Acknowledgments

The Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan, 2016-2020 was the cooperative effort of the Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Master Plan Committee, the Director and staff of Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation, and individual citizens and groups who participated in the planning process.

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The Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission was established in 1968 and has a history of providing resource oriented regional parks that are typically the responsibility of county government. Today, Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation takes pride in providing passive park and recreation opportunities in the unique natural settings of Kalamazoo County. The 7 County Parks offer swimming, hiking, multi-use trails, camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, soccer facilities, softball facilities, playgrounds, nature study, dog parks, tennis courts, disc golf, special events, and the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground.

Many of the County’s active recreation needs are currently met by the cities, villages, and school systems. These entities are unable to satisfy the growing recreation needs that require expansive and natural settings or to operate parks that protect our valuable natural resources.

The Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies the essential issues, defines the County’s role and establishes goals and objectives for the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission. The purpose of the 2016-2020 Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Plan is to provide a logical framework for guiding decisions concerning park and recreation facilities as well as public open space and natural areas.

The Park and Recreation Commission places emphasis on having a plan that will be a working document that will facilitate action towards improving the recreation facilities available to Kalamazoo County residents and visitors.

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**Kalamazoo County Parks & Recreation Commission Mission Statement**

The mission of Kalamazoo County Parks is to provide responsible stewardship and preservation of our green space and historic resources with recreation, relaxation, and learning opportunities for everyone.

**Kalamazoo County Parks Vision**

Kalamazoo County Parks will be:

- A widely recognized value for year-round outdoor recreation, relaxation, and learning.
- A respected contributor to the quality of life in Kalamazoo County.
- A source of pride for our community.

We will achieve this vision by:

- Creating innovative and unique park activities and attractions.
- Partnering extensively with community resources.
- Remaining financially self-sufficient.
Section 1

PLANNING PROCESS
Introduction
Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation began the master plan process in 2015. An organized process was followed to collect data, gather public input, and inform appropriate agencies. Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation staff completed the planning process with assistance from the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission, the Park and Recreation Commission Master Plan Committee, and other Kalamazoo County Agencies.

Planning Process Timeline

January 2015
- Performed recreation inventory and gathered information.

February 12 & 13, 2015
- Held public input workshops.

March 2015
- Park Commission reviewed public input.

April – December 2015
- County Parks Staff continued gathering planning information and plan development.

January 25, 2016
- Held the public input open house.

January 26, 2016
- Draft plan available for public review.

February 2, 2016
- Presented draft of plan to Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

February 4, 2016
- Draft plan presented to Kalamazoo County Park Commission

March 1, 2016
- Park Commission held public hearing.

March 1, 2016
- Adopted with a resolution by the Park & Recreation Commission.

March 1, 2016
- Adopted with a resolution by the County Board of Commissioners.

March 1, 2016
- Provided a copy of plan to Kalamazoo County Planning Commission and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council.

March 1, 2016
- Submitted plan to Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
Planning Process Description

The following is a summary of tasks completed to update the Parks and Recreation Plan for Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation.

Task 1 – Administration
A description of Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation operations and recreation services was researched and developed. Relationships between the Park Commission, County Board of Commissioners, County Administration, and Parks and Recreation staff are described. Information on the budget expenses and revenues was also gathered.

Task 2 – Community Description
The community description is divided into two sections that provide basic information on the physical and social features of Kalamazoo County. The physical features include location, climate, water features, transportation, land use, wildlife, and plant life. Social features include population trends and projections, age distribution, physical disabilities, socio-economic levels, and local tourism.

An inventory was taken of all recreation facilities in Kalamazoo County and surrounding areas. A description of the facilities was developed with information gathered from local municipalities. Information was provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding regional and State operated facilities.

Task 3 – Basis for Action
The Basis for Action was developed from the previous sections, County recreation trends, current park distribution and facilities, park master plans, public participation, and barrier free compliance. This section identifies reasoning behind action by looking at a number of different information sources to evaluate recreation needs of Kalamazoo County.

Task 4 – Action Plan
This is the heart of this Kalamazoo County Master plan and was developed by evaluating all of the material gathered, with the majority resulting from the Basis for Action. This section of the plan identifies what actions Kalamazoo County Parks will perform over the five-year planning period. Cost estimates and funding sources were identified.

Task 5 – Adoption of Plan
The County Board of Commissioners and the County Park Commission adopted the plan. Copies of the plan were forwarded to the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Kalamazoo County Planning Commission.

Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation Master Plan
Section 2

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
Organization Structure

Kalamazoo County is divided by population into eleven County Commission districts that are each represented by a County Commissioner elected by the voters. The County Board of Commissioners is responsible for providing statutory, constitutional, and non-mandated services within the context of fiscal responsibility and public trust. The County Administrator/Controller and the Deputy County Administrator work closely with the County Board of Commissioners and the Deputy County Administrator is responsible for the oversight of the Kalamazoo County Parks Department.

In September 1968, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners created the Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission in accordance with Act 261 of Public Acts of 1965, as amended. The Park and Recreation Commission has ten members that serve three year terms and includes a representative from the County Road Commission, the County Drain Commissioner or a representative from the Drain Office, and a representative from the Planning Commission. The remaining 7 members are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners, and not less than 1 and not more than 3 of whom shall be members of the Board of Commissioners.

The Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for:

- Identification and planning of recreation, open space, and conservation needs in Kalamazoo County.
- Setting Park policies, fees, and procedures.
- The acquisition and management of real and personal property as authorized by the Board of Commissioners.
- Setting rules and regulation governing the use of parks and recreation sites and facilities as authorized by the Board of Commissioners.
- Submitting to the Board of Commissioners fiscal recommendations including general operation and capital improvement budget allocations.

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation works closely with several boards and organizations that offer important input in areas of specific interest. These include the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, Kalamazoo County Fair Council, Kalamazoo County MSU Extension, Kalamazoo County Department of Planning, Kalamazoo County Information Services, the Kalamazoo County Finance Department, and Discover Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau.) Other departments of Kalamazoo County's government handle Park and Recreation financial responsibilities, payroll, human resources, computer technology, purchasing, and building maintenance. The governmental departments and other local organizations/governments of Kalamazoo County have an outstanding cooperative attitude that benefits the residents of Kalamazoo County.
Staff

The Director of Kalamazoo County Parks works closely with the Park and Recreation Commission, County Commission, and County Administration. The Director is responsible for managing personnel, park planning, capital improvements, the park and recreation budget, special events, and other park related duties. An administrative assistant and part time office assistant (25 hours/week) complete administrative duties including submitting bills, processing park deposits, park reservations, data entry, and day to day secretarial duties.

The Park Operations Manager coordinates the daily management of the County Parks. There are four Park Managers that each manages one park with the exception of the Cold Brook County Park Manager whom also manages Scotts Mill County Park and the Prairie View Park Manager whom also manages the KRV Trail. Forty seasonal park attendants assist with daily operations during the summer months and they work gatehouses, register...
Administrative Structure

Section 2

campers, and perform park maintenance duties. One full-time park maintenance employee maintains park equipment and completes skilled maintenance repairs and projects.

The Expo Center & Fairground has an Operations Coordinator that supervises two Expo Center Operators. They perform event setup and post event duties, secure buildings, work to meet the needs of promoters and visitors, perform building and grounds maintenance, make repairs, and complete many special projects. One custodian performs the necessary building maintenance. Up to four seasonal employees also assist with special events. A Sales and Marketing Coordinator works to book events at the Expo Center & Fairground, promotes events, and markets the Kalamazoo County Parks.

In 2008, Kalamazoo County entered into a new agreement with the Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County to administer Trail Programming funded with a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. All grant funds were spent in 2014, and the Trail Program Coordinator is currently responsible for generating revenue to sustain programs on the KRV Trail.

In 2013, Kalamazoo County assumed operational control of the Kalamazoo County Fair that had previously been organized by a private non-profit society. The Fair is overseen by the Kalamazoo County Fair Council and a part-time Fair Coordinator. Some temporary employees also assist with the event.

Volunteers & Partnerships

Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County
Formed in 1988, the Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County is a dedicated group of individuals that are part of a 501C3 organization that has made its mission to raise funds to improve park and recreation facilities in Kalamazoo County.

The Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County was initially formed to raise the necessary funding to develop Markin Glen County Park. With the recent completion of the final phase for Markin Glen the Foundation raised nearly $6,000,000 that included an endowment with a current value of $1,300,000. The endowment provides annual funds to assist with the operation and maintenance of Markin Glen.

In 1997, the Parks Foundation completed a fundraising drive with Kalamazoo County Parks and Comstock Township Parks for the Wenke Softball Complex. The Parks Foundation raised $165,048 towards the $487,675 project.

Currently, the Parks Foundation is fundraising the $18,000,000 for the construction and endowment of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway. The fundraising goals include $9,000,000 in local fundraising, and $9,000,000 in State and Federal grants. The $18 million dollar goal includes $2 million for a trail operation endowment and $16 million for trail construction.

Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
The Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway is a 501C3 organization with members that work to assist with the development, operation, programming, and funding for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.

Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
Kalamazoo County Parks currently has 18 organizations that have adopted a one mile section of the KRV Trail. They remove litter and provide necessary maintenance on their adopted section two or three times per year.
Discover Kalamazoo
Discover Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County Parks have the mutual goal of promoting tourism and marketing Kalamazoo as a popular meeting and tourism destination to increase the positive economic impact on the economy of Kalamazoo County. Currently, Discover Kalamazoo provides event services for many of the activities held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and Fairground and the sporting events held at the County Parks. Discover Kalamazoo also actively recruits events to be held at County Park facilities. The Director of Kalamazoo County Parks currently serves on the Discover Kalamazoo Advisory Council and the President of Discover Kalamazoo serves as a liaison member to the Park Commission.

Soccer/Sporting Organizations
AYSO 212, the River Oaks Soccer Club, Kingdom Soccer, Gull Lake Women’s Soccer, the Pfizer Soccer League, and the Kalamazoo Ultimate Disc League use River Oaks County Parks Soccer Complex to host regular league and home travel games. In addition to hosting leagues, River Oaks also facilitates 6 or more large soccer, lacrosse, or Ultimate Disc tournaments each year.

Scotts Olde Tyme Power & Equipment Association (Power Club)
The Power Club hosts three events per year at Scotts Mill County Park and contributes time and effort to complete park projects and maintain the mill. In addition, the group helps promote Scotts Mill County Park.

Kalamazoo County Garden Council
The Kalamazoo County Garden Council has utilized the main floor of the Markin House at Markin Glen County Park for meetings, activity space, and as a library for 30 years. They assist with maintenance and repairs to the house.

Comstock Township Parks
Kalamazoo County Parks created a partnership with Comstock Township Parks to fund and improve the Wenke Softball Complex at River Oaks County Park. The complex includes four lighted softball fields, restrooms, a concession stand, and picnic shelter. The Township performs most of the site maintenance and runs the softball programs.

River Oaks Aeromodelors
The River Oaks Aeromodelors operate the model airplane field at River Oaks County Park. They provide funding to assist the County with maintenance of the facility and provide AMA insurance for members.

Southwest Michigan Mountain Biking Association
Kalamazoo County Parks entered into a new partnership with the Southwest Michigan Mountain Biking Association (SWMMA) in 2015. SWMMBA is raising funds and developing 4.5 miles of single track at Markin Glen County Park. They will also help maintain the trail in the future through their members and volunteers.

Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
Kalamazoo County Parks currently has 18 organizations that have adopted a one mile section of the KRV Trail. They remove litter and provide necessary maintenance on their adopted section two to three times per year.

Other Volunteers
Kalamazoo County Parks is fortunate to have a number of other individuals and groups volunteer their time and services. These include but are not limited to master gardeners, disc golf course improvement volunteers, scouting groups, corporate community service, and individual park users.
Budget Information

The 2016 park and recreation budget totals $1,647,700 with payroll at $1,129,300 and operating expenses totaling $518,400. The 2016 Parks Department Budget is divided into ten (10) accounts, one for each park and separate accounts for the Expo Center, County Fair and administrative support services. The administrative and support expense account represents 32% of the total budget.

Table 2-2: County Parks Accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Revenue</th>
<th>2016 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markin Glen</td>
<td>$181,700</td>
<td>$166,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotts Mill</td>
<td>$16,500</td>
<td>$18,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Brook</td>
<td>$113,700</td>
<td>$150,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View</td>
<td>$85,400</td>
<td>$125,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks</td>
<td>$142,600</td>
<td>$180,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRV Trail</td>
<td>$57,800</td>
<td>$76,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Program</td>
<td>$87,300</td>
<td>$121,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Fair</td>
<td>$185,500</td>
<td>$244,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expo Center</td>
<td>$462,500</td>
<td>$395,208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Expenditures include prorated administrative/support budget.

In 2004, the Ten-Year Strategic Plan for Kalamazoo County Parks established the need for Kalamazoo County Parks to become financially self-sufficient by 2015. This has coincided with less general fund revenue due to reduced State revenue sharing and reductions in property tax collections. Kalamazoo County Parks made significant strides towards reducing expenditures, increasing revenues, and eliminating the need for the County to appropriate general fund revenue for park operations.

Table 2-3: History of Operating Revenue Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Appropriation</th>
<th>Operating Revenue</th>
<th>Accommodation Tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kalamazoo County Parks has a diverse source of revenue generated with user fees. In 2015, Kalamazoo County Parks generated $706,395 in revenue. The Expo Center rental provided the most income with $402,825, park admissions generated $269,074, camping provided $237,754 and athletic field rental generated $78,052.

