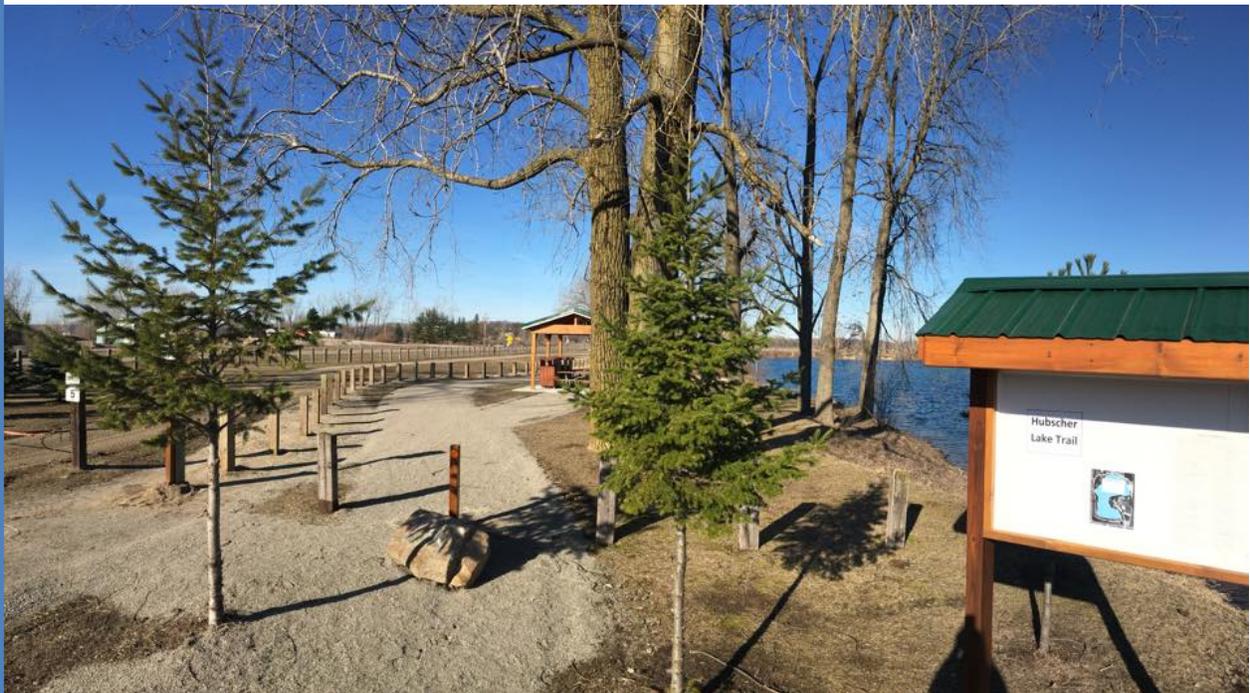


Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission 2020-2025 Recreation Plan



Gratiot County



Recreation

Parks and

Mission Statement

To provide safe and attractive parklands and outdoor recreation facilities that serve to enrich the lives of Gratiot County residents and the vitality of county communities

**Gratiot County
Parks and Recreation Commission
Recreation Plan
2020-2025**

Acknowledgements

Gratiot County Parks & Recreation Commission

Doug Yost, Chair

Ken Davis, Vice-Chair

Jennie Bollinger- Secretary

Tim Lambrecht

Brain Hancock

Dennis Netzley

Jerry Lewis

Caroline Ross

David Wier

Director

Peter W. Little

Plan Prepared By: Peter W. Little

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Public Input Two Question Survey

Public Input Meeting Advertisement Flyer

Public Input Meeting Newspaper Article Advertisement

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Notice of availability of draft plan for review

Notice of public hearing

Minutes from public hearing

Signed and dated resolution from the Parks and Recreation Commission

Signed and dated resolution from the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

Michigan DNR-Grants Management Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist

I. Community Description

Gratiot County covers 365,081 total acres in the middle of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. It consists of 16 townships that are each about 36 square miles in size. The largest cities of the area include Alma, Ithaca and St. Louis along with the villages of Breckenridge, Perrinton and Ashley. The 2018 estimate of the population was 40,599 with 91% of this population being Caucasian. According to the 2000 census, the total population was 42,285 – thus, this number has been relatively stable over the last two decades. As can be seen by the chart below, the majority of the population (58.1%) is between the ages of 18-64. 24.4% of the population is below the age of 18 and only 17.5% of the population is above the age of 65.

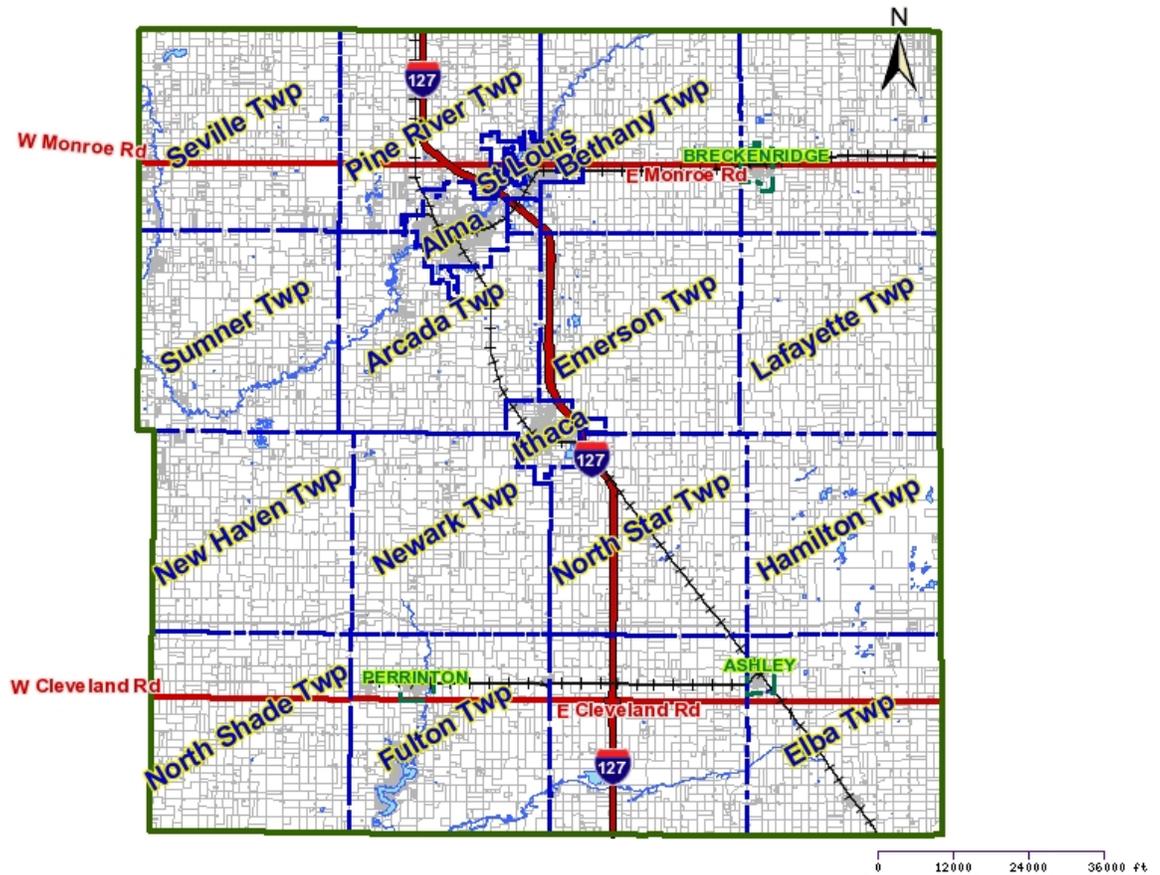
Under 5 years		4.8%
Under 18 years		19.6%
18-65 years		58.1%
Over 65 years		17.5%
Female		46.3%

