

**BARRY COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
CHARLTON PARKS VILLAGE  
AND MUSEUM BOARD**



**2014 - 2018 Parks and Recreation Plan  
-Final Draft-  
February 25, 2014**



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Parks, recreation and open space are important elements of Barry County and reflect positively on the quality of life of residents and experiences of visitors. In recent years, a more holistic approach to recreational planning has been encouraged, stretching beyond the boundaries of traditional parks to include sidewalks, linear trails, greenways, and other publicly and privately owned lands. In addition to the human benefits of recreation and open space, there are also important environmental benefits such as water resource protection, reduced vehicular traffic, and plant and wildlife protection.

## **Plan Purpose**

The 2014 Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan is a guide for the future development of recreation opportunities for Barry County residents and visitors. The Plan serves as the official advisory policy statement for the maintenance and development of Barry County park and recreation lands. The Plan addresses current recreation issues and identifies future needs of the community and the means for meeting those needs over the up-coming five-year period. The Plan allows for some flexibility to respond to changing conditions.

The previous Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted in February 2008. This new plan reflects changes that have taken place in the last five years and is written to meet the requirements of Michigan Department of Natural Resources to allow recreation grant applications. The State of Michigan currently has funds available for land acquisition for parks and green space and development of recreation facilities through the Natural Resources Trust Fund and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## **Plan Scope**

The scope of this Plan includes proposals for the management and improvement of the County's existing sites as well as proposals to increase the facilities available. This Plan covers the major goals for management and development of Charlton Park Village and Museum. However, due to the unique nature of this facility, this document will be supplemented by a more specific Historic Charlton Park Strategic Plan. Although the Plan concentrates on County-owned land, consideration is also given to facilities owned and operated by other municipalities and private entities within the County. In terms of time, the Action Program section of this document covers development over the next five years. However, the Goals and Objectives developed to guide recreation planning may continue to be relevant for many more years to come.

## **Plan Summary**

Barry County currently owns and manages three recreational facilities: Historic Charlton Park, McKeown Bridge Park, and the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail. This Plan identifies proposed improvements to all of these assets. Other items considered in the Plan include

planning for greenways and connectivity across the County and the development of a new sports complex. The plan also highlights the need for improved funding and staffing to adequately support County parks and recreation

## 2. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Barry County is situated in the southwestern lower peninsula of Michigan in the center of the triangle with metropolitan areas of Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Kalamazoo/Battle Creek at its points. Numerous inland lakes, rivers, and rolling terrain mixed with upland forests characterize the County. Barry County continues to experience increasing growth pressures and the effects of growth and development are impacting the natural features and local quality of life.



The Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan will address needs for the 16 townships within the County, covering approximately 516 square miles:<sup>1</sup>

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Assyria Township          | Johnstown Township       |
| Baltimore Township        | Maple Grove Township     |
| Barry Township            | Orangeville Township     |
| Carlton Township          | Prairieville Township    |
| Castleton Township        | Rutland Charter Township |
| Hastings Charter Township | Thornapple Township      |
| Hope Township             | Woodland Township        |
| Irving Township           | Yankee Springs Township  |

<sup>1</sup> The following text and tables, on pages 3 through 7 of this plan were excerpted from the Barry County, Michigan, Master Plan DRAFT, October, 2005, by Williams & Works.

The City of Hastings is the only city in the County and is the most urbanized area. The villages of Freeport, Middleville, Nashville, and Woodland are located in the north half of the County. The County also features many unincorporated communities, including Cloverdale, Delton, and Dowling.

The County is home to the Middleville and Barry State Game Areas. These areas provide lands for wildlife, recreation, and timber resources and are located in Hope, Irving, Orangeville, Rutland Charter, Thornapple, and Yankee Springs Townships.

## Population

The study of population growth trends and changing indicators, such as age, education, income, and employment, is important in developing an understanding of the County's recreational needs. The 2010 U.S. Census indicates a population in Barry County of 58,943. Population growth had been steady but with the economic downturn of 2008-2010, population trends slowed. Several townships actually lost population.

The following table illustrates the particular areas of the County that have the highest population and the highest rate of population growth. This is useful in attempting to forecast the likely areas of future growth. The townships that experienced the highest rates of growth between 2000 and 2010 were Irving, Rutland Charter, and Thornapple Townships, all located in the northwest portion of the County.

**Barry County Population Forecast**

Township	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	Rate of Growth 2000-2010	2015* Estimate	2020* Estimate
Assyria	1799	1912	1984	3.6%	2098	2164
Baltimore	1701	1845	1855	0.6%	2089	2178
Barry	3300	3489	3372	-3.5%	3797	3906
Carlton	2069	2331	2337	0.3%	2802	2980
Castleton	3380	3475	3456	-0.6%	3624	3674
Hastings, City	6549	7095	7299	2.8%	8020	8354
Hastings Charter	2826	2930	2944	0.5%	3095	3152
Hope	2883	3283	3217	-2.1%	4015	4293
Irving	1903	2682	3245	17.4%	4689	5649
Johnstown	2932	3067	3005	-2.1%	3284	3359
Maple Grove	1401	1471	1588	7.4%	1584	1624
Orangeville	2910	3321	3304	-0.5%	4075	4363
Prairieville	3409	3175	3390	6.3%	2859	2761
Rutland Charter	2801	3646	3967	8.1%	5557	6396
Thornapple	5226	6685	7879	15.2%	9893	11,274
Woodland	2021	2129	2045	-4.5%	2304	2366
Yankee Springs	2947	4219	4056	-4.0%	7582	9219
	50,057	56,755	58,943	3.7%	73,384	79,731

\*2015 & 2020 Estimates are from the 2010 census.

With 58,943 people in 2010, and 107 people per square mile, Barry County was the 33rd most populated county in the state of Michigan out of 83 counties. In 2010, the median household income of Barry County residents was \$51,869, with 8.9% of Barry County residents living in poverty.

In 2010 the median age of Barry County residents was 41.2 years, a 10% increase in age, in the county, since the last census. The state is growing older as well, with a median age of 38.9 years. Now one in eight Barry County residents is age 65 or older, up from one in ten since the 2000 census. About 48% of the population falls in the 20 to 59 years age group, although a decrease from the 2000 census, it still shows a need for family orientated recreational facilities. The age group from 20 to 29 is still the smallest, most likely due to the fact that there are no major universities in the county, loss of job opportunities and quality of life draws. School age children age 5 to 19 make up approximately 21% of the population of Barry County. This number is down considerably from the 2000 census when that group was nearly 30% of the total population.

In terms of ethnicity, Barry County is a very homogeneously a Caucasian community. A 2004 estimate by MSU Extension suggests a small increase in diversity. The provision of recreational opportunities also needs to accommodate users with disabilities. The 2010 census data for individuals in Barry County with disabilities is not yet available. However, the 2000 census indicates there was 8.1% of persons 5 to 20 years, 16.83% of persons 21 to 64 years, and 40.4% of the population over 65 living with disabilities.

## **Climate**

According to the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC), which averaged annual climatic conditions between 1971 and 2001, in January, temperatures in the County range from an average low of 13 degrees Fahrenheit to an average high of 30 degrees Fahrenheit. These temperatures, along with an average of 57 inches of snowfall annually, are conducive to many wintertime activities such as cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing.

In July, the average low temperature of 58 degrees Fahrenheit and average high of 82 degrees Fahrenheit makes for a pleasant and comfortable environment for fishing, golfing, hiking and many other outdoor summer activities. The average annual rainfall for the County is 35 inches.

## **Lakes and Rivers**

Defining characteristics of the County are the abundance of water, farmland, and rolling terrain. Inland lakes, such as Gun Lake, Pine Lake, Upper and Lower Crooked Lake, Wall Lake, Long Lake, Cloverdale Lake, Wilkinson Lake, Algonquin Lake, and nearly 250 smaller lakes are found in the western portion of the County offering excellent recreational, residential, and wildlife opportunities.

In the eastern portion of the County there are fewer and smaller lakes, which include Fine Lake, Thornapple Lake, Long Lake, Middle Lake, Leach Lake, and Jordan Lake.

### **Gun Lake**

Gun Lake, one of the larger inland lakes in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, is located in Yankee Springs and Orangeville Townships in Barry County, and in Wayland and Martin Townships of Allegan County. The lake is 2,680 acres in size with approximately 17.8 miles of shoreline and an additional 1.4 miles of island shoreline.

The Gun Lake Watershed encompasses 30 square miles and is in the Kalamazoo River Basin, which drains into Lake Michigan. Eight lakes, including Payne, Long, Hall, and Fawn, drain into Gun Lake, and the outlet is the Gun River, which is a designated trout stream for most of its length. The Hall Lake inlet feeds three walleye rearing ponds on the east shore of the lake.

Gun Lake is divided into an east and west basin, with the west basin is almost uniformly shallow and has a maximum depth of 5 feet, with the exception of Robin's Bay and Pickerel Cove being 34 and 25 feet deep, respectively. Depths of the east basin vary greatly and reach up to 65 feet.<sup>2</sup> Fish species in the Lake include bluegill, bass, walleye, sunfish, crappie, bullheads, musky, perch, and others. Like many lakes in Michigan, the Lake has very heavy recreational boating traffic in the summer between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Deep Lake and Hall Lake are also located in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. Deep Lake is a 32.4-acre lake that reaches depths up to 35 feet. Other lakes in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area include Baker Lake, Chief Noonday Lake, McDonald Lake, Williams Lake, and Long Lake.

### **Thornapple River**

The Thornapple River is a predominate feature in Barry County. Today, the riverfront offers excellent recreational destinations, residential locations, and wildlife habitat.

Thornapple River originates in eastern Eaton County and meanders west into Barry County. It enters the County in the Village of Nashville and flows westward through Castleton and Hastings Townships. Thornapple Lake, a natural lake formed from inlets that include the Thornapple River, Highbank Creek, and Mud Creek, is approximately 409 acres and reaches to depths up to 30 feet. The Thornapple River continues westward into the City of Hastings, creating an attractive amenity through the urban area. The River then flows through Rutland Charter, Irving, and Thornapple Townships and into the Village of Middleville. All of the major population centers of Barry County are located on the Thornapple River.

There are over 48 different types of fish species, including large and small mouth bass, bluegill, trout, catfish, walleye, and perch, in the Thornapple River illustrating a healthy and clean river.

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<sup>2</sup> Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Gun Lake Status of the Fishery Resource Report 91-2, 1991.

## **Watersheds**

The Grand River and Kalamazoo River Watersheds are the two regional watersheds in Barry County. The Thornapple River Watershed, a sub-basin of the Grand, encompasses approximately 75% of Barry County.

The Thornapple River Watershed begins in Eaton County, extends into Barry and Ionia, and then enters the Grand River in the Village Ada in Kent County. A small portion of the Watershed enters into Leighton Township in Allegan. The Watershed covers 876 square miles and includes 227 lakes and 741 total river miles. Land in 14 of the 16 townships in Barry County is part of the Thornapple River Watershed.

All major population centers in Barry County are located along the Thornapple River. Some of the major tributaries of the Thornapple within Barry County are Cedar Creek, Butler Creek, Mud Creek, Fall Creek, High Bank Creek, Podunk Creek, Hill Creek, Bassett Creek, and Duncan Lake Creek; the Coldwater River, Little Thornapple River, Algonquin Lake Outlet and Quaker Brook.

The Kalamazoo River Watershed drains 2,020 square miles of land in Allegan, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Barry, Eaton, Hillsdale, and Jackson Counties. Two sub-watersheds of the Kalamazoo, the Gun River Watershed to the west, and the Battle Creek River Watershed to the south, cover approximately a quarter of the County, including most of Assyria, Barry, Orangeville and Prairieville Townships.

## **Wetlands**

The wetlands in Barry County are dispersed and are primarily associated with low-lying areas and drainages. Wetlands play a critical role in regulating the movement of water within watersheds. Wetlands are characterized by water saturation in the root zone, or above the soil surface, for a certain amount of time during the year. The fluctuation of the water table above and below the soil surface is unique to each wetland type.

Wetlands store precipitation and surface water and then slowly release the water in associated water resources, ground water, and the atmosphere. They help maintain the level of the water table and may serve as filters for sediments and organic matter. They may also serve as a sink to catch water, or transform nutrients, organic compounds, metals, and components of organic matter. Wetlands have the ability to impact levels of nitrogen, phosphorous, carbon, sulfur, and various metals. Without them, water quality decreases, areas are prone to flash flooding, and habitat for specialized plants and animals is reduced.

## Land Cover

### COMPARISON OF CONSOLIDATED LAND COVER 1978-1994

<b>Consolidated Land Cover Category</b>	<b>Acres 1978</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Water	12,007	12,052	45	0.4%
Wetlands	28,884	29,846	963	3.3%
Forest	103,855	102,033	(1,823)	-1.8%
Open Land	31,054	30,811	(243)	-0.8%

The above Table provides a comparison of the existing land cover based on the most recent (albeit thirteen years old) land cover information with the previous state-wide land cover mapping done by MIRIS.

### **3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The parks and recreation of Barry County are under the guidance of two advisory boards. The Charlton Park Village and Museum Board (CPB) and the Parks & Recreation Board (PRB) were created by the Barry County Board of Commissioners on March 27, 2007 under authority of 1917 PA 156, MCL 123.51 *et seq.* These Boards replaced the Barry County Parks and Recreation Commission created by the Barry County Board of Commissioners in 1967. This change was in response to public comment and was intended to better serve the recreation needs of the County. The CPB and the PRB have such powers and responsibilities as are expressly set forth by the legislature and those fairly implied.

The CPB & PRB are agencies of the County and are under the general control of the County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners may make rules and regulations for the CPB & PRB, either at the request of these Boards or at its own discretion.

The powers and duties of the CPB & PRB are as specified in Public Act 156.

#### **Charlton Park Village and Museum Board**

The CPB has custody, control, and management of Historic Charlton Park and adjoining properties. Responsibilities include operation, long-range planning, approval of museum acquisitions, and preparation of an annual budget and approval of budget expenditures. The CPB meets on the second Monday of each month at Charlton Park.

The CPB is designed to receive input from community members representing a wide variety of interests. The Charlton Park Board consists of thirteen (13) members each possessing voting privileges. There are eleven (11) citizen at large positions, one (1) representative from the Charlton Park Gas & Steam Club and one (1) Barry County Commissioner. Each term of service is three years.

#### **Parks & Recreation Board**

The PRB has custody, control, and management of all other real and personal property acquired by the County for public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, wildlife areas, land reserved for flood conditions for impounding runoff water, and other conservation or recreation purposes.

The primary function of the PRB is the operation of McKeown Bridge Park and the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail. Responsibilities include long-range planning, preparation of an annual budget and approval of budget expenditures. The PRB meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Barry County Courts & Law Building in Hastings, Michigan.

The PRB is composed of a variety of community members representing a wide variety of interests. There are twelve (12) voting members with staggered three-year terms, and a

number of non-voting, ex-officio members. Six (6) of the Board members are drawn from a list of designated Stakeholder groups, five (5) are public-at-large members, and one (1) Barry County Commissioner. The Barry County Commissioner is appointed annually.

## **Current Funding Sources and Expenses**

Charlton Park's operating budget is partially funded by a county-wide special millage that went into effect in 1987 and was renewed in 1992, 1996, 2007 and 2010. The current .2266 mills will expire in 2017. Generally, funds from the millage make up approximately 70% of the operating budget. Another source of annual revenue is admissions fees for educational programming and special events. These fees account for approximately 30% of the operating revenue. Other revenue sources include an annual gift from the Charlton Park Village Foundation, grants, facility rentals, donations, and concessions. Historic Charlton Park also benefitted from 3,472 hours of volunteer time in 2012 which support educational programs, special events, collections, Gas & Steam Engine Club, fund-raising activities and park maintenance. The estimated value of volunteer time for 2012 is \$74,162 (hours x \$21.36 per hour). Overall, Charlton Park's annual revenue is relatively stable, with increases anticipated only through the attraction of additional grant funds and special programming.

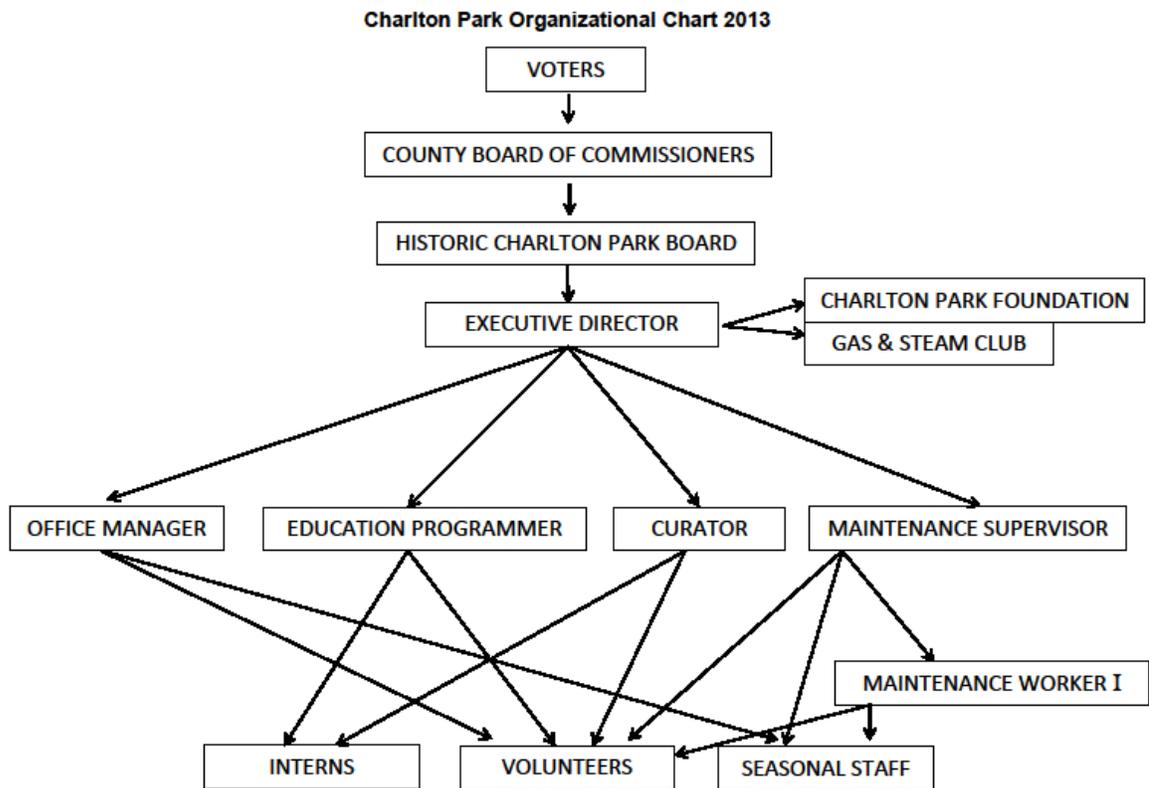
The annual expense budget for Charlton Park is also fairly stable, with approximately \$20,000 annually earmarked for capital outlay in the Historic Village and Recreation Area. In 2013, \$19,500 in capital outlay funds will come from the Charlton Park Foundation, which annually selects village-focused projects to support. Funding for park maintenance falls under several line items in the above budget and totals approximately \$27,800 in non-personnel expenses for 2013. Expenditures for events, educational programming, and museum collections make up the largest portion of park outflows. Utilities, advertising, and merchandise comprise the remainder of annual park expenditures. Park operating revenues and expenditures from the 2012 and 2013 budgets are provided at the end of this section.

Parks and Recreation revenue sources include an annual appropriation from the Barry County Board of Commissioners, with funding for special projects through grants and sponsorships/donations. The PRB is all-volunteer and no staff support is provided, except for a limited amount through the County Administrator's office. The appropriation in 2012 and 2013 was \$9,600, with the majority of the funds being used to maintain McKeown Bridge Park. Parks and Recreation volunteers donated more than 1,300 hours maintaining and improving County park and trail property in 2013, with a value of nearly \$28,000 (hours x \$21.36 per hour).

## Charlton Park Staff Description

Daily operations of Charlton Park are managed by a full-time director. Other full-time staff includes an office manager, maintenance supervisor, groundskeeper, curator/exhibits coordinator, and programming/education facilitator. Part-time and seasonal positions include janitorial staff, a collections intern, an education and public programming intern, education programming interpreters, groundskeepers, and a ticket booth attendant. Much assistance comes from volunteers from around the community who serve in the Historic Village. Additional assistance comes from community service workers who provide an equivalent of one (1) FTEs for the Maintenance Department.

## Charlton Park Organizational Chart



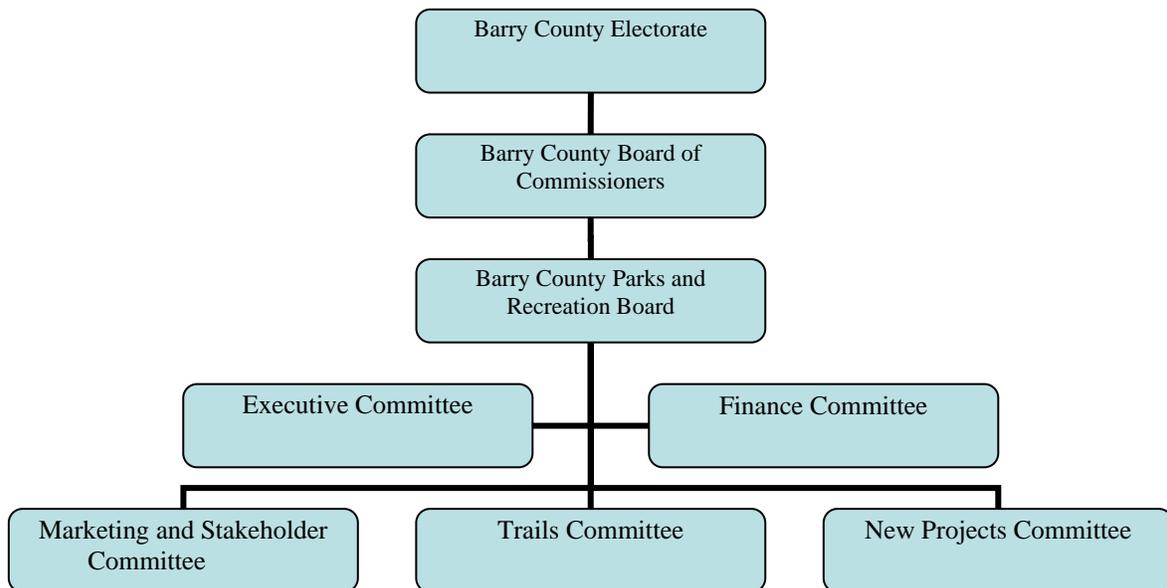
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART HISTORIC CHARLTON PARK 2013

## Parks and Recreation Board Organizational Chart

Parks and recreation efforts, outside of Charlton Park, are managed by the PRB with no staff infrastructure. As an all-volunteer effort, some outside contracting is used for services such as mowing and maintenance of McKeown Bridge Park, but also, Board members and other volunteers provide valuable volunteer service to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Department. In 2012 nearly 700 volunteer hours were given in maintenance of the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail. Spring and fall clean-up days at McKeown Bridge Park and on the Trail also included many hours of volunteer service.

