

**MONTCALM COUNTY RECREATION PLAN**

2014-2018

**PREPARED BY:  
MONTCALM COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE  
WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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## **Introduction**

Montcalm County has established the importance of recreation to the County's quality of life by maintaining an up-to-date Recreation Plan. The County developed a recreation plan in 1997, updated the plan in 2003 and in 2007, and continues the process with this updated plan.

This Plan represents the ideas of the County's officials and residents through meetings, an "Issue Identification" Workshop, and a public meeting to review a draft of the Plan. The planning process was a combined effort of the County's Recreation Commission, County officials, interested citizens, and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

The Action Plan provides a schedule for completing a number of improvements. The County should strive to follow the established schedule, but should consider the schedule as a "living document" since funding opportunities and other events may not exactly mesh with the schedule. The integrity of the plan will not be compromised if actions are rescheduled during the five-year planning period.

Finally, this plan should be a working document that is frequently used for guidance and updated if necessary. The next complete update of the Plan should occur in 2018.

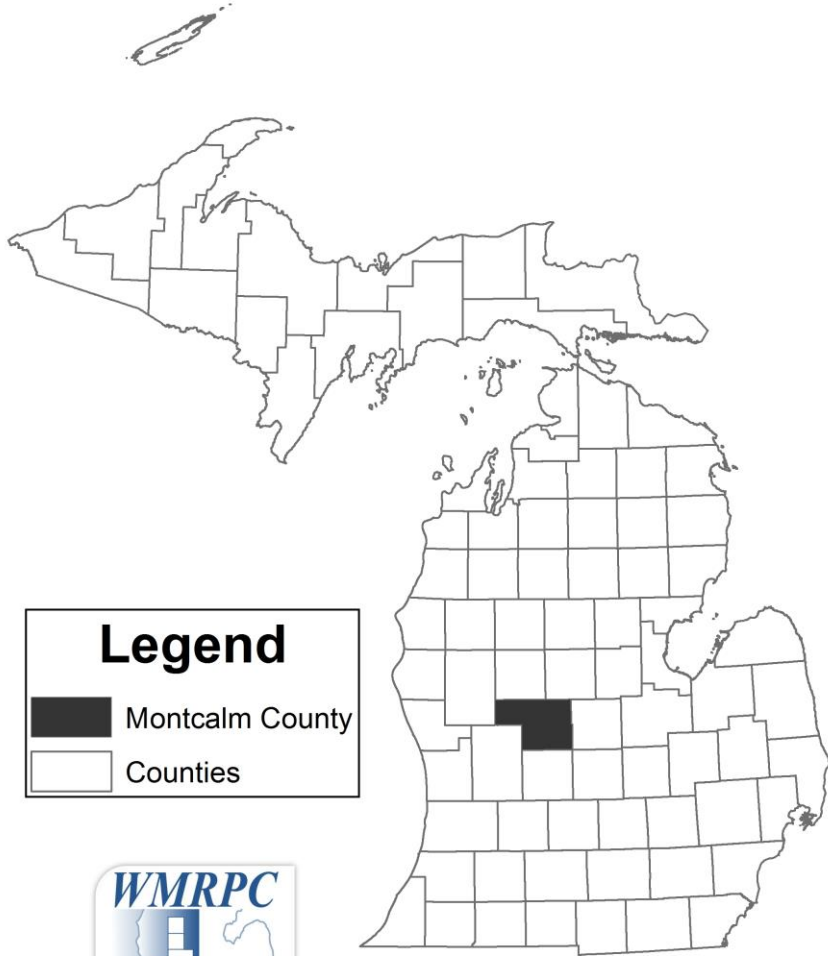
## **Community Description**

This recreation plan was prepared for Montcalm County. In addition to county-wide information, additional information is included for many of the communities within Montcalm County to provide a more complete description of recreation opportunities. Montcalm County is located in central Michigan (Map 1) and contains three cities, six villages, and 20 townships.

The plan focuses on providing recreation opportunities to residents of the County through the acquisition, development, and maintenance of county-owned parks. The plan also allows for the coordination of local units of governments' recreational programs and activities.

Supplemental information describing the County's physical and social features is included in Appendix A to allow people to see the information and to meet the new guidelines for Recreation Plans.

# Map 1 Montcalm County Location Map



**Legend**

- Montcalm County
- Counties



Produced by: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

## Administrative Structure

The County's residents are the final authority in the County since they elect the County Board of Commissioners, which must approve of any major improvements to the County's parks. The County's recreation-related planning activities are undertaken by the Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission, which is comprised of both elected and appointed members. The County Board of Commissioners and the Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission are identified below:

### **Montcalm County Board of Commissioners**

- Ron Blanding, District #1
- Tom Lindeman, District #2
- Betty Kellenberger, District #3
- Ron Braman, District #4
- Ron Retzloff, District #5
- Patrick Q. Carr, District #6
- Ron Baker, District #7
- Tom Porter, District #8
- John Johansen, District #9

### **Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Ron Braman
- Albert Hackbardt
- Betty Kellenberger
- Dale Linton
- Franz Mogdis
- Bruce Noll
- Tom Porter
- Sandy Raines
- Mike Scott
- Sally Thomsen

## **Montcalm County Budget**

Montcalm County adopts a budget each year covering its fiscal year, which runs from October 1 through September 30 each year. Table 1 lists the revenues and expenditures.

In 2013 the amended budget lists revenues of \$15,267,269. These revenues come from a variety of sources listed in Table 1.

The 2014 adopted budget lists expenditures of \$14,248,432 and a fund balance of \$1,018,837. Major expenditures are listed in Table 1.

In 2014 the adopted budget lists revenues of \$15,267,269. These revenues come from a variety of sources listed in Table 1.

The 2014 amended budget lists expenditures of \$14,364,467 and a fund balance of \$1,008,692. Major expenditures are listed in Table 1.

Montcalm County's 2014 budget lists a total of \$10,134 for parks and recreation. This figure includes administrative costs, supplies, insurance, contracted services, building repair, equipment repair, and grounds maintenance.

Table 1: Montcalm County Budget Information

<b>Category</b>	<b>2013 Budget (amended)</b>	<b>2014 Budget (adopted)</b>
<b>Revenue Source</b>		
Fund Balance	1,133,819	1,018,837
Taxes	7,227,079	7,227,107
Licenses & Permits	152,600	143,400
Intergovernmental	2,289,083	2,448,479
Charges for Services	2,848,549	2,892,550
Fines & Forfeits	75,200	85,400
Interest & Rents	8,600	8,210
Other Revenue	302,282	338,119
Other Financial Sources	1,230,057	1,211,057
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>15,267,269</b>	<b>15,373,159</b>
<b>Expenditure Activity</b>		
Legislative	141,724	131,562
Judicial	2,252,361	2,222,583
General Government	4,478,764	4,478,284
Public Safety	5,205,083	5,231,619
Public Works	70,867	70,867
Health & Welfare	231,200	231,200
Economic Development	13,224	112,428
Other	260,500	260,500
Capital Outlay	0	0
Debt Service	0	0
Appropriations	1,594,709	1,625,424
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>14,248,432</b>	<b>14,364,467</b>
Fund Balance	1,018,837	1,008,692

Source: Montcalm County

### **Staff and Volunteers**

The County assigns 0.4 full time equivalent (FTE) employees to maintain the County's parks. The County welcomes volunteer efforts, but does not rely on such efforts to maintain or improve the parks.

### **Public School Districts**

Montcalm County is served by several school districts. A list of the Districts, with schools within Montcalm County is shown below. At this point in time, there is very little interaction between the schools and the County's park system.

Carson City-Crystal – High School, Middle School, and elementary school located in Carson City.

Central Montcalm – High School (9-12), Middle School (6-8), Upper Elementary in Stanton (3-5) and Elementary located in Sheridan (K-2). Virtual Academy is offered at this district.

Greenville – High School, Middle School, and three Elementary Schools located in Greenville. One elementary school located in Kent County's Oakfield Township. Virtual Academy is offered at this district.

Lakeview – High School (8-12), Middle School (4-7), Grades K-3 School, all located in Lakeview.

Montabella – Junior Senior High School, Middle School (7-10), and Grades K-6 School located on North County Line Road.

Tri County – High School (9-12), Middle School (6-8), K-3 School located in Howard City, Grades 4-5 School located in Sand Lake (Kent County). Virtual Academy is offered at this district.

Vestaburg – High School, Middle School, and Elementary School located in Vestaburg.

In addition to the public school districts there are many private and parochial schools located in Montcalm County.

### **City, Village, and Township Parks**

There are many parks maintained by the cities, villages, and townships within the County. There is no formal relationship established between the various recreation providers. A partial list of facilities is included in the inventory.

## Recreation Inventory

### **Montcalm County Parks**

Montcalm County maintains seven parks that serve a variety of needs. A description of the seven sites follows.

Artman Park – This park is located in Reynolds Township (Section 28) at the intersection of M-82 and Amy School Road. The 30-acre park has a variety of features oriented toward passive recreation activities. Tamarack Creek flows through the park and provides a peaceful natural feature for park users. Facilities include vault-toilets that are handicap-accessible, 16 picnic tables, a pedestrian bridge, and gravel parking. Landscaping includes many large trees and a large well-maintained grassy area. Access control consists of a gate to block automobile access after the posted hours. Signage includes a park sign and a posting of the park’s rules. A surveillance system is in-place at the park. Amy School Road divides the park into two areas.

Surrounding land uses include open space, forested areas, and low-density residential.

Strengths of the park include its easy access from M-82 and US-131. The water features and the large trees also are great assets. The park’s primary weaknesses include the limited facilities available and noise from the adjacent highway (M-82).

Summary of features: 30 acres, 16 picnic tables, restrooms, gravel parking.

Bass Lake Park – This park is located in Richland Township (Section 28). The two acre park is on the east shore of Bass Lake and includes a sandy parking lot and driveway, two picnic tables, basic signage, three trash cans, fencing, and nice trees. Surrounding land uses include agriculture and low density residential/cottages. Strengths of the park include access to Bass Lake and the quiet surroundings. Weaknesses relate primarily to lack of development.

