

Berrien Township Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan *2016-2021*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The participation and cooperation of the numerous community leaders and residents in the preparation of this plan is greatly appreciated. This plan was coordinated and authored by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. The following individuals should be acknowledged for their efforts in guiding the development of this plan.

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Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Department Board

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PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Community recreation plans serve a number of purposes. They guide local decision-making regarding recreational opportunities for five years. A thorough plan for a community's recreational facilities contributes greatly to the vitality of that community. Completion of a recreation plan also establishes five-year eligibility for recreation grants administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Berrien Township has undertaken this Plan in an effort to:

- Produce a coordinated recreation plan for the community;
- Assess the recreation facilities and programs of Berrien Township, including barrier-free compliance;
- Identify recreation deficiencies for the residents of Berrien Township and for visitors;
- Determine a course of action for the St. Joseph River corridor within the Township;
- Establish a course of action for the Township Board for the next five years;
- Solicit input from the public and from Berrien Springs Public Schools regarding recreation in Berrien Township; and
- Prioritize recreation improvements and acquisitions and identify potential funding sources.

The Berrien Township Board contracted with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, the regional planning agency serving Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties, to guide the Township through the planning process. After a series of meetings, a community survey, and a public hearing, the 2016-2021 Berrien Township Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan was completed. The result is a five-year plan that reflects the desire of the community to guide them in meeting the recreation needs and wants of schoolchildren, young adults, middle-aged and older citizens.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Physical Characteristics

Location

Berrien Township is located in southwest Lower Michigan, in the southeast portion of Berrien County. Pipestone Township is to the north, Niles Township to the south, Pokagon Township (Cass County) to the east and Oronoko and Sodus Townships to the west. The St. Joseph River is the dividing line between Berrien and Oronoko Townships. The village of Eau Claire is partially within Berrien Township.

Berrien Center is an unincorporated community within the township on M-140 about 10 miles north of Niles and just a few miles east of Berrien Springs. A post office with the name Berrien Centre opened April 28, 1857. The name changed to Berrien Center in 1893. According to the United States Census Bureau, the township has a total area of 36.8 square miles (95.3 km²), of which 35.1 square miles (90.8 km²) is land and 1.7 square miles (4.4 km²), or 4.66%, is water.

M139 (old US 31) cuts across the southwest corner of the township and M-140 runs north and south through the center of the township. Berrien Township is only two hours from the Chicago area, while cities such as South Bend, Niles, and Kalamazoo are less than one hour away. The Lake Michigan coastline and the Twin Cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor are only approximately 15 miles from Berrien Township.

History

Berrien Township was one of the earliest township settlements in Berrien County. The settlement began in 1827 when the John Johnson family, originally from Southern Indiana, settled on 80 acres. The density of the wilderness in which the early settlers lived is best shown by an incident that happened to one of them, Michael Hand. Michael went out one morning to shoot a squirrel for breakfast. Just a few roads from his house, he found a large breakfast -- a deer. While trying to drag the deer home, he became lost. A snowfall also added to his distress. After an hour of hopeless wandering, he shouted for help. His wife soon arrived on the scene showing that he had not been far from home at anytime and had been moving in a bewildered circle.

In April of 1832 Calvin Britain, the legislative representative from Berrien County, petitioned for the organization of Berrien Township from a portion of Niles Township. The first official election was held on April 1, 1833, at the tavern of Pitt Brown, who was immediately elected Supervisor of the Township. The number of settlers increased rapidly after 1840.

In 1847 the County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution instructing the Superintendents of the Poor to purchase land in Berrien Township for the establishment of a poor farm. Almost 200 acres were bought for a mere \$1,220. The Poor Farm was totally destroyed by fire in 1867 but was rebuilt in 1869-1870. This Poor Farm operation continued well into the twentieth century and eventually evolved into the Berrien General Hospital Center that is now Southwestern Medical Clinic. Today these 200 acres continue to serve Berrien County with many facilities located there including Love Creek Nature Center and the Berrien County Juvenile Center.

An important historical note is that this area lies along the Great Sauk Trail, a trail-waterway extending from Montreal to New Orleans. "Wolf's Prairie" was 1,000 acre prairie that existed before settlement and is now developed as Berrien Springs.

Berrien Township covers the unincorporated community of Berrien Center and part of incorporated Eau Claire Village. The Township has always been a home to rural dwellers and fruit and vegetable farmers. It is proud of its status quo. This friendly community enjoys a low crime rate and a reasonable increase in population. Although the residents do not encourage large industrial developments, they welcome that which will enhance the area. It is a good place for families who seek the peacefulness, friendliness, and quiet that such a community provides.

Topography

Over 10,000 years ago glaciers advanced southward from Canada and covered Berrien County. Because this glaciation was so extensive, the landscape was heavily impacted. Evidence of this includes the variations in relief in the Berrien Springs area as well as the large numbers of lakes, streams, and wetlands. The St. Joseph River forms the border between Oronoko Charter and Berrien Townships. Berrien Township is characterized by

an extremely hummocky terrain with topographic highs of over 750 feet above sea level and lows of approximately 650 feet above sea level.

Climate

Lake Michigan has a great effect on the climate of Berrien County. The lake is responsible for keeping Berrien County cooler in the spring and summer and warmer in the fall and winter. This results in a growing season that is approximately 170 days.



The average temperature is 27°F in the winter with an average daily minimum temperature of 20°F. In the summer, the average temperature is 70°F and the average daily maximum temperature is 81°F. The total annual precipitation is 36 inches with 56% falling from April thru September. The average seasonal snowfall is 67 inches, with an average of 61 days that have at least 1 inch or more of snow on the ground. In the summer the average amount of sunshine is 67% and in the winter the average amount is 37%.

Soils

The soils in the area are also the result of glaciers; therefore, soil types vary widely in texture, permeability, stability, composition and other characteristics throughout the community. There are four major soil associations in the Berrien Springs area. The table below gives the name and general characteristics of these soil associations. Soils in the area are fairly well suited for construction purposes as well as agricultural uses. Most of the Berrien Springs area is comprised of the Riddles-Crosier Oshtemo Association. An area of the Coloma-Spinks-Oshtemo Association is located in southeast Berrien Township. It should be noted that these are just generalizations of the soil in and around Berrien Springs and are meant to provide a broad understanding of the soil conditions. To determine the suitability and soil conditions of a particular site, further investigation would be needed.



Soil Associations

Name	General Characteristics
Coloma-Spinks-Oshtemo	Well-drained soils with a moderately rapid permeability. Generally located on moraines, till plains, and outwash plains.
Riddles-Crosier-Oshtemo	Somewhat poorly drained soils located on till plains and moraines. Permeability is moderately slow.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Berrien County, Michigan, 1980.

Water Resources

The area as well as all of Berrien County is blessed with an abundance of freshwater lakes, rivers and streams. There are 12 inland lakes in Berrien Township along with Lake Chapin/St. Joseph River. Just south of Old US 31 the St. Joseph River is impounded by a dam resulting in the formation of Lake Chapin. There are also many small streams and drains that flow into the St. Joseph River. All of Berrien Township is within the St. Joseph River Watershed, which means all the land in the Township drains to the St. Joseph River.



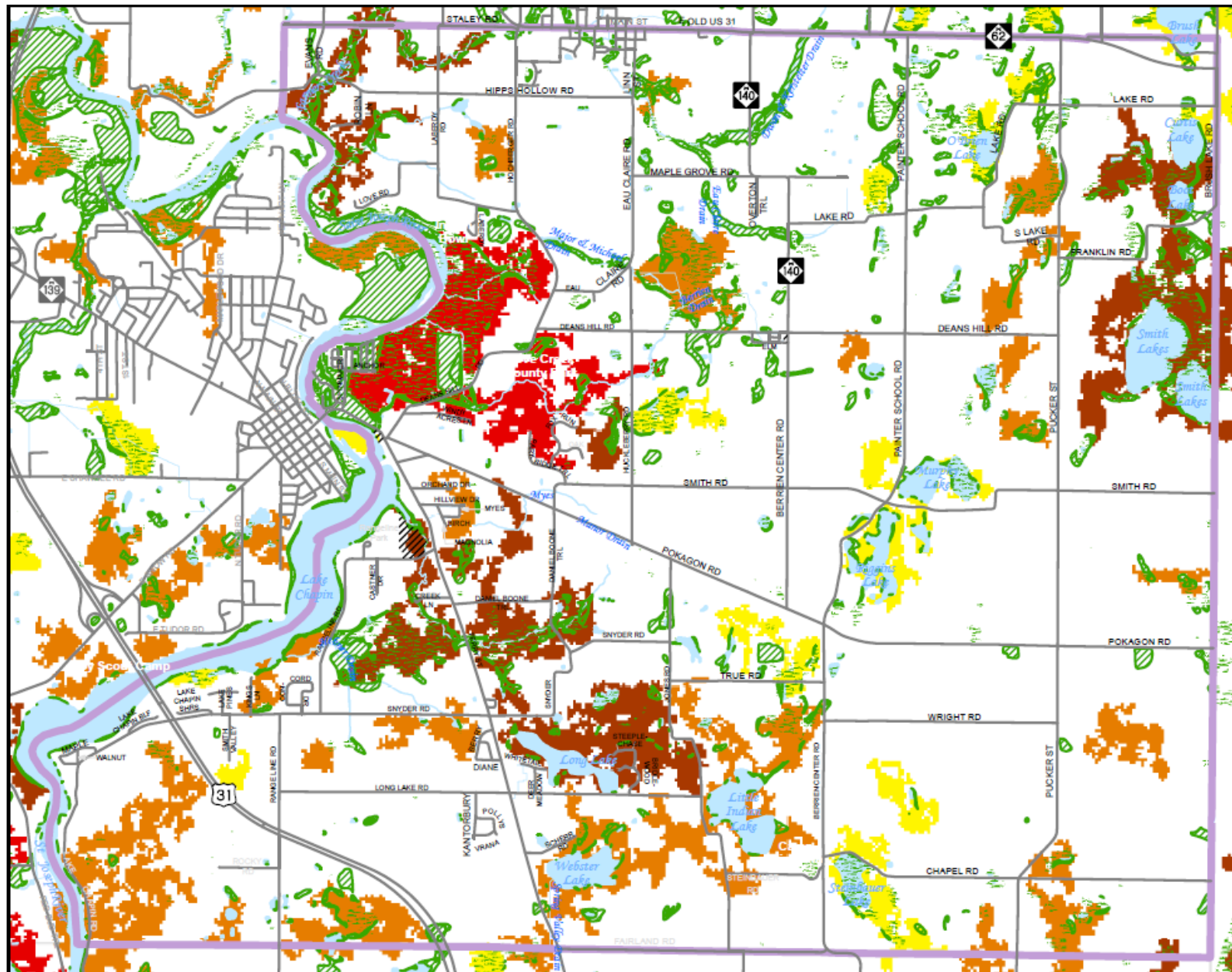
Overall, Berrien County possesses 42 miles of Lake Michigan coastline and 86 inland lakes. This bounty of freshwater serves as a haven for wildlife and is a valuable recreational resource.

Wetlands play a key role in environmental quality and are quite common throughout the Berrien Springs area. They act as filters for lakes and rivers. Wetlands offer a natural system for minimizing sedimentation and nutrient laden runoff into the St. Joseph River and inland lakes. They help in flood prevention and supply key habitat areas for wildlife to thrive. Preservation of wetlands and marshes is not only extremely important to the future of the St. Joseph River and Lake Chapin, but ultimately, to the Berrien Township area itself.

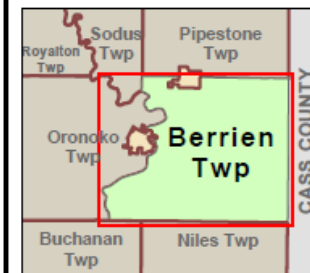
There is a major wetland complex along the St. Joseph River in Berrien Township. This area is extremely important for wildlife and protecting the St. Joseph River. There are also many intact wetlands surrounding several of the inland lakes and small drains/streams in the Township. Protecting these wetlands is imperative to protect the water quality of these lakes and streams. Any development should be sensitive to the wetlands as these areas provide such important functions to the community (maintaining water quality, mitigating flooding, etc.). The map on the following page shows detail of the existing and lost wetlands and other important conservation areas in the Township.

Wetlands in Berrien Township	
Existing Wetlands	2,657.35 Acres
Drained or Filled Wetlands (potential restoration areas)	761.17 Acres

Groundwater is the source of drinking water through private wells for Township residents.



BERRIEN TOWNSHIP



Berrien Township Park

Berrien Township

POTENTIAL CONSERVATION AREAS (PCA)* RANK

Highest

Higher

High

Medium

*Potential Conservation Areas (PCA) are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features.

