



Legend

Parcels	Di	Lk	Pa	Ts
As	Dm	Lm	Pc	Tt
Au	Dr	Lo	RO	Ur
Bl	Ed	Ls	SP	Ws
Br	Ep	Lu	Sa	Wt
Bs	Ft	Md	Sc	Wu
Bv	Fu	Me	Sd	Wv
Bx	GP	Mn	Se	Wx
CE	Gd	Mo	Sf	at
CP	Gf	Ms	Sh	in
Ce	Gm	Na	Sl	l
Cf	Hy	Nc	Sm	rs
Cm	La	OK	Sn	ui
Cv	Le	Oa	Sp	
Cw	Lh	Ok	Ta	

Ray Township Soils



Cassin Planning Group



Source: Marion County Planning and Economic Development

6

Recreation Needs & Opportunities Analysis

To analyze the recreational needs of Township residents, and to determine deficiencies within recreation programs, it is helpful to consider standards for recreation service areas, land needs based on future population, and the ultimate size and extent of recreation facilities and their location.

Recreation Needs & Opportunities Analysis

It is important to determine adequacy and need for recreation facilities, both currently and in the future. Several techniques are commonly used to accomplish this. Perhaps the most common method of determining recreation needs and deficiencies is to compare existing park acreage and facilities with accepted recreation planning standards. The standards normally suggest optimum or ideal conditions that communities should strive to meet in the development of park facilities and provide a benchmark against which progress can be measured. The risk in using these standards, however, is that they may not be uniformly applicable to every community and as such, need to be evaluated in light of the unique physical, social, and economic conditions that may characterize a specific community.

Recreation Planning Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers generalized standards to assist communities in recreation planning activities. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has also developed a set of standards based on NRPA guidelines entitled “Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards,” which will be utilized in this recreation needs and deficiency analysis. These standards specify the amount of developed recreation acreage, and the amount/number of recreation facilities that a community should have per 1,000 residents.

Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards	
Type of Recreation Opportunity	Plan Standard
Developed Local Park Land	10 acres / 1,000 population
Archery Ranges (including private & commercial)	1 / 50,000 population
Ballfields (not including school facilities)	1 / 3,000 population
Outdoor Basketball Courts (not including school facilities)	1 / 5,000 population
Bicycle Trails (miles)	1 / 40,000 population
Golf Courses (including private & commercial)	1 / 25,000 population
Indoor Ice Rinks	1 / 50,000 population
Outdoor Ice Rinks	1 / 20,000 population
Picnic Areas (tables)	1 / 200 population
Playgrounds (not including school facilities)	1 / 3,000 population
Rifle Ranges (including private & commercial)	1 / 50,000 population
Shotgun Ranges (including private & commercial)	1 / 50,000 population
Sledding Hills (not including school facilities)	1 / 40,000 population
Soccer Fields (not including school facilities)	1 / 20,000 population
Outdoor Swimming Pools	1 / 40,000 population
Outdoor Tennis Courts (not including school facilities)	1 / 4,000 population
Campground Sites (including commercial)	1 / 150 population
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)	1 / 10,000 population
Fishing Access (feet)	1,000 / 1,000 population
Fishing Piers	1 / 100,000 population
Hiking Trails (miles)	1 / 5,000 population
Horseback Trails (miles)	1 / 20,000 population
Nature Areas (each)	1 / 50,000 population
Nature Trails (miles)	1 / 20,000 population
ORV Areas	1 acre / 7,500 population
ORV Trails (miles)	1 / 10,000 population
Snowmobiling Land	10 acres / 1,000 population
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	1 / 3,000 population
Swimming Beaches	1 / 25,000 population

For some of the standards listed above, the specific facilities require a larger service population than that of Ray Township. However, these types of facilities could be established in the Township if location advantages, natural resource features and monetary resources permit. The location of

such facilities within Ray Township can make the Township a more attractive place to visit, thereby creating jobs and expanding the local economic base.

Current Recreation Needs

Based on the Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards and the 2020 population of Ray Township of 3,770 persons, recreation standards suggest the Township’s need for developed recreation acreage and for the various types of recreation activities. However, it should be noted that these standards are guidelines and each community should consider other recreation opportunities within the area as well as the ability to maintain community facilities. The table below lists some of the current recreation opportunities that may exist within the Township.

Ray Township’s Current Recreation Needs (Based upon an estimated 2020 population of 3,770 persons)			
Recreation Facility	Existing Amount	Suggested Amount (based upon Recreation Standard)	Need
Developed Park Land	17 acres	37.7 acres	20.7 acres
Ballfields	2	1	0
Playgrounds	1	1	0
Outdoor Tennis Courts	1	1	0
Soccer Fields	0	1	1
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1	1	0

As can be seen in the table above, there may be a need to provide additional park land and some recreational facilities. Ray Township should keep these facilities in mind in weighing the priorities for recreation opportunities. Developed park land should be considered the top priority for the Township, as it currently does not have any public park land.

Future Recreation Needs

Based on the Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards and the 2030 and 2045 projected populations of Ray Township of 4,149 and 4,493 (respectively), the Township’s future needs for developed recreation acreage and for the various types of recreation activities for those years were derived. The two tables below list the future recreation needs that may exist within the Township, assuming that none of the current recreation deficiencies noted previously are

addressed between now and the years 2030 and 2045. It should be noted that the recommendations remain relatively similar for current recreation needs and the projected needs for both 2030 and 2045.

Ray Township's Projected 2030 Recreation Needs (Based upon a projected 2030 population of 4,149 persons)			
Recreation Facility	Existing Amount	Recommended Amount	Need
Developed Park Land	17 acres	41.4 acres	24.4 acres
Ballfields	2	1	0
Playgrounds	1	1	0
Outdoor Tennis Courts	1	1	0
Soccer Fields	0	1	1
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1	1	0

Ray Township's Projected 2045 Recreation Needs (Based upon a projected 2045 population of 4,493 persons)			
Recreation Facility	Existing Amount	Recommended Amount	Need
Developed Park Land	17 acres	44.9 acres	27.9
Ballfields	2	2	0
Playgrounds	1	2	1
Outdoor Tennis Courts	1	1	0
Soccer Fields	0	1	1
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1	1	0

7

The Planning & Public Input Process

The recreation planning process in Ray Township was intended to involve individuals who represent a broad cross-section of the community's population. The Township Board is responsible for implementing the Recreation Plan, but the Planning Commission provides input, analysis, and recommendations.

The Township developed an online public survey (with hard copies available at the Township Hall), in order to collect public input on community priorities for future parks and recreation. Using the inventory and survey findings, this Recreation Plan identifies goals, opportunities, and implementation measures.

The draft plan and 5-year action program of priority projects were then reviewed by the Planning Commission. Following the recommendation of approval by the Planning Commission, the plan was forwarded to the Township Board.

The draft plan was made available for public review and comment for at least 30 days prior to formal adoption by the Township Board. Notice of the public review period was provided in the local newspaper. The plan was presented at a public hearing held by Township Board. Copies of the notices announcing the review period and public hearing are included in the Appendix.

Public Input

Understanding the important role of public involvement in developing this plan, the Planning Commission developed an online survey to gather general input from the community regarding their thoughts on parks and recreation facilities and programming in the Township. The survey