Master Plan
for
Parks and Recreation

2011-2015

Adopted: December 8, 2010
Acknowledgments

Township Board of Trustees
  John Barker, Supervisor
  Peter Gallinat, Clerk
  Pam Stovak, Treasurer
  John Dinse, Trustee
  Tim Lannen, Trustee
  Phil Mikus, Trustee
  John Verwey, Trustee

Township Manager
  Brian Smith

Township Recreation Committee
  Dwayne Strachan, Chairperson
  Stan Shingles
  Julie Rookard
  Jim McClain
  Eric VanHevel
  Robert Dvorak
  Mark Minke
  Kay Bouck
  Tim Lannen

Special Thanks to Township Officials
  Woody Woodruff
  Joy Smith

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Chapter 1: Community Description

This plan has been developed for Union Charter Township in Isabella County, Michigan. Union Charter Township does not currently have an approved parks and recreation master plan on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

History
The Charter Township of Union traces its history and its name to the Civil War. A month before the first shots of war rang out at Fort Sumter, shots that tore a nation in two, the original and patriotic Board of Supervisors formally established Union Township on March 11, 1861. They left no doubt where they stood on the upcoming hostilities. They were on the Union side.

In 2011, the Charter Township of Union will celebrate its 150th year of existence. Once a beautiful pine and hardwood forest and the winter home of the Chippewa tribe, the area that became Union Township would become the center of lumbering, commerce and a fledgling oil industry in Michigan that became a state in 1837.

The first white settlers came to Union Township in 1854 when pioneer John Hursh and his family arrived in the area. Various settlements in the 36 square miles of the original township have long disappeared or been absorbed by the City of Mount Pleasant that lies in the center of Union Township. Mount Pleasant was designated the county seat in 1860 just a year after Isabella County was established in 1859. Mount Pleasant became a village in 1875 and later a city in 1889. The history of the city at its core, and Union Township that surrounds it, has been bound together since they were both founded. ¹

¹ From Union Township Web Page. http://www.uniontownshipmi.com
Location of Union Charter Township

Union Township is located in the southeastern quadrant of Isabella County in middle of Michigan’s lower peninsula (Figure 1).

The major land use in the township is cropland (40%). Almost a quarter of the township can be considered “urbanized” including residential (16%), institutional (4%), and commercial (4%) land uses\(^2\). Parks account for only about 2% of Union Township land use.

Union Township encompasses the City of Mount Pleasant on all sides (Figure 2). Geographically, Mount Pleasant looks like an island in the middle of Union Township. This proximity provides numerous opportunities for cooperative planning and provision of services.

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**Population**

The current population of Union Township is 10,976. The population of Union Township is heavily influenced by the large number of college students living in rental housing. The presence of large numbers of college students influences the median age, and the percentage of single adults in the community. The median age of residents is 29; eight years younger than the national median age. Likewise, the percentage of the population that is single is 55%; fourteen percent higher than the national average. Over thirty-six percent of residents live in rental housing compared to the national average of 21%. Over twenty-five percent of housing in the township has been built since 1999, most of these being apartment buildings.

According to Sperling’s Best Places³ the population of Union Charter Township has grown 41% between 2000 and 2009. This makes Union Township one of the five fastest growing townships in Isabella County. Proximity to Mount Pleasant has no doubt contributed to its high growth rate. While Michigan’s population increased 20% between 1970 and 2010 (estimated), Isabella County and Union Township have seen population growth of 50% and 98% respectively. Union Township is also projected to see additional population growth of 65% between 2010 and 2030. Although population estimates are not available for Isabella County, the state is projected to see only about 7.6% growth between 2000 and 2030 (Figure 3). It is likely that the current economic climate in Michigan will have a slowing effect on population growth in Michigan that is not reflected in these 2005 estimates.

![Figure 3: Projected Population Growth](http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Union_charter_township-Michigan.sapx)

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Education

Union township residents are more likely to hold a bachelor’s degree than residents in the city, county, or state at large (Table 1). Another twenty-five percent of township residents have completed some college, but have not graduated. The percent of residents holding graduate or professional degrees is lower than in the city and county, but higher than the state at large. The higher levels of educational attainment are partly due to the impact of the university attracting persons with graduate and professional degrees.

Table 1: Highest Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons age 25 and Higher</th>
<th>High School Graduate</th>
<th>Bachelors Degree</th>
<th>Graduate or Professional Degree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella County</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Charter Township</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Pleasant</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Economy and Employment

The unemployment rate in Union Township is 7.7%\(^4\) compared to the U.S. unemployment rate of 8.5% and the Michigan unemployment rate which is 14.7%\(^5\) as of December 17, 2009. Isabella County and Mount Pleasant have been less hard hit by the economic downturn in Michigan.

The Union Townships cost of living index is 80.15 based on a US average of 100. An amount below 100 means Union charter township, MI is cheaper than the US average.

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\(^5\) [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h8juBKyMw6Uz2fTUih5BZYSPJBKwD9CKLU482](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h8juBKyMw6Uz2fTUih5BZYSPJBKwD9CKLU482)
Chapter 2: Administrative Structure

Statutory Authority

Union Charter Township receives its legal authority under MCL 41.1a-41.805, the Michigan Township Laws Recodified, and MCL 42.1-42.34; the Michigan Charter Township Act. These statutes mandate that townships provide specified functions including assessment, elections, and tax collections. In addition to mandated functions, under the Charter Townships Act, Michigan townships enjoy authority to offer a wide variety of additional programs and services considered permissive activities. Parks and Recreation services are an example of a permissive activity that a charter township may choose to provide. Legislative authority is exercised by a township board of seven members consisting of the supervisor, the township clerk, the township treasurer, and 4 elected council members.

Organization

Union Charter Township operates with a Township Manager who is responsible for day-to-day operations of the township under the direction of the township Board of Trustees made up of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four elected Trustees. The township makes use of a number of appointed citizen committees who provide recommendations and feedback to the Board of Trustees for action (Figure 4). The Recreation Committee serves as an advisory body, making recommendations to the Township manager and the Board of Trustees.

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Recreation Budget:

Funding for Union Township parks and recreation comes from the general fund (Table 2). The primary use of the parks and recreation budget has been the maintenance and operation of McDonald and Jamison Parks. Union Township has not received any DNR grants in the past.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Amended</td>
<td>Amended vs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amended vs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$89,800</td>
<td>$89,800</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$53,076</td>
<td>$(36,724)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$133,945</td>
<td>$133,945</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$43,167</td>
<td>$(90,778)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$138,200</td>
<td>$272,400</td>
<td>$134,200</td>
<td>$233,773</td>
<td>$(38,627)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$94,275</td>
<td>$101,790</td>
<td>$7,515</td>
<td>$79,212</td>
<td>$(22,578)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$85,875</td>
<td>$85,875</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$65,627</td>
<td>$(20,248)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$90,725</td>
<td>$72,160</td>
<td>$(18,565)</td>
<td>$69,899</td>
<td>$(2,261)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$82,716</td>
<td>$84,406</td>
<td>$1,690</td>
<td>$75,872</td>
<td>$(8,534)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grants

Union Charter Township received one previous grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In 1972 the township was awarded a grant of $28,822 to fund the development of McDonald Park. The grant funded development of the 15 acre site including picnic area, restroom and storage building, two ball diamonds, parking, skating area, tot-lot, multi-use court, trails, utilities, site improvements and landscaping. **Project No. 26-00341**
Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory

Recreation Inventory Process

The recreation inventory was completed utilizing a variety of methods and resources. The Isabella County 2006 master plan\(^7\) and the City of Mount Pleasant 2006 community master plan\(^8\) provided useful information for compiling the recreation inventory. Like public parks, public schools sites provide many outdoor areas and facilities that support local recreation activities. In addition to reviewing existing planning documents, site visits were conducted to verify and update printed information.

Union Township Public Facilities:

Union Charter Township operates two township parks. Both parks are located in the northern portion of Union Township. McDonald Park is classified as a community park while Jameson Park is classified as a neighborhood park. The service radius of community parks is defined as “several neighborhoods up to two miles.”\(^9\) The service radius of neighborhood parks is defined as a ¼ to ½ mile radius.

While the service radius associated with each park type is an ideal service area, it is important to note that a number of factors affect the actual service area of a specific park. In Figure 5 above, the service area of Jameson Park is severely restricted by the presence of U.S. 127 which poses a barrier to users from the east side of the highway. Likewise, Pickard (U.S. 20) forms a barrier to users from south of Pickard. Because neighborhood parks are generally within walking distance of residents, the presence of two major roadways can limit the number of users who will, in fact, travel to that park.

McDonald Park is located adjacent to the township hall at 2010 S Lincoln Road. McDonald Park is the largest Union Township Park. This facility includes 6 ball fields and supports several leagues and programs including youth baseball and softball and adult softball. Other recreation opportunities in the park include playground equipment, horseshoe courts, a paved accessible trail, modern restrooms, and a 1200 SF pavilion on 15 acres. The Township offices also offer public meeting space. McDonald Park would fit the classification of a Community park.

Jameson Park (Figure 7) is located north of Pickard Avenue (M-20) on Budd Street. Jameson Park includes one adult softball field, a community meeting room, an outdoor picnic pavilion, playground equipment, a sand volleyball court and modern restroom facilities. Jameson Park best fits the classification of a Neighborhood Park/Playground based on its size.

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\(^7\) Isabella County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan: 2006.
\(^8\) City of Mount Pleasant Master Land Use Plan: 2006.
\(^9\) NPRP Park Classification
Figure 5: Union Township Parks Service Area
Figure 6: McDonald Park
Figure 7: Jameson Park
Regional Park and Recreation Resources

State Parks and Trails

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) operates a number of parks and trails in the counties surrounding Isabella. Each of these are within an hour drive of Union Township and provide opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation activities. (Figure 8).

Figure 8: State Parks, Forests, and Pathways
State Lands in Isabella County

State lands in Isabella County include elements of the AuSable State Forest located in Denver Township and elements of the Edmore State Game Area located in Rolland and Freemont Townships. DNRE also operates boat ramps on Stephenson Lake in Vernon Township, Six Lakes in Sherman Township, and Littlefield Lake in Gilmore Township (Figure 9).

Isabella County Parks

Township residents also have access to Isabella County Parks as well as state lands that support recreational use.

Isabella County operates a number of parks and recreation areas that are within easy access of all Union Township residents. County parks are classified as regional parks and serve an area of up to two hours drive time. In Union Township the closest county park is Meridian Park which is located in Union Township along the Chippewa River. Meridian Park provides access to the Chippewa River which is highly used by canoeists and tubers.
Figure 9: Isabella County Parks
Natural Features

The Chippewa River represents the most significant natural feature in the City of Mount Pleasant. Public access to the Chippewa River is ensured by the preservation of public space along the river. Five developed city parks are located adjacent to the river. Two additional undeveloped city properties are located on the Chippewa River.