The budget challenges faced by Kalamazoo County Parks are expected to continue to have a significant impact on Kalamazoo County Parks. Continuing to increase revenue is essential for the future success of Kalamazoo County Parks. Consideration should be given to improving and growing the strong existing service base and expanding it by providing services that meet the community’s need while offering revenue to help offset expenses.
Table 2-4: History of Revenue by Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Admissions</td>
<td>$194,155</td>
<td>$210,197</td>
<td>$193,544</td>
<td>$205,901</td>
<td>$269,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>$173,103</td>
<td>$190,233</td>
<td>$193,372</td>
<td>$203,317</td>
<td>$237,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>$17,900</td>
<td>$17,345</td>
<td>$15,710</td>
<td>$16,530</td>
<td>$23,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Field Rental</td>
<td>$71,056</td>
<td>$80,324</td>
<td>$79,708</td>
<td>$80,891</td>
<td>$78,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Revenue</td>
<td>$32,829</td>
<td>$40,746</td>
<td>$61,605</td>
<td>$75,165</td>
<td>$98,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expo Center Events</td>
<td>$323,005</td>
<td>$404,094</td>
<td>$389,503</td>
<td>$390,843</td>
<td>$402,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Fair</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$131,650</td>
<td>$131,650</td>
<td>$131,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$18,581</td>
<td>$26,634</td>
<td>$39,304</td>
<td>$81,929</td>
<td>$46,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Appropriation</td>
<td>$229,960</td>
<td>$161,902</td>
<td>$183,442</td>
<td>$136,050</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td>$266,528</td>
<td>$257,689</td>
<td>$357,528</td>
<td>$52,607</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation Tax</td>
<td>$87,302</td>
<td>$91,484</td>
<td>$118,240</td>
<td>$119,302</td>
<td>$213,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$1,414,419</td>
<td>$1,480,648</td>
<td>$1,761,342</td>
<td>$1,494,275</td>
<td>$1,511,203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parks Improvement Fund

In 2006 the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners adopted the following policy and it remains in effect:

At the end of each year, if the actual final appropriation is less than budgeted appropriation, then the Parks Improvement Fund will receive one-half of the difference and the General Fund keeps one-half. If the actual final appropriation from the General Fund is more than the budget, then the Parks Improvement Fund receives nothing.

In 2015, the Parks Improvement Fund received $18,150. These funds are primarily held as a reserve for unforeseen expenses and are also utilized to complete small capital improvement projects or could be used for grant matching funds.

Accommodation Tax Revenue:

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners collects a 5% tax on all Kalamazoo County hotel and motel accommodations. In 2015, the projected accommodation tax revenue is $2,505,000. Currently the Board of Commissioners allocates $75,000 to the County Treasurer to pay for the administrative expense of collecting the tax. Out of remaining funds, 71% is allocated to Discover Kalamazoo and 29% is allocated to Kalamazoo County Parks for marketing expenses, a sales and marketing position, Kalamazoo County Expo Center operations, and for capital improvements at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center. In 2015, the Parks Department budget includes $136,400 for Expo Center & Fairground capital projects and $300,700 for marketing, operation, promotional, and sales expenses.
Kalamazoo County Parks Impact on Local Economy:

Kalamazoo County Parks identifies and tracks event impact on local hotels and the Kalamazoo County economy. In 2014, the major park events and Expo Center Events attracted 357,701 visitors and utilized an estimated 18,457 room nights and generated an economic impact of $17,319,128.

An ongoing goal and priority for Kalamazoo County Parks is to maximize the economic benefits to the local community by booking regional and national events that generate hotel stays and support the tourism industry. Marketing goals include attracting new events and retaining existing events.

Park Endowment Funds

Kalamazoo County Parks has emphasized future operation plans with development projects. Recognizing that competition continues to increase for County General Funds, the Parks Foundation has pioneered funding park development projects and consecutively establishing endowments for Markin Glen County Park and the KRV Trail at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to help meet future maintenance and operation expenses. In 2006, the Parks Commission established the Kalamazoo County Parks Endowment fund with an initial gift from the Parks Foundation.

Table 2-5: County Park Endowment Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Level</th>
<th>Est. Annual $ Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markin Glen Endowment</td>
<td>$1,042,000</td>
<td>$41,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRV Trail Endowment</td>
<td>$1,296,282</td>
<td>$51,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks Endowment</td>
<td>$98,556</td>
<td>$3,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

Cold Brook County Park

Grant #26-00147 LWCF 1968
Grant project included a new bathhouse, beach, roads and parking, picnic shelter with tables, and playground equipment. The bathhouse was renovated in 2005 and the picnic shelter and playground equipment are still utilized.

Grant #26-00219 LWCF 1970
The project included 22 campsites, restrooms, utilities, a boat launch, parking lot, paved beach parking lot, entrance road, and park furnishings. The project elements are all still utilized. The beach lot and entrance road were repaved in 2007 and the boat ramp is in need of some asphalt and ramp repairs.

Grant #26-00879 LWCF 1977
Access roads, boat ramps, picnic shelter, ball diamond, parking, restrooms, playground equipment, picnic area, and trail improvement. All facilities are still utilized.

Grant #26-01526 LWCF 1993
The project focused primarily on ADA upgrades and included improvements to parking, access, and paving; an accessible playground, accessible campsites, accessible picnic sites, paved walkways, accessible fishing pier, and replacement restrooms. All elements are still in good operating condition.

Markin Glen County Park

Grant #BF90-374 1990
This was the first project at Markin Glen and included development of the west side of the park with two picnic shelters, restrooms, trail construction, roads, group camping area with vault restroom, amphitheatre construction, utilities, activity area, picnic tables, and landscaping. The project also included fencing around the perimeter of the park’s 160 acres. All elements are still in good condition.

Grant #TF96-142 1996
The project included earth moving, construction of the beach area, entrance area, picnic tables, landscaping, accessible playground, and construction of the lakes. All facilities are still in use and are in excellent condition.

Grant #CM00-108 2000
Completed in 2005, the project included general site work, campground development, a playground, the tennis complex, a maintenance facility, pedestrian bridges, a softball field, 1-mile river trail, and a fishing lake pier. All facilities are in excellent condition.
Prairie View County Park

Grant #26-00073 LWCF    1967
Project included 3 restrooms, 3 picnic shelters, playground equipment, roads and parking areas, 40 picnic tables, and three wells. Today these areas are called picnic areas #1, #3, and #4. The shelter at area #1 was replaced in 2007. The other two shelters are still used. The Restrooms are still utilized. Picnic tables have been largely replaced and all playground equipment was replaced in 2006.

Grant #BF89-420    1989
Grant assisted with bathhouse construction, removal of old bathhouse, parking lot improvements, landscaping, bathhouse patio area, and walking path. All facilities are still used and are in excellent condition.

River Oaks County Park

Grant #26-00485 LWCF    1973
The project included construction of the big picnic shelter, boat ramp, modern restrooms, playground equipment, utilities, furnishings, access road, and parking area. All facilities are still in operation and are in good condition.

Grant #26-00766 LWCF    1976
Project included development of the Oak Grove picnic area with parking and road asphalt surfacing, restrooms, utilities, picnic equipment, and playground equipment. All facilities are still utilized.

Grant #26-01394 LWCF    1985
Construction of one softball field, five soccer fields, drive, and parking. All facilities are still utilized.

Grant #BF 93-052    1993
Construction of softball fields, restroom and concession building, gravel parking lot, asphalt walkways, and electrical service.

Grant #26-01603 LWCF    2002
Completed in 2006, the scope items include site preparation, new soccer fields, new parking lots, roadway improvements, and a restroom/concession building. All items are in excellent condition.

Grant TF12-117    2013
Completed in 2014, the scope items include splash pad, playground, picnic shelter, new parking lots, and dog park parking facilities. All items are in excellent condition.
Section 3

PHYSICAL FEATURES
Physical Features

Introduction

The following section describes many of the area's natural and man-made features. The purpose is to provide the users of this plan with an overview of the physical features since they are related to recreation activities and resources.

Planning Area

The objective of this plan is to serve Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Kalamazoo County covers 368,640 acres or 576 square miles of land. The County contains twenty-four local units of government including fifteen townships, five villages, and four cities. The City of Kalamazoo is the county seat.

Location

Kalamazoo County is in Southwestern Michigan and bounded on the south by St. Joseph County, to the west is VanBuren County, to the east is Calhoun County, and to the north are Barry and Allegan Counties. Kalamazoo County is 140 miles from Detroit, 145 miles from Chicago, 245 miles from Indianapolis, and 75 miles from Lansing.

Climate

Kalamazoo County’s weather, like all of Michigan’s, influences the recreational opportunities through a wide range of seasonal conditions. The area can support a variety of outdoor activities throughout the year from swimming to cross-country skiing. Table 3-1 identifies information related to the area’s climate. In Kalamazoo County, the average daily temperature is 49.7 degrees F with monthly averages varying between 23.7 degrees F in January to 73.2 degrees F in July.

Precipitation averages 34.8 inches per year and snowfall averages 73.1 inches per year. Prevailing winds are from the southwest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Daily Temperature (°F)</th>
<th>Precipitation (Inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Snowfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Michigan State University Dept. of Geography

Topography

An important element of recreation master planning is a study of the regional topography. Many recreation activities are enhanced by changes in grade. Further, the visual aspects of open space are strengthened by vistas and topography.

The county is quite diverse from a topographic standpoint. With minor exceptions, the entire County lies within a highly-habitable zone of 700 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The largest portion of the county lies between 850-900 feet of elevation. Most of this area is an extensive plain in the south-central part of the county, south of the Kalamazoo River. The major lowland in the County is the trough of the Kalamazoo River and its tributary extensions. The majority of the upland occurs in the
western and northern portions of the County. In essence, most of Kalamazoo County is characterized by gently rolling to level landforms.

The general topographic features in the majority of Kalamazoo County present no significant barrier to recreation improvements or opportunities but should be considered and evaluated when planning recreation facilities.

**Water Features**

Lakes, rivers, and streams are in high demand to meet today’s recreation needs. Kalamazoo County is fortunate to have a large quantity and variety of natural water features.

The river system of Kalamazoo County has 365 miles of rivers and streams including the Kalamazoo River and several of its larger tributaries. The County's other rivers and streams include the Portage River, Davis Creek, Flowerfield Creek, Gull Creek, Portage Creek, and Sand Creek.

The County also has over 88 lakes and reservoirs. Gull Lake is the largest natural lake with 2050 acres and approximately 20 miles of shoreline. Although most of the lakes are surrounded by seasonal and year-round homes, public boat access is available on many of the lakes.

Public access for boating and fishing is available at 20 locations. Of these locations, 16 are on lakes and 4 are on rivers. The abundance of many species of game fish makes the inland lakes and streams extremely popular for recreational fishing. Many of the lakes and streams also have beautiful natural settings making them ideal for park sites. The 20 access sites on lakes and rivers in Kalamazoo County are primarily designated for boat access. There can be a conflict of users between boats and swimmers at these public access sites. Kalamazoo County currently has eight public swimming beach facilities and three of these sites are operated by Kalamazoo County Parks.

In total, the County has 11,712 acres of surface water and this accounts for 3.2 percent of the total surface area of the County. Although lakes and ponds are plentiful in the County, their distribution is not uniform. Major concentrations occur in Comstock, Richland, Ross, Pavilion, Schoolcraft, and Brady Townships, as well as the City of Portage. Lesser concentrations are found in Alamo, Charleston, Kalamazoo, Oshtemo, and Texas Townships. Wakeshma, Cooper, and Prairie Ronde Townships are virtually lake-less.

**Transportation**

The primary vehicular access in Kalamazoo County is via Interstate 94 and US-131. Both of these are four lane divided highways with limited access. Two business loops, one from each highway, provide adequate access to the industrial and commercial areas of Kalamazoo.

Kalamazoo County is provided air service from the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport. The County operated airport has commercial and freight services accommodated by a number of commercial airlines.

**Land Use**

Land use is becoming increasingly important to recreation in Kalamazoo County. Agricultural and open space is being developed as residential. According to Table 3-2, 40% of the land area in Kalamazoo County is used for agricultural purposes and only 8% is used for residential. Kalamazoo County does not have a land use plan but many of the Townships have or are developing land use plan...
Table 3-2: Kalamazoo County Land Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAND USE</th>
<th>% OF COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooded Land</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Land</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water &amp; Marsh</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wildlife**

Kalamazoo County’s wildlife is typical of that found in most of Lower Michigan. Common wildlife includes deer, raccoons, possums, rabbits, muskrats, beavers, squirrels, rodents and other small mammals. The area is home to a variety of birds including owls, wild turkeys, pheasants, and many others. The area is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including ducks, songbirds, and Canada geese.

**Plant Life**

Originally, Michigan was covered with a dense forest of deciduous trees. As the area was cleared for farming and development, the trees were removed for timber, the areas of forest were replaced by farm fields, open field areas, manicured lawns and smaller forested areas containing both deciduous and coniferous trees. There remain many forested areas, especially along the Kalamazoo River and other waterways. The higher well-drained areas consist predominantly of oaks, sugar maple, beech and white pine. Areas of low relief support pine, aspen, basswood, and maples. The floodplain areas consist of ash, silver maple, sycamore, and oaks. According to table 3-2, 23% of the County is forested.
Section 4

SOCIAL FEATURES
Introduction

This section of the plan describes the population of Kalamazoo County, Michigan and the State of Michigan. The description focuses on the County and its unique population characteristics that impact recreation needs and planning.

Population Trends and Projections

Recreation requirements are directly related to the size and trends of Kalamazoo County’s population. The recreation system should provide adequate services to meet the needs of the current population and should be striving to meet the needs of population trends.

According to table 4-1, since 1970 Kalamazoo County's population has increased by 17.7%. During the 1970's the population decreased .1% which was below the State of Michigan's 4.4% increase. The County saw a significant increase of 5.2% in the 1980’s that was higher than the States increase of 0.4%. During the 1990’s Kalamazoo County’s population increased 6.8%, is consistent with Michigan’s increase of 6.9%. From 2000-2010 Kalamazoo County’s population increased 4.9% and this is a significant contrast to Michigan’s decrease of -0.8%. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 2010 population of Kalamazoo County was 250,331. In 2014, Kalamazoo County’s population is projected to increase to 258,818.

Table 4-1: Population Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KALAMAZOO COUNTY</th>
<th>MICHIGAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970 Census</td>
<td>212,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980 Census</td>
<td>212,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 Census</td>
<td>223,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Census</td>
<td>238,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>250,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Estimate</td>
<td>258,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCE: U.S. Census of Population 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4-2 depicts the population growth and change that has occurred within the boundaries of Kalamazoo County. Growth of population within the County has not been even. Between 2000 and 2010 Kalamazoo County’s population increased by 4.9%. This is significantly higher than the -0.8% decrease for the State of Michigan. During this same period, four communities experienced growth over 15%.

