



PARKS &  
RECREATION

# Superior Township Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan 2023 - 2027



Adopted by Superior Township Board of Trustees - January 17, 2023  
Adopted by Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission - January 23, 2023

Assisted by:





# Acknowledgments

## **Township Board of Trustees**

- Kenneth Schwartz - Supervisor
- Lynette Findley - Clerk
- Lisa Lewis - Treasurer
- Nancy Caviston - Trustee
- Bernice Lindke - Trustee / Liaison to Parks & Recreation Commission
- Bill Secrest - Trustee
- Rhonda McGill - Trustee

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- Nahid Sanii-Yahyai - Chairperson
- Marion Morris - Vice Chair
- Martha Kern-Boprie - Secretary
- Bernice Lindke - Board of Trustees Liaison
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- Maintenance Supervisor
- Recreation Coordinator

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- Juan Bradford
- Marion Morris
- Martha Kern-Boprie
- Nahid Sanii-Yahyai
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## **Superior Land Preservation Society**

## **Superior Land Conservancy**

## **Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy**

# Table of Contents

- Chapter 1: Executive Summary..... 1
  - Key Plan Findings..... 1
  - What The Plan Contains..... 1
  - Planning Process ..... 2
- Chapter 2: Goals & Objectives.....4
- Chapter 3: Action Plan .....8
  - Action Plan ..... 8
  - Project Schedule ..... 18
- Chapter 4: Needs Analysis & Public Participation .....24
  - Ten Minute Walk Initiative..... 24
  - Public Input ..... 27
  - Public Review and Public Hearing ..... 31
- Chapter 5: Recreation Inventory .....33
  - Other Township Properties..... 53
  - Adjacent Municipal Recreation Facilities..... 56
  - Regional Recreation Facilities..... 59
  - Accessibility Assessment..... 73
  - MDNR Grants ..... 74
- Chapter 6: Administrative Structure .....76
  - Township Board of Trustees ..... 76
  - Parks & Recreation Commission ..... 76
  - Funding & Budget..... 76
  - Volunteers & Partnerships ..... 78
- Chapter 7: Community Background .....80
  - Planning Initiatives..... 94

## Appendices

- Appendix A. Public Notices..... 103
- Appendix B. Parks & Recreation Commission Resolution ..... 106
- Appendix C. Minutes of Public Hearing ..... 108
- Appendix D. Letters of Transmittal ..... 110
- Appendix E. Public Input Summary ..... 112

## List of Maps

- Map 1.. Non-Motorized Pathway Plan ..... 16
- Map 2.. Park Service Areas ..... 25
- Map 3.. Existing Recreation Facilities ..... 34
- Map 4.. Regional Recreation Opportunities ..... 62
- Map 5.. Existing Land Use..... 89
- Map 6.. Natural Features ..... 91
- Map 7.. Elevation and Topography ..... 92

## List of Figures

Figure 1.	Cherry Hill Concept Plan .....	9	Figure 22.	Context Maps - State of Michigan, Washtenaw County, and SEMCOG Region .....	80
Figure 2.	North Prospect Park Concept Plan ...	10	Figure 23.	Household Size Trends.....	81
Figure 3.	Norfolk/Oakbrook Parks Concept Plan .....	11	Figure 24.	Superior Population Trends.....	81
Figure 4.	Community Park Concept Plan.....	12	Figure 25.	Age Distribution Comparison 2000 - 2020	82
Figure 5.	Fireman’s Park Concept Plan.....	13	Figure 26.	Opportunity Index Map.....	83
Figure 6.	Harvest Moon Park Concept Plan .....	14	Figure 27.	Racial Composition 2020 .....	85
Figure 7.	Community Park - Detail .....	37	Figure 28.	Superior Township Education Levels, 2010 - 2020.....	85
Figure 8.	Community Park - Full Park .....	38	Figure 29.	Comparison of Educational Levels - Superior Township, Washtenaw County, and Southeast Michigan .....	85
Figure 9.	Fireman’s Park.....	40	Figure 30.	Household Incomes 2020 .....	86
Figure 10.	Harvest Moon Park - Detail.....	42	Figure 33.	Housing Structures - Year Built.....	87
Figure 11.	Harvest Moon Park - Full Park.....	43	Figure 31.	Housing Types 2020.....	87
Figure 12.	North Prospect Park.....	46	Figure 32.	Housing Tenure 2020.....	87
Figure 13.	Norfolk and Oakbrook Parks.....	48	Figure 34.	Cultural Locations.....	88
Figure 14.	Schroeter Park.....	50	Figure 35.	WATS Bike and Pedestrian Facility Deficiencies.....	95
Figure 15.	Cherry Hill Nature Preserve .....	52	Figure 36.	SEMCOG 2014 Bicycle & Pedestrian Travel Plan Detail.....	96
Figure 16.	Rock Superior Properties.....	54	Figure 37.	Border-to-Border Trail Overview Plan	98
Figure 17.	Dixboro Village Green .....	55	Figure 38.	Iron Belle and North Country Scenic Trails .....	100
Figure 18.	Superior Greenway.....	57			
Figure 20.	Staebler Farm Concept Plan.....	60			
Figure 19.	Holiday Lightfest at Hines Park .....	60			
Figure 21.	Organizational Chart .....	76			

## List of Tables

Table 1. Input Participation .....	2	Table 20. Targets for Capital Expenditures .....	72
Table 2. Improvement Schedule .....	18	Table 21. Accessibility Assessment .....	73
Table 3. Top Outdoor Activities - 2020 .....	26	Table 22. Grant History .....	74
Table 4. Outdoor Recreation Activities - Children under 18 .....	26	Table 23. Parks & Recreation Budget Summary .....	77
Table 5. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities in Michigan .....	27	Table 25. Population Data, Superior Township Region .....	81
Table 6. Park Satisfaction Levels .....	28	Table 24. Household Size, Superior Township & Region .....	81
Table 7. Local Park Amenities .....	33	Table 26. Median Age, Superior Township & Region	82
Table 8. Regional Recreation Facilities .....	63	Table 27. Household Characteristics .....	82
Table 9. Regional Non-motorized Trail Facilities .....	63	Table 28. Superior Age Ranges 2000 - 2021 .....	82
Table 10. Major Water Trails .....	64	Table 29. Opportunity Index .....	84
Table 11. Programming Schedule .....	68	Table 30. Racial Composition Summary .....	85
Table 12. Suggested Parkland Acreage .....	70	Table 31. Where Residents Work .....	86
Table 13. Facility Comparison - 2022 Metrics .....	70	Table 32. Where Workers Commute From .....	86
Table 14. Programming Offered by Parks & Recreation 70		Table 33. Forecasted Jobs by Industry Sector .....	86
Table 15. Targeted Programs Offered by Parks & Recreation .....	70	Table 34. Housing Permits .....	87
Table 16. Comparison to Facility Development Standards Based On NRPA 2022 Metrics	71	Table 35. Existing Land Use .....	88
Table 17. Staffing and Expenditures .....	72		
Table 18. Staffing and Expenditures .....	72		
Table 19. Distribution of Expenditures .....	72		



Image Source: Second Wave Media

# Chapter 1: Executive Summary

The 2023 - 2027 Superior Township Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for parks, recreation, and open spaces in the Township, building on the recommendations provided in the 2017 - 2021 document. Developed in conjunction with the Comprehensive Master Plan, this Recreation Plan utilized a variety of input methods to reach a broad network of stakeholders, including some members of the public who might not normally participate in recreation planning efforts.

The purpose of this Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of the Township over the next five-year period, through December 2027. Once adopted, the Plan is the official document to be used by the community to guide decisions regarding parks and recreation. This Plan meets the State's standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

## Key Plan Findings

Superior Township's recreation properties are cherished community amenities. When asked what they liked the most about living in Superior Township, land preservation and parks were the top two items. Residents appreciate their parks, and feel that continued maintenance and management are critical to their ongoing success. Ensuring that facilities remain available for people of all abilities is also crucial.

Land preservation and trail development are the clear top priorities, however. Protecting green space and constructing new trails were mentioned on almost all of the open-ended questions, and were ranked "very important" or "important" by the vast majority of participants. The two concepts were frequently grouped together, as survey takers discussed connecting the parks and preserves via non-motorized transportation facilities.

A summary of community needs, survey data, and meeting responses can be found beginning on page 24. A full set of survey responses and boards used at community meetings are provided in Appendix E.

## What The Plan Contains

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans (IC 1924, revised 4-26-2021).

- The plan begins with this Executive Summary and a description of the processes used to prepare the plan.
- Goals & Objectives were obtained by compiling input from community members, staff, and Township officials. They provide a broad set of values which drive recreation development in the Township;
- The action program then provides steps and strategies for implementing the Plan.
- The public participation portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents of Superior Township, which helped the Parks & Recreation Commission formulate the Plan's goals and objectives.
- A detailed recreation inventory describes the existing parkland and recreational facilities of the community as well as those of the region and state.
- A description of the community's administrative structure follows, including information on funding and budgets.
- The Plan then presents a community description, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community.
- Finally, the appendices include supporting materials, such as a copy of the public input survey, and resolutions and notices that document the Plan's adoption by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

## Planning Process

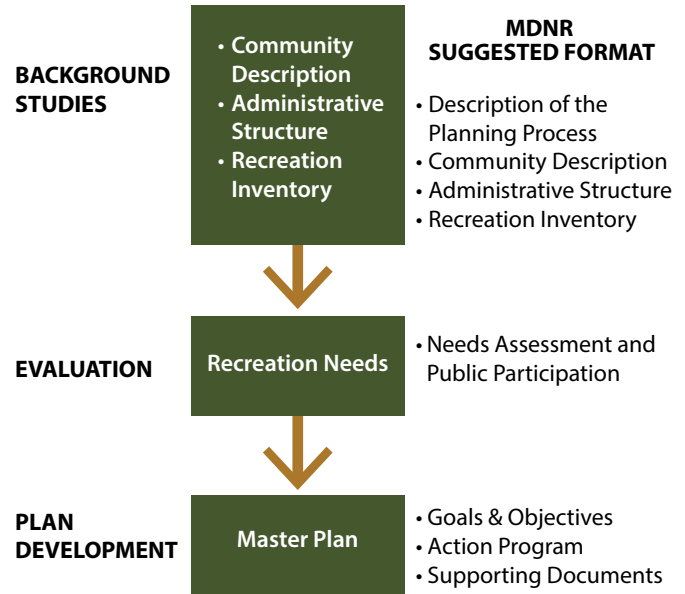
The process used to draft the Plan consists of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development. Each is described more fully below:

**Background Studies.** This phase involved gathering and updating data from the U.S. Census, existing documents and plans, and from field observations. The data is organized into two main categories: *community description* and *recreation inventory*.

**Evaluation.** The second phase in the planning process evaluated and analyzed the data compiled to determine recreation facility deficiencies and needs. Public input to assess recreational needs was also sought at this level.

**Plan Development.** The last phase in the process involves Plan development and adoption. Based on the deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed. Strategies to implement the Plan were also discussed.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier:

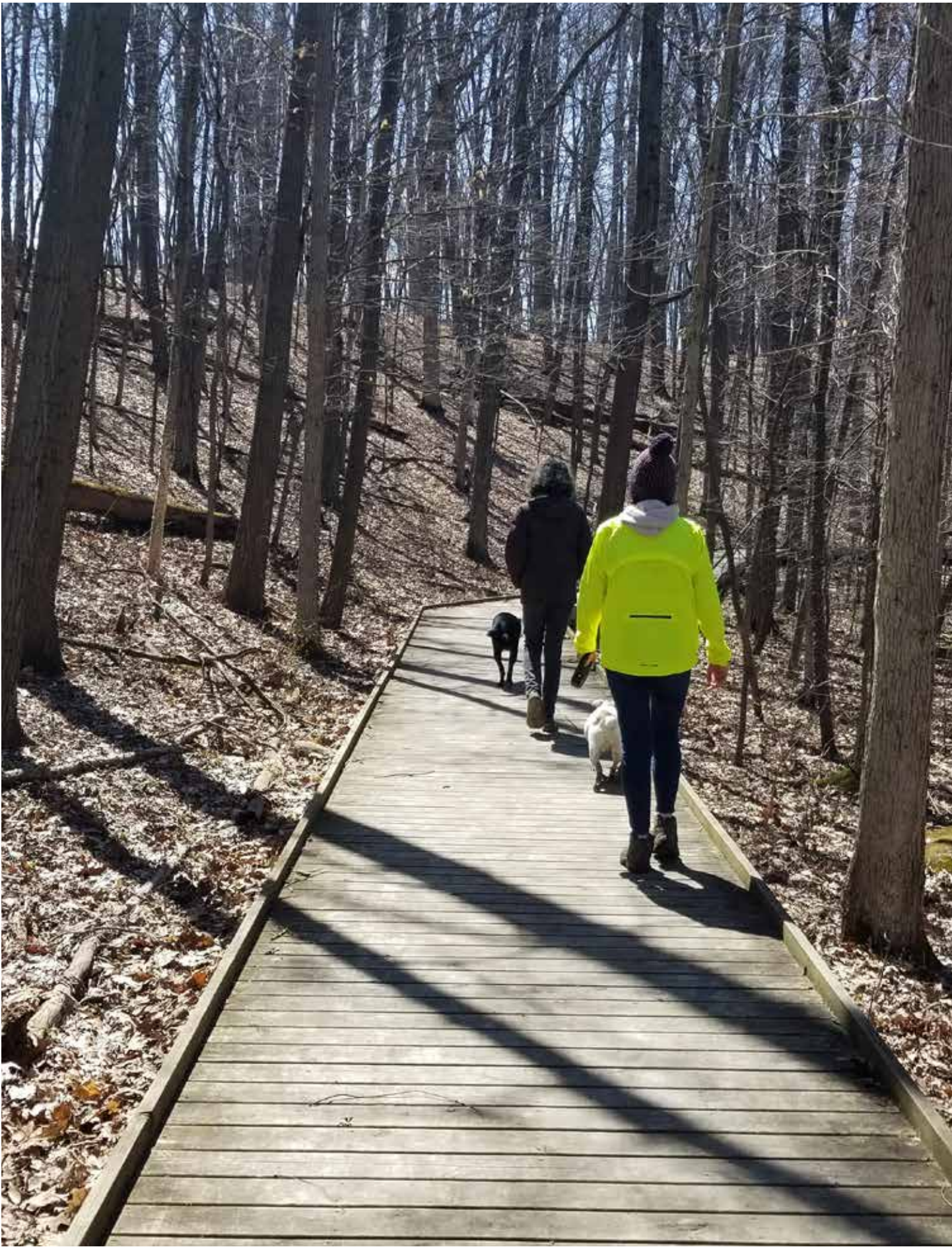


**Table 1. Input Participation**

Participants	Rec. Inventory, Resource Inventory, & Community Description	Public Input	Goal Formulation	Action Program	Public Hearing	Plan Adoption
Park & Recreation Commission	√	√	√	√	√	
Township Residents		√	√		√	
Township Planning Commission		√			√	

This Plan was developed with input from local officials, staff, and residents. A written survey and a public hearing were conducted to receive residents’ opinions and ideas for the park and recreation system. Two separate in-person meetings were held on the north and south sides of the Township. Input from Township officials and the Parks & Recreation Commission were also used.

A public hearing was held on November 28, 2022 at the regularly scheduled Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. The Plan was then adopted by the Commission. The Master Plan was available for public review and comment electronically via the Township website and by request in hard copy at the Township Hall for one month prior to the public hearing.



*Boardwalk at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve*

# Chapter 2: Goals & Objectives

The following goals and objectives are designed to meet the challenge posed by the Parks & Recreation Commission's mission statement while responding to the desires and needs of Superior Township residents for parks, recreation, and open space facilities.

## Mission Statement

The Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to enriching the quality of life for our residents and future generations by providing the highest standard of excellence in public service. Preserving, improving, and protecting our parks and valuable natural resources and green spaces achieves this goal. We strive to create safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities and programs for all who wish to use them, and by doing so promote a strong sense of community, increase social interaction, and improve the physical and mental well-being of our residents.

### GOAL #1: Provide parks and programs that meet the needs of all people in Superior Township.

- A: Design parks and recreation programs to meet the needs of all users regardless of age, sex, race, religion, socio-economic position, national origin, sensory, physical, or mental capabilities and location of residence in the Township.
- B: Maintain and rehabilitate existing facilities and programs as required to increase public enjoyment and ensure public safety.
- C: Develop current facilities and acquire new facilities to meet unfilled demand and satisfy needs in underserved areas.
- D: Offer a balance of accessible recreational opportunities to individuals, families, and groups by providing both passive and active recreation, and structured and non-structured activities in a variety of locations and times.
- E: Continually monitor recreation trends and provide opportunities that respond to changing community needs and desires.
- F: Perform formal annual evaluations of existing programs and facilities.
- G: Utilize universal design guidelines and principals to ensure that amenities meet the changing recreation needs for users of all abilities as they age.

- H: Establish a system for identifying and prioritizing potential acquisition properties for recreation use within the Township, and identify funding sources for property development.
- I: Create programs
- J: Offer a variety of senior programs and activities through cooperation with existing senior recreation providers.
- K: Broaden the range of recreational programs and facilities to achieve a balance in opportunities offered to all citizens. Provide an optimal level of recreation services with available resources.
- L: Encourage participation by keeping residents informed about park locations, programs, and special events.
- M: Periodically monitor public opinions and needs through surveys, public hearings, population assessments, or other readily available resources.
- N: Continue to improve park and facility security.
- O: Require a park land or financial contribution from new residential developments to be used for the development of new recreation facilities.

**GOAL #2: Provide an integrated recreation and open space system.**

- A: Implement a Township-wide wayfinding sign system to identify park facilities and provide directions to other properties within the park system.
- B: Provide linkages between residential neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces through the development of non-motorized trail systems.
- C: Conserve natural corridors between open space facilities to form an open space network for human users, wildlife, and vegetation.

**GOAL #3: Ensure that parks and open space resources are fully utilized.**

- A: Monitor park and facility usage and identify parks that are underutilized or capable of better serving the needs of the community.
- B: Evaluate park equipment and facilities on a periodic basis and replace outdated and/or underutilized amenities as appropriate.
- C: Acquire new parkland and/or work with residential developers to provide recreation opportunities for underserved neighborhoods.
- D: Improve the accessibility of recreational facilities through non-motorized path linkages, public transportation, vehicular approach, and parking.
- E: Improve accessibility to recreation programming for disadvantaged residents through specialized programs on a low- or no-cost basis for participants.

**GOAL #4: Encourage conservation and preservation of natural resources.**

- A: Provide reasonable access to sensitive natural areas while ensuring the least amount of disturbance to the area.
- B: Collaborate with conservation groups and similar resources to provide interpretive signage, apps, and other informational materials to increase public awareness.
- C: In conjunction with neighboring communities and regional authorities, prioritize land acquisition along the Huron River to help create a continuous conservation linkage.
- D: Preserve high-quality and/or sensitive properties through acquisition, conservation easements, tax incentives, and other appropriate land management policies.
- E: Establish a tree identification and replacement program.
- F: Develop education programs to foster an appreciation of Superior Township's natural resources and encourage ongoing conservation efforts for future generations.

**GOAL #5: Collaborate and coordinate with neighboring communities, regional authorities, and other groups to maximize recreational and open space opportunities and minimize potential conflicts.**

- A: Promote sharing of human, financial, and programming resources between governmental agencies to realize economies of effort.
- B: Encourage private sector development of recreation and open space facilities for public use.
- C: Encourage citizen involvement in committees and councils and as program volunteers and park stewards.
- D: Maintain a volunteer database to allow effective communication of project leadership and volunteering opportunities.
- E: Continue to stress the importance of a positive relationship between the Township Board, area schools, and other agencies.

**GOAL #6: Seek, identify, and manage financial resources to allow continued operation of the parks system and enable expansion of existing facilities and programs while continuing to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.**

- A: Consider the implementation of a millage to fund ongoing operation, development, and potential acquisition of additional park and recreation facilities.
- B: Continue to seek grant funding through local, state, and federal resources.
- C: Continue to encourage citizen and private donations through volunteering, financial, and other resources.
- D: Implement user fee assessment and apply to programs and activities where appropriate.
- E: Evaluate alternative methods of financing such as naming rights and/or other sources.
- F: Promote fundraising events.
- G: Work with other agencies in cooperative revenue-generating efforts (i.e. Community Partnership).
- H: Involve local businesses and philanthropic organizations in Park projects whenever possible.

**GOAL #7: Operate the Parks Department in a fiscally sound manner**

- A: Implement low-cost staffing options such as co-op education, work-study programs, recreation student volunteers, and other related programs.
- B: Develop and implement a marketing plan for recreation classes, programs, events, and facilities.
- C: Develop a Township-wide public relations program.
- D: Seek participatory management by involving all staff in the budget and decision-making process.
- E: Maintain and periodically update a Park Policy Manual, incorporating items such as a personnel manual, rules, and regulations, by-laws, and similar policy materials.
- F: Develop and implement comprehensive staff training programs for all levels of personnel.
- G: Ensure that Parks and Recreation rules and regulations for park and facility use are adopted into the Township Ordinance.

Community Background

Administrative Structure

Recreation Inventory

Needs Assessment & Public Participation

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives

Executive Summary

Table of Contents



# Chapter 3: Action Plan

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects, as well as a schedule with suggested capital improvement projects along with a sequence and strategies for implementation. Superior Township's Action Plan sets standards for maintenance and park facility costs, and proposes a recreation policy for future developments.

## Action Plan

The following outline lists specific actions and projects which are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period. Plans showing the proposed parks improvements are also included to illustrate the projects.

### ACTION #1: Maintain and Upgrade Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities

This action includes replacing aging equipment which is in a state of disrepair, outdated, or dangerous as well as improving the appearance of parks, properties, and buildings through appropriate landscaping and maintenance. All upgrades must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and efforts should be taken to remove all existing barriers to universal access.

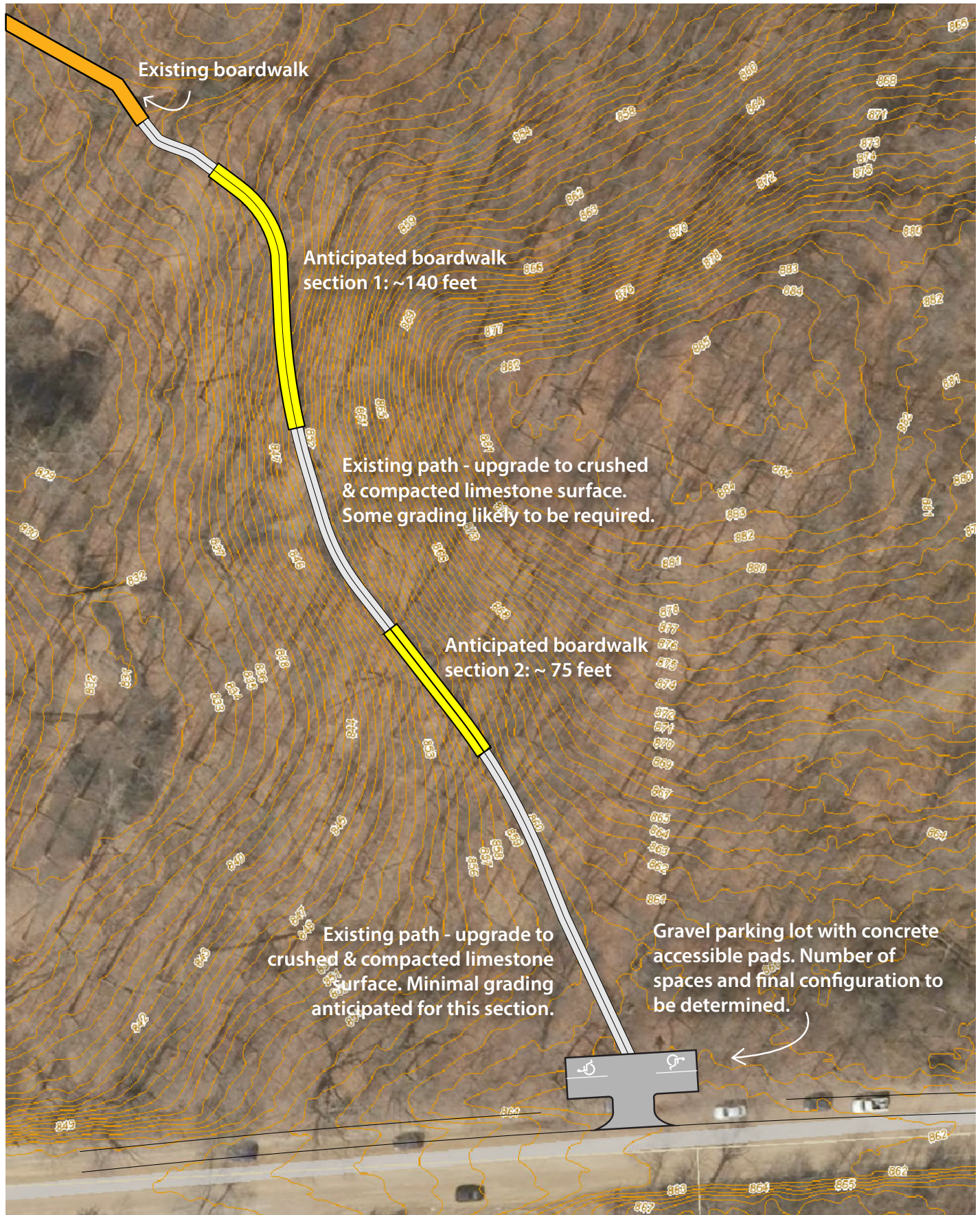
Proposed projects include:

#### 1. PARKS

- Ensure that Superior Township parks and recreation facilities are accessible to residents regardless of abilities. Parks and preserves must meet the guidelines established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as is reasonably feasible;
- Repair and/or replace aging park infrastructure to ensure facilities remain safe and available for use;
- Provide parking at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and North Prospect Park;
- Upgrade parking lots at Community Park and Harvest Moon Park;
- Add pavilions or picnic shelters at Community Park, Fireman's Park, Oakbrook Park, and North Prospect Park. Shelters should be located within clear view of existing play equipment to allow parents and/or caregivers to effectively monitor their families; and
- Add benches, drinking fountains, and bike racks where feasible at all community facilities.
- Improve the natural features where needed through soil mitigation, invasive species removal, landscaping, etc.
- Add signage where needed.

**JUSTIFICATION:** These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs, residents' opinions, and public input. They also respond to future parks and recreation trends, in particular environmental, social, economic, and demographic trends.

Figure 1. Cherry Hill Concept Plan

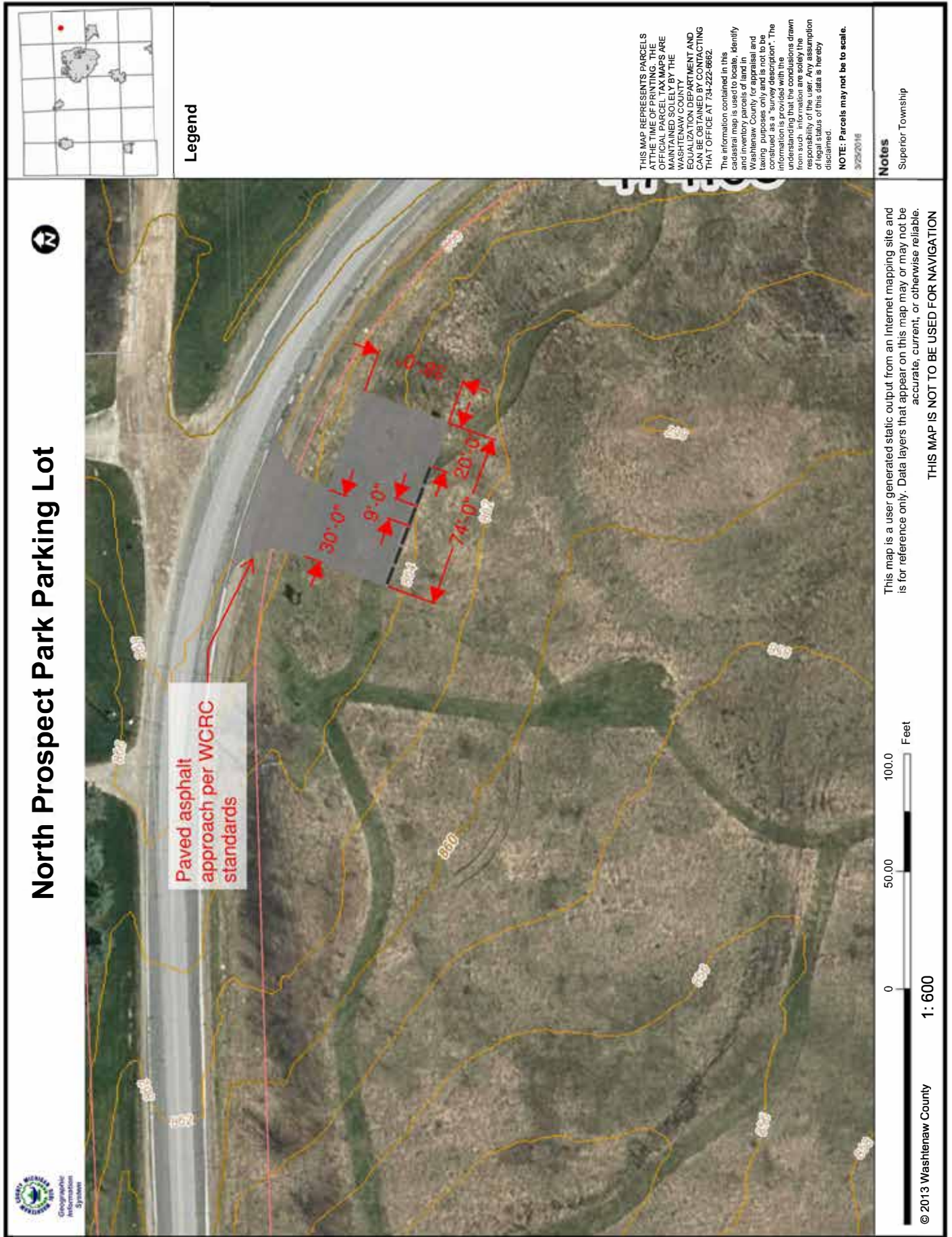


**CHERRY HILL NATURE PRESERVE CONCEPT PLAN**

Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan



Figure 2. North Prospect Park Concept Plan



- Community Background
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Needs Assessment & Public Participation
- Action Plan
- Goals & Objectives
- Executive Summary
- Table of Contents

Figure 3. Norfolk/Oakbrook Parks Concept Plan



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



## NORFOLK PARK / OAKBROOK PARK CONCEPT PLAN

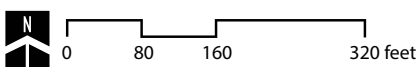
Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

Figure 4. Community Park Concept Plan



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



# COMMUNITY PARK CONCEPT PLAN

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

Community Background

Administrative Structure

Recreation Inventory

Needs Assessment & Public Participation

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives

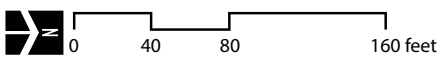
Executive Summary

Table of Contents

Figure 5. Fireman's Park Concept Plan



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



## FIREMAN'S PARK CONCEPT PLAN

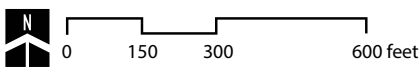
Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

Figure 6. Harvest Moon Park Concept Plan



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



- Rustic (Mown Grass) Path
- Multi-use Trail

# HARVEST MOON PARK CONCEPT PLAN

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

- Community Background
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Needs Assessment & Public Participation
- Action Plan
- Goals & Objectives
- Executive Summary
- Table of Contents

## **ACTION #2: Develop a Continuous Pathway/Trail System**

There is a strong desire for more trails and walking paths in the Township. Priority should be placed on the development of trails connecting the parks to form a continuous park system tying community facilities, schools, neighborhoods, and regional recreation facilities together. This includes:

- Develop a trail priority matrix based off of the recommendations provided by Township residents (see Map 1 on page 16). The matrix should evaluate various cost, political, and connectivity factors to help establish priority routes. Routes should be evaluated annually, and priorities recalculated to account for new factors that may have changed;
- Work with regional trail planners and the County to connect Township trails/pathways to regional systems such as the Border-to-Border or Iron Belle Trails;
- Develop trailheads and install site amenities including bike racks, benches, trash receptacle, mile markers, and signs along the trails and at destination points; and
- Establish a marketing strategy for the trail system to attract support and financial contributions including the development of a trail brochure and a walking club.

**JUSTIFICATION:** These actions respond to facility needs, residents' opinions, and public input. They also respond to future parks and recreation trends, in particular environmental, social, economic, and demographic trends.

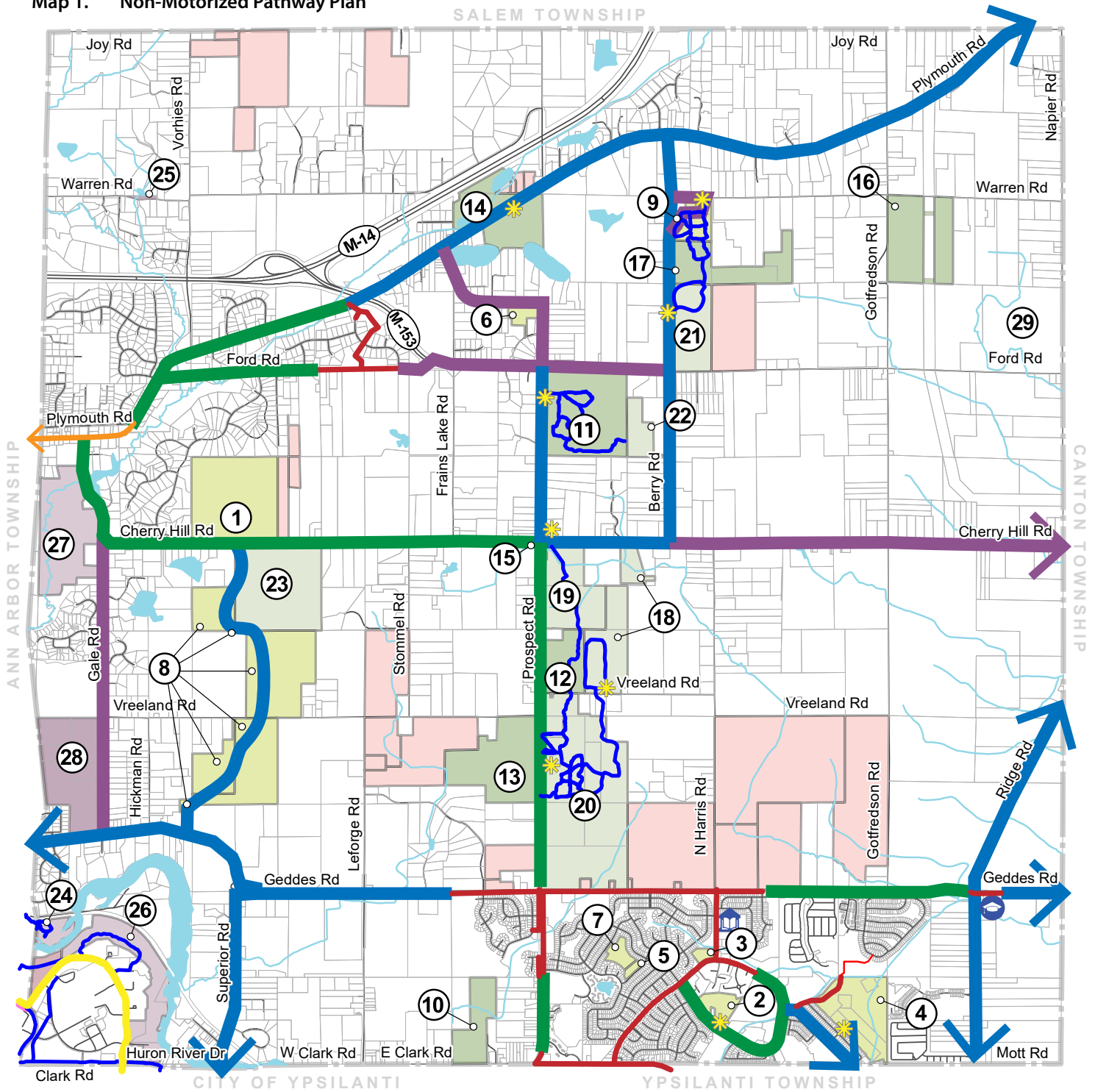
## **ACTION #3: Continue to Provide Recreation Programming**

Recreation programming in Superior Township goes beyond simple enjoyment, and serves to provide critical human resources for its most vulnerable populations. The Township should continue to provide and evolve the current programming options including:

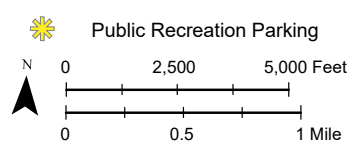
- Continue to offer traditional special events and sports programs as outlined in "Recreation Programs And Services" on page 67;
- Work with Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation, the YMCA, and local school districts to establish after-school and similar programming at area park and privately owned facilities;
- Continue to work with adjacent communities to avoid duplication of services and to provide shared programs at low cost for area residents wherever possible; and
- Continue to attract support and financial contributions for special events and other ongoing program options to help mitigate costs and provide a low cost burden for residents.

**JUSTIFICATION:** These actions respond to community needs, residents' opinions, and public input. They also respond to recreation and programming trends, in particular social, economic, and demographic trends.

Map 1. Non-Motorized Pathway Plan



- Existing Superior Township Trails
- Planned Superior Township Trails (construction estimated 2023-24)
- Border-to-Border Trail
- Other Trails
- Proposed Route - Priority 1
- Proposed Route - Priority 2
- Proposed Route - Priority 3



- SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**
1. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve
  2. Community Park
  3. Fireman's Park
  4. Harvest Moon Park
  5. Norfolk Park
  6. North Prospect Park
  7. Oakbrook Park
  8. Rock Superior Properties
  9. Schroeter Park

- SE MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY**
18. Conservancy Farm
  19. Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve
  20. LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
  21. Secrest Preserve
  22. Springhill Nature Preserve
  23. Unnamed Preserve

- WASHTENAW COUNTY**
10. Highland Preserve
  11. Kosch Headwaters Preserve
  12. Meyer Preserve East
  13. Meyer Preserve West
  14. Staebler Farm
  15. Superior Center County Park
  16. Lost Wagon Lake Preserve
  17. Weatherbee Woods Preserve

- OTHER OPEN SPACE**
24. Forest Nature Area
  25. Wing Nature Preserve
  26. St. Joe's Nature Area
  27. Matthaei Botanical Gardens
  28. Radrick Farms Golf Course
  29. Hickory Creek Golf Course

## NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY PLAN

Superior Township  
Washtenaw County

Source: Washtenaw County GIS

April, 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Community Background
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Needs Assessment & Public Participation
- Action Plan
- Goals & Objectives
- Executive Summary
- Table of Contents

**ACTION #4: Maintain and Develop Partnerships With Local Groups, Neighboring Recreation Authorities, and Other Organizations**

- Facilitate and promote the shared-use of the area's parks and recreation facilities with organizations including the three local school districts, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation, and private recreation providers.
- Develop relationships with neighboring communities to allow development and shared-use of large, capital intensive projects such as trails and a community center.

**JUSTIFICATION:** These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs, residents' opinions, and public input. They also respond to future parks and recreation trends, in particular environmental, social, economic, and demographic trends.

**ACTION #5: Administration and Funding**

- Continue to operate parks and programming in as frugal a manner possible, while ensuring that provided services meet the recreation needs of the community;
- Seek and consider a variety of income sources to allow development of a new community center, including grants, bonds, millages, donations, and public/private partnerships;
- A means of generating operational costs and increasing revenues where possible must become a priority to support capital improvement projects and to maintain the existing and future park facilities to a high quality standard;
- Investigate feasibility of seeking dedicated Parks millage to ensure continued financial stability for the Department;
- Pursuit of grants and financial contributions must be done consistently and aggressively;
- Consider grant writing workshops and training to improve awareness of funding opportunities;
- Be open to opportunities presented by joint public / private funding efforts; and
- The Parks & Recreation Commission must advocate and promote the social, economic, and environmental value and benefits of parks and recreation by reaching out to the community and the region.

**JUSTIFICATION:** These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs, residents' opinions, and master planning open house input. They also respond to future parks and recreation trends, in particular environmental, social, economic, and demographic trends.

## Project Schedule

Table 2 lists the individual projects along with the specific tasks the Township would like to accomplish, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. These projects are not prioritized, and will be implemented as funding and/or resources are available. However, to guide implementation, each project is assigned a time frame for completion.

It is important to remember that this schedule is aspirational. It is not expected that all projects will be completed in the next five years, but instead establishes priorities for the community to be developed as circumstances and funding allow. A priority scale has been assigned to the desired projects, with projects of high importance receiving a Priority 1, lower priority items a Priority 3, and items in between those levels a Priority 2. The priority project levels generally correspond to preferred time lines; Priority 1 items address more pressing needs and ideally would be completed within one to two years. Priority 3 are not as critical and may take longer to be completed, five years or beyond. Priority 2 again falls between the two other categories. Ongoing (OG) items are activities that are not necessarily project-related but instead are part of standard daily practices.

