

Bloomingtondale Area Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan

2009-2013



Bloomingtondale Township, Bloomingtondale Village and Bloomingtondale School District

This plan was developed by the Bloomingtondale Parks and Recreation Commission
with assistance from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission.

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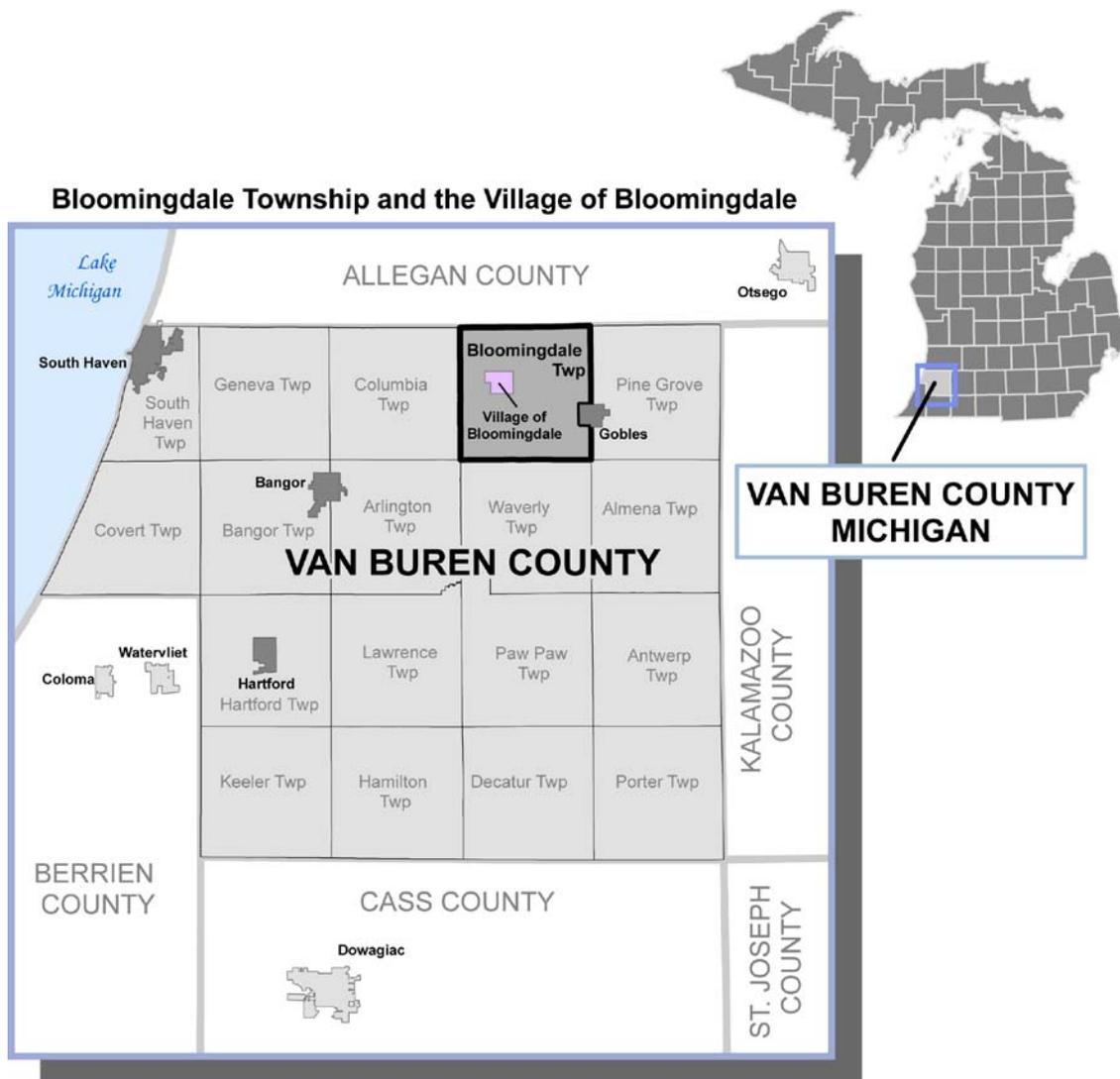
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INTRODUCTION

The Village of Bloomington, Bloomington Township and the Bloomington School District understand the importance of providing ample and high quality recreational facilities to residents and visitors. It is for this reason that the Village, Township and School District created the Recreation and Parks Commission via a resolution in 1971. This is the third recreation plan created by the Commission, one in 1995, the second in 2000 and this one in 2009.

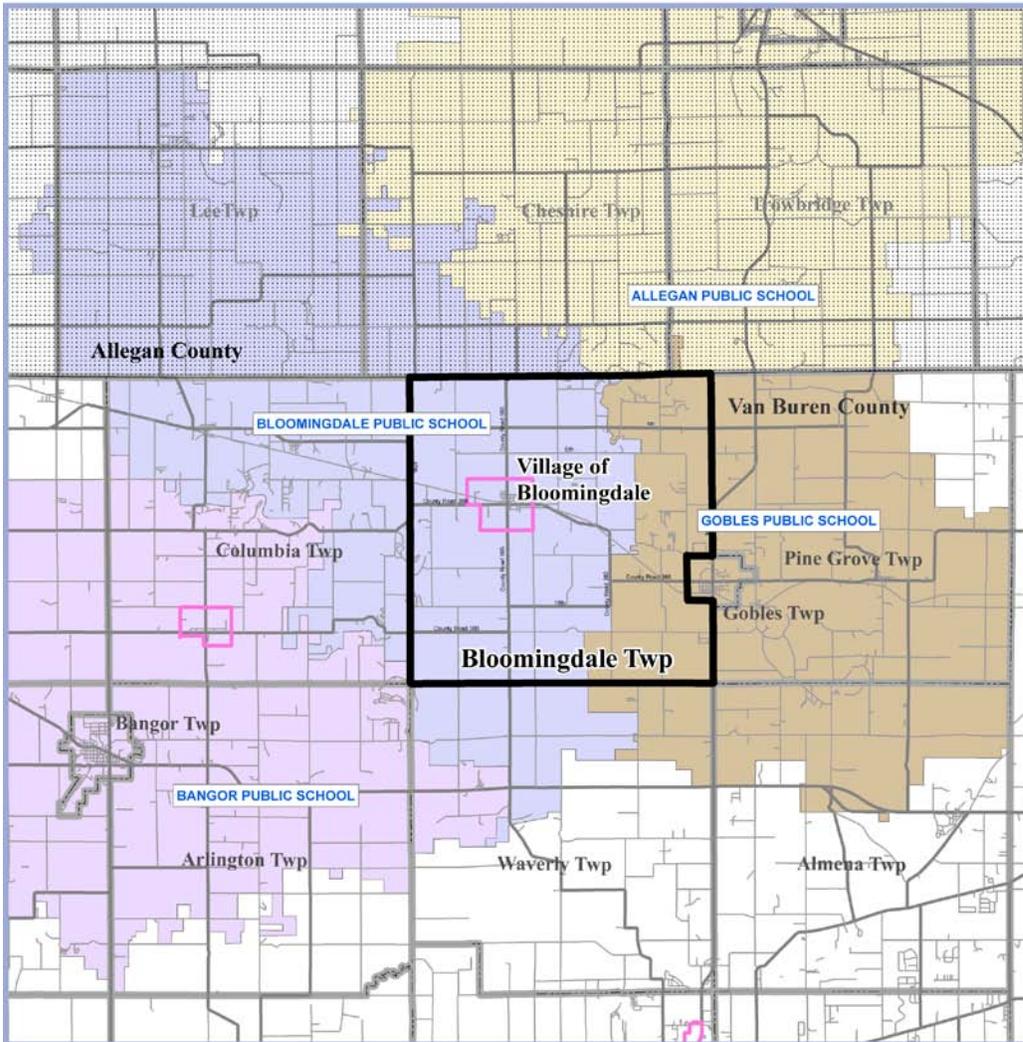
The planning area includes the Village of Bloomington, Bloomington Township and the Bloomington School District. The Village and Township are located within the northeastern portion of Van Buren County. Van Buren County is located in the southwest corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and is bordered by Allegan County to the north, Kalamazoo County to the east, Cass County to the south, and Berrien County and Lake Michigan to the west.



Bloomington Joint Recreation Plan 2009-2013

In Van Buren County, the Bloomington School District encompasses portions of Bloomington, Columbia and Waverly Townships and in Allegan County, the school district encompasses portions of Lee, Chesire and Clyde Townships. The planning area is conveniently located 20 miles west of Kalamazoo, 55 miles southwest of Grand Rapids and 25 miles from Lake Michigan.

School Districts



Bloomington Township

Van Buren County

Prepared April 2009
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Legend

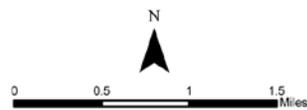
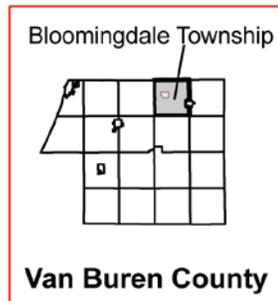
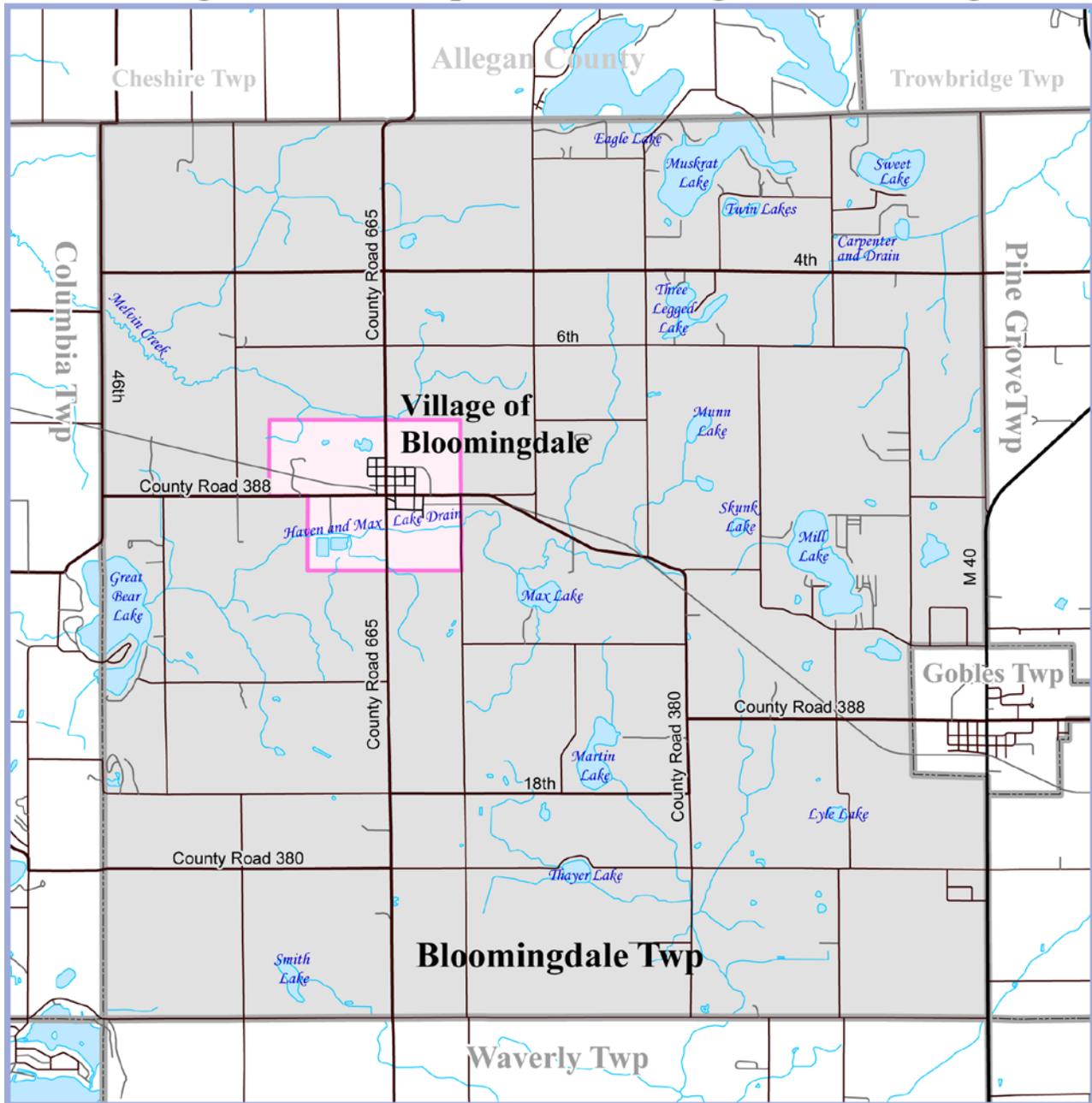
- Township
- Village
- Allegan County

School Districts

- Bangor Public
- Bloomington Public
- Gobles Public
- Allegan Public
- Not Shown

Data Source
 Base Map and School Districts: Michigan Center for Geographic Information

Bloomington Township and the Village of Bloomington



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Legend

- Township
- Village

Data Source
 Base Map: Michigan Center
 for Geographic Information

BLOOMINGDALE HISTORY

Many important historical events helped to shape the community of Bloomington. This rich history continues to play an important role in the community and instills a sense of pride in many of the residents. Here are a few descriptions of past events that have influenced the Bloomington community.

Railroad

When the railroad was first discussed in 1869, Bloomington Township residents pledged \$16,700 for the project. Augustus Haven gave the acre of land for the depot grounds and bought the headlight for the first engine, which was named the Bloomington. The first passenger train arrived in town on July 4, 1870. In 1912, with the removal of several unsightly buildings, the depot grounds were made into a park now called Augustus Haven Park. However, the end of the railroad was in sight when South Haven began receiving coal by boat instead of rail. The Kalamazoo to South Haven railroad service ended in March of 1971 and the rails were removed in 1977.



As the railroads stopped running, the conversion of these rail lines made it possible to create one of the most well-known trails in southwest Michigan. A group called the Friends of the Kal Haven organized in 1984 and submitted a report to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks Division in 1986 to convert the old Penn Central railroad line to a multi-use linear trail. The Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail were successful and the trail officially opened in 1989. Today you can see all types



of users along the trail including, bird watchers, cyclists, hikers, snowmobilers and more. The Van Buren County Road Commission estimates that the trail gets over 100,000 uses per year. In 1988, the Village received a \$100,000 grant to renovate the historic train depot. The dedication of the Depot and Museum was done on September 19, 1987. Both are registered as Michigan Historical Sites. The depot is now utilized as a museum and the park is a staging area for those who want to start their journey along the Kal-Haven Trail.

Oil Discovery

Bloomington experienced excitement back in 1870 when the first train came through, and it again experienced excitement again in August 1938 when the Fisher McCall Oil Company came to town to drill for oil. Oil was discovered after several days of drilling on the Wiggins farm which borders the village on the north. The town overnight became a whirr of activity with land owners besieged by representatives of oil companies, drillers, tool dressers, and others seeking board and lodging in private homes. There was a scramble to rent land on which to park house cars or pitch tents; some dwellings were converted into apartments. The town population was normally about 500 and swelled to 1,000. Chartered buses from Detroit and other places arrived each Sunday filled with persons ready to invest or who had already invested in oil well shares, many of which had oversubscribed stock and could never be “brought in.” Eating places and oil supply places opened



for business in vacant buildings and villagers dreamed of all the things they would do when they too had “black gold.” The oil was taken out by truck and railroad tank cars, as many as 80 tanks cars went out in a day. The excitement for wealth ran on unabated. However, by 1941, the boom was over and by 1963 the oil business ended. In 2008, an oil derrick was donated to the Village and placed at Augustus Haven Park as a landmark commemorating the Oil Boom in Bloomington. The Bloomington Area Improvement Club is now working with partners to raise funds to build an Oil and Gas Museum.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

A thorough understanding of the unique qualities of a community is necessary in order to successfully plan and implement parks, recreational facilities and to protect important natural features. Physical features such as climate, topography, natural resources, soils and vegetation all must be considered to ensure the greatest incorporation of these assets into the recreation and open space vision of the community. The following information describes the area's natural and built features. The purpose is to provide users of the plan with an idea of the physical environment since recreation activities are closely related to the physical attributes of the area.

Climate

Weather greatly influences the types of recreation that an area can support. The weather in the Bloomington area is greatly influenced by the proximity to Lake Michigan. Like the rest of Michigan, the communities experience seasonal changes, which can support a variety of recreational activities, ranging from warm weather activities such as swimming, kayaking and bicycling to cold weather activities such as snowmobiling, hunting, and cross country skiing. Table 1 identifies data related to the area's climate. Climate data is not available for the Village or Township; therefore, climate data from the city of Allegan, located approximately eight miles due north of the planning area was used.

Table 1. Climate Data, Allegan City

	Units	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Mean Temp	<i>Fahrenheit</i>	22.2	25.5	35.2	47.7	57.9	67.1
High Temp	<i>Fahrenheit</i>	30.9	34.5	45	58.8	70.9	79.9
Low Temp	<i>Fahrenheit</i>	15.4	16.5	25.5	35.6	45.3	54.3
Monthly Precipitation	<i>Inches</i>	2.6	1.7	3.0	3.5	3.4	3.9

	Units	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Mean Temp	<i>Fahrenheit</i>	71.4	69.4	62.1	50.7	40.5	28.2	48.2
High Temp	<i>Fahrenheit</i>	83.7	81.7	74.1	61.9	48.6	35.2	58.8
Low Temp	<i>Fahrenheit</i>	59.0	57.0	50.0	39.6	32.2	21.2	37.6
Monthly Precipitation	<i>Inches</i>	3.6	1.8	4.2	3.0	3.6	3.4	3.3

Source: <http://www.climate-charts.com/Locations/u/US72000002001281.php>

Consistent with Michigan as a whole, January and February are typically the coldest months of the year with a minimum average temperature of 15.4 degrees and 16.5 degrees Fahrenheit. July is generally the warmest with an average high temperature of 83.7degrees Fahrenheit. Snow generally falls in 7 of the 12 months from October to April. In terms of rainfall, September has the highest average precipitation with 4.05 inches and February has the lowest average with 1.7 inches. (Source: <http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Bloomington-Michigan.aspx>)

Soils

Soils are an important factor in determining which lands are suitable for development and which lands are best utilized for open space and recreational uses. Although a wide variety of soils are present within Bloomington Village and Township, most of the area can be generally characterized as falling into the broad classification of the Cpac-Riddles-Selfridge association. These soils are typically nearly level to hilly, somewhat poorly drained and well drained, loamy and sandy soils on till plains, moraines and lake plains. Soils in the extreme southwest portion of the Township fall into the Kingsville-Covert Pipestone association. They represent nearly level and undulating, poorly drained to moderately well drained, sandy soils on lake plains and outwash plains. The Coloma-Spinks Oshtemo association is found in the extreme eastern edge of the Township. These are nearly level to hilly, somewhat excessively drained and well drained, sandy and loamy soils on outwash plains and moraines. These are general characterizations and each individual site should be evaluated for the appropriateness of its proposed use. The soil survey of Van Buren County lists each soil and its limitations and constraints.

