



2015-2019



Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

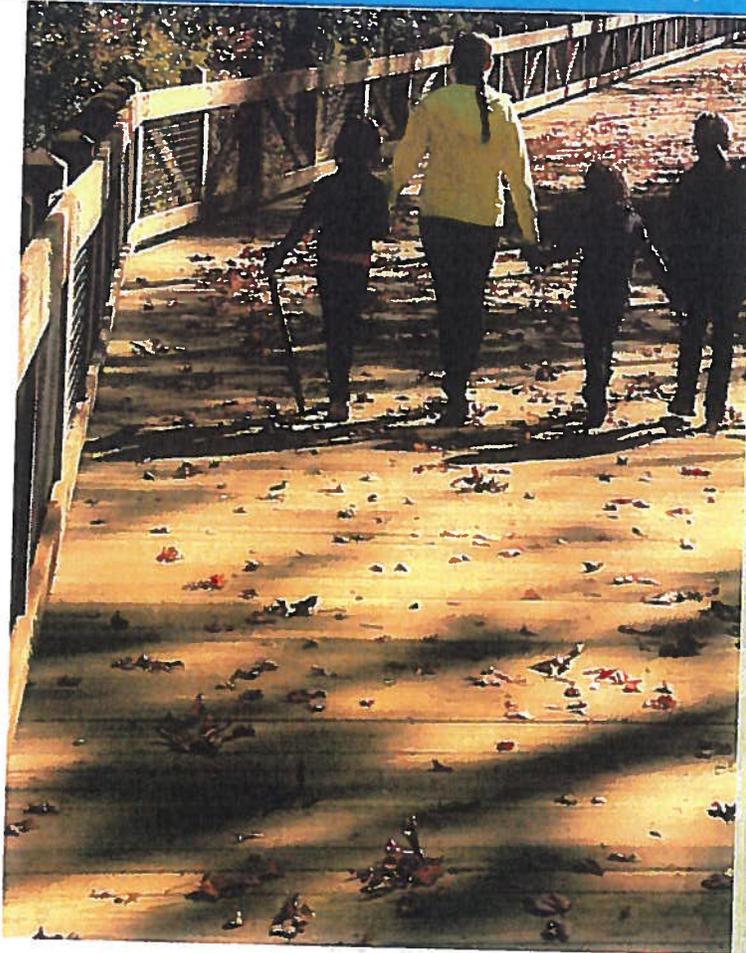


Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Community Description.....	4
Geographic Planning Boundaries	4
Land Use.....	4
Physical Characteristics	5
Topography.....	5
Soils	5
Vegetation.....	5
Climate	5
Transportation.....	6
Water Resources	6
The Kalamazoo River.....	6
Economy of Calhoun County	7
Social Characteristics of Planning Areas.....	8
Community Wellness	9
History of the Park and Recreation System.....	9
Administrative Structure.....	11
County Administration & Commissions.....	11
Calhoun County Staff.....	12
Public Input Opportunities	12
Budget and Funding	12
Budget Process	12
Sources of Funding for the Parks and Recreation Budget	13
Future Funding.....	13
Inventory of the Parks System	14
Open Space Inventory.....	14
Calhoun County Parks (Map 1)	14
Historic Bridge Park.....	14
Kimball Pines.....	14
Ott Biological Preserve	15
Riverside Park.....	15

Calhoun County Trailway	16
Municipal Parks and Open Spaces (Map 2)	17
Other Agency Open Spaces (Map 3)	18
Calhoun County Schools (Map 4).....	19
Campgrounds (Map 5).....	20
Golf courses (Map 5).....	20
Public Boat Launches (Map 5).....	20
Trailways (Map 6)	21
Barrier Free (Accessibility) Evaluation.....	22
Historic Bridge Park.....	22
Calhoun County Trailway	22
Kimball Pines.....	22
Ott Biological Preserve	22
Riverside Park.....	23
Grant Inventory	23
Planning Process for the Park and Recreation Master Plan	24
The Subcommittee	24
Plan Development Process.....	24
Public Notification and Involvement	24
Survey Results.....	25
Public Meeting Results.....	28
Approval Process	30
Goals and Objectives	31
Mission Statement.....	31
Guiding Principles	31
Goals, Rationale, and Objectives	31
Administrative	31
Marketing and Outreach.....	32
Parks Management.....	32
Community Wellness.....	33
Funding.....	33
Action Plan	34
Staff Projects.....	34
PARC Projects.....	34
Subcommittee Projects.....	34

Volunteer Projects.....	34
Appendix.....	35
2014 Calhoun County Health Ranking	35
Historic Bridge Park – Site Plan	35
Calhoun County Trailway – Phase 1 Site Plan	35
Copy of Community Survey	35
Additional Comments From Survey	35
Park Comments From Other Platforms.....	35
Public Meeting Answer Summary	35
Battle Creek Enquirer – Public Meeting Notice Publication	35
Ad-visor – Public Meeting Notice Publication	35
Press Release for Public Meetings.....	35
Board of Commissioners Resolution to Approve Plan (to be inserted)	35
Parks and Recreation Commissioners Resolution to Approve Plan (to be inserted)	35

Introduction

A master plan is an official document adopted by a local government to establish long range, general policies for the physical development of the community. The Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a comprehensive inventory of all publicly accessible parks and open spaces available for public use at no charge or for a nominal fee. From this inventory and our public input process we have identified issues, needs, and opportunities for future and current park development in Calhoun County.

Community Description

Geographic Planning Boundaries

Calhoun County is located in the south central portion of the State of Michigan and is directly within the Chicago-Detroit transportation corridor. This corridor, that is Interstate 94, is Michigan's primary east-west transportation route and contains the potential for significant urban and economic growth within the county, state and region. Interstate 69 intersects with I-94 and is a major north-south travel route through the center of the state.

The area is composed of 718.44 square miles, of which 708.72 square miles is land and 9.72 square miles is water. The land mass averages 192.8 persons per square mile and it is bordered by Barry and Eaton Counties to the north, Jackson County to the east, Branch and Hillsdale Counties to the south, and Kalamazoo County to the west. The city of Marshall is the county seat and the City of Battle Creek is the industrial center.

Calhoun County comprises the Battle Creek, Metropolitan Statistical Area and is included in the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek-Portage, Combined Statistical Area. There are 19 townships, 4 cities, 4 villages, and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Reservation within the county.

Land Use

Land use patterns in Calhoun County are somewhat typical. The majority of the commercial and industrial uses, as well as higher density residential uses, are located in and around the more urban centers of Albion, Springfield, Battle Creek, and Marshall. While industrial parks located in these municipalities provide appropriate utilities for industrial land uses, concentrations of commercial uses are found along major roadways, including Columbia Avenue in Battle Creek and Michigan Avenue in Marshall and Albion. The Villages of Athens, Burlington, Homer and Tekonsha present similar patterns on a smaller scale.

Subdivision housing, commonly characterized as medium density residential, is found on the border of these urban areas and within the townships that are adjacent to the urban centers. When traveling outward from these urban centers the density of residential uses decreases giving way to low density residential and agricultural land uses. Calhoun County is characterized as a predominately rural community with approximately 75% of the land being utilized for agricultural purposes.

Physical Characteristics

Topography

The topography of the County varies from broad, level plains to gently rolling ridges and valleys. There are numerous lakes, streams and rivers together with several low-lying marsh areas. Most of the level land exists south of the Kalamazoo River and contains many of the larger lakes. North of the river, gentle undulating terrain becomes prominent.

A broad mid-elevation plain with moderate differences in elevations between high and low relief characterizes Calhoun County's surface elevation. The highest elevation, 1,106 feet above sea level, is Dixon Hill located in Tekonsha Township. The lowest elevation, 800 feet below sea level, is the shoreline of the Kalamazoo River in Bedford Township.

The ridges that occur within the county provide natural barriers to the uniform spread of development and can be used in a positive way to influence the planning of separate use areas. As prominent features, they impart character and visual impact to the landscape. The significant slopes of these ridges are associated with water features and woodland areas. This is highly compatible with recreation sites. Areas of this nature may be developed to include various types of recreation, ranging from general parks to wildlife areas.

Soils

There are approximately 75 different kinds of soil in Calhoun County. They range widely in texture, natural drainage, slope and other characteristics. The soil composition throughout the county is predominately glacial till, that varies from sand to gravel and is well drained. The soils are suited for urban development, field crops, and pasture.

Vegetation

Calhoun County was once covered by virgin forest, but most of that has been cleared from the land that is most suitable for farming. Woodlands still exist on lands that are too wet, steep, or sandy for cultivation. Common deciduous tree species are hardwoods such as Maple, Oak, and Ash or evergreen species including Scotch, Red, and Eastern White Pine.

The woodlands that exist in Calhoun County are one of its greatest natural resources. These wooded areas provide ground cover, which helps control stormwater runoff, aids in groundwater infiltration, and helps prevent soil erosion. They influence the microclimate by acting as a natural air conditioner and provide wildlife habitat. They also enhance the county's aesthetics by providing visual screens, physical barriers, and definition of space.

Climate

Calhoun County is part of the South Central Lower Climate Division, and is about 30 miles north of the Indiana border, about 65 miles east of Lake Michigan and just east of the "Lake Snow Belt". The County experiences some lake effect as the result of prevailing westerly winds.

The summers are warm and humid; winters are moderate to severe with sudden changes in temperatures and periods of sub-zero cold. Summer precipitation is usually in the form

of showers and thunderstorms with an average amount of 34 inches. Winter precipitation is in the form of rain, snow, and sleet with an annual amount of 39 inches.

Transportation

Calhoun County is located along a major international trade corridor. Two interstate highways, I-94 and I-69, connect the County to every major trade route in the United States.

The County has three operating rail lines: Amtrak, with passenger service between Detroit and Chicago; Conrail, which operates limited freight service; and Canadian National, which operates approximately 30 freight trains per day through Battle Creek.

There are two airports in operation. W.K. Kellogg Regional Airport in Battle Creek offers international cargo and business services. Brooks Airfield in Marshall is a local air facility with a 3,500 foot runway.

Battle Creek Transit, Marshall Dial-a-Ride and the Albion Marshall Bus provide public transportation to portions of Calhoun County. Battle Creek operates a fixed route schedule and serves the Battle Creek Urban area. Marshall Dial-a-Ride is a demand-response system that provides door-to-door service in and around the City of Marshall. And the Albion Marshall Bus provides transportation for residents that need assistance with shopping, doctor appointments, or other transportation issues.

Water Resources

The southwest and south-central portions of Calhoun County are within the St. Joseph River Watershed and the remainder of the county is within the Kalamazoo River Watershed. There are approximately 540 miles of streams and rivers within the county that includes 18 miles of trout stream.

Natural lakes constitute approximately three percent of the total surface area of the county. The majorities of lakes within the county are small and contain algae and other vegetation. The larger lakes are predominately used for residential development, swimming, boating and other recreational activities.

The National Wetland Inventory has indicated that Calhoun County has approximately 72,500 acres of wetlands that are comprised of standing water, grassy meadows, shrubby fields and mature forests. Types of wetlands found in Calhoun County include deciduous swamps, wet meadows, emergent marshes, conifer swamps, wet prairies, shrub-scrub swamps, fens, and bogs.

The Kalamazoo River

The Kalamazoo River flows in a westward direction through 10 counties including Calhoun County from Albion on the east side, to Battle Creek on the west side, ending in Lake Michigan near the City of Saugatuck.

Enbridge Energy Partners LLP (Enbridge) reported a 30-inch pipeline ruptured on Monday July 26, 2010 near Marshall, Michigan. The release, estimated to be at least 843,000 gallons, entered Talmadge Creek and flowed into the Kalamazoo River, a Lake

Michigan tributary. Heavy rains at the time of the release carried oil deep into the floodplain, as well as 35 miles downstream on the Kalamazoo River to Morrow Lake in Kalamazoo County, where it was eventually contained.

As the federal agency in charge of the response to the spill, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assumed a leadership role in the Unified Command and mobilized an Incident Management Team comprised of federal, state, and local agencies.

On July 27, the day after the spill was reported, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a legal order under the authority of the Clean Water Act directing Enbridge to conduct removal actions. The EPA also ordered the company to produce documents and information relevant to their investigation into the source, extent and nature of the oil spill.

After over four years of cleanup work, the management of the incident has transitioned from EPA to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). As of November, 2014, the river has been completely reopened for public use.

During the cleanup Enbridge added or enhanced the following launch sites along the Kalamazoo River:

1. Saylor's Landing on 15 Mile Road
2. Former Ceresco Dam site at 12 Mile Road
3. Angler's Bend at 11 Mile Road
4. Historic Bridge Park near Wattles Road
5. Paddler's Grove near Beadle Lake Road

Some of the sites listed above included other improvements such as restrooms, pavilions, and playgrounds.

For further information about the spill and cleanup efforts, visit the website for the United States Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/region05/enbridgespill and the website for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_56784---,00.html.

Economy of Calhoun County

Calhoun County's economy is dominated by the presence of six companies that employ 15% of the labor force. The Kellogg Company is the largest employer, followed by Denso Manufacturing Michigan, Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center, Bronson Battle Creek, the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, and the Michigan Air National Guard.

In 2013, Calhoun County had 65,700 persons in the labor force. Of these 62,000 were employed and 3,700 were unemployed. Our work force continues to improve where education is concerned, with a notable increase in those graduating from high school and a nominal increase of those graduating with a four year degree from a college or university.

Social Characteristics of Planning Areas

Over the past ten years Calhoun County has seen a small loss in population and a shift to an older demographic. The data below was compiled from 2000 and 2010 Census Data as well as updated information from various resources. Understanding the demographic and socio-economic composition within each planning area contributes to assessing park and recreational needs within the county.

Planning Area	2013 Estimate	2010 Census	2000 Census
Population	135,099	136,146	137,985
Number of households	53,290	53,290	55,794
Owner occupied	37,569	37,569	39,485
Average household size	2.49	2.55	2.47
Median income	\$ 42,164.00	\$ 40,847.00	\$ 46,434.00
% of households with children	27.2%	31.2%	28.0%
Disability status - under 18	4.6%	6.0%	9.4%
Disability status - ages 18 - 64	12.2%	12.4%	20.7%
Disability status - ages 65 & up	39.0%	43.1%	43.4%
White/Caucasian	79.9%	82.2%	83.9%
Minority comp. African American	10.7%	10.9%	10.9%
Minority comp. Hispanic or Latino	4.5%	4.5%	3.2%
Minority Comp. Asian	1.6%	1.6%	1.1%
Minority Comp. American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Poverty Rate	17.3%	16.2%	11.3%
Children receiving free or reduced price school lunches	56.1%	52.4%	37.0%
Age 25 & up with a high school diploma	89.9%	86.5%	83.2%
Age 25 & up with a bachelor's degree or higher	20.1%	18.8%	19.6%
Median Age	40	39	36
Persons under 18 years	23.3%	24.2%	*
Persons 65 years and over	15.9%	14.8%	13.7%

* Data not reported

The 2010 United States Census indicates Calhoun County had a 2010 population of 136,146. This is a decrease of -1,839 people from the 2000 United States Census. Overall, the county had a -1.3% growth rate during this ten-year period.

In 2010 there were 53,290 households of which 37,569 were owner occupied within the county. The population density was 192.8 per square mile (74.4 square kilometers). There were 61,042 housing units at an average density of 86.4 per square mile (33.4 square kilometers).

The racial and ethnic makeup of the county was 82.2% White, 10.9% Black or African American, 0.6% Native American, 1.6% Asian, 4.5% Hispanic or Latino, 0.1% from other races, and 2.7% from two or more races.

In the county the population was spread out with 24.2% under age of 18, 9.3% from 18 to 24, 24.0% from 25 to 44, 27.7% from 45 to 64, and 14.8% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39 years. For every 100 females there were 95.5 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 92.5 males.

The 2010 American Community Survey indicates the median income for a household in the county was \$40,847 and the median income for a family was \$49,964. Males had a median income of \$25,712 versus \$18,298 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$20,661. About 11.7% of families and 16.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 23.9% of those under the age 18 and 5.8% of that age 65 or over.

Community Wellness

The Coordinating Council produces an annual report titled The Calhoun County Community Report Card. The 2013-2014 report indicates that Calhoun County ranks 78 out of 82 counties for statewide health ranking in Michigan. (Only 82 of 83 counties in Michigan were ranked.) Other important items of note are a low ranking for access to recreational facilities, a high ranking of adult obesity and a high ranking of physical inactivity. The Calhoun County Health Ranking data is listed in appendix item (table) 1.

History of the Park and Recreation System

Historically, recreation and parks were conceived as two separate public services. Prior to the mid-Nineteenth Century, recreation areas in the United States consisted of multi-purpose open spaces, such as public squares and commons, which were utilized for everything from political rallies to the pasturing of stock. In Europe the development of parks for many centuries was primarily for the exclusive enjoyment of the nobility and those of great wealth. New York City's Central Park, which was created in 1853, is considered to be the first peoples' park in the United States.

During the latter portion of the Nineteenth Century, indignation of the public at child labor and crowded slum tenement conditions led to the development of the playground movement and the concept of organized play and recreation emerged. In the years following, two distinct philosophies and professions grew with respect to the development and utilization of parks and recreations areas.

Horticulturists and naturalists were primarily concerned with the development of a park as a thing of beauty, while recreation leaders saw areas of public land as a resource for meeting the active recreation and play needs of the people. Over the years the ideas have merged and resulted in parks and recreation departments.

In the State of Michigan, Public Act 261 of 1965 established that the Board of County Commissioners could create a Parks and Recreation Commission. Calhoun County identified this as a goal in their 1971 Regional Parks and Open Space Plan and appointed the first Parks and Recreation Commission shortly thereafter.