An all volunteer board, without staff support has proven challenging at time for the PRB, and its Board members have begun strategic planning to evaluate possible better structures that allow for a more sustainable focus on parks and recreation in Barry County

The PRB organizational chart is:



## Parks and Recreation Board Policies and Procedures

The CPB and the PRB Policy Statement and Goals were established in 2007 and updated in 2013 with the update of the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan. Their primary purpose is to expand on PA 156 and interpret this act in relation to the governance of Charlton Park and Barry County Park, respectfully. Goals for each policy provide CPB and PRB with direction regarding park development, land acquisition, fees, donations, law enforcement, and relationships with other agencies. A complete version of the document is provided in Appendix I.

## Charlton Park Budgets

Financial resources and security have been instrumental in the continued success of Historic Charlton Park. Voter approval of the dedicated operational millage for Charlton Park was at nearly 60% in 2010 and is currently assessed at .2266 mills due to rollback reductions from the original .2500 mills. However, even with a tremendous level of community support the CPB continues to work toward diversifying and exploring other revenue streams, partnerships, and donations. Currently, the CPB receives no general fund revenues for operations or expenditures toward the maintenance and upkeep of the Park.

Moving forward, the CPB will work toward including the following considerations as part of the comprehensive funding/revenue strategies for Charlton Park:

- Continued renewal of the original 1/4 mill for the maintenance and operational needs of Charlton Park in 2016 or 2017.
- Continued emphasis on user fees and rental fees where applicable and appropriate.
- Continued development of partnerships with the private sector and other units of government.
- Securing federal and state grant dollars when applicable.
- Continued support toward assisting the Charlton Park Foundation in their efforts to seek donations for long-term stability.
- Seek out County General Fund Dollars as they become available and ensure an understanding of the need for those additional support dollars.

## Parks and Recreation Budgets

As noted earlier, the County parks and recreation efforts outside of Charlton Park, led by the PRB, are funded nearly entirely by the Board of Commissioners through General Fund Dollars. The Parks and Recreation Board has no staff and the budget is minimal. For the structure to be sustainable, the PRB believes the County must evaluate the current structure and address the level of support given to County parks and recreational efforts to develop a more feasible, long-term structure that ensures this aspect of quality of life in Barry County is addressed.

<b>PARK &amp; RECREATION FUND</b>				
<b>PARK</b>				
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>2013 BUDGET</u>	<u>2014 BUDGET</u>	<u>2015 PROJECTED</u>	<u>2016 PROJECTED</u>
POSTAGE	50	<b>50</b>	75	75
PRINTING	3,100	<b>250</b>	-	-
SPECIAL PROJECTS	550	<b>550</b>	500	500
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,800	<b>2,800</b>	7,000	7,200
ADVERTISING	450	<b>450</b>	250	250
UTILITIES	400	<b>400</b>	425	425
EMPLOYEE TRAINING	100	<b>100</b>	150	200
CAPITAL OUTLAY/YARD & BUILDING	6,000	<b>6,000</b>	2,500	2,500
		-		
<i>- PARK &amp; RECREATION FUND REQUEST</i>	<i>13,450</i>	<i><b>13,450</b></i>	<i>10,900</i>	<i>11,150</i>
<b>Allocated</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>9,600</b>		

## **4. RECREATION INVENTORY**

A Recreation Inventory of facilities located in Barry County was compiled for the 2008 Park and Recreation Plan. The first step in updating this Recreation Plan involved updating the municipal and school recreation inventories for the County.

### **BARRY COUNTY FACILITIES**

#### **Historic Charlton Park**

Historic Charlton Park Village and Recreation Area is the County's largest park. It is located on Thornapple Lake between Hastings and Nashville, just north of Highway M-79 and is managed by the Charlton Park Village and Museum Board.

Charlton Park serves the dual purpose of being a regional recreation facility and a special use facility. It offers active, passive, and water-based recreation opportunities as well as an historic village with facilities that support numerous special cultural events and education programs. The Historic Village and its special events draw tourists and educational groups from around the region, in- and out-of-state.

Historic Charlton Park comprises approximately 322 acres of lakeshore, wetlands, and grassed and forested land. Approximately 20 acres of the Park are devoted to the Historic Village. The Village contains a museum and 22 restored buildings, all originally from Barry County. Most have been relocated to the Historic Village for the purposes of preserving and displaying the culture, crafts, and business of an early Michigan village.

Approximately 80 acres of the Park are devoted to active and passive recreation. Facilities include a boat launch, swimming beach, two volleyball courts, a pavilion, two picnic shelters, and several picnic oases. Charlton Park maintains permits for both primitive and modern camping areas, totaling 75 sites. Camping is allowed only in conjunction with special events. The remaining 200 acres are primarily wooded, grassed, or wetland. There are approximately two miles of marginally improved trails for hiking and cross-country skiing.

The Park is open to the public from 8 am to 9 pm May until October and 8 am to dusk in the off-season and winter months. Shelter and Pavilion rentals are not available in the winter. Though limited winter recreation is available, the vast majority of the recreation area's usage is during the summer months when boating, fishing, jet skiing, swimming, picnicking and hiking are at their peak. Family reunions and company picnics are popular uses of the Park's recreation facilities.

Charlton Park's Historic Village and Museum is open to the public from 9 am to 4 pm. The structures are open seven days a week from June until September, then by appointment or group tour arrangement through the rest of the year. In addition to museum visitors, the Historic Village and Museum is visited by approximately 85 school groups involving some

4,000 students and adults annually. These groups participate in programs presented by Charlton Park staff, interns, and volunteers which offer hands-on experience in everyday life in a rural, turn-of-the-century village. These programs allow students to be actively involved and to help them understand the cultural and technological differences between the past and present.

The Historic Village and surrounding grounds are also the staging for approximately 16 special events throughout the year. These events bring visitors from throughout the region. Some, like the Civil War Reenactment and the Father’s Day Car Show, attract statewide and out-of-state visitors.

The following is a list of special events held at Charlton Park in 2013:

- Tri-Rivers Museum Tour
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Charlton Park Day
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Father’s Day Car Show
- County Wide Yard Sale
- 31<sup>st</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July & Veterans BBQ
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gas & Steam Engine Show
- Antique Outboard Motor Show
- Civil War Reenactment
- Great Lakes Longbow Invitational
- August Fest – Yard Sale & Antique Car Show
- Havoc in Hastings: a Medieval Event
- Happy Tails 5K
- Walk in the Spirit Pow Wow
- Michigan Ghost Society Ghost Tours
- All Hallows Evening
- Of Christmas Past

The recreation area, village and museum, school programs and special events provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities to suit diverse audiences from within and beyond the County boundaries.

The table to the right illustrates that Charlton Park is a major cultural and tourist attraction. In addition, outside of Yankee Springs Recreation Area, Charlton Park is by far Barry County’s most diverse outdoor recreation facility. The general visitorship numbers for the Village and Recreation Area are not available because there is no admission to the Park other than during special events.

<b>Annual Visitors Historic Charlton Park</b>		
	2012	2013
User Groups	Actual	Projected
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
# of Programs	89	75
Adults	544	600
Children	2,721	3,400
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>3,265</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Attendees	25,000	30,000

## **McKeown Bridge**

The only other developed park owned by Barry County is McKeown Bridge Park, located southeast of Hastings on the Thornapple River, and managed by the Parks and Recreation Board. The McKeown Bridge Park utilizes approximately 23 acres of a 98-acre County parcel which also houses the Barry County-owned Thornapple Manor medical care facility, County Emergency Management Services and 40 acres of farm land. This Park underwent significant improvements completed in 2010 with assistance from a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. Facilities include a refurbished historic bridge, shade shelter, canoe launch, two accessible fishing decks, riverside boardwalk, trails, vault toilet, parking, and picnic facilities. The Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail crosses east/west through the center of the County land, south of Thornapple Manor.



## **Norris Road Forest Property**

Barry County also owns a 40-acre undeveloped parcel in Orangeville Township, bisected by Norris Road which runs north-west to south-east across the property. The property was deeded to the County in 1938 by the State of Michigan for the use of Forestry. The land is primarily wooded with a small gravel parking area. The property is managed by Barry County Michigan State University Extension through its 4-H program as a living classroom.

## **Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail**

The Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail is a non-motorized recreational trail that follows the former New York Central rail grade that ran from Grand Rapids to Jackson, Michigan. Barry County owns approximately seven miles of the trail from River Road, southeast of Hastings, to Nashville. However, the Trail is currently divided into several sections by land under private ownership. The Trail is maintained by volunteers through an agreement with the Thornapple Trail Association.

## **Nashville Mill Pond Property**

The Barry Conservation District leases a 27-acre undeveloped parcel from the Michigan DNR in the Village of Nashville, on Reed Street at the Village's eastern limits. The parcel includes approximately five acres of floodplain formerly inundated by the Nashville Dam.

Habitat development projects including a seven-acre prairie installation and approximately two acres of wetland restoration were completed in 2012-13. Development plans consist of a gravel drive and accessible amenities including a parking area, 1000' of chips and fines trail, a floodplain boardwalk and overlook, restroom, and signage.

## **PARK ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT**

An accessibility assessment was undertaken for each of the County's parks using the ranking system recommended by the Michigan DNR. Improvements needed to bring the parks in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) are included in the five-year Action Program.

The ranking system used is as follows:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

### **Charlton Park Recreation Area**

- 2 – Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

The gravel access drives and parking areas provide an acceptable surface for persons with disabilities, but there are no designated barrier-free parking spaces within the recreation area. None of the facilities offered in the Park, including the pavilion, picnic shelters, shade shelters at the beach or the restrooms, are served by an accessible route. The modern restrooms at the beach area meet ADA requirements inside, but have no connecting walkway. The vault toilets at the boat launch do not meet barrier-free requirements. The play equipment on site is limited and does not have connecting walkways or barrier-free surfacing. A number of barrier-free picnic tables are provided in the pavilion, but more accessible tables and grills with connecting walkways should be provided throughout the site. Other than the roadways, there are no paved trails within the recreation area and access to the waterfront for persons with disabilities is very limited. A transition plate is needed on the boat launch skid pier to meet accessibility guidelines.

### **Charlton Park Village and Museum**

- 2 – Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

An Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Assessment was completed for Historic Charlton Park Village and Museum. Of primary concern in this study were the approaches and entryways to village buildings. Since the time of the study, suggestions for the Museum,

Main Street, Barber Shop, and entryways have been followed. Additionally an ADA compliant restroom has been installed in the lower level of the Museum.

Additional signage identifying accessible routes and paths has also been added. Visitor brochures and fliers now encourage visitors to let staff know of their special needs. A portable ramp is utilized upon request to provide access to buildings with entry barriers. Many more benches have been placed throughout the Village to provide more resting areas. Additional lighting has been installed in the General Store and Hardware Store to assist the visually impaired. With the opening of the Upjohn House, the Visitor Center and Gift Shop have been moved from the Museum to this accessible building.

Another main barrier is the boardwalk, which does not approach all buildings. One aspect of the Capital Improvement Schedule is to replace this boardwalk with a more even surface and to extend it to each building, grading the path when appropriate to meet buildings' thresholds. Another area of concern is entry into the Carlton Center Church, which is on a steep hill.

### **McKeown Bridge**

4 – the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

This Park was redeveloped in 2010 and all new facilities meet or exceed accessibility guidelines. Designated barrier-free parking is provided in two locations and hard surfaced walkways link all of the Park's facilities. Two barrier-free fishing decks are provided along the river.

### **Norris Road Property & Nashville Mill Pond Property**

1 – None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

This site is currently undeveloped and there are no facilities meeting accessibility guidelines.

### **Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail**

1 – None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

The County-owned portions of this Trail are currently undeveloped and there are no facilities meeting accessibility guidelines. The long-term vision for this Trail is to provide accessible surfacing and facilities for all to enjoy. Paving of 1.3 miles of the Trail in the Village of Nashville is included in the Action Program

## **DNR RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY**

In 2010, Barry County received a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the development of McKeown Park Bridge. Improvements included a new park entrance and parking area, vault toilet building, canoe launch, shade shelter, barrier-free fishing decks, boardwalks, trails, and site amenities. The facilities are well used and maintained in good condition.

Barry County has been fortunate to receive four grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development at Charlton Park Recreation Area. These grants were received in 1969, 1973, 1977 and 1991 and helped with the development of most of the Park's facilities, including gravel access drive and parking areas, boat launch, pavilion, swimming beach, restrooms, picnic facilities and playground equipment, and additional property for inclusion in the total Park acreage. The facilities have been well used and are generally in good condition given their age. Some accessibility improvements are needed to bring the facilities in line with current ADA guidelines.

## **STATE OF MICHIGAN FACILITIES**

Yankee Springs Recreation Area, a 5,200-acre property located on the central western edge of Barry County, and the adjacent 13,000-acre Barry State Game Area provide diverse recreation opportunities. Campgrounds on Gun Lake, the County's main sports lake, and Deep Lake provide 320 modern and 100 rustic sites. Gun Lake, Deep Lake and seven other lakes within these state holdings provide ample fishing, boating, and water sports opportunities. Miles of trails, including a portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail, are available for hiking, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding. Mountain bikers utilize 12 miles of rough terrain biking trails. There is also an equestrian camp with 17 rustic sites and equestrian trails. Special trail features include the Devil's Soup Bowl, Graves Hill Overlook, and The Pines. Winter sports facilities include 10 miles of cross-country ski trails, snowmobile trails, and lake access for ice fishing. Additional accommodation is provided by cabins at the historic Chief Noonday Outdoor Center.

Both the State Game Area and part of the Recreation Area are open for hunting waterfowl, small game, and white-tailed deer.

The Middleville State Game Area, located in the County's north-west quadrant, provides an additional 4,000 acres of hunting, picnicking, and wildlife viewing area.

## **TRAILS**

In addition to the trail system in Yankee Springs Recreation Area, the County features two long distance/ regional trails.

### **North Country National Scenic Trail**

The North Country Trail (NCT) is a public-private partnership hiking trail that stretches 4,500 miles from North Dakota to the New York/Vermont border. The NCT enters Barry County north of Irving, travels south using portions of the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail, then dissects the Yankee Springs Recreation Area and Barry State Game Area. Once south of the recreation area, it becomes mostly a road walk from Keller Road, through Prairieville, over to the Kellogg Biological Station. The local Trail is maintained by the Chief Noonday Chapter.

### **Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail**

The Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail follows the scenic Thornapple River from 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Kalamazoo Avenue in Grand Rapids to Middleville, Hastings, Nashville, and Vermontville with large gaps to be acquired for a total of approximately 43 miles. Within Barry County, the Village of Middleville has the best example of what a well-managed handicap accessible trail can be, with 3.85 miles of paved trail with 550- 750 users per week during April through October. The trail is closed in November for firearm deer season. The unpaved 1.25 miles the Village owns has 200 - 250 users per week.

## **OTHER MUNICIPALITIES**

The City of Hastings provides two community parks, Tyden Park and Fish Hatchery Park. Tyden Park, an 11-acre park near the city center, provides fishing and canoe access on the Thornapple River, a paved loop trail with river overlook areas, picnic shelters, limited play equipment, a soccer field, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, and a sand volleyball court. A pedestrian bridge leads across the river to the Tyden Natural Area, which features additional riverside trails. Fish Hatchery Park provides picnic shelters, play equipment, a lighted ball diamond, basketball court, soccer field, two tennis courts, fishing ponds and horseshoe pits on a 40-acre site.

The City also features three less developed parks/open spaces. The Hastings Outdoor Recreation Area, also known as Sweezy's Pond, is a 20-acre natural area in the southwest corner of the city. Bliss Riverfront Park is located in the southeast of the City and provides 35 acres of land alongside the Thornapple River for passive recreation. Facilities include a canoe/kayak launch, trails and boardwalks along the River, and a picnic shelter. This site serves as a trailhead for the Hastings Riverwalk, a 1.6 mile paved trail running along the river corridor and former railroad bed to Tyden Park. Hammond Road Recreation Area is the City's largest recreation site covering 76 acres in the northwest corner of the City. Only a small portion of the site is currently developed for recreation with a natural trail network, known as Zhigaawin Hiking Trail and a disc golf course.

Three neighborhood parks, First Ward Park, Second Ward Park and Bob King Park provide additional playground and picnic facilities and a skate park. A new splash pad and stage provide entertainment in the City's downtown.

The Village of Middleville offers eight recreational sites. Lions Spring Park is the Villages' largest facility, comprising about 24 acres of land and offering a baseball/softball diamond, disc golf course, picnic shelter, play equipment, and natural area. Crane Road Ball Fields provides three ball fields for recreational programming. Calvin Hill Park is a traditional neighborhood park with a basketball court, playground equipment and skate park, while Sesquicentennial Park offers picnic facilities beside the Thornapple River. The Village also supports a canoe portage on the river and the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trailhead and Park. The newest park is Wildwood Trails Park which is a 20-acre park with 1.45 miles of rustic walking trails and a recently added mountain bike trail.

The Village of Nashville and Prairieville Township also support multiple neighborhood and community parks. Orangeville, Yankee Springs, Hope, Irving, and Thornapple Townships and the Village of Woodland each have one neighborhood park.

The Barry County Municipal Recreation Inventory table on page 24 provides a complete listing of municipal park features.

Maps showing the location of municipal parks and recreation facilities can be found at the end of this section.

## **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

In spite of its relatively small population, Barry County includes 13 private and public school systems. Only five of these encompass major portions of the County and are included in this recreation inventory. While recreational facilities at school sites are primarily intended for school use, some facilities may be used by the general public at specified times. Some outdoor facilities are left open for public use after school and team practice hours, while others must have uses scheduled through the district office. All general public use must be scheduled around school activities. A School Recreation Facilities Table is included on page 25.

## **SEMI-PUBLIC/PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

*Barry Expo Center, 1350 N. M-37, Hastings.*

Owned and operated by the Barry County Agricultural Society, this complex includes several barns for 4-H and County Fair use as well as a ¼ mile dirt oval track for horse, Moto-cross and car racing and an expo hall available for rent. Besides the annual County Fair, the complex also hosts a variety of events and shows throughout the year.

*Community Education & Recreation Center, Hastings.*

Located on the Hastings High School Campus, this facility includes a pool with scheduled lap and open swim times Monday through Saturday, and a gym and Cardio Exercise Room with morning, evening and weekend hours.

*Pennock Health & Wellness Center, 1009 W. Green, Hastings.*

This membership-based indoor recreation facility offers gym, pool, and fitness services open seven days a week. Programming includes aquatic fitness, spinning, conditioning, yoga, Pilates and special children's and seniors' programs.

*YMCA of Barry County and Camp Algonquin, 2055 Iroquois Trail, Hastings.*

YMCA of Barry County's mission is to provide opportunities for all individuals and families to participate in quality activities and programs which promote the development of physical abilities and moral and ethical behaviors based on Christian values. The YMCA provides youth sports and adult sports programs, summer playground programs and youth social programs through the City of Hastings and area schools. Camp Algonquin provides summer resident, day and High Adventure activities and provides a facility for community use.

*YMCA Camp Manitou-lin, Barlow Lake, Middleville.*

Serving the Grand Rapids area, 155 acre Camp Manitou-lin features fishing and water sports areas, fitness, hiking and nature study trails, volleyball, baseball, basketball and playground facilities, tennis courts and a high ropes course.

*Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center, 10160 S. M-37 Hwy. Delton.*

This 176-acre facility owned by the Battle Creek Public Schools provides school camping for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from approximately 40 regional schools. Recreation opportunities include swimming, boating, and canoeing on Clear Lake, two miles of woods and prairie hiking trails, a high-ropes course and the oldest continuously operating School Garden Program in the U.S. (est. 1943). This 33-building private facility sleeps 160 and provides full food service. It is available for conferences on weekends and during the summer.

*Boys and Girls Club (of Kalamazoo) Outdoor Experience camp.*

This 200 acre summer residential camp is available for rent by outside groups. It has several sleeping cabins, swimming pool, ample open area, and an indoor gymnasium.

*Circle Pines Center, Mullen Road, Delton.*

Circle Pines Center is a member-owned and run non-profit cooperative organization featuring a children's summer camp and year round retreat and conference center with programs for families, children and adults. The co-op owns 294 acres of land with trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, rolling hills, hardwood and pine forests, meadows and frontage on Stewart Lake.

*Long Lake Outdoor Center*

The Long Lake Outdoor Center was built by the Civil Conservation Corps in 1938 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The center is located on over 300 acres in Yankee Springs Recreation Area and is run by a private concessionaire. It features a lodge,

bathhouse and cabins that cater to a capacity of one hundred twenty campers. The camp includes a baseball diamond, volleyball court, horseshoe pits and a shuffleboard court.

*Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, 701 W. Cloverdale Rd., Hastings.*

Set on 661 acres, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, an environmental education center, provides visitors with a unique exposure to a rare blend of diverse habitats including wetlands, forests, marshes, streams, lakes, and prairies. Visitors can explore over seven miles of nature trails, participate in programs and classes, or stop by the Visitor Center. Hiking trails are open from dawn to dusk. The Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for special events on the weekend.

