

2026-2030 SHELBY TOWNSHIP

Oceana County, Michigan



Community Park and Recreation Plan

Adopted: / /

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Acknowledgments

Community Members of Shelby Township

Thank you for all of your energy, enthusiasm, and wonderful ideas. Without your participation this plan would not have worked to serve your needs. It is for your sake that this plan exists. Thank you for your involvement!

Township Supervisor

Richard Raffaelli

Township Board

*Treasurer - Rebecca Griffin
Clerk – Cathy Anderson
Trustee - Scott Beishuizen
Trustee - Scott Meyers*

Parks and Recreation Committee

*Tammy Carey
Peg Gramas
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Additional Acknowledgements

Deputy Clerk – Beth Schultz

A Special thanks To



Planning Consultant

Richard Raffaelli, Project Manager

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1 - Executive Summary

Introduction

As a society, we are increasingly aware of the psychological and physical benefits provided by open space and recreation. It is Shelby Township's primary goal to actively promote these benefits for the public's well-being in the form of providing and developing recreational areas and activities. Doing this helps to increase Shelby Township's livability. However, there are many issues to consider when planning for these recreational areas and opportunities. This plan intends to be the guiding document for the promotion of these recreational opportunities in Shelby Township.

As ongoing health studies show, our society is becoming more conscious of healthy living and the opportunities that recreation provides to further healthy lifestyles and improve our quality of life. Health studies also reflect the alarming need for increased physical activity for people of all ages in order to achieve these healthier lifestyles. Finally, improvement to a community's quality of life through recreation also has the potential to better the local economy by drawing new business opportunities to the area. Studies have shown that businesses are drawn to communities that provide quality lifestyles for prospective employees.

Therefore, it is important to project the future parks and recreation needs of Shelby Township to ensure the availability of open space and recreational opportunities. To address these issues and opportunities, it is important for the Township to produce a plan to guide the decision-making process. When implemented, this plan will provide quality parks and recreation programs and facilities throughout the community.

Purpose

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires that community recreation plans be updated every five years as part of the criteria to receive funding from the State in the form of grants for park and open space acquisition, park development, and improvements to existing park facilities. The purpose of this procedure is to provide an opportunity to include changing needs and assets for the community. This Recreation Plan was developed by analyzing an inventory of issues and physical features for the area and tailoring development of recreation programs and facilities in a systematic manner, or plan, through the next five years; meeting the requirement (guidelines) of the MDNR.

Scope

Shelby Township is currently in process of developing their first township-owned enclosed sports and recreation facility. The Community Park and Recreation Plan inventories the amenities proposed at this developing park as well as existing recreation facilities and programs in the area. With this information, the needs for parks, supporting facilities, trailway/greenway systems, and recreation programs are analyzed for the next five years. The recommendations in this plan are provided through analysis of demographic projections, land-use trends, natural features inventory, citizen input, past and future recreational trends, state and federal grant funding requirements and potential land acquisition opportunities.

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2 - Community Description

The 2026-2030 Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center, and Community Pool Plan, have been developed to serve as a guide and decision making document for future recreation facilities and programs within Shelby Township. This plan focuses on parks, trails, and natural areas. The plan includes an assessment of current facilities and programs, as well as the acquisition and development of new facilities and programs based on the current and future anticipated demands. It also considers linkages throughout the township to other communities.

Plan Jurisdiction

This Community Recreation Plan covers the jurisdiction controlled by Shelby Township.

Shelby Township is located in Oceana County, approximately 33 miles North of the City of Muskegon. Shelby Township is approximately thirty six (36) square miles in area. The Township has easy accessibility to US-31, and M-20 (Hayes Rd).

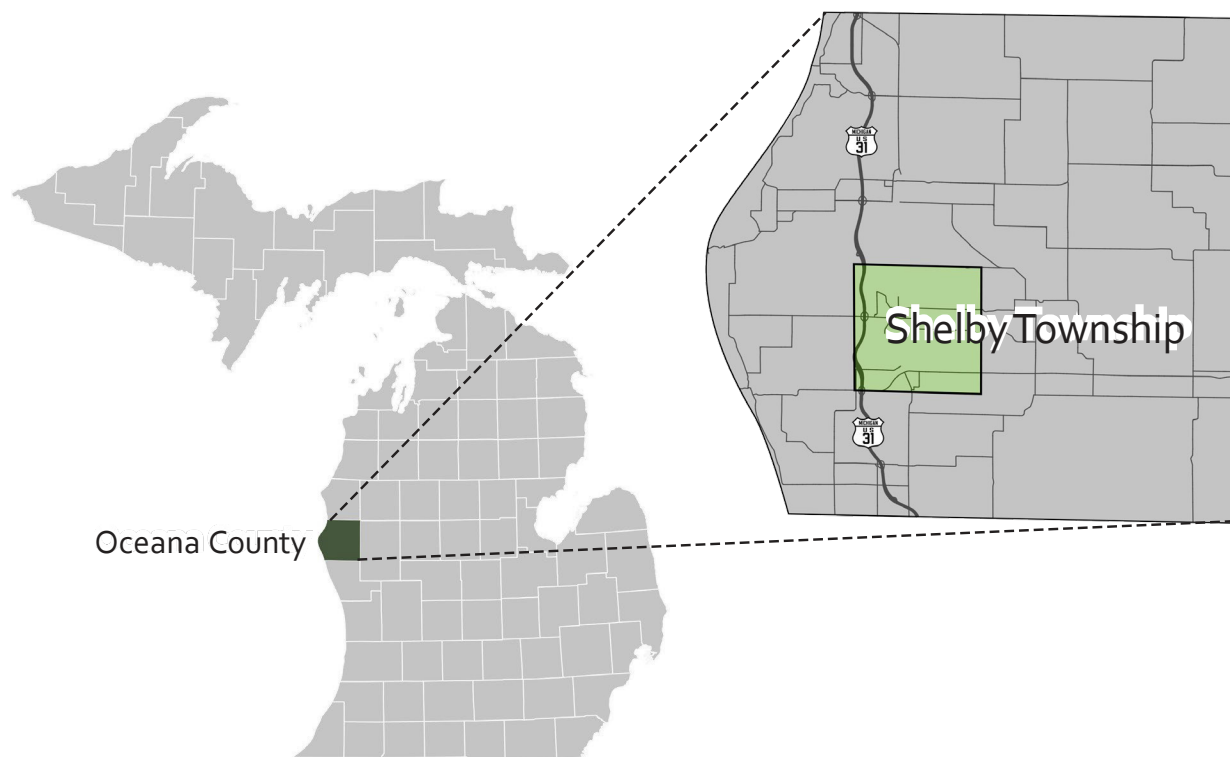


Figure 2.1: Township Location Map

Social Characteristics

City Population

Shelby is located in Oceana County, Michigan. Shelby has a 2025 population of 4,152. Shelby is currently growing at a rate of 0.14% annually and its population has increased by 0.78% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 4,120 in 2020.

U.S. Census		
2020	2025	% Change
4,120	4,152	+0.78%

Age Structure

Age characteristics are a useful demographic indicator for recreation planning purposes as a community’s age composition helps determine the appropriate mix of recreation services and facilities needed. The types and location of recreation facilities and programs will depend, in part, upon the age structure of the population. The following table breaks down the various age groups using data from the American Community Survey (ACS) 20 estimate.

Chart of Age Demographics

Age Group	Percent of Total Population
Under 20	33%
20’s	16%
30’s	12%
40’s	10%
50’s	12%
60’s	11%
70 +	6%

Median Age = 33 years

The largest age category, representing over 45 percent of the population in the Township, contains those under the age of 30. The senior citizen population represents 17 percent of the Townships residents. Shelby township has one of the largest proportions of people under the age of 20 in the county and has the smallest proportion of people over the age of 70.

The age structure of Shelby Township indicates that the greatest immediate need is for recreation facilities that serve families and young adults. This would include parks with infrastructure for a wide range of youth-related activities and programs. Young children need diverse programs offering a wide range of activities and events. Children learn the fundamentals of sports through organized baseball, softball, basketball and soccer leagues. Day camps bring children together to create arts and crafts, go swimming or learn about nature. The 20-to-49 year old age group needs family related programs that targets people by their age. Organized softball leagues are popular in many communities. This

group may also desire access to other forms of recreation like golf, hockey and basketball. In the future, demand for recreation facilities for senior citizens may increase due to the retirement of the “baby boom” generation, and translate into a need for more passive park areas. An indoor play space or community pool would provide an excellent opportunity for an entire family to participate in a recreational activity. Providing greater accessibility to park facilities for senior citizens may include providing parking or drop off areas closer to fields, large lettering on signage, and more seating and shaded areas.

Race Demographics

Shelby Township strives to be an inclusive community, inviting to people of all race, ethnicity and background. The Township has seen an increase in the Hispanic population. The Data Commons identifies the Hispanic population as 18.32% of the total population.

Chart of Population by Race

Race/Ethnicity		Percent of Population
White		78.26%
Black		0.10%
Asian		0.08%
Other		3.33%
Hispanic		18.23%
Total	4,125	100%

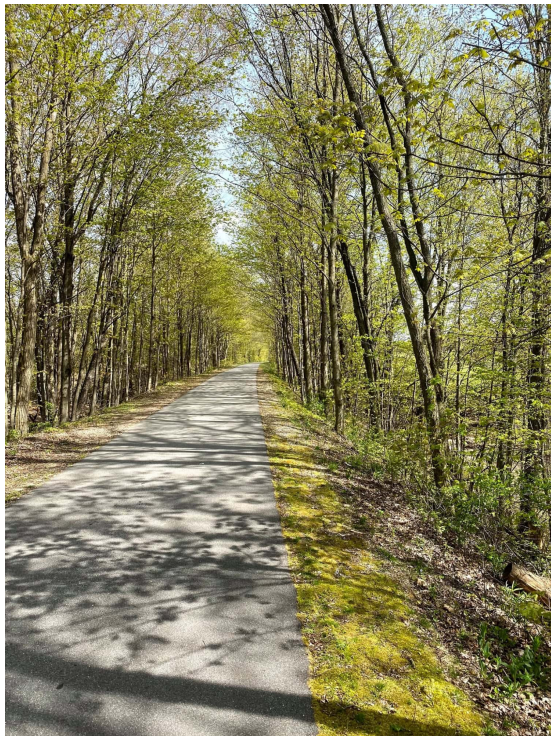


Figure 2.2: A photo of the Hart-Montague Bike Trail in Shelby, MI

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3 - Administrative Structure

Organization Chart

Parks and Recreation

Figure 3.1 below shows an organizational chart for Shelby Township's Parks and Recreation. The Parks and Recreation Committee oversees the administration of the park system and Shelby Township provides maintenance for the park facilities.

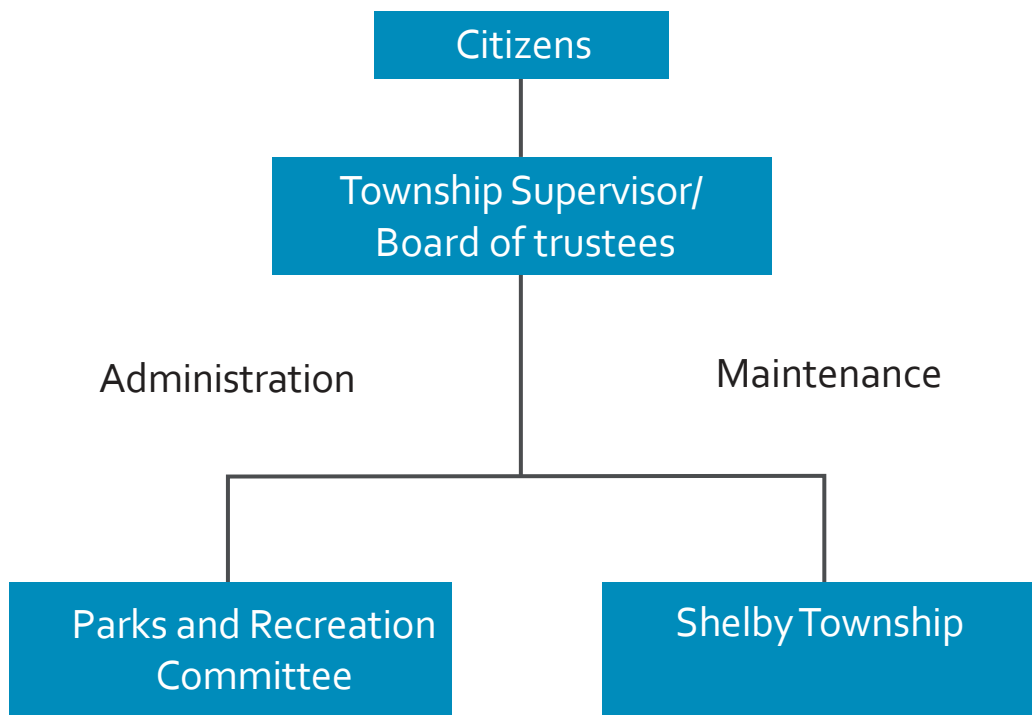


Figure 3.1: Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart

Township Board

The Township Board includes the following officials:

Township Board Members

Township Supervisor - Richard Raffaelli

Treasurer - Rebecca Griffin

Clerk – Cathy Anderson

Trustee - Scott Beishuizen

Trustee - Scott Meyers

Parks and Recreation Committee

The Parks and Recreation Committee includes the following individuals:

Committee Members

Tammy Carey, Co-Chair

Peg Gramas, Co-Chair

Katelyn Petracca

Holli Schluker

Damian Gonzalez

Parks and Recreation Funding

Oceana County government (County) has established a project fund with the Community Foundation for Oceana County (CFOC), to collect and invest contributed funds for Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan. All funds will be held in a secure money market investment. The Community Foundation has agreed to accept gifts and other deposits designated for the Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan. Supporters may donate by giving cash, check, credit card, securities, IRA charitable rollover or Foundation grants (corporate, family, private, donor advised funds). The purpose of the Fund is to support park design and construction. The County will pay all development costs with contributed funds from the project fund and/or funds from state or other grants received directly by the County, on behalf of Shelby Township Park. The County will submit invoices for park development costs to CFOC, to draw funds held in the project fund. At the conclusion of the development project, any remaining funds raised during the capital campaign and held by CFOC may be used to establish a maintenance endowment.

A park and cemetery Millage was successfully voted in during the 2023 election. The Township will also set aside 15K per year from the general fund for capital improvements, repairs or equipment purchases to support for Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan.