At this time Calhoun County owned two properties that were used as park land. In the 1960's Kimball Sanitarium (now named Kimball Pines) was purchased by the county. It was the first major recreational development for Calhoun County when it was opened in May of 1975.

County Park (now named Historic Bridge Park) existed as a road side park from the early 1900's. In the late 1980's the roads and bridges connecting the park were assessed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and deemed substandard. Consequently, F Drive North was rerouted and a new bridge was constructed to provide an adequate, safe entrance to the park.

Then in 1972, the county purchased 4,200 feet of river frontage from Walter Mulvaney that is now Riverside Park. This acquisition joined Kimball Pines and Historic Bridge Park to create one long contiguous piece of park land divided by a railroad.

What is now known as the Ott Biological Preserve was assembled in pieces over a period of time. In 1911 the first 105 acres were acquired by Jay R. D. Snyder and Edward Brigham (founder of the Kingman Museum). An additional 151 acres were purchased by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg in 1946 and all of the land was deeded to Albion College. Then in 1977, the county purchased the 256 acre park from Albion College for \$56,000.00. The final 42 acres were donated by Mr. Alex Sutarek, bringing the total to 298 acres in 1995.

In early 1994 the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners created a citizen advisory committee to study the Preserve and make recommendations for its management. This committee eventually became a 501©3 called Friends of the Ott.

The county owned and managed these four park properties until 1996, when the Parks Department was transferred to the Parks Board of Trustees at the Calhoun County Road Commission. The parks stayed in their control until Nov. 1, 2012, when the Calhoun County Road Commission was dissolved. At that point management was returned to the county where the Office of Community Development and a newly appointed Parks and Recreation Commission were established.

The final piece of the park inventory was added in late 2014, when the Calhoun County Trailway, Phase 1 was completed. The 5.28 mile Trailway connects all of the parks and provides a non-motorized path for pedestrians and bicycle use. It was an eight year project that was executed by the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance, Calhoun County, and many local and statewide financiers.

Administrative Structure

County Administration & Commissions

A board of elected officials governs Calhoun County. The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners and the appointed County Administrator/Controller oversee the management and administration of all the county agencies. The County Board of Commissioners appoints the Parks and Recreation Commissioners as the governing body that addresses and makes recommendations for parks and recreation management.

Calhoun County Commissioners (2015-2016 term)

District 1 - Kathy Sue Dunn

District 2 – Carla C. Reynolds

District 3 - Jim Haadsma

District 4 - Steve Frisbie

District 5 - Derek King

District 6 - Blaine VanSickle

District 7 – Michael Bearman

Calhoun County Administrators

Kelli Scott, County Administrator/Controller

Bradley Wilcox, Assistant County Administrator

Richard Lindsey, Corporation Counsel

Calhoun County Elected Officials

Anne Norlander, Clerk/Register of Deeds

David E. Gilbert, Prosecuting Attorney

Matthew M. Saxton, Sherrif

Christine Schauer, Treasurer

Christine Kosmowski, Water Resources Commissioner

Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Derek King, Chair of Parks and Recreation Commission & Calhoun County Commissioner*

Annette Chapman, with the Battle Creek Community Foundation

Dr. Bill Comai, Member of Friends of the Ott

Chad Curtis, Owner of Getaway Sports in Battle Creek

Jesse Jacox, Emmett Township Trustee

Christine Kosmowski, Calhoun County Water Resources Commissioner *

Allyn Miller, President, Harper Creek Community Schools, Board of Education

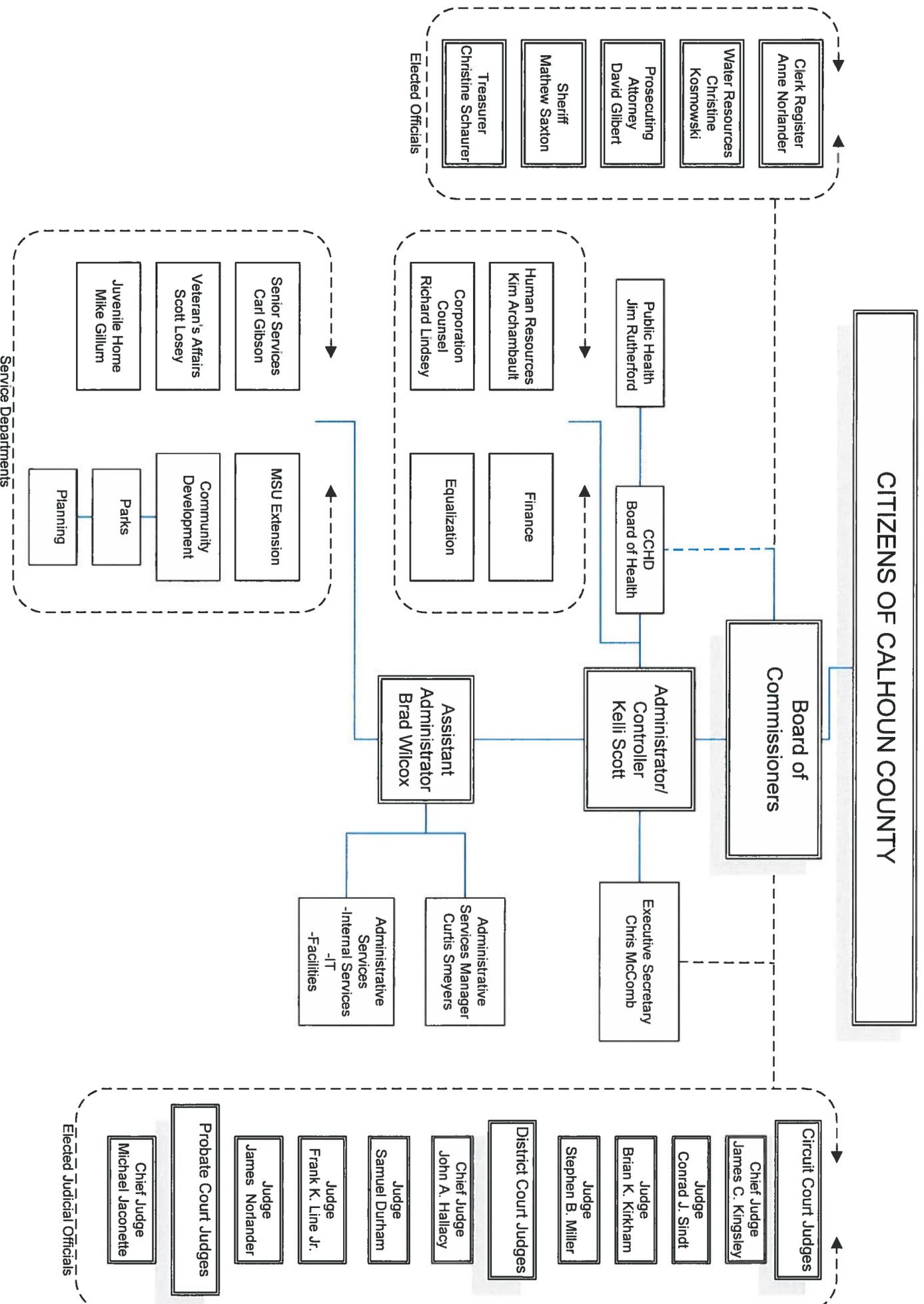
Dorie Rios, Tribal Council Member of Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

Ron Sootsman, Calhoun County Trailway Alliance member

Blaine VanSickle, Chair of County Planning Commission & Calhoun County Commissioner *

* positions specified by statute

CALHOUN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Calhoun County Staff

The Community Development Educator reports to the Assistant County Administrator. The Community Development Educator oversees the development of the county parks system and recreational events associated with them, marketing and promotions, as well as identifying and implementing new funding sources. This position coordinates with the Administrative Services Manager to manage maintenance and construction related issues in the park system.

Staff

Ingrid Ault, Community Development Educator
Curtis Smyers, Administrative Services Manager
Brent Thelen, GIS Coordinator
Pat Dadow, Support Staff

Public Input Opportunities

Public input is considered an integral part of the planning process when developing and updating the five-year parks and recreation master plan. The forums listed below were three ways used to gather information to develop this plan.

1. A hard copy and online survey was conducted to gather information about park knowledge, use patterns, and future preferences in park development.
2. Two public meetings were held to expand upon the survey research and to gather detailed information about specific use preferences for future park development.
3. Social media tools including a monthly park and recreation e-newsletter and a Facebook page have been used to gather input regarding current and future parks management and development.

Budget and Funding

Budget Process

The Calhoun County Road Commission was managing the parks system until 2012 when they were dissolved and the transfer of the park system was entrusted to the Office of Community Development. The budget process occurs in August of each year where funding is identified for management and development of our five county owned parks.

Currently, the county parks system is being developed to be self-supporting. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners are exploring new and innovative funding opportunities that include public and private partnerships.

For fiscal year 2015, the county parks and recreation budget is \$86,571.68. Revenues are derived from four areas:

1. A small amount comes from pavilion or park rental revenue.
2. A significant amount is received from an endowment established by Enbridge Energy for maintenance of improvements at Historic Bridge Park.
3. Some is funded through fees from the Solid Waste Department.
4. And the remainder is monies from an insurance claim for the loss of the plantation pines in Kimball Pines Park.

We are currently working with the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance to establish an endowment to maintain the Calhoun County Trailway. In addition, a subcommittee has been formed to assist in identifying and securing new funding streams for future park maintenance and development.

Sources of Funding for the Parks and Recreation Budget

State and federal grant programs are necessary for the future development of parks and recreation in Calhoun County. Grant programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality have included the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which derives income from oil and gas leases and matches local funds for parkland acquisitions and parks improvements, and the state income tax-supported Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond, which provides grant opportunities. Federal programs including the Transportation Enhancement Act, the Clean Lakes Program, Urban Forests, and Small Business Administration have been options in recent years.

Gifts, donations, and bequests are also possible funding sources. Gifts and memorials for specific tree plantings, park benches, playgrounds, picnic shelters, picnic tables, bridges, trails, etc. are areas that should be developed and implemented.

Public/private partnerships can help defray operating expenses and increase visibility of programs and events throughout the community as well as create potential new sources of revenue. Our partnership with Enbridge Energy and the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance are two examples of successful collaborations that benefit the entire county.

Future Funding

The continued growth of the county parks system requires that a sustainable funding stream be identified and established. The demand for parks and recreation has been established as a need for human well-being in the community and will increase in the future. Creative and innovative sources for partnerships and collaborations are the future; Calhoun County must be ready to identify and capture these opportunities as they present themselves.

Inventory of the Parks System

Open Space Inventory

Recreational facilities in Calhoun County offer a wide variety of opportunities and activities for area residents and visitors. Because this is a county plan, it covers many jurisdictional boundaries; hence there are separate inventory lists.

The inventory consists of seven different categories depending upon who owns and manages the property. We have selected to divide the inventory into County owned parcels, school owned parcels, municipal owned parcels, other agency open space parcels, boat launches, golf courses, campgrounds and Trailways.

Calhoun County Parks (Map 1)

Calhoun County has four parks and one Trailway that connects three of the four parks. All of the parks are located in Emmett Township and are identified on map 1.

Historic Bridge Park

Currently, Historic Bridge Park, formerly known as "County Park" exists along the Kalamazoo River and Dickinson Creek. The park offers many recreational opportunities such as picnicking, walking/hiking, bike riding, fishing, boating, and wildlife observation.

The most unique aspect of Historic Bridge Park is the restored bridges that exist within it. The bridges are an integral part of the Trailway system. The concept of Historic Bridge Park is to rehabilitate historic bridges, which can no longer serve vehicular transportation, to another use such as pedestrian or non-motorized activities. The restored bridges are placed within the park to serve not only as part of a pedestrian path, but also as a "hands on" exhibit of Michigan's transportation history and the technology of cast iron and steel fabrication. There are five bridges included within the park.

Other noteworthy additions to the park include enhancements provided by Enbridge Energy as with a gift to the community due to the oil spill in July of 2010. An investment of approximately \$1,000,000 was made and included the addition of a playground for children age 12 and under, a pavilion area, indoor restrooms, a handicap accessible boat launch, improvements to pathways, picnic tables, grills, and educational and informational signage. A copy of the Historic Bridge Park: Site Layout Plan is provided in the appendix under document 2.

Kimball Pines

Kimball Pines is located off of Michigan Avenue, behind the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility in Emmett Township. It was formerly known as Kimball Sanitarium, until it was purchased in the 1960's and became part of the Calhoun County park system. This park is mainly used by the public for hiking, biking, disc golf, and picnicking.

In the 1930's and 1940's 100 acres of plantation pines were planted at this location. Plantation pines are trees that have been planted closely in rows that run both north/south and east/west with the intention that some trees will be removed. The park also contains deciduous woodlands, ponds and a creek that is a tributary of the Kalamazoo River.

In May 2011, the park was devastated by straight line winds that toppled the trees. Over three years the park has undergone a transformation while the downed trees were logged and sold. The park is now ready for redevelopment in areas that do not have a specific purpose as well as re-opening the disc golf course that was part of the park.

In the past the park was used by Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire as the location for a privately run Renaissance Fair until 2012 when they vacated the premises. Other uses included an 18 hole disc golf course and a segment of the North County Trail that transverses the property. The site contains two restrooms that are in need of repair and a maintenance building that remains useable.

Ott Biological Preserve

The Ott Biological Preserve is located just east of Battle Creek in Emmett Township, off of Michigan Avenue at the end of Arlington. This greenspace includes 298 acres of natural habitats that are mainly used by the public for hiking, exploring fauna, and observing wildlife. The removal of any species, plant or animal life is prohibited.

Within the boundaries of the preserve are two spring fed kettle lakes, Brigham Lake and Hall Lake, as well as the east edge of Dexter Lake, wet peaty lowlands and dry, sandy uplands. The uplands include two prominent eskers (glacial ridges), one traveling nearly the length of the property from southwest to northeast.

Elevations in the preserve range from 852 to 920 feet above sea level, with the lowest point being Hall Lake and the highest point near the northeast edge of the property. Well-developed hardwood forests of the uplands include black, red and white oaks, and pignut and shagbark hickories with flowering dogwood as a common understory tree. Common tree species of the lowland hardwood forests are yellow birch, red maple and black ash, with spicebush in the understory. Some of the forested areas are less developed and represent fields and orchards abandoned as recently as 30 years ago. Common trees in these areas include young black and red oaks, box elders, and apples.

The lake edges are ringed with trees such as pussywillow, tamarack, and poison sumac. From the tree-line to the water's edge is an interesting habitat called prairie fen, which is underlain by marly, alkaline soils and dominated by sedges. These fens support carnivorous plants including the purple pitcher plant, sundew and bladderworts, and several spectacular orchids.

Marshes on the preserve are dominated by sedges, grasses, cattails, and shrubby species such as red-osier dogwood and willows. In addition, several species of frogs, toads, and turtles exist in the forest, fens and marshes. Numerous birds and waterfowl call the preserve home, as well as gray squirrels, raccoons and white-tailed deer.

Riverside Park

Riverside Park is located on Wattles Road to the west of Historic Bridge Park. It is situated on the banks of the Kalamazoo River with the Dickinson Creek Tributary flowing through it. It is approximately 74 acres of undeveloped greenspace that contains a large amount of wetlands and some rustic trails that are not being maintained. Parts of the trails are old

two track lanes and several places are blocked by fallen trees. It is adjacent to and only accessible through Historic Bridge Park.

Calhoun County Trailway

The Calhoun County Trailway is a 5.28 mile crushed gravel trail that begins at Raymond and E. Emmett St., travels through the Ott Biological Preserve, crosses Michigan Ave. into Kimball Pines, and continues southeast to the entrance of Historic Bridge Park.

The Trailway provides for recreational and educational activities of all ages and abilities. Access points including parking are found at:

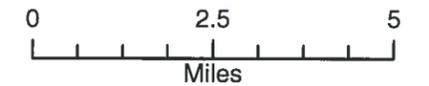
- the corner of Raymond and E. Emmett St.,
- the Jameson Road parking lot to the Ott Biological Preserve,
- the Arlington Road parking lot to the Ott Biological Preserve,
- the middle parking lot in Kimball Pines,
- parking lots in Historic Bridge Park.

The ten foot wide Trailway surface is suitable for pedestrian, bike, and wheelchair access; all motorized vehicles are prohibited.

A copy of the Calhoun County Trailway, Phase 1, Segment 1, specifications cover sheet is located in the appendix under document 3.

