



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9th Floor
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
586.469.5125 ~ Fax: 586.469.5993
www.macombBOC.com

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014, 7 P.M.

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Commissioner Marvin Sauger**
5. Adoption of Agenda, **AS AMENDED, TO INCLUDE #13F**
6. Approval of Minutes dated, 1-30-14, 2-6-14 and 2-13-14 (special) **(previously distributed)**
7. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson related only to issues contained on the agenda)
8. **Public Hearing** on Macomb County's Five-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan **(attached page 1)**
9. Correspondence from Executive **(none)**
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a) Health and Human Services, February 24 **(no report)**
 - b) Infrastructure, February 25 **(page 2)** **(attached)**
 - c) Finance, February 26 **(page 3)** **(attached)**
 - d) Audit, February 27 **(no report)**

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FINAL AGENDA
FEBRUARY 27, 2014**

PAGE 2

11. Presentation by SEMCOG Re: Green Infrastructure Vision for SE Michigan/
Kathleen Lomako, Executive Director, and Amy Mangus, Environment Programs
Coordinator (page 9) (attached)
12. Board Chair's Report (page 29) (attached)
13. Adoption of Resolutions:
 - a) Supporting Governor Snyder's Executive Budget Request for \$5 Million for
Senior In-Home Services to Make Michigan a "No Wait" State (offered by
Moceri; recommended by Health & Human Services Committee on 2-24-14)
(page 62) (attached)
 - b) Encouraging the Michigan Legislature to Declare June as "Gun Violence
Awareness Month" (offered by Moceri; recommended by Health & Human
Services Committee on 2-24-14) (page 64) (attached)
 - c) Supporting HB 4478 Which Amends the Michigan Election Law to Allow
Physically Disabled Voters Who Have a Difficult Time Making a Mark on
a Ballot to Use a Signature Stamp to Vote (offered by Moceri; recommended
by Health & Human Services Committee on 2-24-14) (page 66) (attached)
 - d) Supporting the Michigan Senate's Special Appropriation of One Hundred
Million Dollars for Winter Road Maintenance (offered by Carabelli; referred
by Infrastructure Committee on 2-25-14) (page 68) (attached)
 - e) Adopting Macomb County's Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan
(offered by Carabelli; recommended by Infrastructure Committee on
2-25-14) (page 70) (attached)
 - f) Opposing House of Representative Cuts to Proposed Funding of the Regional
Transit Authority and Urging State Legislators to Restore Proposed Amendments
to SB 608 (offered by Board Chair on behalf of Board) (page 156) (attached)
14. Adoption of Proclamations:
 - a) Commending Anna Goloda – 100th Birthday (offered by Smith; recommended
by Finance Committee on 2-26-14; previously provided at committee meeting)
15. New Business
16. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)
17. Roll Call
18. Adjournment



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1 South Main Street, 7th Floor • Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043

Phone: (586) 469-5285 • Fax: (586) 469-6787

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Stephen N. Cassin, AICP
Executive Director

Macomb County, MI Notice of Public Hearing Parks and Recreation Master Plan Thursday February 27th, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Thursday February 27th, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Macomb County Administration Building located at 1 South Main Street, 9th Floor, Mount Clemens, MI 48043. The public hearing is being held to receive comments and consider the adoption of the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014.

Macomb County is preparing a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the administration of parks and recreation services, facilities and programs over the next (5) years.

The hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for interested citizens to express their opinions regarding aspects of the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014. Copies of the proposed Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 can be viewed at www.macombgov.org/mcped, and are also available for review at the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development located at 1 South Main Street, 7th Floor, Mount Clemens, MI 48043.



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February 25, 2014

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JAMES CARABELLI, CHAIR
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
RE: RECOMMENDATION FROM INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014

At a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee, held Tuesday, February 25, 2014, the following recommendation was made and is being forwarded to the February 27, 2014 Full Board meeting for approval:

1. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Brown, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize that Commissioner Kathy Vosburg be excused from being absent (this will not count towards a reduction in pay) at the February 25, 2014 Infrastructure Committee meeting due to her attending a meeting of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (she is a new member because she is First Vice-Chair at SEMCOG); further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners’ action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of County Executive.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE REPORT WAS MADE BY CHAIR CARABELLI, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SMITH.

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- | | | | | |
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February 26, 2014

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FROM: FRED MILLER, CHAIR, FINANCE COMMITTEE

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2014

At a meeting of the Finance Committee, held Wednesday, February 26, 2014, the following recommendations were made and are being forwarded to the February 27, 2014 Full Board meeting for approval:

1. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Mijac, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners amend MCCSA FY 2013/14 budget by \$32,096 due to the receipt of a donation to MCCSA from DTE Energy; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Sauger, supported by Tocco, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the amendment and submittal of the 2012 Macomb HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan to reflect the reallocation of Community Development Block Grant funds received by the Urban County of Macomb in the amount of \$265,908.72 and to reflect the allocation of HOME funds totaling \$981,448 to identified projects; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Tocco, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the amendment and submittal of the 2013 Macomb HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan to reflect the allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds by the Urban County of Macomb in the amount of \$197,993 and to reflect the allocation of HOME funds totaling \$933,763 to identified projects; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Tocco, supported by Smith, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve three agreements for Macomb County Animal Control services and also approve the addendum to the agreement for Macomb County Animal Control services for St. Clair Shores; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE REPORT WAS MADE BY CHAIR MILLER,
SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR MOCERI.**



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

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RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Amend the MCCSA FY 2013/14 Budget by \$32,096.00 due to the receipt of a donation to MCCSA from DTE Energy.

Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately.

FORWARD TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

*(This language was added by Health & Human Services Committee Chair Mocereri.)

Introduced By:

Toni Mocereri, Chair, Health & Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

MCCSA has received a donation of \$32,096 from DTE Energy to be used to further local energy related programs, including projects to assist with bill payment, energy conservation, energy education, energy efficient housing and other energy related projects that will benefit the residents of Macomb County. The funds must be expended by May 31, 2014.

There is no impact on the County's General Fund.

The Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) will act as the conduit for this contribution. At the spending deadline of May 31, 2014, MCCSA will report to MCAAA on how the funds were used.

MCCSA plans to assist approximately 107 additional customers with utility assistance during the period.

Committee	Meeting Date
Health & Human Services	2-24-14
Finance	2-26-14
Full Board	2-27-14



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve the amendment and submittal of the 2012 Macomb HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan to reflect the reallocation of Community Development Block Grant funds received by the Urban County of Macomb in the amount of \$265,908.72 and to reflect the allocation of HOME funds totaling \$981,448.00 to identified projects.

Introduced By:

Toni Mocerri, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

The 2012 Plan was approved by the Board on May 17, 2012. The amendment will reallocate \$156,769.81 of unused Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administration funds and \$109,138.91 of CDBG program income to Housing Rehabilitation.

In addition, at the time of the preparation of the 2012 Plan, projects for the HOME funds had not been finalized. Instead of allocating funds to specific projects, the plan stated that 2012 funds would be used for "other housing projects". The Consortium comprised of the Urban County of Macomb, Clinton Township, and the Cities of Roseville and Sterling Heights, has now determined the allocation of those funds as follows:

Roseville - Housing Rehabilitation: \$104,361.00

Consortium Members - Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resale of homes for resale to income eligible households (Macomb County Habitat for Humanity): \$713,022.00

Macomb County - Housing Rehabilitation: \$164,065.00

Committee

Meeting Date

Health & Human Services

2-24-14

Finance

2-26-14

Full Board

2-27-14



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

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RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve the amendment and submittal of the 2013 Macomb HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan to reflect the allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds by the Urban County of Macomb in the amount of \$197,993.00 and to reflect the allocation of HOME funds totaling \$933,763.00 to identified projects.

Introduced By:

Toni Mocerri, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

The 2013 Plan was approved by the Board on July 25, 2013. The amendment will allocate \$147,993.00 of previously uncommitted Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$50,000.00 of anticipated CDBG program income to Housing Rehabilitation.

At the time of the preparation of the 2013 Plan, \$783,763.00 of HOME funds were left uncommitted. In addition, the plan did not include anticipated program income. Instead of allocating funds to specific projects, the plan stated that 2013 funds would be used for "other housing projects". The Consortium comprised of the Urban County of Macomb, Clinton Township, and the Cities of Roseville and Sterling Heights, has now determined the allocation of those funds, in addition to \$150,000 in anticipated program income as follows:

- Roseville - Housing Rehabilitation: \$103,228.00
- Consortium Members - Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resale of homes for resale to income eligible households: \$370,668.00
- Macomb County - Housing Rehabilitation: \$459,867.00

Committee	Meeting Date
Health & Human Services	2-24-14
Finance	2-26-14
Full Board	2-27-14



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve three Agreements for Macomb County Animal Control Services and also approve the Addendum to the Agreement for Macomb County Animal Control Services for St. Clair Shores.

Introduced By:

Toni Mocerri, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

*WAIVED TO FINANCE BY HHS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance*	2-26-14
Full Board	2-27-14

WINTER 2014

Semscope

A quarterly publication of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

THINK GREEN

Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan



SEMCOG

SEMCOG

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**Cover photo:**


This issue of *Semscope* focuses on SEMCOG's new *Green Infrastructure Vision*, its benefits, and implementation of projects throughout Southeast Michigan. This photo was taken at a park on Edward Hines Drive in Northville, which boasts a two-mile loop through Bennet Arboretum (the oldest arboretum in Michigan), on December 15, 2013, following an eight-inch snowstorm. Green infrastructure is beautiful in the winter, too!

Preparation of this document was financed in part through grants from and in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and local member dues.

Please direct any questions about this publication to Sue Stetler, 313-324-3428 or stetler@semco.org

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13 Making the vision a reality

Best practices from our communities

16 Map: SEMCOG green infrastructure vision

Southeast Michigan





Commentary

Joan Gebhardt
SEMCOG Chairperson

The region's green infrastructure vision

When thinking about Southeast Michigan's infrastructure, our roads, electric, gas, water, and sewer networks most likely come to mind. These "grey" infrastructure assets help create our communities, drive our economy, and provide our residents and businesses with access to a quality life. However, closely tied to this traditional infrastructure is our green infrastructure network. This includes parks, wetlands, and trees as well as constructed green roofs, bioswales, and rain gardens. So why is green important? Green infrastructure is increasingly being recognized for its contribution not only to environmental quality, but also to placemaking, economic values, and healthy communities -- things that are vitally important to us individually and as a region, that help us lead happy, healthy lives in Southeast Michigan.

This issue of *Semscope* highlights the green infrastructure work being done by SEMCOG and several communities in the region. SEMCOG recognized the need to create a regional vision that ties all of the components of our region's green infrastructure together into an identified system. The *Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan*, will, for the first time, benchmark the green infrastructure we have, vision where we want to go, and give policy recommendations on how to get there. It is being developed by the Green Infrastructure Vision Task Force chaired by the Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett. Input to the vision was obtained through stakeholder engagement sessions, and the general public by a public opinion survey. The vision will be unveiled to SEMCOG's General Assembly for adoption in March.

You might be thinking, what exactly is green infrastructure? As *Semscope* explains, it's everything from parks and natural areas, to rain gardens and urban trees. As local elected officials, we can protect and enhance the natural resources that set us apart from anywhere in the world -- from the world's only international wildlife refuge to nationally recognized fishing areas, Southeast Michigan is unique. Planning for our green infrastructure network will continue to strengthen this position. And regional policies included in the vision will help us get there.

As you look out the window this winter, and see the white ground, think green! Now is a good time to be thinking about how green infrastructure can be a universal tool in many of our planning activities, from road projects and greening vacant parcels to buffers in our DPW yards. The section on implementing green infrastructure (pages 10-11) explains the different roles and opportunities we each have in putting green infrastructure into operation. Regional policies included in the vision will help us get there.

I am looking forward to the presentation and adoption of the *Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan* in March. Until then, think green!

Green Infrastructure

What is green infrastructure?

In Southeast Michigan, green infrastructure includes two broad categories. The first encompasses the natural, undisturbed environment such as wetlands, trees, prairies, lakes, rivers, and streams. The second category includes constructed or built green infrastructure such as rain gardens, bioswales, community gardens, and agricultural lands.

It is critical to evaluate both the natural and constructed elements of green infrastructure as an integrated system. Each green infrastructure element alone provides specific function and value, but as a system, the green infrastructure network provides benefits to the entire region – building a sound quality of life for Southeast Michigan residents.

Why green infrastructure?

Michigan is the Great Lakes state and home to a unique system of natural resources found nowhere else in the world. We need to brag about them:

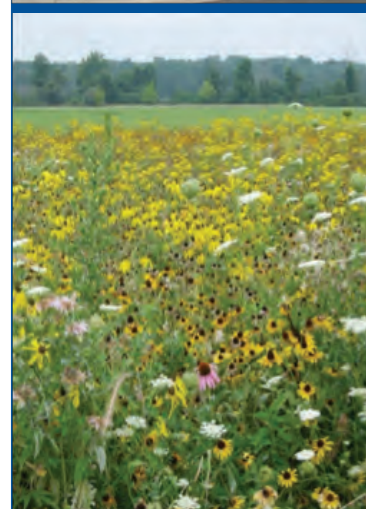
- We sit next to 90 percent of the country's fresh water and 20 percent of the world's fresh water.
- There are over 11,000 inland lakes and streams across the state.
- Southeast Michigan has over 180,000 acres of public parks and over 1,000 miles of trails and sidepaths.
- The Detroit River international wildlife refuge is the only International Wildlife Refuge in North America. It consists of 48 miles of Detroit River and Western Lake Erie shorelines, and protects habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 kinds of fish, and 300 species of migratory birds.
- Lake St. Clair has been named the best bass lake in the country.
- An average of 200,000 walleye are caught each year on the Detroit River.
- The St. Clair River Delta is made up of many islands, bays, and distribution channels that support one of the largest coastal wetland systems in the Great Lakes.

The *Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan* recognizes this unique position in the world and the tremendous responsibility we have in protecting and enhancing these remarkable natural resources.

This vision identifies the cross-cutting role of water as an asset beyond traditional residential and industrial uses. It recognizes the significant impact green infrastructure can have in protecting and enhancing this natural resource.

In addition to significant water quality benefits, this vision also identifies tangible community, economic, and air quality benefits to Southeast Michigan, including:

- **Economic:** Green infrastructure can reduce “grey” infrastructure costs and increase residential property values located near trails, parks, and waterways.
- **Green jobs:** Can promote economic growth and create green infrastructure construction and maintenance jobs.
- **Traffic calming:** Slows traffic visually and provides a buffer between the roadway and pedestrians.
- **Recreation:** Provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, and bird watching.
- **Habitat linkages:** Provides connections between habitat corridors to strengthen and support rare and important natural areas.
- **Health:** Encourages outdoor physical activity, which can have a positive impact in fighting obesity and chronic illnesses.
- **Energy and climate:** Shade trees reduce energy consumption and save money.
- **Air quality:** Removes air pollutants.
- **Water quality and flooding:** Reduces polluted stormwater runoff entering our rivers and lakes by absorbing the water into the ground.
- **Water supply:** Water absorbed into the soil renews groundwater supplies and increases flow into rivers.



Benefits

What are the benefits of green infrastructure?



Retail benefits

Consumers are willing to pay more for goods and services in business districts that have trees. Consumers are also willing to pay more for parking on streets with trees.



Economic benefit of trees

A tree's economic benefit is calculated at about \$60 per tree. Communities should multiply this figure by the number of trees in the community to determine the real economic benefit.



Reduced violence rates

Greened parcels are associated with reduced gun assaults, vandalism, and stress. Greened parcels can also support increased exercise and healthy actions.



Increase in residential property values

Trees can increase property values. Homes within 1,000 feet of trees have sold for 2.4 percent more than homes further away from trees.



Source: Robert W. Domm

Quality landscaping can increase rental rates of commercial office properties by about seven percent.

Increase in commercial property values



Access to outdoor places for physical activity increases the frequency of physical activity by nearly 50 percent.

Healthy benefits



Planting a tree on the west side of a home will reduce home energy bills by three percent in the first five years and 12 percent in 15 years.

Energy efficiency



Tree shade can reduce pavement cracking, rutting, and other distress on the infrastructure.

Reduced infrastructure costs

Key Findings: Trees and Parks

The green infrastructure network identified



In determining where we want to go in the future with green infrastructure, it's important to first evaluate where we're at.

A few key findings:

- Of the region's 2.9 million acres, 54 percent are categorized as green infrastructure.
- Monroe and St. Clair Counties' large amounts of green infrastructure are largely agricultural.

- The region has 33 percent tree canopy and 14 percent impervious surfaces.
- The region's impervious surfaces are equally divided between roads, buildings, and parking lots/ driveways.

Land cover data helps us identify potential targets of opportunity for strategically enhancing our region's green infrastructure. The following two examples – tree canopy and parks – provide a snapshot of the data benchmarked and the analysis undertaken that will improve Southeast Michigan's green infrastructure network.

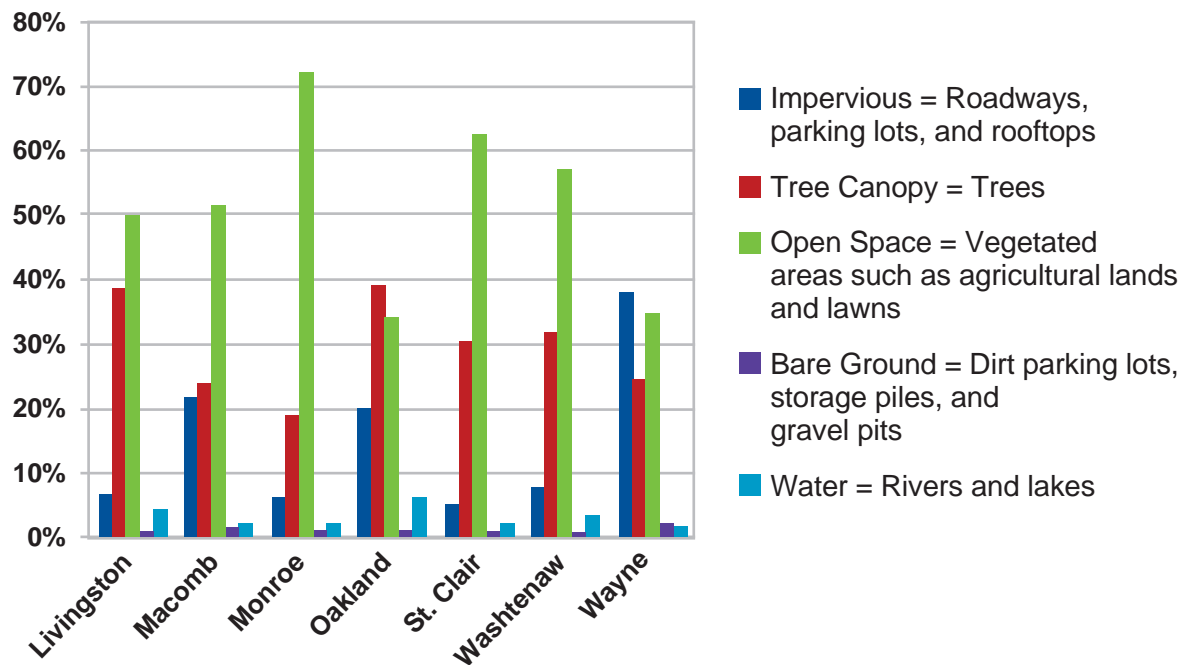
Tree canopy

Trees are integral to healthy communities and can provide a vast array of advantages, including wild-life habitat, aesthetics in downtown and pedestrian areas, water and air quality benefits, and even increase local property and commercial values.

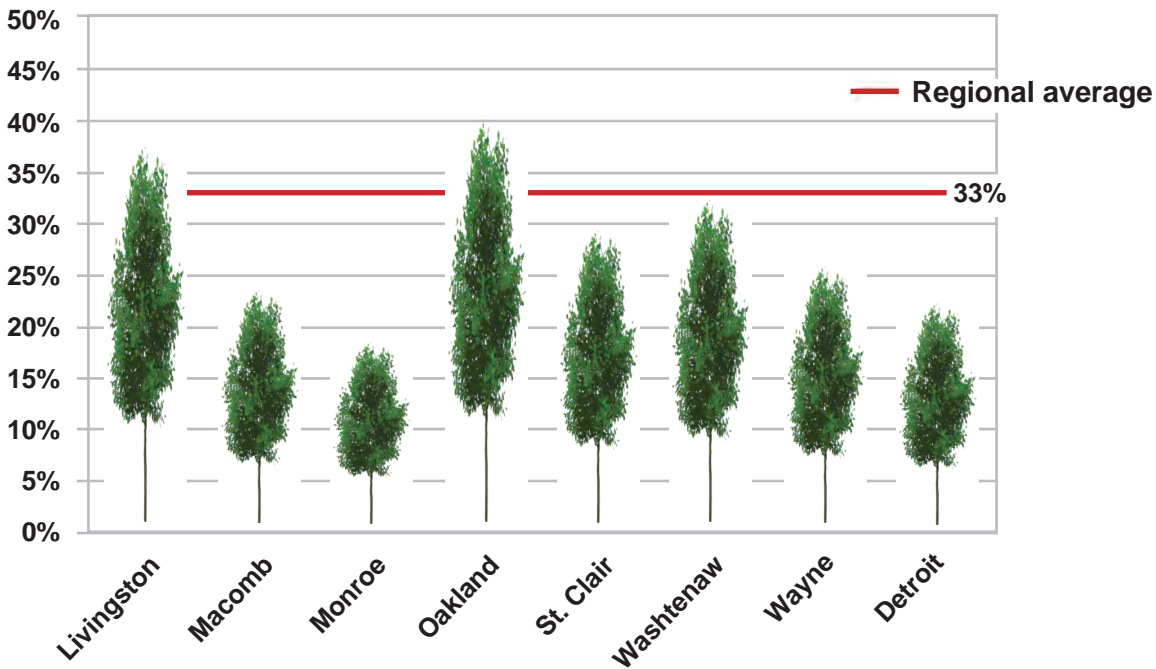
Thirty-three percent of Southeast Michigan is covered in tree canopy, with individual counties ranging from a low of 20 percent to a high of 44 percent (see chart). American Forests, the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the country, recommends an overall tree canopy of 40 percent, with tree canopy

The chart below describes the five land cover categories by county:

Percentage of Land Cover in Southeast Michigan



Percentage of Tree Canopy by County, Southeast Michigan



recommendations for specific areas of a region, including 50 percent tree canopy in suburban residential areas, 25 percent in urban residential areas, and 15 percent in central business districts. These standards will assist in identifying potential targets of opportunity for increasing green infrastructure and help create policy recommendations. Specific tree canopy policies include:

- Increases in tree canopy will be focused in urban areas with tree canopy currently below 20 percent.
- Specific land uses will be targeted for tree canopy increases, such as around industrial property, within riparian areas and central business districts, and along roadways and parking lots.

Parks

During public visioning sessions, parks were listed as the top green infrastructure element that stakeholders believe provide the highest economic value to their area. Southeast Michigan has an estimated 189,000 acres of public parkland with an estimated 40 park acres per 1,000 residents (see table). For comparison, urban counties in the State

of Indiana range from 4-21 park acres per 1,000 residents; the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) has a median of 9.6 park acres per 1,000 residents. While Southeast Michigan exceeds the national average, there are opportunities to strategically invest in the region's parks.

Strategic investment in parks, as well as recreation programming, can help enhance the green infrastructure network at potentially lower costs. Our regional vision calls for a review of the parks in the region and how they can work together as a system. Specific regional park policies include:

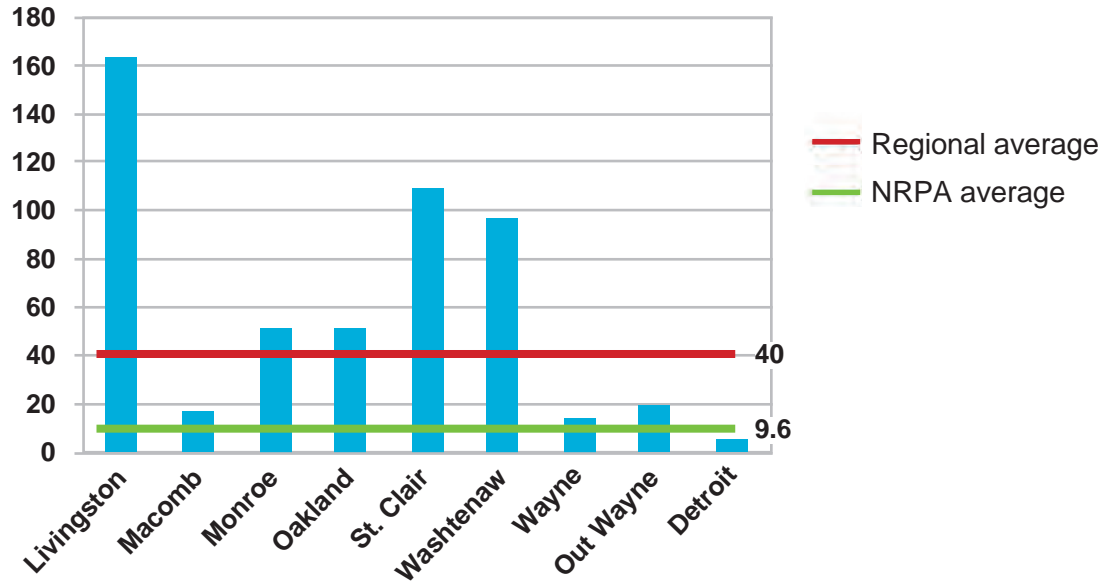
- Increase green infrastructure along existing parks, natural areas, and riparian corridors, focusing on ecological significant areas and vacant land.
- Prioritize large tracts of land, which provide habitat value, recreational, and quality-of-life benefits.
- Provide a regional assessment of recreational needs when adding to the green infrastructure network.

Benefits of tree canopy

- water quality
- enhanced property values
- aesthetics
- connecting green infrastructure network in urban areas

Key Findings: Trees and Parks

Park Acres per 1,000 Residents



Green infrastructure locations

Urban

- Street trees
- Community gardens in previously vacant lots
- Small active or passive recreational parks
- Rain gardens and bioswales along roads and parking lots
- Green roofs
- Nonmotorized paths that connect with urban trails

Suburban

- Regional parks and recreation areas
- Rain gardens and bioswales along roads and parking lots
- Conservancy land
- Trails

Rural

- Agricultural land
- Riparian corridors
- Natural areas

Areas of Opportunity

Identifying green infrastructure linkages

Once the green infrastructure was identified, SEMCOG began analyzing the results and identifying ways to link and enhance the green infrastructure network.



Water

Improving water quality in local waterways is a major focus for implementing green infrastructure in the region. SEMCOG conducted a public opinion survey of green infrastructure; results indicated that improving water quality was the top priority for implementing green infrastructure. This benefit is realized by planting vegetation that absorbs and filters stormwater runoff from urban areas. As water quality is improved, the economic value of adjacent areas is also enhanced.

Roadways

Roadways provide vital connections within and between communities, transport goods, and provide an economic benefit to region. However, roads are also significant contributors to stormwater runoff, which can negatively impact water quality.



In Southeast Michigan, there are over 23,400 miles of major roadways generating approximately 100 billion gallons of stormwater runoff annually. This stormwater carries more than 100 tons of phosphorus and 34,000 tons of sediment into local waterways, causing pollution.

A 50 percent reduction in the amount of stormwater runoff and pollution entering local waterways is achievable using green infrastructure.

Water Area in Southeast Michigan (Acres)

	Livingston	Macomb	Monroe	Oakland	St. Clair	Washtenaw	Wayne	Region
Total water	16,088	5,364	7,952	35,100	8,548	14,557	6,495	94,104
Lakes	12,238	2,477	3,811	28,785	963	9,431	2,524	60,229
Rivers, streams	3,850	2,887	4,142	6,315	7,585	5,126	3,970	33,874

Areas of Opportunity

Using green infrastructure to reduce 20 percent of stormwater runoff from major roads in the City of Detroit can reduce treatment costs by approximately \$2 million annually.

Traditionally, the focus of managing stormwater runoff from roads has been to remove it through the storm sewer pipes and send it directly to waterways. An alternative approach is to use constructed green infrastructure, such as bio-retention and bioswales, to reduce this runoff. Changing this traditional design standard will enhance local water resources while still achieving public safety and roadway integrity.



Riparian corridors

There are 53,000 acres of riparian corridors – the land adjacent to a river or lake – in Southeast Michigan. Riparian corridors protect and enhance water quality, providing habitat corridors to wildlife, offering access to local waterways and walking and biking trails.

Trees, shrubs, and prairies provide essential water quality benefits including preventing fertilizer and grass clippings from entering the water and shading (cooling) the river/lake, which improves fish habitat. They also prevent streambank erosion through their extensive root structure. There are opportunities along riparian corridors to increase tree canopy or provide public access to the waterway, especially if adjacent publicly owned parcels are vacant.

Vacant land



Southeast Michigan is poised to turn lemons into lemonade as we address vacant abandoned parcels. Vacant property may provide a unique opportunity for connections and enhancements in the local green infrastructure network.

As local governments evaluate the types of vacant parcels they have, green infrastructure strategies can be considered as either short-term or long-term improvements. Green infrastructure on vacant property can be used to increase recreational access to rivers and lakes, and buffer ecologically sensitive areas such as wetlands. It can also connect parks and trails together, and temporarily serve as community gardens or for native plantings to benefit the environment or the community.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is transforming vacant lots into green infrastructure to reduce stormwater from entering the sewer system. There are 105,000 vacant parcels in the City of Detroit, totaling over 20 square miles.

Local Actions

Implementing the green infrastructure vision

Creating green infrastructure success – who has a role?

The region's green infrastructure network consists of many pieces, and many people have different roles in moving the regional vision forward. As a result, integrating green infrastructure planning into a local community requires collaboration across multiple municipal departments and agencies. Successful implementation incorporates elements from local government planning, engineering and public works, recreation, public outreach, and finance departments, in addition to numerous outside agencies. The following list of roles provides a sense of how these different pieces can begin to come together.

Local government roles

Governing bodies/councils

- Adopt policies that promote green infrastructure in the community and showcase its use on public property and communicate benefits to the public.
- Establish a community-wide policy that all publicly-funded construction projects will consider green infrastructure at the concept stage.
- Educate citizens about the importance of green infrastructure in the community.

Planning and engineering

- Update zoning ordinances and land-use plans to encourage use of green infrastructure. At a minimum, include the use of green infrastructure in stormwater ordinances.

Community and economic development

- Evaluate vacant parcels for greening potential and/or opportunity to link or enhance parks.
- Partner with the business community to increase and/or maintain green infrastructure.
- Evaluate local natural assets to determine if ecotourism can be used or enhanced as an economic tool.

- Participate in state grant programs to increase tree canopy in residential neighborhoods.

Road agencies/Department of public services

- Review road, water, and sewer infrastructure projects to identify potential opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure.
- Participate in infrastructure collaboration opportunities between road, water, sewer, and stormwater activities at a local, regional, and state level for efficient use of limited resources.
- Evaluate public service yards for green infrastructure opportunities, such as installing bioswales near aggregate storage piles.
- Evaluate all community-owned properties, such as city hall, schools, and libraries for green infrastructure opportunities such as native plant grow zones and rain gardens/bioswales.

Recreation providers

- Review the local park system to enhance or link park and recreation opportunities.
- Identify tree canopy coverage across the community and determine targets of opportunity for potential enhancements.
- Identify ways to enhance public access to parks and waterways.
- As local recreation plans are updated, identify specific goals for green infrastructure.
- Participate in regional parks and recreation planning.
- Provide a regional assessment of recreational needs in concert with park assessments.

Downtown development authority

- Plan and work with road agencies for integrated techniques, such as street trees, tree infiltration trenches, and bioswales that manage stormwater runoff.
- Educate businesses on the wide range of benefits of green infrastructure.



Member benefits

SEMCOG can assist its member communities in benchmarking their green infrastructure, identifying targets of opportunity for enhancement, and recommending policy actions for holistic green infrastructure solutions.

Please contact Amy Mangus, mangus@semcog.org or 313-324-3350, if you are interested in this customized green infrastructure assistance.

Local Actions



A Design Guide for Implementers and Reviewers

Low Impact Development Manual for Michigan



Low Impact Development (LID) Manual helps direct communities in modifying local master plans, ordinances, and engineering standards for holistic green infrastructure implementation. Visit www.semcog.org for more information.

Historic district commissions

- Consider using native plants that are historic to the region as a landscaping opportunity on historic sites.

State government

- Consider regional green infrastructure priorities when allocating grant resources.
- Prioritize green infrastructure implementation when making investments in state property.
- Emphasize the use of green infrastructure in state-regulated stormwater programs.
- Convene broader statewide and regional forums on green infrastructure.

Academia

- Increase research on performance levels, range of multiple benefits, and cost analyses of green infrastructure techniques.

Environmental groups

- Organize volunteers to implement green infrastructure.
- Identify funding opportunities for implementing green infrastructure.

Business community

- Incorporate green infrastructure on commercial/industrial property, such as planting trees, bioswales, and rain gardens.
- Support community-based green infrastructure initiatives.

Public

- At home, install rain gardens, or use rain barrels to reduce stormwater to local streams.
- Volunteer in local watershed activities, such as park cleanups, tree plantings, or water quality monitoring activities.
- Plant a tree to reduce stormwater to local streams; planting trees on west/south sides of homes increases the energy efficiency of the home.

Public outreach results

The voices of key stakeholder groups and the general public have helped shape the direction for the *Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan*. SEMCOG, with the help of each of the seven Southeast Michigan counties and the City of Detroit, conducted eight in-person visioning sessions and an online public poll to identify important green infrastructure elements and desired outcomes for a regional vision. The online poll garnered 854 responses, while the in-person visioning sessions saw over 250 people actively participate in mapping green infrastructure priorities. The results of this intensive outreach revealed that the public highly values protecting and enhancing the following top three elements – natural areas, biking/hiking trails, and trees along roads and in downtown areas.

In terms of specific targets of opportunity to increase green infrastructure (trees, bioswales, and other vegetation), the public indicated the following priority locations – along rivers and lakes, on major roadways, near parks, and on vacant property.

The visioning sessions each produced maps that identified current and potential future green infrastructure targets of opportunity. These maps will be combined to form a regional map of green infrastructure priorities for Southeast Michigan.



Best Practices

Making the vision a reality

Best practices from four communities

The articles in this issue of *Semscope* have, thus far, provided definitions and data about green infrastructure as the vision for Southeast Michigan is being prepared for adoption by SEMCOG's elected leadership early this year.

How can communities in Southeast Michigan put these concepts to work for them? This article details what is happening in four communities – best practices that can certainly be duplicated elsewhere.

Rochester Hills



There was a good reason why SEMCOG asked Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett to chair its Green Infrastructure Vision Task Force. His community embraces its environmental assets. The city's environmental characteristics was the most important reason that citizens chose to live in Rochester Hills, according to its 2011 citizen survey, ranking higher than low crime and the great school system. It was a strong endorsement for the city to invest in, protect, enhance, and brag about its natural beauty.

Mayor Barnett cites numerous examples. Rochester Hills has a vibrant parks system, the Clinton River, and numerous trails that welcomed one million visitors in 2012. Significant investment has been made in these areas, as well as in tree planting. A sizeable tree fund has enabled the city to double its tree planting efforts and increase tree canopy. There have also been improvements to the city hall campus (through grant funding) and other buildings to support green infrastructure concepts, including no-mow zones and wildflower plantings.

"I'm proud of the innovation of our team in Rochester Hills and what we've done to support green infrastructure," Barnett said. "The community demands that we do it." He also realizes that making an environmental impact also makes a positive economic impact.

And all of that is true and even more so with the River Bend Park project now underway. A 70-acre site along the Clinton River on the west side of the city (at Hamlin and Adams Roads) is being developed into an eco-park for the health and wellness of Rochester Hills' residents, or as

Mayor Barnett describes it, "the coolest new park in Southeast Michigan."

