

# Edenville Township Community Recreation Plan 2022-26



***DRAFT DOCUMENT 12-21-2021***

***Edenville Township  
Community Recreation Plan  
2022-26***

***Plan Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2022***

**Township Board**

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Jim Sperling, Trustee

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**Prepared By:**

**Edenville Township Parks and Recreation Committee  
with the Assistance of PM Blough, Inc.**

**PMB**

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Community Recreation Plan is developed to focus on recreational needs and how to address them over the next five years and beyond. The key focus of this document is for the years 2022-2026 and this document as adopted will replace the previous plan, *Edenville Township, Community Recreation Plan 2011-2015*.

The people of Edenville Township, Michigan see themselves at the center of one of the most beautiful and hospitable communities in all of Michigan. The Edenville area abounds in natural resources that furnish abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation. This plan sets forth a blueprint to create the best facilities, activities, and programs for all its citizens and visitors by placing the Village of Edenville at the hub of recreational activities for the township and the surrounding area. By developing more access to, and facilities for the use and enjoyment of its water resources and by establishing trails that will course in and around the village and ultimately connect with the Pere Marquette Trail, Edenville Township can begin to fulfill its recreational potential.

In updating the plan, the existing plan was reviewed, and key pieces of information updated including the recreation inventory, Goals and Objectives and a new descriptive Action Program of future recreational projects were developed.

The plan was prepared by the Township with the assistance of recreation planning consultant, PM Blough, Inc. The preparation of this document included opportunities for public participation, an electronic survey and a month of public review time for the draft document, and a formal public hearing held by the Township Board.

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

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The Community Description section of the plan describes the jurisdiction of the recreation plan and background information for Edenville Township.

### RECREATION PLAN JURISDICTION

This Community Recreation Plan is prepared solely for Edenville Township located in the north central portion of Midland County extending south from the north county line. Midland County is located in the central portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan. The Township encompasses about 22,976 total acres (35.9 square miles).

### POPULATION

The population of Edenville Township in the 2010 U.S. Census was 2,551 persons, which was a 0.9% increase from the 2000 Census. 2020 Census data has not been released at the time of this writing; however current non-census data obtained via [www.hometownlocator.com](http://www.hometownlocator.com) indicates that the population has decreased slightly by approximately 0.14% since 2010 with a current approximate population of 2,513 persons.

### COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Edenville Township was erected by the Board of Supervisors of Midland County in 1873. The Township encompasses about 22,976 total acres (35.9 square miles). The primary water system that courses through the township is the Tittabawassee River. There are several smaller tributaries that eventually empty into the river in various locations. These tributaries include Verity Creek in the central part of the township, Black Creek in the south central portion of the township, Mud Creek on the western side, and Bluff Creek, found in the southwestern corner of the township. The original Tittabawassee River shoreline, through the construction of two hydroelectric dams, has been widened into the impounded Sanford Lake. One of the dams is located just north of the Edenville Township limits and the other is south of the township in the village of Sanford. Sanford Lake runs parallel with and lies from one to two miles west of the eastern Edenville Township boundary. Both dams that created Sanford Lake were breached in 2020, significantly lowering the water level between the shorelines, resulting in a new river channel within the old lake bed.

### TITTABAWASSEE RIVER STATE FOREST

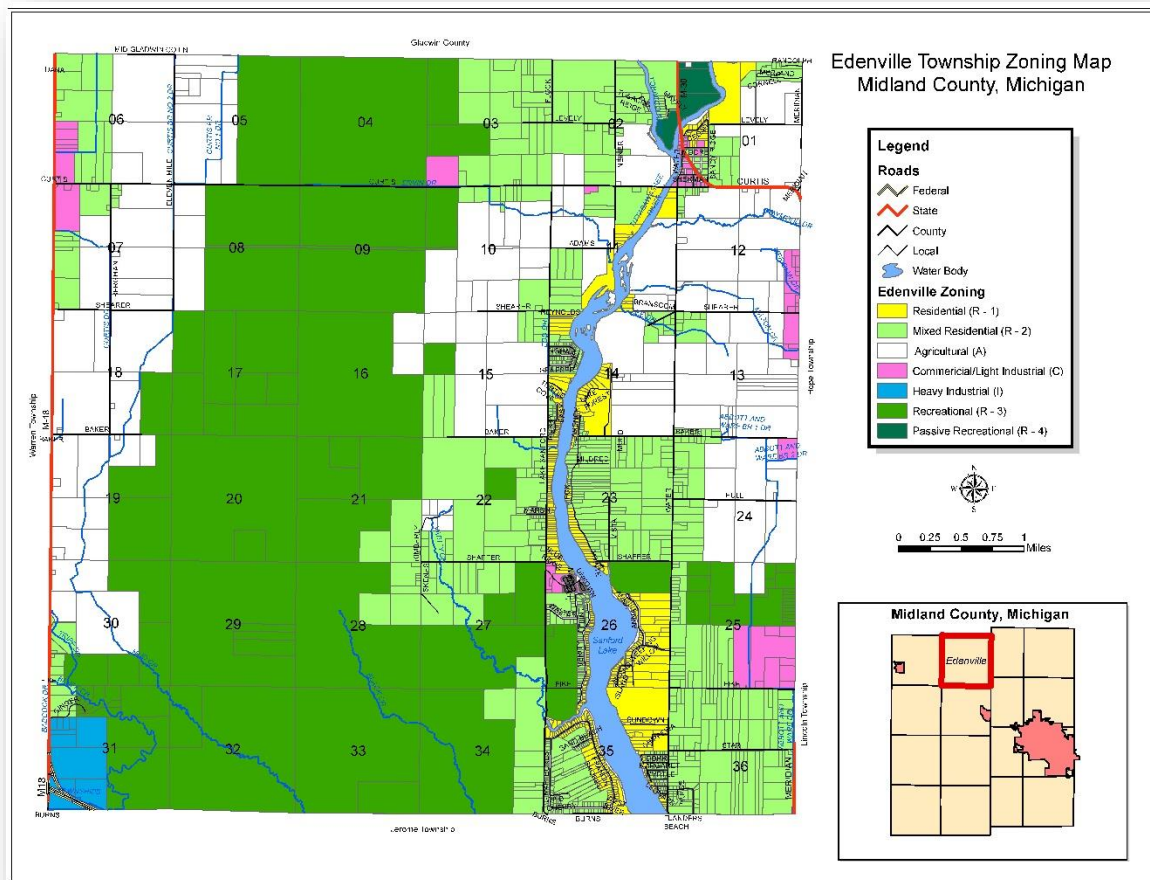
A valuable resource to the township is the Au Sable State Forest with over 8,320 acres of land covering over one third of the township primarily in the central portion from the north township boundary line to the southern limits and beyond. This state forest provides the area with a rich variety of habitat types. These areas range from less than an acre to several hundred or more acres in size. Some of these habitats include dry-mesic northern forests that are pine or pine-hardwood dominated communities often found on glacial lake plains.



## ZONING DISTRICTS

There are eight zoning districts within Edenville Township, two of which are recreational in nature. Of the districts governed by the zoning ordinance, the Recreational Districts comprises more than half of the township. Agricultural and Residential areas make up most of the remainder of the area. The Business and Industrial Districts are the smallest districts and are located mostly around the perimeter of the township.

## EDENVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING



## **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

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The Administrative Structure section of the plan provides background information regarding the structure and operation of the Township administration and parks.

### **GENERAL LAW TOWNSHIP AND TOWNSHIP BOARD**

Edenville is a general law township with a township board overseeing daily operations and budget expenditures. Programs and activities are planned with a variety of community groups and county agencies. Maintenance and capital improvements are typically performed on a contractual basis, although there have been significant volunteer efforts in both areas.