*Kellogg Biological Station, 3700 E. Gull Lake Drive, Hickory Corners.*

The 4000 acre Lux Arbor facility, which extends into Kalamazoo County, includes Kellogg Farm, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary and the 32 acre Eagle Heights Conference facility. The full service conference center offers lodging, meeting rooms and meals. The Farm and Bird Sanctuary are open for self-guided and public tours at any time year round. Group tours are available by arrangement at either facility.

*Gun Lake Tract, Marsh Road, Orangeville Township.*

This 360 Acre conservation area is owned and managed by the Ruffed Grouse Society. The Gun Lake Tract is open daily, free of charge, for hiking, bird watching, tree and wildlife identification. Guided group tours and educational programming are available through the Barry Conservation District. Hunting rights belong to the Ruffed Grouse Society. The property features many managed natural communities, including upland and lowland woodlands, a peat bog, emergent wetlands and grasslands.

*Michigan Audubon Otis Sanctuary.*

This 120 acre wildlife sanctuary borders Glass Creek and has a canoe access, a cabin available for rental to members and hiking trails.

*Michigan Audubon Warner Sanctuary.*

This heavily wooded, 100 acre wildlife sanctuary hosts one of Barry County's last remaining stands of old growth forest.

*Maher Sanctuary.*

Owned by Grand Rapids Audubon, Inc., this 76.8 acre sanctuary is located at the southwest corner of 108<sup>th</sup> ST SE and Wood School Road. It has a mix of habitats, including frontage on Crane Creek. It has a parking area and hiking trail.

*Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Carter Lake Preserve.*

This 80 acre preserve has a hiking trail.

*Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Bauer Natural Area.*

A modest, 20-acre preserve that borders Highbank Creek. It has a hiking trail and is heavily wooded.

*Fish Lake Wildlife Area.*

Part of the Barry State Game Area, Fish Lake hosts an unimproved boat launch.

*Barry Conservation Club, W. Green St., Hastings.*

Features a clubhouse, horseshoe pits and shooting ranges.

*Flying Horseshoe Ranch, S. Yankee Springs Road, Middleville.*

Horseback riding in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. Open from April through October.

*Gilmore Classic Car Club Museum, 6865 Hickory Road, Delton.*

This 80+ acre site houses one of the 10 best large classic car collections on display in America. In addition, the CCC also hosts a variety of themed auto shows on the premises.

*Bernard Historical Museum, 7135 Delton Rd., Delton.*

This museum complex includes an 1873 schoolhouse, a 1900's country store, a blacksmith shop and over 25,000 artifacts.

*Historic Bowens Mills, 55 Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333.*

Privately owned and operated, this 19 acre historical park features an 1864 water powered grist and cider mill. Other historical attractions on site are a plank house, Victorian house, a post and beam barn, covered bridge, and water wheel, and other historic buildings. Special events are hosted at the park throughout the year.

*Moo-ville Quality Creamery, 5875 S. M-66, Nashville, MI 49073.*

Family owned dairy farm, petting zoo and ice cream parlor offering tours of the farm and dairy operation.

Campgrounds

Barry County is home to many campgrounds serving those drawn to the area for its numerous outdoor recreation opportunities. Aside from the state campgrounds at Yankee Springs and the organizational campgrounds listed above, there are 1661 sites in 23 licensed private campgrounds in the county.

Golf Courses

There are six golf courses within Barry County. Yankee Springs has 27 holes. Hastings Country Club, Mullenhurst, Gun Ridge, Mulberry Fore, and Ponderosa each have 18 holes.

Canoe Liveries

Three canoe liveries operate on the Thornapple River in Barry County. U-Rent-Em Canoes is located in Hastings Township; Whispering Waters Canoe and Kayak Rental is located in Hastings Township; Indian Valley Campground and Canoe Livery is located in Thornapple Township.

# Municipal Recreation Facilities Table:

## Barry County Municipal Recreation Inventory

Municipal Parks	Municipality	# Acres	Parking	Picnic Area	Gills	Shelter	Water (Drinking)	Pt Toilets	Flush Toilets	Boat Launch	Boat Rental	Fishing	Swimming	Bike Trail	Trails				Active				Special					
															Cross Country Skiing	Fitness Trail	Hiking Trail	Nature Study	Snowmobiling	Volleyball	# Ball Diamonds	Basketball		Football	Soccer	Ice Skating	Playground Equipment	Skate park
Historic Charlton Park	Barry County	332	X	X	23	3	X	7	26	1		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	1					Lake Access, Village/Museum			
McKeown Bridge Park	Barry County	22	X	X	X	1		1		1		X		X	X	X	X								River frontage, Fishing deck			
Bliss Riverfront Park	City of Hastings	13.6	X	X	X	1				1		X		X	X	X	X								River frontage, Trailhead			
Fish Hatchery Park	City of Hastings	30	X	X	X	2	X		X			X								1	1				2 Fish Ponds			
Bob King Park	City of Hastings	3.8	X	X	X	1	X		X			X								1					Wooden Play Structure			
Sweezy's Pond	City of Hastings	22										X													Sweezy's Pond			
Second Ward Park	City of Hastings	1	X																									
Third Ward Park	City of Hastings	2	X																	1								
Tyden Park	City of Hastings	28.7	X	X	2	X		X	1		X									1						2 Riverfront		
Zhigaawin Hiking Trail	City of Hastings	97.5	X																							Disk Golf		
Riverwalk	City of Hastings	1.6m	X											X												Paved non-motorized trail		
Freeport Softball Park	Freeport	10	X	X																2	1					1		
Johnstown Township Hall	Johnstown Twp.	8.3	X																							Natural trails		
Calvin Hill Park	Middleville	1.5																										
Crane Road Baseball Fields	Middleville	21.3	X																									
Paul Henry Thornapple Trail	Middleville	5 m	X											X														
Stage Coach Park	Middleville	1	X											X														
Sesquicentennial Park	Middleville	0.3	X											X														
Spring Park	Middleville	25	X	X	1	X																				1 Wetland & Boardwalk		
Central Park	Nashville	1	X																									
Putnam Park	Nashville	6	X	X	1	X			X																	1 Horseshoes		
Riverside Park	Nashville	6	X	X						X																		
Coldwater Park	Barry Twp.	1	X																									
Wm. Smith Lions Park	Barry Twp.	0.5	X	X	1																							
Cloverdale Lake Park	Hope Twp.		X	X	1					X																		
Orangeville Twp. Mini-Park	Orangeville Twp.	20	X	X	1	X								X														
Center Street Park	Prairieville Twp.	1	X																									
Gull Lake Park	Prairieville Twp.	3	X	X					X																			
Lower Crooked Lake Access	Prairieville Twp.	2	X																									
Prairieville Municipal Park	Prairieville Twp.	5	X	X	1	X																						
Pine Lake Recreation Area	Prairieville Twp.	18	X	X	1	X																						
Parker Road Park	Prairieville Twp.	1	X																									
Upper Crooked Lake Access	Prairieville Twp.	1	X																									
Woodland Twp. Memorial Pk.	Woodland Twp.	7	X	X	1	X			X																			
Yankee Springs Twp. Park	Yankee Springs Twp.	10	X	X																								
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>686</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>				<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

## School Recreation Facilities Table:

School Facility	Location	# Acres	Parking	Picnic Area	Gills	Shelter	Fitness Trail	Hiking Trail	Nature Study	Volleyball	Softball Fields	Baseball Diamonds	Lighted Ball Diamonds	Basketball	Football	Soccer	Gym/Multi Purpose Rm.	Playground Equipment	Tennis Courts	All-weather track	Indoor Pool	Special Features
Barry County Christian School	Hastings Twp.	6	X									1	1			1		X				
Delton-Kellogg	Delton	50	X									7	1		2	1	4	X	4			
Hastings High School	Hastings	30	X								2	2			2	1	1		8	1	1	Community Recreation Center
Hastings Middle School	Hastings	8	X									2			1		2	X				
Central Elementary	Hastings		X														1	X				
Northeastern Elementary	Hastings	10	X									1		X		3	1	X				
Pleasantview Elementary	Hastings	8	X									1				1	1	X				
Southeastern Elementary	Hastings	14	X									1				2	1	X				
Star Elementary	Hastings	20	X									1				1	1	X				
Lakewood High School	Lake Odessa	40	X								3	3			2	1	1		6	1		
Lakewood Middle School	Lake Odessa	4	X									1					1					
Woodland Elementary	Woodland	5.5	X									2		X			1	X				
Maple Valley High School	Vermontville	15	X									3			1		1		5			
Kellogg Elementary School	Nashville	1	X														1	X				
Fuller St. Elementary School	Nashville	6	X												1	1	1	X				Lighted football/soccer field
Thornapple Kellogg H.S.	Middleville	39	X								1	1			2	1	1		4		1	
Thornapple Kellogg M.S.	Middleville	10	X									1				2	2		4			
McFall Elementary	Middleville	28	X								1						1	X	6			
West Elementary	Middleville	11	X														1	X				
Page Elementary	Middleville	35	X									1		X			1	X				
Lee Elementary	Middleville	12.5	X									1					1	X				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>353</b>								<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	

# Boat Launch

Table:

LOCATION	WATERBODY	ACREAGE	TWP.	RAMP TYPE	PARKING	FEE	SITE RULES	WATERCRAFT CONTROLS
Airport Road	Thornapple River			4	10		X	
Baker Lake	Baker Lake	67	Yankee Springs	4	3			Speed restrictions
Bassett Lake	Bassett Lake	41	Yankee Springs	2	4			
Bristol Lake	Bristol Lake	140	Johnstown	2	15		X	
Carter Lake	Carter Lake	59	Rutland	3	12		X	
Charlton Park	Thornapple Lake	415	Hastings	2	31		X	
Chief Noonday Lake	Chief Noonday Lake	49	Yankee Springs	4	3	X	X	
Clear Lake	Clear Lake	186	Baltimore	2	6			
Cloverdale	Long Lake	261	Hope	2	10			
Deep Lake	Deep Lake	33	Yankee Springs	2	9	X	X	No Wake
Duncan Lake	Duncan Lake	129	Thornapple	2	15		X	
Fine Lake	Fine Lake	323	Johnstown	2	21		X	
Fish Lake	Fish Lake		Orangeville	3	5	X	X	
Hall Lake	Hall Lake	57	Yankee Springs	3	7	X	X	
Irving Road	Thornapple River		Irving	4	5		X	
Jordan Lake	Jordan Lake	417	Woodland	2	28		X	
Leach Lake	Leach Lake	107	Carlton	3	12		X	
Long Lake	Long Lake	147	Yankee Springs	3	10	X	X	
Long Lake	Long Lake	75	Johnstown	3	8			No wake 6.30pm-10am
Lower Crooked Lake	Lower Crooked Lake	433	Prairieville	2	13	X	X	Ski restrictions
Ludlow Lake	Ludlow Lake	9	Hope	4	3			
McDonald Lake	McDonald Lake	16	Yankee Springs	4	4	X	X	
Middle Lake	Middle Lake	134	Carlton	2	16		X	
Middleville	Thornapple River		Village of Middleville	4	5		X	
Otis Lake	Otis Lake	127	Rutland	4	4			
Payne Lake	Payne Lake	112	Yankee Springs	2	12	X	X	
Prairieville Twp Park	Gull Lake	2046	Prairieville	2	92	X	X	40mph speed limit
Thornapple Lake	Thornapple Lake	415	Castleton	2	15			
Upper Crooked Lake	Crooked Lake	644	Prairieville	2	18	X	X	
Williams Lake	Williams Lake	19	Yankee Springs	4	7	X	X	
Yankee Springs R.A.	Gun Lake	2046	Yankee Springs	2	49	X	X	No wake zones
Yankee Springs R.A.	Gun Lake	2046	Yankee Springs	2		X	X	No wake zones

# Barry County Public Lands & Recreational Facilities Map

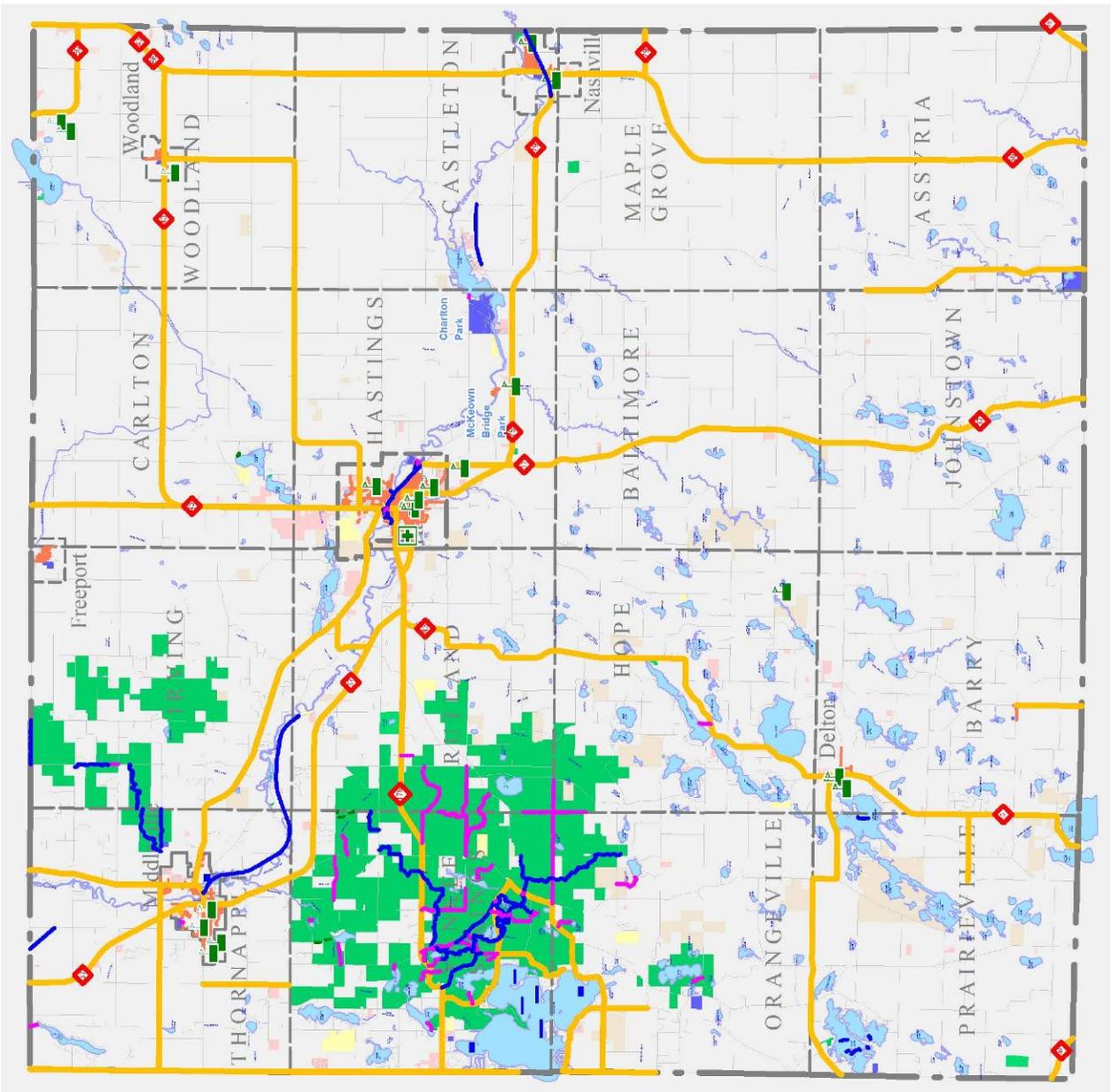
## INVENTORY OF PUBLIC RECREATION LANDS IN BARRY COUNTY

### LEGEND

- Trails**  
Source: 911 roads  
Recreation trail  
3 season road
- Facilities**  
School  
Hospital
- Roads with bike lanes or paved shoulders**  
Source: Southwest MI Planning Comm.  
Bike lanes
- Sidewalks**  
Source: Village & City sidewalk inventories  
Sidewalks
- Township, City & Village Boundaries**  
Municipal Boundaries
- Lakes & Rivers**  
Hydrology
- State & Federal Lands**  
State & Federal Lands
- Conservation Reserves**  
Source: SWMLC & others  
Conserved lands
- Commerical Districts**  
Source: 2013 assessment roll  
Commercial  
Commercial specific to recreation
- Parks**  
Public / Quasi-public Parks



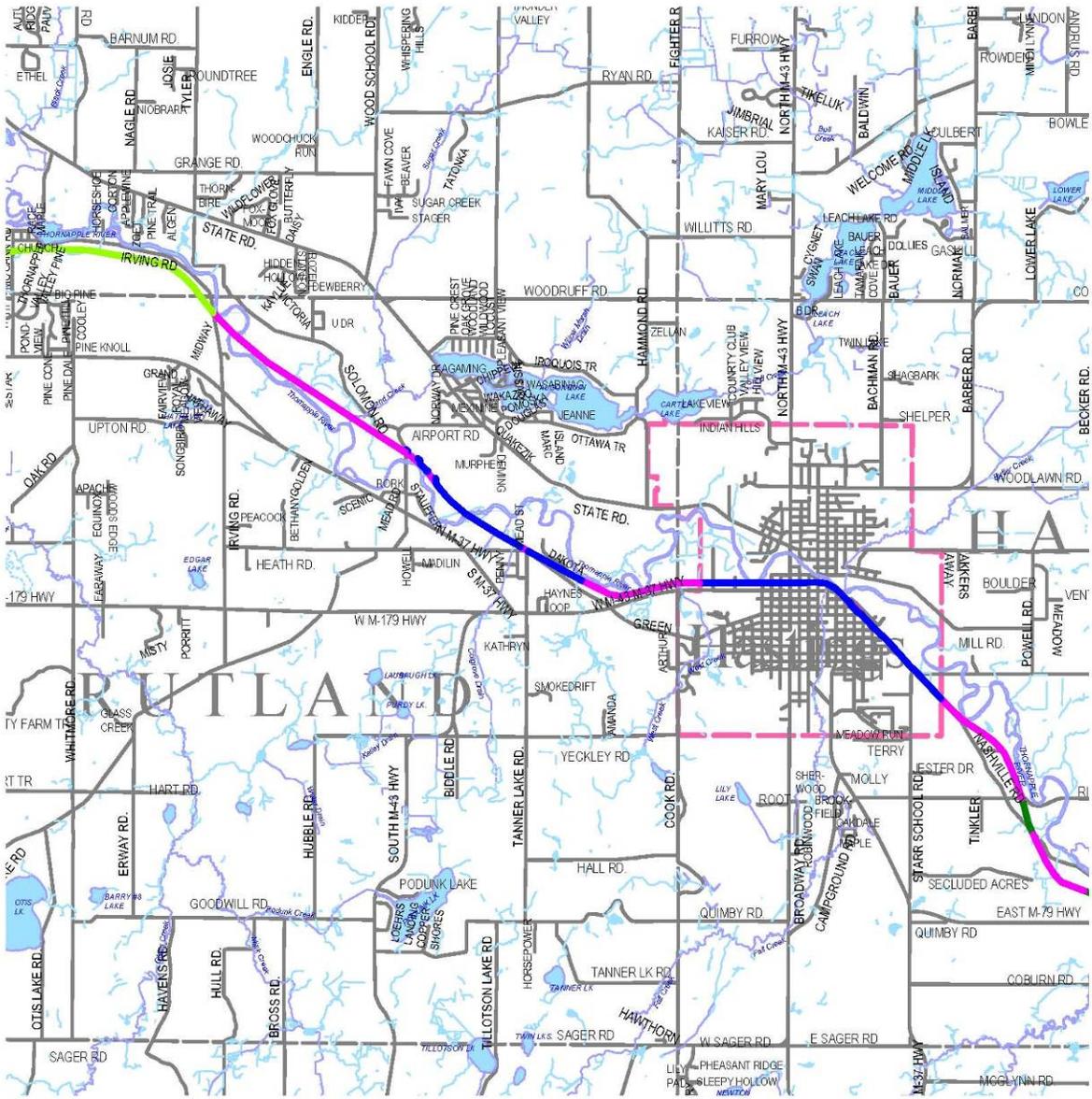
BARRY COUNTY LAND INFORMATION SERVICE  
DECEMBER 2013  
SCALE 1" = 18000'



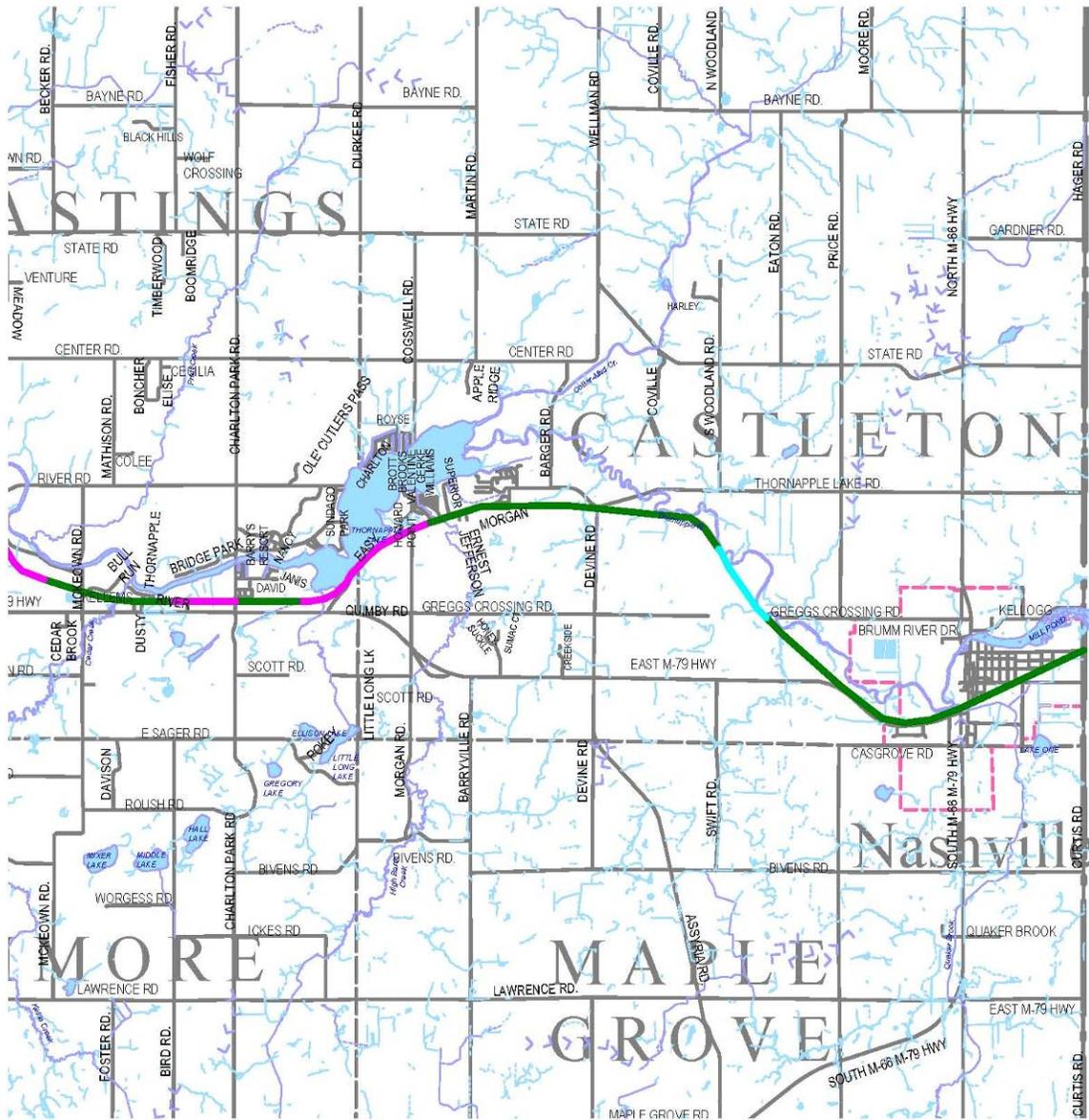
# Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail Maps



