

ROSCOMMON TOWNSHIP PARK MASTER PLAN 2019 - 2023



ROSCOMMON TOWNSHIP PARK MASTER PLAN 2019-2023

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Preface

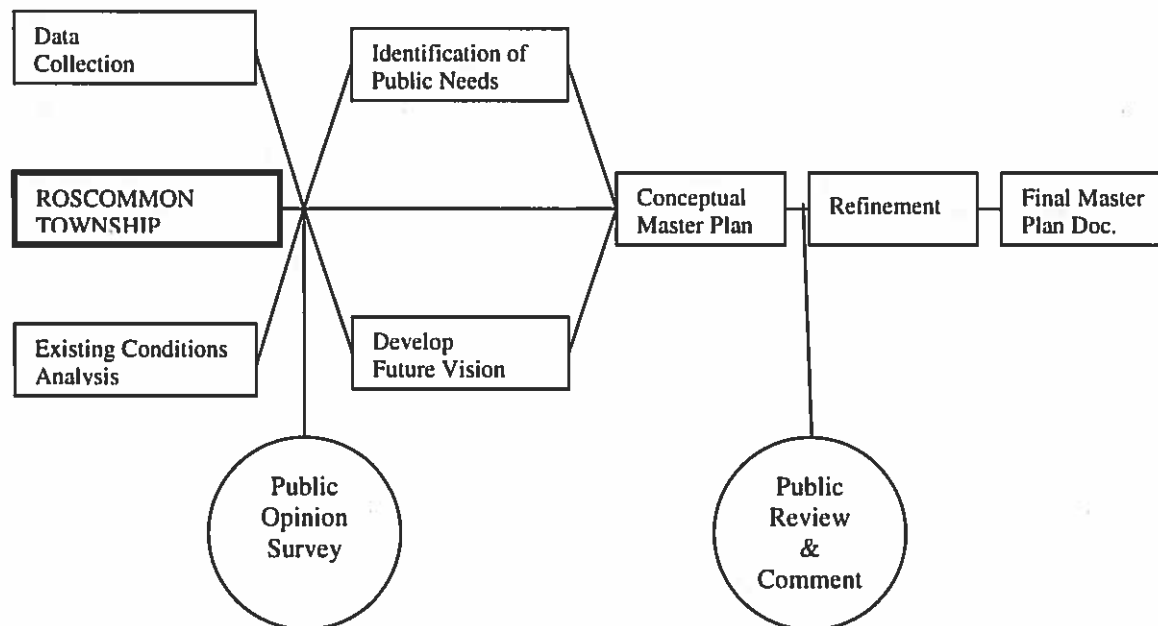
PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Roscommon Township residents enjoy available recreation and park facilities. In order to maintain facilities, meet growing expectations, and enhance the quality of life for all community residents, the Township must play a proactive role in the delivery of recreation, parks and other leisure opportunities.

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to serve as a guide in the planning for future recreation improvements, opportunities, and implementation. In Roscommon Township, population shifts have added new demands to the existing parks and recreation system, thus increasing the need for both short and long range planning. To meet emerging needs, the Township has taken a proactive approach and developed a Master Plan to determine the community's priorities and how to accomplish them. The Township has demonstrated pragmatism by assuring the Master Plan's format and design meet Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and federal Land and Water Conservation Fund eligibility.

PLANNING PROCESS

Pertinent physical and demographic data relative to existing conditions in Roscommon Township, including recreation facilities, were gathered. Public opinion surveys were conducted and recreation standards were consulted. All data and survey results were analyzed. This analysis helped determine public goals. These were refined into action steps. The following diagram illustrates essential planning process components.



Preface

The Roscommon Township Parks and Recreation Committee discussed plan elements and content at various meetings during 2017/2018. A draft Plan was reviewed and discussed during a pre-announced public hearing advertised in Houghton Lake Resorter held on January 8, 2019, for the purpose of soliciting citizen comments and opinions relative to the draft Plan. The draft Plan was on display for public review in the Township hall for 30 days prior to the hearing. Copies of the public notice and Affidavit of Publication are provided in Appendix A. Further, the Plan was adopted by the Parks and Recreation Committee on October 24, 2018, and subsequently adopted by the Roscommon Township Board during the Board's public hearing of January 8, 2019 and forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the MiRecGrants website for acceptance and approval. Meeting minutes of plan adoption are also given in Appendix A.