Summary of features: Two acres, two picnic tables, gravel parking area, beach area and boat launch

Camp Ford Lincoln Park – This unique facility is located in Cato Township (Section 1) near the County’s northern boundary on Schmied Road. The camp is located on Townline Lake. The camp facilities are available through Montcalm County on a reservation basis. The Camp includes two lodging-cabins that include “barracks style” beds. The two older sleeping facilities are wooden structures in need of some attention. A brick dining facility includes a large dining area, complete kitchen facilities, restrooms, and shower facilities. A recent addition to the park includes two single-unit cabins that sleep 12 each, are heated for year-round use, and have a variety of amenities including electricity, refrigerators, and microwave ovens. The camp has a picnic shelter (15’x15’) and 13 picnic tables, four grills, a grass volleyball court, a swimming area with a wooden

pier, outdoor lighting, swings, some paved pathways, and gravel parking. Landscaping includes many mature trees and large grassy areas. Surrounding land uses include lakeside cottages and homes. There is signage identifying the site. Access management includes a four-foot high chain-link fence surrounding the site.

Strengths of the camp include its beautiful lakefront location, the quiet of the surrounding area, the landscaping, and the unique camping experience. Weaknesses relate to the general condition of the two older wooden cabins.

Summary of features: three acres, lodging cabins (two year-round), dining hall/kitchen, swimming area, lakefront site, picnic shelter, restrooms, showers, and water.

Krampe Park – This park is located in Winfield Township (Section 34) near the intersection of Church Road and Amble Road. The 20-acre park has a variety of features oriented towards picnics and other passive recreational activities. The park is located on Winfield Lake and provides both fishing and boating access. The park has a picnic shelter (30'x60') and 30 picnic tables, seven grills, paved pathways, gravel parking with paved areas for handicap-accessible parking, vault-toilets (handicap-accessible), and two sets of horseshoe pits. There is a playground with eight swings and a playground structure. A gate to limit automobile access after hours is at the entrance and lighting for security is also on-site. A surveillance system is in-place. Signage includes a park sign and a posting of the park's rules. Landscaping includes many mature trees, and a well-maintained grassy area for picnics and other activities.

Surrounding land uses include residential homes and cottages, forested areas, and agriculture.

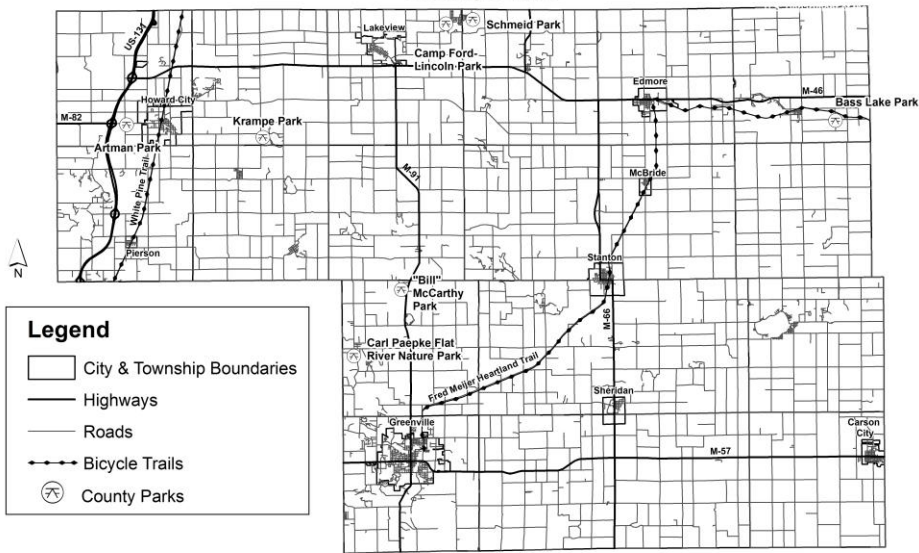
Strengths of the park include its quiet peacefulness, access to Winfield Lake, rolling topography, a larger variety of activities, and the many mature trees. The only weakness relates to the park's isolation, which makes it difficult to find and limits awareness of the facilities. The location also makes patrolling the park difficult.

Summary of features: 20 acres, picnic shelter, restrooms, 30 picnic tables, lake access, playground equipment, on-site water.

"Bill" McCarthy Park – This 26-acre park is located in Montcalm Township (Section 4) on M-91. The Flat River passes along the western edge of the park. The park's primary emphasis is group gatherings/picnics. The park has two small picnic shelters (20'x30'), one large picnic shelter (25'x80'), and 100+ picnic tables. The park also has nine grills, accessible vault-toilets, four swings, and a play structure. The park is set in a forested area with well-maintained grassy areas. Signage identifies the park. There are gates that can be closed to limit automobile access. Parking consists of gravel areas, with some paved parking for handicap-accessible sites. There are also paved pathways through portions of the park. A surveillance system is in-place. Surrounding land uses include forested areas and low-density residential.

Map 2

### Montcalm County Recreation Plan County Parks



0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Produced by: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission



Strengths of the park include its visibility from M-91, the mature trees, access to the Flat River, and the capacity of the facility to serve large groups. The only weakness relates to noise from M-91, which is minimal.

Summary of features: 26 acres, three picnic shelters, 100+ picnic tables, restrooms, playground equipment, and on-site water.

Schmied Park – This four-acre park is located in Belvidere Township (Section 6) at the corner of Robin and Caroline streets, south of North County Line Road. This park, like Camp Ford Lincoln Park, is located on Townline Lake. The park contains a variety of facilities including eight picnic tables, three grills, four swings, a play structure, vault-toilets, a basketball hoop, and paved parking. Security lighting is present. Lake access includes a swimming area. Landscaping includes many large trees and well-maintained grounds. The park has adequate signage and has no access control. A surveillance system is in-place. Surrounding land uses are residential homes and cottages.

The park's strengths include its location on the lake, its peacefulness, its many large trees, and the overall condition of the park. The only weakness relates to its isolated location.

Summary of features: Four acres, eight picnic tables, lake access, playground, paved parking, vault-toilets.

Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park – This 62 acre site is located in Section 19 of Montcalm Township. The site provides 4,200 feet of frontage on the Flat River on a portion of the River that is good for canoeing and fishing. There are numerous trails throughout the property, 20 parking spaces (gravel), a fence around the parking area, and other improvements. The site is ideal for many activities that were cited by citizens in a 2001 countywide survey to determine recreation interests – including picnics, fishing, walking/running, camping, and canoeing/boating.

The park's strengths include its size and peaceful solitude. Weaknesses relate to its lack of facilities and isolated location.

Summary of features: 62 acres of undeveloped land.

### **Community Facilities**

In addition to County facilities, there are a number of other opportunities across the County. This list is ever-changing and does not represent every opportunity in Montcalm County, but offers a sample of the larger facilities.

- The Montcalm County Conservation District maintains a “Model Forest” in section 17 of Douglass Township. The 70 acre site is not a park, but does have trails, a pavilion and restrooms. The model forest is a demonstration project designed to educate others on selectively harvesting trees.

- The Montcalm County 4H Fairground is located on Peck Road. The 63 acre facility includes fairground facilities and a campground with 100 + sites.
- Greenville has 11 parks with 140 acres of property. Facilities include public lake and river access, athletic facilities, picnic facilities, and a linear trail through the City for bicycling, in-line skating or other linear activities. Recreation Plan performed in 2005.
- The Village of Lakeview has two village-owned parks totaling three acres that provider esources include swimming, playground equipment, picnic facilities, and softball. An accessible fishing pier was recently added.
- Day Township has a drag strip race track
- Montcalm Township maintains two parks with a total of ten acres. Resources include baseball, basketball, picnic facilities, play equipment, and a tennis court.
- Pine Township has two parks totaling eight acres. Facilities include baseball, basketball, an indoor community center, picnic facilities, play equipment, and soccer fields.
- Home Township has one park with baseball, camping, and indoor community center, a tennis court, and picnic facilities.
- Carson City maintains two parks totaling 50 acres. The parks include basketball, fishing, picnic facilities, play equipment, volleyball, and nature trails. The City sponsors Frontier Days the second weekend in June. Recreation Plan performed in 2003.
- The Old Fence Rider's Historical Center is located in Edmore and offers a variety of historical displays including flags, newspapers, and antique barbed wire.
- Crystal Township maintains four parks totaling 28 acres. The parks include active game facilities, access to two lakes, picnic opportunities, and other opportunities in parks ranging from ¼ acre to 19 acres. The Township updated their recreation plan in 2007.
- The Sheridan Area (Village and four townships) performed a recreation plan in 2003 that identifies two parks within the Village totaling four acres and providing water access on Pearl Lake, playground facilities, and picnic opportunities. Bushnell Township maintains a roadside park on M-57.
- The City of Stanton maintains a five acre park with a playground, and facilities for basketball, baseball, tennis, and picnics. Maddie's Park is also located in the City and includes play facilities for younger children and accessible playground equipment. The City is currently updating its recreation plan.
- Pierson Township maintains an access site on Big White Fish Lake. The Township performed a recreation plan in 2003. The Village of Pierson has two parks and is improving one site that was donated by the landfill located in Pierson Township.
- The Village of Howard City maintains 13 acres of parks including Ensley Park, that includes picnic facilities, playground equipment, and restrooms as well as tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts. Minnie Farmer Park is used primarily for picnics and Herbert J. Peck Park includes ball fields, picnic facilities, and playground equipment.
- Heritage Village, located in Sidney on the campus of Montcalm Community College, is a historic village established in 1987 that includes a blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, depot, log cabin, and other restored buildings.

## **Trails in Montcalm County**

The County has an extensive network of trails for bicyclists, runners, hikers, in-line skaters, and other trail users.

The Fred Meijer White Pine Trail (a Michigan State Park) runs from Grand Rapids to Cadillac and passes through the County's panhandle area including the villages of Pierson and Howard City. The Montcalm County portion of the trail is currently not paved, except for six blocks in Howard City. However, there are plans for future improvements that include paving.

The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail (FMHT) is a 45 mile paved trail for non-motorized recreation activities that is operated and maintained by the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, headquartered in Edmore. The trail goes from Greenville, northeast through Stanton and McBride, to Edmore, and then heads east into Gratiot County to the City of Alma.

The Fred Meijer Flat River Trail is a 6.5 mile trail in the City of Greenville. Additionally, the Flat River Valley Rail Trail is an unimproved trail between Greenville and Lowell.

The Kenneth Lehman Nature Trail is a 3.0 mile trail at Montcalm Community College in Sidney.

