



Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Monroe Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan

ADOPTED · NOVEMBER 19, 2024



Acknowledgments

Thank you.

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of the 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is greatly appreciated and we thank everyone who participated in its development. The content in this Plan reflects the ongoing collaboration between Township residents, stakeholders, and the Township Planning Commission.

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Introduction

The Monroe Charter Township Community Recreation Plan was created with the goal of providing a five-year plan mapping out all aspects of their Parks & Recreation needs. This document sets forth a vision for Monroe Charter Township's parks and recreation facilities: their operations, maintenance, and enhancements for the next several years. It serves as a roadmap for future recreation facilities and programs by considering existing parks and programs in and around the Township and the anticipated demand for additional or improved recreation facilities. The Community Recreation Plan was created by gathering public input from Township officials, members of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and the residents of the Township.

In 1987, Monroe Charter Township developed a comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan detailing some of the goals they wished to attain. During the years following the original plan, the Township had grown and the needs of the Community expanded. These factors created the demand and need for an efficient means of providing recreational services, resulting in an updated Community Recreation Plan that was adopted on March 20, 2007. Monroe Charter Township felt that it was important to update the former Recreation Plan for the purpose of accurately reflecting the current and future demographics of the Community. The development of new facilities and the improvement of the existing facilities include a commitment to providing equal recreational opportunity for all residents regardless of race, religion, gender, age, and physical or mental limitations.

This 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR's Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans. This Plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations.

Planning Process

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared with technical assistance from McKenna, a planning and design consulting firm, and with the active involvement of the Township's administration and the Planning Commission.

Citizen input and action, through an online survey and two public hearings, played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use Monroe Charter Township's Parks and Recreation facilities.

Following several discussions between McKenna and Township Staff and a draft review by the Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Township Board. Throughout the process, all meetings were open to the public. Notices were posted beforehand, as stipulated within the Open Meetings Act. The planning process kicked off in February of 2024 and concluded with the adoption of the plan in November, 2024.

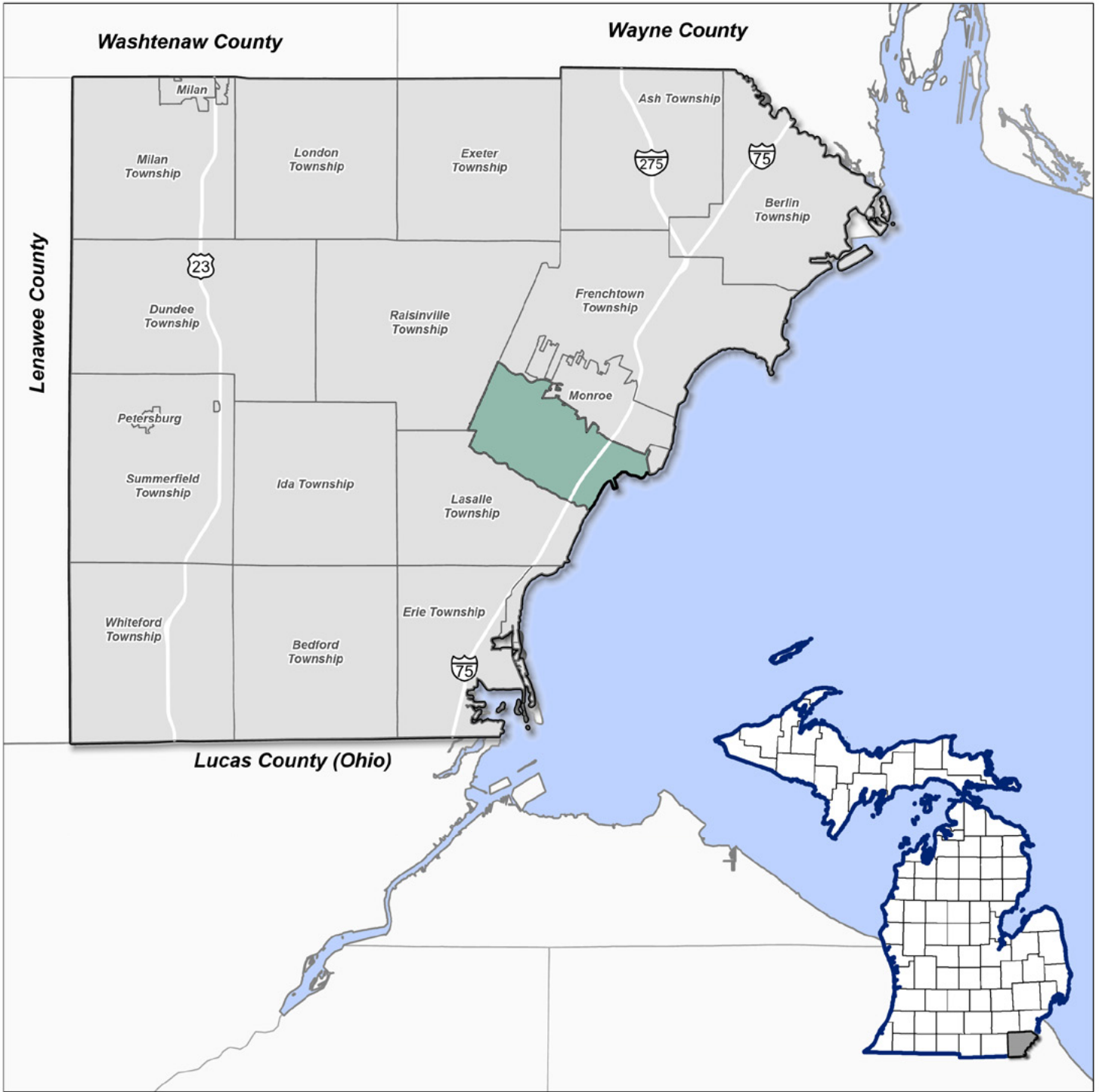
As required by the State of Michigan, this plan was forwarded to the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department and the South East Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) upon its adoption.

01. Community Description

The Community Description is a picture of the various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of Monroe Charter Township. This information provides valuable insight into determining future land and facility development and programming needs for the community. Monroe Charter Township takes great pride in being a community that provides a high quality of life for its residents and offers a diversity of values and experiences. The Charter Township of Monroe is updating the parks and recreation plan for the first time in 15 years. The purpose of this plan is to come into compliance with current Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans published on April 26, 2021.

Regional Setting

Monroe Charter Township is located within southeastern Michigan in Monroe County. The Township is bordered on the east by Lake Erie, which provides Township residents with many recreational opportunities such as fishing, boating, and swimming and provides many marinas, beaches, and parks along the shoreline. The Township is bordered on the north by the City of Monroe and Frenchtown Township, on the west by Raisinville Township and LaSalle Township, and on the south by LaSalle Township. The Township is approximately eighteen square miles with the majority of the population concentrated in the northwestern portion of the Township near the City of Monroe. Other population concentrations are along the Dixie Highway corridor through the center of the Township as well as in the southeastern corner along Lake Erie.



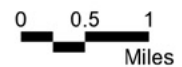
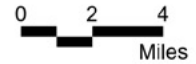
Regional Location

Monroe Charter Township
 Monroe County, Michigan

April 3, 2024

LEGEND

- Monroe Charter Township
- Monroe County



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Monroe County, 2023. Luna Pier, 2024. McKenna, 2024.



Natural Features

Topographically, Monroe Charter Township, like the other surrounding communities, is relatively flat with a gradual slope towards Lake Erie. The Township has several creeks flowing toward the east, eventually discharging into Lake Erie. The River Raisin is one of the Township's primary water features and forms the northern border for the west portion of the Township. After it comes to the center of the northern boundary of the Township, it then passes into the City of Monroe and eventually terminates at Lake Erie.

Although not as significant of a water-way as the River Raisin, Woodchuck Creek also plays a primary role for the Community. It forms the southern boundary between Monroe and LaSalle Townships. Woodchuck Creek is navigable by small boats and provides access to Lake Erie for many properties as well as one private marina. LaPlaisance Creek is another significant waterway for boat traffic. It weaves through the Township ultimately discharging into Lake Erie at Bolles Harbor. Several private marinas are located in Bolles Harbor offering a variety of recreational opportunities for people who enjoy fishing, boating, and other water related activities. A public launch site operated by the MDNR is also located in Bolles Harbor.

The overall characterization of Monroe Charter Township could be described as flat terrain with fertile soils and numerous creeks and drains. The Township has maintained much of its rural agricultural character despite its location relative to nearby urban areas. In recent years there has been an increase of residential and commercial development and the landscape is beginning to change. Achieving a balance between the existing characteristic and potential future growth is an important land use issue affecting the Township Regional Analysis.

Monroe Charter Township is located in the central southeast portion of Monroe County, Michigan, bordering Lake Erie, and is approximately one (1) mile south of the City of Monroe, Michigan.

The Township has rural/agricultural areas, industrial districts, suburban communities, and even urban neighborhoods. There are three main north/south connectors running through the Township: I-75, Telegraph Road (US-24) and South Dixie Highway (M-125). A connection is made within the Township with the interchange at I-75. I-75 connects Monroe Charter Township with the State of Ohio to the south and the Cities of Monroe and Detroit to the north. M-50, which is an east/west connector, gives access to US-23 and the City of Dundee.

Man-Made and Environmental Resources

There are a number of man-made and environmental resources and constraints in the Community that can make the land difficult, unsuitable, or unlawful for development. There are two major railroad lines as well as a major highway that runs southwest to northeast through the Community. There is also a major power corridor along the southern boundary, radio towers in the center, and two quarries. One quarry is active and is located behind the Township Hall. The second quarry is inactive and is located in the northwest portion of the Township, just south of the City of Monroe. Detroit Edison has large fly-ash-pits located on the eastern edge of the Township, near Lake Erie. Various woodlots dot the landscape throughout the Township, but are not plentiful enough to be considered as significant features.



Woodchuck Creek

Demographic Characteristics

A key element related to planning for parks and recreation and establishing future goals and objectives for the Charter Township of Monroe is to conduct an analysis of demographic characteristics. This section identifies: the population and housing trends in Monroe Charter Township; how they compare with surrounding communities; what their implication is for parks and recreation in the Township. The data and trends identified in the analysis of each factor provide a base from which to develop strategies to address the needs of Monroe Charter Township's residents.

Total Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Township's population decreased by 177 persons between 2010 and 2020, a 1.2 percent decrease over ten years. Monroe County, as a whole, grew by 1.8 percent over the same period. Raisinville Township and Frenchtown Township were the only communities in the Greater Monroe area to gain population between 2010 and 2020. LaSalle Township, Monroe Charter Township, and the City of Monroe had population decreases.

Table 1. Population

	2000 Population	2010 Population	Change 2000 -2010	2020 Population	Change 2010 -2020
Monroe Charter Township	13,491	14,568	+8.0%	14,391	-1.2%
Frenchtown Charter Township	20,777	20,428	-1.7%	21,609	+5.8%
LaSalle Township	5,001	4,894	-2.1%	4,639	-5.2%
Raisinville Township	4,896	5,816	+18.8%	5,903	+1.8%
City of Monroe	22,076	20,733	-6.1%	20,462	-1.3%
Monroe County	145,945	152,021	+4.2%	154,809	+1.8%

Source: US Census Bureau

Age Distribution

The age distribution in the census for 2020 was only disseminated with categories of children under the age of 18 and adults over the age of 18. All the Greater Monroe communities are very similar to the age breakdown in the County.

