

RECREATION MASTERPLAN  
2014 – 2018



MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

In conjunction with:

Big Rapids Charter Township  
Chippewa Township  
and  
The Village of Barryton

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
22250 NORTHLAND DR.  
PARIS, MI 49338

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Big Rapids Charter Township  
14212 Northland Dr.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Chippewa Township  
19171 4th St.  
Chippewa Lake, MI 49320

Village of Barryton  
P.O. Box 31  
Barryton, MI 49305

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# INTRODUCTION

Mecosta County is a rural county, rich in natural resources. It has an abundance of water and woodlands making recreation a significant part of its economy. Though summer cottages and retirement homes already surround many lakes, large tracts of land remain undeveloped. The prime river frontage owned by the Consumers Energy Company along the Muskegon River is one such area. Other examples include portions of the Martiny flooding project and the Haymarsh State Game Area. As a park system we benefit from this wealth. The beautiful settings surrounding our parks attract many visitors to Mecosta County making it possible to move ever closer to a County mandate of self-sufficiency in operation.

The Park Commission recognizes its responsibility to provide quality recreation facilities for residents of and visitors to the County. This includes the need for upgrading existing facilities in order to meet new federal regulations affecting operation, to replace and renovate outdated structures, to establish new park lands by purchase, lease or some other means, and to expand services to meet the changing customer demands of the next century. We also need to respond to the needs of the communities and population segments that desire the recreation services provided through non-fee generating community parks. These parks go hand in hand with county parks and serve travelers as well as area residents.

With ever-increasing operational costs, new federal laws, aging facilities, new demands for service and new opportunities for growth a well thought out master plan is a must in order to make use of every dollar generated and to obtain grants and technical assistance necessary to accomplish our goals.

## PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this plan to provide the Mecosta County Park Commission, The Village of Barryton, Big Rapids Charter Township and Chippewa Township with a useful guide for the future development of their parks and to provide a comprehensive plan to address the needs of youth, senior citizens and those passing through the area. This plan will establish goals to meet the open space and recreation needs of this region to the year 2018. This plan also provides a guide for development of lands for a regional park site within the Muskegon River basin.

## GOALS FOR THE FUTURE PLAN

- Update the Master Plan to address current needs and conditions to serve as a planning resource useful to the entities listed above.
- Determine needs and make recommendations based upon a standard classifications system for regional recreation open space, Mecosta County Park Commission statistics for our system, visitor evaluation forms; observation of park use, information gathered at Village meetings and other public meetings.
- Provide those listed governmental entities with long and short-range guides for future development.

This format for the comprehensive development of recreational facilities will serve parks of the Village of Barryton, Chippewa Township and Big Rapids Charter Township as determined by local needs for the benefit of all residents and users.

## COUNTY ROLE

The county's responsibilities are: acquisition and development of sufficient open space to meet present and future recreation demands for lands in Mecosta County, management and conservation of the County's natural resources, preservation of unique natural areas, pursuit of funding sources for land acquisition and development, support legislation favorable to the parks and recreation movement in the county.

The county must also be responsive to the needs of the area residents and those passing through the county. The county acknowledges the role the community park plays in the overall provision of recreational services. These non-fee generating facilities, are located throughout the county, are administered by units of government and are not the financial responsibility of the county parks system. However, they contribute to the comprehensive overview of county park services by providing county residents with places to swim, dock a boat, picnic and play games. Many of these parks are locations for reunions, weddings and annual events throughout the year. Some events bring thousands of visitors to the area at one time and generate funds for park capital improvements as well as bring people into the county campgrounds and to our community. These events then add to the commerce of the community in a very positive way.

Much in the same manner that these community park locations are representative of all areas of the county, so too are the various members of the county park commission. This input has led to the development of this comprehensive Mecosta County Park Commission Master Plan with the County taking its place as the lead agency.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The process of developing the Master Plan for Mecosta County involved several groups:

- Mecosta County Park Commission
- Master Plan Committee
- Park Staff
- County Commission
- Zoning Board and Staff
- Village of Barryton representatives
- Big Rapids Charter Township representatives
- Chippewa Township representatives

The task began in 2013 after the Park Commission determined that the 2009-2013 plan was outdated and in need of rewriting. A committee was formed to direct and review the work being completed on the Master Plan. The Park Commission, Village of Barryton, Big Rapids Charter Township, Chippewa Township, County Commission and Zoning Board had adopted the plan by resolution in February of 2014. The planning process involved these steps:

- Preparing a Community Description
- Updating the Recreation Inventory for the whole county
- Determining our Recreation Needs for the participants of the plan
- Developing an Action Plan to meet those needs

The Community Description defines the setting, history of the county, topography, geography, water features, vegetation and wildlife. Population characteristics, transportation routes and economic considerations are also discussed. The Recreation Inventory was done using the information gathered from individual townships, villages, cities and schools. Locator maps are provided in order to compare population distribution to recreational opportunities. Descriptions are included of the recreation areas and their purpose and assessments have been made regarding the accessibility of each of these areas to people with disabilities.

To better understand how we can improve our revenue generating facilities to meet changing visitor demands in our parks, we solicited public comment from several sources. Our primary means of input comes from the use of camper comment forms which are made available to campers and day users through each park contact station. A drop box is provided for expired camp permits and evaluation forms. Visitors may also mail their completed forms into our main office or call us with a specific request, suggestion or complaint. A copy of the visitor evaluation form and survey form is included in Appendix B. Also, a summary of visitor comments from 2003-2008 is included. During 2008, public meetings were held throughout the county to gather information specifically for each area. These public meetings were held at the Big Rapids Charter Township Hall, Chippewa Township Hall and Fork Township Hall. Minutes from these public meetings are also included in Appendix C.

With the passage of the American with Disabilities Act came the need to upgrade our facilities in a timely fashion. Staff from the Mecosta County Park Commission attended seminars and

obtained printed material pertaining to the law. The insights gained were invaluable in preparing our plan. Making use of public input, the staff developed tentative goals and objectives. These were reviewed by the Master Plan Committee and Park Commission and approved with changes.

The Action Plan was prepared based on infrastructure needs of the parks, input from the public, requirements of the American with Disabilities Act and the future direction of the parks as determined by the Mecosta County Park Commission. Individual Action Plans for the Village of Barryton, Big Rapids Charter Township and Chippewa Township were prepared in conjunction with the Mecosta County Park Commission.

For the past year this process has been ongoing and meetings have been held to determine needs, priorities, associated costs and funding sources. The remaining areas with parks or needing park development must look to local volunteers and grant funds to meet their needs and for the associated costs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

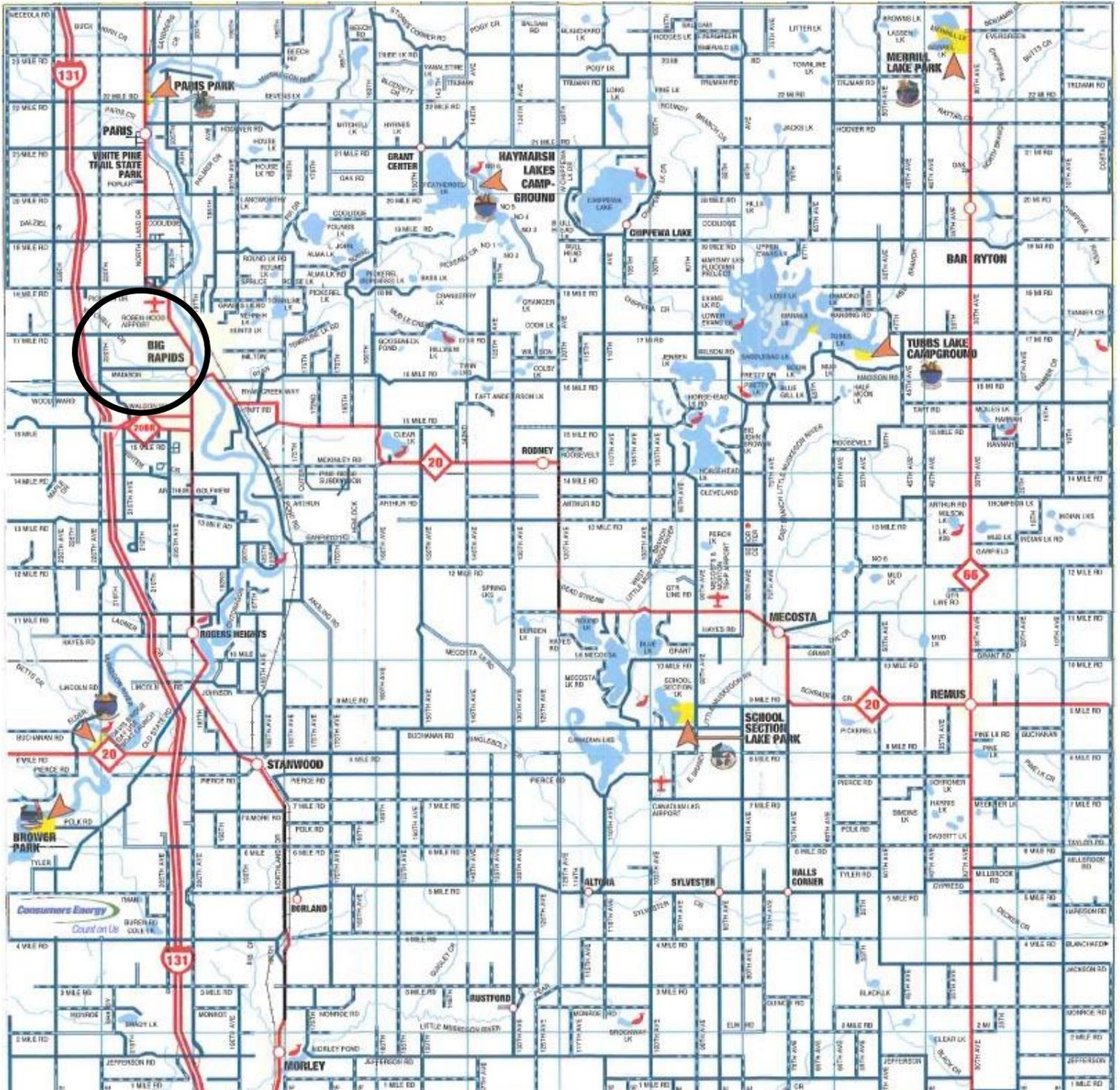
After the local individual needs of non-fee generating parks belonging to the other units of government were formalized, they were presented to the Mecosta County Master Plan Committee for inclusion in the County Community Recreation Master Plan. After review, the Master Plan Committee approved the data presented.

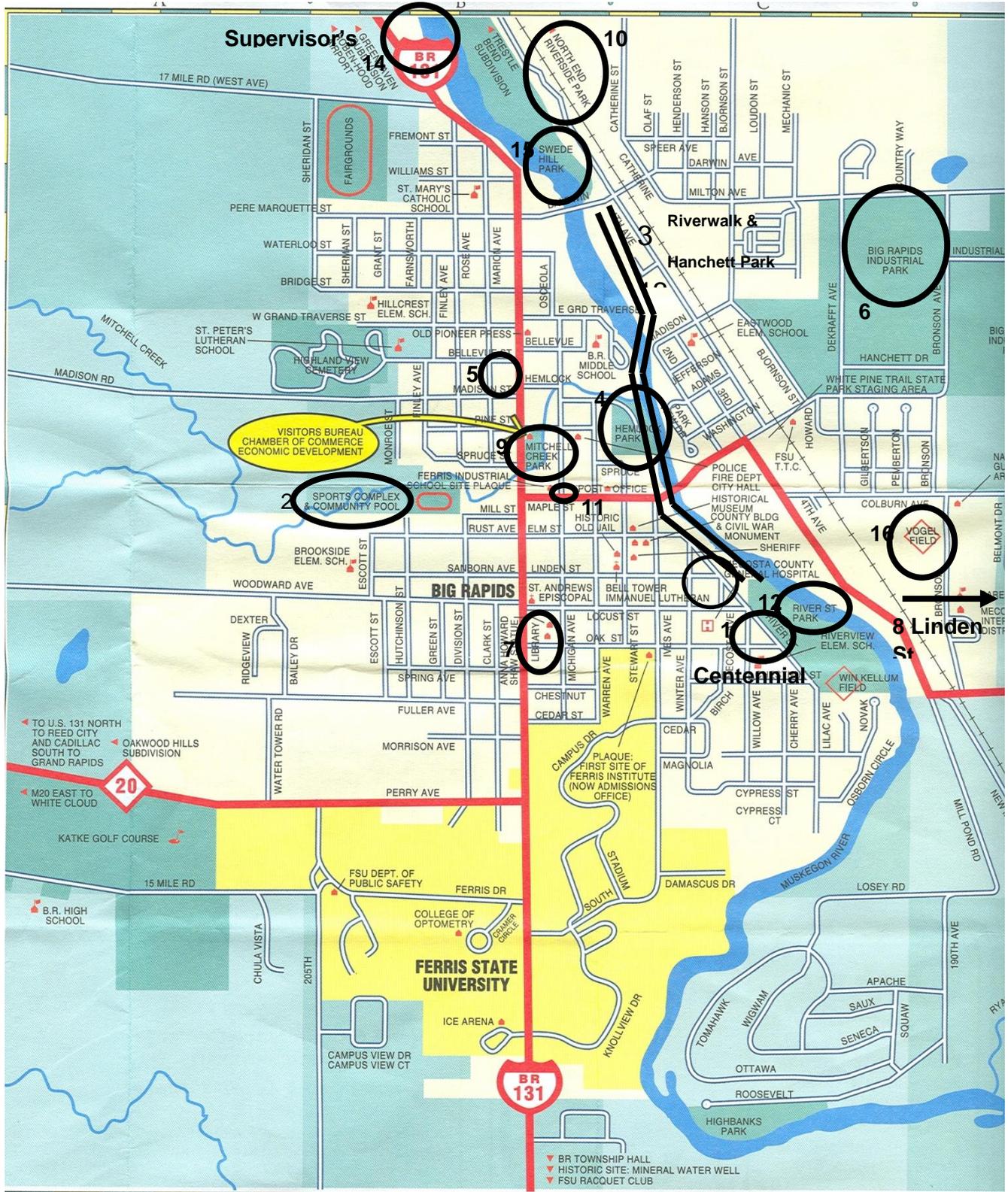
Upon completion of the draft, a 30 day review period was advertised and began on January 3, 2014. Public input was solicited at a public meeting on February 3, 2014. The copy was reviewed by the Master Plan committee and was adopted by the Mecosta County Parks Commission during its February 18, 2014 meeting. Big Rapids Charter Township approved the Masterplan at its meeting on February 4, 2014. Chippewa Township approved the Masterplan at its February 5, 2014 meeting. The Village of Barryton adopted the Masterplan during its Village meeting on February 12, 2014. In addition, copies were sent to the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners, Mecosta County Planning Commission, West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, among others, for their review and approvals.

The preparation of this document has produced much insight and lessons for preparation of any subsequent documents. It has brought the entities and their officials much closer together and will prove to be invaluable for future development of parks in Mecosta County.

# RECREATION INVENTORIES

# CITY OF BIG RAPIDS RECREATION INVENTORY





Supervisor's Office

Riverwalk & Hanchett Park

Centennial

8 Linden St

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

BR 131

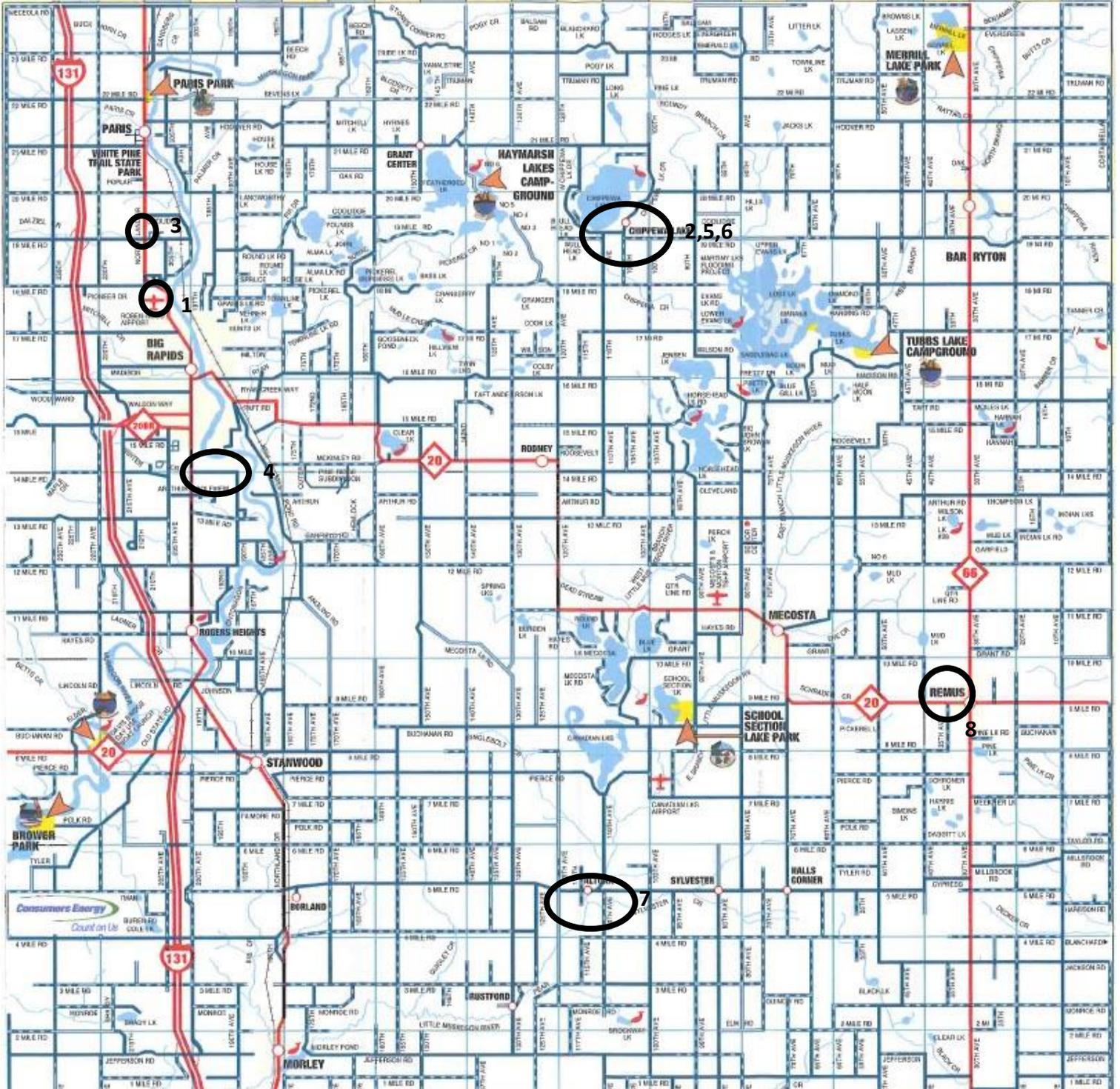
BR TOWNSHIP HALL  
 HISTORIC SITE: MINERAL WATER WELL  
 FSU RACQUET CLUB

City of Big Rapids Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Brutus Dog Park	1	2	Big Rapids Area																				
1	Centennial Park	0.9	3	Public schools & residential neighborhood			X						X											
2	Charles E. Fairman Community Pool	6.4	3	Big Rapids Area		X		X			X	X	X	X		X								
3	Clay Cliffs Nature Area	50	1	Big Rapids Area																			X	
4	Hanchett Park	1.3	4	Integrated into the Riverwalk		X				X						X							X	
5	Hemlock Park with Bandshell	10.4	3	Big Rapids Area		X	X			X	X		X				X	X		X		X		
6	Holland Park	0.3	4	Downtown Big Rapids & Residential Neighborhood		X															X		X	
7	Industrial Park Ball Field	9	4	Local Soccer & Softball Organizations													X							
8	Library Park	1.3	4	Passive park area																				X
8	Linden Street Park	0.2	4	Residential neighborhood East of the Muskegon River		X	X																	
9	Mitchell Creek Park	1.8	4	Individuals who live, work and shop in the downtown area		X					X													X
10	Northeast Riverside Park	144.8	4	Big Rapids Area		X	X			X	X		X		X		X	X	X			X		
11	Pocket Park	0.1	4	Downtown Merchants, Residents & Shoppers																				
12	River Street Park	16.5	3	Residents, neighborhoods & area youth league organizations						X	X						X	X	X				X	
13	Riverwalk	3-29 M	5	Linear Park used by Big Rapids & Surrounding areas						X			X		X			X					X	
14	Supervisor's Park	2.2	n/a	Vacant park land																				
15	Swede Hill Park	2.8	4	Big Rapids Area		X				X												X	X	
16	Vogel Fields	6.6	4	Local Softball Organizations		X	X										X							

**Accessibility**

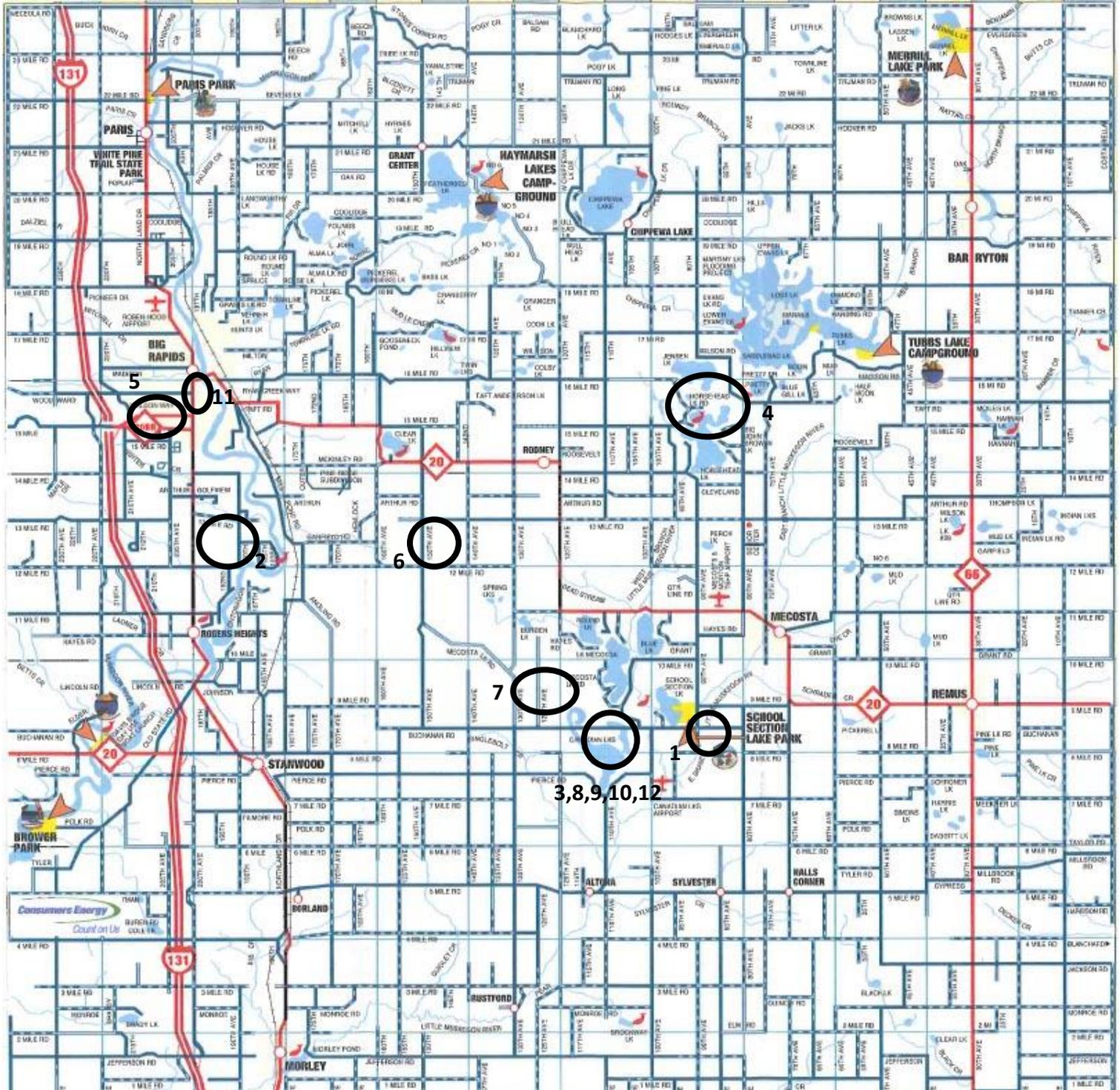
- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated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

# TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY



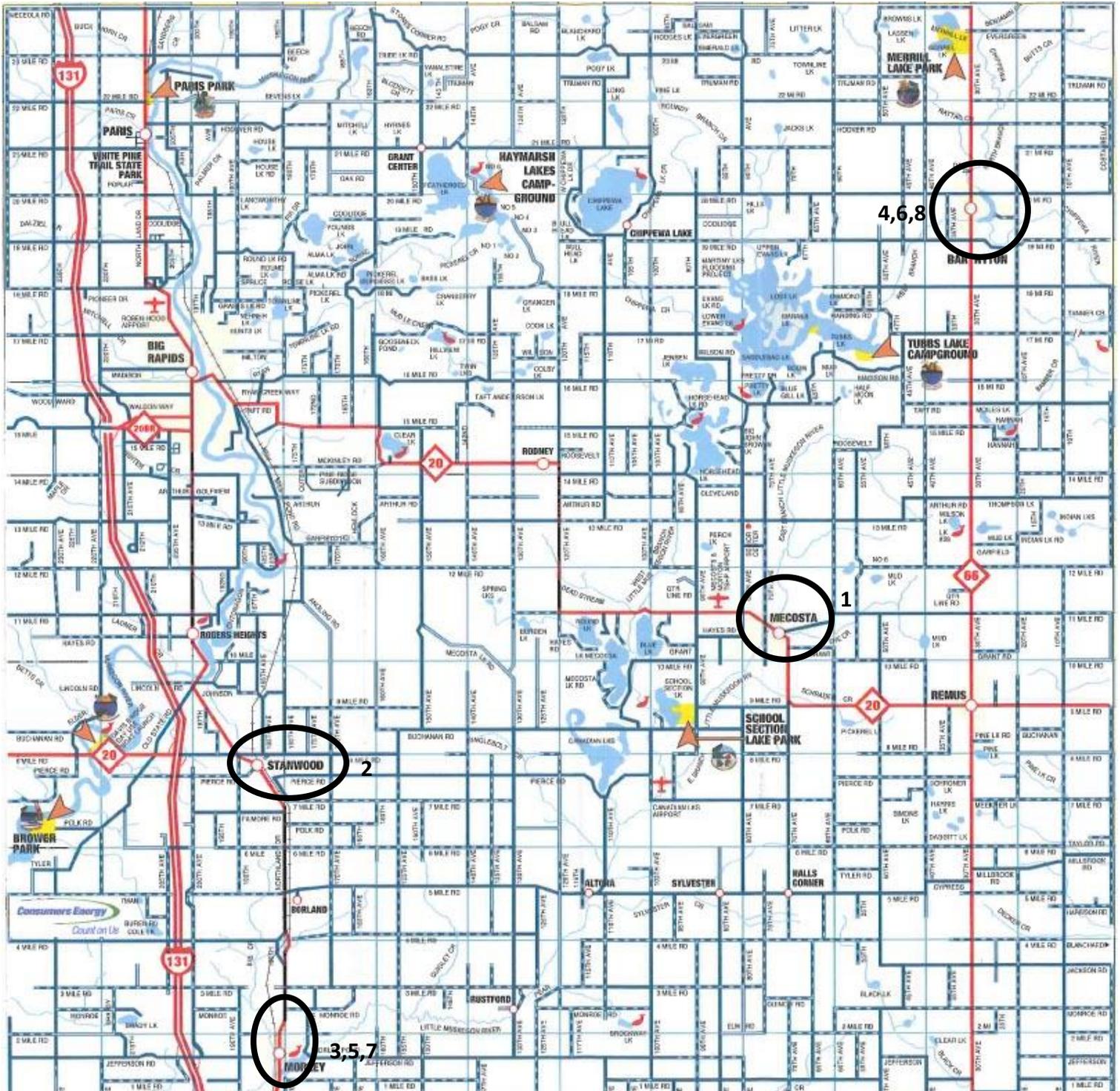
Township Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Historical Site	
1	Charlie Brown Park (Green Twp)	0.8	2	Green Township & Neighboring Communities		X										X	X						
2	Community Building (Chippewa Lake)	8	2	Chippewa Lake Area Residents and Visitors	X	X				X		X				X	X				X		
3	Green Township Town hall Park	7	1	Green Township & Neighboring Communities	X	X											X				X	X	
4	Highbanks Park (BR Twp)	23.5	2	Big Rapids Township & Neighboring Communities	X	X	X		X	X		X				X			X		X		
5	Millet Park (Chippewa Twp)	1	2	Chippewa Township & Neighboring Communities	X							X					X						
6	Mitchell's Landing (Chippewa Twp)	66		Chippewa Township & Neighboring Communities																			
7	Riverfront Park (Altona)	0.3	1	Neighboring Communities	X				X	X		X			X		X						
8	Wheatland Park (Wheatland Twp)	11	4	Wheatland Township	X	X				X		X	X			X	X						

# PRIVATE RECREATION INVENTORY



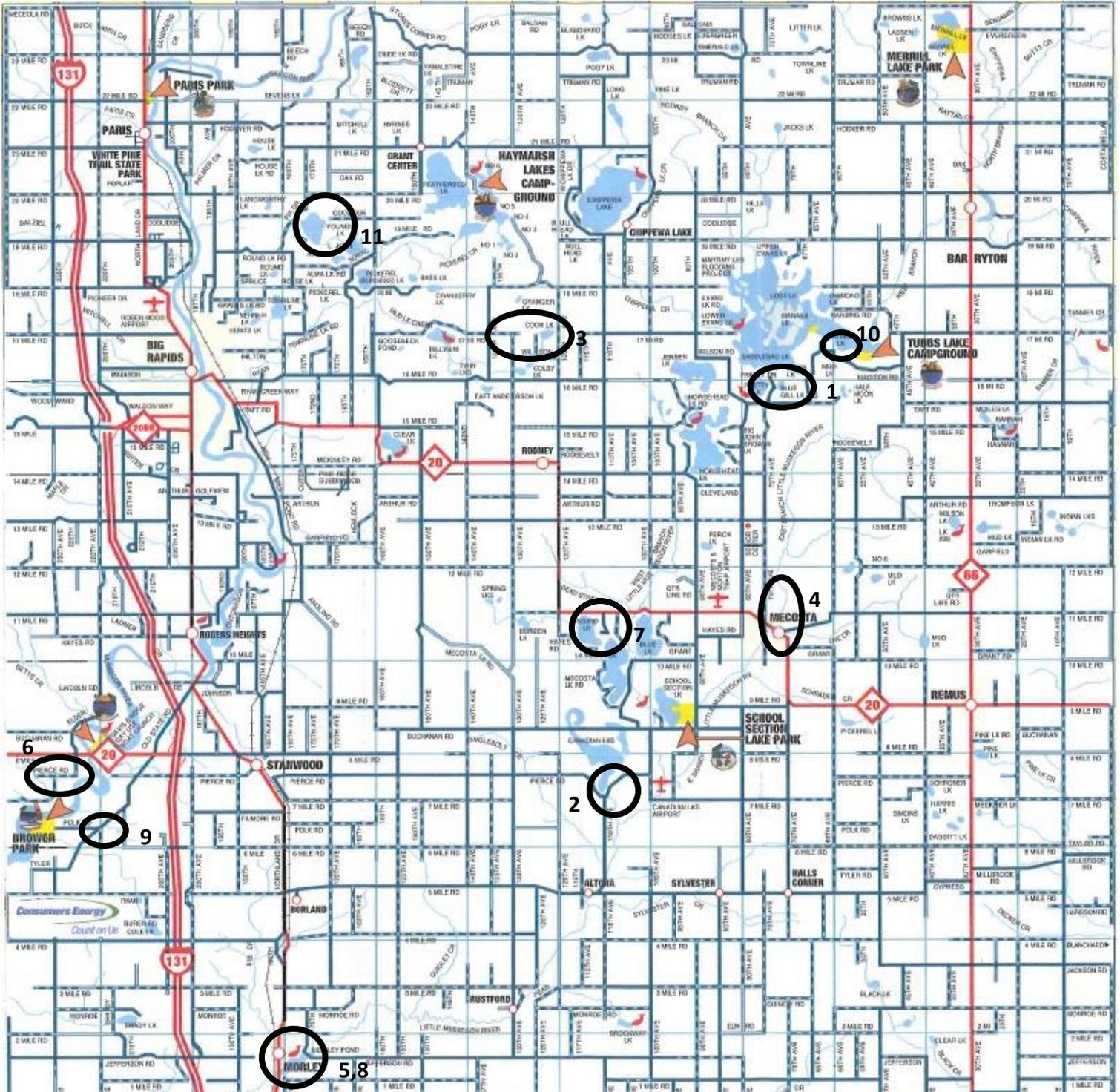
Private Recreational Facilities		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course
1	Adventure Island	3	3	Serves both Residents of Mecosta County and Visitors of the County							X			X									X
2	Falcon Head	120	4	Serves both Residents of Mecosta County and Visitors of the County							X			X									X
3	Highlands	30	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X
4	Horsehead Lake	636	4	Serves both Residents of Mecosta County and Visitors of the County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X		X	
5	Katke - Ferris State University	160	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X
6	Meceola Country Club	240	4	Mecosta County, Michigan, and USA							X			X									X
7	Outback Lodge & Equestrian	20	5	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		X		X			X	X	
8	Pines	33	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X
9	Royal	100	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X
10	St. Ives			Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X
11	The Gate Family Recreation Center	5	5	Residents of Big Rapids and Visitors of Mecosta County							X			X									X
12	Tullymore			Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X

# VILLAGE RECREATION INVENTORY



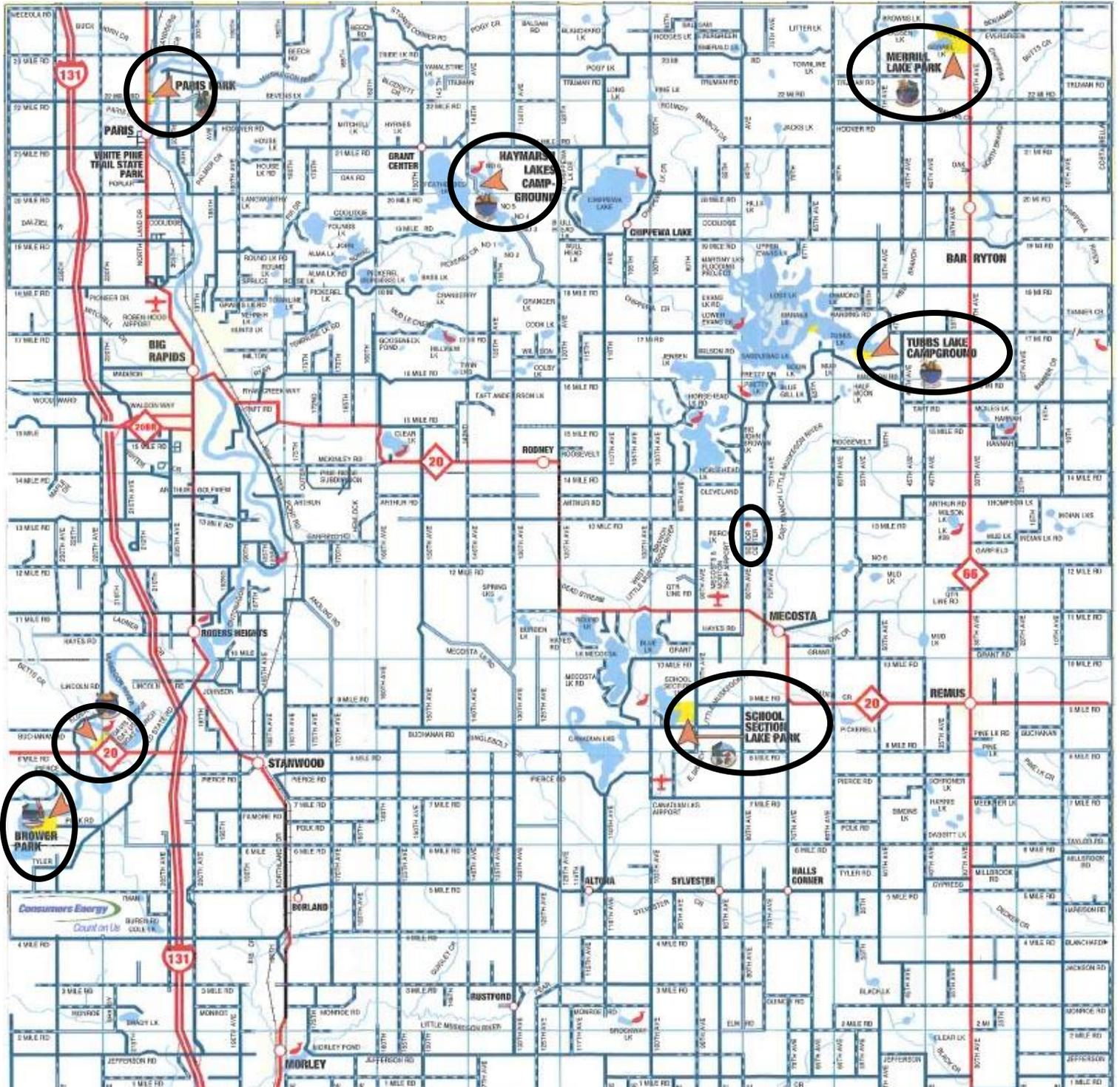
Village Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Historical Site	
1	Bromley Park (Mecosta)	0.5	2	Residents of Mecosta		X	X		X	X		X								X		
2	Buffalo Park (Stanwood)	5	2	Residents of Stanwood		X	X			X		X			X							
3	Clyde Clark Park (Morley)			Residents of Morley		X			X	X			X									
4	East River Park (Barryton)			Residents of Barryton		X	X	X	X					X		X		X				
5	L. Latimer Park (Morley)			Residents of Morley		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				X				
6	Lion's Club Riverside Park (Barryton)	200'	2	Residents of Barryton		X							X									
7	Louise Kinney Park (Morley)			Residents of Morley		X	X			X		X				X						
8	M-66 Park (Barryton)	1.5	2	Residents of Barryton		X	X			X		X				X			X			X