MAP LOCATOR	FORMER RAILWAY OWNERSHIP AND TRAIL STATUS	- MIDDLEVILLE CORRIDOR
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN	<b>LEGEND</b>	
		PRIVATE OWNERSHIP (CLOSED TO PUBLIC)
		VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
		RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY
		CITY OF HASTINGS
		BARRY COUNTY PAUL HENRY THORNAPPLE TRAIL PARK
	BARRY COUNTY OWNERSHIP	
	(CLOSED TO PUBLIC BY AGREEMENT)	
		 <b>SCALE</b> 1 INCH = 6000 FT <b>BARRY COUNTY LAND INFORMATION SERVICES</b> JANUARY 2008



<p><b>MAP LOCATOR</b></p> <p><b>BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN</b></p>	<p><b>FORMER RAILWAY OWNERSHIP AND TRAIL STATUS - HASTINGS CORRIDOR</b></p> <p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #FF00FF; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> PRIVATE OWNERSHIP (CLOSED TO PUBLIC)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFFF00; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFA500; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #0000FF; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> CITY OF HASTINGS</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #008000; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> BARRY COUNTY PAUL HENRY THORNAPPLE TRAIL PARK</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #006400; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> BARRY COUNTY OWNERSHIP</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> BARRY COUNTY OWNERSHIP (CLOSED TO PUBLIC BY AGREEMENT)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCALE</b></p> <p>1 INCH = 6000FT</p> <p><b>BARRY COUNTY LAND INFORMATION SERVICES</b></p> <p>JANUARY 2008</p> 
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MAP LOCATOR	FORMER RAILWAY OWNERSHIP AND TRAIL STATUS - NASHVILLE CORRIDOR		 <p>SCALE 1 INCH = 6000FT BARRY COUNTY LAND INFORMATION SERVICES JANUARY 2008</p>
	<b>LEGEND</b>  PRIVATE OWNERSHIP (CLOSED TO PUBLIC)  VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE  RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY  CITY OF HASTINGS  BARRY COUNTY PAUL HENRY THORNAPPLE TRAIL PARK  BARRY COUNTY OWNERSHIP (CLOSED TO PUBLIC BY AGREEMENT)		
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN			

## **5. PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

### **Recreation Planning**

Recreation planning plays an important role in maintaining the quality of life in a community. If a community is to provide effective recreational opportunities, it needs to determine not only current, but also future recreation needs. Recreation planning also has important environmental implications. Green infrastructure and connected green spaces allow for the movement of wildlife, plants and people, as well as opportunities for watershed management to protect waterways, wetlands, floodplains, groundwater recharge and woodlands along rivers.

This Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan presents an evaluation of the County's recreational needs and opportunities. It considers the existing amenities in the County, the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities.

This Plan is to serve as a guideline for directing the County in the operation and maintenance of existing and future facilities to meet the recreational needs of its citizens. The Plan summarizes short- and long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreation opportunities and describes an Action and Capital Improvement Program for implementation over the next five years.

### **Plan Process and Development**

This 2014 Parks and Recreation Plan was written and developed by members of the Park and Recreation Board and the Charlton Park Board. Representatives from both Boards met regularly between February and December 2013 for the development of this Parks and Recreation Plan.

Criteria considered and evaluated for plan development evolved from the examination of goals and recreation standards determined through a wide variety of input sources. This information was collected from the inventory and review of existing facilities; the identification of recreation needs and deficiencies, public opinion, and future expectations.

Public input was sought by means of two public meetings and a community input survey. All opportunities for public comment were advertised in the local media, on the County's website, and via social media. The first public meeting to solicit public desires and concerns regarding parks and recreation took place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2013, at the Barry Eaton Health Department, Woodlawn Avenue, Hastings. A second meeting to present the results of the community input survey and the proposed five-year action items was held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2013, at the Barry County Courts and Law Building in Hastings. A summary of comments and discussion items from both meetings can be found in the Appendices of this report.

An online survey was conducted to solicit input from a wider cross-section of Barry County residents. The survey was available from August 7, 2013, until September 20, 2013, and was advertised through local print and radio media and on the County's website. Paper copies were also made available at area libraries. A total of 180 people responded to the survey and the results can be found in the Appendices of this report.

Comments from the various public input opportunities were incorporated as appropriate into a final draft of the Plan, which was made available to the public for one month commencing on December 16 to solicit further comments prior to a Public Hearing and plan adoption. Notes from these meetings are in the Appendices of this report.

*The Barry County Parks and Recreation Board voted to adopt the Plan and recommend adoption by the Barry County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting on Thursday. Hgdtwct{ "42."4236."cpf "vj g'Ej ct nqp'Park Village and Museum Board made a similar Resolution on Hgdtwct{ '32."4236. Copies of both Resolutions can be found in Section 32 of this Plan.*

*A Public Hearing was held on Hgdtwct{ '47j . '4236'at the Commissioner Chambers, 220 W. State St., Hastings, MI ; at ; <2" c0 Q during the regular scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting to consider public input regarding the new Barry County Parks & Recreation Plan. After this Hearing, a formal Resolution was made by the Barry County Board of Commissioners to adopt the Plan. A copy of this Resolution is also included in Section 32.*

## 6. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This section of the Plan identifies recreation needs determined through a variety of methods that include analysis of the Recreation Inventory, comparison to recreation standards, direct input from staff and Board members, and comments received from members of the public. By combining these method, an accurate assessment of recreational needs and deficiencies can be made.

### Facilities vs. Population

Recreational facilities in Barry County are virtually entirely held by other municipalities and school districts with a fair number in private hands. Barry County only owns Charlton Park, a small undeveloped parcel on Norris Road, McKeown Bridge Park and isolated sections of the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail.

Based on our recreational inventory, it appears we have ample sports complexes but in reality, those are filled to capacity by school activities and there is a definite lack of specific facilities, especially soccer fields. There is a definite need for baseball/softball and soccer complexes. There are no winter sports facilities such as an ice arena or ski facilities.

Barry County is an aging population, as evidenced by 2010 US Census data. Barry County is a “bedroom community” for Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and Lansing, as over 75% of its residents work outside of the county. Counter that with the lack of a four year degree granting university, there is an out flux of high school graduates to work and education outside the county.

The percentage of the population in Barry County over 65 years old is slightly higher than the state average, as is the median age. When planning new facilities, the needs of seniors should always be considered.

	Total Population as of July 1, 2012	Under 5 years	Under 18 years	65 years and over	Median age
Barry County	58,990	5.5%	23.5%	15.9%	41.2
Michigan	9,883,640	5.8%	22.9%	14.6%	38.9
*U.S. Dept. of Commerce, July 1, 2012 numbers					

### Geography, Demographics, and Future Needs

Although 30% of Barry County’s residents live in the northwest four townships (Irving, Rutland, Yankee Springs, and Thornapple), they are experiencing explosive growth and are projected to nearly double (88% increase) in population by 2020. Townships in the east half of the county will experience limited growth over the next twenty years. Therefore,

recreational facilities will be most needed in these areas experiencing growth, as these likely will be working families with children needing ball fields and other recreational facilities. Even though the eastern side of the County is less populated, the lack of recreation facilities in this area means that they should be added as opportunities allow so that all residents are within easy reach of recreational lands.

## **Connectibility**

Barry County's strength is that it already has green space and green corridors. Since we already have developing corridors, it is our vision to connect these spaces and corridors not only for recreational purposes, but for future transportation systems as well.

Green space is valued not only for its open space and benefits to wildlife, but frequently is valued due to its ability to provide clean drinking water. About 30,000 acres are held in trust by private and public entities, including the Barry State Game Area and Yankees Springs State Recreation Area. It is our intention to work to connect the green spaces and develop greenways where non-motorized transportation can use as transportation corridors.

Realizing that wetlands are valued for water resources and knowing they are slowly disappearing in Barry County due to development; we will investigate a WETLAND BANKING program to preserve these habitats and incorporate them into our recreational resources and greenways/green spaces.

A new program that the Barry County Park and Recreation Board will encourage is the development of a River Heritage Trail on the Thornapple River and its tributaries. A similar program is in place on the Kalamazoo and St. Joseph rivers. The river will be a recreational destination and our community will work to preserve the green space around this natural corridor while developing recreational and transportation resources.

## **Complete Streets**

A resurgence of interest in non-motorized travel, spurred by desires for better health, transportation options, environmental quality, and access to the area's natural surroundings, provides a strong motivation for promoting a Complete Streets plan.

The development of non-motorized transportation systems has become an important component of long-term community planning throughout the State of Michigan. The significance of Complete Streets and non-motorized trails has been realized in their capacity to integrate communities through multi-use pathways that connect neighborhoods, resources, and people, while placing equal priority on the safety and ease of access for all user groups.

Complete Streets feature bicycle lanes, connected sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks, and attractive landscaping, all of which provide a range of benefits to communities and their residents. Some of the most notable benefits include the potential for improved public health through greater physical activity, a sustainable and integrated outlook on how to reduce

motor vehicle and fuel dependence, and the opportunity to support economic development through streetscape and accessibility improvements.

Mid- Michigan has made great strides over the past decade to incorporate complete streets principals into many of its public and private redevelopment projects. The area has also been very progressive in promoting non-motorized transportation systems including regional trails like the Paul Henry – Thornapple Trail

Now as the benefits of non-motorized transportation are realized; from energy independence to personal health, increased attention is turned to enhancing and reintroducing the Complete Streets and non-motorized transportation option. These types of facilities must be included in Transportation and Recreation plans in order to provide for the most efficient *network* possible.

Complete Street considerations give people the option to walk, bike, or use public transit if they choose. A comprehensive non-motorized network is crucial to the mobility of some parts of the population, especially the elderly, the disabled, and the disadvantaged. A more Complete / non-motorized network will increase the viability of pedestrian and bicycle transportation as options and provide links to health care, community services, parks, and shopping for those that are unable or unwilling to use a motorized vehicle.

For people who choose to use transit as their preferred mode of travel and those for which it is the only option, Complete Streets and non-motorized facilities support the transportation system and Parks and Recreation by providing universal access to all points in Barry County. Walking and biking facilities that tie into the transit network are critical for optimal efficiency of the transit system and its ability to safely deliver users to our parks.

## **Water Access**

Barry County is fortunate to have a hundreds of inland Lakes and 62.5 miles of the Thornapple River within its boundary. Access to these public waters should continue to be a priority, with improved and new facilities needed for shore access for viewing and fishing, walk-in access, and motorized boat access for recreation and fishing.

## **Thornapple Trail Association**

The Thornapple Trail Association was formed in 1995 and is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the completion of the Paul Henry – Thornapple Trail through Kent, Barry, and Eaton Counties. Establishment of the Trail in Barry County was made possible by the efforts and generous donation of property along the rail grade by Craig and Nan Patterson. The Trail Association later transferred this property to Barry County and continues to help maintain the Trail and support the development of non-motorized trails through the County.



## **Jordan Lake Trail Board**

An all-volunteer group was established in 2013 of interested community members with the express purpose of establishing a plan and constructing a pedestrian, biking and inline skating trail built around Jordan Lake in Barry and Iona Counties.



The mission of the Jordan Lake Trail Board is to provide a beautiful, relaxing, serene walk or ride through nature; with shimmering waters, magical sunsets, quiet forests, crops in fields, inviting boardwalk with fishing and lake view opportunities; all within moments from downtown Lake Odessa. From the splendor of fall colors, to winter's snow-covered paths, to spring's flower-covered forest floors and the cool canopy of the summer shade, the Jordan Lake Trail will be an educational, social, and physical activity for children, retirees, and families alike.

The Barry County Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) has offered its service and expertise in any way to support the group's efforts.

## **Gun Lake Path Project**

Another project the PRB supports through serving as a resource is a project spearheaded by Mick Barney to develop a nearly 15-mile path around Gun Lake. Mr. Barney provided a presentation to the PRB noting that besides offering a safe route around the lake, the project offers recreational and tourism benefits, along with watershed and habitat benefits.

## **Land Purchasing**

Barry County government owns very little land. Vast areas of the County are still undeveloped and if we are to develop a good recreational system, we need to consider purchasing land for future use.

Land purchases will be planned around future needs of the County. Many park systems are successful today because of the planning and past land purchases that provide for today's parks.

## **Charlton Park Historic Village and Museum**

Historic Charlton Park was founded to serve as a reminder to present and future generations of what life was like in rural Michigan in the late 1800s. Since its beginnings in 1936, the Park has slowly developed into a major educational and recreational area in southwest Michigan. However, much hard work remains before Historic Charlton Park will reach its full potential.

The needs of Historic Charlton Park are three fold: improvements to the existing infrastructure, maintenance and upkeep of the existing buildings, and improvements in the upkeep and display of the collections.

Infra-structure improvements are needed to make the facility more enjoyable by visitors and accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes the replacement of the village boardwalks using a handicap accessible design and the paving of at least some of the parks gravel driveways and parking areas. The challenge of improving accessibility while maintaining the historic integrity of the site will involve some innovative solutions. Other general needs expressed during the public input process include new restrooms, a food/concession building and better use of the riverfront area.

On-going maintenance is required to keep the historic buildings in good condition. The Action Program identifies which buildings require major repairs and refurbishments over the next five years. The existing park maintenance facility is small and out-dated and in urgent need of replacement. Relocation of this facility should be considered to open up the river frontage to allow enjoyment of this area by Park visitors.

Capital improvements are required to provide expanded space for collections storage and to stabilize and conserve existing collections. The Park must also update its computer system to facilitate inventory completion and better manage the resources entrusted to the agency.

## **Charlton Park Recreation Area**

The current facilities in Charlton Park Recreation Area were developed primarily between 1969 and 1991 with the assistance of funding from the Michigan DNR. These facilities have been well maintained but are now showing signs of their age. In particular, the play equipment does not meet current safety guidelines and should be replaced by new equipment with barrier-free safety surfacing that allows for use by persons with disabilities.

Other accessibility improvements that are needed focus on connecting walkways between the parks facilities, increased access to the waterfront and expanded opportunities for on-shore fishing. Charlton Park features one of only four swimming beaches in the County, the others all being in the west of the County. The upkeep and maintenance of this facility is therefore important. The existing trails in the park are limited and do not relate well to the other recreation facilities. A need for family-orientated mountain bike trails was expressed during the public input process. Charlton Park is one of the few sites in Barry County, other than Yankee Springs State Park in the west, large enough to support a comprehensive trail network. Park users have also expressed the need for an electric service to the main pavilion to better cater to special events.

The protection and enhancement of Charlton Park's natural resources, which include the Thornapple River and Lake and mature broadleaf woodlands and wetlands, is also important to ensure wildlife habitat is maintained for the enjoyment of future generations.

## **McKeown Bridge Park**

McKeown Bridge is an important historical site which was improved with assistance from the MNRTF in 2010. However, there is still almost half of the property which remains undeveloped for recreational use.

Access to the riverfront should continue to be improved and expanded, with additional opportunities for fishing from the shore and for persons with disabilities. Expanded trail facilities on the upland area of the site will also expand nature viewing and other passive recreation opportunities.

## **Sports Complex**

The condition of active sports facilities in the County was generally identified as poor in the Community survey. Availability of fields, quality of fields and quality of support facilities (eg. bathrooms) were all rated poor, with an overall rating of acceptable. The need for a new multi-sports complex was supported by over 70% of respondents, with nearly 30% preferring to improve the existing facilities. The 40 acre parcel south of Thornapple Manor and adjacent to East 79 is a level piece of land with good access. This land has potential for future development for active recreation opportunities to meet demand.

## 7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### **Charlton Park Village and Museum Board (CPB) Mission Statement**

The following mission statement was prepared in the early 1990's to provide the Historic Charlton Park Board with a sense of direction for current and future focus and purpose. This mission has not changed over the past 20 plus years, and the Board continues to utilize this mission to create the foundation for moving forward into the future.

TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, THROUGH THE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND DEMONSTRATION OF EARLY RURAL MICHIGAN LIFE, ARTIFACTS AND BUILDINGS, AND THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL AREAS.

### **CPB Goals and Objectives**

Utilizing the mission statement above, the Historic Charlton Park Board has identified five primary goals and outlined objectives to work toward meeting those goals. These goals and objectives are directly tied to the Historic Charlton Park action plan and identified needs for the park.

**Goal A:** Preserve and manage artifacts, collections, and buildings that demonstrate early rural Michigan life and cultural history.

#### Objectives:

- 1) Identify objects and artifacts within collections not yet inventoried and seek to ensure proper historical data regarding collections artifacts.
- 2) Provide a high level of stewardship for the collections utilizing the MAP assessment, and best management practices.
- 3) Development of a collections plan to guide future acquisitions.

**Goal B:** Provide high quality outdoor natural-resource centered recreational opportunities for county residents and visitors.

#### Objectives:

- 1) Provide natural resource based activities that meet identified goals and provide public utilization of the park.
- 2) Develop standards of operation for high quality maintenance and operation of recreational area and open space lands.
- 3) Provide natural resources based activities that are available to all individuals regardless of ability (comply with Americans with Disabilities Act).

**Goal C:** Promote understanding of natural and cultural resources of Historic Charlton Park and the rich history of Barry County and Michigan.

Objectives:

- 1) Promote Historic Charlton Park programs, events, and facilities through advertising and public relations campaign.
- 2) Promote best practices management and stewardship of natural and cultural resources within Charlton Park.
- 3) Promote and provide buildings and facilities that reflect rural Michigan history and natural resources within our recreation area.

**Goal D:** Provide and continue developing educational programming, events, and facilities that promote and enhance appreciation for history, natural resources, and family entertainment.

Objectives:

- 1) Provide educational programming that promotes an understanding of our rural history from the late 1800's and early 1900's.
- 2) Provide educational programming that focuses on natural resources and understanding our outdoor environmental.
- 3) Provide educational programming, events, and facilities for people of all ages and abilities.
- 4) Host events that provide family entertainment are educational, and/or heighten an appreciation for the natural environment and cultural history.

**Goal E:** Cultivate and sustain a financial standing for short and long term operational needs, maintenance, development and growth.

Objectives:

- 1) Develop and cultivate partnerships which help realize identified goals, needs, and objectives.
- 2) Sustain dedicated millage to assist with operational needs of the park.
- 3) Capitalize on grant programs and funds to complete the identified goals.
- 4) Utilize user fees where appropriate.

## **Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) Mission Statement**

Barry County Parks and Recreation Board has developed the following goals and objectives to guide the management and development of recreation opportunities in the County. These Goals are consistent with those laid out in the Barry County Master Plan. The goals are long-range in nature and intended to be broad in scope and flexible enough to accommodate future change. The objectives are short-range in nature and intended to direct specific development decisions to be made in the next five years. Goals and objectives are meant to guide the intent of the actions to be taken but flexible enough to reflect changing attitudes and opportunities. A degree of flexibility is essential for the County to be responsive to its citizens.

PROVIDE AND PROMOTE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN BARRY COUNTY.

### **PRB Goals and Objectives**

#### **GOAL 1**

Develop and maintain a Recreation Plan to ensure that funds are spent efficiently, short-term and long-term goals are met, and to ensure eligibility for State and Federal grant programs.

##### Objective:

- Evaluate progress against plan annually to ensure plan is utilized and progress is made.

#### **GOAL 2**

Provide a geographically balanced system of park and recreation facilities in the County, in coordination with local municipalities, recreation authorities, and schools, to provide opportunities for all.

##### Objectives:

- Target areas that are deficient in recreation opportunities or are experiencing population growth for land acquisition or development.
- Assist other recreation providers in the County to develop and maintain public recreation facilities.

#### **GOAL 3**

Continue to maintain and enhance existing park and recreation facilities to provide high quality recreational and aesthetic experience at all County parks and facilities.

##### Objectives:

- Improve routine maintenance of McKeown Bridge Park, including implementation of an inspection schedule to determine any repairs etc. that may be required.
- Continue maintenance of the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail through mowing and vegetation control.
- Encourage and facilitate volunteer efforts to assist with maintenance at County owned park and recreation facilities.

#### **GOAL 4**

Expand the diversity of recreational facilities available to offer year-round opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities to meet current and future demands.

##### **Objectives:**

- Continue the development of McKeown Bridge Park in line with the master plan.
- Strive towards providing universal accessibility at all recreational facilities.
- Work towards development of a sports complex, including ball fields and soccer fields and supporting facilities, to better meet the demands of the community.

