



IV. Recreation Inventory



Learning about Midland's Parks

Introduction

In order to plan for parks and recreation in the future, one needs to examine the types of facilities that currently exist in the City of Midland. It is also helpful to compare the existing facilities to various standards as one measure of the adequacy of the parks and recreation facilities in the community. The inventory was completed by visiting the City's parks to update the inventory detailed in Midland's previous Parks & Recreation Master Plan from 2010. PM Blough, Inc. and City staff worked together to complete the needed updates and revisions. A review for accessibility was also completed for each of the parks.

Classifying parks into categories helps define their role in the overall system, demonstrates their relationship to each other, highlights deficiencies, helps to develop an action program and assists in allocating funding. Currently, Midland classifies parks into four groups: Regional, Community, Neighborhood and Mini-Parks. This classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association guide recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for recreation standards. It recognizes types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and use groups. Further, it lists definitions and sets of standards for the various park levels established for use in this Recreation Plan. These standards are based on nationally accepted criteria. An inventory showing amenities and other data by park is found on Page 24. The numbers preceding each park on the inventory list identifies the location of these facilities on each of the Parks Inventory Maps that begin on Page 27.

Regional Parks

The City of Midland has seven parks under the Regional Parks classification. These regional parks are able to serve communities within a one-hour driving time and are usually larger than 200 acres. Access is vehicular and parking is included on-site. Characteristics of typical uses usually include areas of natural or highly specialized outdoor recreation such as golf courses, softball, or winter sports. See the Existing Facilities Inventory for a complete summary of available park amenities. See Inventory Map #1 for these park locations.



The regional parks within the City area as follows:

1. Barstow Woods
2. Central Park
3. Chippewassee Park
4. City Forest
5. Currie Golf Course
6. Chippewa Banks Disc Golf Course
7. Emerson Park

Barstow Woods Park

Barstow Woods is a 24.9 acre natural wooded area located at the intersection of Saginaw and St. Andrews Streets, with trails that can be used year round. In the winter, the paths are perfect for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. During the warmer months, walkers, runners and hikers frequent the trails. This natural area is a great place to watch the spring bloom or fall color change. Barstow Woods Park is the perfect place for a special event with a picnic shelter available for reservation. The shelter offers picnic tables, grill and a restroom. This three acre portion of the park has plenty of open space and play equipment.

Central Park

This 18 acre park located at the corner of W. Collins and Rodd Streets has plenty to offer. Central Park is the home of the Ted Nicholson band shell. The park also boasts playground equipment, benches and four refurbished tennis courts. The Central Park Tennis Courts were refurbished in the summer of 2010 with assistance from the Midland Community Tennis Center and feature both adult and kid-sized courts. The Midland Community Tennis Center, in partnership with Midland Parks and Recreation, offers a variety of tennis programs for youth and adults.

Chippewassee Park

Chippewassee Park is a 35 acre recreational area located at the confluence of the Tittabawassee and Chippewa Rivers that has something for all seasons. In the winter months, its size makes it a great place for cross country skiing. During warm weather, the park is one of the most popular in the city. It has a large picnic shelter that is available for rental. Picnic tables and grills are provided for use. The park has play equipment appropriate for children of all ages, huge open fields, and paved trails. Chippewassee Park is also home to the Trilogy Skate Park and the Dog Park. Chippewassee Park is known for its festivals and community events held during the summer including Riverdays and the Fourth of July, as it is a favorite location from which to watch Midland's fireworks.



City Forest

City Forest, located at the north end of town a quarter mile west of the intersection of Eastman and Monroe Roads, is comprised of 520 acres of hardwoods and pines and is perfect for year-round outdoor activities. During the winter, City Forest is best known for its four iced toboggan runs, cross country ski trails, outdoor skating rink and a large sled hill available for public use. The toboggan runs are available for use during winter hours of operation (weather permitting). The sled hill is available for sledding at your own risk and is lighted for night use. The forest provides 11 kilometers of groomed trails perfect for cross country skiing or snowshoeing. Trails range from beginner to advanced levels. Visitors can complete their winter trip to the Forest with a snack and a cup of hot chocolate in the chalet during hours of operation. Once the snow melts, the fun doesn't stop at City Forest. The chalet is available for rental from April 15 through October 15. The forest itself becomes a popular area for nature lovers. The many miles of cross country ski trails are a great place for a nature hike or jog. In addition, there are thirteen miles of mountain biking trails that are open year round. With plenty of steep hills, twists and turns, these trails provide an exciting ride even for experienced riders. There is also a mountain biking skills development area available for riders to hone their mountain biking abilities.

Currie Municipal Golf Course

Currie Municipal Golf Course provides ample play for golfers at all skill levels with three beautiful courses at reasonable prices. The Par 3 is a 9-hole, short course ideal for beginning players. Currie East is a traditional 9-hole course. Currie West is an 18-hole course designed by Jerry Matthews and is intended for advanced players. Golfers also have the option of using the Currie driving range. Currie boasts a beautiful clubhouse featuring a full-service pro shop, lounge area and snack bar. The clubhouse is available for group rental during the off-season. Currie Golf Course is open for play April 1 to October 31, dawn until dusk, seven days a week.

Chippewa Banks Disc Golf Course

This course offers fun for beginning and experienced disc golfers and is open year-round from sunrise to sunset. Rules of the game are posted on the course. No reservations are necessary and there is no cost to play. Players may download scorecards from www.cityofmidland.gov/recreation. The scorecard includes a layout of the rustic course and provides distance information for each hole.