Copies of the Oceana County Resolution of Support, Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan Fund Agreement, can be found in the appendix.

Parks and Recreation Budget

Facility	Revenue	Expenses	
Community Park	\$26,000.00	\$75,000	0.5 millage collected for Cemetery/Parks
Swimming Pool	\$126,000	\$92,000	
TACC	\$24,000	\$11,000	Operating Revenue Collected by Third Party

*Shelby Township Community Park was acquired in 2020. Phase 1 development started in 2021 and completed in 2024 and the Phase 1 budget is \$2,000,000.00.

**The annual operations and maintenance budget for the park is projected as \$75,000.00/year. This budget may change in subsequent years once maintenance crews have more experience with maintaining this park and schedules and tasks are fully defined.

Funding Sources

General Fund

The General Fund is the basic operating fund for Shelby Township. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees are usually channeled through the General Fund.

Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific parks and recreation projects or to operate recreation facilities. Many communities have decided on a dedicated millage because voters are increasingly wary of approving millage increases for non-specified purposes. Voter approval is required before a millage is subject to periodic renewal by resident vote.

User Fees

The community can charge fees to the users of specific recreation facilities, or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities throughout Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, the use of lighted athletic fields, and the use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in a municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

Bond Programs

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities:

- **General Obligation Bonds:** General obligation bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.

- **Revenue Bonds:** Revenue bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. For example, revenue bonds may be issued for construction of a concession and restroom facility at a community park.
- **Special Assessment Bonds:** Special assessment bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

The following is a summary of the three viable recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR):

Recreation Passport Grants: PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaced the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. Development grants of \$7,500 to \$45,000 are available to local governments with a focus on renovating and improving existing parks, although new parks are also eligible. The grantee must provide at least a 25% match. Projects are evaluated based on project need, site quality, project quality, applicant history, and, if two projects receive the same evaluation score, a criterion based on the project cost per capita.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Eligible projects include community recreation and trailway improvements. These are grants of \$30,000 to \$100,000 to local governments for development of facilities such as athletic fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas, including support facilities, and the renovation and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through federal appropriations from the National Park Service. The grant match basis is fifty percent (50%) MDNR grant and fifty percent (50%) local match. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and a fourth criterion based on the type of proposed project.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Communities must have an approved recreation plan to apply for this grant. Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is also eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through the sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the project cost are required.

There is no minimum or maximum amount for land acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development projects is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. There are six special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees for 2013. Proposals will receive special attention if they:

- Acquire land or develop trailways that contribute to an overall state trail system; or
- Provide urban recreation opportunities; or
- Acquire lands open to hunting or development of hunting-related facilities, such as shooting ranges; or

- Acquire lands that provide for deer habitat with thermal cover; or
- Local shooting ranges or state/local shooting range partnerships; or
- Acquire projects that create, establish, and protect wildlife/ecological corridors by connecting to and/or buffering existing protected and managed state or local natural areas, forests or game area.

In 1998, voters approved \$100 million in bonds for parks and recreation development and renovations. \$50 million in grants to local units and development and renovation of public recreation facilities were approved, with the other \$50 million approved for extensive state park renovations. The MDNR supplements the bonds with a matching \$50 million from other funding sources, including state park user fees, the Waterways fund, the Federal Coastal Zone Management, and Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)

The CMI is created under Section 6(1) of Part 196, Clean Michigan Initiative Implementation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The CMI is a general obligation bond, and approximately \$1-\$2 million has been available most funding rounds. Most of this money is for programs administered by the Department of Environment, Great lakes, and Energy for various redevelopment and remediation activities, including brown-field redevelopment.

USDA Rural Development Grants

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. They offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety of community improvement projects, including development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low and moderate income neighborhoods that qualify under the program.

Donations

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

Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The foundation board of directors disburses assets according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is very limited.

Lease or Contractual Agreements

The Township could consider contracts with private entrepreneurs to provide services at township-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Typically, the privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while maintaining the Township's administrative costs.

Public Use Conveyances

Administered by the MDNR, this program provides state and lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

Public Spaces Community Places

Public Spaces Community Places is a collaborative effort of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Michigan Municipal League, and Patronicity where local residents can use crowd-funding to be part of the development of strategic projects in their communities and be backed with a matching grant from MEDC.

4 - Recreation Inventory

Overview

Purpose

The recreation inventory is an essential item to any Park and Recreation Plan. It allows the Township to assess the quantity, type, and location of existing facilities. The Township's first park property (Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan) is currently in plan development, therefore the proposed facilities are inventoried in this section. The facilities inventory should be continually updated as renovations and additions occur so that the list is always up-to-date.

Park Classification

The National Recreation and Parks Association published guidelines for park classification based on size and service area. These classifications are as follows:

	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreation and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Regional Park	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.	Located to serve several communities within 1 hour driving time.	Optimal size is 200+ acres, size varies based on use.

Figure 4.1: Table - NRPA Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space & Trail
Shelby Township
Community Park and Recreation Plan, 2026-2030

Shelby Township Community Park, is 37 acres and the proposed facilities will provide recreation opportunities that are not currently available in the surrounding communities and therefore will function as a regional park, servicing all of Oceana County and the surrounding region.

Accessibility Assessment

Complying with accessibility standards and planning for universal design are two extremely important efforts that a municipality must undertake in its effort to protect the health, safety and welfare of its people. This is true not only for those disabled by birth or by accident, but also for the growing population of people entering old age who are finding normal tasks increasingly more challenging to do. Many able-bodied persons forget that disability is often an eventuality as one grows older. Therefore, Shelby Township should seek to improve the accessibility of its environment not simply to comply with law, but to think more broadly and take steps towards developing a compassionate, inclusive, and accessible community, unencumbered by physical barriers.

This plan rates the accessibility of its existing park facilities, both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. This rating system is from the Michigan DNR's guidelines for recreation plans. It is intended to establish a baseline so that accessibility needs can be assessed and incorporated into capital improvement projects. This evaluation is not comprehensive and does not identify specific deficiencies.

The following ranking system was applied to each park:

Accessibility Grade	Definition
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.

Figure 4.2: Accessibility Assessment Table

Township Parks Inventory

Shelby Township acquired its first dedicated park land in 2020. This dedicated park site is approximately 37 acres and was acquired through private donations. The site is located on Buchanan Road between US-31 and 72nd Avenue, in the northwest portion of the township, directly adjacent to the William Field Memorial Hart–Montague Trail State Park. This Park was completed and opened to the Public in

The Township currently operates and maintains two cemeteries; the 18.68 Acre Mount Hope Cemetery located on Woodrow Road, and the 51.13 Acre New Era Cemetery located on 88th Avenue.

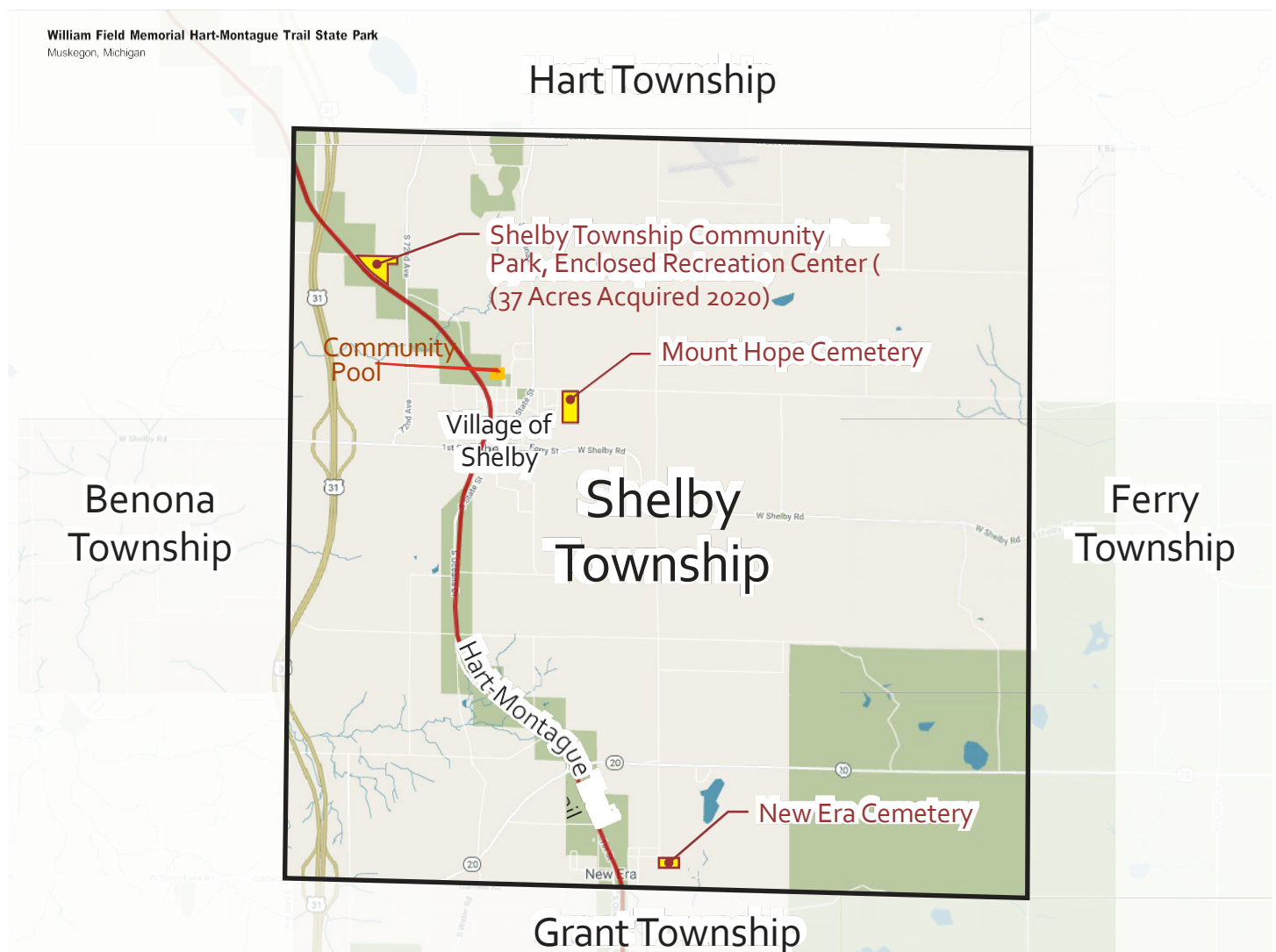


Figure 4.3: Shelby Township Park Map

Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan

The development plan for Shelby Township's newly acquired park land features a wide variety of amenities to encourage a diverse and inclusive park space. This park will provide the community with a place to enjoy many activities from casual trail strolling to programmed sports leagues. The park will also feature a trailhead for the Hart-Montague Trail State Park which runs along the park's southwest border. The park as proposed will have an ADA rating of 4, however the Township will strive for universal accessibility within the park wherever they deem the budget will allow.

Park amenities include:

- 2 Co-Ed Softball Fields
- High School Sized Soccer Field
- 2 Youth Soccer Fields
- 2 Under-Five Soccer Fields
- 6 Pickleball Courts (with room for additional courts to be added in the future)
- Basketball Court
- Restroom/Concession Buildings
- Outdoor Picnic Areas/Shelters
- Tricycle Track
- Play Equipment
- Amphitheater
- Maintenance/Storage Building
- Trailhead for the Hart-Montague Trail



Figure 4.4: Park Development Master Plan



Figure 4.5: Photos of the Shelby Township Community Park, Site for Enclosed Recreation Center

Park Acreage Evaluation

The following table evaluates current park acreage in the Township based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommendations. Although NRPA provides recommendations for parks and facilities they recognize that every community is unique and many factors should be considered when evaluating deficiencies and priorities. These additional factors can include age and income distribution, neighborhood structure, and recreation interests of your community, as well as the recreation opportunities available in nearby communities.

Shelby Township Park Acreage/Population Table

Total Acres	Population	Acres/1000 People
37	4,152	8.91

The National Recreation and Park Association recommends between 5.5 and 15.9 Acres/1000 people. As shown in the previous table, Shelby Township’s park acreage falls within this range.

Regional Recreation Opportunities

There are many additional recreation facilities and opportunities available in the area surrounding Shelby Township and throughout Oceana County. Some of those facilities are listed here:

Oceana County Parks

Black Lake County Park

Located on one hundred acres in Colfax Township, provides a campground facility, housing approximately fifteen sites. Campsites are located very close to the water which affords campers an area to fish, swim, or boat.

Cedar Point County Park

Located on the border of Golden and Pentwater Townships, is approximately 2.5 acres in size and provides direct access to Lake Michigan in the form of a sandy beach.

Oceana County Mill Pond Park

Located in Ferry Township, is located along the north branch of the White River. This eight acre facility is mostly undeveloped except for some picnic areas. The park is used for fishing and swimming and there is a considerable amount of open space for hiking and observing nature.

Doolittle County Park

Doolittle is the newest County park, consisting of forty acres located near Gales Pond in Elbridge Township. The park features natural trails and is primarily used for hiking.

Gales Pond County Park

Located in Elbridge Township, consists of just under nineteen acres. The park has a 2,500-foot boardwalk that was constructed with the aid of a DNR Grant. It extends across the pond and links up with other nature/foot trails that weave along the pond and to the back of the property.

Marshville Dam County Park

An undeveloped park area in Benona Township, that ranges over approximately ten acres. This beautiful park area is used mostly for fishing and hiking. Because of the remote nature of this park it has been left undeveloped and in its natural state.

Crystal Valley County Park

Located in Crystal Township, is a multi-purpose recreation area consuming approximately 10 acres. The park includes the Crystal Creek which is dammed at Crystal Valley Pond. The pond provides swimming, fishing, and boating possibilities. The park includes a tennis/basketball court, a softball/baseball diamond, foot trails, several picnic areas, a covered pavilion, a paved walk along the pond to a fishing deck next to the dam. There are ADA accessible vault toilets, soccer goals, a fenced playground for small children and a larger playground for the older children.

Stony Lake County Park

Primarily a lake access park in Claybanks Township, spans approximately eight acres. There is a 1/4-mile access road that leads to a boat ramp which is installed for seasonal use. The access road splits at the top of the hill overlooking the lake. There are some picnic facilities on the hill as well as a Port-a-Potty.

State/National Parks

Mears State Park

Located on Lake Michigan in the Village of Pentwater, is a State Park used year-round and heavily attended. There is a beach and swim area, hiking trails, concession area, and picnic area. The camping facilities are heavily used as well and are in very good condition. This park draws local people as well as those from far away because of the beautiful facilities and amenities.