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Chapter 1:

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

There are several commissions and organizations that are concerned with the development and provision of parks and recreational facilities in Roscommon Township, including:

- Roscommon County Board of Commissioners
- Roscommon Township Parks Committee
- Houghton Lake Community School District
- Roscommon County Planning Commission
- Michigan State University Extension office
- Central Michigan University
- Roscommon County Road Commission
- Houghton Lake Lake Association
- Houghton Lake Rotary Club

While this is a rather extensive list, the Township is homogeneous to the level that these various groups work effectively together.

The main responsibility for Township parks and recreation facilities has been with the Roscommon Township Board. However, with the increased demand for service and the complexity in Township government today, recreational services and the supervision of facilities need the attention of a focused advisory committee. Therefore, the Board established a Roscommon Township Parks and Recreation Committee made up of a cross section of interested citizens. This advisory committee's responsibilities include; development of Roscommon Township's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, making recommendations to the Board regards implementing the Plan's action program, serving as the catalyst for implementation of Board approved action, and an annual review of the Master Plan.

The responsibility of financing, operating, maintaining and programming the Township park system rests entirely on the shoulders of the Roscommon Township Board. The Township currently has in place the administrative capacity to operate the recreation program. A fully staffed office is open five days per week. They utilize standard bookkeeping techniques and are familiar with federal regulations.

Because the demand for recreation facility improvement, expansion and development far exceeds resources of the Township, it is imperative that the Township secure assistance from other funding sources for this purpose.

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Chapter 2:

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Roscommon Township is located in Roscommon County on the southwest quarter of Houghton Lake, Michigan's largest inland lake, and contains approximately 72 square miles of Michigan State Forest. The Houghton Lake area is a four-season vacation destination with a growing retirement community, and is located between I-75 and U.S. 127. Tourism and Service industries are primary contributors to the economic base of Townships touching Houghton Lake's shores.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- U.S. Bureau of Census
 - 1990 & 2000 census
 - 2004 & 2005 population estimates
 - 2010 Census Data
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources

FINDINGS: Topography

- Elevations within Roscommon Township range from 500 feet to 1300 feet above Lakes Michigan and Huron. The soil is primarily sand with isolated pockets of clay deposits.

FINDINGS: Water Resources

- Houghton Lake is 20,044 acres and has approximately 37 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 25 feet.
- Within Roscommon Township are 4 miles of Houghton Lake shoreline. The shores touching Houghton Lake are heavily populated.

FINDINGS: Climate Conditions

- The chief climatic features of Roscommon Township are a mean annual temperature of 43.8 degrees, total mean precipitation of 28.16 inches, and total mean snowfall of approximately 54 inches. The climate is conducive to winter and summer recreational activities.
- Winters are long as temperatures below freezing prevail from November to March with occasional below freezing temperatures expected in September, October, April, and May. The summers are characterized by high percentages of sunshine and moderate temperatures. The average summer temperature is 73 degrees Fahrenheit with temperatures reaching into the 90s at times.

