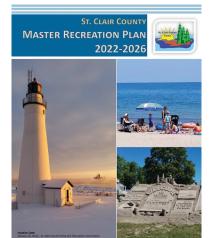
Providing Recreational Opportunities since 1995

Summer 2022

2022-2026 Master **Recreation Plan Update**

This year, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission updated its five year Master Recreation Plan. An important part of the planning process is getting community input on what facilities and services residents would like the County to provide.



The 2022-2026 Master Recreation Plan will be used to guide the ongoing development and operations of the St. Clair County Parks and non-motorized trails.

To view the Master Recreation Plan enter the link below into your web browser or scan the QR code: stclaircounty.org/Offices/parks/plan.aspx





Michigan's tourism is the 2nd largest industry, employing over 275,000 people. Visitors to St. Clair County will spend on average \$102.00 per person, per day. An overnight visitor will spend an average of \$385.00 per person. Total visitor spending in St. Clair County, in 2020, was 171 million.

Visitors are focused on nature and outdoor activities more than ever. Because of this. the Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau will get thousands of requests for recreational options throughout the year. To fulfill these requests, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission and local units of government have developed extensive biking and hiking trails in addition to beautiful waterfront and inland parks. Having a variety of updated and new outdoor amenities are vital in order to attract potential quests looking for a vacation destination.

The Blue Water Area is fortunate to have the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Department continue creating and improving recreation options to promote tourism. Parks not only enhance the quality of life in a community, they contribute to the economic and environmental well-being of one as well.

Marci Fogal, President Blue Water Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Discover the Blue - Michigan's Thumbcoast BlueWater.org









What's Inside

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To Our Readers...

The St. Clair County Board of Commissioners placed the renewal of the County Parks and Recreation millage on the August 2, 2022 primary ballot.

The requested millage rate will be 0.4944 mils (down from the original millage rate of .5 mils) for six years. If voters approve the millage renewal, the owner of a house worth \$100,000.00 will pay approximately \$25.00 per year.

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission does not receive any funding from St. Clair County's general fund.

Local Millage Distribution



The millage will generate \$2.8 million per year for parks and recreation facilities and programs. Each year, 25% of the millage funds collected are given to the 33 local units of government (based on population) for local park and recreation projects. Listed below are some of the local projects funded by the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage over the past six years.

Townships

Berlin

- · Park Director's Salary
- · Lawn Maintenance
- · Walking Track Maintenance
- Asphalt Paving for Track
- · Steel Roof on Pavilion
- · Park Repairs

Brockway

- · New Slide for Playground
- · Park Maintenance
- · Picnic Tables & Grills
- · Playground Equipment
- Mulch
- · Pavilion Roof Replacement

Burtchville

- Pavilion Installation
- Youth Basketball Court
- Picnic Tables
- · Extend Jetty Wall
- Trees Planted
- · Park Maintenance
- · Baseball Field Maintenance

Greenwood

- · Baseball Field Maintenance
- Updated Playground
- Fencing Repairs
- Basketball Hoop Replacement
- · Tennis Net Repairs
- · Pavilion Roof Replacement

Casco

CASCO TOWNSHIP BELLE RIVER PARK

- Purchase and Development of Belle River Park Property
- Developed Master Plan for Parks
- Reserved for Future Projects

Columbus

- Planning and Development of Belle River Park
- Funds Reserved for Future Projects

Cottrellville

- Fencing
- Park Development
- Playground Mulch
- · Sand for Sandboxes

Ira

Signage

- · Drinking Fountain Repairs
- · Volleyball Net
- · Electricity to Pavilion
- · Pavilion Roof Replacement
- · Park Maintenance
- · Paving Walking Path
- Purchase Exercise Equipment
- Upgrade Disc Golf Course
- Gaga Ball Pit