Emerson Park

Emerson Park is a 50-acre park that has a multitude of amenities to keep visitors of all ages entertained. Emerson Park has a reputation for offering some of the best softball in Michigan, attributed to its central feature, Currie Stadium, and its three premiere softball fields. Softball is just one of many sports available at Emerson. The park is home to a regulation size hockey rink, complete with nets and night lighting. The rink is flooded in the winter for ice hockey and available in the summer for in-line skating. Visitors will also find horseshoe pits along with shuffleboard courts which are available on a first come, first served basis (patrons must use their own equipment). A lighted sand volleyball court is available for public use. A paved path runs along the Tittabawassee River, perfect for bikers, runners or in-line skaters. Restrooms and drinking fountains are available. In addition, three picnic shelters and five picnic areas are available for reservation. Children are sure to enjoy the open play fields and play equipment featured in this park.

Community Parks

There are seven parks in Midland that are classified as Community Parks. These parks generally offer unique activities and are usually over 15 acres in size. Access is primarily vehicular and parking is generally included on-site. Characteristics of typical uses usually include major sports facilities, unique attractions, many natural features, swimming pools, and water bodies. See the Existing Facilities Inventory for a complete summary of available park amenities. See Inventory Map #1 for these park locations.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8. Northwest Complex | 12. Redcoat Softball Complex |
| 9. Sunrise Optimist Park | 13. Stratford Woods |
| 10. Plymouth Park | 14. Thrune Park |
| 11. Riverside Golfside Park | |

Northwest Little League Complex

The Northwest Little League Complex is home to the Fraternal Northwest Little League. The fields are used exclusively by the Fraternal Northwest Little League during Little League season.

Sunrise Optimist Park

Sunrise Optimist Park is the most popular place in the city for girls' softball games. In addition to the four softball fields, this 12 acre park has play equipment, a covered pavilion, restrooms and picnic tables.



Plymouth Park

As one of Midland's largest developed parks at 40 acres, Plymouth Park provides the amenities to keep the whole family busy. Plymouth is known for the Fun Zone, a 16,000 square foot wooden community-built playground. From space ships to mazes to alphabet games, the Fun Zone provides more than the traditional swings and slides. Located next to the Fun Zone is a large picnic pavilion which can be reserved. There is additional play equipment at the south end of the park along with two medium sized pavilions and a picnic area that are available for reservation. Those looking for sports excitement can find it at Plymouth Park as well. The park boasts a large open field, appropriate for sports of all kinds, a sand volleyball pit and two baseball fields that are home to the Northeast Little League. Plymouth Park houses the city's only outdoor community pool. The pool offers an accessible zero-depth entry and spray features including dumping buckets of water that are perfect for children and persons with disabilities. It also offers a deep end containing water slides. The pool building features showers and changing facilities with spacious accessible dressing rooms. Swim lessons, recreational swim and lap swim are available at the pool during summer months. The pool is open mid-June through Labor Day (weather permitting).

Riverside/Golfside Park

Riverside Park features a boat launch for fishermen to access the Tittabawassee and Chippewa Rivers. Park patrons can also launch canoes from this location and enjoy a relaxing scenic view of nature.

Redcoats Complex

Anyone looking for an evening full of softball fun should take a trip down to the Redcoats Complex during the summer months. The park, which hosts nine softball fields, is a showcase for players of all different talent levels. Restrooms, a pavilion and play equipment are available at this park.

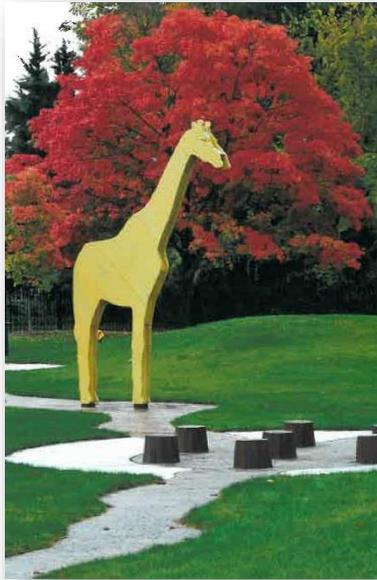
Stratford Woods Park

Stratford Woods Park is situated around Kiwassee Lake, a small, man-made lake which provides an unsupervised sandy beach for swimming. Restrooms are available and open during park hours. Stratford Woods Park has four beach volleyball courts where leagues play during the summer months. Located on the west side of Kiwassee Lake is an undeveloped natural area with a small number of trails. The park offers one large picnic shelter with grills and tables that can be reserved. The park has a variety of play equipment and a large basketball court. The BMX bike Track is also located at Stratford Woods Park.



Throne Park

Throne Park is an interactive learning play area that is fenced and gated, a perfect park for Midland's youngest residents. The park was reopened in 2011 after receiving a complete renovation, funded by the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation. Improvements include a new restroom facility, covered benches, redesigned accessible pathways, an upgraded water feature and new play features.