**Table 2. Improvement Schedule**

Description	Cost Estimate	Funding Source*	Time Frame
<b>All Superior Township Parks</b>			
Install recycling and trash receptacles	\$ 5,000 - 10,000	GF, D, G	1
Add trees and/or shade structures	\$ 30,000 - 40,000	GF, D, G	1
Add benches, bike racks, and drinking fountains	\$ 40,000 - 50,000	GF, D, G	1
Continue to maintain parks and facilities in good working order to ensure the safety and enjoyment of users	-	GF	OG
<b>Cherry Hill Nature Preserve</b>			
Add gravel permanent parking lot near main entrance with accessible parking spaces	\$ 25,000 - 35,000	GF, D, G	1
Perform feasibility analysis for construction of an ADA compliant trail to boardwalk and wetland overlooks	-	GF	1
Assess trails for areas damaged by pedestrian activity during wet seasons and install simple boardwalks/"swamp walkways" where needed	TBD	GF, D	OG
Improve wayfinding signage throughout park	\$ 1,500 - 3,000	GF, D	OG
Continue invasive species removal and remediation	TBD	GF, D, G	OG
<b>Community Park</b>			
Update play equipment	\$ 75,000 - 150,000	GF, D, G	2
Add basketball court	\$ 30,000 - 50,000	GF, D, G	2
Add picnic shelter	\$ 30,000 - 50,000	GF, D, G	2
Develop sidewalks/trails connecting from Sycamore Meadows Apartments to parking lot and to tennis/pickleball courts	\$ 150,000 - 200,000	GF, D, G	2
Add exercise equipment along proposed trails	\$ 30,000 - 40,000	GF, D, G	3
Pave parking lot and add accessible parking spaces	\$ 40,000 - 60,000	GF, D, G	1
Add accessible routes to tennis courts and new equipment	\$ 20,000 - 30,000	GF, D, G	1
Resurface ball field	\$ 15,000 - 20,000	GF, D, G	2
<b>Fireman's Park</b>			
Add picnic shelter	\$ 30,000 - 50,000	GF, D, G	2
Add drinking fountain	\$ 5,000 - 6,000	GF, D, G	2
Add fitness trail	\$ 80,000 - 100,000	GF, D, G	1
Assess poor site drainage and correct	TBD	GF, G	1
Expand play equipment	\$ 150,000 - 200,000	GF, D, G	1

\* GF = General Fund, D = Donations, G = Grants, TBD = To Be Determined

**Table 2. Implementation Schedule (continued)**

Description	Cost Estimate	Funding Source*	Time Frame
<b>Harvest Moon Park</b>			
Pave parking lot and add accessible spaces	\$ 15,000 - 20,000	GF, D, G	2
Upgrade play equipment	\$ 75,000 - 150,000	GF, D, G	3
Add ADA compliant crushed limestone path to picnic grove	\$ 3,000 - 4,000	GF, D, G	3
Develop connecting pathway between east and west pathways	\$ 350,000 - 500,000	GF, D, G	3
Add connector to basketball court and add benches	\$ 2,000 - 4,000	GF, D, G	3
<b>Norfolk / Oakbrook Park</b>			
Restore existing pavilion	\$ 10,000 - 15,000	GF, D, G	1
Construct elevated, ADA compliant crushed limestone pathway between parks to alleviate water issues on paths	\$ 10,000 - 15,000	GF, D, G	2
Add small picnic shelter to Oakbrook	\$30,000 - 40,000	GF, D, G	3
Upgrade playground equipment	\$ 50,000 - 100,000	GF, D, G	3
Add natural play area	\$ 40,000 - 60,000	GF, D, G	2
Correct drainage issues in park	\$ 150,000 - 200,000	GF, D, G	1
<b>North Prospect Park</b>			
Add gravel parking lot	\$ 25,000 - 35,000	GF, D, G	1
Upgrade portion of trails to ADA compliant crushed limestone	\$ 15,000 - 20,000	GF, D, G	3
Add small picnic shelter	\$ 30,000 - 40,000	GF, D, G	3
<b>Schroeter Park</b>			
Assess trails for areas damaged by pedestrian activity during wet seasons and install simple boardwalks/"swamp walkways" where needed	TBD	GF, D, G	1
<b>Rock Superior Properties</b>			
Work with Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission to determine and establish the best recreation options for the properties	-	GF	OG
Perform a trail feasibility study to evaluate options for connecting from Cherry Hill Road south to Geddes Road	\$15,000 - \$20,000	GF, D, G	1
<b>Non-motorized Pathway Development</b>			
Develop a feasibility or priority matrix to identify priority routes and establish a hierarchy of trail development projects	TBD	GF, D, G	OG
Connect trails along Harris Road, Geddes Road, and MacArthur Boulevard as funds allows	\$ 2,000,000 - 2,200,000	GF, D, G	OG
<b>Programming and Other Recreation Activities</b>			
Continue to coordinate with nearby recreation authorities and county representatives to add new recreation programs that meet the needs of residents in a cost-effective manner.	-	GF	OG
Continue to evaluate potential property acquisitions that will help to preserve sensitive natural resources and/or expand recreation opportunities for area residents.	-	GF, D, G	OG
Evaluate opportunities for land or property acquisition on the south side of the Township for a Community Center. Coordinate activities with Ypsilanti Township to reduce development and ongoing management costs.	TBD	GF, D, G	OG

\* GF = General Fund, D = Donations, G = Grants, TBD = To Be Determined

## Implementation Strategies

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended to proceed as planned.

### Apply for Federal Funding

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) funds **Transportation Enhancements (TE)** activities for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the TE activities. Activities which may apply to Superior include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as walkways, curb ramps, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses; and
- Educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets, and signage.

A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis.

The **Safe Routes to School** program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for a healthy lifestyle. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's Safe Routes to School program made schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program, as defined in the federal legislation, is to:

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in school areas.

The program provides mini grants for programming and major grants to help communities build sidewalks, crosswalks, and other infrastructure. Up to \$200,000 per school is available for infrastructure projects, and \$8,000 to build programming around the project. Communities must undergo an in-depth planning process prior to submitting an application. Deadlines are ongoing and awarded on a rolling basis. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required.

## Apply for State Funding

At the state level, the *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)* and the *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)* continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

- Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment;
- Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes and facilitate their recreation use;
- Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and
- Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$500,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be in by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

The *Recreation Passport* grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$150,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Application are typically due on April 1st.

Local units of government may use the Forest Stewardship program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of \$2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

A new grant program released in 2022 and administered by the MDNR is the *Michigan Spark Grant*, a \$65 million dollar grant program of coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds was made available through Public Act 53 of 2022. The program is intended to help communities create, renovate, or redevelop public outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors. Eligible applicants must be local units of government or public authorities legally designated to provide public recreation, or regional or statewide organizations of such entities working together.

Individual grant amounts range from \$100,000 to \$1 million, and will be distributed in three rounds

- Round one: \$15 million by the end of 2022.
- Round two: \$25 million in the spring of 2023.
- Round three: \$25 million in the summer of 2023.

All projects must be completed by 2026. As of the writing of this plan, application forms and scoring criteria have not been established. Additional information on the program is available at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/sparkgrants>.

## Apply for Local Funding

The **Washtenaw Coordinated Funders**, a collaboration of the Office of Community & Economic Development (representing the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, and Washtenaw Urban County), the United Way of Washtenaw County, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and the RNR Foundation, offers funding for program operations and capacity building grants for projects involving Aging, Housing & Homelessness, Safety-Net Health & Nutrition, and Cradle to Career – including both Early Childhood & School-Age Youth.

The **Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission** does not have a formal dedicated fund to allow distribution of grants, but it does partner with communities on a case-by-case basis to assist with development of parks and/or non-motorized trail facilities. Their **Connecting Communities Program**, dedicated to the development of regional non-motorized trail facilities, was re-instituted in 2017 and offers funding for a variety of initiatives including trail development. Funding from the program is provided via the four-year Road and Trails Millage which was renewed in 2020, meaning the program will remain active through at least 2024.

Local units of government may use the **Forest Stewardship program** to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of \$2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

## Apply for Other Grant Funding

The **Detroit Edison Tree Planting program** began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy's voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in the Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in February.

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as **Bikes Belong Coalition**. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: Facility, Education and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

**Access to Recreation** is a grant program available for universal access of people of all abilities to a wide variety of recreation opportunities, such as nature viewing and photography areas, hiking trails, scenic outlooks, waterfalls and water activities of all kinds, beaches, fishing and boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, and much more. There are two primary grant programs under this source of funding:

**Recreation Access Matching Grant** provides up to 50 percent matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials such as all terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, and accessible picnic tables that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities; and

**Accessible by Design Awards** is designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome, and support the inclusion of people of all abilities. Winning designs demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act can create greater access and usability for people of all abilities in the community. Winning designs are awarded cash prizes to build the projects up to \$250,000 with 25 percent minimum match.

## Increase Support for Parks

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the Township will be able to provide in the future. A specific park or project millage over a limited period could be considered in the future for particular projects such as park or trail acquisition, development, or maintenance.

## Seek Other Sources of Funding

Superior Parks & Recreation should continue to search for additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting financial contributions, holding fund-raising events and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.



*Superior Day*

# Chapter 4: Needs Analysis & Public Participation

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community to formulate an action plan for parks and recreation improvement. Needs provide the rationale for goals and objectives and identify areas for capital improvements. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends and an online survey was conducted to receive opinions and desires from residents. In addition, two in-person meetings were held as part of the comprehensive planning efforts. These varied sources of information helped to inform a strategic solution to meet the Township's recreation needs.

## Comparison to National Standards

According to a 1996 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) study, parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves or special use areas. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. Superior Township maintains eight parks and preserves that are considered close-to-home parks\*. According to NRPA standards, the amount of recommended close-to-home park land is 6.26 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents. A comprehensive analysis of the Township's recreation facilities and a comparison to its peer communities begins on page 69.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area (one hour drive or about a 45 mile radius) than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. For Superior Township, County, State, and HCMA parks fill this role. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of park land per 1,000 people.

Other types of parks include the following:

- Schoolyards, areas that can fulfill the space requirements for other types of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex or special use which include the public school facilities located near the Township;
- Greenways, areas that link parks together to form a continuous park environment such as the multi-purpose pathway included in the Township; and
- Private recreation facilities, areas that are privately owned yet contribute to the Township parks and recreation system.

According to these standards, local parks fall within the range for recommended acreage for close-to-home park land. Using numbers based on population estimates for 2045, the amount of existing parkland should continue to be adequate to meet the Township's recreation needs. Acreage provided by regional and private facilities augment these facilities, and ensure that Township residents have adequate access recreation amenities.

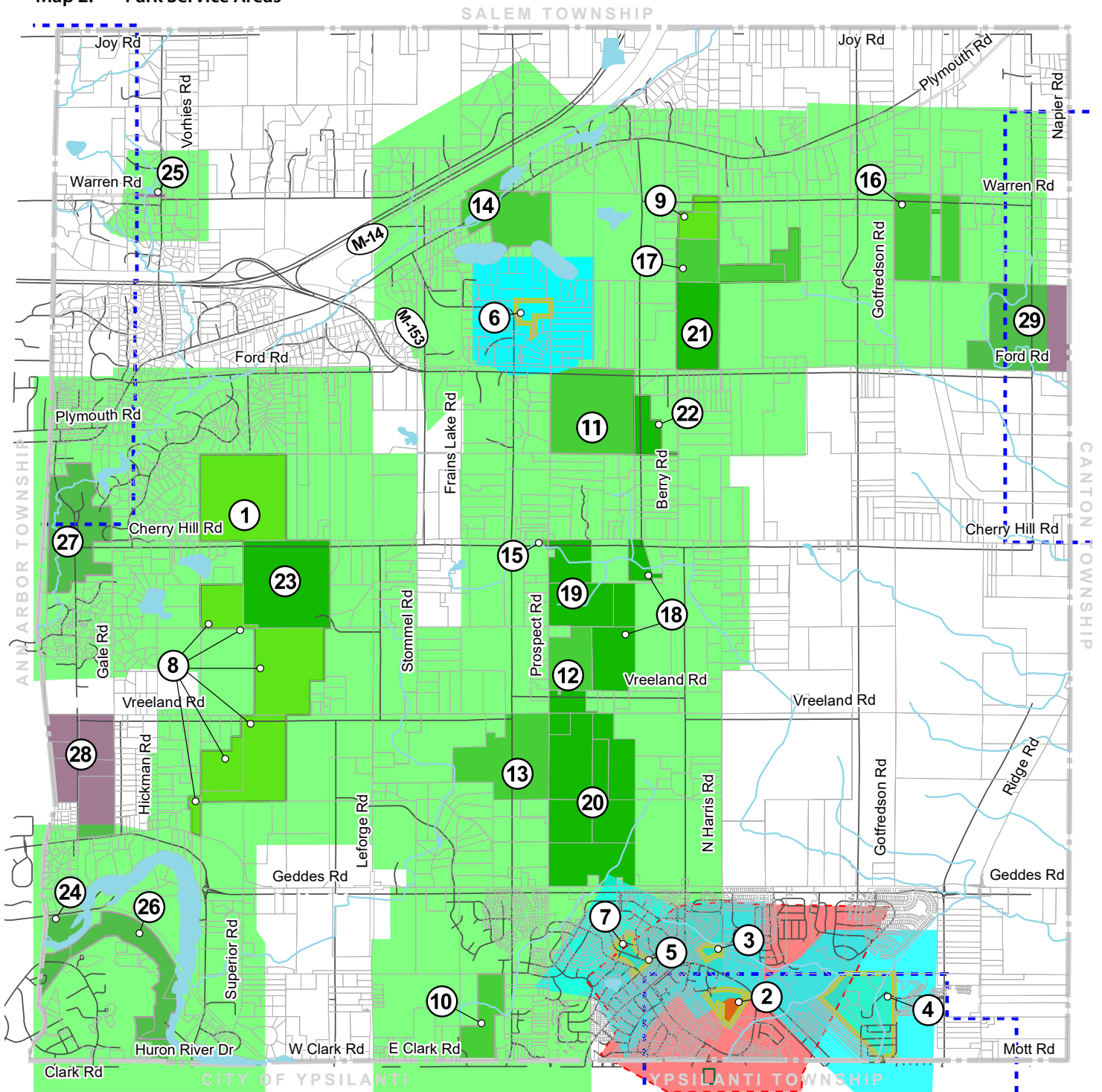
## Ten Minute Walk Initiative

The NRPA, Trust for Public Land (TPL), other recreation advocacy groups, and communities across the country have embraced the concept of the "ten minute walk", or the idea that every American should be within walkable distance to a local park or recreation facility. Numerous studies have shown the psychological, health, and general quality of life benefits provided by improved access to green spaces, but the likelihood of utilizing these spaces decreases as distance to the facility increases. For planning purposes, the traditional NRPA service radius of 1/4 mile for neighborhood parks and 1/2 mile for community parks is frequently used to demonstrate the effective reach of park systems.

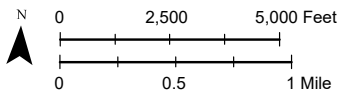
As shown in Map 2, Township residents have good access to local recreation facilities across most of the area. Traditional parks in the southeast meet critical recreation needs, serving the highest concentration of residents. Local, county, and private preserves comprising the Superior Greenway (see page 56) cover the center of the community, and the potential greenway opportunity presented by the Rock Superior properties in conjunction with a few other public spaces effectively cover the west side. The only areas that appear underserved are largely agricultural properties on the east side, and rural residential properties on the northwest side. Even here, however, proximity to recreation facilities in Canton and Ann Arbor Townships ensure that residents are not far from recreation opportunities.

\* The Rock Superior Properties are included in this analysis, but have not officially been designated recreation facilities as of the writing of this plan.

Map 2. Park Service Areas



- Neighborhood Park Service Area (1/4 mile radius)
- Community Park Service Area (1/2 mile radius)
- Nature Preserve Service Area (both local & regional, 1/4 to 1/2 mile)
- Neighboring Municipality Park Service Area (1/4 to 1/2 mile)



**SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**

1. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve
2. Community Park
3. Fireman's Park
4. Harvest Moon Park
5. Norfolk Park
6. North Prospect Park
7. Oakbrook Park
8. Rock Superior Properties
9. Schroeter Park

**SE MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY**

18. Conservancy Farm
19. Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve
20. LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
21. Secrest Preserve
22. Springhill Nature Preserve
23. Unnamed Preserve

**WASHTENAW COUNTY**

10. Highland Preserve
11. Kosch Headwaters Preserve
12. Meyer Preserve East
13. Meyer Preserve West
14. Staebler Farm
15. Superior Center County Park
16. Lost Wagon Lake Preserve
17. Weatherbee Woods Preserve

**OTHER OPEN SPACE**

24. Forest Nature Area
25. Wing Nature Preserve
26. St. Joe's Nature Area
27. Matthaei Botanical Gardens
28. Radrick Farms Golf Course
29. Hickory Creek Golf Course

**RECREATION & CONSERVATION PROPERTIES**

Superior Township  
Washtenaw County

Source: Washtenaw County GIS

April, 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



## National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends on a national and regional level provide insights into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 3 lists the top seven outdoor activities persons aged seven years and older participated in at least once in 2020.

The 2016 study shows a continued trend towards individual-based outdoor activities, with open water sports, outdoor activities, and snow sports all showing increases in participation. Team related sports, with the exception of soccer and lacrosse, have showed a steady decline in popularity in recent years, while trail related sports continue to grow in popularity.

These trends are consistent with those observed in Michigan. According to a survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2018-2022 Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, walking outdoors was identified as the most important outdoor activity by 26 percent of users statewide. A list of participation rates for the most popular activities is listed in Table 5 below. Participation rates for children under age 18 is provided in Table 4.

**Table 3. Top Outdoor Activities - 2020**

Activity	Participation (National)	Overall Rank	Participation (East North Central Region)	Overall Rank
Exercise walking	106.1 million	1	16.4 million	1
Exercise w/ Equipment	56.5 million	2	8.1 million	2
Hiking	46.4 million	3	6.2 million	6
Swimming	47.1 million	4	6.4 million	5
Aerobic Exercising	46.2 million	5	7.3 million	3
Running / jogging	44.2 million	6	6.0 million	7
Camping	40.7 million	7	5.9 million	9
Work out at a club	37.6 million	8	5.2 million	10
Bicycle riding	37.1 million	9	6.0 million	8
Weight lifting	36.5 million	10	5.2 million	11

Source: NSGA Sports Participation in the United States 2020

Some key findings from the Metro Detroit region include:

- Nearly 75 percent of residents feel that outdoor recreation is very important or moderately important to their household.
- Walking outdoors, including dog walking, was identified as the most important outdoor activity.
- 87 percent of participants went outside 52 or more days per year, with nearly 54 percent doing so for more than 100 days.

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of the area can be summarized as follows:

- While future recreation facility development should respond to the expected increase in seniors, developments should be designed to accommodate a variety of abilities and interests. Meeting or exceeding ADA standards for recreation uses will be critical.
- There is a desire for more walk/bike ways to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable environment. The Township should make efforts to connect existing facilities with regional hike/ bike systems (e.g. the Border-to-Border Trail) in the Township and to surrounding communities and facilities.

**Table 4. Outdoor Recreation Activities - Children under 18**

Activity	Participation Rate
Visit parks or playgrounds	85%
Swimming outdoors	76%
Sledding/tubing	54%
Fishing	52%
Non-league team or individual sports	46%
Team or individual sports in a league	44%
Road biking	41%

Source: Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

**Table 5. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities in Michigan**

Activity	Participation Rate
Relaxing outdoors	75%
Walking outdoors, including dog walking	74%
Visit parks or playgrounds	67%
Sightseeing and/or driving for pleasure	64%
Visiting nature centers or historic sites	56%
Swimming outdoors	54%
Picnicking	53%
Fishing	41%
Biking of any kind (on or off road)	40%
Camping of any kind (modern, RV, tent, rustic)	39%
Team or individual sports outdoors	37%
Wildlife viewing and/or photography including birding	36%
Hiking/backpacking	34%
Jogging/running	34%
Canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, or wind surfing	32%
Road biking	31%
Motor boating	31%
Sledding/tubing	30%
Tent or rustic camping	30%
Shooting sports, including archery	30%
Modern or RV camping	25%
Hunting of any kind	20%

Source: Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

## Public Input

Superior Township’s Recreation Plan public outreach was timed to coincide with work on their Comprehensive Master Plan. In an effort to reach the widest audience possible, outreach began in late 2021 and continued on into 2022. Input opportunities were advertised to residents in three primary formats:

- An online survey held from October 13 to December 3, 2021;
- A series of in-person design meetings focused on the Village of Dixboro held on March 4 and 28 and April 2, 2022; and
- An in-person open house held May 9, 2022, at the Christian Love Fellowship Church in the Township’s southeast side.

In addition to these opportunities, residents were able to speak at regularly held Parks & Recreation Commission meetings throughout the planning process, were provided a 30-day review period for the draft Recreation Plan from November 7 to December 19, 2022, and a Public Hearing in front of the Park Commission on December 19.

All meetings were advertised on the Township website and noticed in as required in the local newspaper. Copies of the notices are provided in Appendix A, and a summary of the survey responses is provided in Appendix E. An analysis of each event is included on the following pages.



## Online Survey Findings

By providing a survey with a more general focus, Superior Township was able to reach individuals who might not otherwise be inclined to participate in a recreation survey. 58% of the survey respondents were in the southeast urban area, with the remaining 42% spread fairly evenly throughout the northern portions of the community. Two key principals resonated with residents throughout the survey: the development of non-motorized facilities and preservation of open space.

69% of respondents noted that natural and open spaces were a key factor in attracting them to Superior Township. Land preservation (77%) and parks (54%) were the top two items that respondents liked about the community. Preservation of natural features (81%), installation of pedestrian and bicycle pathways (52%), and provision of additional public parks and recreation areas (42.34%) were all deemed “very important” by community members. When these questions were posed again in a recreational context, the results were very similar; protecting natural resources (78%), maintaining existing parks (68%), access to nature preserves (57%), access to paths and trails (57%), and provision of recreation services for people of all abilities (39%) were all deemed as “very important”.

Most participants (62%) felt that Superior Township had about the right number of parks. 37% felt that the community had too few facilities. When asked if there were any areas of the Township that were underserved by recreation facilities, 65% said no. Of those who answered yes, 55% indicated that the southeast urban area deserved more attention.

**“Please preserve the nature and recreational areas. Superior Township is so nice and quiet, which is hard to find in southeast Michigan.”**  
*- Survey participant*

**“Safe access for bikes and pedestrians along Geddes Rd and Prospect Rd are very badly needed.”**  
*- Survey participant*

Park satisfaction rates among participants who had actively visited the area parks were generally high. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve receiving the highest marks overall, although one individual did note the lack of parking as a problem. For individuals who were unsatisfied with a particular facility, complaints generally centered around maintenance issues or outdated equipment. Both Norfolk and Schroeter Parks received additional comments about wet facilities, which is consistent with EGLE and Washtenaw County data showing wetlands historically running through the areas.

**Table 6. Park Satisfaction Levels**

Park Name	% Very Satisfied or Satisfied
Cherry Hill Nature Preserve	85%
North Prospect Park	72%
Schroeter Park	71%
Harvest Moon Park	68%
Community Park	67%
Oakbrook Park	66%
Fireman’s Park	59%
Norfolk Park	59%

When specifically asked about the development of non-motorized transportation in the Township, 45.3% identified the issue as “very important” and another 24% as “important”. The preferred non-motorized facility format was an 8- to 10-foot safety path adjacent to the road (66%), closely followed by trails completely separated from the road (61%). Participants offered over 100 suggestions for potential routes, with most calling for better connections and filling in of trail gaps throughout the southeast side.

**“I would love to see winter recreation options like a sledding hill, skating rink, and cross country ski trails.”**  
*- Survey participant*

**“Access to parks via sidewalk or bike paths throughout our community would really help.”**  
*- Survey participant*

- Community Background
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Needs Assessment & Public Participation
- Action Plan
- Goals & Objectives
- Executive Summary
- Table of Contents

## The Dixboro Sessions

Three meetings held at the Dixboro Methodist Church focused on the development and character of the Village. The sessions were generally open format, with residents talking to consultants to provide their input. Some chose to leave notes on site, while others emailed or mailed their comments to the Township.

The Village runs along Plymouth Road, a two-lane street lined with historic residential and commercial properties. Formerly used as a primary county trunk line prior to the development of M-14, Plymouth Road sees heavy commuter traffic and is frequently used as a cut through to avoid backups along the highway. A small (~250 foot) stretch of sidewalk along the north side of the road hints at the unfulfilled potential for walkability in the area. 45 mile per hour speed limits and otherwise undeveloped shoulders make the road unpleasant and unsafe for all but the bravest individuals.

Participants asked for development of non-motorized facilities and various traffic calming devices to help slow speeds through the Village and make the area safer to walk or bike. Officials noted plans to construct a multi-use path on the south side of the road, connecting to existing facilities in Ann Arbor Township on Dixboro Road. On-street parking, mid-block crossings with flashing beacons, new lighting, and bump-outs were all identified as desirable, but subsequent conversations with the Township's engineers indicated spatial challenges that limited the ability to add these amenities. Going forward, the Township must communicate the desired improvements to the County Road Commission to add the features to long-term planning efforts.

The planned pathway will run from Dixboro Road approximately 2,500 feet east to the new Boro Restaurant. Participants expressed a desire to see the pathway extended further east to Ford Road, with connections to existing pathways in the Northbrooke development just west of M-153. Such an alignment would help connect newer housing developments to the Village, and would help to cement the Village as a destination rather than simply a drive-through community.

The Dixboro Village Green, owned by the church, serves as a public park and hosts a variety of events throughout the year (see page 55). Some participants were surprised to learn that the property was not publicly owned, while others hinted at a desire to see the property acquired by the Township.

There was also interest in the Ann Arbor School Property located on Dixboro Lane. This 40-acre property, formerly the Freeman Elementary School, has been leased to various educational organizations in the years since the school was closed. It is currently being operated as the Freeman Environmental Education Center, and is utilized for field trips and other educational activities. Approximately half of the site is forested, with the remainder left as open lawn or building. Should the school district ever choose to divest the property, it offers potential as a neighborhood park and/or community center.

Appendix E includes photos of boards from this meeting.



## May 9 Open House

The goal of the May 9 Open House was to reach residents in the Township's dense urban core. By holding the meeting in the heart of the community, the hope was that turnout would be high, and the Township would receive needed input from residents about housing, parks, and other topics relevant to the community.

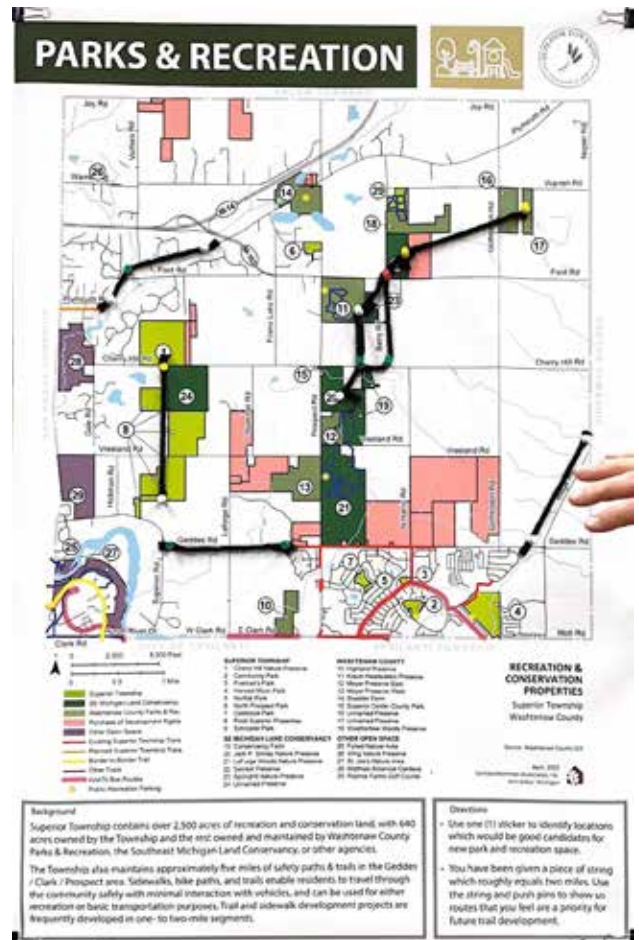
While turnout was lighter than had been hoped, the Township still received valuable input regarding park amenities and potential trail routes. A desire to see the properties in the Superior Greenway was highlighted, although how to address bike traffic through the County preserves was acknowledged as problematic. Trail infill along Geddes and Prospect Roads were viewed as a priority, and a potential path through the Rock Superior Properties from Cherry Hill Nature Preserve to Geddes Road was also discussed.

Among park amenities, the most commonly requested items were trails, play structures, bathrooms, and picnic shelters. By far the most requested item, however, was a community center. Some participants acknowledged the high cost for development and ongoing maintenance of such a facility, and expressed interest in cooperating with Ypsilanti Township to develop a jointly operated center to help defray some of the initial costs. They also pointed to Ypsilanti Township's expertise in operating their existing facility, while noting that the current facility is undersized for the population it serves. Should an opportunity for joint development and operation of a center along the Superior/Ypsilanti Township border arise, the Township should consider reaching out to their neighbors to determine the feasibility of such a joint venture.

Larger versions of the recreation-related boards are included in Appendix E.

**“While I haven’t visited parks frequently their existence positively impacts all the biking I do in the vicinity. Going forward, I will have more time to do more hiking in addition to biking.”**

**- Open house participant**



## Public Review and Public Hearing

A draft plan was reviewed by the Steering Committee and later by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Commission considered input received through the survey and reviewed the recreation trends, deficiencies, and other background information to establish the master plan goals and an action program for implementation.

The plan was then made available for public review beginning on November 7 through December 19, 2022. Hard copies were available on a limited basis at Township Hall. The plan was also available online on the website. The plan's availability for public review was advertised via social media, on the Township website, and in the local newspaper on November 7, 2022 (see Appendix A). Public input into the plan culminated in an advertised public hearing and subsequent adoption by Park Commission on December 23, 2022, and the Township Board on January 17, 2023.





Community Background

Administrative Structure

Recreation Inventory

Needs Assessment & Public Participation

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives

Executive Summary

Table of Contents

# Chapter 5: Recreation Inventory

Superior Township residents are able to take advantage of a wide variety of parks, trails, and open spaces within the Township borders. County parks and preserves, private golf courses, and other regional attractions are all located within the Township borders. Traditional park space is clustered in the southeast, the most heavily populated section of the community. The more sparsely populated northern sections of the Township contains some of the highest quality open spaces and preserves in southeast Michigan. All told, Superior Township can boast of 29 separate facilities encompassing over 2,600 acres.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) categorizes parks by size and function. Each type has a desired size, service area, number of acres per 1,000 residents, and general characteristics. Recreation facilities are broken into five primary park types:

- Mini-parks or tot lots;
- Neighborhood parks;
- Community parks;
- Regional facilities; and
- Special Use Areas.

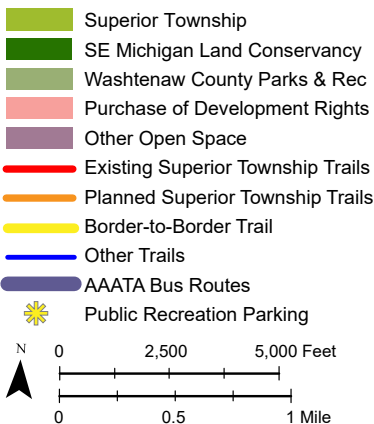
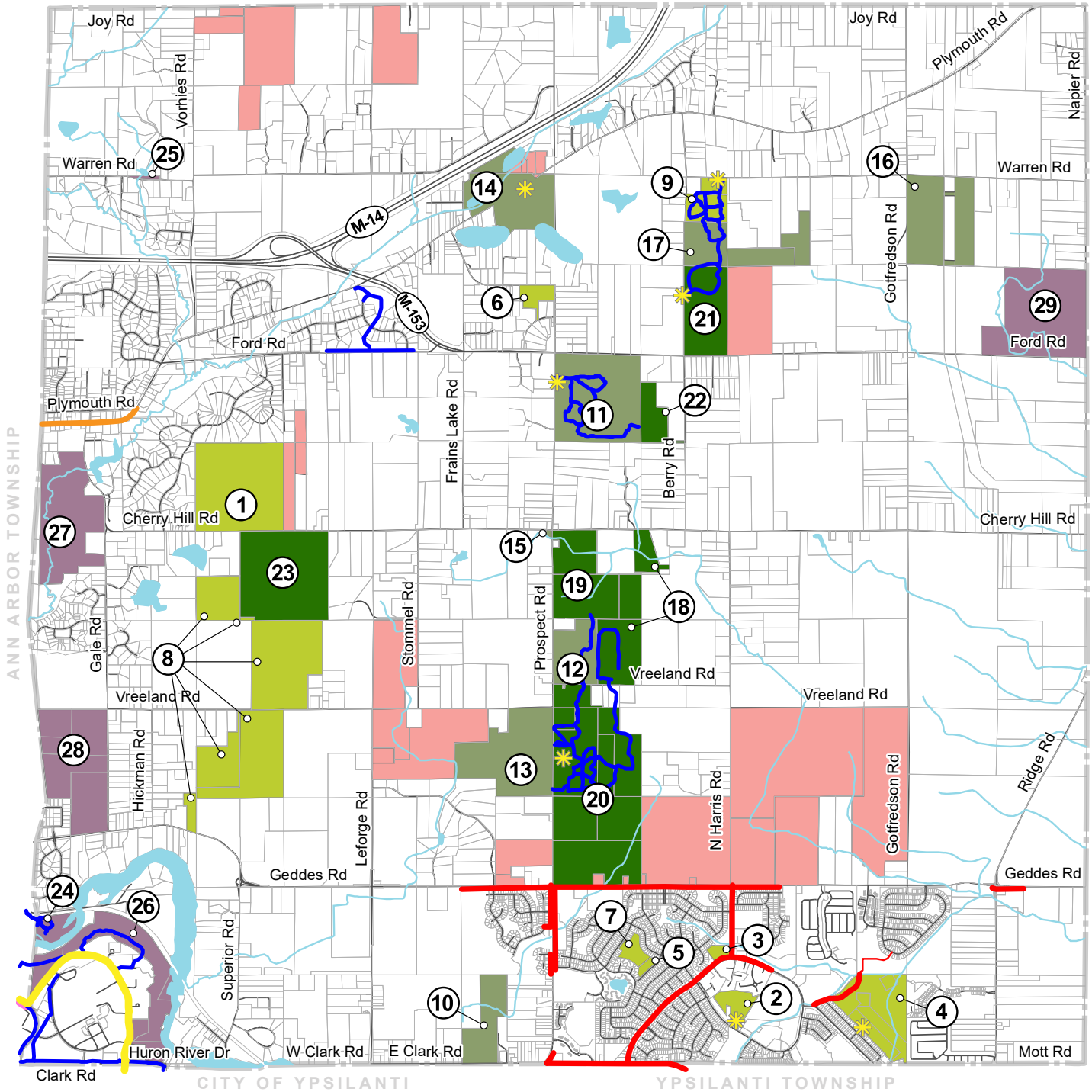
**Table 7. Local Park Amenities**

		Neighborhood / Mini Park							Special Use (Preserves)	
		Community Park - 18.4 acres	Fireman's Park - 5.1 acres	Harvest Moon Park - 91.1 acres	Norfolk Park - 3.6 acres	Oakbrook Park - 11.4 acres	North Prospect Park - 14.5 acres	Schroeter Park - 32.7 acres	Cherry Hill Nature Preserve - 160 acres	Rock Superior Properties (undeveloped) - 300.5 acres
Access	Parking Area	•	•	•	street	street	*	•	*	
	Handicap Access	•	•	•		•				
Passive Use	Play Equipment	•	•	•	•	•				
	Swings	•	•	•	•	•				
	Picnic Tables	•	•	•	•	•				
	Pavilion			•	•					
	Drinking Fountains					•				
	Grills					•				
	Restrooms	P	•			P				
Active Use Court / Turf Games	Baseball/Softball	•			•					
	Tennis/Pickleball Courts	•				•				
	Basketball Courts			•						
	Soccer/Multi-use Fields	•	•							
Misc	Trails / Walking Paths (asphalt/concrete)		•	•					•	
	Rustic Trails (mown grass)			•	•	•	•	•	•	
	Boardwalk / Viewing Platforms								•	

\*Note: Shoulder parking is available at North Prospect Park and Cherry Hill Nature Preserve.

P = Portable toilets installed summer of 2022. Toilets are rented and made available at parks during special events throughout the system.

**Map 3. Superior Township Existing Recreation Facilities**



**SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**

1. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve
2. Community Park
3. Fireman's Park
4. Harvest Moon Park
5. Norfolk Park
6. North Prospect Park
7. Oakbrook Park
8. Rock Superior Properties
9. Schroeter Park

**SE MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY**

18. Conservancy Farm
19. Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve
20. LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
21. Secret Preserve
22. Springhill Nature Preserve
23. Unnamed Preserve

**WASHTENAW COUNTY**

10. Highland Preserve
11. Kosch Headwaters Preserve
12. Meyer Preserve East
13. Meyer Preserve West
14. Staebler Farm
15. Superior Center County Park
16. Lost Wagon Lake Preserve
17. Weatherbee Woods Preserve

**OTHER OPEN SPACE**

24. Forest Nature Area
25. Wing Nature Preserve
26. St. Joe's Nature Area
27. Matthaei Botanical Gardens
28. Radrick Farms Golf Course
29. Hickory Creek Golf Course

**RECREATION & CONSERVATION PROPERTIES**

Superior Township  
Washtenaw County

Source: Washtenaw County GIS

April, 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Linear parks, greenways, or trails would traditionally be categorized as a “special use” area. This Plan treats trails as a sixth category. For a full description of recreation facility types, see “Chapter 4: Needs Analysis & Public Participation” on page 24

While a diverse portfolio of recreation activities is desired, it is not uncommon for a community to only have recreation facilities in a few of those categories. In Superior Township’s case, the majority of acreage is

dedicated to special use areas (i.e. preserves). Based on a combination of the sizes and types of usage, all of Superior Township’s facilities would be described as either special use or neighborhood parks.

This section describes the recreational opportunities available to Superior residents. The information contained in the following pages was compiled from community recreation plans, websites, aerial photographs and field surveys. Program options are described beginning on page 67.

## COMMUNITY PARK

SIZE: 18.4 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood Park (passive-active)

### EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Multi-purpose playing field
- Softball/baseball field
- Swingset
- Play structure
- Benches & picnic tables
- Parking
- Tennis/pickleball courts

Community Park straddles the categories of community and neighborhood parks. While the park offers some active-use amenities, its size and facilities are just below the threshold for Community Park to be truly considered a “community park”. Even so, the park’s position next to over 500 apartments and 500 homes ensure that it receives frequent and oftentimes heavy visitation. Many of these residences are government subsidized. Approximately 10 of the park’s 18 acres are dedicated as unprogrammed open space, and this acreage is frequently utilized by families and neighbors for picnics, informal sports games, and other activities.

A new walkway running from the parking lot to the play equipment was installed in the summer of 2022. This is a first step towards improving the accessibility for the park. Steep slopes and a drainage ditch are challenging obstacles which can be overcome by careful and creative planning.

Increasing visibility and safety remains a priority for this and other properties in Superior Township’s park system. A security light installed in the parking lot in 2017, and regular pruning of trees and brush clearing has helped to improve visibility throughout the park. Daily inspections and garbage pick-up ensure the park remains well-maintained and fosters pride in the park among neighbors.

Two tennis courts, originally installed in 1978, were resurfaced and restriped to allow pickleball play in 2021. The existing play equipment was replaced in 1999 and, while still functional, is due for replacement. The foot bridge crossing the drain was replaced in 2013.

Two properties near the park offer intriguing possibilities. Informal rustic pathways within Community Park are connected to and lead into a 37-acre wooded lot to the east. These informal trails were not developed by the Parks Department, but historical images suggest that they have been popular for hiking for many years. To the south, the Ypsilanti School District’s Cheney School has been closed since 2012. The 27-acre property could potentially be developed community center jointly with Ypsilanti Township. Such a development would greatly benefit a historically underserved neighborhood and citizens of both townships.



Community Background

Administrative Structure

Recreation Inventory

Needs Assessment & Public Participation

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives

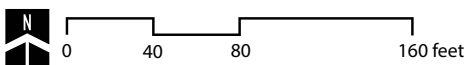
Executive Summary

Table of Contents

Figure 7. Community Park - Detail



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



## COMMUNITY PARK - DETAIL

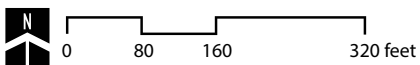
Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

Figure 8. Community Park - Full Park



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



## COMMUNITY PARK

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

## FIREMAN'S PARK

SIZE: 5.1 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood Park (passive-active)

### EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Multi-purpose playing field
- Swingset
- Play structure
- Benches & picnic tables
- Parking
- Walking path and access to multi-use trails along North Harris Road & MacArthur Boulevard.

Originally created when four additional acres in conjunction with the fire substation was built in 1974, Fireman's Park serves some of the highest population density in the Township. Apartments south of MacArthur Boulevard and single-family home developments to the north result in a mix of users with a variety of recreation needs. Funds from the Building Health Communities grant program allowed brush clearing, development of a shaded picnic area, and the addition of split-rail fencing around sensitive wetland areas.

Fireman's is well suited to access by both vehicular and non-motorized transportation. Multi-use pathways run along the south side of MacArthur and east side of North Harris, and will connect to the new Ypsilanti District Library branch being build less than a quarter mile north on Harris. In August 2022, the Township Board approved construction of two new crosswalks that will further enhance access to the park.

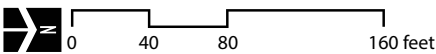
The bulk of the five-acre park is left as unprogrammed open space. This space is used for a variety of programs, including the annual Kite & Rocket Day held in June, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Movies-in-the-Park. Benches and picnic tables provide spaces to rest for parents and caregivers. The Ypsilanti District Library branch has traditionally provided restrooms for park visitors, making the park ideal for programming events. With the opening of the new library on Harris, there is some question about the ongoing availability of these restrooms.



Figure 9. Fireman's Park



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



# FIREMAN'S PARK

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

- Community Background
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Needs Assessment & Public Participation
- Action Plan
- Goals & Objectives
- Executive Summary
- Table of Contents

# HARVEST MOON PARK

SIZE: 91.1 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood Park (passive-active)

## EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Multi-purpose playing field
- Basketball court
- Swingset
- Play structure
- Picnic pavilion
- Benches & picnic tables
- Parking
- Walking path, rustic trails, and multi-use trails



Harvest Moon is the largest park in the Superior Township park system, although the primary park area makes up only 3 acres of the site. The remainder of the park consists of dense woods, much of which is forested wetland. The Bazley-Foster Drain bisects the park and defines the north and western edges of the property.

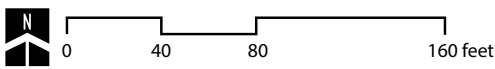
Harvest Moon includes two multi-use trails on the northeast and southwest sides of the property, connecting Harvest Lane to the Woodside Village and Bromley Park neighborhoods. Easements leading into the park from Woodside suggest an opportunity to add a path along the north side, forming a loop that connects the three neighborhoods together. The Harvest Lane neighborhood is extremely tight knit, and an annual community event held at the park could help to bring the three different neighborhoods closer together. Finally, the far southeast corner of the property is immediately adjacent to Ypsilanti Township's Bud n' Blossom Park, and could provide an opportunity to connect the two parks.

The park includes the park system's only basketball court, as well as a walking loop, play structure, swing set, and picnic pavilion. A small gravel parking lot is provided between 1592 and 1604 Harvest Lane.

Figure 10. Harvest Moon Park - Detail



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



--- Rustic (Mown Grass) Path

## HARVEST MOON PARK - DETAIL

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan


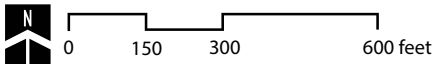
August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI 

Figure 11. Harvest Moon Park - Full Park



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Neormap, Inc., March 29, 2022



- Rustic (Mown Grass) Path
- Multi-use Trail

## HARVEST MOON PARK

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI



Community  
Background

Administrative  
Structure

Recreation Inventory

Needs Assessment &  
Public Participation

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives

Executive Summary

Table of Contents

## NORTH PROSPECT PARK

SIZE: 14.5 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood Park (passive)

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Natural areas
- Rustic (mown grass) trails

North Prospect Park is largely undeveloped, consisting primarily of mown grass trails. The open fields are of fair quality, with some encroachment by Canadian thistle and other invasive plants. Wetland soils on the south side of the property drain into a small open pond.

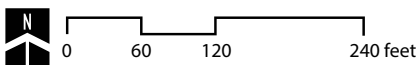
The property was originally acquired in 2004 to allow relocation of Firestation #1, but officially named a park in 2009. Parking is possible on the shoulder of North Prospect Road, and the Township is investigating opportunities for off-road parking.