### **ROLE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

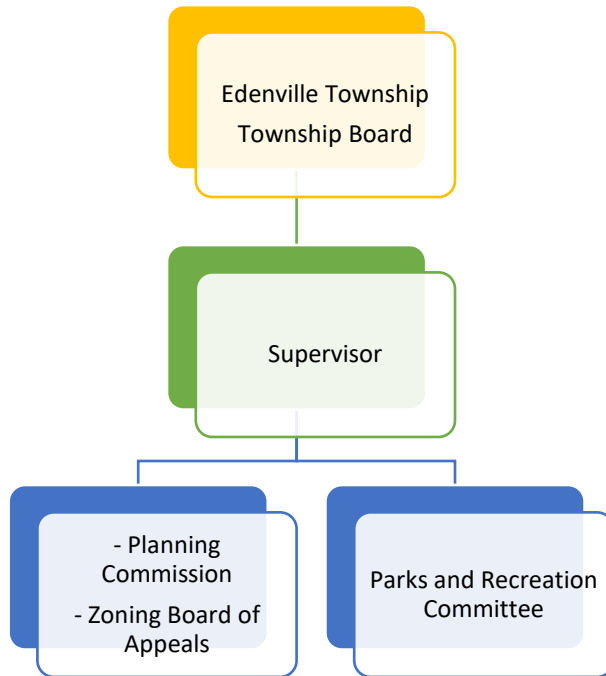
The township's Parks and Recreation Committee is an advisory committee of volunteer community members and reports directly to the Township Board. The Parks and Recreation Committee meets monthly and are charged with managing the 5-year rec plan and assist the Township in the administration of the parks. This coordination of efforts helps to provide the best facilities and opportunities for recreation for all its citizens and visitors to the area.

Edenville Township will endeavor to make its parks and recreation programs open and accessible to all its citizens. The township maintains a policy of not only constructing its new facilities to meet barrier-free standards, but all repairs and improvements are done to these specifications. All programs run by the township and those carried out by the county, school district or other agencies are designed to include the handicapped and structured so that all may afford them.

### **DEPARTMENT, AUTHORITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

The parks and recreation facilities are owned by the Township. Maintenance and operation of the parks is completed by maintenance contractors and community volunteers and are overseen by the Parks & Rec Committee. There is not a specifically designated park director, park maintenance staff, nor programming staff. Overall day to day administration of the parks is the responsibility of the Township Board.





### ANNUAL BUDGET

The primary funding for park operation and maintenance is through the Parks & Rec Fund of the Township. The budget for 2021-22 is \$150,000, which includes a onetime insurance settlement of \$100,000. Expenditures included \$8,100 in operating supplies and \$130,000 in capital improvement projects. Some additional park maintenance was conducted by the Department of Public Works.

### CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding sources for parks operation, maintenance, and recreational programing, as well as capital improvements are provided via the Township General and Parks and Rec funds. Additional funds for capital improvements within the Township are also funded through grants when available.

### ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Parks and Recreation Committee is made up of five volunteer community members who meet monthly and are responsible for managing the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. The Committee, chartered in 2010, sets goals based on the Plan and assists the Township in achieving those goals. The Committee actively pursues recreational possibilities and projects throughout the Township and in cooperation with Midland County and other groups such as the Midland Area Community Foundation and other civic and volunteer groups.

### **RELATIONSHIP WITH EDENVILLE COMMUNITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Edenville Township is served by the Meridian School District and the Coleman School District. Most of the students attend the Meridian School District. There are two schools located in the Township, one is a public school, Hillside School, currently owned by Meridian School District, but being leased to Educational Service Agency for special education and is located on W Baker Road. There are no public outdoor facilities located at this school. The second school is the Seventh Day Adventist School, a private parochial school located on N. Meridian Road. The Township does not currently have any programming relationships with the schools.

## RECREATION INVENTORY

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The Recreation Inventory section of the plan provides information on the existing recreational lands and opportunities that exist for the residents within the community. The inventory has significantly changed since the previous plan and was impacted by the loss of Sanford Lake due to the failure of the Edenville and Sanford Dams in 2020.

### DESCRIPTION OF METHODS USED TO CONDUCT THE INVENTORY

The updated parks inventory was conducted in May of 2021 by members of the Parks and Recreation Committee and consultant Pam Blough, PLA, of PM Blough, Inc, the planning consultant. Each Park was reviewed for updated facilities and ADA accessibility, as well as reviewed for potential future improvements.

Edenville Township has four parks: Baker Rd End Park, Gransden Park, Harper Park and the Playground and Walking Trail at Swanton Memorial Center. A description of each of the parks is included below and a location map of each site is located within this section.

The map displays the Edenville area with several parks and recreational sites highlighted. Key locations include:

- RIVER TRAILS MIDLAND COUNTY PARK** (top right)
- GRANDSEN PARK** (top center)
- HARPER PARK** (top center)
- EDENVILLE TOWNSHIP MUSEUM AND PLAYGROUND AT SWANTON MEMORIAL CENTER** (top center)
- TITTABAWASSEE RIVER STATE FOREST** (large green area on the left)
- BAKER RD END PARK** (bottom right)

The map also shows the **Tittabawassee River** flowing through the area and various roads including **W CURTIS RD**, **W BAKER RD**, and **W FULLER RD**. The town of **Edenville** is labeled in the center.

**LEGEND:**

- STATE FOREST
- EDENVILLE TOWNSHIP PARKS
- MIDLAND COUNTY PARKS





### BAKER ROAD – LESS THAN 1 ACRE

This public greenspace is located at the western most end of Baker Rd. in Edenville Township, where Fox Rd. and Clarence Ct. meet. The public Right of Way currently has a stepped access to the temporary riverbank which was installed in 2021 concurrently with a new storm water pipe system.



BAKER RD END PARK  
BOUNDARY MAP



DEC, 2021



### GRANSDEN PARK – 1.7 ACRES

Gransden Park is located at 425 W. Moore Street in Edenville. The Park was established in 1969 and is dedicated to Lyle and Flora Gransden for their contributions and devotion to Edenville Township and the Community. Facilities at the park include a baseball/softball field, a basketball hoop at the parking lot, a playground containing a variety of items, pavilion, and parking lot (additional parking is available at the Fire House across the street). The pavilion contains 6 picnic tables, a grill, 2 trash cans and electricity. A porta-john is available year-round.



GRANSDEN PARK  
BOUNDARY MAP



DEC, 2021







### HARPER PARK – LESS THAN 1 ACRE

Harper Park is located Along the banks of the Tittabawassee River at 6625 N. Water Road. Facilities include a pavilion with picnic tables, a viewing platform, parking lot and ADA accessible fishing pier. Temporary restroom facilities are also provided. Due to the loss of the lake in 2020, the fishing pier is temporarily unavailable. Park is located within 0.2 miles of the Township Offices. There is a public walkway connector to the Township Hall and Gransden Park. (See Gransden Park map for walkway location)



HARPER PARK  
BOUNDARY MAP

**PMB**  
PM Blough, Inc.

DEC, 2021





### SWANTON MEMORIAL CENTER AND PLAYGROUND

The Swanton Memorial Center is used for special events and rented out for other events, such as weddings and funerals. The Edenville Township Museum is located on the south side of the parking lot. The playground is located on the grounds. In recent years several outdoor recreational facilities have been added; a play structure with a park bench and picnic table nearby, a basketball hoop at the edge of the parking facility and a 0.1 mile walking path around the Water Tower.



EDENVILLE TOWNSHIP MUSEUM AND PLAYGROUND  
AT SWANTON MEMORIAL CENTER  
BOUNDARY MAP



DEC, 2021





## ADA Accessibility Assessment of Existing Park Facilities

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The *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* prepared by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management Division requires the completion of an Accessibility Assessment. This Plan includes the following areas directed to the identification and planning for ADA and Universal Accessibility.

