
SALEM TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

2022 – 2026



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NEWSPAPER NOTICE OF 30 DAY AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT &
REVIEW

NEWSPAPER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL & MINUTES (INCLUDES PUBLIC HEARING)

TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL & MINUTES

Chapter I Introduction & Purpose of the Plan

Community park and recreation plans serve a variety of purposes. They guide local decision-making regarding park and recreational opportunities and enhancements. A thorough plan for a community's park and recreational facilities contributes greatly to the vitality of the community. Completion of a park and recreation plan also establishes the five-year eligibility for recreation grants administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Therefore, this plan is intended to meet the requirements and provisions set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the development of community park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans.

This is a five-year plan that reflects the desires of the Salem Township community. Public input was gathered via a community survey and conversations with Township leaders. The Salem Township Planning Commission, who is charged with overseeing the development of the park in Salem, provided project direction as the project steering committee. The inclusive, community-based planning process provided a formal framework for the Township to consider, develop, and establish their future park and recreation goals and action plan.

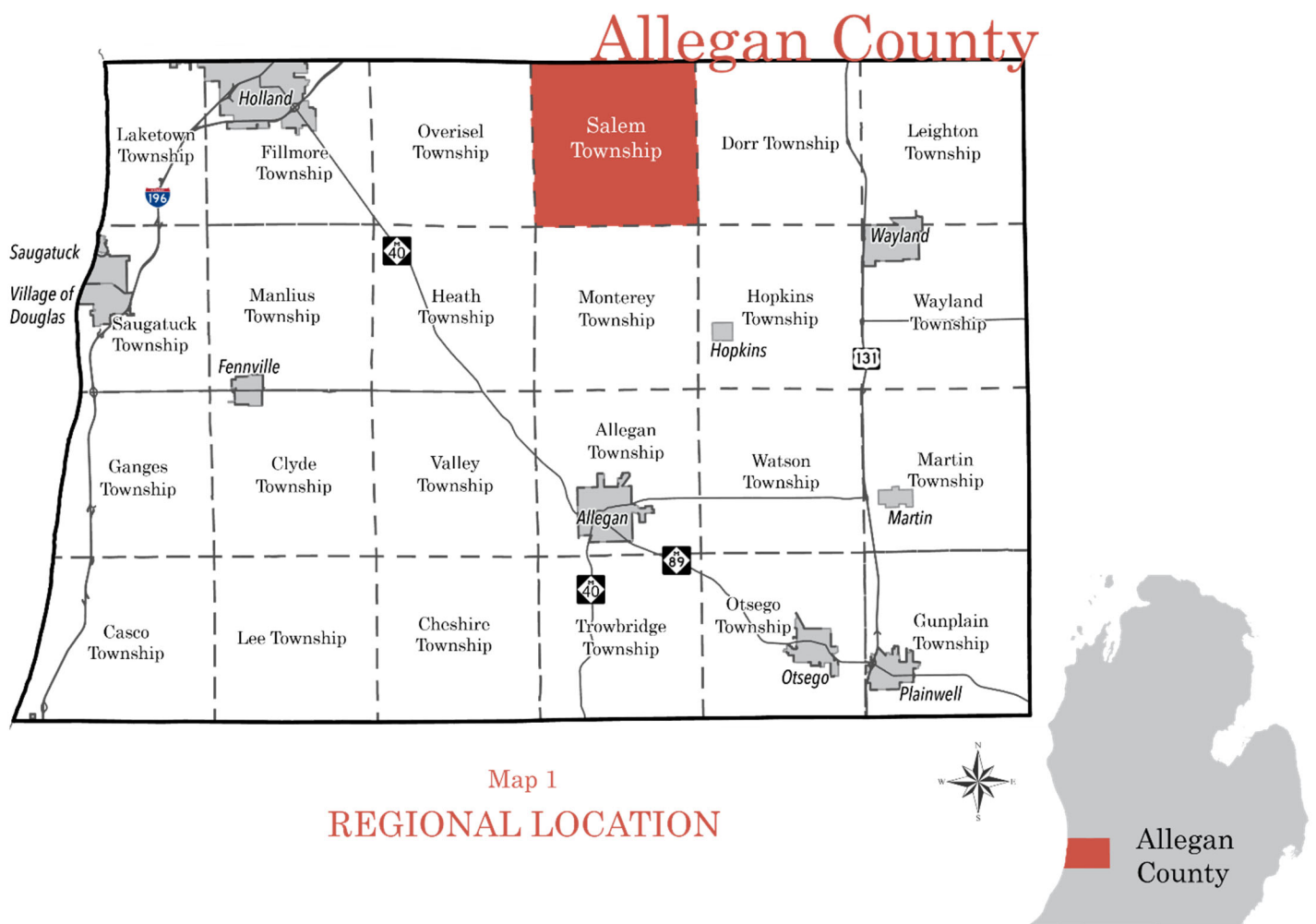
Salem Township is excited to have a park and recreation plan that reflects the community's needs and desires. The Plan will direct the future development of park and recreation facilities, amenities, and services over the next five years and beyond. By coming together, Salem has worked hard to determine how best to continue use its resources to support the park and recreational amenities offered to the community.



Chapter 2 Community Description

Location

Salem Township is in north central Allegan County and covers 36 square miles. Ottawa County borders the township on the north, and Kent County is directly northeast. Major roads in the Township include I-42nd Avenue and 30th Street. Highway US-131 is nine miles east of the Township, Highway I-196 is six miles northwest of the township, and M-40 is five miles to the west. The Township is 20 miles southwest of the City Grand Rapids, 14 miles east of the City of Holland, and 13 miles north of the City of Allegan.



Physical Characteristics

Topography

The land varies from flat to hilly, providing a backdrop of rolling hills throughout the Township. Elevations range from 630 to 770 feet. Local landforms are attributed to changes that occurred during past glacial periods. Level areas are associated with out-wash plains, flood plains, and till plains. Hilly areas are associated with moraines.

Hydrology

The Rabbit River flows through the southern third of the Township. Major feeder streams within the Township are Pigeon Creek, the Little Rabbit River Drain, and the Black Creek Drain. Much of the main channel of the Rabbit River within the Township is a “State Designated Trout Stream.”

Most stream banks are characterized by wooded wetlands or rolling woodland. Many locations immediately adjacent to the streams are subject to periodic flooding but there are no federally defined 100-year flood plain areas.

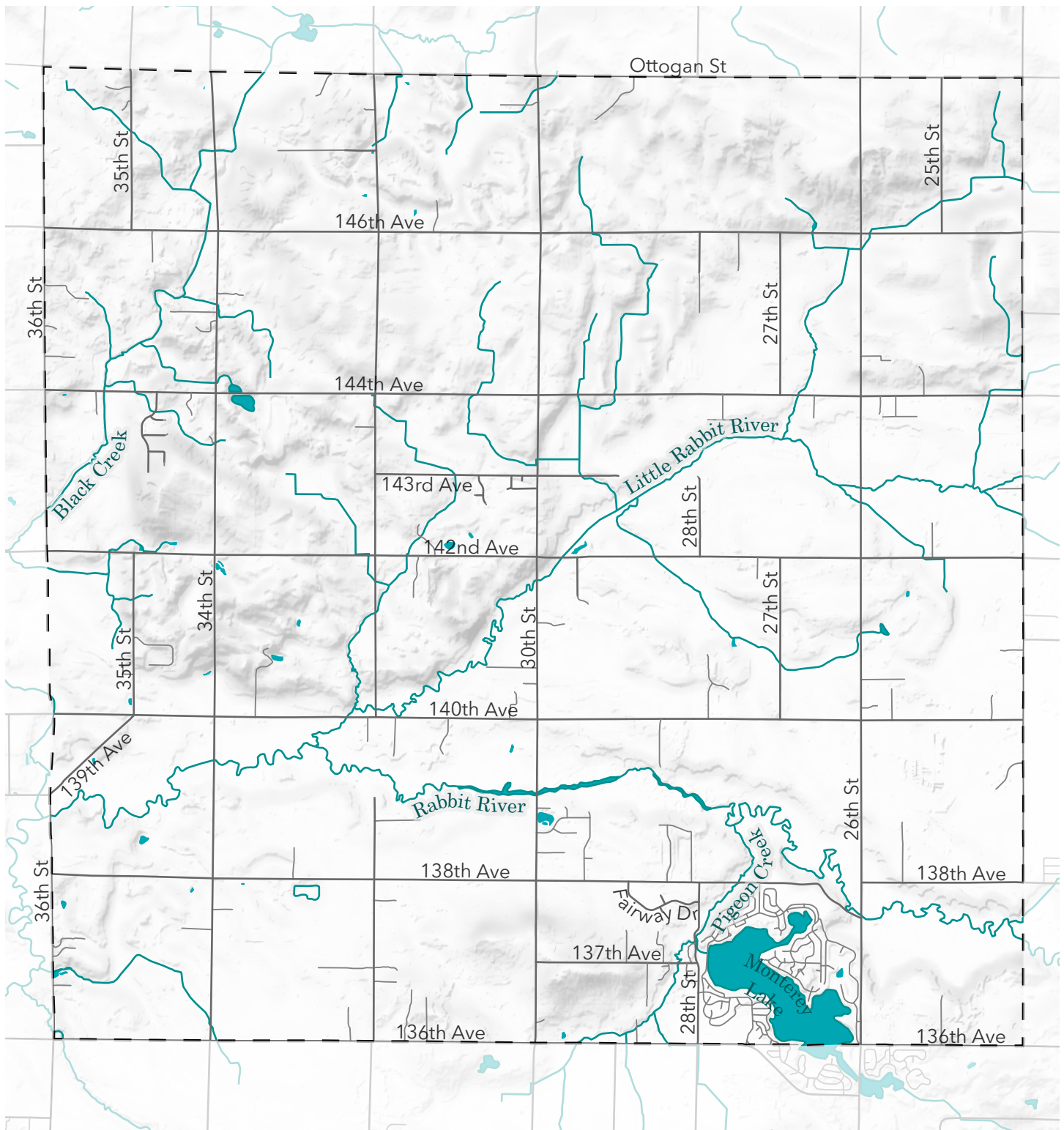
There are a significant number of wetlands. Lake Monterey is approximately 280 acres, and was created by the construction of a dam across Pigeon Creek as an amenity for the privately-owned Sandy Pines Campground.

Land Cover

The majority of local forested lands are concentrated in the central and southern portions of the township and most are associated with the Rabbit River, Little Rabbit River and drainage ways. Local forested lands include northern, central, and lowland hardwoods; aspen and birch associations, and pine stands. The wooded areas provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and are an important part of the local landscape.

Land Use

The majority of land is either actively farmed or remains as open fields and woodlands. In the last fifty years, a significant change in land use has been occurring with the conversion of agricultural/open space lands to low density single-family residential use. As the Grand Rapids metropolitan area and the Holland/Zeeland areas have continued to grow, Salem has become increasingly attractive to individuals who work in urban areas but prefer to live in a rural setting. This trend became very evident in the 1980s and 1990s when a large number of new homes were built by individuals who tended to locate along existing county mile roads. The area has been in a continuous transition from agricultural to more residential land use.



Map 2

TOPOGRAPHY

Legend

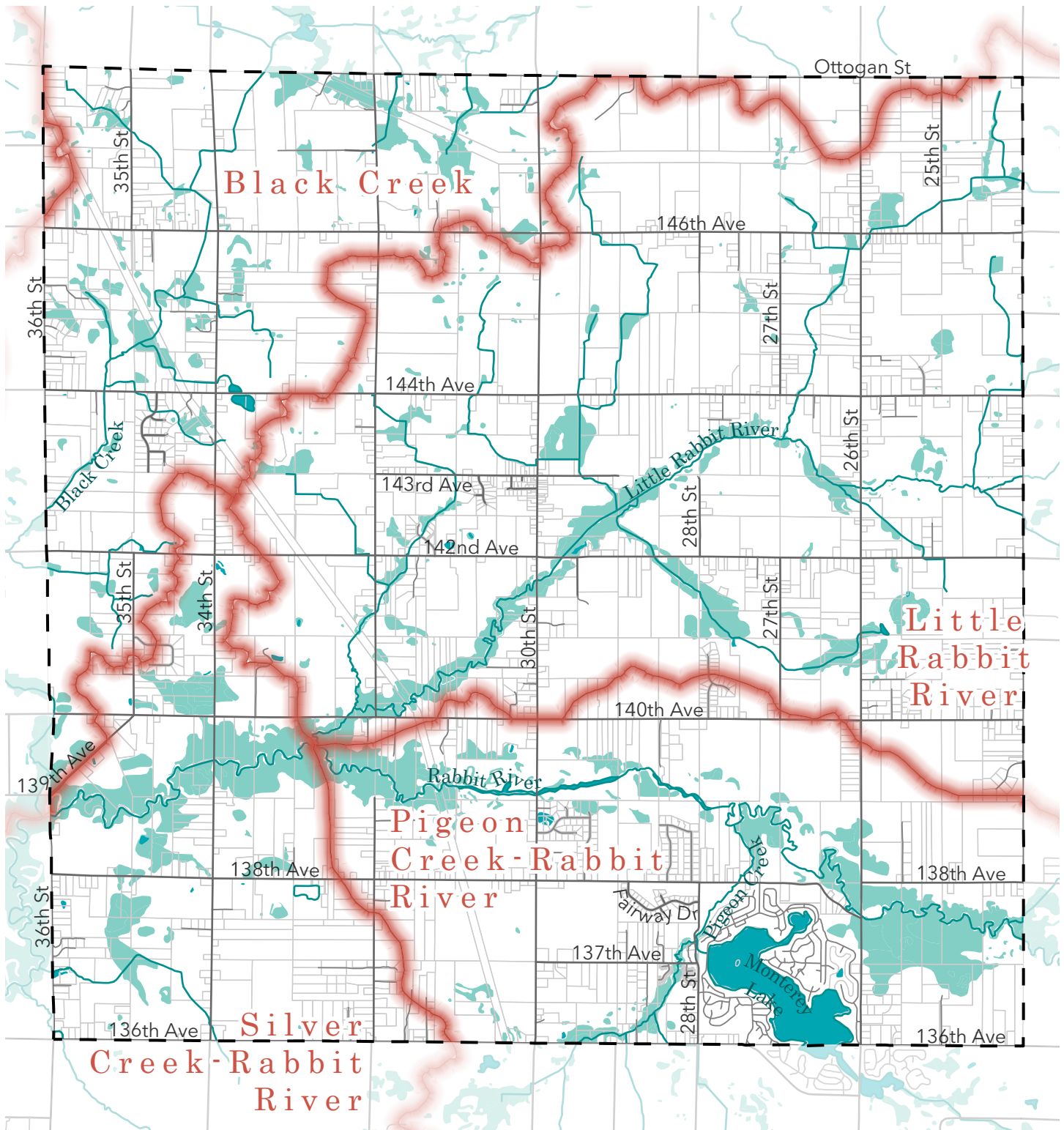
Slope

- Steep
- Flat



Data Sources: MI Open Data Portal; USGS





Map 3

HYDROLOGY

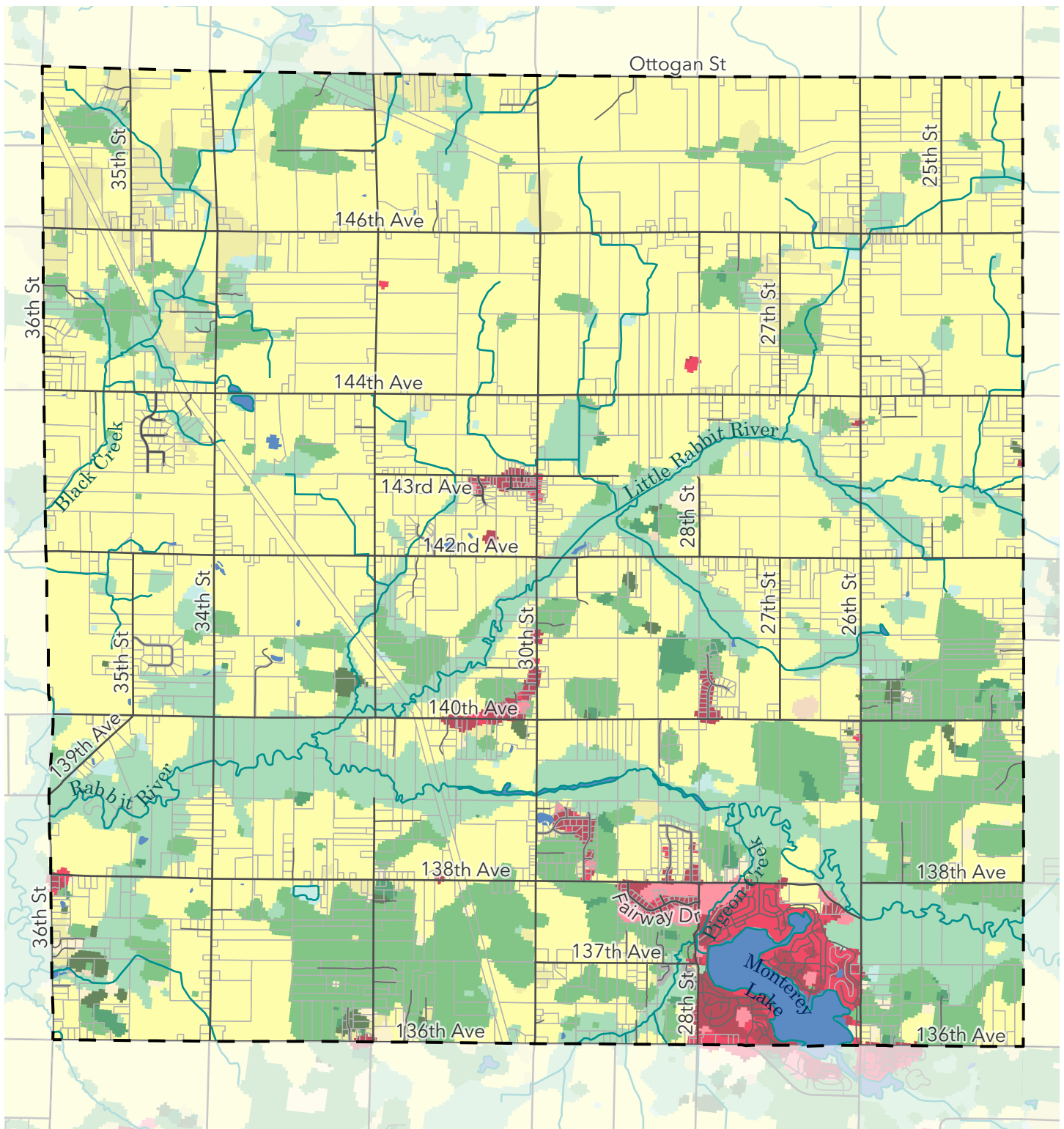
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Data Sources: MI Open Data Portal; EGLE

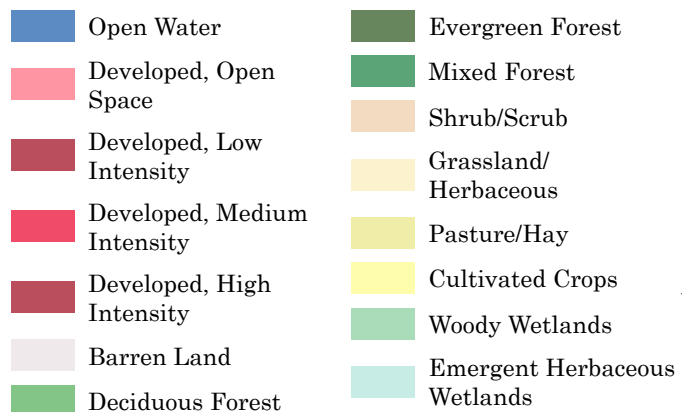
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- Rivers
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Watershed Boundary





Legend



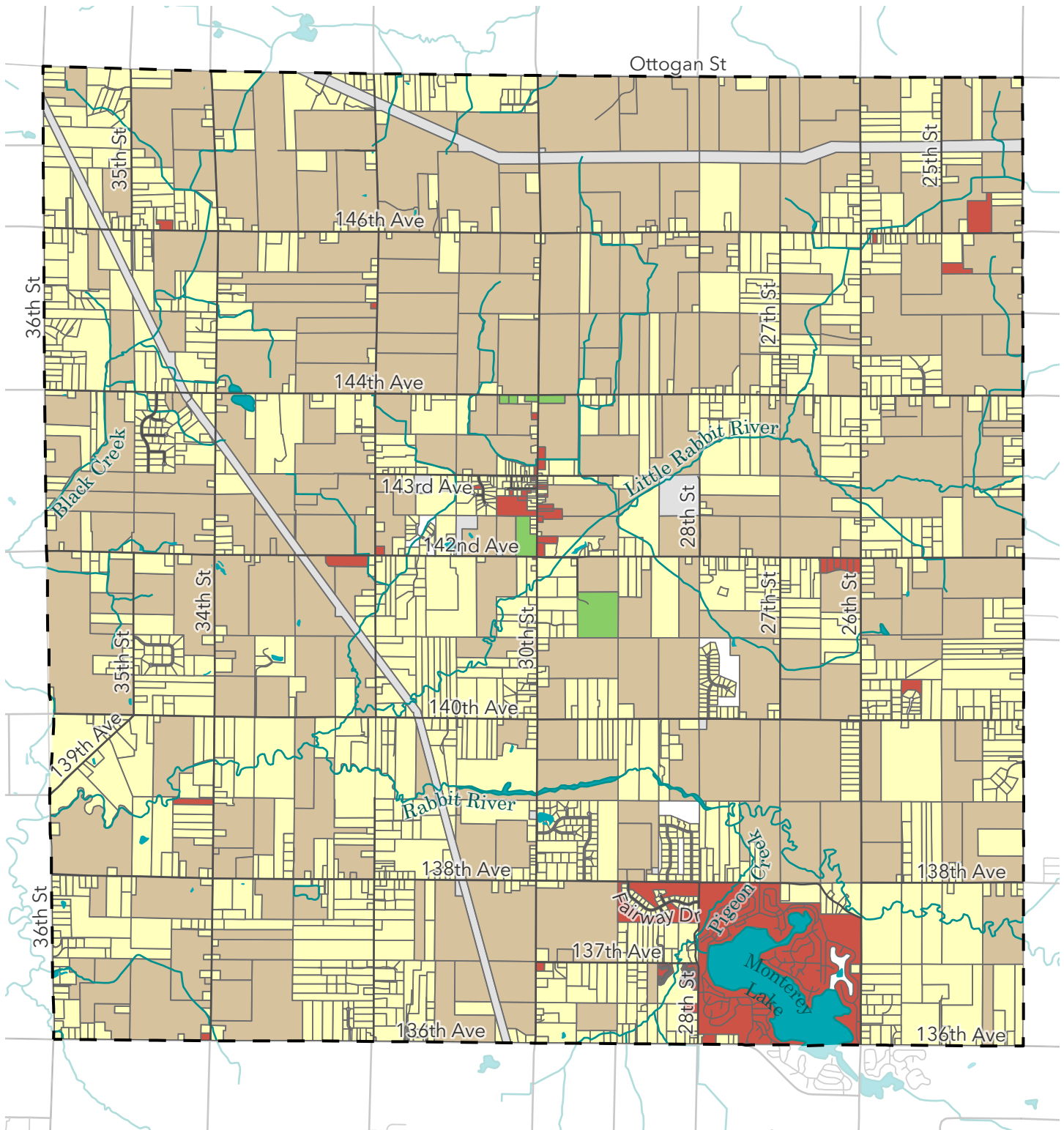
Map 4

LAND COVER



Data Sources: MI Open Data Portal; NLCD





Map 5

LAND USE

Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
| Residential | Agricultural |
| Commercial | Public Property |
| Industrial | |

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

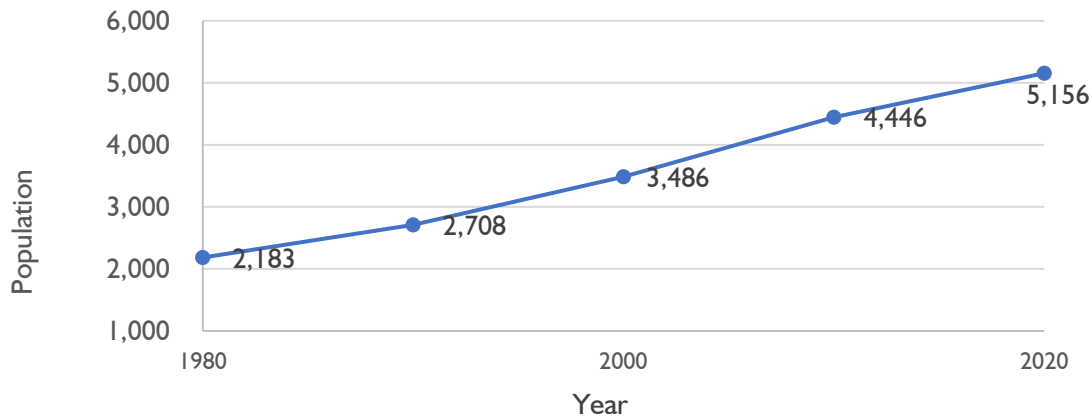
Data Sources: MI Open Data Portal; USGS



Demographic Information

The total population for Salem Township according to the 2020 census is 5,156 people. The population has been increasing over the last 50 years, matching the exurban growth that has been occurring in many communities in the area between Grand Rapids metro region and the Holland/Zeeland communities.

Figure 2.1: Salem Township Population 1980 - 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1980 - 2020

The following population and housing trend information for Salem Township may influence the recreation needs and desires of the community:

- **Age.** In 2019, The median age of residents in Salem Township was 37.9 years, as compared to 39.8 years in Allegan County and 39.7 in Michigan. The two largest population groups in the Township are those 40–60 years old (28%) and those under 18 years of age (27.6%) Recreational offerings should be especially provided to those in mid-life and kids, including youth-sport programming.
- **Education.** In 2019, a large majority of the adult population has graduated from high school. 92.9% of the population has a high school graduate degree or higher, while only 16.1% of the population has a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Household Size.** In 2010, the average household size for Salem Township was 2.92. This is slightly larger than the Allegan County average of 2.63, and the State of Michigan average of 2.49.
- **Occupancy.** In 2020, 88.8% of houses were owner-occupied. This is higher than the rates of owner-occupied houses in Allegan County (87.9%) and Michigan (88.4%). This shows that people are vested in their homes and community, meaning that they will be likely looking for local, nearby recreational opportunities.

- **Home Value.** In 2019, the median home value was \$212,800 in Salem Township, which was more than the median home value of \$188,900 in Allegan County in 2017. The median home value in Michigan in 2019 was \$154,900. The Township has a higher median home value than average in Allegan County.
- **Income.** In 2019, the median household income for Salem residents was \$75,553. The median household income for households with two incomes and no kids was \$85,865. This means that a majority of recreational activities should be for households with modest income means.
- **Labor Force.** In 2019, 98.1% of the civilian labor force was employed in Salem, and 29.6% of the total population not in the labor force. This means that a majority of the workforce was employed, yet there is a portion of the population that is retired. Recreational activities offered in the Township should be developed with universal design features and include active and passive recreation.
- **ALICE.** This is the acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – these are the households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for within a county. While conditions have improved for some households in Allegan County, many continue to struggle. According to the 2019 Michigan ALICE Report, of the 1,684 households in Salem Township, 33% are below the ALICE threshold.



Chapter 3 Administrative Structure

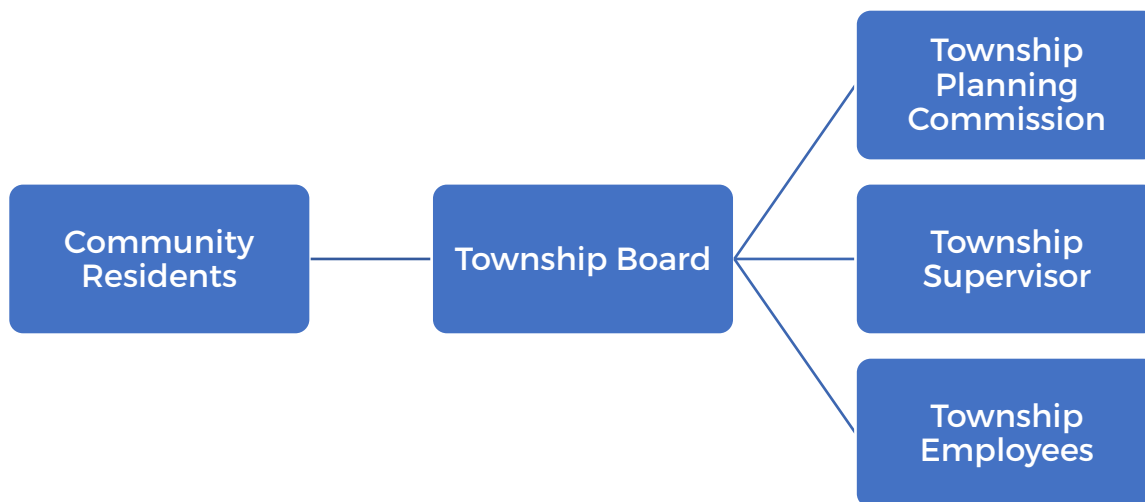
Township Organization and Budget

The Township Board is comprised of five members that are elected. Board membership includes the supervisor, clerk, treasures, and two trustees. The Board has the authority to authorize park and recreation facilities and to acquire and regulate open space land.

The Planning Commission is comprised of seven individuals. The Planning Commission's role is to help direct the physical planning of the Township. The Planning Commission and the Township Board are involved in the park and open space planning process. There is no park committee to oversee park and recreation activities, decisions, or plans.

The Township has no full-time staff, and 65 part time employees. There is no dedicated staff to oversee park and recreation facilities and programs in the Township. The maintenance is handled by the Township Board with money from the general fund. The Township Board oversees the administration of park and recreation programs and facilities.

In 2021-2022, \$15,150 was allocated to Parks and Recreation from the Township's General Fund. There are no other contributions to park and recreation resources.



School Facilities

Salem Township is served by four separate school districts: Hopkins Public Schools, Hamilton Public Schools, Hudsonville Public Schools, and Zeeland Public Schools. All districts provide programming for youth and adults. These programs offer organized soccer, T- ball, softball, tennis, football, swimming (in pools at Hamilton and Zeeland), and music.

St. Mary's School in New Salem is a parochial elementary school. It has some playground equipment, a ball field, and a gymnasium available to rent.

Chapter 4 Recreation Inventory

This chapter provides an overview of the park and recreation facilities and programs available in the Township and an accessibility assessment.

Accessibility

Per the Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines, an assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities is required in this recreation plan. The assessment considers the accessibility of the facilities themselves and the access routes to them. The accessibility grading system is based on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) through a five-point system as defined in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 MDNR Grading System for Accessibility	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
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 areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

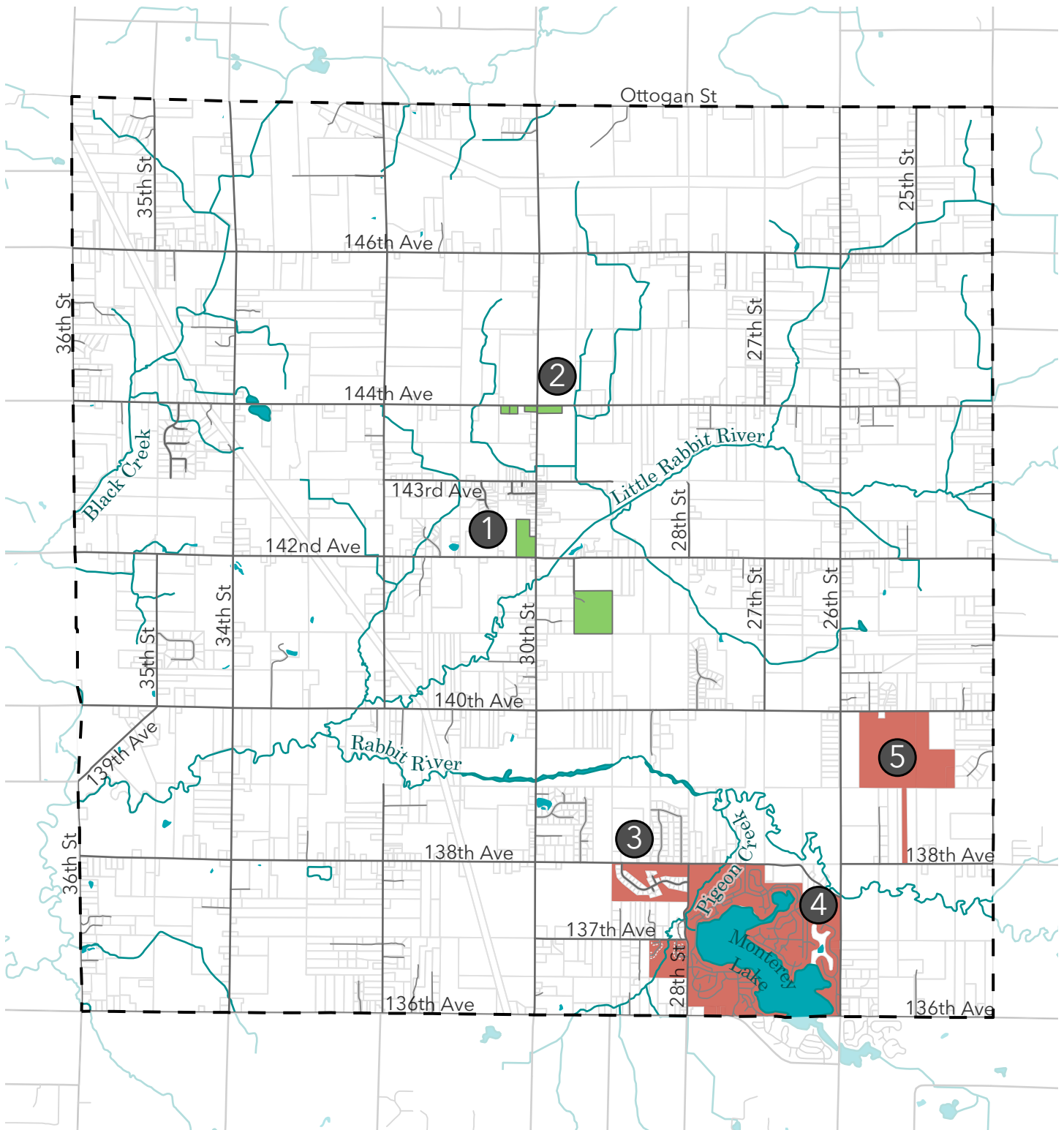
Salem Township Recreation Facilities

The following section contains information about the park and recreational facilities located in the Township. The methods used to determine site accessibility and inventory were based on a compilation of information from the previous recreation plan, verification through site visits, information provided through Township officials, and knowledge provided through other local entities.

Salem Township Park

The 17.6-acre park was established by a grant through the MDNR, Salem Township funds, area businesses, and individual donations. Parking is shared with the Township Hall and Library. The exercise equipment came from a mini-TAG grant from the Allegan County Community Foundation and donations from area businesses and residents. No reservations are needed to enjoy the facilities, as the park is open on a first come first serve basis. Amenities and facilities include: a frisbee golf course, a soccer field, exercise equipment, a basketball court, playground, a tennis court, a pavilion, a sand volleyball court, a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile paved trail, and concessions stand. The exercise equipment and the frisbee golf course were gifts as an Eagle Scout Projects.

Accessibility Score: 2



Map 6

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
| Public Property | Private Property |
| 1. Salem Township Park | 3. Lake Monterey Golf Course |
| 2. Burnips Cemetery | 4. Sandy Pines Campground |
| | 5. Southkent Sportsman's Club |

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Data Sources: MI Open Data Portal; USGS



Other Recreational Assets

South Kent Gun Club

The private, member-owned, volunteer-operated, non-profit is a club that provides a facility for firearm enthusiasts. They have trap & skeet fields, general purpose and match-only bunkers, and a variety of ranges.

Lake Monterey Golf Course

A public 18-hole golf course that is located in Dorr, Michigan, near the Sandy Pines Resort.

Allegan State Game Area

Containing 45,000 acres, there are amenities for hunting, biking, cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, camping, boating, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.

Drenthe Community Grove

Located in Zeeland Township, the 20-acre park contains playground equipment, a ball field, a beach volleyball court, 2 tennis courts, a basketball court, and a shaded picnic areas open to the public. There is also a 0.7-mile paved walkway, fishing pond, and a picnic shelter.

Dorr Township Park

Located in Dorr Township, the 12-acre park contains 3 softball/baseball diamonds, basketball, tennis, playground, sand volleyball, grills, picnic tables, pavilion with kitchen, skate park.

Dumont Lake County Park

Located in Monterey Township, the 18-acre park has 550 feet of beach on Dumont Lake. There are picnic tables, grills, a covered pavilion, a brand-new playground, modern restroom facilities, and a watercraft/boat launch facility.

Gries Memorial Park/South Park

Located in Dorr Township, the 7-acre park contains softball and baseball diamonds, a playground, picnic tables, and shelter.

Schutmaat Park

Located in Heath Township, the small park contains a scenic outlook over the Rabbit River and a pavilion.

Hilliards Park

Located in Hopkins Township, the 15-acre site is undeveloped.

Hungry Horse Campground

Located in Dorr Township, the 90-acre site is a privately-owned campground.

L.M. Wise Farm

Located in Hopkins Township, the 60-acre educational preserve contains trails, vintage farm buildings, and wildlife viewing areas.

Silver Creek County Park

Located in Heath Township, the 320-acre park has 30 miles of horseback riding trails. There are 75 campsites in the park which are all available for horse camping. Silver Creek also has 450 feet of frontage on Silver Creek, which is a spring fed trout stream.

Spring Grove Park

Located in Jamestown Township, the 16-acre park contains restrooms, picnic tables, grills, playground, softball/baseball field, horse pit, and trails.

Previous Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

The following is a list of past DNR grants that have been awarded to Salem Township.

Project No. TF95-197

Project Year: 1995

Project Title: Salem Township Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$23,600

Project Description: Purchase approximately 10 acres to expand the Township's only park.

Project No. CM00-199

Project Year: 2000

Project Title: Salem Township Park Development

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$65,412

Scope Items: Accessible pathways, ballfield demolition, bike rack, fencing, picnic shelter, playground equipment, sand volleyball court, soccer field renovation, 20 tables and grills, tennis/multi-purpose court

Project Description: Development of Salem Township Park to include playground, picnic areas, ballfields, tennis, volleyball courts and fencing.

Chapter 5 Planning & Public Input Process

Planning Methods

The Salem Township Park and Recreation Plan was initiated to provide direction for future Township Park expansion, administration, and ongoing operation and maintenance. The timetable for review and approval began with a kickoff meeting with the Planning Commission (the project steering committee), and ended with local support of the plan in early 2022. Community input was gathered by talking to members of the Township Planning Commission and by the public completing the community survey.

Numerous tools can be used to determine the recreational needs of a community. One way to assess a community's needs is to compare metrics or data. Another way is to use a systems planning approach to identify local issues, priorities, and levels of service that can be determined via a community survey to inform the planning process. Both of these methods are employed in the Salem Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Comparison to Park Metrics

The recreation classification system and facility development standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association has data on different types of parks, their desired site characteristics, size, and service area. The following tables provide a comparison with recreation development standards and classifications systems to help inform the planning process:

Mini-Park	
Use	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.
Service Area	Less than ¼ mile radius
Desirable Size	1 acre or less
Acres per 1,000	0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 population
Desirable Site Characteristics	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development, or housing for the elderly.
Mini-Parks near Salem Township	None

Neighborhood Park / Playground	
Use	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.
Service Area	¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood).
Desirable Size	15+ acres

Acres per 1,000	1 to 2 acres per 1,000 population
Desirable Site Characteristics	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school park facility.
Neighborhood Park near Salem Township	Gries Memorial Park/South Park Schutmaat Park

Community Park	
Use	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, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.
Service Area	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius.
Desirable Size	25+ acres
Acres per 1,000	5 to 8 acres per 1,000 population
Desirable Site Characteristics	May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.
Community Parks near Salem Township	Upper Macatawa Natural Area Drenthe Community Grove

Regional Park Preserve	
Use	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20% used for recreation development.
Service Area	Several communities. 1 hour driving time.
Desirable Size	1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.
Acres per 1,000	Variable
Desirable Site Characteristics	Diverse or unique natural resources such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna, and topography.
Regional Park Preserves near Salem Township	Allegan State Game Area Yankee Springs Recreation Area

Linear Park	
Use	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas.
Service Area	No applicable standard.
Desirable Size	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.
Acres per 1,000	Variable
Desirable Site Characteristics	Built or natural corridors such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas and other park areas.
Linear Parks near Salem Township	The Blue Way along the Kalamazoo River

Systems Planning

Conducting a survey can also help determine a community's needs when using the systems planning approach to park and recreation development. The community survey was conducted during the fall of 2021. The results of the survey are found in the Appendix. Based on the results of the survey, the following highlighted issues and results were used to guide the development of the goals, objectives, and action plan.

- Respondents indicated that the top three benefits of parks and recreation in the Township were to provide an opportunity to enjoy nature and the outdoors, improve health and wellness, and provide athletic space and opportunities.
- Maintaining the existing park was the most important way to continue to provide park and recreation facilities for respondents.
- A majority of respondents indicated that they and/or someone in their household would benefit from the addition of parks, trails, and/or recreation facilities. Respondents indicated that their preference for future trails would be paved, followed by unpaved trails. There were also several comments about the desire for a trail along a river. A few other respondents expressed the desire for a connection between future trails.
- A majority of respondents indicated that they use the park several times a month, demonstrating that this is a community feature that residents enjoy and value.
- The most desired future park and recreation amenities were walking trails, followed by children's play equipment, and bike trails. A few respondents indicated that having benches along the trail would be nice.
- There were several comments that mentioned the desire for a pickleball court.

- There were many comments on the desire for a disc golf course. Since this amenity already exists, this shows that some in the community do not know that the amenity is available.
- Several comments were made about enjoying that the Township Park and amenities were located together.

Parks and Recreation Analysis

Combining the results of the survey and park metrics comparison, supporting the growth, development, and maintenance of the Salem Township Park is an important way to continue to meet the recreational needs of the community.

Public Meeting and Plan Adoption

Following preparation of the Plan, citizens were provided an adequate opportunity (at least 30 days) to review and comment on the Plan prior to the official recommendation by the Salem Township Planning Commission and adoption by the Salem Township Board.

A draft of the Plan was submitted to the Salem Township Planning Commission and staff for their review and comments. A notice was published in the local newspaper (the Allegan County New) on December 9, 2021 notifying the public of the availability of the Plan to provide them the opportunity to review and comment. The Plan was available for public review at the Township Hall and website. Suggestions received to improve the Plan were incorporated into the document, which was then revised and finalized.

A notice of the January 6, 2022 Salem Township Planning Commission public meeting where a public hearing was held was published on December 30, 2021. The Salem Township Board adopted the Plan on January 11, 2022.



Chapter 6 Goals & Objectives

Considering community input and the existing conditions of Salem Township, the following goals and objectives were developed to form the foundation of the Plan. The goals are intended to help the community aspire to accomplishing big ideas. The goal statements are intentionally general, but considered attainable through concerted efforts. The objective statements are more specific and may be regarded as milestones to achieving the goal.

1. Enhance Township Character

The Township Park will be well maintained and enhance the Salem community character through the stewardship of natural resources and community needs.

- a. Strategically acquire and develop new park space to meet community needs and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.
- b. Maintain and improve the existing recreational facilities at the Township Park for users of all ages and abilities.
- c. Promote the safety and cleanliness of park facilities.
- d. Maintain a current Recreation Plan that supports the improvement of the Township's quality of life.

2. Health and Wellness

Salem Township Park will allow residents and visitors the opportunity to pursue activities and programs that will contribute to a high standard of living.

- a. Pursue opportunities to improve and maintain park facilities such as sport courts and fields, playground equipment, and other features.
- b. Continue to support residents' use and interest in trails within the Township.
- c. Engage residents to solicit feedback on various funding opportunities for future sport court and field improvements.
- d. Support the development of recreational programs that would promote the health and wellness of Township residents and visitors.

3. Accessibility

Salem Township Park and recreational facilities will be accessible to all residents and visitors.

- a. Ensure that park improvements improve ADA compliance, and pursue universal design, when possible, for the safety and enjoyment of facilities by all ages and abilities.
- b. Develop and incorporate wayfinding and site signage that directs residents and visitors to important landmarks and recreational features in the park.
- c. Provide accessible access to all sport courts.
- d. Pursue funding opportunities for park development, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, Passport Recreation Grant Program, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Chapter 7 Action Program

The following section details the strategic actions and the general direction that Salem Township will take to maintain and improve the park and recreation facilities and programs in the community. A description of each action is provided to indicate a basis for action, identify relevant goals, and provide a plan for such action. In addition, strategic actions should meet all ADA requirements, where appropriate. Although a five-year time period will not be sufficient to accomplish all of the goals and objectives, the action program is intended to prioritize projects that may be achievable within five years.

The recommendations in the section are intended to be flexible and the following list of projects is not exhaustive. Future circumstances, such as funding and available opportunities, will likely influence the time and duration of projects. The following recommended actions are based on the input received from the community survey, Salem Township officials and staff, and an inventory of existing conditions.

Salem Township Park Land Acquisition

Residents of Salem Township consider the Township Park to be a vital asset. One of the most important steps in improving the park for Township leaders is the acquisition of new land for future expansion of the Township Park. This has been a goal in improving the recreational opportunities for the community. Increasing the park's size will allow park and recreational facilities to continue to be located together, and provide additional space for desired activities like a softball field, a baseball field, and a pickleball court. Adding the space for these amenities will provide additional opportunities to promote health and wellness for Township resident and visitors. The community was also in favor of park expansion, as was indicated by the results of the community survey.

Salem Township Park Improvements

There are many amenities at the Salem Township Park, and many are in good condition. Some of the assets would benefit from improvements to provide increased enjoyment and use, and the community survey provided insight into the types of improvements desired. Township leadership also recognizes the need to continue to sustainably maintain and grow the recreational amenities offered by the township. The Township demographic contains a large number of families with children, which aligns with the desire to provide a variety of recreational resources.

The Plan recognizes that improvements are often coordinated with available funding and that all recommended improvements may not be achievable within the next five years. The following

improvements are recommended based on current park popularity, recreation opportunities, existing conditions, and public input.

Township Park

- Install a new softball field
- Install a new baseball field
- Install two additional soccer fields
- Install pickleball facilities as a part of the multi-purpose tennis/basketball court facility
- Resurface multi-purpose tennis/basketball court
- Resurface paved trail
- Install wayfinding signage within the Township Park, including signs identifying the disc golf course and distance markers on the paved path.
- Maintain volleyball court
- Install additional picnic pavilion (in area of new park land acquisition)

Trails

Respondents to the community survey indicated that they were interested in more paved and unpaved trails. Recently, the Township was considering purchasing property adjacent to the Township Park that would have provided an opportunity to develop a new trail near a river. This is no longer a viable idea, but residents continue to be interested in more trails in the Township. Some survey respondents indicated that they would like a future trail to be connected to the existing trail. Other respondents stated that they would like to have a trail through a natural area to be able to enjoy nature and promote conservation.

Trails can be a great way for people to exercise and increase their well-being. Since the Township lacks sidewalks, residents know that the Township park provides a safe, accessible, flat, paved surface that they can rely on. Friends can meet for a social walk. Families can enjoy the trail together walking, scooting, or rolling. The mobility impaired can enjoy a ride around the park. Future events could even be held at the existing trail or future facilities to provide a common place for the community to gather and celebrate. Consideration should be made to keep the existing trail in a safe, smooth condition.

The Salem Township Park and Recreation Action Program is in Table 7.1 on the next page.



Table 7.1 Parks and Recreation Action Program

Improvement	Relates to Goal	Priority
Land Acquisition		
Acquire land for future expansion of the Township Park	1	High
Park Improvements		
Install new pavilion	1	Low
Install a new baseball field	1,2	Medium
Install a new softball field	1,2	Medium
Install two additional soccer fields	1,2	Medium
Install pickleball facilities as a part of the multi-purpose tennis/basketball court facility	1,2	Medium
Install accessible playground equipment for older children	3	Low
Install disc golf signage	2,3	Medium
Maintenance		
Resurface multi-purpose tennis/basketball court	1,3	High
Update disc golf course	1	Medium
Maintain volleyball court	1	Medium
Park Trail		
Resurface Township Park trail	1,2,3	Medium
Install a park bench on trail	1,2	Medium
Consider the development of future trails	2	Low

APPENDIX

Community Survey Results

Salem Township Park and Recreation Plan

November 2021

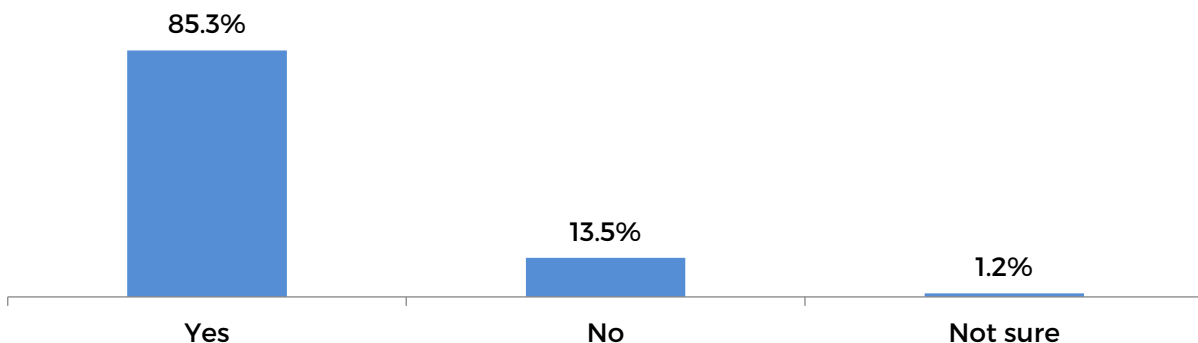
INTRODUCTION

In October 2021, the Salem Township Park and Recreation Plan Community Survey was issued to gather public input on the state of park and recreation amenities and programs in the Township. There were 173 responses to the survey, which provide quantifiable data to help inform the goals and information in the plan. The following are the results of the survey.

RESULTS

1. Do you live in Salem Township?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	85.3%	145
No	13.5%	23
Not sure	1.2%	2
If you do not live in Salem Township please indicate where you live.		29
Answered		170
Skipped		3



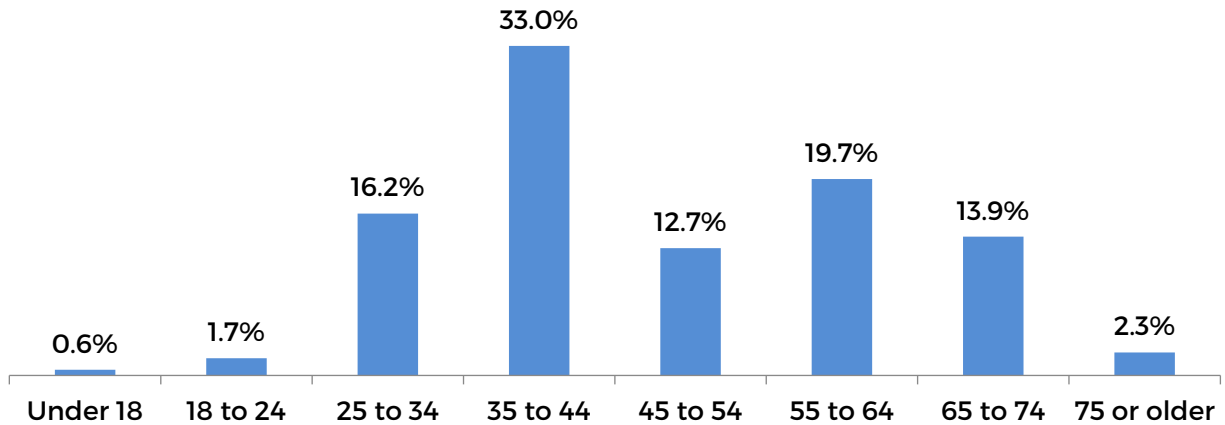
Other Responses

1. Dorr
2. Sandy pines
3. North Dorr
4. Allegan used to live in Salem
5. 143rd/Deerfield
6. Muskegon
7. Hopkins
8. Dorr

9. 2380 142nd on the border
10. Monterey Twp
11. Monterrey
12. 138th/34th
13. Hopkins
14. No longer a permanent resident, but my parents still live there, so I often return for weekends.
15. Overisel
16. Dorr Township
17. Overisel
18. Dorr township
19. Caledonia unfortunately
20. Dorr township
21. Hartland Mi
22. Rabbit River Farms
23. Monterey Township
24. Jametown Township
25. 2811 Creekside ct
26. Moline
27. Overisel
28. Valley township
29. 3036 Farmview SW

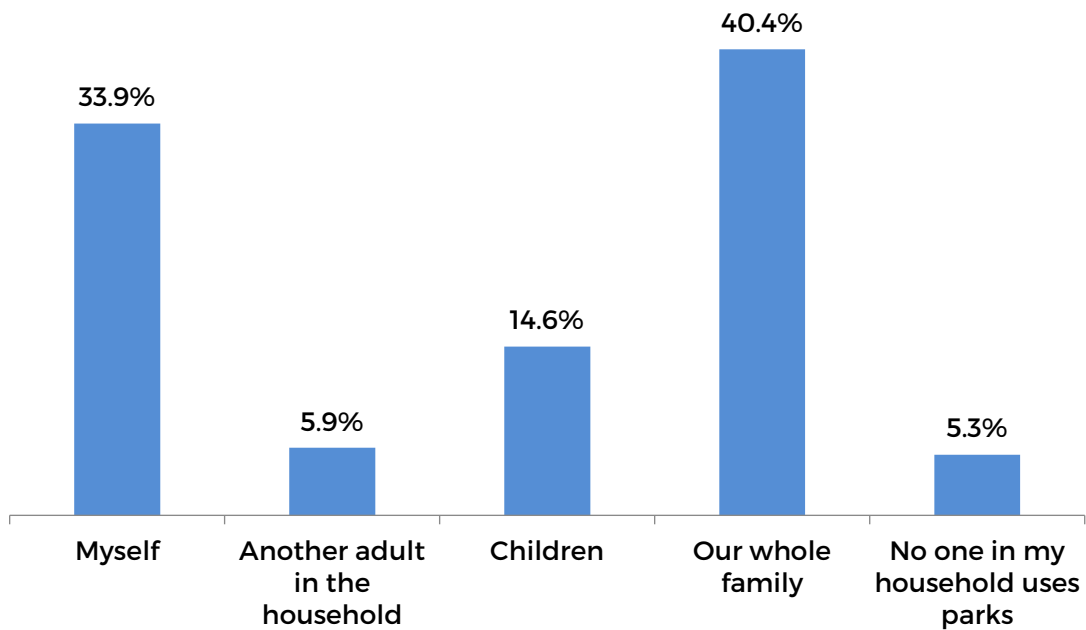
2. What is your age?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	0.6%	1
18 to 24	1.7%	3
25 to 34	16.2%	28
35 to 44	33.0%	57
45 to 54	12.7%	22
55 to 64	19.7%	34
65 to 74	13.9%	24
75 or older	2.3%	4
Answered	173	
Skipped	0	



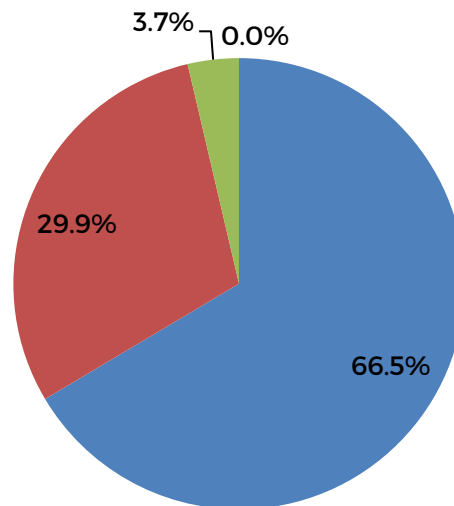
3. Who in your household is the most active user of parks?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Myself	33.9%	58
Another adult in the household	5.9%	10
Children	14.6%	25
Our whole family	40.4%	69
No one in my household uses parks	5.3%	9
Answered	171	
Skipped	2	



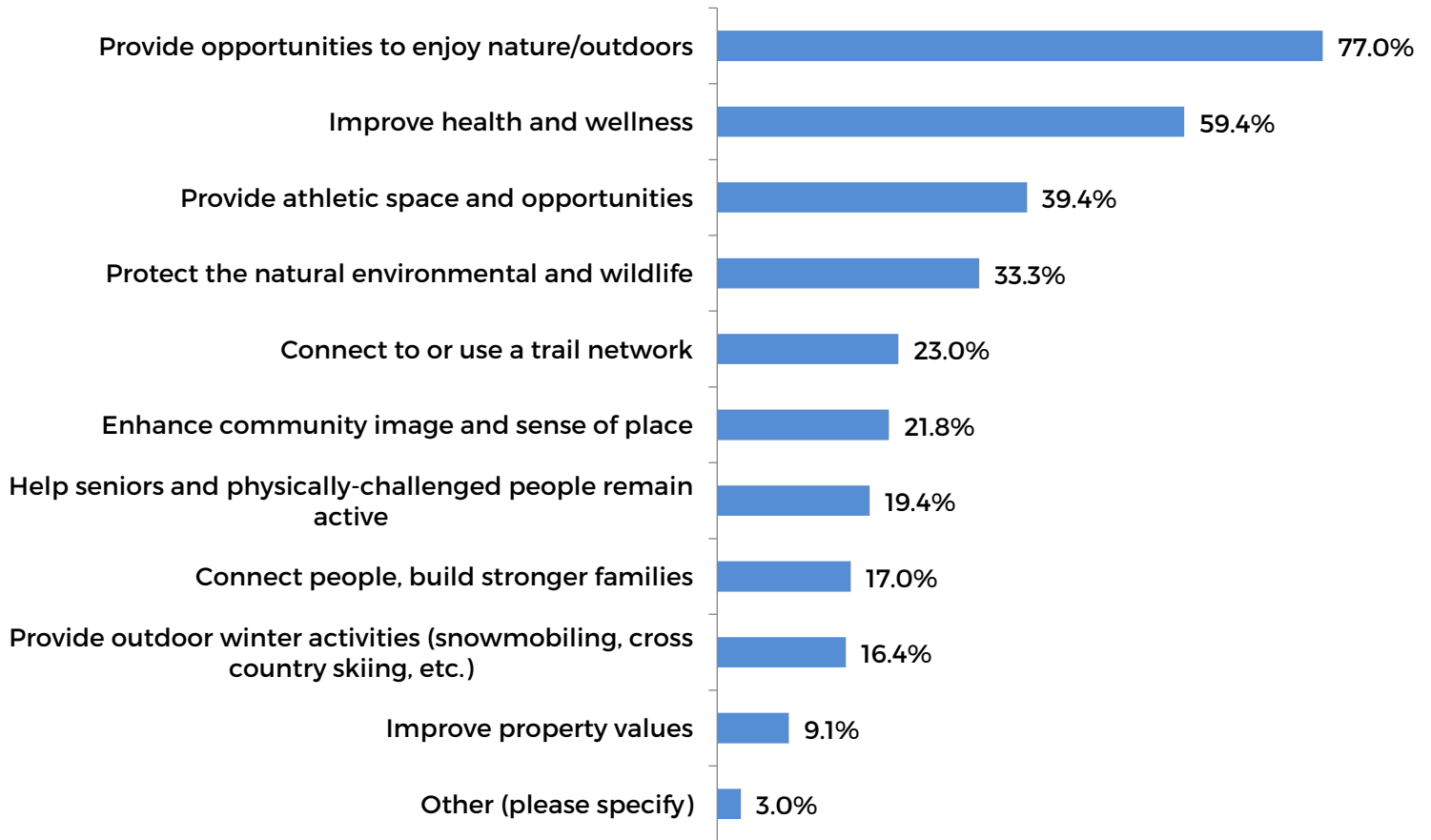
4. How important are parks, trails, and open space to you and/or your household's quality of life? (Scale 1 Not important – 3 Very important.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important	66.5%	109
Somewhat important	29.9%	49
Not important	3.7%	6
No opinion	0%	0
Weighted Average	2.63	
Answered	164	
Skipped	9	



5. Which of the following benefits of parks and recreation are most important to you? (Please select your top three.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors	77.0%	127
Improve health and wellness	59.4%	98
Provide athletic space and opportunities	39.4%	65
Protect the natural environmental and wildlife	33.3%	55
Connect to or use a trail network	23.0%	38
Enhance community image and sense of place	21.8%	36
Help seniors and physically-challenged people remain active	19.4%	32
Connect people, build stronger families	17.0%	28
Provide outdoor winter activities (snowmobiling, cross country skiing, etc.)	16.4%	27
Improve property values	9.1%	15
Other (please specify)	3.0%	5
Answered	165	
Skipped	8	

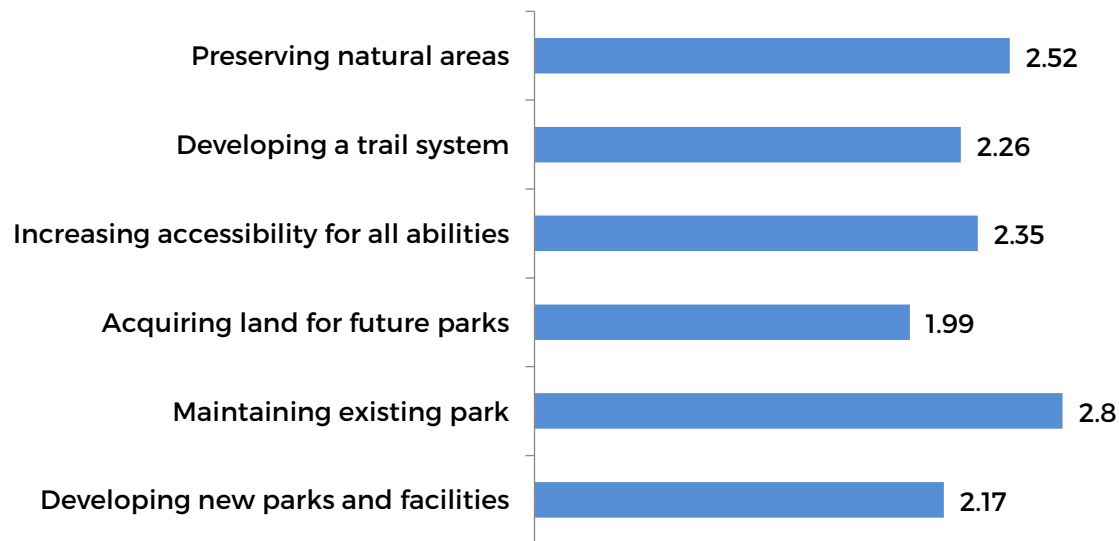


Other Responses

1. Map out mileage so users know what a mile is
2. Play on the playground with grandkids
3. Disc Golf
4. None
5. Safe play equipment for my grandkids

6. How important are the following in improving the park and recreation facilities in Salem Township?

Answer Choices	Responses				Total	Weighted Average
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Opinion		
Developing new parks and facilities	36.6% (60)	47.0% (77)	13.4% (22)	3.1% (5)	164	2.17
Maintaining existing park	82.8% (135)	15.3% (25)	1.2% (2)	0.6% (1)	163	2.8
Acquiring land for future parks	29.0% (47)	47.5% (77)	17.3% (28)	6.2% (10)	162	1.99
Increasing accessibility for all abilities	53.1% (87)	34.2% (56)	7.3% (12)	5.5% (9)	164	2.35
Developing a trail system	42.3% (69)	44.8% (73)	9.8% (16)	3.1% (5)	163	2.26
Preserving natural areas	61.6% (101)	29.9% (49)	7.3% (12)	1.2% (2)	164	2.52
Other (Please specify)					4	
Answered						165
Skipped						8

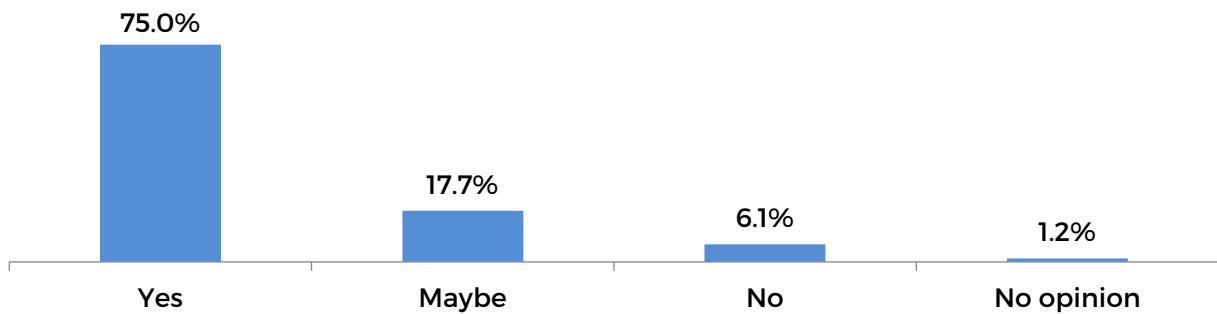


Other Responses

1. The current park trail is a safe place to walk, the roads are too busy to walk on
2. Pickle Ball Court
3. Would like to add a Disc Golf Course
4. I would like a pickleball court

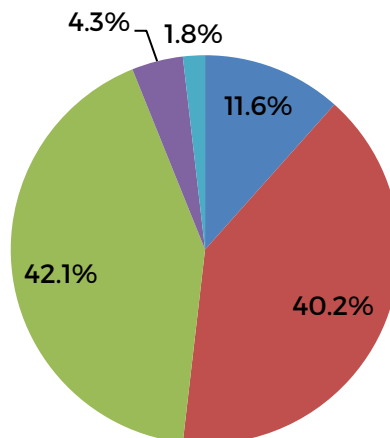
7. Would you or anyone in your household benefit from the addition of parks, trails, and/or recreation facilities in Salem Township?

Answer Choices		Responses
Yes	75.0%	123
Maybe	17.7%	29
No	6.1%	10
No opinion	1.2%	2
Answered		164
Skipped		9



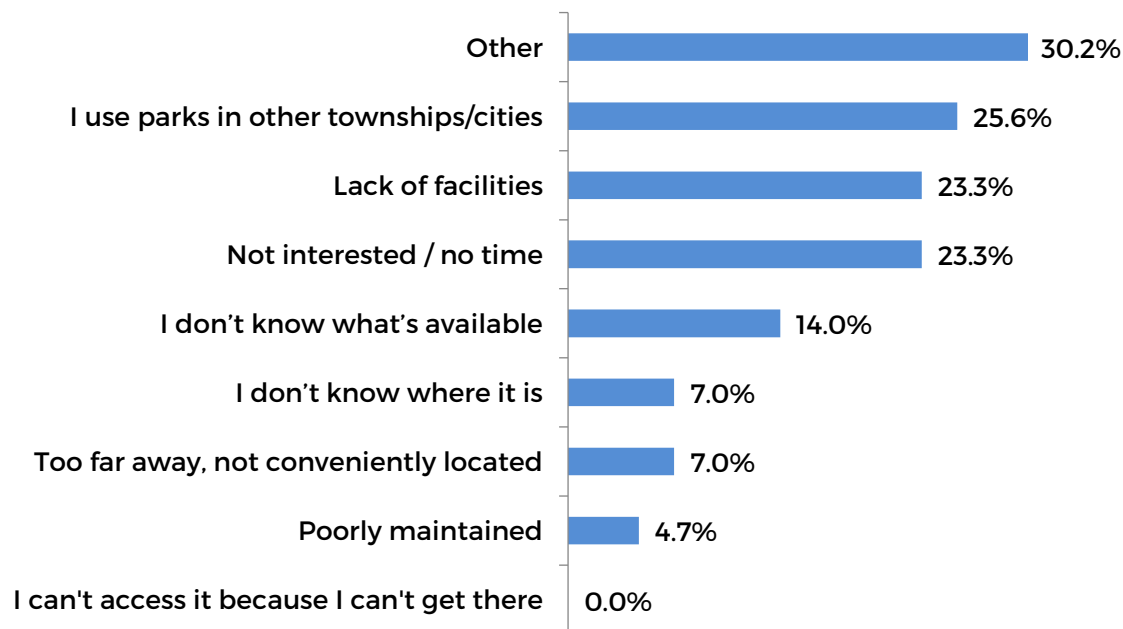
8. How often do you use the Salem Township Park?

Answer Choices		Responses
Frequently (once a week or more)	11.6%	19
Often (2-3 times a month)	40.2%	66
Sometimes (a few times each year)	42.1%	69
Rarely (less than once a year)	4.3%	7
Never	1.8%	3
Weighted Average		2.63
Answered		164
Skipped		9



**9. If you do not currently use the park in Salem Township, what is the reason?
(Please select all that apply.)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Other	30.2%	13
I use parks in other townships/cities	25.6%	11
Not interested / no time	23.3%	10
Lack of facilities	23.3%	10
I don't know what's available	14.0%	6
Too far away, not conveniently located	7.0%	3
I don't know where it is	7.0%	3
Poorly maintained	4.7%	2
I can't access it because I can't get there	0.0%	0
Answered	43	
Skipped	130	



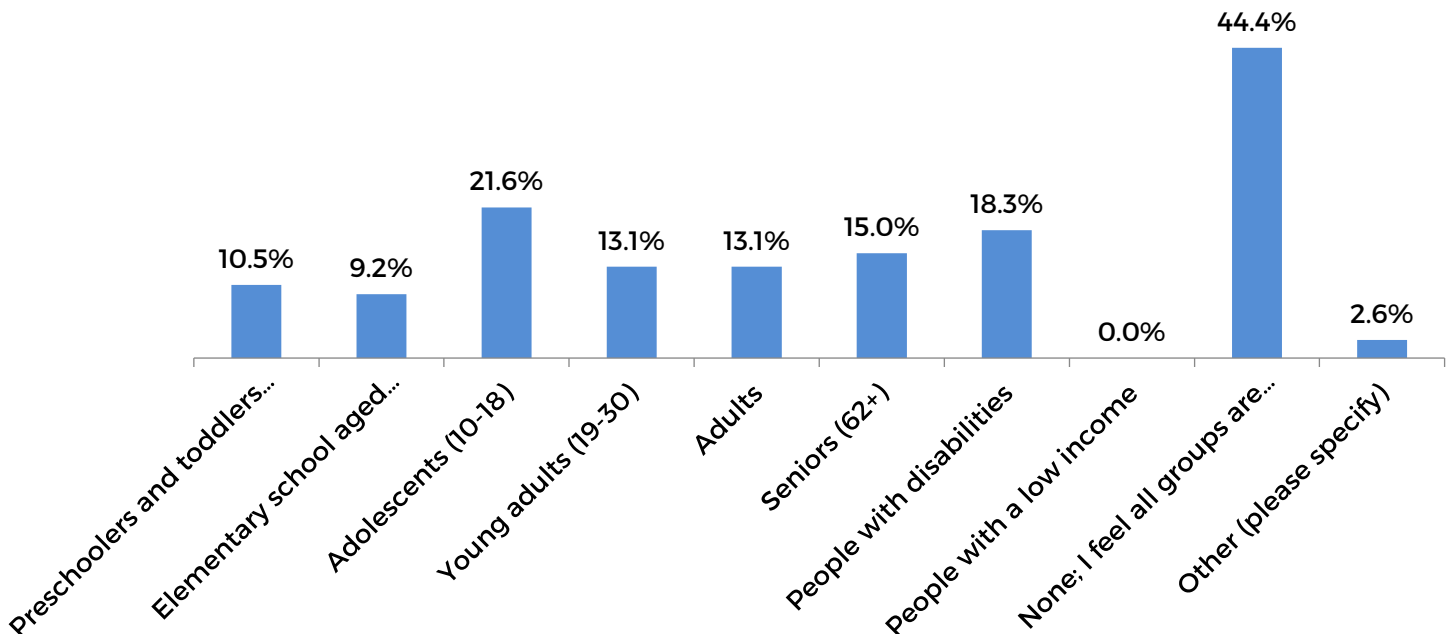
Other Responses

1. Just plain lazy!
2. Just don't have time go for activities usually
3. Is there walking trails near the dump property. If possible perfect natural foot trails to enjoy nature
4. Have my own property to play on
5. Just moved here last summer. Still learn what all is available and where
6. N/A
7. Prefer hiking trails.
8. My kids have outgrown the current play structures
9. I live near sandy pines

10. No pickleball courts
11. Too busy working wished we had more time to enjoy it
12. Lack of time, busy schedule
13. Mostly in the summer.

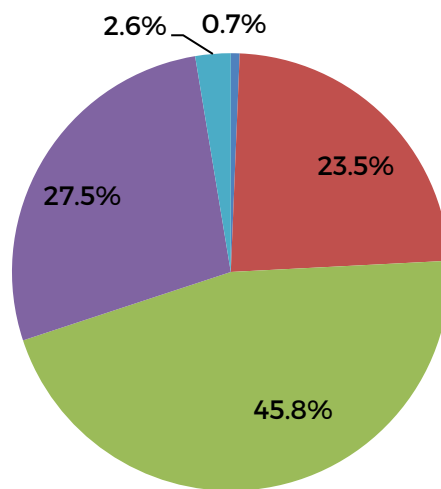
10. Which groups do you feel are under-served by current recreation services and amenities? Please check all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Preschoolers and toddlers (under 5)	10.5%	16
Elementary school aged children (5-9)	9.2%	14
Adolescents (10-18)	21.6%	33
Young adults (19-30)	13.1%	20
Adults	13.1%	20
Seniors (62+)	15.0%	23
People with disabilities	18.3%	28
People with a low income	0.0%	0
None; I feel all groups are adequately served	44.4%	68
Other (please specify)	2.6%	4
Answered	153	
Skipped	20	



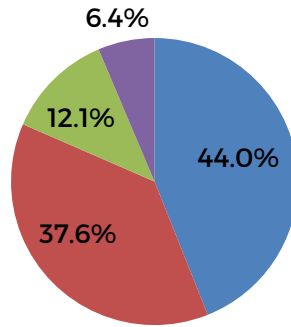
11. How adequately do you feel that the community is served by area programming (camps, sports leagues, outdoor education)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very adequately	0.7%	1
Adequately	23.5%	36
Somewhat adequately	45.8%	70
Inadequately	27.5%	42
Very adequately	2.6%	4
Weighted Average	2.92	
Answered	153	
Skipped	20	



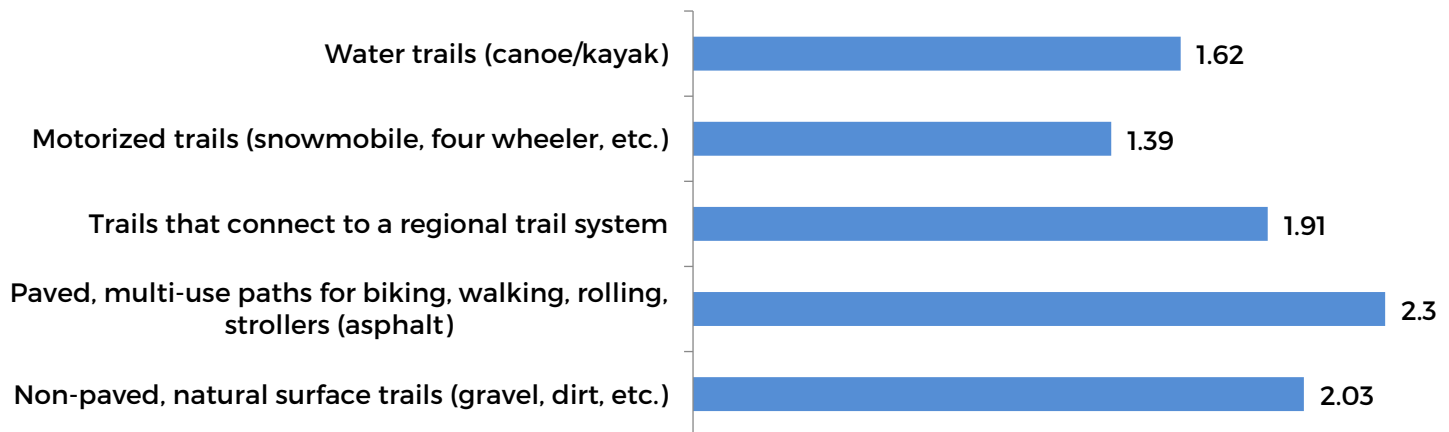
12. How important is pedestrian connectivity (sidewalks, trails, pathways, crossings, etc.) to you and/or your household?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important	44.0%	69
Somewhat important	37.6%	59
Not important	12.1%	19
No opinion	6.4%	10
Weighted Average	2.19	
Answered	157	
Skipped	16	



13. If there were trails in the Township, how should the different types of trails or pathways be prioritized?

Answer Choices	Responses				Total	Weighted Average
	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	I don't know		
Non-paved, natural surface trails (gravel, dirt, etc.)	29.7% (46)	50.3% (78)	13.6% (21)	6.5% (10)	155	2.03
Paved, multi-use paths for biking, walking, rolling, strollers (asphalt)	49.7% (78)	35.0% (55)	10.8% (17)	4.5% (7)	157	2.3
Trails that connect to a regional trail system	25.5% (40)	44.6% (70)	25.5% (40)	4.5% (7)	157	1.91
Motorized trails (snowmobile, four wheeler, etc.)	10.2% (16)	24.2% (38)	59.9% (94)	5.7% (9)	157	1.39
Water trails (canoe/kayak)	12.8% (20)	41.7% (65)	39.7% (62)	5.8% (9)	156	1.62
Other (please specify)					3	
Answered						159
Skipped						14

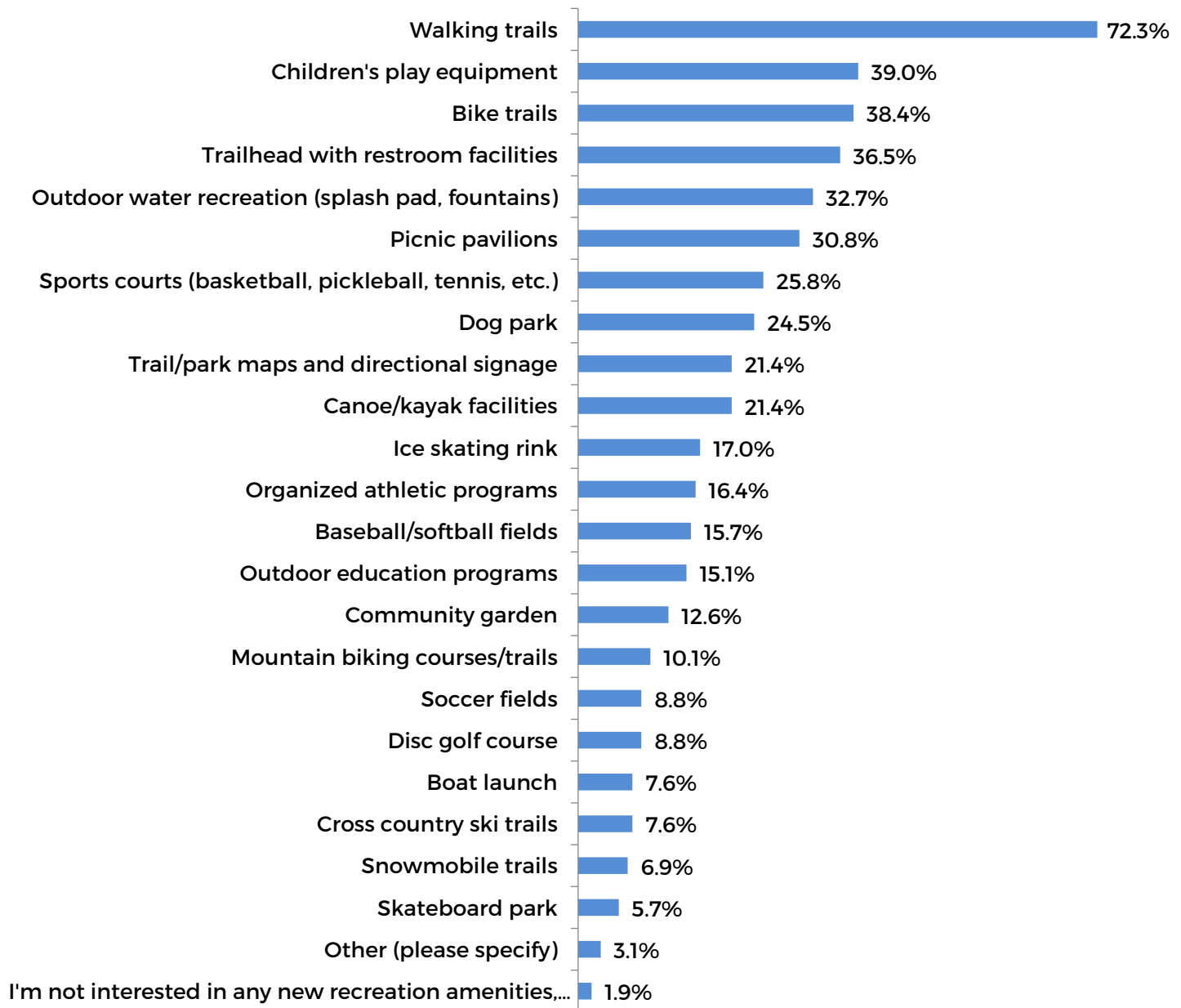


Other Responses

1. Marked trails so people can mark mileage
2. Fishing - Rabbit River or Little Rabbit River
3. Disc Golf Course

14. What parks and recreation amenities, facilities, and services are you most interested in? (Please select your top five.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Walking trails	72.3%	115
Children's play equipment	39.0%	62
Bike trails	38.4%	61
Trailhead with restroom facilities	36.5%	58
Outdoor water recreation (splash pad, fountains)	32.7%	52
Picnic pavilions	30.8%	49
Sports courts (basketball, pickleball, tennis, etc.)	25.8%	41
Dog park	24.5%	39
Canoe/kayak facilities	21.4%	34
Trail/park maps and directional signage	21.4%	34
Ice skating rink	17.0%	27
Organized athletic programs	16.4%	26
Baseball/softball fields	15.7%	25
Outdoor education programs	15.1%	24
Community garden	12.6%	20
Mountain biking courses/trails	10.1%	16
Disc golf course	8.8%	14
Soccer fields	8.8%	14
Cross country ski trails	7.6%	12
Boat launch	7.6%	12
Snowmobile trails	6.9%	11
Skateboard park	5.7%	9
Other (please specify)	3.1%	5
I'm not interested in any new recreation amenities, facilities, or services	1.9%	3
Answered	159	
Skipped	14	



Other Responses

1. Tennis court needs repair and add separate basketball court. In sue all through the summer so can't play tennis when they are playing basketball. Add wooded wall in tennis enclosure to play alone hitting against wall.
2. Sledding hill
3. River access - Riverside trail (fish from bank)
4. Beach volleyball court
5. Sledding hills :)

15. Comments

1. Love the parking, exercises and able to see the kids area from walking/exercise spots, dogs on leash. Being a Senior we have trouble with bikes and roller blades. They come up fast and hard to hear. Runners call out "on left/right" which helps.
2. Would love more walking trails, splash pad, playground equipment.
3. Even though I don't use the park it is a great asset to the community!
4. I just think a nature trail along a river seemed like something everyone could enjoy. A good opportunity to get + keep children interested in conservation.
5. Hiking trails, fishing spots (away from roads), a sledding hill with parking, bathrooms, things that get us outside & active. I am so excited about these possibilities!! Thank you!!"
6. Remove random grills. Place exercise stations all in one location for easier access. Put up additional picnic shelter. Create + implement a timetable/outline for grounds keeper to ensure upkeep and beautification plan. Update and maintain volleyball court. It is used every week during summer. If disc golf course was better maintained it could be used as a tournament location. This sport is popular in this area.
7. Something so use during each season is available. Tried to walk trail during winter but was extremely slippery and fell.
8. Do you really need to mow at 5:30 am? The low hum of a mower wakes me up all the time. I work second shift. Would a first shifter like to be woken up at 2am?
9. I think it's perfectly good but a natural trail system would be awesome
10. We have a beautiful river for water boarding, kayaking and canoeing. And beautiful nature walking trails
11. Would be nice to have snowmobile or atv/utv trails to keep them off the roads and off of other people's property. Especially snowmobiles- they seem to think they can drive across any yard or field they like. Grrrrr...
12. We are always very impressed with how accommodating the play equipment is for toddlers.
13. The people of Salem township would rather not have extra parks and rec areas if it means raising taxes
14. I only know of the park by the township building. If you have more they aren't well advertised
15. There needs to be more handicap excess able equipment for kids and adults in wheel chairs, ect.
16. Love our park and so does my dog!
17. I enjoy the Salem Township park often and would love additional space and activities.
18. Having a bike/walking trail that connects us to other trails would be amazing!!
19. I would like to see all township services such as the park, offices, fire department and library all kept in the same area as centrally located in the township.

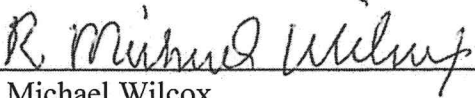
20. I like going to events they put on there it seems to be a nice neat park but a few more activities for the kids would be nice.
21. Thank you for being willing to improve. Pickleball is has become very popular. "
22. Would love to have the ability to reserve/rent the park pavilion for outside family gatherings and community events.
23. Would love to see a new Wooded 18 hole Disc Golf Course! I can help with any design necessary. I also may have a connection to 18 baskets!
24. Salem Township Parks system has been utilized by residents of Salem Township, neighboring townships and school districts for years. This park is a beautiful park, but with limited amenities. I feel that we need to expand our offering of amenities and to do that, we need to add more land for the expansion of what we can offer.
25. Allot of dog walking, I think a dog park would be really good...
26. I love the Salem township park.
27. A disc golf course would be my top choice for an addition.
28. We need at least 8 pickleball courts so we can have a club and host tournaments. Hudsonville has 16 courts and they are packed every nice evening in the summer and also get a lot of morning and daytime use.
29. I would really like a pickleball court.
30. We really need a splash pad for the local kids to enjoy
31. It would be nice to see nature activities available for all ages. The trail is really nice with the workout equipment .
32. There needs to be shade and more playground equipment. There also needs to be more trails.
33. Mark distance walked at the current park, so you know when you have walked a mile.
34. The park gets used A LOT. In all areas. I think expanding it would be great for the community and area businesses. Also, there is a large home school group that meets there once a week that would certainly benefit as well. Especially if there were outdoor education programs. The Library uses it from time to time for programs also.
35. We enjoy the park and use it weekly in the summer and the winter. We love that it's close to the library and my boys love the paved trails for riding their bikes/scooters while us parents walk. My boys also really enjoy the basketball hoop, but it can get a little too cramped if someone is using the tennis court at the same time.
36. None
37. Benches closer to the play sets would be nice.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan
County of Allegan

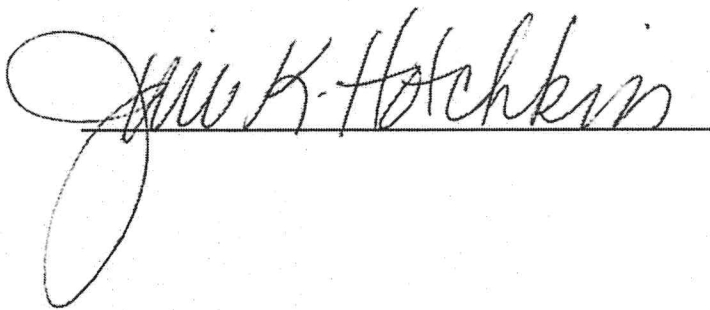
R. Michael Wilcox, being duly sworn says he is one of the principal clerks of the Allegan County News, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit.

December 9, 2021 A.D.


R. Michael Wilcox

Subscribed and sworn to me before this

21st January 2022
____ day of _____ A.D. _____



Julie Hotchkiss
Notary Public,
Acting In Allegan County, Michigan
My commission expires 03/15/2023

SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD

5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SALEM TOWNSHIP, AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

SALEM TOWNSHIP has prepared a draft Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan and invites the public to view the plan.

