

**Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission**

**2015-2020**

**Recreation Plan**



*Parks and Recreation*

### **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 2015-2020**

## **Acknowledgements**

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<i>Signed and dated resolution from the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners</i>	
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# 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 2012 estimate of the population was 42,063 with almost 87% 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 past decade. As can be seen by the chart below, the majority of the population (40.8%) is between the ages of 25-54. 19.7% of the population is below the age of 14 and only 18.1% of the population is above the age of sixty.

Under 5 years	2,865	6.8%
5 to 9 years	2,653	6.3%
10 to 14 years	2,787	6.6%
15 to 19 years	3,538	8.4%
20 to 24 years	2,953	7.0%
25 to 34 years	5,372	12.8%
35 to 44 years	5,993	14.2%
45 to 54 years	5,796	13.8%
55 to 59 years	2,506	5.9%
60 to 64 years	1,869	4.4%
65 to 74 years	2,811	6.7%
75 to 84 years	1,829	4.3%
85 years and over	1,156	2.7%

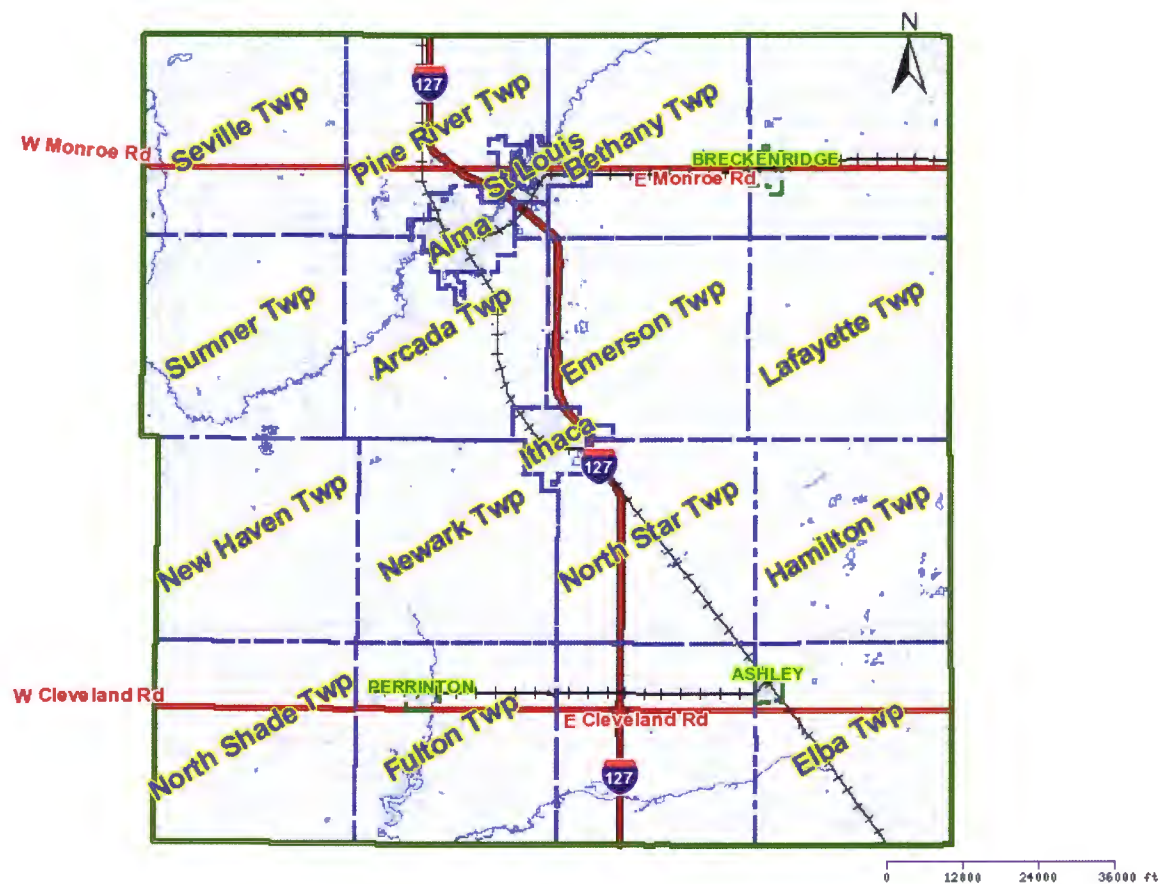
The average household size of Gratiot County is 2.49 with the median income per household being \$39,867 and the mean income being \$52,762. In 2011, the per capita personal income, which is the average earnings of all the citizens of the county, was \$30,647. This figure is about \$6,000 less than the per capita personal income of the state of Michigan (\$36,264) and the nation (\$41,560). Almost 18% of individuals living in Gratiot County are below the poverty level. As of September of 2013, the unemployment rate of Gratiot County is 9.3%. Almost 7,000 citizens are considered to have a disability – which makes up 18.5% of the population. 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 a renewed millage, the parks commission will continue to manage and operate existing parks and seek to expand the park system.

### 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. The organizational structure of the department can be seen on page six. The Gratiot County Board of Commissioners consists of seven individuals from the various districts of Gratiot County. The cities and townships that makeup these seven districts are highlighted below:

- District 1: New Haven, Seville, and Sumner Townships
- District 2: City of Alma Precincts 1 and 2
- District 3: City of Alma Precinct 4, and St. Louis Precinct 2
- District 4: City of St. Louis Precinct 1, Bethany, and Pine River Townships
- District 5: City of Ithaca, Arcada, and Newark Townships
- District 6: Emerson, Hamilton, Lafayette, North Star, and Wheeler Townships
- District 7: Elba District 1, Elba District 2, Fulton, North Shade, and Washington Townships

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 \$445,000 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

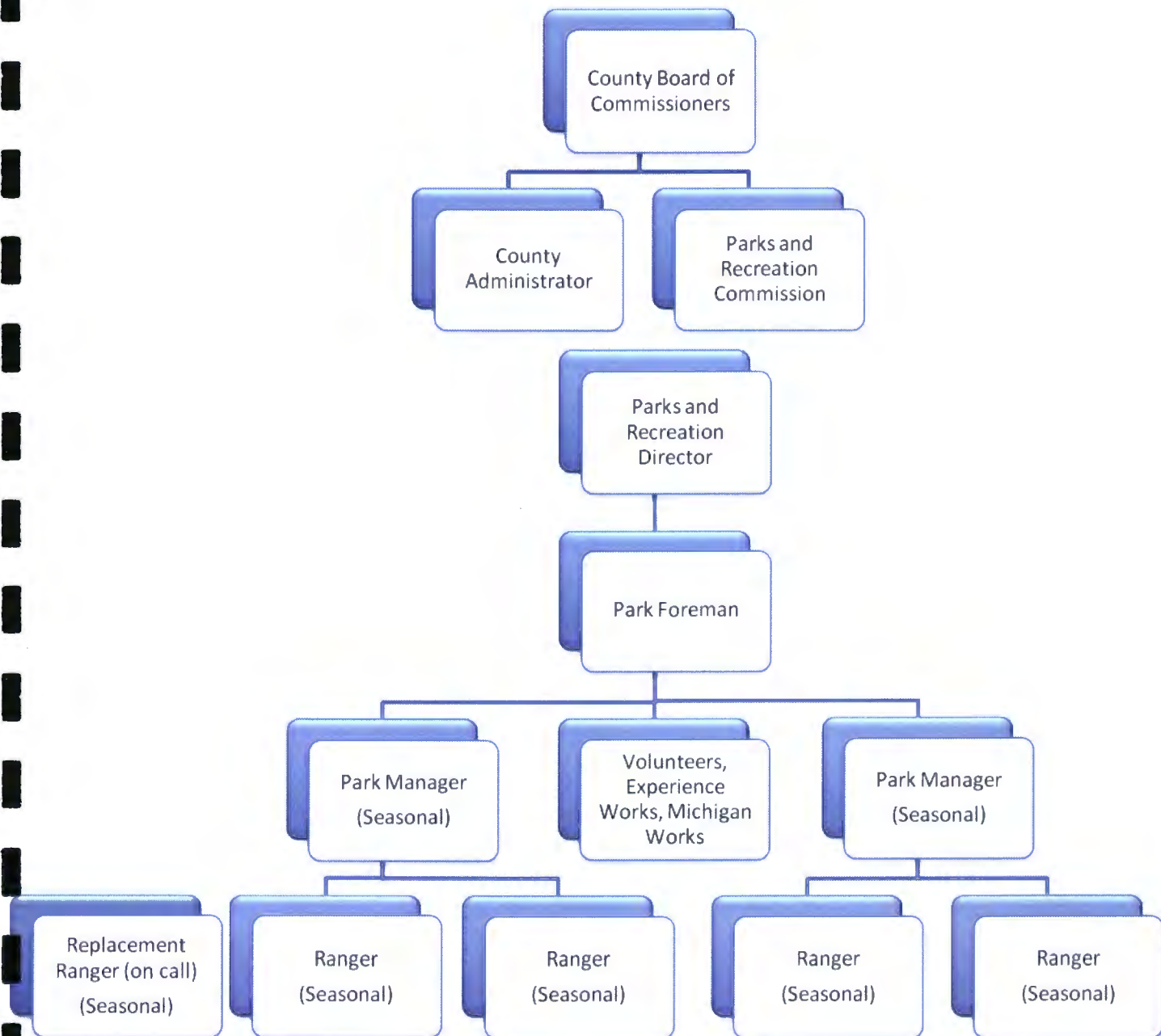
The table below identifies budget information specific to the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation department for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Wages and Benefits	\$188,420.00
Grounds Maintenance and Equipment	\$89,300.00
Office, Phone, Advertising, Training, Travel	\$36,000.00
Utilities, Fuel	\$22,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$110,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$445,720.00</b>

### **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 pathways in the County. Along with this, various organizations, such as the 4H Club, Boy 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	Paul Hubscher County Park	Reed County Park
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	Man-Made Beachfront, 3 Small Pavilions, 1 Large Pavilion, 3 medium Pavilions, Picnic Tables & Grills, Sand Volleyball Court, 2 Horseshoe Pits, Trails, Accessible Beach house, Softball Field, 2 Playgrounds, Rustic Camping	Man-Made 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
Accessibility (DNR Ranking System)	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines  Has added handicap accessible pavilions, bathrooms, parking, and playground.	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines  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
Accessibility (DNR Ranking System)	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines	3: Most of the facilities/parks meet accessibility guidelines
		

## 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.

<b>Counties:</b>	Gratiot, Montcalm
<b>Trail Length:</b>	41 miles
<b>Trail Category:</b>	Rail-Trail
<b>Trail Surfaces:</b>	Asphalt, Gravel, Ballast
<b>Trail Activities:</b>	Walk, Bicycle, Cross Country Ski, Inline Skates, Wheelchair



**Clinton- Ionia- Shiawassee Trail:** A proposed rail trail to the south of Gratiot County, still in the development phase, with 2.7 miles paved, 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.



Alma College Recreation Center



St. Louis High School



**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. Efforts have been made to improve the accessibility standards of Paul Hubscher County Park by adding handicap accessible restrooms, parking, pavilions, walkways, and a 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	Completed Fall 2009	



Youth Playground	Complete and installed Spring 2010	
Picnic Tables and Grills	Complete and installed Fall 2009	
Two Pavilions	Completed and installed Fall 2009	
Driveway and Parking Lot Paving	Complete Fall 2010	
Pathways	Complete Spring 2010	

Utilities	Installed and operational fall 2009	
Site Restoration	Complete fall of 2010	

## IV. Planning and Public Input Process

Three methods of soliciting public input were utilized:

**1. Questionnaire:** Users at both parks were encouraged to complete a questionnaire that consists of two open-ended questions. These questions are:

1. What do you like best about this park?
2. If you could change one thing about this park, what would it be?

***Dates Questioner Available 6/6/14-9/6/14***

**2. Online Survey:** Users had access to an online survey that consisted of 6 questions regarding their background information and questions about their experience at the parks and what improvements they would like to see.

***Dates Survey Available 12/9/14-1/9/15***

**3. Parks and Recreation Meeting Ranking Sheet:** During a regularly scheduled open meeting Parks and Recreation Commissioners, Parks Staff, and the Public were encouraged to fill out a ranking sheet, prioritizing improvement project ideas for the Parks over the next 5 years.

***Date Ranking Sheet Available 4/16/14***

## Two Question Survey

*During the summer of 2014 surveys were handed out to park users at Reed Park and Hubscher Park for their feedback.*

### **1. What do you like best about Hubscher Park?**

The rangers

The rangers are friendly

The clean bathrooms

The cleanliness of the park- lawn mowed

Everything- play area

Family Atmosphere

Quiet at Night, close to home, clean, park rangers are friendly

Quiet, Peaceful, no cost, close to home

Camping

Camping, swimming

Camping

### **2. If you could change one thing about Hubscher Park, what would it be?**

More waste baskets by pavilion 2

2 small pavilions by the road

Sidewalk for handicap to get down to water

Fishing pier for handicap, mini golf and water slide

Frisbee golf, fishing dock and water slide

Stock the pond with fish

Stock the lake with fish

Water pump at campground

Stock pond with fish, water pump at campground

Restroom by back pond, stock fish, shower restrooms by campground, playground by camp area

## Reed County Park

### Like

- I love everything about it. You have done amazing work to the park in the past years. I quit coming for a while but now my son and I come every day. -Trisha Fawcett
- It's well maintained, cleaned restrooms, and friendly staff. Anonymous
- Free hot dog & water, disc golf, all in all great day. -Gerald Wentworth
- Water & the park area and that you can have cookouts and kids can play & swim. - Stephanie Rogers.
- Playground. -Andrea T.
- The beach is always clean and so are the bathrooms. -Amanda Slaughter
- Always clean, kids love the beach and playground. -Anonymous.
- Everything. - Debbie Thayer.
- Swimming & the playground. - Jessie Billings.
- Everything. - Cheri Conklin.
- Water, swimming. - Nikkolc Bramer
- Park and water. - Anonymous
- It's close and clean. - Jim Cocll
- The beach. - Ryan S
- The beach. -Titus
- Bathrooms. -Anonymous
- Great Family time, very well maintained. - Jeff Fawcett.
- Clean. -Crystal B.
- Love this park, family friendly, nice park, clean bathrooms. Very nice that you a free hot dog day. - Sheila Snyder.
- I live near Toledo- This is awesome! Nice swimming area, not too big-easy to see the kids. - Anonymous.
- Very fun for kids. Clean and good equipment. -Amanda Freed
- The swimming, the park, horseshoes. - Schuyler Dudley
- Kid friendly. -anonymous
- Picnic areas, close to golf course. -Anonymous
- Great place for kids and families. - Ron Mc Pherson
- All of the activities there are. - Anonymous
- The new equipment for the kids. - Falisha.
- I like how big it is, and how there is a variety of things to do here. - Kallie L.
- All the room for many people. -Amelia Jolly
- Everything. Jory Dutton
- The new renovations, the cleanliness. - Candy Davidson
- All the improvements - Debbie E
- Great place for friends to enjoy in groups. - Jody B.
- We like this park and we are here all the time & the parks clean, the playground and camping. -Mindy Dudley

## Reed County Park

- That it is so clean and has plenty of activities for kids. – Dianne C.
- The playground. –Anonymous
- Nice place for swimming and the bathrooms are clean. It is not far from my house. Deborah M.
- Great play area and beach. –Jeanette Lapham
- Friendly, family park. –Anonymous
- I like how clean the park is and that there is not a lot of riff raff. Also the play place for the kids. – Melissa Swinson
- The playground for the kids. – Jason L.
- It's nice with plenty to do. –Robert D.
- Plenty of room, nice and clean. – Apri Kelley
- It is beautiful, should be something for everyone. – Dennis & Bev Greer
- It's very clean, and very nice people. I love coming with the kids. – Megan Long
- I LIKE IT BECAUSE MY DAD IS THE BCSS! –IVY LITTLE.

### Things to change

- Extra wagons for hauling my stuff and a few more picnic tables. –Anonymous
- More disc golf holes. –Gerald Wentworth
- More items at concession. – Amanda Slaughter
- Rigger water space. –Nickole Bramer
- Mosquitos –Ryan S.
- Add a shower. – Jeff Fawcett
- Lifeguard –Crystal B.
- Add a high diving board and a low one in the middle of the lake – Schuyler Dudley
- More campsites, some electric. –Anonymous
- Dog area. – anonymous
- More pavilions. –anonymous
- There should be a dance pavilion for teenagers –Kallie L.
- Add a basketball court, dance pavilion. –Amelia Jolly
- Make the other part of the lake a beach. –Jory Dutton
- Paved parking lot – Candy Davidson
- Parking. –Debbie E.
- More tables. –Mindy Dudley
- More tables. –Dianne C.
- More porta-jons. –anonymous
- More area for camping with electric. –Deb M.
- Basketball hoops. –anonymous
- The mosquitos. –April Kelley
- All the bugs. – Megan Long
- I WOULD ADD A WATER SLIDE! – IVY LITTLE.



## Survey Monkey Online Survey

The following the survey was available online via a link from the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Facebook page from Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 2014- January 9<sup>th</sup> 2015. 29 individuals participated; their background information and responses are below:

### Q1. What is your age?

Answer Choices	Responses	
18 to 14	10.34%	3
25 to 34	6.90%	2
35 to 44	31.03%	9
45 to 54	31.03%	9
55 to 64	13.79%	4
65 to 74	3.45%	1
75 or older	3.45%	1

### Q2. How long have you been a Gratiot County resident?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 1 year	0.00%	0
1 to 5 years	6.90%	2
5 to 20 years	17.24%	5
More than 20 years	75.86%	22

### Q3. Which park have you visited in the past year?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Reed Park	80.77%	21
Hubscher Park	65.38%	17
Luneack Park	7.69%	2
Pompeii Park	7.69%	2

**Q4. If you have visited a park within Gratiot County in the past year, please provide feedback on your visit related to safety, cleanliness and amenities.**

- was good
- they were very clean
- very professional and secure
- clean
- Very clean.
- Pompeii park is coming together so nicely.
- Both were clean, safe, and had plenty of things to entertain both young and old.
- very pleased.
- very good
- clean and orderly
- it nice
- All seemed acceptable; I attended picnics in pavillions
- Fantastic, very clean.
- Reed Park is beautiful, clean, and wonderful place to hang out.
- Great beaches!
- I would say the safety aspects could be worked on.
- Reed Park has improved so much in the last 5 years. So awesome!
- I was at both parks in late fall, they were both clean and I felt safe even walking the trail in the woods
- I have found each park to be very clean, up-to-date in regards to safety, and steadily providing more amenities for residents to enjoy.

**Q5. What changes, new amenities or programs would you like to see within the Countys' park system over the next five years?**

- Although it would be difficult to obtain, I think a park that wasn't day-use focused would be a nice change. Some land preferably near water where the focus could be on quiet trails, bird and wildlife viewing, and possibly serving as a place for county school systems to enjoy and teach elementary classes on subjects such as wildlife biology. County-wide orv/snowmobile trails would also be an addition that many residents would enjoy. Day-use parks that aren't so centrally located that better serve some of the cities that aren't near the center of the county would be nice to see as well. Registration for in-county residents so that they are easy to differentiate (and not charge) would be a nice change so that out-of-county visitors might pay a small fee to enjoy the parks we built.
- water park
- Restrooms in the campground at Hubscher park
- More disc golf!
- More concessions
- More camping, stocked fish.
- I'm not familiar enough to make suggestions
- snack shacks
- more ball fields
- cleaner water
- None
- Pompeii needs bathrooms with plumbing instead of ports johns. That would complete that park.
- maintain similar staff training make a difference from having a good or bad time.

# Results of Parks and Recreation Commissioners rating sheet for 2015-2020 5 year recreation plan

(A being highest Priority and C Lowest)

	A	B	C
Irrigation of all ball fields.	5	3	1
Lighting of up to two ball fields for night time playing.	3	5	1
Build scoreboards for two ball fields.	7	0	2
Lighting of cross country trails.	2	4	3
Building of a hot house near the trails.	2	4	3
Building an ice rink near the hot house with a covered porch between it and the hot house.	1	5	3
Create a sledding hill near the cross country trails.	3	4	2
Asphalt a path around the perimeter of HCP for bikes and skateboards.	5	1	2
Create bike trails to the parks from nearby towns.	3	1	5
Blacktop HCP drive.	4	2	3
Build a large fishing pier at HCP.	4	3	2
Build a child size (20x40x1') pool with a water feature at Pompeii Park.	3	1	5
Create sidewalks from back pavilions to bath house at RCP.	4	3	2
Add more pavilions to both parks	3	4	2
Build a storage barn for equipment.	5	4	2
Put in water slides at HCP and RCP.	5	1	3
Basketball courts at all parks, to also be used for Tennis, Volleyball, ice rink and shuffle board.	1	7	1
Remove woodchips from all play areas and replace with light colored rubberized surfacing.	6	2	1
Install roll up sides and/or dividers for all pavilions.	5	3	1
Wheelchair lift systems, to access the water, at both parks.	4	2	3
Create a horse riding stable at one park.	0	0	9

Create a skate park at one park.	0	5	4
Create a dog park.	0	4	5
Acquire more property.	1	5	3
Provide electricity to campsites	3	4	2
Building one or two cabins a year, until reach the maximum of 7 total, at both parks.	4	4	1

**Fill in other suggestions you may have:**

More playground equipment @ Pompeii Park.

More Campsites

Mt. Bike trails

Pine River Access

Swimming area for Northern Gratiot County

Shade systems for Beaches/playgrounds

Additional XC skiing trails

Hiking trails

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**Citizen Review:** After the draft plan was completed, it was made available for public review and comment in March of 2015 It was available for 30 days at the Gratiot County Administration and County Clerk offices. The second public input opportunity for the draft plan was at an advertised public hearing held on April 15, 2015 at the Emergency Operations Center in Ithaca

## **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:**

- Additional site amenities- picnic tables, trash cans, grills, pavilion dividers, shade systems
- Basketball courts at Reed and Hubscher parks
- Expand Disc Golf opportunities
- Ball Field upgrades- turf improvements, irrigation, lighting, seating, score boards, equipment storage
- Expand concession offerings
- Additional pavilions at all parks
- Playground expansion/upgrades
- Bathroom facilities for Pompeii & Luneack Parks
- Campground upgrades- water pumps, electricity at sites, additional sites, cabins, bathrooms , shower for Reed Park

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

- Expand and Diversify trail system within county parks
- Manage for invasive and nuisance species
- Promote value of the natural resources of county parks to the Gratiot County community

### **3. Development of the waterfront area that could include:**

- Fishing piers at all parks with water
- Stocking ponds with sport fish
- Expand Beach Areas
- Universal access sites
- Boat launches



#### **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, motorized ORV and snowmobile trails

#### **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

## VI. Action Program

The Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department has developed an action program from 2015 until 2020 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 22. 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 2015-2020		
ACTION ITEM	YEAR	RELATES TO GOAL
Provide additional site amenities-picnic tables, grills, paved entryways and drives	2015-17	1
Build a basketball court at Reed Park	2016	1
Expand and improve disc golf course	2016	1
Upgrade ball fields- turf improvements, seating, score boards, irrigation, lighting, storage	2015-16	1
Build additional Pavilions and upgrade existing- roll up sides, countertops, lighting	2016	1
Expand & Upgrade Playground Equipment- replace woodchips with rubberized surfacing	2017	1
Offer Bathroom Facilities at Pompeii and Luneack Parks	2015-16	1
Enhance natural resources at all Parks with planting native species and controlling invasive/non native	2015-16	2
Campground upgrades- water pumps, electric, additional sites, cabins, shower for Reed Park	2017	1
Expand and Diversify trail system within County Parks- both paved and dirt surface options	2016-17	2
Promote parks for hosting special events	2015-20	4
Develop partnerships with outside organizations to enhance recreational opportunities	2015-20	4
Collaborate to develop trail systems within county, both motorized and non	2015-20	4
Connect additional amenities at all Parks with ADA walkaways	2016-17	5

Acquisition of additional parks lands	2018	5
Create additional ADA parking areas at all Parks	2019-20	5
Expand Beach Front Amenities- slides, umbrellas, benches, shade systems, universal access	2015-2017	3&5
Fishery Upgrades- universal fishing access, habitat improvements, fish stocking	2015-17	3&5

## VII. Adoption

After the public input and notification process described in Section IV, the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a resolution on \_\_\_\_ 2015 recommending that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners adopt the Recreation Plan.

On \_\_\_\_ 2015, 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 \_\_\_\_ of 2015.

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



## **Appendix A**

Public Input Two Question Survey  
Public Input Meeting Advertisement Flyer  
Public Input Meeting Newspaper Article Advertisement

**Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department**  
Reed County Park 2  
Question Survey

1. What do you like best about this park? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If you could change one thing about the park, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Information below is optional:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of visit \_\_\_\_\_



# Gratiot County Parks and Recreation



## Public Input Meeting

**5:30 PM**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2015**

**EOC Building 1375 County Farm  
Drive, Ithaca, MI 48847**

*Gratiot County residents are encouraged to attend to provide input regarding the updating of the Parks and Recreation Master 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

Affidavit for Public Review

Affidavit for adoption of plan at public hearing

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from Public Hearing Date



**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT  
GRATIOT COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2015-20**

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission of Gratiot County has undertaken the development of a five year *Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department Master 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 2015 and 2020 and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on \_\_\_\_\_ 2015 at 5:30p.m. to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Master 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 Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission approves the *Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan 2015-2020* 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.

(Yeas: Nays: Absent: )

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 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Parks and Recreation Commission Secretary

Resolution Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

## APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

### COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

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

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

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

Name of Plan:		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart  <input type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation  <input type="checkbox"/> Programming  <input type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources  <input type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers  <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"><b>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</b></div> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities  <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3. RECREATION INVENTORY</b> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory  <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities  <input type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)  <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b>

☐ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

☐ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

☐ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Plan Location \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☐ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☐ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

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

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

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

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

☐ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 2. Official resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

\_\_\_\_\_ *includes the required content, as indicated*  
(Local Unit of Government)  
*above and as set forth by the DNR.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grants Management Date