Cooper Township 15.5%
Richland Township 16.8%
Oshtemo Township 27.7%
Texas Township 39.7%

Pavilion Township (6.7%), Comstock Township (7.2%), Prairie Ronde Township (7.9%), Charleston Township (8.9%), and Schoolcraft Township (13.7%) also saw growth higher than the County average of 4.9%. Oshtemo Township saw the greatest overall increase with population growth of 4,702. The western portion of Kalamazoo County continues to see significant increase in population. The increases indicate a trend of population moving from the urban settings to more rural Township settings. This is relevant to park planning because these Townships offer limited or no recreation facilities and the shift in population changes the proximity of population to the County Parks.

On the other extreme, there were six communities, which lost population during the decade.

Brady Township -0.4%
Alamo Township -1.5%
City of Kalamazoo -3.7%
City of Parchment -6.8%
Ross Township -7.6%
Wakeshma Township -8%

The City of Kalamazoo’s population decreased by 2,883. The decreases further substantiate the shift of population from the urban centers to the outlying townships.
### Table 4-2: Population Growth and Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County</td>
<td>212,378</td>
<td>223,411</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>238,603</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>250,331</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>11,728</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galesburg</td>
<td>1,822</td>
<td>1,863</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1,988</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>79,722</td>
<td>80,277</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>77,145</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
<td>74,262</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>(2,883)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parchment</td>
<td>1,819</td>
<td>1,958</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>1,936</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
<td>1,804</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>(132)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portage</td>
<td>38,157</td>
<td>41,042</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>44,897</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>46,292</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>1,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townships*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamo</td>
<td>2,909</td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>3,820</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>3,762</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>(58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brady</td>
<td>3,116</td>
<td>3,134</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>4,263</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>4,248</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>(15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>1,719</td>
<td>1,756</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1,813</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1,975</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climax</td>
<td>1,359</td>
<td>1,544</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>2,412</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
<td>2,463</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comstock</td>
<td>11,162</td>
<td>11,825</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>13,851</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>14,854</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>1,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>8,434</td>
<td>8,442</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>8,754</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>10,111</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>1,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>20,942</td>
<td>20,976</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>21,675</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>21,918</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshtemo</td>
<td>10,958</td>
<td>13,401</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>17,003</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>21,705</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>4,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>4,811</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>5,829</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>6,222</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Ronde</td>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>1,365</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>2,086</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>4,191</td>
<td>4,634</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>6,491</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>7,580</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>1,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross</td>
<td>3,863</td>
<td>3,832</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
<td>5,047</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>4,664</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
<td>(383)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoolcraft</td>
<td>3,588</td>
<td>3,695</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>7,260</td>
<td>96.5%</td>
<td>8,214</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>5,643</td>
<td>7,711</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>10,519</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>14,697</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>4,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakeshma</td>
<td>1,375</td>
<td>1,378</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1,414</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1,301</td>
<td>-8.0%</td>
<td>(113)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Villages</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>(14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climax</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
<td>(24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schoolcraft</td>
<td>1,359</td>
<td>1,517</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>1,587</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
<td>(62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicksburg</td>
<td>2,224</td>
<td>2,216</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>2,320</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>2,906</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Township population data includes Townships and incorporated Villages.

SOURCE: U.S. Census of Population
Map 4.2: Kalamazoo County Cities and Townships Population Increases from 2000-2010

### Source: U.S. Census of Population 2010, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Population 2000</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
<th>Population 2010</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alamo Township</td>
<td>3,762</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>3,704</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Township</td>
<td>10,111</td>
<td>+15.5%</td>
<td>11,880</td>
<td>+16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland Township</td>
<td>7,580</td>
<td>+16.8%</td>
<td>8,864</td>
<td>+16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Township</td>
<td>4,664</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
<td>4,244</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshtemo Township</td>
<td>21,705</td>
<td>+27.7%</td>
<td>27,607</td>
<td>+27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion Township</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>+7.9%</td>
<td>4,489</td>
<td>+7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portage</td>
<td>46,292</td>
<td>+3.1%</td>
<td>47,839</td>
<td>+3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland Township</td>
<td>7,580</td>
<td>+16.8%</td>
<td>8,864</td>
<td>+16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion Township</td>
<td>6,222</td>
<td>+6.7%</td>
<td>6,790</td>
<td>+9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Township</td>
<td>4,664</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
<td>4,244</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4,244</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>27,607</td>
<td>+27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>+7.9%</td>
<td>4,489</td>
<td>+7.9%</td>
</tr>
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<td>47,839</td>
<td>+3.1%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6,222</td>
<td>+6.7%</td>
<td>6,790</td>
<td>+9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Township</td>
<td>4,664</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
<td>4,244</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
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</table>
Of the 250,331 residents of Kalamazoo County, 52% reside in cities and villages and 48% reside in township settings. This is significant because only 52% of the population is serviced by local municipal park facilities and programs while the remaining 48% of the population residing in townships have no or limited existing recreation opportunities. The shift in population is expected to continue and some townships are projected to grow at a significantly higher percentage than the County as a whole. Kalamazoo County Parks should plan appropriately to provide parks and recreation opportunities for these residents.

### Age Distribution

While the overall population is the most important consideration, there are other characteristics to consider when planning for a community’s recreation needs. The age distribution of a community influences the types of facilities and programs needed. Table 4-3 shows that the County’s median age of 34.1 is lower than Michigan’s 38.9. Overall the distribution of age groups in the County is very similar to Michigan’s with only slight variations. A total of 26.8% percent of the County’s population is under 19 and 26.4% percent is 55 or older.

The recreation services of Kalamazoo County should provide a variety of facilities and designs to accommodate the needs of each age group. Age distributions are expected to have a typical impact on Kalamazoo County’s recreation needs. As with state and national trends, the senior citizen population will continue to increase and consideration should be given when planning for Kalamazoo County’s recreation needs.

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<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
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SOURCE: U.S. Census of Population 2010

### Physical Disabilities

The disability status of a population is significant when considering recreation needs for a community. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, 31,407 people comprising, 12.5% of the County’s population of persons who were five years or older were faced with a physical disability compared to 13.7% of the State of Michigan’s population. In addition, many of the elderly experience reduced mobility, limited physical strength and changes in hearing and sight.

A special section of this report, addresses the needs of persons with disabilities. Specific attention is placed on inclusive design considerations consistent with ADA regulations.
Social Features ——————————————————— Section 4

Socio-Economic Levels

The County’s household income levels are lower than Michigan’s. Table 4-4 shows Kalamazoo County’s 2009 median household income was $46,011. This figure is slightly lower than Michigan’s median household income of $48,471. The County also has a slightly higher per capita income than Michigan. Kalamazoo County has a higher percentage of people below the poverty level than Michigan.

This information indicates many people in Kalamazoo County can benefit from affordable recreation opportunities. While Kalamazoo County Parks increasingly depends on user fees to fund the Parks & Recreation budget, careful consideration should be given to maintain accessibility to all socio-economic levels.

Table 4-4: Socio-Economic Levels

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<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$46,011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Income</td>
<td>$25,860</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of Population Below Poverty Level</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
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</table>

SOURCE: U.S. Census of Population 2010

County Tourism

A key area of emphasis for Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation is to provide parks and facilities that directly benefit the tourism industry. Tourism is the second largest industry in the State of Michigan. In 2010 tourism generated over $17.2 billion in direct pleasure expenditures in Michigan and over $340 million in Kalamazoo County. In Kalamazoo County there are 30 hotels/motels/lodges and 6 bed and breakfasts. (Source: Pure Michigan)

The Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Discover Kalamazoo, is directly responsible for promoting tourism in Kalamazoo County and strives to increase revenues for Kalamazoo County and positively impact the economy of Kalamazoo County by marketing the community as a popular meeting and tourism destination. Discover Kalamazoo is overseen by a board of directors and employs a full time president. Discover Kalamazoo has 11 additional staff members with five dedicated to sales. In 2014, the Board of Commissioners allocated $1,920,000 to Discover Kalamazoo from the County wide accommodation tax.

Kalamazoo County Parks has several significant areas of impact on the tourism industry. The Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground annually attracts over 145 events with 264,738 visitors. In 2014, the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and large special events at the parks attracted 357,701 visitors and utilized an estimated 18,457 room nights. These events generated an economic impact of $17,319,218. Park special events include soccer tournaments, triathlons, bicycle events, disc golf tournaments, and events on the KRV Trail.

The County parks have an impact on tourism by providing access to lakes, historical attractions, and parks with outstanding natural beauty. Kalamazoo County Parks has the opportunity to directly impact tourism by providing the facilities that can capitalize on the County’s natural features. Visitors may be drawn to the County for the primary purpose of visiting a park or parks, camping, or attending a group function at a park. In 2014, Kalamazoo County Parks hosted 365 picnic reservations and 10,857 nights of camping.

The relationship between Parks and Discover Kalamazoo is cooperative with benefits for each organization and the community in general. As the park facilities improve and provide greater regional opportunities, visitors
to the County will benefit from the added facilities. The County Parks are a substantial component of the wide variety of tourism attractions in Kalamazoo County. Increasing visitors will increase the amount of money that is annually spent in the County and greater economic prosperity will result.

Kalamazoo County Parks and Discover Kalamazoo should continue to work together to retain existing events, attract new events and activities, and promote regional recreational facilities. Development of future park plans should consider tourism impacts with emphasis on adding facilities that will benefit the tourism industry.
Section 5

RECREATION INVENTORY
Cold Brook County Park
Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground
Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRV Trail)
Markin Glen County Park
Prairie View County Park
River Oaks County Park
Scotts Mill County Park
## Table 5-1: Existing County Park Inventory

| KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS | Acres | PICNIC AREAS | PICNIC PAVILIONS | PLAYGROUNDS | PRIMITIVE TOILETS | DOG PARKS - UNLEASHED | SPLASH PAD | SLEDDING HILLS - INFORMAL | HIKING TRAILS - MILES | PAVED MULTI-USE TRAILS - MILES | X-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS | BEACH HOUSE | CAMPSITES | BOAT LAUNCH | RIVER ACCESS | LAKE ACCESS | FISHING ACCESS | FISHING PIER | ICE FISHING | SWIMMING BEACH | VOLLEYBALL | OPEN PLAY FIELDS | SOCCER FIELDS | SOFTBALL FIELDS - FORMAL | TENNIS COURTS | DISC GOLF COURSE | MODEL AIRPLANE FIELD | GRANDESTAND | GRAVEL PARKING AREAS | PAVED PARKING AREAS | INDOOR EXPO CENTER | LIVESTOCK BARNS | HORSE & LIVESTOCK ARENAS |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Expo Center & Fairground | 125   | ✓            |                  |             |                   |                       |            |                           |                       |                             |                     | ✓           |           | ✓           | ✓            | ✓              | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             | ✓               | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |
| Cold Brook            | 276   | ✓            | ✓               | ✓            | ✓                 | ✓                      | ✓           | ✓                          | ✓                      |                             | ✓                    | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓            | ✓              | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             | ✓               | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |
| KRV Trail             | 145   | ✓            | ✓               | ✓            |                   | ✓                      | ✓           |                   |                       |                             |                      | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓            | ✓              | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             | ✓               | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |
| Markin Glen           | 166   | ✓            | ✓               | ✓            | ✓                 | ✓                      | ✓           |                   |                       |                             |                      | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓            | ✓              | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             | ✓               | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |
| Prairie View          | 210   | ✓            | ✓               | ✓            | ✓                 | ✓                      | ✓           | ✓                          | ✓                      |                             | ✓                    | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓            | ✓              | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             | ✓               | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |
| River Oaks            | 330   | ✓            | ✓               | ✓            | ✓                 | ✓                      | ✓           | ✓                          | ✓                      |                             | ✓                    | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓            | ✓              | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             | ✓               | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |
| Scotts Mill           | 110   | ✓            | ✓               | ✓            | ✓                 | ✓                      | ✓           |                   |                       |                             |                      | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓            | ✓              | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             | ✓               | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              |
| County Park Total     | 1362  | 19           | 17              | 25           | 15                | 2                     | 1           | 4                          | 2.2                    |                             | 23.3                 | 3           | 3           | 5           | 6            | 2              | 3                | 3               | 13            | 10             | 23            | 4               | 4             | 1              | 2                | 1              | X            | X              | 1              | 14           | 5              | 1              |
Introduction
The Plan includes a recreation inventory that identifies a comprehensive list of available publicly and privately owned recreation facilities in Kalamazoo County and close vicinities.

Kalamazoo County Parks
Kalamazoo County Parks is directly responsible for the operation of seven recreation areas that encompass 1,362 acres. Parks vary with emphasis on natural resources, tourism, historical resources, and sports facilities.

Cold Brook County Park
Cold Brook County Park is located in Charleston Township, north of MN Avenue and south of 1-94. The 276 acre park is located on three large lakes that provide boating, swimming, and camping facilities. Those lakes are Portage, Blue and Long Lakes. The park also offers softball fields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, disc golf, and open areas for large picnics and events. Winter activities include ice fishing. The park was acquired in 1962 and opened to the public in 1963. Since 1968, a variety of amenities have been added to the park.

Strengths of Cold Brook County Park include the outstanding natural features, access to inland lakes, high number of visitors, and the diversity of recreation opportunities. Improvements in the past 5 years include campsite improvements, restroom upgrades, replacement of two picnic shelters and reconstruction of the boat ramp and dock. Weaknesses include aging facilities, limited parking, and environmental impact from large number of users.