# PRIVATELY OWNED CAMPGROUND RECREATION INVENTORY



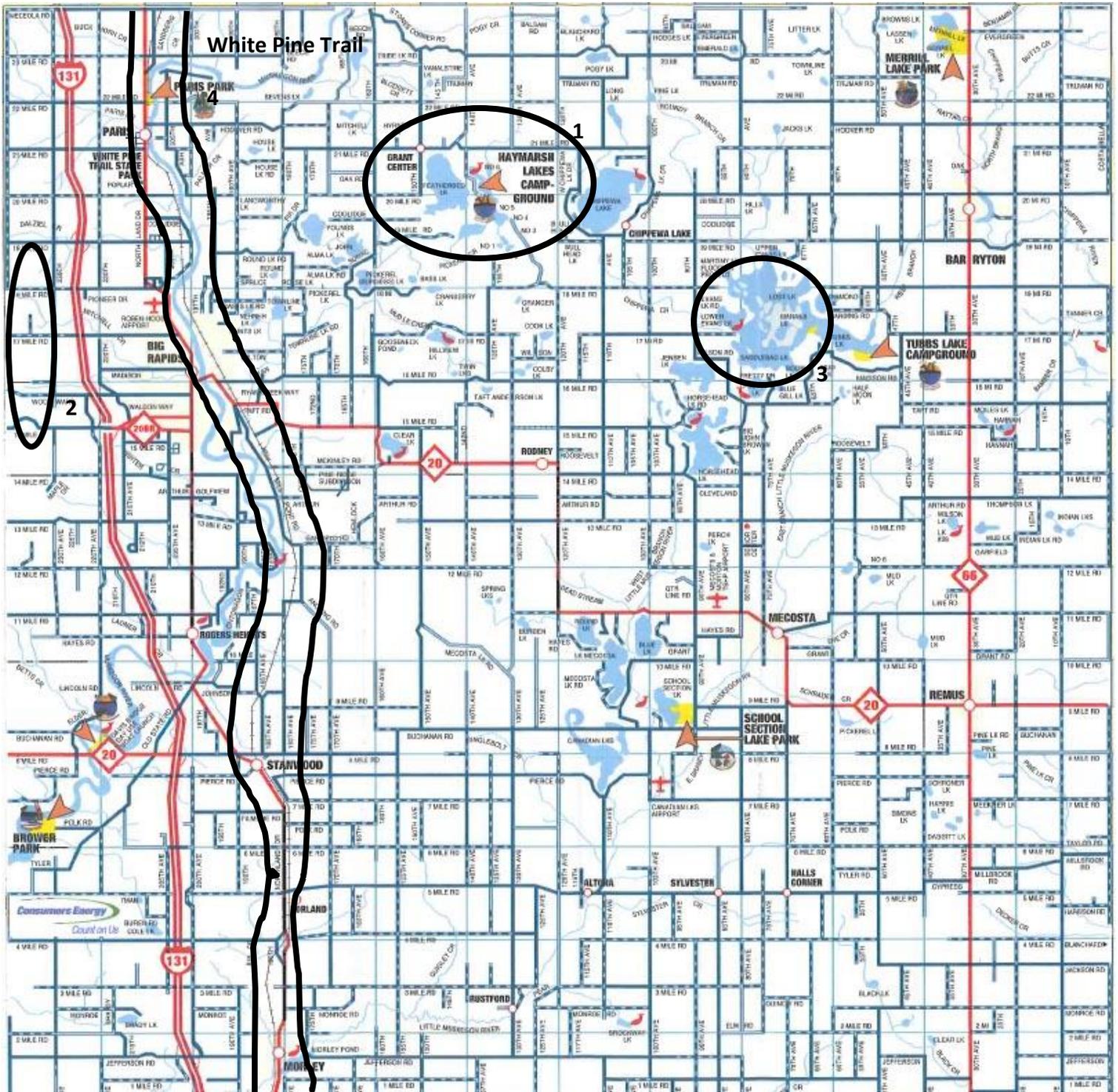
Private Campgrounds		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Group Camps
1	Bluegill Lake Campground	56	2	Most visitors are within 100 miles, however, they have groups come from as far away as Alaska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X					
2	Canadian Lakes Campground	N/A	2	Residents of Michigan	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3	Cranhill Ranch	300	4	Nationwide visitors	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
4	Holiday Terrace Campground	4	1	Most visitors are from outside of Mecosta County	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X					
5	Mecosta Pines Campground	40	2		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X				X	X			X	
6	River Ridge Resort	20	4	Mostly Kent County and Allegan County	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X					X
7	Round Lake Resort	5	2	Most visitors are outside of Mecosta County	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				X									
8	Sarn's Resort	200	2	Most visitors are outside of Mecosta County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
9	Speed's Campground	20	1	Mix of in and outside of Mecosta County	X						X	X													
10	Tubbs Resort	60	1	Most visitors are outside of Mecosta County	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X			
11	Youngs Lake Campground	160	1	Residents of Big Rapids and Visitors to Mecosta County	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X			X		X					

# COUNTY RECREATION INVENTORY



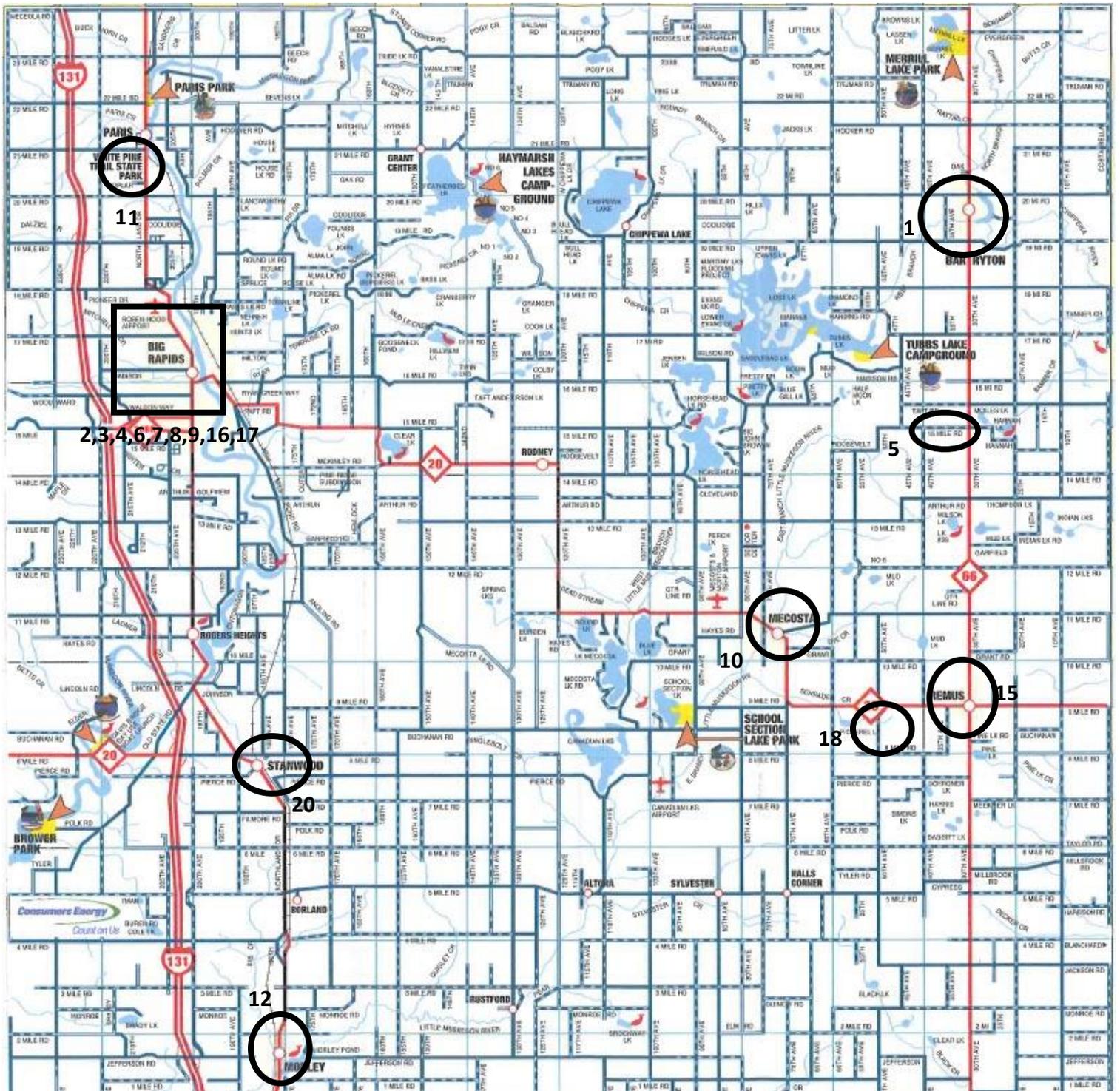
<b>County Recreation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Camping</b>	<b>Picnicking</b>	<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Fishing</b>	<b>Restroom</b>	<b>Shower</b>	<b>Shelters</b>	<b>Concessions</b>	<b>Boat Launch</b>	<b>Nature Area</b>	<b>Athletic Field</b>	<b>Court Games</b>	<b>Water Sports</b>	<b>Programming</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Historical Site</b>	<b>Group Camps</b>
Brower Park	280	3	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		
Davis Bridge		3	Mecosta County		X			X	X				X	X							
Mecosta County Senior Center	5	4	Senior Citizens of Mecosta County		X				X	X	X	X		X				X	X		
Merrill-Gorrel Campground	90	1	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		
Paris Park	40	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X			X	X	X
School Section Lake Veteran's Park	85	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

# STATE RECREATION INVENTORY



State Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Trails
1	Haymarsh State Game Area		2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		
2	Manistee National Forest	3,459	2	Entire State of Michigan and surrounding	X				X	X				X	X	X	
3	Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground	15	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
4	White Pine State Trail Park	93	2	Entire State of Michigan and surrounding													X

# AREA SCHOOLS RECREATION INVENTORY



	<b>Area Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Picnicking</b>	<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Restroom</b>	<b>Shower</b>	<b>Concessions</b>	<b>Athletic Field</b>	<b>Court Games</b>	<b>Winter Sports</b>	<b>Water Sports</b>	<b>Programming</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Indoor Sports</b>
1	Barryton Elementary	6	3	Gym, Soccer Field, Baseball fields		X		X	X		X				X		X
5	Chippewa Hills High School & Intermediate	100	4	Gym, Football field, Softball, Baseball, soccer field, Outdoor track, Playground	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X		X
10	Mecosta Elementary	4	4	Gym, playground	X	X					X	X					X
11	Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District	50	4	Gym, Playground, Multipurpose field	X	X					X				X		X
12	Morley Elementary	8	4	Gym & Playground	X	X					X	X					X
13	Morley Stanwood High School	40	5	Gym, football. Softball, baseball, practice fields, indoor track, weight room, multipurpose courts	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X
14	Morley Stanwood Middle School	40	4	Gym, football. Softball, baseball, practice fields, indoor track, weight room, multipurpose courts													
15	Remus Elementary	5	4	Gym, playground	X	X					X	X					X
16	Riverview Elementary	4.4	4	Gym, Two Baseball/Softball Fields, Playground		X					X	X			X		
20	Stanwood Elementary	12	4	Gym & Playground	X	X					X	X			X		X



	<b>City of Big Rapids Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Picnicking</b>	<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Restroom</b>	<b>Shower</b>	<b>Concessions</b>	<b>Athletic Field</b>	<b>Court Games</b>	<b>Winter Sports</b>	<b>Water Sports</b>	<b>Programming</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Indoor Sports</b>
2	Big Rapids High School	40	5	Gym, Two Football Practice fields, Two Softball Fields, Two Baseball Diamonds, Two Soccer Fields, Seven Tennis Courts, Track & Football Complex & Cross Country Trail				X	X		X	X	X			X	X
3	Big Rapids Middle School	13.5	3	Gym, Soccer Fields							X	X			X		X
4	Brookside Elementary	7		Gym, Baseball/Softball Field, Playground	X	X					X	X			X		X
6	Crossroads Charter Academy	3	4	Two Gymnasiums, Soccer/Football Field, Outdoor Track & Playground		X					X		X			X	X
7	Eastwood Elementary	4.3	4	Gym, Baseball/Softball Field, Playground	X	X					X	X			X		X
8	Ferris State University	880	3	Racquet & Fitness Center, Indoor & Outdoor tennis courts, Two Ice Rinks, Pool, Climbing Wall, Indoor Track, Multipurpose Courts, Weight Room, Multipurpose Fields, Basketball Courts, Football Field, 18 Hole Golf Course, Indoor & Outdoor Track	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9	Hillcrest Elementary	6.6	4	Gym, Baseball/Softball Field, Playground	X	X					X	X			X		X
17	St. Mary's	2	4	Gym & Playground		X					X	X			X		X
18	St. Michael's	5	3	Playground		X		X		X	X	X					
19	St. Peter's	2.2	4	Gym, Playground & Pavilion		X					X	X			X		X

# DNR GRANT INVENTORY

# DNR GRANT INVENTORY

Applicant	Project #	Year	Project Title	Project Information
<b>Mecosta County Parks</b>	26-00015	1965	Brower Park	Water and Electrical Service
				Sanitary/sewage Facilities
				Boating Facilities
				Roads
				Parking lots
				Camping Area
				Picnic Area
				Playgrounds
				Service Buildings (2)
	BF93-306	1993	School Section Lake	Shelters (2)
				Playground
				Pathway
	TF03-033	2003	Brower Park Marina Bathhouse	Marina Bathhouse
Sidewalks				
Accessible Parking Spaces (2)				
CFG 12-08	2012	Tree Grant	Trees Planted in Paris, SS & Brower Parks	
<b>Mecosta County</b>	26-01525	1993	Senior Citizen Park	Pavilions (2)
				Walks
				Parking
				Horseshoe Pit
				Picnic Tables
				Utilities
				Landscaping
<b>Big Rapids Charter Township</b>	26-00102	1967	Highbanks Park	Improvement to Access Road
				Reactivation of Existing Well
				Fencing
				Removal of Two Buildings

# MECOSTA COUNTY DESCRIPTION

# MECOSTA COUNTY - ITS LAND

Mecosta County is in the West-Central part of Michigan, bordering Newaygo County on the West, Osceola County on the North, Isabella County on the East, and Montcalm County on the South. Big Rapids, the county seat, is in the Northwestern part of the county.

## HISTORY OF THE COUNTY

Like neighboring counties, it is impossible not to see the close relationship between the land and its people.

Early pioneers like John Parish harvested timber. In the 1850's the first sawmill was erected and lumbering took over. With the Muskegon River for its roadway, the rich pine forests of the county were cleared in the late 1880's.

The demise of lumbering was followed by the growth of agriculture and dairy farming. Both remain significant as economic enterprises.

In 1884, Woodbridge Ferris came to Big Rapids and opened Ferris Industrial School, which later became Ferris Institute. It was given to the State of Michigan in 1949. Today Ferris State University continues to provide a variety of technical, educational and training opportunities.

Wolverine World Wide established several plants in Big Rapids making the shoe industry the major employer behind FSU at one time. Several auto related industrial plants are located in Big Rapids along with a recently constructed furniture plant. The majority of jobs are in the service industry either in retail sales or professional services related to Ferris, which is the areas single biggest employer.

Rural Mecosta County accounts for approximately 97 percent of the 575 square miles of land area. About 37 percent of this is devoted to agricultural activities but only about half is in active production. Forested land accounts for about 25 percent of the county with open space and wilderness areas following a close third in terms of land use.

Today Mecosta County is a mixture of those things that make up her past. Higher education, agriculture, dairy farming, manufacturing, professional and technical services and recreational opportunities combine to make life in the county rich and inviting.

## TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY

Mecosta County's land features are a result of two glacial basins. When the Lake Michigan and Saginaw Glacial lobes began melting and dumping their debris they left undulating to sloping moraines throughout most of the county. The gradual retreat formed a 2-3 mile wide valley from the north of Reed City to Aetna Township. This gap was the ancestral Muskegon River, much larger and swifter than the present river. Another out wash plain was formed by water from the Saginaw lobe. The Little Muskegon and Chippewa Rivers are in this 1-6 mile wide plain. The glacial till and outwash deposits formed soils that are loamy and sandy, from excessively

drained to poorly drained and nearly level to gently rolling and steep terrains.

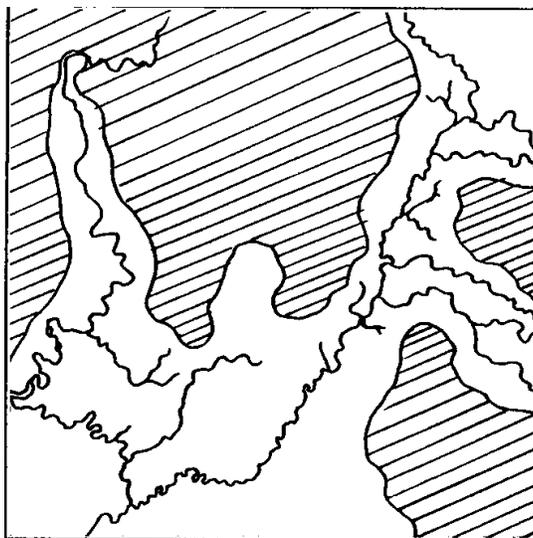


FIGURE 1 ANCESTRAL OUTWASH PLAINS

The glaciers left behind, in Aetna, Hinton, Morton, Fork, Green, Millbrook, Big Rapids, Colfax and Martiny townships, sand and gravel deposits called Glacial Outwash Plain.

Stagnant ice left deposits of Till Plain in Green, Austin and Deerfield townships and eastern portions of the County. Large blocks of ice broke away and were buried by glacial deposits later forming the lakes in Chippewa, Martiny and Morton townships.

#### WATER FEATURES AND WATERSHEDS

Mecosta County has about 35 inland lakes 14 or more acres in size. There are over 480 miles of rivers and streams located in the County. The major river systems are the Muskegon River, Little Muskegon and the Chippewa River, with their many tributaries.

The County sits in two major watersheds or basins. They are the Muskegon Drainage Basin and the Saginaw Drainage Basin.

#### WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

In Mecosta County it is estimated that there are 51,922 acres of wetlands, 29,960 acres of trees, 9,442 acres of shrubs, 7,030 acres of vegetation, and 5,490 are un-vegetated. Portions of these are manmade flooding areas such as Haymarsh State Game Area, Canadian Lakes and Martiny Lakes flooding projects. Other significant wetlands are located in Austin, Morton, Sheridan, Grant, Colfax and Big Rapids Charter Townships. Much of the wetlands are associated with floodplain areas along all the rivers, streams and lakes.

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

The wooded areas are habitat for squirrel, raccoon, porcupine, rabbit, woodchuck, ruffed grouse, woodcock, turkey, white tailed deer, owl, woodpecker and songbirds. The farmed and opened areas are habitat for pheasant, quail, squirrel, cottontail rabbit, woodchuck, red fox, white-tailed deer and songbirds. The streams and lakes support bluegill, sunfish, perch, bass, trout, northern pike, walleye, bullhead, sucker and carp. Some of the areas are nesting, breeding and feeding areas for muskrat, mink, beaver, river otter, duck, heron, kingfishers, Canada geese, coot, loon, osprey and bald eagle.

## VEGETATION

Mecosta County is part of a transition zone extending from Saginaw Bay west to Lake Michigan. This zone reflects a gradient of climate and soil texture. South of this zone the pre-settlement forest consisted of deciduous trees on all but the most acidic soils. North of this zone, coarse, sandy soils are more widespread and climate conditions are cooler. Boreal plants share the forest. Beech and sugar maple are mixed with white pine, hemlock, and yellow birch. The great red and white pine stands of an earlier era were spread across the lower sandy soils of mid-Michigan extending through this zone. As in neighboring counties, most of these stands were cleared in the timber harvest of the 1800's. Most of those cut over lands that could sustain cultivation remain in production; the rest reverted back to forest.

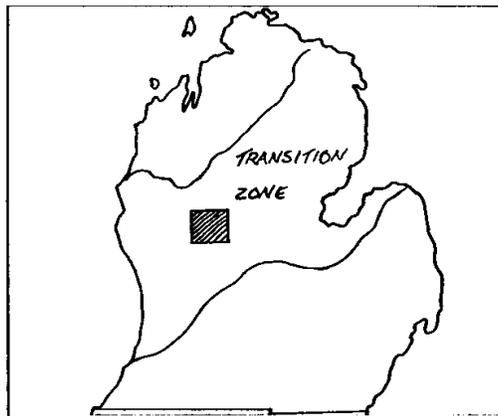
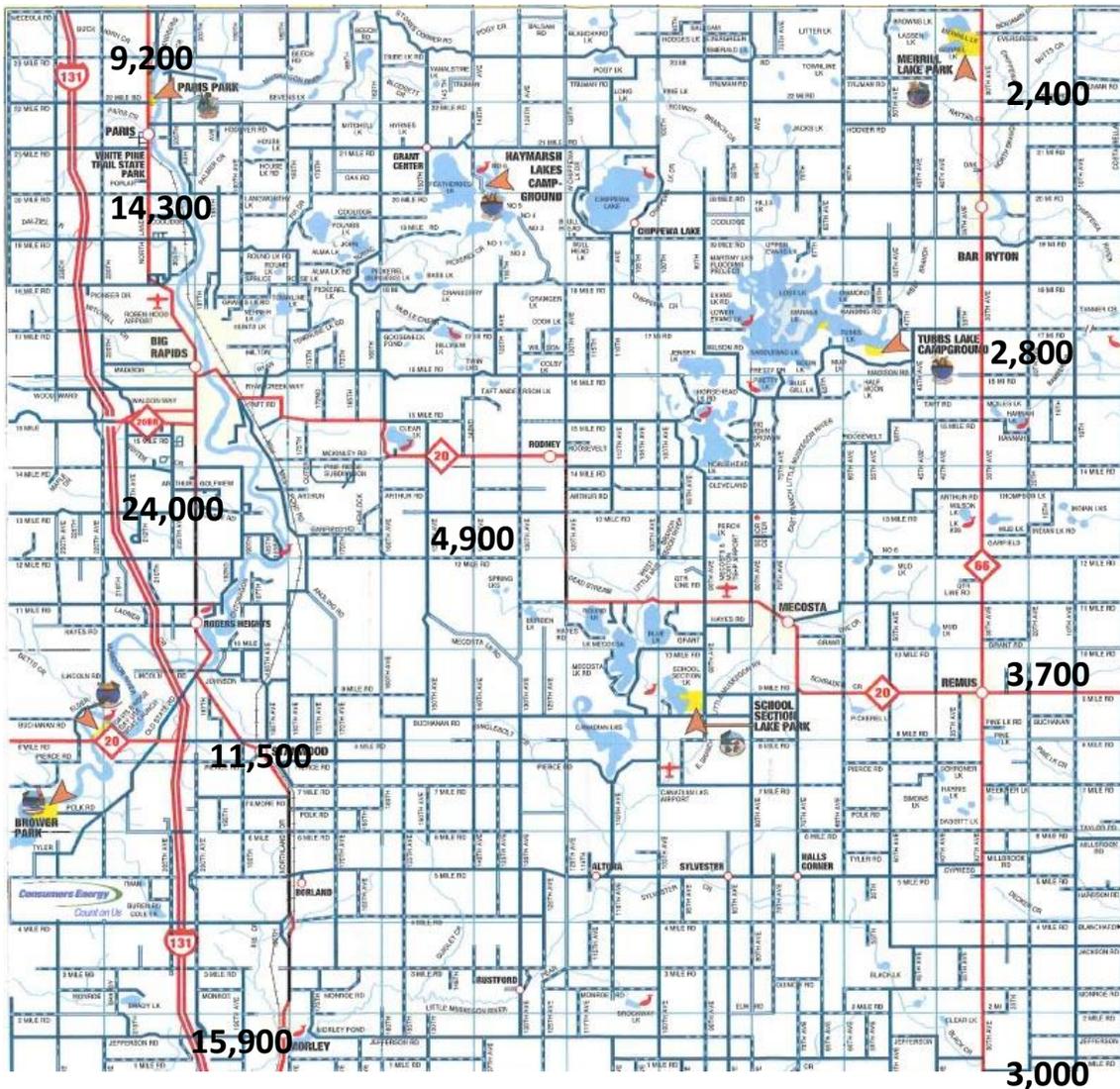


Figure 2 Mecosta County hosted the great red and white pine stands of an earlier era.

In Mecosta County, the forest is made up of 4 general tree groupings. On the upland soils, mixed hardwoods consisting mainly of red oak, aspen, beech, white oak, paper birch, butternut hickory, sugar maple, black cherry and white ash are the most common trees. On the mineral soils in low-lying areas and on bottom lands red maple, basswood, cottonwood, balsam fir, eastern hemlock, northern white cedar, ash and aspen are the most common trees. On the very poorly drained organic soils tamarack, paper birch, aspen, eastern hemlock, red maple, northern white cedar and green ash are the most common trees. Pine plantations, consisting of red, white, jack, and Scotch pine and plantings of Norway spruce and white spruce are scattered throughout the county. The most interesting trend to appear in the last five years is the purchase of land for private hunt club usage.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation and traffic flow has had a significant impact on Mecosta County as they have on most northern Michigan counties. In the past decade the existing economy of the area as well as planning for future growth and development will in large measure be determined by the improved quality of transportation to and from this area. Traffic flow is the heaviest on US-131, the main north-south route through the west side of the county. Old US-131 runs through Big Rapids, the largest urban area in the county. Most of the past economic and population growth has occurred in this area of the county as a result. It should be noted that most future growth trends indicate that this growth will continue in the same area primarily a result of the 4-lane divided expressway.



Average 24-hour traffic counts for major highway routes through the County for 2012 [courtesy of MDOT]

M-20 between Big Rapids and Remus, in eastern Mecosta County, is the main east-west road. It carries the majority of east-west traffic during peak traffic periods. In eastern Mecosta County, M-66 carries a significant traffic flow during the summer months. Both are important to the small towns they pass through.

The resort and recreation industry, which is a significant economic factor in the County, is also highly dependent on major transportation routes for movement of urban populations from southern Michigan into this area seeking leisure time activities and facilities. Our four major County Parks are located close to these major roads. This major traffic artery from Illinois and Indiana to northern Michigan also provides the greatest opportunity to capture a significant market share of west Michigan travelers.

### CLIMATE OF BIG RAPIDS

Big Rapids, located in west central Mecosta County of the central lower peninsula, is about 50 miles east of Lake Michigan, about 75 miles south of Traverse Bay and about 50 miles north of Grand Rapids. As a result of prevailing westerly winds, Big Rapids does experience some lake effect. However, this is minimal and essentially limited to increased cloudiness during the late fall and early winter. The continental type of climate of Big Rapids is characterized by larger temperature ranges than in areas at the same latitude near the Great Lakes, which have moderated temperatures. Diminished wind speeds, which do not traverse large, unfrozen lakes, often produce clearing skies and the colder temperatures expected at continental locations.

Because the movement of pressure systems controls the day-to-day weather across the nation, this area seldom experiences prolonged periods of hot, humid weather in the summer or extreme cold during the winter. Long-term wind, humidity and sunshine records are not available for this location, but this data should be similar to the following values which were observed at the National Weather Service Office in Grand Rapids, located approximately 50 miles south. The prevailing wind is south westerly averaging 10 mph. The average 1 p.m. relative humidity varies from 53% for May to 75 % for December, and averages 62% annually. The average percent for possible sunshine varies from 21% for December to 64% for July and averages 46% annually.

Moderately warm temperatures with an average of 8 days exceeding the 90 F mark dominate summers. The lake influence is reflected in the minimum temperatures, an average of 171 days being 32 F or lower and an average of 16 days being 0 F or lower.

The average date of the last freezing temperature in the spring is May 20, while the average date of the first freezing temperature in the fall is September 25. The freeze-free period, or growing season, averages 128 days annually.

Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year with the crop season, April – September, receiving an average of 18.52 inches or 58% of the average annual total. The average wettest month is August with 3.41 inches, while the average driest month is February with 1.50 inches.

Michigan is located on the northeast fringe of the Midwest tornado belt. The lower frequency of tornadoes occurring in Michigan may be, in part, the result of the colder water of Lake Michigan during the spring and early summer months.

# MECOSTA COUNTY - ITS ECONOMY

Land resources have shaped much of Mecosta County's economy. In the beginning the County was a lumbering and agricultural center relying heavily on natural resources. In the 1900's, after the lumbering industry began to fail, manufacturing and Ferris Institute made an appearance. After World War II, manufacturing became a predominant industry in the County. In the 1960's, the College, seasonal residents and tourist growth became significant economic forces. Through the years Mecosta County has learned to utilize its land resources as an important part of its economy; now the County must recognize how to preserve and wisely use these remaining resources if it is to continue to progress.

Statistical information from the 2000 U.S. Census reflects that the service sector is the largest sector of the area's economy employing approximately 63 percent of the civilian labor force. Primary categories included under the service sector and their respective employments are as follows: Private Sector Service Industries-34 percent; Government-29 percent; and Trade-12.7 percent. Manufacturing represents 16.9 percent of the area's labor force. This sector has seen significant growth in the past five years tied to plant expansions and the attraction of new industry into the community.

Continued growth within the industrial sector is anticipated in light of the additional purchase of land for the area's next industrial park. The presence of the US-131 corridor through Mecosta County has proven to be a definite asset in fostering future industrial growth.

## RECREATION ECONOMY

Tourism and recreation have grown significantly in the County over the past decade, as urban populations seek leisure time activities and facilities away from the congestion and confusion of densely populated cities. Mecosta County has become extremely popular in recent years because of its proximity to large populations and an abundance of natural resources.

The economic impact of the tourist industry is not only within the individual services themselves but also in the indirect benefits generated by them. By attracting large numbers of out-of-area users, the recreational suppliers create markets for a myriad of other economically important activities; the most important among these are retail sales. Leisure time users create markets for fuel, food, fishing and hunting supplies as well as an endless list of recreational vehicles and related equipment. As an example, the Mecosta County Park Commission generates approximately \$900,000 during a camping season. Using figures gathered from visitor comment forms over the years, roughly twice that amount or \$1.8 million is generated in retail sales.

# MECOSTA COUNTY - ITS PEOPLE

## POPULATION TRENDS

Mecosta County's population has fluctuated over the past century. The County experienced a decline in population from 1900 through 1930, as did most of the rural counties in the region. This was due to the decline of the lumbering era and the rural movement to the urban areas for better jobs. From the 1930's through the present the County, as well as the region and the state, has experienced population growth. The county's growth was moderate relative to the State and the nation through the fifties. This is attributed to the war and post war industry, agricultural development in the county and particularly the post war " baby boom."

The 1960's saw a 33% increase in the county's population. This was significantly higher than the regional, state or national increases. The most significant cause for this growth was Ferris State University. It's enrollment increased by 6,500 students, a 243% jump. The City of Big Rapids and the surrounding townships also accounted for some of that growth, probably as a by-product of Ferris. This growth brought with it additional opportunities in the government and service sectors which encouraged further migration into the county.

The 1970's saw a 32% increase in the county's population. This continued growth couldn't be attributed entirely to Ferris because the population increased by only 2,000 students. It is suggested that the migration into the county during the 70's was in part a response to the general anti-urban sentiment making its way across the country. Other factors include the growing number of year-round retirees that moved into the Canadian Lakes and Tri-Lakes areas, the development of the US-131 expressway: the growth of recreational homes and lands and the increasing emphasis being placed on the quality of life by industries seeking to relocate.

Planners for this region projected a continued pattern of growth for Mecosta County through the rest of the century. What they didn't project was the severe recession in the early 80's and the subsequent loss of industry in the area causing a stagnation and decline in population. Even the mid-decade updates of West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and Michigan's office of Management and Budget which projected 40,674 people by the year 1990 were overly optimistic according to the 1990 census figures which put the county population at 37,300 people. This reflects only a 1% increase during that decade, a significant decline in growth over two previous decades.

As might be expected, the townships in Mecosta County have not grown equally. Through the 1950's many of the rural townships experienced population declines. This trend stabilized and reversed itself during the 1960's. In this period, the urbanizing townships and the City of Big Rapids all experienced significant increases in growth. In addition, those townships with high levels of recreational development also began experiencing expanded growth.

This leading trend continued through the 1970's. Morton Township, with the Canadian Lakes Development, saw the most significant increase. Other townships with a high degree of recreational activity also saw increases exceeding that of the county's growth rate, with the city of Big Rapids and developing townships [Big Rapids, Green, Colfax, and Mecosta] leading the way. Between 1970 and 1980 59% of the growth occurred in these areas with an additional 10%

occurring in Morton Township.

The townships with the most dramatic growth have been Morton, Mecosta, Deerfield, Aetna and Green while those with the least growth have been Grant and Colfax. Two townships experienced declines in population, Wheatland and Grant.

1980	1990	642	644	1009	1305	1348	1395
2847	2833						
Green		Grant		Chippewa		Fork	
2000	2010						
3209	3292	680	686	1239	1212	1678	1604
2471	3100	1885	1915	1210	1348	1007	1020
Big Rapids		Colfax		Martiny		Sheridan	
3249	4208	1975	1933	1606	1625	1357	1393
1885	1966	898	1102	1789	2122	1424	1365
Mecosta		Austin		Morton		Wheatland	
2435	2615	1415	1581	3597	4311	1474	1403
1351	1622	1032	1231	855	955	947	1012
Aetna		Deerfield		Hinton		Millbrook	
2044	2299	1630	1816	1035	1126	1081	1113

MECOSTA COUNTY TOWNSHIP POPULATION TABLE  
1980-2010

### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Population characteristics indicate the "make-up" of a population group. Different characteristics can be studied to identify significant trends within the population.

## AGE

The table below outlines historical trends in age distribution in Mecosta County.

Median Age	YEAR	AGE DISTRIBUTION AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL					
		0-4	5-14	15-19	20-34	35-64	65+
23.8	1960	10.2	17.9	13.9	20.1	26.6	11.3
22.7	1970	7.6	16.2	17.5	26.7	23.3	8.2
23.1	1980	6.2	12.8	16.4	32.1	23.4	9.1
25.6	1990	6.1	12.3	13.6	29.6	27.2	11.2
35.7	2000	6.8	15.0	7.2	20.2	38.6	12.3
34.0	2010	5.2	11.1	10.1	24.5	33.7	15.4

This table suggests that the median age is increasing once again. The aging population could be a result of two things: the increase in numbers of retirees to the county and the maturing "baby boom" generation. This group is becoming the fastest growing group in the nation while the under 18 group has declined. This new dominant group will stimulate consumption of adult-oriented leisure pursuits. It bears noting that Ferris State University with its 14,707-enrollment figure for fall 2013 is a significant group that compromises a special segment of the population.

## MINORITY GROUPS

Mecosta County's minority population in 2010 comprised 4.2% of the total population. According to the census the minority population is made up of 2.5% [1077] African American, 1.7% [731] Spanish origin, 0.6% [243] American Indian/ Eskimo/Aleut, Asian 0.6% [268]. No further information was available for other minorities. The greatest concentration occurs in the Big Rapids area.

## GENDER

The population is almost evenly split between males and females. Males comprise approximately 50.2% of the population and females approximately 49.8%.

## DISTRIBUTION

Mecosta County is about evenly split between rural and urban population. It is anticipated that over time the county will become more urban. As people move out of the metropolitan areas, they will still settle in the less populated urban areas which provide them with the kinds of services and amenities such as sewer and water, paved roads, recreational facilities, etc., that they are accustomed to receiving.

In addition to Big Rapids, Mecosta County has several other developing or existing built up areas. Four of these are the incorporated Villages of Morley, Stanwood, Mecosta, and Barryton. Other developed areas include Remus, Chippewa Lake, Paris, Rogers Heights, Canadian Lakes

Tri-Lakes area and the Martiny Lakes area.

### SPECIAL GROUPS

The students of Ferris State University represent a special population group within Mecosta County. They are an institutional group according to the U.S. Bureau of Census, thus possessing certain similar characteristics. They are also a large enough group that they directly affect overall characteristics of the county.

Recreational development is an important part of Mecosta County, and with recreational activities come seasonal fluctuations of population. The County's second special population group, seasonal residents, causes this. Although this population group does possess similar characteristics they are not a formal institutional group, making information gathering more difficult and less specific.

### DISABILITY OF CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS

Census figures for persons 16 to 64 years indicates that 575 people had a health condition lasting 6 or more months creating some form of mobility or self-care limitation which made it difficult to take care of their own personal needs or to go outside the home alone. This figure represents 2% of the people in this age bracket.

As many as 2196 people [or 9% persons age 16 to 64] had a health condition lasting 6 or more months and which limited the kind or amount of work they could do. Of that number 881 were currently in the work force, 1019 were prevented from working because of their disability. This figure represents 4% of the population age 16 to 64 years. Of persons 65 years and over, according to census figures, 14% have some kind of mobility or self-care limitation.

The figures stated above do not represent any persons living in residential treatment centers such as adult foster care homes or other institutional settings. Therefore, a figure of 4% of the population age 16 and over having some mobility or self-care limitation is conservative. The passage of Americans with Disabilities Act has increased public awareness of the rights and needs of all persons, including those with disabilities, to enjoy the outdoors and participate in a variety of recreation opportunities. Park and recreation providers must begin investing a larger share of their already limited resources to the task of making facilities, programs and services available to as many people as possible. This daunting task begins with a recreation inventory, evaluation of accessibility, planning in order to remove barriers and then implementation of the plan. Maintaining ongoing communication between park staff and persons with disabilities during the planning and implementation stage is important in order to gain important insight into 'true' accessibility.

Two of our parks, Brower and School Section are located closest to the large population centers in our area. They are also the most heavily used of our six facilities. They are the logical starting points to address questions of accessibility. Basic services such as parking, contact stations, and restroom/shower facilities have the highest priority followed by access to areas of recreation such as beach fronts, picnic areas and hiking trails.

# MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

# MECOSTA COUNTY PARKS HISTORY

School Section Lake Park is the oldest park in the system. Purchased back in the 30's from John Berry for \$8,000.00, the 80 acre park began its development with construction of the pavilion and the planting of the pine grove adjacent to the park. Federal funds were made available for this through WPA and the CCC. The buildings housing the restrooms and bathhouses were erected in the 40's. Modern camping facilities complete with electricity and water were added by the Mecosta County Park Commission in the 60's. In 1970 the schoolhouse was restored. Most recently, universal accessibility to the beach area has been completed. Picnic pavilions have been added to the park over the years, as well as a new playground, upgraded (new) electrical infrastructure was done in 1997; five mini cabins have been built along the northeast bank of the lake.

Brower Park had been in existence as a fishing site with some camping for many years. It was owned by Consumers Power Company and leased to Mecosta County for \$1.00 per year on a year-to-year basis lease. The park was approximately 25 acres in size prior to the formation of the Park Commission.

Merrill Lake property had been under state ownership for many years possibly as a future access site to both Merrill and Gorrel Lakes. The property comprising the present campground came under County ownership in 1941 for the sum of \$1.00. In 1964 the Park Commission took over management of the Merrill - Gorrel property.

Paris Park, known as the old State Fish Hatchery, was deeded to the County under four separate deeds over a 20 year period starting in the 60's.

The Park Commission was formed in October 1965 with the first Superintendent, Charles Wright, working as a seasonal employee. Its purpose was to alleviate the problems of maintenance and upkeep for the board of supervisors by creating a Park Board to oversee the development and operation of a county park system with an eye toward increasing self-sufficiency by instituting user-fees.

In 1966 an application was made for a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Land and Water Grant. Application for permission to sell revenue bonds under Public Act 94 of 1933 was also applied for. In that same year the Park Commission asked Consumers Power for an additional 100 acres for expansion of Brower Park.

In 1967 the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funded the Brower Park Project for \$82,500.00. A loan was granted to the Park Commission from the County General Fund in order to match the grant with \$35,000.00 being granted in retroactive credit, leaving a balance of \$47,500.00 in local funding needed.

In 1968 the department of Housing and Urban Development approved purchase of Mecosta County Park Bonds allowing for the expansion of School Section Lake Park and the construction of Merrill Lake Park and Paris Park.

In 1970 the Mecosta County Park Commission applied for SIXCAP Mobilization Resource Funds, DNR Waterways Funds and DNR Bond Issue Funds. Construction began in 1971 and was completed by June 1972.

In 1972 State Bond funds were received in the amount of \$118,400.00. This was an outright grant for new construction. Later that year \$60,000.00 was received from the Waterway Fund with a 10% match required. Application was then made for a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation matching grant for a marina and related facilities. In the fall of 1972, word was received from the Waterways Commission of an additional \$5,000.00 for the construction of a canoe launch site at Paris Park.

Between 1965 when the Mecosta County Park Commission was first created and 1972, park acreage went from 102 acres to 348 acres. Employees increased from 2 to 23. Operational budget went from \$16,000.00 to \$230,000.00.

In 1974 Mr. Ivan Sherburn became Superintendent. The major tasks accomplished were the completion of the main boat launch and parking lot at the Brower marina, construction of a new drain field and septic system for the old bathhouse and construction of the recreation field at Brower which included a ball diamond, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, and the largest playground in the park. He also acquired the properties that comprise Paris Park today.

In 1983 Mr. David L. Basch became Superintendent. The task set before him at the onset of his employment was the renovation of what was now almost a 20-year-old system. On average, between 45,000 and 50,000 campsites were occupied and more than 10,000 vehicle permits sold each season. From 1983 to 2008, he systematically directed the maintenance, upkeep and improvements of our parks.

With the growth of springtime in Paris festival came the need for better accommodations for activities, so in 1985 a permanent stage was built overlooking one of the ponds. Shortly after that the fish rearing tanks were removed from the hatchery building.

Shelter buildings were constructed at Merrill Lake Park. School Section and Brower received paved entrance roads. The Brower office was enlarged and redesigned. The Family Group Camp at School Section Lake Park underwent a thorough renovation of the existing structure.

In 1989 the Park Commission took over the administration of the Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground in the Martiny Flooding project. The acquisition brought a new flavor of camping to our system. Rustic and secluded, these island and mainland outposts host excellent fishing and hunting opportunities for the sports enthusiast.

In 1996 the Park Commission, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, built the Haymarsh State Game Area Campground. Mecosta County Park Commission took over administration of this campground which offers 19 primitive campsites to sports enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

In 1997 a new playground was purchased and built through a grant from the DNR at School Section Lake Park along with two more picnic shelter buildings, universal accessibility to the beach and lake, and an office addition as well as a complete electrical upgrade. Paris Parks Pond stage had a permanent roof added. In the fall of 1997 the Park Commission signed a new 20-year lease with Consumers Energy for Brower Park, continuing a long time beneficial partnership.

In 1998 the Park Commission replaced the complete electrical system within Brower Park as well as 1,700 feet of shoreline bank stabilization. The vault toilets at Tubbs Lake were all

upgraded and two new unisex vault toilets were added. The park office at School Section was also expanded early in 1998 to keep up with growing visitation.