Figure 12. North Prospect Park



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



--- Rustic (Mown Grass) Path

## NORTH PROSPECT PARK

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

## NORFOLK / OAKBROOK PARK

SIZE: 15 acres total

Norfolk 3.6 acres

Oakbrook 11.4 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood Parks (passive-active)

### EXISTING AMENITIES - NORFOLK:

- Picnic shelter and grills
- Swings
- Rustic trails

### EXISTING AMENITIES - OAKBROOK:

- Playground equipment
- Swings
- Ball field
- Drinking fountain
- Picnic tables and benches
- Rustic trails
- Sidewalk and accessible walkway



Technically two separate parks, Norfolk and Oakbrook parks serve a dense neighborhood consisting primarily of single family home and some apartments. The character of the two properties is very distinct, with Norfolk being heavily wooded and passive, while Oakbrook is open and better situated for active uses.

Oakbrook Park was originally purchased by Willow Run Community Schools, and a lease agreement between the schools and Township allowed the property to be developed as a park.

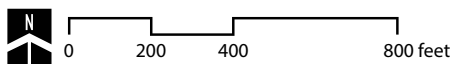
In the previous plan, suggestions to add off-street parking, a picnic shelter, and bathrooms were met with resistance by nearby residents. Public input received for this update did not indicate similar concerns, and in fact there were some calls for updated play equipment and additional picnic shelters. Improving drainage and trail surfacing was also noted as problems to be addressed. Any future plans for the parks should be sensitive to previously expressed concerns and ensure that new amenities remain consistent with the parks' roles as neighborhood amenities.



Figure 13. Norfolk and Oakbrook Parks



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



- Rustic (Mown Grass) Path
- Crushed Limestone Path

## NORFOLK PARK / OAKBROOK PARK

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

# SCHROETER PARK

SIZE: 32.7 acres

TYPE: Neighborhood Park (passive)

## EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Natural areas
- Rustic (mown grass) trails
- Parking (gravel)
- Equine friendly

While officially designated as a park, Schroeter Park effectively functions as a nature preserve. By receiving a “park” designation, however, the Township is able to include some passive-use facilities that might not be allowed in a true preserve. Schroeter Park was willed to the Township by the Schroeter family and under the terms of the donation, is limited to passive recreational uses. The park includes a small parking lot, open fields, wooded areas, rustic trails, and a wetland that traverses down the middle of the property from north to south.

Schroeter Park is connected with Weatherbee Woods Preserve to the south, a Washtenaw County’s Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) property, by almost 1.4 miles of unimproved trails. South of Weatherbee is the Secrest Nature Preserve, an 80-acre property owned by the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC). These three properties, in turn, form an extension of the Superior Greenway (see page 57 for more information on the Greenway).

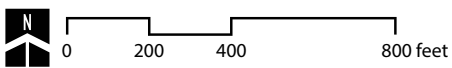
The connection to Weatherbee Woods and Secrest Nature Preserve offers opportunities for collaboration on events and programming. These same connections, however, may represent restrictions for trail development. Both NAPP and SMLC, for example, prohibits biking and equestrian activities on their properties. NAPP prohibits dogs, but SMLC does allow dogs on leashes. The differing rules between properties could cause confusion and frustration among potential trail users, and must be carefully addressed as these properties begin to experience higher visitor levels.



Figure 14. Schroeter Park



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



--- Rustic (Mown Grass) Path

## SCHROETER PARK

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI

Community Background

Administrative Structure

Recreation Inventory

Needs Assessment & Public Participation

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives

Executive Summary

Table of Contents

## CHERRY HILL NATURE PRESERVE

SIZE: 160 acres

TYPE: Special Use: Nature Preserve (passive)

### EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Rustic walking paths
- Boardwalks and viewing platforms



Cherry Hill Nature Preserve is perhaps the gem of the Superior Township park system. Acquired in 1997 as part of a cooperative effort of Superior Township, the Superior Land Conservancy, and the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, the preserve was put under the purview of the Park Commission in 2001. Observation decks and boardwalks constructed in 2014 and 2015 look out over wetlands in the southwest portion of the property.



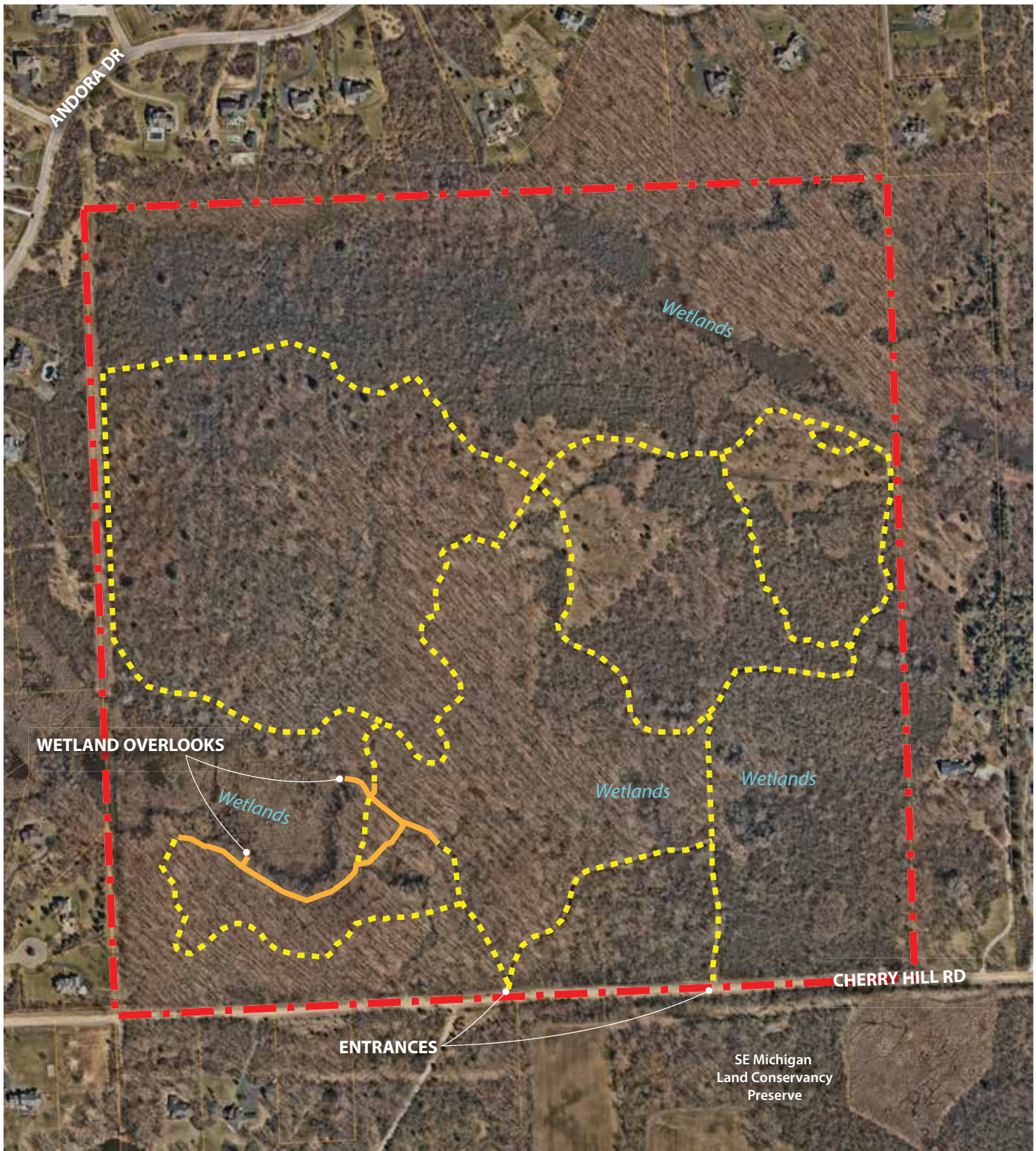
Cherry Hill is highly popular with hikers, bikers, skiers, and regular conservation/study groups, and regularly attracts visitors from around the Ann Arbor area. With the exception of the boardwalk, all of the trails are rustic, composed either of packed earth or mown grass. While a relatively small portion of the Preserve is classified as wetlands, most of the property is very wet in the spring with ephemeral springs present in multiple locations. The mowed trails in particular can become inundated with water, and heavy foot traffic has caused damage in some of the more popular areas.



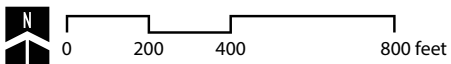
Steep terrain along the southern edge of the property makes accessibility a challenge, but an extension of the boardwalks to new off-road parking facilities has long been a goal of the Township. Ongoing maintenance includes prescribed burns and other measures to help control invasive species. Additional improvements such as bridges, trail markers, and bird houses have been added with cooperation with volunteer groups including the Superior Land Conservancy, Superior Land Preservation Society, Boy Scouts of America, and other resident volunteers.



Figure 15. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nemap, Inc., March 29, 2022




- - - - - Rustic Path
- Boardwalk

## CHERRY HILL NATURE PRESERVE

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

August 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates  
Ann Arbor, MI



## Other Township Properties

### Rock Superior Properties

In December 2021, the Superior Township Board of Trustees approved a purchase agreement with Rock Superior, LLC, to acquire roughly 305 acres of forest and cropland running from just south of Cherry Hill Road to Geddes Road. Originally proposed to house a 2,000-unit mobile home park, the parcels form the largest contiguous Township controlled property.

While not technically parkland, “the Rock property” offers enormous potential for both conservation and recreation development, including a potential trail from the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve down to Geddes Road. For the short-term, much of the land will continue to be leased for farming. Preliminary long-term plans include the development of a summer camp for area youth.

### Township Hall (former Schock Park)

Located at the northeast corner of Cherry Hill and Prospect Roads, the Township Hall property was formerly known as “Schock Park”. The site houses the Township offices, the main fire station, a community room, and the park maintenance shop. The old Township Hall was moved to the site in 1987, where it was renovated and continues to be used for Park Commission meetings. The property no longer provides mown trails or other recreation facilities. The parking lot south of the offices are used for the Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve, located immediately south of Cherry Hill Road.



## Trails & Pathways

Superior Township operates approximately 4.8 miles of multi-use trails. The trails are clustered in the southeast corner of the Township, with the longest stretches found along Geddes Road and MacArthur Boulevard. These trails complement the subdivision sidewalk network, providing a nearly contiguous network of non-motorized routes in the area. There are gaps in the pathway system, however, notably on Prospect Road south of Berkshire Drive, and on Geddes Road between Andover Drive and Ridge Road. Closing these gaps should be a priority to ensure safe travel for residents in the densest areas of the Township.

Planning is underway to construct a new trail on the south side of Plymouth Road starting at Dixboro Road and running approximately 2,600 feet east to the Boro Restaurant. The trail would connect with facilities running approximately 3 miles along Dixboro Road to the Matthaei Botanical Garden, and then south to Geddes. The long term vision for the Plymouth Road pathway is for it to continue east-northeast to Ford Road and to existing facilities in the Northbrooke subdivision. The latter pathway is approximately 1 mile in length.

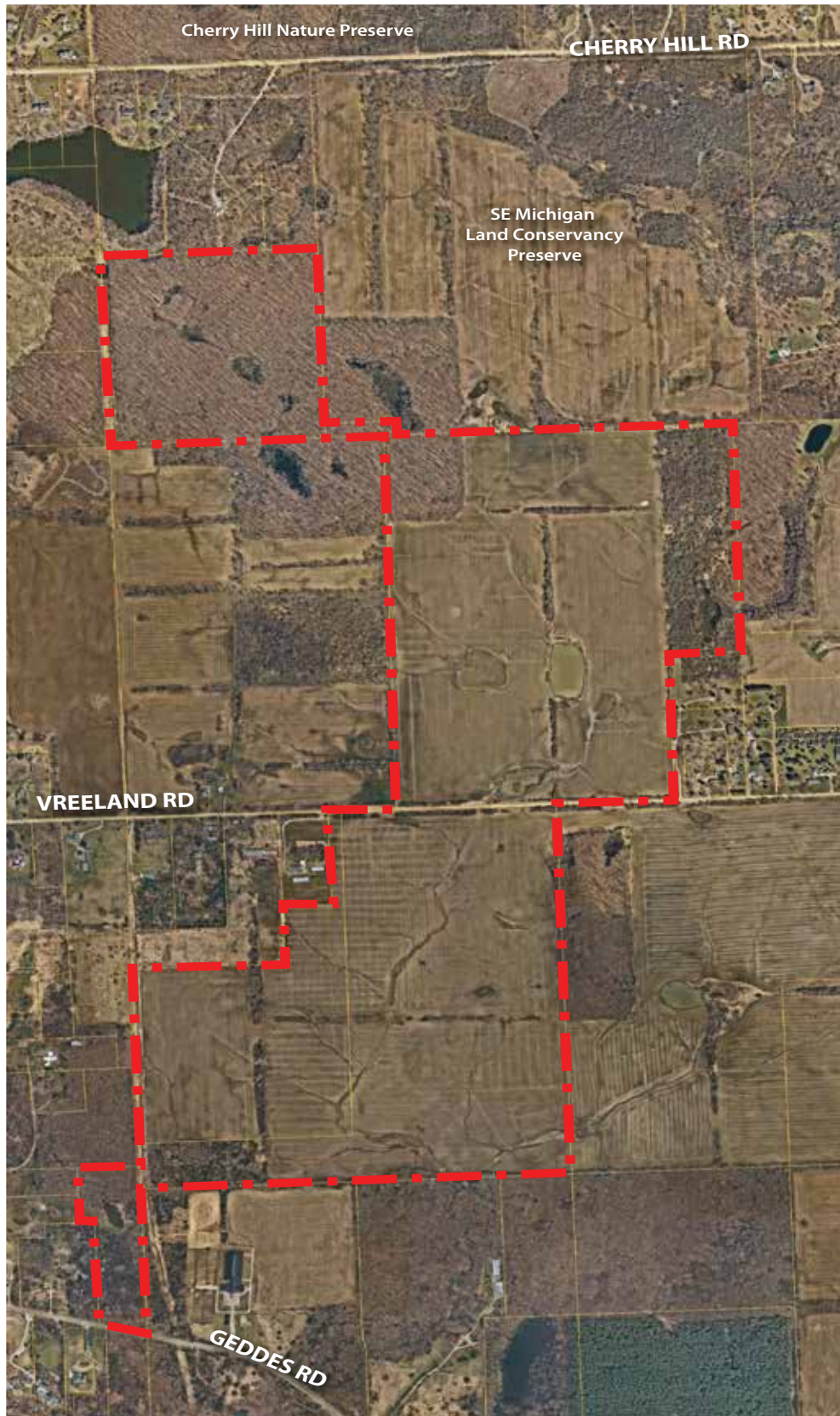
Washtenaw County’s Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) touches the far southwest corner of the Township, and offers a connection point a vast regional non-motorized network. Further descriptions of the B2B, Iron Belle Trail, and other regional trail systems begins on page 98.

## School Facilities

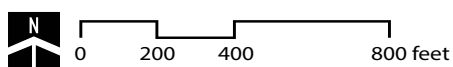
Superior Township is served by three school districts: Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Plymouth-Canton. Around seventy-five percent of the Township’s residents live within the Ypsilanti Community School District. All three school districts provide recreation resources for students, but geography (distance to the schools) and school regulations means that access is limited at best for most residents. There are no public schools currently operating within the Township boundary; the former Cheney Elementary School has been shuttered since 2012.

Each school district provides swimming programs to Superior residents within their jurisdiction. Gym facilities, athletic fields, and room rentals are offered on a case-by-case basis within the individual districts.

Figure 16. Rock Superior Properties



Aerial Image & Parcel Data: Nearmap, Inc., March 29, 2022



## ROCK SUPERIOR PROPERTIES

Superior Charter Township  
Washtenaw County, Michigan

## Quasi-Public & Private Recreation Facilities

Several land conservancies play an important role in land preservation in Superior Township. The ***Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy*** (SMLC) is based in Superior Township and maintains over 645 acres including:

- Conservancy Farm - 99 acres;
- Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve - 100 acres;
- LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve - 335 acres;
- Secrest Preserve - 80 acres; and
- Springhill Nature Preserve - 31 acres

These properties, combined with the WCPARC and NAPP properties, form the ***Superior Greenway***. The Greenway is a collaboration of Superior Township, SMLC, NAPP, WCPARC, and the City of Ann Arbor Open Space and Parkland Preservation Program. It consists of roughly 2,750-acres of protected and preserved land that parallels Prospect Road between Ford Road and Geddes Road (see Figure 18 on page 57) . While not all of the conserved properties are publicly accessible, most of the preserves are, and they offer over six miles of contiguous trails throughout the system.

The ***Michigan Land Conservancy*** (MLC) acquired 162 acres immediately south of the Cherry Hill Road in late 2021. This property could provide an important connection between the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and the Rock Superior properties, allowing formation of a new contiguous greenway and potential off-road trail connections for the western side of the Township.

The ***Dixboro Village Green***, owned by the Dixboro United Methodist Church, holds numerous events throughout the year including a Farmer's Market, the Dixboro Fair, Music on the Green, and more. Located at the intersection of Plymouth Road and Short Street, the 1.6-acre property includes an historic schoolhouse with a recently added performance stage, a multi-use ballfield/ open space, informal off-street parking, and picnic facilities. The church and Township regularly coordinate on event programming, and the space is considered an unofficial park by many community residents.

Figure 17. Dixboro Village Green



Image source: Second Wave Media

Other recreation properties owned by conservation groups or other private organizations in or near Superior Township include:

- The Forest Nature Area, an 18-acre parcel along the Huron River owned by the City of Ann Arbor;
- The Wing Nature Preserve, a 2-acre parcel on Warren Road owned by the Washtenaw Audubon Society;
- The St. Joe Nature Area, 135 acres along the Huron River owned by Mercy Health;
- Matthaei Botanical Gardens, owned by the University of Michigan with property in both Superior and Ann Arbor Townships;
- Radrick Farms Golf Course, a private facility operated by the University of Michigan and open to alumni and University staff;
- Hickory Creek Golf Course, a public golf course on Ford and Napier Roads in the northeast corner of the Township;
- Flying Pilgrims RC Model Club, a radio controlled airplane club located off Ridge Road north of Geddes Road;
- Huron Valley Tennis Club, providing indoor and outdoor racket sports activities;
- Murray Lake Club and boat rental;
- Arbor-Joy Golf Driving Range;
- Plymouth Orchards, offering hay rides and a petting farm; and
- The Eastern Michigan University Campus. While outside of the Township limits, the campus provides some athletic fields for public use when not in use for university programs and events.

## Adjacent Municipal Recreation Facilities

Ann Arbor, Canton, and Ypsilanti Townships and the City of Ann Arbor all offer outstanding recreation facilities within a short distance of Superior Township's borders. While these facilities are obviously not under the control of Superior Township, they do provide recreation options for Township residents. Ypsilanti Township in particular has three facilities (Green Oaks Golf Course, Bud n' Blossom Park, and the Ypsilanti Township Community Center) directly on the border of Superior Township. Other notable facilities within a 1/2 mile radius of Superior Township include:

- Patriot Park and Independence Park (Canton Township);
- Apple Ridge, Holmes, Rambling Road, Tot Lot, and Community Center Parks (Ypsilanti Township);
- Marshall Nature Area (owned by the City of Ann Arbor in Ann Arbor Township); and
- Homer-McLaughling Woods and the Dominican Meadows Preserve (owned by WCPARC in Ann Arbor Township)

In addition to the parks that fall within the immediate service area of Superior Township, the surrounding communities provide a variety of recreation properties that are available to visit. These facilities include:

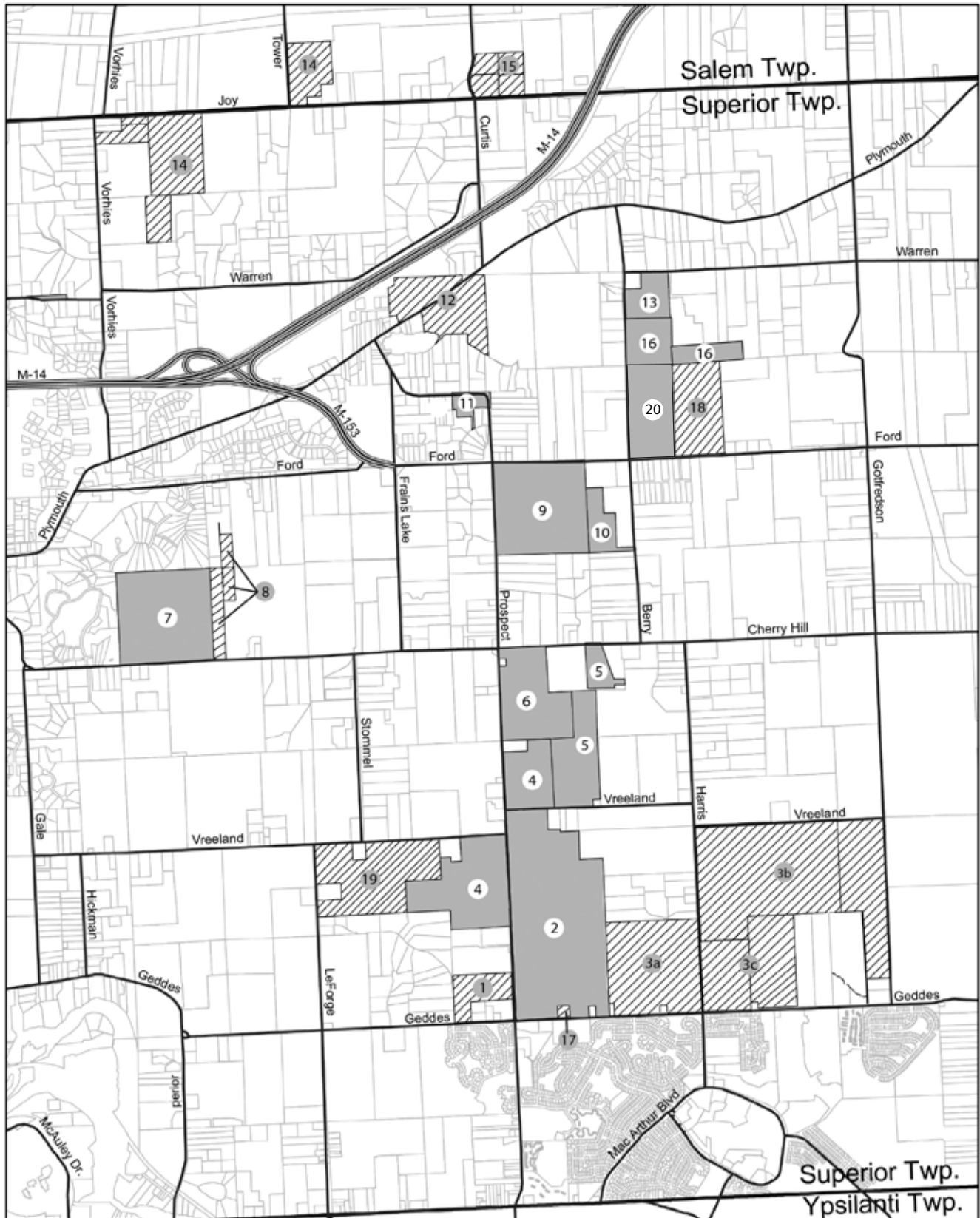
- City of Ann Arbor: 163 park properties including dog parks, swimming pools, boat launches, and ice rinks;
- Ann Arbor Township: No local parks, but includes multiple county facilities;
- Canton Township: 14 recreation properties including a golf course, dog park, and splash pads;
- Pittsfield Township: 17 parks and preserves and more than 10 miles of paved non-motorized greenways;
- Plymouth Township: 6 parks including a spray park, golf course, and accessible play ground;
- Van Buren Township: 6 parks including beaches, pickleball, and a sled hill;
- City of Ypsilanti: 15 parks and 4 facilities including an arts center and senior center; and
- Ypsilanti Township: 30 facilities including fishing access, an accessible kayak launch, and an accessible playground.

Figure 18. Superior Greenway



# The Superior Greenway

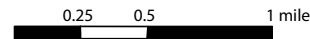
A greenbelt between Ann Arbor & Detroit



**Key to protected property in the Superior Greenway**

#	Property	Owner	Acres
1	Private Conservation Easement	Superior Charter Township Held Easement	40
2	LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	325
3a	Brookside (Schultz) Farm (private)	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy Held Easement	158
3b	Brookside (Schultz) Farm (private)	State of Mich. Held Easement	369
3c	Brookside (Schultz) Farm (private)	City of Ann Arbor Held Easement	136
4	Meyer Preserve	Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission	183
5	Conservancy Farm	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	99
6	Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	100
7	Cherry Hill Nature Preserve	Superior Charter Township	160
8	Private Conservation Easements (3)	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy Held Easements	35
9	Kosch-Headwaters Preserve	Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission	160
10	Springhill Nature Preserve	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	30
11	North Prospect Park	Superior Charter Township	15
12	Staebler Farm	Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission	98
13	Schroeter Park	Superior Charter Township	33
14	Private Conservation Easement	City of Ann Arbor Held Easement	165
15	Private Conservation Easements (2)	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy Held Easements	42
16	Weatherbee Woods Preserve	Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission	65
17	Conservation Easement	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy Held Easement	2.5
18	Conservation Easement	Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission	82
19	Conservation Easement	Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission	129
20	Seacrest Preserve	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	80

Scale:



- Publicly Accessible Land (trail maps available on request)
- Protected Land Not Publicly Accessible

Please respect owners of private property by only visiting land listed as publicly accessible.

All preserves are open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset.

Questions:

- Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.....(734) 484-6565
- Ann Arbor Open Space and Parkland Preservation Program....(734) 794-6210
- Superior Township Parks and Recreation Department.....(734) 480-5502
- Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.....(734) 971-6337

Map is for general reference only. All information subject to change. Base map data and parcel lines provided by Washtenaw County Geographic Information System © 2006 Washtenaw County. Protected land data updated February 27, 2014. Washtenaw County, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy or their partners do not make any claim to the accuracy of this information.



## Regional Recreation Facilities

In addition to the local recreation facilities, there are over 180 acres of county recreational facilities within five miles of the Township, and more than 41,000 acres of public parks and open spaces within 40 miles, or roughly an hour drive, of the Township. The primary providers of regional state and county park systems, and the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority Metroparks also provide. These facilities are considered regional recreational facilities. They are large facilities that provide opportunities such as golfing, water parks, camping, nature study & hiking, and other activities which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. "Map 4. Regional Recreation Facilities" on page 54 depicts the location of nearby regional parks, and a table of amenities at facilities located within a half hour of the Township is provided on page 63.

### Huron-Clinton Metroparks (HCMA)

The Huron-Clinton Metropark system is a regional park system spanning Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Livingston counties. Thirteen properties cover over 24,000 acres, with a wide variety of both active and passive uses. Park amenities span a wide range of recreation opportunities and include features such as major splash parks, nature centers, marinas, and extensive trail systems.

While there are no Metroparks within the Township, residents are within 20 to 25 miles of all but three of the parks. Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville is the closest park, and offers activities such as splash pad and water slide, boat rental, and camping.

### Michigan State Parks

Twelve state parks and recreation areas are located within an hour drive of Superior Township. Maybury State Park, located in nearby Northville Township, offers outstanding hiking, biking, equestrian, and cross country skiing trails. Slightly farther north, Island Lake State Park encompasses over 4,000 acres on the Huron River. The Huron River itself was designated as the 18th water trail in the National Water Trail system. Accessible kayak and canoe launches are available at several Metroparks, state parks, and municipal parks around the region including Ann Arbor's Gallup Park and Ypsilanti Township's North Hydro Park.

## Washtenaw County Recreation Facilities

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC) provides a diverse set of recreation experiences for county residents to enjoy. WCPARC operates thirteen different park facilities across the county, with amenities including a recreation center, golf course, large dog park, and historical site. Two WCPARC parks are located within the Township Borders:

- **Staebler Farm County Park**, located on Plymouth Road, is a 98-acre former farmstead containing historic buildings, farm fields, and a variety of natural resources. WCPARC adopted the park's Site Master Plan which envisions maintenance of the historic homestead, a new multi-purpose building, walking trails, a playscape, and, working farms among other items; and
- **Superior Center County Park**, a one-acre opposite from Township Hall at the southwest corner of Cherry Hill and Prospect Roads. The park includes an open play field, parking, and picnic areas.

In addition to the aforementioned facilities, the Natural Area Preservation Program (NAPP), which is administered by WCPARC, operates 28 preserves, five of which are located in the Township and conserve over 500 acres of high quality wetlands, woods, and fields. The properties include:

- **Highland Preserve**, 50 acres on Clark Road west of Prospect. The property is not open to the public;
- **Kosch Headwaters Preserve**, 155 acres featuring 1.74 miles of trails and prime bird watching;
- **Meyer Preserve** consisting of two parcels totaling 315 acres, and featuring 4.4 miles of trails;
- The newly designated 102-acre **Lost Wagon Nature Preserve** which is currently not open to the public; and
- **Weatherbee Woods Preserve**, a 64-acre property just south of Schroeter Park.

These preserves are important components of the Superior Greenway which is described in more detail beginning on page 55.

## Wayne, Oakland, & Other County Facilities

Superior Township's position near the northeast corner of Washtenaw County means that residents are close to park facilities in both Wayne and Oakland Counties. While the parks are open to all visitors, the counties typically charge a different rate admission fees for residents versus non-residents.

Eight Wayne County facilities and two Oakland County facilities are located within a half hour drive of Superior Township. They include Wayne County's popular Hines Park, a 17-mile long string greenway incorporating multiple parks and trails across seven separate communities, and Oakland County's Lyon Oaks, a 1,041-acre facility boasting a 13-acre dog park, golf course, sports fields, and limited archery hunting.

Jackson and Monroe Counties have healthy park systems as well, with amenities ranging from beaches to extensive trails. Livingston and Macomb Counties park offerings are much more limited.

Figure 19. Holiday Lightfest at Hines Park



Image source: Wayne County

Figure 20. Staebler Farm Concept Plan

### THE COLLABORATIVE

### Zone 1 - Staebler Farm South

#### Legend

1. Historic Homestead
  - Maintained and repurposed for educational programming
2. Existing Park Entrance
3. Existing Parking Lot
4. New Multipurpose Building
  - Additional space for agricultural-based educational programming
5. Future Glass Blowing Studio or other class space
6. Future Crafts Shops
7. Future Parking
8. Orchard and Heirloom Garden
9. Historic Farming Plots
10. Overlook
11. Orchard
12. Natural Surface Walking Trail
13. Plymouth Road Fencing and new Street Trees
14. Bike Parking
15. Drain field
16. Explored solar array location



Image source: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

### **Washtenaw County Parks**

1. Cavanaugh Lake
2. County Farm Park
3. Independence Lake
4. Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center
5. Park Lyndon
6. Park Northfield
7. Parker Mill County Park
8. Pierce Lake
9. Rolling Hills County Park
10. Sharon Mills County Park
11. Staebler Farm County Park
12. Superior Center County Park
13. Swift Run Dog Park
14. Watkins Lake County Preserve

### **Wayne County Parks**

15. Bell Creek County Park
16. Bennett Arboretum
17. Crosswinds Marsh
18. Elizabeth Park
19. Hines County Park
20. Lola Valley County Park
21. Lower Rouge County Parkway
22. Middle Rouge Parkway
23. Wayne County Fairgrounds
24. Wayne County Family Aquatic Center
25. William P. Holliday Nature Preserve

### **Oakland County Parks**

26. Catalpa Oaks
27. Glen Oaks
28. Groveland Oaks
29. Highland Oaks
30. Independence Oaks
31. Lyon Oaks
32. Orion Oaks
33. Rose Oaks
34. Springfield Oaks
35. Waterford Oaks
36. White Lake Oaks

### **Jackson County Parks**

37. Burns Property
38. Cascades
39. Clark Lake

40. Clear Lake Park
41. Falling Waters Trail
42. Gillet's Lake
43. Grass Lake
44. Horton Mill Pond
45. James J Keely
46. Lime Lake
47. Little Wolf Lake
48. Minard Mills
49. Pleasant Lake County Park and Campground
50. Portage Lake
51. Round Lake
52. Sparks Foundation
53. Swain's Lake County Park and Campground
54. Vandercook Lake
55. Vineyard Lake

### **Livingston County Parks**

56. Filmore County Park
57. Owen Lutz County Park

### **Macomb County Parks**

58. Freedom Hill County Park

### **Monroe County Parks**

59. Heck County Park
60. Monroe County Fair Grounds
61. Nike County Park
62. Vienna Park
63. Waterloo County Park
64. West County Park

### **Huron-Clinton Metroparks**

65. Delhi Metropark
66. Dexter-Huron Metropark
67. Hudson Mills Metropark
68. Huron Meadows Metropark
69. Indian Springs Metropark
70. Kensington Metropark
71. Lake Erie Metropark
72. Lake St. Clair Metropark
73. Lower Huron Metropark
74. Oakwoods Metropark
75. Willow Metropark

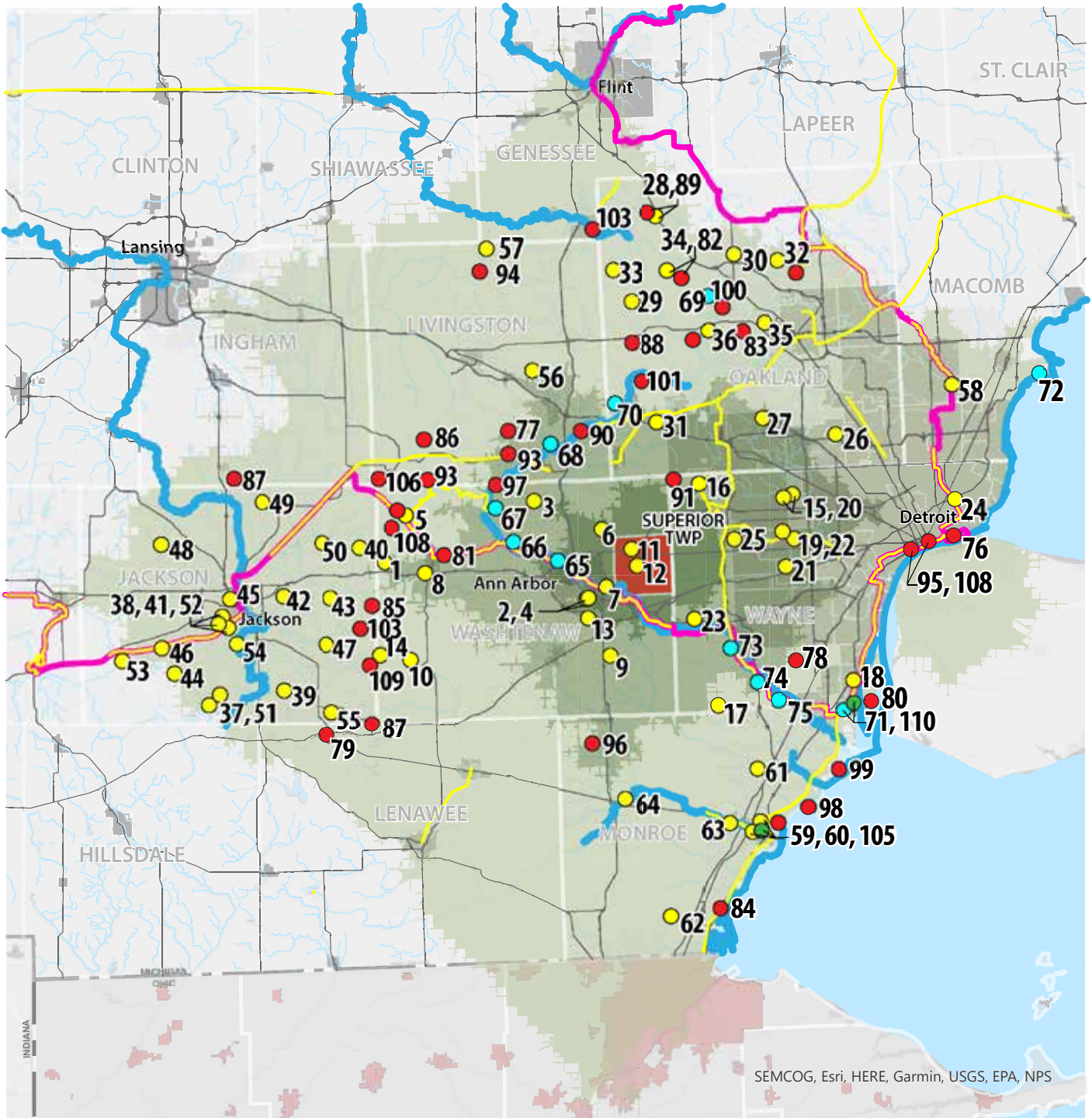
### **State Rec. Facilities**

76. Belle Isle Park
77. Brighton State Recreation Area
78. Brownstown Prairie State Wildlife Area
79. Cambridge Junction
80. Celeron Island
81. Chelsea State Game Area
82. Davisburg State Game Area
83. Dodge #4 State Park
84. Erie State Game Area
85. Goose Lake State Game Area
86. Gregory State Game Area
87. Hayes State Park
88. Highland State Recreation Area
89. Holly Recreation Area
90. Island Lake State Recreation Area
91. Maybury State Park
92. Meridian Baseline State Park
93. Mike Levine Lakelands State Trail
94. Oak Grove State Game Area
95. Outdoor Adventure Center
96. Petersburg State Game Area
97. Pinckney Recreation Area
98. Pointe Aux Peaux State Wildlife Area
99. Pointe Mouillee State Game Area
100. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area
101. Proud Lake State Recreation Area
102. Seven Lakes State Park
103. Sharonville State Game Area
104. Sterling State Park
105. Unadilla State Wildlife Area
106. Waterloo State Recreation Area
107. Watkins Lake State Park
108. William G. Milliken State Park And Harbor

### **Federal Facilities**

109. River Raisin National Battlefield Park
110. Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Map 4. Regional Recreation Opportunities



**Approximate Drive Time Radius**

- 0 - 14 minutes
- 15 - 29 minutes
- 30 - 60 minutes

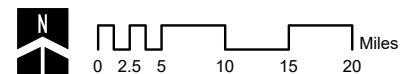
- Major Regional Trails
- Iron Belle Trail
- State-designated Water Trail

**Facility Administrators**

- County Park & Recreation Facilities
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- State / Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- National Parks / US Forest Service

# Regional Recreation Opportunities

Superior Township, Washtenaw County



September 2022  
 Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan











## Recreation Programs And Services

Superior Township began developing recreation and leisure opportunities in 1988 with a focus on developing a “core user group,” that would not overburden the limited staff and facilities of the department, while simultaneously enhancing public awareness of the Park Commission and its effect on residents’ quality of life. While the concept has been refined over the years to adjust to budget constraints and changes in personnel, the core sentiments remain in place. By serving a select, well defined group of residents, the Park Commission is better able to serve the population as a whole.

The core user group was defined as children ranging from age 5 to 14. This group was targeted for attention because:

- There was a stated need from Township residents;
- Programming could be accomplished within the limitations imposed by facilities and budgets;
- Large concentrations of young families exist in the most highly populated areas of the Township; and
- Developing programs for young children increases parental involvement and awareness of Superior Township’s recreation facilities and programs.

Initial program offerings concentrated on young children and at-risk youth. Sports programs were developed that emphasized personal growth, teamwork, and skill building rather than competition, as outlined in the National Standards for Youth Sports. Superior Township’s programs strive to involve the entire family in the experience through community-based events. Additionally, by making the programs neighborhood based, the department accomplishes a secondary goal of encouraging residents to use their parks on a regular basis and again increasing awareness of the park system as a whole.

In recent years, the Township has restricted programming to a select group of community events in area parks occurring monthly throughout the summer. These events were severely curtailed by the ongoing pandemic, but are slowly being reintroduced when possible, with all necessary safety measures being taken into consideration. As programming continues to expand, park facilities will need to be upgraded to allow operation of existing and new activities. Basic utilities such as electricity, water, and restroom access are critical to the success of these programs.

## Collaboration with Other Agencies

Whenever possible, Superior Township seeks to encourage cooperative programming with local recreation and leisure service agencies to avoid duplication of services and to provide residents with programs that the Department cannot offer on its own due to lack of funding or adequate facilities. Partners such as local school districts, Ypsilanti Township, the City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation, the Washtenaw County Sheriff, and the Ypsilanti District Library have worked in close cooperation with Superior Township over the years, greatly expanding recreation and leisure opportunities for Superior residents of all ages.

Ongoing collaborations such as these are especially important to help address recreation needs of populations that do not fall in the core user group described in previous paragraphs. While there is no large, defined group of disabled individuals within the Township, it remains a priority to ensure that all residents are able to utilize facilities and programs regardless of their abilities. The Township strives to meet or exceed ADA requirements at all times, recognizing the needs of disabled individuals, seniors, and other user groups.



**Table 11. Programming Schedule**

Target Group	Activity/Program/Event	Community Park	Fireman's Park	Harvest Moon Park	Norfolk Park	Oakbrook Park	North Prospect Park	Schroeter Park	Cherry Hill Nature Preserve	Dixboro Village Green	Other/Partner Location
Youth/Family	Playgrounds	•	•	•	•	•					
Youth	Summer Weekly Park Program	•	•	•	•	•					
Youth	Summer Lunch Service Program										•
Youth	Summer Day Camp										•
Youth/Family	Easter Egg Hunt w/ Easter Bunny		•								
Youth/Family	Superior Day									•	
Youth/Family	Kite & Rocket Day		•								
Youth/Family	Live! Here! Now! Pop-up Concert		•								
Youth/Family	Dixboro Fair									•	
Youth/Family	Dixboro Farmer's Market									•	
Youth/Family	Kickball Day										
Youth/Family	Pumpkin Carving & Crafts				•						
Youth/Family	Christmas Tree Lighting w/Santa Claus										•
Youth/Family	Nature Hunt Bingo							•			
Youth	Soccer*	•				•					•
Youth	Softball*	•				•					•
Youth	Basketball*				•						•
Youth	RAP Class*										•
Family	Movies in the Park					•					
Family	Movies on the Green									•	
Family	Special Events	•	•			•				•	•
Adults/Seniors	Walking Club										
Youth/Family	Bicycle Registration/Safety Rodeo		•								
Youth	After School Programs & Events										•

Community Background
Administrative Structure
Recreation Inventory
Needs Assessment & Public Participation
Action Plan
Goals & Objectives
Executive Summary
Table of Contents

## Comparison To Recreation Standards

As described at the beginning of this chapter, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has classified parks and recommended an appropriate amount of parkland for a given population size. Although these guidelines are useful in pointing out deficiencies, a community's recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community and not be solely based on national guidelines.

According to the NRPA, parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. All of the Township-owned parks are considered close-to-home parks. According to NRPA standards, the amount of close-to-home parkland recommended is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area (one hour drive or about a 40 mile radius) than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. In Superior Township, they include the Washtenaw County and Conservancy-owned facilities described in the preceding pages. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of parkland per 1,000 people.