Black Top Repairs

China

- Soccer Field Maintenance
- Wood Chips for Playgrounds
- Repositioning of Basketball Backstops
- Constructed Small Access Parking Lot
- Park Improvements
- Pavilion Shades
- Park Maintenance

Fort Gratiot

- Development of Sports Park on Parker Road
- Connecting Bike Paths
- Repairs to Concrete Platform
- Kayak Launch Walk Way
- Paved Parking Lot
- Purchase of Tents and Chairs for Special Events
- Dog Park Improvements
- Trail Maintenance

Grant

- Picnic Tables & New Grills
- Installed Outdoor Fitness
 Equipment
- · Shuffleboard Reconstruction
- Signage
- Master Recreation Plan
 Updated
- · Additional Electricity in Pavilion

Wales

- Park Benches
- · Permanent Corn Hole Boards
- ADA Compliant Walkways
- · Basketball Court
- Development of Hardscapes (Drives, Parking Areas)
- Added Walkway Seating
- Purchase Additional Property

Clyde

- Parking Lot ExtendedDiamond Dust for Ballfields
- Grills & Picnic Tables
- Shade Pavilion for Pickleball
 Court
- Repair Playground Equipment
- Grading Repairs at Bill Bearss Park

Port Huron Twp.

- Fund Year Round Recreation Activities
- Bakers Field Improvements
- Tennis / Pickleball Court Added to Bakers Field



Clay

- Park & Fishing Pier Maintenance
- Park Development
- Park Programs
- Capital Improvements
- Exercise Equipment
- · Fire Pit
- Purchase of Park Property
- 2 Water Bottle Filling Stations
- Playground Equipment
- Park Signs
- Shade Structures
- Concrete for Corn Hole Games
- · Summer Programing
- · Softball Fields Fencing
- Dog Park Equipment
- · Universal Swing
- Volleyball Upgrades
- Purchase Kubota Utility Vehicle



Millage Spotlight: Ira Township

"The program, park, and trail maintenance benefit from our millage returns!"

Cindy Babisz, Director Ira Parks and Recreation







Kimball

- · Pavilion Roof Replaced
- Added ADA Walkway from East Pavilion to Restrooms
- Staffing
- · Woodchips for Playground
- Gazebo Repairs

- Cement Repairs
- Increase Parking
- Improve Signage
- · Picnic Tables & Benches
- Drinking Fountain Installed at Hidden Lakes Crossing

Emmett Twp.

- Landscaping
- Signage
- Infant Swing
- · Park Maintenance

St. Clair

- Park Maintenance
- · Construction of Pavilion
- · Recreation Events

Lynn

- Playscape Installed
- · Plant Trees
- · Park Maintenance
- · Pea Gravel Under Playscape

Riley

- · Playground Equipment
- · Fencing Around Playground
- · Woodchips & Mulch
- Installed Handicap Swing
- Upgrade Picnic Tables to ADA Compliant
- · Park Maintenance
- · Sand Volleyball Court

Kenockee

- Concession Stand Lighting
- Update Fencing
- · Baseball Field Improvements
- Purchase Soccer Equipment
- · Added Lights to Football Field
- · Added Electricity to Parts of Park ·
- Establish a Veterans Memorial Park
- · Park Playground Equipment
- Finish Concession Stand
- Improve Parking Area
- · Updated 2 & 5 Year Plans
- · Improve Ball Fields
- Added Limestone to Parking Area

Mussey

- · Walking Path Repairs
- · Picnic Tables & Benches
- Adult Exercise Equipment Installed
- Expanded West Side Parking Lot
- Security Lighting and Cameras Installed
- Asphalt Installed on All Walking Paths

Millage Testimonial: Clay Township

"We are very thankful for the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage return to the local Communities! Especially when these monies helped create these amazing opportunities at Pearl Beach Pier!

No Limits Fishing has made their home at our newly refurbished Fishing Pier in Clay Township!

Work continues on the property to add Accessible Restrooms near the Pier."