Table 2. Age Distribution, 2020

	Monroe Charter Township	Frenchtown Township	LaSalle Township	Raisinville Township	City of Monroe	Monroe County
Age under 18	2,993	4,426	846	1,191	4,734	32,801
Age under 18 (%)	20.8%	20.5%	18.2%	20.2%	23.1%	21.2%
Age 18 & up	11,398	17,183	3,793	4,712	15,728	122,008
Age 18 & up (%)	79.2%	79.5%	81.8%	79.8%	76.9%	78.8%

Source: US Census Bureau

Race and Ethnicity

The population of the Township is predominantly Caucasian (84.9%). African-Americans compose 3.9 percent of the population and Asian-Americans composed up 0.8 percent of the population. 4.6 percent of the population self-identifies as Hispanic. Compared with the U.S. population, Monroe Charter Township has a significantly higher proportion that is Caucasian and a significantly lower proportion that is Black, Hispanic or Asian.

Housing Units

The vacancy rates in Monroe Charter Township and Monroe County are similar. However, the vacancy rate in Monroe Charter Township is slightly above the vacancy rate in Monroe County as a whole.

Table 3. Housing Units, 2020

	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Rate
Monroe Charter Township	6,156	5,792	5.9%
Monroe County	65,845	62,152	5.6%

Source: US Census Bureau

Household Tenure

The rates of owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing units are similar in Monroe Charter Township when compared to Monroe County. However, Monroe Charter Township has a slightly higher rate of renter-occupied housing units when compared to Monroe County as a whole.

Table 4. Household Tenure, 2022

	Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Renter-Occupied Housing Units
Monroe Charter Township	78.6%	21.4%
Monroe County	83.7%	16.3%

Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Household Size

The average household size has seen a decrease in all the communities of the Greater Monroe area and Monroe County as a whole.

Table 5. Household Size, 1990-2020 (People per Household)

	1990	2000	2010	2020
Monroe Charter Township	2.64	2.46	2.49	2.41
Frenchtown Charter Township	2.74	2.53	2.53	2.41
LaSalle Township	3.14	2.94	2.67	2.52
Raisinville Township	3.15	2.91	2.77	2.63
City of Monroe	2.62	2.44	2.44	2.36

Source: US Census Bureau

Educational Attainment

Table 6. Educational Attainment, Persons over 25 years old, Monroe Charter Township, 2022

Educational Attainment Level	Percentage of Population
Less than 9th Grade	3.1%
Some High School	8.9%
Percent without High School Diploma	12%
High School Diploma or GED	33.8%
Some College	23.9%
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	57.7%
Associate's Degree	11%
Bachelor's Degree	10.5%
Graduate or Professional Degree	8.9%

Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Units in Structure

The majority of new construction of housing units is single family units, which attributed to an estimated total of 3,761 number of units being constructed. Two-Family/ duplexes are remaining at a steady percentage rate, which is 2%, over the last 20 years. Multi-unit apartments have also seen an increase in construction from 2010.

Table 7. Housing Units by Structure Type, 2000-2022

Structure Type	2000		2010		2022	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Single Family Detached	3,032	55.0%	3,458	57.7%	3,761	64.5%
Single Family Attached	168	3.0%	322	5.4%	226	3.9%
Two Family/Duplex	106	2.0%	132	2.2%	58	1%
Multi-Unit Apartments	661	12.0%	674	11.2%	606	10.4%
Mobile Homes	1,566	28.0%	1,404	23.4%	1,178	20.2%
Other	6	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total Housing Units	5,572	100.0%	5,990	100.0%	5,829	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau and 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Forecasts of Population and Housing

SEMCOG, South East Michigan Council of Governments, forecasts of population and housing growth show an initial decrease, followed by a steady but slow increase up to 2045, with the population increasing to 14,816. The SEMCOG projections are the most reliable available projection.

Table 8. SEMCOG Population Forecast, Monroe Charter Township

Year	Population
Current Population (2020)	14,391
2025	14,002
2035	14,615
2045	14,816

Source: SEMCOG

Income Distribution

The Township and Monroe County have the same rate of the lowest income category (under \$10,000).

The Township's median household income (\$63,739) is lower than that of the surrounding communities except for the City of Monroe (\$57,779) and Frenchtown Charter Township (\$63,213), in part due to the broad range of income levels of those who live in the Township.

Income data can be used as an indicator for the types of housing that Township residents can afford, the levels of retail development it can support, as well as whether various types of community services can be supported.

Table 9. Income Distribution, 2022

Household Income	Monroe Charter Township	Frenchtown Charter Township	Raisinville Township	City of Monroe	Monroe County
Less than \$10,000	3.4%	3.9%	2.8%	6.8%	3.4%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	7.2%	6.1%	0.5%	5.7%	3.8%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7.4%	8.5%	3.5%	9.3%	7.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	9.7%	12.2%	6.5%	11.2%	9.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.5%	8.8%	11.1%	13.7%	11.6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12.8%	21.8%	20.9%	17.2%	17.1%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	14.8%	11.6%	16.6%	11.1%	12.8%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	14.9%	13.6%	21.9%	15.4%	19.0%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	8.8%	6.7%	7.9%	6.6%	8.9%
\$200,000 or more	6.5%	6.7%	8.2%	3.0%	7.2%
Median Household Income	63,739	\$63,213	\$83,500	\$57,779	\$69,563

Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Households with an income that is below the income threshold are considered to be in poverty. The table below compares the poverty status in the Township with that of the County. The table shows that 12 percent of the Township's residents live in poverty, which is slightly greater than the rate for Monroe County, as a whole.

Table 10. Percentage of Population in Poverty, 2000-2022

	2000	2010	2019	2022
Monroe Charter Township	10.7%	10.4%	12.0%	12.2%
Monroe County	7.0%	9.0%	11.1%	9.4%

Source: US Census Bureau and 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Occupation

The distribution of working population according to occupation categories in Monroe Charter Township is similar to that of the surrounding communities and Monroe County.

Table 11. Occupation Categories, 2022

	Monroe Charter Township	Frenchtown Charter Township	Raisinville Township	City of Monroe	Monroe County
Agriculture and Forestry	0.5%	0.4%	1.6%	0.6%	1.0%
Construction	6.6%	10.1%	8.2%	7.2%	7.4%
Manufacturing	17.7%	23.2%	26.6%	15.2%	20.8%
Wholesale Trade	2.9 %	1.7%	0.8%	0.5%	1.9%
Retail Trade	8.9%	11.0%	7.6%	9.6%	9.8%
Transportation and Utilities	7.3%	8.0%	7.7%	9.5%	7.4%
Information	1.8%	0.5%	0%	1.9%	1.0%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	3.6%	3.8%	3.3%	4.6%	3.6%
Professional Services	7.9%	7.2%	8.4%	8.3%	7.7%
Education and Health Care	25.3%	15.1%	25.5%	24.8%	23.5%
Entertainment and Tourism	11.3%	13.0%	4.7%	8.8%	8.3%
Other Services	3.3%	3.7%	2.8%	6.4%	4.6%
Government	2.9%	2.4%	2.6%	2.7%	2.9%

Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

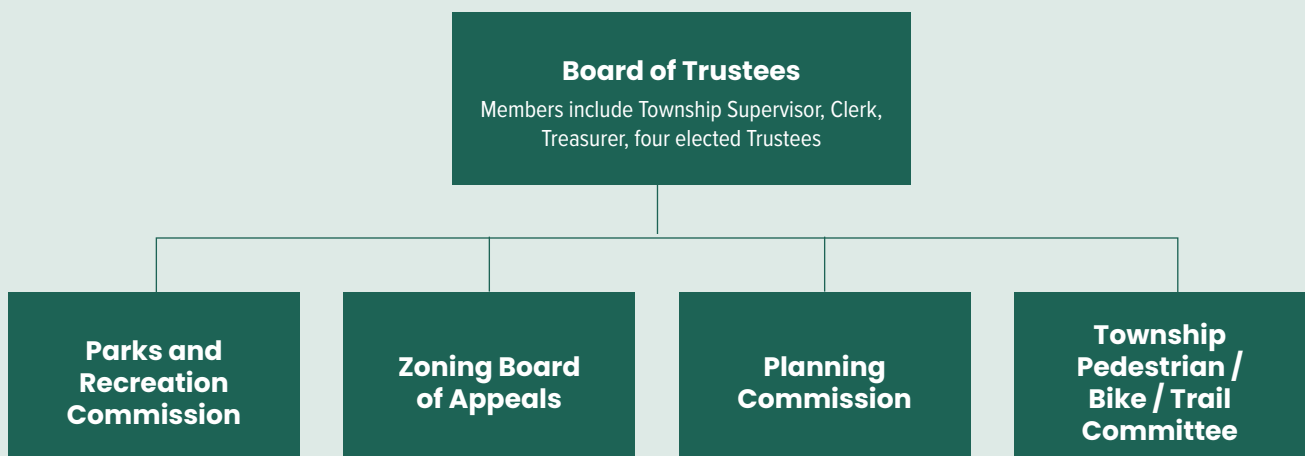
02. Administrative Structure and Funding

The administrative structure and budget analysis for parks and recreation in Monroe Charter Township are presented in this section.

Administration

The Charter Township of Monroe was established under The Charter Township Act, Public Act 359 of 1947. There are several groups who influence recreational initiatives within the Community. The Township is headed by an elected Board of Trustees who makes the final decisions on all recreation proposals that are presented to the Township. The Township Board budgets money for the purchase of supplies, equipment, land acquisition, and maintenance. Prior to a recreational item coming before the Board, the Parks and Recreation Committee reviews it and formulates a recommendation on budget, administration, and programming. Members to The Monroe Charter Township Parks and Recreation Committee are nominated by the Supervisor and approved by the Township Board. Each of the five members is appointed to a two-year term. Between 2006 and 2020 the Committee met on a quarterly basis. The Committee has not met since 2020 but is planned to begin meeting regularly again. Since 2020, the supervisor's office has assumed responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The day-to-day responsibility of managing recreation programs, facilities and resources is handled by Township staff and the Township Board. The Board also approves grant applications and adopts the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



Parks and Recreation Funding and Grant History

The operating budget for the Parks and Recreation is adopted annually by the Township Board, with the fiscal year running from January 1st to December 31st. Township Parks and Recreation had an operating budget of \$128,200 for fiscal year 2023. At the beginning of 2024, the Township had a parks and recreation operating fund balance of \$198,653.00

The majority of the funds for Parks and Recreation are from the general fund, including money for capital projects. Any donations made are directly deposited in either the general fund or capital projects fund. All funds to run the Township recreation programs come directly from the general fund. No additional millage is planned at this time. This may change in the future if there is public support. The table below provides a look into Monroe Charter Township's Parks and Recreation expenditures.

Table 12. Parks and Recreation Expenditures

Number	Title	2023 Actual	2024 Projected	2025 Projected	2026 Projected	2027 Projected
707.751	Seasonal Maintenance	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
707.752	Concession Workers	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000
707.753	Ball Fields Coordinator	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
707.754	Custer Ball Payroll	\$13,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
707.755	CampKids Payroll	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
713.002	Unemployment Insurance	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
720.751	Recreation Comm. Per Diem	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
740.100	Supplies/ Equipment Custer Ball	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
740.200	Supplies/ Equipment CampKids	\$700	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
740.300	Concession Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
740.400	Park Supplies	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
802.100	Contribution to Custer Ball	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
860.800	Mileage – Custer Ball	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
860.900	Mileage – CampKids	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
920.000	Utilities	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
930.000	Maintenance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
932.400	Building & Park Repairs	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
956.000	Miscellaneous	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
964.001	Custer Ball Fee Refunds	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
980.000	Fixed Equipment & Furniture	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
980.200	Leased Property Improvements	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200
Total		\$128,200	\$120,700	\$120,700	\$120,700	\$120,700

Grant History

Monroe Charter Township applied for and received a MDNR grant for \$2,500 in 1992 for the purpose of an exercise trail adjacent to the Township Hall property. The trail was constructed in 1995 and contained a few exercise stations. The grant number was LG-025. The exercise stations were all removed in 2007 during the development of Stoneco Park. The MDNR has indicated a post-completion self-certification report would not be required for this grant.

Volunteers

The Township does have a Township Pedestrian/Bike/Trail Committee. The Township Pedestrian/Bike/Trail Committee was formed in 2023 to be a recommending body. Currently the township is involved in the Monroe County Loop Trail, the LaPlasiance Road Trail and the Stoneco Wildlife Trail.

Partnering Organizations

Monroe Charter Township does not have any partnering organizations at this time.

Township Recreation Programs

Custer Baseball and Softball Program

Monroe Charter Township has relationships with both public and private entities to provide various parks and recreation opportunities. A significant program that the Township provides is their Custer Baseball and Softball Program. The Custer Baseball and Softball Program has been in existence since 1957 and provides organized leagues for youths aged 3 through 13. In order to provide this program, the Township formed a relationship with the Monroe Public School District. The Custer Baseball and Softball program currently takes place at Stoneco Park. All salaries, equipment, and maintenance funds for the Custer Baseball and Softball Program are provided by the Township and are managed by the Custer Baseball Board. The Custer Baseball and Softball Program employs a director and approximately 40 umpires and

maintenance personnel. 90% of all the Custer Ball Program employees and umpires are youths aged 14-18.

CampKids (Tot Lot Program)

CampKids is another recreational program provided by the Township for residents. Monroe Charter Township has six tot-lot (CampKids) locations. Four of these locations are in private parks. Two locations are in Township owned parks, maintained by the Township (Evergreen Acres and Kay Drive Parks). Monroe Charter Township hires a CampKids Director and seven leaders for the six-week program. The program is funded entirely by the Township with no fees assessed.

Relationship with School District

Township children attend either Monroe or Ida Public Schools. There are three public schools located within Monroe Charter Township, which are overseen by the Monroe Public School District. Custer Elementary is on Albain Road between South Dixie Highway and South Telegraph Rd. Monroe High School and Waterloo Elementary are located south of M-50 and east of Herr Road in the northwest section of the Township. These schools have outdoor facilities that are generally open to the public when not in use by the school's athletic programs. Each school generally contains play equipment and athletic fields. The School District also manages Gililand Memorial Field which has several athletic fields. Monroe Public School District had an enrollment of 4,808 students for the 2023/2024 school year.

The elementary schools educate students in grades pre-K through 6th grade. Students are assigned to their schools based on geographic attendance areas within the district boundaries. Middle school attendance areas are geographically designed to balance student numbers between the two middle schools (neither of which are located in Monroe Charter Township). Monroe High School serves all of the district's ninth through twelfth grade students, with 9th grade classes in the Freshman Academy, a "school within a school" located in a designated section of the building with its own staff and administration devoted to 9th grade education.

03. Parks, Recreation, and Facility Inventory

The community facilities and the services they provide help to define the quality of life in Monroe Charter Township. These facilities relate to the economy, health care, education, and recreation of the residents and visitors to the area. Monroe Charter Township residents have a wide variety of recreational opportunities available to them, ranging from neighborhood parks to large regional parks containing thousands of acres. The inventory consists of a compilation of parks found in the Township and the surrounding region. The inventory is then used to provide an assessment of the Township's facilities compared with national standards.

Developing a complete inventory of Monroe Charter Township's parks and recreation facilities is an essential component of a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. Understanding what parks and recreation facilities and programs are available to the Township residents will assist decision-making in the future. The inventory covers the following components:

- » Monroe Charter Township Parks and Facilities
- » Barrier Free Accessibility
- » Regional Parks and Facilities including State of Michigan Parks and Facilities and County Parks and Facilities
- » Township Recreation Programs

Monroe Charter Township Parks and Facilities

Monroe Charter Township owns and maintains four parks and facilities which are currently being used for recreational purposes. An inventory of the parks and facilities is described below and shown on Map 2 and the Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory Table. The following inventory was conducted by McKenna. These categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association and meant to aid in determining the primary purposes and uses of existing facilities in the Township.

Table 13. Parks Classification System and Level of Service

Mini-Park (Pocket Park)	<p>Mini parks are categorized as small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in size and serve the needs of the residents in the immediate neighborhood. These parks usually serve a limited, isolated, or unique population.</p>	<p>Evergreen Acres Park Kay Park Timberlane Park</p>
Neighborhood Park	<p>Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. Although there are several privately owned parks and recreational facilities such as South Monroe Townsite Park, Monroe Charter Township does not own or operate any neighborhood parks.</p>	<p>There are no neighborhood parks in Monroe Charter Township.</p>
Community Parks	<p>Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within one-half to three miles of the park. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community.</p>	<p>Stoneco Park</p>
Community Facility	<p>Similar to community parks, community facilities offer a wide range of recreational offerings. These are not designated parks, but still are intended for recreation programming and may have an outdoor recreation component.</p>	

Mini Parks

Evergreen Acres Park

LOCATION:

Evergreen Acres residential subdivision

SIZE:

0.48 acres

SERVICE AREA:

Evergreen Acres residential subdivision

SITE CAPACITY:

10-20 people

FACILITIES:

Currently there is only a concrete slab with an old basketball hoop on the property. The park also contains picnic facilities.

Kay Park

(also referred to as "Kay Drive Park")

LOCATION:

Ravenwood Forest Plat 1 residential subdivision

SIZE:

0.85 acres

SITE CAPACITY:

20-40 people

FACILITIES:

Used for CampKids Program in the summer. This park is currently vacant.

Timberlane Park

LOCATION:

Ravenwood Park Plat 1, Woodpine residential subdivision

SIZE:

0.86 acres

SERVICE AREA:

Ravenwood Forest residential subdivision

FACILITIES:

This park is currently vacant.



Community Park

Stoneco Park

(also referred to as "The Red Park")



LOCATION:
Behind Township Hall

SIZE:
51.4 acres

SERVICE AREA:
Monroe Charter Township as a whole

FACILITIES:
This park contains volleyball courts, an accessible playground, nature trails, ball fields, a nature center, a concession stand, a fish pond, and a tot lot.



Barrier Free Accessibility

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. Monroe Charter Township strives to make its parks and facilities accessible to all members of the Community. An evaluation of Monroe Charter Township's parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- » Has limited sight or is blind
- » Uses a wheelchair
- » Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- » Uses a walking aid
- » Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below, as well as the accessibility rankings for each Township maintained park.

1

Level 1. The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little to no paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

2

Level 2. The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

3

Level 3. The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.

4

Level 4. The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

5

Level 5. The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

Table 14. Parks and Recreation Inventory

Facility Name	Responsible Agency	Acres	Facilities											
			Accessibility Score	Parking	Restrooms	Pavilion	Playground Equipment	Walking Trails	Volley Ball Court	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Nature Center	Basketball Court	Benches	
Evergreen Acres Park	Township	0.48	1										x	
Kay Park	Township	0.85	1			x	x						x	x
Timberlane Park	Township	0.86	1											
Stoneco (Red) Park	Township	51.4	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x

Community Features and Park Service Area

Monroe Charter Township
Monroe County, Michigan

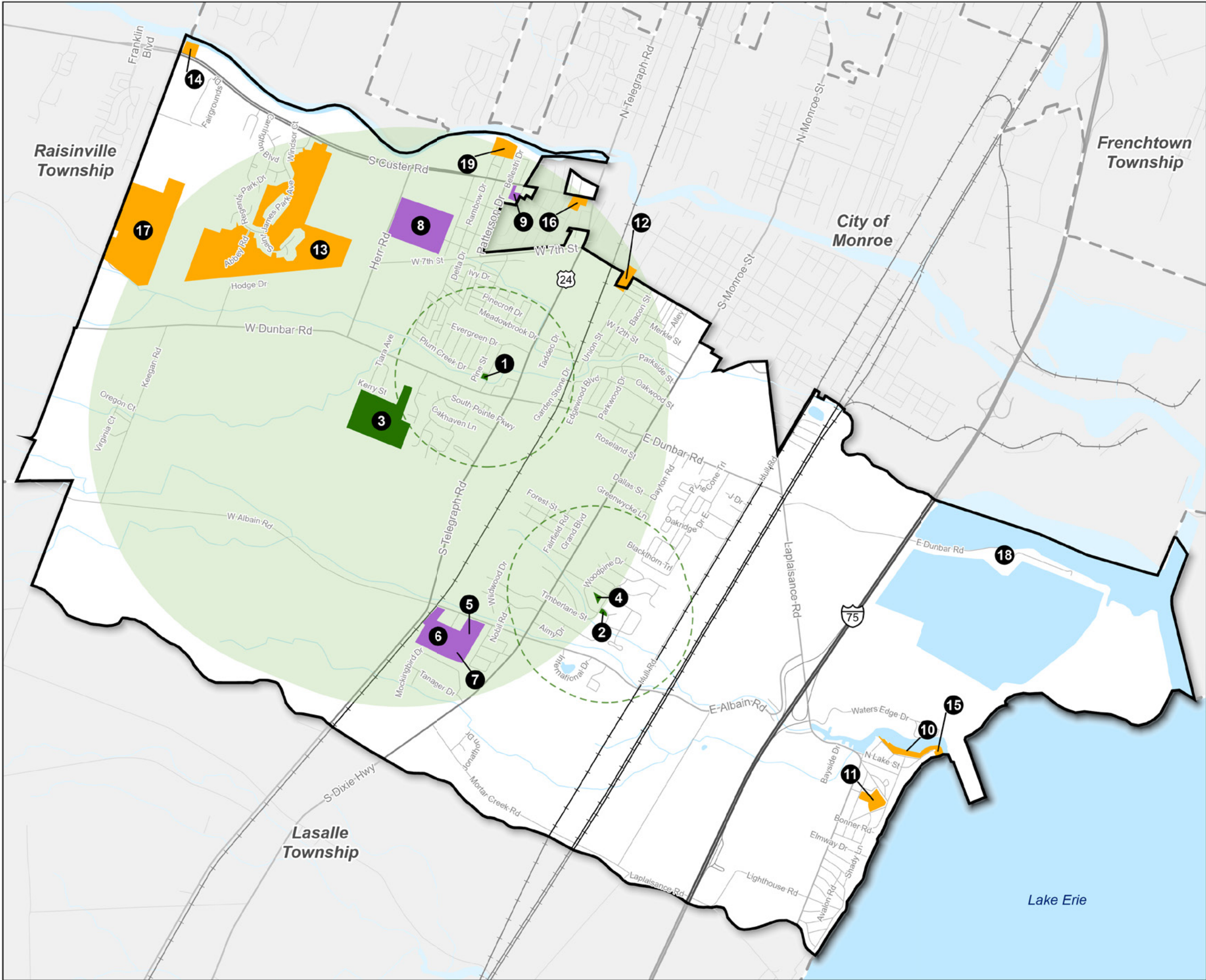
August 20, 2024

LEGEND

- Monroe Charter Township Facilities**
 - 1 Evergreen Acres Parks
 - 2 Kay Park
 - 3 Stoneco Park
 - 4 Timberlane Park
- Monroe Public Schools**
 - 5 Custer Elementary I
 - 6 Custer Elementary II
 - 7 Gilliland Memorial Park
 - 8 Monroe High School
 - 9 Waterloo Elementary
- Other Recreational Facilities**
 - 10 Bolles Harbor (State of Michigan)
 - 11 Bolles Harbor Association Park (Private)
 - 12 Cairns Field (City of Monroe)
 - 13 Carrington Golf Club (Private)
 - 14 Ellis Public Library (Monroe County)
 - 15 Hoffman Memorial (State of Michigan)
 - 16 Mill Race Park (City of Monroe)
 - 17 Monroe County Community College (Monroe County)
 - 18 Plum Creek Bay Wildlife Area (Multiple Jurisdictions)
 - 19 Waterloo Park (Monroe County)
- 0.5 Mile Buffer
- 1.5 Mile Buffer



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
Data Source: Monroe Charter Township, 2022. McKenna, 2024.



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Recreational Facilities within Monroe County

The Township contains approximately 147 acres of recreational land including State, County, City of Monroe, school district, and Township facilities. Most recreational land in the Township is under the control of outside agencies like Monroe County, City of Monroe, Monroe Public School District, and neighborhood associations. Several parks and recreational facilities are within close proximity to Monroe Charter Township including one State Park, four County parks, and two State game areas. Pointe Mouillee (2,486 acres), Erie (1,675 acres), and Petersburg (approximately 700 acres) State Game Areas are all within Monroe County and provide residents with the opportunity to enjoy fishing and observing wildlife.

Many Monroe County Parks are also easily accessible from Monroe Charter Township. These parks offer recreational activities and facilities including picnic shelters, restrooms, playground equipment, grills, and parking. These parks are free to the public and range in size from 9 to 80 acres.

- » **Heck Park.** A park that formerly was jointly owned and operated by the City of Monroe and Monroe County. It is currently under the sole ownership of Monroe County. A Vietnam Veterans memorial is located in the park.
- » **Sterling State Park.** Considered by many to be the premiere recreational facility in Southeast Michigan. The 1,000 acre facility contains 288 camp sites and offers numerous amenities including hiking trails, beaches, fishing, wetlands, and other natural areas.
- » **Nike Park.** Located on Newport Road in Frenchtown, this park was originally part of the Nike Missile Base and was acquired from the federal government. The park saw major upgrades in the early 2000s, including new soccer fields and hiking trails. Cooperative agreements with private clubs have resulted in the development of a model aircraft flying area and an area for beagle training and competitions.
- » **Waterloo Park.** A park operated by Monroe County and located in the north-central section of the Township. Many facilities are found here including playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts, shelters, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, parking, and river access.
- » **Vienna Park.** Located in Bedford Township, this park was originally acquired from the State Highway Department after it was used, in part, as a sand pit for road construction. Vienna Park has a small pond and natural areas as well as active recreational facilities.

Bolles Harbor is by far the single largest recreational area in the Township. The Harbor's boat launch facility provides access to Lake Erie. Parking, restrooms, and a small natural area are also found at the site.

The Monroe County Ellis Library provides river access, picnic tables, and grills on a two-acre site, and Monroe County Community College has a fitness trail on their grounds. Both facilities are located in the northwest corner of the Township.

Hoffman Memorial is a State-owned Lake Erie public access point in the Township, but it is not open to boat launching.

The Carrington Golf Club offers 18 holes of golf on fully integrated bent grass greens and fairways. Other amenities include a driving range and practice green.



Sterling State Park

Regional Parks and Facilities

Regional parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail use. Many also include active play areas.

Regional parks typically serve several communities within a one-hour drive. While there are no regional parks within Monroe Charter Township, there are almost 80,000 acres of regional park land within an hour of the Township.

Monroe Charter Township residents have a variety of recreational opportunities available in their extended area. Within a 60-mile radius from the Township there are five State parks, nine State recreational areas, three State game preserves, 22 metro parks, and several county parks. Activities include hunting, camping, horseback riding, skiing, fishing, hiking, walking, golfing, nature interpretation, picnicking, boating, and shooting. Many classes, including crafts, nature appreciation, and recreation are available to the public free of charge. Some facilities have cabins and meeting rooms that can be rented by the day.

Lake Erie Metro Park is the closest metro park to the Township. Located just nine miles north of the Township, the park includes a marina, boat launch, golf course, wave-pool, and nature study area. **Oakwoods** is the next closest metro park at 12 miles northwest of the Township. This facility offers canoeing, fishing, cross-country skiing, a swimming pool, nature trails, and a nature center.

There are several City of Monroe parks within or contiguous to the Township. These parks include **Navarre Field**, **Mill Race Park**, and **Cairns Field**. These parks include nature areas, access to the River Raisin, athletic fields, and nature areas. In addition, The **Monroe County Ellis Library** is located in the northwest corner of the Township and provides grills, picnic tables, and river access. The Monroe Community College, also located in the northwest portion of the Township, has a walking path on their grounds. Other recreational facilities in the County include historic sites related to General Custer and The River Raisin Battle of 1813, parks located within adjacent municipalities, and private facilities such as the YMCA, bowling alleys, etc.

Although Regional and County facilities within a 30 to 60 mile radius provide important opportunities for Township residents, it is essential that Monroe Charter Township provide the type of facility designed to meet local needs. This plan is intended to focus on the growth and development of only the parks and recreational opportunities that are within the jurisdiction of Monroe Charter Township.

The metro parks system is a very important source of recreation in the Southeast Michigan/Northwest Ohio region. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority manages thirteen metro parks within the region (three of which are within roughly 15 miles of the Township) and the Toledo-Lucas County Metro Park Authority operates nine around the Toledo, Ohio area. These parks range from 45 to 4,435 acres in size.

04. **Basis for Action Plan**

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs serve as a basis for the development of the action plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process, consultation with the Township Board, and by reviewing current offerings and programming.

Planning Process

The Township Board directed the creation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Citizen and Township input played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the Township's parks and recreation facilities. The plan process included seven tasks which are discussed below.

Task One: Community Description. The first task was to obtain a description of Monroe Charter Township's physical and social features. These features include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population features including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, types of households, employment, and income.

Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding. The second task was to obtain and review the administrative structure of the Township and the administration of parks and recreation. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected expenditures for the Township as well as the grant history of funding received by the Township.

Task Three: Parks, Recreation, and Facility Inventory. The parks, recreation, and facility inventory included site visits and written descriptions of facilities in the Township. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation activities, types of equipment, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. A list of neighboring communities' facilities, state parks, county parks, and local parks within or a short distance of Monroe Charter Township is also included. The Township's programs are discussed in the section as well.

Task Four: Public Engagement. An online and hard copy survey was the main source of public engagement. The plan was also available for public comment for 30 days between [September 5th - October 6th].

Task Five: Analysis. Based on the data collected from tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Township and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

Task Six: Action Plan. Upon completion of the analysis, goals and objectives were created based on the public input to provide a framework for the Action Plan. This results in the creation of the five-year plan and offers a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.

Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption. Once consensus was reached among the Township, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on October 7th, 2024 to hear comments on the plan and to solicit public input prior to adoption. After taking public comment, the Commission discussed the Plan and the goals and projects within it. At that public hearing the Planning Commission recommended adoption to the Township Board. On November 19th, 2024 the Township Board officially passed a resolution of adoption for the Monroe Charter Township 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Plan.

**TASK 1:
Community
Description**

**TASK 2:
Administrative
Structure and Funding**

**TASK 3:
Parks, Recreation, and
Facility Inventory**

**TASK 4:
Public Engagement**

**TASK 5:
Analysis**

**TASK 6:
Action Plan**

**TASK 7:
Plan Completion
and Adoption**

Public Input

The development of this document has involved input from the residents of Monroe Charter Township, staff, and city officials. During the preparation of the Community Recreation Plan, the Township utilized a “Systems Approach to Planning” which incorporated information received from citizen surveys and detailed recreation inventories to determine the recreation needs of the Community.

Working together with the Township of Monroe, McKenna coordinated and conducted a robust online and hard copy survey that was available to take in person at Township Hall and posted on the Township website and social media.

The survey was designed to take less than 10 minutes for respondents to complete and was available for residents to take for one month. The survey consisted of 14 questions and included a variety of questions on demographic details, recreational preference, attitudes toward existing recreation opportunities, and specific rating questions.

Survey Results

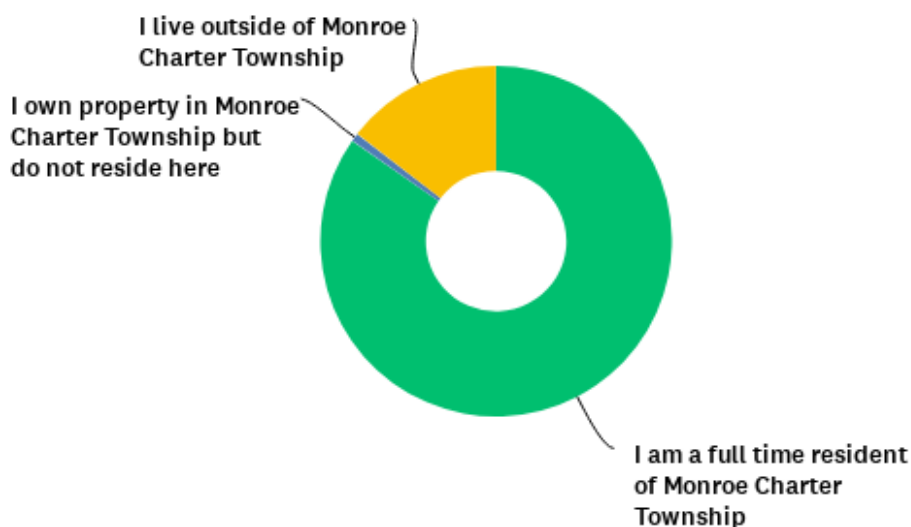
The survey gathered 131 responses, with most respondents completing the online survey. The survey responses are summarized below.

DEMOGRAPHICS

What best describes your residential status?

The majority (85%) of respondents reside in Monroe Charter Township with a smaller percentage (15%) living outside of Monroe Charter Township. Less than 1% of those living outside of Monroe Charter Township own property in the Township but do not live there. Of those that noted that they live within the Township, 56% noted that they have lived there for 15 years or more.

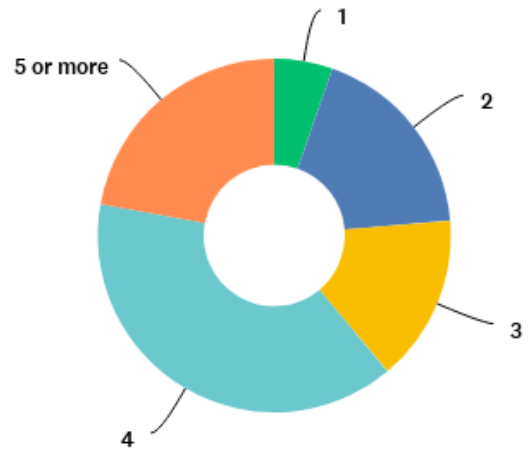
Most respondents (61%) indicated that they live in a household of 4 or more people. Some (33%) indicated that they lived in a household of 2-3 individuals, while very few (5%) said they lived by themselves.



DEMOGRAPHICS

How many people are in your household including yourself?

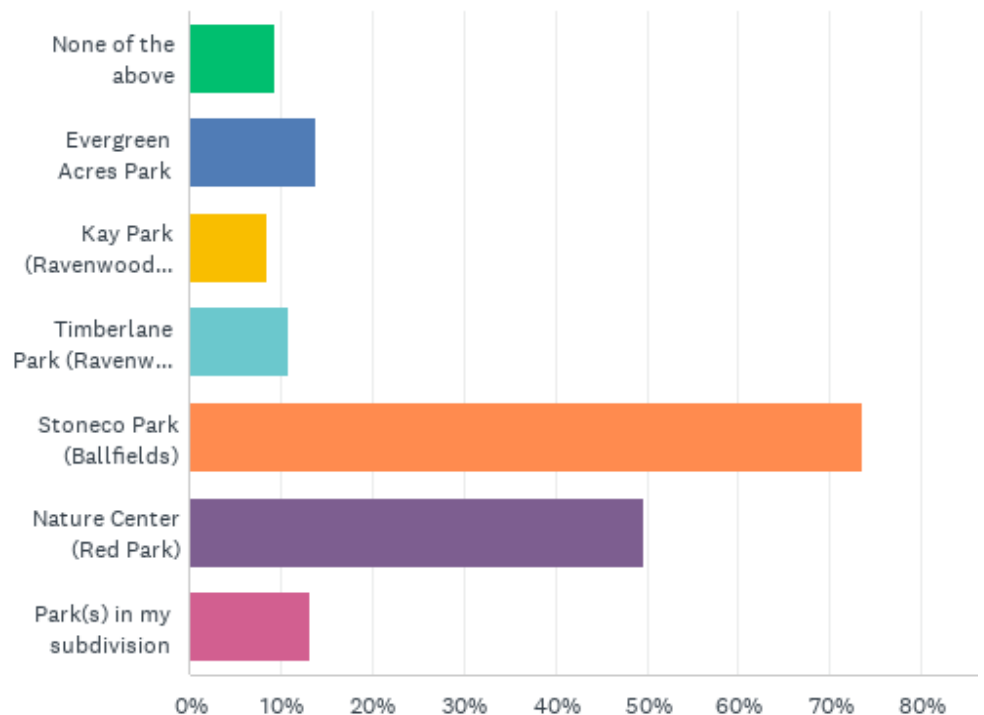
Most respondents (61%) indicated that they live in a household of 4 or more people. Some (33%) indicated that they lived in a household of 2-3 individuals, while very few (5%) said they lived by themselves.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Which Monroe Charter Township parks and recreation facilities are you familiar with or have visited in the past?

Generally, most respondents are familiar with Stoneco Park and / or the Nature Center. The least amount of survey respondents is familiar with Evergreen Acres, Kay Park, Timberlane, and / or parks in their subdivisions. Less than 10% of respondents noted that they were not familiar with any of the parks.



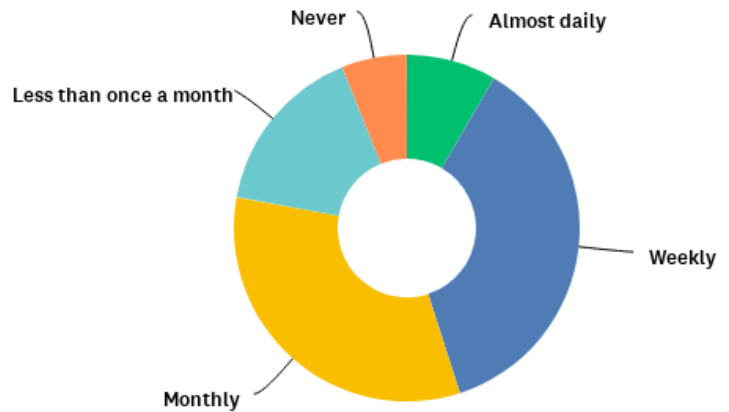
PARKS AND RECREATION

How often do you or members of your household visit a Monroe Charter Township park or recreational facility?

Respondents mostly (70%) visit Monroe Charter Township parks on a monthly or weekly basis. Very few (6%) have never visited a Township park.

To follow up, participants were asked why they never visit or attend Township parks and programs. The top responses included:

- » Lack of certain equipment (27%)
- » The locations of parks and facilities are unclear (23%)
- » The overall maintenance of the facilities (16%)
- » Common miscellaneous responses include:
 - » Inaccessibility for those using mobility devices
 - » Lack of restrooms
 - » Lack of interesting features



PARKS AND RECREATION

Please rate the following aspects of public parks, recreation facilities, and spaces in Monroe Charter Township:

	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Average Score
Overall outdoor facilities	12.7%	54.76%	39.37%	3.97%	2.61
Overall indoor facilities	8.93%	34.82%	33.04%	24.11%	1.97
Variety of parks and recreation facilities	8.06%	36.29%	38.71%	18.55%	2.24
Maintenance of parks and recreation facilities	16.13%	50.81%	29.03%	5.65%	2.65
Availability of public spaces where people want to spend time and feel safe	11.48%	50.82%	30.33%	9.02%	2.49
Availability of walking paths (including sidewalks)	10.48%	36.29%	33.87%	20.97%	2.26
Availability of bike facilities and paths	6.61%	28.10%	39.67%	25.62%	1.78

The top-rated aspect of Monroe Charter Township parks is the overall maintenance of facilities, which received a rating of 2.65 out of 4, with 4 being excellent. The lowest-rated aspect of the facilities was the availability of bike facilities and paths, which received an average score of 1.78.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Survey participants were invited to add any specific comments, summarized in the world cloud below.

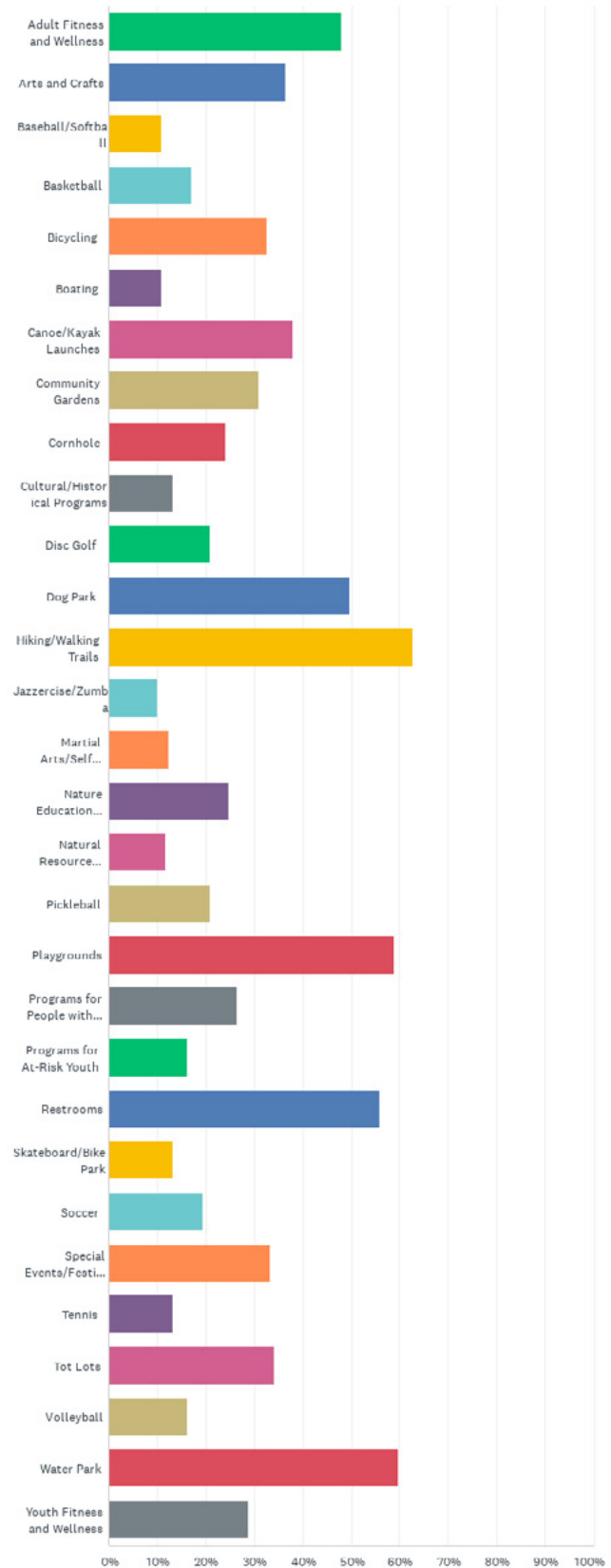


PARKS AND RECREATION

What new or enhanced features would you like to see within the township (select all that apply)?:

The highest-voted features include the following items:

- » Hiking / walking trails (62.79%)
- » Water Park (59.69%)
- » Playgrounds (58.91%)
- » Restrooms (55.81%)
- » Dog Park (49.61%)
- » Adult fitness and wellness (48.06%)



30-Day Public Review Period

Once a draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan had been completed, a notice was published in the Monroe News informing residents that they had the opportunity to view the Plan at Township Hall or online for 30 days (from September 5, 2024 to October 6, 2024).

Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption

Following the 30-day review period a Public Hearing was held by the Planning Commission on October 7th, 2024, to solicit any additional information on Parks and Recreation in the Township. At this meeting the Planning Commission recommended adoption of the plan to the Township Board. On November 19th, 2024, a Public Hearing was held by the Township Board for final discussions on the Parks and Recreation Plan. Following the Public Hearing, the Township Board passed a resolution of Adoption, officially adopting the 2024-2028 Monroe Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This meeting was publicly advertised on November 1st, 2024 in the Monroe News.

Parkland Analysis and Service Areas

Approximately 53 acres of parks and facilities exist within the Monroe Charter Township limits, as measured within known property boundaries. As required by the MDNR, Monroe Charter Township park land and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA's updated guidelines were set more than 20 years ago, the MDNR still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results given that these guidelines were set over two decades ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, are encouraged to establish its needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation. Recreation needs are often better documented through public input rather than relying only on the national guidelines. The NRPA guidelines and the MDNR standards were considered in the development of the Action Plan but not weighted heavily. The information gathered during the many methods of public input was also considered.

Table 15 and Table 16 compare the amount of park land as it relates to the conditions of the Township and the MDNR standards based on the 2020 US Census population of 14,391 people.

Table 15. MDNR Recreation Facility Standards

Amenity	State Standard	Recommended Number in Monroe Charter Township	Total Existing in Monroe Charter Township	Surplus/Deficiency
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000 people	3	6	+3
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000 people	7	9	+2
Volleyball Net	1 per 5,000 people	3	3	0
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000 people	3	16	+13
Soccer/Football Field	1 per 10,000 people	1	4	+3
Golf Course	1 per 50,000 people	0	1	+1
Driving Range	1 per 50,000 people	0	1	+1
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000 people	1	0	-1
Ice Rinks	1 per 20,000 people	1	0	-1
Archery Range	1 per 50,000 people	0	1	+1
Running Track	1 per 20,000 people	1	1	0
Playground	1 per 3,000 people	5	14	+9
Picnic Areas	1 per 5,000 people	3	3	0
Cross-Country Ski Trails	1 per 10,000 people	2	1	-1
Nature Trails	1 per 20,000 people	1	1	0

Table 16. Park Land Acreage Analysis, Monroe Charter Township

Park Classification	NRPA Guideline Acreage per 1,000 Residents	Monroe Charter Township Recommended Acreage	Actual Acreage in Township	Surplus/Deficiency
Mini Parks	0.25	3.6	10.1	+6.5
Neighborhood Parks	2.0	29.1	42.7	+13.6
Community Parks	5.0	72.5	15.0	-57.5
Regional Parks	10.0	145.6	0.0*	-145.6
Total		250.8	52.8	-198.0

*The figures in this table account for all privately owned facilities within the Township in addition to all Township owned and operated parks.
While there are no regional parks within the Township boundaries, there are almost 80,000 acres of regional parks within a 60 mile radius.

Although it is important to consider the overall amount of park land in the Township, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the community. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents in the Township live. The MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in the Township that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- » Mini/Neighborhood Parks 0.25 – 0.5 miles
- » Community Parks 0.5 – 3.0 miles
- » Regional Parks 30-minute driving time

The parks and recreation service areas are shown on Map 2. For the purposes of measuring the service area, a radius of 0.5 miles was used for mini/neighborhood parks and 1.5 miles for community parks. The service boundary of the regional parks and facilities were not included in the analysis in order to fully evaluate the service area of the Township-owned parks.

Programming Analysis

It is also important to look at programming trends when planning for recreation.

The Outdoor Industry Association looks at current national participation levels in numerous sports and activities and includes data comparisons between 2006 and 2016. For the purpose of this analysis, we will use 2006 and 2016 as years of study. This information is listed in Table 17 Trends in Sports Participation.

The most recent Outdoor participation trends report is available in the following link:

<https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2022-Outdoor-Participation-Trends-Report-1.pdf>

Table 17. Trends on Sports Participation

Sport/ Activity	Participation in Thousands 2006	Participation in Thousands 2016	Percentage Change from 2006 to 2016
Adventure Racing	725	2,999	313.7%
Backpacking Overnight	7,067	10,151	43.6%
Bicycling (BMX)	1,655	3,104	87.6%
Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface)	6,751	8,615	27.6%
Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)	38,457	38,365	-0.24%
Birdwatching More Than ¼ Mile From Home/Vehicle	11,070	11,589	4.7%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	938	1,737	85.2%
Camping (RV)	16,946	15,855	-6.4%
Camping (Within 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home)	35,618	26,467	-25.7%
Canoeing	9,154	10,046	9.7%
Climbing (Sport/Indoor/Boulder)	4,728	4,905	3.7%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	1,586	2,790	75.9%
Fishing (Fly)	6,071	6,456	6.3%
Fishing (Freshwater/Other)	43,100	38,121	-11.6%
Fishing (Saltwater)	12,466	12,266	-1.6%
Hiking (Day)	29,863	42,128	41.1%
Hunting (Bow)	3,875	4,427	14.2%
Hunting (Handgun)	2,525	3,512	39.1%
Hunting (Rifle)	11,242	10,797	-4.0%
Hunting (Shotgun)	8,987	8,271	-8.0%
Kayak Fishing	n/a	2,371	n/a
Kayaking (Recreational)	4,134	10,017	142.3%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	1,136	3,124	175%
Kayaking (White Water)	828	2,552	208.2%
Rafting	3,609	3,428	-5.0%
Running/Jogging	38,559	47,384	22.9%

Sport/ Activity	Participation in Thousands 2006	Participation in Thousands 2016	Percentage Change from 2006 to 2016
Sailing	3,390	4,095	20.8%
Scuba Diving	2,965	3,111	4.9%
Skateboarding	10,130	6,442	-36.4%
Skiing (Alpine/Downhill)	10,362	9,267	-10.6%
Skiing (Cross-Country)	3,530	4,640	31.4%
Skiing (Freestyle)	2,817	4,640	64.7%
Snorkeling	8,395	8,717	3.8%
Snowboarding	6,841	7,602	11.1%
Snowshoeing	2,400	3,533	47.2%
Stand Up Paddling	n/a	3,220	n/a
Surfing	2,170	2,793	28.7%
Telemarking (Downhill)	1,173	2,848	142.8%
Trail Running	4,558	8,582	88.3%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/ Off-Road)	281	1,705	506.8%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	640	2,374	270.9%
Wakeboarding	3,046	2,912	-4.4%
Wildlife Viewing More Than 1/4 Mile From Home/ Vehicle 2	20,294	20,746	2.2%

n/a = figures not available

Source: Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report 2017

05. Action Plan

By using the comprehensive planning process of trend identification, public input, and public meetings, Monroe Charter Township has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of Township's parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

The Action Plan is organized into three sections:

- » Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives
- » Action Program
- » System Wide Recommendations

Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives

To provide a guideline for decision making, McKenna and the Township developed a list of goals and objectives based on the results and analysis of the survey and other public comments received during the process. The following goals and objectives are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation for Monroe Charter Township. The goals and objectives were developed with special attention to the results of the survey responses which were analyzed previously in this plan.

Additionally, the goals must be broad enough for the flexibility required in a five-year plan, but specific enough to give clear direction. Objectives are measurable, attainable and realistic. These goals and objectives should be reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

Goal 1:

Help create a healthy community by providing a wide range of recreational opportunities and services for all ages.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Identify future non-motorized links between neighborhoods and Township services.
- B. Create new programs that meet the needs and resources of the community.
- C. Offer special events that help improve community cohesion.
- D. Determine feasibility of adding Pickleball Courts in Stoneco Park.
- E. Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to our citizens.

Goal 2:

Value and support partnerships with other recreation providers and entities to provide the community with diverse programs which are effective and cost efficient.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Build relationships to increase awareness and support of Parks and Recreation.
- B. Partner with recreation providers and entities (such as Downriver Linked Greenways) to provide the community with diverse program and facility opportunities that are cost effective and efficient.
- C. Maintain strong communication and collaborative efforts with various non-profit associations, athletic organizations, and service clubs.

Goal 3:

Improve and enhance existing recreational facilities and programs, and the development of new facilities and programs based on community needs and assets.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Create/ maintain plaques identifying each park in the Township.
- B. Determine feasibility of adding a non-motorized trail along Lake Monroe.
- C. Provide wayfinding signage to commercial and recreational destinations for cyclists and motorists.
- D. Determine feasibility of Water park.
- E. Determine feasibility of Dog park.
- F. Determine feasibility of outdoor gym at Stoneco park.
- G. Develop sidewalks and paths alongside future commercial and residential developments and tie in with the County Regional trail system.
- H. Develop a plan to periodically assess playground equipment and update equipment when necessary.

Goal 4:

Assess programs and facilities with goal of improving accessibility for disabled individuals.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Improve existing and design future parks to meet the needs of disabled individuals.
- B. Provide ADA accessible park amenities where feasible.
- C. Research the recreation needs of disabled individuals in the community to better understand what programs we should offer.
- D. Assess accessibility at all parks and facilities and develop a plan to make improvements as needed.

Goal 5:

Research programs or projects that will enhance and protect our recreation community's physical environment.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Restore the Plum Creek Bay Wildlife Area as stipulated in the Monroe County Recreation Plan.
- B. Promote nature-related educational opportunities.
- C. Develop a plan for future land acquisition for open space protection.
- D. Preserve natural features, wildlife, and their habitat.
- E. Continue to seek more public involvement in hands-on projects in the parks.

Goal 6:

Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system.




OBJECTIVES:

- A. Pursue all available funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance, including local sources, state and federal grant programs, local businesses, and other sources.
- B. Develop long-range projections of costs and revenues as a management tool.

Action Program

To accomplish the goals and objectives above, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. Monroe Charter Township has a number of different options that they may be able to exercise in order to meet their goals and objectives. These options range from applying for grant funds, relying on private gifts and donations, seeking sponsors, holding fund-raising events, or collecting a millage from Township residents.

The action program contains specific projects that the Township aims to accomplish that work toward fulfilling the listed goals and objectives, along with their potential funding sources and timelines. These projects are organized from highest priority to lowest priority.

KEY		
Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility (Color)
A Most Important	1 W/in one year	 Project Lead
B Very Important	2 1-3 years	 Key Participant
C Important	3 3+ years	 Contributor
	4 As available	
	5 Ongoing	

PARTNER		
PBTC	Pedestrian/Bike/Trail Committee	https://www.monroemi.gov/c_i_t_y_h_a_l_l/boards__commissions__committees/bicycle_and_pedestrian_trails_advisory_committee
PC	Planning Commission	https://www.monroechartertownship.org/
PR	Parks & Recreation Committee	https://www.monroechartertownship.org/recreation-1
TB	Township Board	https://www.monroechartertownship.org/township-board
TS	Township Staff	https://www.monroechartertownship.org/
MCKA	McKenna	https://www.mcka.com/

Project	Priority	Recommended Timeframe	Partnership		
			Township	Other Government	Private
Create/ maintain plaques identifying each park in the Township.	A	Within 1 Year	TB	PR TS	
Determine feasibility of adding a non-motorized trail along Lake Monroe.	A	Within 1 Year	TB	PBTC PR	MCKA
Provide ADA accessible park amenities where feasible.	A	3+ Years	TB	PC	
Maintain strong communication and collaborative efforts with various non-profit associations, athletic organizations, and service clubs.	A	1-3 Years	TB	PC PR	
Determine feasibility of outdoor gym and pickleball courts at Stoneco Park.	B	As available	TB	PC TS	MCKA
Create new programs that meet the needs and resources of the community.	B	1-3 Years	TB	PC PR	
Develop sidewalks and paths alongside future commercial and residential developments and tie in with the County Regional trail system.	B	Ongoing	TB	PC	
Partner with recreation providers and entities (such as Downriver Linked Greenways) to provide the community with diverse program and facility opportunities that are cost effective and efficient.	B	Ongoing	TB	PC TS PR	
Identify future non-motorized links between neighborhoods and Township services.	B	As available	TB	PC PBTC	MCKA
Assess accessibility at all parks and facilities and develop a plan to make improvements as needed.	B	Ongoing	TB	PC	
Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to our citizens.	C	As available	TB	PC TS	
Determine feasibility of Water park and/or Dog park.	C	As available	TB	PC PR	
Restore the Plum Creek Bay Wildlife Area as stipulated in the Monroe County Recreation Plan.	C	As available	TB	PC PR	
Pursue all available funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance, including local sources, state and federal grant programs, local businesses, and other sources.	C	As available	TB	PC TS	MCKA

System-Wide Recommendations

In addition to capital investments into programs and facilities, the Township must also evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The following are system wide recommendations that should be evaluated annually and used in the long-range planning of parks and recreation.

- » **Barrier Free Accessibility.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier free accessibility at public facilities. The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design are also a valuable resource. It is important to provide access to the Monroe Charter Township facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents can enjoy the facilities. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier free accessibility with improvements to proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access.
- » **Park Design Improvements.** As the park system evolves and each park undergoes its own degree of improvements, it is important to clearly mark park entrances and visually unify the parks so residents are aware that facilities they use are part of Monroe Charter Township's park system. This can be accomplished by a uniform set of design themes that symbolize Monroe Charter Township parks and are used in the design of lighting, benches, signs, waste receptacles, bike racks, and other amenities. Tree transplanting and improvements is a community focus for all public areas.
- » **Non-Motorized Connectivity.** Monroe Charter Township should seek opportunities for planning, land acquisition, access easements, and non-motorized trail development to assist this effort within the community.
- » **Natural Resource Inventory.** As opportunities become available, the Township should analyze any critical natural areas in the community through inventories and appropriate studies. This information is critical to prioritizing resources for the acquisition, protection, and management of park natural areas.
- » **Recreation Programming.** The Township should strive for beginning recreation programming for community residents. Examples include volunteer youth sports organizations, leagues, services and programs.
- » **Staffing.** Consideration of an employee that is the designated correspondence for Parks and Recreation. It would better enable the Township to offer programs that will draw residents who currently don't participate as well as maybe drawing in citizens from surrounding communities into Monroe Charter Township.
- » **Park Promotion.** The Township should use creative promotional approaches to increase awareness of the features available at the various parks. Promotional ideas could include: park maps; park events; community wide park cleanup every spring; creation of or joining with any state water-front trail systems, such as kayak/boating trails along the Lake Erie Coast. Increased awareness of the parks will increase appreciation and support for the park system and could also generate a spirit of volunteerism with maintenance, development and fundraising projects.
- » **Fund Raising.** Develop new and creative ways to raise funds for park improvements, such as events, service projects and local fund raising. These park improvements could be as small scale as fundraising for benches, trees and other amenities.
- » **Public Involvement.** The Township should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and programming. This can be accomplished with public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at special events.

A. Appendix A: **Funding Sources**

The proposed recreation improvements proposed in this plan can be financed with a combination of resources. There are many potential funding sources that are available for parks and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades as described below.

General Funding Sources

Millage. A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects or to operate recreation facilities. A millage is an effective way to divide costs over time among all of the taxpayers in the Township to provide matching grant funds or finance entire projects. A millage allows more flexibility with how the money is allocated than with a bond.

User Fees. The Township can charge reasonable fees to the users of specific recreation facilities and for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park and recreation facilities and programs. Other Michigan communities have established user fees for the use of swimming pools, tennis courts, lighted athletic fields, and indoor facilities.

Recreation Bonds. A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenue. The bonds are then retired by using income generated by the project.

Conservation Easements. A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique can also be used to preserve open space if it is not feasible or practical for the Township to acquire the land.

Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships. Reduced funding for the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands. The Township should seek partnerships where available and beneficial. An example partnership is Michigan Water Trails.

Donations. Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Foundations. A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

Specific Funding Programs

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

MNRTF provides funding assistance for the purchase and development of land for public outdoor recreation and natural resource protection. This fund is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. The available development grants are between \$15,000 and \$500,000 and there is no limit on the amount for acquisition projects because they depend upon the value of the property. A local minimum match of 25% is required for all projects. Applications must be postmarked by April 1st for both acquisition and development projects and August 1st for acquisition projects only.

Each year the Trust Fund Board of Trustees decides on priority project types on which proposals will receive special attention. The special initiatives for 2021 include:

1. Trails (including water trails)
2. Regionally Significant Projects
3. Wildlife Habitat, and Hunting Access (acquisition only)
4. Lake and River Public Access (acquisition only)

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for public outdoor recreation. This fund is directed at community recreation and trailway improvements that preserve natural resources. A local match of 50% required for all projects, and the minimum request amount is \$30,000 and the maximum is \$75,000. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and alignment with the state's recreation plan (2023-2027 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). The fourth criterion is determined to be primarily trails, community outdoor recreation, green technology in outdoor recreation, universal access, and coordination and cooperation among recreation providers. The MDNR makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS) on which applications to fund, and the NPS grants the final approval. Applications are due March 1st for grants.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

The TE program was originally established with the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991, the reauthorization of the TEA-21 program in 1998, and finally the authorization of SAFETEA-LU in 2005 authorizing highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs, including regional pathways and trailway systems. The TE program is a 10 percent set-aside of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds that are administered by the MDOT Office of Economic Development. Eligible activities include those related to non-motorized transportation, transportation aesthetics, historic preservation, and water quality and wildlife. TE funding requires matching funds of at least 20% of the project cost and must be related to surface transportation.

Urban and Community Forestry Program – Community Forestry Grants

This program provides funds for projects that address the urban forestry needs of municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, and volunteer groups throughout Michigan. These projects may include tree inventories, management plans, tree planting educational workshops and trailing materials, and other maintenance activities. Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources, such as management and planning, education and training, tree planting, and library resources, are looked upon highly. Applications are due each summer with maximum grant requests of \$20,000.

Community Forestry Program – Arbor Day Mini-Grants

This mini-grant program is designed to provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forestry activities related to Arbor Day. Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources, including tree planting on public land, Arbor Day celebrations, and natural resource library reference material acquisition, are looked upon highly. Applications are due each fall with maximum grant requests of \$200.

SEMCOG's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds designated by Congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. SEMCOG has created two programs for re-emphasis of SEMCOG TAP priorities:

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program
2. Environmental Mitigation and Stormwater Management Program.

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B. Appendix B: **Survey**

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Monroe Charter Township Parks & Recreation Survey

Welcome to the Monroe Charter Township Survey!

Monroe Charter Township is in the process of updating its Parks & Recreation Plan. A Parks & Recreation Plan helps guide parks and recreation prioritization and spans a five year period – 2024 to 2028. The Parks & Recreation Plan is used as a basis for obtaining grants and other funding for parks and recreation projects.

The plan will be rooted in the desires and visions of residents so we need you to share your opinions and great ideas for the future of Monroe Charter Township. If you are completing a hard copy survey, please return it to Township Hall mail slot (4925 E Dunbar Rd, Monroe, MI 48161) by Friday, May 10th, 2024.

For more information about Monroe Charter Township parks, please visit monroechartertownship.org.

Thank you!

1. What best describes your residential status?

- I am a full time resident of Monroe Charter Township
- I own property in Monroe Charter Township but do not reside in Monroe Charter Township
- I live outside of Monroe Charter Township (please specify jurisdiction)

2. How many years have you been a resident of Monroe Charter Township?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- 11 to 15 years
- More than 15 years
- I am not a resident of Monroe Charter Township

3. How many people are in your household including yourself?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more
- I choose not to say

4. How many people in your household are in the following age groups?

0-5	<input type="text"/>
6-12	<input type="text"/>
13-18	<input type="text"/>
19-25	<input type="text"/>
26-35	<input type="text"/>
36-45	<input type="text"/>
46-55	<input type="text"/>
56-65	<input type="text"/>
Over 65	<input type="text"/>

5. What street do you live on?

6. Which Monroe Charter Township parks and recreation facilities are you familiar with or have visited in the past?

- Evergreen Acres Park
- Kay Park (Ravenwood Forest)
- Timberlane Park (Ravenwood Forest)
- Stoneco Park (Ballfields)
- Nature Center (Red Park)
- Park(s) in my subdivision (please specify)

- None of the above

7. How often do you or members of your household visit a Monroe Charter Township park or recreational facility?

- Almost daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Less than once a month
- Never

8. In general, what kinds of recreation/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in (select all that apply)?

- Exercise/Fitness/Casual Sports
- Cultural Events
- Children's Play
- Organized Team Sports
- Nature Study/Gardening
- Other (please specify)

9. If you do not visit township parks, recreation facilities, and/or programs, why not? (select all that apply):

- Facilities are not well maintained
- Program or facility not offered
- Facilities do not have the right equipment
- Quality of programs is poor
- Too far from residence
- Participate in programs provided by other communities or organizations
- I do not know the location of parks and facilities
- Parking
- Facilities are too hard to reach, poor access
- No opinion
- Other (please specify)

10. I believe parks, trails, open space, and recreational programs are vital in our community.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

11. Please rate the following aspects of public parks, recreation facilities, and spaces in Monroe Charter Township:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Overall outdoor facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall indoor facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variety of parks and recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of parks and recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of public spaces where people want to spend time and feel safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of walking paths (including sidewalks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of bike facilities and paths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. What new or enhanced features would you like to see within the township
(select all that apply)?

- Adult Fitness and Wellness
- Arts and Crafts
- Baseball/Softball
- Basketball
- Bicycling
- Boating
- Canoe/Kayak Launches
- Community Gardens
- Cornhole
- Cultural/Historical Programs
- Disc Golf
- Dog Park
- Hiking/Walking Trails
- Jazzercise/Zumba
- Martial Arts/Self Defense
- Nature Education Programs
- Natural Resource Management
- Pickleball
- Playgrounds
- Programs for People with Disabilities
- Programs for At-Risk Youth
- Restrooms
- Skateboard/Bike Park
- Soccer
- Special Events/Festivals
- Tennis
- Tot Lots
- Volleyball
- Water Park
- Youth Fitness and Wellness

Other (please specify)

13. What is the best way that Monroe Charter Township can get information out to residents?

- Township website
- Email
- Newspaper
- Facebook or other social media
- Other (please specify)

14. Please share any additional comments and thank you again for your participation!



C. Appendix C: **Supporting Documentation**



Order Confirmation

Not an Invoice

Account Number:	580616
Customer Name:	Monroe Charter Township
Customer Address:	Monroe Charter Township 4925 E Dunbar RD ATTN CHRISTINA SMITH Monroe MI 48161-9117
Contact Name:	Lori A Monday
Contact Phone:	734-241-5501
Contact Email:	lgonzales@monroechartertownship.org
PO Number:	

Date:	10/21/2024
Order Number:	10697707
Prepayment Amount:	\$ 0.00

Column Count:	1.0000
Line Count:	59.0000
Height in Inches:	0.0000

Print

Product	#Insertions	Start - End	Category
MNR The Monroe News	1	11/01/2024 - 11/01/2024	Public Notices
MNR monroenews.com	1	11/01/2024 - 11/01/2024	Public Notices

As an incentive for customers, we provide a discount off the total order cost equal to the 3.99% service fee if you pay with Cash/Check/ACH. Pay by Cash/Check/ACH and save!

Total Cash Order Confirmation Amount Due	\$134.15
Tax Amount	\$0.00
Service Fee 3.99%	\$5.35
Cash/Check/ACH Discount	-\$5.35
Payment Amount by Cash/Check/ACH	\$134.15
Payment Amount by Credit Card	\$139.50

Order Confirmation Amount	\$134.15
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Ad Preview

**NOTICE FOR MONROE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP
RESIDENTS, MONROE
COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING TO PASS RESO-
LUTION OF ADOPTION
2024-2028 FIVE-YEAR
PARKS AND RECRE-
ATION MASTER PLAN**

Public Hearing:

Tuesday, November 19, 2024
7:00 PM

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that Monroe Charter Township is seeking public comment on the Monroe Charter Township Five Year 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Monroe Charter Township is preparing this Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

A public hearing hosted by the Township Board will take place at the Monroe Charter Township Hall on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024 at 4925 East Dunbar Road Monroe, MI 48161. Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Published: November 1, 2024



Order Confirmation

Not an Invoice

Account Number:	580616
Customer Name:	Monroe Charter Township
Customer Address:	Monroe Charter Township 4925 E Dunbar RD ATTN CHRISTINA SMITH Monroe MI 48161-9117
Contact Name:	Lori A Monday
Contact Phone:	734-241-5501
Contact Email:	lgonzales@monroechartertownship.org
PO Number:	

Date:	08/29/2024
Order Number:	10523124
Prepayment Amount:	\$ 0.00

Column Count:	1.0000
Line Count:	107.0000
Height in Inches:	0.0000

Print

Product	#Insertions	Start - End	Category
MNR The Monroe News	1	09/04/2024 - 09/04/2024	Public Notices
MNR monroenews.com	1	09/04/2024 - 09/04/2024	Public Notices

As an incentive for customers, we provide a discount off the total order cost equal to the 3.99% service fee if you pay with Cash/Check/ACH. Pay by Cash/Check/ACH and save!

Total Cash Order Confirmation Amount Due	\$222.95
Tax Amount	\$0.00
Service Fee 3.99%	\$8.90
Cash/Check/ACH Discount	-\$8.90
Payment Amount by Cash/Check/ACH	\$222.95
Payment Amount by Credit Card	\$231.85

Order Confirmation Amount	\$222.95
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Ad Preview



**NOTICE FOR MONROE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP
RESIDENTS, MONROE
COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF 30-DAY
PUBLIC REVIEW AND
COMMENT PERIOD AND
PUBLIC HEARING FOR
THE 2024-2028 FIVE-YEAR
PARKS AND RECRE-
ATION MASTER PLAN**

Public Review Period:
September 5th – October 6th,
2024

Public Hearing:
Monday, October 7th, 2024
7:00 PM

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that Monroe Charter Township is seeking public comment on the Monroe Charter Township Five Year 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The required 30-day public review and comment period will begin on September 5th, 2024, and will end on October 6th, 2024. Monroe Charter Township is preparing this Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

Beginning September 5th, 2024, copies of the draft of the Monroe Charter Township Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan may be found at Monroe Charter Township Building Department (4925 East Dunbar Road Monroe, MI 48161) during normal business hours. The draft Plan may also be accessed online at <https://www.monroechartertownship.org/>.

Monroe Charter Township residents are asked to submit comments in writing via email to Kim Fortner at kfortner@monroechartertownship.org, in person at the Monroe Charter Township Building Department during normal business hours, or via mail to Kim Fortner, Monroe Charter Township Community Development Director & Zoning Enforcement Officer, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe, MI 48161.

A follow-up public hearing hosted by the Planning Commission will take place at the Monroe Charter Township Hall on Monday, October 7th, 2024 at 4925 East Dunbar Road Monroe, MI 48161 at 7:00 p.m. Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Published Date: September
4, 2024

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**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 7, 2024
MINUTES**

A Public Hearing of the Monroe Charter Township Planning Commission was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Duane Heck on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe, Michigan.

Present were: Chairman Heck, Steve Evans, Joann Van Aken, John Manor, and Eric Linsenmeyer. Absent were Jennifer Judd and Bruce Kral. Also present was Community Development Director & Zoning Officer Kim Fortner and Planner MCKENNA's Senior Planner Hunter Whitehill.

Unanimous approval of the agenda as presented.

Unanimous approval of Minutes of the Planning Commission Public Hearing held September 9, 2024.

Consideration of adoption of the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Kim Fortner read her comments. (A copy to be included with these minutes).

Hunter Whitehill stated that this is a 5 year plan so this one will expire in 2028. You have to keep updating it. We haven't done one since 2007.

Under written correspondence Chairman Heck read a letter received on September 9, 2024 from Jennifer Reau (A copy to be included with these minutes). I read in the plan a section that stated kayaking and river access. I live on Howard Dr. in Monroe Charter Township. I and many of my neighbors are completely opposed to any access to the river via our neighborhoods. River access from any neighborhood, especially small, dead-end street neighborhoods, would only create problems with traffic, parking, strangers using our parking spots, driveways and creating chaos as the Quarry has had for years. I'm aware our plan may not specifically state there will neighborhood access. However, I am aware of the City's plan and the Monroe Charter Township survey shows kayaking and canoe launch options as well. I am not fully aware of what these plans/accesses entail but I want to make sure our concerns and opinions are known! Thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

No further written correspondence.

Chairman Heck opened the public hearing.

One audience member stated that I am the chairperson of the Pedestrian/Bike/Trail Committee and I would like to thank McKenna and the Planning Commission. I am impressed with your diligence and it looks like we're moving forward.

No further audience comments.

Chairman Heck closed the public hearing.

Discussion of Commission Members regarding Page 37 Goal 3 Objective B should be changed to "nonmotorized path" from "walking path" to be consistent with the change on Page 39, wondering when it expires as a 5-year plan, in regards to Ms. Reau's written concerns the city plan does not show parking at the end of Howard and Oak just for the neighbors to have foot access but it would have to be addressed with the city, and thinking that the neighborhood can eliminate the neighborhood access in the city's plan.

Hunter Whitehill responded that it expires in December of 2028. It would probably be good to start looking at updating it again at the end of 2027.

No further discussion of Commission Members.

Motion #1. Motion by Manor, supported by Linsenmeyer to recommend approval of the adoption of the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the changes noted in the Community Development Director/Zoning Enforcement Officer's comments and the changes discussed during this hearing.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Linsenmeyer yes, Evans yes, Van Aken yes, Heck yes. (Judd and Kral absent).

Motion carried.

No additional business.

Chairman Heck solicited further audience comments.

A second audience member stated that the wife and I like to walk the trails here and people walk their dogs but don't clean up the dog fertilizer. I recommend that somebody in maintenance install a doggie bag dispenser or put a post in the ground and stick a milk jug on it with the top cut off and I'll put my Hi Lite grocery bags in it.

No further audience comments.

Motion to adjourn. Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted

Kim Fortner Recording Secretary

Attested:

Duane Heck, Chairman

Monroe Charter Township Planning Commission

VICE-CHAIR

2 DEC. 2024

Date

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024
7:00 p.m**

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Monroe Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 from the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Barron, Clerk Smith, Trustee's Raymo, Manor and Howe.

Excused: Treasurer Barton

Others Present: Chief Cherney, Attorney McCormick and (44) forty-four audience members.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2024 and Closed Session Minutes of November 14, 2024).

Motion #1. Motion by Manor, supported by Raymo to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2024 and Closed Session Minutes of November 14, 2024, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Smith yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS/INVOICES

Motion #2. Motion by Howe, supported by Manor to approve the payment of bills/invoices as listed by the Clerk, as presented.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Manor yes, Raymo yes, Smith yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT

Motion #3. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to accept the Zoning Board of Appeals Report, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Manor yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Motion #4. Motion by Raymo, supported by Manor to accept and place on file the Fire Department Report for the month of October 2024, as presented.

Roll call vote: Raymo yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Smith yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT

Motion #5. Motion by Smith, supported by Howe to accept and place on file the Sheriff Department Report for the month of October 2024, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Howe yes, Manor yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

November 19, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Reports:

1. Clerk's 2024 Budget Summary Report, period ending October 31, 2024.
2. Treasurer's Monthly Statement of Bank Accounts & Investments, period ending October 31, 2024.

General Reports:

1. Supervisor
2. Building Official
3. Blight Report
4. Zoning Enforcement Officer

Motion #6. Motion by Manor, supported by Howe to accept and place on file the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Smith yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Monroe Charter Township Five (5) Year (2024- 2028) Parks and Recreation Master Plan (approved by Planning Commission).

Questions and Board comments

There were no comments.

Questions and Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Motion to consider adoption of the Monroe Charter Township Five (5) Year (2024- 2028) Parks and Recreation Master Plan at the November 19 Regular Meeting.

Motion #7. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to consider the adoption of the Monroe Charter Township Five (5) Year (2024- 2028) Parks and Recreation Master Plan at the November 19 regular Meeting, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Manor yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTIONS

Adopt Resolution #24-22, Monroe Charter Township Five (5) Year 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Motion #8. Motion by Manor, supported by Smith to adopt Resolution #24-22, Monroe Charter Township Five (5) Year 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Smith yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

November 19, 2024

RESOLUTIONS (con't)

Adopt Resolution # 24-23, Resolution approving Monroe County Sewage Disposal System Series 2025 Contract.

Motion #9. Motion by Smith, supported by Manor to adopt Resolution # 24-23, Resolution approving Monroe County Sewage Disposal System Series 2025 Contract, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Adopt Resolution # 24-24, 2025 General Fund Budget; Adopt Resolution # 24-25, 2025 Special Revenue Fund Budget; Adopt Resolution # 24-26, 2025 Capital Projects Fund Budget; Adopt Resolution #24-27, 2025 Debt Service Fund Budget.

Motion #10. Motion by Howe, supported by Smith to Adopt Resolution # 24-24, 2025 General Fund Budget; Adopt Resolution # 24-25, 2025 Special Revenue Fund Budget; Adopt Resolution # 24-26, 2025 Capital Projects Fund Budget; Adopt Resolution #24-27, 2025 Debt Service Fund Budget, as presented.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Smith yes, Manor yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation #24-01, Proclamation honoring Eagle Scout Max Wright.

Motion #11. Motion by Manor, supported by Howe to approve Proclamation #24-01, Proclamation honoring Eagle Scout Max Wright, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Smith yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Proclamation # 24-02, Proclamation honoring Richard A. Janssens.

Motion #12. Motion by Smith, supported by Howe to approve Proclamation # 24-02, Proclamation honoring Richard A. Janssens, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Howe yes, Manor yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Proclamation # 24-03, Proclamation honoring Alan Barron.

Motion #13. Motion by Smith, supported by Howe to approve Proclamation # 24-03, Proclamation honoring Alan Barron, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

ORDINANCE

Waive the second reading and adopt General Ordinance No. 168, Sewer Use Ordinance Amendment (an amendment to Chapter 30, Article III, Section 30-93, of the Monroe Charter Township Code of Ordinances), regarding additional pollutant limits established to protect against pass through and interference, as approved by EGLE and in accordance with the Monroe Metropolitan Water Pollution Control System National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, all to reference pollutant limits for sewer use, and to have published in the Monroe News and become effective immediately upon publication.

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

November 19, 2024

ORDINANCE (con't)

Motion #14. Motion by Manor, supported by Howe to waive the second reading and adopt General Ordinance No. 168, Sewer Use Ordinance Amendment (an amendment to Chapter 30, Article III, Section 30-93, of the Monroe Charter Township Code of Ordinances), regarding additional pollutant limits established to protect against pass through and interference, as approved by EGLE and in accordance with the Monroe Metropolitan Water Pollution Control System National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, all to reference pollutant limits for sewer use, and to have published in the Monroe News and become effective immediately upon publication, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Howe yes, Smith yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Monroe County Sewage Disposal System (MMWPCS) Series 2025 Contract.

Motion #15. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to approve Monroe County Sewage Disposal System (MMWPCS) Series 2025 Contract, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Manor yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Approve payment to Monroe County Business Alliance for 4th quarter payment of \$750.00.

Motion #16. Motion by Manor, supported by Howe to approve payment to Monroe County Business Alliance for 4th quarter payment of \$750.00, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Howe yes, Smith yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Approve four (4) year lease agreement extension for SMCC girls softball (Diamonds 3 and 4).

Motion #17. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to approve four (4) year lease agreement extension for SMCC girls softball, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Approve request of Lisa Sulfaro to authorize additional training hours with Karen Kidd and to be paid at her current hourly wage for any additional time. (see attached letter)

Motion #18. Motion by Smith, supported by Manor to approve request of Lisa Sulfaro to authorize additional training hours with Karen Kidd and to be paid at her current hourly wage for any additional time, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Accept resignation of Accountant, Lisa Sulfaro, effective November 20, 2024, at noon.

Motion #19. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to accept resignation of Accountant, Lisa Sulfaro, effective November 20, 2024, at noon, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Accept resignation of Firefighter, Brian Merkle, effective November 20, 2024 at 11:59 a.m.

Motion #20. Motion by Manor, supported by Smith to accept resignation of Firefighter, Brian Merkle, effective November 20, 2024 at 11:59 a.m., as presented.

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

November 19, 2024

NEW BUSINESS (con't)

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Smith yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Approve hiring Firefighter, Brian Merkle, effective November 20, 2024, at noon to the Monroe Charter Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion #21. Motion by Smith, supported by Howe to approve hiring Firefighter, Brian Merkle, effective November 20, 2024, at noon to the Monroe Charter Township Volunteer Fire Department, as presented,

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Howe yes, Manor yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Approve sending firefighter Joe Hernandez to Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association Annual Professional Development Conference in Traverse City, December 5, 2024-December 7, 2024 to include registration, lodging and meals.

Motion #22. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to approve sending firefighter Joe Hernandez to Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association Annual Professional Development Conference in Traverse City, December 5, 2024-December 7, 2024 to include registration, lodging and meals, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Approve Sieb to install a new furnace at Fire Station #1, 15353 S. Dixie Hwy., in the amount of \$4,745.00.

Motion #23. Motion by Smith, supported by Manor to approve Sieb to install a new furnace at Fire Station #1, 15353 S. Dixie Hwy., in the amount of \$4,745.00, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments began at 7:27 p.m. and ended at 7:41 p.m.

Township employees presented Supervisor Barron with rocking chairs and thanked him for not only being a kind boss, but also a friend.

Chief Cherney thanked Supervisor Barron for always supporting the Fire Department.

Supervisor Barron addressed the incoming Board offering congratulations and advice.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #24. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Howe no, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

Attested:



Alan Barron, Supervisor
Monroe Charter Township



Christina Smith, Clerk
Monroe Charter Township

RESOLUTION 24-22

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, Monroe Charter Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2024-2028, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee is made up of representatives from Monroe Charter Township, and

WHEREAS, Monroe Charter Township began the process of developing a Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Monroe Charter Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on Monday, October 7, 2024 and Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at the Monroe Charter Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 2024-2028 Monroe Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, Monroe Charter Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Monroe Charter Township, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Township Board voted to adopt said 2024-2028 Monroe Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Township Board hereby adopts the 2024-2028 Monroe Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

I, Christina Smith, Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Monroe Charter Township Board of Trustees at a regular meeting thereof held on the 19th day of November, 2024.


Christina Smith, Clerk

Attested:

Alan Barron, Supervisor



**NOTICE FOR MONROE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP
RESIDENTS, MONROE
COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING TO PASS RESO-
LUTION OF ADOPTION
2024-2028 FIVE-YEAR
PARKS AND RECRE-
ATION MASTER PLAN**

Public Hearing:

Tuesday, November 19, 2024
7:00 PM

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that Monroe Charter Township is seeking public comment on the Monroe Charter Township Five Year 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Monroe Charter Township is preparing this Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years. A public hearing hosted by the Township Board will take place at the Monroe Charter Township Hall on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024 at 4925 East Dunbar Road Monroe, MI 48161. Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Published: November 1, 2024



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