In 2003 the Park Commission received a grant to replace a restroom at Brower Park with an upgraded, entirely handicap accessible facility. This restroom was opened in 2007.

Brower Park began to allow seasonal camping in 2005. New siding, shutters and gutters were installed on the Administrative Office and Fish Hatchery. A new park was also created at Davis Bridge with construction beginning in 2007 and the park opening its gate in 2008. Davis Bridge was an extension of our lease with Consumer's Energy and currently serves as a day use boat launch with hopes for future expansion. A new concession store opened at School Section Lake Veteran's Park.

In 2008 David L. Basch retired and Gary Brown was appointed as the new superintendent.

Mr. Gary Brown accomplished: the tree cutting project at School Section Lake Veteran's Park to get ready for a future campsite area. He oversaw the projects including installing a new playground, basketball court and fishing dock in Merrill-Gorrel Campground. Pond repair work was completed. He also acquired the property that comprises of the White Pine Valley Recreation Area.

In 2009 a railing around the front pond at Paris Park was constructed with the help of the Ferris State University Welding Department and Dave Murray (instructor). Kayaks, paddle boats and canoes were purchased to offer boat rentals at School Section Lake Veteran's Park.

In 2010 a new manager's residence was constructed at Merrill-Gorrel Campground.

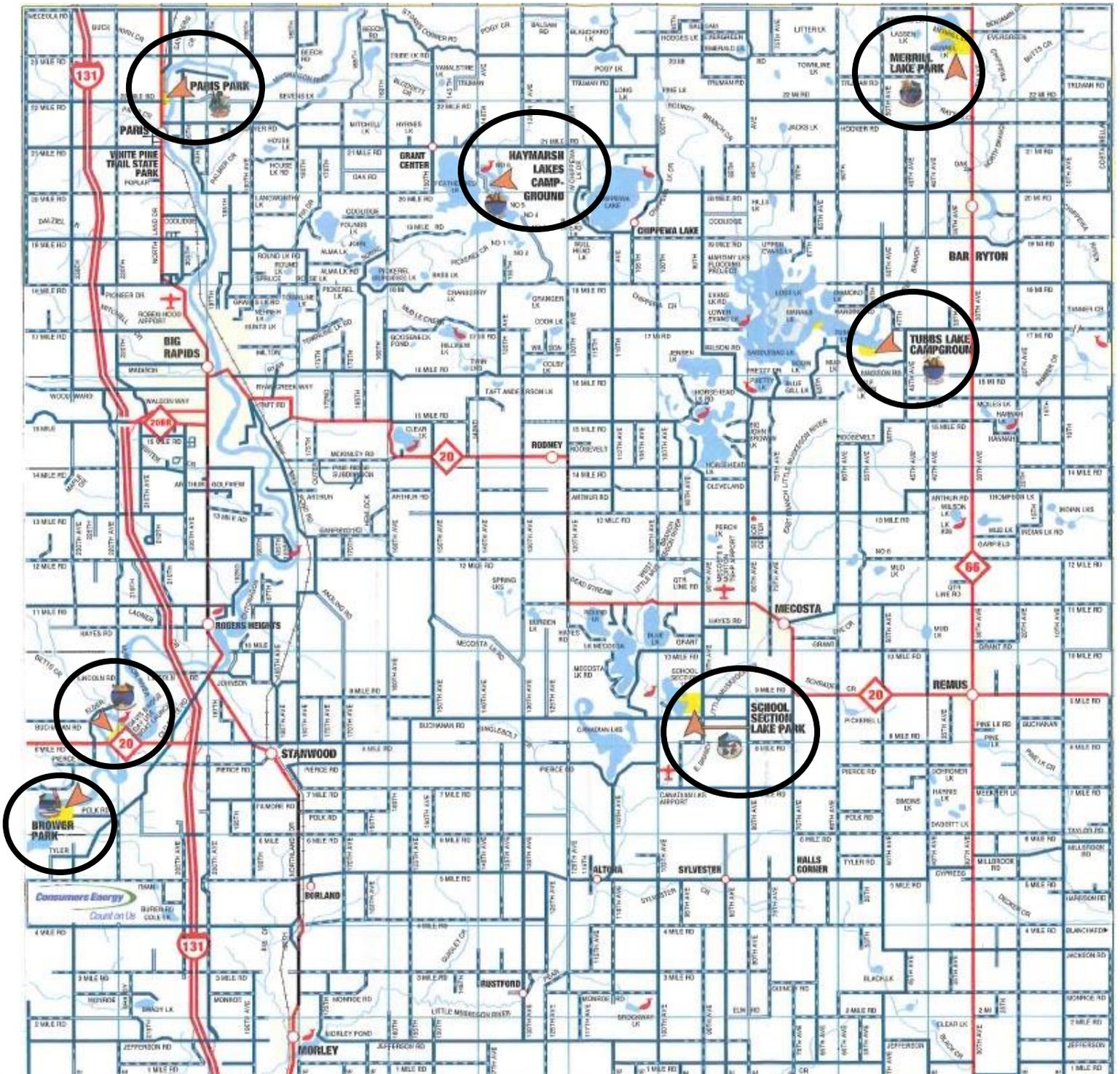
In 2012 souvenirs were offered for sale in the parks to try to help generate revenue. The Park Commission became Good Sam members upon their approval for Brower and School Section Lake Veteran's Parks. Seventy-five trees were planted in the parks with the help of a grant obtained through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Forest Management Division.

2013 new logos for the parks were designed, our new website was launched and on-line reservations began. The school house at School Section Lake Veteran's Park was dedicated. A boat trailer parking area for Brower Park was set into motion and is to be completed in 2014. Gary Brown resigned his position in September of 2013.

2014 Gary Rasmussen became the Superintendent. Gary Rasmussen's challenge will be to increase park usage, update the aging infrastructure, improve the image of the Mecosta County Park Commission and promote teamwork and unity within the park staff through staff training and cooperative work environment.

Today the parks continue to sustain a high level of use as people seek a respite from the stress of living in the 21st century. Continued reinvestment is planned for the immediate future.

# MECOSTA COUNTY PARKS LOCATION (Circled in black)



# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Our parks open for business in April and close in November. We employ approximately 35 seasonal staff to run our county parks. Host campers receive visitors at our state forest campgrounds. Three seasonal managers oversee operations at School Section Lake Veteran's Park, Merrill Lake Park and Paris Park. Full-time staff manages Brower Park. The park's complement of summer staff includes minor maintenance workers, assistant managers, rangers, custodians and in two cases night rangers and programmers. Our full-time manager spends the winter season planning and preparing interpretative and recreational activities for the upcoming summer.

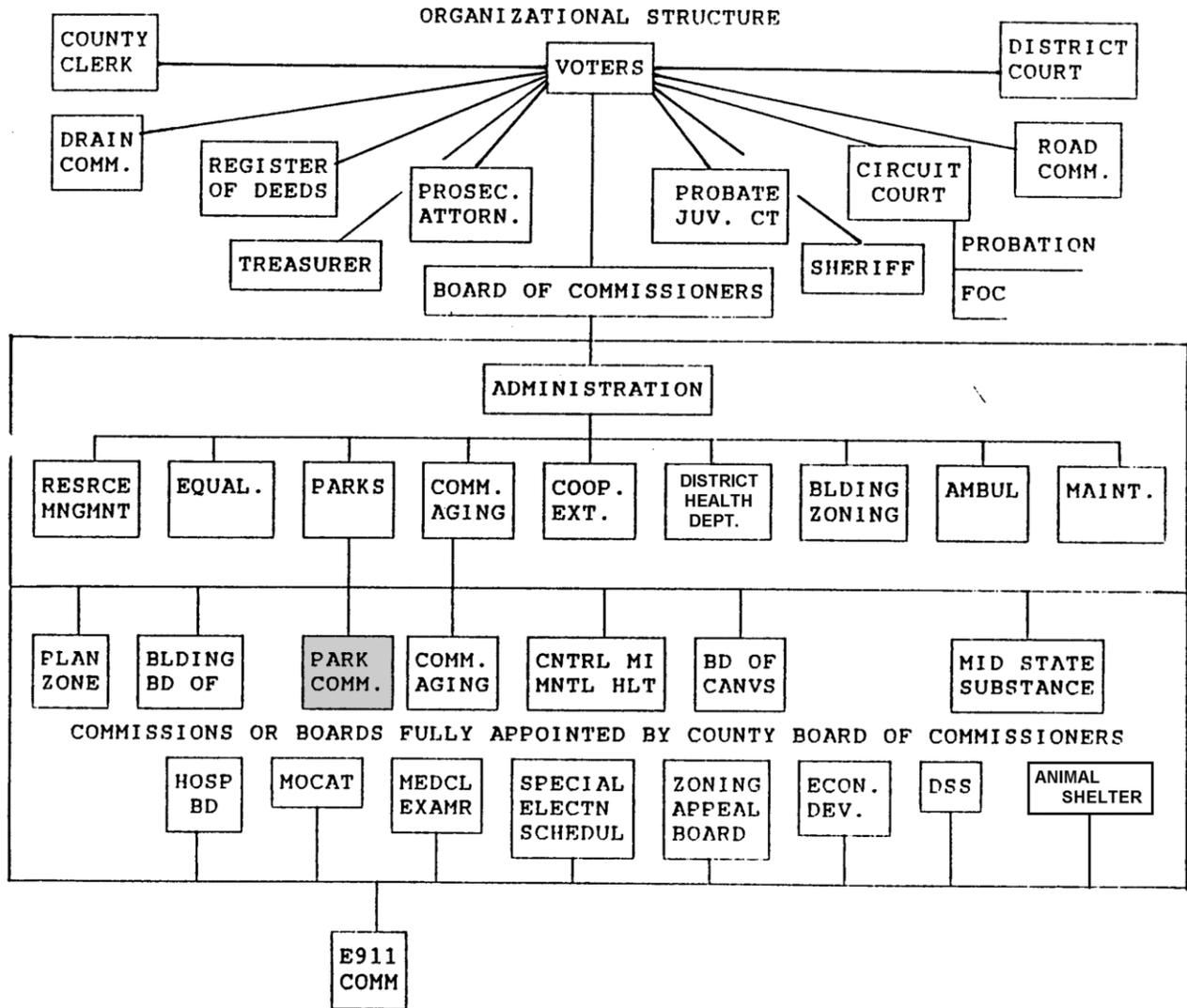
Our two-man maintenance crew works year round to repair and maintain our current facilities and equipment as well as working on capital improvement projects.

Organized under P.A.261 of the public acts of 1965, our Park Commission oversees the finances and general operation of the parks. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the administrative headquarters located in Paris, Michigan. During the summer months the board meetings are held on a rotation schedule in the parks themselves. The Board is composed of one or no more than three County Commissioners, a representative of the Planning and Zoning Board, the Drain Commissioner, a representative from the County Road Commission, and five or six appointed representatives for a total of ten Park Commissioners. The Superintendent answers directly to this Board.

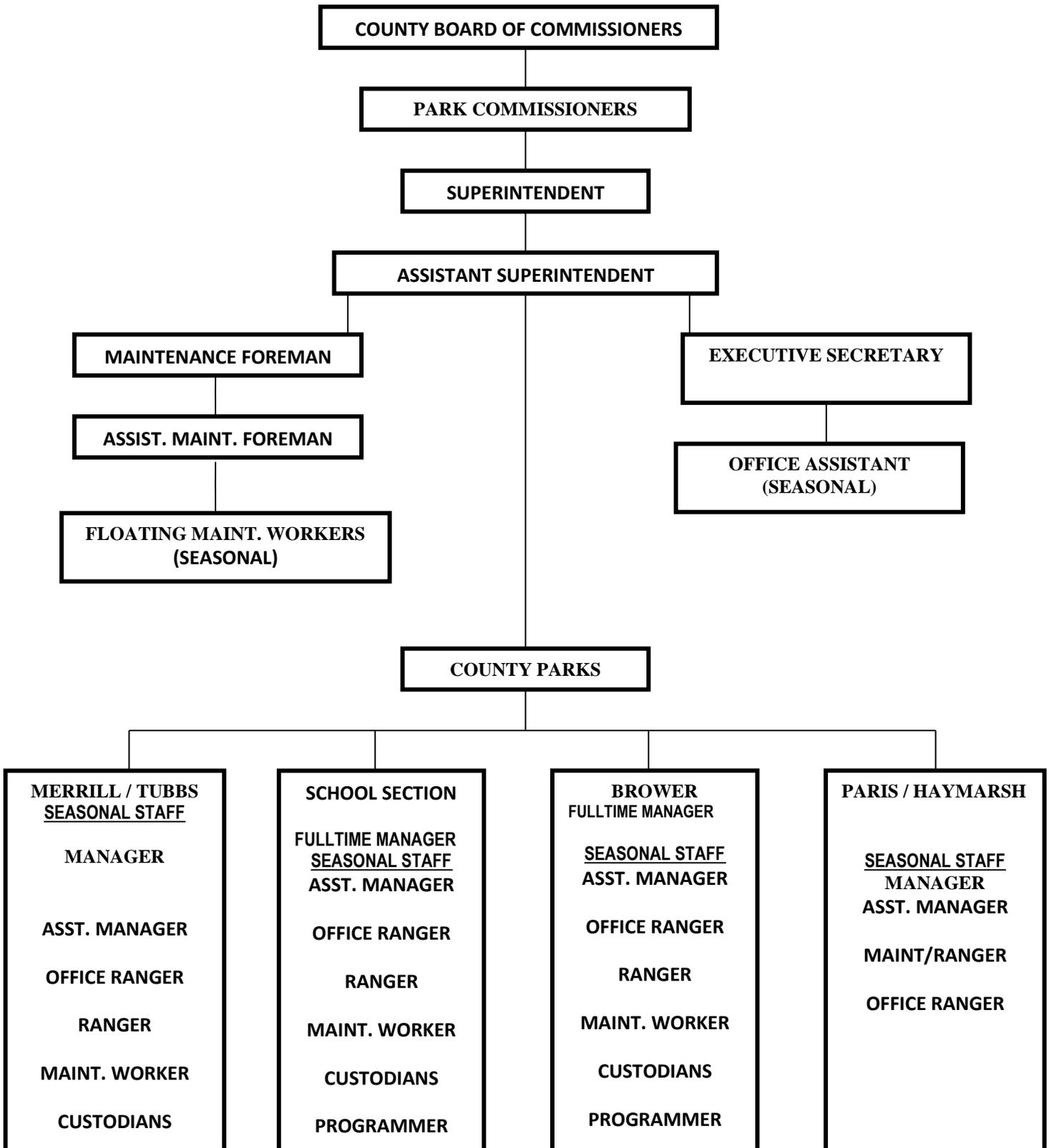
Our administrative staff is comprised of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Executive Secretary/Accountant. Under the direction of the Park Commission they plan, develop and administer a comprehensive program to provide Park facilities and an economic stimulus for Mecosta County. They supervise the general operation of our parks from seasonal staff hiring to budget preparation to maintenance and operations.

The County provides a variety of services to our system including payroll and record keeping operations. All park finances pass through the treasurer's office. Full-time employees receive health care coverage under Mecosta County's plan (full premium for employees is paid up front by the Park Commission to the county, then employees reimburse the Park Commission accordingly for their portion through a payroll deduction), liability coverage is also provided under the county Plan (the Park Commission's portion of the county's premium is reimbursed accordingly). The Building Department, District Health Department, and the Department of Natural Resources act in an advisory capacity. The County Commission provides local governmental oversight. The Park commission works as an information resource for local units of government such as townships and villages, area schools, Ferris State University and many local citizens.

# COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



# MECOSTA COUNTY PARKS ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF CHART



# STANDARDS AND NEEDS

Mecosta County is presently provided with a variety of active and passive recreation by public, private and institutional recreation providers.

The Mecosta County Park Commission was formed to meet regional park needs in Mecosta County and West Central Michigan.

A regional park is described as an area designed to serve the needs of a diverse segment of the population within a 1-hour drive of our geographical area. It should provide facilities in two categories active and passive in an aesthetically pleasing natural environment. The acreage should be 200+ acres or 10-15 acres for every 1,000 residents. For Mecosta County that would mean over 500 acres of park space. We currently manage over 500 acres of land.

Active facilities should include such things as swimming, boating, camping, team and individual sports as well as educational opportunities designed to acquaint user populations with the fundamentals of living within the natural environment. Our seven parks provide ample opportunity for recreation and sports. We strive to improve educational opportunities and programming as funding is available.

Passive recreational activities include hiking, picnicking, fishing, nature study, historical and aesthetic appreciation.

By community inventory standards we meet the recreation needs for Mecosta County. Present demands on Brower Park warrant a serious look at expanding recreational services on the Muskegon River. Kent and Ottawa counties are two of the greatest users.

In order to meet future demands on Brower Park a new boat launch has been opened on the Muskegon River, again on land leased from Consumers Energy. A possible expansion of Davis Bridge Park is being explored.

An important factor to consider in any plan is the method of funding improvements and operations. The Mecosta County Park Commission worked toward increasing self-sufficiency by instituting user-fees at its outset in 1965. By 1978 it was directed to pursue self-sufficiency through its user fees. Programs and facilities are limited to funding based on revenue the parks produce.

Additional events at Paris Park will continue to increase needed revenues that were lacking in the past.

The acquisition in 1973 of the Department of Natural Resources' Paris Fish Hatchery and adjacent 35 acres has substantially improved the potential for development. As a result of the hatchery's aging facilities, maintenance needs have also increased the cost of operation.

Where deficiencies are found in local recreational needs, it is the responsibility of the individual units of government involved, such as the townships or developers, to address these recreational needs.

There is a need for additional winter recreational activities. The development of the White Pine Trail State Park by the Department of Natural Resources on the old north south railroad line has provided greater year round recreational opportunity to promote winter and summer recreation activity. The diminishing Department of Natural Resources Maintenance of the White Pine Trail could possibly place additional burdens on local units of government and other agencies.

# MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

It is understood that the county park system exists for the purpose of providing facilities and services to the general public. The Park Commission is given the responsibility of setting guidelines governing how the service is to be provided. In this context we understand goals to be broad statements of policy concerning those services. Objectives are more specific steps to be taken within a given time frame providing benchmarks for measuring our success in achieving the goals.

## GOAL #1

TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AREA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS AS A RESPITE TO OUR EVER QUICKENING PACE OF LIFE FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY.

### OBJECTIVES

- Continually evaluate and respond to needs of park visitors through visitor evaluation forms, information boards and social media.
- Work with agencies, organizations and municipalities having recreational and educational interests and opportunities in Mecosta County and surrounding areas.
- Assist local schools in the outdoor/educational/recreational programming process.
- Work with local municipalities, i.e. villages, townships and cities to determine their recreation needs.
- Place emphasis on evaluating and updating the Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Master Plan to meet the changing needs of the County.
- Work to preserve the environment through recycling, composting and the use of environmentally friendly products.

## GOAL #2

TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN MECOSTA COUNTY AND IMPROVE THOSE OPPORTUNITIES WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

### OBJECTIVES

- Continue to construct, restore and rebuild facilities through capital improvements.
- Take steps to acquire property, through lease or purchase, for future park development consisting of primitive and modern campsites and preservation of areas which have environmental, aesthetic or historical significance with approval of the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners.
- Improve accessibility through innovative design concepts for all persons within our recreation facilities.
- Participate with Consumers Energy Company, governmental jurisdictions and interest groups in developing and managing the Hardy Dam backwaters as a regional recreation area.
- Assist townships, villages, and other agencies in the development and expansion of neighborhood community parks.

### GOAL # 3

TO CONTINUE PROVIDING EXCELLENT RECREATIONAL SERVICES THAT ARE FINANCIALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT

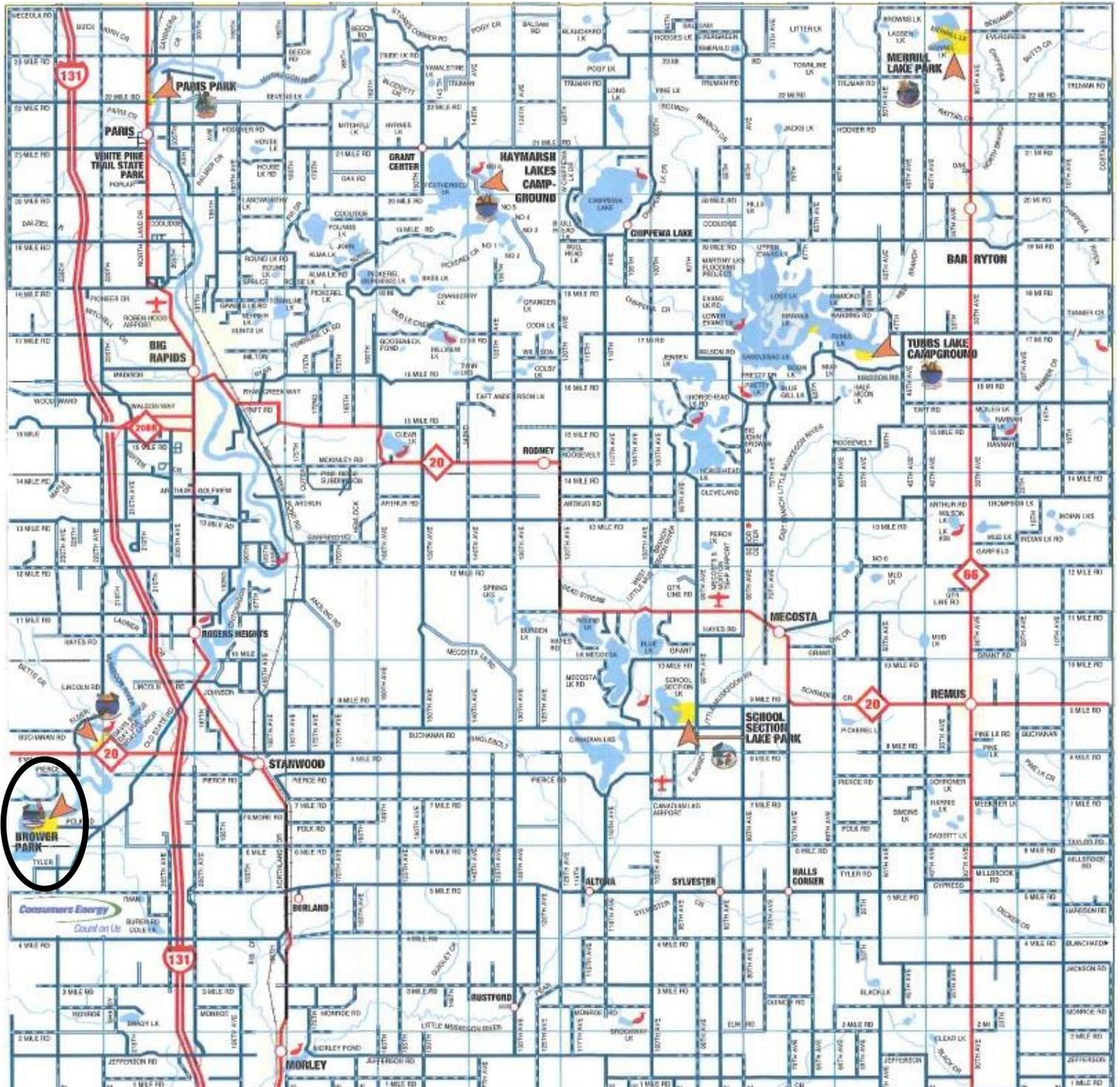
#### OBJECTIVES

- Continually review and evaluate development plans which generate revenues for the maintenance and upkeep of programs and facilities.
- Keep operational expenses reasonable through preventive maintenance and planned equipment replacement.
- Market the Mecosta County Parks as an attraction for all visitors.
- Promote the use of County parks to enhance Mecosta County's local economy.
- Maintain a system of user fees that reflect a fair market value and generate the necessary revenues for the maintenance and future development of the park system.

**MECOSTA COUNTY  
PARK COMMISSION  
ACTION PLANS  
AND  
CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT  
SCHEDULES**

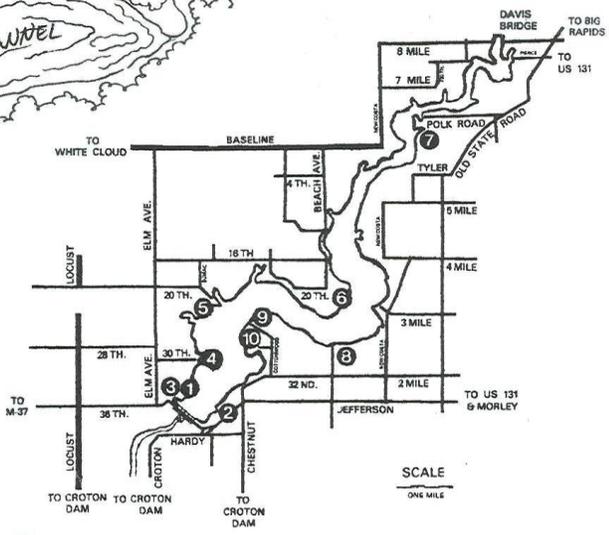


# BROWER PARK





- LEGEND**
- 1 CANOE PORTAGE
  - 2 LAUNCH & RENTAL
  - 3 COUNTY PARK & LAUNCH
  - 4 SANDY BEACH PARK, A B & C
  - 5 COUNTY PARK, SWIMMING & PICNIC
  - 6 BIG BEND PARK, A B & C
  - 7 BROWER PARK, A B & C
  - 8 NEWAYGO STATE PARK, A B & C
  - 9 LAUNCH & RENTAL
  - 10 OXBOW PARK, A B & C
- A - CAMPING  
 B - SWIMMING  
 C - LAUNCH



**BROWER PARK** is property leased from Consumer Energy Company, sections 31 and 32,  
Mecosta Township  
**BROWER PARK**

Brower Park is located four miles west of Stanwood in Mecosta Township (ten miles south of Big Rapids) on the Muskegon River. It provides access to the 18-mile-long Hardy Dam Reservoir. The park's 280 acres accommodate 230 campsites with water and electric hookups and 10 rustic cabin sites. The park's operating season is currently April thru October and it is open to the public. The park also boasts 8,000 ft. of water frontage with 1,000 ft. of sandy beach three modern bathhouses, picnic areas, an arts/crafts/programming building, updated playground facilities and two boat launches. Other facilities include two tennis courts, a multi-purpose court, softball diamond and movie amphitheater. Recreational activities include such things as fishing, boating, swimming, water-skiing and an active recreational program.

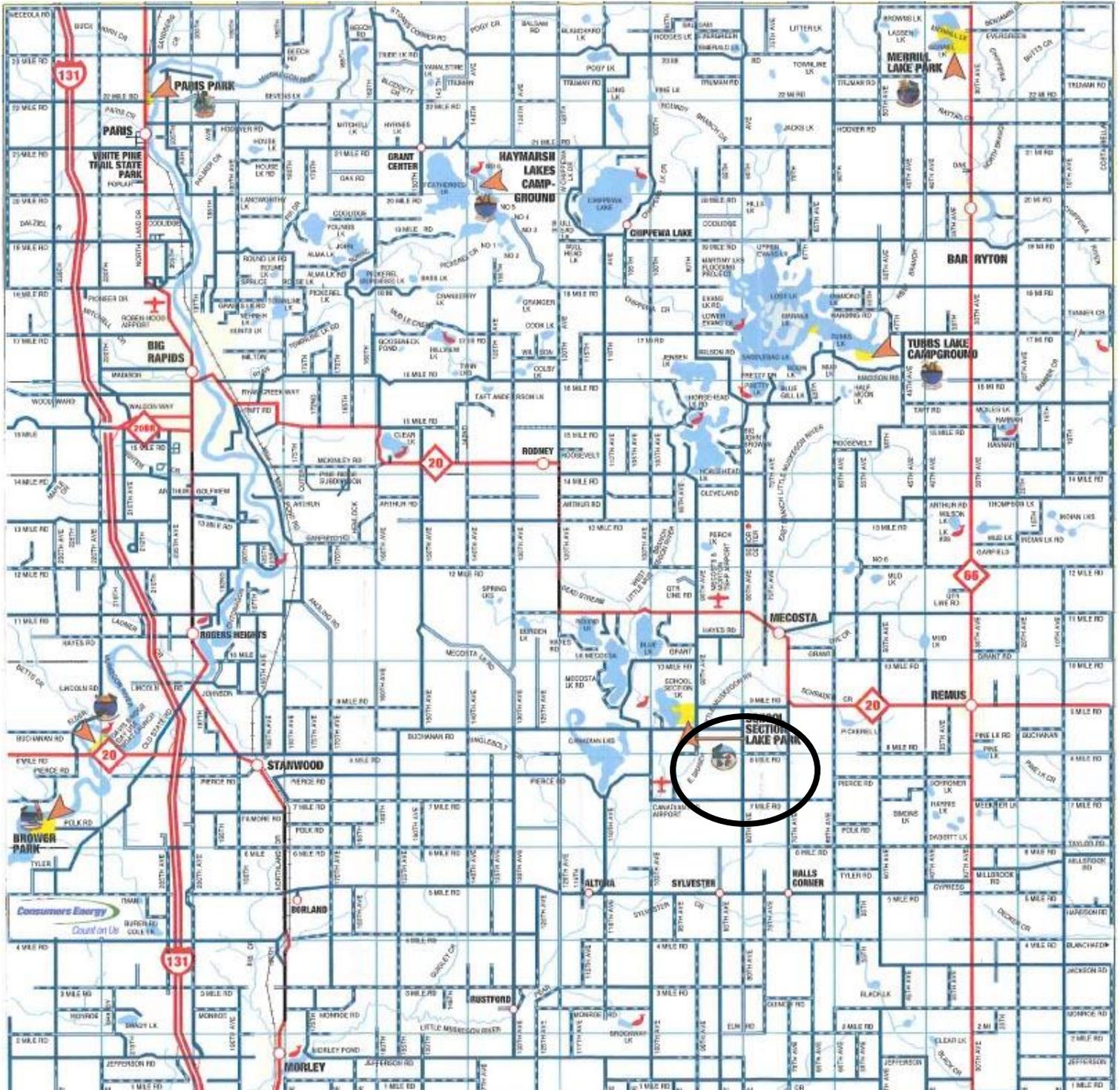
**ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE (2014-2018)**

1. Construct Pavilion
2. Repair/Redo Tennis Courts
3. Dredge Shallow Water Boat Channel
4. ADA/Shower Upgrades to Point Restroom
5. Construct Additional Rustic Cabins
6. Develop a Boat Trailer Parking Area
7. Renovate Campsites Annually
8. Improve Roads Annually
9. Upgrade Sports Fields

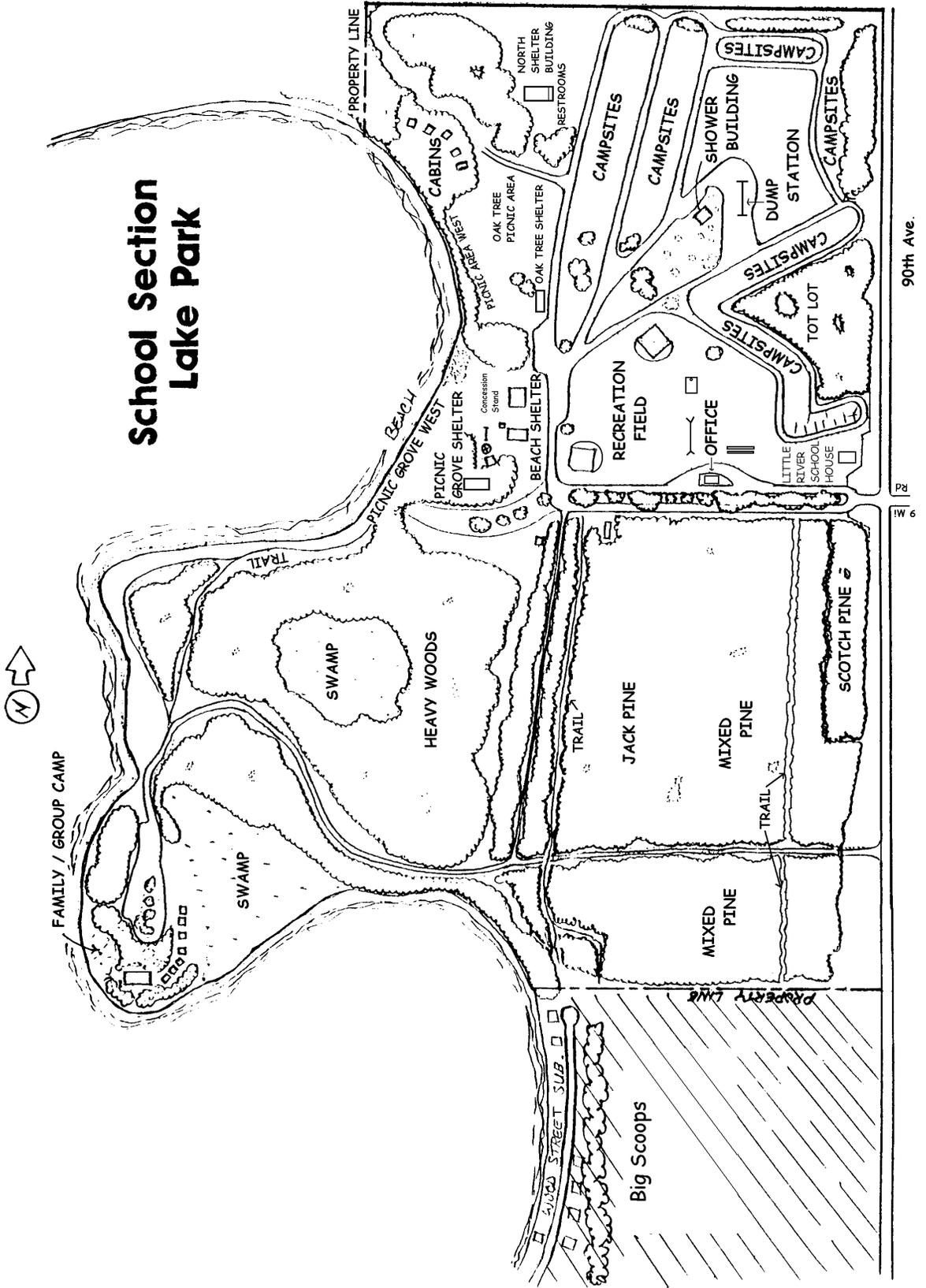
The Mecosta County Park Commission is operated solely on funds generated from user fees and charges at our park sites. When a particular project, such as expansion, restoration or development is needed, contingency funds are used as they become available. Supplemental funding, such as foundation grants, DNR Grants, Land and Water Conservation funds, Revenue Sharing, Revenue Bonds, etc. will be sought, if needed, to support the budgeting cost of a particular project.

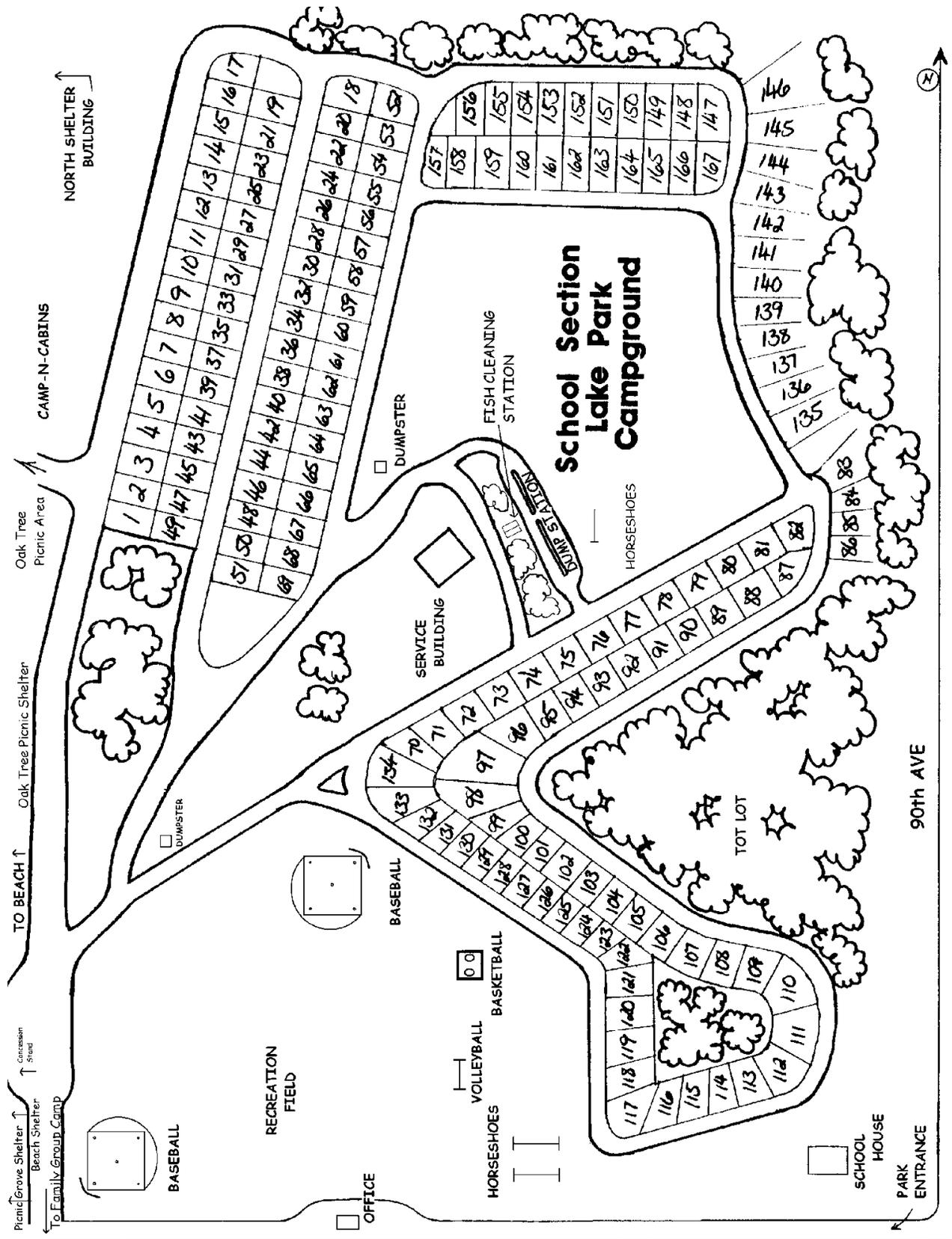


# SCHOOL SECTION LAKE VETERAN'S PARK



# School Section Lake Park





## SCHOOL SECTION LAKE VETERAN'S PARK

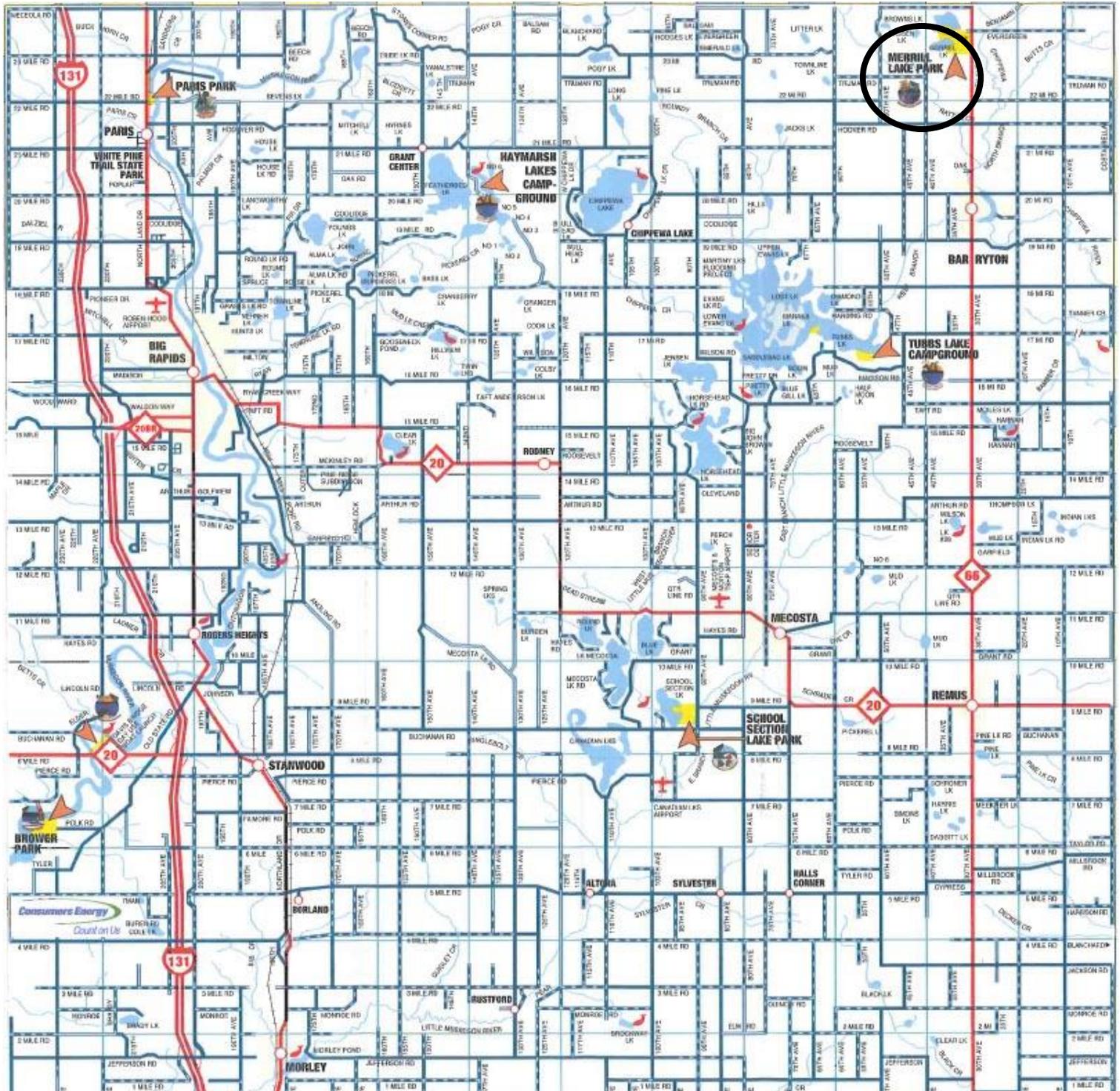
School Section is located off M-20 at the intersection of 90th Ave. and 9 Mile Rd. south of the village of Mecosta (approximately 6 miles west of Remus and M-66). The park's 85 acres include 165 campsites with water and electric hookups and five rustic cabins, two modern shower buildings, one beach bathhouse and a concession building overlooking the swimming beach. Four picnic shelters and four shaded picnic areas are available to walk-ins or for group reservations. At the entrance to the park stands the Little River School, a historical one-room schoolhouse. This was restored as a bicentennial project in 1976. Playground equipment is located throughout the park. Other facilities include two ball diamonds, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, and a basketball full court. Nestled back in the woods overlooking the lake you'll find our family group camp complete with six rustic cabins and a main lodge housing a kitchen and dining area. The camp is available for rent by youth and other organized groups. Recreational activities include fishing, boating and swimming at the park.

### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE (2014-2018)

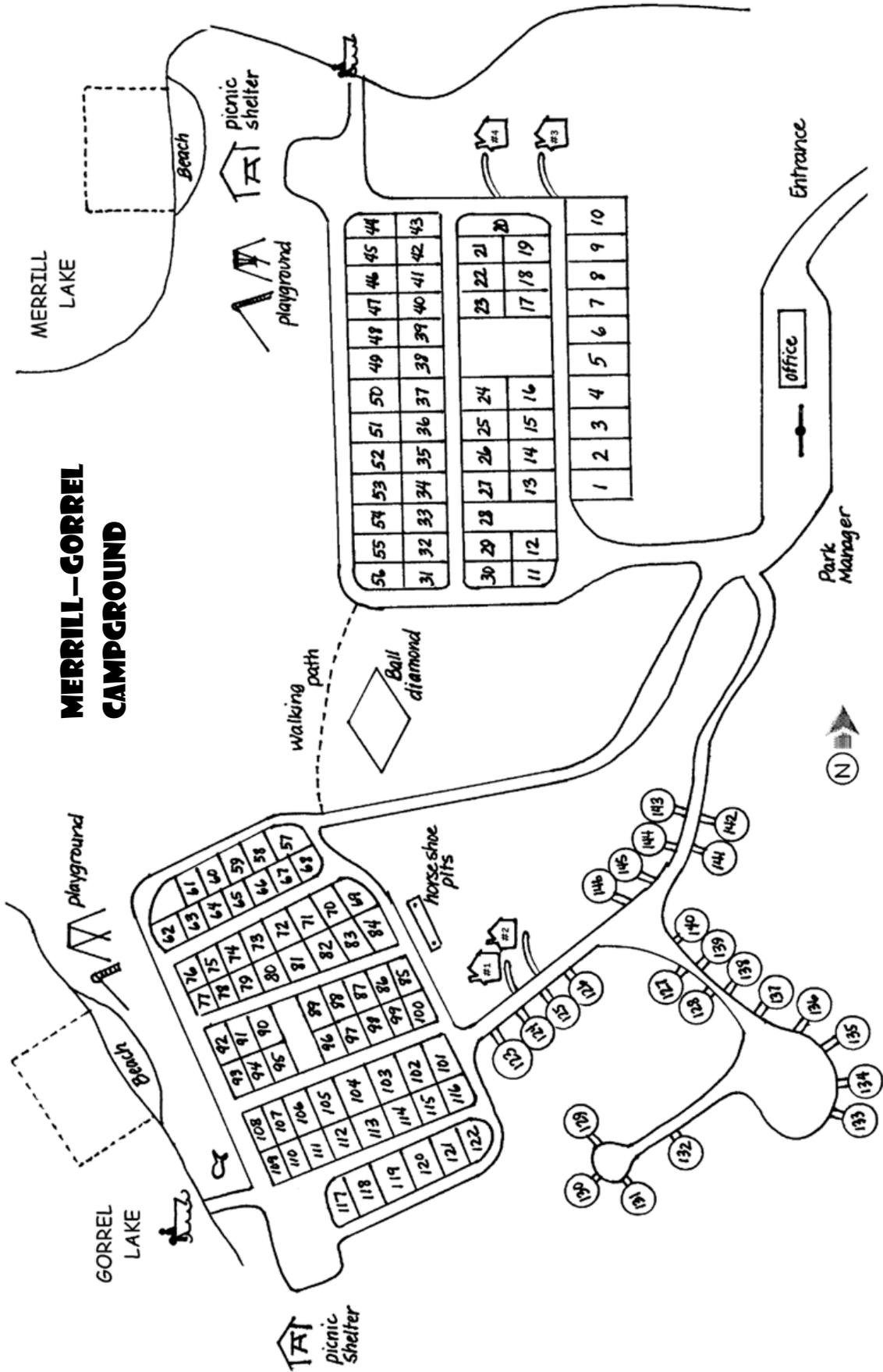
1. Campsite Renovation
2. Construct Additional 2-5 Rustic Cabins
3. Construct New Manager Residence
4. Construct Pines Campsites & Restroom
5. Evaluate Needs of Family Group Camp Area
6. Install Fence on North Property Line
7. Improve Roads Annually
8. Maintain Playground Equipment
9. New or Updated Concession Building
10. Renovate and Construct Addition to Main Bathhouse to Include Six Showers and Two ADA Showers.

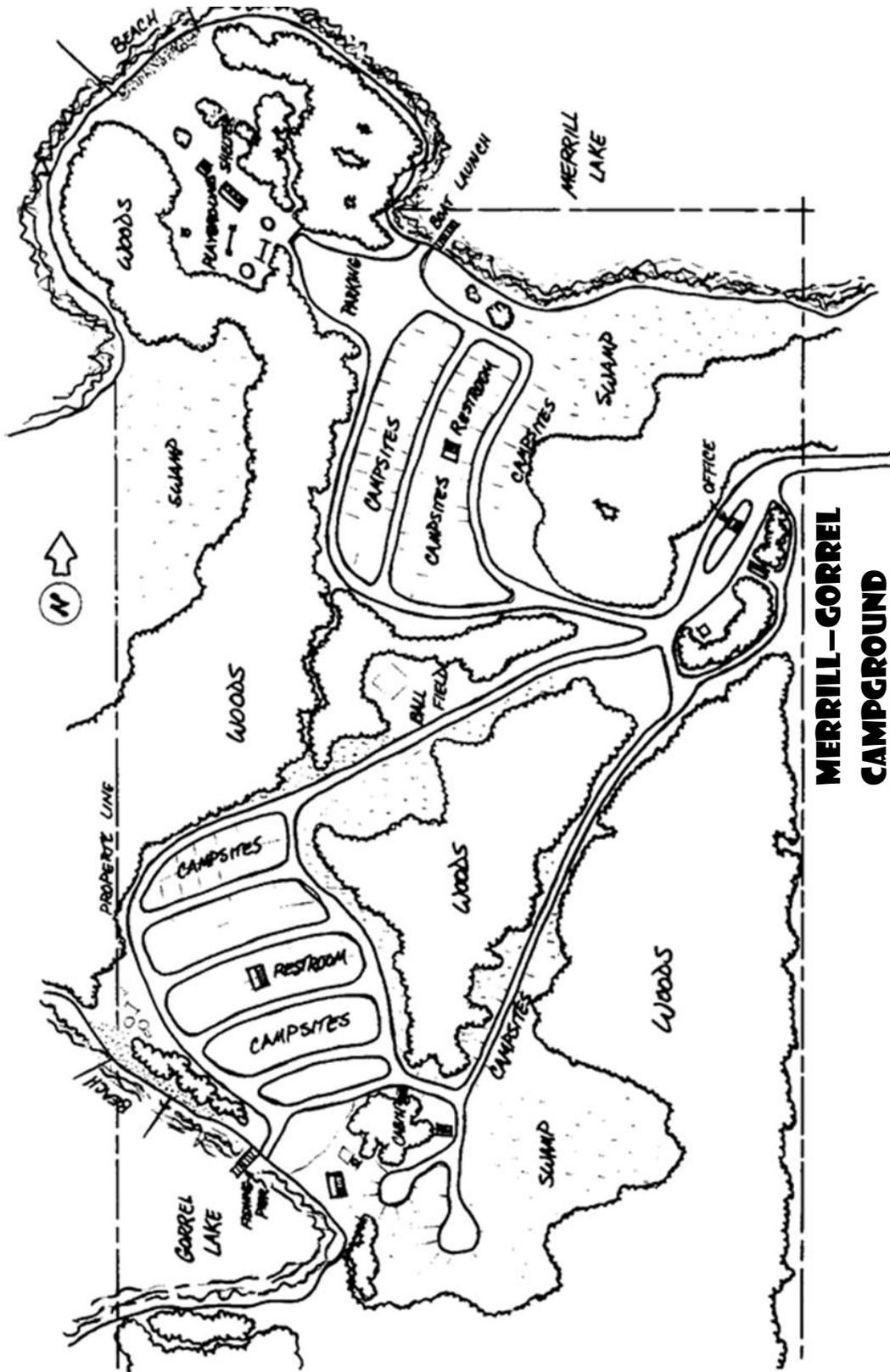


# MERRILL-GORREL CAMPGROUND



# MERRILL-GORREL CAMPGROUND





**MERRILL-GORREL  
CAMPGROUND**

## MERRILL – GORREL CAMPGROUND

Merrill-Gorrel Campground is located three miles north of Barryton off M-66 in Fork Township, approximately five miles south of U.S. 10. The park offers frontage on two lakes (Merrill Lake and Gorrel Lake) with a combined 150 campsites on 90 acres. At either of the two areas, campers will find water and electricity, a modern shower building, swimming beach, boat ramp and dock, picnic area, shelter building and playground equipment. Included are 24 rustic sites and four rustic cabin sites available for rent offering more seclusion but still accessible to modern restroom facilities. Other facilities include a ball diamond, horseshoe pits and two basketball half courts. Recreational activities include swimming, boating, fishing and just plain relaxing.

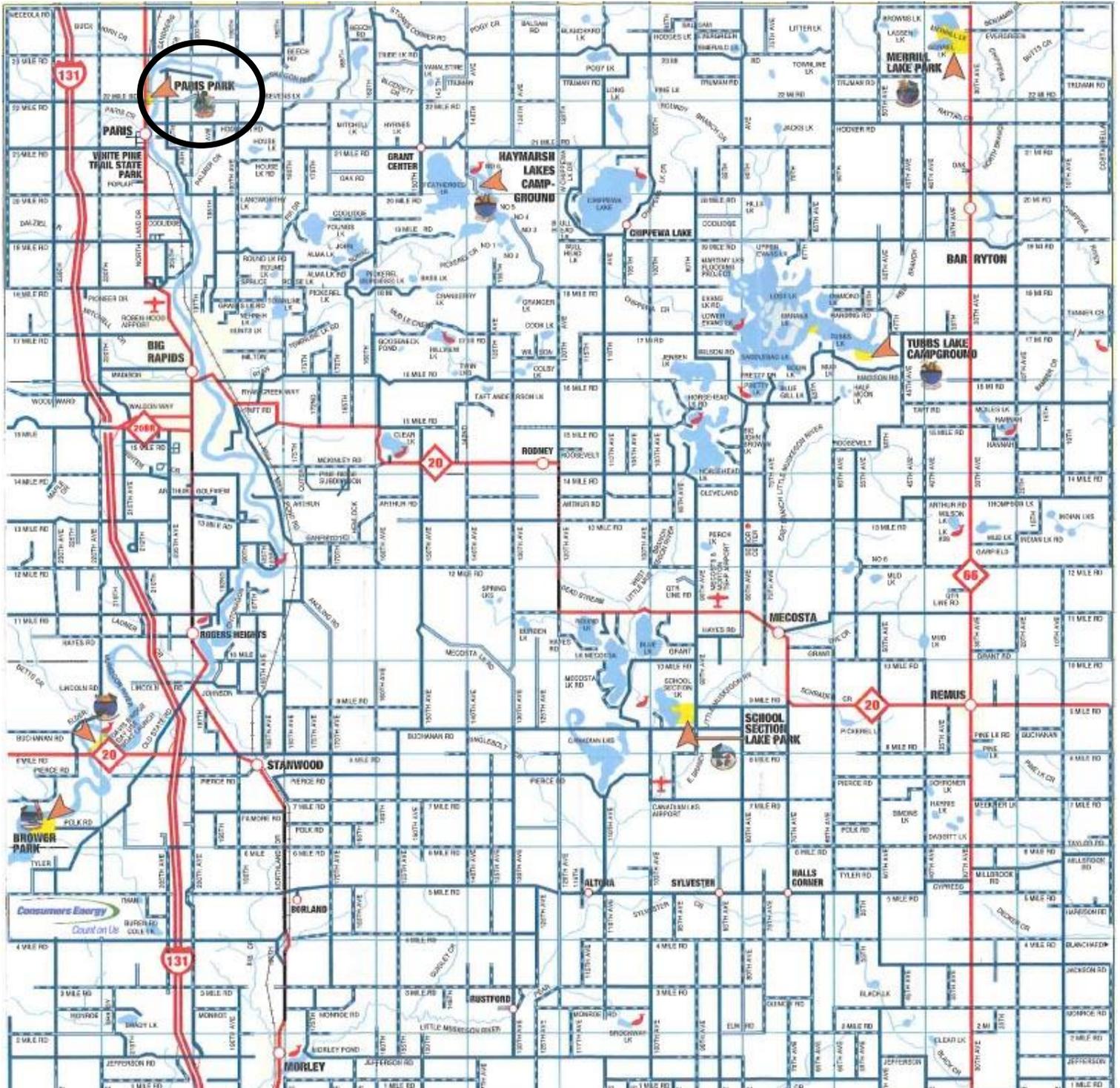
### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE (2014-2018)

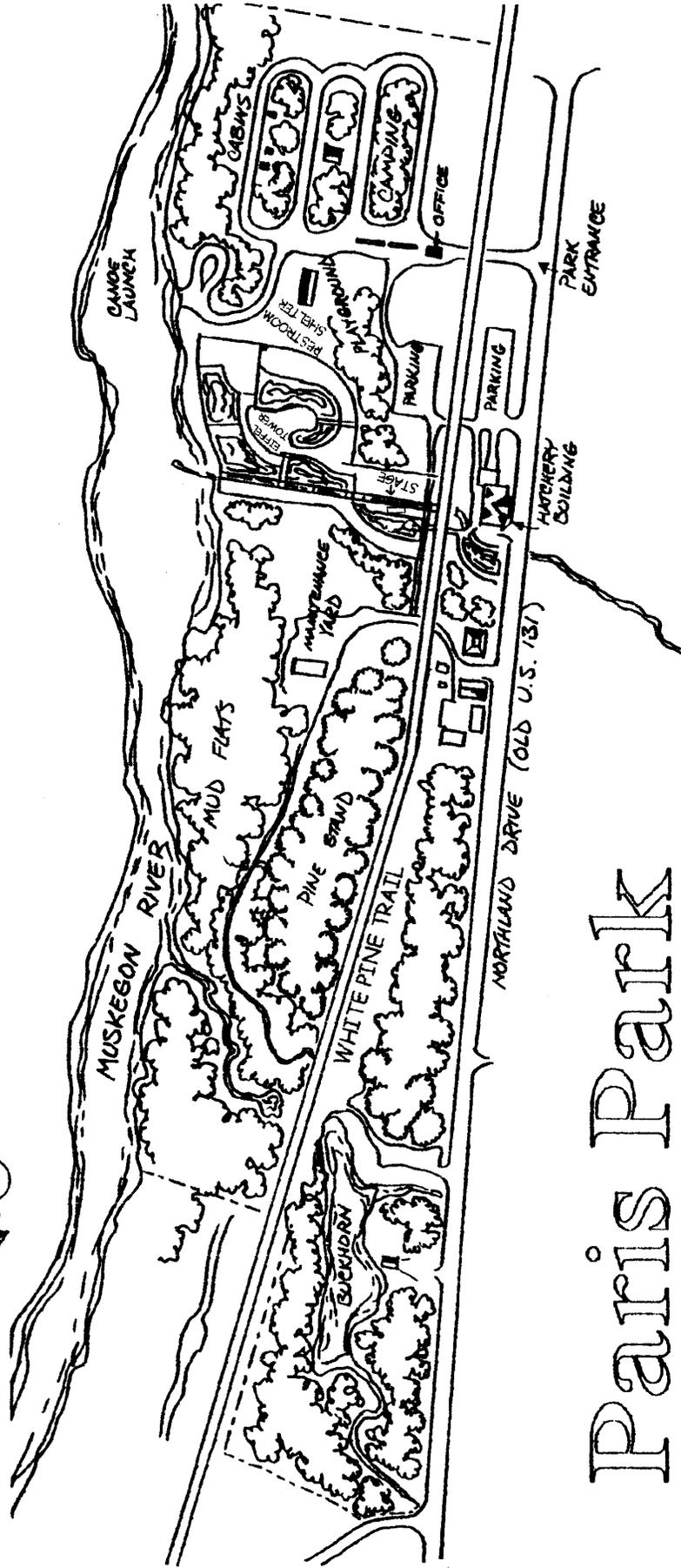
1. Convert Primitive Campsites to Premium Sites
2. Drainage Improvements
3. Improve Roads Annually
4. Renovate Campsites Annually
5. Small Restroom Renovation
6. Install Aerator System for Weed Control (Merrill Lake & Gorrel Lake)

The Mecosta County Park Commission is operated solely on funds generated from user fees and charges at our park sites. When a particular project, such as expansion, restoration or development is needed, contingency funds are used as they become available. Supplemental funding, such as foundation grants, DNR Grants, Land and Water Conservation funds, Revenue Sharing, Revenue Bonds, etc. will be sought, if needed, to support the budgeting cost of a particular project.

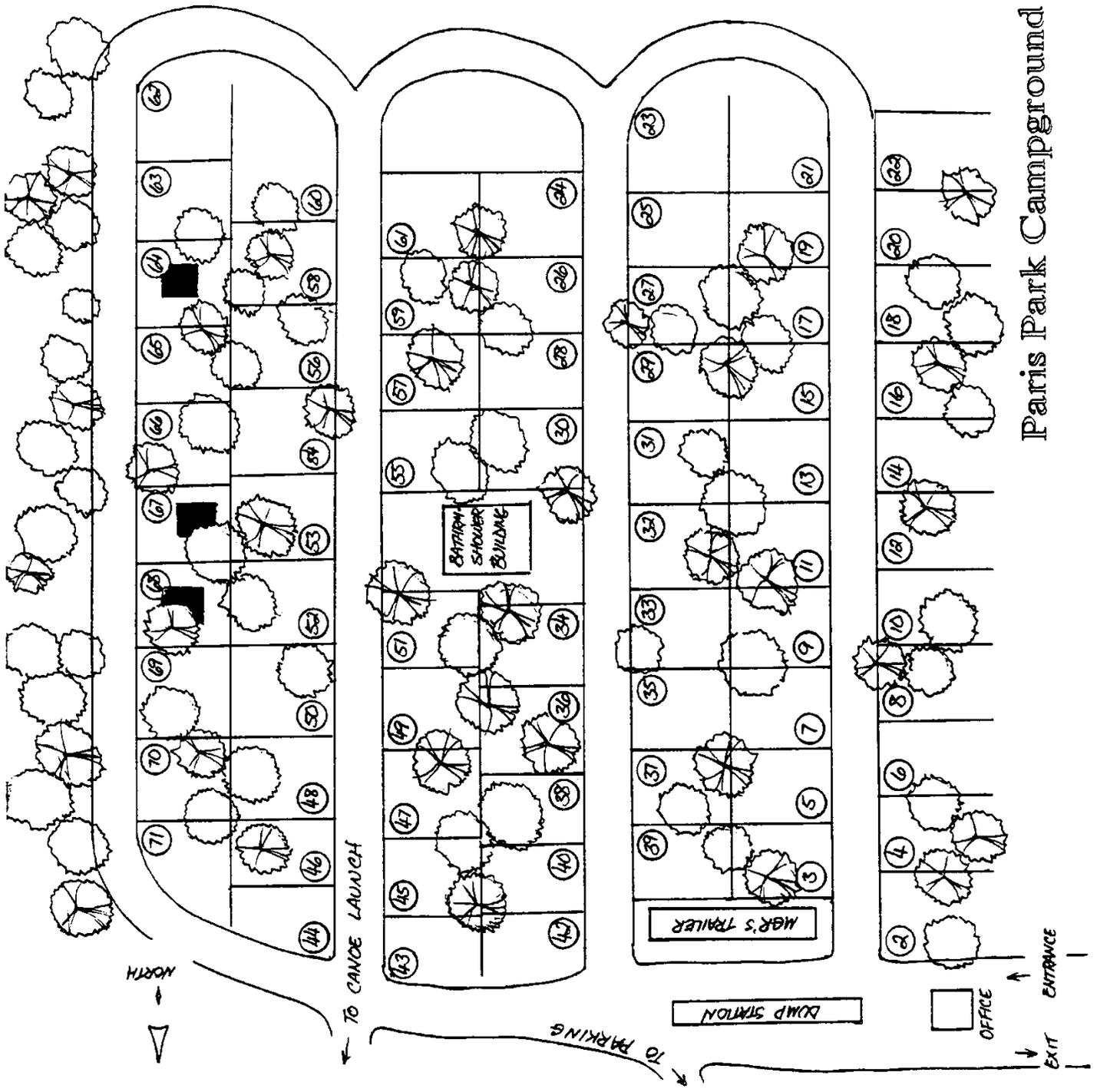


# PARIS PARK





# Paris Park



Paris Park Campground

## PARIS PARK

Paris Park is located on Northland Drive (old U.S. 131) six miles north of Big Rapids in Green Township at the site of the old Paris State Fish Hatchery. The park has 15 wooded acres on the Muskegon River, 68 campsites, with water and electric hookups (20 of which have full hookup), three rustic cabins, modern shower buildings, picnic shelter, covered stage and a canoe and tube launch. Shaded picnic areas surround trout and waterfowl ponds. Other facilities include horseshoe pits, playground, volleyball court and a basketball half court.

### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Improve Drainage on campsites
2. Campsite Renovation
3. Road Improvements
4. Install Additional Full Hook up Sites
5. New Manager's Residence
6. Install Frisbee Golf Course

### PONDS ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Continue development of park as "program enhanced facility"

1. Continue Ongoing Repair of Pond Walls/Dams
2. Improvements to Stage Building
3. Continue Landscaping Program
4. Construct Gazebo within Pond Area

## HATCHERY BUILDING ACTION PLAN - CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Look at Grant Opportunities to Improve Interpretive Use of Building

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER ACTION PLAN - CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Continue program development and enhancement

1. Look at Grant Opportunities to Improve Interpretive Use of Building

## ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE STRUCTURES – CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

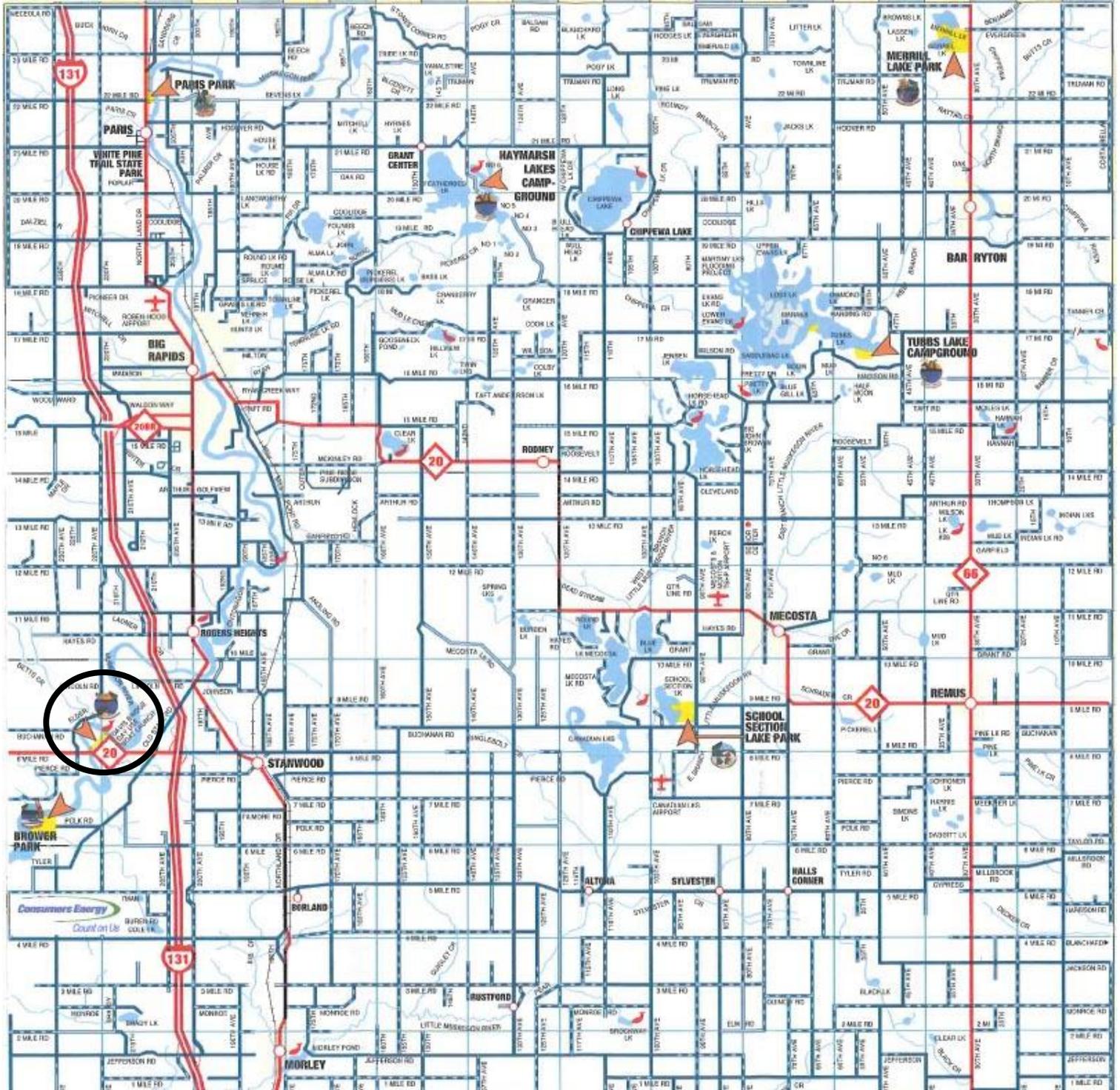
The Mecosta County Park Commission administrative and maintenance headquarters are located just North of Paris Park in Green Township. This complex includes a maintenance barn, the administrative office, a seven-stall garage and a parking area for visitors and staff.

1. Construct Pole Barn for Storage of Materials

The Mecosta County Park Commission is operated solely on funds generated from user fees and charges at our park sites. When a particular project, such as expansion, restoration, or development is needed, contingency funds are used as they become available. Supplemental funding, such as foundation grants, DNR Grants, Land and Water Conservation funds, Revenue Sharing, Revenue Bonds, etc. will be sought, if needed, to support the budgeting cost of a particular project.



# DAVIS BRIDGE DAY USE PARK



## DAVIS BRIDGE

Davis Bridge Park is located nine miles west of Stanwood (seven miles south of Big Rapids) in Mecosta Township on the Muskegon River. It provides access to the 18-mile-long Hardy Dam Reservoir. The Davis Bridge Park was developed by the cooperative effort between the Mecosta County Park Commission, Consumers Energy, Nestle Waters North America Inc., Muskegon River Development Corporation and Rieth-Riley Construction Company. This project consists of the construction of a new day use area including a boat launch, picnic facilities, entrance roads, parking for 10-15 vehicles and 25-30 vehicle/boat trailer units, an entry contact station as well as shoreline and erosion stabilization to improve shoreline fishing access on the Muskegon River.

There is the possibility of a campground development in the future. The campground would consist of primitive campsites with water stations, vault toilets and one modern shower facility all on acreage leased through Consumers Energy. A modern restroom/shower facility, dump station and water stations would be conveniently located. Rustic Cabins would be located in scenic locations.

In addition to the campground and cabins, the proposed development would also include facilities strategically located for group functions. These “activity pods” would include group camping areas, picnic shelters and recreation fields. They would be moderately to highly groomed with undisturbed buffer zones maintained between them.

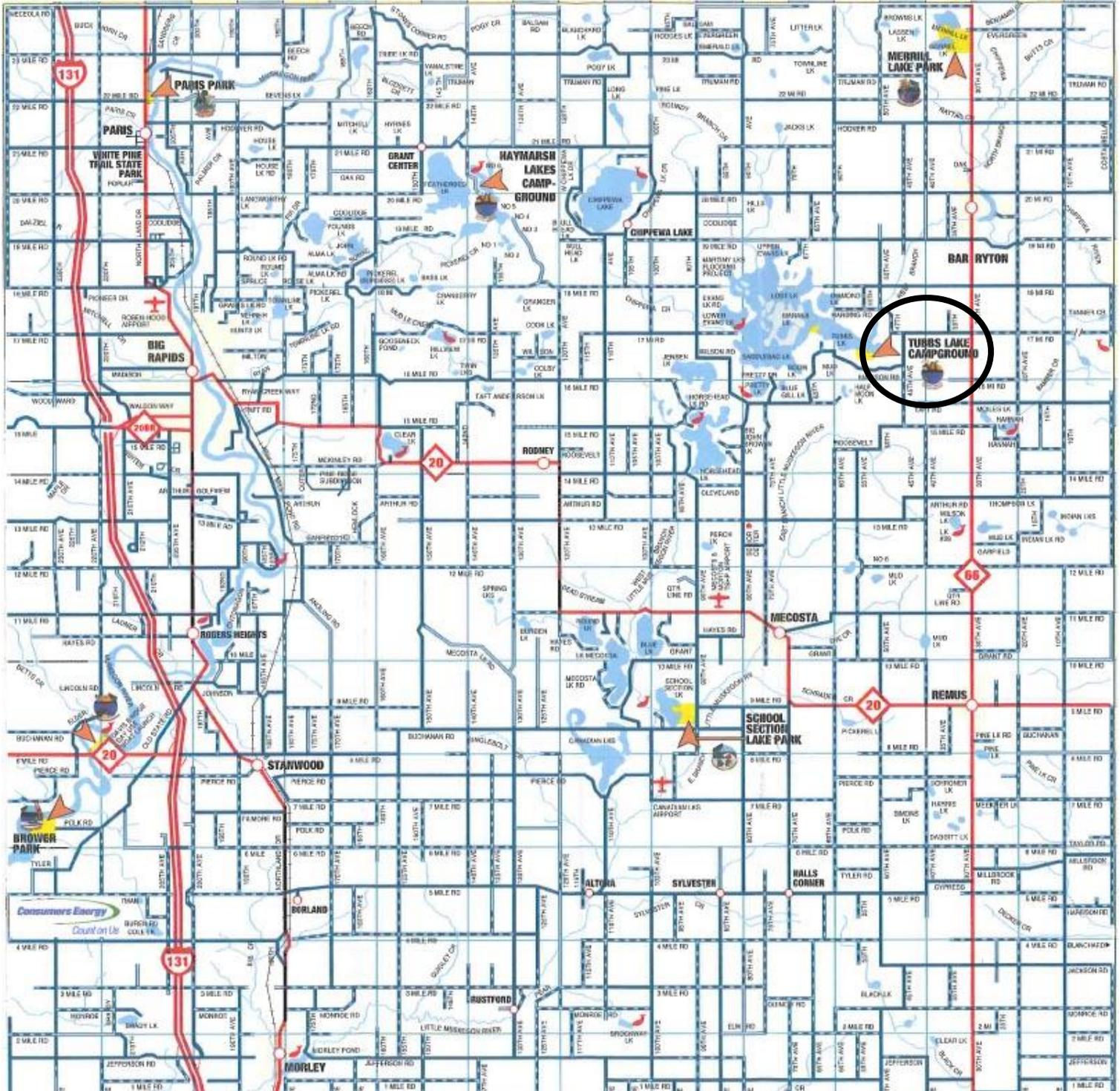
The objective of this project is to take a much used area along the Muskegon River that still has dramatic vistas and shoreline and develop it as an alternative recreation area to Brower Park.

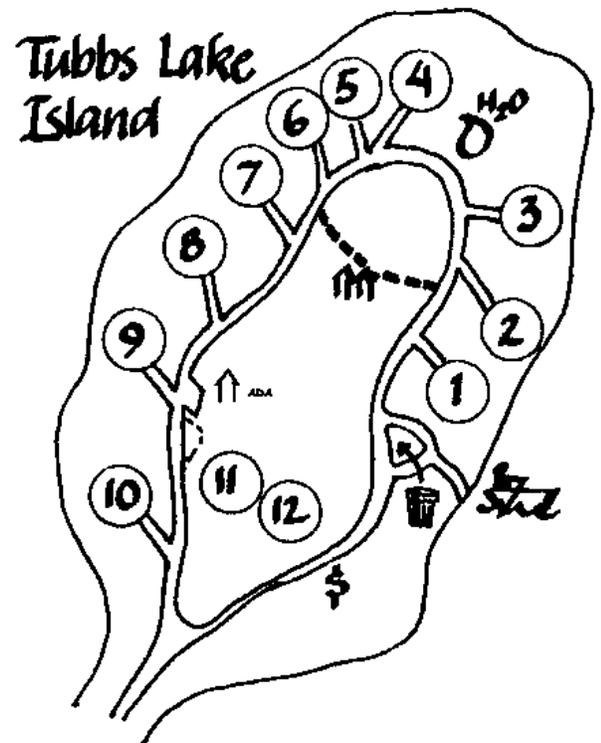
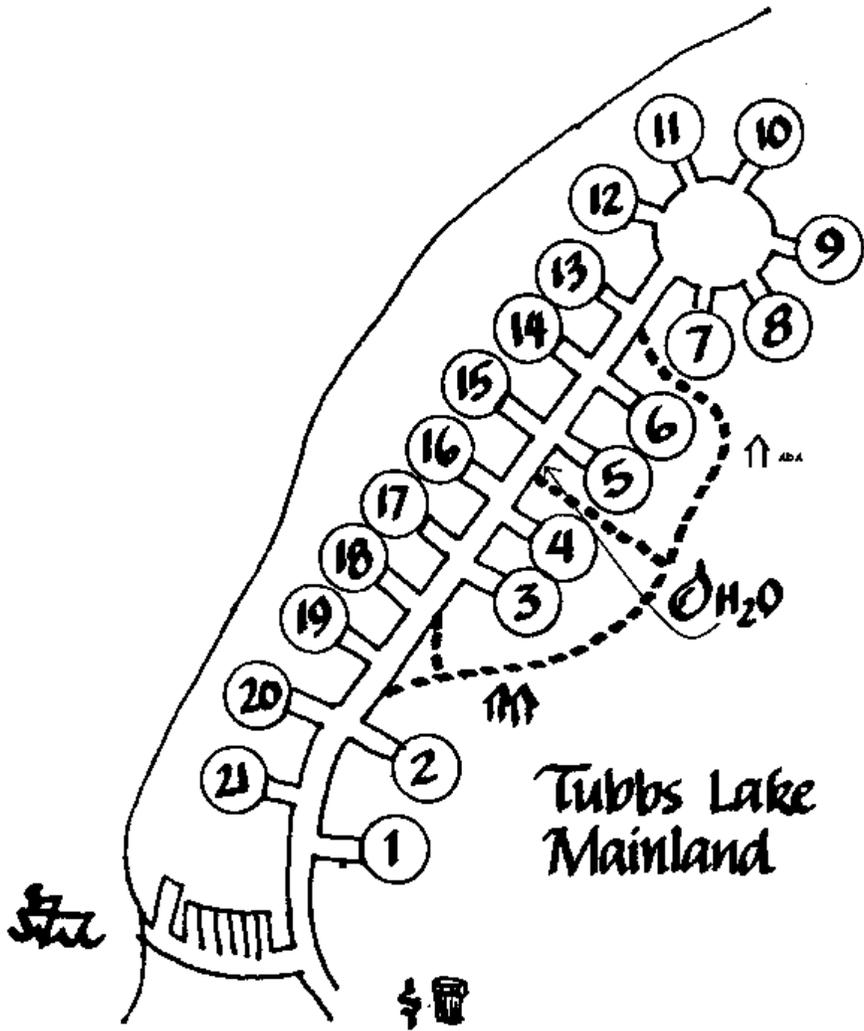
### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Construct Fish Cleaning Station
2. Continue Soil Erosion Project



# TUBBS LAKE STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND





- ↑<sup>ADA</sup> Handicap Accessible Pit Toilets
- ↑↑ Pit Toilets
- ⚓ Boat Launch
- 📄 Registration
- 🗑️ Trash
- 💧<sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> Water

## TUBBS LAKE STATE FOREST CAMPGROUNDS

Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground is located in Martiny Township between Barryton and Mecosta off of M-66.

The Martiny Lakes area was first flooded in the early 1900's by a beaver dam. The DNR built Winchester Dam in the late 1950's and approximately 1,420 acres were flooded. The drainage area of the Martiny Lake Flooding is approximately 38 square miles. The project flooded a total of eight lakes, all of which had drained into the south branch of the Chippewa River thus creating the Martiny Chain of Lakes.

The existing lakes are Big Evans, Saddlebag, Boom, Lost, Tubbs, Dogfish, Bullhead and Manaka. The chain of lakes is connected by channels (weather/vegetation permitting). A unique feature of Tubbs Lake is its naturally occurring stand of wild rice. Wild rice across Michigan is uncommon and has greatly reduced in numbers. Only about a half a dozen good stands of wild rice still exist in the state. Fish found at Tubbs Lake include bass, bluegill, northern pike, yellow perch, warmouth, pumpkinseed, black crappie, bullhead and dogfish. Birds in the area include wood ducks, bald eagles, osprey, swans and geese.

In 1989 the Mecosta County Park Commission took over the administration of the Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground in the Martiny Flooding Project. The acquisition brought a new flavor of camping to our system. Rustic and secluded, Tubbs Island and mainland outposts host excellent fishing and hunting opportunities for sports enthusiasts.

