, Smart Start Baseball, Prime Time Soccer, Spring Kiddie Soccer and British Soccer Camp.

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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following discussion synthesizes the recreation issues and needs. It considers public input, recreation trends and an examination of the park facilities and recreation programs. The diagram below illustrates all the factors considered to assess the community parks and recreation system. A summary of the parks and recreation issues and needs follow.



### Existing Park Improvement

The maintenance and upgrade of existing parks is recognized as a priority for the community to retain its high quality parks. This entails ensuring that existing park facilities and equipment are safe, functional and well-maintained. It includes replacing and upgrading aging park equipment and furnishings, ensuring safety surfaces under playground equipment meet regulated depth and fall zones, removing barriers to universal access, maintaining and refurbishing parking and trail surfaces, athletic field care and general park upkeep and stewardship.

### New Park Facility Development

There is also a desire to continue developing new park facilities that respond to the needs of Township residents. This would include development of new park facilities at all Township parks, including currently undeveloped park properties. Desired facilities include active recreation uses such as baseball/softball fields and a skate park, passive uses such as nature trails and support facilities such as picnic shelters, restrooms and other park amenities.

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## **Safety Paths and Trail Development**

The current system of Township paths and trails is seen as a tremendous asset for Orion Township. The continued development of connections and pathways to form an interconnected, non-motorized transportation system linking parks, community facilities, schools and neighborhoods, is recognized as a priority for the Township. Coordination with the Township Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, Road Commission for Oakland County and other stakeholders will be necessary to realize a Township-wide system.

## **Community Program Services**

Orion Township parks and recreation strive to provide exceptional and diverse recreation programs that respond to residents' desires and interests. Over the last five years, the levels of program offerings have grown steadily to allow the Community Programs Department to maintain a high level of services that is well-appreciated by community residents.

Youth sports and specialized camps, adult sports leagues and community-wide events are the most popular and important recreation programs to Orion Township residents.

## **Partnerships and Collaboration**

Parks, recreation and pathway resources in Orion Township are operated and provided by a variety of public and private entities. Continued collaborations and partnerships with the various public and private recreation providers (state, county, schools, adjacent communities and private recreation providers) in Orion Township will continue to yield more effective recreation services that maximize the area's recreation potential. Promotional and marketing efforts could be organized with the various recreation providers through, for example, a community-wide calendar.

## **Administration and Operation**

A quality parks and recreation system is dependent on the prudent use of available funds. A means of curbing operational costs and increasing revenues where possible must become a priority to continue capital improvement projects. While Orion Township currently subsidizes most parks and recreation activities, whether programming or capital improvements, future improvements should be carefully considered. Park projects and recreation programs that have the potential of generating revenues to offset the cost of capital investment, staff time and on-going operation and maintenance should be given a higher priority.

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# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives were formulated to provide direction and a long-term vision for Orion Township parks and recreation services. The goals and objectives are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed from the public, Township officials and staff as well as to address the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources of the area. In addition, they consider demographics, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources and national and state recreation trends. Finally, they correspond to Orion Township Parks and Recreation's mission statement:

*To maintain a strong community by creating and preserving attractive, safe environments that provide opportunities of lifelong activities that promote the wellbeing of all individuals and families*

While the recreation goals for Orion Township parks and recreation express intent and purpose, the objectives that follow are more specific and address the manner in which the goals may be achieved.

## GOAL 1. PARK MAINTENANCE GOAL

**Maintain and renovate existing park facilities to provide clean, safe, attractive and functional environments.**

### Objectives:

- A. Ensure park facilities and equipment are clean;
- B. Replace/upgrade aging park equipment as needed;
- C. Ensure safety surfaces under playground equipment meet regulated depth and fall zones;
- D. Remove barriers to universal access;
- E. Refurbish athletic fields as needed;
- F. Refurbish parking and trail pavement surfaces;
- G. Remove/control invasive plant species;
- H. Provide appropriate directional signage;
- I. Plant trees and shrubs to create shade and supplement wooded areas;
- J. Maintain park maintenance equipment and keep storage areas in good condition; and
- K. Continue general park upkeep and stewardship.

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## **GOAL 2. PARK DEVELOPMENT GOAL**

**Develop park facilities that respond to residents' recreational needs and are financially sustainable.**

### **Objectives:**

- A. Ensure that capital project expenditures maximize return on investment;
- B. Develop support facilities as needed such as restrooms, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, benches and signage;
- C. Improve active recreation opportunities in the parks with additional athletic fields and other amenities;
- D. Improve passive recreation opportunities with additional nature trails and other path and trail support amenities; and
- E. Consider park land acquisition and donation that are :
  - are adjacent to existing parks,
  - provide linkages and pathway opportunities,
  - are of a sufficient size to provide a variety of active and passive recreation,
  - are easily accessible to most Township residents,
  - have historic significance or appeal, and
  - offer unique natural areas and provide wildlife areas.

## **GOAL 3. NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEM GOAL**

**Continue to develop and maintain the Township-wide non-motorized transportation system.**

### **Objectives:**

- A. Work with the Township Board of Trustees and the Planning Commission to continue to develop the Township-wide non-motorized transportation system;
- B. Continue to coordinate with the Polly Ann Trail, Paint Creek Trail, Road Commission for Oakland County, railroad companies, adjacent communities and other stakeholders;
- C. Continue to require developers to dedicate and construct pathways in new developments in cooperation with the Planning Commission and Township Board of Trustees;
- D. Add site amenities at regular pathway access point to include maps, trash receptacles, mile markers and directional signage; and
- E. Continue to maintain the system to a high quality standard.

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## **GOAL 4. PARKS, RECREATION AND SENIOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES GOAL**

**Maintain and enhance the quality of parks, recreation and senior programming and services.**

### **Objectives:**

- A. Encourage healthy and active lifestyles;
- B. Continue to provide programs and events that build community;
- C. Continue to broaden the variety of activities offered while ensuring that programs are financially self-sustaining;
- D. Monitor and evaluate recreation programs to assess gaps in the provision of services;
- E. Expand the use of web-based communication tools such as a dedicated website, e-mail blasts, Face book, etc.; and
- F. Provide more opportunities for volunteers and community stewardship projects.

## **GOAL 5. ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONAL GOAL**

**Provide for sustainable parks, recreation and senior services with fiscally sound administrative and operational strategies.**

### **Objectives:**

- A. Increase staffing and maintenance equipment as needed to support additional services;
- B. Continue monitoring fees and direct/indirect costs for recreation programs and services;
- C. Establish a cost recovery policy for each category of programs offered based on the desired level of community subsidy as well as the direct and indirect costs of providing recreation programs;
- D. Work to increase revenues generated from rental fees and recreation programs by, for example, offering more profit-making programs or increasing non-resident fees;
- E. Develop a maintenance plan and schedule for each park to include daily custodial work, routine and preventive maintenance tasks, scheduled improvements, and emergency repairs;
- F. Maintain existing partnerships with public and private recreation providers that support efficient and effective service and program delivery;
- G. Increase public awareness of Orion Township parks, recreation and senior services through additional communication and education;
- H. Build a "Friends of the Parks" group which could be active in providing additional support for park project and funding; and
- I. Continue to aggressively pursue grants for park land development and trail acquisition and development.



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# ACTION PROGRAM

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of desired improvements which can be considered as long-term projects to be accomplished for each park or activity. It also provides a reasonable capital improvement schedule focusing on projects to be accomplished within the next five years. This is based on a realistic budget and outlines a list of recommendations that are desired, important, or necessary to be accomplished in a shorter time frame. Strategies for implementation are also suggested.

## DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS

The following outlines the desired improvements which represent the long-term preferred vision for each park or activity. The improvements are grouped by park/facility or activity and address the goals and objectives. Illustrations showing the suggested park improvements are also included.

### ***1. Maintain and upgrade existing park facilities (all parks)***

These activities include replacing or repairing old equipment and facilities which are in a state of disrepair, are outdated, or dangerous. They also include improving the appearance of the Township parks through appropriate landscaping and maintenance. All upgrades must meet safety and accessibility standards. Proposed activities include:

- Repair and improve park signs;
- Provide appropriate directional signage;
- Remove/replace outdated play equipment;
- Maintain safety surfaces under play structures to regulated depth and fall zone;
- Refurbish athletic field surfaces as needed;
- Refurbish parking areas, walkways and court game pavement surfaces as needed;
- Replace/add park furnishings such as benches, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers and signs;
- Maintain buildings, structures and picnic shelters in good condition with roof repair, exterior painting and other renovations;
- Manage existing vegetation with removal of invasive non-native plant species and dead trees and supplement with tree/shrub plantings; and
- Continue general park upkeep and stewardship.

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## 2. *Maintain and improve Friendship Park*

Suggested improvements include:

- Develop an entry drive from Baldwin Road;
- Resurface/pave all gravel drives and parking areas using storm water best management practices;
- Develop four ball fields in a clover leaf configuration (65' bases and 225' outfield) with infield under drainage, irrigation, backstop fence, capped outfield fence and support facilities including parking area, picnic shelter/concession/restrooms;
- Add parking area by soccer field area;
- Renovate existing baseball fields reducing the size of the two northern fields, adding lights, grading/seeding/topdressing outfields, refurbishing/ installing the infield mix, installing under drains in infield, installing canopy over dugouts, adding safety nets, adding bleachers, developing closer access and parking, and adding concession/restrooms;
- Build a maintenance barn;
- Create a historic center area (barn, renovated schoolhouse and gazebo) with additional parking and use for programming activities;
- Add hike/bike paths and connections to park's activity areas connected to safety paths;
- Develop nature trails in wooded area;
- Add picnic shelter by soccer fields with sand volleyball courts in proximity;
- Add small play structures/equipment by baseball field areas;
- Install park sign at Baldwin/Clarkston Roads intersection and at Baldwin Road new entrance;
- Design and install new directional signs with kiosk, park and trail map and trail/path markers;
- Add park furnishings including benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers, etc.;
- Plant shade trees and other landscaping throughout the site (using no-mow areas, rain gardens and more); and
- Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.

**Figure 12. Friendship Park Suggested Improvements**

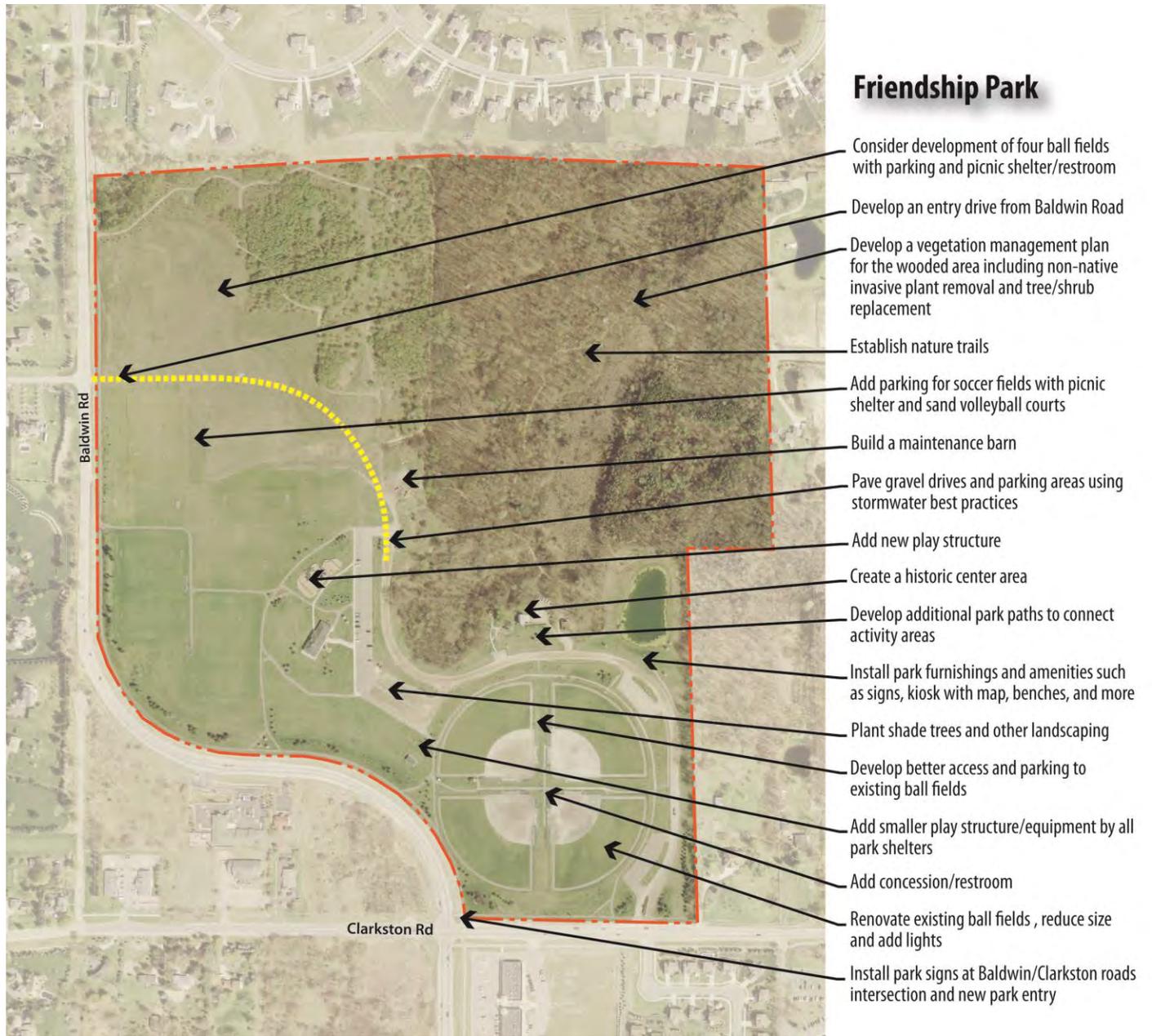


Figure 13. Civic Center Park Suggested Improvements



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### 3. *Maintain and improve Civic Center Park*

Suggested improvements include:

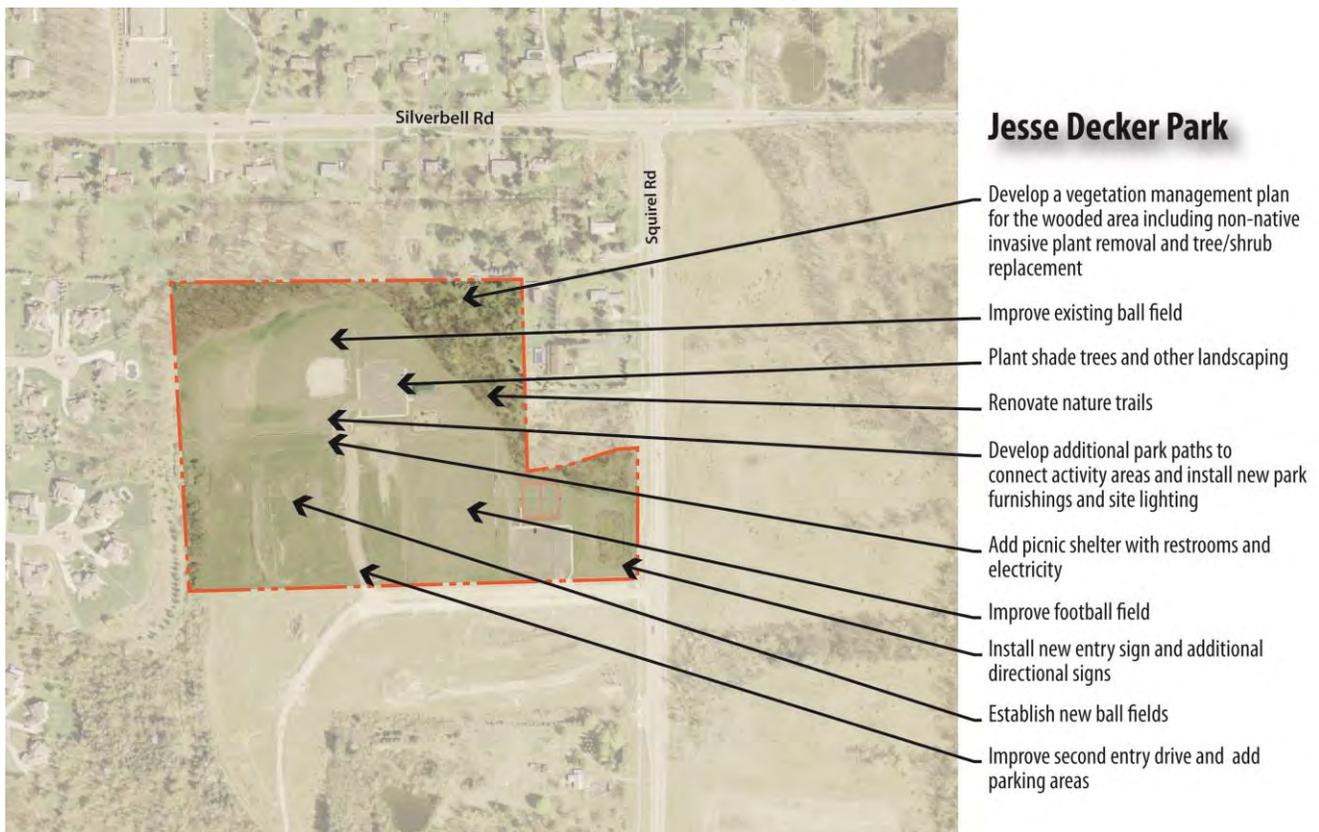
- Stripe, mark and install edge barrier along new parking area by Wildwood;
- Renovate existing ball fields by refurbishing/installing the infield mix, installing under drains in infield, installing canopy over dugouts, adding safety nets and installing fence in outfield;
- Improve existing soccer fields by improving drainage, adding bleachers and adding lights on four fields (5, 6, 3 and 2);
- Update existing picnic shelter/restrooms;
- Resurface/add basketball courts;
- Add accessible horseshoe courts;
- Install additional playground equipment;
- Add picnic pavilion with permanent restrooms at south end;
- Add a skate park by Police Station;
- Renovate/add hike/bike paths and connections to park's activity areas;
- Renovate nature trails in park's southwest corner;
- Widened path connection to Polly Ann Trail between soccer fields 3 & 4;
- Install park sign at Joslyn/Waldon Roads intersection;
- Install new directional signs with kiosk, park and trail map and trail/path markers;
- Add park furnishings/amenities including benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers, etc.;
- Add sign to Polly Ann Trail;
- Open up view to the park from Polly Ann Trail;
- Add Polly Ann trailhead at south end with parking, seating/picnic area and drinking fountain;
- Update the Township Hall building landscaping;
- Plant trees/shrubs throughout site (using no-mow areas, rain gardens and more); and
- Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.

