
Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission



2012 - 2016 Community Recreation Plan

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CHAPTER 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this 2012 – 2016 Community Recreation Plan is to enable the Village of Middleville, the Township of Thornapple and the Thornapple-Kellogg School District to improve quality of life for its citizens. A recreation plan represents a foundation policy statement about what a community is, what its residents value and what those residents hope the community will become in connection with parks and recreation facilities and services.

This Community Recreation Plan provides a policy and decision-making guide regarding future improvements.

In the late 1990s, the Village of Middleville, the Township of Thornapple and the Thornapple-Kellogg School District determined that a collaborative approach to planning and the delivery of recreation facilities and services would best serve the citizens of the community. Consequently, the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission (TAPRC) was established, with representation from the three jurisdictions serving on the TAPRC Board. Chapter 3 discusses the administrative character and organizational structure of TAPRC in detail.

TAPRC appreciates the significant contribution of recreation to the quality of life and the physical health of its citizens. This recognition has been manifested in this effort to update its 2006 Recreation Plan with the hopes of improving the local park system and enhancing amenities. While quality of life in the community is excellent, the three entities have chosen to take an active role in enhancing recreation opportunities by completing this plan.

Parks and recreation planning is an exercise engaged to anticipate change, promote needed change, and to control or direct recreational development in such a way as to benefit the entire community. It has the aim of harmonizing the available recreational resources and activities with the environmental, aesthetic, and cultural requirements of the community.

The plan outlines the preferred future for parks and recreation and a comprehensive plan to realize it.

This Community Recreation Plan provides a policy and decision-making guide regarding future improvements. Key planning issues are identified, a clear set of goals and objectives are outlined, and specific implementation projects are identified. This Plan reflects the community’s deep concern for natural features, a strong commitment to strengthen sense of community, and a desire to heighten awareness of local and regional amenities. The plan outlines the preferred future for parks and recreation and a comprehensive plan to realize it.

The Community Recreation Plan was last updated in 2006. General recreation planning practice suggests, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires, that recreation plans be reviewed and updated every five years to keep them current. Following the DNR’s guidelines establishes TAPRC’s eligibility to apply for grant funds that would otherwise be unavailable. Therefore, the purpose of this plan is to guide future improvements, and also to establish eligibility to apply for certain grant funds to assist in implementing the plan’s recommendations.

CHAPTER 2. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The TAPRC service area includes the Village of Middleville, the Township of Thornapple and the Thornapple-Kellogg School District, in northwest Barry County. The Thornapple-Kellogg School District extends beyond the village and township political boundaries, and overlies several additional townships. These other townships are served by this recreation plan to the extent that they fall within the Thornapple-Kellogg School District. Map 1 illustrates the TAPRC service area within its regional context.

This Chapter will summarize community characteristics and resources that may influence parks and recreation planning.

Character of the Built Environment

The Village of Middleville is a turn of the century community, with a traditional main street and a scenic river flowing alongside its downtown. The 2.1-square mile Village was established in the nineteenth century amidst agricultural fields and open land, and retains much of its original character.

Middleville is a turn of the century community, with a traditional main street and a scenic river flowing alongside its downtown.

Single-family residential neighborhoods are the dominant land use in the Village. Many of the homes are almost one hundred years old and are built on smaller lots compared to homes in Thornapple Township, establishing a quaint, close-knit community character. Walkable, tree-lined streets lead to the central business district, bounded on the west by the Thornapple River and Stagecoach Park. The central business district includes a small concentration of businesses and has benefitted from several aesthetic and functional enhancements that make the area more attractive to pedestrians. More conventional, strip retail development exists along M-37.

M-37 is the primary transportation route in northwest Barry County, providing connections between Hastings, which is southeast of the service area, and Grand Rapids to the northwest. The mostly two-lane state highway serves approximately 10,000 to 12,000 vehicles per day in the service area, and while traffic moves smoothly, there can be some congestion issues from time to time. M-37 also experiences a high percentage of motor freight or commercial truck traffic, primarily serving the industries in Hastings and Middleville.

Thornapple Township is a rural community that has experienced relatively rapid growth.

The Village is located about 9 miles northwest of Hastings, the seat of Barry County, and about 4 miles from Caledonia Township, which was Kent County's fastest-growing community between 2000 and 2010. This proximity to the growing south suburbs of Grand Rapids influences the community. Population change is discussed on a subsequent page.

Thornapple Township is a rural community that has experienced relatively rapid growth. Neighborhoods are suburban in character, with curvilinear streets and cul-de-sacs, but many residents live on rural acreage home-sites that are scattered along county roads. Homes in the Township are relatively newer than homes in

the Village, and median household incomes tend to be higher in the Township. The Township boasts scenic open spaces and some significant natural features, which contribute to the beauty and desirability of the community.

The undeveloped lands within the TAPRC service area are predominantly croplands/pasture and deciduous upland forest. Significantly, large blocks of forestland exist in the nearby Yankee Springs and Middleville State Game areas. These valuable resource areas are owned by the State of Michigan. Privately owned woodlands are also extensive within the service area, including large homesteads in Thornapple Township and areas within the Thornapple River valley.

Middleville is surrounded by Thornapple Township and although the two municipalities are politically distinct, the two jurisdictions frequently collaborate on public services.

Thornapple-Kellogg School District

The Thornapple-Kellogg School District is one of the largest school districts in the area geographically, at 125 square miles. The district is well-regarded and enrollment grew by 1.54% between 2007 and 2011. Between 2010 and 2011, 90 new students enrolled in Thornapple-Kellogg schools, a 3% increase. Following is a summary of enrollment figures for the school district:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3,041	3,003	2,996	2,998	3,088

The Thornapple River

The TAPRC service area is crossed by the Thornapple River, a prominent natural feature in Barry County. The Thornapple River basin is within the Grand River Watershed. The Thornapple River originates in Eaton County near the City of Eaton Rapids, and flows west through Hastings and Middleville, then north through the townships of Caledonia and Cascade, where it empties into the Grand River.

Historical settlement within the Thornapple River Valley and watershed reflects that of many Michigan rivers. Native inhabitants found abundant game and fish in and near this waterway. Ke-Wi-Go-Che-Keen was the Indian word for areas near the river. This word is translated into English as “thornapple.”

The Thornapple River is a prized natural feature.

The river offers excellent bass fishing; and bluegill, sunfish and rock bass are also plentiful. Suckers, pike and carp are less frequent. Forest game species include white-tail deer, ruffed grouse and turkey. Muskrats and mink are among fur-bearing animals commonly found along the river. Water fowl include mallards, black ducks, wood ducks, and blue-winged teal. Diving ducks include scamp and ring-neck, which use the dam impoundments at LaBarge, Middleville and Irving as migratory nesting and feeding areas. The common mergansers and golden-eye

ducks winter on the river. Further, river otter, osprey and bald eagles have been reported by land owners and canoeists.

The Thornapple River is a prized natural feature in the local community, and is a substantial recreational resource. It has also served as a draw for residential growth and is valued as an amenity and an aesthetic resource.

The Thornapple River Watershed Council prepared a Watershed study in 2001 entitled “The Thornapple River Watershed – Prospects for Protection” with funding provided by the Frey Foundation. This study includes recommendations to local governments regarding storm water management to protect the river and other policies directed toward man-made development and farming practices.

Cultural Resources

The local community is served well by social and cultural events and resources. These include the Woodpecker Festival in April, the Memorial Day Parade, the Labor Day Bridge Walk, Heritage Day, and the River Bank Music Series every summer Friday evening in Stagecoach Park. Furthermore, the Christmas Parade and Holly Trolley promote sense of community. The Lions Club sponsors all of the parades, the Taste of Middleville and the Chili Cook-off.