Facilities Summary:
- 276 Acres
- Regional Park
- Blue, Long, & Portage Lakes
- 44 Campsites
- Swimming Beach with Beach House
- 4 Modern Restrooms
- 3 Picnic Shelters
- 4 Playgrounds
- 2 Volleyball Courts
- 24 Hole Disc Golf Course
- 2.5 Mile Hiking Trail
- Boat Ramp
- Fishing Dock
- Shoreline Fishing
- Row Boat Rentals
- Paved & Gravel Parking
Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground

The Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground is located on Lake Street just north of the I-94 Business Loop in Kalamazoo Township. It is home to the Kalamazoo County Parks Office and the department’s maintenance operations. It was acquired by the County in 1940 and contains 125 acres. Facilities include the 90,000 square foot Expo Center. Additionally there are 14 barns, 220 campsites, a grand stand with outdoor event space, and 4 horse arenas. Annually, 145 events are hosted with over 595 event dates and attendance of 264,738. The Expo Center & Fairground is a significant contributor to the tourism industry and local economy in Kalamazoo County. Six of the major shows alone generate over $5.5 million dollars in revenue for Kalamazoo County. The facility is improved and promoted with a percentage of the accommodation tax collected by Kalamazoo County.

In 2006, Kalamazoo County Parks developed a site master plan for the property. Some of the proposed projects include updating existing facilities, improving site utilities, expanding the campground, developing outdoor event space, and constructing additional indoor exhibit space. The first phase of the plan was completed in December 2007 and included a complete renovation of the existing Expo Center. In 2011, the most significant phase was completed and included a 40,000 square foot expansion with a new front entrance, lobby, and expo space. The project also included campground utility upgrades and a new outdoor event space. The final phase is scheduled for completion in 2017.

Facilities Summary:
- 125 Acres
- Regional Park
- 90,000 Square Foot Expo Center
- Outdoor Special Event Space
- 220 Campsites
- Outdoor event space
- Grandstand with event space
- 14 Livestock Barns
- 5 Horse and Livestock Arenas
- 6 Modern Restrooms
- Paved Parking Areas
Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRV Trail)

The KRV Trail is Kalamazoo County's newest County Park. The first mile of gravel trail was opened for public use in the fall of 2004. It began at 10th Street, utilized a tunnel under US 131 and ended at Drake Road. In 2008, the trail was paved and an additional 4 miles of trail were constructed. The completed project included a 12' wide asphalt trail from 10th St. to Westnedge Ave.

The trail connected Downtown Kalamazoo to the Kal-Haven Trail, linking 53 miles of trail. Since this time regular progress has been made on trail construction and the trail now encompasses 22 miles. It connects Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo Township, the City of Kalamazoo, Parchment, Cooper Township, Comstock, and Galesburg.

Table 5.1 KRV Trail Constructed & Uses

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Trail Open</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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The KRV Trail Master Plan was completed in 1998 and the completed project will include 40 miles of paved multi-use trail within Kalamazoo County that will link over 140 miles of regional trails. The major connections include the Kal Haven Trail, Portage Bi-Centennial Trail, and Battle Creek Linear Trail. Users will be able to ride a bike to Lake Michigan or Battle Creek.

Funding and construction of the KRV Trail is a joint project between Kalamazoo County Parks, the Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, the City of Kalamazoo, the Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway, and other local units of government.

In addition to fundraising for trail construction, the Parks Foundation is also funding a $2,000,000 endowment at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for operating expenses of the trail. There are currently no user fees planned for the KRV Trail.
Markin Glen County Park

This 168 acre park is located in Cooper Township, north of G Avenue, east of Douglas Drive, west of the Kalamazoo River and is bisected almost evenly by Westnedge Avenue. Markin Glen County Park was originally owned by the City of Kalamazoo and the County purchased the property in 1988. The development of the park has been funded largely through the efforts of the Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County. Facilities at Markin Glen include fishing and swimming in two man-made lakes, camping, hiking trails, and picnic shelters.

The parks strengths include well-kept modern facilities, ADA accessible facilities, variety of recreation opportunities, and maintenance endowment. Weaknesses include the division of the property by Westnedge Avenue, and lack of restrooms near picnic areas.

Facilities Summary:
- 160 Acres
- Regional Park
- 38 Modern Campsites
- Fishing and Swimming Lakes
- Swimming Beach with Beach House
- 3 Modern Restrooms
- 5 Picnic Shelters
- 3 Playgrounds
- 2 Softball Fields
- 4 Tennis Courts
- 3 Volleyball Courts
- 1 Mile Hiking Trail
- 1 Mile of Paved Multi-Use Trail
- 3 Fishing Pier/Platforms
- Shoreline Fishing
- Markin House
- Paved Parking
Prairie View County Park

The 210 acre park is located on U Avenue between Portage Road and Oakland Drive in Schoolcraft Township. Prairie View is located between Gourdneck and Hogsett with significant frontage on both lakes. The park offers swimming, a large dog park, group picnic areas and group activities. Prairie View opened in 1962.

The strengths are the site’s natural beauty, access to lakes, quality of swimming beach, great location, large picnic areas and number of picnics hosted. Updated facilities in the past 5 years include 3 new picnic shelters, development of dog park, improved boat ramp with new parking, concrete ramp, and parking, newly paved entrance drive, and paved walking trail. Weaknesses include need for additional regional recreation facilities.

Facilities Summary:
- 210 Acres
- Regional Park
- Hogsett and Gourdneck Lakes
- Swimming Beach with Beach House
- Boat Ramp
- Dog Park
- Shoreline Fishing
- 6 Modern Restrooms
- 5 Picnic Shelters
- 6 Playgrounds
- 2 Open Sport Fields
- 6 Volley Ball Courts
- 1 Soccer Field
- 2.5 Mile Hiking Trail
- Cross-County Skiing
- Sledding Hill & Warming Shelter
- Row Boat Rentals
- Paved & Gravel Parking
River Oaks County Park

The 330 acre park is located between Comstock and Galesburg on M96 just west of 33rd Street in Comstock Township. River Oaks is by far the largest of all County Parks and has direct access to Morrow Lake along the north shore. A major renovation of River Oaks was completed in 2014 and included a new splash pad, playground, picnic area, and dog park. In 2014, all park roads were re-paved and two gravel parking lots were expanded and paved with asphalt. River Oaks offers a soccer complex, boating and fishing facilities, ball fields, play equipment, and special events. This site was designed as a county park in 1972 even though it has been owned by the County since 1846. In 1998, the four field Wenke Softball Complex was opened as a joint project that is now operated and maintained by Comstock Township Parks.

The strengths are the River Oaks 22 field soccer complex, the large picnic facilities available, scenic location on Morrow Lake, and expansive hiking trails. The park’s weaknesses include large number of users and potential for over use.

Facilities Summary:
- 330 Acres
- Regional Park
- Morrow Lake (Kalamazoo River)
- 22 Soccer Fields
- 4 League Softball Fields, 2 Softball Fields
- Splash Pad
- Dog Park
- 4 Modern Restrooms
- 6 Picnic Shelters
- 3 Playgrounds
- 2 Volleyball Courts
- 6.5 Mile Hiking Trail
- Model Airplane Field
- Shoreline Fishing
- Boat Ramp
- Paved Parking and Gravel Parking
Scotts Mill County Park

Scotts Mill County Park is located south of Q Avenue on South 35th Street in Pavilion Township. The park derived its name from the working 1870’s water wheel-powered grist mill that is located on site. Scotts Mill was acquired in 1973 and with the help of local foundations, was opened to the public in 1976. The park is also the home of three events hosted by the Scotts Olde Tyme Power and Equipment Association. This club also has some storage on site and has constructed a log cabin. The park’s natural features include approximately 25 acres of mixed hardwood forest and 40 acres of tillable land. The tillable acreage is currently leased for private agricultural purposes.

The park’s strengths include the rich history of the mill and grounds, natural beauty, access to water and low operating expense. Improvements in the past five years include a new picnic shelter, outdoor wedding garden with arbor, construction of 30 acre wildflower prairie, hiking trail improvements, and parking lot improvements. Weaknesses include lack of regional recreation attractions, limited use and revenue, lack of public knowledge, long-term maintenance expense.

Facilities Summary:
- 110 Acres
- Regional Park
- Historic 1870’s Mill
- Modern Restrooms
- 1 Picnic Shelter
- 1 Playground
- 1 Volleyball Court
- .75 Mile Hiking Trail
- Shoreline Fishing
- Miller House
- Log Cabin
- Paved & Gravel Parking
Table 5-2: Kalamazoo County Recreation Inventory

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## Recreation Inventory

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Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan 5-18
### Recreation Inventory  
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Section 5

| Park Classification | Acres | Restrooms | Campground | Dog Park (off leash) | Flower Gardens | Picnic Areas | Picnic Shelters | Boat Ramp | Boat Rentals | Volleyball | Ball fields | Basketball | Soccer | Football | Tennis | Disc Golf | Roller Hockey | Skateboard Park | Hiking Trails | Paved Multi-Use | Mountain Bike | Outdoor Stage | Sledding | Ice Skating | Cross Country Ski Trails | Ice Fishing |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Portage, City of (Continued) |       |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Lexington Green Park | 22    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Liberty Park        | 21    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Millennium Park     | 15    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Oakland Drive Park  | 18    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Ramona Park         | 67    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Schrier Park        | 56    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| South Westnedge Park| 30    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Westfield Park      | 15    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| West Lake Nature Preserve | 110 |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Augusta, Village of |       |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Augusta Village Park| 2     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Climax, Village of  |       |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Climax Village Park | 2     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Schoolcraft, Village of |     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Burch Park          | 3     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Schoolcraft Township Park |   |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Vicksburg, Village of |     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Clark Park          | 10    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Oswalt Park         | 1     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Recreation Park     | 88    |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Sunset Beach Park   | 5     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Alamo Township      |       |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| DE Avenue Park      | 2     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Comstock Township   |       |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Cooper Park         | 3     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Fleetwood Park      | 4     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Jan Shau Nature Trail | 30  |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| McLinden Nature Trails | 400 |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Merrill Park        | 4     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Neil Street Park    | 7     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
| Peer Park           | 2     |           |            |                     |               |              |                |           |              |            |             |           |        |          |        |          |                 |                |               |               |                |                 |             |              |                   |
## Recreation Inventory — Section 5

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<th>Picnic Areas</th>
<th>Picnic Shelters</th>
<th>Shelter Reservations</th>
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<th>Shore Fishing</th>
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<th>Swimming Beach</th>
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<th>Bath House</th>
<th>Boat Rentals</th>
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<th>Mountain Bike</th>
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*Bronson Park is owned by Kalamazoo County and leased to the City of Kalamazoo*
State Game Areas
The Gourdneck State Game Area is in the southwestern portion of the County, the Fulton State Game Area is located in the southeastern portion of the County and the Augusta Creek Fish & Wildlife Area is located in the northeastern portion of the County. The Allegan, Fulton, Keeler, Middleville, and Three Rivers State Game Areas are located in neighboring counties.

Augusta Creek Fish & Wildlife
Barry State Game Area
Fulton State Game Area
Gourdneck State Game Area
Allegan State Game Area
Crane Pond State Game Area
Keeler State Game Area
Middleville State Game Area
Three Rivers State Game Area

Nature Preserves
Al Sabo Nature Preserve 741 ac.
Bow in the Clouds Preserve 60 ac.
Chipman Preserve 228 ac.
Kalamazoo Nature Center 1,100 ac.
Kellogg Forest 716 ac.
Kleinstuck Preserve 48 ac.

Winter Recreation Areas
Echo Valley, located in Comstock Township, offers toboggan runs, snow tubing, and ice skating. There are no ski areas within Kalamazoo County but Timber Ridge and Bittersweet are regional downhill ski facilities located just outside of Kalamazoo County and both facilities also offer snow tubing.

State Parks
Fort Custer Recreation Area is located in the western portion of Kalamazoo County. The State of Michigan provides six other parks within 50 miles of Kalamazoo County. Yankee Springs is the closest at 30 miles, Van Buren State Park is 36 miles and the remaining four are all within 50 miles from the County.

Fort Custer Recreation Area 3033 ac.
Grand Mere State Park 985 ac.
Holland State Park 142 ac.
Saugatuck Dunes State Park 880 ac.
Van Buren State Park 400 ac.
Warren Dunes State Park 1952 ac.
Yankee Springs Recreation Area 5200 ac.
Water Access

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides 15 public access sites on lakes and rivers in Kalamazoo County. The County and other municipalities provide additional public access sites.

**LAKE ACCESS**
- Austin Lake, MDNR
- Barton Lake, MDNR
- Blue Lake, KCPD
- Eagle Lake, MDNR
- Eagle Lake, MDNR
- Hogsett Lake, KCPD & MDNR
- LeFever Lake, MDNR
- Lawler Lake, MDNR
- Long Lake, MDNR
- Morrow Lake, MDNR
- Morrow Lake, KCPD
- Paw Paw Lake, MDNR
- Rupert Lake, MDNR
- Sherman Lake, MDNR
- Sugar Loaf Lake, MDNR
- Whitford Lake, MDNR

**RIVER ACCESS**
- Kalamazoo River, Fort Custer, MDNR
- Kalamazoo River, Comstock, MDNR
- Kalamazoo River, Comstock, Comstock Twp Parks
- Kalamazoo River, Verburg Park, City of Kalamazoo
- Kalamazoo River, Mayors Park, City of Kalamazoo
Section 6

BASIS FOR ACTION
Public Input I - Workshops

Issues Identified
Ranked in Order of Importance
1. Complete KRV Trail and make additional connections to trail system.
2. Increase awareness of the County Parks.
3. Increase collaboration, coordination and intergovernmental cooperation.
4. Natural resource management and education.
5. Increase winter uses of parks.
7. Increase funding for operation of current and future park facilities.

Justification
On February 12 and 13, 2015, the Park and Recreation Commission held two Public Input Workshops. The workshops had a total of 46 participants and 32 Kalamazoo organizations were represented.

Participants developed a list of the top issues related to parks and recreation in Kalamazoo County as individuals. Groups were then randomly formed and each group narrowed the individual issues to come up with the group’s top five issues. Each group presented their issues and duplicates between groups were combined. Each person then voted to identify which issues the group felt were most important to Kalamazoo County Parks. Groups were then assigned issues and developed goals and actions for each.

The number one issue identified at the workshops was the completion of the KRV Trail and need to make additional connections. The goal identified is to complete the KRV Trail within the next five years. Recommendations to reach this goal include coordinating with local agencies and municipalities, developing regional goals and plans, fundraising, grant applications, and identifying areas along KRV Trail for Kalamazoo River access points.