Other types of parks include the following:

- **Schoolyards:** Areas that can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks such as close-to-home parks, which include all public school facilities in the Township;
- **Greenways:** Areas that link park system components together to form a continuous park environment, which include the Township safety paths; and
- **Private Recreation Facilities:** Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the local parks and recreation system, which include the previously described private facilities.

According to these standards, Superior Township has a surplus in terms of both close-to-home and regional parkland. Even with the Rock Superior properties removed from the equation, the Township currently has nearly 200 acres more than suggested.

In recent years, the NRPA has presented data in a format that allows agencies to compare their amenities to amenities at comparable jurisdictions. Users are able to compare data based on a variety of factors including jurisdiction size, number of acres managed, population density, and more. When viewed through this lens, Superior Township's park system is above average in terms of the number of residents served per park, and above average in terms of miles of trails provided.

In terms of acres of park land provided per 1,000 residents, Superior Township offers nearly twice as much acreage as the listed upper quadrant value. The recreation properties within the Township borders exceed the old recommended levels for regional parks. If the total regional park area of nearly 41,000 acres is added, it becomes evident that Township residents are exceptionally well served, at least in terms of acreage (see Table 12 and Table 13 on page 70). A significant portion of these parks and all of the regional facilities within the Township borders, however, are dedicated as passive-use or nature preserves. While passive open space serves an important recreation role, it does not necessarily address the needs of individuals seeking more active use facilities.

NRPA's metrics highlight a lack of active-use amenities within Superior Township's parks (see Table 16 on page 71). The listed amenities do not offer recommendations on a variety of commonly requested features such as pickleball courts, picnic pavilions, drinking fountains, or restrooms. When viewed as a general trend, however, the data suggests an opportunity to add small-scale active-use facilities at the Township's primary neighborhood parks, and possibly to consider development of a larger, active-use development elsewhere within the community.

While Superior Township's program offerings are limited at the current time, the options offered are comparable with those provided by other communities, but differ in their administration (see Table 14 and Table 15 on page 70). Special events, social recreation events, and team sports are common across communities of a similar size, but there is more of an emphasis on active programming. Superior Township's programming focuses exclusively on youth activities, whereas 65% of peer jurisdictions offer specific senior programs and nearly half provide programming for teens.

**Table 12. Suggested Parkland Acreage**

Type of Park	NRPA Standard (Per 1000 pop.)	Required (Based on 14,592 pop)	Existing	Deficiency / Surplus
Close-to-home Parkland	6.25 - 10.5 acres	93.75 - 157.5 acres	637.3 acres (336.8 w/ out Rock Superior)	479.8 acre surplus (179.3 w/out Rock Superior)
Regional Parks	15 - 20 acres	219 - 292 ac.	2,034.9 acres (within Township)	1,734.9 acre surplus
Conservancy Land Holdings	n/a	n/a	2,034.9 acres	n/a
Private Recreation Facilities	n/a	n/a	174 acres	n/a

**Table 13. Facility Comparison - 2022 Metrics**

	Existing	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
Number of residents per park	1,650.2	761	1,233	1,924
Acres of park land per 1,000 residents	42.9	5.2	12.9	21.7
Miles of Trails	5.8	2	3	10

Source: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>.

**Table 14. Programming Offered by Parks & Recreation**

Program	Percent of jurisdictions with this program
Themed special events	83%
Social recreation events	83%
Team sports	85%
Fitness enhancement classes	67%
Health and wellness education	67%
Individual sports	64%
Safety training	62%
Racquet sports	60%
Aquatics	55%
Performing arts	40%
Visual arts	43%
Natural and cultural history activities	37%
Cultural crafts	40%
Trips and tours	43%
Martial arts	39%
Running/cycling races	41%
Golf	22%
eSports/eGaming	7%

**Table 15. Targeted Programs Offered by Parks & Recreation**

Program	Percent of jurisdictions with this program
Summer camp	61%
Specific senior programs	65%
Specific teen programs	46%
Programs for people with disabilities	36%
STEM programs	40%
After school programs	47%
Preschool	25%
Before school programs	16%
Full daycare	4%

Source: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>.

**Table 16. Comparison to Facility Development Standards Based On NRPA 2022 Metrics**

Type of Amenity	Percent of jurisdictions with this amenity	# of residents per amenity	Calculated number of required facilities	Actual number of amenities in Township	Deficiency
Playgrounds	96%	1,986	7	5	-2
Basketball courts	86%	3,750	4	1	-3
Diamond fields: Baseball - youth	79%	3,107	5	2	-3
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	68%	4,362	3	3	0
Dog park	67%	11,100	1	0	-1
Diamond fields: Softball, adult	65%	5,667	3	0	-3
Diamond fields: softball - youth	62%	5,339	3	2	-1
Diamond fields: Baseball - adult	54%	7,954	2	0	-2
Community gardens	51%	8,773	2	1	-1
Rectangular fields: soccer field, youth	50%	3,504	4	0	-4
Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	48%	5,400	3	1	-2
Rectangular fields: soccer, adult	43%	8,017	2	0	-2
Rectangular fields: football fields	35%	8,004	2	0	-2
Driving range stations	26%	5,055	3	0	-3
Multipurpose synthetic field	22%	12,962	1	0	-1
Ice rink (outdoor)	18%	7,997	2	0	-2
Rectangular fields: cricket	14%	-	not provided	0	n/a
Rectangular fields: lacrosse	11%	7,102	2	0	-2
Overlay field	9%	8,707	2	0	-2
Rectangular field: field hockey	4%	-	not provided	0	n/a
Recreation centers	49%	9,126	2	0	-2
Community centers	51%	8,504	2	0	-2
Senior centers	25%	12,935	1	0	-1
Performance amphitheaters	16%	9,291	2	0	-2
Nature centers	10%	11,821	1	0	-1
Aquatic centers	15%	11,375	1	0	-1
Stadiums	11%	9,126	2	0	-2
Teen centers	8%	14,426	1	0	-1
Indoor ice rinks	6%	8,002	2	0	-2
Arenas	4%	11,821	1	0	-1

Source: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>.

**Table 17. Staffing and Expenditures**

Operating Data	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
Park and Recreation Staffing - Full time equivalents	5.4	11.8	23.8
Full time equivalent staffing per 10,000 residents	6.4	11.3	21.1
Annual operating expenditures	\$551,925	\$1,200,000	\$2,443,647
Operating expenditures per capita	\$68	\$117	\$226

Source: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>.

Finally, the NRPA offers a comparison point for staffing and budgeting levels. Annual budgets for similarly sized communities range from a lower quartile level of \$551,925 per year to an upper limit of \$2,443,647. These budgets support full time equivalent staffs ranging from 11 to 21 employees per 10,000 residents (the equivalent of 17 to 31 employees based on Superior Township's current population). About 50% of expenditures go towards personnel services. Of the capital expenses, 61% goes towards renovation, while only 29% goes towards acquisition and development costs.

While these figures are obviously generic in nature and may not reflect the complexity of operating any specific park district, they do offer a starting point for Superior Township to work with. It is very common for communities to dedicate significant resources towards land acquisition and park development, only to leave relatively little funding for ongoing maintenance, staff costs, and programs. A millage in support of parks and recreation operations would greatly increase the ability of the Department to provide the necessary support for existing facilities and improve overall services for Township residents.

**Table 18. Staffing and Expenditures**

Source	Percent
General Fund Tax Support	62%
Earned / Generated Revenue	24%
Dedicated Levies	7%
Other Dedicated Taxes	1%
Grants	2%
Other	1%
Sponsorships	1%

**Table 19. Distribution of Expenditures**

Source	Percent
Personnel Services	50%
Operating Expenses	42%
Capital Expenses not in CIP	6%
Other	2%

**Table 20. Targets for Capital Expenditures**

Source	Percent
Renovation	61%
New Development	24%
Acquisition	5%
Other	9%

## Accessibility Assessment

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing barrier-free access in order to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The ranking system suggested by the MDNR Guidelines (2009) was used to evaluate the parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5 and is described as follows:

1. None of the facilities 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; and
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Each of the parks was evaluated using this ranking system. The specific elements reviewed included parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, activity areas themselves, and surfacing. Table 21 provides the result of this assessment.

Superior Township has been actively working to bring their recreation facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The rustic nature of some of the facilities, specifically Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, North Prospect Park, and Schroeter Parks, make full ADA compliance difficult if not impossible to achieve. Despite these challenges, current and future park projects are designed to meet or exceed accessibility guidelines to the greatest extent possible. Outside of the natural areas, any current accessibility deficiencies are mainly the result of older equipment and/or facilities which pre-date ADA standards.

**Table 21. Accessibility Assessment**

Park	Rank	Description
Cherry Hill Nature Preserve	1	There is no accessible parking or routes into the preserve. A feasibility study exploring a connection to the boardwalk facilities should be completed.
Community Park	2	A new walkway was installed to connect to existing compliant play structures. The parking lot itself is not compliant, however, and there are no routes to other park amenities.
Fireman's Park	3	Play equipment, benches, and parking area are all compliant. Improvements to picnic amenities would bring the score to a 4..
Harvest Moon Park	2	Pathways and play equipment are compliant, but there are no accessible routes to the amenities. The parking area is not compliant (gravel lot).
Norfolk Park	2	No accessible routes to the picnic or play facilities (rustic paths)
Oakbrook Park	3	Play equipment is accessible and an accessible route is provided. No accessible routes for benches, picnic tables, or connecting between Norfolk and Oakbrook.
North Prospect	1	Grass trails are not accessible. No parking is provided.
Schroeter Park	1	Grass trails are not accessible. No accessible parking is provided.
Rock Superior Properties	1	Properties are completely undeveloped at this time.

## MDNR Grants

The has received seven Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants for parkland development since 1973. Table 22 presents a description of the MDNR grants received including the current use and condition of the grant-assisted parks and facilities.

**Table 22. Grant History**

Grant Number	Application Year & Source	Description	Grant Amount	Current Use / Condition
26-01012	1979 LWCF	Norfolk Park and Community Parks; development and acquisition; Norfolk: picnic pavilion & equipment, parkour trail with exercise equipment, play cabin. Community: softball field, 2 tennis courts, play and picnic areas, earth ice rink, footbridge, parking lot	\$70,600	Norfolk: Pavilion is heavily used and remains in good condition. Parkour equipment and play cabin are no longer present. Community: ice rink is no longer present, but other amenities remain. Bridge was replaced in 2013, tennis courts resurfaced in 2021
BF89-583	1989 Bond Fund	Berkshire Park development; play equipment, landscaping, ballfield, picnic area, and picnic shelter	\$59,812	Renamed Oakbrook Park, the park is very popular and equipment remains in good condition. Swings and playground equipment are nearing the end of their usable life.
BF93-053	1993 Bond Fund	Recreation Center improvements; modify existing 3,200 sq ft building to provide interior space for rec programs and activities	\$52,300	The office space is now shared with utilities staff.
TF96-117	1996 MNRTF	Cherry Hill Nature Preserve; acquire 160 acres	\$420,000	Property is very popular and is used by residents from around the region
CM99-141	1999 Clean Michigan Initiative	Harvest Moon improvements; demo and relocation of picnic shelter, play equipment, pathway, and basketball court	\$74,000	Park is in good condition, although the play equipment is nearing the end of its useful life



# PARK RULES

OPEN DAILY: DAWN - DUSK

The following are **PROHIBITED**:

- Camping
- Weapons & Fireworks
- Ground Fires
- Littering & Dumping
- Hunting
- Unauthorized Vehicles
- Alcohol & Illegal Substances

Dogs must be on a leash. Please clean up after them.

[www.superior-twp.org](http://www.superior-twp.org)

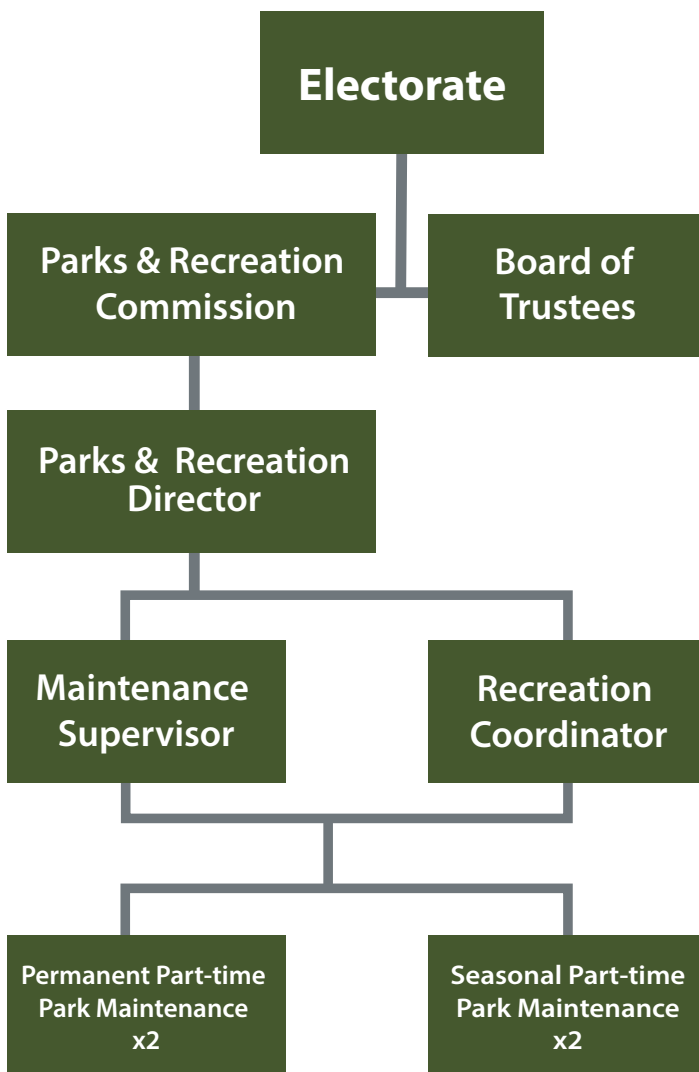
# Chapter 6: Administrative Structure

## Township Board of Trustees

Superior Township is governed by an elected seven-member board. The Board is comprised of three full-time administrative legislators (Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer), along with four part-time legislative trustees elected to serve four-year terms. The terms coincide with the presidential election cycle.

The Township Board is the legislative body responsible for carrying out the functions and operations of the local unit of government. To assist the Board in their public service and daily operations, they employ professional staff and appoint citizens to various committees and commissions. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month.

Figure 21. Organizational Chart



## Parks & Recreation Commission

The Parks & Recreation Commission is an elected seven-member board. Like the Board of Trustees, Commissioners serve four-year terms which coincide with the presidential election cycle. The Commission meets on the fourth Monday of each month to discuss general park and recreation operations and to provide input and recommendations on both the short- and long-range planning of programs and facilities in the Township. Sub-committees are formed for special projects on an as-needed basis.

Originally established by a vote in 1974, the Commission is authorized by statute to employ staff and undertake expenses to uphold Public Act 271, 1931, as amended. The Township passed a resolution in 1917, following P.A. 156, to grant the Commission the responsibilities of the Recreation Board. The Commission, as an elected policy-making body, has the responsibility of operating and maintaining all public parks, recreation operations, and services.

## Funding & Budget

The Parks & Recreation Department is supported from the Township General Fund, user fees, donations, and grants. The Township Board approves the Park Commission's direction by approving its annual budget and authorizing major revenue sources. These funding sources may include a general fund allotment, granted monies from public and private sources, a special Parks and Recreation millage, an issuance of township bonds for parks, and the approval of selling unneeded property. The Township has chosen to provide the public serve of Parks and Recreation through the current General Fund Millage, meaning a general fund allotment.

A three-year comparison of the Parks & Recreation budget is included in Table 28.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has traditionally operated on a frugal budget with a majority of its funding coming from the General Fund. This has only allowed for modest maintenance operations and recreation services.

## Administration & Staffing

The Parks & Recreation Commission staff is responsible for establishing and evaluating the needs of the community, providing the appropriate services, providing long-range planning, and preparing capital improvement programs.

The Commission currently employs one full-time director and three permanent part-time staff:

- The **Director** is responsible for all aspects of Parks & Recreation operations;

- The **Parks Maintenance Supervisor** is responsible for maintenance of the parks; and
- The **Recreation Coordinator** is responsible for organization and coordination of special events.

Other staff are either seasonal employees, contractual workers retained for a specific program or service, or volunteers. Goals and objectives for each of these positions is provided in "Chapter 2: Goals & Objectives" on page 4.

**Table 23. Parks & Recreation Budget Summary**

	2019 Amended	2020 Amended	2021 Amended	2022 Budget
<b>General Fund - 266 - Special Projects</b>				
Prospect Road Pathway	\$16,415	-	\$125,000	\$125,000
Plymouth Road Pathway	\$1,077	-	\$25,000	\$35,000
Non-Motorized Path	-	\$2,000	-	-
Dixboro Green Schoolhouse	-	\$1,000	-	\$1,000
<b>General Fund - 446 - Infrastructure</b>				
Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>General Fund - 965 - Transfer of Funds</b>				
Transfer to Trails Reserves	\$10,000	-	-	-
Transfer to Parks Fund	\$282,282	\$290,750	\$302,380	\$311,451
<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION DEPARTMENT</b>				
<b>Revenue</b>				
General Fund Contribution	\$282,282	\$290,750	\$302,379	\$311,451
Reimbursement for Labor Costs	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$15,000
Interest on Reserves	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Disposition of Assets Income	-	-	-	-
Insurance Reimbursements	\$200	\$200	\$500	\$500
Tennis Lesson Fees	-	-	-	\$2,000
Donations	\$500	\$500	\$600	\$600
Appropriations from Reserves	\$30,000	\$34,147	\$15,000	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$319,982</b>	<b>\$334,597</b>	<b>\$320,479</b>	<b>\$330,551</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
751 - Administration Department	\$74,582	\$78,405	\$79,143	\$98,940
754 - Recreation Department	\$17,941	\$20,816	\$22,414	\$25,250
755 - Parks Maintenance Department	\$170,248	\$176,864	\$171,583	\$176,461
756 - Park Development / Improvement	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$15,442	\$5,000
966 - Unallocated Expenses	\$27,211	\$28,512	\$31,897	\$24,900
<b>755 - 999 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$319,982</b>	<b>\$334,597</b>	<b>\$320,479</b>	<b>\$330,551</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Volunteers & Partnerships

The Parks & Recreation Commission works very closely in cooperative relationships with volunteer groups that are active in the community. Members of these groups have spent countless hours volunteering their time acting as Park Stewards. It is anticipated that the roles of volunteers will grow as the Township expands programming to include structured sports activities and new special event programs. Volunteer groups that have been involved in Township recreation programming or could be involved in the future include:

- Local and regional youth sports associations;
- Land conservancies and ecological societies;
- Civic organizations and lodges;
- Scouting groups including both the Boy and Girl Scouts; and
- School and religious organizations.

The department also works with individuals who regularly give of their time and talents to assist with special projects, office and clerical tasks, special events and numerous other activities. In appreciation of all these efforts, the Township publicly recognizes these individuals and groups on a regular basis, and the Parks & Recreation Department routinely provides support services essential to the success of their endeavors.





Image source: [Jeffbondono.com](http://Jeffbondono.com)

# Chapter 7: Community Background

## Regional Setting

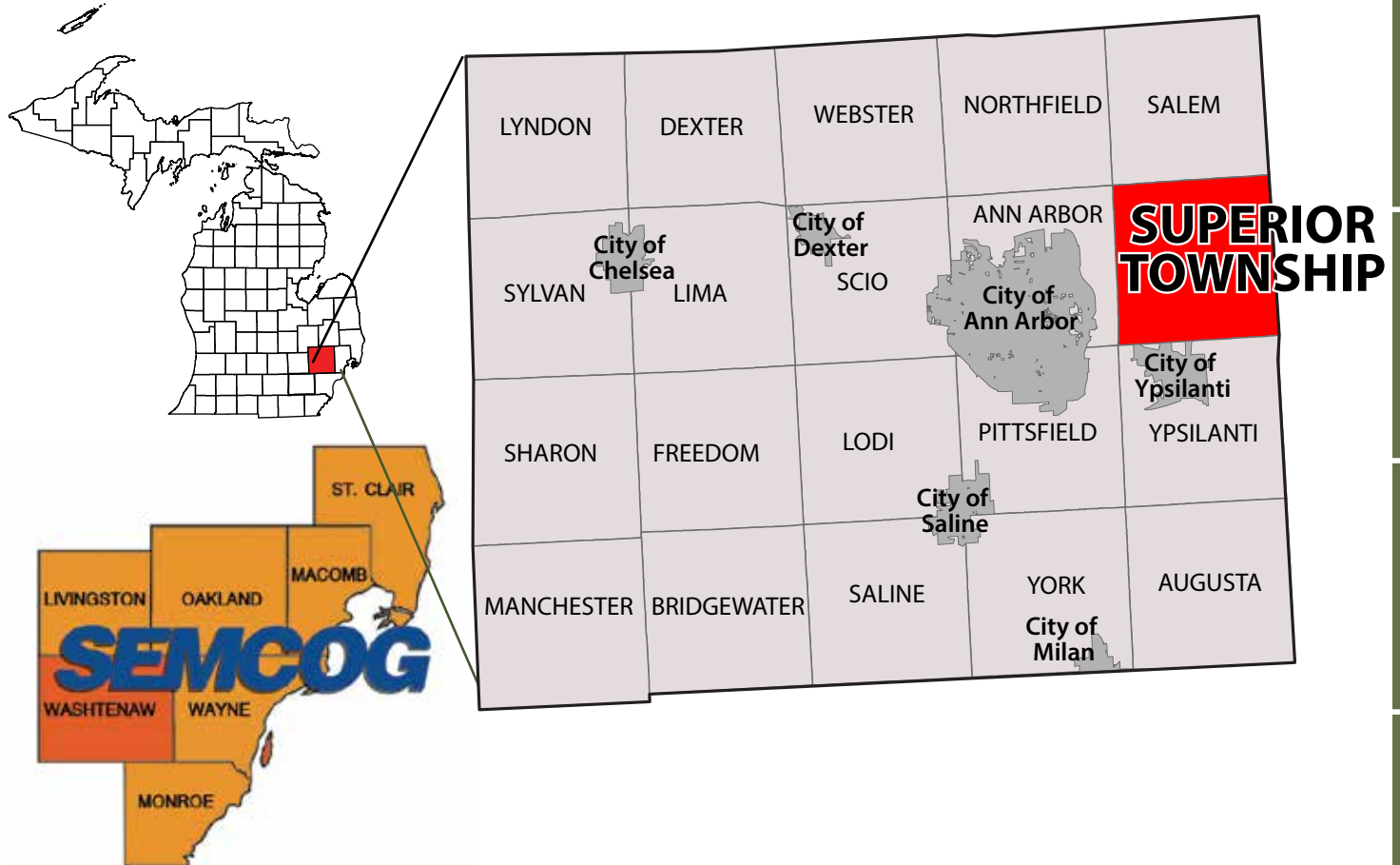
This chapter provides an overview of the human and recreational resources of Superior Township with the goal of understanding the unique features and opportunities the community has to offer.

Superior Township is located along the eastern edge of Washtenaw County, approximately 15 miles west of Detroit, less than 1 mile east of the City of Ann Arbor, and immediately north of the City of Ypsilanti. M-14 cuts through the northwest corner of the Township, providing important connections to US-23, I-94, and I-96. Ford Road (M-153) is a busy east-west connector, providing access to shopping and other amenities in Canton Township just east border. Geddes Road, which forms the northern boundary of the dense housing on the south side, provides a secondary connection between Canton to the east and Ann Arbor and St. Joe's Hospital to the west. Prospect Road forms the backbone of the community, running from Plymouth Road south to Ypsilanti Township, and providing important connections to Township Hall and the Superior Greenway.

Superior Township was first settled in the early 19th century by farmers looking to capitalize on the fertile soils which gave the Township its name. Until World War II, the Village of Dixboro was the only concentrated development in the Township, due to the water provided by Fleming Creek and a primary access route between Ann Arbor and suburban Detroit communities along Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road. An economic shift precipitated by World War II and the construction of the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti Township brought thousands of residents to the southern portion of the Township and with it, limited public water and sewer facilities.

The swift shift from agrarian to urban economies lead to a unique mix of land uses in the Township. Highly developed urban/suburban style housing along the south and open, agrarian development to the north create entirely separate living experiences. Geddes Road effectively creates an economic divide, with more affluent housing to the north and lower income populations found in the south.

Figure 22. Context Maps - State of Michigan, Washtenaw County, and SEMCOG Region



A desire for access to open space and a rural lifestyle has lead to a steady influx of new residents and residential development pressures throughout the northern portions of the community. The population of the Township has grown steadily over the last fifty years; among its immediate neighbors, only Salem Township experienced a higher percentage growth rate between 2010 and 2020. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) population estimates suggest that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future, predicting a 30% increase to 19,330 residents by 2045.

Superior Township's household size grew slightly from 2.63 to 2.66 individuals between 2010 and 2020, bucking the trends seen in Washtenaw County (2.39 to 2.36) and Southeast Michigan (2.52 to 2.46). A decrease in household size is typically considered an indicator that a community is aging. American Community Survey (ACS) data calls this assumption into question, however, as the Township's median age has steadily increased from 2010 to 2021 (from 37.5 to 42.2 years), and is significantly older than the County (34.0 years) and region (39.7 years).

Table 27 on page 82 provides some indication of where the changes in population are occurring. Since 2010, the number of households with seniors increased by 38.9% while the number of households with children only increased by 1.3%. SEMCOG's 2045 population forecast shows the percentage of households with seniors dropping by 0.5%, while the percentage of households with children is expected to fall by 1.2%.

**Table 25. Population Data, Superior Township Region**

Community	1990	2000	2010	2020	% change 2010 - 2020	SEMCOG 2045 estimate	% change 2020 - 2045
Superior Township	8,720	10,740	13,058	14,832	16.5%	19,330	30.3%
Ann Arbor Township	3,463	4,385	4,067	4,357	6.6%	8,625	98.0%
Ann Arbor, City of	109,608	114,024	113,934	123,851	8.7%	132,325	6.8%
Northfield Township	6,732	8,252	8,245	8,550	3.7%	12,388	44.9%
Pittsfield Township	24,846	22,237	19,435	20,648	5.5%	24,480	18.6%
Salem Township	3,734	5,562	5,627	7,018	25.0%	8,034	14.5%
Ypsilanti Township	45,307	49,182	53,362	55,670	4.7%	61,121	9.8%
Ypsilanti, City of	24,846	22,237	19,435	20,648	5.5%	24,480	18.6%
Canton Township	57,040	76,366	90,173	98,659	11.1%	114,119	15.7%
Plymouth, City of	9,560	9,022	9,132	9,370	2.6%	9,786	4.4%
Plymouth Township	23,648	27,798	27,524	27,938	1.5%	30,649	9.7%
Van Buren Township	21,010	23,559	28,821	30,375	6.6%	35,966	18.4%
Washtenaw County	282,937	322,770	344,791	372,258	8.0%	452,791	21.6%
Southeast Michigan	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,830,489	2.7%	5,104,922	5.7%

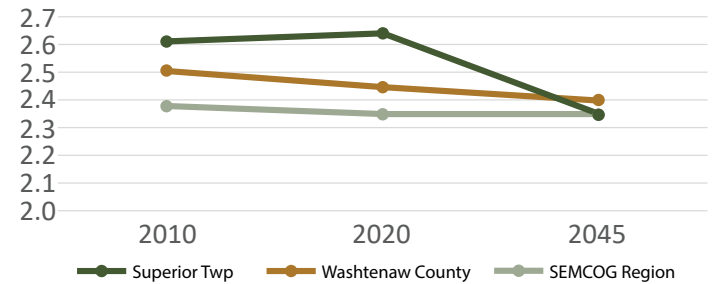
Source: US Census, SEMCOG

**Table 24. Household Size, Superior Township & Region**

	2010	2020	2045
Superior Township	2.63	2.66	2.36
Washtenaw County	2.39	2.36	2.35
SEMCOG Region	2.52	2.46	2.41

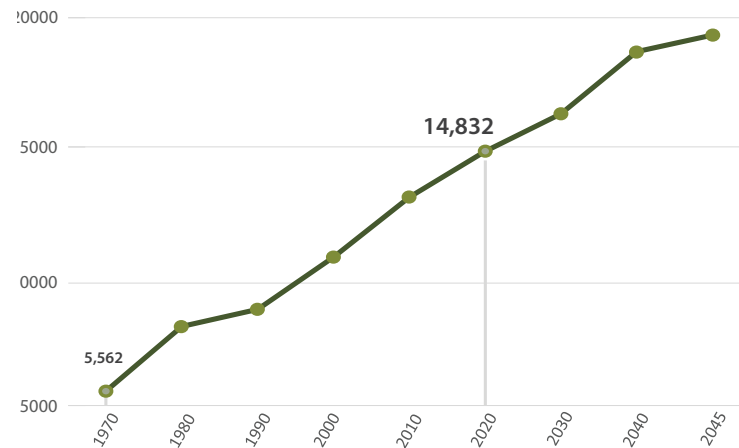
Source: US Census, SEMCOG

**Figure 23. Household Size Trends**



Source: US Census, SEMCOG

**Figure 24. Superior Population Trends**



Source: US Census, SEMCOG

Table 28 shows significant percentage increases in senior populations, especially in the 60 to 74 age and 85+ ranges. In contrast, 35 to 44 and under 5 age ranges fell considerably. By combining groups into four general categories (children under twenty, young family, mature family, and seniors; see Figure 25), the trend towards an older general population becomes evident. These results align with the general trend across the state towards older and smaller households.

According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 1,599 residents or 11.0% of Superior Township's population have some form of physical disability. This figure, along with an aging populace, underscores the need to accommodate mobility-challenged individuals and those with other disabilities when planning for recreation facilities and programs.

**Table 26. Median Age, Superior Township & Region**

Year	Superior Township	Washtenaw County	State of Michigan
2010	37.5	32.8	38.1
2011	37.6	32.8	38.5
2012	37.4	33.1	38.8
2013	37.9	33.3	39.1
2014	36.3	33.3	39.3
2015	36.7	33.4	39.5
2016	36.5	33.4	39.6
2017	37.0	33.4	39.6
2018	36.9	33.4	39.7
2019	38.7	33.6	39.7
2020	42.1	33.9	39.7
2021	42.2	34.0	39.7

Source: American Community Survey, 2010 - 2020

**Table 27. Household Characteristics**

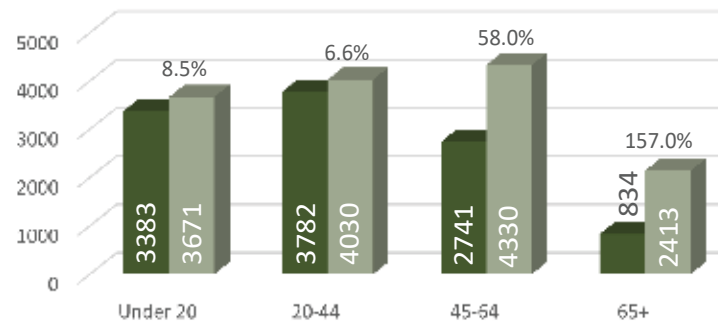
Household Types	Census 2010	2010 HH Percentage	ACS 2020	2020 HH Percentage	2010-2020 % change	2045 SEMCOG	2045 HH Percentage
With seniors 65+	1059	21.5%	1471	27.2%	38.9%	3097	38.4%
Without seniors	3865	78.5%	3939	72.8%	1.9%	4973	61.6%
Live alone 65+	400	8.1%	532	9.8%	33.0%	1051	13.0%
Live alone, under 65	759	15.4%	800	14.8%	5.4%	1520	18.8%
2 persons or more with children	1815	36.9%	1839	34.0%	1.3%	2649	32.8%
2 persons or more without children	1950	39.6%	2239	41.4%	14.8%	2850	35.3%

**Table 28. Superior Age Ranges 2000 - 2021**

Age group	Census 2000	Census 2010	ACS 2020	% change 2000 - 2020
Under 5	937	1,091	1,017	-8.5%
5 - 9	935	924	930	-0.5%
10 - 14	809	906	872	7.8%
15 - 19	702	884	852	21.4%
20 - 24	646	652	843	30.5%
25 - 29	737	824	1,073	45.6%
30 - 34	760	832	821	8.0%
35 - 39	766	853	547	-28.6%
40 - 44	873	873	746	-14.5%
45 - 49	880	928	1,014	15.2%
50 - 54	963	1,000	1,355	40.7%
55 - 59	572	929	1,158	102.4%
60 - 64	326	829	803	146.3%
65 - 69	251	515	690	174.9%
70 - 74	205	292	750	265.9%
75 - 79	181	262	381	110.5%
80 - 84	117	192	119	1.7%
85 and up	80	272	203	153.8%

Source: US Census, ACS

**Figure 25. Age Distribution Comparison 2000 - 2020**



Source: US Census, ACS, SEMCOG

Source: US Census, SEMCOG

## Socio-Economic Characteristics

### Opportunity Index

As described previously in this report, Superior Township is in certain respects a highly divided community. The socio-economic makeup of the southeastern corner of the Township is dramatically different from the remainder of the community. The following sections necessarily describe the Township as one entity, but it is important to recognize that opportunities are not equally present for all residents. According to studies completed by the Pew Research Center, Washtenaw County is the eighth-most economically segregated metropolitan area in the United States. As the Township considers recreation development issues, both in terms of park space and programming, it is critical to evaluate factors that may not be obvious on a macro scale.

The Washtenaw Office for Community and Economic Development (OCED) and the University of Michigan's Poverty Solutions Initiative have partnered to create an opportunity index for the County. Using US Census blocks to define populations, the index shows stark disparities between the southeastern corner of Superior Township and the rest of the community.

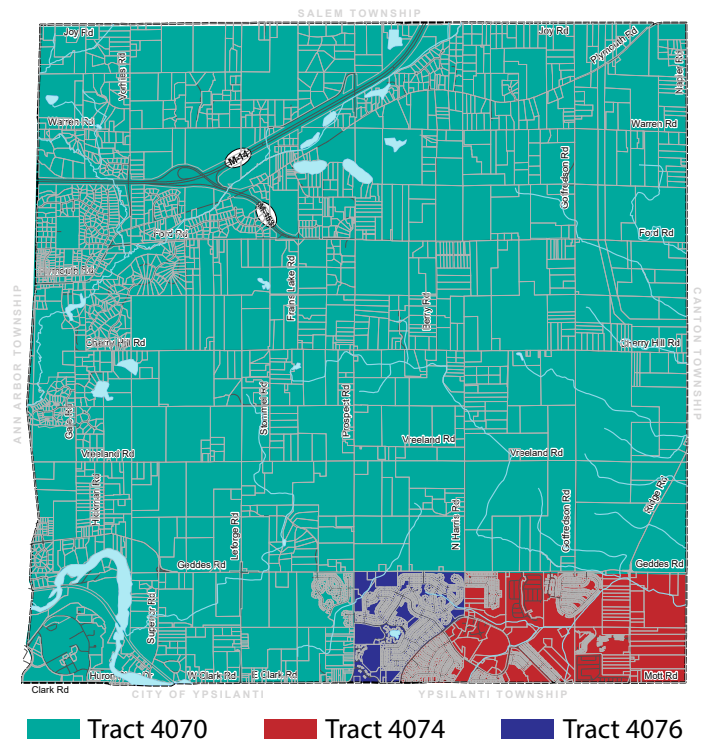
The index measures access to opportunity by combining 16 indicators into five categories:

- Health;
- Job access;
- Economic well-being;
- Education and training; and
- Community engagement and stability.

Each category is given an opportunity score which is based on how outcomes for residents in that Census tract compare to the county-wide average. Per the website, "Lower scores indicate room for improvement relative to the rest of the county and are not necessarily a sign of poor outcomes."

Table 29 on page 84 and Figure 26 provide a snapshot of the data compiled for the project. Tracts 4070 and 4076 had high access to opportunities while tract 4074 had very low access to opportunities. While many of the issues described are beyond the control of the Park Commission, providing more comprehensive program opportunities to area youths could help to offset some of the discrepancies facing area residents.

Figure 26. Opportunity Index Map



**Table 29. Opportunity Index**

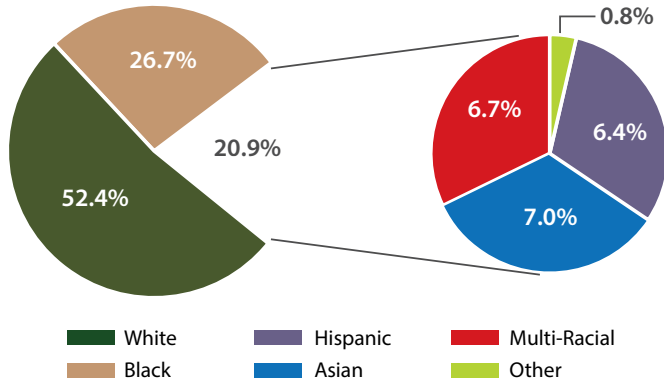
Category & Comparison Points	4070	4074	4076
<b>Health</b>	<b>0.44 (very high)</b>	<b>-1.16 (low)</b>	<b>-0.01 (very high)</b>
State goal is less than 7.8% of babies are born with low birth weight	5.8% born with low birth weight	10.2% born with low birth weight	5.8% born with low birth weight
Goal for health insurance coverage is 95.6%	95% have coverage	87.7% have coverage	95% have coverage
Weighted average life expectancy is 78.0 years	82.1 year life expectancy	data not available	82.1 year life expectancy
<b>Job Access</b>	<b>0.18 (high)</b>	<b>-0.93 (high)</b>	<b>0.21 (high)</b>
National average 18% of children in poverty	2.5% in poverty	45.4% in poverty	0% in poverty
Access to 2 to 7 "mainstream financial institutions" (e.g. banks) rather than high cost, predatory services (e.g. payday loans)	No banks or credit unions	No banks or credit unions	No banks or credit unions
Overall homeownership rate for Midwest was 69.5% in 2019	91.3% homeowners	81.2% homeowners	89.6% homeowners
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>	<b>-0.17 (low)</b>	<b>-0.70 (very low)</b>	<b>0.47 (very high)</b>
15% or less of total income spent on transportation is considered affordable	25% spent on transportation	21% spent on transportation	22% spent on transportation
Severe housing cost burden (seen in 12.5% of households) is when 50% of income is spent on housing	11.5% in severe housing burden category	25.3% in severe housing burden category	3.9% in severe housing burden category
63% of working-age adults are currently in the work force	62.3% currently in work force	65.1% currently in work force	75.6% currently in work force
37.3% of adults in Michigan have an associates degree or higher	77.6% have associates or higher	34.3% have associates or higher	63.4% have associates or higher
<b>Education and Training</b>	<b>0.75 (very high)</b>	<b>-1.52 (very low)</b>	<b>-1.03 (very low)</b>
Goal is for 75% of children ages 3-4 to be enrolled in preschool	73% enrolled	41.6% enrolled	39.5% enrolled
County goal is for 60% of third graders test proficient in reading	75% tested proficient	21.1% tested proficient	no data available
County goal that 60% of students graduate high school within six years	88.4% graduated high school	28.1% graduated high school	44.2% graduated high school
<b>Community Engagement and Stability</b>	<b>0.29 (high)</b>	<b>-2.22 (very low)</b>	<b>0.33 (high)</b>
60% turnout for November elections is typical	84.6% turnout	53.8% turnout	74.5% turnout
8 - 12% residential vacancy rate is considered moderately high	2.2% vacancy rate	7.5% vacancy rate	0.2% vacancy rate
Number of juveniles charged in Juvenile Court	no data available	47 charged	14 charged
<b>Other key data:</b>			
Total population	4,782	5,692	3,186
Population density per square mile	149	2,534	4,041
Households	1,764	2,163	1,033
People of color (count)	1,019	3,437	1,501
People of color (percent)	21.3%	60.4%	47.1%

Source: <http://www.opportunitywashtenaw.org/>

## Ethnicity

Taken as a whole, Superior Township has one of the more diverse populations in the state. Minority populations have increased from 43% of the populace in 2010 and now make up almost 50% of the total population. Multi-Racial groups made the largest gains, growing from 3.3% in 2010 to 6.7% in 2020. Hispanic populations nearly doubled from 3.5% to 6.4%. Individuals identifying as "other" saw a significant percentage growth (109%), but remains the smallest population group in the Township.

Figure 27. Racial Composition 2020



Source: SEMCOG

Table 30. Racial Composition Summary

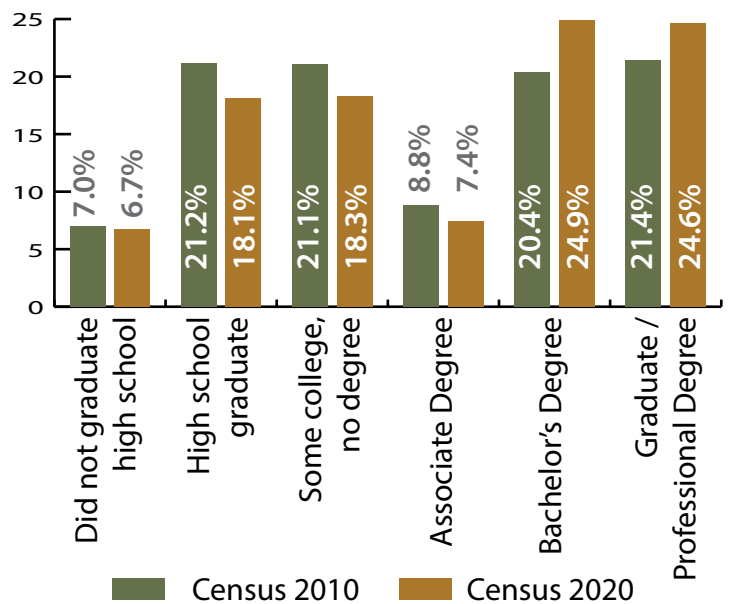
Race and Hispanic Origin	Census 2010	Census 2020	Percent of Population - 2020
White	7,441	7,770	52.4%
Black	3,894	3,964	26.7%
Asian	741	1,040	7.0%
Multi-Racial	433	989	6.7%
Other	54	113	0.8%
Hispanic	495	956	6.4%
Total	13,058	14,832	

Source: SEMCOG

## Education

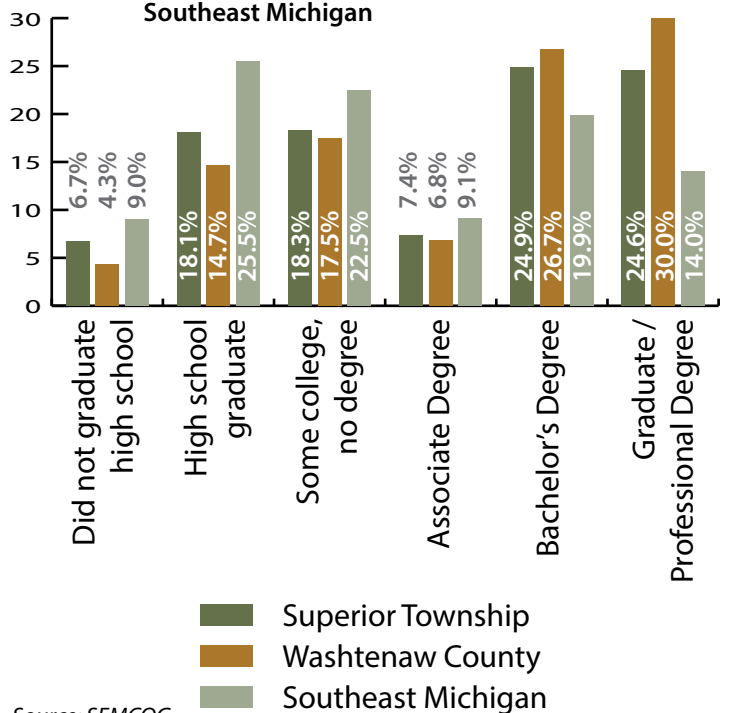
Superior residents are well educated, with around 60% of residents reporting an Associate's degree or higher in 2020. The Township saw a 3.1% decrease in residents with High School Diplomas, but a 7.8% increase in graduate and professional degrees between 2010 and 2020. Superior falls behind Washtenaw County in Bachelor and Graduate level degrees, but has a higher percentage of residents with other levels of education.