Additionally, the Thornapple-Kellogg School Community Library provides summer reading and activity programs for children and the Thornapple Trail Association provides outdoor learning experiences for children via the No Family Left Indoors program. The Thornapple Arts Council is active in providing arts to the area through their Arts and Eats program. The Thornapple-Kellogg School District provides free concerts and minimal cost theatrical productions for the public. The Middleville Players present a dinner/theatre program every February to raise money for school scholarships. The Rotary provides guest speakers on various subjects every Tuesday. The Middle Villa sponsors the Big Band music series for ball room dancers. Also, there are two dance studios in the area that offer dance programs.

A very active Downtown Development Authority sponsors the River Bank Music Series and the Farmers Market. The Farmers Market on Friday mornings is increasingly popular and has evolved into a major community social event.

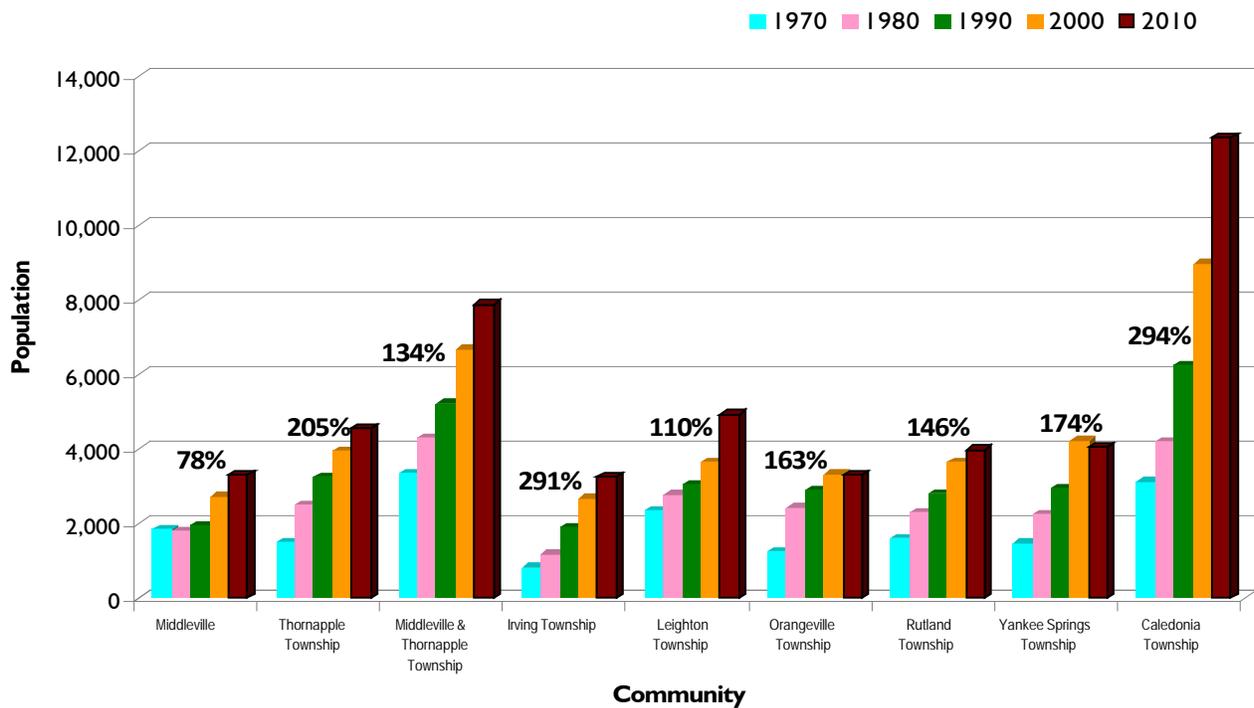
National 24-hour Challenge, which began in 1983, is a 24-hour bicycle-riding event which is staged in Middleville annually. The event brings bicycling enthusiasts, churches, community organizations and businesses together in an effort to promote health and well-being.

Social Characteristics

Population Change

Northwest Barry County and the region overall have experienced steady growth rates. Figure 1 illustrates that, according to the US Census, all communities in the vicinity have experienced at least double-digit percentage growth rates between 1970 and 2010. These communities have typically seen the strongest growth rates in Barry County, due to proximity to the growing Grand Rapids metropolitan area.

Figure 1. Rates of Population Change for Surrounding Communities



Note that the Census typically adds the population of a village to the population of a township when the village is within the township. Figure 1 accounts for this, and has included three separate columns to illustrate the population of the Village of Middleville, Thornapple Township and both of them combined. Middleville has experienced the slightest rate of population change compared to surrounding townships, which is typical for a small, fairly built-out older community. Middleville’s growth rate, however, has been higher than other incorporated communities in Barry County, which may be partly attributed to a series of annexation agreements between the Village and Township that have enabled the Village to expand. Table 1 above presents the same information as Figure 1 in tabular format for easy reference.

Table 1					
Population Change					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Middleville	1,865	1,797	1,966	2,734	3,319
Thornapple Township	1,498	2,501	3,260	3,951	4,565
Middleville / Thornapple Township	3,363	4,298	5,226	6,685	7,884
Irving Township	831	1,178	1,903	2,682	3,250
Leighton Township	2,354	2,772	3,069	3,652	4,934
Orangeville Township	1,260	2,430	2,910	3,322	3,311
Rutland Township	1,620	2,310	2,801	3,646	3,987
Yankee Springs Township	1,482	2,251	2,947	4,219	4,065
Caledonia Township	3,126	4,199	6,254	8,964	12,332

Population Projections

To estimate future population change, statistical averaging techniques were employed to project the community’s likely population to the year 2030. These techniques may be helpful and offer one perspective, but are intended to provide a very general sense of future change.

The following generalizations are limited in scope and are based on past trends documented primarily by the United States Census Bureau. These projections can help evaluate planned future land uses, the demand for various public services and capital improvements.

It is clear that the community’s population will continue to increase in the coming years.

Growth Rate Method. This model assumes that the population will change at a constant rate based on past trends. Middleville and Thornapple Township grew at a combined annualized rate of 2.1% each year between 1970 and 2010. Under this method, the population would continue to grow at this rate in the future with the following result:

	Average Annual Growth Rate 1970 - 2010	2010 Population	Projection	
			2020	2030
Middleville / Thornapple Township	2.1%	7,884	9,753	12,065

Ratio Method. This model assumes that the community will maintain the same percentage of Barry County’s population in future years. The 2010 Census reports that Barry County’s population is 59,173 people. Middleville and Thornapple Township therefore comprise 13.3% of the County. According to Barry County population estimates presented in the County’s 2005 Master Plan and prepared by the State Demographer, Woods & Poole and the County, the County’s population is forecasted to be 71,314 in 2020. Using this method, if the Village and Township continued to account for 13.3% of the County, the community would have 9,460 people in 2020.

Arithmetic Method. This method assumes that the growth experienced in previous decades will continue into the future. From 1970 to 2010, the community gained 4,521 persons or about 113 people per year. Using this annual increase, it is possible to extrapolate the following:

	Average Annual Increase (Number of Persons)	2010 Population	Projection	
			2020	2030
Middleville / Thornapple Township	113	7,884	9,014	10,144

Based on these techniques, it is clear that the community’s population will continue to increase in the coming years.

Age Distribution

Contemplating age characteristics can assist in determining the type of recreational facilities that may be needed or desired. For example, if a large portion of the population were younger, the community may benefit from additional active recreation facilities, such as playgrounds. Similarly, a significant senior population may have implications for more passive recreational opportunities, such as trails and community centers, as well as accessible amenities.

Middleville has a younger population than all surrounding communities and both the Township and Village are younger than the County and State overall.