The second issue identified was the need to increase awareness of the County Parks. The goal identified was to increase usage, revenue and visibility. Recommendations to reach the goal included increasing attendance to generate more user fees, hosting promotional free days, explore a county wide passport system for all government units based on the MDNR State Park Passport, increase utilization of social media, use of volunteers to promote parks and to host special events in the parks.

The third issue identified was increasing collaboration, coordination and intergovernmental cooperation. The goal is to have all municipalities identify opportunities for the future and plans align. Recommendations to reach goal include formation of a committee with representatives from each park organization, coordination of planning efforts, identification of facility gaps, identification of target projects for each municipality, and setting priorities for funding. In addition, funding options and potential regionalization of parks was also suggested as a recommendation for consideration.

The fourth issue identified was natural resource management and education. The goal included establishment of native species, controls of invasive species, improving water quality for current and future generations. Recommendations to reach the goal included utilization of staff and volunteers, fundraising focused on these areas, and identification of critical areas. Education and public outreach were identified as important components of these efforts.

The other issues identified were increasing winter use of parks, developing park facilities in growing area of the county west of US-131 and increasing funding operation of current and future park facilities. Each of these goals were studied by the groups and goals and actions were established.
Section 6

KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS & FAIRGROUND

KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION 1: RAW DATA SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY, 2/12/2015

20 individuals participated in the February 12 session. They represented residents from Kalamazoo County zip codes: 49001, 49002, 49004, 49006, 49008, 49009, 49013, 49024, 49048.

13 organizations were represented:

- Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
- Kalamazoo County Government
- Disability Resource Network
- Friends of Woods Lake
- Kalamazoo Township
- Kalamazoo County Park Commission
- Kalamazoo Garden Council
- Oshtemo Township
- Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners
- Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County
- Western Michigan University
- Kalamazoo County Road Commission
- Comstock Township Parks Board

The top issues identified from the group were (in descending order of vote count, # in parenthesis - % used only for summarized priority ranking between groups):

1. Increase Awareness – History, Free Days (14/20 = 70%)
2. Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Completion & Connections/River (11=55%)
3. Natural Resource Management – Invasive Species, plant natives, water quality, Education (9=45%)
4. Accessibility of parks and facilities (3=15%)
5. Campground Reservations (3=15%)
6. Park facilities west of 131 & in urban areas – (2=10%)
7. Maintenance and Collaboration/Funding (2=10%)
8. Visitor Safety – (2=10%)
9. Innovative Facilities, Expo Improvements - 0
10. Programming 0
26 individuals participated in the February 13 session. They represented residents from Kalamazoo county zip codes: 49002, 49004, 49006, 49007, 49008, 49009, 49024, 49048, 49083, 49093, 49097.

19 organizations were represented:

- Cooper Township
- Kalamazoo Curling Club
- City of Kalamazoo, Planning Department
- Kalamazoo County Fair Council
- Comstock Township Parks
- Oshtemo Township-Friends of the Parks
- Vicksburg DDA
- Kalamazoo County Park Commission
- Village of Vicksburg
- American Youth Soccer Organization Region 212
- Public Media Network
- Park Foundation of Kalamazoo County
- Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
- Kalamazoo Nature Center
- Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority
- On the Move Kalamazoo
- Portage Environmental Board
- Gazelle Sports
- City of Kalamazoo

The top issues identified from the group were (in descending order of vote count, # in parenthesis - % used only for summarized priority ranking between groups):

1. Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Completion & Connections/River (14/26=54%)
2. Collaboration, coordination and intergovernmental cooperation (13-50%)
3. Increase Uses, winter, passive, demographics (9=35%)
4. Natural Resource Management – Invasive Species, plant natives, water quality, Education (5=19%)
5. Personnel and resources – Maintenance and funding (5=19%)
6. Increase Awareness – History, Free Days (4=15%)
7. Access to parks for families, individuals and non-profits (3=12%) Park facilities west of 131 – Brook Lodge (3=12%)
8. Safety/emergency access (3=12%)
9. Playgrounds and disc golf (1=4%)
10. Accessibility of parks and facilities = 0
Public Input II - Open House

Priorities Identified
1. Complete KRV Trail from Downtown Kalamazoo to Portage (Portage Creek Connection).
2. Complete the KRV Trail from Galesburg to Battle Creek.
3. Acquire land for development of a new County Park in the western portion of the county.
4. Develop Mountain Bike Trails at Markin Glen County Park
5. Increase awareness of County Park system.
6. Develop dog park area with water access at River Oaks County Park
7. Improve Restrooms at River Oaks Splash Pad.
8. Develop Day use are at Prairie View Park with splash pad and playground.
9. Build a park lodge at Prairie View County Park for year-round events.
10. Improve Expo Center fencing, signage, sidewalk, and landscaping.

JUSTIFICATION
On January 25, 2016 Kalamazoo County Parks held a Master Plan Open House. The purpose of the open house was to share the proposed goals and projects for the 2016-2020 Park & Recreation Master Plan. The open house had a total of 48 participants and 20 Kalamazoo organizations were represented. The goal was to gather additional feedback and to confirm and validate preliminary findings.

Five stations were developed that highlighted specific projects and goals for existing county parks and for future projects. The stations were hosted by a Kalamazoo County Park Employees. The employees engaged with participants, answered questions, and recorded comments and feedback. Participants were then asked to identify the five projects that should have the highest priority for five year plan.

Overall, the priorities identified were consistent with previous public input and validated the action items proposed in the plan. Another trend from the feedback that support was evenly spread between the wide range of proposed projects. The comments are also consistent with previous public input received during the master planning processes for individual sites.
KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS & FAIRGROUND

KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION 2 – PROPOSED PROJECT OPEN HOUSE: RAW DATA SUMMARY

MONDAY, 1/26/2016

48 individuals participated in the open house session. They represented residents from Kalamazoo County zip codes: 49001, 49002, 49004, 49006, 49008, 49009, 49024, 49048, 49053, 49083, 49088.

20 organizations were represented:

- Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway
- Kalamazoo County Government
- Disability Resource Network
- Discover Kalamazoo
- Kalamazoo Township
- Kalamazoo County Park Commission
- Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner
- Kalamazoo Garden Council
- Oshtemo Township
- Comstock Township
- Gazelle Sports
- Kalamazoo Nature Center
- City of Galesburg
- Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners
- Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County
- Western Michigan University
- Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
- Comstock Township Parks
- City of Kalamazoo Parks Department
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Open House Proposed County Park Project Priorities – as ranked by open house participants.

1. Complete KRV Trail from Downtown Kalamazoo to Portage (Portage Creek Connection).
2. Complete the KRV Trail from Galesburg to Battle Creek.
3. Acquire land for development of a new County Park in the western portion of the county.
4. Develop Mountain Bike Trails at Markin Glen County Park
5. Increase awareness of County Park system.
6. Develop dog park area with water access at River Oaks County Park
7. Improve Restrooms at River Oaks Splash Pad.
8. Develop Day use area at Prairie View Park with splash pad and playground.
9. Build a park lodge at Prairie View County Park for year-round events.
10. Improve Expo Center fencing, signage, sidewalk, and landscaping.
11. Develop a new regional plan for the KRV Trail.
12. Complete the Downtown connection of the KRV Trail.
13. Complete the Richland Connection of the KRV Trail.
Basis for Action ————————————Section 6

Additional Comments from Participants:

1. Make sure potential park expansion is in partnership with Townships and does not duplicate services.
2. Coordinate the trail system and priorities throughout county.
3. Interest in urban County Park.
4. Winter biking at Markin Glen and on Trail with fat tire bikes.
5. Offer cross-country ski trails at Markin Glen.
6. Develop nursery on west side of park.
7. Re-open group rustic campground at Markin Glen.
8. Plant more trees to provide shade at parks.
9. Develop historical displays and information for learning opportunities.
10. Renovate the Markin House appropriately.
11. Work with volunteers to maintain park trails & KRV Trail.
12. Improve landscaping at Expo Center Parking Lots and Front Entrance Sign.
13. Improve directional signs at Expo Center – make front sign more eye catching.
14. Improve marketing of County Fair.
15. Add lights so dog parks can be open for evening use in winter.
16. Install electric car chargers at county parks.
17. Provide exercise programs and facilities for seniors.
18. Develop Brook Lodge as County Park.
19. Develop pump bike/BMX bike track for teens.
21. Connect Expo Center with KRV Trail.
22. Keep walking trails on west side of Markin Glen.
23. Add Rustic Camping at Markin Glen.
24. Install Boardwalk at Prairie View from Gourdneck picnic area to Red Oak Picnic Area.
25. Stick to original KRV Trail plan and connect to Battle Creek before taking on additional projects.
26. Expand regional effort to include connection to Grand Rapids.
27. Improve KRV Trail signage to indicate steep hills for accessibility – rate level of slope accessibility.
28. Provide more restrooms on the trail – every ¼ mile.
29. Partner with Kalamazoo Nature Center to lead geo caching programs.
31. Look at potential trail link to Vicksburg.
32. Develop trail from Comstock to Gull Road along 26th Street.
Park Master Plans

Issues Identified
1. Update master plan for KRV Trail.
2. Develop Site Plan for Cold Brook Park.
3. Continue implementation of current site master plans for Prairie View, River Oaks, Scotts Mill, Markin Glen, and Expo Center.
4. Develop infrastructure and site master plan for Expo Center & Fairgrounds.
5. Continue to update site master plans at appropriate time.

Justification
Kalamazoo County Parks has placed a high priority on developing site master plans for each county park location. Currently active plans are in place for the Expo Center & Fairground, Scotts Mill, Prairie View, Markin Glen, River Oaks and the KRV Trail. These plans were developed through comprehensive processes led by design professionals. Each planning process also incorporated public input specific to each site.

Cold Brook County Park has not had a comprehensive site master planning in recent history and the park has significant planning needs that will benefit from appropriate planning efforts. Facilities and recreation opportunities need updating. The lack of a Cold Brook County Park Master Plan is an immediate need and is a high priority.

During the next five years, Kalamazoo County Parks has also identified the need to update all existing site master plans to keep projects, budgets, and recreation needs current. During each planning update/process public input is critical to identify recreation needs and priorities.

Expo Center & Fairground
The Expo Center & Fairground Master Plan was adopted in 2006. Completed projects include the upgrade of interior expo space, the 40,000 Expo Center Addition, Campsite Expansion, Utility Upgrades, development of Outdoor Event Space, and construction of two new exhibit buildings. Remaining projects from the site master plan and identified during the master plan process include:

1. Relocation of Horse Arenas
The master plan identified the need to relocate the 2 south horse arenas due to poor drainage at the current location and to move them to a central location that will increase visibility at events. Relocating closer to adjacent horse barns will increase the ability to attract new regional horse events.

2. Lake St Sidewalk and Fencing Upgrade.
Currently there is a gap in the sidewalk along Lake Street immediately in front of the Expo Center.

3. Replace Barn #16
The original master plan included construction of one large display/exhibit barn. This approach proved to be cost prohibitive. The plan was modified to replace individual barns. In 2015 two barns were replaced and replacement of barn #16 will meet the original objective of building barns that will meet the needs of the County Fair but also will be used by other events held at the Expo Center.

4. Develop infrastructure master plan.
While the current master plan addressed many of the site needs, the need has been identified to complete a planning process that specifically focuses on HVAC systems, parking lot and road repairs, roofing systems, the public address system, site utility infrastructure, and other capital maintenance projects.

5. Develop new Expo Center Master plan.
The existing plan was adopted in 2006, and presented an entirely new vision for the Expo Center. With the completion of the projects and successful programming of the facilities, there is a need to identify projects that should be a priority over the next 10 years.
Site Master Plan
**KRV Trail**

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Master Plan was developed between 1997-2001 by the City of Kalamazoo, the Forum for Kalamazoo County, and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Partnership. In 2000, the Kalamazoo Board of Commissioners directed the Kalamazoo County Parks Commission to pursue the implementation of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail as a County Park. The plan outlines development of a 40-mile non-motorized trail system that will connect over 140 miles of regional trails. The trail will connect Battle Creek to South Haven and is an important link for the Great Lake to Lake Trail. In 2008, a 4.8 mile section of trail was paved from 10th Street to Westnedge. Since that time steady progress has been made toward completing the trail and currently there are 22 miles complete.

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<td>Mayors Park to River St.</td>
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In 2010, 2.1 miles from Gull Street to Mosel was completed. In 2011, 6 miles for Mosel to D Avenue was constructed.

The KRV Trial Master Plan was last updated in 2004 and the need to update this plan has been clearly identified as a top priority. There is a need to develop a plan that includes other regional trails/connections and to explore collaboration opportunities. The plan should also strive to identify regional priorities for future trail development. The plan and priorities identified are as follows:

1. **Update the master plan for the KRV Trail and Regional Connections**
2. **Construct 1 mile Downtown Kalamazoo Connection trail segment**
3. **Construct 8.5 mile Galesburg to Fort Custer trail segment.**
4. **Construct 4.8 mile Downtown Kalamazoo to Portage trail segment.**
5. **Connect Kalamazoo County Parks to KRV Trail.**
6. **Construct trail segments consistent with the projects and priorities established the updated KRV Trail Master Plan.**
Markin Glen County Park
The Markin Glen Master Plan was completed in 2014. Improvements to the beach area have been completed and include an irrigation system, new landscaping and tree plantings, and removal of the beach picnic shelter. Remaining plan scope items include:

1. Developing Mountain Bike Trails on West side of Park.
2. Constructing a new restroom building on East side of park to service group picnic facilities.
3. Completing Markin House Improvements.
5. Replacing the playground at the Community Foundation Shelter.
6. Developing five additional campsites.

Prairie View County Park
The Prairie View Master Plan was completed in 2009. Completed items include boat ramp replacement, parking lot improvements, and the dog parks. The three main picnic shelters have also been replaced. Remaining plan scope items include:

1. Upgrading Playground Surfacing – ADA
2. Development of day use area including playground, splash pad, parking and restrooms.
3. Constructing new park lodge for year-round events.
4. Upgrading existing restroom facilities.
5. Developing accessible beach pathways and trails.
6. Installing fishing dock.