Thank you! Cindy Babisz, Clay Township Building, Recreation, FOIA







Local Millage Distribution

Cities/Villages

Algonac

- Riverfront Playground
- Operate Swimming Pool
- Maintain City's Five Parks
 Riverfront Lighting Replacement Project
- Lions Field Improvements

Emmett

- · Park Maintenance
- Playground Equipment Replacement
- Park Improvements
- Landscaping

Marysville

- Mermaid Park Improvement
- · Playground Improvements
- Marysville Park Paving
- · Baseball Field Scoreboards
- · Recreation Programs
- Charging Stations
- Bike Path Improvements

Capac

- · Park Maintenance
- Benches & Gazebo
- Pavilion Installation
- Improvements to Playground Equipment and Volleyball Court

Richmond

· Recreation Programs

Port Huron

James R. Freed

Chief Administrative Officer

City Manager

Partnership with Casco
 Township to Provide
 Recreation and Enrichment
 Activities

Millage Spotlight:

Yale

- · Park Maintenance
- · Picnic Tables
- Fencing
- Trees

"The County Parks and Recreation Millage funds have

Because of these resources we have invested millions

into quality parks and recreation opportunities for our

residents. It's these types of regional collaborations that

been critical in leveraging additional state grants.

continue to make people want to live here."

Handicap Accessibility

Port Huron

- McMorran Plaza Improvement
- Bridge and Trail Connecting Port Huron Northern and Holland Woods Middle School
- Lighthouse Beach Improvements
- Skate Park Project at Optimist Park
- McMorran Facility Improvements
- Construction of Splashpad at Knox Park
- · Pavilion at Lakeside Park
- Locker Room Improvements
- · Kayak Launch

Marine City

- Kayak Launch
- Seawall Repair
- Accessibility Upgrades
- Sidewalk Extension
- Stone Path around King Road Park
- · Mulch for All Playgrounds
- Beach Sand
- · Safety Pads
- Informational Board
- · Parking Improvements

Millage Spotlight: Marine City



Marine City Kayak & Canoe Launch

"The City of Marine City is excited to announce the completion of the Marine City Kayak and Canoe Launch on the Belle River. St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission resolved to commit to a reimbursement of up to \$30,000 to the City of Marine City for costs related to the purchase, delivery and installation of the EZ-Launch Kayak Launch. The City is working to add the launch site to the Blueways Trail of St. Clair and we have been thrilled with the positive response from the community regarding the Kayak Launch."

Michele E. Goodrich
Deputy Clerk/ Utility Billing & Collections
City of Marine City

St. Clair

- Install ADA Accessible Bike
 Pathway to Connect to Bridge
 to Bay Trail
- Accessibility Access
 Improvements at Klecha Park
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Projects
- · Imagination Station Rebuild
- · Park Improvements
- · Community Outdoor Pool
- Bike Path

Memphis

- · Grills & Benches
- Playground Equipment
- Signage
- Gravel Parking Lot
- · Paint Gazebo
- Added Lighting
- · Recreation Programs
- Stone for the WalkingTrail



Investing in Our Community Through Parks & Trails

Over the past six years, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission has invested millage funds in the County Parks and trails. In the process of contracting for construction, materials and supplies, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission has put numerous local companies to work.

Below is a list of most of the area companies that the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission has contracted with for goods and services since 2015:

32 North Construction, Richmond ABC Home & Commercial Services, LLC, Algonac

Acme Locksmiths, Port Huron
Active Tree Experts, Columbus Township
Adair Salvage, Casco
Adams Inline Plumbing, Port Huron
Advantage Heating & Cooling, Lakeport
AIS Equipment, Richmond
Ainsworth Electric, Inc., Port Huron Twp.
Allegra Print & Imaging, Fort Gratiot
Alpine Cycles, Port Huron
Arrow Signs, Inc., Lakeport
AutoZone, Port Huron and Richmond