MAP 1

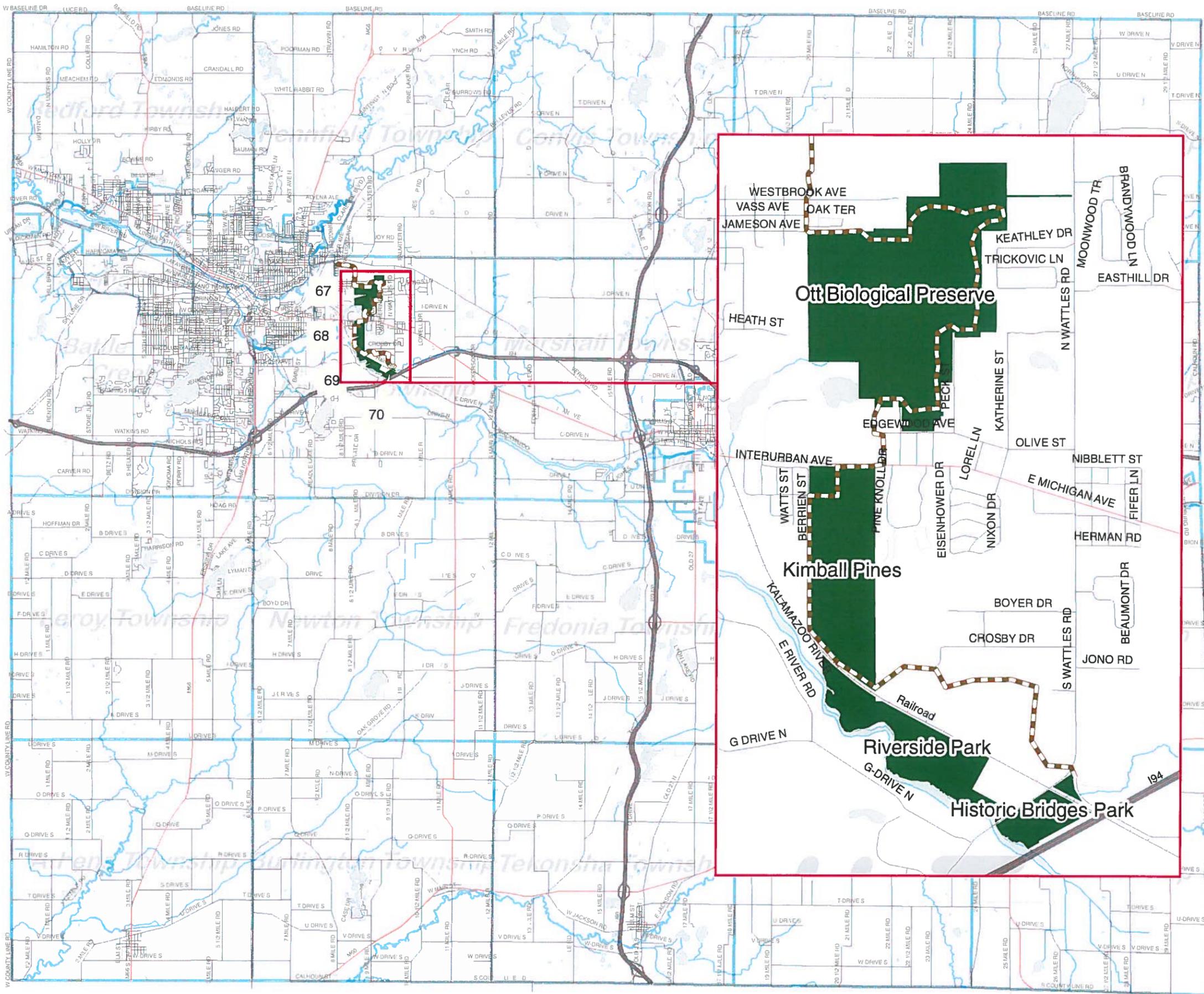
County Owned Parks



- County Owned Parks
- Municipal Boundaries
- Calhoun County Trailway

Roadways By Type

- Interstate
- Local
- Private
- Railroad
- Ramp
- State Highways
- Lakes & Rivers



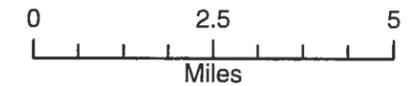
Municipal Parks and Open Spaces

Map ID #	Park Name	Address	Ownership	Acres	Restrooms	Visitor Center	Concession Stand	Pavilion	Grills	Playground	Picnic	Baseball	Hiking	Parking	ADA accessible	Boat Launch	Disk Golf	Tennis	Basketball	Shuffleboard	Fishing	Volleyball	Community Gardens	Handicap Accessible	Accessible to water	Other	
7	McIntosh Park	Hoaglin St	City of Albion	12.7	X					X	X	X							X								
8	Ketchum Field	North St	City of Albion	7.3	X		X			X	X	X		X					X			X					
9	Crowell Park	N Superior St	City of Albion	2.0																							
10	McClure Park	River front	City of Albion	21.6							X		X									X			X	Old train trussle	
11	Holland Park	W Cass St	City of Albion	6.0	X			X		X				X				X	X								
12	Harris Field	W Cass St	City of Albion	7.4	X		X			X	X	X		X													
13	Washington Street Park	Washington St	City of Albion	0.9							X										X				X		
14	Molder Park	N Superior St	City of Albion	0.0																							American Molder statue location
15	Bournelis Park	Cass/Superior St	City of Albion	0.1									X												X		
16	Lloyd Park	East Cass St	City of Albion	0.8																	X						
17	Stoffer Park / Market Place	211 Market Place	City of Albion	1.8										X											X	outdoor marketplace	
18	Porter Street Canoe Dock	Porter St	City of Albion	0.1											X										X		
19	Reiger Park	112 W. Cass	City of Albion	9.3	X			X		X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X					football, sledding, skating, swimming
20	Victory Park	112 W. Cass	City of Albion	39.3	X			X		X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X			X	football, sledding, skating, swimming	
21	Barnes Park	Waters St	City of Albion	1.0							X				X						X				X		
22	McAuliffe Park	Austin Ave	City of Albion	7.6	X					X	X	X							X								Flower garden
23	Albion Berrien Dog Park	E. Pike St. & Division	City of Albion	0.8																							Basic dog park
38	Fell Park	Park Ridge Drive, BC.,	City of Battle Creek	89.7	X			X		X	X	X	X	X													Bike trail
39	Julia Milner Park	Corner of Roseneath & Howland	City of Battle Creek	0.4					X	X	X																
40	Claude Evans Park	N Washington Ave	City of Battle Creek	5.0	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X			X					
41	Irving Park	Corner of Emmett and North Ave	City of Battle Creek	46.9					X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X						Horse shoes
42	Bailey Park	7400 Division Dr.	City of Battle Creek	97.0	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X			X		
43	Quaker Park	135 Fremont St	City of Battle Creek	2.8					X	X	X		X														Historic
44	Piper Park	Capital Ave NE	City of Battle Creek	7.2				X	X	X	X	X	X	X													
45	McCamly Park	N Washington Ave & W Mich Ave	City of Battle Creek	1.6										X													Performance area
46	McCrea Park	McCrea St	City of Battle Creek	17.3				X			X	X	X	X				X	X								Sledding
47	Monument Park	Division & Michigan Ave	City of Battle Creek	1.1					X					X	X												Memorials
48	Meachem Park	Meachem St	City of Battle Creek	0.7					X	X	X	X	X						X								Sledding
49	Prospect Park	S Washington Ave	City of Battle Creek	2.2																							
50	Post Park	E Michigan Ave	City of Battle Creek	7.9				X		X	X		X	X					X								Track
51	Cliff Street Park	Cliff St	City of Battle Creek	1.2																				X			
52	Hamilton Park	151 Academy St	City of Battle Creek	2.0				X	X	X	X		X														Drinking fountain
53	Willard Beach Park	Capital Ave SW	City of Battle Creek	17.0	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X													Swimming
54	Woodland Park & Nature Preserve	Helmer Ave	City of Battle Creek	144.7									X	X													Biking, Trails, Cross Country Skiing
55	Stellrecht Park	85 Bennett St	City of Battle Creek	0.6						X	X			X						X							Benches
56	Leila Arboretum & Kingman Museum	928 W Michigan Ave, B.C.	City of Battle Creek	66.1	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X											Sledding, Bike trail
57	Hamblin Park	Hamblin Ave	City of Battle Creek	0.8					X	X	X																
58	Friendship Park	Capital Ave Ne & State St W	City of Battle Creek	1.7										X	X												performance area
59	Horseshoe Bend Park	Wagner Drive	City of Battle Creek	2.0					X	X	X		X	X							X						
60	Wave Park	McCamly St	City of Battle Creek	0.1							X		X														sm performances
61	Begg Park	503 Military Ave	City of Springfield	18.3	X			X		X	X	X	X	X			X										Farmer's market, Banquet center
62	Upton Avenue Park	Upton Ave	City of Springfield	5.5										X													
63	Skeet Gehrman Park	Bedford Rd (State Hwy 37)	Bedford Township	4.9																							
64	Cross Wellington Courts	Corner of Cross & Wellington	Bedford Township	1.1																X							
65	Binder Park Zoo	7400 Division Dr	City of Battle Creek	433.0	X			X		X	X	X	X	X													Animals, train, tram & carousel rides
79	Cook Point	Corner lot of Kalamazoo & Linden	City of Marshall	0.7																							
80	Alcott Park	500 block Alcott	City of Marshall	0.8																							
81	Garvin Property	600 block Union	City of Marshall	1.1																							
82	Marshall Athletic Fields	1201 W Michigan Ave	City of Marshall	14.2						X		X		X								X					football
83	Carver Park	Corner of Exchange & Michigan	City of Marshall	0.3																							water fountain
84	Ketchum Park	Montgomery St	City of Marshall	21.3	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X													Skateboarding
85	Stuart's Landing	603 Homer Rd	City of Marshall	10.2	X			X		X		X	X								X						Band Shell
86	Brooks Nature Area	18 1/2 Mile Rd	City of Marshall	149.2										X													Trails
87	Sherman Park	200 block Linden	City of Marshall	1.5																							
88	Clarendon Township Park	22 Mile Rd	Clarendon Township	7.0																							
89	Convis Township Hall	19500 15 Mile Road	Convis Township	8.4																							
102	Leroy Township Park	871 Graham Lake Terrace	Leroy Township	6.0							X		X	X	X												
121	John Wilson Park	N Capital Ave	Village of Athens	14.3	X			2		X	X		X								X	X			X		Farmer's market, horseshoes
122	Webster Street Park	Webster St	Village of Homer	1.8	X			X		X	X							X	X			X					
123	Grist Mill Park	M-60	Village of Homer	2.5				X				X	X								X				X		Linear path
124	Lakefront Park	Waterman St	Village of Homer	8.2				X		X					X												
125	Cheney Park	E Randall St	Village of Tekonsha	7.0						X		X	X														
126	Greenwood Park	Greenwood Ave	Wash. Hghts Untd Methodist	9.8					X	X	X		X	X						X		X					
127	Mill Race Park	Capital Ave SW	WK Kellogg Foundation	1.8						X	X			X										X	X		Track
128	Ardmoor Park	200 block Ardmoor Dr	Calhoun County Road Department	4.4						X	X							X	X								

Municipal Parks and Open Spaces (Map 2)
 The Municipal Parks and Open Space inventory lists all known parks and open spaces in Calhoun County that are managed by a city or township.

MAP 2

Municipal Owned Parks & Open Space



 Municipal Owned Property

 Municipal Boundaries

Roadways

By Type

 Interstate

 Local

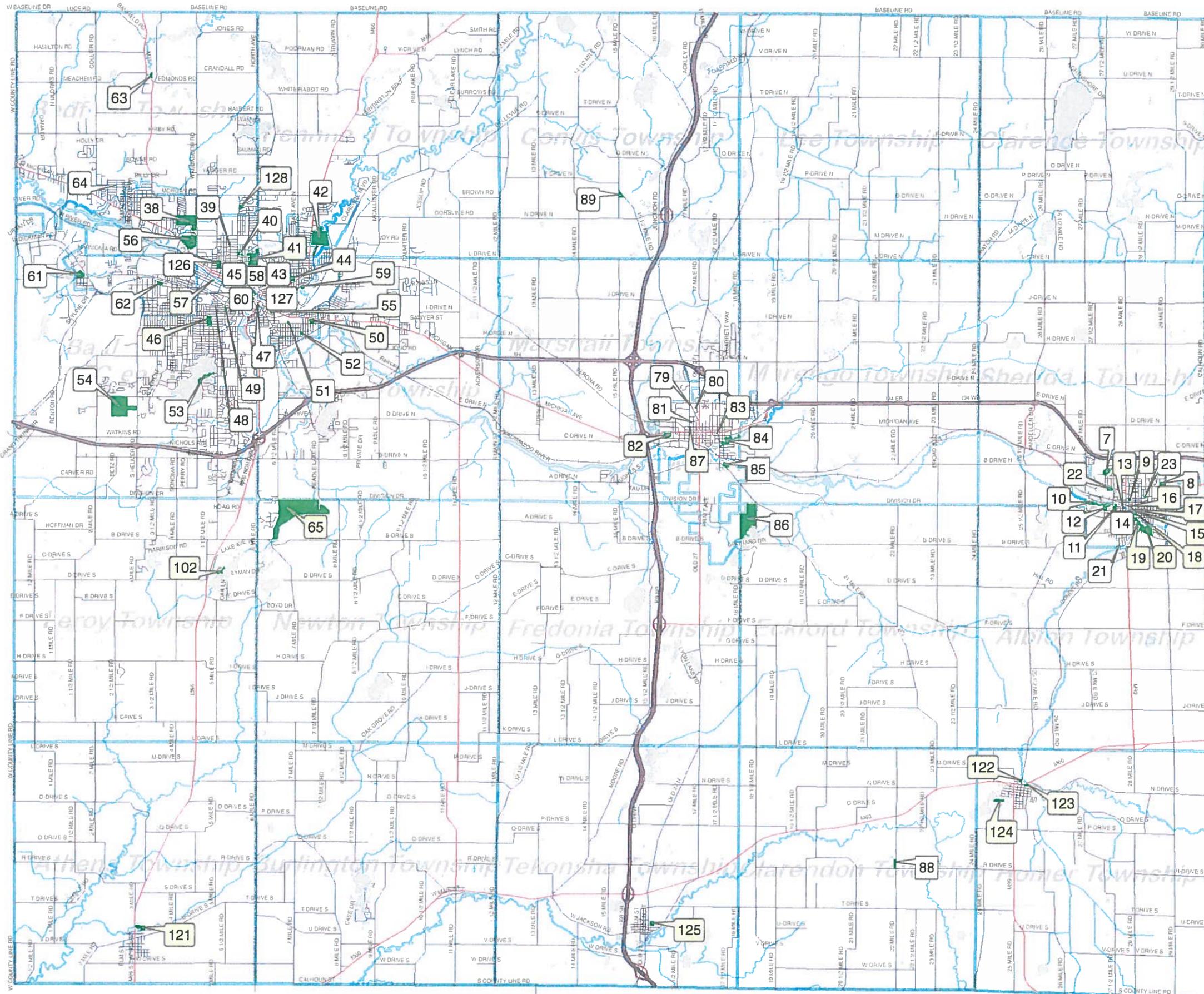
 Private

 Railroad

 Ramp

 State Highways

 Lakes & Rivers



Other Agency Open Spaces

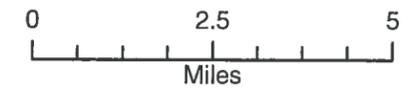
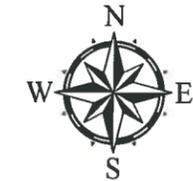
Map ID #	Park Name	Address	Ownership	Acres	Restrooms	Visitor Center	Concession Stand	Pavilion	Grills	Playground	Picnic	Baseball	Hiking	Parking	ADA accessible	Boat Launch	Disk Golf	Tennis	Basketball	Shuffleboard	Fishing	Volleyball	Community Gardens	Handicap Accessible	Accessible to water	Other
1	Whitehouse Nature Center	Albion College	Albion College	135.0	X	X																				
71	Calhoun County Fairgrounds	720 Fair St	Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society	42.3										X												
72	Paddler's Grove	S River Drive	Calhoun Co. Consv Dist	33.8											X											
73	Angler's Bend	11 Mile Rd	Calhoun Co Consv Dist	0.0											X										X	
74	Saylor's Landing	15 Mile Rd	Calhoun Co. Consv Dist	3.3	X			X						X	X											
75	Brandt Woods	25297 H Drive N	Calhoun County Conservation District	101.6																						
76	Hart's Lake	Stanley Dr	Calhoun County Conservation District	329.3																						
111	Bernard W Baker Sanctuary	15 Mile Rd	Michigan Audubon Society	898.0							X		X	X												Geocache
112	Voorhees Sanctuary	24 Mile Rd & O Drive N	Michigan Audubon Society	35.0																						
120	Fort Custer Recreation Area	Fort Custer Dr	United States of America	1436.9	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X					X					Swimming, Biking, Horse back riding
131	Kiwanis Outdoor Center	S Minges Rd	Kiwanis Club of Lakeview BC	59.8																						

Other Agency Open Spaces (Map 3)

The Other Agency Open Spaces lists properties that are open for use by the public that are managed by groups that are not part of a governmental unit.