Pines Point National Forest Campground

Located in the southeast corner of Oceana County, is a large park used for camping, canoeing, and fishing. There is access to the White River and an interpretive nature trail. There is a picnic area and toilet facilities in the park. Those wishing to utilize this area pay a minimum cost to do so.

Silver Lake State Park

Spanning almost 3,000 acres, contains many amenities for recreation. Camping is a major draw attracting many tourists to both the primitive camping area and the general use sites. A large area has been set aside for off-road vehicles and private tours. There is a designated swimming area and large rolling sand dunes.

Little Point Sable State Park

Located Southwest of Silver Lake, includes a lighthouse, beautiful Lake Michigan beach frontage, restroom facilities and a large parking lot.

William Field Memorial Hart–Montague Trail State Park

Previously and more commonly known as Hart–Montague Trail State Park, is a bicycle trail which runs from the city of Montague in Muskegon County to the city of Hart in Oceana County, Michigan. The trail is on the route of a former railroad. It was one of the first “Rails to Trails” projects in the state of Michigan, its success paved the way for more trails throughout the state and Midwest. The trails total length is 22 miles, however continuous expansions have increased that length in recent years with the hope of linking it to other trails throughout Western Michigan.



Figure 4.6: Photo of Silver Lake Sand Dunes along Lake Michigan

Private Parks and Recreation Facilities

Flip City Disc Golf Course

"The Disc Golf Scene" which is the go-to social media platform for disc golfers and boasts a membership of over 130,000 worldwide has rated Flip City as the #1 disc golf course in the United States. Flip City was started as an object disc golf course in the summer of 1980. The original course was laid out by Bill McKenzie & Nick Elliott. The course has been through many changes, over time, but most of the original course still remains. The course covers about 35 acres and features 24 holes. There are rolling hills & interesting Pin placements that add to the difficulty of play.



Figure 4.7: Photo of Flip City Disc Golf Course

5 - The Planning Process

Plan Development Process

The consultant reviewed Shelby Township's current demographics, current budgets and revenues, past planning efforts and perceived initial priorities. The consultant also performed an initial orientation meeting with the Township Supervisor, Richard Raffaelli and the newly formed parks and Recreation Committee to establish some initial study parameters and planning direction. As part of the inventory gathering process, the consultant reviewed the master plan for the proposed Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan, and performed a physical inventory by visiting the park property.

The information gathered was then synthesized into the proposed goals and objectives of this plan. The goals and objectives were then further refined with the assignment of phasing and priority suggestions (actions), as well as estimates of probable cost (capital improvements schedule). Subsequent refinement of the plan was performed through various discussions with township officials, public comment, and investigation of funding strategies and sources to eventually produce the final five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Public Participation

An effective means of obtaining public input is critical for the development of a Community Park and Recreation Plan. Public input is also required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans." For Shelby Township's plan, several means of gaining input were used, including:

- Online opinion survey 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024
- Initial Public input meeting - Monday, December 21, 2020 and subsequently 2022, 2023 and 2024
- Public hearing - Enclosed Sports Facility held on 09/03/2024; Community Swimming Pool held on 03/24/2025
- Stakeholder Interviews Over a three year period
- One Month Review Period – Posted on the Township's website, hard copy at Township Hall
- Survey of 350 school children attending Shelby Public Schools

Summaries of the public input activities are given below. A full compilation of all survey results, input, and public comments is contained in the Appendix.

Public Input Meetings

Two public input meetings were held, the first on September 03, 2024 and the second on March 24, 2025. The meetings were held to present materials and information relative to the 5-year Community Park and Recreation Plan. The purpose was to present material and data gathered to date, and to provide an opportunity for the public to have input as to what recreational facility improvements and programs they would like considered for the Township's Park System and/or speak on issues relative to the Parks & Recreation.

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was held on 09/03/2024 for the Enclosed Sports Facility; Public Hearing for the Community Swimming Pool held on 03/24/2025.

Online Opinion Survey

During the Community Engagement Portion of the Recreation Master Planning process, an online survey questionnaire was developed to gauge public opinion on the future of Shelby Township's Parks and Recreation.

The online survey was conducted using the web-based "Survey Monkey" opinion survey instrument. The survey was placed online 05/24/2024 and was closed 07/03/2024. It was publicized in the local newspaper, on the Township's website and through a series of email blasts to known groups and local organizations.

A total of 328 responses were received for the online survey. Details of responses are shown in the Appendix.

The following responses are regarding the adequacy of parks and trail infrastructure in the Township.

- **72.46% of respondents think that Shelby Township should continue to pursue opportunities for new parks and recreation amenities.**
- Most would like to see **passive recreation or conservation areas, senior and youth programs, neighborhood parks and playgrounds, followed by bike trails or expanded road shoulders.** Other responses include:
 - Public pool or splash pad
 - Track, gym, or exercise equipment
 - Focus on maintaining what we already have
 - Spaces to grill and enjoy the outdoors
 - Dog parks
 - Trails for off road vehicles
 - Skate park/rink
 - Natural playground
- Respondents voted relatively evenly on the things they would like to see in Shelby Community Park with the exception of **public art and concessions being the lowest voted categories.**
- **66.05% of respondents said they never visit Shelby Township Bark Park** and most have no opinion.
- **30.73% would be interested in a new sports or recreation facility** with the majority voting for a walking track, exercise classes, and basketball court followed by a volleyball court, tennis/pickleball court, or batting cage.

Figure 5.1 Screenshot of Survey Responses



Figure 5.2 Screenshot of Survey Responses

6 - Goals and Objectives

Overview

In the broadest sense, a Parks and Recreation Plan should offer the community a series of guidelines or recommendations for making consistent and rational public decisions regarding the delivery of recreation programs and facilities. Goals and objectives, in the context of recreation and park planning, should be the guiding influence determining the nature and extent of future park acquisition, development, administrative, and programming actions. They should be idealistic to the extent that they provide a desirable condition to strive towards and be ready for opportunities that may not be evident today such as new grant programs, benefactors, donations etc that present themselves. However, in order to be reasonably capable of being achieved, the goals must be tempered by the recognition of financial, social, physical and political realities. Successful policy should further recognize the evaluation of the community's recreation system and the relationship of this system to relevant demographic characteristics.

Goals should be broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable results that the Township can work toward accomplishing. Both offer policy direction and the framework for recreation providers. The following policy statements reflect the Township's short and long-term recreation needs identified in the previous chapters. Specific methods for achieving these goals are described in the Action Program and Capital Improvement Plan in the following section.

Township Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives provide the foundation of the Township's Community Park and Recreation Plan, and are to be used as a framework for future implementation strategies.

Overall

- I. Enhance and increase the quality of life for the residents of Shelby Township by providing a full range of recreation programs, recreation facilities, athletic fields, and pathways to meet their recreational needs.**
- II. Provide a consistent level of funding for improvements and continued maintenance for Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan and any future recreation facilities.**
- III. Participate in regional initiatives that are focused on improving the recreation opportunities for all residents of Oceana County and the west Michigan community.**

- IV. Strengthen community image and sense of place. Parks, recreation facilities, programs and community events are key factors to achieve this goal.
 - A. Continue to accentuate the Hart-Montague Trail through the development of trailheads and non-motorized connections.
 - B. Work with the Village of Shelby to identify potential ways and means the Shelby Township parks, programs, and events can help the business community and vice versa. Recreation programming and events can help draw visitors to downtown.
- V. Protect environmental resources. Natural resources and habitats are preserved by acquiring, managing, and restoring valuable resources as open space (rivers, streams, greenways, view sheds, forests, and other habitat areas).
 - A. Provide superior and unique recreational activities and facilities, which emphasize the natural environment.
 - B. Work with other surrounding communities to revive initiatives that promote each others' natural features and cross promote so people can better learn about the natural resources, ecological values and history.
- VI. Foster human development. Parks and recreation services foster social, intellectual, physical, and emotional development of children, youth, and adults.
 - A. Work with the Shelby Public Schools to enable communications that will lead to enhancing the development of children and youth through after school facilities/programs.
- VII. Support economic development. Recreation programs and facilities attract and retain businesses and residents, as well as attract tourists.
 - A. Develop recreation and athletic facilities at Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan that will not only service Shelby Township but the remainder of Oceana County and the surrounding region.
 - B. Promote regional events at Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan such as festivals, and sports leagues and tournaments.
 - C. The Township should create a "Non-Motorized Vision Plan" or as MDOT refers to it "Active Transportation" that will allow people of all ages to move throughout the township via bicycle lanes, off street pathways, sidewalk connections to trails.
- VIII. Provide recreational experiences. A variety of benefits to individuals and the community are achieved through programmed and unprogrammed recreation.
- IX. Promote health and wellness. Participation in recreation significantly improves physical and emotional health.
 - A. Offer a wide array of classes and programs, specifically programs for school-aged children.
 - B. Provide recreational programs that emphasize fitness and staying healthy. Outdoor fitness stations or classes can provide places to exercise out of doors on their own or with groups.

- X. Continue to communicate with the public whenever possible through various means. The following methods were the most recognized forms of communication stated by the public in priority ranking from the 2020 opinion survey:
 - A. Social Media (Face Book, Twitter, others)
 - B. Website
 - C. Newsletter (paper or “hard copy”)
 - D. E-mail Blasts
 - E. Newsletter (electronic)
 - F. Direct US Mail
 - G. Flyers (postings, etc.)

Administration and Organization

- I. Investigate innovative ways to fund improvements and programming.
 - A. Apply for state, federal and local grants for recreation, athletic, leisure, and cultural arts programs.
 - B. Seek donations from foundations, corporations, service clubs and local businesses, as well as individual sponsorships.
 - C. Maintain a fair and reasonable user fee system for programming.
- II. Provide necessary staffing and an administrative infrastructure at levels commensurate to programming and maintenance needs to support the expansion of recreation opportunities.
- III. Continue to monitor and adjust program offerings to reflect changing recreation preferences and age characteristics.
- IV. Market recreation services to potential users:
 - A. Upgrade and maintain the township website to provide up-to-date information to the public.
 - B. Maintain and build relations with senior citizens, schools, local businesses and community groups.
- V. Continue and improve coordination with other organizations:
 - A. Maintain and foster communication between the Park and Recreation Committee and the maintenance team of Shelby Public Schools.
 - B. Explore relationships with Shelby Public Schools, Oceana County, and community groups to establish cooperative agreements for the protection, maintenance and use of recreation sites, and the delivery of recreation services.

Recreation Land

- I. Acquire recreation land to create community and neighborhood parks, which are appropriate, convenient and accessible to all residents:
 - A. Explore acquisition of properties that include natural features or recreational opportunities as they become available.
- II. Develop and expand the Non-Motorized system throughout the Township.
 - A. Explore the acquisition of land or easements that can be used to provide non-motorized connections between the Hart-Montague Trail and other township assets.
 - B. Explore areas where on-road facilities or separated pathways can be added within existing public right-of-ways to improve non-motorized travel throughout the township.
 - C. Install wayfinding signs, interpretative kiosks, and respite stations throughout the existing and future non-motorized system.

Facilities

- I. Provide facilities that meet the community-wide recreation needs of Shelby Township residents.
 - A. Develop the newly acquired Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan to meet the needs of all activities, programs and users.
 - B. Ensure accessibility to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and providing an opportunity for “inclusive and/or universal recreation.”
- II. Provide, promote and encourage the establishment and maintenance of a non-motorized system consisting of trails, pathways, bicycle lanes, shared roads other forms of active transportation that will connect with other facilities within the Region.
- III. Maintain a balanced system of parks by having well-operated and maintained facilities:
 - A. Continue the scheduling of operations, including regular inspections, to ensure all parks and facilities are neat in appearance and well-operated and maintained.
 - B. Coordinate and assist in planned events in public spaces, parks, and facilities.

7 - The Action Plan

Actions

The following action plan or “Capital Improvement Plan” (CIP) was developed based upon information gathered from public input, interviews, demographic data, land use trends and efforts of adjacent communities. The plan covers the next five years. These projects may be funded through grant sources such as those provided through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grants, Waterways Program Grants, Michigan Habitat Improvement Fund Program Grants, Invasive Species Grant Program, or Wildlife Habitat Grant Program. There may be grants available through private corporations, non-profit organizations, and other state and federal agencies.

Please note: The capital improvements are listed in no particular order. The matrix provides a target year, the project location, a description, an estimated range of likely costs, revenue sources, and goals. It is intended to be used as a guideline for planning.

Capital Improvement Plan Schedule

Shelby Township
Community Park and Recreation Plan (2026-2030)

Target Year	Project Location	Project Description	Estimated Costs	Revenue Source
2021-2022	Shelby Township Community Park	Phase 1 Development	\$2,000,000	Private Donations, MDNR, USDA, MEDC Grants
2022-2023	Shelby Township Community Park	Phase 2 Development	\$300,000-\$500,000	Private Donations, MDNR, USDA, MEDC Grants
2023-2024	Shelby Township Community Park	Phase 3 Development	\$300,000	Private Donations, MDNR, USDA, MEDC Grants
2024-2025	Enclosed Community Centre	Phase 4 Development	Private Donations, Community Foundation, State Appropriations, Oceana County, LEO Grant	\$6,000,000
2025-2030	Community Swimming Pool	Phase 5 Development	\$1,900,000	Private Donations, State Appropriations, MDNR Grant

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS A LONG RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND IS REVIEWED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. ALL PROJECTS LISTED ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING THROUGH THE GRANT SOURCE, TOTAL OF PRIVATE DONATIONS AND THE GENERAL FUND AND THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD.

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Community Park and Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

Appendix



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION 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 and Recreation Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR through MiRecGrants **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than February 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Shelby Township	Oceana	August, 2025

PLAN CONTENT	
INSTRUCTIONS: Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> 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 Recreation 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 ☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)	
☐ 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 the Notice _____ Type of Notice <u>Newspaper, website, e-blast</u>
☒	Plan Location <u>Township website, Township Hall</u> Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 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 _____ Name of Newspaper _____ Date of Meeting _____
☒	Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting
☒	7. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES
☒	8. ACTION PROGRAM
☒	9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)
PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION	
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 <u>dated:</u> _____
☒	2. official resolution of the <u>Shelby Township Board</u> Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, <u>dated:</u> _____
☒	3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency _____ <u>dated:</u> _____
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>I hereby certify that the recreation plan for</i> <u>Shelby Township</u> <i>includes the required content, as indicated</i> (Local Unit of Government) <i>above and as set forth by</i> <i>the DNR.</i>	
 _____ Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date	
This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.	