### ADA Park Review and Assessment

This assessment was completed in each park during the individual park tours and the information has been incorporated into the planning process.

### Individual Park Inventory Sheets

A brief description of the accessibility of each park is included for public information in the above park inventory information.

### ADA Accessibility Assessment

An ADA accessibility Assessment is included at the end of this section which summarizes the accessibility of the parks within the community based on the MDNR Accessibility Ranking System further discussed below.

### Goals and Objectives:

The Township included future Goals and Objectives for improving ADA accessibility within the parks through renovation and future development projects. These are included in the Goals and Objectives Section.

### Action Plan and Future Projects

The Township embraces the commitment to make the parks more accessible. As they renovate and improve the existing parks the facilities are being upgraded and made more accessible. New facilities are incorporating the principals of Universal Design from the initial design through construction. These projects are being accomplished as funding is available for park improvements.

### MDNR ADA Accessibility Ranking System

The MDNR planning booklet provides a ranking system was updated in November of 2018 to the following to be utilized in evaluating public parks and open spaces. This ranking system is based on the following:

- 1= none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2= some of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 3= most of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 4= all of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 5= the facility meets the Principals of Universal Design

Barrier Free Accessibility Requirements for Parks, within the guideline's booklet, provides the following written comments regarding parks and accessibility.

*"Recreational areas, facilities, and programs play an important role in the life of the community; therefore, it is essential that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these areas and any programs provided. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and these laws apply to parks and other recreation lands and programs controlled and operated by local units of government. The DNR has a strong commitment to barrier free recreational opportunities in our Department-managed programs and facilities. This commitment extends to those communities that receive recreation grants.*

*Under the state Utilization of Public Facilities by the Physically Limited Act (Public Act 1 of 1966, as amended) all facilities, including improved areas used for recreation, must meet the barrier free design requirements contained in the state construction code. Under this act, the administration and enforcement related to barrier free design requirements are vested in the local or state government agency responsible for issuing a building permit. If the project does not require a building permit, administration and enforcement of barrier free design requirements are vested in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.*

*Any request for an exception to the barrier free design requirements of the state construction code must be submitted to the Barrier Free Design Board, within the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. (517-241-9328). The Barrier Free Design board has the responsibility to receive, review, and process requests for exceptions to barrier free design specifications; require appropriate equivalent alternatives when exceptions are granted; and receive, process, and make recommendations for barrier free design rules.*

*The Department of Justice published revised regulations for Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 "ADA" in the Federal Register on September 15, 2010. These regulations adopted revised, enforceable accessibility standards called the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, "2010 Standards or Standards". The 2010 Standards set minimum requirements—both scoping and technical—for newly designed and constructed or altered state and local government facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The Federal Standards have precedence over State codes.*

*Adoption of the 2010 Standards also established a revised reference point for Title II entities (public entities-State or local government) that choose to make structural changes to existing facilities to meet their program accessibility requirements and it establishes a similar reference for Title III entities (places of public accommodation) undertaking readily achievable barrier removal.*

*Because the state construction code and 2010 Standard does not apply to many recreation facilities, it is essential that you also be aware of and understand the existing federal*

*guidelines covering these types of facilities. On September 26, 2013 The Federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (known as the Access Board) issued updated guidelines, entitled the Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. These guidelines are enforceable under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards for federal agencies on November 26, 2013. They should eventually be adopted as enforceable standards for Title II and III agencies, but until that occurs, the existing ADA Standards must be followed when the two conflict.*

*Included in the Outdoor Guidelines are technical provisions for the number and types of recreation facilities including camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails and beach access routes. While none of these guidelines has yet been adopted for Title II and Title III agencies, they represent the best information available on developing barrier free recreation facilities. Questions regarding 2010 ADA standards and the Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor developed Areas should be directed to the Department of Justice ADA Technical Assistance, 800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (TTY)."*

### **ADA Accessibility Review**

An ADA accessibility review was conducted in each park. A summary of the findings is given below and rated based on the above MDNR standards.

#### **Baker Rd End Park**

Baker Rd End Park is a public access intended to provide visual and physical access the Tittabawassee River. The access site received a MDNR rating of 1=none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design as the site is mostly undeveloped. As facilities are constructed, they will be designed to meet the ADA Standards.

#### **Gransden Park**

Gransden Park is an active recreation park that includes a ball field, basketball, pavilion and play areas. The Park received a MDNR rating of 2=some of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The picnic pavilion is accessible from the existing parking lot. Should improvements be made to this park, all of the facilities will be designed to meet the ADA Standards.

#### **Harper Park**

Harper Park's primary purpose is to provide access for viewing and fishing at the Tittabawassee River. The Park received a MDNR rating of 3=some of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The park provides ADA accessible access to a fishing pier and observation deck. However, the existing picnic pavilion area is not currently accessible. As improvements are made to this park, all the new facilities will be designed to meet the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.



### **Swanton Memorial Center and Playground**

The Playground at Swanton Center outdoor facilities include a play area and a walking path. The Park received a MDNR rating of 2=some of the facilities meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The newer walking path is accessible; however, the current play area is not. ADA accessible parking is provided in the parking lot. Future improvements will be designed to meet the ADA standards for accessible design.

