

**DRAFT
(TEXT ONLY)**

CLYDE TOWNSHIP

**2027-2031
PARKS & RECREATION PLAN**

October 15, 2027

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	PAGE 1
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION	PAGE 4
GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS, PHYSICAL & SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS	PAGE 6
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	PAGE 10
RECREATION INVENTORY	PAGE 14
ADA ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT	PAGE 20
DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS	PAGE 25
GOAL & OBJECTIVES	PAGE 30
ACTION PLAN	PAGE 34
APPENDIX	

CLYDE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2027-2031

INTRODUCTION

Clyde Township is dedicated to developing public spaces, parks and recreation programs that are creative, safe and accessible for everyone. The township takes pride in promoting natural resources that surround the area and seeking opportunities to support healthy lifestyles and inclusive play options.

The Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan, referred to as “The Plan”, is intended to serve as a guide when establishing priorities for recreation expenditures, development of new facilities, and the design and maintenance of public spaces. It will serve as a template for planning considerations on land use and acquisitions, identifying opportunities for partnerships, collaborations and leveraging of resources.

The Plan is required to include public input, establish goals, create an “Action Plan” that highlights specific improvements desired, and yet is flexible to unknown opportunities that create positive outcomes for the community.

The Plan is created with the input from the township’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and made available for public review and a 30 day comment period prior to the Clyde Township Board of Trustees final approval.

The Plan is intended to offer a basis for future applications for recreation grant funding from a variety of private and public sources and in particular, the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Plan is one of several components of the Township's comprehensive and long-term planning tasks.

The 2022-2026 Plan expires in December, 2026 and has provided a solid blue print for pursuing recreational goals. Several projects have been completed under the guidance of the current plan and there are minimal updates required for the 2027-2031 Plan to serve the community's best interest.

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans" from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) (Rev.12/20/16).

The Plan includes the following required sections:

- Community Description: Description of the jurisdiction covered by the plan and the extent of its focus.
- Administrative Structure: Description of how park and recreation functions are carried out, including current and projected budgets and sources of funding, capital improvements, staffing, volunteers and partnerships (private and public).
- Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Area, and Recreation Facilities: Map and description of township owned recreational sites and inspection reports for previous DNR funded grant sites.
- Description of Planning and Public Input Process: Evidence of public participation, public hearings and input from citizens, visitors and elected officials.
- Goals & Objectives: Specific goals and objectives that will be taken into consideration when setting priorities, evaluating development proposals and funding opportunities.
- Action Plan: Specific work items/tasks that may be undertaken by staff, volunteers or other partners during the next five years. Where applicable, rough cost estimates may be included for reference purposes only.

- Maintenance Plan: Local maintenance plan regarding the public spaces, parks and recreation facilities has been adopted and is provided within the Plan for reference.

The Plan is intended to offer guidance and is not intended to be a rigid, set document without flexibility or amendments that accommodate unforeseen opportunities or changing needs of the township. It is not a budget, nor a work agreement, nor an implementation schedule. It is simply a vision plan that offers reference for decision making and budgeting purposes.

Elements of the plan are subject to availability of funding and resources. Federal and State grants are a highly competitive process and dependent upon outside investments and conditions that vary each year.



However, The Plan is a document that is most often referred to when creating narratives that demonstrate the relevancy of a request for consideration of grant funds and therefore, has value.

The Township is named after the River Clyde in Scotland. In 1825, Robert Smart built a mill on the Black River and named it Clyde Mills, after the river near his boyhood home in Scotland.

Clyde Township was organized in 1836. It includes 36 square miles with the Black River, a tributary river to the St. Clair River and Lake Huron, running through the township.

Detroit Edison provides electrical power, and natural gas service is provided by Southeast Michigan Gas Company.

Natural Surroundings and Resources:

The township includes a variety of woodlands, wetlands and forested wetlands. Because of these natural resources, the area is popular for hiking and biking trails, as well as cross country skiing in the winter season.

Port Huron State Game Area is located within the township and include breeding areas for at-risk bird species such as Bald Eagles, Cerulean, Golden-winged Warbler and Wood Thrush.

Migratory patterns include southern bird species such as the Hooded Warbler and the Louisiana Water Thrush.

Woodlands provide habitats for Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant and Northern Bobwhite Quail. The threatened Henslow's Sparrow has been spotted by bird enthusiasts and members of the local chapter of the Audubon Club.

The majority of the township is considered a rural area with small residential subdivisions developed in the past 40 years. One such subdivision is adjacent to the Township Park and the Jake Simpson Wilderness Park.

Agriculture is a primary land use category.

DEMOGRAPHICS, PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Clyde Township is a zoned community and has a Planning Commission that meets monthly and consists of seven appointed members. The Commissioners review development plans and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding permits, zoning requirements and land use.

The Zoning Board meets monthly or as necessary to consider variances and special permits.

