

Public Participation & Needs Assessment

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan that improves the parks and recreation system. Needs expressed by residents provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives as well as identify areas for capital improvements. To assess the public's desires, the Township employs several methods that give people various opportunities to have their opinions heard.

As standard procedure, Highland Charter Township holds regularly scheduled meetings for the Township Board, the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Committee. All meetings are open to the public, and the Township encourages attendance and participation through public notices and its web site (www.highlandtwp.com). Township staff is also available to listen to resident's ideas and comments.

Special efforts were also made to obtain public opinion on the update to the Recreation Master Plan through a visioning meeting and a special opinion survey.

Visioning Meeting

A public meeting was held in October, 2008 that was designed to solicit residents' opinions about the goals and action items in the current Recreation Master Plan. This meeting was well advertised through the Township's website, flyers at the Township Hall, announcements at various recreation group and Township meetings and events, and through a newspaper article in the *Milford Times* and the *Spinal Column*.

The meeting was attended by 41 residents, some of whom represented various recreation groups and civic organizations, as well as Township officials and

staff. After a brief orientation, the larger group was broken up into six small groups. Each small group was given one or two of the current Plan's goals and actions, and was asked to discuss them, and make recommendations for changes based on their ideas and desires for future recreation facilities or programs.

After the small group discussions were concluded, the participants reconvened into the large group, and presented their ideas on the goals and actions they discussed. Then each participant was given five sticky dots to "vote" for the goals and/or actions they felt should be top priority for the Township to implement.

The resulting goals and action items are provided in the *Goals and Action Program* chapter of this Plan document.

Recreation Plan Survey

The Township also made a survey available to residents and visitors through its website, at the Township Hall, and distribution by recreation groups to their members.

The survey focused on two ideas: 1) Collect information about how residents currently use various recreation facilities, whether they are Township-owned or owned by some other entity; and 2) Collect opinions about where the Township should focus its efforts in improving recreation opportunities for its residents.

Six-hundred forty-two surveys were returned. A summary of the results are provided in the tables below. The survey instrument is included in the Appendix to this document.

Survey Results

The survey first asked the respondent to describe their household. Of all respondents, 39% were families with children under 18 years of age, while 61% had no children in the household. The random sample population of survey participants is consistent with the general aging of the Township's population shown through the U.S. Census figures. It also points

to the need to provide recreation opportunities for older adults.

The respondents were then asked if they could indicate how many people in their household participated in a list of recreation activities during the past year, or at least once a month, or once a week during the appropriate season. The following table shows the percentage of survey respondents that participated in each activity during either the year, or on a monthly or weekly basis:

Table 20 Participation Rates Summary

Activity	Participate Yearly	Participate Monthly	Participate Weekly
Water Sports			
Lake Swim	34%	28%	26%
Fishing	28%	22%	17%
Pool Swim	21%	18%	14%
Boat Ramps	17%	8%	6%
Trail Sports			
Walking/Jogging	28%	27%	39%
Bicycling	27%	27%	26%
Rollerblading	12%	8%	7%
Nature Activities			
Nature Parks	28%	22%	12%
Camping	19%	7%	2%
Court Sports			
Basketball	8%	7%	6%
Tennis	6%	5%	3%
Volleyball	5%	3%	3%
Handball/Racquetball	<1%	<1%	<1%
Field/Course Sports			
Golf	23%	21%	22%
Softball/baseball	8%	5%	5%
Soccer	7%	5%	6%
Football	5%	5%	5%

Other			
Special Events (Fireworks/concerts)	44%	14%	5%
Organized Rec. Programs	15%	11%	13%
Children's Playgrounds	14%	16%	10%
Picnics / Parties (Pavilion)	18%	10%	4%
Ice Skating	12%	7%	6%

The activities that enjoy the greatest number of regular participants (either monthly or weekly) include walking/jogging, bicycling, and lake swimming. Survey respondents reported that they most frequently walk or jog in their neighborhood, at Kensington Metropark, throughout the Township, or at Duck Lake Pines Park. Most biking is done in neighborhoods, at Kensington Metropark, or throughout the Township. Most respondents swim in White Lake or Duck Lake.

Activities that a high number of respondents participate in yearly include visiting nature parks, golfing, and attending special events. Kensington Metropark is the most visited nature area, followed by Highland Recreation Area. Most golfers reported that they play in Highland Township, but also play “all over.” Almost half of the respondents stated that they attend special events. The most popular destination is Milford, followed closely by Hickory Ridge Pines Park.

Next on the survey, respondents were asked to list any other activities that they regularly participate in that were not included on the list above. The most frequently provided answers include:

- Aerobics / Fitness / Exercise
- Gymnastics
- Cross Country Skiing
- Dancing
- Dirt Bikes / Motorcross / Motorcycling
- Horseback Riding
- Hunting / Gun Shooting
- Ice Hockey

- Skateboarding

Another question was included in the survey to find out where people go most frequently for recreation that is closest to their home. Table 21 below provides these results.

Table 21 Close-to-Home Recreation Preferences

Where do you most frequently recreate that's closest to your home?	
State Recreation Area	17%
Public School	15%
Township Park	14%

Respondents also gave their opinions about where the Township should focus its efforts in future recreation development. The survey did this by asking the respondent to make a choice between several options so that priorities could be determined. The Table below lists the top results from this series of questions. (Note: See the Appendix for the survey instrument.)

Table 22 Preferences for Township Efforts

You would encourage the Township Board of Trustees to:	
Expand services at existing parks, or	37%
Acquire more parkland	24%
Expand services at existing parks, or	42%
Develop vacant parkland	18%

Provide supervised rec. activities, or	25%
Invest in new facilities, or	19%
Continue free use of parks, or	46%
Institute fee system to support parks	25%
Focus on trail development, or	26%
Focus on park development	30%

As the survey results show, Highland Township residents use a variety of recreation facilities to meet their needs. Regarding future efforts by the Township, residents prefer that the Township expand services that are provided at existing parks over acquiring more land, or developing vacant areas of existing parkland. They also prefer that park use remain “free.” The same idea regarding park development was preferred slightly above trail development.



Volunteer tree planting event.

National Recreation Trends

Another important component of assessing a community’s recreation needs is national recreation trends, which provide insight into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity, and which may affect the future direction of parks and recreation services.

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys which measure activities by level of participation and track changes from previous surveys. The following table lists the top seven activities that people participated in at least once in 2005.

Table 23 National Sports Participation, 2005

Activity	Participation
Exercise walking	86 Million
Swimming	58 Million
Exercise w/equipment	54.2 Million
Camping	46 Million
Bowling	45.4 Million
Fishing	43.3 Million
Bicycle riding	43.1 Million

Source: National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA).

Between 1995 and 2005, the five top activities which showed the greatest increase in popularity include:

- Kayaking (162% increase from 2.9 to 7.6 million)
- Snowboarding (114% increase from 2.8 to 6 million)
- Skateboarding (90% increase from 6.3 to 12 million)
- Working out at a club (64% increase, from 21.1 to 34.7 million)
- Mountain biking (14% increase from 8.1 to 9.2 million)

The greatest decrease in the same time period was experience by the following activities:

- In-line skating (50% decrease)
- Volleyball (26% decrease)
- Cross-country skiing (24% decrease)
- Downhill skiing (22% decrease)

The NSGA also projects sports participation on a state-by-state basis for certain sports. According to NSGA data, Michigan residents are twice as likely to participate in golf as the average American. Michigan residents were also nearly one-and-a-half times more likely to bowl, play softball, hunt with firearms, and camp than the national average.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (1995) have published a list of future trends compiled from different sources that will influence the direction of recreation planning and programming. These trends include:

- *Environmental*: an increase in environmentally-sensitive lifestyles, natural areas management, and water quality protection.
- *Social*: an increase in concerns for personal and family security, in the importance for wellness activities, and a desire to preserve and maintain cultural heritage.
- *Economic*: an increase in public costs, in the provision of leisure services through the public and private sectors and partnerships, a greater recognition of the economic value of parks, open space, and green infrastructure.
- *Demographic*: an increase of senior citizens, fewer traditional family households, greater number of small households, and an increase in cultural diversity and in the mobility of residents.

