

# Basis For Action



Many elements must be considered prior to the decision-making process of establishing goals, guidelines and a prioritized capital improvements schedule for the next five years. A community must not base recreation improvement and service decisions solely on the voice of a handful of residents or the needs and wants of community officials, but must also be aware of recreational trends, national standards, community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings.

This section of the Master Plan attempts to consolidate the various factors that must be acknowledged and the abundance of aspects, perceptions, and ideas that need to be filtered and categorized with the end result of producing the prioritized needs of the community. Because there are so many factors that will ultimately determine needs, caution should be taken to not analyze each piece of information individually, but integrate them all to produce the “big picture”.

## National Planning Standards

In the process of determining and prioritizing needs, it is not only important to understand the national trends in terms of participation levels and popularity, but it is also imperative to compare the provision of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to standard acreage and facility recommendations is another tool to assist in determining needs within Commerce Township. However, it should be noted that the standards were developed in the 70s, 80s and 90s and may not fully reflect today’s needs and the needs and trends of Commerce Township.

## TOP 10 REASONS WHY PARKS ARE IMPORTANT

1. Public parks provide millions of Americans with the opportunity to be physically active.
2. Parks have true economic benefits.
3. Parks provide vital green space in a fast-developing American landscape.
4. Parks preserve critical wildlife habitat.
5. Parks and recreation facilitate social interactions
6. Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress and enhance a sense of wellness.
7. Recreational programs provide organized, structured, enjoyable activities for all ages.
8. Community recreation services provide a refuge of safety for at-risk youth.
9. Therapeutic recreation is an outlet that individuals with disabilities have.
10. Public parks embody the American tradition of preserving public lands.

Source: Dolesh, Vinluan, and Phillips

## Acreage Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association provides a recommended park classification system which recognizes that open space has various functions. The system categorizes open space as either mini-parks, neighborhood parks or community parks. The desirable characteristics relative to size, function, amenities and acreage provisions per 1,000 people (where available) are identified in Table 4. The sidebar shows the classification of Commerce Township's public parks and total acreage.

According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), Commerce Township is estimated to have a population of 36,510 as of December 2012, an increase of 1.8% from its 2010 Census population. Based on an extrapolation of this growth rate, Commerce Township is estimated to have an approximate population of 38,517 by the year 2018, the planning horizon of this Five-Year Recreation Plan. Using this projected population, park acreage standards can be applied and compared to existing park acreage to determine needs in terms of property.

## Commerce Township Recreation Facilities

Community Parks	Existing Acres	NRPA Standard
Byer's Homestead Park	2.76	
Dodge Park	112.39	
Hickory Glen Park	156.54	
Long Nature Park	126.02	
Maple Glen Park	115.26	
Richardson Park/Center	78.92	
Wise Road Property	518.0	
Snowy Ridge Park	2.0	
<b>All Community Parks</b>	<b>1,111.9</b>	<b>179 - 287 ac</b>
Neighborhood Parks		
Bicentennial Park	9.73	35.9 - 71.8 ac
Mini-Parks		
Mill Race Park	8.99	8.9 - 17.9 ac

Total Park Acreage 1130.61

## Recreation Classification System (NRPA)

Park Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres Per 1,000 Population
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq ft and 1 acre	0.25 to 0.5 acres
Neighborhood Park	Remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	1.0 to 2.0 acres
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Between 30 and 50 acres.	5.0 to 8.0 acres

It should be noted that the acreage standard analysis is based only on Township-owned parks. This analysis is important given that the jurisdiction of this Recreation Plan covers Township-owned parks. However, a State Park, several public school facilities and numerous private recreation facilities are located within the Township and serve its residents. These, along with the parks and facilities located just outside Commerce Township should be taken into consideration in combination with the results of the acreage standard analysis for Township-owned parks.

#### *Community Parks*

Eight Township parks are classified as community parks, totaling 1,111.9 acres. The NRPA standard for community park land stipulates 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 people. Based on the Township's estimated 2018 population of 38,517, the NRPA standard would require between 179 and 287 acres of community parkland. Commerce Township's current park acreage exceeds this standard and thus would be considered sufficient.

#### *Neighborhood Parks*

Bicentennial Park is the Township's only neighborhood park, which totals 9.73 acres. The NRPA standard for neighborhood parkland, which stipulates a total of 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 people, was applied to the estimated 2018 population of Commerce Township population of 38,517. Based on this, Commerce Township should have between 35 and 72 acres of neighborhood parkland. The Township's current provision of 9.73 acres would be considered deficient.

#### *Mini-Parks*

Commerce Township maintains only one mini-park, Mill Race Park, which encompasses 8.99 acres. The NRPA standard for mini-park land stipulates a total of 0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 people. Based on the estimated 2018 population for Commerce Township of 38,517, the NRPA recommends between 8 and 18 acres of land. The current provision of 8.99 acres would be considered sufficient.

#### *All Park Categories*

Overall, if combining the standard acreage requirements for community parks, neighborhood parks and mini-parks, a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of park land should be available per 1,000 people. Applying the NRPA standards to the estimated 2018 population

of Commerce Township would result in the need for 224 to 377 acres of total park land. Commerce Township's current total park acreage of 1,130 acres exceeds the recommended total park acreage.

#### **Park Service Areas**

As illustrated in the previous table, each park type is given a typical service area. For community parks, the NRPA estimates a 3-mile service area radius, while neighborhood parks maintain a half-mile service area radius and mini-parks maintain a quarter-mile service area radius. The extent of the service areas within Commerce Township based on existing parks and their park classification is shown on the Park Service Area Map. This map shows the locations within the Township that are "out of range" of a certain type of park facility.

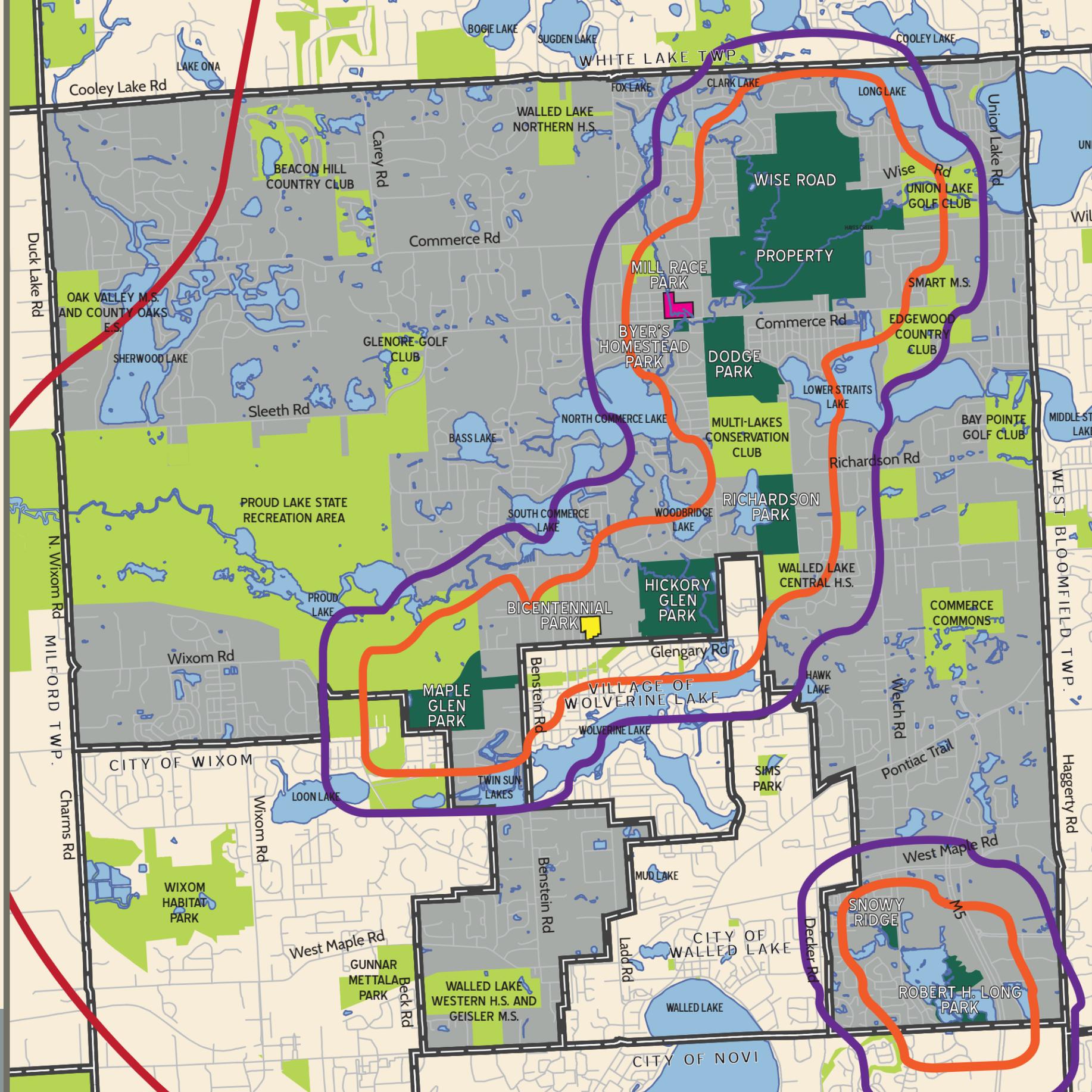
As with the acreage standard analysis, this service area analysis was conducted by only considering Township-owned parks. A variety of other school and privately-owned recreation facilities are found within Commerce Township in addition to many recreation facilities just outside of the Township.

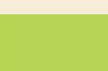
#### *Community Parks*

The Park Service Area Map shows the extent of the 3-mile community park service area radius within Commerce Township. As is illustrated, the majority of Township residents have a community park within 3 miles of their home. The exception is the northwest corner of the Township.

#### *Neighborhood Parks*

The extent of the half-mile service area radius for neighborhood parks (as well as community parks that also function as neighborhood parks to surrounding residents) is also illustrated on the map. With the exception of the central section and southeastern corner of the Township, the remainder of Commerce Township falls outside of this radius. This indicates that a significant number of Commerce Township residents are inadequately served by neighborhood parkland in terms of distance from their home. It should be noted, however, that the Planning Commission has encouraged residential developments to include private neighborhood park space.



- LEGEND**
-  Mini-Park - 1/4-Mile Service Radius
  -  Neighborhood Park - 1/2-Mile Service Radius
  -  Community Park - 3 Mile Service Radius
  -  Mini-Park
  -  Neighborhood Park
  -  Community Park
  -  Other Recreational Facility (School, Neighborhood, Private)
  -  Lake/Pond
  -  River/Stream
  -  Municipal Boundary



### Mini-Parks

Although only one mini-park is found in the Township, neighborhood and community parks also function as mini-parks for those residents within one-quarter mile of them. The extent of the quarter mile mini-park service area radius is also shown on the Map. Except for the central section and southeastern corner of the Township, the majority of the Township falls outside of the radius of a mini-park. It should be noted that in many cases, individual yards can serve as sufficient “mini-park” space.

### Facility Standards

The NRPA has also published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas, the number of facilities needed to service the population as well as the land area needed. Standards for facilities usually located within neighborhood and community parks are provided in the Table on the following page. These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify Commerce Township’s recreation needs.

The following table provides a comparison of the Township’s public park facilities against published

recreation facility standards based on an estimated 2018 population of 38,517. The public school recreational facilities within Commerce Township have also been factored into the comparison against published standards. As shown in the table, some deficiencies and surpluses can be seen.

When considering only Township-owned facilities, the most prominent deficiency occurs in the provision of tennis courts. The NRPA standard calls for at least 19 tennis courts, but currently, only 2 tennis courts are within Township-owned parks. However, the public schools within Commerce Township provide a total of 24 tennis courts, pushing the total quantity above the NRPA standard.

For Township-owned facilities, significant deficiencies also exist with regard to outdoor basketball courts and outdoor volleyball courts. The NRPA standard based on the estimated Township population calls for 8 basketball courts and 8 volleyball courts, where only 2 and 4 courts are provided, respectively. Public schools within the Township offer a total of 13 outdoor basketball courts and 1 outdoor volleyball courts. With these added to the Township-owned facilities, a surplus exists for basketball courts based on the NRPA

## Recreation Facility Deficiencies

Facility	Standard Per Population	Existing Township Facilities	Existing School Facilities	Total Existing Facilities	Need Based on Standard (a)	Surplus or Deficiency (Twp Facilities Only)	Surplus or Deficiency (Twp. and School Facilities)
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	2	13	15	8	-6	7
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	2	24	26	19	-17	7
Volleyball Court (outdoor)	1 per 5,000	4	1	5	8	-4	-3
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000	23	20	43	8	15	35
Football Field	1 per 20,000	1	6	7	2	-1	5
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	4	18	22	4	0	18
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	3	3	2	-2	1
Trails	1 per region	1	0	1	1	0	0

(a) Based on estimated 2018 population for Commerce Township of 38,517

(b) Two hoops were considered to be equal to one court

standard, but a deficiency still remains for outdoor volleyball.

When counting only Township-owned facilities, other minor deficiencies exist for football fields and swimming pools; however, these deficiencies both become surpluses when public school facilities are added.

This data can be used in conjunction with other factors contained within this plan such as results of the public opinion survey and focus group meetings. It should again also be noted that these standards are some-

what dated and may not accurately reflect the popularity or decline in popularity of recreation activity.

### Community Demographics

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population, density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and policy choices. For example, if the elementary school enrollment

## Recreation Facility Standards (NRPA)

Activity/Facility	Minimum Space Requirements	Units per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	2400 - 3036 sq ft (youth) 5040 - 7280 sq ft (high school)	1 per 5,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq ft	1 per 100,000	1/2 hr to 1 hr travel time	Climate important consideration including travel time affecting number of units.
Tennis Court	7,200 sq ft per court; 2 acres per complex	1 per 2,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in park or adjacent to school site.
Volleyball Court (outdoor)	4,000 sq ft.	1 per 5,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ballfields Baseball Little League Softball	3 to 3.85 acres 1.2 acres 1.5 to 2 acres	1 per 5,000 1 lighted per 30,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex. Softball fields may also be used for youth baseball.
Football Field	1.5 acres	1 per 20,000	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Soccer Field	1.7 to 2.1 acres	1 per 10,000	1 to 2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Swimming Pool	1.5 to 2 acres	1 per 20,000	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Located in community park or school site.
Trails	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	N/A

Source: Data from Roger Lancaster, Ed., Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, Virginia; NRPA, 1983, pgs. 60-61.

in a particular area is growing, there may be a need to plan for playgrounds and children’s programs. Conversely, if the population of the community is aging, more recreational facilities may be needed for senior citizens. This section provides a brief summary of the socioeconomic characteristics of Commerce Township that may influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

The US Census Bureau serves as the primary source of data for this demographic section. Census statistics are presented for Commerce Township as a whole, but are also presented for the twenty census block groups that comprise the Township. As a supplement to this analysis, a series of maps have been prepared to illustrate the relevant census data by block group.

**Population Trends and Projections**

Commerce Township has continued to experience steady growth in recent years, and is projected to continue to increase in population through 2030. The table below shows the historical, estimated and projected growth rates of Commerce Township between 1980 and 2030. This growth rate is an indicator that the Township will likely need to continue to improve their parks system to accommodate the growing population.

<b>Commerce Township Population Trends and Projections</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>
1980	18,789
1990	22,156
2000	30,349
2010	35,874
2012 <sup>1</sup>	36,510
2018 <sup>2</sup>	38,517
2030 <sup>3</sup>	40,989

<sup>1</sup> SEMCOG December 2012 Estimate  
<sup>2</sup> Plan horizon. Linear extrapolation based on rate of growth between 2010 and 2012  
<sup>3</sup> SEMCOG 2030 Forecast

**Population Density**

Population density characteristics can have a significant influence on recreation planning. In general, Commerce Township is a well populated suburban community, making it practical for park facilities to be located throughout the Township. However, there are certain portions of the Township that have larger or fewer numbers of residents, and at varying densities. Map 3, Population Density shows the population density (people per square mile) of the twenty-one block groups within the Township.

As is illustrated on the map, the block groups in the central portion of the Township are fairly dense, as is the area just north of Wixom. The Census Tract in the northern portion of the Township, around Fox Lake (1340-1) is the most dense with a rate of 3,144 people/square mile (1,651 people live in the census tract and the tract is 0.525 square miles in size). The centralized location of most of the Township’s parks generally supports this density pattern.

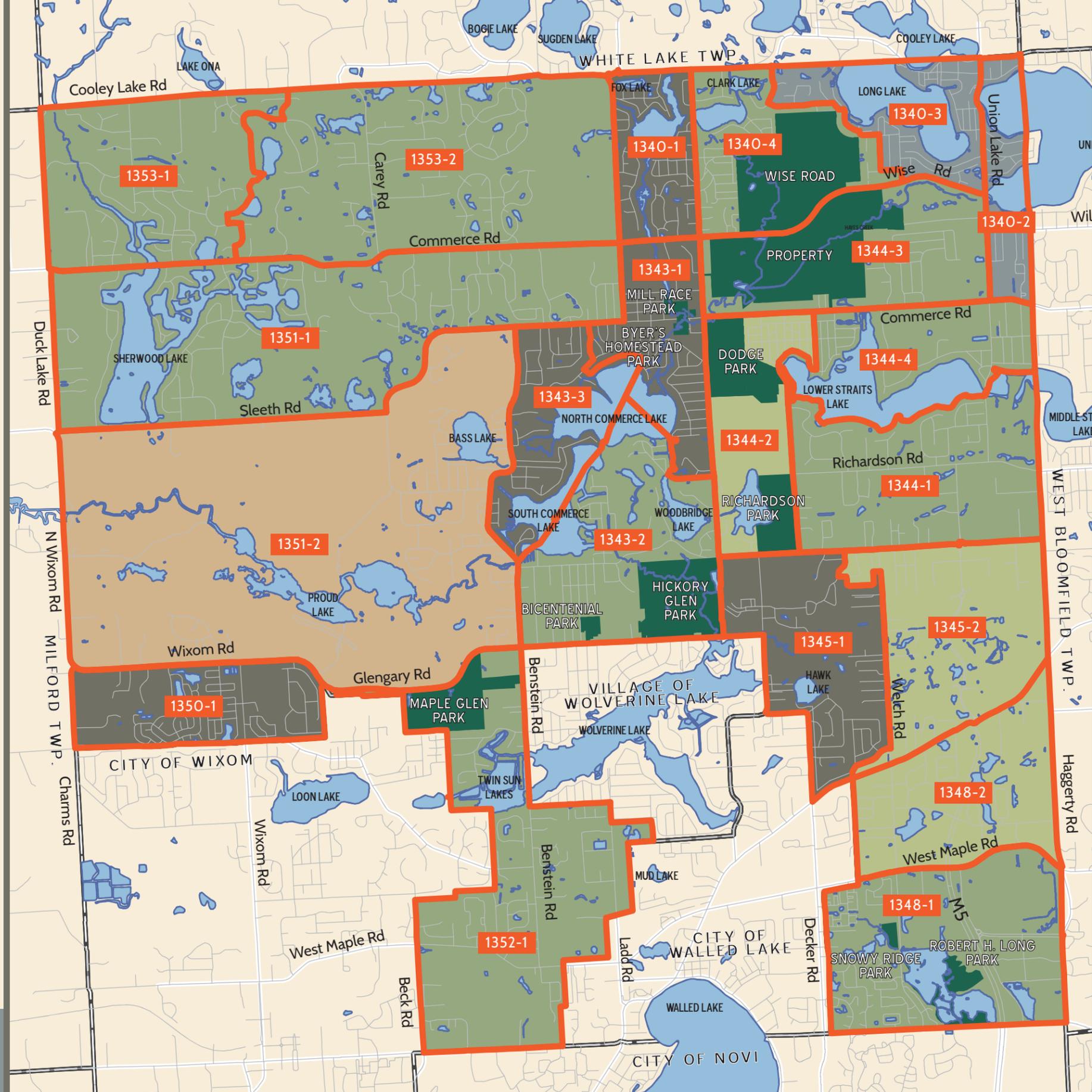
**Median Age**

Knowledge of a community’s age distribution plays a crucial role in the planning of recreation facilities and programs. As previously mentioned, whether an area is comprised of older or younger citizens will greatly influence such things as the facilities that are most desired within parks. Map 4, Median Age, shows the median age for the block groups within Commerce Township.

The youngest block groups in Commerce Township are just north of the City of Wixom, block group # 1350-1, with a median age of 33.1 and just east of Wixom, block group #1352-1, with a median age of 34.5. Comparatively older populations are found in the western and eastern portions of the Township. The block group with the highest median age (48.3) is 1348-1 in the southeast corner of the Township. Consistent with the age characteristics of the different sections of the Township, Commerce may want to consider providing recreation facilities that serve a younger or older population as necessary.

**Household Size**

A household, as defined by the US Census, is all persons who occupy the same housing unit. A housing unit can be described as a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room used as a separate living quarters.

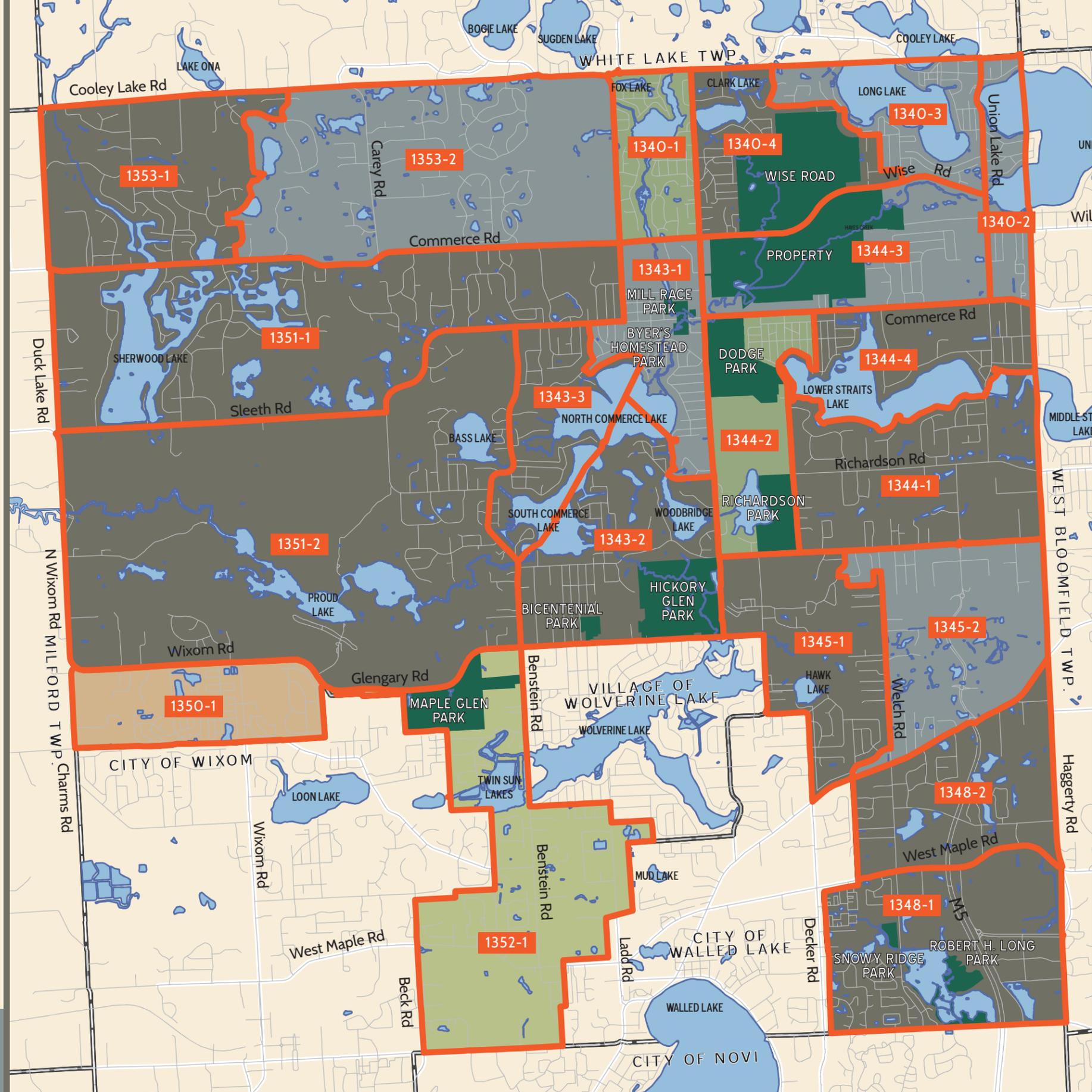


### LEGEND

POPULATION DENSITY BY BLOCK GROUP (People/Square Mile)

- Less Than 500
- 500 - 999
- 1000 - 1499
- 1500 - 1999
- 2000 or Higher

- Block Group Boundary
- 1344-1 Block Group I.D. Number
- Community Park
- Lake/Pond
- River/Stream
- Municipal Boundary



### LEGEND

**MEDIAN AGE BY BLOCK GROUP**

- Less Than 34 Years
- 34 to 35.9 Years
- 36 to 37.9 Years
- 38 to 39.9 Years
- 40 Years or Higher

- Block Group Boundary
- Block Group I.D. Number
- Community Park
- Lake/Pond
- River/Stream
- Municipal Boundary

A trend that has been occurring nationwide for some time now is the declining size of households. There are several factors that demographers have linked to the declining size. People are marrying later, postponing having children, and having fewer children. Nationwide, married couple families still comprise the largest and economically most powerful household. However, the number of single parent households continues to increase, thus adding to the decline in average household size.

Household size is an important factor when making recreation facility and program decisions. A high person per household figure can be an indication that an area is comprised of families with children and thus could justify family or youth oriented recreation facilities. Conversely, an area with a low person per household figure may require recreation facilities more favorable to singles, adults or elderly.

Map 5, Household Size illustrates the average household size by block group within Commerce Township. The largest households are found in the northwest portion of the Township as well as the area around Richardson Road. The block group with the highest persons per household is 1353-2, with 3.24 people per household. Conversely, block group 1348-1, in the southeastern portion of the Township has the lowest persons per household rate at 2.04. This directly relates to the fact that this section of the Township also has the highest median age. The higher median age and lower household size indicate that this block group features a higher concentration of elderly citizens, households without children, and/or single persons.

### Related Planning Initiatives

There are several related planning initiatives that are significant in terms of their relevance to the provision of recreation within Commerce Township. Each initiative is described in further detail.

#### SEMCOG Non-Motorized Master Plan

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is currently working with MDOT to develop a regional non-motorized master plan for the 7-county region. The project is taking inventory of all of the master plans in the region, mapping all existing and proposed on-road and off-road bicycle facilities, and conducting a gap analysis and conceptual plans for the

most significant regional gaps in the network. The final document will become part of SEMCOG's Regional Transportation Plan. The Commerce-Walled Lake-Wixom Trail (former rail corridor) is recognized as a gap remaining in the regional network.

#### Oakland County Green Infrastructure Visioning

Oakland County's Green Infrastructure Visioning project focuses on identifying an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions, guides sustainable development, and provides associated economic quality of life benefits to our communities. Using the natural areas information developed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) as a starting point for analysis, the Oakland County Planning staff worked with local communities to identify and map local green infrastructure elements. This process was completed in Commerce Township and resulted in the creation of a Green Infrastructure Vision (Map 6). With a vision in place, local communities are encouraged to use their maps to establish recommendations for best land management practices, rank conservation priorities and identify funding needs, and address green infrastructure goals through local plans and ordinances.

The green infrastructure vision for Commerce Township should serve as a foundation for the evaluation of lands for acquisition by the Township for future parks or conservation purposes.

#### Oakland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2013-2017

The County complete their most recent 5-year Master Plan in 2013.

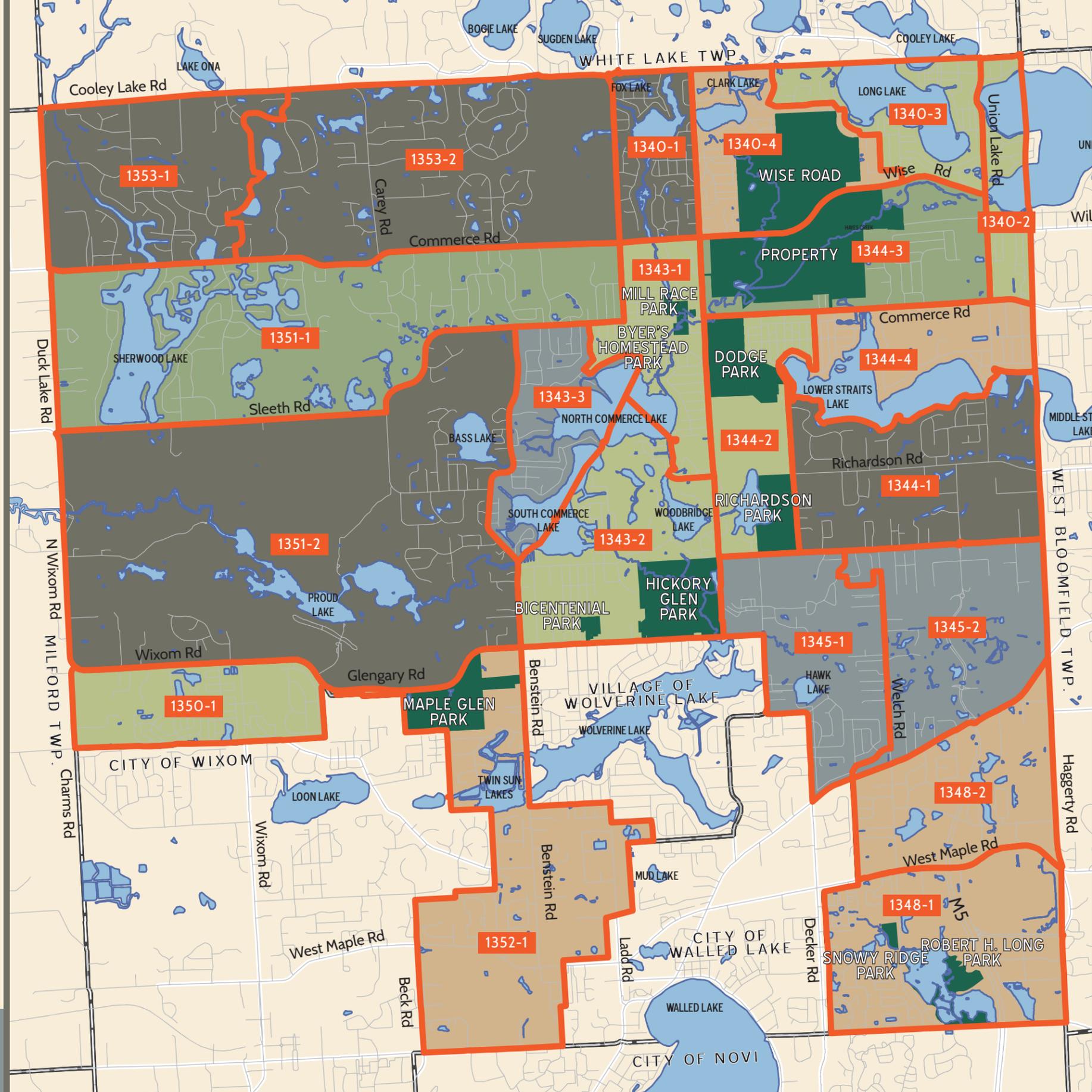
The Plan is a guide for staff and decision makers as they provide park and recreation services to the residents of Oakland County and strive to improve the social, environmental and fiscal sustainability of the parks system. The Master Plan details priorities related to Land and Natural Resource



Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2013-2017

February 6, 2013





### LEGEND

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY BLOCK GROUP**

- Less Than 2.6
- 2.60 - 2.69
- 2.70 - 2.79
- 2.80 - 2.89
- 2.90 or Higher

- Block Group Boundary
- 1344-1 Block Group I.D. Number
- Community Park
- Lake/Pond
- River/Stream
- Municipal Boundary



Management, Recreation Facilities, recreation programs and services, and organizational sustainability.

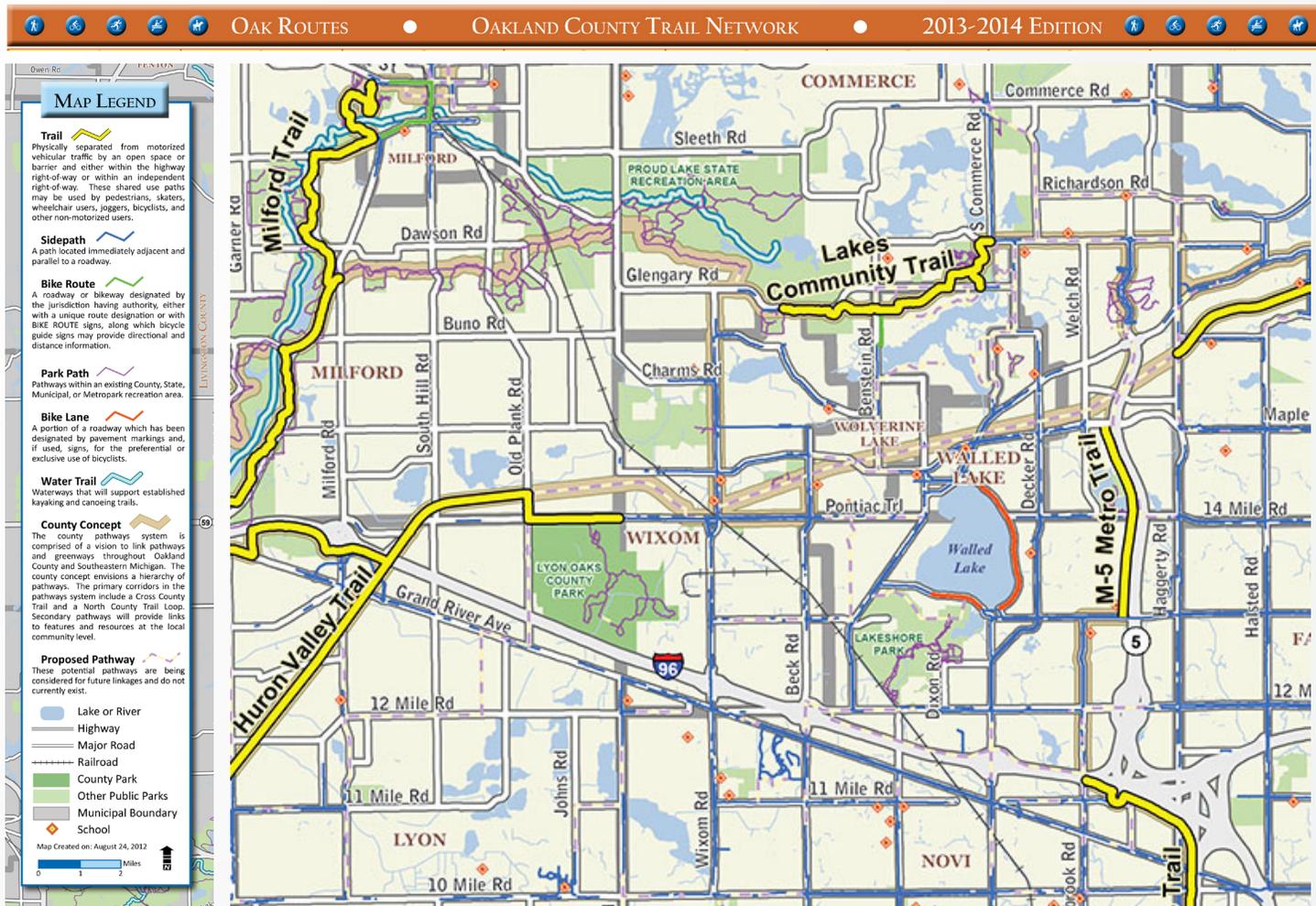
### Oakland County Trails Master Plan

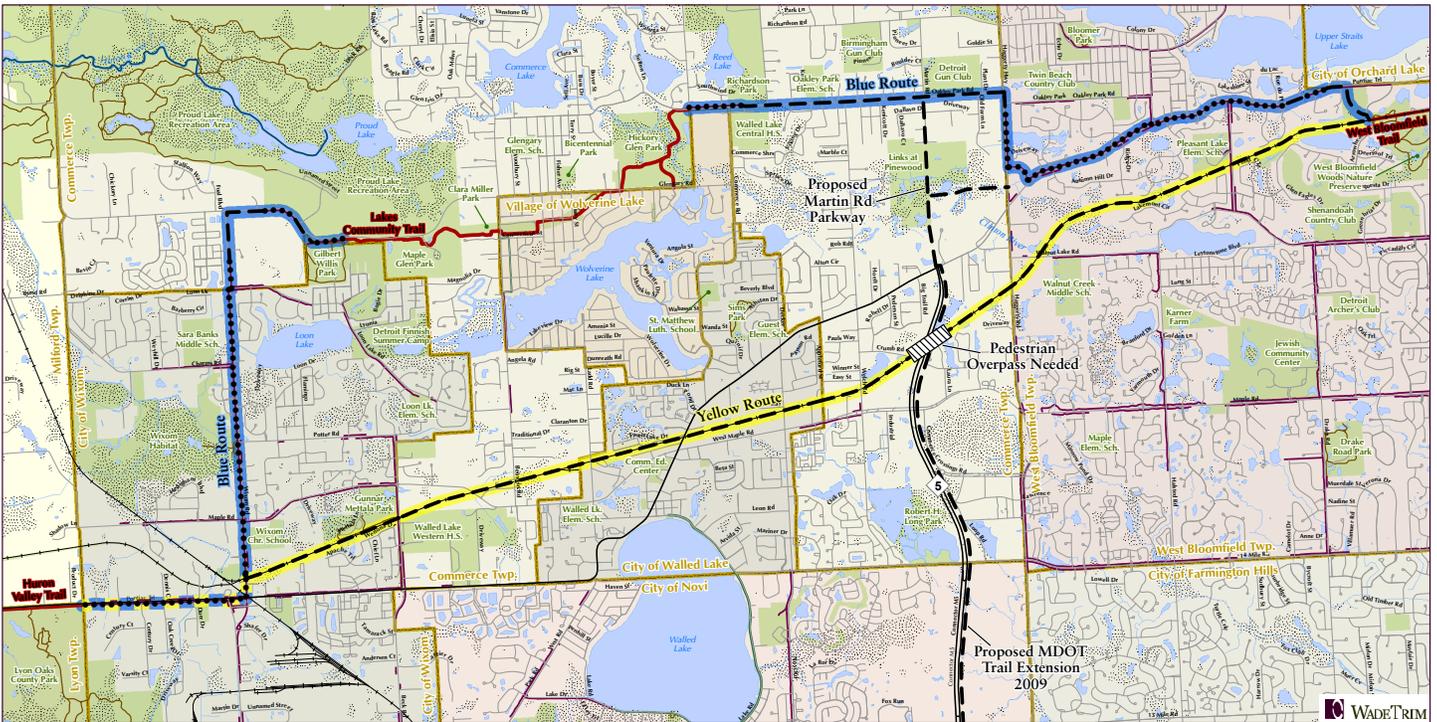
The Oakland County Trails Master Plan (2008) was developed to provide a framework for creating a connected system of greenways and trails throughout Oakland County. This non-motorized system is envisioned to serve a diverse range of users, providing safe and well-maintained linkages to important natural, cultural and civic destinations and other points of interest within and outside of the county.

The development of the Trails Master Plan was overseen by the Oakland Trails Advisory Council, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services. These agencies serve in a leadership role in the development of a connected non-mo-

torized system, but rely on the efforts of numerous local municipalities, trail commissions, friends groups and property owners for trail implementation. As of May 2012, 121 miles of completed trails stretch across Oakland County, with 24 miles in the planning, design and development stage and another 123 miles of trails under consideration.

The current Oak Routes map, which illustrates existing and proposed trail networks is included below and is zoomed into the area surrounding Commerce Township. An important focus of the Oakland County Trails Master Plan was the bridging of several primary "gaps," or critical missing links that exist in the major trail system. One such gap was identified in the Commerce Township area, where the Lakes Community Trail, Huron Valley Trail and West Bloomfield Trail converge toward each other but do not connect. Two potential connector routes, a "Blue Route" and a "Yellow Route," were identified and assessed based on their opportunities and constraints. In the end, both





**MAP 3** HURON VALLEY/LAKES COMMUNITY/WEST BLOOMFIELD TRAILS GAP ANALYSIS

September 2008

Legend

<b>Proposed Trail Routes:</b>	<b>Existing Trails:</b>	<b>Water Bodies</b>
Yellow Route	Trail	Water Features
Blue Route	Safety/Side Path	Wetlands
New Path Required	Bike Lane	Recreation Land/Schools
Utilize Existing Path	Water Trail	Municipal Boundaries
	Park Path	

0 500 1000 2000 3000 Feet

Sources: TeleAtlas Road Data, 2006; Trail Network: Oakland County GIS, 2008; Wetlands: National Wetlands Inventory; Recreation Land: Oakland County GIS, 2008

AKLAND COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN

routes were identified as options and recommendations for implementation of the connector routes were identified. The trail gap and potential connector routes are illustrated on the Huron Valley/Lakes Community/ West Bloomfield Trail Gap Analysis Map. Since the Oakland County Trails Master Plan was completed, the Commerce-Wixom-Walled Lake Trails Council received DNR Trust Fund assistance to move forward with the purchase of the abandoned rail corridor that will connect the West Bloomfield Trail to the Huron Valley Trail. The development of the corridor as a non-motorized trail continues to be a high priority.

**Commerce Township Non-Motorized Network Map**  
To complement the SEMCOG Regional Plan, the Oakland County Trails Plan and the priorities of the Township, Commerce Township developed the Non-Motorized Network Map on the adjacent page. The map illustrates existing and proposed locations for non-motorized connections.

**Wise Rd Ecological Assessment Study**  
In December 2006, Insight Environmental Services and Klatt Environmental Associates completed

an Ecological Assessment for the Wise Road Property. The report was a thorough analysis of site history, existing conditions, floristic quality assessment, plant communities, preliminary wildlife assessment, resources and opportunities and recommendations. The report goes into great detail about the environmental conditions of the property, including marsh areas, floodplain, scrub-shrub areas, pine plantings, etc. The findings of this study assisted in the decision-making and agreements related to Commerce Township purchasing the property from the MDNR. This report should be referenced when developing a master plan for the site and/or considering any improvements.

**ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
MDNR PROPERTY - WISE ROAD  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE  
AKLAND COUNTY  
MICHIGAN**

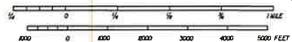
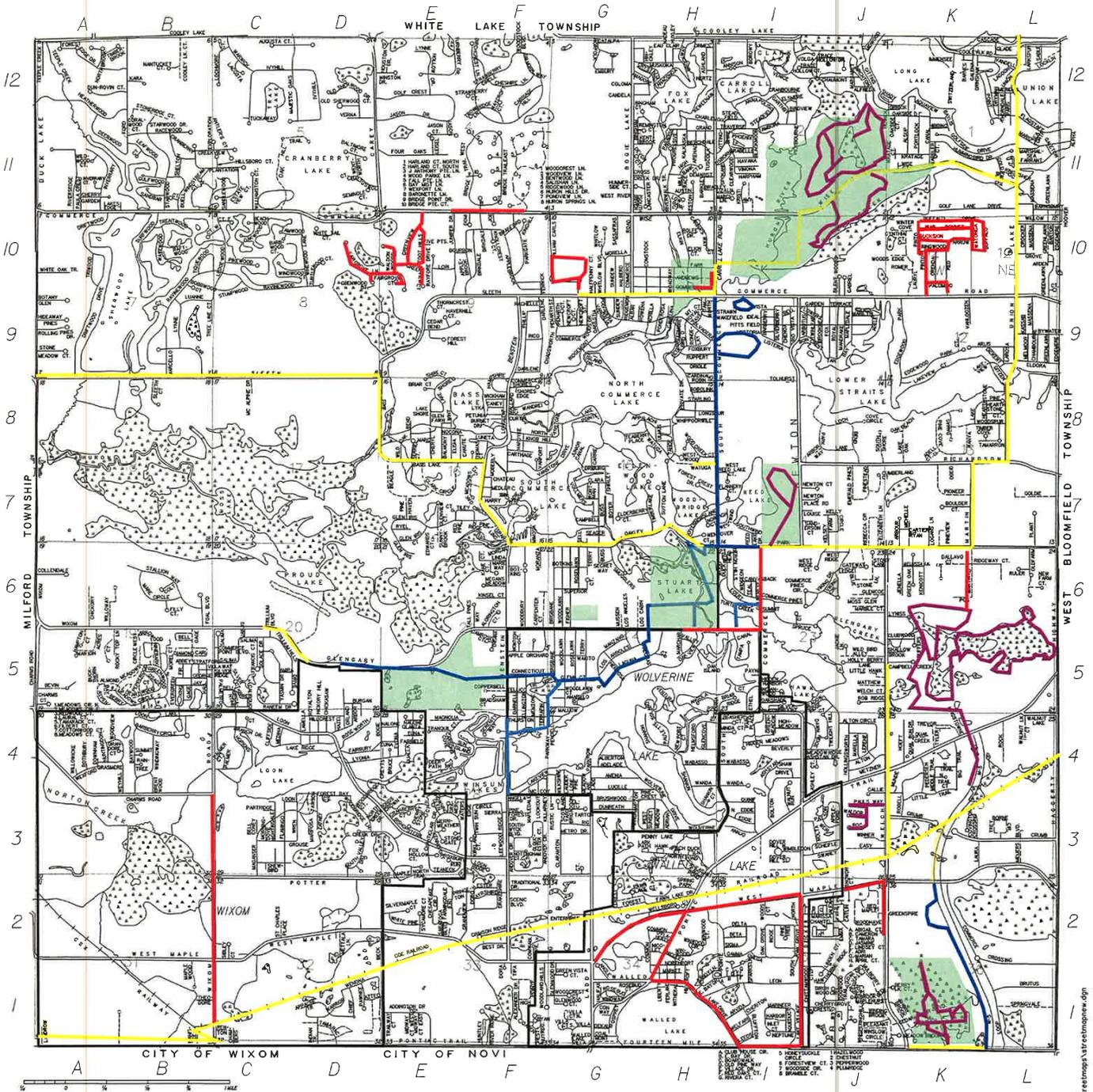
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# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE

## OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN



**LEGEND**  
 MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY LINES  
 PRIMARY ROADS & HIGHWAYS  
 LOCAL & SECONDARY ROADS  
 PRIVATE ROADS

— PROPOSED PATHWAY  
— CONCRETE PATHWAY  
— EXISTING ASPHALT PATHWAY  
— GRAVEL PATHWAY

DATE	DESCRIPTION
11/15/11	INITIAL DESIGN
12/15/11	REVISIONS
01/15/12	REVISIONS
02/15/12	REVISIONS
03/15/12	REVISIONS
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COMMERCE TOWNSHIP PLANNING DEPARTMENT

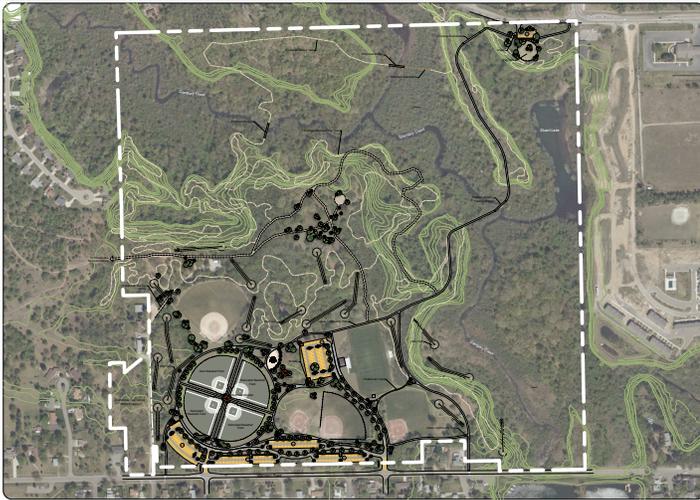
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### Byers Homestead Report (Oakland County)

In 2009, Oakland County staff completed an assessment of the historic Byers Homestead property. The report includes a detailed analysis of existing conditions and extensive recommendations for restoration and preservation. The report includes a list of 20 priorities and cost projections for each. The report should be used and referred to when considering any modifications at the Byers property.

### Hickory Glen Master Plan

A Master Plan was completed for Hickory Glen Park in 2011. In developing the long-term vision for the park, a site analysis was completed to understand existing conditions, challenges and opportunities. A public workshop was held to gather input related to needs and priorities for the park. The process resulted in the Hickory Glen Master Plan (full size included in the Inventory section of this document). The long-term vision calls for a phased approach in implementing improvements including elements such as two entries off of Glengary, improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation, improved arrangement of ball fields, addition of a disc golf course, and related amenities such as pavilions, play equipment, wayfinding, etc.



Commerce Township  
**Hickory Glen Park**  
Conceptual Park Plan

### Maple Glen Master Plan

A Master Plan was completed for Maple Glen Park in 2011. In developing the long-term vision for the park, a site analysis was completed to understand existing conditions, challenges and opportunities. A public workshop was held to gather input related to needs and priorities for the park. The process resulted in the Maple Glen Master Plan (full size included in the In-

ventory section of this document). The long-term vision calls for a phased approach in implementing the desired improvements including elements such as two entries off of Glengary Road, improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation, a soccer field complex and related amenities including pavilions, play equipment and wayfinding signage.



Commerce Township  
**Maple Glen Park**  
Conceptual Park Plan

### Forestry Management Plans

In conjunction with the development of this 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Township developed Forestry Management Plans (Mike's Tree Surgeon's, Inc.: August 2013) for 4 of the Township's most heavily wooded parks including:

- Dodge V Park
- Richardson Park
- Hickory Glen Park
- Robert H. Long Park

The Management Plans include an analysis of the primary overstory species diversity, forest health, quality and appearance of each stand, major hazardous or structurally defective trees, observations related to health and preservation, as well as general tree maintenance objectives and recommended plantings list for each of the 4 parks. The results of the Management Plans indicated that Hickory Glen Park and Dodge V Park are the highest priorities relative to tree care needs of the 4 sites. The results of the Forestry Management Plans was presented to the Committee at their July 2013 meeting. The plan priorities have been incorporated into the Action Program of this Master Plan.

## Participation Data

Another tool used by the Township when considering improvements to parks and recreation are the trends occurring locally in terms of participation. Commerce has a number of leagues that function within the Township and surrounding areas and utilize Township facilities. Participation data was gathered from each of the leagues to get a better understanding of size and potential needs.

### Participation Data and Trends

League	2011	2012	2013
Lakes Athletic Assoc.	694	679	654
Commerce Little League			700
Inter-Lakes Girls Softball	455	383	405
CW3 Soccer Association	980	1072	1029
Lakes Area Hawks Youth Football Cheerleading Gladiators Lacrosse			

## Stakeholder Input

During the development of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Township gathered stakeholder input via 3 primary methods: focus group sessions, a parks and recreation opinion survey, and the DNR required public hearing. Each of these resulted in a significant amount of input that was relied upon heavily in order to develop the goals, objectives and action program for the next 5 years. A more detailed description of the input methods and results is included below and in the Appendix of this report.

### Focus Groups

Commerce Township held several focus group meetings with various user groups and stakeholders to assist in identifying specific needs, desires and concerns related to Recreation over the next 5 years. In total, four user groups participated in hour-long sessions during the afternoon and evening of June 11, 2013 at the Richardson Center.

The focus groups included:

- Township Officials and Staff (6 attendees)
- Friends of Byers (4 attendees plus written priorities)
- Parks Committee Members (7 attendees)
- User Group/League Representatives (7 attendees representing Commerce Little League, CW3, Lakes, and Motor City Mountain Bike Association)

By the end of the focus group sessions, the Parks and Recreation Committee had a detailed listing of parks and recreation needs from the groups. With an extensive listing of needs identified, the Committee utilized the opinion survey to validate the results of the focus group meetings and formulate priorities. The full results of the focus group meetings are presented in the Appendix of this Master Plan.

### Online Survey

The Commerce Township parks and recreation survey was an online poll conducted July 10, 2013 through August 20, 2013. The purpose of the survey was to obtain additional input related to the current use, potential future needs, and support for the parks and recreation system in the Township. The survey was based on the 2008 version in order to be able to compare results over time. The availability of the survey was published on the Township website, distributed via email, posted to the Library Facebook page, and flyer's were hung at the Richardson Center, Township Hall and Library. In total, 242 people participated in the survey. A summary of the results is presented here. A detailed summary of the results of the online survey is provided in Appendix A.

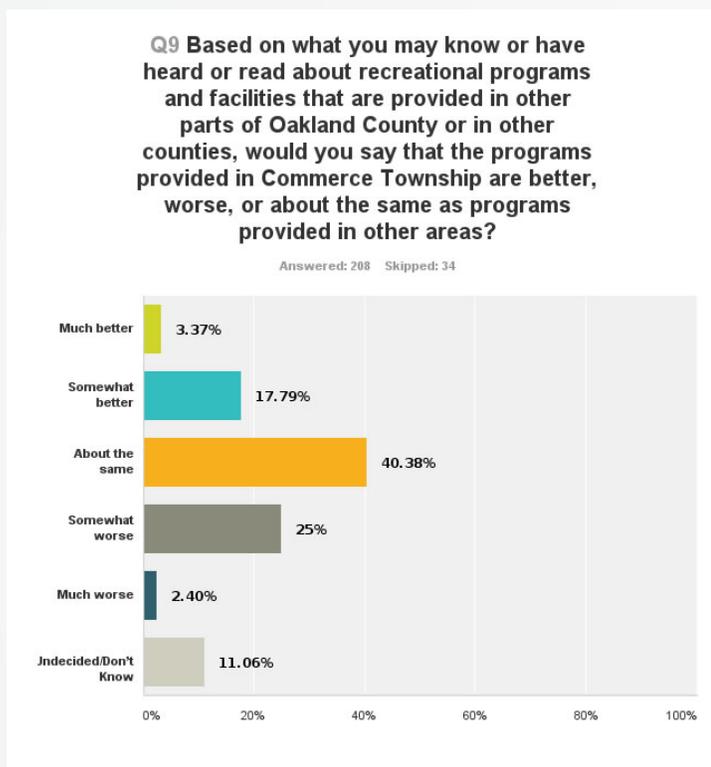
When asked about the number of recreational programs, activities and facilities provided in Commerce Township,

65.8 percent (83% in 2008) of respondents felt that more were needed. When asked about the amount of

parkland in the Township, 53.1 percent (74% in 2008) of respondents felt that more parkland was needed.

When asked about the current funding level for recreational programs, activities and facilities, 52.5 percent (56% in 2008) of participants felt that more funding was needed.

One survey question was designed to gauge the current participation level and interest for a variety of physical recreational activities. In terms of current participation, the following were the top 5 physical activities. Where it fell in the 2008 survey is listed in parenthesis.



1. 76.8% Walking or Hiking (79% in 2008)
2. 66.7% Bicycling (75% in 2008)
3. 65.2% Picnicking (65% in 2008)
4. 53.7% Baseball (44% in 2008)
5. 48.5% Fishing (54% in 2008)

The top 5 physical activities that respondents were interested in participating in were:

1. 34.4% Tennis (33% in 2008)
2. 34.2% Ice Skating (36% in 2008)
3. 32.7% Cross Country Skiing (39% in 2008)
4. 31.8% Disc Golf (31% in 2008)
5. 30.2% Volleyball (38% in 2008)

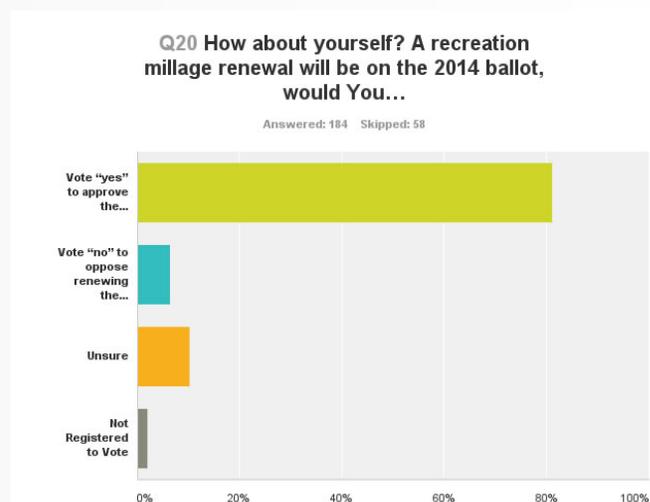
For non-sport recreational activities, the largest percentage of respondents currently participate in:

1. 33.5% Concerts (28% in 2008)
2. 24.7% Fitness Classes (32% in 2008)
3. 24% Youth Camps (28% in 2008)

The survey offered a listing of various types of recreation facilities and prompted respondents to indicate whether more facilities should be provided or if enough are currently available. The top 5 facilities that respondents indicated more were needed were:

1. 73% Bike Paths (1st in 2008)
2. 70.1% Hike/Walk Trails (4th in 2008)
3. 63.6% Spray Park (9th in 2008)
4. 62.5% Park Pavilions (7th in 2008)
5. 60.5% Outdoor Pool (8th in 2008)

When respondents were asked about their willingness to renew the park millage in 2014, 81% indicated they would vote yes.



**Public Hearing**

The draft plan was made available for public review on November \_\_\_\_, 2013. A public hearing was held in front of the Parks and Recreation Committee on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

<to be completed>

# Action Program



The Action Program details the direction that the Township would like to take over the next five years in order to maintain, improve, and expand parks and recreation opportunities within the community.

As was described in the Basis For Action section, a community must base recreation improvement and service decisions on a variety of information. These include items such as recreational trends, national standards, existing facilities, community opinion, needs identified and observed by staff and committee members, as well as demographic trends, the capability of the land and its surroundings, and availability of funding sources.

The Action Program includes priority goals and related guidelines and tasks as well as a table summarizing priority capital improvements for the next five years and beyond.

## Goals, Guidelines and Tasks

Goals, guidelines and tasks were developed to assist in providing direction to Township staff, Board, and Committee. Goals are long-term ideals or end products that are desired. Guidelines and more detailed Tasks have been developed to outline more specific actions that will assist in meeting the goal. The goals, guidelines and tasks are intended to be as important as the capital improvement priorities. They are listed in no particular order of importance or priority.

**GUIDELINE**

- 1 Continue discussions related to the development of a Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Department with adequate maintenance, enforcement and programming staff and budget.
- 2 Include long-term maintenance funding requirements when implementing new or expanded facilities and programs.
- 3 Actively manage invasive species in order to protect Township properties.
- 4 Utilize low-maintenance, vandal-proof, durable, sustainable, environmentally friendly materials and native landscaping where ever possible.
- 5 Continue efforts to increase security and visibility.
- 6 Engage volunteers, organizations and athletic organizations to assist with park cleanup and maintenance activities.
- 7 Utilize the Forestry Management Plans for Dodge, Richardson, Hickory and Robert Long Parks to begin to address the health of the tree canopy and safety of park users.
- 8 Improve communication and awareness of Commerce Township parks, facilities, programs and leagues.
- 9 Assign each Park Committee member as a "Keeper of the Goal" in order to maintain momentum and measure progress.

**TASK**

- 1.1 Develop plan to determine needs, feasibility and cost and recommendations for organizational structure and staffing levels (i.e. seasonal staff? Contracted staff? Special events/volunteer coordinator?)
- 1.2 Include research on structure, budgets, staff levels of other nearby Recreation Departments.
- 2.1 Develop a cost analysis template to use in order to understand the long-term costs of programs, events, and facilities.
- 2.2 Develop a maintenance manual to establish consistent guidelines, frequency, methods, etc.
- 3.1 Educate, train and equip Township staff to identify and manage invasive species.
- 3.2 Contract invasive species management to a qualified firm.
- 4.1 Consider implementing poured rubber surfacing at playgrounds.
- 4.2 Consider the installation of cement pads under bleachers, benches and porta johns.
- 5.1 Work on clearing low level brush along major road rights-of-way to provide more open vistas to and from the park properties.
- 5.2 Coordinate with police/sheriff to initiate an increased presence in and around the parks.
- 5.3 Consider security-level lighting in appropriate locations to increase visibility and deter vandalism.
- 5.4 Consider installing gates at park entries to be closed in evenings.
- 6.1 Schedule a Spring and Fall Clean Up Day and enlist groups such as WWAM, leagues, Multi Lakes, Huron Valley Hospital, Scouting Organizations, Masonic Lodge, Home Depot, local businesses, etc.
- 6.2 Improve record keeping, requests for records and finances, and tracking of volunteer hours.
- 6.3 Implement nomination and award guidelines for Annual Parks and Recreation Award.
- 7.1 Establish an annual budget item for tree maintenance activities and professional oversight as well as a manner to measure success and progress.
- 7.2 Complete additional Forestry Management Plans for other park properties with emphasis on Mill Race Park.
- 8.1 Provide regular updates and information about parks and recreation on the Township e-newsletter.
- 8.2 Improve website to include inventory map showing location of parks, trail network map, photos, list of facilities and park rules
- 8.3 Provide regular contributions to the Commerce Township Facebook page
- 8.4 Continue to utilize M-5 electronic sign for announcements
- 8.5 Install signs about projects, improvements and acquisitions that are utilizing millage funds
- 8.6 Increase email distribution list
- 8.7 Include regular articles and announcements in local newspapers  
Coordinate with school district, chamber of commerce, realtors, athletic leagues, DDA, voter registration packets, etc. to distribute parks and recreation information and "cross advertise" services and offerings.
- 8.8 registration packets, etc. to distribute parks and recreation information and "cross advertise" services and offerings.
- 9.1 Report back at Parks Committee meetings on a quarterly basis.

**ORGANIZATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GOAL**

**Strive to ensure efficient, high-quality operation and maintenance of public park facilities and properties within the Township.**

GUIDELINE	TASK
<p>Continue to coordinate with organizations seeking volunteer opportunities such as the athletic organizations, Scouting Organizations, Motor City Mountain Bike Association, Masonic Lodge, and the Multi-Lakes Conservation Assoc., Home Depot, local businesses, etc.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Assign a Parks Committee member as a liaison to each league/group.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Review and update partnership agreements.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Develop policies and procedures for volunteers and organizations related to process, maintenance activities, use of equipment, safety policies, scheduling, etc.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Review current organizations schedules for practices, games, and use of facilities to better understand and manage field usage.</p>
<p>Engage the school districts, surrounding local governments, the MDNR, HRWC and Oakland County Parks to seek opportunities to share resources and information and partner on projects.</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Coordinate with the Huron River Watershed Council, MDNR and Friends of Byers to seek opportunities to extend the Huron River Water Trail to Byers Park.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Ensure partner participation in the development of a Master Plan for the Wise Rd property.</p>
<p>Reach out to the Huron Valley Hospital and medical providers to develop partnerships/programs related to health, the outdoors, staying active, etc.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	
<p>Stay engaged with the Township, Township Library, DDA, Police/Sheriff and Trailways Council in order to seek opportunities for partnerships, cross advertising, and sharing resources and information.</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Hold 1 Joint Meeting/Year to discuss projects, priorities and issues.</p>
<p>Partner with the Commerce Township Library, Historical Society and Historical Study Committee to transfer historical recreation-related records into electronic formats to ensure survival and make more available to the public.</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	
<p>Utilize the passion, knowledge and resources in the community to ensure protection and restoration of Historic Sites.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>6.1</b> Reference the report completed by Oakland County in 2009 when moving forward with any improvements and/or restoration activities at Byers Park.</p> <p><b>6.2</b> Engage the Park Committee and Friends of Byers when development is proposed in proximity to Byers Park to ensure consideration of the historical context and setting.</p> <p><b>6.3</b> Commit resources for improvements at Mill Race including preservation and interpretation of the historic elements of the property.</p>

**PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION GOAL**

**Partner and collaborate with other entities, agencies and organizations in order to provide residents with comprehensive, high-quality programs and facilities in a cost effective and efficient manner.**

**GUIDELINE**

Develop a Concept Master Plan for parks to establish a long-term vision for the park, understand the capacity of the land, ensure protection of environmental resources, engage the community, and implement improvements in a coordinated manner.

**1**

Proceed with implementing improvements at Parks that have an established long-term Concept Plan, as applicable considering current needs.

**2**

Implement aesthetic, safety and wayfinding improvements at the parks.

**3**

Update, replace and provide improved amenities at the Township Parks.

**4**

Strive for Universal Accessibility at all Township Parks.

**5**

Continue to seek opportunities to address practice and game field shortages for all sports.

**6**

Seek opportunities to incorporate green space and amenities in addition to Township Parks.

**7**

Promote and protect the environmental and historical resources within the community.

**8**

Seek opportunities to acquire land that: protects environmental features, provides public waterfront access, conserves open space, is adjacent to or near existing parks, provides linkages between destinations, provides locations for parks in currently underserved areas.

**9**

**FACILITY DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION GOAL**

**Provide residents with high quality, diverse recreation opportunities by renovating and/or improving existing facilities, and where possible and appropriate, expanding parks and recreation offerings.**

**TASK**

**1.1** Establish a budget to complete the development of a Concept Master Plan for the Wise Road property including stakeholder engagement.

**1.2** Establish a budget to complete the development of a Concept Master Plan for Bicentennial Park including stakeholder engagement. Consider pickleball, community gardens, play equipment, soccer, baseball, etc.

**1.3** Update Concept Master Plan for Robert H. Long Park.

**1.4** Update Concept Master Plan for Byers/Mill Race properties.

**2.1** Proceed with improvements at Maple Glen Park as envisioned in the Concept Plan.

**2.2** Proceed with improvements at Hickory Glen Park as envisioned in the Concept Plan.

**2.3** Proceed with improvements at Dodge V Park as envisioned in the Concept Plan.

**2.4** Proceed with recommendations outlined in Oakland County 2009 Report on Byers Park.

**3.1** Design and install coordinated park signage and landscaping treatments for each park to improve entrances.

**3.2** Remove low brush at parks along major thoroughfares to increase site lines.

**3.3** Consider security lighting installations where appropriate.

**3.4** Resolve parking and ingress/egress issues at Maple Glen and Hickory Glen Parks.

**4.1** Provide accessible, permanent restroom facilities at heavily used and programmed parks.

**4.2** As needed, replace aging play equipment at Township Parks.

**4.3** Provide fresh water for drinking and irrigation at all Parks.

**4.4** Consider incorporating an amphitheater on Township property for events/concerts.

**5.1** All improvements designed on Township properties should consider universal accessibility principles and practices.

**7.1** Stay engaged with the Township Board and DDA in discussions regarding Commerce Commons to incorporate green space, trails and public gathering space.

**7.2** Incorporate park/rec amenities into private developments to provide conservation areas, mini parks, trail heads, connections to the trail network, etc.

**8.1** Incorporate nature trails in appropriate Township Parks and include wayfinding and interpretive signage.

**8.2** Incorporate signage that interprets the history of the park (i.e. Nike site, CCC plantings, Mill Race, Byers, etc.)

**8.3** Utilize environmentally-friendly, "green" design and construction standards, including Low Impact Development (LID) techniques and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) practices, and stormwater best management practices when making improvements to Township Parks.

**PROGRAMS GOAL**

**In conjunction with other parks and recreation providers, make available high quality, comprehensive, and diverse recreation programs and events that meet the needs of the residents.**

GUIDELINE	TASK
<p>1 Increase opportunities for outdoor education.</p>	<p>1.1 Further develop nature trails within the parks and include trail maps, wayfinding and interpretive signage.                      1.2 Consider installation of community gardens within a Township Park.                      1.3 Determine interest for running an astronomy program on Township property.</p>
<p>2 Increase the number of events at Township Parks.</p>	<p>2.1 Continue to offer concerts in the park and movie in the park at Dodge Park V. Utilize local talent as much as possible for concerts.                      Add an additional event in a Township Park (i.e. craft show, antique show, food/music festival, Pioneer Days, Farmers Market, Encampment event, etc)                      2.2 Establish a large area for events/festivals, etc. that won't damage athletic fields.                      2.4 Evaluate potential of adding "Camp Out" night in conjunction with movie or concert in the park.</p>
<p>3 Increase programs and activities focused on the history of Commerce Township.</p>	<p>3.1 Engage community groups to assist in offering additional programs and events.                      3.2 Incorporate signage at Township property that interprets the history of the parks.                      3.3 Pursue historical signs for Historic Sites in the Township.                      3.4 Partner to develop a cooperative web program with the Library and Historical Society to make history of Township and park properties more accessible.</p>
<p>4 Investigate interest in establishing an Arts Program in Commerce Township.</p>	<p>4.1 Reach out to the Huron Valley Arts Council for partnership opportunities and assistance with incorporating more arts programs/events/activities in the community and parks.                      4.2 Investigate opportunities for art displays at Township facilities.</p>
<p>5 Increase the number of seniors served by the senior lunch program.</p>	<p>5.1 Seek additional funds to increase the numbers of homebound residents served.</p>
<p>6 Support awareness and marketing campaigns of the various athletic leagues and recreation-based programs organized and offered within the Township.</p>	<p>6.1 Seek articles, art and photos from Leagues for newsletters, Facebook and website.                      6.2 Encourage groups to submit information for the electronic M-5 sign.</p>
<p>7 Continue open communication with the Gladiators Lacrosse program to understand status, size and needs.</p>	

**GUIDELINE**

**TASK**

<p><b>1</b> Continue to implement Safety Paths along major corridors within the Township.</p>	<p>Utilize the Township Non-Motorized System Map to delineate priorities with a focus on those that connect users to civic centers, parks, neighborhoods and retail areas.</p> <p>Work with Township Planning Commission and staff to investigate the creation of a program where developers would contribute to a Non-Motorized Path Fund that the Township could use to design and build priority segments.</p> <p>Consider and investigate a special millage for design, construction and maintenance of safety paths and trails.</p>
<p><b>2</b> Increase connectivity to Proud Lake State Park.</p>	<p>Work with Oakland County and the MDNR to provide improved and additional non-motorized access to and from Proud Lake, the adjacent neighborhoods and the Multi-Lakes Trail system.</p>
<p><b>3</b> Support and encourage the development of the regional non-motorized trail network within the Township and surrounding communities.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Support the Trailway Councils effort to construct a non-motorized trail and associated amenities within the former rail corridor to connect the West Bloomfield Trail to the Huron Valley Trail.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Support MDOT's efforts to construct a non-motorized bridge over M-5 to provide a connection between the West Bloomfield Trail and the Commerce-Walled Lake-Wixom Trail.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Evaluate the Multi-Lakes Trail for overall condition, maintenance needs, and opportunities to extend and provide additional connections.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Add benches with emergency markers as well as wayfinding signage along the Multi-Lakes Community Trail and all Township Trails.</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Provide a non-motorized connection between the M-5 Trail and Robert H. Long Nature Park and developing the parking area into a "trailhead" with wayfinding and amenities.</p>
<p><b>4</b> Improve non-motorized conditions in the Township.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Work with the Township to Develop a Non-Motorized Master Plan to address pedestrian and non-motorized needs, connections, priorities, design solutions, phasing plan and cost estimate.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Coordinate with the Road Commission for Oakland County to improve non-motorized access and use along County roads (i.e. widen paved shoulders, improved pedestrian crossings, etc.)</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Develop a Walkability Plan for the Commerce Village Area in order to improve pedestrian access, safety, circulation and accommodations. Include connections to park properties, hospitals, retail and residential areas.</p>
<p><b>5</b> Continue to focus on improving barrier-free and universal accessibility at all Township facilities and parks including access to picnic tables, grills, paths, playing fields, parking areas, restrooms, play equipment, etc.</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> All improvements designed on Township properties should consider universal accessibility principles and practices.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Encourage and support staff to keep apprised of current state and federal recreation guidelines and standards.</p>

**ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY GOAL**  
**Support and encourage accessibility to and within Township parks, as well as development of the local and regional non-motorized systems.**

FUNDING GOAL	GUIDELINE	TASK
<p><b>Continue the commitment to fiscal responsibility and the efficient management and operation of parks, recreation and senior services through a diversified funding stream.</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> Develop an annual budget that balances needs with the fiscal constraints of the Township.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Schedule a Parks Committee budget planning meeting in July/August to discuss and document priorities, reference Master Plan as foundation.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Submit results of budget planning meeting to Township Finance Department.</p>
	<p><b>2</b> Seek alternative and creative funding sources to assist in implementing goals, guidelines, tasks and capital improvements.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Research and stay aware of grant opportunities</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Consistently seek partnerships and collaborative efforts related to operations, maintenance and improvements.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Develop appropriate sponsorship, fundraising, and donation opportunities and guidelines.</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Work with the Township Board to identify Township-owned, rennant, and/or unutilized properties for their potential sale (i.e. abandoned well sites, small vacant lots being maintained by the Township).</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Revenues from sales to be utilized for parks and recreation improvements for those that were purchased with parks funds.</p>
	<p><b>3</b> Ensure adequate funding to support the current parks and recreation system, including maintenance and staffing prior to expansion of facilities or offerings.</p>	<p><b>2.5</b> Develop a defined donations program and brochure that includes items, cost, and type of amenity to use to communicate and coordinate with the public.</p>
	<p><b>4</b> Consider improvements, offerings, programs and events that will generate revenue for the community to invest back into parks, recreation and senior services.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Budget for reservable, outdoor areas for rent for group events, reunions, birthdays, etc. (i.e. pavilions near play equipment and restrooms, etc.)</p>
	<p><b>5</b> Renew the parks, recreation and senior services millage in 2014.</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> Coordinate committee members to educate user groups on the millage language.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Engage user groups and partners to assist in educating their constituents about the millage renewal.</p>

**Capital Improvement Priorities (2014 - 2018)**

		Magnitude of Cost	Short Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+ yrs)	On-Going	Potential Funding Sources
<b>Dodge Park</b>	Complete Phase II Improvements (confirm or refine due to time passed since plan development)	To Be Determined		X	X		Park Millage, LWCF, MDNR Trust Fund, General Fund, Donations
<b>Hickory Glen Park</b>	Implement improvements based on Concept Plan (focus on ingress/egress and circulation issues)	\$800,000 - \$1.1M	X	X			Park Millage, General Fund, Donations
<b>Maple Glen Park</b>	Implement Phase 1A Improvements (new ingress/egress, parking, trails, signage)	\$600,000 - \$1,000,000	X				Park Millage
	Implement Phase 1B Improvements (new ingress/egress, parking, trails, softball field)	\$500,000 - \$800,000	X				Park Millage, General Fund
	Implement Phase 2 Improvements (SEE OTHER CATEGORY)	TBD		X			Park Millage, General Fund,
	Implement Phase 3 Improvements based on Concept Plan	TBD			X		Park Millage, General Fund
	Implement Phase 4 Improvements based on Concept Plan (if needed)	TBD					
<b>Bicentennial Park</b>	Develop Concept Master Plan to incorporate numerous improvement ideas including reuse of tennis area, soccer improvements, lighting, connectivity to neighborhood, general updates, etc.	\$5,000 - \$10,000	X				Park Millage, General Fund
	Implement improvements based on Concept Plan	TBD	X	X			Park Millage, General Fund, Donations, LWCF, Recreation Passport
<b>Byer's Homestead Park</b>	Continue with implementation of County recommendations with focus on ensuring sound buildings, improved parking and circulation, connectivity to Mill Race, improved entry, screened outhouses, ADA compliance and drinking water.	TBD				X	
	Update Concept Master Plan for Byer's and Mill Race Parks	\$5,000 - \$10,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund, Donations
<b>Mill Race Park</b>	Update Concept Master Plan for Byer's and Mill Race Parks	\$5,000 - \$10,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund
	Improve condition of trails	\$5,000 - \$10,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund
	Improve entrance, signage, parking and awareness	\$15,000 - \$30,000	X				Park Millage, General Fund
	Replace bridges (2)	TBD		X			Park Millage, General Fund, Recreation Passport
	Interpretive signage regarding property and structures	\$75,000 - \$150,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund, Recreation Passport
		\$3,000 - \$8,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund, Recreation Passport
<b>Ralph C. Richardson Park/Center</b>	Provide additional overflow parking area with grass pavers (or similar) and appropriate signage	TBD		X			Park Millage, General Fund
	Fitness Trails with Stations	\$50,000 - \$100,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund
	Pickleball Courts	\$40,000 - \$100,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund, LWCF, Recreation Passport
	Install drinking fountain	\$2,000 - \$5,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund

**Capital Improvement Priorities (2014 - 2018)**

	Magnitude of Cost	Short Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+ yrs)	On-Going	Potential Funding Sources
<b>Robert H. Long Nature Park</b>						
Redo Viewing Docks	\$8,000 - \$10,000	X				Park Millage
Update Concept Master Plan	\$5,000 - \$10,000	X				Park Millage, General Fund
Implement Phase I improvements based on Master Plan	To Be Determined		X			Park Millage, General Fund, LWCF, Recreation Passport
Provide a connection to the M-5 Trail	To Be Determined	X				Park Millage, General Fund
<b>Wise Road Park Property</b>						
Develop a Concept Master Plan for Wise Road Property	\$10,000 - \$15,000	X				Donations, Park Millage
Implement Phase I improvements based on Master Plan	To Be Determined		X			Park Millage, Donations, MDNR Trust Fund, LWCF, Partnerships
<b>Snowy Ridge Park</b>						
Lighting	To Be Determined	X				Park Millage
Warming Hut	To Be Determined		X			Park Millage, LWCF
<b>Non-Motorized Improvements</b>						
Develop Township-wide Non-Motorized Master Plan (with Planning Commission)	\$20,000 - \$30,000	X				Park Millage, General Fund
Implement the Commerce-Walled Lake-Wixom Trail (former rail corridor)	To Be Determined	X				MDNR Trust Fund, MDOT TAP Grant, General Fund, Donations, LWCF
Install wayfinding and nature interpretive signs along trails	\$50,000 - \$100,000				X	Park Millage, General Fund
<b>Other</b>						
Parks and Recreation Department Organizational Structure Feasibility Study	\$15,000 - \$25,000	X				Park Millage, General Fund
Implement Soccer Complex (location/cost TBD based on master plans and CW3 discussions)	TBD	X				Park Millage, General Fund, Donations
Install security level lighting at parks	TBD		X			Park Millage, General Fund
Tree maintenance per Forestry Management Plans	\$50,000/yr				X	Park Millage, General Fund
Develop Forestry Management Plan for Mill Race and Maple Glen Parks	\$10,000	X				Park Millage, General Fund
Install coordinated signage and landscaping at each park (wayfinding and identification)	TBD	X				Park Millage, General Fund
Provide accessible, permanent restroom facilities at heavily used and programmed parks	TBD				X	Park Millage, General Fund, Recreation Passport, LWCF
As needed, replace aging play equipment at Township Parks	TBD				X	Park Millage, General Fund
Provide water for drinking and irrigation at all Parks	TBD				X	Park Millage, General Fund
Design and install signs that interpret nature and history	\$20,000 - \$40,000	X	X			Park Millage, General Fund, Donations
Install sheltered picnic/gathering areas (for rent by community members/groups)	\$100,000 - \$200,000				X	Park Millage, General Fund, Recreation Passport, LWCF
Scheduling software for Department use	To Be Determined		X			Park Millage, General Fund
Seek Opportunities to Acquire Land That:	To Be Determined				X	Park Millage, General Fund, Donations, MDNR Trust Fund
-- Protects Environmental Features						
-- Provides Public Waterfront Access						
-- Conserves Open Space						
-- Is Adjacent to or near Existing Parks						
-- Provides Linkages Between Destinations						
-- Could Provide Increased and Enhanced Recreation Opportunities						
-- Provides Locations for Parks in Currently Underserved Areas						
Prepare New 5-Year Master Plan	\$15,000 - \$20,000		X			Park Millage, General Fund

# Appendix

## A

Public Engagement  
Focus Group Meetings Summary  
Opinion Survey Results

**Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018**

**Stakeholder Meetings  
Richardson Center  
June 11, 2013**

**2:00 – 3:00pm Township Staff/Officials  
3:15 – 4:15 Friends of Byers and Senior Representatives  
4:30 – 5:30 Parks Committee Members  
5:45 – 6:45 Park User Groups**

*The purpose of today's meeting is to gather and document input related to issues, ideas, concerns and priorities for parks and recreation in Commerce Township. This input will be shared with the Parks Committee and used to inform the goals, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years.*

**AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Master Plan Process and Schedule
- Gather/Document Issues, Priorities, and Ideas

**Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018**

**Stakeholder Meeting  
Richardson Center  
June 11, 2013**

**2:00 – 3:00pm Township Staff/Officials**

**Sign in Sheet Attached**

*The purpose of the meeting was to gather and document input related to issues, ideas, concerns and priorities for parks and recreation in Commerce Township. The input was shared with the Parks Committee and used to inform the goals, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years.*

**Overview of Master Plan Process and Schedule**

A brief overview was given and the anticipated schedule for completing the Master Plan was distributed. The Committee is early in the process of updating their Master Plan and is interested in obtaining input from a number of stakeholders and user groups. The Committee is working toward adopting the plan by November 2013.

**Issues, Priorities, and Ideas**

The comments summarized below are in no particular order of priority.

- Develop a flyer to announce the location of the survey and seek input. Township staff will help to distribute and get the word out.
- Would like a clear understanding of what restrictions are on each property – a summary table of when it was purchased, amount, grant source, what restrictions are, documents, map of parcel, etc. all in one place.
- Redesign baseball fields at Hickory Glen and Maple Glen.
- Pave parking areas at parks rather than gravel.
- Use of infrastructure revenues to benefit parks
- Expand soccer fields
- Link parks via pathways and other resources
- Make rail trail project a priority
- Need a specific area for events – large events/music on soccer fields could do damage to the fields
- Designate an event location for Hazardous Waste Day drop off.
- Funding for a park ranger type person that can issue tickets and do ordinance enforcement, check for encroachments, etc. within the parks
- Fresh water for drinking and irrigation at all parks

- Ultimate goal is to have a self-sustaining parks and recreation department – one that maintains the fields, schedules the use of the facilities, etc.
- The Trailways Council is closing on the acquisition of the rail corridor in 2013.
- Trailways Council is looking to submit grant applications in early 2014 for development.
- Would like to see a priority list of safety path/trail gaps from the Parks Committee. Planning Commission could use the list to set aside developer money to build priority gaps. i.e. connections to schools, parks, etc.
- Partnerships with schools, adjacent communities, etc. to fund trail/safety path connections
- Publicize more information about parks and facilities and bike path.
- Get up-to-date trail file for the Commons Area
- Wise Road property is 518 acres in total
- Get ballfields in and get the benches/bleachers on cement pads so maintenance is reduced. Get fields better organized.
- Put benches along the trail and number them for emergency services to better know the location of people that need help.
- Focus resources in order to get one park done rather than a little at each park.
- Plant the hill at Dodge with something other than grass.
- Moving forward, plant native species
- Improve cleanup of ballfields at special events/tournaments so trash doesn't become such a big issue.
- Dog Park – a collaborative effort with Oakland County.
- Disc golf course
- Snowy Ridge Park - add a shelter with open pit for fire and warming
- Trail connection from M-5 to Long Nature Park.
- Develop a list of the parks and the amenities at each – pavilions, play structures, etc. Add to internet with symbols of what is available.
- Include park information in welcome packets for people that register to vote
- Basketball courts
- Ice Hockey rink
- Post the rules for parks online and in a brochure
- Update the website
- Fitness trail at Richardson Center
- Design facilities and improvements with vandalism concerns in mind.
- Incorporate park/rec amenities into private developments. i.e. if a development is proposed near the rail trail, include trail head area, connection to trail, etc.
- Fence the soccer fields at Dodge to keep vehicles off
- Need cement pads for porta johns
- Mill Race Park – gravel trails for easier access. Rendering and/or photos of what it used to look like to education. Create a more welcoming entrance and more comfortable/safe access.



**Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018**

**Stakeholder Meeting  
Richardson Center  
June 11, 2013**

**3:15 – 4:15pm Friends of Byers**

**Sign in Sheet Attached**

*The purpose of the meeting was to gather and document input related to issues, ideas, concerns and priorities for parks and recreation in Commerce Township. The input was shared with the Parks Committee and used to inform the goals, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years.*

**Overview of Master Plan Process and Schedule**

A brief overview was given and the anticipated schedule for completing the Master Plan was distributed. The Committee is early in the process of updating their Master Plan and is interested in obtaining input from a number of stakeholders and user groups. The Committee is working toward adopting the plan by November 2013.

**Issues, Priorities, and Ideas**

The comments summarized below are in no particular order of priority.

- **The Friends of Byers prepared and distributed a 4 page document dated June 11, 2013 and titled “Recommendations for Five-Year Master Plan”. *Attached***
- Reference Ron Campbell’s report/recommendations for improvements to Byers
- The main objective is preservation of the property
- Parking for events at Byers is becoming more and more of an issue. There is an empty lot to the west that would be great for Byers and Mill Race properties.
- Extremely concerned about context and aesthetic of neighboring property development. Would like to be heavily involved in discussions about nearby development so it is not detrimental to the historic nature of the area.
- Seeger Home on Commerce Road is historic and classic architecture
- Get trail plan for Byers area from Kristen Wiltfang – graphic to show connection priorities.
- Invasive species management on site and around new trail
- Kayak/canoe decking to launch downstream of new footbridge
- HRWC is interested in extending water trail from Proud Lake up to Byers
- Photographers use Byers all year long
- Need a drinkable water source
- Picnic grills to bring own charcoal (2) – ADA accessible and not too close to the farmhouse
- Granny’s pantry needs roof, flooring and attention or it will be lost

- Major sewer on south side of Tamwoth Ct. that can be tied into for restrooms and drinking water
- Ecological report already done for Wise Road property – conservation
- Like the announcements on the M-5 billboard and signs on Wise Road property to tell everyone what their money is used for.
- Purchase drive in sign for preservation – it's an icon.
- Would like an historic district designation and Historical Society to save the remaining facilities.
- Highly opposed to developing the north end of Dodge Park into parking and soccer fields.

Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018

Stakeholder Meeting  
June 11, 2013

Byers

SIGN IN SHEET

Name

Organization/Title

Leah Groya

Living LAB

Emily England

Commerce Twp

Ellen Smith

Friends of Byers

Cheryl Quinn

Friends of Byers

Jamie Menaker

Friends of Byers

Arun M Schanz

Friends of Byers

Byers Homestead  
**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN**

Submitted by Friends of Byers

**I. RATIONALE**

Byers Homestead represents an important part in the history of Commerce Township and its growth. It is believed to be the site on which the first permanent settlement, which would become Commerce, occurred. Indeed, it has become a recognizable icon and cultural attraction. Its location along the nonmotorized pathway, and other nearby park resources, make the site and buildings worthy of preservation. It is the only Township park that is a historical site

**II VISION FOR UTILIZATION**

- A. Continued use as a historical site, cultural attraction and passive recreational resource
- B. Operation of the Barn as a welcome center, focal point for visitors, penny candy/gift shop and stopping point for the bikepath
- C. Use of the site for public events, sponsored by the Friends of Byers and/or Commerce Township
- D. Use of the buildings for private events, leased by and coordinated by Friends of Byers
- E. Use of the Huron River access as part of the river trails network
- F. Connection across the footbridge to the path network to be created in Mill Race Park

**III. PRESERVATION PROJECTS**

**Barn**

1. **Foundation Stabilization –**
2. **Exterior –**
  - A. **Replacement of Barnwood and Restoration of windows**  
South wall is covered with rotting plywood; water runoff is causing decay to barn walls and sill plate, along with erosion
  - B. **Correct Drainage Problem on South Side** (Campbell Report, p. 9)

- Excavate soil above sill plate and create a retaining wall (preferably stone)
- Gutters and downspouts on both north and south sides; south drain to be connected to existing underground drain pipe leading to river.

### Farmhouse Roof

Farmhouse roof is approximately 15 years old but problems exist with:

1. Sagging of second story ridge, most severely near center and south portions of ridge beam. Rafters in these areas are also sagging and need to be corrected to prevent further sagging and possible failure (Campbell Report, p. 11-13).
2. Shingles are deteriorating, especially on the kitchen addition, moss is growing, and shingles beginning to come off.

### Kitchen Floor

(Approved by P & R Committee in 2011)

- **Problem** – Deteriorated linoleum floor; sub-floor rotted on north side
- **Scope of Work** – Remove linoleum flooring; repair sub-floor; install new underlayment; replace with wood plank flooring

### Electrical Upgrades to Farmhouse

(Not yet approved by P & R Committee)

- **Problem** – Outdated service; several outlets non-functioning. May not be up to code.
- **Scope of Work** – Upgrade electrical service to 200 amps; re-wire house
- **Estimated Cost**- Jerry McManus (R.D. White, Electrical contractor) has volunteered free labor.

## IV. OTHER PROJECTS

### ACQUISITION OF ADJACENT PROPERTY FOR PARKING

Holding events at Byers is difficult because of limited parking –Improved parking facilities were included in the previous Five-Year Plan.

We recommend acquiring:

1. Eddie Touby property to the east, and
2. All or part of Commerce Village Dentist property, to be accessed using the new footbridge.

### PERMANENT TOILET FACILITY

Byers Homestead is open to the public year round, and currently only has a seasonal porta-potty. Events are held in the winter months, the barn is open year-round, and volunteers and the public are without facilities. Until a sewer hook-up is available, perhaps in the interim we could install a single-stall, handicap-accessible composting toilet. Also recommend replacing the screening structure that was removed several years ago.

*Current  
porta  
potty  
June -  
April - October.*

### CANOE / KAYAK LAUNCH SITE

We have encountered many visitors attempting to launch canoes or kayaks at Byers Park. We propose a decking be constructed near the "Duck Barn." This location is ideal because there is space to maneuver and launch watercraft. We have received comments of interest from Oakland County Parks for the idea of enhancing "river trails network" and from a local canoe rental company.

### PATHWAY IMPROVEMENT

New Footbridge is currently being constructed – Recommend the pathway between the footbridge and Commerce Road be improved in order that the new pathway not become overgrown again and soggy. This pathway will be the connector to Mill Race Park. Suggest use of material similar to that recently placed by RCOC. (road-grade 21-AA slag or similar material)

### SECURITY LIGHTING

Currently there are only two functioning spotlights, both located on the Barn. Previously there were three other spotlights of the same type that have fallen into disrepair or been removed. Spotlight at the parking area is also needed, and was previously approved, to discourage loitering. This was included in the previous Five-Year Plan.

### DRINKING FOUNTAIN

The previous Five-Year Plan acknowledged the need for drinking fountains in the parks. Recommend that a drinking fountain be installed.

### **INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE**

Many visitors arrive at Byers when there are no volunteers on-site to explain the historical significance of the buildings and the site in general. For this reason, we recommend interpretive signs.

### **PICNIC GRILL**

To encourage picknicking, recommend installing two small picnic grills, such as those found at Kensington Metropark.

### **Mark the South Lot Line and install Split Rail**

- **Problem** – Abutting homeowners to the south periodically complain about the occasional encroachment on what they claim is their property at edge of road where they are planting and tending gardens. There is no fence or other means to mark the lot line.
- **Scope of Work** – After researching the survey and legal description, install a split rail fence on the property line.
- **Cost** – Very minimal

**Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018**

**Stakeholder Meeting  
Richardson Center  
June 11, 2013**

**4:30 – 5:30pm Parks Committee Members**

**Sign in Sheet Attached**

*The purpose of the meeting was to gather and document input related to issues, ideas, concerns and priorities for parks and recreation in Commerce Township. The input was used to inform the goals, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years.*

**Overview of Master Plan Process and Schedule**

A brief overview was given and the anticipated schedule for completing the Master Plan was distributed. The Committee is early in the process of updating their Master Plan and is interested in obtaining input from a number of stakeholders and user groups. The Committee is working toward adopting the plan by November 2013.

**Issues, Priorities, and Ideas**

The comments summarized below are in no particular order of priority.

- Parking and roads at Maple Glen and Hickory Glen Parks are top priorities
- Dog Park – appropriate placement
- Wise Road – paths and stream crossings and would like to see a bridge(s) for paths to cross streams
- Modify Maple Glen property line to be sure that the cemetery is not included. Hickory Glen should exclude the log cabin piece
- Mill Race Park trails – hazards with sink holes that need to be addressed
- Bicentennial Park is hurting – remove tennis courts, consider pickle ball or roller hockey. Ballfield and soccer field needs improvements
- Remove/replace old wood play equipment
- Revenue from rentals of use of old Township Hall should go to Parks
- Continue trails – Benstein
- Water quality issues at Long Park
- Phragmites along Commerce Road to open visibility of parks a lot more.
- Partner with Multi-Lakes Conservation Group
- Path preference – Tom Zoner was putting together a Master list of existing and planned trails.

- Get NW portion of residents to ride bikes/walk to Dodge, Wise Road, etc. Would like a list of priorities to work on each bit every year.
- Need to develop something better than \$20K of wood chips each year.
- Brush management at entries and along roads to open up visibility of parks
- Address invasive species at parks
- Improve entry to Mill Race
- Ensure safety at the parks is considered when making improvements
- Clean up Mill Race – engage volunteers – maybe Multi-Lakes?
- Adult recreation facilities – softball at Dodge Park or somewhere – Wise Road?
- Tradition of volunteerism – but concerned of what happens if the volunteers are not there or others want to use them.
- As new facilities are built by the Township, have the Township run and manage them.
- Include summary of other community budgets for Parks and Recreation so they can compare to Commerce Township.
- Capital Improvement Schedule –
  - Organize with priorities that fit into the millage renewal budget, draw a line and put other ideas below those if funding comes up/available.
- Partnerships with Eagle Scouts, etc.

Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018

Stakeholder Meeting  
June 11, 2013

Parks Committee

SIGN IN SHEET

Name

Organization/Title

~~Wendy~~ Leah Groya

Living HAB

Emily England

Commerce Twp

Michelle Adams

P&R

Robert Berkheiser

Trustee / Parks + Rec

Bill PETSCH

P&R

Tom Wichest

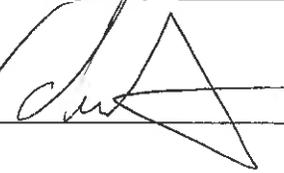
Parks + Rec Member

Steve Hase

Parks / Rec.

Barbara Dabutt

?

Dan M / 

P&R

**Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018**

**Stakeholder Meeting  
Richardson Center  
June 11, 2013**

**5:45 – 6:45pm User Group Representatives**

**Sign in Sheet Attached**

*The purpose of the meeting was to gather and document input related to issues, ideas, concerns and priorities for parks and recreation in Commerce Township. The input was shared with the Parks Committee and used to inform the goals, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years.*

**Overview of Master Plan Process and Schedule**

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**Issues, Priorities, and Ideas**

The comments summarized below are in no particular order of priority.

- Create Master Plan for the Wise Road property
- Possible opportunity for use of closed schools property?

Mountain Biking

- Motor City Mountain Bike Association – had name change
- Mountain bike trails are desired at Wise Road
- Hickory Glen – mountain bike enhancements:
  - Night lighting
  - Year round restrooms
  - Pave road to access the mountain bike trails
  - Take a more aggressive stance against ATVs in Hickory Glen. More signs, more barricades from the school property

Baseball

- Not enough ball fields for demand. 54 teams now but turning away people. Older kids are having to practice on elementary grass – hard to compete with travel leagues
- Fields are being lost with school closings and evening activities
- Plan for on-going replacement of fencing at Maple Glen.

## Soccer

- CW3 – practice and games are rented from Walled Lake Middle Schools
- 2 fields at Dodge have been game changers for the League
- Space issues – 70 to 75 teams and the largest expense by far is renting field space
- Eager to develop soccer fields in Commerce Township. Have money of their own and grant opportunities to grow
- Interested in expanding season – developing an artificial surface would help. Natural turf.
- Haven't found a field nicer than Dodge Park in the region.
- \$10-\$15K/yr for maintenance of fields
- Coordinate with Walled Lake Schools
- A lot of times using the ballfield outfield space for soccer
- Permanent bathrooms at Dodge Park with equipment and concession space
- Bicentennial Park – may be good to invest some into the soccer area in the short term in order to get more play or possibly use those funds instead for a bigger complex at Maple Glen.

## Lakes

- Entrance at Hickory Glen Park is destroyed. Over \$50K to fix entrance that's there now – no ditch, road is higher than entrance and ground never dries. Huge pot holes. Asphalt patch is gone. HUGE problem.
- Built \$70K concession/restroom
- Save the shade trees!! Everyone appreciates the shade.
- At Hickory Glen – like the age appropriate sized fields and not 300' outfields everywhere. The little guys would be lost on the big fields.
- Need better dust control on roads/parking
- Long-term would like to have evening games – lights at one field
- Reduce the vehicle speed within the parks.
- Fall 2013 Plans –
  - Field 6 – fix grade and drainage
  - Field 7 – only 70' bases. Need to cut back infield so older kids can play
  - Dugout roofs on those that don't have them

Commerce Township  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2014-2018

Stakeholder Meeting  
June 11, 2013

Athletics

SIGN IN SHEET

Name

Organization/Title

Leah Groya Living LAB

Emily England Commerce Township

Tim SWABACH MCMBA - Hickory Glen

Justin Applegate MCMBA - Hickory Glen

Vina Spadigall " " " "

Ken Lamarke Lakes

Commerce Little League



# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION



The Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Committee is working on developing a 5-year Master Plan and are looking for your input in order to better understand community priorities. The Committee has developed an online survey that should take about 10 minutes to complete. The input will be shared with the Parks Committee and Township Board and used to inform the goals, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years.

## TAKE THE SURVEY ONLINE UNTIL AUGUST 1ST!

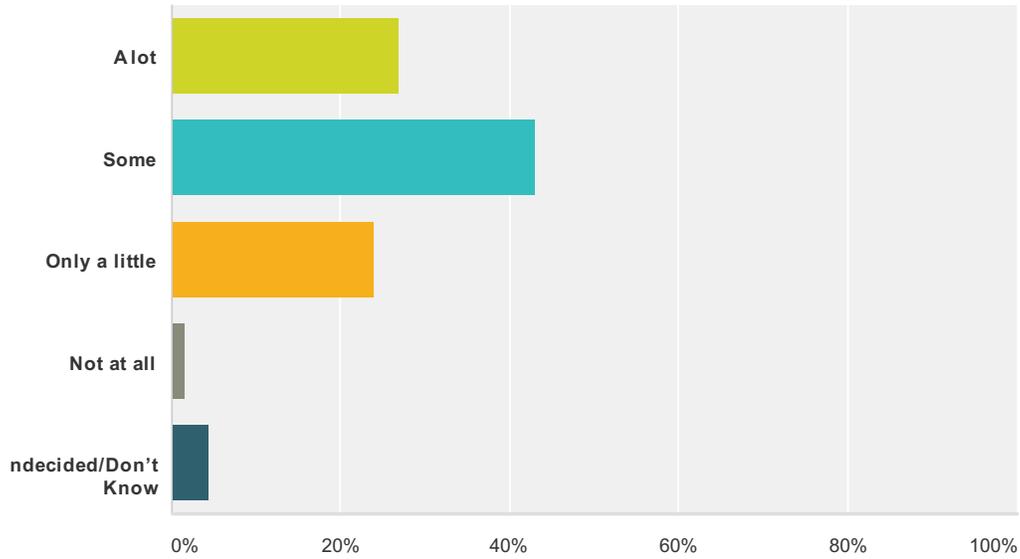
Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/commercerec>

or you can find the link on the Township webpage or scan the QR code!



**Q1 There are several recreational programs and activities offered in Commerce Township, including recreational activities in general, educational, sports, social and enrichment activities. Overall, how much do you think MOST members of our community participate in the recreational programs or activities offered?**

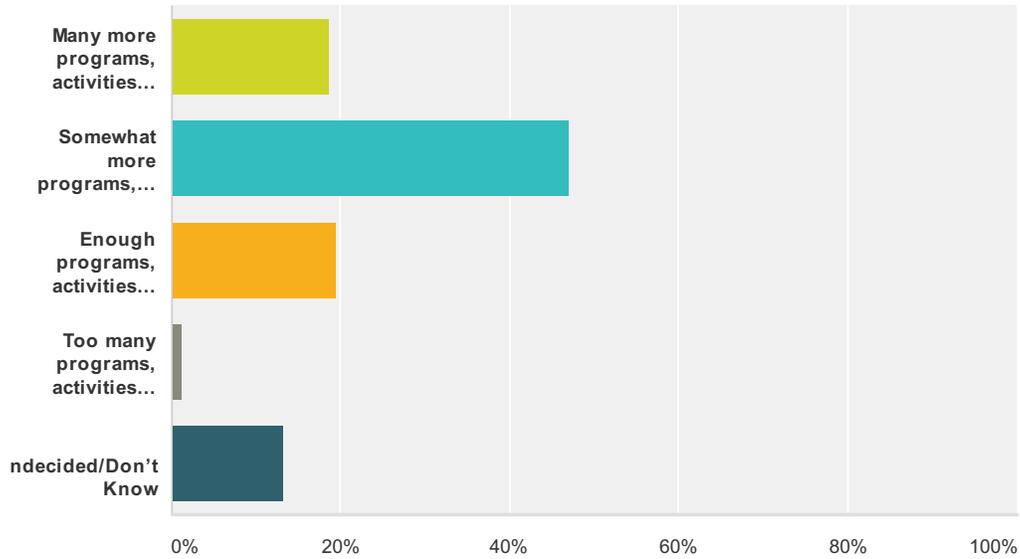
Answered: 242 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
<b>A lot</b>	26.86% 65
<b>Some</b>	42.98% 104
<b>Only a little</b>	23.97% 58
<b>Not at all</b>	1.65% 4
<b>Undecided/Don't Know</b>	4.55% 11
<b>Total</b>	242

**Q2 Thinking about the number of recreational programs, activities and facilities provided in Commerce Township, do you believe that overall....**

Answered: 240 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
<b>Many more programs, activities and facilities are needed</b>	<b>18.75%</b>	45
<b>Somewhat more programs, activities and facilities are needed</b>	<b>47.08%</b>	113
<b>Enough programs, activities and facilities are available now</b>	<b>19.58%</b>	47
<b>Too many programs, activities and facilities are available now</b>	<b>1.25%</b>	3
<b>Undecided/Don't Know</b>	<b>13.33%</b>	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>240</b>

**Q3 What other programs, activities or facilities do you think should be provided that are not currently offered? [write in up to 3 responses]**

Answered: 125 Skipped: 117

#	Responses	Date
1	Nature walks and observations in our wonderful parks. Canoeing, geocaching & birding.	8/9/2013 9:38 AM
2	Other than the concerts, not aware of what other offerings are available.	8/6/2013 4:54 PM
3	Lacrosse fields need to be available . This is a quickly growing sport ... Got to keep up with the growth.	8/6/2013 10:11 AM
4	rec building/community gym, ice rink, more soccer fields	8/3/2013 2:06 PM
5	more bike trails so more people can get to the parks by trail and not take busy streets	8/2/2013 12:10 PM
6	Indoor seasonal recreation. Neithborh/Community swimming pools, more affiliation with Huron Valley Hospital and exerise	8/2/2013 7:14 AM
7	Adult Softball, roller blade hockey, lighted fields	8/1/2013 11:04 PM
8	Pickle Ball	8/1/2013 5:17 PM
9	Disk golf, a dog park	8/1/2013 3:49 PM
10	Bring an 'uncorked' wine event to a park in commerce	7/31/2013 11:56 PM
11	I would like a pool -- Ann Arbor has 3 pools in the city . I would like a Community Recreation Center like other cities have -- I think Troy is an example -- I would like to have a newsletter sent to the house listing classes and Park & Recs activiites -- Also, I see signs about concerts in the Park - but the print and details are so small that when I drive by I never can tell where or which park the activities are taking place in	7/31/2013 8:39 PM
12	Lacrosse leagues	7/31/2013 7:17 PM
13	tours of historic homes drive in movies	7/31/2013 5:08 PM
14	Always something to do with families...concerts in the park are a great idea keep it up!	7/31/2013 4:22 PM
15	more soccer fields	7/31/2013 3:13 PM
16	Family events focused on kid events	7/31/2013 1:59 PM
17	Completion of improvements to the old COE Railroad railbed to convert same to biking/pedestrian trail. Creation of and use of 'Township Newsletter' to inform residents of P&R events and facilities.	7/31/2013 12:38 PM
18	Major upgrade of the Community Center! More activities (trips etc.) other than Senior trips	7/31/2013 12:00 PM
19	I don't know because I don't know what is currently offered	7/30/2013 9:10 AM
20	More baseball fields, more basketball courts, public swimming pool	7/27/2013 4:21 PM
21	I don't really know what you even offer, which means you need to do more advertising about your programs. I am a local resident and I don't even know what is going on. ADVERTISE!!!!!! PROMOTE!!!!!! GET THE WORD OUT!!!!!!	7/27/2013 12:34 AM
22	Additional mountain biking trail opportunities	7/25/2013 10:26 PM
23	Bark park, paved biking trails	7/25/2013 8:04 AM
24	day camps, more family programs	7/24/2013 11:09 PM
25	Mountain bike trails like Hickory Glennm	7/24/2013 11:08 PM
26	lacrosse facilities	7/24/2013 9:39 PM
27	Better play ground, more music, better picnic area and bathrooms	7/24/2013 5:32 PM
28	b.com	7/24/2013 3:30 PM
29	senior activities-(exercise classes-trips)	7/24/2013 12:09 PM
30	an annual community festival; a community center that is available to more than senior programs (wow, it would have been nice to acquire one of the closed elementary buildings for this purpose); sidewalks or walking paths along main roads like Benstein to promote more walking/biking/activity	7/24/2013 10:40 AM
31	Lacrosse fields	7/24/2013 8:32 AM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

32	frisbee golf feather bowling flag football	7/23/2013 10:01 PM
33	Lacrosse Field	7/23/2013 7:09 PM
34	Library programs, parades and organized/sponsored bike rides/walking events	7/23/2013 11:33 AM
35	lacrosse lessons/fields	7/23/2013 7:45 AM
36	Lacrosse	7/23/2013 6:07 AM
37	more mountain bike trails	7/23/2013 6:04 AM
38	Nature programs	7/22/2013 4:25 PM
39	bike/walking paths,golf	7/20/2013 9:40 PM
40	Expand the non-motorized trailway system, develop active and passive recreation on the Wise Road Property , and install improved, year-round bathroom facilities at all parks	7/20/2013 2:58 PM
41	Dog park, trails that can be used for cross country skiing, soccer fields	7/20/2013 10:04 AM
42	more security patrols, lighting	7/20/2013 8:28 AM
43	More baseball and soccer fields	7/18/2013 10:35 PM
44	More biking and walking infrastructure so that people can get around, and get to existing and new recreational facilities. More bike lanes, share the road reminders, as well as dedicated pathways and mountain bike trails.	7/18/2013 4:08 PM
45	Mountain Bike specific trails	7/18/2013 12:48 PM
46	none but improve the practice areas and roads	7/18/2013 10:29 AM
47	skate park.	7/18/2013 10:04 AM
48	It would be great for the Gladiator Lacrosse organization to have dedicated fields like other sports organizations in the area!	7/17/2013 9:48 PM
49	Disc Golf in the community	7/17/2013 7:44 PM
50	I do not know what is currently available	7/17/2013 9:27 AM
51	Splash park	7/17/2013 9:02 AM
52	More bike/walking paths	7/17/2013 8:52 AM
53	Motorsport area for small motorsports golf carts go karts mini bikes etc.	7/17/2013 2:08 AM
54	more mountain biking	7/16/2013 9:44 PM
55	Nature education facility; community gardens; facility/program support staff	7/16/2013 6:05 PM
56	hockey arena, indoor softball/baseball facility , community fitness center	7/16/2013 4:15 PM
57	More mountain biking trails!	7/16/2013 4:07 PM
58	Sprayscape park	7/16/2013 4:07 PM
59	ice skating rink (winter) in a park or on m5 connection between Pontiac trail and Oakley park like campus martius	7/16/2013 2:50 PM
60	More Hiking/Biking trails	7/16/2013 2:35 PM
61	I would like to see Dodge Park be completed the way it was suppose to be. There was a plan and then only the Soccer fields were updated with the small play area. What happen to the basketball and baseball fields?	7/16/2013 12:24 PM
62	Lacrosse, croquet, volleyball	7/16/2013 12:13 PM
63	Upgrades needed for Hickory Glenn Park, and Clara Miller Park	7/16/2013 11:58 AM
64	Not sure what is offered or even how to participate. Emails should go out to all residents so they know what is out there.	7/16/2013 11:51 AM
65	Dog parks, crossfire trails, more designated biking areas	7/16/2013 11:33 AM
66	A Dog Park	7/16/2013 11:15 AM
67	splash park, children's adventure club (ie: hiking, wall climbing, etc),	7/16/2013 11:02 AM
68	paddle board, workout facilities, community pool	7/16/2013 10:56 AM
69	survival classes for boys	7/16/2013 10:08 AM
70	concerts and movies in the park, carnivals/fair events	7/16/2013 9:53 AM
71	junior golf program, baseball fields	7/16/2013 9:44 AM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

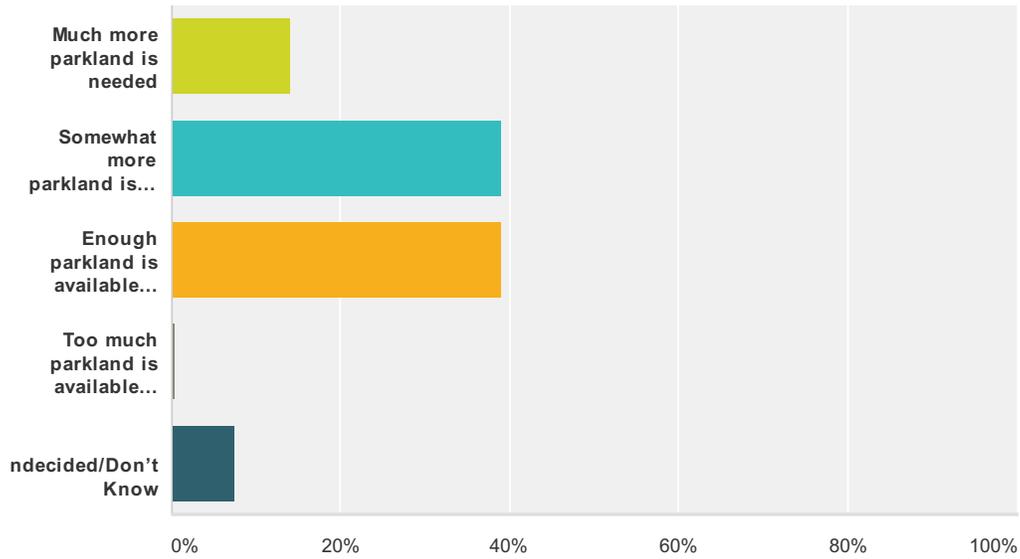
72	More summer activities available thru parks and rec versus the schools	7/16/2013 9:26 AM
73	Outdoor events	7/16/2013 9:13 AM
74	Lacrosse	7/16/2013 9:13 AM
75	swimming lessons at high school, not through Tridents	7/16/2013 9:09 AM
76	Better camps. Wlce camps area awful most people spend money elsewhere	7/16/2013 9:06 AM
77	Bike paths	7/16/2013 8:51 AM
78	Activities f for children starting at 3	7/16/2013 8:32 AM
79	tennis	7/16/2013 8:28 AM
80	More sports related fields (lighted fields, concessions, bathrooms), model after what cities like Northville have done. Have developers donate time and materials if they want to build homes in our community .	7/16/2013 8:27 AM
81	Organized sports	7/16/2013 8:24 AM
82	Educational programs for hunting & fishing. Nature trips. Limited out door camping.	7/16/2013 7:47 AM
83	disc golf , dog park, more trails--marked. Community center	7/15/2013 7:32 PM
84	skate park	7/15/2013 6:55 PM
85	Acquire Union Lk launch site and turn into scuba dive site, this is one of the only inland lake site in the state suitable f or diving	7/15/2013 3:02 PM
86	nature center that educates everyone from kids, families, adults about how to respect wildlife and the different types of wildlife that call Michigan home. More festivals, wine tastings, and events that involve food and music.	7/15/2013 2:29 PM
87	skate park, boat rental, more winter activities.	7/15/2013 1:31 PM
88	Bike trails or paths to connect other recreation areas & trails together	7/15/2013 11:51 AM
89	Mountain bike trails	7/14/2013 10:32 PM
90	A bike path along Wise road down Carrol Lake road connecting to Dodge Park, more concerts in the parks and a community swimming pool	7/14/2013 4:41 PM
91	Bike trails along major corridors such as Commerce and Cooley Lake	7/13/2013 8:08 AM
92	Mountain Biking Loop in old East Proud Lake Property	7/12/2013 3:12 PM
93	mountain biking trails	7/12/2013 11:48 AM
94	Expand trail network	7/12/2013 11:24 AM
95	Girls volley ball at elem age	7/12/2013 10:49 AM
96	MTB	7/12/2013 10:21 AM
97	Do to the popularity of Lacrosse....Lacrosse	7/12/2013 10:00 AM
98	more mountain bike trails	7/12/2013 8:53 AM
99	Mountain Biking	7/12/2013 8:34 AM
100	Indoor arts and music theater/facility with rental opportunities-near the Martin Parkway , splash pad in a park-maybe Richardson Center area which is centrally located, expanded media center for library more centrally located-maybe along Oakley Park near the Credit Union, again centrally located.	7/12/2013 8:16 AM
101	More bike paths and trails. Nice volley ball courts.	7/11/2013 11:45 PM
102	MTB and BMX dirt jumps, skate park that allows bikes, and more singletrack MTB trails.	7/11/2013 11:18 PM
103	Geocaching	7/11/2013 9:42 PM
104	Dog Park, dog swimming with dock diving capability	7/11/2013 9:17 PM
105	volley ball	7/11/2013 9:06 PM
106	a nice mountain bike trail like the one in Milford	7/11/2013 9:05 PM
107	Don't know	7/11/2013 6:20 PM
108	Children's Summer Activities, Family Events, Publications sent to homes	7/11/2013 5:23 PM
109	More family events	7/11/2013 3:11 PM
110	Farmers Market, Craft show, Antique show	7/11/2013 2:36 PM
111	community garden, Lacross, improvements to parks	7/11/2013 2:20 PM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

112	A community pool. There are none in any local area. Let people who live outside Commerce belong and pay a higher price for swimming.	7/11/2013 2:02 PM
113	Summer ball for girls	7/11/2013 1:46 PM
114	Better / more summer and after school care would be nice	7/11/2013 12:29 PM
115	Community pool, sprinkler park,	7/11/2013 12:19 PM
116	Basketball, Volleyball	7/11/2013 11:48 AM
117	A true musical complex	7/11/2013 10:18 AM
118	More family/ community event	7/11/2013 9:09 AM
119	Dog park, improved facilities at existing parks	7/11/2013 8:50 AM
120	More sidewalks, along main roads	7/11/2013 8:06 AM
121	the economy should be considered before any more tax dollars are used for recreation....help the schools first	7/10/2013 3:43 PM
122	Educational, Historic, Nature	7/10/2013 3:30 PM
123	Festival, art fairs - look at Walled Lake they have more events than Commerce and Commerce has more open space where events could be held	7/10/2013 3:10 PM
124	Lighting of Christmas Tree, Parades, Pavilion to use in park that has restrooms rent or scheduled	7/10/2013 2:42 PM
125	community pool, youth summer programs that aren't sports	7/10/2013 1:14 PM

### Q4 Thinking about the number of parks in Commerce Township, do you believe that overall....

Answered: 226 Skipped: 16



Answer Choices	Responses
<b>Much more parkland is needed</b>	<b>14.16%</b> 32
<b>Somewhat more parkland is needed</b>	<b>38.94%</b> 88
<b>Enough parkland is available now</b>	<b>38.94%</b> 88
<b>Too much parkland is available now</b>	<b>0.44%</b> 1
<b>Undecided/Don't Know</b>	<b>7.52%</b> 17
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>

**Q5 Is there a specific location with the Township where you think more parkland should be set aside and developed? [Write in up to 3 locations]**

Answered: 79 Skipped: 163

#	Responses	Date
1	I would improve the parklands we have now with better signage, benches, walking trails, general clean up. Clean up the "Nike site" and make it more user friendly. Right now, it is an underutilized park.	8/9/2013 9:41 AM
2	West of Longs Apple Orchard past the abandoned house. All that scrubland could make a nice prairie/wilderness trail.	8/6/2013 5:03 PM
3	Wise road has an abundance of land.	8/6/2013 10:11 AM
4	More parkland would be great, but it does not need to be developed.	8/5/2013 8:35 AM
5	Parkland (athletic facilities) that are easily accessible to expressways, so as to make rental to members of other communities convenient	8/3/2013 2:07 PM
6	wise and carroll lake	8/2/2013 12:11 PM
7	Southwest Commerce, Maple Glen developed	8/2/2013 8:45 AM
8	Northwest corner of Commerce Township could use a park - smaller with a couple of ball fields and soccer field.	8/1/2013 11:05 PM
9	Northwest corner of the township	8/1/2013 3:50 PM
10	it would be neat to have more things to do around Proud Lake Rec area... looking for a nature center / playground/destination in north/west commerce similar to that of Marshbank Park in W Bloom	7/31/2013 11:57 PM
11	No - but I think you need to develop a recreational facility with an indoor and outdoor pool. I lived in Ann Arbor and it was a wonderful city to raise children in -- we could take them to the pool and have them learn how to swim -- it was great! There were yoga classes in the park and Tai Chi by the river -- it was great -- none of these things exist here which is disappointing!	7/31/2013 8:42 PM
12	Northwest area	7/31/2013 7:18 PM
13	Near Lake Sherwood	7/31/2013 4:23 PM
14	Wise road	7/31/2013 3:14 PM
15	South end of Township. East side o Township, possibly within Martin Parkway development area (as part of larger commercial or residential development).	7/31/2013 12:39 PM
16	Dodge Park V	7/31/2013 11:47 AM
17	No	7/30/2013 9:10 AM
18	Green space is a big part of making a community a plac where people want to live ( read about it!). The more green spaces the more pleasant it is. I love having Proud Lake Recreation area in our backyard. I love the rails to trails. I love small green spaces in our urban areas. I think Commerce Twp. as it grows should keep as much green space as possible in the new developing area of M-5 and Pontiac Trail. ....by the way love the field of daisy's...keep that and MORE! Keep it Green! The returns will be in a more ebraceable community in the future --- forward thinking~~ ~ Keep the arts involved also.	7/27/2013 12:39 AM
19	I'd like to see the Wise Rd. property developed into a usable park.	7/25/2013 8:06 AM
20	b.com	7/24/2013 3:30 PM
21	1. Develop more of Dodge (where is that water park?) WITH bathroom facilities year round 2. Make a central park somewhere along Martin Pkwy where the community can come together (similar to Milford, Northville, Brighton, and countless other communities) WITH year-round bathroom facilities and provide a kiosk where people can post flyers and information to facilitate communication about events and groups	7/24/2013 10:43 AM
22	Property off wise rd	7/23/2013 10:01 PM
23	old nike missile site would be great for some mountain bike trails	7/23/2013 6:05 AM
24	Fronting some lake areas	7/22/2013 4:26 PM
25	Along the Martin Parkway corridor	7/20/2013 9:45 PM
26	No more needed	7/20/2013 10:04 AM
27	Walled Lake School system property The old proud lake north unit	7/20/2013 8:29 AM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

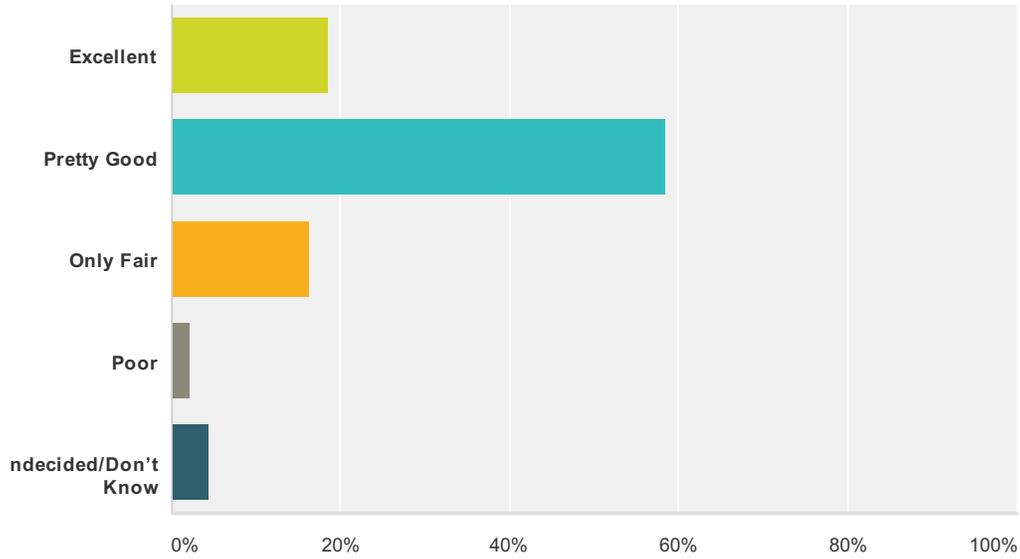
28	off wise road even a area for riding orv	7/20/2013 6:32 AM
29	Develop more parks in the north side of the township (Wise Rd property)	7/19/2013 8:34 AM
30	The old missile site off wise rd. has plenty of room for parkland and play fields. Finish developing Dodge Park 5 to what is in the master plan.	7/18/2013 10:38 PM
31	The newly-acquired former Proud Lake property - preserve it by putting in biking and hiking trails. Any other undeveloped land should be preserved: when it's gone, it's gone forever, and there is plenty of capacity in existing developed areas (commercial and residential.) Mountain Bike trails at Dodge Park #5.	7/18/2013 4:20 PM
32	LA baseball fields and hawks football fields	7/18/2013 10:31 AM
33	East of union lk.	7/18/2013 10:05 AM
34	South end	7/17/2013 3:22 PM
35	need soccer fields	7/17/2013 10:09 AM
36	I would like to see more parks around the lakes. like on Union lake next to Matter of taste. Allows more of us who don't have lake front property to enjoy the lakes on the hot days.	7/17/2013 9:28 AM
37	More trails in the woods of the area for biking hiking easy transit paths	7/17/2013 2:10 AM
38	north western area	7/16/2013 6:06 PM
39	open land across from Walled Lake Central H.S. for a combined hockey arena and indoor softball/baseball playing facility	7/16/2013 4:19 PM
40	Everywhere. We are going to be really sad if we let development swallow all pieces of open land. Need to cap it now by preserving more park land!	7/16/2013 4:08 PM
41	M5 between Pontiac trail and Oakley park	7/16/2013 2:51 PM
42	Finsh Dodge Park, it is so beautiful there.	7/16/2013 12:25 PM
43	Sleeth road	7/16/2013 12:14 PM
44	Public beach and lake access on any lakes, more development at dodge park	7/16/2013 11:34 AM
45	I think that there should be a dog park located in Dodge Park Number 5.	7/16/2013 11:16 AM
46	the dodge soccer complex is nice. Indoor bathrooms would be nice	7/16/2013 9:44 AM
47	We need to utilize the parks we have and develop them better	7/16/2013 9:27 AM
48	by library	7/16/2013 9:10 AM
49	North end of the township. Connect bike paths from end-to-end of community.	7/16/2013 8:28 AM
50	No specific location; however, existing land needs development	7/16/2013 8:28 AM
51	Not necessarily	7/16/2013 8:25 AM
52	Northwest area, but the newly purchased land on Wise Road could fill that void.	7/16/2013 7:48 AM
53	more in the northwest part of twp.	7/15/2013 7:32 PM
54	Glengary next to Maple Glen Park	7/15/2013 3:19 PM
55	Union Lk dive site at old launch site	7/15/2013 3:03 PM
56	Coordinate with Wolverine Lake more.	7/15/2013 1:32 PM
57	Near proud lake	7/15/2013 11:52 AM
58	Hickory Glen. Additional mileage to the Mountain bike course	7/12/2013 3:28 PM
59	not sure	7/12/2013 10:00 AM
60	Hickory Glen mountain bike trails	7/12/2013 8:54 AM
61	500 Acres acquired from Proud Lake Rec Area - prime mountain biking opportunity.	7/12/2013 8:36 AM
62	Some of the Martin Parkway should be enhanced and developed to provide walkways, bike ways, exercise stations and opportunities for picnic tables, benches.	7/12/2013 8:18 AM
63	The old missile base should be turned into a park.	7/12/2013 4:07 AM
64	The area north of the newton and commerce intersection. Also a bike path or larger shoulder along commerce rd (east/west)	7/11/2013 11:48 PM
65	Maple, east of Beck should be left alone or a park. No multi-family housing. Rail trail should be completed.	7/11/2013 11:31 PM
66	No	7/11/2013 6:20 PM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

67	Keep land that is DDA as Park between Library & Welch	7/11/2013 5:23 PM
68	Neat the Martin Parkway and Commerce Library where there is heavy traffic and an abundance of land.	7/11/2013 2:36 PM
69	Near the library	7/11/2013 12:29 PM
70	Dodge Park could be expanded and used for more activities The area near Wise Road could be developed for children's and adult activities/sports	7/11/2013 11:49 AM
71	no	7/11/2013 10:01 AM
72	Lake access option for swimming should be looked at. We could do a key hole with most of park off lake. Maybe old dnr boat launch on union lake	7/11/2013 9:11 AM
73	I would really love to see the area near the library developed. It has so much potential!	7/11/2013 8:50 AM
74	Finish up Dodge Park Behind the Township Hall Wise road	7/11/2013 8:06 AM
75	The old missile site	7/10/2013 6:46 PM
76	NO	7/10/2013 3:46 PM
77	Old Nike Site, Dodge 5, History of the land and the roll it played in our nations history .	7/10/2013 3:34 PM
78	Wise road property that was just purchased	7/10/2013 3:11 PM
79	Making the land on Wise Road a nice park with lots of playround equipment, drinking fountains and restrooms with a oval walking path on the perimeter.	7/10/2013 2:44 PM

**Q6 Overall, how would you rate the job being done providing recreational programs and facilities in Commerce Township – would you give a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of only fair or poor?**

Answered: 221 Skipped: 21



Answer Choices	Responses
Excellent	18.55% 41
Pretty Good	58.37% 129
Only Fair	16.29% 36
Poor	2.26% 5
Undecided/Don't Know	4.52% 10
Total	221

**Q7 What stands out for you as the main reason why you offered a positive rating of (Excellent/Pretty Good)? [Write Comment]**

Answered: 114 Skipped: 128

#	Responses	Date
1	There seems to be many good programs offered... Always room for improvement	8/6/2013 10:12 AM
2	the new dodge park on commerce and commerce	8/2/2013 12:12 PM
3	I can see things starting to happen (Dodge Park development & Friday night movies) - It's apparent there are people on the board that want more for family activities - it's a good thing	8/2/2013 8:52 AM
4	Baseball/softball parks, lakes recreation, biking trails, open green spaces	8/2/2013 7:15 AM
5	I think, from what I know they do a good job. I have nothing negative to say.	8/1/2013 11:27 PM
6	People seem to be happy to live in commerce township.	8/1/2013 3:51 PM
7	Existing parks and programs offered	8/1/2013 7:53 AM
8	Good Communication of events via sign postings on major roads, huge benefit for us participating!	7/31/2013 11:58 PM
9	I see many people using the parks! I really like what has been done with Dodge Park 5!	7/31/2013 8:09 PM
10	Just the parks themselves	7/31/2013 7:19 PM
11	the concerts in the new area off South Commerce Road	7/31/2013 5:08 PM
12	Dodge park	7/31/2013 3:14 PM
13	There is a large amount of park land and walking trails. Would like to see a larger play area for kids.	7/31/2013 2:04 PM
14	Number and quality of current events offered.	7/31/2013 12:42 PM
15	There is continued development and maintenance of the parks in the area.	7/31/2013 11:48 AM
16	The new concession stand/restrooms at Hickory Glen are very nice	7/27/2013 4:22 PM
17	robert long nature area	7/27/2013 9:59 AM
18	Concert in the Park Movies in the Park	7/26/2013 3:43 PM
19	I enjoy all of the properties Commerce has to offer including Hickory Glenn for its mountain bike trails.	7/25/2013 10:28 PM
20	Nice land & good programs	7/24/2013 11:09 PM
21	Lots of available open space. Partnering with youth sports leagues who provide infrastructure.	7/24/2013 12:20 PM
22	Effort	7/23/2013 7:46 AM
23	parks are always well maintained	7/23/2013 6:06 AM
24	Facilities are nice and kept up	7/22/2013 4:26 PM
25	Lakeshore Park mtb trails are fantastic. Not 100% sure they are in Commerce.	7/22/2013 11:12 AM
26	Variety of what is offered, fair costs	7/20/2013 9:47 PM
27	Preserving open space has meant we can provide increased opportunities for recreation and protect environmentally sensitive areas; The bike path along South Commerce Road has turned a dangerous road on which to even walk, into a heavily used, wonderful trail connection that residents of all ages use.	7/20/2013 3:08 PM
28	Doing what can be done with limited money	7/20/2013 10:07 AM
29	Township does a good job seeking input	7/20/2013 8:30 AM
30	considering ive lived here for 46 yrs and just now heard about parks and rec	7/20/2013 6:32 AM
31	There are a lot of programs, soccer, baseball and softball etc. available to the kids.	7/19/2013 8:59 AM
32	I like events like concerts and library events in the parks. There seem to be enough sports fields for a variety of activities.	7/18/2013 4:51 PM
33	Always updating, and buying land to protect.	7/18/2013 10:07 AM
34	Many options available.	7/17/2013 9:51 PM
35	I just see a lot of programs and people having fun.	7/17/2013 8:42 PM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

36	Lakes Athletics Association runs a terrific program now offering travel baseball as well as house baseball. They are also offering tournaments at the Lakes fields which makes things very convenient and close to home.	7/17/2013 7:46 PM
37	well maintained convenient	7/17/2013 3:23 PM
38	Baseball fields at Hickory glen.	7/17/2013 12:10 PM
39	love dodge park	7/17/2013 10:09 AM
40	I like the changes that were made on Martin Parkway .	7/17/2013 9:29 AM
41	Plenty of different activities are offered.	7/17/2013 9:03 AM
42	Nice parks; appreciate bike/walking paths that we do have	7/17/2013 8:54 AM
43	We are enjoying the concerts in the summer, programs at the library , etc. It would be nice if we had an actual "downtown" area.	7/17/2013 8:12 AM
44	Good setup for activities an development	7/17/2013 2:11 AM
45	Dodge park is maintained.	7/16/2013 7:58 PM
46	The areas always seem maintained	7/16/2013 4:45 PM
47	Maple Glen Park	7/16/2013 4:20 PM
48	I like the improvements at dodge 5 and richardson in the recent past	7/16/2013 4:09 PM
49	Enjoy able park system	7/16/2013 4:08 PM
50	The current parks seem to be well taken care of .	7/16/2013 12:25 PM
51	upkeep	7/16/2013 11:59 AM
52	The parks are very nicely maintained	7/16/2013 11:54 AM
53	Baseball	7/16/2013 11:17 AM
54	Parks seem to be well cared for and offer a variety of opportunities.	7/16/2013 10:54 AM
55	The baseball fields are nice	7/16/2013 10:43 AM
56	Well maintained	7/16/2013 10:22 AM
57	The staff is great, and we enjoy our selves in all the programs we took	7/16/2013 10:11 AM
58	My kids play baseball and the parks that we use are in pretty good shape. We like the new consession stand.	7/16/2013 9:56 AM
59	Dodge complex	7/16/2013 9:45 AM
60	Parks are generally well kept, grass cut, equipment maintained	7/16/2013 9:33 AM
61	The parks are always nice and clean.	7/16/2013 9:14 AM
62	good offering of programs, quality of instruction is very good	7/16/2013 9:11 AM
63	Open space is a premium and commerce seems to care a little about that.... Upset land by wln was sold:(	7/16/2013 9:08 AM
64	Hickory Glen Park Baseball fields, used by my family through Lakes Athletic Asss. baseball	7/16/2013 8:53 AM
65	Meets my family's needs	7/16/2013 8:52 AM
66	I see continuous improvement being done throughout the community . The improvement to Dodge Park, the addition of bike paths, etc.	7/16/2013 8:30 AM
67	well maintained	7/16/2013 8:29 AM
68	The number and cleanliness	7/16/2013 8:27 AM
69	From a baseball only perspective the facilities are plentiful	7/16/2013 8:24 AM
70	Number of Kids in base ball, football with out having a Parks Director.	7/16/2013 7:50 AM
71	We have enough sports parks in my opinion. Twp does a great job with these. I would be adamantly against further development of Dodge Park into sports-related activities. We need to leave some green space for walking, picnicking, bird-watching & tranquility . .	7/15/2013 7:22 PM
72	parks staff is great, always polite and always striving to make things better	7/15/2013 3:50 PM
73	The Hickory Glen mountain bike trails are excellent and very nice to have so close to home	7/15/2013 3:46 PM
74	Activities available and quality of the activities	7/15/2013 3:20 PM
75	More stuff to do than a typical suburb.	7/15/2013 1:33 PM
76	There are already some bike paths established	7/15/2013 11:54 AM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

77	All the areas are well kept and available	7/12/2013 10:23 PM
78	It seems to have good programs for everyone.	7/12/2013 3:29 PM
79	Hickory Glen park Numerous Ball fields Proud Lake Rec. Area	7/12/2013 3:12 PM
80	The township is committed to offering many recreational activities and working with various user groups.	7/12/2013 11:42 AM
81	Our daughter has enjoyed all the programs she's participated in	7/12/2013 10:51 AM
82	We play in Inter-Lakes and Commerce Little league, the facilities are fantastic. Very family friendly environment which makes the experience for players, coaches, and fans wonderful	7/12/2013 10:01 AM
83	well maintained by Michigan mountain bike members	7/12/2013 8:54 AM
84	Hickory Glen park has a fun mountain bike trail.	7/12/2013 8:37 AM
85	Lots of hiking/biking trails.	7/12/2013 8:35 AM
86	Clean	7/12/2013 7:51 AM
87	We have boating/water sports, mt. biking, paved bike trails, concerts,	7/12/2013 7:12 AM
88	The parks I use are clean and well taken care of.	7/12/2013 4:08 AM
89	I think the improvements to dodge park and the bike path to hickory glen are great. I use the multiple times per week.	7/11/2013 11:50 PM
90	Hickory Glen and Proud lake areas are excellent. Mountain bike and hiking trails make the community unique and great to live here.	7/11/2013 11:31 PM
91	The awesome mountain bike trails at Hickory Glen Park.	7/11/2013 11:19 PM
92	No complains	7/11/2013 9:42 PM
93	Cleanliness	7/11/2013 9:18 PM
94	ILGSL. Love girls softball	7/11/2013 9:07 PM
95	The locations and condition of the parks, open areas.	7/11/2013 6:21 PM
96	Parks are clean and pretty .	7/11/2013 4:11 PM
97	the concerts and movies	7/11/2013 3:16 PM
98	My child plays softball at Glengarry park and it is well maintained other than the parking is horrible.	7/11/2013 3:13 PM
99	Very family friendly and clean.	7/11/2013 3:07 PM
100	I have lived in Commerce for almost 31 years and it has always had great programs.	7/11/2013 2:37 PM
101	InterLakes girls softball	7/11/2013 2:03 PM
102	fields are always taken care of	7/11/2013 1:47 PM
103	my children participate in many activities in commerce	7/11/2013 1:23 PM
104	Seems like there is something for everyone	7/11/2013 12:35 PM
105	The organization and land I go though, Interlakes Girls Softball, is great. I played there as a kid and I now coach there.	7/11/2013 12:24 PM
106	We love the Maple Glen fields for softball	7/11/2013 12:24 PM
107	ILGSL, hawks football, lakes baseball. All fields are kept very nicely .	7/11/2013 12:21 PM
108	Nice fields, always packed	7/11/2013 12:16 PM
109	By allowing non-profit organization/groups to volunteer and develop the local sports/programs allows costs to stay low so that more families are able to enjoy .	7/11/2013 11:51 AM
110	Not enough area awareness	7/11/2013 10:23 AM
111	With the amount of money that is available, I believe that the Township has worked diligently to spend in it in the most economical ways, to provide all age groups recreational opportunities.	7/11/2013 8:09 AM
112	because for the times we are in things are adequate...and affordable...	7/10/2013 3:46 PM
113	With the limited resources provided they do a great job.	7/10/2013 3:36 PM
114	The parks are used and clean.	7/10/2013 2:53 PM

**Q8 What stands out for you as the main reason why you offered a negative rating of (Only Fair/Poor)? [Write Comment]**

Answered: 52 Skipped: 190

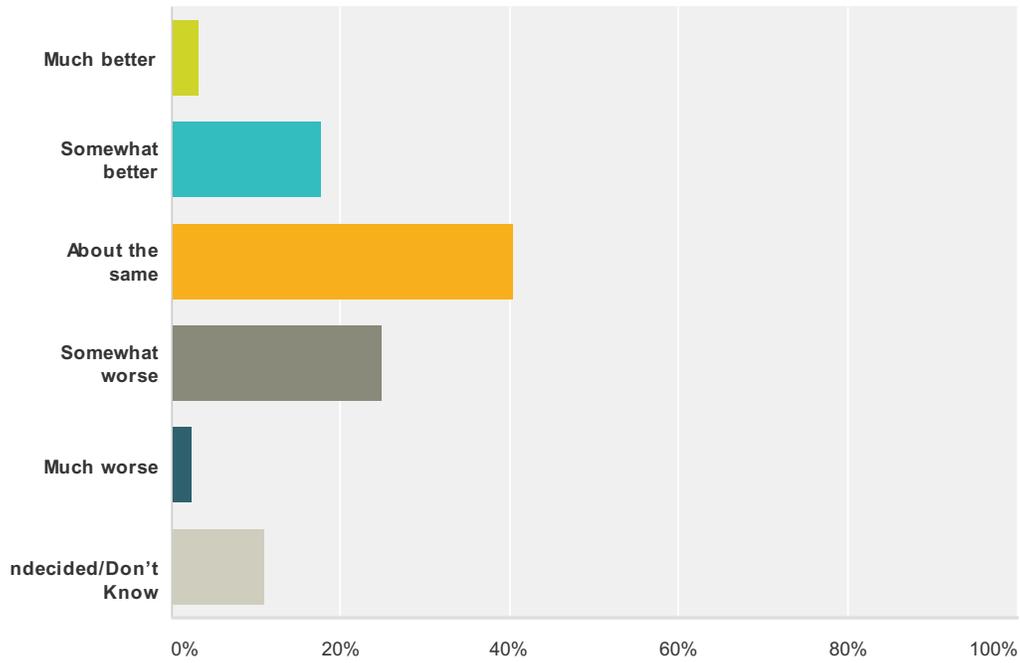
#	Responses	Date
1	The only reason for the fair rating is because I am unaware of the programs being offered, due to lack of advertisement or publication.	8/9/2013 9:43 AM
2	Lack of awareness of programs. The fault lies with me, but if I saw more of it (easier website access, Spinal Column, Township newsletter?) I would try to attend more.	8/6/2013 5:04 PM
3	I am not aware, or do not use, much of what Commerce Twp's Parks and Rec offer to the community .	8/3/2013 2:08 PM
4	Quality of the maintenance of the parks is only fair.	8/2/2013 11:39 AM
5	Seasonal and senior activities	8/2/2013 7:15 AM
6	Parks have huge potential but are no where near "best in class" or even close to most of other cities (Lake Orion, Livonia, Farmington Hills, Novi, etc.). Land and location is outstanding but parks need a design makeover.	8/1/2013 11:07 PM
7	Don't hear much about the activities.	8/1/2013 5:18 PM
8	If you offer Park & Rec classes, I've never known about them. There may be a concert or two offered or a movie night -- but, big deal! I would like more activities. I suggest you look at Ann Arbor's Park & Rec's programs - it's wonderful!!!! Just copy them! Also - if anyone wants to swim and exercise in commerce twp - they have to join Lifetime Fitness -- our family pays over \$100 EACH MONTH!!! Which is frustrating because we know that a city can do better - we lived in Ann Arbor!	7/31/2013 8:45 PM
9	I don't think it's ever been communicated to me what is available?	7/30/2013 9:11 AM
10	Dodge Park comes to mind. How a beautiful natural park with an amazing pine grove could be stripped and turned into a soccer field is beyond belief . A more optimal solution would have been to install a trail system. More people walk and ride bicycles then do those who play soccer.	7/27/2013 4:35 PM
11	I haven't heard about any of the events. Commerce Twp. needs to be a town. It does not offer the "sense of place" that people are wanting in their community . You need to establish that...and I know you are trying with the planned downtown area at the end of M-5, but it is still not established as a center. Until you establish it as a center it will be hard to establish "the sense of place". Commerce township is not square either, it is hard to establish where Commerce Twp. is and what is Walled Lake, what is Wolverine Lake, etc. until that boundary is defined all of "us" that reside in these surrounding near the borders of commerce twp. don't have an allegiance to anything that is a city center,,so its hard to answer how do you feel about activiites in Commerce Twp. when i'm not clear exactly to what was being offered by the township, or was it the WLCSD or was it Multi-Lakes or was it Walled Lake or Wolverine Lake.....I do notice Dodge Park, clearly Commerce Twp. has had a surgence of concert events...I did notice!! I have not attended but I did notice the upsurge of activity . My final word...establish a center....promote it!	7/27/2013 12:47 AM
12	Not enough programs/not enough variety	7/24/2013 11:10 PM
13	Things happen far too slowly	7/24/2013 5:33 PM
14	We pretty much have to rely on surrounding communities for organized events and activities (other than classes through Community Ed or a couple of sports organizations for youth). I tell people that I LOVE Commerce for the natural beauty but it's as if the officials said, "We don't offer anything because we gave you lakes. Lots of lakes. Be happy with that." I want to attend events that MY town puts on, not drive into other communities and attend THEIR events. AND, for years I have sent comments to the "contact us" on the website. Not once have I gotten a reply . That is pathetic. And we need to revamp our website. Just take a look at the websites for neighboring towns to get ideas of what a website should be like. And hire someone to keep it updated with CURRENT updates and events. Reach out to members of the community for info on events that their groups are promoting (events open to the public sponsored by preschools, scout troops, mom's groups, non-profit groups, etc) and be a partner with them to support your community and offer more events to them.	7/24/2013 10:50 AM
15	no enough	7/23/2013 10:02 PM
16	Need Lacrosse fields	7/23/2013 7:10 PM
17	I dont feel a sense of community . I think there needs to be a way/reason to bring people together. Lack of sidewalks limits the ability of promoting physical fitness and mobility outside of driving ones car.	7/23/2013 11:36 AM
18	More bike lanes on high traffic roads.	7/22/2013 11:12 AM
19	Because I have never heard of any recreational activities in Commerce Twp. & I've been here 25 yeas!	7/21/2013 10:51 PM
20	I think some adult programs would be a good additional idea too	7/19/2013 8:59 AM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

21	Finding good/safe fields to practice on for baseball is tough, especially older kids. Not enough soccer fields too. Need more bike paths through out commerce.	7/18/2013 10:42 PM
22	A good start with parks and trails, but more of CT needs to be connected via trails, and open space used for parkland. Too many areas have already been wasted on poorly -developed subdivisions that have lost value.	7/18/2013 4:22 PM
23	roads maintenance,	7/18/2013 10:31 AM
24	You concentrate on family activities. I am not a family.	7/16/2013 9:45 PM
25	My car was vandalized on the old side of dodge park.	7/16/2013 7:58 PM
26	lack of support staff to assist cordinating programs and facilities; too many tree lost along roadways;	7/16/2013 6:09 PM
27	My 4 year old son was in T-ball and I think the league should not put 4 year old with almost 7 year olds. Also, our coach while nice was completely disorganized and if not for the parents jumping in every game, nothing would have got done.	7/16/2013 1:16 PM
28	other than Lakes baseball (which is awful). I would like my kids to participate more but I don't even know where to look to find out what is offered. Poor communication with residents	7/16/2013 11:54 AM
29	Lakes baseball is very much mismanaged and it is impacting kids and families, however it is too political to change so we have moved on. Very few other services have been made available citywide for the kids	7/16/2013 11:36 AM
30	Need less travel teams and more home teams in baseball	7/16/2013 11:17 AM
31	I don't think the programs are widely advertised enough. I don't think people know about the community bike paths or hiking trails. The actual trails and stuff need to be posted better.	7/16/2013 11:04 AM
32	There wasn't enough interest and some of our classes were canceled	7/16/2013 10:11 AM
33	There aren't that many parks in commerce, if I'm looking for somewhere to take my children for a park outing I end up going outside of commerce, like Hess Hathaway, Kensington or even as far as Farmington	7/16/2013 9:30 AM
34	frustrating to learn that a class is cancelled due to low enrollment -- this has happend to me twice	7/16/2013 9:11 AM
35	Don't know of anything that is done for recreation besides concert in park	7/16/2013 8:37 AM
36	Services can be managed better. Look at how West Bloomfield goes about accomplishing this.	7/16/2013 8:29 AM
37	Not enough team sport support	7/16/2013 8:27 AM
38	Would like to see fields dragged and lined before games. I play West Bloomfield also and that is all taken care of beforehand	7/16/2013 8:24 AM
39	The Parks Committee may have idea, but it takes so long to accomplish anything as it all has to be approved by the Twp Board and they often don't understand the impact to the Community	7/15/2013 7:34 PM
40	No place for teenage kids	7/15/2013 6:58 PM
41	communication is lacking, don't see anything new	7/15/2013 3:13 PM
42	Pavilion rental and some water bodies should be added	7/14/2013 2:52 PM
43	n/a	7/12/2013 10:01 AM
44	We are a big area failing to recognize the multifaceted needs for varied opportunities for recreation. We could be a cultural center, a destination spot for the West side of the tri-county area.	7/12/2013 8:20 AM
45	N/A	7/12/2013 7:51 AM
46	N/A	7/11/2013 11:50 PM
47	Can't maintain what you have know to worried about your dda land you can't sell.	7/11/2013 10:49 PM
48	none	7/11/2013 3:16 PM
49	n/a	7/11/2013 2:37 PM
50	Commerce does not seem to reach as many people as Walled Lake does with its advertising. New avenues of reaching people need to be pursued.	7/11/2013 8:51 AM
51	Aside from the Concerts in the Park what events are there that are not privately planned, but planned by the Township?	7/10/2013 3:11 PM
52	Most of the parks are used for sports which is good, but they are always in use to where if a group got together and decide to play ball it would be hard to find a field that's not being used.	7/10/2013 2:53 PM

**Q9 Based on what you may know or have heard or read about recreational programs and facilities that are provided in other parts of Oakland County or in other counties, would you say that the programs provided in Commerce Township are better, worse, or about the same as programs provided in other areas?**

Answered: 208 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses	
<b>Much better</b>	<b>3.37%</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Somewhat better</b>	<b>17.79%</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>About the same</b>	<b>40.38%</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Somewhat worse</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Much worse</b>	<b>2.40%</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Undecided/Don't Know</b>	<b>11.06%</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>208</b>

**Q10 What would you say is better about the programs provided in your area? [Write Comment]**

Answered: 21 Skipped: 221

#	Responses	Date
1	Access	8/2/2013 7:16 AM
2	It fits for my family , and my kids.	8/1/2013 11:28 PM
3	We have more park area	7/31/2013 7:21 PM
4	The township partnership with youth sports leagues.	7/24/2013 12:21 PM
5	More open space and park areas. Dodge Park No. 5 (north area) and Byers Homestead are especially beautiful places to visit. The North End of Dodge Park should definitely be preserved as it is right now.	7/20/2013 3:11 PM
6	People are involved in helping.	7/18/2013 10:09 AM
7	Lakes Athletics has improved each year. Providing not only the baseball program, but coaches clinics, umpire clinics, as well as winter and summer training. The park now also has a wonderful concession stand with nice bathrooms. The way they use the older kids to mentor the younger kids is great. All around great program!	7/17/2013 7:51 PM
8	Variety	7/17/2013 9:03 AM
9	Easy access to programs. No waiting list.	7/16/2013 7:59 PM
10	The level of organization and commitment.	7/16/2013 4:24 PM
11	Nice fields	7/16/2013 10:45 AM
12	Camps. Soccer.	7/16/2013 9:10 AM
13	Lakes	7/15/2013 1:33 PM
14	More variety	7/12/2013 3:13 PM
15	More township commitment	7/12/2013 11:42 AM
16	Great volunteer network of people who truly care	7/12/2013 10:03 AM
17	Parks are clean and maintained by volunteer organizations like MMBA.	7/11/2013 11:34 PM
18	More nature parks and trails for a variety of users.	7/11/2013 11:19 PM
19	Great volunteers	7/11/2013 3:08 PM
20	Not in my area, but Walled Lake does a farmers market which is think is crucial in this day and age.	7/11/2013 2:38 PM
21	There is a good history of the programs provided that allow any child interested to play. The recreational youth sports need to stay and be maintained to allow all children, regardless of ability. to play in the sport of their choice.	7/11/2013 11:53 AM

**Q11 What would you say is worse about the programs provided in your area? [Write Comment]**

Answered: 50 Skipped: 192

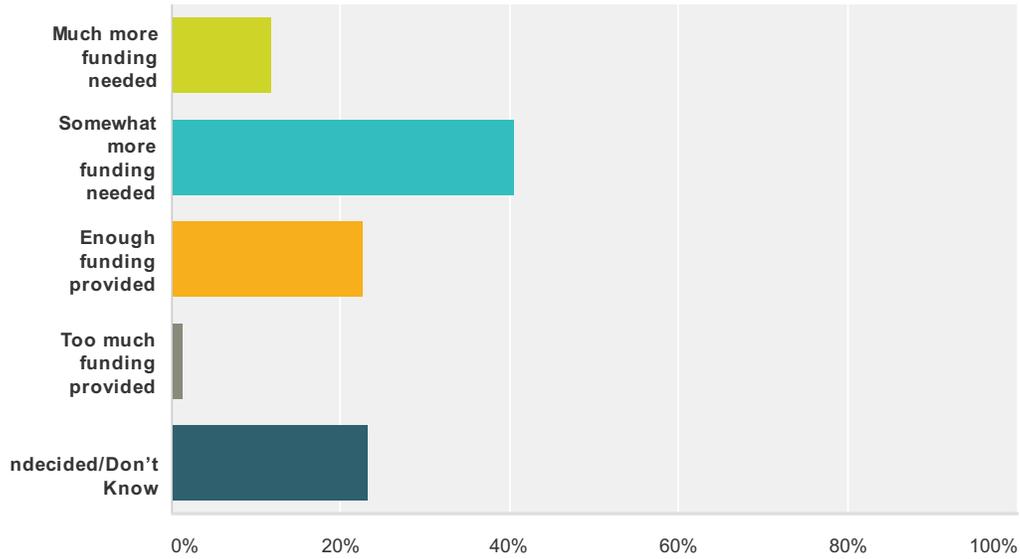
#	Responses	Date
1	I have observed graffiti at the beautiful Mill Race Park that is a haven for vandalism, discouraging people from visiting the park. I have not seen any programs offered by Commerce Twp.. The Oakland County Parks system is a great model to emulate.	8/9/2013 9:46 AM
2	Not as many facilities, few organized leagues, lesser presence.	8/3/2013 2:08 PM
3	The lack of programs and parks	8/2/2013 8:56 AM
4	All we do is provide the land and the groups run the parks- our past investment has been in acquiring more land when we do not have the funds to make the parks first class and more efficient.	8/1/2013 11:08 PM
5	I always receive information now what is going on at Oakland County Parks.	8/1/2013 5:19 PM
6	There is no recreation department.	8/1/2013 3:52 PM
7	What programs??? Very lacking in programs!!!	7/31/2013 8:47 PM
8	The parks and nature trails are much better in West Bloomfield. Commerce should do more.	7/27/2013 4:22 PM
9	Less frequent, less variety	7/24/2013 5:33 PM
10	There aren't enough. What is offered is somewhat limited in scope (range of possible interested parties). Frequently we must resort to participating in programs in neighboring communities (Wixom, Walled Lake, West Bloomfield, Milford to name a few).	7/24/2013 10:53 AM
11	not enough dog parks	7/23/2013 10:02 PM
12	Not as nice as West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills, field	7/23/2013 7:11 PM
13	Less "town" feel, inability to walk around	7/23/2013 7:47 AM
14	I haven't heard of any .	7/21/2013 10:52 PM
15	They are just not as developed	7/20/2013 10:10 AM
16	I am not sure what p&r does for sports	7/20/2013 6:33 AM
17	Not enough funding to take care of what we have.	7/18/2013 10:44 PM
18	More connecting of bike patches.	7/18/2013 10:09 AM
19	The park driveway and roads really need some serious work. Lakes works to fix the holes as best as they can and control the dust, but could be improved very much.	7/17/2013 7:51 PM
20	Needs more recreational trails developed for biking hiking and ped transport	7/17/2013 2:12 AM
21	Too much development of roads and housing and not enough about green space.	7/16/2013 9:46 PM
22	lack of support and cordination of volunteers/programs in the community	7/16/2013 6:10 PM
23	Road maintenance/ dust control of our parks.	7/16/2013 4:24 PM
24	Need more park land and more mountain biking facilities	7/16/2013 4:09 PM
25	Projects that looked good before property fall out were not completed.	7/16/2013 12:27 PM
26	West Bloomfield has more money as does novi and Farmington hills and it is evident based on the facilities the parks offer.	7/16/2013 11:37 AM
27	Not as many parks or niceties in parks.	7/16/2013 11:18 AM
28	Parks may not be worse but information about the parks is not easy to research on township website (playground equipment available...)	7/16/2013 10:56 AM
29	Not many programs are advertised. Most are word of mouth.	7/16/2013 10:45 AM
30	There aren't enough and what there is there is little or no advertising for them	7/16/2013 9:56 AM
31	No community rec. programs for children / kids. Golf leagues, sports, and so on	7/16/2013 9:46 AM
32	Baseball, open spaces	7/16/2013 9:10 AM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

33	No bike trails/ paths	7/16/2013 8:53 AM
34	What programs do we have? Football,, baseball and now 3 programs in the summer. Those are the supervised programs	7/15/2013 7:35 PM
35	Lack of choices, lack of paths	7/15/2013 3:14 PM
36	Not that many organized activities.	7/15/2013 1:33 PM
37	A 'rec center'building per say like in Livonia,Canton for residents	7/14/2013 11:46 PM
38	Nothing significant enough to comment on....	7/12/2013 10:03 AM
39	Variety/diversity , culture	7/12/2013 8:21 AM
40	We need a splash park and/or pool.	7/11/2013 9:43 PM
41	Don't know about them!	7/11/2013 5:25 PM
42	Not as many and we don't get a lot of information about the events coming up.	7/11/2013 3:15 PM
43	n/a	7/11/2013 2:38 PM
44	lack of classes offered, broken play equipment, lack of communication	7/11/2013 2:27 PM
45	Besides sports what else is there to get the kids involved in? West Bloomfield has a building and a pool along with other parks that are beautiful attached to walking paths.	7/11/2013 12:24 PM
46	We have many outstanding outdoor programs but lack the indoor (winter) activities.	7/11/2013 11:53 AM
47	Use west Bloomfield as example	7/11/2013 9:13 AM
48	Not enough programs are available	7/11/2013 8:10 AM
49	No real kids activities -- have a look at Waterford's water park, for example	7/10/2013 6:48 PM
50	There are not enough of them	7/10/2013 3:12 PM

**Q12 Do you think that current recreational programs, activities and facilities have enough funding to provide what is needed and wanted in Commerce Township, do you think that more funding is needed, or, do you think that too much funding is already provided**

Answered: 202 Skipped: 40



Answer Choices	Responses
<b>Much more funding needed</b>	<b>11.88%</b> 24
<b>Somewhat more funding needed</b>	<b>40.59%</b> 82
<b>Enough funding provided</b>	<b>22.77%</b> 46
<b>Too much funding provided</b>	<b>1.49%</b> 3
<b>Undecided/Don't Know</b>	<b>23.27%</b> 47
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>

**Q13 The following is a list of several specific types of physical recreational activities. Please mark the answer that most accurately describes you and/or your family's participation...**

Answered: 194 Skipped: 48



# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

Volleyball		
Picnicking		
Fishing		
Boating		
Equestrian		

0

	Currently Participate	Future Interest in Participating	Not Interested	Undecided/Don't Know	Total	Average Rating
Walking or Hiking	76.80% 139	17.13% 31	3.87% 7	2.21% 4	181	0.00
Jogging	36.08% 57	18.99% 30	39.24% 62	5.70% 9	158	0.00
Soccer	25.50% 38	15.44% 23	51.68% 77	7.38% 11	149	0.00
Bicycling	66.67% 118	27.12% 48	4.52% 8	1.69% 3	177	0.00
Cross Country Skiing	15.03% 23	32.68% 50	43.79% 67	8.50% 13	153	0.00
Ice Hockey	17.01% 25	16.33% 24	57.14% 84	9.52% 14	147	0.00
Field Hockey	2.88% 4	10.79% 15	72.66% 101	13.67% 19	139	0.00
In-Line Hockey	6.29% 9	18.18% 26	63.64% 91	11.89% 17	143	0.00
Golf	47.80% 76	17.61% 28	29.56% 47	5.03% 8	159	0.00
Disc Golf	18.24% 27	31.76% 47	41.22% 61	8.78% 13	148	0.00
Skateboarding	9.66% 14	20.69% 30	61.38% 89	8.28% 12	145	0.00
Ice Skating	28.95% 44	34.21% 52	28.95% 44	7.89% 12	152	0.00
Rollerblading	20.67% 31	27.33% 41	42.67% 64	9.33% 14	150	0.00
Tennis	23.84% 36	34.44% 52	33.11% 50	8.61% 13	151	0.00
Baseball	53.70% 87	10.49% 17	30.25% 49	5.56% 9	162	0.00
Softball	39.39% 65	18.18% 30	34.55% 57	7.88% 13	165	0.00
Basketball	29.33% 44	26.67% 40	36% 54	8% 12	150	0.00
Football	23.49% 35	16.78% 25	48.99% 73	10.74% 16	149	0.00
Lacrosse	11.27% 16	21.83% 31	52.11% 74	14.79% 21	142	0.00

Volleyball	48.70%	30.20%	10.04%	10.07%		
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# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

Volleyball	10.13% 28	30.20% 45	40.34% 61	10.07% 15	149	0.00
Picnicking	65.22% 105	21.12% 34	11.18% 18	2.48% 4	161	0.00
Fishing	48.47% 79	28.83% 47	16.56% 27	6.13% 10	163	0.00
Boating	46.95% 77	27.44% 45	20.12% 33	5.49% 9	164	0.00
Equestrian	5.59% 8	22.38% 32	56.64% 81	15.38% 22	143	0.00

**Q14 Are there any other physical recreational activities that were not listed that you or other members of your family would be interested in now or in the future?  
[Write in Up to 3 Activities]**

Answered: 49 Skipped: 193

#	Responses	Date
1	Bird watching, nature observation, kayaking and nature walks.	8/9/2013 9:48 AM
2	group fitness classes (yoga)	8/3/2013 2:09 PM
3	Pickleball. It is a fast growing sport. Mature people enjoy playing it. It is a combination of tennis, ping pong and badminton on a 20 x 40ft court. Presently closes place to play indoors is Northville community center and outdoors at the center in Heartland.	8/1/2013 5:24 PM
4	playing with dog in a special park	8/1/2013 3:54 PM
5	Snowshoeing	8/1/2013 7:56 AM
6	soccer for youth	8/1/2013 12:00 AM
7	Swimming, water park, indoor facility w/ rooms for classes.	7/31/2013 8:49 PM
8	Sailing	7/31/2013 3:18 PM
9	No	7/30/2013 9:12 AM
10	Stand Up Paddleboarding Kayaking Mountain Biking	7/27/2013 12:51 AM
11	Bike lanes, more walking paths connected together	7/24/2013 5:35 PM
12	Enclosed dog park (closer than Lyon Twp). There is a section of park running along the south side of Glengary Road just before it crosses over into the ball fields that would be perfect. Would require only fencing and additional parking.	7/24/2013 10:56 AM
13	Bike rental; kayak rental	7/20/2013 3:13 PM
14	Dog running park	7/20/2013 10:13 AM
15	Mountain Biking	7/20/2013 8:32 AM
16	ATV riding	7/20/2013 4:09 AM
17	no	7/18/2013 10:34 AM
18	Bocce ball	7/17/2013 8:45 PM
19	snowshoeing geocaching kayaking	7/17/2013 8:14 AM
20	lure coursing (dog), tracking/field competition (dog); mountain bike trials;	7/16/2013 6:15 PM
21	Not just bicycling, but specifically MOUNTAIN biking trails	7/16/2013 4:10 PM
22	Cheerleading, swimming	7/16/2013 11:19 AM
23	splash park children's activity club (rock wall climbing, etc) Rock wall climbing	7/16/2013 11:06 AM
24	go cart, motor cycle or ATV track/area	7/16/2013 10:47 AM
25	geocaching	7/16/2013 9:12 AM
26	Senior work out trail	7/16/2013 7:52 AM
27	Canoeing/Kayaking Dog-walking Swimming	7/15/2013 7:26 PM
28	swimming	7/15/2013 4:07 PM
29	Swimming	7/14/2013 4:46 PM
30	Water splash, park	7/14/2013 2:54 PM
31	Mountain biking	7/13/2013 5:51 PM
32	mountain biking trails	7/12/2013 11:50 AM
33	Mountain Biking	7/12/2013 11:44 AM

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

34	No	7/12/2013 10:57 AM
35	n/a	7/12/2013 10:05 AM
36	Camping	7/12/2013 8:39 AM
37	Mountain biking	7/12/2013 8:37 AM
38	You are missing the cultural needs. We need theatre, art, music, performance arts, choirs. Our community is missing this. Consider the Dearborn Performing Arts Center which is attached to an excellent exercise facility. We don't have Ford to pay the way, but something smaller on that scale is possible. What a great addition it would be. I currently drive to Dearborn to sing in two volunteer community choirs which perform for the community many times a year at the facility and other community venues. Commerce has the space to cultivate a center for SW Oakland culture.	7/12/2013 8:27 AM
39	mountain biking	7/12/2013 4:09 AM
40	Mountain biking	7/11/2013 11:53 PM
41	Mountain biking is very important to the community.	7/11/2013 11:36 PM
42	Dirt Jumps with BMX or mountain bikes. Riding bikes at a skatepark.	7/11/2013 11:21 PM
43	Splash park, Geocaching	7/11/2013 9:45 PM
44	Swimming	7/11/2013 9:09 PM
45	Mountain biking	7/11/2013 9:07 PM
46	Geocaching events	7/11/2013 6:23 PM
47	Swimming	7/11/2013 12:25 PM
48	NO	7/10/2013 3:49 PM
49	exercisr path. should have remembered dog park for first question	7/10/2013 1:16 PM

**Q15 The following is a list of several specific types of non-sport recreational activities. Please mark the answer that most accurately describes you and/or your family's participation.**

Answered: 181 Skipped: 61



	Currently Participate	Future Interest in Participating	Not Interested	Undecided/Don't Know	Total	Average Rating
Computer & Technology Classes	15.53% 25	46.58% 75	28.57% 46	9.32% 15	161	0.00
Arts & Craft Classes/Activities	18.90% 31	54.27% 89	18.90% 31	7.93% 13	164	0.00
Fitness Classes (Aerobics, Dance)	24.69% 40	51.23% 83	18.52% 30	5.56% 9	162	0.00
Outdoor Youth Camps	23.95% 40	42.51% 71	25.75% 43	7.78% 13	167	0.00
Plays & Stage Productions	10.26% 16	36.54% 57	45.51% 71	7.69% 12	156	0.00
Concerts	33.54% 55	45.12% 74	16.46% 27	4.88% 8	164	0.00
Senior Trips, Activities, Meals	5.92% 9	33.55% 51	48.68% 74	11.84% 18	152	0.00

**Q16 Are there any other non-sport recreational activities that were not listed that you or other members of your family would be interested in now or in the future?  
[Write in Up to 3 Activities]**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 216

#	Responses	Date
1	Walking history tours of our various historical parks.	8/9/2013 9:50 AM
2	Astronomy Nights, Genealogy get togethers	8/6/2013 5:06 PM
3	"american idol" type summer day camp for kids	8/1/2013 12:01 AM
4	It would be wonderful if you had bus trips to Chicago, or Musical venues in Detroit. Other cities offer trips and activities -- there's nothing offered here	7/31/2013 8:50 PM
5	writing groups	7/31/2013 5:10 PM
6	No	7/30/2013 9:13 AM
7	Salsa Dancing Line Dancing Dancing community participation art projects	7/27/2013 12:53 AM
8	Disc golf	7/24/2013 11:11 PM
9	Robotics, film	7/24/2013 5:36 PM
10	Festivals Parades More pathways along main roads for walking/biking safely	7/24/2013 10:58 AM
11	Any new soccer or baseball fields should be located in the South end of the Wise Road land, in areas already cleared. Dodge Park 5 should NOT be further developed but instead, the North end preserved as a beautiful park. I would not support millage renewal if it means destroying that end of Dodge Park with soccer fields.	7/20/2013 3:22 PM
12	A spray / small water park would be nice.	7/18/2013 4:55 PM
13	none	7/18/2013 10:35 AM
14	wood craft; nature photography ; scavenger hunts; astromity ;	7/16/2013 6:17 PM
15	Nature trails & education	7/16/2013 7:54 AM
16	Historical Society Gardening Nature/ wildlife enrichment	7/15/2013 7:29 PM
17	orchestra	7/15/2013 4:08 PM
18	community bus trips to special events or attractions	7/15/2013 3:52 PM
19	No	7/12/2013 10:57 AM
20	n/a	7/12/2013 10:06 AM
21	Community choir Theatre, performance art of a varied of types Art, sculpture	7/12/2013 8:29 AM
22	No	7/11/2013 6:24 PM
23	NO	7/10/2013 3:50 PM
24	Art Fairs	7/10/2013 3:13 PM
25	Would like the bike path map updated.	7/10/2013 3:11 PM
26	first two items are available at local library , why not a cooperative program than a duplicate?	7/10/2013 1:17 PM

**Q17 The following list includes several specific types of recreational facilities. For each facility listed, please mark the answer that best represents your opinion related to the amount of each facility available.**

Answered: 186 Skipped: 56

Soccer Fields		
Ice Skating Facilities		
Skateboarding Area		
Baseball Fields		
Softball Fields		
Lacrosse Fields		
Indoor Swimming Pools		
Outdoor Swimming Pools		
Tennis Courts		
Gymnasiums		
Outdoor Basketball Courts		
Outdoor Volleyball Courts		
Community Center		
Senior Center		
Nature Areas		
Sledding Hill		
Outdoor Theatre & Bandstand		
Spray Park		
Hiking/Walking Trails		

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

Bike Paths			
Mountain Bike Trails			
Hockey/Equestrian Trails			
Golf Courses			
Disc Golf Courses			
Park Pavilions			
Football Fields			
Dog Parks			

0

	Many More Should Be Developed	More Should Be Developed	Enough Are Available	Undecided/Don't Know	Total	Average Rating
Soccer Fields	5.81% 9	22.58% 35	51.61% 80	20% 31	155	0.00
Ice Skating Facilities	10.13% 16	42.41% 67	19.62% 31	27.85% 44	158	0.00
Skateboarding Area	4.76% 7	35.37% 52	23.13% 34	36.73% 54	147	0.00
Baseball Fields	11.88% 19	29.38% 47	50% 80	8.75% 14	160	0.00
Softball Fields	11.54% 18	25% 39	47.44% 74	16.03% 25	156	0.00
Lacrosse Fields	7.38% 11	23.49% 35	24.16% 36	44.97% 67	149	0.00
Indoor Swimming Pools	10.13% 16	35.44% 56	32.28% 51	22.15% 35	158	0.00
Outdoor Swimming Pools	17.83% 28	42.68% 67	17.83% 28	21.66% 34	157	0.00
Tennis Courts	9.27% 14	34.44% 52	36.42% 55	19.87% 30	151	0.00
Gymnasiums	6.25% 9	21.53% 31	36.11% 52	36.11% 52	144	0.00
Outdoor Basketball Courts	9.93% 15	43.05% 65	25.83% 39	21.19% 32	151	0.00
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	6.85% 10	43.84% 64	22.60% 33	26.71% 39	146	0.00
Community Center	10% 15	36.67% 55	36% 54	17.33% 26	150	0.00
Senior Center	5.67% 8	23.40% 33	44.68% 63	26.24% 37	141	0.00
Nature Areas	22.30% 33	35.81% 53	29.73% 44	12.16% 18	148	0.00
Sledding Hill	14.29% 22	46.10% 71	27.27% 42	12.34% 19	154	0.00

42.22%

42.22%

22.67%

20.67%

## Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

<b>Outdoor Theatre &amp; Bandstand</b>	<b>13.33%</b> 20	<b>43.33%</b> 65	<b>22.01%</b> 34	<b>20.01%</b> 31	150	0.00
<b>Spray Park</b>	<b>19.48%</b> 30	<b>44.16%</b> 68	<b>17.53%</b> 27	<b>18.83%</b> 29	154	0.00
<b>Hiking/Walking Trails</b>	<b>29.30%</b> 46	<b>40.76%</b> 64	<b>21.66%</b> 34	<b>8.28%</b> 13	157	0.00
<b>Bike Paths</b>	<b>36.20%</b> 59	<b>36.81%</b> 60	<b>20.86%</b> 34	<b>6.13%</b> 10	163	0.00
<b>Mountain Bike Trails</b>	<b>33.13%</b> 53	<b>26.88%</b> 43	<b>20.63%</b> 33	<b>19.38%</b> 31	160	0.00
<b>Horseback/Equestrian Trails</b>	<b>4.76%</b> 7	<b>19.73%</b> 29	<b>33.33%</b> 49	<b>42.18%</b> 62	147	0.00
<b>Golf Courses</b>	<b>3.42%</b> 5	<b>24.66%</b> 36	<b>54.11%</b> 79	<b>17.81%</b> 26	146	0.00
<b>Disc Golf Courses</b>	<b>8.39%</b> 12	<b>35.66%</b> 51	<b>19.58%</b> 28	<b>36.36%</b> 52	143	0.00
<b>Park Pavilions</b>	<b>16.45%</b> 25	<b>46.05%</b> 70	<b>18.42%</b> 28	<b>19.08%</b> 29	152	0.00
<b>Football Fields</b>	<b>3.55%</b> 5	<b>21.99%</b> 31	<b>46.81%</b> 66	<b>27.66%</b> 39	141	0.00
<b>Dog Parks</b>	<b>18.37%</b> 27	<b>38.10%</b> 56	<b>23.81%</b> 35	<b>19.73%</b> 29	147	0.00

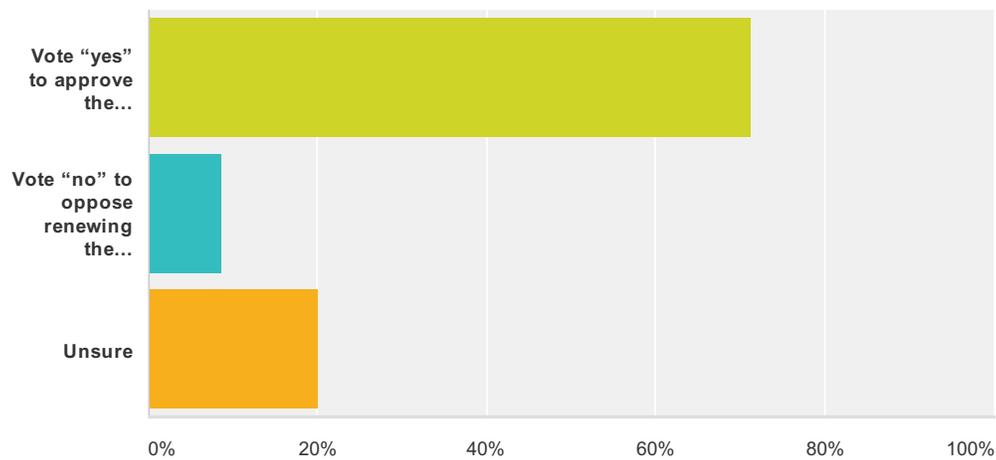
**Q18 Are there any other recreational facilities for either physical or non-sport recreation that were not listed that you or other members of your family would be interested in now or in the future? [Write in Up to 3 Facilities]**

Answered: 24 Skipped: 218

#	Responses	Date
1	I wish there was better pedestrian access to the M-5 / Martin Road Parkway parklands. There is no place to park, closer than 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile away, to observe the new bridge and wetland area along the parkway .	8/9/2013 9:53 AM
2	Paintball game area	8/1/2013 4:02 PM
3	I would love to have bus trips arranged - perhaps to Canada for the Stratford Festival Plays - or to the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the lake. I work in Toledo, and there is a bus that takes groups over to Canada to the Casino - that could be a fun outing.	7/31/2013 8:53 PM
4	No	7/30/2013 9:15 AM
5	Cross Country skiing	7/27/2013 12:56 AM
6	Community center and a pool	7/22/2013 7:45 PM
7	A recreation center like the one that Livonia has!!!!!!	7/20/2013 9:56 PM
8	a place to ride quads orv charge and people sign a letter not holding anyone accountable could generate more revenue	7/20/2013 6:38 AM
9	pavillions available for rental and use	7/19/2013 9:02 AM
10	Community center like the ones in canton or southfield	7/18/2013 10:52 PM
11	none	7/18/2013 10:37 AM
12	More mounting biking trails!	7/16/2013 4:11 PM
13	rock wall climbing	7/16/2013 11:08 AM
14	We NEED sidewalks!!!	7/16/2013 9:14 AM
15	Hunting educational programs	7/16/2013 7:57 AM
16	No	7/12/2013 11:00 AM
17	n/a	7/12/2013 10:08 AM
18	The MMBA will build and maintain the mountain bike trails on a volunteer basis - it won't cost the township anything.	7/12/2013 8:42 AM
19	Combine things into a big center. Consider indoor art and performance as we can only use outdoor for about half a year.	7/12/2013 8:33 AM
20	Skatepark or dirt jumps that allow all types of bicycle.	7/11/2013 11:23 PM
21	No	7/11/2013 6:26 PM
22	n/a	7/11/2013 2:41 PM
23	NO	7/10/2013 3:52 PM
24	Need restrooms at the parks with running water. Need to be able to reserve a park area for your own family activities at least for residents in Commerce Township.	7/10/2013 3:17 PM

**Q19 The current parks millage (0.4 mils or \$0.40 cents per \$1000 of taxable value) for purchase of property and development only will expire in 2014. Township officials are going to place a recreation millage renewal proposal on the 2014 ballot that would continue to dedicate the revenue generated from property tax assessments to fund improvement of parks and acquisition of land for publicly owned open space, which voters could approve or disapprove. Thinking about such a millage renewal proposal, do you think a MAJORITY of the Township’s voters would...**

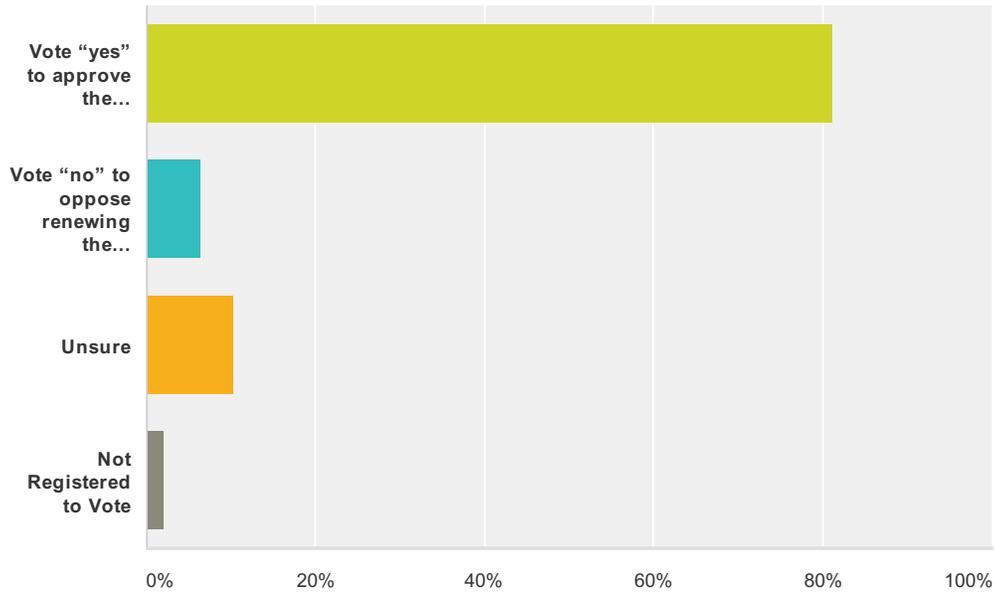
Answered: 184 Skipped: 58



Answer Choices	Responses	
<b>Vote "yes" to approve the recreation millage renewal</b>	<b>71.20%</b>	131
<b>Vote "no" to oppose renewing the recreation millage</b>	<b>8.70%</b>	16
<b>Unsure</b>	<b>20.11%</b>	37
<b>Total</b>		<b>184</b>

### Q20 How about yourself? A recreation millage renewal will be on the 2014 ballot, would You...

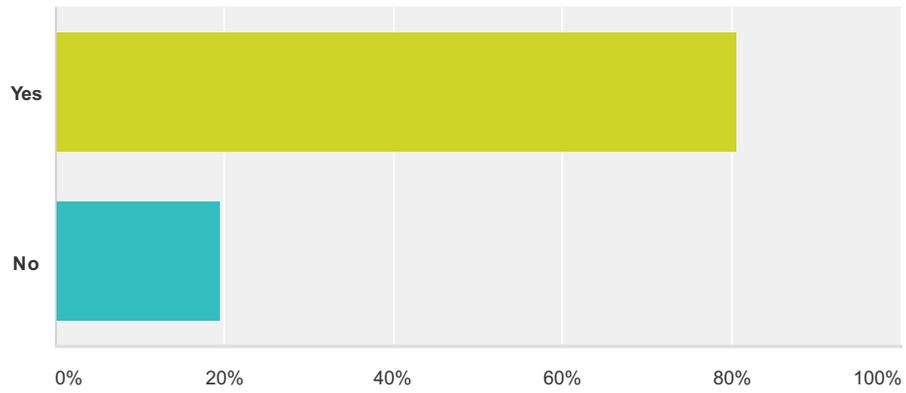
Answered: 184 Skipped: 58



Answer Choices	Responses	
Vote "yes" to approve the recreation millage renewal	80.98%	149
Vote "no" to oppose renewing the recreation millage	6.52%	12
Unsure	10.33%	19
Not Registered to Vote	2.17%	4
Total		184

**Q21 Are you currently registered to vote at your Commerce Township home address?**

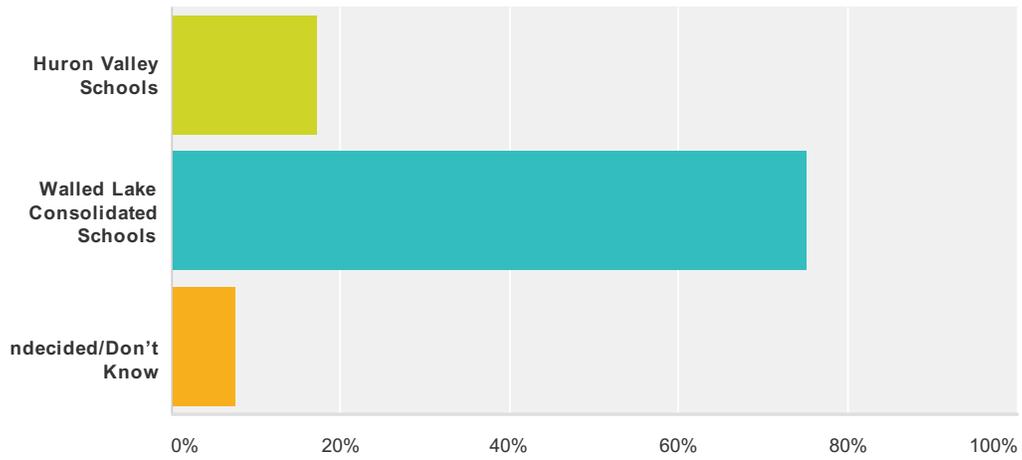
Answered: 184 Skipped: 58



Answer Choices	Responses	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>80.43%</b>	148
<b>No</b>	<b>19.57%</b>	36
<b>Total</b>		<b>184</b>

### Q22 In what local public school district do you reside and pay taxes?

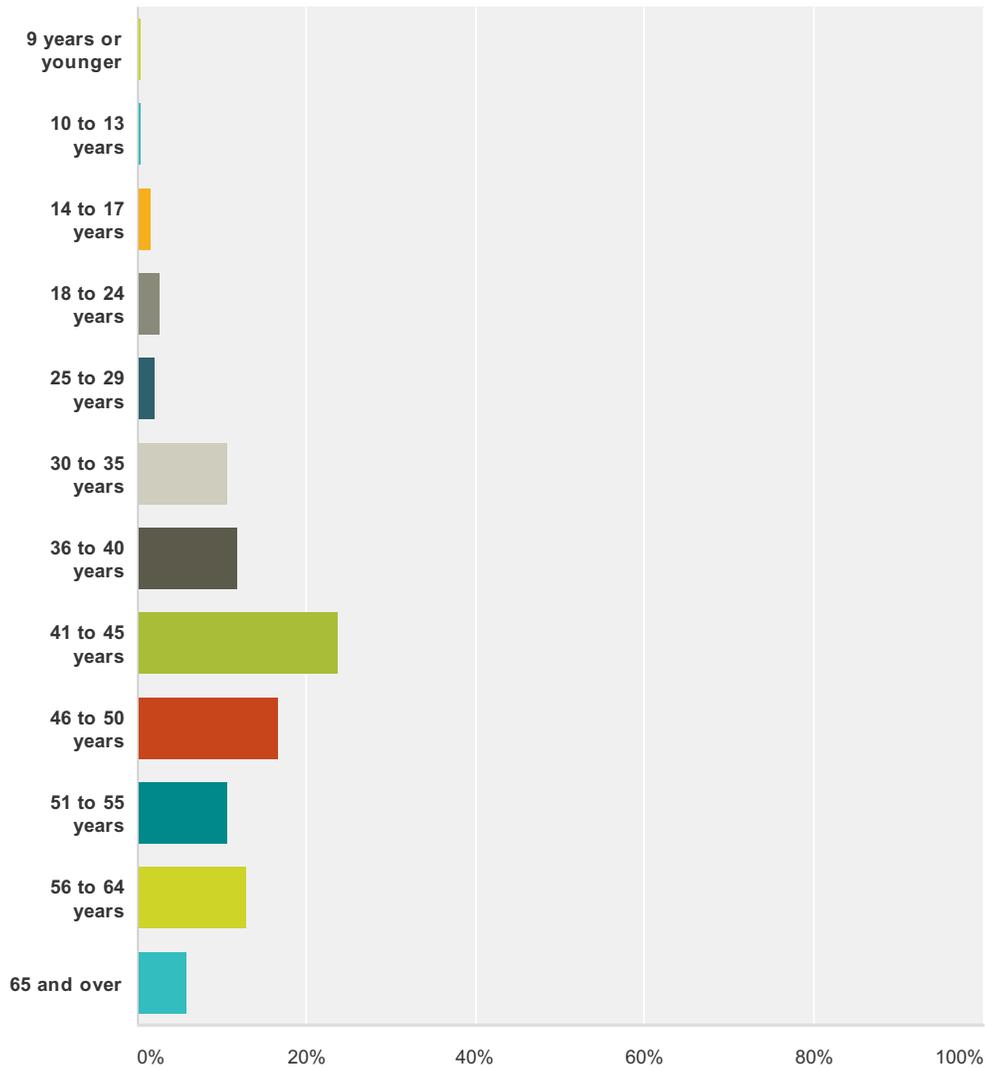
Answered: 184 Skipped: 58



Answer Choices	Responses	
<b>Huron Valley Schools</b>	<b>17.39%</b>	32
<b>Walled Lake Consolidated Schools</b>	<b>75%</b>	138
<b>Undecided/Don't Know</b>	<b>7.61%</b>	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>184</b>

**Q23 Please indicate the range in which your age falls.**

Answered: 186 Skipped: 56



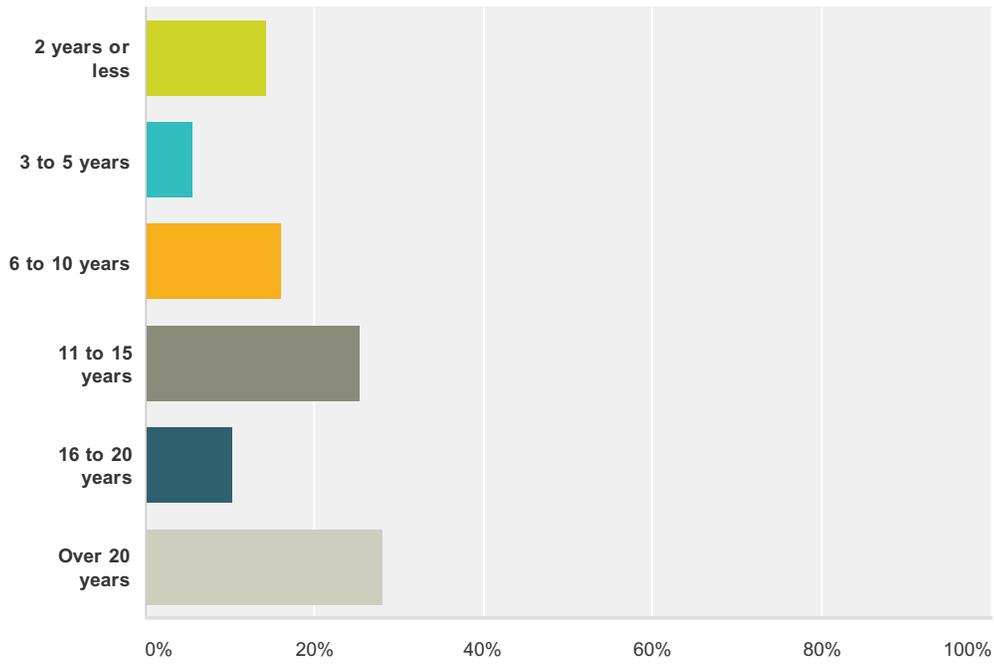
Answer Choices	Responses
9 years or younger	0.54% 1
10 to 13 years	0.54% 1
14 to 17 years	1.61% 3
18 to 24 years	2.69% 5
25 to 29 years	2.15% 4
30 to 35 years	10.75% 20
36 to 40 years	11.83% 22
41 to 45 years	23.66% 44
46 to 50 years	16.67% 31
51 to 55 years	10.75% 20
56 to 64 years	12.90% 24

# Commerce Township Parks and Recreation Community Opinion Survey

65 and over	5.91%	11
Total		186

### Q24 How many years have you lived in Commerce Township?

Answered: 174 Skipped: 68



Answer Choices	Responses
2 years or less	14.37% 25
3 to 5 years	5.75% 10
6 to 10 years	16.09% 28
11 to 15 years	25.29% 44
16 to 20 years	10.34% 18
Over 20 years	28.16% 49
Total	174



# Appendix B

Post-Completion Inspection Forms



# Appendix C

Resolutions of Adoption  
Letters of Transmittal  
Certification Checklist





livingLAB:  
a collaborative design studio