Neighborhood Parks

Generally, the Neighborhood Parks serve one or more of the surrounding neighborhoods, have about a half-mile radius service area, and are anywhere from five to ten acres in size. Some of these parks are undeveloped, while others provide active uses, including some programmed activities. Access is primarily pedestrian and by bicycle, and some on-site parking. Characteristics of typical uses usually include drop-in sports fields, courts, and playgrounds. Midland has 18 Neighborhood Parks. See the Existing Facilities Inventory for a complete summary of available park amenities. See Inventory Map #2 for these park locations.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 15. Ann M. Winger | 21. Hart | 27. Shipps Family |
| 16. Blake | 22. Hillgrove | 28. St. Mary's |
| 17. Briarwood | 23. Hintz | 29. Sunset |
| 18. Currie Bennett | 24. Kaufman | 30. Valley |
| 19. Fournie | 25. Revere | 31. Wallen |
| 20. Grove | 26. Russell | 32. Wyndemere |



Mini-Parks

Mini-Parks are intended to serve adjacent or nearby residences, encompassing about a quarter-mile radius service area, and are usually an acre in size or less. Access is primarily pedestrian and by bicycle, with no on-site parking. Characteristics of typical uses include open space, pick-up games, and ice-skating. There are no programmed activities at these parks. Midland has 36 Mini-Parks. See the Existing Facilities Inventory for a summary of amenities. See Inventory Map #3 for all Mini-Park locations.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 33. Allen | 45. Glenoak | 57. Noeske |
| 34. Birchwood | 46. Greenfield | 58. Oak |
| 35. Burlington | 47. Griese | 59. Orchard |
| 36. Castle | 48. Kent | 60. Ottawa |
| 37. Chatham | 49. Lalkwood | 61. Parkdale |
| 38. Cleveland | 50. Lincoln | 62. Parkwood |
| 39. Crane | 51. Longacres | 63. Putnam |
| 40. Dartmoor | 52. Lowell | 64. Theis |
| 41. Dartmouth | 53. Mac | 65. Trilogy Skate Park |
| 42. Devonshire | 54. Manor | 66. Virginia |
| 43. Garden | 55. Maryland | 67. Washington Woods |
| 44. Glencoe | 56. Nelson | 68. Wyllys |





Other City Parks, Pathways, and Recreational Facilities

In addition to the Regional, Community, Neighborhood, and Mini-Parks, the City maintains other recreational and open space areas. These areas include undedicated parks, non-motorized pathways, roadway medians, parkways, and areas along rivers or streams. Also included are parks which are undeveloped and planned for passive recreational activity in order to protect their natural state. Furthermore, recreational opportunities are not limited to facilities owned by the City of Midland. Quasi-public and privately owned facilities also provide additional recreational and cultural resources of outstanding quality. For the following listed parks, see the Existing Facilities Inventory for a summary of amenities and Inventory Map #1 for their locations. Additional recreational facilities that are also located in the City of Midland are included on the Existing Facilities Inventory.

- Adams
- Huron Park
- Riverbend
- Siebert
- Sturgeon Creek
- Arbury Centennial Park
- Gerstacker Spray Park
- Longview Spray Park
- Caldwell Boat Launch
- Midland Cemetery
- Chippewa Trail
- Pere Marquette Rail-Trail
- Grand Curves Loop Trail