Advertisement of Public Input Meeting (The Oceana Echo)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that Shelby Township, Oceana County, will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, at 6:00 pm. The meeting will take place in the Shelby Township Hall, located at 204 N. Michigan Ave. Shelby, MI. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain public comments and input regarding amenities area residents would like to see included in the sports complex. The enclosed sports complex will be located next to the Shelby Township Community Park at 4101 W Buchanan Rd, Shelby, MI, 49455.

As an alternative comments may also be submitted to Shelby Township, by email: info@shelbytownshipoceana.com, phone (231) 861-5853 or by US postal mail at PO Box 215, Shelby, MI, 49455.

Zoom link and meeting information:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3322419785?pwd=QzNNeklsRXlZV2p3VWdhOS9aQVVMZz09>
 Meeting ID: 332 241 9785
 Passcode: 2B94HM

Echo Publishing Inc.

COUNTY OF OCEANA

Connie VanDerZanden being duly sworn, testifies that she is the Treasurer and Office Manager of The Oceana Echo, a newspaper published at 5698 W. Fox Rd., Mears, MI 49436 and circulated in the above county and that she is familiar with the facts and that the notice, a true copy of which is attached, was published in said newspaper once, and that the publication was made on the: Sixteenth day of August 2024.

Dated 10-14-25

Connie VanDerZanden
 Signature of Authorized Representative

State of Michigan

County of Oceana

On the 14th day of October 2025, the foregoing instrument

was acknowledged before me by Connie Vanderzanden

Dana Bond
 Notary Public

My Commission expires 2/22/26

DANA BOND, Notary Public
 State of Michigan, County of Oceana
 My Commission Expires 02/22/2026
 Acting in the County of Oceana

20th Annual Apple & BBQ Festival set for Sept. 6-7

THE OCEANA ECHO AUGUST 16, 2024 9

Keep your distance - for safety's sake

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTIC SYSTEM SERVICE

SWIMMERS

231-873-3774

DELIA'S STUMP REMOVAL

JOIN TODAY!

MEMBER FOCUSED COMMUNITY BASED FINANCIAL WELLNESS

231-873-3774

Advertisement of Public Hearing (The Oceana Echo)

Echo Publishing Inc.

COUNTY OF OCEANA

Connie VanDerZanden being duly sworn, testifies that she is the Treasurer and Office Manager of The Oceana Echo, a newspaper published at 5698 W. Fox Rd., Mears, MI 49436 and circulated in the above county and that she is familiar with the facts and that the notice, a true copy of which is attached, was published in said newspaper once, and that the publication was made on the: Seventh day of March 2025.

Dated 10-14-25

Connie VanDerZanden
Signature of Authorized Representative

State of Michigan

County of Oceana

On the 14th day of October 20 25, the foregoing instrument

was acknowledged before me by Connie Vanderzanden.

Dana Bond
Notary Public

My Commission expires 2/22/26

4 MARCH 7, 2025 THE OCEANA ECHO

This page is brought to you by

OCEANA HISTORY

134 Dryden St. in
Bert, Mich. 49120
(231) 875-2000

A little on the early days of Weare Township

By Cath Jackson
Oceana Echo
Community Columnist

Like many of the townships of Oceana, it was timber that seemed to be the principal interest in Weare and has induced many people to come to this area. In fact, most of the first names in the early days of Weare are associated with that of the early logging companies. However, there are a few names that are not associated with the logging industry. One of these is the name of Charles Meers Jervis. He was one of the first to settle in Weare and was one of the first to develop the area. He was one of the first to build a house and a barn and to plant a few trees. He was one of the first to start a school and a church. He was one of the first to start a newspaper and a library. He was one of the first to start a community and a town. He was one of the first to start a life.

Visit us! The Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Private tours are available by appointment. oceaahistory.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SHELBY TOWNSHIP, OCEANA COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Shelby Township, Oceana County, will conduct a special meeting on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 8:15 p.m. in the Township Board Room, located at 254 N. Michigan Avenue, Shelby, MI 49881. The purpose of this special meeting will be to approve the Amended Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025/26. Please be advised that the Township office during business hours if you have any questions or concerns. Cathy Anderson, Township Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE FERRY TOWNSHIP BUDGET HEARING

The Ferry Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Township budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ferry Township Hall, 3225 Green St., Shelby. The regular March Board meeting will immediately follow the hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Township Hall. Individuals may contact the Township at 231-881-6565.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SHELBY TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Shelby Township, Oceana County, will conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. at the Shelby Township Hall located at 254 N. Michigan Ave., Shelby, MI. The purpose of the hearing will be to approve Shelby Township's intent to apply for 2025 grant funding from one of the following: Land & Water Conservation Fund or Recreation Program. The proposed grant applications will be used to develop a community park, located at the corner of W. Street and School Street. Cathy Anderson, Township Clerk

The Oceana Echo

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theoceanaecho@gmail.com • March 7, 2025 • Volume 2 • Issue 41
Office hours (Old Town Hall in Mears): M & W: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Office: 231-301-8149 • ads@oceanaecho.com

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Minutes of Public Hearing



Public Hearing Minutes
03/24/2025
6:00 pm

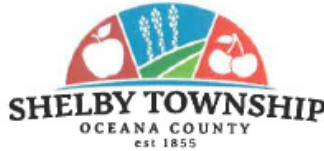
1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Township Supervisor, Richard Raffaelli.
2. Pledge of Allegiance Recited
3. Roll Call: Scott Meyers – present, Becky Griffin – present, Cathy Anderson – present, Richard Raffaelli – present, Cindy Rapes – Absent.
4. Public Comment: I am in full support of the proposed swimming pool and would like to help secure funding for this project. This is an inexpensive way for families to spend a fun day together, a true asset for our community. We have seen similar designs in rural areas such as farming communities in Illinois, the spaces are always full and provide a great place for families. In complete support, this would provide a central space for kids to learn to swim, in a safe environment. I would love to see swimming lessons offered for children as part of a water safety course. It is so important to have these resources when living near the Great Lakes and so many other bodies of water. Our Grandchildren often come to visit, and we look forward to utilizing this feature with them and our families, hopefully in the near future. This would be an amazing space to hold child Birthday Parties, which is a needed commodity for Shelby Township. Would offer a low impact exercise area for our Seniors and those who are unable to sustain high impact workouts.
5. Agenda Item: Resolution # 250324-1 (Application to apply for Grant Funding for the Development of a Public Pool.) Cathy Anderson made a motion to accept Resolution # 250324-1, Scott Meyers supports the motion, discussion followed, roll call vote; Cathy Anderson – yes, Scott Meyers – yes, Becky Griffin – yes, Richard Raffaelli – yes, absent - Cindy Rapes.
6. Additional Public Comments: No additional comments.
7. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm by Township Supervisor, Richard Raffaelli.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cathy Anderson
Clerk

SHELBY TOWNSHIP | OCEANA COUNTY
204 N. Michigan Avenue | P.O. Box 215 | Shelby, MI | 49455
Office (231) 861-5853 | Fax (231) 861-6608
info@shelbytownshipoceana.com
www.shelbytownshipoceana.com

Certified Resolution



UPDATED RECREATION MASTER PLAN
SHELBY TOWNSHIP
OCEANA COUNTY

Resolution 03032025-2

WHEREAS, Shelby Township would like to update our Recreation Master Plan, adding a community sports complex to be named the TACC and we will also be adding an outdoor pool and pet cemetery. Shelby Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2021 through 2025, and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Shelby Township hereby adopts the Updated Shelby Township Recreation Master Plan.

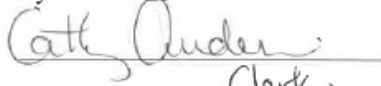
Roll call vote:

Yeas: Scott Meyers, Becky Griffin, Cathy Anderson, Richard Raffaelli

Nays:

Absent: Cindy Rapes

I, Cathy Anderson, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Shelby Township Board at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 3rd day of March 2025.


Clerk

Letters of Transmittal to Regional Clearinghouses



September 10, 2025

Oceana County Planning Commission
100 South State St
Hart MI 49420
Phone: (231) 873-4835

RE: Shelby Township Community Park & Recreation Plan 2026-2030

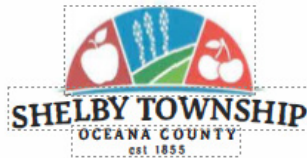
Dear Planning Commission,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Shelby Township's Community & Park Plan for 2026-2030. Spalding DeDecker (formerly LAP Creative) has been hired by Shelby Township to develop new additions to the park and recreation plan. If you have any questions please contact Richard Raffaelli, Township Supervisor, at (214) 674-2539.

Sincerely,

Cathy Anderson
Shelby Township Clerk

SHELBY TOWNSHIP | OCEANA COUNTY
204 N. Michigan Avenue | P.O. Box 215 | Shelby, MI | 49455
Office (231) 861-5853 | Fax (231) 861-6608
info@shelbytownshipoceana.com
www.shelbytownshipoceana.com



September 10, 2025

Erin Kuhn, Executive Director
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
316 Morris Avenue, Suite 340
Muskegon, MI 49440-1140

RE: Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool
Plan & Recreation Plan 2026-2030

Dear Mr. Snell,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Shelby Township's Community & Park Plan for 2026-2030. Spalding DeDecker (formerly LAP Creative) has been hired by Shelby Township to develop new additions to the park and recreation plan. If you have any questions please contact Richard Raffaelli, Township Supervisor, at (214) 674-2539.

Sincerely,

Cathy Anderson
Shelby Township Clerk

SHELBY TOWNSHIP | OCEANA COUNTY
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info@shelbytownshipoceana.com
www.shelbytownshipoceana.com

Oceana County Resolution of Support



OFFICE OF THE OCEANA COUNTY CLERK

Amy L. Anderson, County Clerk

100 State Street, Suite 1 – Hart, MI 49420
Telephone: (231) 873-4328

Moved by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Byl to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners encourages development of new parks and recreational opportunities through the efforts of our Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as through local community and business organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Parks and Recreation Master Plan historically references goals and objectives targeting increased parks and recreational opportunities for county residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, Shelby Township desires to develop a recreational park in the township and on November 2, 2020 adopted a resolution to take title to land for a recreational park to be acquired and developed through government grants and private donations; and for the park to be maintained by Shelby Public Schools at no cost to the township; and

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational park will be a benefit to the community at large and serve as a true gem of a place right here in Shelby Township in Oceana County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners supports development of a recreational park in Shelby Township and further encourages all people to Get Outside and enjoy local, state, and national outdoor recreational activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in cooperation with the Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission, Shelby Township officials, and other stakeholders, that the Oceana County Administrator is authorized to assist with applying for and accepting government grants, such as those available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and other suitable grantors; and for Oceana County to serve as a fiduciary for any and all grant awards; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Oceana County Administrator is authorized to establish a fiduciary agreement between Oceana County and the Community Foundation for Oceana County ("Foundation"), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, for the sole purpose of committing private donated funds received by the Foundation, that are earmarked for the recreational park, to further cover project costs that are not fully covered by any and all government grant awards that Oceana County may receive.

Roll call vote: Mr. Brown – yes; Mr. Byl – yes; Mr. Sebolt – no; Mr. Gustafson – yes;
Mr. Walker – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; and Mr. Powers – yes.

Motion carried.

Melanie A. Coon – Chief Deputy Clerk
Jana Boundy – Deputy Clerk

Kyla K. Miller – Deputy Clerk
Trisha A. Marsh – Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned, being the Clerk of Oceana County, does hereby certify that on the 12th day of November, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners did adopt the above Resolution at its Regular Meeting.



Amy L. Anderson, Clerk
Oceana County



OFFICE OF THE OCEANA COUNTY CLERK

Amy L. Anderson, County Clerk

100 State Street, Suite 1 – Hart, MI 49420
Telephone: (231) 873-4328

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Christians to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Oceana County supports Shelby Township's creation of its first 5-Year Recreation Master Plan 2021-2025 and grant application in 2021 to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and;

WHEREAS, the location of the township is within the jurisdiction of Oceana County; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Recreation Master Plan 2021-2025, when completed, will be a benefit to the community; and,

WHEREAS, the township anticipates applying for grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and,

WHEREAS, with this resolution of support it is acknowledged that Oceana County is not committing or obligating financial support for this endeavor; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby supports Shelby Township's submission of a 5-Year Recreation Master Plan 2021-2025, and Grant Application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.

AYES: Seven

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by Oceana County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held on January 14, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. in Oceana County, with a quorum present.

Amy L. Anderson
Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Dated: January 19, 2021

Melanie A. Coon – Chief Deputy Clerk
Jana Boundy – Deputy Clerk

Kyla K. Miller – Deputy Clerk
Trisha A. Marsh – Deputy Clerk

Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan Fund Agreement

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for OCEANA COUNTY COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND AGREEMENT

Shelby Township Community Park Fund

This AGREEMENT made December 7, 2020, between Oceana County (the "**County**", a county located in the State of Michigan and the Community Foundation for Oceana County (the "**Foundation**"), a Michigan nonprofit corporation.

The Foundation agrees to accept gifts and other deposits designated for the Shelby Township Community Park Fund (the "**Fund**"). The purpose of the Fund is to support park design and construction. At the conclusion of the park project, any residual funds will be used to establish a separate Shelby Township Community Park Maintenance Fund at the Foundation, under a new fund agreement.

The Foundation shall provide the County the services outlined in Schedule A ("**Services**"), for the fees described. Either party may terminate this agreement upon 60 days written notice to the other party.

Both parties agree: (i) to provide the other party with any and all records and data reasonably necessary for the other party to fulfill their respective obligations hereunder; (ii) that to the best information and belief of the party providing the records and data, such records and data provided shall be accurate and true; and (iii) the parties may rely upon such records and data in fulfilling their respective obligations hereunder. Further, both parties shall cooperate in any audit of the Foundation and/or the County in connection with this Agreement as may be reasonably requested by either parties' auditor. Both parties agree to provide the other party with any and all information reasonably needed to fulfill each parties' obligations hereunder on such forms and in such format as may be reasonably requested by each party.

This Agreement and its attached Schedule A contain the entire understanding of the parties and shall not be supplemented with any other term or condition unless such term or condition is in writing and specifically incorporated by amendment to this agreement.

The Foundation accepts the property transferred to it by contributors to the Fund and agrees to hold, administer and distribute it as provided in this document.