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. Conclusions regarding the implication of these trends combined with the demographic and physical characteristics of the Highland Township area are summarized below:

- As population increases, demand for recreation will also increase;

- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the increase in seniors;
- As land development increases, the need to preserve rural character and open space will increase;
- There will be more linear parks along corridors including bicycle and pedestrian pathways and passive recreation;
- With the increase in popularity of exercise walking and fitness-related activities, walkable, livable, and sustainable communities will become more important and desirable.

Public Review and Public Hearing

After the Park and Recreation Committee members considered the input received through the visioning meeting and survey, and reviewed the background information and recreation trends, they finalized the Plan's goals and actions for implementation. This was done at a public meeting including community stakeholders, public officials, staff, and residents.

A draft Recreation Plan was then prepared and made available for public review beginning on February 27, 2009. Copies were available at the Township Hall, and on the Township's website (www.highlandtwp.com). Following public review, the Parks and Recreation Committee approved the draft plan and recommended its adoption by the Township Board at a meeting held on April 2, 2009.

Public input on the Recreation Plan culminated in an advertised public hearing held on April 8, 2009 at the Township Hall. Following the hearing, the Plan was approved by the Township Board.

Goals & Action Program

The Highland Township Parks and Recreation Committee has formulated goals and actions for the next five years. The goals are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed from the residents, Township Officials, and staff, and the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographic changes, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources, and recreation trends. The goals are listed in order of priority.

Recreation Plan Goals and Actions

Goal #1: Charter Township of Highland will strive to meet the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users.

Actions:

1. Develop a Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Non-Motorized Facility Plan that creates a community-wide pathway network, tied into the County-wide trail plan, and identifies existing opportunities, needed improvements, and an action schedule for implementation.
2. Select high priority segments from the planning effort and begin implementing the plan.

Goal #2: Charter Township of Highland will continue to develop and improve the Township Parks.

Actions:

1. Purchase and install playground equipment to serve ages 2 through 12 at Hickory Ridge Pines Park.
2. Expand the existing playscape at Duck Lake Pines Park.

3. Review and revise the existing Master Plans for the two major Township Parks, including such elements as additional picnic facilities, additional trails, an interpretive nature center, basketball, volleyball, field sports, and other facilities and activities as may be identified by the community.

Goal #3: Charter Township of Highland will promote the Township's recreation opportunities.

Actions:

1. Expand the use of the Township's website to inform residents of recreation facilities available in the Township's parks, as well as other recreation venues, such as the YMCA and Huron Valley Schools.
2. Develop brochures or a periodic newsletter that highlights existing recreation programs available for community residents.
3. Promote the Township's recreation opportunities at existing community-wide events.

Goal #4: Charter Township of Highland will work with the Huron Valley School District, the Huron Valley Soccer Club, surrounding communities and other groups to provide adequate facilities for youth and adult soccer.

Actions:

1. Identify potential sites adjacent to Hickory Ridge Pines Park for additional soccer facilities and acquire land.
2. Develop site(s) in partnership with various groups.

Goal #5: Charter Township of Highland will work with the Huron Valley School District, the Huron Valley Youth Athletic Association, surrounding communities, and other groups to provide adequate facilities for youth and adult baseball and softball.

Actions:

1. Work with the various groups to identify the additional number of fields necessary to meet the area's existing and projected needs for youth and adult baseball and softball.
2. Identify conflicts associated with sharing school facilities and work to eliminate or minimize any conflicts through meetings with field users, administrators, and maintenance staff.
3. Determine if any improvements to existing fields can improve opportunities.
4. Once the capabilities of the existing fields are maximized, determine any existing and projected weaknesses.
5. Identify potential sites for additional facilities and acquire land.
6. Develop site(s).

Goal #6: Charter Township of Highland will create a plan for protection of environmentally sensitive areas and nature study and interpretation within the Township.

Actions:

1. Evaluate existing environmental data available through the County, watershed management plans, and other sources to identify environmentally significant sites within the Township.
2. Create a plan in partnership with land conservancies and other preservation groups to acquire, and/or protect the most important environmentally sensitive areas within the Township.
3. Add nature study and interpretation opportunities for ecosystems within existing parkland.

Goal #7: Charter Township of Highland will address access and affordability of recreation facilities within the Township.

Actions:

1. Evaluate and identify opportunities to improve the non-motorized transportation opportunities

from population centers to existing parkland in the Township.

2. Evaluate and improve the universal accessibility of the Township's existing recreation facilities.
3. Evaluate the current rate structure of existing recreation programming, and identify areas where costs to residents could be subsidized through grants or other funding mechanisms.

Goal #8: Charter Township of Highland will evaluate existing interest in golf and disc golf in the Township, and provide programs and/or facilities to address any unmet need for golf or disc golf.

Actions:

1. Survey surrounding golf courses to establish the rates-of-use for golf.
2. Work with existing groups to establish a youth golf program, and negotiate a discounted rate agreement with local golf courses for youth golf.
3. Investigate the potential for constructing a disc golf course at an existing Township owned property.

Goal #9: The Township will investigate the benefits of hiring a full-time Recreation Director and creating a Parks and Recreation Commission.

Actions:

1. Identify differences between the committee approach and a Commission. Determine which organizational style would work better and adopt it.
2. Identify desired qualities of a Recreation Director – salary, hours responsibilities, and other details for the “ideal” candidate. Investigate availability of outside funding or grants to fund this position.
3. Township Board to determine feasibility.

Goal #10: Charter Township of Highland will identify the need for additional indoor recreation facilities in the area.

Actions:

1. Undertake a study to identify whether existing indoor facilities and programs meet the Township’s existing and projected needs for all age groups, or if they need to be expanded.
2. Identify suitable sites for an indoor community/recreation facility, with special emphasis on an indoor equestrian facility.
3. Develop a basic architectural study to establish the cost of a new facility.
4. Consider an inflatable dome or other such structure to provide the indoor recreational facility.
5. Work with Oakland Parks Department, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Huron Valley Schools and private developers to develop, enhance, and promote facilities for winter activities.

Action Program

The Action Program for Charter Township of Highland Recreation Plan identifies potential actions the Township hopes to undertake during the five year planning period. While the goals listed above identify a number of actions, the Action Program identifies major actions that require funding and major commitments from the Township and other groups. These actions address the recreation priorities in the township and include a time frame (in Table 24) and location for implementation, cost estimates, and potential funding sources. This section also provides justification for each action. Justifications are based on community input, demographics, available facilities, and common sense.

Table 24 Action Schedule

Action	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1. Pathway Plan	*	*	*	*	*
2. Playground Equip		*	*	*	
3. Park Master Plans		*	*	*	*
4. Promotion		*	*	*	*
5. Soccer		*	*	*	*
6. Softball/Baseball		*	*	*	*
7. Ecological Preservation	*	*	*	*	*
8. Youth Golf				*	*
9. Rec. Rates				*	
10. Rec. Commission				*	
11. Rec. Director				*	
12. Indoor Rec.					*
13. Community/Rec. Center					*

Action #1: Develop a Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Non-Motorized Facility Plan to improve opportunities for trail-type recreation activities. This plan would include an evaluation of how park users can access Township and other recreation facilities on bicycle, foot, or other non-motorized transport methods. Coordinate this plan with Oakland County’s existing and proposed trail network, sidewalks constructed as part of new development, and the efforts of other groups and organizations that are working to develop trails within southeastern Michigan.

Cost Estimate: Plan development: \$10,000 – \$15,000; Trail development \$40,000 - \$60,000/mile for pedestrian trail; \$80,000 - \$120,000/mile for hard surfaced multi-purpose path.

Plan implementation: To be determined.

Funding Source: General fund, grants, donations.

Location: Throughout the Township.

Justification: Trails that can be used for bicycling, walking, jogging, horseback riding, and other non-motorized uses were the top priority identified at the Township visioning session, as well as non-motorized access from residential areas of the Township to the parks and other destinations. Trails would also support one of the top recreation activities (exercise walking) as reported in the resident survey, and as shown nationally as the top recreation activity.

Action #2: The Parks and Recreation Committee will solicit membership from community to create a task force charged with preparing specifications for new and expanded playground equipment and beginning fund raising effort.

Cost Estimate: \$10,000 to \$25,000 per park

Funding Source: donations, grants.

Location: Hickory Ridge Pines Park and Duck Lake Pines Park

Justification:

Action #3: Evaluate and update existing Master Plans for Hickory Ridge Pines Park and Duck Lake Pines Park to determine how the recreation opportunities at the parks can be expanded to better meet residents' needs. The Plans would be updated to include an ecological evaluation of existing natural features within the parks, and the potential for nature trails, study, restoration, and interpretation. Both parks would also be evaluated for the addition of a potential disc golf course among other recreation facilities, as well as updating the universal accessibility of existing facilities if necessary.

Cost Estimate: Plan updates: \$15,000 to \$20,000 per plan. Plan implementation: To be determined.

Funding Source: General fund, grants, donations.

Location: Hickory Ridge Pines Park, and Duck Lake Pines Park.

Justification: Respondents to the recreation survey clearly stated that they preferred the Township to expand services at its existing parks, and focus on park development. Results from the visioning meeting also directed the Township to continue to develop and improve the Township's parks.

Action #4: In coordination with developing a Master Plan for Hickory Ridge Pines Park, work with various groups to evaluate existing soccer field number, condition, and maintenance requirements throughout the Township against current and expected future needs. Study scheduling demands of the various facilities, and determine the best method for maximizing use of existing facilities. Evaluate maintenance requirements of existing fields, and determine necessary improvements or additional facilities needed. Identify potential sites for expansion, preferably adjacent to Hickory Ridge Pines Park, expected costs of acquisition, development and maintenance, funding, and implementation schedule.

Cost Estimate: Included in Master Plan costs.

Funding Source: General fund, grants, donations.

Location: Hickory Ridge Pines Park.

Justification: In both the recreation survey and visioning meeting, residents stated that expanding services offered at the existing Township parks was a priority.

Action #5: In coordination with developing a Master Plan for Duck Lake Pines Park, work with various groups to evaluate existing baseball and softball field number, condition, and maintenance requirements throughout the Township against current and expected future needs. Study scheduling demands of the various facilities, and determine the best method for maximizing use of existing facilities. Evaluate maintenance requirements of existing fields, and determine necessary improvements or additional facilities needed. Identify potential sites for expansion, expected costs of acquisition,

development and maintenance, funding, and implementation schedule.

Cost Estimate: Included in Master Plan costs.

Funding Source: General fund, grants, donations.

Location: Duck Lake Pines Park.

Justification: In both the recreation survey and visioning meeting, residents stated that expanding services offered at the existing Township parks was a priority.

Action #6: Develop communication materials and methods to better inform Township residents of the recreation opportunities available in and near Highland Township. Evaluate development of a quarterly newsletter or information flyer that highlights seasonal opportunities, events, and activities for all age groups. Use the newsletter or other print materials to promote the Township's recreation opportunities at Township-sponsored events. Expand the Township's website to include information and/or links to local recreation facilities and organizations. Expand the "information center" at the Township Hall to display flyers, schedules, and other information about local recreation activities.

Cost Estimate: Administrative costs plus \$5,000 for newsletter.

Funding Source: General fund, grants.

Location: Not applicable.

Justification: Promoting recreation programs in and near the Township was identified as a priority at the visioning meeting.

Action #7: Using results from the Oakland County Green Infrastructure Visioning Project, Oakland County natural features data layers, and other sources, work with land conservancies to create a plan that identifies the most environmentally significant properties within the Township, and determine methods for preservation.

Cost Estimate: Plan development: \$3,000 - \$5,000. Implementation: Underway.

Funding Source: General fund, grants, donations.

Location: Throughout the Township.

Justification: Participants at the visioning meeting determined that environmental preservation of key natural features should be a priority for the Township to provide opportunities for nature activities and study, as well as trail locations through undeveloped areas of the Township.

Action #8: The Parks and Recreation Committee will examine the current rate structure of existing recreation programming, and identify areas where costs to residents could be minimized or reduced.

Cost Estimate: Administrative costs.

Funding Source: General fund.

Location: Not applicable.

Justification: Results of the recreation survey indicate that residents expect the Township to provide recreation facilities and services through Township revenue rather than a fee-based system. This result also implies that the Township maximize the use of its facilities and secure additional funding for facilities from outside sources.

Action #9: The Parks and Recreation Committee will work with local groups and golf courses to establish a Youth Golf Program. The Committee will conduct a survey of user rates at local golf courses, and work with local courses to negotiate reduced rates for a Youth Golf program.

Cost Estimate: Administrative costs.

Funding Source: General fund.

Location: Golf courses in and near the Township.

Justification: The recreation survey identified golf as one of the most popular activities undertaken by Township residents. In the visioning meeting,

residents stated that the future of golf courses in the Township depends on expanding the sport's popularity to young players. Also, a youth golf program does not exist in the Township.

Action #10: The Parks and Recreation Committee will identify and evaluate the merits of forming a Recreation Commission, determine if it will provide advantages to better serve residents' recreation needs, and if so, adopt this form of organization.

Cost Estimate: Administrative costs.

Funding Source: General fund.

Location: Not applicable.

Justification: A commission form of organization could increase the likelihood of the Township implementing the actions set forth in this Plan.

Action #11: The Parks and Recreation Committee will identify and evaluate the merits of hiring a Parks and Recreation Director.

Cost Estimate: Administrative costs.

Funding Source: General fund.

Location: Not applicable.

Justification: Township residents have indicated through the visioning meeting and recreation survey that they want additional recreation programming provided by the Township. This will require organization and oversight by a qualified recreation professional.

Action #12: The Parks and Recreation Committee will undertake a study to identify and survey the existing indoor recreation opportunities within and near the Township. This information will be used to promote these existing programs and services by creating an "information center" at the Township Hall, and posting information and/or links on the Township's website. (See Action #6.)

Cost Estimate: Administrative costs.

Funding Source: General fund.

Location: Not applicable.

Justification: Indoor recreation opportunities were identified as a need during the Recreation Plan visioning session. Because the Township does not have a Recreation Department, administration of Township-sponsored recreation programming is not currently feasible. However, promoting other programs that are available in the area is possible.

Action #13: Work with existing public and private organizations to evaluate the feasibility of a community and/or recreation center, which could be developed in coordination with an indoor equestrian center. The feasibility study would include potential partners, siting, space and facility needs, architectural guidelines, funding sources, and time schedule for implementation.

Cost Estimate: Feasibility Study: \$10,000 - \$15,000.
Implementation: To be determined.

Funding Source: General fund, grants, donations.

Location: To be determined.

Justification: The visioning meeting identified the need for additional facilities and resources to accommodate indoor recreation opportunities, particularly for winter activities.



Implementation Strategies

To accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a fraction of the funds required. Current uncertainty about future tax revenues has necessitated staff reductions, which lead to increased reliance on volunteers. The following strategies are recommended:

Public Support for Parks

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services and facilities the Township will be able to provide in the future. A specific park or project millage over a limited period could be sought for particular projects such as trail development or increasing services at existing parks, should the economic climate improve.

Grant Opportunities

The Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Natural Resources Trust Fund continue to be the major funding sources for parkland acquisition and development in Michigan.

Other funding is available through other governmental divisions, such as the Fisheries Division (Inland Fisheries Grant Program) or the Forestry Division (Detroit Edison Tree Planting Grants).

In addition, the Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Fund is available for the development of non-motorized pathways within road right-of-ways, for rails-to-trails projects, and for historic preservation projects. There are also a number of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of trails and pathways or trail related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition.

Other Funding Sources

The community should continue to investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund raising events, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that have been used successfully to raise funds for parks and recreation improvements in other communities.

Appendix & Supporting Documents

Highland Township Recreation Master Plan Update

Results from October 21, 2008 Public Input Meeting

Text in ***bold italics*** represents notes made by each small group during discussion of the Master Plan goals and actions.

Goal #1: *Charter Township of Highland will work with the Huron Valley School District, the ~~Hi-White~~ Huron Valley Youth Athletic Association, surrounding communities and other groups to provide adequate facilities for youth and adult baseball and softball.*

Votes Received: 3

Actions:

1. Work with the various groups to identify an ideal number of fields necessary to meet the area's existing and projected needs. ***Additional fields.***
2. Identify conflicts associated with sharing school facilities and work to eliminate or minimize any conflicts through meetings with field users, administrators and maintenance staff. ***Keep as is.***
3. Determine if any improvements to existing fields can improve opportunities. ***Yes.***
4. Once the capabilities of the existing fields are maximized, determine any existing and projected weaknesses. ***Yes.***
5. Identify potential sites for additional facilities and acquire land. ***Yes.***
6. Develop site(s). ***Yes.***

Goal #2: *Charter Township of Highland will continue to develop and improve the Community Park.*

Votes Received: 18

Actions:

1. Work with the community to identify recreation needs specific to the community – such as playground equipment, additional picnic facilities, additional trails, an interpretive nature center, basketball, volleyball, field sports, archery range, and other facilities and activities. ***Waterball court (Fire Dept.). Yes***
2. Develop a master plan that graphically identifies where improvements will occur and identifies an improvement schedule specific to the park. ***Yes.***
3. Increase residents' awareness of the park's existing facilities through events, news releases and other promotional activities. ***Yes.***
4. ***Ways to get to these places: sidewalks, bike path, trails (e.g. North Waterbury).***

Goal #3: *Highland Charter Township will work with the Huron Valley School District and other groups to provide a swimming pool for the community.*

Actions:

1. ~~Undertake a feasibility study to determine if the Township can support a swimming pool, the costs to construct a facility, and costs to staff and maintain a pool and to establish the size and location of a pool.~~
2. ~~Contact similar communities in the area that maintain a community pool to gain from their existing experience and knowledge.~~
3. ~~Identify funding options available for constructing and maintaining a community pool.~~

Goal #4: *Charter Township of Highland will develop an ice skating facility to promote winter activities.*

Votes Received: 3

Actions:

1. Develop a cost analysis and feasibility study to determine the type of facility the Township can support and the costs to maintain the facility. **No – Many surrounding. Indoor (immediate).**
2. Identify potential sites for a facility. – include land already dedicated to recreation and other areas if existing areas are not suitable. **Highland Rec. – Edsel Ford barn, NuWay building, Numatics.**
3. Acquire land if necessary. **Use existing.**
4. Design and build new facility.
 - **Develop County Park for comm. winter sports.**
 - **Investigate outside funding.**
 - **Look into existing buildings.**
 - **THINK GREEN**

Goal #5: *The Township will investigate the benefits of hiring a Recreation Director and creating a Parks and Recreation Commission.*

Votes Received: 4

Actions:

1. Identify differences between the existing approach and a Commission. **Need both.**
2. Identify desired qualities of a Recreation Director – salary, hours, responsibilities and other details for the “ideal” candidate.
3. Township Board to determine feasibility.
 - **FT Rec. Director/Coordinator; Maintenance; Ordinance**
 - **Salary/hours depends on grant.**
 - **Needs to be on call.**
 - **This very important.**

Goal #6: *Charter Township of Highland will work with the Huron Valley School District, the Huron Valley Soccer Club, surrounding communities and other groups to provide adequate facilities for youth and adult soccer.*

Votes Received: 1

Actions:

1. Work with the various groups to identify the ideal number of fields necessary to meet the area’s existing and projected needs.
2. Determine if any improvements to existing fields or scheduling can improve opportunities. **Maxed out.**
3. Once the capabilities of the existing fields are maximized determine any existing and projected weaknesses. **Forced to Kensington & more \$.**
4. Identify potential sites for additional facilities and acquire land. **Highland Tree Farm.**
5. Develop site.

Goal #7: *Charter Township of Highland will strive to meet the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and other users.*

Votes Received: 38

Actions:

1. Develop a Bicycle, ~~and~~-Pedestrian, **Non-motorized** Facility Plan, and identifies existing opportunities, needed improvements and lays out an action schedule for improvements.

Local Pathway Plan and tie into County wide plan.

2. Work with local bicycle, and running, **and equestrian** groups to identify their desires.
- **Potential paths: N. Duck Lake Rd. from Comm Center to Duck Lk. Park; E. Wardlow**
 - **To include horse trails. Pos. link.**

Goal #8: *Charter Township of Highland will work with the Huron Valley School District, surrounding communities and other groups to provide adequate facilities for youth and adult football.*

Votes Received: 0

Actions:

1. Work with the various groups to identify the ideal number of fields necessary to meet the area's existing and projected needs.
2. Identify conflicts associated with sharing facilities and work to eliminate or minimize any conflicts through meetings with field users, administrators and maintenance staff.
3. Determine if any improvements to existing fields can improve opportunities.
4. Once the capabilities of the existing fields are maximized determine any existing and projected weaknesses.
5. Identify potential sites for additional facilities and acquire land (if necessary).
6. Develop site.

Goal #9: *Charter Township of Highland will identify if the need exists for an additional public golf course.*

Votes Received: 5

Actions:

1. Survey surrounding golf courses to establish the rates-of-use for courses. **For res. Disc. Card. Start a youth golf program.**
2. Evaluate the community's desire for an additional golf course through an informal survey of Park users or other public gathering.
3. **Disc golf Duck Lake Pines.**

Goal #10: *Charter Township of Highland will determine the feasibility of developing an inflatable dome for indoor recreation facilities.*

Votes Received: 1

Actions:

1. Contact developer of inflatable dome centers to establish details of attracting a private developer to the area.
 - **No longer relevant.**

Goal #11: *Charter Township of Highland will identify the need for additional indoor recreation facilities in the area.*

Votes Received: 14

Actions:

1. Undertake a study to identify ~~the preferred level of weather existing~~ indoor facilities ~~that will and programs~~ meet the Township's existing and projected needs **for all age groups or could be expanded.**
 2. Identify suitable sites for an indoor community/recreation facility, **with special emphasis on an indoor equestrian facility.**
 3. Develop basic architectural study to establish the cost of a new facility.
 4. **Consider dome or other structure.**
-

Goal #12: Charter Township of Highland will provide parkland for protection of environmentally sensitive areas and nature study and interpretation.

Votes Received: 1

Goal #13: Charter Township of Highland will promote the Township's recreation opportunities.

Votes Received: 4

Goal #14: Charter Township of Highland will address access and affordability of recreation facilities within the Township.

Votes Received: 2

INSERT INTO DOCUMENT

- 2) Recreation Survey Instrument
- 3) Newspaper article discussing Recreation Visioning Meeting.
- 4) Public Notice for 30-day Public Comment period on Recreation Plan and date of Public Hearing.
- 5) Recreation Committee resolution in support of Adoption of the Recreation Plan.
- 6) Township Board meeting minutes of Public Hearing where the Recreation Plan is discussed and adopted.
- 7) Township Board resolution to adopt the Recreation Plan.
- 8) Letter of Transmittal to Regional Agencies and MDNR with adopted Recreation Plan.