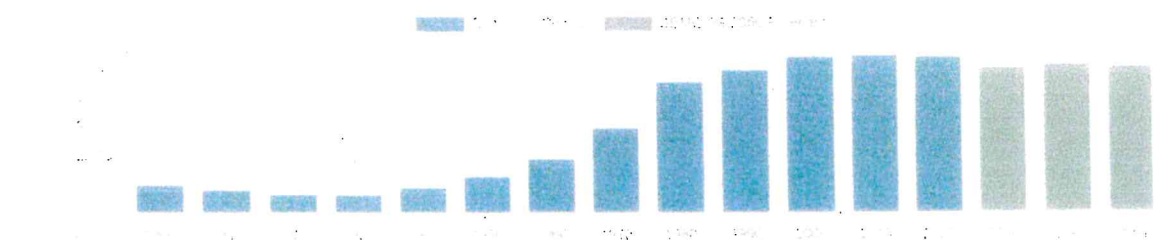
The Township population is according to the 2020 Census Data and SEMCOG Community Profile Data is 5,523 households, a 1% decrease since the 2010 Census.

The medium household income is \$ 84,028 and a poverty rate of 8%.

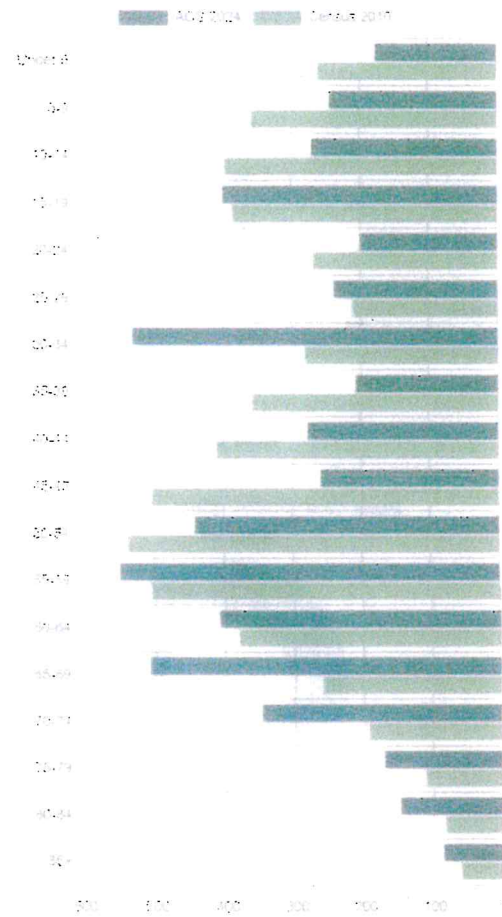
Household Types



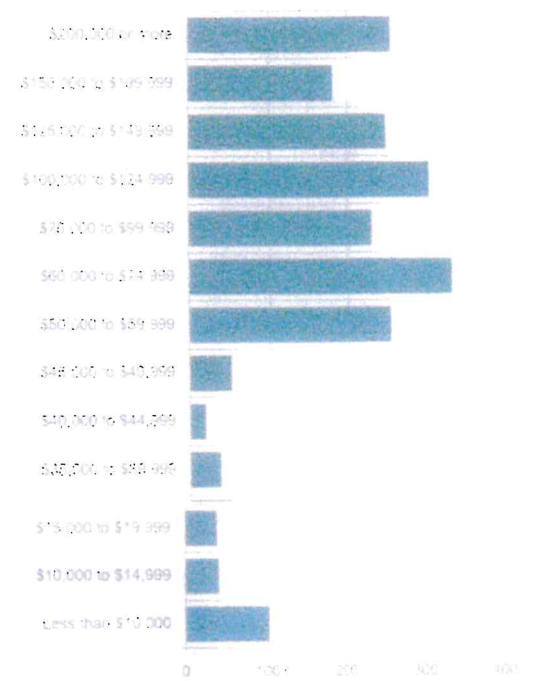
Population Forecast



Population Change by Age, 2010-2024



Annual Household Income



Poverty

Poverty	Census 2010	Percent Of Total 2010	ACS 2024	Percent of Total 2024	Percent Change 2010-2024
Persons in Poverty	227	5.3%	352	6.5%	1.2%
Households in Poverty	161	7.5%	176	8.0%	0.2%

Household Income

Income (in 2024 dollars)	ACS 2010	ACS 2024	Change 2010-2024	Percent Change 2010-2024
Median Household Income	\$83,961	\$84,026	\$167	0.2%
Per Capita Income	\$32,113	\$42,947	\$10,834	33.7%

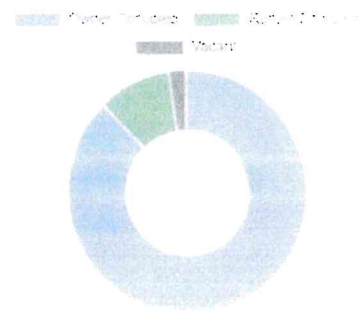
Housing Tenure

Housing Tenure	Census 2010	ACS 2024	Change 2010-2024
Owner Occupied	1,848	1,874	26
Renter Occupied	211	225	14
Vacant	122	50	-72
Seasonal/Migrant	10	34	24
Other Vacant Units	110	16	-94
Total Housing Units	2,103	2,251	148