#### **GOAL 5**

Develop and encourage unique recreational experiences to attract visitors/tourists to Barry County.

##### **Objectives:**

- Investigate the creation of a Thornapple River Heritage Trail to encourage canoe and kayak use.
- Promote recreation events in Barry County.
- Enhance the County website to fully inform residents and visitors of the recreation opportunities in the County.

#### **GOAL 6**

Promote and develop linear parks and trails to provide safe and enjoyable recreational experiences and non-motorized transportation, linking residential areas, parks, and recreational lands.

##### **Objectives:**

- Work in collaboration with others to ensure the continuity and connectivity of the Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail across the County.
- Make the best possible use of grant opportunities for property acquisition and development.
- Acquire an additional five miles of trail over the next five years.

#### **GOAL 7**

Seek to acquire, preserve and protect land of special interest, including historic, natural, scenic or environmentally sensitive areas for appropriate public use and enjoyment and habitat protection.

##### **Objectives:**

- Protect and maintain the Historic McKeown Bridge and provide improved interpretation describing its historical significance.
- Protect and enhance riverfront and wetland properties to protect water quality and provide educational opportunities.
- Demonstrate best management techniques in all park development, management, and improvement to set an example for County residents.
- Implement habitat improvements at McKeown Bridge Park and provide interpretation to promote enjoyment and provide education.

### **GOAL 8**

Expand the availability of public waterfront access and fishing/boating opportunities on lakes and rivers within the County.

#### **Objectives:**

- Continue to improve river access at McKeown Bridge Park in line with the master plan.
- Look for opportunities to expand waterfront property under Barry County ownership or control.
- In collaboration with partners, provide additional facilities in targeted locations along the Thornapple River for development of a water trail (ie. launch ramps, rest areas, bathrooms etc.)

### **GOAL 9**

Develop a long-term sustainable structure and funding mechanism for County Parks and encourage philanthropic and other financial support for facilities and their management.

#### **Objective:**

- Work with County Administration and Commissions on a plan that promotes staff support to the all-volunteer Parks and Recreation Board.

## **8. ACTION PROGRAM AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

The Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule of the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan states the proposed course of development or improvement for each of the two Boards that will be taken over the next five years. The goals and objectives, from the previous section, serve as guidelines for the development of the Action Program. The Capital Improvement Schedule which follows, focuses on potential expenditures for the five-year action period, and prioritizes these actions. The five-year period will begin in 2014 and extend through 2018. This time period will not be sufficient to accomplish all of the goals and objectives, but begins to prioritize those projects that may be achievable within the initial five years.

The Action Program focuses on reduction of deficiencies and expansion and improvements of facilities in a manner that not only meets current needs, but also diversifies the type and quality of recreational opportunities within the County. The Needs Assessment section identifies these needs in general terms; the Action Plan describes specific actions to be taken to address these needs; and the Capital Improvement Schedule specifically itemizes those projects which will be most feasible during the next five years. The proposed schedule will allow for flexibility as funds become available and as opportunities are presented, and may require more than five years to complete.

### **Charlton Park Village and Museum & Recreation Area**

The following action program outlines the recommended activities for Historic Charlton Park as a complete singular unit with two primary focus areas of importance, 1) Outdoor Recreation & Natural Resources and 2) Historic Village & Museum. For the purpose of outlining our action program, we have combined many of the activities/projects into one category heading for both, then listed them separately by focus area within the Capital Improvement schedule. Even though Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum and Recreation Area, has two very distinguishable focus areas, each with their own unique set of issues and concerns, there are several common topics that affect both areas.

#### **A. Development of a Strategic Plan for Charlton Park**

The Charlton Park Board realizes and understands that beyond the Master Planning process there are multiple plans, policies, and directional models that need to be developed to ensure quality operation into the future. Examples of this include a Collections Plan, Resource Management Plan, and various other policies and procedures.

## **B. Accessibility Improvements/Universal Design**

While accessibility has been addressed in a previous section, Charlton Park recognizes the need to ensure that beyond compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act there exists a need for development that is more in-line with “universal design”. With this in mind, individual analysis of each focus area should allow for greater detail in implementing changes that affect access for all.

## **C. Quality Maintenance and Operation**

Maintaining a high level of understanding regarding current maintenance standards, certifications, training, and preventative maintenance scheduling to ensure future maintenance needs are met. Additional emphasis on the need for a modern maintenance structure with adequate storage and working space is a high priority item for the Charlton Park Board moving forward.

## **D. Security**

Maintaining a family orientated environment for all to enjoy is highly important to the Charlton Park Board and the community. With year round public access, the Charlton Park Board recognizes the need to be proactive in ensuring buildings, grounds, and patrons are protected by establishing and updating policies, ordinances, and administrative rules. Modern security techniques and apparatuses should be integrated where possible to ensure protections from loss, theft, or damage. The Charlton Park Board will continue to work closely with the Barry County Sheriff Department and other law enforcement agencies to ensure a safe family atmosphere and protections for the assets of Barry County.

## **E. Resource/Land Management**

Management of resources for Historic Charlton Park is of the most importance and includes the management of historical, cultural and natural resources. The historical and cultural management strategies include maintaining a collections plan, implementing recommendations from the Museum Assessment Plan (MAP), and adhering to modern practices for artifact management. The natural resources management strategies include reviewing and monitoring the parks forestry management plan, developing a wildlife management plan, and ensuring proper accounting of flora and fauna, and wetlands inventories. Additionally, care should be given to ensure best management practices are being utilized to meet all current standards and guidelines for outdoor recreational facilities.

## **F. Parks Recreation Plan**

Continually monitor and update the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan to ensure Charlton Park is adapting to changes and opportunities to enhance our county, community, and our park system. The Charlton Park Board recognizes that the parks and recreation plan is a living document and may require updates as needs change.

## **Parks and Recreation Board**

### **McKeown Bridge Park**

Although substantial improvements were made to this park in 2010, expansion of shoreline fishing opportunities and the trail network will expand the facilities available to park users. Educational/ interpretive signs and habitat improvements will also be considered for this land. The master plan for this property also identifies the addition of a group picnic shelter and playground on the north side of the river, which will be considered in the future if public demand is demonstrated.

### **Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail**

The goal is to provide a continuous paved trail from Middleville to Nashville, linking to Kent and Eaton Counties respectively. Much work is to be done before this is possible, with the up-coming five year period focusing on planning efforts to achieve a connected route. The development of 1.3 miles of paved trail and a trailhead in the Village of Nashville has been identified as a priority for the upcoming 5 year period. Paved sections of the trail are very popular in both the City of Hastings and the Village of Middleville. Such as development would be a huge benefit to the village of Nashville and the eastern portion of Barry County, which has limited recreational resources.

### **Sports Complex Development**

A lack of quality ball field and soccer fields for organized use has been identified in the County. The Parks and Recreation Board has developed a concept plan for a new sports complex to meet the County's needs on a 40 acre County owned parcel south of Thornapple Manor. Identification of funding for the first phase of this development and its long term maintenance is important.

### **Barry County Greenways**

The Thornapple River is already established as a major recreational resource in the County for fishing, canoeing, kayaking and tubing. The County wishes to develop a water trail plan, which will identify gaps in the system for access points and other amenities such as restrooms, parking and signage. This will assist the County and recreation partners in identifying land to target for acquisition and future development to facilitate improved use of the river corridor for recreational use.

### **North-South Corridors**

A north-south corridor would consist of the areas around the North Country Trail, including game areas and state park, Fish Lake area, and Crooked Lake areas to Gull Lake, connecting into the trail way system in Richland.

Another north-south corridor can be built around the M-66 corridor as a transportation route between Ionia/ Lansing and Battle Creek and should be considered as a National Bike Route.

### **East-West Corridors**

An east-west corridor would be the Thornapple River and Thornapple Trail. For recreation, this could be a canoe-hiking trail but it also could be a transportation corridor used by non-motorized methods to travel between the communities of Middleville, Irving, Hastings, and Nashville. This corridor can link to Grand Rapids to the north and Jackson to the southeast. Another east-west corridor can be built around the roads of Cressy, Hickory, Mud Lake, Westlake and Tasker Roads, connecting Allegan County with Eaton County.

### **Loop Trails**

The PRB supports the development of local and regional looped trail systems within the county. Several initiatives are currently in progress. The Gun Lake Path Project proposal will encircle the popular Gun Lake, improving safety and providing new recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The Jordan Lake Trail Board was recently established and incorporated as a non-profit 510(c)3 for the purpose of developing a multi-use non-motorized trail around Jordan Lake and the Village of Lake Odessa in Barry and Ionia Counties. The first phase will begin at the now retired Lakewood East Elementary in Lake Odessa, where parking is available and sports facilities are used for community recreation, and will end at the Lakewood Public Middle School. Future phases are also being planned.

### **Recreational Green Space**

Home to the 25,000 acre Yankee Springs SRA/Barry SGA complex, Barry County is among the leaders of counties in southern Michigan with dedicated acreage for recreation. There are also several small parks scattered about the County. It is our vision to connect these parcels and add to them over time

### **Wild Green Space**

Barry County is home to numerous parcels of privately held lands either through fee title or conservation easements. Two land trusts in Barry County, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and Michigan Audubon, hold outright ownership or easements on parcels mostly in the western part of the county. We envision these and other organizations to continue their work to preserve the biologically diverse areas which in turn can be a mode to preserve groundwater in and around urban areas.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

Improvements and development will occur as funds and opportunities evolve. Assistance will be solicited from all available sources and will include both physical and financial support from trusts, charitable foundations, and Federal and State funding programs. The following schedules are a breakdown of the anticipated projects for the Charlton Park Board and the Parks and Recreation Board. Changes in the programs may occur if projected funding levels increase or decrease, but it is anticipated that the changes would be related more to adjustments in the time schedule rather than specific projects.

## Master Plan Capital Improvement Schedule Historic Charlton Park 2014-2017

<u>Recreation Area Projects/Goals/Objectives</u>		<u>Costs</u>	<u>Priority</u>
Trail Improvements & Signage Phase 1	Developing a sign plan, mapping and applying tread material to existing trail system.	\$5,000	1
Playground Improvements/Replacement Phase 1	Installation of new playground structure at our large pavilion.	\$35,000	1
River Trail & Fishing Platforms Phase 1	Design phase and engineering for developing an extensive universally accessible river/lake trail system with fishing platforms.	\$25,000	3
New Maintenance Shop	Construction of a new maintenance and storage facility for all modern equipment and maintenance activities.	\$225,000	1
Campground Study & Design	Feasibility study, design and engineering for developing a new campground facility with both modern and rustic camping.	\$35,000	2
Improve Habitat Areas	Develop natural resources plan and begin successional tree and vegetation planting.	\$5,000	2
Boat Ramp Area Improvements/Reconstruction	Renovation of boat ramp area; including dock, ramp and restroom renovations/replacement.	\$100,000	3
Swimming Area Improvements/Reconstruction	Enlarging of sand beach area and creating better access & erosion control. Additional covered picnic facility	\$100,000	3
Ball field Improvements	Improve ball field for little league regulation play.	\$10,000	2

New Roofing Shelters	Replace roofing on the East & West Shelters	\$7,000	3
Fencing Replacement & Boundary Identifiers	Survey Northeast park boundary and place boundary signs along with fencing and tree removal.	\$10,000	3
Accessibility Improvements	Continue to make accessibility improvements that incorporate universal design components for trails, pathways, and parking areas.	\$5,000	1
Volleyball Court Improvements	Improve sand volleyball courts to meet current regulation standards and requirements.	\$2,500	1

**Historic Village Projects/Goals/Objectives**

Boardwalk Improvements/Replacement	Begin replacement and developing new boardwalk/trail system.	\$5,000	2
New Roofing Church	Replace church roof shingles	\$30,000	3
Painting & Wood Work Bristol Inn	Renovation and painting of Bristol Inn exterior and walkway access.	\$15,000	1
Paint/Repairing Gas & Steam Barn Roof	Painting of Gas & Steam Barn and replacement of ridge cap.	\$4,000	2
Pioneer Cabin	Evaluation and potentially relocating pioneer cabin	TBD	3

Big Red Barn Roof Replacement	Replace Red Barn roofing	\$10,000	2
Collections Storage Space	Construction of a new collection storage and display building.	\$750,000	3
Village Lighting	Feasibility and design work for developing time period correct outdoor lighting with the Village.	\$10,000	3
HCB Main street Clock Restoration	Clock restoration and exhibit display for internal controls	\$25,000	1
Security System Improvements	Development of a security plan and installation of additional control measures.	\$10,000	1

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

**Parks and Recreation Board Capital Improvement Schedule**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>County Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds*</u>	<u>Total Project Costs</u>
<b>2014</b>	<u>Thornapple River Watertrail</u> Complete plan for Thornapple River Watertrail in association with partners.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
<b>2015</b>	<u>Thornapple Trail Development – Grant Application</u> MNRTF Grant Application for paving of trail from the east County line to Fuller Elementary School in Nashville.	\$6,000		\$6,000
<b>2015</b>	<u>Thornapple Trail Bridge Refurbishment</u> Refurbish 3 bridges along the trail to AASHTO standards	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
<b>2016 - 2017</b>	<u>Thornapple Trail Development - Construction</u> Construct paved trail from the east County line to Fuller Elementary School in Nashville with associated site amenities (1.3 miles).	\$120,000	\$180,000	\$300,000
<b>2018</b>	<u>McKeown Bridge Park Phase 2</u> Implement phase 2 of master plan improvements, including trail expansion and additional fishing platforms along riverfront.	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
<b>2019</b>	<u>Sports Complex Development Phase 1</u> Implement Phase 1 of ball field/soccer development with parking and restrooms	Costs and funding to be determined		

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

The following projects are either on-going or will be acted upon as property becomes available and matching funds identified.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>County Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds*</u>	<u>Total Project Costs</u>
2014 - 2019	<u>Thornapple Trail Planning</u> Work towards gaining a contiguous trail route by gaining easements across private property, property acquisition or by studying alternative routes.			
2014 - 2019	<u>Thornapple Trail</u> Land acquisition or trail development as opportunities allow	To be determined	MNRTF MDOT TE	To be determined
2014 - 2019	<u>Park Land Acquisition</u> <b>Acquire additional park land as it becomes available targeting areas that are deficient in recreation facilities, property adjacent to existing parks and waterfront/natural areas.</b>	Acquire property and develop as land becomes available, cost unknown.		

\* Other Funds include: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF); Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund; Michigan DNR Waterways Grant; MDOT Transportation Enhancement Program; other State or Federal funding sources; foundation grants; private contributions and others.

All cost projections are estimated based on 2013 costs and will be refined as the program progresses.

## **9. APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX I – Policy Statement**

Barry County Charlton Park Board and the Barry County Parks & Recreation Board  
Policy Statement, Objectives and Goals.

It is a primary objective of the Charlton Park Board and Parks & Recreation Board, as provided for in Act Number 156, Public Acts of Michigan, 1917, to have prepared by and in cooperation with the Barry County Board of Commissioners and Barry County Planning and Zoning Commission, a comprehensive Recreation and Land Use Plan for parkways, recreation, scenic, scientific, archaeological, historic, wildlife, and conservation areas, and preserves, playgrounds, open space, trails, and other lands, water and facilities which are deemed necessary to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment and to provide adequate leisure time opportunities for the present and future residents, visitors and tourists within Barry County.

#### **GOALS:**

1. To define within said plan, in cooperation with municipal, township, village, school district and other intra-county governmental bodies, and agencies of Barry County, State of Michigan, and United States of America, the current and projected responsibilities of the said governmental bodies and agencies.
2. To formally adopt said plan, upon its completion, to serve as a guide in the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of park, recreation, conservation and related lands, waters, facilities, and programs for the benefit of the agencies of Barry County and the other public bodies and agencies enumerated above.
3. To provide for the continuous evaluation of the plan by establishing a systematic and continuous procedure to ascertain preferences and suggestions by the citizenry and to establish a formal procedure whereby additions, deletions, and other changes in the plan may be made when and as deemed necessary.
4. To provide assistance to the Barry County Planning and Zoning Commission and other agencies involved in the preparation of the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Use Plan.
5. To insure that the Parks, Recreation and open space elements are an integral part of all county comprehensive land use planning and zoning.
6. To make certain that every effort is made to obtain proper zoning of lands and waters adjacent to property owned by Barry County, operated and managed by the Charlton Park Board and Parks & Recreation Board or in any area where future acquisition is planned.

## **APPENDIX II - Parks and Recreation Board On-line Survey Results**

An on-line survey was made available from August 7, 2013, until September 20, 2013. The survey was advertised in local news outlets and on the County's website. Printed copies were also available at County libraries. A total of 180 responses were received.

### Demographics

Responses were received from a wide demographic, with the majority of respondents residing in the City of Hastings, Hastings Charter Township, Rutland Charter Township and Thornapple Township. Over 56% of respondents were in the 35-54 age group. Approximately 75% of the respondents had children under the age of 18.

### Recreation Activities

The most popular recreation activities reported were walking/hiking, fishing, swimming, fishing and organized sports (such as soccer, football and baseball). Of interest is the wide range of recreation activities that the respondents participate in.

**5. What outdoor recreation activities do you or members of your family participate in on a regular basis?**

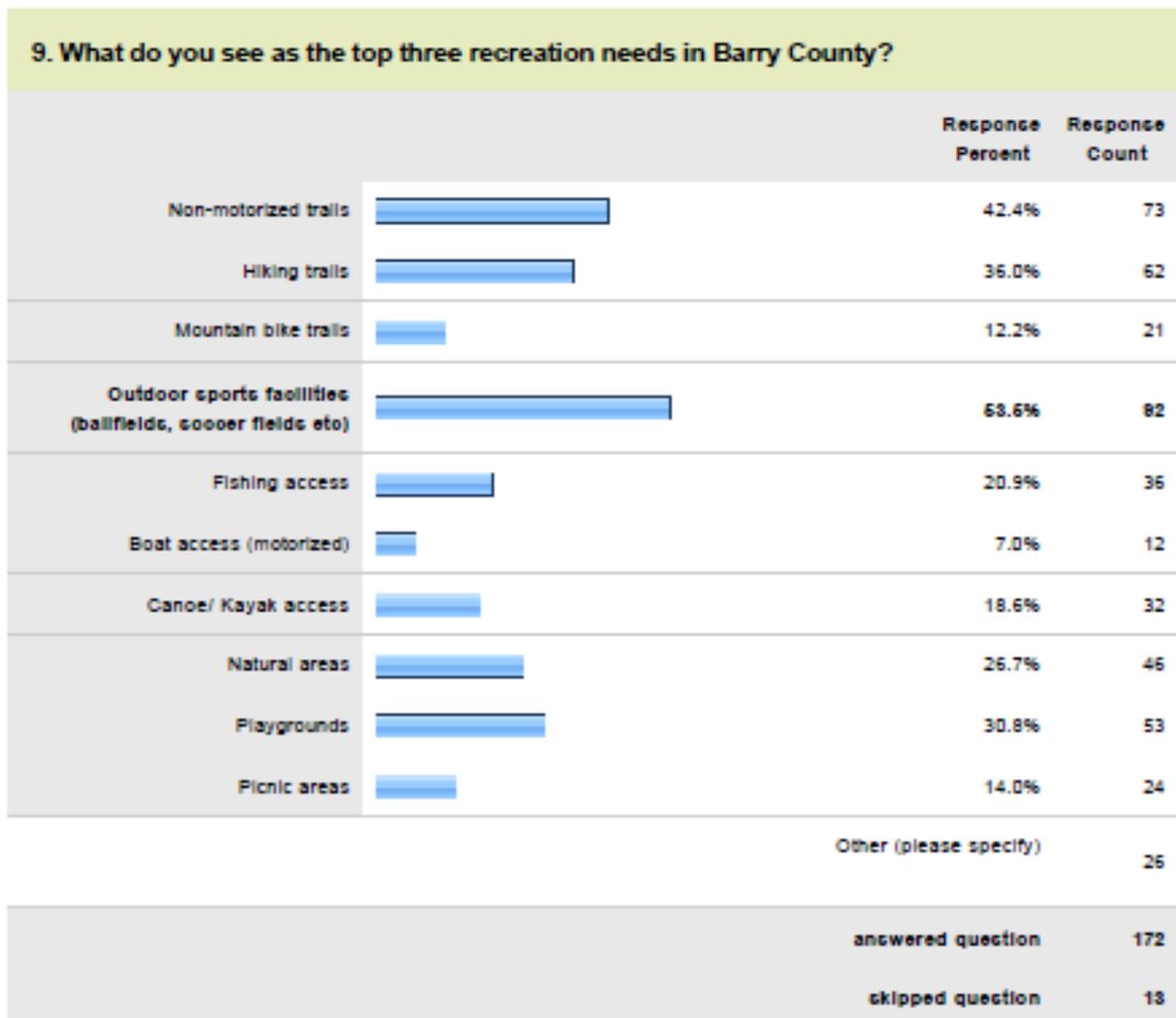
		Response Percent	Response Count
Walking/hiking		74.8%	132
Biking (all types)		49.2%	87
Canoing/kayaking		35.6%	63
Running		29.9%	53
Fishing		53.7%	95
Swimming		54.8%	97
Boating		39.5%	70
Cross-country skiing		9.6%	17
Organized sports (soccer, football, baseball etc.)		52.0%	92
Wildlife watching		40.1%	71
Camping		45.2%	80
Visiting playgrounds		45.2%	80
Picnicking		22.6%	40
	Other (please specify)		18
		answered question	177
		skipped question	8

### Recreation Facilities

When asked what recreation facilities participants visited in the last year it is clear that most participants visit a range of different facilities. However, when asked which facility was visited most often, City of Hastings parks and school facilities were the most popular, with Charlton Park also one of the top choices.

Respondents were then asked to rate the available recreation facilities in terms of location, range of facilities, maintenance and overall quality from poor (1) to excellent (5). The majority of respondents answered “acceptable” to the number of facilities, with “good” being the top choice for the remainder of the questions. The rating average for all of the responses was less than 3, which equates to an average/good rating, showing the need for improvement.