Oceana County, a county located in the State of Michigan

By: Robert J. Sobie
Robert J. Sobie, County Administrator

Community Foundation for Oceana County, a Michigan nonprofit corporation

By: Tammy S. Carey
Tammy S. Carey, Chief Executive Officer

SCHEDULE A

1. Minimum Fund Balance. A minimum deposit of \$500 is required to open the Fund and a balance of \$500 must be maintained unless the County requests to close the Fund. If the balance of the Fund falls below the minimum, the Foundation may choose to pay out the balance to the County or other qualified organization and close the Fund.
2. Services to be Provided by Foundation. The Foundation agrees to provide the following Services:
 - (i) issue tax receipts to individuals or organizations that make gifts to the Fund. The County shall not engage in gift solicitations. Gift to the Fund must be in accordance with the Foundation's Donor initiated Fundraising Policy.
 - (ii) Maintain a database of the Fund donors and provide on-line access to the County.
 - (iii) Invest the Fund deposits in a money market account and/or certificates of deposit. Any investment/interest earnings by the Fund will accrue to the Fund.
 - (iv) Make disbursements from the Fund to the County, upon receipt from the County of a written request from the County Administrator or designee, authorizing the disbursement. All disbursements from the Fund must be for the stated purpose of the Fund. The Foundation reserves the right to withhold a disbursement from the Fund if the Foundation cannot reasonably determine that the request is for a stated Fund purpose. Any material change in the scope or scale of the purpose of the Fund, or changes in the purposes for which funds are spent, must be approved in writing by the Foundation before implementation. The County agrees to provide such information to the Foundation as the Foundation may reasonably request to issue the disbursement and to document that it was made in compliance with the terms of this Agreement.
3. Administration Fee. Each calendar year, the Foundation will charge a one-time administrative fee of 2% of all contributions received in that calendar year, with a minimum annual administrative fee of \$500 for each calendar year. The annual \$500 minimum administrative fee will be deducted from the Fund in the first calendar quarter of each year. The additional administrative fee on all new contributions received during the calendar year will be calculated and deducted from the Fund on a quarterly basis. In the year the Fund is created, the minimum administrative fee of \$500 will be prorated over the calendar year, and deducted from the Fund in the calendar quarter in which the Fund is created. The fee structure may periodically be evaluated and adjusted.
4. Indemnification/Hold Harmless
 - (i) By County. The County agrees to indemnify and hold the Foundation harmless from and against any and all liability, suits, claims, actions, losses or damage arising or resulting from wrongful acts or omissions of the County (inclusive of its commissioners, officers, employees and agents) related to this Agreement or arising thereunder including, without limitation, expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and such other amounts actually and reasonably incurred by the Foundation as a result thereof.
 - (ii) By Foundation. The Foundation agrees to indemnify and hold the County harmless from and against any and all liability, suits, claims, actions, losses, or damages arising or resulting from wrongful acts or omissions of the Foundation (inclusive of its trustees, officers, employees and agents) related to this Agreement or arising thereunder including, without limitation, expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and such other amounts actually and reasonably incurred by the County as a result thereof.

(iii) Expiration. The indemnification/hold harmless provisions provided under this section 4 will automatically expire one (1) year from the termination of the Fund.

-

Shelby Township Community Park, Enclosed Recreation Center and Community Pool Plan - Habitat Assessment



Oceana Conservation District

1064 Industrial Park Drive
Shelby, MI 49455
Phone: (231) 861-5600 Fax: (855) 813-7696
www.OceanaConservation.org

Site Summary for Proposed Shelby Park

Site Visit: Conducted Dec. 22, 2020 by Rod Denning, Forester, Oceana Conservation District

Location: Oceana County, Shelby Twp. (T14N R17W) Sec. 7, 012-007-200-02

Buildings, Structures, Land Improvements: None

Acres: 29 total, 1.6 acres of forest, the rest is open field

Soils: Well drained, rich sandy drift of Spinks loamy fine sand (67%), and excessively drained rich sandy drift of Benona sand (33%)

Wetlands/Water: None

Topography: Flat to gently rolling

Roads/access: Buchanan Road and 72nd Avenue are maintained by the county

Cover Types and Observations

The forested area (1.6 acres) in the very western point of the parcel consists mostly of sugar maple, Northern red oak with some scattered red maple, white ash, and bigtooth aspen.

Woody vegetation within the fallow open field includes white mulberry, tree-of-heaven, autumn olive, honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, scotch pine, bitternut hickory, black oak, and white pine. All of these except the bitternut hickory, black oak, and white pine are non-native, invasive species.

The native staghorn sumac is scattered and in colonies in many places, especially in the older portions of the open field.

Spotted knapweed is also common among the mostly non-native grasses and forbs typically on the more recently cultivated portions of the open field.

Threatened & Endangered Species: None observed on the property.

According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, which hosts a database of threatened, endangered, and special concern species in Michigan, no reports of Indiana Bat or Long-eared Bat have been documented in Oceana County. The Little Brown Bat, a species of special concern in Michigan, was identified 1903-1908 in section 7 of Shelby Township.

Based on this habitat assessment and lack of reported bat sightings for over 100 years, there is no evidence that any bat species is utilizing the property.

Oceana Conservation District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Oceana Conservation District

1064 Industrial Park Drive
Shelby, MI 49455
Phone: (231) 861-5600 Fax: (855) 813-7696
www.OceanaConservation.org



Older open field area with white mulberry (tree) and colonies of staghorn sumac (center).

Oceana Conservation District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Review Letter from Disability Network



To Whom It May Concern,

Disability Network West Michigan (DNWM) is a Center for Independent Living that is operated by and for people with disabilities. DNWM serves individuals with any disability at any age and our mission is to advocate, educate, empower, and provide resources for persons with disabilities. We promote accessible communities, fulfilling our vision of ensuring accessibility is an accepted civil right.

In accordance with our mission, DNWM is writing this feedback for the park planned in Shelby Township. Our Center has had the opportunity to review the proposed plans and have engaged in conversation with the design team. DNWM applauds the outreach efforts pursued to include community perspective and appreciates the opportunity to offer our expertise and input. Our input and questions for the original design plan are as follows:

Shelby Park Input and Questions for LAP Creative

- Parking
 - Designated Accessible parking is still required for Gravel parking lots.
 - Lot with 225 will need 7 accessible spaces, 2 of which being van accessible
 - Lot with 20 spaces will need 1 van accessible space.
 - These spots will need to be designated by signs and have an adjacent access aisle.
 - Consider marking with the go logo.
 - Gravel parking lots will need to be meticulously maintained to ensure that they are firm, stable, and slip resistant.
 - Must be usable by people using mobility aids such as a wheelchair, walker, or crutches.
- Restrooms
 - Each restroom is required to have one accessible stall, as well as accessible entrances
 - Consider adult changing table
- Picnic Tables
 - How many will be accessible?
 - DNR Recommends every table have accessible seating in their universal design guidelines
 - They must all be on an accessible route.
- Sports areas
 - There needs to be accessible routes to both sides of the court
 - There needs to be an accessible route to each side of player or team seating (dugouts, benches, soccer team areas)
 - There should be at least one wheelchair space available in each team/player seating area.
 - Wheelchair seating and companion seats should be available in all bleachers
- Play Structures
 - Play structures must meet requirements for accessible components. Depending on the size and number of elevated components you may be required to provide ramped or transfer access to the play structure and components



Disability Network West Michigan is planning to be engaged with this project throughout all design and implementation processes. We look forward to reviewing more in depth plans as they become available.

Sincerely,

Brad Hastings
Advocacy and ADA Coordinator

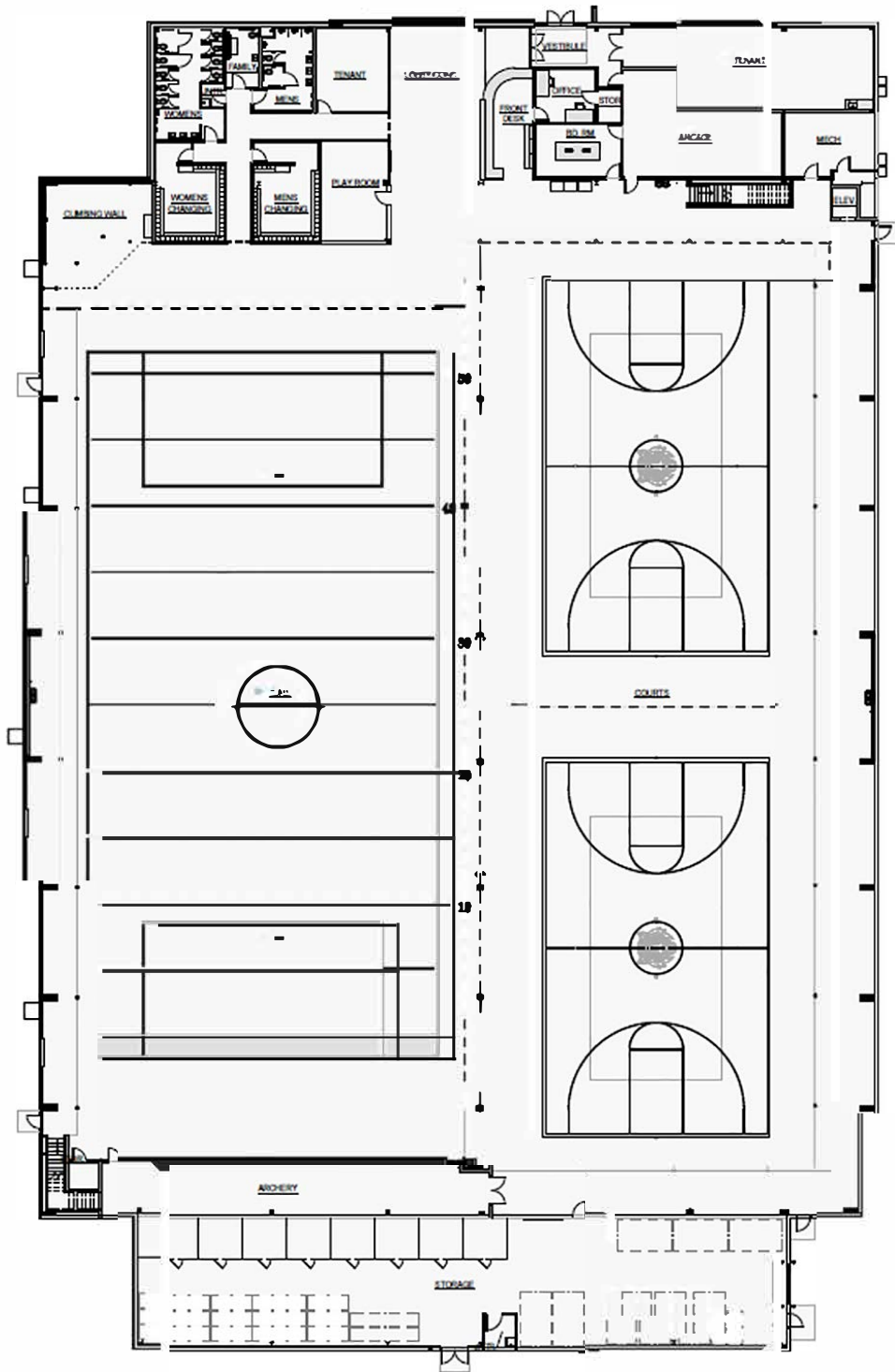


Figure 5.3: Rendering of Enclosed Sports Facility Main Floor

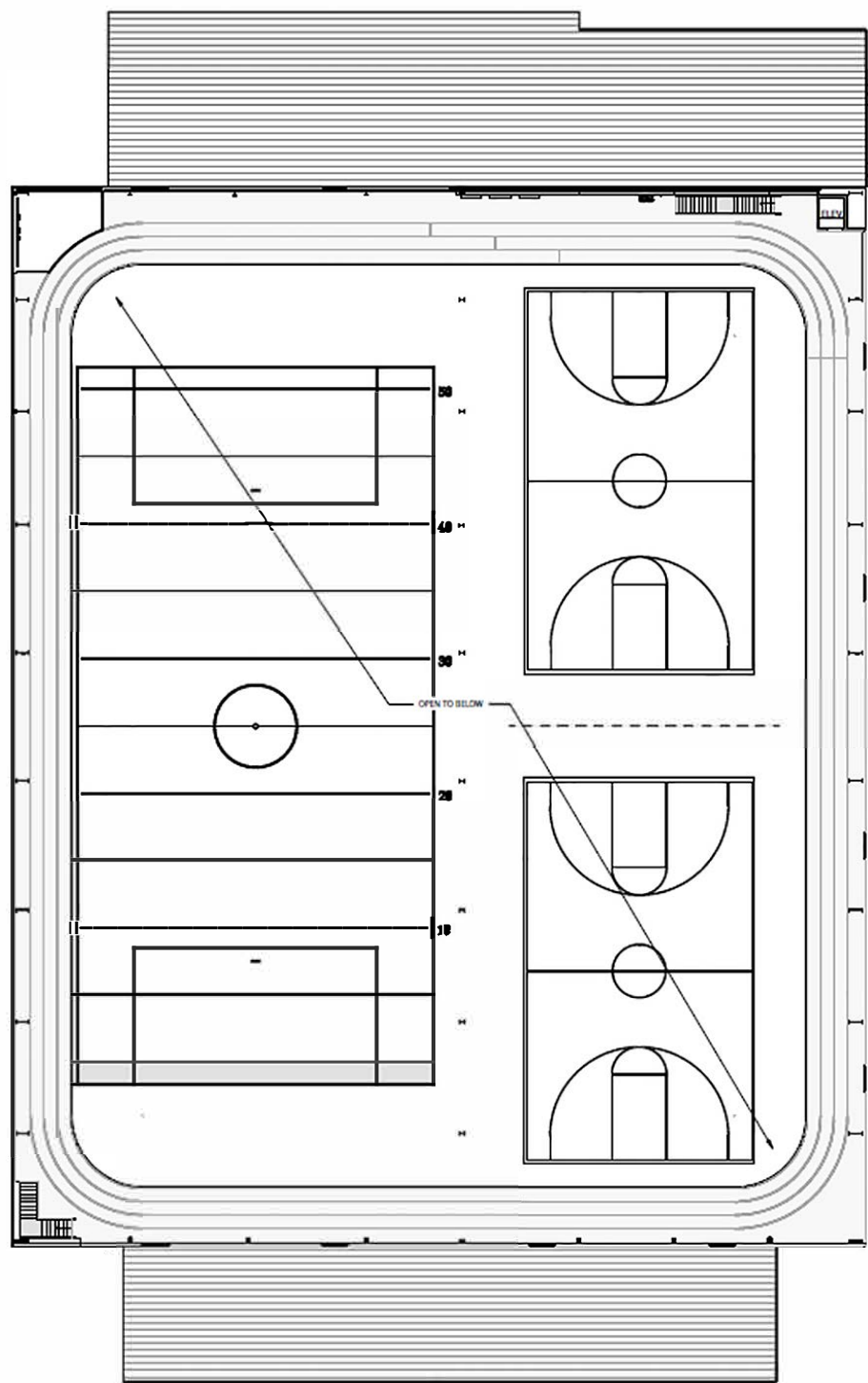


Figure 5.4: Rendering of Enclosed Sports Facility Upper Level

Letters of Support



August 22, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Hart, I am pleased to offer our support for Shelby Township's grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the development of the Shelby Township Community Park's enclosed recreation center and community pool.

The City of Hart strongly values the creation and expansion of recreational opportunities within Oceana County. This project will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike by providing additional sports fields, a modern playground, accessible walking paths, and a direct connection to the William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail. These improvements will not only promote health and wellness but also generate meaningful economic benefits by attracting families and visitors to our region.

We commend Shelby Township for its vision and commitment to strengthening our county's recreational assets, and we urge your favorable consideration of their application.

Thank you for your time and support of this important community project.

Respectfully,



Nichole Kleiner
Interim City Manager
City of Hart



Family of Companies

Peterson Farms, Inc. | Peterson Farms Fresh, Inc. | Oceana County Freezer Storage, Inc.

www.petersonfarmsinc.com

DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund Board

PO Box 30425
Lansing MI 48909-7925

December 15th 2020

As the largest employer in Oceana County and largest fruit processor in MI, Peterson Farms is a significant stakeholder in ensuring our counties economic engine continues and we place ourselves in a position of growth.

Shelby engaged a third party organization to seek and document feedback from the surrounding business, church groups, non-profits and residents on what they see are the barriers preventing Shelby to move to the next level. The outcome resulted in several key strategies.....Affordable housing, Daycare, Outdoor Parks etc..... Additional housing was built that brought in several hundred new residents with children and an old church was converted to provide incremental daycare. The next natural phase is to provide outdoor spaces where children and adults can flourish and enjoy the natural beauty of the surrounding area.

The Shelby Township Community park has a direct economic impact to the community that can be measured by the additional new residents with children in our community. Our community will need to continue to invest in infrastructure to ensure we are continually growing and preparing for future generations.

Peterson Farms is fully supportive of this grant application and has complete trust in the Shelby Township Board and its employees to ensure they maintain a fiscally conservative approach to every dollar that is spent. I urge the Trust committee to look upon the Township of Shelby's application favorably

Warmest Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Peterson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Aaron Peterson

Chief Executive Officer

Peterson Farms, Inc.
3104 W. Baseline Road
PO Box 115
Shelby, MI 49455
Tel. 231-861-6333

Peterson Farms Fresh, Inc.
3104 W. Baseline Road
PO Box 95
Shelby, MI 49455
Tel. 231-861-6333

Oceana County Freezer Storage, Inc.
4730 W. Shelby Road
PO Box 116
Shelby, MI 49455
Tel. 231-861-6575

OCEANA COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

OCEANA COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

MISSION
To create a diverse economic environment by strengthening talent, leveraging resources, and supporting the retention, expansion, attraction, and creation of Oceana County businesses.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Phil Morse, President
Oceana County

Scott Beal, Vice President
Hart/Silver Lake Chamber

Scott Ramsey, Treasurer
Ed's Market

Tammy Carey, Past President
Community Foundation

Tracy Byard
Oceana County

Larry Byl
Wickstra Realty

Michelle Comstock
Shelby State Bank

Austin Garcia
AG Family Wealth

Rich Houtteman
Consumers Energy

Shelly Keene
MI Works! West Central

Jim Kleiner
Purdue Food

Cory Latosh
Arbre Farms

Rob Splaine
City of Hart

Mark Timmer
OC Road Commission

CONTACT
Curtis R. Burdette
Executive Director
616-307-1985
burdettec@rightplace.org

August 18, 2025

I am writing on behalf of the Oceana County Economic Alliance to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed expansion of the Shelby Township Community Park including Tiger Athletic Community Center and indoor pool. This project promises to be a significant asset to our community, offering a multitude of benefits that will enhance the quality of life for our residents and stimulate economic growth in the region.

The expansion of the Shelby Township Community Park will provide residents with increased access to recreational facilities and green spaces. This is essential for promoting physical health, mental well-being, and social cohesion within our community. The park will offer a safe and welcoming environment where families can gather, children can play, and individuals of all ages can engage in outdoor activities. By fostering a sense of community and encouraging active lifestyles, the park will contribute to the overall health and happiness of our residents.

The park's amenities, such as picnic areas, sports fields, and event spaces, will also provide venues for community events and gatherings, drawing visitors from outside the region and promoting tourism in Oceana County.

The development of Shelby Township Community Park aligns with the strategic goals of Oceana County Economic Alliance specifically regarding placemaking and continuing to make Oceana County a great place to live and play for residents and visitors.

In conclusion, the Oceana County Economic Alliance wholeheartedly supports the expansion of the Shelby Township Community Park. We believe that this project will bring lasting benefits to our residents, businesses, and the broader community. We urge you to consider the positive impact this initiative will have and to lend your support to this important endeavor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together to make the Shelby Township Community Park expansion a reality.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at burdettec@rightplace.org

Sincerely,

Curtis R. Burdette

Curtis R. Burdette
Executive Director
Oceana County Economic Alliance



Central Office
525 N. State Street
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-5211
(231) 861-5416 fax

Shelby High School
641 N. State Street
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-4452
(231) 861-6867 fax

Shelby Middle School
525 N. State Street
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-4521
(231) 861-0415 fax

Shelby Elementary School
1285 S Oceana Drive
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-5541
(231) 861-6764 fax

Early Childhood Center
155 Sixth Street
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-6629
(231) 861-0601 fax

OCELC
568 N Oceana Dr.
Hart, MI 49420
(231) 873-8111

Shelby Public Schools

Learning Today for a Successful Tomorrow

September 5th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Shelby Public Schools, I am writing to express our full support for the Shelby Township Park and Community Recreation Plan. We recognize the significant role that accessible parks and quality recreation opportunities play in supporting the health, well-being, and academic success of the children and families in our community.

The vision outlined in the Township's plan and resulting actions align with our district's commitment to fostering lifelong wellness, positive youth development, and strong community partnerships. Safe and well-maintained recreational spaces provide our students with opportunities for physical activity, outdoor learning, and family engagement—benefits that extend beyond the school day and into the broader community.

Shelby Public Schools values the collaboration we share with Shelby Township and views this plan as an important investment in our shared future. By enhancing parks and recreation facilities, the Township is not only improving the quality of life for residents but also helping us collectively create an environment where children can thrive academically, socially, and physically.

We are pleased to endorse this initiative and look forward to continued partnership as the plan moves forward. Please accept this letter as a demonstration of our district's strong support for the Shelby Township Park and Community Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Mark Olmstead

Superintendent

Shelby Public Schools



JON BUMSTEAD
32ND DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30035
LANSING, MI 48209-7535
PHONE: (517) 373-1635
FAX: (517) 373-9300
senbumstead@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

August 18, 2025

Department of Natural Resources
ATTN: DNR Director, Scott Bowen
525 W Allegan St.
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Director Bowen,

As the Michigan State Senator for the 32nd Senate District, I would like to lend my support to Shelby Township for their Recreation Plan, which includes the construction of an indoor facility and an outdoor pool at Shelby Township Park.

The Shelby Township Park project is a promising development in Oceana County that will revitalize and create new recreational options for the residents of Shelby and the surrounding areas. The project will result in a beautiful, new indoor, multilevel sports center. While Shelby Township enjoys access to beautiful trails and public recreational areas, there is a lack of indoor facilities for residents to use to stay active in wintertime or during inclement weather. The new facility will include space for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, a kid's daycare/play area, and more. Additionally, Shelby Township's public pool project will importantly allow for a safe facility for Michiganders of all ages to learn to swim, exercise, and enjoy a new amenity in their neighborhood.

According to District Health Department #10's 2023 community data for Oceana County, the combined obesity and overweight rate is 74.1%. Additionally, according to the same community data, 27% of Oceana County residents spend no leisure time on physical activity. Shelby Township's Recreation Plan will bring the community together, provide much needed space for physical activity and recreation, and will help create a healthier and more active Oceana County.

Therefore, it is a pleasure to write this letter in support of Shelby Township's Recreation Plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office by phone at (517) 373-1635 or by email at SenJBumstead@senate.michigan.gov.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Bumstead".

Jon Bumstead
State Senator
Michigan Senate District 32

SSB
Shelby State Bank

242 North Michigan Ave.
P.O. Box 126
Shelby, Michigan 49455-0126
231-861-2123
Fax 231-861-2468

August 21, 2025

Department of Natural Resources
Attn: DNR Director, Scott Bowen
525 W. Allegan St.
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Director Bowen:

I submit this letter in full support of the Shelby Township project for their Recreation Plan, which includes the construction of an indoor sports facility along with an outdoor pool project.

As a business leader in the Shelby community, we have supported various projects for the Township that includes the development of the park. The new sports complex and pool will provide residents and visitors with outdoor and now indoor recreational opportunities. The park has been a wonderful development and asset for the residents of the township and, truthfully, the entire county.

There is nothing like this complex in our county. Adding an indoor facility that will include space for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, a kid's daycare/play area, and much more will only enhance our community. This project will allow for recreational opportunities year round with the indoor courts. In addition, the pool project will allow for a safe facility for residents and nonresidents of all ages to use, learn to swim and enjoy all the amenities of the local public pool.

It is proven physical activity is good for all ages from youth to seniors. A facility of this nature in our area is a true asset and we are proud to have been a part of the project and commend the township in their continued efforts to expand the amenities in our area.

I am honored to be asked to provide a letter of support for Shelby Township's recreation plan. If you have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out 231-861-6049, or mcomstock@shelbybank.com.

Sincerely,



Mishelle M Comstock
President & CEO

Date: January 2, 2021

Shelby Township Board & Planning Committee

RE: New Community Park Proposal

Dear Shelby Township Board & Planning Committee,

We believe in building a strong community. We believe that the proposed community park would be a great benefit to the local community. It would help attract employees to the area so that businesses can grow. Likewise, it would be beneficial for the local schools, churches and other organizations in attracting families to the area. We also believe in families and children being healthy and having access to more outdoor activities.

This would be a win for families, businesses, schools, and other organizations in the Shelby area. Thank you for willingness to consider turning this proposal into reality. As a Montague Township Trustee, I have seen a positive impact with our Soccer Complex.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jake Seaver

VP of Sales & Marketing



892 Industrial Park Dr. • Shelby, MI 49455
Phone: 231-861-2194 • Fax: 231-861-6687
www.mediatechnologies.com
sales@mediatechnologies.com

mediatechnologies®



March 19, 2025

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Dear DNR Grant Committee,

I am pleased to provide a letter of support for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant program towards the construction of an outdoor community pool by Shelby Township. As the CEO of the Oceana Community Foundation, I have worked closely with Shelby Township over the last five years to engage residents to create a collective vision for the community. With Shelby Township's strong leadership and generous financial backing from private donors, several large-scale community projects came to life.

In addition to providing fundraising support, the Foundation serves as the fiscal sponsor of a project fund, providing a local community resource to hold donations. The seed donor commitment to this project is already very strong as \$1.5 million is pledged by a private donor. The Shelby area is undergoing a renaissance of exciting development projects – road improvements, a new elementary school, water infrastructure, housing development, 35-acre recreation park, renovation of Getty Park in the Village of Shelby, plus the upcoming build of an indoor sports complex & community center. The Shelby Township Community Pool will complement these developments and provide a long-desired new public asset. The project has necessitated successful collaboration between the Village of Shelby, Shelby Public Schools and Shelby Township.

Economic development is an increasingly vital focus for community foundations, and our board is deeply committed to supporting high-impact projects that meet the community's needs. We are thrilled about the Shelby Township Community Pool project, knowing it will enhance our community by promoting health, strengthening connections, and making our area even more attractive place to live. It is the first public community pool in the County and will provide the long-wished for opportunity to host swimming lessons, community events, family parties, lap swimming, possible summer swim team, employment for local youth for lifeguards & facility maintenance.

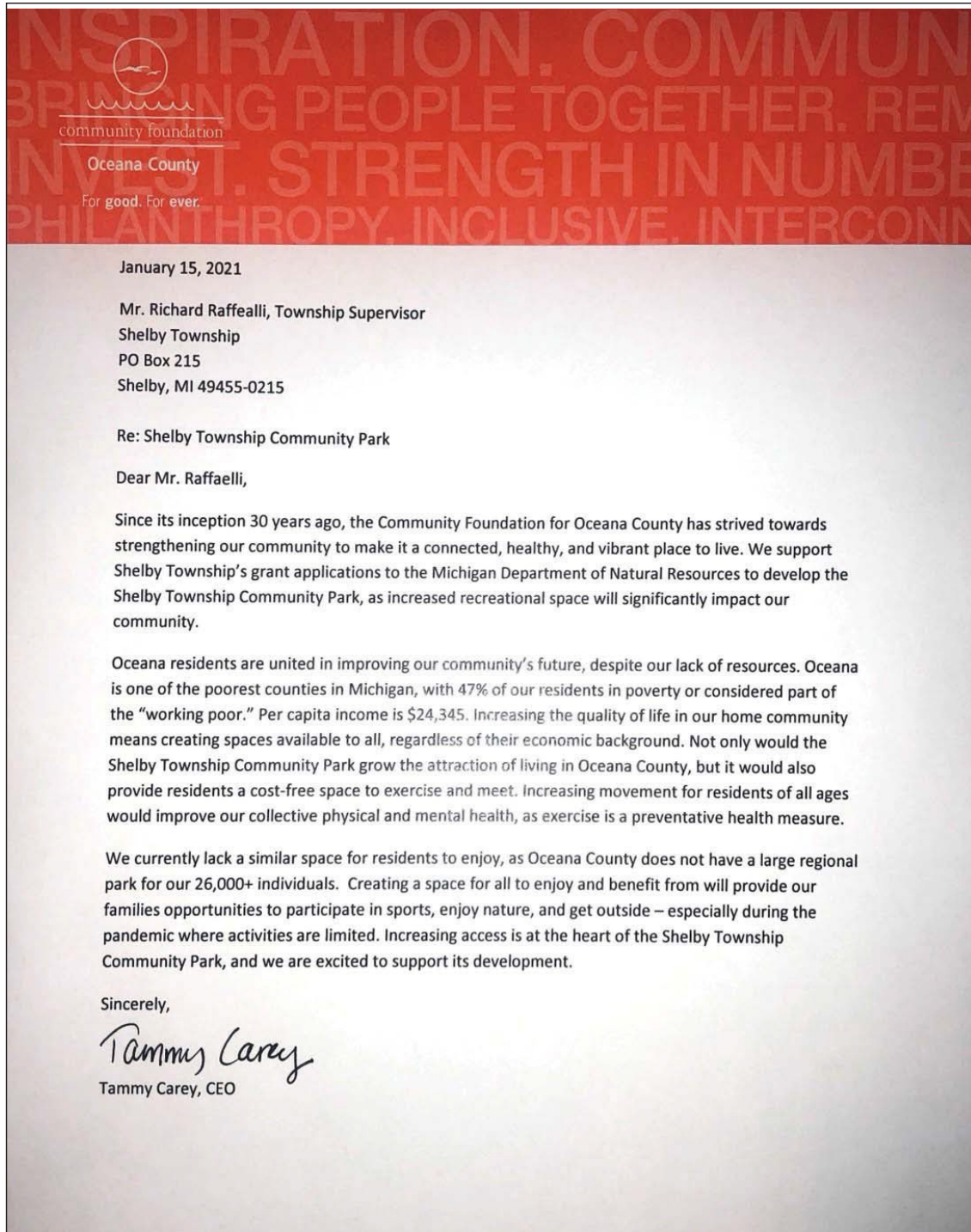
I strongly encourage your support of this project for a healthier, more connected, and thriving community for all.

Sincerely,



Tammy Carey, CEO





February 26, 2025

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
ATTN: Revitalization and Placemaking Program
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913



RE: Letter of Support Shelby Community Pool

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to support the vision of Shelby Township for the construction of a new community pool on the site of Getty Field in the Village of Shelby. This initiative aims to provide a welcoming space for all residents, fostering community spirit and promoting healthy, active lifestyles through the key components that I highlight below:

Community Pool Access: The pool will be accessible to all with a pay-as-you-go model which will ensure affordability and flexibility for our community members.

Private Group Utilization: The pool would be available for private groups to conduct swimming lessons, providing a valuable resource for skill development and water safety education.

School Events: Because of its vicinity to the location, Shelby Public School will have the opportunity to use the pool for various events, enhancing their extracurricular activities and promoting physical education.

Recreational Facilities: A small pavilion, playscape, and BBQ area will be available, allowing residents to enjoy a full day of recreation with their families. These facilities will be ideal for family reunions, birthdays, and other gatherings.

Seasonal Operation: The pool will be open to the elements, operating during the summer months to take advantage of the warm weather.

Pool Design: The facility will feature one large L-shaped pool and a smaller toddler pool, catering to swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Support Facilities: A building with changing rooms, an entrance area, and a small concession stand will be constructed to support the pool's operations and enhance the visitor experience.

I believe this vision will greatly benefit the people of the Village of Shelby and beyond, providing a vibrant and engaging community space. I look forward to working together to bring this vision to life.

Sincerely,

Phil Morse,
Village Administrator
218 N. Michigan
Ave. Shelby, MI
49455

Village of Shelby

*Going above and beyond
to be safe and appealing*



100 S. State Street, Suite M-4
Hart, MI 49420
Phone (231) 873-4835; Fax (231) 873-5914

Tracy L. Byard
County Administrator

Jessica LaPointe
Financial and Human Resources
Coordinator

Jana Boundy
Accounting and Payroll Specialist

Brittany Bostrom
Accounts Payable – Administrative Asst.

February 26, 2025

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
ATTN: Revitalization and Placemaking Program
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

RE: Letter of Support Shelby Community Pool

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my full support for the vision of Shelby Township in constructing a new community pool at Getty Field in the Village of Shelby. This initiative represents an exciting opportunity to foster community engagement, promote active lifestyles, and provide a welcoming recreational space for residents of all ages.

The proposed community pool will offer numerous benefits to Shelby Township, including:

- **Affordable Access:** A pay-as-you-go model will ensure affordability and flexibility, making the pool accessible to all community members.
- **Private Group Utilization:** The facility will serve as a valuable resource for swimming lessons, supporting water safety education and skill development.
- **School Engagement:** Shelby Public School will have the opportunity to utilize the pool for school events, enhancing extracurricular activities and physical education programs.
- **Recreational Facilities:** The addition of a small pavilion, playscape, and BBQ area will allow families to enjoy a full day of recreation, making the space ideal for gatherings, birthdays, and community events.
- **Seasonal Enjoyment:** The open-air pool will operate during the summer months, maximizing its use during the warm-weather season.
- **Inclusive Pool Design:** The facility will include a large L-shaped pool and a smaller toddler pool, ensuring enjoyment and safety for swimmers of all ages and abilities.
- **Support Facilities:** A dedicated building with changing rooms, an entrance area, and a small concession stand will enhance the visitor experience and provide necessary amenities.

We are confident that the grant funding would enable Shelby Township to bring this vision to life and address a critical need in our community.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Shelby Township's grant proposal for the community pool. Thank you for your time and thoughtful review of this important initiative

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Byard, ICMA-CM
Oceana County
Administrator/Fiscal Officer

Official County Website: <http://www.oceana.mi.us>

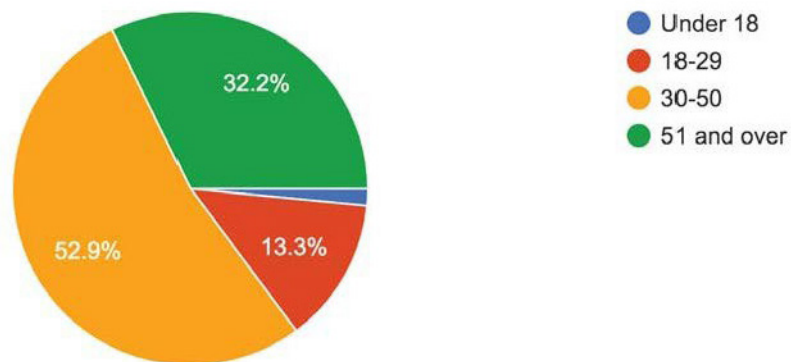


"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"

Public Input Survey Results

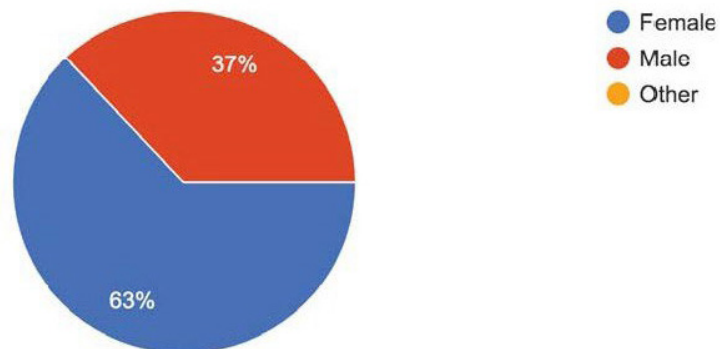
1) What is your age?

391 responses



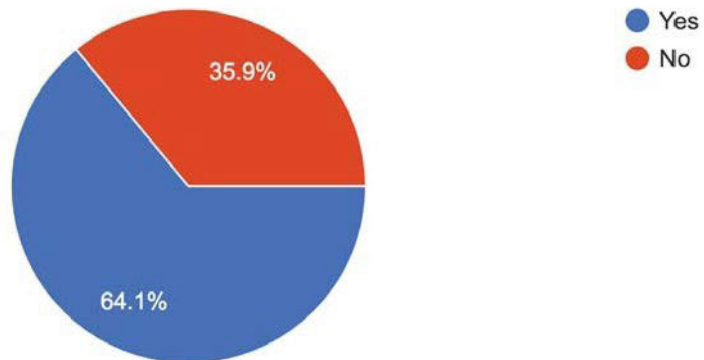
2) What is your gender?

389 responses



3) Are you currently a resident of Shelby Township?

387 responses



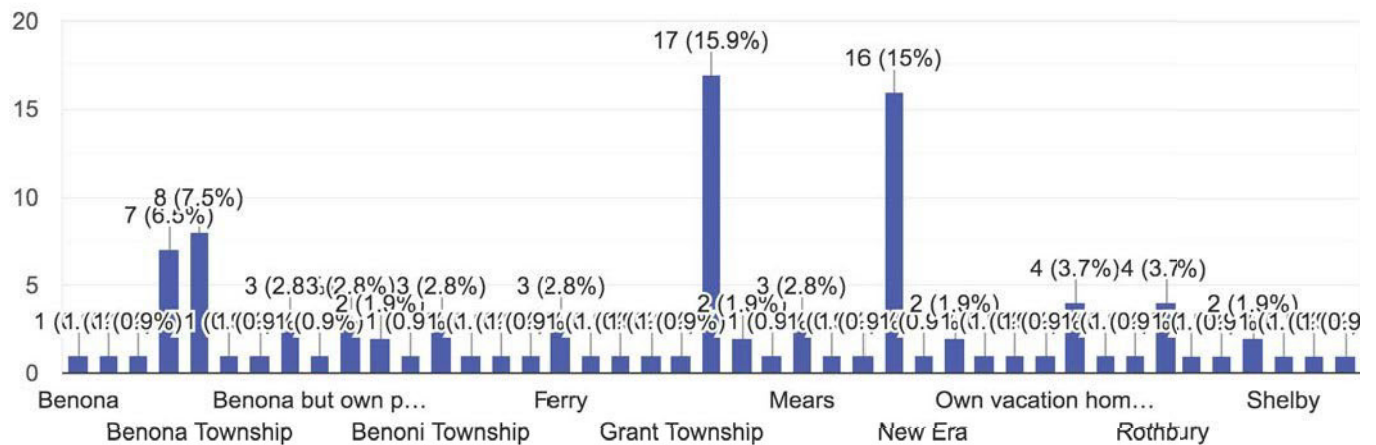
4) If you answered "No" on Q3, where do you reside?

157 responses



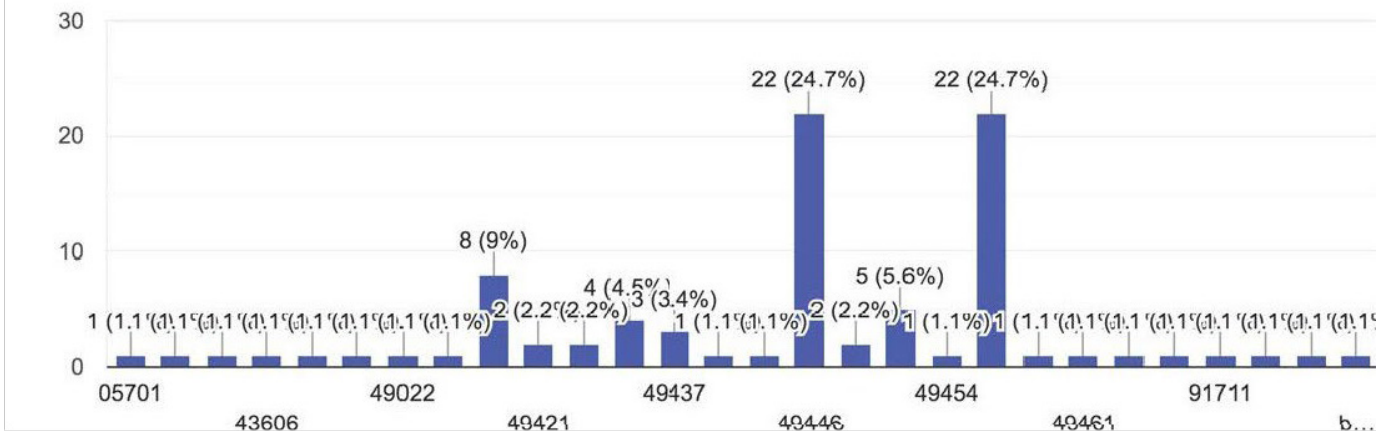
5) If you answered "Different Area Within Oceana County" in Q4, please specify your municipality (ex. Hart, New Era).

107 responses



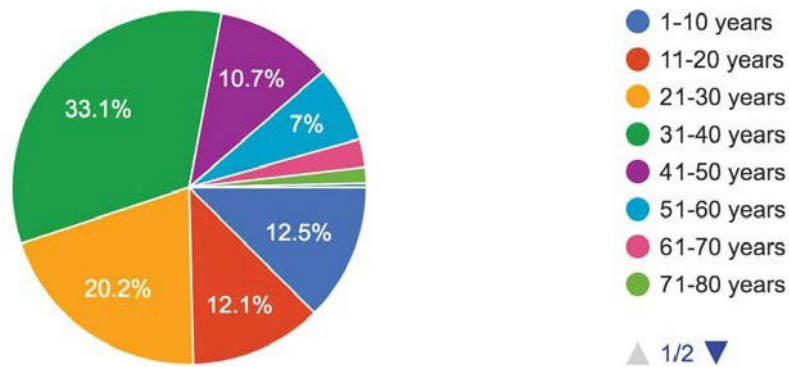
5a) If you answered "Other" in Q4, please provide your zipcode.

89 responses



6) If you answered "Yes" for living in Shelby Township, how long have you lived here?

272 responses



7) What type of recreational activities do you currently participate in?

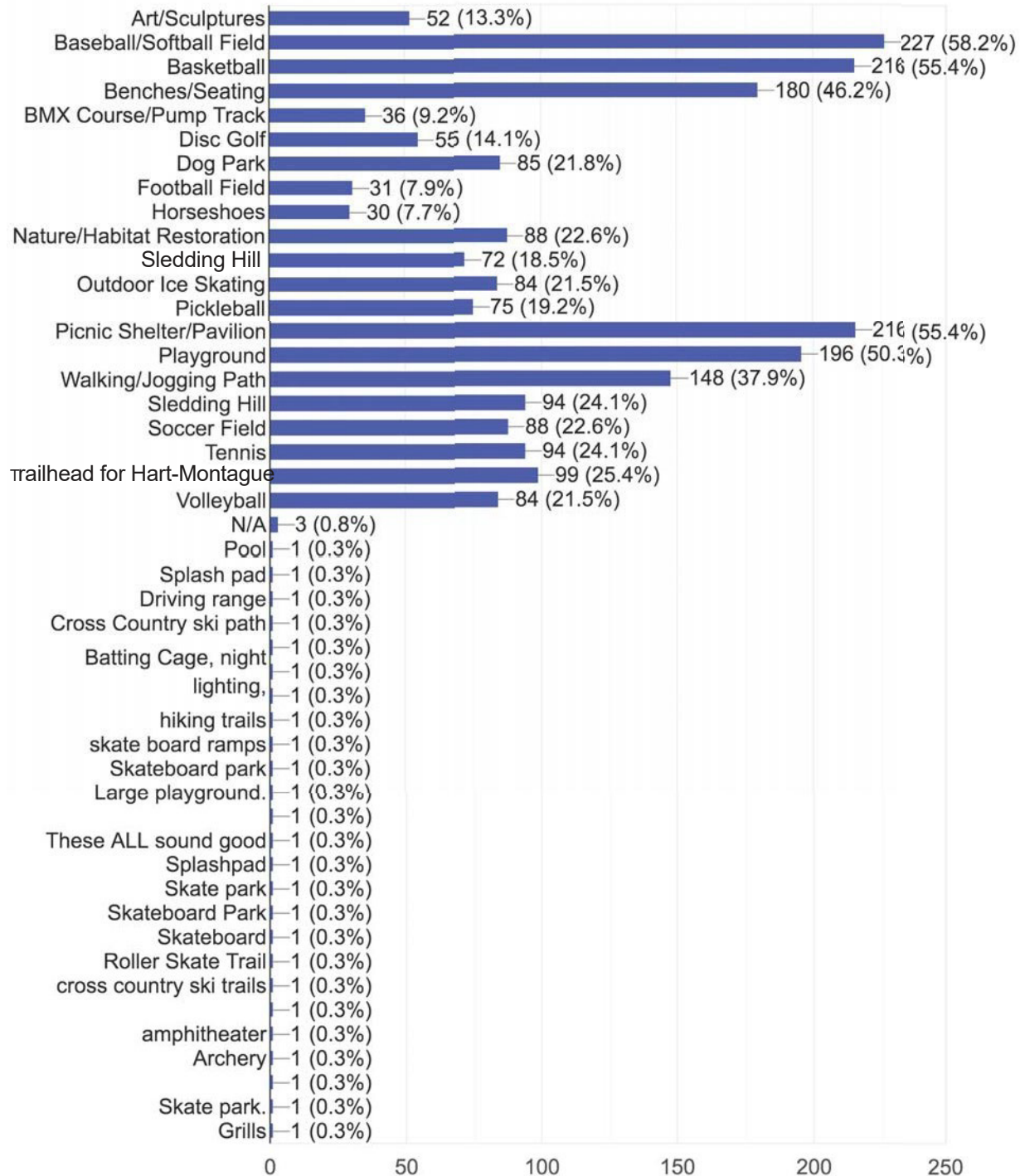
158 responses

There were 158 responses to this open-ended question ranging from active sports to photography and bird watching.

8) What amenities would you most like to see at the new Shelby Township Community Park?

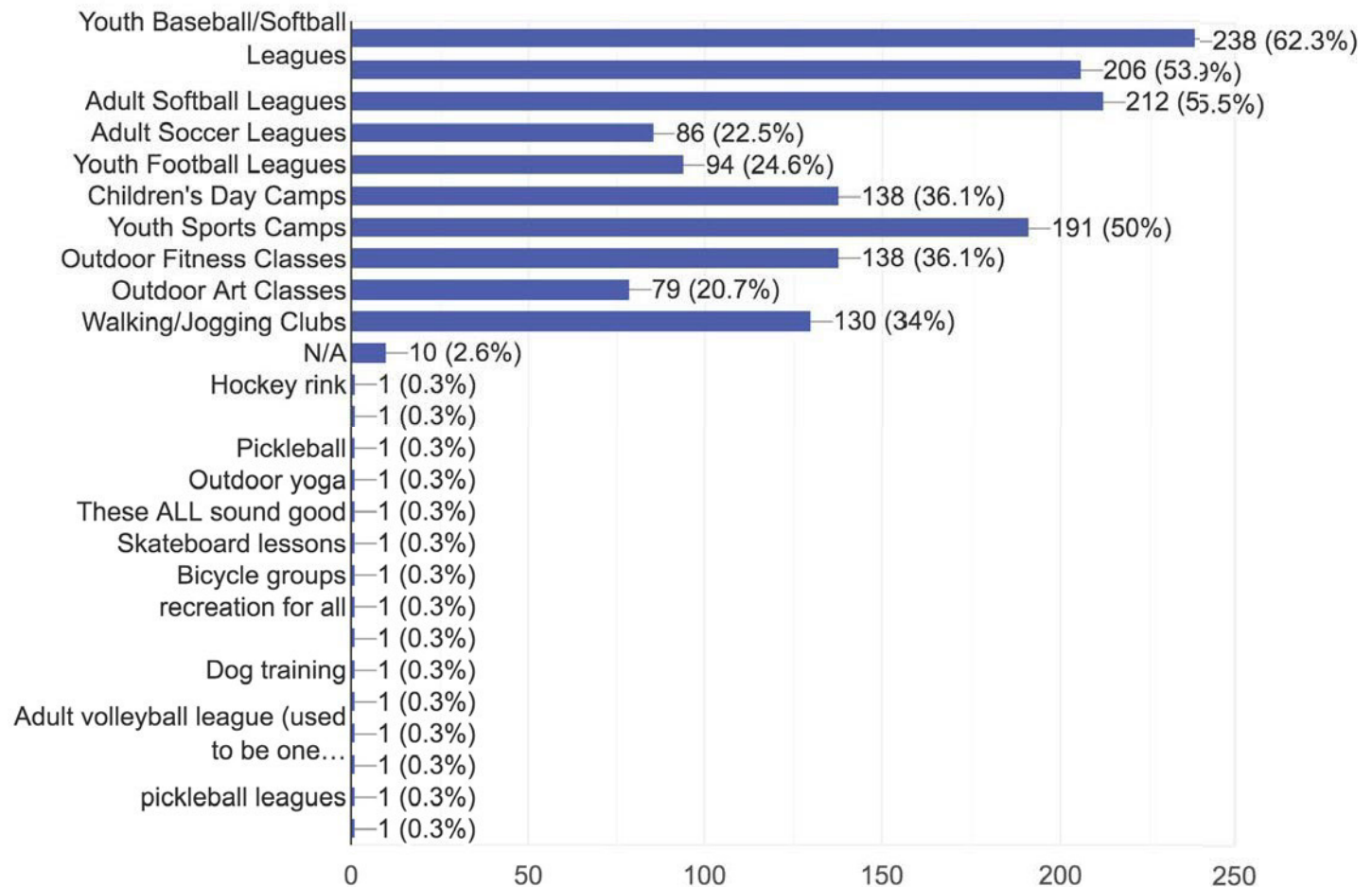
(choose up to 5)

390 responses



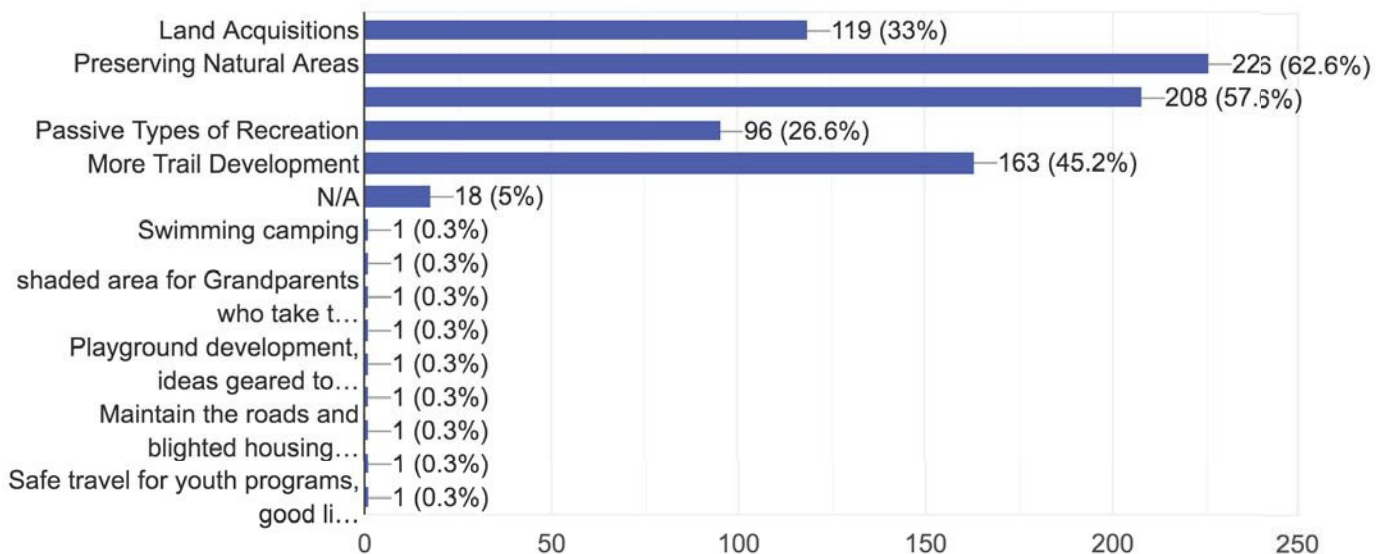
9) What types of programs would you most like to see offered at the new Shelby Township Community Park? (choose up to 5)

382 responses



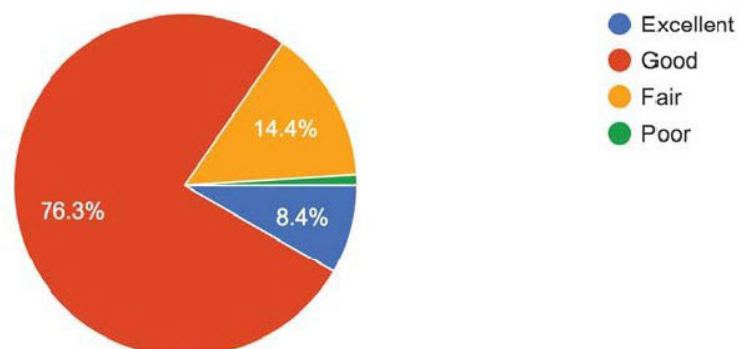
10) What initiatives should the township be considering for the future of Parks & Recreation?
(choose up to 5)

361 responses



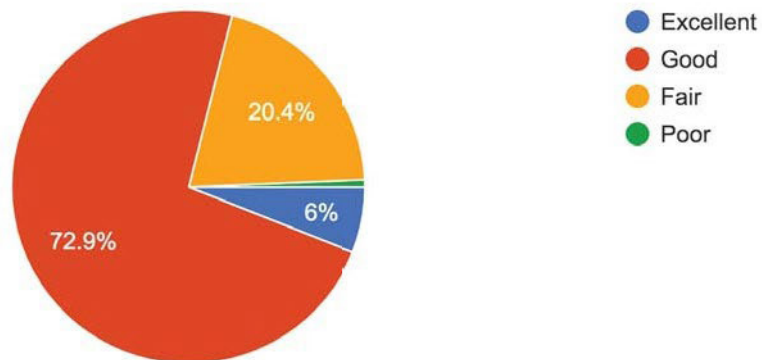
11a) How would you rate the condition of the existing township-maintained New Era Cemetery?

299 responses



11b) How would you rate the condition of the existing township-maintained Mount Hope Cemetery?

299 responses



12) What can be done to improve our cemeteries?

343 responses

There were 343 responses to this open-ended question the majority of which pertained to overall maintenance with an emphasis on mowing, tree upkeep, and pathway improvements.

15) If you have anything you'd like to add that we haven't touched on, please include your thoughts and ideas below.

350 responses

There were 350 responses to this open-ended question the majority representing very positive feedback and many valuable suggestions from dog-friendly facilities to an amphitheater. There were also few concerns presented mainly directed toward the use of tax dollars for the development of the Shelby Community Park.

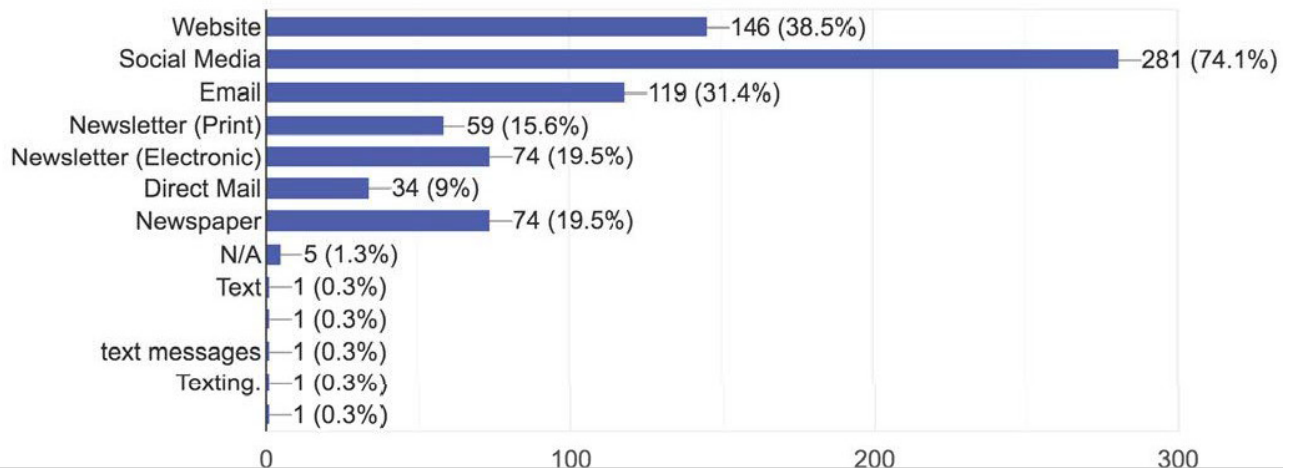
13) Would you be interested in serving on the Parks and Recreation Committee?

362 responses



14) What form of communication would help you stay informed about the activities and services offered by Shelby Township? Check those that you would use.

379 responses



Shelby Township **Community Park, Enclosed Sports Center and Pool Recreation Plan**

2026-2030

Planning Consultants:

Richard Raffaelli, Project Manager

Bethany Schultz, Project Assistant



SHELBY TOWNSHIP

Oceana County, Michigan

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