

Union Charter Township

2011-2016

Master Plan
for
Parks and
Recreation



Acknowledgments

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Chapter 1: Community Description

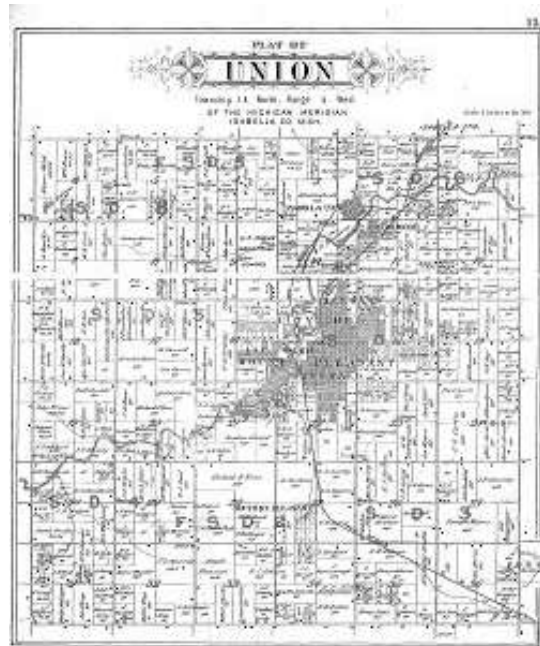
This plan has been developed for Union Charter Township in Isabella County, Michigan. Union Charter Township does not currently have an approved parks and recreation master plan on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

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

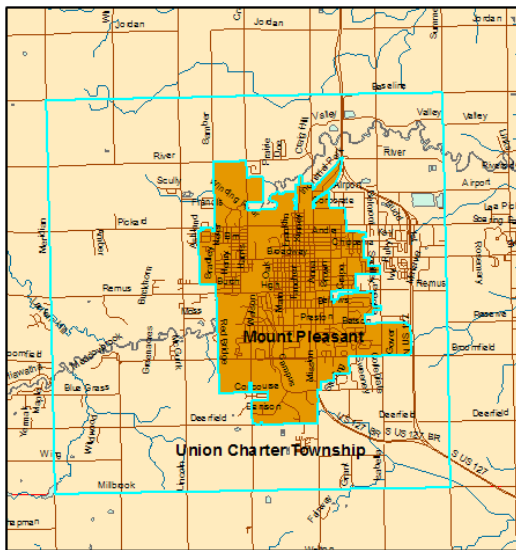
Figure 1: Union Township Map



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 uses². Parks account for only about 2% of Union Township land use.

Figure 2: Union Township and Mount Pleasant



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.

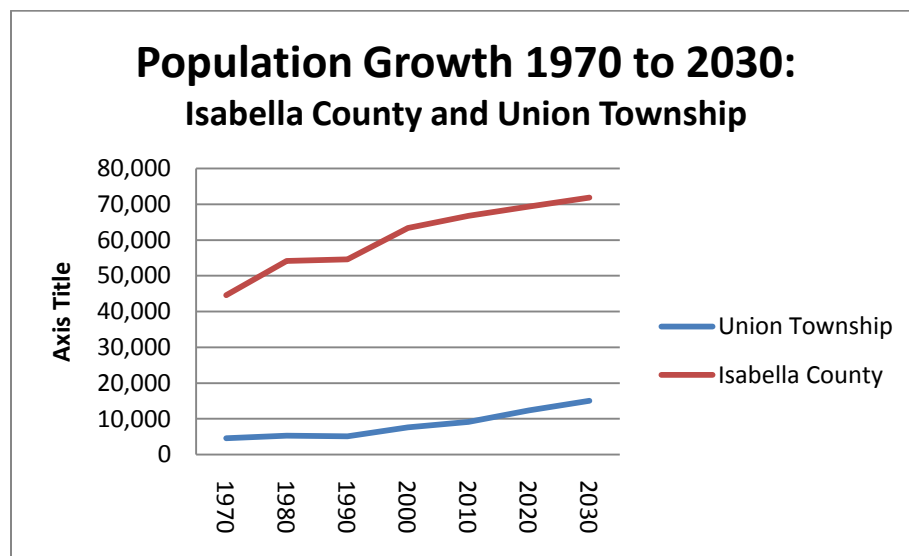
² France, M. and Frankovich, J. (2001) Using GIS Technology to Help Plan Future Growth in Union Township, Michigan. The Great Lakes Geographer, Vol. 8, No. 1.

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 build 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



³ Sperling’s Best Places. http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Union_charter_township-Michigan.saspx

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

Persons age 25 and Higher	High School Graduate	Bachelors Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Michigan	31.3%	13.7%	8.1%
Isabella County	33.9%	13.7%	10.2%
Union Charter Township	28.1%	17.2%	9.9%
Mount Pleasant	21.0%	21.0%	19.3%

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.

⁴ http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Union_charter_township-Michigan.aspx#

⁵ <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h8juBKyMw6Uz2ftUih5BZYSPJBKwD9CKLU482>

Chapter 2: Administrative Structure

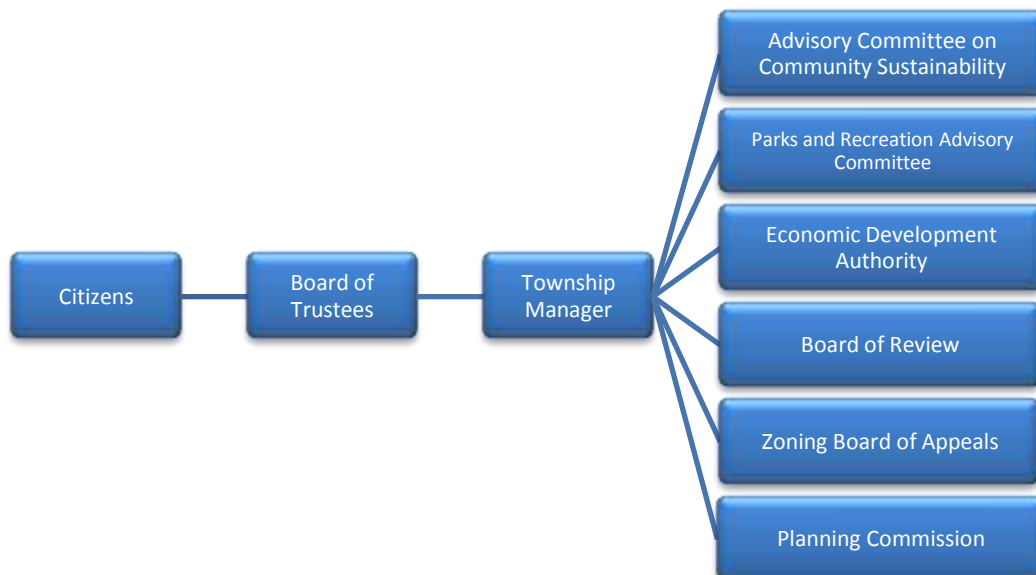
Statutory Authority

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*.⁶ 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.

Figure 4: Union Township Organizational Structure



⁶ Michigan Township Association (2005). Welcome to Michigan Township Government. Michigan Township News. January/February.