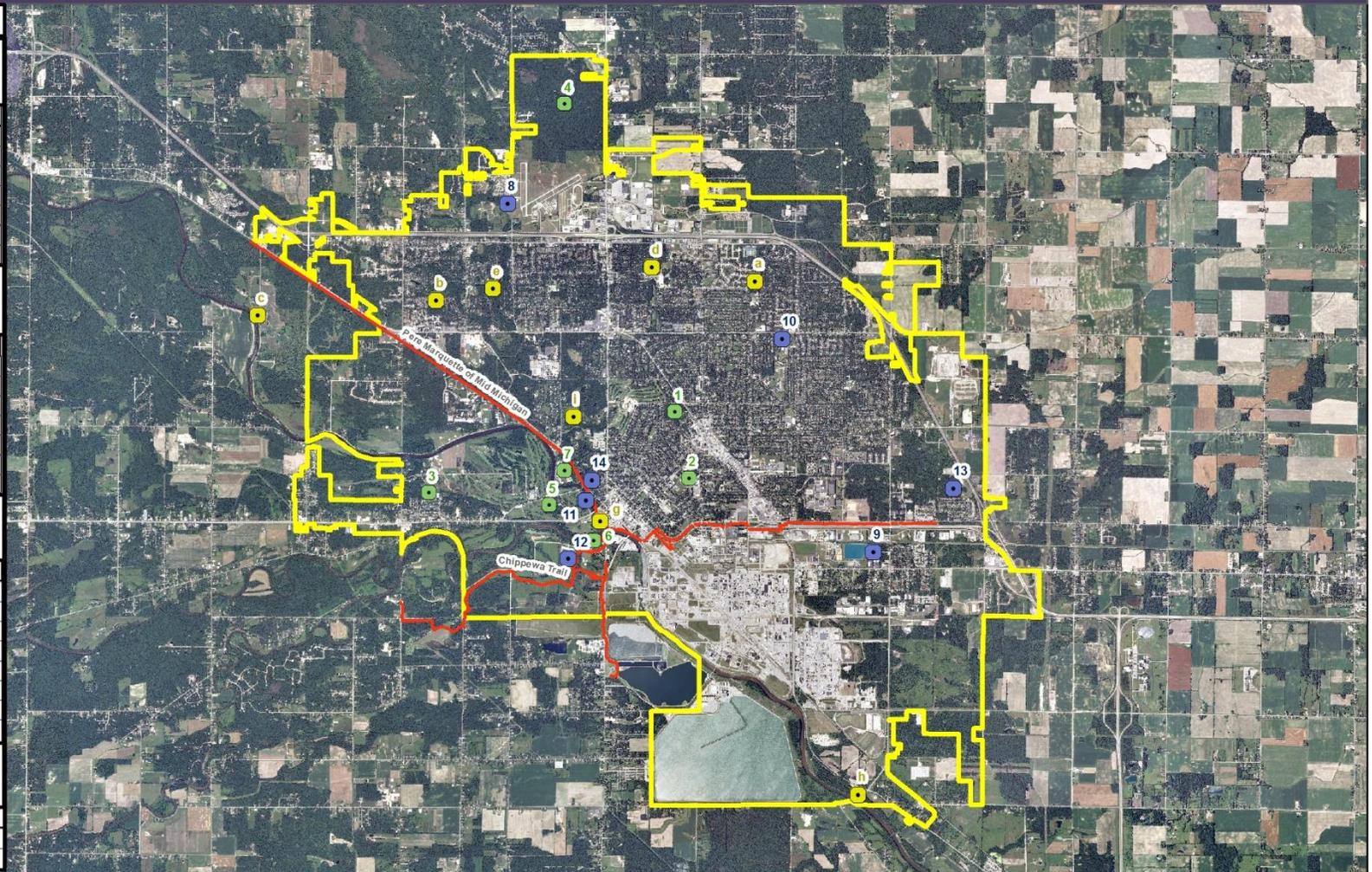




City of Midland Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Inventory Map #1

Regional Parks	
ID	NAME
1	Barstow Woods Park
2	Central Park
3	Chippewassee Park
4	City Forest
5	Currie Golf Course
6	Disc Golf Course
7	Emerson Park
Community Parks	
ID	NAME
8	North west Park
9	Optimist Park
10	Plymouth Park
11	Riverside/Golfside Park
12	Redcoat Softball Complex
13	Stratford Woods Park
14	Throne Park
Other Parks	
ID	NAME
a	Adams Park
b	Huron Park
c	Riverbend Park
d	Siebert Park
e	Sturgeon Creek Park
g	Gerstaker Spray Park
h	Caldwell Boat Launch
i	Midland Municipal Cemetary
Pathways	
Trail Name	
Chippewa Trail	
Pere Marquette of Mid Michigan	



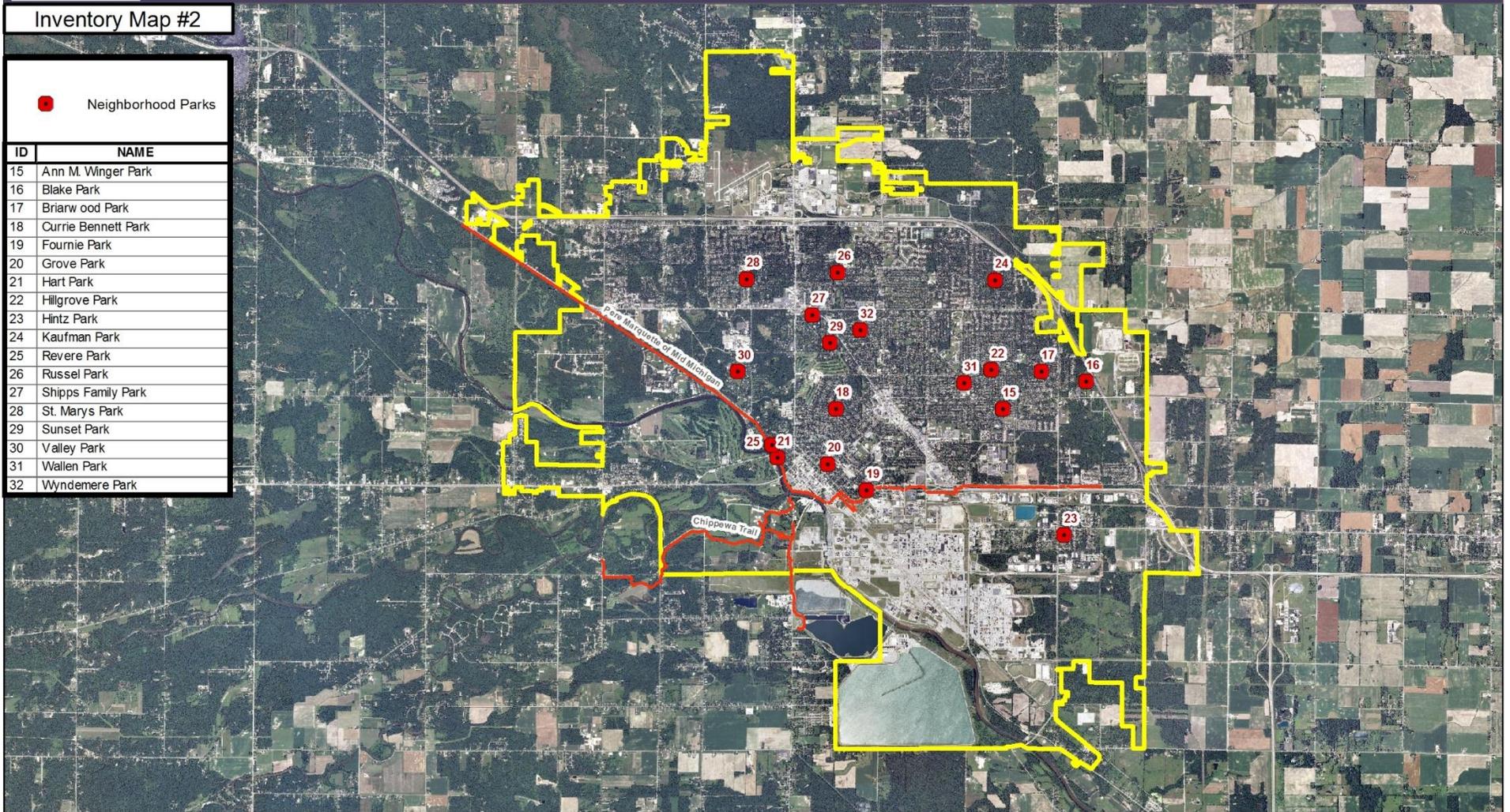


City of Midland Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Inventory Map #2

● Neighborhood Parks

ID	NAME
15	Ann M. Winger Park
16	Blake Park
17	Briarwood Park
18	Currie Bennett Park
19	Fournie Park
20	Grove Park
21	Hart Park
22	Hillgrove Park
23	Hintz Park
24	Kaufman Park
25	Revere Park
26	Russel Park
27	Shipp's Family Park
28	St. Marys Park
29	Sunset Park
30	Valley Park
31	Wallen Park
32	Wyndemere Park



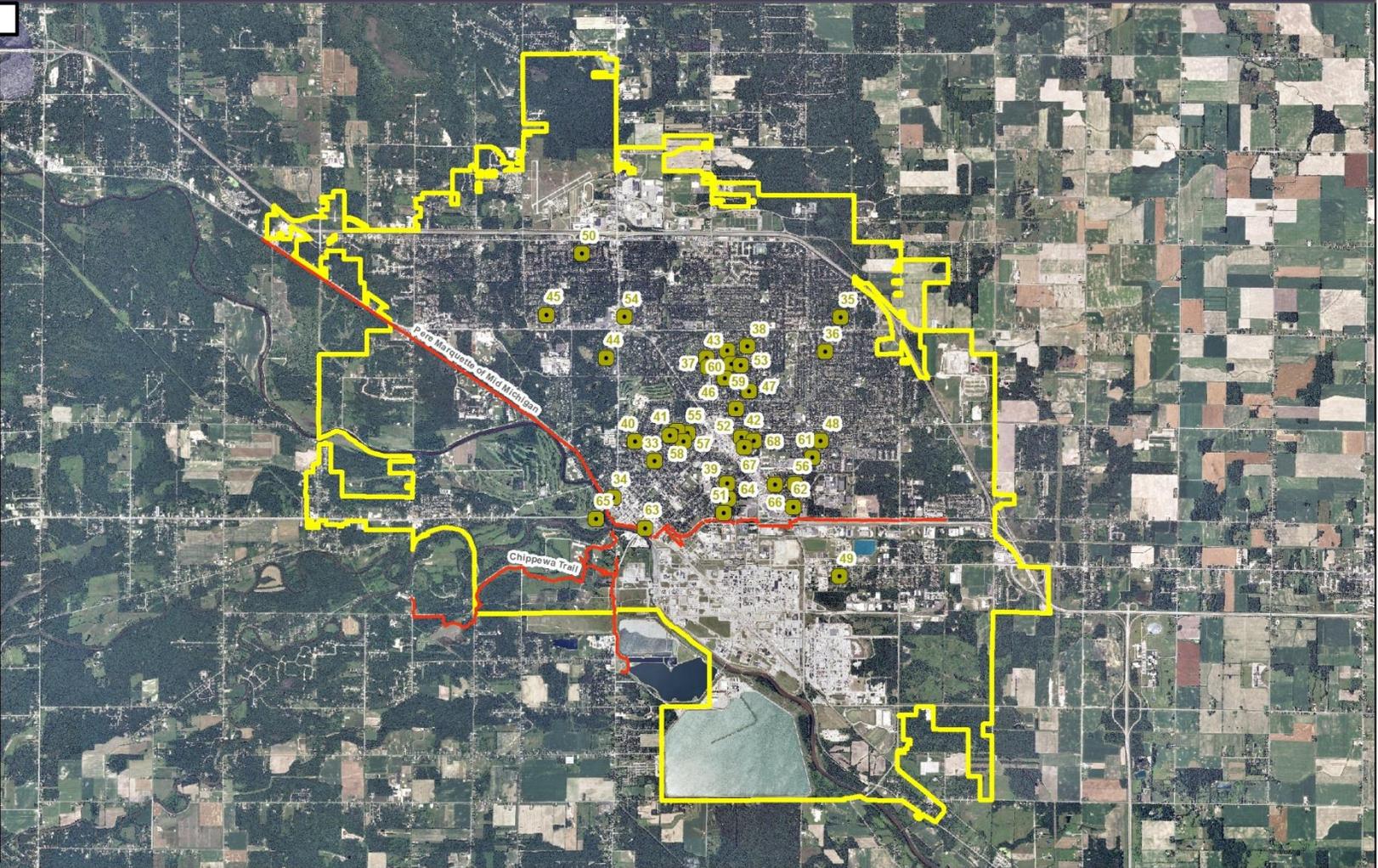


City of Midland Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Inventory Map #3

● Mini Park

ID	NAME
33	Allen Park
34	Arbury Centennial Park
35	Birchwood Park
36	Burlington Park
37	Castle Park
38	Chatham Park
39	Cleveland Park
40	Crane Park
41	Dartmoor Park
42	Dartmouth Park
43	Devonshire Park
44	Garden Park
45	Glencoe Park
46	Glenoak Park
47	Greenfield Park
48	Griese Park
49	Kent Park
50	Lakewood Park
51	Lincoln Park
52	Longacres Park
53	Lowell Park
54	Mac Park
55	Manor Park
56	Maryland Park
57	Nelson Park
58	Noeske Park
59	Oak Park
60	Ottawa Park
61	Parkdale Park
62	Parkwood Park
63	Putnam Park
64	Theis Park
65	Trilogy Skate Park
66	Virginia Park
67	Washington Woods Park
68	Wylys Park





Additional City recreational facilities that are not mapped include the following:

- Midland Civic Arena
- Pine River
- Towsley Dike
- Meadowbrook
- Chestnut Hill

Other recreational facilities within the community that are not mapped or indicated on the inventory include:

- Bradley Home & Carriage House
- Herbert H. Dow Historical Museum
- Chippewa Nature Center
- Circle Area Community Garden
- Dow Gardens
- Midland Center for the Arts
- Gerstacker Riverfront Park System
- Midland Country Club
- Great Lakes Loons – Dow Diamond stadium
- Midland Community Center
- Midland Community Tennis Center
- Midland Community Curling Center
- Midland County Fairgrounds
- Midland Soccer Complex
- Whiting Overlook Park

Regional County and State Parks

Sanford Lake County Park

Sanford Lake Park is located along the west side of Sanford Lake in the Village of Sanford. With over 1,100 feet of sandy beach, Sanford Lake Park is the largest public water based activity area in Midland County. Swimming, picnicking, and boating access to Sanford Lake are the principal activities in the park. A large splash/spray park was added in 2008.

Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park is located west of the Village of Sanford, in Jerome Township. A grove of 200+ year old red and white pines is a significant feature of the southern portion of the park. This forested area provides park visitors with a glimpse of what the Saginaw Valley looked like prior to settlement. An entrance off the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail is located on the northern boundary of the park. A rustic wooden bridge connects the northern and southern portions of the park. Development in the northern portion of the park is limited.



Manitou Park

Manitou Park is located approximately eight miles west of the City of Midland in Lee Township. Access to the park is from Chippewa River Road. Manitou Park encompasses one and a half miles of frontage along the Chippewa River. The park has been minimally developed.

Pere Marquette Rail-Trail of Mid-Michigan

The Pere Marquette Rail-Trail is located on the former CSX Railroad right-of-way between the Cities of Midland and Clare. The 30 mile Rail-Trail provides barrier-free, non-motorized recreation and transportation opportunities such as walking, hiking, running, bicycling, wheelchair use, in-line skating and cross country skiing. A “separated” five mile equestrian trail runs from North Bradley to the outskirts of Coleman. The Isabella County Parks and Recreation Department has continued the Rail-Trail to the outskirts of Clare. It is a regional destination facility.

Laur Big Salt River Park

The Laur family donated this 40 acre site to the Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission in the fall of 1993. It is located in Geneva Township along the Big Salt River with access to the park off West MacNally Road.

Pine Haven Recreation Area

Pine Haven Recreation Area is located west of the Village of Sanford, in Jerome Township. Access to the park is off Maynard Road. Pine Haven Recreation Area is comprised of four acres of county-owned land and 323 acres of Michigan State Forest land. The state land is managed by the County Parks and Recreation Commission under an annual use permit. The park offers visitors eight miles of trail suitable for a variety of recreational pursuits.

River Trails Heritage Park

River Trails Heritage Park is located in Edenville Township, and lies along the Tittabawassee and Tobacco Rivers. This park has access from M-30, and boasts approximately 6,000 feet of river frontage.

Sanford Park, Village of Sanford

Sanford Park is located on the Tittabawassee River within the Village. Facilities include a large pavilion, play area, five ball diamonds, youth football field, seven horseshoe courts, basketball court, sand volleyball, drop in boat launch, shoreline fishing, riverfront pathway, restrooms and parking.

Gransden Park, Edenville Township

Located within the small community, the neighborhood park has a new ball diamond, parking lot, picnic pavilion and play area.



Charles and Ida Harper Memorial Park, Edenville Township

The new park is the site of a new Tittabawassee River Overlook Deck, Fishing Pier and Village Trail.

Mills Township Park, Mills Township

This park is a 160 acre park with ball diamonds and a community center.

Windover Park, Homer Township

Windover Park is approximately seven acres in size and includes a ball diamond and a basketball court.

Homer Township Park, Homer Township

This community park includes 12 acres of land with facilities including ball diamonds, pavilions, a picnic area, playground and restrooms.

Lee Township Park, Lee Township

This is an 80 acre park in Lee Township with ball diamonds, a soccer field, a pavilion, and a picnic area.

Larkin Township Park, Larkin Township

Ball diamonds, picnic shelters and a playground are located within this 40 acre park.

Bob Moe Park, Midland Township

Bob Moe Park is 5 acres in size with ball diamonds.

Woodside Park, Hope Township

Located in Hope Township, Woodside Park is 66 acres in size with facilities including ball diamonds, picnic area, pavilion, playground and nature trails.

Coleman Adams Street Park, Coleman

Coleman Adams Street Park, is a 5 acre park with a ball diamond, playground, tennis courts, pavilions, picnic area, basketball court, and playground.

Coleman Webster Street Park, Coleman

This 11 acre park is currently undeveloped.

Little Forks Conservancy, Midland County

Since 1996, The Little Forks Conservancy has partnered with private landowners in or near the Tittabawassee River Watershed to protect and preserve the unique natural features of this region. The Little Forks Conservancy also protects land through acquisition, by either gift or purchase, protecting it as a preserve. Some preserves provide opportunities for public recreation and access to unique resources in our region, while other more sensitive sites require limiting public access to preserve native associations of flora and fauna.

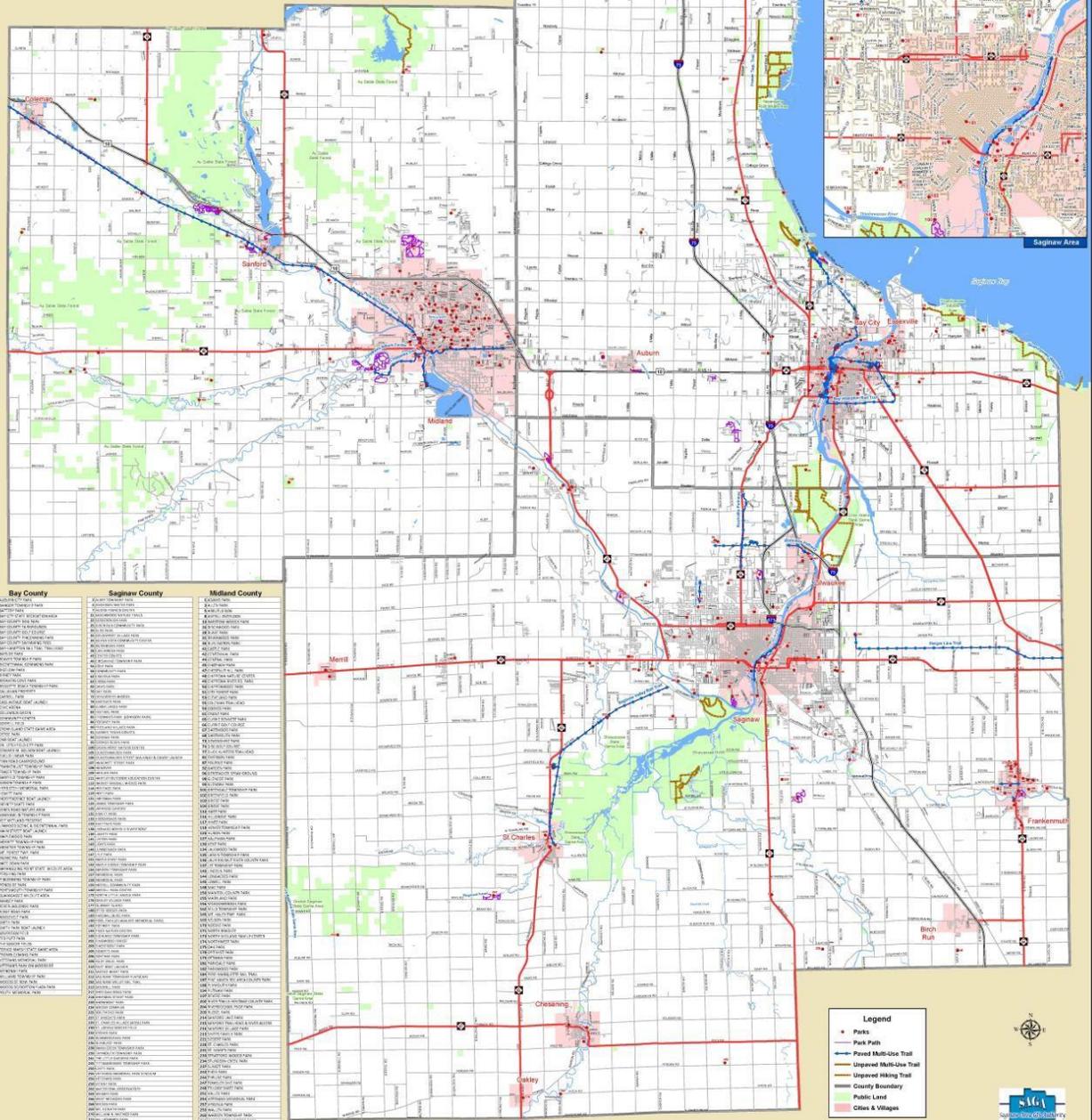
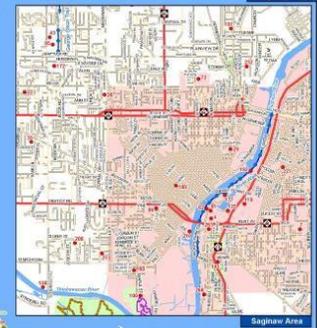


Regional Tri-County Park Facilities

The regional governmental area includes Midland, Bay, and Saginaw Counties. These three counties interact and market together for tourism, economic growth, and other regional concerns. On the following page is a Midland, Bay & Saginaw County Parks map from a Tri-County Recreation guide. Additional information on regional recreational facilities is available by contacting the Parks and Recreation offices for any of the three counties.



Midland, Bay & Saginaw County Parks



Bay County	Saginaw County	Midland County
1. Algonquin Provincial Park	1. Algonquin Provincial Park	1. Algonquin Provincial Park
2. ...	2. ...	2. ...
...
100. ...	100. ...	100. ...

Legend

- Parks
- Park Path
- Paved Multi-Use Trail
- Unpaved Multi-Use Trail
- Unpaved Hiking Trail
- County Boundary
- Public Land
- Cities & Villages



Data Provided by: The City of Midland, Saginaw, Bay & Midland Counties

Created 3/9/2010



Regional Tri-County Trails

The Midland, Bay and Saginaw Counties also plan a regional trail system which includes the Midland County Pere Marquette Rail Trail. A map depicting the regional trails is included on the following page. A more detailed map, or one at a more readable size, is available by contacting the City of Midland Parks and Recreation office at recreation@midland-mi.org.



Tri-County Regional Path Study

Bay,
Midland
and
Saginaw
Counties



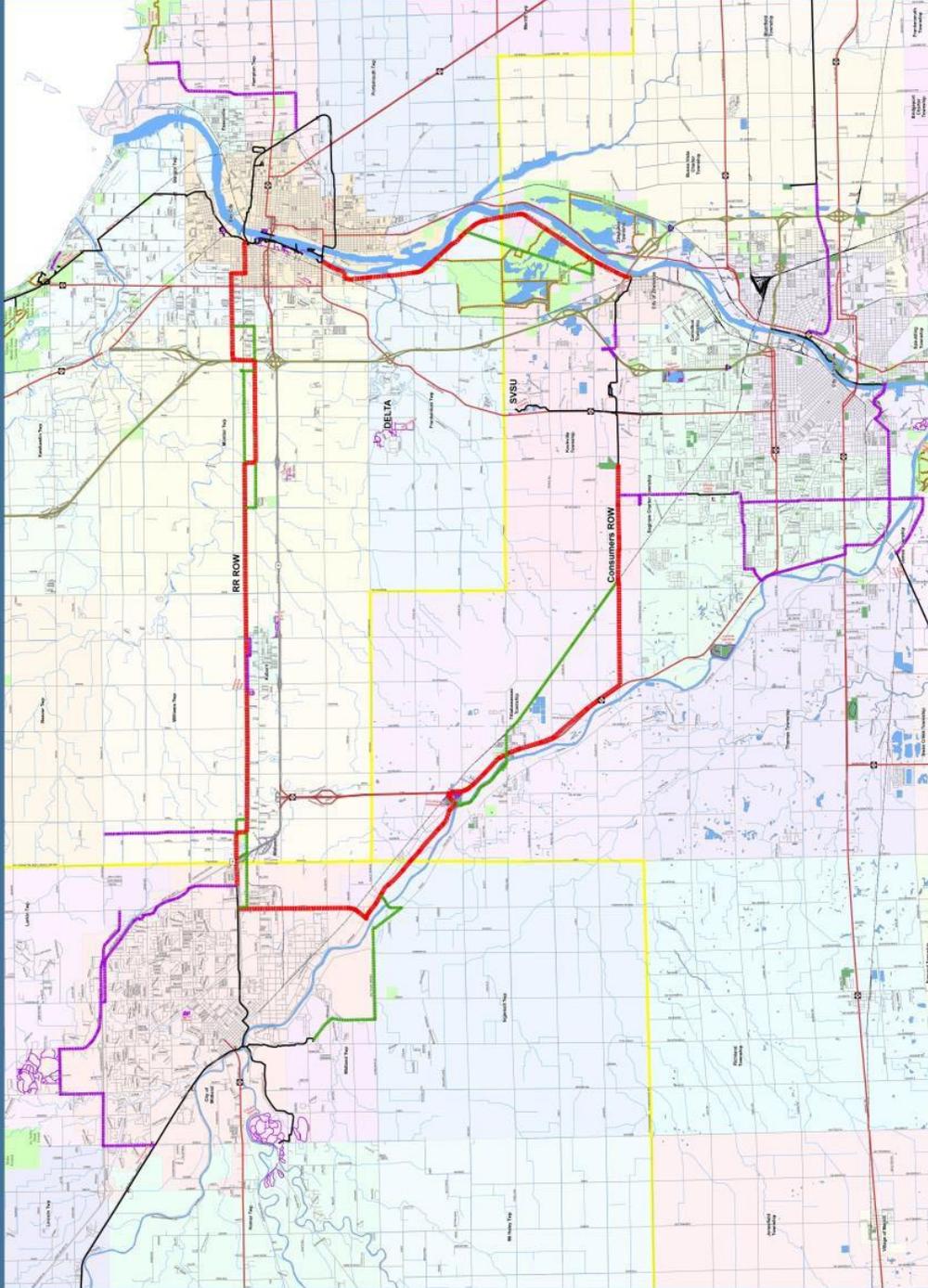
Legend

- Proposed Routes
- Existing Routes
- Existing Trails
- Water Features
- Highway Right-of-Way
- RR Right-of-Way
- Consumer's Right-of-Way
- Other Right-of-Way
- Other Property
- Other Land



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February, 2009
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Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least handicap accessible and usable, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

The accessibility grading system uses a five point system ranging from **one** (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines), to **five** (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design). See Figure 8.

A review of ADA compliance of City of Midland parks was conducted based on the information contained within the previous City of Midland Parks and Recreation Master Plan from 2010. At that time, an assessment of the parks was performed and consisted of a visual inspection of each park with regards to access and circulation in relation to the park facilities. As noted on the Existing Facilities Inventory sheets from the previous pages, some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. The City of Midland is dedicated to continuing its efforts toward improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities and signage.

Figure 8 – MDNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreational Facilities

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 principles of universal design



Programming

Midland Parks and Recreation provides an abundance of programming to its residents. These programs include City Forest Winter Operations (toboggan runs, sledding hill, ice skating rink), Midland Softball Association Summer Softball and Fall Co-ed Softball, Midland Girls Softball League Spring and Summer Softball, Beach Volleyball Leagues, Adult Kick Ball League, American Red Cross Swim Lessons, Lap swim, open and family swim opportunities, Intellectual Disabilities Program, Tunes by the Tridge, Bark in the Park, Fourth of July festivities, Walk Michigan, Punt Pass and Kick, Santa Calling, Night at the North Pole, Mackinaw Island Grand Experience, Dog Swim at Plymouth Pool, Adopt-A-Park Program, Adopt-A-Project Program and other smaller specialty programs. The Department maintains several activity areas that promote life-long recreation. In addition, the Department continues to work on developing new and exciting programs for underserved populations in the City.

Recreation Grant History

The City of Midland received one grant from MDNR-administered grant programs. This grant was in 1989 under the Recreation Bond Fund program for Plymouth Pool Renovation. The pool received a new gutter and pool lining, along with an updated filtration system and repairs to the bath house and roof.