## **Festivals and Events**

- Artfest, Crystal Lake, 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in August
- Clifford Lake Pontoon Boat Parade, Clifford Lake, July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend
- Coral Days, Coral, Last Saturday in June
- Crystal Celebration, Crystal Lake, July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend
- Danish Festival, Greenville, 3<sup>rd</sup> full weekend in August
- "Edmorama" is a festival in the Village of Edmore that is scheduled for the last weekend in August. The festival replaces the long-time State Potato Festival.
- Howard City Harvest Festival is the third weekend in September.
- Fiddler's Jamboree, Coral, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in November
- Frontier Days, Carson City, 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend in June
- Lakeview Summerfest, Lakeview, middle of June
- Heritage Village Celebration, Sidney, 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in August
- Ice Cream Social, Coral, Last weekend in July
- Montcalm County 4H Fair, Greenville, June/July
- Old Fashioned Days, Stanton, 2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend in August
- Six Lakes Jubilee, Six Lakes, July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend
- Springfest, Sheridan, Memorial Weekend
- Trufant Jubilee, Labor Day Weekend
- Petersen Annual Farm Consignment Sale, First Saturday in April

## Historic Sites

Historic Sites offer an outstanding opportunity to attract people from outside the area since there are a number of facilities that can be linked into day tours. Montcalm County has ten sites listed on either the state or national registers of historic places. In addition to the sites located on the historic registers, the communities are all hosts to many wonderful homes typical of the 1800's. Many of the communities' downtowns also focus on history and have restored storefronts, decorative streetlights, and antique shops for browsing and shopping.

Table 2: Montcalm County State and National Designated Historic Sites

Montcalm County Historic Sites: Names and Addresses	National Register	State Register	Marker
Church, Charles, - Gibson, Frank, House, 301 S. Barry, Greenville	na	1989	na
Clifford Lake Hotel, 561 W. Clifford Lake Dr., Stanton	na	1983	na
Cowden Lake Church of Christ, 4510 Gravel Ridge Rd., Coral	na	1989	na
Ecker, Ambrose, House, 615 Lafayette, Greenville	Na	1988	na
Gibson, Charles, House, 311 W. Washington Ave., Greenville	Na	1991	na
Gilbert, Giles, House, 306 N. Camburn, Stanton	1987	1984	na
Flat River Museum/Greenville Informational Designation, 213 N. Franklin, Greenville	Na	1975	1976
Little Denmark Evang. Lutheran Church, 1031 S. Johnson Rd., Gowen	Na	1985	1986
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 305 S. Clay, Greenville	Na	1992	1993
Winter Inn, 100 N. Lafayette, Greenville	1980	1979	na

Source: Michigan Department of State

## Golf Courses

Montcalm County has a variety of golf courses. A list of the courses follows. This list is always changing, but represents information available at the time of the planning process.

- Brookside Golf Course, 18 holes, Gowen
- GlenKerry Golf Course, 18 holes, Greenville
- Holland Lake Golf Course, 9 holes, Sheridan
- Hickory Hills Golf Course, 9 holes, Fenwick
- The Links of Edmore, 9 holes, Edmore
- Whitefish Lake Golf Course, 18 holes, Pierson

## State Game Areas in Montcalm County

- Flat River State Game Area
- Stanton State Game Area
- Langston State Game Area
- Edmore State Game Area
- Vestaburg State Game Area

## **Campgrounds**

There are several campgrounds in Montcalm County. A description of these facilities follows. This list is always changing, but represents information available at the time of the planning process.

- Bass Beach Campground, 47 sites, Lakeview
- Belvidere Township Park, Six Lakes
- Camp Thunderhawk Campgrounds, 50 sites, Pierson
- Family Campground, 25 sites, Edmore
- Lakeview Campground, 90 sites, Lakeview
- Nature's Chain of Lakes Campground, 31 sites, Six Lakes
- Pleasure Point Campground, 176 sites, Six Lakes
- Red Pines Campground, 30 sites, Carson City
- Snow Lake Campground, 300 sites, Fenwick
- South Shore Campground, 165 sites, Crystal
- Three Seasons Campground, 161 sites, Greenville

## **State Recreation Facilities (Located near Montcalm County)**

- Ionia Recreation Area – Ionia County
- Holland State Park – Ottawa County
- Saugatuck State Park – Allegan County
- Grand Haven State Park – Ottawa County
- Traverse City State Park – Grand Traverse County
- Interlochen State Park – Grand Traverse County
- William Mitchell State Park – Wexford County
- Orchard Beach State Park – Manistee County
- N. Higgins Lake State Park – Crawford County
- S. Higgins Lake State Park – Roscommon County
- Wilson State Park – Clare County
- Newaygo State Park – Newaygo County
- Charles Mears State Park – Oceana County
- Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park – Kent to Wexford counties
- Silver Lake State Park – Oceana County
- Duck Lake State Park – Muskegon County
- Muskegon State Park – Muskegon County
- P. J. Hoffmaster State Park – Muskegon County
- Hart-Montague Trail – Muskegon/Oceana Counties
- Sleepy Hollow State Park – Clinton County
- Fort Custer Recreation Area – Kalamazoo County
- Kal-Haven Trail – Kalamazoo/VanBuren Counties
- Van Buren State Park – Van Buren County
- Warren Dunes State Park – Berrien County
- Grand Mere State Park – Berrien County
- Warren Woods Natural Area – Berrien County
- Yankee Springs Recreation Area – Barry County.

## **Access Sites in Montcalm County**

Montcalm County has 25 public Boat Launch sites maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The list of sites follows.

- Lake Montcalm
- Crystal Lake
- Horseshoe Lake
- Nevins Lake
- Dickerson Lake
- Flat River
- Hunter Lake
- Colby Lake
- Duck Lake
- Clifford Lake
- Derby Lake
- Swan Lake
- Little Whitefish Lake
- Muskellunge Lake
- Clear Lake
- West Lake
- Twin Stone Lakes East
- Half Moon Lake
- Tamarack Lake
- Rainbow Lake
- Cowden Lake
- Loon Lake
- Grass Lake North
- Grass Lake South
- Triangle Lake

Several of the County's townships, villages, and cities also maintain public boat launch sites.

## **Ski Areas in Region 8**

- Bittersweet, Allegan County
- Pando, Kent County
- Cannonsburg, Kent County

## **Recreation Grant History**

Montcalm County has received several grants in the past.

- In 1992 the County received a grant for Project Number BF92-184 that involved renovations to three parks: McCarthy Park, Krampe Park, and Schmied Park. The grant totaled \$135,000 and is closed.
- In 1998 Montcalm County received a grant for Project Number BF98-216 that included adding 30 picnic tables and two handicap accessible restrooms at Artman Park. The grant totaled \$17,940 and is closed.
- In 1999 Montcalm County received a grant for Project Number CM99-100 that included two pavilions and parking in McCarthy Park. The grant totaled \$18,630 and is closed.
- In 2007 Montcalm County applied for a MNRTF grant to build a handicap accessible fishing pier in Krampe Park. The application was approved in December 2007 by the MNRTF Board. The project was not undertaken.

## Accessibility Evaluation

When performing inventories of each of the parks, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission identified other issues related to safety and accessibility. These issues are listed below for each park.

Camp Ford Lincoln Park – The County made several improvements related to accessibility since the last recreation plan. One of the cottages is now accessible and there are designated parking spaces.

Recommendations: When developing new cottages for the park, care should be exercised in designing the facilities to meet the varied needs of people with different physical capabilities. Entrances should be at-grade and passageways should meet standards. Improvements to the waterfront should focus on railings and grade improvements. Additional pathways should be developed. New playground equipment should incorporate accessibility into the design.

Artman Park – This park does not have many developed facilities of any kind, so access to developed facilities is not limited. There are no designated parking spaces and no pathways to Tamarack Creek. The restrooms are accessible.

Recommendations: When additional facilities are developed, designs should incorporate accessibility.

Bass Lake Park – This park does not have many facilities and accessibility is very limited. The parking area is not paved and there are no pathways.

Recommendations: Any improvements should incorporate accessibility.

Krampe Park – This park provides adequate facilities to meet the needs of most handicapped residents and visitors. One exception relates to access to the lake.

Recommendations: Access to Winfield Lake could be improved with the addition of a paved pathway. When erosion issues are addressed, accessibility should be incorporated into any improvements.

“Bill” McCarthy Park – This park provides adequate facilities to meet the needs of most handicapped residents and visitors.

Recommendations: Any improvements should incorporate accessibility. Access to the Flat River could be improved with the addition of a paved pathway.

Schmied Park – The restrooms are not as accessible as the other County parks. While the park has some extreme topography, parking is located near the major facilities. Improving access to the waterfront for fishing would enhance the park’s overall condition. All other facilities are relatively accessible.

Recommendations: Any improvements should consider accessibility. Develop paved pathway from parking to lakefront with railings. Improve grades to vault-toilets.

Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park – The site consists of an unpaved parking area and pathways mown through the site. There are no built facilities at this time.

Recommendations: Any improvements should consider accessibility.

The Action Program also identifies many of the actions necessary to improve accessibility at the County's facilities.

## **Description of Planning and Public Input Process**

The following identifies the steps used to develop Montcalm County's Recreation Plan.

### **Community Description**

This step includes two categories. The first describes the County's physical features. These features include location, climate, soils, natural features, wildlife, and a description of the area's transportation network. The second category describes the County's social features. This section describes the existing population and provides information about local communities and Michigan for comparison. The plan includes population features including age and sex distribution; racial distribution; people with physical disabilities; types of households; employment; and income information. Much of this information is included in Appendix A.

### **Recreation Inventory**

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) developed a description of the facilities through on-site visits to the County's parks and other recreation facilities. Information includes acreage, buildings, types of recreation activities, types of equipment, an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, surrounding land uses and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's recreation facilities. The inventory also includes a description of community parks and Michigan State Parks within Region 8 compiled using other WMRPC sources.

### **Goals and Actions**

This step helped establish the County's recreation goals and actions. We identified and ranked issues by discussing issues with the Parks and Recreation Commission and by inviting the general public to a workshop held on November 5, 2013. The participants helped create a series of general actions to address each of the goals. An advertisement in the local paper was used to inform residents of the workshop.

### **Action Program**

This step identifies what actions Montcalm County will perform over the five-year planning period. The Plan identifies actions in an easy to understand format. The Action Program also identifies where and when an action will occur; who will accomplish the action; how much the action will cost; and potential funding sources. The Action Plan also includes a Basis for Action Program that identifies why each of the actions is a priority.

### **Administrative Structure**

This step describes how the County administers recreation facilities.

## **Plan Adoption**

This section of the Recreation Plan documents that Montcalm County submitted copies of the Plan to the required organizations, allowed for public review of the Plan, held a public hearing, and adopted the Plan. Copies of the following documents are included in Appendix B:

- Letter to the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
- Notices and other information related to Public Hearing and Public Workshop
- Minutes of meetings from Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission and County Board of Commissioners
- Board of Commissioners Resolution adopting Plan

## **Public Input Process & Issues, Goals, and Actions**

### **Goal Prioritization Workshop**

The workshop held November 5, 2013 helped the Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission prioritize goals and actions for the five year planning period. Some of the actions have been grouped together since it would be more efficient to combine related tasks – such as improvements to a particular park. The following is the prioritized list of actions as ranked by the workshop participants.