BMJ Engineers & Surveyors, Inc., Port Huron Gary Bertossi Bulldozing, Richmond Best Buy, Fort Gratiot Biernot's Carpet One, Port Huron Blue Moon Abatement, Port Huron Blue Water Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Port Huron Blue Water Cleaning and Restoration, Port

B & T Electric, Inc., St. Clair

Huron
Bob's Welding, Avoca
Boddy Construction, Port Huron
Briolat Construction, Lakeport
Buff's Car Wash, Inc., Port Huron
Burgess Contracting Company, Marysville
By-Lo Oil Company, Kimball Township
CVS Pharmacy, Port Huron
Campbell & Shaw Steel, Marysville
Carl's Septic Service, Yale
Cedar Hill Graphics, Port Huron
Chef Shell's Catering, Inc., Port Huron

Chef Shell's Catering, Inc., Port Huron Clyde's Masonry, Burtchville Collaborative Training Network, Port Huron Commercial Diving & Marine Services, Inc., Port Huron

Cooper-Nesbitt Appraisal, Inc., Port Huron Countryside Plumbing, Ruby Crawford Door, Kimball

Custom Glass, Fort Gratiot
Darling's Beltline, LLC, Port Huron
Delude Construction, Kimball
Dependable Heating and Cooling, Kimball

Donnelly Painting, Marine City Duraclean by Bacheller, Port Huron Dyck Security Services, Inc., Port Huron Eason Painting, Columbus

Eighth Day Media, Kimball Extreme Masonry, Jeddo

FHF Sports, Port Huron
Family Farm & Home, Richmond
Fastenal Company, Port Huron

Fastenal Company, Port Huron Feed 'N' Seed, Port Huron

Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., Port Huron Ferrell Gas. Port Huron

First Vehicle Services, Kimball Fletcher Fealko Shoudy & Francis, Port Huron

Foster Blue Water Oil, LLC, Richmond Francek Kinetico, Brockway Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed,

S P Gates Construction, LLC, Port Huron Gillroy's Hardware, Port Huron Grace Performance, Kimball

Grader Man, Goodells

Greenia's Outdoor Power & Sport, Almont Hammer's Contracting, LLC, Kimball Twp. Happy Dog Yoga, St. Clair

Harbor Freight Tools, Fort Gratiot R J Hill Painting, LLC, Marysville Hobby Lobby, Fort Gratiot

Home Depot, Fort Gratiot and Chesterfield

Hulett's Tree Service, Avoca Huron Consultants, Port Huron Huron Title Company, Port Huron

Steve Hyde Trucking, Kimball Imprint House, Port Huron J and E Tree Service, Burtchville

R Janus Supply Company, Port Huron Jeff's Rubbish Disposal, Emmett Jones Equipment, Fort Gratiot and

Marysville Karas Mechanical Contracting, St. Clair Karas Plumbing, China

K/E Electric Supply Corp., Port Huron Kerr-Albert Office Supply, Port Huron Kevin's Lawn Care, St. Clair LaserLectric Engraving, Marysville

Laser Mark-It, Richmond
Limb Walkers Tree and Snow, Avoca
Lowe's, Fort Gratiot and Chesterfield
Loxton Fence & Asphalt Striping, Kimball
Lumber, Jack Lumber, Marysville, and Chin.

