

Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission



Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

2014 – 2018 Edition

Plan Approval and Adoption

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Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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Chapter 1

Community Description

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

The Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell; the Village of Brooklyn; and the Columbia School District comprise the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission (please see the map in Appendix B). A five-mile buffer extends the study area to include at least portions of the following local units of government:

OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

JACKSON COUNTY	WASHTENAW COUNTY	LENAWEE COUNTY	HILLSDALE COUNTY
CITY OF JACKSON	VILLAGE OF MANCHESTER	VILLAGE OF CEMENT CITY	SOMERSET TOWNSHIP
VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE	MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP	VILLAGE OF ONSTED	
BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP	SHARON TOWNSHIP	CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	
GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP	SYLVAN TOWNSHIP	FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP	
LEONI TOWNSHIP		WOODSTOCK TOWNSHIP	
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP			
SUMMIT TOWNSHIP			

A large portion of the Jackson Urban Area is also included within the study area. In fact, the urban area extends into the Heart of the Lakes Area in the vicinity of Ackerson Lake.

The first priority of the Commission is to develop a parks and recreation plan which responds to the recreational desires of its citizenry and proposes enhancements to the parks and recreational programs of its members. The recreation plan will also provide a clear picture of the recreational opportunities available to the residents of the Heart of the Lakes Area regardless of who provides them. That review will catalogue nontraditional recreation opportunities such as historic districts/structures and shopping opportunities as well as traditional parks and recreation facilities.

In addition to its rich network of aquatic features, the Heart of the Lakes Area is home to a variety of unique communities, neighborhoods, and Downtown Brooklyn, as well as portions of Michigan International Speedway and the Irish Hills. Further, the presence of potential trail corridors throughout the Region require an intensive review of how those natural assets can be successfully integrated into the Heart of the Lakes Area.

With all those issue in mind, a sincere effort was spent in developing this recreation plan which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in the Heart of the Lakes Area during the second decade of the 21st Century.

Location

The Heart of the Lakes is a one hundred and four square mile district located in the southeast corner of Jackson County. The Area is a part of the border area between Southeast and South-Central Lower Michigan. The five-mile study area (please see the map above) also includes portions of Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Washtenaw Counties. The Heart of the Lakes Area is also close to Michigan's border with Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana.

US Highway 127 (US-127) parallels the western boarder of the Heart of the Lakes Area, providing access to the Toledo Urban Area via US Highway 223 (US-223). Freeway access to the Jackson and Lansing Urban Areas, as well as Interstate 94 (I-94), is also provided by US-127. The Urban Areas of Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek can easily be accessed via I-94.

Michigan Highway 50 (M-50) provides easy access to the interior of the Heart of the Lakes Area. Tecumseh, a nearby community, is also located on M-50. The communities of Adrian, Clinton, and Hudson in Lenawee County; Hillsdale, Jonesville, and Litchfield in Hillsdale County; and Chelsea, Manchester, and Saline in Washtenaw County are accessed by other highways similar to M-50.

A Brief Socioeconomic Summary

The demographic composition of Heart of the Lakes Area residents has an effect upon their recreational needs. Six demographic components are listed below along with a brief paragraph describing the local situation. Each of the components is described in greater detail in Appendix A of this document.

× Population History & Projections

The 2010 population for the Area was 17,159. The population has steadily increased between 1930 and the Year 2000 although the greatest population increases occurred between 1950 and 1980. However, growth in the first decade of the 21st Century was negligible. Based upon this pattern, the population in 2020 is projected to be around 17,200.

× Age & Sex of the Population

Baby boomers (people aged 45 to 64 in 2010) and Shadow boomers (people aged 25-44 in 2010) comprised well over $\frac{1}{2}$ (55%) of the population. However, people aged at least 65 in 2010 comprised 16.7% of the population. Just over $\frac{1}{2}$ (50.1%) of the Area's residents were female in 2010. However, it is interesting to note that the older the generation in 2010, the greater the percentage of females.

× Household & Family Composition

Almost $\frac{2}{3}$ (64.5%) of Area households were comprised of one or two people in 2010. However, almost $\frac{3}{4}$ (70.6%) of households were comprised of families.

× Racial & Ethnic Composition

Race and ethnicity are not significant issues for recreation given the homogeneity of the Area's population.

× Disabilities of Residents

It is estimated that more than 14% of Area residents over the age of 5 were disabled during the 2008-2012 time period and over 8% had an ambulatory disability. It is also estimated that older residents were more apt to have a disability than their younger neighbors.

× Income

The estimated median income for Columbia Township residents was more than that for the average American during the 2007-2011 time period although the median income for each the Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Napoleon and Norvell was less.

The Health of Jackson County Residents^{1,2}

Almost one-third (30.9%) of Michigan residents were considered obese in 2010 (Centers for Disease Control) and the 10th most obese state in the United States in 2011 (Trust for America's Health).^{3,4} Increased physical activity and decreased sedentary behavior are associated with lower rates of obesity, and it reduces the risk for many of the diseases associated with obesity, such as diabetes and heart disease, according to the United States Surgeon General.⁵ These statistics point to a need for more active recreational opportunities in all communities. Those opportunities may include providing more walkable neighborhoods as well as the provision of actual recreational opportunities such as athletic fields (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.) and courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, etc.).

The 2011 Jackson County Community Health Assessment indicates that nearly one-third (31.6%) of survey respondents reported being overweight and well over one-third (37.0%) reported being obese, which means that less than one-third (29.9%) of respondents reported a healthy weight.⁶ From 2008 to 2011, the percentage of those overweight decreased 5.8% and the percentage of those obese increased 4.7%, representing an undesirable trend. "Overweight and obesity substantially increase the risk for cardiovascular disease, type 2

¹ Information of health was not available for the Vandercook Lake CDP or Summit Township.

² An earlier version of this section appeared in the 2008-2012 edition of this document and was adapted from text originally prepared for the current edition of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan (see Appendix C).

³ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html/#History>

⁴ Trust for America's Health (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.healthymamericans.org/report/88/>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2010). *The Surgeon General's Vision for a Health and Fit Nation*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General.

⁶ Health Improvement Organization (2012). *Jackson County Community Health Assessment*. Publication pending.

diabetes, hypertension, lipid disorders, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, psychological disorders, stress incontinence, and cancers of the endometrium, breast, prostate and colon," according to *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan through Physical Activity and Nutrition*. A couple factors of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning contribute to unhealthy weight, according to that report:⁷

- ✖ "Inadequate community infrastructure limits the ability of people to be active. These include lack of accessible indoor and outdoor exercise facilities, neighborhood sidewalks, walking paths, and bicycle trails. Additionally, inclement weather, lack of adequate recreational opportunities, fear of unsafe neighborhoods, and unattractive/unpleasant local environments may prevent people from exercising."
- ✖ "Programs and policies are necessary to promote smart community growth and the establishment of urban and rural environments supportive of physical activity. Active community environments provide access to safe favorable conditions for physical activity and promote the development of social support networks that encourage activity."

Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan through Physical Activity and Nutrition recommends cooperation among state and local units of government and residents in the promotion of active environments, including the following actions.

1. "Develop walkable communities by widening and maintaining or building sidewalks, safe roadway crossings, and aesthetically pleasing areas."
2. "Encourage bicycling by developing, maintaining, and promoting the use of bike paths."

⁷ *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan through Physical Activity and Nutrition* is part of a series entitled "Informing the Debate: Health Policy: Options for Michigan Policymakers," published by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) and Institute for Health Care Studies (IHS).

3. "Require [that] all urban planning and re-design incorporate the concepts of active community environments and [thereby] promote physical activity."

The 2011 Jackson County Community Health Assessment indicates that slightly less than one-half (46.6%) of residents meet the guidelines for moderate physical activity (at least 5 times a week for at least 30 minutes) and slightly more than one-quarter (28.6%) meet the guidelines for vigorous physical activity (at least 3 times a week for at least 20 minutes). Overall, only slightly more than one-half (53.8%) of residents meet at least one of these guidelines (either moderate or vigorous physical activity). Therefore, almost one-half of the residents in Jackson County are not getting the recommended amount of physical activity.

Chapter 2

Administrative Structure

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

Authorization

The Village of Brooklyn; the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell; and the Columbia School District and Napoleon Community Schools have joined together to plan for public parks and recreation facilities under Public Act 156 of 1917 (Recreation and Playgrounds). The Act:

- ✦ “authorizes cities, *villages*, counties, *townships* and *school districts* to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds.” It also allows those entities to:
 - ✦ “operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; vote and expend funds for the operation of such system.”
 - ✦ “operate such a system independently” or “cooperate in its conduct in any manner which they may mutually agree;” or “delegate the operation of the system to a recreation board created by any or all of them, and appropriate money, voted for this purpose, to such board.”
- ✦ The act also allows park systems to operate on “(1) property under its custody and management; (2) other public property;” and “(3) private property, with the consent of the owners.”

A copy of PA 156 of 1917 is available online at:

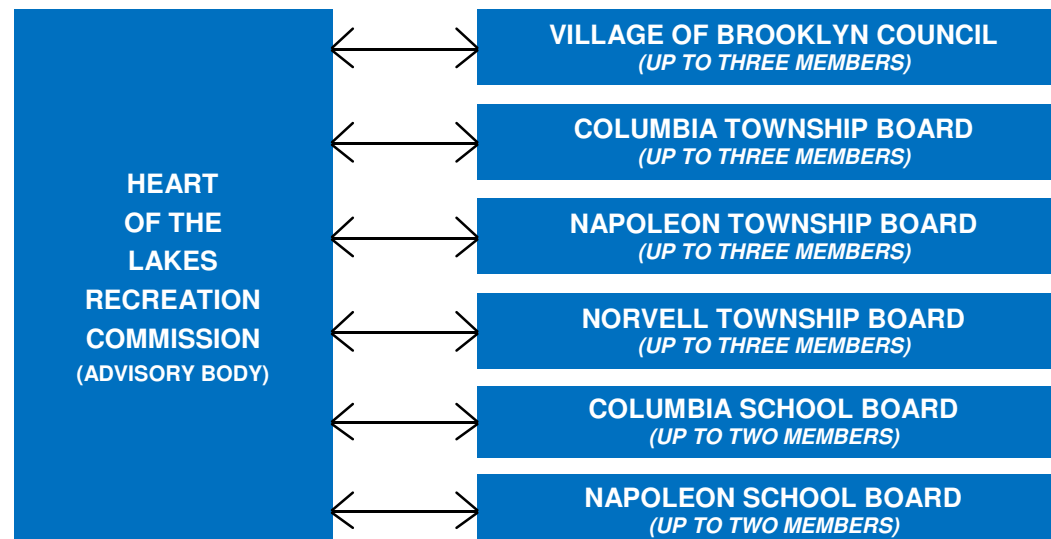
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(jvpdab552sox emek3mee3h55\)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Act-156-of-1917.pdf](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(jvpdab552sox emek3mee3h55)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Act-156-of-1917.pdf)

Organizational Structure

Current membership in the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission includes the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell, the Village of Brooklyn, the Columbia School District, and the Napoleon Community Schools. Each local unit of government appoints up to 2 commissioners to represent their interests. The Columbia School District and Napoleon Community Schools each appoint up to 1 member to the Commission. The Village Manager or President, the Township Supervisors, and the School Superintendents or Presidents may also serve as ex-officio voting members.

The Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission serves as the local recreation commission for each of its members. The Commission developed this plan in that capacity,. The Commission also makes recommendations on recreation issues to the board/council its members, as requested.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The following listing provides details on how each member maintains its park and recreation facilities:

- × **Norvell Township** – maintenance staff
- × **Napoleon Township** – maintenance staff
- × **Columbia Township** – maintenance staff
- × **Village of Brooklyn** – Department of Public Works (DPW)
- × **Columbia School District** – maintenance staff
- × **Napoleon Community Schools** – maintenance staff

Each local unit of government may utilize volunteers for specific projects.

Sources of Funding

Presently, the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission identifies several potential sources of revenue for Area recreation facilities and programs:

- ✖ General fund tax dollars from member units of government;
- ✖ Grants awarded for specific projects; and
- ✖ Donations from the general citizenry and philanthropic organizations.

General fund tax dollars are used for the maintenance and programming of Area parks and recreation facilities.¹ Local units of government also utilize general funds for membership dues in the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission.² A portion of the local match required of most grants may also come from the general fund of a local government.

Grants are generally awarded for the acquisition of parkland and the development of a park or park facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.). Grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from several sources:

- ✖ **The Michigan Department of Natural Resources**
 - ✖ The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
 - ✖ The Land and Water Conservation Fund³
- ✖ **The Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - ✖ The Transportation Enhancement Program³

¹ Ownership and maintenance of recreational facilities are maintained by the local units of government which comprise the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission.

² The cost of administering the Commission and development of a recreation plan is shared equally among the membership. The costs associated with considering a grant application or a specific study will be shouldered by the local government or governments proposing the action.

³ This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.

- ✖ **The Jackson County Road Commission and Village of Brooklyn**
- ✖ The 1% annual allocation of state transportation (Act 51) funds for non-motorized facilities.

Donations can also be made to member units of government to be used at the discretion of a local government or for a specific recreation facility or program. Donations for specific projects are often used to meet the local match for a grant.

Parks and Recreation Budgeting

The parks and recreation budgets for each member of the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission are used almost entirely for the maintenance and programming of its park and recreation facilities. However, each municipality and school district also contributes funding for joint planning projects, including the development of this recreation plan. The general fund of each municipality and school district is the source of this funding.

Relationships with Other Public Agencies

The townships, village, and school district are not the only suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to the residents of the Heart of the Lakes Area.

Schools

Two school districts serve the Area. The service area for the Columbia School District, a member of the Recreation Commission, includes the Villages of Brooklyn and Cement City; the overwhelming majority of Columbia Township; roughly the southern two-thirds of Norvell Township; and portions of other townships to the south, west, and east. All school facilities are located within Brooklyn and Columbia Township. The service area for Napoleon Community Schools includes the overwhelming majority of Napoleon Township; roughly the northern third of Norvell Township, and small portions of Columbia and Grass Lake Townships.

The Jackson County Intermediate School District (which includes Napoleon Community Schools and the Columbia School District) provides educational services to residents and local school districts. In addition to

training with staff and community members, those services include training with students in specific areas (e.g., career and technical education, special education, and adult education) and through special programs (e.g., math and science, early childhood, gifted and talented, assistance with technology/media plans and services; and workforce development).

Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of the recreational facilities and programs provided by schools.

Local, County, State, and Private Parks and Recreation Facilities

Nearby cities and villages as well as some townships maintain parks. Lenawee County, Hillsdale County, and Washtenaw County maintain park systems. The service area of the Huron-Clinton 'Metropark' System includes Washtenaw County. The State of Michigan also provides a variety of recreational facilities in the form of state game, wildlife, and recreation areas; state historic parks; and state parks within the Heart of the Lakes Area and throughout the State. A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around the Heart of the Lakes Area. Recreational programs take place in all of the facilities listed above. Those programs are sponsored by a variety of public, quasi-public, and private boosters.

Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of county and state parks in the Heart of the Lakes Area.

Chapter 3

Recreation and Resource Inventories

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

Recreation Inventory

The recreation inventory for the Heart of the Lakes is comprised of all of the parks and recreation facilities and programs provided in the Area, not just those owned and managed by its members. Parks were identified through local knowledge and review of historic documents and current plat maps.

Village, Township, and School District Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs

A park and recreation plan should also recognize and use appropriate park standards. The National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) recommends a minimum of 10 acres per 1,000 persons (please see Appendix D). The Heart of the Lakes Area should have approximately 184 acres to meet the needs of the population in 2010.

The Townships of Norvell, Napoleon, and Columbia and the Village of Brooklyn provide over 27 acres of parks and recreation facilities which are open to the general public:

VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	OWNER	ACRES	FACILITIES	BFA
SWAIN MEMORIAL PARK	VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN	11.0	PLAYGROUND, PICNIC AREA, GRILLS, PAVILLION, RESTROOMS, BASKETBALL, AND GOOSE CREEK	3
WEATHERWAX PARK	VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN	0.25	RESTROOM, PICNIC AREA, GRILLS	4
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP HALL	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	1.0	EXERCISE AND FITNESS TRAIL	2
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP PARK	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	6.0	PICNICKING, WINTER SPORTS, SWIMMING BEACH, OUTHOUSE, AND CLARK LAKE	2
COLUMBIA LIONS PARK	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	1.0	MEETING/CLUB FACILITY	2
NAPOLEON VILLAGE PARK	NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP	1.0	GENERAL PARK FACILITIES	2

(Continued)

VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	OWNER	ACRES	FACILITIES	BFA
NAPOLEON LIONS PARK	NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP	6.4	LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL DIAMONDS AND A COVERED PICNIC AREA	2
GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELD	NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP	4.8	GIRLS SOFTBALL DIAMOND	2
AHRENS PARK	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	4.0	BALLFIELD, PAVILLIONS, AND PLAY EQUIPMENT	1

Napoleon Community Schools and the Columbia School District also provide over 198 acres to the residents of the Heart of the Lakes Area.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	OWNER	ACRES	FACILITIES	BFA
BROOKLYN ELEMENTARY AND COLUMBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL	COLUMBIA SCHOOLS	18.0	PLAYGROUND, TRACK, BASEBALL FIELDS (4), GYM, FOOTBALL FIELD, AND BASKETBALL COURT	3
COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL	COLUMBIA SCHOOLS	106.0	TENNIS COURTS (4), SOFTBALL FIELD (1), BASEBALL FIELD (1), GYMNASIUM, THE COLUMBIA FITNESS CENTER AND TRAILS	3
MILLER ELEMENTARY	COLUMBIA SCHOOLS	5.0	BALLFIELD, BASKETBALL COURT, PLAYGROUND, AND GYMNASIUM	2
COLUMBIA COMMUNITY EDUCATION	COLUMBIA SCHOOLS	7.0	PLAYGROUND, SOCCER FIELD (2), BASKETBALL COURT, AND BALLFIELD	1
EBY ELEMENTARY AND NAPOLEON MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	NAPOLEON SCHOOLS	29.5	PLAY EQUIPMENT, TENNIS COURT, BASKETBALL COURT, BALL FIELDS, WEIGHT ROOM, AND STADIUM (FOOTBALL AND TRACK AND FIELD)	3
ACKERSON LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER	NAPOLEON SCHOOLS	29.0	BALLFIELD, BASKETBALL COURT, PLAYGROUND, AND GYMNASIUM	2

As the above tables illustrate, village, township, and school district facilities provide in excess of 226 acres. According to the NRPA standards, the school facilities generally function as community parks for the Heart of the Lakes Area. In most instances, the village and township parks function more as neighborhood facilities.

Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities – Past grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources were awarded to the Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Napoleon and Norvell. (Please see Appendix D of this document.)

Barrier-Free Access – It is important that Heart of the Lakes Area parks and recreation facilities be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, over 17% of Area residents had at least one disability in the Year 2000. Each of the parks and recreation facilities included in the above tables was also rated according to their level of barrier free access.¹ The number listed under the BFA column in those tables equates to the barrier-free rating listed below:

BARRIER FREE ACCESS (BFA) ANALYSIS

KEY	DESCRIPTION
1 =	NONE OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
2 =	SOME OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
3 =	MOST OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREA MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
4 =	THE ENTIRE PARK MEETS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
5 =	THE ENTIRE PARK WAS DEVELOPED/RENOVATED USING THE PRINCIPAL OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Recreational Programming – The Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell provide a few recreational events in municipal parks and recreation facilities located throughout the Heart of the Lakes Area. The Columbia School District and the Napoleon Community Schools, however, provide the

¹ The analysis of barrier free access was provided by members of the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission, based upon their knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

majority of the recreational programming available to Heart of the Lakes residents. Those programs include a variety of athletics, music, and clubs (e.g., academic, social, and/or service). Although those programs are aimed at students, their fans and boosters, as well as the entire community, benefit from their performances and athletic events.

Other Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs

A variety of other public agencies and private entrepreneurs also provide recreational opportunities to Area residents.

County Parks – The counties of Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Washtenaw maintain park systems which generally include a number of recreational facilities (e.g., beaches, boat launches, picnic facilities, playgrounds, sporting facilities, etc.). In fact, both of the counties of Jackson and Washtenaw maintain at least one park within the five-mile study area. The counties of Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Washtenaw also maintain fairgrounds at or near the cities of Jackson, Hillsdale, Adrian, and Ann Arbor, respectively.

COUNTY PARKS

JACKSON COUNTY

SPARKS FOUNDATION (CASCADES)

CLARK LAKE

GILLETT'S LAKE

GRASS LAKE

LITTLE WOLF LAKE

VINEYARD LAKE

WASHTENAW COUNTY

SHARON MILLS

Jackson Community College – The Jackson Community College provides track and field facilities, ball fields, and tennis courts, as well as a number of theaters that can be used for musical performances and plays.

Jackson County Intermediate School District (ISD) – The ISD operates Camp McGregor.

Other Local Parks – The cities and villages located within the Counties of Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, and Washtenaw, as well as many of the townships, also provide parks and recreational facilities for their residents. Larger communities often host extensive park systems with regional facilities such as Jackson’s Ella Sharp Park. Smaller cities and villages often provide a few recreation facilities. Townships may only provide one or two parks. Small parks, however, can have regional significance, such as the collection of handcrafted concrete pedestrian bridges located in Somerset Township’s McCourtie Park.

State Parks – The State of Michigan maintains a number of recreational facilities in the study area. For example, the Department of Natural Resources maintains a couple of state parks and several state recreation, wildlife and game areas. Michigan State University also maintains Hidden Lake Gardens, an arboretum and botanical garden located within the Study Area. The Waterloo State Game Area (Jackson and Washtenaw Counties), the Lake Hudson State Recreation Area (Lenawee County), and Lost Nations State Game Area (Hillsdale County) are also close by.

STATE OF MICHIGAN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

STATE PARKS	STATE GAME AREAS
WALTER J. HAYES STATE PARK	SHARONVILLE STATE GAME AREA
CAMBRIDGE STATE HISTORICAL PARK	ONSTED STATE GAME AREA
	SOMERSET STATE GAME AREA
OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES	
HIDDEN LAKE GARDENS	

Private Parks and Recreation Facilities – A wide variety of private entrepreneurs provide recreational experiences to their patrons. Some of these experiences can be considered traditional recreational facilities. Some of the other facilities provide recreational experiences as a byproduct of their primary mission.

Camps – YMCA Camp Storer is located in Napoleon Township. Various scouting facilities are also located in the Heart of the Lakes. The Girl Scout's Camp O' the Hills is located in Norvell Township and the Boy Scout's Camp Teetoncal is located in Grass Lake Township.

Golf Courses – The Heart of the Lakes Area is blessed with fifty-four golf courses within twenty-five miles of Brooklyn, according to golfcourse.com, The GOLF MAGAZINE Golf Course Guide (<http://www.golfcourse.com/>). In fact, Hill's Heart of the Lakes Golf Course is located within Brooklyn and the Clark Lake Golf Course, the Green Briar Golf Course, and the Irish Hills Short Course and Range are located close by.

Bowling Opportunities – The Village of Brooklyn hosts a local bowling facility known as Brooklyn Lanes. The Jackson Urban Area also hosts several opportunities for bowling.

Michigan International Speedway – The Michigan International Speedway is located south of Brooklyn on the southern boundary of the Heart of the Lakes Area. The Speedway is an important facility which hosts racing events three weekends each summer. The facility is also available for other events such as the Michigan High School Athletic Association's annual Lower Peninsula Finals for Boy's and Girl's Cross Country each autumn.

Spirit of Clark Lake Trail – A trail around Clark Lake –utilizing easements across private land and public road rights-of-way– is under development. It is known as the Spirit of Clark Lake Trail.

Local Service, Sport, Volunteer, and Social Clubs – The Brooklyn Area Service Club, the Irish Hills Eagles Aerie #3689, the Clark Lake and Napoleon Lions, the Brooklyn Kiwanas, the Heart of the Lakes Woman's Club (GFWC), the Irish Hills Charitable Quilters, the Irish Hills Woman's Club, the Brooklyn Masonic Lodge #169, the

Brooklyn Sportsman Club, the Brooklyn Artists, the Buds 'n' Buddies Garden Club, Oh These Irish Hills!, and the Brooklyn American Legion provide social and recreational opportunities for their members.

Dining and Shopping – Going to restaurants is a recreational activity for many people (e.g., dates, groups of friends, and other outings). Opportunities for dining and shopping are located in the Village of Brooklyn, the unincorporated village of Napoleon, and in the vicinity of some area lakes. Many residents also travel to the downtowns, malls, and other retail areas of nearby communities such as the Irish Hills, Tecumseh and other nearby communities, as well as urban areas such as Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Toledo, to dine and shop.

National and State Historical Sites – The Village of Brooklyn contains three historic sites that are considered to have state and/or national significance. Columbia Township contains an additional two sites in the vicinity of Clark Lake. Michigan's Department of History, Arts, and Libraries provide more information on the sites listed below online at: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/hso/advancesearch.asp>. That same site will also provide information on the other fifty-five historic sites in Jackson County of national and/or state significance as well as one hundred-forty sites in Washtenaw County; eighty-six sites in Lenawee County; and twenty-seven sites in Hillsdale County.

NATIONAL AND STATE HISTORICAL SITES

STRUCTURE	ADDRESS/LOCATION	REGISTERS*	
ALL SAINT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH	151 MAIN ST, BROOKLYN	SR	
BROOKLYN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	160 N MAIN ST, BROOKLYN	SR	
MILL STREET BRIDGE	S BRANCH, RIVER RAISIN, BROOKLYN	NR	HM
GORDON HILL FARMSTEAD	4561 N LAKE RD, CLARK LAKE	NR	
KENTUCKY HOMESTEAD	6740 KENTUCKY AVE, CLARK LAKE	NR	
CHAUNCEY C. SMITH HOUSE	6134 WOLF LAKE ROAD, NAPOLEON	SR	

*NR = NATIONAL REGISTER ; SR = STATE REGISTER; AND HM = HISTORIC MARKER

Taken together, the existing acreage contained in state, county and local parks; school sites; and private recreation land within the Heart of the Lakes Area, provides ample room for the development of local recreation facilities without having to acquire additional property. However, the opportunity to acquire additional parkland should always be considered.

Resource Inventory

In addition to the Area's recreation facilities, the Heart of the Lakes is also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources.

Soils

The soils in the Heart of the Lakes Area can be analyzed for their suitability for recreational developments. Appendix C of the 2007-2012 edition of this document is comprised of a series of maps showing soil suitability throughout the Area for camping areas; picnicking areas; playgrounds; paths and trails; and golf fairways.²

Water Resources

The following map highlights the natural resource that unifies the Heart of the Lakes Area – its lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. Many of the cottages that surround these lakes have been converted into year-round homes, contributing to the population gains in the Area over the past sixty years. Other new homes were also built for year-round use. Portions of some Area lakes, however, are still relatively free from development due their proximity to a public park or a private camp.

A couple of Michigan's major river systems flow through the five-mile study area. The River Raisin flows from Vineyard Lake, through the Village of Brooklyn and the unincorporated village of Norvell, to the Village of Manchester. Goose Creek, its tributary, flows from Lake Somerset in Hillsdale County through Lake Columbia and into the River Raisin in Brooklyn. The watershed for the River Raisin contains roughly the southeastern

² All information is adapted from Table 9 of the Soil Survey of Jackson County, Michigan.

two-thirds of the Heart of the Lakes. The Grand River flows in the vicinity of the Area's western edge, intruding into Columbia Township near Clark Lake. The Grand (or one of its tributaries) flows through Lake LeAnn, Vander Cook and Browns Lakes, and Michigan Center and Wolf Lakes. The watershed for the Grand River contains roughly the northwestern third of the Heart of the Lakes Area.

Topography

The topography of the Heart of the Lakes follows its rivers and their watersheds. The highest ridge in the Area follows the common boundary between the River Raisin and the Grand River Watersheds. The landscape to the east of that ridge is included in the Lake Erie Basin and the landscape to the west is included in the Lake Michigan Basin.

Greenways

The Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan "identifies a network of greenways proposed throughout Jackson County. This network generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands. The network recognizes these areas as a part of Jackson County's natural system which should be preserved. The preservation of this system helps to assure high quality surface water, wildlife habitat and movement, diversity, and can be used to help define urban growth." The following map shows the greenways recommended for the Heart of the Lakes Area. Please see Appendix B of this Plan in order to view the entire greenways map and the supporting text.

The Irish Hills

The Irish Hills is an undefined geographic area with its center along US-12 (United States Highway 12) in the vicinity of Wamplers Lake and Sand Lake. Some groups/individuals would include the majority of the Heart of the Lakes Area within the Irish Hills. For the purposes of this study, the boundary is defined as a one and a half mile radius around US-12 from Cambridge Junction (the intersection with M-50) and the Lenawee/Washtenaw

County Line. Regardless of its boundary, there is a complimentary relationship between the Irish Hills and the Heart of the Lakes Area.

Land Use

In an effort to illustrate development in the Heart of the Lakes, existing urban areas and the future land use pattern will be described.

Urban Areas

As the following map illustrates, the 2000 US Census identifies several types of urban areas within the five-mile study area for the Heart of the Lakes. The City of Jackson and its immediate surroundings has been considered a small urban area for quite some time. Urban clusters are a category of urban areas new to the US Census. The Village of Brooklyn and the vicinity around Lake Columbia and Clark Lake as well as the vicinity around Lake LeAnn and Lake Somerset, are urban clusters. The remainder of the study area is considered to be rural. However, pockets of commercial and residential development can also be found along the Area's roadways. The Irish Hills is a prime example of this type of development. There are no large urban areas located within the vicinity of the Heart of the Lakes

URBAN AREAS			
POPULATION RANGE			
URBAN CLUSTER	2,500	–	49,999
SMALL URBAN AREA	50,000	–	199,999
LARGE URBAN AREA	200,000	–	>200,000

Future Land Use

The Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan includes a generalized plan for future development in Jackson County (please see Appendix B for a future land use map for Jackson County and the accompanying text). Residential neighborhoods are planned around the Area's lakes as well as in the vicinity of the Village of

Brooklyn and the unincorporated village of Napoleon. Small commercial and industrial districts are also planned in the vicinity of Brooklyn and Napoleon as well as along portions of the United States Highway 127 (US-127) corridor.

Chapter 4

Description of the Public Input Process

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

A variety of methods were employed to incorporate public input into the development of this recreation plan:

2012 Recreation Survey

The following informational piece and survey was placed on the websites of the Village of Brooklyn (www.villageofbrooklyn.com), the Brooklyn-Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce (<http://brooklynmi.com/businesses.asp>), and Norvell Township (www.norvelltownship.com) on November 22, 2013. It was also published in The Exponent, a weekly newspaper of general circulation within the Heart of the Lakes Area, on December 24, 2013 and placed on the publication's website (<http://theexponent.com>) on November 22, 2013:

Heart of the Lakes Recreation Plan

The Heart of the Lakes Recreation Committee is hard at work updating the Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan, the document which maintains the eligibility of the Village of Brooklyn; the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell; and the Napoleon and Columbia School Districts to apply for grants through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and to serve your recreation needs.

Recreation Survey

The Committee needs your help. Please take the time to fill out this simple 3-question survey and send it to the Brooklyn Village Office: 121 N. Main St. | PO Box 90, Brooklyn | MI 49230.

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Do you believe that adequate recreational opportunities and facilities are provided to Area residents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	None	1-10	11-20	>20
2. How many times have you visited an Area park or recreation facility in the past 12 months?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. What types of recreation facilities and services would you like to see provided to Area residents?				
Non-Motorized Multiuse Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify "Other" Below
Baseball and/or Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ice Skating	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Public Comment Solicited

The 2014-2018 edition of the Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan will be available for public review and comment between December 23, 2013 and January 28, 2014. The document will be available for review in the municipal halls of the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell and the Village of Brooklyn; the Jackson District Library branches in Brooklyn and Napoleon; and online at www.villageofbrooklyn.com. Written comments can be submitted to the Brooklyn Village Hall or to Grant Bauman at gbauman@co.jackson.mi.us. **A public hearing on the Plan will be held at 6:00 pm on January 30, 2014 at the Brooklyn Village Hall.**

Unfortunately, no responses were received in time to be included in this document.

Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission Brochure

A brochure about the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission was sent to Area households during the summer of 2006 via their local unit of government, often in conjunction with tax bills. The brochure provided information about the Heart of the Lakes Area, its residents, and the Commission (please see Appendix E). It also included the following suggestions for becoming involved in the planning process:

1. Provide comments to your local government
2. Fill out the recreation survey
3. Attend the open house
4. Read and comment on the Plan during its one-month review period

Recreation Survey

A short 3-question survey was included in the brochure which solicited information on the types of recreational facilities Area residents want as well as the perceived need for more recreational opportunities. A total of 76 surveys were returned, almost exclusively from Napoleon Township.

The first question concerned the amount of recreational facilities and opportunities available to Area residents. Approximately 59% of respondents (n=75) thought they were not adequate and approximately 37% considered them to be adequate. Approximately 4% of respondents had no opinion.

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Do you believe that adequate recreational opportunities and facilities are provided to Area residents?	28	44	3

The second question concerned the number of times respondents visited an Area park or recreation facility within the last year. Approximately 45% of respondents (n=64) visited a park or recreation facility between 1 and 10 times over the year although approximately 36% made no visits. Approximately 16% visited a park or recreation facility between 11 and 20 times and 3% made more than 20 visits.

	None	1-10	11-20	>20
2. How many times have you visited an Area park or recreation facility in the past 12 months?	23	29	10	2

The third question asked respondents to identify the recreational facilities and services they would like to see provided in the Area; a total of 17 facilities were suggested (see above). The top 5 facilities and/or services picked by respondents (n=237) were:

1. Multiuse Trails — 19%
2. Swimming — 11%
3. Ice Skating — 10%
4. Water Parks — 9%
5. Tennis — 6%
- Sledding — 6%
- Rock Climbing Wall — 6%

3. **What types of recreation facilities and services would you like to see provided to Area residents?**

Multiuse Trails	43	Rock Climbing Wall	11	Soccer	8
Field Hockey	3	Skateboard Park	7	Frisbee Courses	4
Basketball/Softball	14	Football	7	Obstacle Courses	6
Tennis	14	Ice Skating	24	Sledding	14
Soccer	8	Swimming	25	Water Park	21
Tetherball	1	Skiing	4	Other	17
Total					231

The third question also provided an 'other' category. The facilities and services (n=17) included under this listing were grouped into the following categories:

1. Other Trails
2. Other Aquatic Facilities and Services
3. Other Miscellaneous Facilities and Services

Other Trails	9
ATV (with camping)/off road toys	5
Horseback riding	1
Walking trail from schools to library	1
Shoulders on roads do make walking and biking safer	1
Walking/jogging track with play area	1
Other Aquatic Facilities and Services	2
Remove water fowl and feces from swimming area at Wolf Lake	1
Paddle boats	1
Other Miscellaneous Facilities and Services	6
All would be best	2
Baseball	1
An amusement park would be awesome	1
Summer teen (activity) recreation program	1
Anything would be more than what the Township provides (schools do ball sports)	1
Total Other	17

Those facilities can also be placed in and ranked by the following groupings:

1. Aquatic Facilities/Services — swimming, ice skating, water parks, and other aquatic facilities/services — 31%
2. Trails — multiuse trails, obstacle courses, and other trails — 25%
3. Sports Facilities — basketball/softball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, field hockey, and football — 23%
4. Winter Activities — skiing and sledding — 8%

- 5. Rock Climbing Walls — 5%
- 6. Skateboard Parks — 3%
- 7. Frisbee Courses — 2%
- 8. Other Facilities — 3%

Respondents (n=6) also used the 'other' category to provide the following groupings of comments and concerns:

- 1. No Improvements are Needed
- 2. Financial Concerns

No improvements are Needed	4
None; no others (our parks are enough); none (this is not a township responsibility)	3
Don't do anything that would make our lakes more crowded than they all ready are (!!!) and increases traffic on our dirt roads which are all ready a mess!!	1
Financial Concerns	2
We only want recreation if our taxes don't go up. (I pay 30% more tax than city residents and my sewer bill is higher than when I lived in the city and paid water and sewer)	1
What we have is fine (financial restraint)	1
Total Comments and Concerns	6

One Month Review Period

The recreation plan was submitted for public comment for a one month period beginning on **December 23, 2013** and ending on **January 30, 2014**. The plan was available for review in the offices for the Townships of Norvell, Napoleon, and Columbia; the Village of Brooklyn; the Columbia School District; and Napoleon Community Schools. The one-month review period was published in the December 24, 2013 edition of The Exponent.

Commission Meetings

All meetings of the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission are open to the public. The meetings are also scheduled for Saturday mornings in an effort to make them more convenient to the general public and the members of the Recreation Commission.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the recreation plan was held on **Thursday, January 30, 2014** at 7:00 pm at the Columbia Township Hall, during a meeting of the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission. The meeting took place prior to the vote on the resolution recommending adoption of the recreation plan by the township boards, village council, and school board. A public notice was also published in the published in the January 2014 edition of The Exponent. The following comments were received during the meeting:

x
x

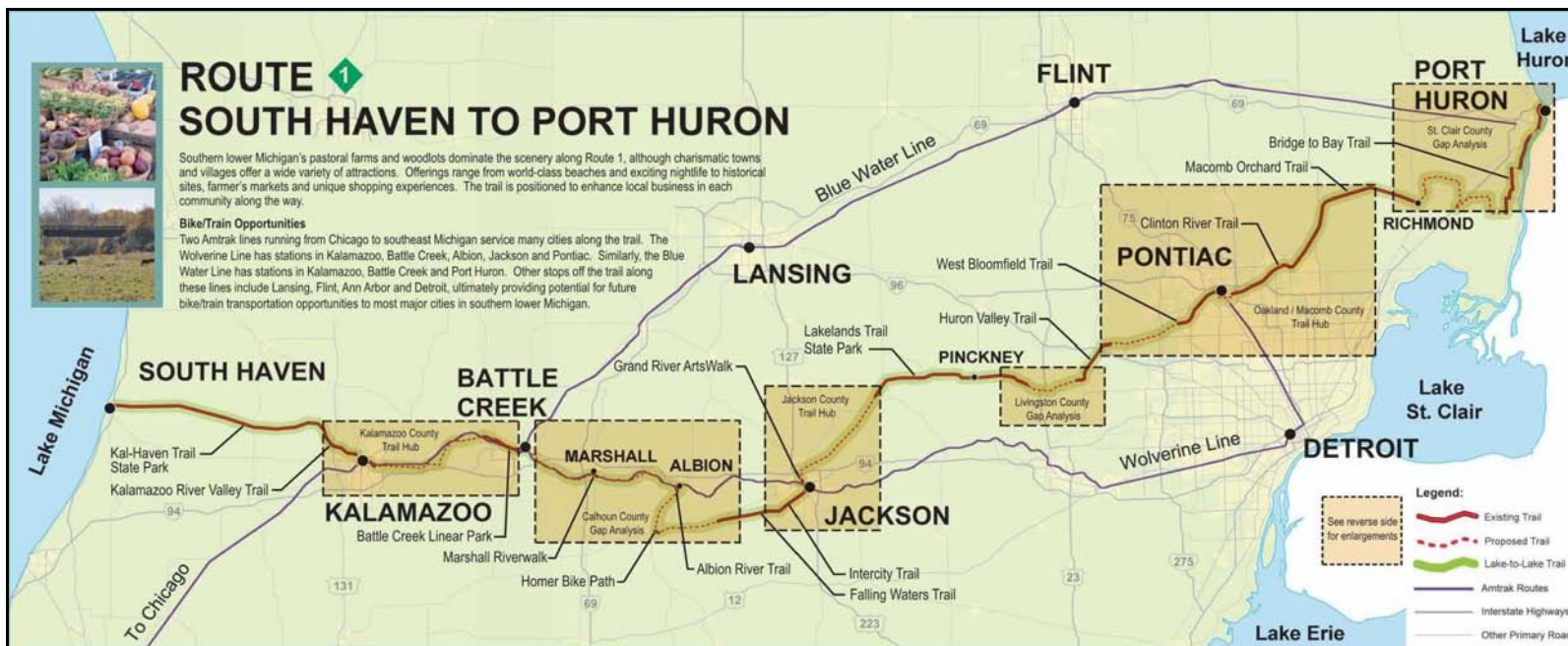
Both of those comments are consistent with the intent of the Heat of the Lakes Recreation Plan.

Other Planning Efforts

Comprehensive and other recent planning efforts in each of the member units of local government often included a recreation component.¹

Route #1 of The Great Lake-To-Lake Trails — The Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance's "The Great Lake-To-Lake Trails" project was created in 2009 to accelerate the development of five cross-state trails, including Route #1, from South Haven to Port Huron

¹ Each of these planning efforts included a public involvement component.



Route #1 is proposed to traverse southern Lower Michigan, linking Greater Jackson with the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo metropolitan areas to the west and the northern reaches of Metropolitan Detroit to the east. The trail will also intersect with two Amtrak routes, creating several multimodal (i.e., pedestrians, bicyclists, and trains) recreation opportunities. Locally, Route #1 will utilize Jackson County's Falling Waters Trail and the City of Jackson's Intercity Trail and Grand River ArtsWalk.²

² The images concerning the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails were taken from a flyer published by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance in January 2011.

Jackson County Regional Trailway Study — Summit Township; the parks departments of Jackson County and the City of Jackson; the townships of Blackman and Spring Arbor; the Falling Waters Trail Committee; and the Lakelands Trail effort joined together in 2002 to develop the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study (please see Map A). Upon completion of background information and the development of a concept plan, public meetings were held at Blackman Township Hall, Summit Township Hall, and Jackson City Hall to present the materials and solicit public comment. Several other public meetings were also held at Jackson City Hall (2) and the Summit Township Hall to present the revisions made to the concept plan after the first series of meetings. A preliminary master plan was based upon the background information, the concept plan, and the feedback gained from the public forum. The final trailways study contains the following elements (organized to accommodate Route #1 of the Great Lake-To-Lake Trails):³

³ Please refer the trail map in Appendix A as well as the full study for greater detail. The images concerning the Great Lake-to-Lake

Jackson County Trail Hub

Three named trail segments combine to create 15.7 miles of nearly continuous trail through Jackson County. The Falling Waters Trail enters Jackson from the southwest to become the Intercity Trail. It transitions to the Grand River ArtsWalk following a 1/8 mile gap along the Grand River. The ArtsWalk passes through Armory Arts Village and continues north along the Grand River.

The gap from here to Lakelands Trail is filled by a proposed route north and west of the State Prison, partially using existing roadways and an incomplete segment of the Lakelands Trail State Park.

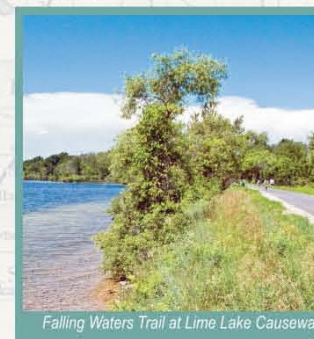


Photo Courtesy of JCR



Grand River ArtsWalk



- ✖ Route #1 Corridor:
 - Lakelands Trail (Extension) – 15.4 mi.
 - Henrietta Loop – 19.9 mi.
 - Portage Lake Trail – 6.5 mi.
 - Blackman Twp. Loop (Partial) – 8.0 mi.
 - Intercity Trail – 7.5 mi.
 - Falling Waters Trail – 11.5 mi.
- ✖ Other trail corridors:
 - North Trail – 7.6 mi.
 - Airport Trail – 5.5 mi.
 - Hanover Trail – 8.9 mi.
 - Summit Township Loop – 7.2 mi.
 - Ella Sharp and Cascades Parks – 4.4 mi.
 - **South Trail – 19.5 mi.**
 - Connection to Page Ave. Trail – 0.3 mi.

“The South Trail is proposed to run parallel to U.S. 127 within the right-of-way of the highway. The trail would be designed to use previously built but now abandoned highway bridges and road bed. These areas will accommodate a proposed trail. Austin Blair Roadside Park might be a possible trail head, with approval of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). . . . The main route has an arm that stretches from U.S. 127 through Brooklyn to the W.J. Hayes State Park [via Jefferson Road and M-124 (the existing Mark Harrison Trail)]. This trail has the potential of connecting to the River Raisin Greenway, currently under development, in Tecumseh, Michigan.”

Significant segments of Route #1 of The Great Lake to Lake Trails traversing Jackson County are complete. For example, the majority of the Intercity Trail was already in place at the time the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study was released (although more construction is required); the Grand River ArtsWalk, a 1½ mile extension of the Intercity Trail to the north city limits, has since been completed. A 10½ mile section of the Falling Waters Trail was also completed from the east village limits of Concord to Weatherwax Road.

Other Trail Efforts — The following recreation plans include proposed projects designed to supplement the basic framework provided by the Study:

- ✕ City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan — City and County of Jackson
- ✕ Summit Township Recreation Plan — Summit Township
- ✕ Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan — Grass Lake Township and the Village of Grass Lake
- ✕ Leoni Township Recreation Plan — Leoni Township
- ✕ Village of Concord Recreation Plan — Village of Concord

The other documents listed above were first catalogued in the 2010-2014 edition of the City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan, an interim effort at updating the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study. The Region 2 Planning Commission — through its regional transportation program — is currently coordinating the development of the Jackson County Non-motorized Transportation Plan. The new plan will synthesize the various local and state trails efforts into a single document, replacing the original study. The Summit Township Recreation Plan contains projects that will connect its neighborhoods to the trails identified in the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study as well as Route #1 of The Great Lake-To-Lake Trails.

Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan

“The purpose of [the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan] is to establish policies to guide the future growth and development of the Jackson Community. These policies, established at the community-wide level, are intended to assist local units of government, including the County’s villages, townships, and the City of Jackson as they develop, amend, and implement their community plans, and zoning ordinances.” A total of 16 goals and their associated policies and actions were developed. Several of those goals had a recreation component (please see Appendix B for a full listing of the policies and actions associated with the goals):

- ✕ Create a Walkable Community
- ✕ Historic Preservation
- ✕ Culture
- ✕ Preservation of Open Space

Chapter 5

Goals and Objectives

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

Goals

The following goals were developed for the recreation plan:

Goal #1

Develop a local trail network which:

- ✕ fits into the proposed countywide trail system and connects to other local trail networks,
- ✕ improve, augment, and upgrade existing trails and other non-motorized facilities (i.e., sidewalks and bike lanes in urbanized areas) within the Heart of the Lakes Area where needed,
- ✕ connects parks, recreation facilities, and other attractions (e.g., schools, libraries, and other municipal buildings as well as commercial and residential areas) within the Heart of the Lakes Area together, and
- ✕ provides opportunities for a healthier lifestyle through exercise.

Goal #2

Provide new local recreation facilities for the general public within existing local, state and county parks and schoolyards (and even on private property), within the Heart of the Lakes Area, in addition to acquiring more local parkland:

- ✕ mutual use of village and township parks;
- ✕ Columbia and Napoleon Schools;
- ✕ Jackson County Parks;
- ✕ Michigan State Parks and State Game and Recreation Areas; and
- ✕ interested and appropriate private recreation providers.

Goal #3

Develop additional facilities in the Heart of the Lakes Area (to increase opportunities for meaningful recreational experiences and overall healthier lifestyles through exercise) such as, but not limited to:

- ✖ a community center,
- ✖ four-season water facilities/park, and
- ✖ restrooms in parks.

Background Information

Input into developing the goals and objectives listed above included:

- ✖ existing recreational facilities within the Heart of the Lakes Area— including the private sector as well as the village, the townships, the school districts, the county, and the state (please see Chapter 3);
- ✖ a recreation survey of Heart of the Lakes Area households (please see Chapter 4);
- ✖ possible funding and land/facility acquisition opportunities;
- ✖ the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan, a countywide cooperative planning effort of the County of Jackson and its municipalities (please see Chapter 4 and Appendix B);
- ✖ the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study (please see Chapter 4 and Appendix D); and
- ✖ various other recreation plans throughout Jackson County (please see Chapter 4).

For example, the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan cites obesity as a major health concern and the following objectives were developed to address that issue:

- ✖ "Sidewalks should be encouraged to be provided in neighborhoods, subdivisions, and site condominium projects" as well as commercial areas.
- ✖ "Pedestrian networks are encouraged to be developed which link subdivisions, neighborhoods, business districts, downtown areas, [and] recreational areas" and to be connected "to a system of regional pedestrian and bicycle trails."
- ✖ "Within downtown areas of the County pedestrian travel should be given priority over automobile and vehicular travel."

- ✖ "Several recreation plans for local units of government call for the construction of recreational trails. In addition, the Jackson County Trailways Plan recommends several additional trails and trail extensions. These recommendations should be implemented as funding becomes available. Finally, trailways should be coordinated with the plans for trails in adjacent counties."

Responses to the 2006 recreation survey conducted for this effort indicate that there is a need for more local recreational opportunities within the Heart of the Lakes Area. One of the most popular recreation facilities identified by survey respondents is trails (i.e., multiuse trails, obstacle courses, etc.). Trails were also identified as priorities in Jackson County's current recreation plan and the Village of Brooklyn's comprehensive (master) plan. The Jackson County Regional Trailway Study provides the framework within which the local trail network will be developed (please see Chapter 6); this accommodation will ensure that the local system links with other trails within Jackson County.

Respondents to the 2006 survey also indicated the need for additional aquatic facilities and services. Swimming, ice skating, water parks, and paddle boats were identified specifically. Those requests reflect the fact that even though the Heart of the Lakes Area hosts a plethora of lakes, public access is limited to a few points. However, a survey comment states that no action should be taken which would make Area lakes more crowded. This is a known public sentiment. All of these factors point to the need for a 4-season water park, as well as new aquatic facilities in existing parks, as long as they are designed to limit their impact upon Area lakes.

The recreation survey conducted for this report in 2006 (please see Chapter 3) illustrates that there are already a wealth of recreational facilities located within the Heart of the Lakes Area. However, the target audiences for many of those facilities do not include Area residents, nor are there adequate local recreation facilities for those residents. Fortunately, there is an opportunity to locate local recreation facilities in county and state parks as well as on school sites. This type of cooperation would fund improvements in existing parks at a reduced cost to their owners while providing new local recreational opportunities. The opportunity to share municipal parks

among the member governments of the Heart of the Lakes Area also exists. These improvements could include needed amenities such as restrooms as well as recreational facilities

The survey of recreational facilities in 2006 (please see Chapter 3) reveals that Brooklyn and the surrounding area lacks a community center which could house various programs, such as the summer teen (activity) recreation program proposed by a respondent to the Commission's recreation survey (please see Chapter 5).

Chapter 6

Action Program

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

Action Program

1. Design and construct the following trails (please see the following map):
 - a. the **M-50 Trail** —
 - 1) **primary pathway** — the trail segment between Brooklyn and Napoleon
 - 2) **primary pathway** — the trail segment between Brooklyn and US-12
 - 3) **primary pathway** — The main trail between Napoleon and US-127
 - b. the **South Trail** —
 - 1) **primary pathway** — the Mark Harrison Trail (M-124)
 - 2) **secondary pathway** — the Clark Lake-Brooklyn Connector Trail
 - 3) **secondary pathway** — the Cement City-Brooklyn Connector Trail
 - 3) **tertiary pathway** — the main trail along US-127
 - c. the **Grass Lake-Napoleon-Norvell Trail** —
 - 1) **primary pathway** — the main trail
 - 2) **secondary pathway** — the proposed loops
 - 3) **tertiary pathway** — the Clark Lake-Napoleon Connector Trail
 - 4) **tertiary pathway** — the Brooklyn connector
2. Upgrade and connect existing sidewalk systems (and other non-motorized facilities) located within developed areas and parks to the proposed trail system:
 - a. the Village of Brooklyn)
 - b. the “Villages” of Napoleon and Norvell
 - d. other unidentified opportunities

3. Add various improvements to Area parks as opportunities arise including, but not limited to:
 - a. a community center in the Area,
 - b. designing and constructing a walking trail through along the river and woods in Brooklyn's Swains Memorial Park as well as the adjacent golf course,
 - c. designing and constructing aquatic recreational facilities (e.g., splash park, canoe/kayak livery, boat launch, etc.) potentially for all seasons,
 - d. improving local access to the east side of Little Wolf Lake County Park,
 - e. sports facilities (i.e., basketball/softball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, field hockey, ice skating, and football) in various parks, and
 - f. improvements to the Napoleon Village Park such as removal of the pirate ship (to the Napoleon Community School's athletic field) and the installation of playground equipment, street lights, and spotlights on the pavilion.

Background Information for the Action Program

The following sources impacted the development of the Action Plan for the 2005-2010 Recreation Plan for the Heart of the Lakes Area:

- ✦ Several pathway and sidewalk systems are proposed for the Heart of the Lakes Area. Once completed, they will develop a local non-motorized trail network which meets the objectives of the Recreation Plan's trail goal:
 - ✦ Develop a local network which fits into the proposed countywide system and connects to other local networks:

The *South Trail* (proposed in the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002 and connecting to the Great-Lake-to-Lake Trails), including the *Mark Harrison Trail* (which currently consists of paved shoulders along M-124), provides the backbone of the local trail system; all other trails

connect with the South Trail. An opportunity to link into trails proposed for the Grass Lake Area is also included.

- × Improve, augment, and upgrade existing trails and other non-motorized facilities (i.e., sidewalks and bike lanes in urbanized areas) within the Heart of the Lakes Area where needed:

An assessment of the Village of Brooklyn's and Napoleon's, and Norvell's sidewalk systems could be used to develop a prioritized program to construct new sidewalks where gaps exist in the existing systems. The improved sidewalk networks would connect neighborhoods together and provide non-motorized access to other Area attractions and the proposed trail system.

- × Connects parks, recreation facilities, and other attractions (e.g., schools, libraries, and other municipal buildings as well as commercial and residential areas) within the Heart of the Lakes Area together:

The following interconnected systems of multiuse paths comprise the proposed trail network:

- × The M-50 Trail —

The three proposed trail segments comprise the *primary pathway* that will connect the Area with the paved shoulders along US-12 and the emerging trail system in the Jackson area via US-127. The trail will also connect with the sidewalk systems within Brooklyn and Napoleon. The pathway will also connect the Native American Great Sauk and Nottowasepee trails.

- × The South Trail —

- **The *primary pathway* (at least from a local perspective) is the transformation of the paved shoulders along M-124 between the Village of Brooklyn and the Walter J. Hayes State Park (known as the *Mark Harrison Trail*) into a separate multipurpose pathway paralleling the highway which connects the 2 destinations and provides opportunities for recreation and exercise.**

- **A *secondary pathway*** (at least from a local perspective) connects the Village of Brooklyn to the Spirit Trail around Clark Lake and the Heart of the Lakes Area with the proposed countywide system of trails, thereby providing infinite opportunities for recreation and exercise.
- **Another *secondary pathway*** (at least from a local perspective) connects the unincorporated village of Napoleon to the Spirit Trail around Clark Lake and the Heart of the Lakes Area with the proposed countywide system of trails, thereby providing infinite opportunities for recreation and exercise.
- **A *tertiary pathway*** (at least from a local perspective) provides a trail along US-127, taking advantage of its underutilized right-of-way and bridges. This pathway is an important component of the proposed countywide system of trails, thereby providing infinite opportunities for recreation and exercise.
- × the Grass Lake-Napoleon-Norvell Trail —
 - **The *primary pathway*** connects Napoleon and Norvell (in a loop) with Vineyard Lake County Park and Brooklyn to the south and Little Wolf Lake County Park to the north. It also provides an opportunity for connecting with trails proposed in the Grass Lake Area. The pathway provides an important non-motorized connection between settlements, access to a variety of recreational facilities, and opportunities for exercise.
 - **A *secondary pathway*** creates a couple of additional trail loops in the vicinities of Napoleon and Norvell, thereby providing circuits useful for strolling and more intensive exercise.
 - **A *tertiary pathway*** provides a connection to Brooklyn and an additional trail loop, thereby increasing non-motorized access to the Village as well as providing circuits useful for strolling and more intensive exercise.

- **Another *tertiary pathway* creates a connection to Clark Lake County Park and the South Trail, providing a longer circuit useful for more intensive exercise.**
- × Provides opportunities for a healthier lifestyle through exercise.
The trail systems are designed to provide opportunities for meaningful exercise via the trail loops (or circuits), located next to settlements and the integration of local sidewalk systems into the non-motorized trail network.
- × The Recreation Plan also promotes locating new recreational facilities on existing parkland within the Heart of the Lakes Area, regardless of the ownership of the land wherever and whenever that makes sense.
Possible scenarios include, but are not limited to the following:¹
 - × Columbia and Napoleon Schools —
Columbia Schools host the *Columbia Community Fitness Center* and Napoleon Schools host the Napoleon High School weight room, facilities open to the general public. A project proposed in this plan calls for moving the ‘pirate ship’ from the *Napoleon Village Park* to the Napoleon Community School’s athletic field. It is assumed that many Area children utilize playground equipment within the schoolyards provided by both school districts during the summer and other non-school hours of operation. The installation of other recreational equipment in schoolyards also makes sense, especially where non-motorized facilities skirt them.
 - × Jackson County Parks —
Clark Lake, Little Wolf Lake, and Vineyard Lake County Parks are all located within the Heart of the Lakes Area. There may be opportunities to site local recreation facilities within those parks. If an agreement could be worked out between the Heart of the Lakes and Jackson County

¹ It is important to note that the cooperative ventures summarized in this section of the Plan, with the exception of current agreements/ facilities, are presented as examples. No agreements are in place guaranteeing the projects will be constructed.

Recreation Commissions, new facilities will be available to both Area residents and county park visitors.

× State of Michigan Parks and Game Areas —

The Sharonville State Game Area extends into the Heart of the Lakes Area. State Game Area lands are acquired through fees generated from selling hunting licenses. Those lands must be utilized for hunting. However, this may not preclude the usage of land for other purposes.² For example, Ahrens Park, a 4-acre facility in Norvell Township, is surrounded on 3 sides by the Sharonville State Game Area. It may be possible to expand the effective 'border' of the park by utilizing state game area land. Norvell Township and the State of Michigan have already partnered on a shooting range.

× Private Recreation Providers

There also remains the possibility of utilizing private land for local recreation purposes. At the time of Plan adoption, a single private recreation provider has been identified as a potential partner:

× Michigan International Speedway (MIS) —

MIS currently hosts the Michigan High School Athletic Association's annual Lower Peninsula Finals for Boy's and Girl's Cross Country each autumn.²

× Develop additional facilities in the Heart of the Lakes Area to increase opportunities for meaningful recreational experiences and overall healthier lifestyles through exercise:

The Recreation Plan identifies a number of recreation facilities (as well as potential locations) for the Heart of the Lakes Area based upon recreation surveys, existing facilities, and known opportunities.

² This possibility must be investigated before any proposals are developed.

× Community Center —

The need for recreational opportunities for Area youth, especially during the summer, was identified by a resident responding to the survey prepared for this Plan. This assertion is supported by the 2010 Census which shows that 27% of the Area's population was between 18 years old or younger that year (please see Appendix A).

× Aquatic Facilities —

The desire for all-season aquatic facilities was identified by respondents to the surveys conducted in Brooklyn and the Heart of the Lakes Area (please see 'Chapter 3'). It is important to develop those facilities away from lakes surrounded by residential property, either in a single park or distributed among various Area parks. MIS has been identified as a possible location for an ice skating facility (see 'Michigan International Speedway (MIS),' listed above) and the mill pond adjacent to the old Ford mill could provide access for activities such as fishing and paddle-boating (please see 'Community Center in Brooklyn,' above).

× Little Wolf Lake County Park —

The portion of Little Wolf Lake County Park on the east side of Wolf Lake Road was identified as a possible location for recreational facilities to serve Area residents (please see 'Jackson County Parks,' listed above). Some of those facilities could be aquatic in nature (please see "Aquatic Facilities," listed above). Sporting facilities could also be provided in this park (please see 'Sporting Facilities,' listed below).

× Sporting Facilities —

The need for facilities such as basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts and softball, soccer, field hockey, and football fields was identified in the Area's recreation survey (please see Chapter 3). Many of these facilities can be located in parks provided by other agencies, such as:

- × **Little Wolf Lake and other Jackson County Parks (listed above);**
- × **the Sharonville State Game Area (listed above); and**
- × **existing municipal parks and schoolyards.**

However; all facilities will be considered if the opportunity arises, the need for them can be documented, and their location can be determined.

- × **Napoleon Village Park —**

The installation of playground equipment within the Napoleon Village Park provides an active recreation opportunity for children living in the settlement as well as other nearby residents and trail users.

Appendix A

Population Summary

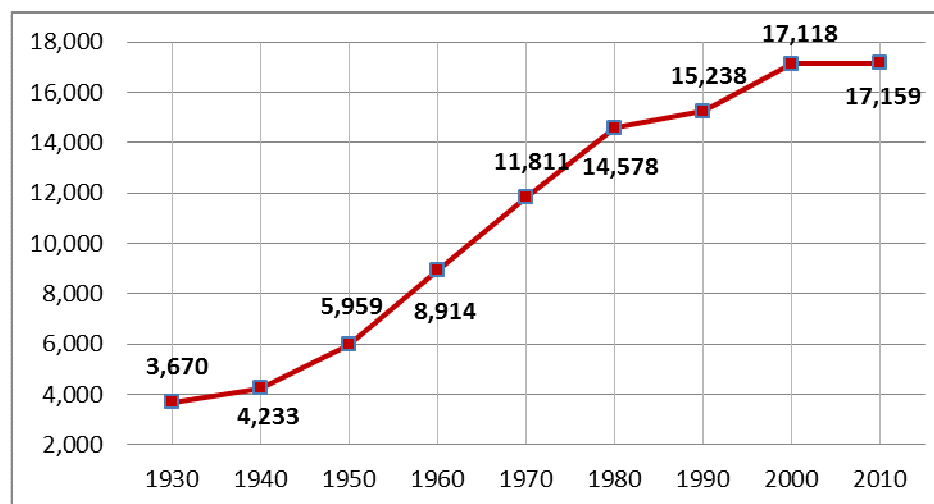
Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

The demographic composition of Heart of the Lakes Area residents will have an effect upon their recreational needs. For example:

- ✦ **Population History & Projections** – establish the need for general recreational facilities (standards for which are based upon the size of the population).
- ✦ **The Age & Sex of the Population** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among various age groups and gender interests.
- ✦ **Household & Family Composition** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced between family-oriented and individual activities.
- ✦ **Racial & Ethnic Composition** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among the various interests of racial and ethnic groups.
- ✦ **The Disabilities of Residents** – establish the need for special recreation facilities and disability accommodations to general recreation facilities.
- ✦ **Income** – helps to illustrate the need for publicly-funded recreational facilities.

Population History & Projections

The population of The Heart of the Lakes Recreation Area was comprised of 17,159 people in 2010 according to the US Census, a slight increase from the Year 2000. The adjacent chart shows steady population increases in the Area between 1930 and 2000, although the greatest population increases occurred between 1950 and 1980. The table below shows population growth by jurisdiction.



POPULATION HISTORY

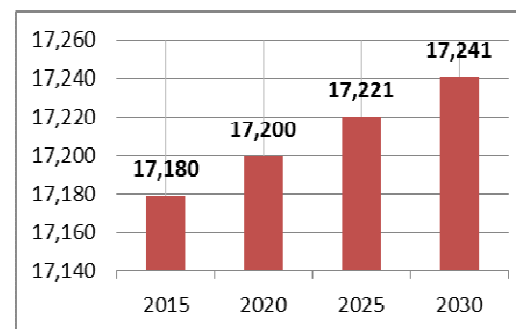
	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN	733	749	862	986	1,112	1,110	1,027	1,176	1,206
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP (W/O THE VILLAGE)	1,097	1,159	1,744	2,3402	3,411	4,909	5,281	6,058	6,214
NAPOLÉON TOWNSHIP	1,204	1,577	2,549	4,350	5,500	6,141	6,273	6,962	6,776
NORVELL TOWNSHIP	636	748	804	1,176	1,788	2,418	2,657	2,922	2,963

Population projections are estimates, usually based on past trends of real growth. The period of time used in this study is 2010-2030 or 20 years from the official 2010 census data. Various factors (i.e., births, deaths, and migration) play a role in the future population of a given area. In the following chart, population has been projected at five year intervals, which can be easily be changed as situations occur (nationally as well as locally) that will affect local in- and out-migration, such as a new industrial or housing development.

A simple projection model has been used to estimate population growth that might reasonably be expected in the future for the Area. The *Linear Method* is based upon the following formulas.^{1, 2}

$$P_n = P_o(1 + r) \quad r = \left(\frac{P_o - P_m}{P_m} / Y_1 \right) Y_2$$

This model describes a pattern of population growth in which the population level will continue to change at a given rate based upon changes in population over the last 10 years. Based upon this information, it is reasonable to expect that the population of the Heart of the Lakes Area will continue to increase slightly over the next 20 years. It is also reasonable to expect that the 2015 population for the Area will be around 17,180 and the 2020 population will be around 17,200.



¹ "P_n" is the future population level, "P_o" is the base population level, and "r" is the growth rate.

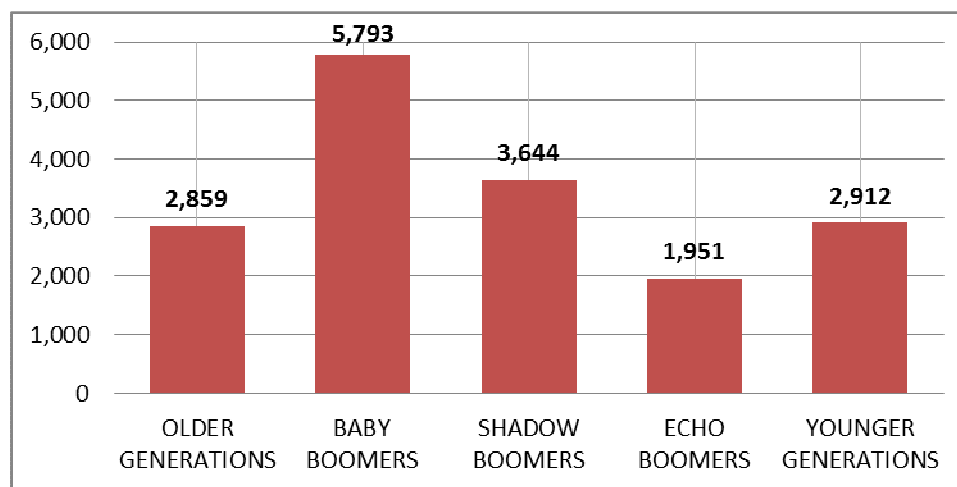
² "r" is the growth rate, "P_o" is the base population level, "P_m" is the past population, "Y₁" is the historic time period (20 years), and "Y₂" is the future time period (5 years).

AGE OF THE POPULATION

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
TOTAL	8,563	8,596	17,159
UNDER 5 YEARS	391	365	756
5 TO 9 YEARS	493	477	970
10 TO 14 YEARS	624	562	1186
15 TO 19 YEARS	601	572	1173
20 TO 24 YEARS	404	374	778
25 TO 29 YEARS	361	332	693
30 TO 34 YEARS	379	397	776
35 TO 39 YEARS	482	525	1007
40 TO 44 YEARS	585	583	1168
45 TO 49 YEARS	708	706	1414
50 TO 54 YEARS	755	752	1507
55 TO 59 YEARS	754	773	1527
60 TO 64 YEARS	671	674	1345
65 TO 69 YEARS	472	494	966
70 TO 74 YEARS	337	330	667
75 TO 79 YEARS	245	254	499
80 TO 84 YEARS	174	218	392
85+ YEARS	127	208	335
16 + YEARS	6,912	7,088	14,000
18 + YEARS	6,663	6,821	13,484
21 + YEARS	6,354	6,541	12,895
62 + YEARS	1,741	1,901	3,642
65 + YEARS	1,355	1,504	2,859

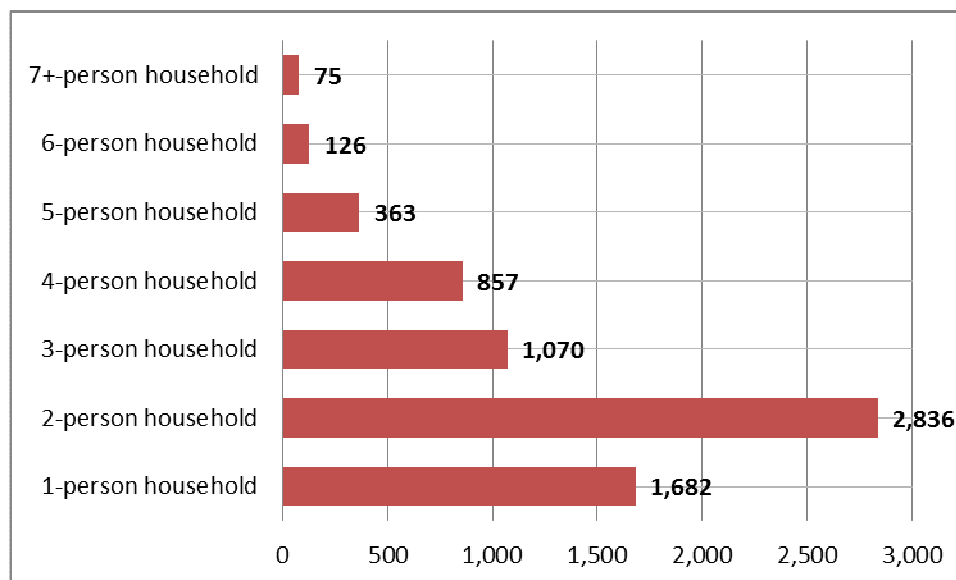
Age & Sex of the Population

The median age in each jurisdiction that comprises the Heart of the Lakes Area is significantly higher than the 37.2 years for the average American in 2010. Napoleon Township had the youngest median age (42.3) and Norvell Township (47.7) had the highest. Columbia Township and the Village of Brooklyn had median ages of 46.7 and 43.6, respectively.



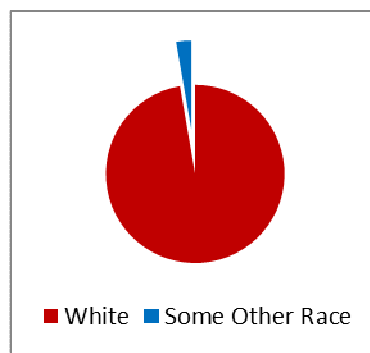
As the above figure illustrates, baby boomers –people between 45 and 64 years of age in 2010– accounted for 33.8% of the population. Shadow boomers –people between 25 and 44 years of age in 2010– accounted for 21.2% of the population. Echo boomers –people between 15 and 25 years of age in 2010– accounted for 11.4% of residents.

Older generations—people at least 65 years of age in 2010— accounted for 16.7% of the population. Younger generations —people less than 14 years of age in 2010— accounted for approximately 17.0% of the population. Women accounted for 50.1% of the Area’s population in 2010. It is interesting to note that the older the generation in 2010, the greater the percentage of females.



Household & Family Composition

There were 7,009 households in the Heart of the Lakes Area in 2010. The majority of households were comprised of one (24.0%) or two (40.5%) people. Three- (15.3%) and four-person (12.2%) households were also significant. A small portion (8.0%) of the households was comprised of five or more people. Although the overwhelming majority of households were comprised of families, 29.4% were comprised of nonfamilies. The average household and family size for each jurisdiction in 2010 is shown in the following table:



Racial & Ethnic Composition

Race and ethnicity are not significant issues given that 97.3% of the Area's population was white in the 2010 and only 2.0% of the population considered itself Hispanic.

Disability of Residents

Of the estimated 16,247 Area residents over the age of 5, over 14% (14.1%) were disabled during the 2008-2012 time period. However, age is often a determining factor in the distribution of disability. As the adjacent table indicates, over 40% (40.1%) of elderly residents (at least 65 years old) were disabled. In comparison, however, only 3.7% of children (ages 5-17) and 10.0% of adults (ages 65+) were disabled. The trend is similar for the over 8% (8.4%) of residents with an ambulatory disability.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

	TOTAL	FAMILY
NORVELL TOWNSHIP	2.45	2.87
NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP	2.54	2.95
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	2.37	2.82
VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN	2.09	2.86

DISABLED RESIDENTS

UNDER 5 YEARS (% OF TOTAL POP)	5.2%
NO DISABILITY	100.0%
WITH A DISABILITY:	0.0%
WITH AN AMBULATORY DISABILITY:	N/A
5 TO 17 YEARS (% OF TOTAL POP)	3.7%
NO DISABILITY	96.3%
WITH A DISABILITY:	3.7%
WITH AN AMBULATORY DISABILITY:	0.2%
18 TO 64 YEARS (% OF TOTAL POP)	63.4%
NO DISABILITY	90.0%
WITH A DISABILITY:	10.0%
WITH AN AMBULATORY DISABILITY:	5.5%
65 YEARS AND OVER (% OF TOTAL POP)	16.1%
NO DISABILITY	59.9%
WITH A DISABILITY:	40.1%
WITH AN AMBULATORY DISABILITY:	27.2%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

NORVELL TOWNSHIP			
	TOTAL	FAMILY	NON-FAM
MEDIAN INCOME	\$47,094	\$59,221	\$24,495
MEAN INCOME	\$58,211	\$69,011	\$35,542
NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP			
	TOTAL	FAMILY	NON-FAM
MEDIAN INCOME	\$51,940	\$57,589	\$34,896
MEAN INCOME	\$66,111	\$71,922	\$44,304
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP			
	TOTAL	FAMILY	NON-FAM
MEDIAN INCOME	\$54,192	\$63,367	\$26,150
MEAN INCOME	\$65,414	\$76,336	\$35,542
VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN			
	TOTAL	FAMILY	NON-FAM
MEDIAN INCOME	\$32,750	\$50,000	\$20,8930
MEAN INCOME	\$43,041	\$58,604	\$26,223

Income

The estimated median household income for Columbia Township was greater than the estimated median income for the United States (\$52,762) for the 2007-2011 time period while the estimated median income for the Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Napoleon and Norvell was less.³ The estimated mean household income for all three Townships and the Village was less than the estimated mean income for the United States (\$72,555) during the same time period.⁴ The median and mean household incomes were higher for families in all jurisdictions while non-family median and mean household incomes were significantly less.

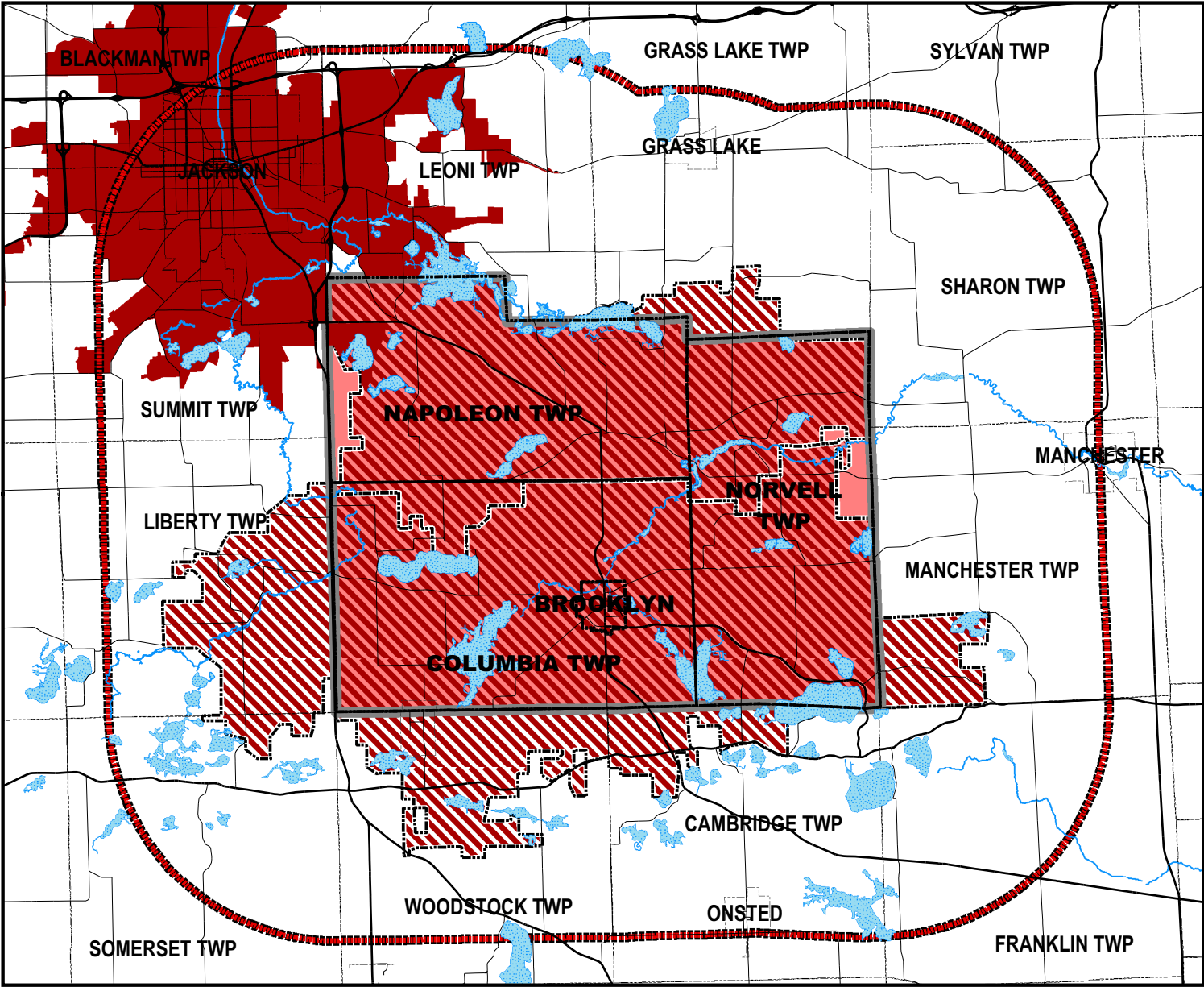
³ The median household income means that ½ of household incomes were greater and ½ were less than that amount.

⁴ The mean household income is the average income (i.e., the sum of all household incomes divided by the number of households).

Appendix B




Maps

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan



LEGEND

STUDY AREA

-  MEMBER COMMUNITIES
-  MEMBER SCHOOL DISTRICTS
-  5-MILE BUFFER



URBAN AREA

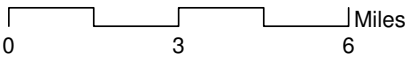
-  JACKSON URBAN AREA

LAKES & RIVERS

-  LAKES
-  RIVERS

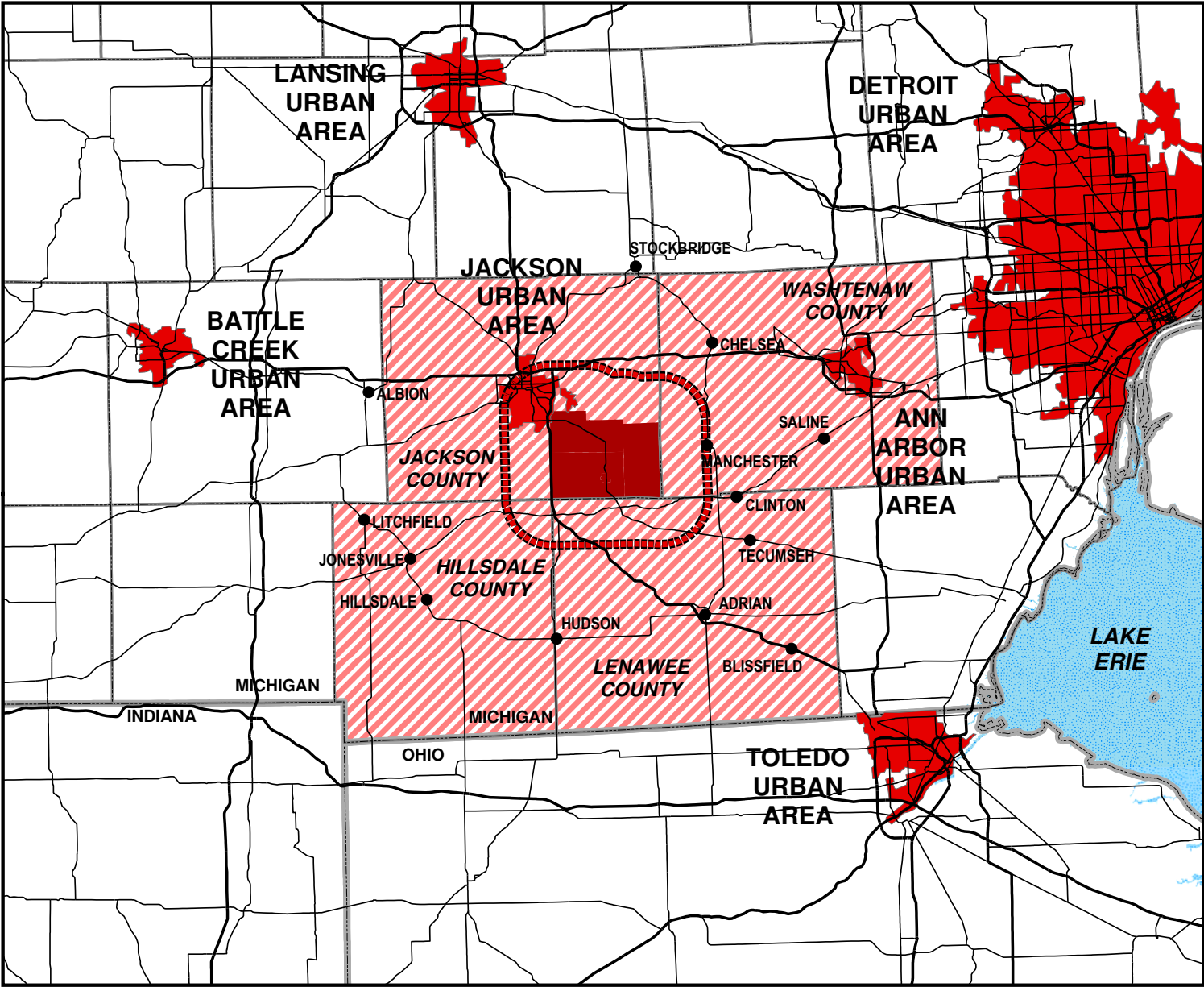
ROADS & STREETS

-  STATE HIGHWAYS
-  OTHER MAJOR ROADS





HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS






LEGEND



STUDY AREA

-  HOTL RECREATION AREA
-  5-MILE BUFFER

URBAN AREAS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

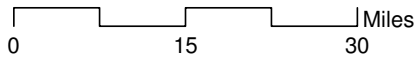
-  SURROUNDING COUNTIES
-  URBAN AREAS
-  CITY/VILLAGE

ROADS & STREETS

-  STATE HIGHWAYS
-  OTHER MAJOR ROADS

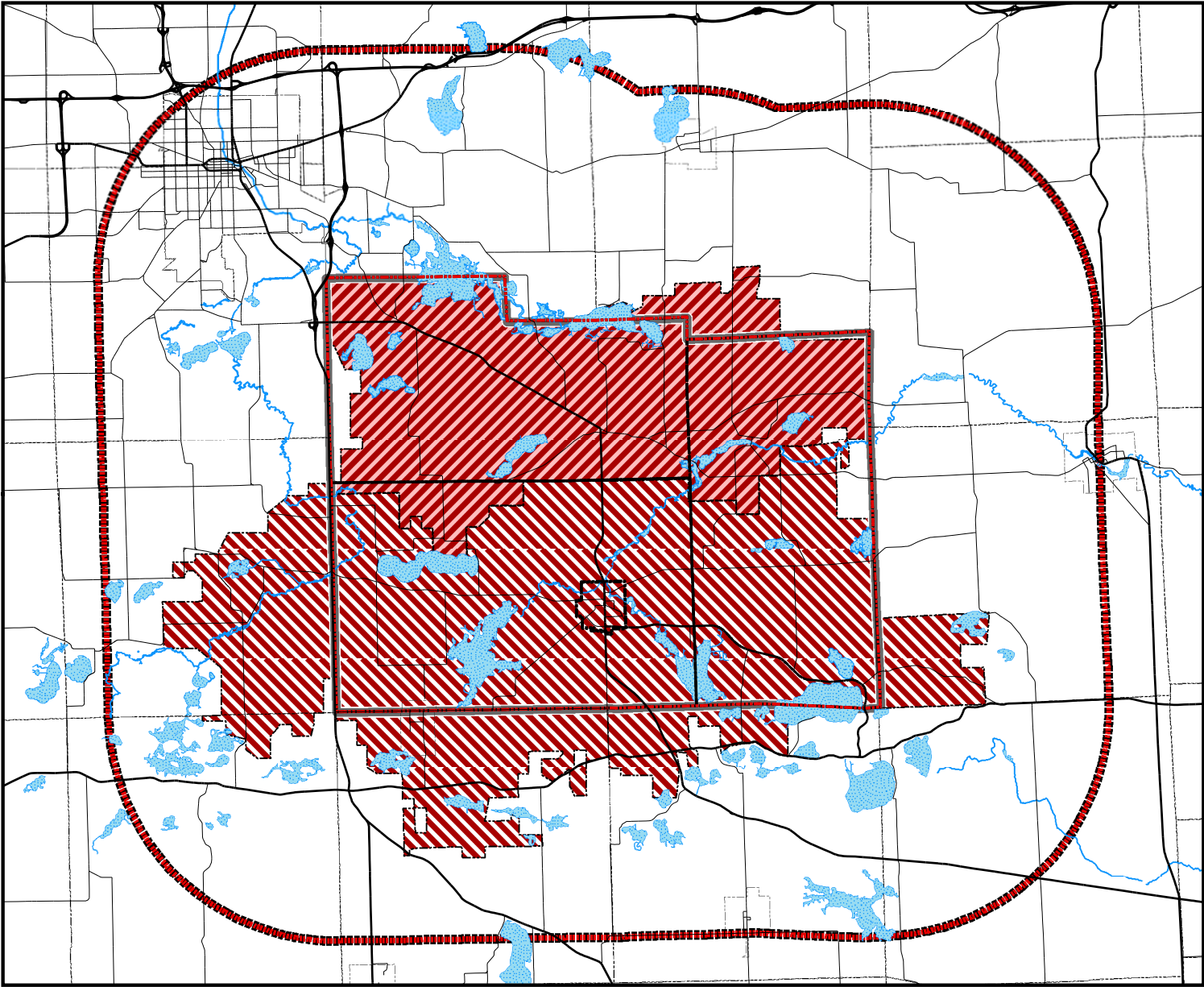
LAKES

-  GREAT LAKES





HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

REGIONAL LOCATION





LEGEND

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

-  COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
-  NAPOLEON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



STUDY AREA

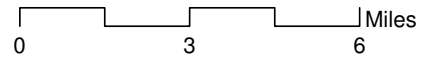
-  MEMBER COMMUNITIES
-  5-MILE BUFFER

LAKES & RIVERS

-  LAKES
-  RIVERS

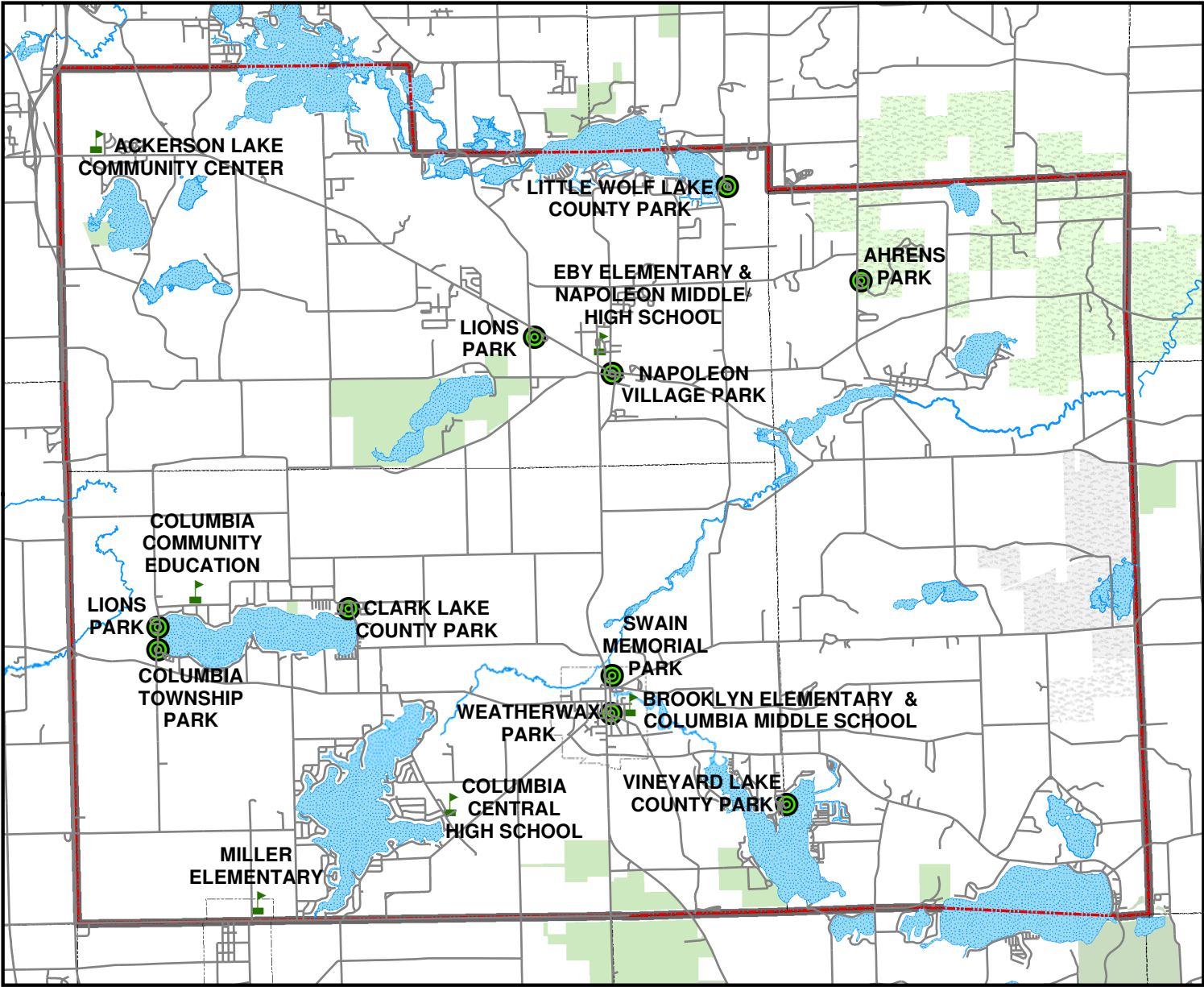
ROADS & STREETS

-  STATE HIGHWAYS
-  OTHER MAJOR ROADS



HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

SCHOOL DISTRICTS



LEGEND

LOCAL FACILITIES

- VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP PARKS
- SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES

ROADS & STREETS

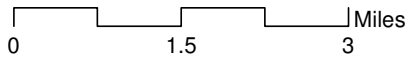
- STATE HIGHWAYS
- OTHER MAJOR ROADS

LAKES & RIVERS

- LAKES
- RIVERS

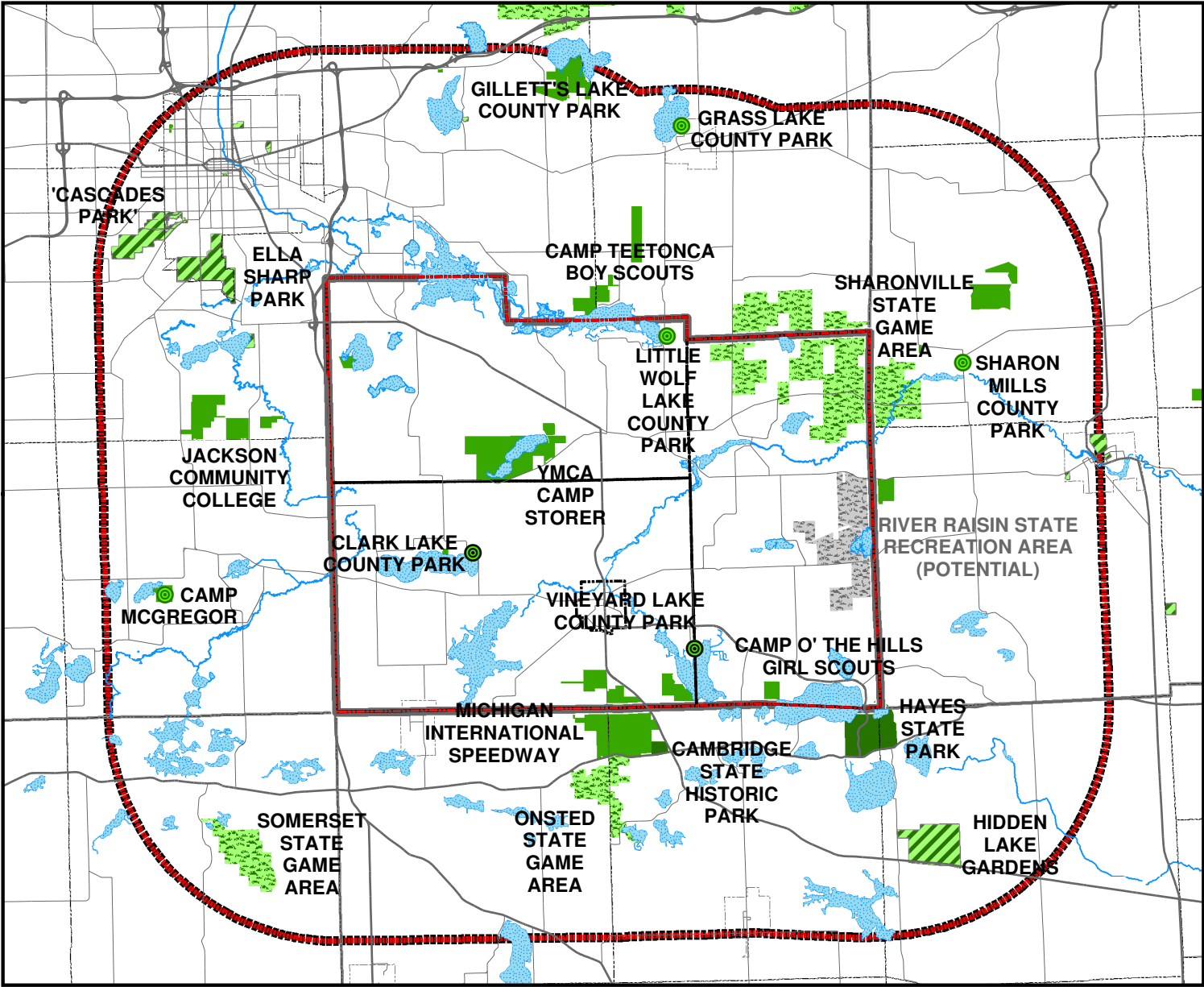
STUDY AREA

- MEMBER COMMUNITIES



HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

LOCAL RECREATION FACILITIES



LEGEND

REGIONAL FACILITIES

- MICHIGAN STATE PARKS
- STATE GAME, RECREATION & WILDLIFE AREAS
- MAJOR PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES
- OTHER MAJOR RECREATION FACILITIES

ROADS & STREETS

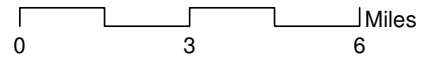
- STATE HIGHWAYS
- OTHER MAJOR ROADS

LAKES & RIVERS

- LAKES
- RIVERS

STUDY AREA

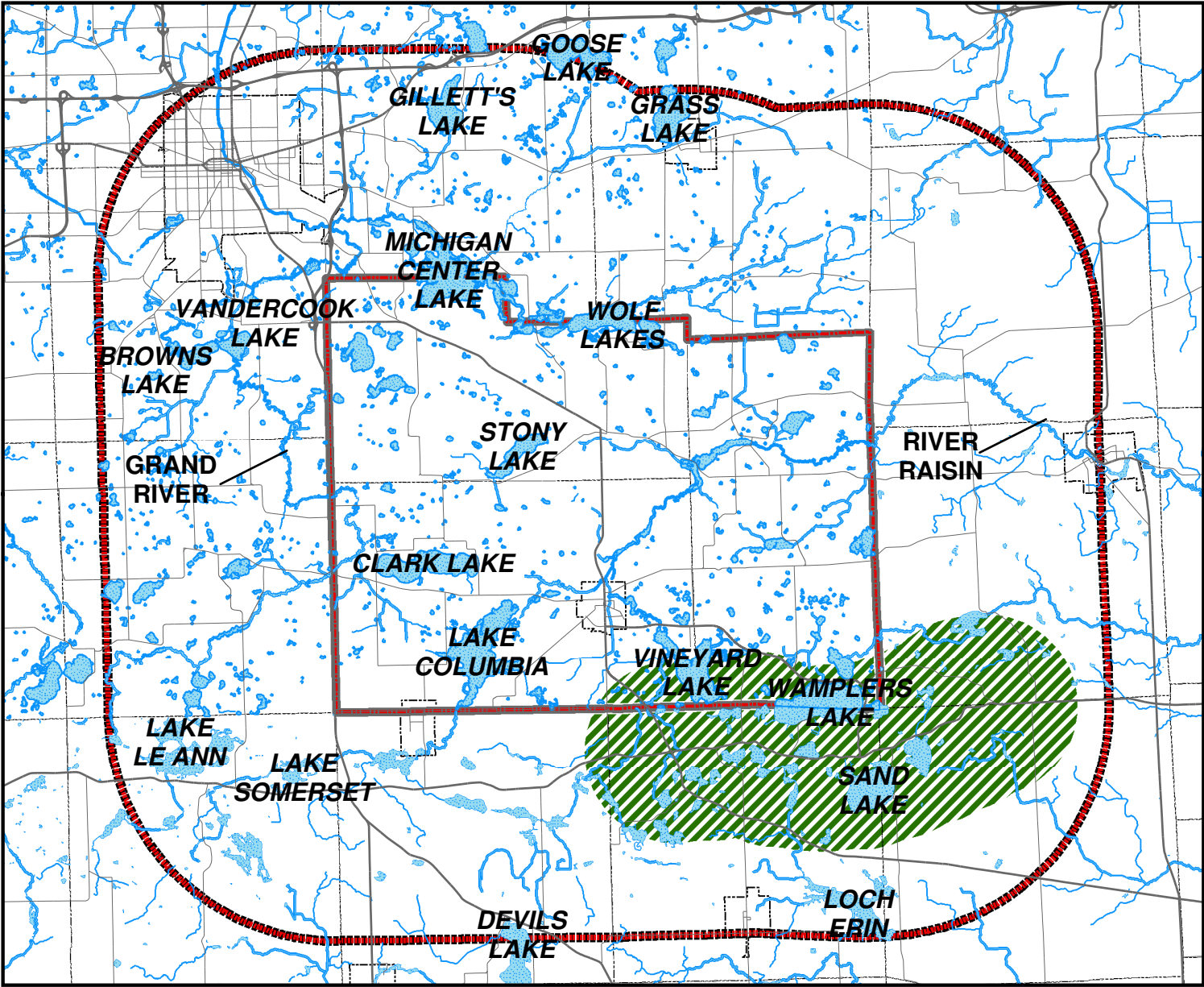
- MEMBER COMMUNITIES
- 5-MILE BUFFER



HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES





LEGEND



LAKES & RIVERS

-  LAKES
-  RIVERS



UNIQUE AREAS

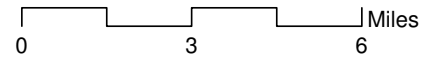
-  THE IRISH HILLS AREA

ROADS & STREETS

-  STATE HIGHWAYS
-  OTHER MAJOR ROADS

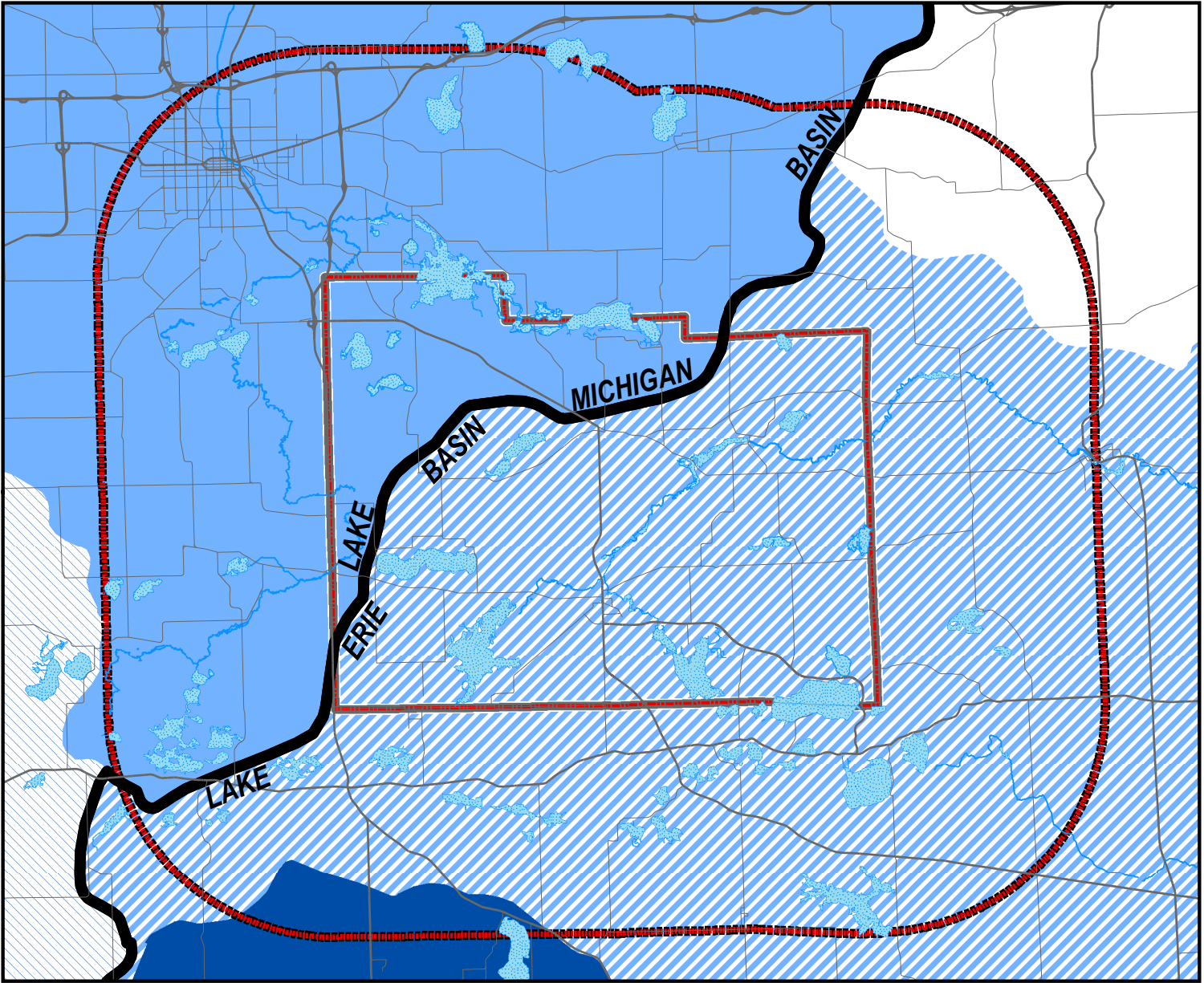
STUDY AREA

-  MEMBER COMMUNITIES
-  5-MILE BUFFER








HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

NATURAL FEATURES



LEGEND



WATERSHEDS

-  RAISIN
-  UPPER GRAND
-  HURON
-  TIFFIN (BEAN CREEK)
-  KALAMAZOO



LAKES & RIVERS

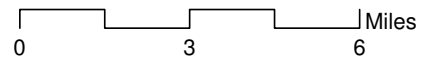
-  LAKES
-  RIVERS

ROADS & STREETS

-  STATE HIGHWAYS
-  OTHER MAJOR ROADS

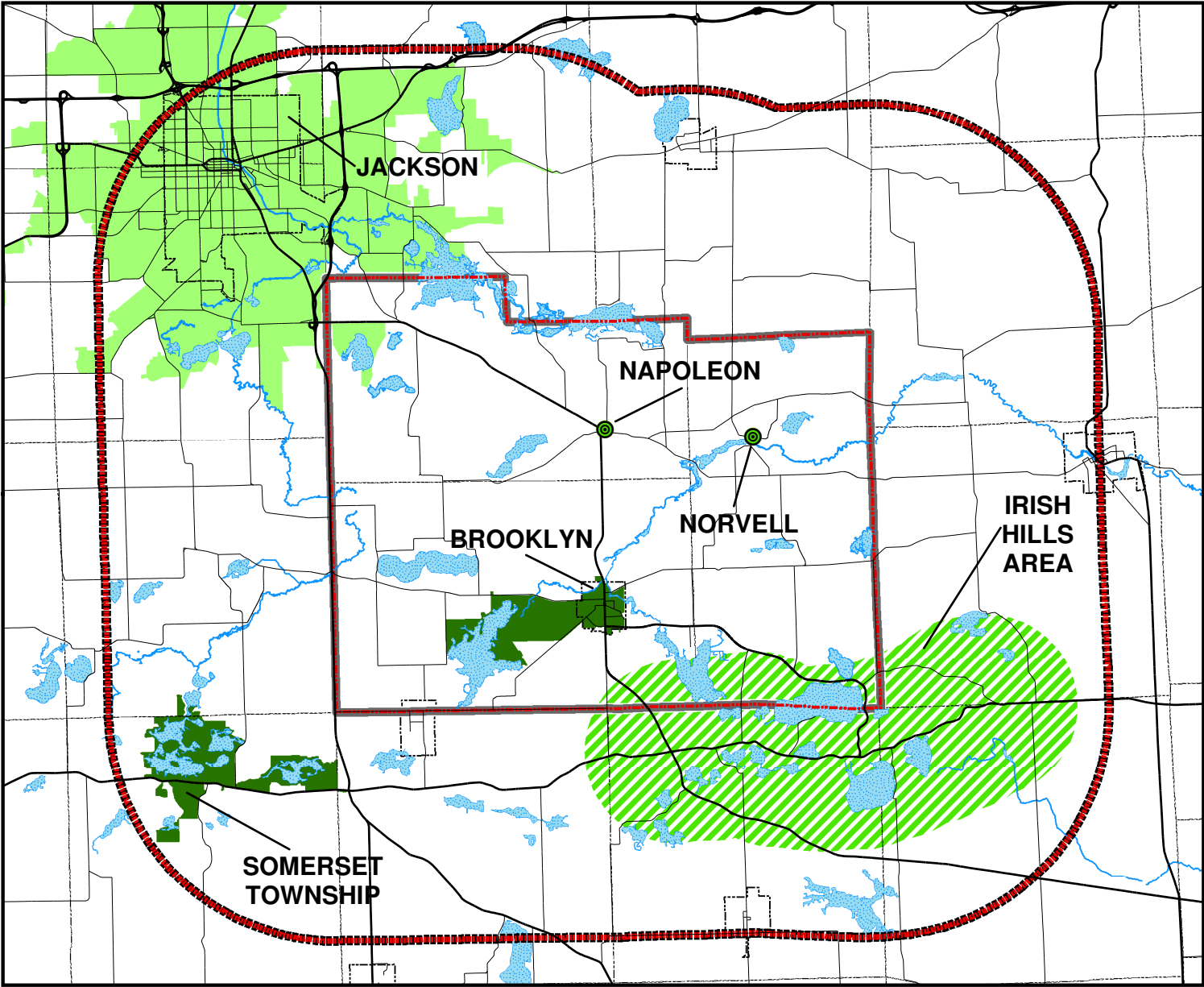
STUDY AREA

-  MEMBER COMMUNITIES
-  5-MILE BUFFER



HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

WATERSHEDS



LEGEND

PLACES/AREAS

- URBAN AREA*
- URBAN CLUSTER*
- UNINCORPORATED VILLAGE
- RECOGNIZED AREA

LAKES & RIVERS

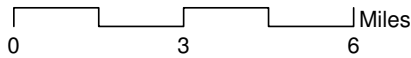
- LAKES
- RIVERS

ROADS & STREETS

- STATE HIGHWAYS
- OTHER MAJOR ROADS

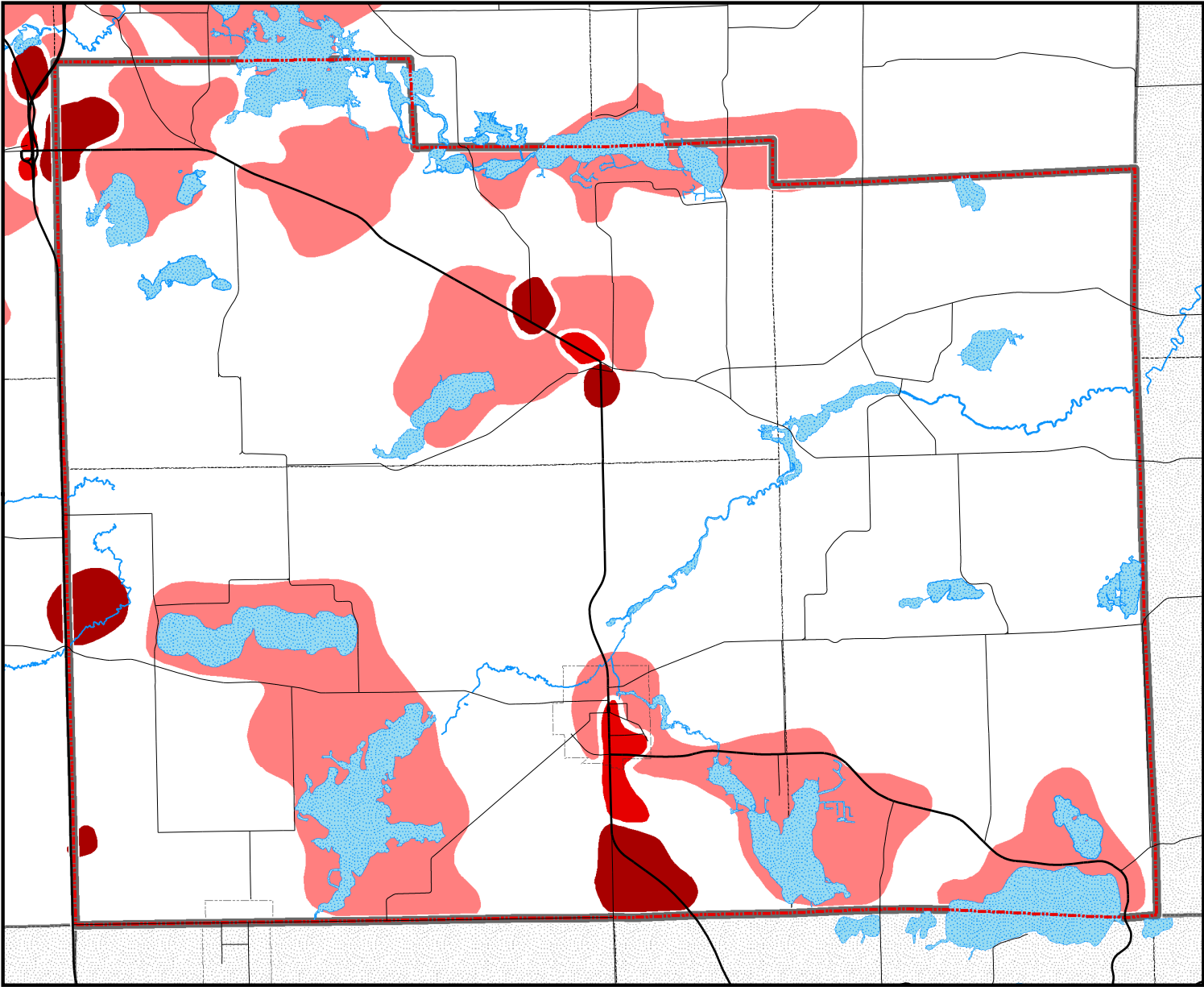
STUDY AREA

- MEMBER COMMUNITIES
- 5-MILE BUFFER



HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

PLACES/AREAS



LEGEND

LAND USE (JACKSON CO.)

- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- AGRICULTURAL

ROADS & STREETS

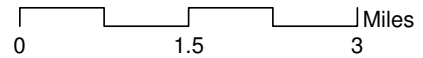
- STATE HIGHWAYS
- OTHER MAJOR ROADS

LAKES & RIVERS

- LAKES
- RIVERS

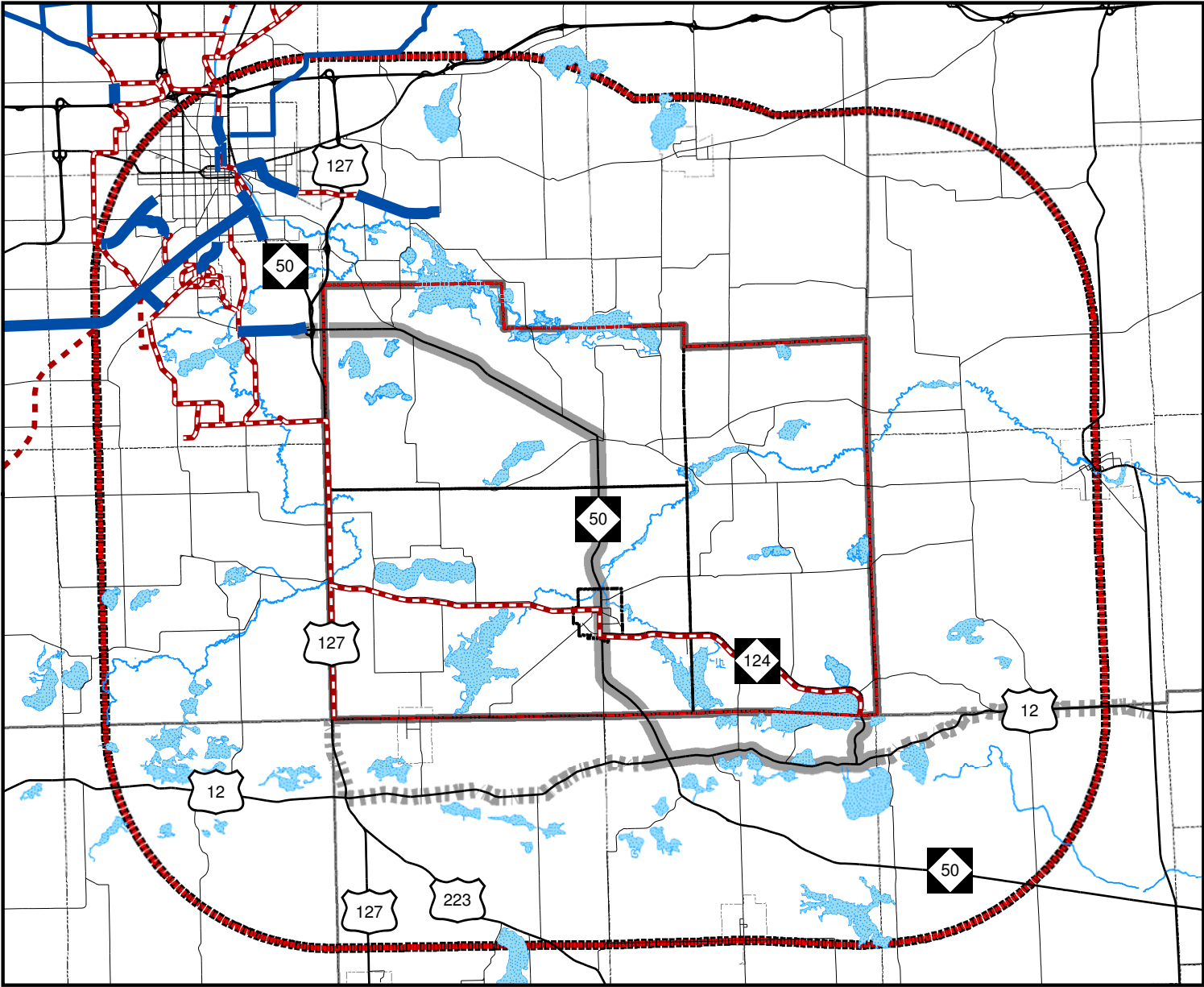
STUDY AREA

- MEMBER COMMUNITIES



HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

FUTURE LAND USE



LEGEND

TRAILS

- CURRENT TRAILS
- CURRENT BIKE ROUTES
- PROPOSED TRAILS
- PROPOSED ALTERNATES
- PROPOSED STATE HIGHWAY SHOULDERS

LAKES & RIVERS

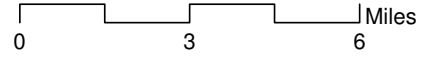
- LAKES
- RIVERS

ROADS & STREETS

- STATE HIGHWAYS
- OTHER MAJOR ROADS

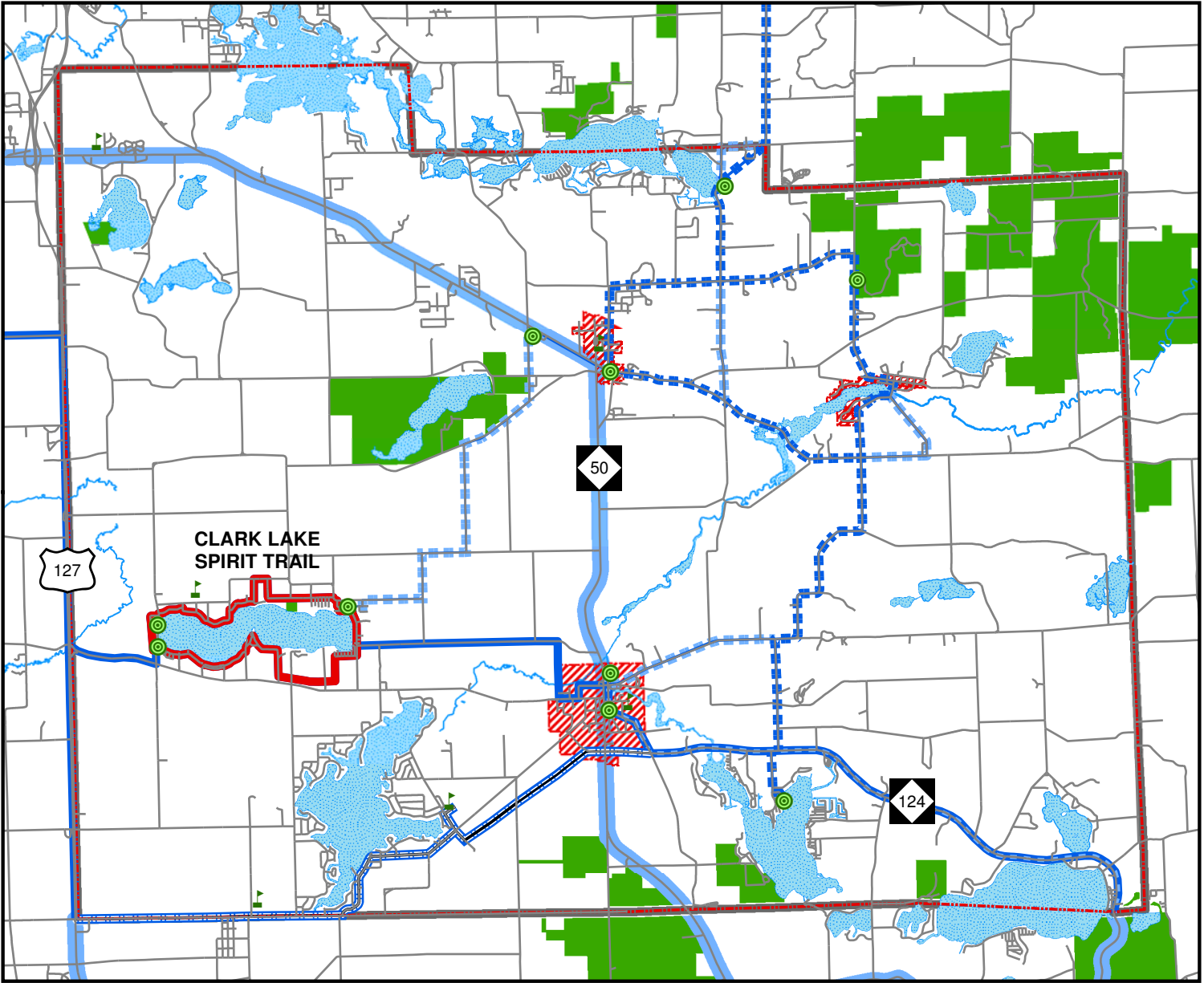
STUDY AREA

- MEMBER COMMUNITIES
- 5-MILE BUFFER



HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

PROPOSED SOUTH TRAIL



LEGEND

TRAILS

SOUTH TRAIL

- MAIN TRAIL AND CLARK LAKE SPIRIT TRAIL AND CONNECTOR
- MARK HARRISON TRAIL

M-50 TRAIL

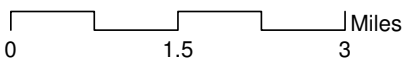
- MAIN ROUTE
- CEMENT CITY CONNECTOR

GRASS LAKE - NAPOLEON - NORVELL - BROOKLYN TRAIL

- MAIN TRAIL
- PROPOSED LOOPS
- CLARK LAKE CONNECTOR
- BROOKLYN CONNECTOR

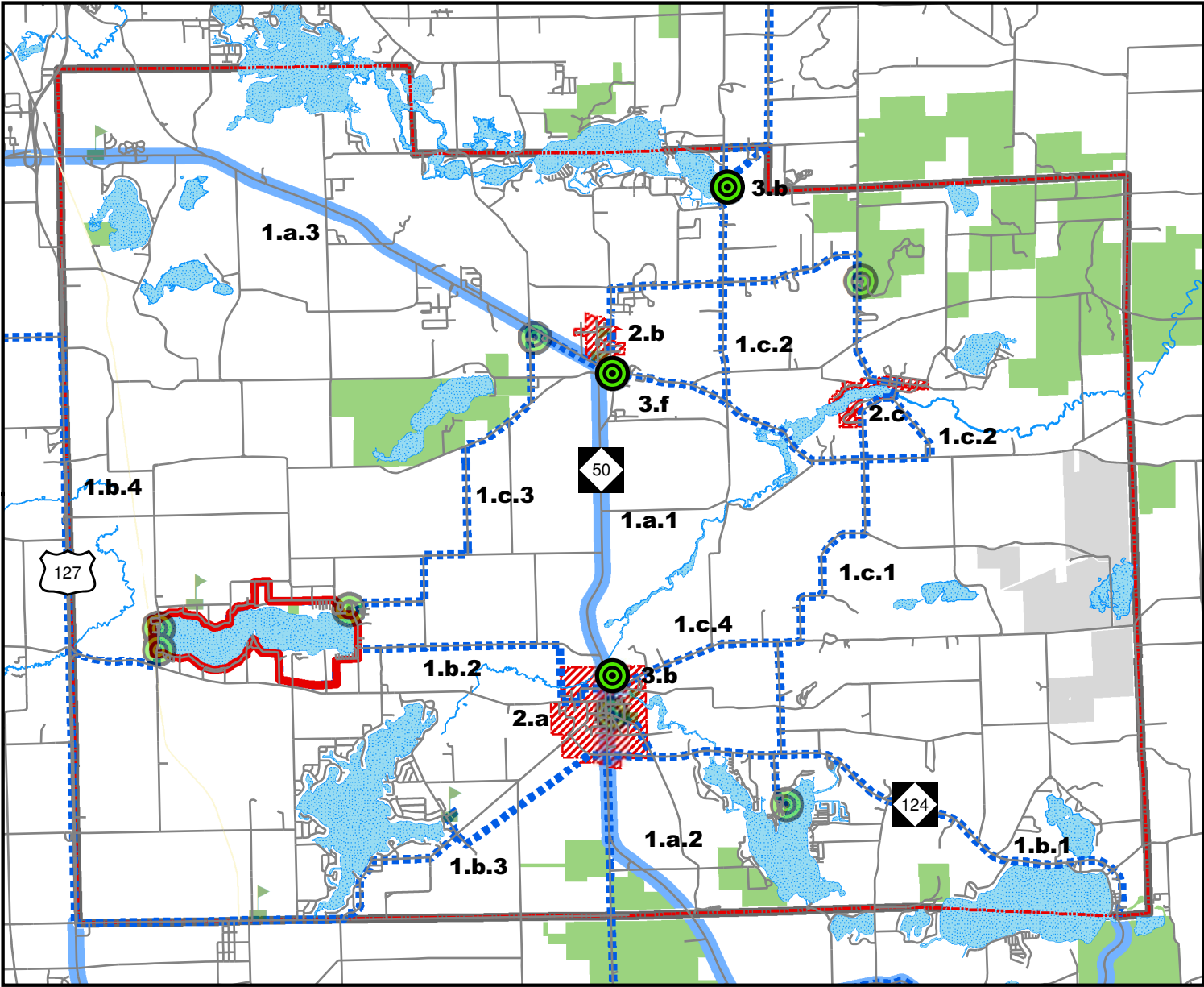
DESTINATIONS

- SCHOOLS
- LOCAL/COUNTY PARKS
- SETTLEMENT
- REGIONAL DESTINATIONS







HEART OF THE LAKES
RECREATION COMMISSION

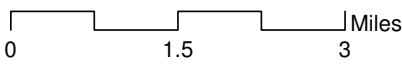
PROPOSED TRAIL SYSTEM



LEGEND

FACILITIES

-  PARK LOCATIONS FOR POSSIBLE FACILITIES
-  EXISTING TRAIL
-  POSSIBLE TRAIL LOCATIONS
-  POSSIBLE PAVED SHOULDERS
- 1.a.1** *PLEASE SEE PAGE 6-2 FOR PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS*



Appendix C

Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

Selected Health Concern – Overweight and Obesity Risk Factors¹

"Many argue that 'urban sprawl' has contributed to 'waistline sprawl' in that it supports an automobile-friendly environment rather than an environment where other modes of active transport (walking, cycling, and other non-motorized vehicles) are encouraged."

"The US Surgeon General has called for action to prevent and decrease overweight and obesity. The Health consequences of overweight and obesity have been labeled as 'a public health issue that is among the most burdensome faced by the nation.' This national health problem manifests itself in premature death and disability, high health care costs, loss of productivity, and social stigmatization. According to the Surgeon General's call to action 'To Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, 2001,' there are many factors which cause overweight and obesity. 'For each individual, body weight is determined by the combination of genetic, metabolic, behavioral, environmental, cultural, and social economic influences. Behavior and environmental factors are large contributors to overweight and obesity and provide the greatest opportunity for actions and interventions designed for prevention and treatment.'"

"The availability of data regarding overweight and obesity specific to the area of Jackson County is lacking. Data regarding obesity for the State of Michigan is available through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, 2001). The data reveals that in 1991, 15.2% of the State's population was obese. At that time, Michigan's rate of obesity was tied for third highest in the Nation with the State of West Virginia. Only the states of Mississippi and Louisiana exceeded Michigan in the rate of obesity. In the year

**Obesity Trends, Michigan
1991-2001**

Year	% Obese
1991	15.2
1995	17.7
1998	20.7
1999	22.1
2000	21.8
2001	24.4

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2001

¹ This section was excerpted from the Demographics Chapter of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025.

2001 Michigan's rate of obesity had climbed to 24.4%, the third highest state in the nation, following the states of Mississippi and West Virginia. Sixty-one percent of Michigan's population is either obese or overweight."

Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000.

"The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, an agency of the Center for Disease Control provides data on the actual causes of death in the United States for the year 2000. The category 'Poor Diet / Physical Inactivity' ranks second, in terms of the percentage of all deaths, at 16.6%, closely behind tobacco use at 18.1%."

Actual Causes of Death, United States 1990 and 2000

Cause	% Of Deaths	
	1990	2000
Tobacco	19	18.1
Poor diet and physical inactivity	14	16.6
Alcohol Consumption	5	3.5
Microbial Agents	4	3.1
Toxic Agents	3	2.3
Motor Vehicles	1	1.8
Firearms	2	1.2
Sexual Behavior	1	0.8
Illicit Drug Use	<1	0.7

Source: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Factors Contributing to Unhealthy Weight

"The report 'Health Policy Options for Michigan Policy Makers: Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan Through Physical Activity and Nutrition' identifies factors which contribute to unhealthy weight. While several factors contribute to this problem, the report identifies factors which are of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning. The report notes:

'Physical and Social environmental barriers are present in Michigan that negatively affect physical activity and nutrition. Inadequate community infrastructure limits the ability to be active. These include lack of accessible indoor and outdoor exercise facilities, neighborhood sidewalks, walking paths, and bicycle trails.

Additionally, inclement weather, lack of adequate recreational opportunities, and unattractive or unpleasant local environments may prevent people from exercising.’

‘Programs and policies are necessary to promote smart community growth and the establishment of urban and rural environments supportive of physical activity. Active community environments provide access to safe favorable conditions for physical activity and promote the development of social support networks that encourage activity.’²

“The report notes that various state departments, community planners, and community members should work together to promote active environments. The report also lists a series of policy recommendations, including the following specific recommendations relative to what the report labels ‘active community environments.’³

1. Develop walkable communities by widening and maintaining our building sidewalks, safe roadway crossings, and aesthetically pleasing areas.
2. Encourage bicycling by developing, maintaining, and promoting the use of bike paths.
3. Require all urban planning and re-design - incorporate the concepts of active community environments and there by promote physical activity.”

Issues, Goals, Policies & Actions⁴

“The purpose of [the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan] is to establish policies to guide the future growth and development of the Jackson Community. These policies, established at the community-wide level, are intended to assist local units of government, including the County’s villages, townships, and the City of Jackson as they develop, amend, and implement their community plans and zoning ordinances.”

² Kreulen Pg. 10

³ Kreulen Pg. 18

⁴ This section was excerpted from the Issues, Goals, Policies & Actions Chapter of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025.

"The policies formulated and adopted as a result of the process in preparing the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan primarily address land use and development issues which either transcend the boundary lines of local units of government, or are county-wide in nature. This regional perspective is critical. The strength of our governmental structure which is comprised of 19 townships, 6 villages and the City of Jackson, is the ability to deliver local government that is close to the people. Within the planning process this governmental structure provides each local unit the opportunity to determine how its community should grow and develop, and ultimately, the shape and form of the future community. The weakness in this arrangement of local units of government is the tendency to overlook the implications of decisions which have regional significance."

A total of sixteen land use issues were identified. Issues with a recreation component are reprinted in their entirety:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✕ Create a Walkable Community | ✕ Urban Development |
| ✕ Farmland Preservation | ✕ Overzoning and Strip Commercial Development |
| ✕ Historic Preservation | ✕ Protection of Ground and Surface Water Quality |
| ✕ Planning Coordination | ✕ Wetlands |
| ✕ Maximum Housing Choice | ✕ Preservation of Open Space |
| ✕ Open Ethical Governance and Citizen Participation | ✕ Economic Diversity |
| ✕ Sewer and Water Extension | ✕ Innovative Planning and Zoning |
| ✕ Culture | ✕ The Movement of People and Goods |

Create a Walkable Community

"The automobile is firmly embedded in our culture. It simultaneously offers a measure of freedom; and yet also limits the freedom of movement both for the younger and older segments of our population, and to our citizens generally, through traffic congestion. In our urban areas, space is consumed for parking which negates the possibility for the creation of compact pedestrian-oriented development patterns. The automobile allows

us freedom to work in distant places and live in rural areas, but also requires an expansive network of roads and highways to get us there.”

“Considerable attention has been focused recently on the health of our citizens. Physical inactivity and obesity of our citizens has been defined by health professionals as a serious threat to community health and well-being. While it is acknowledged that every citizen is free to make individual choices regarding means and mode of transportation, there is a need to insure that our communities are walkable. Indeed, within the concept of community, social contact and interaction, the sense of human scale, and community identity, are elemental.”

Goal: “Community plans, development decisions, and ultimately the shape and form of our communities shall offer the opportunity for employment, commerce, recreation, and social interaction within community centers and neighborhoods which are walkable.”

Policies and Actions

1. “Within defined community centers and neighborhood areas as identified in this plan, and the plans of local communities of government in Jackson County, development should be promoted which is compact and which fosters higher densities.”
2. “Sidewalks should be encouraged to be provided in neighborhoods, subdivisions, and site condominium projects; and commercial areas.”
3. “Pedestrian networks are encouraged to be developed which link subdivisions, neighborhoods, business districts, downtown areas, recreational areas; and connected to a system of regional pedestrian and bicycle trails.”
4. “Parking shall be encouraged to be located in areas that do not impede pedestrian travel.”
5. “Within downtown areas of the County pedestrian travel should be given priority over automobile and vehicular travel.”

6. "Local communities should review their commercial zoning districts to promote commercial uses which thrive on pedestrian traffic to be grouped together, and to assure that commercial uses which are oriented toward vehicular traffic are established as permitted uses in separate commercial zoning districts. Small commercial areas which offer goods and services to neighborhood areas should be encouraged."
7. "Communities should review their patterns of residential distribution and attempt to promote and strengthen neighborhoods which offer parks, elementary schools, and neighborhood commercial areas within walking distance."
8. "Several recreation plans for local units of government call for the construction of recreational trails. In addition, the Jackson County Trailways Plan recommends several additional trails and trail extensions. These recommendations should be implemented as funding becomes available. Finally, trailways should be coordinated with the plans for trails in adjacent counties."

Historic Preservation

"The community of today grew out of the community of the past. Current development patterns, street networks, neighborhoods, clusters of buildings, and single buildings themselves are reflective of the unique mix of culture and history in which the Jackson Community grew and developed. This unique history gave the community identity and is a reflection of community heritage."

"Today's mass culture, and the influence of the mass media, in conjunction with the consolidation and growth of businesses and industries within the economy has resulted in development which is a replica of development which is occurring in communities across the nation. Forces of community development today tend to result in ubiquity. Sameness results in a loss of identity."

"As our economy has grown nationally, and the implications of this growth have been experienced locally, both the benefits and the liabilities of such growth become manifest. While products have become more varied and accessible, the commercial delivery system which provides these products through "big box" stores, and drive-thru "fast-food" [restaurants] has tended to reduce the diversity and appearance of the urban landscape. As a

result, the importance of historic preservation has never been greater, and over time becomes more and more important to maintain community identity and diversity. The preservation of historic buildings and structures provides a vital link to our heritage.”

Goal: “Jackson County communities shall identify historic and cultural resources and develop policies, programs, and regulations to promote their continued use and survival.”

Policies and Actions

1. “Historic and unique community features, structures, and buildings should be identified, mapped and preserved.”
2. “Jackson County communities should educate developers, and the public at large, about the availability of tax credits offered through the State of Michigan for historic preservation, and encourage this application of these credits.”
3. “Local planning commissions should consider the impacts of development decisions on historic and cultural resources.”

Culture

“The concept of a community implies more than simply a place to live, work, engage in commerce, and play. Communities are places of social interaction, where people meet face to face. Communities provide the structure necessary for cultural growth and development.”

“Communities are places where governance occurs. They’re places where people pray. They’re places where information is exchanged. Communities are elementally important in our cultural system, acting as clearing-houses for all that makes people human. They are the bartering places for the exchange of ideas and cultures. The Comprehensive Plan should support this important role.”

Goal: “Community Centers should facilitate social interaction and assemblage, and provide a space for, and enhance, culture.”

Policies and Actions

1. "Buildings and structures which facilitate or enhance our culture: city, township, and village halls; schools; libraries; museums; and churches should be identified, mapped, and protected."
2. "Indoor and outdoor places of public assemblage and opportunity for public gathering should be promoted within our community centers."
3. "Communities should inventory, promote, and maintain their public spaces, and promote their use and safety."

Preservation of Open Space

"To many citizens in Jackson County, the rural areas of the County are appealing because of the open space which exists there. Many residents have, in fact, selected home sites in rural areas because of the open rural quality such areas afford. Obviously, with additional development in rural areas comes a loss in open space and the values which attracted rural development in the first place."

Goal: "Preservation of Open Space shall be encouraged."

Policies and Actions

1. "Local units of government are encouraged to apply cluster-zoning provisions to preserve open space and maintain rural character."
2. "Policies contained within this report to encourage development to be located within existing urban and developed areas and to encourage higher densities should be implemented."

The Community Plan⁵

"The Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide guidance for the future growth and development of the Jackson County area. The Plan was prepared in accordance with generally accepted practices for the development of comprehensive plans."

⁵ This section was excerpted from the Plan Chapter of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025.

1. "The Plan is long-range. The Plan provides a policy guide for growth and development from the date of adoption of the Plan in 2005, through the year 2025. It is intended to provide a long-range vision for the Community based upon anticipated economic growth, population and household projection, the existing pattern of development, and preferred growth and development patterns."
2. "The Plan is intended to be general in nature rather than specific. Because the Plan is a statement of policy, it is expressed as a generalized, or conceptual, plan for future land use, rather than indicating specific land uses for specific parcels of land."
3. "The Plan is intended to be flexible. The Plan can be amended following the adherence to legal requirements as established in state law. Communities, and the events which affect them, are subject to change over time. The Plan is not intended to be static, but can be revised as needed to respond to change in circumstance."
4. "The Plan is a statement of policy. It is advisory in nature, setting forth the vision for the future."

Greenways Plan

The 'Greenways Plan' for the Jackson Community "identifies a network of greenways proposed throughout Jackson County. This network generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands. The network recognizes these areas as a part of Jackson County's natural system which should be preserved. The preservation of this system helps to assure high quality surface water, wildlife habitat and movement, diversity, and can be used to help define urban growth."

"Much of the Greenways Plan tends to be self-implementing. Development in wetland areas is limited by the practical difficulties associated with the development of these lands. Soils in these areas are wet, compressive strength to support development is lacking, and the cost of developing in wetland areas is high. In addition, wetlands are protected by the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994."

"The prohibition of all forms of development within this area is not necessary. Some very low-density development can be incorporated without damage to the integrity of the greenway. Roads and highways transect

the network at numerous locations throughout the County. As this Plan is further developed and implemented it may be likely that there are strategic points within the network that require some type of preservation action. In some locations the width of the greenway is very narrow. Conservation easements may be a good means of assuring continuity in these areas."

"The Greenways Plan sets a foundation for the development of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan within the natural system which exists in Jackson County. In some instances greenways may help to define urban areas and separate these urban areas from rural areas of the County."

"For all of the foresaid reasons and simply so citizens have the opportunity for contact with nature, the implementation of the Plan would significantly improve the quality of life in Jackson County."

The Land Use Plan

The "Land Use Plan sets forth a spatial vision for the future growth and development of the Jackson Community. It is intended, generally, to promote future development within areas which are currently developed. These areas tend to contain the infrastructure necessary to support growth and development. They are areas where higher densities and intensities of land use are to be encouraged. The Plan recognizes the importance of making the urban areas which exist within the County better places to live. The Plan focuses cultural amenities within these areas, and encourages beautification and redevelopment programs, and special attention to the provision of parks in neighborhood areas, and the provision of a network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways. Generally, as a matter of governmental policy development within rural areas is to be discouraged."

"The Plan identifies industrial, commercial, residential and agricultural and open space areas. Industrial areas are clustered within the community at locations where existing industrial land uses already exist, and where infrastructure is sufficiently provided, or proposed to be provided to accommodate these intense uses. As such, industrial areas are located along major transportation arteries which afford access to jobs for the residents of Jackson County, as well as transportation to other regions of the state and nation for receipt of materials for the production process, and the distribution of goods and products produced in the Jackson area."

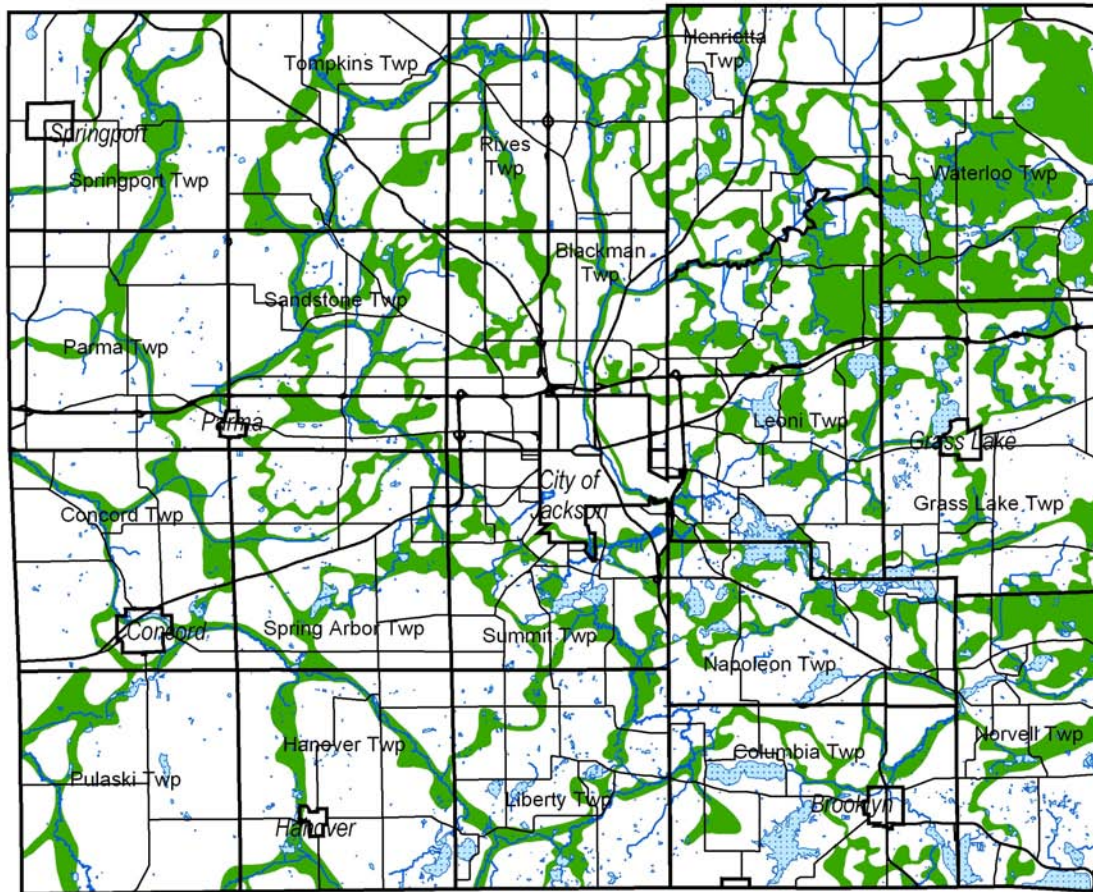
"Proposed commercial areas follow existing patterns of commercial development, and allow for commercial expansion within, and adjacent to, these commercial areas. Continued growth and development of small commercial areas in rural villages and population settlements is encouraged. Small commercial development which would serve neighborhoods, though not shown on the Plan Map, are encouraged to be developed. The Plan supports the development of commercial areas which are intensive and compact in which many commercial services are offered to customers within in a small area. This pattern of commercial development will reduce the need for automobile travel."

"The principles which have been applied to the location of industrial and commercial uses on the land use plan also apply to residential uses. Generally, areas proposed for higher intensity residential development are located in areas of existing residential development. These areas are associated with the urban area of the City of Jackson, and urbanizing portions of Blackman, Leoni, Spring Arbor, and Summit Townships."

"Additional urban development is proposed in lakes areas where sewer systems exist or are planned, and in the Village areas of Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Parma and Springport. Further development is proposed in the unincorporated areas of Michigan Center, Spring Arbor and Vandercook Lake."

"Residential development in rural areas will continue, but should not be encouraged. Within rural areas local townships should pursue and encourage clustered housing with secured, permanent open space to be preferred over large lot single family development."

"Existing agriculture should be encouraged in rural areas of the County, particularly where there are prime soils, or productive farms."

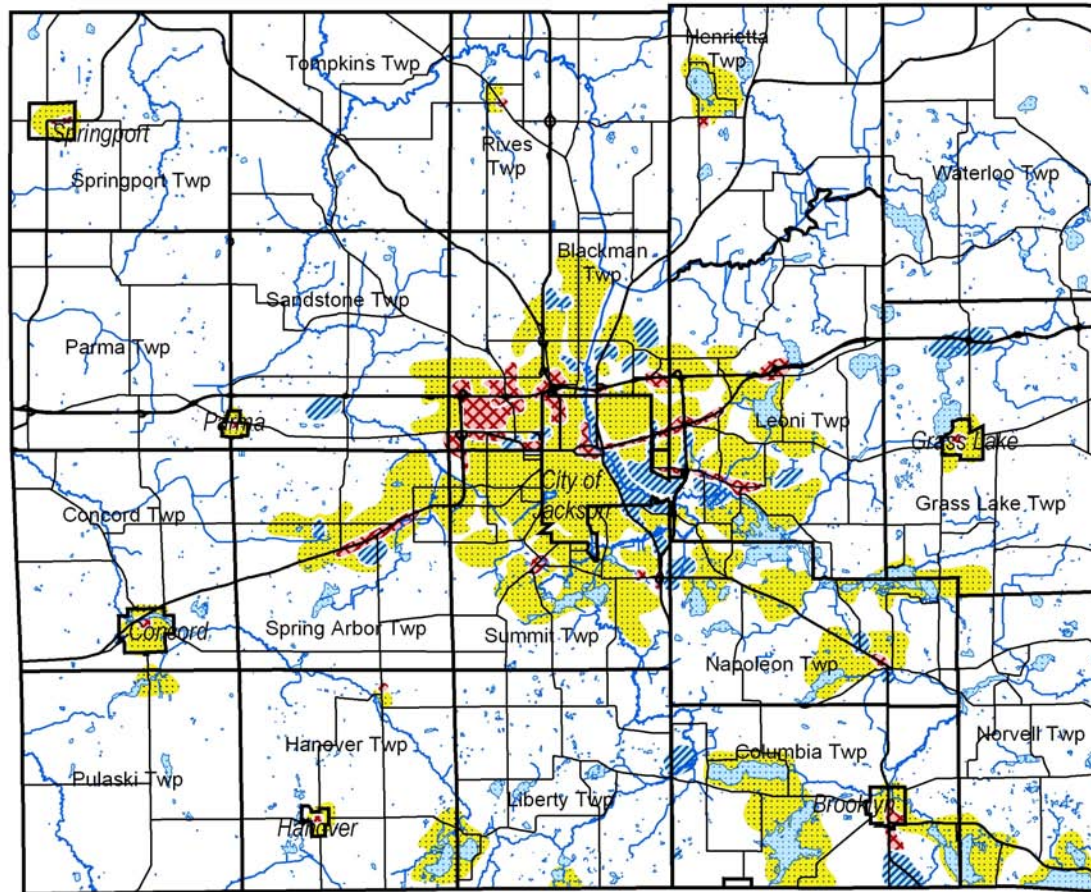


Jackson Community
Comprehensive Plan
Jackson, Michigan

Map 18
**Jackson County
Greenways Plan**

Legend
Greenways





Jackson Community
Comprehensive Plan
Jackson, Michigan

Map 19
2025
Jackson County
Land Use Plan

Legend

-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Residential



Appendix D

Recreation and Resource Inventories

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY			
PARK NAME	PROJECT NO.	YEAR	IMPROVEMENTS/USAGE
BALLFIELD COMPLEX <i>VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN</i>	BF89-458	1998	BALLFIELD COMPLEX INCLUDING FENCING, GATES, BENCHES, CONCESSIONS/BATHROOM, PORTABLE BLEACHERS, A WELL, AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORK
NAPOLEON LIONS (STETLER) PARK <i>NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP</i>	26-00847	1976	THE PARK IS CURRENTLY UTILIZED FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL DIAMONDS AND A COVERED PICNIC AREA
NAPOLEON LIONS (STETLER) AND NAPOLEON VILLAGE PARKS <i>NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP</i>	26-0123 H	1977	NAPOLEON LIONS (STETLER) PARK IS CURRENTLY UTILIZED FOR BASEBALL DIAMONDS AND A COVERED PICNIC AREA AND NAPOLEON VILLAGE PARK CONTAINS GENERAL PARK FACILITIES
AHRENS TOWNSHIP PARK <i>NORVELL TOWNSHIP</i>	26-00701	1976	THE PARK IS CURRENTLY UTILIZED FOR A BALLFIELD, PAVILIONS, AND PLAY EQUIPMENT

NRPA PARK STANDARDS

TYPE OF AREA	USE	SERVICE AREA	SIZE	ACRES/ 1,000	SITE FEATURES
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than 1/4 mile radius	1 acre or less	.25 to .50	Within neighborhoods and in proximity to apartment complexes, townhouses or housing for the elderly.
Neighborhood Park or Playground	Area for intense recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 - a neighborhood.	15 acres	1 to 2	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood populations geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school park facility
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	More than one neighborhood 1 to 2 mile radius	15+ Acres	5 to 8	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

Source: Roger A. Lancaster, Ed; 1983. Recreation, Park and Open space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, p. 56-57.

Appendix E

Notices, Resolutions, Letters, Etc.

Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan

Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission Brochure

Recreation Survey

(Circle Your Answers and Return to Your Township/Village Hall)

- 1) Do you believe that adequate recreational opportunities and facilities are provided to Area residents?

Yes No N/A

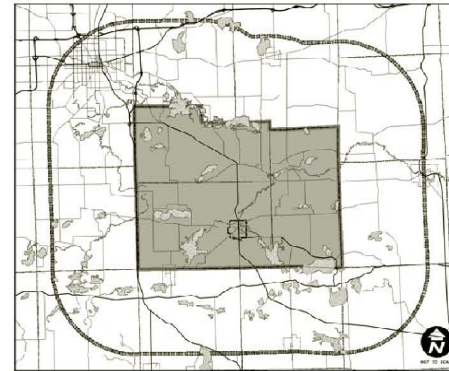
- 2) How many times have you visited an Area park or recreation facility in the past 12 months?

None 1-10 11-20 >20

- 3) What types of recreational facilities and services would you like to see provided to Area residents?

Multiuse Trails	Ice Skating
Field Hockey	Skiing
Basketball/Softball	Swimming
Tennis	Volleyball
Soccer	Frisbee Courses
Tetherball	Obstacle Courses
Rock Climbing Wall	Sledding
Skateboard Park	Other
Water Park	_____
Football	_____

Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission



Help to guide the development of new recreation facilities within the Heart of the Lakes Area:

- ✕ Norvell Township
- ✕ Napoleon Township
- ✕ Columbia Township
- ✕ Village of Brooklyn

The Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell recently joint together to plan for new recreation opportunities for the people living in the Heart of the Lakes Area.

Area Population Summary

- ✖ The Area is projected to keep growing from 17,118 people in 2000 to 18,388 people in 2010.
- ✖ People of all ages are residents of the Area although a third of the population belongs to the Baby Boom Generation and another quarter belong to older generations.
- ✖ People with a disability comprise more than 17% of Area residents.

Area Recreation Providers

Local governments are not the only providers of recreation facilities in the Heart of the Lakes Area.

- ✖ Local schools provide a number of community-wide facilities.
- ✖ State and County governments provide a variety of regional parks and facilities.
- ✖ Private groups also provide recreational facilities within the Area.
- ✖ The Irish Hills, historic homes, and nearby shops and restaurants also provide recreation opportunities.

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- ✖ The Irish Hills, historic homes, and nearby shops and restaurants also provide recreation opportunities.

Your Help Is Needed

Despite those resources, there are still unmet recreation needs in the Heart of the Lakes Area. Your help is needed in developing its first recreation plan. You can do this by:

- ✖ Providing comments to your local government:

Norvell Township

536-4370 or aulbin@bignet.net

Napoleon Township

536-8108 or supervisor@napoleontownship.us

Columbia Township

592-2000 or justbecuz@yahoo.com

Village of Brooklyn

592-2591 or powerproinc@yahoo.com

- ✖ Attending the open house:
 - Saturday, July 8, 2006
 - Napoleon Township Hall
 - One pm to Four pm
- ✖ Reading and commenting on the Plan during its one-month review period from September 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006.
- ✖ Filling out the survey on the next page.

The Exponent Informational Piece

Brooklyn Exponent Legal Notice

Classifieds

THE BROOKLYN EXPONENT — TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007 — PAGE 4C

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449 Marshall St., Brooklyn. Commercial condo, full basement. 780 sq. ft. \$102,900.

451 Marshall St., Brooklyn. Commercial condo. Full basement. 780 sq. ft. \$97,900.

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Lot 5, Liberty Woods. Located in Liberty Township's fastest growing community. \$29,900, possible land contract.

Lot 63, Tims Lake Preserve. Located in Grass Lake Township.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

The Village of Brooklyn, Columbia School District, and the townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell joined in 2006 to form the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission and to develop a coordinated recreation plan for the Heart of the Lakes area. The document identifies the recreational needs and desires of area residents and provides a plan of action for realizing them. The plan also makes area governments eligible to receive state and federal funding for recreation improvements.

The recreation plan is available for public review and comment prior to adoption by the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission and its member units of local government. The plan may be viewed in the offices for the Townships of Norvell, Napoleon and Columbia, the Village of Brooklyn, and the Columbia School District, as well as the Brooklyn and Napoleon branches of the Jackson District Library. The plan is also for review online at www.villageofbrooklyn.org (Village of Brooklyn), www.twp.columbia.mi.us/ (Columbia Township), www.napoleon-township.us/ (Napoleon Township), and <http://senc.csd.k12.mi.us/> (Columbia School District). Comments may be directed to:


Grant E. Bauman, AICP
R2PC Principal Planner & Secretary
Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission
120 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201
Phone: (517) 768-6711
Facsimile: (517) 788-4635
email: gbauman@co.jackson.mi.us

A public hearing on the recreation plan will also be held before the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the board room of the:

Napoleon Township Hall
6755 Brooklyn Road
Napoleon, Michigan 49261

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Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission Resolution



Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission
Serving Columbia, Napoleon, & Norvell Townships and
the Village of Brooklyn, Jackson County, Michigan
Staffed by the Region 2 Planning Commission

RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE 2007-2012 HEART OF THE LAKES AREA RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell, the Village of Brooklyn, and the Columbia School District have joined together to form the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission has prepared a 2007-2012 Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, such Plan has been developed based upon a number of factors and includes planned parks and recreation developments through 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing on January 11, 2007, after providing a legal notice in the Jackson Citizen Patriot and the Brooklyn Exponent, to receive comments on the proposed Plan; and


WHEREAS, the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission wishes to submit the Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval and qualification for funding applications for a five-year period; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission approves and adopts the 2007-2012 Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan and authorizes submission of same to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Ron Martin, Chair
Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission
January 11, 2007

120 West Michigan Avenue • Jackson, Michigan 49201 • ☎ (517) 788-4426 • 📠 (517) 788-4635

Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission
Serving Columbia, Napoleon, & Norvell Townships and
the Village of Brooklyn, Jackson County, Michigan
Staffed by the Region 2 Planning Commission

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Community Representatives Present: JB DeJeu of the Village of Brooklyn; Denise Butler & Ron Martin of Napoleon Township; and John Weaver & Adam Ullin of Norvell Township

Community Representatives Absent: Bob Seighart & Chuck Stroda of the Village of Brooklyn; Roger Gaeke, Ray Kuzminski, & Pam Jarvis of Columbia Township; Dick Tallman of Napoleon Township; Claude Massengill of Norvell Township; and Ann Dyjach of the Columbia School District

Grant Bauman, Secretary

Staff and Others Present:

Item 1 Call to order
Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Item 2 Pledge of allegiance
Commission members participated in the pledge of allegiance.

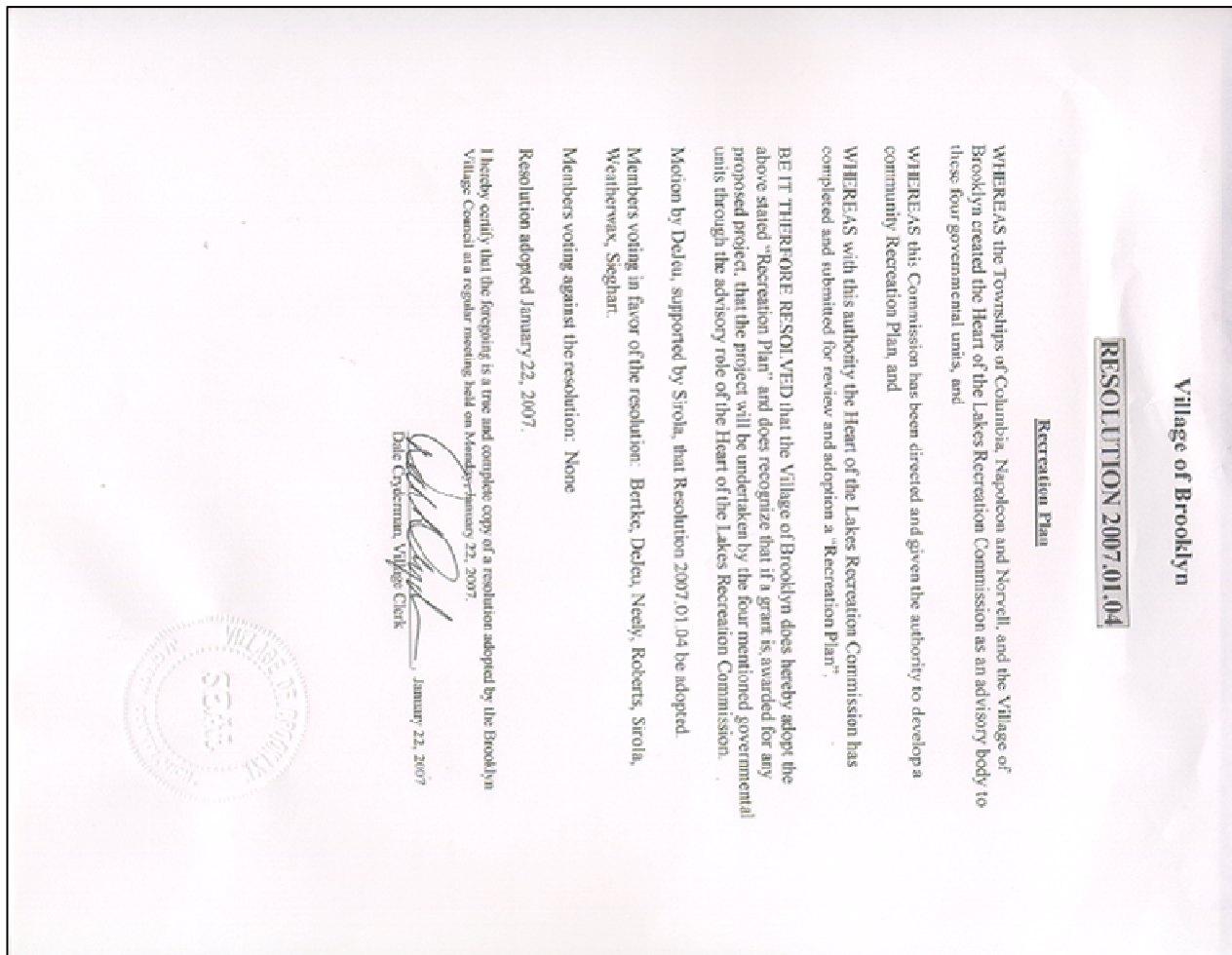
Item 3 Approve the Recreation Plan
Chairman Martin called the Public Hearing to order at 7 p.m.
Grant Bauman, Secretary, provided an overview of the project. A copy of the Action Program and Proposed Facilities Map was provided to those present.
Bauman asked for public comment. Bob Janson asked if the trails would be compatible for the Americans with disabilities; Judy Reynolds asked if there had been grant research.
The public hearing was closed. 7:20 p.m.
Motion by Butler seconded by DeJeu, and unanimously approved to adopt the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Plan as amended.
The draft minutes of the June 3, 2006 meeting of the Commission were reviewed by the Commissioners.
A motion was made by Comm. Butler and seconded by Comm. DeJeu to approve the Recreation Plan, as amended. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 4 Other Business
It was announced that the next action of the Commission would be a special meeting for any local unit of the Commission wishing to apply for grants, unless other business is necessary.

Item 6 Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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Village of Brooklyn Resolution



Columbia School District Resolution

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Columbia Board of Education has reviewed the 2007 Heart of the Lakes Recreational Committee's Recreational Plan and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Columbia Board of Education does support the Plan so that the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Committee may solicit private and public grants for Park and Recreational projects that benefit Columbia School District community students, staff and community.

William Spence
President, Board of Education

Burt Bernick
Superintendent

Motion offered by Mahr _____

Supported by Schudeljer _____

Roll Call: Aye 7 Nay 0

Absent _____

April 9, 2007

Columbia Township Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Columbia township Board has reviewed the 2007 Heart of the Lakes Recreational Committee's Recreational Plan and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, THAT THE Columbia township Board does support it so that the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Committee may solicit private and public grants for Park and Recreational projects that benefit Columbia township residents and visitors.

Resolution offered by: Calhoun supported by Baker

ROLL CALL: AYE: Kuzminski, Calhoun, Oczarszak, Baker, Beamish, Raczkowski

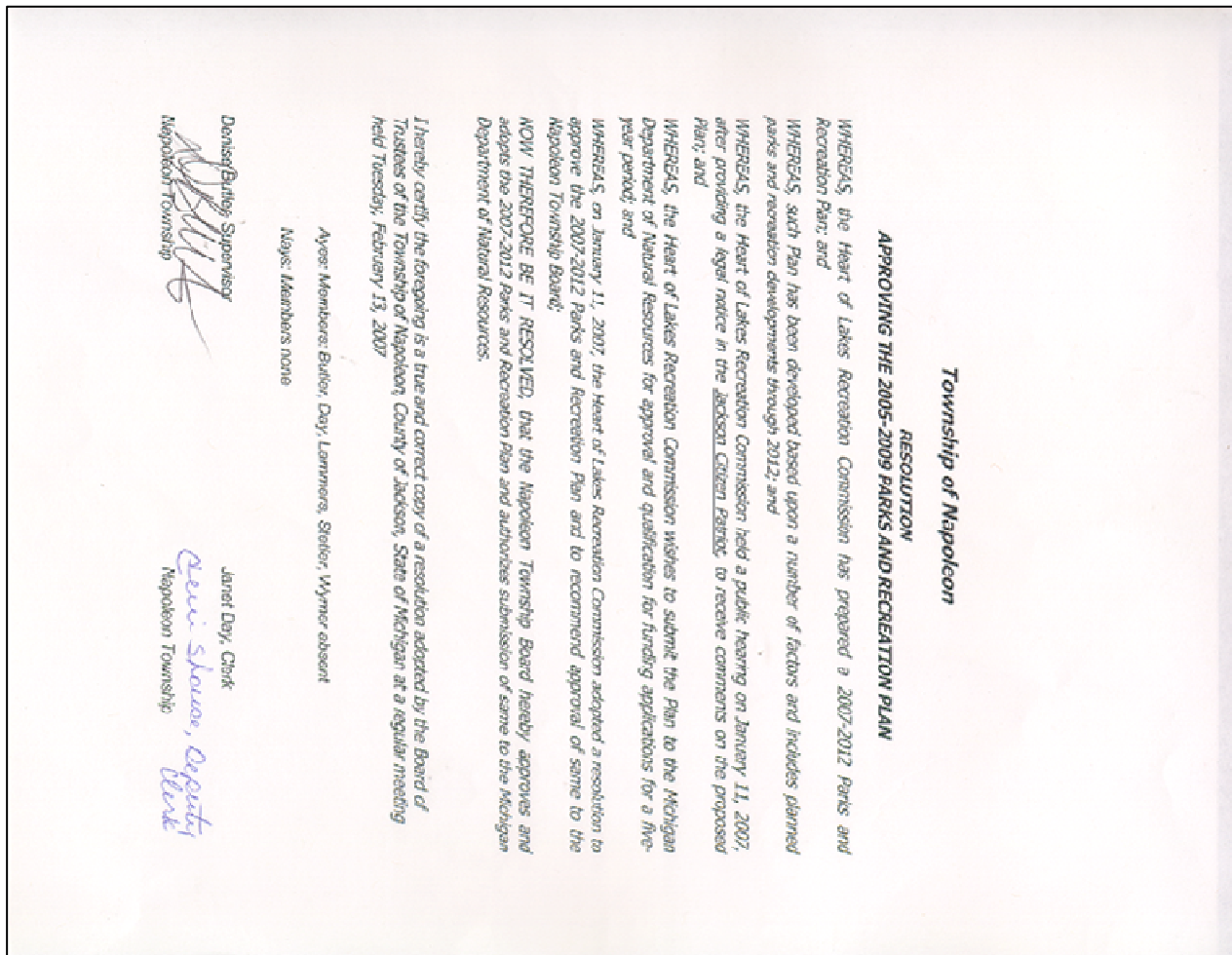
NAY: None

ABSENT: Hubert

Resolution declared adopted.

RECEIVED
APR 02 2007
By

Napoleon Township Resolution



Norvell Township Resolution

The Township of Norvell

P.O. Box 168
Norvell Michigan, 49763
(517) 536-4370
Fax (517) 536-0110

ADAM G. ULBIN, SUPERVISOR ANNE M. HAGADORN, CLERK ROSEMARY SAHLEN, TREASURER
PAM JOHNSON, TRUSTEE ROSE SMITH, TRUSTEE

Resolution 07-02

A Resolution Approving the 2007- 2012 Parks and Recreation Plan

WHEREAS, the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission has prepared a 2007-2012 Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, such plan has been developed based upon a number of factors and includes planned parks and recreation developments through 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission held a public hearing on January 11, 2007 after providing a legal notice in the Jackson Citizen Patriot, to receive comments on the proposed Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission wishes to submit the Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval and qualification for funding applications for a five year period; and

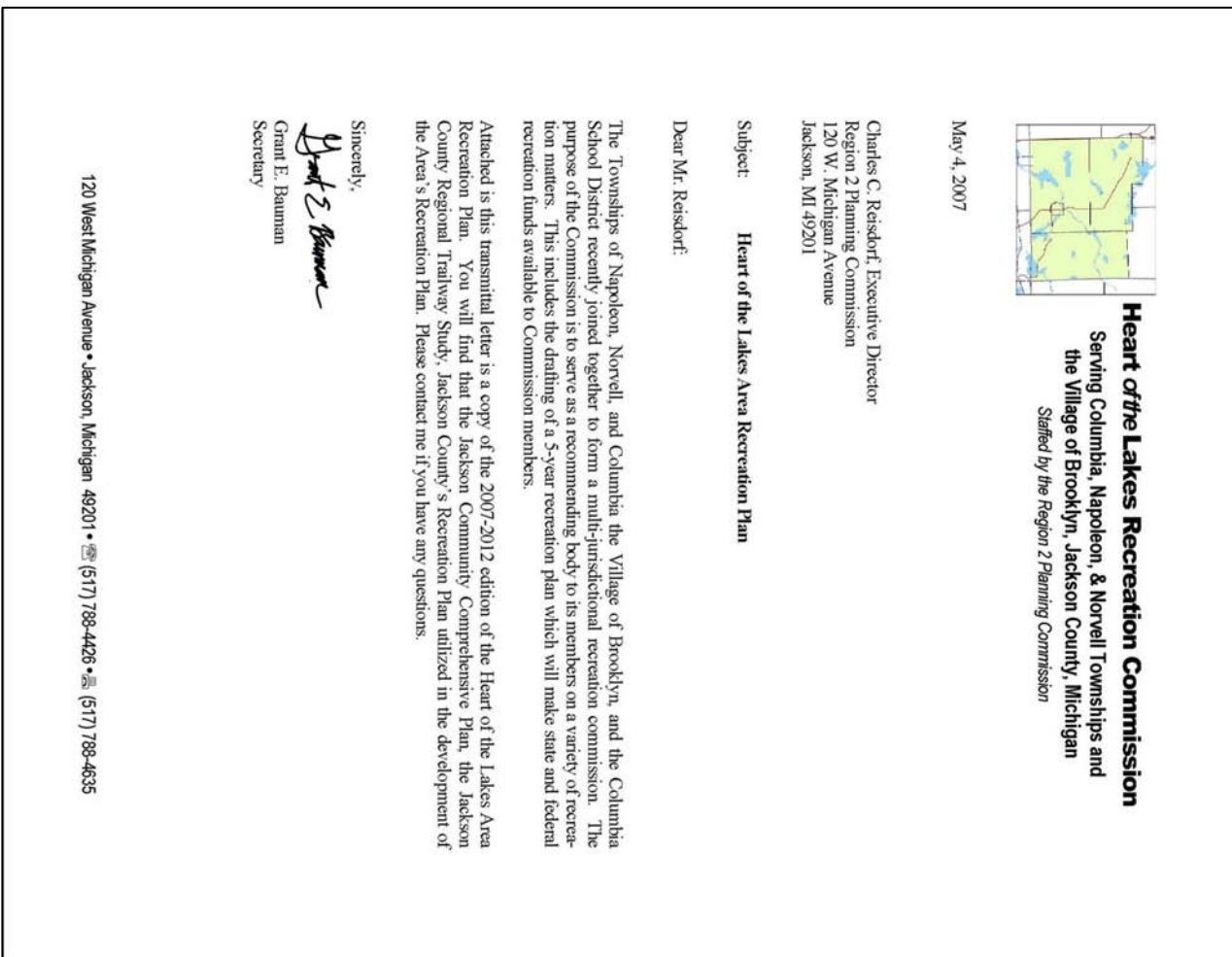
WHEREAS, on January 11, 2007, the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Commission adopted a resolution to approve the 2007- 2012 Parks and Recreation Plan and to recommend approval of the same to the Norvell Township Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Norvell Township Board hereby approves and adopts the 2007 - 2012 Parks and Recreation Plan and authorizes submission of same to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Township of Norvell, County of Jackson, State of Michigan at a regular meeting held Wednesday, April 11, 2007.

Ayes: Johnson, Hagadorn, Smith, Ulbin, Sauters.
Nays: None
Anne M. Hagadorn
Anne M. Hagadorn, Norvell Township Clerk

Region 2 Planning Commission Transmittal Letter



Jackson County Transmittal Letter