The draft plan is available for review on the Township website: www.salemtownship.org or a hard copy is available to view at the Township office (3003 – 142nd Ave, Burnips, MI 49314).

The Township Board will be considering the adoption of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan at a Public Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022 commencing at 7:00 PM at the Salem Township Meeting Room located at 3003 – 142nd Ave, Burnips, MI 49314.

All interested persons are invited to submit their comments in writing to the Township office before the meeting, or in person at the meeting.

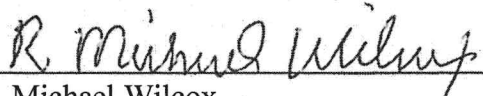
Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address number listed above.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan
County of Allegan

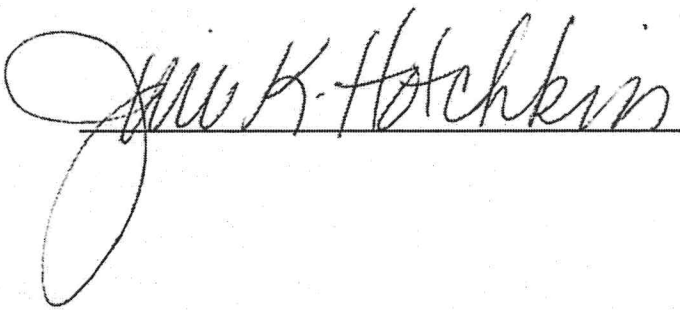
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December 30, 2021 A.D.


R. Michael Wilcox

Subscribed and sworn to me before this

21st January 2022
____ day of _____ A.D. _____



Julie Hotchkiss
Notary Public,
Acting In Allegan County, Michigan
My commission expires 03/15/2023

Salem Township

Planning Commission
Notice of Public Hearing

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SALEM TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

A public hearing concerning adoption of a Five Year Park and Recreation Plan of Salem Township will be held during the scheduled Planning Commission Meeting on January 6, 2022, at 7:00 PM. This meeting will be at the Salem Township Meeting Room located at 3003 – 142nd Ave, Burnips, MI 49314. All interested persons are invited to submit their comments in person or in writing at or before the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address number listed above.

The draft plan is available for review on the Township website: www.salemtownship.org

Betty Brower, Salem Township Clerk

**Salem Township Planning Commission
Minutes, January 6, 2022
7 pm, Salem Township Hall**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance – 7 pm

Roll Call of Members – Present, Coupe- Striegle- Pitsch- Oosterink (Actin Chairperson)- Berens- Wagner. Absent with notice – Myers

Recognition of Visitors – none noted

Approval of the December, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Motion by Pitsch, second by Wager. Motion carried.

Comments from the Public – Supervisor Pitsch noted that Tanya Oliveria will be presenting by phone.

Approval of the Agenda for the Meeting – Motion by Berens, second by Coupe. Motion carried.

Inquiry of Conflict of Interest – none noted.

New Business-

Public hearing for Parks and Recreation Plan- Opened at 7:03 pm. Overview by Tanya Oliveria (phone). She noted that no Public Comments during 30 day period had been received therefore the Plan is as it stands. Public comments from audience – J Holtz noted a couple of typos such as pon page 17 which reads City of Belding instead of Salem Township, and that the Oakland Community Center which is listed as a recreational facility, is closed. She also requested that a skating rink be added to future facilities. Motion to close Public Hearing by Pitsch, second by Coupe. Motion carried – 7:10 pm. No Planning Commission discussion. Motion to adopt Resolution # 1-6-2022 for recommendation to the Salem Township Board with typos corrected in final copy – by Wagner, second by Striegle. Motion carried.

Public Hearing for Text Amendment request for Open Air Sales in R-1 District (by L Bartz) - Public Hearing opened at 7:12 pm. Overview of 3 options by Lori (PCI): to recommend to Township Board that it be allowed by right and would apply to all R-1, or to recommend as a Special Use and would apply to all R-1, or to recommend no change to current Ordinance.

Mr. Bartz explained the need for his request as he has sold his Wayland location and needs to relocate his office, some equipment and designate 1900 square feet with specified hours in order to maintain his dealer license. This license allows him to make purchases in many sales such as in Florida. Mr. Bartz then listed many other businesses that operate in the Township.

Scott VanderKolk doesn't see how the Bartz operation would cause changes and supports the request.

Cathy Lain (daughter and employee) pointed out Burnips Equipment and the large amount of equipment is has. PC replied that it was a special use and also that it is an ag use with special legal considerations.

Motion by Pitsch, second by Coupe to close Public Hearing. Motion carried. 7:25 pm.

Planning Commission discussion – Lori (PCI) pointed out that the Ordinance designated R-1 for open space, farming and residential and is a transition district with very limited commercial uses such as livestock or kennels.

Berens – wants to stick with original zoning. Wagner – have to think about whole Township. Coupe agreed. Pitsch was against a change because it would apply to and affect the entire Township.

Motion to recommend no change to current Ordinance – by Coupe, second by Berens. Roll call vote – Striegle – aye, Coupe- aye, Pitsch -aye, Berens – aye, Wagner -aye, Oosterink -aye. Motion carried.

Old Business

Continuation of consideration of Special Use Permit for TKN Farms, Mineral Extraction- postponed from previous. Resolution 1-6-2022B was presented by Lori (PCI) which contains all the conditions and applicable parts of the Ordinance as previously discussed, based on December minutes. It allows approval with conditions and follows Ordinance , just restated in resolution form for clarity.

Motion by Coupe, second by Striegle to open public comment as a courtesy to those not previously in attendance and to those who have further comments. Motion carried.

Chuck Zuidema, neighbor – pointed out that Bill 431 addressing mineral extraction has not passed. He is concerned about property values and projected length of time in operation. He sees the Loew mine as not following what it is supposed to do. He noted that there will be no berms on the west side of this mine and questioned if there is compensation to the Township. He doesn't want this operation in his backyard.

Scott Dekker – lives north of mine – has four kids under age 10 and sees negative impacts in terms of noise and pollution. He reminded the Planning Commission that they are elected officials. He mentioned a 2014 study on landscape and noise and the negative impact on property values, 20% down. He feels that private property laws allow for peaceful enjoyment and this would create a nuisance. He is against it.

Kevin Wjkowski – Lives on NW corner – said that change is what everyone fears, as it will affect our lives and surroundings- thought it would be great if everyone would work together – can't judge other mines in other places. Thought it would help if Troy (one of the applicants) lived on site.

Motion to close Public Comment by Pitsch, second by Wagner. Motion carried -8:07 pm.

Oosterink as chair explained that by law the mine cannot be denied only limited by the conditions that the PC sets. Mines are based on the location of minerals.

Lori (PCI) – Reiterated the relevant portions of the Zoning Enabling act and addressed some of the Public Comments for clarity, such as that the PC is appointed not elected just so that difficult decisions will not be politicized.

Motion to approve the request for a Special Land Use permit for a Sand Mining Operation conforming to the conditions in Resolution 1-6-2022B, by Berens, seconded by Wagner. Roll call vote – Wagner-aye, Berens -aye, Oosterink -aye, Pitsch -aye, Striegle – aye, Coupe – Aye.

Motion carried.

Lowe Sand Mine- Update on revocation conditions – postponed due to weather.

Correspondence received – non

Reports and comments

Township Board – by Striegle – Road Commission recommendations accepted, 2020 meeting dates set, 2 new probationary firefighters.

PCI – a call from a citizen who wants to build an accessory building prompted a look at the Ordinance which limits size not just on amount but also shape of parcel. Two parcels of same size may not be able to build same size building due to shape of parcel. PC will consider an amendment – Lori will bring sample to next meeting.

Other/Roundtable –

Next meeting February 3, 2022

Adjournment-

Motion by Pitsch, second by Berens to adjourn. Motion carried. 8:32 pm.

SALEM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Resolution # 1-6-2022

At a regular meeting of the Salem Township Planning Commission held on January 6, 2022, the following Resolution was offered for adoption by Planning Commission Member

Wagner and was seconded by Planning Commission Member Struagle

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2026
FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN TO THE TOWNSHIP
BOARD AND CONSTITUTING PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL
OF SUCH PLAN**

WHEREAS, Salem Township has engaged in the process to develop a new Five-Year Recreation Plan, which describes pertinent features, recreation facilities, policies, and desired implementation to improve recreational offerings in the community during the period between 2022 and 2026; and

WHEREAS, Salem Township facilitated public input via a community survey in October and November 2021 prior to the development of the Plan, enabling citizens and stakeholders to express opinions and needs, ask questions, offer advice, and discuss all aspects of the Township Park and recreation needs and amenities; and

WHEREAS, Salem Township has prepared the Five-Year Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the benefit of the entire community and to meet the recreation needs of residents as expressed during the public input session; and

WHEREAS, a notice was published indicating that the Plan was available on the Township's website and offered for a period of at least 30 days for public comment and review; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the Five-Year Recreation Plan on today's date to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Salem Township Planning Commission hereby recommends adoption of the Five-Year Recreation Plan to the Township Board of Trustees as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents and visitors of the community.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Dated: January 6, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Brandon Oosterink
Salem Township Planning Commission
Vice Chairperson/Acting Chairperson

SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2022

Jim Pitsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Pitsch, B. Brower, Sebright, Striegle

Members absent: A. Brower

Minutes from December and bills for January were approved as submitted by consent of the Board.

Comments from Commissions and Departments of: Zoning, Planning, Fire, Ambulance, Library, Parks Planning, ARPA funding, Roads

Public Comment: Question regarding the PA 116 removal (Hildenbrand property) of 1 acre

Old Business:

1. Don Sebright moved and Dan Striegle seconded to deny Louis Bartz Open Sales Lot in R-1. It is not in the Master Plan and not recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion carried.
2. Dan Striegle moved and Betty Brower seconded to postpone the Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Private Roads until the February Board meeting. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Betty Brower moved and Don Sebright seconded adopt Resolution 1-11-2022A Salem Township Five Year Parks Plan. Roll call vote: Striegle, Yes; Pitsch, Yes; B. Brower, Yes; Sebright, Yes. No, none. Motion adopted.
2. Don Sebright moved and Betty Brower seconded to open public hearing for IDD for PDS Plastics at 7:17 pm. Motion carried. Public Comment: none
Betty Brower moved and Dan Striegle seconded to close the public hearing at 7:23 pm. Motion carried.
Dan Striegle moved and Betty Brower seconded to adopt Resolution 1-11-2022B IDD for PDS Plastics. Roll call vote: Sebright, Yes; Striegle, Yes; Pitsch, Yes; B. Brower, Yes. No—none. Motion adopted.
3. Fire Department Lighting was discussed.

Public Comment: questions regarding PDS Plastics; Private Roads ordinance; possible hotspots

Betty Brower moved and Don Sebright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Motion carried.

Betty Brower, Clerk

SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution # 1-11-2022 A

At a regular meeting of the Salem Township Board held on January 11, 2022, the following Resolution was offered for adoption by Board Member B. Brower and was seconded by Board Member Sebright:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2022-2026 FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Salem Township has engaged in the process to develop a new Five-Year Recreation Plan, which describes pertinent features, recreation facilities, policies, and desired implementation to improve recreational offerings in the community during the period between 2022 and 2026; and

WHEREAS, Salem Township facilitated public input via a community survey in November 2020 prior to the development of the Plan, enabling citizens and stakeholders to express opinions and needs, ask questions, offer advice, and discuss all aspects of parks and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Salem Township has prepared the Five-Year Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the benefit of the entire community and to meet the recreation needs of residents as expressed during the public input session; and

WHEREAS, a notice was published indicating that the Plan was available on the Township's website and offered for a period of at least 30 days for public comment and review; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the Five-Year Recreation Plan on today's date to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Salem Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Five-Year Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents and visitors of the community.

Yeas: Striegle, Pitsch, B. Brower, Sebright

Nays: none

Absent: A. Brower

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 11, 2022

By: Betty Brower
Betty Brower
Salem Township Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Betty Brower, Salem Township Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of the resolution adopted by the Township Board at a Regular Meeting held on January 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

From: [DeOliveira, Tanya](#)
To: ["dbee@wmrpc.org"](mailto:dbee@wmrpc.org); ["Parks@allegancounty.org"](mailto:Parks@allegancounty.org)
Cc: ["Jim Pitsch"](#); [Betty Brower](#)
Subject: Salem Township 5 year Park and Recreation Plan 2022 - 2026
Date: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:48:49 PM
Attachments: [Salem Twp Parks and Recreation Plan 2022 2026 sent to planning agencies.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please find attached to this email a copy of the newly-adopted Salem Township 5 year Park and Recreation Plan 2022 – 2026. As representatives for the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and the Allegan County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department, you are being notified as required by the MDNR guidelines.

Please contact me if there are any questions.

Thank you,

Tanya DeOliveira, AICP
Project Manager

williams&works

(800) 224-1590 | (616) 988-3506

williams-works.com