The 2010 Census indicates that the median age of Thornapple Township and Middleville are 36.2 years and 32.4 years, respectively. The median age represents the mid-point in the range of all ages; one-half of the population is younger and one-half of the population older. Middleville has a younger population than all surrounding communities and both the Township and Village are younger than the County and State overall. This is likely due to the extent of young families drawn to the Thornapple-Kellogg School District. Other communities in the service area, as shown in Table 2, tend to have a higher median age, more in line with that of the County and State. Orangeville and Yankee Springs townships have the highest median age of any communities in the service area; likely because of the Gun Lake area and its appeal to retirees.

Table 2							
Age Characteristics (%)							
	Under 9	10-19	20-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Median
Middleville	9.4	14.7	13.1	20.2	21.8	12.2	32.4
Thornapple Township	16	15.1	11	19.5	27.1	11.1	36.2
Irving Township	14.3	16.6	9.2	20.1	30.4	9.4	38.5
Leighton Township	15.5	16.6	10.9	20.5	27.2	9.4	35
Orangeville Township	12.4	13.3	8.3	17.8	33	15.3	43.7
Rutland Township	12.2	15	9.2	18.4	31.2	13.9	41.5
Yankee Springs Township	11.9	13.3	7.6	18.4	33.1	26.4	44.1
Barry County							41.2
Michigan							38.9

Disability Status

In planning for improvements to park facilities, it is important to contemplate the needs of those with disabilities. The 2000 Census reports that 15.1% of Thornapple Township residents and 18.5% of Middleville residents have some disability. Comparatively, 18.7% of Michiganders and 19.3% of Americans have a disability. Generally, the percentage of service area residents with a disability is therefore slightly lower than these other broader overall communities; however, the needs of the disabled need to be contemplated in the design of facilities and programs.

In planning for improvements to park facilities, it is important to contemplate the needs of those with disabilities.

Residents with unique needs appear to be dispersed throughout the community. Known concentrations of individuals with unique needs are located in the Lincoln Meadows Senior Citizen Apartments and Carveth Village Independent and Assisted Living, both located in the Village. Each of these facilities is located within walking distance to a park. It will be important to give special attention to specific park amenities and the routes to those amenities during this planning effort, to help ensure that residents of Lincoln Meadows and Carveth Village can use public recreational facilities.

Housing

The 2010 Census reports that 83.7% of the total housing stock in Thornapple Township was made up of owner-occupied dwellings, similar to the County's home-ownership rate of 83.8%. In the Village, this figure is 71.8%, similar to the State's rate of 72.1%. As rental properties typically change hands more frequently, a 28.2% rental rate in the Village suggests a fairly stable residential population, even if home-ownership rates are lower than in the Township. However, only 22% of dwellings in the Village were rented in 2000.

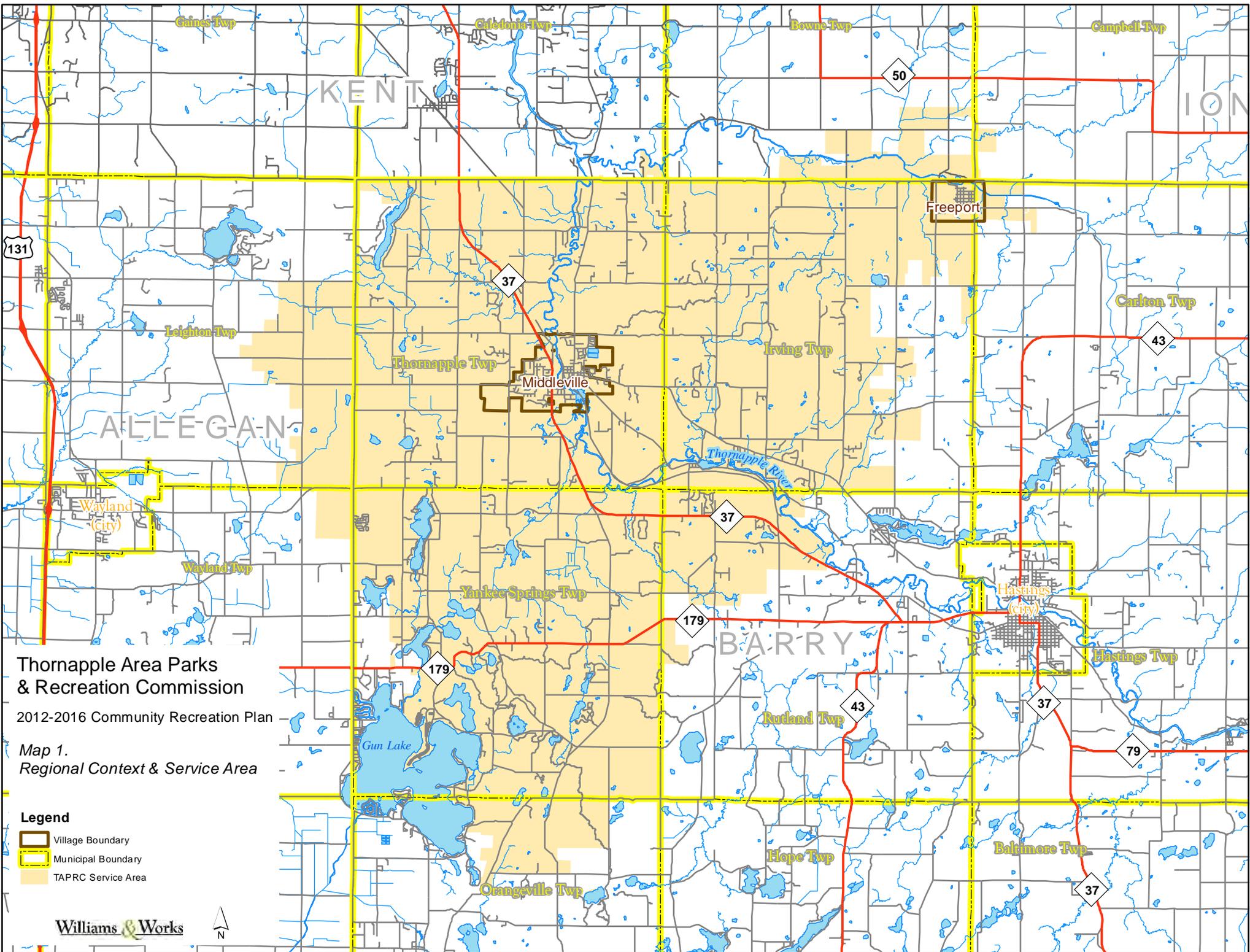
In addition, the 2010 Census reports that 8.1% of housing units in the Township and 12.5% of housing units in the Village are vacant. This compares, respectively, to 3.8% and 5% vacancy rates in the Township and Village in 2000. The increase in vacant homes can likely be attributed to the recent economic recession.

IMPLICATIONS – COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

1. The service area has experienced considerable growth over time. It will be important to consider that growth and projected population increases in evaluating the need for new facilities.
2. Analysis of age distribution reveals a likely demand for facilities appealing to a broad user group.
3. The abundance of natural features in the vicinity should be considered in any effort to plan for future amenities. These invaluable resources are likely conduits to augment quality of life in the community by offering a variety of opportunities.
4. While the percentage of community residents with a disability, according to Census information, is less than the State and nation overall, universal accessibility and design should be contemplated in any effort to plan for

future facilities to help ensure that each and every person has the opportunity to play and participate.

5. A slight increase in housing vacancy, while likely attributed to regional and national economic trends, should be contemplated. Quality of life can be enhanced through recreation, which may potentially lead to greater retention of the local population.