The average household size of Gratiot County is 2.41 with the median income per household being \$42,256. In 2017, the per capita personal income, which is the average earnings of all the citizens of the county, was \$20,597. This figure is about \$10,000 less than the per capita personal income of the state of Michigan (\$30,488) and the nation (\$48,150). Almost 19.5% of individuals living in Gratiot County are below the poverty level. As of August of 2019, the unemployment rate of Gratiot County is 4.4%. Almost 11 % of citizens under the age of 65 are considered to have a disability. These citizens may need accommodations to utilize recreation facilities and to participate in programs.

Gratiot County recognizes the importance of parks, recreation and leisure, in order to enhance the quality of life of its residents. With input from the Parks and Recreation Commission, park staff, county officials and residents at large, this plan was completed. The purpose of this plan is to encompass all aspects of recreation in the Gratiot County area, specifically involving the four regional parks that the department operates (Hubscher, Reed, Luneack and Pompeii).



Cities and Townships of Gratiot County



II. Administrative Structure

Background:

In 2000, a major budget catastrophe forced Gratiot County to eliminate its parks and recreation department and to close the two parks that the department operated, Reed County Park and West Park (later known as Paul Hubscher County Park). The budget crisis stemmed from the closing of Total Petroleum in Alma, which was a key employer and taxpaying organization, along with lost revenue sharing dollars from the State of Michigan. Because of the decrease in revenue for the Gratiot County general fund, the decision was made to entirely cut the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department.

Following this decision, a group of community leaders banded together to campaign for a county millage referendum to fund the parks and the department. In November of 2004, the voters of Gratiot County passed an eight-year millage dedicating .35 mills to re-open, manage, and improve the two county parks. Four months after the millage was approved, in March of 2005, a parks and recreation director was hired, thus, reinstating the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department.

In 2012, an eight-year, .3498 millage was renewed by Gratiot county voters. With the renewed millage, the parks commission continued to manage and operate the existing parks and sought to expand the park system. The millage was renewed a third time in the summer of 2020. The new millage added a grant feature that will grant monies to Gratiot county municipalities looking to upgrade or improve recreational offerings.

Present Day:

The Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department operates four entities: Reed County Park, Paul Hubscher County Park, Luneack County Park, and Pompeii Park. In addition, the Parks Department maintains the 6.5 mile paved 127 bike path that runs along the east side of Interstate 127. The organizational structure of the department can be seen on page six. The Gratiot County Board of Commissioners consists of five individuals from the various districts of Gratiot County. The cities and townships that makeup these seven districts are highlighted below:

- District 1: Pine River, Seville, and Alma Precinct 2
- District 2: St. Louis 1 and 2, Bethany, Wheeler
- District 3: Sumner, New Haven, Newark, North Shade, Fulton
- District 4: Alma Precinct 1 and 4, Arcada
- District 5: Ithaca, Elba, Emerson, Hamilton, Lafayette, North Star, Washington

The Parks and Recreation Commission was created by resolution of the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners on November 2, 2004 according to Act 261 of 1965. The parks commission consists of ten members, four of those holding positions in various County departments and the other six being citizens at large appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

Parks Finance:

The main source of funding for the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department budget is the aforementioned millage, which is .3498 mills, and is estimated to bring in over \$455,612 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The table below identifies budget information specific to the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation department for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

