

Charter Township of Flint



5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2010 – 2015

DRAFT

Acknowledgements

This update of the Flint Township Parks and Recreation Plan was completed by the Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee. The original 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by THA Architects Engineers in 1998. It was updated by Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT) in 2004.

The Flint Township Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledges the assistance of Heidi Phaneuf, Community Resource Planner in the preparation of this document.

Flint Township Board

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Our Vision

Flint Township will create local recreational opportunities for the residents of this community and the surrounding areas that:

- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities,
- Attract new residents and businesses to the area,
- Enhance property values, and
- Improve the quality of life in our community, making it an enjoyable place to live.

Our Mission

To create a healthy and livable community with recreational opportunities for everyone

The 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides the guidelines necessary to continue to develop the parks and recreation program in the Charter Township of Flint. The purpose of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan update is to continue to refine the vision for parks and recreation in Flint Township, including new information about our existing parks and natural areas as well as outlining strategies for further development of the community's recreational assets.

The formulation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is but one part of the planning process. The foundations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are established in the Charter Township of Flint Master Plan which was updated in 2009 and the Charter Township of Flint Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance will be used to implement the planning policies and strategies reflected in the Master Plan and the Township Parks and Recreation Plan. The following sections highlight the linkages with the Flint Township Master Plan that support the elements of the Townships Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Flint Township Master Plan Goals and Objectives

The relationship between the Township's Master Plan goals and objectives and policy statements and the Township's Parks and Recreation Plan is fundamental to the Township's ability to provide public recreation opportunities in the community. Goals, objectives and policy statements combine to provide local elected officials with a basis for guiding the future land uses. The following selected statements of goals, objectives and policies taken from Flint Township's Master Plan reflect the sentiments of the Planning Commission and citizens and are included in this Recreation Plan Update to demonstrate the strong commitment of the Township to provide a variety of public recreational opportunities in the Township.

General Goals

The Charter Township of Flint will serve as a model community for other townships to emulate.

Objectives

- a) Strengthen a positive community image by ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance residential quality of life.
- b) Maintain the diverse population by providing housing and employment opportunities for all socio-economic groups in the Township.
- c) Promote public involvement and continued access to local government through the use of public forums.
- d) Require consistently high quality as regards all forms of new development or redevelopment.

Residential Land Use Goals

Ensure that new residential development is of the highest possible quality, protects the character of established neighborhoods and provides an appropriate balance of housing types based upon demographic trends and projections.

Objectives

- c) Encourage new developments that set aside open space/recreational areas.

Natural Features Goals

Encourage integration of natural features into site development as aesthetic and

functional features, while protecting their quality as well as residents' quality of life.

Objectives

- a) Encourage open space areas in new developments proportionate to the scale, character and type of project.
- b) Encourage developers to integrate existing natural features into new developments
- c) Site plan requirements should incorporate standards for preservation of on-site natural features.
- d) "Best management practices" for storm water control should be incorporated into site plan standards, including bio-retention and other techniques to protect surface and groundwater resources.
- e) Intensive land development should be located away from sensitive natural areas or provide significant separation and buffers.

Community Facilities and Services Goals

Provide facilities and services adequate to serve the needs of all Township residents.

Objective

- a) Place new community facilities in locations convenient to the citizens they are intended to serve.
- c) Continue to support a diversity of cultural resources to serve the residents of the township
- e) Pursue funding sources to assist with the cost of facility improvements as needed.
- h) Identify opportunities for cooperation with adjacent jurisdictions and local agencies to provide services cost-effectively and establish development partnerships or shared resource partnership opportunities.
- i) Create incentives for developments to provide recreation, trails and other neighborhood based amenities.

Transportation Goals

Provide alternatives to the automobile through multi-modal transportation options which connect neighborhoods, schools, the senior library, businesses and other activity areas.

Objectives

- a) Pursue development of a continuous system of pathways and sidewalks as an

alternative travel mode and to improve the township's quality of life.

b) Require pedestrian and transit oriented site design including links between the public and on-site pedestrian systems.

Recreation and Open Spaces

Incorporate open space elements into the land use pattern in a manner that creates an interconnected, unified system and provides green space, recreation, and/or protects sensitive natural features as applicable.

Objectives

Afford residents of all ages ample opportunities to experience passive open spaces and participate in recreation programs:

a) Activity support efforts of the Township's Parks and Recreation Commission to provide parkland and open spaces within the Township.

b) Coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Commission in all development reviews in which future parkland may be available and/or needed.

c) Require open space in new development proposals.

d) Participate in implementation of regional greenway systems (especially along the Flint River and Swartz Creek).

e) Develop guidelines for open space to ensure it meets key goals.

f) Link through a comprehensive pathway system.

Quality of Life

Improve the quality of life for residents of the township, including both visual appearance and level of services.

Objectives

a) The Planning Commission will insist on high quality of design attendant to all public and private investments in the Township.

b) The Planning Commission will actively promote and support quality of life initiatives, such as neighborhood preservation measures or redevelopment, street enhancements, parkland acquisition, integrated open spaces within new residential developments, a township wide pedestrian system with neighborhood emphasis, quality urban design and other physical improvements designed to improve visual and functional aesthetics of the Township.

The goals, objectives and policies established in the Flint Township Master Plan and listed above are included in this Township Parks and Recreation Plan as priority goals, objectives and policies for the Township's Parks and Recreation Program. They reflect the intent of the Township to actively pursue acquisition of land and the establishment of Township parks for a variety of public access and recreation purposes.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Charter Township of Flint is located in the heart of Genesee County adjacent to the west and south boundaries of the City of Flint. The Township has an area of approximately 23.5 square miles and a population of approximately 31,611 as of 2008. The following sections provide a brief historic background on the formation of the Township and a description of our community today.

History

The history of Flint Township is closely tied to the first settlements in Genesee County. While Grand Blanc Township is the oldest township in the County, Flint Township was the second township organized on March 2, 1836. At that time Flint Township included the land later organized as the Townships of Burton, Clayton, Flushing, Mt. Morris, Genesee, Thetford, Vienna, Montrose and the City of Flint. The first election was held August 22, 1836, and Lyman Stowe became the first supervisor of Flint Township.

One year prior, the first settlers, Elijah Carman and his family, erected the first log cabin. Deacon Carman, as he was known by those who settled the township, held religious gatherings in his home and was a true pioneer, relying on hunting for food, tanning hides for clothing, and clearing dense forests for farming. He died in 1840 at the age of 40. His son, Reuben, later built the land into good farmland which he later named Carmandale.

The Carman family was closely followed by the Jesse Torrey family. In October of 1836, they settled on 400 acres and cleared the area to farm. This founded the Torrey settlement. Settlers who followed the Carman and Torrey families included other familiar names such as Dye, Utley, Bristol, Carter and Miller.

In 1837, the Michigan Territory became a state. During the years that followed, many roads were laid and traveled in the area: Bristol, Atherton, Maple, Hemphill, Judd, Van Slyke, Linden, Torrey, Hill, Book, Jennings and Reid. The Fentonville Plank Toll Road was built in 1851 with a toll of one cent per mile. This road is now Fenton Road. Freight wagons traveled between Detroit and Flint on this road. One freight line was owned by Harry Farrow who lived on a farm that is now Bishop International Airport.

OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

Population and Housing

Trends in population and housing directly influence public policy and future land use/development decisions. This section presents long term and recent trends in population of the Township and the Region. Of course, in a large and diverse urban area such as Genesee County, no community functions in isolation. Population trends of the Region directly influence each community.

The People

The Charter Township of Flint is a part of the Flint Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Table 1 presents population changes for the period 1980-2008 for the Township, its closest neighbors and Genesee County as a whole. Population data for 2008 is based on the most recently available census estimates at www.census.gov.

Table 1 - Population Change

COMMUNITY	1980	1990	2000	2008*
Flint Township	35,405	34,081	33,691	31,611
Mundy Township	10,786	11,511	12,191	NA*
Mt Morris Township	27,928	25,198	23,725	22,216
Clayton Township	7,155	7,284	7,546	NA*
City of Flint	159,611	140,761	124,943	112,900
City of Burton	29,976	27,617	30,308	29,845
Genesee County	450,449	430,459	436,141	428,790
*2008 Census estimates are not available for all communities.				

Flint Township lost 2,080 residents in the period from 2000 - 2008. The City of Flint by contrast lost nearly 12,043 residents in the same time period. Mt. Morris Township experienced a loss of 1,509 people in from 2000 - 2008. Decline in manufacturing employment has been suggested as the single most important reason for population losses.

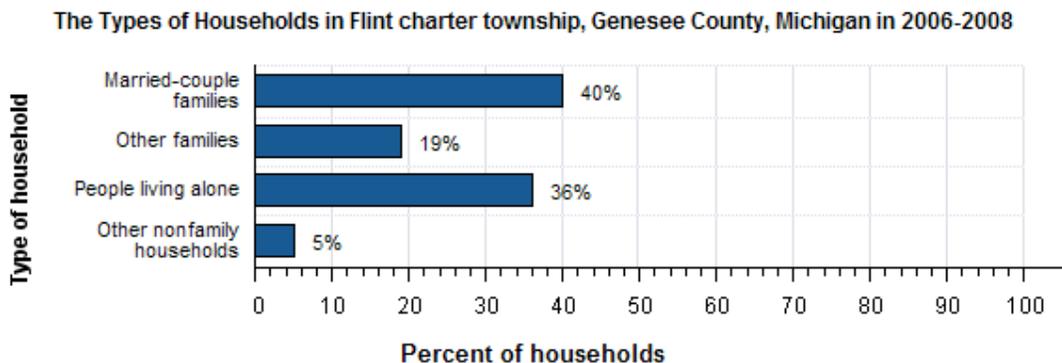
2006 – 2008 American Community Survey

The most current U.S. Census Bureau data for Flint Township is included in the 2006 – 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), a 3-year census estimate in social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics. The 2010-2015 Flint Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan update utilizes these census estimates because they are the newest data available at the time, but must recognize they are based on extrapolations of 2000 Census data with additional updates to current trends and conditions.

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

In 2006-2008 there were 14,000 households in Flint Charter Township. The average household size was 2.3 people.

Families made up 59 percent of the households in Flint Charter Township. This figure includes both married-couple families (40 percent) and other families (19 percent). Non-family households made up 41 percent of all households in Flint Charter Township. Most of the non-family households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

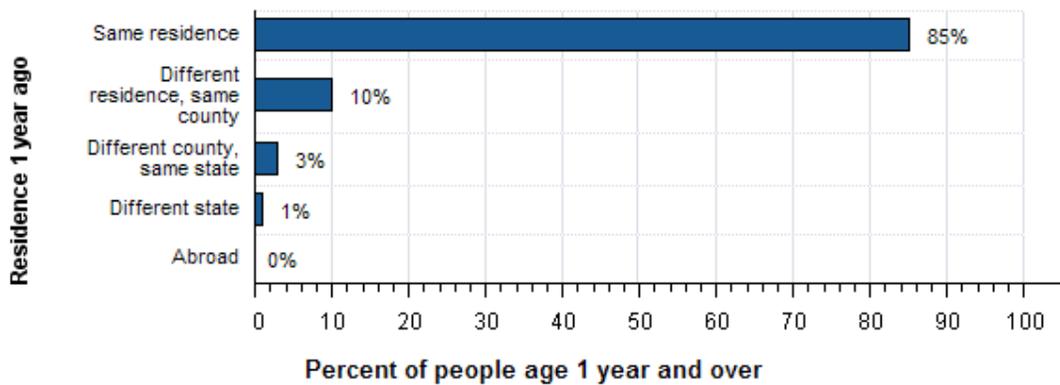


Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY

In 2006-2008, 85 percent of the people at least one year old living in Flint charter township were living in the same residence one year earlier; 10 percent had moved during the past year from another residence in the same county, 3 percent from another county in the same state, 1 percent from another state, and less than 0.5 percent from abroad.

Geographic Mobility of Residents of Flint charter township, Genesee County, Michigan in 2006-2008



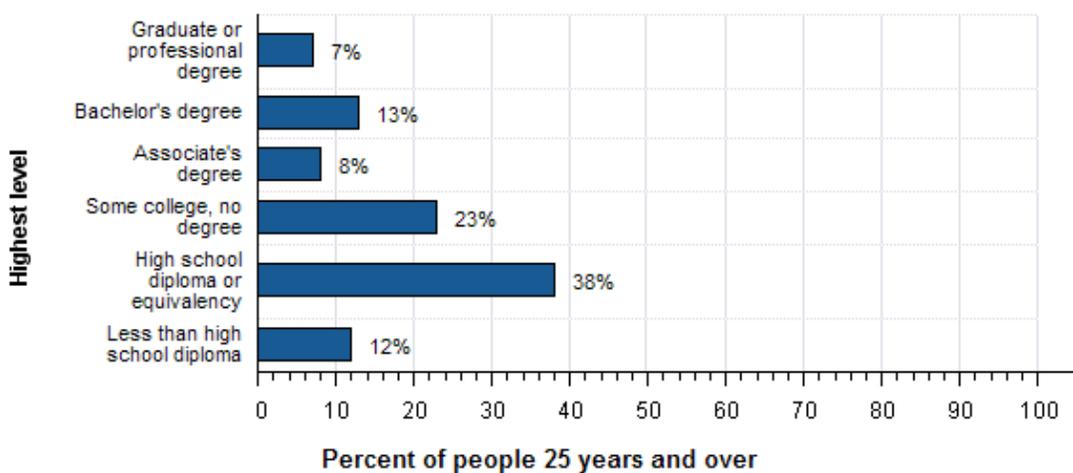
Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

EDUCATION

In 2006-2008, 88 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 20 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Twelve percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Flint Charter Township was 8,000 in 2006-2008. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 360 and elementary or high school enrollment was 5,300 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 2,300.

The Educational Attainment of People in Flint charter township, Genesee County, Michigan in 2006-2008

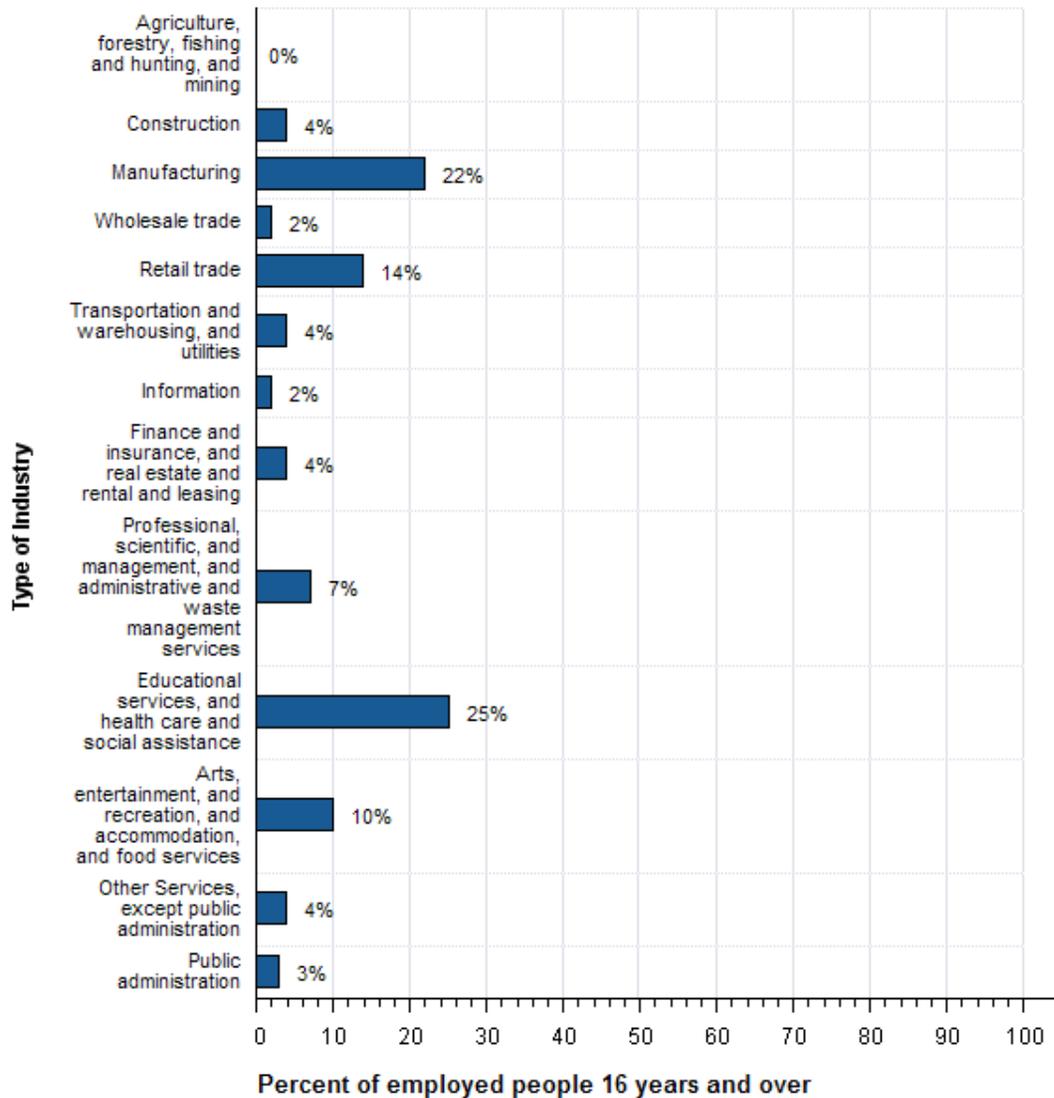


Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

INDUSTRIES

In 2006-2008, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Flint charter township were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 25 percent, and Manufacturing, 22 percent.

Employment by Industry in Flint charter township, Genesee County, Michigan in 2006-2008



Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER

Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 29 percent; Sales and office occupations, 23 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 22 percent; Service occupations, 21 percent; and Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations, 6 percent. Eighty-three percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 11 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 5 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

TRAVEL TO WORK

Eighty-four percent of Flint charter township workers drove to work alone in 2006-2008, 10 percent carpooled, 1 percent took public transportation, and 2 percent used other means. The remaining 4 percent worked at home. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average 22.6 minutes to get to work.

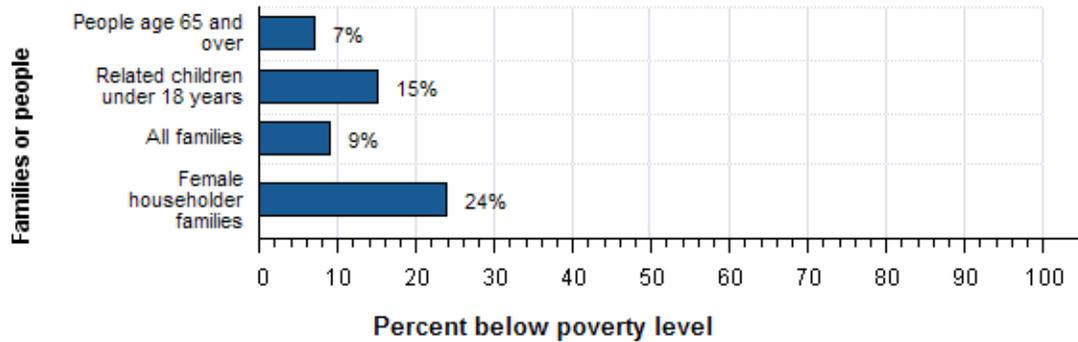
INCOME

The median income of households in Flint Charter Township was \$44,486. Seventy-three percent of the households received earnings and 30 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-three percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$15,170. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

In 2006-2008, 11 percent of people were in poverty. Fifteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 7 percent of people 65 years old and over. Nine percent of all families and 24 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Poverty Rates in Flint charter township, Genesee County, Michigan in 2006-2008

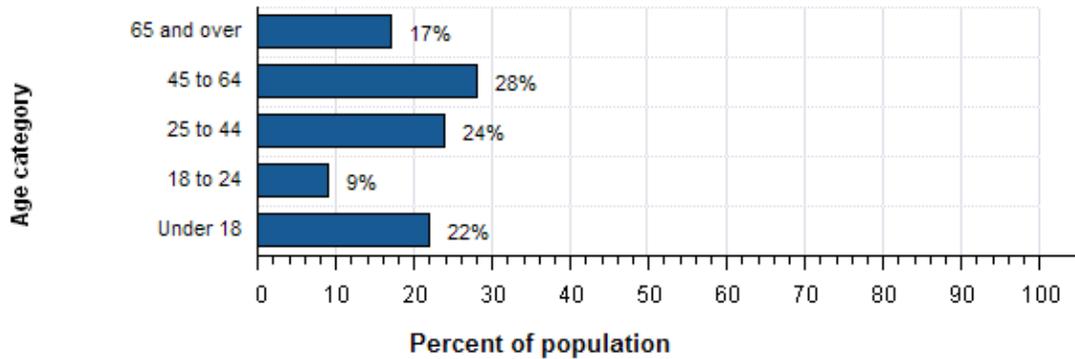


Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

POPULATION

In 2006-2008, Flint Charter Township had a total population of 31,000. The median age was 41.2 years. Twenty-two percent of the population was under 18 years and 17 percent was 65 years and older.