#### 4. Maintain and improve Jesse Decker Park

Suggested improvements include:

- Resurface drive and improve parking area layout;
- Pave second entry drive and add parking;
- Improve existing baseball field by refurbishing the infield mix, installing under drains in infield, grading and reseeding the outfield, adding irrigation, adding safety nets and adding bleachers;
- Improve existing football field by grading/reseeding the field surface and adding irrigation;
- Establish two ball fields in undeveloped area;
- Add picnic shelter with restrooms and electricity;
- Add hike/bike paths to connect activity areas and general site lighting;
- Renovate nature trails in wooded area;
- Install new park sign at Squirrel intersection;
- Install new directional signs within park;
- Add park furnishings including benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles and pet waste dispensers, etc.;
- Plant shade trees and other landscaping throughout site (using no-mow areas, rain gardens and more); and
- Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.

Figure 14. Jesse Decker Park Suggested Improvements



## 5. Maintain and improve the Orion Center

Suggested improvements include:

- Improve the Polly Ann Trail connection by adding a hike/bike pathway link from Joslyn Road, adding signage and installing pedestrian amenities such as benches, drinking fountain, pet waste dispensers and trash receptacles;
- Improve outdoor patio area by installing benches, chairs and shade canopies;
- Add bocce ball courts;
- Install outdoor exercise stations along path connection to Polly Ann Trail;
- Install a LED sign along Joslyn Road;
- Plant shade trees and other landscaping; and
- Develop a vegetation management plan for the wooded area with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.

Figure 15. Orion Center Suggested Improvements

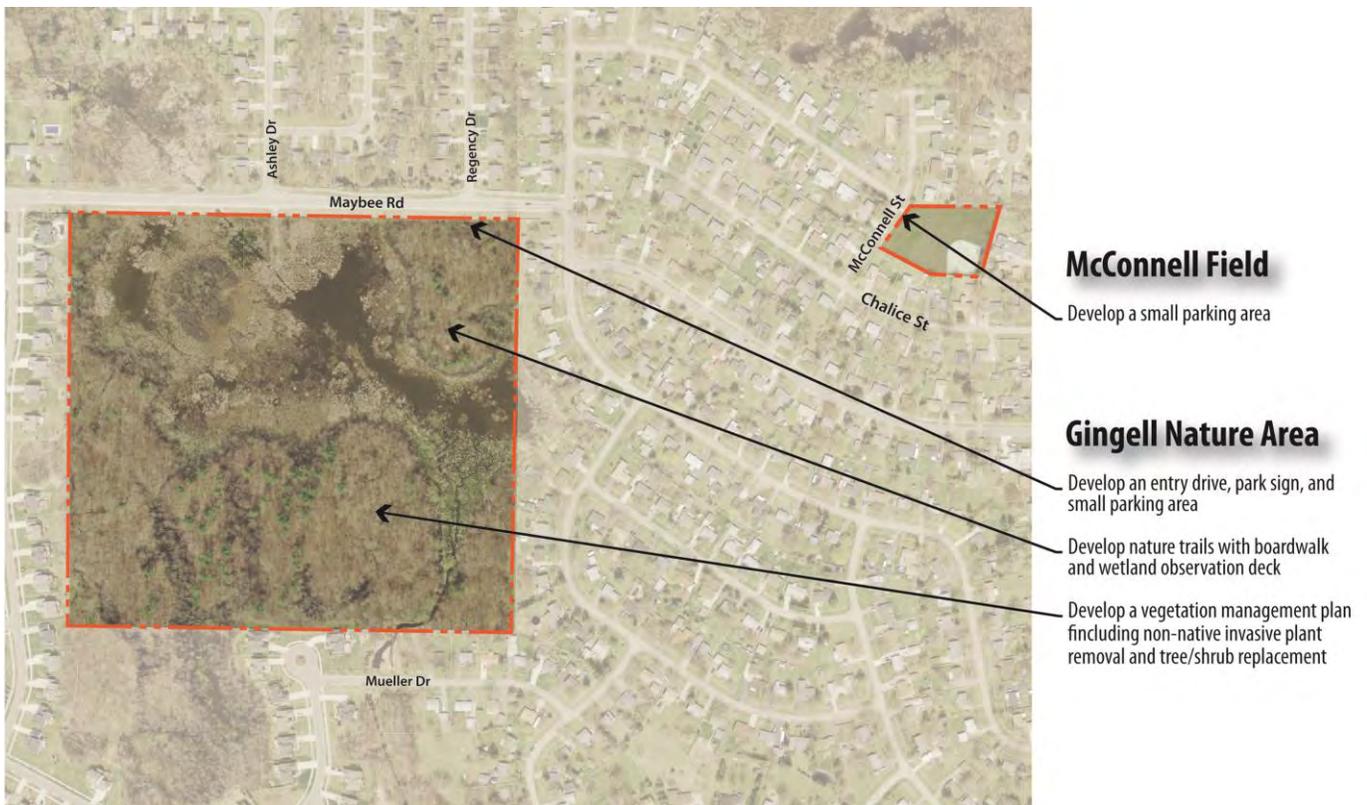


## 6. Maintain and improve McConnell Field and Gingell Nature Area

Suggested improvements include:

- Improve McConnell Field by developing a small parking area; and
- Consider donating/selling McConnell Field to the homeowner's association for their use as a neighborhood park;
- Develop an entry drive, park sign and parking area at Gingell Nature Area;
- Develop nature trails with wetland observation deck at Gingell Nature Area; and
- Develop a vegetation management plan for Gingell Nature Area with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.

Figure 16. McConnell Park and Gingell Nature Area Suggested Improvements



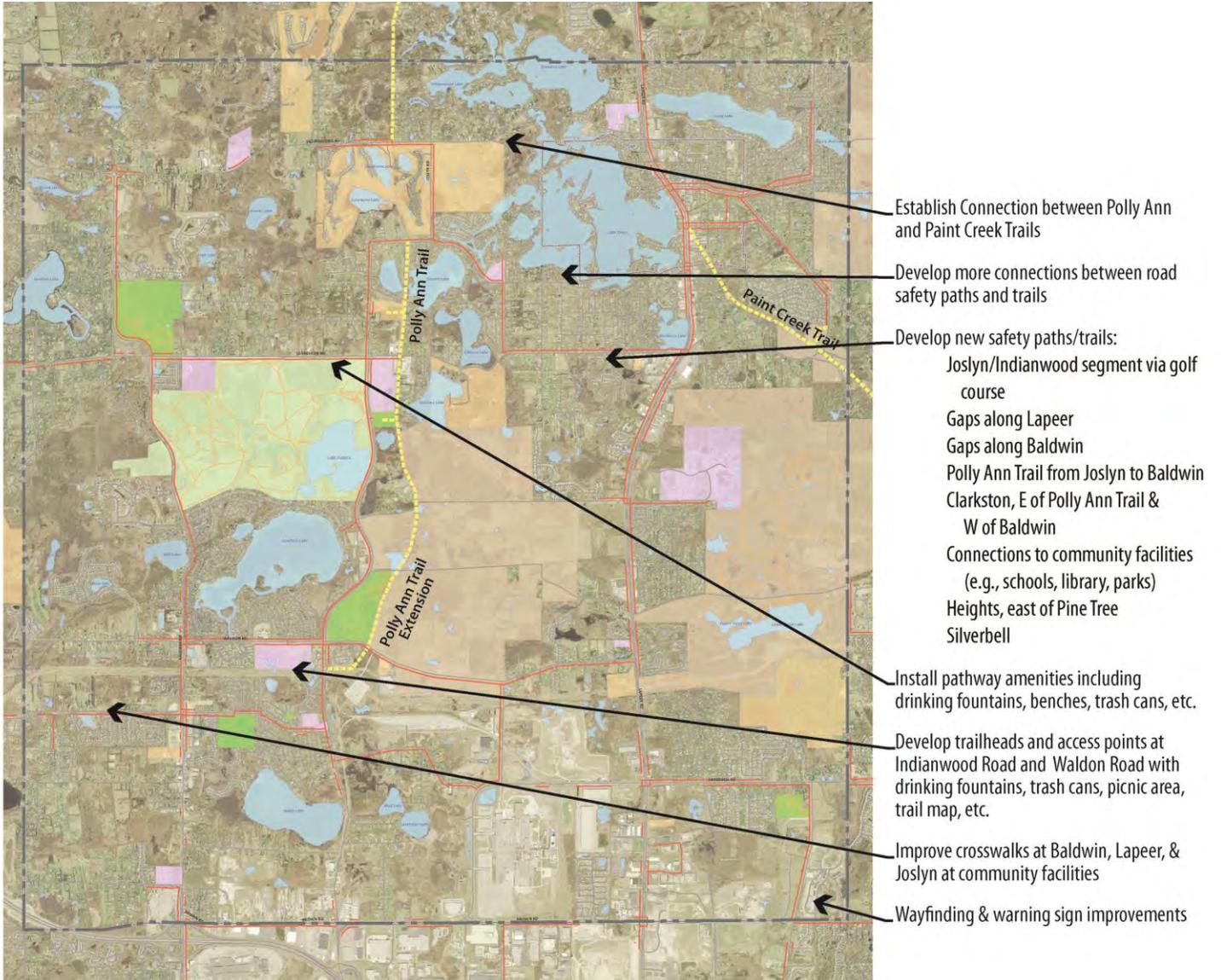
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## 7. *Maintain and improve Township-wide safety path system*

Suggested improvements include:

- Establish connection between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek trails;
- Develop more connections between Township safety paths and trails;
- Develop new safety paths/trails:
  - Joslyn/Indianwood Roads segment connection through golf course,
  - Gaps along M-24-Lapeer Road,
  - Gaps along Baldwin Road,
  - Polly Ann Trail extension from Joslyn to Baldwin Roads,
  - Clarkston Road (Polly Ann Trail east to Paint Creek Trail and west of Baldwin Road),
  - Connections to various community facilities (High School, local parks, Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, etc.),
  - Heights Road, east of Pine Tree, and
  - Silverbell Road;
- Develop new trailheads/access points at Indianwood Road and Waldon Road with parking, drinking fountains, trash cans, picnic area and trail map;
- Improve crosswalks at Baldwin, Lapeer, & Joslyn at community facilities;
- Install amenities including drinking fountains, benches, trash cans and pet waste dispensers; and
- Install way finding and warning signs.

**Figure 17. Township-wide Safety Path System Suggested Improvements**



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#### **8. *Continue to assess opportunities for future park land acquisition***

Consider acquisition and dedication of new park land and open space as follows:

- Land that preserves natural features which would provide a setting for passive activities;
- Land that is easily accessible from most existing and future Township residents and land that provides linkages; and
- Work with the Township Board and Planning Commission to ensure park land and open space preservation needs are considered in the review of new developments and to encourage or develop regulations for developers to set aside land appropriate for open space preservation, community park land and pathways.

#### **9. *Maintain and enhance high quality parks, recreation and senior programs and services***

Facilitate and promote the use of Township parks and recreation facilities by community groups including seniors, youth groups and others. More specific actions include:

- Complete a “Promoting Active Communities” assessment from the State Department of Community Health, the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Sports, and Health, MSU and the Prevention Research Center of Michigan to generate ideas, interest and support for Orion Township parks, recreation and senior services;
- Evaluate and monitor programs to assess their value to the overall system and work to broaden the participant base;
- Continue to broaden the variety of activities offered;
- Strive to maintain core recreation programs including special events, preschool, youth sports, summer specialized camps, adult sports and senior programs; and
- Expand the use of web-based communication tools.

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**10. Provide for the efficient administration of parks, recreation and senior services**

A means of increasing revenues where possible should be continually explored to support the desired capital improvement projects and to maintain the existing and future park facilities to a high quality standard. Actions include:

- Increase staff and maintenance equipment as needed;
- Evaluate fees and charges for programs and services to increase cost recovery;
- Increase public awareness of the Orion Township Community Programs Department;
- Maintain existing and forge new partnerships with public and private recreation providers that support efficient and effective service and program delivery;
- Coordinate public-private partnerships with area businesses to benefit recreation opportunities for Township residents;
- Continue to aggressively pursue state and federal grants for park land and trail acquisition and development;
- Build a *Friends of Orion Township Parks* group to provide support for park project and funding; and
- Explore and submit proposals to private foundations for recreation program funding and for park land and trail acquisition and development.



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## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The suggested improvements noted in the preceding section include more tasks than can be accomplished in the next five years, the timeframe for this Plan. For this reason, project priorities based on a customized prioritization process was developed for Orion Township.

The following criteria were used to weigh and prioritize projects:

- **Maintains Existing Facilities:** Projects that are necessary to maintain existing facilities are scored and ranked based on how important they are to the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- **Responds to Recreation Demand:** While most projects identified in the preceding section respond to the desires expressed by Township residents, they are scored and ranked based on the needs assessment findings.
- **Supports Access or Recreation Opportunities:** Projects that improve accessibility of all users and projects such as drive and pathway improvements, and projects that support the existing and desired activities such as restroom buildings, park shelters, playgrounds and infrastructure improvements are considered high priority projects.
- **May Generate Revenues:** Projects that have the potential of generating revenues which may offset the costs of capital investment and ongoing operations and maintenance receive higher priority than projects without identified revenue stream.
- **Has Potential Available Funds:** Projects that have the potential to be funded through a millage, grants, donations, partner contributions or other funding sources receive higher priority than projects without other identified funding opportunities.

Table 15 lists the individual capital improvement projects along with the specific tasks to be accomplished, the project goal (refer to pages 59 through 61), a cost estimate and potential funding sources. In addition, priorities were assigned to each project. Top priority projects highlighted in red are recommended for completion within the next two to five years, important projects colored in green, within five to ten years, while desirable projects, not tinted, are long-term projects. As funding become available, projects may be moved ahead of this schedule. Costs are for budgetary purposes only. Further investigations may be necessary to determine the engineers' probable cost opinions.

**Table 15. Capital Improvement Schedule**

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding source	Priority
<b>Friendship Park</b>				
<b>Access and Parking</b>				
Develop of an entry drive from Baldwin Rd	2	\$417,900	Local Funds	Imp
Resurface/pave all gravel drives and parking areas using storm water best management practices	1	\$955,200	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Reseal existing paved areas	1	\$20,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Construct new ball fields</b>				
Develop clover leaf configuration ball fields - (65' bases-225' outfield) (infield under-drainage, irrigation: water box/quick coupler system, backstop fence, outfield fence and cap)	2	\$506,700	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Develop parking area	2	\$150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Construct picnic shelter/concession/restrooms	2	\$281,400	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add parking area from new entry drive by soccer fields	2	\$100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Renovate existing baseball fields</b>				
Reduce size of two northern fields - grading, seeding, topdressing	2	\$31,700	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Refurbish infield mix	1	\$3,800	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Install two new infields	1	\$30,400	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Install underdrains in infield	1	\$30,400	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Install canopy over dugouts	1	\$80,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add safety nets	1	\$50,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add bleachers	2	\$150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Develop better access and parking to existing ball field area	2	\$ 200,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Add concession/restrooms in existing ball field area	2	\$ 200,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Install lights	2	\$ 600,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
<b>Other Improvements</b>				
Reroof park building	1	\$10,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Replace park building floor	1	\$ 4,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Build a maintenance barn	1	\$ 500,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding source	Priority
Repair/restore Howarth schoolhouse	1	\$ 10,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Create a historic center area (barn, schoolhouse, gazebo) with additional parking and use for programming activities	2	\$ 100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add hike/bike paths and connections to park's activity areas connected to safety paths	3	\$ 477,600	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Develop nature trails in wooded area	3	\$ 100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add picnic shelter by soccer fields	2	\$ 150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add sand volleyball courts	2	\$47,800	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add small play structures/equipment by baseball field areas (existing and proposed)	2	\$150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Install park sign at Baldwin/Clarkston intersection and at Baldwin new entrance	1	\$ 10,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Design and install new directional signs within park with kiosk, park and trail map and trail/path markers	1	\$200,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add park furnishings/amenities including benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers, etc.	2	\$300,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Plant shade trees and other landscaping throughout site (using no-mow areas, rain gardens and more)	2	\$200,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.	1	\$60,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Civic Center Park</b>				
<b>Access and parking</b>				
Reseal existing paved areas	1	\$20,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Stripe, mark and install edge barrier along new parking area by Wildwood	1	\$40,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Renovate existing ball fields</b>				
Refurbish infield mix	1	\$29,600	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Install underdrains in infield	1	\$15,200	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Install canopy over dugouts	1	\$15,200	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add safety nets	1	\$20,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Install fence in outfield	2	\$27,900	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add parking	2	\$100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
<b>Improve existing soccer fields</b>				