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 2: Parks and Recreation Funding, 2004-2010

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

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.

Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory

Recreation Inventory Process

The recreation inventory was completed utilizing a variety of methods and resources. The Isabella County 2006 master plan⁷ and the City of Mount Pleasant 2006 community master plan⁸ 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.

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

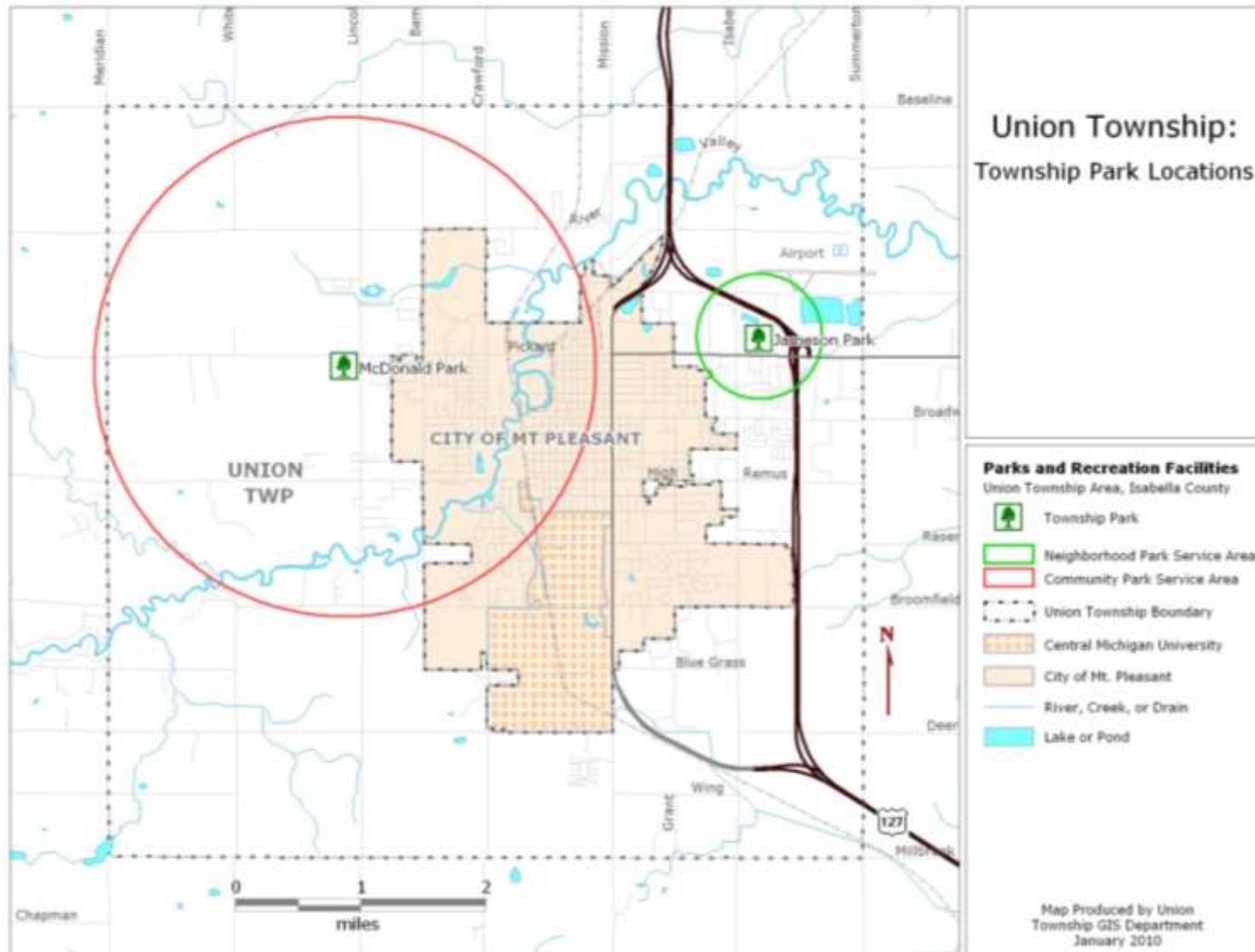


Figure 6: McDonald Park



Figure 7: Jameson Park

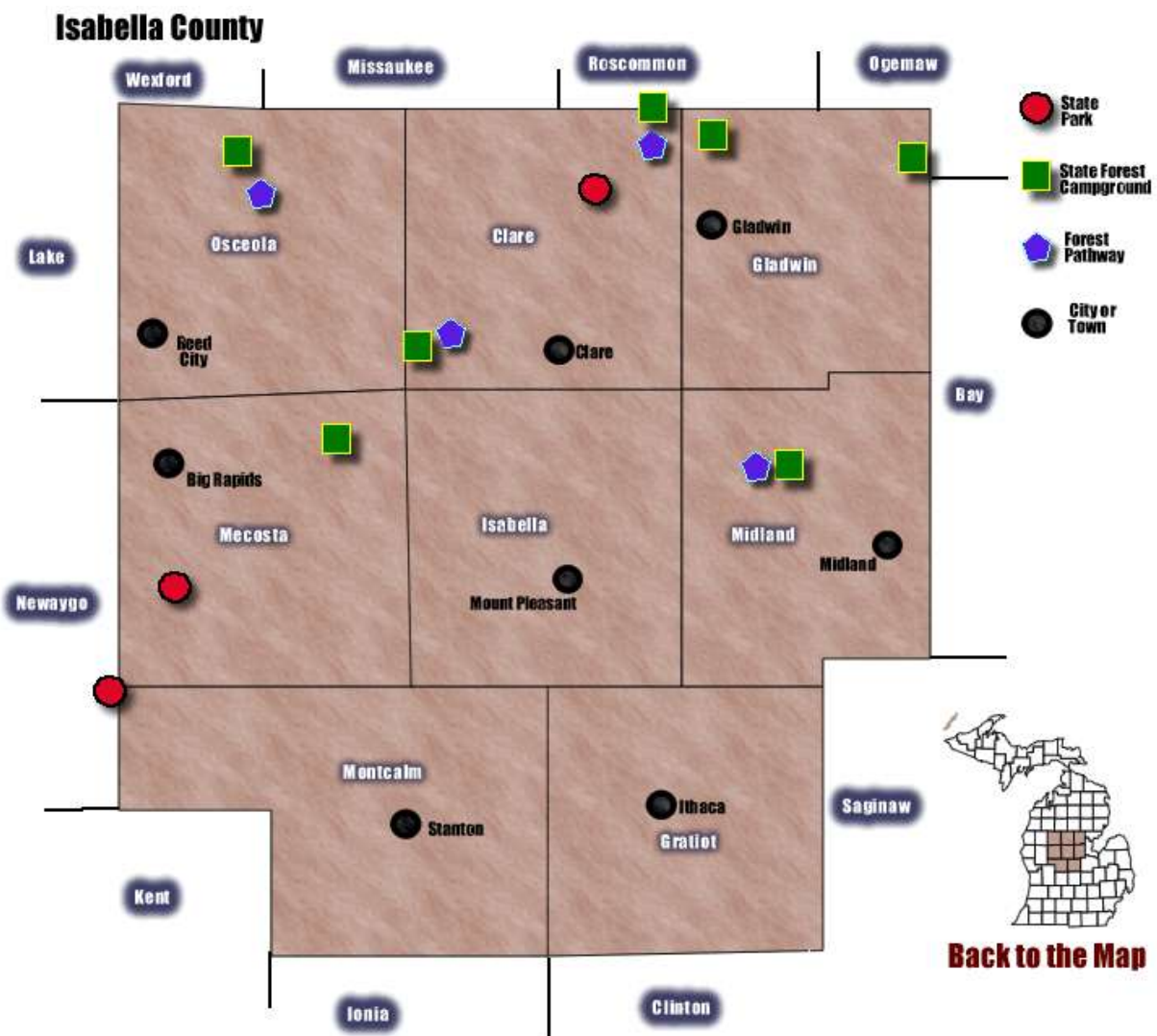


Regional Park and Recreation Resources

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

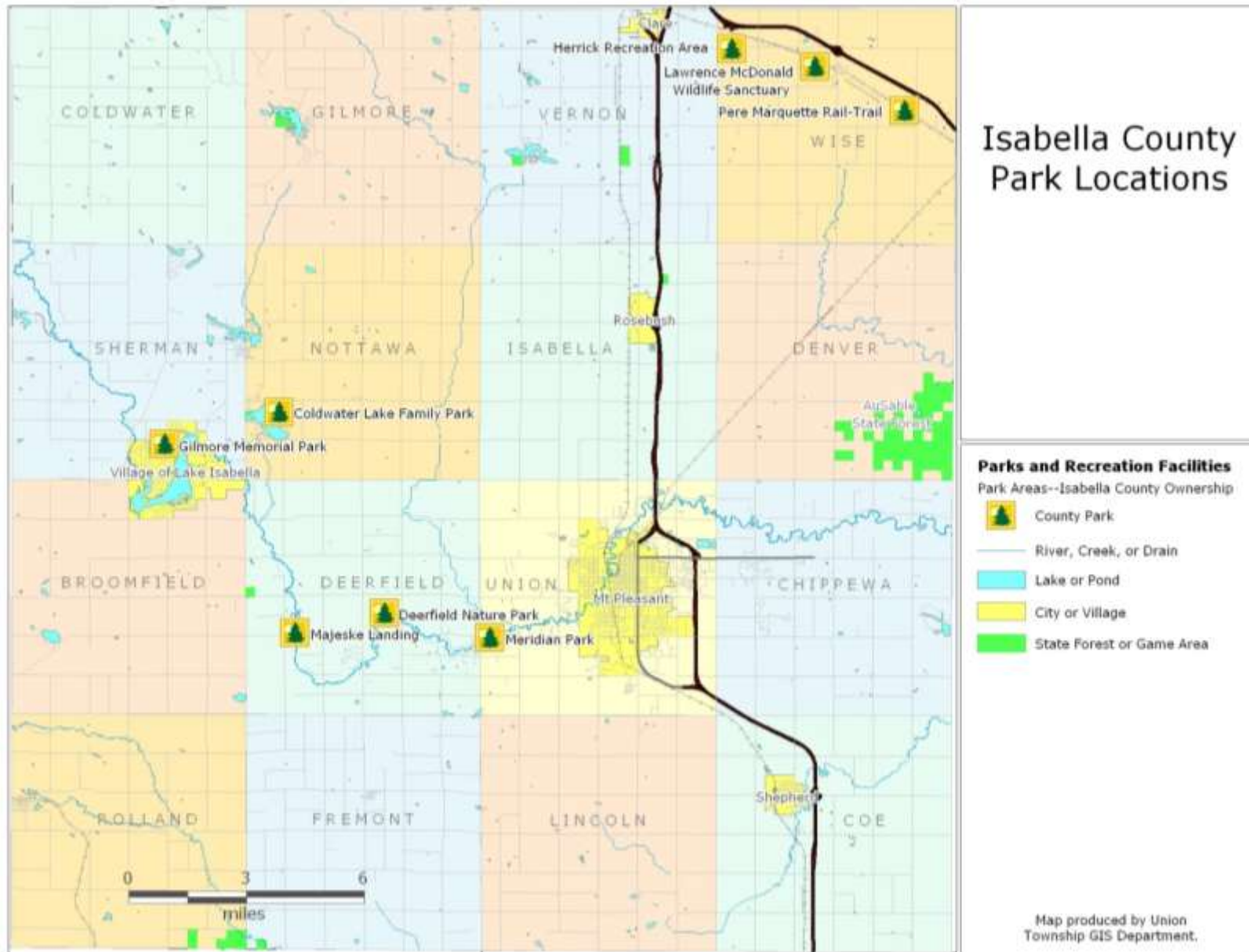
State lands in Isabella County include elements of the AuSable State Forest located in Denver Township and elements of the Edmore State Game Area located in Rolland and Freemont Townships. DNRE also operates boat ramps on Stephenson Lake in Vernon Township, Six Lakes in Sherman Township, and Littlefield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

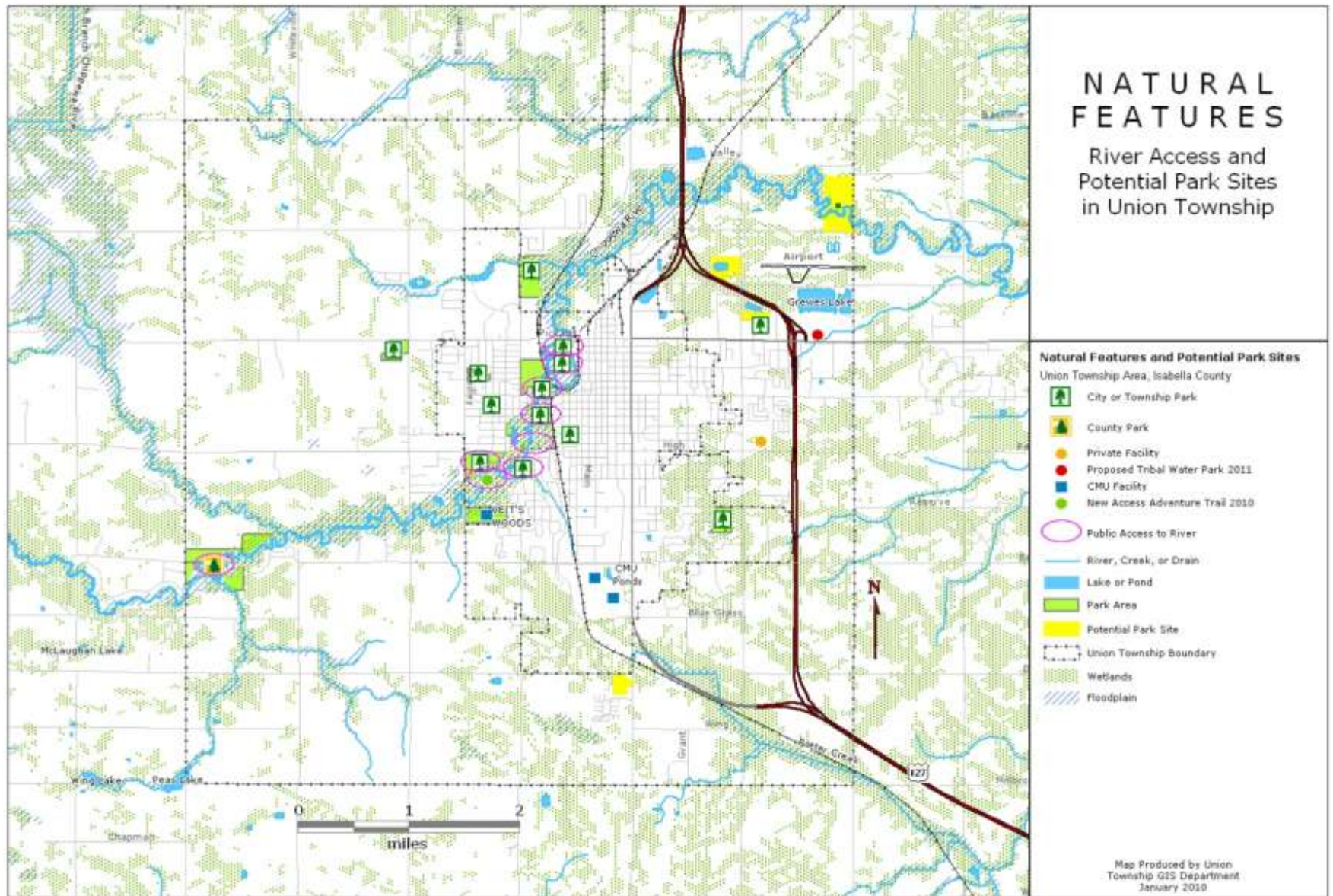


City parks provide a number of river access opportunities including:

- Canoe landings at Nelson Park, Mill Pond Park, Island Park, and Chipp-A-Waters Park.
- Fishing decks at Chipp-A-Waters park, Island Park, Mill Pond Park, and Nelson Park.
- 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