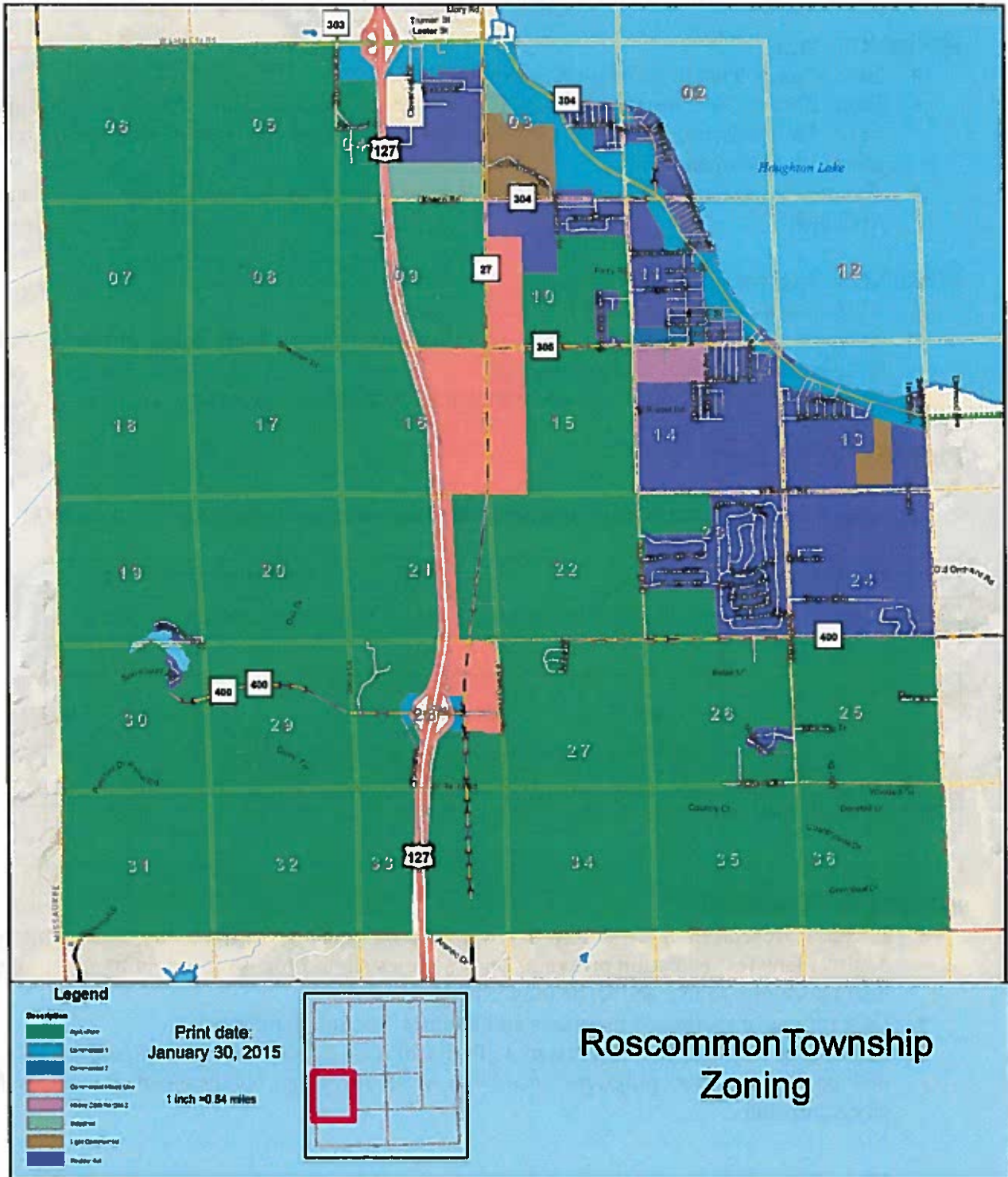
FINDINGS: Vegetation & Wildlife

- Diverse types of fish and wildlife that flourish in its waters and forest enrich Roscommon Township's environment. Fish species include trout, perch, pike and pan fish. Examples of wildlife inhabiting the Township's forested areas include muskrat, beaver, white tail deer, black bear, woodcock, ruffed grouse, fox, skunk, raccoon, bald eagle, osprey, owl and songbirds.

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FINDINGS: Land Use

- The most predominate land use in Roscommon Township is forest reserves. Approximately 74% of the Township is Michigan State Forest land or Wildlife Research area. Uses of the remaining land include residential, commercial and industrial uses.
- Most development is along M-55, where residential and commercial land uses are concentrated. A generalized land use map appears below.



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FINDINGS: Growth

- Between 1990 and 2004 total population of Roscommon County increased from 19,776 to 26,103 or 32%.
- Between 1990 and 2004 total population of Roscommon Township increased from 3,223 to 4,326 or 34%.
- Based on 2010 Census date, Roscommon Township has a population of 4,4111

FINDINGS: Age

- 24% of the township population is over the age of 60.
- From 1994 to 2003 the slowest growing segment of the population was for persons under 18 (7.5%) and from 18 to 44 (16.9%). This was below the growth rate for these age groups in Michigan.
- The median age of county residents is 12 years older than the average age in the state of Michigan.

FINDINGS: Income & Employment

- 8.4% of township families are below the poverty level.
- However, this increases to 15.5% for families with children 5 and under and to 19.5% for families with children younger than 18.
- 68.8% of households have income from social security or retirement.