Figure 28. Superior Township Education Levels, 2010 - 2020



Source: SEMCOG

Figure 29. Comparison of Educational Levels - Superior Township, Washtenaw County, and Southeast Michigan



Source: SEMCOG

**Table 31. Where Residents Work**

Destination	Percent	Destination	Percent
Ann Arbor	30.0%	Ann Arbor Twp	3.1%
Pittsfield Twp	10.9%	Livonia	3.0%
Superior Twp	10.2%	Dearborn	2.8%
Detroit	6.0%	Ypsilanti Twp	2.7%
Canton Twp	3.5%	Warren	2.0%
		Elsewhere	25.9%

Source: SEMCOG

**Table 32. Where Workers Commute From**

Origin	Percent	Origin	Percent
Ypsilanti Twp	10.2%	Out of the Region	5.7%
Ann Arbor	10.2%	Ypsilanti	3.7%
Superior Twp	8.7%	Superior	3.0%
Pittsfield Twp	8.2%	Van Buren Twp	2.2%
Canton Twp	6.2%	Scio Twp	1.9%
		Elsewhere	40.2%

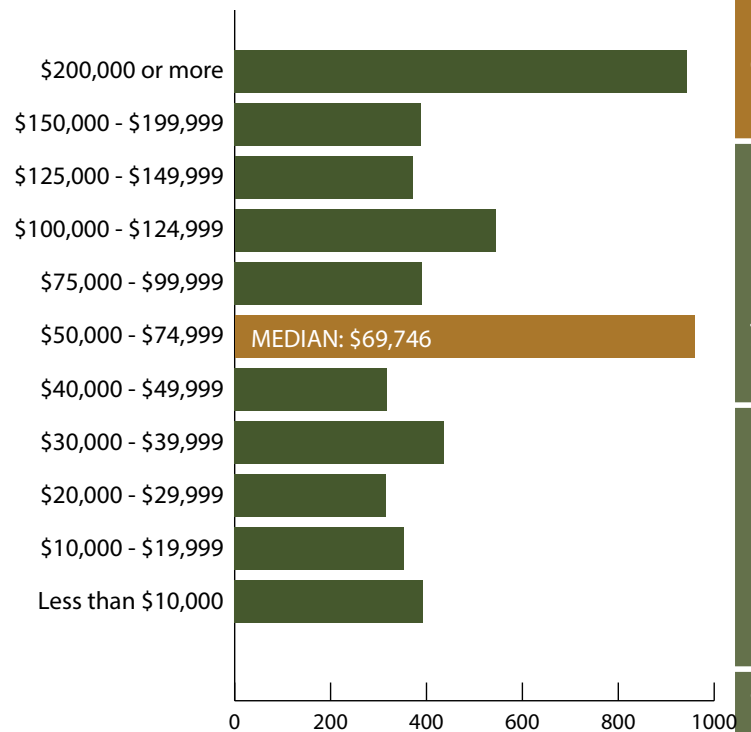
Source: SEMCOG

**Table 33. Forecasted Jobs by Industry Sector**

Sector	2015	2020	2045	% change 2020 - 45
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	240	261	263	9.6%
Manufacturing	76	106	162	113.2%
Wholesale Trade	47	80	83	76.6%
Retail Trade	143	150	119	-16.8%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	75	71	68	-9.3%
Information & Financial Activities	361	346	341	-5.5%
Professional and Technical Services & Corporate HQ	585	654	654	11.8%
Administrative, Support, & Waste Services	596	612	746	25.2%
Education Services	172	176	182	5.8%
Healthcare Services	7,196	7,446	7,913	3.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	199	286	369	85.4%
Other Services	204	183	171	-16.2%
Public Administration	76	79	84	10.5%

Source: SEMCOG

**Figure 30. Household Incomes 2020**



Source: ACS 2020, SEMCOG

## Employment & Income

The Township's median household income fell by \$16,847 between 2010 and 2020, a 19.5% decrease, and now stands at \$69,746. The number of households in poverty grew by 0.8% during the same period. The wealth or lack of wealth in the Township varies greatly depending on location. In the southeast corner of the Township, over 45% of children live in poverty, whereas the adjacent tracts have 2.5% or less in poverty.

According to the SEMCOG 2045 Regional Development Forecast, the largest employment sector for Superior Township residents is in Healthcare Services, followed by Administrative Services, and then Professional and Technical Services & Corporate HQ. The Healthcare Services group is expected to see major growth through 2045, and will remain the primary employer. Per 2020 ACS estimates, 61.6% of Superior were employed for 50 or more weeks in the previous year, a similar percentage to Washtenaw County at 61.3% and 57.7% for the State of Michigan.

90% of Township workers are employed outside of the community; Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Township are the most common commuter destinations. For positions inside the Township borders, 8.7% of workers reside in Superior Township.

## Housing

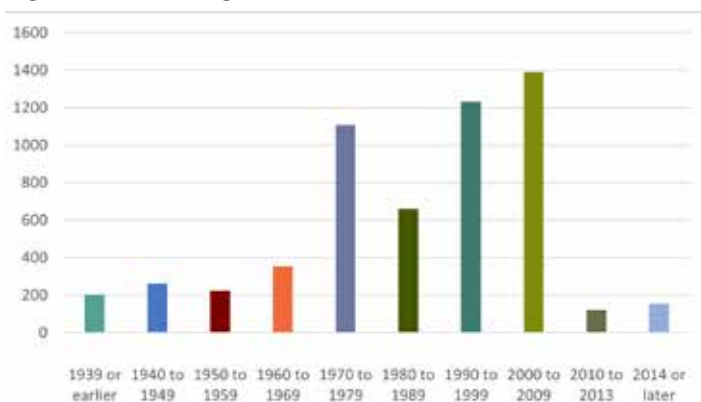
Housing varies significantly throughout the Township, from dense apartment blocks on the south side to million dollar homes with acreage further north. The vast majority of homes are owner single family detached units (74%). Multi-unit apartments (16%) and mobile/manufactured homes (10%) make up the rest of the housing stock, and are clustered in the southeast corner of the Township. Most of the new structures built since 2000 (86%) are single-family housing, while attached condominiums made up 14% of the new units.

The number of renter-occupied units increased by 20% from 2010 to 2020. 5% of housing units were vacant in 2020. The vast majority of housing units (76%) in 2020 remain owner-occupied.

Building permits for the Township peaked in between 2003, slowing during and for a short period after the recession of 2005 to 2009. An average of 72 new housing units have been built each year between 2014 and 2021. The first wave of housing was built between 1970 and 1980, but the majority of Township homes were built between 1990 and 2010.

The median housing value in 2020 was \$203,600, a decrease of \$13,058 (6%) from 2010. Median gross rent increased by 17.1% between 2010 and 2020, increasing from \$938 to \$1,098 per month.

Figure 33. Housing Structures - Year Built



Source: ACS, SEMCOG

Table 34. Housing Permits

Year	Single Family	Attach Condo	Multi Family	Total Units	Total Demos	Net Total
2000	54	0	0	0	54	1
2001	98	0	0	0	98	0
2002	100	0	8	0	108	1
2003	277	0	51	0	328	1
2004	201	0	50	0	251	6
2005	158	0	16	0	174	4
2006	37	0	0	0	37	1
2007	92	0	0	0	92	2
2008	51	0	0	0	51	3
2009	22	0	0	0	22	2
2010	10	0	0	0	10	5
2011	8	0	0	0	8	5
2012	9	0	0	0	9	1
2013	12	0	0	0	12	1
2014	40	0	0	0	40	3
2015	63	0	0	0	63	0
2016	84	0	0	0	84	1
2017	50	0	0	0	50	1
2018	32	0	0	53	85	0
2019	42	0	0	72	114	2
2020	69	0	0	0	69	1
2021	68	0	0	0	68	1
2022	17	0	4	0	21	0
Totals	1,594	0	129	125	1,848	42

Source: SEMCOG

Figure 31. Housing Types 2020

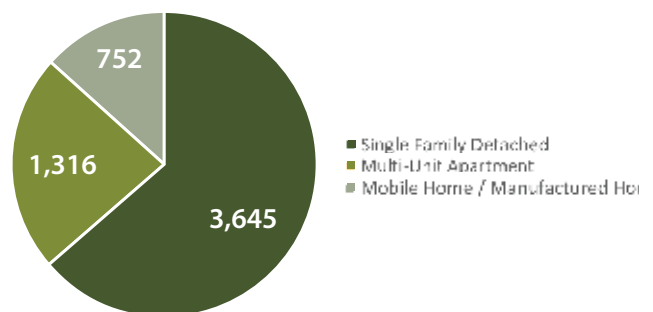
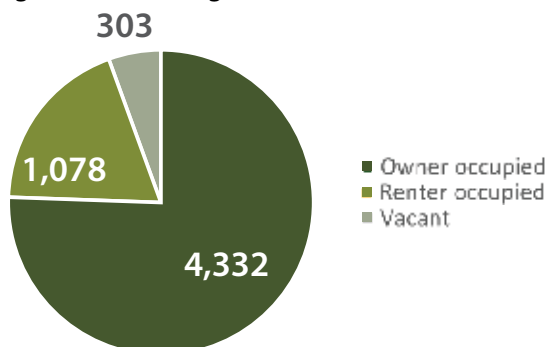


Figure 32. Housing Tenure 2020



Source: ACS, SEMCOG

## Land Use Patterns And Development Trends

While portions of the community can be categorized as urban/suburban, Superior Township’s predominant land use is Agricultural and large lot/rural residential. 39% of the land area is dedicated to agricultural uses, while large lot rural residential now makes up just over 30%. Recreation, conservation, and open space currently equate to just over 10% of the land area. The land use designation for the Rock Superior properties will have an impact on the overall percentages; if the entire acreage is shifted from agricultural to recreation, the percentages will change to agricultural at 37.6%, and recreation at 11.6%. Current land use acreage is provided in Table 35 below. Map 5 on page 89 provides a visual depiction of land uses.

The previous recreation plan described the cultural identity of the Township as being focused on small neighborhoods, rather than a large central district, and notes that there is little interaction between these communities.

While the exact demarcation of these neighborhoods could be disputed, the designations offer valuable insights into the general viewpoint of the community and may guide potential recreation development strategies.

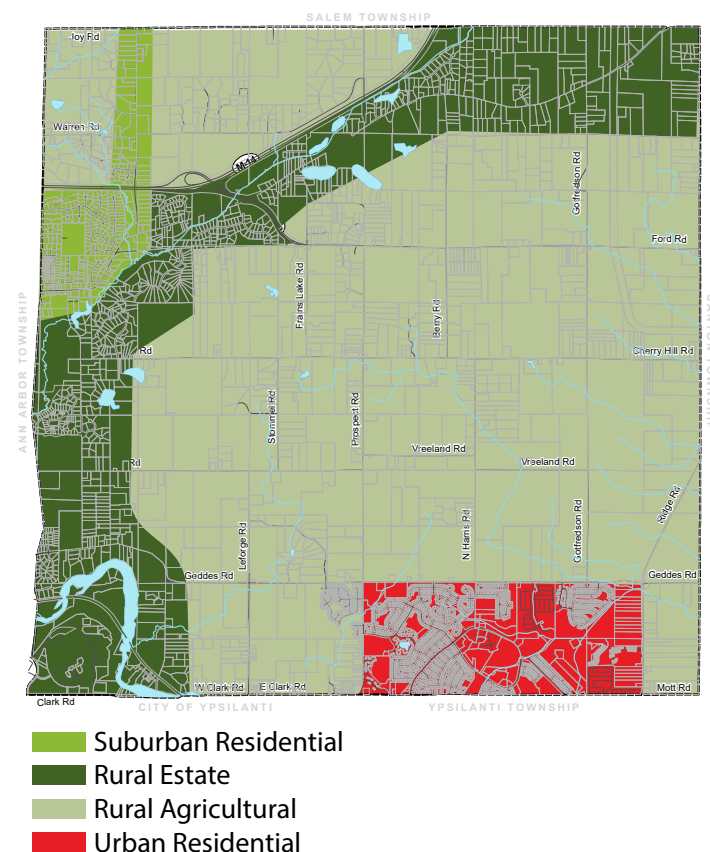
**Table 35. Existing Land Use**

Land Use Categories	Acreage	Percentage
Single-Family Housing - Small Lot	1266.8	5.9%
Single-Family Housing - Large Lot	6461.64	30.1%
Multi-Family Housing	57.04	0.3%
Mixed Use	3.96	0.0%
Office/Commercial	54.51	0.3%
Retail	46.14	0.2%
Hospitality	7.14	0.0%
Industrial	55.43	0.3%
Institutional	247.5	1.2%
Medical	297.59	1.4%
Agricultural	8069.74	37.6%
Recreation, Conservation, & Open Space	2491.31	11.6%
Parking	3.61	0.0%
Telecommunications / Utilities	214.87	1.0%
Vacant	2133.8	9.9%
Water	48.8	0.2%
<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>21459.88</b>	

The four cultural categories include:

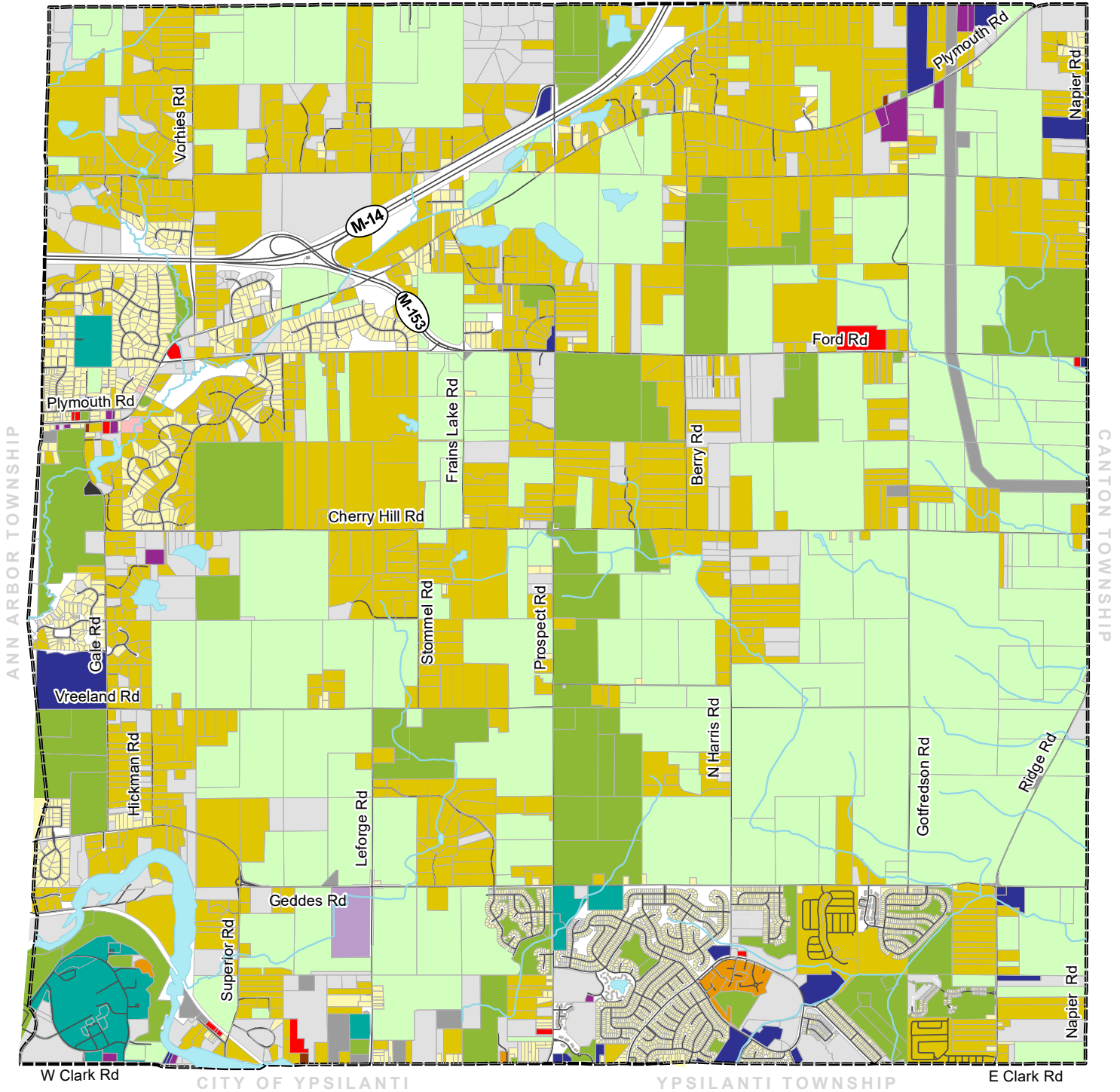
- **Urban Residential:** The southern edge of the Township contains dense housing and is the only location with sewer and water. The population tends to be lower to middle income, is more racially diverse, and orient more towards the City of Ypsilanti.
- **Suburban Residential:** Primarily the Village of Dixboro and surrounding area. Homes are on 1 to 2 acre lots, and orients towards the City of Ann Arbor due to proximity and belonging to the Ann Arbor School District.
- **Rural Estate:** Estate homes on 2 to 10 acre residential lots, these residences have historically oriented to Ann Arbor. The properties have been developed through subdivision of formerly agricultural land. Residents tend to be in the middle to upper-middle income groups.
- **Rural / Agricultural:** The majority of the Township is characterized by farms, although these areas are increasingly being infiltrated by residential development. Homeowners tend to identify with surrounding communities through proximity and street address.







**Figure 34. Cultural Locations**



Map 5. Existing Land Use

SALEM TOWNSHIP Joy Rd

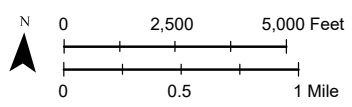



- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Single-Family Housing - Small Lot |  Office / Commercial |  Agricultural                           |
|  Single-Family Housing - Large Lot |  Retail              |  Recreation, Conservation, & Open Space |
|  Multi-Family Housing              |  Hospitality         |  Parking                                |
|  Mixed Use                         |  Industrial          |  Telecommunications / Utilities         |
|   |  Institutional       |  Vacant                                 |
|   |  Medical             |  Water                                  |

# EXISTING LAND USE

Superior Township  
Washtenaw County

Source: Washtenaw County GIS



April, 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 

## Public Transit and Non-Motorized Transportation

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) provides service to St. Joe’s Hospital and the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Region via two regular routes on the southern edge of the Township. The northern portion of the Township is not served by public transit. AAATA offers low-cost service for senior citizens, and van service is available for residents who are disabled or are 50 years of age or older. The service picks up anywhere within the Township limits with transportation to Meijer, doctor appointments, shopping centers, and more. Overall, Township residents remain highly dependent on the automobile for mobility purposes.

The Township recognizes the importance of non-motorized routes and is actively working to improve their network in the coming years. Existing facilities in the southern end of the Township provide excellent access to area parks, the Ypsilanti District Library (including the new facilities), and to Ypsilanti Township to the south (see the Map 3 on page 34). Some service gaps remain in place, most notably along Geddes Road. Closing these gaps would improve access to public transit options for residents and would form connections to larger trail systems outside of the community.

Many community members utilize Plymouth, Ford, Dixboro, Prospect, and Geddes roads as bicycle routes. Completion of the Dixboro Pathway in Ann Arbor Township provides a safe off-road alternative just outside of the western edge of the Township, and a connection to the Border-to-Border/Iron Belle Trail networks. A full description of these facilities is provided beginning on page 98.

## Natural Features

### Geology & Topography

The existing terrain in and around Superior Township was shaped by the Wisconsin ice sheet, which retreated from the region about 13,000 years ago). The substrate consists mainly of sandstone, limestone, shale, salt, and gypsum.

Superior is characterized as flat to moderately hilly with bands of gently rolling topography from the southwest to the northeast corner of the Township. Elevation changes from a high of 938 feet in the far northwestern corner of the Township to 708 feet near the intersection of Napier Road and Geddes Road.

Drainage patterns are clearly evident in “Map 7. Elevation and Topography” on page 92. Fleming Creek, which roughly parallels Plymouth Road, forms a gentle valley running from the northeast to the southwest, before ultimately meeting with the Huron River south of Stark Strasse Street. Smaller tributaries including the Superior #1 drain and Fowler Creek flow southeast into Wayne County as part of the greater Rouge River watershed.

### Soils

Two major soil associations are identified in the Washtenaw County Soil Survey for Superior Township, Morley-Blount and St. Clair-Nappanee-Hoytville. These soils are fine to medium texture loams and clay. They have a moderate water capacity and slow permeability. Around 75% of the soils are suitable for agriculture with the remaining composed of wetlands or steep slopes.

### Water Resources

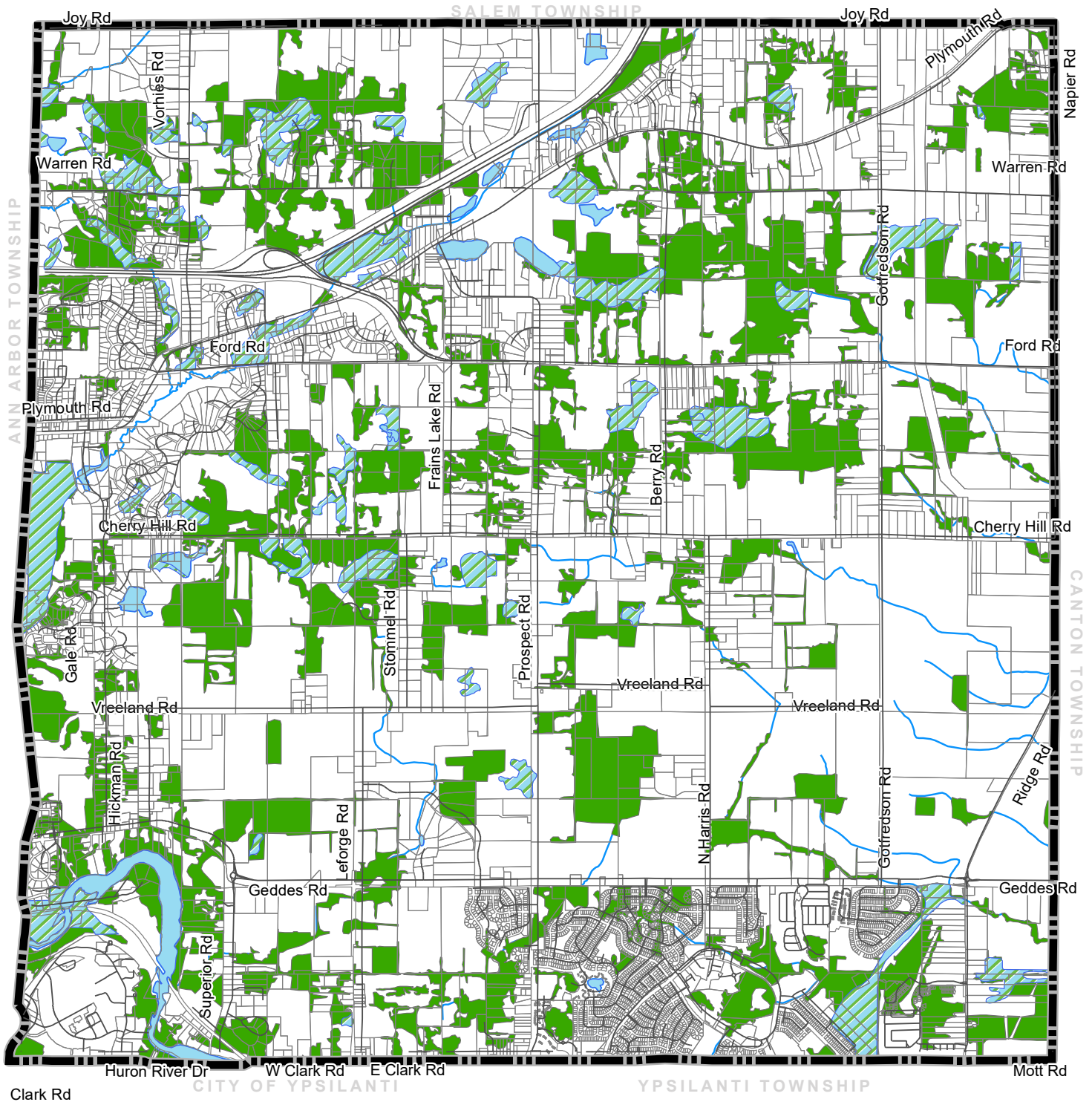
Superior is within the Huron River and Rouge River basins. The Huron River basin captures flow from the western portion of the Township and the Rouge River basin captures flow from the eastern portion. The Huron River, specifically its tributary Fleming Creek, are the Township’s largest waterways.

Precipitation is the major source of groundwater recharge for the Huron River basin. The northeastern portion of the Township generally has adequate groundwater access, but the southeastern area is sometimes in low supply. Sensitive groundwater recharge areas exist near Fleming Creek, the Huron River, and the eastern edges of the Township. The exact location of underground aquifers is difficult to establish, and new development or uses may or may not adversely affect local water supplies.

### Wetlands

Wetlands are prevalent throughout the community, particularly in the central and northern sections. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) wetland maps show a widespread network of hydric soils and wetlands; Map 6 on page 91 highlights the location of confirmed wetlands only. Some of the largest examples can be found in the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, the northern portion of LeFurge Woods, and in Harvest Moon Park. The composition of the wetlands vary from location to location, but scrub-shrub wetlands, wet prairies, and hardwood swamps are common. Superior Township enacted a wetlands ordinance in 1998 to protect these delicate features of the Township.

Map 6. Natural Features

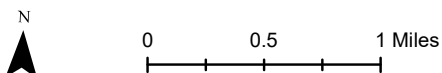



-  Wetlands
-  Woodlands
-  Rivers/Streams
-  Lakes/Ponds

## Natural Features

Superior Township  
Washtenaw County

Roads, Tax Parcel, and Rivers Data  
from Washtenaw County GIS

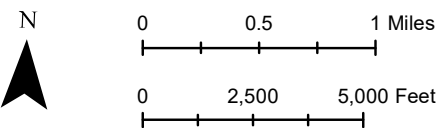
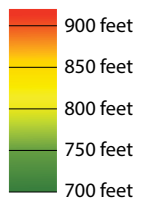
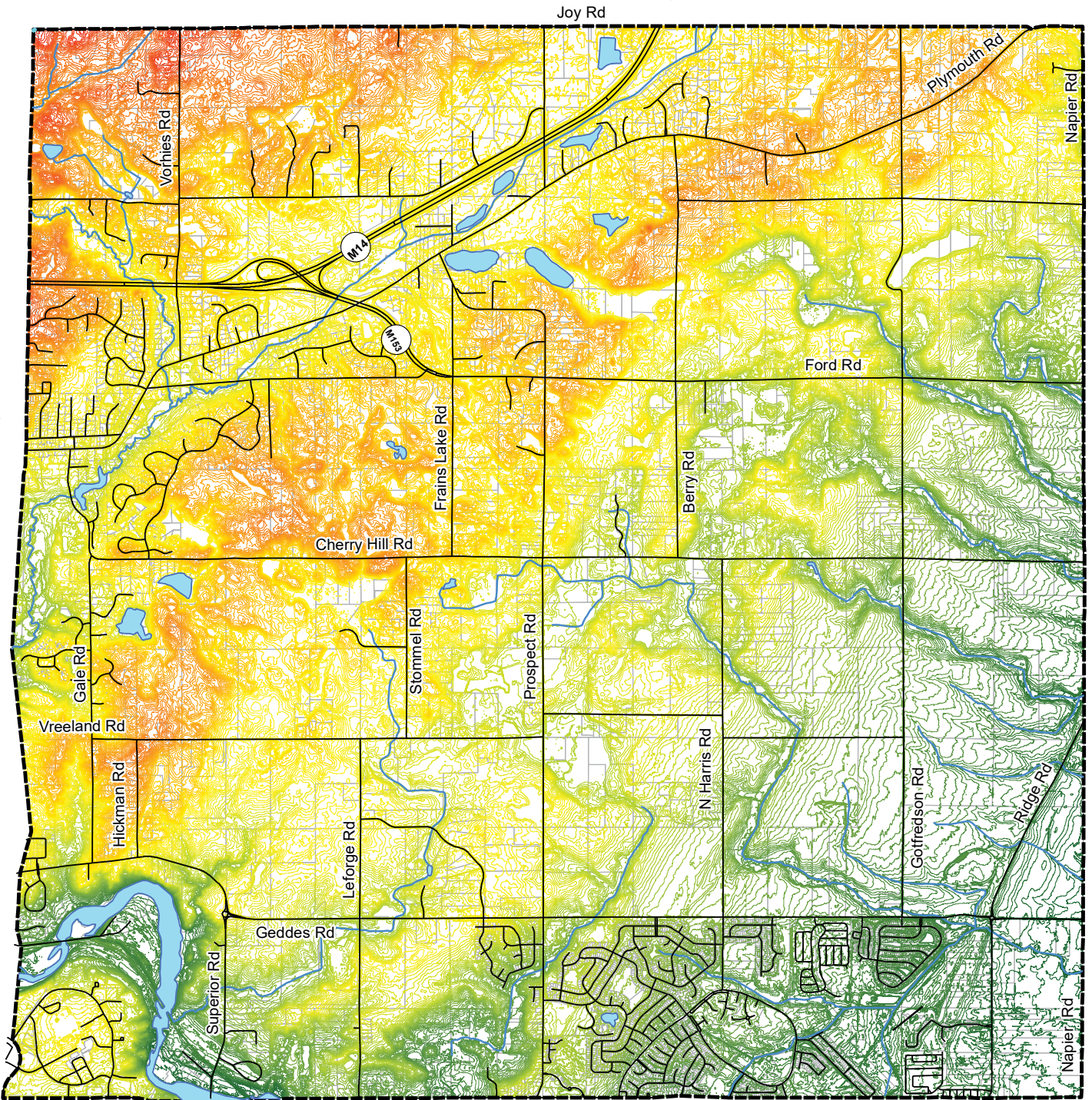


December 22, 2021  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 

Salem Township

Ann Arbor Township

City of Canton



City of Ypsilanti

Ypsilanti Township

**Elevation Map**

Superior Township  
Washtenaw County

Roads, Tax Parcel, and Rivers Data  
from Washtenaw County GIS

January 5, 2022  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Community Background

Administrative Structure

Recreation Inventory

Needs Assessment & Public Participation

Action Plan

Goals & Objectives

Executive Summary

Table of Contents

## Vegetation

Woodlands of five acres or greater cover over 5,000 acres, or roughly 23 percent of Superior Township's land area. According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Historical Vegetation map, the area was dominated by beech-sugar Maple forest, black ash swamp, and oak-hickory forests. Most of the original forests have been removed due to agriculture or other forms of development, but significant stands remain in place, especially on the northern end of the Township. Land preservation efforts along the Superior Greenway, in particular, have helped to conserve thousands of acres forested land and open space, saving critical habitat and providing important recreational amenities for residents to enjoy.



## Planning Initiatives

### SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

The Township is in the process of updating their Master Plan update. This update is being prepared concurrently with the Recreation Plan efforts in an effort to reduce costs and ensure consistency in themes and recommendations for the community. The Comprehensive Plan is evaluating a number of themes that coincide closely with the Recreation Plan, including:

- Development of non-motorized transportation facilities, with a special emphasis on walkability and traffic calming detailed in the Dixboro Sub-area Plan;
- Preservation of sensitive natural resources through conservation initiatives including purchase of land development rights, conservation easements, or outright land acquisition; and
- Continued support for parks and recreation programming and facility development.

### WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY - 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan is a follow-up to the county-wide non-motorized transportation plan developed for Washtenaw County in 2006. The new plan places a heavy emphasis on equity, safety, environmental impact, and strategic investments, and identifies the use of \$748 million in projects to address the deficiencies in the transportation network. Over \$110 million is earmarked for non-motorized facilities. Non-motorized system gaps are identified as regional priorities.

The plan identifies a number of deficiencies in the pedestrian and bicycle networks in Superior Township (see Figure 35 on page 95). These deficiencies were taken into consideration when developing the Non-motorized plan provided on page 16. WATS does not currently show any transportation improvement projects scheduled for Superior Township in the next two years. Projects recently completed include the road rehabilitation along Ford and LeForge Roads, and pathway projects along Prospect Road. Township officials should continue to work closely with WATS to identify both the location and form of any desired improvements.

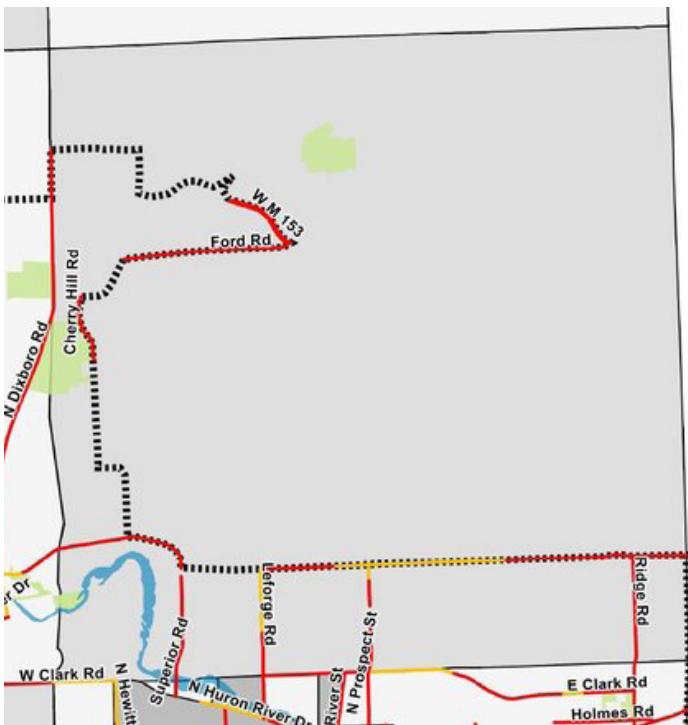
### SEMCOG PARKS & RECREATION PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The SEMCOG plan, adopted in 2019, was developed to highlight available recreation resources and ensure that the region's recreation system meets the needs of residents and visitors. The Plan notes that with over 2,300 parks covering 214,000 acres, over 400 miles of trails and greenways, and 450 miles of designated water trails, the region is well served by local, state, regional, and federal recreation authorities.

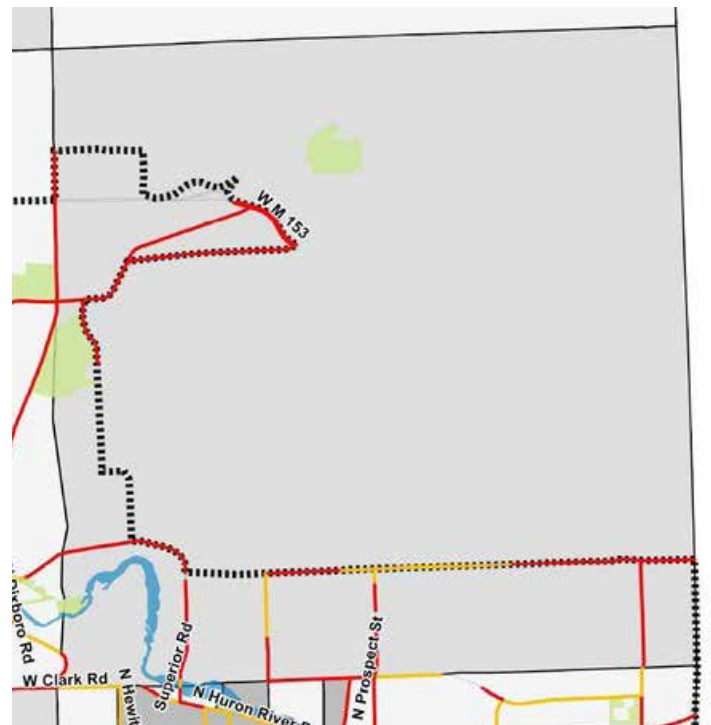
The plan provides several regional policy recommendations to address recreation development. Among the recommendations, prioritization of investment in land acquisition is viewed as necessary to address gaps in access to outdoor recreation facilities. Fostering collaboration among outdoor recreation stakeholders speaks to the need for ongoing cooperation between local and regional recreation authorities. Utilization of universal design principles ensures that facilities are accessible to residents of all abilities. Supporting conservation and stewardship of natural resources recognizes the value of open space and the desire of the region's residents to have access to natural areas in reasonable proximity to their homes.

Figure 35. WATS Bike and Pedestrian Facility Deficiencies

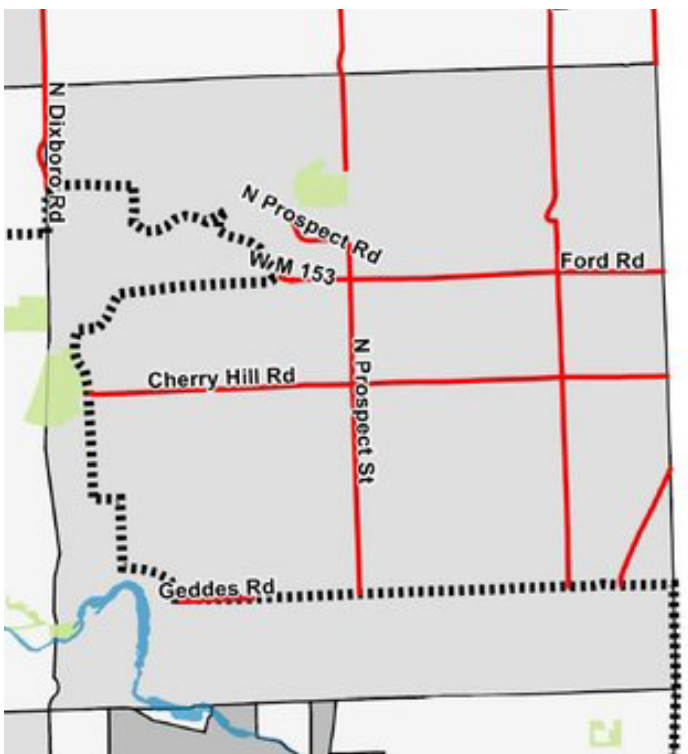
Urban Bike Facility Deficiencies



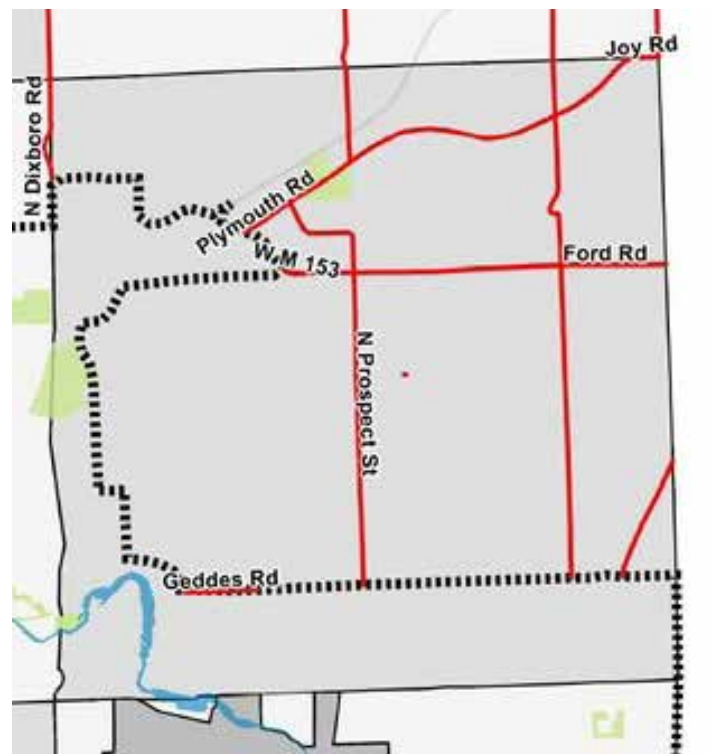
Urban Pedestrian Facility Deficiencies



Potential Rural Bike Facility Needs



Potential Rural Pedestrian Needs






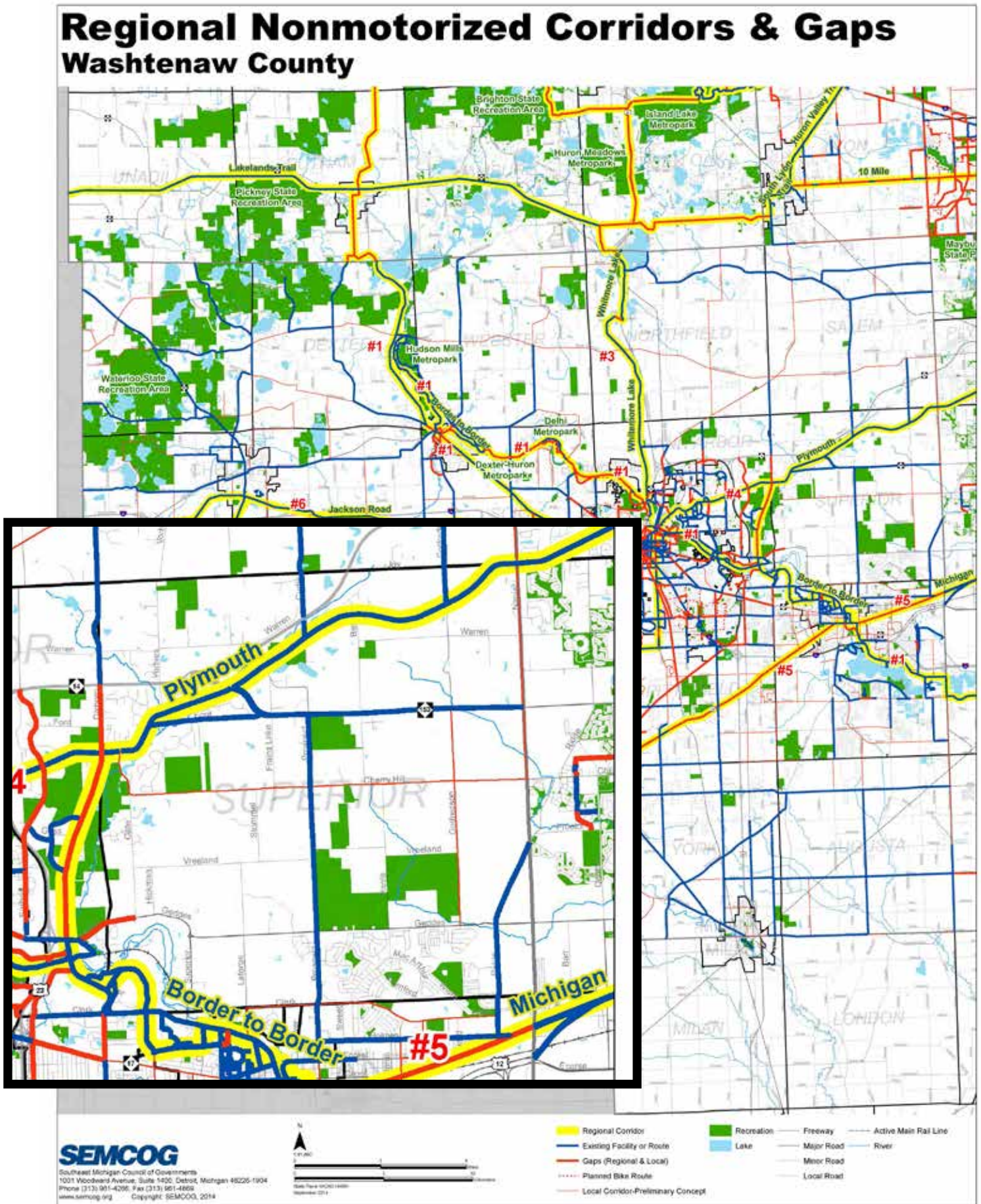
-  Urban Boundary
-  One Side
-  Two Sides

Figure 36. SEMCOG 2014 Bicycle & Pedestrian Travel Plan Detail



## **SEMCOG 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN / 2014 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN**

The 2040 Regional Transportation Plan is a joint effort between Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 10 regions and incorporating 60 different action items. SEMCOG's larger regional focus places more emphasis on existing non-motorized transportation options, and details several larger trail efforts that overlap efforts in the DLGI plan.