City parks provide a number of river access opportunities including:

- A white water course at Mill Pond Park
- In addition, the Chippewa River flows past two undeveloped pieces of city property. The Canal Street Park and the Indian Pines properties, provide additional river access points.

Several canoe, kayak, and tube liveries in the Mount Pleasant community provide rental equipment and transportation for those wishing to use the river.
Figure 10: Natural Features
The City of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation department operates over 300 acres of park land in eleven locations plus a four mile paved, accessible Riverwalk Trail system. Five of the City’s parks are located along or near the Riverwalk Trail system (Figure 10). Although township residents may access city parks, participation in recreation programs and rental of city recreation facilities require payment of non-resident fees in addition to program or facility fees.

Figure 11: Mount Pleasant Parks
Figure 12: Mount Pleasant City Parks Service Area

City Parks
Union Township Area

City of Mount Pleasant Parks:
1. Chipp-A-Waters Park
2. Island Park
3. Flenken Field
4. Mill Pond Park
5. Mission Creek Woodland Park
6. Nelson Park
7. Feller Park
8. Sunnyside Park
9. Horizon Park
10. Yost Field
11. Canal Street Park

Parks and Recreation Facilities
Union Township Area, Isabella County
City Park
County Park
Private Facility
Proposed Tribal Water Park
CMU Facility
Access Adventure Trail 2010
Local Trail or Pathway
River, Creek, or Drain
Lake or Pond
City Park Service Area
Park Area
Union Township Boundary

Map produced by Union Township GIS Department
January 2010
Figure 13: Recreational Facilities in Union Township
Mount Pleasant Public School Facilities

Several public schools within Union Township have outdoor recreation facilities that also serve the leisure needs of the community.

Elementary schools sites have outdoor recreation activity areas including sport fields, sport courts, and playground equipment. Because elementary schools were originally built to serve a neighborhood or district, school sites are classified as neighborhood parks.

The Mount Pleasant High School site provides outdoor recreation facilities often used by the public for recreation and sports including tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, soccer and football fields, and running tracks.

All of the public schools within Union Township are operated by the City of Mount Pleasant Public Schools and are located within the city limits except Mary McGuire Elementary which is outside the city limits in Union Township (Figure 12).

### Park Type Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mini-Park 2,500 S.F. to 1 Acre</td>
<td>Less than ¼ mile distance in residential settings .025 to .5 ac./1,000</td>
<td>Union Twp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Neighborhood Park 1 to 15 Acres</td>
<td>One neighborhood to ¼ to ½ mile radius 1.0 to 2.0 ac./1,000</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Community Park 16 – 99 Acres</td>
<td>Several neighborhoods to 2 mile radius 5.0 to 8.0 ac./1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Metropolitan Park 100 – 499 Acres</td>
<td>Several communities within 1 hours drive 5.0 to 10.0 ac./1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Regional Park 500+ Acres</td>
<td>Several communities within 1 hours drive Variable</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Special Use Areas Varies depending on size</td>
<td>No applicable standard Variable</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Linear Park/Linkages Sufficient width to protect resources and provide maximum usage</td>
<td>No applicable standard Variable</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA: Park Type not applicable to Mount Pleasant

**Table 3: Inventory of Public Parks and Recreation Areas Serving the Union Township Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Park Type</th>
<th>Baseball (Youth)</th>
<th>Baseball (Regulation)</th>
<th>Softball (Youth)</th>
<th>Softball (Adult)</th>
<th>Football</th>
<th>Soccer</th>
<th>Multi-use field space</th>
<th>Volleyball</th>
<th>Basketball (Indoor Courts)</th>
<th>Basketball (Outdoor Goals)</th>
<th>Tennis Courts</th>
<th>Playground</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Horses/hay</th>
<th>Water access (Fishing/Baiting)</th>
<th>Trails/access</th>
<th>Disc Golf Course</th>
<th>1/4 Mile Track</th>
<th>Beach</th>
<th>Picnic Tables</th>
<th>Picnic Shelters/Pavilions</th>
<th>Pool/spray park</th>
<th>Campsites/Cabins</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jameson Park</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>McDonald Park</td>
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<td>Canal Street Park</td>
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<td>Chipp-A-Waters Park</td>
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20
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Township Park</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Township</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>1642</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#Recreational facilities available to the public, not including intercollegiate sport facilities. *Open field areas not maintained for a particular sport activity.
Other Local Recreation Resources

The Commission on Aging Activity Center, located at 2200 S. Lincoln Rd. adjacent to McDonald Township Par, is the “Community Focal Point” for Older Adult programs and services for Isabella County. The center provides a friendly social atmosphere, in which participants can enjoy a wide variety of recreational, social, cultural, nutritional and educational opportunities. Some of the leisure opportunities for seniors include:

- exercise programs tai chi
- yoga classes
- several weekly types of card playing
- informational seminars on medical issues
- travel shows
- a craft bazaar
- legal aid assistance
- caregiver, ostomy and Parkinson support groups
- tax assistance
- delicious nutritional dining
- quilting
- clown training
- line dancing
- square dancing
- health screenings
- retiree group meetings
- needle crafters
- singers
- art classes
- bingo
- special events
- movies.

In addition, the Commission on Aging operates a travel program providing the opportunities for individuals to take trips all over the country. There are day trips as well as extended excursions. Most trips are provided by motor coach.

**Tribal Recreation Facilities**

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is a separate entity from all other governmental units in Isabella County. Nonetheless, their influence and, in particular, that of the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort merit discussion.

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10 Isabella County Commission on Aging web page: http://www.isabellacounty.org/dept/coa/senior.html
**Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort**
The Soaring Eagle is the largest casino between Atlantic City and Las Vegas. The addition of a world-class hotel adds to the prominence of the resort with its many eateries, health spa and quality atmosphere. The casino offers gambling 24 hours a day, with more than 4,900 Slots. More than a dozen golf courses are located in close proximity, including the Pohlcat Golf Course which is less than a mile from the Soaring Eagle. In addition, entertainers perform frequently at the Soaring Eagle. Undoubtedly the casino and resort serve as strong contributors to tourism in mid-Michigan.

**Recreational Facilities**
The recreational facilities of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe primarily serve the Tribal population of approximately 2,400 people. The Fitness Center is charged with providing comprehensive fitness services and activities, using health promotion and disease prevention initiatives to enhance quality of life and sense of well being of each patron. The Tribal Operations Building contains a gymnasium and offers various workout equipment and programs.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Lands also include Ogemaw Park, Little Elk, the HUD Ball Diamond and the Hill Campground. Ogemaw Park contains a basketball court, playground equipment, a pavilion, and a grill. The HUD Ball Diamond/Play Area includes a play area, volleyball, and basketball courts. Finally, memories of ancestors/loved ones, and years gone by are sheltered among the canopy of oaks, maples, white ash, and cottonwood trees that grace the landscape of the Hill Campground. Located on a no-outlet road, this park is generally a quiet and peaceful campground.  

The Zibiwing Center is a cultural center created to promote the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and other Great Lakes Anishinabek tribes. The center offers educational programs and events and is open to the public.

**Hotel / Water Park**
During 2009, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe announced plans to build a new resort hotel and indoor water park on the site of the currently Soaring Eagle Inn and Conference Center (formerly Holiday Inn) on East Pickard.

**RV Park**
The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe is also developing a new 86 site full service RV park adjacent to Grewes Lake south of the airport. The addition of the RV Park and development of the new hotel / water park will be a significant addition to the recreation inventory on the eastern side of the township.

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11 Isabella County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (2006).
Central Michigan University
Central Michigan University, located in Mount Pleasant offers numerous recreation and leisure opportunities to student body, faculty and staff.

University Recreation
University Recreation, or U-REC, provides a wide range sports, health, and recreation opportunities for students, faculty/staff, and community members. U-REC manages the Student Activity Center (SAC) as well as the intramural sports fields.

Student Activity Center (SAC)
A recreational, intramural and fitness complex, CMU’s URec provides space for nearly every recreational activity imaginable, including:

- 25 meter competitive pool
- Courts for basketball/volleyball
- Saunas and spa
- Aerobic dance studio
- Spinning studio
- Free weight room
- Machine weigh room
- Indoor running track
- Racquetball courts
- Bowling center
- Cardiovascular fitness equipment room

Use of the SAC facilities is available to the general public on a membership basis or fee basis.

Outdoor Sports Complex
The U-REC Outdoor Sports Complex consists of four lighted softball fields and five lighted football/soccer fields, club sport fields, and a modern restroom facility. The Outdoor Sport Complex is primarily used for intramural sports programs but is also available for community soccer and softball tournaments. URec is also responsible for managing the tennis courts located at the Rose Arena and an 18-hole Frisbee golf course.

Intramural Sports
University Recreation offers a year round program of team and individual, men’s, women’s and co-recreational competitive sports programs to meet the needs of students for sport participation.

Club Sports
Currently there are over thirty student-lead club sport groups on campus.

Community events and programs
In addition to membership opportunities, URec offers a number of recreation and sport programs that serve the non-university community including Summer Activity Camp, a swimming instructional program, a wide variety of fitness classes, and personal trainers. In addition, the SAC facilities are available for outside groups on a rental basis.
**Intercollegiate Athletics**
Central Michigan University is a NCAA Division I athletic program offering a wide range of intercollegiate sport to suit almost any competitive interest. CMU sponsors six men’s and eight women’s sports teams that compete in the Mid American Conference. During any week of the year several opportunities exist to view collegiate sports at CMU.

**Cultural Arts**
Central Michigan University offers a wide range of graphic and performing arts, cultural arts and events, libraries and collections. Many of these opportunities are open to the public at no charge.
- University Speaker Series
- Brooks Astronomical Observatory
- Museum of Cultural & Natural History
- University Art Gallery
- North Art Studio
- University Theater
- Clarke Historical Library
- Concerts

**Private (open to the public) Providers**

Basketball, Volleyball, Racquetball
- Morey Courts
- University Recreation

Bowling
- University Recreation Center
- Chippewa Lanes
- Riverwood Lanes

Campgrounds
- Shardi’s Hide Away
- Saginaw Chippewa Tribe

Dance
- Rochelle Bertsch School of Ballet
- Toni Dance Studio
- Vision Studio of Performing Arts

Fitness
- Central Michigan Community Hospital – Wellness Central Fitness
- Morey Courts
- Curves
- Contours Express
- MyGym LLC

Gambling
- Soaring Eagle Casino

Golf courses - public
- Bucks Run

Pohlcit
- Pleasant Hills
- Riverwood Resort
- Holiday Greens
- The Golf Center

Gymnastics
- TumbITrak
- Mt. Pleasant Gymnastics Center

Kayak, Canoe and Tube rental
- Buckley’s Canoe Livery
- Chippewa River Outfitters
- Floaters Tubing
- Cracker Barrel
- Chippewa River Outfitters

Racing
- Mount Pleasant Speedway – motor sport racing
- Mount Pleasant Meadows – Horse racing, county fairground.

