

WINFIELD TOWNSHIP

Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

2024-2028

Adopted: (mo, day, yr)



Montcalm County, Michigan

PREPARED FOR

Winfield Township

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INTRODUCTION

The Winfield Township Board of Trustees have recognized a need for improving the community's parks and recreation options and promoting the Township as a quality sustainable place to live and play. This stems from the growing trends in recreation and the desire to be active, healthy, and conscious of the environment regardless of age, abilities, or disabilities. A comprehensive and sustainable parks and recreation system is vital to a community's physical and mental health, social interaction, protection of natural resources, and economic growth.

As part of this effort, they have chosen to develop a new Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. This document is intended to serve as a planning tool over the next 5 years for the Township Board to make decisions related to future park and recreation amenities and improvements. It identifies attainable goals and objectives as well as an action plan that can then be used to focus on key areas for more specific design and budgetary purposes. It has been created under the guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grants Management for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. As a Five-Year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the government entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants, it can be a tool to aid in future funding of recreational projects.

This plan begins with a **community description** to better understand the demographics of Winfield Township. This is based on the population, age, ability, and density of the community. The **administrative structure** is then outlined which describes the governmental and jurisdictional methods by which future decisions will be made. This is followed by the existing **recreation inventory** which describes all existing Township owned parks as well as other local and regional recreation opportunities. This section is followed by the **natural resource inventory** with any relevant landscape, water, and plant/animal information. Then a description of the **planning and public input process**, public notifications, survey, and workshop which were used in determining where improvements are needed. This is followed with a series of **goals and objectives** that were established using recommended planning methods. The goals and objectives are followed by an **action program** describing recommended improvements and proposed projects in the form of narratives, charts, and maps. And lastly, the **appendix** holds the support documentation of the survey, public notices, and local adoption which includes minutes and resolutions by the approving bodies.

This master plan, which will be used to guide growth and development in the park system was shaped by community input. The feedback received from the public helped guide the Board to prioritize where and how to make investments in the parks, facilities and programs.

Community Description

Township Location & History

The small, rural community of Winfield Township is located in northwestern Montcalm County in the State of Michigan. Montcalm County is located in the west central portion of the Lower Peninsula. It is served by one freeway, US-131, which is on the west panhandle portion of the county and is the county's major north-south route. The Township sits east of US-131 and northeast of the City of Grand Rapids. It is also approximately 39 miles northeast of Grand Rapids, 78 miles northwest of Lansing, 75 miles west of Saginaw, and about 60 miles East of Lake Michigan.



Figure 1.1 - Township Location & Map

Native Americans of the Ottawa and Chippewa tribes inhabited Winfield Township according to treaty stipulations in the early 19th century. A camp of Native Americans settled on the north end of Winfield Lake (the lake Krampe County Park is on and previously known as Townline Lake), until they moved north or were removed by the US government. During the 19th century the area became occupied by Scandinavian settlers and the settlement now known as Amble was established in the center of Winfield Township.



The settlers of Winfield Township began utilizing the land to hunt deer and produce potatoes, turnips, sugar, corn, wheat, and orchards they planted, and they considered the soil very fertile compared to the Scandinavian land they once inhabited. Once the mill in Winfield Township was established along the

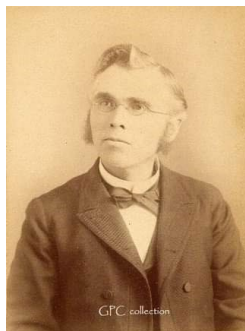
tributaries of the Little Muskegon River, old heavy forests were selected for logging on the Flat River nearby and the logging provided many jobs for men in the Township.

In 1850, settlers built a little schoolhouse on a local farm, and this was the first school taught in the Township. District No. 1, of Winfield, was formed in the Fall of 1860 and the schoolhouse was completed the following year. On April 7, 1862, the first annual meeting of Winfield Township took place. The area kept growing and by 1880 there were four school districts with more than 20 kids in each district and eight teachers total. The Scandinavian settlers brought their faith, appreciation for life, and spirit of encouragement to Winfield Township. They wrote back home encouraging others to move to Michigan.

The centrally located settlement of Amble, along the route of M-46, was platted in 1886 and later named after Pastor Ole Amble of the Danish Lutheran Church. This settlement was established as a postal service and railroad stop along the Detroit, Grand Rapids and Western Railroad which was popular with Scandinavian immigrants. At its height, Amble had a blacksmith, church, cider mill, creamery, depot, feed mill, two general stores, two hotels, a few lumber outlets, post office, produce store, real estate company, sawmill, and tavern. The two general stores were named James Lynch Store and Hansen's General Store.



To this day, the only church still stands. Pastor Ole Amble, the town's namesake, was born in Sogndal, Norway in 1847. He came to Montcalm County, Michigan in 1874 to service the area with church and community. He served up to seven churches at once throughout the county.



Those who knew him often got a pin of his photo with small red, white, and blue ribbons attached and celebrated him greatly throughout his life. He was there for many people's biggest moments throughout the county and was extremely well loved by the community. With his patriotic zeal and love of people he encouraged the young to be carefree and the old not to criticize the young. Pastor Ole Amble had one of the longest ministerial careers in the area's history. According to local papers his birthday parties brought more than two thousand people from the county and many people from far off places sent birthday greetings as well. His impact on the area served many generations of people. He went so far as to

serve his community after his official retirement. He passed away in 1934 and is buried in Little Denmark Cemetery.

Currently, this unincorporated community of Amble has a restaurant, Township Office building, Amble Church, and local farms. In addition, Winfield Township is currently underway with construction of a new Township Hall, due to the growth of the community.

Social Characteristics

Population

The average population density for the Winfield Township is 57 people per square mile. This compares to Maple Valley Township's, which is at the southern border of Winfield Township, at 58 people per square mile. Winfield Township's total population in 2020 was 2,279 showing a slight increase of 2% since 2010. This is right in line with the State's growth, but slightly behind that of Montcalm County's.

Table 1.1 - Population, 2010-2020			
	2010	2020	% Change
Winfield Township	2,235*	2,279	2.0%
Montcalm County	63,553	66,614	4.8%
Michigan	9,877,574	10,077,331	2.0%

Source: *2010 ACS, 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census

Median Age

While the overall population is the most important consideration, there are other characteristics to consider when planning for a community's recreation. The age distribution of a community influences the types of facilities and programs needed. Table 1.2 shows that the Township's median age (38.5) is lower than the County and the State's average. This would indicate that the Township has a younger age base due to a higher percentage of persons in the 18 and under age groups. Of course, the Township should not ignore the other age groups since they still comprise a large proportion of the overall population.

Table 1.2 - Median Age, 2010-2020			
	2010	2020	% Change
Winfield Township	35.7	38.5	7.8%
Montcalm County	38.6	41.4	7.3%
Michigan	37.6	40.1	6.6%

Source: *2010 ACS, 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census

Household Median Income

Winfield Township households had a median income of \$69,318 in 2022, with 15.5% of the households at poverty level and 11.2% without health care coverage. This was the highest amongst the three listed below, yet the Township also had the highest level of poverty (very slightly).

Table 1.3 - Household Median Income & Poverty Level, 2022		
	Median Income	% Poverty Level
Winfield Township	\$69,318	15.5%
Montcalm County	\$61,967	14.2%
Michigan	\$66,986	13.4%

Source: 2022 American Community Survey 1-Yr Estimates

Physically Challenged

The disability status of a population (Table 1.4) may be especially significant when considering recreational needs for a community. With 16.0% of the total Township population affected by some form of disability, these individuals may have difficulty participating in recreational programs, accessing facilities or even getting to designated public areas. Understanding the disability status of the Township's population may assist decision-makers in determining adequate programs and appropriate locations for recreational activities. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. This compares to 16.2% of Montcalm County's rate.

Table 1.4 – Winfield Township, Michigan, 2022						
Subject	Total		With a Disability		% With Disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population	2,688	±477	430	±161	16.0%	±6.0
Age						
Under 5 Years	182	±83	0	±11	0.0%	±14.0
5 To 17 Years	324	±123	22	±22	6.8%	±6.1
18 To 34 Years	740	±244	58	±49	7.8%	±7.6
35 To 64 Years	1113	±207	209	±95	18.8%	±7.2
65 To 74 Years	234	±81	103	±73	44.0%	±20.6
75 Years and Over	95	±46	38	±22	40.0%	±15.0
Disability Type						
With a hearing difficulty	(x)	(x)	97	±53	3.6%	±2.0
With a vision difficulty	(x)	(x)	55	±41	2.0%	±1.6
With a cognitive difficulty	(x)	(x)	173	±84	6.9%	±3.2
With an ambulatory difficulty	(x)	(x)	145	±80	5.8%	±3.1
Self-care difficulty	(x)	(x)	64	±45	2.6%	±1.9
Independent living difficulty	(x)	(x)	131	±102	6.0%	±4.5

Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Physical Characteristics

Transportation Network

Winfield Township has M-46 running east-west through the center of it, leading east to Lakeview and west to US-131. US-131 is a major highway running north-south that is just west of the Township. The rest of the roads within the Township are local that reach throughout the community.

Utilities Services

Water Supply

Well water supplies all of the homes and buildings in the Township.

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Septic systems supply all of the homes and buildings in the Township.