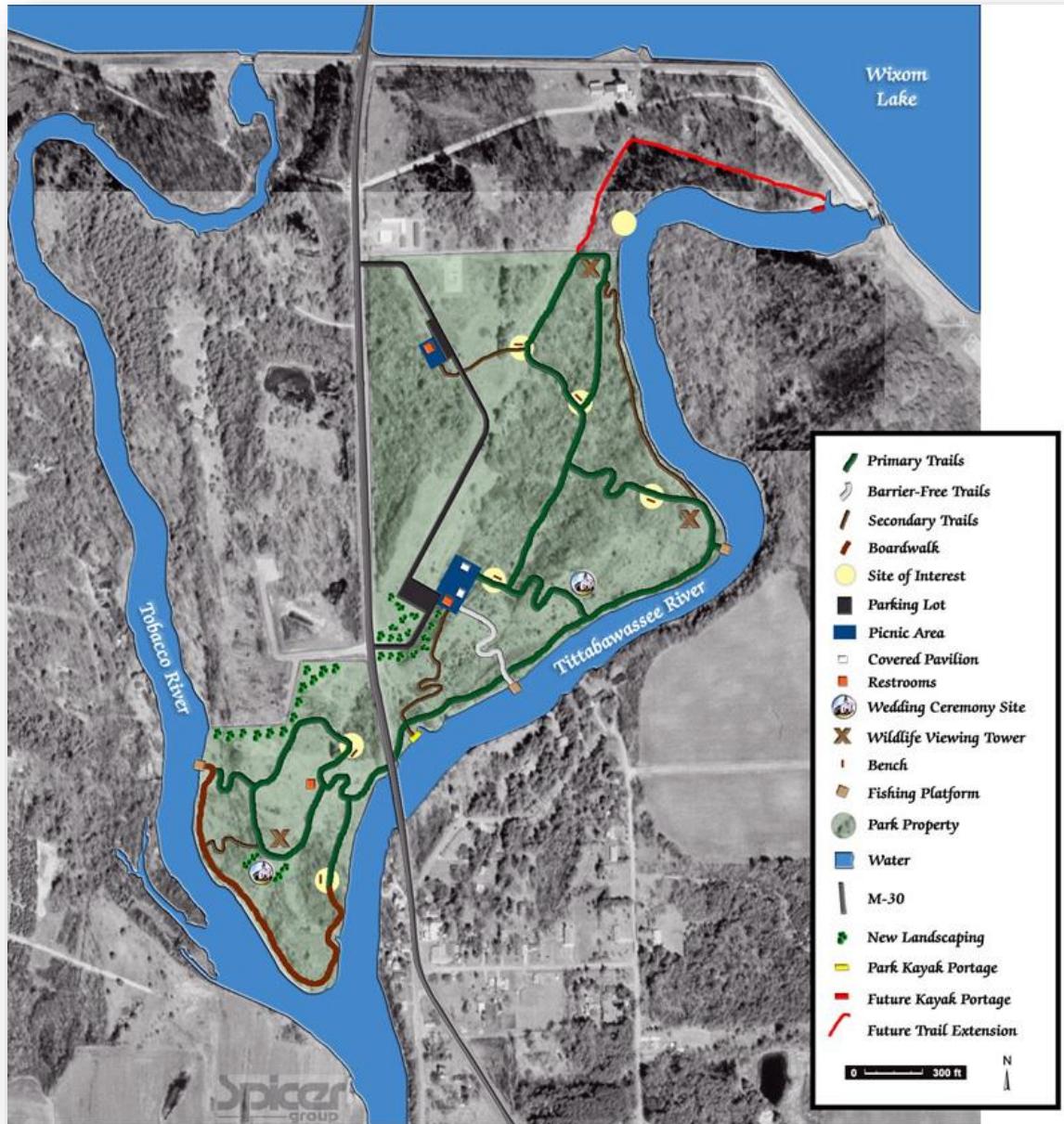
## MIDLAND COUNTY PARKS

Midland County owns and operates seven public parks within the County, one of which is located in Edenville Township. These parks include the following parks and additional information on the parks can be found on the Midland County website including the Midland County Community Recreation Plan.

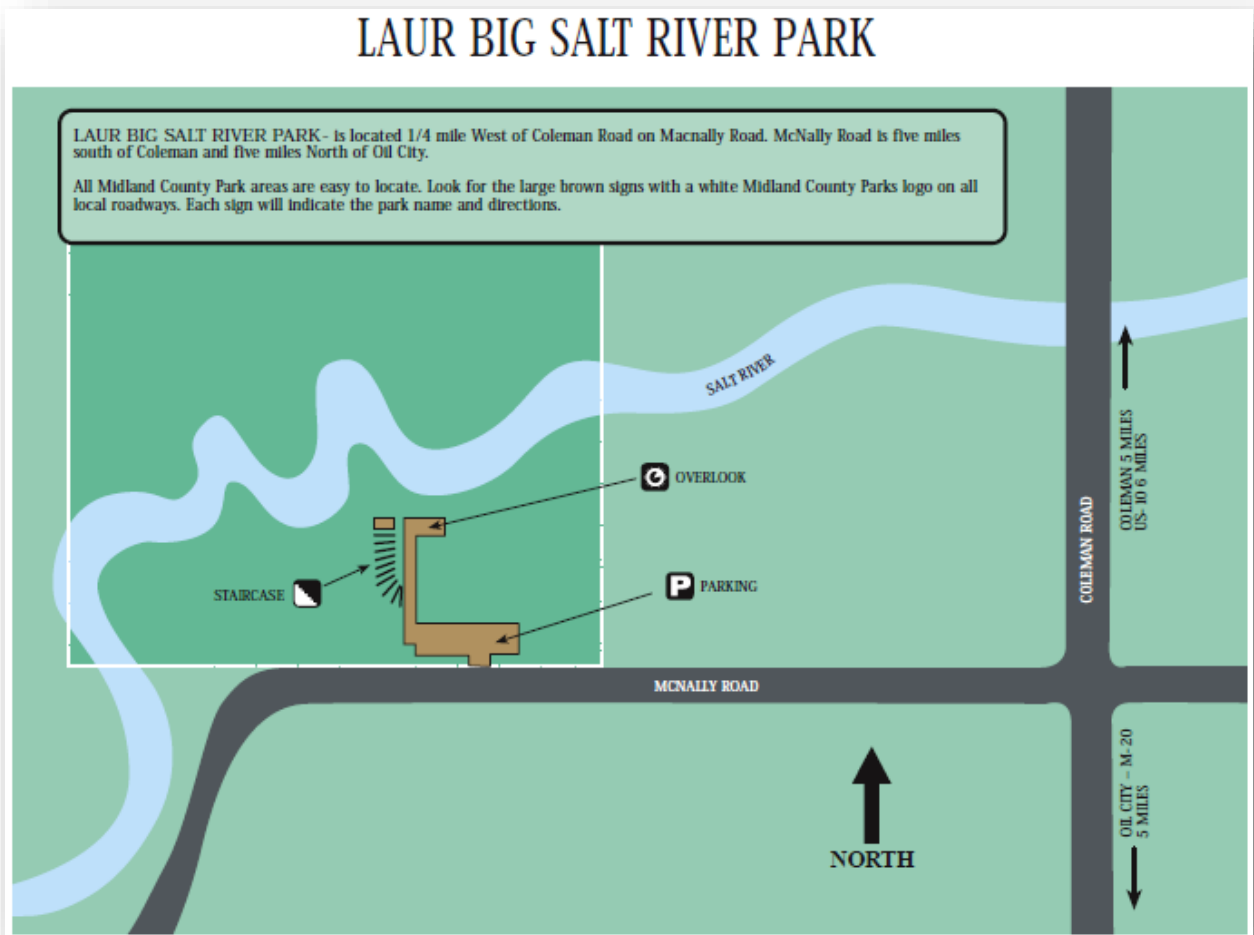


### River Trails Heritage Park

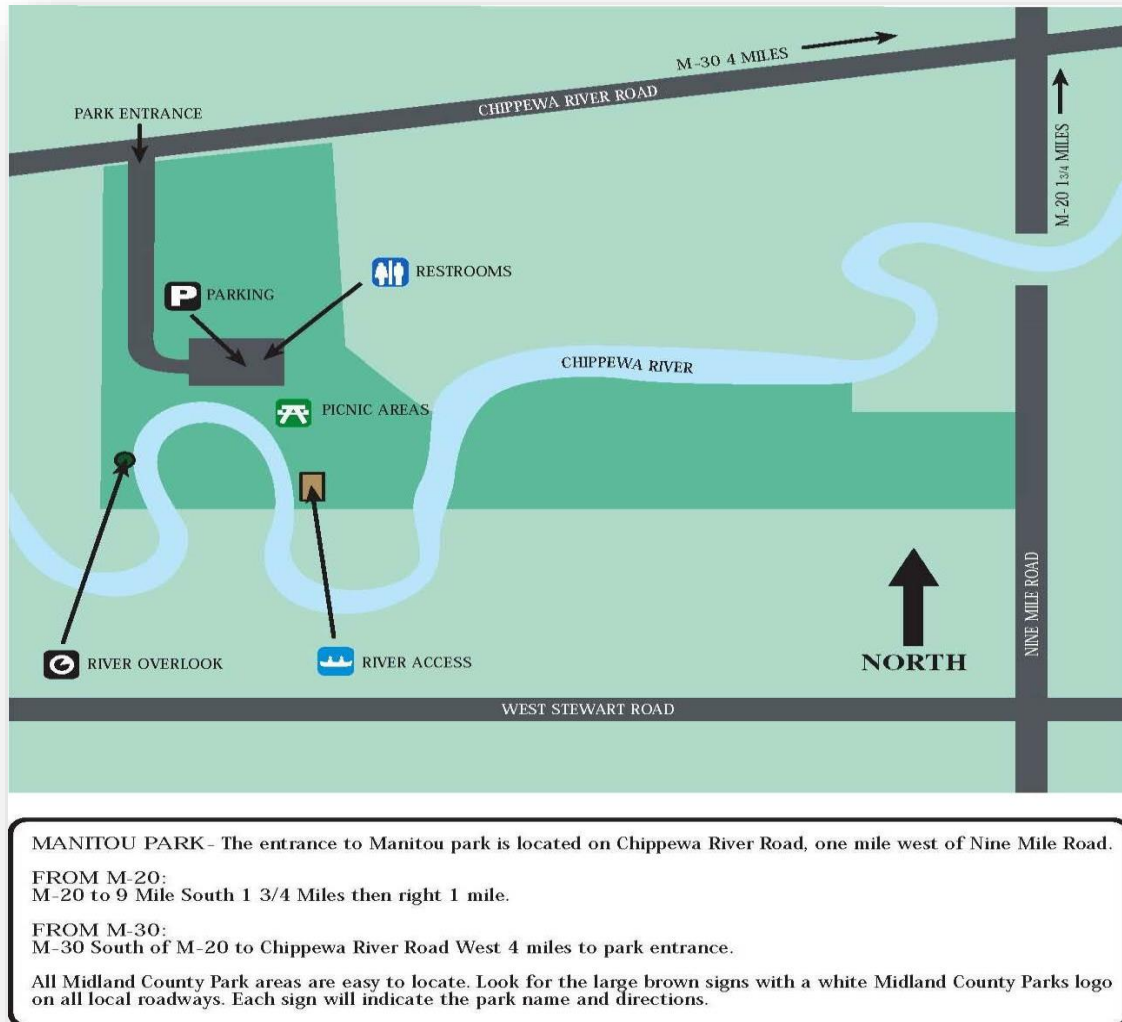
River Trails Heritage Park is located in Edenville Township and lies uniquely between the Tittabawassee and Tobacco Rivers with approximately 6,000 lineal feet of river frontage. This beautiful Midland County Park has access from M-30.