Skating
- Ice - Isabella County Event Center (ICE Arena)
- Roller Skating - Spinning Wheels.

Sky Diving
- Central Michigan Skydivers

Sport Camps
- Central Michigan University
Recreation Standards:

Standards applied in this section are based on standards proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association 1995 report “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines” (Table 4). It should be noted that there are no “national standard” for park development. Instead, the latest NRPA study recommends that each community is unique, and that standards which reflect the local “uniqueness” should be established.

Activity Area Standards

Table 4: NRPA Activity Area Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Union Twp Inventory</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>City and Township Inventory*</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Basketball courts</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
<td>1 per 2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Exceeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball – Official</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball – Little League</td>
<td>1 per 30,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Met</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exceeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football – HS</td>
<td>1 per 20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1 per 10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Exceeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Driving Range</td>
<td>1 per 50,000 or 30 min travel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running Track</td>
<td>1 per 20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1 per 20,000 or 15-30 min travel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball fields</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Met</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Exceeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>1 system per region</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Courses</td>
<td>1 per 25,000 or 30 min travel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Exceeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey – Indoor</td>
<td>1 per 100,000 or ½ to 1 hour travel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not Met</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes CMU facilities accessible to the public

Although Union Township meets few of the NRPA activity area standards by itself, it is clear that access to typical recreation areas is met within the immediate area of Union Township. Some are commercially available for fees (driving range, swimming, golf, ice hockey, basketball, volleyball) regardless of place of residence. Most other activity areas, with the exception of gymnasium space is generally available in the community for little or no cost to Union Township residents (Tennis, outdoor basketball courts, field space, running tracks, trails).
Access to gymnasium space is limited in the public schools where school-related functions have priority during peak seasons and times although the opening of Morey Courts has relieved some of that pressure.

Activity Area Standards do not reflect many of the recent changes in recreation activity preferences. Some popular recent developments including such things as dog parks, spray parks, Frisbee golf courses, and skate parks are not addressed in these standards. Also, growth in girls and women’s sports such as softball are not reflected in these 1960’s standards for softball fields. In addition, preferences for specific recreation activity areas can vary considerably between communities in different geographic areas of the country. For instance, winter sport activities are almost nonexistent in the standards while the demand for winter recreation activity areas is higher in northern climates.

**Park Land Standards:**

The Park Land Standard is a recommend basic level of developed space for parks and recreation in a community. Regardless of the purpose for which it is developed, the Park Land Standard measures only the gross acreage of space that has been developed for recreational use. Union Township exceeds the standard for developed park land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5: NRPA Park Land Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Standard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Acres of Developed Park Land</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acre/Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Again, Union Township appears to fall short of the recommended standard for acres of parkland (Table 5), it is clear that within the immediate area of the township there is adequate developed park land to meet the needs of Union Township residents. The central location of Mount Pleasant within Union Township makes access to city parks as convenient, if not more so, than access to Union Township parks. Access to city parks is not limited to city residents at this time. City parks, trails, and county parks are equally accessible to Union Township residents as to city and county residents. All users pay fees for county parks, fees for city park use is limited to rental of shelters for which non-city residents pay an additional fee.

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12 Sperling’s Best Places. [http://www.bestplaces.net](http://www.bestplaces.net)
Park Accessibility

The assessment of park accessibility is based on a barrier free assessment instrument developed by Dr. Schilling, Assistant Professor of Recreation at CMU, to evaluate outdoor recreation areas and facilities for compliance with the American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Access Guidelines (FSORAG). This assessment instrument includes evaluation measures for pavilions, picnic tables, routes of travel (paths), cooking surfaces and grills, benches, restrooms, parking areas, playgrounds, fishing piers and platforms, boating facilities, boat launches, campgrounds and RV parks, tent pads and platforms, fire rings, and outdoor athletic facilities.

Each park was visited and evaluated using the Barrier Free Access Survey instrument. Parks were assigned a score based on the percent of applicable standards that were met for each park. In addition, key recommendations for each park are identified below (Table 6).

Table 6: Park Accessibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McDonald Park</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>McDonald Park has some outstanding accessibility features including a paved trail system that links almost all features of the park including pavilions, restrooms, ball fields, concessions, and parking lots. Both restroom buildings have designated barrier free men’s and women’s restrooms. There are no designated handicapped parking spaces, no handicapped parking signage. Park does not meet the standard that 20% of available seating be barrier free. McDonald Park has no barrier free picnic tables in either pavilion. Several fixed picnic tables in the park are accessible however they do not meet accessibility guidelines for access route or surfacing. In some cases the accessible tables are installed unevenly and too low to the ground. Park does not meet the standard that 20% of grills be barrier free. Park does not meet the standard that 20% of benches be barrier free. Benches are not located along an accessible route. Several are installed as low as 8” from the ground. Although both playgrounds are of recent design and manufacture and have an accessible transfer point for access, neither playground has a barrier free route of travel to that access point or to other play components.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Jameson Park**  75%

Jameson Park has some outstanding accessibility features including designated handicapped parking, designated barrier free restrooms, and an accessible route of travel connecting many park features including parking, the pavilion, community center, and restrooms.

Park does not meet the standard that 20% of available seating be barrier free. There are no barrier free picnic tables in the pavilion. Two fixed picnic tables in the playground area are barrier free, but do not meet the standard for access or surfacing.

Park does not meet the standard that 20% of benches be barrier free. Benches are not located along an accessible route.

Although the playground is of recent design and manufacture and has an accessible transfer point for access, the playground does not have a barrier free route of travel to that access point or to other play components.

There is no accessible route of travel to the softball field.

The water fountain on the south side of the restroom building is not on an accessible route of travel.
Recommendations for Improving Park Accessibility:

- Develop purchase specifications for barrier free picnic tables, benches, and grills for future equipment addition/replacement.
- Rehabilitate several picnic sites to be universally accessible including route of travel to the existing trails, barrier free table and grill, and an appropriate barrier free surface.
- Construct an appropriate barrier free route of travel from the existing trails to each playground site including access to the accessible play component(s) of each piece of equipment.
- Designate handicapped parking in appropriate locations at McDonald Park.
- Locate barrier free benches along accessible routes of travel.
- Construct an accessible route of travel to the softball field and water fountain a Jameson Park.
- Several barrier free tables and benches are not level and/or were installed too low to the ground.

Recreation Programs and Volunteers

The Township government does not operate recreation programs or services. The Township role is one of providing areas and facilities for use by individuals, groups, and organizations. Because of the Townships geographic position surrounding Mount Pleasant, residents take advantage of programs and services provided by the city as well as private recreation providers to a great extent.

Recreation programs in the Township are organized and lead by volunteers using Township facilities. Examples of organized recreation programs that take place in Union Township parks include Little League baseball, girls and adult softball.

These volunteer groups have been instrumental in meeting the needs in the Township. Little League baseball and girls softball leaders have been very active in raising funds and making improvements to the facilities.
Development Opportunities

A number of resources have been identified for possible future development. Several pieces of land are owned by the township, some are held by other units of government in the county.

Chippewa River:
The most significant natural resource in the township is the Chippewa River which transects the township and the City of Mount Pleasant from the southwest to the northeast. The Chippewa River is recognized by anglers and boater alike as an outstanding outdoor recreation resource. A number of canoe, kayak, and tube liveries operate in the Mount Pleasant area. Large numbers of residents and college students make the Chippewa River a favorite attraction during the warm months. The river flows by or through one county park and six city of Mount Pleasant parks making it very accessible to users. Acquire additional land along the Chippewa River and within the township for additional river use development.

Jameson Park
Acquire property north of Jameson Park for additional recreation development.

South Mission Ave
Union township owns a 13 acre property at the intersection of South Mission and Deerfield Road. The location of this property in the southern portion of the township, near several apartment developments, provides an opportunity to provide park and recreation services to township residents who are currently approximately two miles from the nearest existing public park. This could be an appropriate location for a fitness trail and/or a dog park.

Ric-Rack Drive
The township owns a 12.5 acre parcel of land west of the city airport adjacent to another parcel owned by the city that includes a sizeable pond that could have some potential for development into a summer time swimming area similar to those at several county parks. Unlike other summer time water recreation facilities operated by the county, this location is in an urban area versus the rural locations of the other swimming areas.

Summerton Road River Area
The City of Mount Pleasant currently owns an 80-acre parcel located on the east side of Union Township on both sides of the Chippewa River that could have some potential for development in association with other entities that could include the city, county, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Chippewa River Conservancy and other partners interested in developing a river trail system along the river in Isabella County,
COA/McDonald Park Woods
The Isabella County Commission on Aging (COA) owns a wooded area adjacent to a wooded area owned by the township that is a portion of the land occupied by the township’s largest park, McDonald Park. COA and township officials have already spoken about the potential of developing facilities in that area that could be utilized by seniors using the adjacent senior center. An accessible path between the two facilities connecting the township park and county senior center was also discussed.
Chapter 4: The Planning and Public Input Process

Stakeholder Meeting: Township Officials

On Tuesday, September 29, 2009 a visioning session was held with members of the township government. Participants included the township manager, two members of the township planning commission, three members of the parks and recreation advisory board, two township trustees and a representative from the township sustainability committee. The township government has undergone a change in leadership and, with that, a change in direction and vision. This meeting served as an opportunity to articulate the vision of community leaders, particularly in regard to the role park and/or recreation planning would play in achieving that vision.

The purpose of this meeting was to create a vision for parks and recreation in Union Township and to identify keys to achieving that vision. Participants were lead through a scenario in which they were asked to view parks and recreation from the perspective of ten years in the future;

Scenario: The year is 2020. This group is meeting again to update the parks and recreation master plan. As we review our accomplishments of the last ten years, participants were asked to answer the following focus question:

Focus Question:
"Looking back over the past ten years, what changes or improvements in parks and recreation are you most proud of"?

Following listing of “accomplishments”, each participant was given five stickers and asked to use them to indicate the projects they feel are the most important for parks and recreation in the coming years. Following is a summary of the “accomplishments” along with the number of votes received by each.

