

THIS CONTRACT shall enable the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) to conduct a planning process and produce a Recreation Plan for Van Buren County. The process and completed Recreation Plan will

- identify the resources that currently exist in the area;
- record the untapped potential for recreation in the area;
- derive the goals and objectives for recreation among the citizens of the area; and
- establish a realistic process and schedule for implementation of the Plan.

THE PARTIES AGREE that the SWMPC will be retained to create a single document that serves as a guide to achieve the recreation goals of the community. The SWMPC will follow a rigorous and comprehensive process resulting in outcomes that are clear and defensible. **Public input** will be a prominent feature of the planning process.

ANALYSIS PHASE

COMMUNITY PROFILE will include:

- Physical features
- demographic characteristics
- administrative structure
- and other elements that are unique to the community

An inventory of the existing recreation infrastructure and existing local recreation plans will be completed.

ASSESSMENT PHASE -- Exploring the opportunities exposed within the analysis data. Conclusions will be drawn and new directions provided.

- Public opinion is tapped to help generate goals and objectives for the future.
- A smaller public “steering committee” will also be convened to represent the unique perspective of COUNTY residents to further inform the Plan.

ACTION PROGRAM will include:

- Goals prioritized (w/ the element of time)
- Where it is necessary to build to a final outcome over time, the action program will lay out a **clear process for the COUNTY** to follow.
- Additionally, a **capital improvement schedule will also be developed**.
- With the schedule, the County Board will have a roadmap with estimated costs over the **five year span** of the Plan.

Finally, the process will include a public hearing where the initial draft is presented and any final comment will be recorded and, if desired, incorporated into the final Plan.