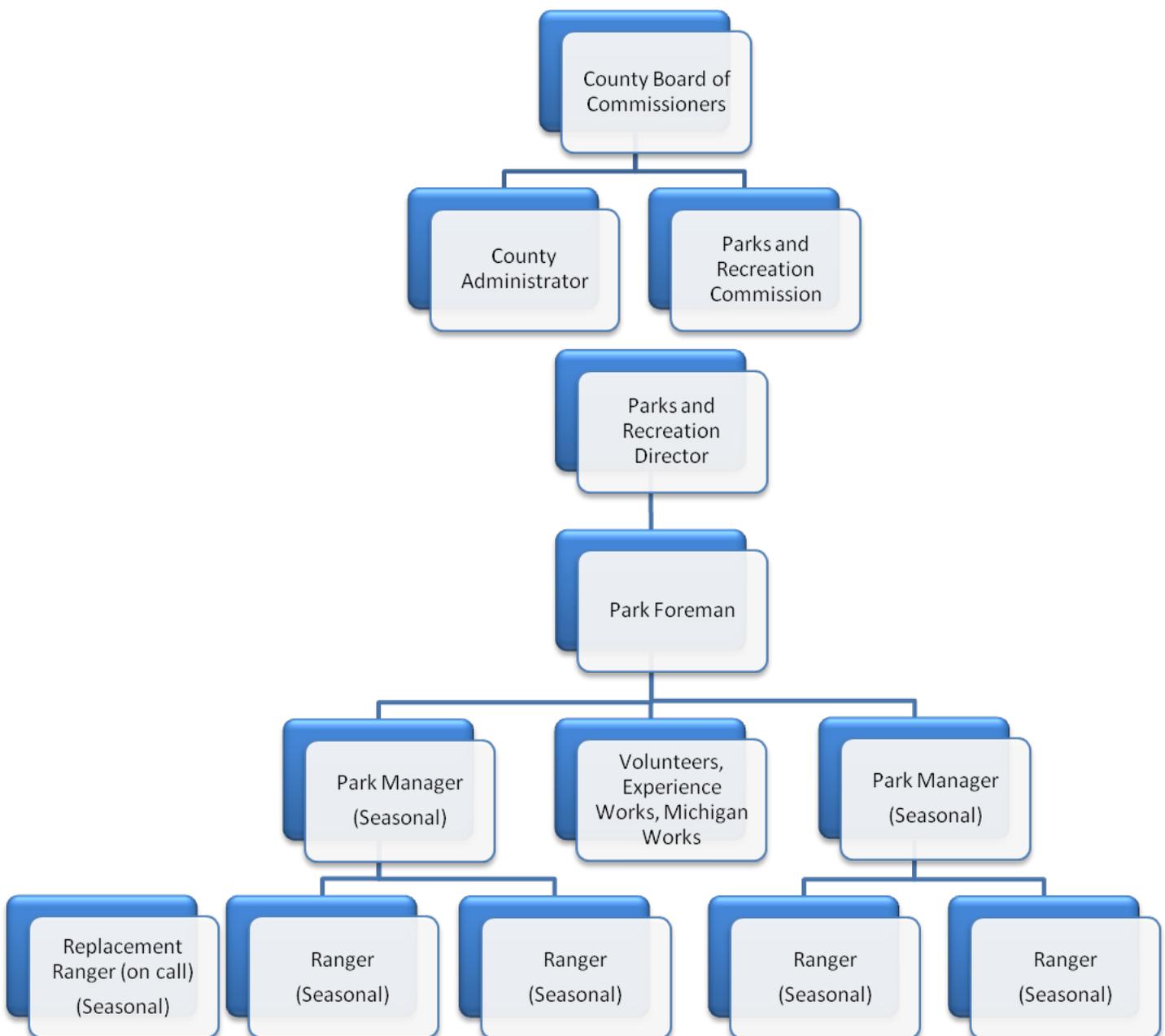
Category	Amount
Wages and Benefits	\$233,107.00
Grounds Maintenance and Equipment	\$46,327.00
Office, Phone, Advertising, Training, Travel	\$34,678.00
Utilities, Fuel	\$17,500.00
Capital Improvements	\$110,000.00
Supplies	\$14,000.00
Total	\$455.612.00

Partnerships

Partnerships and relationships with private and public entities have been developed. Little League and Adult Softball Leagues utilize the softball fields located at Reed & Hubscher County Parks. A professional disc golf association assisted in the development of the disc golf course, located at Reed County Park. The Friends of the Pine River was established in 2012 to help promote recreation on the Pine River in

Gratiot County, this group has helped to establish access sites on the river and promote the river with an updated map of the Pine River Canoe Trail. Gratiot County Parks and Recreation has partnered with Mid-Michigan Community Pathways to assist in the establishment of non-motorized pathway along the Interstate 127 right of way. Along with this, various organizations, such as the 4H Club, Scouts, and local Public Schools have utilized the parks for group recreational activities they may have planned. The Parks and Recreation department hopes to develop and improve upon their relationships with private organizations, public agencies, school districts, and community recreation departments in their future endeavors. This includes working with these agencies to create and implement leagues, tournaments, programs, and community events – which will be further discussed in the goals and objectives section.

Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart:



III. Recreation and Resource Inventories

As mentioned before, the four parks that the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department operate are Hubscher County Park, Reed County Park, Luneack County Park, and Pompeii Park.

Park Name	<p style="text-align: center;">Paul Hubscher County Park</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Reed County Park</p> 
Park Type	Regional Park	Regional Park
Service Area	Entire County	Entire County
Location	8300 W. Washington Road, Ithaca, MI 48847. Approximately 9 miles West of downtown Ithaca.	3181 East Johnson Rd., North Star, MI 48862. 1.2 miles east of I-127 on Johnson Road, approximately 1.25 miles Southeast of North Star.
Size	60 Acres	100 Acres
Purpose/Use	All-purpose recreational park	All-purpose recreational park
Support Facilities	Designated beachfront, 2 small pavilions, 3 large pavilion, 4 medium pavilions, picnic tables & grills, sand volleyball court, 2 cornhole targets, trails, accessible beach house, softball field, 2 playgrounds, rustic camping, fishing platform	Designated beachfront, 3 large pavilions, 2 small pavilions, picnic tables & grills, observation platform, 1 sand volleyball court, 2 fenced-in baseball diamonds, trails, accessible beach house, playground, 18-hole disc golf course, rustic camping, basketball court, cornhole targets
Accessibility (DNR Ranking)	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines

System)	Has added handicap accessible pavilions, bathrooms, parking, and playground.	Has added handicap accessible pavilions, bathrooms, parking, and playground.
		

Park Name	Luneack County Park	Pompeii Park
Park Type	Regional Park	Regional Park
Service Area	Entire County	Entire County
Location	5000 Luce Rd. Arcada Township	7000 S State Rd. Pompeii
Size	2 Acres	2.5 Acres
Purpose/Use	Canoe/Kayak Access Site	Village Park
Support Facilities	Universal access canoe/kayak launch, parking area, park benches, Information kiosk, fishing Area	Pavilion, picnic tables, grill, playground, concrete walkways, ball field, park benches, drinking fountain, seasonal bathrooms
Accessibility (DNR Ranking System)	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines

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Other Recreational Facilities:

Fred Meijer Heartland Trail: A 41-mile, multi-purpose trail that stretches from the northern edge of Greenville in Montcalm County, to Alma in Northern Gratiot County. Forty-one miles of the trail are paved, from Greenville to Edmore. The trail travels through woods, wetlands, meadows, agricultural lands, and historic attractions.

Counties: Gratiot, Montcalm

Trail Length: 41 miles

Trail Category: Rail-Trail

Trail Surfaces: Asphalt, Gravel, Ballast

Trail Activities: Walk, Bicycle, Cross Country Ski, Inline Skates, Wheelchair



127 Bike Path: A 6.5-mile, multi-purpose paved trail that runs from Ithaca to Alma along the east side of the Interstate 127 right of way.

Clinton- Ionia- Shiawassee Trail: A rail trail to the south of Gratiot County, with 8 miles paved, 41.3 miles total. Possible future connection to the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail.