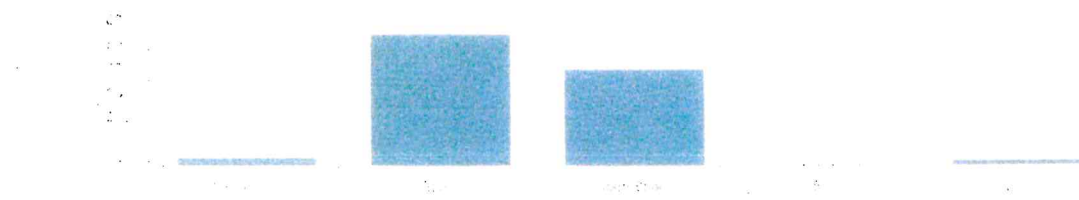
Census 2010



ACS 2024



2020 Land Cover



2020 Land Use

Parcel Land Use	Acres 2015	Acres 2020	Change 2015-2020	Percent Change 2015-2020
Single-Family Residential	1,004.0	1,007.9	4.0	0.2%
Attached Condo Housing	0	0	0	N/A
Multi-Family Housing	0	0	0	N/A
Mobile Home	9.9	9.9	0	N/A
Agricultural/Rural Residential	15,203.4	15,055.1	-153.3	-1.0%
Mixed Use	0	0	0	N/A
Retail	7.5	7.5	0	N/A
Office	5.0	5.0	0	N/A
Hospitality	72.0	14.6	-57.4	-78.6%
Medical	0	0	0	N/A
Institutional	37.5	38.3	0.7	1.9%
Industrial	70.5	70.6	0	N/A
Recreational/Open Space	4,754.6	4,782.0	27.4	1.2%
Cemetery	35.7	35.7	0	N/A
Golf Course	0	0	0	N/A
Parking	0	0	0	N/A
Extractive	2.6	2.6	0	N/A
TCU	7.2	47.8	40.6	559.7%
Vacant	593.7	701.7	108.1	18.2%
Water	264.8	264.8	0	N/A
Not Parcelled	162.3	162.3	0.0	0.0%
Total	23,016.5	23,016.5	0.0	0.0%

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Clyde Township is a general law township with a Township Board of Trustees and a Township Supervisor. The township board and the supervisor are elected positions.

The Board meets once a month, the third Tuesday, and all meetings are advertised and open to the public. The Board approves the final Recreation Plan, all grant applications and oversees the Township budgets with final approval each year regarding all department budgets, allocations and revenue funding.

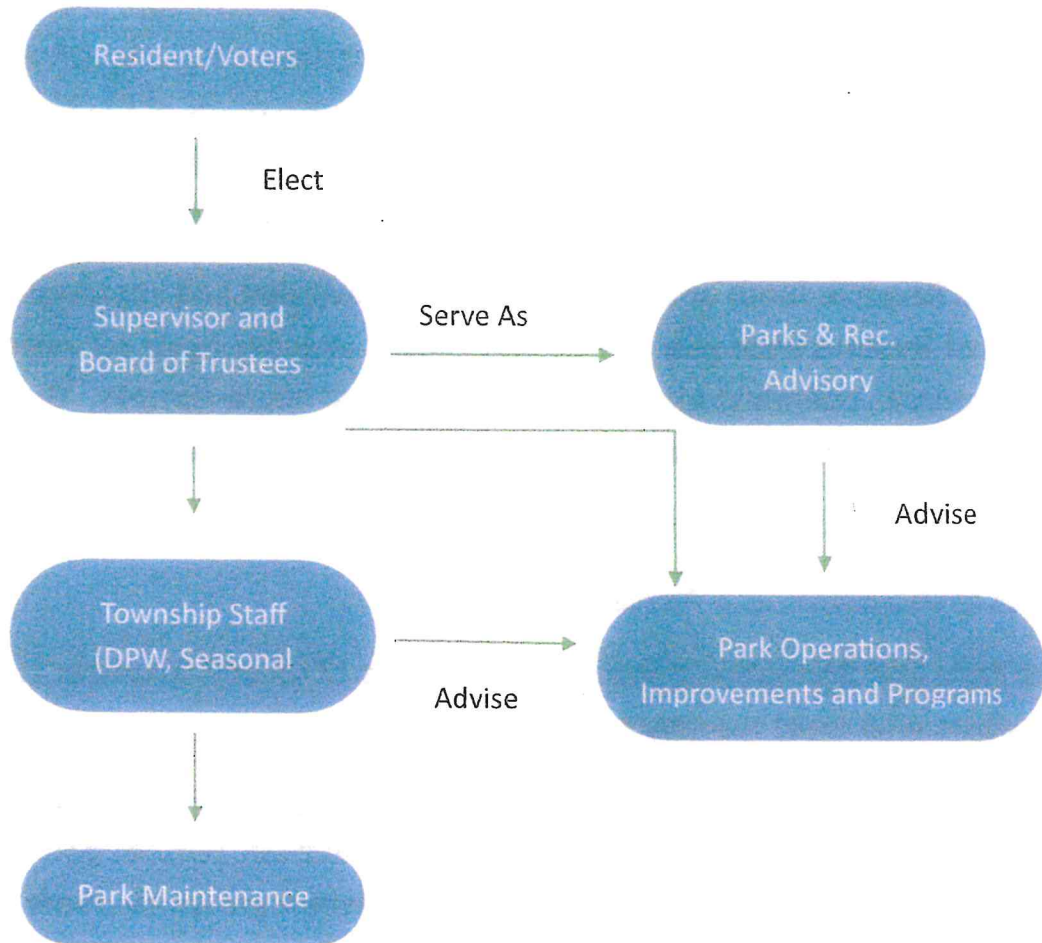
The Parks and Recreation committee is an advisory committee of volunteer community members. They report directly to the Township Board and meet monthly. Duties include overseeing special events within the parks, advise the Board of maintenance or capital improvements necessary and fundraising for additional expenditures.