FINDINGS: Summary

Demographic Characteristics of Township & County Residents from Census data 2000

Characteristic	TWP	County	US
Median age	41	47	35
Children under 5	5.5%	4.3%	6.8%
Adults over 65	17.9%	23.8%	12.4%
Persons with disabilities	28.3%	25.2%	12.4%
Median household income	\$28,805	\$30,029	\$41,994
Households below the poverty level	8.4%	8.6%	9.2%

RECOMMENDATIONS

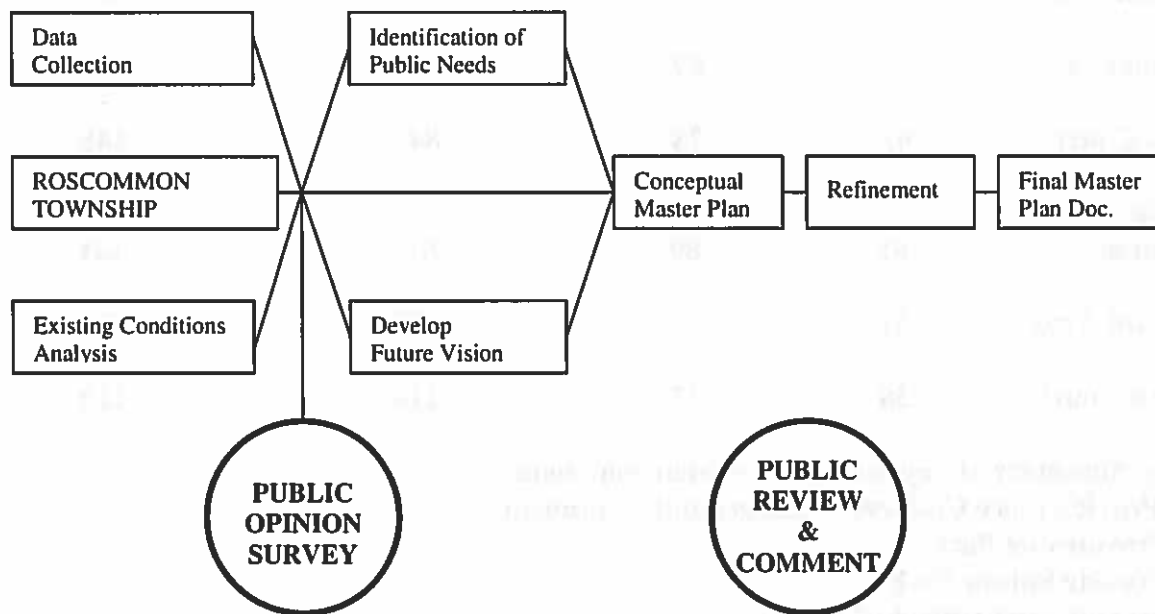
- Because Roscommon Township is experiencing great growth among retirement age adults, plans for recreation programs and facilities should focus on providing older adults the opportunity to live active, healthy lifestyles.
- Cost for use of recreation programs and facilities should be minimal.
- Because of the high rate of persons with disabilities, special attention should be paid to making facilities and programs accessible to all residents, handicapped as well as the physically able.

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Chapter 3: PUBLIC INPUT

The Roscommon Township Parks and Recreation Committee conducted a mailed survey of residents asking for input related to their recreational needs and the recreational needs of visitors. The survey asked residents to rate a number of recreational options as “Important”, “Neutral”, or “Unimportant”. Residents were also asked to make written comment on how Township property should be developed. The survey was done during the data collection phase of the Plan development process.

In the fall of 2016, two hundred sixty five were completed and returned to the Roscommon Township Parks and Recreation Committee. Once developed, a draft Plan was available for public review at the Roscommon Township Hall. A public hearing was held for the purpose of soliciting citizen comment and opinions relative to the draft Plan. Public input, as well as input from the Roscommon Township Board was taken into account during preparation of a final draft Plan.



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- *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, National Recreation and Park Association
- Mailed survey of residents (see Appendix A)
Minutes of public meeting during which a public hearing was held for the purpose of soliciting citizen comments and opinions relative to the draft Plan. (See Appendix A)

FINDINGS: Summary 265 surveys rating recreational options

Options	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	TOT.= col 1 + 2
Children's Playground	142	49	52	191
Dog Park	107	61	76	168
Splash Park	112	54	75	166
Sand Volleyball Court	69	93	71	162
Basketball Court	84	77	70	161
Horseshoe Pit	59	89	79	148
Tennis Court	67	78	84	145
9 hole disc golf Course	61	80	87	141
Skateboard Area	51	70	108	121
Pickleball Court	36	77	114	113

Findings: Summary of key themes of written comments.

1. **Provide more Children's playground equipment**
2. **Provide dog Park**
3. **Provide Splash Park**
4. **Provide sand volleyball court**
5. **Improve basketball court at Skinner Park**
6. **Horseshoe Pit**
7. **Expand disc golf course to 18 holes**

Chapter 4: CURRENT RECREATION RESOURCES

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Roscommon County Recreation Development Plan 2006
- *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, National Recreation and Park Association
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources

FINDINGS:

- Developed Township recreation areas
 - Lakeview Park
 - 1.26-acre, fully ADA accessible
 - Dock and fishing platform, pavilion, playground, kayak/canoe launch, grill, picnic tables, and natural shoreline. Four interpretive panels highlight the park's history, identity of flora, species of fish, and the rationale behind the native planting at the shore. The park also boasts benches, an outdoor classroom, and a panoramic view of Houghton Lake.
 - Could be defined as a roadside park, as the area serves the entire community, tourists, and motorists traveling along Highway M-55.
 - Skinner Park
 - 36.38-acre Community Park with an accessibility ranking of 2 (some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines)
 - Playground, kiddie park, softball, soccer, pavilions, picnic tables, grills, nine fitness stations on walking trail and 18 hole disc golf course services entire township.
 - Heights Park
 - Small, 17,820 square feet, neighborhood park with an accessibility ranking of 1 (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines)
 - 200 feet of lake front beach, playground, grills, pavilion and tables services surrounding neighborhood
 - Fire Hall Property
 - Future resource property.
- Neighboring Denton Township also provides a variety of recreation areas and facilities that are within easy access of residents, and have developed new lakeside park, Trestle Park
- Houghton Lake Middle School, High School and Collins Elementary are easily accessible.
- Roscommon Township is located in a recreation resource rich area of Michigan with ample opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor and nature-based recreation within easy reach.

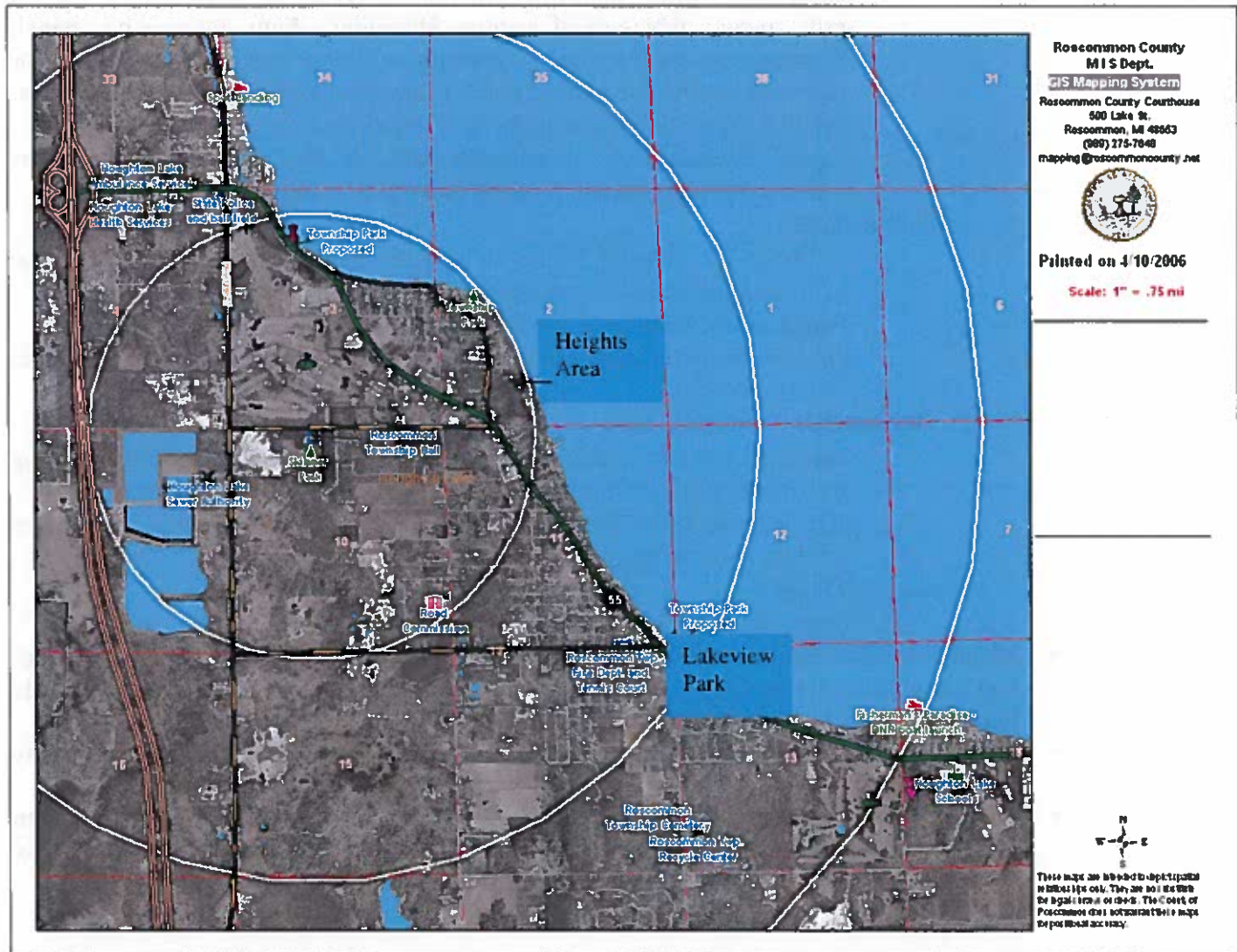
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Recreation facilities available within Roscommon Township and its immediate area meet most standards.

Standards appear to be unmet for the following:

- Tennis courts (1/2000 population or ½ drive)
- Recreation courts (tennis, basketball, volleyball 1/10,000 or 2 mile drive)
- Additional ADA accessibility at Skinner Park and Heights Park.

FINDINGS: Area Recreation Facilities Location Map



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Chapter 5: STANDARDS ANALYSIS

Standards represent “rules of thumb” that reflect the types and numbers of recreation amenities that a “typical” community might have. Standards must only be interpreted with the unique characteristics of a community in mind.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans
- National Recreation and Park Association national park land standards

FINDINGS

- Recreation facilities available within Roscommon Township and its immediate area meet most standards.
- Standards appear to be unmet for the following:
 - Tennis courts (1/2000 population or ½ mile drive)
 - Recreation courts (tennis, basketball, volleyball 1/10,000 or 2 mile drive)
 - ADA accessibility at Skinner Park and Heights Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop our three existing parks to better meet community needs based on the five year plan that follows.

Chapter 6:

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN

The essential purpose of recreational planning in Roscommon Township is to promote and encourage the use and development of a system of recreational facilities that meet the needs of the Township's residents, provide low cost recreational opportunities for visitors and tourists and be compatible with Township's natural setting. Out of this general statement, several general goals to guide planning have been developed which are made more specific by objectives and plans to carry out objectives.

The order in which the goals, objectives, and plans are presented does not indicate their relative importance. A majority of the objectives reflect the concerns identified in the Community Description, Public Input, and Standards Analysis sections of the Plan. While the objectives and action steps do not represent a complete list, or limit the Township's flexibility in implementation, it does define a specific direction.

Goal 1: Provide year-round park and recreation facilities that insure recreational opportunities to *all* residents and visitors.

Roscommon Township endeavors to provide recreation opportunities for all ages. Because of the high percentage of senior citizens within the Township, facilities and programs should be developed that address their recreational needs. The Township is especially concerned with the recreational needs of the residents and also the many short-term needs of tourists in the community.

Objectives (Goal 1)

- a. Develop recreational facilities that provide access to people with disabilities in conformance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the other applicable State and Federal regulations.
- b. Provide facilities and improvements, which encourage increased local participation as well as promote commercial tourism.
- c. Improve and broaden the variety of facilities and recreational opportunities within the Township.
- d. Develop or improve park and recreational facilities so as to meet the needs of, and encourage use by, the Township's older residents.
- e. Provide for winter-sensitive design in all facilities and promote year-round use.
- f. Improve public knowledge of township recreation opportunities

Action Steps (Goal 1)

- a. **Houghton Lake Heights Park:**
 - Provide directional signs, additional picnic tables, and benches.
 - Improve accessibility to the park.
 - New pavilion, picnic table, additional lake view benches, new fencing , signage as needed. New barbecue grills, new playground equipment and new swimming buoys as needed.

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b. **Skinner Park:**

- Upgrade the recreational equipment and improve ADA accessibility.
- Build dog park, improve basketball court, add sand volleyball court and horse shoe pit.
- Create a multipurpose hard surfaced area; Pickleball, badminton, shuffleboard, skateboard.

c. **Township Fire Hall Property:**

- Consider for future development.

d. **Lakeview Park:**

- Upgrade public awareness.
- Revise website in include phase II, advertise with other townships, Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Bureau.
- Complete Phase II items, i.e. restroom facility with outlook, landscaping, parking, etc.

Goal 2: Roscommon Township shall preserve and expand lake views, recreational shoreline and water based opportunities to meet the needs of all residents and provide a regional attraction.

Objectives (Goal 2)

- To the extent possible, preserve the lakefront as public open and recreation space.
- In order to attract residents and visitors alike to the lakefront, and capitalize upon the environmentally unique area, the Township shall continue to develop open space and passive park areas in appropriate shoreline areas.
- Evaluate existing shoreline sites for upgrading and/or expansion of waterfront and water-related opportunities within the Township.
- To the extent possible, preserve or enhance views to the lake.

Action Steps (Goal 2)

- Maintain the lakefront property on M55 between Tower Hill Road and Federal Avenue as a natural lakefront.
- Improve upon amenities at the Houghton Lake Heights Park swimming area.
- Monitor Lakeview Park for necessary facilities improvements.

Goal 3: Roscommon Township shall develop a strategy for securing resources needed to improve and expand its recreational facilities at a rate that will not exceed funds available for maintenance of the system.

Objectives (Goal 3)

- Pursue public and private trust fund grants.
- Pursue public and private foundation grants.
- Pursue public and private donations.

Action Steps (Goal 3)

- Continue planning in compliance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources and federal Land and Water Conservation Fund guidelines.
- Continue planning in compliance with Barrier Free Accessibility Requirement for Parks.

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- c. Expand site development plans for parks and recreational facilities owned by the Township.
- d. Search out public and private grant opportunities.
- e. Apply for Michigan Department of Natural Resource grant.
- f. Apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.
- g. Apply for Roscommon County Foundation grant.
- h. Apply for United Way grant.

Goal 4: Roscommon Township shall establish community partnerships that promote efficient operation, public use, and community stewardship of area park and recreation systems.

Objectives (Goal 4)

- a. Pursue, for mutual benefit, partnerships with, but not limited to, the following.
 - Denton, Markey and Lake Townships
 - MI Department of Transportation
 - Roscommon County Road Commission
 - Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development
 - Soil Conservation District
 - Houghton Lake Lake Association
 - Houghton Lake Improvement Board
 - Houghton Lake Community Schools
 - Roscommon County Commission on Aging
 - Area Service Groups
 - Area Youth Groups

Action Steps (Goal 4)

- a. Work with neighboring townships to assure area citizens and visitors have quality recreational facilities.
- b. Work with neighboring townships to find ways to reduce expenses by sharing operation/maintenance services.
- c. Work with the MI Department of Transportation and the Roscommon County Road Commission to maintain and improve public access points
- d. Cooperate with Houghton Lake Improvement Board and Houghton Lake Lake Association efforts to educate the public on best practices for protecting and improving the environmental health of Houghton Lake.

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Five Year Action Plan

Yearly Maintenance

- Increase public awareness of all Roscommon Township parks and recreation facilities.
- Continuous research of grant funding opportunities.
- Prepare and submit applications for relevant grants.
- Consider new projects as they arise and if feasible, add to the Master Plan.
- Assist township in coordinated Park Maintenance & Inventory Program.
- Recruit additional Parks Committee members.
- Plan fundraisers.
- Yearly review, adjustment and update to the Master Plan.

Year One - 2019

a. Houghton Lake Heights Park:

Improve swimming area

Install directional signs to park

New pavilion, new picnic tables, additional lake view benches, new fencing and signage as needed, new barbecue grills, new playground equipment and new swimming area buoys.

Continue with improvements that are in compliance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund guidelines, as well as Barrier Free Accessibility Requirement and child safety standards for play equipment. discuss ideas with adjacent property owners and neighborhood in general.

Monitor usage for needed facilities improvement.

b. Skinner Park Walking Trail

Begin planning process for under planting and amenities for established trail.

Implement under planting.

Construct dog park north of ballfield #2.

c. Lakeview Park

Complete Phase II items, i.e. restroom facility with outlook, landscaping, parking, etc.

Year Two - 2020

- a. Start investigation of space requirement for multi-purpose hard surface court(s)
- b. Renovate basketball court

Year Three - 2021

a. Skinner Park:

Construct sand volleyball court and horse shoe pit.

Continue investigation of space requirement for multipurpose hard surface court(s)

Year Four - 2022

a. Skinner Park:

Construct multi-purpose hard surface court(s) i.e. – shuffleboard, skateboard

Year Five -2023

a. Skinner Park:

Construct pickleball court

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The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the adoption of the 2019-2023 Master Plan. This plan provides a clear vision and strategic direction for the institution over the next five years. The plan is based on the following key findings and recommendations:

- Academic Excellence:** Enhance the quality of education through innovative teaching methods and rigorous academic standards.
- Student Success:** Support students in achieving their academic and career goals through comprehensive support services.
- Financial Sustainability:** Implement sound financial practices to ensure the long-term viability of the institution.
- Community Engagement:** Foster strong relationships with the local community and industry partners.
- Operational Efficiency:** Streamline administrative processes and optimize resource allocation.

The Board of Trustees is committed to the successful implementation of this Master Plan. It will monitor progress and make adjustments as needed to ensure the institution remains on track to achieve its long-term goals. The Board also encourages all faculty, staff, and students to play an active role in the implementation process.

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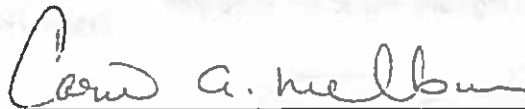
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APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ROSCOMMON TOWNSHIP PARK MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

8555 Knapp Road, P.O. Box 610
Houghton Lake, Michigan 48629
(989) 422-4116

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the proposed Roscommon Township Park Master Plan 2019-2023 is available for public review and comment until January 7, 2019. The plan is available for viewing at the Roscommon Township Hall, 8555 Knapp Road, Houghton Lake, MI 48629, or on the township website at www.roscommontownship.com. Comments, ideas or suggestions may be emailed to the Township Clerk at clerk@roscommontownship.com or may be submitted in writing to the Roscommon Township Board, 8555 Knapp Road, P.O. Box 610, Houghton Lake, MI 48629.



Carie A. Milburn, Roscommon Township Clerk

Posted in Roscommon Township Hall: December 6, 2018
Posted on Roscommon Township website: December 6, 2018
Amended posting (clerical error date 2018 should have been 2019): January 7, 2019

AFFP

Twp Park Master Plan Hearing

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON) SS
}

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED
ROSCOMMON TOWNSHIP PARK MASTER PLAN

Alycia Nielsen, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Classified Manager of the The Houghton Lake Resorter, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Houghton Lake, Roscommon County, Michigan; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

December 13, 2018

Please take notice that the Roscommon Township Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Roscommon Township Park Master Plan on Tuesday, January 8th, 2019, at 6 45 p.m. at the Roscommon Township Hall, 8555 Knapp Rd., Houghton Lake, MI 48629. You are welcome to appear and participate at the public hearing. You may also submit any written comments on or before the date of the public hearing to:

Roscommon Township Park Master Plan
c/o Roscommon Township, PO Box 610 Houghton Lake, MI 48629;
(989) 422-4116

You may review and download a copy of the proposed Roscommon Park Master Plan at the following webpage: www.roscommontownship.com. You may also obtain a copy of the proposed Park Master Plan from either:

Terry DuPuis: (989) 422-4116 or ordinance@roscommontownship.com,

or

Carie Milburn: (989) 422-4116 or clerk@roscommontownship.com

The Township Board will provide auxiliary aids or services to individuals with disabilities. Persons needing such services should contact Roscommon Township through any of the above contacts not less than four (4) days before the public hearing.

Published in the Houghton Lake Resorter on Thursday, December 13, 2018.

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

SIGNED:



Classified Manager

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 13th day of December 2018.



Pamela Elizabeth Kapfman, Notary Public, Roscommon County, Michigan

My commission expires: December 24, 2024

a0100143 00074277

Roscommon Township
P.O. Box 610
Houghton Lake, MI 48629

ROSCOMMON TOWNSHIP BOARD
2019-2023 PARK MASTER PLAN PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2019

The public hearing at the Roscommon Township Hall was called to order by Supervisor Randall at 6:45 p.m. Present were Randall, Milburn, Hose, DuPuis, and Christian.

Also in attendance was Richard Martin, Joseph Williams, Steve Lamb, Brian Clark, Bob Philo, Marc Milburn and Andrew Kompeda.

Supervisor Randall presented the updated Park Master Plan to the Board. She then asked if there were any additional comments from the Park Committee members for the Board, which Mr. Philo commented he hoped the community agrees with the plan outlined for approval. There was discussion regarding some items to be addressed for ADA Compliancy. Supervisor Randall then asked for public comment. There was none.

Motion by Hose, second by DuPuis, to adopt the amended final draft of the Roscommon Township Recreation Master Plan 2019-2023 as presented. All yes, Motion carried.

Hearing adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Diane F. Randall, Supervisor



Carie A. Milburn, Clerk

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROSCOMMON TOWNSHIP BOARD