MAP 3

Other Agency Owned Parks & Open Space



 Other Agency Owned Property

 Municipal Boundaries

Roadways

By Type

 Interstate

 Local

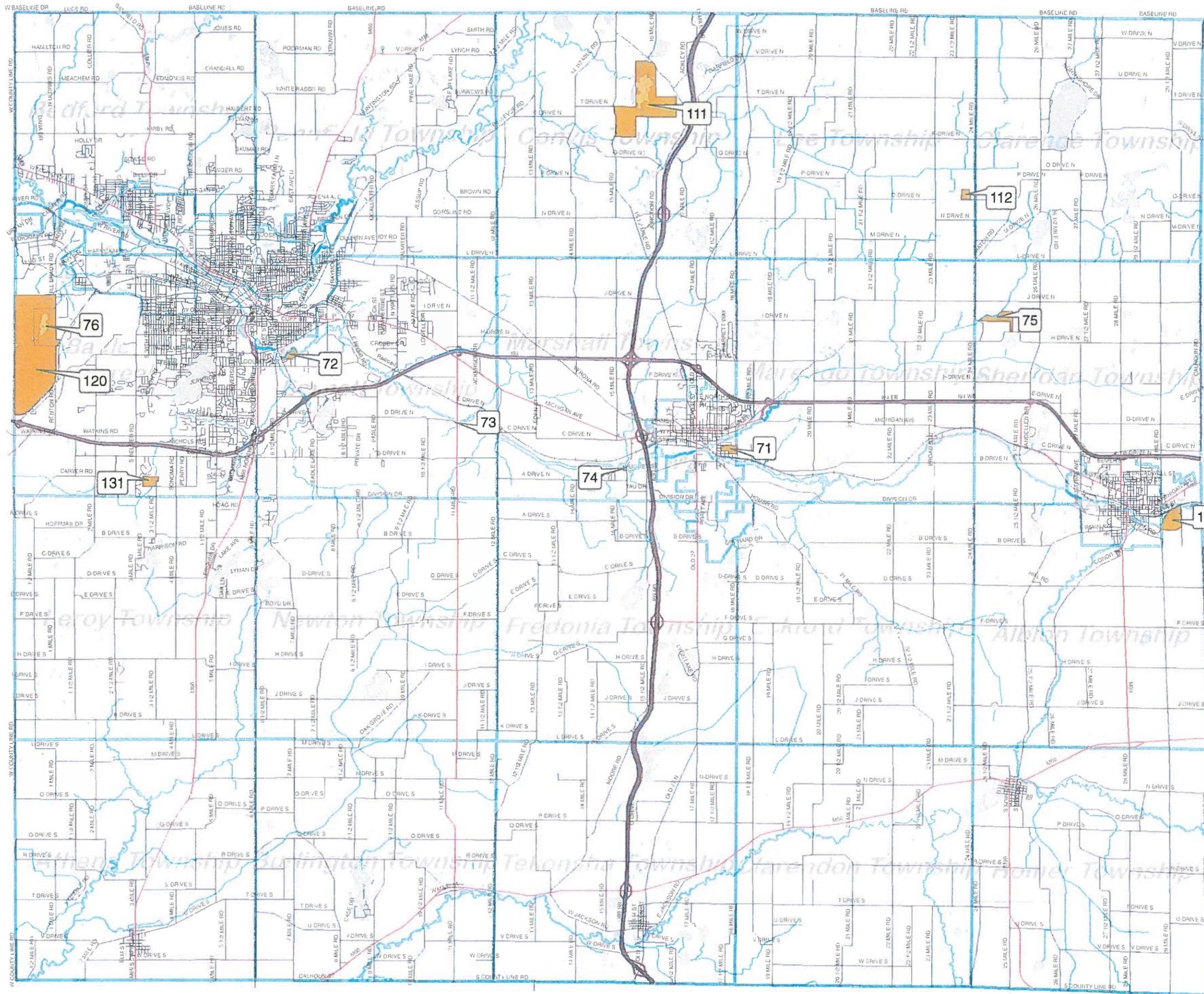
 Private

 Railroad

 Ramp

 State Highways

 Lakes & Rivers



Inventory of Calhoun County School Owned Property

Map ID #	Park Name	Address	Ownership	Acres	Restrooms	Visitor Center	Concession Stand	Pavilion	Grills	Playground	Picnic	Baseball	Hiking	Parking	ADA accessible	Boat Launch	Disk Golf	Tennis	Basketball	Shuffleboard	Fishing	Volleyball	Community Gardens	Handicap Accessible	Accessible to water	Other
2	Gold Star Park	Clark and Michigan Ave.	Albion Public Schools	0.8																						Memorial site
3	Caldwell Elementary	1100 North Berrien St, Albion, MI	Albion Public Schools	6.5						X				X												
4	Harrington Elementary	100 S Clark St, Albion, MI	Albion Public Schools	12.9						X				X												
5	Athens Middle & High School	300 E Holcomb St	Athens Public Schools	26.8								X		X					X							Track & Field, Football
6	East Leroy Elementary School	4320 K Drive So, East Leroy, MI	Athens Public Schools	17.4						X				X					X							
24	Battle Creek Christian	1035 Wagner Dr.	Battle Creek Christian School	6.1						X	X			X												
25	Ann J. Kellogg Elementary School	306 Champion St, Battle Creek, MI	Battle Creek Public Schools	8.4						X				X												
26	Battle Creek Math & Science Center	171 West Michigan Ave	Battle Creek Public Schools	22.5										X												Plaza area with seating
27	Battle Creek Central High School	100 W VanBuren St.	Battle Creek Public Schools	29.1								X		X			X	X								Track & Field, Football
28	Dudley STEM School	308 W Roosevelt St	Battle Creek Public Schools	12.8																						
29	Coburn Elementary	39 Fairhome Ave.	Battle Creek Public Schools	29.0						X				X												
30	Franklin Elementary	20 Newark Ave.	Battle Creek Public Schools	3.3						X				X												
31	Fremont Elementary	115 E. Emmett St.	Battle Creek Public Schools	3.7						X				X												
32	LaMora Park Elementary	65 N. Woodlawn Ave.	Battle Creek Public Schools	11.2						X				X												
33	Northwestern Middle School	176 Limit St.	Battle Creek Public Schools	35.9										X			X									Track, Football
34	Springfield Middle School	1023 Avenue A	Battle Creek Public Schools	45.1						X				X					X							
35	Urbandale Elementary	123 N. Bedford Rd.	Battle Creek Public Schools	5.0						X				X												
36	Valley View Elementary	960 Avenue A	Battle Creek Public Schools	19.5						X				X												
37	Verona Elementary	825 NE Capital Ave.	Battle Creek Public Schools	4.6						X				X												
66	Calhoun Christian School	20 S. Woodrow Ave.	Calhoun Christian School	13.6						X	X			X												Track, Football
77	Albion High School	225 Watson St, Albion, MI	Albion Public Schools	44.3								X		X			X	X								Track, Football
78	Endeavor Charter Academy	380 N. Helmer Rd.	Charter Development Company	8.6						X				X					X							
90	Bedford Community Family Learning Ctr.	315 Hutchinson Rd.	Gull Lake Public Schools	7.0						X									X							
91	Sonoma Elementary School	4640 B Drive S	Harper Creek Comm. Schools	14.4						X				X					X							
92	Wattles Park Elementary	132 S. Wattles Rd.	Harper Creek Comm. Schools	25.1						X	X			X					X							Soccer
93	Beadle Lake Elementary School	8175 C Drive N	Harper Creek Comm. Schools	9.9						X				X					X							
94	Harper Creek Middle School	7290 B Drive North, Battle Creek	Harper Creek Comm. Schools	57.6								X		X			X	X								Track & Field, Football
95	Harper Creek High School	12677 Beadle Lake Rd.	Harper Creek Comm. Schools	48.8							X	X		X			X	X								Track & Field, Football
96	Homer Elementary, Middle, High Schools	403 S. Hillsdale St.	Homer Public Schools	36.1						X	X	X		X			X	X								Track & Field, Football
97	Lakeview Middle & High School	300 S. 28th St, 15060 Helmer Rd. S.	Lakeview School District	93.1								X	X	X			X									Track & Field, Football, Soccer
98	Prairieview Elementary School Park	1675 Iroquois Ave.	Lakeview School District	5.4						X	X	X		X					X							Soccer
99	Riverside Elementary School Park	650 Riverside Dr.	Lakeview School District	77.9						X	X	X		X					X							Soccer
100	Westlake Elementary School Park	1184 S. 24th St.	Lakeview School District	12.9						X	X	X		X					X							Soccer
101	Minges Brook Elementary School Park	435 Lincoln Hill Dr	Lakeview School District	11.8						X	X	X		X					X							Soccer
103	Mar-Lee School	21236 H Drive N.	Mar-Lee Public School	9.6						X	X	X		X					X							Track, Soccer
104	Grever's Nature Center	Verona Rd, Marshall, MI	Marshall Public Schools	90.6									X	X												Cross Country Skiing
105	Walters Elementary School	705 N. Marshall Ave.	Marshall Public Schools	10.1						X				X					X							Multi purpose field
106	Marshall High School	701 N Marshall Ave.	Marshall Public Schools	57.2								X		X			X									Track & Field, Football, Soccer
107	Gordon Elementary School	400 N. Gordon St.	Marshall Public Schools	8.4						X				X												Soccer, Multi purpose field
108	Hughes Elementary School	103 W. Hughes	Marshall Public Schools	6.2						X				X					X							Track, Soccer, Multi purpose field
109	Marshall Middle School	100 E. Green St.	Marshall Public Schools	7.2										X												
110	Marshall Academy	18203 Homer Rd.	Marshall Public Schools	34.2						X				X												Multi purpose field
113	Pennfield North Elementary School	7422 V Drive N (Poorman Rd)	Pennfield Public Schools	9.7						X				X												
114	Pennfield Middle & High Schools	8587 Pennfield Rd	Pennfield Public Schools	64.5								X		X			X									Track & Field, Football, Soccer
115	Pennfield Central Elementary School	8465 Pennfield Rd (Dunlap)	Pennfield Public Schools	7.2						X				X					X							Multi purpose field
116	Purdy Elementary School	6510 Purdy Dr	Pennfield Public Schools	10.4						X				X					X							
117	St. Philip Catholic Central High School	20 Cherry St	Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo	4.1										X												
118	St. Joseph Elem. & Middle School	47 N 23rd St	St. Josephs Catholic Church	9.1						X	X			X												
119	Tekonsha Elementary and High Schools	245 S Elm St	Tekonsha Community Schools	29.1						X	X			X												Track & Field, Football, Multi purpose field
129	Arbor Academy	55 Arbor St	Foundation for Behaviorial Resources	0.4						X				X												
130	Battle Creek Academy	480 Parkway Dr	Michigan Conference Association of Seventh-Day Adventists	36.3						X	X			X												

Calhoun County Schools (Map 4)

The Calhoun County School inventory lists public, private, and charter school owned properties located within Calhoun County.

Campgrounds (Map 5)

The campground inventory lists all properties that have facilities for tent and recreation vehicles that are within the boundaries of Calhoun County. Each site also has a complete listing of amenities found at each location.

Golf courses (Map 5)

The golf course inventory lists all public and some private golf courses. The private courses that are included are open for daily use fees and do not require an annual membership fee for use.

Public Boat Launches (Map 5)

The public boat launch list encompasses boat launches that are available for public use on lakes and river ways. The inventory lists specifics about the type of launch and the surrounding amenities.

Campgrounds

Name	Address	City	Daily/Weekly cost for campsite use	# of campsites	On site amenities	Website	Does it have river access?
Calhoun County Fairgrounds	720 Fair St	Marshall	\$20	100	Electric, dump site, subject to event schedule	http://www.calhouncountyfair.org/camping	No
Camp Turkeyville	18935 15 1/2 Mile Road	Marshall	\$45 a night \$250 week	182 RV	Pool, store, showers, laundry, internet & cable, volleyball, horseshoe, fish pond, playground, community room, and restaurant	http://campturkeyville.com/	No
Camper Village, Seasonal RV Park for Seniors	3420 State Route M66,	Athens	N/A	*	RV park for Seniors, water, electric (on meter), sewer, and cable TV, potlucks, cookouts, happy hours, craft workshops, and field trips, pool	http://www.campervillage.net/home.html	No
Hide Away Hills Family Campground	21901 Collier Avenue	Battle Creek	N/A	200	Indoor heated pool, hot tub, electronic dart boards, board and card games, ping pong, reading area / library, fireplace, pool tables, TV lounge, and rustic camps sites	Facebook page	Pond
Lighthouse Village RV Resort	1001 24 Mile Road	Homer	578	Yearly Membership fee	Many membership amenities	http://www.lighthousevillage.com/	St Joseph River
Quality Camping Inc	5775 Old Us Highway 27 S	Tekonsha	\$30/\$180	252	Handicap facilities, flush toilets, a swimming pool, laundromat, playground, fishing, beach swimming, camp store, recreation room, building rental	http://qualitycampinginc.com/	Nottawa Lake
Rockey's Campground, Michigan	19880 27 1/2 Mile Rd.	Albion	\$32/\$160	87, 3 cabins	WiFi, beach, swim, fish, playground, boating, game room, pavilion, laundry, RV repair, mini golf	http://www.rockeyscampground.com/	Bass Lake
Tri Lake Trails	219 Lyon Lake Rd	Marshall	\$30-\$50	272	Hiking, swim, beach, fishing, boat/canoe ramp, mini golf, playground, shuffleboard and picnic area	http://www.michigan.org/properly/tri-lake-trails-inc/	Lakes
Camp Holston, Seventh Day Baptist Church	321 Cotton Lake Rd	Battle Creek	269-979-3320	*	Camping for kids, with crafts, swimming, boating, fishing, games, campfires. Lodge, separated boys' and girls' dorms, a boathouse, outdoor stage.	http://www.facebook.com/pages/Camp-Holston/151489698247672?sk=info	Small Private Lake

* = no data

Golf Courses

Name	Address	City	Website	Public or private	Size (9 or 18)
Binder Park Golf Course	7255 B Drive South	Battle Creek	http://www.binderparkgolf.com/	Public	9, 18 and 27
Alwyn Downs Golf Club	1225 S Kalamazoo Ave	Marshall	http://www.alwyndowns.webs.com/	Public	18
Oakland Hills Golf Club	11619 H Dr N	Battle Creek	http://oaklandhillsgolfclub.com/	Public & Membership	9 & 18
The Medalist Golf Club	15701 N Dr N	Marshall	http://www.themedalist.com/	Public & Membership	9 & 18
Tomac Woods Golf Course	14827 26 1/2 Mile Rd	Albion	www.tomacwoods.com	Public	9 & 18
Bedford Valley Golf Course, 1 of 5 of Gull Lake View Golf Club & Resort	23161 Waubascon Road	Battle Creek	http://www.gulllakeview.com/	Public	18
Cedar Creek Golf Club	14000 Renton Road	Battle Creek	http://www.cedargolfclub.com/	Public & Membership	18
Cedar Farms Golf Club	12111 Helmer Rd S	Battle Creek	http://www.cedargolfclub.com/	Public & Membership	18
Marywood Golf Course	21310 North Ave	Battle Creek	http://marywoodgolf.com/	Public	9 & 18
Marshall Country Club	151 Lyon Lake Rd	Marshall	http://www.marshallcountryclub.com/home.html	Private	18
Riverside Golf Club & Banquet Center	245 Columbia Ave E	Battle Creek	http://www.bcriverside.com/	Public	18
Springbrook Golf Course	1600 Avenue A	Battle Creek	Under Construction	Public	9
Battle Creek Country Club	318 Country Club Dr	Battle Creek	http://battlecreekcc.com/	Private	18
Duck Lake Country Club	2728 Country Club Lane	Albion	http://www.ducklakeecc.com/	Private	18
Turtle Creek Golf Club	9044 R Drive South	Burlington	http://turtlecreekgc.com/	Public	9 & 18

Public Boat Launches

Site Name	Location	Ramp Code	Courtesy Pier	Toilets	Parking	Water Acres	Water-Craft Control
Nottawa Lake	Tekonsha Township <i>Section 3</i>	2		YES	10	116	D, F
Goguac Lake	Battle Creek City <i>Section 14</i>	2	YES	YES	31	352	F
Lanes Lake	Convis Township <i>Section 27</i>	2		YES	5	23	
Duck Lake	Clarence Township <i>Section 9</i>	2	YES	YES	28	630	
Warner Lake	Tekonsha Township <i>Section 6</i>	2	YES	YES	10	58	
Upper Brace Lake	Eckford Township <i>Section 7</i>	2	YES	YES	20	56	
Lee Lake	Newton Township <i>Section 27</i>	2	YES	YES	5	116	
Prairie Lake	Clarence Township <i>Section 33</i>	2	YES	YES	10	62	
Winnipeg Lake	Sheridan Township <i>Section 17</i>	3		YES	7	31	
Gordon Lake	Clarence Township <i>Section 26</i>	2	YES	YES	6	18	
Wabascon Lake	Bedford Township <i>Section 2</i>	2		YES	20	70	
Homer Kalamazoo River	Homer Township <i>Section 5</i>	4		NO	10		
Saylor's Landing Kalamazoo River	Marshall Township <i>Section 34</i>	2		YES	10		
River Park Kalamazoo River	Emmett Township <i>Section 15</i>	4		NO	6		
20th Street Kalamazoo River	Bedford Township <i>Section 34</i>	2		NO	6		
Curry Park Homer Lake	Homer Township <i>Section 7</i>	2	YES	NO	20	240	
Leroy Township Park Graham Lake	Leroy Township <i>Section 12</i>	3		YES	15	143	

Ramp Codes

2 - A hard-surfaced ramp, in areas of limited water depth or lake size, where launching, retrieving, and use of larger boats may be difficult.

3 - A gravel-surfaced ramp.

4 - A carry-down launching area. Site does not have an improved ramp and is suitable for launching cartop boats and canoes only.

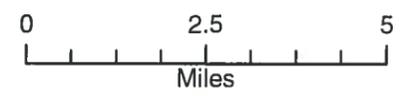
Watercraft Control

D - High-speed boating and water skiing permitted 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.(EST) only .

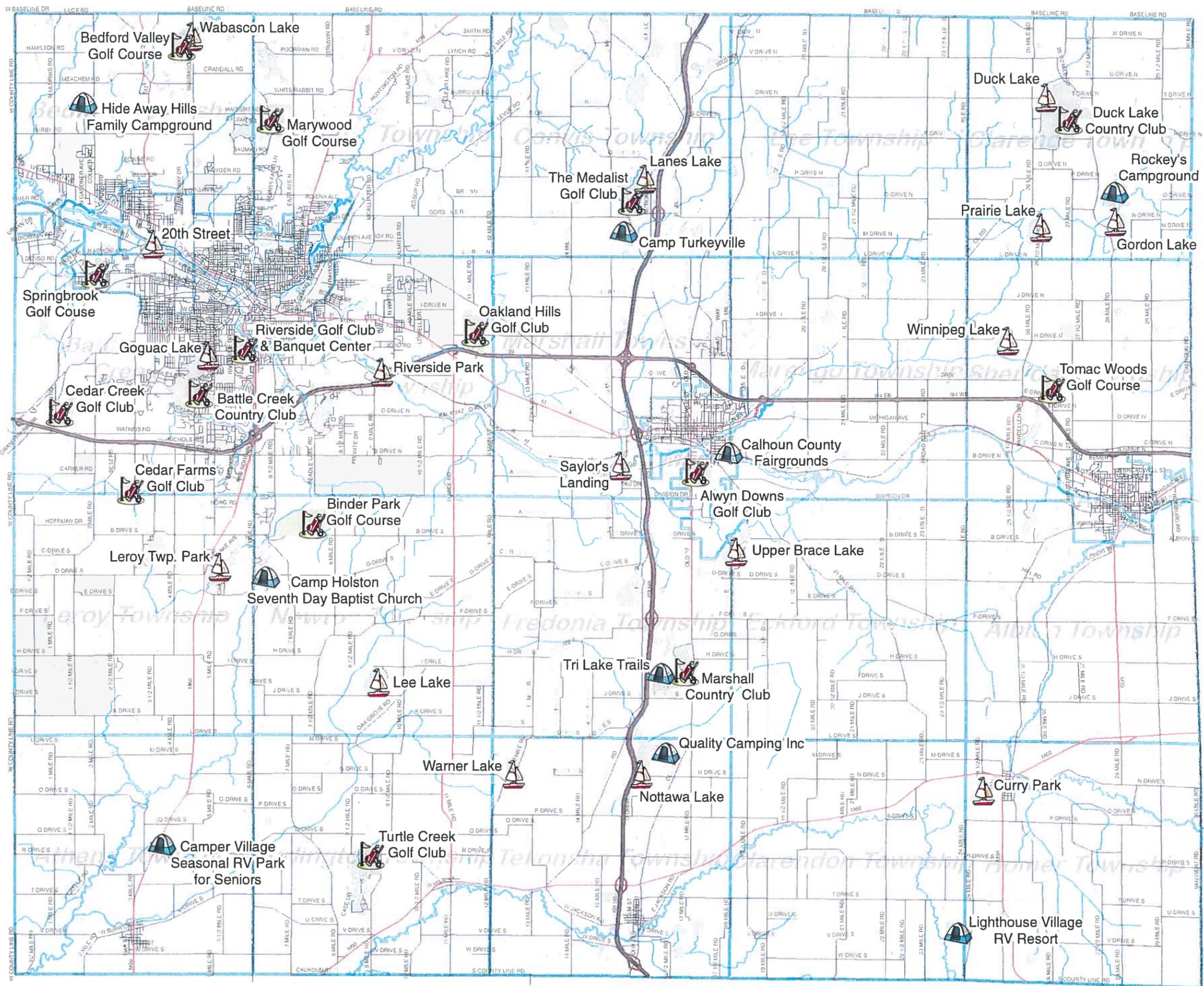
F - Local watercraft controls other than those listed above, apply only to a part of the body of water.

MAP 5

Campgrounds, Golf Courses, & Public Boat Launches



-  Campgrounds
-  Golf Courses
-  Public Boat Launches
-  Municipal Boundaries
- Roadways**
- By Type**
-  Interstate
-  Local
-  Private
-  Railroad
-  Ramp
-  State Highways
-  Lakes & Rivers



Trailways (Map 6)

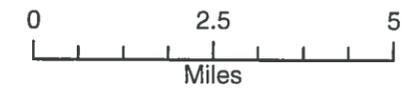
The Trailways map shows the different types of trailways located in Calhoun County.

Trail Name	Owner	Total Length in Miles
Battle Creek Bike Path	City of Battle Creek	15.12
Battle Creek Linear Park	City of Battle Creek	40.34
Calhoun County Trailway	Calhoun County	5.28
Emmett Township Bike Path	Emmett Township	10.8
Homer Linear Park	Village of Homer	0.79
Marshall Riverwalk	City of Marshall	1.56
North Country Trail		56.41*

* The North Country Trail is over 4,600 miles in length. The number reported is the length through Calhoun County.

MAP 6

Trailways



-  Albion River Trail
-  Battle Creek Linear Park
-  Calhoun County Trailway
-  Emmett Twp Bike Path
-  Homer Linear Park
-  Marshall Riverwalk
-  North Country Trail
-  Lakes & Rivers

Roadways

By Type

-  Interstate
-  Local
-  Private
-  Railroad
-  Ramp
-  State Highways
-  Municipal Boundaries



Barrier Free (Accessibility) Evaluation

One out of five Michigan citizens, approximately two million people, experiences a disability according to the Michigan Centers for Independent Living. According to recent Calhoun County census data of our population:

- 4.6% of those under 18 are identified as having a disability,
- 12.2% of those age 18 to 64 are identified as having a disability,
- 39% of those over 65 are identified as having a disability.

Of Calhoun County's population, 19,687 people have been identified as having a disability in our community. That is almost 1 person for every seven people in the population.

It is a goal of the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commissioners to provide reasonable accommodations to facilitate the opportunity for all to participate and utilize the facilities and events that the department provides, regardless of their level of ability.

Historic Bridge Park

Four of the five historic bridges are accessible to all through the boardwalk and pathways that are ADA compliant. The fifth bridge is only accessible by stairways on either side of the bridge.

In 2012, park improvements funded by Enbridge Energy provided increased access to park users at all levels.

- The parking lot was expanded with a hard surface and striped to provide 2 handicap parking spaces, 53 car parking spaces, and 2 bus parking spaces,
- ADA compliant restrooms were added,
- Two handicap accessible wood picnic tables,
- An accessible boat launch for canoes and kayaks known as an EZ Dock.

The playground equipment is designed for use between ages 5 and 12, but it does not meet accessibility standards.

Calhoun County Trailway

The 5.28 mile non-motorized Trailway is located in Emmett Township and connects the Ott Biological Preserve, Kimball Pines, and Historic Bridge Park with a crushed gravel surface that is suitable for pedestrians, wheel chairs, and bicycles. This is a newly created Trailway that is ADA compliant.

Kimball Pines

This park has been closed to the public since the straight line wind storm in May 2011. The park has been cleared of debris from the storm and is now ready for redevelopment. None of the amenities present prior to the storm including parking lots, trails, or restrooms were ADA compliant. The one area of improvement is the section of the Trailway that runs along the perimeter of the north, west, and south part of the park. There is opportunity to incorporate ADA rules into the redevelopment of the property.

Ott Biological Preserve

This park serves primarily as a nature preserve as it contains rare species and users are encouraged to stay on the marked trail to protect flora and fauna. The park consists of

trails that are rustic and generally firm and stable with a few exceptions, and a few slopes that are beyond the trail guidelines to be ADA compliant. The Arlington Road entrance has access to the natural trails and the Jameson Road entrance isn't an accessible due to stairs leading to the trails.

The parking lot at the Arlington Road entrance has 37 parking spaces of which two are handicap identified. The Jameson Road entrance has 30 parking spaces of which one is handicap identified. Both of these parking lots are accessible to a portion of the Calhoun County Trailway that runs through the Preserve. However, the remainder of the park is non-compliant due to the topography and design of the natural area. Portions of the natural trails have boardwalks and one historic bridge that abut to them, but reaching these points is difficult.

Riverside Park

This park is not being promoted to the public and is not being maintained. The entrance to the park is through Historic Bridge Park and remains non ADA compliant.

Grant Inventory

Below is an inventory of identified grants received by Calhoun County. Due to changes in leadership and department management this may not be a complete list.

Parks and Recreation Grant Inventory

Project #	Grantor	Year	Park	Amount	Description	Status
	MDNR	1975	Kimball	\$156,000.00	Construction	Closed
26-00690	MDNR	1976	Ott	\$28,000.00	Property acquisition	Closed
26-01039	MDNR	1978	HBP	\$15,000.00	Improvements	Closed
	MDOT	1996	HBP	\$228,560.00	133rd Road Bridge	Closed
STE 13900, 43852A	MDOT	1999	HBP	\$403,540.80	20 Mile Road Bridge	Closed
TF99-193	MDNR	1999	Ott	\$231,962.00	Improvements	Closed
	MCACA	2002	HBP	\$4,500.00	Sculpture Park	Closed
STE 13446, 03-5196	MDOT	2003	Linear Trail	\$20,000.00	County Linear Trail	Closed
	MDOT	2003	Bike Path	\$215,306.00	Wattles Bike Path	Closed
STE 0313 (341), 50920A	MDOT	2005	HBP	\$300,000.00	Charlotte Highway Bridge	Closed
TF10-031	MDNR	2010	Trailway	\$500,000.00	Construction	Active
12-029	MDNR	2012	Ott	\$2,300.00	Fence Improvements	Active
13411-111572	MDOT	2014	Trailway	\$1,075,592.00	Construction	Active

MDNR = Michigan Department of Natural Resources

MDOT = Michigan Department of Transportation

MCACA = Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

Planning Process for the Park and Recreation Master Plan

The Subcommittee

The Master Plan Subcommittee of the Park and Recreation Commission is comprised of three Parks and Recreation Commissioners and support staff. This subcommittee met every other week over a period of three months to develop the plan process, implement community outreach, and gather data to forward the goals and recommendations for the next five years.

Master Plan Advisory Committee

Chad Curtis, Owner of Getaway Sports in BC

Christine Kosmowski, Calhoun County Water Resources Commissioner

Ron Sootsman, Calhoun County Trailway Alliance member

Support Staff

Ingrid Ault, Community Development Educator

Brent Thelen, GIS Coordinator

Pat Dadow, Support Staff

Jen Bomba, Planning Consultant

Plan Development Process

The most recent parks and recreation master plan was prepared in 2009 and was valid through 2014. The plan was prepared by Priem Group LLC and the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance on behalf of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board.

The current planning process was led by the Calhoun County Office of Community Development staff and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Since many of the local units of government have their own parks and recreation plans and departments, the county made outreach to these groups to assist in the development of the inventory and the public outreach process. Eight organizations including newspaper publications assisted in the dissemination of the hard copy and online survey that resulted in 392 unique respondents. Two public meetings were conducted to engage citizens from the county. The meetings were located in Battle Creek and Marshall to accommodate as large a population as possible.

Public Notification and Involvement

Public Involvement included a survey that was made available online and in hard copy at:

1. The Marshall District Library (124 W Green St, Marshall, 49068),
2. The Marshall Welcome Center (City Hall, 323 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, 49068),
3. The Battle Creek Full Blast Fitness Center (35 W Hamblin Ave, Battle Creek, 49017),
4. The Willard Library (7 West Van Buren St., Battle Creek, 49017).
5. The Marshall County Building (315 W. Green St., Marshall, 49068).

The survey was open for a two week period resulting in 392 completed responses.

Along with the survey, two public meetings were held. These meetings were scheduled in the evening from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at the following locations.

1. Monday, October 27, 2014 in the County Building at 315 W. Green St. in Marshall in room 1-400.
2. Tuesday, October 28, 2014 in Emmett Township Hall at 620 Cliff St., Battle Creek, 49014 in the public meeting room.

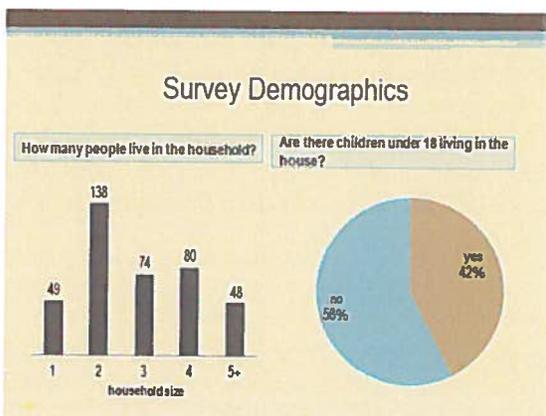
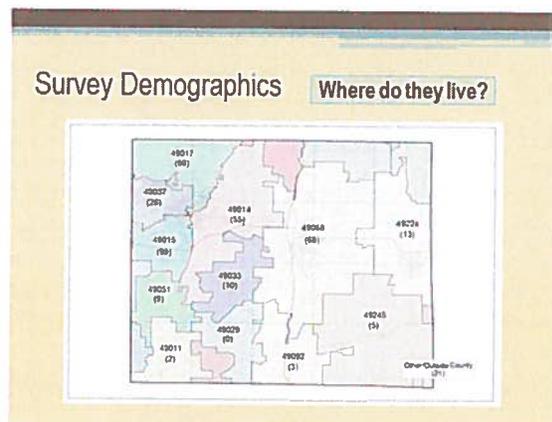
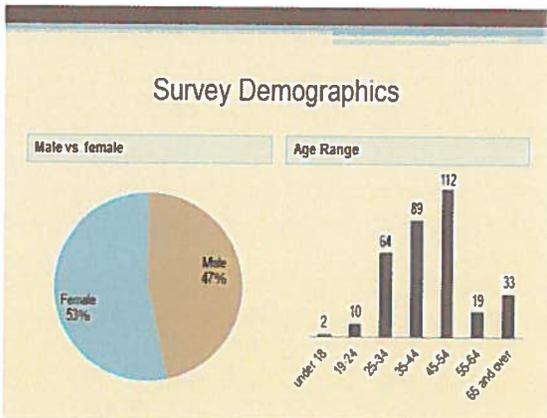
A total of 18 people participated in a presentation covering park history, the results of the survey, and an opportunity to provide more feedback about park development preferences.

Survey Results

The Calhoun County community survey consisted of 19 questions of which six were demographic questions. The survey was designed to better understand who our park users were, how they used the parks, what their likes and dislikes were regarding park amenities, and finally, to understand what was preventing non-users from participating.

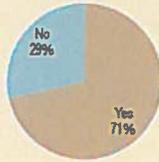
A total of 392 completed surveys were returned in hard copy and through the online link. The summary of questions and answers are listed below and a complete copy of the survey questions is listed as document 4 in the appendix.

Demographic Questions:

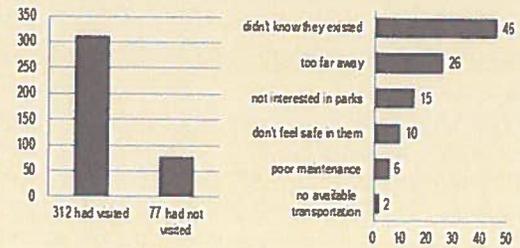


Park Use Questions:

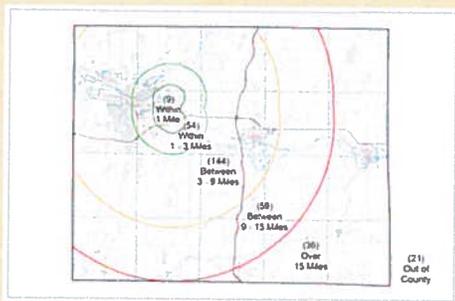
Will you use the new bike/pedestrian trail opening soon?



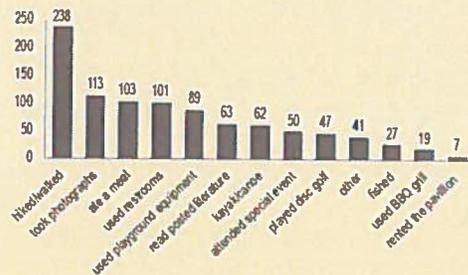
20% of respondents had NOT visited a county park



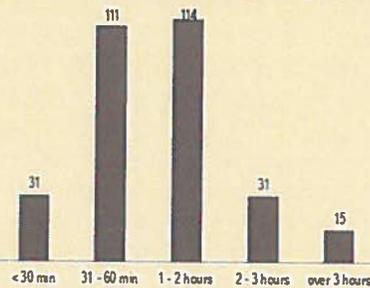
How far did you travel to get to the park?



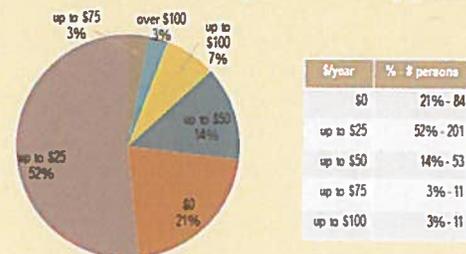
In what ways do you use the park?



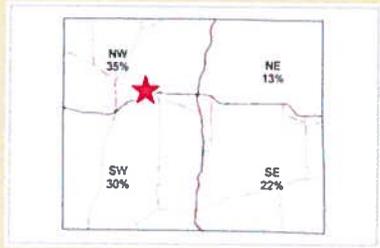
On your last visit, how long did you stay?



How much would you pay annually to fund the maintenance and development of county parks?

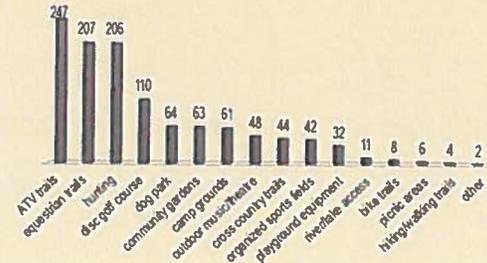


If more park/open space were developed, where would you like to see it located?

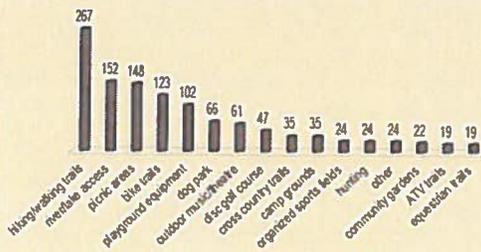


NE	13%
NW	35%
SW	30%
SE	22%

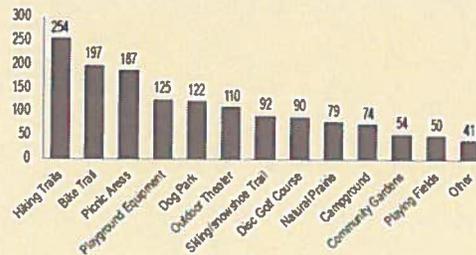
The three least important park amenities



The three most important park amenities



What Park Amenities Would You Use in Kimball Pines Park?



On a Scale of 1 (satisfied) to 5 (not satisfied) how satisfied are you with each county park?

- ✓ 1.68 – Ott Biological Preserve
- ✓ 1.77 – Historic Bridge Park
- ✓ 2.27 – Kimball Pines

On a Scale of 10 (very comfortable) to 1 (uncomfortable) how comfortable are you using our waterways for recreation?

- ✓ Average score was 4.56

As reported by the survey results, the majority of respondents are satisfied with park and recreation opportunities being offered by the County. These respondents are almost equally male and female from 25 to 54 years of age. The majority of persons polled is located within a short distance of the existing recreational opportunities and are most interested in hiking, biking, recreation on the rivers and lakes, and picnicking in the parks. As a result, these types of recreation are reflected in the goals and objectives of this Plan.

Also of great importance is the indication that an overwhelming percentage of respondents (79%) are willing to financially support county parks and recreation efforts.

The survey results also indicated that 20 percent of those polled had not visited a county park property, mostly due to the fact that they did not know that they existed. This data will help to shape better marketing and outreach regarding County parks and recreation opportunities.

A copy of the survey and the comments that we received are in the appendix under document 4, 5, and 6.

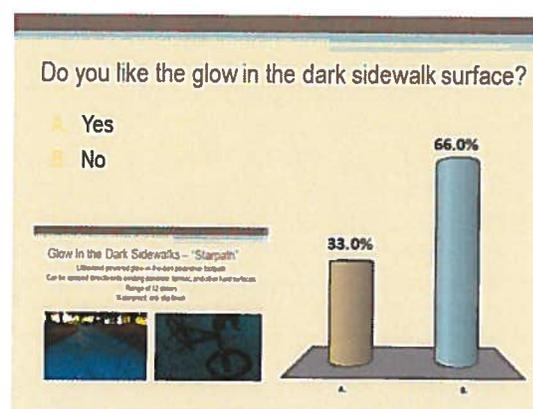
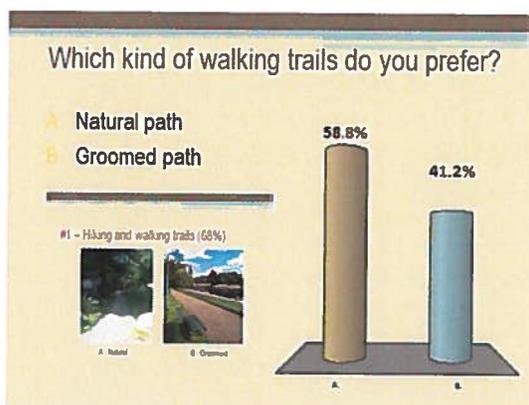
Public Meeting Results

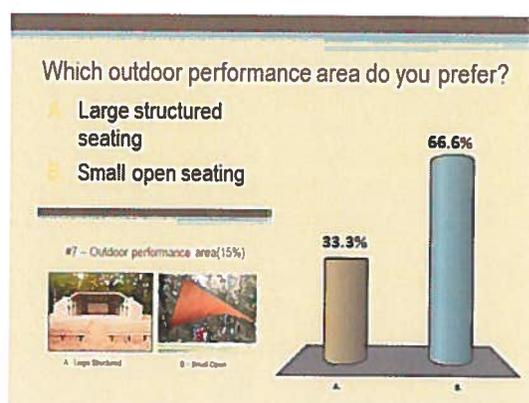
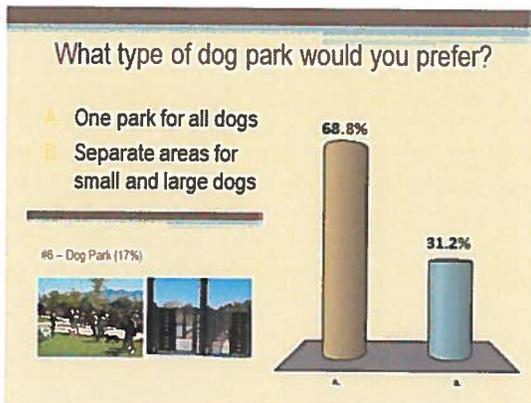
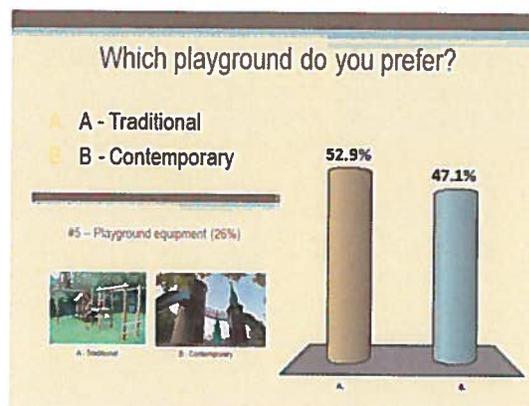
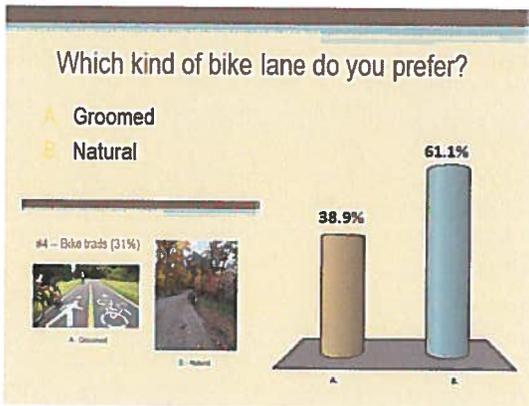
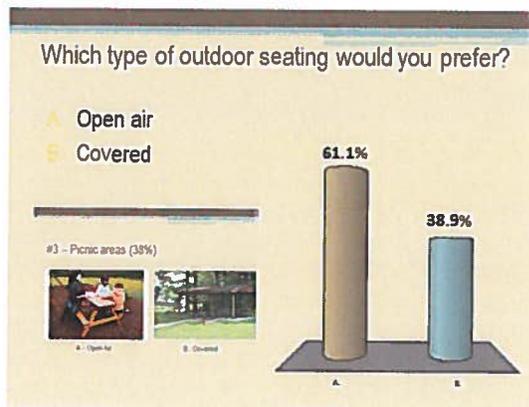
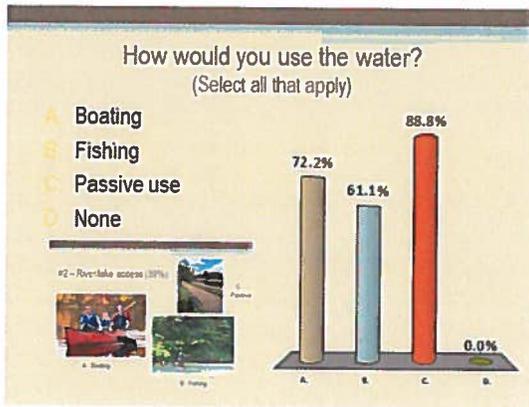
Two public meetings were held to gather more specific data about park user preferences. The survey data identified the most desirable park amenities from a list of options provided. Any option that scored higher than 15 percent was included in the presentation for further discussion.

Ten people participated at the Marshall meeting and 8 people participated at the Battle Creek meeting. Below are copies of the slides used at the public meetings showing the combined results for each meeting. Each slide shows:

- The question asked at the meeting,
- How the amenity ranked (reported in percentage) in the overall total for this question,
- Examples of different interpretations of the identified amenity,
- The results of the combined meetings to each question.

Participants were given instant polling clickers that allowed for immediate group results to be displayed after each question. The combined results from both meetings are shown on each slide.





As reported there were some clear preferences, but most often the groups were evenly or closely divided. The demographics were also heavily older white male, so this is a snapshot of what a small group was thinking at the time polled. However, additional feedback from discussions at each meeting proved valuable in understanding that smaller more natural settings were preferred over larger more groomed areas for future park development. This will be a good launching point for further community discussions about park development. Future efforts to gather data will include outreach to a more diverse group of participants.

A summary of the combined results from our two public meetings can be found in the appendix under document 5.

Approval Process

The approval process for the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Master Plan is determined by Michigan Public Act 33 of 2008. This Michigan Planning Enabling Act states how various planning procedures are done, and contains a single set of procedures for all entities of government to follow. It is also determined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management that outlines the format that the plan must follow in order to be approved by the state and enable the county to apply for grants.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was also made available to the public through posting on the county website, hard copies at the Marshall District Library (124 W Green St, Marshall, 49068), Willard Library in Battle Creek (7 West Van Buren St., Battle Creek, 49017), and at the Administrative Offices of the Marshall County Building (315 W. Green St., Marshall, MI 49068).

After the 31 day public review period expired the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Subcommittee met to incorporate the feedback into the plan. This draft was forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for comment. The final plan was forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for approval. The final plan includes a copy of the authorizing resolution from each body, meeting advertisements, and transmittal letters to the State.

Goals and Objectives

Mission Statement

The Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to engaging, partnering, and collaborating with the community to improve and sustain our parks and open spaces, to preserve the unique features of the natural environment, and enhance quality of life through increased access to recreational activities.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles are the overarching goals of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Engage community members, experts, organizations, and local governmental units in the decision making process regarding parks development.
- Establish sustainable uses of community open space and natural features to meet the community's needs for active, structured recreation, as well as passive enjoyment of the outdoors.
- Provide responsible stewardship of the natural resources that are part of the county park system.
- Provide opportunities for recreation to improve the health and wellness of the community.

Goals, Rationale, and Objectives

In keeping with the mission, and in consideration of the public input gathered during the planning process, the following goals and objectives have been developed for the 2015 – 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The goals state the general concepts regarding what the County wishes to accomplish, while the objectives are the more specific ways to achieve the goals. The goals and objectives were developed with input from the community and the County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Administrative

The Calhoun County Office of Community Development is responsible for the daily management of the county parks properties. This department will monitor and assess the implementation of this plan.

Goal: *Evaluate Parks and Recreation Master Plan success*

Objective: Conduct an annual review of the goals and objectives established in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to evaluate implementation success.

Goal: *Evaluate and update Calhoun County Parks Policies*

Objective: Review and update the existing park rules and regulations to meet the needs of current uses and activities.

Objective: Evaluate and document park policies, forms, and procedures.

Marketing and Outreach

Survey data indicated that 20% of respondents had not visited a Calhoun County Park. Data further indicated that the number one reason for not visiting a county parks property was because they did not know that they existed. Therefore, more public information and better marketing is needed to increase park use.

Goal: *Develop a park brand with messaging that promotes our park systems while increasing public support of Calhoun County Parks*

Objective: Develop a contact list of 2,000 for distribution of a Parks and Recreation e-newsletter as well as other targeted communication pieces.

Objective: Market and promote a unified vision for County Parks and Recreation through commercial media, printed materials, the County website, Facebook, and other electronic/social media.

Goal: *Explore programming options for County parks properties*

Objective: Identify demand for, and types of programs desired by the public.

Objective: Create an inventory of parks and recreation programming offered by other private and public entities in an effort to reduce unnecessary duplication of parks programs.

Objective: Develop parks programs that meet a community need and provide a wide variety of opportunities for all persons regardless of age, gender, nationality, race, socio-economic position, ability or location.

Parks Management

Survey data indicated that 80% of people polled were actively recreating in county parks properties through a variety of uses. Therefore, it is critical to maintain these properties in a way that provides for optimal use by the public.

Goal: *Provide quality, safe and functional amenities at all county parks properties*

Objective: Develop and implement land management plans and maintenance plans for the Ott Biological Preserve, Historic Bridge Park, Kimball Pines, Riverside Park, and the Calhoun County Trailway.

Objective: Develop a park volunteer base to assist with park maintenance and programming.

Goal: *Re-establish Kimball Pines as a functioning county park*

Objective: Facilitate community input as to the desired uses for the Kimball Pines property.

Objective: Collaborate with the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility to explore the potential for coordinated development and programming of the areas adjacent to the facility.

Objective: Identify funding options for redevelopment of Kimball Pines property.

Goal: *Explore future uses for Riverside Park*

Objective: Evaluate the community needs and desires in order to promote this property to the public.

Community Wellness

Calhoun County ranks 78 out of 82 counties in Michigan for overall health.* This low ranking is notable for two reasons: access to recreational facilities; and a poor ranking in the area of physical health. This is an opportunity for the County to increase recreational opportunities and encourage improved health and wellness for the community.

** 82 of 83 counties in Michigan were ranked.*

Goal: *Encourage recreational opportunities in Calhoun County*

Objective: Identify underserved populations and create strategies to include those experiencing obstacles to recreational opportunities.

Objective: Partner with other groups to develop or increase awareness of recreational opportunities in Calhoun County.

Goal: *Focus on top ranked recreational uses (as identified in the public survey)*

Objective: Partner with the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance, North Country Trail Association, and others to develop future phases of the Calhoun County Trailway.

Objective: Assess need for additional access points to waterways in Calhoun County.

Funding

The Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission is tasked with providing oversight to the County Parks Department and the recreational programs that are offered by the County. It is important that this work be done in a fiscally responsible manner so as to be good financial stewards while meeting the recreational needs of the community. Therefore, development of a sustainable funding source is critical to the future of the county parks programs.

Goal: *Establish sustainable funding for parks management that maintains fiscal responsibility while meeting community needs*

Objective: Continue to aggressively pursue public and private grants, donations, and other funding sources for county parks.

Objective: Build creative partnerships that reduce and/or share resources for park and recreation expenses.

Objective: Establish criteria for reviewing resource limitations when considering improvements to existing or new park and recreation ventures.

Action Plan

The Action Plan addresses each of the objectives discussed above and assigns a timeline for completion for each objective. The timeline covers five years with the understanding that in year five, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will once again be updated.

Along with the timeline the responsible party that will implement the action has been identified. This falls into four categories:

1. Staff, which consist of one person at this time,
2. PARC, which is the Parks and Recreation Commission,
3. Subcommittee, which is a subgroup of the PARC and has been identified when possible,
4. Volunteers, which is made up of PARC members and other interested parties

Staff Projects

Staff will be involved in all items identified in the Action Plan. It is recognized that the Office of Community Development, is a small department of four people and the plan has been designed with that in mind. The staff has varying degrees of time allotted to the Parks and Recreation branch amounting to approximately 1.0 full time equivalent employee. If other resources become available to expedite the plan, then the timeline will be adjusted accordingly.

PARC Projects

The Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for the oversight of the Parks and Recreation Department, a subset of the Office of Community Development. This body will be instrumental in seeing that the work outlined in this plan is addressed. The body as a whole will hold staff, subcommittees, and volunteers accountable. And subcommittee members will be formed from this group.

Subcommittee Projects

The Parks and Recreation Commission has several standing subcommittees. When appropriate they have been assigned as the responsible party for action items. Some action items will require an as needed subgroup that will be formed from the Parks and Recreation Commission. All subcommittee work is on a volunteer basis and is an integral part of completion of the action plan.

Volunteer Projects

Volunteers are an integral part of parks maintenance. Various groups have been instrumental in raising funds, providing work days for maintenance, and offering their technical expertise to help develop and manage our parks system. Moving forward they will be organized and expanded to help accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

Action Plan	Year 1 2015	Year 2 2016	Year 3 2017	Year 4 2018	Year 5 2019	Responsible Party
Administrative						
Conduct annual review of Parks and Recreation Master Plan						Staff - PARC
Review and update the County Park Rules and Regulations						Staff - Park Rules Subcommittee
Evaluate and document park policies, forms, and procedures						Staff - Park Rules Subcommittee
Marketing and Outreach						
Develop a 2,000 member contact list for communication purposes (350 each year)						Staff - Parks Marketing Subcommittee
Establish marketing materials and distribute through printed, electronic and social forms of media						Staff - Parks Marketing Subcommittee
Identify demand and type of park and recreation programs desired by the public						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Inventory other private and public park and recreation programs						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Develop programs that meet a wide variety of community needs						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Park Management						
Develop a land management and maintenance plan for the Ott Biological Preserve						Staff - Ott Biological Preserve Subcommittee
Develop a land management and maintenance plan for Kimball Pines Park						Staff - Kimball Pines Park Subcommittee
Develop a land management and maintenance plan for Historic Bridge Park						Staff - Historic Bridge Park Subcommittee
Develop a land management and maintenance plan for the County Trailway						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Develop a land management and maintenance plan for Riverside Park						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Develop a parks volunteer base to assist with park maintenance and programming						Staff - PARC Subcommittee - Volunteers
Facilitate community input as to the desired uses for Kimball Pines Park						Staff - Kimball Pines Subcommittee - Volunteers
Collaborate with the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility for redevelopment of Kimball Pines Park						Staff - Kimball Pines Park Subcommittee
Identify funding options for redevelopment of Kimball Pines Park						Staff - PARC - Budget Subcommittee
Evaluate the community needs and desires for Riverside Park						Staff - PARC Subcommittee - Volunteers
Community Wellness						
Identify park users and underserved populations						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Create strategies to include those experiencing obstacles to recreational opportunities						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Partner to develop future phases of the County Trailway						Staff - Volunteers
Explore development of additional access points to waterways						Staff - PARC Subcommittee
Funding						
Aggressively pursue public and private grants, donations, and other funding sources						Staff - PARC - Budget Subcommittee
Collaborate with others for shared park resources						Staff
Establish criteria for reviewing resource limitations when considering improvements or new park and recreation ventures						Staff - PARC - Budget Subcommittee

Appendix

2014 Calhoun County Health Ranking

Historic Bridge Park – Site Plan

Calhoun County Trailway – Phase 1 Site Plan

Copy of Community Survey

Additional Comments From Survey

Park Comments From Other Platforms

Public Meeting Answer Summary

CALHOUN COUNTY HEALTH RANKING

2013 CALHOUN COUNTY HEALTH OUTCOMES RANKING: 78 OF 82 (82 of 83 counties in Michigan were ranked)

	NATIONAL BENCHMARK*	MICHIGAN	CALHOUN COUNTY	CALHOUN COUNTY RANKING		
				2011	2012	2013
MORTALITY				71	69	77
Premature Death	5,317	7,254	8,927			
MORBIDITY				72	72	72
Poor or Fair Health	10%	14%	17%			
Poor Physical Health Days	2.6	3.5	4.1			
Poor Mental Health Days	2.3	3.7	4.8			
Low Birth Weight	6.0%	8.4%	8.2%			
2013 CALHOUN COUNTY HEALTH FACTORS RANKING: 74 OF 82 (82 of 83 counties in Michigan were ranked)						
HEALTH BEHAVIORS				76	78	75
Adult Smoking	13%	20%	24%			
Adult Obesity	25%	32%	36%			
Physical Inactivity	21%	25%	28%			
Excessive Drinking	7%	19%	14%			
Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rate	10	11	12			
Sexually Transmitted Infections	92	500	599			
Teen Birth Rate	21	32	50			
CLINICAL CARE				24	37	34
Uninsured	11%	14%	15%			
Primary Care Physicians	1,067:1	1,271:1	1,660:1			
Dentists	1,516:1	1,626:1	1,823:1			
Preventable Hospital Stays	47	70	72			
Diabetic Screening	90%	86%	87%			
Mammography Screening	73%	67%	70%			
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS				66	62	65
High School Graduation	n/a	74%	74%			
Some College	70%	64%	58%			
Unemployment	5.0%	10.3%	8.9%			
Children in Poverty	14%	25%	29%			
Inadequate Social Support	14%	20%	23%			
Children in Single-Parent Households	20%	33%	43%			
Violent Crime Rate (per 100,000)	66	497	701			
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT				39	57	80
Daily Fine Particular Matter	8.8	9.9	11.7			
Drinking Water Safety	0%	1%	1%			
Access to Recreational Facilities	16	9	9			
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	1%	6%	9%			
Fast Food Restaurants	27%	49%	56%			

SOURCE:

1. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, www.countyhealthrankings.org, 2013

NOTES:

* 90th percentile, i.e., only 10% are better

7.1.3 Historic Bridge Park: Site Layout Plan (original issue)

DHB
 Design & Planning
 12125 2nd St
 Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 616-221-1234
 616-221-1235
 616-221-1236

1000 Avenue L, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 616-221-1234
 616-221-1235
 616-221-1236

333 SOUTH KALAMAZOO AVE
 MARSHALL, MI 49668

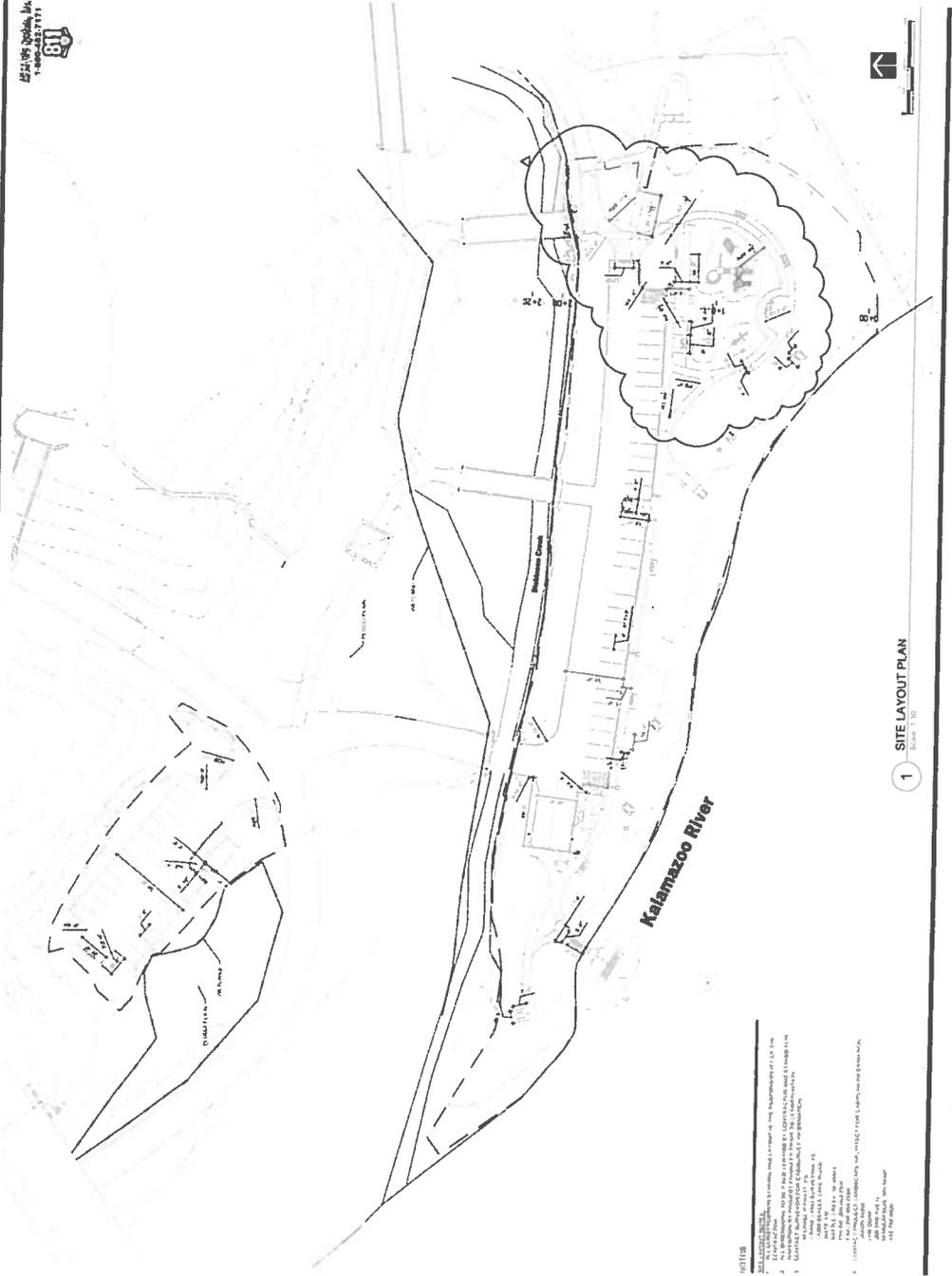
ENBRIDGE ENERGY
 COMPANY, INC.

333 SOUTH KALAMAZOO AVE
 MARSHALL, MI 49668

1000 Avenue L, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 616-221-1234
 616-221-1235
 616-221-1236

1000 Avenue L, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 616-221-1234
 616-221-1235
 616-221-1236

1000 Avenue L, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 616-221-1234
 616-221-1235
 616-221-1236



Calhoun County Road Department In Cooperation with Michigan Department of Transportation/FHWA Calhoun County Trailway, Phase 1, Segment 1

OWNER



CALHOUN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT
13300 15 MILE ROAD
MARSHALL, MICHIGAN 49888
269.731.7864

Control Section: 13411 & 13161

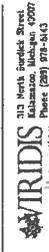
Job No: STE-111572A & STG-120334A
Federal Project No: STP-1313(384) & STPG-1313(394)
Federal Item No: HH 8919 & JJ 5084

ENGINEER



Hurley & Stewart, Inc.
2001 South Main Street
Marshall, Michigan 49888
269.532.4960 Fax: 269.532.4981
www.hurleyandstewart.com

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



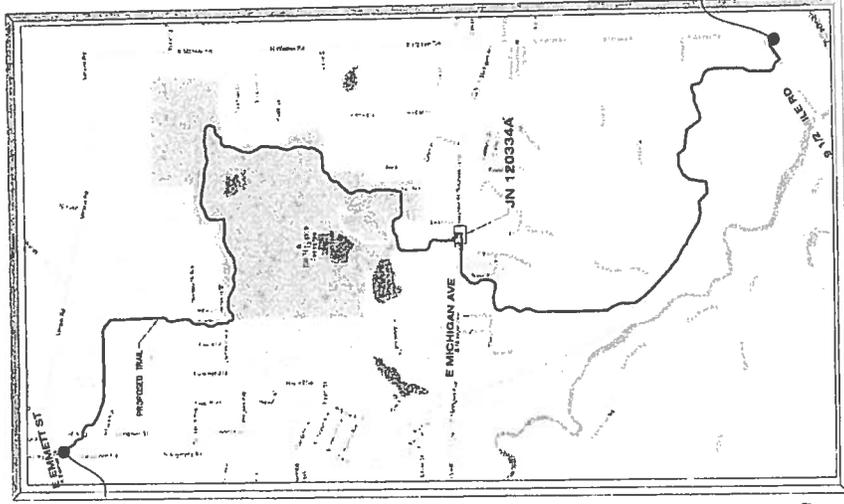
312 North Fairfield Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
Phone: (269) 779-5100
Fax: (269) 781-9244

VIRIDIS DESIGN GROUP

TRAFFIC INFORMATION
TRAIL DESIGN SPEED = 35 MPH

DRAWING INDEX

SHEET #	DESCRIPTION
JN 111572A	
1	C-0 - TITLE SHEET
2	C-1 - TRAIL KEY PLAN
3	C-2 - TRAIL DETAILS
4	C-3 - TRAIL DETAILS
5	C-4 - BOARDWALK DETAILS
6	C-5 - STA. 0+00 TO STA. 12+00
7	C-6 - STA. 12+00 TO STA. 24+00
8	C-7 - STA. 24+00 TO STA. 36+00
9	C-8 - STA. 36+00 TO STA. 48+00
10	C-9 - STA. 48+00 TO STA. 58+72
11	C-10 - STA. 0+00 TO STA. 12+00
12	C-11 - STA. 12+00 TO STA. 24+00
13	C-12 - STA. 24+00 TO STA. 36+00
14	C-13 - STA. 36+00 TO STA. 48+00
15	C-14 - STA. 48+00 TO STA. 60+00
16	C-15 - STA. 60+00 TO STA. 72+00
17	C-16 - STA. 72+00 TO STA. 84+00
18	C-17 - STA. 84+00 TO STA. 96+00
19	C-18 - STA. 96+00 TO STA. 106+20
20	C-19 - STA. 0+00 TO STA. 12+00
21	C-20 - STA. 12+00 TO STA. 24+00
22	C-21 - STA. 24+00 TO STA. 36+00
23	C-22 - STA. 36+00 TO STA. 5+90
24	C-23 - STA. 5+90 TO STA. 17+00
25	C-24 - STA. 0+00 TO STA. 12+00
26	C-25 - STA. 12+00 TO STA. 24+00
27	C-26 - STA. 24+00 TO STA. 36+00
28	C-27 - STA. 36+00 TO STA. 48+00
29	C-28 - STA. 48+00 TO STA. 60+00
30	C-29 - STA. 60+00 TO STA. 71+21
JN 120334A	
31	COVER SHEET
32	PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET
33	NOTE SHEET
34-35	LEGEND PLANS
36-37	LEGEND PLANS
38-72	SPECIAL DETAILS



P.O.B
STA 0+00
JN 111572A

P.O.E.
STA 71+21
JN 111572A



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OR VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.CALLBEFOREYU DIG.COM



SITE LOCATION MAP
SCALE: 1"=1/2 MILE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
6.28 MILES OF 10 FOOT WIDE
MULTI-USE TRAIL WITH GRASS
PATH INCLUDING GRADING,
BOARDWALK, AND SLOPE RESTORATION.

COUNTY BOARD APPROVAL

BY: _____ DATE: _____
OTHER: _____



CALHOUN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT
13300 15 MILE ROAD
MARSHALL, MICHIGAN 49888
269.731.7864

**REQUIRED FOR
PROJECT LETTERING**
DATE: _____
PAGE 1 OF 72

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CALHOUN COUNTY TRAILWAY, #52/FD FOR FOOT LETTERING, 5/27/13



What do you think about the parks in Calhoun County?

Share your views in this brief 5 minute survey being conducted by the Calhoun County Office of Community Development and the Parks and Recreation Commissioners. Your answers will remain anonymous and will help us better plan our parks in the future. Please tell us what you think!

1. Are you male or female?
 Male
 Female
2. What is your age?
 Under 18
 19-24
 25-34
 35-44
 45-54
 55-64
 65 and over
3. What is your zip code?
 49224 Albion
 49011 Athens
 49014 Battle Creek
 49015 Battle Creek
 49016 Battle Creek
 49017 Battle Creek
 49018 Battle Creek
 49037 Battle Creek
 49020 Bedford
 49029 Burlington
 49033 Ceresco
 49051 East Leroy
 49245 Homer
4. How many people live in your household?
 1
 2
 3
 4
 More than 5
5. Do you have children (under 18) living in your household?
 Yes
 No
6. Are you registered to vote?
 Yes
 No
7. The County is adding a 5 mile pedestrian/bike trail connecting the Ott Biological Preserve, Kimball Pines, and Historic Bridge Park that is opening in late 2014. Do you plan to use it?
 Yes
 No
8. Have you visited any of these county owned parks? The Ott Biological Preserve, Kimball Pines, Historic Bridge Park (formerly County Park)?
 Yes (**Skip to question 10**)
 No (**Go to question 9**)

9. If no, what has prevented you from using our parks?

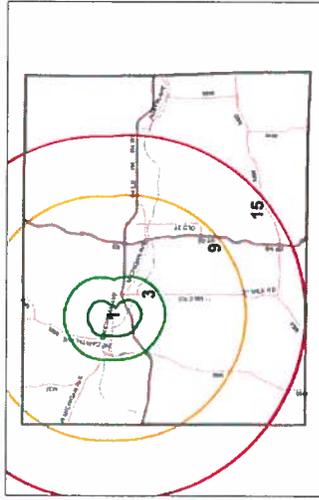
- I didn't know they existed
- I'm not interested in parks
- They are too far away
- I don't feel safe when using them
- Poor maintenance and upkeep
- I don't have available transportation to get to them

(Please skip to question 15)

10. On a scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied are you with the following county parks? (Circle your selection or each park)

Ott Biological Preserve	(Very Satisfied 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Not Satisfied)	N/A
Kimball Pines	(Very Satisfied 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Not Satisfied)	N/A
Historic Bridge Park	(Very Satisfied 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Not Satisfied)	N/A

11. How far did you travel to get to the park on your last visit?



- Under 1 mile
- 1-3 miles
- 3-9 miles
- 9-15 miles
- Over 15 miles

12. It what ways do you use the county parks? (check all that apply)

- Ate a meal
- Used a Bar-b-q grill

- Hiked/walked
- Played disc golf
- Fished
- Kayak/canoe/innertube the river
- Read posted literature
- Used playground equipment
- Used restrooms
- Attended a special event
- Rented the pavilion at Historic Bridge Park
- Took photographs
- Other (please comment)

13. On your last visit, how long did you stay?

- Under 30 minutes
- 31 to 59 minutes
- 1-2 hours
- 2-3 hours
- Over 3 hours

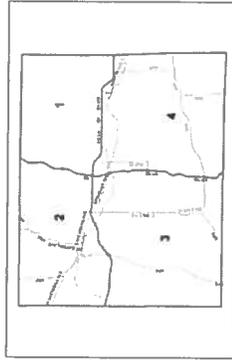
14. Due to a high wind storm in 2011, there is opportunity to redevelop portions of 100 acre Kimball Pines Park. What park amenities would you use if the park were redeveloped? (Check all that apply)

- Picnic areas
- Hiking trails
- Disc golf course
- Dog park
- Bike path/trails
- Playground equipment
- Flexible use playing field for organized sports
- Community garden
- Natural prairie
- Outdoor music/theater area
- Camp ground
- Cross-country skiing/snow shoeing trails
- Other (please specify)

15. How much would you pay annually to fund the maintenance and development of parks in Calhoun County?

- \$0
- up to \$25 (\$2.08 per month)
- up to \$50 (\$4.16 per month)
- up to \$75 (\$6.25 per month)
- up to \$100 (\$8.33 per month)
- over \$100

16. If more park/open space were developed where would you like to see it located?



- Northeast quadrant (north of I-94 & east of I-69) of Calhoun County (area 1)
- Northwest quadrant (north of I-94 & west of I-69) of Calhoun County (area 2)
- Southwest quadrant (south of I-94 & west of I-69) of Calhoun County (area 3)
- Southeast quadrant (south of I-94 & east of I-69) of Calhoun County (area 4)

17. Of the park amenities listed below, which **THREE** are the **most** important to you? (Select the three you would most like to see in a park)

- Picnic areas
- River/lake access
- Hiking/walking trails
- Bike trails
- ATV trails
- Cross county/snow shoe trails
- Disc golf course
- Equestrian trails
- Playground equipment
- Flexible use level playing field for organized sports
- Community gardens
- Camp grounds
- Hunting
- Outdoor performance area
- Dog park
- Other (please list)

18. How comfortable are you using our river/lake system for recreation?
(Very Comfortable 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Not Comfortable)

19. Of the park amenities listed below, which **THREE** are the **least** important to you? (Select the three you would not like to see in a park)

- Picnic areas
- River/lake access
- Hiking/walking trails
- Bike trails
- ATV trails
- Cross county/snow shoe trails
- Disc golf course
- Equestrian trails
- Playground equipment
- Flexible use level playing field for organized sports
- Community gardens
- Camp grounds
- Hunting
- Outdoor performance area
- Dog park
- Other (please list)

Thank you for taking our survey. We value and appreciate your input. You may leave it in the provided envelope, or you can mail it to:

Community Development

315 W. Green St.

Marshall, MI 49068

If you are interested in being kept up to date with park news, please email iauit@calhouncountymi.gov and place "newsletter" in the subject line. We email a monthly newsletter update with information about upcoming public park meetings and relevant park news including the opening of the Trailway. (Coming soon!)

If you have any questions about this survey please call (269) 781-0769. Thanks again for your time and input. If you know someone that might like to take this, please feel free to forward it. The more input we have, the better we can represent our community desires.

The Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Calhoun County Parks and Recreation

Listed below are the responses to questions that allowed a typed answer.

In what ways do you use the county parks? - Other responses

Answer
Walk my dog, biked, cross county ski
Studied natural flora and Fauna
Trail running
Aerial video and photos
just a visit to see it
swimming in river
Biked
Snow shoed, biking
swimming and walking dogs
geocaching
Biked
hiked with dogs
Trail Running
have not used in many years
launched a boat
checked out renovations to park
rode my bike/and when i was a kid we atvd in the pines ...closed off now
Geocache
rested
cross country ski
used phone
Workout on equipment
Just out and about and used as a quite moment to relax
biked
Running, snowshoeing
Dog Park
bird watching
Hammocks with child
waded in the river
Geocaching and birding
threwq frisbee with my dog
Skateboard and ride bikes
Geocache
BIKING!
Walk dogs
Rarely
Sat and thought
Geocaching

Due to a high wind storm in 2011, there is opportunity to redevelop portions of 100 acre Kimball Pines Park. What park amenities would you use if the park were redeveloped? (check all that apply) - Other responses

Answer
pavillions are always good for events
Reforest certain parts of the Park
not apt to use any of the 3 mentioned

Forest
wheelchair accessible features
Forest area
PARK IS NOT CENTRALLY LOCATED/ NO TAX DOLLARS SHOULD BE USED
Natural wooded areas
None--save the tax \$\$
no idea
Mountain Bike Single Track Trails!!
Horse shoes / shuffleboard
Photograph backgrounds
too far for convenience
Splash park
keep it wild. I used it for years frequently until the apartments were expanded
I like woods/mixed meadows
put money into the roads so we can drive there
I don't use parks
2 disc golf courses!
I am mildly handicapped so usage is limited
bmx race track please.
Re-establish tree growth
no opinion
Running trails -- unpaved
Restrooms & Drinking Fountains
Farmers Market area
Exercise equipment for working out outside
fishing
Renaissance Fair
Geocache
Equine Trails
walking
N/A
Fruit tree orchard
Outdoor skatepark
none
EVENT SPACE as previous would be good.

Of the park amenities listed below, which THREE are the MOST important to you? (Select the three you would most like to see in a park) - Other responses

Answer
none of above
Clean restroom facilities
None--Save tax dollars
MOUNTAIN BIKING SINGLE TRACK TRAILS
Photo opportunities
restroom
Bathrooms
restrooms
I don't use parks
Fishing

clean restrooms
Tree species identification
Restroom & Drinking Fountian
Farmers Market area
Exercise equipment
Please keep trails natural within the ott and pines.
Rustic Nature Area
We need a dog park!
Not interested

Of the park amenities listed below, which THREE are the LEAST important to you? (Select the three you would not like to see in a park) - Other responses

Answer
None
Not interested

Additional Comments Received by email or on the Parks and Recreation Facebook Page

I took your survey and would like to add comments. My main use of the Kalamazoo river is for fishing out of a small, non motorized jon boat. It is a premier resource and is known widely as a great place to fish. While I was thrilled that Enbridge was going to build some park sites on the river, I was disappointed in the Anglers Bend, Paddlers Grove and Ceresco sites. They are beautiful and well done but not suited for launching most light watercraft. At Angler's Bend, instead of a path where a watercraft could be carried up from the water or down to the water, there are stone steps that are more of a hindrance than useful. Once again, they are beautiful, but lack any utility. At least, with a path, one could more easily carry a watercraft to the water. At Paddlers Grove, there is a beautiful bathroom building, a playground and wonderful landscaping, all of which are appropriate. However, a river is used mostly with watercraft of some sort. The water line is one hundred and twenty paces on a curving sidewalk from the parking lot, making it nearly impossible to carry my one hundred and fifty pound jon boat to and from the shoreline. Even a kayak or canoe along with pounds of equipment is carried with difficulty all that way. It appears the existing access sites were built with only tubers or non fisherman floating the river in mind with no planning for the main use of the river which is fishing and boating. This is the common concern with all of my friends who desire boating access to the river. How can we be "Krazy for the Kazoo" when we have such limited access? A particularly egregious example is the lack of boat river access in Ceresco. After a billion dollars has been spent on the river, no boat access will be available there. Much time, man hours, planning and financial resources are spent exhorting the public to use the river by various county, city and state agencies, yet boating access for fisherman has been a slight afterthought. Saylor's Landing in Marshall on fifteen mile road is an excellent example of an access site that meets the needs of all types of watercraft. The next take out for watercraft is six hours down stream at Bridge Park, a trip which comprises a whole day. Ceresco and Anglers Bend should have boat access also. One can launch a boat at the pre-existing launch site in Bridge Park, but, as mentioned above, it is impossible to take out a boat at Paddler's Grove, which prevents any use of that stretch with anything but a tube or very light watercraft. The Kalamazoo is a fabulous resource in our area and we are very fortunate to have it. Let us take full advantage of it by making access for all users. I have volunteered at the Krazy for the Kazoo floats and have done the annual river cleanup just about every year since its inception. I have witnessed first hand the interest in the use of this resource and I implore the planners to increase access points make access for all users.

plzz dont put in anouther disk park . it's just a buncha stoners and drunks iv been and even seen them smoking out in the park accrost from the hospital. im sher ther are nondrugies that do it but it really is a stoner thing and you cant take your kid's to do it cuz they are allways drinking or smoking .. trust me on this i may be a asshole but i call it like it is

The Trailway is a waste of money.

I was not a fan of the new bike trail that was constructed this summer. I prefer my parks natural and empty of people. Since the pathway is a reality I have given a great deal of thought

as to how they might be developed for the benefit of wildlife as well as current patrons of the park and those of coming generations. Below are some thoughts I have had:

Ott Preserve

Prior to the bike path the Ott Preserve was a beautiful and natural place for wildlife and those of us who enjoy the quiet company of all that nature provided there. I suggest the following:

1. Planting of trees along the bike path. Plant trees that will offer a stately canopy to walk under for later generations as well as berry and fruit bearing trees and bushes to draw wildlife for easy observation. Species, of course, should reflect existing native species as well as perhaps native species that have become rare.
2. Installation of bench areas that are natural looking and offer some concealment for wildlife viewing;
3. Installation of viewing areas around the lakes THAT OFFER VIEWING BUT DO NOT INTRUDE UPON WILDLIFE;
4. Footpaths created strictly with a hand saw and a paint can to mark blazes. This provides quiet, natural paths for those of us who prefer to wander in a more natural setting than the bike path allows.
5. The portion of the path which goes from the James Street parking lot to the corner of Emmett Street and Raymond Road would be an a perfect place to plant additional trees or perhaps Tall Prairie Grass which was native to this area of Michigan. It is wonderful habitat for wildlife and beautiful to see (they have planted a large amount of it at Fort Custer);
6. The portion of the North Country Trail that remains a simple foot path, PLEASE DON'T DEVELOP IT ANY FURTHER. It is a wonderful path for who prefer a less developed footpath.

Kimball Pines

This was a once beautiful park that was decimated by Mother Nature several years ago. I suggest the following:

1. Planting of tree and fruit bearing native trees and bushes to the benefit of wildlife.
2. Development of educational displays within the park.
3. Removal of downed trees and the development of simple, natural pathways.
4. Development of the area now filled with downed trees and debris to the benefit of wildlife habitat;
5. Development of concealed areas for viewing wildlife for park patrons along the bike path and footpaths.
6. Development of natural looking picnic areas within the already developed park area.

Bridges Park

1. Educational display development. Geological history, natural history as well as human history of the area could be addressed.
2. Jumping off point for cross country skiing on the bike path. It can be accommodated with rustic ski racks.
3. Planting of native trees and bushes as noted in the other parks.

These are just a few ideas I have that can be done to make this a park system that future generations can enjoy. I suggest bringing in volunteer groups such as school children, colleges and universities. I suggest consultation with the local Audubon Society for suggestions on how to make the system a mecca for the many people who enjoy bird watching. If done well, this could draw people from outside the immediate area and even provide a basis for wildlife

focused festivals. Encourage wildlife studies by colleges and universities to find out what treasures exist there and what should be restored and protected. Sponsor nature photography contests so that word gets out about the natural beauty that exists in these three wonderful parks. I suggest also that volunteers be encouraged to assist the county with the removal of any invasive species.

If Calhoun County chooses to develop these three parks in a natural way that benefits wildlife and community enjoyment of the natural treasures contained, I would love to volunteer to help coordinate county efforts to that end.

Calhoun County Parks Commission,

The sport of BMX racing has been around since the early 1970's. Since then it has grown throughout the United States. In the 1980's, you wouldn't have to drive further than 20 miles to race at a BMX track. The Battle Creek Jaycees operated Binder BMX track, which is now where the giraffe and zebras roam at Binder Park Zoo. My father, Jim Anderson, took over the operations of the track in 1985 and held on for four years before being pressured to close by the zoo management.

BMX racing took a dip in popularity in the early 1990's but with BMX being added into the Summer Olympics in 2008, it has grown to more than 70,000 riders. And that's just in the United States.

I raced BMX from 1982 – 1989, as did both of my brothers. In my early years I was sponsored by Billy's Bike Shop followed by Getaway Sports, and eventually Factory Hutch out of California. Although I was just a child (age 9 – 15), it was some of the greatest years of my young life. There isn't a day that goes by where I don't think about my BMX days. Some of my good friends that I have today are from racing with them 30 years ago!

Currently, there are nine tracks in the state of Michigan. The closest is Lansing and Greenville. There is a new track (July 2014) in Rockford, north of Grand Rapids. BMX is making a huge comeback.

Most towns are looking for wholesome, family sports to add into their park system. With bicycle motocross becoming an Olympic sport in 2008, these community leaders are seeing that BMX is a great option for offering an individual sport "where nobody sits on the bench" and the entire family can participate!

Riders compete not only by age but also by proficiency. This allows participants to race others who are of similar age and skill level. Thousands of people throughout the world can attest to the positive effects of being involved in BMX racing.

The growth of USA BMX has been phenomenal especially in the past several years. In fact, since 1996, USA BMX has doubled in the number of members and the number of sanctioned tracks

across North America. This growth is due to the foundation that USA BMX lay over 25 years ago.

I raced in dozens of National Championship races. I can tell you that at every championship race, you could easily bring in 1000 riders. Imagine the financial impact to the local community! Hotels, restaurants, campgrounds, etc.

“2016 BMX Grand Nationals – Battle Creek, Michigan”

I like the sounds of that!

Thank you for your time,

There are a lot of people that are in support of both Disc Golf courses for Calhoun County. I have recently started playing due to a fund raiser that was thrown for the Battle Creek Alano Club by the Disc Golf community in the area. They raised hundreds of dollars in support of the recovery center in town. My life has been touched very deeply by the Alano Club and to see the support they gave was incredible. I started playing just because of that. I would love to see our county give us another venue to build this kind of community county wide.

I would like to see a disc golf course back in at Kimball pines as well as a new course in Marshall

Public Meeting Answer Summary

Monday, October 27, 2014 & Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Question Asked at Meeting	27-Oct	28-Oct	Both	Percent
<i>What kind of trails do you prefer?</i>				
Natural	6	4	10	59%
Groomed	3	4	7	41%
<i>Do you like the glow-in-the-dark sidewalk?</i>				
Yes	3	3	6	33%
No	7	5	12	67%
<i>How would you use the water?</i>				
Boating	7	6	13	72%
Fishing	6	5	11	61%
Passive Use	8	8	16	89%
None	0	0	0	0%
<i>Which type of seating would you prefer?</i>				
Open	4	7	11	61%
Covered	6	1	7	39%
<i>Which kind of bike lane would you prefer?</i>				
Groomed	5	2	7	39%
Natural	5	6	11	61%
<i>Which playground do you prefer?</i>				
Traditional	6	3	9	53%
Contemporary	3	5	8	47%
<i>What type of dog park do you prefer?</i>				
One park for all dogs	5	6	11	69%
Separate parks for small & large dogs	5	0	5	31%
<i>Which outdoor performance area do you prefer?</i>				
Large structured	6	0	6	33%
Small open	4	8	12	67%

County to develop plan for parks system

Jennifer Bowman, 12:49 p.m. EDT October 10, 2014



(Photo: John Grap/Enquirer file)

Officials will seek public input as they begin developing a five-year master plan for Calhoun County's three parks.

The county Office of Community Development has issued a survey and scheduled two public meetings for its Parks and Recreation Commission. The data will be used to create a plan that establishes goals, objectives and an action plan for development of the county's parks system, according to a news release.

When the plan has been accepted by the state Department of Natural Resources, the county will be eligible for grant funding. Ingrid Ault, a community development educator with the county, said the public will be able to comment on a draft of the plan in December before a final version is approved by county commissioners and submitted to the state by March.

The county has three parks: Historic Bridge Park, Kimball Pines and the Ott Biological Preserve. All are located in Emmett Township, and construction of a trailway system along the Ott is ongoing.

The first meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27 at the county building, 315 W. Green St., Marshall in room 1-400. Another will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28 in Emmett Township Hall, 620 Cliff St., in the public meeting room.

Ault said the meetings will discuss the conditions of the parks and possible future projects at the facilities. She pointed to Kimball Pines, which was damaged from severe winds in 2011. Several options will be presented and attendees will be able to vote for their favorite.

"We have quite a bit of that park that we can fantasize about what we would like to see happen there," Ault said.

"There's lots of great opportunities. It all depends on what the community is interested in seeing happen."

Residents can also fill out a [survey available online \(http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e9xk103wi0tn8wzh/start\)](http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e9xk103wi0tn8wzh/start) and in hard copy at:

- Marshall District Library, 124 W. Green St. Marshall
- Marshall City Hall Welcome Center, 323 W. Michigan Ave.
- Full Blast, 35 W. Hamblin Ave.
- Willard Library, 7 W. Van Buren St.

The survey will be available until midnight Monday, Oct. 20.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Derek King said officials want to learn what the community would like to see in the current parks and whether there is interest in developing any new facilities.

"We are fortunate to have three very different parks that meet many of the needs of our community, but we recognize there is potential for new spaces and to enhance our current parks," King said in a news release. "This survey will help the commissioners build recommendations into the master plan that reflect the communities' opinions."

Call Jennifer Bowman at 966-0589. Follow her on Twitter: @jenn_bowman

Read or Share this story: <http://bcene.ws/1xtAFxS>

Calhoun County releases Parks and Recreation dates for public meetings

MARSHALL - The Calhoun County Office of Community Development announced they are seeking community input through two public meetings. The Parks and Recreation Commission, a division of the Community Development Department is developing a five year master plan and making community outreach is one step in the plan development process.

"We hope to discover the wants and needs of the community regarding our current county owned parks as well as learning about interest in developing new parks," stated the Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Derek King. "We are fortunate to have three very different parks that meet many of the needs of our community, but we recognize there is potential for new spaces and to enhance our current parks. The information gathered at these public meetings will help the Commissioners build recommendations into the master plan that reflect the communities' opinions."

The office of Community Development manages the county parks and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Community Development Educator Ingrid Ault along with support staff and the Master Plan Subcommittee are working to develop the Master Plan.

The public meetings allow for the community to learn more about our parks and to provide feedback. These meetings are scheduled in the evening from 6:30-8 p.m.

- Monday, Oct. 27 in the County Building at 315 W. Green St. in Marshall in room 1-400.

- Tuesday, Oct. 28 in Emmett Township Hall at 620 Cliff St., Battle Creek, 49014 in the public meeting room.

The data collected at these meetings and through a previously released survey will provide the foundation for the creation of the parks and recreation master plan. The plan will establish

goals, objectives, and an action plan for development of our parks system. When the plan has been accepted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources the county will be eligible to apply for grant funding.

An example of grant funding is the development of the Calhoun County Trailway under construction now. The five-mile trail is scheduled for completion in late 2014. The updated master plan will allow the county to seek future park funding through grant monies.

"The subcommittee is hopeful that we will hear from all areas of Calhoun County," Ault said. "We want to collect as much data as possible and reach a broad audience. The more we know, the better we can reflect what the community would like to see regarding their park systems."

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