Thornapple Area Parks & Recreation Commission

2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan

Map 1.
Regional Context & Service Area

- Legend**
- Village Boundary
 - Municipal Boundary
 - TAPRC Service Area



CHAPTER 3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission (TAPRC) is the appointed body that functions as the main governing entity representing parks and recreation interests. TAPRC was formed to better serve the parks and recreation needs of the community and the three member units – Thornapple Township, the Village of Middleville and the Thornapple-Kellogg School District. Accordingly, the member units do have utilize separate recreation departments within their respective organizational structures. However, members units do employ individuals for specific maintenance related duties. This Chapter of the Community Recreation Plan will describe how park and recreation functions in the community are administered.

Organization and Roles

Leadership Structure

TAPRC was created under provisions of the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967. Using this Act, the Village of Middleville, the Township of Thornapple and the Thornapple-Kellogg School District joined in an agreement to provide collaborative recreation services. The effective date of TAPRC was February 23, 2000. The agreement is presented in Appendix A.

TAPRC is the highest governing body having jurisdiction over recreation expenditures in the member communities.

TAPRC is a distinct public corporation with powers and duties as established in the agreement. As expressly stated in the agreement, TAPRC has been formed “for the purpose of planning, operating and providing park and recreation programs for the citizens of the member units.” Each member unit appoints three members to the TAPRC Board, a nine-member body; and each Boardmember serves 4-year terms. The Board has been delegated significant authority under the terms of the agreement, and is the highest governing body having jurisdiction over expenditures concerning recreation facilities within the member communities.

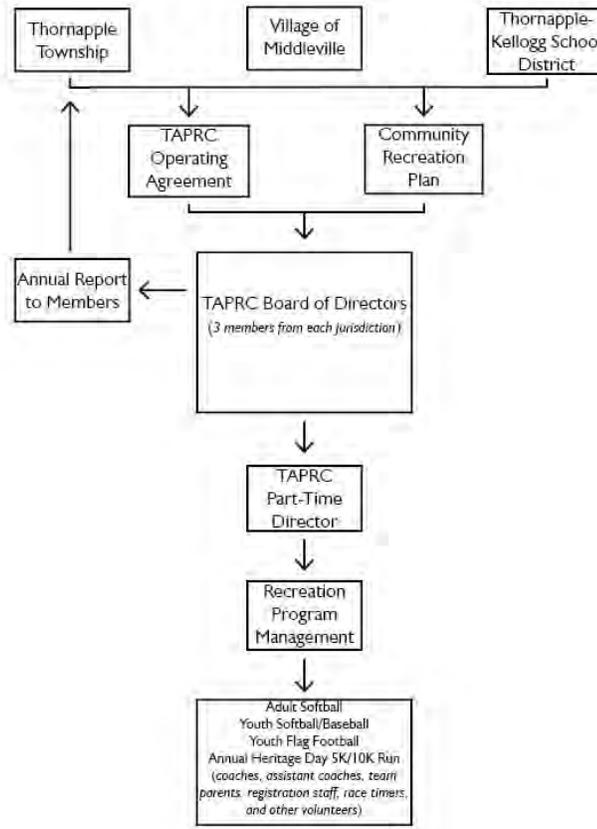
Recreation Staff

TAPRC employs a part-time recreation program director. This position organizes youth and adult recreation programs, schedules facility use, coordinates volunteer efforts, oversees facility maintenance, and issues information on various youth and adult recreation program opportunities. TAPRC does not currently employ other staff. In the Village, the Department of Public Works staff maintains all of the Village parks, except the Crane Road Ball Fields, which TAPRC maintains. The school district’s maintenance staff cares for the school facilities.

Organizational Chart

Following is a simple chart that depicts the relationship of TAPRC with other entities that may influence policies pertaining to parks and recreation in the Thornapple area. The TAPRC Board encourages broad participation and is dedicated to continuing interest in the community’s recreational resources.

Figure 2. Organizational Chart



TAPRC Volunteers

TAPRC recreational programs would not be possible without the efforts of numerous volunteers. Volunteers serve as coaches, assistant coaches, team parents, and umpires. Additionally, volunteers participate in field clean-up days, serve as board members, and provide assistance at the annual Heritage Day 5K/10K Run. A typical year would involve the following programs and volunteer hours:

Baseball/Softball

6 yr. olds T-Ball (co-ed)

10 teams, 90 players, 20 coaches, 320 volunteer hours

7-8 yr. olds, machine pitch (co-ed)

10 teams, 90 players, 20 coaches, 320 volunteer hours

9-10 yr. olds, Baseball/Softball divisions

6 teams, 75 players, 12 coaches, 288 volunteer hours

11-12 yr. olds, Baseball/Softball divisions

3 teams, 36 players, 6 coaches, 144 volunteer hours

13-15 yr. olds, Baseball/Softball divisions

2 teams, 30 players, 6 coaches, 144 volunteer hours

Flag Football

7-8 yr. olds, co-ed, 6 teams, 60 players, 12 coaches, 216 volunteer hours

Adult Men's Softball

3 teams, approx. 35 players

Middleville's Volunteer Framework

The Village of Middleville partners with the Thornapple Trail Association for maintenance of the 3.5 miles of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail owned by the Village. The Village and the Trail Association share, respectively, approximately 60/40 of the maintenance costs associated with the trail, which include mowing, trimming and brush clearing. Annually these expenses are approximately \$6,000 for the Village and \$4,000 for the Trail Association. In 2011, volunteers donated 2,724 hours to the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail.

Middleville is fortunate to have a strong volunteer system in place. The shared maintenance of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail is only one of the established partnerships. Each year the Village collaborates with the Barry County United Way Day of Caring. This two-day effort in Barry County mobilizes volunteers to make a difference in the community. The Village relies on these days each fall to complete a variety of tasks in support of parks and trails. These include trimming, spreading mulch, painting and maintaining play structures, establishing and maintaining the disc golf course, weeding and planting, and maintenance of the parks and trails signage systems.

An additional partnership includes the Thornapple-Kellogg School District. Several athletic teams have volunteered their time to assist with maintenance of parks and trails, which they use from time to time for training purposes. These efforts are vital to Middleville's parks system.

Current Budget and Funding

Under the terms of the Agreement, TAPRC receives an annual contribution of \$3,000 from each of the three member units. The funds are intended to cover operations and administration, and are allocated for facility maintenance and the program director. Additional member unit contributions are based on the TAPRC annual budget request for operations, land acquisition, and capital improvement projects. Additionally, each member unit pays a third of the cost of TAPRC's annual audit.

TAPRC parks and recreation activities are funded with general fund dollars from member units; there are no separate millages. Additionally, aside from nominal participation fees and the like, there are no other ongoing sources of funding for TAPRC. However, TAPRC applies annually to the United Way and various other organizations for grant funds. While these efforts have resulted in TAPRC receiving between \$6,000 and \$8,000 annually, these grant funds are not guaranteed. TAPRC's part-time recreation program director oversees budgeting

and allocates the appropriate funding amount based on projected needs. Budgets are approved by the TAPRC Board.

The primary endeavor of TAPRC during its initial years of operation was to foster and build participation in community recreation programs. TAPRC has also funded improvements to Riverside Park – such as clearing and grading to create more usable space – and improvements to the boat launch and canal portage on the Thornapple River. Additionally, TAPRC has funded improvements to the Crane Road Ball Fields facility.

Presently, the Village and school district maintain recreation facilities under their respective ownership, although TAPRC provides maintenance of the Crane Road Ball Fields, located in the Township, but owned by Middleville. The Township does not currently own any recreational facilities.

For fiscal year 2012, the proposed budget for the Village of Middleville's parks and recreation program is \$34,671, down from \$42,950 in 2011. In times of tight fiscal resources, Middleville continues to rely on its many parks and trails partners to help support operation and maintenance of the facilities. The school district does not have a separate budget for maintenance of playgrounds or athletic fields; instead, there is an inclusive maintenance budget for all grounds, including school buildings.

