



Greendale Township Parks and Recreation Plan

2026-2030

Midland County, Michigan

Greendale Township

Parks and Recreation Plan 2026-2030

Greendale Township Board

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Greendale Township in Midland County, Michigan



Created by Midland County GIS



Community Description

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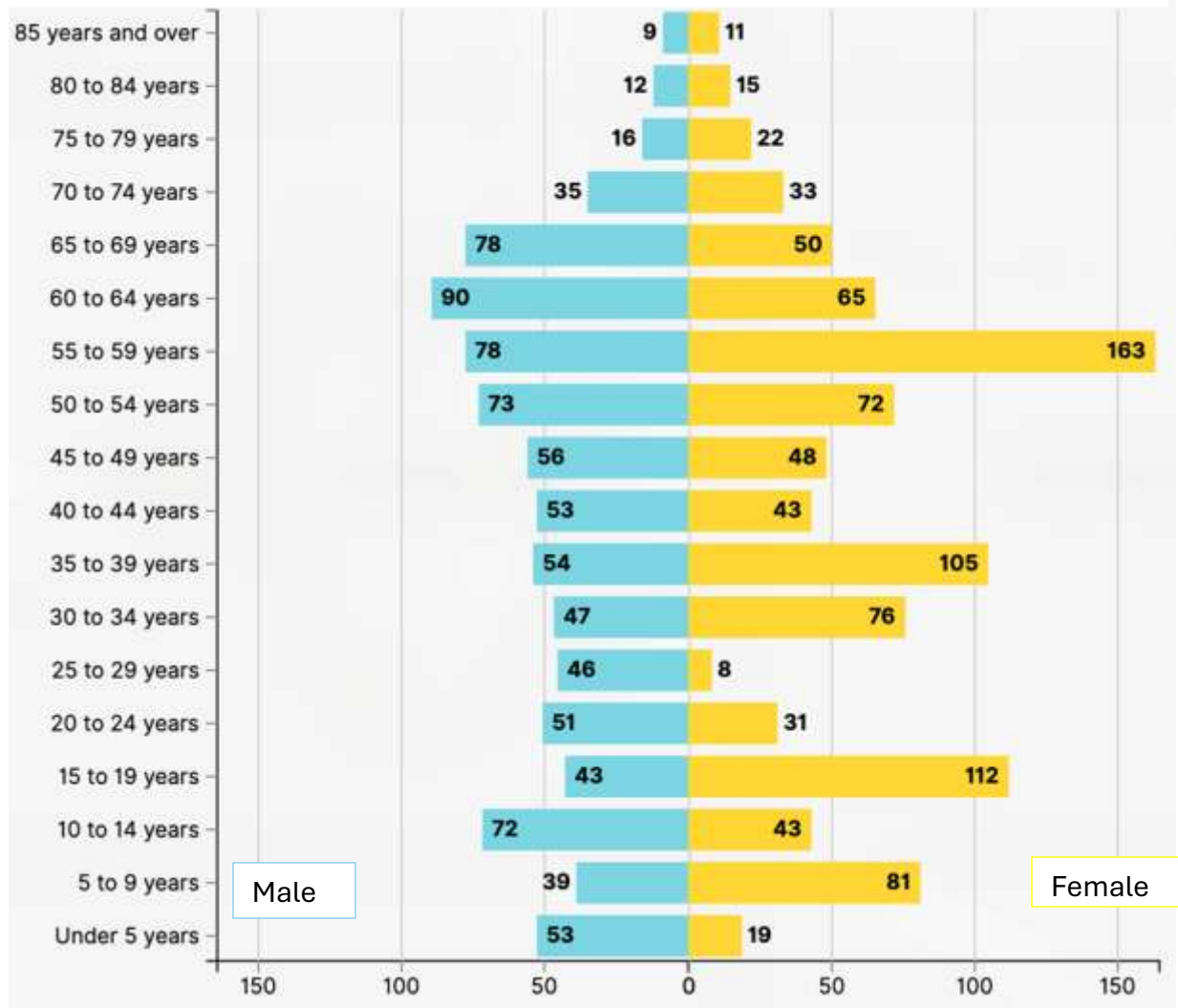
Greendale Township is a rural community located in west-central Midland County and on the west edge of the Bay City-Midland-Saginaw metropolitan area. The township is bordered by Geneva Township to the north, Lee Township to the east, Jasper Township to the south, and Chippewa Township in Isabella County to the west. Commercial and Industrial activity is located in Oil City, an unincorporated community, at the junction of M20 and Coleman Road. The township is part of five school districts: Breckenridge, Bullock Creek, Coleman, Shepherd, and St. Louis.

Greendale Township is roughly 36 square miles with a population of approximately 1,730 people. The township topography is relatively flat, and the landscape is over 90% forests, open fields, and wetlands. The Chippewa River and the Salt River traverse the township from west to east. Large portions of the township are owned by the State of Michigan as part of the AuSable State Forest.

The median household income is approximately \$57,600. The median household age is 43 years. Twenty-three percent of the population is over 60 years of age with twenty-eight percent 18 years of age or younger. Almost sixty-seven percent of township households have children 6-17 years of age. Almost sixty percent of the labor-force age residents, 16 years and older, participate in the economy.

Employment opportunities and commercial areas are located within 10 to 15 miles from the township with the City of Midland to the east and the City of Mt. Pleasant to the west. Clare, St. Louis, and Alma are located within 20 to 30 miles and provide additional possibilities. These urban areas provide Greendale residents opportunities for work, shopping, entertainment, and education through their numerous colleges and universities, and other amenities while they are able to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside and the availability of outdoor activities in the township year-round.

Greendale Township, Midland County, Michigan Age Distribution:



Greendale Township’s population is 1,731¹ with a median age of 43.4² with 775 households of an average size of 2.44 persons³. 16.3 percent of the population has a bachelor’s degree or higher⁴. The Median Household Income is \$57,578⁵ with a 54.4 percent Employment Rate⁶ and 20.4% Poverty Rate⁷. The average commute time for workers is 26.7 minutes and only 8.9% of those workers carpool⁸.

¹ United States Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census (P1)

² United States Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP02)

³ United States Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP02)

⁴ United States Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1501)

⁵ United States Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1901)

⁶ United States Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP03)

⁷ United States Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Almost twenty-seven percent of the township lands are owned by the State of Michigan. These state lands provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for hiking, hunting and trapping, and foraging.



**Michigan’s Department of Natural Recourse’s Mi-HUNT map.
(Green colored areas represent State Forests)**

Several tributary creeks and drains arise in the area and flow in the general easterly direction, eventually emptying into the Chippewa River. These waterways include the Salt River, the Purtell Drain, and the Prairie Creek Drain. Additionally, there are several small creeks and the county drains such as Thrasher Creek, Potter Creek, Onion Creek, Black Creek, and the Kirch Drain the flow through the township into the Salt River. These waterways provide outdoor recreation opportunities for fishing. The Chippewa River is open to fishing from shore or by boat and popular species are Crappie, Sunfish, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Catfish, Northern Pike, Muskellunge, Perch, Walleye, as well as Brook and Brown Trout.

Administrative Structure

Administrative Structure

The Township Board controls parks and recreation under authority of Act 157 of 1905 as amended. Currently, the Township does not have any parks staff, and it hires out work, or it is performed by volunteers. The Board is responsible for the financing of all park projects. The Township does not have a park millage or other special funding source for recreation. Funding for projects will come from Township General Fund money, grants, and donations.

For many years, the Greendale Township Board has been acquiring lands intended for recreational activities. The Township Board created the Greendale Parks and Recreation Committee on December 10, 2024. The intention of the new committee is to review current opportunities for recreation in the Township and based upon forecasts of future needs and financial resources, to set out a Parks and Recreation Plan that will fulfill the desires of township residents and will provide recreational facilities for visitors to the township as well.

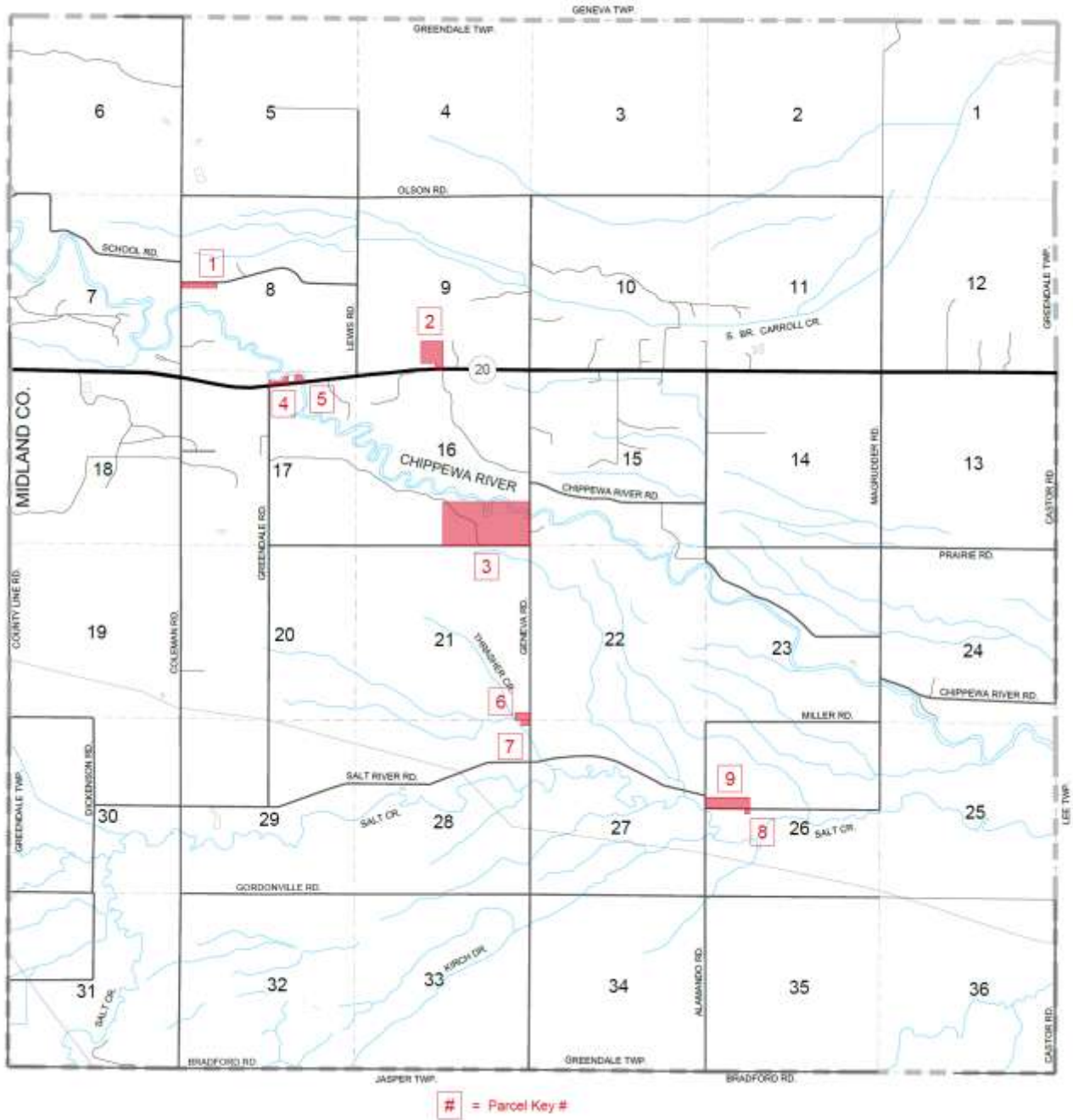
Recreation Budget

For 2025-2026, the Greendale Township Board has budgeted \$10,500.00 to create the Parks and Recreation Plan and has allocated \$15,000.00 toward capital projects. The Board is keenly interested in developing township resources for recreational purposes. Therefore, the budget may be amended for future projects.

The township annual revenues have been mostly increasing over the last decade. In the 2024-25 fiscal year the receipts collected were \$336,632.36.

Recreation Inventory

Township Properties Map



Descriptions of Greendale Township Park & Recreation Properties and Facilities

Greendale Township owns nine parcels of land within the township, one of which serves as the Township Cemetery.



- 1** Parcel 030-008-300-150-00 – (4.13 AC) SEC 08 T14N R2W COM AT W 1/4 COR, TH E 1090 FT, S 165 FT, W 1090 FT, N 165 FT.



- 2** Parcel 030-009-600-00 – (11 AC) SEC 09 T14N R2W COM AT INT OF N & S 1/4 LN & CL M-20, TH N 850 FT, W 660 FT, S 660 FT, E 433 FT, S 190 FT, E 227 FT. EXC HWY ROW.



3 Parcel 030-016-400-200-00 – (80 AC) SEC 16 T14N R2W S 1/2 OF SE 1/4.



4 Parcel 030-017-100-360-00 – (1.43 AC) SEC 17 T14N R2W PART OF THE NE 1/4 LYG N OF CEN LN OF M-20 COM AT THE NE SEC COR TH N 87D 20M 55S W 1859.86 FT, TH S 353.55 FT TO THE CEN OF M-20, TH S 85D 59M 54S W 200 FT TO THE POB, TH S 85D 59M 54S W 617.02 FT TO THE N/S 1/4 LN, TH N 02D 03M 06 S 82.39 FT TO THE SHORE LINE TRAVERSE OF THE CHIPEWA RIVER, THN ALG THE SHORE LINE TRAVERSE BACK TO THE POB. INCL LAND BTWN THE SHORELINE TRAVERSE AND THE CENTER OF THE RIVER. EXC THE HWY ROW



- 5** Parcel 030-017-100-370-00 – (0.83 AC) SEC 17 T14N R2W COM N 87D 20M 55S W 1859.86 FT & S 141.28 FT FROM THE NE SEC COR, TH S 212.27 FT TO THE CEN OF M-20, TH N 85D 59M 54 E 208.30 FT TO THE SHORE LINE TRAVERSE OF THE CHIPPEWA RIVER, TH ALG THE SHORE LINE TRAVERSE BACK TO THE POB. INCL LAND BTWN THE SHORELINE TRAVERSE AND THE CENTER OF THE RIVER. EXC HWY ROW.



6 Parcel 030-021-400-100-00 – (2.25 AC) SEC 21 T14N R2W COM AT SE SEC COR, TH N 231 FT, W 445.5 FT, S 231 FT, E 445.5 FT.



7 Parcel 030-028-100-010-00 – (1 AC) SEC 28 T14N R2W COM AT NE SEC COR, TH W 264 FT, S165 FT, E 264 FT, N 165 FT.



8 Parcel **030-026-300-100-00** – (0.5 AC) SEC 26 T14N R2W COM AT NE COR OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4TH W 132 FT, S 165 FT, E 132 FT, N 165 FT.



9 Parcel **030-026-200-200-00** – (10 AC) SEC 26 T14N R2W COM AT W 1/4 COR, TH N 330 FT, E 1320 FT, S 330 FT, W 1320 FT.

Neighboring Township Park Facilities

Lee Township utilizes land owned by Lee Township for its park, fire station, water tower, waste transfer site, and cemetery for a total of 79.5 acres. The recreational area within the park has an irregular shape because it is bordered by Department of Natural Resource designated wetlands. Area for future recreation facilities and equipment is also limited because the park is built over a former solid waste site. The Lee Township Park currently offers 2 baseball diamonds, a pavilion that is available to the public to rent, a public use pavilion, a large playscape, a splash pad and indoor restrooms.

Jasper Township created a new park on River Road. It is named Chapel Nature Park, and it is located just south of the cemetery. The cemetery address is 4177 Pine River Road. The park features a red roof pavilion with three picnic tables that were donated by the following residents: B&B Farms, Elmer & Mary Feltman, and the VanLoon Family. The Nature Park visitors can enjoy kayaking with the use of a new kayak launch that was installed in Spring of 2024.

The McNett Schoolhouse Park is located in Jerome Township, Sanford, MI where the McNett Schoolhouse once stood. The park offers beautiful walking trails, tennis/pickleball courts, and a fenced dog park.

The Pere Marquette Rail Trail is 30 miles of paved, flat, scenic trail between Midland and Clare, Michigan for walkers, joggers, and bikers. There is also an equestrian trail adjacent to the trail in some areas. The trail is recognized as one of twenty-five Rails to Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame trails in the United States.

Midland County Parks

The Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and the Midland Area Community Foundation in the development of the Pere-Marquette Rail-Trail in Midland County.

The Parks and Recreation Commission further coordinates its planning and park land acquisition, non-motorized transportation, and capital improvements with the Midland County Planning Commission, East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region, local units of government, state agencies, Midland County Road Commission, and other transportation providers.

The Parks and Recreation Commission works cooperatively with many other public and semi-public organizations that provide recreational services in the area and region. These include

Midland County Convention and Mountain Biking Association, Chamber(s) of Commerce, the Midland Community Center, The Little Forks Conservancy, local school districts, the City of Midland Parks and Recreation Department, and West Midland Family Center. Regionally, Midland County has worked with recreational leaders from the neighboring counties of Isabella, Bay, and Saginaw. Generally, the Commission tracks the activities of other recreation providers to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.

The Recreation Inventory section provides an overview of the recreation facilities and lands available for public use within the County and following adjacent areas. In addition, this section includes a review of the County Park facilities regarding ADA accessibility, as well as other applicable information.

Midland County Parks Location Map



Chippewa River Launches

Existing Launches on the Chippewa River by Chippewa Nature Center:

- Chippewa River Road Launch: Located 0.3 miles west of Meridian Road (M-30), this universally accessible canoe/kayak launch is open from May 1 to October 15, with hours extending to 9 PM in May and August-October, and 10 PM in June-July. It features floating dock sections with rollers and handrails, designed with EZ Dock for accessibility, funded partly by a \$400,000 W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant matched by local sources like the Midland Area Community Foundation.
- Homestead Road Launch: Situated at the Chippewa Nature Center's (CNC) main property (400 S Badour Road, Midland), this launch supports a 3-mile paddle to the Tridge in Downtown Midland. It's less formal than the Chippewa River Road site, allowing bank launches when the platform isn't installed, and is also open May 1 to October 15, dawn to dusk.

Other Launch Sites on the Chippewa River:

- Tridge Launch (Downtown Midland): Located at the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers, this universally accessible launch, maintained by the City of Midland, is open May 1 to October 15, dawn to dusk. It was also funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant and designed with EZ Dock for accessibility. It's a popular endpoint for CNC-led kayak trips.
- 9 Mile Road Launch: A less formal access point with limited parking, suitable for longer trips (e.g., 2-3 hours to Meridian Road). It's free but lacks the accessibility features of CNC or Tridge launches.
- Floyd Bridge (8 Mile Road): Near West Chippewa Road, this is a basic access point with parking, used for a 7-mile float (by road, longer by river) to the Floyd Church takeout. It's a serene, beginner-friendly stretch but not ADA-compliant.
- Stratford Woods Park Launch: Installed in August 2023, this City of Midland launch on the Chippewa River offers universal access, complementing the Tridge and CNC sites. It's open from May 1 to October 15, with hours varying by site.

Planning Process and Public Input

Planning Process

As stated earlier, Greendale township has been acquiring properties with the potential for recreational activities, but it did not pursue developing these parcels until recently. The township did acquire some recreation facilities with its acquisition and renovation of the former Pleasantville Elementary School for its new township hall. There were some playground items on this property that were not improved until recently. The Old Township Hall property was improved by installing an outdoor toilet, wood carvings, and a small frame structure over the flowing well on the property. The township board created the Parks and Recreation Committee in December of 2024 and hired a consultant to aid the committee to create this recreation plan. The parks and recreation committee has been meeting at least monthly since then and has been seeking input from the township residents for their desires and needs. The Township Clerk sent a short survey and request for unput from Township property owners with the winter tax bills (see page 32 for a discussion of the results). The board through mostly community volunteers has begun to clean up its potential recreational properties so they might be used by residents and visitors. With the help of the consultant, the Parks and Recreation Committee has reviewed the existing recreational facilities in neighboring townships and in the Midland community at large (see page 17). The Committee also reviewed the National Recreation and Park Association data to see what types of facilities other communities have and what Greendale Township might be able to provide. The projects selected by the Parks and Recreation Committee are ones that include all ages and a wide variety of pursuits from trails and fishing to children's playgrounds and ball fields, and they represent a challenging program for the township.

Public Input Process

When the Parks and Recreation Committee was established, the committee and the board made announcements and contacts regarding the preparation of the recreation plan and solicited input ideas and wishes from the Township residents. Information was put on the Township website and residents were invited to scheduled committee meetings. Once the draft Recreation plan was completed, the plan was made available for a 30-day review period, notice was given for a public hearing on the _____. The plan was made available at the Township hall, the West Midland Family Center, and on the Township website for public review. A public hearing was held by the Board on _____.

Action Plan

Goals and Objectives

Goal Provide recreational facilities to meet the needs of the residents, community, and visitors to the Township.

Objectives:

- Develop the existing Township properties designated for Parks and Recreation.
- Develop the currently owned properties that are centrally located in the Township for access by all.

Goal Provide a variety of improvements that address the needs and desires of the different demographic groups in the township.

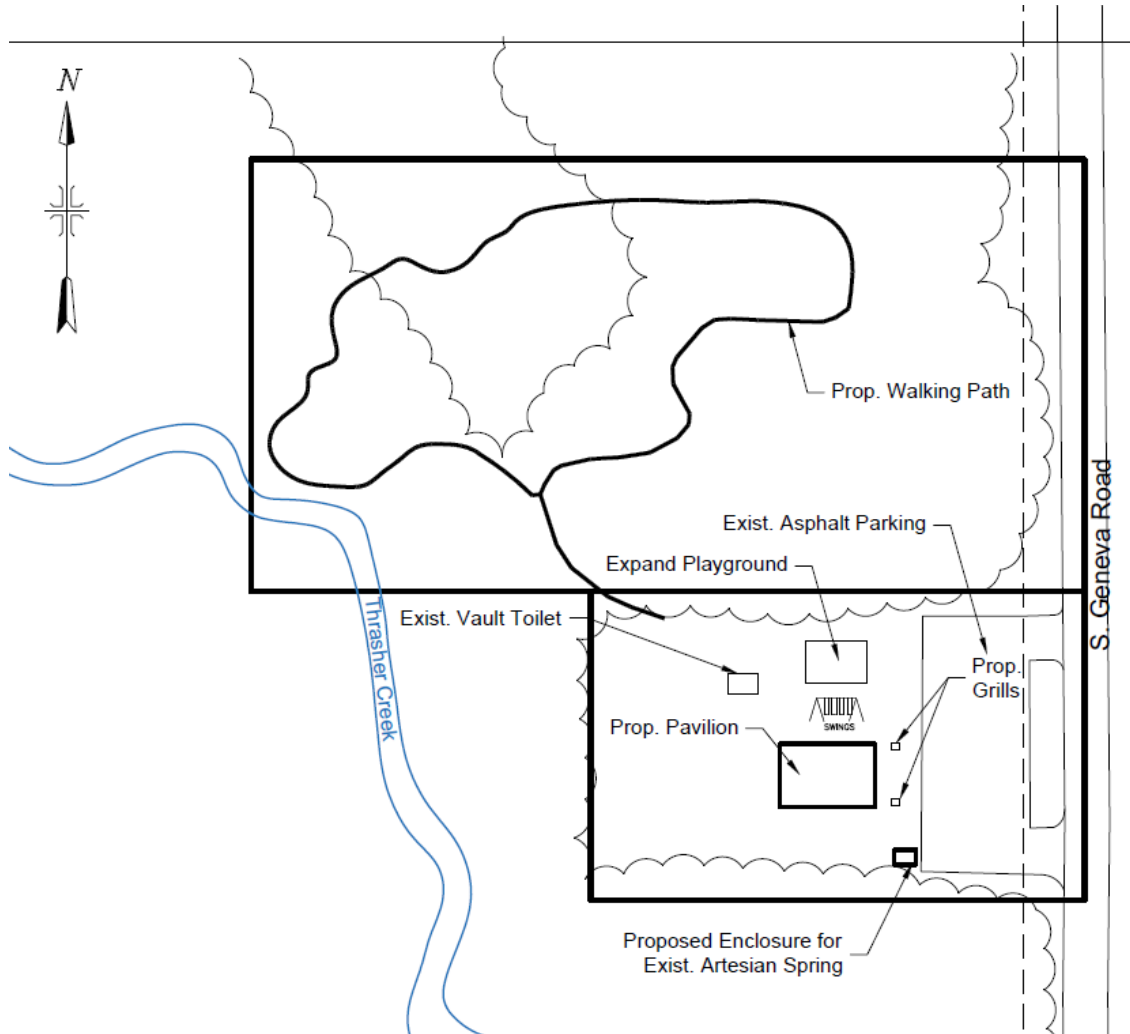
Objectives:

- Develop a wide range of possible projects that supply the needs for elderly, families, and children that are identified in the recreation plan.
- Utilize access to the rivers and creeks and the forests and fields to provide the diverse activities proposed.
- Ensure easy, handicapped access so mobility challenged individuals will be able to use the park improvements.

Following are the proposed Township Park sites with the Recreation Planning Committee's proposed recreation improvements to each park.

Proposed Projects

Old Town Hall & Natural Springs Park



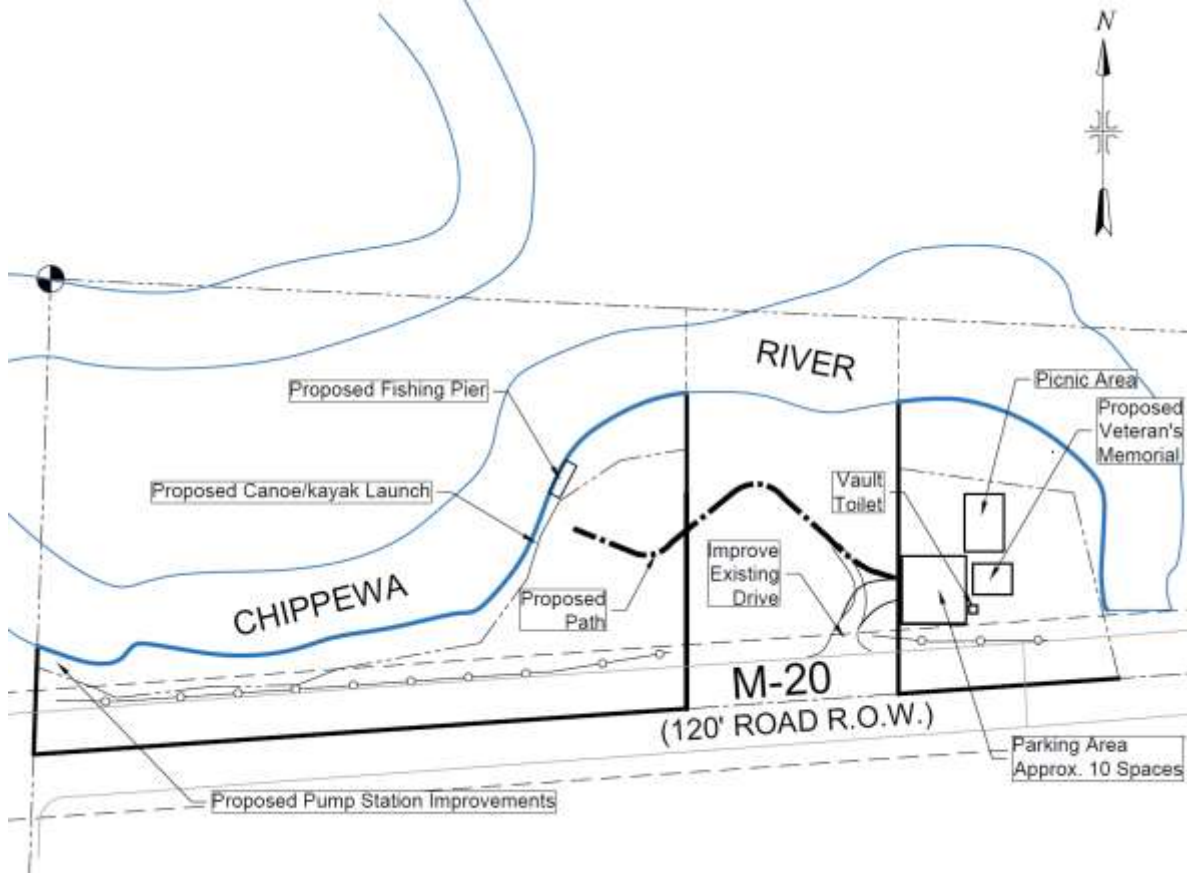
Old Town Hall Park

Opinion of Costs

October 20, 2025

Picnic Pavilion	\$200,000
Proposed Trail.....	\$100,000
Improvements to artesian well (new structure)	\$25,000
Playground Equipment & Grills.....	\$30,000

M-20 Jones Park



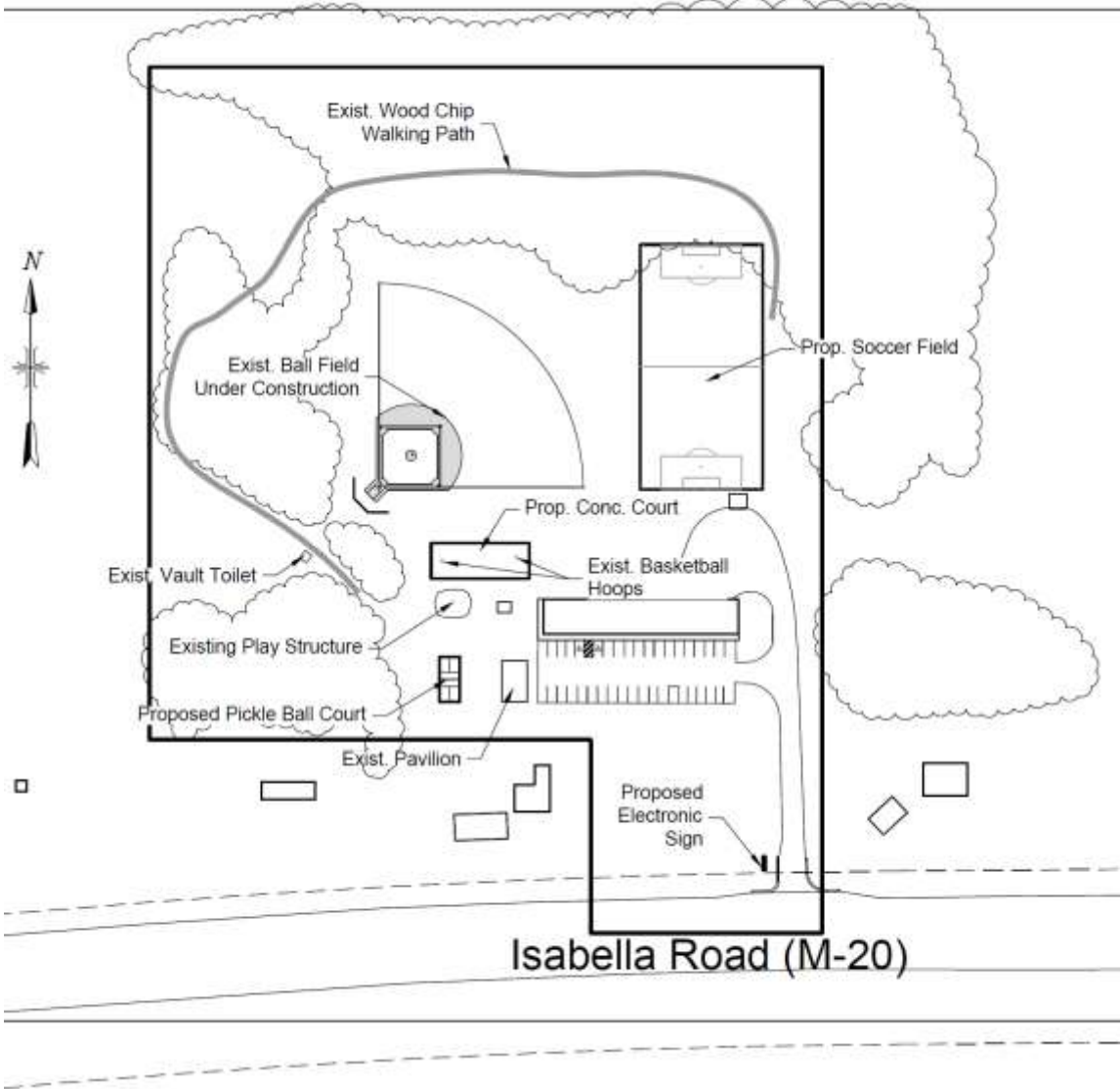
M-20 Jones Park

Opinion of Costs

October 20, 2025

EGLE / MDOT Permitting	\$50,000
Drive Improvements	\$150,000
Parking Lot	\$100,000
Path to Launch site	\$30,000
Kayak / Canoe Launch (EZ Dock Launch)	\$250,000
Vault Toilet.....	\$50,000
Picnic Area	\$20,000
Veterans' Memorial	\$150,000
Improvements at Old Pump Station	\$10,000

Township Hall Park



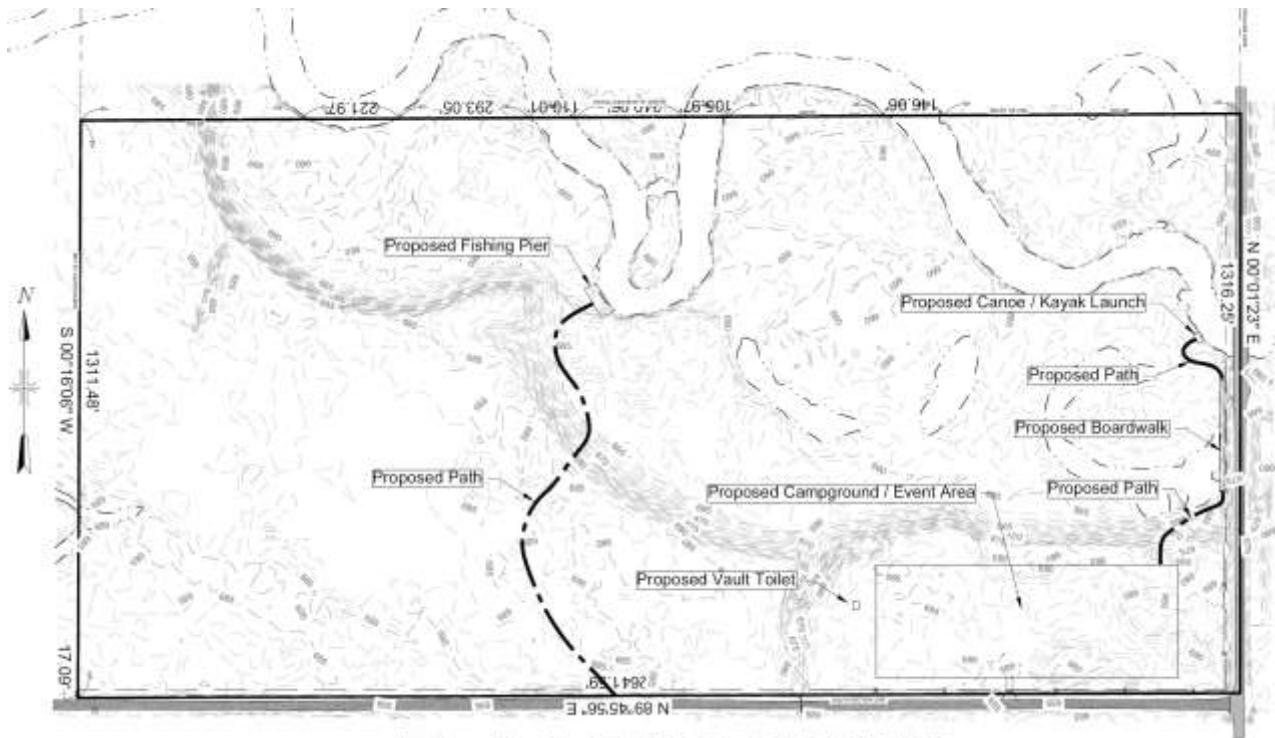
Township Hall Park

Opinion of Costs

October 20, 2025

Finish Ball field	\$90,000
Soccer Field	\$150,000
Concrete court for existing hoops.....	\$50,000
Walking path improvements.....	\$10,000
Pickleball Court	\$100,000
Electronic Sign.....	\$50,000

Prairie Road Park



Prairie Road Park

Opinion of Costs

October 20, 2025

Proposed Trail & Fishing Pier	\$450,000
Camping / Event Area Improvements	\$100,000
Vault Toilet	\$50,000
Trail & Boardwalk to Launch Site	\$400,000
Kayak / Canoe Launch (EZ Dock Launch)	\$250,000

Discussion of Community Survey

The Township Clerk inserted a short survey request for input from Township property owners in the tax bills sent out _____.

Capital Improvement Schedule

Year	Improvement	Cost	Funding Source
2025-26	Town Hall Park Ball Field	\$90,000	General Fund, Donations
	Town Hall Park Walking Path improvements	\$10,000	General Fund, Donations
	Electronic Sign	\$50,000	General Fund, Donations
	Jones Park Planning and permitting	\$50,000	General Fund, Donations
2026-27	Town Hall Park Clear and Grade Soccer Field	\$50,000	General Fund, Donations
	Jones Park Clearing and Prep for Construction	\$20,000	General Fund, Donations
	Old Town Hall Park Playground Equipment	\$30,000	General Fund, Donations
	Old Town Hall Park Artesian Well Improvements	\$35,000	General Fund, Donations
2027-28	Jones Park Grant Project driveway; parking lot; kayak launch; vault toilet; Picnic area	\$600,000	General Fund, Donations. MDNR Grant
2028-29	Town Hall Park Soccer Field Construction	\$100,000	General Fund, Donations
	Town Hall Park pickleball court	\$100,000	General Fund, Donations
	Town Hall Park concrete court	\$50,000	General Fund, Donations
2029-30	Old Town Hall Park Pavilion	\$200,000	General Fund, Donations
	Old Town Hall Park walking path clearing and grading	\$50,000	General Fund, Donations

Appendix

Potential Sources for Funding

The primary funder of recreation facilities for small municipalities is generally the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The main programs managed by the DNR are the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Program and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Trust Fund monies are made available from the sale of oil, gas, and mineral leases and royalties on Michigan owned lands. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund's goals are resource protection, water access, community recreation, urban recreation, and economic development. Similarly, the DNR's Recreation Passport Grant Program funds development of public recreation facilities for local units of government to renovate or improve existing parks and development of existing parks. The Recreation Passport program started by PA 32 of 2010 which created the local public recreation facilities fund that reserves money from the sale of the Recreation Passport for State Park entrance. The Land and Water Conservancy funds are provided by the National Park Service for public outdoor recreation projects. These programs provide sizable grants on a competitive basis statewide.

There are also some private foundations in the area. The Meijer Foundation, Saginaw Bay WIN, and DTE Foundation are examples of private foundations. There are also grants available from Inland Fisheries Grants and Natural Heritage Small Grants that could be sources of funding for specific projects of Parks and Recreation. The other source of support is private funds – individual and corporate.

There are also grant monies available through the State of Michigan Department of Transportation for recreation programs associated with roads and trails. MDOT administers federal funds under the Michigan Transportation Enhancement Program. The categories of funded projects are:

- Non-motorized facilities: This includes pedestrians and bicycle facilities, preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including their conversion to pedestrian and bicycle trails) and safety and educational activities;
- Transportation aesthetics: This includes acquisition of scenic easements and scenic sites, scenic highway programs, landscaping and beautification, and control and removal of outdoor advertising;
- Water quality and wildlife mortality: This includes efforts to reduce water pollution due to highway runoff and efforts to reduce animal mortality and maintain wildlife habitat connectivity across transportation routes;
- Historic preservation: This includes acquisition of historic sites, historic highway programs, historic preservation, rehabilitation of historic structures, archeological planning and research, and establishment of transportation museums.

Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MDNR): Natural resource-based land acquisition and development.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (MDNR): Natural resource and park development.

Recreation Passport (MDNR): Park re-development.

Transportation Alternative Program (MDOT): Non-motorized improvements within right of way associated with road improvement projects.

American Greenways DuPont Awards Program (Conservation Fund): Small planning and analysis grants associated with trail development.

DALMAC Fund: Bicycle safety, mapping and trail development projects.

Michigander Rails-to Trails Conservancy Fund: Trail start-up efforts and leverage funding for another grant.

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan: Grants to local communities with tribal connections for improvements and operations.

Midland Area Community Foundation: Enriching our Community Grants apply to recreation grants for communities.

Charles J. Strosacker Foundation and Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation: Two family foundations that provide grants for recreation projects in the Midland area.

Greendale Township has not received any Michigan Department of Natural Resources recreational grants in the past.

Notice of Availability of Draft Plan for Review and Public Hearing

Resolution of Approval by Township Board & Minutes of Meeting