Geology and Topography

The landscape of Van Buren County was shaped by glacial activity which resulted in five dominant features: moraines, till plains, outwash plains, lake plains/drainage ways, and areas where muck and silt deposition occurred as a result of ponded water on till plains. Wind and water erosion have since modified the landscape. A till plain two to four miles wide runs between Bloomington and Gobles, beginning approximately one mile south of the Allegan County Line and terminating about two miles southeast of the Glendale area.

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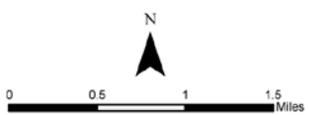
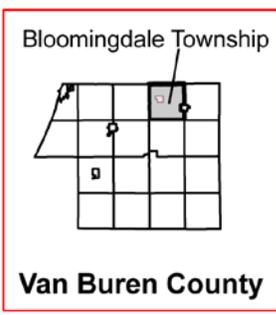
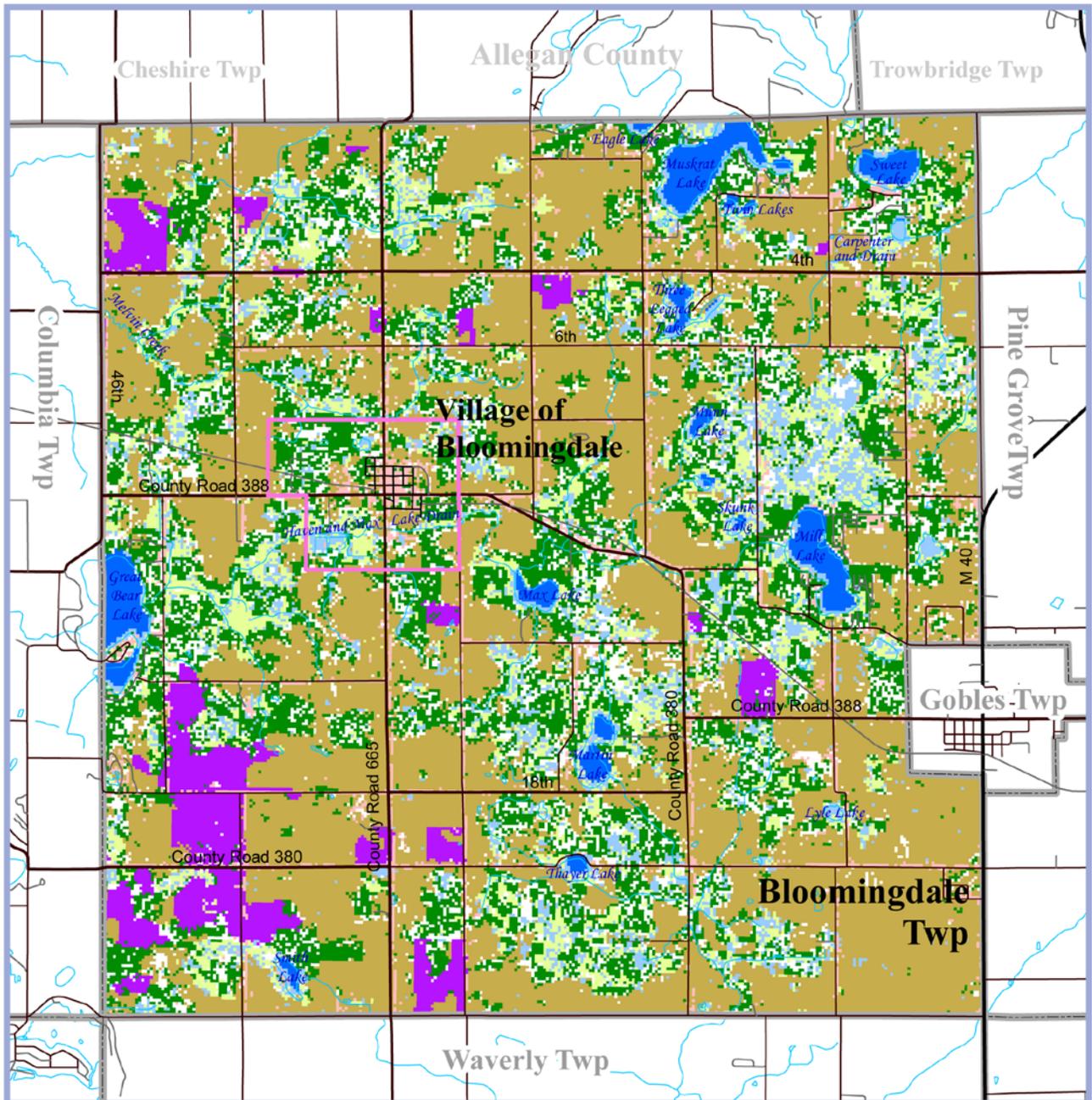
The surface of the township is rolling, and originally was heavily forested with pine, hemlock, maple, beech, whitewood, ash, and walnut. The diverse topography of the area affords a wealth of different recreational opportunities in all four seasons such as snow skiing, water sports, hunting, fishing and hiking. The diverse landscape adds to the rural character and aesthetic beauty of the area, making it a desirable location for recreational activities attracting tourists and residents to the area.

Existing Land Use/Cover

The Township encompasses about 22,442 acres. The Village is about 742 acres of the 22,442 acres. Only about 4% of the total area is in urban land cover with 48% in agricultural use and 47% in open, forest, wetland and water. There are significant amount of orchard/vineyard/nursery land cover in the southwest portion of the Township. There are also several significant wetland/forest complexes in the Township. A few oil wells are present in the northwest portion of the Township, as are some gravel pits in the southern portion.

	Bloomington Village	Bloomington Township (excluding Village)	Total
Land Cover in acres (percent)			
Urban	81 (10.9%)	908 (4.2%)	989 (4%)
Row Crop/Pasture	191 (25%)	9,752 (44.9%)	9,943 (44%)
Orchard/Vineyard/Nursery	0	962 (4.4%)	962 (4%)
Open Land	127 (17.1%)	2,294 (10.6%)	2,421 (11%)
Forest	241 (32.4%)	4,222 (19.5%)	4,463 (20%)
Water	0	491 (2.2%)	491 (2%)
Wetland	104 (13.9%)	3,069 (14.1%)	3,173 (14%)

Land Cover



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Township	Data Sources
Village	Base Map: Michigan Center for Geographic Information
	Land Cover: Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Land Cover	
Urban	Forest
Water	Forested Wetland
Farmland	Wetland
Orchard/Vineyard/Nursery	Open Land

WATERSHEDS AND WATER RESOURCES

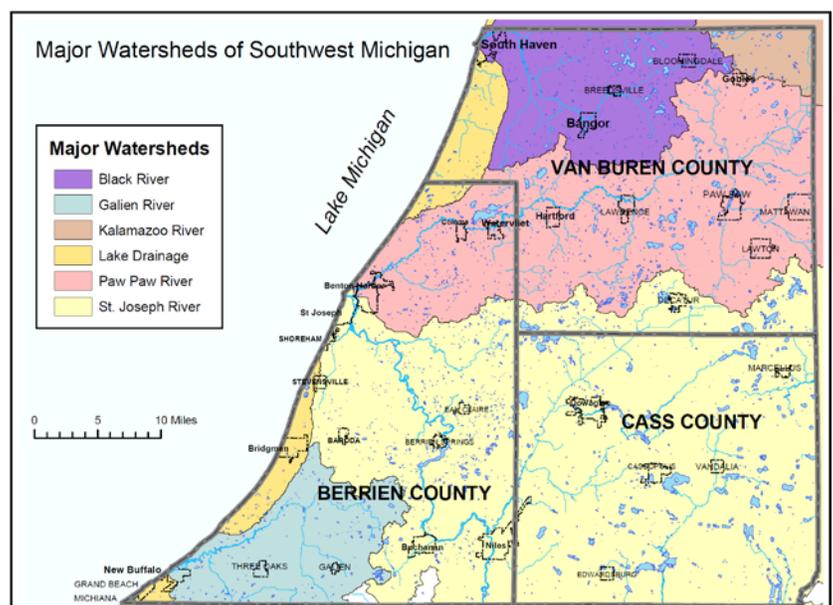
There is an integral relationship between water resources, water quality, and land use. People use water for everyday uses. People also live by bodies of water for aesthetics and recreation purposes. Farmers use water bodies as part of their farming activities and industry uses water for processing and wastewater discharge. The variety of applications for water means that there is constant pressure from different user groups of how to allocate this valuable resource.

Water quality is a term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

Water is an important resource within the Bloomington area. Lakes and streams provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. In addition, water resources are vital to planning and guiding land use decisions. Certain land uses require access to water; others isolation from it. Individual landowners, whether residential, agricultural, or industrial, are rarely aware of the complexity of water resources or of the effect their actions may have on these resources. This lack of awareness, coupled with the economic and cultural value of water resources, creates a need for action by the community to ensure the protection of this valuable resource. The preservation and improvement of water quality is important for plant and animal life, tourism and recreation, and drinking water supplies. Proactive and effective planning can be a step in the right direction for protecting and improving water quality within a community.

Watersheds

Bloomington Village is located within the Black River Watershed. Bloomington Township has land in three watersheds: the Black, Paw Paw and Kalamazoo River Watersheds. This means all of the precipitation falling onto the land in the Village drains to the Black River and on into Lake Michigan at South Haven. All of the water that falls



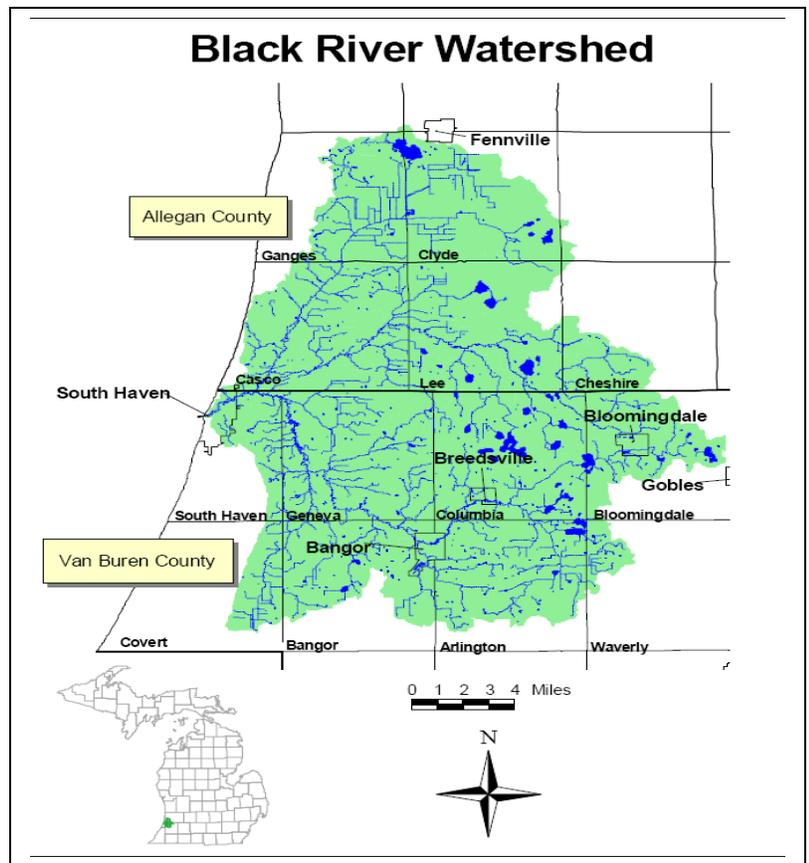
into the Paw Paw River Watershed drains to the Paw Paw River and to the St. Joseph River and into Lake Michigan at St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. The extreme northeast corner of Bloomington Township drains to the Kalamazoo River which flows into Lake Michigan at Saugatuck. Watershed management plans have been developed for both the Black and Paw Paw Rivers. A management plan is currently being developed for the Kalamazoo River Watershed.

The Black River Watershed (BRW) encompasses approximately 183,490 acres in Allegan and Van Buren Counties - 56.2% of the watershed lies in Van Buren County and the Village of Bloomington and Bloomington Township have over 35 square miles of land within the Black River Watershed.

A watershed is an area of land that drains to common body of water. The two communities are within the Black River Watershed. All land in the township and village drains to the Black River and eventually to Lake Michigan.

The BRW plan was completed by the Van Buren Conservation District through a Section 319 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The BRW plan focuses specifically on *nonpoint source pollution*, a form of pollution that is generally not regulated. Nonpoint source pollution can be delivered by indirect means such as runoff from farms and residential lawns, paved roadways and parking lots, and redevelopment or new construction areas. This type of pollution poses serious threats to the quality and functionality of the BRW.

Goals of the Black River Watershed Management Plan include:



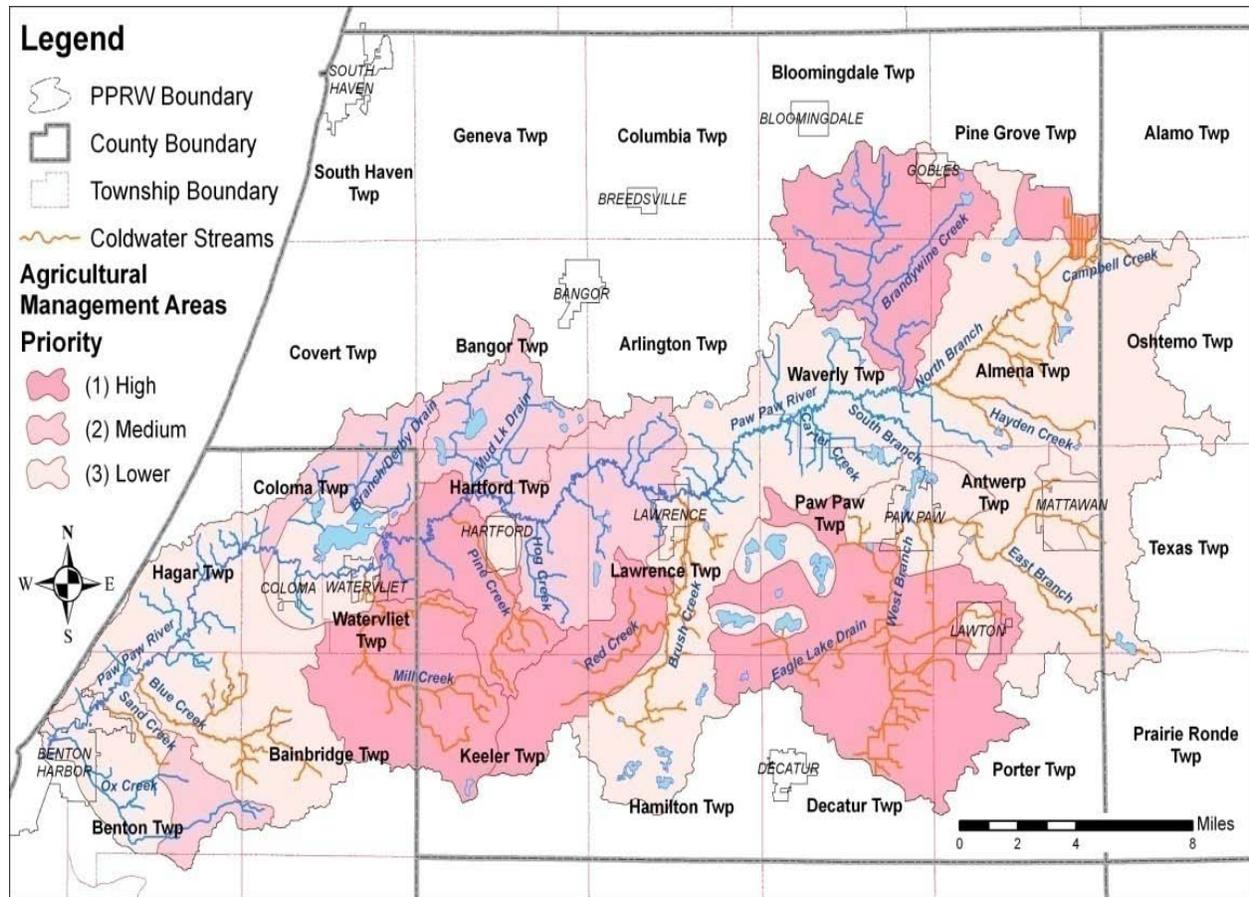
Bloomington Joint Recreation Plan 2009-2013

1. Improve water quality and habitat for fish, indigenous aquatic life and wildlife in the watershed by reducing the amount of nutrients, sediment and chemical pollutants entering the system.
2. Continue/increase watershed monitoring efforts and stewardship.
3. Improve the hydrology and morphology of the river.
4. Provide long term protection of the Black River Watershed through improved local land use policies and conservation practices.
5. Improve the navigability of the Black River for canoes, kayaks, and other self-propelled watercraft, by reducing sedimentation and reducing excess woody debris.
6. Enhance recreational access sites to prevent the degradation of water quality.
7. Increase knowledge and participation in programs regarding nonpoint source pollution and means of prevention.
8. Prevent or reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species.

The Paw Paw River Watershed encompasses approximately 285,557 acres (446 square miles) in Kalamazoo, Van Buren and Berrien Counties. The largest portion of the watershed lies in Van Buren County, with approximately 203,720 acres

The PPRW is a priority for protection and preservation among southern Michigan watersheds because a relatively high percentage of its natural land cover remains in spite of increasing development pressure throughout the region.

The PPRW Management Plan is intended to guide individuals, businesses, organizations and municipalities working cooperatively to build more environmentally and economically sustainable communities within the PPRW. The plan can be used to educate watershed residents on how they can improve and protect water quality, encourage and direct natural resource protection and preservation, and develop land use planning and zoning that will protect water quality in the future. Implementation of the plan will require stakeholders to work across township, county, and other political boundaries. For more on the Paw Paw River Watershed Management Plan visit www.swmpc.org/pprw.org.