City/School Systems: The communities of Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca, and St. Louis each have their own park and recreation systems, which operate parklands that are generally classified as neighborhood and community parks. The four communities mentioned above, in addition to Ashley and Fulton, operate

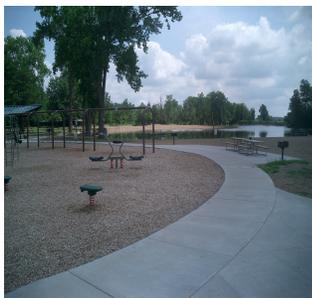
public school districts which also provide recreational opportunities. Alma is the home of Alma College, which offers certain recreational facilities, programs and services to community members.



Comparison to Recreation Standards: Gratiot County operates approximately 185 acres of county park land for just over 42,000 residents. Industry standards recommend 5-10 acres of regional park land per 1000 citizens, which equates to 200-400 acres of park land for Gratiot County. Therefore, according to this standards, Gratiot County would be 25 acres below satisfactory. However, guidelines also state that the number deficiencies are okay, as long as the organization meets the “Level of Service” desired by the Gratiot community. Due to the various other recreational offerings from public and private organizations, this “Level of Service” is met. As the parks offer two of the very few beach areas in the county, the NRPA guidelines regarding facility development standards were reviewed. According to these guidelines, beach areas serve residents that are 30 minutes to an hour away from the area. Because Reed County Park and Paul Hubscher County Park are within a 12 mile driving distance from most of the townships in the county, these parks fall within that guideline.

Source: Spicer Group: Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2005-2010

Accessibility: In the Recreation Inventory, it is shown that Paul Hubscher County Park received an accessibility ranking of 3 and Reed County Park received a ranking of 3 based on the DNR assessment scale. In the 2005-2010 Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Rec plan, Reed County Park only received a ranking of 1 and has thus improved significantly over the past few years. Through a grant, which will be described below, the county was able to add handicap accessible restrooms, parking, pavilions, and a playground. During the summer of 2019, the parks received a grant from the local community foundation to add universal access beach decking and beach chair, plans call for the same amenities at Hubscher county park. Efforts have been made to improve the accessibility standards of Paul Hubscher County Park by adding handicap accessible restrooms, parking, pavilions, walkways, trails, and playgrounds as the department continues to develop the park.



DNR Accessibility Ranking System

- 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

Grant Inventory: Grant Number: TF06-006
 Park Name: Reed County Park

Gratiot County received a \$495,000 grant from The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in order to develop the outdoor recreation facilities of Reed County Park. This grant accounts for 73% of the total eligible cost of construction for the project facilities, which include a beach house, youth playground, picnic tables, grills, two pavilions, pavement, pathways, utilities, and site restoration.

Project Facility	Current Condition	Pictures
Beach House	<p>Construction completed fall 2009</p> <p>Maintained routinely, some fixtures and appliances have been replaced. Door knobs and handles replaced. Trim and doors stained and painted.</p> <p>Accessible shower room added 2018.</p> <p>Wheelchair room utilized for housing beach access chair.</p>	

<p>Youth Playground</p>	<p>Complete and installed Spring 2010.</p> <p>Safety surfacing wood fiber added annually.</p> <p>Routine safety inspections conducted.</p> <p>Warn out parts have been replaced and or repaired.</p> <p>Rock climbing wall replaced 2018.</p> <p>South large tube slide replaced 2020.</p>	 
<p>Picnic Tables and Grills</p>	<p>Complete and installed Fall 2009</p> <p>Stained annually, warn boards replaced.</p> <p>Over 50 additional tables added.</p>	
<p>Two Pavilions</p>	<p>Completed and installed Fall 2009</p> <p>Inspected and maintained annually.</p>	

Driveway and Parking Lot Paving	<p>Complete Fall 2010</p> <p>Asphalt chip sealed spring 2019.</p> <p>Parking routinely graded.</p>	
Pathways	<p>Complete Spring 2010</p> <p>Concrete pathways expanded to connect additional amenities.</p>	
Utilities	<p>Installed and operational fall 2009</p> <p>Inspected and maintained annually.</p> <p>Additional amenities connected to electric.</p>	
Site Restoration	<p>Complete fall of 2010</p> <p>More native plantings added to park.</p>	

IV. Planning and Public Input Process

To comply with MI DNR guidelines for the Development of Recreation Plans, Gratiot County offered two opportunities for public input along with a thirty-day period for public review and comment on the draft plan.

The first opportunity for public input was an open public meeting to solicit input on Gratiot county parks, the meeting took place on February 19th 2020 at the Alma Public Library from 5:30- 7:00 PM. The event was advertised in the local newspaper, and on the County's website and social media. The second opportunity for public input was an advertised public hearing held on December 9, 2020 via Zoom.

In addition to the public input meetings, a survey was developed and administered to garner input. The survey was available online and in paper form.

1. Survey: Users at both parks were encouraged to complete a survey consisting of general user background info along with a park improvement ranking sheet. The survey was available in the Parks during the summer of 2020. Below is a copy of the survey:

Park User Survey



Gratiot County Parks & Recreation Commission

2020 Recreation Plan Update

GRATIOT COUNTY

Parks & Recreation

The County Parks & Recreation Commission is currently updating the Gratiot County Parks & Recreation Plan for 2020-2025. The Commission seek your input to help develop goals and objectives for the development and management of the county owned parks. Please share your thoughts on the following proposed park improvement projects.

1. Which Gratiot County Parks have you visited in the past year?
Reed Park
Hubscher Park
Luneack Park
Pompeii Park
127 Bike Path
2. If you have visited a Gratiot County Park in the past year, please provide feedback on your visit related to safety, cleanliness and amenities.
3. What changes, new amenities or programs would you like to see within the County's' park system over the next five years?
4. Which township, village, or city in Gratiot County do you reside?
5. Primary Park activities engaged in while visiting parks?

Please review the list and rate each based on the priority you think should be given to their completion

Priority

Reed Park	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Add additional pavilions	1	2	3	4
Add vault toilets to east end	1	2	3	4
Add electric to campground	1	2	3	4
Add a splash pad	1	2	3	4
Create universal access pathway	1	2	3	4
Add universal access canoe/kayak launch	1	2	3	4
Pave parking lot	1	2	3	4
Irrigate ballfields	1	2	3	4
Rebuild bridge and add fishing platform	1	2	3	4

Hubscher Park	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Add universal access beach decking and chair	1	2	3	4
Add universal canoe/kayak launch	1	2	3	4
Pave exterior roads	1	2	3	4
Build new concession stand	1	2	3	4
Surface Sumner parcel trail with ADA limestone fines	1	2	3	4
Stock pond	1	2	3	4
Add splash pad	1	2	3	4
Expand playground area	1	2	3	4
Light trails for evening use	1	2	3	4

Luneack Park	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Parking lot resurface	1	2	3	4
Add lights	1	2	3	4
Upgrade bathroom facilities	1	2	3	4
Add park benches	1	2	3	4
Add universal fishing platform	1	2	3	4

Add boat slip	1	2	3	4
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Pompeii Park	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Pave parking area	1	2	3	4
Upgrade bathroom facilities	1	2	3	4
Expand playground equipment	1	2	3	4
Add cornhole targets	1	2	3	4
Upgrade ballfield	1	2	3	4
Fence perimeter of park	1	2	3	4
Plant more trees	1	2	3	4

127 Bike Path	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Add information kiosks at trailheads	1	2	3	4
Clear path for winter use	1	2	3	4
Connect to Alma via bike lanes	1	2	3	4
Connect to St. Louis via bike lanes	1	2	3	4
Other:	1	2	3	4

Thank you for your time. Please send your responses to: Gratiot County Parks & Recreation
214 E Center St. Ithaca, MI 48847 or email parksandrec@gratiotmi.com

Paper Survey Scores **Reed Park**

Project	Lowest	Low	High	Highest	Score
Build additional Pavilions	4	6	4	8	12
Add vault toilets to East end	2	7	3	10	13
Electrify campground	3	4	8	7	15
Add splash pad	4	3	5	10	15
Build universal access path	6	5	4	7	11
ADA canoe/kayak launch	5	6	6	5	11
Pave parking area	4	7	5	5	10
Irrigate ball fields	7	7	6	2	8
Rebuild bridge/fishing platform	0	2	12	9	21

Summary: Top rated projects for Reed Park from paper survey

1. Rebuild bridge and add fishing platform
2. Electrify campground
3. Add splash pad
4. Vault toilets east end
5. Build additional pavilions

Feedback from Reed Park visitors

“Park was clean and staff very friendly”

-Ithaca

“I love how clean it is here”

“You guys need a splash pad!”

-Ithaca

“There’s always so much to do here. The rangers keep it so clean! I love this park!”

-Alma

“Need a pavilion on the back beaches, and a specific area for dogs to swim”

-North Star

Paper Survey Scores **Hubscher Park**

Project	Lowest	Low	High	Highest	Score
ADA Beach Decking/chair	2	2	4	5	9
Canoe/Kayak launch	2	3	5	5	10
Pave Exterior roads	6	3	5	5	10
New Concession Stand	2	5	5	3	8
Sumner Trail Resurface	5	3	3	2	5
Stock Pond	0	2	6	5	11
Splash Pad	5	4	1	4	5
Expand Playground	3	1	6	4	10
Light Trails	1	4	5	2	7

Summary: Top rated projects for Hubscher Park from paper survey

1. Stock ponds
2. Install universal access canoe/kayak launch
3. Expand playground
4. Pave exterior roads
5. Universal access beach decking/ beach chair

Feedback from Hubscher Park visitors

“Safety, cleanliness and amenities are great, good place to come.”

“Maybe put electricity in campground, and better bathrooms closer to camping.”

-Sumner

“Very clean, and friendly workers.”

-Sumner

“Bigger beach area, more sand.”

-Sumner

Paper Survey Scores **Pompeii Park**

Project	Lowest	Low	High	Highest	Score
Pave parking area	2	3	2	1	3
Upgrade bathroom facilities	2	1	3	2	5
Expand playground	1	3	3	0	3
Add cornhole	2	5	2	1	3
Upgrade ball field	2	1	3	1	4
Fence park	0	4	1	2	3
Plant trees	1	2	2	3	5

Summary: Top rated projects for Pompeii Park from paper survey

1. Upgrade bathroom facilities
2. Plant trees
3. Upgrade ball field

Paper Survey Scores **Luneack Park**

Project	Lowest	Low	High	Highest	Score
Parking lot upgrade	2	5	2	1	3
Add lights	0	6	3	0	3
Upgrade bathrooms	1	2	5	2	7
Add park benches	1	2	7	0	7
Add fishing platform	2	5	2	0	2
Add boat slip	3	6	1	0	1

Summary: Top rated projects for Luneack Park from paper survey

1. Upgrade bathroom facilities
2. Add park benches
3. Pave parking area

2. Online Survey: Park users also had access to the survey online. A link was posted on the Gratiot County Parks Facebook page during the summer of 2020, the survey was also accessible from the Gratiot County Website. In addition to the online promotion, the local newspaper ran an article about the plan update and need for public input.

Thursday, Feb

**Gratiot County
Parks &
Recreation
Commission**



**2020-2025 Recreation Plan
Open House**

5:30 PM
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
Alma Public Library
500 E. Superior St.,
Alma, MI 48801

Gratiot County residents are encouraged to attend to provide input on the development and management of the Gratiot County owned parks (Reed, Hubscher, Luneack and Pompeii) for the update of the 2020-2025 Recreation Plan.

Parks Survey Intended to Set Strategies for Next Five Years

By Rosemary Horvath
Herald Staff Writer

Gratiot County residents, especially those who frequent county parks, are invited to rate suggestions on their improvements.

A survey will be posted on the county website by March 1 for residents to complete, according to Parks Director Pete Little.

Questions pertain to when and why parks are used.

Each park will show a list of proposed projects to be rated according to support and popularity. There is space to add more suggestions.

The purpose of a recreation survey is to accumulate updated information for revising the 5-year recreation plan required by the state Department of Natural Resources. An updated plan makes the county program eligible for grant funding.

Little expects the online survey will remain on the county website for at least a month. Perhaps two if necessary, he added. A hard copy can be picked up at the main parks office at Reed Park, 3181 East Johnson Road, North Star.

Survey results also will provide preferences for Little to create an action plan for the department.

Last week, Little reviewed the lists of proposed projects that members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, chaired by Doug Yost of Ithaca, came up with.

For example, at Reed Park, rebuilding the 25-year-old bridge and adding a fishing platform is an option, along with adding a splash pad, adding additional pavilions, and six other suggestions.

Little noted although Reed and Hubscher parks have increased offerings in recent years, some of the older structures need repair or replacement.

Interior gravel roads on the interior at Hubscher were paved last year. One option now is to pave the exterior limestone road.

The smaller Luneack Park, Pompeii Park, and the US127 Bike Path are also listed.

Although the bike path is state-owned, the county program is contracted to maintain the 7.5-mile pathway. Perhaps users are interested in having the path cleared for winter use, or information kiosks added at trailheads.



LITTLE

Yost said eventually the path will have to be resealed and repaved which will be up to the MidMichigan Community Pathways nonprofit organization to sponsor. Little is the treasurer of that group which spearheaded the building of the pathway several years ago.

There have been local discussions in the cities of Alma and St. Louis and several adjoining townships to build connector bike lanes to hook into the pathway.

As for the Pompeii park north of the village, upgrading bathroom facilities, adding cornhole targets, and expanding the playground equipment are among the suggestions.

The park had been maintained by the International Order of Odd Fellows until it was turned over to the county along with \$2500 earmarked for park improvements.

The county website also has the 2015-2020 park plan to read or download.

At the meeting last week, Little talked about the park inventory such as the 42 structures, 200 picnic tables, trash cans, and equipment.

He said the next big task will be hiring park managers and park workers.

See **PARKS** on page 28

PARKS continued from page 3

Employees are asked to work weekends and evenings but Little will arrange schedules so that the same people aren't always working those times.

Job applications are also on the county website.

The parks commission has begun recruiting for an at-large member to fill a vacancy. Contact Little for more information.

Currently, besides Yost, members include vice-chair Sam Sopocy, Bernie Barnes representing the drain commission, Caroline Ross representing the planning commission, Tim Lambrecht representing the county commission, Dennis Netzley representing the road commission, and members-at-large Ken Davis, Jerry Lewis, Davis Wier, and Brian Hancock.

Online Survey Scores

Please review the list and rate based on the priority you think should be given to their completion at **Reed Park**. 1 lowest priority 9 highest

	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	TOTAL	SCORE
- Additional pavilions	29% 5	5.8% 1	0.0% 0	11.7% 2	11.7% 2	5.9% 1	11.7% 2	17.6% 3	5.9% 1	17	5.4
- Add vault toilets	11% 2	29.4% 5	11.7% 2	0.00% 0	5.8% 1	5.8% 1	11.7% 2	17.9% 3	5.8% 1	17	5.5
- Add electric camp	22% 4	22% 4	22.2% 4	5.6% 1	0.00% 0	16.7% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.1% 2	18	6.4
- Add a splash pad	5.8% 1	0.0% 0	17.6% 3	23.5% 4	23.5% 4	0.00% 0	11.7% 2	5.88% 1	11.7% 2	17	4.9
- Create universal pathway	0.0% 0	12% 2	6.2% 1	12.5% 2	18.7% 3	6.3% 1	18.7% 3	12.5% 2	12.5% 2	16	4.3
- universal access canoe launch	5.8% 1	5.8% 1	11.6% 2	5.88% 1	5.88% 1	35.9% 6	23.3% 4	0.00% 0	5.88% 1	17	4.6
- Pave parking lot	5.5% 1	11% 2	0.0% 0	16.7% 3	16.7% 3	16.7% 3	22.2% 4	5.6% 1	5.56% 1	18	4.7
- Irrigate ball fields	16% 3	11% 2	16.7% 3	11.1% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	44.4% 8	0.00% 0	18	5.1
- Rebuild bridge/ fishing platform	5.2% 1	0.0% 0	10.5% 2	10.5% 2	15.8% 3	10.5% 2	5.2% 1	0.0% 0	42.1% 8	19	3.6

Summary: Top rated projects for Reed Park from online survey

1. Electric to campground
2. Add vault toilets to East end of park
3. Build additional pavilions
4. Irrigate ball Fields
5. Add splash pad

Please review the list and rate each based on the priority you think should be given to their completion at **Husbcher Park**. 1 lowest priority 9 highest

	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	TOTAL-	SCORE-
- universal access beach deck/ chair	13% 2	6.7% 1	6.7% 1	20% 3	13% 2	6.7% 1	20% 3	0.0% 0	13% 2	15	5.0
- universal canoe/kayak launch	14% 2	35% 5	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	7.1% 1	21% 3	14% 2	7.1% 1	14	5.4
- Pave exterior roads	6.7% 1	26% 4	20% 3	6.6% 1	13% 2	3.3% 2	0.0% 0	13% 2	0.0% 0	15	6.0
- New concession stand	20% 3	6.7% 1	6.6% 1	26% 4	20% 3	13% 2	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	6.6% 1	15	6.0
- Surface Sumner trail with limestone	12% 2	18% 3	18% 3	6.2% 1	6.2% 1	12% 2	0.0% 0	12% 2	12% 2	16	5.5
- Stock pond with fish	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	11% 2	11% 2	17% 3	11% 2	11% 2	11% 2	23% 4	17	3.7
- Add splash pad	16% 3	11% 2	0.0% 0	16% 3	16% 3	11% 2	11% 2	5.5% 1	11% 2	18	5.2
- Expand playground area	16% 3	5.5% 1	22% 4	5% 1	16% 3	0.00% 0	16% 3	16% 3	0.0% 0	18	5.5
- Light trails for evening use	7.4% 1	7% 1	14% 2	0% 0	7.1% 1	14.2% 2	7.1% 1	14.9% 2	28.5% 4	14	3.93

Summary: Top rated projects for Hubscher Park from online survey

1. Build new Concession stand
2. Pave exterior roads
3. Expand playground
4. Resurface Sumner Parcel Trail with limestone fines
5. Add Universal Canoe/kayak launch
6. Add slash pad

Please review the list and rate each based on the priority you think should be given to their completion at **Luneack Park**.

	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	TOTAL-	SCORE-
- Parking lot resurface	33.3% 3	44.4% 4	11.1% 1	11.1% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9	5.00
- Add lights	11.1% 1	11.1% 1	22.2% 2	22.2% 2	11.1% 1	22.2% 2	9	3.22
- Upgrade bathroom facilities	33.3% 3	0.00% 0	11.1% 1	33.3% 3	11.1% 1	11.1% 1	9	3.78
- Add park benches	9.09% 1	18.8% 2	9.09% 1	36.3% 4	18.1% 2	9.0% 1	11	3.36
- Add universal access fishing platform	0.00% 0	11.1% 1	22.2% 2	0.00% 0	44.4% 4	22.2% 2	9	2.56
- Add boat slip	22.2% 2	11.1% 1	22.2% 2	0.00% 0	11.1% 1	33.3% 3	9	3.33

Summary: Top rated projects for Luneack Park from online survey

1. Parking lot resurface
2. Upgrade bathroom facilities
3. Add park benches

Please review the list and rate each based on the priority you think should be given to their completion at **Pompeii Park**.

	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	TOTAL-	SCORE-
- Pave parking area	33% 3	33% 3	11% 1	0.0% 0	11.1% 1	11.1% 1	0.0% 0	9	5.44
- Upgrade bathroom facilities	18.1% 2	18.1% 2	18.1% 2	9.0% 1	9.0% 1	18.1% 2	9.0% 1	11	4.36
- Expand playground equipment	0.0% 0	10.0% 1	30.0% 3	40% 4	0.0% 0	10.0% 1	10.0% 1	10	4.00
- Add corn hole targets	30.0% 3	10.0% 1	10.0% 1	10.0% 1	30.0% 3	10.0% 1	0.0% 0	10	4.70
- Upgrade ball field	20.0% 2	0.00% 0	10.0% 1	0.0% 0	40.0% 4	10.0% 1	20.0% 2	10	3.50
- Fence perimeter of park	10.0% 1	30.0% 3	10.0% 1	20.0% 2	0.0% 0	20.0% 2	10.0% 1	10	4.30
- Plant more trees	8.3% 1	8.3% 1	8.3% 1	16.6% 2	8.3% 1	16.6% 2	33.3% 4	12	3.08

Summary: Top rated projects for Pompeii Park from online survey

1. Pave parking area
2. Add cornhole targets
3. Upgrade bathroom facilities

Citizen Review: After the draft plan was completed, it was made available for public review and comment in November of 2020. It was available for 30 days on the Gratiot County Website www.gratiotmi.com . The second public input opportunity for the draft plan was at an advertised public hearing held on December 9, 2020.

V. Goals and Objectives

Gratiot County, in order to stay on track for the next five years and provide the most preferred and essential offerings to the community, has developed the following goals for park and recreation facilities, programs, and services. The goals are long-term, broad, and flexible to accommodate any future changes and needs of the community. The objectives are narrower in scope and identify more specific recommendations. Together, they will act as a roadmap for the future development of Gratiot County Parks and Recreation.

1. Develop additional man-made outdoor recreation offerings that could include:

- Ball Field upgrades- turf improvements, irrigation, lighting
- Expand and improve concession offerings
- Additional pavilions at all parks
- Playground expansion/upgrades
- Bathroom facilities for all parks
- Campground upgrades- electricity at sites, bathrooms
- Create universal access pathway

2. Maintain and promote the natural resources of the county parks and their recreation and leisure opportunities that could include:

- Manage for invasive and nuisance species
- Promote value of the natural resources of county parks to the Gratiot County community
- Plant native trees and shrubs

3. Development of the waterfront area that could include:

- Fishing platform for Reed Park
- Stocking ponds with sport fish
- Expand beach areas
- Universal access canoe/kayak launch
- Beach access decking/chair for Hubscher Park
- Splash pads

4. Partner with local organizations to promote recreation throughout Gratiot County

- Promote to outside organizations the opportunity to host events at parks
- Collaborate to promote and offer outdoor recreation opportunities within the county
- Partner to promote and develop trail systems within county; non-motorized natural surface and paved

5. Accessibility Improvements

- Connect additional amenities at Parks with universal access walkways
- Additional ADA parking areas within parks
- Acquire more park land to diversify offerings and reduce travel time to parks
- Pave/harden roadways and parking areas

VI. Action Program

The Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department has developed an action program from 2020 until 2025 that will act as a proposed course of development over the five-year time period. The action program is based on the goals and objectives distinguished on page 28. It includes the various projects and activities that the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department plans to carry out in order to meet the needs of the Gratiot Community.

In creating a comprehensive set of goals and objectives, the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department is able to better plan and prepare for the long term. In doing this, it makes it easier for the department to take advantage of unanticipated funding sources and opportunities as they become available. To accommodate for change and unexpected opportunities, the goals, objectives and action program are flexible.

Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Plan Action Program 2020-2025		
ACTION ITEM	YEAR	RELATES TO GOAL
Provide additional site amenities- paved drives, parking areas	2021-23	1
Expand and improve concession offerings	2022	1
Create universal access pathway reed park	2024	1
Upgrade ball fields- turf improvements, irrigation	2021-22	1
Build additional pavilions	2023	1
Expand & upgrade playground equipment	2023-24	1
Offer bathroom facilities at East end Reed and Hubscher camping	2021-23	1
Enhance natural resources at all Parks with planting native species and controlling invasive/non native	2021-25	2
Campground upgrades- electric to sites	2021	1
Expand and diversify trail system within county- both paved and dirt surface options	2021-24	2

Promote parks for hosting special events	2020-25	4
Develop partnerships with outside organizations to enhance recreational opportunities	2020-25	4
Collaborate to develop trail systems within county, both motorized and non	2020-25	4
Connect additional amenities at all parks with ADA walkaways	2021-23	5
Acquisition of additional parks lands	2022	5
Create additional ADA parking areas at reed park	2021	5
Expand beach front- create sandy areas, maintain existing beach	2021	3
Fishery upgrades- universal fishing access, habitat improvements, fish stocking	2021-2022	3&5
Build universal access canoe/kayak launch	2023	3
Improve boat launch Hubscher park	2021	3

VII. Adoption

After the public input and notification process described in Section IV, the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a resolution on December 9, 2020 recommending that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners adopt the Recreation Plan.

On December 15, 2020, the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners adopted the Recreation Plan.

Copies of the plan were transmitted to the Gratiot County Planning office, the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in January of 2021.

Copies of the notification advertisements, the public hearing minutes, the resolutions and the transmittal letters to the planning agencies are included in Appendix B.



Gratiot County Parks Recreation Commission



2020-2025 Recreation Plan Open House

5:30 PM

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Alma Public Library

500 E Superior St, Alma, MI 48801

Gratiot County residents are encouraged to attend to provide input on the development and management of the Gratiot county owned parks (Reed, Hubscher, Luneack and Pompeii) for the update of the 2020-2025 Recreation Plan.

Appendix B

Notice of availability of draft plan for review

Notice of public hearing

Minutes from public hearing

Signed and dated resolution from the Parks and Recreation Commission

Signed and dated resolution from the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

Michigan DNR-Grants Management Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist

Public Notice
County of Gratiot, State of Michigan
Public Invitation to Review
And Comment on the Proposed
Gratiot County Recreation Plan 2020-2025

Please Take Notice That copies of the proposed Gratiot County Recreation Plan 2020-2025 are available for public inspection through December 9, 2020 on the Gratiot County website www.gratiotmi.com.

The Parks and Recreation Commission invite public review and, if desired comment on the proposed plan. The plan establishes a framework for the provision of public outdoor recreation lands, facilities and services in Gratiot County through the year of 2025.

Comments may be submitted in writing or sent via e-mail to Peter Little at parksandrec@gratiotmi.com. Comments can also be submitted at a Public Hearing to be held at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. The Public Hearing will be held before the Parks and Recreation Commission Via Zoom meeting, a link to the meeting will be posted on the Gratiot County website, www.gratiotmi.com.

Peter W. Little, Director, Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission

October 29, 2020

Gratiot County Herald - Page 19

ed Patient Privacy and Comfort

Gratiot offers outpatient laboratory services 24-hours per day, seven days a week. While walk-ins are still welcome, patients are strongly encouraged to schedule their appointment online at www.midmichigan.org/gratiotlab for faster service and improved social distancing

**Public Notice
County of Gratiot, State of Michigan
Public Invitation to Review
And Comment on the Proposed
Gratiot County Recreation Plan 2020-2025**

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Comments may be submitted in writing or sent via e-mail to Peter Little at parksandrec@gratiotmi.com. Comments can also be submitted at a Public Hearing to be held at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. The Public Hearing will be held before the Parks and Recreation Commission virtually, a link to the online meeting will be posted on the Gratiot County website, www.gratiotmi.com or directly from the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83642367882?pwd=WENTUEX6ejZ6L0hTaGQ0RG5zb0Zmdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 4236 7882
Passcode: 07231984

Peter W. Little, Director,
Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission

COMMISSIONER	500	Sq. Yd.	SC 150 BN Mulch Blanket
AIN	3	Each	Polymer Bags
DAY OF REVIEW OF	1,000	Cu. Yd.	Subgrade Undercutting and Backfill
ENTS	1	Lump Sum	Traffic Control (MDOT)
ber 10, 2020	1	Lump Sum	Traffic Control (County)
Drain	1	Lump Sum	Site Clearing
Office	1	Lump Sum	Seeding, Cleanup and Restoration
Street			
7			

This Notice of Letting, the plans, specifications and bid proposal shall be considered a part of the Contract. The Contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents on file at the Office of the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner, 904 East Center Street, Ithaca, Michigan 48847 and available to interested parties on **Wednesday, October 28, 2020**. Bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents. Bidding Documents, including plans and specifica-

**Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020 Zoom Meeting**

Meeting ID: 836 4236 7882 Passcode: 07231984

Commission Member Present: D. Yost, T. Lambrecht, J. Lewis, K. Davis, B. Hancock, D. Wier, C. Ross & J. Bollinger

Commission Members Absent: D. Netzley

Others Present: P. Little

- 1. Introductions and Welcome:** All in attendance and made introductions.
- 2. Invocation**
- 3. Declaration of Quorum:** Quorum was declared with 8 members present
- 4. Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve was made by T. Lambrecht, seconded by D. Wier, approved by all present, motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- 5. Approval of November 18, 2020 Minutes:** A motion to approve was made by J. Lewis, seconded by K. Davis Approved by all present, motion passed unanimously by roll call vote
- 6. Public comment:** None
- 7. Financial Report:** A motion to approve the Financial Report was made by K. Davis, seconded by B. Hancock, approved by all present, Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- 8. Directors Report:**
 - a. Josh and Ron are back from vacation
 - b. Removed brush and trees that have fallen
 - c. Fixing back road & campground at Reed's Park
 - d. Tree trimming project at Hubscher park
 - e. The Boy Scout that built the hammock house donated some hammocks to use. These will be kept in the concession stand and be rented out just like the kayaks.
 - f. Ready to trade in the 3-year mower. Bader's came out and looked at it and getting price for a new one.
 - g. Office is gearing up for reservation season.
 - h. Looking at capital improvements that can be done in 2021 year will be on the Agenda for next month.
 - i. A new board member will start in January.
- 9. Old Business**
 - a. **Parks & Recreation Millage Project Funding Request Guidelines:** Went over the Guidelines
- 10. New Business:**
 - a. **Public Hearing 2020-2025 recreation plan:** No public comments received on the recreation plan. Tim Lambercht made a motion to recommend approval of the 2020-2025 Recreation Plan, seconded by D. Wier, approved by all present, Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. No Public attended the meeting.
- 11. Additions:** None
- 12. Commission Member Comments:** None
- 13. Adjournment:** A Motion to adjourn was made by J. Lewis, seconded by D. Wier, approved by all present, motion carried at 6:53 pm unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
GRATIOT COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2020-25

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
GRATIOT COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2020-2025**

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission of Gratiot County has undertaken the development of a five-year *Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Plan* which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the actions to be taken to improve and maintain the recreation facilities and services during the period between 2020 and 2025 and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 9th 2020 at 5:30p.m. to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

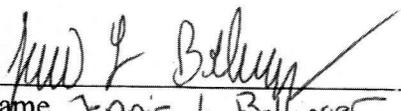
WHEREAS, the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commissions created the plan to benefit the entire Gratiot County community and to use the plan as a resource to assist in meeting the recreation needs of county residents, and

WHEREAS, after concluding the public hearing the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to approved adoption of said Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission approves the *Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Plan 2020-2025* as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Gratiot County and recommends adoption of the Master Plan by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners.

7 0 2
(Yeas: Nays: Absent:)

Jennie L Bollinger
I, _____, Parks and Recreation Commission Secretary, do hereby acknowledge that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 9th day of December, 2020



Name Jennie L Bollinger
Parks and Recreation Commission Secretary

Resolution Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

Resolution

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ITHACA, MICHIGAN 48847

Adoption of Gratiot County Recreation Plan 2020-2025

Resolution No. 20-261

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission of Gratiot County has undertaken the development of a five-year *Gratiot County Recreation Plan* which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and an action plan to improve and maintain park land and recreation facilities during the period between 2020-2025; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinion, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the *Recreation Plan*; and

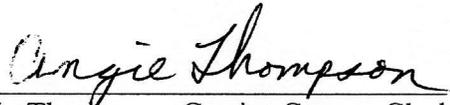
WHEREAS, following the Public Hearing the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission passed a motion to approve the Recreation Plan and to recommend adoption by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, county residents voted in 2020 to approve an 8-year dedicated millage to support the operation and improvements of county –owned parks and recreation facilities and the Recreation Plan supports this voter mandate; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the *Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Plan 2020-2025* as a guideline for improving recreation services for the benefit of the Gratiot County residents.

I, Angie Thompson, Clerk of the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the above resolution was passed by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held on December 15, 2020.

Dated December 15, 2020


Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