**Laur Big Salt River Park** - 40 acre natural resource area that offers nature trails, fishing areas, picnic area and canoe access. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

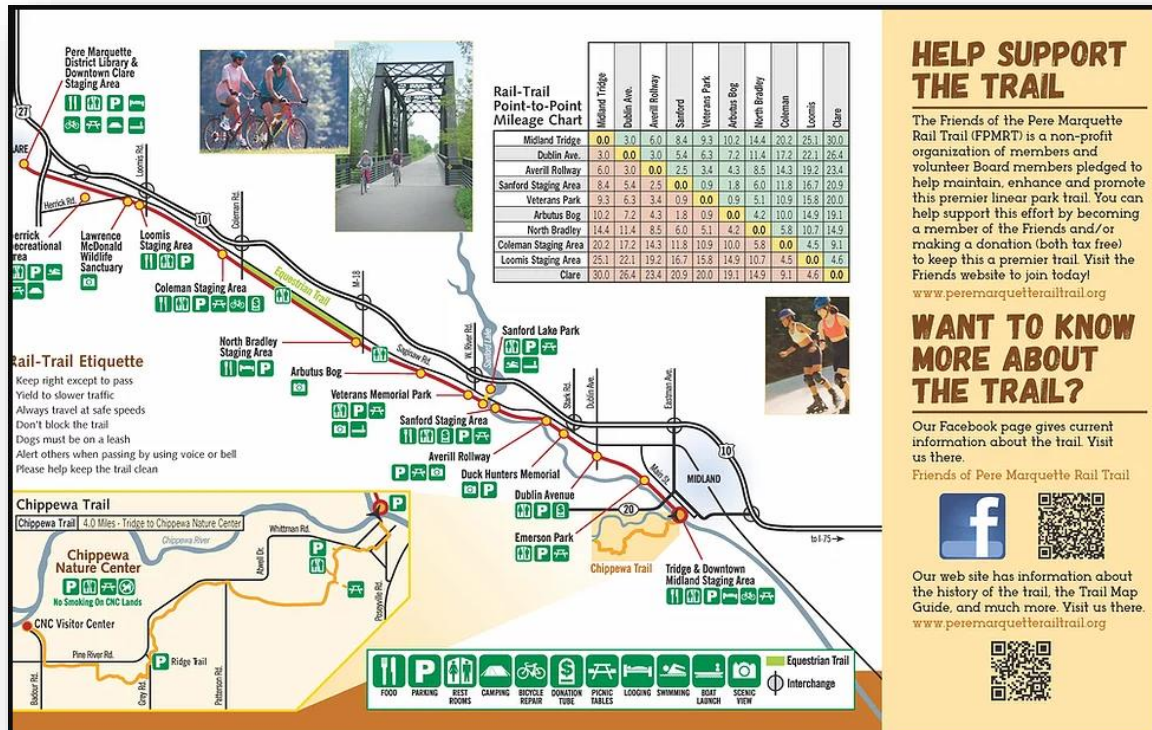


**Manitou Park** - 154 acre natural resource area that does not have any facilities that meet accessibility guidelines. This Park provides fishing area and opportunities, nature trail, canoe launch, restrooms and picnicking.

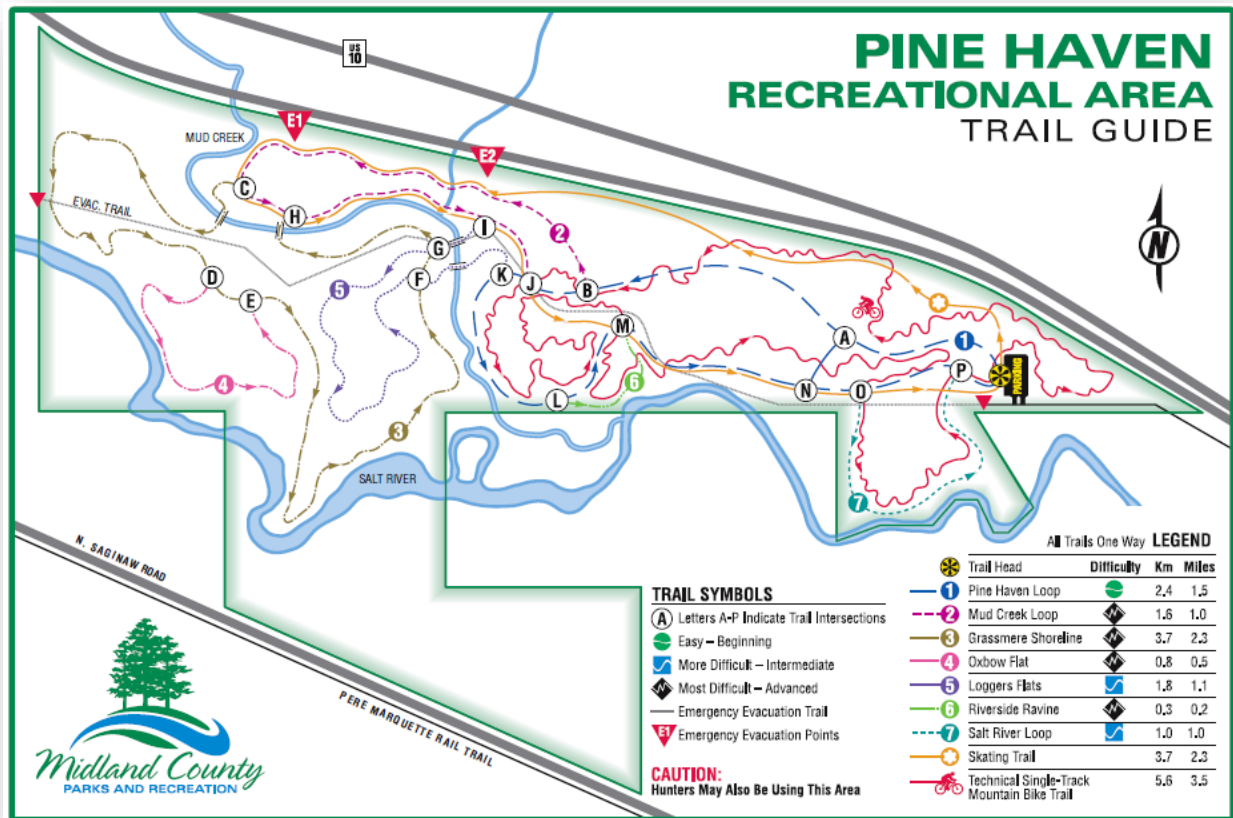




**Pere-Marquette Rail-Trail** - 278 acre park trail that all facilities that meet accessibility guidelines. This park provides horseback riding, restrooms multi-use pathways and volleyball.

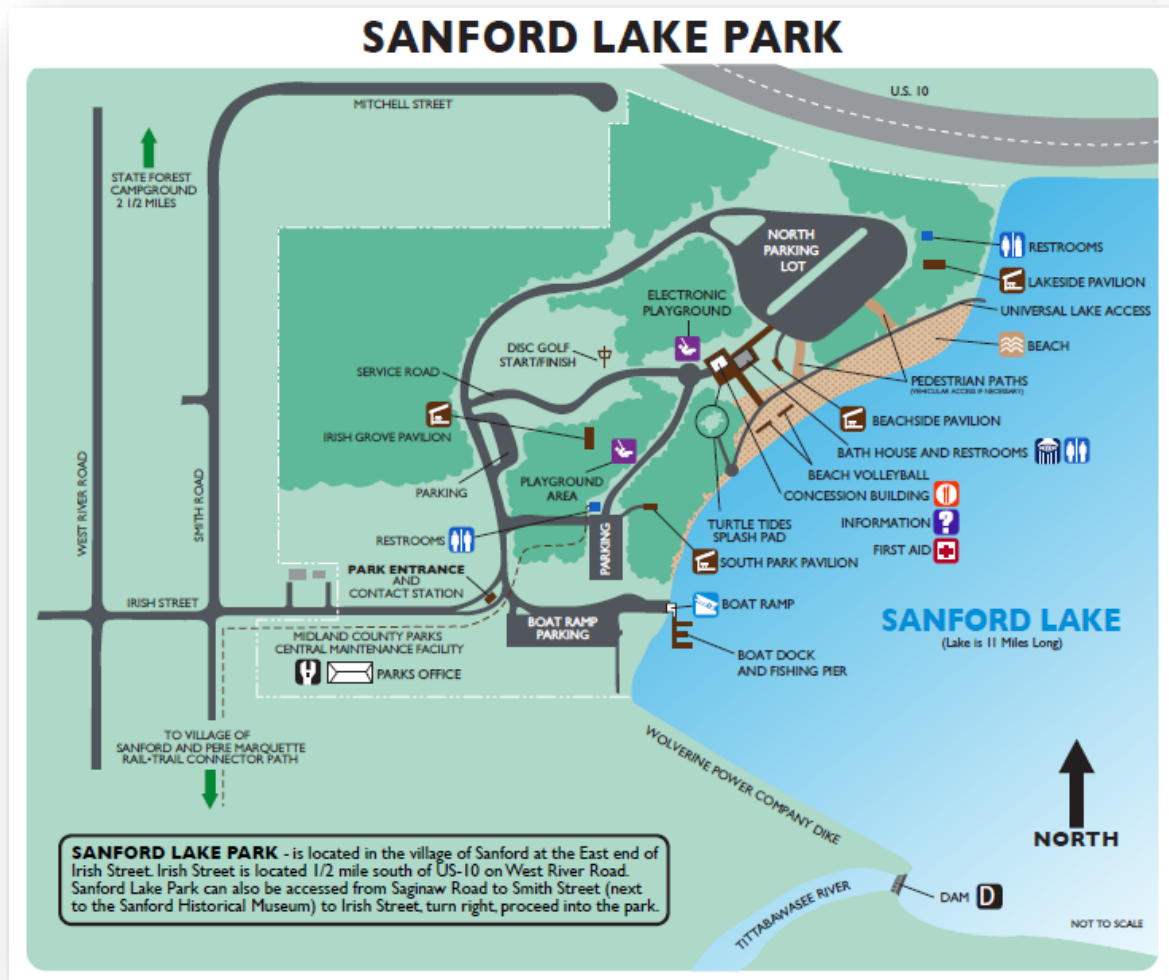


**Pine Haven Recreation Area** - 325 acre large urban park that does have limited facilities that meet accessibility guidelines. This park provides cross-country skiing, nature trails, nature study, mountain bike trails, horseback riding restrooms and picnicking.





**Sanford Lake Park** - 90 acre large urban park that all facilities that meet accessibility guidelines. This park provides ice skating, playground equipment, playfield, pavilion, restrooms, volleyball, horseshoes, and picnicking. Fishing opportunities, swimming, the bathhouse and canoe launch are no longer available.

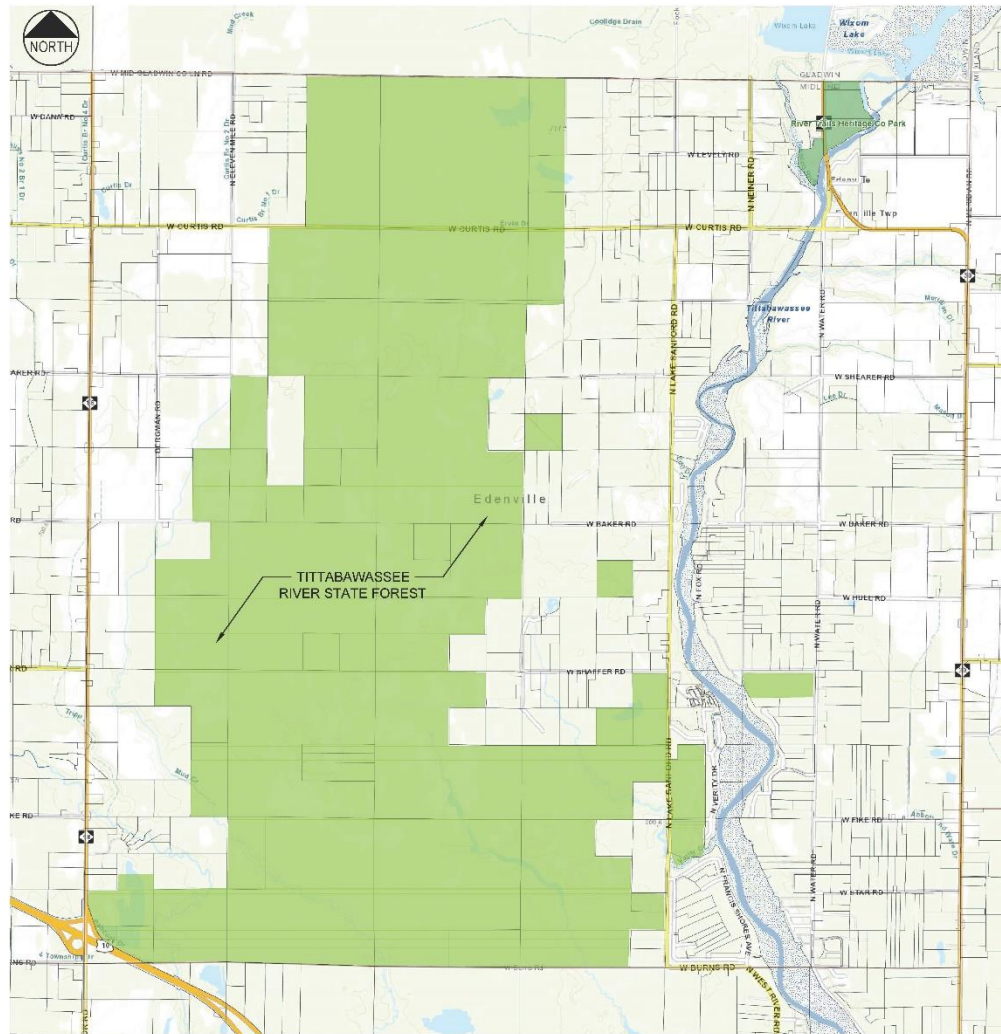


**Veterans Memorial Park** - 130 acre large urban park that has some facilities that meet accessibility guidelines. This park provides playground equipment, playfield, fishing area and opportunity, cross-country skiing, nature trail, nature study, mountain bike riding, horseback riding, canoe launch, multi-use pathways, restrooms, volleyball, horseshoes and picnicking.