Union Township Parks and Recreation Vision (votes)

- Created a Chippewa River Trail System in the county (8)
- Constructed a community Pool (8)
- Created an Amphitheater (6)
- Established a special district in the county (city, county, townships) (5)
- Completion of biking/walking trails connecting Clare, Alma, and Mount Pleasant (5)
- Created a community garden (4)
- Acquired additional park property (4)
- Established a nature area for environmental education and nature-based recreation (4)
- Established additional individual and group picnic sites (3)
- Offer family activities for all ages (3)
- Attract youth and adult sport tournaments (3)
Established other sports programs: soccer (3)
Increased utilization of Jamison Park (2)
Created a Dog Park at Meridian Park (2)
Improved landscaping of all township facilities (2)
Parks and recreation areas are recognized as safe places (1)
Created a Memorial Forest (1)
Township roads are known as - cyclist/walker friendly (1)
Developed a Fitness Trail (1)
Developed property in cooperation with Council on Aging (1)
Developed a public river access with campsites in east township (1)
Created a skiing/winter sport park. (1)
Offer a variety of social activities (festivals, dances, concerts) (1)
Constructed an adult softball complex with regulation fields
Developed a multi-use ice and roller hockey rink
Enhanced sport field lighting with more environmentally friendly lights
Created skating paths
Added a park in the southeast quadrant of the township

Following the listing of “accomplishments” the question was posed:

“What were the significant events (social, economic, political, etc.) that enabled Union Township to achieve these changes and improvements in Parks and Recreation”?

**How did we get here?**
Developed broad community support for parks and recreation
Developed creative funding strategies
Systematic planning efforts
Developed inter-governmental cooperation
Created opportunities for broad community involvement
Identified and worked with partners
Land conservancies
CMU
Tribe
Civic Groups

**Resident Survey**

As part of the comprehensive planning process being conducted by Union Township a survey of township residents was conducted to gather input on a number of township-wide planning questions. Union Township officials contracted the telephone survey to Center for Applied Research and Rural Studies (CARRS) at Central Michigan University. Working with CARRS staff, a number of recreation specific questions were included in the survey. The telephone survey was conducted during the middle of October, 2009.
The telephone survey drew from two samples and the results are reported for each sample separately. 1,543 phone numbers of Union Township residents were included in the resident sample. Eight hundred seventy six phone numbers were identified for CMU students residing in the township. These made up the student sample. Survey questions sought input from subjects related to priorities for recreational development, use of parks, and recreation programming for children and youth.

Park Development
A number of questions in the survey focused on priorities of people living in the township. Subjects were asked to assess the priority of several specific initiatives that have implications for recreational development including bike paths, a community swimming pool, additional parks, sidewalk improvements, intergovernmental cooperation, and road improvements.

Adding more parks, bike trails, and a community swimming pool were among the four lowest priorities for township residents and in the bottom 50% for students. Over sixty percent of township residents believe that development of more parks should be a low priority (Table 6). Development of a community swimming pool was rated as a low priority by over 50% of both residents and students.

Table 6: Development Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th></th>
<th>Students</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Priority</td>
<td>Medium Priority</td>
<td>Low Priority</td>
<td>High Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike paths</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community swimming pool</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide more parks</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>62.1</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance sidewalks</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>62.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance Cooperation with Local Governments</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Roads</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also of interest to future recreation planning for Union Township was the question related to enhancing cooperation with local governments. The proximity of Union Township and the City of Mount Pleasant would suggest a need for cooperative planning. Over sixty percent of residents indicated that enhanced cooperation with local governments should be a high priority for the township as did over forty percent of students.

Enhancing sidewalks was the second highest priority for students, many of whom live in apartments and may walk or bike to CMU. Over 60% of students believe that enhancing sidewalks is a high priority. Less than a third of residents think this should be a high priority.

Road improvements were the number one initiative for both Residents and Students. Almost three-fourths of residents rated road improvements as a high priority while over sixty percent of students did so. Road improvements, like sidewalk enhancement and bike paths, contribute to the promotion of non-motorized transportation, and promote pedestrian and cyclist safety.
Park Use
Subjects were asked to assess the extent to which local parks meet their needs and the extent to which their household makes use of local parks. Over 40% of residents indicate that parks either completely or almost completely (4 or 5) meet their needs, while over 30% indicate that parks do not meet their needs (1 or 2) (Table 7). Forty-seven percent of students indicated that local parks meet their needs (4 or 5) with only 25% indicating that local parks do not meet their needs (1 or 2).

Table 7: Local Parks Meet Your Needs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do local parks meet your needs?</th>
<th>Not at all 1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Completely 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subjects were asked to rate their household’s use of all parks in the area (table 8). Only about 20% of all respondents described themselves as non-users. Residents were slightly more likely to consider themselves regular or occasional users (60%) than students (56%).

Table 8: Household Use of All Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household’s use of all parks</th>
<th>Regular Users</th>
<th>Occasional Users</th>
<th>Infrequent Users</th>
<th>Non-Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subjects were asked to indicate how frequently their household made use of Union Township parks (Table 9). Over forty percent of residents and over fifty percent of students indicated that they never used McDonald Park. Over fifty percent of residents and students indicated that they never used Jameson Park.
Recreation Programming

Subjects were asked whether they supported more activity programming for children and youth (Table 10). Almost three-fourths of residents and over ninety percent of students agreed that there should be more activities for children 12 and under. Over 60% of residents and over 85% of students agreed that more activities for teens 13-18 is needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents Use of Parks</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>1 to 5 Times</th>
<th>6 or More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McDonald Park, Park Users Only (N = 357)</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jameson Park, Park Users Only (N = 356)</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Use of Parks</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>1 to 5 Times</th>
<th>6 or More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McDonald Park, Park Users Only (N = 132)</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jameson Park, Park Users Only (N = 132)</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10: More Activity Programming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More activities for 12 and younger</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More activities for teens 13 to 18</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More activities for 12 and younger</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More activities for teens 13 to 18</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residents were asked “What kinds of activities for children would you like to see?” and “What kinds of activities for teens would you like to see?” Literally hundreds of suggestions were offered. For children, residents recommended more sports activities, new sports programs, organized activities other than sports including educational, creative and arts programs, a community center, and after school programs among others. For teens, residents suggested dances and social events, sports, a place to gather and hang out, and a swimming pool among other things. A complete list of resident responses to these questions can be found in Appendix B.
Open Ended Questions

Residents were also asked several open ended questions related to activities for children and youth in the township, and overall quality of life priorities in the township.

The first question, “What kinds of activities for children would you like to see?” resulted in a range of responses including (Table 11):

Table 11: Desired Activities for Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Examples of Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Sports</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>4-H, arts, nature programs, museum, cheerleading, tutoring, roller skating, biking, character development, after-school programs, winter activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized Activity – Sports</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Gymnastics, more sports, anything physically active, summer sport camps, sport clinics, golf, and bowling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Space – Outdoor Activity</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Bike paths, sidewalks, playgrounds, more activities at parks, more play areas, skate park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Indoor play center, swimming lessons, more water parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Similar to SAC, pool, winter indoor activities, family friendly, like a YMCA, youth center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Programs</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Education, creative activity, physical activity, like PEAK, like the Midland Center, supervised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other - Miscellaneous</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Contribute toward existing MP programs, inexpensive, volunteer opportunities, and summer activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next question, “What kinds of activities for teenagers would you like to see?” resulted in a range of responses including (Table 12):

Table 12: Desired Activities for Teens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Examples of Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Sports</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>A place to just hang out, dances, parties, game room, arts, music, volunteering, workforce training, movie night, concerts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Teen center, youth club, inexpensive, have fun and be safe, music, dancing &amp; socializing, educational assistance, computers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized Activity – Sports</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Skating, skateboard park, roller rink, winter sports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Space – Outdoor Activity</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Bike paths, hunter safety, fishing, outdoor activities,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Programs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Youth club, field trips, mentoring and tutoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other - Miscellaneous</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Supervised, parental involvement, let teens decide what they want to do, inexpensive, lock-ins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lastly, residents were asked, “Is there anything you would like to add about issues in the township that we haven't already discussed?” Comments ranged across all aspects of township operations, but a number of comments directly related to parks and recreation (Table 13).

**Table 13: Other Issues in the Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers market at McDonald Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor gun range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More winter activities for families with children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor hockey/skating rink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park on the south side of the township,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family-oriented social activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Meeting**

An open public meeting was held on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 pm at the Union Township Hall. Approximately a dozen citizens attended the meeting. The public meeting was conducted using a guided group process. The process began by posing a focus question for the group.

**Focus Question:**

*In order to meet the future needs of Union Township residents, what kinds of improvements and additions should be made to Union Township parks and recreation areas?*

Participants were given several minutes to silently list their ideas in answer to the focus question. Following the silent listing, participant’s ideas were listed on large sheets of paper and posted on the wall. A brief period of time was allowed for participants to seek clarification of the ideas others had suggested. During this clarification period, some ideas were combined based on the discussion leaving approximately 35 ideas of improvements or additions to Union Township parks (Table 14).
### Table 14: List of Recreation Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A place for children</td>
<td>Community garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming hole at the river</td>
<td>Screening between picnic tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer complex</td>
<td>Multi-sport complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve ADA access in parks</td>
<td>Water play feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places for reflection</td>
<td>Better signage, rules, safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold water drinking fountains</td>
<td>Trash cans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More access to Chippewa river</td>
<td>Outdoor concert/bandstand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A place to create</td>
<td>Emergency communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More baseball fields</td>
<td>Music system in parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More parking</td>
<td>Outdoor ice arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness trail</td>
<td>Swimming beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog park</td>
<td>Archery range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking/biking trails w/connections</td>
<td>Picnic grills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frisbee golf course</td>
<td>Graffiti wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms/changing rooms</td>
<td>Bocce courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen for canning</td>
<td>Bonfire area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putting green</td>
<td>Basketball courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve traffic flow in parks</td>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants were given ballots and asked to “vote” of the ten (10) ideas from the list that they thought would best help meet the needs of the township. Tallying the ballots resulted in shortening the list to only twelve ideas for park improvements. In the final stage of the process, participants were given five stickers and were asked to use the stickers as their votes by placing their stickers next to the five (5) ideas they thought would best meet the townships needs for parks and recreation (Table 15).

### Table 15: Final Priority List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor ice arena</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community garden</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor concert/bandstand</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More access to the Chippewa River</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sport complex</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog park</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve ADA access in parks</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming beach</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Priorities and Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation

In 2010, Union Charter Township created a Master Plan for Parks and Recreation, joining Mount Pleasant and Isabella County in undertaking this planning process. In addition, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has been engaged in a master planning process that addresses recreation features and facilities. Although undertaken independently, and at different times, there is a remarkable similarity between the three governmental agencies and the Tribe as to specific priorities. These commonalities provide a basis for intergovernmental cooperation and cooperative planning toward these goals. (See Table 16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Priorities</th>
<th>Trails</th>
<th>River</th>
<th>Cooperative Planning</th>
<th>Community Center/Pool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Mount Pleasant (2010 Master Plan)</td>
<td>Develop a multi-use pathway system linking parks, community facilities, school property, business areas, and neighborhoods (p. 46-47).</td>
<td>Work with other units of government and the tribe to develop a management plan for the Chippewa river and uses (p. 46)</td>
<td>Clearly, the key to accomplishing many of the recommendations contained in this master plan is to partner with other organizations that share common goals and objectives (p. 47).</td>
<td>Work with other units of government and the Tribe to develop a community aquatic facility (p. 46).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella County (2006 Master Plan)</td>
<td>This park (Meridian) was identified as having the best potential for the development of a trail system connecting this park with other parks; specifically to the City of Mt. Pleasant River Trail (p. 67). (Pere Marquette trail) Eventual connection to the City of Mt. Pleasant should be a goal (p. 67).</td>
<td>…to protect areas of outstanding scenic, natural/ecological or historical significance, such as the Chippewa River corridor (p. 68).</td>
<td>Assist other units of government with the planning, acquisition, and development of municipal level parks, recreational opportunities and facilities (p. 68).</td>
<td>In 2003 the city and county conducted a feasibility study for a community center that included a pool. Development of a community recreation facility including was the #1 priority in the 2005 master plan (p. 52).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Priorities</td>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>River</td>
<td>Cooperative Planning</td>
<td>Community Center/Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Union Township (2010 Master Plan)</strong></td>
<td>Seek opportunities to improve non-motorized transportation including bicycle lanes on roads, sidewalks, and connections to existing trail systems (2010 draft).</td>
<td>Seek opportunities to improve River access and use for township residents including creation of access for canoeing, fishing, and swimming (2010 draft).</td>
<td>Pursue opportunities for inter-governmental coordination with the City of Mount Pleasant, Isabella County, the Tribe, and other organizations to further parks and recreation goals (2010 draft).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saginaw Chippewa Tribe</strong></td>
<td>Currently working with Union Township and M-DOT on a non motorized path way throughout the entire community.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2007, Conducted feasibility study for a Reservation Activity Center to include gyms, swimming pool, exercise areas, meeting space, and other indoor recreation facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Input on the Draft Plan

Following the completion of the plan draft the plan was made available for additional public input. Opportunities for additional public input included:

- A copy of the plan was placed at the Union Township Hall for public review on April 12, 2010.
- An electronic copy of the plan placed on the Union Township Web site on April 12, 2010.
- Plan draft was presented for information to the Township Board of Trustees on April 14, 2010.
- Opportunity for public input at Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on June 17, 2010.
- Opportunity for public input at Township Board of Trustees meeting held on December 8, 2010.

The schedule of public input opportunities were advertised in the local newspaper and on the Union Township web page.
Summary

- Union Charter Township has seen population growth of 98% since 1970 and is expected to see an additional growth of 65% between 2010 and 2030.
- Union Charter Township has been less severely affected by the state’s economic situation than other communities.
- New township leadership has an aggressive agenda for improving township management which includes services to citizens. High recreation priorities for leadership include improving access to the Chippewa River, development of trails and linkages for walking/biking, acquiring and developing additional land for recreation, and developing a community swimming pool.
- Township leadership is committed to working cooperatively with other organizations to meet the needs of township residents.
- The Recreation inventory and standards analysis indicate that although Union Township is deficient in developed park land and in the most common types of recreation activity areas for its population, proximity to Mount Pleasant greatly enhances the park spaces and facilities available to township residents.
- A survey of residents indicated:
  - The majority of township residents indicate that they use the parks (56%) and consider themselves to be regular or occasional users (60%). Residents are far more likely to use McDonald Park than Jameson Park. Only about 43% indicate that the parks meet their needs, however.
  - Residents give low priority to trails (49%), a swimming pool (51%), or additional parks (62%).
  - Almost 75% of residents feel that there need to be more activities for children and teens.
  - Residents indicated a high priority for structural initiatives that have implications for leisure; these include improving roads (74%) in the township and improving sidewalks (33%). Residents also placed a high priority on improving intergovernmental cooperation (61%).
- The public meeting resulted in priorities including creating an outdoor ice arena, a community garden, an outdoor concert venue, better access to the Chippewa River, a multi-sport complex, and a dog park.
- Using existing standards, Union Charter Township has less developed park land than similar communities, and meets few of the existing recreation activity area standards on its own. Taken into the larger context of the City/County/Township perspective, the availability of developed park land and recreation activity areas does meet the needs of township residents.
Chapter 5: 2010-2015 Goals and Objectives

Global Planning Goals
- Pursue opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation with the City of Mount Pleasant, Isabella County, the Tribe, and other organizations to further parks and recreation goals for all agencies. The County, Township(s), and Tribe share several areas of interest upon which a partnership for facility development could be based. As expressed by township officials and residents, areas of common interest include:
  - Development of a community aquatic facility.
  - Increase linkages to rails and pathways.
  - Develop a river use/management plan.
- Ensure that all township parks meet accessibility guidelines.

Park Goals
- Improve opportunities for non-motorized transportation including bicycle lanes on roads, sidewalks, and linkages to existing local and regional trail systems and parks working with M-DOT, the city, county and Tribe, and trails groups.
- Continue Park Development, Improvements, and Maintenance.
  - Continue to maintain and update park equipment and facilities as needed with particular attention to accessibility features.
  - Identify property for acquisition for future park development.
  - Work with area officials to insure that recreation needs are considered in the planning process and to encourage developers to set aside space for development of pathways parks and play areas.
- Develop new park areas to meet resident needs:
  - Sport fields for soccer
  - Dog park
  - Outdoor ice arena
  - Additional picnicking area at McDonald Park (wooded area adjacent to Council on Aging).
  - Link the Council on Aging property with McDonald Park.
- Develop township property on S. Mission as a community park to serve the southern portion of the township.
- Explore development of an indoor swimming pool in the community in cooperation with other units of government and organizations.
- Improve River access for township residents including creation of additional access for canoeing, fishing, and swimming within the township.

Recreation Goals
- Increase opportunities for organized leisure and recreation for children and youth in the township.
Chapter 6: Action Plan

The Action plan represents a proposed plan of action for the next five years. The Action Plan may be revised from year to year and an updated Action Plan will be filed with the Department of Natural Resources as required.

Factors that may influence the revision of the Action Plan include continuing levels of general fund support, a future Park Millage, and continued revenues from program and rental fees. In addition, opportunities to partner with other organizations, external funding opportunities, as well as significant changes in the recreational needs of the community may influence changes to the Action Plan. Updates to the Action Plan are always submitted for public review and input prior to approval by the City.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Create barrier free picnic sites in both parks along a barrier free pathway. 1 at Jameson, 2 at McDonald</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>Township, Grants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reuse existing grills, barrier free tables and benches. Use either decomposed granite or cement to form pads. Pads should be large enough to allow movement around the table and grill for one confined to a wheelchair (at least 48”). Pads can be adjacent to existing pathways or on branches extending from the pathways. At least 20% of picnic tables should be accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add additional designated barrier free parking at Jameson park next to the pavilion and at McDonald park adjacent to pavilions and restrooms.</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paint lines and add signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase additional barrier free picnic tables, benches, grills</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make drinking fountain accessible at Jameson Park.</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Add a 48” wide pad between the building and the existing pathway to allow access to fountain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,250</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Source of Funding</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Create barrier free playground surfaces at Jameson and McDonald Parks.                                                                                                                                 $8,000</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Remove existing sand, connect playgrounds to pathways, install curbing around play areas and fill with engineered wood fiber product that meets ADA specifications.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create barrier free rest areas along existing pathways. (Create a barrier free &quot;pad&quot; along existing pathways; reinstall and level benches along barrier free pathway at both parks.)                                      $1,000</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Required every 200' if the pathway is less than 60&quot; wide. Rest areas should include room for a bench and space for a wheelchair. Pads can be constructed of decomposed grante, concrete, or other accessible surface. Benches are only accessible is located along an accessible route of travel. 20% of benches should be accessible.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Add additional designated barrier free parking at McDonald Park at the south ball fields, north ball fields.                                                                                              $3,000</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Either a concrete or other firm, stable surface material, parking signage, accessible route of travel to ball fields and accessible viewing area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop wooded area at southwest corner of McDonald Park and adjacent COA property. Connect park trails to COA property, install fitness equipment for older adults.                                               $25,000</td>
<td>Township, COA, Grants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Create a development plan to include future pavilion, trails, fitness equipment, picnic sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase barrier free picnic tables, benches, grills                                                                                                                                                    $2,500</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$39,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Source of Funding</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Purchase materials to create an outdoor ice rink at McDonald Park.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 X 8 pressure treated panels, 2 X 4's &amp; 2 X 6's, plastic liner. Install in existing pavilion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase additional barrier free park amenities</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>$7,500</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Install a pavilion in southwest corner of McDonald Park.</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>Township, Partners</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Open pavilion, 30 X 40, estimated at $20/sq ft for materials, volunteer labor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create accessible route of travel to softball field at Jameson; barrier</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- free viewing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase additional barrier free park amenities (purchase barrier</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 20% of all seating is barrier free.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$30,500</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Source of Funding</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Create additional barrier free picnic sites in both parks along a barrier free pathway.</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>Township, Grants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reuse existing grills, barrier free tables and benches. Use either decomposed granite or cement to form pads. Pads should be large enough to allow movement around the table and grill for one confined to a wheelchair (at least 48”). Pads can be adjacent to existing pathways or on branches extending from the pathways. At least 20% of picnic tables should be accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase additional barrier free park amenities (purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.)</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$8,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Source of Funding</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2015</td>
<td>Pursue joint development of a community pool with city, county &amp; tribe.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township, City, County, Tribe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Seek opportunities to develop pathways, trails &amp; sidewalks in the township for alternative transportation and linkage with existing trails</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek opportunity to acquire property in the area of Isabella &amp; Bluegrass for future park development</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek opportunities to acquire property for soccer and adult softball.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pursue development of a dog park</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township, City</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek opportunities to acquire property along the Chippewa River to develop river access.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township, Grants</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pursue joint development of property on Rick-Rack Drive for swimming, boating, and picnicking.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township, City</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pursue joint river use planning with city and county.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Township, City, County</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation Strategies

Union Township has a limited budget for park operations with little set aside for capital improvements. In order to implement this Action Plan during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure additional funding. The following strategies will help assure that funding is made available to meet the need for park improvements.

*Increase Fees for Park Use*
The fee schedule should be examined to assure that fees are sufficient to cover the cost of services provided to users.

*Apply for State Funding or Other Grant Moneys*
Apply to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Division for funding for park improvement projects. The Land and Water Conservation Fund currently requires a 50% local match, and the Natural Resources Trust Fund currently requires a 25% local match.

In addition, transportation funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation makes funding available for the development of non-motorized pathways. There are a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways or greenway related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition, Dalmac Fund Grant by the Tri County Bicycle Association, Michigander Grant Program by the Rails to Trail Conservancy, and the Conservation Fund by Kodak American Greenways Awards Program.

*Investigate Other Local Financial Opportunities*
Support for a parks millage may be crucial in determining the level of services the City Parks and Recreation will be able to maintain in the future. A specific project millage could also be sought over a limited period of time for particular projects such as the development of a family recreation center.

*Pursue Partnerships with Area Organizations*
Building on areas of shared need, collaborate with other governmental units, and the Tribe, to address common recreation priorities.
Appendix A: Public Meeting announcements

By PATRICIA ECKER
Sun Staff Writer
Published: Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Union Township residents are invited to participate in the planning process for the Park and Recreation Master Plan slated for 7 p.m. Thursday at the township hall.

In July, the township hired a professor of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services administration at Central Michigan University to create a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the township. "Dr. Al Ellard has been putting together our parks master plan," Supervisor John Barker said. "The public planning meeting is to get some solid input from as many people as possible. "I have attended a couple of brainstorming session with the parks group."

The township Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide a tool for decision making on improvements for township residents. "It is important that a wide variety of people participate in the public meeting and that all leisure interests be heard," Ellard said in a press release. "A parks and recreation blog has been established to share information and gather input in to the planning process."
The address is http://uniontwpparksplan.blogspot.com.

In September, Union Township hired Crescent Consulting of Midland to create the township's master plan. Earlier this year, Mary Senter, CMU's expert on survey research, was brought in to do conduct a community survey of the township. "It was a great opportunity for us," Barker said. "We killed a lot of birds with one stone. "We received input on the parks and recreation plan, the master plan, the police study, and issues of public policy," he said. In October, a group of Central Michigan University students conducted a phone survey from a randomly generated list of Union Township residents. "They received opinion s from 450 members of the community, including 177 CMU students," Barker said. "It is a sizeable segment of the population."

The first four months of the township master planning process will include gathering of information on demographics and community concerns. "The best way to set public policy is to consider what community members want, and what they will support," Barker said.

The parks and recreation master plan is slated for completion in March. "Upon completion of the master planning process, the parks and recreation master plan will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources," Ellard said. "By having an approved master plan on file with the DNR, the township also qualifies for a number of grant programs that can be used to improve the quality of life of Union Township citizens by enhancing parks and leisure resources."


13
An approved parks and recreation plan would avail Union Township grant opportunities, and Union planners agreed on Wednesday after discussion of the draft that they would recommend the plan to the board of trustees. The process for the plan has been in the works for a year, and the draft was created after hosting community meetings for input from the public.

"We had a meeting here at the township hall, and we invited vested groups from the recreation committee, and people involved (in recreational activities)," said Al Ellard, professor of recreation, parks and leisure services administration at Central Michigan University. "And we had an open meeting which was not very well attended."

Last July, the township hired Al Ellard to create a parks and recreation master plan for the township.

"The best use of taxpayers’ money is to collaborate," Union Township Supervisor John Barker said. "The city (of Mt. Pleasant) asked us what we want to be in the parks and rec area. "We don't want to be in competition with the city." The plan, which can be found on the township website, includes a plan to collaborate with the Isabella County Commission on Aging to develop an adult playground between the township hall and the COA building on Lincoln Road. "Wise folks in England have created adult playground equipment," Barker said.

A plan to collaborate with the city of Mt. Pleasant, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Isabella County to possibly develop a community summer swimming pond on property on Isabella Road north of Airport Road also was discussed. "The need for a community swimming area was expressed as a high priority," Barker said.

Cynthia Winland, planner with Crescent Consulting of Midland, presented drafts of chapters 1, 4 and 5 of the Union Township master plan for review and comment. Chapter 1 is an outline of the purpose of the master plan, which is being created to "guide development within Union Township." Chapter 4 contains the urban and rural land uses "from very dense commercial and residential development to rural farming uses." And Chapter 5 contains an overview of the township's utilities.

"Our timeline is about two months behind," said Winland, "but I believe it was useful to stop and get more in agriculture input. "We should plan for another community meeting now that we have something to look at and talk about."

Planners approved a zoning change request by New Millennium Pawn Shop located at 5281 E. Pickard Road, where they want to add vehicle sales, and under its current zoning, it was not able to apply for a special use permit. The change will allow the company to apply for a special use permit. "The applicant's interest in the matter is that he would like to take in vehicles on pawn, and for resale," zoning administrator Woody Woodruff said. "The site had formerly been Jack West Auto Sales, which was grandfathered in as a legal nonconforming use."

A public hearing took place with no comments made.

The Union Township board of trustees approved a parks and recreation master plan that will allow the township opportunities with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to qualify for grant programs to enhance parks and leisure resources. After a public hearing, the board unanimously approved the plan that has taken more than a year to create.

In July 2009, the township hired Dr. Al Ellard, a professor of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services administration at Central Michigan University, to create a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the township.

"We needed a plan with ideas to develop the west side of this park (behind the township hall)," said Jim McClain, parks supervisor for the township. "Over the years, there have been lots of ball games on our ball fields. "We are complimented on our big open play areas, and we have an opportunity to add to that."

Treasurer Pam Stovak said that she thought the newly created parks and recreation master plan "goes against the survey" that was conducted by CMU experts in October 2009. The survey, conducted by CMU students by phone, selected randomly generated township residents, and the opinions of 450 members of the community responded which included 177 CMU student residents. Stovak said that although she had not "delved into it too much" some of the items she felt constituents desired were not reflected in the plan. "Our constituents want roads and sidewalks," said Stovak.

The board approved the 2011 Master Plan draft for distribution, and also set a public hearing date for Dec. 22 and to advertise the 2011 township budget which has a general fund balance of $1,011,939.

Township officials voted not to do anything regarding the new liquor law that will allow businesses that purchase an additional permit to sell alcohol on Sunday mornings.

The state offered township's a deadline to decide whether or not they want to allow Sunday morning liquor sales in their communities.

"I don't think government should interfere with commerce," said Trustee John Dinse.

Brian Smith, township manager, said that he has initiated communication between the township and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe regarding regulation, land use, and taxation following the ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas L. Ludington that defined portions of Union Township as Indian Country.

"We probably won't have our first meeting until January," said Smith.  

What kinds of activities for children would you like to see

Activity – NOT sports = 75

activities in the winter
along the lines of organized things like PEAK, group activities that are supervised. big
Brother, Big sister.
Any type of physical activity, team sports.
athletics, arts, and sciences
Athletics, artistic, educational experiences nature workshops
Better skating rink
biking activities, sports clinics, dollar skates, at more reasonable times
community center, arts and crafts, and physical activity, or a petting zoo
Creative activities that everyone can do
I think we need to do more races like 5k through the parks and increase the participation in
children.
i would like to have cheerleading/cheaper gymnastics. something for children under the age
of 4 and there is nothing for him to get involved
involved in sports
keep scores at games?, provide children with challenges and teamwork
maybe movie nights it’s hard to find activities for such a big range of students .maybe a
pool for them, roller skate or the use of the sac for sports.
More 4-H and sporting activities
more activities, such as sports and music
more affordable sports without the fees
MORE BASEBALL AND HOCKEY
More biking activities and sports.
More football
more involvement with the arts, assistance with tutoring, more role models, physical
activities
More outside activities; sporting events; good baseball program, maybe expand
More playgrounds, more soccer programs during summer, arts and crafts, volunteer
programs.
more sporting activities
More sporting activities, more tennis or swimming type activities.
more sports
more sports and games and physical activities
More sports for girls.
More sports opportunities.
more sports related facilities and leagues other than baseball

more sports, and activities in parks, winter activities
more sports, horseshoes
MORE SPORTS.
ORGANIZED SPORTS, SOMETHING SO THAT THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.
Other areas should be developing the activities. We have the land for it. The sporting stuff is
good for them. Suggests dance activities. It would have to be self funded.
parks and recreational programs i.e. sports.
Science museum concept, athletics, after school activities
Soccer teams
some sport activities, other than soccer, A swimming sport. Classes in things like music.
sport leagues
sports
sports activities, after school programs.
sports activities, art classes, cooking classes, community resource classes
Sports for the children and social clubs.
sports programs
SPORTS PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES TO KEEP KIDS OF STREETS
sports, organized events of some type, the swimming pool seems like a good idea and the
ice arena could be used more.
sports, volunteer work
Swimming pool for the kids, have football leagues for younger kids, more sports
swimming pool, more rec league sports
there should be putt-putt, go carts, arcade, swimming pool, indoor soccer and softball.
They can go to courts and play sports.
THINGS INVOLVING SPORTS... LIKE A POOL. ALSO, ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T COST A LOT OF
MONEY.
varsity in sports offered

Swimming Pool = 36

a swimming pool
a swimming pool or organized sports like little league and hockey
Center for children. Civic center, pool
community pool. use of some vacant buildings for monthly activities: recreational things,
basketball, rec center.
I would say more parks and recreation type stuff. Also, a public swimming pool.
indoor play center, swimming pool
maybe movie nights it’s hard to find activities for such a big range of students .maybe a
pool for them, roller skate or the use of the sac for sports.
more outside of baseball, community swimming pool would help
nice skate park, nice pool, more parks that are police patrolled
park development, skating rink, pool for younger kids, snowboarding in winter, recreation center to keep them safe from traffic
Parks and rec. $.2 Pool.
PARKS, HIKING, PINICING, FAMILY AREA, BALL PARKS, SWIMMING POOL
Places to go: roller skating rinks, swimming pools, recreation playgrounds, baseball and soccer fields, swimming pool(s), support for anything that allows for active children.
Public Pool Afterschool activities YMCA type organization
Public swimming pool
roller rink swimming pool
soccer program not until age 5 and others start at age three, sports for younger kids and t-ball community swimming pool swimming lessons. more parks
sports, organized events of some type, the swimming pool seems like a good idea and the ice arena could be used more.
Summer programs; swimming pool
Swimming Pool
Swimming Pool
Swimming pool
Swimming pool -- there could be swimming lessons, etc. Places for younger kids to go and gather and do things. Skate park and water park are great now, but there should be more.
Swimming pool for the kids, have football leagues for younger kids, more sports
SWIMMING POOL IS A GOOD IDEA. SHE USED TO HAVE ONE AS A CHILD AND IT WAS A GOOD THING FOR THE NEIGHBOORHOOD
swimming pool,
Swimming pool, after school activities
swimming pool, group reading activities, after school programs to keep kids from doing drugs
Swimming pool, more afterschool programs, more outdoor activities, programs for skiing and snowboarding
swimming pool, more rec league sports
swimming pool, more summer programs
Swimming pool. Ice rink and such for cheap.
Swimming pool; low cost programs; e.g. cannot afford skating rink there should be putt-putt, go carts, arcade, swimming pool, indoor soccer and softball.
THINGS INVOLVING SPORTS... LIKE A POOL. ALSO, ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T COST A LOT OF MONEY.

Sports -- Organized Activity = 65

a few additional sports activities, particularly basketball
a swimming pool or organized sports like little league and hockey
additional sporting activities and activities that kids can do in the summer. in the past there were summer camps like recreational activities and such
Any kind of outdoor sports.
Any type of physical activity, team sports.
ANYTHING OUTDOORS; BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, VOLLEYBALL.
athletics, arts, and sciences
Athletics, artistic, educational experiences nature workshops
Baseball, football, soccer, physically active activities.
biking activities, sports clinics, dollar skates, at more reasonable times
Cheerleading for sporting events.
Continuation of athletics
Continue softball & baseball programs, using the parks as educational tools, nature hikes.
Different sports activities
DIFFERNT KINDS TEAMS
don't KNOW, SPORTS
don't know; maybe a youth golf program; youth bowling
Gymnastics
gymnastics programs, soccer, reading and educational activities, arts
I think they do a nice job, I like any outdoor activities. Soccer or more winter activities.
Indoor soccer, basketball and swimming.
I think we need to do more races like 5k through the parks and increase the participation in children.
i would like to have cheerleading/cheaper gymnastics. something for children under the age of 4 and there is nothing for him to get involved involved in sports
keep scores at games?, provide children with challenges and teamwork
maybe movie nights it's hard to find activities for such a big range of students ...maybe a pool for them, roller skate or the use of the sac for sports.
More 4-H and sporting activities
more activities, such as sports and music
more affordable sports without the fees
MORE BASEBALL AND HOCKEY
More biking activities and sports.
More football
more involvement with the arts, assistance with tutoring, more role models, physical activities
More outside activities; sporting events; good baseball program, maybe expand
More playgrounds, more soccer programs during summer, arts and crafts, volunteer programs.
more sporting activities
More sporting activities, more tennis or swimming type activities.
more sports
more sports and games and physical activities
More sports for girls.
More sports opportunities.
more sports related facilities and leagues other than baseball
more sports, and activities in parks, winter activities
more sports, horseshoes
MORE SPORTS.
ORGANIZED SPORTS, SOMETHING SO THAT THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.
Other areas should be developing the activities. We have the land for it. The sporting stuff is
good for them. Suggests dance activities. It would have been self funded.
parks and recreational programs i.e. sports.
Science museum concept, athletics, after school activities
Soccer teams
some sport activities, other than soccer, A swimming sport. Classes in things like music.
sport leagues
sports
sport activities, after school programs.
sports activities, art classes, cooking classes, community resource classes
Sports for the children and social clubs.
sports programs
SPORTS PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES TO KEEP KIDS OF STREETS
sports, organized events of some type, the swimming pool seems like a good idea and the
ice arena could be used more.
sports, volunteer work
Swimming pool for the kids, have football leagues for younger kids, more sports
swimming pool, more rec league sports
there should be putt-putt, go carts, arcade, swimming pool, indoor soccer and softball.
They can go to courts and play sports.

THINGS INVOLVING SPORTS... LIKE A POOL. ALSO, ACTIVITIES THAT DON’T COST A LOT OF
MONEY.
varsity in sports offered

Outdoor space – Outdoor activity = 39
sidewalks so they can safely ride their bikes and walk. especially on Crawford
soccer fields should be available for the children, other sports facilities would be nice.
soccer program not until age 5 and others start at age three, sports for younger kids and t-ball community swimming pool swimming lessons. more parks
some more fun activities for the kids that go to the parks
something outdoors, more middle age programs in parks, more access to baseball diamonds
summer fests, fairs, races, go-kart track
swimming pool, more afterschool programs, more outdoor activities, programs for skiing and snowboarding
water park was a good start. at least one or two more similar parks that would appeal to older kids.

Community Center – Place to go = 28

A place for them to go other than on the streets
a place they can go and have organized functions and activities.
activities using the parks, the SAC, and so on
activity center like the midland center, the one downtown is too away, after school programs
activity center

Community Center

Community Center for 8-12 year olds
community center, arts and crafts, and physical activity, or a petting zoo
Community center, not expensive
Community center; similar to SAC but family friendly
community pool. use of some vacant buildings for monthly activities: recreational things, basketball, rec center.
community rec center

i would like to see something like a YMCA, like a rec center
Indoor activities such as boys or girls clubs
indoor play center, swimming pool

More activities... like roller skating, community center perhaps.
park development, skating rink, pool for younger kids, snowboarding in winter, recreation center to keep them safe from traffic

Parks or recreational center.
Places for them to go and play in the winter, some sort of indoor activities. Someplace to run and climb.
Places to go; roller skating rinks, swimming pools, recreation

preteen community center
skateboarding place, maybe a safe-area hangout, with computer games or something.
Some kind of a rec center: ping pong, pool
someplace to go and have fun and be safe
YMCA
YMCA, after school programs
Youth center,

After school programs = 17

activity center like the midland center, the one downtown is too away, after school programs
affordable things like what peak is
after school activities. something of interest for that age group.
after school programs
After school programs -- peak program combo of education, creativity (art music acting ect) and physical activity
After school programs, programs on days where schools are closed due to professional development, things that the children can do and be occupied and constructive and not left home alone, too many children taking care of themselves along the lines of organized things like PEAK, group activities that are supervised. Big Brother, Big sister.
more afterschool activities that still supports learning in areas like reading.
more swings and an after school program for kids. Interviewee doesn't like children going home to an empty house.
Public pool Afterschool activities YMCA type organization
Science museum concept, athletics, after school activities
supervised after school activities
Swimming pool, after school activities
Swimming pool, group reading activities, after school programs to keep kids from doing drugs
Swimming pool, more afterschool programs, more outdoor activities, programs for skiing and snowboarding
YMCA, after school programs

Other – Miscellaneous = 30
affordable sports
After school programs, programs on days where schools are closed due to professional
development, things that the children can do and be occupied and constructive and not left
home alone, too many children taking care of themselves
big brothers/big sisters.
cheaper activities.
Community center, not expensive
contribute towards existing mt. pleasant programs, new stuff shouldn't be formed
don't charge so much
don't know. something cheap for the kids to do
kids interacting with other kids.
likes what they do at parks and rec
More daycare facilities, more literacy programs, all supported on a volunteer basis by
retired faculty or professors at the University.
more group activities with attention to low income families so that we don’t have to pay so
much for her to be involved.
more outside of baseball, community swimming pool would help
more than what they have.
not sure
Other areas should be developing the activities. We have the land for it. The sporting stuff is
good for them. Suggests dance activities. It would have been self funded.
Parent-supported activities
programs in general for kids 5-9, ones that haven’t reached middle school
soccer program not until age 5 and others start at age three, sports for younger kids and t-ball
community swimming pool swimming lessons. more parks
something outdoors, more middle age programs in parks, more access to baseball diamonds
sports, organized events of some type, the swimming pool seems like a good idea and the
ice arena could be used more.
sports, volunteer work
summer activities
summer activities
summer camps
Summer Playground Programs as in Mt. Pleasant
Summer programs; swimming pool
swimming pool, more summer programs
Swimming pool. Ice rink and such for cheap.
Swimming pool; low cost programs; e.g. cannot afford skating rink

What kinds of activities for teens would you like to see?

Activity NOT sport = 88

4-H, sporting activities
a place to just hang out; play basketball without having to pay; pool tables
A TEEN CENTER, CHAPERONED DANCES, TALENT SHOWS, MUSIC LESSONS, ART LESSONS,
After school activities, boys/girls clubs, field trips, something to peak their interests.
Any type of physical activity
Anything that would have to do with adults being presents at dances or other activities.
arcade or similar
Basically more team sports, activities at the library and activities to encourage literacy and
reading, I think it would be a good idea to use professors at the CMU or retired people in
general to participate in some youth programs.
Better skating rink, more athletics, low cost activities
BUILDING FOR ACTIVITIES, ACTIVITY CENTER; PLAY GAMES
chaperoned dances/events, skating programs/skate nights, sponsored nights at morey
courts. get kids off streets
Community Center with supervision: dances, parties, sports
Community center would be good, but that's more than sports oriented. Needs to games,
pool, ping-pong. Center needs to include more than athletic activities.
Community Center: dances, pool, athletics, video games
Community dances, sports related activities, 4-H sponsored activities.
community service, educational competition
Crafts, more things for girls, dance classes.
creative outlet, more into arts, and more physical activity,
dance parties, community gathering social and such
Dances and community center.
Dances and other things
Dances for them to do to, areas for them to go hang out where they can play basketball
where they are not going to get into trouble.
dances, bowling leagues, NOT ARCADES, physical activities and social activities that keep
them from playing video games all day, volunteer groups for mowing lawns and helping the
elderly, give an award from the town for citizenship
dances, canoe trips,
Dances, social events in a safe environment.
Dances.
dances. like in the old days. every Friday night
dancing places
Dancing, supervised
do like a dance, social activities.
don't know if there is a work training program. something to keep them busy. something to know more about our government and getting ready for the workforce.

Don't Know; Maybe a teen club - play games; youth center; dances

Educational, constructive activities
fun with music
getting involved in assisting other people - activities for developing self with, and mentoring programs
golf & bowling programs
Group outings- dances, etc.

Group recreation with supervision where the teenagers can get together to do more organized games and have guest speakers to be a positive influence for teenagers.

Hands-on activities
homework, schoolwork, after school projects and help for those things, educational opportunities, opportunities to work with computers or read, swimming programs, sports programs, anything to keep them from getting bored and doing drugs and drinking alcohol - maybe mentoring programs

Indoor things for winter
interaction sports. they have no place to go, and there are good kids that hang out downtown. roller rinks are good idea. bus to college to use their facilities
interaction. roller skate park. events, ski, etc.
intramural sports, dances
Maybe Dances?

Also maybe roller skating or ice skating activities.
mentor type things for school. orient them to go to college
more activities, sports and music

More dances, and things of that nature. Can get together and do things, do something that's a bit more recreational.. video games.

more general fitness stuff

More things at the ice arena. More classes and activities.
no ideas maybe a club with a pool table and maybe a dance
Organized activities -- like parties. A mentor program for at-risk youth.
party at Jameson, ping pong, air hockey, pizza
PLACE WHERE THEY COULD HOLD DANCES, OR REC CENTER, MINIATURE GOLF COURSE, GO-KARTS
POOL, SKATEBOARD PARK. ORGANIZED SPORTS.
rated G/PG movie nights, social nights,
Recreational, concerts
Recreational, music or drama and arts, social activities
roller skating rinks, things that don't cost much

Roller Skating, skate park
roller skating, a community facility or rec center
same as previous answer, maybe some dances
SAME OF FOR YOUNGER KIDS AFTE SCHOOL PROGRAMS, POSITIVE ACTIVIES, SUPERVISION ART, CREATIVITY, SPORTS, ECT...
skate parks

sledding activities, safe party environments, dances

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, DANCING, SPORTING EVENTS; INTERACTION WITH SENIORS (VISITING NURSING CARE FACILITIES, ETC)

Social clubs and sports
something educational
sports, skating
SPORTS; MORE NATURE STUFF, HIKING, RIVER RAFTING, ACTIVE STUFF.
Swimming pool, more outdoor physical activities, gymnastics center, more science programs

swimming, skating, dances

Swimming, sports.
Teach them dance craft, boarding
Teen center with teen dances and other activities such as tutoring opportunities
Teen dance, place for teens to go and play basketball/racquetball. Supervised.
teen dances. need place to get together safety. like island park
Tennis
The same as children but maybe dances. Get them involved in gathering food for community. Food drive and learn importance of volunteering
the same as for children, maybe videogame tournaments

Things that would participate in. Dancing, etc... Cheap.

USED TO HAVE SOUND LOUNGE, THAT WAS REALLY COOL. IT WAS OVER BY KMART. REC CENTER, NO VIDEO GAMES, MORE SOCIALIZATION.

various types both physical and creative. Not too costly to help low income households Volunteering programs, exercise groups, bowling leagues, crafts.

Water parks designated for older teenagers. Community center, more affordable options.
youth dances

youth dances, etc

Community Center – Place to go = 55

a place to just hang out; play basketball without having to pay; pool tables
A TEEN CENTER, CHAPORONED DANCES, TALENT SHOWS, MUSIC LESSONS, ART LESSONS,
a youth activity center with games and music
a youth club or maybe a boys and girls club after school program.
activities center - indoors
ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT COST A LOT, BUT A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN GO.
affordability of sports, youth center
After school activities, boys/girls clubs, field trips, something to peak their interests.
Also the YMCA, a place where they can go and hang out, with clubs and programs for
teenager, like video games and shooting pool. YWCA
an available gym to kids on Saturdays and Sundays
arcade, swimming pools, indoor sports (basketball, soccer), YMCA
area where they could play board games and video games
BUILDING FOR ACTIVITIES, ACTIVITY CENTER, PLAY GAMES
Club house, affordable for all.
Community building for hang out
community center - something for them to do
community center that affordable
Community Center with supervision: dances, parties, sports
Community center would be good, but that's more than sports oriented. needs to games,
pool, ping-pong. Center needs to include more than athletic activities.
Community center, place to congregate... inexpensive.
Community Center: dances, pool, athletics, video games
community rec center
Community rec center.
Dances and community center.
Dances for them to do, areas for them to go hang out where they can play basketball
where they are not going to get into trouble.
Don't Know; Maybe a teen club - play games; youth center; dances
had a place where we could go and dance that is chaperoned
I don't know maybe a dance club
interaction sports. They have no place to go, and there are good kids that hang out
downtown. Roller rinks are good idea. Bus to college to use their facilities
more clubs and gathering places
more places for them to go, like how mount pleasant has a skating park, like a teen center
no ideas maybe a club with a pool table and maybe a dance
open a youth center
place to hang out with activities. teen center
Place to hang out with supervision.
Place where they can go to play basketball, video games, etc.
PLACE WHERE THEY COULD HOLD DANCES, OR REC CENTER, MINIATURE GOLF COURSE, GO-
KARTS
places they can hang out i.e. dances, or group movies
Places to gather.
rec center
rec center.
roller skating, a community facility or rec center
skating park like Mount Pleasants, indoor activities like the boys' and girls' clubs
some place to go with activities (games, etc.)
some place to have fun and be safe
Some place with music, dancing, socialize.
Teen center with teen dances and other activities such as tutoring opportunities
Teen dance, place for teens to go and play basketball/racquetball. Supervised.
teen dances. need place to get together safely. Like island park
they've got to have a place where they can go where drug dealers can't get to them, and be
safe.
USED TO HAVE SOUND LOUNGE, THAT WAS REALLY COOL. IT WAS OVER BY KMART. REC
CENTER, NO VIDEO GAMES, MORE SOCIALIZATION.
Water parks designated for older teenagers. Community center, more affordable options.
YMCA, after school programs
YMCA, sports. cheap.
Youth Center, something to help lower income children

Sports – Organized activity = 42

4-H, sporting activities
a sports oriented activity geared toward age level
affordability of sports, youth center
affordable rec league sports
affordable sports
After school and athletic activities
arcade, swimming pools, indoor sports (basketball, soccer), YMCA
Athletics
BASEBALL AND HOCKEY.
Basically more team sports, activities at the library and activities to encourage literacy and
reading, I think it would be a good idea to use professors at the CMU or retired people in
general to participate in some youth programs.
basically the same for the younger groups, group activities such as sports or a pool.
basketball and recreational sports after school
basketball, baseball, sports in general, after school mentor or tutoring programs
Better skating rink, more athletics, low cost activities
Community Center with supervision: dances, parties, sports
Community Center: dances, pool, athletics, video games
Community dances, sports related activities, 4-H sponsored activities.
Dance, schoolwork, after school projects and help for those things, educational
opportunities, opportunities to work with computers or read, swimming programs, sports
programs, anything to keep them from getting bored and doing drugs and drinking alcohol
maybe mentoring programs
Social interaction, sports, they have no place to go, and there are good kids that hang out
downtown. roller rinks are good idea. bus to college to use their facilities
Intramural sports where there’s not as much emphasis on physical ability.
more activities, sports and music
more soccer stuff, traveling teams, organized short term seasons for sports, running, cross
country, more outdoor programs!, more frequent changes in programs
more sports
organized sports like soccer
POOL, SKATEBOARD PARK. ORGANIZED SPORTS.
SAME OF FOR YOUNGER KIDS AFTE SCHOOL PROGRAMS, POSITIVE ACTIVIES, SUPERVISION
ART, CREATIVITY, SPORTS, ECT...
Social clubs and sports
Sport activities, not out on streets
Sporting events
Sporting events and more indoor courts.
SPORTS
Sports activities
Sports in the winter time and maybe other things just to keep them out of trouble.
SPORTS OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES -- LIKE THE BIKE PATHS. PERHAPS A DOG RUN.
sports programs
sports related activities
sports, skating
SPORTS; MORE NATURE STUFF, HIKING, RIVER RAFTING, ACTIVE STUFF.
summer activities, sports
YMCA, sports. cheap.
youth soccer/ adult

Outdoor Space – Outdoor Activity = 18

bike paths, and any place for biking, rollerblading, skating. ball fields, soccer fields.
Bike paths, sidewalks, playing fields
hunter safety forum, fishing programs, outdoor activities
I would like to see more parks, recreation, and swimming. I am a big supporter or the
community pool.
More athletic fields
more soccer stuff, traveling teams, organized short term seasons for sports, running, cross
country, more outdoor programs!, more frequent changes in programs
organized events taking advantage of the parks in some way
outdoor activity clubs such as a biking club or something
Outdoor recreation center
party at Jameson, ping pong, air hockey, pizza
skating park like Mount Pleasants, indoor activities like the boys' and girls' clubs
Skating, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a place where they can ride bikes
sledding activities, safe party environments, dances
something that will keep out of trouble ; outdoors, parks
SPORTS OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES -- LIKE THE BIKE PATHS. PERHAPS A DOG RUN.
Swimming pool, more outdoor physical activities, gymnastics center, more science
programs
Swimming, sports.

Swimming Pool = 15

A pool for teenagers, but other than that I don't know
arcade, swimming pools, indoor sports (basketball, soccer), YMCA
basically the same for the younger groups, group activities such as sports or a pool.
community pool
community pool, more economic sports complex, low income families are often unable to
take advantage of these facilities.
don't have teenagers. swimming pool
I would like to see more parks, recreation, and swimming. I am a big supporter or the
community pool.
NOT SURE. AGAIN SWIMMING POOL.
POOL, SKATEBOARD PARK. ORGANIZED SPORTS.
Swimming Pool
Swimming Pool
swimming pool
swimming pool at morey court
Swimming pool, more outdoor physical activities, gymnastics center, more science

Outdoor Space – Outdoor Activity = 18

ball fields
programs
Swimming pool. Place to go without having to pay for services. or very cheap to skate, etc.

**After School Program = 8**
a youth club or maybe a boys and girls club afterschool program.
after school activities similar to what the city does with some of their Peak programs
After school activities, boys/girls clubs, field trips, something to peak their interests.
after school programs
After school and athletic activities
basketball, baseball, sports in general, after school mentor or tutoring programs
SAME OF FOR YOUNGER KIDS AFTE SCHOOL PROGRAMS, POSITIVE ACTIVIES, SUPERVISION ART, CREATIVITY, SPORTS, ECT...
YMCA, after school programs

**Other – Miscellaneous = 36**

ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT COST A LOT, BUT A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN GO.
Activities that they like to do... something other than look for trouble.
Along the same lines of what she said before, and thinks they should be highly supervised... don't be afraid to hurt their feelings.
Anything that keeps them from getting into trouble. Make sure parental supervision is involved. Things that they like, but supervised.
Anything that would have to do with adults being presents at dances or other activities.
ANYTHING to keep them from getting into drugs and alcohol. keep them busy. anything to keep them out of trouble
Anything to keep them out of trouble :)
Better skating rink, more athletics, low cost activities
cheaper activities
Civic center
community pool, more economic sports complex, low income families are often unable to take advantage of these facilities.
daytime activities
don't know. something inexpensive- help to decrease crime
encourage for college, provide help, financial opportunities
Encourage interaction with CMU to help push academics
have the teenagers decide on what they would want. Create a teenage group to decide what would work best.
I don't know, just stop relying on the city for it so much in the city where we are all working together
just keep them busy so they stay out of control
lock ins
more soccer stuff, traveling teams, organized short term seasons for sports, running, cross country, more outdoor programs!, more frequent changes in programs
Promoting more of what we already have: car track, horse track
Put them to work. Get them more jobs to give them something to do besides mischief.
same as before
Same as children
similar to children, but age-appropriate
some like the SAC for them
Something constructive
something that will keep out of trouble ; outdoors, parks
something to keep them off the streets destroying things
Sports in the winter time and maybe other things just to keep them out of trouble.
summer activities, sports
Supervised activities, anything to keep them busy.
Swimming pool. Place to go without having to pay for services. or very cheap to skate, etc.
there needs to be something because kids are getting into trouble these days. gaming shops should be more publicized