City of Mount Pleasant



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

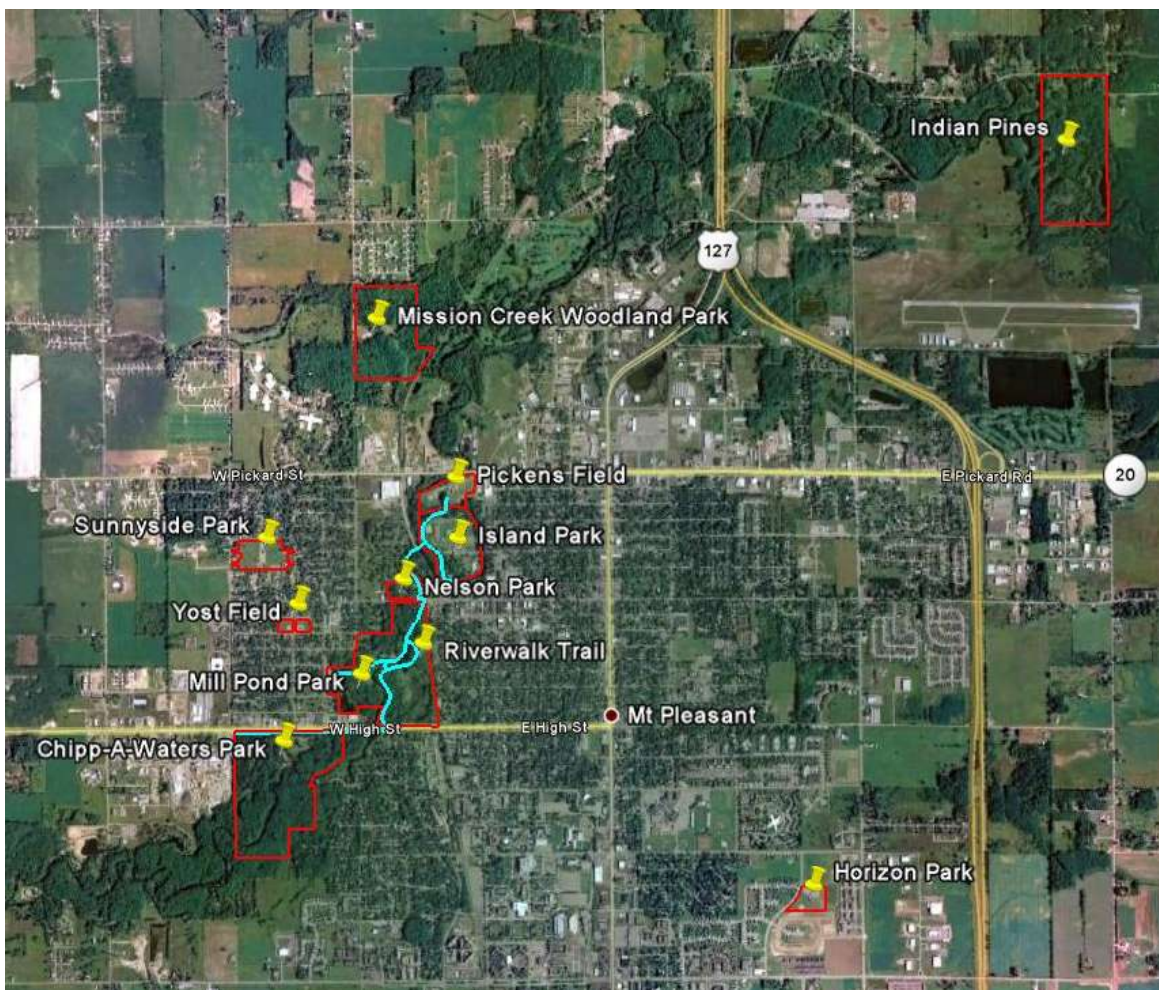


Figure 12: Mount Pleasant City Parks Service Area

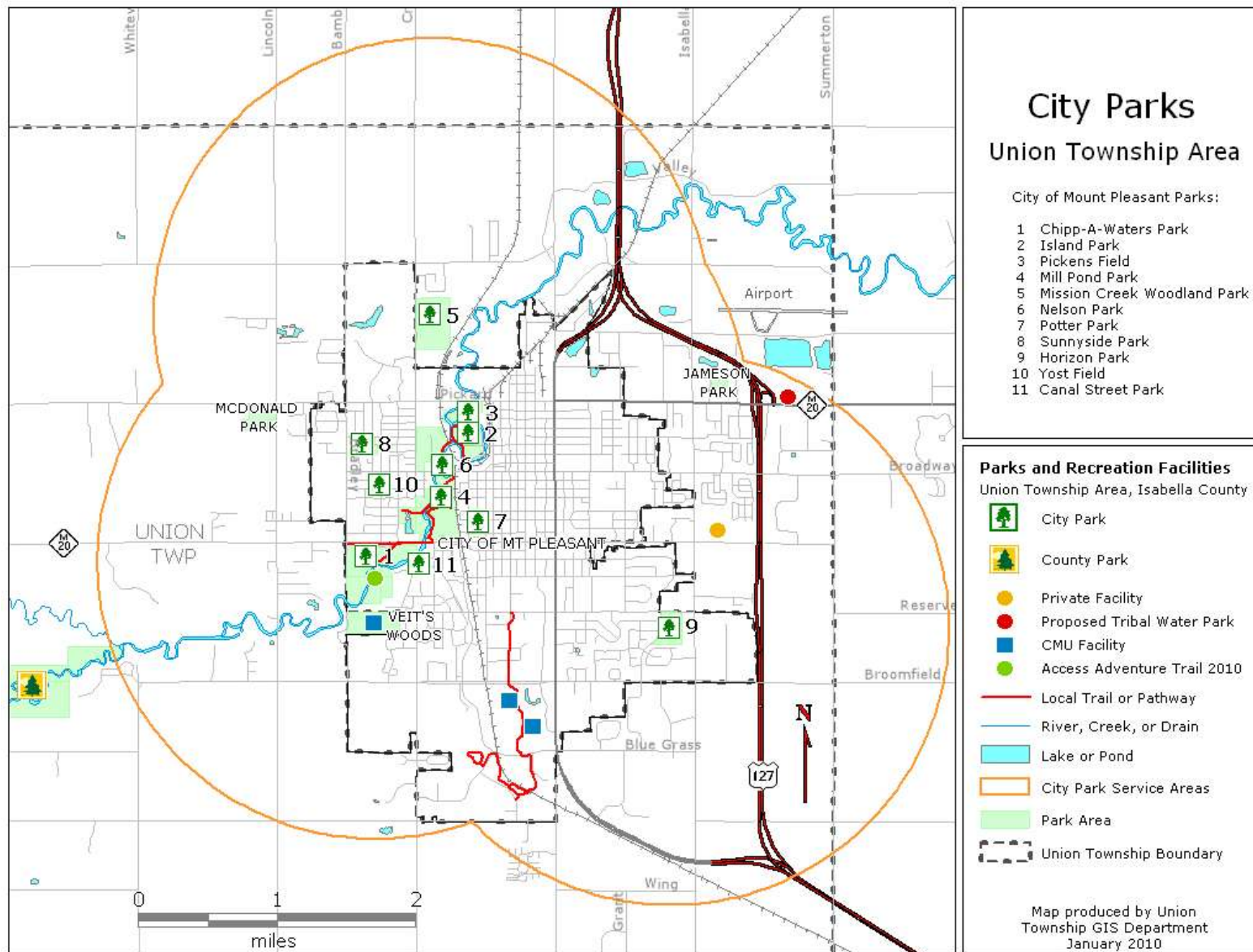
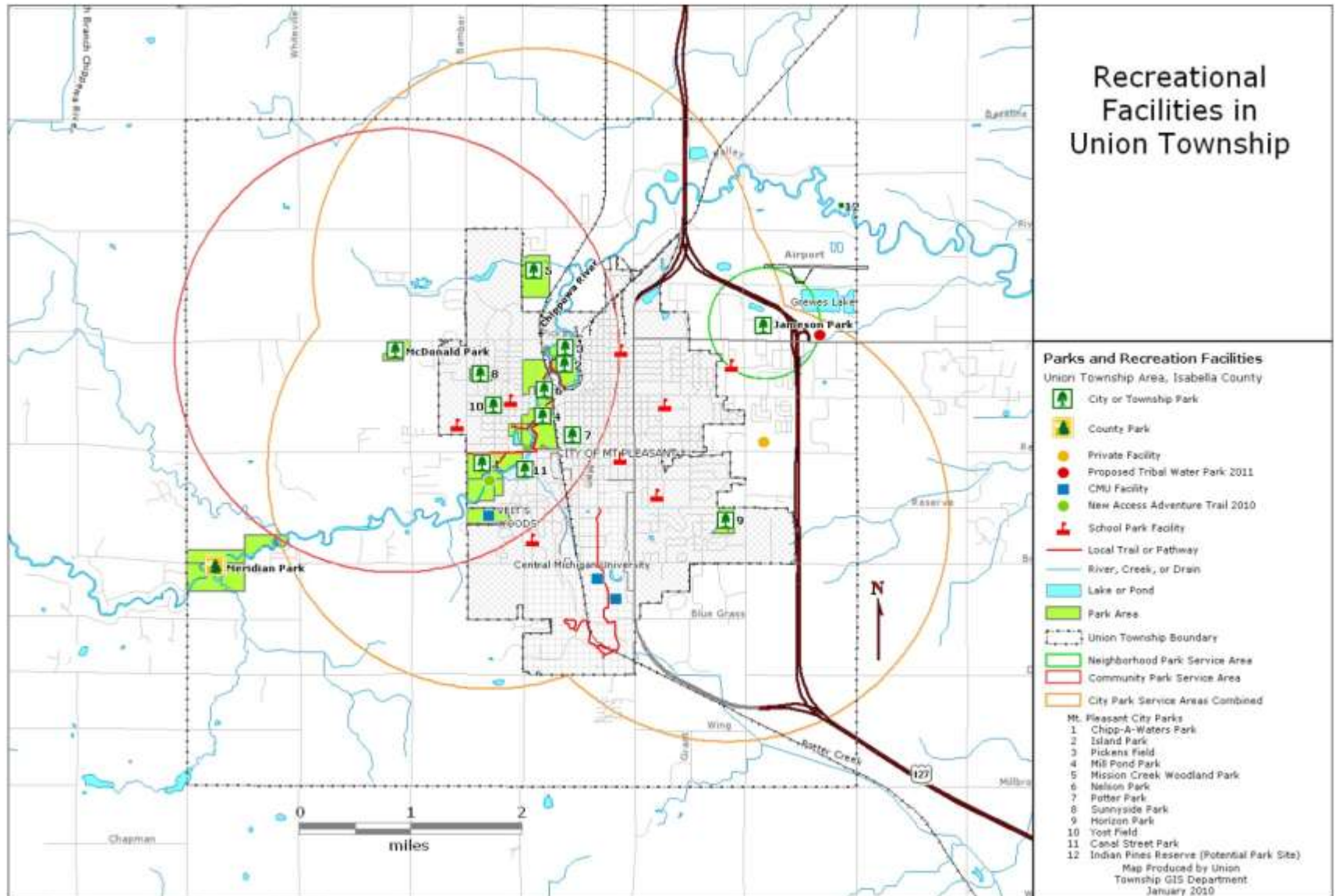


Figure 13: Recreational Facilities in Union Township



Mount Pleasant Public School Facilities

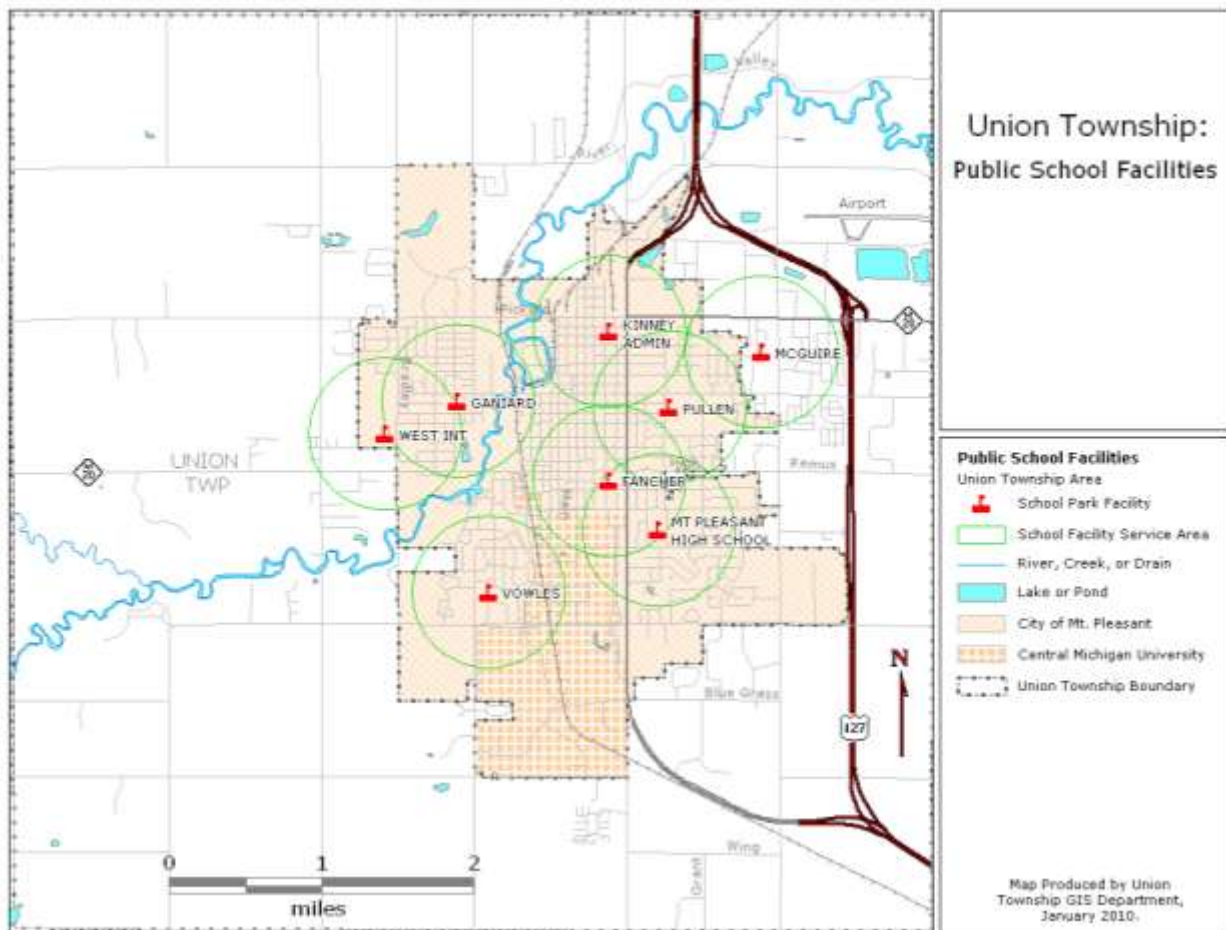
Several public schools within Union Township have outdoor recreation facilities that also serve the leisure needs of the community.

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).

Figure 14: Mount Pleasant Schools



Standards referred to in this section are based on: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

Park Type Legend

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

NA: Park Type not applicable to Mount Pleasant

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

Site	Park Type	Baseball (youth)	Baseball (Regulation)	Softball (Youth)	Softball (Adult)	Football	Soccer	*Multi-use field space	Volleyball	Basketball (Indoor Courts)	Basketball (Outdoor Goals)	Tennis Courts	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water access (Fishing/Boating)	Trails/access	Disc Golf Course	1/4 Mile Track	Beach	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	Pool/spray park	Campsites/Cabins	Acerage	Ownership	
Jameson Park	2				1				1				1	1								Y	1			5.5	Union Twp
McDonald Park	3	3		2							3		1	2	2		Y					Y	2			15	Union Twp
Canal Street Park	6															Y										1	Mt. Pleasant
Chipp-A-Waters Park	3												1	1		Y	Y					Y	1			60	Mt. Pleasant
Horizon Park	3				1			Y			2	1	1	1					1							23	Mt. Pleasant
Indian Pines																Y										100	Mt. Pleasant
Island Park	3				3				4	4	4	4	3	2	8	Y	Y					Y	6	1		35	Mt. Pleasant
Mill Pond Park	3												1	1		Y	Y			1	Y	1				90	Mt. Pleasant

Site	Park Type	Baseball (youth)	Baseball (Regulation)	Softball (Youth)	Softball (Adult)	Football	Soccer	*Multi-use field space	Volleyball	Basketball (Indoor Courts)	Basketball (Outdoor Goals)	Tennis Courts	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water access (Fishing/Boating)	Trails/access	Disc Golf Course	1/4 Mile Track	Beach	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters/Pavillions	Pool/spray park	Campsites/Cabins	Acerage	Ownership
Mission Creek Woodland Park	3																Y				Y	1			60	Mt. Pleasant
Mt. Pleasant Riverwalk Trail	7															Y	Y									Mt. Pleasant
Nelson Park	3													1		Y	Y				Y				5	Mt. Pleasant
Pickens Field	3	2		2									1	1			Y				Y				15	Mt. Pleasant
Russell Yost Park	2	1		1										1											8	Mt. Pleasant
Sunnyside Park	2						6				2		1	1							Y				17	Mt. Pleasant
Coldwater Lake Park	5			1					3				1	3	5	Y	Y			1	Y	3		95/5	28	Isabella County
Deerfield Nature Park	5								3					5	2		Y			1	Y	5		10/0	591	Isabella County
Gilmore Park	5													1		Y	Y								7	Isabella County
Herrick Recreation Area	5								3				2	2	3	Y				1	Y	2		73/5	113	Isabella County
Lawrence A. McDonald Wildlife Area	5																								11	Isabella County
Majeske Landing	5															Y									3	Isabella County
Meridian County Park	5													1		Y	Y			1	Y				152	Isabella County
Pere Marquette Rail Trail	7												1	1			Y				Y				100	Isabella County
Six Lakes Access	5															Y									1	Isabella County
Fancher Elem.	2							Y		1	4		2						1							Mt. Pleasant Schools
Ganiard Elem.	2							Y		1	2		2								Y					Mt. Pleasant Schools
Kinney Elem.	2							Y		1	3		1													Mt. Pleasant Schools
McGuire Elem.	2							Y		1	2		1													Mt. Pleasant Schools

Site	Park Type	Baseball (youth)	Baseball (Regulation)	Softball (Youth)	Softball (Adult)	Football	Soccer	*Multi-use field space	Volleyball	Basketball (Indoor Courts)	Basketball (Outdoor Goals)	Tennis Courts	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water access (Fishing/Boating)	Trails/access	Disc Golf Course	1/4 Mile Track	Beach	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters/Pavillions	Pool/spray park	Campsites/Cabins	Acerage	Ownership
Mount Pleasant High School	3		3	2		2	2	Y		3		8							1							Mt. Pleasant Schools
Potter Park	1												1									1				Mt. Pleasant Schools
Pullen Elem.	2							Y		1	3		1													Mt. Pleasant Schools
Rosebush Elem.	3	1						Y	1	1			1									Y				Mt. Pleasant Schools
School Forest	6																Y									Mt. Pleasant Schools
Vowels Elem.	2							Y		1	3		1													Mt. Pleasant Schools
West Intermediate.	2							Y		1	4	4							1							Mt. Pleasant Schools
Memorial Forest Recreation Area	3	1											1									Y	1			Mt. Pleasant Schools
Edmore State Game Area	5																								200	State
Stevenson Lake Access	5															Y									1	State
Central Michigan University	NA				4	5	5					10		1			Y	1					2			State
Isabella County Parks		0		1		0			9	0	0	0	4	13	10			0	0	4		10	0		1006	County
Mount Pleasant Parks		3		3		0			4	0	8	5	8	9	8			0	1	1		9	1		414	City
Mount Pleasant Public Schools		2		2		2			1	11	21	12	11	0	0			0	3	0		2	0		0	Schools
State of Michigan Land		0		0		5			0	0	0	10	0	1	0			1	0	0		0	2		201	State
Union Township Park		3		2		0			1	0	3	0	2	3	2			0	0	0		3	0		20.5	Township
		8		8		7			15	11	32	27	25	26	20			1	4	5		24	3		1642	TOTAL

#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 include¹⁰;

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



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.¹¹

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.

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 | Pohlcat |
| Morey Courts | Pleasant Hills |
| University Recreation | Riverwood Resort |
| Bowling | Holiday Greens |
| University Recreation Center | The Golf Center |
| Chippewa Lanes | Gymnastics |
| Riverwood Lanes | TumblTrak |
| Campgrounds | Mt. Pleasant Gymnastics Center |
| Shardi's Hide Away | Kayak, Canoe and Tube rental |
| Saginaw Chippewa Tribe | Buckley's Canoe Livery |
| Dance | Chippewa River Outfitters |
| Rochelle Bertsch School of Ballet | Floaters Tubing |
| Toni Dance Studio | Cracker Barrel |
| Vision Studio of Performing Arts | Chippewa River Outfitters |
| Fitness | Racing |
| Central Michigan Community Hospital – | Mount Pleasant Speedway – motor sport racing |
| Wellness Central Fitness | Mount Pleasant Meadows – Horse racing, |
| Morey Courts | county fairground. |
| Curves | Skating |
| Contours Express | Ice - Isabella County Event Center (ICE Arena) |
| MyGym LLC | Roller Skating - Spinning Wheels. |
| Gambling | Sky Diving |
| Soaring Eagle Casino | Central Michigan Skydivers |
| Golf courses - public | Sport Camps |
| Bucks Run | 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

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

* 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 5: NRPA Park Land Standards

Recommended Standard* 6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population	Union Township	City + Township	All in County
Total Acres of Developed Park Land	20.5	304	1576
2009 Population¹²	10, 976	37,464	66,778
Acre/Person	5.31	8.11	23.6
Evaluation	Not Met	Met	Exceeded

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.

¹² Sperling’s Best Places. <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

Park	Score	Comments
McDonald Park	60%	<p>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.</p> <p>There are no designated handicapped parking spaces, no handicapped parking signage.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Park does not meet the standard that 20% of grills be barrier free.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>



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 at 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 Township's 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 led 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

	Residents			Students		
	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Bike paths	20.9	30.4	48.6	19.3	46.6	34.1
Community swimming pool	20.9	28.3	50.8	16.1	27.6	56.3
Provide more parks	7.3	30.4	62.1	20.3	44.1	35.6
Enhance sidewalks	32.7	37.6	29.8	62.7	26.6	8.5
Enhance Cooperation with Local Governments	60.8	32.9	5.1	41.8	45.3	12.9
Improve Roads	73.5	21.4	5.1	63.3	28.2	8.5

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?

Do local parks meet your needs?	Not at all 1	2	3	4	Completely 5
Residents	25.6	7.3	23.8	15.5	27.7
Students	15.3	9.7	28.2	33.9	12.9

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

Household’s use of all parks	Regular Users	Occasional Users	Infrequent Users	Non- Users
Residents	22.0	37.9	20.5	19.6
Students	14.0	41.9	23.3	20.9

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.

Table 9: Use of Union Township Parks

Residents Use of Parks	Never	1 to 5 Times	6 or More
McDonald Park, Park Users Only (N = 357)	44.0	30.8	25.2
Jameson Park, Park Users Only (N = 356)	57.6	32.0	10.4

Student Use of Parks	Never	1 to 5 Times	6 or More
McDonald Park, Park Users Only (N = 132)	53.0	29.5	17.4
Jameson Park, Park Users Only (N = 132)	50.8	37.1	12.1

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 10: More Activity Programming

Residents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
More activities for 12 and younger	24.9	46.5	23.2	5.4
More activities for teens 13 to 18	28.4	44.2	23.2	4.3

Students	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
More activities for 12 and younger	32.3	59.1	8.5	0.0
More activities for teens 13 to 18	30.0	55.6	14.4	0.0

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

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

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

Category	N	Examples of Comments
Not Sports	88	A place to just hang out, dances, parties, game room, arts, music, volunteering, workforce training, movie night, concerts.
Community Center	55	Teen center, youth club, inexpensive, have fun and be safe, music, dancing & socializing, educational assistance, computers
Organized Activity – Sports	42	Skating, skateboard park, roller rink, winter sports.
Outdoor Space – Outdoor Activity	18	Bike paths, hunter safety, fishing, outdoor activities,
Swimming Pool	15	
After School Programs	8	Youth club, field trips, mentoring and tutoring,
Other - Miscellaneous	36	Supervised, parental involvement, let teens decide what they want to do, inexpensive, lock-ins,

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

Farmers market at McDonald Park
Indoor playground
Indoor gun range
More winter activities for families with children
Outdoor hockey/skating rink
Dog park
Park on the south side of the township,
Family-oriented social activities

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

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

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

Project	Votes
Outdoor ice arena	7
Community garden	7
Outdoor concert/bandstand	7
More access to the Chippewa River	7
Multi-sport complex	6
Dog park	6
Improve ADA access in parks	4
Swimming beach	4

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 16: Regional Recreation Priorities

Common Priorities	Trails	River	Cooperative Planning	Community Center/Pool
City of Mount Pleasant (2010 Master Plan)	Develop a multi-use pathway system linking parks, community facilities, school property, business areas, and neighborhoods (p. 46-47).	Work with other units of government and the tribe to develop a management plan for the Chippewa river and uses (p. 46)	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).	Work with other units of government and the Tribe to develop a community aquatic facility (p. 46).
Isabella County (2006 Master Plan)	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).	...to protect areas of outstanding scenic, natural/ecological or historical significance, such as the Chippewa River corridor (p. 68).	Assist other units of government with the planning, acquisition, and development of municipal level parks, recreational opportunities and facilities (p. 68).	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).

Common Priorities	Trails	River	Cooperative Planning	Community Center/Pool
Union Township (2010 Master Plan)	Seek opportunities to improve non-motorized transportation including bicycle lanes on roads, sidewalks, and connections to existing trail systems (2010 draft).	Seek opportunities to improve River access and use for township residents including creation of access for canoeing, fishing, and swimming (2010 draft).	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).	
Saginaw Chippewa Tribe	Currently working with Union Township and M-DOT on a non motorized path way throughout the entire community.			2007, Conducted feasibility study for a Reservation Activity Center to include gyms, <u>swimming pool</u> , exercise areas, meeting space, and other indoor recreation facilities.