**Chippewa River & Fishing Access Site** - 20 acre property that has no facilities that meet accessibility guidelines. This park provides fishing area and opportunity. This park is undeveloped.

## STATE OF MICHIGAN PARKS

**Tittabawassee River State Forest** – The Tittabawassee River State Forest is located in Midland County. The Forest has abundant hiking, biking, and running trails throughout with elevations change of 233 feet. The forest is open 365 days a year.



# TITTABAWASSEE RIVER STATE FOREST MAP



SEPT. 1, 2021

### STATUS REPORT FOR ALL GRANT ASSISTED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Edenville Township has received one previous Michigan Department of Natural Resources grants. The most recent grant was given in 2011 for development of Harper Park. The required Post Completion Self-Certification Reports are included in the Supporting Documentation section of the Plan.

TF11-102	Harper Park Sanford Lake Access
	Project Type: Development
	Appropriation Year: 2011
	Grant Amount: \$ 191,500
	Status: <b>Closed</b>

## DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

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The Planning Process Section includes a description of the overall process that was completed for the development of the Community Recreation Plan. The Planning Process included an assessment of existing park lands, a tour of the properties, opportunities for the public to participate, formal adoption of the plan, and submittal of the plan to local agencies and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

### SYSTEM PLANNING METHOD

A System Method of Planning was completed which focused on the Township's priorities, needs, level of service and community-wide interests in parks and recreation.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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This section of the plan provides a written description of the processes used to encourage and gather public input for the development of the plan.

### **PARK TOUR, INVENTORY, AND ADA ASSESSMENT**

An initial tour of each park facility within the community was completed by Township Parks and Recreation Committee and PMB staff to review and compare the previously completed park inventories and ADA assessments. Each of these areas of the document were updated and needs were documented for consideration within the planning process.

### **EARLY PUBLIC INPUT-PUBLIC ELECTRONIC SURVEY**

An electronic public survey was developed utilizing SurveyMonkey. The survey was developed in August of 2021 and opened for public comment on August 27, 2021. The survey was advertised on the Township's website, via direct emails to stakeholders, and at various public functions. The Township Clerk also placed a public announcement in the local newspaper. The survey remained open during the entire planning process. The results of the survey were utilized in the updating of the Goals and Objectives as well as the Action Plan Sections. The results of the survey are included in the Supporting Documentation Section of this plan.

### **NOTICE OF 30-DAY PLAN REVIEW PERIOD**

A public notice was posted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, and published in the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 to announce the opportunity for public review of the plan document, the opportunity for public comment, and the upcoming final public hearing on the Plan on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022. The notice was posted according to Township procedures and a public notice was placed in Newspaper. A copy of the notice, Affidavit of Publication, and the minutes of the meeting are included at the rear of this document in the Supporting Documentation.

### **RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION BY TOWNSHIP BOARD & FINAL PUBLIC HEARING**

On \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 a Final Public Hearing was held by the Township Board to receive comments regarding the plan. Following Final Public Hearing, the Township Board Adopted the Plan. Minutes of the Final Public Hearing, Adoption Resolution, and Minutes of the full meeting, including the public hearing, are included below. These documents are included at the rear of this document in the Supporting Documentation.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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The Goals and Objectives section of the plan provides goals for the future of parks and recreation within the community. These goals have been written for Edenville Township based on public input for current and future recreational opportunities. Each goal is further defined by the Objectives that follow. The Action Program section of this plan determines proposed projects that help to meet these goals.

***Goal No 1: To provide multi-generational recreational opportunities and facilities within the community as the Township is comprised of persons of all ages.***

***Objectives:***

- a. To provide activities for each of the major age and activity groups.
- b. To provide for activities and experiences that can be enjoyed together with persons of multiple ages
- c. To allow for all persons of multiple generations, extended family groups, and large groups to universally enjoy the parks.
- d. Construct the following facilities:
  - i. Gransden Park- New ADA accessible play equipment
  - ii. Gransden Park-Concrete around grills for ADA access
  - iii. Gransden Park-Identify ADA Parking in Parking Lot
  - iv. Gransden Park-ADA accessible portable toilet
  - v. Harper Park-ADA accessibility to picnic shelter
  - vi. Harper Park-Restore the canoe/kayak launch & fishing
  - vii. Baker Rd End Park-Accessible Walk to Shore Edge and Picnic Table
  - viii. Splash Park at a location to be determined
  - ix. Swanton Memorial Center Community Garden
  - x. Baker Rd. End Park-Canoe & Kayak launch

***Goal No 2: To provide recreational facilities for persons of all abilities both mentally and physically.***

***Objectives:***

- a. To develop new facilities that will expand recreational opportunities for all residents.

- b. To develop new facilities that will meet the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA).
- c. To develop new facilities that integrate ADA accommodations in such a way that they are seamlessly used by all residents within the community and to not cause separation of users based on abilities.
- d. As the Township improves each of the parks, the facilities will be designed with ADA and Universal accessibility in mind to continue to increase recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors to the Township.

***Goal No. 3: To continue to support and encourage non-profit organizations to provide recreational programming and special events within the community. As the community is small and the financial resources are limited, the non-profit organizations provide recreational opportunities that Edenville Township could not offer without their support.***

***Objectives***

- a. The Township will continue, as funds allow, to assist the non-profit organizations, such as the Sanford Youth League, through the development and maintenance of recreational facilities and programs.

***Goal No 4: If/when Sanford Lake is reestablished, repair existing and add new water related facilities, such as various types of boating and watercraft, fishing, wildlife habitat and viewing.***

***Objectives:***

- a. At Harper Park, be prepared to accommodate the new water level if/when the lake is reestablished
- b. At Baker Road End Park, construct facilities in anticipation of the previous waterfront levels. Provide drop in canoes, kayaks and Stand-up Paddle Boards as well as shore fishing.

***Goal No. 5: The Township will retain all existing park lands for the use and enjoyment of residents.***

***Objectives***

- a. The Township will not sell existing recreational lands or convert them to non-recreational use.



- b. The Township will continue to maintain, to the best of its ability, the existing park facilities.
- c. The Township will continue to make improvements to the parks based on the Community Recreation Plan.

**Goal No. 6:** *To continue to provide, as much as possible, free use of the parks and facilities.*

**Objectives:**

- a. Continue to allow for open use of the park lands and to not charge admission to the facilities.
- b. Minimally charge, as required to cover costs, for special events and athletic field maintenance to keep the facilities available for public use.

**Goal No. 7:** *The Township has both older recreation areas, such as Gransden Park, Harper Park which its loss of Sanford Lake, as well as undeveloped properties such as Baker Road End Park, which need to be reimaged through the development of site master plans. Site master plans aid in sharing the vision with Township residents as well as potential funding sources. The planning process will include the development of new site master plans which include phased cost estimates.*

**Objectives:**

- a. Create new master plans that incorporate ADA accessibility and Universal Access into the design and selection of construction materials.
- b. Create a new master plan for Gransden Park which provides active sports facilities, picnicking, and a play area.
- c. Create a new and expanded master plan for Harper Park retaining and maximizing the riverfront/lake views and water access.
- d. Create a master plan for Baker Road End Park to provide for access to the river/lake edge and the future reestablished Sanford Lake.

- e. To coordinate with the Swanton Memorial Center for continued recreational use and enjoyment of the surrounding grounds.

**Goal No. 8:** *Because the Tittabawassee River is the only water course through the community, The Township would like to retain ownership of all of its property along the river and proposed reestablishment of Sanford Lake for public use and enjoyment.*

**Objectives:**

- a. To retain river frontage the existing parks park and provides for ADA access to the river.
- b. Expand riverfront/lakefront access opportunities when possible.

**Goal No. 9:** *To seek funding through state and local grant sources to assist in funding park capital improvements*

**Objectives:**

- a. Develop park master plans and conceptual estimates, as well as other materials that assist in the preparation and submittal of grant applications.
- b. To seek grants to fund park capital improvement projects.

## **ACTION PROGRAM**

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The Action Program states the proposed actions to be taken to carry out the Goals and Objectives of the Plan. The Action Program includes a discussion regarding land acquisition, programming, and facility development.

### **LAND ACQUISITION**

Specific parcels of land for acquisition were not identified. However, Township residents indicate a desire for expanded athletic fields to include Soccer Fields and additional ball fields. Also indicated is an interest in Tennis and Pickleball facilities which will also require additional parkland as the current parklands do not have available land for these facilities. The public survey also indicates a desired interest for increased river access, especially following the loss of Sanford Lake and the relocation of the river channel which does not allow easy access to the existing Tittabawassee River.

### **RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

Recreational programming has frequently been provided by non-profit organizations, volunteers and Edenville Township for athletic leagues and special events. The Township will continue to support these volunteer efforts as these groups have been highly effective and successful. Financial limitations will not allow the creation of a Parks and Recreation Department with a park director or programming staff.

### **FACILITY DEVELOPMENT**

Facility development will be focused at this time on the existing Township owned properties. The projects have been ranked by High, Medium, and Low Priorities to provide an overall focus on higher priority planning efforts and projects. The breakout of the projects is included in the spreadsheet that follows and descriptions of the projects are also given.

## **ACTION PROGRAM PROJECT LIST AND DESCRIPTIONS**

The proposed projects are as follows:

### **HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS**

#### **Gransden Park-New Park Master Plan**

Gransden Park has served the community for many years and is well maintained by the Township. However, many of the facilities are aging and some do not meet the more modern ADA accessibility requirements for outdoor recreation. The development of a new park master plan is recommended to create a future vision for the park to include both existing and future facilities, interconnecting ADA accessible walkways and new modern accessible play equipment. The master plan will also allow for the development of a phasing plan and conceptual cost estimates to be used in securing funding.

#### **Gransden Park-New ADA Accessible Play Equipment**

The existing playground equipment has been well loved over the years but is in need of replacement to meet current codes and standards. A proposed new play area will be constructed, with the old equipment removed from the park. The new play area will be more consolidated and include new equipment and safety surfacing as well as design standards that provide for ADA accessibility for children as well as parents and grandparents who visit the park. This project has been identified as a high priority by the Parks Committee and the public through the survey.

#### **Gransden Park-Picnic Shelter Grills**

The current picnic shelter has two charcoal grills located adjacent to the shelter in the grass lawn. Additional concrete surfaces will be added around the grills to increase the ADA accessibility of the grills and linkages to the shelter. The concrete surfaces will also improve the ease of mowing and maintenance around the grills.

#### **Gransden Park-Identified ADA Parking in the Parking Area**

ADA parking spaces will be striped and signed within the existing parking lot of the park. Access walkways to the parking area will be added as facilities are improved.

#### **Gransden Park-ADA Accessible Portable Toilet**

A location for the portable toilet will be located for accessible access to the portable toilet, a concrete walk and slap for the toilet, and a larger ADA approved unit will be installed.



### **Harper Park-New Park Master Plan**

Harper Park, located on the Tittabawassee River/Sanford Lake, is the prime park for water access within the Township. With the unexpected, and hopefully temporary, loss of Sanford Lake, the result has been that the current riverbank facilities are unusable. Also, additional ideas are being discussed for linkages and additional features for the park. A new park master plan will explore these ideas and layout, as well as allow for the development of a phasing plan and conceptual cost estimates to be used in securing funding.

### **Harper Park-ADA Accessibility to Picnic Shelter**

The existing picnic shelter at Harper Park does not have an accessible walkway connecting between the parking area ADA accessible parking to the shelter to allow for all visitors to use and enjoy the shelter. This will be improved with a new ADA accessible access walk.

### **Harper Park-Restore the Canoe/Kayak Launch and Fishing Facilities**

Due to the damage caused by the flood, and the temporary loss of Sanford Lake the current facilities for access to the water is not longer viable. The proposed master plan will investigate the options for both temporary and long-term renovation to restore the boardwalk access and water access.

## **MEDIUM PRIORITY PROJECTS**

### **Swanton Memorial Center Site Master Plan**

The lands around the Swanton Memorial Center include the Edenville Township Museum as well as recreation facilities. A review of the current and proposed future uses as well as renovation needs will be evaluated, ADA accessibility planned for, and any new proposed facilities will be included. The completed plan will include a phasing plan and conceptual costs for use in funding opportunities.

### **Swanton Memorial Center Community Gardens**

Based on citizen responses, plan and construct a community garden area at Swanton Memorial Center. Provide ADA accessibility to the garden facilities.

### **Baker Rd. End Park-Park Master Plan**

Baker Rd. End Park is the smallest of the park sites and is located between the road right of way and the Tittabawassee River/Sanford Lake basin. The parkland has the opportunity to provide for public access to the river/lake and provide a future launch site for canoes and kayaks, as well as shore fishing. Parking will be located along the adjacent roads. The small master plan will outline the ability to provide ADA accessible access down the bank to the basin edge, as well as informal use such as wildlife viewing and picnicking.

### **Splash Park-Gransden Park or Swanton Memorial Center**

Current discussions are the desire by residents for a small splash park to provide for water play for children as with the current loss of Sanford Lake, access to swimming for residents has declined. The location for the splash park has not been determined but could be included in the master plan review for each of the existing parks. The availability of water and a sanitary drain field will be important to its operation.

### **Baker Road End Park-ADA Accessible Walk to Shore and Picnic Table**

The development of Baker Road End Park will include the development of an ADA accessible walkway and accessible picnic table with a concrete walk and pad for a picnic table.

### **Land Acquisition for Athletic Fields & Court Sports**

The public has shown interest in the development of additional athletic fields and court sports of soccer, softball/baseball, pickleball and tennis. However, the current parklands do not appear to have substantial room to include these facilities. Based on this, it is anticipated that additional parkland will need to be acquired in order to expand the park system for these facilities.

### **Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan**

The public has shown interest in creating additional non-motorized trails within the Township or in connecting to the Regional Pere-Marquette Rail Trail. At this time a route or priorities of trails have not been determined and should be the first step in creating additional non-motorized trails within the Township.

## **LOW PRIORITY PROJECTS**

### **Baker Road End Park-Drop In Canoe/Kayak and Stand Up Paddle Board Launch**

Installation of a new canoe/kayak and stand-up paddle board launch is desired to be installed once the pathway has been constructed, and the lake as returned to its former levels.

### **Natural Pathways**

Additional natural pathways were shown of interest to the residents. However they have been shown as a lower priority as the Township currently does not have natural lands available for the trails, and the County and State have substantial natural areas with trails already located within the Township.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

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The following supporting documentation will be added to the plan at final completion after adoption.

**Early Input/Survey Results**

**Public Notice of Draft Plan for 30 Days of Public Comment**

**Public Notice of Public Hearing**

**Minutes from the Public Hearing**

**Full Minutes from the Township Board Meeting with Resolution of Adoption**

**Resolution of Adoption**

**Transmittal Letters to the Midland County and East Michigan Council of Governments**

**Completion of Required MDNR Checklist of Materials**

**MDNR Grant Project Post Completion Forms**