The Age Distribution of People in Flint charter township, Genesee County, Michigan in 2006-2008

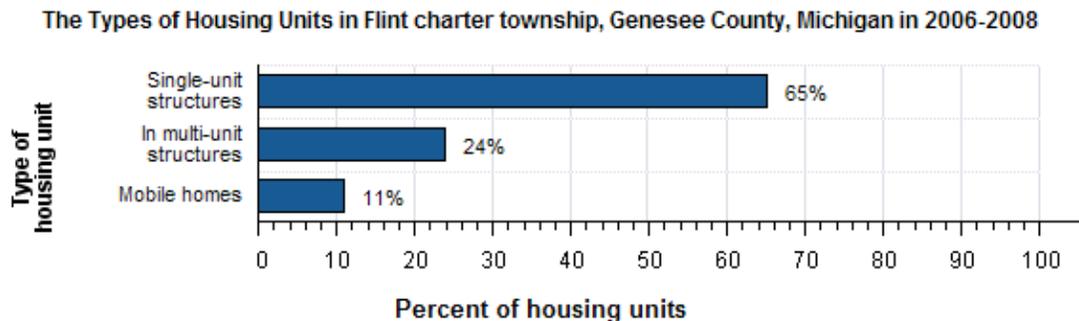


Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

For people reporting one race alone, 73 percent was White; 21 percent was Black or African American; less than 0.5 percent was American Indian and Alaska Native; 2 percent was Asian; less than 0.5 percent was Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and 1 percent was some other race. Three percent reported two or more races. Three percent of the people in Flint Charter Township was Hispanic. Seventy-one percent of the people in Flint Charter Township was White non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

In 2006-2008, Flint Charter Township had a total of 15,000 housing units, 9 percent of which were vacant. Of the total housing units, 65 percent was in single-unit structures, 24 percent was in multi-unit structures, and 11 percent was mobile homes. Fifteen percent of the housing units were built since 1990.



Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

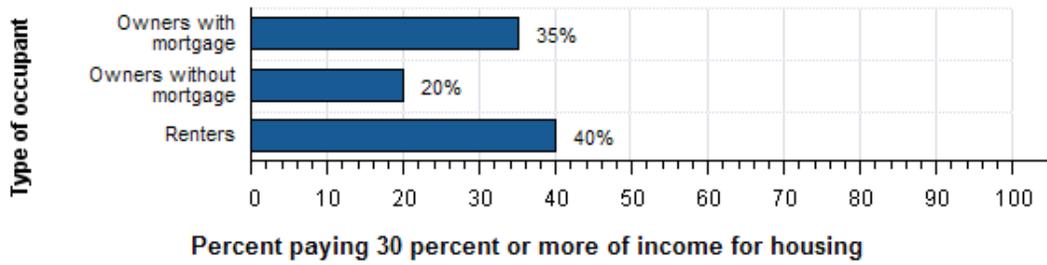
OCCUPIED HOUSING UNIT CHARACTERISTICS

In 2006-2008, Flint Charter Township had 14,000 occupied housing units - 9,300 (68 percent) owner occupied and 4,400 (32 percent) renter occupied. Seven percent of the households did not have telephone service and 8 percent of the households did not have access to a car, truck, or van for private use. Thirty-two percent had two vehicles and another 15 percent had three or more.

HOUSING COSTS

The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,223, non-mortgaged owners \$392, and renters \$618. Thirty-five percent of owners with mortgages, 20 percent of owners without mortgages, and 40 percent of renters in Flint Charter Township spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.

Occupants with a Housing Cost Burden in Flint charter township, Genesee County, Michigan in 2006-2008



Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008

The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program produces the official population estimates for the nation, states, counties and places, and the official estimates of housing units for states and counties. The population and housing characteristics included above are derived from the American Community Survey.

Future Land Use Plan

Flint Charter Township adopted a new future land use plan in 2009. The future land use map included on the next page seeks to promote the preservation of open space and rural character in the western edge of the township, transform the commercial areas into urban and walkable places, redevelop areas of blight and increase the quality of new development.

Current Zoning Patterns

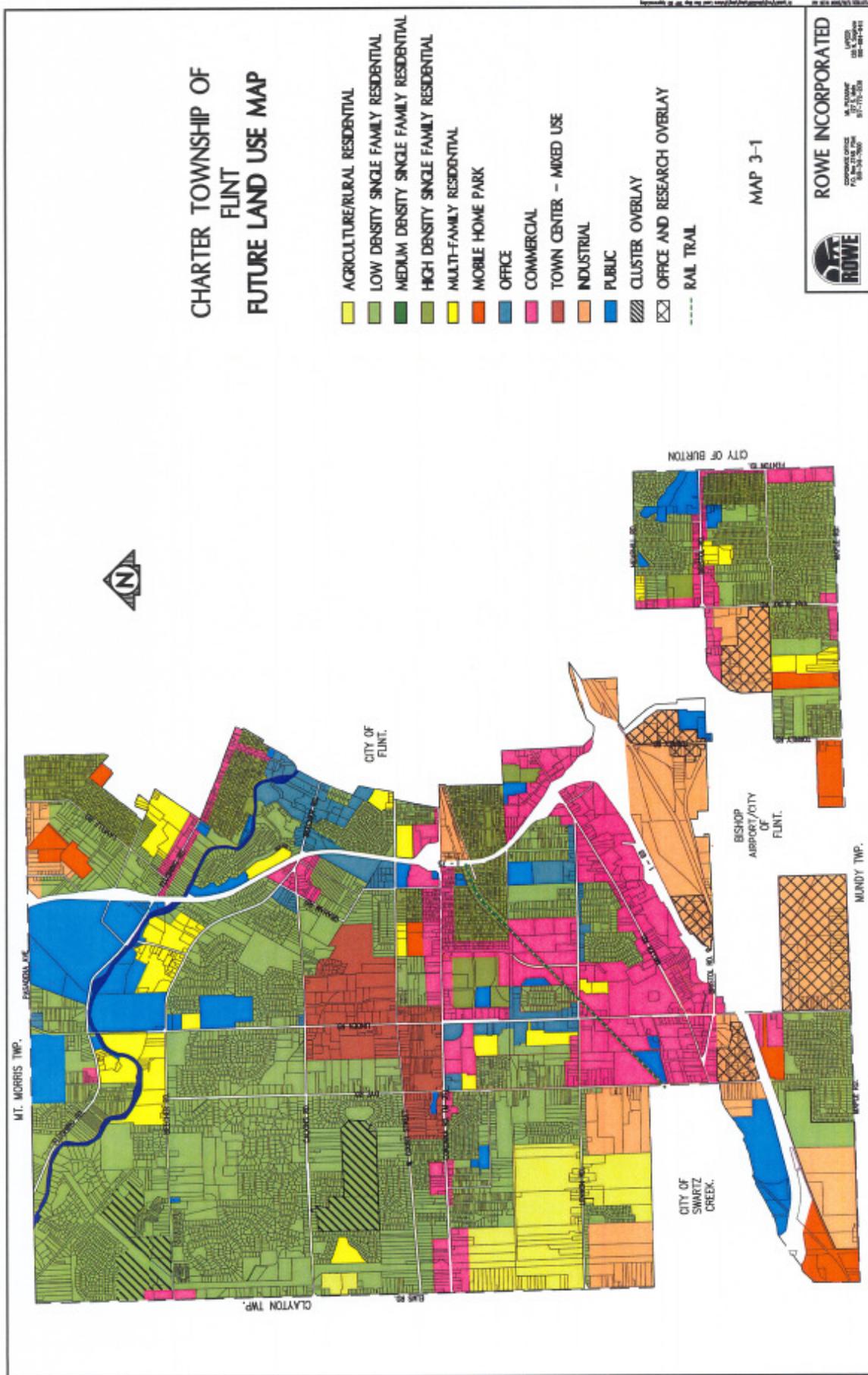
The Charter Township of Flint is a zoned community with specific classifications to control the placement of business, industrial, residential and other land uses and developments. The Township is divided into the following districts:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| R-1A - Single Family Residential | 0-1 - Office/Service |
| R-1B - Single Family Residential | C-1 - Local Business |
| R-1C - Single Family Residential | C-2 - General Business |
| R-1D - Single Family Residential | C-3 - Highway Service |
| RM-1 – Multiple Family Residential | IND - Industrial |
| RMH - Manufactured/Mobile Home Park | AD - Airport District |
| | EH - Elderly Housing |

The Zoning Plan table below shows the correlation between the Zoning Classifications and the Master Plan Land Use Classifications

Table 5-1 Zoning Plan	
Future Land Use Category	Zoning District
Agricultural/Rural Residential	AG (proposed new district)
Low Density Residential Single Family	R-1A and R-1B
Residential Cluster Overlay	No specific zoning classification
Medium Density Single Family Residential	R-1C
High Density Single Family Residential	R-1D
Multi Family Residential	RM-1
Mobile Home Park	RMH
Office	O-1
Commercial	C-1, C-2 and C-3
Town Center	TC (proposed new district)
Industrial	IND and AD
Public	No specific zoning classification
Office and Research	No specified zoning classification

Flint Township 2010 – 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Topography, Water Resources, and Land Cover

Topography

Flint Township topography is predominantly gently rolling with a few abrupt changes in elevation. According to the U.S.G.S. Swartz Creek quadrangle map, the land surface elevations range from approximately 725 feet above sea level near rivers, creeks and streams to 800 feet above seal level. According to the Soil Survey of Genesee County, the soils located within the county were deposited by glaciers or by melt water from the glaciers. These glaciers covered the county from about 9,000 years ago during the Late Wisconsin glacial period. Several moraines, lakes, and rivers were created throughout Genesee County as a result of the ice lobes and melt water from the glaciers. In addition to the Main and West Branches of Swartz Creek, the Township has numerous county drains that empty into Swartz Creek.

There following pages contain photographs and maps which show current natural features of the area and some of the changes that have occurred over time. Figure 12 is an area-wide aerial photograph that clearly illustrates the relatively flat terrain of Flint Township and the surrounding areas and the extent to which the land has been cleared for agricultural use. It also shows the population density areas bordering Flint Township to the East, as well as the residential areas being developed in the more rural parts of the community. Figure 13 is a topographic map of the area showing the changes in topography related to rivers, streams and county drains.

Water Resources

Flint Township is located wholly within the Flint River Watershed. Two subwatersheds encompass the entire Township, the Flint River –Lower Main Channel Subwatershed located in the northern part of the Township and the Swartz Creek Subwatershed located in the southern portion of the Township. The west branch of Swartz Creek joins the main channel of Swartz Creek in Section 28 of the Township. The Flint River crosses the northern portion of the Township flowing to the northwest eventually joining the Shiawassee River. Figure 14 is a map of the Flint River Watershed and its subwatersheds. Numerous creeks and county drains are also located in the Township. A small, man-made lake is located in Section 28 of the Township and is associated with a private recreation facility. It is immediately adjacent to Swartz Creek, downstream a short distance from the confluence of the West and Main Branches of Swartz Creek. Figure 15 depicts the loss of wetland areas in and around Genesee County.

Land Use and Cover

Between 1816 and 1856, Michigan was systematically surveyed by the General Land Office (GLO), which had been established by the federal government in 1785. The

detailed notes taken by the land surveyors have proven to be a useful source of information on Michigan's landscape as it appeared prior to wide-spread European settlement. Surveyors took detailed notes on the location, species, and diameter of each tree used to mark section lines and section corners. They commented on the locations of rivers, lakes, wetlands, the agricultural potential of soils and the general quality of timber along each section line as they were measured out. Biologists from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory developed a methodology to translate the notes of the GLO surveys into a digital map that can be used by researchers, land managers, and the general public. Figure 16 shows the land cover as it appeared in 1992, while Figure 17 shows the dramatic changes that occurred from the early 1800s to 1978. As Figure 18 shows, that the area that is now Genesee County and Flint Township was predominantly a hardwood forest.

Few forested areas remain and are generally limited to woodlots adjacent to farmland. The predominant land use outside of the developed areas is dedicated to farming. A review of the historical aerial photographs, dating back to 1941 indicates that much of the area that is now urbanized was once agricultural land with the area around Swartz Creek still predominantly forested. A 1972 aerial photograph indicates that Swartz Creek was re-routed and a man made lake was created.

Flint Township 2009 Land Use Map

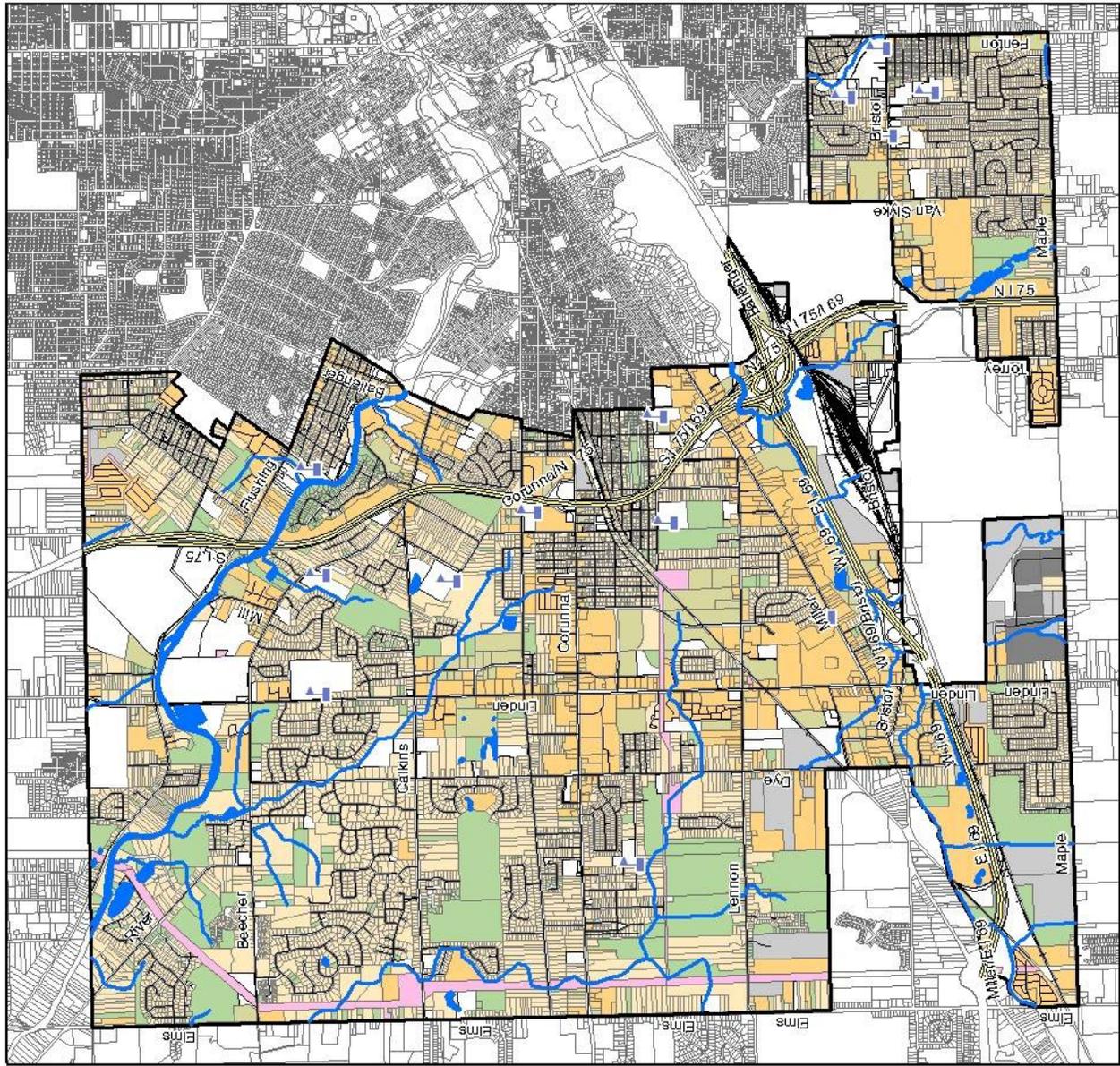
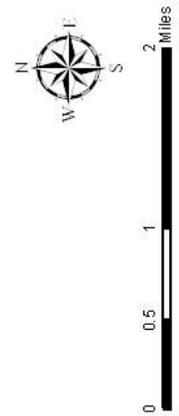
Legend

- Schools
- Water
- Railroads
- Expressways
- Roads

2009 Land Use

Property Class

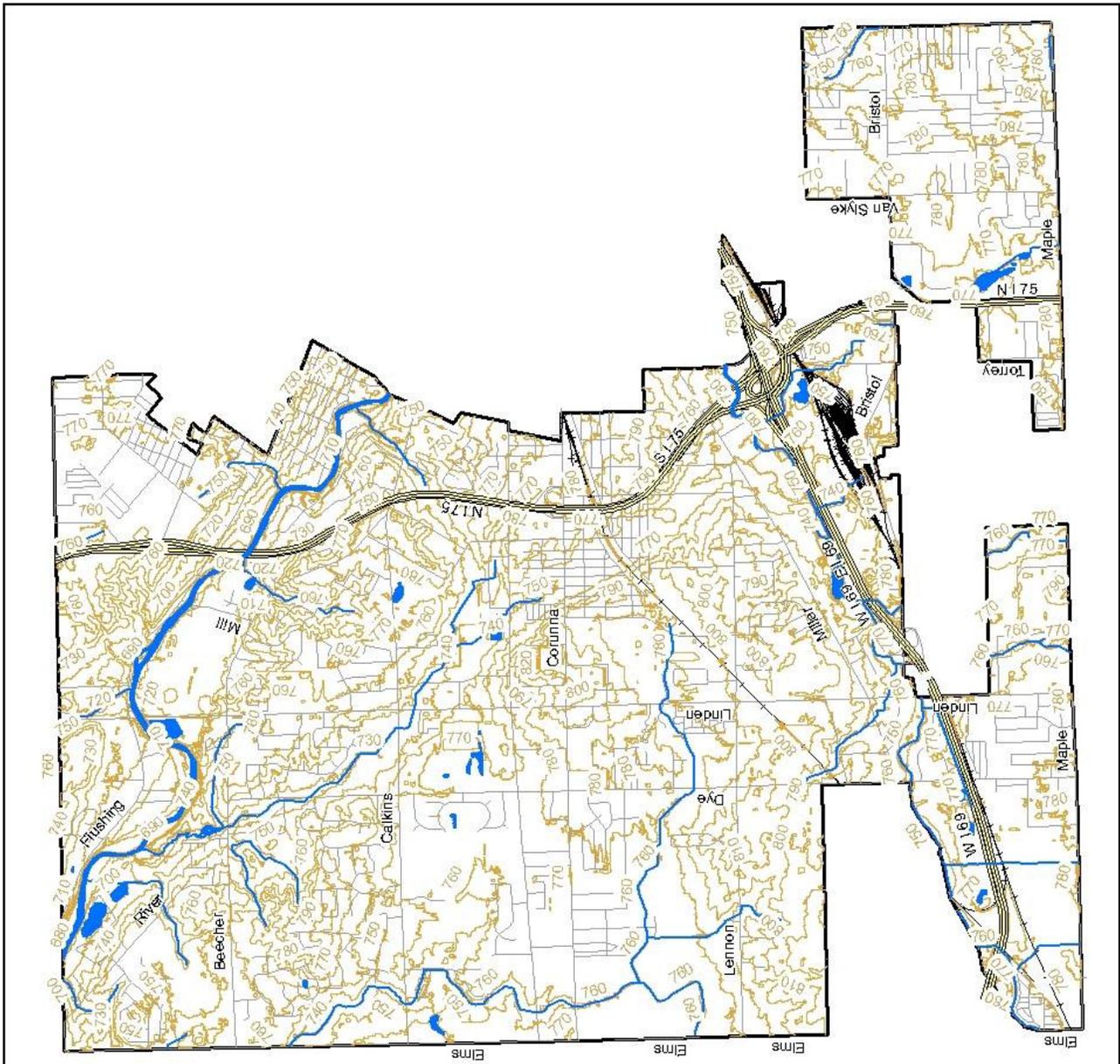
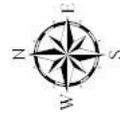
- RESIDENTIAL WITH STRUCTURE
- RESIDENTIAL VACANT
- COMMERCIAL WITH STRUCTURE
- COMMERCIAL VACANT
- INDUSTRIAL WITH STRUCTURE
- INDUSTRIAL VACANT
- UTILITY VACANT
- EXEMPT VACANT
- Parcels



Flint Township Topographic Map

Legend

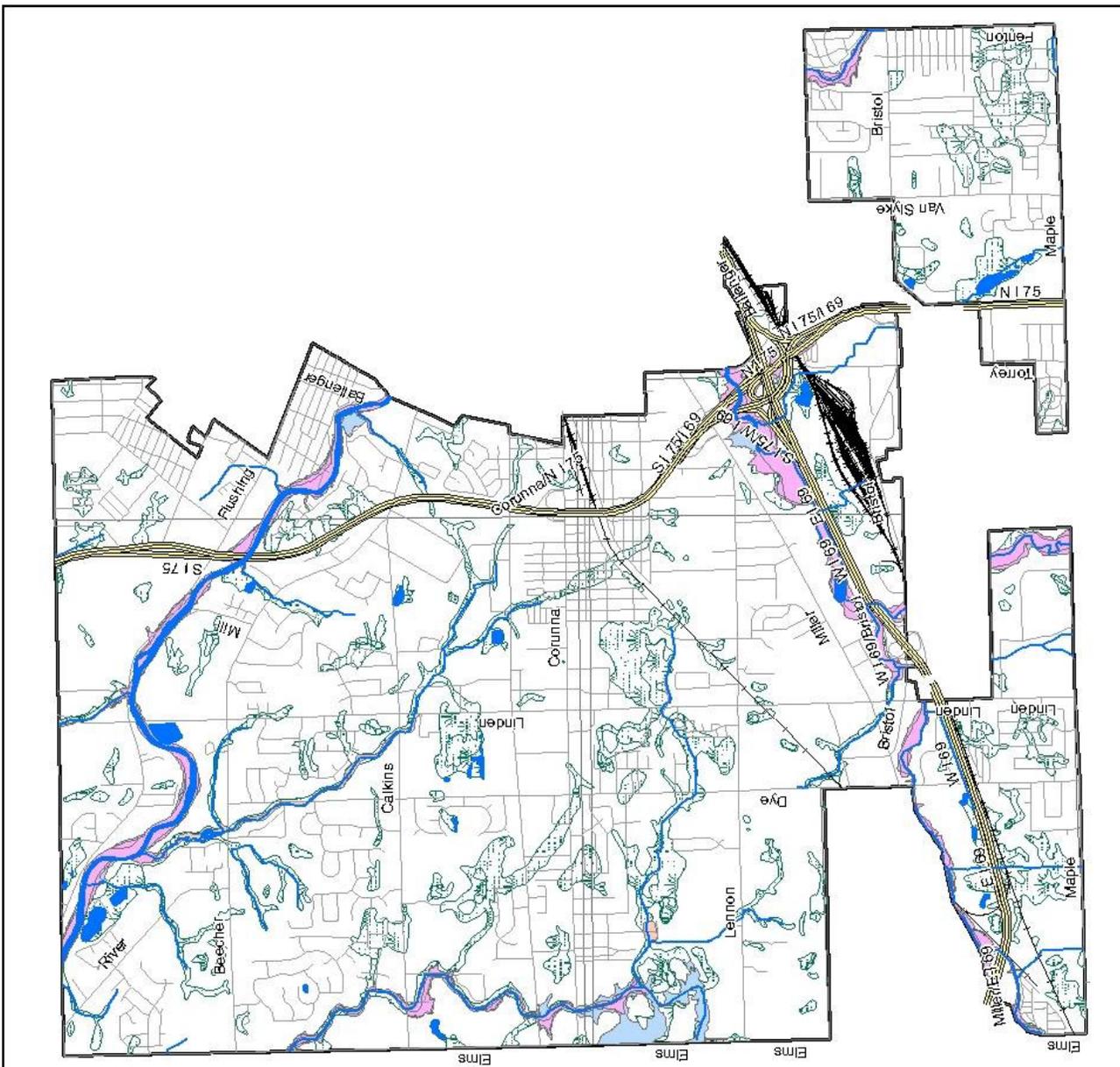
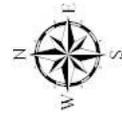
-  Water
-  Expressways
-  Elevation 10 ft contours
-  Railroads
-  Roads



Flint Township Wetlands and Floodplains Map

Legend

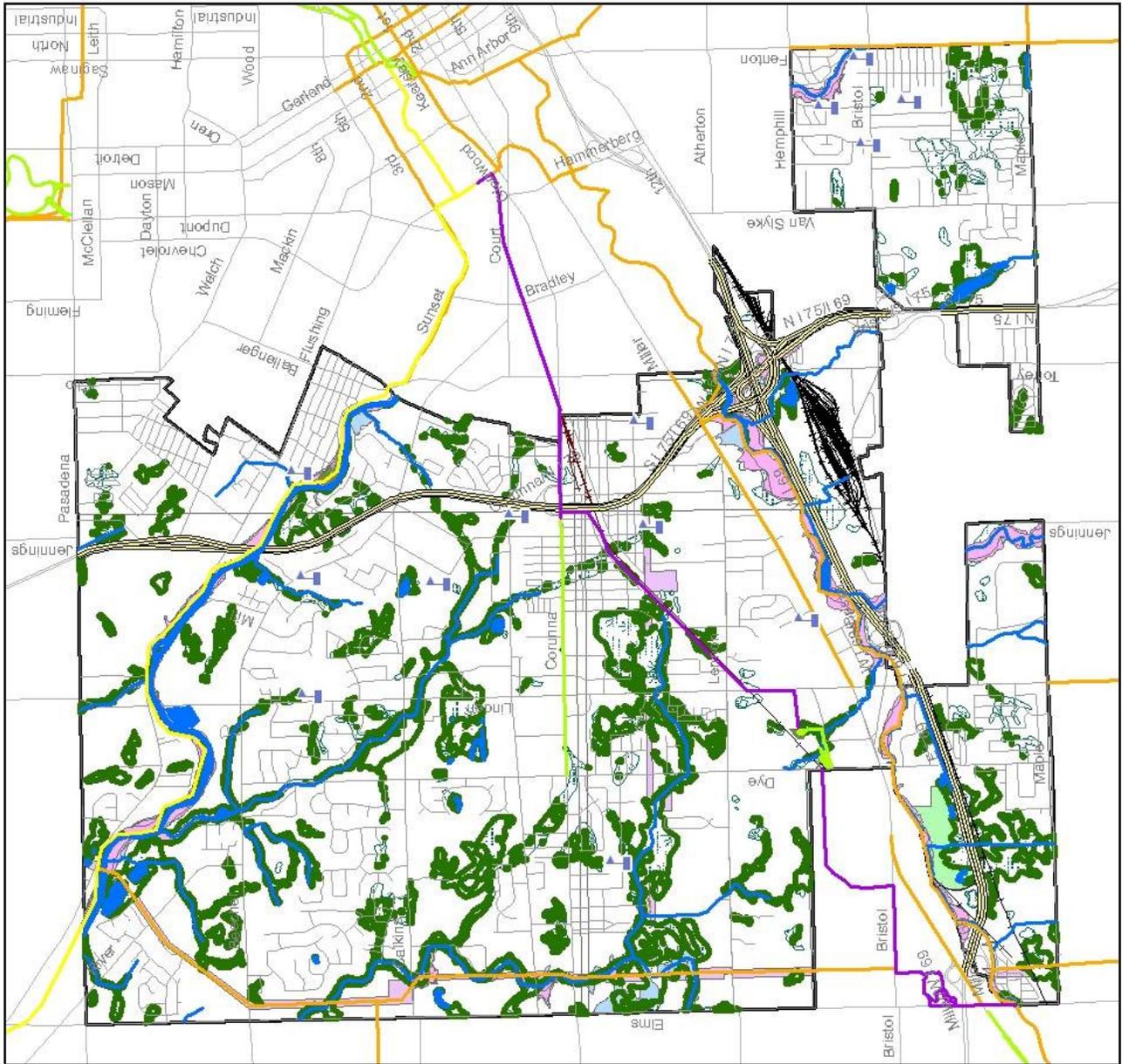
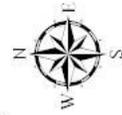
-  Water
 -  Expressways
 -  Railroads
 -  Roads
- Floodplains**
- ZONE**
-  A
 -  AE
 -  X
 -  X500
 -  Wetlands



Flint Township Parks and Potential Conservation Areas and Trails Map

Legend

- Schools
 - Existing Trails
 - Flint River Trail - (Potential)
 - Genesee Valley Trail - (Potential)
 - Potential Trails
 - Water
 - Expressways
 - Railroads
 - Abandoned Railroads
 - Roads
 - Flint Twp Potential Restoration Areas
 - Township Nature Parks
- Floodplains**
- ZONE**
- A
 - AE
 - X
 - X500
 - Wetlands
 - Genesee Valley Golf Course
 - Utility Corridor
 - Major Roads



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Within Flint Township there exists a variety of housing and employment opportunities. As development continues in Flint Township, increased pressure is placed upon finding opportunities to preserve open space and provide parks and recreation places throughout the community. As has been the case throughout the Township's recent history, the forces of change will continue to alter the characteristics of the community for generations to come. That is why it is imperative that the community begin to take action now to provide for a variety of recreational locations throughout the Township. Flint Township within the last five years has developed some public parks or recreation areas. It is of the utmost importance that opportunities to provide a variety of recreational activities be pursued to help the Township to maintain a quality of life that will make Flint Township a model community.

Establishing and maintaining parks in a community are more than just recreational amenities. Parks and open spaces preserved for their intrinsic environmental and aesthetic value bring quality of life and economic benefits to our communities. They can enhance property values, increase municipal revenues, bring in homebuyers and workers and attract retirees. Numerous studies demonstrate that parks, whether linear or located in a single geographic area, can increase property values, which can in turn increase local tax revenues. Spending by residents on related activities helps support recreation-oriented businesses and employment, as well as other businesses that are patronized by park visitors. Parks often provide new business opportunities and locations for commercial activities like bike and skate rental shops. Parks can also be major tourist attractions which generate expenditures on lodging, food, and recreation-oriented services. Finally, parks can help to reduce public expenditures by lowering the costs associated with flooding and other natural hazards.

The Flint Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes specific action items outlined later in this document that will help the Township:

- To pursue its vision of creating recreation opportunities for the residents of the Township within the next five years, and
- To achieve its mission of creating integrated and linked greenspace systems and parks that are accessible to everyone who lives and works in and around Flint Township.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FLINT

There are two types of townships in Michigan—general law and charter townships. Charter township status is a special township classification created by the Michigan Legislature in 1947 to provide additional powers and stream-lined administration for governing a growing community.

The Charter Township of Flint government is conducted by a township board consisting of seven members. The officers of the board are designated supervisor, clerk, treasurer and trustee, with the trustees numbering either two or four. The township board may also serve in other specific capacities, such as a park or utility board. The term of office for all township officials is four years. The supervisor, clerk, treasurer and trustee must take the oath of office before entering into the duties of their offices. The deputy supervisor, deputy clerk and deputy treasurer must take the oath after their appointment and before entering into office. In addition, the township clerk and the township treasurer are required to be bonded.

The clerk and the treasurer must each appoint a deputy. The deputy clerk and deputy treasurer must also be bonded. The supervisor may appoint a deputy. Deputy township officials are authorized to act as the elected official in the event of the official's absence, sickness, death or other disability. A deputy may not, however, vote as a member of the township board. With the official's approval and the consent of the township board, a deputy may assist the elected official at any additional times agreed to by the board and the official. Deputies are not required to be residents of the township, and may be paid compensation as determined by the township board.

Township Supervisor's Primary Statutory Duties

- Moderates board and annual meetings
- Chief assessing officer (if certified)
- Secretary to Board of Review
- Township's legal agent
- Must maintain records of supervisor's office
- Responsible for tax allocation board budget (if applicable)
- Develops township budget
- Appoints some commission members
- May call special meetings
- May appoint a deputy

Township Treasurer's Statutory Duties

- Collects real and personal property taxes
- Keeps an account of township receipts (revenues) and expenditures
- Issues township checks
- Deposits township revenues in approved depositories
- Invests township funds in approved investment vehicles
- Collects delinquent personal property tax
- Responsible for jeopardy assessments in collecting property tax
- Collects mobile home specific tax
- Must appoint a deputy
- Must post a surety bond

Township Clerk's Statutory Duties

- Maintains custody of all township records
- Maintains general ledger
- Prepares warrants for township checks
- Records and maintains township meeting minutes
- Keeps the township book of oaths
- Responsible for special meeting notices
- Publishes board meeting minutes (if taxable value is \$65 million or more in 2001, annually indexed, or a charter township)
- Keeps voter registration file and conducts elections
- Keeps township ordinance book
- Prepares financial statements
- Delivers tax certificates to supervisor and county clerk by September 30
- Must appoint a deputy
- Must post a surety bond

Township Trustee's Statutory Duties

- Township legislators, required to vote on all issues
- Responsible for township's fiduciary health
- Other duties as assigned by board

The Township Zoning Act (MCL 125.271-125.310) gives townships broad powers to enact and enforce ordinances. Zoning ordinances give townships the authority to regulate land use. The Michigan Constitution and state statutes also limit the amount of property tax millage that townships can levy for general township operations. General law townships are allocated at least 1 mill from the constitutionally limited 15/18 mills allocated among townships, the county, public schools and the intermediate school district. Charter townships, like cities, do not

share in this allocated millage, but townships chartered by a referendum may levy up to 5 mills. Townships chartered by board resolution after November 22, 1978, must have a vote of the electors authorizing the levy of 5 mills. In either case, the 5 mill limit may be increased up to 10 mills with a vote of the electors. Townships also utilize other sources of revenue to support services. User fees, permits, fines and special assessments on real property are the most frequently used sources.

Townships serve other governmental units by providing tax collection services. To avoid imposing an unnecessary burden on citizens to pay separate property taxes to the township, schools, special assessment districts and the county, Michigan townships provide uniform assessment of property values and collect all property taxes on behalf of the other units of government. Only a very small portion of the taxes collected are retained by the township for its own operating purposes.

FLINT TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Role of the Parks and Recreation Committee

This committee provides recommendations on parks and recreation to the Flint Township Board of Trustees. The role of the Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee is to assist in: 1) the development of facilities, 2) development of parks and recreation programs, 3) maintenance resources, and 4) the development of a comprehensive recreation plan. The Parks and Recreation Committee will, from time to time, retain a park planning consultant to assist the staff on complex projects and program development.

Organizational Chart

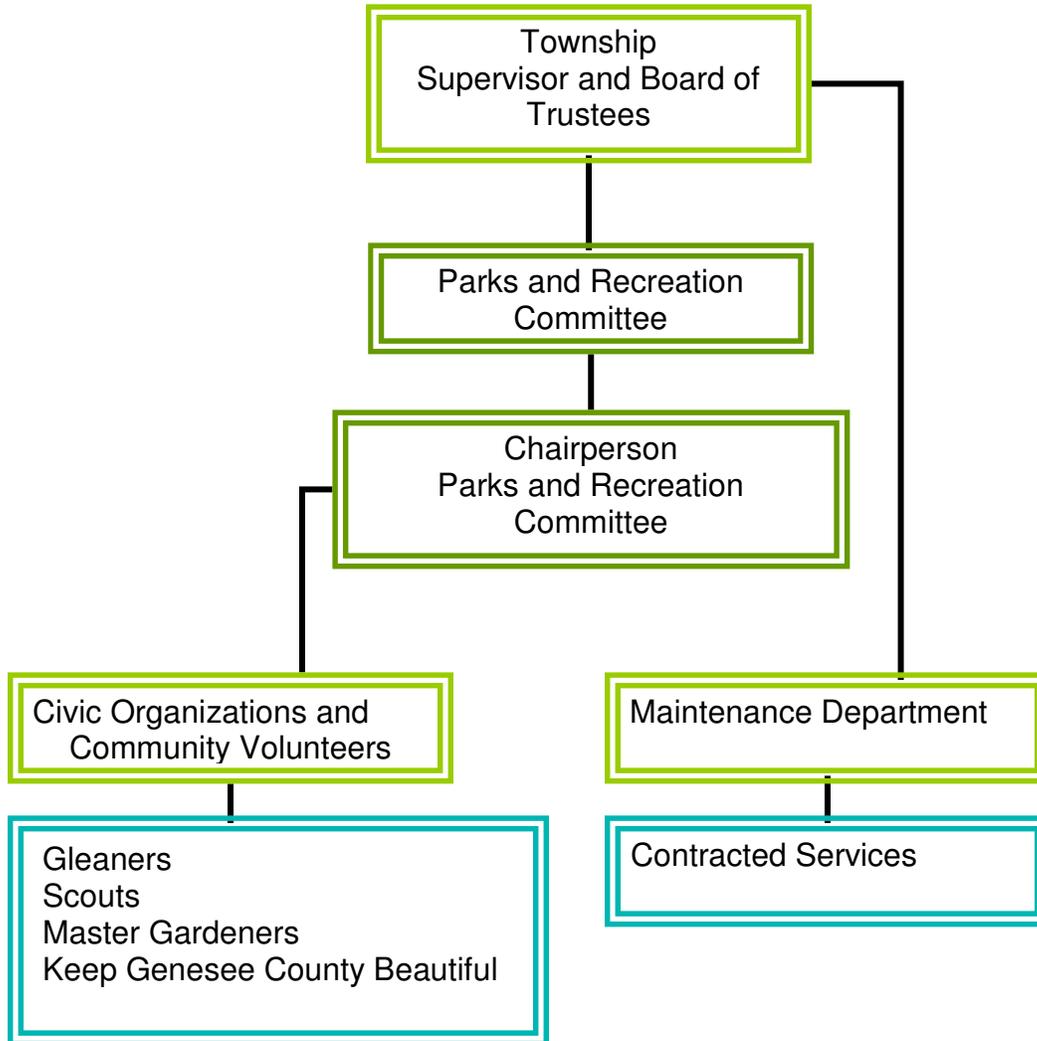
The Flint Township Board of Trustees has the final authority for Parks and Recreation Plans, Projects and Programming in Flint Township. The Parks and Recreation Committee provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval. Figure 1: on the following page shows the organizational structure of the Parks and Recreation Committee in Flint Township.

Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming

The Township has not established a fiscal budget for staffing this program due to a lack of funds. However, the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee, along with the Township Board, have been active over the years in development of potential park sites.

Flint Township Nature Park has routine maintenance provided by a contract with a local lawn care and landscaping company, this includes mowing, trimming and blowing of debris off of pathways, and trash removal. Annual costs for this service were \$ 3,510 in 2009.

Figure 1: Proposed Organizational Structure of Parks and Recreation, Charter Township of Flint



RECREATION INVENTORY

Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

This Parks and Recreation inventory incorporates all of the property owned and managed by Flint Township as well as privately owned recreational amenities and Carman-Ainsworth School District recreational amenities. Regional recreational resources are also listed. All amenities are evaluated according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources: Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails as provided in Appendix C of the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans available at www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants last revised February 5, 2009.

Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

1. FLINT TOWNSHIP NATURE PARK

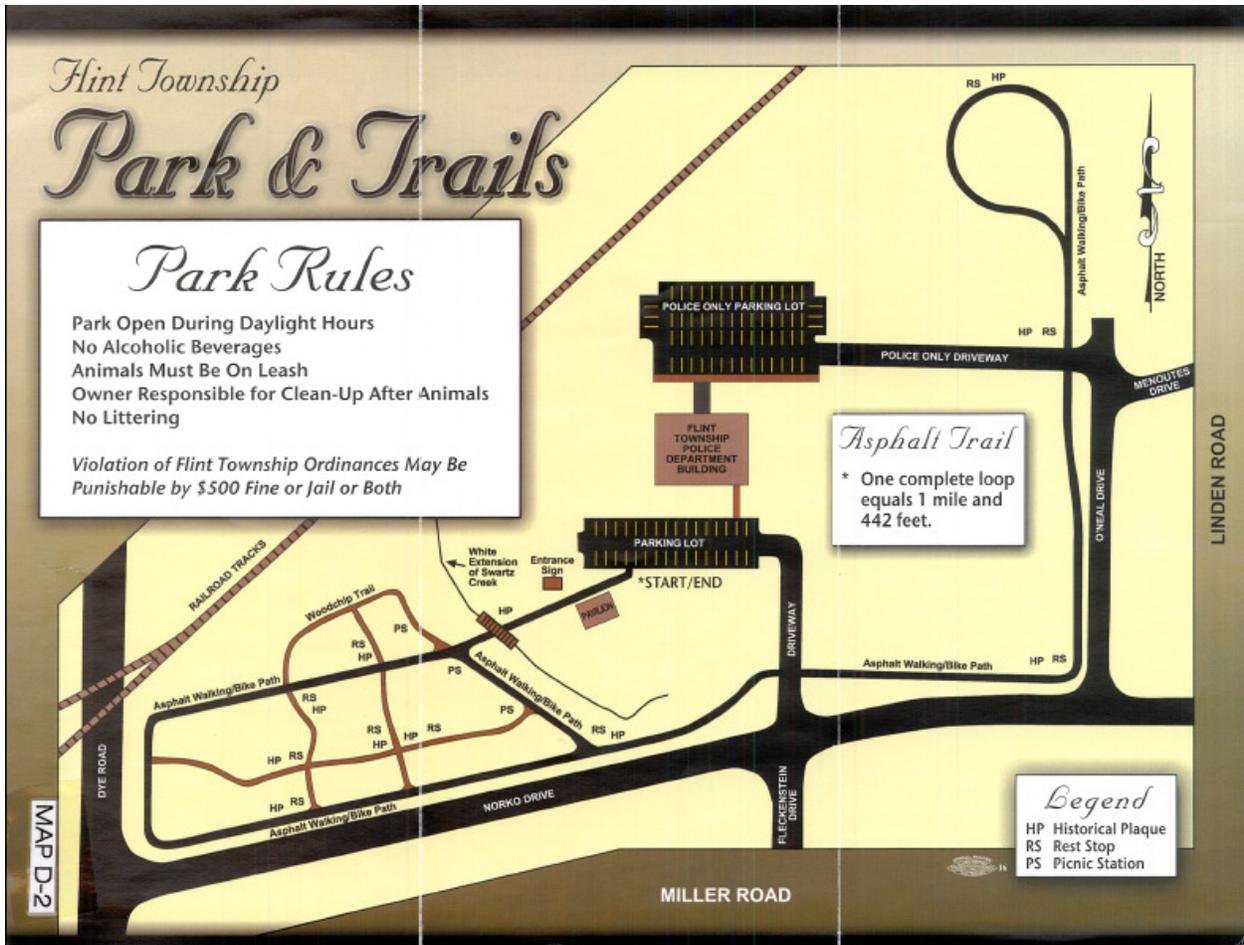
Park Type: Neighborhood Park with Park Trails

Park Name: Flint Township Park and Trails

Size: 9 acres

Most likely service area: Residents throughout Flint Township can drive to park and walk the trails, also has walking access to surrounding neighborhoods and Linden Road commercial district.

Additional Information: Flint Township Park and Trails opened in 2006. It is located at 5200 Noriko Drive between Dye and Linden Roads. It includes an 3,500-ft long asphalt handicapped accessible non-motorized trail with a series of shorter wood chip trails, along the way are rest stops and picnic stations as well as a number of plaques with brief messages – mostly about local history. There is also a covered pavilion with picnic tables for public use and a small playground area.



2. RIVERVIEW CANOE LANDING

Park Type: Special Use- Canoe Landing

Park Name: Riverview Canoe Landing

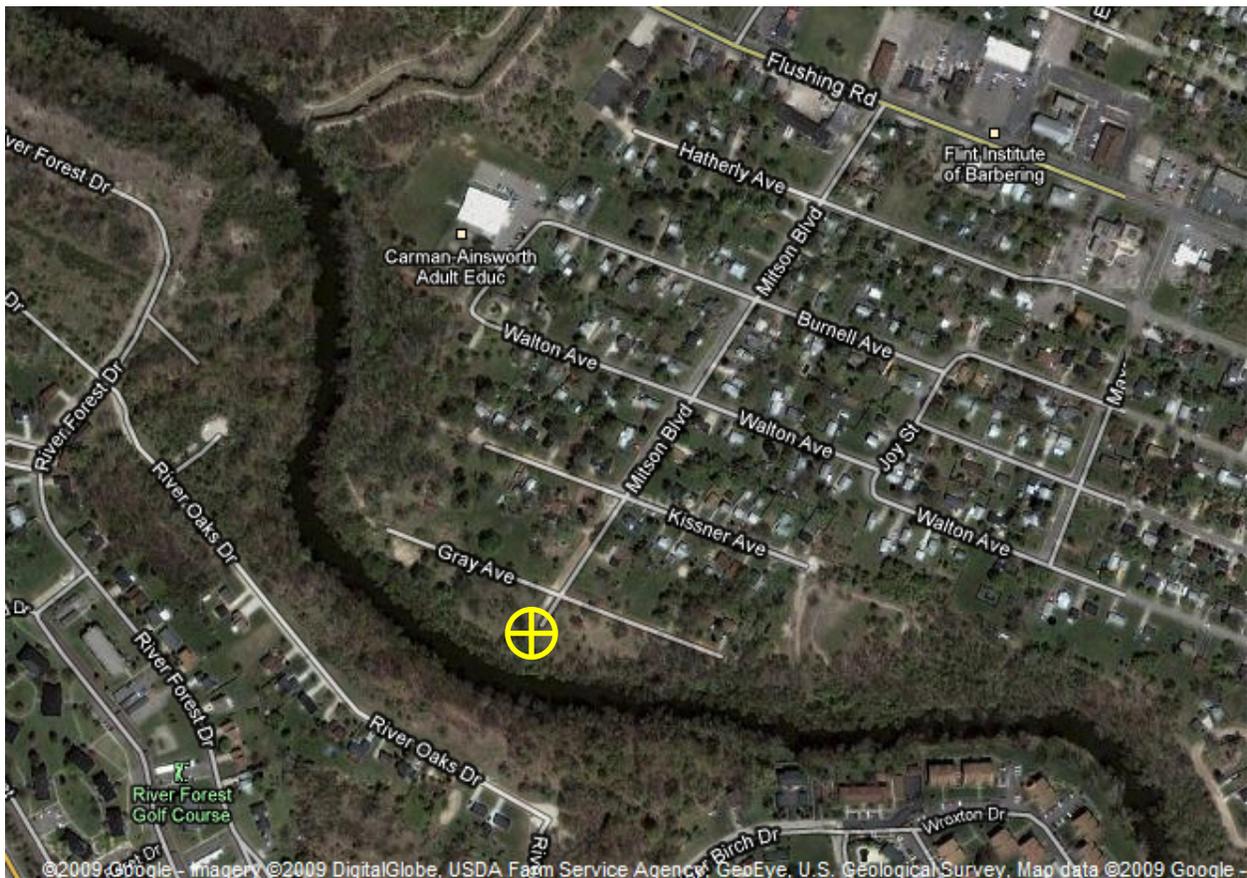
Size: 8 acres

Most likely service area: Flint River Watershed and canoe enthusiasts from the Township as well as throughout Genesee County use this launch. This canoe launch is the only spot between downtown Flint and Flushing that you can put in or take out a canoe on the Flint River.



Additional Information: Riverview Canoe Landing opened in 2007, is located on the Flint River off Mitson St just south of Flushing Road in Flint Township. It includes a small parking area and canoe launch. It is the main canoe access area between Flint and Flushing. It is largely unimproved.

Figure 2 : Riverview Canoe Landing



3. M-21 NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY

Park Type: Connector Trail

Park Name: M-21 Non-motorized Pathway

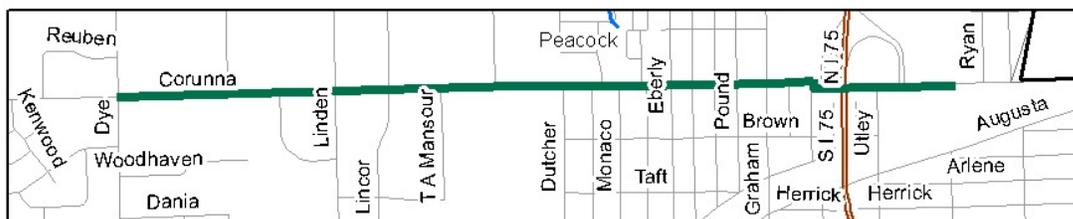
Size: 1.75 miles (From Dye Rd to I-75)

Most likely service area: Neighborhoods and retail shopping areas along Corunna Road in Flint Township.



Additional Information: Flint Township in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation has a 1.75 mile asphalt non-motorized pathway from I-75 at M-21 (Corunna Road) to Dye Rd. The pathway is a 10-ft wide marked walking and bicycling path adjacent to Corunna Road on the north side. It serves the adjacent commercial areas as well as neighborhoods in the vicinity. The pathway connects to two Mass Transportation Authority bus routes. An Additional pathway extension across the Corunna Road bridge was installed in 2009 continuing the pathway all the way to the Kroger Store on Corunna Road from the Flint Township Hall on Dye Road.

M-21 Non-motorized Pathway



Legend

- █ Existing Trails
- █ Water
- █ Expressways
- █ Roads



PRIVATE RECREATION-RELATED FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Flint Township contains a variety of privately owned and operated recreational facilities. These related lands and resources are important to the community and its citizens because they reduce the demand for public resources.

<u>Private Facilities</u>	Type
Pirates Park Fun Center	Multi Activities
Flint Swim & Racquet Club	Outdoor Pool & Racquet Ball Courts
King Par Golf Range	Golf Activities
Flint Cinema West	Multiplex Theatre
Chuck E. Cheese Fun Center	Fun Center
Fitness USA Inc.	Fitness Center
Genesee County District Library	Reading
River Forest Apt. Complex	9 Hole Golf Course
Genesee Valley Mall	Shopping - walking

The Carman-Ainsworth Community School District facilities and sites provide a broad range of recreational and instructional activities. The district permits the use of many of their buildings and facilities by community organizations, groups, clubs and individuals for meetings, classes and instructional programs. Group activities include Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Explorers, Girl Scouts, Brownies, township meetings, family fun nights, community education programs, senior citizens groups, after school concerts, plays, dances and athletics.

Other township, public and private properties that offer open space recreation opportunities and indoor recreation facilities, though limited, are as follows:

Flint Township Senior Center
AYSO Soccer Complex
Flint Swim and Racquet Club
Carman-Ainsworth High School
Carman Park - Baker Career Acedemy
Fenton Lawn Elementary
Stalker Elementary School
Dye Elementary School
Randels Elementary School
Woodland Elementary School
Bendle/Carman Ainsworth Community Education – The Learning
Community (Fenton Lawn)
McLaren Pathway – Trail Extension
Hoover Recreational Park

The Carman-Ainsworth Community School District, St. Pius Catholic Primary School

and The Holy Redeemer Catholic Elementary Schools provide athletic and recreation facilities for public, as well as, school use with open space for softball, football, basketball and field games.

OTHER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

In and around Genesee County there are several county and state park and recreational facilities. The majority require a drive of 15 to 20 miles to reach. The Genesee County Park and Recreation Commission operates major park sites providing active and passive activities. The major park sites are:

- Holloway Reservoir Regional Park
- Genesee Recreation Area
- For-Mar Nature Preserve I Arboretum
- Buell Lake County Park
- Linden County Park
- Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad
- Flushing County Park

Other neighboring communities that have parks and recreational areas can also attract Flint Township residents some of these parks include:

- Riverview Canoe Landing, Flushing
- Riverview Trail, Flushing
- Riverview Park, Flushing
- Elms Road Park, Swartz Creek
- Genesee Valley Golf Course, 18 holes

The City of Flint, on the eastern perimeter of Flint Township has several prime cultural and recreational opportunities, such as:

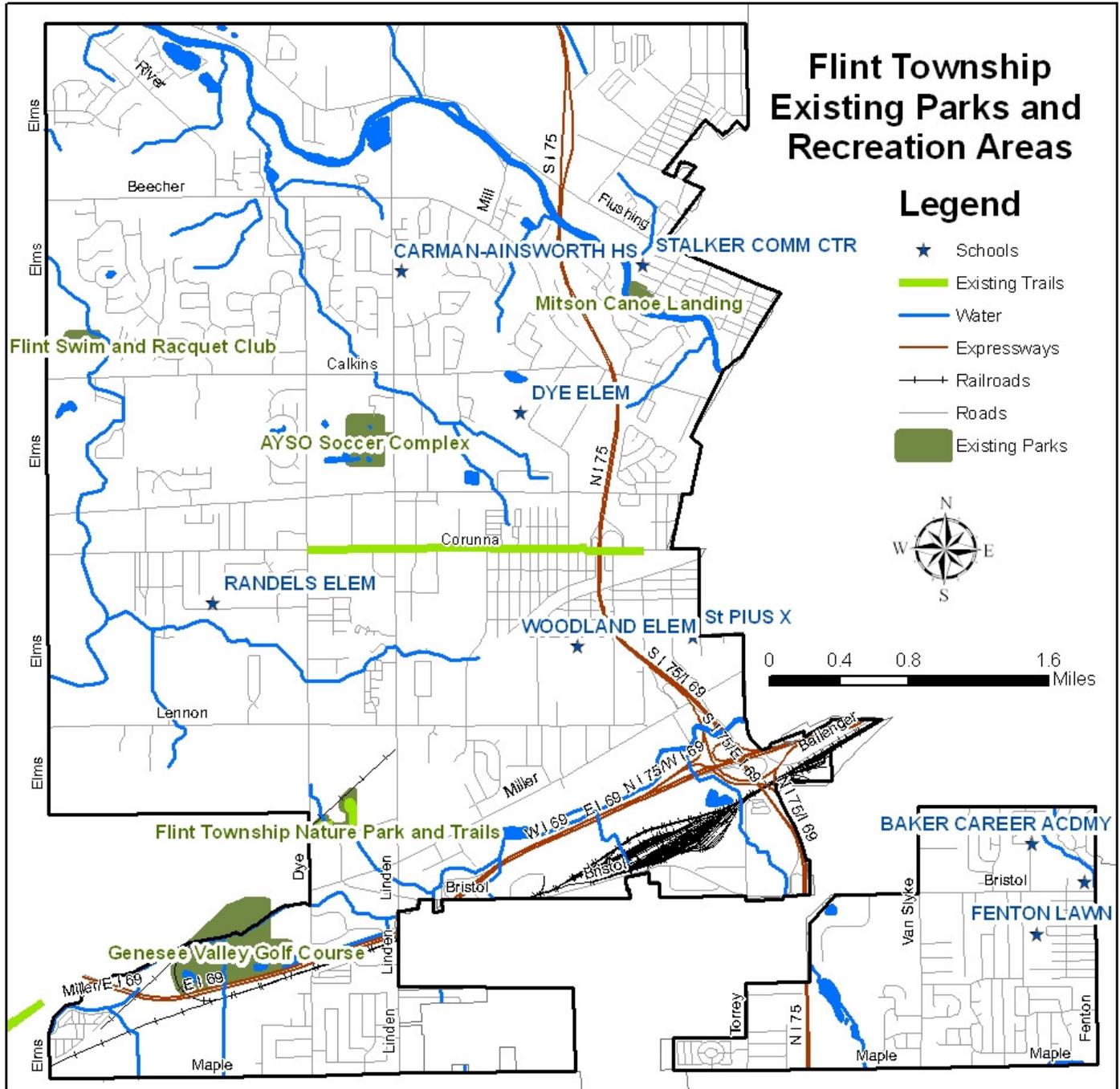
The Flint Cultural Center
Perani's Sports Arena
Atwood Stadium
Sloan Museum
Whiting Auditorium
Flint Institute of Arts
Flint Institute of Music
Sarvis Conference Center
Longway Planetarium

These facilities are located in the center and eastside areas of the City. In addition to these major sites the City of Flint Department of Parks and Recreation operates a municipal park system with a broad cross section of activities.

The Seven Lakes State Park is approximately 30 miles south of Flint Township. In the

Holly area is a major attraction for swimming, picnicking, hiking, nature study and related outdoor activities. The park encompasses about 500 acres of woodland, lakes and broad meadows full of native trees, shrubs and wildlife.

The county, City of Flint and the state facilities, though attractive and broad in scope, do require considerable travel for the township residents that seek an opportunity for recreational activities.



ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

This section provides an assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves as well as the routes to them. The barrier-free accessibility information provided in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources: the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans pages 7-8 available at www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants for ranking each park

1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Flint Township Parks and Recreation Accessibility Assessment

Flint Township Park and Trails = 4 (built using ADA guidelines)

Riverview Canoe Landing = 1 (unimproved park)

M-21 Non-motorized Pathway = 3 (needs ADA ramp upgrades; some areas very close to the roadway)

Barrier- Free Access Statement

All Flint Township parks and recreation facilities will provide barrier-free access. The Township will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to all Township facilities to the maximum extent practicable.

Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

Based on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment website which lists all park projects going back to 1976 that received Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund assistance, no grants have been awarded directly to or for a project located in Flint Township.

PARK CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

Mini-Parks

A specialized facility of one acre in size intended to serve a specific age group such as tots and/or senior citizens. Mini-parks service areas are less than 1/4 mile in radius and usually close to tight neighborhood groups, apartment complexes or housing for the elderly.

Neighborhood Parks/Playgrounds

These sites of one to 15 acres in size usually serve a population of 5,000 and an area of 1/2 mile radius. Some are classified as park/school facilities if sites are adjacent. They are large enough for intense development of field and/or court games, skating and a variety of field games. Bike paths and walking trails are common also.

Community Parks

Community parks are generally 16 to 25 acres in size and serve a neighborhood radius of one to two miles. They are large enough to support intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes, large community swimming pools and have natural site qualities for outdoor recreation such as walking, picnicking, passive sitting areas and may be adjacent to a river or a lake offering water related activities. Community park sites are on occasion adjacent to a school site, forming a comprehensive park/school recreation facility.

Regional/Metropolitan Parks

Parks of this scope are large and range from 100 to 200 acres in size and are usually developed by a county park system and can serve several communities. The land area is usually very naturalistic and wooded offering boating, camping, fishing, trail hiking and similar activities. These large sites can provide broad recreational opportunities from playgrounds for tots to senior citizen campers.

Regional Park Reserves

Regional reserves are operated by county, state and federal park departments and serve many communities over a broad area. Generally 80% of the 750 to 1,000 acre sites are "conservation land" and preserved under natural resource management programs. The sites most always are very diverse in topography with natural resources such as streams, rivers, lakes, marshes and regulated wetlands. Many are heavily wooded and support wildlife and native flora and fauna. Several state forest lands are within a two to three hour drive from Genesee County.

Other park lands and/or "open spaces" are unique to each community and regarded as local or regional recreation resources. There are no applicable standards concerning size or proximity to population centers some examples are:

Linear Parks:

Linear parks are created by the recreational utilization of natural or built corridors such as utility easements; abandoned railroad rights-of-way; bluff lines; and roads rights-of-way. These corridors usually link other recreational components or community facilities such as schools, libraries, commercial areas and other park areas. These long, narrow park corridors are well suited for various modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, canoeing or pleasure/scenic driving. Some may include active play areas and rest areas.

Special use recreation sites

Most special use sites that have a recreational purpose lie within community boundaries. Some are public in ownership and use and some are privately owned and limited in use to a specific segment of the community. Special use sites of a specialized nature include golf courses, nature centers, zoos, arboreta, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, conservatories and downhill ski areas. Also of significance are town squares, village greens in or near a commercial center, boulevards and parkways. There are no definitive standards to size, shape or specific location.

Conservancy Sites

Some government jurisdictions have established conservancy districts for the protection and management of the natural and cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective. The location of conservancy sites is totally dependent on the natural resource to be protected. There are no specific standards relative to location, size or service area.

Bike Path and Trails Classification Standards

Sidewalks

Min. 5 ft wide concrete path separated from the roadway for walking.

Paved Shoulders

Min. 4 ft wide paved segments of roadway on the outside shoulder, separated from the vehicle lane with a white stripe

Bike Lane

Min. 4 ft wide paved segments of roadway on the outside shoulder, separated from the vehicle lane with a bike lane symbols and signage

Non-motorized Pathway

Min. 10 ft wide pathway separated from the roadway for bicycling, running and walking with vehicular traffic prohibited.

Bike Route

A low-volume residential street suitable for bicycling traffic where bicycles and vehicles share the roadway and the route is marked with signage and possibly on-street markings called Share-the-Road symbols or “Sharrows”.

Park Trails

Multi-purpose trails located within parks, greenways and natural resource areas and should be in harmony with the natural environment. May be paved or a wood chip surface. Hard surface trails may vary from 5' to 10' in width for pedestrians, hikers or bikers. Pedestrian nature trails are usually soft-surfaced and narrower than bike path trails.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Planning Methods- Systems Approach to Planning

This recreation facility inventory illustrates a typical list of major recreation activities and confirms a definite lack of recreational opportunities in Flint Township. This population to facility standard is provided in the 1995 edition of the "National Recreation and Park Association Open Space and Greenway Guidelines.

Recreation Facility Inventory and Deficiencies

Basic Facilities	Facility - Population	Req.	Exist.	Def.
Basketball Courts	1 / 1,000	34	18	16
Handball Courts	1 / 5,000	7	0	7
Skating Rink				
Natural	1/3,000	10	0	10
Indoor	1/25,000	1	0	1
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	17	10	7
Baseball Fields	1 / 3,000	10	1	9
Softball Fields ..	1 / 3,000	10	10	0
Little League Fields	1 / 4,000	8	0	8
Golf Courses				
9 Hole	1/ 25,000	1	1	0
18 Hole	1/50,000	1	1	0
Football / Soccer	1 / 8,000	4	3	1
Swimming Pools				
Outdoor	1/40,000	1	0	1
Indoor	1 / 10,000	3	1	2
Community Centers	1 / 25,000	1	0	1
Bike paths / Trails	N/A	0	2	0

RECREATION DEFICIENCIES

Flint Township, having very little dedicated open space for park and recreation development, must rely on the Parks and Recreation Committee, local school district and other organizations to provide recreation opportunities for the community. The preparation of this 5-year master plan update will be the guideline for the Township to follow in this effort.

The Park Committee will follow the classification system developed by the National Recreation and Park Association. This system is intended to serve as a general guide to planning. The NRPA suggests that a park and recreation system be composed of a "core" system of park lands with a total of 6.5 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. For the purposes of this Park and

Recreation 5-year Master Plan Report, the Park Board will use the population/facility ratio guidelines developed by the National Park and Recreation Association. The guidelines also give recommendations on park classifications which vary according to size, location and the segment of the population the park is intended to serve.

The Township has no Public Works Department or Parks and Recreation budget.

The immediate problems facing the Parks and Recreation Committee in the development of parks within the township are as follows:

- No general funds earmarked for the development of parks and recreation facilities.
- No existing maintenance department dedicated to the continued development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

This section of the document establishes the plan for acquiring and developing parks in the Township over the next five years. The development of the five-year plan will position the Township to apply for any of the several potential funding sources listed below:

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Acquisition and development projects can also be funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). This program was formerly called the Michigan Land Trust Fund. There is no minimum or maximum dollar amount for property acquisition projects but development projects under this program must be at least \$50,000 and not exceed a maximum of \$500,000. Grant programs usually require that the local governmental unit provide matching funds of at least 25% of the amount requested.
- Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund - The Land and Water Conservation Fund started in 1965, provided funds for acquisition and development of facilities for public outdoor recreation. It does not fund operation and maintenance of facilities. The LWCF is administered jointly by the National Park Service (NPS), U. S. Department of the Interior and the State of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources. Governmental units are eligible to apply to the DNR for a grant award. Eligible projects include the purchase of land for public outdoor recreation, forest lands and wildlife areas. LWCF also funds development of site with bike/walking trails, ball fields, picnic areas, tennis courts and playgrounds as well as many other types of recreational activities. The total acquisition cost must be at least \$20,000 and not exceed \$250,000.

- Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Enhancement Grants – Federal Transportation funding for regional trails that provide a transportation benefit
- Community Development Block Grants – neighborhood parks and amenities in low to moderate income areas
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grants – Federal Transportation Funding for regional trails that provide a transportation benefit
- Keep Genesee County Beautiful Mini-Grants – Beautification Grants for up to \$500.00 for community gardening
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation – Local grants for economic development in the region and environmental stewardship
- Ruth Mott Foundation – Local grants for community vitality, beautification, health promotion and arts in Genesee County
- Community Foundation Of Greater Flint – Local grants to support community projects in Genesee County
- Private Donations – local fund drive
- West Flint Business Association – Association of businesses in Flint Township

EVALUATION OF FUNDING OPTIONS

The best long-term solution for developing a system for parks and recreation lies in consistent, long-term funding.

General Fund Line Item Appropriation

Most parks and recreation departments are funded and function on a direct budgeted appropriation from general funds. This is usually referred to as a "pay as you go" operation. This works well in a community with a broad tax base. This method requires a commitment to appropriate adequate funds for acquisition and development on a continuing basis. When facilities are developed, funds must be available for administration of recreation programming and for the proper maintenance of facilities.

Supplemental Funding

Funds from private foundations in the form of grants could provide short-term supplemental funding to accomplish a specific goal. Grant programs, however, are highly competitive and to be successful the Township should undertake a vigorous program to resources that may be available to specific project needs.

Other supplemental funding sources are available in the form of matching parks and recreation grants. Over recent years, several grant programs have been administered by the State of Michigan through the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Availability of funds in these programs has varied over the years.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Flint Township used two means to gather and solicit public input for the 2010-2015 Flint Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan, surveys and a community gathering.

Community Gathering

The Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee hosted a Community Gathering on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at the Flint Township Police Station Community Room, G-5200 Noriko Drive in Flint Township. The facility was ADA accessible and the meeting was publicized in the local newspaper and announced at the Township Board Meeting, 14 people were in attendance. The meeting included a presentation on the Parks and Recreation Plan and information gathered to date. After the presentation the participants gathered into three groups and worked on identifying additional recreational opportunities and used sticker-dots to prioritize the most important improvements that Flint Township should work on in the next 5 years. The groups identified the following projects:

Group 1

- A. Improve Existing Facilities
 - 1. Flint Township Nature Park
 - Add Bathrooms
 - Add Community Garden
 - 2. Mitson Canoe Landing-
 - Upgrade facilities, add benches, better parking, picnic area
 - Promote water trail with surrounding communities on Flint River
- B. Genesee Valley Trail
 - Build the trail
 - Connect M-21 pathway to trail at I-75 and Corunna Road
- C. Flint River Trail
 - Continue trail from the City of Flint westward from Flint River Trail - Kettering Extension
- D. New Park Area – North of Court Street/ East of Linden Road/ South of Caulkins Road
 - Currently private property, possibly baseball, softball fields, sledding, Skate Park, tennis courts, bathrooms, biking and ice skating.
- E. New Park Area – Behind Baker Career Academy, formerly Carman Park Elementary

- Turn area between schools into park with nature trails.
- F. Park Improvements to Park Area North of Fenton Lawn - Learning Community and south of Bristol Road
- Picnic area, skate park, green space

Group 2

- A. Connect Genesee Valley Trail to Flint Township Nature Park Trail
- B. Connect M-21 Pathway to Genesee Valley Trail
- C. Upgrades to Riverview Canoe Landing at Mitson Drive. Put a trail in that goes to Canoe Landing, clean-up along the river, place woodchips and a picnic area
- D. Trail and nature walk behind Baker College and former Carman Park Elementary.
- E. Upgrade Hoover Recreational Park- former Hoover School north of Flushing Road, east of I-75, on the southwest corner of Mackin Road and Lavelle Road
- F. Connect trails to Flint Swim and Racquet Club using Consumers Energy corridor
- G. Parks and Trails at the northeast corner of Linden and Court St
- H. Nature Park and Preserve Area between I-69 and Miller Road

Group 3

After identifying additional amenities this group used the dots to vote on these amenities as being important to Parks and Recreation in Flint Township

Sticker Dots

6 dots = Genesee Valley Trail

5 dots = Flint River Trail

3 dots = Miller Road- bike lanes connecting to Swartz Creek and sidewalks throughout the commercial district

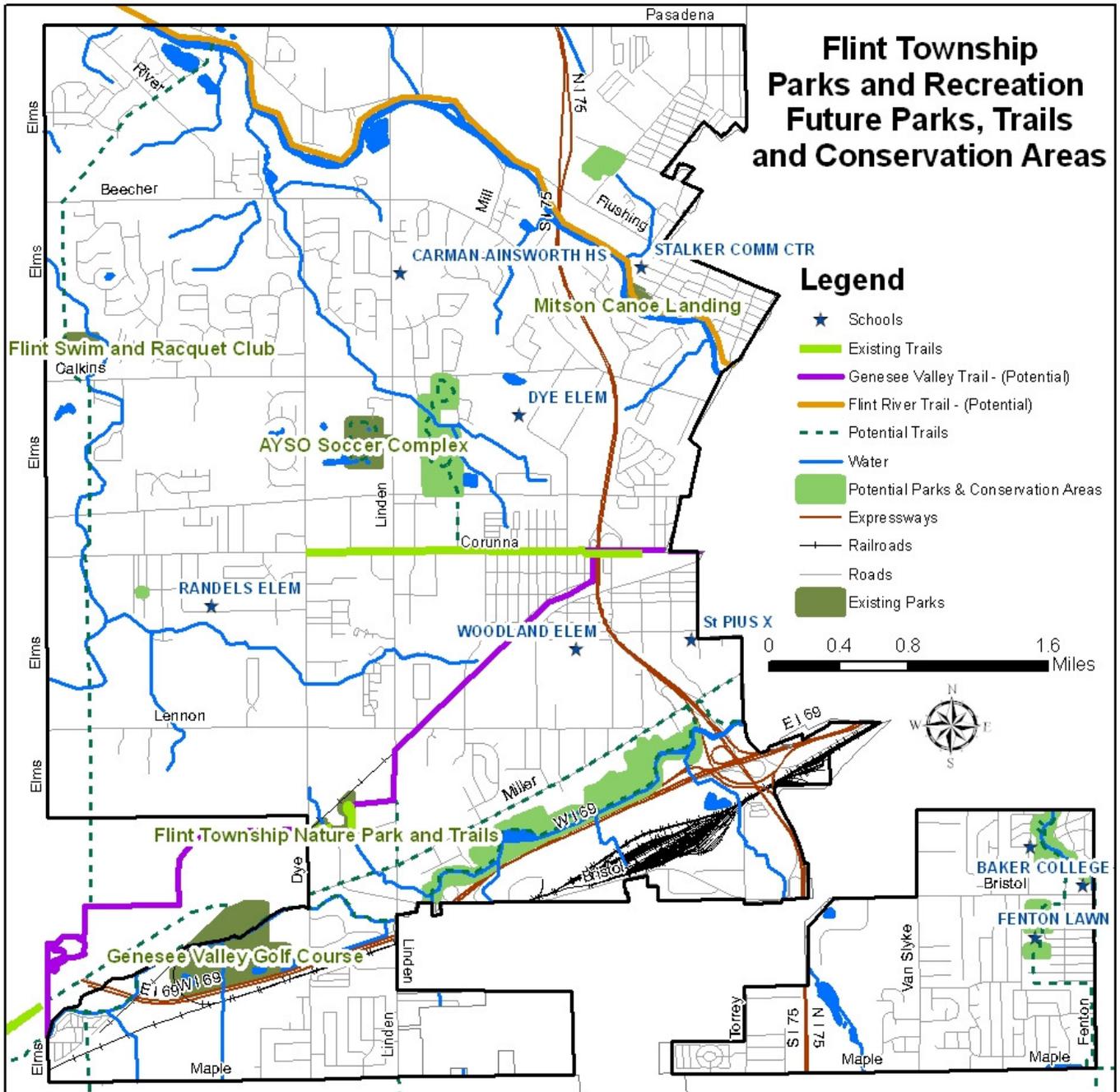
2 dots = Linden Road sidewalks

Other Priorities Identified:

- Connect to Woodland Elementary School and the Flint Township Senior Center from the Genesee Valley Trail
- Conserve the wetlands and natural area between Miller Road and I-69

- Improve the Riverview (Mitson) Canoe Landing and Flint Township Nature Park

From all three groups, these amenities are identified on the Flint Township Parks and Recreation Future Recreation Areas Map below.



Township Parks and Recreation Survey

Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee also developed a 10 question survey about Parks and Recreation to get input from citizens on how they use the existing parks and what ways parks and recreation could be improved in Flint Township. The survey was available on-line through the Flint Township website and a paper copy of the survey was available at all the Flint Township schools, senior centers, library and township hall. The local newspaper ran an article about the on-line survey and it was announced at the Flint Township Board Meetings in January. Responses from all surveys collected by January 22, 2009 were included in the preparation of this plan.

The complete responses to the Parks and Recreation Survey are included in Appendix B.

40% of respondents use Flint Township Nature Park and 45.7% use local schools and playgrounds for recreation.

80.2% of respondents use parks for walking, biking and jogging.

73.8% of respondents wanted multi-use walking / biking trails in the township.

59.8% of respondents wanted picnic areas in the township.

46.7% of respondents wanted new parks/ natural areas in the township.

41.1% of respondents wanted playgrounds in the township.

30.8% of respondents wanted a swimming pool in the township.

60% of respondents supported expansion of parks and funding or limited funding for parks in Flint Township.

Only 1% of respondents did not support parks in Flint Township.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee developed the following goals and objectives for guiding the development of future parks and recreation facilities and programs in Flint Township from 2010 – 2015.

Goal 1: Connect to the regional trail network in Genesee County

Objectives:

- Build the Genesee Valley Trail in Flint Township
- Build the Flint River Trail in Flint Township
- Connect our regional trails to neighboring communities
- Work with Genesee County to develop these trail projects
- Create a River Trail Network with neighboring communities

Goal 2: Preserve open space and natural areas of scenic and wildlife value

Objectives:

- Look for opportunities to preserve land when new development plans are submitted to the Township where feasible
- Develop natural areas around the Flint River, wetlands, and Swartz Creek and other scenic areas

Goal 3: Gardens that produce fresh food

Objectives:

- Develop a garden at Flint Township Nature Park on Norko Dr
- Work with neighborhood on community gardens on vacant lots
- Partner with other community organizations working to grow food
- Develop local gardening volunteers in Flint Township

Goal 4: Activities for youth

Objectives:

- Develop programs for youth with area schools
- Develop summer recreation programs

Goal 5: Maintain existing recreational amenities

Objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive maintenance plan for parks in Flint Township

- Work with volunteers to clean up and beautify park areas
- Continue mowing and clean up practices in place at Flint Township Nature Park

Goal 6: Beautify the community

Objectives:

- Enforce local ordinances already on the books
- Work with community groups to improve public spaces
- Utilize Keep Genesee County Beautiful for beautification resources
- Keep vacant lots mowed and maintained

Goal 7: Promote healthy and active lifestyles

Objectives:

- Develop fitness programs using existing parks and trails
- Promote the CRIM Training Program and CRIM Festival of Races
- Work with schools on promoting healthy lifestyles to area youth and families

Goal 8: Have residents think of Flint Township as their first choice in Parks and Recreation activities

Objectives:

- Develop recreational opportunities in Flint Township that residents will utilize
- Promote local recreational opportunities available

ACTION PROGRAM

The Parks and Recreation Board, working in concert with the Carman/Ainsworth Board of Education, have discussed the opportunity of utilizing school sites now under the jurisdiction of Carman/Ainsworth.

The Township Board of Trustees resolves to:

1. Support the acquisition of land as a conservation measure.
2. Pursue all feasible methods of providing the funds necessary to acquire, develop and maintain parks throughout the Township.
3. Acquire sites on a community-wide pattern to serve the maximum number of neighborhoods. An emphasis should be placed on the development of small neighborhood parks within walking distance in low to moderate income neighborhoods.
4. Work in concert with the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission in the development of joint or adjacent park sites. The County Park Commission has expressed interest in assisting Flint Township.
5. Utilize the Township Master Plan to locate, acquire, dedicate and develop park and recreation sites and recognized parks and recreation planning standards.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS (not in priority order)

Genesee Valley Trail

The future Genesee Valley Trail is approximately 5 miles and runs along the old CN railroad line from the old Chevy-in-the-Hole site to Flint Township, past the Genesee Valley Mall and out to the Flint Township Nature Park. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) acquired the rail corridor with Transportation Enhancement Funds in 2008 in Flint Township. In 2009, MDOT received funding for and is currently completing acquisition of the railway in the City of Flint. This regional trail linkage between the communities and out to the Flint Township Business District, has been identified in the 2007 Genesee County Regional Trail Plan as the #2 top priority trail project for Genesee County. Preliminary engineering plans and engineers cost estimates have been developed for the trail with the assistance of the Genesee



Future Genesee Valley Trail,
Flint Township

County Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Ruth Mott Foundation. The City of Swartz Creek is also interested in connecting to this trail through Flint Township to the west and continuing the pathway along the Swartz Creek.

Trails are an important for the quality of life of residents of Flint Township. Trails increase access to natural areas and parks, which keeps people healthy and happy. The Genesee Valley Trail will connect to the existing 14.5 mile (soon to be 17.5 miles in 2010) Flint River Trail Network and continues building on Genesee County's largest link in the regional trail system. The trail extension will provide access to recreation that will give Flint Township residents more opportunities for exercise. Regional trails provide economic development and are part of creating a livable community. People want to live near trails and they increase the quality of life for residents of Flint Township and nearby residents in the City of Flint. The Genesee Valley Trail will provide safe routes to school and work and a safe way to get to shopping and commercial areas and great destinations like our local library, senior center, Showcase Cinemas, and Flint Township Nature Park.

Flint River Trail

The Flint River Trail is a non-motorized pathway along the scenic Flint River that stretches from Mott Lake and the Genesee Recreation Area in Genesee Township through the City of Flint and currently ends in downtown Flint at Riverbank Park. In the spring of 2010, the Kettering Extension of the Flint River Trail will extend the trail an additional 3 miles to Ballenger Highway and the eastern boundary of Flint Township. The Flint River Trail was identified as the #1 top priority trail in the 2007 Genesee County Regional Trail Plan and with the assistance of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Ruth Mott Foundation, preliminary engineering plans and engineers cost estimates were developed for the Flint River Trail extending from the City of Flint to Linden Road along the north side of the Flint River. This project will require easements from property owners along the river. Flint Township would like to begin in phases constructing this trail with the first phase connecting the City of Flint to the Riverview Canoe Landing at Mitson Drive.

Upgrades to Riverview Canoe Landing

Riverview Canoe Landing is a great recreational asset for Flint Township. It currently serves as canoe launch, but is in need of additional upgrades to make it more handicapped accessible. Additionally the park needs picnic tables, upgraded parking and promotional materials to be developed for the canoe launch.

Upgrades to Flint Township Parks and Trails (Flint Township Nature Park)

Flint Township Nature Park has beautiful walking and biking paths, a pavilion and a small play area and is handicapped accessible. This relatively new park could use some additional amenities such as bathrooms, community gardens, a kiosk with informational signage and pet waste bags and community events. The park needs signage to brand the park and give it an identity.

Developing New Park Amenities in Existing Neighborhoods

There exists lots of opportunity for expansion of the parks in Flint Township and the need for more recreational opportunities could bring Flint Township and their community partners together to develop new park amenities. At the Community Gathering on January 14th the community found some potential park areas worth investigating further for park development. These areas include: 1) greenspace adjacent to Fenton Lawn Community School; 2) greenspace along the creek and between the former Carman Park Elementary and Baker College; 3) the undeveloped area east of Linden Road, south of Calkins Road and north of Court Street; 4) small triangle park located at Roslyn Ave, Roland Ave and Bailey Street as a neighborhood park.

Preserving Open Space near wetlands, woodlands, lakes and streams

There are areas of open space that currently provide wildlife habitat that could be placed into park service and kept as a natural area or conservation area. One of those places is the Swartz Creek and adjacent wetlands between Miller Road, Bristol Road, I-75 and I-69.

Heroes Plaza

Flint Township has been working on the development of a Veteran, Police Officer and Fireman Memorial at the Flint Township Nature Park. Flags, benches, monuments and a Heroes Walk with bricks engraved with Veterans' and other Heroes names. A donation drive for funds for this park is currently being undertaken by the Township.

Additional Trail Connections

There exists the potential to continue to develop the Regional Trail Network in Flint Township and connect the southeastern portion of the township to the larger western area of the township with a trail by utilizing the area around Carman Drain which flows northward into the City of Flint, then to Broome Park, cross 12th Street to Southwestern Academy, cross I-69 at the pedestrian overpass and into Happy Hollow Nature Area, the trail could then connect the Grand Traverse Greenway and Genesee Valley Trail (both future regional trail connections) and continue west on the Genesee Valley Trail to the Flint Township Business District area and the Flint Township Nature Park.

Appendix A: Public Input – Community Gathering

Meeting Minutes

Agenda

Sign-in Sheet

PowerPoint Presentation

MEETING MINUTES

**Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
2010 – 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Community Workshop**

Thursday, January 14, 2010
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Flint Township Police Department - Community Room
G-5200 Norko Drive
Flint, MI 48507

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

I. Welcome

Mr. Jim McClung, Vice- Chairperson of the Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee welcomed everyone to the public input community workshop. He thanked everyone for being there and for Ms. Barb Vert who made refreshments and for the hard work the Committee has put in on the development of the Parks and Recreation Plan and a special thanks to Ms. Heidi Phaneuf for her assistance on the development of this plan.

II. Introductions

Ms. Phaneuf began introductions and everyone introduced themselves and answered why Parks and Recreation was important to them.

III. Power Point Presentation

Ms. Phaneuf gave a presentation on Parks and Recreation in Flint Township. Printouts of her slides are included. She discussed why we need a Parks and Recreation Plan; the vision, mission and goals developed by the Committee for this plan; Population Changes; Existing Park Amenities local and regional; land use and park maps of Flint Township; organizational structure; the group exercise and the next steps in plan development. Questions from the audience were answered.

IV. Group Exercise

Ms. Phaneuf described the group exercise. Everyone got into 3 groups. The groups looked for any additional recreational or open space preservation areas and identified them on the map, such as trails, neighborhood parks, scenic natural areas, or conservation areas. After all additional recreational amenities were identified, each person was given 5 sticker dots to put on their maps on the amenities that were the most important to them in the next 5 years of this plan (2010 – 2015). The groups were to tally up their dots and report out their top priorities for Parks and Recreation in Flint Township.

V. Group Report Out

Group 1

A. Improve Existing Facilities

- Flint Township Nature Park-
- 2. Add Bathrooms

3. Add Community Garden
- Riverview Canoe Landing-
 2. Upgrade facilities, add benches, better parking, picnic area
 3. Promote water trail with surrounding communities on Flint River
- G. Genesee Valley Trail
 - Build the trail
 - Connect M-21 pathway to trail at I-75 and Corunna Road
- H. Flint River Trail
 - Continue trail from the City of Flint westward from Flint River Trail - Kettering Extension
- I. New Park Area – North of Court Street/ East of Linden Road/ South of Caulkins Road
 - Currently private property, possibly baseball, softball fields, sledding, Skate Park, tennis courts, bathrooms, biking and ice skating.
- J. New Park Area – Behind Baker Career Academy, formerly Carman Park Elementary
 - Turn area between schools into park with nature trails.
- K. Park Improvements to Park Area North of Fenton Lawn - Learning Community and south of Bristol Road
 - a. Picnic area, skate park, green space

Group 2

- I. Connect Genesee Valley Trail to Flint Township Nature Park Trail
- J. Connect M-21 Pathway to Genesee Valley Trail
- K. Upgrades to Riverview Canoe Landing at Mitson Drive. Put a trail in that goes to Canoe Landing, clean-up along the river, place woodchips and a picnic area
- L. Trail and nature walk behind Baker College and former Carman Park Elementary.
- M. Upgrade Hoover Recreational Park- former Hoover School north of Flushing Road, east of I-75, on the southwest corner of Mackin Road and Lavelle Road
- N. Connect trails to Flint Swim and Racquet Club using Consumers Energy corridor
- O. Parks and Trails at the northeast corner of Linden and Court St
- P. Nature Park and Preserve Area between I-69 and Miller Road

Group 3

After identifying additional amenities this group used the dots to vote on these amenities as being important to Parks and Recreation in Flint Township

Sticker Dots

6 dots = Genesee Valley Trail

5 dots = Flint River Trail

3 dots = Miller Road- bike lanes connecting to Swartz Creek and sidewalks throughout the commercial district

2 dots = Linden Road sidewalks

Other Priorities Identified:

- Connect to Woodland Elementary School and the Flint Township Senior Center from the Genesee Valley Trail
- Conserve the wetlands and natural area between Miller Road and I-69
- Improve the Riverview (Mitson) Canoe Landing and Flint Township Nature Park

From all three groups, these amenities are identified on the Flint Township Parks and Recreation Future Recreation Areas Map.

VI. Closing and Evaluations

Everyone was reminded to fill out their surveys and to sign-in if they haven't already done so. Upcoming meetings were announced again and everyone was thanked for coming to the workshop. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

MEETING AGENDA
FLINT TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
LOCATED AT THE FLINT TOWNSHIP POLICE STATION
G-5200 NORKO DR. FLINT, MI 48532

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

- 1.) WELCOME
- 2.) INTRODUCTIONS
- 3.) POWER POINT PRESENTATION
- 4.) QUESTIONS
- 5.) HAND OUT/SURVEY'S
- 6.) CLOSING
- 7.) ADJOURNMENT

Flint Township Parks and Recreation Plan
Community Workshop - Committee Meeting
Thurs. Jan 14, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 pm

to do list

✓ Done Date Track your To Do items below.

- | | Name |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1. | Ken Murray |
| 2. | Pam Luna |
| 3. | Hill Wiggins |
| 4. | Frank Kall |
| 5. | Tracey Tucker |
| 6. | Michael Mansfield |
| 7. | Tom Brooks |
| 8. | Belenda Parker |
| 9. | Annette Marks |
| 10. | WARREN MARKS |
| 11. | Barb Vest |
| 12. | Jim McClung |
| 13. | Jacqui Perina |
| 14. | Heidi PhanauF |
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| 40. | |

Flint Township Parks and Recreation

2010 – 2015 Plan Development

Outline

- What is a parks and recreation plan?
- Vision, mission and goals
- Existing Parks and Trails
- Maps
- Your Input
- Next Steps

Why a Parks and Recreation Plan?

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
 - \$25 – 44 million in funding per year for recreation
 - Must have a 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan approved by local area and MDNR staff
 - Must have public input in plan development
 - Funding for acquisition of property and development grants

Parks and Recreation Plan Outline

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Resource Inventory
- Description of the Planning Process
- Description of the Public Input Process
- Goals and Objectives
- Action Items

Our Vision

Flint Township will create local recreational opportunities for the residents of this community and the surrounding areas that:

- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities
- Attract new residents and businesses to the area
- Enhance property values
- Improve the quality of life in our community, making it an enjoyable place to live

Our Mission

To create a healthy and livable community with recreational opportunities for everyone.

Parks and Recreation Goals

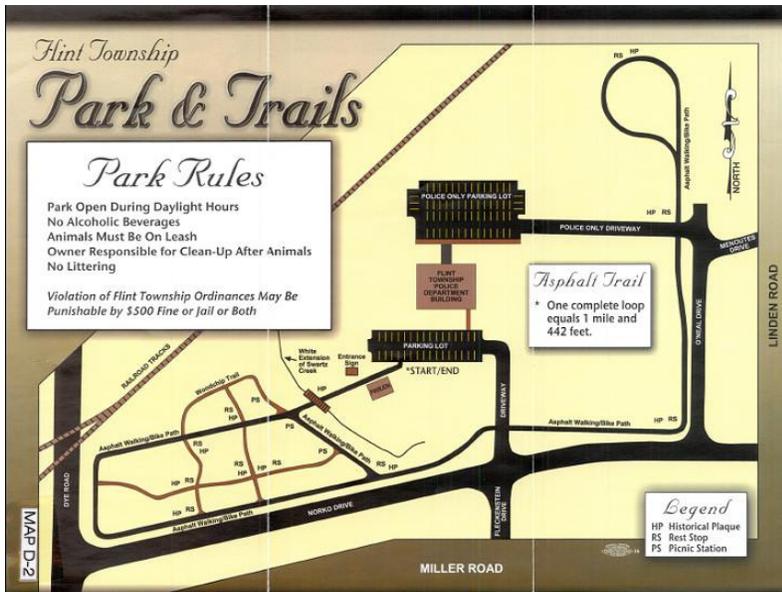
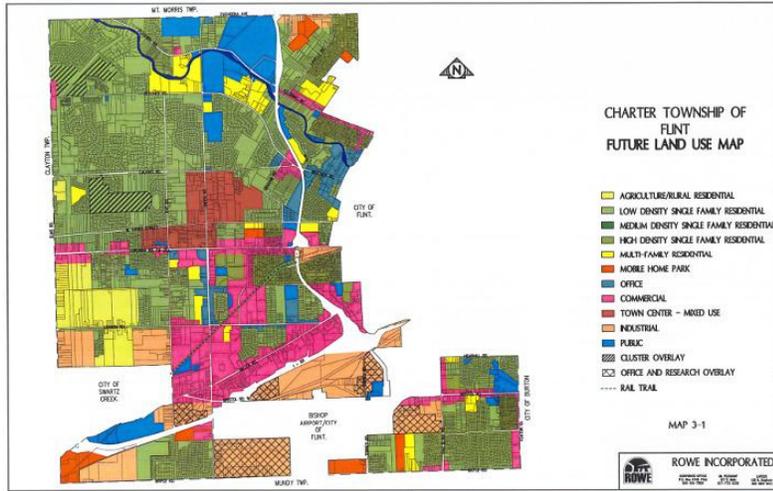
- Connect to the regional trail network in Genesee County
- Preserve open space and natural areas of scenic and wildlife value
- Gardens that produce fresh food
- Activities for youth
- Maintain existing recreational amenities
- Beautify the community
- Promote healthy and active lifestyles
- Have residents think of Flint Township as their first choice in Parks and Recreation activities

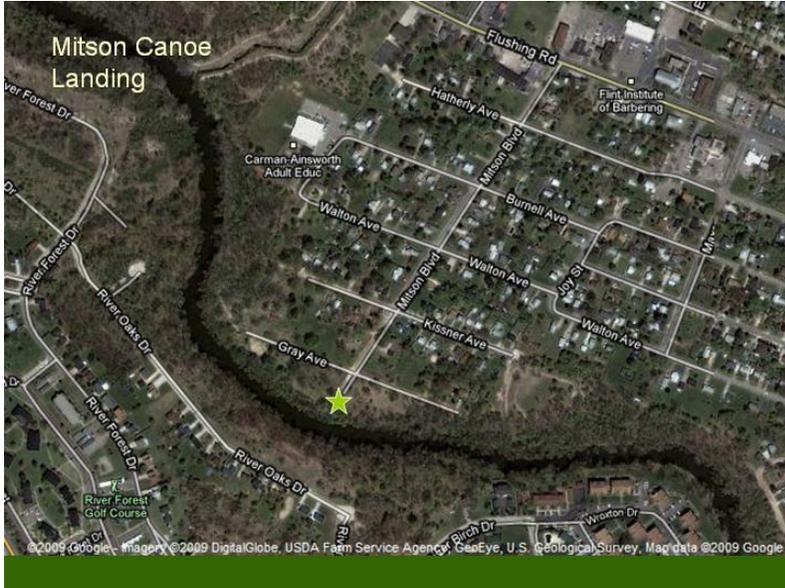
2008 Flint Township Census Data

- 2000 – 33,691
- 2008 – 31,611 *estimate

- Property values decreasing
- Township revenue declining
- Competing resources
- Collaborate
- Look for ways to improve community and increase quality of life – attract new residents

Flint Township 2010 – 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan





Other Recreational Amenities

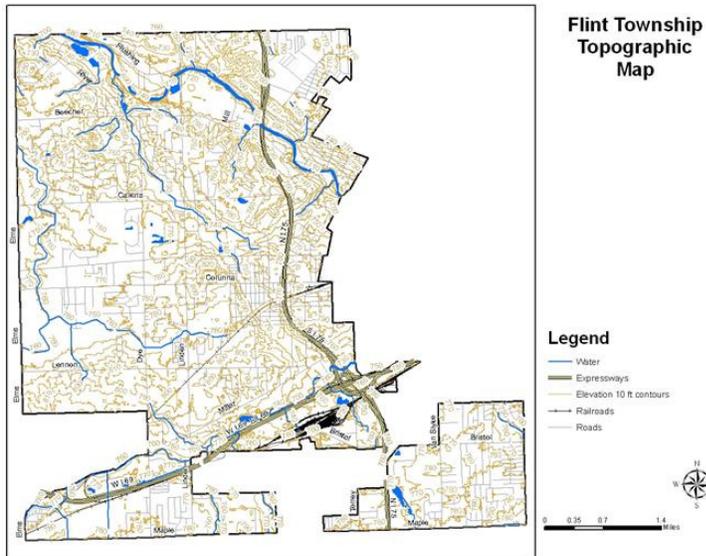
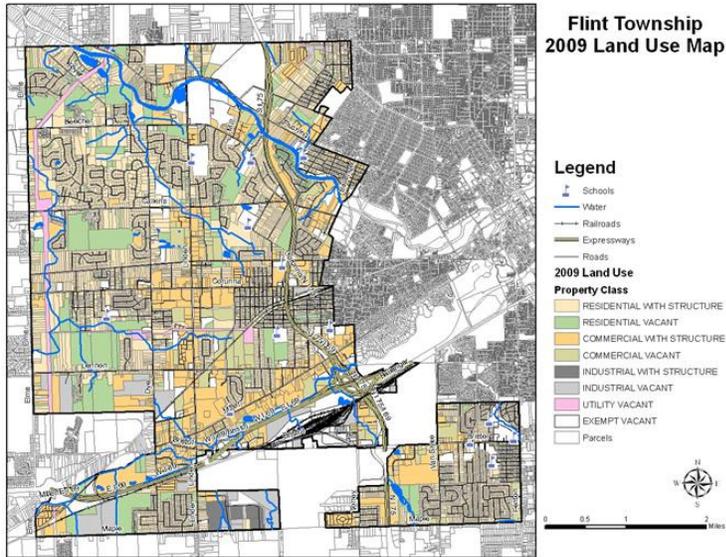
- M-21 Non-motorized Pathway – walking and biking
- Pirates Park Fun Center-Multi Activities
- Flint Swim & Racquet Club - Outdoor Pool & Racquet Ball Courts
- King Par Golf Range - Golf Activities
- Genesee Valley Golf Course - 18 Holes Golf
- Flint Cinema West - Multiplex Theatre
- Chuck E. Cheese Fun Center - Fun Center
- Fitness USA Inc. - Fitness Center
- Genesee County District Library – Reading
- River Forest Apt. Complex - 9 Hole Golf Course
- Genesee Valley Mall - Shopping - walking

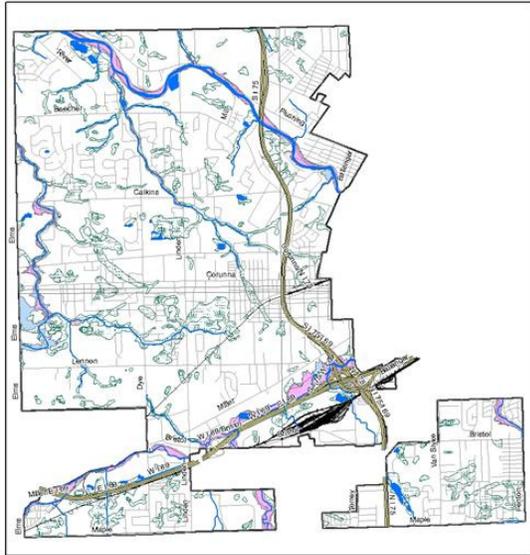
Recreational Public Facilities

- Flint Township Senior Center
- AYSO Soccer Complex
- Flint Swim and Racquet Club
- Carman-Ainsworth High School
- Carman Park - Baker Career Academy
- Fenton Lawn Elementary
- Stalker Elementary School
- Dye Elementary School
- Randels Elementary School
- Woodland Elementary School
- Bendle/Carman Ainsworth Community Education – The Learning Community (Fenton Lawn)
- McLaren Pathway – Trail Extension
- Hoover Recreational Park

Regional Recreational Resources

- Holloway Reservoir Regional Park
- Genesee Recreation Area
- For-Mar Nature Preserve | Arboretum
- Buell Lake County Park
- Linden County Park
- Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad
- Flushing County Park
- Riverview Canoe Landing, Flushing
- Riverview Park, Flushing
- Elms Road Park, Swartz Creek





Flint Township Wetlands and Floodplains Map

Legend

- Water
 - Expressways
 - Railroads
 - Roads
- Floodplains**
- ZONE**
- A
 - AE
 - X
 - X500
 - Wetlands



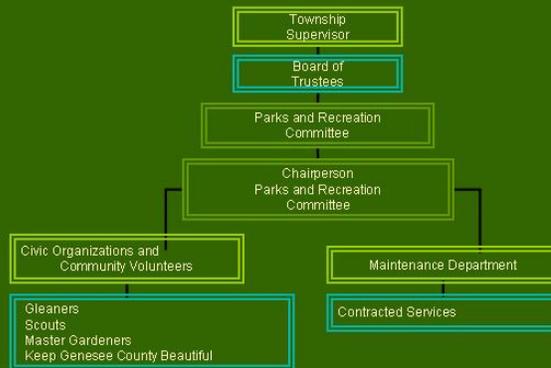
Flint Township Parks and Potential Conservation Areas and Trails Map

Legend

- Schools
 - Existing Trails
 - Flint River Trail - (Potential)
 - Genesee Valley Trail - (Potential)
 - Potential Trails
 - Water
 - Expressways
 - Railroads
 - Abandoned Railroads
 - Roads
 - Flint Twp Potential Restoration Areas
 - Township Nature Parks
- Floodplains**
- ZONE**
- A
 - AE
 - X
 - X500
 - Wetlands
 - Genesee Valley Golf Course
 - Valley Corridor
 - Major Roads



Organizational Structure - Parks



Your Work Today

- Get in 4 groups
- Identify Additional Recreational Opportunities on Map
 - Trails, walking paths, potential parks, open space for preservation
 - Prioritize – sticker dots
 - Add up dots – group priority
 - Report Out

Parks and Recreation Master Planning

- Community survey – Flint Township website and at local schools, community centers, library. Due Jan. 22nd
- Draft plan available for Township Board at Monday's meeting
- 30- day public comment period (Jan. 30th to March 1st)
- Approval March 1st – submit to MDNR
- MNRTF Grants are due April 1st

Thank You!

Questions?

Appendix B: Public Input – Community Survey

A 10 question survey was developed using Survey Money www.surveymonkey.com . The survey was made available from January 9 – 22, 2010 and was available from the Flint Township website and at the following locations:

Flint Township Hall
Flint Township/ Carman Ainsworth Senior Center
Genesee District Library- Genesee Valley Mall Branch
Carman-Ainsworth High School
Carman Park - Baker Career Academy
Fenton Lawn Elementary
Stalker Elementary School
Dye Elementary School
Randels Elementary School
Woodland Elementary School
Bendle/Carman Ainsworth Community Education – The Learning Community (Fenton Lawn)

An article in the local newspaper informed residents about the survey and www.mlive.com included a news article about the survey. The survey was also announced at the Flint Township Board Meeting and during the Community Gathering in January. A total of 119 responses were collected. The information collected in the survey is detailed on the next page.

Survey Results

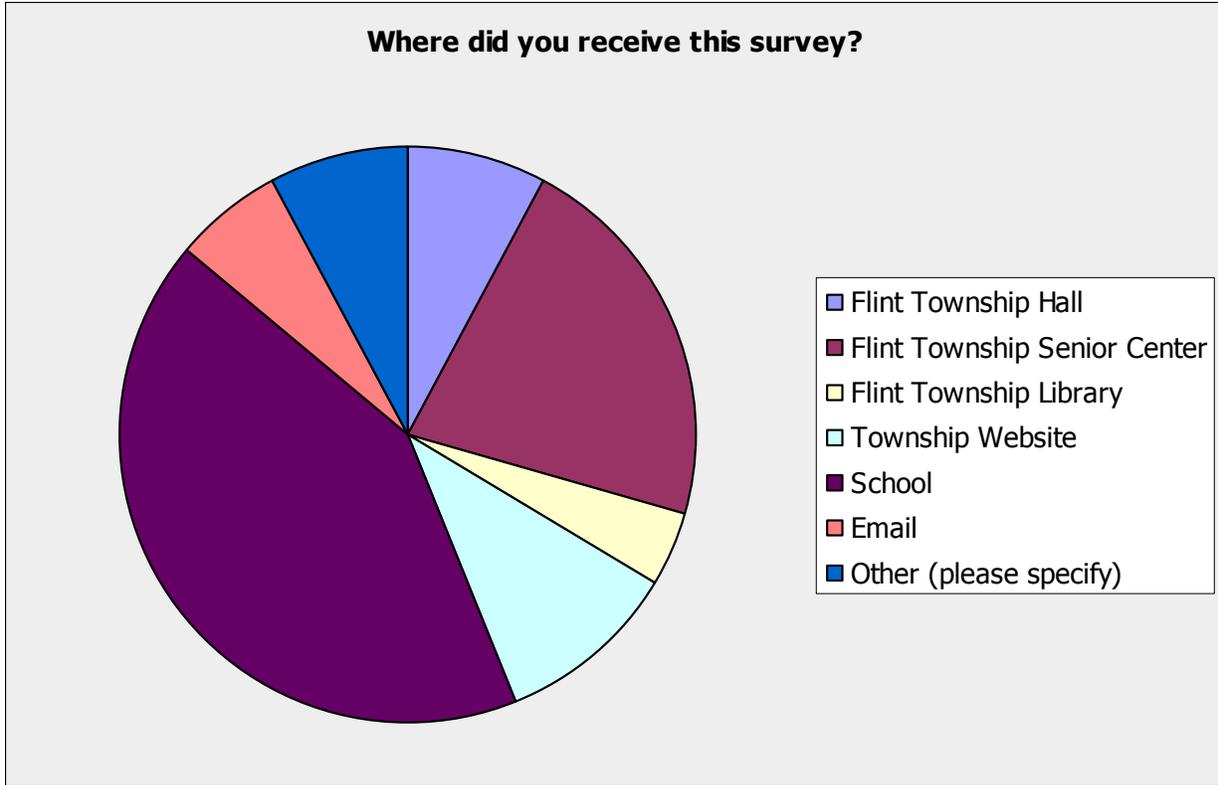
Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey Responses

Question 1:

Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Where did you receive this survey?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Flint Township Hall	7.8%	9
Flint Township Senior Center	21.6%	25
Flint Township Library	4.3%	5
Township Website	10.3%	12
School	42.2%	49
Email	6.0%	7
Other (please specify)	7.8%	9
Other (please specify)		11
<i>answered question</i>		116
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Number	Other (please specify)
1	A link from a mlive.com article
2	MLive article in the Flint JOURNAL,,,GAVE INFO TO ACCESS THRU
3	INTERNET
4	Public Input Meeting
5	The Learning Community
6	Library
7	Input Session
8	Presentation at police station on 1-14-10
9	Police Station
10	Flint Twp Parks & Rec Meeting
11	Flint Township Police Dept

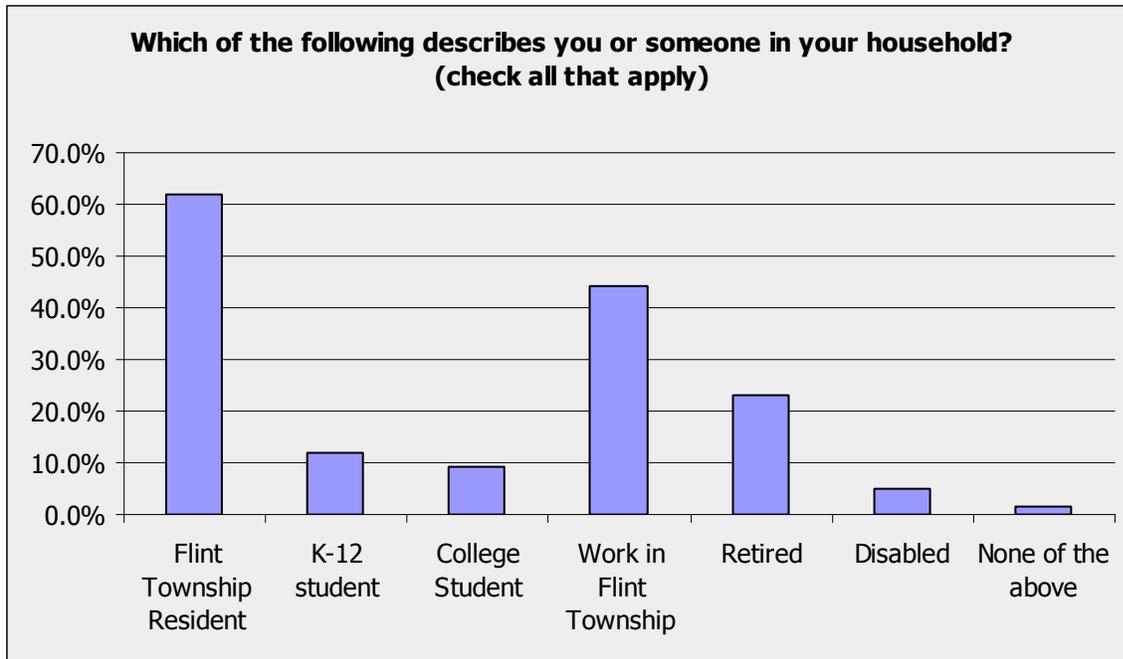


Question 2:

Question 1: Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

**Which of the following describes you or someone in your household?
(check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Flint Township Resident	61.9%	73
K-12 student	11.9%	14
College Student	9.3%	11
Work in Flint Township	44.1%	52
Retired	22.9%	27
Disabled	5.1%	6
None of the above	1.7%	2
<i>answered question</i>		118
<i>skipped question</i>		1



Question 3:

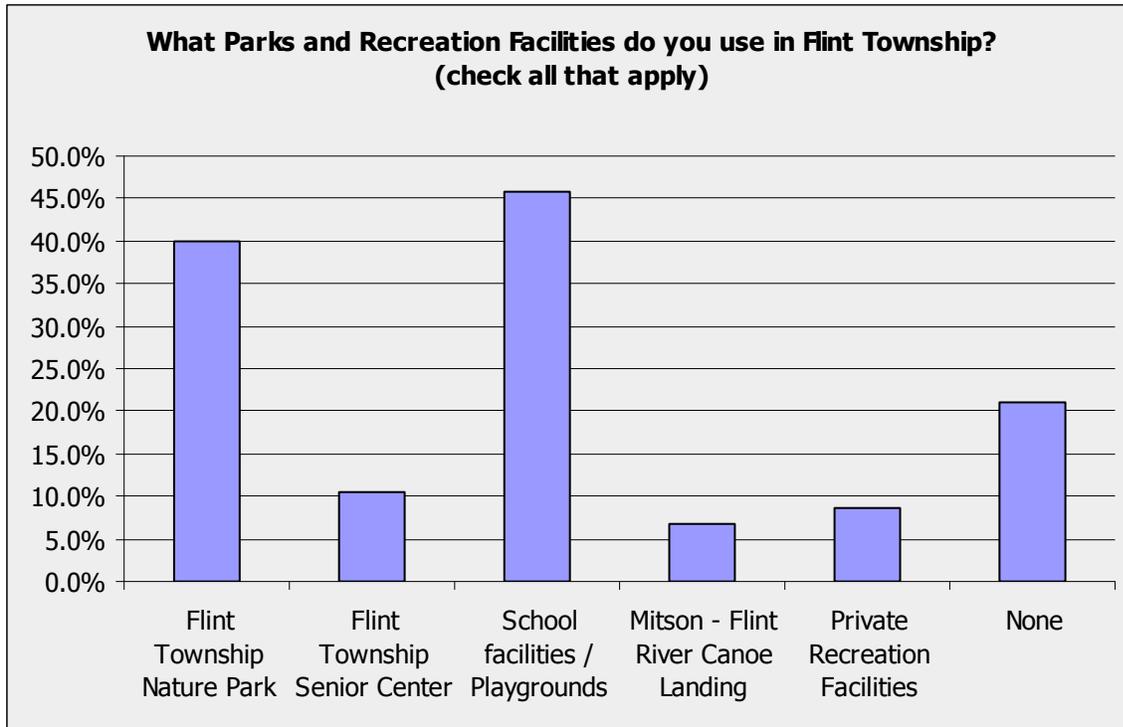
Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

What Parks and Recreation Facilities do you use in Flint Township? (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Flint Township Nature Park	40.0%	42
Flint Township Senior Center	10.5%	11
School facilities / Playgrounds	45.7%	48
Mitson - Flint River Canoe Landing	6.7%	7
Private Recreation Facilities	8.6%	9
None	21.0%	22
Other (please specify)		12
answered question		105
skipped question		14

Number	Other (please specify)
1	Senior Center
2	Park and Senior Center on Graham
3	Senior Center
4	Flint Township Senior Center
5	Linden

- 6 Senior Center
- 7 Senior Center
Bluebell Beach, Stepping stone Falls, Splash
- 8 Pad
- 9 Soccer Fields
- 10 Schools
- 11 Senior Center Flint Township
- 12 Trail



Question 4:

Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

What regional parks and recreation facilities do you use outside the Township?

Answer Options	Response Count
	74
<i>answered question</i>	74
<i>skipped question</i>	45

Number	Response Text
1	Mott Lake Pathway, For Mar, Holly Rec Area
2	none
3	Flushing Park

- 4** Seven Lakes State Park, Huron State Park
Flushing Park/Downtown area, Knoff playground,
- 5** Grand Blanc parks, Frankenmuth
- 6** Flushing Park
- 7** Kensington metro park
- 8** walking trails
- 9** Flushing
Trails at Kensington Metro Park, Rail Trail near Otter Lake, Midland Rail Trail, Bay City Rail
- 10** Trail/Riverwalk
- 11** Bike paths in Flushing, Clio, Flint Riverwalk
- 12** Elms Road Park, Swartz Creek
- 13** None
- 14** NATURE TRAIL BY BECHES IN FLUSHING
- 15** Flushing
- 16** Flushing Riverview Park
- 17** Flushing Road Park
- 18** State Parks, County Parks, Iceland Arena
- 19** Genesee Parks, Richfield, Fairgrounds, Deerfield Nature
- 20** For Mar, Bi Centennial Park and Physicians Park in Gr. Blanc.
- 21** Fenton
- 22** For Mar, Beaches
- 23** Mott park for sledding, Elms Road Park, Flushing Park.
- 24** For Mar, other parks esp. Swartz Creek, Grand Blanc, Richfield Park
- 25** State Park
- 26** Stepping Stone Falls, Elmer Knoff, and other schools.
- 27** Genesee Parks, Lakes Holloway
- 28** Genesee Parks (Holloway)
- 29** None
- 30** Genesys Walking Trail
- 31** Flushing
- 32** Flushing Running Trail
- 33** Richfield Park, Flushing City Park
- 34** Parks in Flushing, Mott Park
- 35** Genesee County Park and County Fairgrounds
- 36** For Mar
- 37** State Parks
- 38** Buell Lake
- 39** For Mar Nature Preserve
- 40** Holly, Seven Lakes, Metamora and State Campgrounds
- 41** Russ Park
- 42** For Mar
- 43** Bicentennial Park, Clio Sports complex
- 44** Campgrounds
- 45** Oakland County
- 46** For Mar
- 47** Flushing, Richfield
- 48** Caseville, Swartz Creek
- 49** Carman Ainsworth Center
- 50** Genesys Health Park Trails

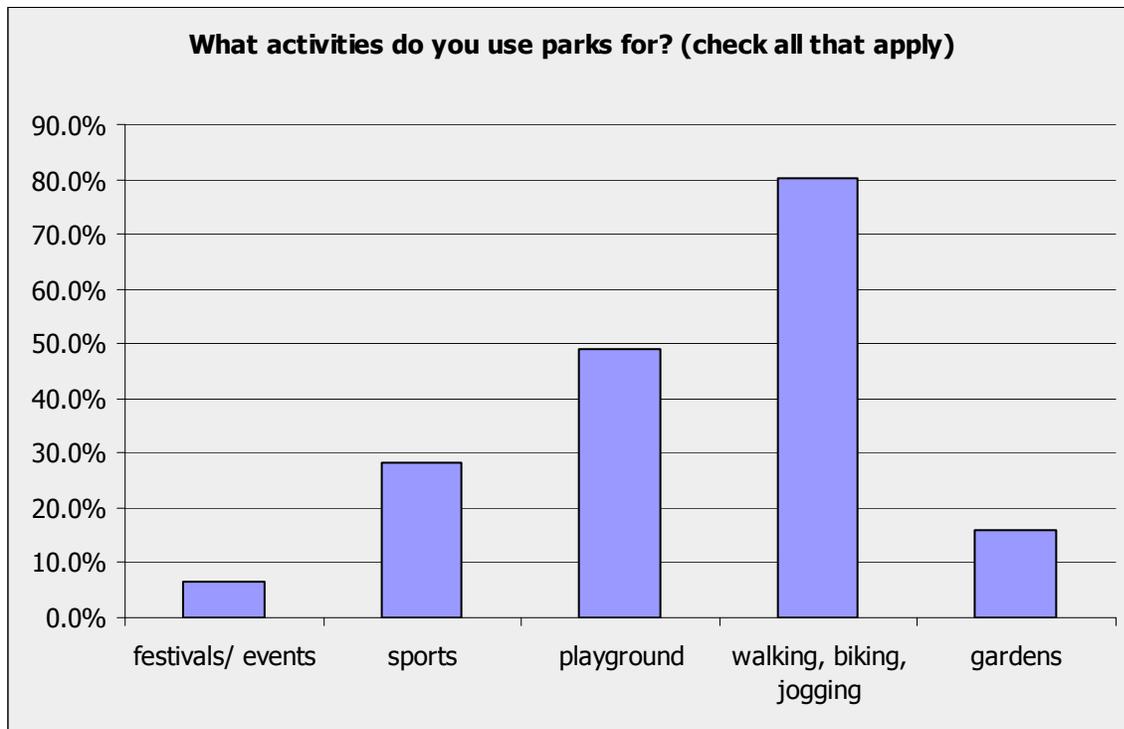
- 51 Elms Rd Park, Swartz Creek
- 52 Swartz Creek
- 53 Wolverine Campground
- 54 Flushing
- 55 State Park
- 56 Genesee County Parks, For Mar
- 57 Grand Blanc & Swartz Creek Parks & Flushing
- 58 Lansing Dog Park
- 59 Wolverine campground, Richfield Park
- 60 None
- 61 Elms Park
- 62 Clio, Mt. Morris
- 63 Any school park that's nice & clean.
- 64 None
- 65 Flushing Park system
- 66 Rail Trails through the state
- 67 Michigan Adventure
- 68 Flushing Trail, Genesee County Trails, State Parks
- 69 Grand Blanc, Bicentennial Park, Flushing Park
- 70 Flushing Nature Trail, For Mar Nature Preserve, MI Outdoor Adventure
- 71 For Mar, Physicians Park, Grand Blanc Park that has the splash pad.
- 72 Flushing Park
- 73 none
- 74 none

Question 5:

Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

What activities do you use parks for? (check all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
festivals/ events	6.6%	7
sports	28.3%	30
playground	49.1%	52
walking, biking, jogging	80.2%	85
gardens	16.0%	17
Other (please specify)		20
<i>answered question</i>		106
<i>skipped question</i>		13

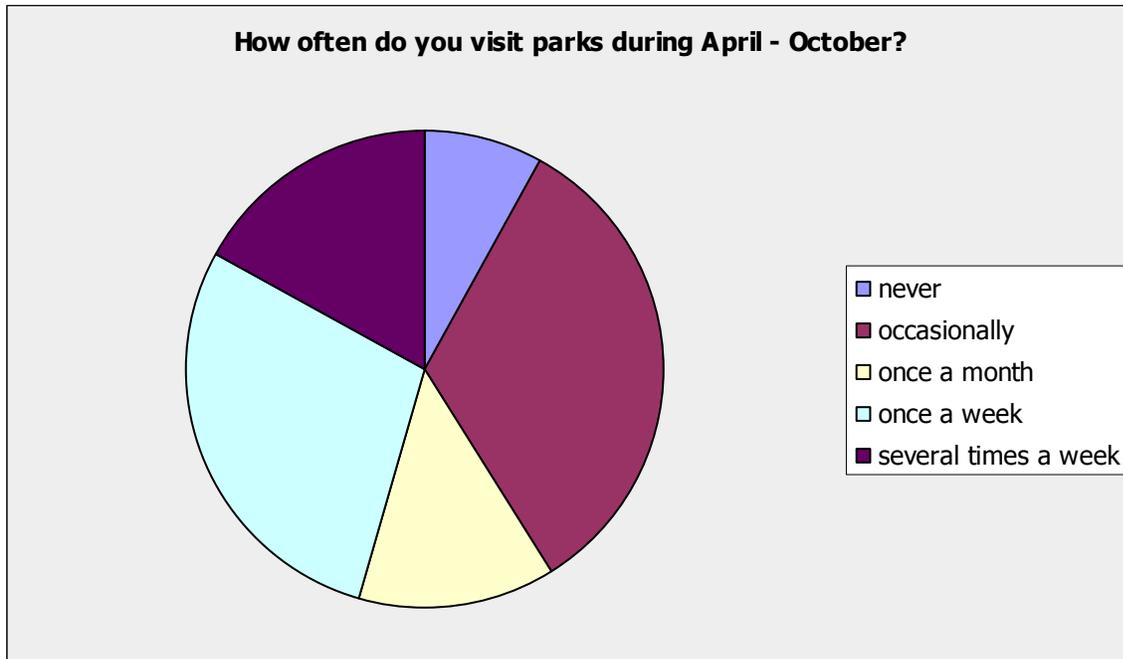
Number	Other (please specify)
1	Need Playground
2	Dog Walking
3	Picnics
4	camping
5	Picnics
6	Fishing and Boating
7	Special Programs
8	Companionship
9	With Activity
10	Swimming
11	Family Reunion
12	Plant and Animal Identification
13	Nature Classes , Hikes
14	Swimming
15	Dog park, dog walk, place to socialize dog.
16	Playground
17	Family Gatherings
18	Picnics
19	Tennis Courts
20	To have ...



Question 6:

Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

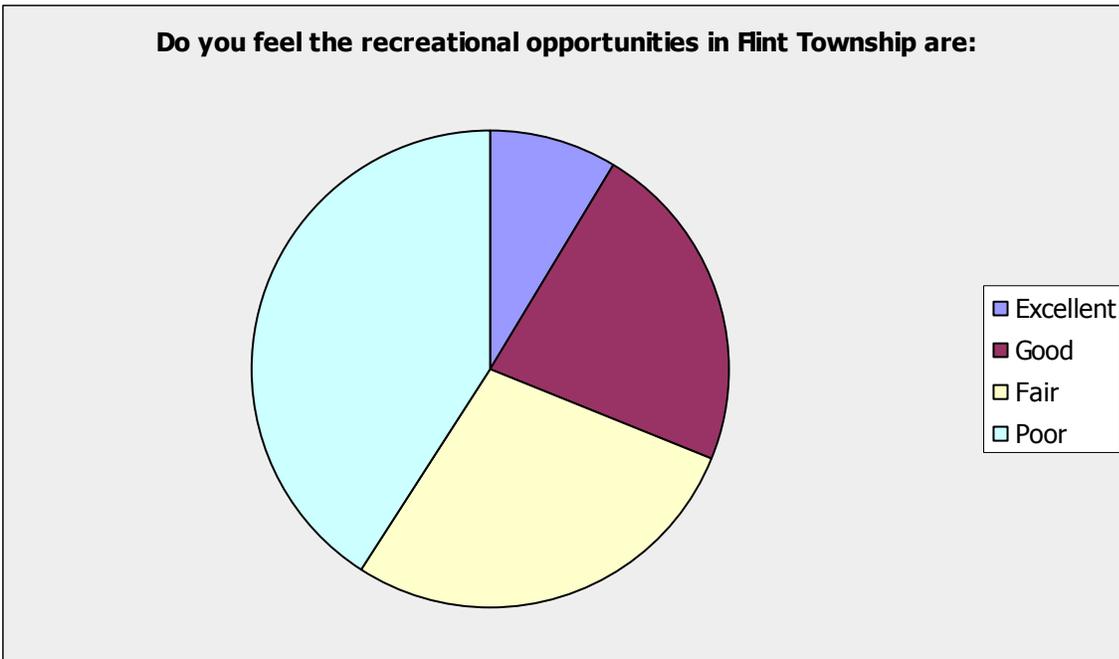
How often do you visit parks during April - October?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
never	8.0%	9
occasionally	33.0%	37
once a month	13.4%	15
once a week	28.6%	32
several times a week	17.0%	19
<i>answered question</i>		112
<i>skipped question</i>		7

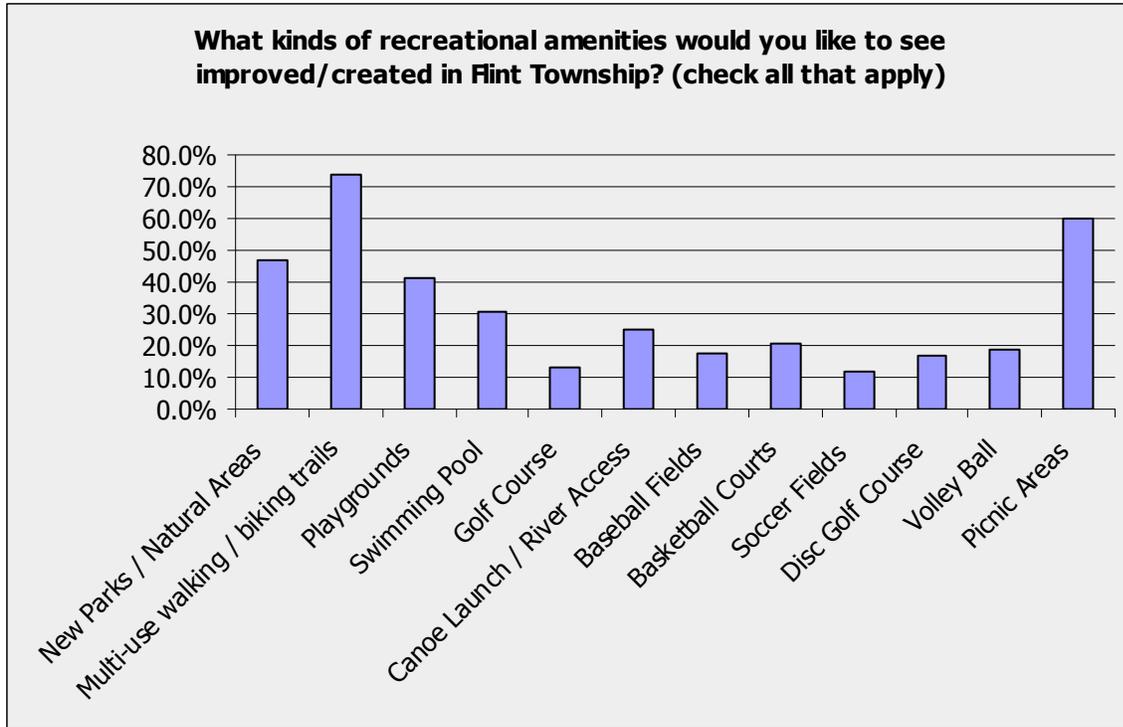


Question 7:

Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Do you feel the recreational opportunities in Flint Township are:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	8.7%	9
Good	22.3%	23
Fair	28.2%	29
Poor	40.8%	42
<i>answered question</i>		103
<i>skipped question</i>		16

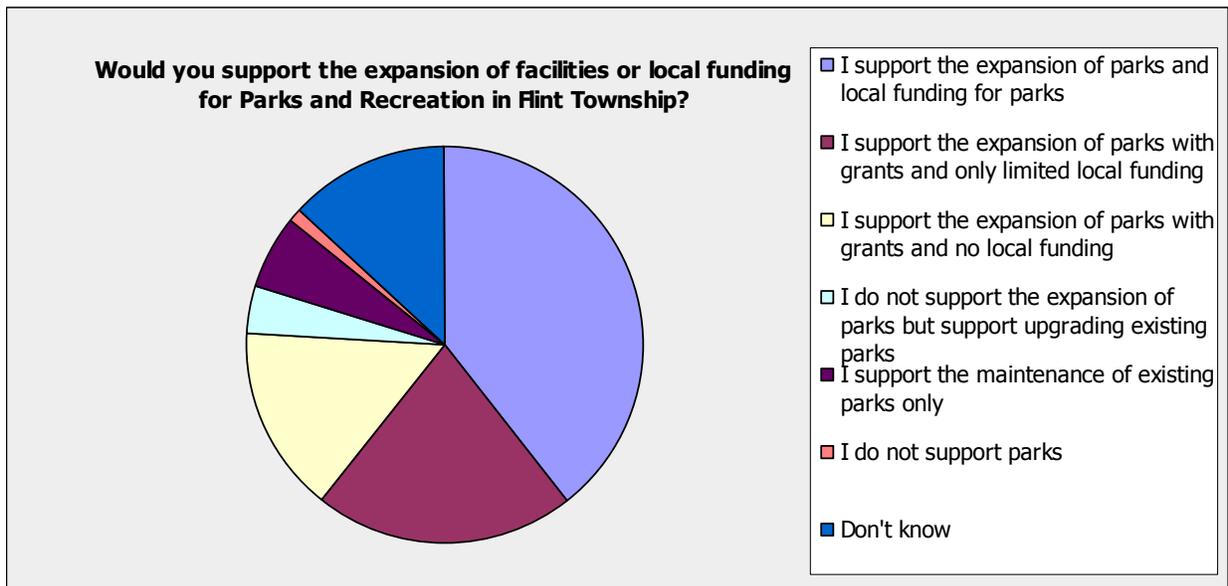




Question 9:

Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Would you support the expansion of facilities or local funding for Parks and Recreation in Flint Township?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I support the expansion of parks and local funding for parks	39.4%	39
I support the expansion of parks with grants and only limited local funding	21.2%	21
I support the expansion of parks with grants and no local funding	15.2%	15
I do not support the expansion of parks but support upgrading existing parks	4.0%	4
I support the maintenance of existing parks only	6.1%	6
I do not support parks	1.0%	1
Don't know	13.1%	13
<i>answered question</i>		99
<i>skipped question</i>		20



Question 10:

Flint Township 2010 - 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Please provide any additional comments about parks and recreation in Flint Township

Answer Options	Response Count
	35
<i>answered question</i>	35
<i>skipped question</i>	84

Number	Response Text
1	Build the Genesee Valley Trail
2	There has to be some recreation brought into the twp .So that people will want to live here. There Is no greater need for a Parks and rec board than now. The twp has to do something to stop the people from running out of twp.and provide something for youth and adults to do.If there is nothing to do in flint twp WHYSTAY.
3	Would like to see a dedicated bike trail
4	would like to see the proposed bike trail completed as all in my family ride bikes
5	needs improvement
6	I hope something gets the town motivated. We need the outdoor space.
7	Flint twp needs to act now so that when trail comes out of downtown. Flint twp is set to go to the valley. And be ready to go with twps part To go along flint river. Leading out to Flushing. This would be the best thing to happen in Flint twp in 20 years. Let's get this master plan And GETER DONE!!!!
8	Would appreciate safe bike/walking paths in the township. Thank you.
9	The walking park at the police station is great.
10	If you can't keep and maintain what you have now, why look to build more parks. You need to shrink the costs to the taxpayers, not grow them.
11	I live on the walk way to Genesee Valley. So far I have had garbage to pick up, motorcycles and snowmobiles racing around at two and three in the morning. I have had people come down into my back yard and use my yard as a trail. We have been broken into (in the day time with my husband in bed). They stole our brand new flat screen and were heading back to the computer room when they discovered my husband was here. I feel we do not have extra money to waste on "trails" we need more police on the road. We have foul mouth kids and homeless people making fires along the side of the trail...WE need to spend our tax money wisely, not just throw it away.
12	A community of this size should have considerable more parks with a budget for maintenance and capital expenditures to maintain a residential population of its size.
13	No New Taxes
14	We need a large park and an area for nature walking.
15	Need to work hard to get the community interested in caring for the parks/gardens. Perhaps it could be collaboration with schools, senior centers.
16	I have had a hard time finding parks here that have fun things to do. So we have had to go elsewhere.
17	I live very close to the Middle School and do not understand why we are not able to use the track for walking. It is locked.
18	

- 19** I support the maintenance of existing school playgrounds.
Schools and Township need to work together if facilities are to be better utilized by community (cost wise).
- 20** Schools and Township need to work together if facilities are to be better utilized by community (cost wise).
- 21** We don't have much. Any additions would be welcome.
- 22** We have parks!!!
- 23** Make sure there is maintenance money available before parks/facilities are expanded.
- 24** Children need more play areas.
- 25** More Fishing
- 26** I support the maintenance of existing parks only.
- 27** Parks are important to my family.
Flint Twp needs to seize areas of blight or areas that will not foreseeably hold steady business and turn them to urban green areas.
- 28** I think there is also too many rules for different people and not enough for some. With taxes we pay we should have much more!
- 29** Please Plow the neighborhood with a school.
- 30** Need more park and recreation to keep these kids off the streets.
- 31** Needs more publicity
Flint twp has not had any new parks that are totally useable in 50 years Wheres bathrooms at PS park. that place is worthless
- 32** Ideas are unlimited once the group gets a master plan
- 33** Let's do something to stop the people from leaving flint twp. Because there is nothing to do.
- 34**
- 35**

Appendix C: Public Notice

30 –Day Public Comment Period Notice

Comments Received in 30-Day Period

Notice of Public Hearing

Comments Received at Public Hearing

Newspaper Articles

12/27/04

SWARTZ CREEK NEWS

Residents can have say on parks and rec plan

TERI BANAS

tbanas@flintjournal.com
(810) 766-6385

FLINT TWP. — Flint Township residents are invited this month to a meeting to share views on how to improve recreation and park services in the community.

The township's Parks and Recreation Commission is on a fast track to update the township's master plan for parks and recreation. Such plans typically outline a community's existing resources and services along with future desires — including tot lots, playgrounds, parks, open spaces, trails and recreational opportunities.

The commission is calling on residents to share their thoughts for projects and priorities at a meeting scheduled from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 14. It will take place at the Flint Township Police Station community room on Norko Drive.

Heidi Phaneuf, working with the Parks and Recreation Commission on drafting the plan, told the Township Board on Dec. 21 that the group would like to present a draft master plan by the end of January.

The township's previous five-year parks master plan expired in February.

It's a tight timeline, she said, but necessary to be able to apply early this year for state grants provided through the state Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, she said.

"Our plan has to include a vision statement — what sort of vision the community wants to see in its parks and open spaces," Phaneuf said. "We want to make

sure all residents have the opportunity to give ideas and feedback early in the development of the plan."

Phaneuf recently volunteered to update the plan when the Township Board, citing strapped finances, declined to fund a request for a paid consultant to do the work. Until recently, Phaneuf was an assistant planner for the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission and has been active in trail developments in the Genesee County region.

Winning trust fund dollars could be used to leverage federal funds to pay for projects "without putting the pressure on local governments," she said. "Once you have a plan, it opens up a lot of opportunities for the community."

She cited the high cost of building a stretch of a nonmotorized trail through the township that would link with downtown Flint and surrounding areas.

Parks Chairman Patrick Parrott, long supportive of the Flint Township trail link, said the trail now stops at Linden Road. But if built, it could connect to the Flint Township Nature Park on Norko Drive.

Phaneuf added there are opportunities for recreation along the Flint River, which runs through the township.

"There's a great canoe landing that could use some additional amenities," she said.

"It's still a relatively young" park system, she said.

Ultimately, the Township Board must approve the five-year parks and recreation plan.

THE

FOUND

D Siberian Husky and
vn Husky, at Genesee
Animal Control.

ite/Black long haired
ale cat. Fenton area,
e Aug. (810)735-4697

LOST

T Diamond ring be-
e 12/25/09, 1 larger di-
ond with circular
aller diamonds. (810)
1-5033. REWARD!



Missing Black Lab since
ec. 8. All black, 85 lbs. 5
ears old. Last seen with
ed collar & tags if they
re still on him. Fenton/
den area. \$200 reward
or his return. His family
loves him very much.
810-397-2786
aevans84@att.net

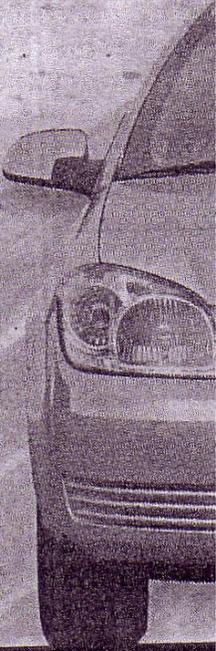
PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Charter Township of
Flint Parks and Recrea-
tion Committee will have
available for public re-
view and comment the
draft of the proposed
2010-2015 Flint Town-
ship Parks and Recrea-
tion Master Plan. The
Plan will be available for
review Friday, January
29, 2010 through Sunday,
February 28, 2010 at the
following locations:
Flint Township Hall, 1490
South Dye Rd., Flint, MI
48532.
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Flint Township C/A Se-
nior Center, 2071 S. Gra-
ham Rd., Flint, MI
48532
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Comments can be sent to:
Flint Township Parks and
Recreation Plan
C/O Trustee Barb Vert
1490 South Dye Road
Flint, MI 48532
bvert@flinttownship.org

Kim Courts, CMC, Clerk
Charter Township of Flint

Find With



PERSONALS

MONUMENT CEMETERY

rolina Golf Getaway Flint Memorial Park - 2
plots. Garden of Medita-

Published in the Flint Journal

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Page C 9



Everything Michigan

Flint Township looks to improve its park system; new recreation plan in the works

By Teri Banas

January 14, 2010, 10:09PM

FLINT TOWNSHIP, Michigan -- Members of the Flint Township Parks and Recreation Committee plan to present an draft five-year plan to the Township Board Tuesday night that pinpoints areas for improvement in the community's recreational offerings.

The plan, if adopted by the board, will allow the township to apply for acquisition and development grants to build and improve trails, new parks and other forms of outdoor recreation.

At a public input session Thursday night, a small group of residents and community leaders discussed priorities for a revised 2010-2015 rec plan. Most common suggestions: develop the Flint Township stretch of the Genesee Valley Trail; create other walking and biking opportunities along Miller, Linden and Corunna roads; and take advantage of the scenic beauty of the township's stretch of the Flint River by acquiring and developing land for trails, overlooks and other amenities.

Meanwhile, the committee is surveying community interests through an **online survey** at the township's Web site, flinttownship.com, and on paper questionnaires available in schools, community centers and at Township Hall.

The results from those inquiries will be compiled after Jan. 22 and will be included in the plan, said the committee's consultant, Heidi Phaneuf. The public will then have 32 days to comment on the report until the board is asked to take action on a final plan March 1.

Resident Mike Mansfield brought a copy of a platted neighborhood with a "grassy island" in the Pleasant View Manor Subdivision, circa 1930, and suggested it be developed into a little park. Nothing is on the small, triangle-shaped property today, he said. Phaneuf said she'd add it to the plan.

"I'd like to see all the trails connected," said resident Tom Brooks. "I like riding my bike and I love rail trails. It's a shame they didn't put bike paths on Miller Road."

Committee member Jackie Perina, who has several grandchildren 8-14 years of age, said she would like to see more things for kids to do in the community. "They all love bike riding together outdoors," she said of her grandsons.

Some committee members worried over ways to maintain expanded parks and trails, if built, in the future.

With no parks department or maintenance budget, maintaining properties could be a problem, they said. The township now contracts to have the trash picked up and the grass mowed at the small township park near the township police station off Norko Drive. Phaneuf answered that creative measures -- forming "Friends" groups of volunteers to oversee sections of a trail -- and partnering with other entities, Genesee County and school districts, for example, could be considered.

Moreover, the state Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, which distributes more than \$25 million a year for outdoor recreation, looks favorably upon urban communities from distressed area, communities that haven't previously received grant funds, and at those tying into regional trail networks, Phaneuf said.

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http://blog.mlive.com/newsnow_impact/print.html?entry=/2010/01/flint_township_looks_t... 1/15/2010

Appendix D: Plan Adoption Documentation

- Resolution of Approval of Parks and Recreation Plan**
- Resolution of Support from the Parks and Recreation Committee**
- Letter to Regional Planning Agency**
- Letter to County Planning Agency**