SEMCOG's 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Plan identifies a number of existing primary and secondary routes in Superior Township, including regional connections along Plymouth Road. These routes are consistent with those identified by local planning efforts, but characterization as "existing facilities" is sometimes questionable and does not take into account on-the-ground challenges and impediments. Again, it will be important for Superior Township officials to work closely with regional planning authorities to ensure that long-range visions accurately reflect the desires of the community.

## **WASHTENAW COUNTY NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

Washtenaw County's Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP), a subunit of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, was established in 2000 by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. The goal of the program is to identify, acquire, and manage properties which:

- Preserve the natural and ecological diversity of the County; and
- Complement existing publicly and privately protected lands.

Voters renewed the County-wide, ¼ mill tax that funded the program in 2010. In 2018, the Washtenaw County Treasurer and WCPARC partnered to create a new funding mechanism to support the perpetual operation and stewardship of the County's extensive NAPP program. The fund works like an endowment, providing a permanent source of funding to maintain these preserved natural areas in perpetuity.

NAPP operates several properties in the Township including the popular Kosch Headwaters Preserve and the Meyer Preserve.

Figure 37. Border-to-Border Trail Overview Plan

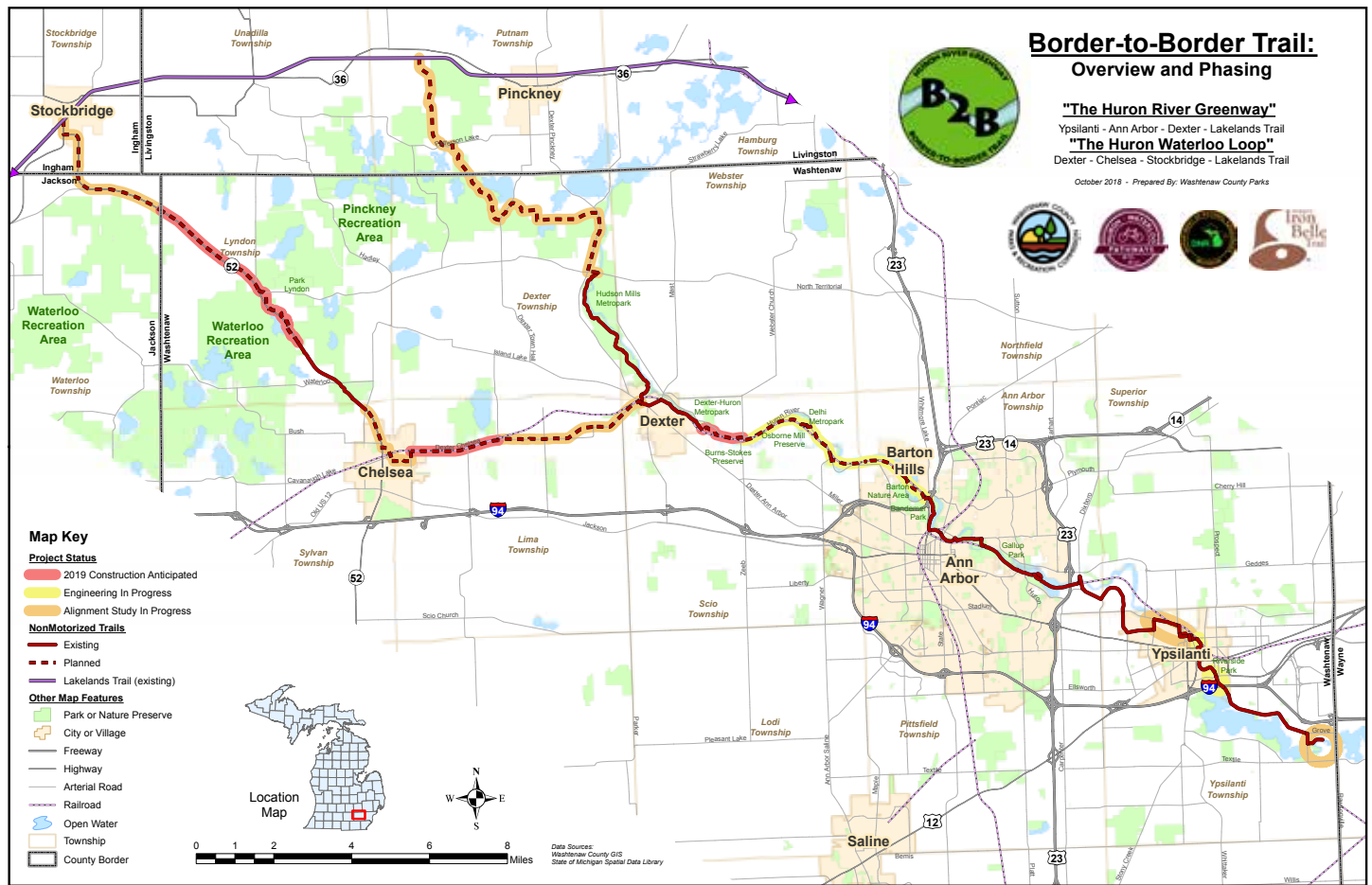


FIGURE 17: Washtenaw County Non-Motorized Trail Facilities

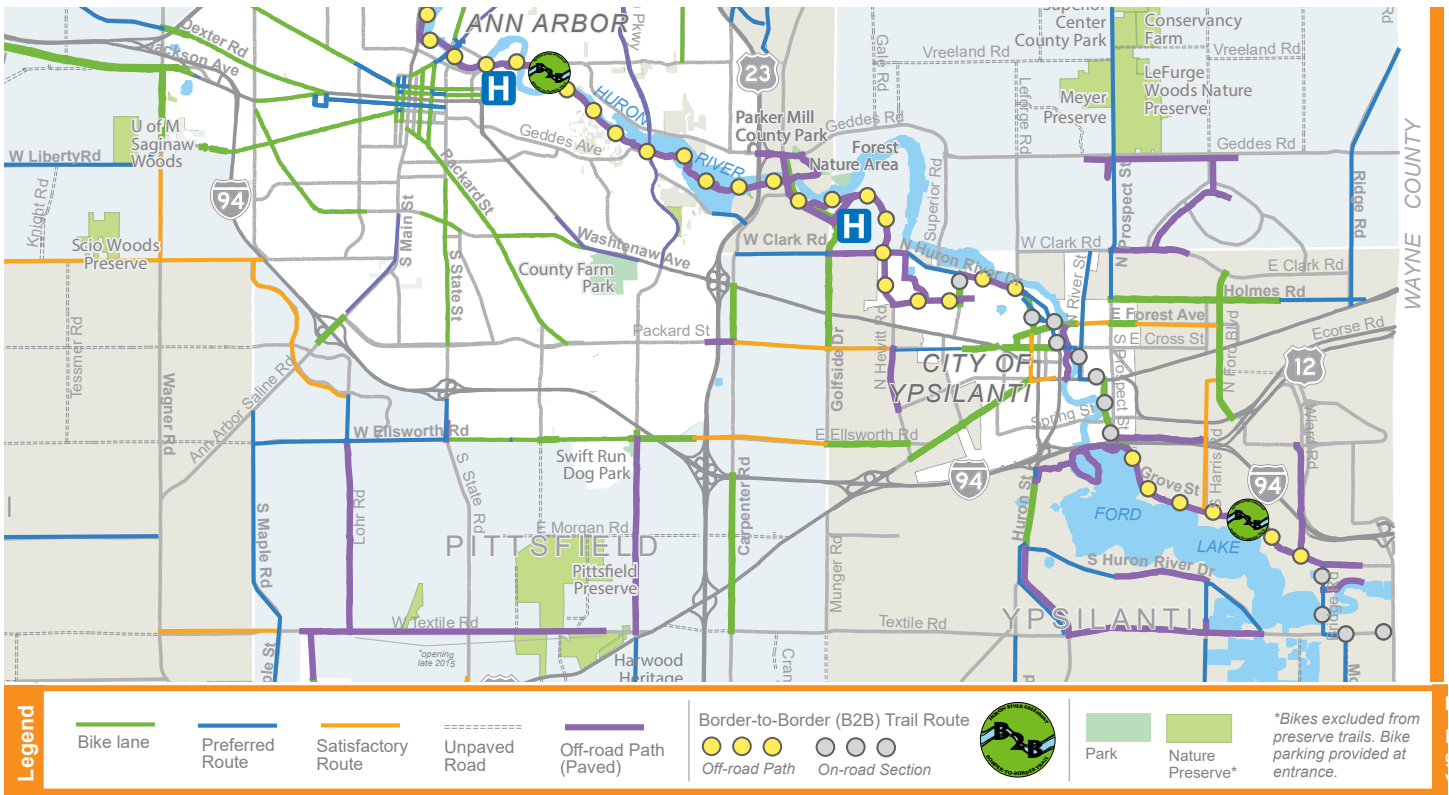


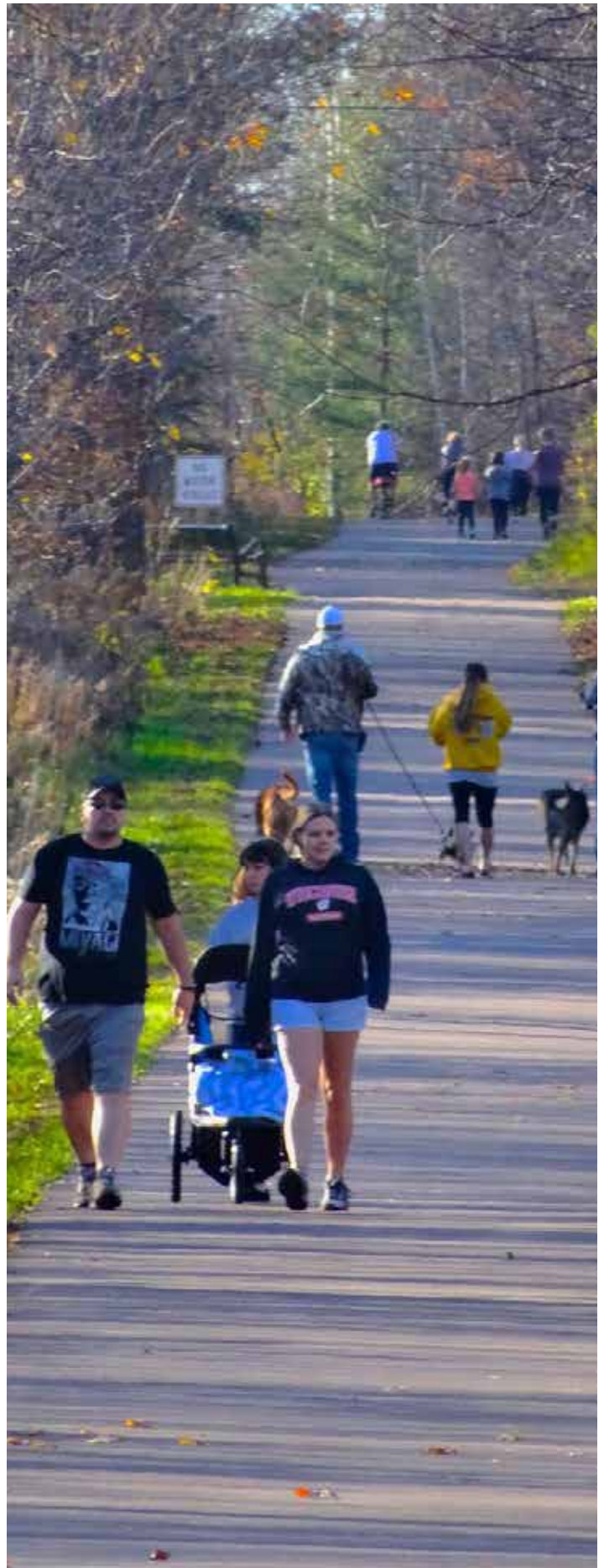
Image Source: Adapted from Washtenaw County Bike Map, Washtenaw County & City of Ann Arbor, 2015

## WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC) has made significant progress toward developing non-motorized transportation facilities in Washtenaw County. Their efforts have focused on the development of the Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) along the Huron River connecting the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

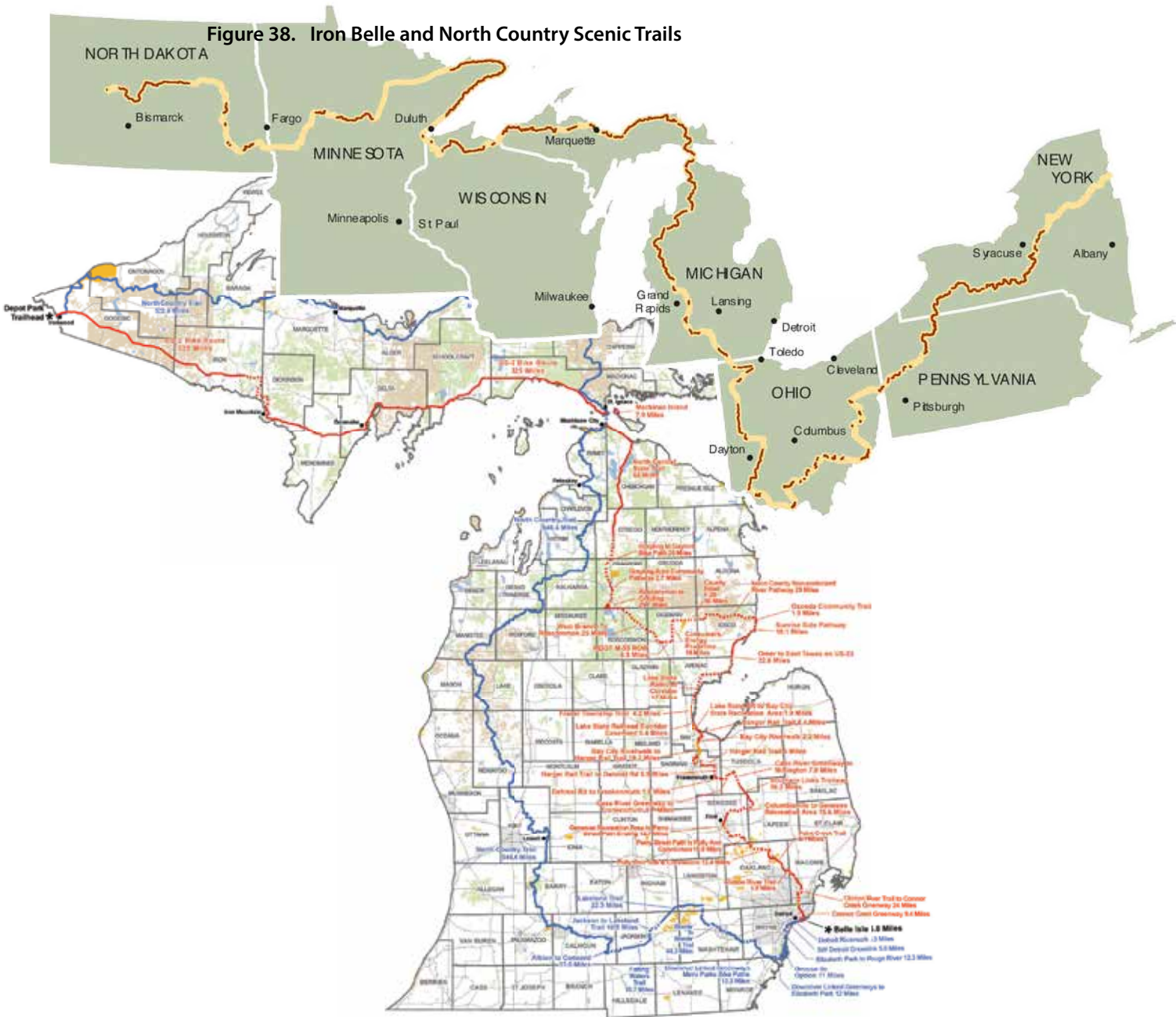
When completed, the B2B will travel from the northwestern corner of Lyndon Township to the southeastern corner of Ypsilanti Township. For much of its length, the trail follows the Huron River and utilizes trails through several riverside parks, including the Waterloo and Pinckney Recreation Areas, the Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, and Delhi Metroparks, and several smaller municipal parks. It will ultimately connect the cities of Stockbridge, Pinckney, Chelsea, Dexter, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti as well as Ingham, Livingston, and Van Buren Counties. The B2B is a key component of the Iron Belle Trail network (see page 100).

Beginning in 2009, the WCPRC established the “Connecting Communities” initiative, which provides funds to assist local communities in constructing non-motorized trails. The program made over \$3 million available for 15 projects in 10 different communities between 2010 and 2014. Additional funds were made available again in 2020 through the Washtenaw County 4-year road millage. As of 2022, more than 14 miles of trail have been constructed through the assistance of this program.



*Iron Belle Trail in Ironwood, Michigan. Image Source: Ironwood Chamber of Commerce*

Figure 38. Iron Belle and North Country Scenic Trails



### STATE OF MICHIGAN IRON BELLE TRAIL & NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The ambitious project by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) would connect a series of trails from Detroit’s Belle Isle to Ironwood in the far west of the Upper Peninsula. The Iron Belle Trail (IBT) includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route which winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. The 791 mile long biking trail uses existing multi-use trails on the east side of the state and follows US-2 in the Upper Peninsula. The IBT has had a tremendous impact on trail development in Michigan in recent years; since 2012, over \$68 million in grant and local funds and \$155 million in private donations have been collected. Over 200 miles of trails are scheduled to be completed in the next few years.

As part of the B2B, the IBT passes through the southwest corner of Superior Township. Trail segments are operated and maintained by local communities and recreation authorities.

Once completed, the IBT will become the largest section of the even more ambitious North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) system, which will run from New Hampshire to North Dakota, making it one of the largest contiguous trail systems in the country. At approximately 4,600 miles, it is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails.

## MICHIGAN BLUEWAYS & WATER TRAILS

The State of Michigan currently boasts of more than 3,000 miles of water trails along the Great Lakes and inland lakes and rivers. Like traditional land-based trails, water trails bring visitors to the community and offer recreational and educational opportunities for residents. By improving the overall quality of life for residents, these trails make the community more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The Huron River Water Trail offers some of the best kayaking and canoeing opportunities in the state of Michigan. Traveling over 104 miles, the trail provides challenges for users of all abilities and passes through a wide variety of environments. The river winds through State, County, and numerous municipal parks, as well as eight HCMA Metroparks.



# Appendices



# Appendix A. Public Notices

MLive Media Group  
 169 Monroe Ave NW Suite 200  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503



## Ann Arbor News

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP, LYNETTE FINDLEY  
 3040 N PROSPECT RD  
 YPSILANTI, MI 48198

AD#: 0010500349

Sales Rep: Joseph Rosa  
 Account Number:1000505520  
 AD#: 0010500349

Remit Payment to:  
 MLive Media Group  
 Dept 77571  
 P.O. Box 77000  
 Detroit, MI 48277-0571

Page 1 of 2

Date	Position	Description	P.O. Number	Ad Size	Costs
11/10/2022	Public Notices MI	November 7, 2022 Superior Township NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING		1 x 53 L	
				Affidavit Notary Fee - 11/10/2022	\$17.00
				Basic Ad Charge - 11/10/2022	\$72.88
				Total	\$89.88

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS AFFIDAVIT, PLEASE CALL 616-254-2030 or 877-222-5423



# Ann Arbor News

## LEGAL AFFIDAVIT

AD#: 0010500349

Total

\$89.88

State of Michigan,) ss  
County of Washtenaw)

Nancy Block being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of MLive Media Group; that Ann Arbor News is a public newspaper published in the city of Ann Arbor, with general circulation in Washtenaw county, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

**Ann Arbor News 11/10/2022**

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of November 2022

Notary Public

TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Kent

November 7, 2022  
Superior Township  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Superior Charter Township Parks and Recreation is seeking public input regarding the Superior Charter Township 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The hearing will take place as part of the regularly scheduled Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2022, at Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect Rd., Superior Township, MI 48198.

A draft copy of the plan has been available for review since November 7, 2022 and will remain available through the date of the hearing. The plan can be viewed at the following locations during regular business hours:

- Parks & Recreation offices at 575 E. Clark Road, Superior Township, 48198
- Superior Township Hall, 3040 North Prospect Road, Superior Township, 48198
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at [superiortownship.org](http://superiortownship.org), or can be directly accessed at <https://www.calameo.com/read/005107673626873f5d1e0>.
- For questions or comments, please contact Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director, at (734) 480-5502 or via email at [jbradford@superior-twp.org](mailto:jbradford@superior-twp.org)



**Ann Arbor News**

**LEGAL AFFIDAVIT**

AD#: 0010500350

Total

\$84.38

State of Michigan,) ss  
County of Washtenaw)

Nancy Block being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of MLive Media Group; that Ann Arbor News is a public newspaper published in the city of Ann Arbor, with general circulation in Washtenaw county, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

**Ann Arbor News 11/10/2022**

Nancy Block  
Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of November 2022

Teasha R Payne  
Notary Public

TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF hent

November 7, 2022  
Superior Township  
NOTICE OF PLAN  
AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

Superior Charter Township Parks and Recreation is seeking public input regarding the Superior Charter Township 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. A formal public hearing for adoption of the Plan will be held upon completion of the 30-day review period.

A hard copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the following locations:

- Parks & Recreation offices at 575 E. Clark Road, Superior Township, 48198
- Superior Township Hall, 3040 North Prospect Road, Superior Township, 48198
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at [superiortownship.org](http://superiortownship.org) or can be directly accessed at <https://www.calameo.com/read/005107673626873f5d1e0>.
- For questions or comments, please contact Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director, at (734) 480-5502 or via email at [jbradford@superior-twp.org](mailto:jbradford@superior-twp.org)

# Appendix B. Parks & Recreation Commission Resolution

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION'S  
2023–2027 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2023-01**

**DATE: JANUARY 23, 2023**

**WHEREAS**, the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission is made up of representatives from the Charter Township of Superior, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission began the process of developing a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Superior, and

**WHEREAS**, residents of the Charter Township of Superior 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 recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on December 19, 2022, at the Charter Township of Superior's Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the township to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Parks & Recreation Commission voted to adopt said 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Charter Township of Superior's Parks & Recreation Commission hereby adopts it's 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

Yeas: N. Sani-Yahyai  
M. Morris  
M. Kern-Boprie  
T. Lansing  
G. Conti  
R. Schofield  
G. Vessels

Nays:

Absent:

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Martha Kern-Boprie, Secretary of the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission held on January 23, 2023 and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

  
Martha Kern-Boprie, Secretary  
Parks & Recreation Commission

  
Date Certified

# Appendix C. Minutes of Public Hearing

Approved by Superior Charter Township Park Commission on 1/23/2023

Superior Charter Township Park Commission  
Regular Meeting  
December 19, 2022

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll Call  
Park Commissioners present: Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Marion Morris, Martha Kern-Boprie, Greg Vessels, Riley Schofield, Terry Lee Lansing, Guy Conti  
  
Park Commissioners absent: none  
  
Others present, Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Park Director; Jan Piert; Kelly Goolsby
3. Flag Salute  
Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. Agenda Approval  
It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the agenda as drafted. During discussion on the motion Guy Conti referred to New Business item D. and asked if it was necessary to still send Park Commissioners to the Township Board meetings, as the Board Liaison Trustee Bernice Lindke gives thorough reports and can report back to the Township Board on Park Commission matters. Martha Kern-Boprie commented that she believes there is value in having the elected Park Commissioners present before the Township Board. Their presence and comments let the Township Board know the importance of Park Commission issues before the board. Marion Morris and Nahid Sanii-Yahyai stated they concur with Martha. The motion to approve the agenda as drafted carried.
5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
  - A. November 28, 2022  
It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the minutes of 11/28/22 with one correction. In the list of other persons attending the meeting, Juan Bradford is listed as Administrator, but his title was changed to Director earlier in 2022. The motion to approve the minutes with correction of Juan Bradford's title to Director carried.
6. Public Hearing regarding 2023 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan  
It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to open the public hearing on the 2023 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan at 6:05 pm. The motion carried.  
  
Jan Piert commented that the plan was well written and she supported its goals, particularly those to enhance access to parks and recreation by people with all levels of abilities, and to enhance non-motorized travel and access. She noted that the goals of the plan may require a millage tax to achieve.  
  
It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to close the public hearing on the 2023 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan at 6:08 pm. The motion carried.
7. Citizen Participation  
Kelly Goolsby asked for an update on correcting drainage problems in Firemans Park. She stated the drainage problems should be fixed before installing more playground equipment. She is also concerned about bees that are present in Firemans Park, due to fruit trees. The bees make it difficult to use the park.

8. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai thanked Marion Morris for her many years of service as Park Commission chairperson. She wished the park commissioners and staff a pleasant holiday season.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke stated that there has not been a Township Board meeting since the last Park Commission meeting, so there is nothing to report. The Township Board will meet tonight at 7:00 pm.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

The township board has not met since the last Park Commission meeting. The township board will meet tonight at 7:00 pm, and Nahid Sanii-Yahyai will attend that meeting for the Park Commission.

E. Park Steward

No report.

F. Safety

There were no accidents or injuries in the past month.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to receive the reports. The motion carried.

9. Communications

A. Educational: CDC – Be Ready! Winter Weather

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Riley Schofield to receive the communications. The motion carried.

10. Old Business

A. Community Center Advisory Committee Update

Juan Bradford reported that the Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) met last week. Focus groups will begin meeting in January 2023.

11. New Business

A. Adoption of 2023 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Marion Morris to adopt the 2023 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The motion carried.

B. Resolution for Application of Spark Grant

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to adopt the following resolution supporting a Spark Grant Submission for Cherry Hill Nature Preserve ADA Improvements.

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission supports the submission of an application titled “Cherry Hill Nature Preserve ADA Improvements” to the Spark Grant program to construct a handicap accessible parking lot, and install a handicap accessible board walk and pathway from the parking lot to the wetland lookout deck at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, and,

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission supports the National Recreation & Park Association’s three pillars of health and wellness, inclusion, and conservation, and,

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements requested in the grant would provide access and inclusion to a natural space that is currently not accessible to people experiencing either permanent or short-term mobility disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the universal design features proposed will also improve accessibility to parents with strollers, and elders with uneasy footing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements would make Cherry Hill Nature Preserve the first nature preserve in the township with ADA accessible parking and walkways; and,

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission seeks to continually expand its recreational offerings that are open to all visitors regardless of ability level; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission hereby supports the submission of a Spark Application for \$681,000.00 for Cherry Hill Nature Preserve ADA Improvements to be constructed in 2023 – 2024.

Vote:  
Ayes 7  
Nays 0  
Absent 0

The motion carried and the resolution is adopted.

C. 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Dates

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to schedule 2023 Park Commission meetings on the following dates and times:

January 23, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
February 27, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
March 27, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
April 24, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
May 22, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
June 26, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
July 24, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
August 28, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
September 25, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
October 23, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
November 27, 2023 6:30 pm Monday  
December 18, 2023 6:00 pm Monday

Note: December meeting held on third Monday of month at 6:00 pm due to Christmas holiday on the fourth Monday.

The motion carried.

D. 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting Attendees

Park Commissioners volunteered to attend the following Board of Trustees meetings in 2023.

January 17, 2023 Tuesday Greg Vessels  
February 21, 2023 Tuesday Nahid Sanii-Yahyai  
March 20, 2023 Monday Guy Conti  
April 17, 2023 Monday Riley Schofield  
May 15, 2023 Monday Martha Kern-Boprie  
June 20, 2023 Monday Marion Morris  
July 17, 2023 Monday Marion Morris

Approved by Superior Charter Township Park Commission on 1/23/2023

August 21, 2023	Monday	Martha Kern-Boprie
September 18, 2023	Monday	Terry Lee Lansing
October 16, 2023	Monday	Terry Lee Lansing
November 20, 2023	Monday	Greg Vessels
December 18, 2023	Monday	Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

12. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Riley Schofield to approve payment of the bills totaling \$23,176.29 at 12/19/2022. The motion carried.

13. Financial Statements

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to receive the November Revenue and Expenditure Report. The motion carried.

14. Pleas and Petitions

Kelly Goolsby spoke to the park commission about three things she wants done in Firemans Park.

1. Trim or cut trees to remove bees.
2. Install fence between road and park.
3. Correct drainage problems.

15. Adjournment

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Riley Schofield to adjourn at 6:25 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,  
Martha Kern-Boprie, Park Commissioner and Secretary

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Martha Kern-Boprie, Secretary of the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the December 19, 2022 meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.



Martha Kern-Boprie, Secretary  
Parks & Recreation Commission



Date Certified

# Appendix D. Board of Trustees Resolution

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN

### A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE 2023-2027 PLAN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2023-1

JANUARY 17, 2023

**WHEREAS**, the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission began the process of developing a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Superior; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of the Charter Township of Superior 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 recreation and natural resource conservation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on December 19, 2022, at the Charter Township of Superior's Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the township to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Parks & Recreation Commission voted to adopt said 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan serves as a guideline for park land, open space, and recreation planning by the Parks & Recreation Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan also serves as a planning tool for other Township boards and commissions, such as the Planning Commission and the Township Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of a five-year plan is mandated by the State of Michigan for eligibility for State grants; and


**WHEREAS**, the Park & Recreation Commission has recommended that the

Superior Charter Township Board adopt the Plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Superior Charter Township Board concurs with the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Commission and hereby adopts the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for the Years 2023-2023.

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, Lynette Findley, the duly qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of Superior, Washtenaw County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board held on January 17, 2023, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

  
Lynette Findley, Township Clerk

1-19-23  
Date Certified



**Carlisle | Wortman**  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

January 26, 2023

Tyler Klifman  
Regional Review Office  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mr. Klifman:

The Superior Township Board of Trustees and Superior Township Parks Commission adopted the attached Parks & Recreation Master Plan at meetings held on January 17 and 23, respectively. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Township Board of Trustees and Parks Commission.

Please feel free to contact Juan Bradford, Superior Township Parks Director, or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

**CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.**

**Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA**

**Landscape Architect**

cc. Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director



**Carlisle | Wortman**  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

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January 26, 2023

Coy Vaughn  
Director  
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission  
PO Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

The Superior Township Board of Trustees and Superior Township Parks Commission adopted the attached Parks & Recreation Master Plan at meetings held on January 17 and 23, respectively. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Township Board of Trustees and Parks Commission.

Please feel free to contact Juan Bradford, Superior Township Parks Director, or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

**CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.**

**Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA**  
**Landscape Architect**

cc. Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director

Richard K. Carlisle, *President* Douglas J. Lewan, *Executive Vice President* John L. Enos, *Vice President*  
David Scurto, *Principal* Benjamin R. Carlisle, *Principal* Sally M. Elmiger, *Principal* Craig Strong, *Principal* R. Donald Wortman, *Principal*  
Laura K. Kreps, *Senior Associate* Paul Montagno, *Principal* Megan Masson-Minock, *Principal*

# Appendix F. Public Input Summary

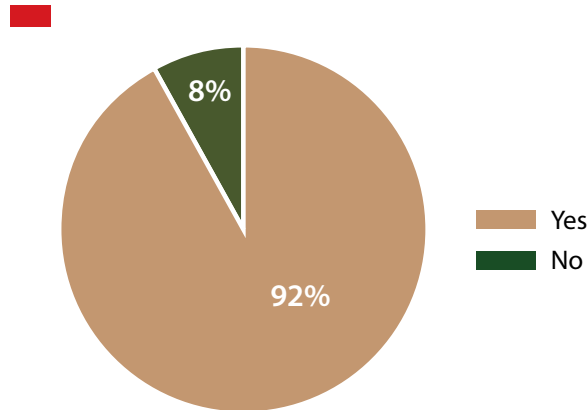


## Master Planning Community Survey Results

An online survey was made available to Superior Township residents from October 13 to December 3, 2021, as part of a community outreach program developed for the Township's Comprehensive and Recreation Plan efforts. The survey was advertised via social media and on the Township's website. 279 unique responses were received during that time period.

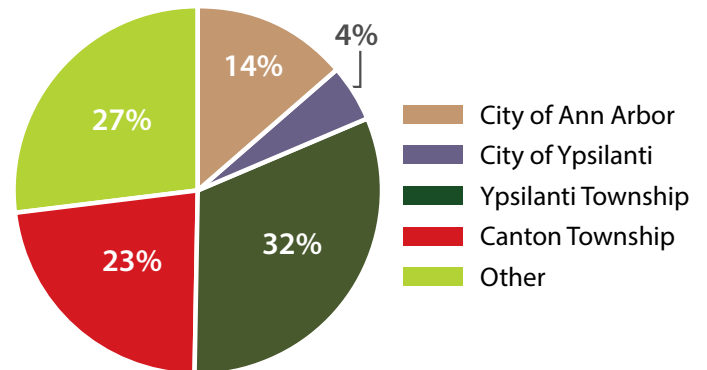
The following pages provide a summary of the results. For open-ended questions, responses are provided verbatim; no edits have been made for grammar or spelling errors. The top result for each question is highlighted in yellow.

### 1. Do you live in Superior Township?



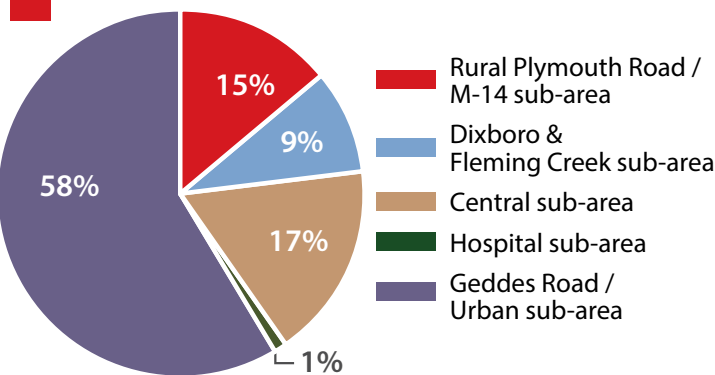
Response	Number	Percent
Yes	257	92.11%
No	22	7.88%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>279</b>	

### 3. If you don't live in Superior Township, where do you live?



Response	Number	Percent
Ypsilanti Township	7	31.82%
Canton Township	5	22.73%
City of Ann Arbor	3	13.64%
City of Ypsilanti	1	4.55%
Ann Arbor Township	0	-
Salem Township	0	-
Other (please specify)	6	27.27%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>22</b>	

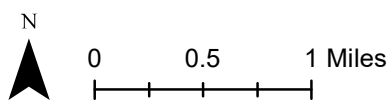
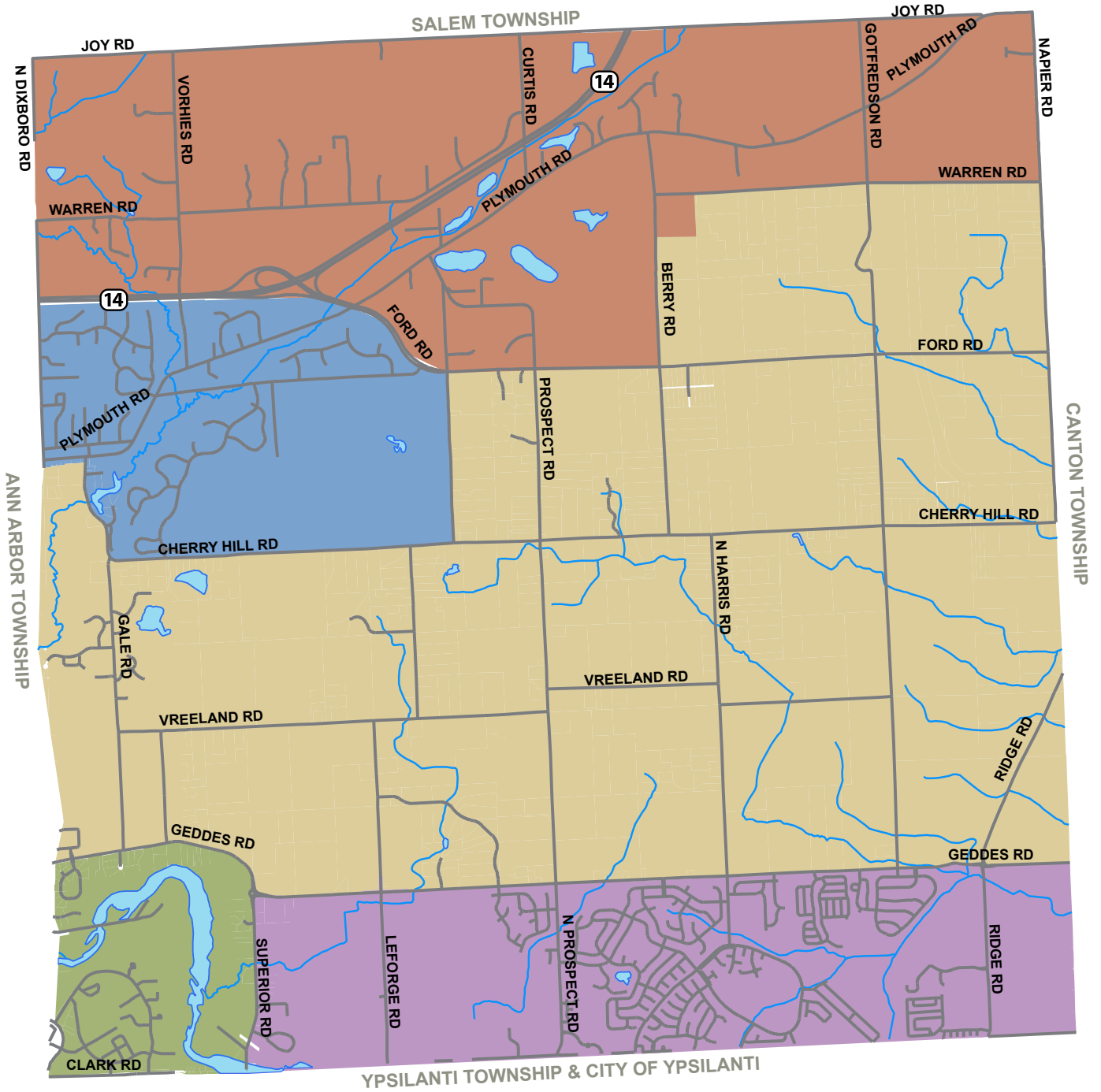
### 2. Which sub-area do you live in? (see map on page 2)



Response	Number	Percent
Geddes Road / Urban sub-area	149	58.20%
Central sub-area	43	16.80%
Rural Plymouth Road / M-14 sub-area	37	14.45%
Dixboro & Fleming Creek sub-area	24	9.38%
Hospital sub-area	3	1.17%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>256</b>	

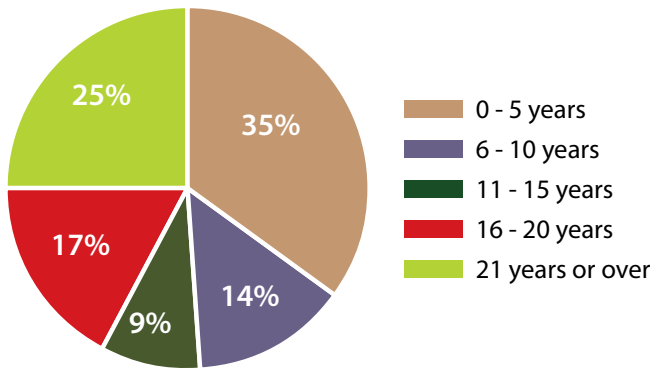
#### OTHER RESPONSES

- Pittsfield Township (2 responses)
- Oakland County
- Van Buren Township
- Troy
- Wayne MI



- Rural Plymouth Road / M-14 Sub-Area
- Dixboro & Fleming Creek Sub-Area
- Central Sub-Area
- Hospital Sub-Area
- Geddes Road / Urban Sub-Area

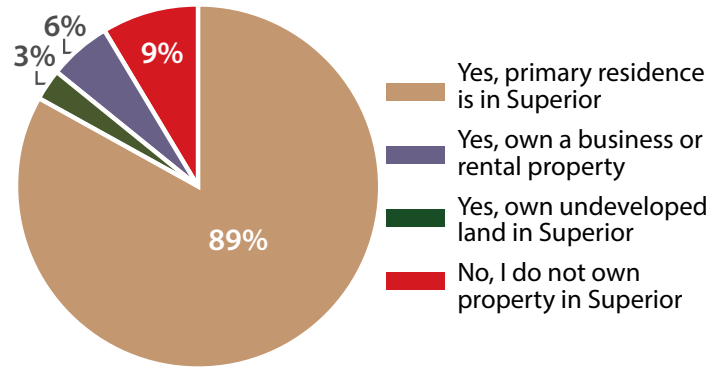
**4.** How long have you lived in the Township?



Response	Number	Percent
0 - 5 years	90	35.02%
6 - 10 years	36	14.01%
11 - 15 years	23	8.95%
16 - 20 years	43	16.73%
21 years or over	65	25.29%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>257</b>	

**6.** Do you own property in Superior Township?

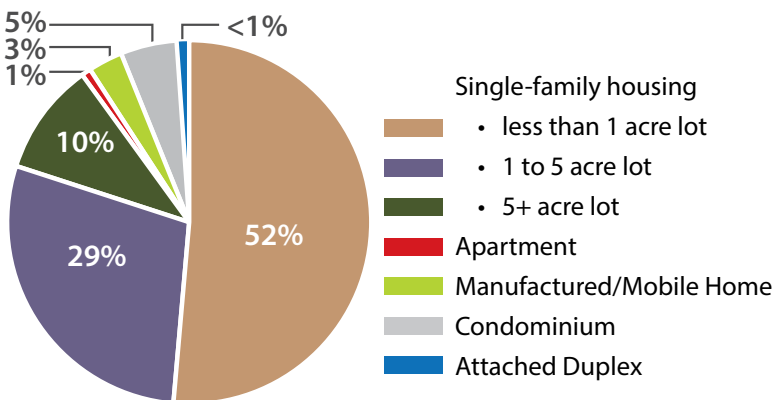
Check all that apply.



Response	Number	Percent
Yes, my primary residence is in Superior Township	248	88.89%
No, I do not own property in Superior Township	24	8.60%
Yes, I own undeveloped land in Superior Township	17	6.09%
Yes, I own a business or rental property in Superior Township	8	2.87%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>279</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>297</b>	

*Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%*

**5.** Please select the term that best describes your residence.



Response	Number	Percent
Single Family (less than 1 acre lot)	133	51.75%
Single Family (1 to 5 acre lot)	74	28.79%
Single Family (5+ acre lot)	27	10.51%
Apartment	2	0.78%
Manufactured / Mobile Home	8	3.11%
Condominium	12	4.67%
Attached Duplex	1	0.39%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>257</b>	

7. If you live in Superior Township, what brought you here? Check all that apply.

Response	Number	Percent
Natural and open spaces	178	69.26%
Housing costs	131	50.97%
Proximity to jobs	120	46.69%
Low traffic volumes	108	42.02%
Community character	85	33.07%
Family and/or friends	59	22.96%
Population diversity	59	22.96%
Schools	42	16.34%
Other (please specify)	24	9.34%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>257</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>806</b>	

Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

#### OTHER RESPONSES

- Wanted acreage
- A quiet area with less traffic and noise. Which has dramatically changed over the last 5 years.
- The fact that Superior Township is an oasis in crowded suburbia.
- low population density
- Found a beautiful parcel of land, for a good price, in a nice quiet uncrowded area.
- Was already renting nearby in AATownship
- Proximity to Univ. of MI hospital
- 10 minutes from my daughter
- Township vs city taxes
- Land to grow food and fruit
- Lived here for over 30 years and wanted to live in the

8. What do you like most about living in Superior Township? Check all that apply.

Response	Number	Percent
Land preservation	209	76.84%
Parks	148	54.41%
Community character	113	41.54%
Close to work	110	40.44%
Community minded neighbors	101	37.13%
Population diversity	91	33.46%
Residential areas	85	31.25%
Schools / churches	26	9.56%
Shopping / retail	21	7.72%
Other (please specify)	19	6.99%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>272</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>923</b>	

Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

#### OTHER RESPONSES

- Acreage
- Close to the highway to travel
- abundance of both rural and forested land
- Like that it's not crowded
- Proximity to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.
- Nature preserves
- Close to Radrick Farms Golf Course
- Open spaces. We share a half mile border with CHNP, and love it!
- Lower taxes as opposed to neighboring communities, ie: Ypsi and A2
- Property taxes; small community; responsive leadership
- Openness without crowds
- Open land spacez
- Close to downtown Ann Arbor & downtown Ypsi
- Walking paths, which are a recent development
- Dixboro Village Community Activities: Dixboro Farmers Market, Dixboro Square Events
- Close to work 18 years ago. ( Now Retired)
- Open space, efficient twnship. Administration
- I am moving to the township next year
- The quiet rural feel of the township.

**9. What do you dislike about living in Superior Township?**

Check all that apply.

Response	Number	Percent
Over-development & loss of open space	98	38.13%
Lack of non-motorized options	86	33.46%
Condition of roads	72	28.02%
Property taxes	65	25.29%
Distance to shopping and other amenities	60	23.35%
Traffic	50	19.46%
Lack of utilities and communication infrastructure	42	16.34%
Lack of housing diversity	13	5.06%
Distance to jobs	7	2.72%
Other (please specify)	35	13.62%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>257</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>528</b>	

*Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%*

**OTHER RESPONSES**

- Doesn't have a downtown area
- Lack of sidewalks to South Pointe Charter school on Geddes Rd.
- Lack of public transportation
- Recycling pick up is only every other week. Prefer to be every week.
- It would be nice if the hamlet of Dixboro had more options for food and shopping, maybe less residential zoning on plymouth road though the main part of town, and cut the speed limit down to 25 to 30 so people can stop by.
- No fiber internet options
- Noise level, near MacArthur Blvd
- Township does not have own police department.
- Lack of a rec center
- traffic on Geddes Rd.
- Lack of community programming
- No pool or recreation center for residents
- Lack of connectivity to AAATA/public transit
- Very slow internet speeds
- We need pickleball courts.
- lack of public transportation
- Cherry Hill, between Ridge and Prospect, is horrible.
- No sidewalk in front of our subdivision along geddes road
- far from a decent grocery store
- I don't dislike anything. I love it.
- Difficulty in getting information about what is happening in the township; overpolicing in the geddes urban area
- Blighted neighborhoods
- Wish buses were available dowb geddes
- mobile home park is going down hill
- Neighbors parking on lawns, accumulation of junk on private properties, speeding through Dixboro, Church especially
- Not being able to have water and sewer hook-up capabilities
- lack of: a community center, bicycle paths, public transportation, walkability
- High speed traffic on Dixboro Rd and Plymouth Rd.
- I like everything about Superior Township
- During Rush hour
- Traffic noise and speed on plymouth
- Lack of dining & shopping experience
- I cannot stress enough the over development on Ridge rd and now the potential to over develop along Geddes (Prospect to LeForge).

**10. How important should each of the following be to Superior Township?**

Category	Very Important		Important		Somewhat Important		Not Important		Total Responses
	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	
Protect water quality	88.04%	243	9.78%	27	1.45%	4	0.72%	2	276
Preserve natural features and/or open spaces	81.39%	223	13.87%	38	3.65%	10	1.09%	3	274
Protect against sprawl development	70.07%	192	16.06%	44	10.22%	28	3.65%	10	274
Install pedestrian and bicycle pathways	51.64%	142	25.45%	70	15.64%	43	7.27%	20	275
Schools	43.70%	118	31.48%	85	14.44%	39	10.37%	28	270
Provide additional public parks and recreation areas	42.34%	116	31.39%	86	20.44%	56	5.84%	16	274
Historic Preservation	41.24%	113	31.75%	87	21.17%	58	5.84%	16	274
Provide better facilities, equipment, or staffing for Police & Fire	24.35%	66	35.06%	95	28.04%	76	12.55%	34	271
Offer public transportation to surrounding areas	21.11%	57	27.41%	74	28.52%	77	22.96%	62	270
Redevelop vacant and underutilized commercial properties	18.38%	50	29.41%	80	30.15%	82	22.06%	60	272
Provide more affordable housing	13.97%	38	21.69%	59	32.72%	89	31.62%	86	272
Job creation and economic development	13.24%	36	26.10%	71	35.29%	96	25.37%	69	272
Provide more housing for young families	10.49%	28	25.09%	67	39.33%	105	25.09%	67	267
Encourage new commercial development	8.09%	22	11.76%	32	20.59%	56	59.56%	162	272
Provide more housing for seniors	5.19%	14	24.44%	66	39.63%	107	30.74%	83	270
Encourage new industrial development	1.84%	5	4.78%	13	16.54%	45	76.84%	209	272

**11. What types of non-residential development could Superior Township use more of? Check all that apply.**

Response	Number	Percent
Restaurants	124	45.59%
Neighborhood / small scale retail and specialty shops / boutiques	118	43.38%
Essential services (grocery, dry cleaners, hardware, etc.)	114	41.91%
None	81	29.78%
Mixed Use (combination of residential and commercial)	50	18.38%
Amusement / Family entertainment	43	15.81%
Research / Office	41	15.07%
Medical	33	12.13%
Light Industrial	17	6.25%
Institutional	4	1.47%
Heavy Industrial	0	0.00%
Other (please specify)	14	5.15%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>272</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>639</b>	

**OTHER RESPONSES**

- restaurants, and high tech job options
- That is up to free individuals deciding in the marketplace
- gas station
- Rec center or a rec and ed program families right now are always non residents signing their kids up for activities
- Sidewalk all the way from prospect to ridge along gardens rd
- Adult Use Cannabis Establishments/Agriculture Office/ tech centers similar to Hyundai that will generate taxes
- Please preserve the nature and recreational areas. Superior township is so nice and quiet, which is hard to find in southeast michigan.
- Gas station
- Small pub
- community center, make parks more fun for young children and adults
- Nature preserves to keep developers out.
- Agri-tourism, preserved natural areas using AA greenbelt funding
- daycare

**12. What transportation issues need the most attention?**

**VERBATIM RESPONSES**

- Roundabouts in place of traffic signals
- The quality of the roads. Even the new road on ridge didn't hold up.
- Additional public transportation stops
- Busing aatt
- Too much traffic in my neighborhood and surrounding areas now.
- Non-motorized transportation - biking especially is dangerous along some roads and impossible on others (gravel/dirt roads with no bike paths)
- access to public transportation
- Bike lanes or sidewalks should be installed. I've seen them be installed/created in other areas in the community but not on Ridge Rd, especially for the children to ride their bike or walk to school at South Pointe Charter School.
- Non-motorized transportation infrastructure
- Bus routes that service more of the township. Currently there is only one route and it barely can be considered a route that serves the township.
- None
- Public transportation and/or bicycle lanes on Plymouth and on Geddes
- fix the roads
- better care of unpaved roads. More frequent leveling and gravel mix addition. Keep large trucks off unpaved roads
- Unpaved roads not safe, pedestrian friendly or amenable to future autonomous vehicle infrastructure needs.
- Public transportation, road maintenance
- road repair where needed
- None
- no more development on Geddes Rd.
- gravel road conditions
- Have the infrastructure to support electric vehicles in the future possibly. A parking station with electric chargers in the main city that could be used by people who live here and people who don't live here if the downtown area of Dixboro is developed.

## QUESTION 12 CONTINUED

- Privatizing the ownership of the roads
- road congestion and increased traffic from other areas using our road as a pass through
- More bike lanes
- Roundabouts are horrendous. Traffic signal timing/ inefficient traffic signal cycles (particularly along Plymouth Rd, and Geddes/Dixboro intersection) are terrible. Lack of right turn lanes and/or left turn lanes make for dangerous driving. Aggressive driving behavior caused by low speed limits.
- Road maintenance on Gale road.
- dangerous congestion on Geddes Rd, better police presence at night to prevent vehicle theft and break-ins when many homes in Superior have single-car garages reliant on driveway or street parking
- Geddes rd traffic at rush hour
- Public transportation to key locations Safe Non motorized transportation route to key locations as well as leisure routes
- gas station, traffic on geddes + prospect
- Non motorized transportation access and bike paths.
- Add speed bumps in subdivisions, alternate route for US23 access
- Reducing the speed limit on Plymouth rd from 45mph through Dixboro to 25-30mph
- Prospect and Geddes Rd need more attention for the new developments because actually in the pick hours is very bad to drive and the drivers didn't give tolerance to drivers than no go over the speed limits.
- Heavy traffic on Geddes. Easier access to Ford Rd. via north, south roads (develop Godfredson Rd).
- none
- Gravel roads need more frequent maintaenance.
- More roundabouts less traffic lights
- Improved public transportation
- Keeping our roads repaired.
- More bike paths
- condition of roads
- Bicycle lanes added and added road lighting. More bus routes
- Lack of protected bike lanes and pedestrian sidewalks and cross walks. Clark road is too fast
- SPEED
- More bus stops with shelters
- Need to limit development so there are not so many people on the roads.
- Stommel Road, Vreeland and LeForge are often very challenging to pass through, in very bad condition. Frains Lake is often also very difficult.
- Dirt roads can be horrible to drive on.
- geddes rd is the main road used for residents to get to ann arbor or canton. construction on geddes makes our access to resources superior does not have (grocery or gas) difficult.
- None for me.
- fixing the roads
- Buses and bike lanes/paths
- Most are getting resolved. Geddes Rd is becoming a main thoroughfare, and my need widened
- Potholes
- repair of existing roads
- Increase bus routes, sidewalks, and bike path
- Traffic speeds on major roads. Plymouth road speeds in the early morning can exceed 70 Mph.
- connections to ann arbor/ypsi area (via non-motorized paths)
- Complete bridge
- public transportation
- Bike/walk path from Wexford to Harris
- Please don't pave the dirt roads. Also, just adding bike paths is not necessarily the best way of facilitating non motorized transportation.
- repair and pave roads
- public transportation for Prospect/Geddes subs
- Gravel roads need more grading. Barry's trucks should obey the speed limits!
- With the constnction on Geddes, traffic flow has really increased and people are driving more aggressive.
- Traffic flow. If there is a slight backup on M14, Ford Rd becomes backed up for a bit. The flow works most of the time, but it's a bottleneck to get into Ann Arbor and no good options to move traffic when a backup occurs.
- The dirt roads throughout the Township need to be maintained on a regular bases.
- Dirt roads - grading and care more often, especially Gotfredaon
- Roads like Geddes and Ford are very busy during commute times but more and more subdivisions are being built. Traffic is going to continue to get worse and be a negative aspect of living here.
- it would be nice if we had both fixed route buses and A Ride available in the entire township
- Road conditions and excessive closures due to road work
- Walking path
- Expanding the path along geodes road as riding your bike down headed is very dangerous. We all deserve non motorized access to the new library
- Flooding on prospect and geddes with heavy rain.
- Pass through traffic on our east/west roads from people commuting into the A2 area. If we had some good park and rides or bus routes into A2 it would reduce the traffic and increase home values. Homes along those routes would become very desirable.
- Bike Paths
- Fixing the roads in a timely manner, not taking months on end to do a small section. Fesses road bridge in particular.
- Public transportation such as busses
- Widen Geddes Rd to include pedestrian / biking

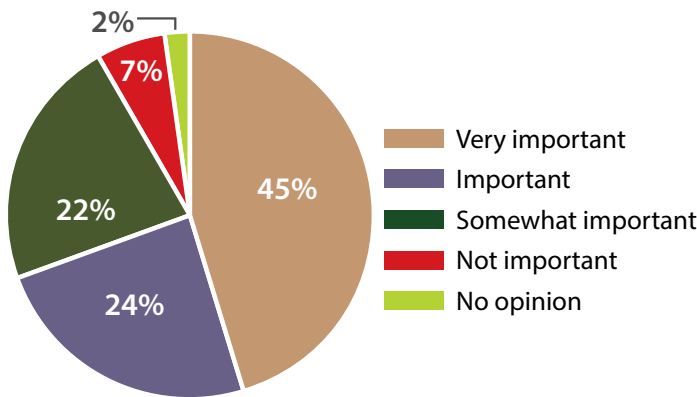
QUESTION 12 CONTINUED

- Non motorized trails
- condition of rural roads
- Expansion of public transportation, especially buses.
- better maintenance of gravel roads
- Roads need to be scraped more
- Accessable bussing and bike lanes.
- Bus routes; traffic congestion
- Widen roads ahead of increased development. Road conditions are terrible.
- Speed limits on dirt roads plus reinforcement of those limits
- Roadways & access to public transportation. Closet bus stop is on Macarthur Blvd.
- Better roads
- Road repairs and non-motorized paths.
- Fix the roads
- Condition of some roads.
- Safe biking out Geddes
- Need a bus stop off Geddes
- Condition of roads
- Main roads with no bike paths and in disrepair
- Repairing potholes in Oakbrook and put in speed bumps on Berkshire. Drivers speed down this street daily despite OLD or SHORT-Term TRAFFIC STUDY.
- There are potholes in the Oakbrook Sub that needs to fixed. Also speed bumps on Berkshire, one afternoon while walking with my family we noticed an elderly couple that almost got hit by a speed car on Berkshire. Being that it's a straight away car speed well past 25mph allowed.
- More pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure for the better
- Fix roads that are in need of repair
- Bike paths
- Flow of traffic at Ridge and Geddes at school peak times
- Access to public transport
- Safe bicycle transportation, no more accommodation of commuters passing through Dixboro, no more traffic lights in Dixboro, speed enforcement, no more turn lanes in Dixboro
- Bus service from Dixboro into Ann Arbor would be nice.
- heavy traffic on Geddes. heavy traffic on Harris with the new library
- Fix the roads, improve Geddes Rd especially the bridge between Harris and Prospect. Slow down Traffic on Ridge and fix the leaking watermain on Ridge.
- Keeping rods in good condition
- Traffic control, speeding in and around pedestrian areas and neighborhoods
- Traffic on Plymouth and Dixboro Rds.
- Busses to transport folks to ypsi and ann arbor
- Roads need to be maintained
- A difficult issue - but traffic on Geddes is already very high. Bike paths sound nice, but not realistic for busy roads such as Geddes, as it would be too dangerous.
- Pot holes in residential areas, better bus schedule
- Snow plows in the subdivision of Andover, Ashley, Ascot, Abbey, and Arlington. We drive on the snow so much it turns into ice! Our roads hardly see county plows and cars get stuck at the end of driveways.
- Gravel Roads maintenance
- Ford road needs to be widened between M14 and the Wayne County Line. Northbound prospect need the left hand turn lane lengthened and a left turn arrow installed at Ford Road.
- Non motorized and regular bus transportation for that need it
- public transportation (busses)
- gravel roads
- Traffic volumes on Geddes and Prospect Roads are simply too high. Finding ways to offset these roads becoming throughways for neighboring communities would definitely be helpful.
- prospect and ford rd. reckless driving
- Road conditions
- road maintenance
- Transportation Washtenaw and Wayne County
- Wider roads would be nice
- need more round-about intersections, get rid of the stoplights (like at ridge and ford rd.
- More transit options to/from other cities and neighborhoods
- Bike lanes
- Left turn lights where needed. It took FOREVER to get one at Geddes & Prospect, and Prospect & Ford Road. How many accidents and/or fatalities waited for those lights?
- Traffic enforcement on Plymouth Rd (speed and noise)
- safe bike paths to depot town and downtown Ypsilanti
- More paved roads, to many dirt roads.
- More and better walkways
- Available public transportation to surrounding areas
- none
- Roads
- Care of the roads
- Non-motorized and public, road speed and conditions
- Flooding on Vorhies rd across from Ferris lake
- Non motorized paths
- Public transportation availability
- Maintaining good unsaved roads
- maintenance of rural (dirt) roads
- Geddes road closure work from west of Ridge rd to be completed fast.
- Bike paths
- Roads
- More non-motorized trails
- Dirt roads

## QUESTION 12 CONTINUED

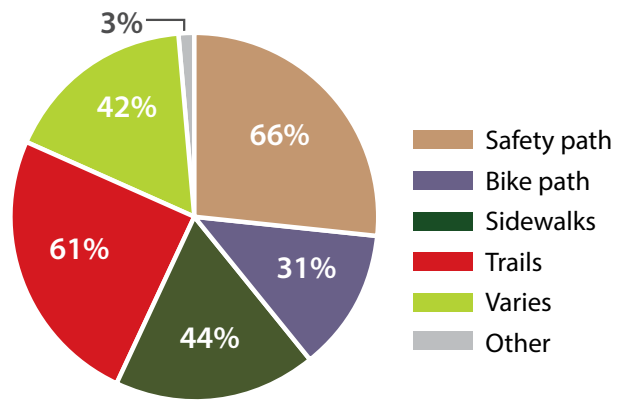
- The stop bar for the stop sign at Plymouth and Prospect is far back compared to the sight lines on Prospect. Motorists turning off Plymouth have been angry at people turning left onto Plymouth and point at the location of the stop bar.
- Road quality
- Chronic Water over Vorhies Road
- Lack of public transit. Poor condition of dirt roads (potholes).
- 1. Extended walking path connecting Bromley Park & Ann Arbor Woods to the Library on Harris Road. 2. Bus route between S Harris Road to Ridge Road (Round-About)
- the roads need more intensive maintenance, particularly, significant safety concerns w/ failing/poorly maintained culverts (eg. Vorhies just south of Warren. and Warren, just west of Vorhies). some situations are an outright danger. the road comm does good job w/ resources. need better resources
- Pave the dirt roads
- too much heavy traffic on non-highway E-W roads. need to discourage traffic volumes from using non-divided highways / roads w/o dedicated turn lanes
- public transport expansion to the north
- Multi-use path to access new library & busses from Arbor Woods & Bromley Park.
- traffic sensor on traffic lights for better traffic flow
- Timing of some lights is suboptimal.
- Bus stops on Geddes Rd.
- Non-car options. Broader bussing, protected bike lanes instead of a painted cycling gutter, and illuminated pedestrian crossings. I would specifically love a pedestrian crossing across Clark Rd, Between Prospect and Ford Blvd.
- maintaining streets and roads
- Put in a right turn lane at Prospect and Geddes.
- Just keep roads in good condition - no potholes
- Transit
- Public transport
- bike trails, walking paths
- Bike lanes
- Maintain dirt roads
- Geddes traffic
- Walking/bike path between Harris road and bromley park subdivision. And bus stop on geddes near trailer park.
- Bus transportation needed
- Geddes Rd. has too much traffic. I would like if there were more ways to travel through town so that so many people wouldn't have to rely on it as a highway.
- Better sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Traffic buildup at Prospect and Geddes Road
- Road needs to be paved
- Public transport / bus
- Right hand turn lane at Geddes/Prospect. A much longer left turn lane at Prospect/Ford. Grade the dirt roads more often; Godferson and Cherry Hill.
- Bike and walking pathways
- No complaints
- It's a combo - limiting residential development because there's too many people on the roads. Expanding lanes of heavily trafficked roads - Geddes & Dixboro in particular would help this.
- Parking on streets in subdivisions
- Multi line Road is essential for commute. Blind spot on small roads not helpful
- Upkeep and maintain good roads and bridges.
- Not enough pedestrian / bicycle pathways
- Non-motorized transportation to other neighborhoods and the new library from Bromely Park subdivision.
- Continued maintenance of major dirt roads
- Expanding public transportation. Otherwise depending on the part of the superior township, there are food desert and lack of easy access to essential items if you are part of the underserved community
- Extension of the bike path along Geddes road. Improved bus routes to peripheral areas. Protect natural areas from industrial expansion or population density. Fix Gotfredson road.

**13.** How important is non-motorized transportation and bike path connections within Superior Township for commuting or for recreation opportunities?



Response	Number	Percent
Very Important	126	45.32%
Important	68	24.46%
Somewhat Important	60	21.58%
Not Important	18	6.47%
No opinion	6	2.16%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>278</b>	

**14.** If non-motorized facilities are developed, what is your preferred style of pathway? Check all that apply.



Response	Number	Percent
Safety path (8 to 10 foot path adjacent to road)	128	65.98%
Trails (8 to 10 foot pathway completely separate from roads)	118	60.82%
Sidewalks	86	44.33%
Varies depending on circumstances	81	41.75%
Bike path (5 foot on-road marked lane)	61	31.44%
Other (please specify)	5	2.58%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>194</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>479</b>	

*Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%*

#### VERBATIM RESPONSES

- I get behind bikers a lot who ride side by side or in the car lanes, making them a hazard to themselves and others. Any remediations should also include training for both drivers and bicyclists on how to be safe.
- I.E, Chicago has sidewalks with WALKING & BICYCLE lanes marked separately and it worked GREAT!
- A wide bike path off the main road that allows walking and bike path for incoming & outcomes bike riders
- paved linkages to existing trails for bicycle transportation
- Better to have narrower and more instead of fewer and too wide

**15.** Are there any specific routes you'd like to see developed?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- Ridge Rd between Mott and Geddes
- Extend the board to board through superior
- A bicycle path and also a dog park
- A bike/walkway along ridge rd would be helpful.
- Along Prospect into Ypsilanti
- I would love to have a sidewalk that connects from Ridge, to Geddes sidewalk and more important to the South Pointe Charter School. Which would allow the children and/or parents to walk their children to and from school.
- Geddes Sub Area to South Pointe Scholars (sidewalks on Ridge and Geddes)
- From Berkshire Road to Clark road southbound- There is no safe pathway in the stretch of road for bikes/walking
- Ridge road around geddes
- Plymouth, Geddes, Dixboro, Huron River Drive, Superior Rd.
- Gale Road
- Oh it would be really nice to cut through the botanical gardens or get there without having to go on major roads or to gallup park. Geddes, plymouth road, Dixboro are all scary to bike on.
- Prospect/Geddes to Superior Rd., Prospect/Geddes to Clark Rd. Superior Rd. to Huron River Drive.
- Plymouth road from Ford to dixboro, dixboro/Plymouth north to warren,
- Geddes Rd from Prospect Rd to Dixboro Rd. Prospect Rd to city of Ypsilanti.
- Plymouth rd through Dixboro and down cherry hill rd
- Prospect Road
- no
- Sidewalk or safety path along Ridge Rd both north and south of Geddes
- Routes from geddes to the parks north on prospect
- Along Geddes, especially between Prospect down to Parker Mill County Park to link up with the bike trails
- Connect all residential areas around Prospect to Clark & Geddes.
- Connect all residential areas around prospect and Clark to Clark and geddes. see route down geddes east of gotfredson
- Arbor woods sidewalk pathway completed to nearest neighborhood.
- A bike path from Clark Rd to the entrance of Oakbrook on Prospect Rd.
- Cherry Hill road from start to finish.
- Along Clark and up prospect to Ford
- Prospect Rd between Clark and Geddes, Clark Rd between Prospect and LeForge.
- Geddes Road
- From Berkshire to Clark
- plymouth road - from dixboro to ann arbor park and ride (over US23)
- Geddes and Prospect
- Wexford to Harris
- From the neighborhoods to the parks, or simply walking/running trails
- Dixboro road from plymouth to Geddes could use some bike lanes
- Geddes road between Bromley Park and non motorized pathway
- Extend path on Geddes down to Bromley Park sub
- Geddes Road
- Extending the pathway on Geddes down to ridge road
- Bromley park to Harris road
- Along Prospect, most importantly Berkshire to Clark
- Geddes, east of Dixboro to Superior Rd
- Plymouth road between dixboro and Ford
- no
- East on Geddes
- New library to Bromley Park sub
- Sidewalks and crosswalks along bus routes, such as along Huron River Drive.
- connecting the preserved lands so walkers have safe ways to enjoy our lovely preserved lands.
- Connecting the bike path on Geddes to get you into depo town.
- From Arbor Woods MHP down to Ridge Rd & to Harris Rd where the District Library is being built
- More sidewalks on Prospect. It's dangerous to walk there now
- Geddes and Ridge Rds.
- Geddes Road from Gale Road to be able to bike to St Joes
- Geddes from Ridge to Harris
- A trail/bike path to Ypsilanti
- Geddes from Ann Arbor
- Complete the currently being built path on Prospect all the way to Clark!
- Geddes between Ridge and Harris
- Finish path Geddes to Ridge
- paved route to Canton, that is safe
- route to downtown ann arbor would be nice, or route to one of their parks
- Sidewalk along Plymouth between Dixboro Rd and The Boro (or perhaps further east).
- Maybe a path utilizing the scenery in the "Superior Greenway"
- Geddes Road from Ridge to Library
- On Plymouth Rd between Dixboro and Ford/Plymouth Rd split
- Love to see a walking path along Geddes Road especially on the western side
- Path along Plymouth Rd from Vorhees to Green Rd
- Safety path from Harris to Bromley Park.
- It looks like they are being developed now

QUESTION 15 CONTINUED

- Geddes Road east of Harris Road to mobile home park and beyond
- Along Geddes through to Harris and onward to AA Geddes
- Path along Geddes road Arlington east to Ridge road
- Down Geddes, connect to the B2B trail
- All paved, non-residential, roads should have a bike lane
- North on Geddes to Vreeland. It's dangerous to walk along the road next to the swamp.
- More north-south bike lanes/trails
- North and south on Prospect, east and west on Geddes dixboro to marshall park from warren
- No
- Dixboro Rd for safety, and fill in gap at Matthei, then Plymouth from Dixboro to Vorhies for all the joggers and walkers
- Plymouth Road
- Safety path or trail parallel to dixboro
- Dixboro road connecting Warren to Plymouth to Ford road and Plymouth road
- warren rd to vorhies to plymouth to dixboro
- Bromley Park/Ann Arbor Woods connection to Harris Road (New Library)
- Gedes Road requires broad shoulders so that these could serve as bike lanes. Realize it was just topped with a thin veneer coat of asphalt. When this breaks apart in two years, please consider a plan to expand the shoulders of this road when repaving.
- Extending existing path to Bromley Park
- Plymouth / Ann Arbor Road
- Prospect and ford roads
- Routes connecting southern Superior Township to Depot Town, working with Ypsi Charter to secure a safe path across Clark. Also, a designated crossing across MacArthur to get to Fireman's Park. There is no way to get the without jaywalking, which is unsafe. The park is underutilized.
- pave godforsan road
- Brinkley Park to the library
- Harris to Wexford on geddes
- Geddes, from Ridge to Harris
- Alternatives to Geddes as a thoroughfare.
- Geddes road
- Pave or regularly grade Gottfredson
- not just paths along side roads but paths that could cut through wooded areas to cut down on distance
- Ridge road sidewalk
- Arbor Woods and Bromley Park to existing Geddes non-motorized pathway. Work with Ypsilanti to connect Prospect non-motorized to Depot Town and downtown Ypsi. Connect the Southside to the Dixboro area
- connecting subdivisions to the Ypsilanti trails

- Geddes road should have a bike / walking path, especially from Bromley Park to Harris Road where they're building the new library.
- A safety path from Bromley Park subdivision towards Prospect road to open up the neighborhood to more walking opportunities and the new library. It feels very isolated in Bromley without being able to safely leave the neighborhood on foot or bicycle.
- Safe way to connect to bike path at Plymouth and Dixboro as that connects to multiple miles of safe biking
- Dixboro Area, Superior Township Greenway
- Ridge road to the library on Harris

**16.** What type of residential development could Superior Township use more of? Check all that apply.

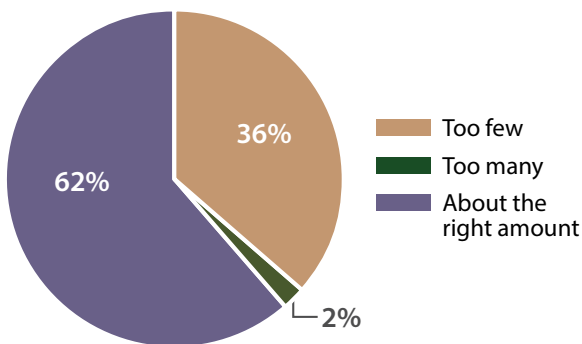
Response	Number	Percent
None of the above	108	40.00%
Detached single family homes on large lots (1 acre minimum)	81	30.00%
Senior housing	63	23.33%
Detached single family homes on smaller lots in subdivisions	55	20.37%
Detached single family homes on large lots (5 acre minimum)	55	20.37%
Attached townhouses / condominiums	48	17.78%
Apartments	19	7.04%
Multi-family homes	15	5.56%
Manufactured / mobile homes	3	1.11%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>270</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>447</b>	

*Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%*

**17.** How important are the following recreation-related items to your family?

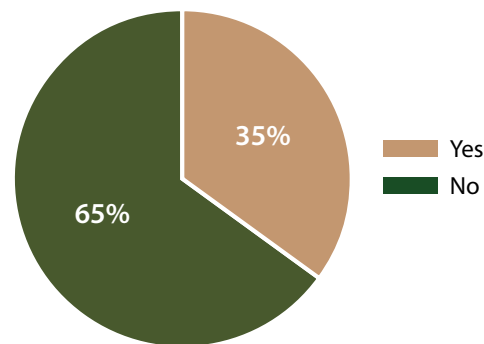
Category	Very Important		Important		Somewhat Important		Not Important		Total Responses
	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	
Protecting natural resources	77.62%	215	16.61%	46	5.05%	14	0.72%	2	277
Maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities	68.23%	189	24.19%	67	6.14%	17	1.44%	4	277
Access to nature preserves	56.88%	157	31.16%	86	7.97%	22	3.99%	11	276
Access to paths and trails	56.52%	156	30.80%	85	8.33%	23	4.35%	12	276
Providing recreation services for people of all abilities	38.91%	107	37.09%	102	15.27%	42	8.73%	24	275
Acquiring and developing new parks and recreation facilities	31.87%	87	33.33%	91	22.34%	61	12.45%	34	273
Access to passive-use facilities (e.g. playgrounds, sitting areas, pavilions, etc.)	24.82%	68	36.50%	100	29.93%	82	8.76%	24	274
Access to picnic facilities	21.32%	58	36.03%	98	26.47%	72	16.18%	44	272
Access to active-use facilities (e.g. soccer, football, baseball, tennis, etc.)	18.32%	50	30.77%	84	29.67%	81	21.25%	58	273
Access to recreation programming (e.g. special events, classes, sports leagues, etc.)	17.88%	49	25.91%	71	35.40%	97	20.80%	57	274

**18.** Does Superior Township have too few, too many, or about the right number of parks?



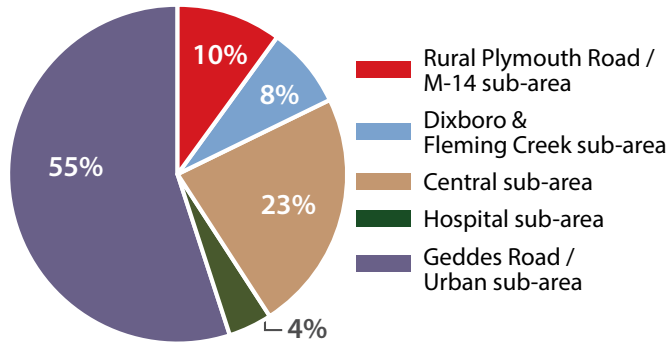
Response	Number	Percent
About the right amount	169	61.68%
Too few	100	36.50%
Too many	5	1.82%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>274</b>	

**19.** Are there any areas of the Township that are underserved by parks and recreation?



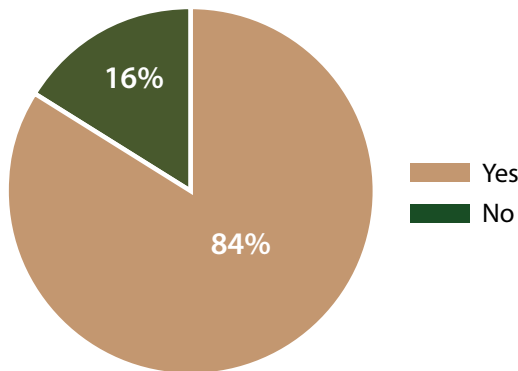
Response	Number	Percent
No	164	65.34%
Yes	87	34.66%
<b>Tot. Resp.</b>	<b>251</b>	

**20.** If yes, please tell us what areas need more recreation access. (see map page 2)



Response	Number	Percent
Geddes Road / Urban sub-area	46	55.42%
Central sub-area	19	22.89%
Rural Plymouth Road / M-14 sub-area	8	9.64%
Dixboro & Fleming Creek sub-area	7	8.43%
Hospital sub-area	3	3.61%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>83</b>	

**21.** Should the Township be more proactive about preserving open spaces and natural areas?

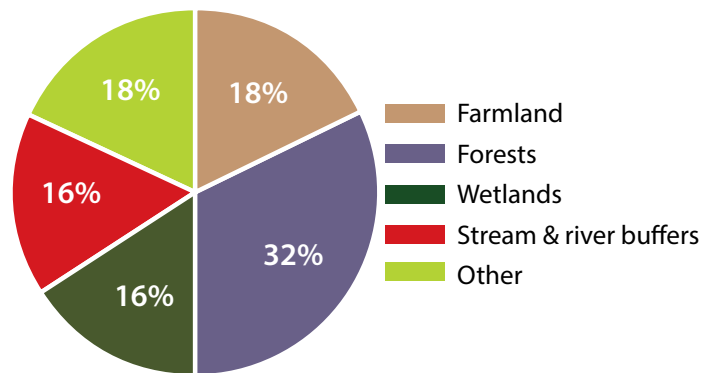


Response	Number	Percent
Yes	228	84.44%
No	42	15.56%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>270</b>	

**23.** In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited Superior Township's recreation facilities?

Category	12 times or more		6 to 11 times		1 to 5 times		I have not visited this facility		Total Responses
	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	
Cherry Hill Preserve	12.27%	33	15.61%	42	34.94%	94	37.17%	100	252
Oakbrook Park	3.57%	9	6.35%	16	20.63%	52	69.44%	175	253
Twp Hall / Schock Park	3.59%	9	5.18%	13	29.08%	73	62.15%	156	254
Fireman's Park	3.15%	8	5.12%	13	23.62%	60	68.11%	173	249
North Prospect Park	2.78%	7	9.92%	25	27.78%	70	59.52%	150	248
Schroeter Park	2.42%	6	2.02%	5	18.15%	45	77.42%	192	248
Community Park	1.58%	4	5.53%	14	23.32%	59	69.57%	176	251
Norfolk Park	1.61%	4	2.42%	6	14.11%	35	81.85%	203	269
Harvest Moon Park	0.80%	2	2.81%	7	11.65%	29	84.74%	211	252

**22.** If yes, what type of properties should be preserved?



Response	Number	Percent
Forests	73	32.30%
Farmland	40	17.70%
Wetlands	37	16.37%
Stream and river buffers	35	15.49%
Other (please specify)	41	18.14%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>270</b>	

**OTHER RESPONSES**

- All of the above (35 variations of this answer)
- I couldn't select more than one. Forests, wetlands, streams and river buffers should all be protected!
- forests, wetlands, AND streams/ivers
- All of the above, in varying degrees. They all being in the Superior Township basic nature theme.
- farms + forested areas
- Wetlands and Stream/River buffers - these are higher pressure to develop and support the greatest biodiversity and ecological impact
- All of the above. There's too much developed currently.

**24.** How satisfied are you with Superior Township’s recreation facilities?

Category	Very satisfied		Satisfied		Somewhat satisfied		Unsatisfied		I have not visited this facility / no opinion		Total Responses
	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	
Cherry Hill Preserve	26.75%	65	26.34%	64	7.41%	18	1.65%	4	37.86%	92	243
Twp Hall / Schock Park	9.05%	21	13.36%	31	14.66%	34	2.59%	6	60.34%	140	232
North Prospect Park	8.97%	21	19.66%	46	7.69%	18	3.42%	8	60.26%	141	234
Schroeter Park	6.38%	15	13.62%	32	6.81%	16	1.28%	3	71.91%	169	235
Oakbrook Park	6.36%	15	16.10%	38	10.17%	24	1.27%	3	66.10%	156	236
Community Park	5.15%	12	15.02%	35	8.58%	20	1.29%	3	69.96%	163	233
Fireman’s Park	5.49%	13	14.77%	35	12.66%	30	1.27%	3	65.82%	156	237
Harvest Moon Park	3.86%	9	9.87%	23	6.01%	14	0.43%	1	79.83%	186	233
Norfolk Park	3.45%	8	10.78%	25	6.47%	15	3.45%	8	75.86%	176	232

**25.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Oakbrook Park?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- It seems like it’s not very well-maintained because of the neighborhood it is in, which I don’t think motivates people to visit or us it.
- Updated play/picnic area

**26.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Community Park?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- Clean up the parks
- Did tennis courts get overhauled to include pickleball? No notice of this in newsletter.
- Updated play/picnic area

**27.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Fireman’s Park?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- There needs to be a cross walk at this intersection and more play structure/swings
- Add a water pad for kids, plant more trees for shade, add more places to sit and congregate
- Updated play/picnic area

**28.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Harvest Moon Park?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- Updated play/picnic area

**29.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Norfolk Park?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- Maintain the pavilion
- More play equipment
- Clear out excessive brush that attracts overwhelming insect activity. Also excessive brush, trees DETRACTS families from going as the area breeds so many insects that you cannot enjoy the park area. Also the playground area is old, underwhelming for children. Update playground equipment and tables
- very often very swampy, buggy.
- Cut trees, too wet and after rains it floods. Improve landscaping & replace old playground equipment. It’s so dark and infested with insects that it’s not enjoyable.
- When it rains it floods, to wet which brings more insects. Please Improve The Landscaping
- Updated play/picnic area

**30.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Schroeter Park?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- Updated play/picnic area
- Drier trails

**31.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Township hall / Schock Park?

VERBATIM RESPONSES

- Schock Park now gone. Having a park by the Town Hall would have been a very nice amenity and has been common in many communities.
- Updated play/picnic area
- Add structures / pavilion / amenities
- Paths for bikes. Places to sit and rest

**32.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve?

**VERBATIM RESPONSES**

- ADD PARKING! Cherry Hill can be a disaster on busy days in front of the trail entrances.

**33.** What can Superior Township do to improve your experience at North Prospect Park?

**VERBATIM RESPONSES**

- Make it easier to access. It's so tiny I'm not sure you can consider this a park
- Provide more lighting for evening enjoyment and safety. Provide basketball courts, and for the Love of kids UPDATE PLAYGROUND equipment. The little baby animals for rocking small kids are SO OLD and pitiful.
- Clean up the park
- Updated play/picnic area
- Need to mow more often and more area. Have a tick problem there. Install asphalt walking path.

**34.** Are there other recreation-related items that the Township should be aware of?

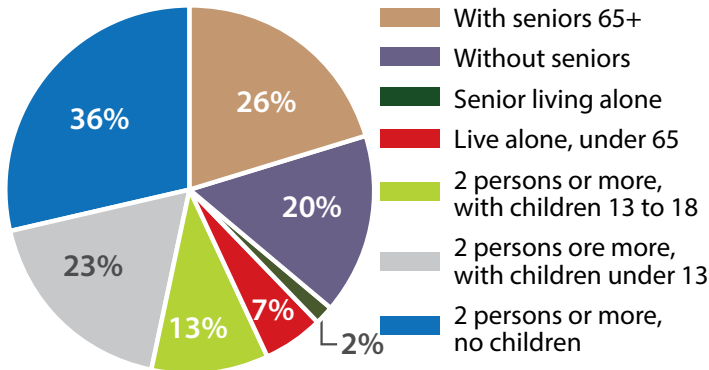
**VERBATIM RESPONSES**

- Parks are great but need more picnic areas and grilling areas
- The trails at Cherry Hill have very confusing markers and labeling.
- I would love to see winter recreation options like a sledding hill, skating rink, and cross country ski trails.
- Huron River access
- We need a park with a good amount of paved trails to run on
- There seems to be a lot of land owned by land developers that needs to be grabbed back through public funds so we can keep conserving the greenway. We do not need to build like Canton, and the main reason for living here is that green space.
- The government shouldn't be involved in recreation
- Little to no recreation opportunities for children under 4 on the west side of the township. There aren't even secured swings for little ones.
- Most of the parks we visit are county parks I think making sure recreation areas do not become areas for drugs or homeless
- People let their dogs poop all over the trails without cleaning it up at some of the parks, it's bad enough that we've stopped going to LeFurge
- Would be nice to have a play structure
- I would like to have a swimming pool and a recreation center

- RC boats and planes are a big hobby around here you have the flying pilgrims club and such - gives older people something to do outdoors. A park with a landing strip or pond would be excellent
- An activity center for seniors
- Access to parks via sidewalk or bike paths throughout our community would really help.
- I was unaware of so many parks - I need to get out more
- Need park off geddes road
- Should have some facilities at the Township Hall Park. Maybe a pavilion or picnic areanic area
- No more subdivisions and ability to access either Ypsi or Ann Arbor rec and Ed
- not that I know about
- There are bees all over the pears at Fireman's Park that makes the sidewalk unusable.
- Provide more virtual classes with the Clark Road Twp Recreational services; in light of Covid-19 Pandemic and for anyone less mobile for in-person engagement or enrichment.
- More streetlights. All streets are just too dark for evening driving or walking or bike riding.
- More Street lights in the entire township... neighborhoods,parks...etc
- Please add pickleball and tennis courts at other parks where possible. We use Ypsi Twp. parks, would love to be able to play in Superior Twp.
- A need for pickle ball courts
- Naturalist guided education for youth groups and adults. Responsible pet ownership classes
- Add more grills for residents in the MacArthur area
- A community Center in the sycamore meadows area
- The ability to ride horses in the Twp on our rural roads is disappointing because everyone drives too fast. It would be grand to have a horse trail to Ford Road and a parking space for horse trailers on Berry or Warren. Collaborate with SE Mich Conservancy on this? Seek a grant for this?
- Acquire as much land as possible for preservation
- do not allow dogs in kosh headwaters nature preserve. people let rhem run off leash,people have been bit.we need at least one park where it is safe
- Cleaning needs to be more frequent
- The Tanglewood Hills neighborhood could use a park/ playground
- Keeping the dirt roads in walkable condition.
- Horse facilities and trails sadly lacking
- Botanical gardens
- WCC Health & Fitness Center
- township needs to prioritize better care/maintenance of our roads for safety our residents and for our first responders. also since we are perhaps more dependent on our own natural resources such as well water, great care and judgment should be focused when considering any development

- **QUESTION 34 CONTINUED**
- I think you are lumping open spaces and recreation/parks inappropriately to achieve a desired outcome for this survey. Keep the parks and improve them, but allow development of some of the open spaces.
- Add agritourism for year-round (currently primarily fall). Develop resources in connection with the huron river
- I like the expansion of Fireman's Park. I enjoy taking my grandchildren there to play
- We need to have rest rooms in some of our parks if not in all of them
- I enjoy the park space/environ even if I don't formally use the park
- I would like to safely bike to parks. Geddes road is too dangerous to ride. I love Gotfredson when it is grayed. Too many potholes for my bike now.
- I would use the parks more if there were programming for children (eg. Sports teams)
- Not that I can think of.
- I am not familiar with the names of all these parks so I may have been to them but I don't remember
- While I haven't visited parks frequently their existence positively impacts all the biking I do in their vicinity. Going forward, I will have more time to do more hiking in addition to biking.
- Establish a soccer field and small community center
- The new park on Berry road could use clearer signage. I couldn't find it.
- No (8 responses)

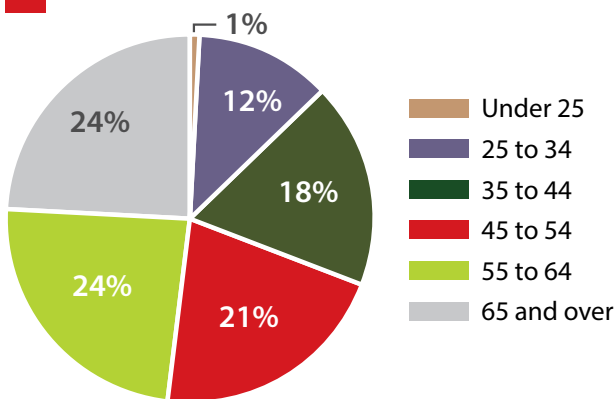
**35.** Which of the following categories best describe your household? Choose all that apply.



Response	Number	Percent
2 persons or more, no children in the household	99	35.61%
With seniors 65+	72	25.90%
2 persons or more, with children under age 13	64	23.02%
Without seniors	55	19.78%
2 persons or more, with children age 13 to 18	37	13.31%
Live alone, under age 65	20	7.19%
Senior citizen (65+) living alone	6	2.16%
<b>Total Unique Responses</b>	<b>278</b>	
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>353</b>	

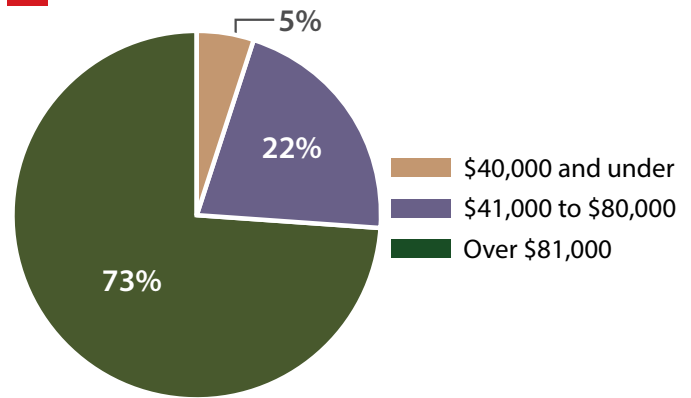
Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

**36.** What is your age?



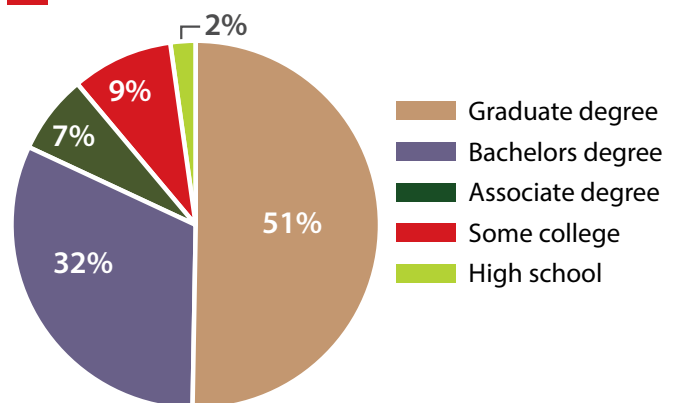
Response	Number	Percent
Under 25	3	1.09%
25 - 34	34	12.32%
35 - 44	50	18.12%
45 - 54	58	21.01%
55 - 64	65	23.55%
65 and over	66	23.91%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>276</b>	

**37.** Please select your household income.



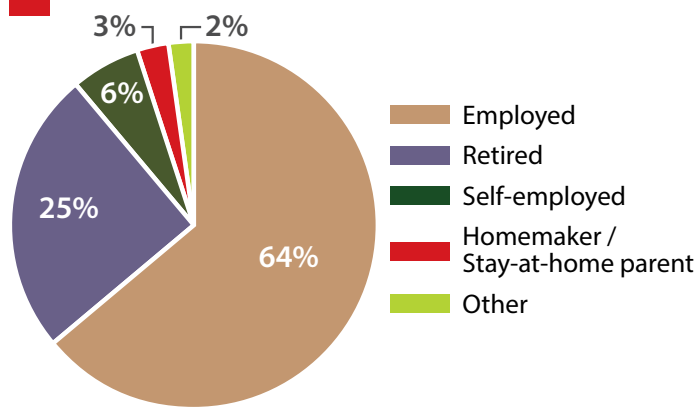
Response	Number	Percent
\$40,000 and under	14	5.36%
\$41,000 to \$80,000	56	21.46%
Over \$80,000	191	73.18%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>261</b>	

**38.** Please select your highest level of education.



Response	Number	Percent
Graduate / Professional Degree	139	50.55%
Bachelors Degree	88	32.00%
Associate Degree	17	6.18%
Some college, no degree	25	9.09%
High school graduate	6	2.18%
Did not graduate high school	0	-
Other (please specify)	0	-
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>275</b>	

**39. What is your employment status?**

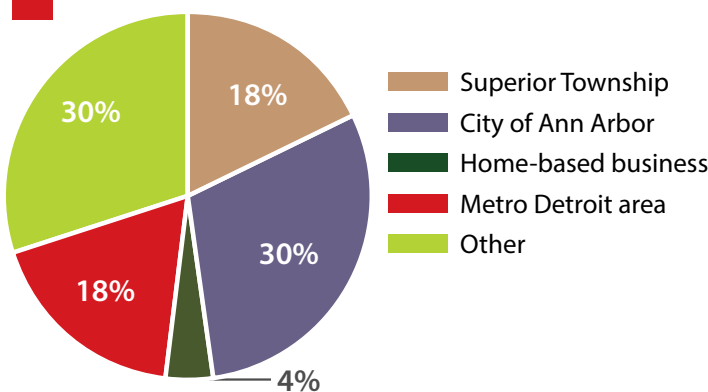


Response	Number	Percent
Employed	178	64.03%
Retired	70	25.18%
Self-employed	16	5.76%
Homemaker / Stay-at-home parent	9	3.24%
Other (please specify)	5	1.80%
Unemployed	0	0.00%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>278</b>	

**OTHER RESPONSES (QUESTION 30)**

- Disabled (2 responses)
- Semi-retired
- Semi-employed
- Part time employed and stay at home parent.

**40. If you are employed, where do you work?**



Response	Number	Percent
City of Ann Arbor	60	30.15%
Metro Detroit area	37	18.59%
Superior Township	35	17.59%
Home-based business	8	4.02%
Lansing area	0	0.00%
Other (please specify)	59	29.65%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>199</b>	

**OTHER RESPONSES (QUESTION 40)**

- Ann Arbor Township (2 responses)
- Brighton
- Canton Township (3 responses)
- Dexter
- Flint
- Indiana
- Jackson (2 responses)
- Milford
- Pittsfield Twp
- Plymouth, MI
- Saline Area
- Toledo, OH
- Troy
- Washtenaw county
- Wayne County
- Wixom
- Ypsilanti (7 responses)
- Ypsilanti Township (4 responses)
- Washtenaw county CMH
- Home
- Based out of Farmington Hills, but currently working from home with the pandemic
- Working remote (at home) for a Metro Detroit based company
- Work from home
- remote work
- Technology from home
- Remote office
- U of M
- Sales in SE Michigan and NW Ohio
- Jackson/ Remote/ Statewide
- retired
- All over state of MI
- Remote
- Home for company in another state
- Ypsilanti - St. Joseph Mercy Hospital
- Plymouth, MI but I now work from home for this company.
- As a real estate agent, I work in several communities
- Engineer working at Ford
- Remotely from Home
- I work on a needed basis in all areas
- Retired from U-M
- Full time work from home for company in Plymouth, MI
- Remotely
- Utica Community Schools in Sterling Heights, MI
- Consultant

**41.** Is there anything else you would like us to consider?

**VERBATIM RESPONSES**

- Keep fighting to keep us not like Canton or Cherry Hill Village
- On Clark Road The dirt and mulch pick up go down all of us are not able to get because we don't live
- large dog park would be great
- Just proving sidewalks throughout Ridge rd to Geddes. Possibly connect to the sidewalks on Geddes rd
- I would like to see more greenspaces protected with Conservation Easements.
- The township needs commercial businesses
- The current plan is a great document. We're hoping for more of the same with the new one.
- Many struggle to find safe walking & bicycling routes, etc., for recreation & commuting.
- Please preserve the township's overall greenspace
- Paving highly travelled gravel roads should be a top priority
- Use of "Superior Township" in mailing return address
- need more nature reserves
- The township still does a bad job of enforcing Zoning rules and blight rules.
- The superior township government should only provide police and court services.
- close to ann arbor/ ypsi. without all of the cookie cutter areas close and abundant in nature
- Is probably county, but signs warning you of detours due to construction BEFORE you get to barriers
- Supervisor needs to be more proactive in keeping our township nice. Too much politics / lawyer.
- Without community education, roundabouts are not usable. Speed limits WAY too low along Geddes.
- Safe access for bikes and pedestrians along Geddes Rd and Prospect Rd are very badly needed.
- There is a huge lack of areas for families with young children.
- Continuing to actively pursue the Dixboro school house and its property.
- Thank you for give to our family the opportunity to participate in this survey
- We pay more to use the Ypsilanti Rec Center because we live in Superior Township not Ypsi.
- Residents lost 18+% of their income in the last decade.
- Overall, all the parks could use more picnic tables, gazebos, grills, etc.
- 2nd entrance to Woodside Village subdivision.
- Decrease speed limit to 40 mph on Geddes Rd. Wildlife constantly being killed.
- Keep Eyde property open and undeveloped north of Geddes
- huge increase in property taxes may force us to move!
- Preserving the township as a green buffer zone for all the surrounding development is critical.
- Building detached townhouses and condominiums.
- No
- adopt zoning regs that permit ADUs (accessory dwelling units) in low density residential areas
- Better provision and communication of ways to view and contribute to township meetings
- Limit the amount of commercial development for a balanced community
- Thanks for conducting the survey.
- some outdoor pickleball courts ... Maybe on Clark Rd.
- Some services for seniors, such as transport. Also stop truck businesses operating in Oakbrook.
- NO SEWER!! Rock? NO! Community gardens? Small commercial gardens associated with the farmers mark
- Thank you for the survey and opportunity to respond.
- Please strongly consider extending the non motorized path along Geddes to include access for all cit
- No
- Bus line on geddes near Harris and ridge
- More office/tech/research development would improve the tax base and help to keep taxes on homes low
- We love the state of the twp. Keep up the good work!!
- Excited for the new library!
- Holding the line for large development at Geddes.
- Do not become Canton!
- Putting more community shopping near the subs so we can walk or rode a bike to get milk.
- We need to attract better grocery store options within the township.
- Please allow for diverse NEW residential construction even on SMALL SCALE and more shops.
- Connect Cherry Hill to Geddes Rd via a path thru Rock Properies
- Please install a walking/biking path so Bromley Park can use the new library.
- More Ranch homes, more streetlights, basketball courts, grocery stores and speed bumps. Gas station.
- More ranch homes in cul-de-sac, mini grocery stores for quick shopping basketball courts .
- More Dog friendly parks
- Please continue preserving natural areas.
- Superior Township should prioritize being a green zone and limit development.
- Build a new Fire station 2. Quit doing nature preserves. we need tax income not more nature.
- Stricter Animal Neglect Laws
- Consider impact of climate change on wells, water quality and water tables
- I would like to see superior township invest in the sycamore meadows community!!!!!!
- Keep the current Master Plan, preserving the environment and keeping development to a minimum

- Any proposed development that would increase traffic on Geddes would be extremely damaging
- Need a household category "1 adult with children over or under 13".
- Not allow 3X4 feet political signs/flags in backyards facing your neighbor.
- No
- No
- non motorized pathways everywhere possible
- YOU ALL ARE DOING A GREAT JOB!!! SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP RULES!!!
- We love the work of the Superior Township Land Conservancy.
- Need a gas station with convenience store on Ford Rd/ M14/Plymouth Rd intersection. Sports Bar too!
- No
- Small/tiny home movement for Dixboro area
- Road flooding
- I am new to this community, only few months, so not much to share for now.
- Town opinion/direction is overrun by retiree mindset. Need to change this.
- Excited for the new library, potential expanded activities. Hoping for ez access from neighborhood
- Thank you for doing this survey
- Less police presence, greater access to non-enforcement services and interventions.
- We need to protect against sprawl and over-development. We are not Canton or A2.
- Preserve all types of natural areas. The form did not allow more than one choice!
- Please don't let Superior Township turn into Canton. We have natural beauty and so much to offer.
- I would love to see programming for children and youth similar to AA Parks and Rec.
- No
- Having the variety of trails, parks and nature preserves was life saving these past two years.
- My only other suggestion for road construction is more roundabouts - fewer traffic lights!
- None
- Superior Township is special as is; it's why we moved here. Please protect what it stands for.

**42.** E-mail information was collected from participants who wished to be kept informed about further planning activities. These e-mails are not provided in this report to protect the privacy of the participants, but is being retained for later outreach.



# TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES

Traffic calming devices are infrastructure improvements that are designed to slow or "calm" traffic speed. Which of these devices do you think are appropriate for Dixboro? Use up to three (3) stickers to identify your preferences.



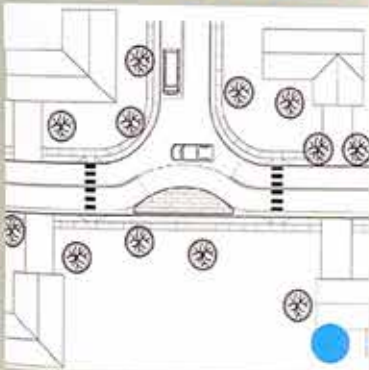
## CHOKER

A choker is a narrowing of a roadway through the use of curb extensions or roadside islands. If located at an intersection, it is called a "corner extension" or "bulb-out". If located midblock, it is called a "choker". Chokers are considered appropriate for arterials, collectors, or local streets.



## SPEED TABLE OR RAISED CROSSWALK

Long, raised speed humps, typically 3 to 4 inches in height, with a flat section in the middle and ramps at the ends. Frequently used for pedestrian crossings. Generally used where posted speed is 30 mph or less. Speed tables tend to have a lower reduction in speed than speed humps.



## REALIGNED INTERSECTION

Reconfiguration of an intersection to force a skewed travel approach. Considered suitable for collector or local streets, but not for arterials.



## ROUNDBOUTS

Raised islands placed at unsignalized intersections around which traffic circulates. Mini roundabouts serve the same function as standard roundabouts, but serve local streets. In both instances, bicycle facilities must be separated from the circulatory roadway to prevent crashes.



## MEDIAN ISLAND

A raised island located along the street centerline, narrowing and diverting traffic on either side of the island. May include landscaping or different materials (e.g. brick). Can be placed mid-block and applied arterial, collector, and local roads.



## LATERAL SHIFT OR CHICANE

Realignment of an otherwise straight street that causes travel to shift in at least one direction. Appropriate for arterial, collector, or local roads. A chicane is a specialized form of lateral shift, consisting of a series of alternating curves as opposed to one shift. Maximum speed is typically 35 mph.



## ON STREET PARKING

On-street parking narrows road travel lanes and increases side friction to traffic flow. Functions well in nearly all traffic settings. Can be used on alternating sides of the road for a "chicane effect".



## PAVEMENT COATINGS & TEXTURES

Changes in surface texture can be used to alert drivers to crosswalks or special use areas. Pavement striping, stamped textures and colors, or use of brick or pavers all serve the function of highlighting pedestrian use.

Sources: Institute of Transportation Engineers and Federal Highway Administration, and National Association of City Transportation Officials

Dixboro Village Input Session • March 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m. • Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5921 Church St.



# PLYMOUTH ROAD NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Non-motorized facilities can reduce vehicular use and improve the walking or cycling experience for residents. Are any of these options appropriate for Dixboro? Use up to three (3) stickers to identify your preferences.

Plymouth Road Right-of-Ways (ROW)	
M-153/Ford Rd to Birch Run Drive	96 feet
Birch Run Drive to Ford Road	106 to 112 feet
Ford Road to Church Street	86 to 100 feet
Church Street to 5300 Plymouth	63 to 90 feet
5300 Plymouth to Dixboro Road	90 to 100 feet



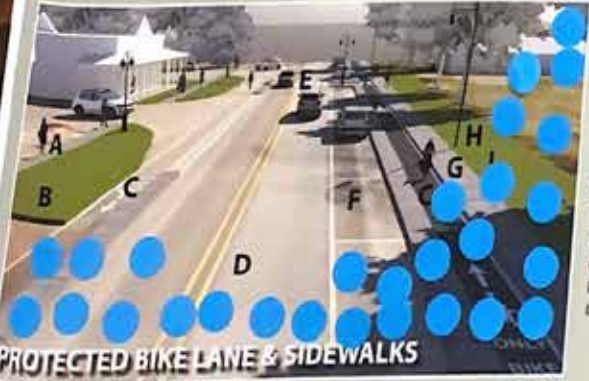
- A. 5-foot sidewalk
- B. -14-foot green buffer
- C. -5-foot asphalt shoulder; 9-foot acceleration/deceleration lane on north side near shops
- D. 11-foot travel lane with center turn lanes at intersections
- E. -25-foot green buffer



- A. Sidewalk widened to 6-foot
- B. Buffer remains intact except to accommodate expanded sidewalk and lighting
- C. 5-foot bike lane with 3-foot buffer; lane shares space with existing acceleration/deceleration lane
- D. 11-foot travel lanes
- E. New mid-block crosswalk with bump-out
- F. On-street parking
- G. 6-foot sidewalk
- H. New lighting
- I. -10-foot green buffer - no impact to existing trees



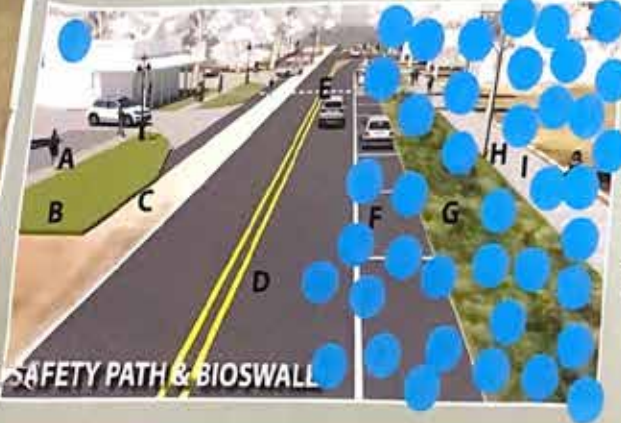
Dual buffered bike lane in Davis, California. The additional space to the right of the lane protects riders from unexpected car door openings.



- A. Sidewalk widened to 6-foot
- B. Buffer remains intact except to accommodate expanded sidewalk and lighting
- C. 5-foot bike lane with 3-foot curbed buffer. Lane moves to sidewalk side on south side of road
- D. 11-foot travel lanes
- E. New mid-block crosswalk with bump-out
- F. On-street parking
- G. 6-foot sidewalk
- H. New lighting
- I. -10-foot green buffer - no impact to existing trees



Curb protected bike lane on First Street in Ann Arbor. Note that in this configuration bike traffic is two-way within one lane, as opposed to one-way on either side of the street.



- A. Sidewalk widened to 6-foot
- B. Buffer remains intact except to accommodate expanded sidewalk and lighting
- C. Existing shoulder left as-is
- D. 11-foot travel lanes
- E. New mid-block crosswalk with bump-out
- F. On-street parking
- G. Bioswale with native plantings
- H. New lighting
- I. 10-foot multi-use safety path shared by cyclists and pedestrians. Path can be routed to avoid existing trees.

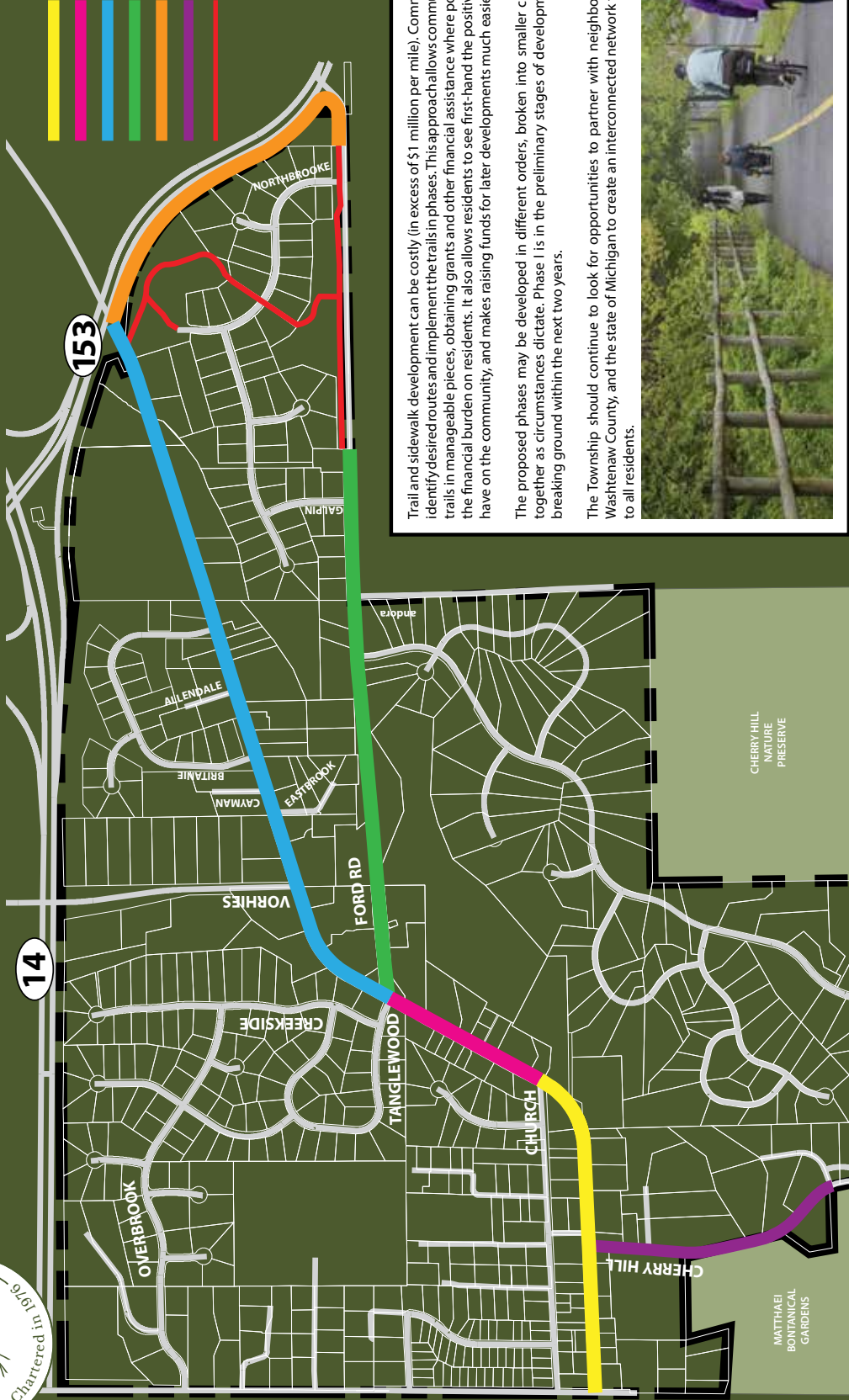


Sidewalk and bioswale in Seattle. Providing a bioswale between the path and road may eliminate the need for expensive curb and gutter treatments.

# NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PHASING



- Phase I
- Phase II
- Phase III
- Phase IV
- Phase V
- Phase VI
- Existing Trails



Trail and sidewalk development can be costly (in excess of \$1 million per mile). Communities frequently identify desired routes and implement the trails in phases. This approach allows communities to install the trails in manageable pieces, obtaining grants and other financial assistance where possible to minimize the financial burden on residents. It also allows residents to see first-hand the positive impact the trails have on the community, and makes raising funds for later developments much easier.

The proposed phases may be developed in different orders, broken into smaller chunks, or grouped together as circumstances dictate. Phase I is in the preliminary stages of development with a goal of breaking ground within the next two years.

The Township should continue to look for opportunities to partner with neighboring communities, Washtenaw County, and the state of Michigan to create an interconnected network that offers benefits to all residents.



Dixboro Village Input Sessions

April 2, 2022

Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI

# CONCEPT RENDERINGS



Plymouth looking east towards Moonwinks Cafe



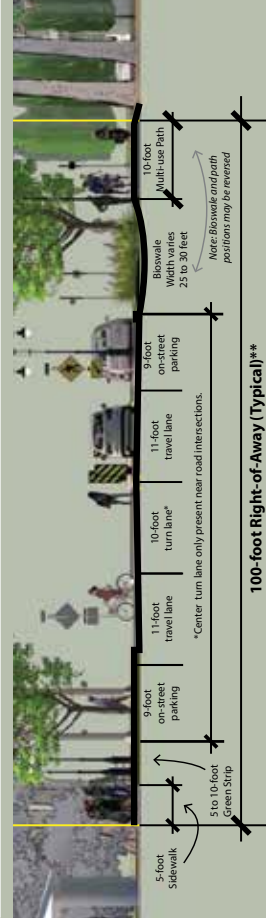
Plymouth looking west towards Cherry Hill intersection




Cherry Hill looking north towards schoolhouse and church



Plymouth looking east towards Cherry Hill intersection




# OPEN SPACE & ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION



**SUSTAINABILITY RETROFIT PROGRAMS**  
Develop programs which offer financial or other incentives for property owners to implement green technology.




**PROMOTE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Green roofs, rain gardens, vegetated swales, permeable pavement, and trees are all types of green infrastructure. It can help to control stormwater, reduce the heat island effect, and provide habitat.




**STREAM & WATERSHED BUFFERS**  
Vegetated buffers slow stormwater runoff, allowing water to infiltrate and preventing pollutants from entering our streams and lakes.



**ENHANCED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**  
Slows stormwater runoff & allows water to infiltrate to aquifers and be cleaned. This also helps reduce erosion and sedimentation problems.




**PROMOTE INFILL**  
By offering developers incentives to fill in gaps in built environments, we reduce the pressure to build in undeveloped spaces.




**CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT**  
Require more compact development on a piece of land while simultaneously requiring a percentage of permanently protected open space on that land.

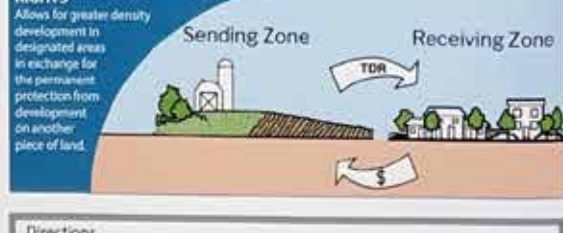
28 out of 38 acres preserved as open space




**PROMOTE LOW IMPACT DESIGN (LID)**  
Preserving existing natural features and promoting the use of LID techniques helps reduce stress on existing infrastructure, lowers overall development costs, and protects our air and water.




**TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**  
Allows for greater density development in designated areas in exchange for the permanent protection from development on another piece of land.




**WETLAND PROTECTION**  
Wetlands act as giant sponges, holding and filtering water. They are critical habitat spaces, offering shelter to the most diverse variety of plant and animal species on the planet outside of rain forests and coral reefs.




**TREE PROTECTION**  
Trees are important green infrastructure components, helping to reduce stormwater velocity, lessen the heat island effect in developed areas, and reducing the amount of pollution and CO2 in the air.



**ZONING ADJUSTMENTS**  
Zoning can be used to control where development can occur and determine what form that development should take.



**OUTRIGHT LAND PURCHASE**  
Acquisition of properties through the use of general funds, grant monies, or donations. Properties can be retained as recreation facilities (parks) or held as nature preserves.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

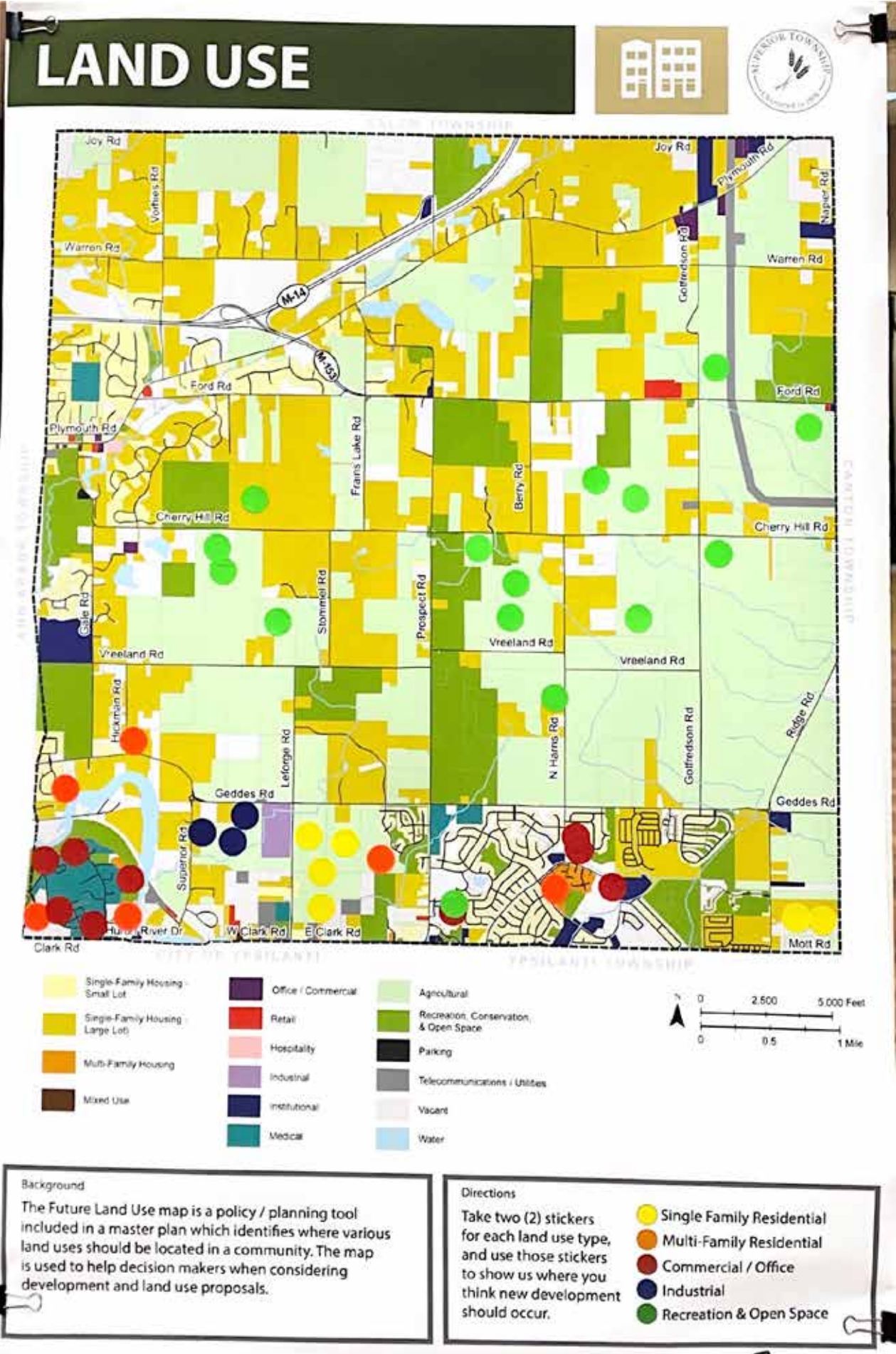
Superior Township is blessed with an abundance of high quality open spaces. These spaces help to protect our drinking water, provide recreation opportunities, and offer a number of other ecological services. What steps should we take to preserve these environments?

## LAND PRESERVATION

High quality landscapes and open spaces are frequent targets for new developments. How should these undeveloped spaces be treated? What can we do in our existing built spaces to ensure that high quality outdoor experiences are available in the future for our children and grandchildren?

**Background:**  
Environmental protection & land preservation were identified as high priorities in the master plan survey. There are a variety of different techniques which can be used to accomplish these goals.

**Directions:**  
Use up to five (5) stickers to indicate the top environmental protection techniques you would like to see implemented in the township.



# PARK AMENITIES

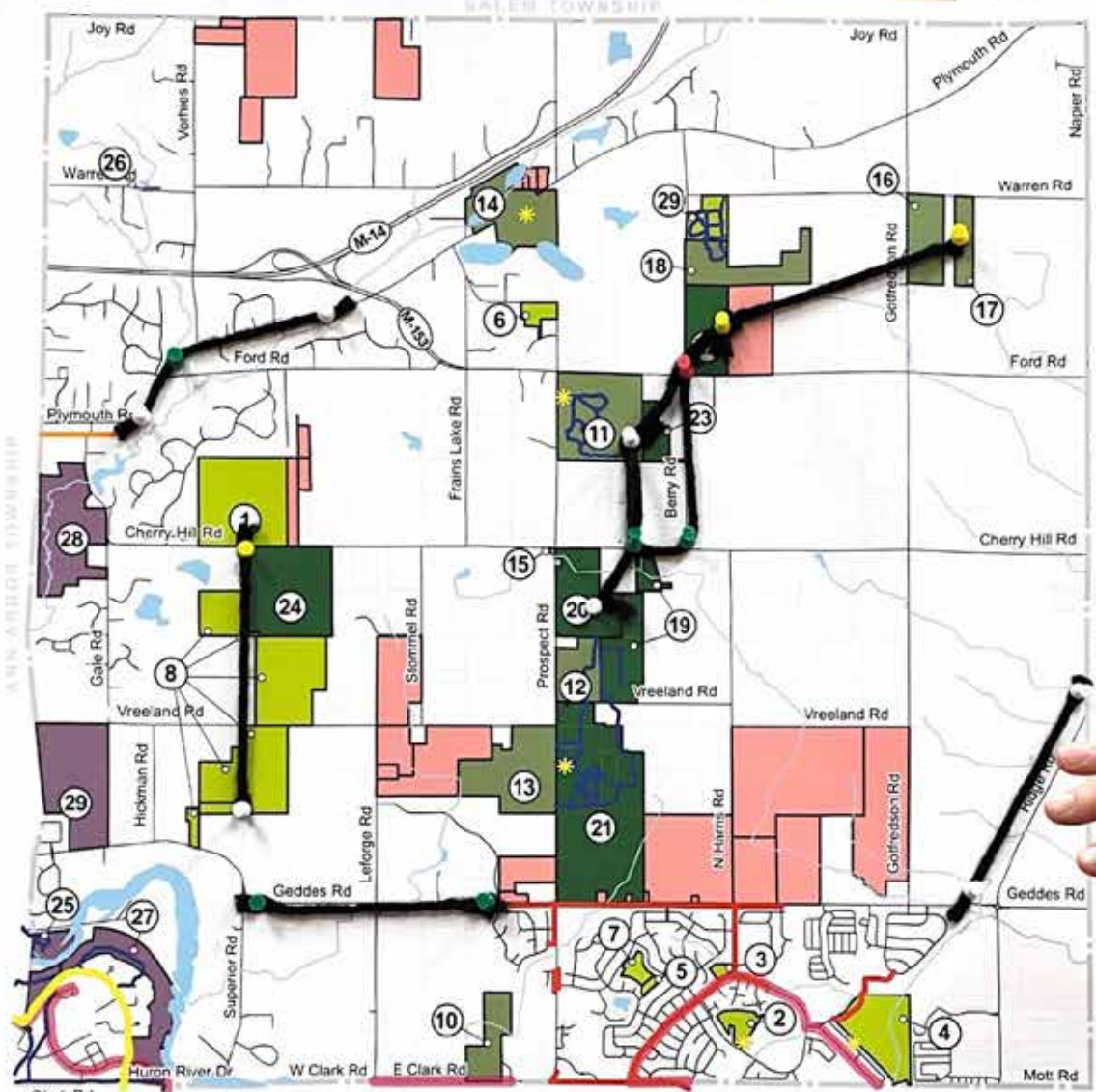


 PLAY STRUCTURES	 PATHWAYS (INSIDE PARK, PAVED)	 SKATE PARK	 GEOCACHING & METAL DETECTING	 DISC GOLF	 CAMPING
 SWINGSETS	 PATHWAYS (IN PARK, RUSTIC)	 DOG PARK	 BIKES/ SHOES	 BASKETBALL COURTS	 CANOE / KAYAK LAUNCH
 PICNIC SHELTERS	 TRAILS (BETWEEN PARKS)	 SWIMMING POOL (OUTDOOR)	 MODEL AIRCRAFT COURSE	 BASEBALL / SOFTBALL DIAMONDS	 FISHING
 GRILLS	 BICYCLES	 SPLASH PAD	 SHUFFLEBOARD	 MULTI-USE PLAY FIELD	 ARCHERY RANGE
 BENCHES	 MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS	 TREES / LANDSCAPING	 HANDBALL / SQUASH	 FOOTBALL FIELD	 CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS
 AMPHITHEATER / STAGE	 EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES	 EXERCISE EQUIPMENT	 EXERCISE TRAIL	 PICKLEBALL COURTS	 ICE RINK (OUTDOOR)
 BATHROOM	 CONCESSIONS / BIKE / CANOE RENTALS	 CLIMBING WALL	 TENNIS COURTS	 SOCCER FIELDS	 SLED HILL
 FOUNTAINS / MEMORIALS	 COMMUNITY CENTER	 ZIP LINE / ROPE COURSE	 SAND VOLLEYBALL	 NATURAL AREAS	 SNOWSHOEING

**Directions**  
Use up to five (5) stickers to show us what kinds of features you'd like to see in your local parks. If you have an idea for something that is not already on the board, please write in your idea on a sticky note and place it in the box to the right.

**OTHER USES**

# PARKS & RECREATION



- Superior Township
- SE Michigan Land Conservancy
- Washtenaw County Parks & Rec
- Purchase of Development Rights
- Other Open Space
- Existing Superior Township Trails
- Planned Superior Township Trails
- Border-to-Border Trail
- Other Trails
- AAATA Bus Routes
- Public Recreation Parking

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Cherry Hill Nature Preserve</li> <li>2 Community Park</li> <li>3 Fireman's Park</li> <li>4 Harvest Moon Park</li> <li>5 Norfolk Park</li> <li>6 North Prospect Park</li> <li>7 Oakbrook Park</li> <li>8 Rock Super Properties</li> <li>9 Schroeter Park</li> </ul> <p><b>SE MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 Conservancy Farm</li> <li>20 Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve</li> <li>21 LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve</li> <li>22 Secret Preserve</li> <li>23 Springhill Nature Preserve</li> <li>24 Unnamed Preserve</li> </ul> | <p><b>WASHTENAW COUNTY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Highland Preserve</li> <li>11 Kosch Headwaters Preserve</li> <li>12 Meyer Preserve East</li> <li>13 Meyer Preserve West</li> <li>14 Staebler Farm</li> <li>15 Superior Center County Park</li> <li>16 Unnamed Preserve</li> <li>17 Unnamed Preserve</li> <li>18 Weatherbee Woods Preserve</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER OPEN SPACE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 Forest Nature Area</li> <li>26 Wing Nature Preserve</li> <li>27 St. Joe's Nature Area</li> <li>28 Mattheis Botanical Gardens</li> <li>29 Radrick Farms Golf Course</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

## RECREATION & CONSERVATION PROPERTIES

Superior Township  
Washtenaw County

Source: Washtenaw County GIS

April, 2022  
Carlisle/Worlman Associates, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Background**

Superior Township contains over 2,500 acres of recreation and conservation land, with 640 acres owned by the Township and the rest owned and maintained by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, or other agencies.

The Township also maintains approximately five miles of safety paths & trails in the Geddes / Clark / Prospect area. Sidewalks, bike paths, and trails enable residents to travel through the community safely with minimal interaction with vehicles, and can be used for either recreation or basic transportation purposes. Trail and sidewalk development projects are frequently developed in one- to two-mile segments.

- Directions**
- Use one (1) sticker to identify locations which would be good candidates for new park and recreation space.
  - You have been given a piece of string which roughly equals two miles. Use the string and push pins to show us routes that you feel are a priority for future trail development.