Lumber Jack Lumber, Marysville and China Malcom Marine, Inc., St. Clair Marcotte Disposal Co., Port Huron Twp. Marine City Nursery Company, Marine City

Maritime City Nursery Company, Marine Cit Maritime Title, Fort Gratiot Marketing Promotions & Events, Port

Huron
Marshall E. Campbell Co, Inc., Port Huron

Marysville Tire & Auto, Kimball
Marysville Truck Equipment, St. Clair Twp.
McClaren Industrial Health, Port Huron
McKenzie Concrete, North Street
Meijer, Fort Gratiot, Marysville and Lenox

Menard's, Port Huron Mid-West Appraisal Company, Port Huron MIHM Enterprises, Hamilton

Mike Haye's Roofing and Siding, Fort
Gratiot

Mobile 1 Lube Express, Fort Gratiot Modern Sewer & Drain Cleaning, Port Huron Modern Motor Service, Inc., Port Huron Morgan Excavating, LLC, North Street Mortimer & Son Lumber Co., Port Huron NAPA Auto Parts, Port Huron

National Restoration, Kenockee Twp. Noble Lock Services, Fort Gratiot Northeast Plumbing, Goodells

Odda Da Box Food Trailer, Port Huron
O'Reilly Auto, Port Huron

P & P Fire Extinguisher Co., Port Huron Pete's Camping Service, Inc., Kimball Port Huron Auto Glass, Port Huron Port Huron Glass, Port Huron

Port Huron Fence, LLC, Port Huron Port Huron Music Center, Port Huron Port Huron Paint Company, Port Huron Powder Masters, LLC, Port Huron

Preferred Towing, Fort Gratiot
Pro Cement, Richmond

R & D Foglesong Construction, Lakeport RJ Hill Painting, Kimball

Radio First, Port Huron

Raymond Excavating Company, Marysville Reasonable Construction Services, Port Huron

Richmond Glass, Columbus Richmond Lenox EMS, Richmond Richmond New Holland, Richmond Right of Way Solutions, Fort Gratiot Rock-N-Wood Supply Yard, Inc., Port Huron Ropposch Brothers Floor Covering, Port Huron

Rowe Professional Services, Lapeer Russell Electric, St. Clair Township S A Torello, Inc., Port Huron Township S-O-S Safety Services, Fort Gratiot St Clair County RESA, Marysville St. Clair Nursery Company, East China St. Clair Oil Restoration, St. Clair St. Clair Packaging, Inc., Marysville D P. Schweibofer Excayating, St. Clair

St. Clair Packaging, Inc., Marysville
D.P. Schweihofer Excavating, St. Clair
Schweihofer Doors, Inc., St. Clair Twp.

Schwem's Rubber Stamp, Port Huron Scotty's Potty's, Port Huron Serve-All Appliance, Port Huron Sherman Nursery Farms, Columbus Twp. Sherwin-Williams, Fort Gratiot Siegel Sand & Gravel, Emmett Sir Speedy, Port Huron Soulliere Drywall, Kimball Township Stephenson Electric Co., Port Huron Stewart Beauvais and Whipple, Fort Gratiot Stone's Ace of Richmond, Richmond Sunshine Pools, Kimball Superior Floor Service, Inc., Memphis Superior Heating and Cooling, Inc., Columbus

TNT Electric, Port Huron
T P Logos, LLC, Marysville
Teltow Contracting, Casco Township
Tetra Tech, Inc., Port Huron
The Times Herald, Port Huron
Theut Products, Inc., Marysville
Thorpe Printing Services, Inc., Marysville
Thumb Fire Extinguisher Service, Port
Huron

Thumb Welding and Repairs, Fort Gratiot Timbers Tree Service, China Tommy's Lawn Service, East China Tough Weld Fabrication, Port Huron Tractor Supply Company, Port Huron, New Haven and New Baltimore Tri-County Vac Services, LLC, Fort Gratiot VanderGraaff Custom Homes, Lexington

Mike Walsh, Fargo Weston Transport, Inc., Kimball William Vogan Architects, Port Huron Wilson's Rubber Stamps, Port Huron Young Sign and Advertising Co., Port

Vinckier Foods - Wadhams, Kimball

Huron Zimmer Roofing and Construction, Port

Zimmer's Sales and Service, China

Investing in the Future

In addition to contracting for goods and services, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation hires St. Clair County residents to work at St. Clair County parks. Most of the parks and trails mowing, cleaning and facility set ups are

handled by seasonal staff. The majority of the seasonal staff are college students earning funds for school. Current summer employees attend St. Clair County Community College, Central Michigan University and Rochester College.



Six Years of Progress.....

Goodells County Park

- Farm Themed Playground Installed
- · Splashpad Pavilion Installed
- · Visitors Center Roof Replaced
- · Show Arena Roof Replaced
- · Community Center Floor Replaced
- · Event Marquee Installed
- · Visitors Center Carpet Replaced
- · Stalls in Blue Horse Barn Rebuilt
- Exhibit Barns Repainted and Windows and Doors Repaired
- Community Center Room Replaced
- Murphy Ryan Farmhouse and Lynn School Cedar Shingles Replaced
- Event Field Restoration

Future Projects

- Parking Lot and Driveway Improvements
- · Concession Stand Upgrade
- Community Center Restroom Renovation

GOODELLS COUNTY PARK



Fort Gratiot Light Station

- Brick Repair on Single Keeper's Dwelling and Keeper's Duplex
- · Keeper's Duplex Remodel
- Fog Signal Interior Restoration
- Keeper's Duplex Historic Roof Replicated
- Four Bay Equipment Building Painted
- · Fog Signal Building Painted
- Retired Station Roof Replaced
- · Ventilation Fans Installed in Tower
- Light Tower's Watch and Lantern Room Restoration
- · Tower and Fog Signal Repairs

Future Projects

- · Retired Station Restoration
- Duplex Second Floor Restoration
- Interior Painting of the Light Tower

"The County Park System has been a great partner in the preservation and restoration of the Lighthouse and historic buildings on the site. The Lighthouse is the oldest in Michigan and we are fortunate that it has been restored and the community has access. That wouldn't have been possible without County Parks."

Dave Brooks, Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light

Fort Gratiot County Park

 Second Overflow Parking Lot Installed

- Canopy Installed
- Ceremony Plaza
 Repaired
- ADA Accessible Beach Shower Installed
- Groins Installed

Future Projects

- Picnic Pavilion Installation
- Additional Parking





- · Nature Themed Playground Installed
- · Canopy Installed
- · White Barn North Wall Replaced
- First 9 Holes of Disc Golf Course Developed
- · New Trail Bridges Added

- Finish Holes 10-18 of Disc Golf Course
- Maintenance Facility
- Two Vault Toilets
- · Picnic Pavilion Installation



Woodsong County Park

- · Parking Lot Expanded
- · Mountain Bike Trails Developed
- · Bike Station Donated & Installed

Future Projects

- Vault Toilet
- · Entrance Drive Improvements



- · Artificial Turf Activity Area Added
- · Picnic Tables, Grills, and Benches Installed
- Picnic Pavilion Constructed
- Boardwalk Installed
- Rip Rap Stone Placed
- Walkways Constructed
- Landscaped







Purchased North Channel Property in Clay Township

 Future Park Development 2023-2024

Wadhams to Avoca Trail

- · Handrails at Mill Creek Trestle
- · Drinking Station at Twin Lakes Crossing
- · Bike Station Donated & Installed
- Phragmites Treatments

Future Projects

- · Trestle Deck Repair
- Trailhead Improvements
- Extension to Yale



In County Parks



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www.bridgetobaytrail.org www.wadhamstoavocatrail.org www.bluewaysofstclair.org

We are on Facebook & Instagram! **Search St. Clair County Parks Ouestions?**





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Timothy LaLonde	Vice-Chair
Melissa Hanners	Secretary
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William Foster	Commissioner
Mary Clark	Commissioner
Geoffry Kusch	Commissioner
Peter Leto	Commissioner
Cindy Babisz	Commissioner
Robert Wiley	Commissioner
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Dennis Delor Deputy Director- Operations

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Jen Catanzaro Clerk II-Marketing Specialist

A Progress Report is published by St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission