



Genoa Township
Recreation Plan: 2021-2025
DRAFT FOR REVIEW

PREPARED FOR:
Genoa Township
December 2020



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Walking/Running Path at the Township Park

Introduction

Genoa Township is a growing community in the southeast portion of Livingston County. The township offers residents high quality neighborhoods, convenient commercial and business services, excellent school systems and significant natural features all with easy access to regional and national metropolitan hubs of Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing.

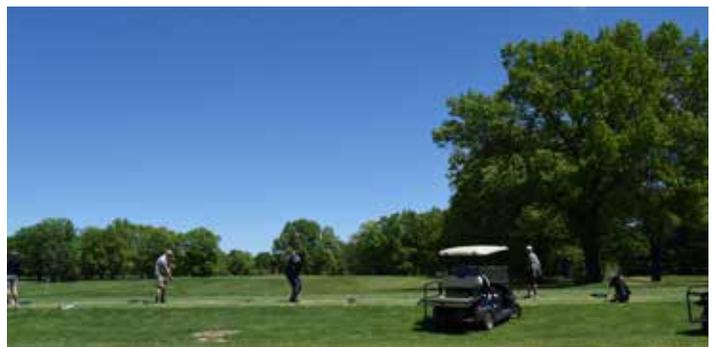
Recreation, parks and open spaces are key ingredients that keep the community attractive as well as support a high quality of life for its residents. The Township needs to play an important role to ensure the delivery of recreation, parks and other leisure activities meets the needs of the community. This document is intended to serve as a guide to the Township in the planning of future recreation opportunities and services.

A recreation plan helps the Township plan for the needs of current and future residents. Since Genoa Township has limited existing recreational resources, it is important to not only spend these resources wisely, but seek alternative funding sources, including grants and public/private partnerships.

The focus of the plan is to identify the multi-faceted desires of residents and attempt to satisfy the recreation needs of the entire community through its recommendations and action plan. Areas of focus and action in this plan include:

- Geographic balance of recreation facilities
- Diversity of facilities
- Provision of new facilities
- Establishment of a continuous greenway system
- Accessibility and visibility of facilities
- Cooperation with the area's recreational providers and school districts

In addition, the plan describes the various contributors to recreation, inventories current programs and facilities, identifies deficiencies and opportunities and recommends a five-year action plan for future implementation. The determination of which will aid the Township in grant solicitation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and long-range capital improvement budgeting. Additionally, during the next five years, it is important for the township to reference the plan and make adjustments in priorities as conditions change.



Community Profile

The following chapter provides an overview of the community’s physical characteristics, including its history, location, climate, land use and natural features, as well as a profile of its population and housing. An understanding of the township’s existing conditions is important in establishing realistic park and recreation goals and objectives.

Location

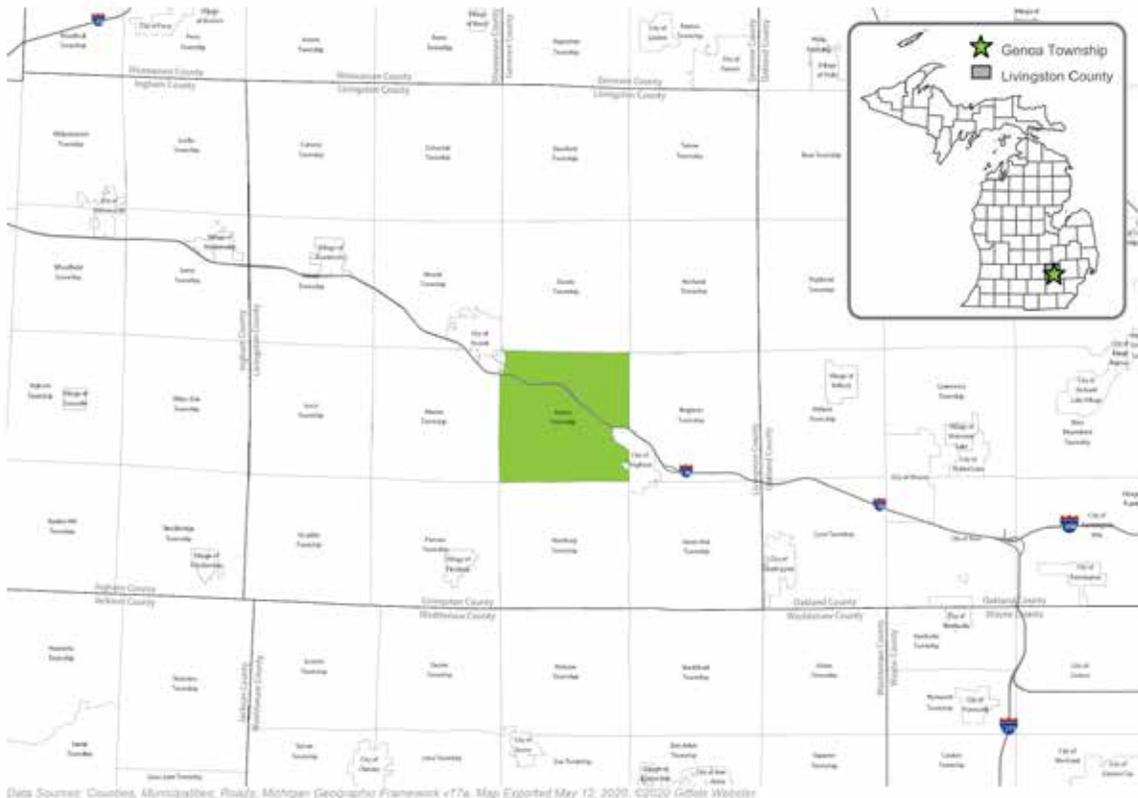
Genoa Township is conveniently located between the cities of Brighton and Howell in the southeastern quadrant of Livingston County. The township is centrally located between the four major metropolitan areas of Detroit, Lansing, Flint and Ann Arbor in Southeast Michigan.

Transportation

While Genoa Township is easily accessed via I-96, the township’s local transportation network is segmented by this east-west interstate, which separates the northern third of the township from the southern two-thirds. Chilson, Dorr and Latson Roads are the only two roads that cross the six mile length of I-96 through the township.

The transportation system effects the delivery of and accessibility to recreational facilities and services. The current transportation system in Genoa is almost exclusively oriented toward the automobile. The system of roads and freeways in and near the township provides reasonably good access by automobile to recreation in the township as well as regional facilities in other communities. Yet access to recreation facilities can be difficult for certain segments of the population, primarily children and the elderly, who do not have access to an automobile. Regionally, public transit options are limited and primarily serve to connect communities within the region, rather than serve the township specifically. However, the township has been focused on developing a connected and cohesive non-motorized pathway system that can be used for transportation.

MAP 2-1: LOCATION MAP



Proper planning for the future must consider the composition of the population and consider its likely future composition. Understanding where the township has been and where it is likely to go is essential to projecting future needs.

Population

In 2018, the township has a total population of 20,186. The table below provides a summary of general population characteristics for the township.

TABLE 2-1: POPULATION SNAPSHOT

GENOA TOWNSHIP POPULATION SNAPSHOT	
Total Population	20,186
Median Age	45.6
Male	9,822 (49%)
Female	10,364 (51%)

Population Growth Rate

According to SEMCOG forecasts, the total population of the township is naturally expected to increase by 61 percent by the year 2045 to 32,907 people. However, as shown in the graph below, the rate of population growth is projected to steadily decline from 2020. This decline usually happens with a higher death rate, lower birth rates, or higher migration rates.

Population Forecast

The chart and the table provide information about the percent distribution of age groups in 2015 and projected data for the years 2030 and 2045. The percent distribution of different age groups in Genoa is fairly consistent between 2030 and 2045, even though the numbers indicate an alarming rise in the older adult population by 2045 (a 400% increase), The township’s largest population cohort are adults aged 35-59—people who are typically in the workforce and in their family-forming years (see Chart below). The percent share of older adults to the total population is projected for a 6 percent increase from 2015 to 2045. The township should consider policies to accommodate the needs of aging adults within the community.

CHART 2-1: POPULATION PROJECTION

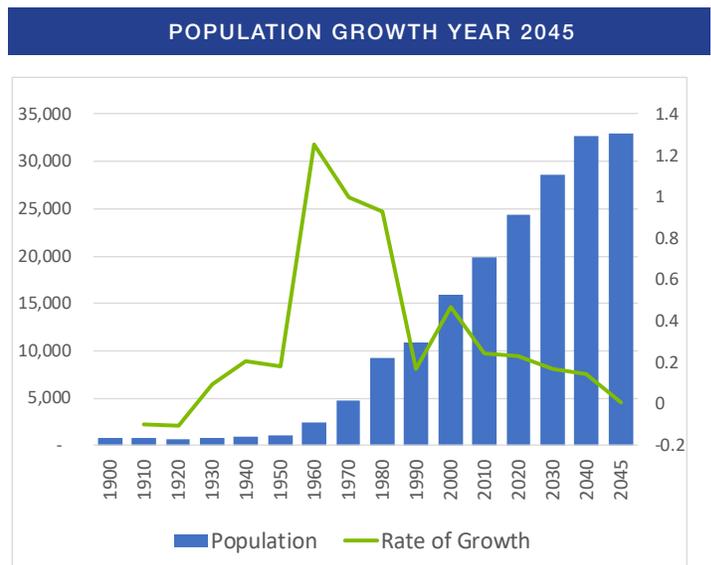
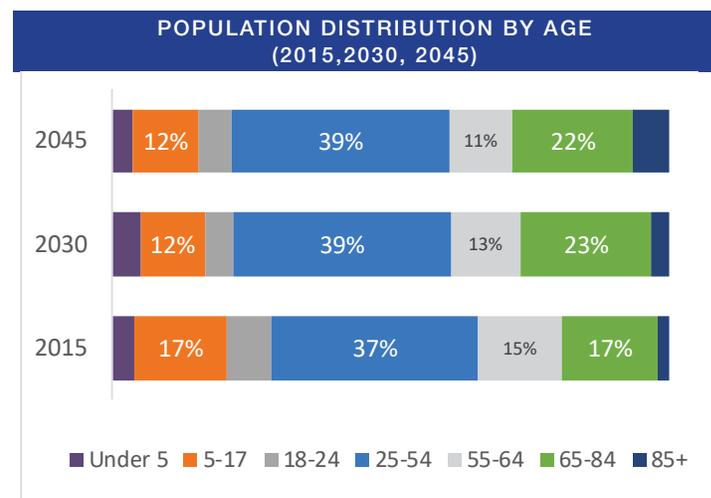


CHART 2-2: POPULATION FORECAST BY AGE



Surrounding Communities

The demographic composition of the Genoa Township incorporates data about race, age, housing, population trends, income, education, and employment. This section compares the township’s demographic characteristics to neighboring communities that share a border with Genoa.