Issue #1 – Usability of parks is limited due to lack of full service restrooms at major parks and limited or no restrooms at other parks.

Goal #1 – Develop restrooms that complement the intended purposes of each of the County’s parks.

Action 1-1: Develop full-service restrooms at McCarthy Park, Artman Park, and Krampe Park. Full-service restrooms will include flush toilets/well fields, potable water, electricity, and accessibility.

Justification: These three parks focus on picnic facilities and other activities that typically involve visits that last several hours (or longer). When activities include eating, it is nice for participants to be able to use the restrooms and wash up prior to a meal. Full-service restroom facilities will enhance the experience for everyone and encourage people to extend their visits. Restrooms and water are key ingredients to providing a successful and enjoyable experience at the County’s major recreation facilities. While this action covers three parks, the County considers it one action and will strive to achieve an “economy of scale” by designing identical facilities for each park, and seeking funding as a single project.

Action 1-2: Improve restrooms at Schmied Park to enhance accessibility.

Justification: The restrooms at Schmied Park need updated, but (due to limited funding) will not be “full service” facilities like those listed in Action 1-1 since this park is smaller and more of a neighborhood park where visits are typically shorter.

Action 1-3: Develop basic restroom facilities at Bass Lake Park and Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park.

Justification: Neither of these parks currently has any level of restroom facilities. Basic (pit toilet or portable) facilities should be developed to enhance the usability of the two parks.

Issue #2 – Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park and Bass Lake Park currently have limited facilities

Goal #2 – Improve Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park and Bass Lake Park by adding a variety of facilities to meet the needs of Montcalm County’s residents and to attract visitors

Action 2-1: Develop site plans

Justification: Site design plans are needed to determine the location of future facilities, the cost of facilities, and to create a clear vision of the two locations that will serve as motivation for the residents of Montcalm County. Site plans should include such features as parking, trails, a rustic campground, signage, fencing, a canoe/tubing launch, and other facilities including restrooms and picnic areas at Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park. Facilities to consider at Bass Lake Park include parking, picnic facilities, restrooms, and play equipment.

Action 2-2: Follow-through on site plans’ recommendations for developing Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park and Bass Lake Park

Justification: Improving these two new parks in Montcalm County will emphasize the County’s natural features, especially the Flat River and Bass Lake. The County’s rivers, streams, lakes, wooded areas, and other natural features are a major strength of the County that should be emphasized for residents and visitors. The new parks are in central locations and have a lot of room for growth, both within and around the parks.

Action 2-3: Consider acquiring additional land adjacent to Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park and Bass Lake Park

Justification: There is a considerable amount of land around Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park and Bass Lake Park that could be used for additional recreation opportunities when the current parks are improved. Proactively acquiring land will make it easier and more cost effective if future expansions of the parks are required.

Issue #3 – Camp Ford Lincoln’s facilities need improved to meet the demands of camp users

Goal #3 – Continue to improve facilities at Camp Ford Lincoln and provide a diverse range of facilities and activities to address the varied needs of camp users

Action 3-1: Construct two additional sleeping facilities and demolish old bunkhouses.

Justification: The existing facilities are old and in need of updating. While they provide a “camp-like” atmosphere, their age and condition will eventually not be acceptable to groups wishing to provide such an experience. The new sleeping facilities are a great

asset to the park and provide year-round facilities for campers, but do not offer the capacity of the old bunkhouses.

#### Action 3-2: Improve playground equipment

Justification: Providing safe and fun playground equipment will improve the usefulness of the park and attract a wider range of people such as young families and grandparents with children and grandchildren.

#### Issue #4 – McCarthy Park facilities need improved to meet the demands of park users

Goal #4 – Continue to improve facilities at McCarthy Park and provide a diverse range of facilities and activities to address the varied needs of park users

#### Action 4-1: Install full restrooms, potable water, and associated facilities

Justification: The County’s parks are oriented towards day-long events such as picnics that need water to provide park users with an enjoyable experience. Restrooms, including safe and plentiful water sources will expand park opportunities by improving the ability of park users to stay longer and encourage repeat visits. Such facilities will also allow the County to expand opportunities at each park to include more facilities as demand grows.

Restrooms and water are key ingredients to providing a successful and enjoyable experience at the County’s major recreation facilities. While this action covers three parks, the County considers it one action and will strive to achieve an “economy of scale” by designing identical facilities for each park, and seeking funding as a single project. See Goal #1.

#### Action 4-2: Update the park’s pavilions with electricity (all three) and a new roof (large pavilion)

Justification: The park is a popular location for large gatherings (pavilions are leased throughout the spring/summer/fall) and the pavilions provide groups with a covered space. Electricity will improve food safety by allowing groups to better heat food during longer events. Other improvements (new roof and structural improvements) are related to routine maintenance.

#### Action 4-3: Expand parking facilities McCarthy Park

Justification: McCarthy Park is a large park that has facilities to serve hundreds of people. Providing adequate parking is essential for safety and to discourage parking in natural areas or along M-91.

Issue #5 – Krampe Park facilities need improved to meet the demands of park users

Goal #5 – Continue to improve facilities at Krampe Park and provide a diverse range of facilities and activities to address the varied needs of park users

Action 5-1: Install full restrooms, potable water, and associated facilities

Justification: Krampe Park is oriented towards day-long events such as picnics that need water to provide park users with an enjoyable experience. Restrooms, including safe and plentiful water sources will expand park opportunities by improving the ability of park users to stay longer and encourage repeat visits. Such facilities will also allow the County to expand opportunities at each park to include more facilities as demand grows.

Restrooms and water are key ingredients to providing a successful and enjoyable experience at the County's major recreation facilities. While this action covers three parks, the County considers it one action and will strive to achieve an "economy of scale" by designing identical facilities for each park, and seeking funding as a single project. See Goal #1.

Action 5-2: Update the park's pavilion with electricity and a new roof

Justification: The park is a popular location for large gatherings (the pavilion is leased throughout the spring/summer/fall) and the pavilion provides groups with a covered space. Electricity will improve food safety by allowing groups to better heat food during longer events. Other improvements (new roof and structural improvements) are related to routine maintenance.

Action 5-3: Develop Gazebo on existing foundation/cement slab

Justification: A Gazebo was listed as a desire of the County and will add opportunities to the existing park for gatherings such as picnics, small concerts, weddings, etc.

Action 5-4: Improve beach and address erosion issues Krampe Park

Justification: Addressing potential erosion issues at Krampe Park is essential to provide everyone with a safe park facility that is not detrimental to the water quality in Winfield Lake. This action can be accomplished while adding to the usability of the beach.

Issue #6 – Artman Park facilities need improved to meet the demands of park users

Goal #6 – Continue to improve facilities at Artman Park and provide a diverse range of facilities and activities to address the varied needs of park users

Action 6-1: Install full restrooms, potable water, and associated facilities

Justification: Artman Park is oriented towards day-long events such as picnics that need water to provide park users with an enjoyable experience. Restrooms, including safe and plentiful water sources will expand park opportunities by improving the ability of park users to stay longer and encourage repeat visits. Such facilities will also allow the County to expand opportunities at each park to include more facilities as demand grows.

Restrooms and water are key ingredients to providing a successful and enjoyable experience at the County's major recreation facilities. While this action covers three parks, the County considers it one action and will strive to achieve an "economy of scale" by designing identical facilities for each park, and seeking funding as a single project. See Goal #1.

#### Action 6-2: Construct two pavilions

Justification: The park currently has no shelter from the elements and lacks adequate facilities to attract regular park users. Adding shelters would provide additional gathering spaces within the County and would make the park more attractive for group gatherings.

#### Action 6-3: Construct Playground

Justification: The park currently has no playground equipment which limits activities to more passive activities (primarily picnicking). Providing safe and fun playground equipment will improve the usefulness of the park and attract a wider range of people such as young families and others with children.

#### Action 6-4: Link Artman Park to the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail (State Park)

Justification: Even though the Artman Park is not adjacent to the White Pine Trail, the park could serve as a resource for trail users.

### Issue #7 – Schmeid Park facilities need improved to meet the demands of park users

Goal #7 – Continue to improve facilities at Schmeid Park and provide a diverse range of facilities and activities to address the varied needs of park users

#### Action 7-1: Construct pavilion

Justification: The park currently has no shelter from the elements and lacks adequate facilities to attract regular park users. Adding a shelter would provide additional gathering spaces within the County and would make the park more attractive for group gatherings.

#### Action 7-2: Improve restrooms at Schmeid Park to enhance accessibility.

Justification: The restrooms at Schmied Park need updated, but (due to limited funding) will not be “full service” facilities like those listed in Action 1-1 since this park is smaller and more of a neighborhood park where visits are typically shorter. See Goal #1.

Issue #8 – Montcalm County does not have a sustainable revenue source for improving and maintaining its recreation resources.

Goal #8 – Ensure Montcalm County Parks are adequately funded to support the long-range improvement and operation of the facilities

Action 8-1: Stabilize funding for Montcalm County’s parks.

Justification: Establishing a stable source of funding for the County’s parks will allow for the continued maintenance of the parks and will allow the County to plan long-range improvements to the system.

Action 8-2: Continue to seek grants and private funds to maintain and improve Montcalm County’s parks.

Justification: Seeking alternate sources of funding for the County’s parks will allow for the continued maintenance of the parks and will allow the County to plan long-range improvements to the system.

Action 8-3: Improve coordination between Montcalm County and communities, school districts, and other recreation providers.

Justification: Improving coordination between all recreation providers in Montcalm County will provide a more complete network of resources and better serve the needs of the County’s residents in an efficient manner.

## **Public Hearing**

A draft of the Recreation Plan was prepared and presented to the public for review for at least 30 days. Copies of the Draft Plan were available at the Montcalm County Courthouse. A public notice was posted and placed in the local paper to notify residents of the opportunity to respond to the County’s recreation plan. Written or verbal comments were accepted. Support information is included in Appendix B.

## Action Program

All of the other sections of this plan lead to performing actions to address the recreation-related needs of Montcalm County residents and visitors. The following actions identify the year, the location, the approximate cost, and justifications for improvements. The Action Program is meant to be a guide. Some actions may be performed prior to, or after, the scheduled time due to funding opportunities, or difficulties in obtaining funds, land, or other resources. Additional actions, related to administration and support of the parks, can be found under each of the Goals identified in the previous section.

The order of the actions does not necessarily indicate the priority of issues in Montcalm County, but reflects a plan to accomplish actions over a five-year period. When seeking grants, such as a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, it is likely that several actions would be grouped together to create a complete project and to reflect the financial realities of maintaining a park system.

<b>2014</b>	<b>Action 1</b> Action: Develop three standard designs for restrooms to meet the varied needs of the parks. Full service accessible restrooms with running water, accessible pit toilets with amenities, and basic pit toilets/portable facilities.  Location: Montcalm County Parks  Cost: Administrative  Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport, Montcalm County, Service Clubs, Private Donations  Justification: Establishing various levels of restrooms recognizes the need for full-service restrooms in the larger parks and the limited funds necessary to develop full facilities in each of the County's parks. Smaller parks should have some form of restrooms, but it is not feasible (at this time) to develop seven full service restrooms. Designing and building similar facilities will create an economy of scale for both construction and maintenance.
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<b>2014</b>	<b>Action 2</b> Action: Construct two additional sleeping facilities and demolish old bunkhouses.  Location: Camp Ford Lincoln Park  Cost: \$50,000.00  Funding Sources: Montcalm County, Service Clubs, and Private Donations  Justification: The existing facilities are old and in need of updating. While they provide a "camp-like" atmosphere, their age and condition will eventually not be acceptable to groups wishing to provide such an experience. The two newer sleeping facilities, added in 2006 and 2007, are great assets to the park and provide year-round facilities for campers. Three cabins (with 12 people per cabin) is the current capacity of the camp's septic system.
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<b>2014</b>	<b>Action 3</b>
	<p>Action: Construct pavilion</p> <p>Location: Schmeid Park</p> <p>Cost: \$40,000</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Recreation Passport Grant, Montcalm County, Local Service Clubs</p> <p>Justification: The park currently has no shelter from the elements and lacks adequate facilities to attract regular park users. Adding a shelter would provide additional gathering spaces within the County and would make the park more attractive for group gatherings.</p>

<b>2014</b>	<b>Action 4</b>
	<p>Action: Develop site plan and determine if additional land is required to improve Bass Lake Park.</p> <p>Location: Bass Lake Park</p> <p>Cost: \$2,000.00</p> <p>Funding Sources: Montcalm County</p> <p>Justification: A site design plan is needed to determine the location of future facilities, the cost of facilities, and to create a clear vision of the location that will serve as motivation for the residents of Montcalm County. Site plan should include such features as parking, play equipment, restrooms, lake access, and picnic areas.</p>

<b>2015</b>	<b>Action 1</b>
	<p>Action: Construct three full service restrooms in Artman Park, McCarthy Park, and Krampe Park. Improve restrooms at Schmied Park. Develop basic restrooms at Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park and Bass Lake Park.</p> <p>Location: Montcalm County Parks (see action description)</p> <p>Cost: \$400,000.00</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport, Montcalm County, Service Clubs, Private Donations</p> <p>Justification: Establishing various levels of restrooms recognizes the need for full-service restrooms in the larger parks and the limited funds necessary to develop full facilities in each of the County's parks. Smaller parks should have some form of restrooms, but it is not feasible (at this time) to develop seven full service restrooms. Designing and building similar facilities will create an economy of scale for both construction and maintenance.</p>

<b>2015</b>	<p><b>Action 2</b></p> <p>Action: Improve pavilions at McCarthy Park by updating roof of large pavilion and adding electricity to all three pavilions. Improve parking at park.</p> <p>Location: McCarthy Park</p> <p>Cost: \$45,000</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport Grant, Montcalm County</p> <p>Justification: The park is a popular location for large gatherings (pavilions are leased throughout the spring/summer/fall) and the pavilions provide groups with a covered space. Electricity will improve food safety by allowing groups to better heat food during longer events. Other improvements (new roof and structural improvements) are related to routine maintenance.</p>
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<b>2015</b>	<p><b>Action 3</b></p> <p>Action: Develop site plan and determine if additional land is required to improve Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park.</p> <p>Location: Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park</p> <p>Cost: \$5,000.00</p> <p>Funding Sources: Montcalm County</p> <p>Justification: A site design plan is needed to determine the location of future facilities, the cost of facilities, and to create a clear vision of the location that will serve as motivation for the residents of Montcalm County. Site plan should include such features as parking, trails, fencing, a rustic campground, a canoe launch, and other facilities such as restrooms and picnic areas.</p>
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<b>2016</b>	<p><b>Action 1</b></p> <p>Action: Acquire additional land around Bass Lake Park, if deemed essential in site plan developed in 2015</p> <p>Location: Bass Lake Park</p> <p>Cost: To be determined</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Montcalm County, Service Clubs, Private Donations</p> <p>Justification: The recent acquisition of Bass Lake Park will benefit residents and visitors by showcasing Bass Lake. If the site plan developed in 2015 identifies the need for additional land, this action will address the need.</p>
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<b>2016</b>	<p><b>Action 2</b></p> <p>Action: Address erosion issues Krampe Park, improve beach, update the pavilion, and construct a gazebo</p> <p>Location: Krampe Park</p> <p>Cost: \$400,000</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Montcalm County, Service Clubs, Private Donations</p> <p>Justification: Addressing potential erosion issues at Krampe Park is essential to provide everyone with a safe park facility that is not detrimental to the water quality in Winfield Lake. Improvements to the beach are related to this issue. The other improvements are needed to provide park amenities that are necessary for the continued success of the park and to meet the needs of the park's users.</p>
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<b>2016</b>	<p><b>Action 3</b></p> <p>Action: Construct two pavilions and a playground at Artman Park</p> <p>Location: Artman Park</p> <p>Cost: \$100,000</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Montcalm County, Local Service Clubs</p> <p>Justification: The park currently has no shelter from the elements and lacks adequate facilities to attract regular park users. Adding shelters would provide additional gathering spaces within the County and would make the park more attractive for group gatherings. Providing playground equipment will improve the usefulness of the park and attract a wider range of people such as young families.</p>
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<b>2017</b>	<p><b>Action 1</b></p> <p>Action: Acquire additional land around Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park, if deemed essential in site plan developed in 2015</p> <p>Location: Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park</p> <p>Cost: To be determined</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Montcalm County, Service Clubs, Private Donations</p> <p>Justification: The recent acquisition of Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park will benefit residents and visitors by showcasing the Flat River and the unique park. If the site plan developed in 2015 identifies the need for additional land, this action will address the need.</p>
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<b>2017</b>	<b>Action 2</b>
	<p>Action: Implement site plan developed for Bass Lake Park</p> <p>Location: Bass Lake Park</p> <p>Cost: To be determined</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport, Montcalm County, Service Clubs, Private Donations</p> <p>Justification: The recent acquisition of Bass Lake Park will benefit residents and visitors by showcasing Bass Lake. Montcalm County needs to emphasize its strengths in order to prosper in the future – and its strengths include its many natural features.</p>

<b>2017</b>	<b>Action 3</b>
	<p>Action: Improve playground equipment at Camp Ford Lincoln</p> <p>Location: Camp Ford Lincoln</p> <p>Cost: \$20,000</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Recreation Passport Grant, Montcalm County</p> <p>Justification: Providing safe and fun playground equipment will improve the usefulness of the park and attract a wider range of people such as young families.</p>

<b>2018</b>	<b>Action 1</b>
	<p>Action: Implement site plan developed for Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park</p> <p>Location: Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park</p> <p>Cost: To be determined</p> <p>Funding Sources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport, Montcalm County, Service Clubs, Private Donations</p> <p>Justification: The recent acquisition of Carl Paepke Flat River Nature Park will benefit residents and visitors by showcasing the Flat River and the unique 68 acre site. Montcalm County needs to emphasize its strengths in order to prosper in the future – and its strengths include its many natural features.</p>

<b>2018</b>	<b>Action 2</b>
	<p>Action: Update County Parks and Recreation Plan</p> <p>Location: Montcalm County</p> <p>Cost: \$5,000.00</p> <p>Funding Sources: Montcalm County</p> <p>Justification: An up-to-date recreation plan provides a guide for the County to follow related to providing the County’s residents with a network of quality park facilities.</p>

## **Conclusions**

Montcalm County continues to support a system of County Parks for its residents and visitors. This plan represents the work of the Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission and their desire to best represent the recreation-related needs of the County's residents.

Currently, Montcalm County focuses its recreation-related efforts on providing primarily passive recreation opportunities for its residents and visitors. Picnic facilities and waterfront (lakes and rivers) activities dominate the focus. This focus seems to work in Montcalm County (and many other counties) since the County's communities and school districts focus more on providing facilities for active recreation.

## APPENDIX A

## Physical Features

The following information describes many of the area's natural and built environments. The purpose is to provide users of this Plan with an overview of the natural features since recreation activities are closely related to the physical features of Montcalm County.

### **Planning Area**

This Plan serves the County of Montcalm. In some instances, information is provided for the individual communities within the County, the entire County, and Michigan to provide a better understanding of the area.

### **Location**

Montcalm County is located in south central Michigan and is bordered by Mecosta and Isabella counties to the north, Gratiot County to the east, Ionia and Kent counties to the south, and Kent and Newaygo counties to the west.

### **Climate**

Montcalm County's weather, like all of Michigan's, influences the recreational opportunities available throughout the year. The area can support a variety of activities throughout the year from swimming to skiing. Table A-1 identifies information related to the area's climate. Generally, January is the coldest month (23.5 average daily temperature) and has the highest snowfall (10.9 inches). July is generally the warmest month in the County (72.2 average daily temperature). June usually has the highest average precipitation (3.39 inches) and February generally has the lowest (1.47 inches). Prevailing winds are from the west.

Table A-1 – Climate in Montcalm County

	Temperature (F)			Precipitation (inches)	
	Absolute Maximum	Absolute Minimum	Average Daily	Average	Average Snowfall
January	64	-21	23.5	1.55	10.9
February	67	-25	23.7	1.47	9.0
March	80	-12	32.8	2.05	7.9
April	88	7	45.8	2.51	1.5
May	92	23	57.1	3.38	0.3
June	101	35	67.2	3.39	0.0
July	108	42	72.2	2.50	0.0
August	104	39	69.7	2.90	0.0
September	96	27	62.0	3.29	Trace
October	87	12	51.5	2.48	0.2
November	80	-3	38.1	2.30	4.0
December	62	-16	27.5	1.86	9.6
Year	108	-25	47.6	29.68	43.4

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## **Land Use**

Montcalm County is a large county with 20 townships, three cities, and six villages. Much of the county is used for agriculture with wooded areas. The urban, residential, commercial, and industrial land uses are concentrated within the cities and villages. There are currently seven recreation sites maintained by the County.