The top three recreation needs in Barry County were identified as outdoor sports facilities (63.6%), non-motorized trails (42.4%) and hiking trails (36%).



### Charlton Park

When asked what additional facilities people would like to see at Charlton Park, this resulted in a range of responses, with seasonal camping, hiking trails, playground equipment and fishing docks being the top choices.

### McKeown Bridge Park

It is clear from questions on McKeown Bridge Park that more work needs to be done to alert residents of this new facility. The top choices for improvements were more boardwalks along the river and additional hiking trails.

### Sports Facilities

The survey asked a series of questions regarding sports facilities in the County. It is important to note that only those who indicated that members of their family participated in outdoor sports activities were asked these questions. Availability of fields, quality of fields and quality of support facilities (eg. bathrooms) were all rated poor, with an overall rating of acceptable. The need for a new multi-sports complex was supported by over 70% of respondents, with nearly 30% preferring to improve the existing facilities.

### Funding

In the past the County Commissioners appropriated funding for a community grant program administered by the Parks and Recreation Board. While the majority of survey respondents were unaware of the grant, most felt that this is a worthwhile program (65.7%).

Only 7.7% of respondents felt that the current funding of \$9,600 a year for the Parks and Recreation Board was adequate. Nearly 36% supported a park and recreation millage, while others felt that increased funding from the county general fund (28.8%) and fund-raising/grants (27.6%) should be pursued.

### Additional Comments

Additional comments were wide ranging. Some common themes included the need for more and higher quality ball fields and the need for a connected non-motorized trail network. Improved maintenance of existing facilities was also seen as important. Some of the comments from survey respondents are included below.

"I would be more than willing to support an additional millage if that would mean an improvement in baseball facilities for our area."

"We live in a beautiful county with many assets. I'd like to see improvements in the facilities we already have, such as clean restrooms, clean family friendly campgrounds, etc."

"Barry County needs a NETWORK of non-motorized hiking, biking and cross country ski trails to link all areas of the county with non motorized, safe routes. These types of recreational assets are very popular with active adults of all ages and children and are a draw to young, affluent individuals."

"Barry County, with its waters, woodlands, prairies, and rural atmosphere is most assuredly a wonderful place to call home. We need to leave it a better place than when we inherited it. Expanded and improved recreational opportunities is a perfect way to insure a better life for those who come after us!"

## APPENDIX III – Public Input Meetings, Feedback/Notes

### BARRY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

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220 W. State St. Hastings, MI 49058  
E-Mail: [parks@barrycounty.org](mailto:parks@barrycounty.org)



### Barry County Parks and Recreation Public Meeting To Gather Input for Five-year Parks and Recreation Plan

**May 16, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**Barry County Health Department**

The Parks and Recreation Board, in association with the Charlton Park Village and Museum Board, are in the process of preparing a new five-year County Parks and Recreation Plan. The 2014 Recreation Plan will serve as a guide for the future development of recreation opportunities for Barry County residents and visitors.

To ensure the plan meets the needs of the community, input from the public was sought. The first of two Public Input Meetings was held on Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Barry-Eaton Health Department. At this meeting, the Boards took comments and suggestions for improving the recreation facilities available to Barry County residents and visitors.

A brief overview of past Barry County Parks and Recreation efforts and accomplishments, along with an explanation of the process for updating the Parks and Recreation five-year plan was given. Afterwards, the following ideas and thoughts were received from the approximately 20 attendees at the Public Input Meeting.

1. Funds are available for the development of non-motorized trails and for connecting trails. SMART (Southwest Michigan Alliance for Recreation Trails) is a group of 9 counties that are collaborating to promote the connection of trails throughout the area. Barry is one of the nine counties. <http://www.swmpc.org/smart.asp> It was noted that money is not always easy to access and many times requires matching funds.
2. Kellogg Foundation provides funds to support programming to get children outdoors. Could be a funding source. <http://www.wkkf.org/>
3. The question was raised of whether the plans for a sports complex were moving forward. The need for new fields and better quality fields was expressed. Funding and management/maintenance of fields was an issue since there are no county park employees. The current Barry County Parks and Recreation Board is all volunteer, there is no paid staff.

Further discussion continued on whether new fields or just better fields were needed. Could we just improve the fields we have now instead of building new ones? For instance, there is a ball field at Charlton Park that is underutilized.

4. Municipal boundaries are a problem in that some of the fields are owned by townships, cities, etc., and each municipality will only take care of their own. No central maintenance organization exists across the whole county.
5. The Park Inventory survey was discussed. The recommendation was made to include the number of restroom facilities there are in the County, how many fields, and their quality. Need a complete survey done before any decisions on building or improving should be made.
6. A survey of county residents should be done to see what they want in a sports complex. County needs to take ownership and be an active part of the work being done.
7. Need to consider other sports besides baseball, softball, and soccer. How about tennis or basketball, or Frisbee golf? It was shared that the basketball courts at Bob King Park and Tyden Park will be resurfaced this year.
8. More needs to be learned from other areas that have sports complexes, like Portage and Zeeland. How do they fund and maintain their parks?
9. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered to determine the feasibility of a sports complex. The YMCA needs to be involved in this effort.
10. The County funding for parks and recreation is very minimal. The Parks and Recreation Board receives about \$10,000 annually. Charlton Park is funded separately and is funded in part through a county-wide millage.
11. The trails need to be improved to appeal to children. Add educational elements to the trails so kids are not only getting exercise and the enjoyment of being outside; they have an opportunity to learn about nature. College students could help organize a bio-blitz.
12. Community member need to be recruited to help talk to landowners and secure parts of the trail not currently held by the County.
13. Better utilization of waterways was discussed. More stop-off areas are needed with picnic areas, campsites, restrooms, etc. A student project could be organized to help secure designation of the Thornapple River as a Heritage Trail. <http://wmich.edu/glcms/watertrails/>
14. Carolyn Mayhew came to share their group's plans to start a trail around Jordan Lake. Two-thirds of the trail would be in Barry County. There is also interest in building a "Gun Lake People Path".
15. The millage for Charlton Park expires in 2016, and for the renewal it should be opened up for support of all county parks and recreation efforts. That way the resources will be there to support both boards and their work in the County. Ottawa County has a growing and vibrant park system, and they passed a millage years ago to support county parks.
16. The question was raised of who pays for the grass mowing at McKeown Bridge Park. It needs to be property maintained.
17. Winter activities needs to be included in future plans. Some parts of the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail are groomed for skiing. Need to advertise this is possible. Charlton Park has a large trail system that can be used in the winter. Need to think of other winter sports like tobogganing and ice skating.

18. County Parks and Recreation department needs a better website with a list of resources available.
19. Planning needs to be done for tobacco policies that make areas smoke free and promote healthy living.
20. Revenue generating ideas need to be considered. Would windmills help with energy needs? Sustainability planning is important.
21. The question was raised of whether anyone had found old plans at Charlton Park. Need to look through archives to see what was planned.
22. There may be partnering opportunities that would be win/win situations. The County could partner with churches or other organizations. The Michigan National Guard could possibly help to build sports complexes.
23. How can funds for Barry County be secured? Is a millage necessary? How else can recreation, which is important to everyone, be funded?

*Michelle Skedgell*

Minutes submitted by Michelle Skedgell  
Barry County Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson

- End -

**BARRY COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

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220 W. State St. Hastings, MI 49058  
E-Mail: parks@barrycounty.org



**Barry County Parks and Recreation Public Meeting  
To Report on Progress for Five-year Parks and Recreation Plan**

**November 7, 2013  
Community Room of the Courts and Law Building**

The meeting was opened by Chair Michelle Skedgell at 6:30 pm. More than 20 people attended, including board members.

Skedgell welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review the progress of updating the five-year plan. Speaking first would be Deb Jensen from the Parks and Recreation Board and then Dan Patton from Charlton Park. Questions and comments from the audience would follow.

Jensen spoke first on the goals, objectives, and capital projects that will be outlined in the plan. She explained that the new plan would help set the goals and priorities for the next five years. The last plan was approved in February 2008 and is on the county website. The new plan follows guidelines developed by the DNR.

Jensen noted that the board did a recreation inventory of facilities throughout the county as part of the plan. The goals are long range and broad in focus. This is a draft plan. It will have to be adopted by both the Parks and Recreation board and the Charlton Park board and then the Board of Commissioners.

First the municipalities in the county were surveyed. Only about one-fourth of the municipalities have recreation plans. Then there was a public online survey. Jensen gave an overview of the survey results from the 180 respondents.

The main needs identified in the survey were non-motorized trails and the development of a sports complex. Many of the comments rated existing facilities as "poor." Many respondents wanted these facilities improved, but Jensen stressed that these facilities are not under the control of the park board. She also noted the responses to a question about the return of the community grant program. Previously this program distributed approximately \$20,000 of county funds to various communities for parks.

Again it was stressed that the Parks and Recreation Board has a very limited budget and was allocated \$9,600 this year and last.

Jensen then discussed the action plan that lists improvements to McKeown Bridge Park, Paul Henry Thornapple Trail, development of a sports complex, and planning for the Thornapple River Water Trail.

Dan Patton, director of Charlton Park, then discussed Charlton Park's portion of the five-year plan. He discussed both the needs of the historic village and the recreation area. There is a focus on accessibility, quality and maintenance of the historic area, security within the park to

keep it family oriented, resource management, and park use. The Charlton Park board would like to improve trails, signs, playgrounds, trails and access to the river. He also discussed possible changes to the campground area. He closed by saying that none of the improvements will happen without grant dollars.

Funding was discussed. This included an explanation of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund which is very competitive and significant matching funds are needed to be considered. Charlton Park also receives approximately \$20,000 annually from its foundation which can only be used for collections.

The current millage supporting Charlton Park raises about \$400,000 annually. It is not quite one quarter mil. The Charlton Park budget is about \$500,000 - \$600,000. In addition to the millage, funds come from fees. He noted that students in Barry County do not pay admission fees to the Historic Village.

Questions and comments included:

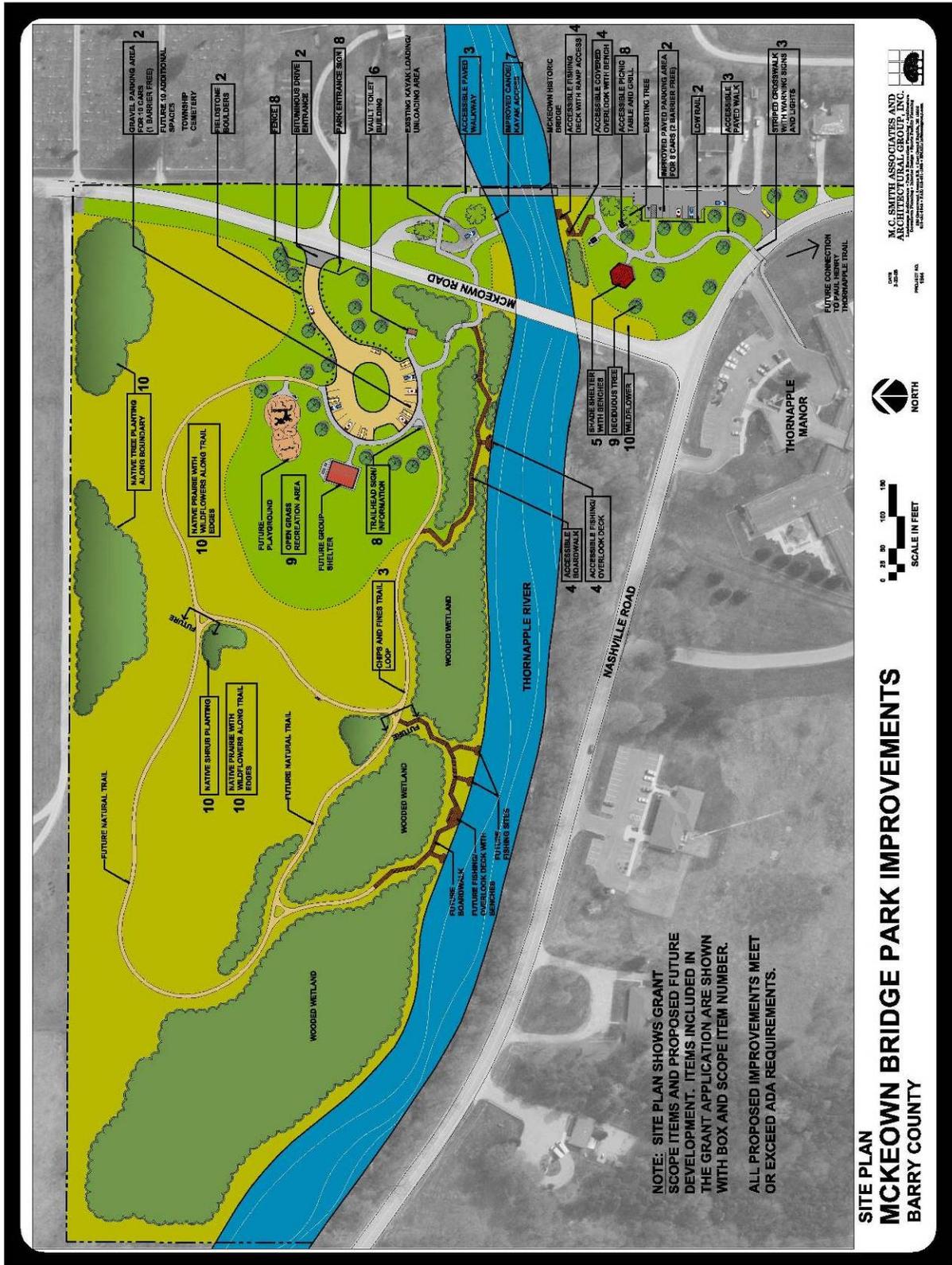
- Phase-in of sports facility with maintenance and oversight by a professional, not volunteers
- History of the Charlton Park millage
- Impact of changes at county commissioner level
- The facilities available at schools within the county. This included state of fields and maintenance, and that the Parks and Rec board does not oversee these facilities

Skedgell thanked everyone for their questions. The board's goal is to complete the draft plan by mid-December. The draft plan will be posted on the county website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Patricia Johns  
Barry County Parks and Recreation Board Member

# Appendix IV – McKeown Bridge Park Improvements



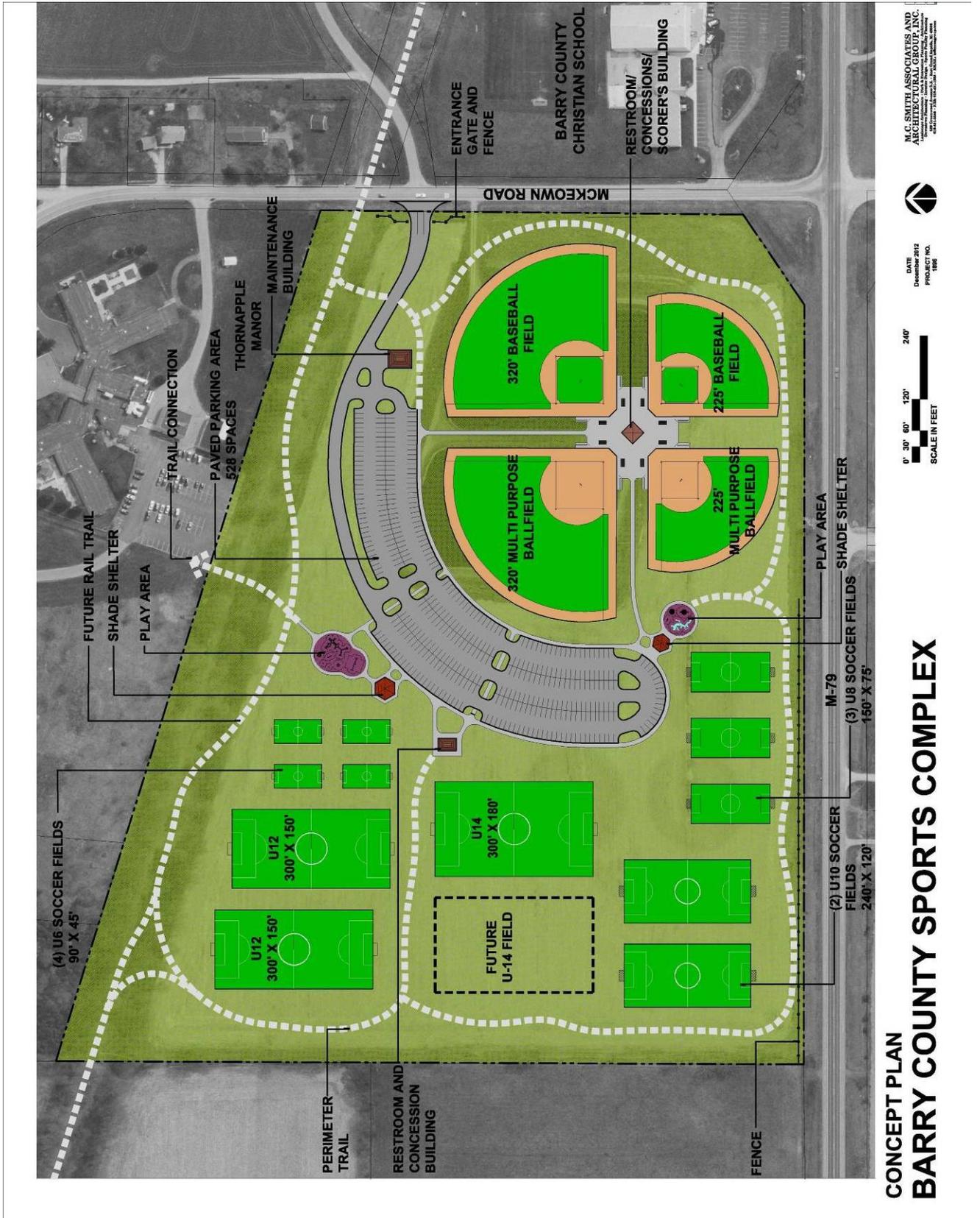
NOTE: SITE PLAN SHOWS GRANT SCOPE ITEMS AND PROPOSED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE GRANT APPLICATION ARE SHOWN WITH BOX AND SCOPE ITEM NUMBER. ALL PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS MEET OR EXCEED ADA REQUIREMENTS.

**SITE PLAN**  
**MCKEOWN BRIDGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS**  
**BARRY COUNTY**

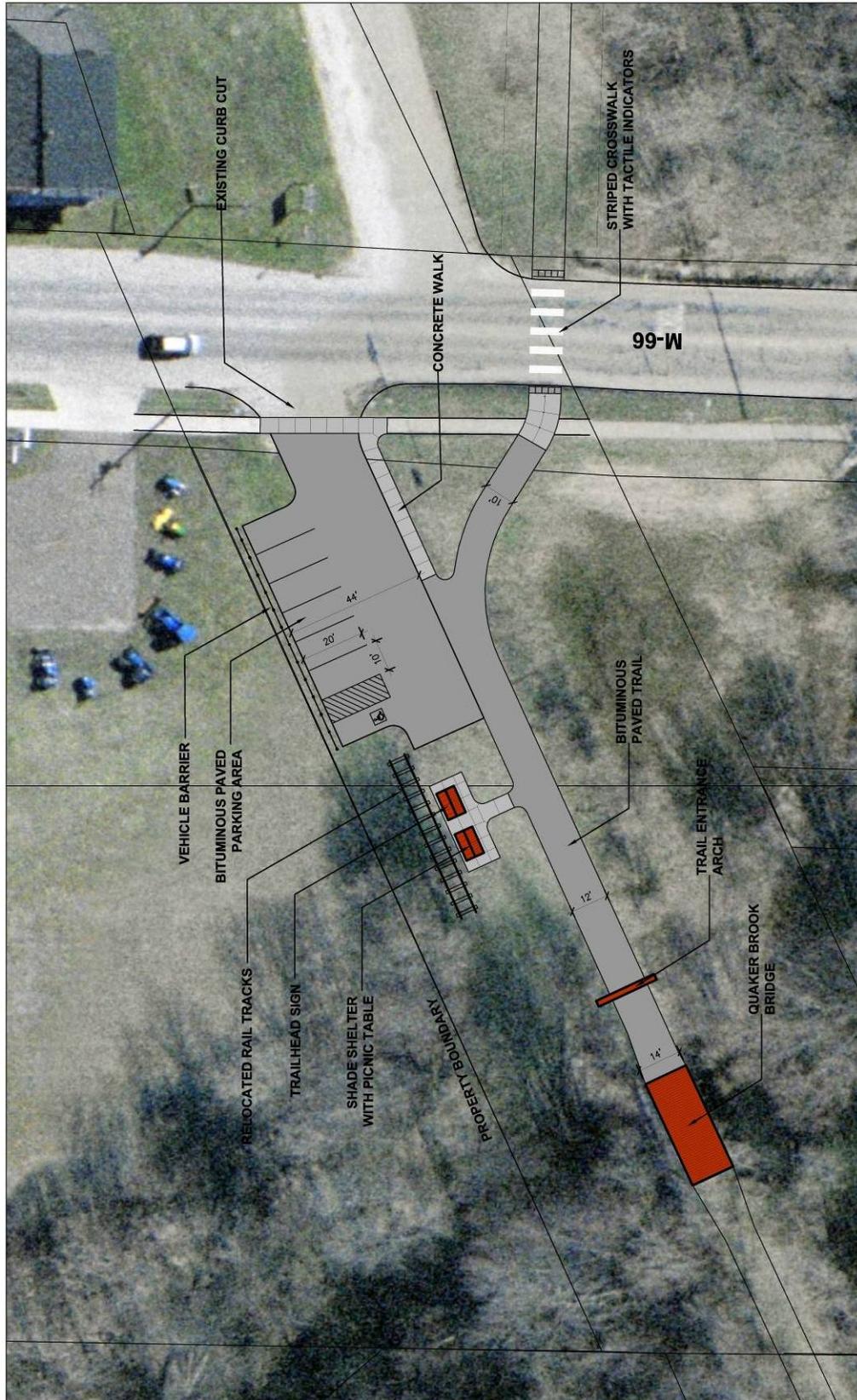


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 FAX: 616.221.1101  
 WWW.MCSA-AG.COM

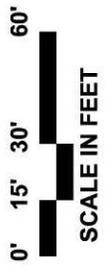
# Appendix V – Concept Plan for Sports Complex



# Appendix VI – Proposed Quaker Brook Trailhead



NORTH



SEPT. 2012

**PROPOSED PAUL HENRY THORNAPPLE TRAIL TRAILHEAD  
QUAKER BROOK BRIDGE, VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE**



## COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

*By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: 2014 - 2018 BARRY COUNTY PARKS and RECREATION PLAN		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
BARRY COUNTY	BARRY	FEBRUARY 25, 2014

PLAN CONTENT
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart</li> <li>Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>3. RECREATION INVENTORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b></p>

**6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
  - Date of the Notice December 21, 2013
  - Type of Notice Newspaper, Website
  - Plan Location County and Park Admin Offices, On-line, 3 Libraries
  - Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) \_\_\_\_\_
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
  - Date of Notice February 20, 2014 & February 22, 2014
  - Name of Newspaper Hastings Banner and The Community Reminder
  - Date of Meeting February 25, 2014
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**8. ACTION PROGRAM**

**9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT**

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: February 25, 2014
- 2. Official resolution of the Charlton Park Board and Barry County Parks & Rec Board Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: February 10, 2014 & February 20, 2014
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: February 26, 2014
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: February 26, 2014

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

\_\_\_\_\_ BARRY COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ *includes the required content, as indicated*  
(Local Unit of Government)  
*above and as set forth by the DNR.*

 \_\_\_\_\_ 2/28/14  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

**DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grants Management Date

**BARRY COUNTY**



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

220 W. State St., Hastings, MI 49058  
Ph. (269) 945-1284 Fax (269) 948-4884

#14-07  
2/25/14

**BARRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2014-2018  
BARRY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Barry County has undertaken a five year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2018; and

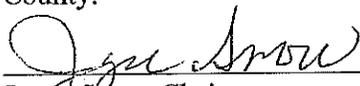
**WHEREAS**, residents of Barry County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation plan; and

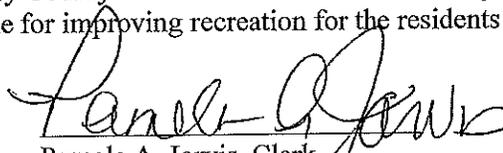
**WHEREAS**, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of one month; and

**WHEREAS**, Barry County has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Barry County Parks and Recreation Board and the Charlton Park Village, Museum & Recreation Area Board voted to adopt said Recreation Plan and recommend adoption by the County Board of Commissioners;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Barry County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the County.

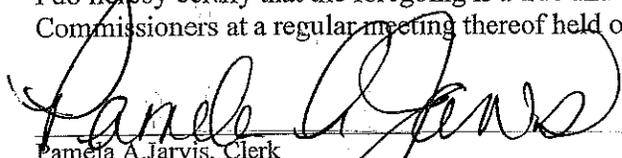
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Snow, Chair  
Barry County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela A. Jarvis, Clerk  
Barry County

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner Stolsonburg, supported by Commissioner Smelker, with the vote being as follows:

YEAS: Dull, Geiger, Gibson, Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow.  
NAYS: None.                      ABSENT: DeYoung                      ABSTAIN: None.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Barry County Commissioners at a regular meeting thereof held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela A. Jarvis, Clerk  
Barry County

Barry County Board of Commissioners  
February 25, 2014; 9:00 a.m.; Commission Chambers  
Minutes

1. Chair Snow called the regular session of the Barry County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Barry County Commission Chambers.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

3. Those present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4. Roll was taken. The following members were present: James Dull, Ben Geiger, Howard Gibson, Jon Smelker, Joyce Snow and Craig Stolsonburg. James DeYoung. Absent: Clerk Jarvis was also present.

5. APPROVAL OF WRITTEN AGENDA:

Commission Stolsonburg requested the Item 8e be placed under Items for Consideration. Moved by Smelker seconded by Gibson to approve the agenda (as amended). Motion carried.

6. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brian Ellis stated he is a Republican running for the U.S. Representative position.

7. VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCE: None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS:

Moved by Stolsonburg seconded by Smelker to approve the consent items:

- a. February 11, 2014 Board of Commissioners meeting minutes.
- b. February 11, 2014 Committee of the Whole Strategic Planning minutes.
- c. February 18, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes.
- d. The bid from The Iserv Company, LLC to provide telephone and Internet service to the County for a three-year period beginning April 1, 2014.
- e. See item 11f.
- f. The bid from Coughlin Home Improvement for rehab meeting MSHDA's Uniform Physical Condition Standards for a house located in Hastings, MI 49058 (Project number 425) in the amount of \$22,814 to be paid out of CDBG funds.
- g. The amended bylaws for the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, to change the meeting schedule as shown in Article VI, Section 1, items A and B.

- h. Allow the Director of the Animal Shelter to apply for the following Grants: Two Seven Oh, Inc, Build-A-Bear Foundation, PETSMART Charities, Bissell Pet Foundation, PETCO Foundation, and No More Homeless Pets Network; grants in collaboration with the Humane Society: Gus Hawthorne Foundation and Two Seven Oh, Inc. in 2014.
- i. The policies and procedures for operation of the Barry County Animal Shelter.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Dull, Geiger, Gibson, Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow. Motion carried.

9. PRESENTATIONS:

Cheryl Lewis Blake, CEO of Pennock Health presented an overview of the Pennock Hospital Master Facilities Plan.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

a) Barry County Central Dispatch/9-1-1 Service Plan Amendment  
The Chair opened the public hearing at 9:21 a.m. Comments were received. The Chair closed the public hearing at 9:31 a.m.

b) Barry County Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan  
The Chair opened the public hearing at 9:31 a.m. Comments were received. The Chair closed the public hearing at 9:34 a.m.

11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- a. Moved by Smelker seconded by Stolsonburg to approve of transfers and disbursements: claims in the amount of \$ 124,443.71. Roll call vote: Ayes: Dull, Geiger, Gibson, Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow. Motion carried.
- b. Moved by Smelker seconded by DeYoung to approve Resolution #14-03, Resolution to Adopt the 9-1-1 Service Plan for the County of Barry. Ayes: Dull, Geiger, Gibson, Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow. Motion carried.
- c. Moved by Geiger seconded by Gibson to approve Resolution #14-05 Resolution to Call Upon the Michigan Legislature to Fully Fund County Revenue Sharing in FY2015. Geiger read the resolution into the record:

**RESOLUTION TO CALL UPON THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO  
FULLY FUND COUNTY REVENUE SHARING IN FY2015**

WHEREAS, In the Governor's recommendation for the FY 2015 budget, counties are scheduled to receive 100% full funding of revenue sharing totaling \$211,134,899; and

WHEREAS, This will bring counties to the level of revenue sharing agreed upon in 2004 for the 2005 FY; and

WHEREAS, The attached spreadsheet details the full funding allocations for FY 2015 for each county; and

WHEREAS, This marks the first time in fourteen years that the administration has recommended full funding for county revenue sharing; and

WHEREAS, Counties have worked diligently for the past decade by leading the effort to reform, consolidate, and right size government in an effort to increase efficiency and adjust declining revenues; and

WHEREAS, Revenue sharing is more than just a pot of money to be allocated in whole or in part to counties but is a statutory promise made to counties in exchange for giving up local taxing authority and for a more recent change in local taxing administration; and

WHEREAS, Revenue sharing is used by counties to pay for the multitude of state mandated services including the courts, the jails, the constitutional officers, elections and the public health system and, coupled with the recent reductions in property values and increased mandated state service delivery, counties are stretched to the financial limit; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Barry County Board of Commissioners would like to thank the Governor for fully funding county revenue sharing payments fiscal year 2015;

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, That the Barry County Board of Commissioners call upon the state legislature to live up to their promise and adopt the Governor's recommendation for fully funding county revenue sharing in FY 2015;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, our State Legislators, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Dull, Geiger, Gibson, Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow. Motion carried.

d. Moved by Stolsonburg seconded by Smelker to approve Resolution #14-07 Resolution to adopt the 2014-2018 Barry County Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Roll call vote: Ayes: Dull, Geiger, Gibson, Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow. Motion carried.

Barry County Board of Commissioners

February 25, 2014

Page 3 of 5

- e. Moved by Smelker seconded by Stolsonburg to allow the Animal Shelter Director to conduct a Dog Census for Barry County in 2014. Discussion occurred. Call the Question: Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dull, Geiger, Gibson, Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow. Roll Call Vote on motion for Dog Census: Ayes: Smelker, Stolsonburg and Snow. Nays: Dull, Geiger and Gibson. Motion failed.

Administrator Brown requested that the Board act on the New Business to allow Judge Schipper to return to Court:

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Moved by Stolsonburg seconded by Gibson to move the Community Room located on the first floor of the Courts & Law Building to the former Library building. Discussion. Moved by Stolsonburg seconded by Gibson to move the Community Room located on the first floor of the Courts and Law Building to the former Library and authorize the purchase of flooring. Motion carried.

(Recess at 10:21 a.m.; resume at 10:26 a.m.; all members previous noted, present)

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION continued:

- f. Moved by Stolsonburg seconded by Dull to approve the proposed fee schedule for data and map products produced by LIS to charge \$.03 per record for BSA Assessing Exports and \$.25 per record for BSA Delinquent Tax Exports. Motion carried.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. See Items for Consideration.

14. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Commissioner Geiger indicated there would be information forthcoming regarding the personal property tax faze out.

15. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None.

16. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Snow reported on a Candidate Workshop, the Sky Warn Training, Airport, Solid Waste Oversight, CAA, Work Force Development, and vacancies on 911 and CCAB.

17. VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: None.

18. MEMBER'S TIME:

Commissioner Dull commented on the Conservation District. Commissioner Gibson reported on the Hastings Township Meeting, Community Mental Health, Transit and the LADFA. Commissioner Smelker commented on 911. Commissioner Stolsonburg reported on the SMART meeting in August, the Talent Forum and the MAC Judiciary/Public Safety meeting.

19. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eldon Shellenbarger commented on attendance guidelines/pay for commissioners. Patricia Johns commented on Technology and Rick Moore commented on the Community Room.

20. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Geiger seconded by Smelker to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried.

Joyce Snow, Chair  
Barry County Board of Commissioners

Pamela A. Jarvis  
Barry County Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and initial when approved

**Barry County Park and Recreation Plan  
Resolution of Adoption  
Barry County Parks and Recreation Board**

WHEREAS Barry County has undertaken a five year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, residents of Barry County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation plan; and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of one month; and

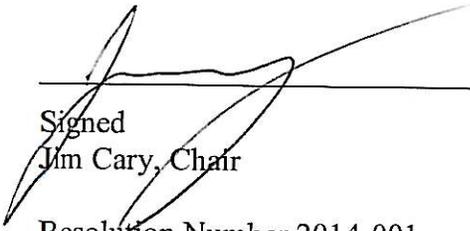
WHEREAS Barry County has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Barry County Parks and Recreation Board hereby adopts the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan and recommends that the Barry County Board of Commissioners also adopt the plan, as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Barry County.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Steedell, supported by Getty, with the vote being as follows:

YEAS: Steedell, Redman, Hicks, Getty, Skidmore, Cary, Johns, Shultz, Moore  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Parker, Rawson, DeYoung  
ABSTAIN: None

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Barry County Parks and Recreation Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed  
Jim Cary, Chair

2/20/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Resolution Number 2014-001

**Barry County Park and Recreation Plan  
Resolution of Adoption  
Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum & Recreation Area Board**

WHEREAS Barry County has undertaken a five year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, residents of Barry County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation plan; and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of one month; and

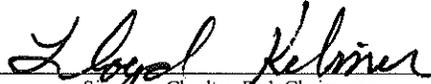
WHEREAS Barry County has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum and Recreation Area Board hereby adopts the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan and recommends that the Barry County Board of Commissioners also adopt the plan, as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Barry County.

The foregoing resolution was offered by R. Young, supported by K. Murphy, with the vote being as follows:

YEAS: Cheeseman, Gibson, Guenther, D. Kilmer, L. Kilmer, Logan, Moore, Murphy, Snyder, Young, Zebrowski  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: Bush, Lydy  
ABSTAIN: NONE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Charlton Park Village, Museum and Recreation Area Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

  
Signature Charlton Park Chairperson

2-10-14  
Date

Charlton Park Resolution Number 2014-001

Public Notice:

Hastings Banner

Community Reminder

WBCH Radio

Libraries

Websites (Charlton Park & Barry County)

See what is planned for recreation in Barry County

December 18, 2013

A draft of the new Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan is available for public review and community input for one month beginning Monday, Dec. 16, and accepted until Jan. 15, 2014 by e-mail at [parks@barrycounty.org](mailto:parks@barrycounty.org) or by mail at Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan, Barry County Courthouse, 220 West State Street, Hastings, 49058.

The new five-year Plan is a guide to park, trail, and open space development.

Copies are at the Barry County Administrator's Office in the County Courthouse, Hastings Public Library, Delton District Library, Putnam Public Library in Nashville and Charlton Park Administrative Office in the Upjohn House at Charlton Park.

The Plan is also on the Barry County website; [www.barrycounty.org](http://www.barrycounty.org) and [www.charltonpark.org](http://www.charltonpark.org).

## Public Hearing Notice

The Barry County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on February 25, 2014; 220 W. State St., Hastings, MI in the Commissioners Chambers at 9:00 a.m., during the regular scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting to consider public input regarding an update to the 5 Year Barry County Parks & Recreation Plan for 2014 – 2018. A copy of the draft can be obtained by contacting (269) 945-1284 or (269) 945-3775 or at [barrycounty.org](http://barrycounty.org)

**den wedding anniversary**

ayne and Penny (Handy) Ritchie were married May 18, 1963 in Delton. He retired from KVP/James River Paper Mill after 40 years. Their children and grandchild are hosting an open house Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Orangeville Township Hall, 150 Lindsey Rd., Plainwell, Mich. Come and join them for cake, coffee and punch. No cash, no gifts, just your presence.

year with "Lego-land Summer Vacation," noon to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7 — toddler story time hears the challenge, "Let's get dirty," 10:30 to 11 a.m.; young chess tutoring, 4:30 to 5:30; open chess, 6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8 — Royal Readers get ready for their production of "The Hysterical History of the Trojan War" with a dress rehearsal, 4:30 to 5:30; Friends of the Library hold their annual meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Call the Hastings Public Library for more information, 269-945-4263.

*Hastings Banner May 2, 2013*

**BARRY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
CHARLTON PARK VILLAGE  
AND MUSEUM BOARD  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

A Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Barry-Eaton Health Department, 330 W. Woodlawn Ave., Hastings, to solicit public input and suggestions on a new Barry County Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan. This plan will address both current recreation facilities and future needs with the County and is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to allow the County to apply for State and Federal grant funding for recreation improvements.

Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should contact the County Administrators office 5 days prior to the meeting.

77578361

**CITY OF HASTINGS  
REQUEST FOR BIDS**

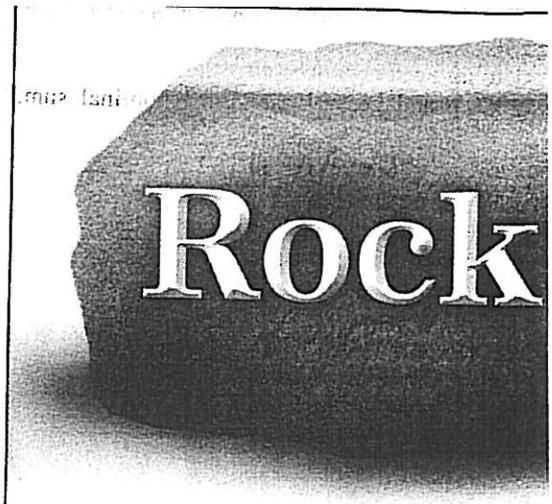
The City of Hastings, Michigan is soliciting bids for the placement of approximately 55 tons of hot mix asphalt paving in the City's parking lot #4. Specifications are available from the Office of the City Clerk.

The City of Hastings reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any irregularities in the bid proposals, and to award the bid to be in the City's best interest, price and other factors considered.

Bids will be received at the Office of the City Clerk/Treasurer, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 until **9:00 A.M. on Friday, May 17, 2013** at which time they shall be opened and publicly read aloud. Bids shall be clearly marked on the outside of the submittal package - **2013 BID - Hot Mix Asphalt Paving Parking Lot #4.**

Tom Girrback  
Director of Public Services

77578257



**The smok**

by Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

As many children can tell you, the Mesozoic Era ends with the extinction of the dinosaurs. Most geologists think the cause of that extinction was the impact of an enormous meteorite that hit the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. As the theory goes, the impact was so large it led to global changes in the composition of the atmosphere. Smoke and dust raised by the collision blocked the sun's light for a time, making temperatures drop and plants die off. Many species of both plants and animals didn't live through the crisis, since parts of the food web simply fell apart. As it happens, the dinos were one group that gave up the ghost and slipped into extinction.

The extinction that carried off the dinosaurs is one of five mass extinctions in the geologic record during the past three eras of geologic time — the time marked by animals of sharply increasing complexity first in the seas and then on land. Because the dinosaurs are famous the world around, the extinction that killed them is often discussed in public circles. But the causes of the other four mass extinctions are just as interesting to scientists.

Recently, new evidence has been brought to light about the mass extinction that occurred during, rather than at the end, of the Mesozoic Era. The time in question stands at the boundary between the Triassic Period and the Jurassic Period (think of the movie "Jurassic Park" if you want a little help with these names). The extinction at issue saw the end of three-quarters of the species then living in the seas and on land. The massive die-off helped clear the ground for the dominance of the dinosaurs for more than the next 100 million years.

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**HEARING**

of Appeals of the Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 201 East

Zoning Board of Hastings on a variety of applications from the City of Hastings and the Hastings Zoning Board of Appeals.

venue Lot 1098, Hastings, Michigan

above request at the same time as the same

ids and services phone number 649-3777.

ery, City Clerk

**City Airport**

turn  
mower

orks)

John Deere (green) mower (505 Murphy) will be accepted after deadline. City Barry will reject any bid. Inspect these at 245-6306.

inspect any condition)

77578291

# MEDIATE OPENING (1 Position)

Term will run until the general election in November 2014.

Needs to be:

Resident of Prairieville Township

18 years of age or older

Registered Voter

Meets every 4th Monday of the Month at 7:00pm at the Township Hall.

Interested parties should submit a resume, letter of interest and contact information by 5PM on November 6, 2013 to:

Prairieville Township Board

10115 S. Norris Road

Delton, MI 49046

or fax: 269-623-3467

## WINE TOURS \* BREWERY TOURS BALLOON RIDES

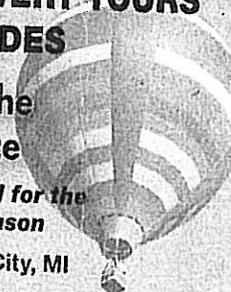
Buy 1 get the 2nd 1/2 price

Gift certificates valid for the 2014 summer season

Located in Traverse City, MI

Purchase online or call 231-947-RIDE (7433)

[www.grandtraversetours.com](http://www.grandtraversetours.com) | [www.grandtraverseballoons.com](http://www.grandtraverseballoons.com)

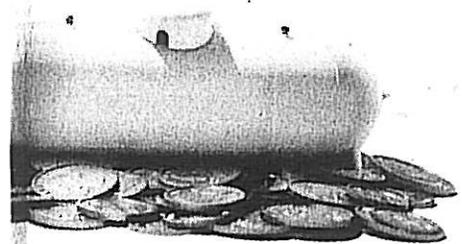


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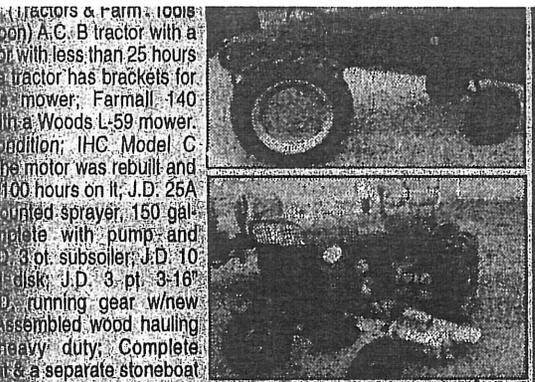
## BARRY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD CHARLTON PARK VILLAGE AND MUSEUM BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Meeting will be held Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Barry County Courts & Law Building, Community Room, 206 West Court Street, Hastings, to share the results of a county-wide survey and to solicit public input and suggestions on a new Barry County Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan. This plan will address both current recreation facilities and future needs within the County and is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to allow the County to apply for State and Federal grant funding for recreation improvements.

Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should contact the County Administrators office five days prior to the meeting.

77581688

Hastings Banner Oct 31, 2013



tractors & farm tools  
 (John) A.C. B tractor with a  
 plow with less than 25 hours  
 tractor has brackets for  
 mower, Farmall 140  
 in a Woods L-59 mower.  
 Addition; IHC Model C  
 motor was rebuilt and  
 100 hours on it; J.D. 26A  
 mounted sprayer, 150 gal  
 complete with pump and  
 3 qt. subsoller; J.D. 10  
 disk; J.D. 3 pl. 3-16"  
 running gear w/new  
 assembled wood hauling  
 heavy duty; Complete  
 & a separate stoneboat  
 John Deere items including: wrenches and clevises; J.D. pump  
 wheel weights for tractors; 8 bottom for a muck plow; Woods  
 mount mower used with A.C. B tractor; A.C. plow for B tractor  
 for A.C. B tractor; Hyd. cylinders; set of J.D. wheel weights; 2 steel  
 ending J.D.; John Deere parts; One bottom plow; 2 Traller type  
 and roller; Set of tractor tire chains. **RIDING LAWN MOWER -  
 AND GARDEN TOOLS** - A.C. B207 riding lawn mower in excellent  
 condition. **COMMERCIAL MEAT EQUIPMENT** - Hobart meat commercial  
 Hobart commercial meat slicer; Globe meat slicer; Another meat  
**TOOLS & SHOP EQUIPMENT** - Welding bench w/vise; Lincoln  
 welder; Ingersoll Rand upright model SS-5N5 80 gallon; 135 psi  
 compressor; Craftsman floor drill press; Hydraulic floor press; Hand  
 sockets, nuts, bolts, nails, pop rivets, etc.; Parts washer; Electric drills;  
 tools; Dewalt circular saw in case; Road reflectors; Buffer;  
 gas band saw w/case; Milwaukee Sawzall w/case; Pipe fittings;  
 1/2" Copper Fittings; A group of air tools; Reamers; Tarps; Paint  
 cans; Log chains; Double end grinder; 3 section stack tool chest;  
 gas sockets; Ratchets; Drivers; Craftsman table saw; Sears jointer;  
 cherry picker; Tool chests; Loading ramps. **MOTORCYCLE LIFT** -  
 model ATV-J-3 motorcycle lift. **FURNITURE - ANTIQUES - ETC.** -  
 1 hand horse drawn plow; 2 single row horse drawn cultivators;  
 furniture; 5 lanterns including older and Red Coleman examples  
 pie safe; Kitchen table; 2 Steel wash vats; Pitcher pump; 10 draw  
 cabinet; Wrought iron bed frame; Steel wagon wheels; Wooden  
 radiator for Chevy S10 pickup; 2 door steel cabinet; Wooden  
 wooden barrel; 3 bicycles; Group of heavy wheels; Sap pails; Milk  
 coolers; Steel cabinets; Old stove; Warm Morning Model 618  
 stove; Cement blocks; Iron and scrap iron; Wheelbarrow; Heating  
 15" Army #1 wood stove; Art wood stove; Drop leaf table; License  
 mail boxes; Miscellaneous lumber and boards; Speed limit signs;  
 steel fence posts, new; Lots of chain hooks; 3 motorcycle helmets;  
 10 gallon salamander, model 3E358; 3 section 40 ft. wooden exten-  
 der; Men's golf clubs with bag; Miscellaneous household items;  
 safe, model A5781; A newer modern TV armoire w/4 drawers; 43"  
 5" deep x 76" tall; Auto doors for a 1966 and 1967 Chevrolet Nova.

STATE OF DARWIN "HARV" MCCLELLAND JR.

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**BLE. JOE SHAVER**  
 (269)948-9326, MEMBER  
 NAWCC.

**BARRY COUNTY PARKS AND**  
**RECREATION BOARD CHARLTON**  
**PARK VILLAGE AND MUSEUM**  
**BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE**

A Public Meeting will be held Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Barry County Courts & Law Building, Community Room, 206 West Court Street, Hastings, to share the results of a county-wide survey and to solicit public input and suggestions on a new Barry County Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan. This plan will address both current recreation facilities and future needs within the County and is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to allow the County to apply for State and Federal grant funding for recreation improvements.

Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should contact the County Administrators office five days prior to the meeting.

77581660

1/4" mounting brackets; 2 Mounting Trail Camera's; White electronic metal detector; 2 Reel-to-reel; Assorted deer hunting and trapping patches; 1975-2008; Assorted spinning reels; rods and tackle; Trapping items; skinning boards; ice fishing rods; scales; lip-ups; electric knife; ice augers; Lead melting pot and sinker molds; Shakespeare electric trolling motor; Johnson 3 HP outboard motor; Neptune 1/2 HP outboard motor; **RIDING LAWN MOWERS - CHAIN SAWS - RELATED ITEMS** - 2 John Deere STX38 riding law mowers; Yanlaga 3.5 HP, 20" power push mower; Rotob-Hoe chain drive rototiller; Huskee 3 HP 18" rototiller; Tractor lift; Gas air compressor; Weed Eater 20" line trimmer; Cement mixer; Power sprayer; gas insecticide; Rear line rototiller; Shapper snow thrower; 2 Spreaders; Duerf 6 HP chipper; Lawn roller; Milk can scale; Screw jack; Pipe vicer; Quality Pro 26"; self-propelled snowblower (8 HP); With electric start; Grandburg Aleskan Mark III chainsaw mill (board) cutter; New Stihl MSE 220 chain saw (electric); NEW; Stihl MS170 chain saw; NEW; Homelite 360 chain saw; Homelite XL chain saw; Husqvarna 235E Series chain saw; Husqvarna 128LD chain saw; Weed Eater XR50 line trimmer; Poulin Pro-Link 250E & Pro 338 line trimmers; Ryobi Trimmer Plus unit with rototiller; Rediprocoating saw; brush cutter; blower; string trimmer and edger attachments; **WOODWORKING, POWER & SHOP TOOLS** - drill motors; Sawzall; Circular saws; Sanders; Grinders; Rigid pipe dies and cutters; Atlas 1/3 HP drill press; Lots of very good extension cords; Assorted air powered tools; Impact ratchet, etc.; Generac SV2400 wall generator w/B&S 5 HP motor; Coleman/Powermate 2450 wall generator w/5 HP motor; Generac 2400 psi power washer w/6 HP motor; Job Smart air compressor; Sears 1 HP Twin air compressor; Floor model drill press; multispeed; International battery charger; **TRACTOR** - Ford 8N tractor; **VEHICLES** - 1992 Ford Ranger pickup truck; 2004 Ford Focus automobile; **FURNITURE - JEWELRY - COLLECTIBLES - HOME FURNISHINGS - DIAMOND RINGS** - Tie tacks; Cuff Links; Costume jewelry; Pocket watches; Rosary; Necklace; Jewelry box; Violin; Ukulele; Southern Precision Telescope; Buttons; Stamps; Coins; Postcards; Shot glasses; Rocks; Korean memorabilia; Foot locker; Mess kit; Travel Bag; Black figurines; 2 cats; 22" flat screen TV; Sony 42" flat screen TV; Sears AM-FM console radio; 45 & 78 rpm records; Mickey Mouse record; Philco wooden case radio; CB radio; Game table and games; Exercise equipment; Camping items; Hamilton Beach food processor; Small appliances; Ice cream maker; Harvest Jet stream oven; Electric roaster; Lard/Sausage 4 qt. press; Apple peeler; Fulton office printing outfit; Kirby vacuum; Hoover Steam vacuum; Singer sewing machine; Typewriter; Cheese box; Dated handmade quilt; Wooden tool box; Vases; 5 pieces of good Carnival glass; Other glass and china; Antique oak combination bookcase and secretary; Antique chest; Antique vanity; Antique parlor table; Antique bed; Antique highchair; 2 antique bookshelves; Antique dresser; 2 Old mirrors; 2 Antique mantle clocks; Child's wicker rocker; Duncan Phyle dining suite with table and 6 chairs; Child's wooden table w/4 chairs; Desk; Chairs; Picture Frames; Full size bed with 2 dressers; Oil lamps; Twin bed; Lamps; Basket; Fans; Folding chairs; TV trays; Retro cabinet; Side tables; Retro pole lamp; TV cart on wheels; Howard Miller wall barometer; 5 piece Geisha Girl set; Cast iron and porcelain ware; Crocks; Rose bowl set; Wine decanter; Dogwood dinner set; Shirley Temple mug; Punch bowl set; Flatware set; Brother knitting machine; 1957 Weave Rite Automatic loom; Knitting supplies and frame; Knickknacks; Toys; Match Box cars; Cast iron bookends, etc. **BOOKS** including: Colliers Photographic History of WWII; Zane Grey set by Colliers; Word Atlas; Junior Classic's; Mark Twain books; Children's Classic Encyclopedia and lots more. Lots more to be sold; Be on time as we will be selling in 2 rings throughout the course of the auction.

**"SAVE THIS AD"**

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# MSU EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 24 Extension Office closed for Christmas Eve holiday
- Dec. 25 Extension Office closed for Christmas holiday
- Dec. 31 Extension Office closed for New Year's Eve holiday
- 2014
- Jan. 1 Extension Office closed for New Year's holiday
- Jan. 2 Fair Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Expo Center
- Jan. 4 Science & Technology Saturday, 9 a.m., Extension Office, must preregister
- Jan. 6 Goat Developmental Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Carpenters barn in Delton, next to the flower shop.
- Jan. 7 4-H Advisory Council meeting, 7 p.m., MSU Extension office
- Jan. 10 4-H Market Bird Order due to 4-H leaders
- Jan. 10 Basics of Irrigation Management program, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers, St. Johns
- Jan. 13 Rabbit Developmental Committee meeting, 7 p.m., Extension office

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## PRINTING PLUS

1351 N. M-43 Hwy., Hastings

Barry County Parks and Recreation Board and  
Charlton Park Village and Museum Board

## PUBLIC NOTICE

A draft of the new Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan is available for public review and comment for a period of one month beginning Monday, January 16, 2013, at the following locations: Barry County Administrator's Office on the 3rd floor of the Barry County Courthouse, 220 West State Street, Hastings; Hastings Public Library, 227 East State Street, Hastings; Delton District Library, 330 N. Grove, Delton, Putnam Public Library, 327 N. Main St., Nashville, and the Charlton Park Administrative Office in the Upjohn House at 2545 S. Charlton Park Road, Hastings. The Plan is also available for view on the County website at [www.barrycounty.org](http://www.barrycounty.org). The new five-year Plan is a guide to park, trail, and open space development. Community input will be accepted until January 15, 2014, through email directed at [parks@barrycounty.org](mailto:parks@barrycounty.org) or in mail to Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan, Barry County Courthouse, 220 West State Street, Hastings, MI 49058.

77582584

Just Say "As advertised in the Reminder" Hastings Saturday, December 21, 2013 - Page 21



Wishing you and  
a very

*Merry Christmas*

and a

*Happy New Year*

From our home to  
we wish you the very  
best this holiday season

THORNAP

MANOR

2700 Nashville Road • Hastings, MI

## **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Barry County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on February 25, 2014; 220 W. State St., Hastings, MI in the Commissioners Chambers at 9:00 a.m., during the regular scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting to consider public input regarding an update to the 5 Year Barry County Parks & Recreation Plan for 2014-2018. A copy of the draft can be obtained by contacting (269) 945-1284 or (269) 945-3775 or at [barrycounty.org](http://barrycounty.org)

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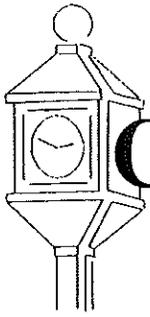
The Community Reminder February 22, 2014

Hastings Banner February 20, 2014

## **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Barry County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on February 25, 2014; 220 W. State St., Hastings, MI in the Commissioners Chambers at 9:00 a.m., during the regular scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting to consider public input regarding an update to the 5 Year Barry County Parks & Recreation Plan for 2014-2018. A copy of the draft can be obtained by contacting (269) 945-1284 or (269) 945-3775 or at [barrycounty.org](http://barrycounty.org)

77585228



**HISTORIC  
C CHARLTON  
PARK**

Village, Museum & Recreation Area  
2545 S. Charlton Park Rd. Hastings, MI 49058-8102  
PH: 269-945-3775 FAX: 269-945-0390  
[www.charltonpark.org](http://www.charltonpark.org)

February 26, 2014

Barry County Planning & Zoning  
Attn: James McManus, Director  
Barry County Courthouse  
220 W. State St.  
Hastings MI 49058

Mr. McManus:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan adopted by the Barry County Board of Commissioners on February 25, 2014. The plan has recently been updated and we would appreciate your review and any comments you have concerning the Plan's contents. We are submitting the Plan to your office in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' guidelines for preparing a community recreation plan.

If you need any additional assistance or information, please feel free to call.

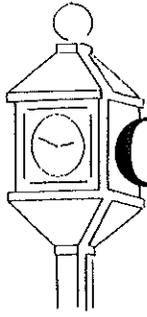
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Patton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dan Patton, Director  
Historic Charlton Park – Barry County

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Michael Brown, Barry County Administrator



**HISTORIC  
CHARLTON  
PARK**

Village, Museum & Recreation Area  
2545 S. Charlton Park Rd. Hastings, MI 49058-8102  
PH: 269-945-3775 FAX: 269-945-0390  
[www.charltonpark.org](http://www.charltonpark.org)

February 26, 2014

Southcentral Michigan Planning Council  
Attn: Lee Adams, Administrator  
201 W. Kalamazoo Ave. Room 101  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Mr. Adams:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Barry County Parks and Recreation Plan adopted by the Barry County Board of Commissioners on February 25, 2014. The plan has recently been updated and we would appreciate your review and any comments you have concerning the Plan's contents. We are submitting the Plan to your office in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' guidelines for preparing a community recreation plan.

If you need any additional assistance or information, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Patton".

Dan Patton, Director  
Historic Charlton Park – Barry County

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Michael Brown, Barry County Administrator



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [x] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Barry County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-00175

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Charlton Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Purchase 124 acres of land contiguous to Charlton Park.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Historic Charlton Park - Barry County, Mr. Dan Patton, Park Director, 2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., (269) 945-3775, Hastings, MI 49058, dpatton@barrycounty.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [x] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [x] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [x] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [ ] No

This acreage is primarily open field and hardwood forest with limited trail development.

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

Additional trail development and improvements

Future Campground development

## POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

### SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?  
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Main entrance sign designating Charlton Park property.

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

Yes  No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Regularly trail maintenance on-going. Yearly brush removal and mowing.

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?  
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

An entry fee is only charge during special events (approxiamtely 10 times per year). The rest of the time there is NO entry fee.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Park is open year round. Hours are typically adjusted by season or 8am till dusk.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

*(This area is intentionally left blank for comments.)*

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Dan Patton

Please print

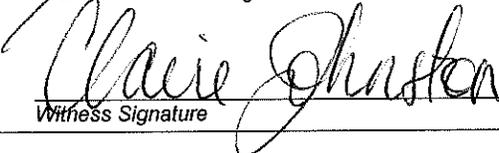
  
Grantee Authorized Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Claire Johnston

Please print

  
Witness Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [x] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Barry County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01023S2

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Charlton Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Shelter Construction, Picnic Equipment.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Historic Charlton Park - Barry County, Mr. Dan Patton, Park Director, 2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., (269) 945-3775, Hastings, MI 49058, dpatton@barrycounty.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [x] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [x] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [x] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [ ] No

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

Boat Launch, Playground Equipment, Horseshoe Pits, Sand Volleyball Court

## POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

### SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?  
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Main entrance sign designating Charlton Park property.

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

Yes  No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Daily cleaning, trash removal, and regular mowing weekly.

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?  
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

An entry fee is only charge during special events (approxiamtely 10 times per year). The rest of the time there is NO entry fee. Rental Fee for Shelter Reservation or First Come

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Park is open year round. Hours are typically adjusted by season or 8am till dusk.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

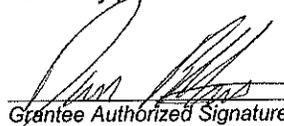
Empty space for comments.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Dan Patton

Please print

  
Grantee Authorized Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Claire Johnston

Please print

  
Witness Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [x] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Barry County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-00416

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Charlton Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Boat Launch, Swim Beach, Ball Diamond, Parking, Water System

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Historic Charlton Park - Barry County, Mr. Dan Patton, Park Director, 2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., (269) 945-3775, Hastings, MI 49058, dpatton@barrycounty.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [x] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [x] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [x] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [ ] No

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

Picnic Shelters, Sand Volleyball Court, Horseshoe Pits,

## POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

### SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?

If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Main entrance sign designating Charlton Park property.

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

Yes  No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Daily cleaning, trash removal, and regular mowing weekly.

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

An entry fee is only charge during special events (approxiamtely 10 times per year). The rest of the time there is NO entry fee. Rental Fee for Shelter Reservation or First Come

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Park is open year round. Hours are typically adjusted by season or 8am till dusk.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

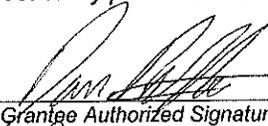
Empty space for comments.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Dan Patton

Please print

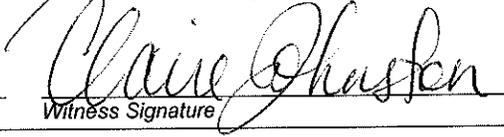
  
Grantee Authorized Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Claire Johnston

Please print

  
Witness Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [X] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Barry County

PROJECT NUMBER: BF 91-368

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Charlton Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Roadway, Restrooms, Swim Beach Parking, Picnic Equipment.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Historic Charlton Park - Barry County, Mr. Dan Patton, Park Director, 2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., (269) 945-3775, Hastings, MI 49058, dpatton@barrycounty.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No
Beach access from roadway is limited to crossing a grass lawn, and there is no transition station into the water from the beach.

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.
Boat Launch, Playground Equipment, Horseshoe Pits, Sand Volleyball Court

## POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

### SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?  
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Main entrance sign designating Charlton Park property.

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

Yes  No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Daily cleaning, trash removal, and regular mowing weekly.

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?  
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

An entry fee is only charge during special events (approxiamtely 10 times per year). The rest of the time there is NO entry fee.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Park is open year round. Hours are typically adjusted by season or 8am till dusk.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

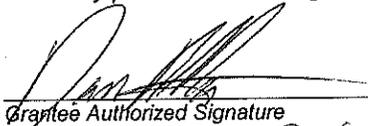
**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Dan Patton

Please print

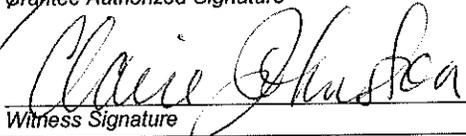
  
Grantee Authorized Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Claire Johnston

Please print

  
Witness Signature

2/24/2014

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: County of Barry

PROJECT TF08-107 PROJECT TYPE: Park Development

PROJECT TITLE: McKeown Bridge Park Development

PROJECT SCOPE: Various improvements to the 25-acre McKeown Bridge Park.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: County of Barry, Michael Brown, County Administrator, 220 W. State St., 269-945-1284, Hastings, MI 49058, MBrown@barrycounty.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

- Restroom facilities
Covered seating area
Improved access to Thornapple River
Barrier-free fishing pier
Enhanced parking, signage, and walkways

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**SITE QUALITY**

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?  
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. Yes No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. Yes No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No  
**Toilets and trash maintained weekly May - October**  
**Property mowed and trimmed through the growing season as needed.**

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?  
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
**30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset**

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

**Michael Brown**

Please print



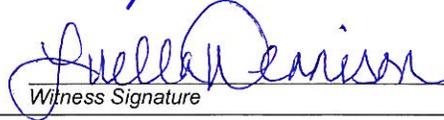
Grantee Authorized Signature

2-27-14

Date

Luella Dennison

Please print



Witness Signature

2-27-14

Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

HISTORIC  
CHARLTON PARK  
VILLAGE BEACH  
& BOAT LAUNCH

**FREE DAILY**  
● BEACH ● VILLAGE  
● BOAT LAUNCH





BEACH



PAVILION

BOAT LAUNCH 

LAUNCH HOURS  
8 - 8:30

PARK HOURS  
8 - 9:00



Revenue derived primarily from federal leasing of the Outer Continental Shelf for oil and gas production provided funding for this public recreation site.

Funding is made possible through a grant provided by the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.





# McKeown Bridge Park



Revenue derived from oil, gas and mineral production from state-owned lands provides funding for this public recreation site.

Funding is made possible through a grant provided to the citizens of the State of Michigan by the:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
and Environment



**CHARLTON PARK  
SPECIAL REV. FUND 208**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of Charlton Park is to provide educational and recreational opportunities through the collection, preservation and demonstration of early rural Michigan life, artifacts and buildings, and the maintenance of natural and recreation areas.

**GOALS:**

Primary area of focus for 2013 will be the development of a Strategic Plan for Historic Charlton Park and additionally, working with the Barry County Parks & Recreation Board to complete revisions and updates to the County Parks Master Plan.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Development of a Museum display rotational plan for the second floor.
- 2) Continued expansion and collaboration initiatives and partnerships in educational programming, facilities maintenance, and collections inventory.
- 3) Sustained effort in attracting and planning traveling Museum displays.
- 4) Exploration of maintenance shop replacement.

**BUDGET DETAIL:**

	2013
	<u>Adopted</u>
<i>Revenue</i>	
Property Taxes	410,500
Other revenues	<u>163,050</u>
<i>Revenue Total</i>	573,550
<i>Expenditures</i>	
Salaries & Fringes	346,083
Other expenses	<u>216,611</u>
<i>Expenditure Total</i>	\$ 562,694

**POLICY CHANGES:**

Review of existing pricing structure and rental/lease rates and agreements. Review of existing By-Laws and committee structure numbers and effectiveness.

**OUTPUT DATA:**

	2013
	<u>Projected</u>
Ed. Program Participants	5,000
Events Held	17
Event & Park Attendance	40,000
Volunteer Hours	NA



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING

RECEIVED  
MAR 10 2014



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

March 5, 2014

Mr. Michael C. Brown  
County Administrator  
Barry County  
220 W. State Street  
Hastings, MI 49058

Dear Mr. Brown:

SUBJECT: Barry County Recreation Plan

Please find attached your copy of the recreation plan checklist recently submitted to our office for approval. Your recreation plan has been approved.

**Your recreation plan will expire December 31, 2018.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Our address is: **Grants Management, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.**

Sincerely,

Tamara Jorkasky, Grant Coordinator  
Grants Management  
517-284-5948  
[jorkaskyt@michigan.gov](mailto:jorkaskyt@michigan.gov)

TJ:lh  
Attachment



## COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

*By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: 2014 - 2018 BARRY COUNTY PARKS and RECREATION PLAN		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
BARRY COUNTY	BARRY	FEBRUARY 25, 2014

PLAN CONTENT
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations</li> <li><b>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>3. RECREATION INVENTORY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b></li> </ul>

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice December 21, 2013

Type of Notice Newspaper, Website

Plan Location County and Park Admin Offices, On-line, 3 Libraries

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice February 20, 2014 & February 22, 2014

Name of Newspaper Hastings Banner and The Community Reminder

Date of Meeting February 25, 2014

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: February 25, 2014

2. Official resolution of the Charlton Park Board and Barry County Parks & Rec Board Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: February 10, 2014 & February 20, 2014

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: February 26, 2014

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: February 26, 2014

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

BARRY COUNTY *includes the required content, as indicated*  
(Local Unit of Government)  
*above and as set forth by the DNR.*

*Don Peterson*  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government 2/28/14  
Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING, MI 48909-7925

**DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

December 31, 2018  
Date  
By: *[Signature]*  
Grants Management 3-5-14  
Date