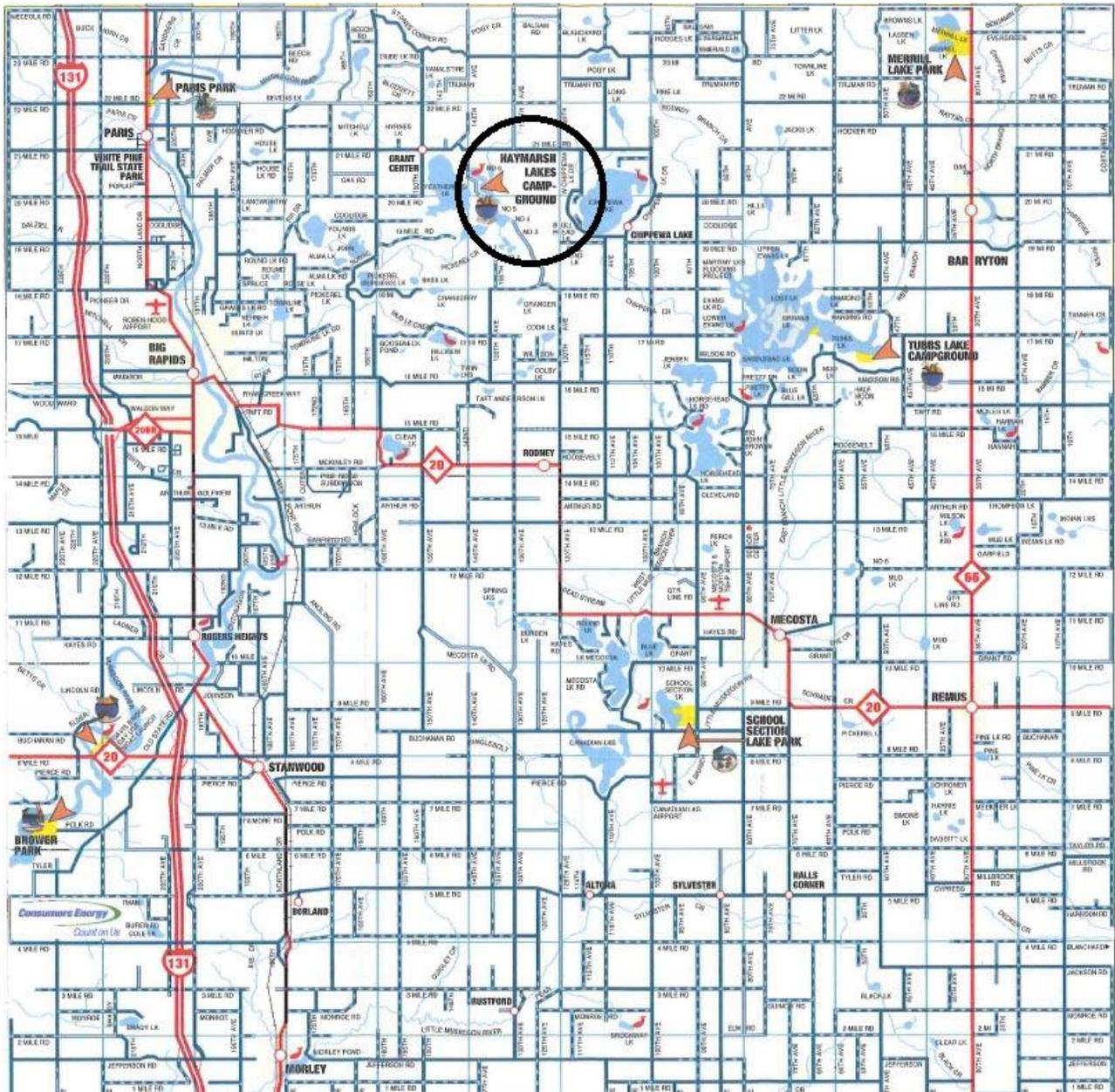
### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Continue to operate a clean, well-maintained, rustic camping alternative for residents of and visitors to Mecosta County.

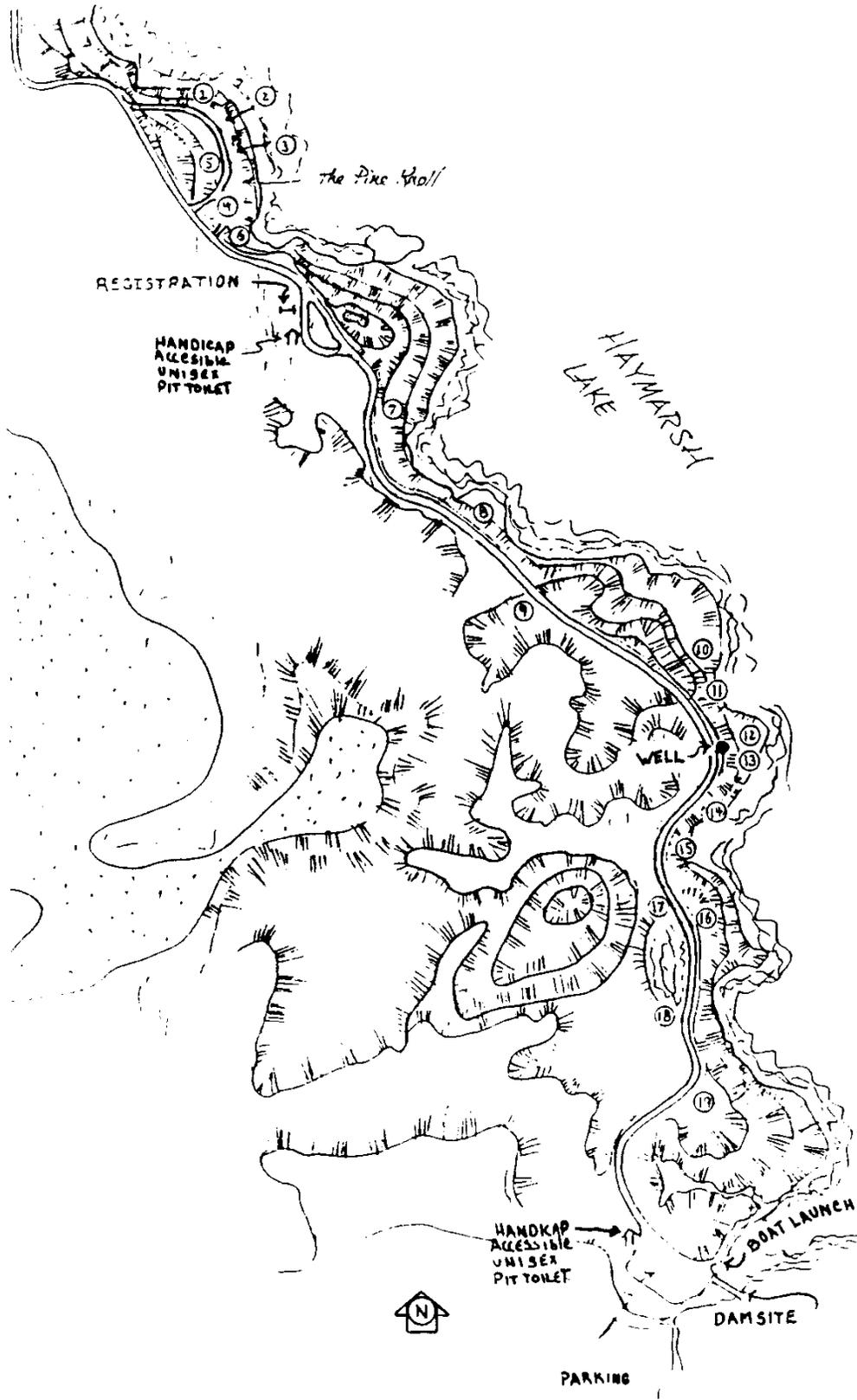
1. Repair and/or upgrade Boat launch at the Mainland campground
2. Fencing Replacement for the Island & Mainland campgrounds
3. Repair Stairs & Rails at the Island Campground
4. Install a Fish Cleaning Station
5. Nature Pathways



# HAYMARSH STATE GAME AREA







## HAYMARSH STATE GAME AREA CAMPGROUND

Haymarsh State Game Area Campground is located approximately seven miles East of Paris in Grant Township.

The Haymarsh Lake was a series of six small bodies of water until 1949 when the Department of Fish and Game built a concrete dam six feet deep where a beaver dam once stood. The Haymarsh Lake now has about 375 acres of surface water that includes the original six lakes, some 18 to 30 feet deep, surrounded by shallow water about four to six feet deep.

The dam is about 120 feet long and stands six feet above the spillway. The impoundment offers a large variety of fish including, but not limited to pike, bluegill, bass and perch.

In addition the campground offers access to some of the best hunting territory in the county. There is an abundance of rabbits, grouse, deer and much more.

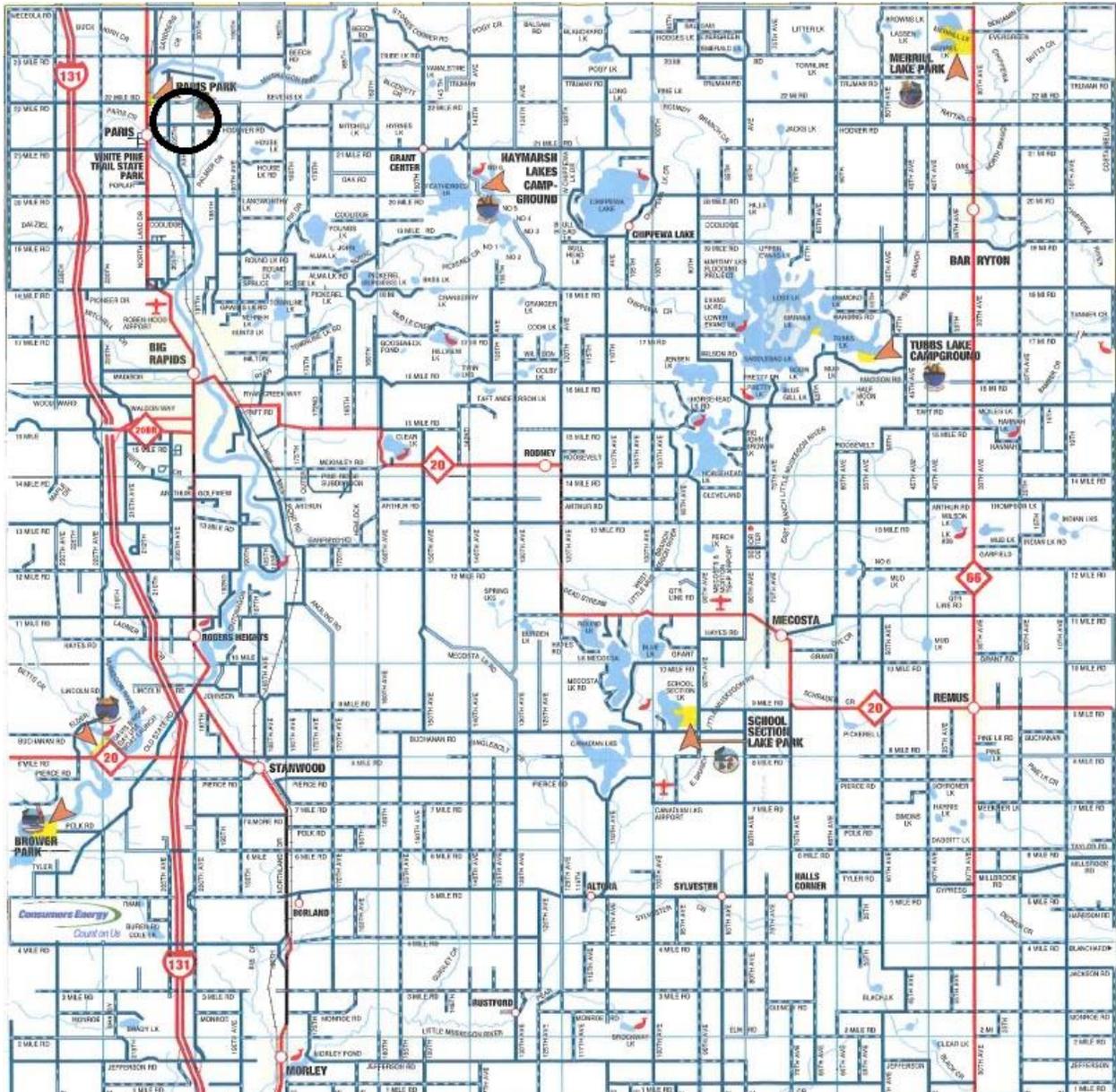
In 1996 the Park Commission, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, built the Haymarsh State Game Area Campground. Mecosta County Park Commission administers the Campground. This park is located approximately seven miles east of Paris in Grant Township on the northwest side of the State Game Area. The park has nineteen sites within the 3,000 plus acres of state forest along the Haymarsh wildlife-flooding project. This primitive campground offers large shaded lots along the flooding with unisex vault toilets and a hand pump. The sites are laid out in such a manner that you can camp next to others or you can have a secluded lot. There is a dam with a boat launch into the flooding for fishing and waterfowl hunting. The campground is open year round, weather permitting, and is managed by a host camper.

As with Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground, the management of the site is the obligation of the Park Commission. In return for administering the site the commission receives all revenues from the campground. Day to day operations is the responsibility of the Paris Park staff and the host camper.

### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Install an Additional Vault Toilet
2. Install a Fish Cleaning Station
3. Construct Nature Pathways
4. Install a Fishing Pier

# WHITE PINE VALLEY RECREATION AREA



## WHITE PINE VALLEY RECREATION AREA

White Pine Valley Recreation Area is located just two miles East of Paris in Green Charter Township off of 205<sup>th</sup> Ave.

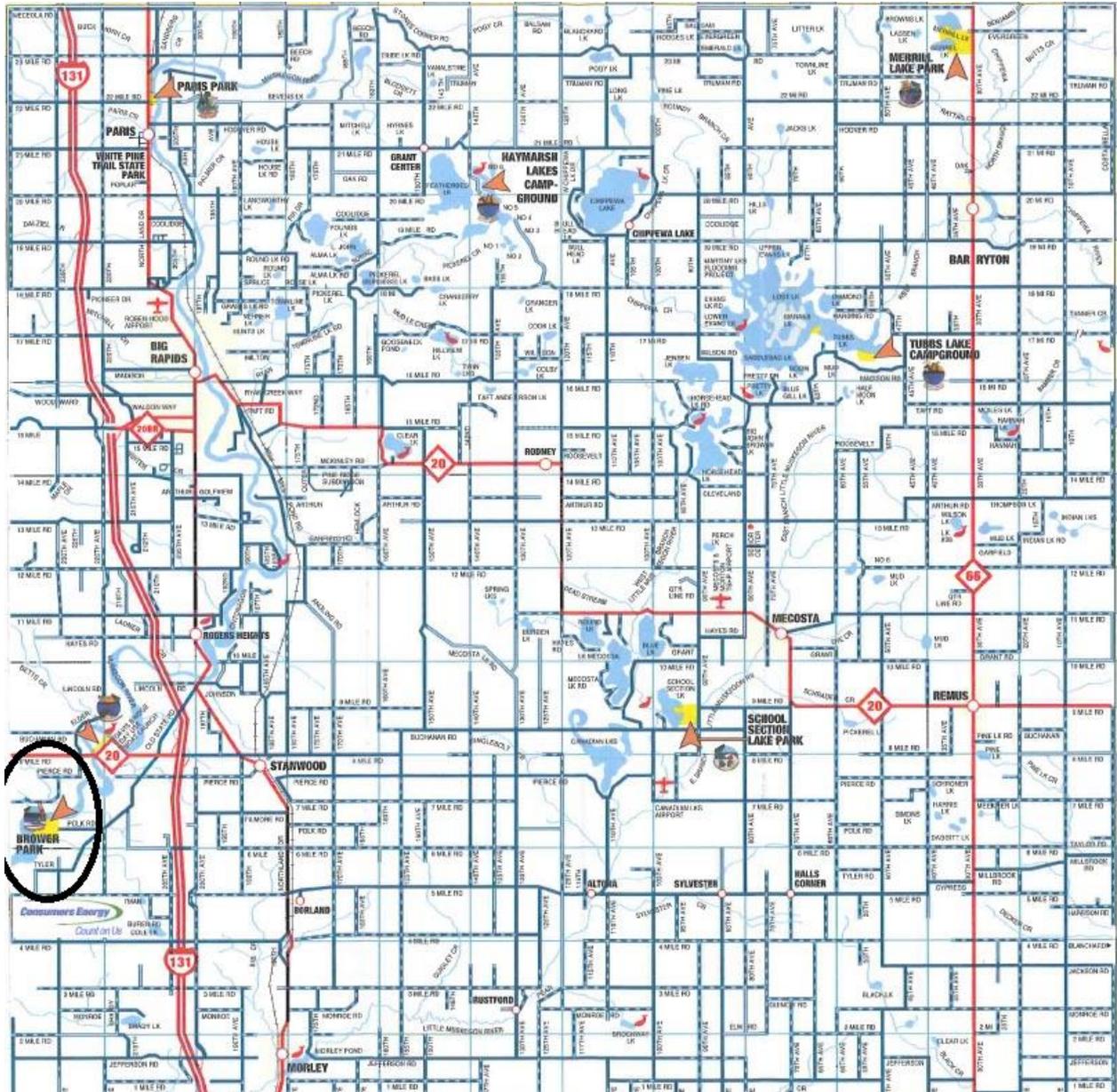
This 80 acre area was developed in 2013 into a trail system for non-motorized use. It is utilized by mountain biking groups, hikers, cross county skiers, etc. A ten space parking lot is planned to be added in the Spring of 2014.

Future plans include an equine trail system with a primitive campground.

### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Install a Vault Toilet
2. Develop Primitive Camping Areas
3. Signage

# HARDY POND TRAIL



## HARDY POND TRAIL

Hardy Pond Trail is located in Mecosta and Aetna Townships. The trail surrounds the backwaters of the Hardy Dam. The 40+ mile non-motorized continuous trail system loops through Mecosta and Newaygo Counties.

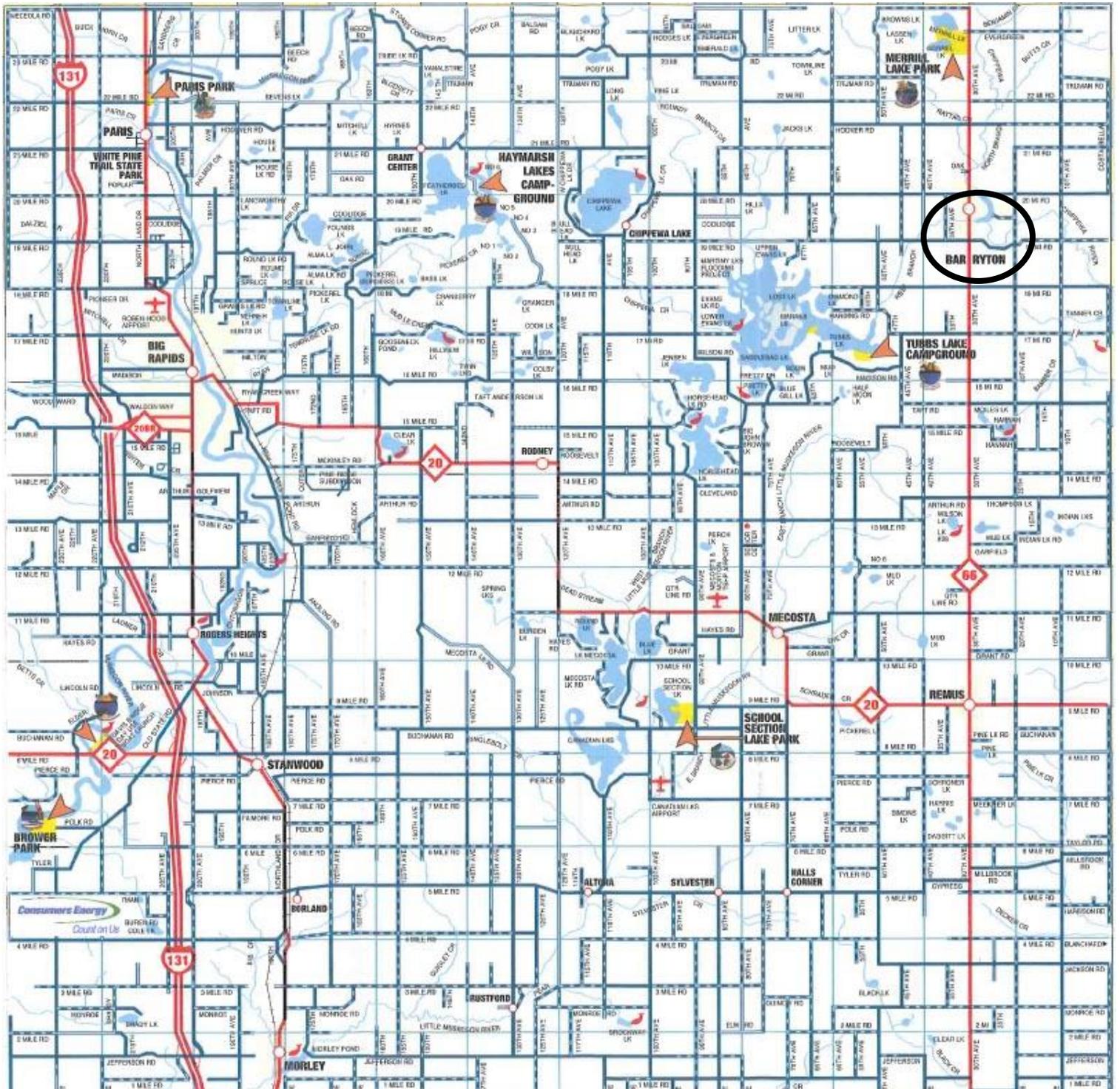
The Hardy Pond Trail is a cooperative effort with Consumers Energy, Big Prairie Township, Newaygo County Parks and the Mecosta County Park Commission.

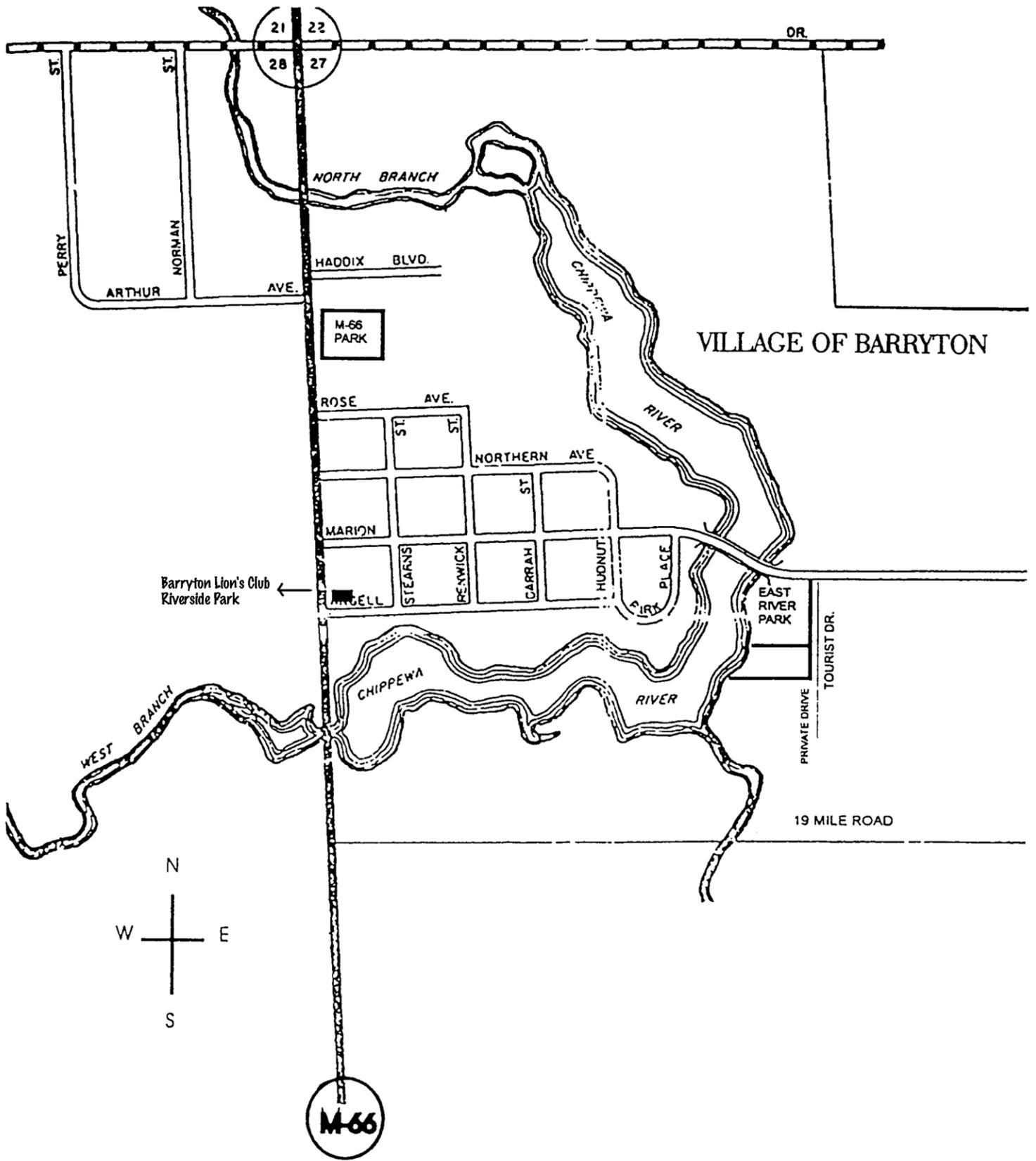
### ACTION PLAN - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Work in cooperation with Consumers Energy, Big Prairie Township and Newaygo County Parks to develop and maintain the trail system.

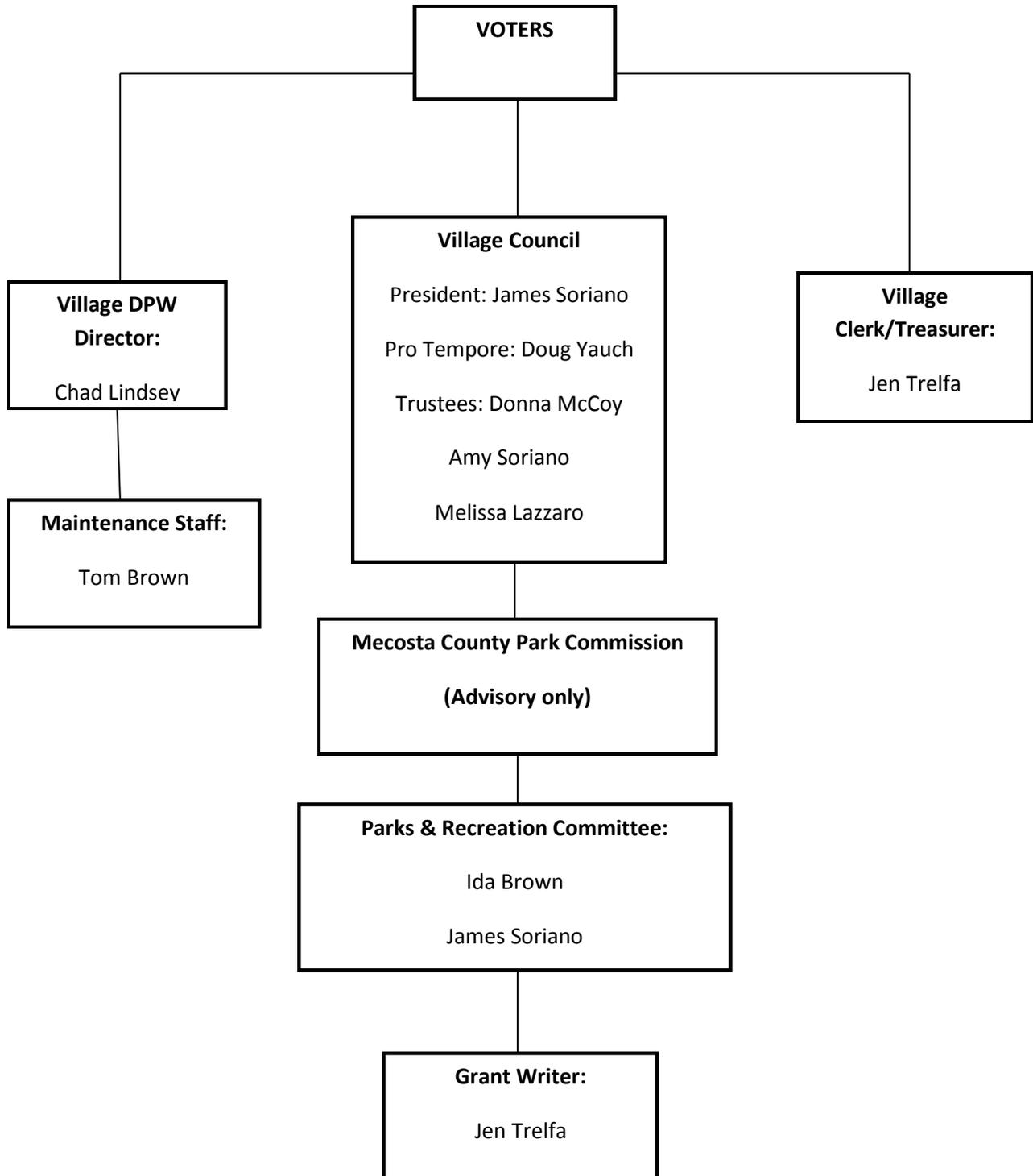
# VILLAGE OF BARRYTON

# VILLAGE OF BARRYTON LOCATION





# Village of Barryton Administrative Structure



# VILLAGE OF BARRYTON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## GOAL #1

THE VILLAGE OF BARRYTON WISHES TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS BY CONTINUALLY IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY OF USE IN THE PARKS THROUGH ACTIONS TAKEN TO BECOME COMPLIANT WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Seek any and all funding opportunities through grants for improvements
- As we replace equipment and facilities be sure they meet ADA requirements
- Construct pathways that comply with ADA standards to link parking areas, restrooms, and pavilions as money becomes available
- Construct a fishing dock that would meet with the ADA standards in the East River Park

## GOAL #2

THE VILLAGE OF BARRYTON WISHES TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR ITS AREA RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TEENS AND SENIOR CITIZENS.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Seek funding opportunities through granting sources to provide summer recreational programming in our parks
- Seek potential partners with area communities to bring summer programming into our parks
- Seek funding opportunities through granting agencies to improve river accessibility as to foster its potential recreational use
- Continue to add walking, biking or rollerblading trails in our existing parks

### GOAL #3

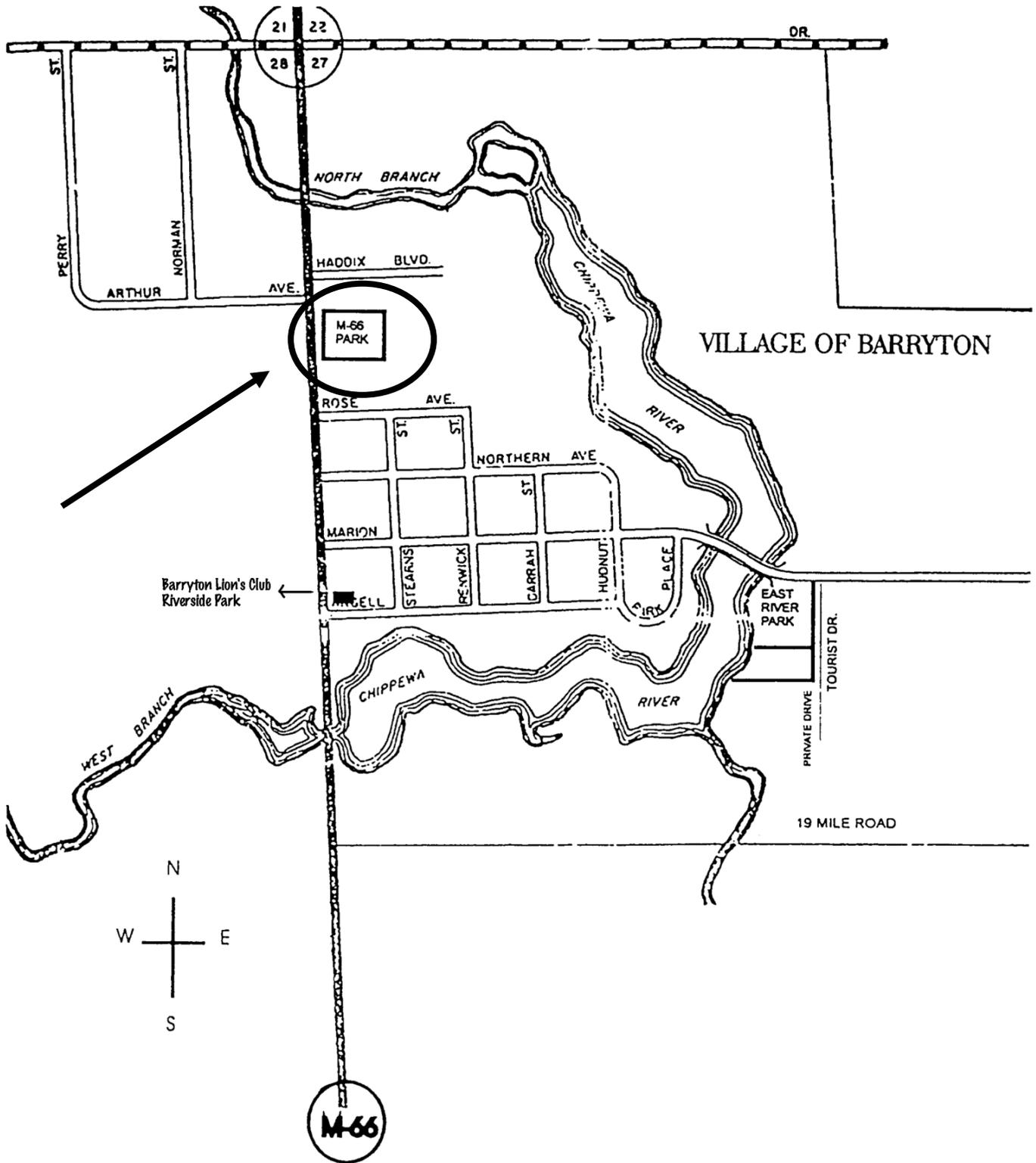
THE VILLAGE OF BARRYTON WISHES TO WORK TO PROMOTE OUR AREA'S SLOGAN OF "LIVE IS GOOD, WHERE THE RIVERS MEET" THROUGH CONTINUAL EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE THE BARRYTON MILLPOND.

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Seek funding opportunities through granting sources to enhance river accessibility. These actions could include dredging, weed control, and construction of ADA fishing dock and walking, biking, or skating trails.
- Research river enhancement options to encourage fishing and other related water sports as recreational options for our area
- Encourage and promote our area's beauty by establishing new festivals, or supporting current festivals in our area

VILLAGE OF  
BARRYTON ACTION  
PLANS AND  
CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT  
SCHEDULE

# M-66 PARK



## M-66 PARK

Barryton's M-66 Park is prominently situated across from the Barryton Elementary School on highway M-66, a major north/south transportation route in Mecosta County. The 1 ½ acre property is leased from the Chippewa Hills School District by the Village of Barryton.

Annually multiple community and family gatherings are held in this park which features two covered picnic pavilions 22' by 44' and 28' by 65' which have 21 picnic tables with attached benches that set on cement slabs, barbeque grills, clean restrooms and a well-maintained lawn. Thanks to our local Lions Club and the village council visitors enjoy both basketball goals and safe and upgraded playground equipment in a beautiful natural setting. A new tennis court is also available. At the entrance to the park sits a stoned, roof covered, 55-year-old artesian well. It supplies "the best drinking water you have ever tasted" to hundreds of travelers, campers and community residents. Most people just bring their own bottles to fill as there is no charge.

In January of 2008, the State of Michigan granted title to a 16 acre parcel of land that sits east of the M-66 Park to the Village of Barryton. This site was abandoned by the former Alternative Fuels Company. As a result of a cooperative effort on the parts of our State 102<sup>nd</sup> District Representative Darwin Booher; Mecosta County's Controller and Administrator Paul Bullock; and Mecosta County Commissioner Jerry Williams; the Village of Barryton was granted \$1.2 million for clean-up of the site by the DEQ. In addition to this state funding, the Village of Barryton has spent additional general fund revenue for restoration of this site.

After the completion of a MNRTF grant, in 2013, the village was able to provide a new tennis court with two half courts for basketball, renovated restrooms, benches, picnic tables, grills and a six foot wide walking trail, known as the Kappa Kappa Trail, extending to the river ending at a 24x24 fishing pier\overlook. This 16 acre parcel is now proudly known as Central Park.

With funding through a US Department of Agriculture grant, also completed in 2013, the village council had the Barryton Farmers Market constructed, providing a location for the public to purchase fresh produce, baked goods, flowers, etc.

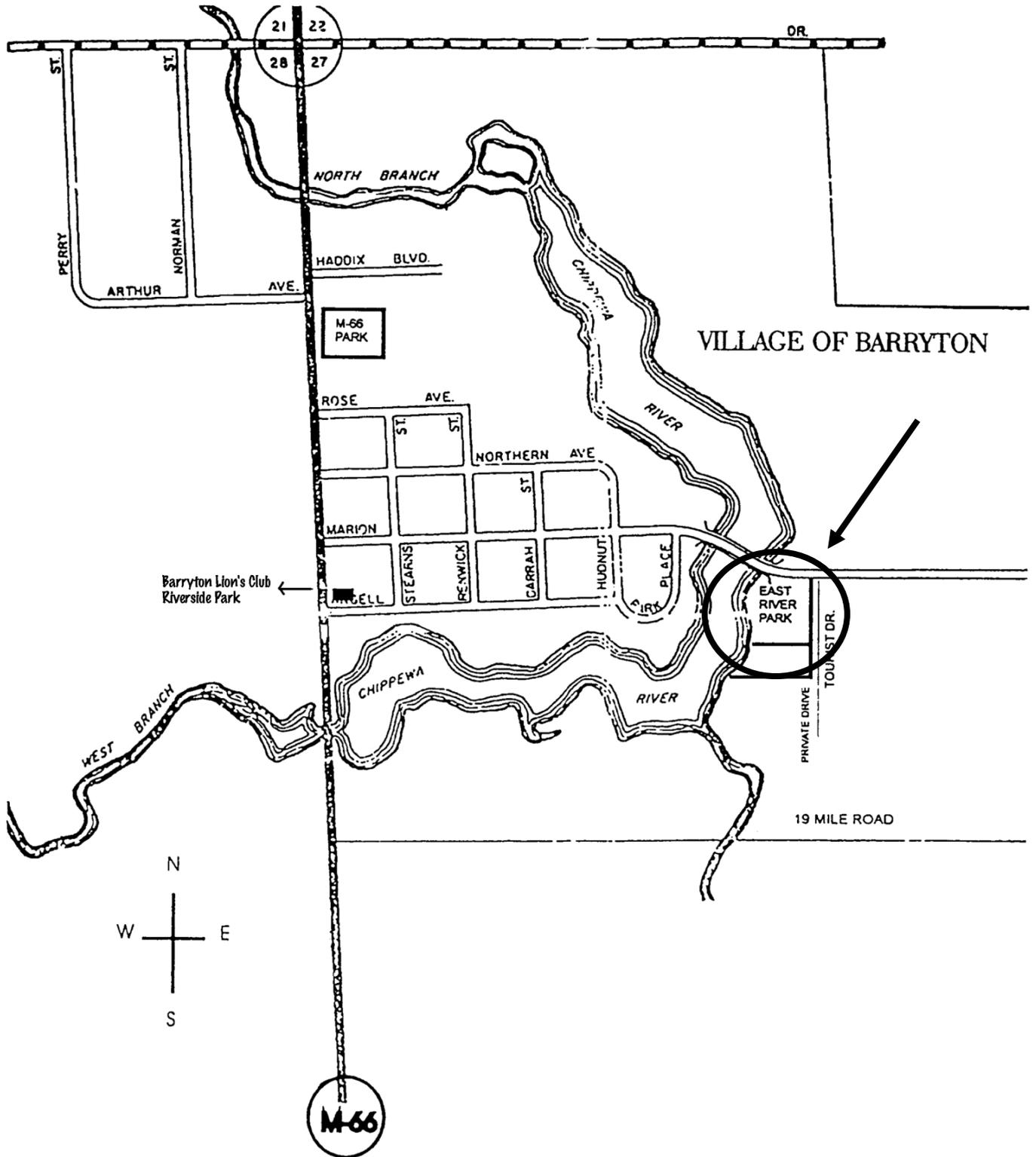
The Village of Barryton's goal is to ultimately find a source of revenue for the village from this land, as well as provide additional recreational opportunities for our community. We hope to continue to restore this site as it is a vital part of our community's natural beauty, enhancing the area's accessibility to our beautiful river, and further promote the economical stability and growth of our village through these efforts. It is the goal of the Village of Barryton to promote our vision of "Life is Good, Where the Rivers Meet" through the implementation of the above mentioned actions.