The TAPRC budget is included in Appendix B.

CHAPTER 4. RECREATION INVENTORY

Chapter 4 provides an inventory of recreational facilities in the community. The inventory and analysis of facilities was conducted by TAPRC's planning consultant and builds on previous recreation planning efforts with the intent of developing a comprehensive perspective. The following elements were sources of information or considerations during the development of Chapter 4:

- The first-hand knowledge and informed opinions of community leadership and interested and committed citizens who participated in public input exercises associated with this Plan.
- National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards.
- The distinctive natural and recreational character of the Thornapple River Valley area.

The NRPA has established generally recognized standards for classifying types of parkland based on size and function. These designations have generally been adopted or referenced by the DNR in plan preparation guidelines; and provide one method of defining the purpose and use of facilities, although other methods exist. Public, municipal facilities in the service area are classified using this system. Facilities available to the public are shown on Map 2.

Facilities Available to the Public

The Village of Middleville owns and operates eight sites for recreational use. These include Calvin Hill Park, Crane Road Ball Fields, a segment of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail, Riverside Park, Sesquicentennial Park, Spring Park, Stagecoach Park, and Wildwood Trails. Thornapple Township does not directly own or maintain recreational land. The Thornapple-Kellogg School District owns and maintains several school recreational facilities.



Following is a summary of Village and School District facilities.

Calvin Hill Park

Calvin Hill Park is a 1.1-acre facility that may be categorized as a Community Park because it meets neighborhood-based recreation needs and is accessible on foot for neighborhood residents. This park includes a basketball court, play equipment purchased and installed in 2002, some older play equipment, a small wooden skateboard park, and a small mowed open space. Additionally, a temporary ice-skating rink has been moved to Calvin Hill Park from Lions Sesquicentennial Park. This park is bordered by Park, Ellis, and Fremont Streets. The property is the site of the former Calvin Hill School.



Calvin Hill Park

Crane Road Ball Fields

The Crane Road Ball Fields facility is located in Thornapple Township, but is owned by Middleville and maintained by TAPRC. It may be categorized as a Special Use Park because it is intended to meet a specific community need. The

facility is 12 acres and offers three ball fields and gravel parking. The ball fields are used in-season as part of the TAPRC programming for youth and adult softball and baseball. The Crane Road Ball Fields is the site of a reclaimed landfill closed in the 1970s. Poor soil quality and lack of access to utilities prohibit significant investment in improvements to this facility.

Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail

The Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail is a 42-mile multi-purpose trail that can be classified as a Linear Park. The trailway is being built in phases and will ultimately connect Grand Rapids with Hastings, Vermontville and Eaton Rapids and link with other trails, as well. Paved sections of the trail include 4 miles in Kentwood, over 5 miles in Gaines and Caledonia townships, and 3.6 miles between Middleville and Irving. In addition, in Hastings, 1.5 miles of the trail are paved and another mile will be paved in 2012.

Stagecoach Park, discussed below, is adjacent to the Middleville Village Hall and functions as a trailhead staging area for the regional trail. Approximately 3.5 miles of the trail are paved and 5 miles are owned by the Village of Middleville. The Village partners with the Thornapple Trail Association to maintain this segment of the trail. The scenic trail parallels the Thornapple River in Middleville and offers stunning scenery. A series of exercise plaques and a handicap accessible fishing pier were installed in 2009 along the trailway. Winter time on this trail affords a wonderful cross-country skiing opportunity. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.



Stagecoach Park functions as a trailhead staging area for the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail.

Stagecoach Park

Stagecoach Park is the most recent addition to recreational offerings in the Village. It is a 1.2-acre facility strategically located in downtown Middleville, adjacent to the Village offices, the main street, the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail, and the Thornapple River; and is therefore very visible in the community. The facility may be classified as a Mini Park because of its relatively small size and its specific purpose. The park features two period-style gazebos, one used for display of the Villages' stagecoach and the large gazebo used for picnics, weddings and the summer-time Riverbank Music Series. Modern restrooms are provided, primarily to serve the needs of trail-users, farmer's market patrons, and participants in the Riverbank Music Series.

Riverside Park

Riverside Park is a 1-acre Special Use Park. Riverside Park was improved by TAPRC to provide better boat launch access to the river, lawn area and passive use. These improvements involved earth changes via MDEQ permit, selective clearing of scrub brush and dead trees, improving the drive access for the boat launch/canoe livery and placement of stone rip rap to stabilize the shoreline. While the boat launch is the only physical amenity, the park is a popular shore fishing spot.

Lions Sesquicentennial Park

Lions Sesquicentennial Park is a .3-acre facility located at the Middleville dam on the Thornapple River. This Mini Park offers river viewing, picnicking and bank fishing below the dam. The park once hosted a temporary community ice skating

rink in the winter months, but this amenity has been provisionally moved to Calvin Hill Park pending grade adjustments to Lions Sesquicentennial Park to maximize use of the facility.

Lions Spring Park

Lions Spring Park is the Villages' largest facility, comprising about 24 acres of land. Lions Spring Park may be classified as a Community Park, as its relative size and extensive amenities are designed to serve the larger community. Lions Spring Park offers a baseball/softball diamond used for league play, a disc golf course, a picnic shelter, several outdoor barbeque grills, play equipment, and picnic tables. This park also contains a unique spring fed natural area including a rare sedge fen. The south 8-9 acres is undeveloped and in natural condition.

The wetland mitigation area lends itself to passive recreation opportunities, such as interpretive signage, rustic trails, a wetland boardwalk, etc.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality identified Lions Spring Park as a wetland mitigation site in connection with the removal of wetlands for the extension of Crane/Finkbeiner Road. As such, a portion of the park is now a State wetland mitigation site, meaning that wetlands were added to the park to compensate for wetlands removed during road construction elsewhere in the community; these wetlands will be permanently protected. While the wetland mitigation project reduced the size of the existing baseball/softball field in the park, it also resulted in expansion of the park's acreage. The wetland mitigation area also lends itself to passive recreation opportunities, such as interpretive signage, rustic trails, a wetland boardwalk, etc.

Wildwood Trails

Wildwood Trails is the Village's newest park located in the heart of a housing and retail development. The 20-acre park features 1.45 miles of rustic walking trails through a white pine stand, hardwoods and open meadows. The trails are unpaved and the park functions essentially as a natural open space and this facility may consequently be classified as a Natural Resource Area.

Thornapple-Kellogg School District Facilities

As a participating TAPRC governmental entity, the Thornapple-Kellogg School District facilities are used for many TAPRC recreation programs. Currently, TAPRC uses the following facilities:

- Page Elementary JV softball field
- McFall Elementary JV baseball field
- Thornapple-Kellogg High School varsity baseball field
- McFall Elementary flag football field
- Lee Elementary t-ball field

The school district offers 3 playgrounds, 5 baseball and softball fields (all of which are not used for TAPRC programs), an artificial turf football/soccer field, a practice soccer field, a non-regulation sized pool, and approximately 8 basketball hoops although formal outdoor courts are not provided. Additionally, the district utilizes several large open green spaces for school athletic team practice. Indoors, 8 volleyball and 10 basketball courts are provided, although the facilities overlap.

Recreation Grant History

A requirement of the DNR is that a recreation plan explain whether any facilities have been partially or completely acquired and/or developed with DNR grant funds. According to the DNR office of Grants Management, TAPRC and its member units have not received a DNR grant.

Public Facility Analysis

Acreage

Table 3 is a summary of one method of analyzing facility needs, based on the park facilities currently provided in the Village. The figures presented in Table 3 are based on NRPA standards and the 2010 Census combined population of the Township and the Village - 7,884 people.¹

Table 3				
Middleville/Thornapple Public Facilities Acreage Analysis				
Park Type	Recommended Acres per 1,000 residents	Recommended Acres	Acres Provided	Deficiency / Surplus (+) (acres)
Mini-Park	.375	3	1.5	-1.5
Community Park	6.5	51	25.1	-24.9
Regional Park	7.5	59	24	-35
Linear Park	1/region		2/region ¹	+1
Natural Resource Area	variable		20	+20
Special Use	variable		13	+13

¹This figure reflects the presence of both the North Country Trail and the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail, but not the rustic trails in Wildwood Trails because they are not regional or connective in nature.

Nearby facilities contribute to the recreational character of the region and bolster the facilities offered by the Village and school district.

Only Village facilities are included in the above evaluation. The Township does not own any public parkland and the school facilities, while public, primarily consist of sports fields used for school competitive events, limited use by organized TAPRC sports programs, and other traveling leagues, and cannot easily be classified using the NRPA designations.

In addition, the evaluation should acknowledge the large State parks and game areas which are partially located in the service area and discussed on a subsequent page. These facilities, including the Barry and Middleville State Game Areas and the Yankee Springs State Park, contribute significantly to the recreational character of the region and recognizably bolster the facilities offered by the Village and school district. The facilities total 22,320 acres, and if accounted for in the above table, a significant acreage surplus would result. However, they are not TAPRC facilities, are largely dedicated to natural resource protection, and cannot be developed in accordance with local recreational priorities.

¹ Lancaster, Roger A. Ed. 1983. *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA.

Amenities

Table 4 includes information helpful in determining whether the community may be in need of specific elements commonly found in parkland, based on NRPA standards.² The analysis is based on nationally-recognized standards. A table is used to convey the ability of the Village’s facilities to meet the needs of the local population and a separate table is used to illustrate whether the school district’s facilities meet local needs, based on national benchmark standards. TAPRC believes that such an analysis is appropriate because the school district’s population exceeds that of the Village and Township. A further reason for differentiation is that the school’s sports fields are often unavailable to the general public for anytime use, due to significant demand and use by the school, TAPRC and travel leagues. Table 4 is therefore based on the combined population of the Village and Township, while Table 5 is based on the 2010 population of the Thornapple-Kellogg School District, 15,271 people according to the 2010 Census.

Table 4				
Middleville Amenities Analysis				
Amenities	Standard	Recommended	Village Facility	Deficiency / Surplus
Trails	1/region	1	2 ¹	+1
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	0	0
Running Track	1/20,000	0	0	0
Tennis	1/2,000	4	0	-4
Playground	1/3,000	3	3	0
Baseball/Softball	1/5,000	2	4	+2
Basketball	1/5,000	2	1	-1
Volleyball	1/5,000	2	2	0
Soccer	1/10,000	0	0	0
Football	1/20,000	0	0	0

¹This figure reflects the presence of both the North Country Trail and the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail, but not the rustic trails in Wildwood Trails because they are not regional or connective in nature.

Table 5				
Thornapple-Kellogg Schools Amenities Analysis				
Amenities	Standard	Recommended	School Facility	Deficiency / Surplus
Trails	1/region	1	0	-1
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	1	+1
Running Track	1/20,000	0	1	+1
Tennis	1/2,000	8	14	+6
Playground	1/3,000	5	3	-2
Baseball/Softball	1/5,000	3	5	+2
Basketball	1/5,000	3	10	+7
Volleyball	1/5,000	3	8	+5
Soccer	1/10,000	2	2	0
Football	1/20,000	0	1	+1

² Lancaster, Roger A. Ed. 1983. *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA.

Based on objective national benchmark standards, it appears that the facilities in the Village do not adequately provide for tennis and basketball, and that there are not enough playgrounds. School facilities do not provide adequately for play areas. Table 6 below combines the deficiencies and surpluses for each listed facility type in the Village and school district to reveal potential needs in the community. Based on Table 6, there are deficiencies in the number of playgrounds.

Community wide, benchmark standards suggest there are deficiencies in the number of playgrounds.

	Middleville Facilities	School Facilities	Combined Facilities
Amenities	Deficiency / Surplus	Deficiency / Surplus	Deficiency / Surplus
Trails	+1	-1	0
Swimming Pool	0	+1	+1
Running Track	0	+1	+1
Tennis	-4	+6	+2
Playground	0	-2	-2
Baseball/Softball	+2	+2	+4
Basketball	-1	+7	+6
Volleyball	0	+5	+5
Soccer	0	0	0
Football	0	+1	+1

Service Area

In addition to considering the acreage and amenities of park areas, it is also important to review park distribution throughout the community. It is helpful to closely review where residents live, with the goal being to locate important park facilities within proximity to a concentration of rooftops; and to plan new facilities near areas underserved with easy access to parkland.

It is generally ideal to consider areas outside of an existing service area radius for additional park land acquisition.

The NRPA promulgates “service area” standards for different types of park facilities, as follows:

- Mini Parks, 0.25 miles or less
- Community Parks, 1.0 to 2.0 miles
- Regional Parks, approximately 30 minutes of drive time

Special use areas do not have a defined service area, per the NRPA; because these facilities have more specific target users and naturally draw from a broader area.

Although service area standards may imply that only people residing within a certain distance of a park will be sufficiently and conveniently served, public parks are intended for use by all community residents and are open to the public. Nevertheless, it is generally ideal to consider areas outside of an existing service area radius for additional park land acquisition to help ensure that residents are

adequately served with parks geographically distributed throughout the community.

Based on the service areas listed above, the 2.1-square mile community of Middleville appears to be adequately served in terms of regional distribution of parkland. This means that facilities are sufficiently dispersed throughout the entire community. However, most public parkland is located in the Village, which means that many areas of the Township are not likely “covered” by a service area. Moreover, improving accessibility and non-motorized connections to all existing facilities may be one tool to establish an even more meaningful and connected recreation network and to strengthen walkability in the community.

Accessibility

Federal and State laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of physical ability in connection with public recreational facilities. Developed park facilities must comply with barrier-free design standards. Public facilities in Middleville have been evaluated to understand the need for improvements relating to barrier-free accessibility. In addition, as park development is considered in the future, barrier-free accessibility is a significant priority item to help ensure that recreation can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors of the community.

Barrier-free accessibility is a significant priority item to help ensure that recreation can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors.

Following is a summary of an adapted scoring system generally in accordance with DNR standards:

- Level 1. None of the facilities in the park meet accessibility guidelines. Little pavement is provided and access routes to the facilities are not easily accessible.
- Level 2. Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines, but many of the facilities or the access routes to them are not easily accessible.
- Level 3. Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Parking areas and walkways are paved; and while most facilities are generally accessible, some barriers may exist for certain people because of age, ability or situation.
- Level 4. All of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. The park is accessible and the routes to facilities within the park are accessible, but some play or other equipment may not be designed for everyone.
- Level 5. Universal design guidelines were used to design the entire park.

Table 7 summarizes the accessibility of public facilities located within Middleville.