Wetlands

Potential Wetland Restoration Area**

**Areas likely to have conditions suitable for wetland restoration efforts.

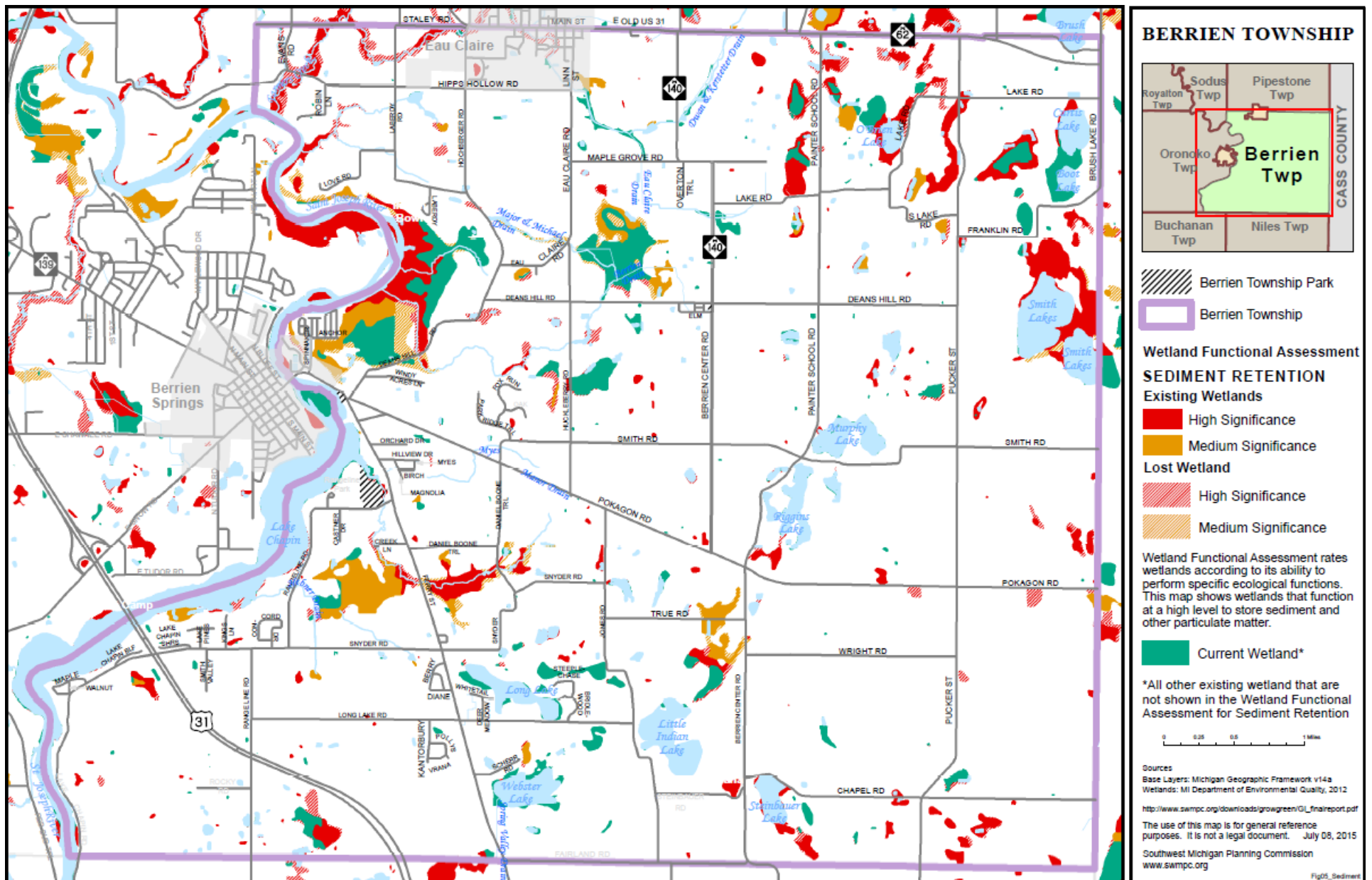
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

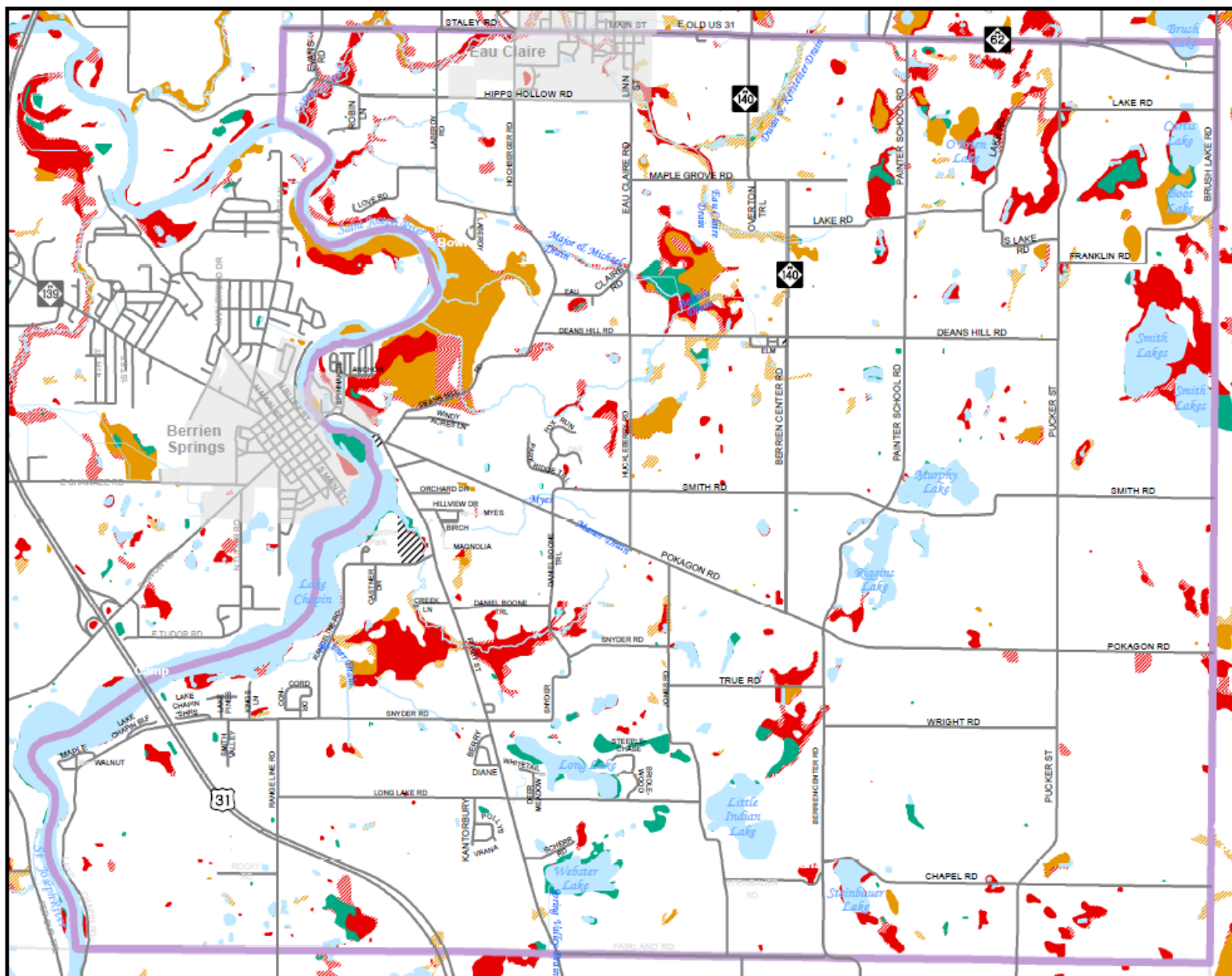
Sources:
Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework v14a
Wetlands: MI Department of Environmental Quality, 2005
Potential Wetland Restoration Areas: MI Department of Environmental Quality, 2007
PCA: Michigan Natural Features Inventory, 2007
http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/growgreen/GI_finalreport.pdf

The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document. July 07, 2015

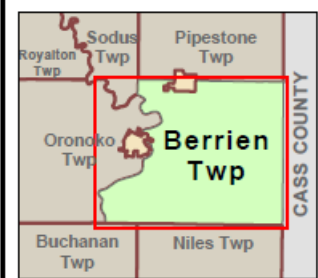
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
www.swmpc.org

Fig04_PCA





BERRIEN TOWNSHIP



- Berrien Township Park
- Berrien Township

Wetland Functional Assessment NUTRIENT TRANSFORMATION Existing Wetlands

- High Significance
- Medium Significance
- Lost Wetland**
 - High Significance
 - Medium Significance

Wetland Functional Assessment rates wetlands according to its ability to perform specific ecological functions. This map shows wetlands that perform at a high level to transform and capture nutrients which lessens run-off of nutrients to rivers, lakes, & streams.

- Current Wetland*
- *All other existing wetland that are not shown in the Wetland Functional Assessment for Nutrient Transformation

0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile

Sources
Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework v14a
Wetlands: MI Department of Environmental Quality, 2012
http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/growgreen/GI_finalreport.pdf
The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document. July 08, 2015
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Vegetation, Wildlife and Fish

As indicated in the maps above, there are many high ranking conservation areas in Berrien Township. The wealth and diversity of natural resources found in and around Berrien Township provide excellent opportunities for recreation. Vegetation in the area varies greatly depending mainly on land use. Forested areas can easily be found with a large variety of different species of hard and softwood trees including Beech, Ash, Maple, Oak, Hickory, Red and White Pines as well as many others. Many factors influence the types of vegetation that are found in an area. Examples of these factors are soil types, availability of water, history of land use, logging and slope.



Wildlife and fish in the region are equally as diverse as that of the vegetation. White-tailed deer are frequently seen and are a popular game species for many hunters. This area is also a major migratory route for a large variety of songbirds and waterfowl and is a popular destination for bird watchers. The St. Joseph River is a popular area for sport fishermen. Lakes in the area are also excellent fishing spots for bass and bluegill.








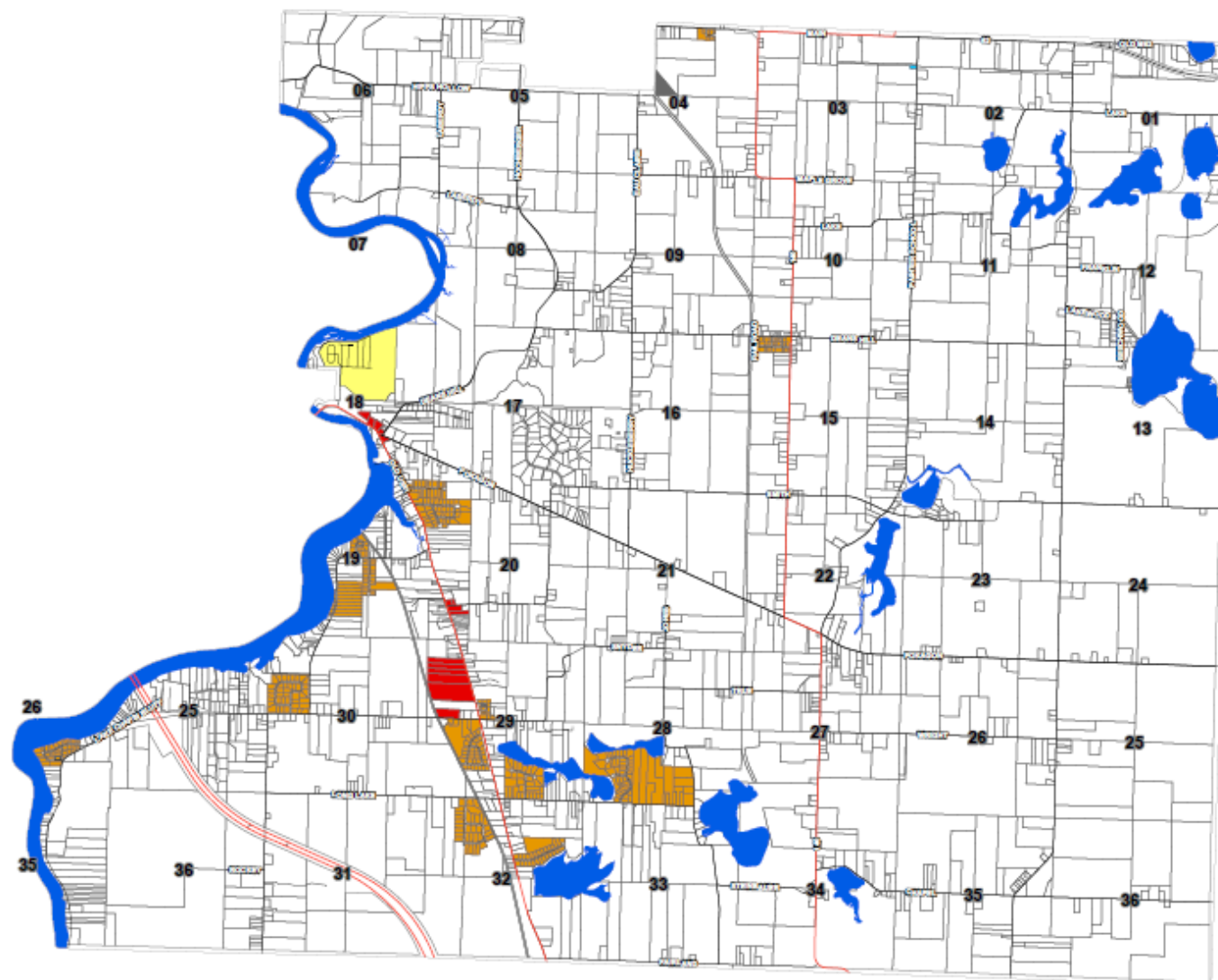
Land Use/Zoning

The location of Berrien Township, as well as its natural features, has contributed greatly to the way in which it has evolved and been developed. The residential sections are located in areas that can take advantage of the natural beauty of rivers, streams, and lakes in the area while the business districts are strategically positioned on or near major transportation routes. The predominant land use is agricultural. Orchards, vineyards and farming activities are throughout the area. There are 2,033 housing units in Berrien Township; of that number 1,779 are occupied housing units according to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau. Areas designated for light industrial use and limited and/or general manufacturing are limited to a section to the southeast of Village of Eau Claire in the northern area of Berrien Township.

Currently the land cover in Berrien Township is mostly in agriculture, cultivated crop or pasture/hay (62%). About 32% of the Township is in natural areas – forest, wetlands and water. Only about 5% of the Township is developed.

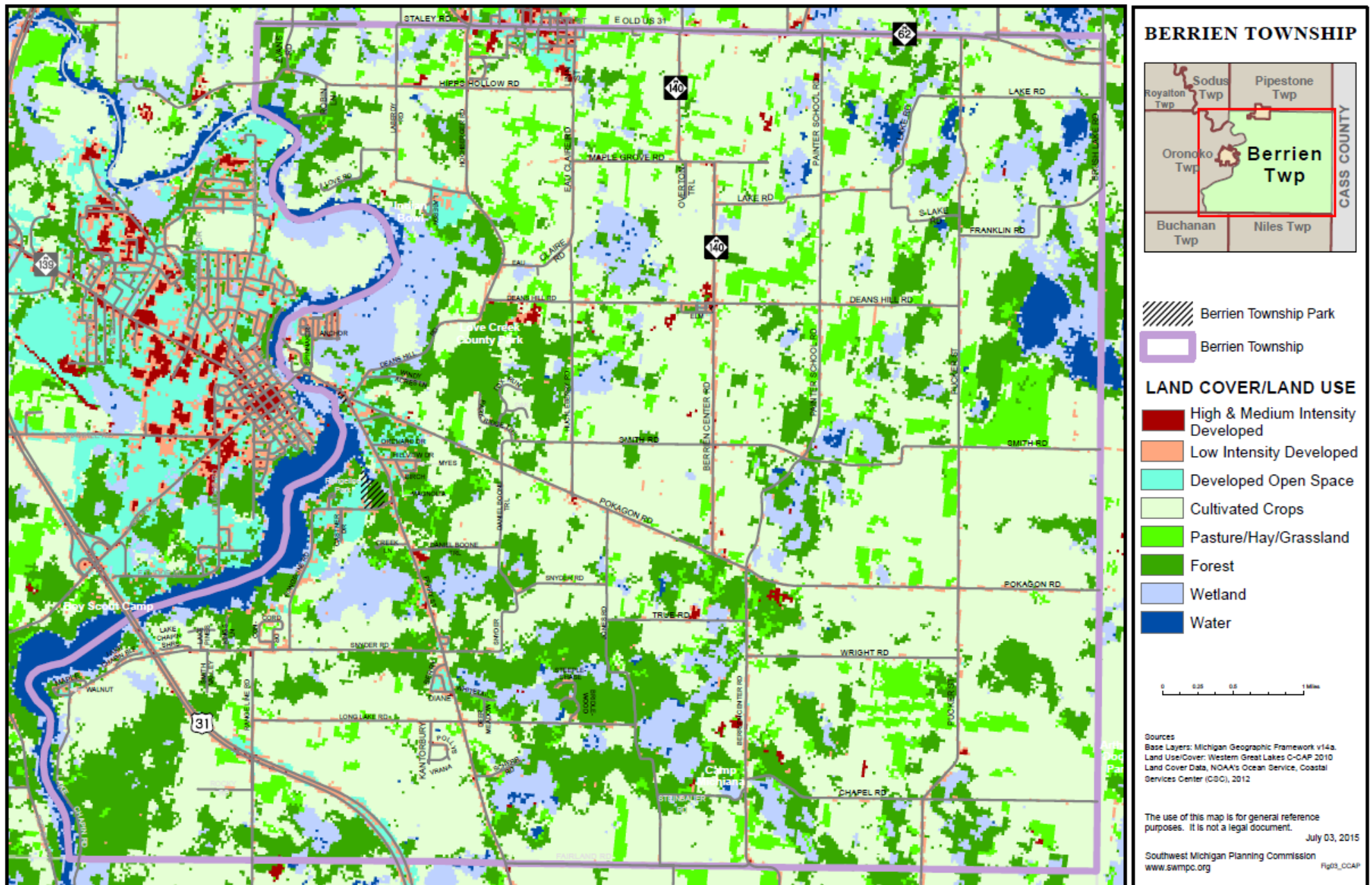
Land Cover/Use	Acres	Percent of Total
High & Medium Intensity Developed	76.05875	0.3%
Low Intensity Developed	879.3459	3.7%
Developed Open Space	274.2118	1.2%
Cultivated Crops	12883.06	54.8%
Pasture/Hay/Grassland	1721.552	7.3%
Forest	4831.732	20.6%
Wetland	2221.716	9.5%
Water	622.7032	2.6%

Legend	
ZONING	
	A-R Agricultural-Residential
	C-1 Commercial
	R-1 Residential
	I Industrial
	M-H Mobile Homes



0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

Berrien Township "Official Zoning Map"



Transportation

Berrien Township is located within close proximity to many major transportation routes that provide easy access to large urban areas. US-31 is the major road that runs through Berrien Township connecting them to Niles and South Bend to the south and Benton Harbor/St. Joseph to the northwest. In August of 2012, on Smith Road west of Huckleberry Road in Berrien Township had an average of 145 vehicles on that road a day. In August of 2012 on Painter School Road, south of Smith Road in Berrien Township had an average of 116 vehicles on that road a day. In August of 2012 on Huckleberry Road, north of Eau Claire Road it had an average of 414 vehicles a day. This information was provided by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission's traffic count data.

Berrien Township is located about 10 miles southeast of Interstate 94, which connects the major metropolitan centers of Detroit and Chicago. Detroit is located 200 miles to the east and Chicago is 100 miles to the southwest. Rail service is also available; Amtrak provides service daily to Chicago from St. Joseph and Niles.

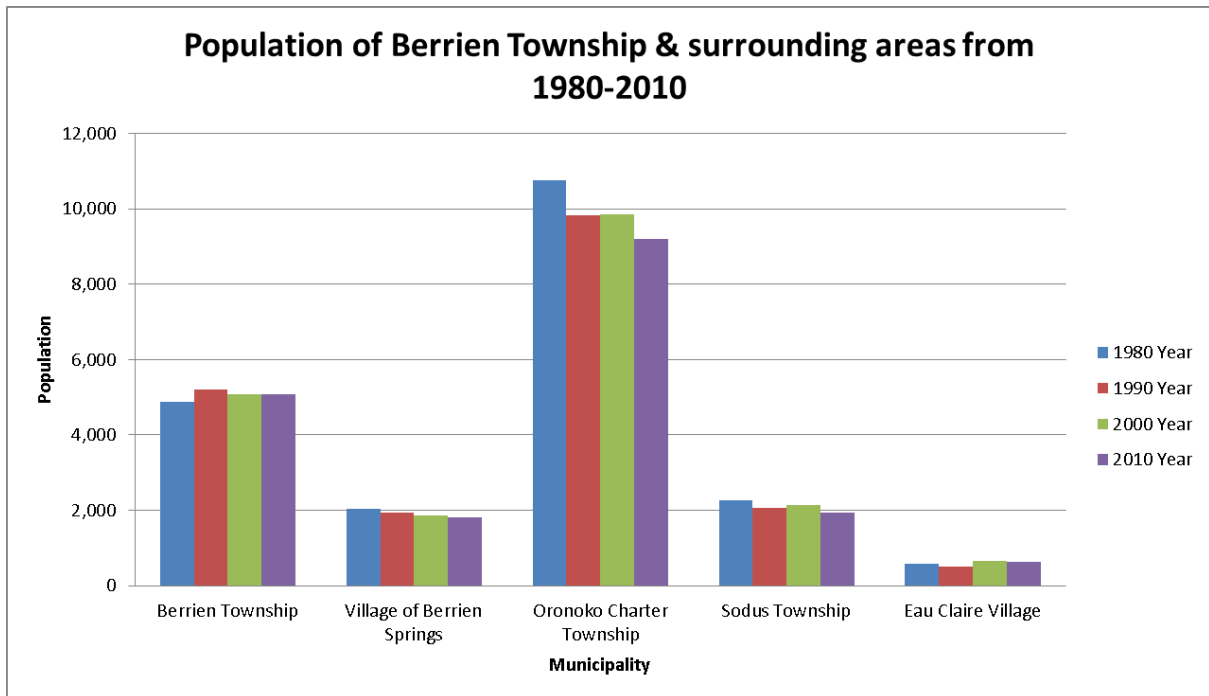


Air travel in the area is most easily accessed at the South Bend Regional Airport. Other options for commercial travel include airports in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Chicago and Detroit, which are all within 200 miles of Berrien Springs. The Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport in Niles as well as the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport in Benton Harbor service private airplanes and jets. Andrew's University has an airport that is utilized by visitors and people of the University and the greater Berrien Springs Area.

Social Characteristics

Population

The 2010 Census Survey indicates the populations in Berrien Township have experienced a small increase of 0.2% between 2000 and the 2010 Census. The population for Berrien Springs has been on a small decline of just 3.3% between 2000 and the 2010 Census. Oronoko Charter Township has had a decrease in population of 6.6% between 2000 and 2010 Census. The population of Sodus Township has experienced a decline in population by 9.7 % between 2000 and the 2010 Census. The population of Eau Claire Village has experienced a decline in population by 4.7 % between 2001 and the 2010 Census. A number of social and economic factors impact the growth or decline in the area. Any substantial change in the number of residents in the area will have a direct impact on the recreation facilities, needs and perceptions of the area.



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Table 1: Population of Berrien Township and surrounding area

Municipality	1980	1990	% Change 1980-1990	2000	% Change 1990-2000	2010	% Change 2000-2010
<u>Berrien Township</u>	4,875	5,191	6.5 %	5,075	-2.2 %	5,084	0.2 %
Village of Berrien Springs	2,042	1,927	-5.6 %	1,862	-3.4 %	1,800	-3.3 %
Oronoko Charter Township	10,761	9,819	-8.8 %	9,843	0.2 %	9,193	-6.6 %
Sodus Township	2,260	2,065	-8.6 %	2,139	3.6 %	1,932	-9.7 %
Eau Claire Village	573	494	-13.8 %	656	32.8 %	625	-4.7 %

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Age

In 2010, for Berrien Township, the median age is 43 years old. The ages of 1 and 14, 18.8% (955 people) between the ages of 15 and 34, 22.1% (1122 people) between the ages of 35 and 54 27.8% (1415 people), and 31.3% (1592 people) rare age 55 and older. In the surrounding township and village the age breakdown was slightly different in every age group. For the Village of Berrien Springs had a fairly even distribution of people among 4 different age groups: 18.4% (331 people) between the ages of 1 and 14, 32.5.0% (583 people) between the ages of 15 and 34, 24.9 % (449 people) between 35 and 54 and 24.3% (437 people) 55 and over. Oronoko Charter Township is distributed 15.2% (1395 people) between the ages of 1 and 14, 37.6% (3458 people), between the

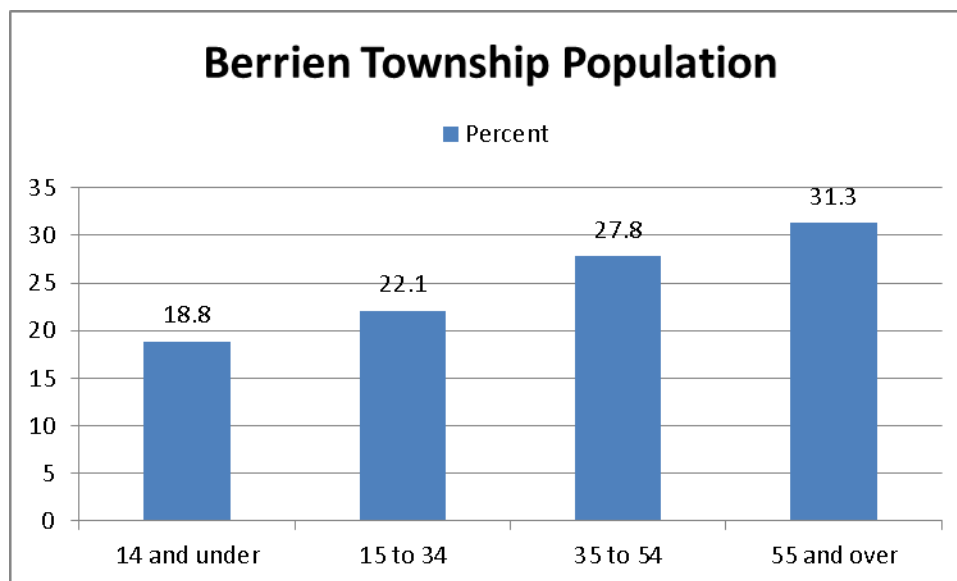
ages of 15 and 34, 23.2% (2,123) between the ages of 35 and 54, and 23.2% (2,217 people) between the ages of 55 and older. Table 2 indicates that Berrien Springs and Oronoko Charter Township share a close similarity in age distribution, with the exception of a higher percentage of people between the ages of 15 and 34 in Oronoko. In Berrien Township, the age group between 55 and over comprises a high percentage of the population.

A trend that is expected for the future of the Area is a growth in the number of persons 55 and over. The aging of the “Baby Boomers” coupled with the fact that people are living longer; it is likely that a growth in this population will be seen in Berrien Township and the surrounding areas in the coming years. The age grouping 15 to 34 is currently the largest group in the surrounding area. It can be anticipated that an increase in the number of persons in the 1 to 14 years old category could occur given that the 15 to 34 years old category is the largest group in the area.

Table 2: 2010 Population by Age

	Age Group	Percent		Age Group	Percent		Age Group	Percent
Village of Berrien Springs	14 and under	18.4 %	Berrien Township	14 and under	18.8 %	Oronoko Charter Township	14 and under	15.2 %
	15 to 34	32.5 %		15 to 34	22.1 %		15 to 34	37.6 %
	35 to 54	24.9 %		35 to 54	27.8 %		35 to 54	23.2 %
	55 and over	24.3 %		55 and over	31.3 %		55 and over	24.2 %

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Persons with Disabilities

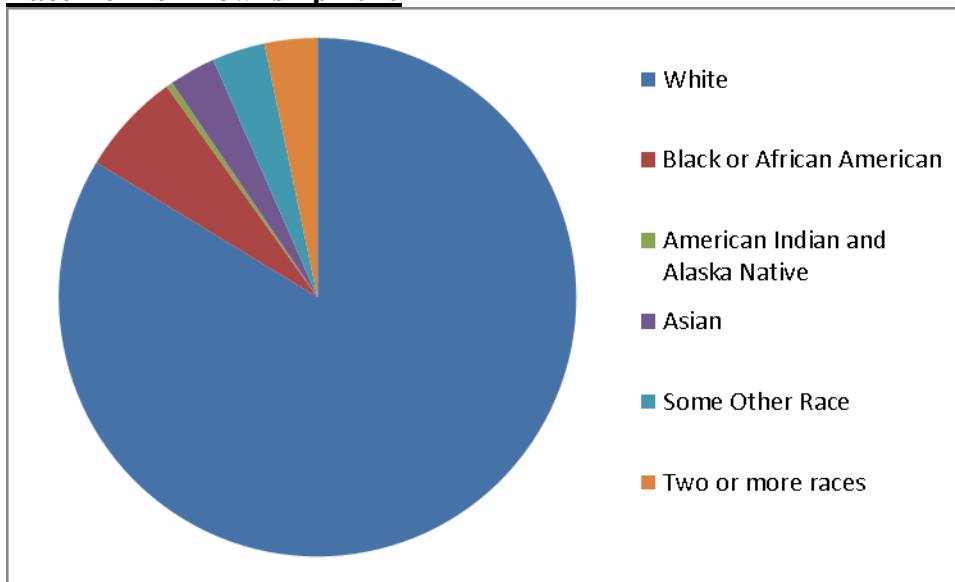
From the 2009-2013 American Community Survey that shows us an estimate number of people living in Berrien Township with a disability. For the population that is from 5 to 17 years old it is estimated that there are 9 people with a disability that includes hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, and self-care difficulty. For the population that ranges from 18 to 64 years old it is estimated that there are 406 people with a disability that includes hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living difficulty. For the population 65 years old and over it is estimated that are 325 people with a disability that includes hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living difficulty. Berrien Township population breaks down residents with disabilities with 507 males and 233 females. Parks are an important destination which should be easily accessible to all citizens.



Race

In 2010, in Berrien Township, 83.7% of the population identifies themselves as White, 6.4% as Black or African-American, 2.9% as Asian, 3.3% as some other race, 3.3% as two or more races and 0.4% as American Indian and Alaska Native.

Race Berrien Township 2010



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

Housing



The majority of households (67.7%) in the Berrien Township and surrounding area are made up of families. This is evidenced by the large amount of people within the age group of 1 to 14. Table 3 shows that in 2010 the Berrien Township area had an average of 3 persons in each family unit. The census data reveals that Berrien Township has the highest percentage of family households in the area. Yet it also has the highest ratio in average family size and in average household size. The largest age category in Berrien Township is 55 years and older. This could be interpreted to mean that there are more “empty nesters” in Berrien Township who may have interests in more leisure time activities in the future. Overall, the strong family base in and around the community is a contributing factor to the types of housing that are present.

Table 3: Percentage of Family Households and Household Size in 2010

	# Of Households	% Family Households	Avg. Family Size	Avg. Household Size
Berrien Township	1,779	76.3 %	3.1	2.73
Village of Berrien Springs	756	61.2 %	2.95	2.35
Oronoko Charter Township	3,158	65.6 %	3	2.49
Sodus Township	881	65.2 %	2.92	2.38
Eau Claire Village	214	73.4 %	3.41	2.92

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Income

Table 4 shows that the median household income was highest in Berrien Township at \$57,730, followed by Sodus Township at 42,938, Oronoko Township at \$40,266, Eau Claire Village at \$37,404, and the lowest median was \$35,063 for Berrien Springs. In Berrien Township, the highest single range was \$50,000-\$74,999 at 21.6% and 76.1% of all household incomes were closely distributed among \$15,000 and \$99,999. In Berrien Springs, 74.6% of all household incomes were closely distributed among \$15,000 and \$99,999 with less than \$10,000 at the highest range at 16.1%. For Oronoko Township, the largest single range was \$50,000-\$74,999 with 20.4% and 74.1% of all household incomes were closely distributed among \$15,000 and \$99,999. For Sodus Township, the largest single range was \$35,000 to \$49,999 that made up 19.4% and 77.7% of all household incomes were closely distributed among \$15,000 and \$99,999. For Eau Claire Village, the largest single range was \$35,000 to \$49,999 that made up 27.9% and 72.6% of all household incomes were closely distributed among \$15,000 and \$99,999.

Table 4: Median Household Income in 2013

Household Income and Benefits			
	Median	\$15,000-\$99,999	Range (Highest %)
Berrien Township	\$57,730	76.1 %	\$50,000-74,999 (21.6%)
Berrien Springs	\$35,063	74.6 %	Less than \$10,000 (16.1%)
Oronoko Township	\$40,266	74.1 %	\$50,000-74,999 (20.4%)
Sodus Township	\$42,938	77.7 %	\$35,000-\$49,999 (19.4%)
Eau Claire Village	\$37,404	72.6 %	\$35,000-\$49,999 (27.9%)

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates)

Unemployment Trends

Unemployment trends in Berrien Township and Berrien County have been similar to each other during recent years with the Township's rates being just slightly lower than those in the county. The 2012 unemployment rate estimate for Berrien Township was 5.4% (+/- 2.00) in 2012 and for the County it was 9%. Both, however, are less than the 2012 unemployment rate for the State of Michigan, 9.1%. In 2014 Berrien County's unemployment rate was 8.1% while the State of Michigan's rate dropped to 7.1%. Data for 2014 was not yet available for Berrien Township.

Table 5: Unemployment Rate

Unemployment Rate			
Year	Berrien Township (Margin of Error +/-)*	Berrien County **	State of Michigan**
2014	Not available	8.10%	7.10%
2012	5.4% (+/- 2.00)	9%	9.1%

*U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5 year estimates

**Bureau of Labor Statistics

Poverty

According to the American Community Survey most recent five year estimates, approximately 16 % of the Township residents are living in poverty. When looking at children under 18 years of age 21% are living in poverty. Looking at the age group of 18 to 64 years of age there is 14.9% of residents living in poverty. When looking at the age group of 65 years and over there is 14.5% of residents living in poverty. This increase variation in childhood poverty may indicate that poverty is concentrated in large families in the township.

Table 6: Persons Living in Poverty, 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Age	Berrien Township
Under 18 years	21%
18 to 64 years	14.9%
65 years and over	14.5%
All ages	16%

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates)

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Berrien Township is organized under a general law form of government. It provides services, including general government activities, volunteer fire department and recreation. The Township Board sets policy and directs staff actions in fulfillment of those policies. The Township Supervisor is the direct link between the Board and the Township's operations, and is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Township.

In addition to the supervisor, the township employs a full-time administrative assistant, a deputy clerk, a deputy treasurer and an assessor. The Township Board consists of a supervisor, clerk, treasurer and four (4) trustees.

Berrien Township parks are maintained on a contractual basis. The 2016 budget for park maintenance and recreation activities is \$16,000 for Range Line Park and \$7,000 for Fisherman's Haven. Park maintenance and recreation activities are entirely funded from general tax levies.

The communities of Berrien Springs Village, Berrien Township, and Oronoko Charter Township formed a joint recreation board called The Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Board. It is funded by appropriations from each of the entities' annual budgets and supplemented by other income. The Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Board is made up of six/nine representatives with two appointed by each of the townships, the village the school corporation and an at-large representative selected by the Board. Each of the respective governing bodies annually appoints their two representatives to the board.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The plan is written in fulfillment of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirement that an eligible municipality must have a locally adopted 5-year recreation plan in place prior to submission of any application for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants. The writing and acceptance of the recreation plan is an important

process. It is the community's opportunity to set the priorities of spending money and developing the future facilities and programs to meet their needs.

The Berrien Township Parks Committee meetings were held on a monthly basis. The meetings helped determine the topics and schedule for visioning sessions for public input. The Parks Committee hosted a pancake breakfast on June 14, 2015 from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Range Line Park to gather input from the public about the parks. Community input was also solicited through a recreation survey and discussions between Township officials and the public. The survey and discussions gave guidance to the Parks Committee for formulating the goals and action plan. The survey instrument is in the Appendix.

What is Your Vision for the Berrien Township's Parks and Recreation Areas?

WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED AND JOIN US!

Berrien Township Park Committee will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast. The purpose is to gather public opinion on updating the park facilities. Your input will help guide the future of Berrien Township!





Pancake Breakfast & Public Input Meeting Sunday, June 14th 2015 from 7:30am-11:30am

Location: Range Line Park 10138 Range Line Road, Berrien Springs, MI

*suggested donations: \$5 for adults & children 8th Grade & under are free.

RECREATION INVENTORY

Berrien Township Parks

Berrien Township Public Facilities	Size	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
<p>Berrien Township Hall Park</p> 	<p>< 1 acre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Outdoor Basketball ❖ Playground
<p>Fisherman's Haven</p> 	<p>< 1 acre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Parking Lot ❖ Fishing access ❖ Portable Bathroom
<p>Inter-Urban Easement (Small Parcel Leased from AEP)</p>	<p>< 1 acre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Vacant

<p>Range Line Park</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 2 Picnic Shelters ❖ Outdoor grills ❖ Ball Field ❖ Swings, Slides, Teeter Totter
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The following is a list of other public and private recreation facilities located within Berrien Township.

County Parks within Berrien Township	Size	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Love Creek Co. Park Preserve	217 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New Interpretive Center ❖ 2 Fulltime Naturalists ❖ 6 miles of Hiking Trails ❖ 6 miles of Ski Trails ❖ Warming Shelter ❖ Modern Restrooms

Private Facilities within Berrien Township	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Five Pines Campground	❖ Camping facilities
Michiana Christian Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Camping ❖ Pool ❖ Paintball
Five Pines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Swimming Pool ❖ 3 Tennis Courts ❖ Sand Volleyball Court ❖ Family Cottages ❖ Boating ❖ Snow Tubing

Surrounding Communities Inventory

The following is a list of public recreation facilities in surrounding communities.

Oronoko Charter Township Public Facilities	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Robert Feather Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Swings/Slides ❖ Monkey Bars ❖ 2 Picnic Shelters ❖ Ball Field
Private Facilities within Oronoko Township	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Camp Betz Boy Scout Calumet Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Camping ❖ Outdoor activities
Berrien Springs Public Facilities	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Grove Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Picnic Shelter ❖ Restrooms
Wolf's Prairie Playground (within Grove Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Children's Play Structure ❖ Swings ❖ Slides
Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Swings/Slide ❖ Picnic Table ❖ Sitting Area ❖ Flower Garden
Policeman's Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Green Space ❖ Viewing Area
Rotary Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Undeveloped
Shamrock Park (Located in Berrien Twp.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Campsites ❖ Rental Cabins ❖ Restrooms ❖ Pavilion ❖ Boat Launch
Private Facilities within Berrien Springs	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Berrien Springs Boat Club (Lake Chapin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 2 Boat Launch Ramps ❖ Picnic tables ❖ Outdoor grills ❖ Swings
Eau Claire Village Public Facilities	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Elizabeth Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pavilion/ Picnic tables ❖ Playground ❖ Grills ❖ Restrooms ❖ Baseball Field
Veteran's Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pavilion ❖ Picnic area

Cass County Parks	Inventory of Facilities/Equipment
Arthur Dodd Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Playground ❖ Horseshoe pits ❖ Volleyball court ❖ Picnic area ❖ Canoe/kayak landing ❖ Fishing (cold water trout fishing) ❖ Rustic Restroom ❖ Hiking trails (one mile) ❖ Cabins (planned for 2016-17)

Water Trails

St. Joseph River Water Trail

The St. Joseph River Water Trail is about 40 miles from Niles to St. Joseph (Lake Michigan). There are dams at Niles, Buchanan and Berrien Springs to portage.

Dowagiac River Water Trail

The Dowagiac River is the largest coldwater river system in southern Michigan. The Dowagiac River Water Trail from M-51 to Niles is 19 miles long. There is a dam at Pucker Street (upstream of Niles) to Portage; however, the City is working to remove this dam.

Non Motorized Network

As a long-term strategy, the construction of a bicycle/walkway system that connects the parks and points of interest in the Greater Lake Chapin Area fits with the overall desire for a regional non-motorized pathway system throughout the Southwestern Michigan Planning Area. This desire has been expressed in regional strategies, county recreation plans and even in other local 5-year recreation plans.

On-road facilities are part of the roadway design and transportation network. On-road facilities include paved shoulders and bicycle lanes. Minimum widths are based on the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) 1999 standards. Paved shoulders should be at least 4 feet or greater on each side of the roadway. Bicycle lanes should be at least 5 feet or greater on each side of the roadway.

Complete Streets are roadways that are planned and designed to accommodate all transportation modes, including pedestrians and bicyclists. The process of achieving complete streets can involve planning and field surveys to identify where barriers exist to non-motorized travel and addressing those challenges. It often requires new relationships and partnerships between different levels of government to address funding and maintenance agreements between units of government. In a move that will make transportation in Michigan more multi-modal, the House and Senate passed Complete

Streets legislation (HB 6151 & HB 6152) in August 2010 that strengthens the lines of communication between road agencies and local units of government regarding transportation projects and takes into consideration the needs of all users.

There are many specific ways to improve non-motorized transportation:

- Add and improve existing sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Correct specific roadway hazards to non-motorized transport (sometimes called “spot improvement” programs).
- Improve non-motorized maintenance.
- Utilize universal design concepts when designing facilities (transportation systems that accommodate people with disabilities and other special needs).
- Include amenities such as bicycle parking, streetscape improvements, street furniture (e.g., benches), and Public Bike Sharing Systems (PBS), which are automated bicycle rental systems designed to provide efficient mobility for short, utilitarian urban trips.
- Increase safety with traffic calming, traffic speed reductions, vehicle restrictions, and road space reallocation.
- Provide safety education, law enforcement, and encouragement programs.
- Address security concerns of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Develop kiosks and multi-modal access guides, which include maps and other information on how to walk and cycle to a particular destination.

Off-road facilities include shared-use paths which accommodate multiple non-motorized users (mainly pedestrians and bicyclists) and minimum 10 foot width (based on AASHTO standards). Shared-use paths frequently follow green spaces, abandoned rail beds, or might be adjacent to natural features like rivers. Due to their separation from vehicular traffic, they provide a popular alternative means of travel for many types of users. Often, unpaved/unimproved paths are more popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians and are more often used for recreation and not as much for transportation. Shared-use paths must be at least 10 feet wide. Surface types are either improved (paved or crushed stone) or unimproved.

The Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (2011) identified existing on-road and off-road facilities and identified local and regional priorities for non-motorized facilities. The following are maps and excerpts from that plan that relate to Berrien Township area.

The following map shows the existing on-road and off-road non-motor facilities and traffic counts of major roads within Berrien County.

BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NON- MOTORIZED TRAVEL

Primary Roads with Traffic Volume*

*Traffic volume are estimated based on an average 24-hour period.

- Light - Under 2,500
- Medium - 2,500 to 10,000
- Heavy - Above 10,000

- 4 Ft Shoulder
- Non-motorized Trail
- Trail Head
- Highway
- Roads not Rated
- City & Village
- County

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Data Sources

Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework: Berrien County, Version v14a

4 Ft Shoulders: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, 2009

Non-Motor Trail: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, 2013

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.



August 09, 2015

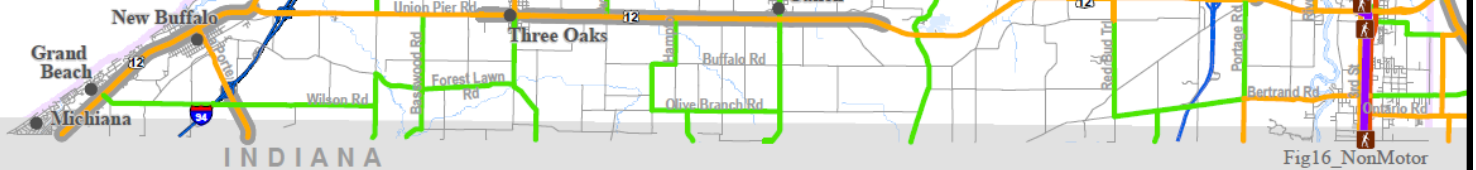
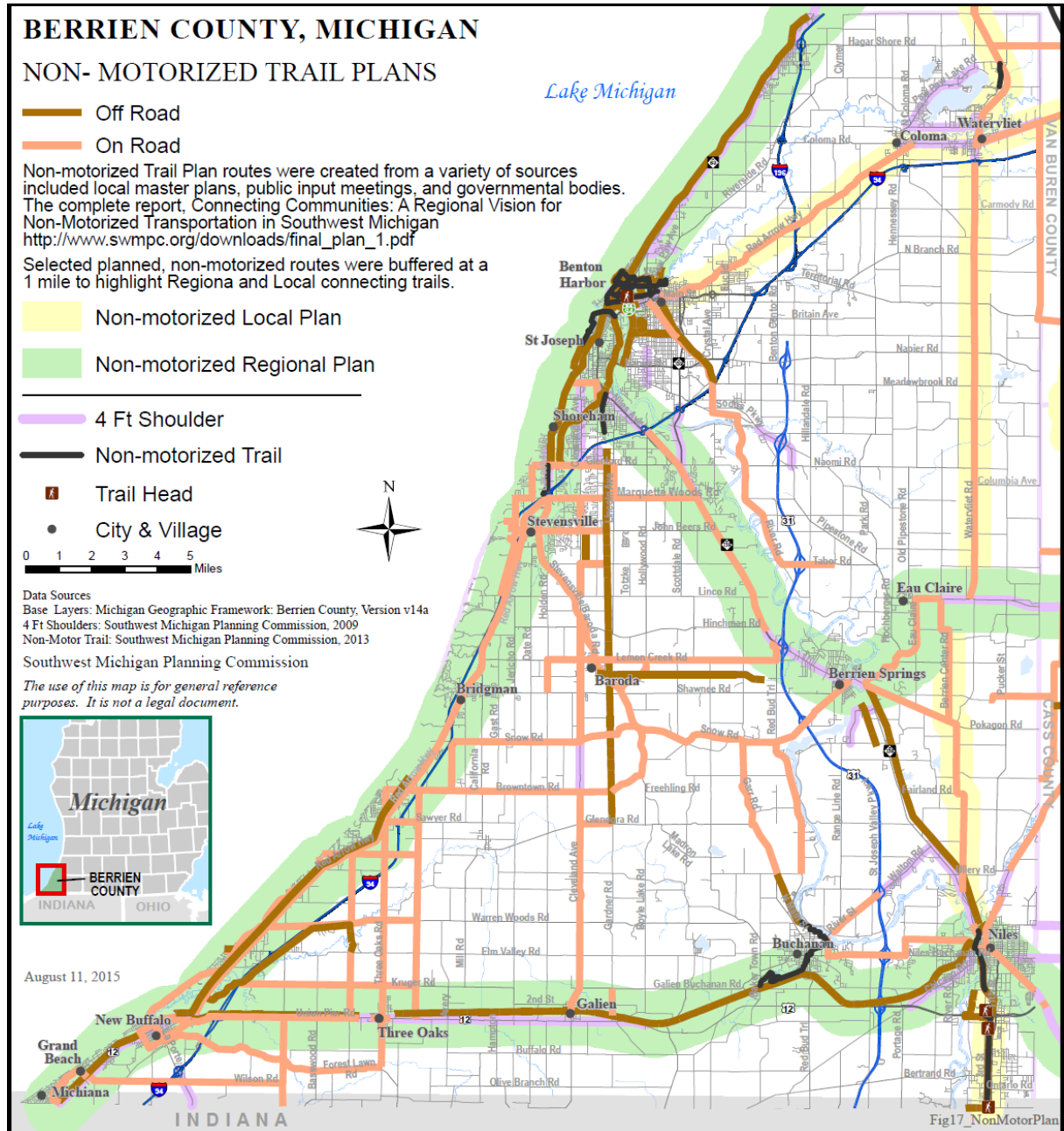


Fig16_NonMotor

Several non-motorized facilities are planned in the area. In Berrien County, a high local priority route was identified that connected St. Joseph to Niles through Berrien Springs. It would most likely follow existing roads, but where possible be an off road facility. A priority regional route was identified in the southwest plan that would pass through Berrien Springs (green on map). This corridor would mostly follow M-60, starting near the lakeshore in St. Joseph in Berrien County. It would head east through Berrien Springs, Dowagiac and Cassopolis, then connect Three Rivers and Mendon in St. Joseph County, and on to Athens and Union City in Branch County. It would pass through Burlington and Homer in Calhoun County before continuing east beyond the southwest Michigan region.



In addition, these local trail networks have been identified as a priority.

The initial proposed trail would have termination points at Berrien Township Park on Range Line Road and at Robert Feather Park in Oronoko Charter Township. The possible route would include, but is not limited to the route described below. An important concern in the design of this non-motorized trail is the safety of the pedestrians and bicyclists when the trail comes in proximity of the roadways, particularly Old US 31.

GREATER LAKE CHAPIN AREA TRAIL:

- Range Line Park – build a path system that loops the park and opens access to Lake Chapin. The path will exit on the park side of Range Line Road and follow the roadway to Old US 31. From there it will head generally North toward Fisherman’s Haven.
- Fisherman’s Haven – continue the non-motorized path along Old US 31 across the bridge into Berrien Springs.
- Follow the North bank of the St. Joseph River through the village park and continue along the riverbank on right of way easements to Grove Park.

GREATER LAKE CHAPIN BIKE TRAIL:

- Acquire property or rights of way along the St. Joseph River and Lake Chapin, where available, to keep the walkway close to the water, wherever possible.
- Develop rest points at strategic points of interest or intervals along the bicycle route.

RE-ESTABLISH INTER-URBAN BRIDGE:

- Re-connect banks of St. Joseph River/Lake Chapin for pedestrian and non-motorized uses as part of efforts to develop regional non-motorized system.
- Identify mixed use vendors and activities to offer retail goods and food along or near the inter-urban bridge walkway.

Barrier-Free Compliance Status

Berrien Township is committed to meeting the needs of all residents and visitors. Attention will be given to projects that will enable easier and safer access to all recreational venues.

The MDNR Guidelines require that a barrier free ranking be given to each facility for assessing its accessibility to persons with disabilities. The assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves as well as the access routes to them.

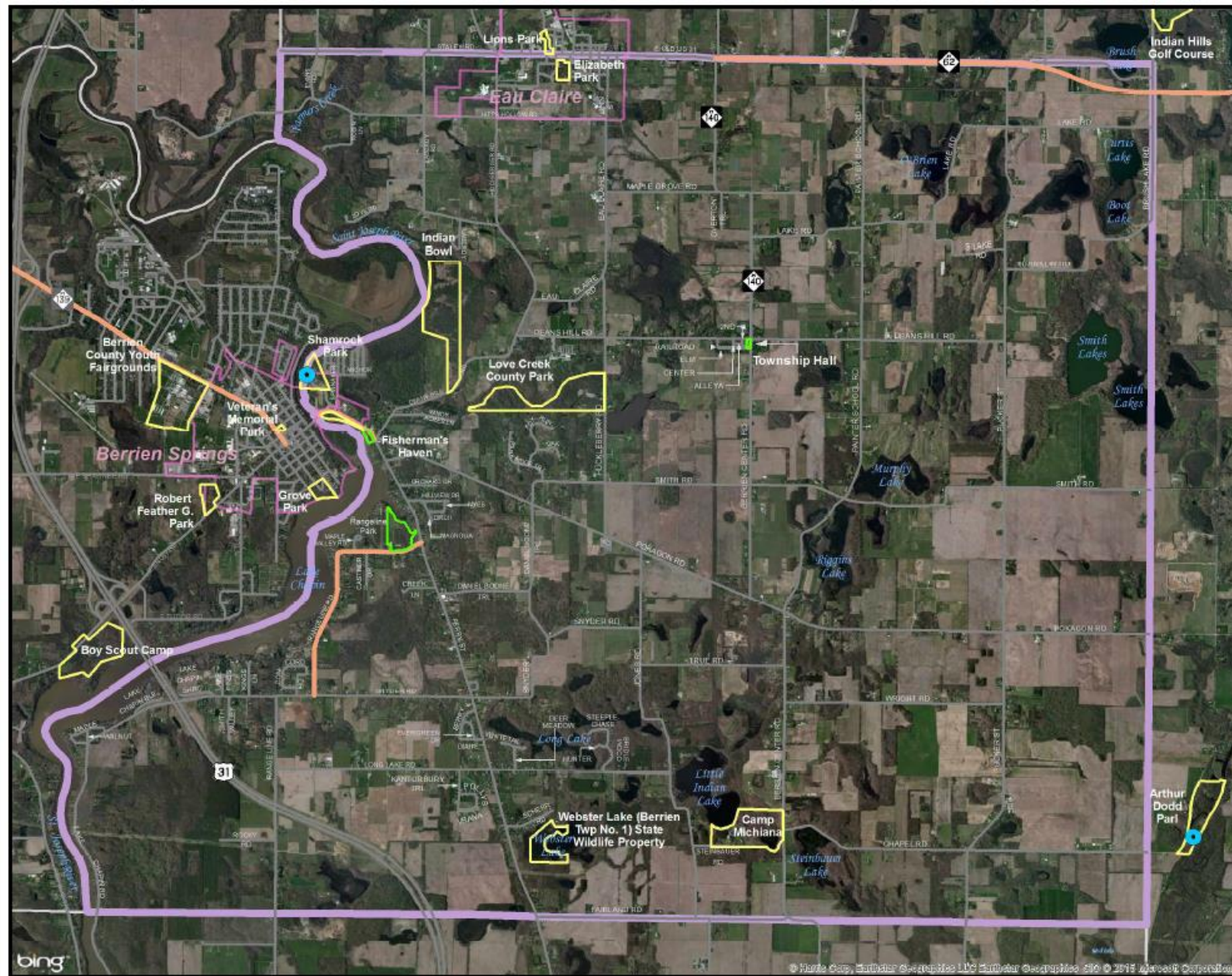
The following system, provided by the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (1/27/2006) was used:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

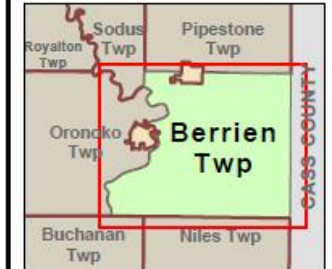
The three parks under the jurisdiction of Berrien Township are in need of upgrades to meet accessibility guidelines. All future park improvements will include accessibility upgrades and more emphasis on universal design principles.

Park	Accessibility Rating
Berrien Township Park	2
Fisherman's Haven	2
Range Line Park	2

The remaining recreational facilities in the area are not under the jurisdiction of Berrien Township.



BERRIEN TOWNSHIP



Berrien Township

Village

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

All Other Park Areas

Berrien Township Park

Public Access

Road with 4-ft Wide Shoulders



Sources:
Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework v14a.
Park: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, 2012



The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document. July 07, 2015

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
www.swmpc.org

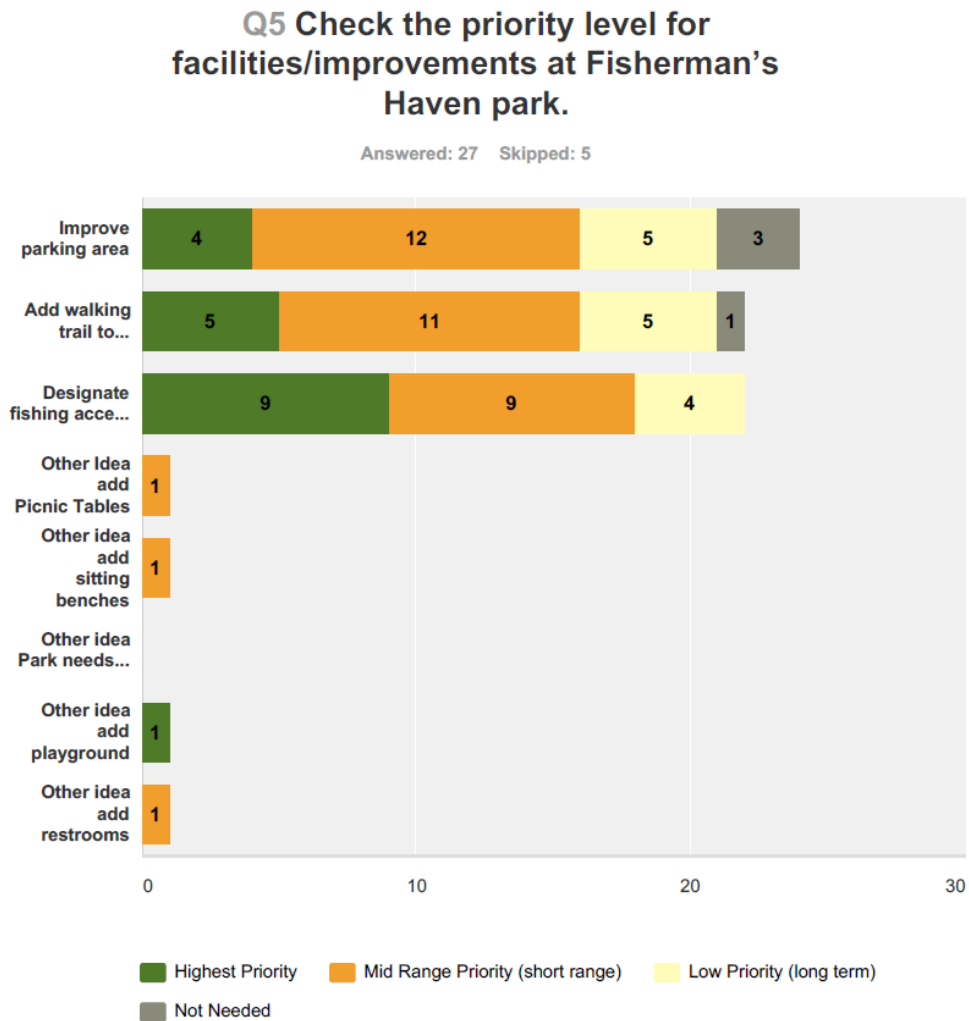
Fig02_Park

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment is based on input from the public meeting (pancake breakfast), survey results, input from the steering committee, site visits to existing parks, review of natural resource maps and a thorough analysis of all data collected previously and currently. In order to give an opinion of the adequacies and deficiencies of the recreational facilities in Berrien Township, visits were conducted to physically examine the conditions and surroundings of the established parks. All opinions are based on observations made during these visits. Questions regarding the adequacy of the structures for safety and endurance need to be fully examined by qualified experts.

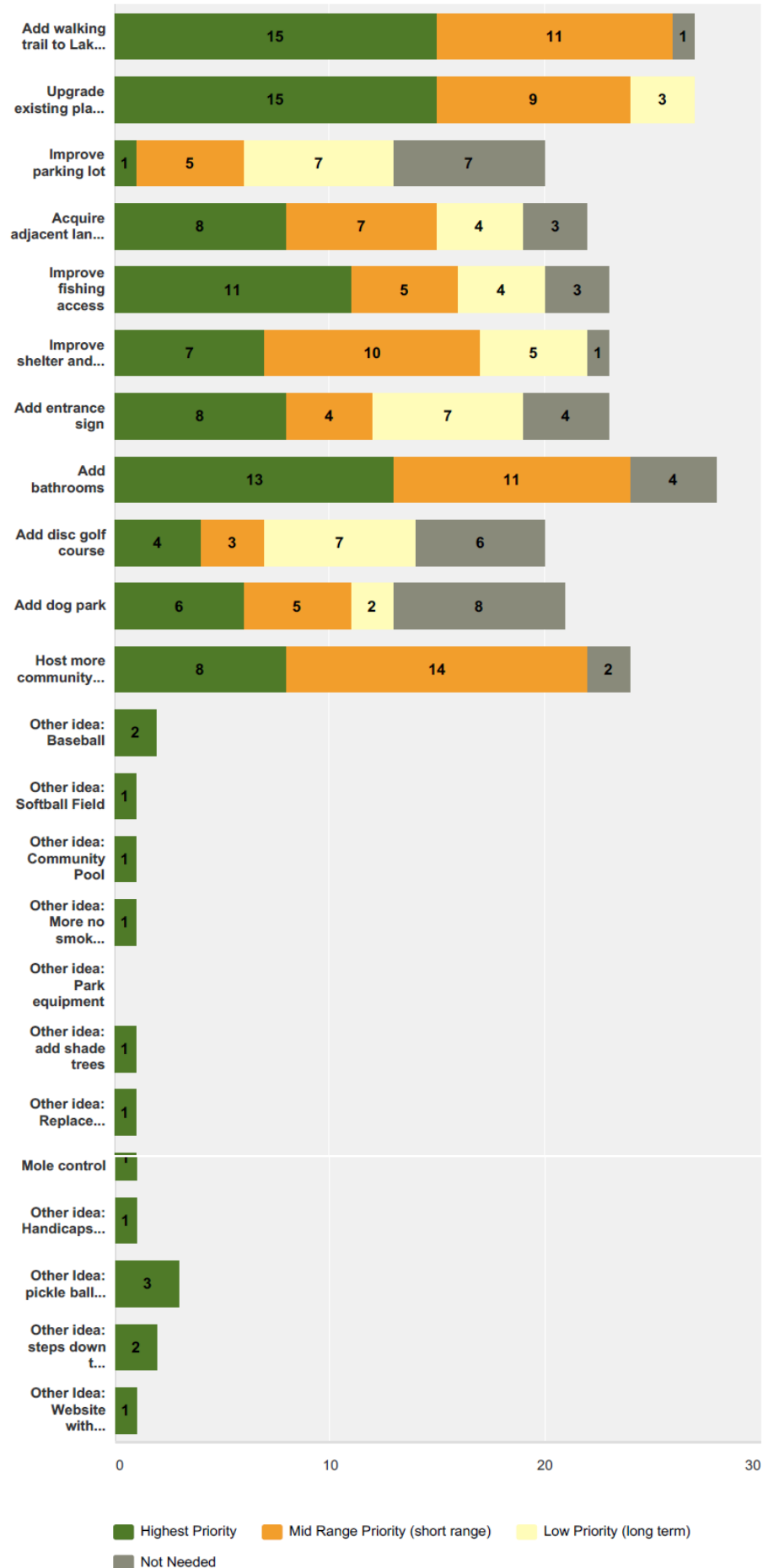
Survey Results

Below are the survey results regarding improvements at each park and general recreation desires. The survey results for the other survey questions can be found in the appendix.



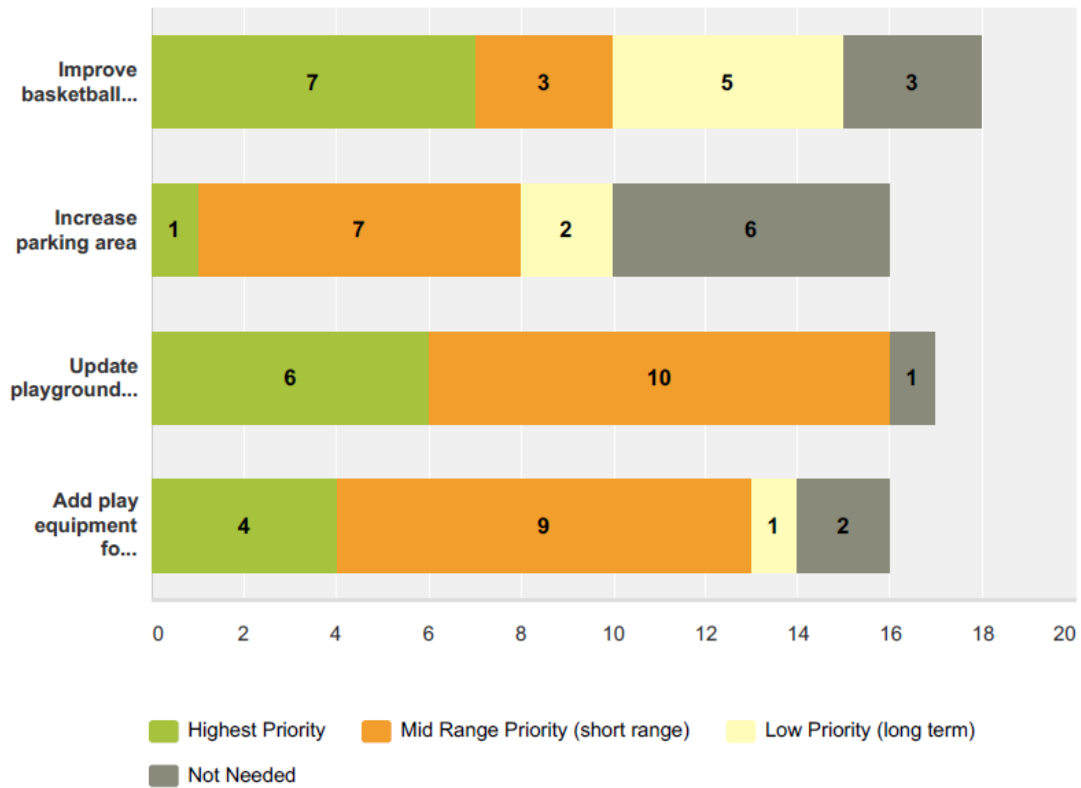
Q6 Check the priority level for facilities/improvements at Rangeline Park

Answered: 30 Skipped: 2



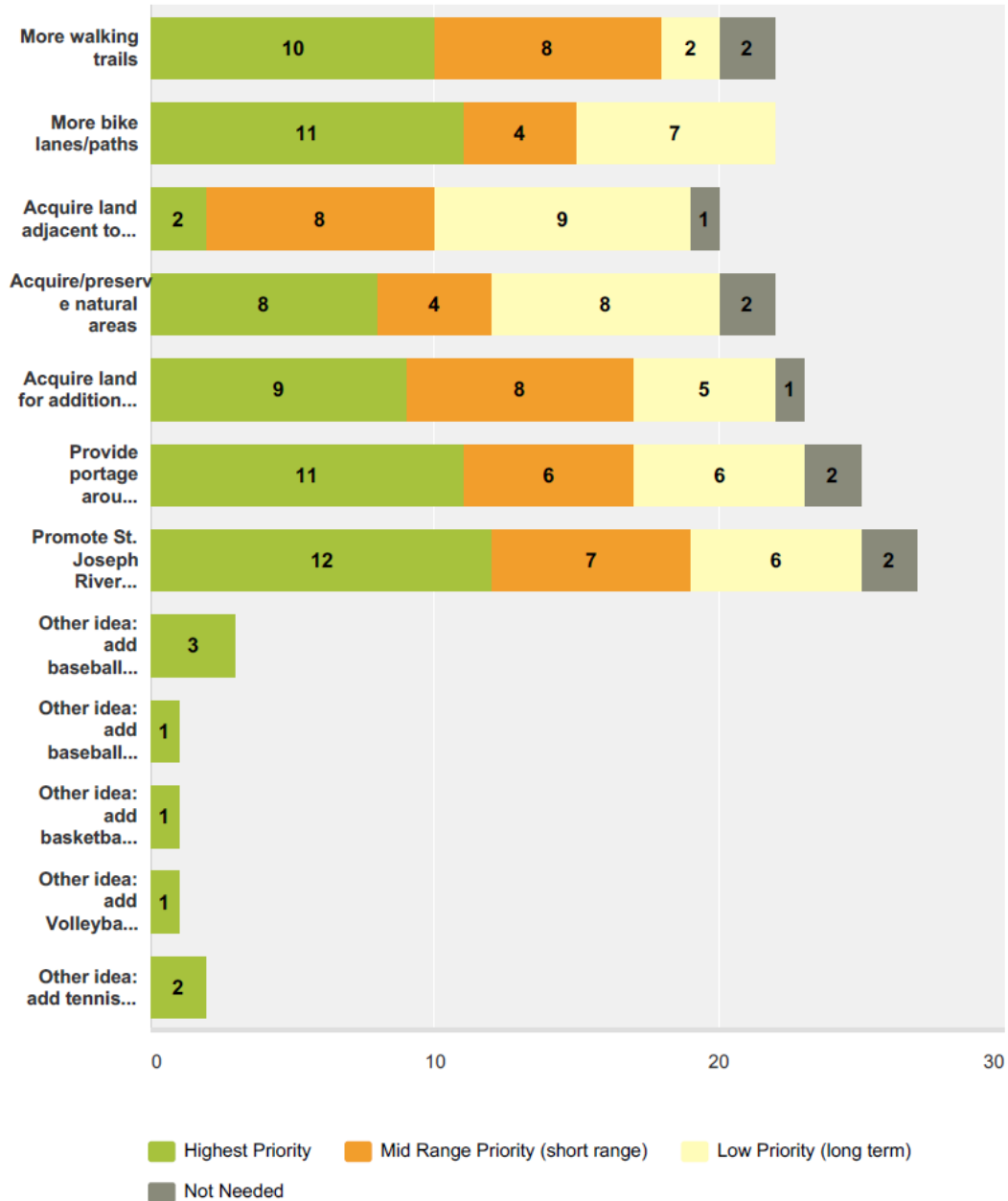
Q7 Check the priority level for facilities/improvements at each Berrien Township Hall Park

Answered: 20 Skipped: 12



Q8 General Ideas for Parks/Recreation/Open Space for Berrien Township. Check the priority level for facilities/improvements.

Answered: 28 Skipped: 4



It is very important to note that the survey and visioning session identified the perceived lack of recreation facilities and activities for adults in the Greater Berrien Springs. It is common for people to first think of recreation opportunities in terms of serving the youth of the area. As the population continues to mature, the “baby-boomers” become a significant segment of the population wanting recreation activities and facilities that satisfy their desires for more active lifestyles. In response to the demographic change of increasing numbers of senior citizens as related to recreational planning, the AARP conducted a nationwide study in August 2005 to better understand how baby boomers (ages 41-59) spend their travel and leisure time. Following are the top ten travel planning factors as compiled in this study. This information can be useful when planning for recreational facilities and activities that may be more tourism related.

Top Ten Travel Planning Factors

1. Beautiful scenic place
2. Very relaxing
3. Good weather/climate
4. No schedules to meet
5. Can see and do new things/have different experiences/meet new people
6. Good place for family/children
7. Environment is clean and unspoiled
8. Convenient to get to
9. Ability to gain knowledge of history or other cultures
10. Outdoor adventure

Regardless of the destination when preparing to *travel*, baby-boomers are looking for beautiful scenery, relaxation, good weather, and no pressure of schedules to meet. The study further reveals that baby-boomers typically partake in a number of *leisure activities* which may be either adventurous or experiential. Following are two top ten lists of activities that boomers have participated in over the past 12 months categorized into "adventurous" activities and "experiential" activities.¹

Top 10 Experiential Activities

1. Shopping
2. Fine dining
3. Touring scenic byways
4. Casino/riverboat gambling
5. Zoo
6. Gardens
7. Theater/drama
8. National parks touring
9. Festivals, nightclub/stage shows, major sports events
10. Health club/exercise facilities

¹ http://www.aarp.org/research/family/travel/boomer_travel.html

Top 10 Adventure Activities

1. Fresh or saltwater fishing
2. Escorted or guided tour
3. Biking
4. Hiking/backpacking/rock and mountain climbing
5. Camping (tent)
6. RV camping
7. Motorcycling
8. Horseback riding
9. Snorkeling
10. Whitewater rafting/kayaking

To meet the desires of baby boomers and an aging population, the Township should adopt policies to encourage the preservation of green space and begin planning for the development of interconnected non-motorized paths throughout the area. This may prove to be a most cost effective method of enhancing the Greater Berrien Springs Area and of providing recreation to members of the community.

Below are specific acquisition, facility and promotional needs identified during the planning process.

Acquisition Needs

- Property for enhancing access to the St. Joseph River for fishing and water trail development.
- Property adjacent to existing parks
- Property that contributes to open space areas, connect parks and open space or contain high quality natural features.
- Property that contributes to the development of non-motorized facilities are of particular interest.

Facility Needs

- St. Joseph River Water Trail: Canoe/kayak launches, signage, restroom facilities, drinking fountains, parking, fish cleaning stations, dumpsters, camping
- Non-motorized trails
- Range Line Park in Berrien Township has functional, yet very dated, playground equipment.

Promotional Needs

Website

Printed Materials

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

After carefully considering the community's demographic and physical characteristics as well as all other information received through the planning and public input process, the following goals and objectives reflect the vision of Berrien Township's future recreational facilities and programs. Also overall, coordination and communication between and among the Village of Berrien Springs, Berrien Township, Oronoko Charter Township, Eau Claire, Sodus Township, the Berrien Springs School Corporation, and the citizens of the Greater Berrien Springs Area are vital to the success of the parks and recreation improvement efforts.

1. Maintain and promote existing recreational facilities/programs to provide safe and enjoyable opportunities for the community.
 - a. Budget an adequate amount of funds each year for maintenance of parks.
 - b. Provide information about parks and recreation on the Township website.
 - c. Develop and install coordinated entrance and way finding signs for parks.
 - i. Design and install signs with a common logo that reflects the joint recreation and park board and the name of each of the recreation facilities.
 - ii. Place signs along major roadways indicating directions to the parks.
 - d. Keep the Township's 5 year recreation plan up to date.
 - i. Involve the public in recreation planning and implementation.
 - ii. Prioritize recreation improvements and acquisitions, identify potential funding sources and provide for a line item in the Township budget for recreation
2. Coordinate recreation facility and program planning and implementation with surrounding municipalities.
 - a. Continue to actively participate in the Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Board to ensure all recreation activities are coordinated.
 - b. Ensure active communication between boards and councils occurs, especially with planning non-motorized (walking and biking) routes and developing the St. Joseph River Water Trail for paddling.
 - c. Expand the scope of cooperation and coordination among the partners.
 - d. Develop a coordinated calendar of recreation activities and programs.
 - e. Produce a timely programs and activities bulletin for distribution to the residents of the area.
3. Enhance and improve Berrien Township's recreation facilities and programs to meet the needs and desires of the community.
 - a. Ensure intergenerational activities are provided.

- b. Utilize the principles of universal design so that facilities are available to persons of all ages and abilities.*
 - c. Implement high priority improvements to Fisherman's Haven Park such as improved parking, a walking trail, improved fishing access and playground equipment and medium priority items such as picnic areas, benches and restrooms.
 - d. Implement high priority improvements to Range Line Park such as a walking trail, upgraded playground equipment, improved fishing access, improved shelter, entrance sign and bathrooms. Other ideas include improved parking, a dog park, disc golf and more community events.
 - e. Implement high priority improvements to Township Hall Park such as upgrade and additional playground equipment, improved basketball courts and parking.
 - f. Provide facilities for pickle ball, tennis, basketball and softball/baseball.
- 4. Develop non-motorized network of shared use paths and bike lanes to connect residential areas, parks points of interest and nearby communities/downtowns.
 - a. Adopt a Complete Street Policy.
 - b. Work with road commission to add bike lanes or paved shoulders to roads when work is occurring on roadways in the Township.
 - c. Re-establish the Inter-Urban Bridge.
 - i. Reconnect North and South banks of the St. Joseph River/Lake Chapin with a pedestrian, non-motorized bridge over existing piers.
 - ii. Identify mixed-use vendors to offer retail goods and food along or near the new bridge walkway.
- 5. Support the enhancement of the St. Joseph River Water Trail.
 - a. Improve portages and access to the St. Joseph River
 - b. Coordinate with stakeholders and other communities along the St. Joseph River to improve and promote the St. Joseph River Water Trail.
- 6. Encourage preservation of valuable water and land resources while promoting responsible recreational use.
 - a. Identify open space areas for protection and support efforts to protect high quality natural areas.
 - b. Utilize low impact development techniques to preserve natural features and encourage the infiltration of storm water runoff (rain gardens, native plants, swales, porous pavement, etc).
 - c. Protect and Improve Access to Lake Chapin.
 - i. Provide additional public access points to Lake Chapin.
 - ii. Build a public boat launch to Lake Chapin.

- iii. Identify and restrict fishing along environmentally sensitive shoreline area(s).
 - iv. Adopt a Land Use Master Plan for Lake Chapin to preserve access and natural features from over-development.
7. Enhance the Love Creek Area.
- a. Acquire additional acreage of adjacent properties (110 acres and 80 acres) to preserve “Indian Bowl” wetland.
 - b. Extend proposed walkway from Shamrock Park to Love Creek

***Universal Design Principles**

Principle 1: Equitable Use

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Guidelines:

- 1a. Provide the same means of use for all users: identical whenever possible; equivalent when not.
- 1b. Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.
- 1c. Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be equally available to all users.
- 1d. Make the design appealing to all users.

Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Guidelines:

- 2a. Provide choice in methods of use.
- 2b. Accommodate right- or left-handed access and use.
- 2c. Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.
- 2d. Provide adaptability to the user's pace.

Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Guidelines:

- 3a. Eliminate unnecessary complexity.
- 3b. Be consistent with user expectations and intuition.
- 3c. Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills.
- 3d. Arrange information consistent with its importance.
- 3e. Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion.

Principle 4: Perceptible Information

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

Guidelines:

- 4a. Use different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information.
- 4b. Provide adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings.
- 4c. Maximize "legibility" of essential information.
- 4d. Differentiate elements in ways that can be described (i.e., make it easy to give instructions or directions).
- 4e. Provide compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations.

Principle 5: Tolerance for Error

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

Guidelines:

- 5a. Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors: most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated, or shielded.
- 5b. Provide warnings of hazards and errors.
- 5c. Provide fail safe features.
- 5d. Discourage unconscious action in tasks that require vigilance.

Principle 6: Low Physical Effort

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

Guidelines:

- 6a. Allow user to maintain a neutral body position.
- 6b. Use reasonable operating forces.
- 6c. Minimize repetitive actions.
- 6d. Minimize sustained physical effort.

Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Guidelines:

- 7a. Provide a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user.
- 7b. Make reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user.
- 7c. Accommodate variations in hand and grip size.
- 7d. Provide adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance.

ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program identifies the priority projects to meet the goals and objectives of this plan. Each project or proposed action is listed along with a priority level. With regard to funding sources, it is the intention of Berrien Township to leverage state, federal, and/or private funds with local funds whenever possible. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources offers grants through the Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Passport Program. These grants require at least a 25% local match and are due April 1 of every year. The Michigan Department of Transportation offers grants for trail related projects through the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP).

Project	Priority	
Range Line Park		
Develop internal walking trail with connection(s) to Lake Chapin.	Highest	
Create focal point of Bike/Walk Trail through Berrien Township, Berrien Springs and Oronoko Charter Township.	Highest	
Improve shelter and grills	Highest	
Upgrade playground area and equipment to meet ADA requirements.	Highest	
Improve parking lot	Highest	
Add entrance sign (possibly in cooperation with Fire Department)	Highest	
Improve fishing access and trail to Lake Chapin	Highest	
Add bathrooms	Highest	
If available, acquire additional land adjacent to Berrien Township Park for baseball/softball field and sand volleyball and additional access to Lake Chapin.	High	
Add dog park	High	
Add disc golf	Medium	
Host events such as an Easter Egg Hunt and pancake breakfasts to increase awareness and use of park	Medium	
Fisherman's Haven		
Improve parking area and access road from Old U.S. 31	Highest	
Construct pedestrian path through Fisherman's Haven to Policemen's Memorial Park	Highest	
Add playground	Highest	
Designate fishing area(s) along the riverbank	Highest	
Provide waste disposal areas with incentives for usage.	High	
Maintain/prune trees	High	
Add picnic area and benches	High	
Add restrooms	High	

Berrien Township Hall Park		
Improve basketball courts	Highest	
Move Veteran's Memorial	Highest	
Increase/improve parking	Highest	
Maintain trees/add landscaping	Highest	
Update playground equipment and possibly add a tot playground	Highest	
Love Creek Area Enhancement		
If available, acquire adjacent properties to preserve "Indian Bowl" wetland	Highest	
Provide additional signage and description of natural preservation areas	High	
Build walkway/bike path from Love Creek Nature Center through Shamrock Park	High	
St Joseph River Water Trail		
Secure a lease from AEP and install stairs to provide a portage around the dam to MDNR's access	Highest	
Non- Motorized Improvements		
Connect existing parks and open space along the St. Joseph River to Robert Feather Park, the business district of Berrien Springs and Andrews University. This is intended as a non-motorized trail (for walking, jogging, bicycle riding).	Highest	
Acquire property or rights of way along the St. Joseph River and Lake Chapin to build a non-motorized path and to better control access to the water	Highest	
Install ADA-compliant multi-use path, seating, and over-looks along the St. Joseph River and Lake Chapin	Highest	
Develop a preliminary plan for a paved and lighted walkway on the west bank of the St. Joseph River	High	
Build bike path connecting Range Line Park with other area parks	High	
Re-establish the Inter Urban Bridge	Highest	
Other		
Add Pickle Ball/Tennis Courts (location to be determined)	High	

Appendix

PUBLIC NOTICE

**The Berrien Township Park Committee
will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast
(sausage & vegetarian sausage will be included)
Sunday, June 14, 2015 ~ 7:30 – 11:30 a.m.
at the Range Line Park
10138 Range Line Road, Berrien Springs**

**The purpose of the breakfast is to gather
public opinion on updating the park facilities.**

*** suggested donations will be accepted \$5 for adults
children 8th grade and under free**

Berrien Township Park and Recreation Survey

Please circle your answers.

1. Do you live in Berrien Township? Yes No
If no, what City, Village or Township do you live in ? _____

2. What is your gender? Male Female

3. How old are you? 14 and under 15-21 22-34 35-54 over 55

4. What race are you? White Black/African American American Indian
Asian Other _____

5. Check the priority level for facilities/improvements at each park.

	Highest Priority	Mid Range Priority (short range)	Low Priority (long term)	Not Needed
Fisherman's Haven				
Improve parking area				
Add walking trail to Policeman's Memorial Park				
Designate fishing access in appropriate areas				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Rangeline Park				
Add walking trail to Lake Chapin				
Upgrade existing play equipment				
Improve parking lot				
Acquire adjacent land for ballfields				
Improve fishing access				
Improve shelter and grills				
Add entrance sign				
Add bathrooms				
Add disc golf course				
Add dog park				
Host more community events				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				

Please complete other side.

	Highest Priority	Mid Range Priority (short range)	Low Priority (long term)	Not Needed
Berrien Township Hall Park				
Improve basketball courts				
Increase parking area				
Update playground equipment				
Add play equipment for toddlers				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
General Ideas for Parks/Recreation/Open Space for Berrien Township				
More walking trails				
More bike lanes/paths				
Acquire land adjacent to Love Creek				
Acquire/preserve natural areas				
Acquire land for additional access to Lake Chapin				
Provide portage around dam for canoes/kayaks				
Promote St. Joseph River as a "water trail" for canoe/kayaks				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				
Other idea: _____				

6. Do you have any type of disability? Yes No

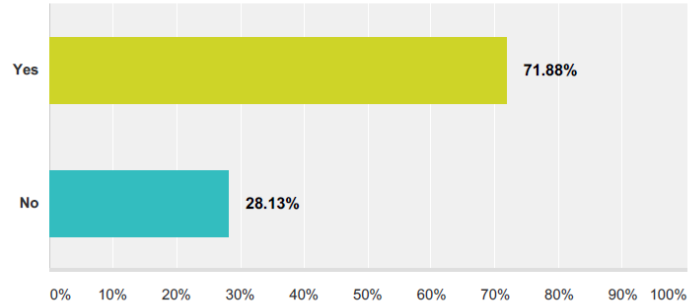
If yes, please list specific suggestions that would increase your use and enjoyment of Berrien Township' s parks and their facilities? _____

List any other ideas or comments regarding parks, recreation and open space in Berrien Township:

Berrien Township Park and Recreation Survey

Q1 Do you live in Berrien Township?

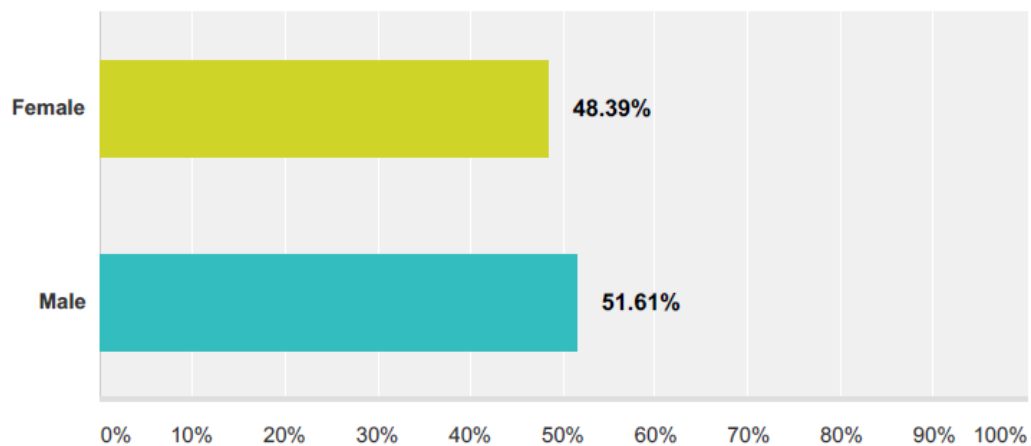
Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



#	If no, what City, Village or Township do you live in ?	Date
1	Dowagiac	7/2/2015 1:53 PM
2	Berrien Springs	7/2/2015 1:49 PM
3	Dowagiac	7/2/2015 1:40 PM
4	Oronsko	7/2/2015 1:31 PM
5	Pipestone Township	7/2/2015 12:32 PM
6	Pipestone Township	7/2/2015 12:31 PM
7	Berrien Springs	7/2/2015 12:30 PM
8	Eau Claire	7/2/2015 12:23 PM
9	Eau Claire	7/2/2015 12:15 PM

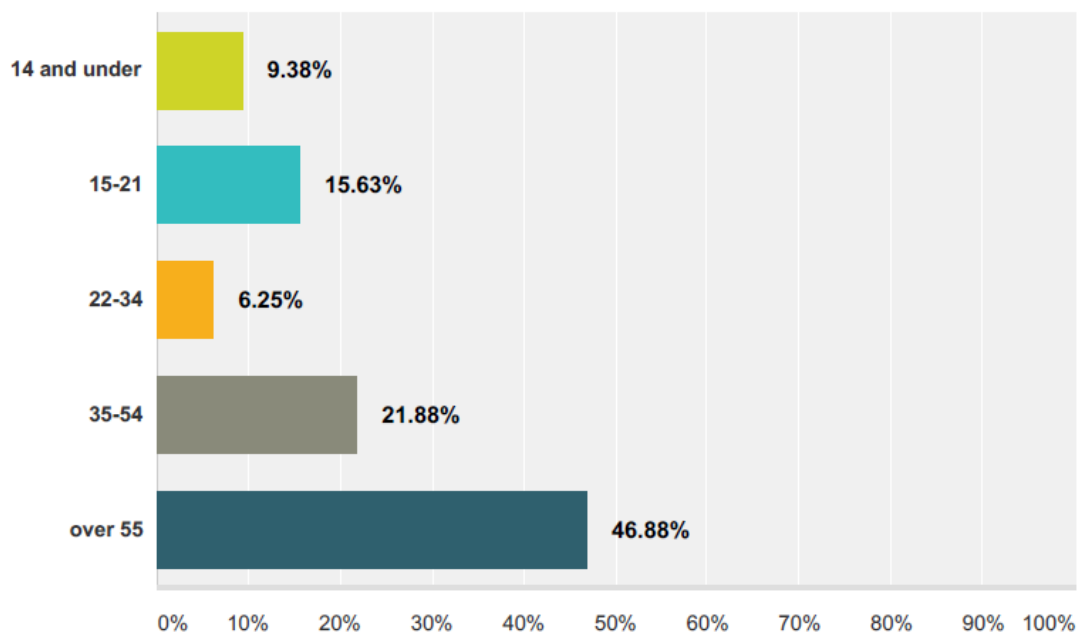
Q2 What is your gender?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 1



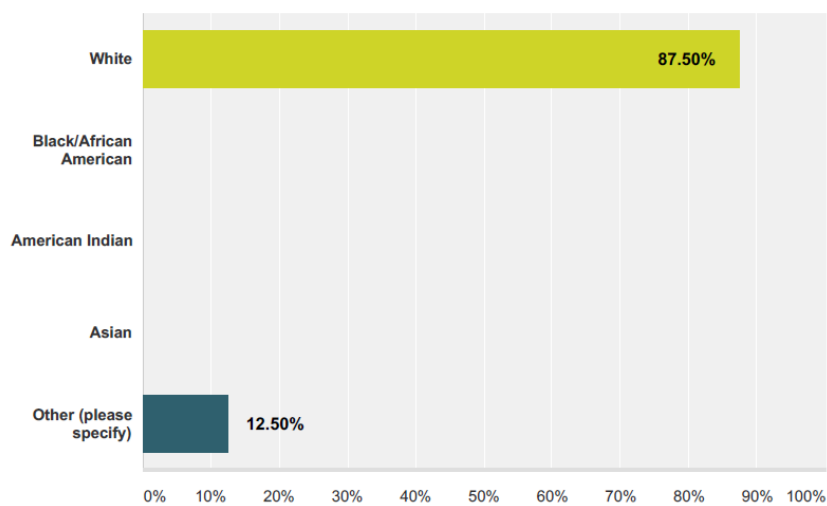
Q3 How old are you?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Q4 What race are you?

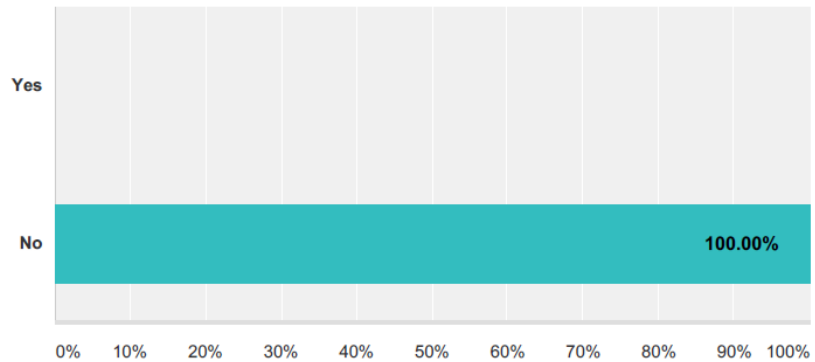
Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Latin	7/2/2015 1:57 PM
2	Hispanic	7/2/2015 12:23 PM
3	Hispanic	7/2/2015 12:15 PM
4	Hispanic	7/2/2015 12:09 PM

Q9 Do you have any type of disability?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 6



#	If yes, please list specific suggestions that would increase your use and enjoyment of Berrien Township's parks and their facilities?	Date
	There are no responses.	

Q10 List any other ideas or comments regarding parks, recreation and open space in Berrien Township:

Answered: 13 Skipped: 19

#	Responses	Date
1	I would use the parks if there was better access for fishing and bathrooms.	7/6/2015 11:59 AM
2	Recreation for 40's, 50's, 60's and pickle ball court	7/6/2015 11:54 AM
3	Keep security as a high priority. Other ideas include climbing walk, bow and arrow site. Events posted on universal website. Other options induce kite flying, Frisbee golf, soap box derby. Thank you	7/6/2015 11:45 AM
4	Safe walking trails, Remove the fence along highway in fisherman's haven, prime property along river that is unacceptable.	7/2/2015 2:29 PM
5	Ball field/improve volleyball area.	7/2/2015 2:09 PM
6	More sports fields and courts	7/2/2015 1:53 PM
7	Baseball Fields!	7/2/2015 1:49 PM
8	Basketball	7/2/2015 1:40 PM
9	Have more gardens and flowers in the parks.	7/2/2015 1:31 PM
10	Fishing Areas	7/2/2015 12:33 PM
11	Add no smoking signs around park area where children would be playing.	7/2/2015 12:23 PM
12	Senior Citizen Events, Programs to promote ballgames in parks for families to play together.	7/2/2015 12:06 PM
13	Outdoor activities for kids other than hunting, fishing and archery	7/2/2015 11:57 AM