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 Planning Commission meeting held on July 21, 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 inter-governmental 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.

Year	Action	Cost	Source of Funding	Priority	Comments
2011	Create barrier free picnic sites in both parks along a barrier free pathway. 1 at Jameson, 2 at McDonald	\$6,000	Township, Grants	1	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.
	Add additional designated barrier free parking at Jameson park next to the pavilion and at McDonald park adjacent to pavilions and restrooms.	\$500	Township	1	Paint lines and add signs
	Purchase additional barrier free picnic tables, benches, grills	\$2,500	Township	1	Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.
	Make drinking fountain accessible at Jameson Park.	\$250	Township	1	Add a 48" wide pad between the building and the existing pathway to allow access to fountain.
		\$9,250			

Year	Action	Cost	Source of Funding	Priority	Comments
2012	Create barrier free playground surfaces at Jameson and McDonald Parks.	\$8,000	Township	1	Remove existing sand, connect playgrounds to pathways, install curbing around play areas and fill with engineered wood fiber product that meets ADA specifications.
	Create barrier free rest areas along existing pathways. (Create a barrier free "pad" along existing pathways; reinstall and level benches along barrier free pathway at both parks.)	\$1,000	Township	1	Required every 200' if the pathway is less than 60" wide. Rest areas should include room for a bench and space for a wheelchair. Pads can be constructed of decomposed graine, concrete, or other accessible surface. Benches are only accessible is located along an accessible route of travel. 20% of benches should be accessible.
	Add additional designated barrier free parking at McDonald Park at the south ball fields, north ball fields.	\$3,000	Township	1	Either a concrete or other firm, stable surface material, parking signage, accessible route of travel to ball fields and accessible viewing area.
	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	Township, COA, Grants	2	Create a development plan to include future pavilion, trails, fitness equipment, picnic sites.
	Purchase barrier free picnic tables, benches, grills	\$2,500	Township	1	Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.
		\$39,500			

Year	Action	Cost	Source of Funding	Priority	Comments
2013	Purchase materials to create an outdoor ice rink at McDonald Park.	\$5,000	Township	2	4 X 8 pressure treated panels, 2 X 4's & 2 X 6's, plastic liner. Install in existing pavilion.
	Purchase additional barrier free park amenities	\$2,500	Township	2	Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.
		\$7,500			

2014	Install a pavilion in southwest corner of McDonald Park.	\$24,000	Township, Partners	1	Open pavilion, 30 X 40, estimated at \$20/sq ft for materials, volunteer labor.
	Create accessible route of travel to softball field at Jameson; barrier free viewing)	\$4,000	Township	2	
	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.)	\$2,500	Township	2	Purchase barrier free products as part of routine replacement cycle until at least 20% of all seating is barrier free.
		\$30,500			

Year	Action	Cost	Source of Funding	Priority	Comments
2015	Create additional barrier free picnic sites in both parks along a barrier free pathway.	\$6,000	Township, Grants	1	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.
	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.)	\$2,500	Township	2	
		\$8,500			

Year	Action	Cost	Source of Funding	Priority	Comments
2010-2015 Ongoing	Pursue joint development of a community pool with city, county & tribe.	Unknown	Township, City, County, Tribe	1	
	Seek opportunities to develop pathways, trails & sidewalks in the township for alternative transportation and linkage with existing trails	Unknown	Township	1	
	Seek opportunity to acquire property in the area of Isabella & Bluegrass for future park development	Unknown	Township	2	
	Seek opportunities to acquire property for soccer and adult softball.	Unknown	Township	2	
	Pursue development of a dog park	Unknown	Township. City	2	
	Seek opportunities to acquire property along the Chippewa River to develop river access.	Unknown	Township, Grants	3	
	Pursue joint development of property on Rick-Rack Drive for swimming, boating, and picnicking.	Unknown	Township, City	3	
	Pursue joint river use planning with city and county.	Unknown	Township, City, County	3	

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

Wednesday, December 9, 2009¹³

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 <http://www.themorningsun.com/articles/2009/12/09/news/srv0000007032696.txt>

By PATRICIA ECKER

Sun Staff Writer

Published: Thursday, July 22, 2010¹⁴

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.

¹⁴ <http://themorningsun.com/articles/2010/07/22/news/srv0000008897443.txt?viewmode=default>

Appendix B: Resident Survey - Open Ended Comments

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 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, SWIMMIG 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
 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

Outdoor space – Outdoor activity = 39

activities using the parks, the SAC, and so on
 Any kind of outdoor sports.
 ANYTHING OUTDOORS; BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, VOLLEYBALL.
 Bike paths, sidewalks
 Continue softball & baseball programs, using the parks as educational tools, nature hikes.
 I think they could use more playgrounds.
 I think they do a nice job, I like any outdoor activities. Soccer or more winter activities.
 Indoor soccer, basketball and swimming.
 i want them to be able to ride their bikes, and play outside! I would be really cool to just be able to be kids. non- organized recreational activities
 I would say more parks and recreation type stuff. Also, a public swimming pool.
 More activities at parks, similar to rec in Mt. Pleasant; educational support programs, tutoring, mentor programs
 more ball fields.
 More outdoor activities, year-round if possible.
 More outside activities; sporting events; good baseball program, maybe expand
 More parks
 MORE PARKS, CYCLING TRAILS
 more play areas, park areas and swings in other areas of the city
 MORE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN THE PARKS; SKATEBOARDING, ROLLERBLADING
 More playgrounds
 More playgrounds and more current toys, not antiques.
 More playgrounds, more soccer programs during summer, arts and crafts, volunteer programs.
 more sports, and activities in parks, winter activities
 more swings and an after school program for kids. Interviewee doesn't like children going home to an empty house.
 nice skate park, nice pool, more parks that are police patrolled
 nicer playgrounds, swings, things to climb and such
 No soccer fields, football, sports in general to keep them active.
 outdoor activities and more music and art activities. educational activities
 park development, skating rink, pool for younger kids, snowboarding in winter, recreation center to keep them safe from traffic
 PARKS, HIKING, PINICING, FAMILY AREA, BALL PARKS, SWIMMIG POOL
 playgrounds
 playgrounds
 playgrounds, baseball and soccer fields, swimming pool(s), support for anything that allows for active children.

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 centers
Center for children. Civic center, pool
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
sports activities, after school programs.
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, CHAPORONED 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?

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 afterschool 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 congregare... inexpensive.
Community Center: dances, pool, athletics, video games
community rec center
Community rec center.
Dances and community center.
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.
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
someplace to go with activities (games, etc)
someplace to have fun and be safe
Someplace 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 safety. 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.
 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
 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.
 intramural sports, dances
 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

ball fields

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

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, SUPERVSION

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

Appendix C: Resolutions to adopt the master plan

Minutes of Recreation Committee Meeting

Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting

Board of Trustees Resolution

Appendix D: DNRE Planning Checklist

Appendix E: Letters of transmittal of plan to other governing and planning bodies