Community Services

Police

Montcalm County Sheriff's Department serves 20 townships consisting of a combined 720 square miles. The duties of Deputy Sheriff's include patrol, criminal investigation, traffic enforcement, quelling disturbances, and traffic crash investigations. Non-emergency: 989.831.7590; **emergency: 911.**

Fire Department

The Lakeview District Fire Department is located at 117 Park Street in Lakeview and serves the needs of not only Lakeview, but also the neighboring Townships of Winfield, Cat, Hinton and Pine. Fire Chief Pat Carr directs the department's day-to-day operations and oversee a staff of 29 volunteer firefighters. Non-emergency: 989. 352.8120; **emergency: 911.**

Emergency Services

Montcalm County Emergency Services operates 11 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance transport units, 2 Basic Life Support (BLS) units, 12 medical first response rescue units, and 1 technical rescue team. In addition, they manage disaster preparedness and response. The department also manages HealthCare Plus+, an ambulance subscription program. The rescue division is made of 10 rescue trucks and paid-on-call employees whose licensure range from Medical First Responder to Paramedic. The rescue trucks are spread out through the county in assigned geographic regions. The employees are dispatched to calls from their home. **Emergency: 911.**

Public Library

Two members of the Lakeland Library Cooperative serve different parts of Winfield Township, aligning with the school districts. They are as follows:

***Timothy C Havenstein Reynolds Township Library (TCHRTL)** – 117 W Williams St, Howard City
Hours are M, Tu, Th: 9am – 6pm; W: 9am – 7pm; F: 9am – 5pm; Sa: 9am – 2pm; Su: closed.
231.937.5575 www.tchrtl.org/library-board

***Tamarack District Library (TDL)** – 832 S Lincoln Ave, Lakeview.
Hours are M, W, F: 10am – 5pm; Tu, Th: 10am – 8pm; Sa: 10am – 1 pm; Su: closed.
989.352.6274; <https://tamaracklibrary.org>

Recycling

Montcalm County residents have access to five, recycle drop-off sites located throughout Montcalm County. The closest one to Winfield Township is at the Lakeview DPW, 10300 North St, Lakeview. M-F: 8am – 8pm. 989.831.4606 x4.

Climate

Winfield Township's weather, like all of West Michigan's, influences the recreational opportunities available throughout the year, supporting a variety of activities from swimming to skiing. Generally, January is the coldest month (high of 30/low of 13 degrees) and December has the highest snowfall (17.3 inches). The average snowfall is 64 inches/year. July is generally the warmest month (high of 82/low of 60 degrees). May usually has the highest average rainfall (3.9 inches) and February generally has the lowest average (1.7 inches). Average rainfall is 36 inches/year. Prevailing winds are from the west.

Land Use

The area of the Township is 36.2 square miles, with the majority of it being zoned/used for Agriculture. The next highest percentage of land use is rural residential. The remaining uses are lakeside/medium density residential, manufactured home park, general commercial, and light industrial.

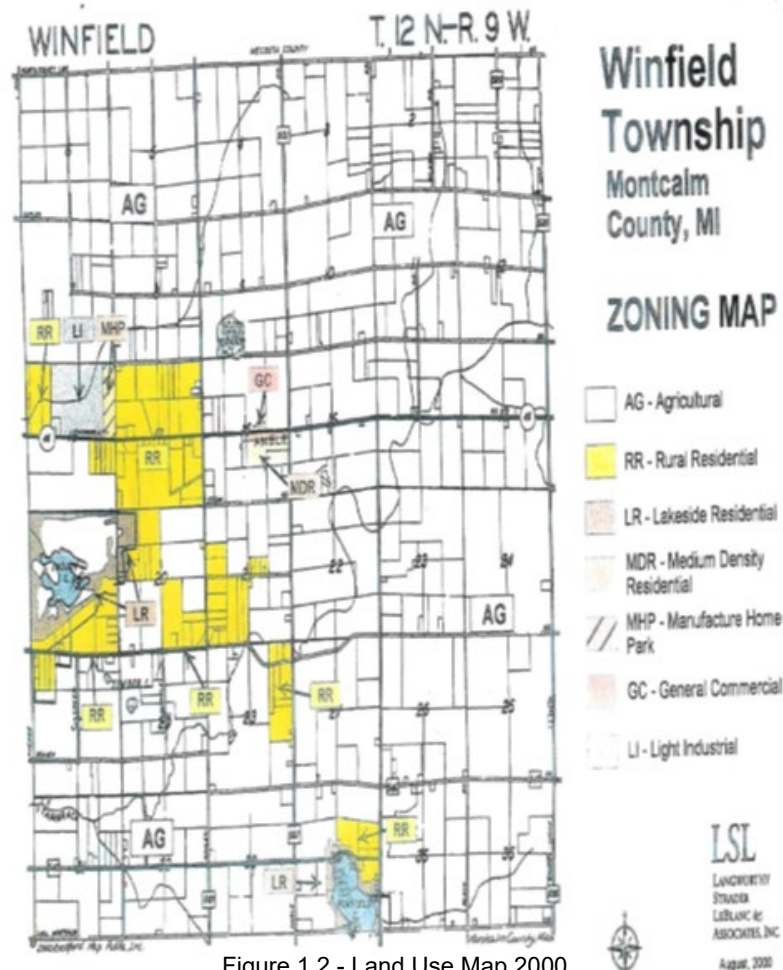


Figure 1.2 - Land Use Map 2000

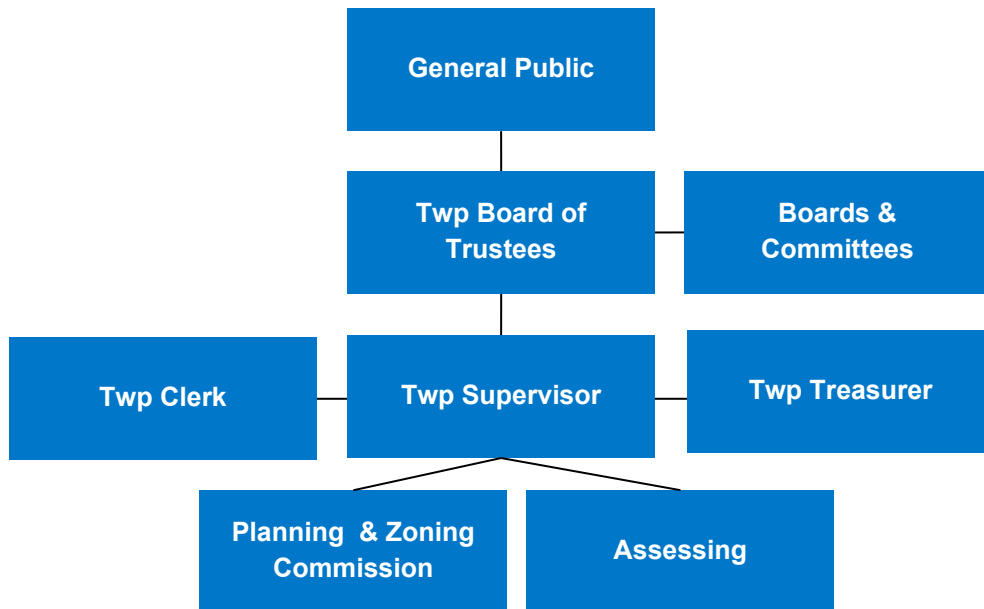
Source: Langworthy, Strader, LeBlanc & Associates, Inc.

Administrative Structure

Township Administration

The Township Board has 5 members including the Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk and two additional trustees. They are elected to four-year terms that are staggered every two years. The Supervisor is elected every two years. The Board adopts and amends Township Laws and ordinances, determines Township policies and standards, and authorizes the annual Township budget. The Board also approves contracts and agreements, determines Township tax millage rates, and determines utility rates.

The chart below illustrates the relationship among the various entities involved within the Township.



Parks and Recreation Budget

There currently is no budget for parks and recreation in the Township. Any costs associated with the park comes from the Township's General Fund. Currently the only cost is lawn mowing, and that is contracted out.

Collaborations

There currently are no Township collaborations with any schools, volunteer groups or non-profits.

Recreational Inventory

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

Local Recreational Facilities

Township-owned

Larsen-Keeler Park

Winfield Township owns a single park, pictured below located in Amble. It is located across from Township property on Elm Street, that the Township is currently building a new Township Hall on.

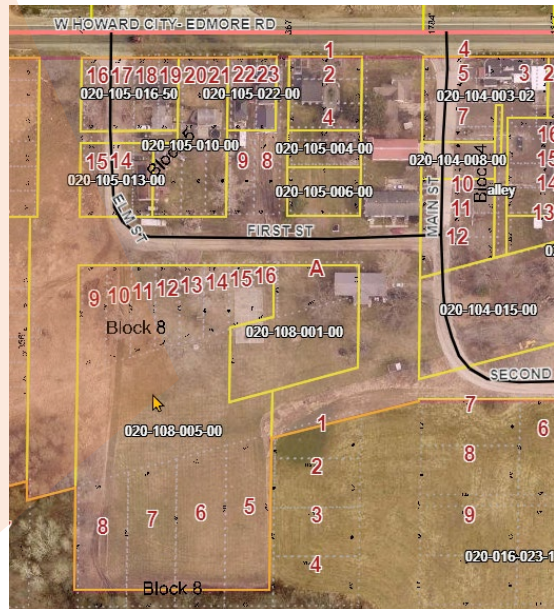
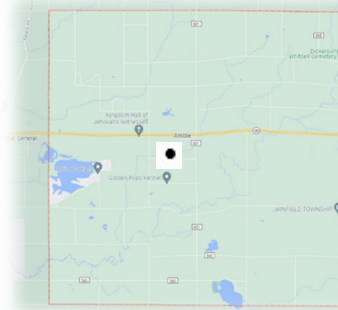


Figure 3.1 - Township Park Location

The park's amenities include the following:

- **grass baseball field** in the southwest corner
- **basketball courts** in the northeast corner
- **playground** in the north center area

The park needs updating, especially the playground that is aged and unsafe.