Table 7		
Public Facilities Accessibility Assessment		
Facility	Ownership	Accessibility Level / Summary
Calvin Hill Park	Village	2 / This park features some paved on-street parking nearby and a paved route to the swing-set. Off-street, on-site accessible parking is not provided. Play equipment does not utilize ramps and transfers and sits on grass instead of a unitary safety surface, which may complicate access. Routes to most amenities are unpaved
Crane Road Ball Fields	Village	1 / All amenities and access routes to them are unpaved. Non-paved parking is featured, as well as non-paved walking routes to ball fields. Accessible seating areas are not provided
Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail	Village	4 / The south end of the trail is paved and wheelchair users frequent this segment of the trail. Seniors attend the music series in Stagecoach Park, and use the trail to get to the park. The trail and adjacent access routes to the trail have been constructed following principles of accessible design. The north segment of trail in the Village is grass and gravel and therefore inaccessible; however, this segment has yet to be developed
Stagecoach Park	Village	4 / This park offers on-site handicapped parking and a paved trail. Restrooms and gazebos are universally accessible and thoughtfully located, with level routes to facilities
Riverside Park	Village	1 / This park features gravel parking; paved, handicapped parking spaces are not provided. The boat launch is gravel, which may limit the maneuverability of a wheelchair in the area
Lions Sesquicentennial Park	Village	2 / Paved on-street parking is nearby, but this small park does not offer on-site parking. Park users may have to go out of their way to find an accessible route to the park, as some nearby sidewalks are very old and do not offer accessible curb ramps
Lions Spring Park	Village	1 / Spring Park features gravel parking and uneven lawn area, making wheelchair use difficult. A considerable portion of the park is in a natural condition, but developed amenities do exist. Play equipment is accessible, but is underlain by woodchips. The routes to features are unpaved and therefore inaccessible
Wildwood Trails	Village	1 / This park's amenities and access routes to them are not paved. Gravel and wood-chipped trails are rustic and inaccessible. However, this facility is primarily intended as a natural resource area at this time, not an improved park. Nonetheless, as any future improvements are made in the future, it is appropriate to ensure that facilities and amenities and routes to them are accessible, including parking areas
Thornapple-Kellogg School District Facilities	School District	4 / The high school and middle school offer accessible tennis courts and ball fields with paved access routes connecting amenities and parking areas. However, the gravel parking area adjacent to the soccer fields is not accessible. Other parking lots serving school facilities are paved. The t-ball field at Lee Elementary does not utilize a paved path and is not accessible. McFall Elementary offers a paved path connecting the Misty Ridge subdivision to a ball field, play ground, and the flag football site. However, the playground is not supported by a unitary playing surface.

Thornapple Area Parks & Recreation Commission

Map 2. Existing Public Facilities

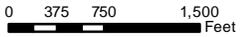
Legend

-  Village Parks
-  School Facilities
-  NorthCountryTrail

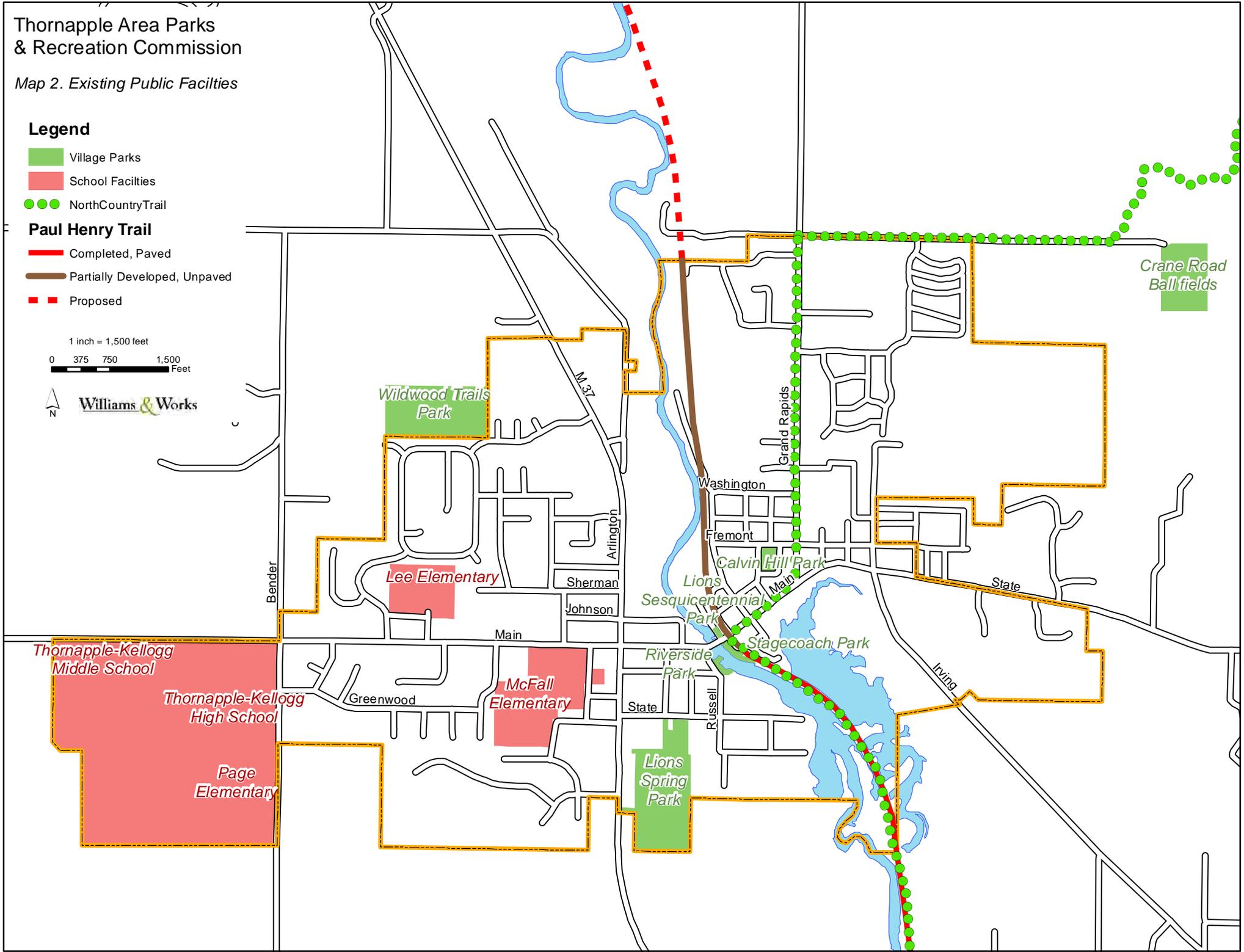
Paul Henry Trail

-  Completed, Paved
-  Partially Developed, Unpaved
-  Proposed

1 inch = 1,500 feet



Williams & Works



Other Facilities

In addition to recreational facilities owned and maintained by TAPRC member communities, there are a number of facilities in or near the service area owned by other entities that supplement the local facilities and provide additional opportunities for residents and visitors. These facilities provide various recreational and community benefits.

The TAPRC service area includes extensive and unique natural areas, largely owned by the State of Michigan. Following is a summary of these and other facilities that, while located in or near the TAPRC service area, are not TAPRC or member unit facilities. Note that Barry County has no public recreation facilities within the TAPRC service area. Map 3 offers a regional perspective of these facilities.

North Country Trail

For 3.5 miles the North Country Trail and Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail are coincident.

The National North Country Scenic Trail forms a linear greenway that traverses the American landscape from North Dakota to upstate New York. Near the TAPRC service area, the trail runs from northern Orangeville Township northward through the Barry State Game Area then continuing northerly to the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail. For 3.5 miles the North Country Trail and Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail are coincident. The North Country Trail continues through the Village of Middleville to Crane Road then east along Crane Road to the Middleville State Game Area. It then meanders northeasterly into Kent County.

State of Michigan Facilities

Barry State Game Area and Yankee Springs State Park. The Barry State Game Area is a large State facility located primarily in Yankee Springs Township with additional contiguous areas in western Rutland Township and the north tier of sections in Orangeville Township and Hope Township. Activities permitted in the Barry State Game Area include hiking, backpacking, camping and hunting in-season.