Persons per Acre

City of Howell and Brighton have higher population density (persons/acre) in the County which is expected for an urban community. Genoa maintains a similar density compared to surrounding townships. See the graph below for more details.

Population Growth

Many communities surrounding Genoa have been experiencing an increase in population since 2000. Oceola Township and the City of Howell have experienced the highest population growth between 2000 and 2018 followed by Genoa Township. However, Genoa township has the largest population in the County after Hamburg Township.

TABLE 2-2: REGIONAL POPULATION

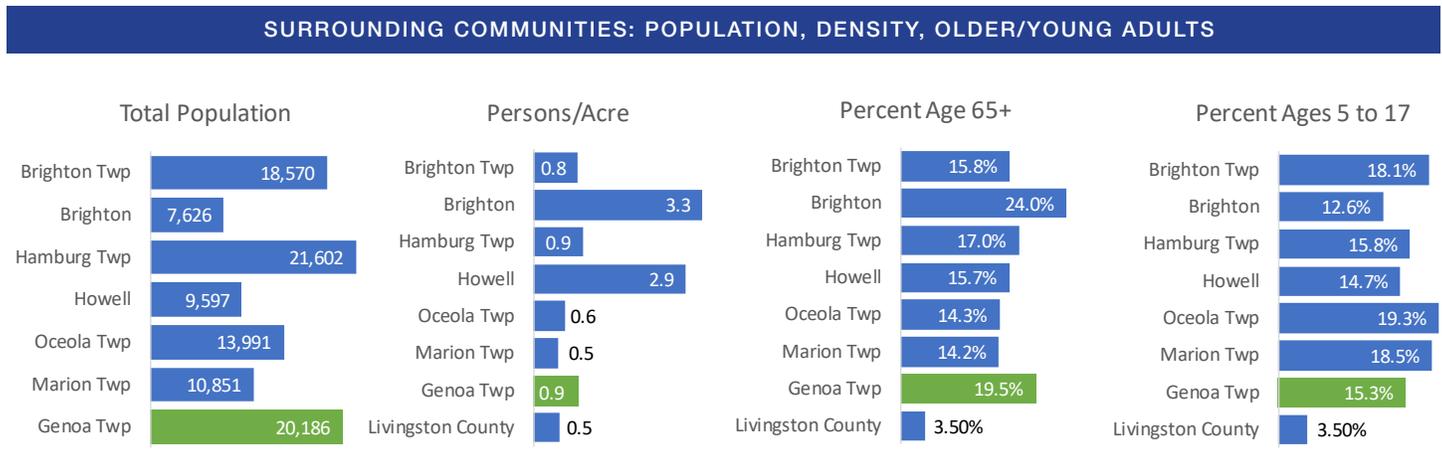
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES: POPULATION GROWTH (2000-2018)				
	Population 2018	Population 2010	Population 2000	Percent Population change (2000-2018)
Livingston County	188,482	180,957	156,951	20%
Genoa Township	20,186	19,821	15,866	27%
Oceola Township	13,991	11,936	8,362	67%
Brighton Township	18,570	17,791	17,673	5%
Brighton City	7,626	7,444	6,730	13%
Hamburg Township	21,602	21,165	21,165	2%
Marion Township	10,851	9,996	9,996	9%
Howell City	9,597	6,702	6,702	43%

Source: SEMCOG Community Explorer

Older and young adult population

Compared to surrounding communities, Genoa township has a higher percentage of the aging population over 65 years and a comparable percentage of the population of people between ages 5 to 16. This distribution essentially focuses on dependent people who are unlikely the primary breadwinners. This indicates that there is a larger share of people dependent on the working-age group on the township.

CHART 2-3: REGIONAL POPULATION SNAPSHOT

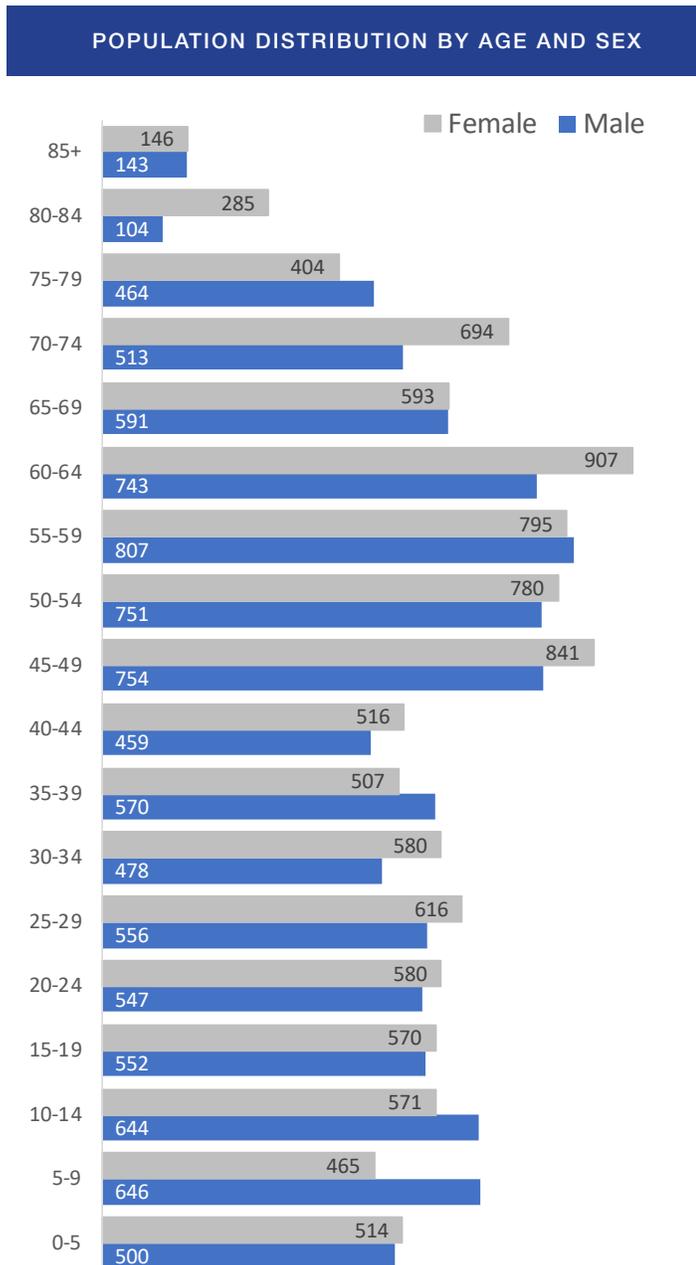


Source: SEMCOG Community Explorer

Population Cohort Analysis

It is essential to understand the population’s composition by age and sex to have a proper insight into demographic conditions and socio-economic trends. Genoa has an almost equal distribution of male and female population on average. However, the ratio varies with age (see chart to the left). As they age, the ratio of females to males is increasing.

CHART 2-4: POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



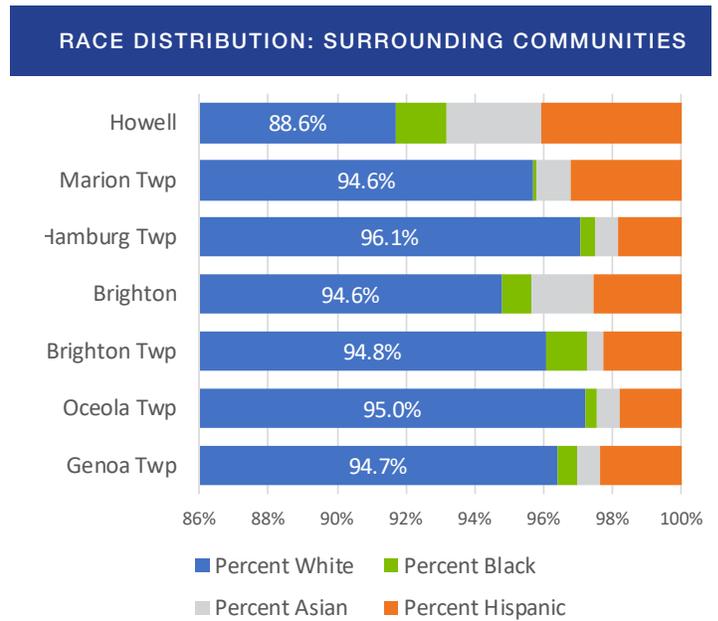
Source: ACS 2018

Race

The racial composition in Genoa is predominantly white at 94.7%, Genoa’s racial distribution is consistent with most of the surrounding communities except for the more diverse city of Howell.



CHART 2-5: REGIONAL POPULATION BY RACE

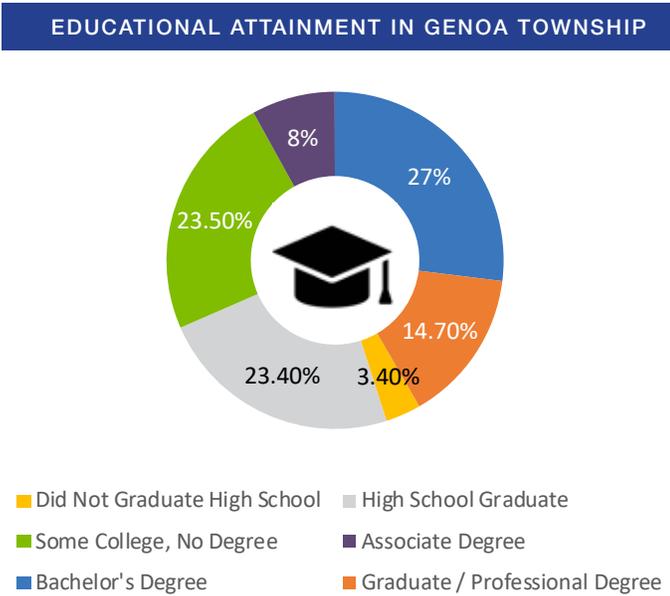


Source: SEMCOG Community Explorer

Educational Attainment

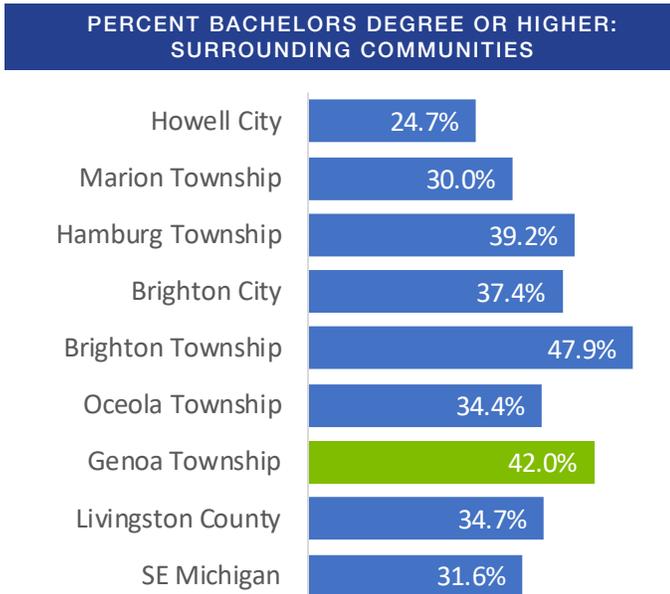
The highest levels of educational attainment result in a higher skill set and ultimately contribute to the local job growth. In general, about 73% of residents older than 25 years have some kind of associate of a higher degree past high school. Genoa has a higher percentage of bachelor degrees or higher graduates among the surrounding communities after Brighton Township.

CHART 2-6: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

CHART 2-8: REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

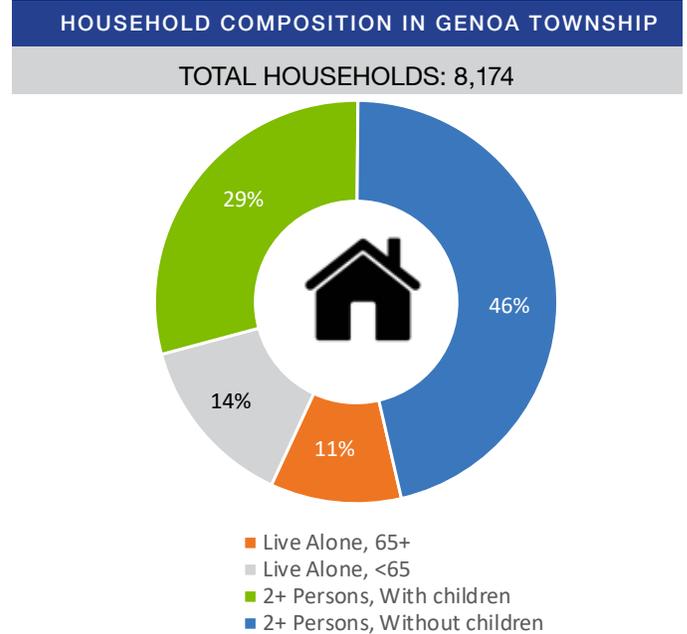


Source: SEMCOG Community Explorer

Households

In 2018, there are a total of 8,174 households in Genoa. A majority of the households are younger couples with no children (46%). A quarter of the households are families with children. The remaining quarter is split between younger and older adults who live alone. The average household size is consistent with surrounding suburban communities, between two and three persons per household.

CHART 2-7: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION



Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

TABLE 2-3: REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION: SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES				
	Average Household Size	Percent Households with Seniors	Percent Households with Children	Percent HH with Internet Access
Livingston	2.63	28.9%	31.0%	85.7%
Genoa Twp	2.47	33.1%	29.3%	90.8%
Oceola Twp	2.87	26.5%	37.8%	95.6%
Brighton	2.79	27.9%	34.6%	94.8%
Brighton City	2.03	37.0%	19.3%	87.2%
Hamburg	2.58	30.9%	30.3%	93.7%
Marion Twp	2.89	27.9%	31.8%	90.8%
Howell City	2.12	24.9%	27.6%	81.1%

Source: SEMCOG Community Explorer

Climate

Weather influences the types of recreation that an area can support. Southeast Michigan experiences a continental climate that is typical of the upper Midwest Lake states region of the United States. Genoa's climate consists of extreme seasonal changes - which means the area can support a variety of recreation activities ranging from outdoor swimming in the summer to sledding in the winter. Generally, January is the coldest month of the year with an average temperature of 23.5 degrees Fahrenheit and July is generally the warmest with an average temperature of 71.1 degrees Fahrenheit. Snow generally falls in 7 of the 12 months.

Soils

Soil features affect the cost of development and are a basis for determining the presence of a regulated wetland. The Livingston County Soil Survey, which classifies soil associations and describes the suitability of soils for various types of development, based upon limitations for highway location, building foundations and septic tank disposal fields. The survey indicates that the township predominately consists of Miami-Conover and Fox-Boyer-Oshtemo soils. These soils are primarily well and moderately suited soils that do not appear to present significant limitations to development for future park and recreation facilities.

Topography

The rolling topography and in some case, steep slopes throughout the township offer a visually appealing scenery and contributes to the rural character of the community. The greatest concentration of slope changes is found in the southern and eastern portions of the township.

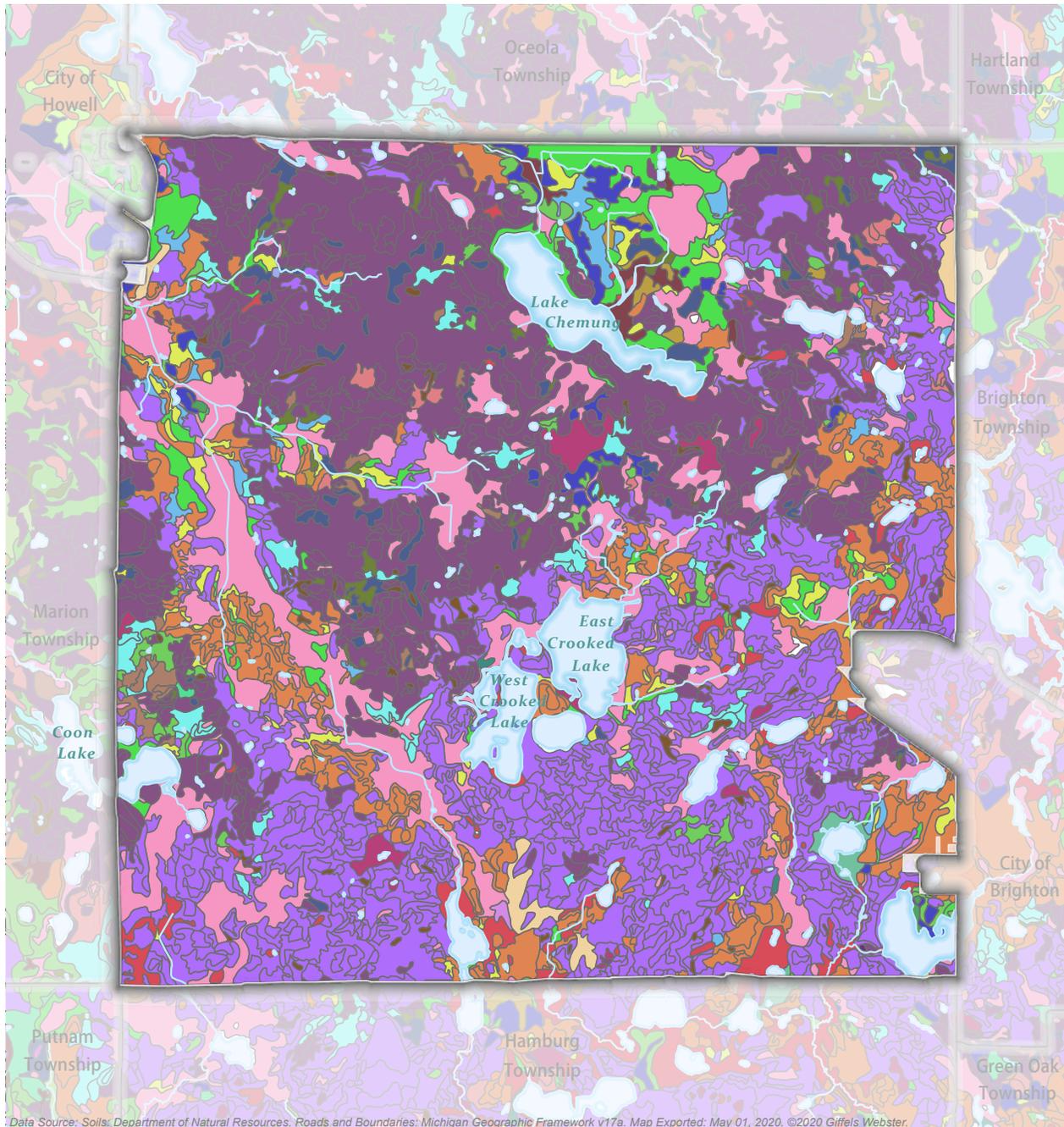
Natural Features

While the Township has been experiencing rapid development, there are still significant areas of natural features. Water resources are among Genoa's most valuable natural resources of the community. The largest and most significant lakes in the township are Lake Chemung, East Crooked Lake and West Crooked Lake. The numerous lakes provide recreational opportunities, such as boating, fishing and swimming.

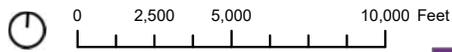
In addition to surface water resources, Genoa features many wetland areas. These areas are concentrated along the Chilson Creek corridor in the western portion of the township, as well as scattered amidst the township. These wetland areas serve to filter stormwater runoff, help control flooding and erosion, and are home to many different types of wildlife. Protection of these areas, particularly those regulated by the state, is important in preserving the natural environment of the township. If these wetlands are to be used for recreation purposes, limited impact use such as nature trails would be most suitable.

The most significant woodland areas are found in the southwestern corner of the township. This area is the most isolated portion of the township. The rolling topography and large forested wetlands limit development in this area and contribute to the natural character. If these woodlands are to be used for recreation purposes, passive recreational activities and nature trails are recommended.

MAP 2-2: SOILS



Data Source: Soils: Department of Natural Resources. Roads and Boundaries: Michigan Geographic Framework v17a. Map Exported: May 01, 2020. ©2020 Giffels Webster.

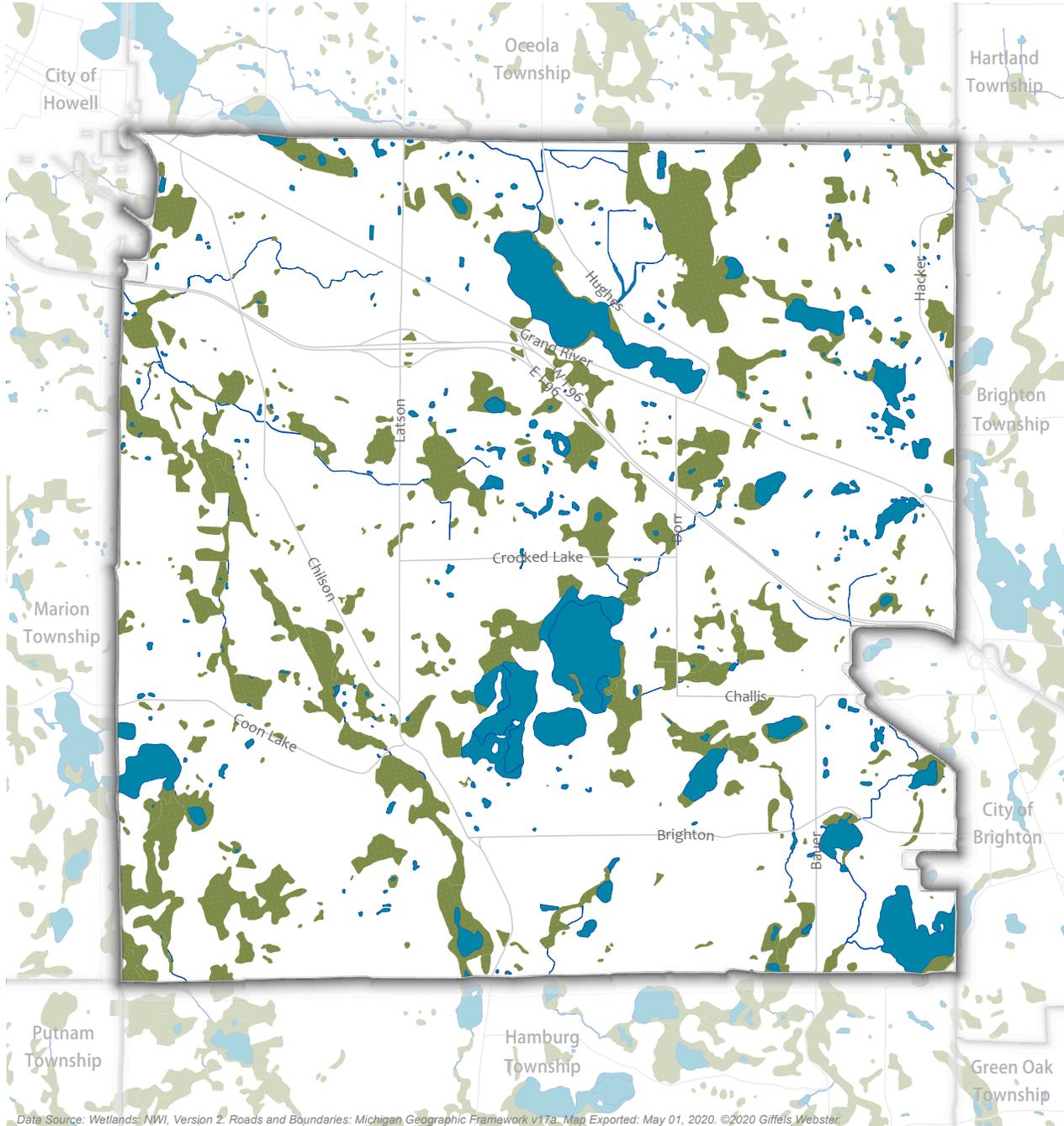


Alluvial	Carlisle	Gravel Pit	Made Land	Ottokee	Tawas
Arkport	Colwood	Hillsdale	Metamora	Owosso	Warners
Boyer	Conover	Houghton	Metea	Pewamo	Wasepi
Brady	Edwards	Lake Beach	Miami	Rifle	Washtenaw
Bronson	Fox	Lamson	Minoa	Sebewa	
Brookston	Gilford	Linwood	Oakville	Spinks	

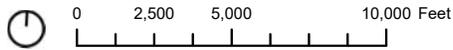


Soils
GENOA TOWNSHIP

MAP 2-3: WETLANDS



Data Source: Wetlands: NWI, Version 2. Roads and Boundaries: Michigan Geographic Framework v17a. Map Exported: May 01, 2020. ©2020 Giffels Webster

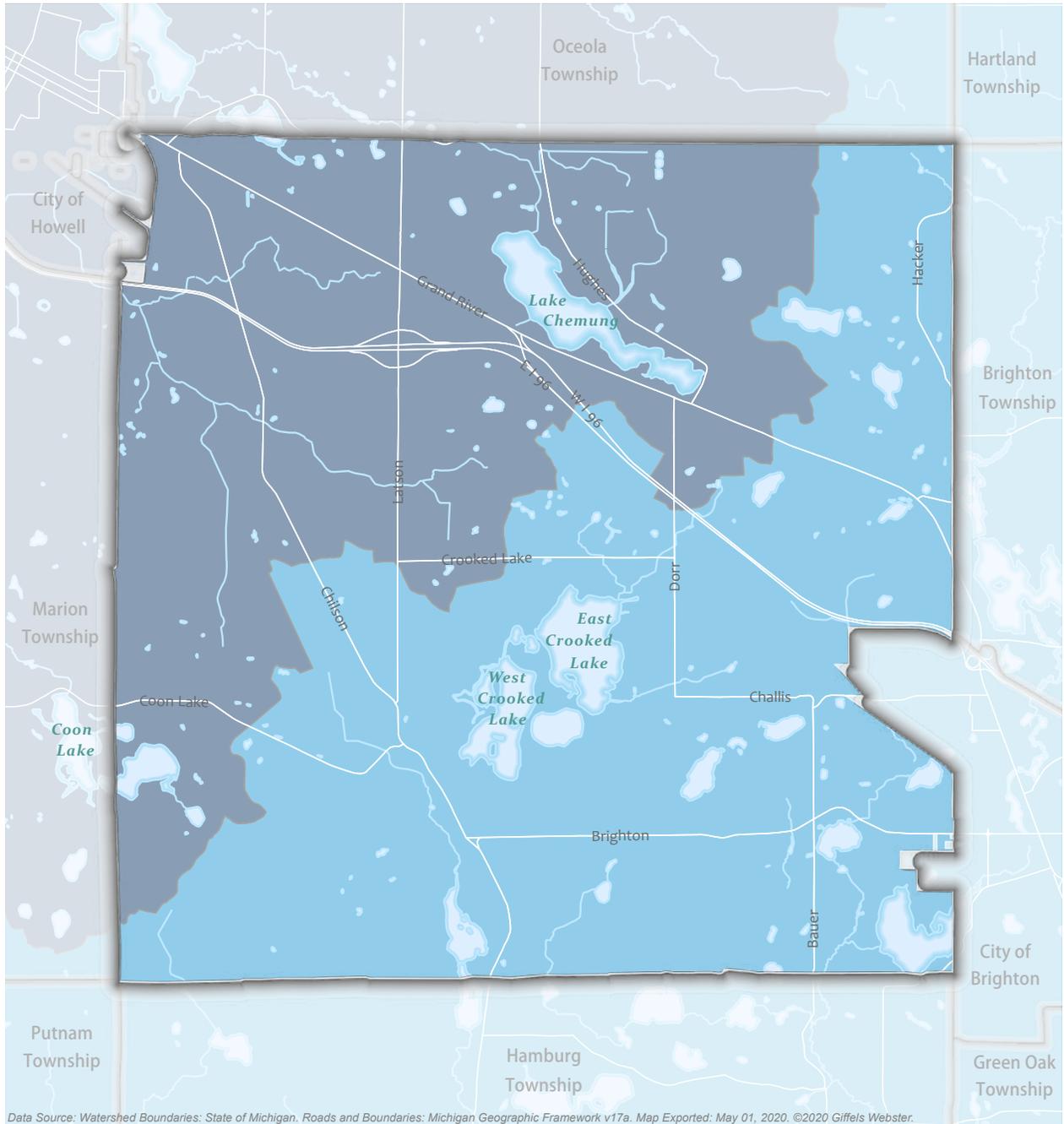


- Wetlands
- Surface Water

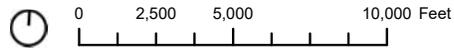


Wetlands
GENOA TOWNSHIP

MAP 2-3: WATERSHED BASINS



Data Source: Watershed Boundaries: State of Michigan. Roads and Boundaries: Michigan Geographic Framework v17a. Map Exported: May 01, 2020. ©2020 Giffels Webster.



Watershed Basins
GENOA TOWNSHIP

Administrative Structure

Planning and Administration

Genoa Township has been dedicated to providing recreational facilities and programs to improve the quality of life for its residents. The Township has partnerships with two regional recreation entities to provide services to residents. Genoa Park has been developed over the last two decades for both active and passive activities. Amenities include award winning playgrounds, athletic fields, a sled hill, basketball courts, a pavilion and walking trails all on 70 acres. Also during this time over fourteen miles of sidewalks and paths have been developed throughout the community. The Township’s administrative structure provides dedicated roles that represent the interests of Township residents. A separate enterprise fund (#270 Parks and Recreation) provides resources for the installation and maintenance of all recreational facilities. Finally, the Township’s planning process emphasizes a consistent planning process to solicit ideas and public input to develop the recommendations included in this plan.

The provision of recreation for Genoa residents involves the cooperation of Township officials and staff, the Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority (HAPRA) and the Brighton Area Recreation Connection (BARC). The Township also works in cooperation with Livingston County Parks.

Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority

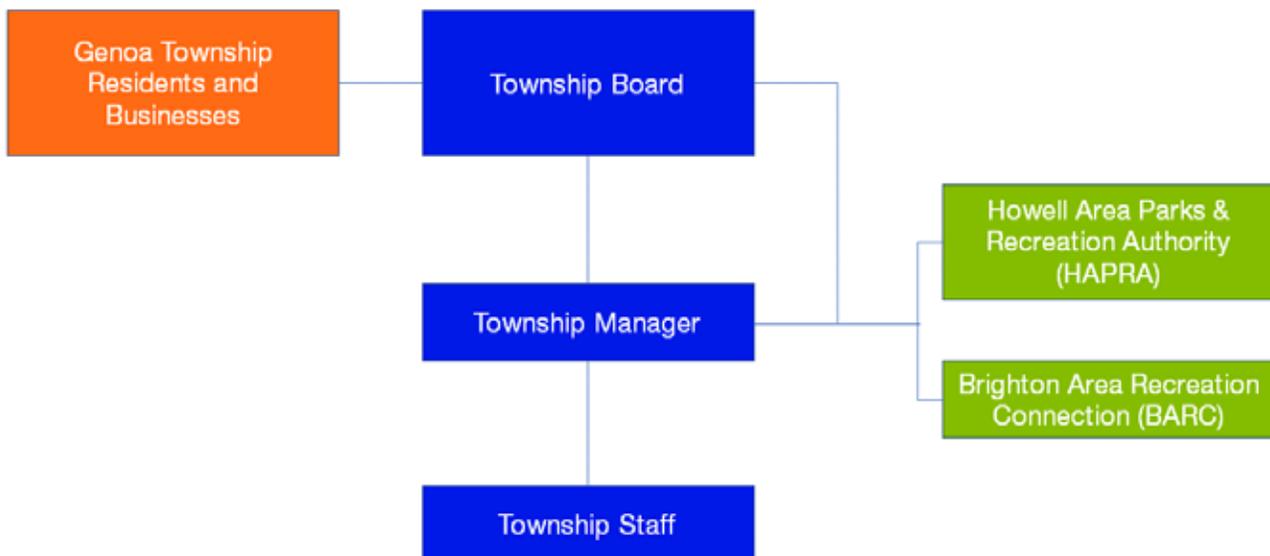
The participating municipalities of HAPRA are the City of Howell, Howell Township, Oceola Township, Marion Township and Genoa Charter Township. The Authority has a Board made up of a representative from each of the member communities. The purpose of the Authority is to construct, operate, maintain and/or improve recreational facilities and to provide recreational services as authorized by Public Act 321.

HAPRA administers the programming of the amenities at Genoa Park for the benefit of Genoa Township and regional residents. The lighted athletic fields are utilized by leagues, charter schools and camps. Special events such as Easter egg hunts, kite flying parties and interpretive trail programs are provided.

Brighton Area Recreation Connection

BARC is administered by Brighton Area Schools which includes portions of the City of Brighton, Brighton Township, Hamburg Township, Green Oak Township and Genoa Charter Township. The Connection programs numerous youth and adult activities including soccer, basketball, softball, self-defense and yoga. BARC coordinates activities at Genoa Park with HAPRA.

FIGURE 2-1: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



Budget

Genoa Charter Township contributes \$107,500 annually to the Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority for regional programs, facilities and events. The Township also supports recreation through a dedicated enterprise fund as described below:

TABLE 3-1: GENOA TOWNSHIP RECREATION REVENUES

RECREATION REVENUES 2018 - 2021			
	2018-2019 (actual)	2019-2020 (amended budget)	2020-2021 (budget)
Interest	\$3,178	\$6,000	\$6,000
Income - Other		\$322	
Contributions			
Rental Income	\$8,000		
Operating Transfer		\$500,000	\$550,000
Transfer In - General Fund	\$500,000		
Total Revenues	\$511,178	\$506,322	\$556,000

TABLE 3-1: GENOA TOWNSHIP RECREATION APPROPRIATIONS

RECREATION APPROPRIATIONS 2018 - 2021			
	2018-2019 (actual)	2019-2020 (amended budget)	2020-2021 (budget)
Attorney/Engineering			
Maintenance	\$76,767	\$100,000	\$100,000
Rental House Expense			
Misc Expense/Audit	\$285	\$500	\$500
Genoa Township Athletic Field			\$114,000
Recreation Bike Path	\$186,597	\$255,452	\$134,800
Filmore Park	\$12,354	\$5,000	
Howell Parks and Recreation	\$100,806	\$107,500	\$107,500
Land for Recreation			\$350,000
Total Appropriations	\$376,809	\$486,452	\$806,800



Natural landscape at the Township Park



Walking/Running Path at the Township Park

Recreation Inventory

Genoa Township residents are fortunate to have a wide variety of recreation facilities and opportunities with several municipal parks, as well as numerous regional parks within a short drive of the township limits. Map R-1 shows the regional recreation resources for township residents.

Township Park

The Genoa Township park is 46 acres located roughly in the center of the township on Dorr Road that includes the following amenities:

- Non-motorized path: A 0.66 mile path encircles the township offices and fire hall.
- Sledding hill: The Genoa Sled Hill offers a vertical 40 ft drop with 20% grade and 200 ft run. There is lighting that keeps the park open until 10 p.m.
- Pavilion: The heated pavilion with restroom facilities is open year round for picnicking.
- Playgrounds: Three playgrounds are designed for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12.
- Water feature: A water misting feature is part of the playground area. The park also includes a dog drinking fountain.
- Sports fields: Two lighted regulation-sized athletic fields are available for organized sports.

Barrier-Free Assessment: The park was assessed for compliance with the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and is ranked a 5, based on the following system provided by the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans:

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

Schools

- Three Fires Elementary - Howell School District. The Three Fires Elementary School sits on 16 acres immediately off of Latson Road, south of Grand River. The school features a running track, sports field and an outdoor basketball court as well as playground equipment.
- Hornung Elementary - Brighton School District. Hornung Elementary, located next to Maltby Middle School, consists of 20 acres. The school offers soccer fields, ball fields and playground equipment.
- Maltby Middle - Brighton School District. Maltby Middle School, located on the corner of Brighton and Bauer Roads, features a variety of ball fields.

Brighton Parks

City of Brighton Parks are available for township residents:

- Millpond Park
- Imagination Station
- Brighton Arts & Culture Committee's Sculpture Garden
- St. Paul Pocket Park
- Kissane Park
- Brighton Community Center
- Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve

Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority

Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority (HAPRA) has several facilities available for township residents:

- Athletic fields: Page Field, Oceola Township Athletic Fields and the Genoa Township Athletic Fields.
- Bennett Recreation Center: this facility is a venue for events and parties.
- Dog park: Located on the west side of Howell, there are two dog areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs.
- Age-related facilities: The HAPRA operates both a 50 & Beyond Senior Center as well as a Preschool and Learning Center.

Livingston County Parks

Genoa Township is located in Livingston County, which owns and maintains a county parks system. There are two county parks:

- Filmore County Park, which opened in September 2020, is a 198-acre park located on McClements Road in the northeast corner of the township. The park includes a multi-use athletic field with spectator viewing, 5k natural surfaced trail, 1/2 accessible trail and restrooms.
- Lutz Park is a 100-acre park located in the northeast corner of the county and includes a 1.3-mile trail system, natural area, picnic tables and a restroom. It is adjacent to the Oak Grove State Game Area, which supports wildlife migration and habitat.



Island Lake Recreation Area offers year-round recreation opportunities

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority

Huron Meadows Metropark is a 1,540-acre park located five miles southeast of Brighton Recreation Area offering a wide variety of activities for outdoor enthusiasts. Available activities include cross-country skiing, hiking, biking, golf and geocaching. Small lakes provide boating and fishing. There are three picnic areas that can also be rented for private functions. This park is open year-round. A Metropark motor vehicle entry permit (which is different from the Recreation Passport) is required to enter the park.

Kensington Metropark is located east of Brighton Recreation Area and adjacent to Island Lake Recreation Area. The 4,481-acre Metropark sprawls across wooded, hilly terrain, surrounds Kent Lake, and is home to an abundance of wildlife and waterfowl. The park offers a multitude of recreational year-round recreational opportunities including biking, swimming, cross-country skiing, boating, and picnicking as well as the Splash 'n' Blast water park. The park also offers a petting farm, nature center, and 18-hole golf course. A pedestrian/bicycle pathway that crosses beneath I-96 connects Kensington Metropark and Island Lake Recreation Area.

State Parks

In addition to a boat launch ramp for East Crooked Lake in the township, the DNR also owns and operates a public access to the 313-acre Lake Chemung. There are parking spaces for 27 vehicles.

Brighton Recreation Area, adjacent to the township on the south, is considered to have some of the most rugged terrain in Southeast Michigan. The 4-947-acre recreation area offers modern, rustic, cabin, and equestrian campgrounds, as well as unique canoe-in camping options. It also contains a total of 41-miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, and accessible trails. Hunting and fishing opportunities are also available.

Island Lake Recreation Area is located approximately east of the township and is a 4,000-acre park located along the Huron River corridor. The park offers a large variety of land and water recreation opportunities, including 19 miles of trails, biking, hunting, wildlife viewing, shooting/archery, fishing, swimming, kayaking, and canoeing.

Lakeland Trails State Park, a former rail corridor, is a 22-mile linear state park. The trail is intended for hiking, biking, cross county skiing, and wheelchair use. There are two nearby trailheads off M-36 in Pinckney, within a few miles of the township's southern border.

Commercial Recreation Facilities

The private sector addresses the recreation needs of some segments of the population. Commercial recreation facilities are not accessible to all residents because they charge fees for membership and/or use of the facility. Also, in contrast to public or school facilities, commercial recreation resources are designed to serve a much larger population than the residents of Genoa.

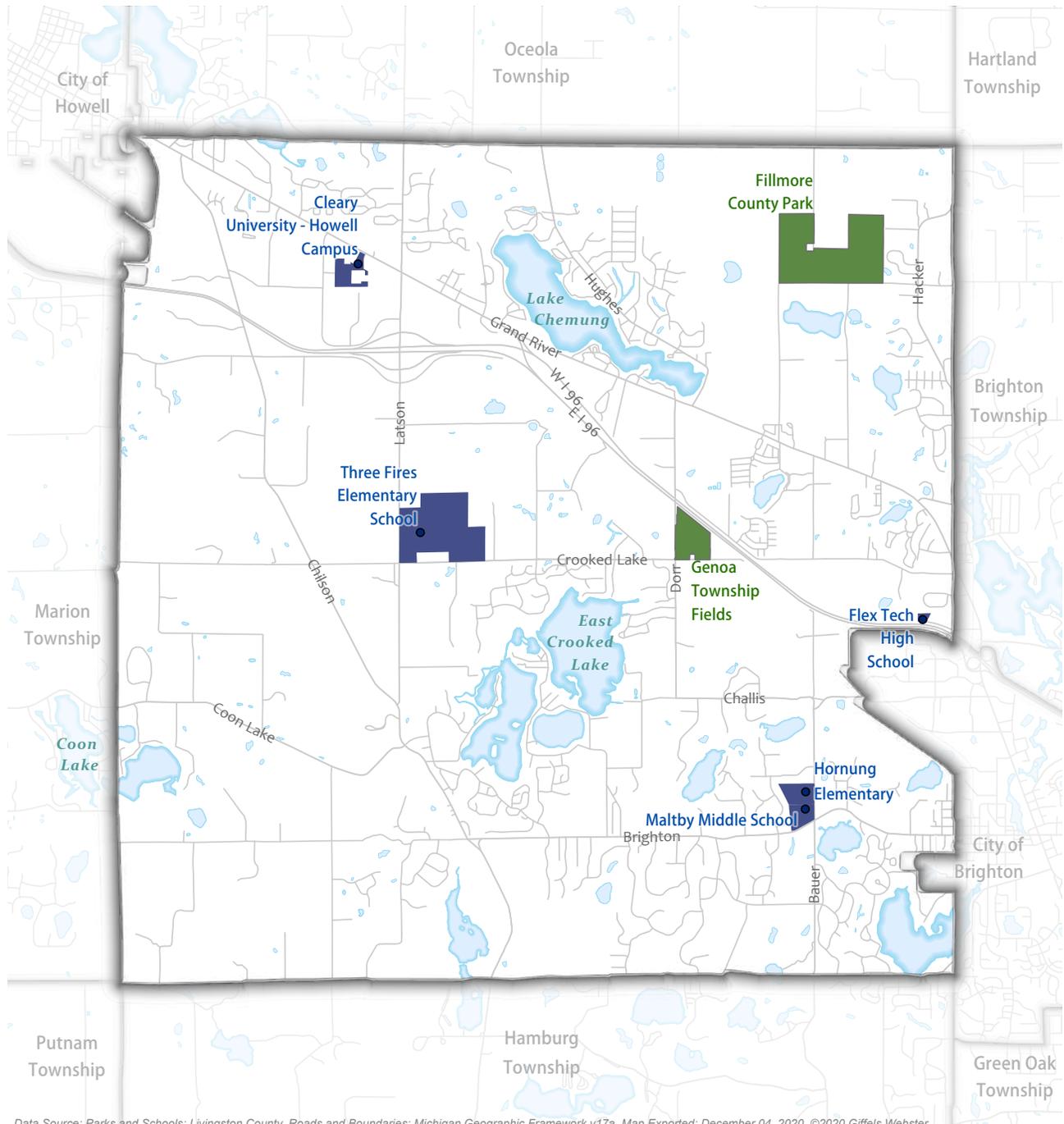
- 140 Ice Den. South off Grand River, just west of Latson Road, Grand Oaks Ice Arena offers a full size, indoor hockey skating rink.
- High Flyers Gymnastics gymnastics . Located on Victory Dr, south of Grand River, this multi-purpose facility offers both an indoor roller hockey field and an indoor soccer field, each for half of the year.



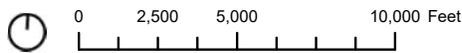
Faulkwood Shores Golf Course

- Mt. Brighton Ski Area. This 220-acre recreation area located in the southeastern portion of the township features downhill skiing and snowboarding on hills as steep as a 250-foot vertical drop. The ski area hosts seven chairlifts and ten rope tows.
- Rollerama Skating Center. Located on Grand River, this roller skating rink has recently been completely remodeled and offers arcade games and snack bar.
- Faulkwood Shores Golf Course. This 18-hole golf course, located on the northern edge of Lake Chemung also features a driving range and pro shop.
- Oak Pointe Golf Club. A private country club located on Brighton Rd, Oakpointe offers 18 holes of golf, tennis courts, swimming and fitness facilities for country club members.
- Lake Chemung Outdoor Resort. A private RV park that includes a private beach on Lake Chemung, indoor heated pool and tennis courts in addition to camping facilities for 340 all-season RV sites.
- Iron Grip Ninja. A 5,000 sq.-ft. private obstacle course and indoor gym, built from the ground up and includes many of the obstacles that are featured on the popular television show.
- Batter Up Batting Cages. Offers a variety of both baseball and softball pitching machine of services, private baseball lessons, and rental of its indoor batting cages.

MAP 4-1: LOCAL PARKS AND SCHOOLS



Data Source: Parks and Schools: Livingston County. Roads and Boundaries: Michigan Geographic Framework v17a. Map Exported: December 04, 2020. ©2020 Giffels Webster.



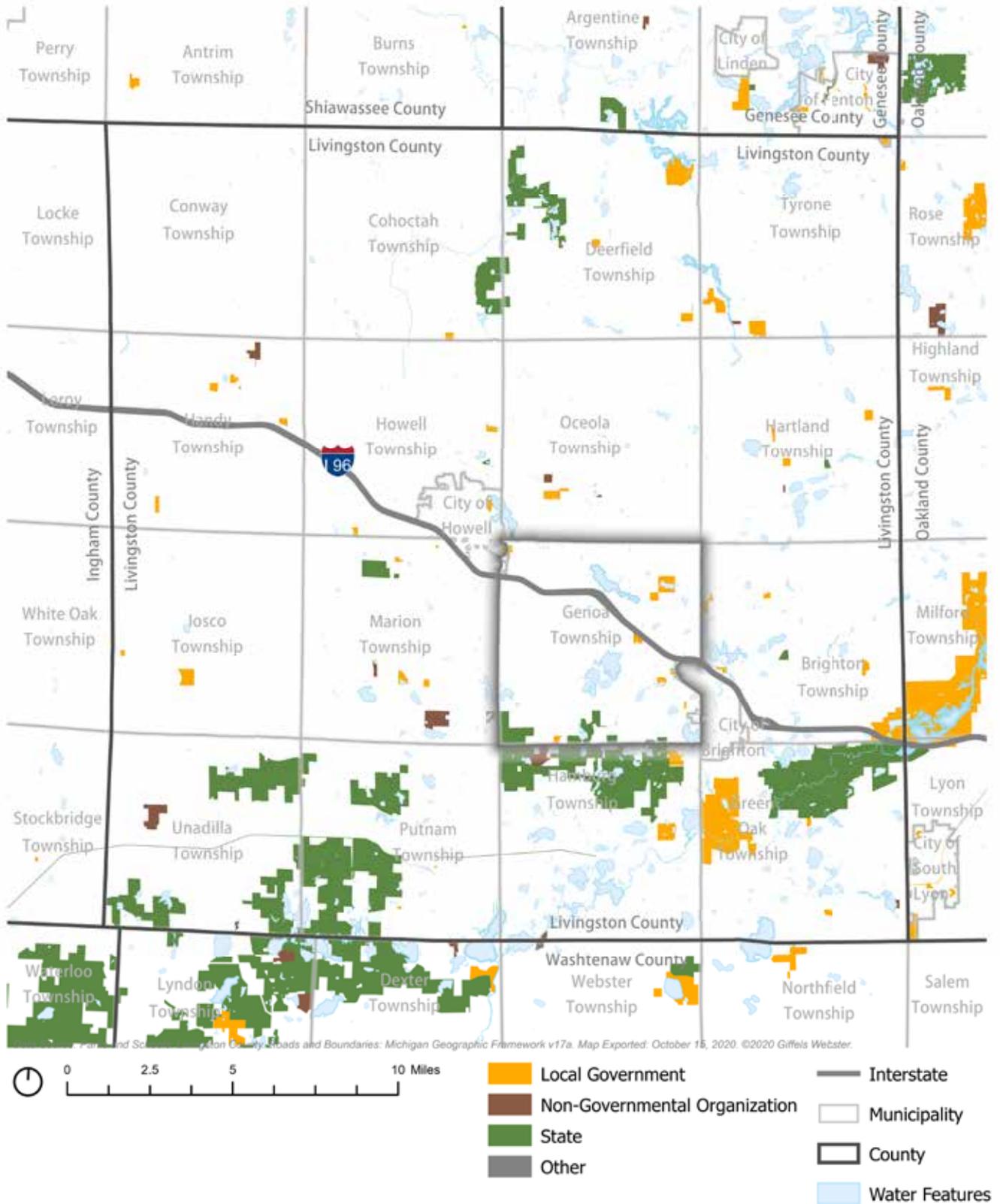
- School
- Local Park



Local Parks and Schools

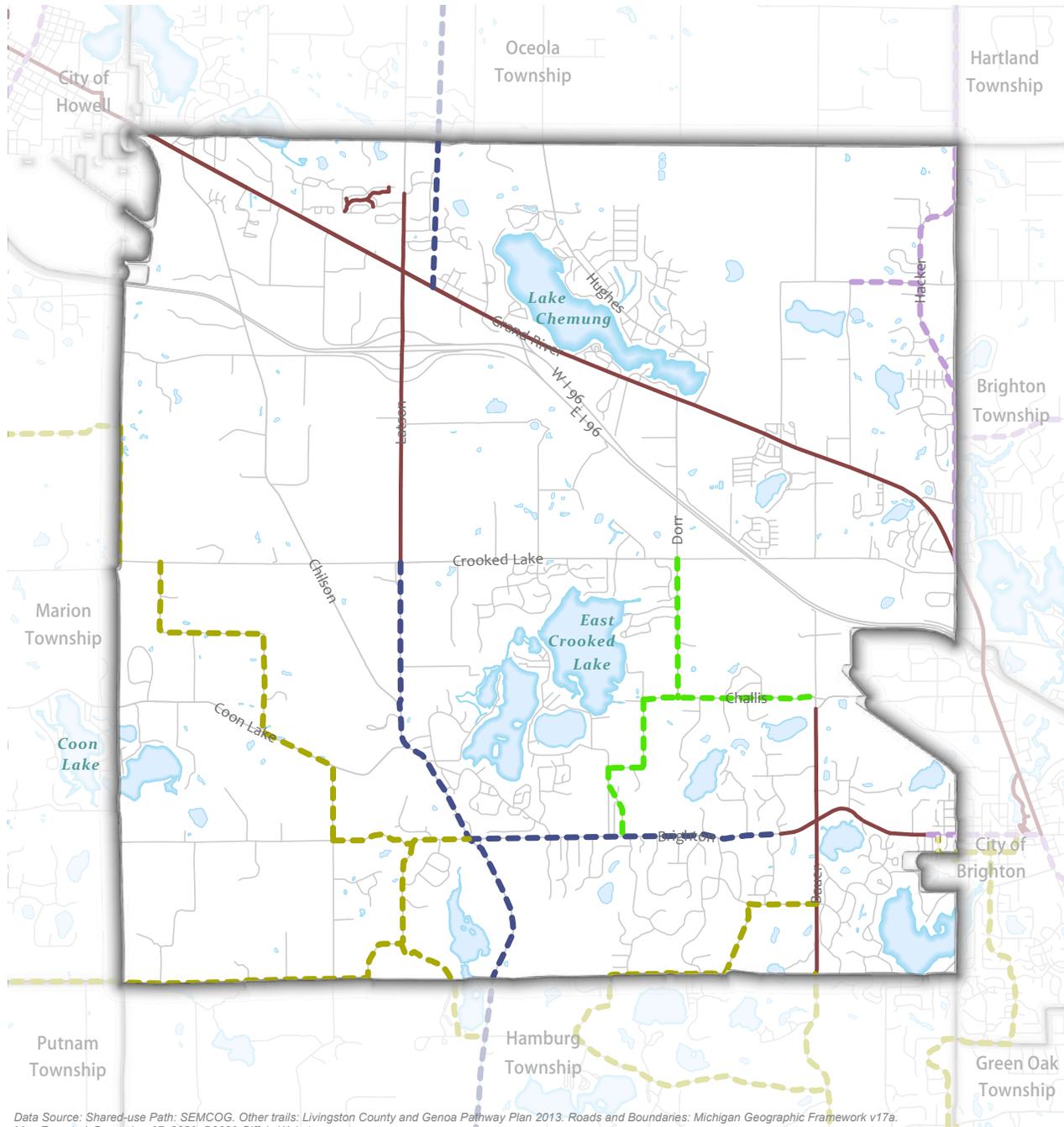
GENOA TOWNSHIP

MAP 4-2: REGIONAL PARKS

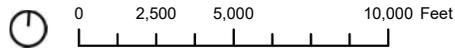


Regional Parks
GENOA TOWNSHIP

MAP 4-3: NON-MOTORIZED NETWORK



Data Source: Shared-use Path: SEMCOG. Other trails: Livingston County and Genoa Pathway Plan 2013. Roads and Boundaries: Michigan Geographic Framework v17a.
 Map Exported: December 07, 2020. ©2020 Giffels Webster.



- — — Proposed Genoa Path
- — — Proposed County Priority Routes
- — — Proposed County Near Term Network
- — — Proposed County Long Term Network
- — — Existing Shared-Use Path



Non-Motorized Network
 GENOA TOWNSHIP

Recreation Needs Analysis

To analyze the recreational needs of the township's residents and determine deficiencies within recreation programs, it is helpful to consider standards for recreation service areas, land needs based on future population, and the ultimate size and extent of recreation facilities and their location.

These recreation planning standards are a useful tool in making an assessment of future recreation needs. Standards may be used effectively only as a means for comparing present conditions to what is thought to be suitable or desirable, and as a general guide toward estimating future needs and demands. In assessing recreation needs, the township should consider these standards, along with the township facilities, and also within the context of other nearby recreation facilities.

The following organizations have developed guidelines for recreation, which are referenced in this analysis of Genoa Township's recreation facilities:

Urban Land Institute (ULI)

The ULI, a private research organization concerned with planning and development of land, recommends standards for recreation areas for community and neighborhood development.

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

The TPL is a nonprofit organization focused on creating parks and protecting land for people across the United States. They provide resources and advocate for planning and funding of parks at the local, state, and national level.

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The NRPA developed the following recommended standards and guidelines for recreation, parks and open space. The major types of community recreation facilities recommended by the above organizations include:

- **Playgrounds/Mini-Parks.** Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population, or specific groups such as small children or senior citizens. Suggested recreational amenities for an individual mini-park could include a small set of playground equipment, a few picnic tables and ½ acre open space.

Parks for an Aging Population

While there are no general standards for parks aimed at the aging population, many communities and other organizations are recognizing the importance of keeping older adults active as well as socially engaged.

In addition to ensuring parks are accessible for those of all ages and abilities, equipment and facilities aimed at older adults are being recommended for inclusion in parks and recreation facilities.



Example of playground equipment designed for those over age 60. (Source: The Telegraph (UK))

- **Playfield or Athletic Fields/Neighborhood Park.** Neighborhood parks should offer a variety of activities to accommodate a range of ages, physical abilities, and recreational interests. It is recommended that neighborhood parks should be comprised of approximately 50% active uses (fields, courts, playgrounds, skating, etc.) and 50% passive uses (trails, picnic areas, etc.). A minimum of 7-10 parking spaces are recommended.
- **Community Parks.** Community-wide parks include larger parks with diverse environmental quality. A variety of passive and active uses are typically provided, including athletic fields, sledding hills, trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Uses are usually separated by activity and age group to limit potential conflicts between different types of users. Other activities include outdoor swimming, lighted spectator-type athletic fields, ice skating, and ample off-street parking.

- **Connector Trails.** Connector trails are often multi-use trails that give non-motorized access to parks and other uses. Modes of travel include walking, biking, and in-line skating. These trails could be located in an independent right-of-way, such as along utility corridors, or within road rights-of-way. There are no current standards for recommended trail mileage within/around a community.

NRPA Annual Agency Review

Each year, the NRPA surveys parks and recreation agencies across the US and shares this data to help communities benchmark their programs and facilities against similar-sized peers. The 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review Park collected data between 2017-2019 and finds that “recreation professionals oversee a wide variety of facilities and features at their agencies.” Highlights of the survey include ninety-four percent of park and recreation agencies provide playground facilities in their communities and the typical agency has 12 playgrounds in its catalogue of offerings. At least 50 percent of agencies have basketball courts, tennis courts, diamond fields for baseball and/or softball, multi-purpose rectangular fields, dog parks and outdoor swimming pools. For each amenity, the typical park and recreation agency has:

- One playground for every 3,750 residents
- One basketball court for every 7,400 residents
- One outdoor tennis court for every 5,004 residents
- One dog park for every 45,899 residents

The table on the following page shows current benchmarks for certain park facilities based on populations between 20,001 - 49,999. The list illustrates the number of facilities that might be expected in Genoa Township, based on its current and future population.

State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

The DNR includes a Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional recreation Open Space and Trails (see Table R-3) for the development of recreation plans. On the pages that follow, these standards outline recommendations for developed recreation acreage and for the various types of recreation activities; however, it should be noted that these standards are guidelines and the city should consider other recreation opportunities within the area as well as the ability to maintain community facilities.

These standards are compared with the recreation opportunities provided by the city in Table R-4.

Action Program

Upon completion of the analysis, goals and objectives were determined to provide the framework for the action program. The goals and objectives were reviewed by the township Recreation Committee in order to build consensus on strategies. Goals and objectives were converted to specific action items organized by year over the timeframe of the six-year plan. The six-year plan offers a format which allows the reader to understand what action is to be accomplished, where it will occur, when it will occur, who will accomplish the action, how much it will cost and potential funding sources. It also functions as a checklist for the township to follow each year.

Plan Completion and Adoption

Once consensus was reached amongst township officials, a public hearing was held to present the recommendations of the plan and to solicit public input prior to adoption. Based on public comments, the plan was revised and the document was adopted by both the Recreation Committee and the Township Board.

TABLE 5-1: NATIONAL COMPARISON OF PARKS FACILITIES TO POPULATION

2020 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMPARISON OF COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 20,001-49,999				
	Number of Residents per Facility*: Population between 20,001 - 49,999	Benchmark Number of Facilities for 2018 Genoa Twp (20,186)	Benchmark Number of Facilities for Projected 2045 Genoa Township (32,907)	Current Number of Facilities**
Playgrounds	3,157	6	10	1
Basketball courts	7,067	3	5	2
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	4,347	5	8	
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	5,132	4	6	
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	10,849	2	3	
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	7,297	3	5	2
Dog parks	28,132	1	1	
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	9,785	2	3	
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	17,185	1	2	
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	25,107	1	1	
Tot lots	10,900	2	3	
Community gardens	22,562	1	1	
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	4,833	4	7	2
Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	20,040	1	2	
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	10,576	2	3	
Skate parks	29,491	1	1	
Rectangular fields: football field	16,971	1	2	
Multi-purpose synthetic fields	22,000	1	1	
Ice rinks (outdoor only)	13,542	1	2	
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	14,605	1	2	
Rectangular fields: cricket field	29,228	1	1	
Rectangular fields: field hockey field	19,135	1	2	

* Findings from the 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review uses data from Park Metrics, NRPA's park and recreation agency performance benchmarking tool, from years 2017 - 2019.

**Schools in the township may fill some of these missing facilities

TABLE 5-2: MICHIGAN DNR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE TYPES

RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS (MDNR)					
Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres / 1,000 Population (Min)	Acres / 1,000 Population (Max)
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	0.25	0.5
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼- to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	1	2
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.		Variable
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 ½ to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.	5	8
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.		Variable.
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.		Variable.
Regional / Metropolitan 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, but size varies based on accommodating the desired uses.	5	10
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.		Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.		Variable.

TABLE 5-3: GENOA TOWNSHIP FACILITIES PER POPULATION

GENOA TOWNSHIP COMPARISON TO RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS (MDNR)							
Classification	Genoa Township 2018 Population		Genoa Township Projected 2045 Population		Existing (acres)	Recommended (acres)	Comments
	20,186		32,907				
	Min (acres)	Max (acres)	Min (acres)	Max (acres)			
Mini-Park	5	10	8	16			
Neighborhood Park	20	40	33	66			
School-Park	Variable				5+		Existing school facilities, provide a variety of amenities that serve the community.
Community Park	101	161	165	263	46	100+	Explore opportunities to add to the acreage by expanding the Genoa Township Park or adding another park.
Large Urban Park	Variable						
Natural Resource Areas	Variable						Explore opportunities to add natural resource areas.
Regional / Metropolitan Park	101	202	165	329			State parks and metroparks nearby offer exceptional recreation amenities within close proximity for township residents.
Greenways							Expand trails/shared use paths and explore connections with regional systems.
Sports Complex							

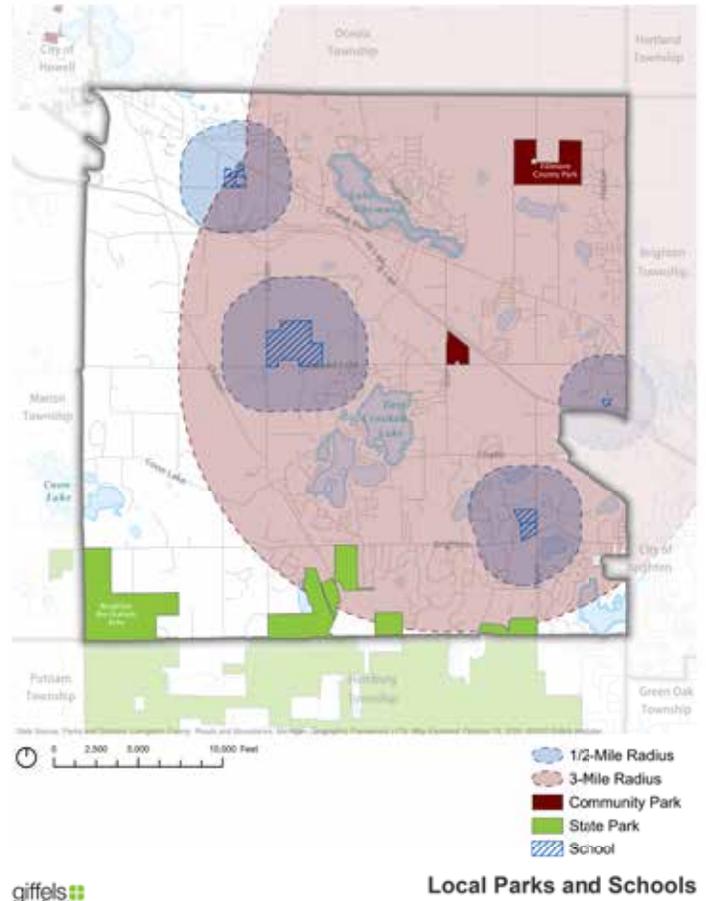
Park Service Areas

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national organization that advocates for parks and preserved open spaces. They believe that parks are important to communities and that close-to-home opportunities to exercise and experience nature are essential for our physical and mental well-being. Studies show that parks can encourage physical activity, reduce crime, revitalize local economies, and help bring neighborhoods together. The TPL encourages communities to strive for reasonable park access for their residents.

To facilitate discussion about park access and provide a means of illustrating the point, the TPL is developing a database of cities across the country that identifies a city's population that is within a 10-minutes walk (one-half mile) of a park (www.parkserve.org). Park access is the ability to reach a publicly owned park within a half-mile walk on the road network, unobstructed by freeways, rivers, fences, and other obstacles. In most cases, townships are not included due to their generally spread-out nature.

In Genoa Township, the efforts to expand the non-motorized trail system will help people better access the parks and schools. The map at right illustrates the current approximate "service" area for township residents based on 1/2 mile radius for schools and 3-mile radius for community parks. It is assumed that residents are generally driving to these park and recreation facilities.

MAP 5-1: PARK SERVICE AREAS





Lake Chemung Park

Planning Process



While health-related restrictions on public meetings were in place during most of 2020, residents had the opportunity to learn more about local parks and recreation and provide their input. Over 100 residents participated in this “virtual open house” and survey. Their feedback is summarized below (full responses are included in the appendix).

Virtual Open House - Summary of Public Comments

Over 77% of respondents said they use the Genoa Township Park for local recreation, followed by Kensington Metropark (60%) and Brighton Recreation Area (50%).

The most popular local recreation activity involves playgrounds, as shown below. Walking and hiking or trail running follow close behind. This corresponds with facilities found at the Township Park.

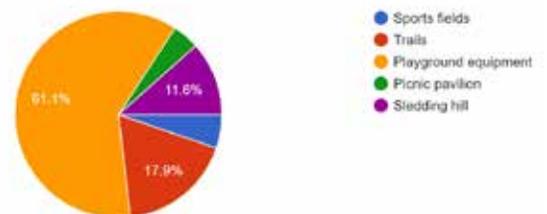
On a scale from 1 (never) to 5 (all the time), about one third of respondents ranked their use of the Township Park as a “3,” with even numbers of people responding on either side (14% ranked both 1 and 5, while 21% ranked their usage as 2 and 4).

Playground equipment is the most used feature at the park (61% of respondents), followed by the trails (18%) and the sledding hill (12%).

In terms of ages, residents fall into the adults 19-50 category (67%), followed by households with children of elementary age and under age 5 (58% and 45%, respectively).



If you visit the Genoa Township Park, what features do you use?
95 responses



When asked what is missing, or what they would like more of, nearly 2/3 of respondents said they would enjoy more water/splash features (64%). This is followed by more trails for hiking/running (48%), equipment and features for kids (31%) and adults (24%). About 20% said they would also like to see more pet-friendly areas, sport courts and inclusive recreation (options for those with disabilities).

The survey invited open-ended comments that supported feedback on the survey, including suggestions for splash pads and water features, along with more play areas for kids. In addition, several people suggested more options for winter, such as ice skating. More trails were also suggested, particular those that would connect recreation areas together.



Residents supported the idea of more trails, particularly those that would connect recreation areas, or minimize the amount of driving needed to reach recreation destinations.



Above: Dog park in West Bloomfield Township

Below: Example of inclusive playground equipment. Source: Miracle Park Place



Above: Splash Park in Buffalo Grove, IL Source: Buffalo Grove Parks

Below: Adult fitness equipment. Source; GameTime



Analysis

Based on the Recreation Needs Analysis, the input from the community described previously as well as findings from the last recreation plan, the following findings emerge:

- Although there is a deficiency of mini and neighborhood parks, the township should focus on developing a larger, centrally-located park to serve the whole community.
- The township should continue to encourage the development of open space and neighborhood parks in subdivisions.
- The township should ensure there are enough fundamental recreational facilities located within the township that are available at little or no cost to the general public.
- Since a majority of the recreational facilities are located at schools, scheduling conflicts may arise with recreational programming providers and school activities. The township should work with surrounding communities to help alleviate these types of problems by providing increased options for recreational facilities at off-school sites through the purchase of sites or other arrangements.
- The township should encourage the development of more supplemental recreation facilities to help serve a wider range of recreational needs and address recreation trends.
- The township should ensure that all recreational facilities and programs adequately accommodate all segments of the population, including those with physical disabilities.
- The township should continue and strengthen its involvement with recreational providers in the area.
- The township should explore the types of recreational facilities that are needed by recreational providers and investigate potential sites for their development.
- The township should explore potential sites for acquisition that would expand the current Township Park, to provide the types of recreational amenities requested by the community.
- The township and surrounding communities should work collectively to generate support for funding options to provide more regional recreational opportunities.
- The township should develop a contiguous pathway system that links residents to key destinations in the township.

Goals & Objectives

Goals and objectives formulated by the Township Board are the basis for the recreation planning process and form the framework for decision-making regarding recreational facilities and programs in the township. The purpose of the Recreation Plan is to pursue long-range recreational goals through specific short-range action strategies.

The following goals and objectives were adopted with the 2002 Recreation Plan and found, through the planning process, to continue to be relevant. The goals are based on the findings of the inventory and service areas analysis and have been correlated with the goals of the Township’s Master Plan.

The recreation goals and objectives are not prioritized. The yearly Action Program that follows will detail the specific actions necessary to achieve those goals that are short-range in nature.

WHAT ARE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES?

- Goals are general guidelines that explain what the community wants to achieve. Goals are usually long-term and represent global visions such as “protect the City’s natural resources.” Goals define the “what” but not the “how.” Goals are established in the Master Plan Use Plan.
- Objectives identify the milestones that mark progress in achieving goals – more of the “how.” For example, the goal of “protect the City’s natural resources” could be measured in terms of “Maintain the City’s tree cover.” Objectives are plan-specific and are included here.
- Action items are more specific and define the steps to accomplish objectives and attain the identified goals – these could be considered the “who” and “when.” The most effective action strategies will include who will tackle that task and when it should be accomplished.

GOAL: Genoa Township will provide its residents a destination to recreate with friends, family and neighbors that offers a variety of recreation activities to serve the needs and interests of the community

Objective 1	Explore potential sites for land acquisition that is conveniently located for township residents
2	Acquire additional land as it becomes available for expansion of the Township Park.
3	Plan for expansion of recreational amenities to promote active recreation such as inclusive recreation and fitness equipment as well as winter-based recreation.
4	Accommodate park land for supplemental facilities beyond traditional, programmed facilities
5	Acquire land that could benefit from natural resources conservation and passive recreation
6	Enhance Genoa Township Park through passive recreation improvements, nature trails and interpretive signage
7	Seek possible funding sources to acquire parkland such as grants, special millage and private donations
8	Continue to explore alternate methods of providing parkland such as requiring neighborhood parks as part of residential development and contracting services with other recreation providers

Goal: Genoa Township will strengthen its involvement and cooperation with recreation providers to ensure provision of high quality recreation programming for its residents

Objective 1	Maintain involvement in activities of Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority through regular communication such as status meetings
2	Increase township input on types and variety of recreation programs offered to ensure needs and interests of residents are met.
3	Collaborate with surrounding communities to improve regional approach for recreational opportunities
4	Explore various funding sources and ventures in order to improve services and quality of recreation
5	Allocate a separate budget line item for capital improvements that help implement the recommendations of this Recreation Plan.

GOAL: Genoa Township will have a complete pathway system that links key destination areas within the community and connects to the regional pathway system.

Objective 1	Complete the pathway system along Grand River Avenue
2	Develop links between areas of residential concentration
3	Connect residents to key destinations in the township such as schools, shopping and parks
4	Develop an annual implementation program based on the highest priorities
5	Seek possible funding sources to develop pathways such as grants, special millage and private donations
6	Continue to require installation of pathways with all new development
7	Coordinate pathway development with Livingston County road improvement projects



Picnic Pavilion at the Township Park

Action Plan

The Township's long range plan for recreational facilities is based on the goals and objectives developed during the planning process. The Action Program describes what is hoped to be achieved in the near future. The Township Board has identified the following main priorities for the next five years:

Proposed Park Improvement	Estimated Cost	Priority Status Year
Maintain the Township Park		
Repair walking/running path as needed		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Ensure ongoing health of added landscape materials		Medium/ Yr 1-5
Establish routine maintenance program and identify larger repair needs		High/ Yr 1-2
Acquire additional property around the Township Park to continue providing recreation amenities in a central location in the community.		
Identify parcels for acquisition		High/ Yr 1-2
Identify a variety of funding sources for property acquisition		High/ Yr 1-2
Acquire property	\$500,000	High/ Yr 1-2
Explore potential for Township Dog Park		
Explore location within the Township Park		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Research needed amenities, initial costs and ongoing maintenance costs		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Consider user fees to offset costs of ongoing maintenance		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Explore potential for water/splash feature at the Township Park		
Research water/splash amenities that are an appropriate size for the park		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Identify initial costs and ongoing maintenance costs		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Add adult activity equipment at the Township Park to support lifetime fitness		
Research types of equipment appropriate for the park		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Plan for the incorporation of adult activity equipment within the park		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Add adult activity equipment	\$7,500-\$10,000	Medium/ Yr 3-5
Expand trails in and around the township park		
Identify trail connections within the park and in areas around the park		Medium/ Yr 2-3
Plan for trail development and installation		Medium/ Yr 3-5
Explore how the Township Park can be further enhanced for four seasons activity.		
Add covered shelters at Township Park, especially at sledding hill	\$10,000	High/ Yr 1-2
Add limited lighting for winter use	\$15,000	Medium/ Yr 2-3

Appendix Table of Contents

- Resolution of Adoption by City Council
- Notice of public hearing
- Notice of public review period posted to City website with full copy of draft 2021-2025 Plan
- City Council, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes (public hearing and adoption)
- Press Release announcing availability of survey and Public Input Workshop
- Transmittal of adopted plan to Oakland County
- Transmittal of adopted plan to SEMCOG
- Survey results
- Public Hearing Comment Summary
- DNR Post-Completion Certification Reports