## ACTION PLAN-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Construct pathways to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act, to link parking area and restrooms to pavilions, with footbridge over drainage area.
2. Improve and add walking paths and lighting in the park.
3. Seek funding sources to add activities and programming for teens particularly through the summer months. Construct a skate park if funding becomes available.
4. Keep recreational opportunities, through river accessibility enhancement as a primary focus when planning developments, and seek out any and all revenue generating activities and sources.
5. Research facility and activities needed to “bring more people into town.” Work toward hosting more community festivals, car shows, and/or music festivals in the park.
6. Completing the walking trail to encompass the area of Central Park

The Village of Barryton’s Parks are funded solely through user fees and general fund allocation. When a particular project, such as expansion, restoration, or development is needed, contingency funds are used as they become available. Supplemental funding, such as foundation grants, DNR Grants, Land and Water Conservation funds, Revenue Sharing, Revenue Bonds, etc., will be sought, if needed to support the budgeting cost of a particular project

# EAST RIVER PARK



## EAST RIVER PARK

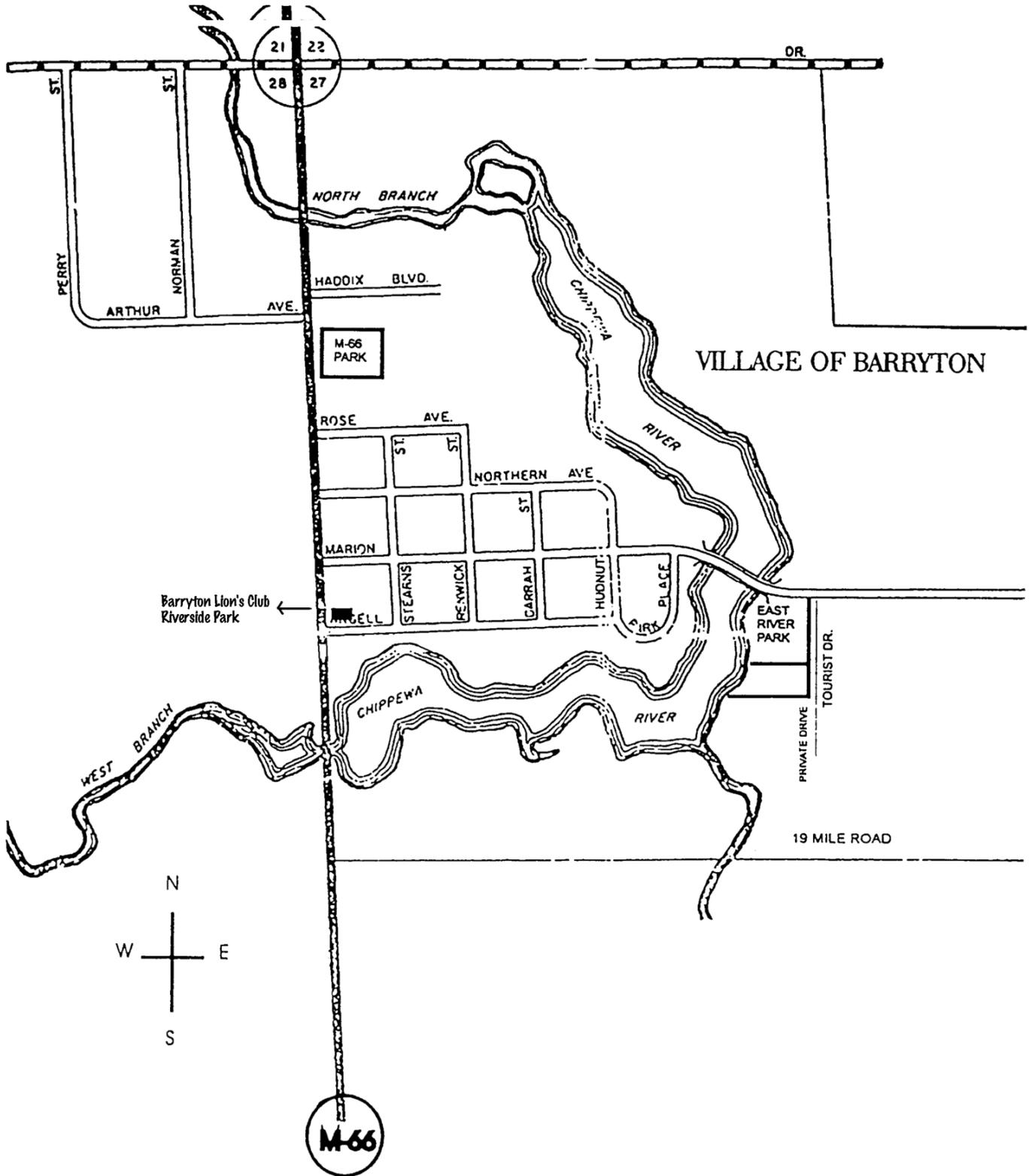
Barryton's East River Park is located on the Barryton Mill Pond on the Chippewa River just south of the east bridge linking Marion Ave. and Coolidge Road. This park is approximately ½ acre and sits on a beautiful natural setting along the river. Expansion of this park is possible through acquisition of a similar sized parcel just north of the bridge on the opposite side of the road. In 2007 a grant from the Mecosta County Foundation, together with village funding added several new play activities in this park. We replaced our old, unsafe play equipment with a \$13,000 playscape, new swings, a balance beam and new merry-go-round. Site preparation and installation of the play structure were completed as a community volunteer project. Since these improvements have been made more and more families continue to enjoy this park for picnic and play. It is the village of Barryton's goal to continually develop this park as funding becomes available by increasing accessibility to the river, for all of our citizens, through installation of a boat launch, permanent handicap-accessible restroom facilities, constructing a fishing dock that will comply with ADA regulations, and establish a safe swimming area if possible.

### **ACTION PLAN-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

1. Construct Picnic Pavilion
2. Construct Boat Launch Ramp
3. Construct a fishing dock to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards
4. Acquire a parcel of land for additional parking if boat launch is added
5. Revitalize the Barryton Mill Pond to include action necessary for cleanup, dredging, weed control, and improving river accessibility for fishing and other water sports
6. Construct a restroom that would meet with regulations set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act
7. Research river enhancement options to encourage fishing and other related water sports

The Village of Barryton's Parks are funded solely through user fees and general fund allocation. When a particular project, such as expansion, restoration, or development is needed, contingency funds are used as they become available. Supplemental funding, such as foundation grants, DNR Grants, Land and Water Conservation funds, Revenue Sharing, Revenue Bonds, etc., will be sought, if needed to support the budgeting cost of a particular project.

# BARRYTON LION'S CLUB RIVERSIDE PARK



Barryton Lion's Club Riverside Park is located on Angel Avenue directly east of the Village hall, with approximately 200' of Barryton Mill Pond-Chippewa River frontage. This new park was developed following the demolition of the old Carnation Creamery building and improvements to the site provide a great picnic area for residents of the area as well as many passersby. Two picnic tables, a 16' diameter western red cedar gazebo, and a covered decorative artesian fountain/well, donated by the Barryton Lions Club, are highlights of this park. It is the desire of the village of Barryton to improve this park as well by creating river walkways, increasing river accessibility, increasing accessibility to the facilities by complying with ADA regulations, and continued maintenance of this beautiful little park as funding becomes available.

Input for this recreation plan was gathered through multiple sources. The Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Department hosted a meeting at the Village hall on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. As a result of this meeting our community desires the village to continue to maintain and upgrade our three parks. Suggested improvements included providing recreational opportunities for all age groups, particularly noting the need for appropriate preteen/teen activities and hiking, biking and walking trails for older citizens as primary concerns. It was also noted that the public wished to create activities and recreational opportunities that will "bring people into town"; not only summer vacationers, but people from the surrounding rural areas as well. Suggestions for improvements in this area would include the building of a skate park; improvement and/or additions to soccer and softball fields to encourage tournament play; improvements and/or additions to horseshoe pits and tennis courts to encourage and promote these activities. The third and probably greatest concern was for the village of Barryton to increase accessibility to the river for recreational purposes. Suggestions included adding camping, walking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, and tubing or canoeing opportunities. Developing a large public green space to host festivals, car shows and music festivals was also suggested and desired by our community

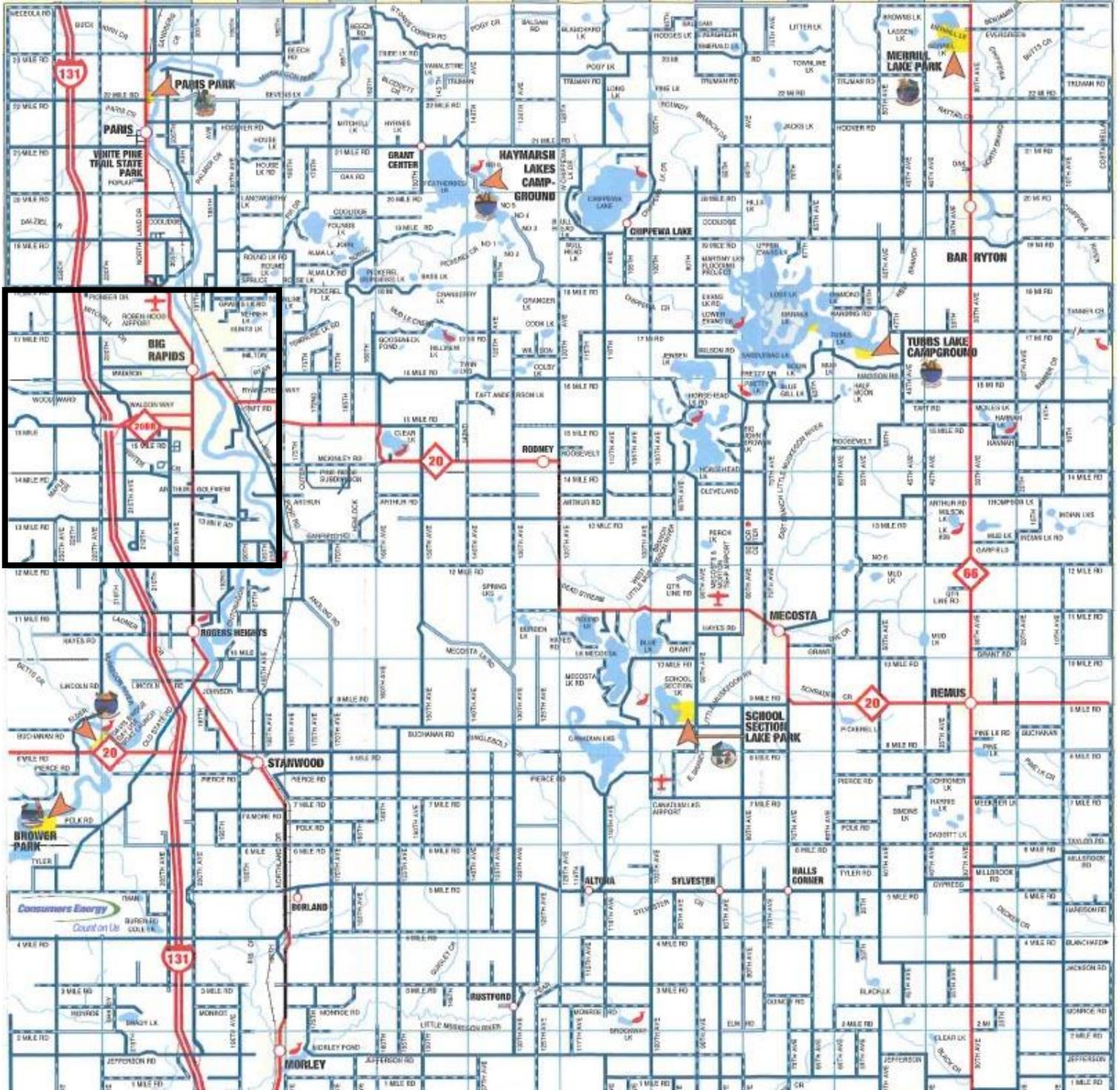
#### ACTION PLAN – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Improve and develop a scenic river walk on the parcel just west of the Village Hall
2. Revitalize the Barryton Mill Pond to include action necessary for cleanup, dredging, weed control, and improving river accessibility for fishing and other water sports
3. Add a portable restroom during the summer months
4. Add additional picnic tables and possibly some yard games during the summer months.

The Village of Barryton Parks are funded solely through user fees and general fund allocation. When a particular project, such as expansion, restoration, or development is needed, contingency funds are used as they become available. Supplemental funding, such as foundation grants, DNR Grants, Land and Water Conservation funds, Revenue Sharing, Revenue Bonds, etc., will be sought, if needed to support the budgeting cost of a particular project.

# BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

# BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP LOCATION



# INTRODUCTION

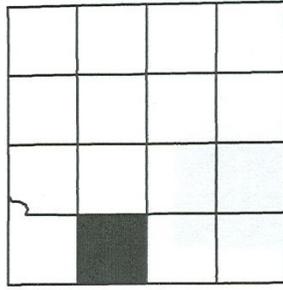
In the Big Rapids Charter Township Land Use Plan, outdoor recreation refers to areas designated as parks, campgrounds, and golf courses. This category includes all support buildings and structures as well as land and parking areas.

In 2013, the category of outdoor recreation covered 216 acres or 1.1 percent of Big Rapids Charter Township. The map on page 101 shows outdoor recreation including Falcon Head Golf Course which is located on Northland Drive in the southeast corner of the township as well as Highbanks Park which is owned and operated by the township and is located on the east side of the Muskegon River. Big Rapids Charter Township has not acquired additional recreational land in recent years.

In addition to the areas listed for outdoor recreation, the paved trails in Highland View Cemetery are often used for walking by both area residents and visitors. The township cemeteries cover 41.2 acres or 0.2 percent of Big Rapids Charter Township. The map on page 101 shows cemeteries east of the city, in the southeast corner of the township and along 17 Mile Road between the City of Big Rapids and US 131. Highland View Cemetery contains paved roads on rolling terrain that are used extensively as walking trails. Highland View Cemetery currently does not meet all accessibility guidelines.

Highbanks Park is a recreational area located on the Muskegon River just south of the City of Big Rapids, providing free recreational opportunities and river access to the to the Big Rapids urban area as well as visitors. Tubing is the most popular water sport in the area. Two commercial venues as well as many individuals use this as a departure point for their tubers all summer long.

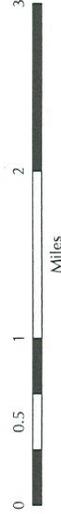
# Big Rapids Area Community Facilities



Big Rapids Township,  
Mecosta County

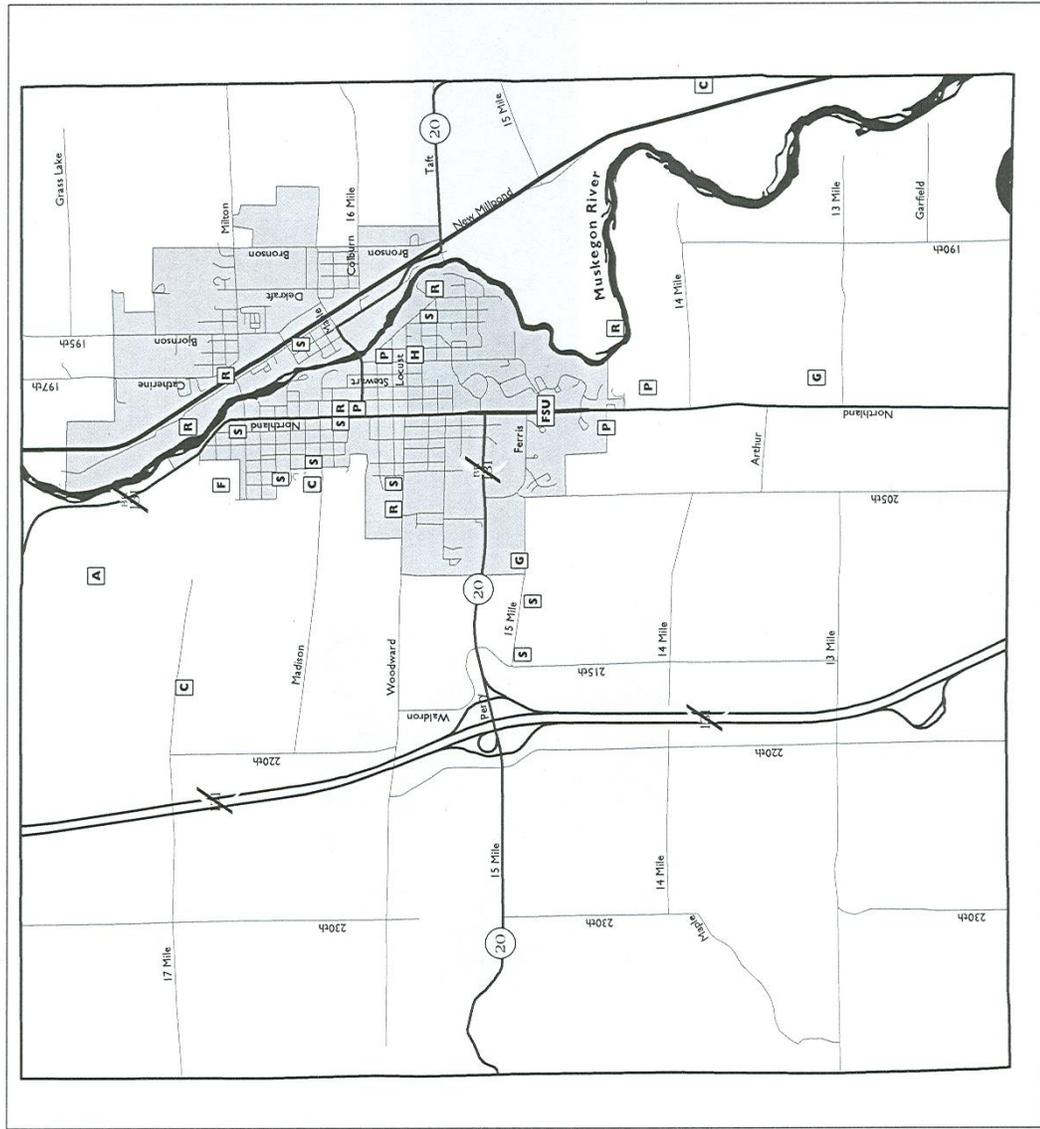
—	Township Roads	—	Major Roads / Hwys
<b>A</b>	Airport	<b>H</b>	Hospital
<b>C</b>	Cemetery	<b>P</b>	Public / Government
<b>F</b>	Fairgrounds	<b>R</b>	Recreation
<b>G</b>	Golf Course	<b>S</b>	School
<b>FSU</b>	Ferris State University		

Note: Letter symbols show approximate location of public facilities

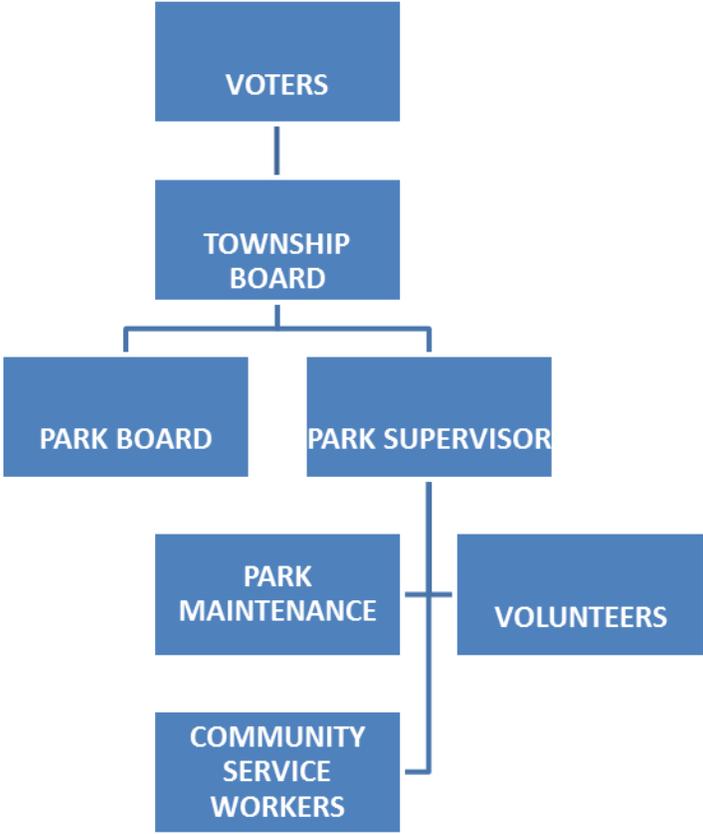


RS&GIS  
RESEARCH AND OUTREACH SERVICES

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



# BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goal #1

TO PRESERVE THE MUSKEGON RIVER AND OTHER TOWNSHIP LAKES, RIVERS, AND STREAMS AS A RESOURCE FOR RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT; ENCOURAGE THE IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### Objectives:

1. To provide residents with adequate recreational opportunities by maintaining an up-to-date recreational plan
2. To apply for appropriate grants to improve recreational opportunities (land acquisition, development)

## Goal # 2

TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, ENCOURAGING OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AND USE OF THE MUSKEGON RIVER AND TRAILS BY MORE CLOSELY LINKING THOSE USES TO Highbanks Park

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To continue to bring Highbanks Park into ADA conformance by upgrading current structures
2. To improve or replace restrooms
3. To upgrade and make improvements to the existing trails and bridges in park
4. To identify and label fauna along trail to encourage hiking and environmental education
5. To upgrade the existing ball field

## Goal # 3

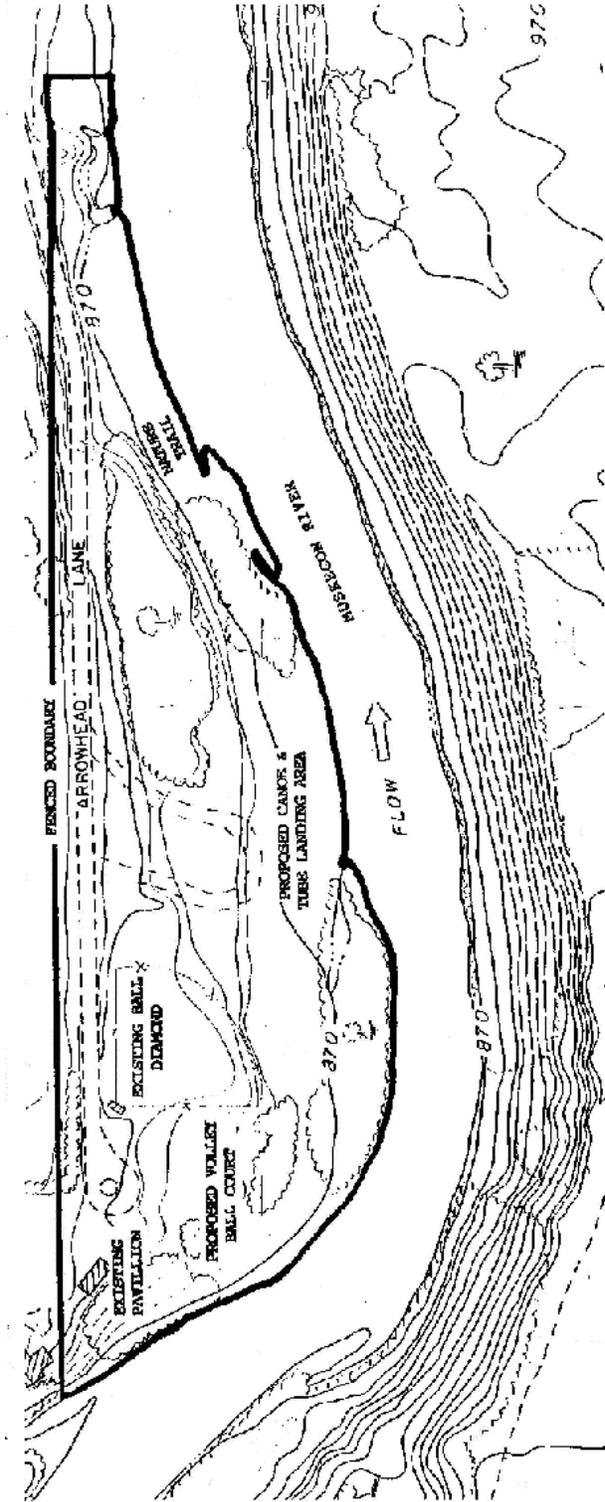
TO PROVIDE MEANS FOR EXERCISE AND SOCIAL INTERACTION BY ENCOURAGING ACTIVE UTILIZATION OF THE EXISTING TRAILS THROUGHOUT HIGHLAND VIEW CEMETERY

### OBJECTIVES:

1. TO BRING HIGHLAND VIEW CEMETERY INTO CONFORMANCE WITH ADA STANDARDS BY UPGRADING CURRENT STRUCTURES
2. TO ADD BENCHES AND ADDITIONAL SHADE TREES ALONG THE TRAILS
3. TO UPGRADE EXISTING RESTROOMS
4. TO ADD ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES FOR PEOPLE WANTING TO USE THE TRAILS

**BIG RAPIDS  
CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP  
CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT  
SCHEDULE**

# HIGHBANKS PARK



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BIG RAPIDS**  
MCCOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN



**HIGHBANKS PARK**

## HIGHBANKS PARK

THE PARK, A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK, INCLUDES ALMOST ONE HALF MILE OF RIVER FRONTAGE WITH A PAVILION, PICNIC AREA, BALL FIELD, WILDLIFE AREA AND TRAILS. MAJOR USES OF Highbanks Park include baseball, picnicking, hiking, swimming, fishing, canoeing and tubing on the Muskegon River. Restrooms in Highbanks Park currently do not meet ADA requirements.

### *ACTION PLAN—CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE*

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1. UPGRADE RESTROOMS TO ADA STANDARDS
2. UPGRADE WELL
3. UPGRADE SEPTIC SYSTEM
4. IMPROVE BALL FIELDS AND FIELD FENCING
5. REPAIR FENCE ADJOINING NEIGHBORHOOD

## HIGHLAND VIEW CEMETERY

Highland View Cemetery is located next to some property the City of Big Rapids Owns. The city has a goal of developing some trails on this property. If they do, the township would like to connect the trails in the cemetery to these trails. The restrooms at the cemetery do not meet current ADA standards.

### *ACTION PLAN—CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE*

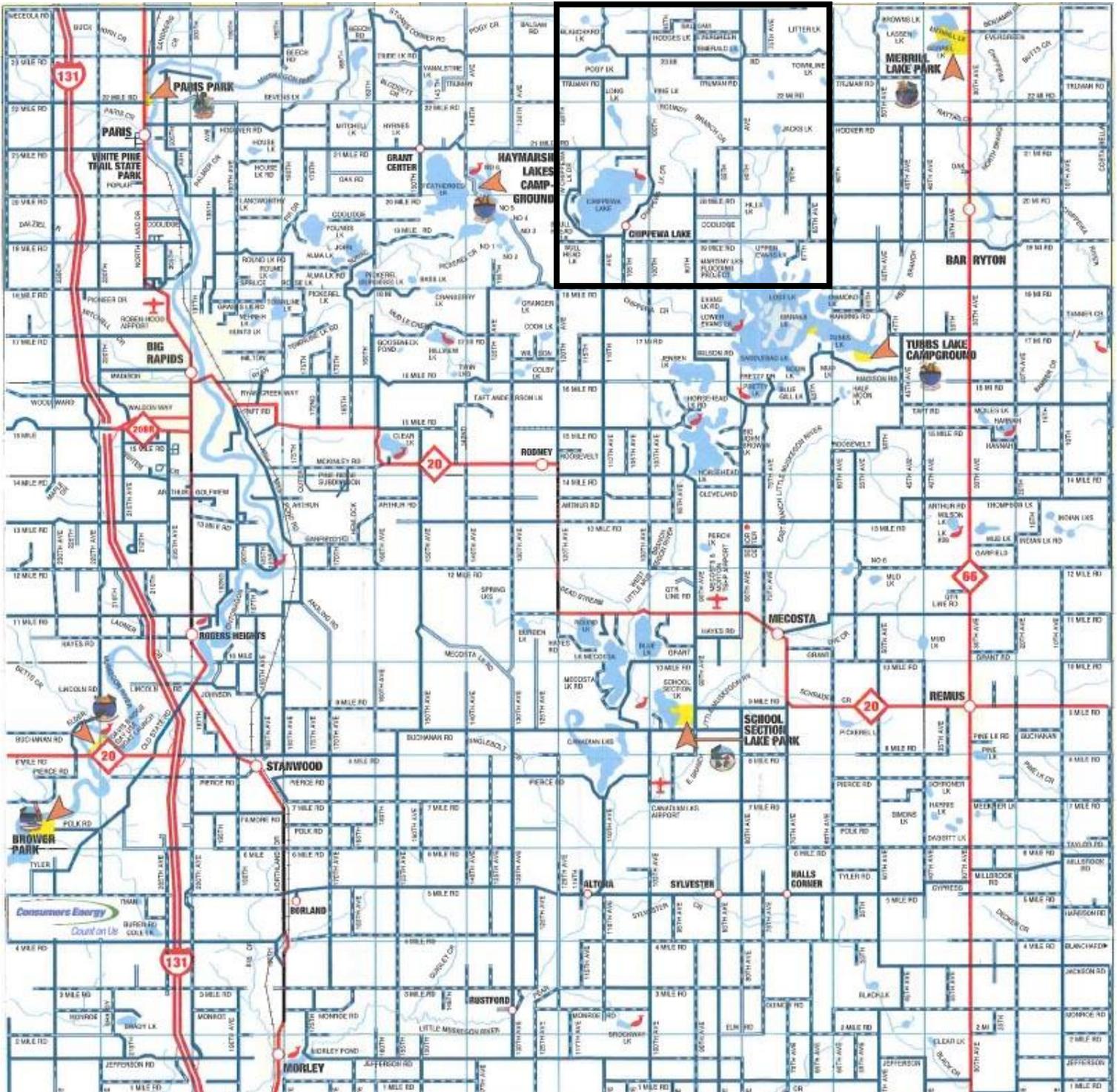
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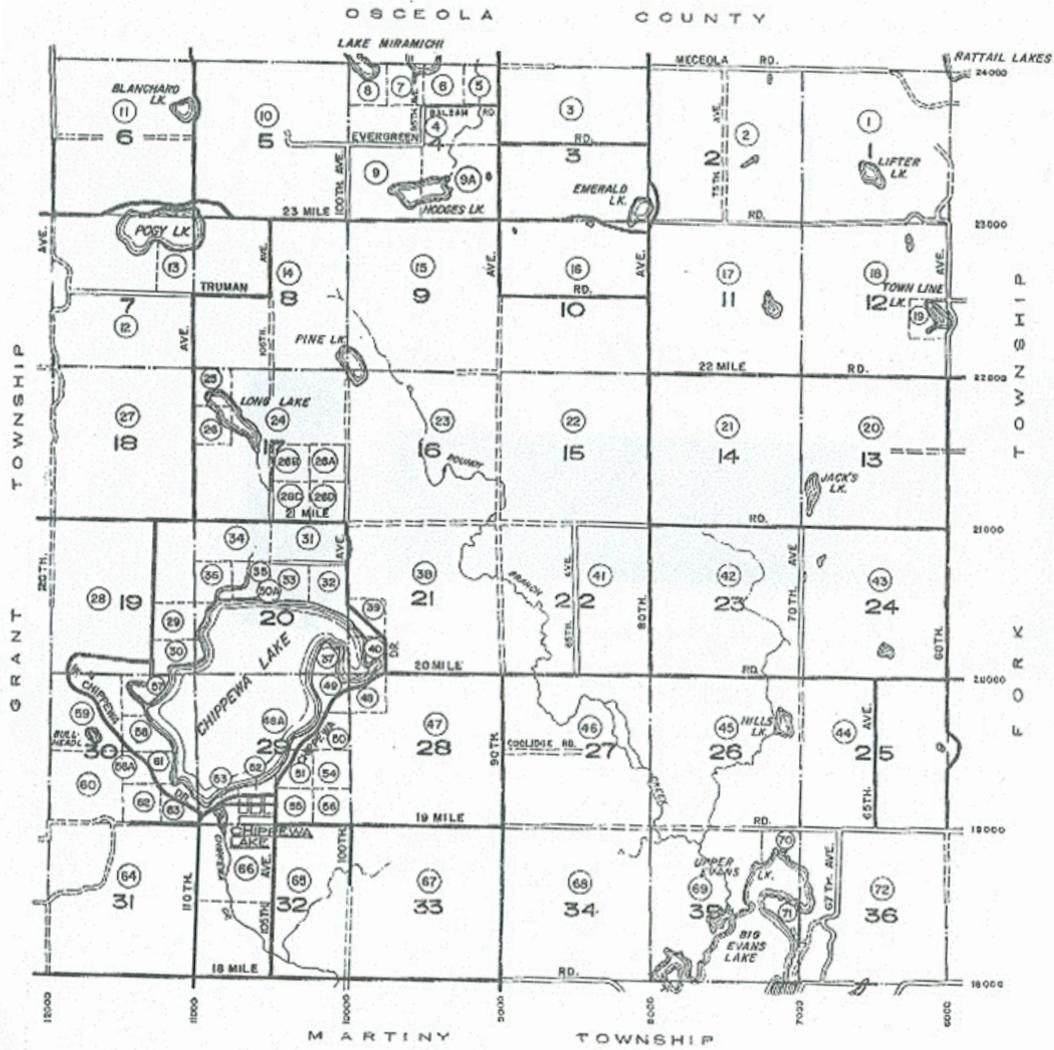
1. ADD BENCHES ALONG THE TRAILS SO WALKERS COULD REST
2. UPGRADE RESTROOMS
3. PAVE SOME ADDITIONAL PATHS THAT ARE GRAVEL

TOWNSHIP FUNDS ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED AND VOLUNTEER HELP IS UTILIZED WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS. FOR THIS REASON THE TOWNSHIP HAS OPTED TO USE A MORE FLEXIBLE ACTION PLAN AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE FORMAT. IT BETTER FITS THE NEEDS OF BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP.

# CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP

# CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP LOCATION





**CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP**  
MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

# INTRODUCTION

The Chippewa Township Park and Recreation Plan was a result of the Township Board's analysis of existing parks and recreational facilities. The analysis revealed that limited organized planning had been implemented in the past and there needed to be an administrative framework established to meet the future recreational needs of not only the Township residents and property owners but to help promote outdoor recreational tourism. Also, the strategy will help to make the Chippewa Township recreational facilities barrier free by addressing accessibility issues. The Master Plan will allow the Township to develop partnerships with other governmental entities for providing recreation and will also implement a maintenance program. This recreational plan identifies both facility and program needs that are currently needed and those that are expected to occur. It develops short and long range goals/objectives to provide desirable recreational opportunities. As in the case of many rural communities poverty is not a result of individual inadequacies, but rather a combination of small villages and townships that are distressed and poverty sustaining. Chippewa Township is a definite pocket of significant poverty in the county. It is a low-income disadvantaged community with few job opportunities. It is rated in the low and moderate income percentile of 52.1%. This points to the need for adequate public and recreational facilities as families with lower income are dependent upon public and recreational facilities than those with higher income. The establishment and updating of recreational facilities and safety of the community are solely for the welfare and benefit of the people in the area for community purposes and the betterment of the area. The Park Plan is the type of initiative and local planning which provide support for the community to reduce social and economic problems. The service area for these types of facilities must be similar to the day-to-day patterns of the local populace along with the patterns of the seasonal in fluctuations of the population. The increased demand on the current facilities dictates that the local unit of government intensifies their efforts toward meeting the demand.

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Chippewa Township Park and Recreation Plan was developed for Chippewa Township, which is located in the north east part of Mecosta County. It is bounded on the north by Osceola County, on the east by Fork Township, on the west by Grant Township and on the south by Martiny Township. The total land area in Chippewa Township is 33.1 square miles and the total water area is 2.4 square miles. Chippewa Township has ten of the 328 lakes and ponds found in Mecosta County. The township also has a stream system that ties many of the lakes together which in turn connects with larger rivers of this region. The Township boasts the largest natural lake in Mecosta County. Chippewa Lake covers approximately 790 acres of land surface.

The area which is now known as Chippewa Township was acquired by the United States Government from the Ojibwa Indians in 1836 as part of the Washington Treaty. Prior to the Homestead Act of 1863 there were no non-Native American settlements. Documentation indicates that the first non-Native American settlers arrived in this area in 1865. In 1868

Chippewa Township was established by the State of Michigan, with John W. Sparks becoming the first Supervisor.

Abundant forests brought the chief industry of logging to Chippewa Township. In 1872 R.W. Kimball built the first sawmill allowing for the organization of the Chippewa Lake Lumber Company in the 1880's. 150,000,000 board feet of timber was purchased by the Chippewa Lake Lumber Company from R.W. Kimball. The lumber companies were situated in that portion of the Township known as Chippewa Lake. The first stretch of railroad, for our area, was laid in the 1880's from Chippewa Lake to Rodney which then was connected to Detroit, Grand Rapids and the Western Railroad. In the early 1900's the lumber industry slowed dramatically and by 1906 the railroad tracks were removed. With the collapse of the logging industry Chippewa Township shifted to a rural agricultural community.

Chippewa Township has an unincorporated village, Chippewa Lake. This Township has been represented by agriculture, small service industries and recreational lake area. The last thirty years has shifted from a farming population to a rural non-farming population. The township has experienced an increase in the number of new homes with permanent residences as well as a growing number of cottages and vacationers. This trend is significant in that as the population becomes more non-farming a greater demand is created for local government-sponsored facilities and recreational areas.

## POPULATION

As with many rural communities the population has shifted over the years. In 1870 the population of Chippewa Township was 140 by 1874 the population climbed to 291. The 1870 census showed Chippewa Township with a population of 445 and the Mecosta County count was 13,973. The logging boom brought the largest population increase, by 1890 Chippewa Township's population count jumped to an incredible 1,000. However, with the collapse of the logging industry Chippewa Township's population would drop by ½, in 1930, to only 510 residents. The Township's population would then begin a steady climb; 1970-765, 1980-1009, 1990-1035, 2000-1239.

Chippewa Township is a growing community with statistic rates showing a 20% growth increase in the last decade and 62% growth rate since 1970. A projected conservative increase of 20% is expected by 2020. Mecosta County, as a whole, is expected to increase in population by 29% for the same time period. Chippewa Township is a desirable place to live due to its location near the communities of Big Rapids, Ewart and Reed City. Also, within the boundaries of Chippewa Township you will find several lake areas including Chippewa Lake, which is the largest natural lake in Mecosta County.

POPULATION INFORMATION FOR CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP – Source: The Bureau of  
Census, 2000

TOTAL POPULATION - 1239		HOUSEHOLD	
AGE GROUP	NUMBER	AVG. SIZE	2.38
Under 18	20.7%	1 PERSON	25.3%
18-24	8.3%	65 & OVER	30.5%
25-44	23.6%	OWNED	451
45-64	28.2%	RENTER	67
65 & Over	19%		
MEDIAN AGE - 43		MEDIAN WAGE - \$34,304	

Both the 25-44 and 45-64 age groups are important because they represent the prime wage earning population and the principle child rearing group. These age groups represent family formations, the need for recreational facilities, single family housing stock, retail trade and future increases in the 18 years and under age group.

A portion of the 45-64 age groups along with the 65 & over group, “Empty Nesters”, also comprises a large percentage of the Township’s residents. Current trends indicate that this is the strongest growing group.

In this rural community it is estimated that 32% of the population is aged 55 and over while 12.6% are under 10. Those people falling between the ages of 15 to 24 comprise 16.4% and therefore are significant in developing facilities for the future.

Additional population information can be collected from the “Rural Ethnography Project” completed by Dr. Cindy Hull, in 2004. Dr. Hull’s study included both economic and social changes in Chippewa Township along with community perception and oral histories. 55 separate households were interviewed with the following general characteristics of the sample population:

1. Education: 80% of household heads have a high school education or higher.
2. 40% have higher than a high school education.

Occupation: 11% farming households: 75% non-farming: 15% do both

In addition to the actual number of people, the characteristics of the population have been important in determining both the development potential and future community support and recreation needs of the community. Age composition affects the economic and social characteristics and hence facility and service needs.

## DISABILITY OF CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS

The passage of the Americans Disabilities Act has increased the public awareness of the rights and needs of all persons, to enjoy the outdoors and to be able to participate in a variety of recreational activities. Chippewa Township must begin to invest a portion of their already limited resources to make services, programs and facilities available to all persons. This task must begin with a recreation inventory, evaluation of accessibility of said inventory, a plan to remove barriers and the implementation of that plan. It is important that the Township Board maintains ongoing communication with persons with disabilities during the planning stages in order to gain “true” accessibility insight.

The Township’s largest park, Chippewa Community Park, which is the heaviest used of the three Township parks, is the logical place to begin addressing the accessibility issue. Basic access of all Township parks should become the first priority.

# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The responsibility for planning, developing and budgeting, for the Township's recreational facilities belongs to the Chippewa Township Board. Chippewa Township currently has three partially developed parks.

Currently the Township Board employees, a maintenance person, for the mowing of the parks. Ball diamond and landscaping upkeep is done by community volunteers with the Township paying the cost of supplies.