School Recreational Facilities

Public Schools

The school districts that provide public education to the residents of Winfield Township are Lakeview Community Schools, Morley Stanwood Community Schools, and Tri County Area Schools. There are no public schools located in Winfield Township.

Private Schools

There are no private schools located in Winfield Township.

Private Recreational Facilities

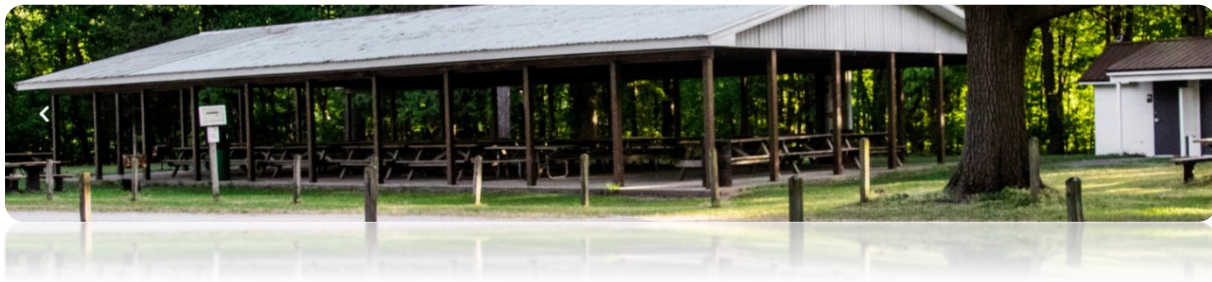
There are no private recreational facilities located in Winfield Township.

Montcalm County-owned Recreational Facilities

Krampe Park – 14555 W. Church Rd, Howard City

Located in the Township south of Amble on Church Road, between Masters Rd and Amble Rd. It has 20 acres and promotes picnicking and other passive recreation activities. Krampe Park covers prime recreation land with large shade trees, frontage on beautiful Winfield Lake and provides both fishing and boating access. Other recreation facilities and amenities include a 30'x60' pavilion that can hold up to 400 people, 30 picnic tables, 7 grills, playground equipment, 2 sets of horseshoe pits, paved pathways,

gravel parking with paved areas for handicap-accessible parking, and vault-toilets (handicap-accessible). The park is open to the public. When the pavilion area is not reserved, they are available for use by the general public on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Regional Recreational Facilities

Montcalm County Schmeid Park – 5603 Caroline Drive, Lakeview

The park covers 4 acres and is located on a hill overlooking the lake. It offers varied recreation areas with large shade trees. Amenities include a basketball court, picnic tables and grills, playground equipment, and boat launch. The park is open to the public and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations are currently not accepted.

Montcalm County Camp Ford Lincoln – 6551 Schmeid Road, Lakeview

Located on the north end of Towline Lake, it is the county's only overnight park. Situated on 3 acres, Camp Ford Lincoln offers facilities for multiple days of lodging and/or outings. There are four rustic bunk houses that sleep up to 38 people comfortably (4 bunk beds per cabin, 26 are twin and 6 are full on the bottom bunk only) and one that is handicap accessible. There is a large, well-equipped kitchen and heated dining hall with hot showers and restrooms. A covered pavilion also graces the camp, with picnic tables, grills, a place to play volleyball and basketball, a swing set, a boat dock for fishing, and swimming at your own risk. Limited RV camping is allowed. There are four 50-amp pedestals available, no water hookups or waste facilities. This facility is available by reservation only. It is an

excellent place for special events such as company picnics, family reunions, wedding parties, church camps, company workshops, seminars, youth groups, and similar events.

Lakeside Park – 633 South Lincoln Avenue, Lakeview

This park features a playground, restrooms, a pavilion, picnic tables, the Lena Rader Meijer Outdoor Theatre, and a public fishing dock with access to Tamarack Lake. This park plays host to Lakeview's summer concert series Music in the Park on Wednesday nights.

Ruby Wiseman Memorial Park – 105 Edgar St, Lakeview

The park features a pavilion with picnic tables and the Lakeview Community Garden. The Lakeview Dog Park is also located here.

Artman Park – 7000 Amy School Road, Howard City

This beautiful park is a great place to hold a wedding, shower, graduation, or party! It is available for rent.

Ensley Park – Shaw St & Sherman St, Howard City

This 4-acre park is location to many events, along with a ton of playground equipment and shade for you and your family to enjoy. Amenities include: Basketball hoops, grills, horseshoes, parking, pavilion, picnic tables, playground, shuffleboard court, tennis court, pickleball court, volleyball court and restrooms (key required to unlock). It is available to rent.



Herbert J Peck Park – Muenscher St & Chestnut St, Howard City

This one-acre park's amenities include: Baseball fields, basketball hoops, picnic tables, playground, and softball fields.

Minnie Farmer Park – Orton St & Hazel St, Howard City

This 2-acre park has a beautiful view and access to Tamarack Creek. The amenities include: grills, pavilion, picnic tables, and flowing well.



Barrier Free Evaluation & Universal Design

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

When looking at areas to determine their accessibility to all people, we started by asking these simple questions:

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

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

Universal Access

Another often overlooked category is Universal Access. This practice goes way beyond typical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations to practice “common and equal experiences for all.” The goal of universal access is, throughout concept and design phases, to incorporate technology, materials and other considerations that promote equal opportunities for people of varied abilities. These concepts should be kept in the forefront as a prime consideration in the 5-year Master Plan and individual parks or projects as they develop and progress.

Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
Archery range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stations ▪ Route to retrieval area for each target ▪ Targets also usable with cross bows ▪ Arrow back stop to limit retrieval distance ▪ Larger maneuvering spaces to accommodate archers with shooting assistants
Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Routes over the beach and into the water, can be portable/temporary matting if it needs to be taken in and out for beach cleaning/dragging or in the off season ▪ Wide enough for side-by-side walking/passing ▪ At beach route end have an accessible area at the water's edge large enough to park multiple chairs while the owners are in the water ▪ With a transfer system at the water's edge so people can get down to the ground level and into the water
Boardwalk wetland and water access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 feet minimum width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass ▪ Edge treatment to prevent roll/step off ▪ If side rails are used, more than 25% must lowered for easy viewing in various places along the boardwalk

Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.
Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All sites and amenities ▪ Accessible surface on all sites, including rustic sites ▪ Larger spaces to accommodate side lifts on campers and vehicles ▪ Accessible tables, grills (15" minimum, 34" maximum height), and fire rings on all sites ▪ Centrally located restrooms on easy routes from each site
Camping Cabins and Yurts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Larger clear space and maneuvering spaces in between all furnishings, including when all are in use (beds, tables/chairs with people seated at the table, shelves within lowered reach ranges, lowered wall hooks, etc.) ▪ Larger clear space thoughtfully located for typical portable items such as coolers, luggage, equipment/food bins/tubs, etc.
Canoe/kayak/boat launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wider route so someone can hand wheel boat on dolly to launch pulling boat next to them if they are in a wheelchair or two person carry down. ▪ Accessible surface to water's edge and into water at launch ▪ More gentle slopes for easier entry and exit when hand wheeling a boat ▪ Some type of "rack" to stabilize boat at a transferable height then some type of mechanism/roller system to move, while seated in the boat, into the water Some means of transfer assistance such as overhead bars ▪ Some type of wench system to help pull boat out of water back into the rack to exit/transfer out. ▪ If there is a dock provide a transfer system on the dock so a person can be seated on the dock to transfer over to a boat in the water that is in some type of a stabilizer rack ▪ Adaptive kayaks available for use ▪ Shore station with a platform (instead of "V" rack) with a transfer system on the deck of the shore station, located next to a dock so someone could roll/get on the platform and lower it to the right level to transfer into a boat
Fishing dock/pier and observation/viewing decks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than 25% of the rails are lowered in various locations or no rails at all with only an edge treatment to prevent roll off ▪ Sitting benches (all with backs and arm rests) scattered about so anglers can choose to sit or stand to fish ▪ Tackle box stands next to one bench end (not both) leaving one end clear space for sitting side by side with someone in a wheelchair ▪ A variety of fish landing cutaways strategically placed ▪ Variety of accessible opportunities—over-water fishing, shore fishing, in-water fishing, etc. ▪ Transition plates between access route and deck/pier

Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
Nature center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc. ▪ Creative use of technology such as mp3 players for auditory descriptions (this gives the info. directly to the individual) closed loop assistive listening devices and closed-circuit captioning of all interpretive presentations ▪ All displays at lowered heights for sitting or standing viewing ▪ All operating mechanisms that are operable with one hand and do not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than minimum number of accessible spots ▪ Each connected directly to an accessible route to the park elements and NOT into the traffic flow ▪ Thoughtfully located nearest the activity entrance, which might require multiple lots (some near the beach, some near the playground, some near the bathhouse, etc.)
Picnic areas and elements: Pavilions, picnic tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All located on accessible routes ▪ all tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc. accessible ▪ Level routes onto pavilions with no changes of level from path to pavilion surface ▪ Wider routes and clear space with firm surface around all elements so someone with mobility limits can easily move around the element (table, grill, etc.) ▪ A variety of table styles, some with clear sitting space on the side, some with extended tabletops on the end ▪ Some fixed tables to ensure they remain accessible (not moved off into a grassy or sandy area, etc.) ▪ Clear space all around each element so people can approach and use the grill, fire ring, etc. from the front, back and either side ▪ Grills you can lower/raise the cooking surface with one hand ▪ Raised fire building surfaces so you can place wood without leaning too far over from a standing or seated position

Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ramps and transfers ▪ Has both ramp and transfer access to all play components ▪ Ramps to every “getting on spot” or “sit/stand & do it spot” of every play component ▪ Transfer system from the ground up to the main deck located near the exits of slides and climbers furthest from the ramp onto the structure ▪ Only unitary safety surface such as poured-in-place or rubber tiles NOT any loose fill materials like shredded rubber, wood chips, engineered wood fiber, or any other non-unitary surface material. ▪ On deck transfer platform at the entry point of every slide ▪ On deck transfer platform with one open transfer side and one side with transfer steps to every entry/exit point of every climber, so kids climbing up can get down to the deck to move to another component, as they may have left an assistive device at the ground ▪ A good variety of things to manipulate that make noise or music, have high contrast/bright colors, games that two kids can play (to foster social interaction), Braille and sign language panels to teach awareness, easy to operate with just one hand with a whole fist (does not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate) ▪ Different high contrast colors for decks versus transfers so kids with low vision can perceive a change in level ▪ Play panels are located at heights so they can be used from a seated position or standing
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than the minimum number of accessible units ▪ Multiple unisex/single user toilet rooms/units so opposite sex care givers can assist; also good for parents of young children of the opposite sex so kids aren’t sent alone into the multi-user restroom ▪ Thoughtfully located near areas of activity such as play areas, beaches, fishing piers, etc. ▪ Accessible door pulls and water faucet handles - all accessible port-a-johns, again big enough for individual use or care giver/parental assistance.
Skiing/sledding hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible route to top (no steps), possibly using a “magic carpet” lift ▪ Level surface for sled mounting at hilltop. ▪ If staffed, provide ATV transport or have policy that allows personal ATV use. Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer

Type of Recreation Facility	Universal Access Design Considerations
<p>Sports fields/courts</p> <p>Fields: soccer, football, baseball, etc.</p> <p>Courts: tennis, basketball, bocce, horseshoes, etc.</p> <p>Other: skate parks, frisbee golf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Routes to both sides of all fields and courts, not just end zones ▪ Accessible seating spaces both ground level and elevated if risers/bleachers are provided ▪ Accessible seating spaces scattered throughout all viewing areas and levels with companion seating on both sides of the space ▪ All lowered service windows at all concession areas ▪ Wider gate openings into court areas (tennis, bocce, basketball) and skate parks to accommodate wider sports wheelchairs ▪ Routes to both horseshoe pits and along both sides of the route between pits ▪ Level routes onto bocce courts with sitting benches at both ends
<p>Trail: nature trail, walkway, pathway, etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-use trail - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass ▪ Walkways within a site – at least 6 feet wide and have slopes under 2% ▪ Regional trail system - at least 10 feet wide, with 1-foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2% ▪ Unitary surface like concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been “stabilized” or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers ▪ Transition plates between trail & pedestrian bridges, decks, etc. ▪ Contrasting color treatment of the surface and textured surface treatments such as brushed concrete at intersections or interpretive stations to cue people who have vision impairments that there is something to pay attention to at that spot ▪ Close to level cross slopes (side to side) and very gentle running slopes, no steep sections, larger (greater than 60” X 60”) level areas at all turns and intersections. ▪ Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty ▪ Accessible amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc.

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

- 5 – Facility is fully accessible. Features and facilities meet and exceed the Uniform Building Code and take into consideration Universal Design principles. Main elements such as the washrooms, entrances, parking, and amenities are barrier free.
- 4 – Majority of the facility is accessible; however, there are some accessibility barriers. Some improvements are needed to make the facility fully accessible.
- 3 – Facility is partially accessible. Barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.

- 2 – Facility has limited accessibility. Multiple barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.
- 1 – Facility has poor accessibility. Accessibility barriers may exist at entranceway, recreation area

The following is a chart with each of the City parks with their respective accessibility ranking.

Summary of Park Accessibility

Based on site visit and observations by staff at F&V, the following improvements will be necessary to improve universal access at the existing facilities:

Larsen-Keeler Township Park	
Overall Rating	1
Accessibility	The park lacks basic accessibility amenities such as paved ADA parking, paved walkways and accessible recreation activity uses because of the lack of parking and walkways. The first phase of development of the park should focus on addressing this overall lack of accessibility features.

The goal of full accessibility is stated as a primary goal in the action plan outlined by the Township.

Parks & Trails

Non-motorized pathways provide transportation linkages within the community to parks and recreation facilities. They also provide opportunities for residents to walk, ride, skate, and jog to promote healthy living and safe routes to school, businesses, and cultural facilities. There currently are no formal trails in Winfield Township.

Recreational Programs

There currently are no recreational programs in Winfield Township.

Past Grant Status

There were no previous grants received by the Township.

Natural Resource Inventory

Topography & Landforms

The slope of land plays an important role in determining the suitable use and development of property. Moderate slopes (10% - 25%) and areas of extreme slope (25% or more) may limit higher density developments from occurring. These limitations include a heightened risk of erosion and the difficulty in installing private septic systems. However, areas consisting of moderate and extreme slopes are sparse within the area. Most of the region consists of fairly level terrain which presents little to no restrictions for future development.

Winfield Twp has an average elevation of 942 feet above sea level. The northern area of the Township generally has a higher elevation than the rest of the Township, except the area of Brady Hills which has the highest elevation of the Township at 1,055 feet.

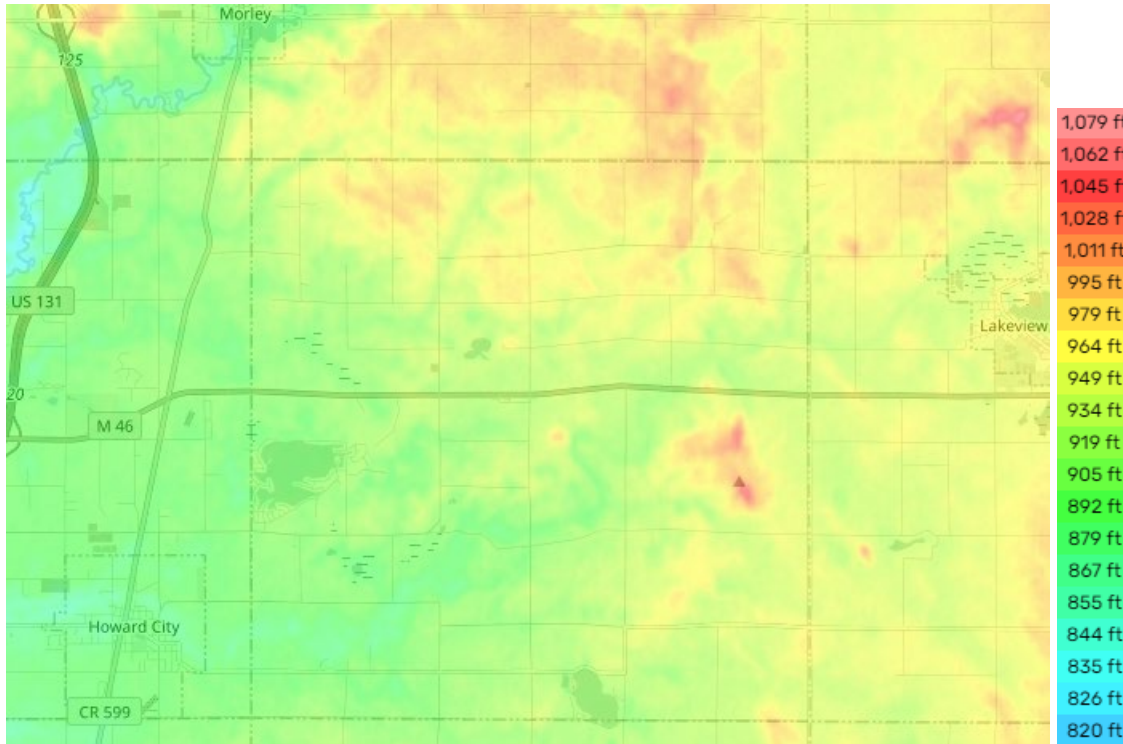


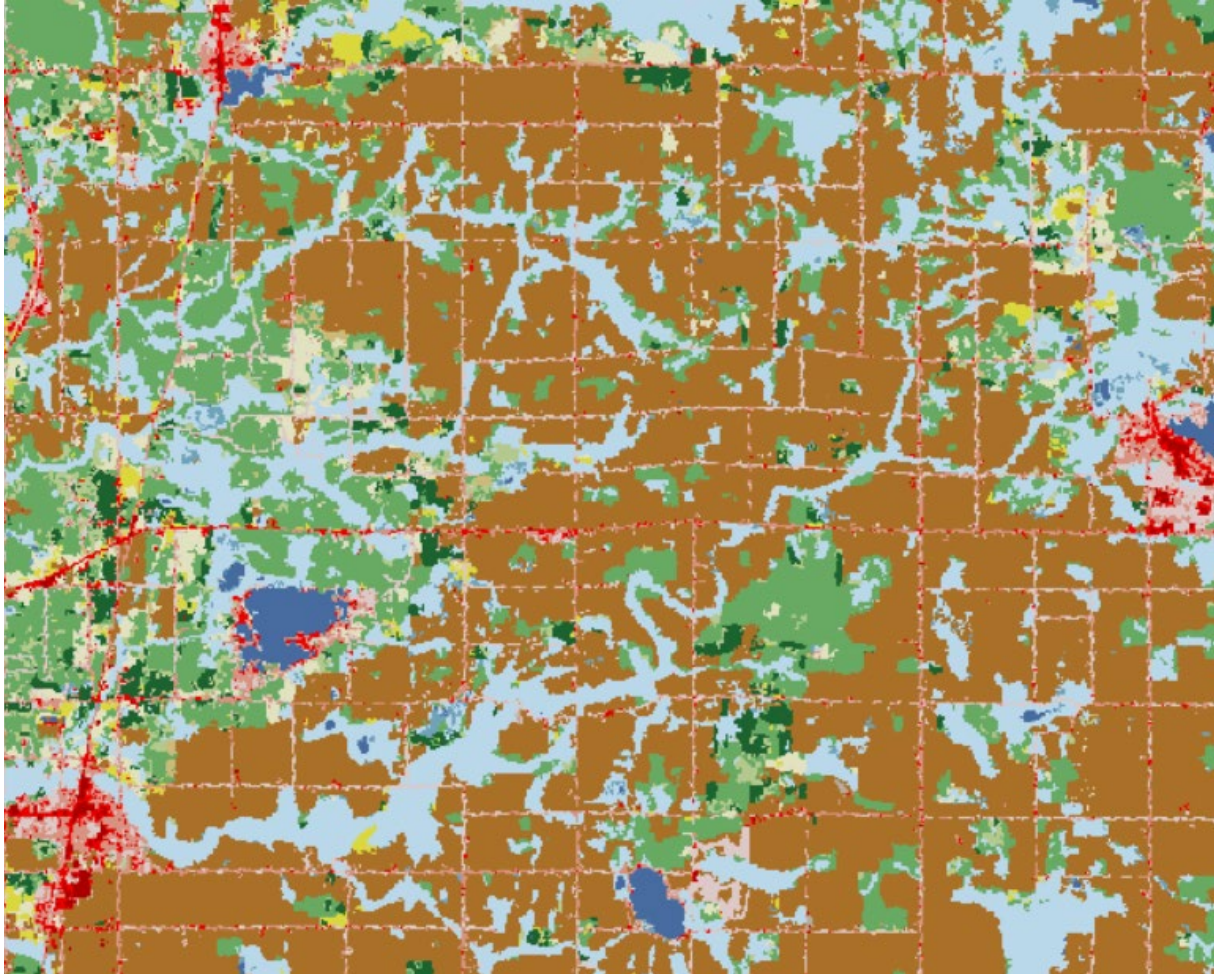
Figure 4.1 – Winfield Township Topographic Map
Source: *topographic-map.com*

Vegetation Coverage

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

The map below (Figure 4.2) shows the largest coverage in the Township is that of the **herbaceous/woody wetlands**. For additional information on wetlands, see Figure 4.2. Next, is **Cultivated Crops**. Montcalm County field crops are mostly potatoes, dry field beans and wheat. Locally, cucumbers, snap beans, onion, celery, carrots and spinach are also important. The major factors determining the selection of crop and livestock enterprises in this area are 1) the sandy loam soils which

are comparatively low in lime and intermediate in fertility; 2) the muck soils which comprise about 10% of the area; 3) the intermediate length growing season of 110 to 140 days; 4) fairly good markets. **Deciduous Forest, Evergreen Forest, and Mixed Forest** are also notable in the Township. It's estimated that between 20-40% of the County is forested.



National Land Cover

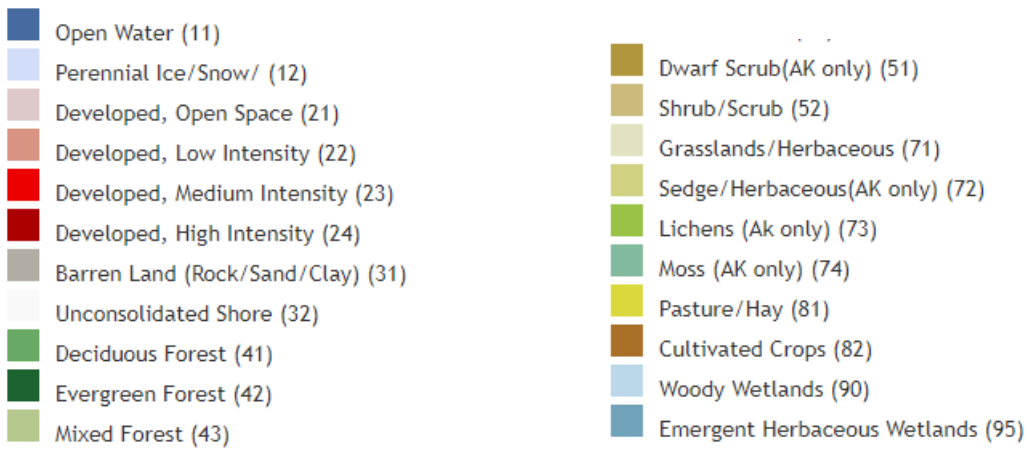


Figure 4.2 – Winfield Township Land Cover

Source: michigan.gov/egle/maps-data

Wetlands

The Wetlands Map shows wetland areas that serve to provide wildlife habitat, stormwater storage, water quality improvement, natural scenery and other benefits. Generally, these areas exhibit severe limitations for the use of individual waste disposal systems. A majority of the wetlands are located along the various waterbodies such as lakes, rivers, creeks, streams, drainage ditches and other water bodies.

The wetlands provide wildlife habitat. More significantly, however, is the recreation resource provided by the river: kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc.

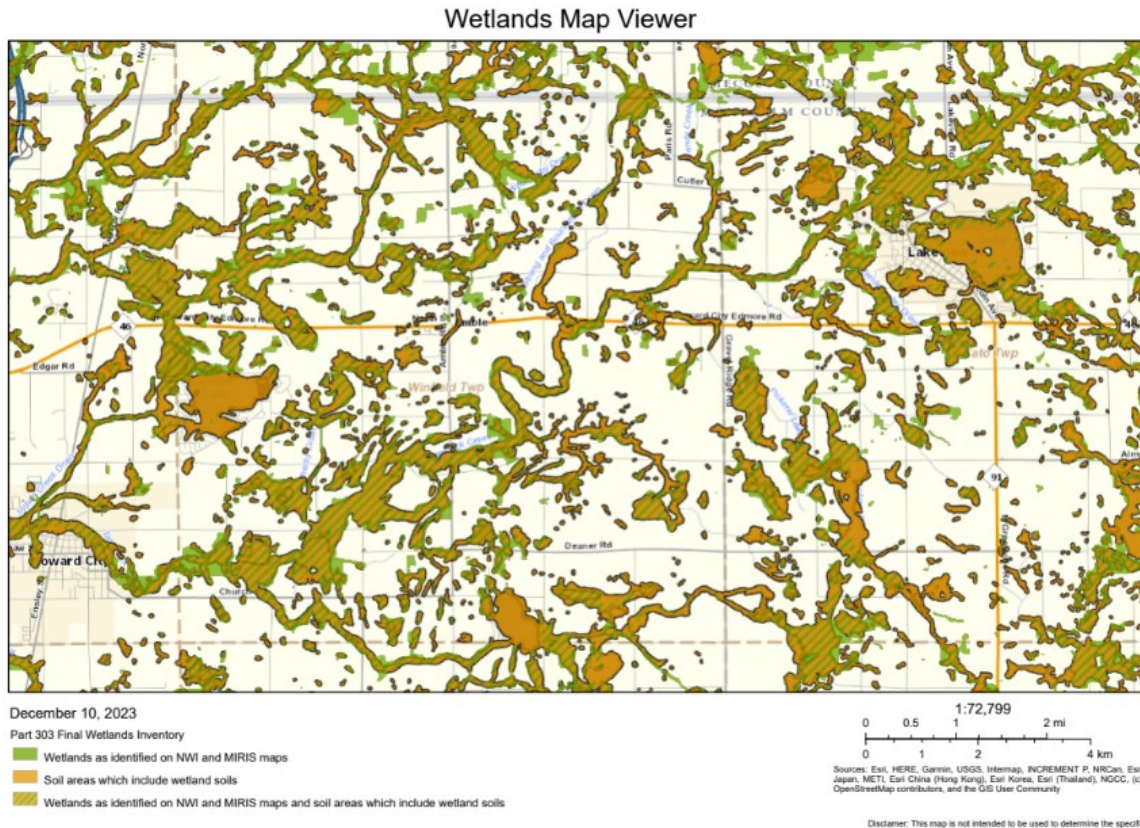


Figure 4.3 -Winfield Township Wetlands
Source: [Michigan.gov/egle/maps-data](https://michigan.gov/egle/maps-data)

Hydric soils are also identified. These are soils that have formed in the presence of water for sustained periods. They can be used to help locate wetlands, especially those that have been disturbed or altered by fill or excavation. Hydric soils may be unsuitable for certain types of development and can be an indicator of high groundwater levels.

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

Benefits of wetlands are many. Wetlands help:

- Reduce flooding by absorbing runoff from rain and melting snow and slowly releasing excess water into rivers and lakes - a one acre swamp when flooded to a depth of one foot contains 330,000 gallons of water.

- Filter pollutants from surface runoff, trapping fertilizers, pesticides, sediments, and other contaminants and helping to break some of them down into less harmful substances, improving water clarity and quality.
- Recharge groundwater supplies when connected to underground aquifers.
- Contribute to natural nutrient and water cycles, and produce vital atmospheric gases, including oxygen.
- Provide commercial or recreational value to our human economy, by producing plants, game birds (ducks, geese) and fur bearing mammals - many fish are directly connected to wetlands, requiring shallow water areas for breeding, feeding and escaping from predators.
- Serve as nutrient traps that then enrich the larger body of water of which they are part when wetlands occur adjacent to inland lakes or streams.

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

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

Soils

The soil survey of Winfield Township, Michigan identifies the soils across the Township. Figure 4.4 identifies the locations of the soil associations, which are then described below¹. The greatest percentage in the Township is the COVERT-COLOMA-METEA. It consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained, or excessively drained soils formed in sandy drift. These soils are on moraines, outwash plains, deltas, and stream terraces.

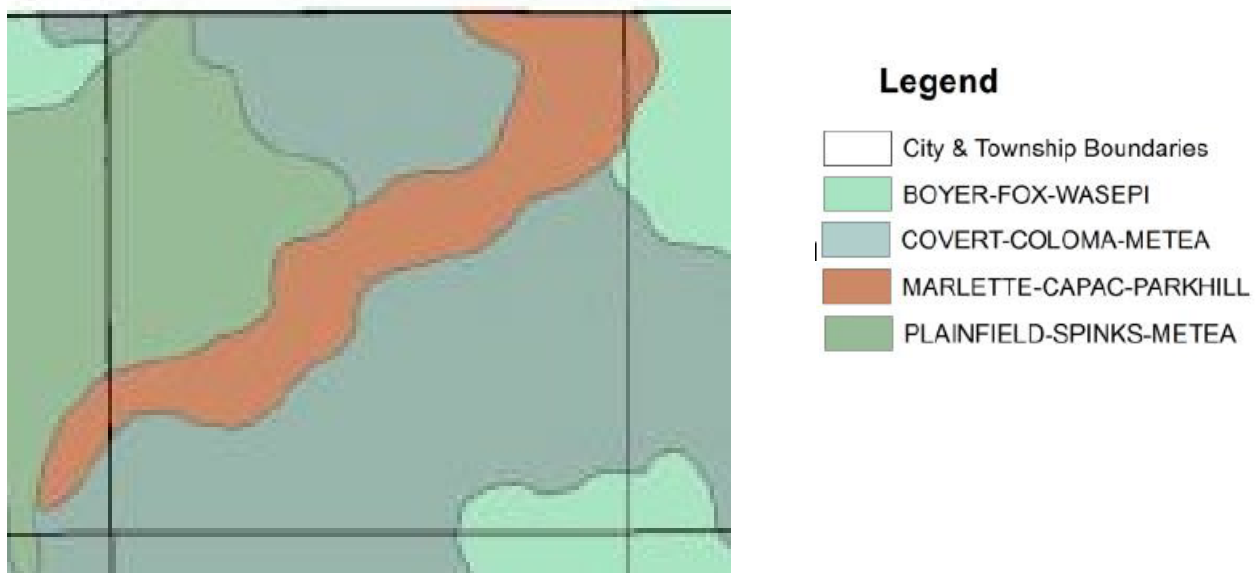


Figure 4.4 – Winfield Township Soi Map
Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

¹ Soil Associations are very general collections of several different and unique soils and are provided in order to simplify the soil classifications. Since soil classification is site specific and varies with area, landscape, and the natural environment, these associations may not provide sufficient information on a particular soil. The Soil Survey Manual of Montcalm County can be referred to for further details.

Water Resources & Drainage

Winfield Township has some sizeable lakes worth mentioning. They include Indian Lake, and Winfield Lake. The County Drain Commission currently oversees the Legal Lake Level for these lakes. There are also a few smaller ones, Krampe Lake and Crane Lake, amongst a multitude of smaller lakes. The Township also has various creeks running through it including the Tamarack Creek, Brandy Creek, and Handy Creek. Tamarack Creek comes from Tamarack Lake in Lakeview to the northeast and cuts across the entire Township southwesterly to Howard City. The HUC 12 Watershed is below in purple and entails three-quarters of the Township.

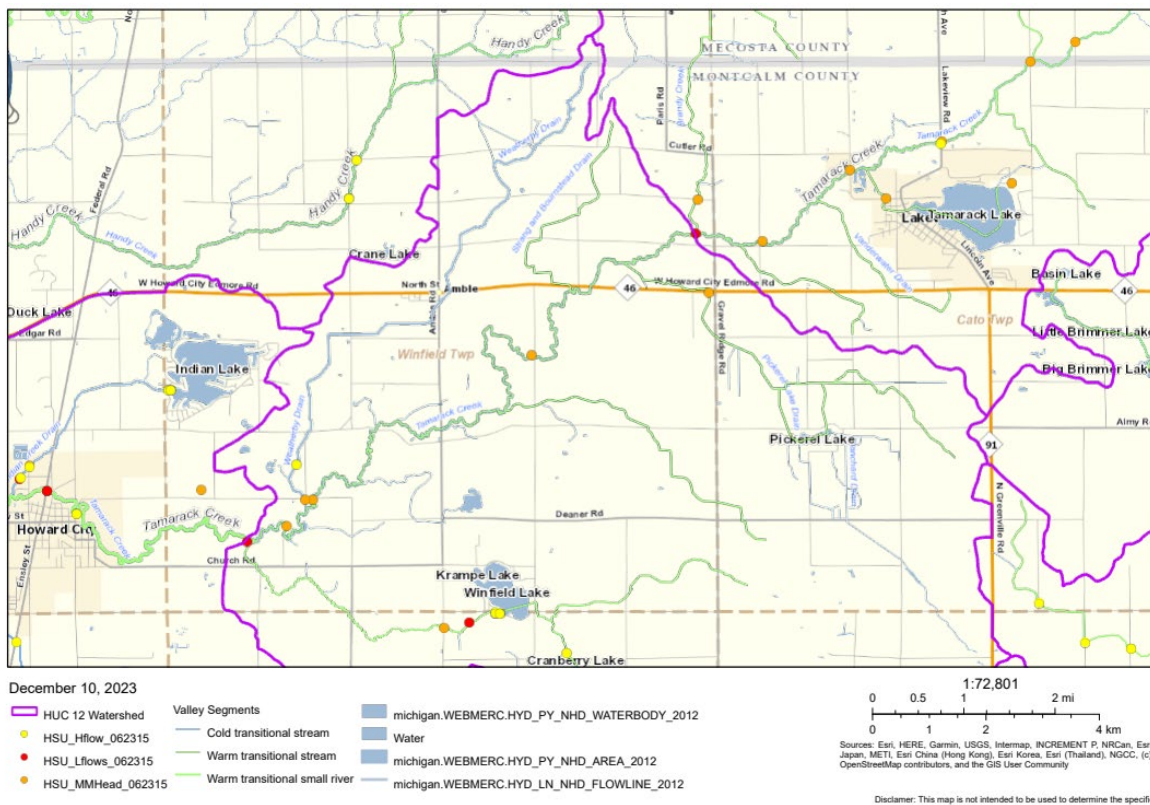


Figure 4.5 – Winfield Township Water Resources & Drains
Source: Michigan.gov/egle/maps-data

A county drain is an open ditch, stream, or underground pipe, retention pond or swale that conveys storm water. They were first established to provide drainage for roads that were built for access to interior regions of the state. Subsequent laws led to the drainage of swampland for crop production and the expansion of agricultural activities. Most of the drains in Montcalm County were established in the late 1800's and early 1900's. These original drains had a huge impact on the way the County is shaped today. As you can see from the above map, Winfield Township encompasses parts of the Weatherby Drain, Strang and Bournstead Drain, Vanderwater Drain, and the Pickerel Lake Drain.

The following map incorporates the watersheds, water resources, and wetlands in a simplified manner.

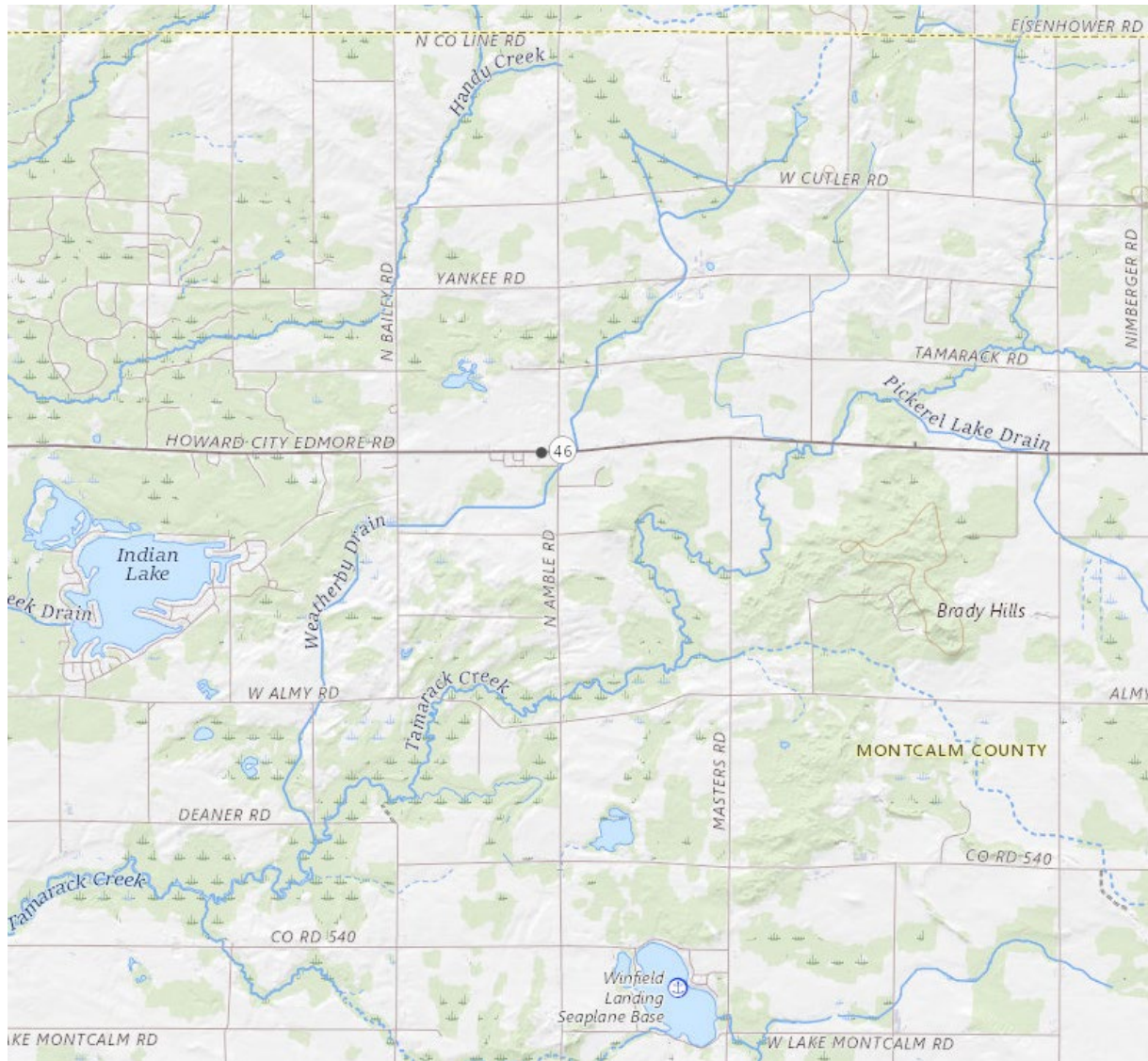


Figure 4.6 – Winfield Township watersheds, water resources & wetlands
Source: USGS – apps.nationalmap.gov

Fish and Wildlife

Winfield Township has many miles of streams/creeks that are designated “Trout Streams” by the DNR. Tamarack Creek, Brandy Creek, Handy Creek, and some drains. The longest one is the Tamarack Creek which bisects the Township from the northeast to the southwest. Below is a map showing them in turquoise.

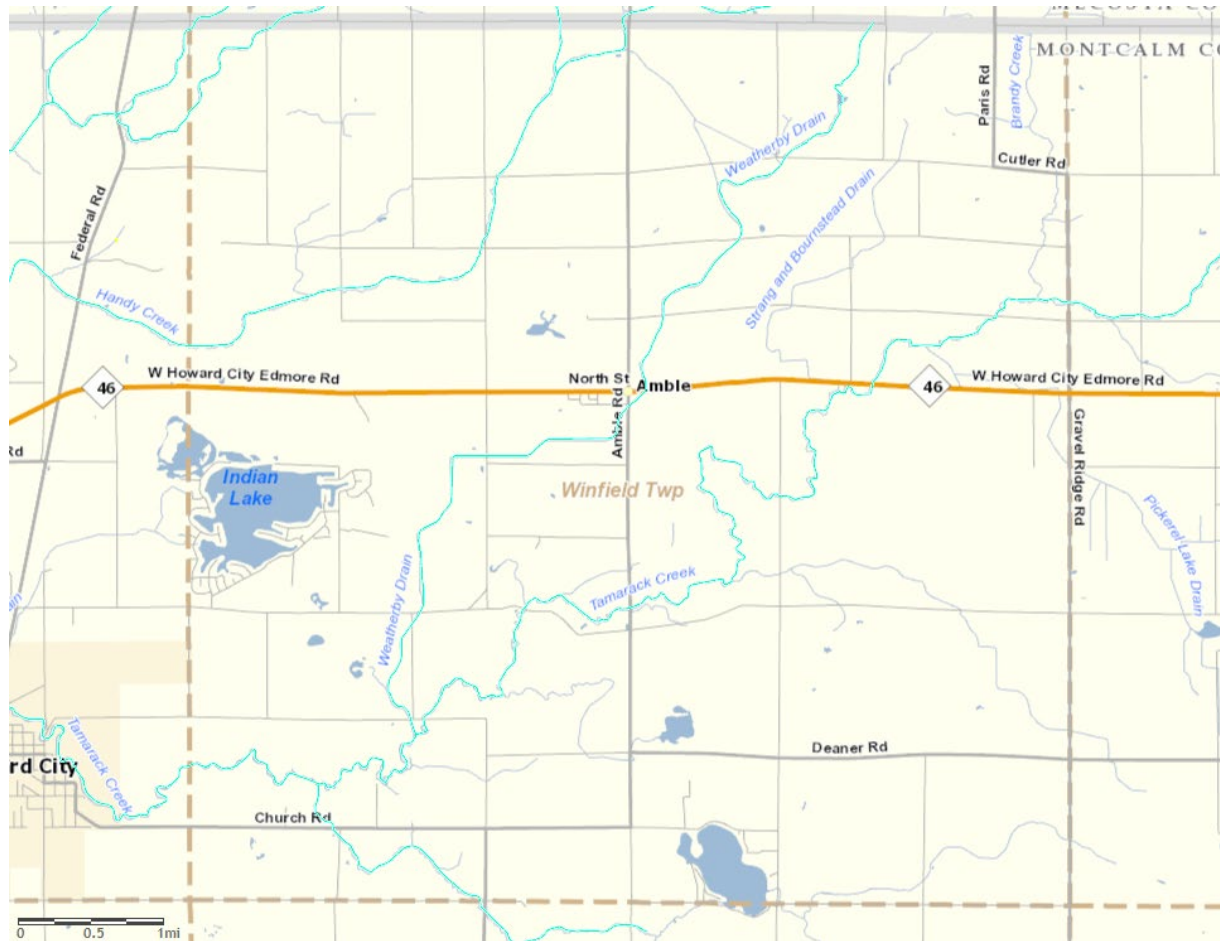



Figure 4.6 – Winfield Township Trout Streams

-  Dams
-  Recreational Prospecting
-  2010 Trout Streams
-  2010 Trout Lakes

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

Description of Planning and Public Input Processes

Planning Methods

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

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

The foundation for the development of the Winfield Township Parks and Recreation Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community in the process to develop a Five-Year Recreation Master Plan.
- Inventory and map existing Township recreational facilities.
- Build a strong foundation of Township area stakeholders in addressing the future Recreational needs and priorities of the Community.
- Enable the Township to be eligible for financial assistance based upon the Recreation Plan
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals objectives and actions
- Continue to support and implement improvements for barrier-free Universal Access to Winfield Township area parks.
- Consistency with and expansion upon goals and objectives set forth in existing planning documents that deal partially or wholly with recreation.

Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is a key consideration in plan development. It is important to involve the public early in the process, through public meetings, surveys, or other means. Early citizen involvement not only helps in defining needs and priorities, but it also keeps the public informed about what is going on. This in turn helps to build support and to avoid unnecessary controversy as well as eliminating unnecessary or poorly planned expenditures.

For this recreation plan the Township Board offered many opportunities for public participation prior to adoption of this plan, and in a variety of ways. The first public outreach was held November 9, 2023, to inform the public and gather their comments on the park and recreation in the Township. The agenda and minutes of the meeting are provided in the appendix. A draft plan was created. Next, the public was notified December XX, 2023 of the 30-day review period in which they could review the plan and make comments prior to adoption. A copy of the draft plan was posted on the Township's website and a paper copy was available at Township Hall. The public hearing date was also posted at the same time. It was scheduled for January XX, 2024 to provide the required timeframe for review. Lastly, the final plan was presented to the Township Board, by way of the public hearing, for final adoption, and it was adopted.

Goals and Objectives

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

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

Goal 1

Provide comprehensive community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all Winfield Township area residents.

Objectives

The various input received from the community during this planning process has provided many suggestions for our future park facilities and recreational programs. Winfield Township will continue to use these suggestions to guide their planning for the future.

Potential Actions

- Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Construct recreational facilities such as paved walkways, ballfield, basketball court, pickleball court, play areas, ADA parking, picnic pavilion/ picnic facilities and other recreational facilities as priority items identified in community input sessions.
- Look at options for improving educational and interpretive signage in all the parks including signs for persons of various disabilities.

Goal 2

Provide quality leisure time activities with special consideration given to improve health and fitness.

Objectives

A community's recreational facilities and programs offer the community an opportunity to enjoy nature and take part in activities that will improve health and fitness. The Winfield Township community realizes the importance of providing top quality park facilities and programs and also would like to improve the health and fitness of its residents.

Potential Actions

- Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population.
- Add recreational facilities based upon recreation trends and input from the community.

Goal 3

Develop a system of park facilities that promote four-season use.

Objectives

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

Potential Actions

- Construct compatible yet diverse uses within the parks that promote spring, summer, fall and winter uses.
- Explore options for all-season facilities such as warming shelters in the parks as appropriate.

Goal 4

To enhance the quality of life in the Township by providing multi-generational, fully accessible and safe recreational facilities that are responsive to the needs of *all* residents with high quality recreational facilities that efficiently utilize available resources.

Objectives

- Develop a variety of recreational facilities that reflect the changing and diverse needs of the township residents.
- Develop certain recreational facilities as identified by the survey and needs assessment and establish priorities for their development.
- Utilize design, construction, and maintenance practices that maximize the benefits provided for the resources expended.
- Plan improvements that offer both active and passive recreation opportunities.
- Develop unique recreational opportunities for elderly and physically challenged citizens. Every recreational opportunity should be fully accessible to all individuals whenever possible.
- Provide play areas that are in conformance with the “Playground Equipment Safety Act”.

Goal 5

Continue the improvement and development of Universal Design Concepts at any and all township park locations in accordance with the park’s development master plan.