Lakes

The lakes in the communities are a draw for many residents and visitors. Lakes are valuable for the array of recreational, agricultural and economic opportunities that they offer. Lakes provide a community with extensive opportunities for recreation in every season. People visit lakes for numerous reasons but one reason that will keep them coming back is a clean, healthy lake. The Bloomington area has several lakes that contribute to the unique quality of the area. This abundance of fresh water is regarded highly for its contributions to the unique ecological, recreational and agricultural value of the area. Lakes in Bloomington Township include Muskrat Lake, Eagle Lake, Great Bear Lake, Sweet Lake, Three Legged Lake, Munn Lake, Mill Lake, Little Brandywine Lake, Thayer Lake, Lyle Lake and Smith Lake.

Streams and Riparian Corridors

The Village of Bloomington contains drains which serve as the headwaters of the Black River – these are located in the southern portion of the Village. Bloomington Township consists of several drains and the headwaters of the South Branch Black River and also Brandywine Creek.

Stream corridors help absorb floodwaters, stabilize stream banks, and filter sediments and polluted runoff. Stream corridors also provide critical habitat for a variety of species. Riparian areas are important for water quality, plant species, wildlife species, and fisheries.

The stream corridor or “riparian” corridor is a water route dominated by a river, stream, or other linear water feature. Stream corridors are often left undeveloped, and therefore provide an opportunity to act as a link between natural areas. “Riparian

vegetation can shade the river (thus helping to regulate water temperatures), and provide habitat for both riverine and terrestrial species. Downed tree branches in the streams provides habitat for aquatic invertebrate species. Riparian areas can also filter out excess nutrients (e.g. runoff of fertilizer from agricultural area) before they reach the waterway. Further, the roots of the riparian vegetation limit erosion along the riverbank. The vegetation along the banks or the stream corridor provides valuable functions to the quality of the water in any community.

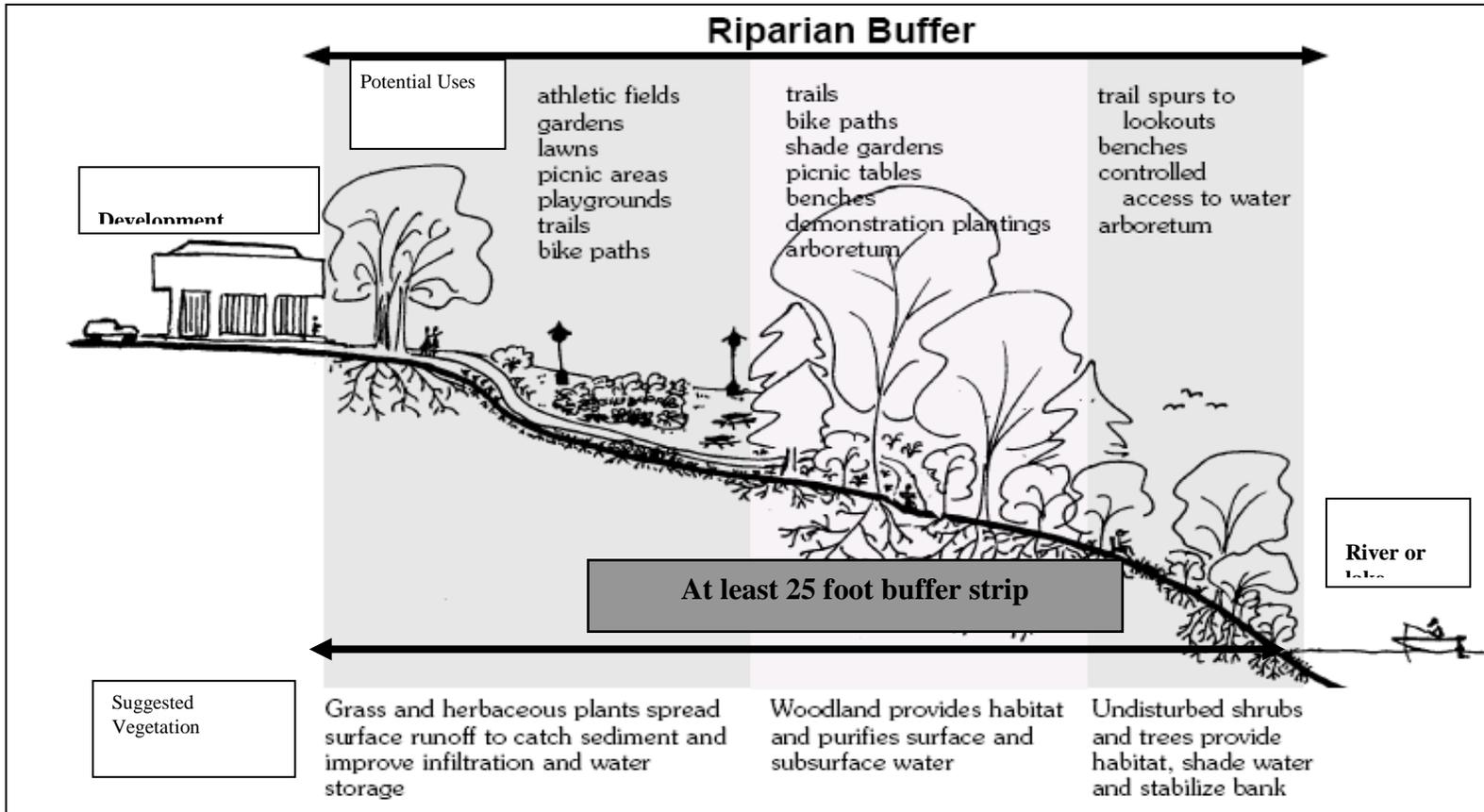
One of the most important actions that a community or property owner can do to protect water quality is to maintain a vegetated riparian buffer along water bodies and wetlands. Many lake and stream edges are currently mowed on a periodic basis for a manicured-lawn look. Although this may be aesthetically pleasing to some, this practice is detrimental to water quality.

Buffers Protect Property

Streamside land is a high-risk area for development even above flood elevation. Using riparian buffers in between development and water corridors is a practical and easy way to protect property against the hazards caused by flooding, shoreline erosion and moving streams.

A *Riparian buffer* or buffer zone is a corridor of vegetation along rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands which help to protect water quality by providing a transition between developed areas and adjoining surface waters. Vegetated riparian buffers filter stormwater runoff from impervious areas before it reaches the water body, shade and cool the water, provide channel stability, and provide storage for floodwaters. Riparian

buffers also allow for the development of natural stream meanders and increase the diversity of aquatic life, provide areas for diverse recreational opportunities, filter air and noise pollution and enhance wildlife habitat.



Wetlands

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) defines a wetland as “*land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life and is commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh...*”

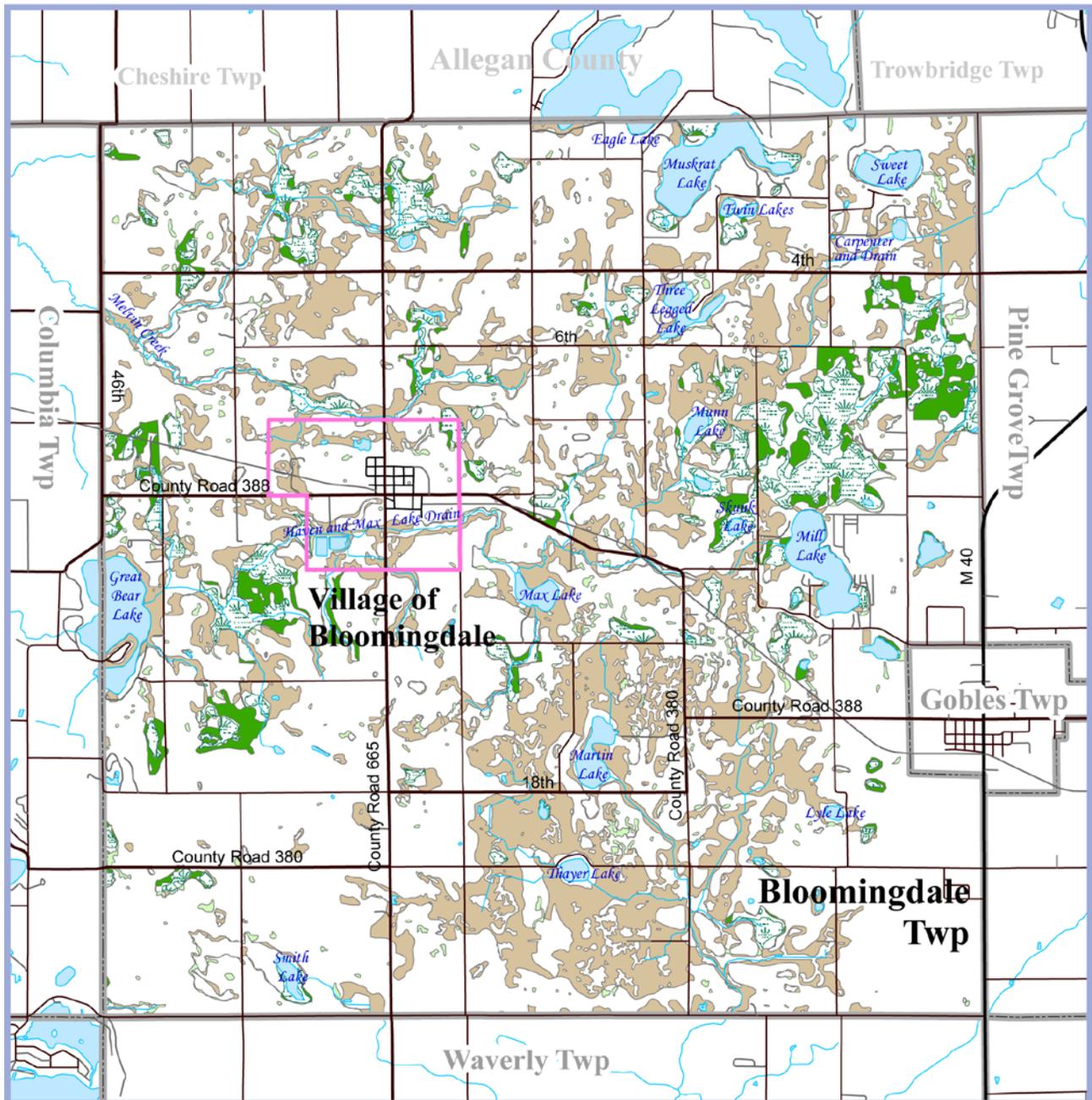
"Wetland" is the collective term for marshes, swamps, bogs, and similar areas often found between open water and upland areas.

Of the estimated 11 million acres of wetlands that stood in Michigan 150 years ago, only 3 million acres remain.

In the past, people viewed wetlands as wastelands --sources of mosquitoes, flies, and unpleasant odors. They believed wetlands should be avoided, or better yet, eliminated. This negative view, combined with the demand for more developable land, resulted in the destruction of large areas of wetlands. Owners and developers drained their wetlands, and converted them to farmland, or filled them for housing developments or industrial facilities. Van Buren County has lost over 50% of its pre-settlement wetlands.

Attitudes today towards wetlands have changed with the discovery that wetlands are a valuable natural resource providing many important benefits to people, wildlife and water quality. Wetlands help improve water quality, provide important fish and wildlife habitat and support hunting and fishing activities. Many species of birds and mammals rely on wetlands for food, water, and shelter, especially during migration and breeding. Wetlands help filter sediment and pollutants before runoff enters our waterways ensuring that our favorite rivers, lakes and streams stay clean. Wetlands store excess water and nutrients; control floods, and slow the filling of rivers, lakes and streams with sediment. In addition, acre for acre, wetlands produce more wildlife and plants than any other natural area.

Wetlands



Bloomington Township

Van Buren County

N

0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

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Legend

- Township
- Village
- Hydric Soil
- Wetlands identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
- Wetlands Identified by the 1978 Michigan Inventory Resource System (MIRIS)
- Wetlands as Identified by Hydric Soils, NWI, and 1978 MIRIS

Data Source
 Base Map and Wetlands: Michigan Center for Geographic Information

Floodplains

A river, stream, lake, or drain may on occasion overflow onto the surrounding banks and inundate adjacent land areas with flood water.

The land that is inundated by water is defined as a floodplain. In Michigan, the term floodplain has come to mean the land area that will be inundated by the overflow of water resulting from a 100-year flood (a flood which has a 1% chance of occurring any given year). As development encroaches upon these areas, the safety and welfare of residents and visitors are in

A floodplain is an area next to a river, stream, or creek that may be covered with water following heavy rainstorms. This plain holds the excess water allowing it to be slowly released into the river system and seep into groundwater aquifers. Floodplains also give time for sediment to settle out of floodwaters, thereby keeping it out of water bodies. Floodplains often support important wildlife habitat and are frequently used by humans as recreation areas.

jeopardy. With increasing development in the floodplain, open spaces, and wetlands, our land has lost the ability to soak up rain. Areas that were once effective sponges storing precipitation are now being replaced by buildings and pavement that have made the land increasingly impervious. As a result, floods have become far larger and more frequent.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff can have negative impacts on our water quality. When chemicals, oil, grease, salt, etc. are carried into our rivers, lakes, and streams, all of these bodies of water become polluted. Pollution of our water may not be immediate, but as the pollutants keep washing into our water systems and chemicals increase, our waters may become unusable for fishing, swimming, canoeing, etc. Even our drinking water can be affected. Increase pollution levels of our water systems can lead to beach closures, fish and other aquatic deaths, odor, plant growth in lakes, and an increase in water temperatures. Stormwater management seeks to lessen runoff and the number of pollutants that are collected as it passes over impervious surfaces before flowing into nearby drains, streams, lakes and wetlands.

Water – Slow it Down, Spread it Out, Slow it Down!

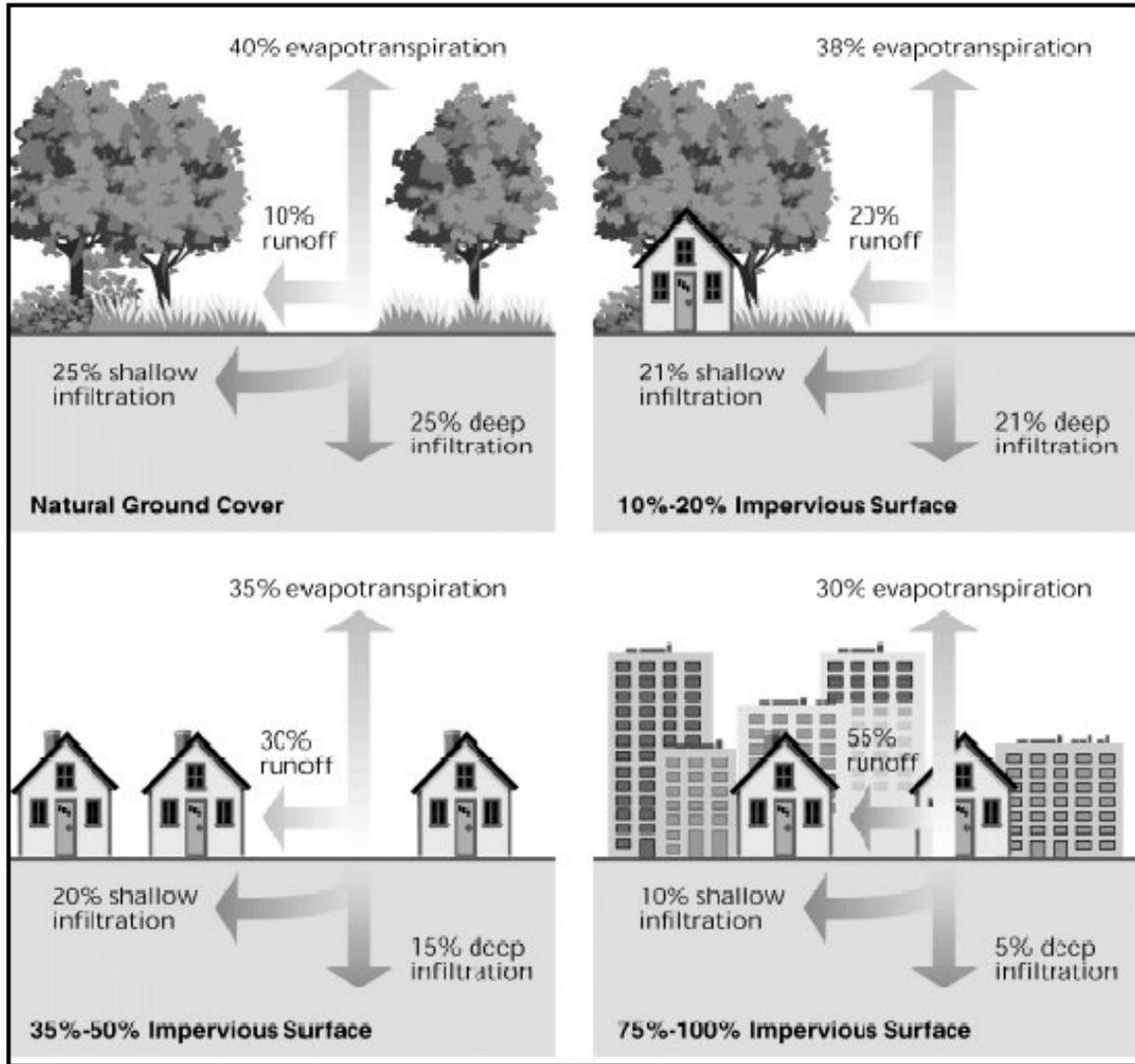
Traditional attitudes about managing stormwater were to move the water off the site as quickly as possible with curbs, gutters, and storm sewers. *Today*, effective stormwater management practices include decreasing the total amount of stormwater, slowing down the flow of the stormwater and allowing as much of the water to soak naturally into the ground by using low impact development practices such as native plants, rain gardens, and riparian buffers.

Open Space and Impervious Surfaces

One of the imminent threats to water quality comes from the increase in the amount of impervious surfaces that are expanding into rural and agricultural areas; and the increase of the amount of nonpoint source pollutants that are being collected from these surfaces which end up running into our rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. The diagram below helps people to understand what happens when we remove our natural ground covers, such as native plants and trees, and replace them with impervious surfaces. The increase in the amount of paved surfaces leads to a drastic rise in the amount of runoff and a decrease in the amount of infiltration. This leads to increased flooding and water pollution and decreased groundwater recharge.

Reduce Impervious Surfaces

Impervious surfaces are mainly constructed surfaces - rooftops, sidewalks, roads, and parking lots - covered by impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick, and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water and prevent precipitation and melt water from infiltrating soils. Soils compacted by new construction are also highly impervious.



OTHER NATURAL FEATURES

There are features in the region that any resident would readily recognize as important to the area's character and to the community's quality of life. Some of these features may be cultural, such as a downtown business district, historic buildings, lighthouses, or other similar man-made features. Other features will be natural such as lakes, creeks, woods, wildlife and scenic views.

Often these natural features such as native vegetation, woodlands, wildlife habitat and corridors are the main reason why people live and visit the Bloomington area. Removing these natural features will not only alter the landscape of a community but it can also lead to water quality degradation. Over development and use of areas with significant natural features should be discouraged through local policies and regulations.

Vegetation

Native vegetation refers to the plant life that exists as a natural part of the landscape. It is increasingly recommended that native plants (vegetation that grows naturally in particular climates or regions) be used because of their superior performance, site enhancement and life cycle cost benefits. Native plants sometimes cost more initially (depending on local availability); however, they are more cost-effective in the long run because they require less water and fertilizer, and are more resistant to local pests and diseases than non-native ornamentals. Native plants are also known to be very effective in managing storm water because many species have deep root systems which stabilize soil and facilitate the infiltration of storm water runoff. Native plants can be incorporated into recreational, individual home, commercial and industrial sites.



Native plantings (JF New)

Native Plant Benefits

- ✓ Long term cost savings
- ✓ Infiltrate stormwater runoff
- ✓ Require less water and fertilizer
- ✓ More resistant to pest and disease
- ✓ Provide habitat for birds and butterflies
- ✓ Filter air pollution
- ✓ Provide stunning landscapes

Woodlands and Forests

Forested land in Van Buren County currently consists of small farm woodlands along with narrow bands of woods adjacent to river and stream corridors and large stands in extensive wetland areas. Much of the forested area in Bloomington Township appears to be associated with wetlands, taking the form of wooded marsh. These woodlands are important to the Township's quality of life. Much of the woodlands within the Township lie either in small parcels, usually left from agricultural clearing, or in larger areas where farms have not been established and where intensive development has not yet occurred. Various species of hardwoods exist, including Ash, beech, Oak, Elm, Hickory, Maple, Walnut and Pine. These hardwoods are mainly second growth, and found on poorly drained mineral soils that were not suited for agricultural needs.

Values of Woodlands

1. Provide a varied and rich environment for plants and animals.
2. Provide breeding, feeding, and refuge areas for many species of insects, birds, and mammals.
3. Protect watersheds and soils.
4. Moderate the effects of winds and storms, stabilizes and enriches the soil, and slows runoff, allowing the forest floor to filter groundwater.
5. Serve as buffers to the sights, sounds, and odors of civilization.
6. Mute noise from freeways and factories, and absorb air pollutants.
7. Provide visual relief along roadways.

Aesthetically pleasing roadways with natural vegetation tend to be more popular than those with little vegetation or highway clutter. Trees within the public domain should be managed for their aesthetic and critical role that they play in air quality mitigation, cooling of city streets and the filtering of air and noise pollution. Mature roadside trees are sometimes considered hazardous, but always seen as attractive and valuable and should be managed and maintained as part of the community identity. To the extent possible, road improvements should respect and maintain these important landmarks, and their contribution to community identity.

Wildlife Habitat and Corridors

A rich variety of wildlife is present in the Township, providing a truly valuable living classroom of diversity that includes fish, mussels, frogs, rabbits, white-tailed deer, squirrels, bats, pheasants, fox and a

A wildlife habitat is an area that offers feeding, roosting, breeding, nesting, and refuge areas for a variety of bird and mammal species native to the southwestern Michigan region.

variety of waterfowl species including owl, ducks, ruffed grouse, quail and hawks. The presence of an array of wildlife means that protection of their habitat is necessary to ensure their survival. Michigan's wildlife is one of its most precious resources. Surveys consistently show that residents value wildlife as part of their quality of life. In addition, wildlife is valued throughout Michigan for the contribution it makes to tourism, recreation, hunting, and fishing. As a result, there is an increasing appreciation of the role that wildlife contributes to the economy and quality of life of Michigan residents.

As with other natural features, it is important to remember that wildlife does not respect jurisdictional boundaries. As a result, it is important to coordinate activities with other local governments on the basis of biological or geographical boundaries rather than on purely political ones. In rural areas, there are significant opportunities for wildlife management, simply because of already existing, abundant wildlife habitat. This makes planning for wildlife habitat protection possible, by identifying areas of high wildlife value and encouraging development elsewhere. Even with the development of scattered rural areas, large open spaces still may be found throughout the Township. This means that there is ample opportunity for movement of wildlife among habitat locations. It will require strong coordination of local governments and private landowners to ensure that wildlife considerations are included in the review of development plans.

The threat of fragmented habitats, due in part to strong development pressures in natural areas, can act as a motivator for the Township to establish a framework for the protection of these critical areas. These areas contribute to the Township's rural setting and community identity. The goal of establishing wildlife corridors is to maintain as nearly a contiguous greenway of native vegetation as possible, averaging 200 feet wide between various habitats.

Some interruptions in the corridors are inevitable because of existing roadways interposed between the habitats. Within this limitation, the objective is to locate corridor connectors to minimize the number of road crossings and maximize the greenspace available for protected wildlife transit. Wherever possible, the corridor should follow natural drainage corridors since

this land offers more habitat value, is important for natural stormwater drainage, and is generally more difficult to develop.

Wildlife corridors can also be developed in coordination with other construction projects. For example, a utility corridor could be planned to provide a more natural system, rather than a swath of land devoid of natural features. Where it still exists, native vegetation should be left as undisturbed as possible. In areas with exotic invasive vegetation, undesirable plants should be removed and native trees, shrubs, grasses, etc. (as appropriate), planted and maintained.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The following describes the population characteristics for the Village of Bloomington, Bloomington Township, Van Buren County and Michigan. The plan compares the Village and the Township to the County and State to identify any unique traits that may influence parks and recreation needs of the citizens within the Planning Area.

Population Trends and Projections

During the 1990's, the population of Bloomington increased by a modest 4.9 percent or 25 persons to 528, while Bloomington Township saw a more dramatic increase of 780 persons or 30.1 percent. The population increase experienced by the Village was slower than the both the County and State which increased 8.8 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively. Current population estimates and projections indicate that both the Village and Township will continue to grow. This growth within and around the communities mean that there will need to be additional recreational facilities to meet the needs of the growing population. Currently, the Village, Township and School District are providing adequate facilities to meet the suggested facility development standards for the number of units per population. (See Appendix for suggested standards.)

Table 2. Population Trends and Projections

	Trends			Estimate	Projections
	1990	2000	Percent Change	2002	2007
Bloomington Village	503	528	+4.9	533	545
Bloomington Township	2,584	3,364	+30.1	3,520	3,910
Van Buren County	70,060	76,263	+8.8	77,842	81,870
Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,444	+6.9	10,010,356	10,182,206

Source: 1990 & 2000 U.S. Census of Population, Michigan Department of Management and Budget

Table 3 compares the age distribution of Bloomington, Bloomington Township and Van Buren County and Michigan for the year 2000. The largest proportion of the population in 2000 for the Village and the Township is the 5 to 19 age group or the population that is typically in school, followed by middle- aged individuals 35-44. There is a slight aging of the population in Bloomington and Bloomington Township. Current national and local trends suggest that the 65 and older category will continue to grow demonstrating a need for recreational opportunities

for older residents. The needs between ages are quite different and must be addressed so that the communities can provide a high quality of life to residents of all ages. These figures also indicate the Village and Township should concentrate on additional providing services to youth between the ages of 5 and 19 as well as to the older residents without neglecting the other age groups.

Table 3. Age Distribution, 2000

	Bloomington Village		Bloomington Township		Van Buren County		Michigan
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Under 5	38	7.2	228	638	5,176	6.8	638
5-19	152	28.7	837	24.9	18,377	24.1	22.2
20-24	33	6.3	171	5.1	3,862	5.1	6.5
25-34	61	11.6	350	10.4	8,987	11.8	13.7
35-44	97	18.4	566	16.8	12,444	16.9	16.1
45-54	58	11.0	515	15.3	10,975	14.4	13.8
55-64	33	6.3	291	8.7	7,075	9.3	8.7
65-84	48	9.1	355	10.5	8,215	10.8	10.9
85+	8	1.5	51	1.5	1,158	1.5	1.4
Total	528	100	3,364	100	76,263	100	100
Median Age	32.5		36.9		36.6		35.3

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Most communities have more females since women generally live longer than men. This however is not the case for the Village and Township. Bloomington's male population is 50.8 percent male while 49.2 percent is female. Bloomington Township has a similar gender distribution with 50.1 percent being male and 49.9 percent female. Both the County and the State as a whole have a higher proportion of females than males. Gender does not play a particularly important part in recreation facilities, however if the Village or Township develop activity programs for area residents, it is important that activities be evenly distributed into male and female oriented activities or be non-gender specific.

Table 4. Male and Female Distribution

	Bloomington Village		Bloomington Township		Van Buren County		Michigan
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Male	268	50.8	1,685	50.1	37,843	49.6	48.5
Female	260	49.2	1,679	49.9	38,420	50.4	51.5
Total	528	100.0	3,364	100.0	76,263	100.0	100.0

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

In terms of the overall proportion of the population, the Village has a little more diverse racial distribution than does Bloomington Township. Table 5 shows that 90.7 percent of the Village's population is White, 2.7 percent is Black, 1.9 percent is Native American or Eskimo and 4.7 percent is "Other," which includes those who identified themselves as two or more races. Bloomington Township's racial distribution is 93.5 percent White, 1.8 percent Black, 0.9 percent Native American or Eskimo, 0.2 percent Asian and 0.3 percent "Other." Overall, Van Buren County's is 96.2 percent White. One category that should be evaluated more closely is that of the Hispanic/Latino population. During the agricultural season, an increase in the Hispanic/Latino population occurs in the planning area and surrounding communities. While we look at the needs recreational needs of the population as a whole, we should ensure that the recreational needs of this population are also taken into consideration.

Table 5. Racial Distribution

	Bloomington Village		Bloomington Township		Van Buren County		Michigan
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
White	479	90.7	3,145	93.5	67,051	87.9	80.2
Black	14	2.7	59	1.8	4,001	5.2	14.2
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	10	1.9	30	0.9	705	0.9	0.6
Other Race or Two or more Races	25	4.7	123	3.6	4,277	5.7	3.2
Hispanic/Latino	19	3.6	172	3.6	5,634		323,877
Total	547	100.0	3,529	100.0	76,263	100.0	100.0

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Households

Bloomington Village and Township household distributions are unique when compared to the other areas. Table 6 shows the Village and Township have a higher proportion of family households (77.9% and 74.5%) than the County (72.6%), or Michigan (68%). The Village's distribution of family households consisting of single parents is slightly higher (23.2%), while Bloomington Township has slightly fewer (15.6%) single parent households than the County or State as a whole. In terms of nonfamily households, the Village has only 40 households (22.1%), a smaller proportion than the Township with 301 households (25.5%). Table 6 also shows the Village has a larger average number of persons per household (2.92) when compared to the other

areas. The average household size for the Township also has a somewhat larger family size than the County or the State at 2.74 persons per household.

The Village and Township can use this information when planning recreation activities. Activities should focus on families, but should also address the large proportion of one-person households and other nonfamily households. The Village and Township should also consider the needs of one parent households when planning recreational programs.

Table 6. Household Distribution

	Family Households						Non-family Households		Persons Per Household
	Total Households	Total	Married Couple Family	Female Households	Male Households	Total	Householder Living Alone	Householder 65 and over Living Alone	
Bloomington Village	181	141	99	26	16	40	31	13	2.92
%	100	77.9	54.7	14.4	8.8	22.1	17.1	7.2	
Bloomington Township	1,179	878	694	121	63	301	225	77	2.74
%	100	74.5	58.9	10.3	5.3	25.5	19.1	6.5	
Van Buren County	27,982	20,327	15,878	3,136	1,313	7,655	6,285	2,488	2.66
%	100	72.6	56.7	11.2	4.6	27.4	22.5	8.9	
Michigan %	100	68.0	51.4	12.5	4.7	28.7	82.5	32.4	2.6

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Physical Disabilities

Table 7 identifies the number of people with physical disabilities in Bloomington and the comparison areas. Bloomington Village has a higher proportion of people with disabilities than the County or State. The Township has a much smaller number of residents with disabilities than the Village and both of the comparison areas. New facilities should be accessible to all residents and the principles of universal design should be utilized. Further, existing facilities should be upgraded to be accessible to all residents.

Table 7. Persons with Disabilities

	Total Persons Aged 16-64	Persons 16-64 with a Mobility or Self-Care Limitation	Persons 16-64 with a Work Disability	Total Persons 65 and older	Persons 65 and over with a Mobility or Self-Care Limitation
Bloomington Village	331 (100%)	8 (2.4%)	45 (13.6%)	39 (100%)	28 (71.8%)
Bloomington Twp	1,756 (100%)	86 (4.8%)	254 (14.5%)	326 (100%)	138 (42.3%)
Van Buren County	47,951 (100%)	10,199 (21.3%)	6,696 (14%)	8,994 (100%)	3,899 (43.4%)
Michigan	6,332,137 (100%)	1,106,899 (17.5%)	677,661 (10.7%)	1,171,080 (100%)	495,677 (42.3%)

Source: 2003 Extract, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and US Census, 2000

Socio-Economic Levels

Table 8 shows that the Village of Bloomington's median household income as of 2000 is \$35,714 and Bloomington Township's median household income of \$40,488 is consistent with the county and state average. The Village and Township do have a significant level of poverty with the Village at 13.2% and the Township at 12.3%. These percentages are considerably higher than those of the county and state. This information reinforces the fact that people in the Bloomington area need affordable recreational opportunities.

Table 8. 1999 Income Information

	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Percent of Population Below Poverty Level
Village of Bloomington	\$35,714	\$12,645	13.2
Bloomington Township	\$40,488	\$13,199	12.3
Van Buren County	\$39,365	\$17,878	11.1
Michigan	\$40,260	\$22,168	10.5

Source: SWMPC 2003 Extract

Table 9. Poverty Level Guidelines

1999 Household Poverty Guidelines	
Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$8,240
2	\$11,060
3	\$13,880
4	\$16,700
5	\$19,520
6	\$22,340
7	\$25,160
8	\$27,980
For each additional person, add	\$2,820

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/99poverty.htm>

BUSINESS AND TOURISM

Table 10, shows the Village and Township have the greatest proportion of their residents employed in manufacturing and retail trade. These industries and the associated jobs related to retail trade and manufacturing are often sedentary. Therefore, it is important that the Village and Township help their residents maintain good health and physical well-being of those employed in these industries by providing recreation-related activities that can meet peoples' varied work-schedules and provide activity levels suitable for different professions.

Table 10. Employment Sectors

	Bloomingtondale Village		Bloomingtondale Township		Van Buren County		Michigan
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Employed Person 16 and Over in 2000	239	45.3	1,386	11.2	32,640	42.8	44.8
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Mining	24	10.1	96	6.9	1,925	5.9	2.0
Construction	21	8.7	116	8.4	2,023	6.2	4.9
Manufacturing	59	24.5	329	13.8	8,519	26.1	24.6
Transportation, Communications and Other Public Utilities	14	5.7	115	7.3	1,925	5.9	5.5
Wholesale Trade	0	0	41	3.0	1,142	3.5	4.0
Retail Trade	34	14.4	209	5.1	5,451	16.7	18.0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	7	3.1	46	3.3	1,305	4	5.4
Business and Repair Services	14	5.7	48	3.5	1,044	3.2	4.7
Personal Services	9	3.9	23	1.7	881	2.7	2.6
Entertainment and Recreation	0	0	0	0	293	.9	1.1
Health Services	24	10.1	169	2.2	2,676	8.2	8.9
Educational Services	17	7.0	115	8.3	2,839	8.7	8.6
Other Professional and Related Services	10	4.3	57	4.1	1,632	5.0	5.8
Public Administration	5	2.1	23	1.7	881	2.7	3.7

Source:1990 US Census of Population

Tourism

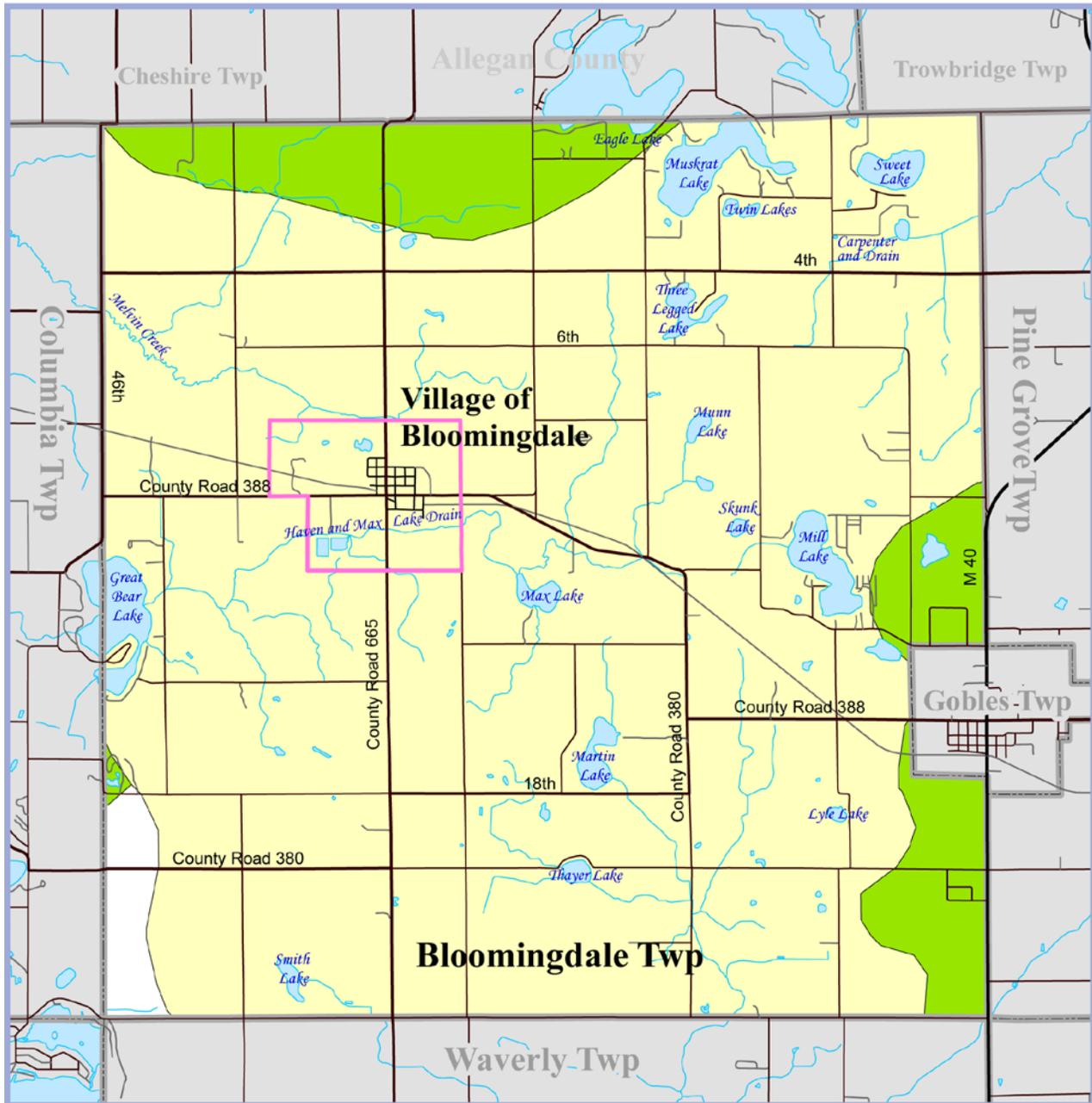
There are many recreational attractions in the area that make Bloomingtondale a tourist destination such as the Kal-Haven Trail and Great Bear Lake. The area is also within a short driving distance, approximately 25 miles, to a large population base (Kalamazoo/Portage area). The potential for tourist-related funding and economic stability is profoundly connected with recreation and natural resources. For example, a 2004 study of the 45-mile long Washington &

Old Dominion Trail, a transportation and recreation corridor running from Arlington to Purcellville, VA, finds that an estimated 1.7 million adult W&OD users put about \$7 million directly in the northern Virginia economy. The estimated 1.6 million **local** visits accounted for about \$5.3 million of spending directly related to the use of the W&OD. According to a 2006 publication by the Outdoor Industry Foundation, the Active Outdoor Recreation Economy is a \$730 Billion annual contribution to the U. S. Economy. There is great potential for small businesses serving the tourists that visit the Bloomington area for recreational purposes.

Agriculture

The climate, terrain and variety of soils make several areas in Van Buren County well suited for agriculture. Open space lands including woodlands, wetlands and other environmentally significant areas are features normally associated with farmlands and agricultural areas. These lands provide unique and economic benefits to the citizens of the Bloomington area and are an important part of the community's natural and agricultural heritage. Agriculture also contributes to the local economy in direct sales of agricultural products. Many of the agricultural activities in the area provide the opportunity to harvest locally grown foods to sell at roadside stands, farmers markets and local retail food stores to increase tourism and the economic impact of agriculture.

Prime Farmland



Bloomington Township

Van Buren County

N

0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Legend

- Township
- Village

Prime Farmland

- Prime Farm
- Prime if Drained
- Not Prime Farm
- Not Shown

Prepared April 2009

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

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 Fax: 269-925-0288
 Email: swmpc@swmpc.org
 Website: www.swmpc.org

Data Source
 Base Map and Farmland: Michigan Center for Geographic Information

Agriculture is an important economic activity for Van Buren County (statistics of economic impact at the township level are not available). In 2003, Van Buren County ranked 1st in blueberry production, 1st in cucumber processing, 2nd in grape production, and 3rd in apple and asparagus production for the State of Michigan. In 2002, there were 1,160 farms in Van Buren County of these 188 are orchards and 91 are vegetable farms. There were a total of 176,260 acres of land in farms with 10,281 acres in orchards and vineyards, 10,553 acres in vegetables, 31,870 acres in grain corn and 29,321 in soybeans. The average size of a farm in Van Buren County in 2002 was 152 acres and the median size was 70 acres. In 2002, in Van Buren County the average market value of agricultural products sold per farm is \$83,382 with the total market value of agricultural products in the County valued at \$96,724,000.

Table . Van Buren County Farmland and Agricultural Statistics, 1987-2002

	1987	1992	1997	2002
Total Acres of Farmland	190,251	206,781	189,432	176,260
Acres in Orchards	18,663	19,232	15,480	10,281
Acres in Vegetables	14,853	13,734	12,069	10,553
Acres in Corn (for grain)	35,282	38,255	34,695	31,870
Acres in Soybeans	9,684	23,679	24,702	29,321
Total Number of farms	1,278	1,164	1,217	1,160
Number of Orchards	373	312	256	188
Number of Vegetable Farms	201	158	104	91
Average Size of Farm	149	178	156	152
Median Size of Farm	N	N	73	70
Total Market Value of Agricultural Products (\$)	69,624,000	84,931,000	104,868,000	96,724,000
Average Market Value of Agricultural Products per Farm (\$)	54,479	72,965	86,169	83,382
Hogs and Pigs Inventory (farms)	147	119	68	36
Hogs and Pigs Inventory (number)	56,167	52,055	29,477	24,985
Hogs and Pigs Sold (farms)	152	116	64	41
Hogs and Pigs Sold (number)	84,358	103,464	56,245	67,997

N-no data Source: US Department of Agriculture, 1987, 1997, 2002 Census of Agriculture

Farmland Protection Benefits

Farming creates jobs, provides a product for sale, and provides vast areas of open space and scenic corridors. Farmland also provides substantial environmental benefits, including floodplain protection, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat. In addition, the tradition of family owned farms has been passed down from generation to generation; supporting a strong social structure focused on community and family.

Based upon agricultural statistics for Van Buren County, agriculture will continue to be a prominent economic force in the region. In evaluating the value of farmland, there must be a basic assumption that farmland is worth saving. The Bloomington community recognizes the significance of agriculture in the master plan and the future land use map which seeks to see the loss of farmland reduced to 3-7% over the next twenty years within the community; as opposed to a county farmland loss of 14% from 1992 and 1997 (Census of Agriculture).

Economic Benefits

- Strengthens the agricultural economy
- Strengthens the total economy through diversification
- Increases the long-term sustainability of farming
- Lowers infrastructure costs to taxpayers
- Increases property values
- Reduces the trade deficit
- Allows growth and development to continue in specified areas
- Maintains or increases tourism related to open space, wildlife and farming
- Local economic development
- Provides a long-term business environment for agriculture
- Less service costs to taxpayers
- Provides opportunities for alternative energy

Environmental Benefits

- Controls flooding and erosion
- Protects water quality
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Protects drinking water and aquifer recharge areas
- Preserves land, a limited resource
- Provides renewable resource/clean fuel, alternative energy
- Retains natural character

Social Benefits

- Strengthens and preserves farming communities
- Provides a future for young farmers
- Preserves scenic open space
- Encourages revitalization of cities
- Reduces traffic congestion
- Provides a local fresh food supply
- Provides a safe, high-quality food supply
- Preserves existing urban and rural communities
- Preserves our rural heritage in the state and the nation
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Improves the aesthetic quality of our rural and urban lives; saves beautiful land in rural areas, encourages saving beautiful buildings in cities
- Provides for a higher quality of life in a community
- Encourages a sense of community

Implications for Development

Van Buren County and the Bloomington area are experiencing residential development. Historically, many areas in Van Buren County were predominantly farming communities; however, increasing growth pressure is resulting in farmland being developed and fragmented. The fragmentation of farmland will make it increasingly difficult for remaining farming operations to remain viable. The land that is suitable for farming is an irreplaceable natural resource that cannot be regained once it has been lost to development. Farmland is an important part of Van Buren County and the Bloomington area history, culture and economic structure.

Several programs and zoning strategies are available to manage growth and preserve farmland. Four options for preserving agricultural lands are: 1) purchase of development rights programs (such as Van Buren County's Purchase of Development Rights Program), 2) right to farm laws, 3) agricultural buffer zoning requirements to protect existing farming operations from residential sprawl, and 4) zoning techniques to reduce fragmentation.

Land Protection Options

The protection and preservation of prime agricultural lands along with natural features and open spaces within the community will ensure that these important assets and resources remain available to the people of the Bloomington community. Therefore, tools will be utilized to acquire and protect these resources that can include the following: Transfer of Development Rights, Purchase of Development Rights, Conservation Easements, etc. The township and village can also utilize open space developments to ensure habitats are left intact. Land Trusts

also exist that communities, businesses and individuals can work with such as the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy. Individuals who are interested in protecting their land have several options available to them. A summary of these options can be found in the Appendix.

RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

An effective administrative structure is essential for implementing actions to address the community's desires and needs. The various committees, their organizational structure and other related information is described below.

Village of Bloomington

The residents of Bloomington Village have a seven person elected Village Council. The elected officials represent the interests of the residents, establish budgets and are responsible for the well being of the Village. The Village employs one full-time and one part-time staff to meet the day-to-day needs of the community, which includes maintenance of the parks and streets. The Village Clerk and Village Treasurer manage daily administrative tasks within the Village.

Bloomington Township

The residents of Bloomington Township have an elected Township Supervisor and four elected officials; the clerk, treasurer and two trustees. The elected officials represent the interests of the residents, establish budgets and are responsible for the well being of the Township. Bloomington Township employs six part-time staff persons to meet the day-to-day operations and needs of the Township.

Bloomington School District

The Bloomington School District maintains and operates recreational facilities in the community. The public school district has an enrollment of 1,395. The school district consists of the following facilities:

Bloomington High School - 629 E Kalamazoo Street, Bloomington, MI 49026

Bloomington Middle School - 311 East Willow Street, Bloomington, MI 49026

Bloomington Elementary School - 307 E Willow Street, Bloomington, MI 49026

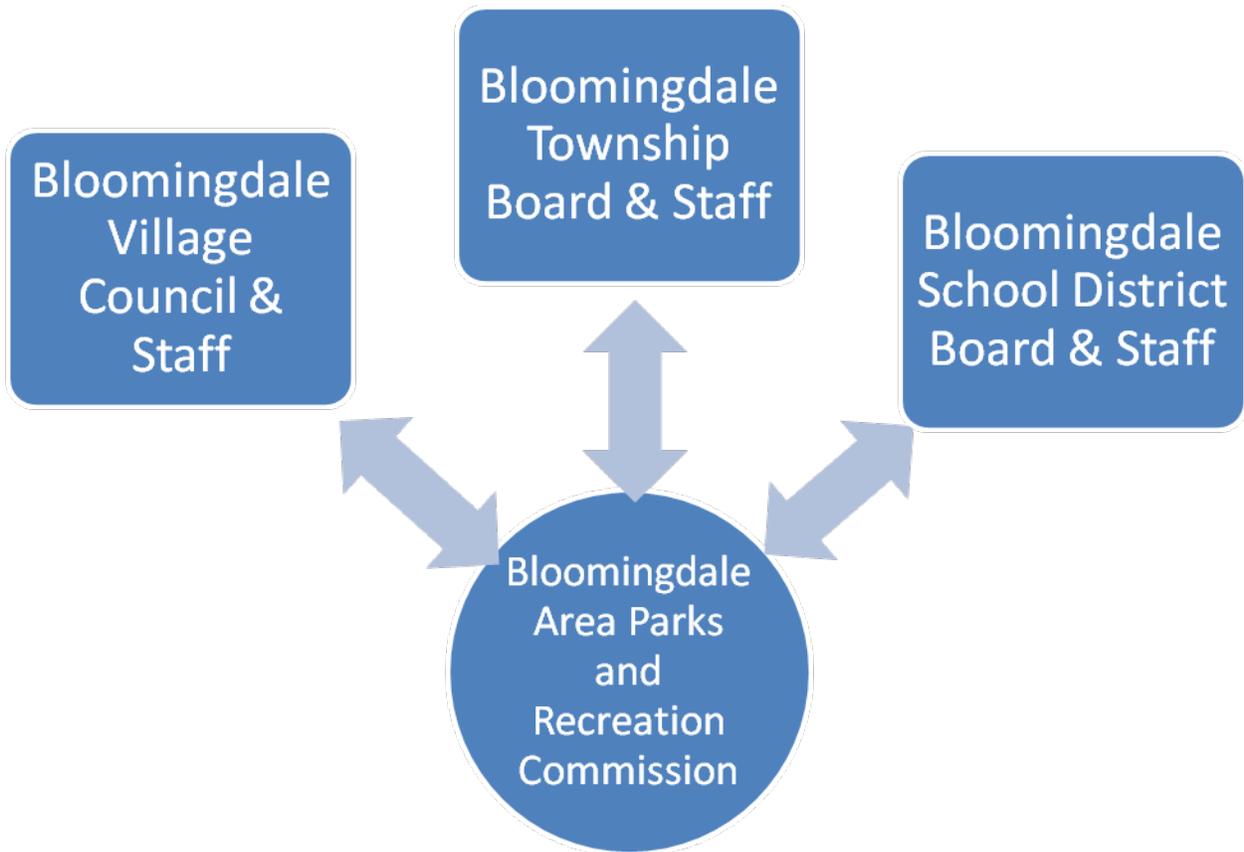
Bloomington Area Parks and Recreation Commission

In 2003 an inter-local agreement was signed by the Village, Township and School District to establish the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Commission. This Commission is a seven

person board consisting of two representatives from each entity the Village, the Township and the School District. Lastly, there is an at large member appointed by the Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to “acquire, develop, operate, administer, coordinate, promote and maintain a system of public playgrounds, athletic fields, parks, swimming pools and beaches, camps, indoor recreation center, winter sports arenas and other recreational facilities and activities on any properties owned by or specifically authorized for use by the Commission (the “Recreation System”) by any public or private party (subject to any owner limitations) as the Commission shall determine to be appropriate, and pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement.” The Commission has also been responsible for developing the 5 year recreation plan for the community. The Township Clerk is the fiscal agency for the Commission. The following are the current Parks and Recreation Commission members: Richard Godfrey (chairperson), Kim Otten (secretary), Sam Benson (at-large member), Toni Rankin (vice-chair), Judy Mort, Michelle Tourengau and Herb Van Horn.

The Commission often relies on volunteers to maintain the park system. The Commission hosts park clean up and repair days. Community members share the work load and often donate materials to improve the park facilities. The Commission is also considering hiring 2 volunteer park directors to assist with park maintenance tasks such as cleaning the bathroom, opening and closing the gate to the campground, picking up trash, etc. The volunteers would receive a small yearly stipend to cover expenses such as mileage.

Organizational Chart



The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Commission establishes an annual budget for park related expenses. The income for the Parks and Recreation Commission consist mostly of contributions from both the Village and Township General Funds. Income also includes grants and fundraisers. The total income and expenses for parks and recreation in recent years is shown in Table 11.

Table 11. Bloomington Parks and Recreation Commission Budget

Year	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010 (proposed)
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,700	\$14,500	\$14,500
Township	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Village	\$4500	\$4,500	\$4,500
Other	\$200		
Fund Balance	\$14,000	\$13,600	\$9,000
EXPENSES	\$15,083	\$23,935	\$23,500

RECREATION INVENTORY

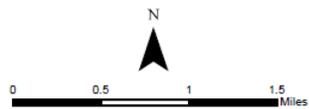
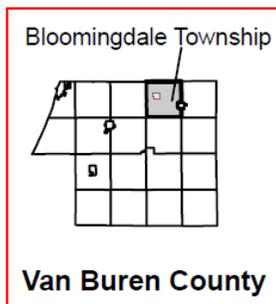
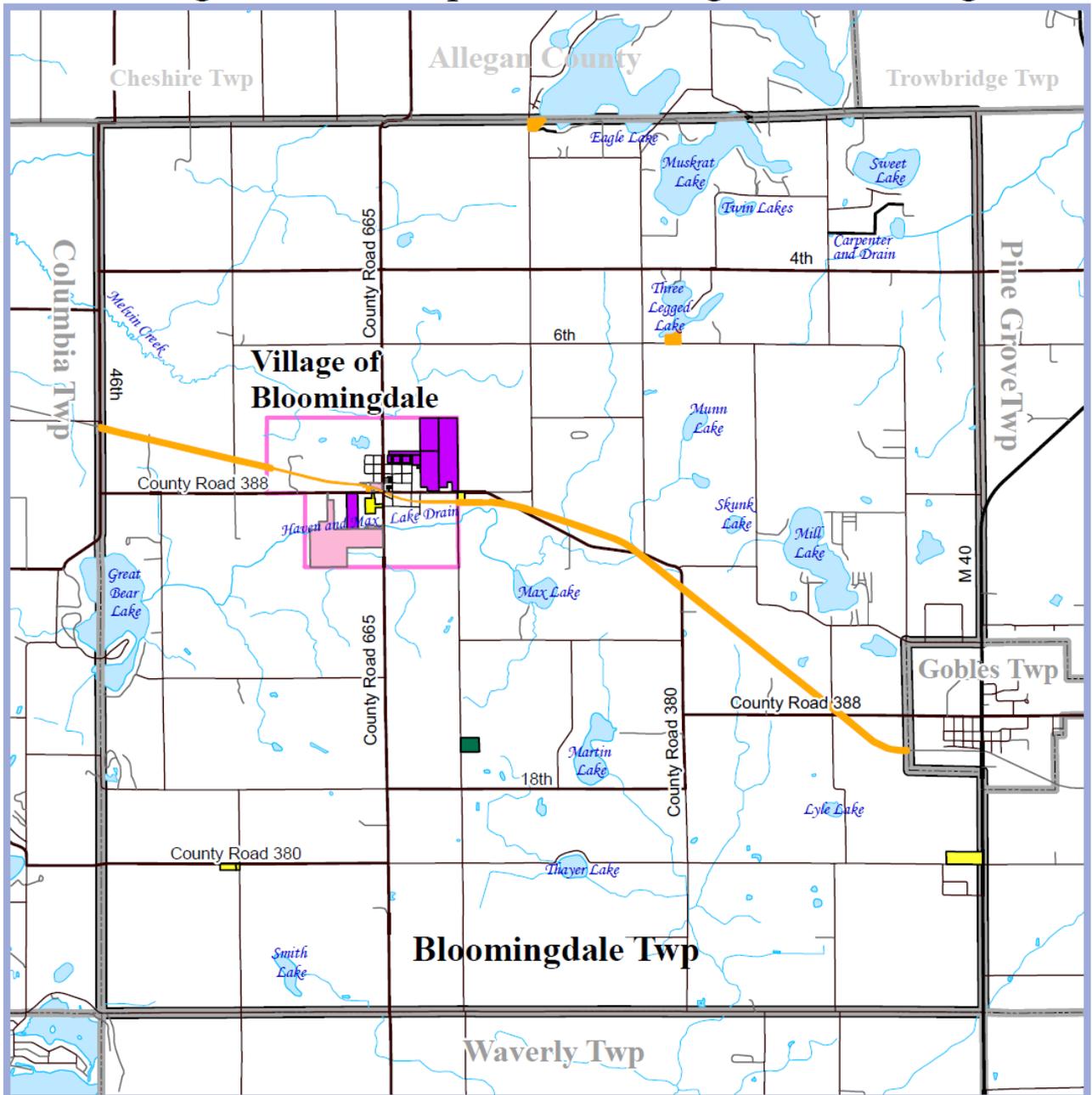
Parks, greenways and recreation areas can take many forms, anything from small neighborhood parks to campgrounds, from an active and exciting snowmobile trail to a quiet passive nature preserve. This section of the Plan includes a recreation inventory that identifies area recreational facilities. The inventory includes Village and Township facilities, Bloomington School District facilities, some area private recreation operations and other significant public facilities such as those along Lake Michigan and significant recreational facilities owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

The inventory was conducted by a variety of methods. Research included previous recreation plans, neighboring community plans, phone book and Internet searches. A site visit was conducted for all publicly owned sites within Bloomington Village and Township. Lastly, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the list and provided additional information.

To date, Bloomington Township and Village have not received funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for recreational facilities.

The following maps indicate publicly owned properties in the Township and Village, the Bloomington Conservation Club and the two community parks (Shady Brook and Augustus Haven).

Bloomington Township and the Village of Bloomington



Prepared July 2009
**Southwest Michigan
 Planning Commission**
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 Website: www.swmpc.org

Legend

- Township
- Village

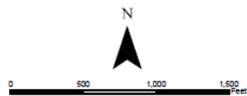
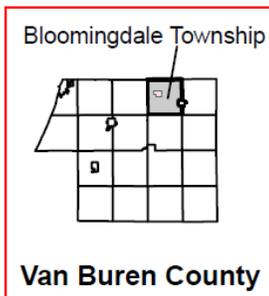
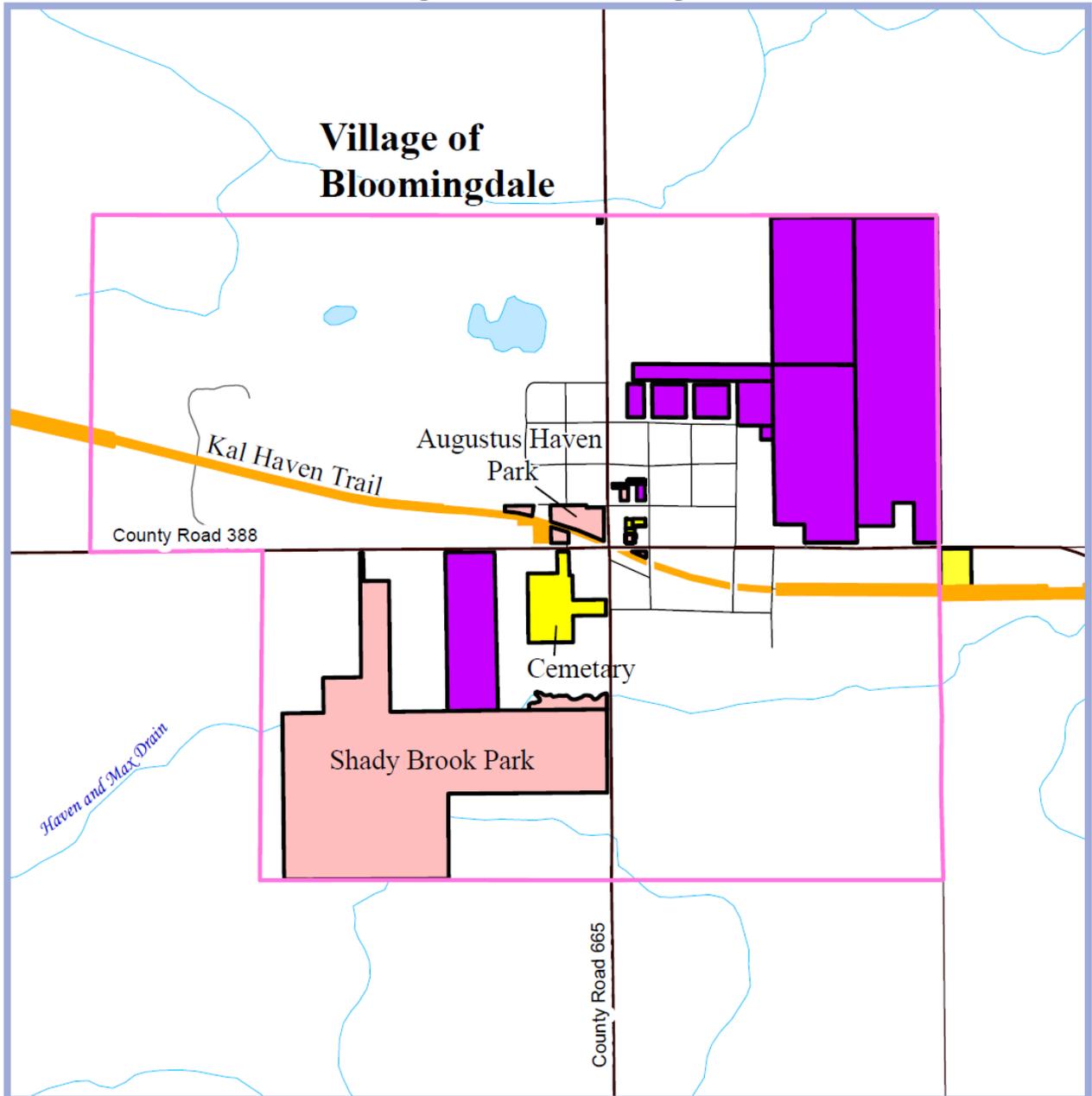
Ownership

- Bloomington Township
- Village of Bloomington
- Bloomington Public School
- MDNR
- Bloomington Conservation Club

Data Source

Base Map: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Ownership: Van Buren County

Village of Bloomington



Prepared July 2009
**Southwest Michigan
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Legend

- Township
- Village

Ownership

- Village of Bloomington
- Bloomington Public School
- Bloomington Township
- MDNR

Data Source

Base Map: Michigan Center
 for Geographic Information, Ownership: Van Buren County

Bloomington Township and Village Facilities

The Village and Township own and operate two park facilities, Augustus Haven Park and Shady Brook Park.

1. Augustus Haven Park

Park Type: Community Park

Size: 2 acres

Description: Augustus Haven Park is located on Kalamazoo Street, and is adjacent to the Kal-Haven Trail. The historic Bloomington train depot, converted to a museum, is located within this park. The museum contains a history room, old iron toys, a miniature train display and a telegraph display. A gazebo was added to the park in 2005. A historic oil derrick was donated and added to the park in 2008. A sign explaining the Bloomington oil boom is located near the derrick.

Accessibility Assessment Score: 3 (most of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines)



2. Shady Brook Park

Park Type: Community Park and Natural Resource Area

Size: 67 acres (The village owns 120 acres adjacent to the park)

Description: Shady Brook Park is located on South Van Buren Street (CR 665) along Max Lake Creek, with 2 ball fields, a concession stand and bleachers. The park also contains playground equipment including a climbing wall, slide and swings. There is a picnic pavilion with 9 picnic tables and 2 grills. There is a bike rack and a dumpster. Along the creek, stairs have been built for accessing the creek for taking water samples or collecting macro invertebrates. A rain garden was installed at the park as a water quality demonstration project for the Black River Watershed Project. A rustic campground was established at this park in 2008. This campground is ideal for serving Kal-Haven trail riders. The campground consists of 4 sites each with a picnic table and fire ring. There is a water pump and bathrooms. The site also contains extensive wetlands and a pond.

Accessibility Assessment Score: 3 (most of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines)



Bloomington Joint Recreation Plan 2009-2013

The Parks and Recreation Commission have completed many projects in recent years. Below is a list of improvements and projects completed since 2001 in Augustus Haven and Shady Brook Parks.

Table 12. Bloomington Parks and Recreation Commission - Projects Completed Since 2001

Project/Improvement	Cost	Date
2001		
Filled in pond and created gravel parking lot at Shady Brook	\$8,560.00	January 2001
Repair and remodel concession stand at Shady Brook	\$2,000.00	June 2001
2002		
Purchase of 100 red barberry plants, lilacs and spirea for village landscaping	\$347.00	July 2002
New back stop hoods at Shady Brook	\$1,082.00	July 2002
Purchase 6 new picnic tables for Shady Brook	\$510.00	April 2002
Matching grant for purchase of bike helmets for school safety program	\$874.00	May 2002
Repair creek erosion with rip rap at Shady Brook	\$600.00	June 2002
New bleachers at Shady Brook	\$919.00	April 2002
Replace all swing chains at Shady Brook	\$294.00	April 2002
Repair outfield fence at Shady Brook	\$250.00	May 2002
Blacktop entry drive at Shady Brook	\$2,431.00	April 2002
2003		
Paint caboose	\$187.00	August 2003
Development of 5 year plan	\$5,760.00	March 2003
Contribution to new museum sign	\$500.00	March 2003
Landscape architect fee for park plan – Shady Brook	\$7,965.00	March 2003
New sliding glass doors for museum display cases	\$2,607.00	April 2003
Repair window at museum	\$420.00	July 2003
Paint museum exterior/rental of lift and labor	\$1,061.00	June 2003
2004		
Fund MSU small town design initiative study	\$4,300.00	April 2004
New playground at Shady Brook	\$20,678.00	Nov 2004
2005		
Wood playground train at Shady Brook	\$790.00	February 2005
Contribution to gazebo fund	\$15,000.00	August 2005
Purchase 2 new display cases for caboose	\$1,200.00	May 2005
Picnic shelter at Shady Brook	\$14,186.00	April 2005
7 picnic tables for shelter at Shady Brook	\$930.00	May 2005
2006		
Add climbing wall to Shady Brook Park	\$15,291.00	July 2006
Outdoor toilet renovation at Shady Brook	\$15,131.00	June 2006

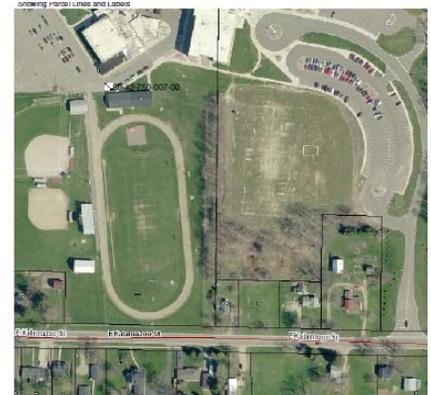
Project/Improvement	Cost	Date
Pump jack and history sign	\$665.00	October 2006
2007		
4 sets of bleachers and 1 water fountain at Shady Brook	\$5,093.00	May 2007
Christmas decorations for Augustus Haven park	\$4,082.00	On Going
Flowers and landscaping for parks and village	\$2,858.00	On Going

Bloomington School District Facilities

The Bloomington School District serves a large portion of eastern Van Buren County. Both Bloomington Village and Township residents benefit from recreational facilities provided by the Bloomington School System. The recreational facilities of the school have been improved greatly in recent years. Following is a description of the school recreational facilities.

1. Bloomington Middle and High School

Bloomington High School is located on Kalamazoo Street and the Bloomington Middle School on East Willow Street in the Village of Bloomington. The facility has several recreational amenities including a new track, football field, baseball/softball fields, 2 basketball hoops and a trail for cross country running.



Bloomington High School

2. Bloomington Elementary School

Bloomington Elementary School is located on East Willow Street. There is new playground equipment, benches, a basketball court, and a lighted baseball field.



Bloomington Elementary School

Van Buren County Facilities

Van Buren County is currently developing a recreation plan which will detail priority improvements to county park properties. The following is a description of County owned recreational properties.

1. County Fairgrounds - The Van Buren County fairground is located in Hartford. The fair gives young people in the county a place to demonstrate their talents and skills with still exhibits such as arts and crafts to livestock demonstrations and horse shows.

2. County Historical Museum - A historic 1884 county poorhouse is located at the County Fairgrounds. The building houses a



Van Buren County Historical Museum

museum and is operated by the Van Buren County Historical Society. The museum contains three floors of historical items, a replica of a log cabin and a blacksmith works.

3. North Point Conservation Area - This is a 17 acre property in South Haven Township with forested dunes along Lake Michigan. The County is currently working with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy to place a conservation easement on the property to ensure its future preservation.

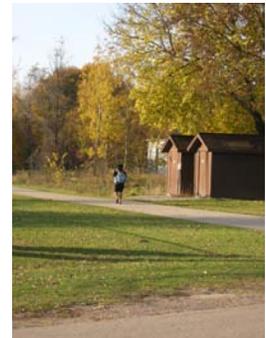


4. Campsites Along Kal-Haven Trail - There are two campsite locations along the Kal-Haven Trail which are owned and operated by the Van Buren County Road Commission. **Goddess Grove** is a rustic campground (water & a toilet on site) that has four campsites (one of which is barrier free) and two picnic areas. **Eagle Point** is a semi-primitive campground (toilet on site) that has two campsites.

State Owned Facilities

The State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns and maintains several recreational facilities nearby Bloomingtondale.

1. Kal-Haven Trail State Park - The Kal-Haven Trail is a 38.3 mile non-motorized multi-use trail linking South Haven to 10th Street, east of Kalamazoo. The trail is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and operated by the Van Buren County Road Commission. The trail passes through the center of Bloomingtondale Village where a trailhead is located along the trail offering parking and restrooms for trail users. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail continues from 10th Street to downtown Kalamazoo. There are efforts to connect this trail to Battle Creek and beyond.



2. Van Buren State Park – This park is just south of South Haven and has picnic facilities, biking and hiking trails, beach access to Lake Michigan and 434 campsites. Barrier-free access is available in the State Park facilities.



Van Buren State Park

3. Allegan State Game Area –This game area is 50,000 acres and is located approximately 15 miles northwest of the Bloomingtondale. The area has several amenities including: restrooms, self-guided trails, mountain bike trails, cross-country skiing, camping, hunting and has seven boat ramps. The Game Area headquarters and Fennville Farm Unit are barrier-free.

4. MDNR Public Boat Access Sites - The Michigan Department of Natural Resources maintains several public boat launches in the area. The state directory identifies 28 public access sites within Van Buren County.

Other Area Facilities

City of Gobles

In Gobles there are two city-owned parks and one school facility.

- Downtown City of Gobles Park - This 1 acre park is located on Van Buren and State Street. It is a barrier free park with 2 tennis courts, a picnic pavilion and a basketball court.
- City of Gobles Recreation Park – This 23 acre park is located on South State Street. It is a handicap accessible facility with 6 baseball fields and a soccer field.
- Gobles School – This facility offers soccer fields.

Columbia Township

To the west of Bloomington, Columbia Township currently maintains one park. The park is located at Columbia Township Hall just east of Grand Junction. The park is currently an open, manicured field, which can be used for baseball/softball games. There are also several lakes in Columbia Township for fishing and recreational use. Four land preserves are present in Columbia Township; two are conservation easements held by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, one is a conservation area owned by the Michigan Nature Association and one is under the direct supervision of Columbia Township. The land preserves are:

- Jeptha Lake Preserve - This preserve is open to the public and has a limited trail network
- Hultmark Preserve- This 20 acre property is not open to the public.
- Black River Nature Sanctuary for Great Blue Heron Preserve – This preserve is an 82 acre property owned by the Michigan Nature Association located southwest of Breedsville off C.R. 380.
- Columbia Township manages a 40-acre parcel of land south of the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery on 5150th Street.

Lake Michigan Facilities

Lake Michigan is only about 20 miles from Bloomington. Many residents enjoy visiting Lake Michigan beaches. The following are public beaches owned by local government.

1. North and South Beach – These beaches are located in the City of South Haven and provide areas for swimming and volleyball. Barrier-free access is available at both beaches.
2. Deerlick Park – This is a 2 acre property owned by South Haven Township with a public beach on Lake Michigan.
3. Covert Township Park – This park offers camping and access to Lake Michigan.

Private Facilities

There are several privately owned facilities that contribute to the park and recreation system available to Bloomington residents. Following is a listing of some of the private opportunities in the area.

Bloomington Conservation Club

16681 41st St, Bloomington, (269) 521-3297

The Bloomington Conservation Club is a private club located southeast of Bloomington Village. The club promotes hunting and fishing and is favorite stop for snowmobilers.



Golf Courses

There are several golf courses located within 25 miles of Bloomington. An up to date listing of courses can be found in the phone book or on the Internet. The courses range in size from 9 to 27 holes and offer a variety of other facilities including driving ranges, restaurants and snack bars.

Race Tracks

- GingerMan Raceway, 61414 Phoenix Road, South Haven, MI 49090
GingerMan Raceway is a private road-racing course situated on a 330-acre site located between Bloomington Township and South Haven. The track is 1.88 miles long. During the week GingerMan Raceway is used for testing and research by professional race teams and magazines, driving and racing schools and driver training by law enforcement groups. Weekend events are for individual drivers, as well as sports cars, motorcycle and kart clubs.
- Kalamazoo Speedway, 321 S 16th St, Otsego
Kalamazoo Speedway has an asphalt 3/8 mile oval track. The track features NASCAR sanctioned late model, limited late model and factory stock racing events.
- US 131 Motorsports Park, 1249 12th St., Martin
This is a 1/4-mile drag strip originally constructed in 1962. Originally known as Martin Dragway, the track underwent a complete 14 million dollar renovation and reopened in the spring of 2002.
- Hartford Motor Speedway, 301 Bowie Street, Hartford, Phone: (269)621-4482
This 1/2 mile clay oval track offers racing for UMP Late Models, UMP Modifieds, Factory Stocks, and Pure Stocks Every Friday Night.
- Dutch Sports Park-13566 CR 665 Bloomington , 49026
Dutch Sport Park offers a variety of classes of motor cross racing, from pee-wee racing to adult racing.

Bloomington Joint Recreation Plan 2009-2013

Skiing Facilities

- Timber Ridge Ski Resort, 07500 23 1/2 Street, Gobles, (269) 694-9449 or 800 253-2928
Timber Ridge offers an exciting variety of slopes to challenge the advanced or to begin a first time adventurer. Features include a tubing hill, terrain park and mogul runs.
- Bittersweet Ski Resort, 600 River Road Otsego, (269) 694-2820
Bittersweet is 350 feet vertical, with a total of 20 runs.
- Echo Valley Family Winter Fun Park- 8495 East "H" Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI, 49004
Echo Valley offers a 43,000 square foot ice skating rink, a ¼ mile tobogganing run and a tubing hill.

Campgrounds and Youth Camps

- Van Buren Youth Camp – Van Buren Youth Camp is a non-profit residential summer camp. Located on the shores of Great Bear Lake near Bloomington at 12370 45th St. Bloomington. The camp offers summer experiences for children ages 6-18.
- Kidwell Camp - This is a 4-H Camp which is a non-profit camp organization that has been owned and operated by Allegan County 4-H Clubs, Inc. The camp is a 150 acre facility located on beautiful Eagle Lake near Bloomington,
- Warner Camp – This is a private retreat and conference center, run by the Church of God. The camp is located at 62 55th St., Grand Junction.

Bloomington Area

Spring Valley Lake Recreation Area, 45580 18th Ave., Bloomington
Scott Lake Resort, 46856 W. 24th Avenue, Bloomington
Swan Lake Campground, 658 CR 665, Bloomington
Miles Cove Campground, Bloomington
Muskrat Lake Campground, Bloomington

Grand Junction

Simpson Lakeview Resort, 117 55th St., Grand Junction
Rose's Retreat Cabins & Campsites (modern bath house, pets welcome, private wooded sites + group cabin that sleeps large groups), 52808 CR 384, Grand Junction

South Haven Area

Winding River Campground, 68840 8th Ave., South Haven
Sunnybrook Campground Sunny Brook RV Resort, 68300 County Road 388, South Haven,
Cousins' Campground (play area, pavilion, flush toilets) 7317 North Shore Drive
Hal & Mary Cousins, 7317 North Shore Drive, South Haven
Jensen's Campground (laundry facilities, pets welcome), 7366 North Shore Drive, South Haven
South Haven Family Campground, 03403 64th Street, South Haven
Sunny Brook RV Resort, 68300 Country Rd. 388 (Phoenix Rd.), South Haven

Other Areas

Fireside Campground, 4234 105th Ave. Allegan
Campit Campground, 5535 118th Ave., Fennville

RESOURCE INVENTORY

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a connected network of natural areas and other open spaces planned and managed to conserve natural ecosystems and the services that they provide. These lands provide multiple benefits to people and wildlife such as maintaining clean air and water, providing areas for recreation and providing wildlife habitat. Green infrastructure elements can be in urban, suburban and rural areas and may or may not be open to the public. **Green infrastructure is essential to the health, safety and welfare of the community's residents.**

Natural resource areas perform important functions such as:

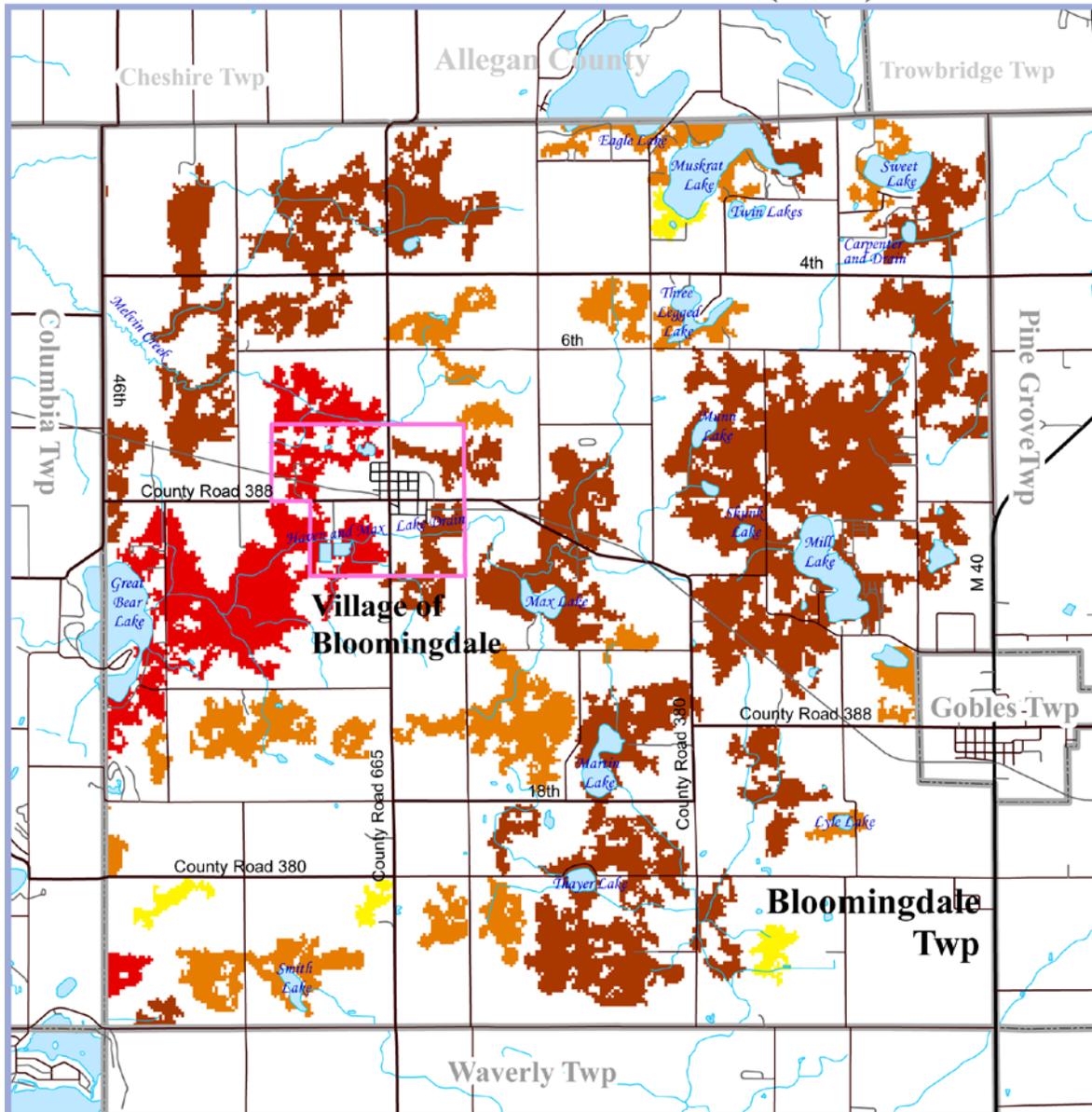
- filtering out water pollutants
- recharging groundwater supplies
- removing air pollutants
- providing recreational opportunities
- providing wildlife habitat
- enhancing the overall quality of life of a community

Natural resource conservation is a fundamental component of a community's long-term environmental and economic health. Communities that incorporate the natural environment into their future land use map or vision will ensure the protection of the areas that provide important natural functions such as filtering drinking water supplies, recreational opportunities for residents and habitats for wildlife. In effect, the features that the community has grown to enjoy will be there for generations to come. A community with a clean environment, clean water, green spaces and trails will be the community that has a stable, sustainable future and offers a high quality of life for its residents and visitors. Communities that provide this high quality of life will be able to retain talented workers and attract new residents and businesses.

The Conservation Priority map represents the last remaining remnants of the area's ecosystems and natural plant communities. The Conservation Priority map ranks areas where the landscape is dominated by native vegetation that has various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features. In addition, these areas provide critical ecological services such as maintaining water quality, reducing flooding, soil stabilization and providing habitat for pollinators of cropland, wildlife travel corridors, stopover sites for migratory birds and sources of genetic diversity. Consequently, it is to a community's advantage that these sites be carefully integrated into the planning for future development. Striking a balance between

development and natural resource conservation and preservation is critical if the Bloomington area is to maintain its unique natural heritage.

Potential Conservation Areas (PCA)



Bloomington Township

Van Buren County

Prepared April 2009
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
 Tel: 269-925-1137
 Fax: 269-925-0288
 Email: swmpc@swmpc.org
 Website: www.swmpc.org

Legend

- Township
- Village

PCA Score RANK

- Highest
- Higher
- High
- Medium

Data Sources
 Base Map: Michigan Center for Geographic Information
 PCA Layer: Michigan Natural Features Inventory

PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It is extremely important to gather public input during the planning process. The Parks and Recreation Commission guided the planning process. Monthly meetings of the Commission were held during the planning process. The Commission held a public meeting on January 22, 2009 at the Bloomington Municipal Center. The meeting was well attended and public input was gathered through several methods. Meeting participants filled out surveys, viewed maps, wrote on large sheets of paper on the wall, and gave comments throughout the meeting. The survey, the survey results and meeting comments can be found in the Appendix. The input gathered was utilized by the Commission to develop the action plan and to prioritize projects. The following describes the format of the public input meeting.

Why Are We Here Tonight?

We need your input to complete a 5 year recreation plan. We need you to share your opinions and ideas about the Bloomington area on the following topics:

1. Recreation Facilities
2. Recreation Programs/Activities
3. Parks and Open Space

Please Make Sure You Do The Following:

1. Sign In.
2. Watch the slide show and look at the pictures and maps.
3. Write your comments on the papers found on the walls and tables.
4. Fill out the survey and hand it in before you leave.
5. Ask Questions - Marcy Colclough or the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Commission: **Kim Otten, Judy Mort, Herb VanHorn, Toni Rankin, Dick Godfrey, Jim Lisowski, Sam Benson, Michelle Tourangeau**

The following conclusions are from the public input.

- There is a need for teen and pre-teen recreational activities – especially a skate park.
- The facilities (playground equipment) for preschool children are adequate.
- There is a need for ball field maintenance and future expansion.
- There is a need for senior activities.
- There is a need for marketing of parks and recreational opportunities with websites, brochures, and directional signs.

Bloomington Joint Recreation Plan 2009-2013

- There is a desire for more community events such as art exhibits, outdoor movies, outdoor concerts and ice cream socials.
- Suggested improvements needed at Shady Brook include improving ball fields, replacing the fencing around the fields, replacing the slide at the playground, expanding the parking area, improving the bleachers and concession stand and installing restrooms closer to the ball fields.
- Suggested improvements to Augustus Haven Park include adding picnic tables. There is also a desire to expand Augustus Haven Park for the addition of Evergreen School (a one room schoolhouse) and an Oil and Gas Museum.
- There is a desire for a multi-use court, a health/fitness club, an indoor swimming pool and a teen or community center.
- The community residents are proud of the improvements to the public recreational and school facilities. There is a great sense of pride in the community.

Once a draft plan was available, a public comment period was announced and a hearing was held on June 11, 2009. The comment period was held from May 22 to June 26, 2009. Copies of the plan were available at the Bloomington Municipal Center, the Library and on the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission website. The plan availability and public hearing was announced in the Van Buren County Advertiser on June 8, 2009. A copy of the notice and minutes from the meeting can be found in the Appendix.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives were identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission based on the public input and the needs of the community.

Improve Shady Brook Park to meet the needs of the needs of the local Little League and summer league teams.

There are several items that need addressed at Shady Brook park to meet the needs of the Little League program. The Parks and Recreation Commission should work together with the Little League organizers to plan, fund and construct the following improvements.

- Improve existing ball fields
- Build new bleachers
- Install restrooms closer to fields at Shady Brook
- Improve the concession stand
- Replace fencing around the ball fields
- Expand parking area

Provide more teen and pre-teen activities such as a skate park.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should work with Bloomington Skaters to plan, design and fund a skate park in the Bloomington community. An appropriate location for skate park needs to be identified, a plan and construction costs need to be determined and funding sources need to be identified. Lastly, park rules need to be established for this facility to ensure safety and harmony with the community. A local group of students and parents are actively working to plan and raise funds for this effort.

Expand community events such as art exhibits, outdoor movies, outdoor concerts and ice cream socials.

The Parks and Recreation Committee can work with the Bloomington Area Improvement Club and other groups and businesses to offer more community centered activities in Augustus Haven Park. These events bring residents to town and contribute to a strong sense of community.

Provide additional recreational opportunities such as a multi-use court (for tennis/basketball, etc.).

The Parks and Recreation Commission should work with the School District to determine an appropriate location for a multi-use court. Once a location is secured, costs need to be determined and funding sources identified.

Add additional attractions to the downtown area (in or near Augustus Haven Park) such as the Evergreen School (historic one room school house) and an Oil and Gas Museum to attract tourists and increase space for the existing museum's artifacts, attract tourists.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should work with the Bloomington Area Improvement Club to investigate expanding Augustus Haven Park to accommodate additional buildings and uses.

Partner with South Haven Area Senior Services (SHASS) to explore the creation of a local Senior Citizens Recreation Program.

The Parks and Recreation Commission need to work with community leaders to identify appropriate location for senior activities. Possibly the activities could start in the school, municipal center, or other currently available facility to better understand demand for a separate facility.

Develop an indoor multi-use facility that can offer a location for community gatherings, senior activities and teen programs.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should periodically check on the availability of a building in the downtown area that could serve this purpose. The Commission should work with community groups and consider setting up a special fund to purchase a building when it becomes available. This multi-use facility could be tied into the Kal-Haven Trail and offer additional activities in relation to the trail.

Ensure high quality development and redevelopment at all recreational facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should upgrade the current recreation facilities to be more accessible and barrier free and ensure all new construction in recreation areas is barrier-free and universal design principles are used. Further, all new development or redevelopment should be done with Low Impact Development techniques to lessen impacts on the natural features and water resources. Preservation of the natural features should be a factor in determining appropriate public access to the resource. Information on low impact development can be found at www.swmpc.org/lid.asp.

Expand and integrate new trails around the Bloomington area and connect new trails to existing trails.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should consider adding more trails/boardwalk for nature observation at Shady Brook Park. Also, a safe non-motorized path is needed from downtown to Shady Brook Park. The Commission should increase the use of signs and trail maps for better identification and safety. The High School cross country course could also be publicized and used as a walking path for the community. The Parks and Recreation Commission could partner with Boy Scouts to do some of these projects.

Provide an indoor public swimming pool for recreational and educational use.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should identify an appropriate location and size of an indoor pool facility. The School District may be a partner in these activities.

Increase the visibility and publicity of the newly developed campground at Shady Brook.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should add a sign at campground, develop policies for use of the facility, and work with the Van Buren County Road Commission to promote the campground to Kal-Haven trail users.

Develop two new baseball fields (may need to acquire land to accommodate additional fields) to meet the needs of the growing Little League program.

The Little League program is expanding and additional fields will probably be needed in the future. An appropriate location for the fields needs to be determined. Ideas include Shady Brook Park and land behind the new bus garage (which connects to Shady Brook Park).

Purchase additional park land as it becomes available (especially adjacent to existing parks or where significant natural features are present).

The Parks and Recreation Commission should continually look for opportunities to purchase additional park land to meet the recreational needs of the community.

Create and implement marketing efforts to promote Bloomington as a recreation destination for residents and tourists.

Utilize a website, brochures and other promotional materials to increase awareness of parks and programs currently being offered in the community. A potential partner for the Parks and Recreation Commission is the Bloomington Area Improvement Club.

Increase opportunities for winter activities such as cross country skiing and sledding.

The Parks and Recreation Commission should investigate if there are appropriate places for more winter activities in the community. A sledding hill and warming hut could be a good addition to Shady Brook Park. Other ideas are ice skating and cross country skiing.

Increase security at parks to lessen vandalism and the dumping of trash.

The Parks and Recreation Commission want to ensure safety and security at parks. The use of gates, signs with rules, increased patrols and surveillance cameras are some options being considered.

ACTION PROGRAM

The five-year Action Program identifies the recreation-related actions the Village and the Township plan to undertake along with information on the timing, cost estimates and potential funding sources other than the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Committee. The Action Program focuses primarily on projects that will improve and expand the usability of existing parks and to offer new opportunities to age groups who are currently underserved in the area.

Project	Park/location	Estimated Cost (potential funding sources)	Timeframe	Priority for Parks and Recreation Commission
Build a Community Skate Park	Location to be determined	\$30,000 - \$70,000 (private donations, foundations, Bloomington Skaters, Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MDNR MNRTF))	2009-2010	High
Improve ball fields/Tile fields/Replace fencing	Shady Brook	\$20,000 (Little League, private donations, MDNR MNRTF)	2009-2010	High
Upgrade Concession Stand	Shady Brook	\$9,500 (Little League, private donations)	2009-2010	High
Add restrooms	Shady Brook	\$30,000 (Little League, private donations, MDNR MNRTF)	2010	High
Improve bleachers	Shady Brook	\$3,000-\$5,000 (Little League, private donations)	Completed 2009	High
Replace slide	Shady Brook	\$3,000 - \$4,000	2009	High
Add signage	Campground-Shady Brook	\$1,500	2009-2010	High
Build multi-use court	Location to be determined	\$15,000 (private donations, school district)	2011-2012	High - Medium
Walking/Biking path from downtown to Shady Brook	N/A	\$30,000 (Road Commission, MDNR MNRTF)	2012-2013	High - Medium
Offer Senior Citizen Activities	Location to be determined	To be determined (senior services millage)	2012	High-Medium
Purchase additional park land if available	To be determined	To be determined (MDNR MNRTF)	On-going	High – Medium
Work with School District to allow for and promote walking on the High School Cross Country Course	High School	None	2010	Medium

Bloomington Joint Recreation Plan 2009-2013

Project	Park/location	Estimated Cost (potential funding sources)	Timeframe	Priority for Parks and Recreation Commission
Build Oil and Gas Museum	Location to be determined	To be determined (private donations, foundations, Bloomington Area Historic Association, Inc., Bloomington Area Improvement Club)	2014	Medium-Low
Purchase a multi-use community facility	To be determined (close to Kal-Haven Trail and downtown)	\$10,000 - \$30,000 (private donations)	2015	Medium-Low
Acquire and move Evergreen School to Bloomington	Location to be determined	\$10,000 (private donations, foundations, Bloomington Area Historic Association, Inc., Bloomington Area Improvement Club)	2010	Medium-Low
Build a public swimming pool	Location to be determined	To be determine (private donations, school district)	2014	Medium-Low
Investigate opportunities and locations for ice skating and cross country skiing	To be determined	To be determined	2011	Low

APPENDIX

Land Protection and Management Options

Land Protection Option	Description	Results	Income Tax Deduction?*	Estate Tax Reduction?*
Conservation easement	Legal agreement between a landowner and a land conservancy or government agency permanently limiting a property's uses.	Important features of the property protected by organization. Owner continues to own, use, live on land.	Yes	Yes
Outright land donation	Land is donated to the land conservancy.	Organization owns, manages, and protects land.	Yes	Yes
Donation of land by will	Land is specifically designated for donation to the land conservancy.	Organization owns, manages, and protects land.	No	Yes
Donation of remainder interest in land with reserved life estate	Personal residence or farm is donated to the land conservancy, but owner (or others designated) continue to live there, usually until death.	Organization owns remainder interest in the land, but owners (others) continue to live on and manage land during their lifetime subject to a conservation restriction.	Yes	Yes
Bargain sale of land	Land is sold to the land conservancy below fair market value. It provides cash, but may also reduce capital gains tax, and entitle you to an income tax deduction.	Organization owns, manages, and protects land.	Yes	Yes

*In most cases. The amounts of income tax and estate tax reduction depend on a number of factors. Please consult your own professional tax and/or legal advisor.

(Adapted from Conservation Options: A Landowner's Guide, published by the Land Trust Alliance and available at the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, (269) 324-1600)

LAND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Land Management Option	Description	Agreement	Landowner reimbursement
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	Provides technical and financial assistance to promote wildlife habitat including corridor, riparian buffer and rare species habitat development	Contracts run for a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years.	Up to 75% of cost of improvements.
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Assists in restoring active agricultural land to natural wetland condition.	Agreements can be 10-year, 30-year or perpetual.	Up to 75% of cost of improvements or 100% for permanent agreements.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Assists in restoring agricultural land to wildlife habitat.	Agreements can last 2-10 years.	Up to 75% of cost of improvements.

**These are just a few of many examples. For more information contact Van Buren Conservation District office at 269-657-4030 x5.

Suggested Facility Development Standards

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
BADMINTON	1620 sq. ft.	Singles - 17' x 44' Doubles - 20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on all sides.	Long axis north-south.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access.
BASKETBALL 1. YOUTH 2. HIGH SCHOOL 3. COLLEGIATE	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	46'-50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space an all sides.	Long axis north-south.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
HANDBALL (3-4 WALL)	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall. 1000 for 3-wall	20' x 40' - Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting.
ICE HOCKEY	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Rink 85' x 200' (minimum 85' X 185'. Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area).	Long axis north-south if outdoors.	Indoor- 1 per 100,000. Outdoor- depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting number of units. Best as part of multi- purpose facility.
TENNIS	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court. (2 acres for complex.)	36' x 78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north-south.	1 court per 2000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/ community park or near school site.
VOLLEYBALL	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30' x 60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides.	Long axis north-south.	1 court per 5000	½ - 1 mile	Same as other court activities (e.g., badminton, basketball, etc.).
BASEBALL 1. OFFICIAL 2. LITTLE LEAGUE	3.0-3.85 A minimum 1.2 A minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Baselines-90' Pitching distance-60.5' Foul lines-min. 320' Center field-400'+ •Baselines-60' Pitching distance-46' Foul lines-200' Center field-200' - 250' 	Locate home plate so pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound to run east-northeast.	1 per 5000 Lighted- 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.

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ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
FIELD HOCKEY	Minimum 1.5A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Fall season-long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, or soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
FOOTBALL	Minimum 1.5A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
SOCCER	1.7 to 2.1A	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' minimum clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
GOLF-DRIVING RANGE	13.5A for minimum of 25 tees	900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis southwest/northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of golf course complex as a separate unit. May be privately operated.
1/4-MILE RUNNING TRACK	4.3A	Overall width-276' length-600' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest/southeast with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
SOFTBALL	1.5 to 2.0A	Baselines-60' Pitching distance-45' (men) - 40' (women). Fast pitch field radius from plate-225' between foul lines. Slow pitch-275' (men) - 250' (women).	Same as baseball.	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	1/4- to 1/2- mile	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
MULTIPLE RECREATION COURT (BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS)	9,840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with primary use north-south.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	In neighborhood or community parks.
TRAILS	N/A	Well defined head. Capacity- Rural trails 40 hikers/day/ mile. Urban trails-90 hikers/ day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	

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ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
ARCHERY RANGE	Minimum 0.65A	300' length x minimum 10' between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range. Minimum of 30' clear space behind targets. Minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker.	Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/metro park complex.
COMBINATION SKEET AND TRAP FIELD (8 STATION)	Minimum 30A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within two superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within two superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast/southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/metro park complex.
GOLF 1. PAR 3 (18-HOLE) 2. 9-HOLE STANDARD 3. 18-HOLE STANDARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-60A • Minimum 50A • Minimum 110A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average length varies- 600-2700 yards • Average length 2250 yards • Average length 6500 yards 	Majority of holes on north-south axis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - - • 1/25,000 • 1/50,000 	1/2 to 1 hour travel time	9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18-hole course can accommodate 500-550 people a day. Course may be located in community, district, or regional/metro park.
SWIMMING POOLS	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 to 2A site.	Teaching-minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive-minimum of 25m x 16m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun	1 per 20,000 Pools should accommodate 3% to 5% of the total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
BEACH AREAS	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	1/2 to 1 hour travel time	Should have sand bottom with slope a maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks.

Adapted From:

Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983.

Mertes, J. D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.

Publicity for Public Input Meeting

January 5, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Village of Bloomington and Bloomington Township Joint Parks Committee is hosting a Community Parks Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2009 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center (109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomington, MI). The public input received at this meeting will help officials make decisions for community parks, trails and open space for the next five years. If you are unable to attend, but would like to submit comments or ideas about Bloomington area parks, please email or call Marcy Colclough at the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (269) 925-1137 x25 or colcloughm@swmpc.org.

Contact Information:

Marcy Colclough, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
269-925-1137 Extension 25 colcloughm@swmpc.org

What is Your Vision for Bloomington Area Parks?

GET INVOLVED!

Please join us to share your ideas about the future of parks in Bloomington Village and Township.

See you there!



For more information call Marcy Colclough at (269) 925-1137 x25.

Bloomington Community Parks Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2009 **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**
Bloomington Municipal Center, 109 E. Kalamazoo St.

What is Your Vision for Bloomingtondale Area Parks?



**Let us Know!
Attend the Bloomingtondale
Community Meeting**

The Village of Bloomingtondale and Bloomingtondale Township are partnering to develop a 5 year open space, greenways and recreation plan. Township and Village officials want input from residents about parks and recreation programming in the area. It won't take long to give your suggestions.

We want to hear your ideas and comments, please join us!

Bloomingtondale Community Parks Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2009

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Bloomingtondale Municipal Center, 109 E. Kalamazoo St.

Public Comment Sheets

What new activities would you like to see at Bloomington Parks?

Ice skating	Art/craft shows	Tennis courts
Directional signs to facilities	Bike events	Cross county skiing on school's trail
Art exhibit	Outdoor movies	Music in the park
Ice cream social		Committee to plan and raise money for skatepark-get support from school too

What Additions or Changes would you make to Shady Brook Park?

Changes	Additions
Replace slide	Skateboard park-4
Fencing	Badminton
Parking	
Seating at ball fields	
New concession stand	
Fix flooding problems	
Dry storage area for equipment	
Lila Dickerson donation-thank you note	
Restrict fishing to kids	
Fields need improvement	

What do you like about Bloomington parks?

Volunteerism	Respect by users-everyone cleans up	10 horseshoe pits at school
Location	Pride in parks	Musical Christmas lights
Museum-history	Feeling of community	Oktoberfest
Park benches to eat lunch	Shady Brook and school improvements	Cross country trail (3.2 miles marked)

What additions or changes would you make to Augustus Haven Park?

Changes	Additions
None listed	Picnic tables
	1 room schoolhouse placed west of park
	Oil and gas museum
	Skate Park
	Movies in the summer

Bloomington Area Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Public Input Survey

Thank you for attending tonight's public input session. Your comments will be considered by the recreation committee as they develop goals and an action plan for parks, recreation and open space in the Bloomington area.

Directions: Please place a checkmark  in the column that most closely represents your opinion. Think of you and your family when answering these questions. Please feel free to add your own ideas on the back of this form.

Facility/Activity	Available and Adequate	Available but Inadequate	Not Available (wanted)	Not Interested	No Opinion
FACILITIES					
Playgrounds					
Fitness/Health Club					
Dog Park					
Baseball fields					
Soccer fields					
Multi-use court (tennis, basketball, badminton, etc)					
Skateboard Park/Plaza					
Nature Center					
Community Center					
Bicycling Trails					
Walking Trails					
Nature/Hiking Trails					
Snowmobile trails					
Paved shoulders for biking along roads					
Mountain Bike Trails					
Horseback Riding Trails					
Frisbie Golf Course					
Sledding hill					
Cross country skiing trails					
Canoe/kayak launch					
Golf courses					
Work out course (stations with fitness activities)					
Picnic areas					
Public Swimming pool - indoor					
Public Swimming Pool – outdoor					
Campgrounds					

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Facility/Activity	Available and Adequate	Available but Inadequate	Not Available (wanted)	Not Interested	No Opinion
Water Spray Park					
Public Access to Lakes					
Fishing piers					
Boating					
Shady Brook Park Improvements					
Restrooms					
Lighting of ball fields					
Parking					
Playground equipment					
Concession stand					
Ball fields					
Boardwalk/nature trail					
PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES					
Cultural/historical programs					
Music – indoor					
Music – outdoor					
Fitness/Nutrition Education					
Fitness/Nutrition Activities					
Outdoor/Nature Education					
Adult Sports					
Teen Sports					
Pre-Teen Sports					
Pre-School Age Sports					
Elderly Focused Activities					
Intergenerational Activities					
OPEN SPACE					
Wildlife Viewing Areas					
Hunting land					
Birdwatching areas					
Nature Study/observation areas					
Mushroom/berry picking areas					
Nature/outdoor photography					
Protected natural areas					
Agricultural lands					

1. Are there facilities, programs or activities not listed above, which you feel are inadequate or not available in the Bloomington area? _____

Bloomington Joint Recreation Plan 2009-2013

2. Please list 3 recreational facilities or improvements you feel are MOST needed in the Bloomington area.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3. Please list 3 Activities/Programs you feel are MOST needed in the Bloomington area.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. List your thoughts about the availability of recreation facilities/activities for the following ages:

Pre-school - _____

Pre-teen - _____

Teenagers - _____

Adult - _____

Seniors - _____

5. What is your favorite recent improvement in parks and recreation in the Bloomington area?

6. Do you have any thoughts on the location of the following facilities?

Skateboard park _____

Multi-use court (tennis, basketball, etc) _____

Trails _____

Community Center (new or existing building) _____

7. Please list any parks or recreation facilities that are not accessible for disabled persons?

8. Do you have any ideas for the Village and Township to promote existing recreational facilities and opportunities in the area?

9. Do you feel the availability of open spaces in the area enhance the quality of life?

Yes _____ No _____ No Opinion _____

10. Do you feel enough is being done to protect water resources in the community?

Yes _____ No _____ No Opinion _____

11. Do you feel enough is being done to protect wetlands in the community?

Yes _____ No _____ No Opinion _____

Name (optional) _____

Email (optional) _____

Phone # (optional) _____

Results from Survey – January 2009

Facility/Activity	Available and Adequate	Available but Inadequate	Not Available (wanted)	Not Interested	No Opinion
FACILITIES					
Playgrounds	14	4	1	2	2
Fitness/Health Club	1	0	15	5	3
Dog Park	0	0	2	11	4
Baseball fields	7	10	1	4	2
Soccer fields	0	3	9	4	3
Multi-use court (tennis, basketball, badminton, etc)	1	1	16	4	1
Skateboard Park/Plaza	0	0	25	5	0
Nature Center	1	2	7	5	3
Community Center	1	1	9	5	5
Bicycling Trails	13	4	1	2	2
Walking Trails	12	3	3	0	3
Nature/Hiking Trails	12	2	4	2	2
Snowmobile trails	12	1	0	3	2
Paved shoulders for biking along roads	1	2	6	7	4
Mountain Bike Trails	2	1	4	7	4
Horseback Riding Trails	0	3	1	8	4
Frisbie Golf Course	0	3	6	7	4
Sledding hill	1	3	9	5	2
Cross country skiing trails	2	1	0	10	3
Canoe/kayak launch	0	0	4	9	5
Golf courses	7	0	3	6	3
Work out course (stations with fitness activities)	1	0	9	8	3
Picnic areas	12	1	0	1	3
Public Swimming pool - indoor	1	0	10	11	1
Public Swimming Pool – outdoor	1	0	7	10	2
Campgrounds	6	3	4	4	4
Water Spray Park	0	0	1	11	5
Public Access to Lakes	9	3	0	2	4
Fishing piers	3	1	1	7	4
Boating	8	2	0	3	5
Shady Brook Park Improvements					
Restrooms	5	8	4	0	1
Lighting of ball fields	0	2	6	8	4
Parking	7	8	1	2	2

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Facility/Activity	Available and Adequate	Available but Inadequate	Not Available (wanted)	Not Interested	No Opinion
Playground equipment	14	3	0	1	1
Concession stand	5	7	1	2	2
Ball fields	6	9	0	1	2
Boardwalk/nature trail	1	3	8	3	2
PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES					
Cultural/historical programs	1	2	2	8	4
Music – indoor	0	2	4	7	4
Music – outdoor	1	2	5	6	4
Fitness/Nutrition Education	0	0	7	8	3
Fitness/Nutrition Activities	1	0	6	7	3
Outdoor/Nature Education	1	1	7	4	3
Adult Sports	1	2	7	5	3
Teen Sports	2	4	6	3	1
Pre-Teen Sports	2	3	4	5	2
Pre-School Age Sports	1	3	4	6	2
Elderly Focused Activities	0	1	8	6	2
Intergenerational Activities	0	1	6	5	3
OPEN SPACE					
Wildlife Viewing Areas	4	1	4	5	3
Hunting land	6	1	1	6	3
Birdwatching areas	5	3	2	5	3
Nature Study/observation areas	3	4	2	4	3
Mushroom/berry picking areas	4	3	1	6	2
Nature/outdoor photography	3	3	2	5	3
Protected natural areas	4	2	3	4	3
Agricultural lands	5	2	0	7	2

Question 1. Are there facilities, programs or activities not listed above, which you feel are inadequate or not available in the Bloomington area?

Yoga Classes

Coffee Shop

Airsoft/Parkour

Movies in the park

Boardwalk around spring grove pond

Wi Fi

Expanded farmers market-2

Public transit

Senior services/activities

Tennis

Question 2. Please list 3 recreational facilities or improvements you feel are MOST needed in the Bloomington area

#1 priority	#2 priority	#3 priority
Skateboard park-13	Skateboard Park – 3	Swimming – 2
Ball fields-4	Tennis/basketball courts – 2	Skateboard Park
Restrooms - Shady Brook	Running Trails	Walking Trails
Ball field maintenance	Maintain/fix baseball parking lot at Shady Brook	Tennis
Nature walking trails	Restrooms	Ice Skating
Parking at shady brook	Ice skating rink –outdoor	Preserve Haven Park
Teen community center	Parkour	Sledding Hill
Outdoor beach ball	Senior Center	Boardwalk around spring grove pond
Fitness center	Soccer fields	Public Plaza
Golf	School participation	Bike Trail Improvement
Activity for youth	Ball field lights	No Comment – 16
No Comment-5	Badminton Court	
	No comment – 13	

Question 3. Please list 3 Activities/Programs you feel are MOST needed in the Bloomington area.

# 1 priority	#2 priority	#3 priority
Skateboard park -6	Skating rink-2	Mountain bike trail
Senior activities-2	Skateboard park-2	Skateboard park
Bike trail improvement	Baseball field	Senior facilities
Weight training	Teen and preteen facilities	Plant flowers along Kal haven trail “Bloomington”
Soccer fields	Concerts in park	Movies in park
Open gym on Saturdays	Recreation hall	
Movie night at depot in the summer	Summer recreation program	
Music in park	Preserve Haven Park	
Summer program in park for kids		
Teen community center		
Parent participation		
No Comment-14	No Comment-20	No Comment-25

Question 4. List your thoughts about the availability of recreation facilities/activities for the following ages:

Pre-School	Pre-teen	Teenagers	Adult	Seniors
Limited-2	Need help-4	Benefit from skateboard park-3	Needed-6	Lacking-4
Good-2	Could benefit from skateboard park/plaza-3	Need help-3	Airsoft	Need help
Adequate	Adequate-2	Adequate-3		
Shady Brook park offers this	Summer and fall program available	Airsoft		
None available	Limited	School sports only available		
Available		Almost non existent		
No comment-21	No comment-18	No comment-18	No comment-23	No comment-24

Comment for All categories-I would like to see all of these things be located in one area...one park, not spread all over town. If everything is located in one spot then it is more family oriented.

Question 5. What is your favorite recent improvement in parks and recreation in the Bloomington area?

Redo the playground equip at Shady Brook and Elementary-7	Covered picnic area-3	New football fields-2
Raingarden-2	Gazebo	Campground
Demolition of old bike shop	Oil tower	Musical lights
None-3	No Comment -12	

Question 6. Do you have any thoughts on the location of the following facilities?

Skateboard park	Multi-use court	Trails	Community Center
Shady Brook Park-7	Shady Brook Park-3	Throughout village	Cardinal club building-2
Needed-5	School-2	Village and school land	Depot
Old bike shop-3	Not needed	Free lands	Downtown
Next to Kal haven trail-2	Would like to have	Not needed	Shady Brook Park
School-2	Any space	Where they are currently at	Municipal building
Not needed	Old lumber yard	Shady Brook Park	Not needed
Next to trail where new bus facility is	Near school with skate park		
Any space	Old bike shop		
No comment -11	No comment -19	No comment -23	No comment -22

Plan Adoption Documentation

Notice of Public Comment Period



The following documents are on file with Township and Village:

Minutes from Bloomington Parks and Recreation Commission

Official resolutions of adoption

Transmittal Letter to County Planning Commission

Transmittal Letter to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission