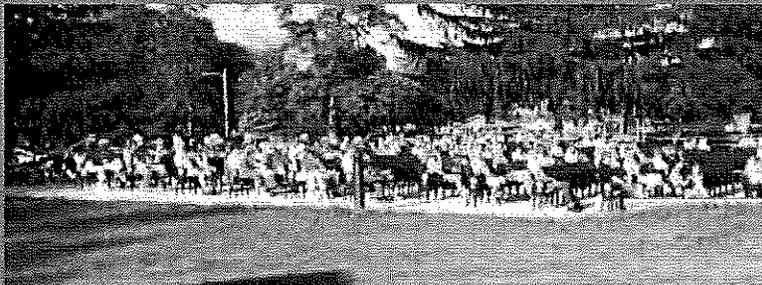


Flushing Area Recreation Master Plan 2015-2020



Prepared with assistance from
 ROWE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES COMPANY
PO Box 3748, Flint MI

**Flushing Area
Recreation Master Plan
2015-2020**

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- A Post Completion Forms

- B Public Input, misc
 - 2014 Recreation Survey Summary
 - Riverview Park conceptual master plan
 - Genesee County Regional Non-Motorized Plan (excerpt)
 - Flushing Area Trailway Routes
 - City of Flushing Footbridge Feasibility Study
 - Flushing Township Nature Park information

- C Documentation of Public Hearing and Approvals (advertisements, meeting minutes, resolutions)

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for the Flushing area, representatives from the City of Flushing, Flushing Township and the Flushing Community Schools, serving as the Flushing area Recreation Planning Committee, have created the “Flushing Area Five year Parks and Recreation Plan” as a tool to guide the development and preservation of the area’s park system. Maps 1-3 show the location and boundaries of this plan.

The first step in the development of the plan involved gathering and updating information about the Flushing area. Physical characteristics of the area, demographic information about the community, and an inventory of existing facilities from the previous plan were updated with input from the committee.

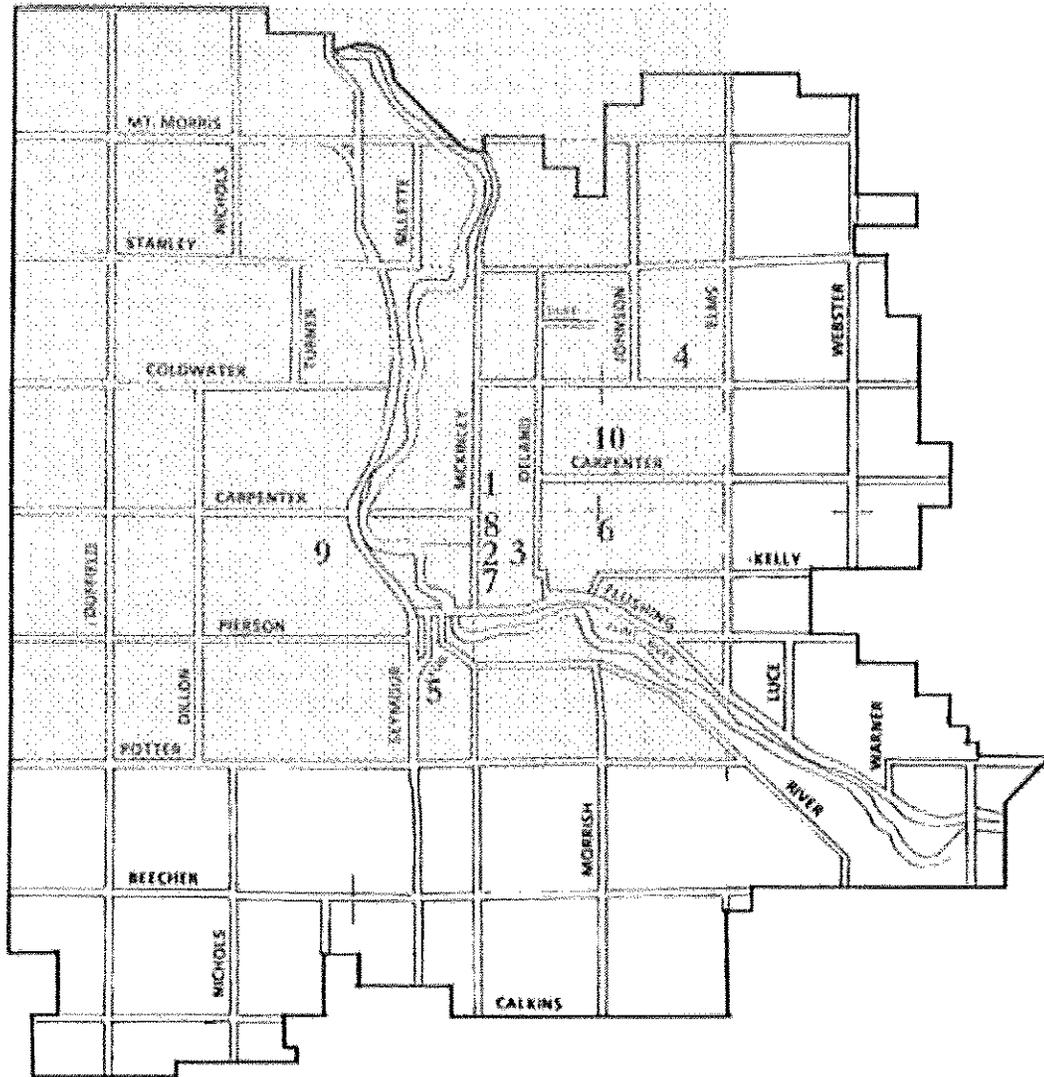
In preparing this plan, the committee relied upon various methods of input, including a community survey that over 1,000 people responded to, as well as representation from each stakeholder group within the committee that directed the plan as assembled by ROWE Professional Services Company. The plan represents the committee’s attempt to respond to these wishes within the bounds of their role in area parks and recreation planning and the fiscal limitations of the Flushing area.

Past Accomplishments

The results from previous recreation plans have included over 1.3 million in grant funding for projects that have improved quality of life for the Flushing community and added value for its residents. Within the last 5 years alone, projects have included the Rotary funded pavilion seating and Riverview Park, various Flint River access improvements, and a new pavilion.

Map 2 – School District Map

FLUSHING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT BOUNDARY



- 1 Flushing High School
- 2 Early Childhood Center
- 3 Central Elementary
- 4 Elms Elementary
- 5 Seymour Elementary
- 6 Springview Elementary
- 7 Community Services
- 8 Administration Building
- 9 Central Storage/Bus Facility
- 10 Flushing Middle School

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The outer geographic boundaries of the Flushing area include Flushing Township, the City of Flushing and the Flushing Community School District. The Flushing Community School District includes the City of Flushing, most of Flushing Township and parts of Clayton, Flint, and Mt. Morris Townships. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population to be directly served by the development of recreational facilities includes the residents of the City of Flushing (population 8,389); Flushing Township (population 10,640); and the Flushing Community School District (population 19,029). Since the school district includes all of the city and most of the township, their population figure is closest to representing the number of residents in the Flushing area.

The Flushing area lies in the mid-eastern portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan. The area contains roughly 36 square miles. Land use in the Flushing area is a combination of single-family, residential and agricultural use. Flushing Township is predominantly agricultural, with much of the agricultural frontage property committed to single-family housing and a commercial strip along Pierson Road. Land use in the City of Flushing is primarily single-family housing with a two-block downtown shopping area, as well as a commercial strip along Pierson Road.

Transportation

The City of Flushing lies approximately 2 ½ miles west of I-75, a primary north-south road which links Florida with Michigan's Upper Peninsula. State Highway M-13, another all-weather north-south traffic route, lies approximately 3 miles to the west. Interstate I-69, an important east-west traffic route, is approximately 6 miles to the south.

Topography, Vegetation and Soils

The Flushing area is dominated by the Flint River Valley. The Flint River flows in a northerly direction along the southern and western portions of the City of Flushing, and continues north bisecting Flushing Township. The valley is characterized by rich sandy loams ideal for the growth of vegetation. As a result, the valley is characterized by dense woodlots containing many varieties of trees and provides a scenic and natural setting for the entire Flushing area.

The remaining land in the Flushing area, not contained within the Flint River Valley, can be generally characterized as fairly level to slightly rolling clay loams and silt clay loams. This land is highly productive and much is used for agricultural uses such as soybeans, corn and beans.

A generalized soil survey was completed for Genesee County by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (April 1972).

Part of the initial planning process of potential recreational areas should include consideration and evaluation of existing soil types and should be a contributing factor in determining the recreational use. Map 3 graphically depicts the soil features.

The soils of Flushing Township are categorized into five broad soil associations. They are:

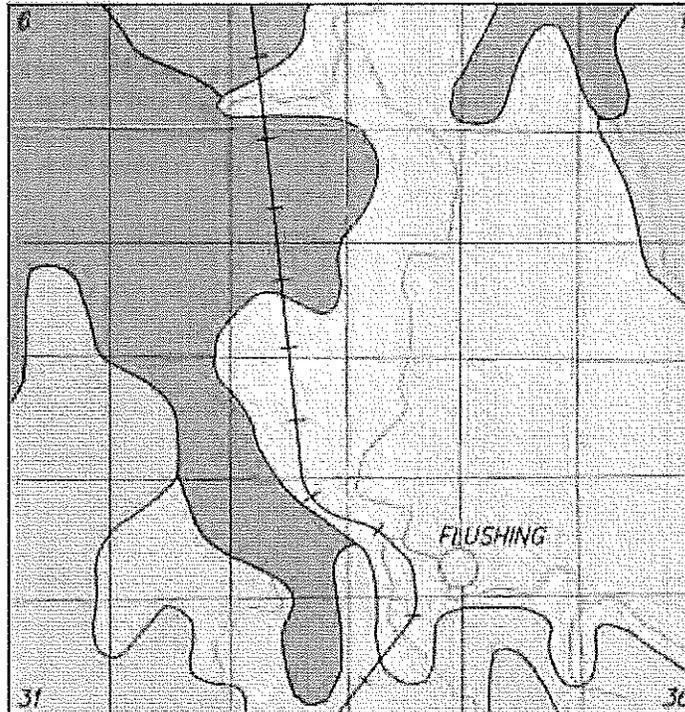
- Conover-Brookston association – These soils are level to gently sloping, poorly drained loams with a clay loam subsoil. They are located on till plains.
- Celina-Conover-Miami association – These soils are level to sloping, somewhat poorly drained to well-drained loams with clay loam subsoil. They are located on uplands.
- Del Rey-Lenawee association – These soils are level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained silt loams and silty clay loams that have a silty clay loam subsoil. They are located in lake plains.

- Granby-Gilford association – These soils are level, poorly drained loamy sands underlain by sands, and sandy loams that have a dominantly coarse sandy loam subsoil underlain by sand and gravel. They are located on lake plains.
- Boyer-Spinks-Ceresco-Cohoctah association – These soils are nearly level, well drained to poorly drained sandy loams. They are located on bottom lands, outwash plains and terraces.

As noted in the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Genesee County, Michigan, the soil survey is designed and can be used to evaluate the potential of the soil and management needed to ensure proper performance. In addition, the Flushing Area Recreation Committee, officials and specialists in recreation can use the survey to help them understand, protect and enhance each of the recreation sites referenced in this plan.

Map 3 – Soils Map

SOIL PROFILE FOR THE FLUSHING AREA



- 
CONOVER-BROOKSTONE ASSOCIATION: LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING, SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINED AND POORLY DRAINED LOAMS THAT HAVE A CLAY LOAM SUBSOIL; ON TILL PLAINS.
- 
CELINA-CONOVER-MIAMI ASSOCIATION: LEVEL TO SLOPING, SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINED TO WELL-DRAINED LOAMS THAT HAVE A CLAY LOAM SUBSOIL; ON UPLANDS.
- 
DEL REY-LENAWEE ASSOCIATION: LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINED AND POORLY DRAINED SILT LOAMS AND SILTY CLAY LOAMS THAT HAVE A SILTY CLAY LOAM SUB-SOIL; ON LAKE PLAINS.
- 
GRANBY-GILFORD ASSOCIATION: LEVEL, POORLY DRAINED LOAMY SANDS UNDERLAIN BY SANDS, AND SANDY LOAMS THAT HAVE A DOMINANTLY COARSE SANDY LOAM SUBSOIL UNDERLAIN BY SAND AND GRAVEL; ON LAKE PLAINS.
- 
BOYER-SPINKS-CERESCO-COHOCTAH ASSOCIATION: NEARLY LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING, WELL-DRAINED LOAMY SANDS THAT HAVE A DOMINANTLY SAND TO SANDY LOAM SUBSOIL, ON OUT WASH PLAINS AND TERRACES; AND LEVEL, SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINED, POORLY DRAINED, AND VERY POORLY DRAINED FINE SANDY LOAMS UNDERLAIN BY FINE SANDY LOAMS TO SAND; ON BOTTOM LANDS.

MAP 3



Water Resources

The principal water resources in Flushing Township are the Flint River, Brent, Cole, Armstrong and Mud Creeks. There are no public lake facilities in the area.

Flushing Township lies primarily within the Flint River watershed, with the exception of the far western edge, which is located in the Shiawassee River watershed. The Flint River traverses the City of Flushing in a northeasterly direction, descending at a rate of three feet per mile. North of the city, it flows northerly through the township at a rate of four feet per mile.

The level and flow of the Flint River are regulated by the City of Flint through the use of dams and reservoirs. Municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial sites in Flint are major polluters to the river. As a result, active recreation is not a primary use of the Flint River.

Climate

Genesee County is located in southeastern Michigan, where the lake effect is not as great as it is in most other sections of the state. The Soil Survey for Genesee County, Michigan contains weather data for the City of Flint for the period 1937-1966. The data shows the temperature was zero or lower an average of 6 days in winter, and was 90 or higher an average of 14 days in summer. Average annual precipitation was 29.58 inches. Snowfall averaged 40.5 inches per year, but varied considerably from year to year. There was an average of 39 days per year with snow cover, the average depth of the snow on days with snow cover being 5.0 inches.

Existing Land Use

Table 1 identifies land uses in the Flushing area. The figures illustrate the relatively large amount of land used for farmland, single family residential and lying vacant in Flushing Township. The City of Flushing is relatively more urbanized with residential, commercial and light industrial uses, with considerably less open space.

Natural Resource Inventories

There has been extensive use and a fair amount of documentation along the Flint River and specifically within the Flushing Township Nature Park. Of the 130 acres in the park, there is 55 acres of prairie and an equal amount of wetlands and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of riverfront. Seventeen ecostructures / land management sites have been identified within the park (refer to the Appendix for a summary). The park has the self-described 'largest native landscape' in the region and is currently being managed through a Natural Resource Community Service grant through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Flint River Watershed Coalition has ongoing programs that include use, as well as observation, of key features along the stretch of the river from Flushing Township to the City of Flushing. This includes user awareness of various key habitat areas, as well as portage locations and a hands-on method for increasing awareness of this resource. The Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium is also an active resource that is facilitated by the Drain Commission, providing education and contacts for storm water management. The DNR Fisheries Division completed a Flint River Assessment special report in 2001. Flushing is included in the "Middle Flint River" section of this report, a segment of 26.2 miles. The recommendations within the report for this segment include promoting recreation fishing opportunities and providing additional access (pp.82). Primary fish species include walleye, smallmouth bass and sucker. The link for this report is http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364_52259_10951_19056-46270--,00.html.

Studies completed by GLS Greenlinks include the Flushing community in its tri-county inventory and analysis for Shiawassee, Lapeer and Genesee County. Specific resources that were reviewed include the "Conservation Lands Needs Assessment for the GLS Region" and "Potential Conservation Areas

Assessment for Genesee, Lapeer, and Shiawassee Counties". These documents identified various priority 2 and 3 lands for conservation.

There is also the draft Regional Non-motorized Transportation Plan completed by the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission that is being used as the basis for future trail connections.

Zoning

In the City of Flushing, "publicly owned and operated parks, parkways and recreational facilities" are permitted by right in all residential zoning districts. Municipal uses are also permitted by right in the business and industrial districts.

In Flushing Township, the Sports and Recreation (SR) District is intended to permit the siting of large-scale sports and recreation land uses in the township. The district permits public parks and a wide range of other recreational facilities. In residential zoning districts, public facilities such as churches, schools, cemeteries and community buildings are permitted by right. It appears it would be interpreted that public parks are also permitted by right in these districts.

Zoning does not appear to be a development constraint for recreational facilities within the Flushing area.

Population

Although census numbers are not currently available for 2014, there was a 451 person increase into the community since 2000. Within that time, there has been a large regional and statewide population decrease. This is impacting not only demand for recreation needs, but also the revenues needed to maintain those facilities. Revenue sharing for municipalities is on the rebound, but Headlee Amendment restrictions will delay recovery of funding for communities. As a counterpoint to declining users and funding, the need for quality of life benefits remains a key marketing strength for communities and the state to maintain and regain residents. The senior population, ages 55+ is above the county and the state average by approximately 5%.

Employment

A large proportion of workers are commuting elsewhere, notably Flint, to work. Since 2000 there has been a shift and reduction in the employment picture for the community, the most dramatic changes being in the construction and factory trades.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Roles and Budgets

The Flushing Area Recreation Planning Committee was formed in 1990 to provide guidance for operation and maintenance of parks and recreation in the Flushing area. It is the committee's responsibility to prepare and regularly update a Master Plan of recreational needs for the Flushing area, which includes the city, township and the school district. The operation, maintenance and capital development of the existing parks and recreation programs in the Flushing area are carried out by the individual governmental agencies in their respective jurisdictions. The Recreation Master Plan serves as the overall guide for future capital development of the entire Flushing area.

A Parks and Recreation Committee provides guidance for operation and maintenance of parks and recreation in the City of Flushing.

Management and operations of the Senior Center is through a non-profit organization serving the City of Flushing, Flushing Township and Clayton Township through an interlocal agreement, including representation on the board. Local municipalities make contributions, along with support from a county millage.

The implementation of recreation services in the city are coordinated by the City Manager's office and performed by the Department of Public Works. The total parks and recreation operating budget for the City of Flushing is as follows:

Table 1: City of Flushing Budget –Recreation

Description	2014-15
Salaries-Wages	\$40,000
Retirement	\$22,386
Overtime	\$1,000
Fringe Benefits	\$8,561
Operating Supplies	\$5,000
Contractual Services	\$3,000
Utilities	\$12,000
Equipment Rental	\$30,000
Park Improvement	\$1,000
Total	\$126,122

Flushing Township has an appointed Flushing Township Nature Park (FTNP) Board. One of the functions of the Flushing Township Nature Park Board is to oversee the operation and maintenance of the Nature Park in the township. The FTNP Board recommends to the Township Board the need for permanent full-time or part-time employees for operation and maintenance purposes. The current Park and Recreation Fund for Flushing Township is as follows:

Table 2: Flushing Township Approved 2015-16 Park Department Budget

Park Department	
Summer Help – Wages	8,000
FICA/Medicare	800
Office Supplies & Postage	100
Marketing & Promotion	3,000
Waste Mgmt Designated Expenses	0
Audit Expense	500
Contractual Services	500
Maintenance and Supplies	4,000
Gas & Oil Expense	700
Insurance & Bonds	1,000
Utilities	2,000
Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	1,500
Capital Improvements	25,000
Miscellaneous Expense	500
Prescribed Burn	10,000
Equipment	750
Total	58,350

Previous township budgets included over \$90,000 in revenues from cell tower agreements, which allowed for 1.5 full-time equivalent staffing for one full-time manager and half-time naturalist at the Nature Park. CDBG funding supported up to 2.5 seasonal positions. Currently, the township has redirected a majority of this budget in other areas, limiting staffing to a part-time maintenance. As a result, development and maintenance operations rely heavily on networking and volunteer efforts from both residents and staff. Current staffing does not appear to allow time or resources for seeking grants needed to support maintenance and programming for the park due to reduced funding.

Due to the proximity of county park facilities, there is often a misconception by residents that the Township Nature Park and other locations are supported by millages that are dedicated to county parks. Better communication on this distinction would be helpful.

There is a strong volunteer effort, demonstrated by the following examples:

- Eagle Scout projects completed by local youth;
- Flushing Riverview Trail Committee – trail plantings, clean-up, Taste of the Trail, etc.;
- Flushing Youth Council involvement with Halloween Pumpkin Path;
- Flint Watershed Coalition coordination in Fresh Water Forever program;
- Chamber of Commerce sponsorship of Walleye Festival;
- Rotary sponsored event at Riverview Park;
- School District cooperation with AYSO, Flushing Baseball Inc., travel baseball, youth tackle and flag football, cheerleading, wrestling and lacrosse;
- Watershed Coalition and Flushing Parks and Recreation Committee Flint River cleanup; and,
- Concerts in the Park.

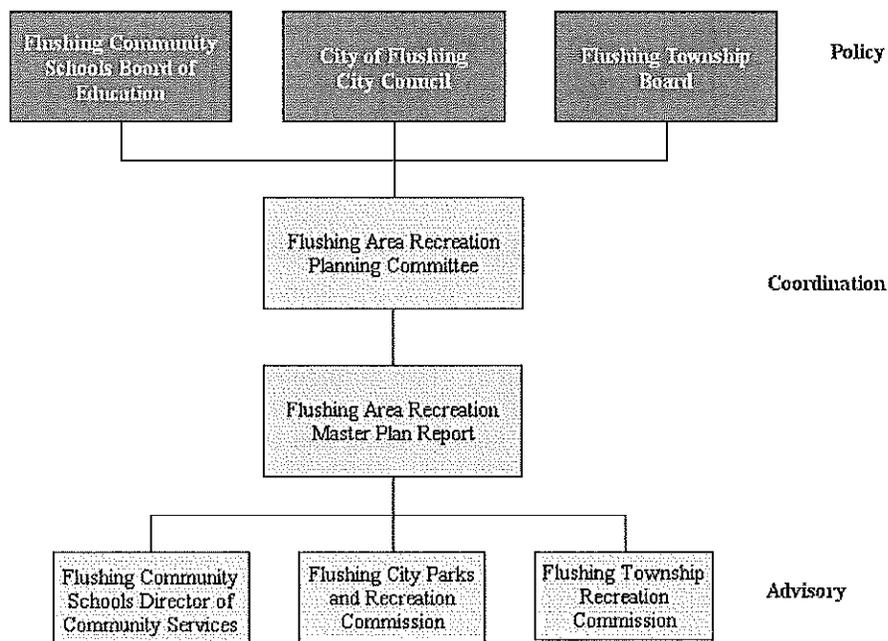
Many other volunteers are active in school programs and other events. Resources should be made available such as equipment, tools, etc. that can leverage the labor that is available, especially as the baby boomer generation ages and has more disposable time that can offset the maintenance cost of facilities.

The Community Services Director of Flushing Community Schools coordinates the recreation related programs that are offered through the school district. The total recreation operating budget for Flushing Community Schools for fiscal year 2015 is approximately \$40,000 for community / after school programs and associated staffing.

The adoption of this updated Flushing Area Recreation Master Plan will ensure positive communication between the city, the township and the school district, as these communities work individually to achieve the common goals and objectives that they established in the Plan.

The administrative structure for the Flushing area Recreation Planning Committee can be represented as follows:

Figure 1: Administrative Structure Flow Chart



Programming

The Flushing community enjoys the advantage of natural resources, such as the Flint River and associated facilities that cater toward more passive recreation. Active sports programs are mainly coordinated through the school district or private organizations. The only paid recreation position for the Flushing area, outside of school coaching, is the part-time naturalist at the Nature Park. Due to funding cuts, the previous 200+ programs that were run at the Nature Park have been reduced to a handful. Key programs and informal use of facilities in the area include:

Event	Participation	Location	Comments
Little League baseball	900	City parks	100+ coaches
AYSO soccer	700	School	
Various	200 / day	Senior Center	
Walleye Festival	400 /yr	Along the Flint River	110 walleye / 3 days
Natures Halloween	400-1200	FTNP	8 th year
Fresh Water Forever	20-40	Flint River	3 mile paddle
Maple Syrup	40-400	FTNP	1 day event
Freedom Works	15-30	FTNP	Daily visits by disability group
Crim, walking groups	50	FTNP / Rivertrail	Minimum daily use offseason
Cross County Events	30	FTNP	In addition to school training
Movie in the Park	300-1200	City bandshell	10 volunteers
Concerts in the Park	300-500	City bandshell	10 volunteers
Flushing Chamber Summer-Fest	4,000	Riverview Park	Annual week long event 10 volunteers
Rotary Duck Race	100	Riverview Park River front	1 day event during Summer-Fest, 10 volunteers
Taste of the Trail	500	Riverview Trail	1 day event, 15 volunteers
Youth Tackle Football / Cheerleading	500	School	

RECREATION INVENTORY

Regional Facilities

On a regional level, the Flushing area is located within a 30 mile radius of five state recreation areas and a number of state game areas (see Map 4).

The Flushing area lies within a 15 mile radius of the entire Genesee County Park System, which totals over 10,000 acres of recreational area (see Map 5). Two of these county parks, the Genesee Recreation Area and the Holloway Reservoir Regional Park, provide over 9,500 acres of recreational area that include such activities as swimming, boating, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. The remaining five major Genesee County parks contain over 800 acres, which offer similar types of facilities to citizens of the Flushing area. One of these parks, the Flushing County Park, is immediately adjacent to the City of Flushing and is listed in the recreation inventory.

Flushing Area Facilities

The following recreation inventory is a comprehensive list of public and private recreation areas and facilities in the Flushing area. The inventory will be important when considering decisions related to public recreation and will be valuable in planned development.

As in a significant number of communities across the State of Michigan, the local school district provides a valuable resource of facilities and programs for local community recreation. Besides providing basic recreational amenities, the Flushing Area School District has provided recreational opportunities through its community school program and adult night school program. Facilities provided by the school district are therefore included in the recreation inventory.

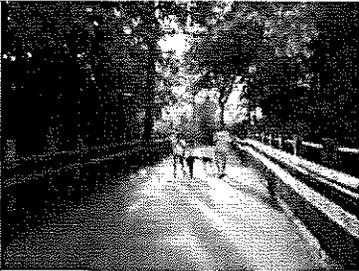
The Senior Center provides multi-purpose space for 250 people, including a commercial kitchen. An art room, activity room and computer lab also provides resources. A 20-person fitness room includes 4 to 5 stations of equipment.

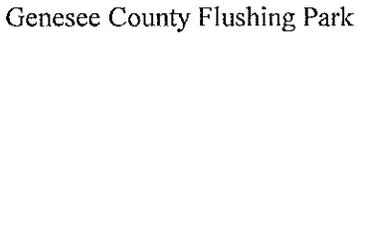
Private recreation developments are important because they can relieve the demand and use pressure on public special use areas. These facilities can include golf courses, rifle ranges, batting cages, etc. Flushing area private recreation facilities are included in the recreation inventory.

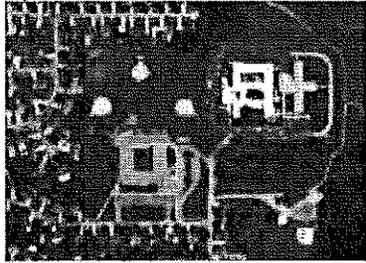
Information in the inventory table of parks and recreation facilities will list a location map identification number, the type of facilities available at that particular site, and total acreage of sites where available. These sites are shown on the Recreation Inventory Map.

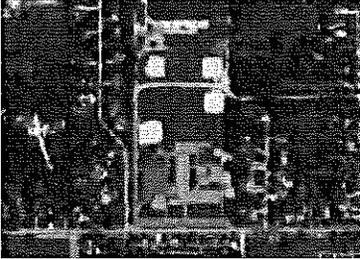
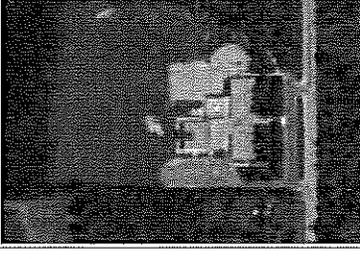
Table 3: Recreational Facilities Inventory

FLUSHING AREA PUBLIC FACILITIES			
Name	Map I.D.#	Facilities Available	Acreage
City of Flushing			
Riverview Park 	1	Parking Spaces (60) Amphitheater (Band Shell) Basketball Court Benches Drinking Fountains (2) Ice Rink (Outdoor) Picnic Area Playground (Playscape) Swimming Pool (Outdoor) Tennis Court Restrooms Volleyball Court Pavilion Stankwitz Clock Plaza Canoe/Kayak launch	7.4
Mutton (Bonnie View) Park 	2	Parking Spaces (15) Softball Diamond (Lit) Basketball Court (Lit) Benches Playground Picnic Area Restrooms	3.5
Waterworks Park 	3	Parking Spaces (20) Softball Diamond	4.0

FLUSHING AREA PUBLIC FACILITIES			
Name	Map I.D.#	Facilities Available	Acreage
Eastview Veterans' Memorial Park 	4	Parking Spaces (30) Softball Diamond (Lit) Youth Ball Diamonds (4) Horseshoe Pits (Lit) (20) Picnic Area Playground Pavilion	14.4
River Road Park 	5	Parking Spaces (10) Playground Picnic Area Basketball Court (full)	4.6
Cornwell Park	6	Fountain Benches	0.2
Somerset Park	7	(Undeveloped)	N/A
Various			
Senior Citizens Center	8	Organized Activities	N/A
Trails 	9	Non-motorized Trails (1.5 miles)	

FLUSHING AREA PUBLIC FACILITIES			
Name	Map I.D.#	Facilities Available	Acreage
Flushing Township			
Flushing Township Nature Park 	10	Parking Spaces (25) Trails (2+ miles) Picnic Pavilion Restrooms Park Maintenance Building Observation Tower Park Office Cross Country Trails Fishing Access Sites Prairie Habitat Wetland Ecosystem	130
Genesee County			
Genesee County Flushing Park 	11	Playground Picnic Areas (5) Pavilions (5) Basketball Courts (2) Softball Diamonds (3) Tennis Courts (2) Cross Country Ski Trails (2 miles)	105

FLUSHING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES			
Name	Map I.D.#	Facilities Available	Acreage
Springview Elementary School 	A	Parking Spaces (72) Athletic Field Baseball Diamonds (2) Softball Diamonds (2) Gymnasium Multipurpose Room Playground Soccer Field	14.3
Flushing Early Childhood Center 	B	Parking Spaces (68) Softball Diamond Basketball Hoops (2) Gymnasium Multipurpose Room Playground	5.9

FLUSHING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES			
Name	Map I.D.#	Facilities Available	Acreage
<p>Central Elementary School</p> 	C	Parking Spaces (111) Athletic Field Softball Diamonds (4) Basketball Courts (2) Football Field (Lighted w/Concessions) Gymnasium Multipurpose Room Playground	24.5
<p>Flushing High School</p> 	D	Parking Spaces (800) Athletic Field w/Concession Stands Softball/Baseball Diamonds (2 of each) Football/Lacrosse Fields (3) Gymnasium Multipurpose Room Running Track Soccer Fields (2) Tennis Courts (12)	104
<p>Seymour Elementary School and Recreation Complex</p> 	E	Parking Spaces (136) Athletic Field Softball Diamond Basketball Courts (3) Gymnasium Multipurpose Room Playground Soccer Fields (7) w/100 unpaved parking spaces Restrooms Pavilion	50
<p>Elms Elementary School</p> 	F	Parking Spaces (93) Softball Diamonds (2) Gymnasium Playground Soccer Fields (2) Basketball Courts (2) Pavilion	17
<p>Middle School</p> 	G	Nature Path Softball Fields (2) Baseball Fields (2) Soccer / Football Fields (3) Indoor Gym	45

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES			
Name	Map I.D.#	Facilities Available	Acreage
Genesee Sportsmen's Club	AA	Skeet and Trapshooting Range	N/A
Trinity Baptist Church	BB	Softball, paintball, outdoor basketball	
Flushing Community Church of the Nazarene	CC	Basketball and cheerleading: gym	N/A
Flushing Rifle and Pistol Club	DD	Indoor Shooting Range	N/A
Flushing Valley Golf & Country Club	EE	Golf Course	N/A
King Par Golf Course & Driving Range	FF	Golf Course Driving Range	N/A
Colonial Lanes	GG	League and Open Bowling	N/A
Flushing Lanes	HH	League and Open Bowling	N/A
Holy Cross Lutheran Church	II	(1) Softball Diamond	N/A
St. Roberts Church	JJ	Organized Activities	N/A
Genesee West Roller Skating Center	KK	Public Skating Organized Activities	N/A

BARRIER-FREE COMPLIANCE

The Flushing Area Parks and Recreation Committee recognizes the importance of providing barrier-free recreation opportunities. All recreational facilities developed in the Flushing area in the future will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The following is a summary of how the Flushing area community complies with barrier-free regulations based on self-reporting and site visits by ROWE staff:

Ranking Key

- 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 principals of universal design

Flushing Township (Ranking 3)

The Flushing Township Park is the only recreational facility owned by the township. All improvements completed within the park, including the restrooms and pavilion, are ADA-compliant. The township intends that all future development within the park be barrier-free.

Park Office

Houses the park manager's office, plus a small display case filled with various plant and animal specimens.

Pavilion

A 30' x 50' covered pavilion has 8 picnic tables (built by an eagle scout) that will seat up to 60 people. The pavilion has electrical outlets for use. There are accessible tables as well.



The pavilion cannot be reserved; it may be used on a first come, first serve basis. The intended use of the pavilion is for small, informal groups such as picnics or meetings.

Bathroom

There is a two room unisex bathroom available for the public. This is currently the only place for running water; there is one drinking fountain on the premises. The bathroom was built in 2004 and is compliant, although a paved walk from the parking area is needed.

Pole Barn

A large pole barn is used for the Nature Park staff for storage and to conduct various projects.

Observation Tower

An impressive, scenic, two-story observation tower is located in the northwest corner of the Nature Park. This is a great place to stop and rest, and look out into the woods. The Beech-Maple Forest, back swamp and Flint River can be seen from the tower. The view of the Flint River is obscured in late spring though early fall due to the foliage on the trees. This is not accessible.

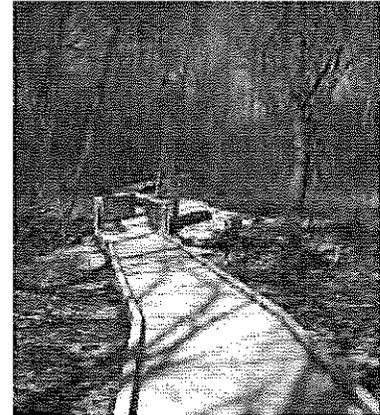


Playground

A small playground sits directly behind the pavilion, consisting of a swing set, teeter-totter, two spring horses, and a handicap accessible spring platform.

Stairs

There are two sets of natural stairs built into the hillside at the furthest north and south ends of the park. The individual steps are split locust logs. Locust wood has a very high resistance to natural deterioration. The stairs lead to the lower elevation of the park to the floodplain of the Flint River and wetlands.



Boardwalk / Paths

Currently, there is roughly 360 linear feet of wooden boardwalk that crosses over one of the wetland areas, allowing safe and dry passage. One of the Nature Park's goals is to have boardwalk built in all areas on the river trail that passes through wet areas. A ¼ mile paved loop path is accessible, that includes relocated plant communities along it representing the entire park, as well as interpretive signs adjacent to the path.



A crushed limestone drive was completed that improves accessibility to the Flint River public access site.

Benches

There are many benches (built by an eagle scout) placed throughout the park for resting and relaxing.

City of Flushing

A report on the city's public facilities and how they comply with State and Federal barrier-free laws was completed by Rowe Incorporated's Building Inspection Department in 1996. The report is entitled "City of Flushing - Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Study". A summary of the rankings based on that report and recent supplemental site visits are as follows:

Riverview Park (Ranking 2)

There are various elements to the park, including a recent clock plaza that provides access to viewing the Flint River, although there are older portions of the Bicentennial Trail that have heaved pavement that still provides access, but also has some uneven surfacing. The basketball, tennis courts and bandshell are compliant, although parking could be more convenient. The playground is a community built structure that is not completely accessible.

Tucker Pool (closed); some accessible routing, parking, addition of exterior lift devices and interior changing facilities require improvements if this facility were to be re-opened for use.

Mutton Park (Ranking 1)

The unpaved parking lot requires paving and routes to the ball fields and other site features.

Waterworks Park (Ranking 1)

The unpaved parking lot requires paving and routes to the ball fields and other site features.

Eastview Veterans Memorial Park (Ranking 1)

The unpaved parking lot requires paving and routes to the basketball court, playground and other site features.

River Road Park (Ranking 1)

The unpaved circle drive / parking lot requires paving and routes to the playground and other site features.

Cornwell Park (Ranking 3)

This urban pocket park along Main Street in downtown is accessible from the adjacent sidewalk, with need for some inclusive table seating, etc.

Somerset Park (N/A)

Undeveloped

Senior Center (Ranking 3)

Most features comply; staff is available for accommodations.

Flushing Riverwalk Trail (Ranking 5)

Portions of this were recently built and a variety of trailheads allow various levels of accessibility, but once on the route, the trail is compliant.

The city intends that all future development within city parks be barrier-free.

Flushing Community Schools (Ranking 3)

All outdoor recreational facilities owned and operated by the school district are barrier-free. The school district had an ADA-compliance study completed in 1996 and has worked diligently toward meeting ADA compliance requirements. A major project has been completed with the construction of the Middle School recently, which is in full compliance with accessibility.

The only indoor educational facility with barrier-free limitations is the Early Childhood Center (Old Flushing Junior High) on Chamberlain Street, which has two stories but no elevators. The school district has mandated that if a class has a student with a mobility limitation and cannot climb stairs, that student's class shall be held on the first floor. The policy permits people with disabilities who wish to use school facilities or participate in recreational programming to do so at the school.

Summary of Barrier-Free Compliance

All of the three Flushing area communities are committed to providing recreational opportunities to people with disabilities. It is the policy of each of the communities that future recreational improvements within area parks or at area schools be barrier-free and seek to be universally accessible to provide seamless integration for all ages and abilities.

Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

City of Flushing

The following projects are on record with the MDNR. The improvements at Riverview Park continue to be used for public recreation use. Tucker Pool was closed in 2012 due to excessive operational costs.

BF89-313	1989	Riverview Park Improvement	\$75,000.00	Closed
BF91-107	1991	Tucker Pool Renovation	\$157,500.00	Closed
TF87-275	1987	Eastview Park	\$45,000.00	Withdrawn
TF92-232	1992	Bueche Reuse Land Acquisition	\$187,500.00	Withdrawn

Flushing Township

The Flushing Township Nature Park was acquired through an MDNR Trust Fund grant. It continues to meet the requirements of providing access for public recreation and serves not only township residents, but regional use, at no charge for access to the facility.

TF92-141	1992	123 Acre Acquisition	\$168,750.00	Closed
TF95-248	1995	Access drive, pavilion, restroom,	\$151,000.00	Closed
CM99-146	1999	Trail, office, tower, playground	\$261,525.00	Closed
TF04-034	2004	1,900ft boardwalk	\$131,600.00	Closed
RP11-440	2011	Access drive	\$18,600.00	Closed

Flushing Public Schools

BF90-007	1990	Soccer complex	\$112,500.00	Closed
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The AYSO Soccer fields at Seymour Elementary continue to be in use.

Post completion forms have been completed for each project and are located in the appendix.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

The City of Flushing, Flushing Township and Flushing Community Schools jointly prepared a parks and recreation plan in 1995, 1999, 2005 and 2010. These plans have served as a foundation for this plan. For the purpose of updating the plan, the three jurisdictions reconvened the joint planning committee consisting of representatives from each jurisdiction that prepared the previous plan.

It should be noted that the individual communities, which adopted the 2005 plan, have continued to revisit the plan over the last ten years as their recreational priorities have changed. The communities have been actively involved in applying for State recreational grants over this time.

Public participation in the plan's development includes Parks and Recreation Committee meetings, public hearings, and public meetings of the City of Flushing, Flushing Township, and Flushing Community Schools.

A web-based survey was conducted as part of the recreation plan update. A summary from this survey is included in the Appendix. Over 1,000 responses were collected that represented balanced input from all age groups and residents in both the city, township and out of district users. Over 60% of respondents felt that parks and recreation facilities were important, with 32% stating that they are extremely important to their quality of life. The survey was promoted on local signs, posted on the city, township and school website and was featured on-line via M-Live media on November 27 and in a local newspaper article published December 2, 2014. The survey was issued on November 11, 2014. Survey results were collected one month later.

When developing this parks and recreation plan, the committee met first in November 2014 to review the previous plan. Data was updated regarding new recreational facilities and projects listed in the previous plan that had been completed. Representatives on the committee provided input from other sources and

public comments gathered since the compilation of the last plan. Survey questions were defined. Draft goals and objectives were also discussed.

The committee met in December to review survey results. Each entity gathered additional goal and objective needs from their respective organizations at standing public meetings. This feedback was provided as the basis for preparing a draft plan. The plan was advertised on January 5, 2015 in the Flint Journal and posted for community review and input for a one-month period from January 12 to February 20, 2015. A presentation of the draft plan was made at the Flushing Rotary meeting in February. Comments were received and evaluated by the Flushing Area Recreation Planning Committee. Appropriate revisions were made to the plan. The plan was recommended for approval by the committee on March 6, 2015.

A notice was issued for each of the agencies public hearings to adopt the plan on March 19, 2015. The plan was then presented to each of the jurisdiction's governing bodies at public hearings. The City of Flushing, Flushing Township and Flushing Community Schools all held public hearings to discuss the Recreation Plan, at which the general public was invited to attend and provide input and ideas. Resolutions of adoption were approved at public meetings.

The plan was adopted by the Flushing Township Board on April 9, 2015.

The plan was adopted by the City of Flushing City Council on April 13, 2015.

The plan was adopted by Flushing Community Schools on April 21, 2015.

All resolutions of adoption, meeting minutes and public notices are included in the Appendix.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The need for certain recreational facilities are based on a needs assessment using survey input, committee representation and other local factors as a determination of what is best for the community.

An overall guide for the recreation goals for the Flushing community will be to leverage development and maintenance efforts by pursuing partnerships, grant funding and volunteer efforts, when appropriate to **share resources**.

Priorities will be to maximize on current facilities first, prior to developing new elements. The following goals support this (not listed in any order of priority).

Goal 1: Pursue grants and develop partnerships and advocates to serve park and recreation needs.

Continue to seek partnerships with other recreational providers and agencies and with neighboring communities to share ideas and provide non-competing programs and facilities.

- Actively support and model a regional recreation approach; document current successes and missed opportunities. Practice shared-use approach and formulate a structure that can sustain this approach.
- Support Chamber of Commerce role to promote tourism and business growth, along with 'quality of life' assets in the community through coordination of programs, festivals, community calendar, etc.
- Use grants to develop park facilities with support from various agencies.
- Use local partnerships with Rotary, Lions Club, etc. to provide / leverage donated labor and match for key projects.
- Maintain a clean and safe park environment.
- Involve youth and develop future leadership within the park and recreation community.

Goal 2: Meet community, county and regional needs for year-round indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Maintain quality of life and retain existing population. Stimulate the area economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

- » Develop an approach to evaluate underserved or maintenance / budget challenged facilities.
- » Develop small intensive use facilities balanced by larger passive use / lower maintenance areas.
- » Increase accessibility within existing parks.
- » Provide for growing senior population (new facility / Senior Center to support preventative health and wellness).
- » Analyze key properties with resource value to maximize available resources for development.
- » Support ongoing sports programs and facilities (AYSO, disk golf, little league, youth football, etc.)

Goal 3: Provide public access to water bodies, particularly the Flint River, and to facilitate their recreational use.

- » Protect the Flushing area's natural recreation resources and provide for their public use and enjoyment.
- » Refer to resource agencies and existing studies to recognize: limits of flood plain and forested land; outdoor recreation and greenspace; and scenic, historic, educational and environmental

significance. Judicious development should allow a close relationship with natural features without destroying them.

- » Acquire key properties of significance as appropriate.
- » Maintain public access to the Flint River.
- » Support a regional “Water Trail” route along the Flint River Corridor.

Goal 4: Promote non-motorized connections within existing facilities.

Build on the assets and successful trail system currently in place.

- » Utilize and expand on existing sidewalk / trails to provide linkages to parks, schools and neighborhoods.
- » Increase universal accessibility with emphasis along and to the river.
- » Maintain routes as appropriate for all season use.
- » Expand trail network to rural destinations through ‘complete streets’ design, including bike lanes, where appropriate.
- » Support the Genesee County Regional Trail plan.

ACTION PLAN

The following are specific action plan items that will address the goals and objective statements listed earlier.

All Agencies

- Coordinate and maintain quarterly communication with Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, Flint River Watershed Coalition, Crim and other stakeholders regarding programming and use of facilities.
- Promote Complete Streets features in future projects through discussions with Genesee County Road Commission and local projects.
- Seek endowments for perpetual maintenance and programs for facilities.
- Develop volunteer adopt-a-park efforts to address litter in parks and along trail.
- Involve youth in liaison or intern positions on committees, special projects, etc.
- Engage existing service clubs with opportunities for maintenance and development within park facilities.

City of Flushing

- Develop Riverview Park per Master Plan Concepts; coordinate with Rotary Club of Flushing.
- Participate in Safe Routes to Schools and Crim programs.
- Conduct a study to re-purpose Tucker Pool facility (Splash pad, etc.)
- Relocate sled hill in Riverfront Park to treatment plant area. Allow for alternate use.
- Pursue Rivertrail extension along the Seymour Road corridor.
- Update Riverview Park playscape.
- Resurface basketball court at Riverview Park and Bonnie View Park.
- Rehabilitate pavilion at Eastview Park.
- Replace overlook at Riverview Park.
- Maintain public access and requirements of DNR funded facilities.
- Eastview Park expansion into recently acquired Woodland Ponds property if city designates it as park property.
- Demolish utility building at Waterworks Park.

Flushing Township

- Participate in Safe Routes to Schools and Crim programs.
- Maintain trail system through the Township Nature Park.
- Maintain a part-time employee for maintenance of the Township Nature Park.
- Maintain security of Township Nature Park by Township police department.
- Maintain public access and requirements of DNR funded facilities.
- Seek additional hosting opportunities for events /revenue generation at the Township Nature Park.

Flushing Community Schools

- Provide sidewalk connection between high school and middle school.
- Participate in Safe Routes to Schools and Crim programs.
- Pursue Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative for place based education, training, programs, grants and park improvements www.glstewardship.org

APPENDIX A

Post Completion Documentation