Objectives

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

Potential Actions

- Provide for universally accessible play areas, picnic facilities and shelters.
- Provide for paved parking areas and trails to provide barrier-free access to all areas.
- Provide additional non-motorized trails to better connect community destinations and areas.
- Improve signage for any visually or physically impaired park users.

Goal 6

Provide additional non-motorized trails for recreational and transportation use.

Objectives

Providing the community with trail system which is our “safe highway” across the community connecting our schools, parks and the downtown district is a high priority in our community.

Potential Actions

- Explore cooperative effort with the surrounding communities to promote, manage, oversee, plan and seek joint funding for trails in the regional area and to avoid duplication of efforts and to enhance the connect-ability of the trails and ensure the best regional outcomes.

Goal 7

Acquire and retain public land for future generations.

Objectives

As the Winfield Township community continues to grow our local officials need to be conscious of the need for acquiring additional park land as it becomes available.

Potential Actions

- Acquire new public lands to meet the future recreational needs of the community.
- Preserve and protect open space and other important natural features in the Winfield area.
- Develop programs for evaluating future land acquisition.
- Preserve floodplains and wetlands for recreation purposes whenever possible.

Goal 8

Create new partnerships and collaboration.

Objectives

As Michigan continues to redevelop, it is important to take advantage of collaborations and partnerships as a cost-effective way to offer recreational programs in the community.

Potential Actions

- Encourage the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities in the formation of a regional recreational advisory board in an effort to combine resources and avoid duplication of facilities and services.
- Utilize public and private sector cooperation in the promotion of recreation and the improvement of recreational opportunities.
- Encourage the participation of volunteers in the development of recreational facilities.

Goal 9

To continually improve the quality of and the opportunities for recreation in the Township by reassessing community recreation needs, trends, and characteristics.

Objectives

- Periodically update this Recreation Plan.
- Develop an expanded survey to ensure public needs and desires in areas of parks & recreation.

- Develop community park advocates through the establishment of a Parks and Recreation Board or Committee.
- Provide opportunities for the involvement of township residents in the identification, selection, and development of recreational facilities.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Township's efforts in fulfilling identified goals and objectives by providing opportunities for township residents to evaluate the progress of recreational development.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Township's efforts in providing fully accessible opportunities for township residents.
- Facilitate regular meetings of the Recreation Board.

Action Program

A variety of factors, including community characteristics, population trends, existing recreation facilities, and identified recreation needs, contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for plan implementation. These specific recommendations represent the actions that can be undertaken to achieve the objectives that have been directed towards a community's recreation goals. These recommended actions also represent the substance and purpose of a recreation plan - the development of a strategy for effectively closing the gap between existing recreation opportunities and recreation needs. A general statement can be made that the property currently operated as park facilities in the Township do not have basic facilities such as paved parking areas, paved walks and restroom facilities. Therefore, the primary goal of any park development will be on improving the accessibility of the park as a whole.

Recommended Actions

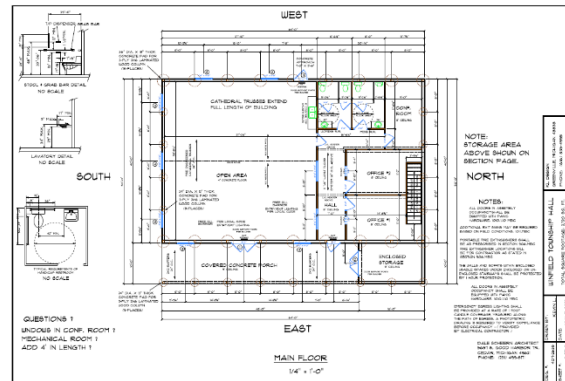
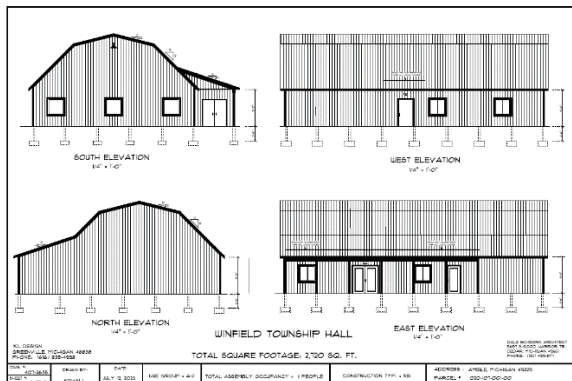
The public was asked for input, as far as recreational needs, at a vision session held by the Township Board on November 9, 2023. Below is what was discussed/mentioned for the Township Park as the priority elements based on the comments are from both board & public. The priory improvements desired are:

- Baseball field improvements, Fences, Bleachers for fans, small shed for storage of bases and field equipment
- Covered Pavilion/picnic area
- Updated playground equipment
- Basketball court improvements
- Addition of pickleball courts
- Video surveillance equipment to protect the investment from vandalism

The public in attendance and all were very much in favor on these much-needed upgrades to the Township's only park.

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

With the construction of a new Township Hall adjacent to the Township Park along with this new Parks and Recreation Master Plan being developed, the community has a chance to harness this new momentum for change.



Capital Improvement Schedule

Please note: This document is a long-range planning document that will continue to evolve and is reviewed on an annual basis. All projects listed are subject to the availability of funding through a grant source and the General Fund and approval of the Township Board. The capital improvements are listed in no particular order. The matrix provides a target year, the project location, a description, an estimated range of likely costs, revenue sources, and goals. It is intended to be used as a guideline for planning.

The following recommendation and capital improvement schedule outlines and assigns relative priorities to activities and projects that can be implemented in both the short-term and long-range future to improve recreational opportunities in the Township. Those activities and projects that can be undertaken during the five-year planning period (2024-2028) have been summarized in a Capital Improvement Program Schedule (Table 4). This schedule includes cost estimates as well as possible funding sources for each suggested project.

Table 4. Capital Improvement Schedule				
Year	Project	Est. Cost	Justification	Funding Source
2024	Township Park Master Plan	\$6,500	Goals 1-5	Local funds
2025	Township Park Improvements Phase 1 – Baseball field improvements, fences, bleachers, & storage shed; Basketball court improvements; pickleball court; Pavilion/picnic area; Updated playground equipment; video surveillance equipment; porta-johns.	\$500,000	Goals 1-5	\$300,000 MNRTF \$100,000 Local Match \$100,000 Patronicity Donations/Foundations
2028	Township Park Improvements Phase 2 – Baseball field improvements, fences, bleachers, & storage shed; Basketball court improvements; pickleball court; Pavilion/picnic area; Updated playground equipment; video surveillance	\$300,000	Goals 3,7,8,9	\$175,000 MNRTF \$125,000 Local Match Donations/Foundations
2028	Recreation Plan Update	\$7,000	Goal 11	\$7,000 local

Abbreviations

MDNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources
LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund
TAP -Transportation Alternatives Program

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

Financing Mechanisms

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

1. General Funds

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

2. Donations and Gifts

The availability of donated land, labor, equipment, and funds from individuals and organizations is an attractive and effective way to improve recreational opportunities in the Township.

3. Multi-jurisdictional Funding

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

4. Non-Local Financial Assistance

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

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

- Funding will be reduced from the current \$23 million a year to \$14-16 million a year. Project funding will be more competitive than previously with the average per capita award in the \$44-50 per person range.
- Minimum match is still 20% however historic average is 34% and the 2011 average was 44% local match to grant. Any project request for over \$2,000,000 total project cost must be 50%-50%. The most favorable grant request will likely be in the \$500,000 range.
- Regional Trails will still be a priority, as will urban area streetscapes. Museums and historic preservation projects will be phased out for funding consideration.

- Preliminary grant application review with regional staff is encouraged to determine competitive nature of project and gather suggestions from TE staff. Project narratives should focus on intermodal transportation opportunities as they relate to the larger picture in the community, traffic calming, improving safety and improving water quality through best management practices.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

program. A 25% minimum local match is required for the Passport grant program with a maximum grant amount of \$150,000 and a minimum of \$7,500.

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

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

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

This fishing development grant is offered through the MDNR and can be as much as \$200,000 annually, in cash or in-kind services. Projects eligible for funding include: culvert modifications for improved stream flow;

livestock or sheet erosion control projects; the development of spawning riffles, fish cover structures, or spawning reefs; and the construction of fishing piers and rough fish barriers.

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

The **Historic Preservation Grant Program** is administered by the Department of State with funds made available through the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. The intent of the program is to conduct surveys of architectural, engineering, archaeological, and historic resources, to identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and to plan for the protection of those cultural/recreational resources.

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

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

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

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

Waterways Program Grants are funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund from state marine fuel tax and watercraft registrations. By law, administration of the Waterways Program is through the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and overseen by the Department's Parks and Recreation Division.

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

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

Communities, non-profits, and municipalities can submit projects by applying for a **Patronicity crowdgranting campaign**. Crowdgranting is the effort of leveraging broad based crowdfunding against a sponsor's matching grant to improve communities.

Public Spaces Community Places projects include:

- Public Plaza & Green Space Development
- Access to Public Amenities
- Farmer's Markets, Community Kitchens, Pop-Up Retail/Incubator Space
- Alley Rehabilitation
- Any other place based (or public space improvement) project.

The Public Spaces, Community Places program is a public placemaking initiative created by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Projects that meet the program's parameters and successfully crowdfund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to \$50,000.

5. Millage

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

Appendix A

Public Notices/Articles, Public Review of Draft Recreation Plan

Appendix B
Resolution of Plan Adoption

Appendix C
Meeting Minutes

Appendix D
Post Grant Completion Reports

Appendix E

Transmittal of Plan to County and Regional Planning Agencies