It began with a challenge to a class of graduate students from Lawrence Tech to take on the project for a semester and present ideas to the mayor and planning commission with no restrictions on costs. The student ideas proved to be the visual spark needed to convince a resident – Steve Stolaruk – to donate \$1 million to the effort. The design will showcase the beauty of the area and will feature a trails network that includes a boardwalk, along with paved and dirt trails. It will accentuate several unique environmental features all in one location – uplands prairie, wetlands, woodlands, riparian buffers, and a very rare fen (a fen is one of six main types of wetland of one or two types of mire usually fed by mineral-rich surface water or groundwater). There will be no ball or soccer fields. The park will serve as a very tangible example of what green infrastructure is all about.

"I'm proud of the innovation of our team in Rochester Hills and what we've done to support green infrastructure. The community demands that we do it."

— Bryan Barnett
Mayor, Rochester Hills

Best Practices

While the concept was exciting, the mayor also needed buy-in from residents of the three subdivisions adjacent to the park location. He is thrilled to report that there was not one negative comment. Instead, residents wanted to be sure that the parking lot was big enough to accommodate all of the visitors they felt were sure to visit the park. Plus, the mayor said, residents asked how they could help. It is a great community story. Mayor Barnett is proud and excited for the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Fall 2014.

Mayor Barnett appreciates the leadership position that SEMCOG has taken in educating the region about green infrastructure and the possibilities and economic benefits that exist for improving the quality of life for Southeast Michigan residents.

Wayne County



Native plant “grow zones” in Wayne County perfectly illustrate some of the green infrastructure principles that can easily be duplicated in other communities. Native plants reduce polluted stormwater runoff and improve water quality and habitat, ultimately leading to improved quality of life and cost savings because these areas do not need regular mowing. Nearly

all of the 48-plus acres of grow zones are within the Rouge River watershed, mostly on county park property and county road rights-of-way.

Grow Zone signs and project fact sheets help educate residents on the work that these pretty wildflowers do for the community. Plus, many residents who are part of the Friends of the Rouge and Friends of the Detroit River organizations help maintain the grow zones. While these areas require a change of mindset away from the look of traditional mowed areas, reactions have been primarily positive. In fact, along the most accessible sites on Hines Drive in the summertime, people often try to get photos of flowers, butterflies, or birds.

Wayne County offers advice to other communities wanting to start grow zones. Require the construction contractor to provide maintenance for at least

a year, maybe two. Use small temporary grow zone signs to mark boundaries. Work closely with lawn mowing crews to ensure these boundaries are well understood. Have a long-term maintenance strategy and system in place once the construction contractor has turned over the site. Maintenance is a key factor in making grow zones a success.

Said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, “Our award-winning Department of Public Services takes a holistic approach in caring for the environment in Southeast Michigan. All divisions – parks, roads, engineering, buildings, water quality management, land resource management, and facilities management – work together and collaborate with our community partners to clean, restore, and maintain the ecosystem and watersheds which ultimately advance the green infrastructure in Wayne County.”

In addition to Grow Zones, Wayne County has also enhanced tree canopy with a major tree-planting effort. From 2011-2013, 1,460 trees were planted on county roads and in parks. Wayne County participated in a green streets demonstration program with SEMCOG and is working with SEMCOG on the regional vision as well as with community groups to promote green infrastructure. The Marter Road Pump Station project will also include a small demonstration native plant rain garden.

Macomb County



Last summer, Macomb County and Huron-Clinton Metroparks opened a newly restored and globally rare coastal marshland at Lake St. Clair Metropark. With a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, nearly 500 acres of one of

“Our award-winning Department of Public Services takes a holistic approach in caring for the environment in Southeast Michigan.”

— Robert Ficano
 Wayne County Executive

the largest remaining coastal marshlands along Lake St. Clair was restored. Degraded over time by filling, construction, or drainage ditches, it now has an improved hydrological process and the native plant and wildlife species are being restored.

“This project is a great example of many partners working together to keep Macomb County environmental friendly,” said Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel. “Protecting our coastal marshland, waterways, trees, and other green assets is very important.”

The restoration included these projects – restored hydrology at Point Rosa Marsh, historical fill removed; shallow water habitat for birds, reptiles, and amphibians created; and invasive Phragmites and narrow-leaf cattail managed and reduced.

The project has a new observation area and boardwalk which gives visitors the opportunity to walk within the marsh and learn about native plant and wildlife species living there. The restored shoreline area has increased native habitat and provides for better public use.

Macomb County and Huron-Clinton Metroparks collaborated with the Clinton River Watershed Council, Wayne State University, Oakland University, and Harrison Township to complete the project. Monitoring of the area’s vegetation, birds, reptiles/amphibians, and water quality occurred prior to restoration for benchmarking purposes. The agencies will continue to monitor the marsh with the project completed in order to determine the success of the restoration.

Luna Pier

Luna Pier, a small southern Monroe County community (population 1,400), with coastline access to Lake Erie, used green infrastructure in its Luna Pier Boulevard project, which serves as an entry point to the fishing pier and pristine beach on Lake Erie.

The area includes a lighthouse and adjoining parking lot, where Luna Pier Beach and fishing pier users have access to a restroom and shower facility. Future plans for the lighthouse are to

create a second floor community room and observation deck to accommodate up to 40 people for community and family functions. The first floor will serve as a viewing area for artifacts and historical information and photos about Luna Pier.

Green infrastructure was used in this area to create water gardens with various aquatic plantings to capture stormwater runoff from the parking area and the building roof. It is filtered through the green areas to capture potential pollutants before flowing into Lake Erie.

Reaction from residents to this project is positive. They are proud that these improvements are having an economic impact and drawing more visitors to Luna Pier. Likewise, community leaders are encouraged by the positive reactions and energized by a spontaneous outgrowth of pride. In fact, *USA Today* named Luna Pier one of the top 10 attractions on I-75 between Detroit and Atlanta, Georgia.

The city received an additional grant from the Monroe County Association of Realtors to eliminate a long-standing traffic island that was filled with concrete and asphalt and painted green. It was replaced with an additional water garden to eliminate stormwater runoff into the storm drainage system and planted with seasonal and perennial plantings.

“We are amazed at how one project has changed Luna Pier’s entire outlook,” noted Mayor Dave Davison. “This is serving as a springboard as we aspire to become a major tourism center.”



“Protecting our coastal marshland, waterways, trees, and other green assets is very important.”

— Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive

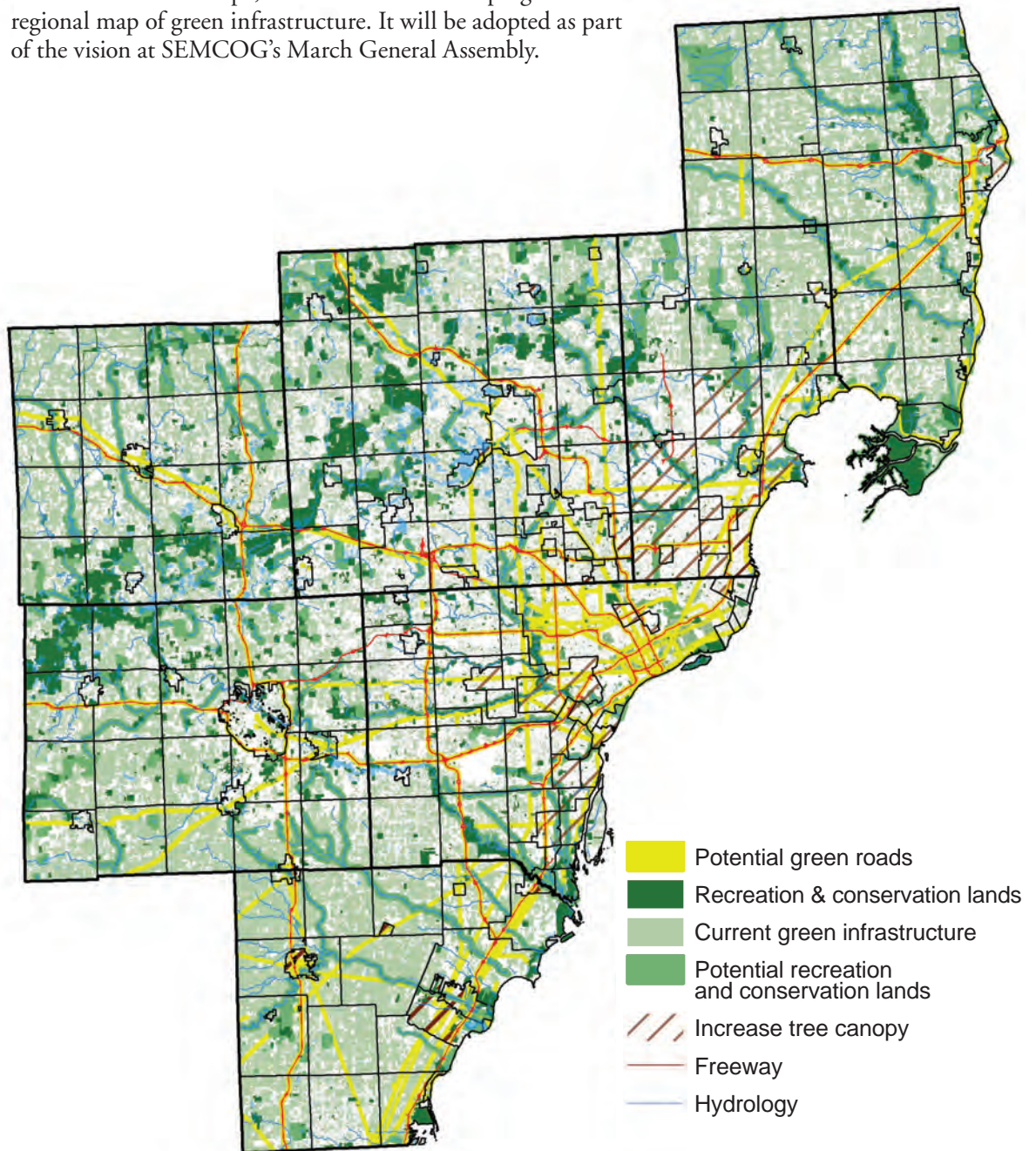
“We are amazed at how one project has changed Luna Pier’s entire outlook.”

— Dave Davison
Mayor, Luna Pier

SEMCOG green infrastructure vision

Southeast Michigan

The key themes of the Green Infrastructure Vision, presented in this issue of Semscope, are the basis for developing this draft regional map of green infrastructure. It will be adopted as part of the vision at SEMCOG's March General Assembly.



SEMCOG Members

(all seven counties are members)

Livingston County

Cities: Howell

Townships: Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg

Education: Livingston Educational Service Agency

Macomb County

Cities: Eastpointe, Fraser, Mount Clemens, New Baltimore, Richmond, Roseville, St. Clair Shores, Sterling Heights, Utica, Warren

Villages: New Haven, Romeo

Townships: Chesterfield, Clinton, Harrison, Macomb, Washington

Education: Macomb Intermediate School District

Monroe County

Cities: Luna Pier, Monroe

Villages: Dundee, South Rockwood

Townships: Bedford, Erie, Frenchtown, Milan, Whiteford

Education: Monroe County Intermediate School District, Monroe County Community College

Oakland County

Cities: Auburn Hills, Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Clarkston, Clawson, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Keego Harbor, Lathrup Village, Madison Heights, Novi, Oak Park, Orchard Lake Village, Pleasant Ridge, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, South Lyon, Southfield, Sylvan Lake, Troy, Wixom

Villages: Beverly Hills, Holly, Milford, Oxford, Wolverine Lake

Townships: Bloomfield, Commerce, Highland, Lyon, Milford, Oakland, Orion, Royal Oak, Springfield, Waterford, West Bloomfield, White Lake

Education: Oakland Schools

St. Clair County

Cities: Marine City, Marysville, Port Huron, St. Clair

Villages: Capac

Townships: Clay, Cottrellville, Fort Gratiot, Ira, Kimball, Port Huron, St. Clair

Washtenaw County

Cities: Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti

Villages: Dexter

Townships: Ann Arbor, Dexter, Lima, Northfield, Pittsfield, Scio, Superior, Ypsilanti

Education: Washtenaw Intermediate School District

Wayne County

Cities: Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Flat Rock, Garden City, Gibraltar, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Livonia, Northville, River Rouge, Rockwood, Romulus, Southgate, Taylor, Trenton, Wayne, Westland, Woodhaven, Wyandotte

Townships: Brownstown, Canton, Grosse Ile, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter, Van Buren

Education: Schoolcraft College, Wayne County Community College District, Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency

Associate Members

University of Michigan

University of Michigan/Dearborn

SEMCOG

Semscope

A quarterly publication of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all of the region's governments to solve regional challenges.

SEMCOG is creating success in Southeast Michigan by:

- Promoting informed decision making to improve Southeast Michigan and its local governments by providing insightful data analysis;
- Promoting the efficient use of tax dollars for both long-term infrastructure investment and shorter-term governmental efficiency;
- Solving regional issues that go beyond the boundaries of individual local governments;
- Delivering direct assistance to member governments in the areas of transportation, environment, and community and economic development; and
- Advocating on behalf of Southeast Michigan in Lansing and Washington.

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGANRESOLUTION TO receive and file report from Board Chair for February 2014INTRODUCED BY: Dave Flynn, Full Board

- The following is a report on activities within the Board Office which do not usually appear on committee agendas.

Current Issues:

- **Budget Update**
 - Published budget available online
- **Capital Improvement Plan**
 - Ongoing review of projects and funding mechanisms
- **MCCSA Director**
 - Rhonda Powell
- **Bobby Hill Welcoming Center**
 - 02-25-14, Dedication of 1st floor Administration Building lobby In honor of Commissioner Bobby Hill
 - Bobby served from 1990-2006

Office:

- **Social Media**
 - Board of Commissioners Facebook page has 260 likes and 215 friends
 - BOC has 250 followers on Twitter
 - Green Schools Facebook page has 33 likes
- **Communications Coordinator**
 - A candidate has accepted the position; start date is March 17
 - Courtney Flynn (absolutely no relation to Dave Flynn or Joan Flynn)
- **HR-LR Solutions Group Meeting**
 - HR-LR Department has made changes to the Leave of Absence policy – see Patti for details
 - County departments can participate in program to provide non-paid work experience to veterans participating in the state's vocational rehabilitation program – vets are enrolled in various degree programs at higher education institutions or training programs, can provide 20 or 40 hours of work for 6 months at no cost to county in exchange for the job experience.

Region:

- **DIA**
 - Macomb Arts Authority met 02-24-14 (BOC was invited); DIA provided updates
 - Stan Simek (Chair of the Macomb Art Authority) and Annemarie Erickson (COO of the DIA) will attend the April 17th Full Board meeting to provide an annual update
- **DWSD**
 - Oakland County Board of Commissioners formed a study group
 - Macomb BOC has been invited to participate
 - Informative memo from meeting has already been shared with commissioners
- **NACO Conference**
 - March 1st through 5th, 2014 – Washington, DC
 - Meetings scheduled with legislators
- **MAC Conference**
 - March 24th through 26th, 2014 – Lansing
 - Andrew Kim to attend
- **Detroit Policy Conference**
 - February 27th, 2014
 - Attending from BOC: Commissioner Mocerri, Andrew Kim

Media:

- See attached articles.

BOC – Independent Counsel: Expenditures for Outside Legal Counsel Professional Services

Litigation	Contract/Legal Svcs	Legal Services	Budget	
InvoiceCharges:	Budget Amount:	Invoice Totals:	Remaining:	%Utilized:
	\$122,500 (2014)			
		\$ 161.00 (Clark Hill final)		

COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE

Full Board 02-27-14

The Daily Tribune (<http://www.dailytribune.com>)

Hackel, Macomb County board at odds on lucrative trash exports

By CHAD SELWESKI, Chad.selweski@macombdaily.com; @cbsnewsman

Thursday, January 30, 2014



County commissioners are pushing County Executive Mark Hackel to start the process of allowing more trash exports to out-of-county landfills but Hackel said he is in no hurry to revise Macomb's waste disposal rules based on the wishes of private haulers.

The Board of Commissioners has overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling on Hackel to seat the Solid Waste Planning Committee and let that group set new limits on the volume of trash that can be shipped beyond the county borders. Hackel has said repeatedly

he has no short-term plans to revive the SWPC, whose members have all seen their terms of service expire.

Increasing exports would benefit Sterling Heights-based Rizzo Environmental Services, but it would take away business from the county's lone landfill, Pine Tree Acres, located near New Haven and run by garbage disposal giant Waste Management.

In addition, Rizzo representatives have said they could lower costs to customers in the 10 Macomb County communities they serve if the company was given more flexibility.

Under the voter-approved county charter and state law, Hackel appoints the SWPC members, with confirmation by the 13-member Board of Commissioners. "The purpose of this resolution is to encourage the county executive to re-establish the Solid Waste Planning Committee," said Commissioner Jim Carabelli, the Shelby Township Republican who chairs the board's infrastructure panel. "To be honest with you, the board is now done with this," unless and until Hackel moves the process forward.

The executive said the overwhelming factor is the amount of landfill space available for trash disposal, not the wishes of the private sector. State officials have said Pine Tree Acres has enough room to continue operating for decades.

"The reason to seat that body (the SWPC) is if there's a need for capacity," Hackel said. Issues related to competition and cost "is not a reason to open up the plan."

As Hackel stuck to the status quo and declined to reinvigorate the SWPC, Rizzo backed off of a plan to build a competing landfill next to Pine Tree Acres, east of Gratiot and south of 29 Mile Road. But the company reached a deal with local officials and a grassroots environmental group to back Rizzo's new plan for exports to St. Clair, Genesee, Livingston and Sanilac counties.

Macomb's current solid waste plan, last updated in 1999, bars shipments of solid waste to those counties.

Rizzo was stopped in its tracks when Hackel said last week that he has no intentions of reopening the plan or allowing an open-borders approach.

"Now that the issue has changed from a second landfill to an interest in exporting trash, that still isn't sufficient reason to convene the committee," he said.

But Hackel has clarified his remarks, indicating that if the Board of Commissioners is overwhelmingly in favor of bringing back the SWPC, then "we're more than likely going to see that day."

The executive said he is willing to hold talks on the issue with municipal officials and commissioners. For their part, the commissioners softened their resolution by removing language that called for "unlimited export" of solid waste.

Under the state-mandated process of amending a county's solid waste plan, the revisions face approval from the SWPC, the Board of Commissioners, two-thirds of the county's cities and townships, and the state Department of Environmental Quality. The process can take up to two years.

Staff writer Norb Franz contributed to this report.

URL: <http://www.dailytribune.com/general-news/20140130/hackel-macomb-county-board-at-odds-on-lucrative-trash-exports>

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Suburban leaders cautious on regional water authority proposal

By John Wisely Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News City of Detroit
Jan. 30

freep.com

Suburban leaders are mixed about a proposal to create a regional authority to run the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, paying the city \$47 million annually in lease payments.

"We have no problem being part of an authority but to agree to terms in order for us to have a seat at the table, I'm not ready to do that," said Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel.

Hackel said the \$47-million lease payment is far better than the \$200-million annual payment that Detroit emergency manager Kevyn Orr floated last year, but it's still early to know if that's an appropriate figure for the deal.

Oakland and Macomb counties have been demanding updated financial details from the city on the department's operations as well as engineering studies that would outline expected maintenance and repair costs. Without that information, it's impossible to agree to a lease payment, Hackel said.

■ **Related story:** 600 Detroit water department jobs expected to be eliminated

■ **Related:** Detroit emergency manager could cut Oakland, Macomb counties out of water deal

But others were more supportive of the plan.

"In light of what the suburbs would get out of this, this is most promising plan that I have seen so far," said State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Canton, who introduced a bill in the state Legislature last year that would create a similar structure.

Heise said the deal would probably need some legislation to make it work, much like the authorities created to run the Wayne County Airport Authority and Cobo Center. His bill could do that with only minor changes, Heise said.


The deal outlined in a draft copy of the city's plan of adjustment, obtained by the Free Press, calls for the creation of the Great Lakes Water Authority, which would lease the department's assets from the city, paying about \$47 million a year for 40 years.

■ **Related story:** Detroit bankruptcy blueprint gives edge to retirees over bankers, bondholders

■ **Full coverage:** Detroit's financial crisis

A new 9-member board would run the authority, with the City of Detroit and Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, each appointing two members. The governor would appoint the 9th member.

The city would become a wholesale

 customer of the authority, buying its water and sewer service the same way suburban communities now buy it from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

Under the proposal, the city would still be responsible for the health care costs of water department retirees, but the new authority would be responsible for accrued pension benefits. The plan calls for the creation of a new pension system to cover current employees and those already retired from the department.

The new system would be funded by taking a proportional share

☑ of the assets of the city's General Retirement System into the new system.

"The successor plan will be closed and the benefit levels frozen," according to the proposal.

Contact John Wisely: 313-222-6825 or jwisely@freepress.com.

Suburbs: We need more detail before joining Detroit water deal

Tue, Feb 4

detroitnews.com



'I could not sell this to one rate user in Macomb County right now. If someone asks me as to how and why we are doing this, I could not give them a responsible answer,' said Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel. (Todd McInturf / The Detroit News)

Suburban leaders say they need more detailed financial information from Detroit — and evidence their customers won't bear the brunt of future costs — before they are willing to join a regional authority to run the city's Water and Sewerage Department.

Oakland County Deputy Executive Bob Daddow said Tuesday the county isn't ready to sign off on the deal, which is a key element of Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr's proposed bankruptcy restructuring plan.

"We're going to walk" unless we get more information, Daddow said. "(Detroit officials) know what we've needed for six months. This is no surprise. They have our telephone number. They know our position."

Daddow said water rates could "at least double and could be as high as triple" for the suburbs if the deal went through. He said the city is seeking capital improvements costing between \$2.5 billion to \$4 billion over the next decade. "It's startling," he said.

Daddow said Oakland County has been demanding additional financial records from Detroit, including the water department's audited financial statement for 2013; the interim financial statement since the city filed for bankruptcy; details of labor contracts; lawsuits the department faces; planned capital improvements; and an explanation of how the city estimates it can generate \$47 million annually on the deal while retaining ownership of the department.

Daddow said he believes the city has failed to respond to requests for information because it could make the deal look worse. He also believes mostly suburban users could be on the hook for future capital improvements given the city of Detroit's low income tax collection rate.

The preliminary plan calls for the suburbs to pay \$1.88 billion to lease the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. Orr has been working with the department and suburban officials for the creation of a regional authority.

The yearly sum is a key component in Orr's plans to secure a funding source for the bankrupt city and help erase Detroit's \$18 billion debt.

The board would include two members each from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, two city appointees and one from Snyder.

Orr's spokesman, Bill Nowling, said Tuesday the water department plan "addresses many long-standing issues that have been raised by regional officials for decades."

“The city continues to believe that is in all parties’ interests to reach an agreement on creating a water and sewer authority that benefits the region both today and in the future,” Nowling said.

He cited a University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy study this week that indicated 79 percent of local leaders consider service-sharing agreements between communities as a top priority. “The city has proposed to do just that with regards to region’s sewer and water system,” Nowling said.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel on Tuesday agreed with Oakland leaders that the city has not released enough information.

“I don’t think there’s a fair opportunity for us to look into the terms and conditions,” Hackel said. “I could not sell this to one rate user in Macomb County right now. If someone asks me as to how and why we are doing this, I could not give them a responsible answer.”

Hackel suggested the state — with a newly found budget surplus — could play a role in the process.

“I would think if there’s a billion (surplus) at the state level, some opportunity is there to fund some kind of consultants to work on our behalf,” Hackel said. “Here we’re talking about a life source of water and their expectation is having Wayne, Oakland and Macomb resolve the problem by coming up with a money stream? I question where the state involvement is in this.”

Privatization of the department — suggested earlier in the process — has been ignored, Hackel said. It should still be considered given the department’s history of graft and corruption, he said.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said Tuesday that negotiations in regional matters are often contentious. The 2009 formation of the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority wasn’t easy, he said. Neither were negotiations on Aerotropolis, the “airport city” off Interstate 94.

“Eventually everybody came together in the end,” Ficano said. “Regionalization is the better way to go. Everybody wants more information there’s no doubt about that. It’s important that we get to that deal. It’s better that we’re at the table when decisions are made.”

- **Briefs: Woman found in burning Waterford Twp. house dies**

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

Macomb jail population, 'jurisdiction' top issues for judges

By Norb Franz, The Macomb Daily

Tuesday, February 4, 2014



Jail overcrowding and potential caseload changes in Macomb County's courts will top the docket of issues for the county's district judges this year, the new head of a local judicial group said Tuesday.

As the new president of the Macomb County District Judges Association, 37th District Judge Dean Ausilio said members of his organization soon hope to finalize a plan that would take effect if the inmate population at the Macomb County Jail again exceeds limits that would trigger an early release of some prisoners.

Last September, Macomb County Sheriff Anthony Wickersham declared an overcrowding emergency — as required by law -- after the jail population topped the facility's capacity of 1,238 inmates for seven straight days. Officials then had 15 days from Sept. 3 to reduce the population to 1,213 or face a mandatory early release of inmates.

The population rose because of increases in violent crime and the need to incarcerate such offenders. The total dipped below the limit six days later, and Wickersham thanked the judges in Macomb County and its law enforcement agencies for working with him to reduce the over-capacity numbers.

Once a week, the district judges get a list of current inmates.

"A lot of people are in there because they haven't paid their fines and costs," Ausilio said.

He added if extended overcrowding forces a release of inmates, those are the type to likely be released early. A work release program — in which select prisoners could hold a job during the day but return directly to the jail at the end of the work shift, may be reinstated.

"Details are not final on that," Ausilio said. "I think we're going to come to some consensus on dealing with jail overcrowding. The sheriff is working hard with our organization to develop a plan that will help. I see this getting worked out sooner rather than later."

The jail, located at Elizabeth Road and Groesbeck Highway in Mount Clemens, holds defendants charged with felonies or probation violations, and convicts sentenced to one year or less behind bars. Last year's late summer emergency in Macomb County was the first since 2008, when 68 inmates were released. That followed several years in the mid-2000s of a handful of emergencies and releases.

The situation improved in recent years due to a jail-bed allocation program that assigned a certain number of beds to each judge and fostered alternative sentencing. But jail diversion programs catering to nonviolent offenders have led to a greater proportion of violent offenders in the jail, officials said.

The August 2009 closure of the Jail Annex by then-sheriff Mark Hackel saved \$4.5 million but reduced capacity by 200.

Wickersham has pointed out some of the older parts of the jail are worn and in need of refurbishment. The facility was built in 1954, and was expanded in 1968, 1978, 1981 and 1987, the sheriff said. The Annex was built in 1999.

In 2005, the county Board of Commissioners spent \$591,000 on a consultant and agreed to a \$93 million expansion plan, but shelved the project in 2006.

The jail underwent \$5 million in improvements, including a state-required kitchen renovation, in 2010.

“Until we develop a completely new way to address the jail population...we’re going to have to be creative in keeping the community safe,” said 40th District Judge Joseph Craigen Oster of St. Clair Shores, Ausilio’s predecessor as association president.

Also on the district judges’ list of judicial issues is “concurrent jurisdiction.” The Michigan Supreme Court has asked counties to explore ways to stream the court system, including district and circuit courts handling cases traditionally reserved for the other. For example, district courts accepting pleas from defendants charged with felony crimes.

Ausilio said the Macomb district judges will continue to study specialty courts like drug courts, examine best practices at various district courts, standardization of court forms and documents, and efforts to make district courts more cost efficient and “consumer friendly.”

Ausilio was the unanimous selection recently of his judicial colleagues to serve the 1-year term as president of the Macomb County District Judges Association just 14 months after Gov. Rick Snyder appointed him to fill a vacancy in the 37th District Court. That court includes Warren and Center Line.

“I am honored and flattered by the confidence that my colleagues have shown. They have considered my experience as a district judge, my 26 years as a practicing attorney in criminal, civil and landlord-tenant matters, and my time running my own businesses as being real assets in guiding this association in challenging times,” he said.

“I think Dean will be a great leader,” Oster said. “He gets along well with all the judges, both district and circuit.”

Ausilio, 53, is a former chairman of the Macomb County Republican Party. Snyder appointed him to the 37th District bench in December 2012, seven months after Judge Dawnn Gruenburg accepted an appointment to serve as an administrative law judge in the U.S. Social Security Administration.

In 1991, Ausilio was in the running for an appointment to the 37th District Court. Then-governor John Engler raised eyebrows and drew criticism in political circles when he appointed a Democrat, Walter Jakubowski, Jr.

Ausilio served as an administrative hearings officer for the city of Warren’s former blight court and was the city’s

deputy treasurer from 1987-88. His legal experience includes work as a special assistant attorney general. He ran unsuccessfully for Macomb County prosecutor in 2004.

Ausilio formerly resided in Macomb Township, where he served approximately 10 years on the Planning Commission and three years on the township's zoning board.

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Hackel, board reach a breakthrough

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Thursday, February 6, 2014



The 3-year power struggle between County Executive Mark Hackel and the Board of Commissioners reached a breakthrough on Thursday as months of negotiations led to compromise agreements on budget and contracting issues.

The commissioners approved several ordinance amendments designed to provide greater transparency for taxpayers on the executive office's spending patterns, while also limiting the micromanagement of fiscal matters that the board had sought last year.

"This is the product of intense negotiations. The executive conceded on points, and the board conceded on points," said board Chair Dave Flynn, a Sterling Heights Democrat. "It ... offers more levels of

transparency."

The 2014 budget that will be posted online shortly will offer residents a spending breakdown for each county department by full-time wages, part-time wages, overtime pay, pension contributions, health care benefits and worker's compensation expenses.

At the same time, the executive's office will gain more flexibility by avoiding board approval for basic operations and budget adjustments, such as accepting small grants from the state or federal government or launching construction or repair projects estimated to cost less than \$250,000.

The county's preference for Macomb-based vendors will be enhanced by requiring contract bidders to list details on their subcontractors.

In turn, Hackel will be granted wide latitude to spend whatever it takes when an emergency is declared due to a tornado, flood or chemical spill.

Other provisions will require the commissioners' acceptance of all lawsuit settlements and will put in motion a new directive that food purchase contracts will favor commodities that are grown locally or processed locally. Growers who adhere to sustainable and environmentally sound farming practices will also gain a leg up on the competition.

Deputy Executive Mark Deldin, who led the negotiations for Hackel's office, said the package of policy changes

has the executive's "blessings" and no vetoes will follow.

After the 13-member board took action in December to take greater control over budgets and government contracts, a Hackel veto threat was in the air.

"We've been working on amendments since December and ... cooler heads prevailed," Deldin said. "I think we now have a better product."

The first sense of a breakthrough in the tense relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government emerged in September when a budget deal was reached. However, that \$631 million budget has never been posted on the county website because the two parties were debating behind closed doors how best to present it to the public.

Starting in 2012, the commissioners insisted that Hackel's budget format and quarterly financial reports should provide "clarity at a glance," while the Hackel administration cautioned that the prior process, which prevailed before Macomb voters approved the charter/executive form of government, was "frankly, confusing."

In particular, the commissioners demanded details on about two dozen items summarized in the Department of Roads budget. The county executive vetoed that request and the board overrode that veto, putting the issue in limbo.

But Deldin and Flynn seem to agree that the days of executive vetoes and court fights are over.

The revised county ordinances will maintain basic provisions successfully imposed by the commissioners -- with the help of a Court of Appeals decision -- such as board approval for any contract above \$35,000 and any purchasing agreement with a company that adds up to \$35,000 over the course of a year.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/government-and-politics/20140206/hackel-board-reach-a-breakthrough>

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Oakland, Macomb warn of costly price tag for proposed Detroit water deal

By Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News Metro Detroit Mark Hackel L. Brooks Patterson Kevyn Orr
Feb. 06

freep.com

Officials in Oakland and Macomb counties said Thursday that those overseeing Detroit's bankruptcy are demanding that they accept a costly restructuring of the region's massive water and sewer systems while refusing to provide information they need to make a decision.

"This is every bit as important or more important than a resolution for the DIA because suburban residents are going to be paying for this for years and years to come," said Mike Gingell, chair of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

On Thursday, Gingell got approval to form a seven-member task force on the water and sewer issue, in a unanimous and bipartisan vote of the county board.

The task force will hold public hearings across the county in the next two months on the choices suburbanites face over whether to accept, change or reject Detroit's plan to regionalize the water system, he said.

"We just want to make sure we are treated fairly" in negotiations with Detroit's lawyers, accountants and consultants


 pushing for a water deal, Gingell said.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel said any decision to restructure the water system will dwarf in magnitude the huge price tag proposed for resolving the ownership of art at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"The state just came up with \$350 million to resolve that issue with the art, and that's a good thing — art — but water's a necessity," Hackel said.


He said about 40% of water billings aren't being collected from Detroit residents, "and Highland Park isn't paying anything — so now, the suburbs are supposed to become the backstop for all those people who aren't paying?"

A spokesman for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department confirmed Thursday that "we have about 260,000 (commercial and residential) accounts

 in Detroit, and on any given day about 100,000 are delinquent."

That amounts to nearly 40% of the total.

"But that doesn't mean they're uncollectible, and we're taking new steps to collect from more of them," DWSD spokesman Bill Johnson said. Highland Park, a wholesale

 customer of the Detroit system, has stopped paying for water and sewer service and was

\$16.9 million in arrears as of last year, he added.

Detroit bankruptcy officials sent suburban officials a proposed memorandum of understanding last week. It showed outlines of a possible restructuring that would constitute a 40-year commitment by suburban communities, Oakland County Deputy County Executive Bob Daddow said.

"This is what they consider to be the final memorandum of understanding that they expect us to sign," Daddow said. "I sent in about 50 comments and questions and I haven't heard back word one — nothing. They just expect us to sign it," he said.

The nine-page memorandum and accompanying 25-page appendix outlines a lease that is expected to run for hundreds of pages of legal and engineering details and which would obligate a new regional water authority to pay \$40 million a year for four decades, Daddow said. That money

☑ would come from customers paying their water and sewer bills, he said.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said recently that no deal was better than a bad deal on the water and sewer system.

"Right now, we don't even know if we have a neutral deal because the last information we have from them is the audited statement of June 2012, 19 months ago," Daddow said.

Although Patterson's staff has been meeting since last summer with the overseers of Detroit's bankruptcy about the water system and a potential settlement, Oakland's elected commissioners have the final say on any agreement, said Bob Gosselin, a commissioner from Troy.

Oakland's commissioners said a key concern is that Oakland County isn't receiving reliable cost data

☑ from Detroit, a long-standing issue that accompanied decades of distrust of Detroit's water rates by suburban users.

"We are getting unaudited figures — we're getting figures thrown over the wall," Gosselin said.

"I challenge Kevyn Orr and Mike Duggan: If you're truly serious about fixing the problems of the past, tear down this wall and give us the audited figures we need," he said.

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

Macomb County Hackel appointee Powell left under cloud in 2012

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Sunday, February 9, 2014



A former Macomb County official who quit in 2012 while her department was under a cloud has been rehired by County Executive Mark Hackel to run one of the county's largest agencies.

Rhonda Powell, who ran the county Office of Senior Services in 2011-12, was appointed last week as director of the Macomb County Community Services Agency.

MCCSA handles a wide array of programs for the "working poor" and the elderly, including Meals on Wheels, food pantries, Head Start, home weatherization, and small-bus transportation. Powell replaces Mary Solomon, who retired Jan. 24.

"Rhonda is a proven leader and we are extremely pleased to have her back in Macomb County serving our community," Hackel said in a statement.

Steve Gold, the county's director of Health and Community Services, also offered praise for Powell: "She understands the work of MCCSA through her local and state leadership experience in senior services as well as her past positions providing community services to the homeless and other vulnerable populations. Rhonda has the right experience and skill sets to lead this organization."

What they didn't mention was that Powell left her Senior Services job when the department was on probation imposed by a regional agency for sloppy record keeping that failed to adequately show how the agency was spending state and federal funds.

Powell's 2011 office remodeling and the purchase of new equipment — at a price tag of \$15,000, despite heavy budget cuts imposed at the time by the county — also agitated some employees.

On Friday, one labor union official who did not want to be quoted directly said with a chuckle that Powell was an "intriguing pick" by Hackel.

In March 2012, a review of Powell's department by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B found several failures to comply with record-keeping rules, including "ongoing inaccuracy" of reports on services supplied. The violations covered a wide time period — fiscal years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Three months after that probe began, Powell left to take a higher-ranking job in state government.

Soon after she was initially hired in 2011, she ordered a remodeling of her office, which was financed by an adjustment in the county's AAA 1-B allocation.

That work included removing a wall, replacing carpet, repainting the walls, and realigning light fixtures. Powell also used AAA funds to purchase a large mahogany table and eight matching chairs, a \$950 laptop computer, a portable projector with a DVD player, a wireless laser pointer, and a home theater-style screen.

Five months after the work was completed, funding shortages forced the Senior Services Office to shut its St. Clair Shores location where adult day care was provided for seniors.

Powell is well known in many Macomb County circles due to her former work with the Mount Clemens school district and her seat on the board of Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township.

In February 2010, Powell was named director of the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, or MCREST, which houses the homeless. In May 2011, she was appointed by Hackel to head the Office of Senior Services, where she was paid \$81,000 a year to oversee 15 employees.

In June 2012, she left the county to become the deputy director of the state Office of Services to the Aging. And on Jan. 28, 2014, she was awarded a six-figure salary for the job of MCCSA director.

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'Living wage' rules now dormant in Macomb County

MACOMB COUNTY 'Living wage' rules now dormant

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Tuesday, February 11, 2014



As protesters nationwide demand a big hike in the minimum wage and President Obama issues an executive order to substantially boost low-level pay for federal contract workers, a Macomb County effort to require a "living wage" for workers has become dormant.

Macomb County was ahead of the curve – at least by Michigan standards – in 2006 when the Board of Commissioners adopted a living wage ordinance that required contract workers to receive pay significantly above the minimum wage.

The policy mandated that companies that do business with the county must pay their workers a minimum of 125 percent of the poverty level, which was \$9.59 an hour in 2006. For those without health insurance benefits, the living wage was set at \$12.09 hourly. The current figures are \$11.98 an hour and \$14.98, respectively.

Supporters of the new rules said they would ensure that no business could undercut its competitors and win a county contract by paying poverty wages to its lowest-level workers – janitors, secretaries, delivery people.

Opponents in the business community said the new mandate would kill jobs and discourage companies from locating in Macomb County.

In reality, eight years later, the impact of the pay requirement is nearly undetectable.

The sector that was dramatically affected -- nonprofit mental health providers who ran group homes or other facilities for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill -- sought waivers from the new rules. They argued that their revenues were dictated by Medicaid reimbursements and state allocations, so their single-digit hourly pay for caregivers could not be altered.

In the end, they gained an exemption for all 250 mental health care providers in the county – an exception that continues on a long-term basis. Future extensions of the waivers will lie in the hands of the Community Mental Health Board.

Meanwhile, no other contractors have raised the issue and officials assume that the minimum pay ordinance have not affected any of the companies that the county does business with.

“It’s still in force but I don’t think we have any examples” of other contractors who have been affected by the living wage rules, said Jill Smith, a county attorney.

Because Macomb County contains numerous unionized companies and county government construction projects require the prevailing union-scale wages for workers, the living wage ordinance has become largely irrelevant.

But county Commissioner Fred Miller, who pushed for living wage language in the county’s new purchasing ordinance that impacts suppliers, said it’s important to keep a floor on minimum pay.

“It’s kind of like insurance, you have it but you hope you won’t need it,” said Miller, a Mount Clemens Democrat. “It’s a statement of our values and it shows that we believe in the dignity of work.”

While the county’s living wage stands at \$11.98 hourly, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology assert that a pay rate that meets “minimum living standards” would be substantially higher. MIT calculated the cost of basic expenses, such as food, housing, medical services and child care, in communities across the nation and concluded that in Macomb County, an hourly wage of \$22.80 is necessary for a single parent with two children to avoid financial stress.

In comparison, the poverty level for that family of three is \$10.60 an hour, and the Michigan minimum wage is \$7.40 hourly.

More than 100 communities across the nation have adopted living wage laws. In Michigan, 13 cities have gone that route, including Warren and Eastpointe, and Macomb is one of five counties that have pay requirements.

The Warren ordinance only applies to service contractors who are paid more than \$50,000. In contrast, the Eastpointe ordinance covers contractors and businesses that receive tax breaks or other economic development assistance from the city.

About a decade ago the living wage movement seemed to be gaining momentum but when the Great Recession hit in 2008-09, the issue faded. Starting in 2013, the idea of significantly raising the minimum wage – as high as \$15 an hour -- took hold and the two issues have now melded together.

John Philo, legal director of the Sugar Law Center at Wayne State University, has studied labor laws across Michigan. He said there has been “some shift toward getting the minimum wage up to the living wage rate.”

Foes have tried for more than a decade to ban living wages in Michigan because they say the pay mandates chase away companies that would otherwise provide new jobs. One attempt almost succeeded in 2003 when the Legislature passed a ban but Gov. Jennifer Granholm vetoed it.

Philo said a 2009 Michigan Court of Appeals ruling that struck down Detroit’s living wage law – in a legal opinion that some labor lawyers question – has had a “chilling effect” on the potential expansion of living wage ordinances to more Michigan cities.

For more information on Macomb County’s living wage and cost of living, log on to <http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/26099>.

Wayne, Oakland, Macomb start wrestling over 'monumental' water system puzzle

By Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News Metro Detroit Sterling Heights L.
Brooks Patterson Kevyn Orr
Feb. 11

freep.com

It was just 10 county commissioners sitting around a conference table Tuesday night in Pontiac, but each acknowledged the gathering was special — and a little scary.

It was the first meeting of elected legislators from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties to tackle the momentous issue of how to refinance and regionalize Detroit's massive and troubled water system. The system is billions of dollars in debt, riddled with a history of corruption and incompetence, and saddled with antiquated infrastructure that is falling apart with major water-main breaks occurring almost daily in Detroit, leaders said.

"There's no doubt — this is the biggest thing that will ever hit a commissioner's desk," said David Flynn of Sterling Heights, chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

Joining Flynn inside Oakland County's government complex were commissioners from the tri-counties as well as Oakland County Water Resources Commissioners Jim Nash and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's top two deputies.

"As it stands today, all of the suburbs are captive to a monopoly," said Gerald Poisson, chief deputy Oakland County executive.

"Settling this is going to be really expensive and a hold-your-nose thing. It'll be the most complex thing I've ever done in my career," Poisson said.

He, along with Patterson's top financial guru Robert Daddow, said Detroit's negotiators proposed a deal that, in effect, requires suburban water and sewerage customers to subsidize the system's cost to supply the large fraction of Detroit's customers — estimated at 40% — who can't or won't pay their bills.

"We've talked to the state and said, 'You have to find a way to backstop all of these people who aren't paying.' I know it's heresy for a Republican to say that, but it has to happen" because suburbanites shouldn't be forced to shoulder the large and swelling burden of non-payers, Poisson said.

Commissioners asked a question that homeowners and business customers across suburban Detroit have posed for years — is there a way to break away from Detroit's historic stranglehold on supplying water and sewer service to nearly 4 million people in southeast Michigan?

The answer was no. That would be all but impossible because numerous communities have long-term contracts with the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, including many that won't expire until 2043, said Richard Sulaka Jr., Macomb County deputy public works commissioner.

"From our perspective, we don't think it's realistic that we could leave the system," Sulaka said.

The latest proposal from Detroit's bankruptcy negotiators demands a \$47-million annual payment for 40 years in return for putting suburban representatives on the board of a new authority that would operate the system, still to be owned by Detroit, according to Daddow. But Detroit' officials have been unable to provide audited financial statements of the system, a necessity before suburban communities and counties can make an informed decision, he said.

On Tuesday, Detroit officials told Poisson "they're working hard to provide the financial statements," although he said he suspects that record-keeping has been so shoddy and incomplete that accountants "hesitate to attach their names to this."

A spokesman for Detroit emergency manager Kevyn Orr told the Free Press, in a written statement Friday, that the city was "in the process of reviewing" Oakland County's request for financial information.

The statement from Bill Nowling also said: "While the city is bound by a federal court order not to discuss the details of mediation negotiations, it has put on the table a proposal that addresses many of the concerns county customers have raised over the decades. The city believes that it is in the best interest of the region to create a new authority to manage DWSD."

Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price said he and others on Wayne County's board shared the determination of Oakland and Macomb officials not to bargain further without more information. Price said he shared their concern about avoiding a deal that might impose decades of excessive rates for water and sewer service on suburbanites.

"We're all in this together. It's going to be monumental," Price said.

The Daily Tribune (<http://www.dailytribune.com>)

Snyder urges Macomb business community to 'lead the charge'

By Chad Selweski, Chad.selweski@macombdaily.com, [@cbsnewsman](https://twitter.com/cbsnewsman) on Twitter

Tuesday, February 11, 2014



With his usual flair, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel on Tuesday announced the winners of the 2014 Macomb County Business Awards as Gov. Rick Snyder urged the local business community to “lead the charge” in Michigan’s ongoing economic recovery.

Before a sold-out crowd of 400 people, Hackel presided over an Academy Awards-style ceremony where five companies were singled out for success from a field of 35 nominees.

“What’s happening here in Macomb County is incredible energy and drive among people who know how to make things happen,” Hackel told the gathering at Andiamo’s banquet center in Warren.

In each of five categories, the nominees were recognized in the crowd. That was followed by high-octane videos with thumping techno music that featured information on each of the three finalists. The winners were called to the stage to accept their crystal award and give an acceptance speech that offered lots of thank you’s.

Gov. Rick Snyder and former Chrysler CEO Tom LaSorda addressed the crowd as Huel Perkins, Fox2 anchorman, served as the emcee.

The award winners were: Champion of Workforce Development, Proper Group International of Warren; Corporate Citizen, First State Bank, based in St. Clair Shores; Economic Diversification Leader, Omega Plastics of Clinton Township; Energy Efficiency Expert, New Haven school district; and Start-up Business of the Year, Ethel’s Edibles of St. Clair Shores.

“We’ve always just wanted to present crazy-good food to people as quickly and efficiently as possible,” said Ethel’s Edibles founder Jill Bommarito.

Since establishing itself in 2011, the gluten-free bakery now expects to increase its volume in 2014 by nearly 300 percent as it ships its products to retailers across the country. Bommarito said the company just recently signed a deal to provide baked goods to Michigan State University and to an unnamed sports stadium in the Detroit area.

Saluting the nominees and winners, Snyder told the breakfast crowd, “We got too down on ourselves in the last decade, the lost decade.” The governor said confidence and competitiveness will lead Michigan’s economic comeback to new levels of success, with the help of the Macomb County business community.

“You’re one of the leaders, you’re one of the places I’m counting on to lead the charge, to say Michigan is back, and to be loud and proud,” Snyder said.

The second annual Macomb County Business Awards show also featured a few how-to lessons from LaSorda, who now runs a venture capital firm, IncWell, along with automotive legend Roger Penske and a few other prominent southeast Michigan business owners.

Taking its cue from the popular cable TV show “Shark Tank,” IncWell allows entrepreneurs seeking financing to make a 1-hour presentation about their business plan in the hopes of landing an initial investment of up to \$250,000. Within 15 minutes, these Steve Jobs-wannabes are told whether they have a chance. Within days or weeks, they can have an IncWell check in their hands.

LaSorda advised that the Macomb business community should come together to start a venture capital fund that will finance only start-ups that are based in Macomb County.

Another award handed out at the ceremony was the first annual Beacon of Economic Development Excellence Award to Don Morandini, who retired last month after 41 years with the county Department of Planning and Economic Development. In future years, the award will be named after Morandini, a long-time aide to small local businesses.

The last award went to Automation Alley, a collaborative business-government partnership that began in Oakland County and now has 1,000 members across southeast Michigan.

“I love this because it’s about celebrating success in job creation,” Snyder said afterward. “There are wonderful companies in Macomb County that are due to be complimented on their wonderful activities going on and, when you talk to these companies, they’re innovating, they’re creating new things, and they’re generating new jobs for hard-working people.”

URL: <http://www.dailytribune.com/government-and-politics/20140211/snyder-urges-macomb-business-community-to-lead-the-charge>

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Detroit water deal not close, Oakland County says

Tue, Feb 11

detroitnews.com



Oakland County public hearing - regional water aut

Pontiac— Suburban leaders say they're far from agreeing on joining a regional authority that would run Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department, despite pressure to reach a deal to facilitate the city's bankruptcy restructuring.

Top aides to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson made their position clear during a meeting Tuesday night with officials from Macomb and

Wayne counties to discuss the proposed authority. Their concerns include forcing suburban customers to bear the brunt of future costs associated with the water and sewer system.

Oakland County doesn't feel it has to make a quick deal with Detroit, deputy executive Gerald Poisson said.

"They certainly have timelines imposed by the court but we have repeatedly informed them their timelines aren't ours," said Poisson. "We are on the hunt for a mutually beneficial agreement."

Oakland County hosted the study session, which featured testimony from Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash and Deputy County Executive Robert Daddow. Macomb County commissioners David Flynn and Jim Carabelli and Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price also attended.

"There's no really good alternative. It's really picking the best bad plan," said Price. "We're all trying to come up with something."

The preliminary water plan calls for the suburbs to pay \$1.88 billion to lease the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, split into \$47 million per year over 40 years. Orr has been working with the department and suburban officials for the creation of a regional authority.

The yearly sum is a crucial component in Orr's plans to secure a funding source for the bankrupt city and help erase Detroit's \$18 billion debt.

Daddow said he has "horrendously troubling" concerns about the finances of Detroit Water and Sewerage, saying the most recent financial

statements the county has been given are from June 2012.

Daddow said Oakland County has been demanding additional financial records

from Detroit, including the water department's audited financial statement for 2013; the interim financial statement since the city filed for bankruptcy; details of labor contracts; lawsuits the department faces; planned capital improvements; and an explanation of how the city estimates it can generate \$47 million annually on the deal while keeping ownership of the system.

"The balance sheet is in an atrocious state," said Daddow. "They don't have a lot of cash

, and for an operation that runs a billion-dollar business, cash is important."

Should the deal go through, the counties would all be represented on the board, with two members each from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, two city appointees and one appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Flynn, chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, stressed doing what's best for residents.

"People aren't going to be happy because they aren't going to realize that water rates will go up under any scenario, whether we accept this deal or not," said Flynn. "At least we can get some control over the process."

- **Laura Berman: Laura Berman: In Olympics ad, Cadillac goes for smug – and green**

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

County board sticks with aggressive attorney

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Wednesday, February 19, 2014



The Macomb County Board of Commissioners has switched to a new law firm to handle the high-profile position of independent counsel, but they've stuck with the lawyer that played a pivotal role in the 2011-12 legal and political battles with County Executive Mark Hackel.

The board selected Dickinson Wright, one of the state's largest law firms, in part because Scott Smith switched from Clark Hill to Dickinson Wright last fall. Smith helped draft the ordinances that restored some of the board's pre-executive political authority – and drew vetoes from Hackel.

Smith was also the lead attorney in the circuit court fight between the commissioners and Hackel over the approval of government contracts. The commissioners won that battle on appeal, giving them the right to approve all contracts arranged by the Hackel administration that exceed \$35,000.

"We were looking for the best service at the best rate. So, this (Smith's switch) was the perfect storm," said Commissioner Kathy Tocco, a Fraser Democrat who chairs the board's Government Operations Committee.

Following interviews with all six law firms that submitted bids, Tocco's committee leaned heavily toward Dickinson Wright. Clark Hill and Dickinson Wright had both offered an hourly rate for the principal attorney serving the county at \$230. The two firms are located in the same building on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit.

When the full board met last week, Dickinson Wright emerged as the unanimous choice for the independent counsel on a voice vote. Officials said the process ended without any hard feelings.

"We appreciate the counsel and service provided by our previous independent counsel, Clark Hill, and we look forward to working with Dickinson Wright," said board Chair Dave Flynn in a written statement.

Price was not a factor on the surface, but "Scott (Smith) has always been phenomenal about billing" on an hourly basis, said Tocco, an attorney. "He is very flexible and very fair."

Smith also features a long resume consisting of legal work for cities, townships and counties.

In addition to Clark Hill and Dickinson Wright, the other bidders for the independent counsel job were: Beier

Howlett, Bellanca LaBarge, Secrest Wardle and Seibert and Dloski.

Under Macomb's new charter/executive form of government, the commissioners have their independent counsel, the executive's office has its independent counsel, and the in-house Office of Corporation Counsel handles a wide variety of legal matters for all departments, including the Board of Commissioners.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20140219/county-board-sticks-with-aggressive-attorney>

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Patches program a way to piece together Macomb County history

Sun, Feb 23

detroitnews.com



Kim Parr, director of the Crocker House Museum in Mount Clemens, holds a collectible patch from the museum.

Mount Clemens — History buffs can visit more than a dozen historic sites

in Macomb County and collect distinctive patches as they learn about the past.

The Macomb County Heritage Alliance's Patches of History program pieces together the county's rich past and promotes organizations that are part of the alliance. Visitors to any of the 13 participating locations can buy a 2-inch diameter sew-on patch that is unique to the group.

"Instead of competing against each other we are working together," said Kathy Vosburg, a member of the county Board of Commissioners and creator of the program.

The program is a way to promote not only Macomb's history but each local group, said Vosburg, who is a member of the Chesterfield Historical Society. The society's patch features the red and white 1800's Weller School and the Log Cabin constructed in the 1930s.

The patches sell for \$2 each while a larger, 3-inch diameter Heritage Alliance patch is \$3.

Kim Parr, director of Mount Clemens' Crocker House Museum

, said the patch program is a way to encourage people to visit historical locales in the county.

"It is a way to reach out to kids in our community and get them interested in local history," Parr said.

The Crocker House patch features the famed house, built in 1869 by the city's first mayor, Joshua Dickinson.

In the 1970s the Michigan State Highway Department bought the Crocker House for \$17,000. It was slated for removal or demolition in 1975, but was rescued by the Macomb County Historical Society. It was turned into a history museum the following year.

The Crocker House draws up to 2,000 visitors annually, Parr said, but that number is down, driven by fewer school field trips to the museum.

But Parr said she hopes the Patches of History program will get people interested in Macomb's

historical sites and inspire them to volunteer.

“A lot of my volunteers are retired school teachers, parents who used to bring their kids here or people who used to come here as kids,” she said.

Christopher Causley, president of the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society in Eastpointe, said joining forces with the Macomb County Historical Alliance and participating in the patch program was a natural thing to do.

He said he hopes the program helps “build awareness of the Alliance and it’s member groups.”

Causley said the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society was founded in 2008 and a museum opened in 2011.

The museum highlights the role the state played in the “defense of democracy” during the last century, sharing the history of World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam war, the Gulf Wars, as well as the Cold War era.

The museum patch is its crest of crossed cannons representing firepower produced by Michigan’s industries. In the center is an outline of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula with the track and tire marks of the TACOM crest.

Other participating organizations are the Albert L. Lorenzo Cultural Center on the campus of Macomb Community College

in Clinton Township, Macomb County Historical Society in Mount Clemens, New Baltimore Historical Society, The Grand Pacific House Museum in New Baltimore, Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society, Selfridge Military Air Museum in Harrison Township, St. Clair Shores Historical Society, Upton House in Sterling Heights, Sterling Heights Historical Commission and the Warren Historical and Genealogical Society.



Collectible patches that are a part of the Macomb County Heritage Alliance at the Crocker House Museum in Mount Clemens. Ten patches can be bought at local historical sites in Macomb County.

• Patches program a way to piece together Macomb County history

History buffs can visit more than a dozen historic sites in Macomb County and collect distinctive patches as they learn about the past.

• Clinton Twp. man faces charges in car crash death of St. Clair woman

• Mother accused of drunken driving, child endangerment in Macomb Twp.

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

Hate potholes? 'You ain't seen nothin' yet'

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Wednesday, February 26, 2014



The \$100 million in emergency funding under consideration in Lansing to fix pothole-filled roads will only patch a hole in Macomb County's road maintenance budget, as costs related to the brutal winter spiral out of control.

Bob Hoepfner, director of the county Roads Department, issued this warning on Tuesday to officials who are frustrated with crumbling roads:

"You ain't seen nothin' yet. It's going to be nasty."

With frost seeping nearly 4-feet deep into the ground and the prime pothole season still to come, in March and April, Hoepfner said the spring thaw will create far worse road deterioration than what motorists have experienced so far this year. Meanwhile, Macomb and most Michigan counties have already spent their entire winter budget amid record snowfalls and subzero temperatures.

The Macomb County Roads Department spent \$5.2 million on winter maintenance, as of Feb. 7, compared to \$3.2 million for all of last year's winter season and a small fraction of that amount in the 2012 winter. The fiscal year 2014 expenses include \$2.8 million spent on road salt and nearly \$300,000 in overtime pay for road crews.

The \$100 million package for statewide road repairs that's pending final approval in the Legislature would deliver \$2.4 million to Macomb County, with the cash possibly not arriving until May.

"That's great news, but I've already spent that money," Hoepfner told the Board of Commissioners. "Let's ... not sit here and say this \$100 million is going to solve things."

Crews are out three to four days a week putting asphalt patch onto the thousands of potholes and cracks in the roads but they cannot possibly catch up, especially with more snow storms coming on a routine basis. What's more, the road agency is trying to do more with less after experiencing a series of employee reductions over the past several years due to budget cuts.

The repeated snowfalls and icy situations have put a heavy toll on road maintenance trucks and equipment while the numerous runs by plow blades over pavement has popped loose countless asphalt patches from past years.

The last of the pothole patches may not be completed in June, Hoepfner said, with shortages in funds covered by

the road agency's "rainy day" fund of \$42.5 million.

While the Roads Department is well aware of motorists' frustrations with slow, jarring roadways, especially during rush hour, officials also warn that the coming conditions on subdivision streets and gravel roads will be worse than on the heavily traveled thoroughfares.

In addition, some of the road surfaces needing major reconstruction are more than 20 years old. The crumbling section of Mound Road from 18 Mile Road to M-59 in Sterling Heights is 25 years old, but that 2-mile reconstruction project may cost \$4 million. A stretch of Metropolitan Parkway in Harrison Township that's in need of concrete replacement was built in 1962.

Commissioner Rob Mijac said a county tax hike may be the only answer.

"I think the residents of Macomb County would be willing to pay a little more in taxes to pay for major road projects," said the Sterling Heights Democrat. "I think people are fed up and they're willing to pay more."

The commissioners postponed action on a resolution urging passage of the \$100 million legislation. They plan to come up with a revised document calling for a doubling of the one-time allocation, to \$200 million.

Here is how the situation stands in late February, with another major snowstorm expected this weekend and no reasonable expectation of an end to wintry weather until sometime in April:

Subdivision streets

Macomb may be the only county in Michigan to make a new 50-50 cost-sharing offer to townships to fix shattered subdivision streets. The budget for concrete repairs has been doubled to \$2 million and nine subdivisions thus far have requested road reconstruction, with homeowners footing half of the bill.

They are:

- In Clinton Township, the Smokler Subdivision, west of Garfield, north of 18 Mile;
the Edinburgh Subdivision, west of Garfield, north of 17 Mile; Sunfield Estates, west of Garfield, south of 18 Mile; and Mulberry Street, east of Gratiot, south of Metro Parkway.
- In Shelby Township, Judy Lane, from Eastbourne to Nadine; and Pierce, from Shelby Road to Nickelby.
- In Washington Township, Ivy Drive, north of 29 Mile, east of Mound; Barbara Ann Drive, north of 31 Mile, between Van Dyke and Sisson; Sharon Lee Drive, north of 31 Mile, between Barbara Ann and Sisson; and Applewood Valley Subdivision, south of 32 Mile, east of Campground.
- In Ray Township, North and South Apple Lane, east of Romeo Plank, south of 27 Mile.

"No other county is doing this. I hope they realize what a bargain they are getting," Hoepfner said. "We want to use some of those funds to fix some of these horrible subdivision roads."

Gravel Roads

The extensive frost this year and the big thaw coming from mounds of snow will make the usual spring ritual of

gravel road deterioration in north Macomb far worse this year, Hoepfner warned. The county has a large supply of gravel and limestone ready to go, but the conditions are beyond what the road agency has seen in decades.

“When the spring thaw comes, there will be heck to pay in the northern end of the of the county. Gravel roads will really be in bad shape,” Hoepfner told the commissioners.

Bridges

The good news is that the county is nearing the completion of its bridge repair and replacement program that began slowly in 2000. The goal of fixing 50 bridges across the county on a 50-50 cost-sharing basis with the local community is nearly complete.

The bad news is that the project was supposed to be completed in 2005.

As long ago as the late 1970s the county suffered from 22 closed bridges and 200 that were in poor condition and trucks and school buses were not allowed to cross. In Lenox Township, the community was nearly impassable because half of their bridges were off limits – a dangerous situation that extended rescue run times for fire trucks and ambulances.

The newest bridges up for repair this spring are the structure on New Haven Road just south of 28 Mile and the tiny bridge on Boardman Road just west of North Avenue.

Reimbursements for Motorists

While some who have studied the issue say a \$1,000 repair bill for tires, rims or suspensions due to deep potholes is no longer unusual, a motorist's ability to get reimbursement from the county road agency or the Michigan Department of Transportation is slim.

A person blaming car repairs on road conditions must be able to show that the suspect pothole was not fixed for 30 days after it was reported to authorities. In Macomb, pothole patching crews make two to three trips down every major road in the county each month.

As a result, the Roads Department (formerly the road commission) has never paid a reimbursement for car repairs.

Road warranties

Imposing road warranties on road builders, even a modest guarantee of no maintenance needed for five years, would create a “radical change,” Hoepfner said. The contractors would demand to have a say in the design of a rejuvenated road and the construction materials used to complete the project. They would likely post a bond through an insurance company that would raise costs. If problems arose that violated a warranty, determining who was responsible could result in a bitter fight.

Nonetheless, Hoepfner said he believes that the state is leaning toward warranties on all projects that involve state funds.

“I think it's probably a very good idea,” he said. “It's time has come.”

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20140226/hate-potholes-you-aint-seen-nothin-yet>

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February 24, 2014

Resolution Supporting Governor Snyder's Executive Budget Request For \$5 Million For Senior In-Home Services To Make Michigan a "No Wait" State

**Commissioner Toni Mocerri on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offer the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, by 2030, 1 in 4 of Macomb County residents will be 65 years of age and older. In contrast, as the number of elderly continue to grow, the number of residents age 0-64 will decrease from 86% in 2005 to 75% in 2030 indicating that Macomb County will age faster than the nation, state, and surrounding regions; and

WHEREAS, between 2008 and 2011 the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) programs were cut approximately 28% (\$9.3 Million), despite the fact that Michigan's senior population grew by over 20% from the 2000-2010 U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, the 127,000 Macomb County senior residents have been the benefactors of OSA state funds to support a range of social, nutritional, access and long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan, nearly 4,500 seniors are not receiving the much needed in-home services including home-delivered meals; and

WHEREAS, in Southeastern Michigan, half of the people qualifying for services must wait six months or more to receive services; and

WHEREAS, during the 2014 State of the State address, Governor Snyder made a commitment for Michigan to become a "no-wait" state for senior in-home services; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2014, Governor Snyder presented his executive budget to State Legislators which included an appropriation of \$5 million to the Department of Community Health (DCH) budget to support the OSA; and

WHEREAS, these funds would be utilized through the aging network to provide Michigan's seniors with the basic services that assist them in maintaining their independence, which include basic in-home services such as personal care to assist with daily hygiene; homemaking to help maintain a clean, safe and healthy home; respite providing relief to primary caregivers; home delivered meals and senior nutrition programs; chore and minor home repairs; care management to monitor use of community services; medication management; and personal emergency response systems to monitor safety and provide emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the Governor also requested an increase of \$9 million for the MI Choice Waiver Program and \$1 million in new funding for the prevention of elder abuse which includes training professionals in the medical and financial fields; and

WHEREAS, the Silver Key Coalition, an advocacy group of over 25 individuals, organizations and aging services providers which formed in July of 2013 with the goal ending the wait lists for OSA supported in-home services for seniors, was instrumental in advocating for this funding; and

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of the Senior Nutrition Program, which prompted them to appropriate an additional \$168,307 during the 2014 budget cycle to alleviate cuts from the sequestration; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this funding is now with the Senate and House DCH Appropriations Subcommittees chaired by Senator John Moolenaar (R-Midland) and Representative Matt Lori (R-Constantine) respectively.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports Governor Snyder's executive budget request for \$5 million for senior in-home services to make Michigan a "No Wait" state for our senior residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners encourage State Senator John Moolenaar and State Representative Matt Lori to approve Governor Snyder's budget request for \$5 million for senior in-home services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, State Senator John Moolenaar, and State Representative Matt Lori; and soft copies of this resolution be provided to all Macomb County State Legislators, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Community Services Agency Director Rhonda Powell, Macomb County Office of Senior Services Director Katherine Benford, AAA 1-B Board of Directors Chair Amin Irving, AAA 1-B CEO Tina Marzolf, and Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Coordinator Deena Bosworth.

February 24, 2014

**Resolution Urging The Michigan Legislature To Declare June
"Gun Violence Awareness Month"**

**Commissioner Toni Mocerri on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offer the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, gun violence is a national and local problem affecting many Americans and Michigan residents on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, numerous tragedies have occurred over the past few years demonstrating that gun violence is a serious problem; and

WHEREAS, often national attention is drawn only to large scale tragedies, yet there are gun violence injuries occurring on a daily basis throughout many American municipalities; and

WHEREAS, according to Physicians for Prevention of Gun Violence (PPGV), in the United States more than 30,000 men, women and children are killed per year by firearms, and another 70,000 are injured with nonfatal gunshot wounds; and

WHEREAS, according to the Law Center To Prevent Gun Violence, Michigan ranks 23rd among other states in number of gun deaths per capita; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Fatal Injury Data," Michigan's overall firearm deaths from 2001 to 2010 was 10,825 (10.83 per 100,000 residents), and Michigan's firearm suicides in 2010 was 601 (6.08 per 100,000 residents), and Michigan's firearm deaths among children, ages 0–17 from 2001 to 2010 was 555 (2.23 per 100,000 residents), and Michigan's law-enforcement agents feloniously killed with a firearm from 2002 to 2011 was 15 (0.15 per 100,000 residents); and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Fatal Injury Data," Michigan's aggravated assaults with a firearm in 2011 was 7,679 (86.41 per 100,000 residents), which was the seventh highest in the country; and

WHEREAS, guns are the most common weapon used in domestic violence against women and access to firearms increases the risk of homicide by more than 5 times; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has taken an active role in curbing gun violence by having one of the strongest gun laws in the country (ranked number 10) according to the Center for American Progress but more needs to be done to reduce gun violence in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature and various cities in New York State also passed resolutions to declare June “Gun Violence Awareness Month”; and

WHEREAS, the goals of Gun Violence Awareness Month should include promotion of greater awareness about gun violence and gun safety; bringing annual heightened attention to gun violence during the summer months when gun violence typically increases; and bringing citizens and community leaders together in the months leading up to June to develop ways to reduce gun violence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urges the Michigan State Legislature to declare June “Gun Violence Awareness Month.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, Lt. Governor Brian Calley, Senate Minority Leader Grethcen Whitmer, Michigan Speaker of the House Jase Bolger, Michigan House Minority Leader Tim Greimel; and soft copies of this resolution be provided to all Macomb County State Legislators, all Macomb County Elected Officials, Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje, Dr. Jerry Walden of Physicians for Prevention of Gun Violence (PPGV), Dr. Andy Zweifler of Physicians for Prevention of Gun Violence (PPGV), YEO Network Policy Director Dawn Hucklebridge, Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Coordinator Deena Bosworth, and National Association of Counties (NaCO) Director of County Solutions and Innovation Dan Gillison.

February 24, 2014

Resolution Supporting Michigan HB 4478 Which Amends The Michigan Election Law To Allow Physically Disabled Voters Who Have A Difficult Time Making A Mark On A Ballot To Use A Signature Stamp To Vote

**Commissioner Toni Mocerri on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offer the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, voting is the right of all citizens, including those who live with disabilities and any barriers to their participation in elections should be removed; and

WHEREAS, in East Lansing, a voter tried to vote using a signature stamp, and the ballot could not be accepted; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Election Law currently allows individuals who are unable to write to make a mark when applying to register to vote and requires the registration card in such cases to note the month, day, and year of the applicant's birth and other identifying information for use in identifying the individual when applying to vote; and

WHEREAS, under current Michigan law, the ability to use a signature stamp to validate a ballot is not specifically permitted nor is it prohibited; and

WHEREAS, Michigan HB 4478 sponsored by Representative Andy Schor, which passed the House unanimously in June, 2013, allows physically disabled voters who have a difficult time making a mark on a ballot to use a signature stamp to vote and provides important clarification to current law to allow physically disabled voters to exercise their constitutional right and civic duty; and

WHEREAS, HB 4478 would remove the barrier that requires electors to sign their absent ballots applications (and ballot return envelopes), and instead allow them to use a signature stamp on election documents that require their signature; and

WHEREAS, a spokesperson for the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition points out, "Many people with disabilities use assistive technology (AT) on a daily basis to live full and independent lives," and the signature stamp--a low-tech example of assistive technology--would give those who live with disabilities greater independence as voting citizens, and make easier their participation in elections; and

WHEREAS, at its hearing, the bill was supported by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Disability Right Coalition, the Michigan Municipal League, AARP (Michigan), GCSI, the Association of County Clerks, the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, and the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, HB 4788 has been passed to the Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections, which is chaired by Senator Dave Robertson, however no action has been taken thus far.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports Michigan HB 4478, which amends the Michigan Election Law to allow physically, disabled voters to use a signature stamp to vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners encourage State Senator Dave Robertson to take action on this bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution be provided to State Senator Dave Robertson, and State Representative Andy Schor; and soft copies of this resolution be provided to all Macomb County State Legislators, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh, and Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Coordinator Deena Bosworth.

February 25, 2014

Resolution Supporting The Michigan Senate's Special Appropriation of One Hundred Million Dollars For Winter Road Maintenance

**Commissioner Jim Carabelli on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offer the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, on February 6th, 2014, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 14-018 urging the Governor and State Legislators to direct a large portion of the budget surplus available for FY 2014 to fund maintenance of local roads; and

WHEREAS, on February 20th, 2014, the Michigan Senate adopted Senate Bill 608, sponsored by State Senator Roger Kahn, which allocated \$100 million of surplus dollars toward winter road maintenance for the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, \$39.1 million will be distributed to county road agencies and Macomb County's Department of Roads will receive approximately \$2 million; and

WHEREAS, the additional funds will offset some of the costs already incurred by the Macomb County Department of Roads as a result of one of the coldest and snowiest winters in Michigan history; and

WHEREAS, as of February 7th, 2014, the Macomb County Department of Roads has already spent approximately \$3.5 million for winter maintenance for primary county roads, which is 63 percent more than what was spent for the entire fiscal year of 2013 and 165 percent more than what was spent for the entire fiscal year of 2012; and

WHEREAS, as of February 7th, 2014, the Macomb County Department of Roads has already spent approximately \$1.7 million for winter maintenance for local county roads, which is 57 percent more than what was spent for the entire fiscal year of 2013 and 375 percent more than what was spent for the entire fiscal year of 2012; and

WHEREAS, winter maintenance spending will continue to increase for fiscal year 2014 as the winter is still not over and the ice and snow will continue to thaw over the next few months; and

WHEREAS, a more permanent solution for infrastructure funding is also necessary to resolve Michigan's deteriorating road infrastructure due to under funding for maintenance for the last 10 years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports the Michigan Senate's special appropriation of \$100 million for winter road maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urge the Michigan House of Representatives and Governor Snyder to support this special appropriation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, Michigan House Speaker of the House Jase Bolger, Michigan House Appropriations Committee Chair Joe Haveman; and soft copies of this resolution be provided to all Macomb County State Legislators, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Department of Roads Director Bob Hoepfner, and Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Coordinator Deena Bosworth.

February 27, 2014

Resolution Adopting Macomb County's Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

**Commissioner Jim Carabelli on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offer the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, the County of Macomb has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2014 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, multiple public comment sessions were held throughout Macomb County to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan including two public hearings on January 30, 2014 and February 27, 2014 Full Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, the County of Macomb has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt said Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the County of Macomb Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the County of Macomb.



MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



2014



Mark A. Hackel
County Executive

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SECTION 1.0

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Community Description

Introduction

The purpose of this comprehensive master plan is to provide parks and recreation opportunities for all Macomb County residents and visitors. This fresh and innovative planning process will take a wide-ranging approach to parks and recreation, which will enable Macomb County to effectively support facilities, programs and services at all levels of government. From municipal parks to regional recreational destinations, Macomb County seeks to engage a wide array of parks and recreation service providers, and to develop inventive and impactful strategies that will lead to a more integrated parks and recreation system.

This comprehensive planning process will also allow Macomb County the opportunity to enhance its presence and role in the administration of parks and recreation services. Macomb County seeks to establish a dynamic organizational and funding structure that will support the County's many parks and recreation assets. Focusing on efficient, effective and ethical service provision, Macomb County seeks to formalize its functions associated with parks and recreation. Under the direction of Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel, Macomb County has begun an expansive transformation. Parks and recreation is one of the major program areas that must modernize its operations to better meet the needs of an ever evolving population. Whether it is investing in existing facilities, expanding programming, acquiring new parklands or solidifying stakeholder networks, Macomb County is committed to investing in parks and recreation.

Macomb County understands and appreciates the many communities, departments, organizations and volunteers that continue to provide exceptional parks and recreation experiences throughout the County. In no way does this undertaking seek to diminish or undermine any of the facilities, programs or services currently in operation. This process seeks to enhance and expand on each of our parks and recreation initiatives and develop a contemporary framework that is based on partnership and collaboration. The County seeks to reach across municipal boundaries and generate opportunities for shared services and collective efforts surrounding parks and recreation. The parks and recreation master plan will be a catalyst to uniting common interests and solving frequent concerns. While there is not one single pool of resources or set of policies that will completely satisfy all parks and recreation needs, Macomb County believes that it can leverage initiatives, such as this plan, to garner additional support and interest that will benefit all of Macomb County.

The 2014 Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans". Utilizing this state recommended framework Macomb County will better position itself to implement an engaging range of parks and recreation services. By reaffirming its parks and recreation structure under the DNR Guidelines Macomb County will also reinstate its eligibility to apply for recreation grants from the Natural Resources Trust Fund Act (Part 19 of 1994 PA 451). It is Macomb County's intent to work closely with the State of Michigan to explore any and all funding opportunities that will expand parks and recreation within the County. The County will also work closely with local parks and recreation stakeholders to develop pioneering grant proposals, which will lead to the successful implementation of this master plan and champion intergovernmental cooperation. Ultimately this plan is a commitment by Macomb County to support and prioritize parks and recreation. It is an opportunity for all of Macomb County to showcase its pristine natural beauty and celebrated parks.

Community Description

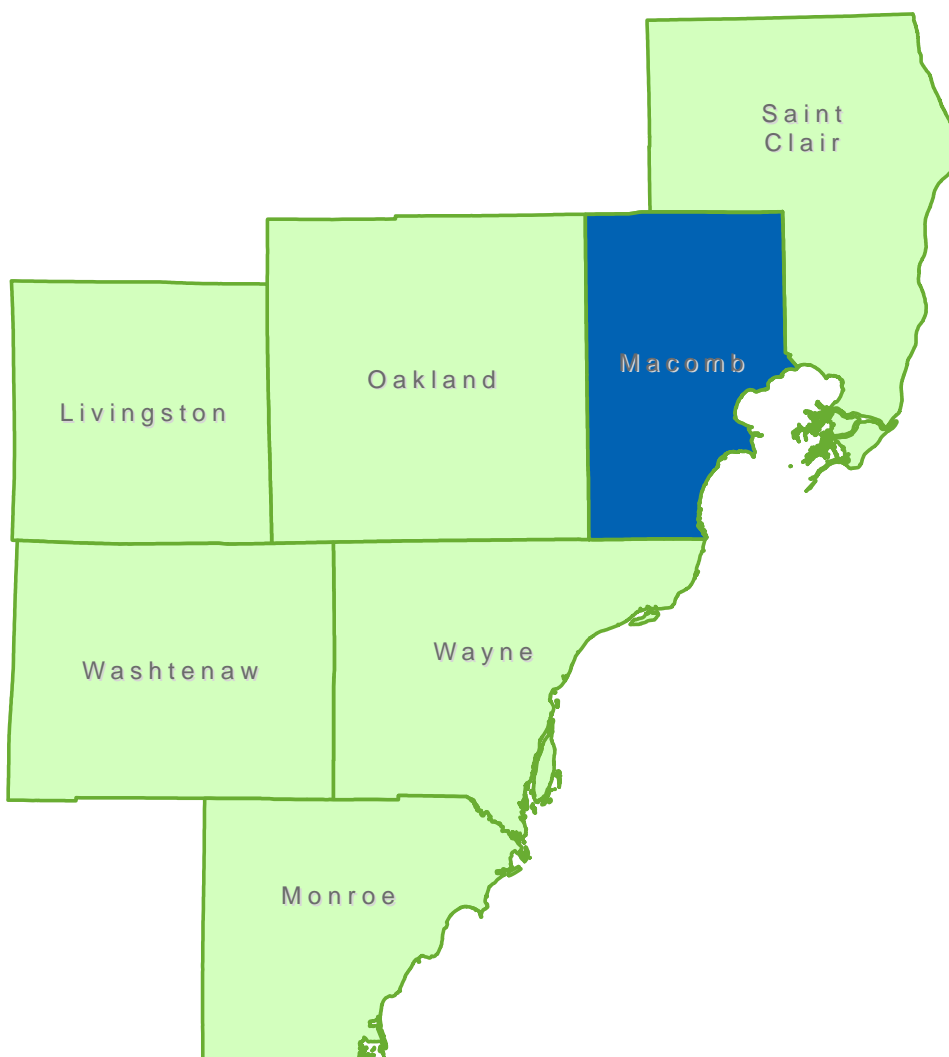
Regional Setting

Macomb County is located in Southeast Michigan. Positioned north of Wayne County and the City of Detroit, east of Oakland County, south of Lapeer County, southwest of St. Clair County and directly west of Lake St. Clair, Macomb County is home to a vast spectrum of people and places. Comprised of 27 local units of government, Macomb County is characterized by dynamic urban clusters, expansive networks of industry, pristine natural features and fruitful agricultural lands. From its densely populated southern cities to its charming rural villages, Macomb County possesses a wealth of assets that makes it a desirable place to live, work and play.

Macomb County is connected to Southeast Michigan through an expansive transportation network. The County is serviced by: two interstates, I-94 and I-696; a series of highways including M-3 Gratiot Avenue, M-97 Groesbeck Highway, M-53 Van Dyke and M-59 Hall Road; a grid-like network of local streets and mile roads; and an expansive non-motorized trail system. This interconnected hierarchy of transportation options provides Macomb County residents and visitors with safe and efficient access to any destination throughout the County.

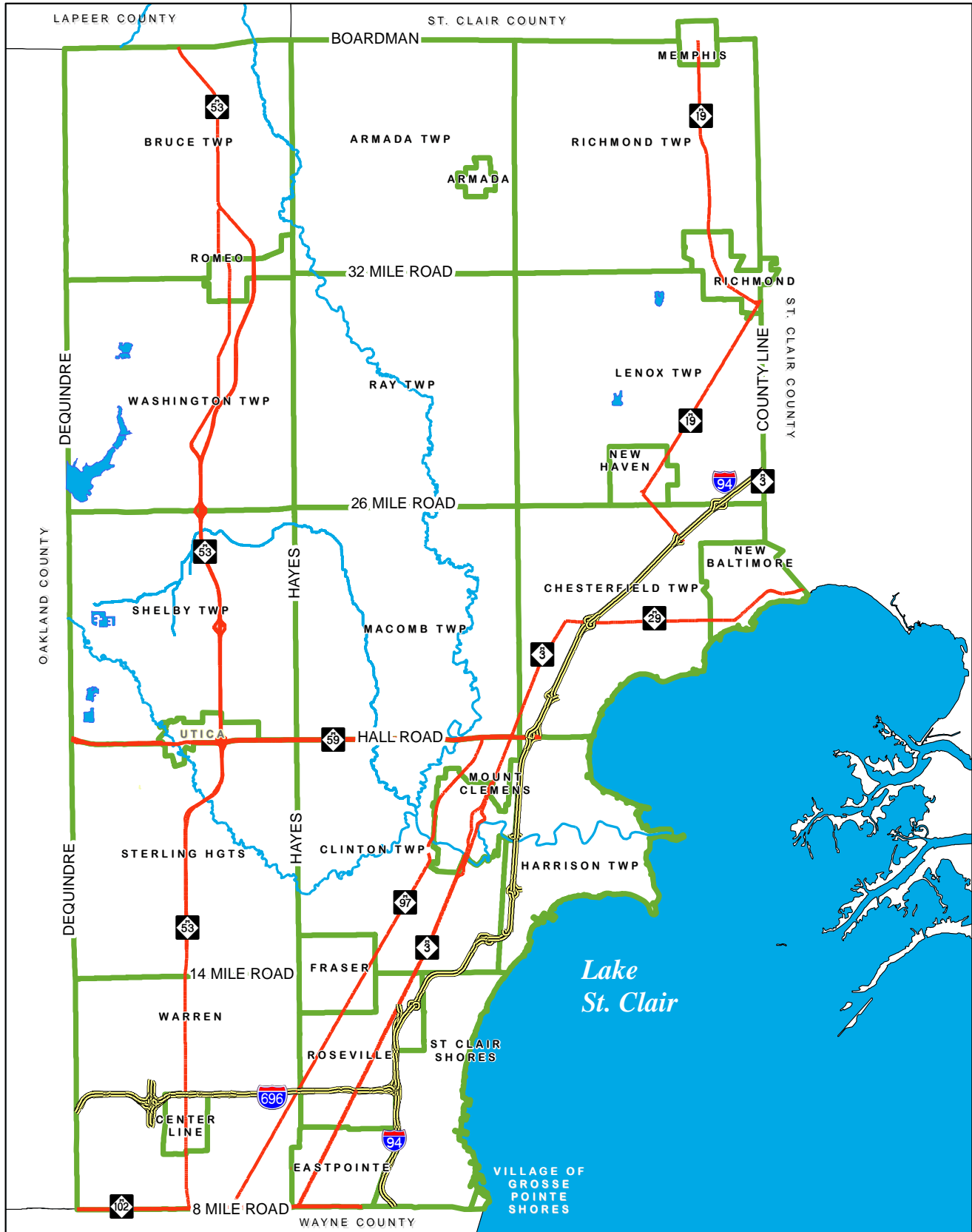
Macomb County's regional setting will play an integral role in this parks and recreation planning process. As the plan is developed, maintained and implemented, Macomb County must be aware of the role it will fulfill in the region. Parks and recreation is not a stand alone service, it is a system. As this system evolves here in Macomb County, it will do the same across the region.

Macomb County Parks Regional Setting



Community Description

Macomb County Communities



Community Description

History

Parks and recreation services have been facilitated by an active and diverse stakeholder network in Macomb County. In the early 1900s local governments were primarily responsible for providing parks and recreation for their communities. Most of these facilities and programs were relatively small local operations consisting of playgrounds, picnic areas and ball fields. These community green spaces served as gathering places for residents and created a safe environment for children to play.

In the mid 1900s, parks and recreation services began to evolve into more comprehensive operations here in Macomb County. With the creation of the Michigan State Park Commission in 1920 and the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, communities began to establish regional parks and recreation destinations. In Macomb County, one of the first regional parks destinations was Dodge State Park No. 8. Administrators sought to establish parks and recreation facilities that had more amenities and space to serve a larger population.

In the 1940s, Southeast Michigan took a major step in committing to parks and recreation with the creation of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks Authority (HCMA). The citizens of Macomb, Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties approved a regional special parks district under state legislation that created HCMA to oversee the procurement and maintenance of large public park spaces. Using the basins of the Huron and Clinton Rivers as the foundation for this preservation and parks cooperative, HCMA began to target areas and acquire land through funds derived from a property tax levy. By 1950, Macomb County had its cornerstone facility in Lake St. Clair Metropark. This regional parks and recreation destination was bringing Macomb County residents and visitors together on the shores of Lake St. Clair. The next couple of decades would usher in the creation of two more HCMA facilities in Macomb County: Stony Creek Metropark and Wolcott Mill Metropark. As the region began to see the successes of HCMA, Macomb County positioned itself to facilitate additional investments in parks and recreation.

In 1966, Macomb County created a parks and recreation commission to serve the recreational needs of Macomb County residents. One of the first comprehensive steps taken to gauge the residents' wishes and expectations associated with parks and recreation was drafting the 1971 Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Report for Macomb County. This document was created in cooperation with the Macomb County Planning Commission to guide the County's acquisition and development of parkland. Soon after, Macomb County invested in the creation of Freedom Hill County Park in Sterling Heights, which became one of the County's premier destinations. In the 1980s, Macomb County began to explore the benefits of comprehensive environmental stewardship programs and non-motorized trail networks. Macomb County's 1991 Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Master Plan provided a means for addressing many of the water related concerns with the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair and established opportunities to invest in trails.

In the early 2000s, the County developed the Macomb County Trailways Master Plan and the Macomb Orchard Trail Master Plan. These two documents provided Macomb County with a strategic framework to acquire property and build a non-motorized trail network. By 2007, Macomb County had expanded Freedom Hill, constructed the Macomb Orchard Trail and drafted a new parks master plan. Macomb County now possessed vibrant local parks, regional parks destinations, interconnected non-motorized trails and a network of dedicated administrators and volunteers. Momentum was building across the County for parks and recreation, but in 2008 this momentum was stopped by an economic downturn.

Community Description

As the national, state and local economy began to slip into a recession Macomb County property values headed into a decline. Resources that communities had set aside for parks and recreation were now being siphoned back into general funds to support basic community services. Macomb County was not immune to these municipal ills, and began to make difficult decisions to solve its financial hardships. In early 2010, Macomb County was forced to close Freedom Hill and shutter its Parks and Recreation Department due to a lack of funding. Macomb County was financially unable to provide the services and amenities that it once had, and there was a major void in the regional parks and recreation landscape.

For the better part of three years, Macomb County was unable to commit any funds to facilitate active parks and recreation services for residents and visitors. In 2011, Macomb County residents ushered in a new executive form of government. Mark A. Hackel was elected as Macomb County's first County Executive. Taking the helm, Executive Hackel began to overhaul the County's finances and reinvest in major quality of life initiatives that could enhance the profile of Macomb County. Macomb County was quickly promoting its fresh water assets with the "Blue Economy Initiative" and marketing the County through "Make Macomb Your Home". After two years in office, Executive Hackel began to explore the feasibility of reviving the County's dormant parks and recreation services. In the fall of 2012, he advised the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development (MCPED) to begin the process of updating the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The County's long history of investing in parks and recreation has provided residents and visitors with an immense foundation to build upon. This plan will act as a catalyst to revive the vibrancy and impact Macomb's parks and recreation destinations once had.

Demographic Characteristics

In order to develop a parks and recreation master plan that is both relevant and attainable, a comprehensive demographic and economic analysis is needed. The following sub-sections will highlight a number of demographic and economic benchmarks that are shaping the current and future needs of Macomb County. These trends will undoubtedly have an impact on the provision of parks and recreation services in Macomb County. The population of Macomb County or the household income level alone will not predict the community's future recreational needs. However, the following analysis will incorporate geographic, population, race, age, income, employment and a number of other major community metrics to develop a composite framework for how Macomb County should shape its parks and recreation initiatives.

Population Analysis

Macomb County's population has been steadily increasing since the 1940s. Over the past half decade, the population has risen from nearly 108,000 residents in 1940, to more than 840,000 residents as of the 2010 Census. Currently, the Southeast Michigan Council of Government estimates Macomb County's population at 851,915. This 688% increase in population came in waves from decade to decade, and transformed the County on many fronts.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the appeal of the suburbs began to attract residents and businesses to Macomb County. In two decades Macomb County's population went from just over 100,000 residents to more than 400,000. This first population boom for Macomb County was mainly concentrated in the inner-ring suburban communities surrounding the City of Detroit. Communities like Warren, St. Clair Shores and Eastpointe saw immense gains in population as the residential housing stock in Macomb County began to expand.

Community Description

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the massive influx of population into Macomb County continued. Macomb County had established itself as a viable alternative to living in the City of Detroit. Residential development spurred the County's capacity to cater to new residents. As the County's population grew, the need for residents to access services also developed. Commercial and municipal services began to expand throughout the community, as both governmental administrators and investors realized the stability and opportunity of Macomb County living. In one single decade, Macomb County added more than 200,000 residents.

By the 1980s, Macomb County was beginning to see the full impact of suburbanization. The County's northern Townships began to experience unprecedented growth. Communities that once were viewed as rural pastures were now becoming home to thousands of Macomb County residents. In 1990, with a population exceeding 700,000, Macomb County's physical landscape was changing at a staggering rate. Homes, shopping centers, schools, office buildings and municipal complexes were popping up all across Macomb County. By the turn of the millennium Macomb County's population was reaching 800,000 residents, and development on all fronts was booming.

The first decade of the 21st century saw Macomb County reach unimaginable highs and experience troubling lows. From urban cores to rural enclaves Macomb County communities were in the midst of incredible prosperity. Residential development was fortifying community growth with an influx of new residents and a growing tax base. Private business was investing in Macomb County with

new facilities and employment opportunities were growing. Municipal stakeholders were facilitating the expansion of governmental services from infrastructure to social programs. Macomb County now had the third largest population of any County in the State of Michigan, and all major economic indicators were pointing up. Unfortunately, by the second half of 2000s national economic crisis hit Macomb with local impacts. After

Macomb County Population			
Year	Population	Population Change	% Change
1940	107,638	-	-
1950	184,961	77,323	71.84%
1960	405,804	220,843	119.40%
1970	625,309	219,505	54.09%
1980	694,600	69,291	11.08%
1990	717,400	22,800	3.28%
2000	788,149	70,749	9.86%
2010	840,978	52,829	6.70%
2020	869,978	29,000	3.45%
2030	884,865	14,887	1.71%
2040	905,390	20,525	2.32%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Community Description

sustaining over five decades of incredible population increases, growth began to slow. By 2008 the nation was in the grips of a staggering recession, and Macomb County was not immune to the ill effects of this economic slow down. Residential development came to a screeching halt, and so too did the County's grand population increases.

By the 2010 United States Decennial Census, Macomb County's population had reached 840,978 individuals. This was an increase from previous population counts; however the incredible rate of population increases experienced throughout the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s was no longer sustainable. The County's population is projected to continue its upward trend over the next couple decades. By 2040, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments projects Macomb County's population to reach 905,000 residents. The last four decades of the 20th century ushered in a 94% increase in population for Macomb County from 405,000 to 788,000 individuals. Comparatively, population growth over the first four decades of the 21st century is expected to increase 14%. Macomb County's population will continue to increase over the next three decades, but at a more subtle rate. The sheer number of residents that reside in a County alone does not provide an adequate analysis of population trends. Population distribution is a valuable analysis to perform. Analyzing the distribution of residents across communities over time illustrates migration patterns and trends in community formation. The distribution of population across Macomb County will provide valuable insight into facilitating parks and recreation.

Population by Community Clusters

Macomb County is comprised of 27 local units of government. By simply stating Macomb County's population is 852,915 residents, the County does not adequately illustrate the dynamic nature of its residents and communities. In order to illustrate the true impact of the County's population, it is beneficial to analyze the distribution of Macomb's residents by community clusters based on location and similar built/natural environments. The following analysis will link each of Macomb County's 27 communities into three core Community Clusters: Urban Core; Suburban Cluster; and Rural District.

Macomb County Population by Community Cluster

	1990	% of Total Pop.	2000	% of Total Pop.	2010	% of Total Pop.
Urban Core	322,696	44.98%	307,457	39.01%	296,328	35.24%
Suburban Cluster	354,919	49.47%	426,916	54.16%	481,002	57.20%
Rural District	39,785	5.55%	53,776	6.82%	63,648	7.57%
Total Population	717,400	100.00%	788,149	100.00%	840,978	100.00%

Urban Core

Macomb County's Urban Core includes the following communities: Warren; St. Clair Shores; Roseville; Eastpointe; Fraser; Center Line; and the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores. These 7 communities are characterized

Community Description

as some of the first inner-ring communities surrounding the City of Detroit. This municipal cluster experienced immense population growth during the mid-1900s, due to the migration of individuals and industry out of the City of Detroit. Today, Macomb County's Urban Core is home to some of the County's most established residential neighborhoods, parks and schools. These communities offer a wide array of parks and recreation facilities. Population growth has tapered off in these communities over the past 3 decades. In 1990, these seven communities housed nearly 45% of Macomb County's population, and in 2010 that number dropped to 35%. As Macomb County's population increased, so too did the ability for individuals to access a wider array of housing options in communities located further north. Development and migration patterns soon strengthened the cluster of communities from 14 Mile Road to 26 Mile Road. These communities would become the foundation of Macomb County's Suburban Cluster.

Urban Core Population Analysis

Urban Core	1990	2000	2010
Warren	144,864	138,247	134,056
St Clair Shores	68,107	63,096	59,715
Roseville	51,412	48,129	47,299
Eastpointe	35,283	34,077	32,442
Fraser	13,899	15,297	14,480
Center Line	9,026	8,531	8,257
Grosse Pointe Shores	105	80	79
Urban Core	322,696	307,457	296,328

Suburban Cluster

The Suburban Cluster encapsulates the following municipalities: Sterling Heights; Clinton Township; Shelby Township; Chesterfield Township; Harrison Township; Macomb Township; Mt. Clemens; Washington Township; New Baltimore; and the City of Utica. This cluster of 9 communities is characterized by expansive residential developments, regional shopping centers, historical cities and industrial hubs. Beginning in the 1980s, population in a majority of the Suburban Cluster municipalities began to soar. Anchored by immense residential development and the services needed to support this new population base, these suburban communities began to rise in size and stature. Present day Macomb County's Suburban Cluster is home to some of Michigan's largest and fastest growing communities. In 1990 Macomb County's Suburban Cluster accounted for just over 49% of the County's population. By 2010 that number reached over 57% of the County's population. This growth has spurred an expansion of infrastructure and municipal services, which has supported an incredible wealth of parks and recreation amenities. With incredible natural features and expansive regional parks Macomb County's

Community Description

Suburban Cluster offers a vast spectrum of parks and recreation experiences. Together the County's Suburban Cluster and Urban Core account for over 92% of the County's population. The remaining nearly 8% live in Macomb County's Rural District.

Suburban Cluster Population Analysis

Suburban Cluster	1990	2000	2010
Sterling Heights	117,810	124,471	129,699
Clinton Township	85,866	95,648	96,796
Shelby Township	48,655	65,159	73,804
Chesterfield Township	25,905	37,405	43,381
Harrison Township	24,685	24,461	24,587
Macomb Township	22,714	50,478	79,580
Mt Clemens	18,405	17,312	16,314
New Baltimore	5,798	7,405	12,084
Utica	5,081	4,577	4,757
Suburban Cluster	354,919	426,916	481,002

Rural District

Macomb County's Rural District includes 11 communities: Washington Township; Bruce Township; City of Richmond; Village of Romeo; Ray Township; Lenox Township; Armada Township; Richmond Township; Village of New Haven; Village of Armada; and the City of Memphis. Characterized by agriculturally dominated townships and vibrant small towns, Macomb County's Rural District boasts pristine natural features, expansive farm operations and charming villages and cities. Unlike its Urban and Suburban counterparts Macomb County's Rural District has limited water and sewer infrastructure, which restricts the scope and density of development. This lack of infrastructure has provided the Rural District with the opportunity to focus on agricultural heritage and cultivating strategic "placemaking" initiatives. The six townships located in the Rural District are members of the Macomb Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights Committee. This intergovernmental agreement seeks to preserve active farmland and ensure land remains available for agricultural uses. The Rural District is also the epicenter for many of Macomb County's historic rural hamlets. From the Victorian styling of the Village of Romeo to the innovative streetscape in the Village of Armada, these small villages and cities are cultivating small business and orchestrating communitywide social gatherings. The Rural District is home to some of Macomb County's most expansive regional park destinations including Stony Creek Metropark, Wolcott Mill Metropark

Community Description

and W.C. Wetzel State Recreational Area. Macomb County also operates the Macomb Orchard Trail, a 24 mile linear park and trailway in this area. Population in Macomb's Rural District has been steadily increasing since 1990, when the population of these 11 communities was almost 40,000. By 2010 that number reached over 63,000 residents accounting for nearly 8% of the County's total population.

Rural District Population Analysis

Rural District	1990	2000	2010
Washington Township	11,386	17,122	23,296
Bruce Township	4,193	6,395	6,947
City of Richmond	4,141	4,896	5,733
Village of Romeo	3,520	3,721	3,596
Ray Township	3,230	3,740	3,739
Lenox Township	3,069	5,362	5,828
Armada Township	2,943	3,673	3,649
Richmond Township	2,528	3,416	3,665
Village of New Haven	2,331	3,071	4,642
Village of Armada	1,548	1,573	1,730
Memphis	896	807	823
Rural District	39,785	53,776	63,648

Age

Age is an essential demographic indicator when planning for parks and recreation. The age compositions of a community allow parks and recreation stakeholders to better gauge and implement activities that are tailored to current and future users. When we analyze the age breakdown of a community, we can better determine the appropriate mix of parks and recreation services needed to serve the public. For example, a community with a younger population may seek to invest in more active parks and recreation amenities including playgrounds and ball fields. A community with an increasingly elderly population may need additional passive recreational amenities including walking trails and activity centers. Ultimately, any community establishing a comprehensive parks and recreation system would benefit from a balanced system of amenities that provides access to all users regardless of age or ability.

Community Description

In 1990, Macomb County's median age was 33.9, by 2000 it increased to 36.9, and in 2010 it reached 39.9. Macomb County is not alone in this pronounced increase in median age with the State of Michigan and the nation also witnessing steady increases in median age. This steep increase in median age highlights an elderly demographic trend that is being spurred by larger portions of Macomb County residents transitioning into the later stages of life.

When analyzing Macomb County's population by United State Census Bureau 5-year age groups, the aging trend facing the County becomes more apparent. From 2000 to 2010 Macomb County saw every age group over the age of 45 increase.

Macomb County Population Change by Age Groups					
	2000		2010		Change 2000-2010
Age	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 5	51,062	6.48%	48,815	5.80%	-2,247
5 to 9 years	54,125	6.87%	52,758	6.27%	-1,367
10 to 14 years	53,865	6.83%	56,245	6.69%	2,380
15 to 19 years	48,685	6.18%	56,807	6.75%	8,122
20 to 24 years	44,772	5.68%	49,511	5.89%	4,739
25 to 34 years	115,714	14.68%	101,393	12.06%	-14,321
35 to 44 years	132,503	16.81%	118,439	14.08%	-14,064
45 to 54 years	108,261	13.74%	132,855	15.80%	24,594
55 to 59 years	40,135	5.09%	56,646	6.74%	16,511
60 to 64 years	31,376	3.98%	47,329	5.63%	15,953
65 to 74 years	55,980	7.10%	61,092	7.26%	5,112
75 to 84 years	39,782	5.05%	40,803	4.85%	1,021
85 years and over	11,889	1.51%	18,285	2.17%	6,396
Total	788,149	100.00%	840,978	100.00%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Community Description

The largest increases were seen in the 45 to 54 years (24,594 residents), 55 to 59 years (16,511 residents), and 60 to 64 years (15,953 residents). With these increases in elderly age groups, Macomb County's 45+ residents now account for more than 42% of the County's population. During this past decade the County experienced sizable decreases in middle aged and youth age groups. The 25 to 34 years and 35 to 44 years age groups both lost more than 14,000 since 2000. Macomb County also saw declines in residents less than 5 years of age, and residents' age 5 to 9 years, a net loss of more than 3,500 residents. These population trends by age group affirm the County's aging phenomenon. Macomb County is experiencing more of its residents entering the later stages of the lifecycle. In the past, these numbers were offset by births and in-migration of young families, but current demographic patterns suggest that Macomb County will continue to age at an increasing rate.

Age by Lifecycle Category

Combining residents into lifecycle categories by age groups provides a more relatable synopsis of Macomb County's population. By taking census age groups and combining them into larger lifecycle categories, the County can analyze its population using larger cohort groups that closely resemble identifiable stages of a normal human lifecycle. Selected categories and the age intervals that they represent include: pre-school (Under 5), school (5-19), young adult (20-24), family formation (25-44), middle-age (45-64), and seniors (65+). Each lifecycle category is a useful indicator of population trends and community needs. For example, a rise in pre-school and school age categories would strengthen a community's youth population, thus leading to facilities, programs and services that would cater to children and young families. An increase in middle-age and senior categories would position a community to explore opportunities for senior citizen service expansion and aging in place initiatives.

Age By Lifecycle Category Analysis						
Macomb County						
	1990		2000		2010	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pre-School (Under 5)	48,914	6.82%	51,062	6.48%	48,815	5.80%
School (5-19)	142,682	19.89%	156,675	19.88%	165,810	19.72%
Young Adult (20-24)	53,688	7.48%	44,772	5.68%	49,511	5.89%
Family Formation (25-44)	236,119	32.91%	248,217	31.49%	219,832	26.14%
Middle-Age (45-64)	147,540	20.57%	179,772	22.81%	236,830	28.16%
Seniors (65+)	88,457	12.33%	107,651	13.66%	120,180	14.29%
Total	717,400		788,149		840,978	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The pre-school, school, young adult and family formation lifecycle categories are essential to the growth and stability of a community's population base. A community that can establish a strong foundation of families with children, a core group of young adults and attract new residents will position itself to have sustainable gains in population. More households can create an environment for more schools and business opportunities. Since 1990, Macomb County has seen uneven gains in these four lifecycle groups. Currently, these four lifecycle categories account for more than 57% of the County's total population. This is a considerable portion of the county's population, but this number has decreased since 1990. In 1990, these four lifecycle groups accounted

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for more than 67% of the County's population. This 10% drop can be attributed to the fact that the only one of these four groups that increased over the past two decades was the school aged children, which increased by more than 23,000 individuals. During this same time period, the pre-school, young adult and family formation categories dropped by a combined 20,563 residents. This illustrates a net gain in population for these four categories of more than 2,500 residents; however, this gain is not enough to offset the immense increase in the middle-age and senior categories.

The middle-age and senior lifecycle categories have considerable impact on a community's service provision network. From senior citizen services to a comprehensive network of wellness and healthcare providers, as these two lifecycle categories increase so too will the need for public service. In 2010, the middle-age and senior lifecycle categories account for nearly 43% of the County's total population. This number is up from just 32% in 1990. In two decades, Macomb County residents entering middle-age and senior status have increased by more than 121,000 residents. These numbers confirm the aging trend that was highlighted in the previous section. Macomb County is aging, and this demographic surge is going to drive not only the needs of parks and recreation services, but the whole spectrum of social and governmental services.

Gender, Race and Ethnicity

Gender, race and ethnicity are three important demographic factors to consider when planning for parks and recreation. Exploring the diversity of a community will highlight the ever changing nature of the places we call home, and the continuing need to ensure that all residents feel welcome and engaged. Parks and recreation can play an integral role in supporting unity and inclusion. From local little leagues to regional cultural festivals, parks and recreation services can build stronger communities that engage all residents.

Macomb County's gender breakdown is evenly distributed between males and females. In 2010, Macomb County's population was comprised of 432,266 females and 408,712 males, 51.4% and 48.6% of the total population respectively.

Macomb County 2010 Gender Analysis		
	Number	%
Females	432,266	51.40%
Males	408,712	48.60%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The racial composition of Macomb County has transformed over the past decade. In 2000, 92% of Macomb County residents identified themselves as white. The largest minority group at that time was Black or African American residents at 2.7% of the population. The County's Asian population was just over 2%, and the Hispanic or Latino population peaked at 1.5%. In a little over a decade, these figures quickly changed. The 2010 Census highlighted Macomb County's emerging racial diversity. In 2010, 85% of Macomb County's residents were white. This is still a considerable majority; however the County saw significant gains in its minority population. The County's Black or African American population went from 21,326 residents in 2000, to 72,723 residents in 2010. Black or African American residents now account for more than 8% of Macomb County's population.

Community Description

The County's Hispanic and Asian populations also increased over the past decade, currently representing 2.27% and 2.98% of County residents respectively. As Macomb County has continued to grow, so too has its racial diversity. With safe neighborhoods, great schools, expansive parks and responsive public service, Macomb County continues to be a welcoming and prosperous place that people want to call their home. The diversification seen in Macomb County's racial composition can also be seen in the County's various ethnic groups.

Macomb County Race Analysis				
	2000		2010	
	Number	%	Number	%
White	730,270	92.66%	717,973	85.37%
Black or Africa American	21,326	2.71%	72,723	8.65%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,478	0.31%	2,646	0.31%
Asian	16,843	2.14%	25,063	2.98%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	178	0.02%	179	0.02%
Some Other Race	3,106	0.39%	4,760	0.57%
Two or More Races	13,948	1.77%	17,634	2.10%
Total	788,149	100.00%	840,978	100.00%
Macomb County Hispanic/Latino Analysis				
	Number	%	Number	%
Hispanic or Latino	12,435	1.58%	19,095	2.27%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Macomb County has always welcomed ethnically diverse populations. This tradition of acceptance and understanding of diverse cultures can be seen in the County's continued commitment to supporting ethnic celebrations, cultural centers and community based ethnic service institutions. Macomb County's largest ancestry groups have been predominately of Western European decent. German, Polish, Italian and Irish people have continually integrated themselves into Macomb County. Recently, Macomb County has seen an increase in ancestry groups of Middle Eastern decent. The County's Assyrian/Chaldea/Syriac, Iraqi and Lebanese ancestry groups have increased considerably over the past decade. This diverse pool of ancestry groups continues to change on a daily basis as more people look to Macomb County as a place to live, work and play. Regardless of gender, race or cultural background, Macomb County continues to illustrate its capacity to welcome all people.

Community Description

Macomb County Top 20 Ethnic Groups					
2000			2010		
Ethnic Group	Number	%	Ethnic Group	Number	%
German	189,358	24.03%	Other Ancestries	124,908	14.91%
Polish	150,900	19.15%	German	121,900	14.56%
Italian	108,752	13.80%	Polish	116,964	13.97%
Irish	93,819	11.90%	Italian	88,393	10.55%
Other Ancestries	70,298	8.92%	Irish	53,210	6.35%
English	64,018	8.12%	English	39,272	4.69%
French (except Basque)	46,401	5.89%	American	34,352	4.10%
American	30,411	3.86%	French (except Basque)	24,925	2.98%
French Canadian	20,533	2.61%	French Canadian	12,126	1.45%
Scottish	18,412	2.34%	Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac	11,874	1.42%
Belgian	17,581	2.23%	Scottish	11,463	1.37%
Scotch-Irish	10,775	1.37%	Belgian	10,573	1.26%
Dutch	10,463	1.33%	Albanian	10,003	1.19%
Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac	9,356	1.19%	Scotch-Irish	8,119	0.97%
Lebanese	8,380	1.06%	Dutch	5,543	0.66%
Ukrainian	8,228	1.04%	Iraqi	5,509	0.66%
Hungarian	7,582	0.96%	Greek	5,483	0.65%
Greek	7,436	0.94%	Lebanese	5,399	0.64%
Albanian	7,183	0.91%	Yugoslavian	5,260	0.63%
Russian	6,635	0.84%	Ukrainian	4,839	0.58%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Community Description

Disability Analysis

Planned improvements to the County's park and recreation system should consider the needs of all population groups. Individuals with disabilities are one of the key groups that community leaders and parks administrators need to account for when planning for parks and recreation. Information on disability status of the population was collected from the 2010 United States Census. In 2010 Macomb County had 110,401 residents that reported having some form of disability. Encompassing 13% of the County's population, residents with disabilities were represented in each age demographic. The largest concentration of residents with disabilities was individuals aged 18 to 64 years, with 58,295 residents. As Macomb County continues to expand its parks and recreation network, administrators must ensure that all residents and visitors, regardless of ability, have full and free access to facilities, programs and services.

Macomb County 2010 Disability Analysis							
Under 5		5 to 17 years		18 to 64 years		65 years and over	
# With Disabilities	% of total Pop. Under 5	# With Disabilities	% of total Pop. 5 to 17	# With Disabilities	% of total Pop. 18 to 64	# With Disabilities	% of total Pop. 65+
386	0.80%	8,114	5.60%	58,295	11.10%	43,606	37.20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Community and Economic Characteristics

The population counts and demographic analysis above provides a valuable foundation for parks and recreation planning. The number, composition and characteristics of Macomb County residents illustrate many impactful trends that will steer parks and recreation stakeholders to make more informed decisions. In order to refine this analysis many community based characteristics must be analyzed. Incorporating housing, land use, labor force and other economic indicators will illustrate a community's capacity to support parks and recreation investments.

Household Profile

The above population analysis highlights Macomb County's rising population. As the number of County residents has increased over the past decade, so too has the County's housing stock. In 2000, Macomb County had just over 320,000 housing units. By 2011, the number of housing units in Macomb County had increased to more than 356,000. This substantial increase of more than 30,000 housing units has altered the composition of Macomb's County's households.

Macomb County 2011 Housing Units		
Occupied Housing Units	330,452	92.70%
Vacant Housing Units	25,911	7.30%
Total Housing Units	356,363	100.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Community Description

A household consists of people who occupy a housing unit. In 2000, Macomb County had more than 309,000; by 2011 this number reached over 330,000 households. Currently, 77% of the County's households are owner-occupied, while 22% are renter occupied.

As the number of households has increased, the County's average household size has been relatively unchanged. In 2000 the average household size in Macomb County was 2.52 individuals. In 2010, it dropped slightly to 2.51 residents per household, but by 2011 it rose again to 2.52. This stability in average household size can be attributed to the number of family households in Macomb County. In 2011, Macomb County has 221,640 family households, by far the largest household type in the County.

Macomb County 2011 Occupied Housing Analysis		
Owner-occupied	256,695	77.70%
Renter-occupied	73,757	22.30%
Occupied Housing Units	330,452	100.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Macomb County 2011 Household Type	
Household Type	Total
Family Households	221,640
Married Couple Family	168,309
Male householder, no wife present, family	13,869
Female Householder, no husband present, family	39,462
Nonfamily Households	108,812
Total Households	330,452

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The economic characteristics of households also impact parks and recreation opportunities within a community. Household income levels illustrate varying degrees of economic stability within a community. The distribution of income levels within a community can assist parks and recreation stakeholders with better administering an appropriate slate of services. For example, if a community has a greater concentration of households with higher income levels, there is a higher likelihood of a more robust tax-base to be leveraged for parks and recreation services. Higher income levels also illustrate a greater ability to participate in a wider range of recreation activities, especially those with associated fees. A concentration of households earning lower income levels limits a municipal tax base and the ability to leverage fee based parks and recreation services.

Community Description

Macomb County's 2011 median household income was \$54,078, which is higher than the State and national rates at \$45,981 and \$50,502 respectively. In Macomb County, the largest household income category is households with an income of \$50,000 to \$74,999, encompassing 19.3% of all households. When analyzing the extremes of the household income spectrum, 20.8% of County households earn less than \$25,000 annually, while 34.2% of households earn more than \$75,000 annually. The median household income rates for Macomb County highlights the County's viable residential base.

Labor Force

A community's labor force is an essential community characteristic to analyze when gauging economic vitality. The more robust labor force a community possesses, the more opportunity there is for local economic prosperity. As a local economy grows, the community has the ability to invest in many community and cultural amenities including parks and recreation services. For Macomb County, the past decade has been plagued by labor force volatility. In 2000, Macomb County had more than 407,000 individuals in the civilian labor force. Of those 407,000, 95.8% of the labor force was employed. This left the County with an unemployment rate of less than 5%. By 2010, Macomb County's unemployment rate had risen to more than 14%.

Macomb County 2011 Household Analysis		
Total Households	330,452	
Less than \$10,000	18,220	5.50%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	16,159	4.90%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	34,266	10.40%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	36,566	11.10%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	47,564	14.40%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	63,876	19.30%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	46,925	14.20%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	45,837	13.90%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	14,018	4.20%
\$200,000 or more	7,021	2.10%
Median household income (dollars)	\$54,078	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Macomb County Labor Force Characteristics		
	2000	2010
Civilian Labor Force	407,716	434,580
Employed	390,791	371,675
Unemployed	16,925	62,905

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Community Description

This was an alarming increase; however in that same time period, Macomb County's civilian labor force increased by nearly 27,000 individuals to 434,580. Present day Macomb County's unemployment rate is hovering around 9%, with the labor force just shy of 400,000 individuals.

Community Land Use and Natural Features

The composition and distribution of land uses has a profound impact on planning for parks and recreation. As a community begins to strategize where to best invest in parks and recreation, it is imperative to analyze and understand the complexities of development patterns, environmentally significant areas and community activity nodes. This synopsis will better aide stakeholders in creating parks and recreation opportunities that are appropriately sited, developed and managed. As development and conservation patterns evolve in Macomb County, so too will the size, scale and service area of our parks and recreation assets.

Land Use

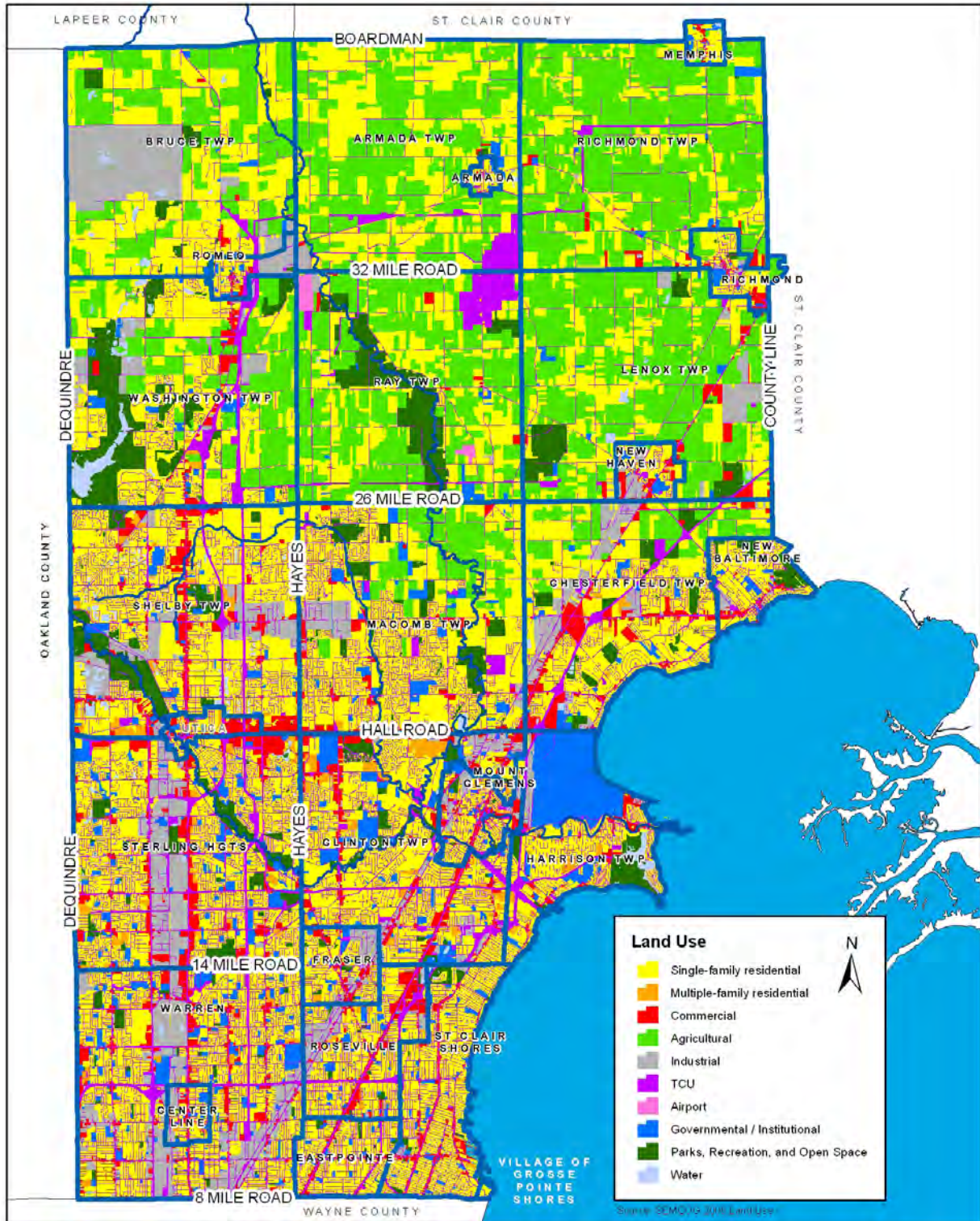
Macomb County possesses a vibrant mix of land uses. With 27 unique and dynamic communities, Macomb County's landscape is filled with a wide spectrum of uses ranging from dense urban settings to expansive rural areas. In total, Macomb County is comprised of 310,372 acres of land. The largest land use classification in Macomb County is Single-Family Residential, which accounts for 126,925 acres, 40.89% of the total land area. The County also possesses a mix of Multiple-Family Residential opportunities, accounting for 3,958 acres, 1.28% of the total land area. Altogether residential uses cover more than 42% of Macomb County's landscape. From upscale estate communities to contemporary apartment style development, Macomb County is flush with residential opportunities that meet all lifestyle needs and price points. The predominance of residential uses illustrates the County's ability to sustain and attract residents. With such a vibrant mix of housing options, Macomb County has a stable residential base that will support community-based investments in parks and recreation services. This foundation of residential land has made the County rich with areas to integrate parks and recreation facilities. Macomb County can continue to leverage its residential base to advance parks and recreation by integrating parks, conservation areas and trails into residential developments.

The second largest land use category in Macomb County is land zoned for agricultural purposes. Farms, orchards and other agricultural production operations account for 71,690 acres of land. Totaling 23% of the County's total land, the agricultural uses are mostly located in the County's rural district. Macomb County's agricultural assets are producing fresh foods and preserving fruitful soils. From rolling fields of wheat and corn to bicentennial fruit orchards, Macomb County has a critical mass of agricultural uses that promote environmental sustainability and local economic vitality.

The County also exhibits an abundance of land zoned for parks, recreation and open space encompassing 17,642 acres. Macomb County is flush with parks and recreation destinations. From quaint neighborhood parks, to regional recreation destinations, the County has a robust network of facilities that are engaging residents and visitors. Tracts of open space are predominately located in the County's Rural District providing pristine areas highlighting the County's natural beauty. The County's open space clusters intermingle with prime agricultural areas. The following parks and recreation inventory section will provide a more in-depth analysis of the County's parks, recreation and open space assets. This collection of property not only provides Macomb County with a great number of existing parks and recreation assets, but also as important an ability to explore and invest in additional services, facilities and programs that will expand the current parks and recreation uses.

Community Description

Macomb County Land Use



Community Description

Commercial and industrial nodes are also situated throughout Macomb County. Land zoned for commercial uses makes up 14,569 acres, 4.69% of total land area. Encompassing regional shopping centers along major thoroughfares, local neighborhood convenience centers and unique boutiques nestled in historic downtowns, the County's land dedicated to commercial development is diverse in scope and size. Industrial uses are also integrated into Macomb County's landscape. With 20,770 acres (6.69% of the total land area) zoned for industrial uses, Macomb County boasts major manufacturing facilities and technologically advanced research and development labs. Together, commercial and industrial uses provide residents with daily retail needs, professional services and employment for thousands of individuals. These hubs of commerce and community act as major economic generators and provide opportunities for the County to grow.

Macomb County also has a wealth of government and institutional uses. With award winning schools, sprawling hospital campuses and government facilities, Macomb County possesses 13,992 acres of these uses, 4.49% of the total land area. These community-based operations are integral to the future prosperity of Macomb County. Schools act as community meeting places and provide parks and recreation opportunities ranging from gymnasiums to playgrounds. Hospitals provide health and wellness initiatives that can lead to a more active and healthy population. Government at all levels is responsible for facilitating parks and recreation. As our communities grow, it is imperative that government and institutional uses remain viable community resources.

Natural Features

Macomb County possesses a wealth of natural features and environmentally significant areas. From freshwater assets to pristine woodlands, the County offers outdoor enthusiasts a diverse and lush landscape to explore and appreciate. The centerpiece of Macomb County's natural features is Lake St. Clair. The lake covers 440 square miles of area and provides the County with 32 miles of freshwater coastline. As the gathering place of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair is a haven for recreational boating and fishing and is populated with a number of regional and local parks.

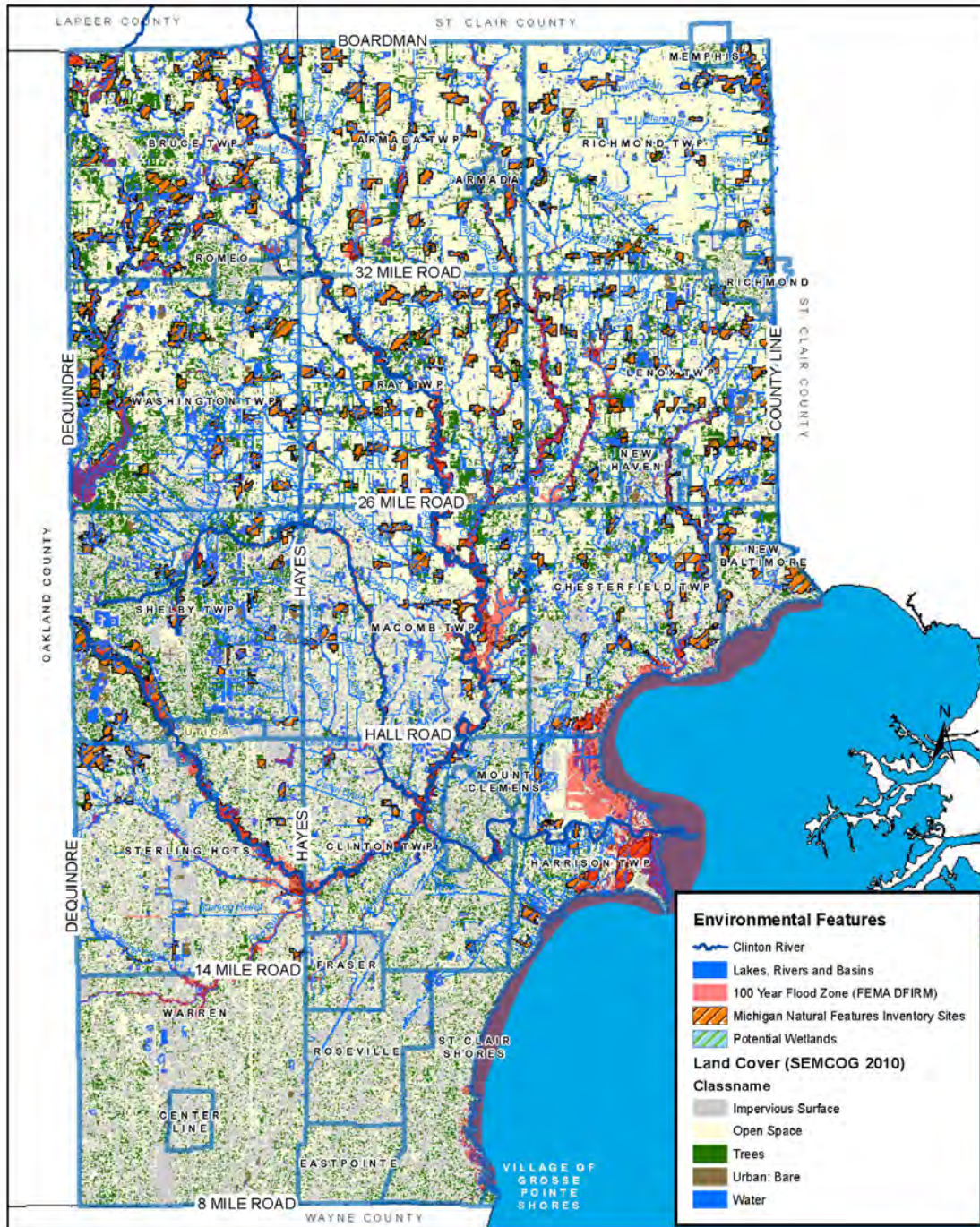
Meandering through Macomb County and feeding into Lake St. Clair is the Clinton River. This prime natural watercourse is anchored by the Main Branch which is 81.5 miles long. The river is home to a variety of wildlife species, such as the great blue heron, beaver, muskrat, mink, fox and at least 59 species of native fish. The Clinton River also boasts an elevation drop of approximately 450 feet from its headwaters to the mouth, making it an excellent river for paddle sports. The River is part of a larger watershed that is flush with additional ecological features. The Clinton River Watershed encompasses 760 square miles, and has more than 1,000 miles of streams and hundreds of lakes and ponds. More than 1.5 million people in 63 communities live in the Clinton River Watershed, making it the most populous river basin in the State of Michigan. This robust network of lakes, rivers, streams, ponds and drains provides Macomb County with ecological and quality of life advantages. From its breathtaking vistas to its inviting water activities, Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River Watershed possess an abundance of features that can enhance parks and recreation facilities, services and programs.

Beyond its freshwater resources, Macomb County's landscape is also populated with a number of other engaging natural features. The County has a number of unique conservation areas inland. These areas catalogued by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) identify "potential conservation areas" that are dominated by native vegetation, water features and unique natural environments. In Macomb County, these environmentally significant areas are located predominately in the Suburban Cluster and Rural District. These natural hubs are nestled along the banks of the Clinton River, the coast of Lake St. Clair, hidden in rolling agricultural areas

Community Description

and anchored by undisturbed woodlands. These environmentally significant locations lend themselves to conservation and parks initiatives because of the complexities associated with developing these areas. When integrated into comprehensive environmental and recreational planning strategies, these areas can highlight Macomb County’s natural beauty and provide pristine areas for residents and visitors.

Macomb County Environmental Features



Community Description

Demographic and Land Use Considerations

The information gathered in the preceding demographic and land use analysis will act as the foundation for parks and recreation planning. The analysis provides a broad overview of Macomb County and the many opportunities to invest in parks and recreation facilities and programs. The single most impactful conclusion is the steady increase in population Macomb County continues to experience. With a stable influx on new residents, Macomb County has the ability to leverage gains in population into additional households and business investment. These increases will provide the County and local municipalities with an expanding tax base, which can then be utilized to strategically invest in parks and recreation amenities. From a community perspective, as new residents begin to integrate themselves into Macomb County, parks and recreation programs and facilities can be a vibrant link to their new home. A continued commitment to parks and recreation can enhance the desirability of the County and strengthen civic pride. As population grows, so too should the County's commitment to parks and recreation.

The population analysis also highlighted a substantial increase in the County's senior population. This is a significant demographic trend that will have a profound impact on parks and recreation services. As the county, region and state begin to experience increased numbers in their senior population, it is imperative that government, at all levels, continue to engage this growing segment of the population. Macomb County's senior citizens have invested in this County for decades. From raising families to owning homes and frequenting local businesses, these individuals have remained committed to making Macomb their home. Parks and recreation services can be a viable community service to ensure our seniors remain dynamic members of society. Scenic parks, walking paths, wellness programs and other passive recreational services will provide seniors and our communities with impactful amenities for all generations. Macomb County can target its increasing senior population with programs and services that will allow residents to age in place and create multi-generational communities that cater to the needs of all residents.

From a land use development perspective, the community description illustrated a number of interesting trends. The abundant residential land use supplies Macomb County with a critical mass of potential parks and recreation users. From traditional neighborhood development nestled along historic main streets to expansive subdivision developments drawing in new residents, Macomb County has the ability to target residential clusters for parks and recreation investments. Making parks and recreation facilities more accessible to residential clusters will provide residents with a higher likelihood to connect to them. The County also possesses a wealth of existing parks and recreation facilities at the local, county, regional and state level. Targeting these existing uses provides a beneficial starting point to prioritize parks and recreation investments. The subsequent sections of this document will extensively catalogue these assets, and demonstrate the advantage of targeting these facilities for continued programming and events. One final characteristic that will be useful to the future success of Macomb County's park and recreation strategy is the amount of open space in the County. With large tracts of undisturbed natural areas and agricultural land, Macomb County can target properties for conservation and environmental activities.

As each day passes, the data and characteristics from this community description will transform. Regardless of the demographic trends or community development strategies, Macomb County must ensure that parks and recreation is a priority. Parks and recreation programs and facilities are a prime ingredient in the future prosperity of Macomb County. Every community has housing, business and infrastructure. However, not every community has regional parks, freshwater resources, regional concert amphitheatre or hunting and fishing

Community Description

venues. A pledge to parks and recreation provides Macomb County with the ability to set itself apart from its neighboring counties. This plan is the first step in a commitment to focus on parks and recreation. The following sections will provide Macomb County, and its parks and recreation stakeholders, with a viable framework to fortify parks and recreation.

SECTION 2.0

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Administrative Structure

Administrative Structure

The planning and implementation of a comprehensive parks, recreation and open space strategy cannot be accomplished without a cohesive administrative structure. A network of elected officials, advisory boards, citizens groups, administrators, philanthropists and volunteers is needed to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and investments are made soundly. From developing budgets to cultivating staff, the administrative structure surrounding parks and recreation is vital to current operations and future accomplishments. The following section will detail Macomb County's past, present and ideal parks and recreation administrative structure.

Parks and Recreation Administration of the Past

Macomb County has been directly involved in the administration of parks and recreation since 1966. That year, the County established a Parks and Recreation Commission pursuant to State of Michigan Public Act 261 of 1965. The Parks and Recreation Commission was created by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. For nearly 50 years, it has operated as the planning and policy-making body for parks and recreation undertakings. These two bodies have worked in chorus furthering Macomb County's parks and recreation agenda through a number of avenues. From the establishment of Freedom Hill County Park to the cultivation of the Macomb Orchard Trail, these two entities were able to provide the County with a number of valuable parks and recreation assets.

This conventional parks and recreation structure also established a parks and recreation department during its tenure. The Macomb County Parks and Recreation Department was created to carry out the day-to-day parks and recreation functions for Macomb County. At its height, the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Department had seven full-time personnel. The department was led by the Parks and Recreation Administrator who served as the technical advisor to the boards and supervised all park activities, programs and staff. The department also facilitated the lion's share of capital improvements and marketing functions associated with parks and recreation at the County level. Seasonal staff and volunteers were also brought in on an as needed basis to assist with events and special parks functions.



This parks and recreation administrative structure served the County admirably for nearly a half century. However, economic trends and governmental restructuring forced the County to make some difficult decisions. In the late 2000's, Macomb County, like many other communities across the state and nation, began to experience a period of economic volatility. The ability to sustain the County's parks and recreation services through general fund allocations was not possible due to plunging tax revenues. With limited funding and a need to restructure

Administrative Structure

public services, the County had to make the difficult decision to disband the Parks and Recreation Department and shutter many of the County's parks and recreation operations. These necessary actions hampered Macomb County's ability to actively program and invest in parks and recreation. This restructuring of parks and recreation left Macomb County with no dedicated parks and recreation staff and a limited budget that was set aside for basic maintenance. For nearly 3 years Macomb County's parks and recreation services remained inactive, but in 2011 the County began to experience an economic turnaround, which provided an opportunity for a renewed commitment to parks and recreation.

The Executive Transition

The residents of Macomb County created a new charter form of government. This new structure developed an executive form of government. In 2010, Mark A. Hackel was elected as Macomb County's first County Executive. Under the authority of the Macomb County Home Rule Charter, Executive Hackel was given the responsibility to enact a local government which is efficient, economical and ethical. This new form of government changed the administration of county services. In the past, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners was the administrative body of County government, but the Charter granted new powers to the Executive's Office. The Macomb County Home Rule Charter states that the Executive has the authority, duty and responsibility to, "supervise, coordinate, direct and control all County departments/services except for departments headed by Countywide Elected Officials". With Executive Hackel at the helm, Macomb County began to restructure the County's administrative functions. This restructuring of responsibilities placed the County's parks and recreation service network under the authority of the Macomb County Executive's Office.

The Macomb County Executive's Office placed a priority on investing in quality of life initiatives. Soon after taking office, Executive Hackel created the "Make Macomb Your Home" initiative. This branding and marketing campaign was established to highlight Macomb County's quality of life assets. "Make Macomb Your Home" leveraged www.makemacombyourhome.com to create an online catalogue of what Macomb County has to offer to residents, businesses and visitors. This new energy and interest in Macomb County's assets provided the Executive's Office with a unique opportunity to reimagine Macomb County's freshwater water resources.

Understanding the value of Lake St. Clair, the Clinton River and the County's watershed system, Executive Hackel created the Blue Economy Initiative. Designed to celebrate the world-class assets of the Clinton River and coastal Lake St. Clair, the Blue Economy Initiative is based on three core principles: environmental stewardship, economic development and quality of life. This initiative has enhanced the accessibility and quality of Macomb County's fresh water assets. Furthermore, the County drafted the "Macomb County Blue Economy Strategic Development Plan" which prioritized capital improvements and programming associated with Macomb County's Blue Economy. The success of the Blue Economy Initiative led the Executive's Office to prioritize other elements



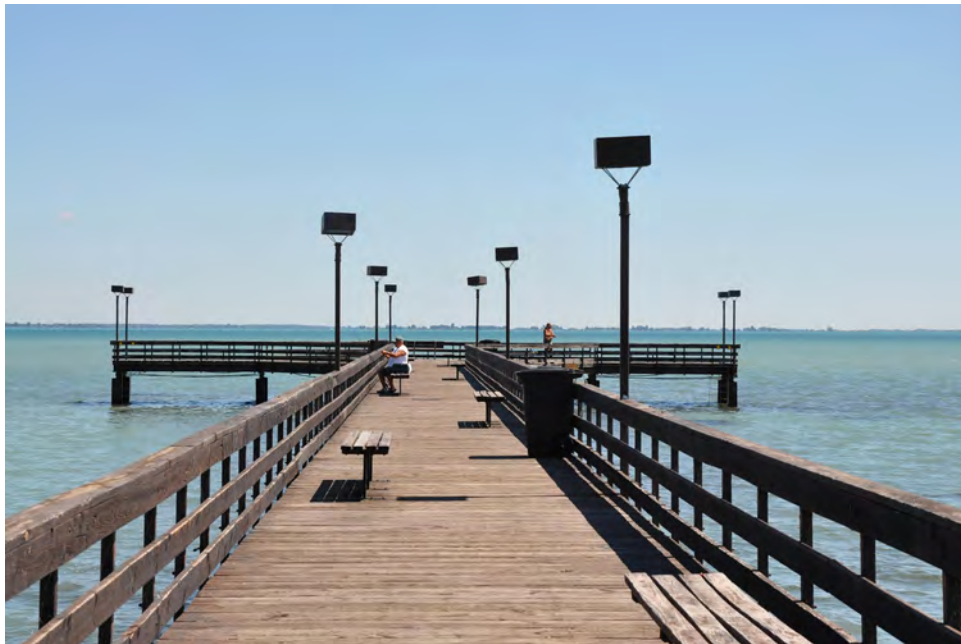
Administrative Structure

of the County's parks and recreation infrastructure.

With interest and activity increasing surrounding the County's freshwater resources, Executive Hackel focused on reopening Freedom Hill. In 2009, Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheatre was shuttered due to a lack of funding and instability with the parks management structure. Understanding the value of this regional park and amphitheatre, the Executive's Office began to explore the financial and human resources needed to reestablish this facility as a destination. After nearly 2 years of planning, Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheater was reopened in the spring of 2013. The County established a relationship with Luna Hillside LLC. to take over the operations of the amphitheater. This new management agreement provided the park with \$2 million dollars of capital improvements and a long-term agreement to manage events and programming at the amphitheater. The County also expanded maintenance and reestablished some staffing at the park. The summer of 2013 was the first full concert series at Freedom Hill in 3 years. From nationally renowned concerts to local community

festivals, Freedom Hill is open for business and Macomb County remains committed to this parks and recreation facility.

The success of Freedom Hill also provided Macomb County with an opportunity to reposition additional parks and recreation operations. Macomb County had sustained a comprehensive non-motorized trail system through a network of departments. At any one time the Planning and Economic Development Department, Public Works and the Department of Roads were involved in the development and



maintenance of the County's trail system. This fragmented system was hampered by a lack of coordination and understanding of lead organizations. The Executive's Office recognized these pitfalls and restructured the County's non-motorized trail responsibilities. The Department of Roads was given the authority and responsibility to lead the County's non-motorized trail efforts. Executive Hackel created the staff and structure within the Department of Roads to administer the day-to-day functions of the County's comprehensive non-motorized trail system. From the Macomb Orchard Trail to the County's many local connectors, the Department of Roads is now the primary development and maintenance agency for trails.

In just two short years in office, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel was able to establish a number of widespread reforms that reaffirmed Macomb County's commitment to parks and recreation. This targeted restructuring illustrates the new administration's ability to deliver impactful services. This governmental reorganization provided Macomb County with a prime opportunity to reinvigorate its parks and recreation strategy. During this transitional period, Macomb County took a number of positive steps to develop major initiatives and solidify departmental responsibilities associated with parks and recreation. As the Executive ushered in "Make Macomb Your Home", the Blue Economy Initiative and the re-opening of Freedom Hill, the positive value and force of parks and recreation became more and more evident. It is this activity and interest

Administrative Structure

that has led Macomb County to revisit and revise its parks and recreation administrative structure.

Parks and Recreation Administration Moving Forward

Executive Leadership

This is Macomb County's first parks and recreation master plan created under a County Executive form of government. With new leadership and departments in place, it is time for the County to make definitive changes to its parks and recreation administrative structure. The future duties and responsibilities of administering a comprehensive parks and recreation system within Macomb County must be facilitated by the County Executive's Office. Unifying the parks and recreation administrative structure under the authority of the Macomb County Executive will provide the County with a clear and contemporary organizational configuration.

The groundwork of this new administrative philosophy lies in Macomb County's Home Rule Charter. The Executive is charged with management and organizational responsibilities that can support parks and recreation in Macomb County. The roles and responsibilities of the Executive's Office encompass the coordination of county departments, organizational planning, committee appointments, intergovernmental relations and ensuring the continuity of government. With a



new executive form of government in place, the County has an opportunity to create a more vibrant and dynamic parks and recreation structure. The foundational principles in this executive form of government provide the leadership and support network that will take parks and recreation in Macomb County to new heights.

Macomb County Departments

The initial phase of this new parks and recreation structure will be to leverage and synchronize the efforts of existing Macomb County departments. As currently situated, Macomb County has two departments actively involved in the planning and implementation of Macomb County's parks and recreation system: The Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development (MCPED) and the Macomb County Department of Roads (MCDR).

MCPED is the primary planning and economic development agency for Macomb County. Within the department there are two workgroups who have been tasked with facilitating the comprehensive planning of parks, recreation and open space: Planning and Mapping Services and Land and Water Resources. From parks and recreation master plans to facilities and trail strategies, Planning and Mapping Services staff is focused on providing the County with impactful and strategic planning documents. The Land and Water Resources workgroup is exclusively involved in the cultivation and implementation of Macomb County's Blue Economy Initiative. Targeting the

Administrative Structure

County's freshwater resources and environmentally significant areas, the Land and Water Resources Group facilitates project scoping, stakeholder coordination and fund development for the "Blue Economy Initiative". The Land and Water Resources workgroup has also facilitated a number of events and meetings ranging from the annual Sprint and Splash Duathlon to ongoing meetings with the Water Resource Advisory Council. Under the direction of the Macomb County Executive's Office, MCPED will continue to act as the lead planning and coordinating arm for the County's parks and recreation initiatives.



The MCDR has also been integrated into parks and recreation at a number of different levels. The Macomb County Executive has placed the coordination, development and maintenance of Macomb County's non-motorized trail network in the hands of the MCDR. The system is anchored by the 24 mile Macomb Orchard Trail, the Metropolitan Parkway Freedom Trail and a network of local non-motorized connectors. The MCDR utilizes planning, engineering and maintenance staff to support the County's non-motorized routes and engages a growing number of stakeholder groups through public outreach. MCDR is also

the County's lead fiduciary for State of Michigan Public Act 51 of 1951. This act governs state appropriations for most Michigan transportation programs and helps fund local transportation projects in Macomb County. Beyond the County's non-motorized trail network, the MCDR has also been tapped to assist with the reopening of Freedom Hill County Park. MCDR staff has been involved in facilitating capital improvements and maintenance at the facility since its reopening. Targeting existing resources, equipment and staff, the County has leveraged the MCDR to reinvest in many of the County's parks and recreation facilities.

The continued involvement of MCPED and MCDR in the administration of parks and recreation is essential to the future success of Macomb County's initiatives. These two Departments possess the staff, resources and partnership networks that can sustain existing parks and recreation services within Macomb County. Working with the Macomb County Executive's Office, these two Departments must continue to invest in parks and recreation and provide the County with opportunities to expand services and facilities.

Macomb County should also explore the involvement of other departments in administering parks and recreation services. The County has three departments that could expand their scope in parks and recreation: Macomb County Facilities and Operations; the Macomb County Office of Public Works Commissioner; and the Macomb County Department of Health and Human Services. Each of these departments has the resources and staff which could be leveraged for facility maintenance, programming and event coordination. Working with the Macomb County Executive's Office, these departments could be better integrated into parks and recreation initiatives as opportunities arise. As the County invests in programs and facilities additional staff will be needed to facilitate these activities. Utilizing existing staff is a way to incrementally build capacity and coordinate intra-departmental activities.

Administrative Structure

As Macomb County refines its parks and recreation services, the administration should explore reestablishing the parks and recreation department. A standalone parks and recreation department would help consolidate all activities into one department. Following the lead of neighboring counties, a dedicated parks and recreation staff could facilitate daily operations, promote and market county park functions, oversee funding and serve as a liaison to parks and recreation agencies and commissions. This commitment will illustrate that Macomb County is dedicated to providing an expanded parks and recreation system.

Commissions and Advisory Groups

Macomb County possesses a number of boards, commissions and advisory groups that are furthering the parks and recreation agenda within the County. From legislative bodies representing Macomb County's growing population to specialty commissions focused on programming and facilities, the County has utilized a wide range of advisory groups that link citizens to the decision making process. Over the years, each of the following entities has played a supportive role in expanding the scope and impact of parks and recreation. As the County seeks to refine its parks and recreation administrative structure under the new executive form of government, the duties, responsibilities and representatives of each of these entities will change. Macomb County is also committed to creating new parks and recreation advisory groups. Working alongside each of the following entities the County seeks to leverage this plan as the foundation for future collaboration. Developing the framework for additional countywide parks and recreation advisory councils will strengthen the County's administrative structure. Targeting newer state enabling legislation and emerging park advocates, Macomb County can cultivate modern advisory committees. This representative based advisory system will incorporate elected officials, administrators, park operators, the general public, volunteer organizations and advocacy groups. The focal point of this reorganization is to position existing and future stakeholder groups in the best way possible to advance parks and recreation in Macomb County.

Macomb County Board of Commissioners

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) consists of 13 members, each representing a specific geographic district. The BOC is granted legislative powers through the Macomb County Home Rule Charter, and is responsible for adopting resolutions and ordinances.

As the legislative body for Macomb County, the policies and procedures enacted by the BOC will support the implementation of parks and recreation objectives. The BOC and Macomb County Executive Office will work cohesively on advisory committees. Specific to the parks and recreation master plan, the BOC is instrumental in facilitating public outreach and hearings and in dedicating resources through the budget approval process



Administrative Structure

Macomb Orchard Trail Commission

In 2001, the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission (MOTC) was formed. This intergovernmental commission was established to facilitate the development, maintenance and programming for the 24 mile Macomb Orchard Trail. Membership of the Commission includes representatives from communities bordering the trail, the Macomb County BOC and a member of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. The Commission is staffed by the Macomb County Department of Roads and Macomb County Corporation Council. Focused on facilitating planning, programming and special events for the trail, the MOTC is an integral administrative entity for Macomb County's non-motorized trail system.

Macomb County Water Resources Advisory Council

In May 2011, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel called for the formation of a public/private sector council to support clean water, tourism, recreation and economic development along Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River. The resulting Macomb County Water Resources Advisory Council meets quarterly to discuss issues of water quality, access and attraction. The 24 member Council includes representatives from government, higher education, environmental agencies, economic development and private industry. This group was the first advisory council formed by the County Executive under the new form of government and will be an advocate for Macomb County's continued commitment to the Blue Economy Initiative.



Macomb Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights Committee

The Macomb Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights Committee (PDR) was formed to preserve farmland and open space in Macomb County's rural district. Created as an inter-local agreement under the Urban Cooperation Act, the committee is comprised of two members from Macomb County and two members from each of the County's rural townships. These include: Washington

Township; Ray Township; Lenox Township; Richmond Township; Armada Township; and Bruce Township. The PDR Committee assists property owners in utilizing the voluntary purchase of development rights program (Public Act 116 of 1974) to preserve agricultural land in perpetuity. Under the program, farmers enter into a contract with the State of Michigan to keep their land in farming and agree not to develop the land. In exchange for that restriction, the landowner may receive state income tax credits. In Macomb County the PDR Committee has preserved three farms, and continues to educate the general public regarding the economic and societal impacts of having a robust agricultural community.

Local Partnerships and Intergovernmental Relations

It is important that the administration of parks and recreation in Macomb County include external stakeholder

Administrative Structure

groups and municipal partners. Macomb County can expand its parks and recreation footprint by engaging existing parks and recreation providers, community service organizations and local governments. The inclusion of public, private and non-profit organizations will allow Macomb County to develop strategic partnerships that will lead to a more collaborative parks and recreation system. By engaging outside agencies, Macomb County can explore and expand upon existing parks and recreation programs and create opportunities for resource sharing. Targeted partners include: National Recreation and Parks Association; Michigan Recreation and Parks Association; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; Clinton River Watershed Council; Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority; municipal parks and recreation departments; school districts; senior citizen groups; and local service/community organizations. Each of these entities provides a service that can help bolster Macomb County's comprehensive parks and recreation strategy.

Parks and Recreation Budget

On an annual basis, the Macomb County Executive's Office prepares a budget to execute County services. This process sets aside annual expenditures and revenues for parks and recreation. In 2013, parks and recreation expenditures totaled \$322,507 in Macomb County. The majority of the County's expenditures associated with parks and recreation were spent on supplies and services (\$157,500) and utilities (\$155,007). In 2013, the County obtained \$125,000 in parks and recreation revenues gleaned from charges for services. This left the



County with an operating deficit of \$197,507. In order to offset some of the costs associated with reestablishing its parks and recreation services, the County leveraged a \$137,507 transfer from its general fund to support these investments. The remaining \$60,000 shortfall was absorbed by the County's \$1,252,683 parks fund balance. Heading into fiscal year 2014, Macomb County has forecasted parks and recreation revenues to reach \$185,000 and total expenditures to top \$408,500. After transfers and asset investments Macomb County is projecting a 2014 parks fund balance of \$1,132,683.

SECTION 3.0

PARKS & RECREATION INVENTORY

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Parks and Recreation Inventory

Creating an inventory of existing parks and recreation assets is imperative when developing a comprehensive master plan. The location, size and amenities at each facility has a profound impact on the current and future planning for parks and recreation. An extensive inventory of parks and recreation facilities will allow a community to highlight its assets, develop linkages, build off of innovative trends and point out any gaps in services. Focusing on the existing recreational framework will allow all stakeholders to develop strategies and scenarios that will strengthen parks and recreation.

In the summer of 2013, the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development performed a wide-ranging inventory of the County's parks and recreation facilities. The following section will provide an overview inventory of parks and recreation facilities within Macomb County. The section will begin with an overview of the regional parks and recreation environment, highlighting state and regional parks and recreation destinations. The inventory will then focus on the parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by Macomb County.

State Parks and Recreation Facilities

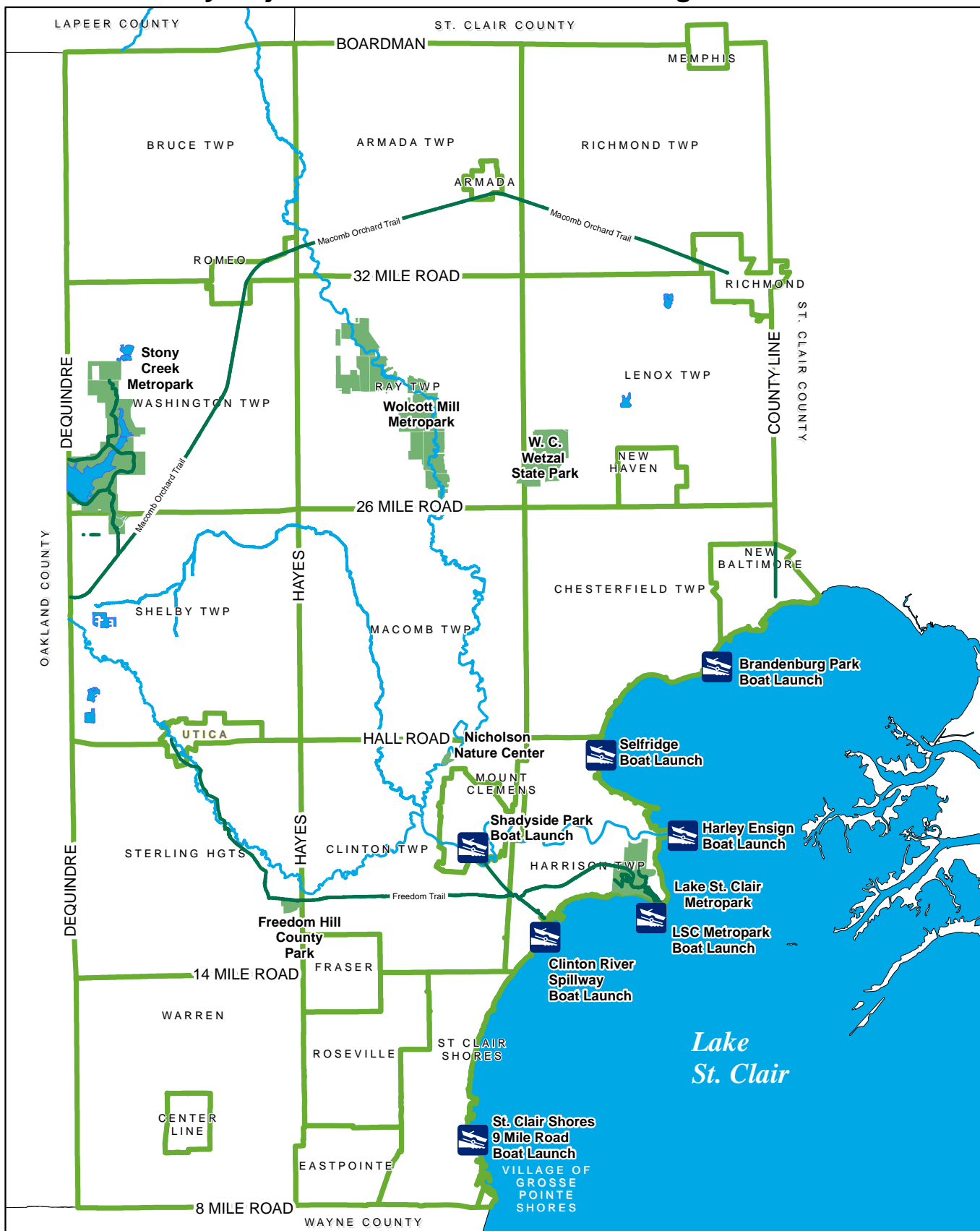


W.C. Wetzel State Recreational Area

The W.C. Wetzel State Recreational Area is a 900 acre park operated by the State of Michigan. Located in Lenox Township, this state recreational area is predominately undeveloped. The park provides areas for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Wetzel is also home to an avid radio control airplane community that hosts events at the mock airfield on site. This recreational area houses a number of pristine wetland and habitat areas for Macomb County's wildlife. Wetzel is maintained by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and has a dedicated network of volunteers who assist with park events and upkeep. As the only state recreational area in Macomb County, improvements to this site are significant to Macomb County.

Parks & Recreation Inventory

Macomb County Major Recreation Facilities and Regional Trail Network



Parks & Recreation Inventory

W.C. Wetzel State Recreational Area



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Harvey Ensign Memorial Boat Launch and Public Access

Located on Lake St. Clair at the mouth of the Clinton River, the Harvey Ensign Memorial Boat Launch and Public Access site is a state operated facility providing access to Macomb County's fresh water resources. This public boat launch is run by the MDNR and provides a hard surface launching site with a courtesy pier for loading and unloading passengers. The facility is equipped with a paved parking area that can accommodate more than 300 vehicles per day.

Harvey Ensign Memorial Boat Launch and Public Access



Selfridge Boat Launch and Public Access

The Selfridge Boat Launch and Public Access site is located in Harrison Township near the entrance to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Operated by the MDNR, the Selfridge Boat Launch and Public Access site provides direct access to Lake St. Clair. The facility has a hard surface launch area, a courtesy pier and can accommodate more than 150 vehicles per day.

Parks & Recreation Inventory

Selfridge Boat Launch and Public Access



Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Parks and Recreation Facilities

Lake St. Clair Metropark

Operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Lake St. Clair Metropark is one of the most popular parks and recreation attractions in southeast Michigan. This 770 acre regional recreation destination is located in Harrison Township on the coast of Lake St. Clair. A wide variety of recreational facilities and activities are provided at the park including:

- 800 foot long public beach with swimming area
- Olympic size pool
- Two waterslides
- 10,000 square foot Squirt Zone
- Eight slip boat launching ramp
- Two transient marinas which can accommodate 106 boats
- Nature center
- Three quarter mile nature trail
- Picnic areas
- Three miles of paved hike/bike paths

Parks & Recreation Inventory

- 18-hole par 3 golf course
- Shipwreck Lagoon Adventure Golf Course
- Concession areas
- Welsh Activity Center
- Ice fishing
- Ice skating
- 2.5 mile cross-country ski trail

Lake St. Clair Metropark serves more than 1.5 million park visitors annually. From world renowned fishing tournaments to the County's Sprint and Splash Duathlon, Lake St. Clair Metropark possesses the size and amenities to be the staging ground for many of Macomb County's prominent parks and recreation events.

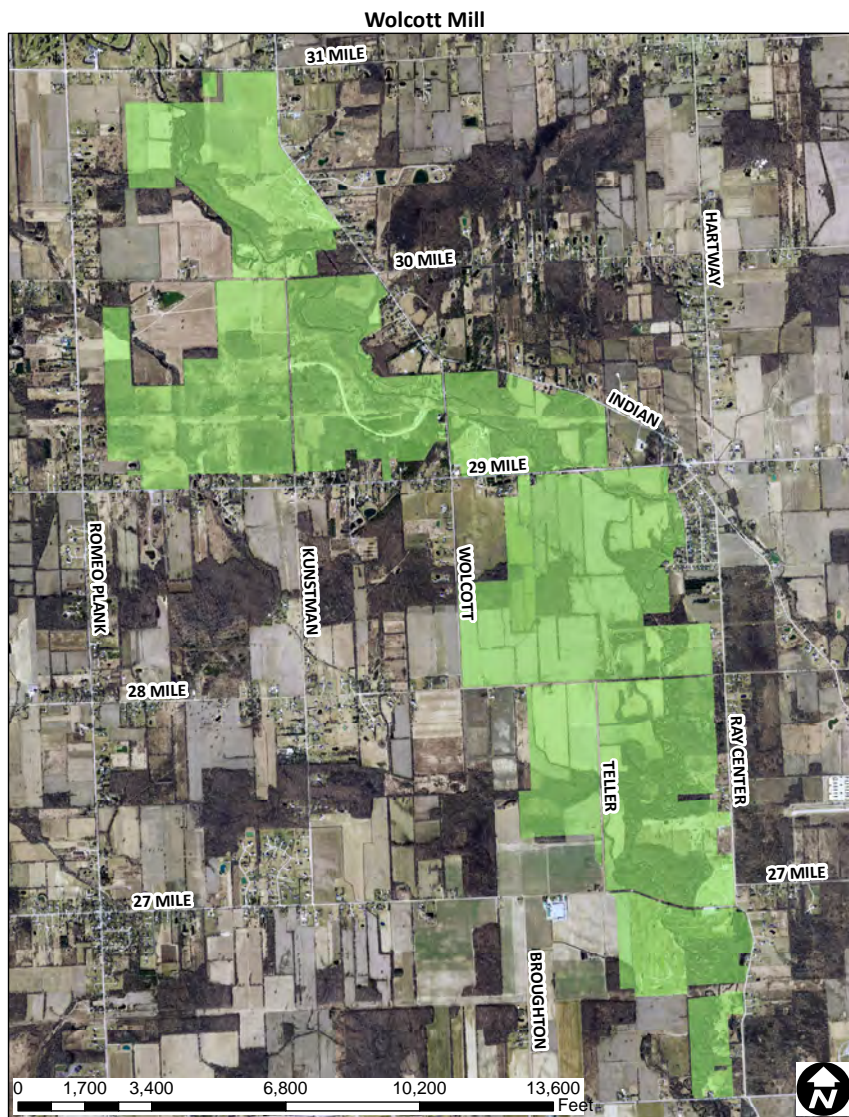
Lake St. Clair Metropark



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Wolcott Mill Metropark

Wolcott Mill Metropark is a 2,845 acre park located in Ray Township. Covering 5 contiguous miles of greenspace from 26 Mile Road to 31 Mile Road, this massive park and preservation area is operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. Wolcott Mill is home to a number of unique recreational amenities. One of park's activity nodes is Camp Rotary, a service organization camping area. Equipped with activity and lodge facilities, this camping area is open to boy scouts, girl scouts and other youth groups throughout the year. Also, the park also is home to the historic Wolcott Gristmill. This historical mill dates back to 1874 and is open for tours and educational programming. The park's most intriguing asset is the Wolcott Mill Interpretive Farm Learning Center. This working farm provides visitors with a look into some of the daily functions of farming. From milking cows to horse exercises, this agricultural learning centers hosts programs, tours and educational exercises for patrons. Wolcott also possesses an 18-hole golf course, 10 miles of equestrian trails and many comfort and picnic areas. The park is traversed by the Clinton River and provides the county with some pristine environmental areas and unique habitat areas. The park hosts more than 2,000 visitors annually.



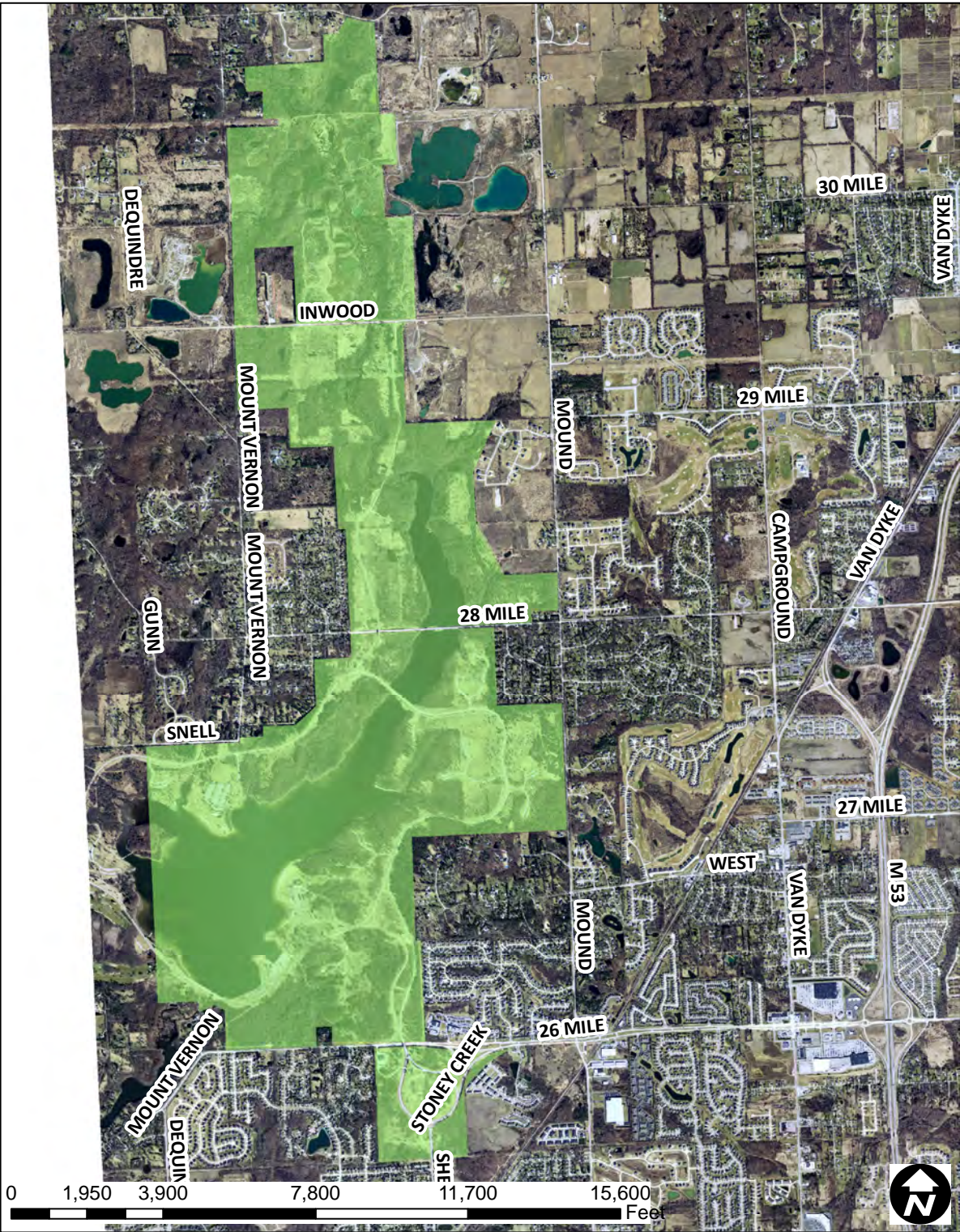
Stony Creek Metropark

Stony Creek Metropark is one of Macomb County's most dynamic parks and recreation facilities. Operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, this 4,461 acre park spans two counties and three communities. The park is anchored by Stony Creek Lake which possesses two public beaches, Baypoint and Eastwood. Both beach areas provide concession, picnic and comfort areas for users. The park also rents out rowboats, paddle boats, canoes and kayaks for use on the lake. Private boat owners can utilize the eight boat launching ramps on Stony Creek Lake. The lake is also a prime fishing location with pike, walleye, bass, perch, bluegills and crappies inhabiting the lake. Stony Creek is also home to a comprehensive non-motorized trail network. The park boasts: 13 miles of mountain bike/hiking trails; 10 miles of additional hiking trails; and a seven mile paved hike/bike path. The park is also home to the Stony Creek Nature Center which provides nature exhibits, programs and walking

Parks & Recreation Inventory

trails complete with educational signage. The park also houses an 18-hole championship public golf course with driving range and a 27-hole disc golf course. The park hosts many special events including a fireworks display and many cycling and running competitions. Annually Stony Creek Metropark serves more than 1.8 million park visitors.

Stony Creek



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Facilities

Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheater

Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheater is Macomb County's preeminent parks and recreation facility. This spacious 100 acre county operated site is located in Sterling Heights and possesses a number of dynamic amenities. The park contains two outdoor pavilions, picnic areas, a playground, internal walking/nature path, direct connection to the regional Freedom Trail and a monument garden celebrating the United States Armed Forces. Ralph Liberato Independence Hall is also located at Freedom Hill. This community gathering space includes a full kitchen and banquet hall, meeting rooms, indoor and outdoor restrooms and administrative offices. The grounds and hall are maintained and operated by Macomb County and contain parking for the park and amphitheater. Freedom Hill is also the staging ground for a regional concert and entertainment venue. The 7,200 seat Freedom Hill Amphitheater is operated by Luna Entertainment, under a joint agreement with Macomb County. This outdoor amphitheater is home to a summer concert series and many cultural and community festivals. Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheater provides thousands of residents and visitors with a unique parks and recreation experience. As Macomb County seeks to expand its parks and recreation footprint, Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheater is a prime location for capital improvements and program expansion. This County facility also meets accessibility guidelines.



Freedom Hill Amphitheater



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Freedom Hill Events



Freedom Hill Inventory

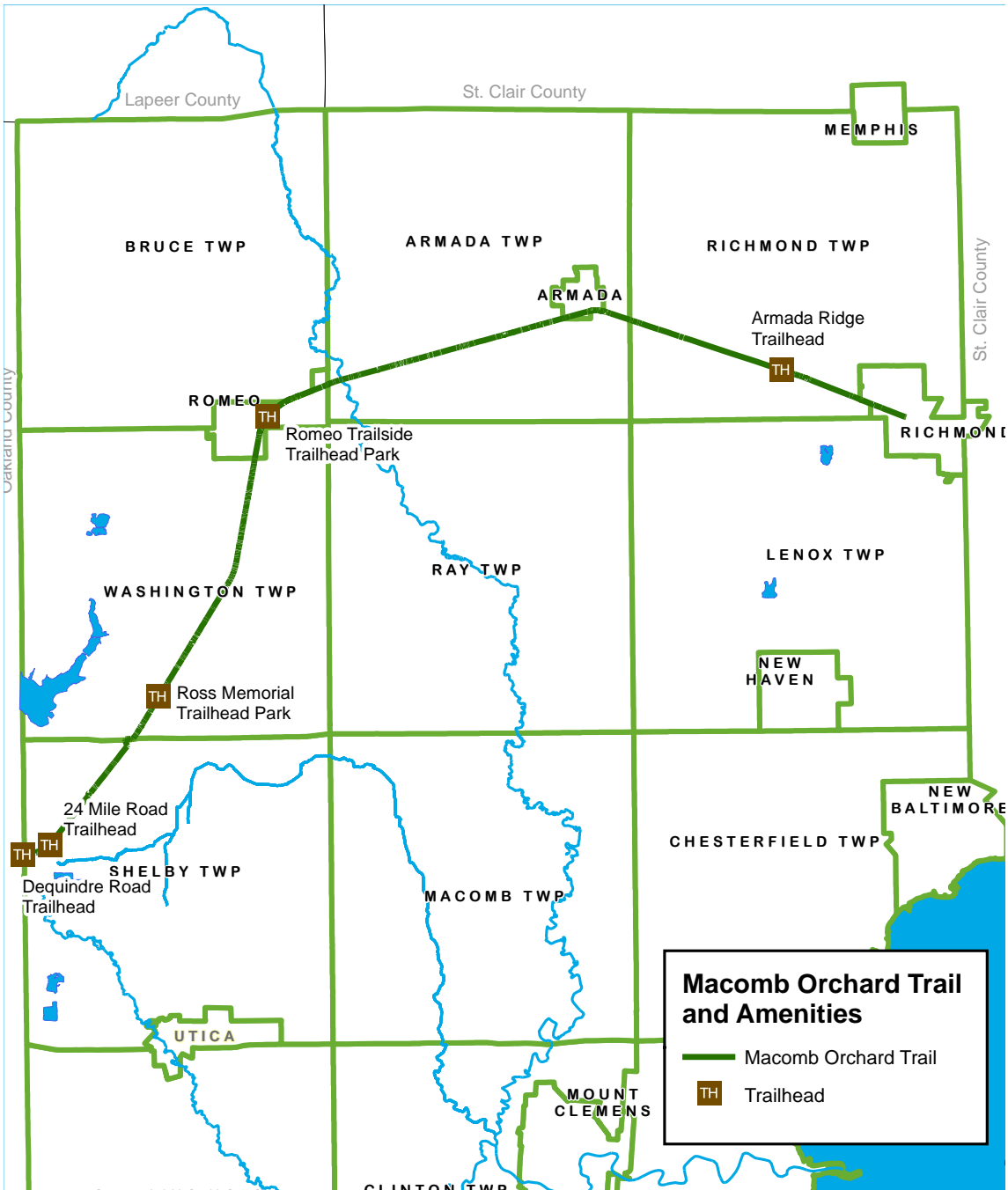


Parks & Recreation Inventory

Macomb Orchard Trail

Macomb County operates the Macomb Orchard Trail (MOT), a 24 mile linear park and trailway. This non-motorized trail is located in northern Macomb County and traverses 7 communities: Shelby Township; Washington Township; Village of Romeo; Armada Township; Village of Armada; Richmond Township; and the City of Richmond. The MOT is also a regional trail connector linking Macomb County to the Clinton River and Paint Creek Trails in Oakland County.

Macomb Orchard Trail Inventory



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Macomb Orchard Trail Amenities

The MOT also possesses a number of pocket parks and refuge areas. The trail is equipped with benches and comfort stations, and is anchored by a gateway structure at Dequindre Road in Shelby Township. In Washington Township, Ross Memorial Park is located on the MOT and provides users with a pavilion area, picnic tables, benches, parking and a comfort station. In the Village of Romeo, just off Clinton Street, there is a parking and rest area for trail users. In Richmond Township, at the intersection of the MOT and Armada Ridge Road, there is a comfort station and parking area. These strategically placed community comfort areas provide users with an opportunity to access the MOT and rest during their rides.



Ross Memorial Trailhead Park Inventory



Parks & Recreation Inventory

The MOT provides pedestrians, cyclists, runners, cross-country skiers, skaters and disabled populations with the ability to exercise and experience many of Macomb County's unique communities and pristine natural areas. This county amenity also meets accessibility guidelines.

Romeo Trailhead Park Inventory



24 Mile Road Trailhead Park Inventory



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Armada Ridge Road Trailhead Park Inventory



Macomb Orchard Trail Amenities



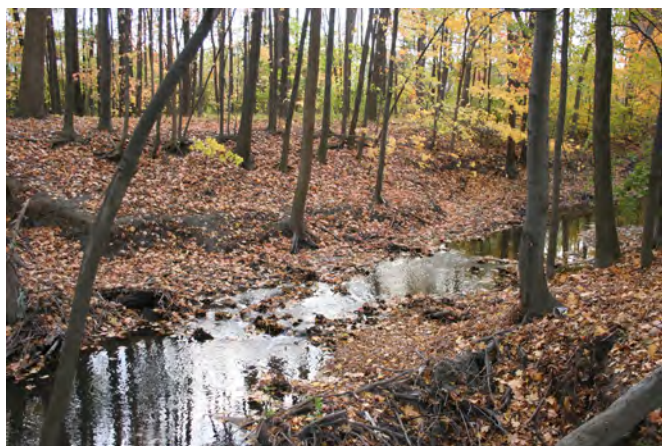
Parks & Recreation Inventory

James B. & Ann V. Nicholson Nature Center and Floodplain Conservation Easement

The James B. & Ann V. Nicholson Nature Center and Floodplain Conservation Easement is a 33 acre preservation area located along the east banks of the North Branch of the Clinton River, adjacent to the Macomb County Public Works Office. The funds to protect this pristine site were donated by the Nicholson family, and the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy was instrumental in placing the property into a conservation easement. This environmentally sensitive area is home to a number native plant and animal species and provides direct access to the North Branch of the Clinton River. The site is also equipped with outdoor classrooms, walking/nature trails, observation platforms, and comfort stations. Some of the facilities in this conservation area meet accessibility guidelines. This is due to the parks natural features and rustic areas.



Nicholson Nature Center Amenities



Parks & Recreation Inventory

Nicholson Nature Center Inventory



SECTION 4.0

PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Planning & Public Input

Macomb County employed a number of planning and public input techniques in developing this parks and recreation master plan. In hopes of engaging a varied and dynamic group of parks and recreation stakeholders, the County leveraged many public and private partners. From metropolitan planning organizations to local volunteer groups, Macomb County was able to target parks and recreation stakeholders at all service levels who are actively engaged in providing programs and services. The strategies and initiatives established by this document were developed through the many interactions with these groups. This process allowed the county to analyze existing conditions and resources, strategize for future investments and cultivate a contemporary approach to parks and recreation.

Planning Methods



The formation of this master plan is based on a systems approach to parks and recreation. This approach to parks and recreation planning was developed by James D. Mertes and James R. Hall for the National Recreation and Park Association in 1995. This systems based planning strategy is a process that begins by assessing the parks, recreation and open space needs of a community. This information is then translated into a framework that considers the physical, spatial and facility requirements of the community. The County and its parks and recreation stakeholders decided to apply

this planning method because it considered all parks and recreation facilities, programs and services as a part of a larger system. Developing a new playground at a local park or expanding senior citizen programs at a recreation center are tangible steps a community can take to enhance its parks and recreation offerings. These actions would clearly have an impact on the facility where they are offered. However, they also have the ability to influence additional elements of the parks and recreation system. A single strategy or investment has the ability to alter user patterns, and potentially alter future parks and recreation needs. It is this inter-linkage between parks and recreation facilities, programs and services that creates a vibrant atmosphere where the County must continually evaluate and create appropriate policies and procedures for parks and recreation.

In order to effectively utilize a systems based approach, a wide-ranging inventory of the parks and recreation facilities across Macomb County was created. Presented in Section 3.0, the inventory illustrates the full compliment of facilities and amenities the County possesses. The inventory, coupled with the community description (Section 2.0) will act as the foundation for the goals and objectives proposed in this document. The goals and objectives will then be linked to a strategic plan of action that will recommend parks and recreation projects and initiatives to be undertaken over the lifespan of this document.



Planning & Public Input

Each goal, objective and subsequent action plan was crafted with the intent to create a more comprehensive system of parks and recreation services within Macomb County.

Public Input

Macomb County took great strides to engage the public in the development of this parks and recreation master plan. The County leveraged many different departments, community forums, public meetings and focus groups to compile information and resources for this document. Led by the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development under the leadership of the Macomb County Executive's Office, the County orchestrated the following public input sessions:



- Macomb County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Stakeholder Focus Group – Thursday July 19th, 2012 Mt. Clemens, MI
- Macomb County Parks and Recreation Public Forum – Monday December 17th, 2012 Clinton Township, MI
- Macomb County Agricultural Stakeholder Focus Group – Monday March 4th, 2013 Mt. Clemens, MI
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and Macomb County Green Infrastructure/Parks and Recreation Visioning Session – Thursday July 17th, 2013 Clinton Township, MI
- Macomb County Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights Meeting - Monday July 22nd, 2013 Ray Township, MI
- Macomb County Freedom Hill Focus Group – Friday August 2nd, 2013 Sterling Heights, MI
- Macomb County Legislative Caucus – Monday October 28th, 2013 Clinton Township, MI
- Wetzel State Park Focus Group – Friday November 1st, 2013 Mt. Clemens, MI
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners Parks and Recreation Presentation – Tuesday November 12th, 2013 Mt. Clemens, MI
- Macomb County Health and Human Services Focus Group – Friday November 15th, 2013 Mt. Clemens, MI
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners Economic Development Sub-Committee – Wednesday January 15th, 2014 Mt. Clemens, MI
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners – Thursday January 30th, 2014 Mt. Clemens, MI Public Hearing
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners Infrastructure Sub-Committee – Tuesday February 25th, 2014 Mt. Clemens, MI
- Macomb County Board of Commissioners – Thursday February 27th, 2014 Mt. Clemens, MI Final Adoption

Over the past year and a half, the County discussed and drafted different elements of the plan at each of its public input sessions. As information was gleaned from these many public discussions, County staff would incorporate these strategies into the document. The draft plan was completed in December 2013 and was sent

Planning & Public Input

out for the 30 day review period on January 7th, 2014. During the 30 day review period the general public had an opportunity to review the plan online and at the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development website. The plan was also publicized through a number of traditional news and social media sources. The County received coverage in local and regional newspapers, with feature stories and news briefs. Public outreach and input was also facilitated through Facebook and Twitter. Macomb County leveraged @MakeMacomb, @MarkHackel, and @MacombNewsNow for Twitter updates and informational blasts about the parks and recreation planning process. The Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development also posted information about the plan and its approval process on its Facebook page.

At the close of the 30 day review the County facilitated a public hearing at a Macomb County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 27th, 2014. On February 27th, 2014 the Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. For more than a year, Macomb County has facilitated a series of dynamic public input forums. These public settings have provided both residents and stakeholders with an opportunity to shape the vision of this document. In the end, Macomb County strongly believes that it has created a parks and recreation master plan that represents the will of the people.

SECTION 5.0

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Goals & Objectives

Goals and Objectives

The progress of Macomb County's parks and recreation system will be charted by the County's ability to institute the following goals and objectives. Throughout the process of developing this parks and recreation master plan, Macomb County crafted a series of goals and objectives that will act as benchmarks for the County over the next five years. These policy guidelines will enable parks and recreation stakeholders to effectively implement programs and activities that will expand the County's service network. Macomb County recognizes that these goals and objectives are not static. As opportunities and challenges arise, the County must be able to make informed and impactful decisions grounded in these goals and objectives that will allow parks and recreation to flourish.

In order to develop these goals and objectives, Macomb County considered a number of community factors. Each series of goals and objectives takes into consideration: demographic and economic factors; physical characteristics; financial feasibility; intergovernmental impacts; and administration practicality. As the collaborative process for creating these goals and objectives was underway, County administrators continually weighed the merit and potential impact of each outcome. The following list of goals and objectives is a comprehensive representation of the future of parks and recreation within Macomb County. As the County continues to progress, these goals and objectives will allow the community to effectively administer a system of parks and recreation services that is in the best interest of the general public.

Provide Parks and Recreation Opportunities



Goal

Macomb County will provide a dynamic and impactful range of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services that will benefit residents and visitors.

Objectives

- Maintain and enhance current parks and recreation facilities, programs and services, to ensure that there are sufficient parks and recreation opportunities for all current and potential users.

Goals & Objectives

- Identify areas where Macomb County can establish new, or expand existing, parks and recreation facilities, programs, partnerships and services.
- Create a parks and recreation capital improvement framework that will establish a practical means of strategically investing in improvements to parks and recreation facilities.
- Pledge that all parks and recreation facilities, programs and services are administered in a safe and secure environment.
- Study the feasibility of developing new parks and recreation destinations.
- Cultivate new and expand existing funding sources to sustain parks and recreation services.
- Establish dedicated parks and recreation staff within the County's administrative structure.

Foster Community Development and Engagement



Goal

Macomb County pledges to utilize parks and recreation services as a catalyst for strengthening community pride and uniting residents.

Objectives

- Ensure that all residents and visitors, regardless of age or ability, can adequately access parks and recreation facilities, services and programs.
- Develop a more comprehensive assortment of parks and recreation programs engaging a wider spectrum of residents and visitors. Include additional services and programs for special populations, ethnic and cultural organizations, and vulnerable populations.
- Create partnerships with other parks and recreation service providers at the local, regional and state levels.
- Leverage "Make Macomb Your Home" and other media sources to brand, market and promote parks and recreation programs within Macomb County.

Goals & Objectives

- Organize continuing community forums and workshops with parks and recreation stakeholders to measure the impact of facilities, programs and services.
- Incentivize year-round participation in parks and recreation through the use of recognition, awards or memorabilia.

Promote Environmental Stewardship

Goal

Macomb County will leverage parks and recreation facilities, programs and services to protect and enhance environmentally significant areas throughout the community.

Objectives

- Catalogue the location and character of environmentally significant areas throughout Macomb County.
- Expand environmental cleanup and awareness initiatives surrounding Macomb County's natural resources.
- Target environmentally significant areas for conservation and parks and recreation uses.
- Leverage the Macomb County Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights Committee to expand agricultural opportunities and open space conservation initiatives.
- Cultivate additional partnerships and programs with environmental and conservation groups at all levels of government.
- Leverage the "Blue Economy Initiative" to protect and educate individuals about Macomb County's freshwater assets.



Encourage Healthy Lifestyles

Goal

Macomb County will utilize parks and recreation facilities, programs and services to improve the health and wellness of the County's residents.

Objectives

- Expand healthy lifestyle, physical fitness and wellness programs, educating residents about the benefits of preventative care.

Goals & Objectives

- Develop tutorials and how-to guides highlighting the County's parks and recreation facilities, programs and services.
- Create new partnerships with health care and wellness organizations.

Support Economic Development



Goal

Macomb County will use parks and recreation facilities, programs and services to generate economic growth and prosperity.

Objectives

- Promote and partner with festivals and special events to increase activity and interest in Macomb County (i.e. Armada Fair, Romeo Peach Festival, Bay-Rama).
- Link investments in parks and recreation to larger community projects including private developments and infrastructure improvements.
- Provide opportunities for local businesses, non-profits, foundations and volunteer organizations to partner with parks and recreation through marketing, educational opportunities, sponsorships and promotions.
- Partner with local sport and service organizations to attract tournaments and conventions to Macomb County.

SECTION 6.0

ACTION PROGRAM

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Action Program

Action Program

Macomb County hopes that this parks and recreation master plan will revitalize the County's parks and recreation system. With numerous parks and a wide variety of recreation opportunities, Macomb County has been able to sustain a viable parks and recreation system. This plan is the impetus for a new era of investment and empowerment in the County's parks and recreation system. The County is committed to expanding its parks and recreation footprint.

The following action plan is a series of projects and programs that will assist Macomb County in implementing their goals and objectives. Throughout the development of this document, the County and its wide array of engaged participants explored a number of ideas and potential outcomes. The following section is a compilation of those ideas and discussions. This action program is a wish list for Macomb County's parks and recreation system. Each of the proposed action items will assist Macomb County in realizing its parks and recreation goals.

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure



As was discussed in the administrative section, Macomb County is in the midst of a transitional period. With a new executive form of government taking place, County government is exploring fresh and innovative ways to administer services to residents. Parks and recreation is one of the major service areas Macomb County seeks to refine over the tenure of this document. From administration to funding sources, Macomb County is primed to revive its parks and recreation service network. Macomb County's administrative action program for parks and recreation includes:

- **Creating a Dedicated Parks and Recreation Staff and Department** – An imperative part of the future success of Macomb County's parks and recreation system is the creation of dedicated staff. With dedicated parks and recreation staff, Macomb County can begin to standardize administrative functions and facilitate the implementation of the master plan recommendations. A parks and recreation coordinator can work with existing departments and service providers and better coordinate capital improvements and programming. As the roles of the parks and recreation coordinator are refined, the County can begin to establish

the framework for a full fledge parks and recreation department. With a standalone parks and recreation department, Macomb County can expand its parks and recreation services.

- **Solidify Parks and Recreation Funding Sources** – The general fund obligations to parks and recreation are not impervious. As the economy fluctuates, so too can municipal finances. General fund resources are a part of the necessary commitment needed to sustain parks and recreation services in Macomb County. However, more dedicated and vibrant funding sources can help parks and recreation expand.

Action Program

This plan provides Macomb County with an opportunity to explore the feasibility of a millage, special assessments, fees for services, endowments and grants. Moving forward, Macomb County must work closely with its finance department and parks administrators to create a sensible and impactful menu of funding options.

- **Develop New and Expand Existing Partnerships with External Parks and Recreation Providers** – Macomb County understands that parks and recreation is a comprehensive system of programs and facilities. This dynamic system is administered at all levels of government, and Macomb County is focused on partnering with stakeholders at all levels. From local units of government to state agencies, Macomb County will leverage financial, human and capital resources to further parks and recreation.

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Facilities

The parks and recreation inventory highlighted Macomb County's direct role in administering three major parks and recreation operations: Freedom Hill; Nicholson Nature Center; and the County's non-motorized trail network. Each of these assets provides Macomb County park users with a number of quality of life experiences. From local community festivals to major running events, these facilities allow Macomb County to stage events and programs that lead to activity and interest in Macomb County. Beyond routine maintenance, Macomb County is committed to expanding the scope and impact of each of these facilities. Macomb County's action program for County owned facilities includes:



- **Freedom Hill County Park** – As the County's premier park and entertainment venue Macomb County is focused on investing in Freedom Hill. This facility is the County's most recognizable parks and recreation destination, and advancements to this facility will provide for additional events and programs for the county. The County's efforts surrounding Freedom Hill include:

- **Enhanced Park Maintenance and Amenities** – In order to preserve the function and beauty of this public space Macomb County is devoted to investing in Freedom Hill. Macomb will target the following maintenance and amenity enhancements at Freedom Hill: landscaping and grounds; picnic and pavilion areas; comfort stations; pedestrian and cyclists amenities; playground equipment; canine and pet facilities; storage and administration areas; and stormwater management upgrades.
- **Parking and Circulation Improvements** – Freedom Hill is the staging ground for many events throughout the year. In order to adequately host these events, the County is targeting parking and internal circulation improvements. Macomb County seeks to explore options for enhanced parking and ingress/egress options for the site.
- **Safety and Security Upgrades** – The safety and security of park users is vital. As programming continues to expand at Freedom Hill, Macomb County is committed to upgrading much of the parks security infrastructure. From lighting to public safety patrols, the County will ensure that Freedom Hill is a welcoming place for all.

Action Program

• **James B. & Ann V. Nicholson Nature Center and Floodplain Conservation Easement** – As Macomb County’s newest parks and recreation destination, Nicholson Nature Center and Conservation area is in the development stages. With a new outdoor classroom and pavilion, the park is well equipped for educational and community events. To continue the activity and investment at the Nicholson Nature Center and Conservation area, Macomb County’s action plan includes:

- **Enhanced Park Maintenance and Amenities** – In order to solidify this park as a recreational destination, the County seeks to continually invest in landscaping, park maintenance, public seating, scenic lookout areas, picnic areas, signage and comfort stations.



• **Non-Motorized Trail System** – Anchored by the Macomb Orchard Trail, the Freedom Trail and numerous local connectors, Macomb County’s non-motorized trail network is expansive. Working with park stakeholders and transportation service providers, Macomb County can ensure that these pedestrian anchors remain essential to the County’s transportation and recreational infrastructure. Macomb County’s action program for its non-motorized trail system include:

- **Macomb Orchard Trail** – The Macomb Orchard Trail is a major non-motorized trail anchor. The long-range viability of this asset hinges on the County’s ability to sustain pavement conditions and maintenance. During the tenure of this master plan Macomb County must forge strong financial commitments and governmental partnerships to ensure the superior condition of this trail.
- **Expand Local Non-Motorized Connectors** – Macomb County seeks to work with local communities to plan and invest in local non-motorized trail connectors. These local pedestrian routes will lead users to and from major trail routes to community park areas and business districts. Integrating more community connectors will provide trail users with the ability explore the County on foot or by bike. With the help of transportation service providers, Macomb County can engage local communities to explore where these local connectors best fit the transportation and parks system.
- **Expand Urban Non-Motorized Trail Network** – Macomb County is committed to developing additional non-motorized trail options in its urban core communities. Working with its southern communities Macomb County is focused on cultivating plans and capital investment strategies to facilitate the development of non-motorized trails south of 16 Mile Road.
- **Cultivate Rural Nature and Interpretive Trails** – The County is interested in creating additional nature and interpretive trails in its rural district. Engaging the communities north of 26 Mile Road, Macomb County can begin to invest in low-impact walking and hiking trails that integrate agricultural and environmentally significant areas.
- **Enhanced Maintenance and Amenities** – As the County continues to expand its non-motorized trail network, enhanced maintenance and amenities are an added benefit to users. Macomb County seeks to anchor its trail network by investing in additional: trailhead and pocket parks; comfort stations and rest areas; signage; landscaping; public art; and maintenance equipment.

Action Program

Macomb County Blue Economy

Macomb County's freshwater assets are an integral component of the County's future parks and recreation strategy. Providing opportunities for residents and visitors to engage Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River will enhance the County's overall quality of life. In order to sustain Macomb County's energy and activity surrounding the Blue Economy, the County is committed to the following action program:

- **Increase Accessibility to Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River** – Access to these freshwater assets is the lifeblood of Blue Economy Initiative. Macomb County seeks to enhance accessibility by: increasing the number of boat and kayak launches; cultivating pier and freshwater development districts; and expanding public parks and beaches.
- **Enhance and Improve Environmental Quality** – Macomb County is committed to upholding the environmental integrity of its freshwater assets. By working with environmental and wildlife organizations, the County can invest in ecosystem and habitat restoration initiatives. The County will also focus resources on exploring and creating contemporary storm water management techniques.
- **Cultivate Macomb County's Blueways and Greenways Strategy** – In creating this parks and recreation master plan, Macomb County recognized that it possessed a great number of interconnected water resources and green space areas. From major community parks to Lake St. Clair, these assets have sustained a natural connection. The County is focused on ensuring that these natural connections remain intact and vibrant. By expanding parkland and refining conservation areas, Macomb County can enlarge its parks and recreation presence. These areas can become prime nodes for recreational programming and enhance the County's environmental stewardship.



APPENDIX

MACOMB COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Macomb County Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan
Parks and Recreation Administrators Focus Group
Thursday July 19th, 2012

1. Introduction
 - o Mark A. Hackel – Macomb County Executive
2. Parks, Recreation and Open Space: An Analysis of Best Practices, Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges
 - o Sunil Joy – Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development
3. Community Input and Perspectives
 - o Currently what PROS services, programs and facilities are the most impactful within your community?
 - o What are the greatest barriers/challenges in administering PROS services, programs and facilities?
 - o What is your community's greatest PROS asset?
 - o What creative partnerships have your communities explored/implemented to assist in administering PROS services, programs and facilities?
 - o What role should Macomb County facilitate in the administration of PROS services, programs and facilities?
4. Macomb County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
 - o John Paul Rea – Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development
5. Next Steps

Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Administration Building
One South Main, 8th Floor
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Parks and Recreation Stakeholder:

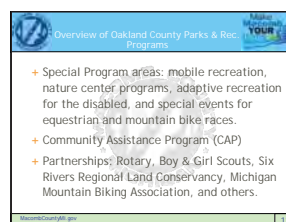
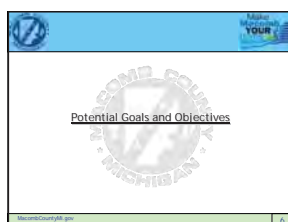
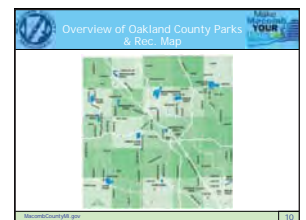
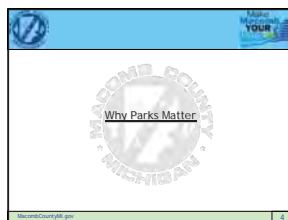
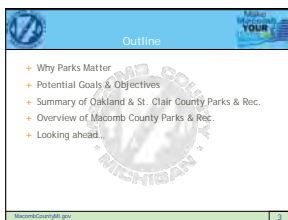
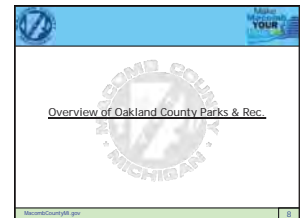
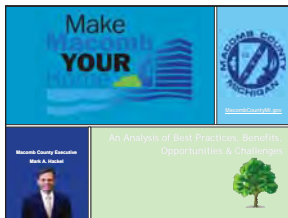
On behalf of the Macomb County Executive Office, I am writing to formally invite you to our first Macomb County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Focus Group.

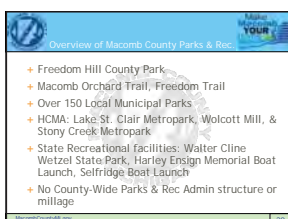
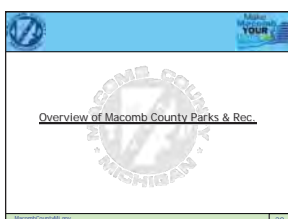
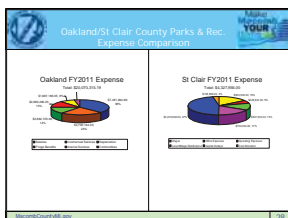
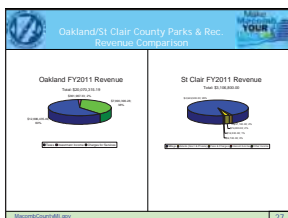
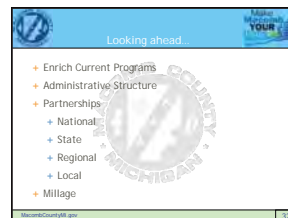
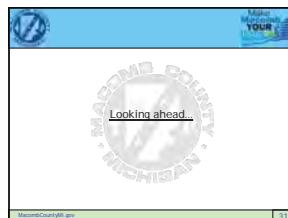
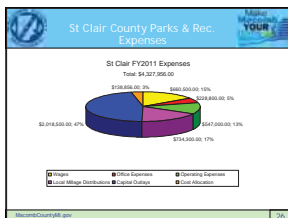
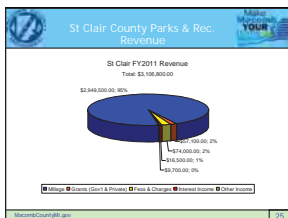
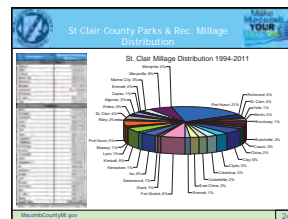
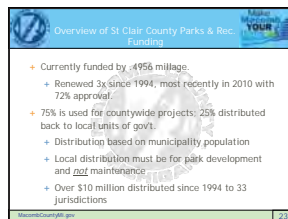
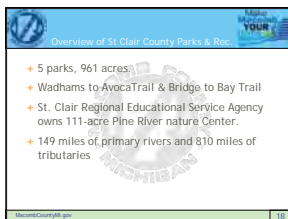
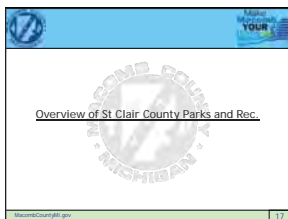
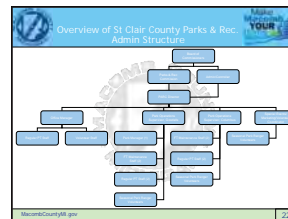
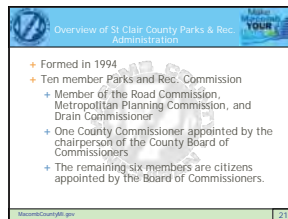
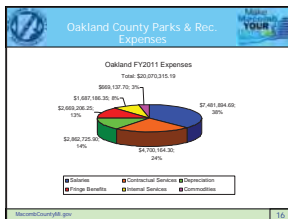
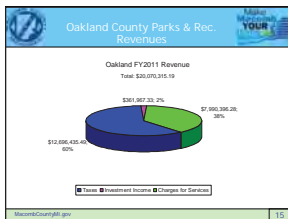
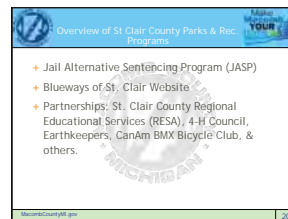
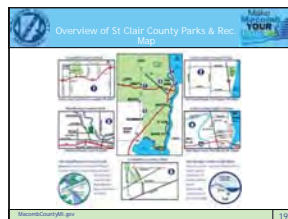
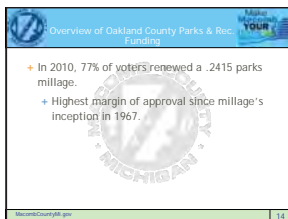
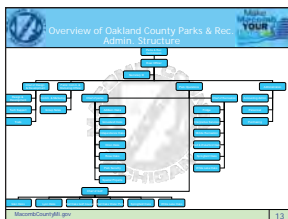
The Planning and Economic Development Department has been working diligently on updating the County's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The intent of the Master Plan is to provide safe and accessible recreational opportunities to serve the needs of our county's residents.

The purpose of this initial focus group is to outline the specific goals and objectives developed for the Master Plan, and to seek your input and advice on parks, recreation and open space initiatives. By leveraging your expertise and experiences we seek to develop a clearer understanding of the current state of parks and recreation throughout Macomb County.

The meeting is to be composed of select local municipal Parks and Recreation leadership, staff from the Planning and Economic Development department, and myself. The focus group will take place on Thursday, July 19th from 1-3PM in the OCE Conference Room, Macomb County Department of Roads, 117 S. Groesbeck Hwy, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043. Please confirm your attendance by Tuesday, July 10th. I strongly encourage your attendance at this meeting as your expertise will be a valuable asset moving forward. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive







PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1 South Main Street, 7th Floor • Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
Phone: (586) 469-5285 • Fax: (586) 469-6787
www.MacombCountyMI.gov/planning

Stephen N. Cassin, AICP
Executive Director

Looking ahead...
Millage

- + Despite poor economy, surrounding counties have had successful Parks & Rec. Millage renewals:
 - + Wayne...25 mill: 71% approval in 2010 (5 yrs)
 - + St Clair...4954: 71% approval in 2010 (6 yrs)
 - + Oakland...245: 77% approval in 2010 (10 yrs)
 - + Highest margin of approval since 1967

Looking ahead...
Millage

- + In SEMCOG Region, only Macomb & Monroe are without Parks & Rec Millages
 - + "Public support for large projects would need to be accompanied by financial support in terms of a millage issue dedicated to local parks & recreation" - Monroe Master Plan
 - + Random survey of 1,500 Monroe citizens found 71% support a county-wide parks millage

Whether it's Business, Family or Pleasure...
Make Macomb Your Home!

Stephen N. Cassin, AICP
Macomb County Administration Building
One South Main, 7th Floor
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Nov 26th, 2012

Dear Parks and Recreation Advocates:

On behalf of the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development, I am writing to formally invite you to the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Forum on Monday, December 17th.

The purpose of this forum is to seek your input and guidance on parks, recreation and open space initiatives across Macomb County. By leveraging your expertise, and experiences, we seek to develop a clearer understanding of the current state of parks and recreation throughout Macomb County. The forum will provide your community with an opportunity to update the County's parks and recreation inventory, and revise non-motorized trail plans.

The Planning and Economic Development Department will leverage the resources gleaned from this forum to update County's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The intent of the Master Plan is to provide safe and accessible recreational opportunities to serve the needs of our County's residents and visitors.

The meeting is to be composed of local elected officials, parks and recreation leaders, local planners, staff from the Planning and Economic Development Department, and representatives for the Macomb County Executive's Office. The forum will take place on Monday, December 17th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Macomb Intermediate School District Superior Room located at 44001 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038. Please confirm your attendance by Wednesday, Dec 12th at 586-469-5285.

I strongly encourage your attendance at this meeting as your community will be a valuable asset moving forward in this process. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Stephen N. Cassin



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1 South Main Street, 7th Floor • Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
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Stephen N. Cassin, AICP
Executive Director

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Forum Macomb Intermediate School District Superior Room Monday December 17th, 2012

- 1. Introduction – People, Places, and Passion**
 - o Mark A. Hackel – Macomb County Executive
- 2. Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Overview**
 - o John Paul Rea – Senior Planner Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development
- 3. Parks and Intergovernmental Cooperation**
 - o Clara Russell – Director Romeo, Washington, Bruce Parks and Recreation
- 4. Successful Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants**
 - o Brian Kay – Director New Baltimore Parks and Recreation
- 5. The Blue Economy Initiative**
 - o Gerry Santoro – Program Manager Land and Water Resources Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development
- 6. Macomb County Trail Network**
 - o John Crumm – Director of Planning Macomb County Department of Roads
- 7. Next Steps**
 - o April 2013 DNR Trust Fund Grants
 - o Macomb County Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan
 - o 2013 Parks and Recreation Programming
 - o 2013 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements
 - o Make Macomb Your Home

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Public Forum Attendees

Name	Affiliation	Position
Jerry Schmeiser	Macomb Township	Planner
Henry Bowman	City of Warren	Parks and Recreation Director
Troy Jeschke	City of Richmond	Planner
Clara Russell	Romeo Washington and Bruce Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation Director
Kyle Langlois	City of Sterling Heights	Parks and Recreation Director
Chuck Stremersch	Lenox Township	Planning Commission
Linda Walter	Clinton Township	Parks and Recreation Director
Christina Woods	City of Fraser	Parks and Recreation Director
Glenn Wynn	Shelby Township	Planner
Joe Youngblood	Shelby Township	Parks and Recreation Director
Rich Piekarski	Chesterfield Township	Parks and Recreation Director
Brian Kay	City of New Baltimore	Parks and Recreation Director
Michael Connors	City of Roseville	Community and Economic Development Director
Barb Dempsey	City of Mt Clemens	Mayor
Greg Esler	City of St. Clair Shores	Parks and Recreation Director
Marcuz Dilbert	Village of New Haven	Parks and Recreation Director
Ken Verkest	Harrison Township	Township Supervisor
Michael Lesich	City of Fraser	Parks and Recreation Commission



Macomb County Parks and Recreation Forum:
Community Engagement and Collaboration

Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Overview

- Who are the stakeholders needed to support parks and recreation here in Macomb County?
- What can Macomb County do to transform parks and recreation at all levels of government?
- Where will the resources come from to sustain parks and recreation here in Macomb County?
- When is the best time to invest in parks and recreation?
- Why does parks and recreation matter to Macomb County?
- How can we all work together to strengthen parks and recreation?

Community Description

- What is the jurisdiction and focus of the recreation plan
- What are the social and physical characteristics of the community that influence planning decisions
 - Demographics
 - Current & future land use
 - Community location in a broader regional context
 - Unique community elements/assets that contribute to recreation opportunities

Administrative Structure

- How are parks and recreation functions carried out in the community
 - Park and recreation governance structure and enabling legislation
 - Parks and recreation department and staff
 - Current program budget and projected annual budgets for operations, maintenance, programming and capital improvements
 - Sources of funding for the budget
 - Volunteer groups and partnerships
 - Relationship with any regional recreation authorities, especially those the local community is a participating member

Macomb County Parks and Recreation Overview

- Freedom Hill County Park – Open in 2013
- Countywide Trail Network:
 - Macomb Orchard Trail
 - Freedom Trail
 - Selfridge Boat Launch
- 140(+) Local Parks
- Huron Clinton Metroparks Authority
 - Lake St. Clair Metropark
 - Wolcott Mill Metropark
 - Stony Creek Metropark
- State Recreational Facilities:
 - Walter Cline Wetzel State Park
 - Harley Ensign Memorial Boat Launch
 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update
 - No structured Countywide Parks & Recreation administration or funding source

State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Planning

"Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans"

Developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management

- Standardize the elements within recreation planning documents
- Facilitate a more coordinated planning process
- Integrate a wider web of stakeholders

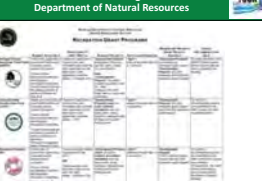
Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas and Recreational Facilities

- Detail publicly held parks, natural areas and recreation facilities within and near the local government
- Detail privately owned/operated and non-profit recreation facilities within and near the local government
- State required inventory elements
 - Park name
 - Size of park
 - Description of general use of the park
 - Description of the park's primary service area
 - Type and number of recreation assets/facilities located in park
 - Accessibility evaluation of the park
 - Site development plan for park (if one exists)
 - Map(s) of all local recreation and natural areas available to the community
 - Photographs (optional)

Resource Inventory

- Provides a listing of identified open space land that may be desirable for future protection and/or public access through future acquisition
- May examine wetlands, floodplains, groundwater recharge areas, wood lots, farmland, wildlife habitat, rare species or scenic areas
- Selected elements should be mapped or combined within a GIS to provide overlay maps
- Maps should also contain existing local recreation lands and other nearby recreation areas

State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources



State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Required Plan Elements
 - Community Description
 - Administrative Structure
 - Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas and Recreational Facilities
 - Resource Inventory (optional)
 - Description of the Planning and Public Input Process
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Action Program

Description of Planning and Public Input Process

- Planning Methods
 - Comparison of recreation standards (standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association)
 - Systems Approach
 - Determine community need based upon community input and inventory
 - Public Input Methods (minimum of two)
 - Community workshops
 - Focus groups of key stakeholders
 - Questionnaires
 - Community wide surveys
 - Public hearing

Goals and Objectives

- Describe the goals and objectives developed during the creation of the plan
- Describe what information was used to formulate the goals and objectives
- Describe the role public input played in development
- Potential Goals and Objectives
 - Provide parks and recreation opportunities
 - Foster community development and engagement
 - Promote environmental stewardship
 - Encourage healthy lifestyles
 - Support economic development
 - Facilitate intergovernmental cooperation

Action Plan

- Action plan identifies how the community will meet or work towards fulfilling the goals and objectives of the plan
- Specific projects/programs identified in the plan should be described
 - Can include identifying organizational, staffing, programming and operations resources needed
 - Can also include details on land acquisition and facility development
- Projects do not have to be listed in the 5-year action plan to be eligible for grant funding

Macomb County Parks and Recreation: Looking Ahead

- Enrich Current Programs
- Administrative Structure
- Partnerships
 - National
 - State
 - Regional
 - Local
- Funding Sources

Looking Ahead: Funding Sources

- Despite poor economy, surrounding counties have had successful Parks & Rec. Millage renewals:
 - Wayne: 25 mill; 71% approval in 2010 (5 yrs)
 - St Clair: 454 mill; 71% approval in 2010 (6 yrs)
 - Oakland: 245 mill; 77% approval in 2010 (10 yrs)
 - Highest margin of approval since 1967
- In SEMCOG Region, only Macomb & Monroe are without parks & recreation millages

Next Steps




- Parks and Resource Inventory
- Draft Document
- Integrate existing local PROS planning material
- Facilitate additional focus groups and public input sessions
- Site Visits

Looking Ahead: Enrich Current Programs

- Blue Economy Initiative: Providing more access to recreational opportunities
- Macomb County Trail Network
- School Programs and Facilities
- Festivals and Events
- Marketing and Promotions

Looking Ahead: Parks and Recreation Commission

- County and Regional Parks Legislation (PA 261 of 1965)
- Ten members, meets avg. of twice/month
- Must include: County Executive, County Drain Commissioner, County Department of Roads, member of a homeowners association
- Advisory boards key to implementation



Looking Ahead: Administrative Structure

- Macomb County Parks and Recreation Staff
 - Manager – coordinate staff, daily operations, oversees grants/budgeting, liaison to advisory boards
 - Maintenance Supervisor – organizes field maintenance
 - Marketing/Communications
 - Volunteer Network

Looking Ahead: Partnerships

- National
 - National Recreation and Parks Association
 - Commission for Accreditation of Parks & Recreation Standards (CAPRA)
- State
 - Department of Natural Resources: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Regional
 - Huron Clinton Metroparks Authority (HCMA)
- Local
 - Municipal Partnerships

Ryan Rowinski – Forgotten Harvest – farm bill – complications – corn, soy, wheat – MSU agriculture program – veggie production in Macomb County – Forgotten harvest in Macomb County – issue is not production – issue is with consumer purchasing – learn more about our food – uneducated consumer is hurting the local farmer – getting individuals connected – consumer connection – organic market ability to link – has to be local – municipal level – **get to know your grower** – quickest fix – we have apples, pumpkins and direct to consumer products that are good for the local consumers – **MACOMB FRESH BASKETS** – Links to other organizations – wholesale market is really competitive uncertain and low profit – expand retail markets in a cooperative way – folks love going to the eastern market -

George VanHoutte – veggie farmer – Northern Farmer’s Market – 600 acres in agriculture land – labor issues are challenging – product is getting harder to get rid of – certification issues – most of money is into retail – get up to speed on the certifications – problems and ability to update farm operations – Feds want more fruits and veggies in diets – seed sales are down people are growing more corn and soybeans – field vs. sweet corn – labor is the big issue – WBRW story on immigration need good workers – system is inefficient – workforce is vital but hw can we produce and act to prop up the retail business – veggie production is key to direct to consumer sales – value that agriculture brings is not corn and soy it is the table foods – feds propping corn soy and wheat – commodity crop – how do we support vegetable ground

Paul Blake – orchard / veggie farmer – Part of Blake Farms – 700 acres been around since 1946 – family farm – entertainment and Agritourism – Apples – Apple Cider – Cut your own trees – Veggie market and fruit market is going by the way side unless we can make it economically feasible – labor and regulations – hopefully we can support specialty crops – hard cider tasting room – product center folks – Frank -
Joe Kutchey - veggie farmer - Macomb Farm Bureau President

Kathe Hale – MSUExt – Community Food Systems – nutrition and health background – Macomb Food collaborative – farm to institution (roadblocks) – Economic outlook agriculture impact significant impact on the County – setting the stage and updating what we are doing – working with local farmers and linking them to institutions – UC center agriculture courses Tom Smith runs the program at MSU – establishing a two year program at Macomb – Center for regional food systems – training and education – processors and food safety – Ann Scott – Mike Ham interested in the conservation

Ken DeCock – PDR and Boyka’s – Farm Market not stand – see the problem the new generation cooking is the issue – no one wants to cook – Detroit area – stuff being imported – people and family dynamics are changing – consistently setting up retail operations – people wanting to keep people out of their business – watch what you wish for – dealing in cash -

Rochelle Zaranek – MCC – Jin Jacobs is interested in agriculture now understanding – MCC is partnered with forgotten harvest – Horticulture department at MSU linking to MCC – eastern market contact – where in Macomb County can we process food – harvesting is one piece – food safety – MCC is interested – ability - food processing looking at Macomb – 80% of food and veggie is imported

- Workforce – can we promise
- Ryan – Support for Agriculture here in Macomb County\
- Educational Folks who are promoting agriculture
- Promoting economic growth for agriculture
- Continued economic agriculture viability

- More agriculture attention – producing opportunities
- Framing operations, processing, agriculture training
- Agriculture training
- Policy - Workforce/labor/Food Sourcing/Processing
- Macomb County Role
- Macomb Grown Market
- Wolcott Mill farms – paying for them and they are a competitor
- Schools with multiple layers of funding for school lunch programs
- Purchasing locally
- Dealing with existing food service providers
- Processing Centers – food purchasing guidelines
- Food sourcing policies – and ability to link
- Source locally – getting the food here
- Senior living institutions, hospitals, jails, finding links to local institutions –
- Warren Consolidated School District – Food Sourcing Program – Carl
- October is big – Cider, apples
- Agritourism – is huge
- Logistics and processing and food hubs - is their enough business in Macomb County – looking at larger regions – food servicing
- Getting connected to local Michigan corporations – Big Boy? Major corporations who need food – food service directors –
- Processing walk it backwards –
- Sales are down – competition, fuel costs, labor costs, operation costs
- Food preservation – sense that it is importance to know where the food is coming from
- Promoting our product – MMYH – let them know when and where things are growing and where they can get it
- Local food basket programs – Macomb County employees – weekly basket delivery system – coop
- Human resources, health department, directly coming out of workers paychecks to get food – grower direct to consumer models – supporting grows
- Large employers – providing resources to workers
- Fresh Market stable production
- Getting food out to the people
- CSA models getting baskets
- Getting a bio and resources – getting to know the grower and where the food is coming from
- George – farm Bureau nutrition program – stressing veggies the health benefits famers present community education component Carrie Saunders
- MACOMB COUNTY AGRICULTURE KICKOFF DAY – THE GROWING SEASON IS OPEN
- MACOMB HARVEST DAYS
- All About Food Conference want more farmers and agriculture
- Fairs, events, and promotions
- Project Red – Rural Education Day
- Macomb Food collaborative – Agritourism
- Processing surplus

Macomb County Green Infrastructure Visioning Session
July 11, 2013 – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Clinton-Macomb Public Library
40900 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

SEMCOG is partnering with its local government members to develop a regional green infrastructure vision for Southeast Michigan. Green Infrastructure is both a network of green space and natural areas in our communities, along with built techniques such as rain gardens and bioswales that preserve the function of the natural ecosystem to benefit residents of the region.

The purpose of this visioning session was to gather input from stakeholders on important natural areas in Macomb County and discuss what and where additional green infrastructure could be located. What follows is a summary of the visioning session.

Joan Gebhardt, Chairperson, Schoolcraft College; Kathy D. Vestburg, First Vice Chair, Commissioner, Macomb County; Robert Clark, Vice Chairperson, Mayor, City of Monroe; Rodrick Green, Vice Chairperson, Trustee, Superior Township; Jeffrey Jenks, Vice Chairperson, Commissioner, Huntington Woods; Phill LaJoy, Vice Chairperson, Supervisor, Canton Township; Michael Sedlak, Immediate Past Chair, Clerk, Green Oak Township; Paul E. Tait, Executive Director

Macomb County Green Infrastructure Visioning Session
July 11, 2013 – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Clinton-Macomb Public Library

Attendance

- Amanda Priemer, Macomb County Planning
- Amy Mangus, SEMCOG
- Barb Wojtas, Sterling Heights
- Bill Parkus, SEMCOG
- Bob Cannon, Clinton Township
- Brian Pawlik, SEMCOG
- Carlo Santia, Clinton Township
- Dana Shafer, Resident
- Edwin Hoover, Environmental Services, Inc.
- Fred Barbret, SMART
- Gary White, Macomb County Health Department
- Jeff Schroeden, Macomb County Planning
- Jerry Kieliszewski
- Jim Francis, DNR
- John Paul Rea, Macomb County Planning & Economic Development
- Katie Johnstone, St. Clair Shores
- Kim Meltzer, Clinton Township
- Lori Eschenburg, St. Clair County
- Terry Gibb, MSUE
- Lynne Seymour, MCPWO
- Margi Armstrong, Clean Water Action
- Mark Jones, SEMCOG
- Mary Gerstenberger, MSUE
- Michele Arquette-Palermo, CRWC
- Rachel Hakim
- Rob Myllyosa, HRC
- Terry McFadden, DNR
- William Osladil, City of Utica

Interactive Group Exercise

The purpose of this exercise was 1) to identify significant areas of green infrastructure within Macomb County that are important to protect, and 2) to identify areas where we want to increase green infrastructure as well as the practices. The county was divided into three sections. Two maps were developed for each section:

- 1) A map of existing green infrastructure: Participants placed round stickers on existing sites of green infrastructure (e.g. parks, riparian corridors, trails, wetlands, sites of rare native communities, large sites of woodlands or open space, prime farmland).
- 2) A map of future green infrastructure elements: Participants placed round stickers/text on sites, at which, they would like to increase green infrastructure (e.g. acquisition of land around parks or as a conservation connection between two sites of preservation areas, establishment of riparian buffer along river/stream corridors, addition of bioswales, rain gardens and trees along streets in urban areas). Green tape was used to identify the need for a connection between two or more sites of green infrastructure – or between a site of green infrastructure and the urban area such as a downtown.

Macomb County
Northern Section (North of 26 Mile)

Existing Green Infrastructure to Protect

- Stony Creek Metropark
- Huron Pointe Sportsman Club
- Otsikita Girls Scout Camp
- Stony Creek Metropark
- Wetzel State Park
- Conservation area at Bordman & Stoddard
- Headwaters of the North Branch

Proposed Future Green Infrastructure	
Action	Practice
Wetzel State Park	
Increase public access with possible disc golf course or other recreation activity	Recreation
Expand Wetzel and increase the amount of camping opportunities	Recreation
Greenway Trails	
Possible rail-to-trail along eastern portion County	Recreation
Connection trail between Macomb Orchard Trail and new trail along 26 mile	Recreation
St. Clair County to Belle Isle greenway connection	Recreation, stormwater management

A trail that connects all the Metroparks	Recreation
Transportation Corridors	
Beautification on Gratiot	Stormwater management, habitat restoration and protection
Opportunity for road runoff and absorption on M-53	Stormwater management, habitat restoration and protection
Beautification of Armada Ridge	Stormwater management, habitat restoration and protection
Park Development	
Expand mini Chesterfield Game Area	Stormwater management, habitat restoration and protection
Expand camping opportunities within state/county parks	Recreation, habitat restoration
Restore habitat or find some other way to utilize the abundance of golf courses	Habitat restoration, native vegetation

Macomb County
Middle Section (Between 26 Mile and 14 Mile)

Existing Green Infrastructure to Protect

- Troy School District Nature Center property
- Sanctuary Lakes Golf Course
- Wetlands at Delia Park
- Softball Complex
- Neil Reid School
- Shadyside Park
- Fire station and former land fill
- Boat launches
- Metro Beach Metropark
- Wetlands between Jefferson and Metropolitan
- North Branch stretch of land

Proposed Future Green Infrastructure	
Action	Practice
Greenway Trails	
Connect south trails to north trails of the county via floodplain	Recreation
Park Development	
Redevelop the old land fill a.k.a Mt. Trashmore	Native vegetation
Develop woodlands and sieges behind the police station in New Baltimore as a nature center	Recreation
Purchase small islands off of the shore near	Recreation

Voss Creek for public use	
Clinton River Watershed	
Remove wood and other flow impairments on Clinton River	Habitat restoration
Preserve and improve fishing opportunities on Clinton River	Habitat restoration
Restoration and bike paths on Partridge Creek	Habitat restoration
Naturalize area near Salt River, off of Sugar Brush Road	Habitat restoration, native vegetation
More boat and river access points	Recreation

**Macomb County
Southern Section (South of 14 Mile)**

Existing Green Infrastructure to Protect

- Air quality problems in Warren, near WWTP
- Air quality problems in Clinton Township, 14 & Gratiot area
- Warren Community Center
- Macomb Community College
- Utica Road, across from Rotary Park, old school was torn down, whole block vacant
- 9 Mile Pier
- 8 Mile & Gratiot
- Jefferson & Moross, Sail Club – more native shoreline
- Grosse Pointe/Detroit border
- 9 Mile & Kelly
- Warren – connecting parks with bike/hike trails
- Riparian Corridor – Red Run
- Nature Center in Warren

Proposed Future Green Infrastructure	
Action	Practice
Clinton Township	
The Twp owns land on Oakley Street; possibly turn into pocket parks	Recreation
Transportation Corridors	
Add bike/hike trails along Stephens, going down Hoover	Recreation
Enhancements along Jefferson, NMT trail to Belle Isle	Recreation
NMT trail down Mack in Gross Pointe	Recreation
Utilize median on Gratiot by adding more green infrastructure	Recreation and habitat restoration

NMT in downtown Roseville; Down Martin from Jefferson to Hayes; down Hayes to MCCC	Recreation
Red Run	
NMT trail connecting businesses (Ex: connect with local bars with a "beer trail")	Recreation

Key Pad Voting on Potential Green Infrastructure Policies

The participants were asked questions concerning their perspectives and level of support for green infrastructure and its practices across the region and in their areas. This input will assist in developing policies that will assist local governments in implementing the regional Green Infrastructure vision within their jurisdictions.

1. What benefits of green infrastructure are most important to you?

Multiple choice options	Voting results by option
a. Improving our water quality	6
b. Improving our air quality	0
c. Providing increased recreational opportunities	3
d. Adding to the quality of life with improved aesthetics	3
e. Economic benefits (improved property values, neighborhood stabilization, green jobs)	2
f. Improving the use of vacant property	0
g. Increasing habitat areas	4
h. Energy Savings	0
i. Climate change mitigation	0

2. What is the most important green infrastructure element you would like to see more of in your area?

Multiple choice options	Voting results by option
a. Trees along roads, downtowns	3
b. Bike/hike trails	2
c. Kayakcanoeingboat access	3
d. Parks	1
e. Community gardens	2
f. Natural areas (wetlands, woodlands)	7

3. Where is the most important place you'd like to see more green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan?

Multiple choice options	Voting results by option
-------------------------	--------------------------

a. Within ½ mile of my home	2
b. Along rivers and lakes	5
c. Along major roadways	5
d. Near existing parks and rare areas	6
e. Inside parks	0
f. On vacant property	0
g. On local government property	0
h. Within commercial and industrial corridors	2

4. In your area, how important is it to use green infrastructure to reduce pollution to our rivers, lakes and streams?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	14	(Score)

5. In your area, how important of a role does green infrastructure play in retaining and attracting knowledge based workers?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	1	1	0	0	3	5	3	6	(Score)

6. In your area, how important of a role could green infrastructure play in creating semi-skilled green jobs for lower-income workers?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
1	1	1	2	3	2	3	1	5	(Score)

7. What green infrastructure provides the highest economic value in your area?

Multiple choice options	Voting results by option
a. Publicly-owned parks	5
b. Privately-owned parks common areas	0
c. BeachesAccess to Water	10
d. Natural areas	1
e. Land Trails	2

8. In your area, how important is it to have public green infrastructure within 12 mile of residential population?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	12	(Score)

9. In your area, how important is it to have public access for boats (canoe, kayak, fishing) to local waterways?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
2	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	11	(Score)

10. In your area, how important is it to increase green infrastructure around industrial areas to reduce dust, improve air quality and enhance the area?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	0	1	1	2	0	3	2	10	(Score)

11. In your area, how important is it to increase green infrastructure through stream buffers around local waterways?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	13	(Score)

12. In your area, how important is it to utilize green infrastructure as a mechanism to enhance vacant lots?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	0	1	0	4	1	7	2	3	(Score)

13. In your area, how important is it to increase green infrastructure along roadways to reduce stormwater pollution, enhance commercial and residential areas, and integrate into trails planning?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	11	(Score)

14. In your opinion, how important is it to increase green infrastructure to increase energy efficiency and or reduce the impacts of climate change?

1. Not important through 9. Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
0	1	0	2	1	2	5	1	7	(Score)

15. Looking at the Southeast Michigan region as a whole, is it important to you to increase and protect green infrastructure throughout the whole region as a mechanism to have a successful region?

1. Yes. I understand the benefits and importance of increasing green infrastructure across the whole Southeast Michigan region.

2. No. I am interested in green infrastructure only in my area.

1	2	Total
17	2	

16. In your opinion, does there need to be more education of green infrastructure benefits and marketing of our green infrastructure?

1. YES 2. NO

1	2	Total
18	0	

17. How likely are you to install green infrastructure (rain gardens, trees, rain barrels) on your own property?

1. Not likely through 9. very likely

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total

3 1 0 0 0 1 0 3 11 (Score)

Macomb County Green Infrastructure Visioning Session Meeting Evaluation

Approximately 20 people attended the green infrastructure visioning session at Clinton-Macomb Township Public Library on July 11th. Fifteen evaluation forms (80%) were received at the end of the meeting. The evaluators rated the meeting the following:

Quality of Lunch program content
 Rating 6 (Excellent): Eight evaluators (53.3%)
 Rating 5 (excellent): Six evaluators (40%)
 Rating 4 (Satisfactory): One evaluator (6.6%)

What I liked most about today's event

- Q & A
- Many perspectives present
- Amy's presentation!
- Interaction with others of different skills
- Mapping future green space
- Real planning
- Learning what areas are in play for enhanced green infrastructure
- It's encouraging to see that groups like these are active in Macomb County
- Proactive efforts: Cooperation of SEMCOG and Macomb County
- The group exercise to ID features on maps
- Ability to give feedback
- Breakout session
- Round table for ideas
- Cookies
- The presentation was well thought out

Did you enjoy the working session format of this session?

"Yes" from all 15 evaluators.

Suggestions for improvements

- Expand sessions like this to attract more people
- More cookies
- More action on our great ideas
- Bring visioning to township supervisor's meeting for Macomb County and elected officials
- More time to rotate to different sections of map
- Bioswales throughout regions
- Do it again with follow-up info from today
- Have more of Amy

AGENDA

MACOMB AGRICULTURAL PDR COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JULY 22, 2013

AT

RAY TOWNSHIP HALL

64255 WOLCOTT ROAD

RAY, MI 48096

7:30 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call (sign in)
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of April 29, 2013 Minutes
5. Financial Report
6. Public Comments
7. Payment of bills from Westview
8. Review of Westview 200th Anniversary Banner, Brochures
9. Macomb County Planning & Economic Development update
10. Status of Michigan Agricultural Fund Board and Michigan Farmland and Open Space Department
11. Future funding source for Macomb PDR
12. Updates from township members
13. Next meeting date
14. Public Comment
15. Adjourn

MINUTES OF PDR COMMITTEE MEETING
 APRIL 29, 2013

Meeting was opened by Chairman DeCock at 7:08 PM
 Present were: Yaeck;Bohm;Van Houtte;Rea;Rhein;DeCock;Gibb;Ottenbacher;Rengert
 Falker;Brown;&Kulman

MotionBohm/Falker to approve agenda. Motion carried
 MotionRea/Yaeck to accept minutes of January 28, 2013 as presented. Motion carried
 No public present

Motion Bohm/Rea to receive and file the financial report
 Decock gave an update on the Michigan Agricultural Fund Board; Rich Harlow says there is not much going on. trying to find alternative source for funding instead of the PA116.

Update on the PDR Brochures from John Paul Rea County liaison;will work on updating the new brochure with Washington Township being added and the new executive committee that was elected at the Jan. Meeting of the PDR committee. He is working with the Parks and Rec people to update and revise some the old data from 2009

Westview Orchards is celebrating 200 years as one of Macomb County's oldest family farms. The celebration will take place on Saturday June 29, 2013 from 10AM to 3PM with special exhibits and tours
 Motion Kulman/Bohm to check into a banner with the PDR logo and names of the 6 townships , not to exceed \$150.00.

Motion Kulman/Brown to check on bottled water to pass out at the celebration at Westview not to exceed \$450.00.

Washington Township has been certified and set aside their land for the PDR Program.

Next meeting date is scheduled for July 29, 2013 at Ray Township

MotionBohm/Kulman to adjourn at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karon Ottenbacher, Secretary

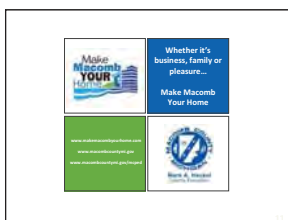
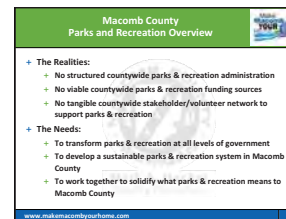
Macomb County Legislative Caucus
 Monday October 28th, 2013
 Clinton Macomb Public Library
 40900 Romeo Plank Clinton Township, MI

The Macomb County Legislative Caucus will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday October 28th at the Main Branch of the Clinton Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank in Clinton Township.

The meeting will include federal representatives, state legislators, mayors, supervisors and village presidents. This will be a great time to catch up on everything going on in Macomb County, the State of Michigan, and the federal government.

Agenda:

1. Welcome – Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel
2. County Programs and Federal Budget – Macomb County Department of Health and Community Services Director Steve Gold
3. Federal Update – Federal Representatives Caucus
4. County update – Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel
5. Macomb County Parks and Recreation - John Paul Rea, Senior Planner Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development
6. MEDC and Manufacturing Day – Steve N. Cassin, Executive Director of the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development
7. Local Updates - Clinton Twp and Sterling Heights to open conversation
8. State of the County - Dec. 4



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9th Floor
 Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
 586.469.5125 – Fax: 586.469.5993
 www.macombBOC.com

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Commissioner Bob Smith**
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes dated October 30, 2013 (previously distributed)
7. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson related only to issues contained on the agenda)
8. Correspondence from Executive (**none**)
9. Approve Resolution for Enhanced Access to Public Records Policy (page 1) (attached)
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a) Government Operations, November 4 (**no report**)
 - b) Justice & Public Safety, November 5 (**no report**)
 - c) Economic Development, November 5 (**no report**)

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair District 4	Kathy Tecco – Vice Chair District 11	Mike Boyle – Sergeant-At-Arms District 10	Tom Moceri – District 1	Marvin Sanger – District 2	Veronica Klinefelt – District 3	Robert Mjoe – District 5	James Carabelli – District 6
Don Brown – District 7	Kathy Visberg – District 8	Fred Miller – District 9	Bob Smith – District 12	Joe Sabatini – District 13			

- d) Finance, November 6 (page 4) (attached)
- e) Health & Human Services, November 7 (page 11) (attached)
- f) Infrastructure, November 7 (no report)
- 11. Item Waived to Full Board by Economic Development Committee Chair:
 - a) Request to Schedule Public Hearing Re: Brownfield Plan for Macomb Mall in Roseville (page 17) (attached)
- 12. Item Waived by Government Operations Committee Chair:
 - a) Recommendation from Ad Hoc Committee on Boards & Commissions Procedures Regarding Updating Process for Appointment to Boards and Commissions (page 18) (attached)
- 13. Approve Amendment to Macomb County Board of Commissioners Policy Regarding Living Wage (page 24) (attached)
- 14. Board Chair's Report (page 25) (attached)
- 15. Presentation on Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan/John Paul Rea (page 43) (attached)
- 16. Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD) Regional Authority Proposal/Update from Richard Sulaka, Jr., Deputy Public Works Commissioner (page 54) (attached)
- 17. **Adoption of Resolutions:**
 - a) Supporting the Nomination of the General Motors Technical Center, City of Warren, as a National Historic Landmark (offered by Mijac; include Mocer; recommended by Economic Development Committee on 11-5-13) (page 64) (attached)
 - b) Supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) (H.R. 1755 & S. 815) to Extend Principle of Fairness and Equal Opportunity in the Workplace (offered by Mocer; recommended by Health & Human Services Committee on 11-7-13) (page 66) (attached)
 - c) Establish November 15, 2013 as America Recycles Day in Macomb County and Support Furthering Recycling Efforts in Macomb County (offered by Board Chair on behalf of Board) (page 68) (attached)
- 18. **Adoption of Proclamations:**
 - a) Commending Sigrid Dale on Receiving the Rachel Corrie Peacemaker Award (offered by Mocer; recommended by Health & Human Services Committee on 11-7-13; previously provided at committee meeting)

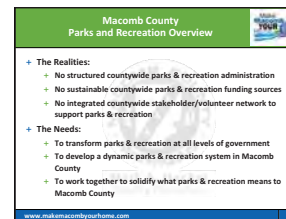
- 19. New Business
- 20. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)
- 21. Roll Call
- 22. Adjournment

County officials outline new parks and rec master plan | C & G Newspapers

The screenshot shows a news article on the website candgnews.com. At the top, there is a banner for the Macomb Family YMCA Community for a great 2013! Below the banner, the article title is "County officials outline new parks and rec master plan" by Jeremy Selweski, dated November 13, 2013. The article text discusses the county's new proposed parks and recreation master plan, mentioning goals, objectives, and the possibility of seeking a dedicated millage. It also mentions Assistant Executive Melissa Roy and John Paul Rea, a senior planner with the Planning and Economic Development Department. The article highlights the county's focus on capital improvements at Freedom Hill County Park and its 33-acre floodplain conservation easement. It also mentions the county's "Blue Economy" initiative, which seeks to utilize Macomb County's freshwater assets for economic development by improving public access to sites like Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River. The article concludes by noting that ambitious goals like these would be a challenge in Macomb County because the county currently has no parks and recreation administration, no stakeholder or volunteer networks, and most critically, no sustainable funding source.

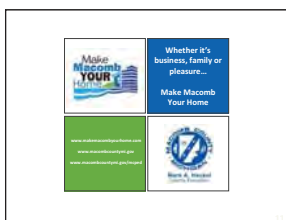
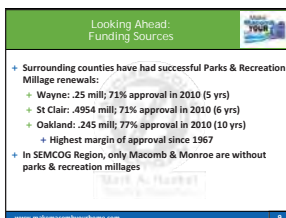
County officials outline new parks and rec master plan | C & G Newspapers

This block shows the continuation of the news article from the previous page. It includes the bottom portion of the article text, which discusses the county's overall vision and the strategy that Roy and Rea were taking with the new master plan. It also includes social media sharing options for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, and Print. Below the sharing options, there is a section for "Printer-friendly version" and "Send by email". At the bottom, there is a section for "For more local news coverage, see the following newspaper:" which features a link to the Macomb Township Chronicle. The article concludes with a quote from Commissioner James Carabelli, R-Shelby Township, who was receptive to the strategy that Roy and Rea were taking with the new master plan.



https://www.candgnews.com/news/county-officials-outline-new-parks-and-rec-master-plan[2/24/2014 11:59:20 AM]

1



**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
MACOMB COUNTY COMMISSION
FULL BOARD MEETING
November 12, 2013**

The Macomb County Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 on the 9th Floor of the County Administration Building, in the Commissioners' Board Room, Mount Clemens. Chair Flynn called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

NAME	DISTRICT	PRESENT	NOT PRESENT
Michael Boyle	10	X	
Don Brown	7	X	
James Carabelli	6	X	
David Flynn	4	X	
Veronica Klinefelt	3	X	
Robert Mijac	5	X	
Fred Miller	9	X	
Toni Mocerri	1	X	
Joe Sabatini	13	X	
Marvin Sauger	2	X	
Bob Smith	12	X	
Kathy Tocco	11	X	
Kathy Vosburg	8	X	

INVOCATION

Commissioner Smith gave the invocation.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, to approve the agenda, supported by Commissioner Tocco. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Unofficial Minutes of the Macomb County Commission Full Board Meeting, November 12, 2013, held at Macomb County Administration Building, 9th Floor, One South Main Street, Mount Clemens, MI 48043. These minutes may be amended and remain unofficial until formally adopted by the Board at a meeting.

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Carabelli, to approve the minutes dated October 30th (FB), supported by Commissioner Tocco. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

None

APPROVE ENHANCED ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

MOTION

R13-281 A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, to approve a resolution for an enhanced access public records policy, supported by Commissioner Klinefelt.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

Commissioner Brown offered a friendly amendment to strike **"but is not limited to"** under Item #1C (Definitions), pg.1. Commissioners Miller and Klinefelt accepted the friendly amendment.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING – November 4, 2013

No report

JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING – November 5, 2013

No report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – November 5, 2013

No report

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – November 6, 2013

Commissioner Miller asked to waive reading of the minutes. There were **NO** objections.

The reading of the recommendations from the Finance Committee was waived and a motion was made by Chair Miller, supported by Vice-Chair Mocerri, to adopt the committee recommendations.

R13-282 Approve the agreement for I.T. services between Oakland County and Macomb County with no monetary value for an inter local agreement between Macomb County and Oakland County; Further, a copy of this Board of

Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

R13-283 Approve increases in budget revenues ("Other") and expenses ("Supplies and Services") in the amount of \$4,643.20 which represent funds donated in 2013 by sponsors to the BOC Green Schools program; Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; Further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

R13-284 Approve a transfer of \$2,215 from the 2013 Circuit Court budget to the 2013 County Clerk budget to provide funding for Clerk staff overtime for court related work; Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; Further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

R13-285 Approve an increase in the FY2014 budgeted state revenues and expenditures of the Macomb County Mental Health Court in the amount of \$108,370 to account for the final amount awarded by the Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program, which was not included in the FY2014 budget adopted by the Board of Commissioners in September, 2013; Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; Further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

R13-286 Approve an increase in the FY2014 budgeted state revenues and expenditures of the Macomb County Veterans Treatment Court in the amount of \$50,125 to account for the final amount awarded by the Michigan Veterans Treatment Court Grant Program, which was not included in the FY2014 budget adopted by the Board of Commissioners in September, 2013; Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; Further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – November 7, 2013

The clerk read the recommendation from the Health & Human Services Committee and a motion was made by Chair Mocerri, supported by Vice-Chair Boyle, to adopt the committee recommendation.

R13-287 Waive the County Charter, Section 10.6.2, to authorize Macomb County Community Services Agency to rehire Karen Hengehold on a temporary basis, not to exceed 26 weeks (975 hours); further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown to table this item until next month until a report is received from MCCSA on the exact pay arrangements. **THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT.**

THE ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING – November 7, 2013

No report

ITEM WAIVED BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

R13-288 MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Mocerri, to approve the scheduling of a public hearing, as required by statute, to be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 9 a.m. on the Brownfield Plan for the Macomb Mall in Roseville, supported by Commissioner Mijac. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ITEM WAIVED BY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

R13-289 MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Carabelli, to update and streamline the appointment process for Macomb County Boards/Commissions over which the Board of Commissioners or Board Chair has appointment authority, supported by Commissioner Brown. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVE AMENDMENT TO MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS POLICY REGARDING LIVING WAGE

R13-290 MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, to approve amendment to Section 9 of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners Policy regarding Living Wage, supported by Commissioner Mocerri. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Flynn gave his report.

MOTION

R13-291 A motion was made by Commissioner Boyle, to receive and file the Board Chair report, supported by Commissioner Klinefelt. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PRESENTATION ON MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN / JOHN PAUL REA

MOTION

R13-292 A motion was made by Commissioner Carabelli, to receive and file, supported by Commissioner Tocco. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

DETROIT WATER SEWER DEPARTMENT (DWSD) REGIONAL AUTHORITY PROPOSAL / UPDATE FROM RICHARD SULAKA, JR., DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSIONER

MOTION

R13-293 A motion was made by Commissioner Carabelli, to receive and file report, supported by Commissioner Smith. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

RESOLUTIONS

Commissioner Carabelli asked to separate the resolutions and vote on them individually.

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Mocerri, to adopt Resolution #R13-294, supported by Commissioner Vosburg.

R13-294 Supporting the nomination of the General Motors Technical Center, City of Warren, as a National Historic Landmark (offered by Mijac; include Mocerri; recommended by Economic Development Committee on 11-05-13) **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Mocerri, to adopt Resolution #R13-295, supported by Commissioner Miller.

R13-295 Supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) (H.R. 1755 & S. 815) to extend principle of fairness and equal opportunity in the workplace (offered by Mocerri; recommended by Health & Human Services Committee on 11-07-13)

A roll call vote was taken.
Voting yes was: Mocerri, Miller, Tocco, Flynn, Boyle, Klinefelt and Mijac. There were 7 yes votes.
Voting no was: Sabatini, Sauger, Smith, Vosburg, Brown and Carabelli. There were 6 no votes.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith, to adopt Resolution #R13-296, supported by Commissioner Tocco.

R13-296 Establish November 15, 2013 as America Recycles Day in Macomb County and support furthering recycling efforts in Macomb County (offered by Board Chair on behalf of Board) **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PROCLAMATIONS

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Mocerì, to adopt the following Proclamation, supported by Commissioner Miller.

R13-297 Commending Sigrid Dale on receiving the Rachel Corrie Peacemaker Award (offered by Mocerì, recommended by Health & Human Services Committee on 11/07/13)

THE MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Miller reminded everyone that on Wednesday, November 20th, the Macomb Children's Hands on Museum Committee is having a pre-holiday party at the Macomb Music Theatre and encouraged colleagues to attend (if able).

Commissioner Sabatini reminded everyone that the 2012 audited financials were placed in mailboxes. Any questions relative to those should be passed on to him or Andrew Kim by November 22nd. The Audit Committee will be held at 5 pm on December 19th.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ROLL CALL

NAME	DISTRICT	PRESENT	NOT PRESENT
Michael Boyle	10	X	
Don Brown	7	X	
James Carabelli	6	X	
David Flynn	4	X	
Veronica Klinefelt	3	X	
Robert Mijac	5	X	
Fred Miller	9	X	
Toni Mocerì	1	X	
Joe Sabatini	13	X	
Marvin Sauger	2	X	
Bob Smith	12	X	
Kathy Tocco	11	X	
Kathy Vosburg	8	X	

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Klinefelt, to adjourn, supported by Commissioner Sabatini. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Chair Flynn adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m., until the call of the Chair.

David Flynn, Chair

Todd Schmitz, Deputy County Clerk



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9th Floor
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
586.469.5125 – Fax: 586.469.5993
www.macombBOC.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes dated December 11, 2013 (previously distributed)
5. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson related only to issues contained on the agenda)
6. Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan (page 1) (attached)
7. New Business
8. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)
9. Adjournment

MEMBERS: Mijac-Chair, Carabelli-Vice-Chair, Boyle, Brown, Klinefelt, Mocerì, Smith and Flynn (ex-officio)

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair District 4	Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair District 11	Mike Boyle – Sergeant-At-Arms District 10	Robert Mijac – District 5	James Carabelli – District 6
Toni Mocerì – District 1	Marvin Sauger – District 2	Veronica Klinefelt – District 3	Bob Smith – District 12	Joe Sabatini – District 13
Don Brown – District 7	Kathy Vosburg – District 8	Fred Miller – District 9		

Macomb County Parks and Recreation:
Creating a parks and recreation system based on people, places and passions.

Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

- Macomb County's renewed commitment to parks and recreation
- Provide parks and recreation opportunities for all residents and visitors
- Fresh and contemporary planning process
- Inventive and impactful parks and recreation strategies
- Integrate parks and recreation programs, services and facilities
- Enhance the County's role in the administration of parks and recreation

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

- A full scale update of the 2007 Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Leveraged "Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans"
- Developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management

- Reinstated Macomb County's eligibility to apply for recreation grants from the Natural Resources Trust Fund Act (Part 25 of 2006 PA 452)
- Leverage this state recommended framework to invest in Macomb County parks and recreation

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

- Required Plan Elements
 - Community Description
 - Administrative Structure
 - Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas and Recreational Facilities
 - Description of the Planning and Public Input Process
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Action Program

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Community Description

- Comprehensive overview of demographic, economic and land use trends
- Regional setting and advantageous location
- Increasing population
- Community Clusters – Urban Core, Suburban Cluster and Rural District
- Age and Generational Trends

- Race and Ethnic Diversity
- Household Increase
- Labor Force Gains
- Land Use and Natural Features – residential, park land, environmentally significant areas, freshwater resources

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Administrative Structure

- A network dynamic network of stakeholders
- Elected Officials
- Commissions and Advisory Boards
- Citizens Groups
- Philanthropic Organizations
- Volunteerism

- County Departments and Administrators
- Local Partnerships and Intergovernmental Relationships
- Budgeting: maintaining current services, while cultivating resources for the future

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Inventory

- Macomb County Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Freedom Hill County Park and Amphitheater
- Wasson Oakland Trail and Freedom Park
- James S. & Ann V. Nicholson Nature Center and Amphitheater
- State Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority Parks and Recreation Facilities
- 140 (1/2) local parks and facilities

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Planning and Public Input

- Systems-based Approach to Parks and Recreation Planning
- All parks and recreation facilities, programs and services as part of a larger system
- Links existing assets and the impacts of investments
- Great strides to engage the public
- Leveraged departmental outreach, community forums, public meetings and focus groups
- Currently in the midst of the 30 day public review period
- Media - print and social media outlets

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Goals and Objectives

- Provide Parks and Recreation Opportunities
- Foster Community Development and Engagement
- Promote Environmental Stewardship
- Encourage Healthy Lifestyles
- Support Economic Development

Macomb County Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Action Program

- Program areas and projects that will assist Macomb County in implementing the goals and objectives
- Macomb County Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure
- Identified staff and department
- Identified funding sources
- Support partnerships
- Macomb County Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Freedom Hill improvements
- James S. & Ann V. Nicholson Nature Center and Amphitheater
- Wasson Oakland Trail Network expansion
- Blue Economy
- Increase accessibility to freshwater assets
- Enhance environmental quality
- Develop and increase linkages

Next Steps

- Formal Approval Process
- 30 day public review period began on Jan 7th 2014
- February 2014 hold final public hearing
- February 2014 resolution
- Must submit plan to DNR Grants Management Division by March 31st 2014 to be considered for DNR Funds

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Mount Clemens, MI 48043
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www.macombgov.org

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Stephen N. Cassin (586) 469-5285 Date: January 7, 2013

Macomb County seeks input on New Parks and Recreation plan

A proposed plan could bring major changes to Macomb County's parks and recreation landscape. From developing new waterfront recreational districts to upgrading amenities at Freedom Hill, Macomb County is in the process of raising the profile of its recreational assets by expanding services and facilities.

Over the past year the county's Planning and Economic Development Department has been working with stakeholders at all levels of government to create a new strategy for parks in Macomb County. This new plan seeks to raise the profile of recreational assets in Macomb County by expanding services and facilities.

"This is a great opportunity for Macomb County," said Stephen Cassin, executive director of the county's Planning and Economic Development Department. "We are using fresh and innovative planning tools to enhance parks and recreation. By building off of the incredible assets we already possess, we can engage new users and a wider network of partners."

Macomb County last updated its Parks and Recreation plan in 2007. Under Michigan's Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans, the county must update its parks and recreation strategy every five years to be eligible for grants from the state. In the past, the county has obtained grants for improvements to Freedom Hill and enhancements to the non-motorized trail network. The new plan includes a comprehensive community profile, updated administrative structure, detailed inventory of parks and an action plan for investments and improvements.

In order to fulfill the state's requirements for adopting a new plan, the draft document will be available for public review and comment for the next 30 days. The plan is available online at www.macombgov.org/mcped, and a hard copy of the draft plan is also available for review at the Planning and Economic Development department, located at One South Main, 7th floor, Mount Clemens, MI 48043. The county is also seeking to leverage social media for comments and input. Links to the document and elements of the plan will be showcased on the Make Macomb Your Home Twitter account @makemacomb. Any comments or inquiries regarding the plan can be directed to the Planning and Economic Development Department in person or at planning@macombgov.org.

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For media inquiries only, please contact John Cwikla at (586) 463-3523

County officials seek public input on parks and rec plan | C & G Newspapers

Thank you to our Macomb Family YMCA Community for a great 2013!

Monday, February 24th, 2014 Warren, MI: 28°

County officials seek public input on parks and rec plan

By Jeremy Selweski
C & G Staff Writer

MACOMB COUNTY — Over the next few weeks, Macomb County residents will have the opportunity to review the county's new parks and recreation master plan and offer their own suggestions or revisions.

The proposed plan was first released on Jan. 7 and will be available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days. The 65-page document can be viewed online at www.macombgov.org/mcped, while a hard copy of the draft is also available at the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department, located at 1 S. Main St., 7th floor, Mount Clemens, MI 48043.

According to John Paul Rea, a senior planner with the department, "We didn't want to just make this a top-down plan where Macomb County tells everyone what we want to do. We wanted this to be a more dynamic process where residents can give us input about what parks and recreation amenities they would like us to focus on going forward."

County officials are also leveraging social media for public comments on the proposal. Links to the document and elements of the plan will be showcased on the "Make Macomb Your Home" Twitter account, @makemacomb. Meanwhile, any inquiries regarding the proposal can be directed to the Planning and Economic Development Department in person or via email at planning@macombgov.org.

Macomb County last updated its master plan in 2007. Under Michigan's Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans, the county must revise its parks and recreation strategy every five years in order to be eligible for state grants. In the past, Macomb County has obtained grants for improvements to Freedom Hill County Park in Sterling Heights and enhancements to its nonmotorized trail network.

"We're absolutely thrilled with this new document and what it offers," Rea said. "Under our new (executive) form of government, we believe that we can provide better parks and recreation opportunities for county residents."

Stephen Cassin, executive director of the Planning and Economic Development Department, added that county officials "are using fresh and innovative planning tools to enhance parks and recreation. By building off of the incredible assets that we already possess, we can engage new users and a wider network of partners."

With the new master plan, county officials are focusing on a number of key areas: capital improvements at Freedom Hill, expanding the county's network of bicycle and walking trails; enhancing regional parks like Dodge Park in Sterling Heights, as well as metroparks like Story Creek, Wolcott Mill and Lake St. Clair; bringing more festivals and community events to county park facilities; and partnering with Wetzel State Park in Lenox Township and more than 140 local parks across the county.

In addition, officials hope to allocate county resources to nature preservation at the Nicholson Nature Center in Clinton Township and its 33-acre floodplain conservation easement. They also want to tie many parks and recreation programs into the Executive Office's "Blue Economy" initiative — which seeks to utilize Macomb County's freshwater assets for economic development — by improving public access to sites like Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River.

County officials seek public input on parks and rec plan | C & G Newspapers

The new plan devotes a great deal of space to a comprehensive community profile, an updated administrative structure, a detailed inventory of existing parks and recreation properties, and an action plan for proposed investments and improvements. Rea pointed out that the extensive demographic information contained within the document is crucial to giving communities and individuals what they want.

"Above all, our plan has to be receptive to the people we serve," he said. "So it's imperative for us to provide these detailed community breakdowns if we want to have a strong understanding of Macomb County demographics and our existing parks and recreation resources."

Rea admitted, however, that the ambitious goals outlined in the plan will be a challenge to achieve in Macomb County because the county currently has no parks and recreation administration, no stakeholder or volunteer networks and, most critically, no sustainable funding source. While neighboring counties like Wayne, Oakland and St. Clair have enjoyed successful parks and recreation millage renewals over the last few years, Macomb and Monroe are currently the only counties in southeast Michigan without their own dedicated parks and recreation millage.

Rea indicated that county officials are looking into the possibility of a millage as a new funding option, as Macomb County currently has to subsidize its parks and recreation expenditures from the general fund each year. But there are no plans at the moment to add full-time parks and rec staff, as Rea believes that current county employees "can help facilitate parks and recreation development with their own extensive knowledge and experience."

The proposed master plan has won the support of County Executive Mark Hackel, who is hopeful that county officials will be able to receive additional funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

"This is a really comprehensive and impressive plan that our Planning and Economic Development Department has put together, and I encourage people to take a look at it," Hackel said. "We want to enhance our quality of life here in Macomb County by making better use of our land and water resources. If we can secure some DNR trust fund money for this plan, that's when I think you'll really see it take off."

Although the new master plan outlines numerous goals and objectives for Macomb County, it does not prioritize certain projects over others. Rea explained that this is where public input can help to shape where county officials focus their parks and recreation resources over the next few years.

"To some extent, we do have our own priorities in mind: the nonmotorized trails, the Blue Economy and Freedom Hill," he said. "But we also want to be more dynamic and be able to cater to the needs of our municipal partners. We hope to engage with our local parks and recreation providers to leverage some of their resources and make better use of what we already have. This is all about making sound and impactful investments for Macomb County residents."

You can reach C & G Staff Writer Jeremy Selweski at JSelweski@candgnews.com or at (586)218-5004.

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Macomb Township Chronicle
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MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Special Revenue Fund Detail by Category

DEPARTMENT	FUND	FUNCTION
692 - PARKS & REC	208 - PARKS FUND	GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide a day-use park for general public use.

Year Ended December 31,

	Audited		Budgeted			
	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Amended	2014 Recommended	2015 Forecasted	2016 Forecasted
Revenues:						
Charges for Services	\$ 161,294	\$ 501,090	\$ 125,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>161,294</u>	<u>501,090</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>185,000</u>
Expenditures:						
Salaries & Wages	2,739	9,016	-	-	-	-
Fringe Benefits	(224)	4,282	-	-	-	-
Supplies & Services	219,093	64,641	157,500	180,000	180,000	180,000
Utilities	84,100	49,413	155,007	160,000	165,000	170,000
Repairs & Maintenance	864	6,603	9,500	42,000	43,000	44,000
Contract Services	-	-	-	26,000	27,000	28,000
Internal Services	492	-	500	500	500	500
Total Expenditures	<u>307,063</u>	<u>133,954</u>	<u>322,507</u>	<u>408,500</u>	<u>415,500</u>	<u>422,500</u>
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>(145,769)</u>	<u>367,136</u>	<u>(197,507)</u>	<u>(223,500)</u>	<u>(230,500)</u>	<u>(237,500)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):						
Transfers in - General Fund	88,862	85,832	137,507	163,500	170,500	177,500
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses):	<u>88,862</u>	<u>85,832</u>	<u>137,507</u>	<u>163,500</u>	<u>170,500</u>	<u>177,500</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(56,907)	452,968	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	856,622	799,715	1,252,683	1,192,683	1,132,683	1,072,683
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 799,715</u>	<u>\$ 1,252,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,192,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,132,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,072,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,012,683</u>
Fund Balance Components						
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 724,896	\$ 677,864	\$ 617,864	\$ 557,864	\$ 497,864	\$ 437,864
Unrestricted	74,819	574,819	574,819	574,819	574,819	574,819
	<u>\$ 799,715</u>	<u>\$ 1,252,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,192,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,132,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,072,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,012,683</u>

Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners
Macomb County, Michigan

A Resolution Opposing House of Representatives Cuts to Proposed Funding
of the Regional Transit Authority and
Urging State Legislators to Restore Proposed Amendments to SB 608

Chairman David J. Flynn, on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offers the Following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners has repeatedly taken bipartisan action to unanimously support efforts to create a Southeast Michigan Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and to urge legislators to pass associated enabling legislation; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2012, the RTA for Southeast Michigan was established and in 2013 the governing board began work to develop a single master transit plan for the region, establish policies to coordinate service between existing transit providers, become eligible for federal and state funding, and ultimately develop safe, reliable and coordinated service to connect corridors in Macomb, Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties; and

WHEREAS, the RTA has already been successful in bringing DDOT, SMART, and the other local transit providers together to work productively and in unison and the RTA recently organized its Citizens Advisory Committee, a group which is eager to support the RTA in establishing regional rapid transit; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that funding for the RTA be at a level which is adequate for it to attract high quality staff and continue to efficiently and most effectively fulfill the legislative intent of its creation to establish stable, sustainable regional transit in metro Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Senate recently proposed and passed additional startup funding for the RTA to continue its important work until 2016 when it will seek voters' approval for funding; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan House of Representatives yesterday voted to cut proposed funding amendments to SB 608; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners opposes the cuts made by the Michigan House of Representatives to the recommended RTA funding and urges the restoration of the funding that was proposed by Governor Snyder and passed by the Michigan Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, the members of the Macomb County State Legislature, the Regional Transit Authority, Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw County Commissions, the Office of the Macomb County Executive and the Oakland and Wayne County Executives as well as Detroit City Council and the City of Detroit Executive Office.