Maintenance and capital improvement are typically handled as contractual expenditures; however, local volunteers have been strong supporters of the township parks and have donated time, materials and funds to several recent improvements.

The township is committed to retaining quality parks and recreational facilities for everyone. It strives to design spaces that are accessible and meet or exceed ADA Standards with an emphasis on Universal Design as feasible.

The parks and recreation facilities are owned by the Township and maintenance and operation of the parks is completed by the township's Department of Public Works staff, volunteers or professional contracts.

The overall day to day administration of the parks is the responsibility of the elected Township Supervisor who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.



Annual Budget

The Township's General Revenue Fund is the primary source of funding for the park operations. The Township also receives an allocation from the St. Clair Parks & Recreation annual millage. In 2026, the annual millage allocation was \$34,646.

General Revenue funds and annual budget are reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees each year. The current budget includes funds set aside for maintenance, operating supplies and minor capital improvements. The annual cost of maintenance is approximately \$12,000 which includes seasonal contracts.

Annual budget is provided in the Appendix.

Roles of Volunteers and Partnerships

The Parks and Recreation Committee is made up of several volunteer community members who meet monthly and manage The Plan.

The Committee sets goals – both short-term and long-term – based upon community input and feedback. The Committee actively pursues partnerships with outside agencies, local communities and interest groups to create programs and innovative funding to reach those goals.

Recently, a partnership with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County's "Rural and Small Town Program" has made it possible to seek out grants from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund. The grants received will be applied towards a long standing goal of renovating the two tennis courts at the Township Park that are in a condition that makes it difficult to use the sport surface; and to design a nature trail that would link the Township Park with the adjacent Jake Simpson Wilderness Park.

The Foundation's "Rural and Small Town Program" has also made it possible for the township to develop the 2027-2031 Recreation Plan and pursue grants for park improvements.

Another partnership that has directly benefitted the residents is with the City of Port Huron's Recreation Department. Township residents are given the opportunity to participate in city recreation programs (swimming lessons, tennis, pickleball, sports, arts & crafts etc.) at the same rate as city residents.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the parks. They monitor park activities, organize seasonal clean up events, community festivals and donations. The disc golf course at the Jake Simpson Park was made possible by volunteers and generous donors and is an asset to the township.

School Districts: Clyde Township is served by both Port Huron Area School District and the Yale School District.

Recreational Facilities at Schools

<u>District:</u>	<u>School:</u>	<u>Facilities:</u>
PHASD	Indian Woods Elementary	Playground, Basketball, Field
	Kimball Elementary	Playground, Basketball
	Michigamme Elementary	2 Soccer Fields, Playground
	Fort Gratiot Middle School	Baseball Field, Playground, Track, Basketball
	Central Middle School	Baseball Field, Track, Basketball
YALE	Avoca Elementary	Playground, Basketball, Baseball Field

RECREATION INVENTORY

An inventory of existing publicly owned recreation facilities and parks, trails and public spaces suitable for recreational use has been completed.

Each site owned by the township was inventoried for amenities, general condition of those amenities, level of accessibility of the site for those with physical challenges or special needs, and any specific needs observed.

A broad overview has been provided of other recreational sites that are privately held or within other nearby jurisdictions as a means for context and may or may not continue to remain accurate during the plan's timeframe.



Clyde Township Park – 3350 Vincent Road, North Street.

Approximate 1 acre site adjacent to the Township Administrative Office building and parking lot. It is adjacent to the east side to a residential subdivision that includes single family dwellings. An informal footpath connects the park to the neighborhood.

Amenities include a major revision in 2024 that included new play features to replace the 1970's era play pieces; ADA parking and connector pathway to the existing picnic pavilion.

Park includes the picnic pavilion, play pieces and the new playscape, portable restrooms and two tennis courts. Additional open space for casual unstructured play is available.

Insert Photos

In 2026, the township received approval for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Grant towards the cost of renovating the existing 2 tennis courts that are in disrepair. The renovations will include new surface and striping to allow for both tennis and pickleball play.

A second Legacy grant has been received to kick start funding for the design and construction of a nature trail that would connect the park to the adjacent Jake Simpson Wilderness Park.

Insert Photos

Black River Property – This area is land owned by the Township but due to its location and condition, is not considered for development within the near future. Access to the river is along a slope and development would require engineered designs.

Jake Simpson Wilderness Park – 3350 Vincent Road, North Street.

Approximately 17 acres. The park is adjacent to the Township Park yet does not have a sidewalk, nor a trail to connect the two sites. Therefore, a majority of visitors are forced to drive from one site to another even though the distance is minimal.

Recent improvements to the park include a 9 hole disc golf course, several adult fitness stations and pickleball courts.

The park also includes a large asphalt area that has several basketball hoops and an open space for roller skating or skateboarding.

Existing metal swing set is set away from the sport courts and does not have a pathway that connects the parking lot to the swings.

The parking lot is graveled with one signed ADA parking space created.

Insert Photos

Bill Bearss Memorial Park – 5240 Wildcat Road, North Street.

This park is 20 acres and is the largest park in the township. It includes two sport fields (soccer and baseball). Basketball hoops are located in the parking lot, and a playscape and swings are nearby.

On site is the old Township Hall, built in 1879, and maintained by the Clyde Township Historical Society.

The building is often used for community events. There is a picnic pavilion available for individual events and casual gatherings.

Over the years, township residents have expressed an interest in creating more play features, a running track and the potential for a dog park.