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding source	Priority
Improve drainage	1	\$30,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Repaint goals	1	\$5,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Replace damaged goals	1	\$21,300	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add bleachers	2	\$150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add lights on four fields (5,6,3 and 2)	2	\$298,500	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
<b>Other Improvements</b>				
Update existing picnic shelter/restrooms	1	\$25,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Resurface/add basketball courts	1	\$131,300	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add accessible horseshoe courts	2	\$50,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Reseal Wildwood Amphitheater	1	\$7,500	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add/Update/Install additional playground equipment	1	\$100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add picnic pavilion with permanent restrooms at south end by Wildwood and soccer fields	2	\$250,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Add a skate park	2	\$286,600	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Renovate/add hike/bike paths and connections to park's activity areas	3	\$298,500	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Renovate nature trails in park's southwest corner	3	\$20,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Widened path connection to Polly Ann Trail between soccer fields 3 & 4	3	\$119,400	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Install park sign at Joslyn/Waldon intersection with directions to Wildwood Amphitheater	1	\$5,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Install new directional signs within park with kiosk, park and trail map and park activity areas	2	\$200,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add park furnishings/amenities including benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers, etc.	2	\$300,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add sign to Polly Ann Trail	1	\$200,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Open up views to the park from Polly Ann Trail	1	\$10,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add Polly Ann trailhead at south end with parking, seating/picnic area and drinking fountain	2	\$143,300	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Update the landscape design around the Township Hall building	1	\$25,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Plant shrubs/trees throughout site (using no-mow areas, rain gardens and more)	2	\$75,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding source	Priority
Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.	1	\$60,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Jesse Decker Park</b>				
Pave 2nd entry drive and add parking	2	\$150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Reseal existing paved areas	1	\$20,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Improve existing baseball field</b>				
Refurbish infield mix	1	\$1,900	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Install underdrains in infield	1	\$7,600	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Grade and reseed outfield	1	\$10,100	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Add irrigation	1	\$15,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Add safety nets	1	\$15,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add bleachers	2	\$50,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Improve existing football field</b>				
Grade and reseed field surface	1	\$25,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Add irrigation	1	\$15,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
<b>Other Improvements</b>				
Add picnic shelter with restrooms and electricity	2	\$250,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Add Splash Park	2	\$350,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add hike/bike paths to connect activity areas and general site lighting	3	\$180,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Renovate nature trails in north end	3	\$5,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Install new entry park sign at Squirrel intersection	1	\$5,000	Local Funds, Grant, & Donations	Des
Install new directional signs within park	2	\$50,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Add park furnishings/amenities including benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers, etc.	2	\$150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Plant shade trees and other landscaping throughout site (using no-mow areas, rain gardens and more)	2	\$75,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.	1	\$60,000	Local Funds, Grants, & Donations	Des

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding source	Priority
<b>Orion Center</b>				
<b>Improve Polly Ann Trail connection</b>				
Add hike/bike link from Joslyn	3	\$100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Add signage	3	\$5,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Add outdoor exercise stations	2	\$20,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Install pedestrian amenities such as benches, drinking fountain, pet waste dispensers, trash receptacles	3	\$30,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
<b>Improve outdoor patio area</b>				
Add bocce courts (4)	2	\$25,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Install benches, chairs and other furnishings	2	\$100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Top
Install sun/shade canopies	2	\$100,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
<b>Other Improvements</b>				
Add a Led Sign along Joslyn	2	\$25,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Imp
Plant shade trees and other landscaping throughout site (using no-mow areas, rain gardens and more)	2	\$50,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.	1	\$10,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>McConnell Field</b>				
Develop a small parking area	2	\$150,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Gingell Nature Area</b>				
Develop/install an entry drive, park sign and small parking area	2	\$185,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Develop nature trails with wetland observation deck	2	\$358,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
Develop vegetation management plan with a plan for non-native invasive species removal and tree/shrub replacement.	1	\$60,000	Local Funds, Grants & Donations	Des
<b>Safety Paths</b>				
Establish connection between Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp
Develop more connections between Township safety paths and trails	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp
<b>Develop new safety paths/trails</b>				
Joslyn/Indianwood connection through golf course	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Des

Project/Tasks	Goal	Cost Estimate	Funding source	Priority
Gaps along M-24-Lapeer Road	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp
Gaps along Baldwin Road	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp
Polly Ann Trail extension from Joslyn to Baldwin Roads	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Des
Clarkston Road (east of Polly Ann Trail to Paint Creek, west of Baldwin Road)	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp
Connections to various community facilities (high school, local parks, Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, etc.)	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Des
Heights Road, east of Pine Tree	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Des
Silverbell Road	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Des
<b>Other Improvements</b>				
Develop new trailheads/access points at Indianwood Road, Waldon Road, etc. with parking, drinking fountains, trash cans, picnic area, trail map	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp
Improve crosswalks at Baldwin, Lapeer, & Joslyn at community facilities	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp
Install amenities including drinking fountains, benches, trash cans	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Des
Install way finding and warning signs	3	Tbd	Local Funds, Grants & Millage	Imp

\*: Cost estimates are preliminary. Additional analysis and further engineering will be required to determine more exact prices.

Top: Top Priority Project;

Imp: Important Project;

Des: Desirable Project;

Tbd: To be determined.

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## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides a limited amount of money for parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned.

### *Apply for Federal Funding*

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with SEMCOG funds the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis. Activities which may apply to Orion Township include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses; and
- Provision of safety and educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling.

### *Apply for State Funding*

At the state level, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) continue to be the primary funding sources for park land acquisition and development. The new Recreation Passport grant also offers some state funding to local units of government.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of park land for natural resource-based preservation and recreation.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request was \$15,000 and the maximum was \$300,000 in 2013. Applications are typically due April 1st.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, which distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has recently been on trail way systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests were \$30,000 and maximum grant requests were \$100,000 in 2013. The match percentage is 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are typically due on April 1st.

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The Recreation Passport grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests were \$7,500 and maximum requests were \$45,000 in 2013. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Applications are usually due on April 1st as well.

Other funding conducted in partnership with the MDNR is available through other state government divisions, such as the Fisheries Division (Inland Fisheries Grants) and the Forest Resources Division (Community Forestry Grants).

The Inland Fisheries programs consider projects that enhance habitat and fisheries, riparian property for public fishing use, water quality and ecology. While not offered in 2013, they may become available in the future.

Municipalities may use Community Forestry grants to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. Grant requests may be up to \$20,000 depending on the project type and applications are usually due in the middle of the summer. Detroit Edison also offers tree planting grants for up to \$3,000 to local municipalities in its coverage area.

### ***Apply for Other Grant Funding***

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways, walk/bike ways, or greenway-related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: facility, education and capacity building. Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

### ***Increase Support for Parks***

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the Township will be able to provide in the future. A specific park or project millage could be considered in the future for particular projects such as park development, walk/bike way development, or maintenance.

### ***Seek Other Sources of Funding***

Orion Township should investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should continue to be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park land acquisition and development.



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## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



# SURVEY RESULTS\*

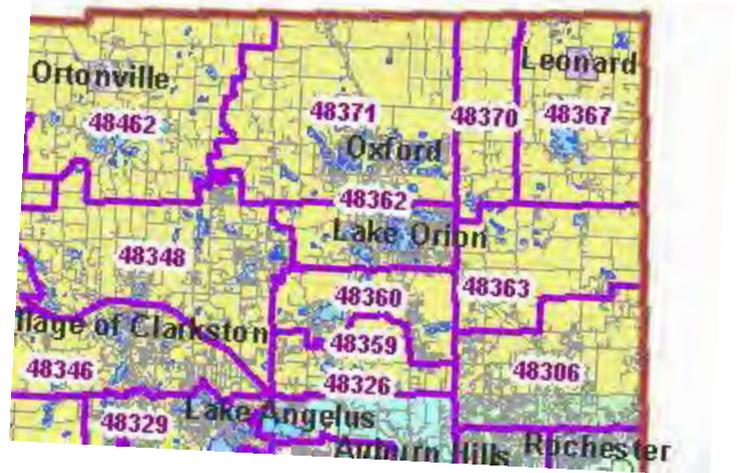
## Online Survey

### GENERAL INFORMATION

This survey was conducted between July 31 and September 27, 2013. Residents were encouraged to complete the survey by a notice on the Township's web site and through an announcement in the Parks and Recreation Brochure and newspapers. A total of 419 surveys were tabulated.

### Survey Responses by Zip Code

Zip Code	Survey Responses
48362	37.2%
48360	29.9%
48359	19.4%
48348	5.6%
48371	4.2%
48363	1.4%
48462	1.0%
48370	0.3%
48306	0.3%
Other	0.7%



### Survey participant demographics

Do you own or rent your home?

Own	98.3%
Rent	1.7%

What type of housing do you reside in?

House	95.9%
Condominium	3.1%
Apartment	0.7%
Manufactured Home	0.3%

In addition to yourself, how many household members contributed their opinions to this survey?

1	59.9%
2	21.2%
3	9.5%
4	8.1%
5	0.9%
7	0.5%

What are the ages of all household members living at your residence?

Age Group	
0-17	42.3%
35-44	19.2%
45-54	17.0%
18-24	6.4%
55-64	6.4%
25-34	3.3%
75 and over	3.0%
65-74	2.4%

\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.

**PARK AND PATH/TRAIL VISITATION**

**How many times have you or a member of your household visited our Township parks, paths and community facilities in the past year?**

Park	Number of Times Visited a Year				1 or more
	10 or more	6-10	5 or less	Never	
Friendship Park	202	54	113	45	89.1%
Civic Center Park	168	71	112	59	85.6%
Paint Creek Trail	121	62	128	99	75.9%
Township Safety Paths	161	47	88	111	72.7%
Polly Ann Trail & Extension	100	60	112	136	66.7%
Orion Center	51	46	150	154	61.6%
Jesse Decker Park	77	44	112	168	58.1%
McConnell Field	14	20	70	293	26.2%
Gingell Nature Area	9	7	44	335	15.2%
Fernhurst Property	5	5	20	363	7.6%

**PARKS: REASONS FOR VISITS, MOST ENJOYABLE FEATURES, & SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS**

Considering the Township parks and facilities you have visited, what were the primary reasons you visited them, what did you most enjoy during your visit and are there improvements you might suggest?

Reason for Visit	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
<b>Civic Center Park</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• baseball (76)</li> <li>• softball (12)</li> <li>• soccer (29)</li> <li>• Sports practice (2)</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Playground (16)</li> <li>• Play with kids (2)</li> <li>• Picnic (9)</li> <li>• Alliance Academy Gold team member</li> <li>• Fitness walking</li> <li>• Run</li> <li>• Trail (2)</li> <li>• Parks (2)</li> <li>• Activities in Pavilion (3)</li> <li>• TWP Meetings, building permits (2)</li> <li>• Community events</li> <li>• Wildwood Amphitheater</li> <li>• Concerts (4)</li> <li>• Plays</li> <li>• Summer camp</li> <li>• Boot Camp</li> <li>• Get together</li> <li>• Family outings (2)</li> <li>• LOYBL games/park amenities (2)</li> <li>• Field Trip</li> <li>• Many! Including Geocaching</li> <li>• Took grandkids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields (41)</li> <li>• Home run fences</li> <li>• Seating at the ball games (2)</li> <li>• Proximity of parking to diamonds</li> <li>• Fences outfield on Jaycee</li> <li>• Electricity near diamonds</li> <li>• Lights (6)</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Pavilion (8)</li> <li>• Bathrooms (12)</li> <li>• Proximity of bathrooms (4)</li> <li>• Playground (27)</li> <li>• Can easily see younger children</li> <li>• Everything (6)</li> <li>• Family time</li> <li>• Setting (7)</li> <li>• Trails (2)</li> <li>• Walking path</li> <li>• Felt secure</li> <li>• Location (3)</li> <li>• Nicely organized</li> <li>• Convenience (5)</li> <li>• Cleanliness (8)</li> <li>• Variety of activities in one park</li> <li>• Plenty of parking, nice pavilion</li> <li>• Close to park for younger kids to enjoy</li> <li>• Good family park</li> <li>• Openness</li> <li>• Grounds</li> <li>• Nice shade trees</li> <li>• Shaded areas to watch kids and picnic</li> <li>• Large size easily accessible</li> <li>• Hidden pathway in Sw Corner with boardwalk</li> <li>• Just a nice park for everyone!</li> <li>• Size, space, accessible parking</li> <li>• It's free! Sounds of children playing, family time and seeing old friends from school</li> <li>• Wildwood: Great place to see a concert to play music</li> <li>• Wildwood: Concerts (2)</li> <li>• Wildwood: family fun</li> <li>• Wildwood: free, out of doors, good music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perfect (2)</li> <li>• new updated play equipment (7)</li> <li>• special needs accommodations on playground</li> <li>• Improve ball fields (4)</li> <li>• Continue to improve ballfields and soccer fields</li> <li>• Better dirt for the fields to make it easier for the kids to worry about fielding and not a bad hoop due to hitting rocks</li> <li>• Add parking (8)</li> <li>• Add ball fields (10)</li> <li>• Need fields built for kids</li> <li>• improved baseball infields,</li> <li>• fenced outfields on two of the three,</li> <li>• Top nets</li> <li>• Improve drainage on ball fields (5)</li> <li>• Outfield warning track installed</li> <li>• Water to infields.</li> <li>• Fields need new meal</li> <li>• Recyclable containers</li> <li>• update bb field in back</li> <li>• cover dugouts (4)</li> <li>• Larger opening for Dugouts</li> <li>• Make right field fence on Jaycee taller</li> <li>• Batting cages</li> <li>• have more reliable lighting or access to township resource when lights don't work during a game Add walking path around fields</li> <li>• Skate park (3)</li> <li>• More signs posted regarding NO animals on fields</li> <li>• Better maintenance, fields, dirt.</li> <li>• More fields could be lighted (4)</li> <li>• more stands for seating</li> <li>• Upkeep</li> <li>• Update Basketball courts (2)</li> <li>• put more dirt/sand in between the baseball fields so it isn't always wet and flooded when it rains.</li> <li>• Concessions (3)</li> <li>• Bathrooms (2)</li> <li>• restrooms by wildwood</li> <li>• Update existing bathrooms (8)</li> <li>• restrooms by soccer fields (4)</li> <li>• Add pavilion with restrooms on south end</li> <li>• Add picnic pavilion</li> <li>• indoor pavilion like at Friendship to rent for gatherings</li> <li>• horseshoe pits</li> <li>• need seating at soccer games</li> <li>• More room for picnics and picnic tables</li> </ul>

Reason for Visit	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• repair walking surface, completely washed out behind Twp Hall near tower, remove weeds &amp; refresh entire trail</li> <li>• Better Polly Ann access (2) with signs</li> <li>• amphitheatre upgrades</li> <li>• Would like the trails back that used to go through the woods.</li> <li>• improve walking paths</li> <li>• shade trees (2)</li> <li>• Ice Rinks - please add rink for ice hockey in winter and roller hockey in summer</li> <li>• Put in a sandbox</li> <li>• Add more sand volleyball courts - (work with local club to organize beach volley league in summer)</li> <li>• None (4)</li> <li>• seating</li> <li>• tennis courts (2)</li> <li>• Disk golf course?</li> <li>• Need improved drainage on soccer fields</li> <li>• Maybe develop a small amphitheater for the music,</li> <li>• Spray park</li> <li>• Wildwood: Bathrooms (2)</li> <li>• Wildwood: concession</li> <li>• Wildwood: Play set for kids</li> <li>• Wildwood: no improvements necessary</li> </ul>

**Friendship Park**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball (98)</li> <li>• Softball (10)</li> <li>• LOYBL (5)</li> <li>• Soccer (40)</li> <li>• Sports (3)</li> <li>• Exercise (2)</li> <li>• Child's sports event</li> <li>• Walking (9)</li> <li>• Paths and trails (5)</li> <li>• Picnic (8)</li> <li>• Playground (43)</li> <li>• Play with kids (4)</li> <li>• Fairs</li> <li>• Recreation (3)</li> <li>• Just hanging out</li> <li>• Community events (14)</li> <li>• Bike (3)</li> <li>• Bid Rig Gig (7)</li> <li>• Barn Daze (5)</li> <li>• Relay for Life (3)</li> <li>• Meetings, grad parties</li> <li>• Flag football (2)</li> <li>• Visit Gazebo</li> <li>• Jogging the park</li> <li>• No reason</li> <li>• Festivals (2)</li> <li>• Boot camp</li> <li>• Just for fun (2)</li> <li>• Play dates, Birthdays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields (55)</li> <li>• Playground (48)</li> <li>• Well-kept walkways</li> <li>• safe open areas</li> <li>• Community gathering</li> <li>• Pavilion activities (4)</li> <li>• Open space</li> <li>• Bike trails (3)</li> <li>• Cleanliness (6)</li> <li>• Bathrooms (14)</li> <li>• Openness (9)</li> <li>• Park</li> <li>• Walking path and trails (10)</li> <li>• Family time</li> <li>• Large space for events like barn daze and big rig gig</li> <li>• Ease of access (2)</li> <li>• Safe family environment (2)</li> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Bleachers at every field</li> <li>• Indoor facilities in the area when needed</li> <li>• Well-maintained (2)</li> <li>• The entire park (3)</li> <li>• Family environment</li> <li>• Park setting for activities</li> <li>• Modern facilities</li> <li>• Ability to host large groups</li> <li>• Great facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete second entry drive from Baldwin (5)</li> <li>• More ball fields (38) (cloverleaf)</li> <li>• Lights to some ball fields (17)</li> <li>• Host baseball/softball tournaments</li> <li>• Needs smaller fields built for kids (10)</li> <li>• Baseball fields with bases on them so I can practice with my son.</li> <li>• Better upkeep of fields</li> <li>• Fix/improve the infield (18)</li> <li>• All fields need new Meal or should be tilled</li> <li>• Make infields smaller</li> <li>• Improve grass quality (3)</li> <li>• Bathroom close to baseball fields (8)</li> <li>• Electricity near diamonds</li> <li>• Bleachers, scoreboard</li> <li>• Overhead safety net (6)</li> <li>• Cover dugouts (3)</li> <li>• Cement dugouts</li> <li>• Improve batting cage</li> <li>• concession stand (8)</li> <li>• Covered shelter near fields</li> <li>• A smaller pavilion with bathrooms by the baseball fields</li> <li>• Make this park a baseball/softball complex</li> <li>• Portable restrooms near soccer fields</li> <li>• Move all soccer to Civic Center Park</li> </ul>
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Reason for Visit	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family outings (5)</li> <li>• All kinds or reasons, sports, walking, graduation</li> <li>• Color run (2)</li> <li>• Paths events</li> <li>• Chili cook-off</li> <li>• Run</li> <li>• Lots of fun to meet friends there</li> <li>• Close by for family</li> <li>• Running for dog</li> <li>• Parties/gatherings at Pavilion</li> <li>• Alliance Academy Gold team member</li> <li>• Party</li> <li>• Outdoor summer camp</li> <li>• Open house</li> <li>• Took grandchildren</li> <li>• T-Ball</li> <li>• Friendly get together</li> <li>• Flying kites</li> <li>• Disc golf practice</li> <li>• Events that run in the spring/summer</li> <li>• Play with friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility (2)</li> <li>• Event</li> <li>• Plant life</li> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Batting cages</li> <li>• The pond looks beautiful</li> <li>• Castle</li> <li>• Convenience</li> <li>• Great space for large events/games/tourneys</li> <li>• Close to home (3)</li> <li>• Outdoor and indoor space</li> <li>• Nice setting</li> <li>• Access to them</li> <li>• Layout and size (2)</li> <li>• Nature space</li> <li>• Together with concessions</li> <li>• Nice building</li> <li>• The large covered picnic area</li> <li>• Nice facility (2)</li> <li>• The space to have big events and for kids to run around</li> <li>• Great place for children</li> <li>• Some of the events are FREE u got to love that!! again the sound of children playing, family time and running into friends that you having seen since school</li> <li>• Great picnic opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for tournaments</li> <li>• Indoor soccer facility</li> <li>• Basketball court with lights</li> <li>• Multiple sand volleyball courts</li> <li>• Shade trees and landscaping (13)</li> <li>• Seating (2)</li> <li>• Pave parking lot and drive (2)</li> <li>• More frequent road grading</li> <li>• More parking (14)</li> <li>• More parking by soccer (3)</li> <li>• new play structure (27)</li> <li>• additional play structures in park (2)</li> <li>• expand sand box (2)</li> <li>• New play equipment &amp; seating area</li> <li>• More climbing and other activities for tweens/older kids</li> <li>• Splash park/playground (6)</li> <li>• Ice Rinks (3)</li> <li>• Skate Park (15)</li> <li>• tennis courts (2)</li> <li>• Disk golf course (2)</li> <li>• None (4)</li> <li>• Add picnic areas (2)</li> <li>• Let Oakland County Parks manage it. They do a great job</li> <li>• The play structure could use some maintenance.</li> <li>• Expand Hours of restrooms (3)</li> <li>• connect trail in woods to playground instead of going through parking lot</li> <li>• do not remove the forests</li> <li>• keep brush clear of paths; trail maps should reflect orientation of sign with respect to path.</li> <li>• Clarkston Road Path needs repair building for more activities</li> <li>• Township aquatic facility</li> <li>• Outdoor Pool/Hot Tub</li> <li>• Nature Center</li> <li>• Perimeter track</li> </ul>
<b>Jesse Decker Park</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball (27)</li> <li>• LOYBL</li> <li>• Leagues</li> <li>• Football (11)</li> <li>• Sledding (17)</li> <li>• Tennis (6)</li> <li>• Soccer (2)</li> <li>• Exercise (2)</li> <li>• Running</li> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter</li> <li>• Picnic</li> <li>• Play structure (12)</li> <li>• Exercise class</li> <li>• Closest park to home</li> <li>• Cheerleading practice for the girls</li> <li>• B-day parties</li> <li>• Play groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleanliness</li> <li>• baseball field (8)</li> <li>• play area (2)</li> <li>• Play structure (5).</li> <li>• All</li> <li>• sledding hill (13)</li> <li>• Nice pavilion</li> <li>• Picnic</li> <li>• seating area</li> <li>• Tennis (2)</li> <li>• nice surroundings (3)</li> <li>• walk/hike perimeter in woods/nature</li> <li>• Playground next to fields for siblings</li> <li>• Location (3)</li> <li>• parking proximity to baseball diamond</li> <li>• the space</li> <li>• Quiet play area and room to run</li> <li>• Closeness to home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football field improvements- grading and irrigation system (10)</li> <li>• Irrigation improvement</li> <li>• Need fence around field to prevent damage</li> <li>• Irrigation on baseball field (2)</li> <li>• Ball field is lumpy and has a big drop off in the outfield</li> <li>• smooth out baseball field in outfield</li> <li>• Use sand and dirt instead of crushed gravel</li> <li>• more fields for the younger kids.</li> <li>• More baseball fields (7)</li> <li>• Add soccer fields (2)</li> <li>• Add basketball court (3)</li> <li>• Concessions (2)</li> <li>• finish construction</li> <li>• maybe a running path?</li> <li>• Need restroom facilities (11)</li> </ul>

Reason for Visit	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kid activities</li> <li>• Play with kids</li> <li>• Children to play at/proximity to home</li> <li>• Bring grandson to play area</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paved entrance (8)</li> <li>• Maintain Nature trails.</li> <li>• Big Tennis Practice Wall</li> <li>• Pickle ball courts painted in tennis area or dedicated courts</li> <li>• more playground equipment (5)</li> <li>• More parking (3)</li> <li>• Fix broken tennis net!</li> <li>• Hockey Rinks - please add rink for ice hockey in winter and roller hockey in summer</li> </ul>
<b>McConnell Field</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball (8)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball field (4)</li> <li>• Quiet/secluded</li> <li>• clean</li> <li>• Location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking improvement</li> <li>• Seating (2)</li> <li>• field in bad shape- more meal on infield</li> <li>• Improve baseball field</li> <li>• Needs a picnic shelter</li> </ul>
<b>Gingell Nature Area</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• view wetland wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird watching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear vegetation and improve parking</li> <li>• add trash can and picnic table</li> </ul>
<b>Orion Center</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• voting</li> <li>• Special Events (7)</li> <li>• Employee fitness program</li> <li>• meetings</li> <li>• Register for a class and</li> <li>• view facility (6)</li> <li>• classes (2)</li> <li>• visit the Library Branch (2)</li> <li>• ONTV/Parks and Recreation</li> <li>• Dropping off</li> <li>• Various expos, Cub Scouts banquet</li> <li>• Orion TV,</li> <li>• Treadmills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well planned building</li> <li>• beautiful building, easy parking</li> <li>• Great building and facilities (4)</li> <li>• nice room for exercise classes (used the yoga room?)</li> <li>• opportunities available</li> <li>• activities at the center</li> <li>• Friendliness of staff</li> <li>• It's indoor for those very hot days &amp; it's close</li> <li>• \$5/month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add on to outside patio area to have more outdoor music events held there.</li> <li>• Add Dance floors to room C and A for wedding receptions</li> <li>• Get nicer employees and offer more classes.</li> <li>• None</li> <li>• Room becomes incredibly hot during class since the door must be closed to keep noise down--need windows to open or way to cool room</li> <li>• A pool would be awesome for the community. Indoor or outdoor.</li> <li>• Aerobics classes could be held for seniors</li> <li>• playground for kids.</li> <li>• more open classroom time for kids</li> <li>• fitness dvds in yoga room</li> <li>• concerts, performances</li> <li>• Path from back of parking lot to trail needs to be maintained and marked.</li> </ul>
<b>Fernhurst Property</b>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add tennis courts</li> </ul>

**PATHS & TRAILS: ACCESS, REASONS FOR USE, MOST ENJOYABLE FEATURES, & SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS**

Considering the Township paths and trails you have used, where did you access them from, what were the primary reasons you used them, what did you most enjoy and are there improvements you might suggest?

Access	Reason for Use	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
<b>Paint Creek Trail</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Orion (5)</li> <li>• from Paint creek ridge connector - near Clarkston Road</li> <li>• from Kern and Clarkston Road (3)</li> <li>• Behind CVS (3)</li> <li>• from behind McDonalds on Lapeer Road</li> <li>• Kern Rd (5)</li> <li>• from northern end behind the businesses on M24 (KFC) (4)</li> <li>• Silver Bell or Paint Creek Cider Mill access points.</li> <li>• Kern rd off of Orion Rd</li> <li>• Clarkston Rd (8)</li> <li>• from Kern/Clarkston (2)</li> <li>• paint creek train</li> <li>• from Dutton or Silverbell</li> <li>• Lake Orion or Rochester</li> <li>• from Atwater</li> <li>• from Newton Street</li> <li>• Clarkston trail head and lake Orion town trail head off Atwater</li> <li>• from Rochester trailhead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking (62)</li> <li>• Running/jogging (22)</li> <li>• Walking (46)</li> <li>• Exercise (12)</li> <li>• Wildlife/nature viewing (12)</li> <li>• Fishing (3)</li> <li>• clean, safe, well maintained</li> <li>• Location, access, marked trail</li> <li>• photo walk</li> <li>• mountain biking</li> <li>• recreation</li> <li>• Gorgeous!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• length &amp; width of trail (5)</li> <li>• Peaceful (8)</li> <li>• Scenery &amp; natural setting (19)</li> <li>• Well maintained (13)</li> <li>• Not too manicured</li> <li>• Natural surface, not paved</li> <li>• no worries about motor vehicles</li> <li>• very nice trail for biking</li> <li>• nice groomed trails</li> <li>• Everything (2)</li> <li>• Beautiful (6)</li> <li>• easy access</li> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Shade (2)</li> <li>• platform at pond north of Kern/Clarkston</li> <li>• Fish ponds (3)</li> <li>• creek side views</li> <li>• Cider Mill (2)</li> <li>• A very nice ride to Rochester</li> <li>• connection to Rochester (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None (14)</li> <li>• Continue to maintain (4)</li> <li>• Better parking access</li> <li>• connect to other paths in the community</li> <li>• Connect the trails</li> <li>• Connect to Polly Ann Trail (6)</li> <li>• Add light for safety reasons (2)</li> <li>• Better safety</li> <li>• possibly some pavement</li> <li>• Black Top would hold down the dust in dry weather and mud during wet weather.</li> <li>• Pave (3)</li> <li>• Smoother surface</li> <li>• Smoothing near Lake Orion</li> <li>• Rollerblade path</li> <li>• Signage informing people of trail etiquette.</li> <li>• Signage- direction to Lake Orion, direction to Meeks Park (2)</li> <li>• Rest area/shelter at trailhead</li> <li>• Restrooms between Orion &amp; Tienken Rd</li> <li>• Restrooms (1)</li> <li>• Water stations/fountains (7)</li> <li>• More trash cans along path (3)</li> <li>• Bike racks</li> <li>• mile distance markers - QR codes (2)</li> <li>• Fishing docks</li> <li>• Supply dog bags for waste Fine people who don't pick up</li> <li>• Dead tree removal, prairie grass and wildflower plantings</li> <li>• Graffiti removal (2)</li> <li>• Vegetation clearance</li> <li>• Crosswalk maintenance</li> </ul>
<b>Polly Ann Trail</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Indianwood Rd (15)</li> <li>• our back yard</li> <li>• Waldon Road (3)</li> <li>• Clarkston Road (3)</li> <li>• accessed from library (3)</li> <li>• Access from Lakes of Indianwood sub</li> <li>• from Rhodes Rd.</li> <li>• from Joslyn/Civic Center Park (9)</li> <li>• frosty boy area</li> <li>• from downtown Oxford (7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking (61)</li> <li>• Running/jogging (20)</li> <li>• Walking (33)</li> <li>• Exercise (12)</li> <li>• Wildlife/nature viewing (X)</li> <li>• Fishing (X)</li> <li>• Mountain biking (2)</li> <li>• Gain access to DNR property</li> <li>• Recreation (3)</li> <li>• Cycling, Skateboarding</li> <li>• enjoyment</li> <li>• Longboarding (2)</li> <li>• Cross country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peaceful (6)</li> <li>• Well maintained (13)</li> <li>• Scenery &amp; natural setting (24)</li> <li>• meeting other people on the trail</li> <li>• Quality and good surface (4)</li> <li>• width and length path (7)</li> <li>• Love the trail (3)</li> <li>• No traffic (3)</li> <li>• pretty,</li> <li>• safety at road crossings</li> <li>• location (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need Trailhead at Waldon Road</li> <li>• Need trailhead at Indianwood</li> <li>• Extend along Indianwood Road.</li> <li>• More parking at Indianwood rd</li> <li>• None (2)</li> <li>• Pave trail (6)</li> <li>• Pave from Indianwood to Drahrer</li> <li>• Link it to downtown lake Orion</li> <li>• Need to improve section from Joslyn to Indianwood (through Indianwood Golf course?) (3)</li> <li>• Connect to Paint Creek Trail (7)</li> <li>• Connect to safety paths (2) particularly from residents living east of M-24</li> </ul>

Access	Reason for Use	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripps (2)</li> <li>• Indian Trail</li> <li>• across from golf course.</li> <li>• and drahner trailhead</li> <li>• can ride the safety paths to it from my home</li> <li>• Crosswalk across Waldon Rd east of Joslyn Ct.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To get to Civic Center park on our bikes</li> <li>• great walking trail</li> <li>• walking and biking</li> <li>• to get to library</li> <li>• Trout fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beautiful (2)</li> <li>• Great (2)</li> <li>• Nice (3)</li> <li>• Easy access (2)</li> <li>• Bridges and ponds</li> <li>• library connector</li> <li>• Enjoyable ride to Oxford and beyond to Leonard,</li> <li>• Clarkston</li> <li>• close proximity to home</li> <li>• paved with gravel</li> <li>• Close to Orion Center</li> <li>• How they are off the main roads</li> <li>• how they connect to library, civic center, bald mtn park &amp; downtown oxford</li> <li>• Pavement</li> <li>• black top would also be welcome if possible.</li> <li>• Love the trail (2)</li> <li>• Continue to keep road crossings well marked and safe</li> <li>• Smooth Trails for the most part</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could go through Bald Mountain Recreation Area</li> <li>• Complete segment from Joslyn Road to Baldwin Road</li> <li>• Much needed access to bypass Waldon School area and dog walkers along Waldon Rd.</li> <li>• Make the trail go straight through between Joslyn and Indianwood.</li> <li>• Fill in gaps where trail just ends and begins again</li> <li>• Need better access from trail to Civic Center Park and/or Wildwood Amphitheater</li> <li>• Add Caution lights for crossing Joslyn or Clarkston or Waldon roads (2)</li> <li>• Parking area by new trail head</li> <li>• Better enforcement of people parking cars in lots</li> <li>• fines for people who don't pick up dog poop (2)</li> <li>• benches or signs at areas of interest (2)</li> <li>• Better Signage (4)</li> <li>• Need signage by the civic center park and Orion Center (2)</li> <li>• Better access points (3)</li> <li>• Trail-Head with Restrooms- Drinking Water- Picnic Tables or Benches- Bike Rack, etc.</li> <li>• Increase safety</li> <li>• Vegetation clearance (11)</li> <li>• Add Mile Markers (2)</li> <li>• Restrooms (3)</li> <li>• Drinking fountains (2)</li> <li>• More trash cans</li> <li>• mosquito spraying and lighting (2)</li> <li>• Need to fill in holes (3).</li> <li>• Improve surface with grading loose gravel and sand (4)</li> </ul>

Safety Paths			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from Waldon Rd. at Waldon Park,</li> <li>• to Giddings</li> <li>• Silver Bell</li> <li>• Clarkston (5)</li> <li>• Baldwin Rd between Clarkston and Waldon</li> <li>• Baldwin/Clarkston Road</li> <li>• Morgan Road safety path</li> <li>• Rohr Road</li> <li>• Joslyn (8)</li> <li>• Baldwin (10)</li> <li>• Access of m24,</li> <li>• kern road,</li> <li>• Clarkston &amp; Joslyn</li> <li>• from pine tree to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking (31)</li> <li>• walking (26)</li> <li>• running/jogging (14)</li> <li>• Exercise (8)</li> <li>• To go shopping (3)</li> <li>• To go to doctors office</li> <li>• Solitude</li> <li>• Enjoyment</li> <li>• Recreation (2)</li> <li>• To friendship park (2)</li> <li>• To Orion Oaks</li> <li>• To library</li> <li>• To schools</li> <li>• For sledding</li> <li>• To Canterbury Village</li> <li>• Rollerblading</li> <li>• getting around town without a car</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well maintained (8)</li> <li>• Scenery &amp; natural setting (5)</li> <li>• meeting other people on the trail</li> <li>• amount of paths (3)</li> <li>• Safe travel off the road (6) great separation</li> <li>• Smooth surface (4)</li> <li>• Safety (6)</li> <li>• Accessibility (3)</li> <li>• Sightseeing</li> <li>• Width</li> <li>• Walking with friends</li> <li>• Expanded paths</li> <li>• It's free</li> <li>• Connection to destinations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none (2)</li> <li>• Improve path improvement process</li> <li>• connect to Polly Ann trail</li> <li>• More safety paths (5)</li> <li>• On all main roads (2)</li> <li>• Connect paths to Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails</li> <li>• Connecting safety path from Indian Lake to downtown Oxford</li> <li>• Add Indianwood path connected to Joslyn</li> <li>• Extend along the east side of Baldwin from Waldon to Brown road.</li> <li>• Add path west of Baldwin to connect all businesses</li> <li>• need to complete path along all of Lapeer Road (2)</li> <li>• More safety paths extended down</li> </ul>

Access	Reason for Use	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>library from library to indianwood (3)</li> <li>• Polly Ann-Indianwood</li> <li>• Heather Lake Estates on Friendship park</li> <li>• Clarkston rd (2)</li> <li>• Indianwood road</li> <li>• on Baldwin by friendship park</li> <li>• Waldon road (3)</li> <li>• Goldengate entrance</li> <li>• Clarkston Rd entrance</li> <li>• the Hills at Indianwood</li> <li>• Orion Center on Joslyn</li> <li>• Baldwin/Waldon</li> <li>• Lapeer Road Safety Path</li> <li>• Pleasant ridge</li> <li>• M-24 Path at Clarkston,</li> <li>• Clarkston/Joslyn/Baldwin/Waldon</li> <li>• from our neighborhood trail at Hills at Indianwood</li> <li>• Maybee Rd. &amp; Tall Oaks</li> <li>• Jesse Decker Park</li> <li>• to Blanche Sims</li> <li>• IndianWood Rd</li> <li>• M24 safety path-Waldon Road</li> <li>• by my house on Waldon</li> <li>• Indianwood Road &amp; Joslyn Road</li> <li>• Clarkston Road Safety Path - from Vet's office west of Baldwin</li> <li>• from Baldwin north of Waldon</li> <li>• Along Baldwin and Joslyn, north of Waldon</li> <li>• Joslyn library area</li> <li>• Consumers Energy line-Giddings Rd.</li> <li>• from Waldon/M-24</li> <li>• Waldon Rd to Joslyn Rd.</li> <li>• Maybee/Baldwin</li> <li>• Silverbell Road Path at Squirrel,</li> <li>• To get to the Polly Ann Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to dinner/ice cream</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being able to do business without a car</li> <li>• Connection to many roads</li> <li>• Less traffic</li> <li>• being able to walk places</li> <li>• safe for walkers of all ages</li> <li>• good for dog walkers</li> <li>• safe for children on way to school.</li> </ul>	<p>Morgan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need safety path from Waldon to Scripps</li> <li>• go north to indianwood and connect to Joslyn, crosswalk to library, crosswalk to Orion oaks, crosswalk to civic center park</li> <li>• Joslyn Rd. path next to the Indianwood Golf Course need to be replaced</li> <li>• Add safety path along Civic Center Park and Township Hall</li> <li>• More along Maybee Rd</li> <li>• put path along indianwood from Joslyn to m-24</li> <li>• M24 to Polly Ann via Indianwood would be nice</li> <li>• need paths on the east side of M-24!</li> <li>• complete key stretches along M-24</li> <li>• Add a safety path along Indian Lake connecting to Addison Oaks</li> <li>• Need boardwalk along Maybee Rd to connect Orion/Independence Twp's. Dangerous narrow shoulder!</li> <li>• boardwalk and observation platform on Buckhorn Lake</li> <li>• Educate motorists</li> <li>• Formalize a path under utility lines</li> <li>• A safe cross walk across M-24 from Kroger to Eva's</li> <li>• Add crosswalks</li> <li>• Add guard rail near entrance to Hills at Indianwood sub...path too close to fast traffic!</li> <li>• Vegetation clearance (5)</li> <li>• Clean loose gravel from paths</li> <li>• Replace broken pavement</li> <li>• repair cracks</li> <li>• Need safe crosswalk from west side of Baldwin Rd (2)</li> <li>• Smooth ramps (3)</li> <li>• Too many bumps transitioning between a driveway and the path (4).</li> <li>• Repair uneven/broken patches</li> <li>• Keep the grass along Baldwin &amp; Clarkston Roads mowed far away from the bike path.</li> <li>• Plant more pines or maple trees have area checked for rattle snakes</li> <li>• Add buffers for property owners who have part of their yard taken over by safety paths</li> <li>• Remove debris, gravel</li> <li>• snow removal in the winter</li> <li>• Control dogs and dog waste</li> <li>• perhaps some mosquito spraying and lighting</li> <li>• lights</li> <li>• Add trash cans (2)</li> <li>• more bathrooms (3)</li> </ul>

Access	Reason for Use	Most Enjoyable Feature	Improvements
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add water fountains</li> <li>• Better map</li> <li>• need more signs to alert both users of the trail and cars to intersections</li> <li>• Make Rollerblade- able</li> <li>• have dedicated staff to keep paths edges cut</li> <li>• Keep public informed on future plans and constructions (2)</li> </ul>

**NEW PARK FACILITIES/AMENITIES**

**How important to you are the following recreation facilities/amenities?**

	5	4	3	2	1	
<b>Recreation Facilities/Amenities</b>	<b>Extremely Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Slightly Important</b>	<b>Not Important At All</b>	<b>% Very to Extremely Important</b>
Walking/bicycling Paths/Trails	168	92	43	13	2	81.4%
Nature Trails	123	87	69	22	11	67.3%
Baseball/Softball Fields	154	58	57	19	30	66.7%
Playground Structures	100	98	58	30	27	63.3%
Indoor Fitness/Exercise/Sports Facilities	99	76	45	40	59	54.9%
Picnic Areas and Pavilions	63	94	108	36	16	49.5%
Indoor Swimming Pool	86	61	50	30	84	46.0%
Outdoor Swimming	72	67	68	33	75	44.6%
Soccer Fields	69	56	66	46	76	39.9%
Spray Park	52	59	69	50	83	35.5%
Skate Park	64	40	62	59	93	32.7%
Basketball Courts	31	68	97	64	56	31.3%
Tennis Courts	38	54	96	70	58	29.1%
Sand Volleyball Courts	24	50	84	88	69	23.5%
Disk Golf Course	23	40	71	68	110	20.2%
Bocce Ball Courts	16	26	66	76	127	13.5%
Shuffleboard Courts	10	21	57	86	137	10.0%

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**Additional facility suggestions\*:**

- More baseball/softball fields (11)
- We need at least 6 more baseball fields for baseball and softball
- Add more baseball fields with lights
- By combing sports into mega fields our city would be able to host tournaments and generate tax dollars
- Lake Orion has a high demand for baseball, however, Orion Twp's investment infields has been minimal. This is evidenced by visiting other communities who have planned for facilities with very nice, age appropriate baseball fields...and these communities have a lot less resources.
- Batting Cage
- Football Field JD needs repair
- Football fields - practice / tackle & flag leagues
- Concession stands (3)
- Restrooms and concessions (2)
- Bigger benches all over at all parks, bleachers, need big shade trees planted near bleachers, dug outs with shelter, get rid of weeds at Jesse, need padded basketball courts at all parks
- Lacrosse fields
- We have plenty of sports fields; please CONSERVE remaining natural areas and stop developing them.
- I would love to see an indoor facility that could accommodate winter soccer, softball, volleyball, etc. I pay tons of money for my kids to play indoor soccer in auburn hills. I'd much rather be paying that money to Orion township
- Add Tennis court to Fernhurst Park, more Bike Trails
- Have Tennis Courts put in At Friendship Park
- varied activities bring in different crowds I like the idea of adding tennis
- Adding Basketball courts to Jesse Decker would be nice
- Add a sand volleyball court at Friendship park, Drinking fountains along the poly Ann trail, Indoor or outdoor pool at the Orion center, Exercise equipment at the Community center for public use
- Splash Park (3)
- two splash parks and various pools already easily accessible-don't spend money here
- From past experience, DO NOT build any type of water facility, big drain on budget for expenses/maintaining for years to come!
- A fitness trail with fitness stations, pull up bars, monkey bars etc (2)
- rock climbing
- skate park (15)
- Indoor/outdoor skate park
- BMX park – outdoors (2)
- bike park, winter ice skating
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Golf Course (2)
- Play structure at Friendship (2)
- Lake Swimming Area Development - Bald Mountain Park
- Park on Lake Orion that is free
- Recreation/community Center with indoor pool/sports, + (8)

\*: *Open ended responses are reported verbatim.*

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- Need to make exercise equipment at the Orion Center available to people between the ages of 55 and 62
  - Duplicate Rochester OPC building...
  - Hockey Rink/Ice Skating (6)
  - Outdoor hockey rink (3)
  - Need bike path on west side of Baldwin Rd so that residents can cross safely
  - Connect trails!
  - safety path from Joslyn to m-24 along indianwood
  - more marked trails to get people outside to enjoy nature
  - Path connecting over to downtown Lake Orion
  - Scrape the safety paths in the Wintertime
  - Rollerblade paths and pickle ball courts
  - Nothing that will increase taxes to the citizens!
  - More police presence to stop crime and drugs in your twp. Parks
  - well lite, well maintained and feeling of a safe environment
  - Cut funding for parks and rec completely. They are not needed
  - hunting/fishing/trapping training/ranges
  - fishing pond
  - Plant more trees
  - Nature Center
  - Indoor dog runs for winter!
  - Mowing medians on m-24
  - Indoor Go-Kart tracks
  - Dance studio/room (2)
  - Orion Township should be looking for ways to actively partner with the Lake Orion Schools before considering building anything.
  - maintain all facilities to a high standard
  - You should take over the LOGSL. Parks and rec softball
  - Would love if we had more of these amenities in our city so that we don't have to travel to other cities. Would be nice to contribute to our local economy.
  - We need more family actives like the spray park, disk golf course, skate park & better basketball courts and more. Its sucks that as someone who grown up in Orion and is now raising my children here that I have to take them & my money (which could be going to Orion) and give it to another township or city because they provide it and we don't. We know that these actives would bring in money and but most of ALL keep Orion residents from going elsewhere. But Orion chooses to have me and A LOT of other residents take our children & money elsewhere. And I'm really not happy with that!!

**NEW RECREATION PROGRAMS**

**How important to you are the following recreation programs?**

	5	4	3	2	1	
Recreation Programs	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	% Very to Extremely Important
Youth Sports & Fitness	196	72	22	7	9	72.6%
Adult Fitness and Wellness	116	98	60	18	14	69.9%
Youth Summer Camps	68	104	65	32	37	56.2%
Adult Sports & Leagues	58	88	85	42	31	48.0%
Nature Education Programs	45	98	91	38	33	46.9%
Special Events	54	86	91	42	31	46.1%
Senior Clubs	58	66	76	46	60	40.5%
Youth Performing Arts	39	81	94	45	44	39.6%
Gymnastics & Dance	36	79	77	53	58	38.0%
Senior Enrichment Programs	43	67	77	56	58	36.5%
Scout Programs	38	67	82	39	75	34.9%
Family Trips	43	59	75	59	66	33.8%
Arts & Crafts	28	58	93	57	65	28.6%
Senior Trips	28	52	73	73	75	26.6%

**Additional program suggestions\*:**

- Adult Tennis League (2)
- hosted nature walks
- Nature center conservation education
- annual walking tours of nature trails and local historical sites
- For the programs offered, I would like to see later times offered (in the evening/afternoon). I find it hard to attend as a working parent- to get kids fed and there on time.
- Don't duplicate programs that are offered at Lake Orion Schools or the Library.

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- The education and fitness of our youth is the most important; Tax dollars should not be spent on sponsoring outings and trips for the adults but reserved for the youth.
  - Most things are geared toward younger children, the 10-15 ages would benefit from programs as well
  - Ceramics
  - hunting fishing trapping
  - Arts Festival/Fair, Sports Festivals/Tournaments
  - family fun goes hand in hand when kids are playing sports
  - School education
  - These services should be provided by the private sector, not government
  - A lot of these programs can be handled through private businesses.
  - Keep all these programs going as they really help make this a great community.
  - cancel all senior programs
  - Have more programs for Seniors.
  - ALL PROGRAMS NEED TO WORK WITH LOW INCOME FAMILIES! I would LOVE to have my children do A LOT more of the programs but most of them DO NOT OR WILL NOT WORK WITH LOW INCOME families!
  - Programs with gym
  - special needs / ADA parking/trails
  - Pony up the money - hire professionals to implement programs and help the current staff.
  - Older kid play structure at Jesse Decker

*\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.*

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### Additional New Program Ideas:\*

- I would love to see programs for people with special needs Ala non and AA classes
- We would like a path on one side of the road along Indianwood from Baldwin road all the way to the Polly Ann Trail parking site.
- would love to see a full community center. To give families a place to go, but teens and pre-teens as well. Maybe billiards, and crafts, with small cafe, movie theater to show old classic movies/family oriented concerts etc? There's nothing for the majority of community kids to do.
- Geo catching for families once a month in our parks, hiking groups, walking groups meet 2-3 times a week, Sierra club, I would like to see more local support of GIRLS sports programs all year long!!!!!!
- More adult sport programs - maybe on a drop in basis or pay for 2 times a month drop in - like softball, sand volleyball, basketball, ...
- Need to better communicate on all programs. Would be nice to receive 2 - 3 days prior to an event an E-Mail. I like to see more programs like the flower fair in downtown LO
- Baseball or soccer tournaments in Lake Orion. It would be good for business and nice to have local tournaments like Clarkston does
- Create an indoor facility that would allow for kids to play indoor sports during the winter.
- youth basketball programs
- Anything kid friendly
- concerts, date night type events
- Pickle ball / tennis courts / tennis leagues, more baseball / softball leagues / fields, football facilities for youth programs, bike races / programs,
- Golf program for kids/adults that was close - not Mulberry Hills.
- have asphalt walking paths connect more along m-24 and silverbell
- I mentioned Ice Hockey, even if it's in the winter on one of the lakes. Fishing programs. More Art classes offered.
- Nature Trails for hiking only.
- Running clubs
- Farmers market
- Additional holiday events and historical programs
- Programs that encourage responsibility and ethics, not just entertain the kids of our community.
- Enjoy current offerings but like the exercise classes personally
- big rig gig is not the same quality it was a few years ago; disappointed in the recent turnout love the Halloween event through parks and rec- been there the last five years!
- a much larger farmers market, maybe combining Orion and oxford? maybe antiques and farmers market together or something, maybe not every week for the antiques
- Add lighting for safety and for use of the fields/paths at night
- family baseball festival, hunting awareness for kids
- I think we desperately need a community pool (I know that's not a program but you could have swim lessons, diving, a party, etc.) I would like to see more opportunity for sports other than soccer and softball--I like the addition of lacrosse. Special event camps could get kids interested. As an adult, I would like more fitness activities.
- Ice Rinks and winter ideas such as sledding hills (other than Jessie park), like it or not we have about 6 months of cold weather that would support ice skating. Ice skating along some of the outdoor ponds and lakes, ice skating trails like I was told of the belle isle ice skating canals Winter outdoor fun ideas...
- Pond Hockey Tournament in the winter. See this website as an example <http://www.uspondhockey.com/>. We all love our Red Wings - give dads and kids a chance to have some winter fun!
- Winter activities for kids
- Were one of the largest recreational/fed baseball towns yet our facilities are some of the worst to play at. Having a

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large venue would bring outside monies to the community.

- Cross Country Skiing - grooming paths like they do at Independence Oaks. Anything to keep adults and kids active year round. And if possible, host larger events to bring money into the community.
- Scale back on current programs that are provided elsewhere and enhance current programs.
- Eliminate all programs! Return the tax savings to the tax payers! I don't want government providing what the private sector could. I choose not to use these government provided services and facilities but have to pay for them with my tax dollars. That is not right!
- well communicated family fun, car shows, events like arts beats and eats with special musical guests.
- teen hang outs! safe environment, music.... skate park...
- High school arts day -art show, dance team performances
- boater's safety, hunter's safety and swimming lessons
- Kite Flying events, hot balloons at night, golf clinics, cooking school, bike trips,
- hunting/fishing/trapping. I would love to teach a class on one of the mentioned.
- Enhance the baseball facilities, and add to the number of fields, and the quality of the baseball fields
- Organized competitive youth basketball leagues. Current basketball program/league is instructional only and a competitive league would be a nice option.
- Orion Center appears to be under used. Maybe merge space with library to maximize use More youth camps with hours the fit working parents
- I was really looking forward to the Outdoors Expo - fishing, kayaking, canoeing, archery, etc. since my children are getting older and are becoming bored with the programs designed for younger kids.
- Astronomy clubs meetings. Tree planting of pines and sugar maples. Designated areas only for dogs. Nature conservation education.
- Downtown Lake Orion had held a mini golf event in 2011 and 2012. Perhaps take this over.
- Touch football programs for age 18 and over, more competitive adult softball leagues (like Liberty Park in Warren); with so much electronics in our life we need to get everyone moving more.
- Halloween hay ride for the kids! Maybe a better Halloween and Easter egg hunt and Christmas event for slightly older kids (ages 5-8).
- events that utilize the trail systems
- I would put funds towards improving facilities not new programs.
- Whiffle Ball tournaments for adults and kids and families! Kickball tournaments - one day events or two days - family and/or adults. We have several soccer fields - why doesn't the township host a soccer tournament or two?? Wouldn't that be revenue for township???
- Sports learning Programs
- making Lake Orion youth baseball lake Orion little league
- We are in a different "season," kids in high school now. Years ago when we moved here I attended a meeting and these same questions were posed. What happened to the results from the last survey? 13 years later and there is still talk about a "Skate Park." Great. We have traveled to different communities so our son and his friends could skate. A L.O. senior told me recently that kids are skating on the walking path behind her senior living apt. They are destroying property and are dangerous to people walking. So, is this survey pertinent to kids today or 13 years down the road?
- I would like to see the township partner with LOYBL to help build\maintain the baseball fields and keep the registration cost down for the league.
- Summer youth day camps; Soccer camps; baseball camps; Swimming Instruction; Year Round baseball programs for U5 thru U14
- More sport camps for kids. Maybe a community garage sale like Ann Arbor does.
- More sports clinic hosted by certified coaches to focus on getting the kids better at the sport/activity of their choice

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- streamline existing opportunities
  - More family trips, summer bbq's, outdoor music utilizing Wildwood. It is under used and a beautiful spot for outdoor concerts. Ice skating rink, cross country skiing.
  - Senior day and extended trips need to be greatly expanded to at least match the trips that our offered through Auburn Hills, Sterling Hts., Troy, etc. Orion lacks behind in offering these types of trips and seniors are going to other senior centers to register for them. Senior programming for such trips should be combined with other senior centers. Example: I recently went on a terrific day trip offered through Auburn Hills with a Bianco motor coach. The AH center filled half the coach and then we stopped at Madison Hts senior center and filled the remainder of the coach. Another example: On Dec. 2-3 there is an extended trip to Niagara Falls for the Festival of Lights that is being offered through several senior centers but not Orion. Orion seniors who do not search the web for day and extended trips at other senior centers are truly being 'left out' to wonderful travel opportunities.
  - better use of the lakes in lake Orion- a public area that I can freely visit and enjoy the water -
  - New bike paths along heights road
  - Maintenance of the trail path in Bald Mtn. recreation area east of M-24
  - Iron Man, more 5K, 10K and Marathons, Mud 5k, 10k, etc.using the paths vs subdivision and paths along main streets.
  - A women's draft softball league, just like the men's Thursday night softball league
  - Yearly festival (i.e. "peach festival" etc)
  - Organized Community Volleyball tournaments. Some type of festival. Zumba dance classes.
  - Boating safety, swimming safety, fishing. We have the lakes here- we should be encouraging everyone to be safe.
  - more adult leagues
  - Cooking classes
  - Aquatics and exercise facility
  - Cook- Offs
  - Have programs on grassy areas rather than in a parking lot. Have sing-a-longs Have community talent shows
  - More fitness options for adults who are not seniors
  - More programs besides health issues for Seniors. We like something different besides talking about Doctors appointments and medications and the like.
  - Splash Park, events at parks like Big Rig Gig
  - create space for peer to peer learning groups to come together on various topics.
  - something for the older children - ages 10-15...maybe a less structured program such as an outdoor game time at the parks - they could play kickball, or some sort of outdoor activity that is less structured and not an ongoing weekly requirement so it could fit in around other activities. a walking club for adults - not the seniors...the middle aged children and adults who don't have toddlers don't have much opportunity to participate in programs
  - Group rollerblading Pickle ball competitions and lessons Daytime sports/ lessons for homeschool groups and any homeschool group meet ups other than nature center (which are great, btw!)
  - Lake Orion Youth Golf League. Partner with local driving ranges, golf courses, and golf teachers to help develop kids and adults. Rotate between ranges and golf courses to get exposure to these facilities. Helps market them and gets youth and adults outside.
  - I think you are all doing a wonderful job and this is why LO is such a great place to live.
  - Perfect the programs currently in play.
  - More activities at the Senior Center
  - It would benefit the residents if Orion would work to consolidate and coordinate the various farm markets that pop up in multiple venues, into one or two days a week.
  - Orion is considered "up-north" to most of Metropolitan Detroit. So, I suggest Orion host events each summer between Labor day, and Memorial Day.

- 
- Bigger workout facility at the Orion Center. Skate Park.
  - Pickle ball, bocce, painting, arts and crafts, pottery, more events, outdoor expo, dances, needle arts, indoor basketball
  - I feel like the Recreation Department is doing a great job expanding events each year, especially regarding the music pavilion. Would love to see a skate park in Orion somewhere. I also feel we really lack sand volleyball courts. Having multiple courts on one area would allow for summer leagues and tournaments like Clintonwood park in Clarkston does. Also, I strongly feel that adding lights and concession area to the Friendship Park Ball Fields would allow night time play, tournaments etc.
  - Better safety paths throughout the area, especially along Conklin Road.
  - More biking/running trails Safety signs on trails
  - More family events
  - after school programs for kids in middle school and high school
  - More sports activities available, tennis courts, skate park, various options.
  - Be sure to not duplicate Oakland County Parks & Rec activities - DO NOT OVER SPEND
  - media production classes
  - Create a Girls youth travel program for softball... All sports...
  - Maybe coordinate efforts with the school community education programs.
  - I like the idea of more community yard sale days. Maybe on-going environment safe home and yard maintenance information (safe bee control, yard waste, getting rid of old paints and cleaners) also resources for lower income home owners.
  - disk golf and a skate park
  - An extreme sports program. Examples: skateboarding, snowboarding, skiing, etc.
  - Definitely a skate park somewhere in the city and some sort of indoor sports facility. I know one was proposed over by Friendship Park, but there is so much space that is further away from neighborhoods, maybe closer to industrial parks.
  - Host Euchre/Texas Hold'em card tournaments
  - We would like to see more programs or events for teenagers. It's hard when you have younger children around to do things. Have were events or program have a day for younger children then a day for teenagers. We would like to see BMX, skateboarding, skill driving courses and disk golf events.
  - Outdoor Expo
  - Volunteer work days for various ages to make improvements on township buildings and property.

*\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.*

**SAFETY PATHS AND TRAILS**

**How would you rate the following path or trail issues?**

	5	4	3	2	1	
Issues	Top Excellent	High	Medium	Low	Least Poor	% Top or High
Maintenance	45	116	91	12	8	59%
Safety and security	40	98	96	29	7	51%
Quality of the map	45	79	101	27	6	48%
Warning & directional signs (i.e., stop, curve, blind spot, hazard, direction)	34	69	113	33	18	39%
Awareness of destinations, services, and points of interests along paths/trails	26	63	110	43	21	34%
Knowing how and who to report problems/issues	20	45	98	60	46	24%

**Other Issues\*:**

- bike patrol
- I would like to see a restroom at parking destinations for the trailheads.
- Better parking at trail sites
- ATVs,motorcycles destroying trails surfaces
- Better signs to get to the Poly Ann
- well done overall
- Bicyclists need some signage on the Paint Creek trail that indicates when passing a pedestrian/runner; they should not remain 2 bikes wide. I have been nearly hit numerous times. They can tuck in behind their friends for a few feet.
- Create bridges or tunnels at intersections; Possible an elevated pedestrian bridge over M24 allowing access for Bald Mountain to Walton Rd
- any way to cost effectively keep vegetation cut back?
- some sort of lighted runners path would be nice for the when the season gets darker
- better biking lanes
- Guard rail where path is close to road. Baldwin road just south of entrance to Hills at Indianwood
- This area needs attention.
- I can rate these questions having never used the paths or trails
- Location of trails
- train both cyclists and pedestrians on the proper use of trails and paths

- 
- Put crosswalk lights at intersections (like at Drahner Rd)
  - website with links to map, photos, etc.,
  - Better map signs educational signs about nature on pathways.
  - lack of bathrooms!
  - Prune the trees and bushes, patrol the trail.
  - my answers pertain to the Paint Creek Trail.
  - Honestly don't know where trails or paths begin and end. More signage would help.
  - better maintenance & safety
  - Complete the sidewalk along Baldwin, north of Friendship Park to Indianwood Road.
  - fix the trails East of Conklin Rd.
  - Connect the Path systems better within community and surrounding communities.
  - Don't know paths, sorry
  - It would be nice to have an emergency button along the trail. And a drinking fountain along the trails for health-safety reasons.
  - NO Signs for Paint Creek & very few for Polly Ann Trail-Heads
  - Answered question as something desirable rather than as something now in place
  - More informational & directional signage available.
  - restroom by Polly Ann
  - websites that lead to various forms for rental need updated
  - some emergency boxes along the trail, when walking alone it gets a little desolate
  - again....doing a great job!
  - Better signage
  - Need more signage and regular maintenance
  - Clear the paths in the winter.
  - Post permanent maps along main entrances to paths.
  - Would like better connectors - Conklin Road, Adams Road, Indianwood
  - Looks pretty good for most part
  - Wish there was a path along all major roads in the township (ex. Baldwin up to Stanton)
  - Numerous cracks & vegetation along safety paths & bridges

*\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.*

**How important to you are the following maintenance tasks regarding the Township paths and trails?**

	5	4	3	2	1	
Maintenance Tasks	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	% Very to Extremely Important
Overall pavement surface quality	90	112	50	16	6	73.7%
Pavement surface crack repair	90	107	55	16	6	71.9%
Boardwalk maintenance	77	116	59	13	7	71.0%
Pavement surface quality at driveways & intersections	80	109	61	15	9	69.0%
Side brush removal	77	112	62	18	6	68.7%
Overhead brush removal	77	103	62	22	8	66.2%
Gravel and debris removal	75	98	71	21	7	63.6%

**Other maintenance tasks\*:**

- stop/caution signs painted on path at intersections
- more bike trails suitable for serious bike riding
- have paths connect more
- avoid spread of invasive species by taking more care of machinery (washing, etc...)
- Some "soft" spots in the gravel path are difficult and possibly dangerous to inexperienced bikers
- spec low crossing curbs where possible
- Please fix the Rohr/Maybe road corner so that we can avoid walking in the busy road
- Clearing Down Trees in a timely matter. Who can we report these issues to?
- Maintenance on current paths before any future paths. Maintain before expanding.
- make the paths inviting to use. hold special events for families
- What to do first aid signs.
- Prune the bushes and trees that grow into the trail pathways
- "Hire" teens who are wanting to work, but legally are not old enough.
- Keep broken glass, sticks, nails and other debris off of the safety path at all times.
- Can't skate any local paths due to debris and standing puddles
- Keep up the great work
- Develop an ROI on every proposed path Cost vs Benefit Ratio Measure the traffic on current paths ...how well are the paths utilized?
- Please pave the Polly Ann trail to make it accessible to anyone with a disability, because a good portion of the trail is gravel, I cannot longboard on it, and I would be out everyday longboarding the trail if it was paved
- Township should do a better job of maintaining the safety paths & trail.
- Use an edger and herbicide so paths don't become narrow

\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.

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**If funding was available, where would you like to see more paths or trails in the Township?\***

- Yes (19)
- No (16)
- Not Sure (4)
- Joslyn Road north from Hammerslea to Brown Road between Joslyn and Baldwin Road from Brown to Judah We do not have any connecting paths on the south end of the Township
- connecting Indianwood at Baldwin all the way to the trail parking at Polly Ann.
- Along Indianwood Road so to connect to downtown Lake Orion
- Sidewalks connecting all parks
- On Clarkston road near Heather Lakes South extended all the way to Baldwin Rd. All of Indianwood rd to Lapeer. Clarkston to Lapeer and a path from High School into the Village.
- connect Polly Ann to Joslyn
- West side of Baldwin Rd between Clarkston and Waldon.
- Indianwood Road, connect Polly Ann Trail with Paint Creek Fernhurst Park, geared towards Seniors and Families (Shuffle Board, Tennis Courts etc.) Connect all Parks via Bike Trails
- West of Rohr Rd. on Maybee
- Clarkston Road East of Joslyn Rd. to M24
- Morgan road to Rohr to Gregory. We like to bike and jog and this road is high speed (Morgan). I know this is a big project with lots of easements but it would be very nice to have!!!
- I'd like to see gaps closed and intersection improvements made. Gaps along Rhor, Along Baldwin from maybee to Morgan, Clarkston from businesses west of Baldwin/Clarkston Intersection to the intersection with crossings on the corners.
- Baldwin Road corridor
- BALD MOUNTAIN
- Path offshoots to local parks
- along m24 silverbell to Clarkston road. also tie silverbell east of Lapeer rd to Rochester trails.
- I'd like to see a pedestrian bridge across Lapeer Road at Scripps.
- A cross walk at the Orion Oaks park entrance on Baldwin would be great.
- I would like to see paths connect more along major roads
- Safety paths along Baldwin, Joslyn, Lapeer roads south to Auburn Hills
- South Orion Township. Our once beautiful land is now crushed under development. Thank goodness for Orion Oaks Park and DNR Land.
- South-east part of Orion Township.
- If funding came from taxing the residents of both the Village and Township, NO!
- Maybee rd between Rohr and tall oaks
- I'd like to see a safety path running down Orion Road from Paint Creek Ridge Sub to Adams. I think it would be a great walking/running/biking path that would help keep bicyclists off Orion Road.
- somewhere near water & nature sites
- From Bald Mountain to the Polly Ann and Paint Creek trails. Complete the path from Paint Creek to the Polly Ann through Lake Orion; Bike lanes on surface roads
- Connect Orion system to Clarkston along Maybee Road, this is a short distance. See previous comment on Polly Ann. Joslyn section north of Heights needs improvement. It would be great to have a path between the Polly Ann trail and Paint Creek.
- Indianwood road between Lapeer rd and Baldwin road
- Bike trails along roads like Lapeer where sidewalks end. Should be able to walk or bike safely to downtown lake Orion to participate in events -- at least from the high school.

- Baldwin to Indianwood to Joslyn along Orion Oaks school to connect to Clarkston road
- Maintain current first then bridge over 24
- a running trail with steeper hills would be awesome
- Everywhere. More so in Natural beauty areas
- Indianwood Road from 24 to Polly Ann trail
- More trails around the Gingellville Nature area...
- connecting Paint Creek trail to Polly Ann trail
- As long as the "available funding" does not increase local, state, or federal taxes. In fact it would be nice if the tax burden actually decreased in this area.
- along m 24 a path to high school
- I LOVE our safety paths--I would like to see them extended into town (down Clarkston the whole way or hook up with Indianwood) so you could walk/bike to downtown Lake Orion. I would also like to see Baldwin finished to Oxford (maybe Oxford could pick up the costs.)
- Rohr/Maybe SE corner a) along/around the south east corner of Rohr/Maybe to connect east bound Maybe (currently a swamp) b) a bridge to the north side of Maybe connecting the trail heading west Gregory/Rohr a) Rohr north from Gregory to connect to the trail along Rohr
- Around the Lake Orion High School and Middle School outer grounds.
- Along Indianwood (which appears to be currently in process) and ability to access Orion Oaks school
- PolyAnn trail - Joslyn to Baldwin. Orion Oaks trail connector between #34 and #9.
- Only after maintaining current paths.
- I don't want more paths or trails. Don't spend my tax dollars on projects I don't intend to use.
- Along Lapeer road. There are is no north/south path
- Indianwood road from Joslyn to m-24
- Connecting the two trails
- on the south end of the township and interconnect to Bald Mountain State Park. Make them functional with "places to go and see"
- benches n lights
- yes, especially along M24 by the high school and along Indianwood
- Along Indianwood, from M24 to Polly Ann, then Baldwin to Polly Ann
- Around Jesse Decker Park
- connecting more to Paint Creek trail
- Lapeer Road Clarkston Road
- sidewalks along Indianwood Road from Baldwin to Lapeer Rd.
- Trails along Indian Lake (natural beauty road) would be nice
- near Friendship Park
- Path along M-24 to downtown Lake Orion
- There are a few areas that should be connected. For instance, it would be nice to be able to access downtown Lake Orion from the trail either via Indianwood, Heights, or Clarkston Road and Joslyn. There are way more connections now than there were 15 years ago, but to make them useful, it would be helpful to add a few more routes connecting Baldwin and Clarkston Roads to Lapeer, in the east-west direction.
- Lake sixteen more trails for nature less for dogs.
- There are plenty of trails and paths already, no new ones just maintain current ones!

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- Sidewalk along Silverbell Rd. from Squirrel east into Oakland Township where the next section of sidewalk continues.
  - Safety path along Indianwood Road
  - (1) Clarkston road path that connects Polly Ann trail to paint creek trail, and (2) a trail that connects the lower Polly Ann trail (south of Joslyn road) to the upper Polly Ann trail (north of indianwood).
  - along M24 and accessing natural areas, connecting Polly Ann to Paint Creek
  - Anywhere on Indianwood - connecting Baldwin to Joslyn and to Lapeer Rd. Clarkston Rd from Joslyn to Lapeer rd.
  - connect paint creek with Polly Ann trail somehow
  - Indianwood Road
  - More trails from Lake Orion over to Rochester area
  - heights rd with full walk paths sidewalks on both sides
  - Paths to cross Lapeer Road. Also, on Clarkston Road west of Baldwin, there are gaps and at times riding on the road is the only option. The road is too narrow for bicycle and cars.
  - by M24 ad Silverbell Rd. The safety path is minimal
  - Connect Paint Creek to Poly Ann
  - Safety path along Silverbell. Pedestrian Bridge or underground for Lapeer Road.
  - bike paths on indianwood and maybe along heights
  - Along Baldwin between I-75 and Maybee, Clarkston Road from Joslyn to Lapeer Road
  - Connection from the Paint Creek Trail to the Polly Ann Trail
  - Additional connections to Paint Creek Trail - a real connection to Polly Anna from Paint Creek
  - need paths to connect and take us to destinations. offer a bike friendly route to downtown businesses
  - Along height road
  - Sidewalks along Indianwood road from Joslyn to Lapeer Road.
  - East of Lapeer Rd.                   Bring at least half of the money over here!
  - M-24, All of Indianwood, Baldwin, All of Clarkston, which would incorporate towns and path systems, we should be connected by path to Oxford, Clarkston, Rochester, Oakland
  - Clarkston Road, between PolyAnn Trail and Pine Tree
  - Along heights road and indianwood... so many people ride their bikes on the winding roads and its dangerous. A bike path on Indianwood extending from Indianwood Golf course to Eva's ice cream shop would be nice!
  - As mentioned previously, on the east side of M-24 with some kind of a way to connect with the paths on the west side of M-24 without having to cross through traffic.
  - I would strongly suggest an "overhead" walkway connecting downtown to the lakefront. it is simply too disconnected. I would also love to see a continuous well maintained bike path from Great Lakes Crossing north on Baldwin to Indianwood (5 miles)
  - Somewhere for children and adults to avoid walking and biking Heights road.
  - The northwest corner of the township connecting to Oxford Township. Would be nice to have path going further north up Baldwin Rd past Indianwood.
  - oxford
  - Connecting the Paint Creek & Polly Ann Trails Together & Trail-Heads Built.....
  - Along Indianwood Road from Joslyn east to M-24    All along Baldwin south of Waldon    On Waldon west of Baldwin    All along Heights east of Pine Tree
  - Yes, if there were more ways to access the trail via major subdivisions and intersections so you could bike/walk from sidewalk all the way to the trail.
  - Sidewalk on Clarkston Rd from M24-to bridge

- I am satisfied the way is right now. As long as regular maintenance is applied on a weekly basis Spring, Summer, and Fall & Winter. Mowing, sweeping, trimming and sawing.
- Parks and trails seem to cater much more to central Lake Orion. Those of us in the south part of Lake Orion cannot take advantage of these. More trails to the south would be nice!
- along Clarkston road
- Near my home!!! Squirrel and silverbell! Would like to access trails by bike down Adams toward Orion
- A path along Lapeer Road to make it easier for subdivisions to walk or ride a bike to downtown Lake Orion. They did this along 23 north of Au Gres, MI. Makes it nice to ride a bike into town.
- Along m-24 throughout our city. To be able to riddle bikes or run alongside our main spots
- I would like to see more paths that connect the township to downtown Lake Orion. Most of the roads that connect to downtown don't have decent sidewalks or paths.
- Along Indian Wood connecting Kroger to Polly Ann, and Along Indian Lake Rd connecting to Addison Oaks
- More is not necessarily better ...paths should be utilized...path that is getting little... use explore why and solve. There is an end to every dream!
- Would like to see Polly Ann and Paint Creek connected.
- North section of Conklin
- On M-24... I would like to see a paved sidewalk all the way down Lapeer road. I work at Chrysler, and want to ride my bike to work...BUT- I cannot, because M-24 is not paved all the way... Also, I would like to see the center median lawn mowed more frequently, with three street lights grouped together like on Woodward and 17-mile. I would also like to see Orion Township work with the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority, and when downtown Lake Orion has an event, the township puts up a banner across M-24, so more people know about the Downtown event.
- Orion Road, Indianwood Road, Clarkston Road, M24
- Polly Ann
- Between Orion twp and auburn hills
- Baldwin on the East side from Indianwood down to Brown road. Indianwood from Baldwin to Lapeer Road.
- Not as important as maintaining what we have already. I'd like to see Moose Tree funded to keep the programs running for elementary schools.
- Indianwood road East to M-24
- Lapeer Road: Too many people are on bikes & walking on the road!
- I see that paths are being developed along Baldwin up to Indianwood. I hope that continues down Indianwood to connect to the Joslyn path as that would connect a large loop. It is such a wonderful asset to our community.
- Yes, more paths and trails provide connections to the greater community. However, they also come with additional maintenance expense. Access to parking near trail access is helpful. Additional parking may not be necessary, but awareness and identification of existing parking areas (schools/businesses) would be helpful.
- Conklin Road!
- Trail along Joslyn to I-75
- at friendship park
- I think there is just enough paths at the parks
- Connection paint creek to Polly Ann
- northeast area of the township. Very little is in the area currently.
- Complete M-24
- Towards downtown
- fill in missing sections along M-24; boardwalk and observation deck along Buckhorn Lake; complete

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paths along Indianwood Road.

- Polly Ann Trail, I would like to see it paved
- A path connecting the Polly Ann Trail to Downtown Lake Orion. You would be able to get more bike riders and runners to the downtown area. I bike to downtown Oxford for dinner from the Polly Ann Trail. If it was easier to get to downtown Lake Orion from the trail I would go to Lake Orion instead. A path connecting the Polly Ann Trail to the Paint Creek Trail.
- Baldwin road from Stanton leading to Indianwood - giving the ability to ride to Polly Ann trail, Friendship Park, while not having to bike on Baldwin Rd
- Safety paths to access Civic Center Park/Wildwood Amphitheater/Township Hall. Connect safety paths to LO Village and also Independence Township path systems.
- Indianwood
- connection between the Polly Ann Trail and Paint Creek Trail
- Lapeer Road, Clarkston east of Polly Ann, Clarkston west of Baldwin
- CONKLIN ROAD BETWEEN MILLER AND ORION ROAD

*\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.*

**POSSIBLE TOWNSHIP PARKS, PATHS/TRAILS, & RECREATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

**How would you rank the following possible improvements to the overall Orion Township parks, paths, and recreation system?**

	5	4	3	2	1	
Improvements	Top Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Least Priority	% Top or High Priority
Maintain/renovate existing parks	97	118	53	10	4	76.2%
Maintain/improve existing paths & trails	90	109	61	11	8	71.3%
Develop new facilities at existing parks	78	80	77	27	18	56.4%
Develop more sports fields	98	48	57	42	38	51.6%
Provide lighting at ball fields	92	48	66	34	42	49.6%
Develop more paths and trails	56	71	77	42	33	45.5%
Expand indoor fitness facilities	55	43	62	61	57	35.3%
Acquire new park land/open space	51	37	81	61	47	31.8%
Add interpretive & directional signage	27	29	82	80	58	20.3%

**Other ideas?\***

- Develop programs for special needs residents
- Need skate park (9)
- An Indoor sports complex to allow for year around travel teams to practice. Softball, baseball, soccer and hockey. Thousands of LO parents are driving out of our community 2-4 times per week for practice and we frequent restaurants. Why not keep our money here and help the food industry in LO!!!
- Add more baseball fields; one should be designed for Little League Play for kids 11 and younger; 60 foot bases & 46 foot pitching distance
- Add to Fernhurst Park, Lighting for Decker Park during Winter time at sledding slope
- Create more Baseball Fields and or more lighting at Fields
- NO NEW TAXES
- New ballfields for youth - and reduce # of soccer fields - currently they are very in proportionate.
- Please, no more outdoor lighting which destroys our night sky. Check out sky friendly lighting at Dark Skies.
- beach access at property owned south of indianwood?
- Improve sports fields
- Outdoor pool! (actually indoor/outdoor pool would be best)
- More parking at fields

- 
- Sports facilities will generate revenue
  - baseball fields (4)
  - You just don't get it! No on spending tax dollars for parks and recreation.
  - having more parks with nothing to do is not the answer. improve the ones you have with reasons for families to go and use. BBQ, music, fireworks, car shows, special events, taste fests and communicate and gets Orion township residents involved.
  - consolidate soccer fields with new land purchase
  - shooting range, bow/gun
  - Adding baseball fields at Friendship will be a big impact initiative to Lake Orion baseball. Consider acquiring new land, if necessary.
  - Plant more trees
  - You wouldn't need as many baseball field if existing fields had lights
  - Acquire lakefront, beach access, nature trails, camping and picnic facilities
  - Improve the quality of baseball fields; Friendship park fields are rock hard!
  - park land for ice arena
  - Build on what we currently have
  - Lighting for a soccer field
  - Better security at all parks
  - irrigation and power at JDP
  - Outdoor/Indoor Water Park & spray park
  - Put a pool at the Orion center, top priority: ) Let it be available for the community, not just seniors.
  - developing the Lake Orion waterfront would be the single best improvement
  - Have 1 park as a baseball/softball complex and another park as a soccer complex
  - Better signage, especially for visitors to our area.
  - Add more trails to connect more people in Lake Orion, especially in the south part
  - Improve Jesse Decker as community is substantially growing
  - Focus on existing assets and increase the quality
  - purchase more land and lease land to private business and develop an indoor sports complex
  - Having another park on Lake Orion or making Bunny run park open to the rest of the public.
  - connect trails
  - more ballfields and soccer fields at Friendship Park; more parking and ballfields at Jesse Decker Park
  - Printed maps

*\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.*

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**Additional comments regarding Orion Township parks, paths and recreation facilities\***

- Thank you for asking and for making good use of the land, lakes, and trails that we have been blessed with!
- Thanks for surveying the community! Re: skate park and disk golf course. These are great activities for preteens and teens who may not participate in organized sports. Seems to me that Orion already has plenty of ball fields. Let the kids do their own thing at a township park--and not in front of a business that might not want them on the sidewalk!
- Need indoor facilities!!! Batting cages, golf range, basketball courts and restaurants close by that are family friendly to eat at. Lets host other travel teams to the area year around. We need to stop spending money elsewhere and give it to our local businesses!!! Thx
- I am so unhappy with the limited bike paths that I would like to move out of the Lake Orion area. I don't understand why we have so many wonderful parks that can only be access by bike/walking for only half of the residents. I pay extremely high taxes and think that money should first be spent so that all residents can access what we already have available without risking their lives before adding more parks.
- Children Park downtown, add trees Work on Fernhurst Park If you add a Skate Park, do it where there is supervision therefore go to Civic Park
- Our Parks are a daily part of our household life. Thanks for the GREAT JOB.
- Add smaller baseball/ softball fields, create more parking at friendship. Connect existing parking areas.
- Continued improvement - would be willing to pay additional millage for right facility improvements and creation.
- None, thank you for requesting our input
- The expansion of baseball/softball fields along w/ the development of some grass infield baseball fields are needed in the community for our youth.
- Need more baseball fields. Also, why is there no flag pole at Friendship park around the baseball fields? Seems so un-American.
- Township does a GREAT job on their facilities - and I enjoy using them regularly. Don't like the "out of township" status that I get for living in Independence Twp - even though I attend LO schools and consistently use the Orion programs. Would love to see the baseball fields expanded with new fields for the youth, and significant improvements to the existing fields. Clintonwood is a solid example of how to pull together a cloverleaf of fields - as long as they add the batting cages. Would love to see the twp take over the flag football program away from the "for profit" group that use LOHS - this \$\$\$ could go towards our fields instead of lining someone's pockets. Tennis courts would be a welcome addition for many purposes - leagues, pickle ball for seniors, etc. Basketball fields and more parking @ Friendship would be welcomed. Would love to see utilization of soccer fields vs. baseball fields to compare # and usage.... Paths are great and used regularly as well.
- We would love to have an indoor soccer facility in Lake Orion.
- Orion Center needs website
- Encourage Quiet Areas. The noise levels can be disturbing for those who wish to have a quiet outdoor experience. Children need places to have fun and be loud and Orion has done a nice job providing these areas. However, it seems more and more noise is created in the parks as usage increases. Conservation of the few remaining undeveloped areas in Orion Township is crucial. As an example, the development of Friendship Park, as well planned and nice as it is for those who utilize it, was a crushing blow to those who appreciated its beautiful fields of wildflowers and shrubs. To see that area bulldozed and the ecosystem destroyed in the name of progress was upsetting. Perhaps our Township could reclaim already damaged land for the development of play fields, picnic areas, and other busy human activities. We should be setting aside the natural areas that still remain for quiet use. I was born and raised in Orion Township - Resident of 58 years.
- Let Oakland County Parks take over the township parks. They'd do a better job.
- We moved here because of the green space that was no longer present in Macomb County. Please maintain what we have and work to add more.
- Many paths are not safe
- bike trailer accessible

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- Our children are all in high school now, so we don't use the parks/paths as much anymore. But when they were younger we used the ball fields and park quite frequently. We really enjoyed having places to go with our young children. Their favorite was Friendship Park with the large play structure. Our boys played baseball for years and we greatly enjoyed the opportunity/experience. Improving the existing fields and adding new ones would be our #1 priority in our area.
  - Navigating through the various websites can be difficult; The Orion website is not overly friendly to use. Reorganize to be more user friendly.
  - Overall very nice access over a fairly large area
  - The current staff does a great job! Keep up the good work. I suggest an indoor concert series during the winter months at the Orion Center.
  - a beach at the property owned south of indianwood (if possible); light the baseball fields at friendship park; no splash park is needed as Clarkston and oxford have them and warm days are limited; no pools/gym facilities as other options are easily available
  - a running or biking trail from Orion to oxford would be great
  - Please build more baseball fields at friendship park. And maybe make some more mountain biking trails, please.
  - Add lighting for safety and to utilize areas at night (remembering that it gets dark around 6pm in the fall and winter)
  - More nature areas where families could picnic walk a nature trail and have sports fields nearby. A space that people could spend the day with the kids enjoying many different aspects of our great community!
  - more exercise equipment for adults at parks.
  - I think Orion Township does a good job with its facilities but I would like to see more for those who are not active on soccer or baseball teams. More play structures, fishing docks, indoor/outdoor rec centers, etc. Most importantly, a COMMUNITY POOL!
  - more baseball fields and disc golf course
  - Friendship park doesn't have a lot of parking and is extremely disappointing when trying to get your child for game and another event is going on and it's pure chaos with extremely rude personal screaming at you about going to your car in the pouring rain and jeopardizing people's safety and letting a lot of cars go through a packed lot instead of using the main drive to get out.
  - add Kiosks for food and drink at Civic and Friendship during summer. Will generate summer jobs for kids and add revenue for the parks
  - I not feel it is necessary to acquire new property for public parks, Orion Township already has many great offerings for outdoor recreation and sometimes they seem underutilized.
  - Get out of the parks and recreation business. Tax dollars need to go toward more important issues, such as police, fire, road improvement, street lighting and ordinance enforcement.
  - Need more tennis courts. Like Clarkston has. Tennis is growing at LOHS
  - This is one of the greatest assets Orion has. We need to keep these a priority, maybe local students or schools could provide clean-up days at the parks and trails for community service hour requirement.
  - need more baseball fields, preferably at Friendship park so we can host tourneys and bring other cities and business to Lake Orion
  - The website fails to show future plans and time frames for improvement on the safety paths. I had to search to find a map, Map should be hyperlinked and accessible in the page on safety paths,
  - As I stated earlier, I would love to offer a training course in an outdoor pursuit.
  - It's my understanding that FED ball and LOYBL have offered to work with the township but nothing is ever finalized. Please work with them in increasing the amount of fields, light the fields and add a concession stand to help pay for it!! All other places my family travels to have the items, why not let Orion enjoy the same????
  - I believe we have a great many parks and paths from which to choose in the community. If funds are to be spent, it should be on improving what we have. The baseball community is huge, and we are in desperate need of additional fields, and lights at the fields so that evening practices can take place. I would also enhance the baseball fields with protective netting over the spectators, and perhaps provide a building / shack for some sort of concessions.
  - Need more board walks and trees and paths. Less for dogs. Lake sixteen.

- 
- How about an outdoor roller or floor hockey rink
  - Additional baseball fields and lighting. Restroom facilities at more parks
  - the community needs more baseball diamonds and night lighting. there is just not enough for the number of teams, both boys, girls, and adult who use the facilities.
  - Thanks for your commitment to community recreation areas and open green spaces!
  - Baseball fields benefit the local youth both introductory and advanced players but it also provides adults with activity and keeps our residents fit and healthy.
  - I think we have way too many soccer fields. If you add any fields, it should be baseball / girls softball fields.
  - please pave the parking lots where ever they are dirt still. Need more bathroom facilities that have flushing toilets/water....
  - How about acquiring camp Agawam boy scout camp for nature trails, camping, beach access, and connecting bike trails?
  - Orion Twp. should be known as the hiking and biking capital of metro Detroit. With more trails and a cohesive system & marketing, that can happen.
  - I think that we need to upgrade Friendship park with more baseball fields and a concession stand. Make one really nice field for special games. I think you can sell advertisement such as signs for the outfield fences to generate money.
  - Skate park (9)
  - add more baseball fields (3)
  - I think Lighting on more fields would promote more sports teams which in turn would bring in more revenue.
  - Lake Orion has beautiful parks and I hate to see any green space being utilized for further building/construction/homes/office spaces. Maintaining what is here is a top priority and finish what has been started. Friendship park could use a few more shade trees. Overall, there is something for everyone here and the programs offered have been interesting.
  - Looking forward to seeing the new plan!
  - They are all great opportunities for enjoying our parks; need to provide better security and police patrols for some of the areas that are least traveled in the off season or at night.
  - You're doing a great job, keep up the good work!
  - Our fields are very well maintained and the employees should be commended
  - More restrooms for paths and facilities.
  - Overall the township has done a good job with our parks and paths.
  - It would be nice to have all of friendship park paved with more parking. Bathrooms at Jesse Decker Park Bathrooms at Wildwood.
  - Please, please, please provide indoor bathrooms at all parks that offer ball games. Also, selling concessions would be very nice and profitable. Keep up the good work!!
  - Thanks for asking for our input. I think the parks and rec does a great job with activities
  - Need more things to draw people to utilize the parks. Friendship park- unless there is a special event or a baseball/softball/soccer game of interest, what would draw folks to the park? Same with Civic Center park.
  - developing the Lake Orion waterfront and connecting it to "downtown" via an overhead path across Lapeer road would be a terrific improvement and would make the village a desirable destination.
  - The Township is doing an adequate job of maintaining its facilities using part-time personnel and paid contractors. A much better job and a more timely job could be done if there was a permanent full-time staff of people dedicated to maintaining the parks and paths
  - Thank you for listening to the residents and for working to make our community full of beautiful parks, trails and facilities to enjoy our beautiful township.
  - I drive to 2 different neighboring communities for community fitness programs (Clarkston & Oxford). In general, the Twp parks including sports fields look very nice. Continue revamping flower beds and other planting areas, some look like they haven't been touched in years, especially around amphitheater &

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some areas of Friendship Park. Are the boardwalks still up behind the amphitheater? That used to be a nice trail through there.

- Take better care of the safety paths Summer and Winter/ Keep brush, tree limbs and grass away from the safety paths. Like driving a car, VISABILITY IS ALL IMPORTANT. You can't see ahead, injuries could happen. SAFETY IS THE KEY!!!
- I like how Auburn Hills has where you can reserve the pavilions for free if you are a resident.
- Basically, very nice facilities. Please keep up the good work.
- I love this City!
- Need an indoor sports complex in the township. Need to help private business owners create a plan for success in building a complex
- Upgrade our library!
- With additional programs and sites more staff and budget will be needed
- Need to maintain current facilities before making new. Also Jesse Decker seemed like it was started but never finished, the play equipment there is good but there needs to be more. Overall the parks, paths, and recreation facilities are good. And the nature preserve on Maybee should have a boardwalk.
- These are a significant asset to our community. The parks and paths must be maintained to continue to be attractive to our current residents and those seeking to move to Orion. Additional open space would be nice, but not at the expense of losing the quality of the existing facilities. Green spaces are great, but green spaces that can be accessed and utilized appropriately are a bigger asset.
- Conklin Road is dirt, has no posted speed limit but is a major connector for Paint Creek and Bald Mountain bicyclist, walkers and families. A safety path from Miller to Orion road would be valuable to the families in that neighborhood and to all active users of the current Bald Mountain/Paint Creek network.
- Our parks are great the way they are. I don't see any need to create more.
- Orion Township should be looking for ways to actively partner with the Lake Orion Schools before considering building anything. There should be no duplication of assets or services in this community.
- A nice place to put something that will attract a lot of people would be friendship park and the thing that would attract many people is a skate park so I think that there should be an open to the public free skate park in friendship park
- Please pave the Polly Ann trail, and build a skate park, Lake Orion would be awesome!
- Provide indoor pool and fitness facility at the Orion Center (Reference Warren), the building of which was never originally brought before taxpayers for funding
- The play structure at Friendship Park needs to be rebuilt. It was a great place for younger kids to play while their brothers and sisters were at soccer and baseball practices and games. So many kids used that play structure and now miss it. Obviously people wanted that structure there that is why people donated time and money to build it. I do not think that a spray park is a good idea because it can only be used about 3 month out of the year, also the maintenance and water cost would be too high. A skate park is an ok idea but I do not want it to replace the play structure that was a Friendship Park I would rather see it as an addition to Friendship Park. It could be located at the north west corner of the park.
- Spoke to a boy who was handing out flyers requesting a skateboard park in Orion Township. My son skateboarded and there were never any facilities to skateboard at. I would like to see a skateboard park established immediately so the kids have somewhere to skate for free. All the places to skateboard around here charge and sometimes kids don't have the money to pay. Please, this is URGENT.
- Orion twp. has a large tax base, I don't understand how other towns such as Oxford can have great recreation areas and we have ball fields a few play grounds. We need things to occupy our youth.
- Employee more experienced recreation professionals. Are any current staff Certified Recreation Professionals through the National Recreation and Parks Association?
- New equipment at parks (civic, friendship, Jesse decker) to keeps us playing.
- These are the amenities that I love about living in our community!
- Again I feel ALL PROGRAMS THAT ARE PROVIDED TO ORION RESIDENTS SHOULD WORK WITH LOW INCOME families! Because there is a lot of them that don't!
- Convert sections of grass to "grow zone" type meadows with native wildflowers and a few trees to

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provide habitat, windbreaks and reduce the cost of landscape maintenance.

*\*: Open ended responses are reported verbatim.*

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## Mi Community Remarks\*

### What park have you used recently? What do you like/not like?

- more baseball/ softball fields
- Wildwood is a gorgeous facility but concerts are too boring for kids so many parents do not return. Please add something(s) for kids to do here.
- Do not like the overgrown parking zone and zero signage that this is township property and is a valuable wetland. Needs vegetation management, educational signage, a picnic table and garbage / recycling can.
- How about some recycle bins for all the families that come for athletic programs etc with the beverage containers.
- Jesse Decker Park can also use additional baseball fields and irrigation
- Additional baseball fields are needed at Friendship Park. this would allow LO to host tournaments and provide additional practice and games for our own families.
- Please add cloverleaf baseball field here!
- Please create cloverleaf baseball diamonds here!
- Cannot easily cross from the parking lot of the Orion Center to the Polly Ann. My legs got all scraped up by thorns. This should be a great place to access the trail with lots of available parking.
- Lake Orion needs additional baseball fields at Friendship to host tournaments, regular season games and just as important - practice for LOYBL and competitive LO based Federation baseball teams. Friendship is the best location for new fields for Lake Orion.
- There should be more baseball fields here.
- Please consider paving FP drive to pavilion area in the back.
- Friendship Park needs more ball fields four to eight would be nice and help the kids to be able to practice and host tournaments...Currently there are not enough ball fields to handle the amount of ball players who want to play baseball.
- Install a safety path along south side of Gregory Road from Baldwin to Rohr Rd. It is my understanding this would be in compliance with the Gingellville Overlay Zoning District.
- The area just north of the gravel pit, just slightly west of the new housing developments along Squirrel Rd., could be developed into a park. It seems to be in private hands now, but if the township leaders would start negotiations with the owner, perhaps he/she would sell the land.

### Where do you like to bike or walk? Where would you like to see new paths/trails?

- I would like to see trails in the north east part of the map. There are no facilities there at this time.
- There is a gorgeous little nature path in the corner of Civic Cent park with an outstanding boardwalk in the woods. I can almost be seen from Waldon in the winter when leaves are off. Almost nobody knows it is back there and there is ZERO way to know how to get to it. Not on one single map.
- A safe crossing is needed at or near Joslyn Ct. I see lots of FAMILIES crossing to get to the north or south section of Civic Center park. They often navigate the east side gravel berm until they can get to place for crossing OR they go around the fence from one side to the other. Scary to see so some improved pathway along frontage or within park is needed depending on the cross point.
- It would be nice to have a traffic signaled safe walking cross walk or a pedestrian bridge in this area to get from the east side of M-24 to the west side of M-24. Ideally located near Kroger's/St. Joes/Indianwood Rd. area but somewhere north of Flint and south of Drahner because there is no safe place to walk across M-24 north of Flint Street.
- Having a safety path along Indian Lake, perhaps all the way to Addison Oaks
- Install (2 ) Safety paths along township property on Waldon & Joslyn Rds. (#1) on north-side of Waldon Rd east to Joslyn Ct. to Wildwood & Civic Center Park soccer fields. (#2) east-side of Joslyn Rd north to township hall/Civic Center Park entrance. RCOC pedestrian signal crossings already exist at the intersection of Joslyn & Waldon Rd.
- Safety paths are badly needed on the east side of M-24, especially running along M-24. There are "pieces" of safety path, but they do not connect. Also, finding a safe way for people to get from

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the east side of M-24 to the west side that is pedestrian/bicycle friendly. I would love to walk/bicycle to places, but really can't because of the lack of paths here.

- Indianwood road from Baldwin to Joslyn
- Would like to see a safety path on Clarkston Rd, from M-24 to the Paint Creek Trail parking lot by the bridge.
- Add trail walkway connecting #34 to #9. This would take a wooden walkway, yet would generate more access to the SE corner of the park around the lake.
- Expand Polly Ann Trail from Joslyn Rd to Baldwin Rd.
- Add trailhead entrance as shown on the Orion-Oaks trail map. No biking walking access until dog park gates are open.
- I would like a path connecting the Polly Ann Trail to the Paint Creek Trail.
- completely tie into the trails along silverbell road
- Tie together the trails along m24
- Need safety path along south-side of Gregory Rd. From Baldwin Rd. west to Rohr Rd. My understanding this is in compliance with the Gingellville Overlay Zoning District plans.

#### **Where would you like new parks? What would you like to see in them?**

- I would to see a fishing program
- We need more baseball fields here.
- Do not put a spray park in Friendship despite it being closest to my home. There are spray parks four miles north and four miles west. That would serve more and get outside residents if placed in Civic or Jessie Decker.
- Lake Orion needs additional baseball fields at Friendship to host tournaments, regular season games and just as important - practice for LOYBL and competitive LO based Federation baseball teams. Friendship is the best location for new fields for Lake Orion.

#### **Where is there a need for path/trail maintenance?**

- There is a tiny opening in the solid shrub wall along the east side of park blocking any view of the Polly Ann Trail. Please open this more, add signage for both directions and add a new layer of pea gravel so one might ride from the Polly Ann to Wildwood without temptation to cross the soccer fields
- I would like to see the bike paths extended to allow access to the Polly Ann trail from Baldwin
- I am concerned about the vegetation on the northwest corner of Atwater and Orion Road. When heading east on Atwater and stopping at Orion Road it is difficult to see traffic coming from the left. It must also be a risk if sidewalk users are coming from opposite directions.
- I am concerned about the vegetation on the south side of Clarkston at the Polly Ann Trail crossing. There is zero viability under the power line tower.
- Please consider paving Friendship Park roadway all the way to the pavilion/soccer fields in the back.
- Add trail walkway connecting #34 to #9. This would take a wooden walkway, yet would generate more access to the SE corner of the park around the lake.
- This frequently used trail segment has pavement upheaving and overgrown tree limbs/ foliage.
- Trail intersection marker #24 is mis-marked on the upcoming trail markers.
- Many trail signs are sun faded and need replacement Trail marker #5 is missing.
- The wooden bridges are overgrown with vegetation and tree limbs. Need to be pruned back. I'm concerned that pedestrians (children) cannot be observed crossing the bridges. I'm worried for their safety of being out of view from the roadway. A concerned grandparent.

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**Any other comments?**

- Fishing pond. Stock the pond with fish and offer a catch & release fishing program for our youth.
- Please put this property up for sale. Return borrowed funds to Safety Path budget with interest or the prorated profits from the appreciation if there is some.
- It would be great to see a small primitive campground somewhere on township property.
- This would be good spot for indoor sports complex.
- Would like to see additional baseball fields and lighting at Friendship Park
- Would like to see better field conditions\irrigation at JDP
- I would like to see additional baseball fields added at Friendship Park
- Friendship would be a great place for additional baseball fields, and lights for evening practices and games. Between LOYBL and Federation baseball, we desperately need more fields. Friendship also needs additional parking spaces, however. Improvements to the existing baseball fields should include lights and protective netting for spectators.
- It would be nice to see access to additional parking from Baldwin
- Would like to see additional baseball fields hopefully in a clover shape to accommodate the number of ball teams which is growing...We never have enough fields especially for practicing...It would also allow us to hold tournaments for out of town clubs...
- Would be nice to have additional baseball fields here near the existing fields. There just aren't enough fields for the amount of kids that want to play ball...
- This would be a great place to put four to eight ball fields before it gets to developed...
- Would like to see a safety path along heights rd from M24 to Pine tree.
- It would be nice to have a place to rent stand up paddle boards, kayaks etc at Lake Orion
- Need more baseball fields
- Need more Baseball Fields!!!
- Need more Baseball Fields!!!
- Orion Township needs as much park land as possible. Please don't let our area become another Rochester Hills, full of one subdivision, one strip mall after another. We will lose something if this happens.
- Please add more baseball fields at Friendship Park.
- This would be a great place for a skate park. It's close proximity to the Oakland County Sheriff would help limit any vandalism or bad behavior. I would suggest a full concrete park -vs.- wooden ramps that require more maintenance.

\*: *Comments are reported verbatim.*

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Lake Orion Review  
Lake Orion, Michigan 48362

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss.  
County of Oakland

  
Jim Sherman, Publisher

Being duly sworn, says that he is publisher of THE LAKE ORION REVIEW, a newspaper printed and published weekly in the County and State aforesaid, and that the notice annexed was printed and published

1 weeks, successively and immediately preceding the 12th day of December 2013 in said newspaper, and that the first publication of said notice in said newspaper, was on the 11th day of December 2013

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 12th day of December 2013



My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

**LUAN M. OFFER**  
Notary Public, Oakland Co. MI  
My Comm, Expires June 11, 2018

RECEIVED  
JAN 07 2014  
Orion Township  
Clerk's Office

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Because the People Want to Know  
**ORION TWP.**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ORION  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
DRAFT PARKS & RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN FOR REVIEW**

The Charter Township of Orion has prepared a draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide the future development of parks and recreation in Orion Township. The public is welcome to view a copy of the draft plan for review and comments. The plan is available for review at Township Hall, 2525 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion, MI 48360, the Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion, MI 48360, the Orion Township Public Library, 825 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion, MI 48362, and on the Township's website, [www.oriontownship.org](http://www.oriontownship.org). The Township will accept any comments on the Draft Plan until Monday, January 13, 2014. Please direct your comments to Julianne Savard, Administrative Assistant by email to [jsavard@oriontownship.org](mailto:jsavard@oriontownship.org) or by mail to the Orion Township Supervisor's Office, 2525 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion, MI 48360.

Chris Barnett  
Supervisor

Publish 12-11-13

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

County of Oakland }  
STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss.

*Lesley Caldwell* .....being duly sworn,

deposes and says that I am the *Legal Rep* ..... of  
THE OAKLAND PRESS, a newspaper printed and circulated  
daily in Oakland County, Michigan and that I held such  
position during the publication of the notice hereto annexed;  
that a notice of .....

*Public notice* .....of  
which the annexed notice is a true copy, was published in the  
said THE OAKLAND PRESS.....

*once* ..... immediately preceding the  
8. of *Feb*... that the annexed printed copy of said notice  
was taken from the said newspaper. That the dates of

publication of said notice were.....

*February 7, 2014*  
and further deponent sayeth not

*Lesley Caldwell*  
*Lesley Caldwell*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this *7*..... day of

*February* A.D. 20*14*  
*Jira McCoun*

NOTARY PUBLIC, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing at the Orion Township Hall, 2525 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, Michigan 48360 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 18, 2014 to consider the adoption of the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The Master Plan is a five-year recommended program for improving parks and recreation opportunities for Orion Township residents.

Published Feb. 7, 2014

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ORION BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES, TUESDAY, FEBURARY 18, 2014**

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**CALL TO ORDER.** The Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at the Orion Township Hall, 2525 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, Michigan. The Public Hearing was held to provide an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments concerning the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Barnett, Penny Shults, Mark Thurber, Mike Flood, Neal Porter, Donni Steele, John Steimel.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Julie Brenner	Char Follis	Kerstin Heitzenrater	Sydney Stiller
Lisa Sokol	Marian Misner	Elizabeth Beem	Heather Muzzy
Joan Rolwing	James Misner	Stephane Knitter	Peggy Osborne
Kim Urbanowski	Lydia Schwehofer	Brooke Muzzy	John Rose
Rhonda Chapman			

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The Regular Board Meeting was in temporary recess from 7:07 p.m. to 7:28 p.m.

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Supervisor Barnett convened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

The Public Hearing was held to receive public comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Don Wortman of Carlise/Wortman, Township Planners, provided an overview of the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Dave Duenow, Orion Township resident, stated that he called 47 people today and none of them were informed of the process. Wanted clarification regarding how many people responded, wanted to know where the company is from.

Leo Tainer, 3226 Birch Creek Drive, stated that he is in favor of the plan and would like more baseball fields. No existing fields are designed for youth baseball. There is a need for additional youth fields. Revenue for additional fields would be generated if Orion Township hosted baseball tournaments; youth sports are a big business. Would like the Board to look to the master plan for sources of revenue.

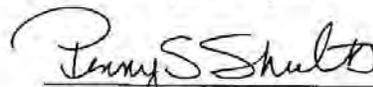
Supervisor Barnett provided a response and understands the need for additional fields; stated Orion Township is planning on hosting tournaments.

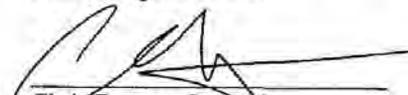
Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees  
Public Hearing: Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update  
Tuesday, February 18, 2014

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Dave Duenow said that his precinct does not want baseball fields as they do not want any new taxes,

Seeing and hearing no additional citizens interested in providing comments related to Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Supervisor Barnett adjourned the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

  
Penny S. Shults, Clerk

  
Chris Barnett, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Orion

Transcription: J. Waldecker

**Resolution In Support of the Adoption of the  
Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Orion has undertaken the update of its five-year parks and recreation plan which describes the community's physical and social characteristics, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee reviewed the *Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan* during the course of several meetings held on June 5, October 10, and November 25, 2013 as well as January 15, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan's* goals and objectives were developed in response to needs and deficiencies identified by a survey of residents conducted in the August and September 2013, an open house held on October 16, and input from Township officials, community stakeholders, and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* has been made available by Orion Township for public review in the manner required by law and all comments from the public have been considered by the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee; and

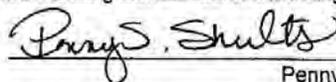
**WHEREAS**, the plan was developed for the benefit of the entire community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee recommends the adoption of the *Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan* by the Orion Township Board of Trustees.

motion by: Aaron Whatley  
supported by: Rob York

votes in favor: 8  
votes opposed: 0  
abstained: 0  
absent: 1

I hereby certify that the above is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee at a meeting held on the 15th day of January, 2014.



Penny Shults, Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ORION, MICHIGAN

Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Resolution 1-15-2014

**Resolution of Adoption of the  
Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Orion has undertaken the update of its five-year parks and recreation plan which describes the community's physical and social characteristics, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee reviewed the *Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan* during the course of several meetings held on June 5, October 10, and November 25, 2013 as well as January 15, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan's* goals and objectives were developed in response to needs and deficiencies identified by a survey of residents conducted in August and September 2013, an open house held on October 16, 2013, and input from Township officials, community stakeholders, and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* has been made available by Orion Township for public review in the manner required by law and all comments from the public have been considered by the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee; and

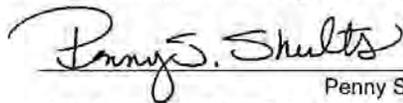
**WHEREAS**, the plan was developed for the benefit of the entire community and a public hearing was held on February 18, 2014 to provide another opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Orion Township Board of Trustees voted to adopt said *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Orion Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the *Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

Motion by: Clerk Shults  
Supported by: Trustee Flood  
Votes in favor: Thurber, Steele, Porter, Steimel, Flood, Barnett, Shults.  
Votes opposed: None.  
Abstained: None.  
Absent: None.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Orion Township Board of Trustees at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of February, 2014.



Penny Shults, Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ORION, MICHIGAN

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LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL



CARLISLE

WORTMAN  
associates, inc.

605 S. Main Street, Ste. 1  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 662-2200  
(734) 662-1935 Fax

February 26, 2014

Bret Rasegan  
Supervisor  
Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services  
Executive Office Building  
2100 Pontiac Lake Road  
Building 41W,  
Waterford, MI 48328

Dear Bret:

The attached Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees on February 18, 2014. The plan will be sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval.

The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to contact Orion Township or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan. The Grants Section requests that you copy any comments directly to them at: Grants Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lucie Fortin, LLA, AICP  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.

cc: Lisa Sokol, Director, Community Programs Department, Charter Township of Orion, 2525 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion MI 48360

Richard K. Carlisle, *President* R. Donald Wortman, *Vice President* Douglas J. Lewan, *Principal* John L. Enos, *Principal* David Scurto, *Principal*  
Benjamin R. Carlisle, *Associate* Sally M. Elmiger, *Associate* Brian Oppmann, *Associate*



CARLISLE

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605 S. Main Street, Ste. 1  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 662-2200  
(734) 662-1935 Fax

February 26, 2014

William Parkus,  
Regional Review Office  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
1001 Woodward Ave, Suite 1400,  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Mr. Parkus:

The attached Orion Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees on February 18, 2014. The plan will be sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval.

The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to contact Orion Township or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan. The Grants Section requests that you copy any comments directly to them at: Grants Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lucie Fortin, LLA, AICP  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.

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