## VOLUNTEERS/COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Volunteers have helped to maintain all three parks, in the past. The township has assisted in maintaining the parks by providing funds for the installation of playground equipment, basketball court and hoop, ball diamond upgrades with equipment and new water well at the Chippewa Community Park.

The Mecosta County court system has also provided community service workers from time to time to assist in cleanup of park facilities and maintenance of the Community Center.

## RECREATION INVENTORY

Chippewa Township is fortunate that they have the largest natural lake in Mecosta County along with several smaller lakes. The lakes provide fishing and boating opportunities. A DNR public access is located on Chippewa Lake along with a privately owned boat launch. Chippewa Township currently has three developed/partially developed parks within its jurisdiction. There are no schools located within the Township. However, the Barryton Elementary School (Chippewa Hills School District) is located within 10 miles. A description of the township's property holdings (excluding cemeteries) follows.

# CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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Chippewa Township Parks exist for the purpose of providing services and facilities to the residents of the township along with the general public and visitors to our area. The Chippewa Township Board has the responsibility of establishing guidelines on how the service is to be provided. Goals are broad statements of policy concerning these services.

## GOAL #1

**PRESERVE THE LARGEST NATURAL LAKE IN MECOSTA COUNTY AND OTHER TOWNSHIP LAKES AND STREAMS AS A RESOURCE FOR RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT: ENCOURAGE THE IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATION FACILITIES.**

## OBJECTIVES

1. Provide residents and visitors to the area with adequate recreation opportunities by maintaining an up-to-date recreation plan.
2. Apply for appropriate grants to improve recreation opportunities (i.e. land acquisition, development and up-dating, of current facilities, to meet ADA requirements.
3. Promote resident and property owner input, for the recreation planning process, by the expanded use of open meetings and questionnaires.
4. Protecting our natural lake and stream resources through the distribution of educational materials and promoting educational practices to area residents, property owners and visitors.
5. Promote environmental activities by working with and providing areas (such as: garden space, wetland education areas, etc...) to local schools.

## GOAL #2

**ENCOURAGE ACTIVE SPORT OPPORTUNITIES, THEREBY DECREASING THE RATE OF OBESITY IN ADULTS AND CHILDREN, ALONG WITH BETTER UTILIZATION OF THE EXISTING PARKS.**

## OBJECTIVES

1. Increase accessibility to Mitchell's Landing thereby promoting existing water activities and meeting ADA requirements so that all individuals may utilize water activities.
2. Create a parks trail system to establish a walking area that connects all of the Township

Parks.

3. Identify and label fauna within the new trail system to encourage environmental education and local history.
4. Create a small camping facility to promote outdoor and family activities.

### **GOAL #3**

**PROVIDE MEANS FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION, COMMUNITY UNITY AND EASIER GENERAL PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY BY UPDATED THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND ADDING TOWNSHIP OFFICE(S) TO FORM A COMPLEX.**

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. Remodel the existing Community Center and build a new Township Office (shared) complex that will offer a gathering place for local clubs, organizations and public meetings that meet ADA Standards. A new complex would promote more cost efficient practices by combining to separate facilities into one. Thereby creating easier accessibilities and meeting ADA Standards, for area residents and property owners.
2. Create updated restroom facilities, for the Community Park, by including them in the new complex.
3. Promote the use of the rental hall within the new Complex to enhance the local economy.
4. Keep operational expenses reasonable through preventative maintenance.
5. Establish a system of user fees, for the complex, that reflects a “fair market value” and generates the necessary revenues for the maintenance and upkeep.

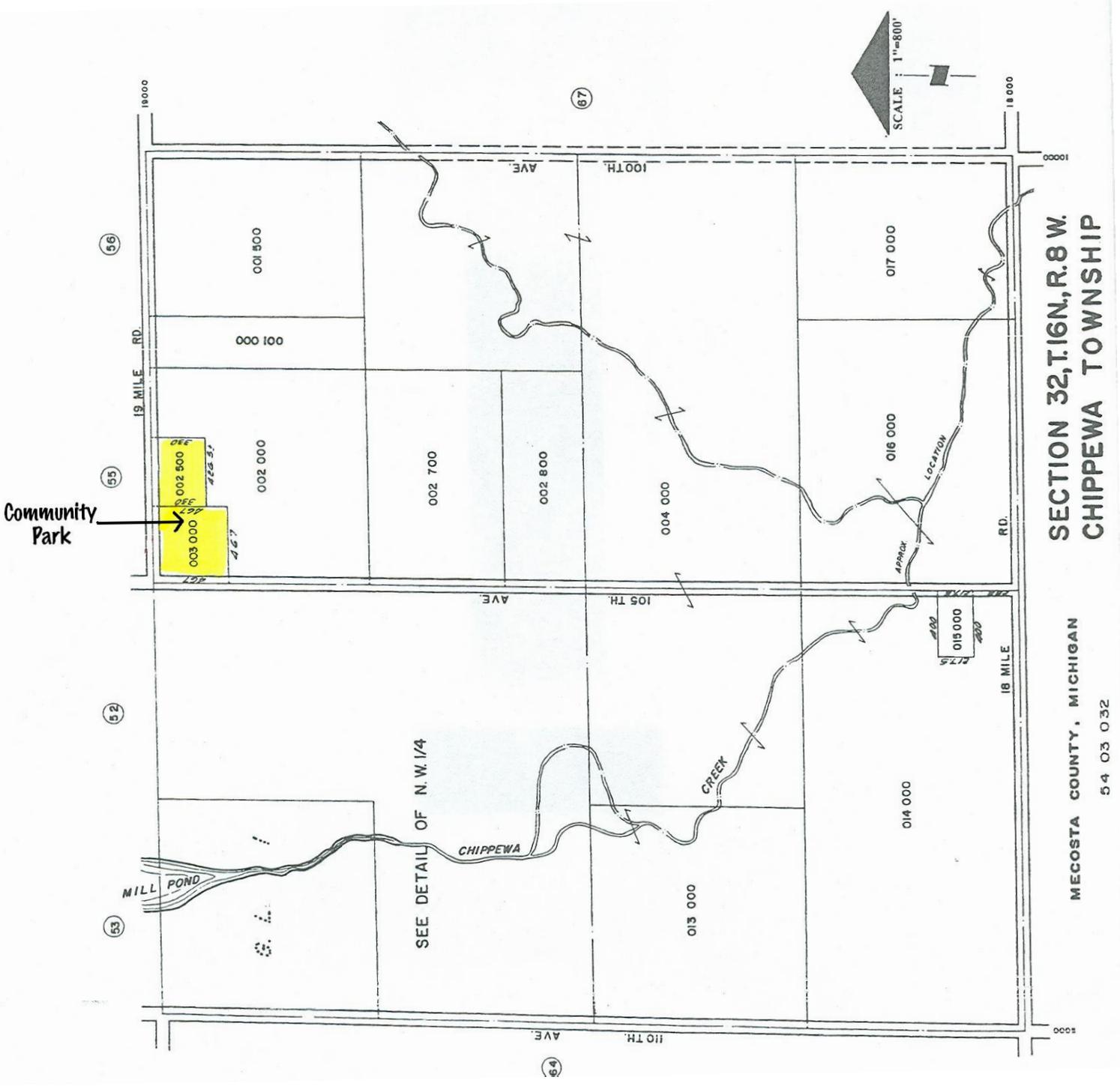
# CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP ACTION PLANS AND CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

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The Chippewa Township Board has opted to use a more flexible action plan and capital improvement schedule format. The Township Board feels it better suits our needs. Chippewa Township operates with a limited budget and shrinking revenues makes it very difficult to project 5 years into the future for project funding.

The Township Board will review and prioritize the action plans, as presented, annually to ascertain what project will be pursued during a fiscal year cycle. After development the list will be available for public review, comment and further review before adoption.

# CHIPPEWA LAKE COMMUNITY PARK



SECTION 32, T.16N., R.8 W.  
CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP

MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
54 03 032

# CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY PARK

The township has developed a township park and community center on 5 acres of land, which is located on the corner of 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 19 Mile Road. The township has also purchased 3.24 acres of adjacent land and would like to purchase an additional 1.76 acres.

The Community Center, was built in 1972, and is a pole barn construction, which has a capacity of 100 people. It has an outdated kitchen and bathroom facilities. Minor repairs were done to the building including an outdoor bathroom installed by the Community Association in the early 1990's and a small addition added by the local Lions Club, in the late 1990's. A new well was drilled in 2005. The Township constructed a new entrance and installed new windows, doors, insulation and dry-walled the main room, in 2012. The Township now uses the common room for Board meetings and elections.

A 24'x 60' concrete floor picnic pavilion with 8 picnic tables is located directly to the south of the Community Center.

An 80'x80' play area was established and play equipment was installed in the late 1990's at a cost of \$18,000.00

The park has a ball diamond. Dugouts were built in the early 2000's at a cost of approximately \$7500.00.

The Center and grounds allow for public functions for indoor and outdoor recreation and educational developments. Generations of families hold family reunions at this park. The ball diamond is utilized by the local children's league, adult leagues and community ball tournaments. The community center is also rented for wedding receptions and parties. Currently a local dance class is held, at the facility, every Monday night. The community center also brings the community together for funeral dinners, fund raising projects and local club activities.

## ACTION PLAN – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

As previously covered, the Chippewa Lake Community Park, is the largest of the three township parks. It is located at the intersection of 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 19 Mile Road, in the southern part of Chippewa Township.

### *\*RECOMMENDED USE*

1. Location of remodeled Community Center with new Township Office facility.
2. Public Park for large scale recreational facilities and public gatherings.
3. Small public camp ground facility

### *\*IMPROVEMENTS*

1. Remodel Community Center and build an addition to house new Township Offices that meet ADA requirements.

2. Install new ADA outdoor restroom facilities.
3. Upgrade current playground area to meet ADA standards and replace aged equipment.
4. Upgrade picnic/pavilion area with new tables and BBQ grills.
5. Install an ADA fire ring.
6. Install regulation horseshoe pits
7. Install a small 10 - lot full hook-up camping facility
8. Install additional earth friendly over-flow parking area.
9. Install a paved walking trail around the perimeter of the grounds.
10. Install rest stations, historical markers and native plant gardens on walkway.
11. Add additional “green” areas by planting trees and landscaping.
12. Add a seasonal water drinking fountain.
13. Add a contained dumpster area
14. Add trash containers to promote area cleanliness
15. Install new perimeter fencing
16. Purchase additional 1.75 acres to balance out the property.





# MILLETT PARK

Millett Park lies in the center of the unincorporated Village of Chippewa Lake. The neighborhood park has a 12'x12' gazebo, purchased in 2007 at a cost of \$6100. The township installed an electrical service to the gazebo and flag pole in 2008. New perimeter fencing was also installed in 2007 @ a cost of \$3500. The old basketball court was removed and a new full-court with two basketball hoops was installed in 2012 at a cost of \$7650. Also, in 2012, three in-ground picnic tables (Note: 1 table purchased meets ADA requirements) at a cost of \$1200. The park also has a pleasant green area.

This park is heavily used in the spring, summer and fall by children and adults. On any given summer evening one can witness a basketball game or even a family game of soccer. The park has also hosted several outdoor weddings since the township acquired the property in the 1980's.

A small restaurant lies adjacent to the park property and may promote picnicking.

The Township would like to purchase the three lots that lie to the north, to double the park size.

## ACTION PLAN – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

As previously covered Millett Park lies in the center of the unincorporated Village of Chippewa Lake.

### *\*RECOMMENDED USE*

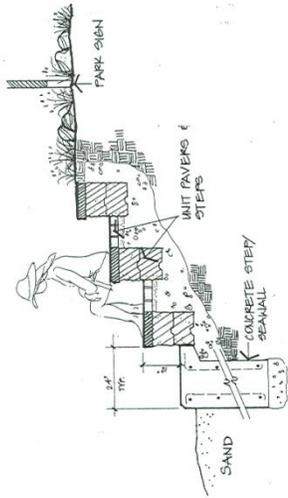
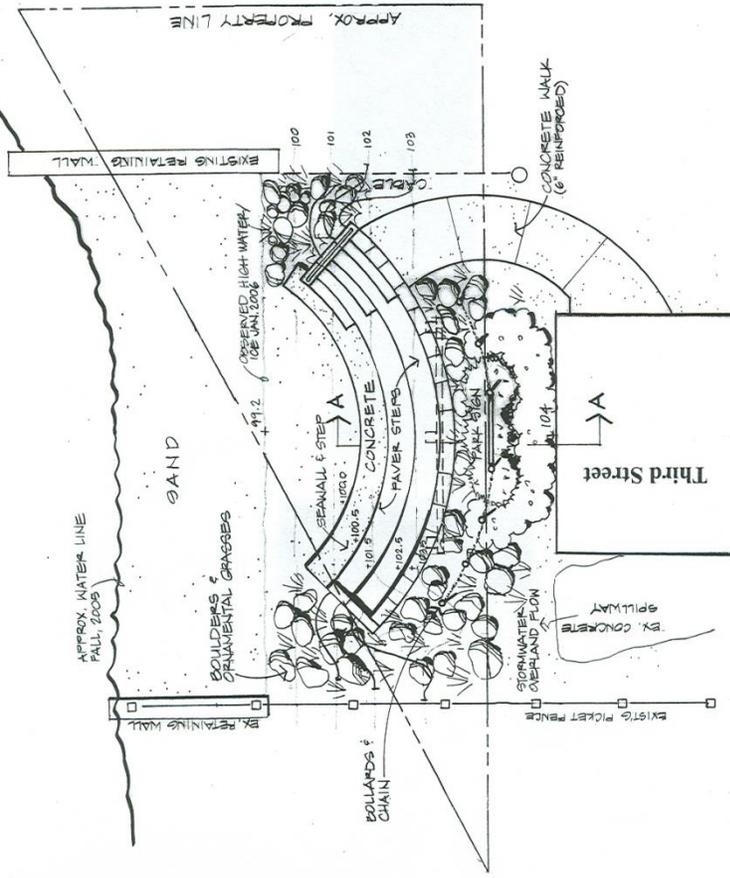
Public park to promote outdoor recreation, picnicking and special activities, of small groups.

### *\*IMPROVEMENTS*

1. Create historical marker with bell tower.
2. Add additional picnic tables and park benches.
3. Develop a small playground area and install play equipment.
4. Install a meandering paved walking path that connects individual areas of the park.
5. Landscape to help promote community pride and to allow for “quiet” time sitting.
6. Install a seasonal drinking fountain
7. Add trash containers to promote area cleanliness.
8. Purchase additional lots, to the north, for future expansion and parking. Parking will be utilized by both Millett Park and Mitchell's Landing.
9. Build an ADA Standard restroom facility.



# Chippewa Lake



**Seawall Section A - A**

Scale: 3/8" = 1'-00"



CHIPPEWA LAKE TOWNSHIP

# MITCHELL'S LANDING

## MASTER PLAN



# MITCHELL'S LANDING

The township owns 66 feet of Lake Frontage, on Chippewa Lake. The property was deeded to the township by the Mecosta County Road Commission to offer a public swimming area. This property remains undeveloped. The DNR Public access does not permit swimming, so this leaves Mitchell's Landing as the only Public Swimming area, on Chippewa Lake.

## ACTION PLAN – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Mitchell's Landing lies at the end of Third Street, in the unincorporated Village of Chippewa Lake. It encompasses 66' of Chippewa Lake frontage. The landing is approximately 1 ½ blocks from Millett Park.

### *\*RECCOMENDED USE*

Public Beach and lake viewing area for residents and tourists lacking lake access.

### *\*IMPROVEMENTS*

1. Install terraced retaining wall which will also act as steps and seating.
2. Install ADA standard walkway
3. Install side boundary fencing to promote "good neighbor" relations
4. Install safety barrier at road end
5. Install trash containers to promote area cleanliness
6. Design and install landscaping for beautification and promote area pride.
7. Install a seawall to protect beach area

# TOWNSHIP HALL AND GROUNDS



SECTION 29, T16N, R8W  
 CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP  
 MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
 54 03 029

# TOWNSHIP HALL

The township owns 5 platted lots in the unincorporated Village of Chippewa Lake. The township hall is located on lot 8 and the east 17' of Lot 7. The west 33' of Lot 7 and Lot 6 houses the fire station. Lot 5 houses the Chippewa Lake Sewer Maintenance Department and lot 4 is undeveloped.

The structure was built in 1980 and is a 32'x56' pole building structure. The hall currently houses the Township Offices which represent two office spaces. One space is shared by the Clerk and Treasurer and the other space is shared by the Supervisor, Assessor and Chippewa Lake Sewer Coordinator. There are currently two small closets that house the township records. In 2012 the meeting room was converted into the Chippewa Branch, of the Barryton Public Library.

The Chippewa Branch Library not only offers a large collection of books and resource materials, but also has four public computer stations, and free public Wi-Fi service. Three park benches have been added outside, of the Township Hall/Library, so the public can sit and utilize the wireless internet, during the summer months. The local Daylily Society installed a beautiful flower bed, along the east side, in 2011.

## ACTION PLAN – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Located in the unincorporated Village of Chippewa Lake at the intersection of Fourth Street and Lake Street.

### *\*RECCOMENDED USE*

Once the township hall is relocated to the “Community Park” the existing building would still be utilized as a sub-station for the Barryton District Library, which Chippewa Township is part of.

# APPENDIX A

# AGENCY BUDGETS

## PARK COMMISSION BUDGET

The Mecosta County Park Commission is operated solely on funds generated from fees and charges at our parks supplemented by grants, gifts and bequests. We do not receive County appropriations for park development or operation.

Our sources of revenue can be grouped into two categories. The largest is fees and charges, which comprise an average of 99% of total revenues. The second group is non-operating income comprising 1%.

Expenses can be grouped into four categories. Administrative employee expenses make up an average of 32% of our total expenses. Seasonal employee expenses make up about 22% of the total. Park operations take up 28% while maintenance makes up the balance of 18% of the total expenses.

Mecosta County Park Commission  
2014 Budget

Description - Revenue	Totals
STATE GRANTS	\$ -
OTHER SERVICES	\$ -
SALE OF COUNTY ASSETS	\$5,000.00
CAMPING PARK FEES	\$732,000.00
VEHICLE PERMITS	\$214,000.00
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	\$ -
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	\$ -
REUNDS & REIMBURSEMENTS	\$12,000.00
INSURANCE REFUNDS	\$ -
MISC. REVENUE	\$55,000.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,018,000.00</b>
Description - Expenses	Totals
DISBURSEMENTS	\$0.00
OTHER SALARIED	\$154,249.00
INSURANCE SUBSTITUTE	\$2,708.00
PER DIEMS	\$5,400.00
REGULAR FULL-TIME WAGES	\$128,544.00
PART-TIME HOURLY WAGES	\$137,676.00
OVERTIME WAGES	\$700.00
LONGEVITY	\$720.00
SOCIAL SECURITY/FICA	\$26,768.31
MEDICARE/FICA	\$6,260.33
MERS	\$53,020.00
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$40,600.00
WORKMAN COMPENSATION	\$12,725.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$54,625.00
HEALTHCARE SAVING PROGRAM	\$360.00
DENTAL, VISION, LIFE	\$5,898.00
UNUSED SICK LEAVE	\$1,750.00
VACATION WAGES	\$0.00
SICK TIME WAGES	\$0.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$5,575.00
GAS/FUEL	\$17,200.00
UNIFORMS/SHOES	\$1,175.00
SUPPLIES/MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$32,050.00
CORPORATION COUNSEL	\$1,000.00
MEMBERSHIP/DUES	\$879.00
CONFERENCE EXPENSES	\$500.00
TRAVEL/MILEAGE EXPENSE	\$6,560.00
TRAINING EXPENSES	\$550.00
EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS	\$3,920.00
PROF.&CONTRACT SVCS/NON-EMPLOYEE	\$22,600.00

IMPREST CASH	\$0.00
POSTAGE	\$935.00
TELEPHONE	\$7,275.00
UTILITIES/REPAIR	\$97,425.00
PRINTING/PUBLICATIONS	\$1,800.00
BOOKS/PRINTED MATERIAL	\$10,135.00
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$33,094.00
EQUIP. MAINT. CONTRACTS	\$600.00
EQUIPMENT REPAIR	\$6,600.00
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$3,900.00
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	\$700.00
SOFTWARE PROGRAMS & UPDATES	\$0.00
ON LINE EXPENSE	\$3,950.00
CREDIT CARD EXPENSE	\$11,500.00
LICENSES/PERMITS	\$2,060.00
BUILDING REPAIR/MAINT.	\$23,025.00
AUDIT EXPENSE	\$2,100.00
INDIRECT COST ALLOCATION	\$28,512.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$575.00
REFUNDS	\$2,926.00
BANK CHARGES	\$100.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$13,000.00
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	\$0.00
LOSS ON SALE OF CAPIAL ASSETS	\$0.00
EQUIPMENT/FURNITURE	\$11,500.00
VEHICLE PURCHASE	\$0.00
DEBT SVC INT.	\$3,745.00
APPROPRIATION TRANSF. OUT	\$0.00
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$3,000.00
COUNTY LOAN	\$25,530.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,017,999.65</b>

**Mecosta County Park Commission  
2014 Budget**

Description - Revenue	Totals
STATE GRANTS	\$ -
OTHER SERVICES	\$ -
SALE OF COUNTY ASSETS	\$5,000.00
CAMPING PARK FEES	\$732,000.00
VEHICLE PERMITS	\$214,000.00
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	\$ -
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	\$ -
REUNDS & REIMBURSEMENTS	\$12,000.00
INSURANCE REFUNDS	\$ -
MISC. REVENUE	\$55,000.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,018,000.00</b>

Description - Expenses	Totals
------------------------	--------

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INSURANCE SUBSTITUTE	\$2,708.00
PER DIEMS	\$5,400.00
REGULAR FULL-TIME WAGES	\$128,544.00
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MERS	\$53,020.00
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$40,600.00
WORKMAN COMPENSATION	\$12,725.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$54,625.00
HEALTHCARE SAVING PROGRAM	\$360.00
DENTAL, VISION, LIFE	\$5,898.00
UNUSED SICK LEAVE	\$1,750.00
VACATION WAGES	\$0.00
SICK TIME WAGES	\$0.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$5,575.00
GAS/FUEL	\$17,200.00
UNIFORMS/SHOES	\$1,175.00
SUPPLIES/MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$32,050.00
CORPORATION COUNSEL	\$1,000.00
MEMBERSHIP/DUES	\$879.00
CONFERENCE EXPENSES	\$500.00
TRAVEL/MILEAGE EXPENSE	\$6,560.00
TRAINING EXPENSES	\$550.00
EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS	\$3,920.00
PROF.&CONTRACT SVCS/NON-EMPLOYEE	\$22,600.00
IMPREST CASH	\$0.00
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EQUIPMENT REPAIR	\$6,600.00
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$3,900.00
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	\$700.00
SOFTWARE PROGRAMS & UPDATES	\$0.00
ON LINE EXPENSE	\$3,950.00

CREDIT CARD EXPENSE	\$11,500.00
LICENSES/PERMITS	\$2,060.00
BUILDING REPAIR/MAINT.	\$23,025.00
AUDIT EXPENSE	\$2,100.00
INDIRECT COST ALLOCATION	\$28,512.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$575.00
REFUNDS	\$2,926.00
BANK CHARGES	\$100.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$13,000.00
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	\$0.00
LOSS ON SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	\$0.00
EQUIPMENT/FURNITURE	\$11,500.00
VEHICLE PURCHASE	\$0.00
DEBT SVC INT.	\$3,745.00
APPROPRIATION TRANSF. OUT	\$0.00
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$3,000.00
COUNTY LOAN	\$25,530.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,017,999.65</b>

VILLAGE OF BARRYTON – PARK BUDGET

***Village of Barryton Budget Work Report FY 13-14***

December 11,2013

<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b><u>ACTUAL</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGETED</u></b>	<b><u>DIFFERENCE</u></b>	<b>% Unencumbered</b>
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
101-000-301 Police Donation	\$3,790.00	\$5,250.00	\$1,460.00	27.8%
101-000-656 Ordinance Fines	\$3,357.85	\$1,500.00	-\$1,857.85	-123.9%
101-000-661 Motor Vehicle Inspections	\$2,905.00	\$1,260.00	-\$1,645.00	-130.6%
101-000-570 Liquor License Fees	\$493.90	\$880.00	\$386.10	43.9%
Totals	\$10,546.75	\$8,890.00	-\$1,656.75	-18.6%
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>				
101-301-601 Motor Vehicle Inspection	\$1,335.00	\$1,200.00	-\$135.00	-11.3%
101-301-703 Wages	\$5,949.75	\$8,500.00	\$2,550.25	30.0%
101-301-713 Workers Comp	\$1,112.00	\$1,200.00	\$88.00	7.3%
101-301-732 Operating Supplies	\$82.84	\$200.00	\$117.16	58.6%
101-301-861 Fuel	\$624.17	\$624.17	\$0.00	0.0%
101-301-930 Vehicle R & M	\$464.03	\$464.03	\$0.00	0.0%
101-301-947 Transfer to Motor Pool	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$850.00	100.0%
101-301-961 LEIN Annual Use	\$99.00	\$400.00	\$301.00	75.3%
Totals	\$9,666.79	\$13,438.20	\$3,771.41	28.1%
<b>GENERAL ACCOUNT</b>				
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
101-000-022 Personal Property Tax	\$2,956.43	\$2,500	-\$456.43	-18.3%
101-000-404 Current Property Tax	\$62,387.60	\$59,000.00	-\$3,387.60	-5.7%
101-000-574 State Revenue Sharing	\$24,394.00	\$29,000	\$4,606.00	15.9%
101-000-578 Metro Act	\$1,347.96	\$1,300	-\$47.96	-3.7%
101-00-609 Fines, Fees and Charges	\$1,295.00	\$1,210.00	-\$85.00	-7.0%
101-000-665 INV Interest Checking	\$43.60	\$50.00	\$6.40	12.8%
101-000-668 Misc. Revenue	\$10,687.79	\$10,000.00	-\$687.79	-6.9%
101-000-699 Fund Transfers	\$26,804.82	\$32,550.00	\$5,745.18	17.7%
101-000-523 USDA Rbeg Grant	\$65,976.37	\$50,000.00	-\$15,976.37	-32.0%
101-000-524 Central Park Grant	\$7,908.00	\$7,908.00	\$0.00	0.0%
101-000-669.2 Equip Rental Local	\$1,691.64	\$1,692	\$0.00	0.0%
101-000-669.20 Equip Rental Major	\$1,112.42	\$1,112.42	\$0.00	0.0%
101-000-669.59 Equip Rental Sewer	\$4,258.98	\$4,258.98	\$0.00	0.0%
Totals	\$210,864.61	\$200,581	-\$10,283.57	-5.1%
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>				
101-101-703 Salaries	\$23,753.13	\$37,700.00	\$13,946.87	37.0%

101-101-713 Worker's Comp	\$998.00	\$500.00	-\$498.00	-99.6%
101-101-715 FICA/Unemployment	\$2,802.43	\$6,000.00	\$3,197.57	53.3%
101-101-830 Memberships/Training	\$485.00	\$485.00	\$0.00	0.0%
101-101-802 Professional Services	\$4,568.50	\$6,600.00	\$2,031.50	30.8%
101-265-925 Utilities	\$22,731.08	\$36,000.00	\$13,268.92	36.9%
101-265-727 Office Equipment/Supplies	\$4,937.65	\$6,000.00	\$1,062.35	17.7%
101-101-729 Postage and Publishing	\$297.85	\$600.00	\$302.15	50.4%
101-101-805 Contractual	\$460.44	\$7,000.00	\$6,539.56	93.4%
101-267-881 Parks/Recreation	\$508.30	\$550.00	\$41.70	7.6%
101-101-955 Insurance Policies	\$9,066.75	\$10,000.00	\$933.25	9.3%
101-901-000 Capital Outlay	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
101-265-932 R & M Building/Park	\$1,701.80	\$2,200.00	\$498.20	22.6%
101-770-601 Central Park Grant Expenses	\$62,770.28	\$63,000.00	\$229.72	0.4%
101-770-991 Farm Market Debt Retire	\$4,513.73	\$4,513.73	\$0.00	0.0%
101-999-999 Transfers Out	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	0.0%
101-289-947 Transfer to Motor Pool	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	100.0%
101-289-861 Gas/Fuel	\$1,485.00	\$1,485.00	\$0.00	0.0%
101-289-930 Vehicle R & M	\$1,201.99	\$1,201.99	\$0.00	0.0%
101-289-931 Equip R & M	\$1,076.62	\$1,076.62	\$0.00	0.0%
101-289-946 Equip Rental	\$2,603.54	\$3,354.00	\$750.46	22.4%
101-289-962 Misc.	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	100.0%
101-289-976 New Equipment	\$4,635.00	\$4,635.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Totals	\$151,997.09	\$198,401.34	\$46,404.25	23.4%
	\$161,663.88			

## BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP – PARK BUDGET

Fund 101: GENERAL OPERATING FUND

2014 FISCAL YEAR

Dept 751: PARKS & RECREATION

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2014 BUDGET
 APPROPRIATIONS		
101-751-702.000	Salary & Wages	2,500.00
101-751-702.070	Park Supvr	2,500.00
101-751-710.000	Twp. Share Medicare Witholding	75.00
101-751-715.000	Twp. Share Soc. Sec. Withholdg	310.00
101-751-727.000	Office Supplies	0.00
101-751-740.000	Operating Supplies	2,500.00
101-751-775.000	Repair & Maintenance Supplies	1,000.00
101-751-801.000	Professional Services	1,000.00
101-751-860.000	Transportation	0.00
101-751-900.000	Printing & Publishing	0.00
101-751-920.000	Public Utilities	350.00
101-751-930.000	Repair & Maintenance	800.00
101-751-956.000	Miscellaneous	0.00
101-751-960.000	Education	0.00
101-751-975.000	Capital Outlay	2,000.00
 Totals for Dept 751-PARKS & RECREATION		 <u>13,035.00</u>

## CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP – PARK BUDGET

The following is the past three year budgetary line item, for Chippewa Township. The Parks and Recreation Budget is a single line item within the township's General Fund Budget. Capital Improvements are budgeted and funded through the general fund as available.

PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET	
YEAR	AMOUNT
2013-14	25,000
2012-13	40,000
2011-12	32,000

### FUNDING

In the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Township budgeted \$ 25,000 in General Fund monies. In 2014-2015 fiscal year \$ 25,000 has been proposed for budgeting. The funding for recreation can only be expected to increase if the tax base increases. If this community is going to intensify its efforts, to supply a better quality of recreation, it will have to gain assistance from state and federal programs.

## RECREATIONAL PROJECT BUDGET ESTIMATES

Please note that the earthwork is difficult to estimate until actual Topographical Surveys are completed.

### Mitchell's Landing

	ITEM	AMOUNT	SUBTOTALS	NOTES
<i>SITE PREPERATION</i>	MOBILIZATION (3% OF TOTAL ESTIMATE)	700.00		
	TOPO SURVEY	600.00		
	SOIL EROSION CONTROL	400.00		
	REMOVE GAURDRAIL	600.00		
	PERMITS	600.00	2900.00	
<i>EARTH WORK</i>				
	EARTH EXCAVATION	500.00		
	SITE RESTORATION	1200.00	1700.00	
<i>DRAINAGE</i>				
	6" PERF. POLY PIPE	1200.00	1200.00	
<i>PAVING &amp; SURFACING</i>				
	6" CONCRETE SIDEWALK (REINF.)	1660.00		
	CONCRETE SEAWALL	3000.00		
	MODULAR UNIT RESTAIRING WALLSTEPS	6650.00		
	PAVER TREADS	2220.00		
	MDOT 21 AA GRAVEL	750.00	14280.00	
<i>SITE FURNITURE</i>				
	BOLLARDS & CHAIN	1750.00		
	LITTER RECEPTACLE	500.00		
	SIGN	600.00	2850.00	
<i>LANDSCAPE</i>				
	BEACH SAND	630.00		
	ORNAMENTAL GRASSES	450.00		
	BOULDERS	2500.00		
	HEAVY RIP RAP	2500.00	6080.00	INC EROSION BLANKET

SUBTOTAL \$29010.00  
 20% CONTINGENCY 5800.00  
 SUBTOTAL \$34812.00  
 A&E 10% FEE 2901.00  
**TOTAL \$37713.00**

**Millett Park**

	ITEM	AMOUNT	SUBTOTALS	NOTES
<i>SITE PREPERATION</i>	MOBILIZATION (3% OF TOTAL ESTIMATE)	3248.00		
	TOPO SURVEY	500.00		
	SOIL EROSION CONTROL	500.00	4248.00	
<i>EARTH WORK</i>	STRIP & RESPREAD TOPSOIL	350.00		
	EARTH EXCAVATION	825.00		
	SITE RESTORATION	1000.00	2175.00	
<i>PAVING &amp; SURFACING</i>				
	4" CONCRETE SIDEWALK (REINF.)	6740.00		
	CURB	2840.00	9580.00	
<i>SITE FURNITURE</i>				
	BENCHES	3600.00		
	LITTER RECEPTACLE	1400.00		
	SIGN	600.00		
	PICNIC TABLES	1600.00		
	BIKE RACK	500.00	7700.00	
<i>LANDSCAPE</i>				
	TREES (DECID.)	2100.00		
	EVERGREEN TREES	1750.00		
	SHRUBS	900.00		
	MULCH	310.00		
	FLOWER PLANTER BEDS	3600.00		
	TRANSPLANT PERINNIALS & NEW PLANTS	1800.00		
	SEEDING	1000.00	11460.00	
<i>CHILDREN PLAY AREA</i>				
	RESILIENT SURFACE	6200.00		
	SAND	970.00		
	TIMBER RAMP & STEPS	1200.00		
	PLAY STRUCTURE	10000.00	18370.00	
<i>LAND AQUISITION</i>				
	PURCHASE ADDITIONAL 3 LOTS	20000.00		
	REMOVE DELAPITADED BLDG.	10000.00		
			30000.00	

SUBTOTAL \$ 83533.00  
 20% CONTINGENT 16706.00  
 A&E 10% FEE 8353.00  
**TOTAL \$ 108592.00**

Community Park - West

	ITEM	AMOUNT	SUBTOTALS	NOTES
<i>SITE PREPERATION</i>	MOBILIZATION (3% OF TOTAL ESTIMATE)	5600.00		
	TOPO SURVEY	2000.00		
	SOIL EROSION CONTROL	1000.00		
	PERMITS & FEES	3500.00	12100.00	
<i>EARTH WORK</i>	STRIP & RESPREAD TOPSOIL	1200.00		
	EARTH EXCAVATION	150.00		
	SITE RESTORATION	1500.00	2850.00	
<i>PAVING &amp; SURFACING</i>				
	4" CONCRETE SIDEWALK (REINF.)	16575.00		
	CONCRETE DRIVE APRON	1000.00		
	CURB	3700.00		
	10' ASPHALT PERIMETER PATH	22300.00		
	ASPHALT PARKING	30000.00		
	PARKING STRIPING	1000.00		
	REINFORCED TURF PARKING	8500.00		
	4" CONCRETE PAD FOR BLEACHER	2500.00	85575.00	
<i>SITE FURNITURE</i>				
	BENCHES	5000.00		
	LITTER RECEPTACLE	1500.00		
	SIGN & MARKERS	3000.00		
	PICNIC TABLES	8000.00		
	BLEACHERS (ALUM.)	2500.00	20000.00	
<i>LANDSCAPE</i>				
	TREES (DECID.)	2000.00		
	EVERGREEN TREES	1000.00		
	SHRUBS	2500.00		
	WETLAND PLANTS	2000.00		
	MULCH	800.00		
	FLOWER PLANTER BEDS	3000.00		
	SEEDING	2000.00		
	FOOT BRIDGE	4700.00	18000.00	
<i>CHILDREN PLAY AREA</i>	RESILIENT SURFACE	25000.00		
	PLAYGROUND EDGING	5000.00		
	PLAY STRUCTURE UPDATE	25000.00		
	FREESTANDING PLAY EQUIPMENT	5000.00		
	HORSESHOE PITS	750.00	60750.00	
<i>BUILDING</i>	COMMUNITY CENTER/TWP OFFICE COMPLEX	250000.00		ACTUAL TO BE DETERMINED
	OUTDOOR DRINKING FOUNTAIN	3000.00		
	DUMPSTER HOUSING	2000.00	255000.00	
<i>BALL DIAMOND LIGHTING</i>		10000.00	10000.00	

NOTE: Community Center/Twp Office Complex may house a basement area, for residents without storm shelters

SUBTOTAL \$464275.00  
 20% CONTINGENCY 92855.00

A&E 10% FEE                    46427.00  
TOTAL                                \$603557.00

Community Park - East

	ITEM	AMOUNT	SUBTOTALS	NOTES
<i>SITE PREPERATION</i>	MOBILIZATION (3% OF TOTAL ESTIMATE)	8100.00		
	TOPO SURVEY	0.00		INC IN CC - WEST
	PERMITS & FEES	4000.00	<b>12100.00</b>	
<i>EARTH WORK</i>	STRIP & RESPREAD TOPSOIL	2250.00		
	EARTH EXCAVATION	12000.00		
	SITE RESTORATION	0.00	<b>14250.00</b>	
<i>PAVING &amp; SURFACING</i>				
	CONCRETE DRIVE APRON	2000.00		
	DRIVEWAY CURB	19000.00		
	10' ASPHALT PERIMETER PATH	22300.00		
	REINFORCED TURF PARKING	16500.00	<b>59800.00</b>	
<i>SITE FURNITURE</i>				
	BENCHES	3000.00		
	LITTER RECEPTACLE	1500.00		
	SIGN & MARKERS	2000.00		
	PICNIC TABLES	4000.00		
	GRILLS	500.00		
	BIKE RACK	500.00	<b>11500.00</b>	
<i>LANDSCAPE</i>				
	TREES (DECID.)	2000.00		
	EVERGREEN TREES	1000.00		
	SHRUBS	1000.00		
	PLANTS	1500.00		
	MULCH	800.00		
	FLOWER PLANTER BEDS	3000.00		
	TOPSOIL	4000.00		
	SEEDING	2000.00	<b>15300.00</b>	
<i>CAMP SITES</i>				
	ELECTRICAL SERVICE HOOK-UPS	15000.00		
	SEWER WASTE HOOK-UPS	10000.00		
	DRINKING WATER HOOK-UPS	6500.00		
	FIRE PIT RINGS	2500.00	<b>34000.00</b>	
<i>CHILDREN PLAY AREA</i>				
	RESILIENT SURFACE	8000.00		
	PLAYGROUND EDGING	3000.00		
	FREESTANDING PLAY EQUIPMENT	10500.00	<b>21500.00</b>	
<i>BUILDING</i>				
	GAZEBO/ PAVILION	15000.00		ACTUAL TO BE DETERMINED
	BATHROOM BUILDING	20000.00		ACTUAL TO BE

				DETERMINED
	ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO BUILDINGS	2000.00		
	SEWER SYSTEM TO FACILITY	5000.00		
	5" WELL	9000.00	<b>51000.00</b>	
<i>LAND AQUISITION</i>	PURCHASE 1.75 ACRES	5000.00	<b>5000.00</b>	

SUBTOTAL           \$224450.00  
 20% CONTINGENCY       44890.00  
 A&E 10% FEE         22445.00  
 TOTAL                **\$291785.00**

**APPENDIX B**  
**VISITOR**  
**QUESTIONNAIRES**

Survey Results - BROWER PARK - 2012

I am a:	SEASONAL CAMPER	NIGHTLY CAMPER	DAY USE
	31	46	6

1. What types of events/shows would you like to see?

CAR	FISHING	ARTS/CRAFTS	BOAT	MUSIC	OTHER
27	34	29	29	52	13

2. Would you like to see events/shows in the parks?

YES  NO

3. We offer programming for children and adults. Please offer your suggestions for other programs in the future:  
SEE COMMENTS PAGES

4. Would you like to see pets allowed in the park?

YES  NO

5. If you were required to pay a fee, would you bring your pet in the park?

YES  NO

6. Would you no longer camp at Brower if pets were allowed?

YES  NO

7. Would you utilize a Picnic Shelter in the park?

YES  NO

8. Are you a Good Sam member?

YES  NO

9. Does the park meet your needs?

YES  NO

10. If you could change one thing about Brower Park, what would it be?

SEE COMMENTS PAGES

11. Would you like to see mooring posts assigned to campsites?

YES  NO

Additional Comments on Mooring Posts:

SEE COMMENTS PAGES

12. If you were required to pay a fee for a mooring post, would you?

YES

18

NO

56

13. If yes, how much would you expect to pay: per week \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month \$\_\_\_\_\_ per season \$\_\_\_\_\_

Per Week		Per Month		Per Season	
RANGE\$\$\$	15	RANGE\$\$\$	25	RANGE\$\$\$	(2) 100
	5		20		(2) 50
	20		40		(3) 100-250
			60		

Survey Results - BROWER PARK - 2012

COMMENTS PAGE 1

3. We offer programming for children and adults. Please offer your suggestions for other programs in the future:

(2) Art Barn opened later after boating time (after dinner). (2) Kids activity guy this year is awesome!

Horseshoe tournaments

(2) Karaoke & Dancing

Music featuring local artists

(2) Morning Yoga/Fitness Program

Another Basketball area up by the field area by big park

Fix cracks in tennis courts

(2) Kids triathlon/ 5K race

Treasure Hunt

Children & Adult Fishing lessons along with how to filet a fish

- (5) More playground equipment/toddler swings
- (2) Hayrides for kids
- (6) Seasonal Camper potluck dinners
- (3) CPR Class
- (4) Baseball/Softball Tournaments & Team Sport Competitions

Children activities during the week

Provide information on Art Barn and Hayrides (advertise)

- (2) Love art barn & kids activities

Move art barn away from the entrance

Fireworks across from Brower was great. Keep this every year.

- (2) RV Garage Sale

- (3) Church service

#### Survey Results - BROWER PARK - 2012

##### COMMENTS PAGE 2

10. If you could change one thing about Brower Park, what would it be?

Better campsites

- (3) Add gravel to existing road way/fill pot holes

Cable TV

- (4) Full Hook ups

- (14) Allow pets

Consistent rule enforcement

More rangers

Patrol is not for park disturbance updates, seniority notes, or drinking stories followed with personal biography

(4) Cleaner showers/improve bathhouses

(2) Lower seasonal rates & add a park sticker with seasonal site

(8) Another new bathhouse

(4) Another fish station with coil hoses

(2) Drag swimming area for Seaweed

Drinking fountains

(6) Internet/better cell phone service

All staff is great

Allow reservations after Labor Day

Drain field for the Point Area

(2) Drinking Water! Stinks and is not drinkable

(4) Enforce rules for Hot Boat weekend

(2) Discounted camping/firewood

Allow bike riding at night with lights

(2) Get rid of pods

Better directions and signs for campsites

Get rid of skunks!

Install a mirror in cabins

10MPH speed limit signs @ crossroads

Point bathroom - doors are too narrow for a walker

Love Brower

Keep lottery the same

(2) Change lottery to registration of camping unit

Night ranger does not stop partying on campsites & sometimes joins in!

(2) Build a pavilion or lodge

Fishing dock on rocks

Rangers walking through my site & on my tent

very clean restrooms - thank you

Install speed bumps near deep water channel

New beach area is great

Sugar Shack is great

Don't need any other entertainment

New cement in launch should have been slanted more

(2) No fishing by boats

Water the grass

Bigger beach

(3) Include seasonal pass and mooring post with seasonal site

Do not allow dogs, we already deal with goose poop

Additional boater safety classes

Lottery info available earlier

Survey Results - BROWER PARK - 2012

COMMENTS PAGE 3

Additional Comments on Mooring Posts:

Assigned mooring posts would cause major issues for nightly campers. 1st come 1st serve is fair for all. If Seasonals are gone for more than 5 days, it should be required they remove their watercraft from post which would solve

some issues for nightly campers If assigning mooring posts does happen, I suggest the lagoon be kept as is now.

Has not been an issue

(6) Only for seasonal sites

(2) \$2100 is enough to pay, NO MORE FEES

How about designated areas for pontoons, boats & jet skis.

(4) Posts for campers only

Install a post by dock @ small boat ramp for loading only

(2) One sticker per car/boat

(3) 1st come 1st serve has worked for years, so why change it

(2) Don't care - always been able to find a post

(2) How do you expect to enforce it? You don't enforce non-campers taking up space in the channel.

You don't have enough posts for everyone who wants one.

(2) Problem is non campers staying overnight on their boats and not paying for anything

If required to pay additional fee for mooring post, may cause us to camp else where

More mooring posts needed

**APPENDIX C  
PUBLIC COMMENT  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Mecosta County Park Commission  
Masterplan Public Hearing Meeting  
City of Big Rapids – Public Safety Building  
November 6, 2013 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Molnar (arrived late), Mr. Perialas, Mr. Stanek, and Mr. Stout.

Members absent: none.

Also present: Mr. Maxwell, Mr. O'Neil, Karen Morningstar – Executive Secretary, Meghan Keenan – Office Asst., James Soriano & Chad Lindsey (Village of Barryton), Heather Bowman (City of Big Rapids), Brenda Polston (Village of Morley) and Jim Chapman (Green Township). (Julie Austin from Chippewa Township called the Administrative Office to state they wished to participate, however, could not attend tonight's meeting due to their Board meeting.)

*Chairman welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing and introduced himself and then began the Power Point Presentation @ 7:00 p.m.*

**2009 – 2013 Masterplan Participants**

Mecosta County Park Commission  
Big Rapids Charter Township  
Chippewa Township  
Village of Barryton

Brenda Polston announced the Rails to Trails Committee is planning on installing limestone on the trail to Grand Rapids.

Chairman discussed the proposed changes to the current plan. Members were asked to think about what needs to be added to the current plan.

*i.e. - White Pine Valley Recreation Area and parcels of land received from the County.* Heather Bowman stated the area school district recreation inventory needs to be updated as the school district has made improvements and further offered to provide the updated information.

Inventory, Statistics and Future Goals was discussed. Mr. Chapman stated the White Pine Valley Recreation Area was designated in 1968 for youth activities in Mecosta County. Mr. Chapman further added an individual he knows has offered to drop a deep well with a hand pump for the area. Mr. O'Neil stated the County has agreed to install a parking lot for this area. Mr. Perialas informed the Committee of the State wide push to utilize central Michigan for equine trails.

The City of Big Rapids currently has a dog park.

Mr. O'Neil stated a walking path around the Hardy and Rogers dams is underway and receiving good support from the Community.

Mr. Chapman asked about commercial recreational opportunities in Davis Bridge or Brower Park such as a water park.

Executive Secretary stated she received a call from Ron Kanitz of the Kiwanis Club, who suggested a drive through Christmas light display along with kids events, such as a splash park with blow up toys for Paris Park or School Section Lake Veteran's Park. Mr. Maxwell added School Section is a perfect location with the stone building. Mr. Chapman stated noise and traffic needs to be considered.

Heather Bowman said a park in White Cloud offers a skate park in the summer and removes the apparatuses in the winter and creates an ice skating park.

Mr. Chapman stated a hovercraft access needs to be added to High-banks park in Big Rapids Charter Township.

Mr. Maxwell added the Park Commission could possibly add park models in the areas of the parks currently not being utilized.

Full hook up is popular and the Park Commission needs to think about adding this to all parks. We need to look at the ratio through Campground Master to determine the demand for primitive, regular and full hook up sites. Brenda Polston stated Mecosta Pines just added cement pads with a small storage building to all of their seasonal sites.

Chairman asked when the Park Commission should stop putting money into a bleeding horse. Chairman added the Park Commission is possibly considering selling some property in order to obtain funds to maintain other areas. Our infrastructure is deteriorating. How can we increase our income so we can do more? The Mecosta County Park Commission is self-sufficient and receives no tax dollars. This is the most pressing issue in the next five year Masterplan. Heather Bowman informed the Committee, if property is sold, grant funds will not be considered for a certain period of time.

Historical aspects of the Park Commission were discussed.

The timeline for submitting the Masterplan document was reviewed.

Members were encouraged to send all information to the Administrative Office to be "pooled" and distributed to all participants.

Thank you to everyone for attending tonight's Public Hearing Meeting.

*Meeting ended at 8:13 p.m.*

12/31/13  
The Pioneer Group  
115 N. Michigan Big Rapids MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 796-4831  
Fax: (231) 796-1152

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMM  
22250 NORTHLAND DR  
PARIS, MI 49338  
Ad Description: 2014-2018 Masterplan  
Size: 1.00 x 2.11  
Salesperson: Debbie Prince  
Publication Cost \$51.60  
Adjustments \$0.00  
Net Cost \$51.60  
Prepaid Amount \$0.00  
Amount Due \$51.60  
**Publication Run Date Cost**  
01 Pioneer  
Insertion 1/3/14 \$25.80

Insertion 1/4/14 \$25.80

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The Mecosta County Park Commission, Big Rapids Charter Township, Village of Barryton and Chippewa Township have created a joint Recreation Masterplan. The Draft 2014-2018 Masterplan can be viewed on the Mecosta County Park Commission website: [www.mecostacountyparks.com](http://www.mecostacountyparks.com). A copy will also be placed at the Big Rapids Charter Township Hall, Village of Barryton Office, Chippewa Township Hall and the Mecosta County Park Commission Administrative Office in Paris.

12/31/13  
The Pioneer Group  
115 N. Michigan Big Rapids MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 796-4831  
Fax: (231) 796-1152

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMM  
22250 NORTHLAND DR  
PARIS, MI 49338  
Ad Description: Public input Feb 3, 2014  
Size: 1.00 x 1.48  
Salesperson: Debbie Prince  
Publication Cost \$15.60  
Adjustments \$0.00  
Net Cost \$15.60  
Prepaid Amount \$0.00  
Amount Due \$15.60  
**Publication Run Date Cost**  
01 Pioneer  
Insertion 1/24/14 \$15.60

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The Mecosta County Park Commission, Big Rapids Charter Township, Village of Barryton and Chippewa Township have created a joint Recreation Masterplan and will be soliciting public input during a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 3, 2014 to be held at the City of Big Rapids Public Services Building, 435 N MI Ave, Big Rapids, MI.

**Mecosta County Park Commission  
Masterplan Public Hearing Meeting  
City of Big Rapids – Public Safety Building  
February 3, 2014 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Molnar, Mr. Perialas, and Mr. Stout.

Members absent: Mr. Stanek.

Also present: Mr. O’Neil, Gary Rasmussen – Superintendent, Karen Morningstar – Executive Secretary, Julie Austin – Chippewa Township and Jim Chapman (Green Township).

A printed copy of the draft Masterplan was available for review.

Mr. Molnar (on behalf of the Chairman) welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing for the final draft of the Mecosta County Park Commission Recreation Masterplan and opened the floor to Public Comment. Hearing no public comment, Mr. Molnar asked if everyone had a chance to review the document. Those in attendance, stated yes.

Mr. Chapman asked about the plans for the property near the “boy scout grounds area” (an area designated for the youth of Mecosta County). Mr. Molnar stated the area is now being called the White Pine Valley Recreation Area and read the section from the Masterplan regarding the area. Mr. Chapman also asked about the other property in Rodney donated to the Park Commission from the County. Mr. O’Neil stated the Park Commission is looking at selling this property, which has already been surveyed. Mr. Chapman then asked about the third parcel donated to the Park Commission from the County. Mr. O’Neil stated the Park Commission is looking at options for this parcel.

Adoption of this document and a Resolution for each agency is a necessary part of this plan.

February 5<sup>th</sup> – Chippewa Adoption date

February 6<sup>th</sup> – County of Mecosta approval date

February 11<sup>th</sup> – Big Rapids Charter Township Adoption date

February 1<sup>th</sup> – Village of Barryton Adoption date

February 18<sup>th</sup> – Mecosta County Parks Adoption date

Completed Masterplan to be sent to the DNR before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Molnar commented we are on track for putting everything together and thanked everyone for their help on the plan. This plan will be a useful tool to apply for future funding.

Thank you to everyone for attending tonight’s Public Hearing Meeting.

*Meeting ended at 7:30 p.m. as no further public comment to be heard.*

APPENDIX C  
ACCEPTANCE  
RESOLUTIONS &  
MEETING MINUTES

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
February 18, 2014

The FEBRUARY 18, 2014 meeting was called to order by the Chairman at the Administrative office in Paris, MI, at 6:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Molnar, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Perialas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stout, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Wheeler.  
MEMBERS ABSENT: none.  
Also present: Gary Rasmussen – Superintendent and Karen Morningstar-Executive Secretary.

**Approval of Agenda and Additional Items:** Superintendent reviewed the additional items to be placed on the Agenda with the Board. Mr. Stanek moved, seconded by Mr. Stout to approve of the agenda and additional items. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** January 21, 2014 Board Meeting, February 3, 2014 Masterplan Public Hearing Meeting and February 4, 2104 Concession Building Committee Meeting: Mr. Stout moved, seconded by Mr. Molnar to accept the January 21, 2014 Board Meeting, February 3, 2014 Masterplan Public Hearing Meeting and February 4, 2014 Concession Building Committee Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** none.

**Reports and Updates:**

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent briefly reviewed the monthly report sent to the Board.

**Incident/Accident Reports:** none.

**Seasonal Hiring:** Superintendent reported about a dozen positions need to be filled as most of the staff from last season is presumed to be returning based upon the return cards. Superintendent has set up advertising on the Michigan Talent Bank and Michigan Works! will be accepting applications on behalf of MCPC. Additionally, notices will be posted in local communities near our parks and in local papers. Superintendent was encouraged to look at Brooke Whipple for a management position if needed.

**On-Line Reservations:** kicked off on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently a total of 502 reservations have been accepted totaling \$69,868.00 net revenue. Credit Card processing fees were discussed. Chairman stated he emailed information from another Credit Card processor early this evening.

**Grand Rapids Show Report:** as written by Don French (Brower Manager) was reviewed along with the brochure spreadsheet.

**Revenue vs. Expenses:** Board members were curious about actual revenues and expenses for the parks as compared to how they are charged for supplies in the spring at the January board meeting. Superintendent presented a spreadsheet detailing per park revenue and expenses and discussed the difficulties in accurately charging each park due to bulk pre-season purchases of supplies.

**Correspondence:** none.

**Financial:** Revenue vs. Expenses was reviewed by the Superintendent and Finance Chairman. Finance Chairman noted the floor for the fund balance should be no lower than \$200,000 in order to

cover bills and salaries in emergency situations. He further commented documentation could not be found that indicated the MCPC fund balance was near \$700,000 anytime recently and discussion followed regarding how the numbers could have been incorrect in the past. Cash sheet was also reviewed.

Approval of Bills: Mr. Vogel moved, seconded by Mr. Molnar, for the approval of the bills, including the customary & ordinary and the transfer of funds. Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Septic Tank Bids:* Superintendent informed the Board that we requested new bids due to being short on responses the first time we advertised. Bid requests were sent out directly to five contractors and we received only one new bid, from Kerkstra, along with the bid received last month from Security Septic Tanks out of Alma, MI. Kerkstra's bid (.15/gallon) was opened and compared to Security Septic Tanks (.12/gallon). License and proper Insurance were verified. Mr. Stanek moved, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to contract with Security Septic Tanks, Inc. for the 2014 season. Motion carried.

*DNR Lease/Rental:* Chairman notified the Board of a meeting that took place this morning with Paul Bullock (County Controller) and the Superintendent regarding the 30 page document which included an enormous amount of "boiler plate language". Renovation costs are about \$9,000 in which the DNR has agreed to contribute up to \$4,000 of these expenses. Superintendent will keep the Board posted on the progress.

*Public Comment:* Chairman noted the new uniforms staff is wearing and asked about the uniform plans for the upcoming season. Superintendent stated the tan shirts have been sorted and inventoried and that all uniforms found to be in poor condition have been removed from inventory. Superintendent is planning on ordering staff shirts soon.

#### ***Other Business:***

*ATIS Technology Systems:* Jerry Holmes of ATS (formerly Tucker Communications) was present to inform the Board his company is capable of "lighting up the parks" with WIFI service. They have already "lit up" Tubbs Lake Resort. Mr. Holmes will put together a proposal for the Board indicating a percentage paid to MCPC for allowing them into the parks along with direct customer billing, MCPC billing the customers and adding the fees to the nightly camping rates. The range of their system is 5-15 Miles. Technical support (currently two technicians are on duty) for about 20 hours per day – seven days per week. Mr. Stratton strongly suggested obtaining bids from other companies and having the Masterplan Committee review the information received.

Mr. Holmes also stated he has a different company called Star 2 Star and offered literature including a phone system.

Mr. Stanek stated the importance order of the parks would be Brower, Merrill/Gorrel, School Section then Paris.

*Concession Building Committee Meeting Date and Time:* was set for March 12, 2014 @ 3:00 p.m. Mr. Molnar added in reading the minutes, that the public in attendance offered to help and suggested putting together a volunteer committee who sees the project from start to finish and when it comes to the financials, they must come before the Board for action, other than that, we are hands off. Executive Secretary was directed to notify the members of the public who attended the last meeting of the

meeting date change. Mr. Maxwell stated we should use park reserve funds for the project to protect the building from further deterioration. Several members objected to this suggestion, stating that we need to look for financial help from those wanting to save the building. Mr. Maxwell stated in September he would raise funds for the building, but this has not come to fruition. The Board would like to know where the money is coming from. Mr. Stout added the Board has run into dead ends for multiple years with this building and that we need a solid plan before asking for money or committing to any part of a project on the building.

*Masterplan Approval & Resolution:* after review and corrections, the following Resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY RECREATION MASTERPLAN**

WHEREAS, the Mecosta County Park Commission of Mecosta County has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2018, and

WHEREAS, the public hearing session was held on February 3, 2014 at the Big Rapids Public Safety Building to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Mecosta County Park Commission has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Mecosta County Park Commission voted to adopt said Recreation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mecosta County Park Commissioners hereby adopts the Mecosta County Park Commission Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Mecosta County.

Moved by Commissioner Dave Molnar, seconded by Commissioner Bill Stanek and carried on roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays 0 absent.

I, hereby, certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION at its meeting held on February 18, 2014.

February 18, 2014

---

Steve Perialas- Chairman – Mecosta County Park Commission

*Marketing Committee Meeting Date & Time:* was set for February 27, 2014 @ 3:30 p.m.

*County Truck:* Mr. Maxwell informed the Board of the Road Commission's offer to grade the roads in the parks this summer if the Park Commission donates the grader truck "Big Red" back to the Road Commission. After much discussion, the Board would like to see a written agreement. Mr. Maxwell added brining the roads might be an issue in the near future. Staff was directed to put together a proposal and have ready for the March 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Mr. O'Neil asked if anything is being planned regarding the expansion of the larger bathhouse at School Section. Mr. Stanek stated that it was essentially on hold because it was only an expansion as opposed to necessary upkeep, and because the smaller restroom building at the park, like the Hatchery building, needs a new roof as soon as possible. Regarding the expansion of the main bathhouse, we did pay for plans and then applied for a grant, but did not commit to the construction due to the failure to procure the grant funds. Superintendent stated the Brower Sunny Acres Bathhouse may not be completed until later due to the weather. Brower does not need this bathhouse open until late May according to the park manager. Superintendent also mentioned that there might be grant funds available for the Hatchery building roof through a DNR Fisheries program and that this needs looking into.

Superintendent also informed the Board that we are plowing the parking area of Davis Bridge for the first time due to the large amount of snow accumulation this winter.

*Adjournment:* Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jackie Fitzgerald  
Secretary

APPROVED

Village of Barryton  
February 12, 2014  
Regular Meeting Minutes

President Jim Soriano called the Village Council to order at 6:30pm

Pledge to the flag was cited

Roll Call: Jim Soriano-present, Donna McCoy-present, Melissa Lazzaro-present, Amy Soriano-present, Doug Yauch-present

Barryton Police Report: Chief John Bongard read the report. The report will be posted around town.

A motion was made by Jim Soriano to allow Chief Bongard to assist local businesses in collecting for bad checks with a fifteen dollar fee being assessed by the Barryton Police Department, seconded by Donna McCoy. Roll Call all yeses motion passes

A motion was made by Doug Yauch to increase Chief Bongard's Operating Supplies budget line by \$1300 to purchase needed supplies for the Barryton Police Department, seconded by Dona McCoy. Roll Call all yeses motion passes.

Zoning Report: Chad spoke on the piles of snow on the corners of M-66 and informed council that the Road commission will push those corners back either this week or early next week.

The Village of Barryton would like to thank the road commission for this service.

Chad presented a quote from Charlie's Heating and cooling because there is a heater at the barn that is not working.

A motion was made by Doug Yauch to contract Charlie's Heating and Cooling to repair the heat at the barn distributed between all funds, 40% General, 40% Sewer and 10% each Major and Local Streets for a total amount of \$486.00, seconded by Donna McCoy, roll call all yeses motion passes.

Minutes of regular meeting January 8, 2014 and public hearing minutes for January 8, 2014. Motion by Jim Soriano, seconded by Amy Soriano to accept the minutes as presented with an amendment to approval of the bills. All ayes. Motion passes

Motion by Melissa Lazzaro, seconded by Donna McCoy to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Roll call: Jim Soriano-yes, Melissa Lazzaro-yes, Donna McCoy-yes, Amy Soriano-yes, Doug Yauch-yes. Motion passes.

APPROVED

"The Village of Barryton is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

APPROVED

Motion by Amy Soriano, seconded by Jim Soriano to pay general fund bills with check #14940 to #14944 and #14947 to #14972 and EFT1 for \$11,095.07; sewer fund bills with check #2897 to #2904 and 0(EFT) for \$56014.71; street fund bills with check #940 for \$603.36 and check # 1003 for \$605.49; solid waste fund bills with check #659, #661 and #662 for \$2046.44; and Motor Pool Fund Bills with check # 1011-#1016 for \$1287.13  
Roll call: Jim Soriano-yes, Melissa Lazzaro-yes, Donna McCoy-yes, Amy Soriano-yes, Doug Yauch-yes. Motion passes.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence

Mark, a representative of from the Big Rapids housing Commission discussed the community development grant.

Carol Block spoke to the council about an event that she wishes to do in July.

A motion was made by Jim Soriano to allow Carol Block representing Mecosta County Military Families in Need to organize a function that the Village of Barryton will host on July 5, 2014, seconded by Melissa Lazzaro, roll call all yeses motion passes

Amy Soriano made a motion to extend the meeting past 8:30, seconded by Melissa Lazzaro all ayes motion passes.

Jim Soriano made a motion to take a ten minute break, seconded by Doug Yauch, all ayes motion passes.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:36.

A resolution was read to approve/adopt the Master plan for Mecosta County.

Amy Soriano made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the Master Plan for Mecosta County, seconded by Donna McCoy, roll call all yeses motion passes.

Jim Soriano made a motion to accept the contract with the State of Michigan Department of Treasury for this year's audit in the amount of \$8000.00, seconded by Melissa Lazzaro, roll call all yeses motion passes.

Jim Soriano made a motion to accept Amy Soriano's resignation as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer seconded by Donna McCoy, all ayes motion passes.

Jim Soriano made a motion to appoint Melissa Lazzaro as the new Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, seconded by Doug Yauch roll call all yeses Melissa abstain motion passes.

A motion was made by Amy Soriano to accept the donation by the Weill/Clark family of the property of 354 Northern Ave., seconded by Donna McCoy, roll call all yeses motion passes.

APPROVED

"The Village of Barryton is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

APPROVED

Jim Soriano made a motion to go through shred experts to destroy documents that the State of Michigan requires the Village to have destroyed not to exceed \$80, seconded by Doug Yauch roll call all yeses motion passes.

A motion was made by Jim Soriano to adopt a new Mission Statement for the Village of Barryton to be "Our Mission is to create and build a better community, always seeking to leave a greater legacy than those who came before us and expecting those who come after to do the same, seconded by Doug Yauch all yeses motion passes

Jim Soriano made a motion to table all agenda items that were not discussed to a special meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> as well as a motion to adjourn, seconded by Melissa Lazzaro, all ayes motion passes

Adjourned at 9:25 pm



Jennifer Trelfa-Village Clerk

APPROVED

"The Village of Barryton is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014  
HELD AT THE BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP OFFICES  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Stanek, Gilbert, Currie, Hamelund, Jensen, Zimmerman present.  
Toogood absent. All lead in the Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

**CORRESPONDENCE: Walton Erickson Public Library:** So Noted and Filed.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES:** A motion to approve with correction was made by Hamelund. Seconded by Zimmerman. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT:** Approved as printed

**MONTHLY REPORTS:**

1. **Fire Department:** Written
2. **Building Department:** Written
3. **Sewer Department:** Written
4. **Water Department:** Written
5. **Cemetery Committee:** None
6. **Mining Ordinance Committee:** None
7. **Industrial Park Committee:** Written
8. **Supervisor:** Written

A motion to accept reports was made by Hamelund Seconded by Zimmerman.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Industrial Park Timber:** Three bids were received: Devereaux Saw Mill; \$8100.00, Merrill Wood Products; \$4351.00, Atwood Timber and Lumber; \$6648.00. A motion to sell to Devereaux Saw Mill for \$8100.00 was made by Curried. Seconded by Gilbert. Motion carried on roll call vote.
2. **Road Committee Appointments:** A motion to accept the supervisor's appointments to the road committee and all other 2014 committees was made by Hamelund. Seconded by Zimmerman. Motion carried.
3. **Video Taping of Meetings:** A motion to take off the videos currently on the township website and have nothing to do with current videotaping was made by Hamelund. Seconded by Zimmerman. Motion carried on roll call vote. Hamelund; yes, Zimmerman; yes, Jensen; no, Currie; no, Gilbert; yes, Stanek; yes.

2. **Pictometry Proposal:** David Kirwin presented to the board a proposal for the purchasing in on pictometry for the township. A motion to authorize the supervisor to sign the contract for the pictometry not to exceed \$6000.00. Seconded by Zimmerman. Motion carried on roll call vote.
3. A motion to stay with BS&A Assessing services for the 2014/2014 cycle was made by Currie. Seconded by Gilbert. Motion carried. Hamelund a no.
4. **Fire Department Purchase Request:** A motion to approve the purchase of the Lucas machine was made by Currie. Motion carried on roll call vote.
5. **Industrial Park Committee Request:** A motion to get rid of all old industrial park literature and precede with creating up to date materials to be presented to the board for approval was made by Zimmerman. Seconded by Currie. Motion carried.
6. **Zoning Administrator Wages:** A motion to give Stanek ½ (\$4000.00) of the zoning administrator wage and relook at next month with knowledge of when master classes are offered was made by Hamelund. Seconded by Zimmerman. Motion carried on roll call vote.
7. **Sewer Rate Review:** A motion to authorize the supervisor to sign the 2014 Wastewater User Charge System rate review was made by Hamelund. Seconded by Zimmerman. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:** A motion to approve the payment of bills presented in the amount of \$47,997.91 and payroll on the amount of \$12,887.87 was made by Currie. Seconded by Hamelund. Motion carried on roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Bob Maguire

**ADJOURNMENT:**  
Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm

  
Clerk

  
Supervisor

**CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP**

February 6, 2014

Supervisor, George Griffis, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Chippewa Township Community Building.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** George Griffis, Ilene Stein, Julie Austin, Kristin Lytle and Nancy Helzerman

**Absent:** None

*Let the record show a quorum of the Chippewa Township Board was present.*

**MOTION J.Austin/K.Lytle to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2014 regular meeting. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION J.Austin/K.Lytle to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2014 special meeting and Chippewa Lake Weed Control District Public Hearing. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION K.Lytle/N.Helzerman to approve the Treasurer's Report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

Travis Palmer questioned the Board regarding the Chippewa Township Park Committee, which had disbanded in early 2013. Mr. Palmer was informed that the 2014-2018 Chippewa Township Recreation Masterplan is in conjunction with the Mecosta County Park Commission Recreation Masterplan. The 30 day review has been completed and the Public Hearing was held on February 3, 2014. The Masterplan is the final resolution stage. Meeting notices were in the Pioneer paper, posted at the Mecosta County Park Commission Office and the Chippewa Township Hall. Notice was also given on the Chippewa Township website and the Mecosta County Park Commission website. The Township Board would be in favor of reinstating the Chippewa Township Park Committee for the purpose of fundraising, for the planned projects.

**RESOLUTION MOVED BY MEMBER J. AUSTIN, SECONDED BY MEMBER K. LYTLE TO ADOPT THE 2014-2018 CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP, MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, RECREATION MASTERPLAN. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – AUSTIN, LYTLE, HELZERMAN, GRIFFIS AND STEIN. NAYS – NONE - ABSTAIN/ABSENT – NONE. RESOLUTION CARRIED.**



A CMS Energy Company

February 7, 2014

Bill Stanek  
Master Plan Committee Chairman  
Mecosta County Park Commission  
22250 Northland Dr  
Paris, MI 49338

RE: HARDY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, FILE 2452-22  
RECREATION MASTER PLAN FOR 2014-2018

The Mecosta County Recreation Master Plan for 2014–2018, which includes Brower Park and Davis Bridge Park has been reviewed and is hereby approved as submitted.

We offer the following comments:

- The proposed future addition of a primitive campground at Davis Bridge Park: Consumers Energy is not opposed to this addition, however support for this project from FERC and the Resource Agencies is unknown at this time. Consumers would be willing to take your proposal once submitted, to the Agencies and FERC for their review.
- The addition of rustic cabins and pavilion at Brower Park: Consumers is not opposed to the proposed additions. Before proceeding, Consumers must review the location, size and layout of the pavilion and each cabin.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Brooke McTaggart, Administrator  
Land & Recreation Management  
Hydro Operations  
[brooke.mctaggart@cmsenergy.com](mailto:brooke.mctaggart@cmsenergy.com)  
(231) 779-5511

cc: File  
Gary Rasmussen, MCPC Superintendent  
RDCastle, Cadillac

**MECOSTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

Chair Jerry Williams called the evening session of the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 P.M. in Commission Room 102 of the County Courthouse. All those present stood and recited the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

Commissioners present on roll call: Jerry Williams, Marilynn Vargo, Linda Howard, Ray Steinke, Art Adleman, Eric O'Neil and William Routley.

Others present: Paul Bullock, County Controller and Marcee Purcell, Mecosta County Clerk.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS:**

R. Steinke moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of New Business 6-8 – Mecosta County Resolution #2014-02 – Amending EMS Fee Schedule. M. Vargo seconded; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

E. O'Neil moved to approve the February 6, 2014 Board Minutes as presented. W. Routley seconded; motion carried.

**PUBLIC MATTERS & COMMENTS:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**5.1 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

W. Routley moved that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month evening Board Meeting be scheduled at an afternoon time starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. R. Steinke seconded; roll call vote 4 yeas, 3 nays [Williams, Howard, O'Neil]; motion carried.

R. Steinke moved that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month Board Meeting begin at 1:00 p.m. starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. M. Vargo seconded; roll call vote 5 yeas, 2 nays [Howard, O'Neil]; motion carried.

**SCHEDULED APPEARANCE:**

Phil Potvin, 102<sup>nd</sup> State Representative, appeared before the Board to report on what's happening in Lansing.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**6.1 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE FOR NEW ORTHO PHOTOGRAPHY**

A. Adleman moved that the County partner with the State for new ortho photography in 2014 at a cost of \$13,558.12 from the Equalization Revolving Fund 646. L. Howard seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**6.2 RESOLUTION #2014-01 ELECTING TO CONTINUE THE LOCAL AUDIT OF THE PRE PROGRAM**

A. Adleman moved to adopt and place on file Mecosta County Resolution #2014-01 – To Elect to Audit “Homeowner’s Principal Residence Exemptions” for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2019. M. Vargo seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**6.3 COA – TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE**

E. O’Neil moved to adopt the presented Title VI Program Update prepared by COA Director Cynthia Mallory. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**6.4 COA – UNITED WAY GRANT APPLICATION**

A. Adleman moved to approve the request from the Meals Program Coordinator to submit The United Way grant application requesting \$15,000 for the Meals on Wheels program. L. Howard seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**6.5 COA – UPS GRANT APPLICATION**

A. Adleman moved to authorize Cynthia Mallory to apply for a UPS grant, which would go towards replacing the flooring in the Senior Center. M. Vargo seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**6.6 MECOSTA COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN**

E. O’Neil moved to accept and place on file the Mecosta County Park’s Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018. R. Steinke seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**6.7 MECOSTA COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

Marcee Purcell, Mecosta County Clerk, appeared before the Board and gave the Clerk’s Office 2013 Annual Report.

E. O’Neil moved to accept and place on file the 2013 Annual Report. L. Howard seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**Proposed Resolution of Intent to Extend Fixed Millages – Administrator**

E. O’Neil moved that a resolution of intent to extend Fixed Millages be placed on the March 6<sup>th</sup> Agenda for consideration. W. Routley seconded; motion carried.

**Fuel Depot Maintenance Request – Administrator**

E. O’Neil moved that the County make payment of \$3,777.03 for upgrades to the shared fuel depot from 101 999 – Appropriations, and that the budget be amended to add the funds from Unreserved Contingency. R. Steinke seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**Other Business:**

None

**Listed Vouchers –**

E. O'Neil moved to pay the pre-approved vouchers in the amount of \$511,958.63 and approve and pay non-approved vouchers in the amount of \$53,680.83. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

E. O'Neil reported attending Finance Committee, Parks Commission, Building & Zoning Committee and tonight's Commission Meeting.

L. Howard reported attending Chamber Business after Hours and tonight's Commission Meeting.

W. Routley reported attending Building & Grounds Committee, Finance Committee, COA Committee, City Manager's Meeting, EMS Committee and tonight's Commission Meeting.

A. Adleman reported attending Building & Grounds Committee, Equalization Committee, Town and Gown, Austin Township, COA Committee, Building & Zoning Committee and tonight's Commission Meeting.

M. Vargo reported attending Colfax Township, Department of Human Services Meeting, Human Services Collaborative, YAC Committee and tonight's Commission Meeting.

R. Steinke reported attending Hinton Township, LEPT Meeting, Aetna Township, Deerfield Township, Central Dispatch Meeting, Finance Committee, MOTA Meeting, Building & Zoning Committee, EMS Committee and tonight's Commission Meeting.

**EMS:**

R. Steinke moved to approve the January contractual write-offs of \$59,983.59, non-contractual write-offs of \$4,211.13 and collection write-offs of \$15,533.01. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

R. Steinke moved to approve Mr. Ladd's request to secure laundry services from West Michigan Shared Laundry Services of Grand Rapids at a cost of \$250/week. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

R. Steinke moved to approve Mr. Ladd's request to purchase a 2014 Osage ambulance for \$134,640 from Kodiak Emergency Vehicles of Lansing. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

R. Steinke moved that the Administrator be authorized to commit up to \$5,000 for feasibility/engineering studies for a morgue facility from Building Improvement funds. W. Routley seconded; roll call vote 7 yeas, 0 nays; motion carried.

R. Steinke moved to accept and authorized the Chair to sign the Fiscal Year 2012 Emergency Management Performance Grant #EMW-2012-EP-00033. W. Routley seconded; motion carried.

J. Williams reported attending Road Commission, Finance Committee, EMS Committee and tonight's Commission Meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

No additional report.

**PUBLIC MATTERS & COMMENTS:**

None

**MISCELLANEOUS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

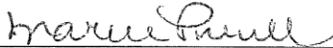
E. O'Neil moved that the Administrator research and bring a proposal to the Board in regard to using an electronic version of the Agenda and board packets on iPads or tablets for the Commission. W. Routley seconded; motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS, MINUTES & REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS:**

M. Vargo moved to accept and place on file Minutes & Reports #1-4 and Resolution #1.  
E. O'Neil seconded; motion carried.

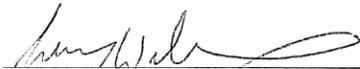
**ADJOURNMENT:**

E. O'Neil moved to adjourn to the next regular scheduled meeting or call of the Chair.  
R. Steinke seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.



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Marcee M. Purcell, Mecosta County Clerk and  
Clerk for the Board of Commissioners



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Jerry Williams, Chair  
Mecosta County Board of Commissioners

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF MECOSTA COUNTY PARK  
COMMISSION COMMUNITY RECREATION MASTERPLAN**

WHEREAS, the Mecosta County Park Commission of Mecosta County has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2018, and

WHEREAS, the public hearing session was held on February 3, 2014 at the Big Rapids Public Services Building to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Mecosta County Park Commission has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Mecosta County Park Commission voted to adopt said Recreation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mecosta County Park Commissioners hereby adopts the Mecosta County Park Commission Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Mecosta County.

Moved by Commissioner Dave Molnar, seconded by Commissioner Bill Stanek and carried on roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays 0 absent.

I, hereby, certify, that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION at it's meeting held on February 18, 2014.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Perlas - Chairman - Mecosta County Park Commission

February 18, 2014

## Village of Barryton Resolution

The Village of Barryton Council approves the Master Plan for Mecosta County as written and submitted.

Motion to adopt resolution by council member:

Seconded by council member:

Roll call vote:

James Soriano: *yes*

Doug Yauch: *yes*

Amy Soriano: *yes*

Donna McCoy: *yes*

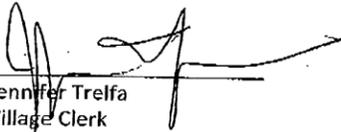
Melissa Lazzaro: *yes*

Yes: *5*

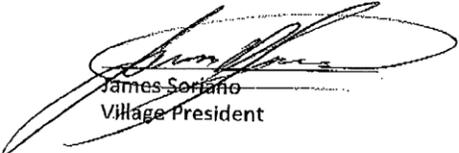
No: *0*

Absent: *0*

Date: February 12, 2014



Jennifer Trelfa  
Village Clerk



James Soriano  
Village President

"In accordance with the Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, and reprisal. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)"

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Recreational Master Plan Resolution:** A motion to approve Resolution NO: 2014-01 was made by Gilbert. Seconded by Hamelund. Motion carried on roll call vote.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BIG RAPIDS  
RECREATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION NO: 2014-01**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Big Rapids has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2018, and

**WHEREAS**, a public comment session was held Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Big Rapids Public Safety to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Big Rapids has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Charter Township of Big Rapids hereby adopts the Charter Township of Big Rapids Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Big Rapids.

Yeas: 6  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1

I, Sherri Gilbert, Charter Township of Big Rapids Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Charter Township of Big Rapids Board at a Regular Meeting held on the 4th day of February, 2014.



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Sherri Gilbert, Clerk  
BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION  
TOWNSHIP OF CHIPPEWA, MECOSTA COUNTY MICHIGAN  
RECREATION MASTERPLAN

**WHEREAS**, THE Board of the Township of Chippewa of Mecosta County, Michigan has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2018, and

**WHEREAS**, the public comment session was held on February 3, 2014 at the Big Rapids Public Safety Building to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, with the Township of Chippewa has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, at the regular monthly meeting of the Chippewa Township Board, held on February 5, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Chippewa Township Community Building, within the township, voted to adopt said Recreation Plan.

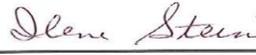
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Chippewa Township Board hereby adopts the Chippewa Township Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Chippewa Township.

Moved by member J. Austin, seconded by member R. Lytle  
and carried on roll call of 5 yeas, 0 nays.

I, hereby, certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Chippewa Township Board at its meeting held on February 5, 2014:

February 5, 2014

  
George Griffis, Supervisor  
Chippewa Township

  
Ilene Stein, Clerk  
Chippewa Township

January 3, 2014

West Michigan Regional Planning Commission  
820 Monroe N.W. Suite 214  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is the completed draft copy of the Master Plan for the Mecosta County Park Commission, Big Rapids Charter Township, Chippewa Township and the Village of Barryton.

This document is available for review by the public at each participant's main office, as well as at the Big Rapids Public Library.

Please review our Master Plan and include any comments or questions to the Mecosta County Park Commission to be reviewed at our public hearing which will be held on February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Big Rapids Public Services Building.

Thank you,

Bill Stanek  
Masterplan Committee Chairman  
Mecosta County Park Commission

January 3, 2014

Mecosta County Planning Commission  
14485 Northland Dr.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is the completed draft copy of the Master Plan for the Mecosta County Park Commission, Big Rapids Charter Township, Chippewa Township and the Village of Barryton.

This document is available for review by the public at each participant's main office, as well as at the Big Rapids Public Library.

Please review our Master Plan and include any comments or questions to the Mecosta County Park Commission to be reviewed at our public hearing which will be held on February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Big Rapids Public Services Building.

Thank you,

Bill Stanek  
Masterplan Committee Chairman  
Mecosta County Park Commission

January 3, 2014

Consumers Energy  
330 Chestnut Street  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
ATTN: Brooke McTaggart

Dear Brooke:

Enclosed is the completed draft copy of the Master Plan for the Mecosta County Park Commission, Big Rapids Charter Township, Chippewa Township and the Village of Barryton.

This document is available for review by the public at each participant's main office, as well as at the Big Rapids Public Library.

Please review our Master Plan and include any comments or questions to the Mecosta County Park Commission to be reviewed at our public hearing which will be held on February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Big Rapids Public Services Building.

Thank you,

Bill Stanek  
Masterplan Committee Chairman  
Mecosta County Park Commission