Insert Photos

Fire Fighters Park – 4545 Brott Road, Ruby.

The park is just under an acre and adjacent to the Ruby Lions Club owned baseball field and the Lions Club building.

The park includes play features and a basketball court that has in the past, been flooded for use as a community ice rink.

Insert Photos

ADA ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

A site visit was conducted at each park. Consultation with the St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission and the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission provided additional maps and information.

Each of the Township's parks are well maintained and it is obvious that the sites are beloved by the community, utilized throughout the seasons and well respected as community assets.

Inventory and reviews for accessibility factors included ADA standards of existing amenities and notation of areas where improvements could be made as funds are secured.

The Action Plan also includes improvements that would specifically improve the accessibility rating at each park and includes comments and guidance from staff at Community Enterprise, a local non-profit that provides services and skill training to those who have physical and mental challenges.

Under the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design, a ranking system is in place. A ranking from 1 to 5 (1=none of the site amenities meet ADA Standards and 5=all of the facility or site amenities meet not only ADA Standards, but also Universal Design) has been used and provided as part of the Resource Inventory Table.

In accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) standards, facilities are evaluated to determine their score, not as a punitive measure, but as a way to determine awareness of needs, potential adjustments and to guide future renovations. In this plan, facilities and parking lots, along with access routes and permanently placed amenities were included in the review.

Reviews were not done to a level that would suggest any determination or comment to imply safety, assurances of safety or proper installation and maintenance of any amenity or property at the site.

The review does not replace a professional assessment or determination for insurance or liability related issues, nor to make specific recommendations that a qualified or certified professional inspector would determine.

The following guidelines offered by the Michigan DNR were used:

- 1. None of the facilities or park areas meet accessibility guidelines*
- 2. Some of the facilities or park areas meet accessibility guidelines*
- 3. Most of the facilities or park areas meet accessibility guidelines*
- 4. The entire facility or park area meets accessibility guidelines*
- 5. The entire facility or part area was renovated or newly constructed using Universal Design guidelines that exceed accessibility guidelines.*

While each of the areas reviewed had some accessibility, there are opportunities to improve as maintenance continues, and new projects are designed that would provide not only proper access; but also encourage inclusive play.

These considerations are important to the Township residents when planning for installation of new benches, trash receptacles, pathways, play equipment, parking lot layouts and access to the waterfront.

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides standards that suggest park systems fall into categories based upon their size, function, and services offered per population targets of 1,000 persons.

NRPA PARK CLASSIFICATION

NAME	DESCRIPTION	SERVICE AREA SIZE CRITERIA	
Mini Park	Small, Unique	1/4 mile	< 1 acre
Neighborhood Park	Variety Activities	¼ mile to ½ mile	1-10 acres
Community Park	Variety, Sport Fields, Active & Passive Play	½ mile to 3 miles	10+ acres

The township is committed to making improvements at each park in accordance with the ADA standards as financial resources become available. Both the Township Park and Jake Simpson Wilderness Park have improved their rating since 2022.

Clyde Township Park – Rated 3 – Most Park Facilities are Accessible.

Recently completed renovation at the park included an additional paved ADA parking space at the entrance of the park, an accessible pathway from the parking space to the pavilion; new play features with accessible play pieces and engineered wood fiber safety surfaces.

Proposed improvements include new tennis/pickleball courts with a connecting pathway from the ADA parking and pavilion.

Jake Simpson Wilderness Park – Rated 2 – Some of Park Facilities are Accessible.

Recent improvements that included installation of adult fitness equipment and a paved ADA parking space within a graveled parking lot and an access path from the ADA space to the asphalt multi-sport court have resulted in the rating improvement.

Other areas of the park are not connected and the existing swing set is older and set apart from any access pathway.

Proposed improvements include a hardpacked nature trail of 6-8' wide that would connect part to the adjacent Township Park and create greater access to the new play features and picnic pavilion.

Bill Bearss Memorial Park – Rated 2 – Some of Park Facilities are Accessible.

The park includes several sport fields and a pavilion, as well as a playground area. The paved parking lot includes an access pathway to the pavilion but not the play areas. Future improvements will meet ADA standards.

Fire Fighters Park – Rated 1 – None of the Park Facilities are Accessible.

The park itself does not include paved parking or access pathways. The adjacent sport fields maintained by the Lion Club has some ADA designs, but is not within the park boundaries.

ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL AREAS

Clyde Township has a unique advantage as result of their partnership with the City of Port Huron's Parks and Recreation Department. Township families may participate in programs offered by the City at the same rate as city residents. This includes sport clinics, swimming lessons and tennis or pickleball lessons.

The City of Port Huron offers several parks that include beaches along Lake Huron, fishing and boating at the Black River and St. Clair River, baseball diamonds, tennis and pickleball courts, nature trails, ice skating and sledding.

Other nearby facilities in surrounding communities include:

Burtchville Township:

Township Park – On the banks of Lake Huron the park includes a swimming beach, new play equipment, walking/biking trail, basketball and volleyball courts, picnic pavilions.

Township Trail – A 5 mile trail that links the Township Office with Metcalf Road thru fields and nature habitats.

Fort Gratiot Township:

Township has several parks including Robert E. Crawford Ball Fields, Keewahdin Road Beach, and the Fort Gratiot Trail.

Kimball Township:

The township has recently acquired a site on the Black River that will be developed into an accessible paddle craft launch and picnic area.

In addition, the township park on Howard Road includes Little League Baseball diamonds, tennis courts, picnic areas and fishing pond. A second park on Henry Road includes an area for walking, pavilion and seasonal ice skating rink.

Port Huron Township:

Baker's Field Park – adjacent to the Black River and includes a paddle craft launch, open spaces for bird watching and trail walking.

Township RV Campground – Located off the I-94 exit and includes 130+ campsites, play equipment, and a community event building.

Water Street Park – Sledding, basketball, and play equipment.

Memorial Park Beach Road – Soccer fields for AYSO league, Baseball diamond, Play features and pavilions.

St. Clair County Parks:

The county offers nine parks with a variety of seasonal events and play features. Highlights include:

Goodells County Park – large rural area park that has venues for community events such as the annual 4H Fair, horse arena and trails, play features with a farm theme, splash pad, BMX bike trail, cross country skiing, and pavilions.

Fort Gratiot County Park – located on the shoreline of Lake Huron with a swimming beach, several picnic pavilions, walking trails and play areas.

Woodsong County Park – Rustic park within a natural setting on the Black River that includes a bike trail and bird watching amenities.

North Channel County Park – newly acquired acreage along the North Channel waterway. Currently underdevelopment with plans for water access, nature trails, and a trailhead to the adjacent “Bridge to Bay Regional Trail” system.

Wadham to Avoca Trail – A 12 mile long trail that connects communities along the old rail line. It includes the trestle bridge over Mill Creek and is open to hikers, bikers and horses.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PARKS

Algonac State Park – In Clay and Cottrellville Townships. Park includes access to the bay and offers boat launch, fishing, trails (all seasons) for hiking, biking, snowmobiles and cross country skiing, camping and play areas.

Lakeport State Park – In Burtchville Township. Includes a swimming beach, camping, and play areas.

Port Huron State Game Area – In Clyde and Grant Township. Offers opportunity for hunting, fishing, and bird watching.

St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area – In Clay Township. Offers viewing of waterfowl, birding, fishing, boating.

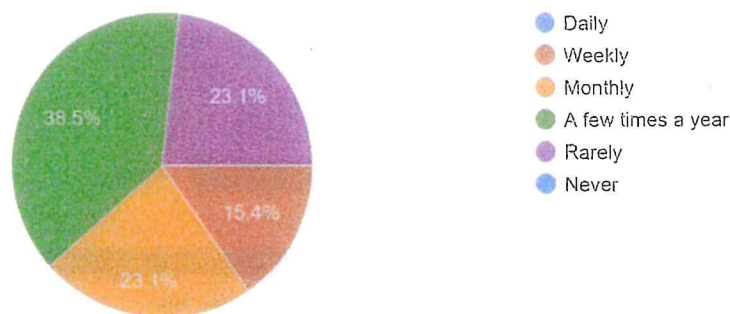
St. John’s Marsh Wildlife Area – In Clay Township. Offers wildlife viewing, birding and fishing.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Public input has been ongoing for several years including the previous 2021 Recreation Plan, 2022, 2023 and 2024 reviews and public comments regarding applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and once again during the fall 2025 application process regarding the application to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund. Each time, the public has participated in discussions and public meetings about park goals and desired improvements and shared their comments with the township official.

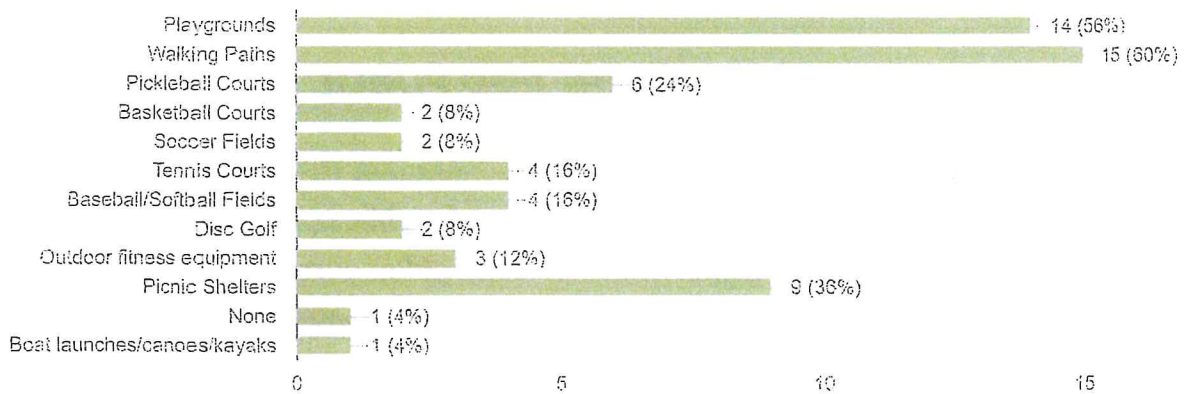
Recently, a public survey was made available at the Township Offices and online. The completed survey results are provided in the attachments and shared with the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Board of Trustees. The complete survey is within the attachments of The Plan; however, a brief recap is also included below for easy reference.

How often do you visit our parks?
26 responses



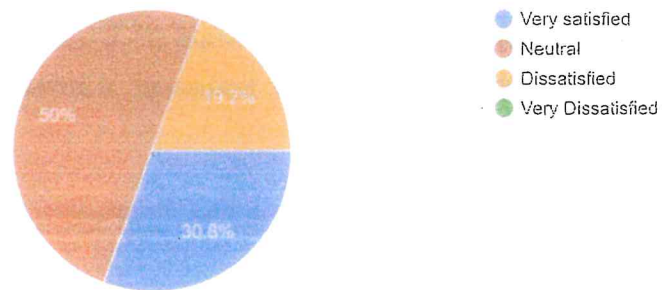
Which Park amenities do you currently use? (Select all that apply.)

25 responses



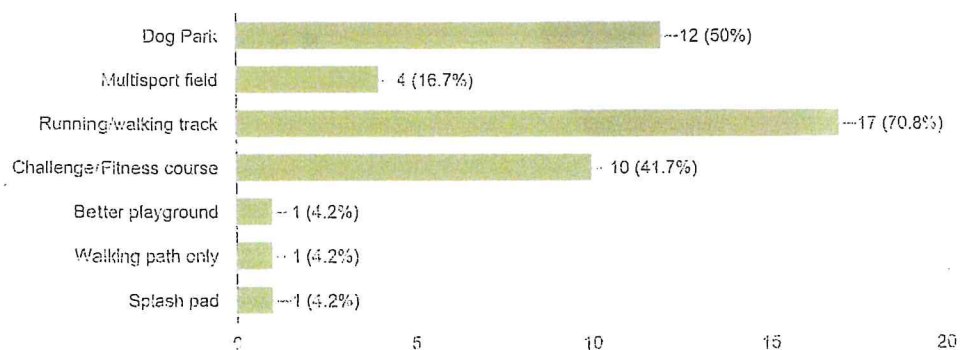
Overall, how satisfied are you with our parks?

26 responses



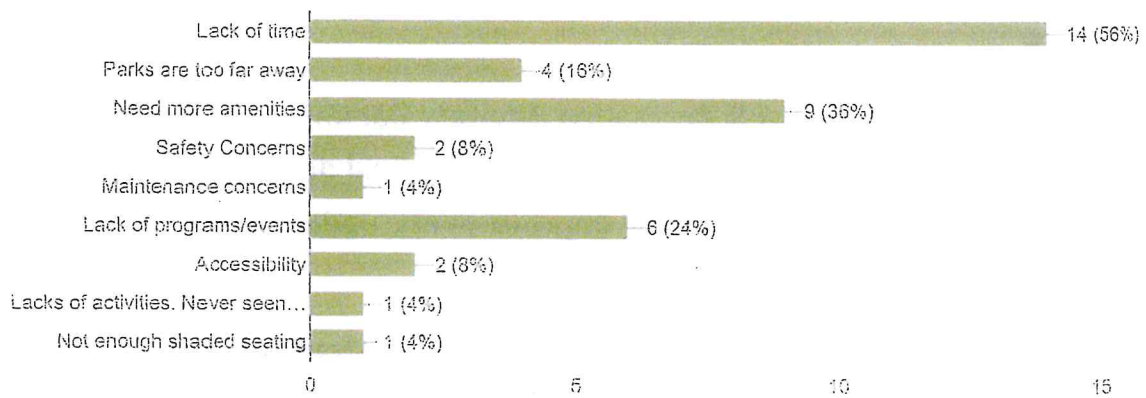
What would you like to see developed on the additional open land at BILL BEARSS PARK? Check your top three choices)

24 responses



What prevents you from using our parks more often?

25 responses



Additional Public Input:

June, July, &

August, 2026 Clyde Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Meetings – Open to the public and posted. Committee members held discussions regarding existing conditions of the parks, desired improvements, updating of goals and the Five-Year Recreation Plan.

August, 2026 Township Board of Trustees Monthly Meetings – Board noted Recreation Plan to be completed and encourage everyone to take survey on line or with copies provided in the Township Offices. Social media used to promote and request public comments.

Sept., 2026 Township Board of Trustees Monthly Meetings – Board continues to promote survey and encourages residents to share ideas regarding recreational needs and park improvements.

Oct. 15, 2026 Draft Recreation Plan available for public viewing and comments. Hardcopies available in Township Office and Main Library. Link to draft on social media account. Public encouraged to provide verbal and/or written comments.

Oct. 20, 2026 Township Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting – Board agenda includes “Public Comments” section to receive public input.

Oct. 20, 2026 Township Board of Trustees also pass Resolution to set a public hearing for November 17th Board Meeting, to receive both verbal and written comments (at the end of 30-day comment period). Copy of Certified Resolution, Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes attached in Appendix.

October, 2026 Notice of Public Hearing published in Times Herald, placed on township social media account and posted at Township Office. Copy of published notice, affidavit of publication, screenshot of social media and posting attached in Appendix.

Nov. 17, 2026 Township Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting – Board agenda includes “Public Comments” section to receive final public input.

Nov. 17, 2026 Township Board of Trustees passes “Resolution to Adopt Recreation Plan and Authorize Submission”.

November, 2026 Adopted Recreation Plan is shared with local jurisdictions and submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Public spaces, including parks, that are well maintained, creative and provide accessible features are highly regarded assets of a rural community.

Rural and small towns that have a wide variety of recreational facilities and programs with other area partners that seek means to promote year-round outdoor events, and full access to natural resources for everyone are perceived by many to be more desirable communities to reside.