River Oaks County Park
The River Oaks Master Plan was completed in 2012. Completed items include the new splash pad, new playground, new picnic facilities, walkways connecting facilities, new parking area, development of the dog park, and repaving of all park roads. Remaining plan scope items include:

1. Completing improvements to splash pad restroom building.
2. Completing dog park by adding water access to Morrow Lake.
3. Developing new automated soccer field irrigation system.
4. Replacing soccer goals.

Scotts Mill County Park
The Scotts Mill Master Plan was completed in 2009. Completed items include the new picnic shelter, outdoor wedding facilities, parking lot improvements, prairie restoration, and development of hiking trails. Remaining plan scope items include:

1. Installing new playground.
2. Completing additional upgrades, landscaping at the wedding area.
3. Completing improvements to mill historical displays and establish plan to increase public access.
4. Continuing development of homestead area.
5. Installing fishing dock.
Markin Glen Park - Master Plan: Option A
Kalamazoo County, Michigan
Parking Lot Improvements

A. Spraypad Parking Area (Pave Existing Gravel Parking Lot)
B. Dog Park Parking Area (New)
C. Expanded Soccer Complex Parking
D. Drive Improvements

Play Area

J. Proposed Playground
K. Accessible Path

Spraypad Area

E. Proposed Accessible Spray Pad w/ Concrete Walks
F. Improvements to Existing Restroom Building
G. Proposed Accessible Walk to Restrooms

Group Picnic Area

H. Picnic Shelter
I. Accessible Path

River Oaks Park - Master Plan
Kalamazoo County, Michigan
27 March 2012
County Recreation Trends

Issues Identified
1. Need to develop new facilities, recreation opportunities that will increase use and offset operating expenses at parks and during seasons that are underutilized.
2. Need to upgrade existing facilities that are dated and in poor condition.
3. Need to continue improving services offered to attract and retain visitors.
4. Need to acquire additional park property to construct the KRV Trail, expand existing Kalamazoo County Parks, and to develop a Kalamazoo County Park in the western portion of Kalamazoo County.
5. Need to develop indoor rental lodges to service group reservations and to increase recreation opportunity through all seasons and weather.

Justification
When planning for future park and recreation needs, Kalamazoo County’s current park use, recent recreation issues, and existing facility needs are used to determine the services that are needed and desired by the community.

Park Use Trends
Kalamazoo County’s park use trends were gathered from park reservation statistics, analysis of park attendance, revenues, expenses, and through the experience and knowledge of Kalamazoo County’s park staff.

Table 6-2 indicates that River Oaks, Markin Glen, and Prairie View have the highest number of reserved group picnics. These parks are primarily used for family and company picnics in the peak summer months. The parks provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities, including beaches and campgrounds that are desired for group outings. Each of these parks also offer multiple picnic areas available for reservation.

Underutilized facilities with the greatest potential are the Scotts Mill Gregersen Shelter and Wedding Site, and Prairie View Red Oak and Gourdneck Lake Shelters. Focus should be placed on upgrading picnic shelter picnic tables, landscaping, and recreation opportunities.

The seasonality of picnic shelter rentals suggests the need for year-round picnic facilities that could be used for large family gatherings and company outings. The beach house at Prairie View is currently rented between Labor Day and Memorial Day. In 2014 there were only 4 reservations but this is limited primarily because occupancy of the building is limited to 40 people.
Table 6-3 indicates the cost of operating each County Park and the direct revenue that is generated primarily through user fees. Overall, 94% of park operating expenses are offset by revenue. Cold Brook’s revenue funds 80% of expenses, Markin Glen’s revenue exceeds expenses and Scott’s Mill revenue funds 93% of expenses. Revenue at River Oaks funds 93% of expenses and Prairie View revenue funds 73% of expenses.

The greatest opportunities to provide new revenue to offset the operational expenses are at Prairie View and Cold Brook County Parks. These parks differ from Markin Glen and River Oaks by offering fewer recreational opportunities and facilities. Prairie View’s primary uses are the swimming beach and picnic areas and use is concentrated from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The dog parks at Prairie View have increased park attendance in spring, winter and fall. Cold Brook’s primary uses are the swimming beach, campground, and disc golf however the limited additional recreation facilities and layout of the park detract from the camping and recreation opportunities. These limited uses and seasons suggest that additional facilities and recreation opportunities are appropriate at both locations.

While Scotts Mill revenue is funding the operation expenses of the park, the attendance at 17,527 is far below the other parks. This indicates there is an opportunity to attract new visitors. Continued focus should be placed on attracting outdoor weddings to the park and promoting the parks historical displays.

### Localized Recreation Trends

The need for the following recreation facilities and recreation uses for Kalamazoo County Parks were identified through public input at the during development of site master plans, County Park’s staff, recreation trends, recreation needs/opportunity based on evaluation of the completed recreation inventories, and pubic input. Development of these facilities are appropriate within the Kalamazoo County Parks and should be incorporated into site master plans or developed independently as determined appropriate by the Kalamazoo County Parks Commission.

- Dog Parks
- Splash Parks
- Destination Playground
- Company, family and group picnics
- Non-motorized multi-use trails
- Mountain Biking Facilities
- Year Round Recreation
- Recreation Programs and Special Events
- Kayaking and Canoeing
- Disc Golf Facilities

### Existing Facility Needs

Existing facility needs have been established through the Ten-Year Strategic Plan for Kalamazoo’s County Parks and through input from Kalamazoo County Parks Employees. The following improvement projects are warranted based on the condition of existing facilities, age of existing facilities, and impact on recreation uses and visitors.
Picnic Shelter Upgrades
Kalamazoo County Parks currently has 20 picnic shelters. Since 2007, eight shelters have been replaced with a consistent structure. The remaining shelters that need replacement include the Cold Brook Beach Shelter, Prairie View Gourdneck Shelter, and the Prairie View Red Oak Shelter. The Future needs for these areas should be addressed through site master plans.

River Oaks Soccer Irrigation
In 2005 the River Oaks Soccer Improvement Project was completed. The project included installation of a new 4” municipal water line along the north soccer fields. The 4” municipal lines supply the current irrigation for the 20 fields and they feed two real irrigators. This system is extremely limited by hours available to irrigate, low irrigation rate, manual operation, and fees for municipal water use. With the recent dramatic increase in soccer field use, adequately irrigating the soccer turf is essential. Consideration for a new system should include automation, zone irrigation, and ground or surface water supply.

Parks Maintenance Building
The Parks maintenance building located at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground is in need of replacement or renovation.

Beach Accessibility
Access to the beaches at Prairie View and Cold Brook County Park does not meet current ADA requirements.

Road & Parking Lot Repairs
Asphalt roads and parking lot repairs throughout the county parks are in need of maintenance, repair and replacement. An annual plan should be developed to address the areas of highest need each year.

Park Entrance Signs
Existing signs are dated and are in need of replacement. Appropriate County Park signs should be developed that match the County Park branding and increase park visibility and awareness. In addition to signs, landscaping around the signs should be improved and constant at all County Park Locations.

Restroom Upgrades
Kalamazoo County Parks has 18 restroom buildings. Many of the facilities were constructed prior to 1980 are in need of repair, replacement, and updating. When possible these projects should be addressed as part of larger projects identified in the site master plans or through the county capital improvement budget process when appropriate.
Barrier-Free Compliance

**Issues Identified**
1. Current parks and facilities must be updated to meet ADA barrier-free requirements.
2. As park areas are planned and developed, they will meet the varying needs of people with disabilities and the elderly.

**JUSTIFICATION**
With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. An important step of this plan was the evaluation of the County’s park and recreation system’s accessibility to persons with disabilities.

Common park components that need to be provided barrier-free include: parking, paths of travel from parking, street or sidewalk to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, signage, support facilities such as restrooms, surfacing, and communications required for recreation programs and general use of a facility.

Table 6-4 indicates the overall status of each County Park. Prairie View County Park has several facilities and access routes that do not meet current accessibility guidelines. The greatest deficiencies are access to the swimming beach, picnic shelters, shelter restrooms, playgrounds, and trails.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY PARK</th>
<th>ACCESSIBILITY RANKING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cold Brook County Park</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Expo Center &amp; Fairground</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo River Valley Trail</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markin Glen County Park</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View County Park</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks County Park</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotts Mill County Park</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

In 2015, in partnership with the Southwest Michigan Disability Network, comprehensive site surveys were completed at all Kalamazoo County Parks. The surveys identified accessibility issues and proposed recommendations to correct deficiencies. When possible these corrections should be addressed as part of larger projects identified in the site master plans or through the county capital improvement budget process when appropriate. Many of the issues identified are relatively simple and inexpensive to correct. These items should be corrected in 2016.

As new park and recreation facilities are planned and constructed, features must be included that create opportunities rather than barriers for participation and enjoyment. As park areas are planned and designed, they will meet the varying needs of people with disabilities and the elderly. Construction and plans will conform to the standards established by the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.
Public Draft Review & Comments

A draft of the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan was made available on the Kalamazoo County Parks Website and a copy was available for review at the Kalamazoo County Parks Office. Public Workshop participants and stakeholders were notified that the draft was available for review. Notice was also sent to local media and was posted at the Parks Office and online. Comments were accepted in written format and through the Kalamazoo County Parks Website by way of email.
Goals and Objectives
The information gathered in the development of the Basis for Action has been analyzed and broken down into a series of goals and specific operational objectives. These goal statements relate to the park department’s funding, facility development, property acquisition and review of current parks, public awareness, barrier free compliance, and administration. The goals are printed in **bold text**, followed by very specific and attainable objectives.

**Funding**

**Develop and strengthen current funding sources and opportunities.**

1. Successfully maintain and provide new facilities to increase support for new investment in parks, increase park use, and increase operating revenue.

2. Increase the amount of funding available by using State, Federal, and private grants where feasible.

3. Continue to utilize user fees as necessary and where appropriate to increase revenue for park operations and improvements.

4. Place emphasis on increasing current park endowment funds.

5. Reduce operating expenses whenever possible. Utilize volunteers when possible.

6. Partner with other organizations and jurisdictions.

Consider new funding sources and opportunities.

1. Develop and finance new endowment funds to support operations and future park improvement projects.

2. Provide revenue-generating activities and events for unique recreation, relaxation, and learning opportunities.

3. Evaluate operation expenses and potential revenue income with proposed park projects.

4. Target marketing towards revenue generating events. Work closely with the Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

5. Explore a County-wide millage proposal to finance new parks, facilities, and operations. Explore the feasibility of a County-wide millage that would share revenue between Kalamazoo County and local government units.
Facility Development

Develop facilities to meet the current and future recreation needs of Kalamazoo County.

1. Complete master plan phases outlined site plans for the Kalamazoo Expo Center & Fairground, Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, Markin Glen, River Oaks, Prairie View, and Scotts Mill.

2. Continue to promote the development and improvement of regional, nature based activities, such as swimming beaches, camping, group picnics, fishing, hiking, playgrounds, picnicking, and winter related activities such as sledding, cross-country skiing, and support facilities such as parking lots, road access, and infrastructure.

3. Provide innovative recreational opportunities on a regional scale as appropriate. Regional nature and wildlife areas, campgrounds, mountain bike areas, historical displays, winter activities, and other unique or innovative ideas.

4. Continue development of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail linear park comprised of a paved multi-use trail for biking, walking, in-line skating, and other non-motorized uses.

5. Give priority to facilities that will meet the greatest resource oriented recreation need.

6. Develop park facilities with the purpose of encouraging year-round and multiple uses.

Develop facilities that are appropriate for a resource based County Park system in a responsible manner.

1. Design facilities to be appropriate with the natural or historical features of each site.

2. Develop facilities that are cost effective. Strive for low maintenance costs and fee revenue potential.

3. County Parks provide a variety of interpretive and educational opportunities. Interpretive signage should be a part of County Parks. These facilities provide the opportunity to better understand the natural or historical significance of the site and the resources protected.

4. Develop resource management goals and plans. Focus on invasive species.

5. Prepare and maintain park master plans for each park.

Acquisition

Acquire property to meet the present and future recreation needs of Kalamazoo County

1. Acquisition of property adding to existing parks. This approach will improve management efficiency, reduce costs, increase revenue potential, better protect resources, and provide a wider range of recreational opportunity at a site.

2. Critical types of sites to be acquired include waterfront properties and land in portions of the County underrepresented in the system, especially the growing western portion of the County.
Public Awareness

Promote the visibility and image of the park system to existing and potential users within the County and region.

1. Develop annual marketing plan and goals with measurable performance indicators.

2. Marketing targets revenue-generating events.

3. Promote the visibility and image of the park system to existing and potential users within the County and region.

4. Increase the awareness of the park system with identification signs at key vehicle and pedestrian locations, not limited to park entrances. Maintain directional signs from cities and state highways.

5. Use park logo on all brochures, literature, signage, displays, and County vehicles.

6. Park literature should be updated and upgraded regularly. Provide an overall park brochure for each park, literature for targeted activities, and literature targeted to key market segments.

7. Promote parks through special events and seasonal activities.

8. Regularly use press releases to promote general park features and activities as well as special events and seasonal activities.

9. Promote the benefits of preserving and protecting natural features and cultural heritage.

10. Continue to work with Discover Kalamazoo to promote tourism opportunities in Kalamazoo County.

11. Communicate regularly with County government and local governments to raise awareness and support.

12. Develop partnerships with other park entities and municipalities within the County, recreational user groups, public service organizations, corporations, and special interest groups.

Barrier-Free Status

Meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

1. Bring all parks and facilities up to standards established by the ADA.

2. Plan and develop facilities that are truly universal in accessibility.

3. Consult with experts during facility design phase. Continue working with Southwest Michigan Disability Network to correct current deficiencies and to design new facilities.
Administration

Maintain quality staff.

1. Provide training and development of staff.
2. Customer service is first-class and County Parks provide a service to the community.
3. Add professional parks supervisor for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Operations.
4. Maintain membership with professional associations including the National Recreation and Park Association, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, and the Michigan Association of County Park and Recreation Officials.
5. Hire professionally trained people to perform specific tasks.

Improve and develop new partnerships.

1. Work closely with Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County.
2. Continue or develop partnerships with County Park user groups, special interest groups, special events, and youth sport organizations. Partnerships should be mutually beneficial and revenue should offset operating expenses.
3. Recognize and encourage involvement of County and township law enforcement personnel to continue the tradition of safe recreation opportunities.
4. Continue to work closely with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, the Finance Department and other departments of Kalamazoo County that provide specialized and expert skills.
5. Coordinate efforts of park departments, cities, villages, townships and user group organizations to develop County-wide multi-use, non-motorized trail system.

Continue to use planning tools to meet the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County in a logical, responsible manner.

1. Establish and update park development plans for all County parks.
2. Update Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan every 5 years.
3. Planning efforts should include outreach to communities, organizations, and the public that gathers input from all segments of Kalamazoo County’s population.

Continue to meet high park maintenance standards.

1. Continue and increase landscaping around park facilities and entrance signs.
2. Add benches to parks.
3. Develop a tree maintenance and replacement strategy.
4. Continue replacing aged picnic tables.
5. Continue training for park’s staff.
6. Hire professionally trained people to perform specific tasks.
## Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation – Capital Improvement Schedule 2016-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Proposed Project</th>
<th>Cost Estimate</th>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Update KRV Trail Master Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete River Oaks Soccer Irrigation Project – Phase 1</td>
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<td>Local Funds, Soccer Organizations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Implement Phase 4 of Expo Master Plan – Relocate Horse Arenas, Replace Barn #16,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Install Lake Street Sidewalk, Replace Fencing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Scotts Mill - Phase 3 – Install New Playground, Improve Outdoor</td>
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<td>Local Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wedding Space, Develop Mill Historical Displays</td>
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<td>Construction of KRV Trail Downtown Connection – Westnedge to Harrison Street</td>
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<td>Parks Found, MDOT, MDNR Local Funds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complete River Oaks Master Plan – Upgrade Splash Pad Restrooms &amp; Construct Dog</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park Area with Access to Morrow Lake</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Upgrade Gatehouses – Cold Brook, River Oaks, Prairie View Parks</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<td>ADA Playground Upgrades – Prairie View Park – New Borders &amp; Surfacing for Three</td>
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<td>Existing Playgrounds</td>
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<td>Parking &amp; Road Repairs</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Complete Markin Glen Master Plan Project – Phase 2 – Playground, New Restrooms,</td>
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<td>Markin House, Mountain Bike Trails, Beach Imp.</td>
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<td>Kalamazoo River Valley Trail: Galesburg Connection – Phase 1 of updated KRV</td>
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<td>Trail Master Plan</td>
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<td>Complete Phase 4 of Expo Master Plan – Relocate Horse Arenas, Replace Barn #16,</td>
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<td>Install Lake Street Sidewalk, Replace Fencing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Develop Expo Center &amp; Fairground Infrastructure Master Plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Develop Cold Brook County Park Master Plan</td>
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<td>Local Funds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complete River Oaks Soccer Irrigation Project - Phase 2</td>
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<td>Local Funds, Soccer Organizations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Accessibility Improvements – Signage &amp; Walkways</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road and Parking Lot Repairs</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Funding Sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Implement KRV Trail Master Plan – Phase 2</td>
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<td>Parks Found, MDOT, MDNR, Local Funds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Implement Phase 2 of the Prairie View County Park Master Plan – Day Use Area with</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>State of Michigan Grant, Local Funds</td>
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<td>Splash Pad, Playground, Parking, Restrooms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Implement Cold Brook County Park Master Plan – Phase 1 – Scope Dependent</td>
<td>Scope Dependent</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implement Expo Center Infrastructure Master Plan – Phase 1 – Scope Dependent</td>
<td>Scope Dependent</td>
<td>Accom Tax, Local Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implement Scotts Mill Master Plan – Phase 4 – Fishing Dock,</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Local Funds, MDNR-Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Displays, Homestead Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace Soccer Goals – River Oaks County Park</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Local Funds, Soccer Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete River Oaks Soccer Irrigation Project – Phase 3</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds, Soccer Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accessibility Improvements - Walkways</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road and Parking Lot Repairs</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Implement KRV Trail Master Plan – Phase 3</td>
<td>Scope Dependent</td>
<td>Parks Found, MDOT, MDNR Local Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implement Cold Brook County Park Master Plan – Phase 2</td>
<td>Scope Dependent</td>
<td>Parks Found, Local Funds, MDNR-Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implement Expo Center Infrastructure Master Plan – Phase 2</td>
<td>Scope Dependent</td>
<td>Accom Tax, Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop New Expo Center &amp; Fairground Master Plan</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Accom Tax, Local Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete River Oaks Soccer Irrigation Project – Phase 4</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds, Soccer Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgrade Park Entrance Signs &amp; Landscaping</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accessibility Improvements – Walkways</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road and Parking Lot Repairs</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local Funds: Includes County Appropriation, cash donations, local service clubs, fund raising, cooperative agreements with local municipalities.
Parks Found: Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County
MDNR-NRFF: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant
MDOT: Michigan Department of Transportation Grant Programs
Accom Tax: Kalamazoo County Accomodation Tax
Parks Found: Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County
Endowment: Funds held in County Parks Endowment at Kalamazoo Community Foundation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Implement Cold Brook County Park Master Plan - Phase 3 – Scope Dependant</td>
<td>Dependant</td>
<td>MDNR, Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Implement KRV Trail Master Plan - Phase 4</td>
<td>Dependant</td>
<td>Parks Found, MDOT, Local Funds, MDNR-Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Implement Prairie View Master Plan – Phase 3 – Enclosed Picnic Shelter (Lodge) for Year-Round Use, Fishing Dock</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>Local Funds, Endowment, MDNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Implement Markin Glen County Park Master Plan – Phase 3 Campground Expansion, Hiking Trail Development</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Local Funds, MDNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Implement Expo Center Infrastructure Plan – Phase 3 – Scope Dependant</td>
<td>Dependant</td>
<td>Accom Tax, Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Replace Park Maintenance &amp; Operations Building at Expo Center</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Update Kalamazoo County Park Master Plan 2021-2025</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Update All County Park Master Plans</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Accessibility Improvements – Restrooms</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Road and Parking Lot Repairs</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Local Funds</td>
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</tbody>
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### Capital Improvement Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. PARK PLANNING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will develop an updated master plan for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Kalamazoo River Valley Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Development of an updated master plan for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail is a high priority based on the public input workshops, and County Recreation Trends. The plan should encompass the KRV Trail, regional trail connections, and local trail connections. The plan should identify regional priorities and areas for collaboration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete River Oaks soccer irrigation improvements – Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> River Oaks County Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Development of the soccer field irrigation project is essential to meet the current demands placed on the soccer fields at River Oaks County Park and essential to conserve water and reduce expense by switching from municipal water source to a groundwater well irrigation system. The River Oaks irrigation project was identified as a high priority through County Recreation Trends, and the need to decrease operation expenses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete the final phase of the Expo Center Master Plan. Includes relocation of horse arenas, replacement of barn #16, installation of Lake Street sidewalk, and replacing/improving Lake Street fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Expo Center &amp; Fairground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> The completion of the Expo Center &amp; Fairground Master Plan development of a park master plan is essential to meet the current and future recreation needs of Kalamazoo County established in the Basis for Action. The need was established through the development of a master plan for the Kalamazoo County Expo Center &amp; Fairground that included extensive public input.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete the Scotts Mill Master Plan Phase 3 and will install a new playground, improve outdoor wedding space, and will develop mill historical displays.

**Location:** Scotts Mill County Park

**Justification:** Current facilities at Scotts Mill County Park are not reaching full recreation potential. Upgrading existing facilities was identified as a priority through Public Input, County Recreation Trends, and in the Scotts Mill County Park Master Plan. Improvements will incorporate educational displays focused on natural features and the park’s unique history in Kalamazoo County.

### 5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will work cooperatively on the Construction of KRV Trail Downtown Connection – Westnedge to Harrison Street.

**Location:** Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

**Justification:** Completion of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail was identified as a high priority through the public input workshop, in the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Master Plan and additional justification is offered in the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance. The linear park will also offer outstanding recreation opportunities to a large portion of the County as indicated in analysis of Current Park Distribution and Facilities.

### 6. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will Complete the River Oaks Master Plan and upgrade the splash pad restrooms & construct a new dog park area with access to Morrow Lake.

**Location:** River Oaks County Park

**Justification:** Completing these projects facilities was identified as a high priority through the Public Input Workshops, the River Oaks County Park Master Plan, and County Recreation Trends.
### Section 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>7. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete upgrades to park gatehouses at Cold Brook, River Oaks, Prairie View Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Prairie View, Cold Brook, River Oaks County Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Maintaining existing facilities is a priority established through the Public Input Workshops and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>8. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete ADA playground upgrades – Prairie View Park – new borders &amp; surfacing for three existing playgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Prairie View County Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Maintaining existing facilities is a priority established through the Public Input and County Recreation Trends. These improvements are also required to meet Barrier-Free Compliance. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>9. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete parking lot and park drive repairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshop, and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete Markin Glen Master Plan project, Phase 2, that includes a playground, new restrooms, Markin house upgrades, mountain bike trails, and beach improvements

**Location:** Markin Glen County Park

**Justification:** Recreation facilities at Markin Glen County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The desire for improved facilities was a high priority based on the Public Input Workshop, the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance, and Current Park Distribution and Facilities.

### 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete construction of Kalamazoo River Valley Trail: Galesburg Connection – Phase 1 of updated KRV Trail Master Plan

**Location:** Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

**Justification:** Completion of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail was identified as a high priority through the public input workshop, in the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Master Plan and additional justification is offered in the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance. The linear park will also offer outstanding recreation opportunities to a large portion of the County as indicated in analysis of Current Park Distribution and Facilities.

### 3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete the final phase of the Expo Center Master Plan. Includes relocation of horse arenas, replacement of barn #16, installation of Lake Street sidewalk, and replacing/improving Lake Street fencing

**Location:** Expo Center & Fairground

**Justification:** The completion of the Expo Center & Fairground Master Plan development of a park master plan is essential to meet the current and future recreation needs of Kalamazoo County established in the Basis for Action. The need was established through the development of a master plan for the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground that included extensive public input.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>4. PARK PLANNING</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will develop Expo Center &amp; Fairground Infrastructure Master Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Expo Center &amp; Fairground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> The development of a infrastructure/deferred maintenance master plan is essential to meet the current and future recreation needs and will assist with appropriate budgeting Kalamazoo County established in the Basis for Action.</td>
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<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>5. PARK PLANNING</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will develop Cold Brook County Park Master Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Cold Brook County Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Recreation opportunities at Cold Brook County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The development of a park master plan is essential to meet the current and future recreation needs of Kalamazoo County established in the Basis for Action. Public input and the County Park and Recreation Master Plan will be the foundation of the park’s master plan.</td>
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<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>6. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete River Oaks soccer irrigation improvements – Phase 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> River Oaks County Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Development the soccer field irrigation project is essential to meet the current demands placed on the soccer fields at River Oaks County Park and essential to conserve water and reduce expense by switching from municipal water source to a groundwater well irrigation system. The River Oaks Irrigation project was identified as a high priority through County Recreation Trends, and the need to decrease operation expenses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 7. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

**Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete accessibility improvements – signage & walkways**

**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.

**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through Barrier-Free Compliance, the Public Workshop, County Recreation Trends, and the individual county park master plans. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.

### 8. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

**Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete parking lot and park drive repairs.**

**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.

**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshop, and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.

### 1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

**Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will Implement the KRV Trail Master Plan – Phase 2**

**Location:** Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

**Justification:** Completion of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail was identified as a high priority through the public input workshop, in the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Master Plan and additional justification is offered in the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance. The linear park will also offer outstanding recreation opportunities to a large portion of the County as indicated in analysis of Current Park Distribution and Facilities.
## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete Implement Phase 2 of the Prairie View County Park Master Plan – day use area with splash pad, playground, parking, and restrooms

**Location:** Prairie View County Park

**Justification:** Recreation opportunities at Prairie View County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The desire for improved facilities was a high priority based on the Public Input Workshop, in the Prairie View County Park Master Plan, the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance, and Current Park Distribution and Facilities. Improvements will be identified in the Parks Master Plan. Existing opportunities will be enhanced and based on needs, new opportunities will be provided.

### 2018

## 3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete Implement the Cold Brook County Park Master Plan – Phase 1 – Scope Dependent

**Location:** Cold Brook County Park

**Justification:** Recreation opportunities at Cold Brook County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The desire for improved facilities was a high priority based on the Public Input Workshop, and will be focus of the Cold Brook County Park Master Plan, the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance, and Current Park Distribution and Facilities. Improvements will be identified in the Parks Master Plan. Existing opportunities will be enhanced and based on needs, new opportunities will be provided.

### 2018

## 4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the Expo Center Infrastructure Master Plan – Phase 1 – Scope Dependent

**Location:** Expo Center & Fairground

**Justification:** Maintaining and upgrading existing facilities is a priority established through the Public Workshop, Barrier Free Compliance, and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.
### 5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the Scotts Mill Master Plan Phase 4 project that will include a fishing dock, historical displays, and homestead improvements.

**Location:** Scotts Mill County Park

**Justification:** Current facilities at Scotts Mill County Park are not reaching full recreation potential. Upgrading existing facilities was identified as a priority through the public input, County Recreation Trends, and in the Scotts Mill County Park Master Plan. Improvements will incorporate educational displays focused on natural features and parks unique history in Kalamazoo County. Current facilities do not meet ADA requirements.

### 6. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will replace soccer goals at River Oaks County Park.

**Location:** River Oaks County Park

**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshop and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.

### 7. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete River Oaks soccer irrigation improvements – Phase 3.

**Location:** River Oaks County Park

**Justification:** Development the soccer field irrigation project is essential to meet the current demands placed on the soccer fields at River Oaks County Park and essential to conserve water and reduce expense by switching from municipal water source to a groundwater well irrigation system. The River Oaks Irrigation project was identified as a high priority through County Recreation Trends, and the need to decrease operation expenses.
### 8. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

**Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete accessibility improvements - walkways**

**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.

**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through Barrier-Free Compliance, the Public Workshop, County Recreation Trends, and the individual county park master plans. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.

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<th>2018</th>
<th>8. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
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<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete accessibility improvements - walkways</td>
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<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete parking lot and park drive repairs.</td>
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<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshop and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will Implement KRV Trail Master Plan – Phase 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Kalamazoo River Valley Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Completion of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail was identified as a high priority through the public input workshop, in the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Master Plan and additional justification is offered in the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance. The linear park will also offer outstanding recreation opportunities to a large portion of the County as indicated in analysis of Current Park Distribution and Facilities.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the Cold Brook County Park Master Plan – Phase 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Cold Brook County Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Recreation opportunities at Cold Brook County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The desire for improved facilities was a high priority based on the Public Input Workshop, the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance, and Current Park Distribution and Facilities. Improvements will be identified in the Parks Master Plan. Existing opportunities will be enhanced and based on needs, new opportunities will be provided. Cold Brook Park offers unique and outstanding access to natural resources.</td>
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## 3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the Expo Center Infrastructure Master Plan – Phase 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Expo Center &amp; Fairground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Maintaining and upgrading existing facilities is a priority established through the Public Workshop, Barrier Free Compliance, and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.</td>
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## 4. PARK PLANNING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>4. PARK PLANNING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will develop new Expo Center &amp; Fairground Master Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Expo Center &amp; Fairground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Justification:</strong> Recreation opportunities at the Expo Center &amp; Fairground are outstanding but are in constant need for review and improvement to meet the demands of special events and customers. The development of a park master plan is essential to meet the current and future recreation needs of Kalamazoo County established in the Basis for Action. Public input and the County Park and Recreation Master Plan will be the foundation of the master plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete River Oaks soccer irrigation improvements – Phase 4  
**Location:** River Oaks County Park  
**Justification:** Development the soccer field irrigation project is essential to meet the current demands placed on the soccer fields at River Oaks County Park and essential to conserve water and reduce expense by switching from municipal water source to a groundwater well irrigation system. The River Oaks Irrigation project was identified as a high priority through County Recreation Trends, and the need to decrease operation expenses. |
|---|---|
| 6. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will upgrade park entrance signs and landscaping.  
**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.  
**Justification:** Increasing public awareness and maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshop and County Recreation Trend. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure. |
| 7. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete accessibility improvements – walkways  
**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.  
**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through Barrier-Free Compliance, the Public Workshop, County Recreation Trends, and the individual county park master plans. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure. |
| 8. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete parking lot and park drive repairs.  
**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.  
**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshop, and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure. |
1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the Cold Brook County Park Master Plan - Phase 3 – scope dependant

**Location:** Cold Brook County Park

**Justification:** Recreation opportunities at Cold Brook County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The desire for improved facilities was a high priority based on the Public Input Workshop, the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance, and Current Park Distribution and Facilities. Improvements will are identified in the Parks Master Plan. Existing opportunities will be enhanced and based on needs, new opportunities will be provided.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the KRV Trail Master Plan - Phase 4

**Location:** Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

**Justification:** Completion of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail was identified as a high priority through the public input workshop, in the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Master Plan and additional justification is offered in the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance. The linear park will also offer outstanding recreation opportunities to a large portion of the County as indicated in analysis of Current Park Distribution and Facilities.

3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement Prairie View Master Plan – Phase 3 – enclosed picnic shelter (lodge) for year-round use, fishing dock

**Location:** Prairie View County Park

**Justification:** Recreation opportunities at Prairie View County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The desire for improved facilities was a high priority based on the Public Input Workshop, the Prairie View County Park Master Plan, the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance, and Current Park Distribution and Facilities. Improvements will are identified in the Parks Master Plan. Existing opportunities will be enhanced and based on needs, new opportunities will be provided.
### 4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the Markin Glen County Park Master Plan – Phase 3 campground expansion, hiking trail development

**Location:** Markin Glen County Park

**Justification:** Recreation opportunities at Markin Glen County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. The desire for improved facilities was a high priority based on the Public Input Workshop, the Markin Glen County Park Master Plan, the County Recreation Trends, and Barrier-Free Compliance, and Current Park Distribution and Facilities. Improvements will be identified in the Parks Master Plan. Existing opportunities will be enhanced and based on needs, new opportunities will be provided.

### 5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will implement the Expo Center Infrastructure Plan – Phase 3 – scope dependant

**Location:** Expo Center & Fairground

**Justification:** Maintaining and upgrading existing facilities is a priority established through the Public Workshop, Barrier Free Compliance, and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.

### 6. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will replace park maintenance & operations building at Expo Center.

**Location:** Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground

**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshop and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure.
<table>
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<th>7. PARK PLANNING</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **2020** | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will update Kalamazoo County Park Master Plan 2021-2025  
**Location:** All County Parks  
**Justification:** The development of a park and recreation five-year master plan is essential to meet the current and future recreation needs and will assist with appropriate budgeting and project planning. |

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>8. PARK PLANNING</th>
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</table>
| **2020** | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will update all county park master plans  
**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.  
**Justification:** The development of a park master plans is essential to meet the current and future recreation needs and will assist with appropriate budgeting Kalamazoo County established in the Basis for Action. |

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<tr>
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<th>9. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
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</table>
| **2020** | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete accessibility improvements to restrooms  
**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.  
**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through Barrier-Free Compliance, the Public Workshop, County Recreation Trends, and the individual county park master plans. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure. |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **2020** | Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation will complete parking lot and park drive repairs.  
**Location:** All County Parks based on evaluation of greatest need.  
**Justification:** Maintaining existing is a priority established through the Public Workshops and County Recreation Trends. Appropriate planning and phasing will ensure long-term longevity of infrastructure. |
Property Acquisition
Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation realizes that property acquisition goals must be flexible. Land for acquisition may become available on short notice or may be difficult to obtain. Due to the short notice of property availability for purchase, funding may be difficult to obtain. It may be necessary to purchase property ahead of development schedule and create a land bank for future park development.

Acquisition Goals

1. Acquire necessary property for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway.

2. Add land to existing County Parks to provide regional facilities and better protect natural resources. This will help to achieve the goal of providing a wider range of recreation opportunities.

3. Acquire land, for future development of a new County Park in the western portion of the County with primary emphasis given to property with unique natural characteristics.
Section 8

ADOPITION
Resolution of Adoption

WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo, Park & Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2016 through 2020, and

WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo began the process of developing a park and recreation master plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, the residents of the County of Kalamazoo were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan for a period of 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on March 1, 2016 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Room C by the Kalamazoo County Park Commission to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the County of Kalamazoo, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the County of Kalamazoo Board of Commissioners voted to adopt said Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020.

Date: March 1, 2016
John Taylor, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

I, Timothy Snow, Kalamazoo County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 1st day of March, 2016.

Date: March 1, 2016
Timothy Snow, Clerk
Kalamazoo County
Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission
Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020

Resolution of Adoption

WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo, Park & Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2016 through 2020, and

WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo began the process of developing a park and recreation master plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, the residents of the County of Kalamazoo were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan for a period of 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on March 1, 2016 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Room C by the Kalamazoo County Park Commission to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the County of Kalamazoo, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission voted to adopt said Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission hereby adopts the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020.

Date: 3-1-2016

Thomas Matteson, Chairman
Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission

I, Matthew Lechel, Kalamazoo County Park Commission Secretary, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission at a meeting thereof held on the 1st day of March, 2016.

Date: 3-1-2016

Matthew Lechel, Secretary
Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission
COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

### PLAN INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Plan:</th>
<th>Kalamazoo County Park &amp; Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo County</td>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
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</table>

### PLAN CONTENT

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
   - Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
   - Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
     - Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation
   - Programming
   - Current Funding Sources
   - Role of Volunteers
   - Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations
     - Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only
     - Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
     - Articles of Incorporation
3. RECREATION INVENTORY
   - Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
   - Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
   - Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
   - Accessibility Assessment
   - Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
  - Date of Notice: January 26, 2016
  - Type of Notice: Posted at office & online
  - Plan Location: Parks Office, Online
  - Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days): 30 Days
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan’s Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
  - Date of Notice: February 23, 2016
  - Name of Newspaper: Kalamazoo Gazette
  - Date of Meeting: March 1, 2016
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT

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PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans must be adopted by the highest level governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are required and must be included in the plan.

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: March 1, 2016
- 2. Official resolution of the Kalamazoo County Park Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: March 1, 2016
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: March 1, 2016
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: March 1, 2016

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OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Kalamazoo County (Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

[Signature]

[Name]

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

March 1, 2016

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING, MI 48909-7925

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DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community(ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

[Signature]

[Name]

[Date]

Grants Management

[Date]
Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation
Master Plan 2016-2020 - Public Workshop

The Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission is currently developing a parks and recreation plan and needs public support and input. The County will hold Public Workshops to identify issues and establish goals specific to parks and recreation on Thursday, February 12, at 7:00PM in Room B at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo Michigan. OR Friday, February 13, at 1:00PM in Room B at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo Michigan. Everyone is encouraged to attend this informal process to express his or her ideas.

Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation
Master Plan 2016-2020 – Public Open House

The Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission is currently developing a parks and recreation plan and needs public support and input. The County will hold a county park plan open house to gather public input and feedback on the goals and projects specific to county projects specific to county parks and recreation on Monday, January 25 from 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. in Room B at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo Michigan. Everyone is encouraged to attend this informal process to express his or her ideas.

Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation
Master Plan 2016-2020 Review and Public Comments

The proposed Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020 is available for public review and comments until February 24, 2016. The plan is available online at www.kalcounty.com/parks or it can be reviewed at the Kalamazoo County Parks Office located at 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. Comments, ideas, or suggestions, may be emailed to the County Parks Director at parks@kalcounty.com or may be submitted in writing to Kalamazoo County Parks, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048.

Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation
Master Plan 2016-2020 Public Hearing

The Kalamazoo County Parks & Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing to review the Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Master Plan on March 1, 2016, in Room C, located at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI at 3:00PM. Plans are available for review prior to the meeting at the Kalamazoo County Parks Office or online at www.kalcounty.com/parks.
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
County of Kalamazoo 

Having been duly sworn, deposeth and saith he/she is Principal Clerk of

THE KALAMAZOO GAZETTE 
DAILY EDITION

a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Kalamazoo and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day:

February 1, A.D. 2015

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of February 2015

MARIETTA FOLEY 
Notary Public, State of Michigan 
County of Kent 
My Commission Expires: December 23, 2016

Public Workshop 
Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation 

The Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission is currently developing a parks and recreation plan and needs public support and input. The County will hold Public Workshops to identify issues and establish goals specific to parks and recreation on:

Thursday, February 12, at 7:00 PM in Room B at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo Michigan

Friday, February 13, at 1:00 PM in Room B at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo Michigan

Everyone is encouraged to attend this informal process to express his or her ideas.
Being duly sworn deposes and say he/she is Principal Clerk of

THE KALAMAZOO GAZETTE
DAILY EDITION

a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Kalamazoo and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day(days)

January 15 A.D. 2016

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of January 2016

MARIETTA FOLEY
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Kent
My Commission Expires: December 23, 2016

Public Workshop
Kalamazoo County Parks
and Recreation

The Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission is currently developing a parks and recreation plan and needs public support and input. The County will hold a county park plan open house to gather public input and feedback on the goals and projects specific to county parks and recreation on Monday, January 25 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in Room B at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 4100 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this informal process to express his or her ideas.
Being duly sworn deposes and say he/she is Principal Clerk of

THE KALAMAZOO GAZETTE
DAILY EDITION

a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Kalamazoo and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day(days)

February 23  A.D. 2016

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23 day of February 2016

MARIETTA FOLEY
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Kent
My Commission Expires: December 23, 2016
KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION
NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a special meeting of the Kalamazoo County Parks Commission at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Room “C”, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49048.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2016

4. Citizen’s Time (for items not on agenda)

5. Communications

6. Old Business
   a.

7. New Business
   b. Resolution to adopt the Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020
   c.

8. Members’ Time

9. Adjournment

KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, MARITAL STATUS OR DISABILITY. KALAMAZOO COUNTY WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY REASONABLE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES, SUCH AS SIGNERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED AND AUDIO TAPES OF PRINTED MATERIALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THE MEETINGS/HEARINGS, TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE MEETING/HEARING UPON FOUR (4) BUSINESS DAYS NOTICE TO THE PARKS OFFICE. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES SHOULD CONTACT THE PARKS OFFICE BY WRITING OR CALLING (269) 333-8778.
1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Thomas Matteson.

2. **Roll Call** – Roll was taken and a quorum was established. **Motion**: Moore moved to excuse members not present. Second by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. **Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2016 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion**: Crowley moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Second by Oscarson. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. **Citizen’s Time** – None

5. **Communications** – None

6. **Old Business** – None

7. **New Business**

a. **Public Hearing-Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation Draft Master Plan 2016-2020**

   Oscarson made a motion to open the public hearing. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote. There were no public comments. Moore made a motion to close public hearing. Seconded by Oscarson. Motion carried by voice vote.

b. **Resolution to Adopt the Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020**

   Crowley made a motion to adopt the following resolution. Seconded by Lechel.

   WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo, Park & Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2016 through 2020, and

   WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo began the process of developing a park and recreation master plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

   WHEREAS, the residents of the County of Kalamazoo were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan, and
WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan for a period of 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on March 1, 2016 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Room C by the Kalamazoo County Park Commission to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the County of Kalamazoo has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the County of Kalamazoo, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission voted to adopt said Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Commission hereby adopts the Kalamazoo County Park and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020.

Motion carried by voice vote.

8. Member's Time - None

9. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.
March 1, 2016

S.C.M.P.C.
Lee Adams, Director
300 South Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Mr. Adams,

Kalamazoo County has recently completed a five-year Park and Recreation Master Plan. The enclosed copy is for your Council’s review and allows the County to comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resource’s regulation relating to the review and adoption of a Recreation Plan.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

David Rachowicz, Director
Kalamazoo County Parks
March 1, 2016

Kalamazoo County Planning Commission
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Kalamazoo County has recently completed a five-year Park and Recreation Master Plan. The enclosed copy is for your Commission’s review and allows the County to comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resource’s regulation relating to the review and adoption of a Recreation Plan.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
David Rachowicz, Director
Kalamazoo County Parks