## **Soils**

The Soil Survey of Montcalm County, Michigan identifies the soils across the County. Map A-1 identifies the locations of the soil associations, which are described below:<sup>1</sup>

Grayling: Light-colored, level to strongly sloping sands

Mancelona-Gladwin-Epoufette: Light colored to dark, level to gently sloping loamy sands and Bog soils

McBride-Isabella-Newaygo: Light colored, nearly level to moderately sloping sandy loams

Melita-Iosco-Kawkawlin: Light colored, nearly level to gently sloping loams and loamy sands

Montcalm-Mancelona: Light colored, moderately sloping to strongly sloping loamy sands and sandy loams

Montcalm-McBride: Light colored, nearly level to moderately sloping loamy sands and sandy loams

Nester-Kawkawlin: Light colored, nearly level to strongly sloping loams

Rifle-Epoufette-Roscommon: Very dark, nearly level Bog soils, sands, and loamy sands

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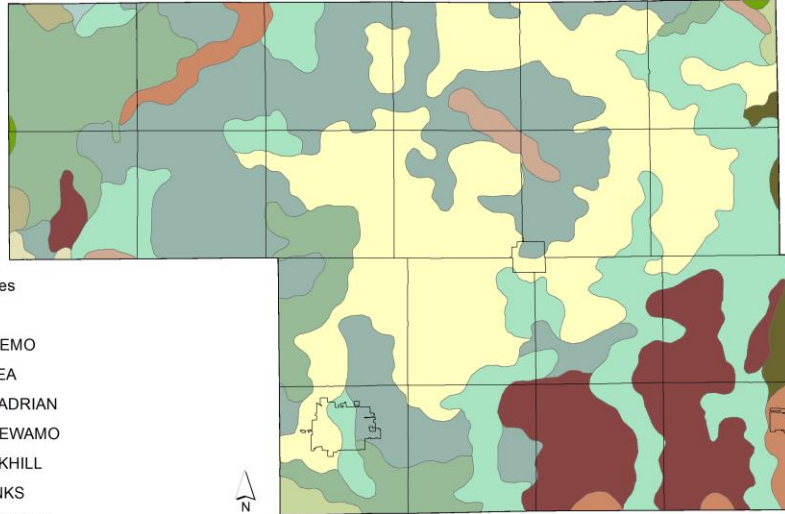
<sup>1</sup> Soil Associations are very general collections of several different and unique soils and are provided in order to simplify the soil classifications. Since soil classification is site specific and varies with area, landscape, and the natural environment, these associations may not provide sufficient information on a particular soil. The Soil Survey Manual of Montcalm County can be referred to for further details.

Map A-1

# Montcalm County Recreation Plan: Soils Map

## Legend

-  City & Township Boundaries
-  BOYER-FOX-WASEPI
-  COLOMA-SPINKS-OSHTEMO
-  COVERT-COLOMA-METEA
-  HOUGHTON-CARLISLE-ADRIAN
-  ITHACA-ZIEGENFUSS-PEWAMO
-  MARLETTE-CAPAC-PARKHILL
-  MARLETTE-CAPAC-SPINKS
-  PERRINTON-ITHACA-COLOMA
-  PLAINFIELD-KINGSVILLE-PIPESTONE
-  PLAINFIELD-SPINKS-METEA
-  REMUS-SPINKS-COLOMA
-  SPINKS-HOUGHTON-BOYER
-  TEKENINK-SPINKS-ARKPORT
-  VESTABURG-TEDROW-BOYER



0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles



Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library  
Produced by: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

### **Topography**

Montcalm County's topography is primarily a flat to gently sloping landscape. There are areas of moderate (10 to 25 percent) and extreme (greater than 25 percent) slopes, but these are isolated within the Flat River valley.

### **Water Features**

Montcalm County has many water resources suitable for recreation. The Flat River provides many fishing and boating opportunities and passes through the middle of the County from north to south. The Little Muskegon River passes through the northwest corner of the County. Major lakes include Whitefish Lake, Bass Lake, Little Whitefish Lake, Wood Lake, Sand Lake, Winfield Lake, Coady Lake, Cranberry Lake, Cowden Lake, Muskellunge Lake, Tamarack Lake, Dutchman Lakes, Spring Lake, Turk Lake, Burgess Lake, Baldwin Lake, Sanderson Lake, Fish Lake, Clifford Lake, Dickerson Lake, Derby Lake, Lake Montcalm, Mud Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Townline Lake, Half Moon Lake, Crooked Lake, Pearl Lake, Holland Lake, Crystal Lake, Duck Lake, and others.

### **Wildlife**

The County's wildlife is typical of that found in most of lower Michigan. Common wildlife includes deer, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, muskrats, beavers, squirrels, rodents and other small mammals. There are also frequent sightings of bear, fox, and coyote. The area is home to a variety of birds including owls, wild turkeys, pheasants and many others. The area is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including ducks and Canada Geese.

### **Vegetation**

Originally, much of Michigan was covered with a dense forest of deciduous trees. As the area was cleared for farming and development, or the trees were removed for timber, the area's forests were replaced by farm fields, open field areas, orchards and smaller forested areas containing both deciduous and coniferous trees.

### **Transportation**

Montcalm County is well-served by transportation routes. Major north-south routes include US-131 on the County's west side, and M-91 through the middle, and M-66 towards the east side. East-west routes include M-57 through the southern portion, and M-46 through the northern.

## **Social Features**

This section of the Plan describes the population of Montcalm County and Michigan. The description focuses on the County and its unique population characteristics. In addition to the overall population figures, this section also describes the population's age, gender, race, and ancestry. Household distribution is also detailed as is the number of people with physical disabilities. Employment trends are discussed as well as employment distribution, incomes, and poverty status. Many of these features can influence the type of recreation desired or needed by the County's residents.

### **Population Trends and Projections**

If a community uses only recreation standards to guide its recreation-related decisions, the total population numbers identified in Table A-2 are the only numbers needed. But, no community bases all of its decisions on only standards. The needs of the population need to be further explored by looking at who makes up the population and identifying their desires.

Table A-2 shows that Montcalm County's population increased from 53,059 in 1990 to 63,342 in 2010. This is a 19.4 percent increase in the County's population. During the same period Michigan's population increased by only 6.3 percent. Projections indicate the County will increase to 70,082 by 2020 and 76,818 by 2030.

Two of the County's cities experienced population decreases during the same period and one increased. Between 1990 and 2010 two of the six villages' populations increased in population.

All but one of Montcalm County's twenty townships experienced population growth during the 20-year period. This is significant since many of the townships do not provide recreation resources for their residents who rely instead on County facilities. It also demonstrates that the County's population is dispersed over a large area which often creates issues related to where to provide facilities.

Table A-2 – Population Trends and Projections

Area	TRENDS			PROJECTIONS	
	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Montcalm County	53,059	61,266	63,342	70,082	76,818
<b>Cities</b>					
Carson City	1,158	1,190	1,093	1,044	995
Greenville	8,101	7,935	8,481	8,776	9,071
Stanton	1,504	1,504	1,417	1,418	1,418
<b>Villages</b>					
Edmore	1,126	1,244	1,201	1,206	1,210
Howard City	1,351	1,585	1,808	2,073	2,338
Lakeview	1,108	1,112	1,007	953	899
McBride	236	232	205	188	171
Pierson	207	185	172	160	149
Sheridan	730	705	649	625	600
<b>Townships</b>					
Belvidere	2,134	2,438	2,209	2,258	2,307
Bloomer	2,922	3,039	3,904	5,139	6,373
Bushnell	1,285	2,109	1,602	1,578	1,577
Cato	1,392	1,808	1,728	1,849	1,969
Crystal	2,541	2,824	2,689	2,789	2,889
Day	960	1,050	967	951	934
Douglass	1,944	2,377	2,180	2,298	2,417
Eureka	2,594	3,271	3,959	4,744	5,530
Evergreen	2,020	2,392	2,370	2,611	2,821
Fairplain	1,571	1,826	1,836	1,977	2,121
Ferris	1,189	1,379	1,422	1,525	1,628
Home	1,387	1,464	1,341	1,298	1,256
Maple Valley	1,824	2,083	1,944	1,971	1,998
Montcalm	2,879	3,178	3,350	3,653	3,956
Pierson	1,970	2,681	3,044	3,748	4,451
Pine	1,392	1,654	1,834	2,085	2,336
Reynolds	1,677	2,694	3,502	4,919	6,336
Richland	2,355	2,868	2,778	2,920	3,062
Sidney	2,166	2,390	2,415	2,601	2,786
Winfield	1,336	2,049	2,235	2,728	3,220
Michigan	9,295,277	9,938,444	9,883,635	na	na

Source: U.S. Census of Population; West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

### Age & Gender Distribution

While the overall population is the most important consideration, there are other characteristics to consider when planning for a community’s recreation. The age distribution of a County influences the types of facilities and programs needed. Table A-3 shows that the County’s median age (39.0) is similar to Michigan’s median age of 38.9. The distribution of age groups in the County is very similar to Michigan’s. No group stands out more than other groups. The County should make efforts to provide facilities that meet the varied demands of all age groups.

Most communities have a higher proportion of females since they have a longer life expectancy. In Michigan, females account for 50.9 percent of the population. Table A-3

shows that women account for 48.3 percent of Montcalm County’s population due to the large male population housed in the State Prison in Carson City. This information has very little influence on the area’s recreation since the ratio of males and females in Montcalm County that will use the facilities is actually very similar to Michigan’s ratio.

Table A-3 – Age & Gender Distribution

	Montcalm County		Michigan
	#	%	%
Under 5	3,834	6.1	6.0
5-17	11,457	18.1	17.7
18-24	5,255	8.3	9.9
25-34	7,681	12.1	11.8
35-44	8,535	13.5	12.9
45-54	9,827	15.5	15.3
55-64	7,811	12.3	12.7
65-84	7,884	12.5	11.8
85 and over	1,058	1.6	1.9
Median Age	39.0	—	38.9
Male	32,747	51.7	49.1
Female	30,595	48.3	50.9
Total	63,342	100	100

Source: 2010 U.S. Census of Population

### Household Distribution

Household distribution can influence a community’s recreation needs since the distribution often identifies unique community traits. Montcalm County has several household characteristics that may influence the recreation programming. Table A-4 shows the County has a higher proportion of family households (70.7 percent) than Michigan (65.9 percent). Within the overall category of family households, Montcalm County has a higher percentage of married couple families than the state, a lower proportion of female householders with no spouse and higher percentage of male householders with no spouse in comparison to Michigan as a whole. Since the County has a higher proportion of family households, it follows that it has a lower proportion of non-family households. Montcalm County has a lower proportion of one-person households (23.8 percent), and a lower proportion of householders 65 and over living alone.

This information identifies the need to focus attention on family households – including married couple families and families with one parent. Also, non-family households make up a large percentage of the population and should be considered in any recreation programming.

Table A-4 – Household Distribution in 2010

	Total Households	Family Households				Non-Family Households			Persons Per Household	Persons in Group Quarters
		Total	Married Couple	Female Householder, no spouse	Male Householder, no spouse	Total	Householder living alone	Householder 65+ living alone		
Montcalm County	23,432	16,566	12,676	2,662	1,300*	6,866	5,585	2,234	2.6	3,163
(%)	100	70.7	54.1	11.4	5.5*	29.3	23.8	9.5	—	13.5
Michigan (%)	100	65.9	47.9	13.2	4.2*	34.0	27.9	10.2	2.5	5.9

Source: U.S. Census of Population (American Community Survey\*)

### Physical Disabilities

Table A-5 lists noninstitutionalized residents with disabilities. The table indicates the County has a higher proportion of residents in all age groups with physical disabilities than Michigan as a whole. When planning for recreation facilities and activities the County should insure accessibility for a wide range of facility and program users.

Table A-5 – Physical Disabilities

	Population under 18 with a Disability	Population 18-64 with a Disability	Population 65+ with a Disability
Montcalm County (%)	8.0	15.7	39.5
Michigan (%)	4.9	11.9	36.7

Source: 2010 U.S. Census of Population

### Employment

Between 2008 and 2012 the County experienced a fairly stable labor force (Table A-6). At the same time the County experienced a changing number of employed, resulting in an increased unemployment rate followed by a decreasing rate hitting a low of 11.0 percent in 2012. The labor force was 24,978 people in 2012, with an annual average of 22,231 employed and 2,747 unemployed. The County’s unemployment rate is consistently higher than rates in Michigan or the United States.

Table A-6 – Employment Trends

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Montcalm County</b>					
Labor Force	26,548	26,459	26,253	25,413	24,978
Employment	23,413	22,055	22,253	22,276	22,231
Unemployment	3,135	4,404	4,000	3,137	2,747
Unemployment Rate	11.8%	16.6%	15.2%	12.3%	11.0%
<b>Michigan</b>					
Unemployment Rate	8.4%	13.6%	12.5%	10.4%	9.1%
<b>United States</b>					
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	9.3%	9.6%	8.9%	8.1%

Source: Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Labor Market Information

Table A-7 identifies employment distribution in the County and Michigan. In Montcalm County, the largest employment category is Manufacturing (21.0 percent) followed by

Education, Health and Social Services (20.1 percent), and Retail (13.9 percent). Michigan’s employment distribution differs in several ways including a lower percentage of Manufacturing, Retail, Agriculture, Public Administration, Transportation, and Construction.

The employment information shows the area’s employment diversity and emphasizes the variety that exists. Many workers have active jobs while others have sedentary jobs. Facilities and programs should exist that benefit both of these categories. The County should also consider people’s alternate hours when setting hours for recreation programs.

Table A-7 – Employment Distribution in 2010

	Montcalm County		Michigan (%)
	#	%	
Employed Persons 16 and Over	25,269	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	888	3.5	1.3
Construction	1,696	6.7	5.3
Manufacturing	5303	21.0	17.6
Wholesale Trade	653	2.6	2.8
Retail Trade	3,501	13.9	11.6
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	1,268	5.0	4.2
Information	418	1.7	1.9
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental leasing	946	3.7	5.7
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	1,379	5.5	8.9
Education, health and social services	5,083	20.1	23.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	1,592	6.3	9.1
Other services (except public administration)	1,418	5.6	4.7
Public Administration	1,115	4.4	3.8

Source: American Community Survey

### Socio-Economic Levels

The County’s household income levels are considerably lower than Michigan. Table A-8 shows the Montcalm County’s 2009 median household income was \$39,775. This figure is lower than Michigan’s median household income of \$45,413. The County also has a significantly lower per capita income than the State. The percentage of residents below the poverty level in the County (19.0 percent) is higher than Michigan’s rate (16.8 percent). This information indicates the need for affordable recreation opportunities in Montcalm County. The figures also help justify receiving funding assistance to improve recreation facilities within the County.

Table A-8 – Socio-Economic Levels in 2010

	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	% of Population Below Poverty Level
Montcalm County	\$39,775	\$18,569	19.0
Michigan	\$45,413	\$23,622	16.8

Source: American Community Survey

## APPENDIX B

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 10:00 a.m.  
Third Floor Conference Room  
County Administrative Building

Members Present: Sally Thomsen  
Betty Kellenberger  
Ron Braman  
Bruce Noll  
Mike Scott  
Tom Porter  
Al Hackbardt  
Franz Mogdis

Members Absent: Dale Linton  
Angela Hollinshead  
Sandy Raines

Staff Present: Jeni Williams  
Chris Hyzer

Others Present: Dave Bee

The meeting was called to order by the Chris Hyzer at 10:02 a.m.

Roll call was taken. A quorum of members was present.

Being the first meeting of the new year, the commission needs to elect officers for the next year. The Controller stated that he would accept nominations for the position of president. Ron Braman placed Betty Kellenberger's name into the running. The Controller asked two more times for nominations.

Motioned by Franz Mogdis, supported by Tom Porter, to close nominations for president and cast a unanimous ballot for Betty Kellenberger as president. Motion carried.

The meeting was turned over to President Kellenberger.

President Kellenberger stated she would take nominations for vice-president. Ron Braman placed Sally Thomsen's name into the running.

Motioned by Mike Scott, supported by Franz Mogdis, to close nominations for vice-president and cast a unanimous ballot for Sally Thomsen as vice-president. Motion carried.

President Kellenberger stated she would take nominations for secretary. Mike Scott placed the Al Hackbardt's name into the running.

Motioned by Bruce Noll, supported by Tom Porter, to close nominations for secretary and cast a

unanimous ballot for Al Hackbardt as secretary. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Scott, supported by Sally Thomsen, to accept the minutes of November 5, 2013 as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Bruce Noll, supported by Tom Porter, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered, none were given.

**President's Report**

Nothing to report.

**New Business**

***Public Hearing on Proposed Recreation Plan***

Motioned by Tom Porter, supported by Sally Thomsen, to enter into a Public Hearing at 10:12 a.m. for the purpose of hearing public comment on the proposed Recreation Plan. Ayes: Thomsen, Kellenberger, Braman, Noll, Scott, Porter, Hackbardt and Mogdis. Motion carried.

Dave Bee was in attendance to go over the proposed revisions with the commission. Mr. Bee indicated that a public hearing was one of the requirements to finish the Recreation Plan. He explained that, once adopted, this plan will be good through 2018 and the county would be eligible to apply for grants to complete projects that were identified within the plan.

The commission discussed the proposed plan and made changes to the draft.

Motioned by Franz Mogdis, supported by Sally Thomsen, to close the Public Hearing on the proposed Recreation Plan at 10:58 a.m. Ayes: Thomsen, Kellenberger, Braman, Noll, Scott, Porter, Hackbardt and Mogdis. Motion carried.

Mr. Bee discussed the Regional Prosperity progress and that our region was successful in receiving a grant. He reports that the steering committee is now in the process of developing a 5-year regional prosperity plan to submit to the State by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Franz Mogdis reports that the MEDC has hired a representative that will service Barry, Ionia and Montcalm counties. MEDC identified that these rural counties were not receiving the proper amount of attention from the MEDC.

Motioned by Franz Mogdis, supported by Tom Porter to pass the Resolution Adopting the Montcalm County Recreation Plan. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE  
MONTCALM COUNTY RECREATION PLAN**

February 4, 2014

**WHEREAS**, the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission has reviewed the Montcalm County Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, after due notice in the Greenville *Daily News*, a paper of general circulation in Montcalm County, a meeting was held February 4, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Montcalm County Administrative Building, 211 West Main Street, Stanton, MI 48888 for the purpose of hearing comments related to the Montcalm County Recreation Plan at said Public Hearing.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission approves the Montcalm County Recreation Plan, with amendments made at the public hearing, and recommends approval by the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners.

Betty Kellenberger, President  
Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission

Public comments were offered. None were given.

President Kellenberger declared the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kellenberger  
President

AFFP  
legal/ public hearing

## Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN }  
COUNTY OF MONTCALM } SS

Lori Paredes, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Agent of the Daily News Greenville, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan ; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

December 28, 2013, January 25, 2014

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 4, 2014, by the Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission on the proposed Montcalm County Recreation Plan. The hearing will take place in the Third Floor Conference Room of the Administration Building, 211 W. Main Street, Stanton, MI.


The proposed plan may be examined Monday through Friday at the above address in the Office of the County Controller between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning December 30, 2013 or online at [www.montcalm.org](http://www.montcalm.org) under the Hot Topics section of the home page

Written or oral comments will be received by the Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission at the Public Hearing.

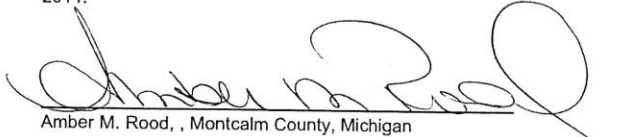
Sally Thomsen, President  
Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Agent

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 25th day of January 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber M. Rood, , Montcalm County, Michigan

My commission expires: September 16, 2018

99121454 00201327

Montcalm County Controller/Administrator Office  
211 W Main St  
PO Box 368  
Stanton, MI 48888

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2014

Montcalm County  
Controller

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE  
MONTCALM COUNTY RECREATION PLAN**

February 4, 2014

**WHEREAS**, the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission has reviewed the Montcalm County Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, after due notice in the Greenville *Daily News*, a paper of general circulation in Montcalm County, a meeting was held February 4, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Montcalm County Administrative Building, 211 West Main Street, Stanton, MI 48888 for the purpose of hearing comments related to the Montcalm County Recreation Plan at said Public Hearing.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission approves the Montcalm County Recreation Plan, with amendments made at the public hearing, and recommends approval by the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Betty Kellenberger, President  
Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert Hackbardt, Secretary  
Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission

**RESOLUTION 2014-02**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE  
MONTCALM COUNTY RECREATION PLAN**

February 24, 2014

**WHEREAS**, the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Montcalm County Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission has recommended approval of the Recreation Plan, and

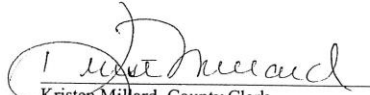
**WHEREAS**, after due notice, a meeting was held February 4, 2014 at the County Administration Building, a handicapped accessible building, for the purpose of hearing comments related to the County's Recreation Plan at said Public Hearing.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners approves the Montcalm County Recreation Plan

STATE OF MICHIGAN            }  
  }SS.  
COUNTY OF MONTCALM        }

I, the undersigned, duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Montcalm, Michigan (the "County") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of Resolution 2014-02 adopted by the Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting on the 24th day of February, 2014, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed by official signature on this 24th day of February, 2014, A.D.

  
Kristen Millard, County Clerk  
County of Montcalm, State of Michigan

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 24, 2014  
1:30 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Johansen offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Blanding, Lindeman, Kellenberger Braman, Retzloff, Carr, Baker, Porter and Johansen. Members absent: None.

Others present: Chris Hyzer, Kristen Millard, Chris Johnson, Tim Scott, Bob Clingenpeel, John Kroneck, Tammy Quillan, Rosemary and Ray Holloway .

Moved by Commissioner Kellenberger supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve the January 27, 2014, regular meeting minutes and the February 18, 2014, special meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Ray Holloway, Stanton, addressed the board regarding the need to hire an IT director. He believes our website drives prospective businesses away.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, provided the board with memorandum informing the board of Pete Haines' resignation from the Planning Commission. Mr. Haines recommends appointing Kyle Hamlin to fill his place on the Commission as an education representative. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Kellenberger to appoint Kyle Hamlin, Superintendent of Lakeview Community Schools, to the Planning Commission as the education representative. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, provided the board with a Homeland Security Grant Agreement from the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC). Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to enter into the 2013 Homeland Security Grant Agreement with the WMSRDC and authorize the appropriate signatures. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, provided the board with the 2014 patrol vehicle bids. Lt. Waber recommends accepting the bid from Ed Koehn Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep in Greenville. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Kellenberger to accept the 2014 patrol vehicle bid from Ed Koehn Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep in Greenville for two patrol cars at a cost of \$23,725 each. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, provided the board with a Resolution approving the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission's Recreation Plan. Moved by Commissioner Kellenberger, supported by Commissioner Braman to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2014-02:**

**WHEREAS**, the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Montcalm County Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission has recommended approval of the Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, after due notice, a meeting was held February 4, 2014 at the County Administration Building, a handicapped accessible building, for the purpose of hearing comments related to the

County's Recreation Plan at said Public Hearing.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners approves the Montcalm County Recreation Plan

Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, provided the board with a proposed Resolution from the Montcalm Center for Behavioral Health Board of Directors supporting the restoration of the Community Mental Health General Fund Appropriation. Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2014-03, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RESTORATION OF THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION:**

**WHEREAS**, Montcalm Center for Behavioral Health (MCBH) has served, for over 47 years, as the public mental health and developmental disability services provider for this community, serving more than 1,400 residents of Montcalm County last year; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's Mental Health Code is based on a state and county partnership for the delivery of community mental health services; and

**WHEREAS**, MCBH is required to provide community safety net services including emergency services, prevention, coordination with local law enforcement, assessment and intervention, jail diversion, and collaborative efforts with local schools, Probate Court, and the Department of Human Services; and

**WHEREAS**, MCBH is entitled to a sufficient amount of state general fund (GF) revenues to provide support and recovery services in this community for citizens of Montcalm County that are not eligible for Medicaid; and

**WHEREAS**, MCBH is the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest per capita funded community mental health (CMH) agency in the state for GF revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, if MCBH were funded at the statewide average per capita for GF revenues, MCBH would receive over \$570,000 in additional GF fund revenues annually – thus dramatically improving community safety net services; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Michigan has relied on overly optimistic financial projections for the residual community safety net after Medicaid expansion goes into effect on April 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Michigan plans to reduce the statewide community mental health GF appropriation by 75%; and

**WHEREAS**, MCBH is expecting annualized reduction in its GF revenues from \$1.3 million down to \$325,000, which will severely limit the ability of MCBH to provide community safety net services and services to persons without Medicaid; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners is in support of restoration of the community mental health general fund (GF) appropriation to a level consistent with previous years and sufficient to serve the residents of Montcalm County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if the Michigan Department of Community Health has to make cuts to the GF revenues provided to the CMH system, as part of any plan, including Medicaid Expansion, these cuts should come from the CMHs with the highest per capita GF revenues, and not from the more poorly funded CMHs such as the Montcalm Center for Behavioral Health (MCBH).

Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, provided the board with the Reynolds Township Police Protection Agreement. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Baker to approve and adopt the Reynolds Township Police Contract, Police Protection Agreement and authorize the appropriate signatures. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, provided the board with information regarding broken tiles in the jail. He presented the board with a proposal to remove the tiles and paint the floor with an epoxy finish. The total cost of the project will be \$9,270.00 and will be funded within current budgeted building repair line item. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to authorize the Controller to proceed with fixing the jail floors as proposed. Motion carried.

At 1:45 p.m. John Kroneck was in attendance to give the board an update on the Substance Abuse Advisory Council. Mr. Kroneck used a powerpoint presentation to present his update to the board.

At 2:05 p.m. Tim Scott, Central Dispatch Director, was in attendance to request the placement of the Central Dispatch Surcharge on the May 6, 2014, ballot. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve and authorize the placement of the following wording on the May 6, 2014, ballot:

**MONTCALM COUNTY CENTRAL DISPATCH  
PROPOSITION FOR 9-1-1 SYSTEM CHARGE**

This proposition will allow the County of Montcalm to continue to assess a 9-1-1 charge of up to \$2.85 each month per service user.

Shall the County of Montcalm, Michigan, be authorized to assess a 9-1-1 charge at a rate not to exceed \$2.85 each month, subject to reduction as provided by law, to each service user located within the geographic boundaries of Montcalm County, Michigan, for a period of five (5) years, July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019, both inclusive, to maintain and operate the 9-1-1 system in the County of Montcalm, Michigan.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve consent agenda items 8 through 13 and move stated action:

Controller	Pictometry International Corporation Agreement	Place on file
Scott Minard	Dodge Report, January 2014	Place on file
Controller	DHS, Approval of 2013-2014 Child Care Fund Expenditures	Place on file
Controller	GIS Conversion & Development Roadmap Agreement	Place on file
Controller	DHS, Agreement Number PROF12-59001 Extension	Place on file
Controller	Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes Feb. 4, 2014	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Lindeman, supported by Commissioner Kellenberger to accept Tonia Olsen, Mark Borden and Bob Naumann to be members of the Solid Waste Management and Planning Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Lindeman, supported by Commissioner Porter to place the January 16, 2014, Solid Waste Management Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Braman to place the February 10, 2014, Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Kellenberger to increase the wage for Emergency Medical Services Rescue Attendants working on an ambulance to \$10.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Kellenberger to approve the following ballot language for the Commission on Aging millage to be placed on the May 6, 2014, ballot:

**MONTCALM COUNTY**

**PROPOSITION FOR RENEWAL OF COMMISSION ON AGING MILLAGE**

This millage will allow the County of Montcalm, Michigan to continue to levy the previous voted increase in the constitutional tax rate limitation on general ad valorem taxes of 0.45 mills to provide funds for the Montcalm County Commission on Aging for Senior Citizen Services.

Shall the constitutional tax rate limitation on general ad valorem taxes within the County of Montcalm, Michigan, be increased by 0.45 mills (\$0.45 per \$1,000) on the taxable value of such property, subject to reduction as provided by law, for a period of five (5) years, 2014 through 2018, both inclusive, to provide funds for The Commission on Aging for Senior Citizen Services within the County of Montcalm, Michigan (such increase is estimated to provide revenues of approximately \$765,000 in 2014 and is a renewal of previously authorized millage in the amount of 0.45 mills)?

To the extent required by law, a portion of this millage will be captured by and retained by the Village of Edmore Downtown Development Authority, The Crystal Township Downtown Development Authority, the Village of Lakeview Downtown Development Authority, the City of Greenville Downtown Development Authority, the City of Greenville Local Development Financing Authority and the City of Greenville Tax Increment Finance Authority.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Braman to increase the pay scale for the IT Director to \$48,547.20 - \$56,825.60. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to approve warrant number 012714 in the amount of \$447,980.64 and warrant number 021014 in the amount of \$535,771.58. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the February 10, 2014, Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer, Controller, informed the board that he did add to Dropbox the costs of the aerial photography to the local jurisdictions. The villages are not included in the cost analysis as they are technically part of the township. It is a 50/50 cost share between the county and the local units.

Mr. Hyzer informed the board that three interviews will take place this week for the IT position.

Public comments were offered. Ron Finegood addressed the board regarding splitting the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. He reminded that board that both of our Circuit Judges are from Ionia County leaving Montcalm County without a Judge from our county. He informed the board that legislation did not require each county in a circuit to have an elected judge.

Mr. Finegood informed the board that he has been in communication with our state legislators and has a conference call set up with Representative Outman and John Walsch to discuss legislation to force each county in a Circuit to have a judge from their respective county. Mr. Finegood stated that since the first of the year Montcalm County is losing some control because our Chief Judge is now the Ionia County District Court Judge.

Mr. Finegood stated that our sitting judges wouldn't be affected by the split because Judge Kreeger lives in Ionia County and Judge Hoort had previously agreed to sit on the bench in Montcalm County. That, combined with the fact that Judge Hoort has stated that this is his last term, Mr. Finegood feels this is the perfect time to pursue splitting the Circuit so that Montcalm County would have a judge from Montcalm County instead of both judges being from Ionia County. He is asking the Board of Commissioners to support splitting the Circuit.

Mr. Finegood stated that he is not looking to run for Circuit Judge, he is only advocating splitting the Circuit for the benefit of the residents of Montcalm County.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Baker to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. Motion carried.

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Kristen Millard, County Clerk

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Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman

AFFP  
legal/public notice

## **Affidavit of Publication**

STATE OF MICHIGAN }  
COUNTY OF MONTCALM } SS

Public Notice

Lori Paredes, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Agent of the Daily News Greenville, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan ; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

October 26, 2013, November 02, 2013

"The Montcalm County Parks and Recreation Commission is holding an issue identification workshop as part of the process to update the Montcalm County Recreation Plan. The meeting will be held November 5, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room located at the Montcalm County Administration Building, 211 W. Main Street, Stanton, Michigan 48888"

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:

Lori Paredes  
Agent

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 2nd day of November 2013.

Amber M. Rood  
Amber M. Rood, , Montcalm County, Michigan

My commission expires: September 16, 2018

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Montcalm County Controller/Administrator Office  
211 W Main St  
PO Box 368  
Stanton, MI 48888

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NOV 6 2013

Montcalm County  
Controller