The goals to obtain and maintain such assets influences decisions for public and private investments, and potential partnerships that allow for leveraging those resources with the common goal of promoting healthy lifestyles, and the physical and mental health benefits that outdoor recreation offers.

The following goals and objectives remain a priority for the township and reflect the public input received during recent discussions.

Goal 1: To provide multi-generational recreation opportunities and facilities within the community.

Objectives:

- a. To provide activities for all ages and activity groups.
- b. To provide activities that can be enjoyed together across age groups and abilities.

Goal 2: To provide recreational facilities and public spaces that are accessible for everyone regardless of physical or mental health challenges.

Objectives:

- a. To strive to implement both American with Disabilities (ADA) Standards and Universal Design Standards whenever feasible during the design, development and construction of recreational features.

- b. To develop improvements that integrate ADA accommodations in a manner that are inclusive and not caused undo separation of users based upon abilities.
- c. As improvements are designed for each park, the Township will refer to ADA Standards and Universal Design as feasible to increase recreational access and creative play.

Goal 3: To encourage and support collaborations and partnerships with non-profit organizations to provide recreational programming, special events, and recreational sites for public enjoyment. To leverage those resources in creative manners in order to maximize opportunities and long-term outcomes.

Objectives:

- a. The township will continue, as funds allow, to assist partners and non-profit organizations through the development and maintenance of recreational assets and programs.
- b. The township will leverage local resources and seek partnerships, collaborations, funding and similar resources when planning improvements to public parks.

Goal 4: Retain existing park lands for the use and enjoyment of all residents and visitors and consider opportunities for expansion, property donations or acquisition, as feasible, for increasing public access to natural resources.

Objectives:

- a. The Township will not sell existing recreational lands or convert them to non-recreational use.
- b. The Township will continue to ensure that the public has full access to public parks.
- c. The Township will continue to make improvements to the parks based on the Recreation Plan as financially feasible and desired by the community.
- d. Thoughtful consideration, as deemed feasible, of opportunities to extend public access to natural resources and land.

- e. Strive to offer programs and facilities at no or low cost to the participants and not to charge admission fee for access to the parks.

Goal 5: To create plans that guide future development, opportunities and improvements for each park area, including Black River site

Objectives:

- a. Create a design and financial plan for ADA improvements at each public park.
- b. Identify potential financial resources, partnerships and opportunities to advance improvements highlighted in the Recreation Plan's "Action Plan".
- c. Create a design and financial plan for development of the Black River property that provides accessibility and protects natural surroundings.

Goal 6: To create opportunities for environmental stewardship, education and protection of natural surroundings.

Objectives:

- a. Promote environmental stewardship with native planting, educational signage, protection of natural habitats within each park.
- b. Partner with local agencies to promote park assets and install amenities that encourage or sustain natural habitats such as bird houses, pollinator or song bird gardens, nature trails and green spaces retained.

Goal 7: Expand recreational opportunities for residents and their pets by providing safe, accessible and welcoming space for all leashed recreation.

Objective:

- a. Explore and identify a suitable location for a community dog park.
- b. Engage residents and pet owners in the planning and design process to identify desired amenities and features.
- c. Develop safe, accessible and welcoming dog park.

Goal 8: Evaluate and improve drainage at the basketball court at Bill Bearss Memorial Park.

Objective:

- a. Evaluate and improve drainage at the basketball court to address recurring standing water and flooding after rainfall.
- b. Maintain court surface, basketball hoops, and surrounding area to ensure safe and usable conditions.
- c. Evaluate future improvements to enhance the court and extend its useful life.

Goal 9: Seek funding resources through Federal, State and local grant sources, local partnerships, sponsors and similar partnerships.

Objective:

- a. Create development plans and conceptual estimates, as well as other materials that assist in the preparation and the submittal of grant applications, or similar financial partnerships.
- b. Develop a community plan for fundraising and community awareness of park development needs and estimated costs.
- c. Continue to participate in rural and small town initiatives.

ACTION PLAN

Clyde Township will continue to seek out resources, partnerships and opportunities to leverage those resources in order to design and install improvements at each park as feasible.

A five year action plan is set out as a guide and may be altered, expanded or adjusted as financial resources become available.

Year One – 2027

1. Township Park – Complete renovations to two tennis courts.
2. Review Parks & Recreation Budget and determine Capital Improvement Options, identify potential partners and fundraising goals.

Year Two – 2028

1. Jake Simpson & Township Park – Complete connecting Nature Trail

Year Three – 2029

1. Bill Bearss Memorial Park - Design and fundraising for Dog Park
2. ADA improvements (parking, pathways, play surfaces and borders)

Year Four – 2030

1. Jake Simpson Wilderness Park - Accessible play features, picnic areas and pathways.
2. Bill Bearss Memorial Park – walking trail

Year Five - 2031

1. Fire Fighters Park – ADA pathways and parking
2. Accessible Play Features at Fire Fighters Park

APPENDIX

- A **TOWNSHIP'S ANNUAL BUDGET**
- B **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND AUTHORIZING RESOLUTIONS**
- C **PUBLIC SURVEY**
- D **CLASSIFICATION OF PARKS – Sourced from DNR**
- E **SUGGESTED FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS – Sourced NRPA**
- F **CLYDE TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE PLAN**
- G **TRANSMITTAL LETTERS OF FINAL PLAY**
- H **POST COMPLETION REPORTS OF PREVIOUS GRANTS**
- I **POTENTIAL RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES**