PINCKNEY-PUTNAM
PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

DRAFT
2023-2027

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Village of Pinckney Council

Linda Lavey, President
Justin Bierman, Village Trustee
Jeffrey Buerman, Village Trustee
Ted Kinczkowski, Village Trustee
Brian Matson, Village Trustee
Jeffrey Spencer, Village Trustee

Putnam Township Board

Dennis Brennan, Supervisor
Valerie Niemiec, Clerk
Patrick Carney, Treasurer
Tom Chambers, Township Trustee
Sally Guyon, Township Trustee
Norman Klein, Township Trustee
Bob Press, Township Trustee

Pinckney-Putnam Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee

Justin Bierman, Village Trustee, Village of Pinckney
Tom Chambers, Trustee, Putnam Township
Julie Durkin, Zoning Administrator, Village of Picnkney
Sally Guyon, Trustee, Putnam Township
Linda Lavey, President, Village of Pinckney
Bob Press, Trustee, Putnam Township

Adopted by the Village of Pinckney Council on _____, 2023
Adopted by the Putnam Township Board on _____, 2023

Assisted by The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS I

CONTENTS III

INTRODUCTION

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA 1
PLANNING PROCESS 2
WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS 3

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS 5
HOUSING AND BUILDING TRENDS 7
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS 9
NATURAL FEATURES 11
PLANNING INITIATIVES 13

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

ADMINISTRATION 15
FUNDING AND BUDGET 15
VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERSHIPS 16

PARK AND TRAIL INVENTORY

LOCAL PARKS 19
Loy Bond Memorial Park 19
DDA Lot 19
Putnam Township Square 20
Putnam Township Campus 20
SCHOOL AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES 22
Farley Hill Elementary School 22
Pinckney High and New Tech High School 22
Pinckney Community Public Library 22
REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES 23
Gregory State Game Area 25
Pinckney State Recreation Area 25
Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park 25
Trail Initiatives 26
ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND GRANT-ASSISTED PROJECTS 30

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON 31
STATE AND NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS 32
PUBLIC INPUT 33
PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING 34

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS 35
OBJECTIVES 35
1. Maintain and improve existing parks and community facilities 35
2. Continue to improve the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail and add new amenities and trail connections 35
3. Acquire new parkland 36
4. Establish a mechanism to promote and administer parks and recreation 36

ACTION PROGRAM

ACTION PLAN 37
1. Maintain and upgrade the existing Township Square and Loy Bond Park 37
2. Develop facilities on currently owned Township, Village, or other properties 39
3. Improve the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail 41
4. Develop a continuous community-wide walk/bike way system 42
5. Acquire and develop future parkland 43
6. Administration and funding 43
PROJECT SCHEDULE 44
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES 46
Apply for Federal Funding 46
Apply for State Funding 46
Apply for Other Grant Funding 47
Seek Other Sources of Funding 47

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location Map 1
Figure 2. Planning Process 2
Figure 3. 2008 Land Use Map 10
Figure 4. Natural Features 10
Figure 5. Livingston County High Quality Natural Areas 12
Figure 6. Livingston County Interactive Parks and Recreation Map Areas 13
Figure 7. Park and Recreation Facilities 21
Figure 8. Regional Recreation Facilities 23
Figure 9. Regional Trails 26
Figure 10. Route 1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails 26
Figure 11. Michigan Iron Belle Trail 27
Figure 12. The Regional Loop Trail 28
Figure 13. Livingston County Trails Plan 28
Figure 14. The Huron River Water Trail 29
Figure 15. Township Square Proposed Actions 37
Figure 16. Loy Bond Park Development Plan 38
Figure 17. Putnam Township Campus 39
Figure 18. Honey Creek-Mill Pond Site 40
Figure 19. Mike Levine Lakelands Trail Potential Amenities 41
Figure 20. Community Walk/Bike Way System 42

List of Tables

Table 1. Population, 1990-2020 5
Table 2. Population Projection, 2020-2045 5
Table 3. Household Types, 2010-2020 6
Table 4. Age Characteristics, 2015-2045 6
Table 5. Housing Type, 2010-2020 7
Table 6. Residential Building Permits, 2000-2022 8
Table 7. 2020 Land Use Acreage 9
Table 8. 2010 Land Cover 9
Table 9. Putnam 2022-2023 General Fund Budget 15
Table 10. Pinckney 2022-2023 General Fund Budget 16
Table 11. Regional Recreation Facilities 24
Table 12. Accessibility Assessment 30
Table 13. Comparison to Suggested Parkland Acreage Standards 31
Table 15. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities by Percent Participation in Michigan, 2017 32
Table 16. Capital Improvement Schedule 44

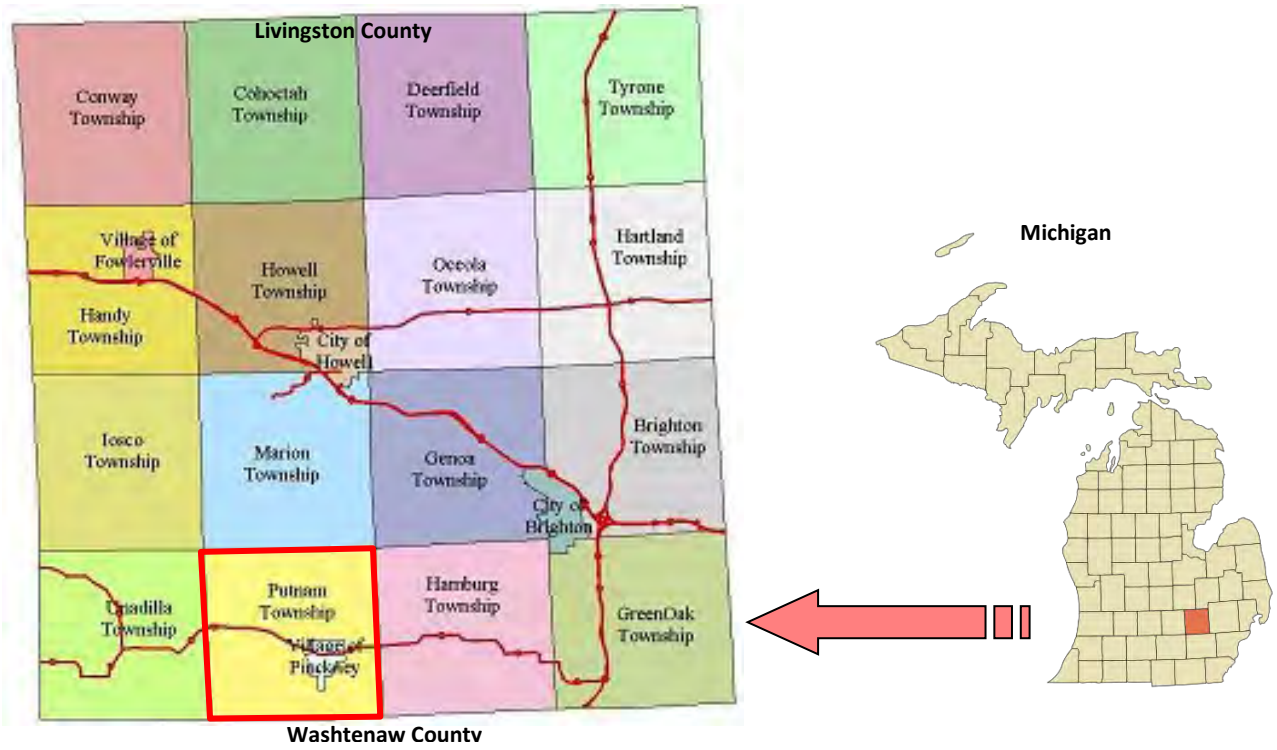
INTRODUCTION

The Pinckney-Putnam Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for parks and recreation in Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney. The purpose of this Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of Pinckney and Putnam parks and trails over the next five-year period, through 2027. Once adopted, the Plan is the official document to be used by the communities to guide decisions regarding parks, trails, and recreation. The revised and updated Plan is intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

Putnam Township including the Village of Pinckney is the jurisdiction of this Plan. It is located in the southwest corner of Livingston County. Pinckney is approximately 1.5 square miles in size, while Putnam Township is about 34.5 square miles. Putnam Township is bordered by three Livingston County townships: Marion to the north, Hamburg to the east, and Unadilla to the west, as well as Dexter Township in Washtenaw County to the south. Three major roads bisect the two communities: Main Street or M-36, running east-west, Dexter-Pinckney Road and Pinckney Road (D-19) running north-south. Interstate 96 is approximately 12 miles north of Pinckney, while US-23 is 13 miles to the east and Interstate 94, nine miles to the south.

Figure 1. Location Map



Source: Adapted from Livingston County and Wikipedia

PLANNING PROCESS

The process used to generate the plan consisted of three major phases which are described below.

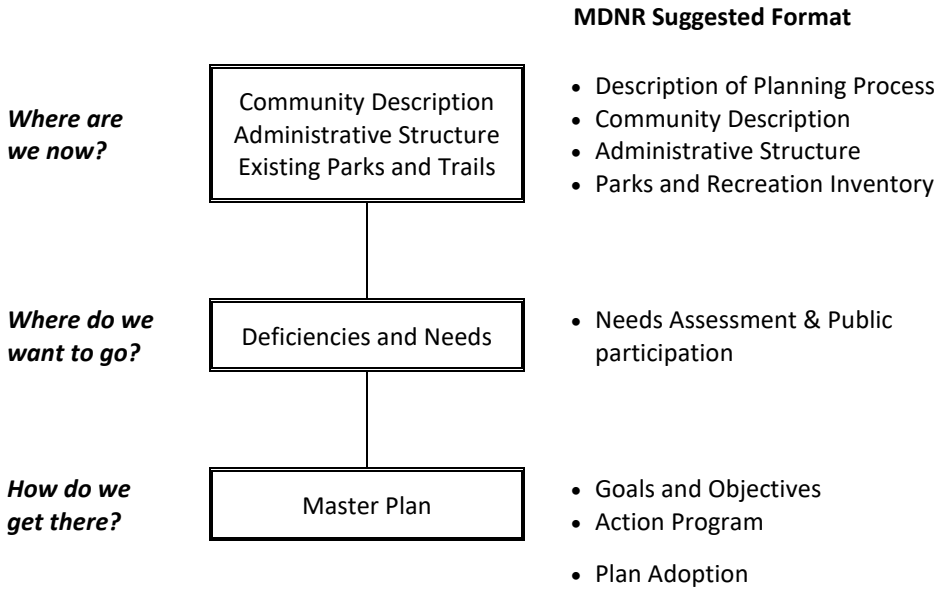
1. **Where are we now?** This phase involved a review of demographics and the planning context to provide a foundation for the planning process. In this phase, Township and Village parks and trails were inventoried and mapped to document existing resources and begin to assess their conditions. The information is organized into three main categories: community description, administrative structure and park inventory.

2. **Where do we want to be?** The second phase in the planning process consisted of an analysis of the communities' park and trail system to determine deficiencies and needs. A public engagement effort was initiated to solicit ideas and suggestions from the community about recreation preferences through an online questionnaire. Input was also solicited from Township and Village officials and staff at public meetings.

3. **How do we get there?** Once needs were identified, the final phase involved the development of an action plan to support the community's vision for the park and trail system and provide for park and trail planning and development projects. Recommended projects were summarized in a capital improvement plan, accompanied by strategies for implementation. This phase also included preparation of a full draft of the Plan, which was presented to the Park and Recreation Master Plan Committee as well as the public for review and comment prior to adoption.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier.

Figure 2. Planning Process



WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

The Pinckney-Putnam Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* (2021). The first chapter, **Community Description**, includes a summary on both the social and physical characteristics of the area as well as a discussion of current planning initiatives affecting the communities. The **Administrative Structure** chapter includes a description of how parks and recreation services are administered in the Village of Pinckney and Putnam Township including budget and funding information. The next chapter, **Park and Trail Inventory**, describes the existing Village and Township parks as well as those of the state and the region located nearby. This chapter also includes an accessibility assessment and a description of grant-assisted park projects. The **Needs Assessment** portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents, which helped in formulating the **Goals and Objectives** and **Action Program** chapters. The Action Program chapter outlines an action plan with strategies for implementation. The final chapter, **Supporting Documents**, includes some of the detailed information gathered through the planning process as well as the official resolutions and notices documenting the plan's adoption by Village Council and Township Board.

VILLAGE OF
PINCKNEY
Gateway to Play
SPEED
LIMIT
30

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The first three chapters of the Plan provide information on the social and physical characteristics of the communities, the administration of parks and recreation services, and the existing park facilities to gain an understanding of the opportunities the communities have to offer.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the Village of Pinckney and Putnam Township show significant growth over the past thirty years, consistent with the growth experienced by Livingston County as a whole. Projections provided by the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG) indicate continued increases in the future. Putnam Township will continue to experience substantial growth, while growth will occur at a slower rate for the Village.

Table 1. Population, 1990-2020

	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Increase 1990-2020	SEMCOG July 2021 Estimate
Pinckney	1,603	2,141	2,427	2,415	51%	**2,378**
Putnam	4,580	5,359	5,821	5,475	20%	**5,528**
Total	6,183	7,500	8,248	7,890	-	**8,711**
Livingston County	**115,645**	**156,951**	**180,957**	**193,866**	**68%**	**195,038**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 and SEMCOG Forecast

Table 2. Population Projection, 2020-2045

	2020	2030	2040	SEMCOG 2045 Forecast	% Increase 2020-2045
Pinckney	2,427	2,030	2,880	2,845	**17%**
Putnam	5,475	5,897	6,257	6,333	**16%**
Total	7,902	7,927	9,137	9,178	**-**
Livingston County	**193,866**	**221,704**	**237,682**	**241,566**	**25%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2020 and SEMCOG Forecast

In addition to examining the number of people in Putnam and Pinckney, it is important to understand the characteristics of the population. These qualities can suggest a need for certain types of recreational facilities or programs. The following presents basic information about Township and Village residents.

The proportion of households with children have decreased from 2010 to 2020 from 45 to 30 percent in the Village and from 32 to 30 percent in the Township, while households with seniors have increased from 16 to 22 percent for the Village and from 23 to 30 percent for the Township.

Table 3. Household Types, 2010-2020

	Pinckney				Putnam			
	2010		2020		2010		2020	
Total Households	869		921		2,166		2,196	
Households with children	395	45.5%	280	30.4%	700	32.3%	633	28.8%
Households with seniors 65 +	136	15.7%	202	21.9%	504	23.3%	665	30.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG 2045 Regional Development Forecast

In 2015, children below the age of 18 made up about 26 percent of the total population in Pinckney and 16 percent in Putnam. The number of children in the Village is projected to decrease by 66 in 2045, while children in the Township are projected to increase by 154 in 2045. The fastest segment of the population will continue to be older adults and seniors. Indeed, the number of people over 65 years of age in the Village is projected to increase by 531 in 2045 while the Township will see an increase of 556 by 2045.

Table 4. Age Characteristics, 2015-2045

	Pinckney				Putnam			
	2015		2045		2015		2045	
Preschoolers, up to 5 years	136	6.1%	127	4.5%	254	4.4%	276	4.4%
School aged, 5 – 17 years	455	20.4%	440	15.5%	668	11.6%	800	12.6%
Young adults, 18 – 24 years	229	10.3%	205	7.2%	508	8.8%	397	6.3%
Families, 25 – 54 years	923	41.5%	1,070	37.6%	2,050	35.6%	2,343	37.0%
Mature Families, 55 – 64 years	292	13.1%	281	9.9%	1,007	17.5%	691	10.9%
Older Adults, 65 – 84 years	164	7.4%	584	20.5%	1,186	20.6%	1,415	22.3%
Seniors, 85 years	27	1.2%	138	4.9%	84	1.5%	411	6.5%
Total	**2,226**	**100%**	**2,845**	**100%**	**5,757**	**100%**	**6,333**	**100%**

Source: SEMCOG 2045 Regional Development Forecast

Residents of both Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney are predominantly white. Other races make up less than three percent of the population. The minority groups include African Americans, people of Asian descent, and people of other or mixed race origins.

Housing and Building Trends

Between 2010 and 2020, the Pinckney-Putnam area experienced steady housing growth. The number of housing units increased by 140 in Pinckney, while Putnam Township saw 378 new units during the same time period. Single-family homes are predominant accounting for 94 percent of the housing stock in Putnam Township and 91 percent in Pinckney. The other units in Putnam Township include 4 percent duplexes or townhouse/condos, 1 percent apartments, and 1 percent manufactured housing units. The Village includes 4 percent duplexes or townhouses/condominiums, and 5 percent apartments. The median house value for the Village in 2010 was $174,400, down from $197,784 in 2000. Putnam Township's median house value decreased slightly from $249,506 in 2000 to $240,900 in 2010.

Table 5. Housing Type, 2010-2020

	Putnam			Pinckney		
	2010	**2020**	**Change 2010-2020**	**2010**	**2020**	**Change 2010-2020**
Single-Family Detached	1,970	2,370	400	822	745	**-77**
Multi-Unit Apartment	2	37	35	82	232	**150**
Mobile Home/Manufactured Housing	78	14	-64	0	0	**0**
Total	**2,130**	**2,508**	**378**	**904**	**977**	**73**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The growth in population, households, and housing units from 2000 and 2020 for the Pinckney-Putnam area is consistent with the trend in the economy experienced in Livingston County and southeast Michigan. As Table 6 shows, there was a clear drop in the total of residential building permits in the mid 2000's with significantly fewer permits issued from 2005 to approximately 2012. These numbers represent the net total residential building permits considering both constructions and demolitions. This trend has changed somewhat since 2012 for the Township, county and the region.

Table 6. Residential Building Permits, 2000-2022

	Pinckney	Putnam	Livingston County	Southeast Michigan
2000	43	76	2,007	16,138
2001	41	55	1,911	14,141
2002	19	59	2,003	17,624
2003	11	59	1,888	19,631
2004	7	41	2,005	21,092
2005	1	19	1,447	14,852
2006	12	9	576	7,379
2007	-1	6	315	2,790
2008	1	1	156	-1,035
2009	0	-1	49	-476
2010	0	2	137	404
2011	0	5	161	1,122
2012	0	19	360	2,243
2013	0	11	669	5,186
2014	0	19	735	1,433
2015	0	12	618	3,542
2016	0	7	602	4,881
2017	0	13	783	7,961
2018	0	8	713	5,214
2019	2	12	628	5,897
2020	0	9	619	7,646
2021	1	12	793	7,979
2022	1	9	765	4,966
Total	**138**	**462**	**19,940**	**170,610**

Source: SEMCOG Data

Land Use and Development Patterns

Since the Village was platted in 1837 around a central town square north of a mill and on a main trail, the Pinckney-Putnam area has largely remained a rural community including low density residential development in the Township and higher density residential development with commercial establishments in the Village along Main Street. This development pattern is principally due to a limited road network combined with numerous lakes, wetlands, and natural features. The predominant land use in Putnam and Pinckney is residential with rural residential land uses encompassing about half of the Township's land area and single-family residential land uses about half of the Village land area. Parks, trails, and open spaces amount to 12 percent of the Village and 27 percent of the Township.

Table 7. 2020 Land Use Acreage

	Putnam		Pinckney	
	Acres	**Percent**	**Acres**	**Percent**
Agricultural/Rural Residential	11,934.1	55.0%	37.8	3.5%
Single-Family Residential	1260.8	5.8%	274.2	25.7%
Multi-Family Residential	11.3	0.1%	6.1	0.6%
Commercial (retail, office, hospitality, medical)	66.4	0.3%	86.6	8.1%
Industrial	97.3	0.4%	51.0	4.8%
Government/Institutional	184.5	0.9%	89.4	8.4%
Park, Recreation & Open Space	5,869.1	27.0%	127.2	11.9%
Transportation, Communication & Utility	143.7	0.7%	40.7	3.8%
Extractive	145.1	0.7%	50.4	4.7%
Parking	0	0.0%	7.0	0.7%
Vacant	940.6	4.3%	145.8	13.7%
Water	802.2	3.7%	36.1	3.4%
Not Parceled	253.9	1.2%	114.2	10.7%
Total	**21,708.9**	**100.0%**	**1,066.5**	**100.0%**

Source: SEMCOG Data

Table 8. 2010 Land Cover

	Putnam		Pinckney	
	Acres	**Percent**	**Acres**	**Percent**
Impervious (buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots)	870	4.0%	204	18.9%
Trees (woody vegetation, trees)	11,507	53.0%	345	32.1%
Open Space (agricultural fields, grasslands, turf grass)	8,047	37.1%	447	41.6%
Bare (soil, aggregate piles, unplanted fields)	190	0.9%	8	0.7%
Water (rivers, lakes, drains, ponds)	1,085	5.0%	72	6.7%
Total	**21,699**	100.0%	**1,075**	100.0%

Source: SEMCOG Land Cover data was derived from SEMCOG's 2010 imagery. Acreages are approximate and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Figure 3. 2008 Land Use Map

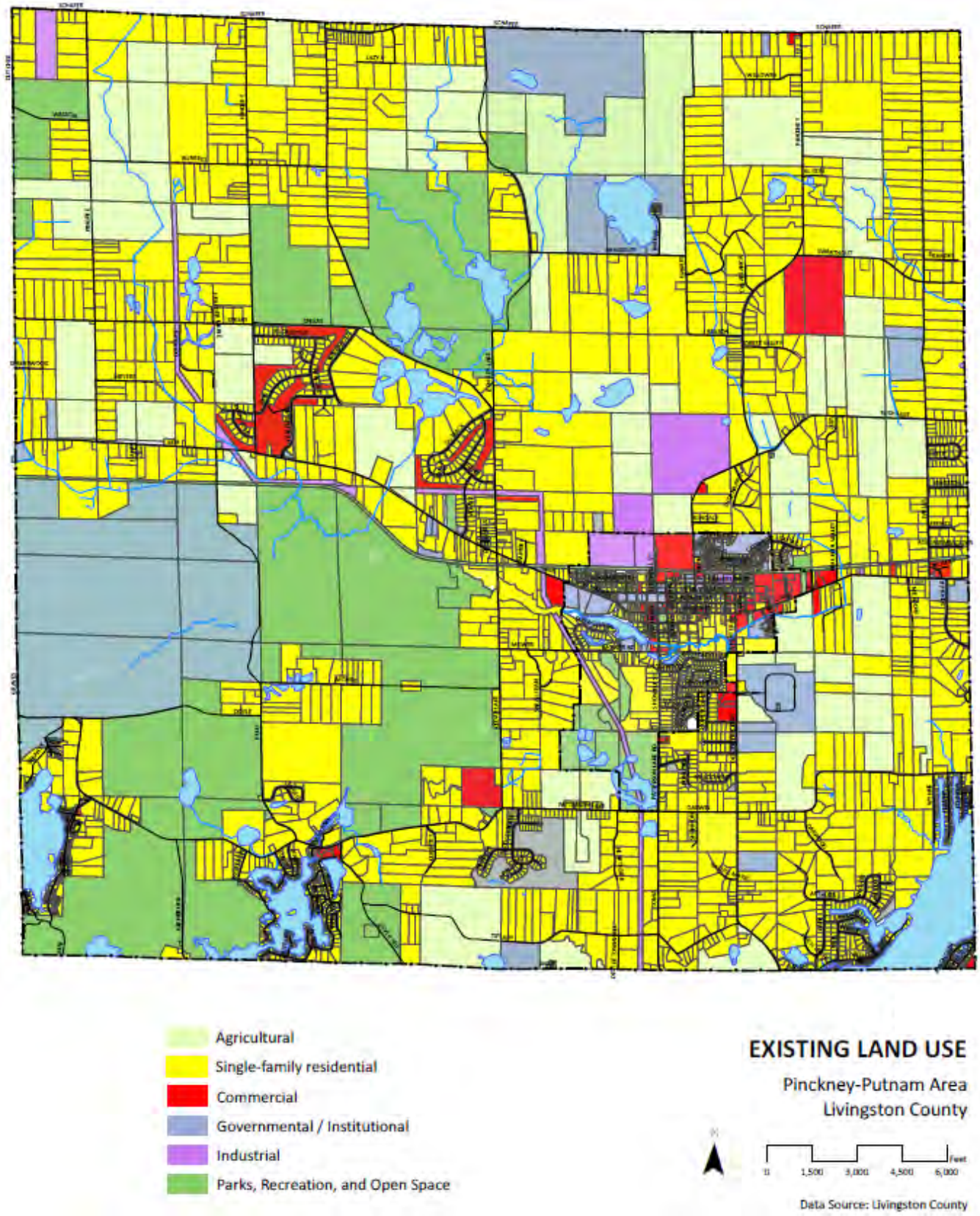
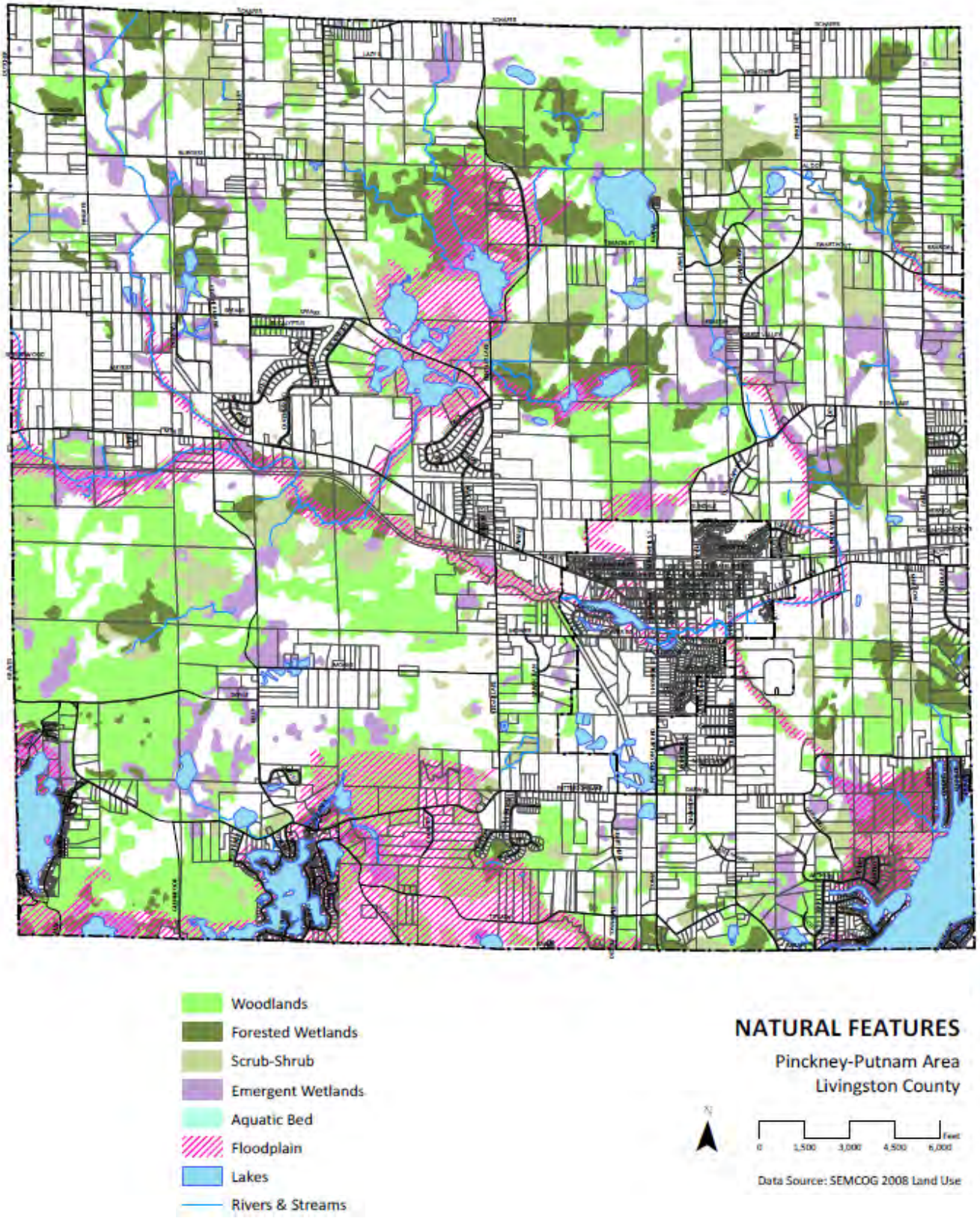


Figure 4. Natural Features



NATURAL FEATURES

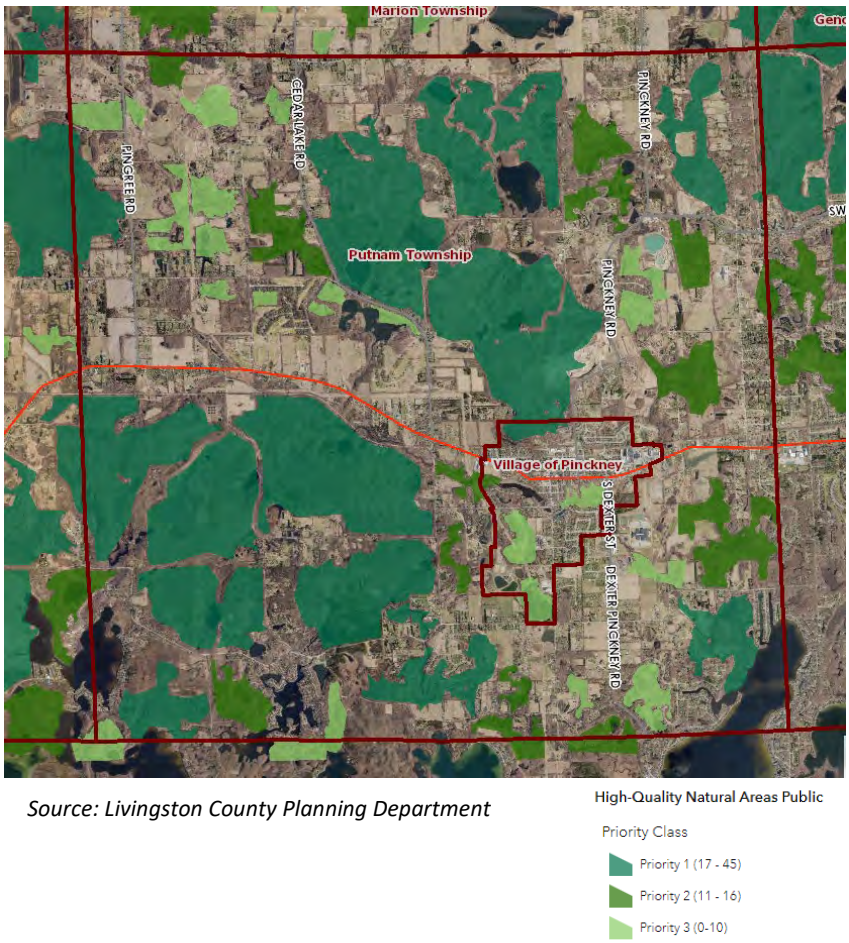
The natural features of Pinckney and Putnam have played a major role in influencing and attracting growth and development to the area. Like much of Michigan's southern lower peninsula, the area's landscape is characterized by gently rolling topography formed through glacial action. As the glaciers retreated, the outwash of sand, soil, and debris created an irregular pattern of hills and depressions that collected water, creating the region's many lakes and wetlands.

The Huron River and its associated chain of lakes and wetlands to the east of the Village have made the Pinckney-Putnam area a very desirable location to live and recreate. Honey Creek, a tributary of the Huron River, is an important waterway flowing from west to east through the center of the Village and Township. Approximately 4 percent of the area covered by the Village or Township consists of waterways and lakes. The major lakes include Portage, Hi-Land, and Patterson lakes. Mill Pond, the largest water body in the Village of Pinckney, is surrounded by low-density residential development.

Existing woodlands are located primarily within the state land and along the waterways and wetlands. Moderately to well-drained wooded areas in the Township consist mostly of a mixture of hardwoods including oak, hickory, sugar maple, ash, cherry, beech, basswood, and elm. Vegetation on poorly-drained soils consists mainly of elm, red maple, aspen, white cedar, and tamarack. Approximately 20 percent of the Township is covered by woodlands.

Livingston County identified and evaluated the county's high-quality natural areas. Criteria included size, presence of riparian lands, wetlands, and connectivity to assess each natural area's ecological value. The study revealed a large number of sizeable, high-quality natural areas in the County. Putnam and Pinckney exhibit a number of high quality natural areas as illustrated in Figure 5. These natural areas include the existing state land holdings of the Pinckney State Recreation Area and Gregory State Game Area as well as land owned by the University of Michigan and private camps. Other areas such as the area located immediately north of the Village include open space and farmland.

Figure 5. Livingston County High Quality Natural



Source: Livingston County Planning Department

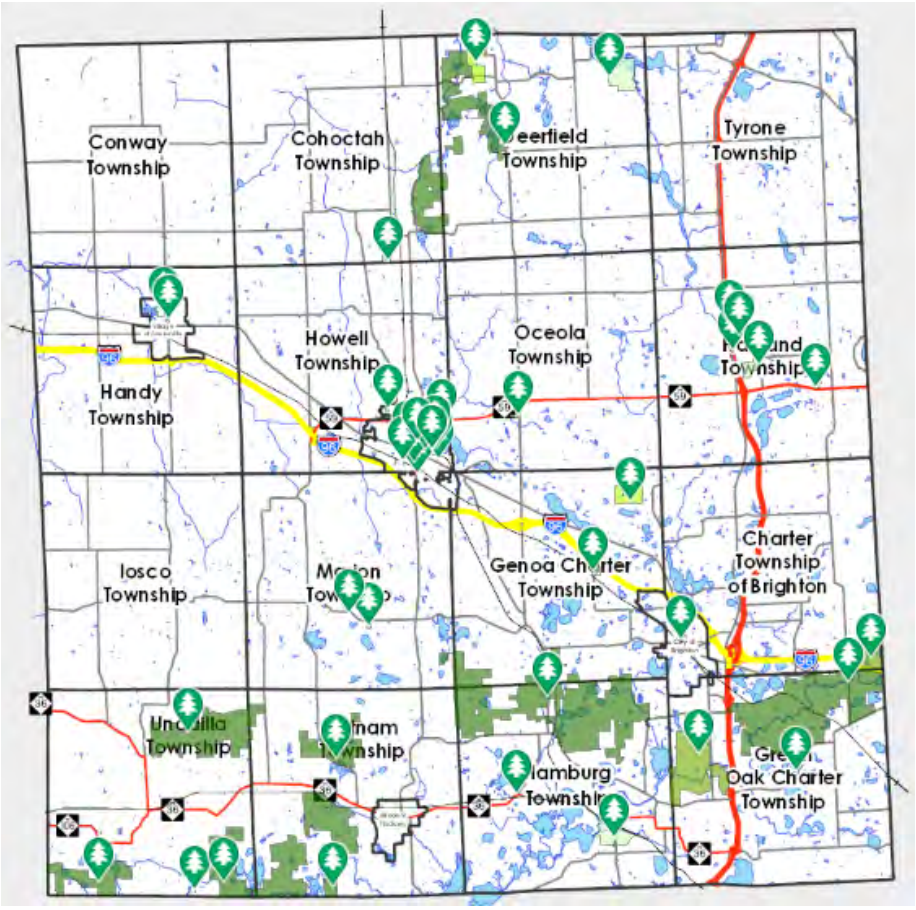
PLANNING INITIATIVES

While change is inevitable and growth in both population and housing will occur, Livingston County is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for all its residents. Livingston County's 2019 County Master Plan considers parks and recreation and identified a number of needs including:

- Additional parks and recreation resources on the west side of the County;
- More walking/biking/hiking trails;
- Additional and improved connections to parks and amenities;
- A county regional trail plan; and
- Expansion and improvement of parks and recreatiobn opportunities, particularly non-motorized pathways.

This information served to formulate a set of goals and objectives focusing on raising awareness of the County's parks and recreation assets, linking those assets, and coordination and collaboration between the various recreation providers. This lead to the development of the first County Trails Plan in 2020, which is discussed in the next section of this report.

Figure 6. Livingston County Interactive Parks and Recreation Map Areas



Source: Livingston County Planning Department

Locally, the 2020 Village of Pinckney Master Plan outlined several objectives to provide high quality parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities for the community and to preserve and enhance its natural resources. They include:

- Market the Village as a regional recreation hub, or Trail Town, that provides convenient access to thousands of acres of state parks and recreational areas with active and passive recreational opportunities;
- Continue to collaborate with interest groups to renovate the historic Pinckney Depot at the intersection of D-19 and the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail;
- Enhance access and connections to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail from residential areas, Pinckney High School, and the downtown;
- Coordinate recreation planning with Livingston County, Pinckney Schools, MDNR, surrounding communities, and other entities;
- Preserve an interconnected system of open spaces, or a green infrastructure, that contains high quality natural and environmentally sensitive areas; and
- Protect the water quality of the Village lakes, streams, and creeks particularly Mill Pond and Honey Creek.

With vast amounts of natural areas owned by the State, the University of Michigan, and others, Putnam Township also formulated a goal in its last Master Plan to preserve high quality natural areas, recreational opportunities and trails, waterways, wetlands, and woodlands.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The administration of parks and recreation services in the Village of Pinckney and Putnam Township is the responsibility of the Village Council and the Township Board.

ADMINISTRATION

A joint Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee has been established to guide the efforts for preparing the Community Parks and Recreation Master Plans in 2000, 2007, 2013, 2018, and again for the current plan. It includes members of the Village Council, Township Board, and staff from both communities.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

The Township general fund budget for 2022-2023 contains funding for recreation, and the maintenance and improvement of the Township Square and the Putnam Township Campus.

The recreation fund expenditures include primarily budget amounts for maintaining the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail ($10,000), the Depot ($1,000), and other properties ($1,500).

Table 9. Putnam 2022-2023 General Fund Budget

Revenues	
Taxes	$355,000
Licenses and Permits	$5,035
State Shared Revenue	$500,000
Metro Act	$9,000
Gravel Pit	$12,000
Charges for Services	$134,980
Charter Cable	$0
Miscellaneous	$600
Reimbursements	$0
Total Revenue	**$1,016,615**
Expenditures	
Administration	$355,000
Cemetery	$10,000
Township Hall	$188,077
Senior Center	$56,034
131 S Howell	$5,168
Township Square	$32,682
Unallocated	$32,651
Highways and streets	$281,536
Recreation	$12,800
Fire/Public Safety	$745,500
Board of Review	$2,000
Police Public Safety	$110,520
Zoning	$32,970
Planning Commission	$23,650
Election	$20,500
Total Expenditures	**$1,909,088**

The Village budget for Parks and Recreation includes money allocated for the maintenance of Loy Bond Park and for the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Village current general fund budget is presented in Table 10.

Table 10. Pinckney 2022-2023 General Fund Budget

Revenues	
Property Tax	$ 662,329
State Revenue Share	$ 231,814
Cell Tower Revenue	$ 117,255
Other Revenue	$ 71,603
Reimbursements & Transfers	$ 128,620
Total Revenues	**$ 1,211,621**
Expenditures	
Village Council	$ 12,484
Village Administration	$ 161,778
Auditors	$ 5,876
Legal Fees	$ 4,000
Office Overhead	$ 22,000
Buildings and Grounds	$ 69,725
Parks and Recreation	$ 75,558
Police	$ 20,952
Department of Public Works	$ 590,673
Planning Commission	$ 8,830
Economic Development	$ 2,500
Zoning Administration	$ 20,469
Street Lights	$ 12,500
Pension Liability	$ 65,000
Capital Outlay	$ 259,809
Transfer	
Total Expenditures	**$1,559,160**

VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERSHIPS

Both Putnam and Pinckney maintain a relationship with Pinckney Community Schools, which own and maintain various recreational facilities and sports fields in the community. In addition, Pinckney Community Education, which is run by the Pinckney Community Schools, offers a variety of recreation programs.

Other organizations run various athletic recreation programs independently from the Township or Village. They are non-profit organizations, run by a membership elected Board of Directors and include:

- The Pinckney-Hamburg Baseball and Softball Association;
- The Hamburg Community Soccer Club;
- The Pinckney Blues Soccer Club; and
- The Hamburg Pirate Youth Football Association.

Service clubs and community groups have also played a significant role in providing additional volunteer labor and financial support for park facilities and programs. These clubs and groups include:

Service clubs:

- Boy Scouts of America;
- Girl Scouts;
- Kiwanis Club of Hamburg;
- Livingston County 4-H;
- M-36 Rotary,
- Lions Club; and
- The American Legion Pinckney Memorial Post 419.

Recreation Use Groups:

- Michigan Mountain Biking Association;
- Pinckney Aquatic Club;
- Pinckney Pedalers;
- Pinckney Trail Riders Association;
- Pinckney Youth Wrestling;
- Jackalope Running Club; and
- Waterloo Horsemen's Association.

Other Organizations:

- Friends of the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail;
- Livingston Land Conservancy;
- Pinckney Garden Club; and
- The Pinckney, Putnam, Hamburg, Hell Chamber of Commerce (PPHH).

Pinckney
Community
Garden
PFD
Aunt Betty's
Restaurant
Home Style Cooking
126 W. MAIN
734-878-3786
ACE
Hardware
734-878-3000

PARK AND TRAIL INVENTORY

The residents of Pinckney and Putnam have a variety of available regional recreational resources. In addition, the area includes two local park facilities: the Town Square and Loy Bond Memorial Park. There are also public and private schools, and privately-owned recreational facilities in the area. This section describes these recreational resources.

LOCAL PARKS

Loy Bond Memorial Park

The Village of Pinckney owns and maintains a community park within the Portage Dells Subdivision in the southeast portion of the Village. The 3.5-acre park includes:

- Playground equipment: playstructure, swingset, slide, climbing apparatus, musical flowers;
- A new picnic shelter;
- A sand volleyball court;
- A park sign and parking area; and
- Open space with mature trees and an open grass area.

DDA Lot

The Village of Pinckney established community gardens in 2020 on a vacant lot owned by the DDA on Main Street. It has been hugely successful and continued to expand. The site has become the location for a regular farmers market taking place along with other events.

Putnam Township Square

Located at the center of the Village, the Town Square is a 1.6-acre historic community park owned and maintained by Putnam Township. It includes:

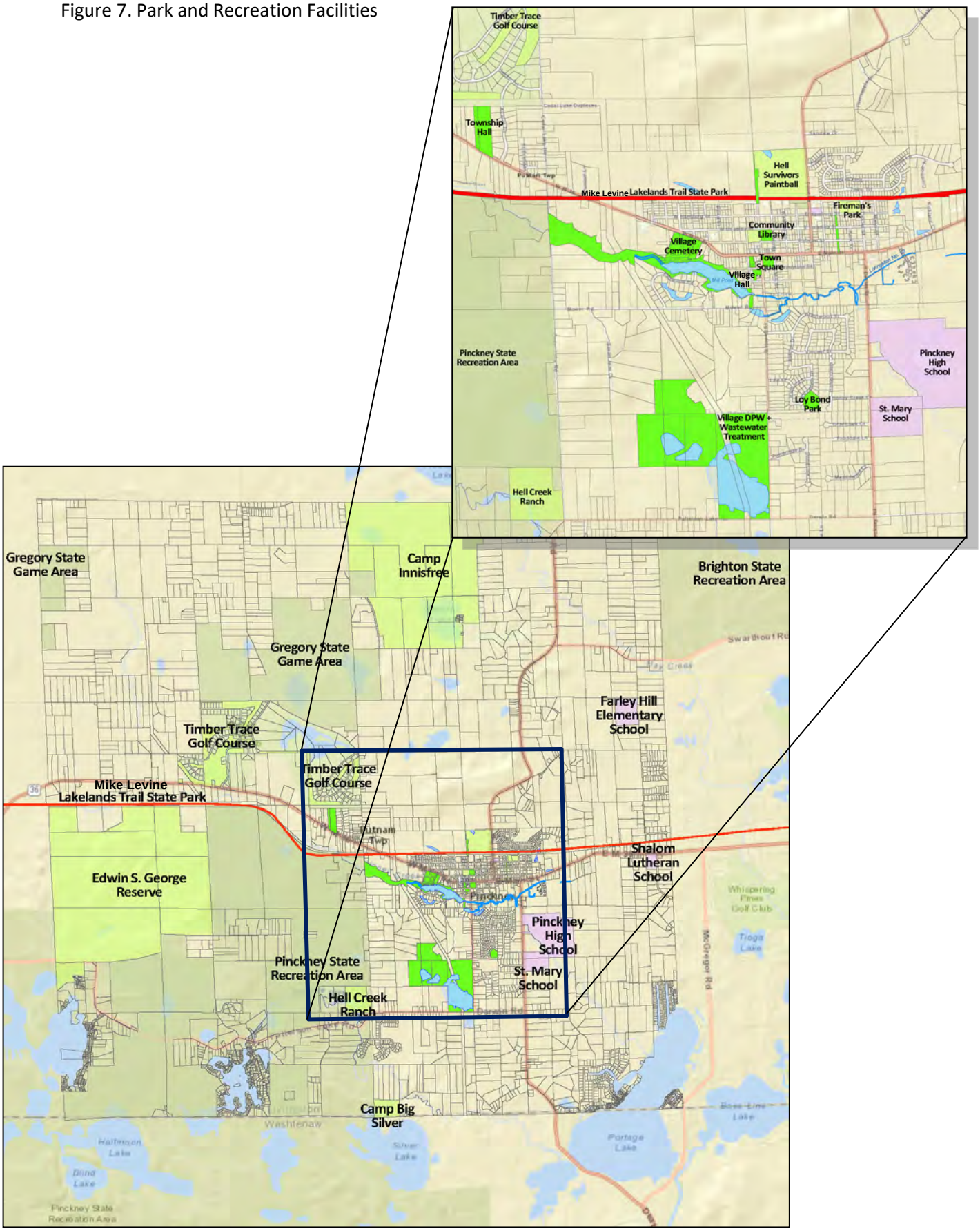
- A pavilion/band shell;
- A playground;
- An ice skating rink in the winter months;
- Mature trees and grass open areas; and
- The Historic Town Hall currently serving as a small community center.

The Square is the site for special events sponsored by the Village of Pinckney Downtown Development Authority such as Spooktacular and Light Up the Park. The Pinckney, Putnam, Hamburg, Hell Chamber of Commerce also sponsors the Food Truck Fridays and Art in the Park while the M-36 Rotary Club supports Hootin' in the Park and St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Square is used for weddings, reunions, birthdays, parades including the Memorial Day Parade, and other events.

Putnam Township Campus

The Putnam Township Senior/Community Center was built in 2021. Located on the Putnam Township Campus site, it contains 6,000 square feet, a warming kitchen, coffee center and a large, open gathering area with a pool table and large screen TV. The room also has a door wall leading to a patio area for warm days. Two additional meeting rooms have ample space for smaller groups. In addition to housing all senior events and activities, they plan to host boy and girl scout troops, HOA meetings, office staff meetings, exercise classes, and more.

Figure 7. Park and Recreation Facilities



School and Private Recreation Facilities

Farley Hill Elementary School

Located in the northeast portion of the Township, it includes about 20 acres of land with open space, playground equipment, wetland boardwalk, observation deck, and nature trail.

Pinckney High and New Tech High School

The high school is located in Putnam Township immediately south of the Village on 103 acres of land and includes 10 tennis courts, two soccer fields, two baseball fields, a football field, a practice field, a running track, an off-road running trail, and an indoor pool and gymnasium.

Pinckney Community Public Library

A portion of the former Village Education Center property was redeveloped for the new Community Public Library. The west half of the property is now owned by People's Church and includes about two acres of land with a ballfield, walkways, and playground equipment.

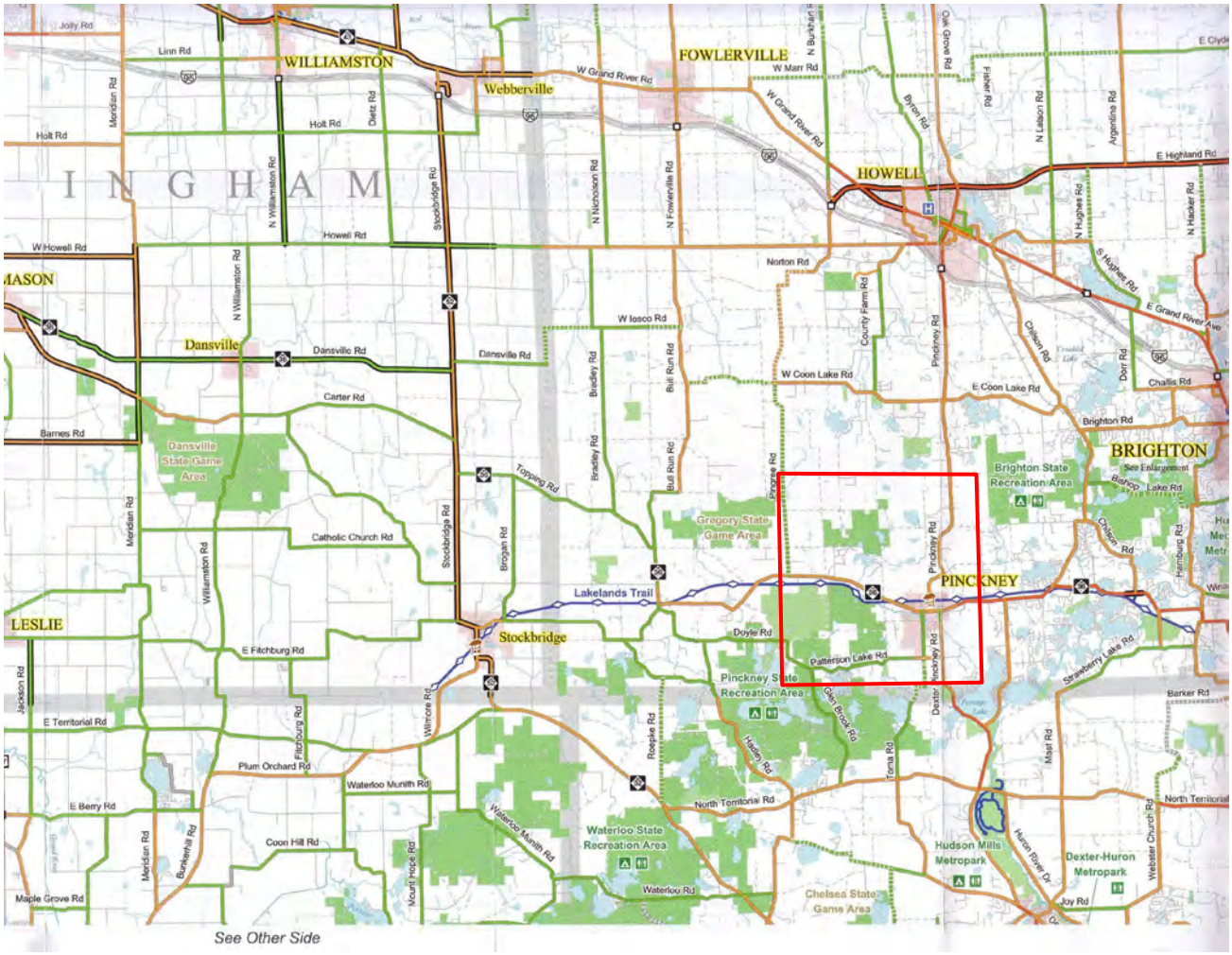
A number of private recreation facilities can also be found in the community. They include:

- Light of the World Montessori School, a private Christian Montessori School located on the Shalom Lutheran Church property on M-36 in the eastern border of Putnam Township including playground equipment and nature trails;
- Light of the World Academy, a charter school Kindergarten through Eighth grade, located on Pearl Street on about 2 acres of land including a small playground and indoor gymnasium;
- St. Mary School, a private school, Kindergarten through Eighth grade, located south of Pinckney High School on 30 acres of land including playground equipment;
- Arise Church Community Dog Park, a 2-acre fenced-in area for off-leash dog exercise and play located on Dexter-Pinckney Road, south of Pinckney High School;
- Camp Big Silver, a co-ed residential camp containing about 27 acres of land in southern Putnam Township owned and operated by the Boys/Girls Clubs of Toledo;
- Camp Innisfree, a former Girl Scout camp on 992 acres of land located on Schafer Road northwest and adjacent to the Gregory State Game Area in the Township, including two lakes, an equestrian center, a ropes course, and a zip line;
- Edwin S. George Reserve, a University of Michigan wildlife sanctuary and research area including 1,300 acres of land in Putnam Township;
- Fireman's Park, a 0.8-acre open space owned by ACO Industries and located in the Village which includes some playground equipment and a grass area;
- Hell Creek Ranch, a 37-acre campground including Heavenly Horse Stables, primitive camping and water/electric hook-ups, and a swimming pool abutting the Pinckney Recreation Area;
- Hell Survivors Paintball Playfield, a 40-acre site including camp sites located north of the Village;
- North Star Reach Camp, a summer camp serving children with health challenges on 105 acres located just outside Putnam Township and including a health center, dining hall, cabins, arts and crafts center, athletic courts, sports fields, tree house with zip line, amphitheatre, and dock;
- Timber Run Equestrians, a 20-acre property located on M-36 with access to miles of trails including Timber Trace Golf Course and the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail; and
- Timber Trace Golf Club, an 18-hole golf course on 460 acres of land including a driving range and club house.

Regional Recreation Facilities

In addition to the previously described recreational facilities, there are over 43,500 acres of parkland owned by the state and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) in adjoining townships. These facilities are considered regional recreational facilities. They are large facilities that provide opportunities such as camping, swimming, boating, hiking, and golfing which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Figure 8 depicts the location of the regional parks and Table 11 lists the recreational activities they offer. A detailed description of the regional facilities located within Pinckney and Putnam follows.

Figure 8. Regional Recreation Facilities



Source: MDOT University Region Road and Trail Bicycling Guide, 2008.

Table 11. Regional Recreation Facilities

		State & Recreation Areas					HCMA Metroparks		
		Brighton State Recreation Area 4,947 Ac.	Gregory State Game Area 2,223 Ac.	Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park 23 Miles	Pinckney State Recreation Area 11,000 Ac.	Waterloo State Recreation Area 20,500 Ac.	Dexter Huron Metropark 122 Ac.	Hudson Mills Metropark 1,508 Ac.	Huron Meadows Metropark 1,540 Ac.
Passive Activities	Picnicking	●			●	●	●	●	●
	Playground	●			●	●	●	●	●
Hiking & Bicycling	Unimproved Trail		●	●					
	Paved Trail			●			●	●	
	Nature/Hiking Trail	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
	Mountain Biking Trail	●			●	●			
	Equestrian Trail	●		●	●	●			
	Cross-country skiing	●		●	●	●		●	●
	Snowmobiling					●			
Water Activities	Swimming Beach	●			●	●			
	Boat Launch	●	●		●	●			
	Boat Rental	●			●		●	●	●
	Canoeing/Kayaking	●			●		●	●	
	Shore Fishing	●	●		●		●	●	●
	Fishing Pier	●			●				●
	Boat Fishing	●	●		●		●	●	●
Winter & Seasonal Activities	Ice Fishing	●	●		●	●	●	●	
	Ice Skating					●			
	Hunting	●	●		●	●			
Interpretive Facilities	Nature Center					●			
	Nature Study Area	●				●	●	●	●
Court & Turf Games	Ball field						●	●	●
	Soccer							●	●
	Court Games				●	●		●	●
	Disk Golf							●	●
	Golf Course							●	●
Miscellaneous	Banquet/Event Facility							●	●
	Horse Stable				●	●			
Camping	Rustic Campsite	●	●		●	●			
	Modern Campsite	●			●	●			
	Canoe Camping							●	
	Cabin Rental	●			●	●			
	Group Camping	●				●		●	

Gregory State Game Area

This state game area is located partially in western Putnam Township. It is a wildlife refuge in which seasonal hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping are allowed. It incorporates the Unadilla Wildlife Area and includes the following activities and facilities:

- Hiking trails;
- Boat launch on Duck Lake;
- Hunting; and
- Fishing.

Pinckney State Recreation Area

This 11,000-acre recreation area spans Washtenaw and Livingston counties and is comprised of three major use areas: Silver Lake day use area, Bruin Lake campground, and Halfmoon Lake day use facility. Activities and facilities include:

- Swimming and picnicking;
- An extended system of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use including the Pinckney Crooked Lake Trail (5 miles), the Pinckney Losee Lake Trail (3.3 miles), the Pinckney-Potawatomi Trail (17 miles), the Pinckney Silver Lake Trail (2 miles), and the Pinckney Waterloo Trail (35 miles);
- Boat launches and boat rentals on Silver Lake;
- Fishing pier and lake fishing on Silver Lake;
- Modern and rustic campsites, cabins, and yurt;
- Cross-country skiing and ice fishing; and
- Seasonal hunting.

Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park

This rail-to-trail is a multi-use regional trail from Hamburg Township to Stockbridge, running approximately 20 miles. The trail includes a paved pathway in Hamburg Township and portion of Putnam Township and a crushed stone surface beyond the M-36 trail crossing. The paved portion also offers a parallel equestrian trail.

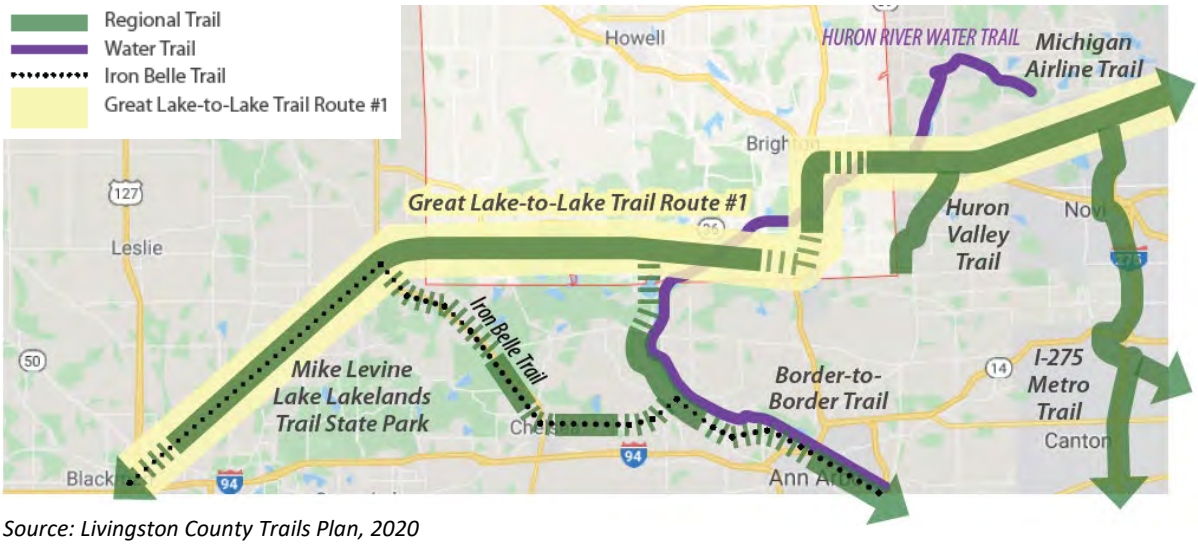
The trail was opened for public use in 1994 and has seen several stages of improvements since then. The western branch of the trail is currently under development from Stockbridge south to the City of Jackson and will connect with the Falling Waters Trail in Jackson.

Hamburg and Putnam Townships' trail portions are leased by the townships from the MDNR. They are maintained and operated by the respective townships and the Friends of the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail in cooperation with the MDNR. The segment in Putnam Township was recently resurfaced and the trailhead at the Pinckney Depot was improved. In addition, the Depot was renovated with general interior and exterior cleanup efforts and a new roof.

Trail Initiatives

The vision for trails in Livingston County has evolved to include a system of walk and bike routes along roadways and utility easements, as well as along river and stream corridors. Of particular interest to Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney is the convergence of the regional trails in the area, namely the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail, Iron Belle Trail, Mike Levine Lakelands Trail, the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail, and the Huron River Water Trail.

Figure 9. Regional Trails



Source: Livingston County Trails Plan, 2020

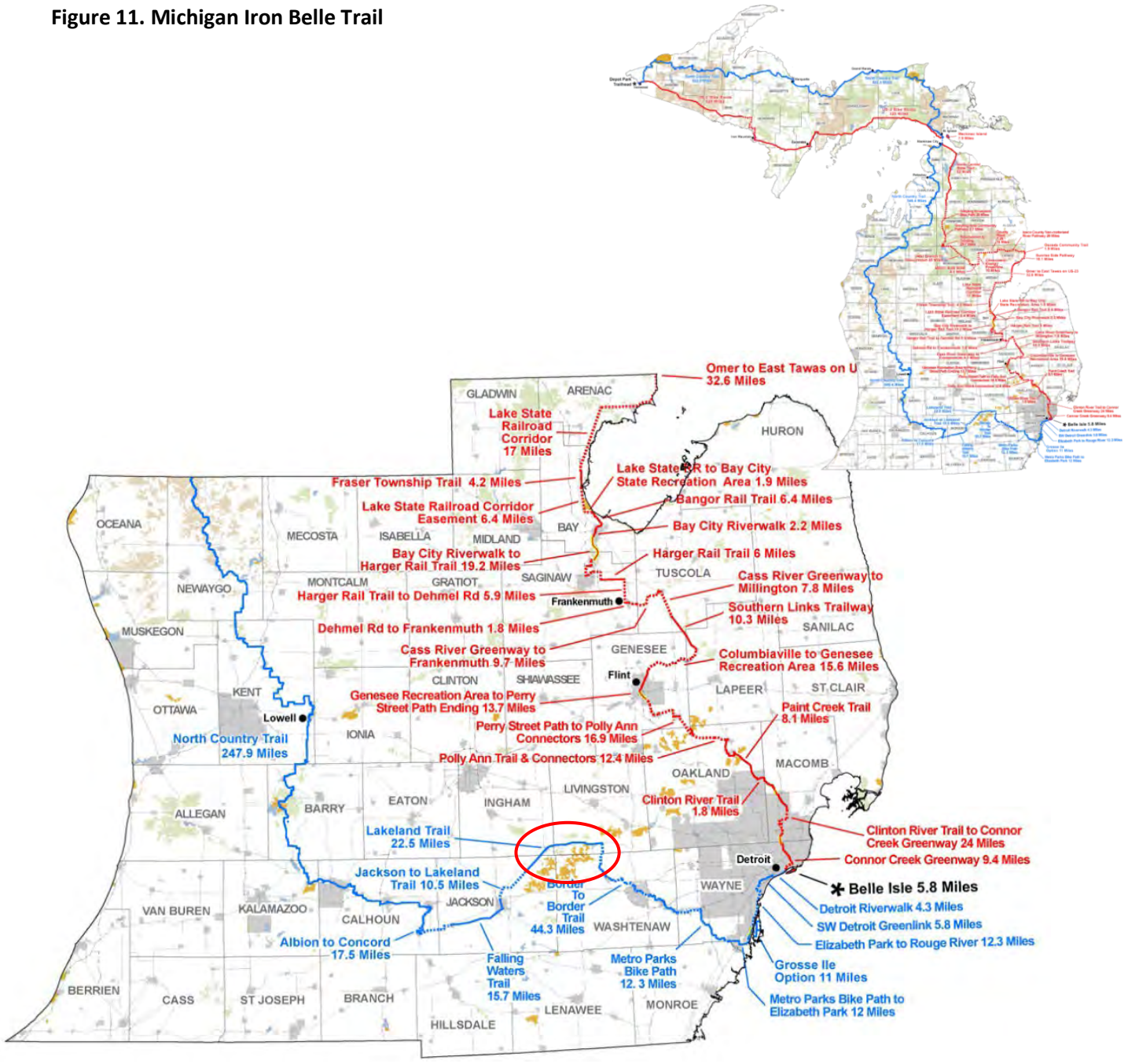
The Mike Levine Lakelands Trail is an important link in Route 1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails, a statewide trail that was envisioned to provide a continuous shared-use trail from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan stretching 240 miles from South Haven to Port Huron. Spearheaded by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (MTGA), this Great Lake-to-Lake Trail follows the former Michigan Airline Railway. The MDNR, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), MTGA, and approximately 30 local jurisdictions are working to make this trail a reality. Figure 10 illustrates the different existing and proposed segments along the trail.

Figure 10. Route 1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails

Source: MTGA, 2011

A portion of Route 1 of the Great-Lake-to-Lake Trails was also part of the planned Iron Belle Trail, the statewide trail initiated in 2013 to further Michigan's key role in the national network of trails and provide an economic driver for the state's tourism industry. As envisioned, the trail would connect Ironwood to Belle Isle along both a western and an eastern route through the State of Michigan. The western trail route shows a key segment which includes the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail traversing across the southwest corner of Livingston County. Figure 11 illustrates the routes with the blue western route representing a trail meant primarily for "hikers" and the red route, designed for "bicyclists."

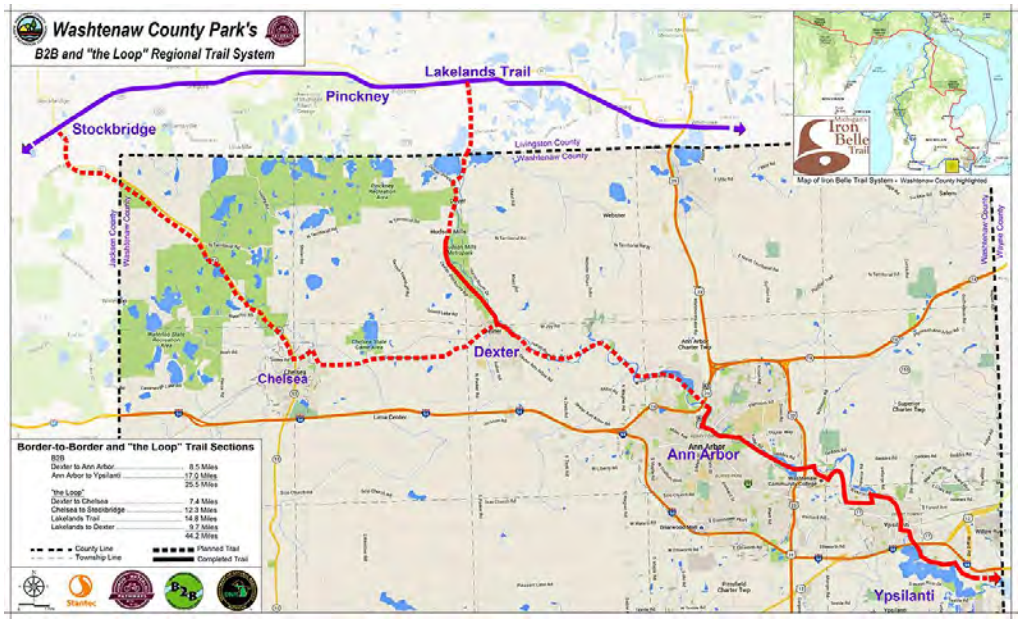
Figure 11. Michigan Iron Belle Trail



Source: MDNR, 2015

Locally, the Iron Belle Trail goes west from Dexter to Chelsea and follows M-52 west to Stockbridge. Another segment is also planned to extend from the Dexter through Hudson Mills Metropark north to reach the Lakelands Trail in Hamburg Township. Once this connector is established, the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail/Great Lake-to-Lake Trail will form a very desirable loop system connecting all the local regional trails.

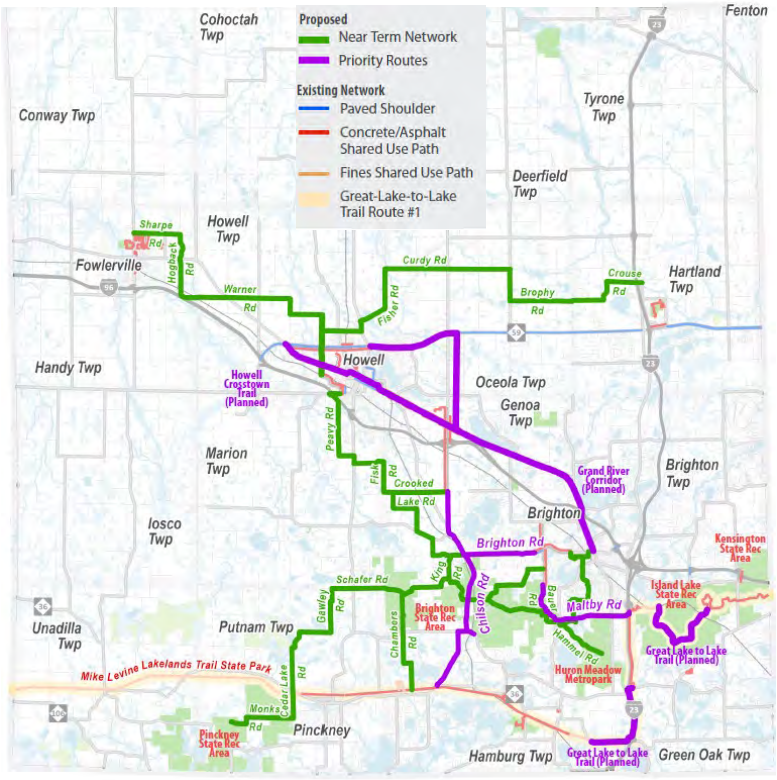
Figure 12. The Regional Loop Trail



Source: Washtenaw County Park's Loop Trail

The County has adopted a 2020 Trails Plan that recommended a near term network connecting the area north to Howell and east to Brighton and Island State Recreation Areas as depicted in Figure 13 using primarily gravel roads. The vision for the Putnam and Pinckney area is a western connector from Pinckney State Recreation area using Monks Road, Cedar Lake Road north to Schafer Road with an eastern connector from the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail north using Chambers Road.

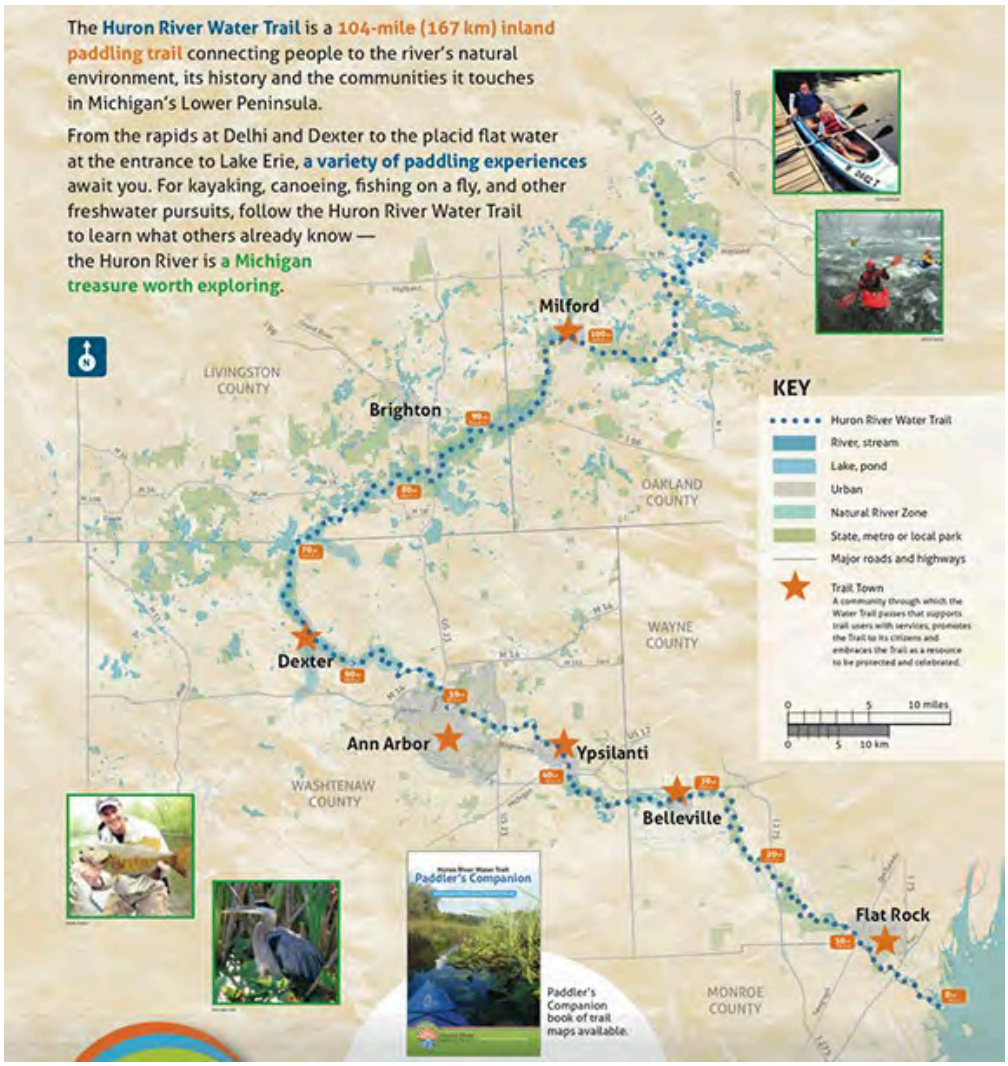
Figure 13. Livingston County Trails Plan



Source: Livingston County Trails Plan, 2020

The regional Huron River water trail, located in proximity to Pinckney and Putnam, is an initiative of the Huron River Watershed Council to encourage the recreational use of the Huron River and continue to protect and restore its water quality. A number of communities, as shown on Figure 14 below, have become water trail towns. The water trail runs immediately outside the southeast corner of Putnam Township, from Dexter to Base Line Lake and continues northeast through Hamburg Township to Brighton and Oakland County.

Figure 14. The Huron River Water Trail



Source: Huron River Watershed Council

Opportunities for a local water trail have been identified along the Portage River from Bruin Lake in the Pinckney State Recreation Area through Putnam Township, which would connect to Portage Lake and to the Huron River water trail.

Honey Creek through Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney may also present opportunities for a local water trail to Portage Lake. The two dams, which includes the Mill Pond dam in the Village, present some challenges. Returning the Creek to a free flowing stream by removing the dams as was done in Dexter is seen as ecologically beneficial for the creek's hydrology.

Accessibility Assessment and Grant-Assisted Projects

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing access to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The ranking system suggested by the MDNR Guidelines (MDNR, 2016) was used to evaluate the accessibility of the area parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5 as follows:

1. None of the facilities 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; and
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Each of the parks was evaluated using the MDNR ranking system noted. The elements evaluated include parking areas, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, and support facilities such as restrooms and surfacing. Table 12 presents the results of this evaluation.

Table 12. Accessibility Assessment

Park	Rank	Description
Loy Bond Park	2	While the playground meets ADA standards, there are currently no accessible routes to the playground
Township Square	4	The Square has been brought into ADA compliance and meets accessibility guidelines

It is the intent of Pinckney and Putnam that current and future park projects comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Deficiencies will be corrected with park renovation and improvements.

The Village of Pinckney has not received any MDNR grant funds for parkland acquisition or development. Putnam Township received an MDNR grant (TF10-001, $235,650) for the development of the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail.

A three-mile segment of the Trail from the Hamburg Township line to the M-36 crosswalk, was paved with 7 feet of asphalt and 3 feet of fine gravel and the remaining 3.3-mile segment from M-36 west to Unadilla Township was resurfaced with fine gravel surface. The project also included improvements of the Pinckney trailhead with installation of park amenities including parking, restroom, and other elements.

The MDNR funds were combined with Transportation Enhancement funds from the MDOT ($765,213) and local funds (Pinckney DDA: $5,000, Putnam Township: $245,900) for the trail development as well as other state funds for a new roof and general exterior and interior renovations of the Pinckney Depot. Local funds, donations, and volunteer hours have also been part of the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail and the Pinckney Depot projects.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A critical component in the recreation planning process is determining the needs and desires of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the park, trail, and recreation system. Needs and preferences provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives that lead to an action plan. To assess needs and desires, consideration was given to current recreation trends and input from community stakeholders, public officials, and residents of Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney.

PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum amount of parkland to adequately serve a given population size. The purpose of the NRPA guidelines is to provide minimum parkland and facility development standards that are applicable nationwide for recreation planning purposes. While the NRPA standards are useful benchmarks addressing minimum park acreage, a parks and recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community.

According to the NRPA, parks are categorized as mini, neighborhood, community, or regional parks. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the *close-to-home* parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities as described on the right. The Village and Township parks are considered *close-to-home* parks. According to NRPA standards, the suggested amount of *close-to-home* parkland is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

NRPA Close-to-home Park Land:
***Mini-Park**: Addresses limited recreational needs; serves an area less than ¼ mile distance.*

***Neighborhood Park**: Is the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreation and social focus of a neighborhood; focus is on informal active and passive recreation; serves an area ¼ to ½ mile distance and is uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.*

***Community Park**: Serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks; focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs and preserving unique landscapes and open spaces; usually serves two or more neighborhoods at ½ to 3-mile distance.*

Regional parks serve a broader area (about a 40-mile radius) and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique areas. For the Pinckney-Putnam area, regional parks include the state-owned recreation areas described in the preceding chapter. The NRPA also recognizes other types of parks such as school properties which can contribute to the local parks and recreation system.

Table 13 presents a comparison of the NRPA suggested parkland standards with existing parks based on a combined Village and Township population of 8,711 in 2021 and 9,178 in 2045. According to these standards, local parks do not meet the acreage for total *close-to-home* parkland. This disparity will increase over time when considering the projected 2045 population. Pinckney-Putnam residents, however, are well-served by the regional park facilities provided by the state that are located nearby.

Table 13. Comparison to Suggested Parkland Acreage Standards

Type of Park	NRPA standard Acres/ 1000 Pop.	Suggested 2021 Pop.: 8,711	Suggested 2045 Pop.: 9,178	Existing
Close to Home Parkland	6.25 - 10.5 Acres	54 – 91 Acres	57 – 96 Acres	42.8 Acres*
Regional Parks	15 - 20 Acres	131 – 174 Acres	138 – 184 Acres	3,500 Acres+
Pinckney Community Schools	-	-	-	137 Acres
Private Recreation Facilities	-	-	-	2,857 Acres

*: Includes the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail – 6.2 miles at an average right-of-way width of 50 feet.

State and National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends on a national level and in Michigan provide insight into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and therefore may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The Outdoor Foundation regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. According to the Outdoor Foundation, nearly 53 percent of Americans (160.7 million) ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation in 2020. This was an increase of 7.1 million from 2019 and the largest jump on record, undoubtedly driven by COVID impacts. Table 14 lists the top five outdoor activities in 2020 compared with 2015.

Table 14. National Sports Participation, 2020

Activity	2015 Participation Percent	2015 Participation Number	2020 Participation Percent	2020 Participation Number
1. Running, Jogging & Trail Running	18%	51.5 million	21.0%	63.8 million
2. Hiking	13%	37.2 million	19.0%	57.8 million
3. Freshwater, Saltwater & Fly Fishing	16%	45.7 million	18.0%	54.7 million
4. Road Biking, Mountain Biking & BMX	15%	43.1 million	17.3%	52.7 million
5. Car, Backyard & RV Camping	14%	40.0 million	15.8%	47.9 million

Source: Outdoor Participation Report, 2021, the Outdoor Foundation

According to a telephone survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2018-2022 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the top outdoor recreation activities for Michigan residents are listed in Table 15. For this survey, direct questions were asked about total days of participation within the last year, or 2017, for 34 specific activities. This, in combination with the statewide participation rate, allowed for the estimation of total participant days.

Table 15. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities by Percent Participation in Michigan, 2017

Activity	Total Participant Days	Participation Rate
Relaxing outdoors	436,642,901	75%
Walking outdoors, including dog walking	576,132,624	74%
Visiting parks or playgrounds	150,420,905	67%
Sightseeing and/or driving for pleasure	200,974,504	64%
Visiting nature centers or historic sites	36,465,987	56%
Swimming outdoors	99,130,632	54%
Picnicking	58,330,039	53%
Fishing	77,266,345	41%
Biking of any kind (road or off road)	N/A	40%
Team or individual sports outdoors	84,751,341	37%
Wildlife viewing and/or photography (including birding)	108,373,278	36%
Hiking/backpacking	48,025,953	34%
Jogging/running	137,149,463	34%
Canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, or wind surfing	26,960,187	32%
Road biking	68,469,091	31%

Source: Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2018-2022.

PUBLIC INPUT

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of the Pinckney-Putnam area can be summarized as follows:

- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the expected increase of seniors.
- There is a need for more pathways to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable community. Pinckney and Putnam have been forward-thinking and have made great progress with the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail improvements.
- Honey Creek and the Portage River are great natural assets for the area. Encouraging their use for recreation while maintaining their ecological functions is a priority for the community.

The lakes, natural surroundings, state recreation areas, trails, and outdoor recreation are the area's greatest assets that support a healthy and active community. Village and Township public officials strive to be responsive to residents' needs and desires for parks and recreation.

Residents were invited to provide ideas and suggestions for the communities' park, trail and recreation system through a public meeting which took place at a Parks and recreation Master Plan Committee meeting on November 30, 2022. A review of past desired improvements was accomplished and suggestions for park improvements were updated as follows.

Loy Bond Memorial Park
- Upgrade playground
- Add a paved/limestone pathway
- Include more recreation facilities (volleyball, baseball, skate park)
- Plant more trees

Community Gardens
- Continue to improve with demand

Town Square
- Continue to upgrade playground
  - Refurbish play surface
  - Add more play equipment
- Install additional benches
- Add more park features
  - Garden
  - Bandshell
  - Basketball Court
  - Water feature/splash pad
- General upkeep (trees and grass)
- Add picnic tables and protected picnic areas
- Improve lighting
- Add a changeable sign to advertise events
- Continue to provide community events

Putnam Township Campus
- Add walkways and recreation amenities such as pickleball courts, picnic pavilion, etc.

Mike Levine Lakelands Trail
- Add more connections through Village streets bicycle accommodations
  - To downtown Pinckney
  - To neighborhoods
  - To schools
  - To Border-to-Border Trail
- Provide trail amenities:
  - Map, direction signs
  - Mile Markers (1/4 mile)
  - Bike racks
  - Furnishings: benches, trash receptacles, pet waste dispensers, picnic tables, drinking fountain with water bottle refill
  - Bicycle repair station (fix your bike)
- Improve crosswalk at Main Street and D-19
- Refurbish and widen the trail's surface (pave)
- Renovate and reuse the Depot
- Establish a program for invasive plant removal and native plant restoration
- Improve trail safety with
  - Emergency system
  - Lighting
- Increase general upkeep (horse/pet droppings)

Communitywide Walking/Biking Improvements

- Continue to raise funds to construct a shared use path to Pinckney High School
- Support and promote the establishment of the Border-to-Border Trail connector to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail
- Install bicycle accommodations along Village Streets through pavement markings and signs
- Develop a shared use path from the end of the Village sidewalk west to Putnam Township Campus
- Install site amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, and signs along the pathways
- Develop a community walking map and walking club

Other Improvements

- Improve the Honey Creek-Mill Pond property with trails and boardwalks, viewing platforms, fishing dock, and access to the pond for kayaking/canoeing, fishing and skating
- Form a public/private partnership to develop portion of the former Village Education Center site with walkways, updated playground and open space
- Develop the DPW property with vehicular and pedestrian access, picnic area/shelter, trails, and preservation of environmentally sensitive areas. Other improvements could include the development of a viewing platform and access to the lake for ice fishing and skating
- Improve the ACO property

Public Review and Public Hearing

Once a draft Parks and Recreation Plan was completed, it was made available for a 30-day public review, until January 17, 2023. The availability of the draft plan for public review was advertised in the local paper and copies were placed on the communities' websites.

After the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee considered the comments received, minor changes were made to the document and the plan was recommended for adoption by Village Council and Township Board.

The public input into the plan culminated in advertised public hearings held on January 18, 2023 for Putnam Township and January 23, 2023 for the Village of Pinckney. After the hearings, the Village Council and Township Board adopted the plan by resolution.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Pinckney-Putnam Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee has updated their goals and objectives for the next five years. They are broad enough to encompass the suggestions expressed by Village and Township officials, staff, as well as to meet the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographic changes, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources, and recreation trends.

GOALS

The Village of Pinckney and Putnam Township will provide outdoor recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and all abilities that are clean and safe.

The Village of Pinckney and Putnam Township will consider the future needs of the community and take actions to dedicate parkland in order to meet future recreational needs and preserve and enhance the character of the community.

OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain and improve existing parks and community facilities

It is important to maintain and improve existing park facilities to ensure continued enjoyment and safety. This could include upgrading aging equipment, removing barriers, and maintenance. This could also include developing new outdoor facilities in response to the changing needs of Township and Village residents.

A. Maintain existing park facilities including Loy Bond Park and the Town Square;
B. Upgrade aging play equipment;
C. Remove barriers;
D. Improve on-going maintenance (trash removal); and
E. Develop new recreation facilities.

2. Continue to improve the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail and add new amenities and trail connections

The Mike Levine Lakelands Trail continues to be recognized as a priority for the community. In addition, the establishment of a network of walk/bike ways connecting the trail with community facilities, schools, and the state recreation areas is also needed for the community.

A. Continue to brand Pinckney as a Trail Town along the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail;
B. Establish a walk/bike connection from the Village and the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail to the High School and the development of additional walk/bike routes within the community;
C. Support and promote the establishment of the connector from the Border-to-Border Trail to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail; and
D. Promote the recognition and development of water trails (Portage River and Honey Creek) with water access sites.

3. Acquire new parkland

Land acquisition should focus on preserving and protecting high quality natural areas, green infrastructure, and open space. Coordination with the communities' Planning Commissions, Township Board, and Village Council will be necessary to preserve open space and dedicate parkland in new developments. Properties for parkland acquisition should offer both passive and active recreation potential.

A. Seek opportunities for parkland acquisition particularly around the Mill Pond area and other areas that presents opportunities for park and trail development such as the former Camp Innisfree property; and
B. Encourage the acquisition/development of parkland on underutilized properties (ACO Industries property, People's Church, etc.).

4. Establish a mechanism to promote and administer parks and recreation

Improved coordination with the state, local schools, Livingston County, and other area recreation providers would maximize the communities' recreational resources. A joint Village/Township parks and recreation commission could play a role in the coordination of services with other recreation providers by focusing on meeting community recreational needs and gathering support for parkland acquisition and development. A means of generating revenues through grants, sponsorships, and donations where possible must become a priority to support park projects.

A. Improve coordination with the state, local schools, Livingston County, and other area recreation providers;
B. Create a joint Village/Township Parks and Recreation Commission; and
C. Encourage a means of generating revenues through grants, sponsorships, and donations to support park projects.

ACTION PROGRAM

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects, as well as an improvement schedule with suggested capital improvement projects, a sequence of tasks, and strategies for implementation.

ACTION PLAN

The following describes the specific projects and actions which are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period. Illustrations and plans showing the proposed park improvements and actions are also included to depict the proposed actions.

1. Maintain and upgrade the existing Township Square and Loy Bond Park

This action includes replacing old equipment which is in a state of disrepair, outdated, or is dangerous, as well as improving the appearance of the parks and properties through appropriate landscaping and maintenance. All upgrades must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and efforts should be taken to remove all existing barriers to universal access. Proposed projects include:

- Maintain the Town Square with playground equipment repair/update, safety surface refurbishing, Red Building and shelter repairs/maintenance, and grounds upkeep. Continue to enhance community events taking place at the Square. In addition, develop new recreation amenities as funds become available including more pathwas in the Square and lighting along with support facilities such as permanent rest-rooms, picnic areas, a bandshell, pavilion, and other features.

Figure 15. Township Square Proposed Actions

- Implement proposed improvements at Loy Bond Park including walkways, exercise equipment, and shade structures.

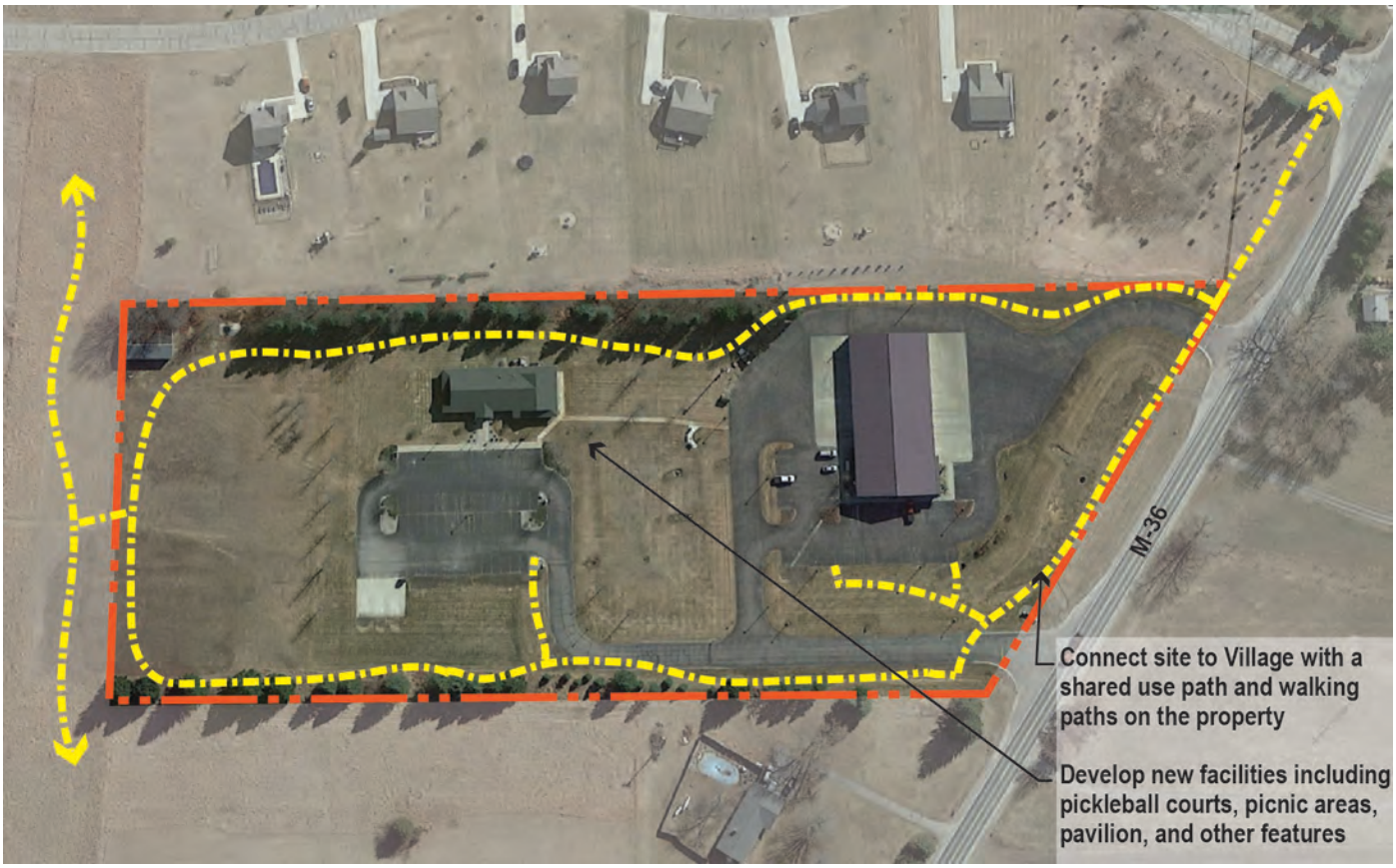
Figure 16. Loy Bond Park Development Plan

2. Develop facilities on currently owned Township, Village, or other properties

This action includes preparing development plans with implementation strategies for community facilities.

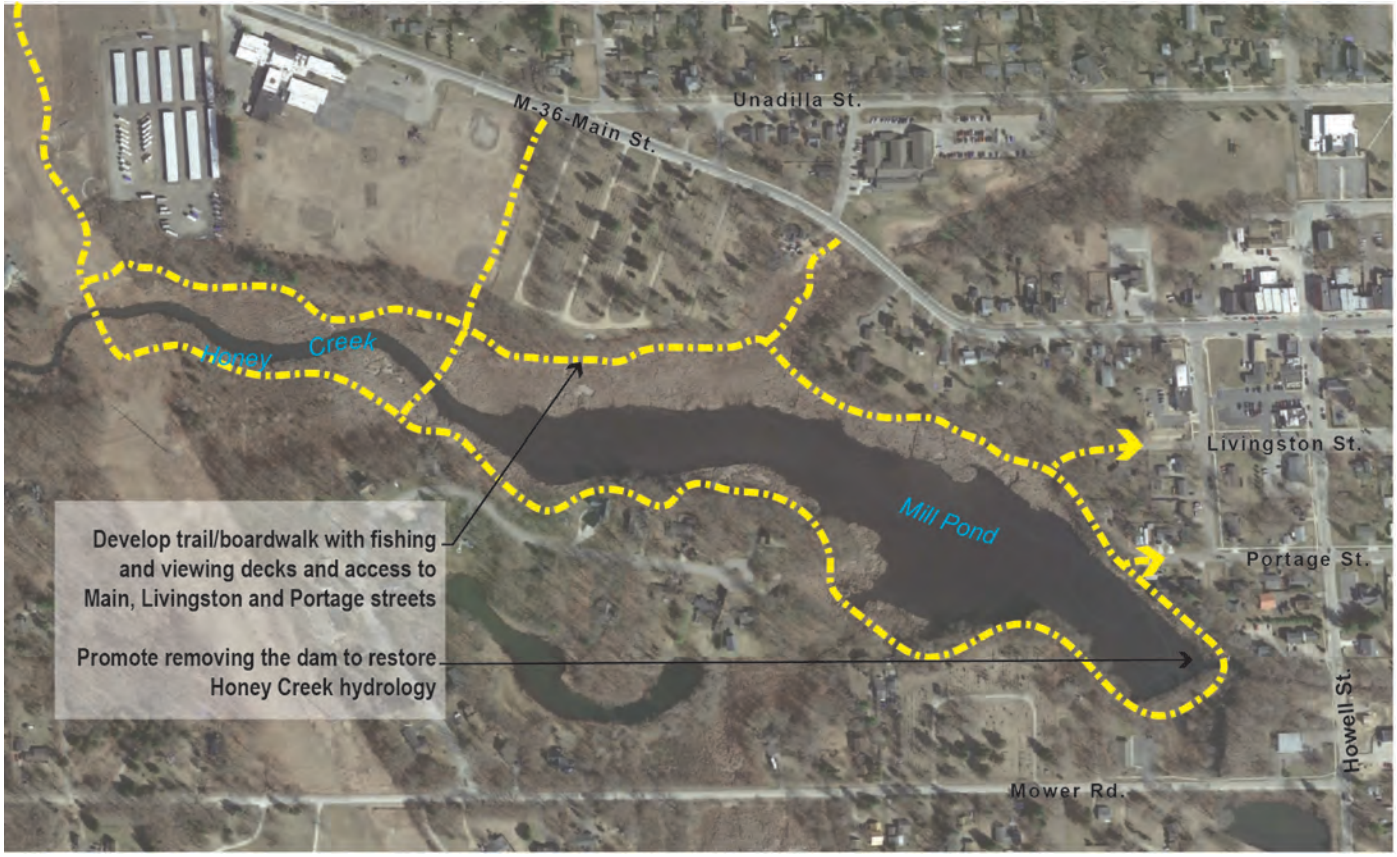
- Consider adding walkways and other amenities such as pickleball courts at the Putnam Township Campus.

Figure 17. Putnam Township Campus



- Improve the Honey Creek - Mill Pond property with trails and boardwalks, viewing platforms, fishing dock, and access to the pond for fishing and skating (See Figure 18).
- Consider developing portion of the former Village Education Center site (Veteran's field) in partnership with People's Church with playground updates and walkways.
- Consider leasing and improving Fireman's Park (ACO property).
- Consider developing water access sites to promote the use of water trails in the community along the Portage River and Honey Creek.

Figure 18. Honey Creek-Mill Pond Site



3. Improve the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail

Developing the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail is a continued high priority for the community.

- Complete the renovation of the Pinckney Depot and consider its re-use.
- Provide additional access to the trail.
- Install community way finding signs and additional pedestrian amenities along the trail such as benches, trash receptacles, picnic areas, fix-it bike stations, and other.
- Continue to brand the community as a **Trail Town** and promote special events for the trail.

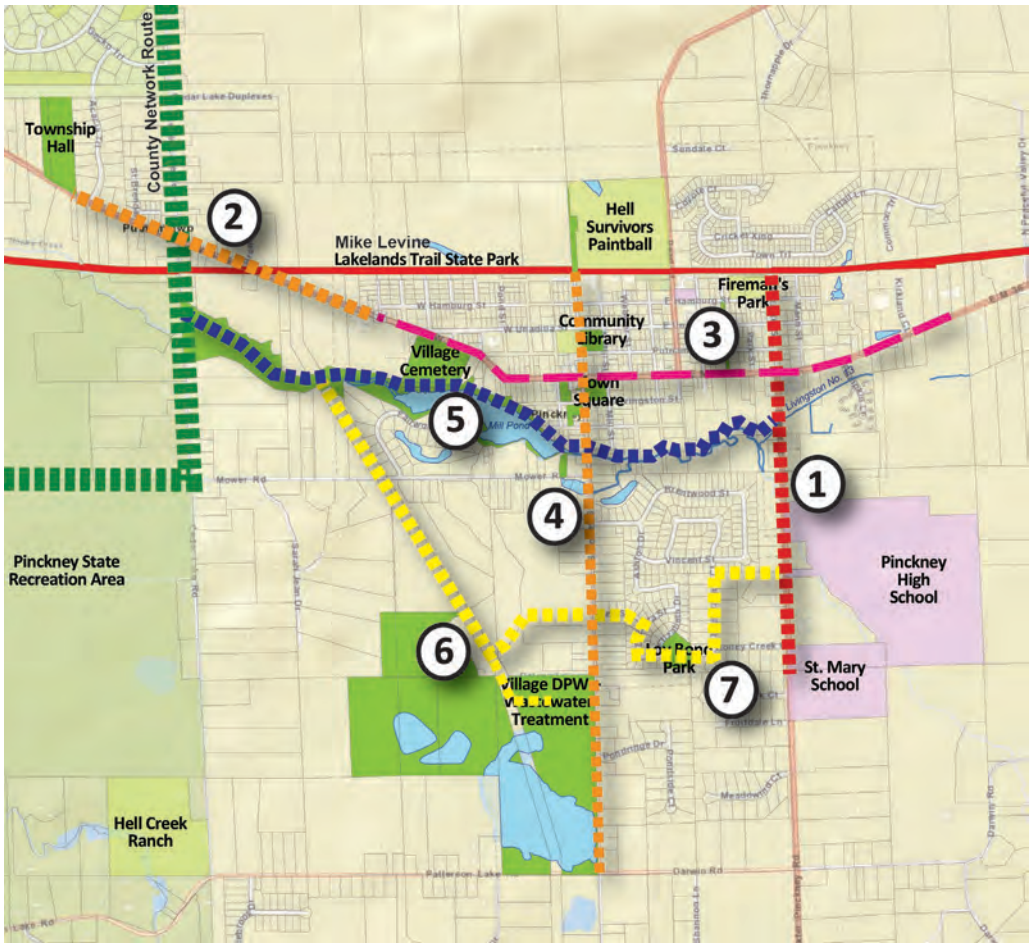
Figure 19. Mike Levine Lakelands Trail Potential Amenities

4. Develop a continuous community-wide walk/bike way system

There is a strong need to develop walk/bike ways that interconnect the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail with parks, community facilities, schools, and state land. This action could include:

- Develop bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and connections with priorities as follows:
  1. A shared use path along the east side of Dexter-Pinckney Road from St. Mary's School to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail;
  2. A shared-use path along the north side of M-36 from Putnam Township Campus to Village sidewalks;
  3. On-street bicycle lanes within Village limits on Main Street;
  4. On-street bicycle lanes along Howell Street from Patterson Lake Road to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail;
  5. A shared-use path along Mill Pond and Honey Creek from Cedar Lake Road to Dexter Pinckney Road;
  6. Shared-use path from Howell Street through the Wellbridge property to the ITC corridor; and
  7. A shared-use path from Howell Street to Dexter-Pinckney Road through subdivisions.
- Install site amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, and signs along the system.
- Develop a marketing strategy for the system to attract support and sponsors, which could translate into a community walking map and walking club.

Figure 20. Community Walk/Bike Way System



5. Acquire and develop future parkland

Land acquisition for developing new community parks is also identified as important to the community. Future park sites should be large enough for a variety of recreation uses such as walkways, trails, picnic areas, and active recreation use. Natural features providing habitat preservation and nature related activities would also be desirable.

Acquiring additional land or easement to enhance access to Mill Pond is recognized as significant for the community. The former Camp Innisfree site also presents a significant opportunity for parkland acquisition as it is a large property adjacent to Gregory State Game Area and contains existing recreational facilities and high-quality natural features.

It will be important to work with the Township Board, Village Council, and the communities' Planning Commissions to ensure parkland needs are considered in the review of new developments and to encourage and develop regulations for developers to set aside land for park facilities.

6. Administration and funding

- Create a joint Parks and Recreation Commission between Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney and a Friends of Pinckney-Putnam Parks and Trails group. The Commission should oversee the implementation of the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Facilitate and promote the shared-use of the area's parks and recreation facilities including the state, county, and other area recreation providers as well as Township and Village facilities by community groups.
- Seek grants and sponsorships to support the capital improvement projects mentioned above. A future parks and recreation commission should advocate and promote the value and benefits of parks and recreation by reaching out to the community. A future commission could also explore the feasibility of a millage for parkland acquisition and park development.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Table 16 lists the individual projects along with the specific tasks to be accomplished, the project objective reference, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. In addition, the projects are listed in a sequential order and a time frame for completion has been assigned. Short-term (ST) projects are recommended for completion within one to two years while long-term (LT) projects may take longer to be completed, within five to six years. Mid-term is between the two (MT).

Table 16. Capital Improvement Schedule

Project/Tasks	Obj	Funding Source	Time Frame
Existing Parks			
Install lighting, walkways, and other amenities in the Town Square	**1**	General Fund	ST
Build walkways and picnic/seating area at Loy Bond Park	**1**	General Fund & Grants	ST
Enhance community events at the Town Square	**1**	DDA & General Funds	ST
Develop walkways and other amenities at the Putnam Township Campus	**2**	General Fund & Grants	MT
New Park Facility Development			
Improve the Honey Creek-Mill Pond property with pedestrian access and trails/boardwalks around pond	**2**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	MT
Consider improving Fireman's Park with playground update	**2**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	ST
Consider improving portion of the former Village Education Center site in partnership with People's Church with playground update and walkways	**2**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	ST
Mike Levine Lakelands Trail Improvements			
Continue to renovate the Pinckney Depot	**3**	General Fund, MDOT TAP & other grants & Donations	MT
Provide additional access to the trail	**3**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-going
Install community wayfinding signs and pedestrian amenities along the trail such as bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, picnic areas, fix-it bike stations	**3**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-going
Create and promote special events for the trail	**3**	General Fund	On-going
Community-Wide Walk/Bike Way System			
Develop path along Dexter-Pinckney Road from St. Mary's School to Mike Levine Lakelands Trail	**4**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	ST
Develop path along M-36 from Village limits to Putnam Township Campus	**4**	General Fund, Grants	ST
Mark bike lanes along Main Street	**4**	General Fund, Grants &	ST
Mark bike lanes along Howell Street from Patterson Lake Road to	**4**	General Fund, Grants	ST

Project/Tasks	Obj	Funding Source	Time Frame
Mike Levine Lakelands Trail			
Develop path along Mill Pond and Honey Creek	**4**	General Fund, Grants	MT
Develop path from Howell Street through Wellbridge and the ITC corridor	**4**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	LT
Install benches, trash receptacles, signs and other pedestrian amenities	**4**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	ST-LT
Develop a walking club and a walking map	**4**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	MT
Parkland Acquisition			
Acquire land for the development of community parks which offer a location, setting, and size appropriate for a variety of passive and active recreational uses	**5**	General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-going
Administration & Funding			
Create a joint Parks and Recreation Commission and a Friends of Pinckney-Putnam Parks and Trails group	**6**		On-Going
Meet and discuss opportunities for sharing park facilities and to coordinate recreation programs with the DNR, Pinckney Public Schools, and local recreation groups	**6**		On-Going
Identify and seek fund raising and grant opportunities	**6**		On-Going

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

To accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budgets provide a limited amount of money for parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned.

Apply for Federal Funding

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in conjunction with SEMCOG funds the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis. Activities, which may apply to Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney, include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses; and
- Provision of safety and educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling.

Apply for State Funding

At the state level, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development. The new Recreation Passport grant also offers some state funding to local units of government.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource-based preservation and recreation. Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is $15,000 and the maximum is $300,000 in 2022. Applications are typically due April 1st.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, which distributes funds to the MDNR for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has recently been on meeting community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields, and walking paths. Minimum grant requests were $30,000 and maximum grant requests were $300,000 in 2022. The match percentage is 50% of the total project cost. Applications are usually due on April 1st.

The Recreation Passport grant program offers funding for the development of outdoor public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are $7,500 and maximum requests are $150,000 in 2022. The local match obligation was 25% of the total project cost. Applications are usually due on April 1st as well.

The Michigan Spark Grant is a new program to help local communities that create, renovate, or redevelop public outdoor opportunities including completing critical trail projects. Criteria include public benefit, financial considerations, access to project site, access to new opportunities for people of all abilities, clarity of scope and ability to execute, renovation and long-term maintenance. The first round

of applications launched in October 2022 with two more rounds of applications and grant awards expected in 2023 making approximately $65 milion of coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds available. Projects must be completed in 2026.

Other funding conducted in partnership with the MDNR is available through other state government divisions, such as the Fisheries Division (Inland Fisheries Grants) and the Forest Resources Division (Community Forestry Grants).

The Inland Fisheries programs consider projects that enhance habitat and fisheries, riparian property for public fishing use, water quality, and ecology. While not currently offered, they may become available in the future.

Municipalities may use Community Forestry grants to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. Grant requests may be up to $20,000 depending on the project type and applications are usually due in the middle of the summer. DTE Energy and Consumers Energy also offer tree planting grants for up to $3,000 to local municipalities in their service areas.

Apply for Other Grant Funding

There is also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/ pathways or greenway-related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: facility, education, and capacity building. Requests for funding can be up to $10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Seek Other Sources of Funding

Putnam Township and the Village of Pinckney should investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should continue to be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development. The MEDC patronicity project that the Township is pursuing is a good example of innovative funding. In addition, the possible establishment of a recreation authority could be considered to increase the funding base for the construction and operation of specific park improvement projects.