



# Village of Edmore

Montcalm County, Michigan

## 5-Year Park & Recreation Plan 2017 - 2021

*Prepared by*



*Offices in Michigan & Indiana*  
2960 Lucerne Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Phone: 616.977.1000 Fax: 616.977.1005  
*December 2016*

PREPARED FOR

## **Village of Edmore**

209 Sheldon, P.O. Box 170,  
Edmore, MI, 48829.  
Phone: (989) 427-5641  
Fax: (989) 427-5895

Neil Rankin-Village Manager

Andy Andersen-Department of Public Works Supervisor

Tracy Clark-Finance Director/Clerk

Karl Kluwe-Village President

Jamie Ballard-President Pro Tempore

Bonnie Ashbaugh-Trustee

Ed Adams-Trustee

Karen Deja-Trustee

Bonnie Davis-Trustee

Phil Kohn-Trustee

Elaine Leak-Treasurer

Jack Miller-Downtown Development Authority Chair

Rich Adgate-Planning Commission Chair



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>A. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction	1
2. Social Characteristics	2-3
Population	2
Median Age	2
Household size	2
Income, Poverty and Employment	3
Physically Challenged	3
3. Physical Characteristics	4
Location & Transportation Network	4
Climate	4
Topography & Land Forms	4
Woodlands	4
Wetlands	4-6
Soils	6
Water Resources & Drainage	7
Vegetation, Fish & Wildlife	7
Utilities	7
Land Use	7-8
<b>B. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>C. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>D. RECREATION INVENTORY</b>	<b>11-19</b>
1. Village Recreation Facilities	11-12
2. County Recreational Facilities	12-15
3. School & Private Recreational Facilities	15-16
4. Regional recreational Facilities	16-18
5. Barrier Free Evaluation	18-19
6. Recreational Programs	19
7. Past Grant Status	19
<b>E. ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE (CIS), AND RATIONALE</b>	<b>20-30</b>
Goals & Objectives	20-23
Recommended Actions / Rationale	24-25
Capital Improvements Schedule	26
Financing Mechanisms	26-29
<b>F. APPENDIX</b>	
• Resolution of Plan Adoption	
• Transmittal of Plan to County and Regional Planning Agencies	
• Public Notices / Articles, Public Review of Draft Recreation Plan	
• Meeting minutes	

## Section A - COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Part 1 – Introduction Village History

Edmore is a village in Montcalm County of the U.S. state of Michigan. As of the 2010 census, the village population was 1,201.

Edmore was founded and platted by Edwin B. Moore, a real estate man, in 1878, and named with a contraction of his name. A post office was established on July 22, 1878 with Abraham West as the first postmaster. Its station on the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad was called “Edmore Junction”. It was incorporated as a village in 1879 with Moore as its first president.

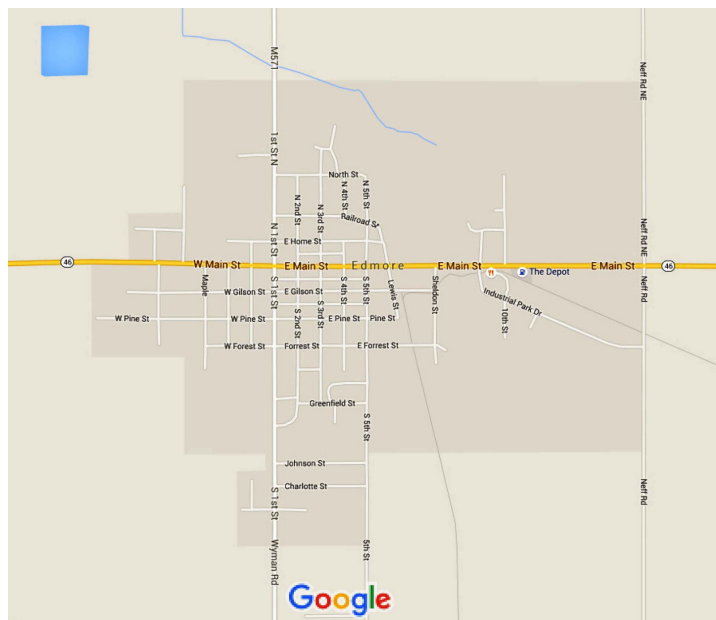


Main Street in the late 1800's

The Edmore post office, with ZIP code 48829, serves most of Home Township as well as portions of Belvidere Township to the west, Douglass Township to the southwest, Day Township to the south, Ferris Township to the southeast, and Rolland Township to the north in Isabella County.



Location Map



Map of the Village

## Part 2 – Social Characteristics

### Population

The population of Edmore increased by 457 persons to 1808 between 1990 and 2010, or 33.3%. A sizeable increase in numbers, given the economic conditions from 2007 to early 2010. The County as a whole has experienced fairly consistent growth from 1990-2010.

Table 2-1 Edmore Population, 1990-2010				
	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1990-2010
Edmore	1,126	1,244	1,201	6.7%
Montcalm County	53,059	61,266	63,342	16.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010

### Median Age

While the overall population is the most important consideration, there are other characteristics to consider when planning for a community's recreation. The age distribution of a community influences the types of facilities and programs needed. Table 2 shows that the Village's median age (38.8) is slightly lower than Montcalm County or Michigan's. The distribution of age groups in the Village has several differences when compared to the comparison areas. Edmore has a similar proportion of residents under 18; a lower proportion of residents between the ages of 18 and 64; and a higher proportion of residents over 64. These distribution figures indicate the Village's facilities and programs should target older population groups and activities. Of course, the Village should not ignore the other age groups since they still comprise a large proportion of the overall population.

Table 2-2 Median Age in Edmore, 2000-2010		
	2000	2010
Edmore	33.7	38.8
Montcalm County	35.6	39.3
Michigan	35.5	39

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010

The size of families in Edmore follows the Montcalm County and Michigan trend of becoming smaller. The average size of a household in Edmore declined 9.2% from 2000 to 2010, from 2.49 to 2.31 persons. In Montcalm County population per household declined by 3.8%, from a smaller average size of 2.65 to 2.59 persons, while the Michigan average household size declined 4.3% to 2.45 persons. See Table 2-3. The general trend toward smaller family size is due to many factors, including divorce, widowed older persons and young people waiting longer to get married.

Table 2-3 Average Household Size in Edmore , 1990-2010			
	2000	2010	% Change 1990-2000
Edmore	2.49	2.31	-4.8%
Montcalm County	2.65	2.57	-3.8%
Michigan	2.56	2.45	-4.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010

## Income, Poverty and Employment

Year-around Edmore households had a median income of \$26,188 in 2010. This compares with \$40,451 for Montcalm County and \$44,667 for the State of Michigan. 163 persons were receiving food stamps in 2010. Reflecting the age of the population, 174 persons received Social Security income in Edmore in 2010, and 56 received supplemental Social Security income. The estimated labor force of Edmore (residents only) was 540 persons in 2010. The estimated yearly average employment was 454 persons, with 86 estimated to be unemployed, on average, or 15.9%.

Table 2-4 Edmore Employment and Unemployment, 2010	
Labor Force	540
Employment	454
Unemployment	86
Unemployment Rate	15.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010

## Physically Challenged

The disability status of a population may be especially significant when considering recreational needs for a community. With over 24.6% of the total village population affected by some form of disability, these individuals may have difficulty participating in recreational programs, accessing facilities or even getting to designated public areas. Understanding the disability status of Village's population may assist decision-makers in determining adequate programs and appropriate locations for recreational activities. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Subject	Edmore village, Michigan					
	Total		With a disability		Percent with a disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	1,219	+/-167	300	+/-68	24.6%	+/-5.5
Population under 5 years	58	+/-27	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-31.0
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-31.0
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-31.0
Population 5 to 17 years	241	+/-67	41	+/-26	17.0%	+/-11.8
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	9	+/-13	3.7%	+/-5.6
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-8.9
With a cognitive difficulty	(X)	(X)	32	+/-24	13.3%	+/-10.5
With an ambulatory difficulty	(X)	(X)	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-8.9
With a self-care difficulty	(X)	(X)	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-8.9
Population 18 to 64 years	736	+/-127	175	+/-55	23.8%	+/-7.4
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	38	+/-28	5.2%	+/-3.9
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	12	+/-9	1.6%	+/-1.2
With a cognitive difficulty	(X)	(X)	61	+/-24	8.3%	+/-3.4
With an ambulatory difficulty	(X)	(X)	86	+/-34	11.7%	+/-4.4
With a self-care difficulty	(X)	(X)	43	+/-23	5.8%	+/-3.2
With an independent living difficulty	(X)	(X)	61	+/-26	8.3%	+/-3.7
Population 65 years and over	184	+/-43	84	+/-26	45.7%	+/-9.9
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	35	+/-17	19.0%	+/-8.5
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	7	+/-9	3.8%	+/-4.7
With a cognitive difficulty	(X)	(X)	24	+/-13	13.0%	+/-7.0
With an ambulatory difficulty	(X)	(X)	54	+/-21	29.3%	+/-8.4
With a self-care difficulty	(X)	(X)	22	+/-15	12.0%	+/-6.8
With an independent living difficulty	(X)	(X)	41	+/-18	22.3%	+/-8.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013 Estimates



## **Part 3 - Physical Characteristics**

### **Location & Transportation Network**

Edmore is located on M-46 which has average daily traffic counts of 9,300 in the heart of the Village. Edmore is also 1-1/2 miles east of M-66, which is another primary north-south state trunkline with average daily traffic counts of 2,600 – 3,800 vehicles. Edmore is also served by its local street system and Montcalm County's network of roads. The former Chesapeake and Ohio Railway is now been converted to use as a non-motorized pathway facility and is now designated as the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail. The trail is part of approximately 45 miles of paved trailway from Greenville to Alma.

### **Climate**

Montcalm County's weather, like all of Michigan's, influences the recreational opportunities available throughout the year. The area can support a variety of activities throughout the year from swimming to skiing. Table 2 identifies information related to the area's climate. Generally, January is the coldest month (23.5 average daily temperature) and has the highest snowfall (10.9 inches). July is generally the warmest month in the County (72.2 average daily temperature). June usually has the highest average precipitation (3.39 inches) and February generally has the lowest average (1.47 inches). Prevailing winds are from the west.

### **Topography & Land Forms**

The surface of Edmore is largely flat with elevations extending between 980 and 950 feet. The low-lying areas (950 feet) extend along the Wilson Drain, with the drain serving a large portion of the Village area.

### **Woodlands**

Originally, Michigan was covered with a dense forest of deciduous trees. As the area was cleared for farming and development, or the trees were removed for timber, the area's forests were replaced by farm fields, open field areas, orchards and smaller forested areas containing both deciduous and coniferous trees.

### **Wetlands**

The wetlands in the Village are similar to the County in that wetlands with associated woodlands that existed during the time of large expanses of pre-settlement wetlands have been reduced to small, scattered upland areas. Upland wetlands have been reduced due to filling, subsurface drainage and drain construction undertaken to improve agriculture. Most upland wetlands are forested and are less than 20 acres in size. Both upland and coastal wetlands provide opportunities such as hiking, nature viewing, hunting, and environmental education.

The Wetlands Map shows wetland areas that serve to provide wildlife habitat, stormwater storage, water quality improvement, natural scenery and other benefits. Generally these areas exhibit severe limitations for the use of individual waste disposal systems. Many of the wetlands are located along the various creeks, streams, drainage ditches and other water bodies, although there are isolated wetlands elsewhere in the Village.

Hydric soils are also identified. These are soils that have formed in the presence of water for sustained periods. They can be used to help locate wetlands, especially those that have been disturbed or altered by

fill or excavation. Hydric soils may be unsuitable for certain types of development and can be an indicator of high groundwater levels.



Because they occur where the dry land meets the water, wetlands play a critical role in the management of our water based resources. Acre for acre, wetlands produce more wildlife and plants than any other Michigan habitat type. Wetland species also comprise a critically important segment of these species.

Benefits of wetlands are many. Wetlands help:

- reduce flooding by absorbing runoff from rain and melting snow and slowly releasing excess water into rivers and lakes - a one acre swamp when flooded to a depth of one foot contains 330,000 gallons of water
- filter pollutants from surface runoff, trapping fertilizers, pesticides, sediments, and other contaminants and helping to break some of them down into less harmful substances, improving water clarity and quality
- help recharge groundwater supplies when connected to underground aquifers
- contribute to natural nutrient and water cycles, and produce vital atmospheric gases, including oxygen
- provide commercial or recreational value to our human economy, by producing plants, game birds (ducks, geese) and fur bearing mammals - many fish are directly connected to wetlands, requiring shallow water areas for breeding, feeding and escaping from predators
- when wetlands occur adjacent to inland lakes or streams, they serve as nutrient traps that then enrich the larger body of water of which they are part



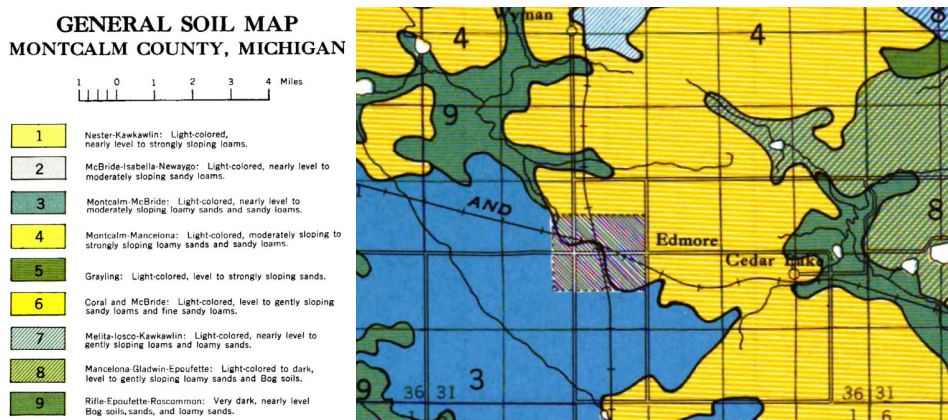
The last century has seen a greatly increased rate of wetland loss due to filling and drainage by man. Prior to World War II, drainage to expand agricultural lands accounted for most of this loss. Recently, much wetland destruction has been caused by commercial, industrial, and residential expansion. The estimated 11 million acres of Michigan wetlands existing in pre settlement times has now been reduced to less than 3 million acres. Recent legislation has slowed the loss rate somewhat but threats to these habitats, particularly the smaller wetlands, continue in many areas.

Prior to park & recreation development, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) should be consulted to review the results of a wetlands determination. The impacts of development within wetland areas should be carefully considered, and a permit from the MDNR should always be obtained if regulated wetlands are to be impacted.

## Soils

The map below identifies the general soil associations in the Village. Three general soil types are predominant in Edmore. Loamy sands of the Rifle-Epoufett-Roscommon series are common around the lakes and streams. Alluvial soils with poor drainage qualities can exist along both along waterbodies. As described in the preceding section, these areas are flood prone and are highly unsuitable for agricultural activities, as well as more intense development. The majority of soils are Montcalm-Mancelona and Montcalm-McBride which are sandy loam in nature with slightly to moderate slopes depending on the soil association.

The map identifies three associations described above. The following information is taken from the Soil Survey of Montcalm County, Michigan.



## Water Resources & Drainage

The Stoney Creek Watershed that meanders south-west of Edmore is its most significant water feature. This creek is the source of both aesthetic beauty as well as home to Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Bream, and Bluegill. Also on the northern portion of the village is the **Wilson** Drain and associated watershed which runs into Sixth Lake which is part of the Six Lakes chain of lakes.

Montcalm County contains numerous lakes and rivers that are available for a variety of recreational pursuits. The County contains 7,200 acres of major lakes and another 477 miles of streams and rivers. There are 24 lakes with public access sites for boat launching and related activities in Montcalm County, many of which are within a short distance of Edmore.

## Fish and Wildlife

The County's wildlife is typical of that found in most of Lower Michigan. Common wildlife includes deer, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, muskrats, beavers, squirrels, rodents and other small mammals. The area is home to a variety of birds including owls, wild turkeys, pheasants and many others. The area is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including ducks and Canada Geese.

## Utilities & Community Services

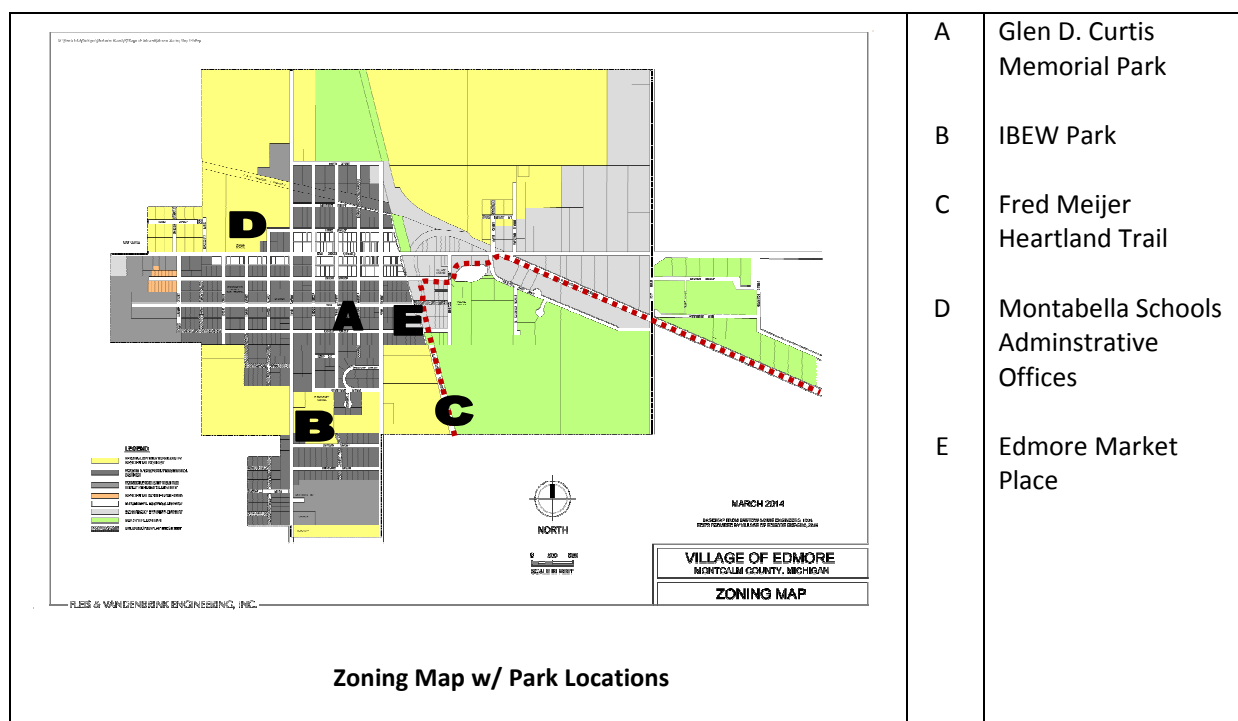
Although the Village is a small community, it offers an array of full services. Water is supplied via a well system and sewer needs are met by a lagoon system. The village water system will be receiving major infrastructure upgrades over the next several years. These upgrades are unavoidable given the age of the system and requirements by state and federal agencies to ensure water quality to village consumers.

The Village of Edmore has partnered with the Montcalm County Sheriff's Department for 40 hours of dedicated police coverage per week. When the Edmore Officer is not on duty the Village is covered by the Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, and Home Township Police.

Fire protection is provided by the Home Township Fire Department located in Edmore. The department serves Home Township, Edmore Village and Cedar Lake.

## Land Use

The map below identifies the land use patterns within the Village as of the 1995 Village Master Plan. As can be seen on the map the Village is comprised largely of single family and commercial development. Agricultural use continues to be noticeable and present with three large parcels found throughout the Village. Most of the recent development growth has been taking place in the southern portion of the Village. This trend would be expected given this is the area of the Village which has public water and sewer.



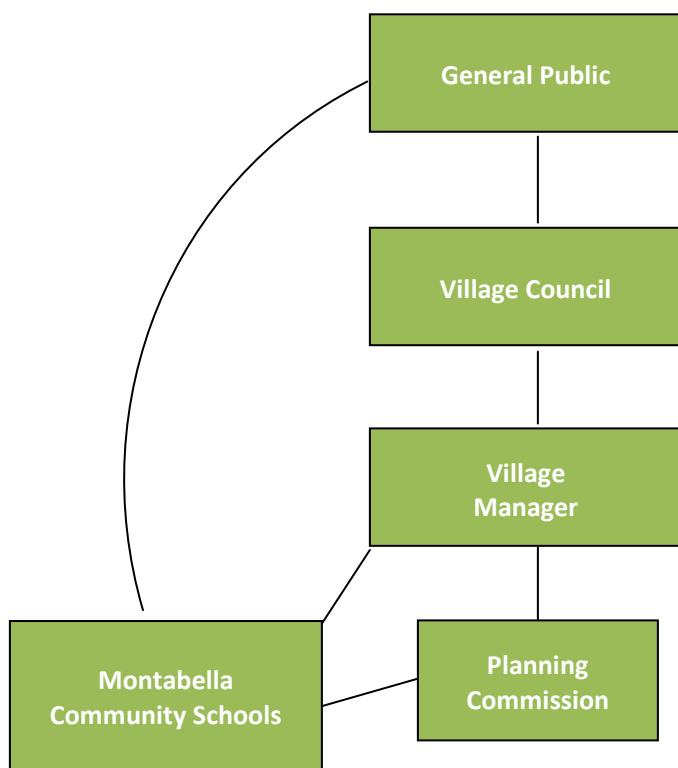


## SECTION B - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Village of Edmore is a general law Village with a seven member Council consisting of a Village President and six Council members. The position of Village Manager was established to oversee the day to day operations of the Village. The members of the Planning Commission represent various interests for planning and development in the community.

Programs and activities are planned with a variety of community groups and the Montabella Community School district that serves the Village.

The chart illustrates the relationship among the various entities involved in recreation within the Village. The administrative structure is as follows:



### Village Expenditures and Budget for Recreation and Culture

Recreation and Culture Expenditures 2014- 2016	
Year	Expenditures
2014	\$ _____
2015	\$ _____
2016	\$ _____

## **SECTION C – DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS**

Community recreational facilities cannot be effectively provided without some basis from which the type, quantity, location, need, and priority for that facility has been determined. Several methods for determining a community's recreation needs and priorities have been identified. These include observed use levels for existing facilities, comparisons of recreational facilities between similar communities, unique opportunities for certain types of facilities, guidelines or standards based on quantity per population, and projected population growth, to identify a few methods.

Existing recreation opportunities can be compared to recreation standards to determine deficiencies. However, great care must be taken to apply common sense and knowledge of the community. These standards will be used only in conjunction with other methods to determine recreation deficiencies and priorities.

It is highly recommended that additional effort be put forth to solicit comments from residents in close vicinity to or who may be negatively impacted by future projects. Public review and comment was done when this plan was in its draft stage.

For this Recreation Plan, a public strategic planning workshop was facilitated by the Village, Village Staff and planning consultant on (INSERT DATE). At the workshop, it was determined that a strong desire existed within the Village to improve the recreational facilities throughout the Village but with an emphasis on the developing the Village Glen D. Curtis Memorial Park.

The purpose of the strategic planning process was to receive direct input from key individuals within the community relative to the identification and ranking of the community's current recreation needs. The issues and needs were identified and discussed at the (INSERT DATE) workshop and are incorporated into this document. A draft copy of this plan was placed on file at the Village Hall and a public notice was placed in the local newspaper (see appendix) to invite further public comment on the plan. The information contained in the draft report was presented to the Village Council at a public hearing on (INSERT DATE) to further allow public comment to discuss the issues and needs of the community.

On (INSERT DATE), at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Edmore Village Council, the 5 year plan was formally adopted. Meeting minutes and resolution are attached (see appendix).

## SECTION D – EXISTING RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

An essential element of a recreation plan is the inventory of local and regional, public and private recreation facilities that are available to a community's resident. Such an inventory provides a basis from which a comparison can be made of existing recreation opportunities with the community's identified recreation needs. This inventory process also identifies barrier-free facilities. This will ensure that citizens with disabilities will fully enjoy these facilities. Involving advocate organizations and utilizing the knowledge of the Village staff will help facilitate this element of the inventory process. Further, this facility inventory establishes the foundation from which a recreational improvement program can be developed and implemented. The included map (page 8) also shows the location of village owned recreational facilities.

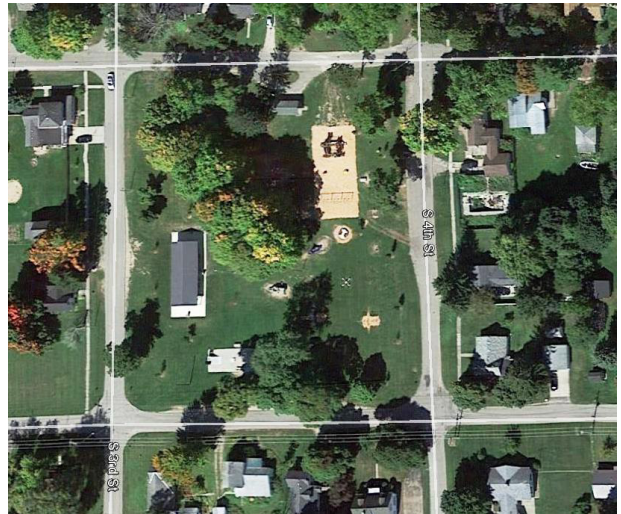
### 1 – VILLAGE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Village maintains a variety of parks and recreation facilities. Parks range from small neighborhood parks to regional parks with a picnic pavilion. The Village maintains 3 parks covering \_\_\_\_ acres.

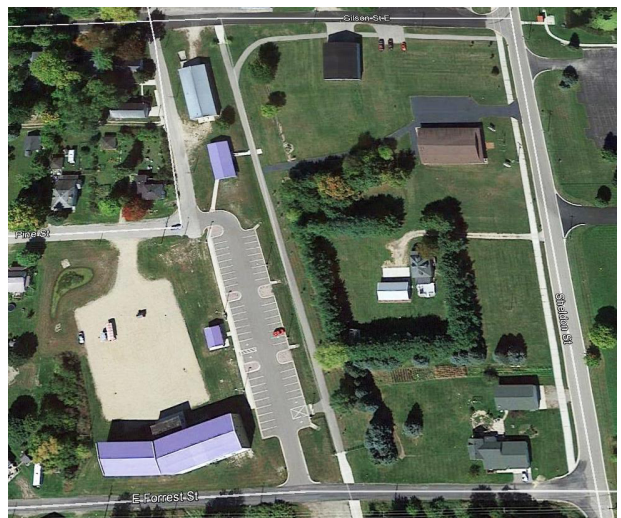
***Glen D. Curtis Memorial Park*** - This approx 2.5-acre community park is bordered by Pine, 4<sup>th</sup> Forrest and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets and is in the central portion of the Village. A major weakness is the over-all condition and age of facilities and lack of ADA accessibility.

#### **Facilities Summary:**

- 2.5 Acres
- Restroom
- Skateboard ramps
- Picnic Pavilion
- Play equipment



***Fred Meijer Heartland Trail*** - The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail is located in rural Montcalm and Gratiot Counties, in the heart of central Michigan. The trail winds its way north through farmland and wooded State Game areas, taking the traveler through the picturesque towns of Greenville, Sidney, Stanton, McBride, and Edmore. At Edmore, the trail turns east and leads through Cedar Lake and Vestaburg, entering Gratiot County where the trail goes through Riverdale, Elwell and ends in downtown Alma. Along its length, it crosses several creeks and one river. Of particular interest, south of Stanton, is the 120-year-old historic bridge that spans Fish Creek.



The Heartland Trail (as it was known in the late



80's) began as an idea in the cities of Stanton and Edmore. The CSX railroad was up for sale and both communities realized that a biking/hiking trail would be a wonderful addition to the county's recreational opportunities. With Fred Meijer's help, the CSX railroad was purchased, and became known as the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail. Paving was begun with grants from ISTEa, DALMAC, and many generous private donations. In 2005 the 4.5 miles of former CSX railroad was purchased in Gratiot County. This section linked the city of Alma to the existing FMHT and was funded by local donations, the Meijer Foundation, DALMAC and West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition.

The trail offers bikers, walkers, roller blade enthusiasts and joggers a safe, smooth, motorized vehicle free area where they can exercise and enjoy nature. The trail is currently handicapped accessible in Greenville, Edmore, McBride, Stanton, Elwell, Riverdale and Alma.

**Facilities Summary:**

- 45.8 miles trailway
- 42 miles paved
- Adjacent to Marketplace
- Trailhead parking
- Restroom building

## 2 – COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission owns and maintains 7 parks. (6 day parks and 1 overnight facility)

**Artman Park**– This park is located in Reynolds Township (Section 28) at the intersection of M-82 and Amy School Road. The 30-acre park has a variety of features oriented toward passive recreation activities. Tamarack Creek flows through the park and provides a peaceful natural feature for park users. Facilities include vault-toilets that are handicap-accessible, 16 picnic tables, a pedestrian bridge, and gravel parking. Landscaping includes many large trees and a large well-maintained grassy area. Access control consists of a gate to block automobile access after the posted hours. Signage includes a park sign and a posting of the park's rules. A surveillance system is in-place at the park. Amy School Road divides the park into two areas. Surrounding land uses include open space, forested areas, and low-density residential. Strengths of the park include its easy access from M-82 and US-131. The water features and the large trees also are great assets. The park's primary weaknesses include the limited facilities available and noise from the adjacent highway (M-82).

Summary of features: 30 acres, 16 picnic tables, restrooms, gravel parking.

**Bass Lake Park**– This park is located in Richland Township (Section 28). The two acre park is on the east shore of Bass Lake and includes a sandy parking lot and driveway, two picnic tables, basic signage, three trash cans, fencing, and nice trees. Surrounding land uses include agriculture and low density residential/cottages. Strengths of the park include access to Bass Lake and the quiet surroundings. Weaknesses relate primarily to lack of development. Summary of features: Two acres, two picnic tables, gravel parking area, beach area and boat launch.

**Camp Ford Lincoln Park**– This unique facility is located in Cato Township (Section 1) near the County's northern boundary on Schmied Road. The camp is located on Townline Lake. The camp facilities are available through Montcalm County on a reservation basis. The Camp includes two lodging-cabins that include "barracks style" beds. The two older sleeping facilities

are wooden structures in need of some attention. A brick dining facility includes a large dining area, complete kitchen facilities, restrooms, and shower facilities. A recent addition to the park includes two single-unit cabins that sleep 12 each, are heated for year-round use, and have a variety of amenities including electricity, refrigerators, and microwave ovens. The camp has a picnic shelter (15'x15') and 13 picnic tables, four grills, a grass volleyball court, a swimming area with a wooden pier, outdoor lighting, swings, some paved pathways, and gravel parking. Landscaping includes many mature trees and large grassy areas. Surrounding land uses include lakeside cottages and homes. There is signage identifying the site. Access management includes a four-foot high chain-link fence surrounding the site.

Strengths of the camp include its beautiful lakefront location, the quiet of the surrounding area, the landscaping, and the unique camping experience. Weaknesses relate to the general condition of the two older wooden cabins.

Summary of features: three acres, lodging cabins (two year-round), dining hall/kitchen, swimming area, lakefront site, picnic shelter, restrooms, showers, and water.

**Krampe Park** – This park is located in Winfield Township (Section 34) near the intersection of Church Road and Amble Road. The 20-acre park has a variety of features oriented towards picnics and other passive recreational activities. The park is located on Winfield Lake and provides both fishing and boating access. The park has a picnic shelter (30'x60') and 30 picnic tables, seven grills, paved pathways, gravel parking with paved areas for handicap-accessible parking, vault-toilets (handicap-accessible), and two sets of horseshoe pits. There is a playground with eight swings and a playground structure. A gate to limit automobile access after-hours is at the entrance and lighting for security is also on-site. A surveillance system is in-place. Signage includes a park sign and a posting of the park's rules. Landscaping includes many mature trees, and a well-maintained grassy area for picnics and other activities.

Surrounding land uses include residential homes and cottages, forested areas, and agriculture. Strengths of the park include its quiet peacefulness, access to Winfield Lake, rolling topography, a larger variety of activities, and the many mature trees. The only weakness relates to the park's isolation, which makes it difficult to find and limits awareness of the facilities. The location also makes patrolling the park difficult.

Summary of features: 20 acres, picnic shelter, restrooms, 30 picnic tables, lake access, playground equipment, on-site water.

**"Bill" McCarthy Park** – This 26-acre park is located in Montcalm Township (Section 4) on M-91. The Flat River passes along the western edge of the park. The park's primary emphasis is group gatherings/picnics. The park has two small picnic shelters (20'x30'), one large picnic shelter (25'x80'), and 100+ picnic tables. The park also has nine grills, accessible vault-toilets, four swings, and a play structure. The park is set in a forested area with well-maintained grassy areas. Signage identifies the park. There are gates that can be closed to limit automobile access. Parking consists of gravel areas, with some paved parking for handicap-accessible sites. There are also paved pathways through portions of the park. A surveillance system is in-place. Surrounding land uses include forested areas and low-density residential.

**Schmied Park** – This four-acre park is located in Belvidere Township (Section 6) at the corner of Robin and Caroline streets, south of North County Line Road. This park, like Camp Ford

Lincoln Park, is located on Townline Lake. The park contains a variety of facilities including eight picnic tables, three grills, four swings, a play structure, vault-toilets, a basketball hoop, and paved parking. Security lighting is present. Lake access includes a swimming area. Landscaping includes many large trees and well-maintained grounds. The park has adequate signage and has no access control. A surveillance system is in-place. Surrounding land uses are residential homes and cottages.

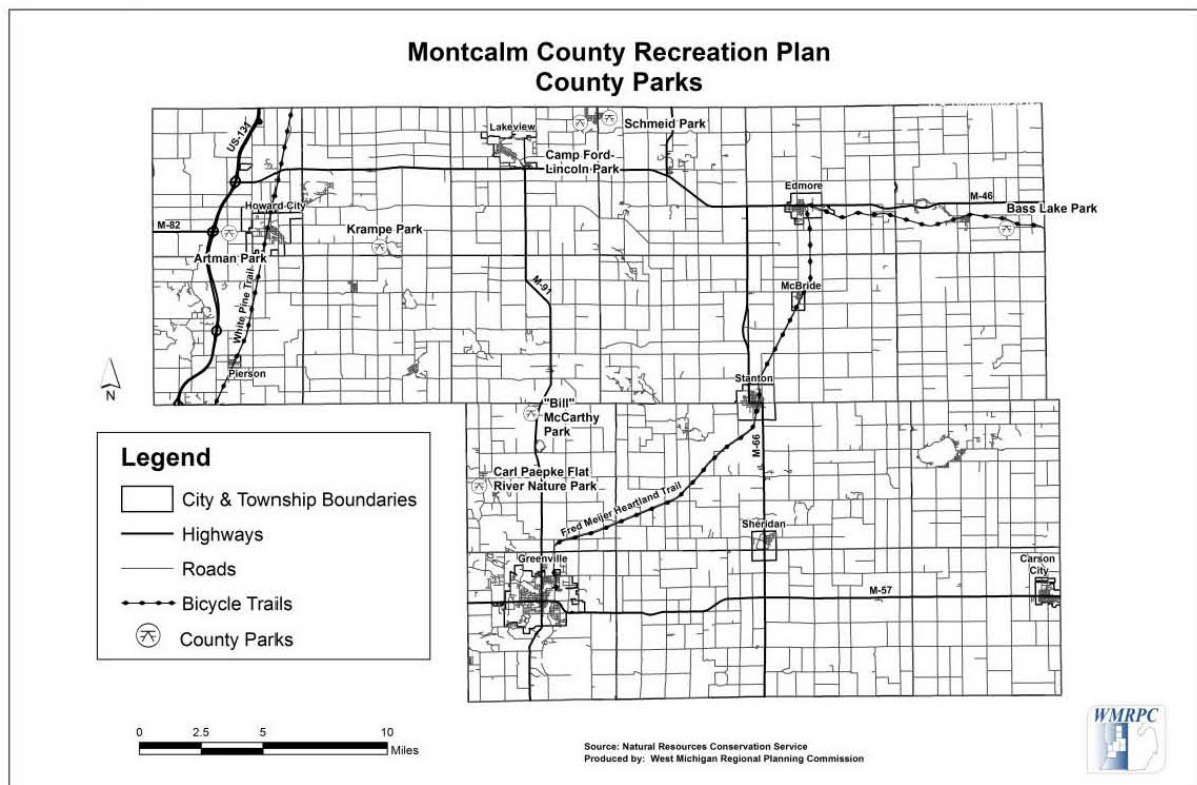
The park's strengths include its location on the lake, its peacefulness, its many large trees, and the overall condition of the park. The only weakness relates to its isolated location.

Summary of features: Four acres, eight picnic tables, lake access, playground, paved parking, vault-toilets.

**Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park** – This 62 acre site is located in Section 19 of Montcalm Township. The site provides 4,200 feet of frontage on the Flat River on a portion of the River that is good for canoeing and fishing. There are numerous trails throughout the property, 20 parking spaces (gravel), a fence around the parking area, and other improvements. The site is ideal for many activities that were cited by citizens in a 2001 countywide survey to determine recreation interests – including picnics, fishing, walking/running, camping, and canoeing/boating.

The park's strengths include its size and peaceful solitude. Weaknesses relate to its lack of facilities and isolated location.

Summary of features: 62 acres of undeveloped land.



### 3 – SCHOOL & PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

In addition to the Village and county recreation facilities, there are school and private parks and recreation facilities located in and around the region. They are briefly described as follows.

#### *School Facilities*

The school district that encompasses the Village of Edmore and the surrounding area is the Montabella Community Schools. The district's boundaries include portions of three different counties: Montcalm, Isabella, and Mecosta. The school district covers over 150 square miles. Montabella Community Schools currently maintains two facilities including Montabella Elementary (PreK – 6th Grade) and Montabella Jr/Sr High (7th-12th Grades). The following are sports and/or activities offered or overseen by the school or volunteers:

Cheerleading	Cross County	Football
Varsity/JV Baseball	Volleyball	Wrestling
Golf	Girls Basketball	Boys Basketball
T-Ball/Little League	Softball	Track
Youth Wrestling	Pom Poms	Quarterback Club

#### *Private Facilities*

There are a number of private facilities in and around Edmore which include recreation amenities. While they do not provide public access, they are important in providing recreation opportunities. Some of these facilities are listed below.

**Campgrounds** - In addition to State Campgrounds there are six privately operated campgrounds in Montcalm County. A description of these facilities follows.

- Red Pines Campground, Carson City, 30 campsites
- Pleasure Point RV Condominium Resort, Six Lakes, 176 campsites
- Family Campground, Edmore, 25 campsites
- Greenville Campground, Greenville, 85 campsites
- Snow Lake Campground, Fenwick, 178 campsites
- Camp Thunderhawk, Pierson, 50 campsites

**Golf Courses** -Montcalm County has six golf courses. A list of the courses follows.

- Crystal Golf, Crystal
- Edmore, Edmore
- Brookside, Gowen
- Holland Lake, Sheridan
- Whitefish Lake, Pierson
- Birchwood, Coral

#### **Ski areas in region 8**

- Bittersweet, Allegan County
- Pando, Kent County
- Cannonsburg, Kent County

## 5 –REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### State of Michigan Facilities (Located within Region 8)

**White Pine Trail** - This 92 mile Rail-Trail stretches from Comstock Park, in Kent County, to Cadillac, in Wexford County. The trail is currently open along most of its course, and is paved in many areas. Plans are to pave the entire trail.

**Holland State Park** - This 142-acre park on Lake Michigan located in the City of Holland, in Ottawa County. The park offers 368 campsites, picnic facilities, swimming, a beach house, a boat launch and fishing.

**Saugatuck State Park** - This 866-acre park on Lake Michigan is located in the City of Saugatuck, in Allegan County. The park offers swimming, hiking, cross-country skiing and picnic facilities.

**Ionia Recreation Area** - This 4,085 acre facility located between Saranac and Ionia in Ionia County has 50 campsites and offers a variety of opportunities including picnic facilities, playground equipment, swimming, boating, a beach house, a boat launch, hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain biking and horseback riding.

**Grand Haven State Park** - This 48-acre park is located on Lake Michigan in Ottawa County's Grand Haven. The park provides a variety of opportunities including 182 campsites, picnic and playground facilities, swimming, a beach house and fishing.

**Yankee Springs Recreation Area** - This 5,017-acre area is located in eastern Allegan County/western Barry County. The recreation area provides many opportunities including 325 campsites, an organization camp, equestrian activities, picnic facilities, swimming, concessions, playground facilities, boat launch areas, an interpretive program, hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, mountain biking and cross-country skiing.

### State of Michigan Facilities (Located within 50 miles of Region 8)

- Traverse City State Park - Grand Traverse County
- Interlochen State Park - Grand Traverse County
- William Mitchell State Park - Wexford County
- Orchard Beach State Park - Manistee County
- North Higgins Lake State Park - Crawford County
- South Higgins Lake State Park - Roscommon County
- Wilson State Park - Clare County
- Newaygo State Park - Newaygo County
- Charles Mears State Park - Oceana County
- Silver Lake State Park - Oceana County
- Duck Lake State Park - Muskegon County
- Muskegon State Park - Muskegon County
- P. J. Hoffmaster State Park - Muskegon County
- Hart-Montague Trail - Muskegon and Oceana Counties
- Sleepy Hollow State Park - Clinton County
- Fort Custer Recreation Area - Kalamazoo County
- Kal-Haven Trail - Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties

- Van Buren State Park - Van Buren County
- Warren Dunes State Park - Berrien County
- Grand Mere State Park - Berrien County
- Warren Woods Natural Area - Berrien County

### **State Game Areas**

#### **Kent County**

- Rogue River State Game Area
- Cannonsburg State Game Area
- Lowell State Game Area

#### **Montcalm County**

- Flat River State Game Area
- Stanton State Game Area
- Langston State Game Area
- Edmore State Game Area
- Vestaburg State Game Area

#### **Mecosta County**

- Pere Marquette State Forest
- Haymarsh Lake State Game Area

**Access Sites** - Montcalm County has 25 public Boat Launch sites maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The list of sites follows.

- |                    |                         |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| • Montcalm Lake    | • Swan Lake             | • Cowden Lake      |
| • Clifford Lake    | • Derby Lake            | • Dickerson Lake   |
| • Half Moon Lake   | • Tamarack Lake         | • Muskellunge Lake |
| • Crystal Lake     | • Little Whitefish Lake | • Loon Lake        |
| • Horseshoe Lake   | • Colby Lake            | • Flat River       |
| • West Lake        | • Twin Stone Lakes East | • Clear Lake       |
| • Grass Lake South | • Triangle Lake         | • Grass Lake North |
| • Nevins Lake      | • Rainbow Lake          | • Hunter Lake      |
| • Duck Lake        |                         |                    |

## **6— BARRIER FREE EVALUATION**

The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation are subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. This planning process should include methods to ensure that the Village park and recreation system is accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Village has completed an evaluation of existing facilities and programs to determine if they are barrier-free. When looking at areas and programs to determine their accessibility to all people, we started by asking these simple questions:



*Can a person who has a sight or hearing disability, uses a wheelchair, uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, has a mental disability that affects learning and understanding, safely and independently:*

- *Get from the arrival place to the activity area?*
- *Do what others do in the area?*
- *Move around the area?*
- *If not, what is getting in the way?*
- *How can this barrier be removed?*

Common components that need to be looked at to answer these basic questions include: parking, paths of travel from parking, street or sidewalk to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, signage, support facilities such as restrooms, surfacing, and communications required for recreation programs and general use of a facility or area. The existing parks were evaluated on the following criteria and scored 1-5.

5- Facility is fully accessible. Features and facilities meet and exceed the Uniform Building Code and take into consideration Universal Design principles. Main elements such as the washrooms, entrances, parking, and amenities are barrier free.

4- Majority of the facility is accessible; however there are some accessibility barriers. Some improvements are needed to make the facility fully accessible.

3- Facility is partially accessible. Barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.

2- Facility is partially accessible. Barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.

1- Facility has poor accessibility. Accessibility barriers may exist at entranceway, recreation area and washrooms. Alternate facility is recommended if barrier free access

The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail & Staging Area Park (score of 5) meet many of these basic needs. The Glen D. Curtis Memorial Park (score of 1) is in need to basic improvements to address basic ADA concerns such as paved parking, play equipment, restrooms and accessible walks.

The Village has scheduled in each phase of any new development, as outlined in the capital improvement schedule, that ADA accessibility concerns will be addressed as a first priority. Furthermore, the goal of full accessibility is stated as a primary goal in the action plan outlined by the Village.

## **7 – RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Many of the areas recreational programs are offered by the Montabella Community Schools which offers outstanding youth team and individual sports opportunities and special events to Village and area residents and non-residents. Summer camps include football, volleyball, track, soccer, cheer and basketball.

## **8 – PAST GRANT STATUS**

The Village of Edmore does not have any past, current or outstanding MNRTF, LWCF or CMI grants.

## **SECTION E – ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE AND RATIONALE**

In defining the action program, the formulation of community goals and objectives for the provision of recreation is a vital component. The goals and objectives represent the purposes for a community's role in providing recreation to its residents as well as outlining the direction that the community's effort should take in the long term. Goals are the general targets for which a community aims for while objectives are the specific steps that can be taken towards that goal. A recreation plan identifies those actions that can be undertaken to implement the objectives and fulfill the community's goals.

The goals and objectives for the Village in meeting the recreation needs of residents are outlined below.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Goal 1**

##### **DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF PARK FACILITIES THAT PROMOTE FOUR SEASON USE.**

###### Objectives:

Provide residents with opportunities for recreation that provide multiple seasons of use within the Village and the respective park facilities.

###### Potential Actions:

- A. Construct compatible yet diverse uses within the parks that promote spring, summer, fall and winter uses.
- B. Explore options for all-season facilities such as warming shelters and restrooms in the parks as appropriate.
- C. Explore option for construction of hiking trails, ADA walkways and pathways as appropriate.

#### **Goal 2**

##### **CONTINUE THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPTS AT ANY AND ALL VILLAGE PARK LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH EACH OF THE PARK'S RESPECTIVE MASTER PLAN.**

###### Objectives:

Develop new and expanded facilities and programs at the park including new restrooms, picnic facilities, paved parking, walking paths, new play equipment and lighting.

###### Potential Actions

- A. Improve restroom facilities.
- B. Provide for universally accessible play areas, picnic facilities and shelters
- C. Provide for paved parking areas and trails to provide barrier-free access to all areas.
- D. Improve signage for any visually or physically impaired park users

### **Goal 3**

**CONTINUE THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF USE AREAS IN EACH OF THE VILLAGE PARKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN TO SATISFY THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND DESIRES OF THE COMMUNITY.**

#### Objectives:

Develop new and expanded facilities and programs at the park including organized sports fields, restroom facilities, play areas, picnic facilities, parking and enhanced trail system that serves the residents of the Village.

#### Potential Actions

- A. Construct restroom facilities, play areas, ADA parking and picnic facilities as priority items identified in community workshops.
- B. Improve lighting for access, parking areas, sports facilities and walk areas.
- C. Promote stormwater run-off quality control measures to improve water habitat for fish.
- D. Prepare master plan for each of the Village parks to aid in development and addition of such items as playgrounds, passive recreational areas, softball and baseball fields, soccer and football fields, memorial garden, farmers market, pathways, additional picnic areas with shelters, year round restrooms and parking.
- E. Promote low water and native planting restoration whenever practical especially in the addition of bioswales, rain gardens and stabilization plantings in areas of erosion.
- F. Look at options for improving educational and interpretive signage in all the parks including signs for persons of various disabilities.
- G. Look for ways for improving park maintenance and safety such as additional storage and lighting.

### **Goal 4**

**TO PROMOTE THE COORDINATION, COOPERATION AND EXPANSION OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS WITH OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, CITIZEN GROUPS, AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE COMMON GOAL OF IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS.**

#### Objectives

- A. Encourage the participation of volunteers in the development of recreational facilities.
- B. Utilize public and private sector cooperation in the promotion of recreation and the improvement of recreational opportunities.
- C. Coordinate existing recreational projects and programs with the Montabella Community Schools, Montcalm County, MDOT, community education and volunteer groups and look for ways to utilize existing facilities such as well as expanding recreational programs as new facilities are developed.
- D. Encourage the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities in the formation of a regional recreational advisory board in an effort to combine resources and avoid duplication of facilities and services.

## **Goal 5**

**TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE VILLAGE BY PROVIDING MULTI-GENERATIONAL, FULLY ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT EFFICIENTLY UTILIZE AVAILABLE RESOURCES.**

### Objectives

- A. Develop a variety of recreational facilities that reflect the changing and diverse needs of the Village residents.
- B. Improve existing recreational facilities to more effectively fulfill the needs of Village residents and to encourage regular use of these facilities.
- C. Develop certain recreational facilities as identified by the survey and needs assessment and establish priorities for their development.
- D. Utilize design, construction, and maintenance practices that maximize the benefits provided for the resources expended.
- E. Plan improvements that offer both active and passive recreation opportunities.
- F. Develop unique recreational opportunities for elderly and physically challenged citizens. Every recreational opportunity should be fully accessible to all individuals whenever possible.
- G. Provide play areas that are in conformance with the "Playground Equipment Safety Act".

## **Goal 6**

**DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF NON-MOTORIZED PATHS WHICH WILL LINK THE VILLAGE TO ADJACENT COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS LINKING THE VILLAGE'S RESIDENTIAL AREAS WITH PARKS, COMMERCIAL CENTERS AND WATERWAYS.**

### Objectives:

Provide residents with a multi-modal path system that provides opportunities for recreation as well as convenient and safe access to major destinations in the Village and connections to adjacent communities.

### Potential Actions:

- A. Examine options for multi-modal transportation such as non-motorized paths, bike lanes, dedicated bike routes, etc. to link developing residential neighborhoods in the Village with major activity areas, such as parks, schools and other points of interest.
- B. Develop a non-motorized path system linking efforts by other surrounding communities such as Home Township as well as portions of Belvidere Township to the west, Douglass Township to the southwest, Day Township to the south, Ferris Township to the southeast, and Rolland Township to the North.
- C. Construct trailway linkages to tie to regional trails.
- D. Explore cooperative effort with the surrounding communities to promote, manage, oversee, plan and seek joint funding for trails in the regional area and to avoid duplication of efforts and to enhance the connectability of the trails and ensure the best regional outcomes.
- E. Develop system of wayfinding signage to aid users in navigating and utilizing park facilities.

## **Goal 7**

**TO ACQUIRE, DEVELOP, MAINTAIN AND EVALUATE COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES TO PRESERVE SUFFICIENT OPEN SPACE AND TO DEVELOP RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE VILLAGE'S PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED POPULATION.**

### Objectives

- A. Encourage, support and develop a linear trail system to connect various park facilities with particular emphasis on connecting recreational resources through the planning and construction of a network of non-motorized trails. The Village should actively pursue acquisition of property and/or use easements on privately owned property in the Village wherever practical. The development of a trail master plan would aid the Village in identifying priority areas of acquisition and development.
- B. Explore railway linkages from area points of interest through the development of a railway master plan in collaboration with the adjacent townships and communities.
- C. Acquire property adjacent to existing park properties whenever possible to allow for the greatest flexibility and offer economy of sharing infrastructure when expanding or adding recreation activities to existing dedicated parklands.
- D. Acquire additional property to preserve open space in keeping with the Village's rich history.
- E. Evaluate historical properties for acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive re-use for a variety of uses whether recreational, educational and non-recreational.

## **Goal 8**

**TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION IN THE VILLAGE BY REASSESSING COMMUNITY RECREATION NEEDS, TRENDS, AND CHARACTERISTICS.**

### Objectives

- A. Periodically update this Recreation Plan.
- B. Develop an expanded survey to ensure public needs and desires in areas of parks & recreation.
- C. Expand and develop community park advocates through formation of an effective parks & recreation advisory committee.
- D. Explore option for creation of a paid part-time position for oversight of recreation programs and park facilities.
- E. Provide opportunities for the involvement of Village residents in the identification, selection, and development of recreational facilities.
- F. Monitor the effectiveness of the Village's efforts in fulfilling identified goals and objectives by providing opportunities for Village residents to evaluate the progress of recreational development.
- G. Monitor the effectiveness of the Village's efforts in providing fully accessible opportunities for Village residents.
- H. Facilitate regular meetings of the Recreation Commission.



## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A variety of factors, including community characteristics, population trends, existing recreation facilities, and identified recreation needs, contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for plan implementation. These specific recommendations represent the actions that can be undertaken to achieve the objectives that have been directed towards a community's recreation goals. These recommended actions also represent the substance and purpose of a recreation plan - the development of a strategy for effectively closing the gap between existing recreation opportunities and recreation needs. A general statement can be made that (%) of the properties currently operated as park facilities in the Village have basic facilities such as paved parking areas, paved walks and restroom facilities. There is in some areas however a lack of additional ADA accessible walks that is a concern regarding ADA accessibility at the other Village owned parks.

In instances of emerging areas of recreational needs, such as the development of non-motorized trails, it is logical to expect that the project limits will need to be established by the identification of key connection points that should not be excluded or limited by geo-political boundaries. The Village should explore the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities such as Home Township, Belvidere Township, Ferris Township, Rolland Township, Day Township and the Douglass Township in the formation of a regional recreational advisory board in an effort to combine resources and avoid duplication of facilities and services.

In the opening discussions with surrounding village and township representatives, a common goal of the need for the development and improvement of the Curtis Park was identified as a priority.

Discussions with surrounding village and township representatives, a common goal of the need for the development of a non-motorized path system to provide residents easier access to adjacent recreational amenities on a regional level was identified.

1. Develop master plan for regional and local level multi-modal trail systems.
2. Establish local recreational and trail authority consisting of surrounding township representatives in order to facilitate decision-making and joint funding of acquisition, development and maintenance of multi-jurisdictional trail projects.
3. The Village should actively pursue acquisition and/or use easements on privately owned property in the Village wherever practical.

Other priority items included the following:

The following recommendation and capital improvement schedule outlines and assigns relative priorities to activities and projects that can be implemented in both the short-term and long-range future to improve recreational opportunities in the Village. Those activities and projects that can be undertaken during the five-year planning period (2017-2021) have been summarized in a Capital Improvement Program Schedule (**Table 4**). This schedule includes cost estimates as well as possible funding sources for each suggested project.

While these projects are recommended for implementation during the planning period, they are highly dependent upon financial and administrative feasibility. It is also suggested that the Village take advantage of any unscheduled opportunities that may arise. Such opportunities can be evaluated and included in this plan as an amendment to the schedule.

**TABLE 4**  
**Capital Improvement Schedule**

Year	Project	Est. Cost	Justification	Funding Source
<b>2017</b>	Curtis – Playground, ADA walks, restroom and rain gardens	\$200,000	Goals 1-5	\$200,000 MNRTF \$100,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations
<b>2018</b>	Various Park Master Plan	\$6,500	Goals 1-5	\$6,500 local
<b>2019</b>	Trailway Improvements	\$200,000	Goals 1-5	\$275,000 MNRTF or MDOT TA Program \$125,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations
<b>2020</b>	Shelter, picnic	\$125,000	Goals 1-5	\$150,000 MNRTF \$75,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations
<b>2021</b>	Recreation Plan Update	\$4,000	Goal 8	\$4,000 local

Abbreviations

MDNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund  
TEA-21 -Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

MDOT – Michigan Department of Transportation  
MNRTF- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

## FINANCING MECHANISMS

The following paragraphs briefly outline existing sources of funds for financing the future recreational improvements in the Village.

### 1. General Funds

The Village’s general fund has been the primary source of funds for operating and maintaining its current facilities. Future site improvements, acquisition, and development will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities. Consequently, recreation planning has to be coordinated with the yearly budgeting process for the Village’s general funds.

### 2. Donations and Gifts

The availability of donated land, labor, equipment, and funds from individuals and organizations is an attractive and effective way to improve recreational opportunities in The Village. Over the past few years, several groups and individuals have contributed significantly. Such support should be encouraged to continue.

### 3. Multi-jurisdictional Funding

One of the primary goals of establishing a trail authority comprised of adjacent townships would be to establish a joint source of funding for acquisition, development and maintenance of multi-jurisdictional trail projects. It is too premature to discuss levels or formulas for financial participation/contribution, but by forming such a coalition, the individual townships will collectively be in a stronger position in seeking future matching grants than if pursuing projects individually.

#### *4. Non-local Financial Assistance*

Many communities seek outside sources of funds to supplement their local sources when providing recreational improvements. There are several programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that can provide some financial assistance to local recreation projects. Funding amounts available to communities vary from year to year depending on Federal support and State legislative agendas.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation that funds projects such as nonmotorized paths, streetscapes, and historic preservation of transportation facilities that enhance Michigan's intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. These investments support place-based economic development by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability and improving the quality of life. The program uses Federal Transportation Funds designated by Congress for these types of activities. Some key information on the TA program are as follows:

- Funding will be reduced from the current \$23 million a year to \$14-16 million a year. Project funding will be more competitive than previously with the average per capita award in the \$44-50 per person range.
- Minimum match is still 20% however historic average is 34% and the 2011 average was 44% local match to grant. Any project request for over \$2,000,000 total project cost must be 50%-50%. The most favorable grant request will likely be in the \$500,000 range.
- Regional Trails will still be a priority, as will urban area streetscapes. Museums and historic preservation projects will be phased out for funding consideration.
- Preliminary grant application review with regional staff is encouraged to determine competitive nature of project and gather suggestions from TE staff. Project narratives should focus on intermodal transportation opportunities as they relate to the larger picture in the community, traffic calming, improving safety and improving water quality through best management practices.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** is administered by the MDNR. The MNRTF program utilizes the royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. The CMI program is the result of the passage of Proposal C of 1998.

Any unit of government, including school districts, may apply for grants to develop or acquire land(s) for public recreation or resource protection purposes. Application forms are available on February 1 of each year. The application deadlines are April 1 and September 1, of each year. The MDNR submits a list of recommended projects to the legislature the following January and funds are available after legislative appropriation, usually the following fall.

All local units of government must provide a local match of at least 25 percent of total project costs. For **MNRTF** development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000, and the maximum is \$300,000. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. Outdoor recreation support buildings and other facilities are eligible for development funding, as is the renovation of existing recreation facilities.

All applicants must have a current DNR-approved community recreation plan, documenting the need for project proposal.

In addition, any private individual may nominate land for public acquisition under this program. All nominations are reviewed by the MDNR for possible acquisition and the landowner is not required to be the person nominating a parcel of land for public acquisition. Nomination forms are available at any time from the DNR Recreation Division, and may be submitted to the Department year round.

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (**LWCF**) program makes money available to the States for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. From 1965 to 1996, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received over \$100 million in LWCF assistance for more than 1,500 projects, over 1,100 of which have been grants to local governments. The objective is to provide grants to local units of government and to the State to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation.

Applications are evaluated on established criteria including project need, capability of applicant, and site and project quality. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants with a \$30,000 minimum and \$100,000 maximum funding limit. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval. Criteria are spelled out in the "Recreation Grants Selection Process" booklet given to all applicants.

PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the **Recreation Passport** which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. The passport will be required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites. Ten percent of remaining revenue will be used to fund the **Recreation Passport local grant program**. A 25% minimum local match is required for the Passport grant program with a maximum grant amount of \$45,000 and a minimum of \$7,500.

The grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but the development of new parks is eligible. In addition, projects must fulfill the following requirements in order to be eligible:

- Current annual capital improvement plan (CIP) – plan must include the proposed project. If your community does not have a CIP, you must have a current approved recreation plan on file with the DNR.

Organizations with an interest in developing fishing conditions in their areas may be able to get financial assistance from a program established through the **State Game and Fish Protection Fund**.

This fishing development grant is offered through the MDNR and can be as much as \$200,000 annually, in cash or in-kind services. Projects eligible for funding include: culvert modifications for improved stream flow; livestock or sheet erosion control projects; the development of spawning riffles, fish cover structures, or spawning reefs; and the construction of fishing piers and rough fish barriers.

The MDNR accepts grant proposals from organized fishing groups and local units of government. In all cases, projects are able to approach other sources such as the federal government for additional matching funds.

The **Historic Preservation Grant Program** is administered by the Department of State with funds made available through the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. The intent of the program is to conduct surveys of architectural, engineering, archaeological, and historic resources, to identify and

nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and to plan for the protection of those cultural/recreational resources.

The funds for this program are apportioned by the National Park Service directly to the State, which, in turn, allocates funds on a project-by-project basis to local governments, organization, and individuals.

In Michigan the Historic Preservation Grant program is administered by the Michigan Department of State. The amount of assistance is up to 50% of the project expenses. Grantees are reimbursed at the completion of the project for work done within the days of a contract between the Department of State and the grantee. EXPENSES INCURRED PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT ARE NOT ALLOWABLE PROJECT COSTS AND WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED.

The **Inland Fisheries Grant Program** offers grants up to \$30,000 for projects that enhance the state's aquatic resources. This program may be applicable to the scenic overlook fishing platforms and educational kiosks.

The Village is committed to review all available funding sources and prepare the necessary plans, reports, cost estimates, and funding applications, to achieve the goals of this recreation plan.

**Waterways Program Grants** are funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund from state marine fuel tax and water craft registrations. By law, administration of the Waterways Program is through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and overseen by the Department's Parks and Recreation Division.

Grants provide funding assistance for design/engineering and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities throughout the state. Only local units of government (city, village, township, or county) and public universities are eligible. Applicants may cooperate with community/sports organizations in the implementation of projects. On-site investigation by DNR, Parks and Recreation Division staff may be required to determine suitability of proposed work. Applicant may also be required to document area boating demand. Greater priority may be given to projects for which a local applicant documents match capabilities equal to or greater than the percentage of project cost they are required to provide. The local match can include in-kind expenses as long as they are well-documented.

Applications, and all required information, must be received by 5:00 p.m, **April 1st**. If April 1st falls on a weekend, the deadline would be the last State working day prior to April 1st. The application review and funding process for projects is from April 1st until an appropriation is approved by the Legislature. This can take up to 18 to 24 months. Notification of approval for engineering and smaller sized construction projects may occur within six months after completed application form and proper documentation are received. Funding for construction is not released until permits are secured.

## **5. Millage**

In an effort to raise matching funds or fund projects with local money, many community leaders have placed ballot proposals before their residents for a dedicated increase in their existing mill property tax to fund park maintenance and repair, including care for new parks and newly acquired parks, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as safety and security improvements. Establishment of a Park Improvement/Development, Maintenance and Repair Millage will assure that parks and facilities will be maintained at the level of quality expected by park users and that new parkland will have adequate amenities.