Yankee Springs State Park is located on Gun Lake and offers both rustic and improved campsites, a public swimming beach, a concession stand and a public boat launch. The 2,680-acre Gun Lake is located mostly in Yankee Springs Township and attracts numerous summer vacationers. The lake's shores have also acted as magnets for year-round residential development. The Yankee Springs Recreation Area, a 5,200-acre state forest, is located adjacent to Gun Lake and provides popular amenities such as trails, camping and fishing, attracting large numbers of day use and camping patrons. It is adjacent to the Barry State Game Area and when combined the two State facilities total approximately 22,000 acres.

Middleville State Game Area. Lands included in this 320-acre State Game Area are located within Irving Township and Thornapple Township. The western portions of this game area have significant relief and extensive woodlands. The Crane Road Ball Fields are adjacent to the west edge of this State Game Area and

share common access from Crane Road. Hiking, backpacking, camping and hunting in-season are common activities.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Public Access Sites. Within the TAPRC service area, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources operates ten public access sites for boat launching. There is one site in Thornapple Township at the north end of Duncan Lake. Most other sites are in Yankee Springs Township, including Deep Lake, Hall Lake, Gun Lake, Long Lake, Williams Lake, Payne Lake and Chief Noonday Lake. There is also a small access site in the Village of Middleville providing access to the Thornapple River. This site is north of the dam and west of the river. Additionally, there is a DNR access site on the Thornapple River between Irving and McCann Roads.

Golf Courses

There are no golf courses or country clubs in Middleville or Thornapple Township. Nearby golf courses include Yankee Springs Golf Course, Mullenhurst Golf Course, Gun Ridge Golf Course, River Bend Golf Course, and Hastings Country Club. In addition, other facilities include Saskatoon Golf Club and Tyler Creek Golf Course and Campground in Alto, Broadmoor Country Club in Caledonia, Thornapple Pointe Golf Club in Cascade, and Stonewater Country Club in Gaines Township.

Public Parks in Adjacent Communities

Yankee Springs Township. Yankee Springs Township owns and maintains one park – the Yankee Springs Township Park. The facility is 9.9 acres and offers play equipment, a gazebo, walking paths and pickle-ball courts. This facility is supplemented by the State recreation land and the presence of Gun Lake. According to the Township website, additional facilities in the Township include the Historic Bowens Mill site, Horseman’s Campground, Long Lake Recreation Area, Graves Heritage Trail, Gun Lake Campground, Pine Scenic Area, Deep Lake Campground, and Devil’s Soup Bowl.

Irving Township / Village of Freeport. Irving Township, east of Thornapple Township, does not own any parkland; however, a segment of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail traverses through the community. The Village of Freeport, which is located within Irving Township, offers one park. Moore Park is a 20-acre facility offering frisbee golf, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a skate park (ramps are not currently provided), two sets of play equipment, two ball fields, modern restrooms, a pavilion, picnic tables, bleachers, a one-mile long trail through the woods, and a soccer area. Additionally, a 100-foot walking path connects the park to the public library. It is also notable that the Grand Rapids Audubon Club owns an 80-acre wildlife preserve, Maher Sanctuary, in Irving Township, which is probably best known for its stunning scenery and rare bird sightings.

Caledonia Charter Township / Village of Caledonia. The Caledonia community offers several public park facilities, including a segment of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail. Caledonia Lakeside Park (43 acres) is located in the Village. The Township owns and maintains the 91-acre Two Rivers Park, Thornapple River

Bend Park (209 acres), Lepard Preserve (51.7 acres), an access to Campau Lake, Ruehs Park (5 acres) and an undeveloped, 20-acre youth sports complex.

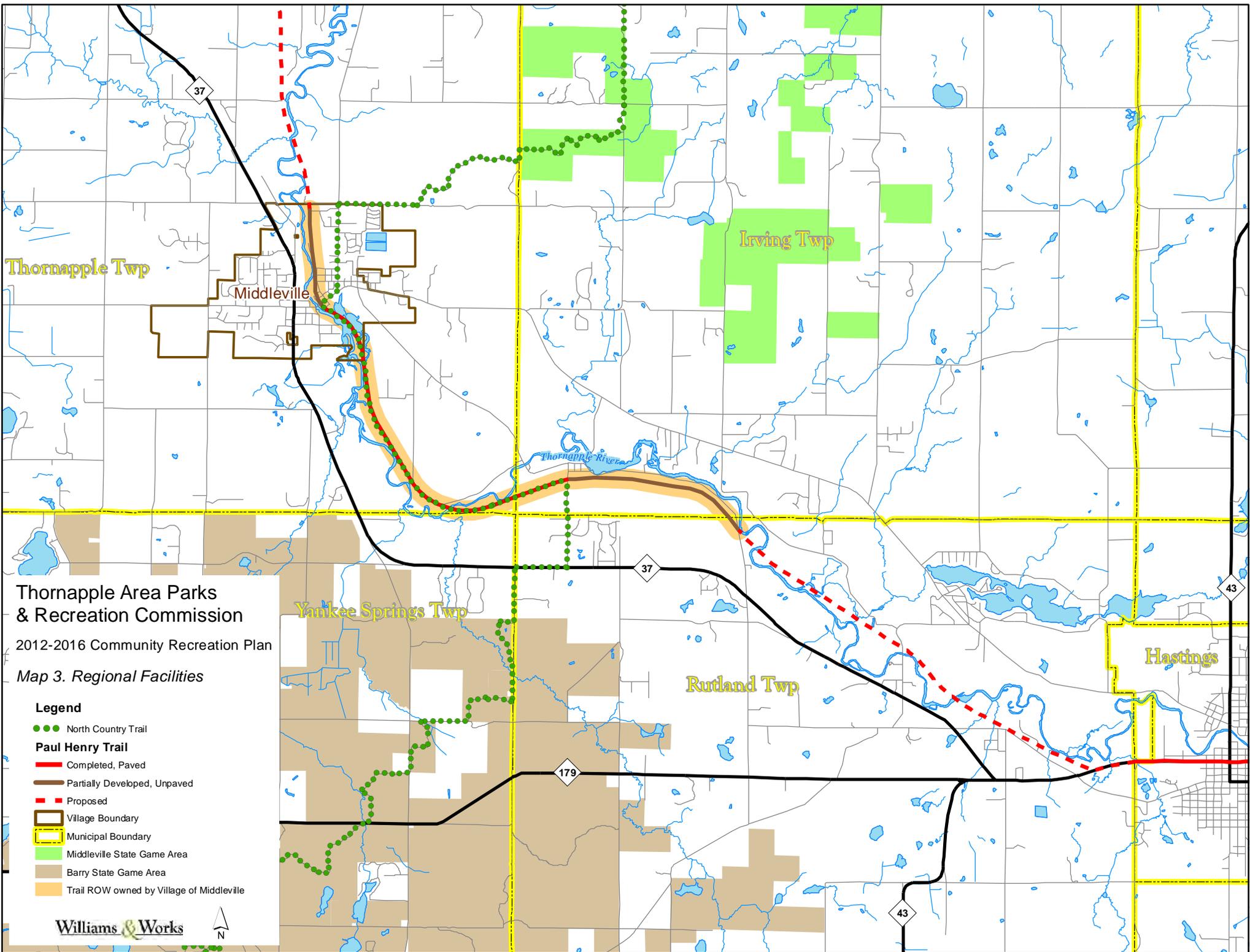
Rutland Charter Township. Rutland Charter Township does not own any parkland, but a segment of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail traverses through the Township. Aside from State game areas, the only public recreational area in the community is the Barry Expo Center, the home of the Barry County Fair. The site is 160 acres and offers 260 campground sites with water and electric hook-up and serves as a venue for a variety of events. A notable privately-owned facility in Rutland Township is the Whispering Waters Campground and Canoe Livery, which is strategically located on the Thornapple River and at a current terminus of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail.

Gun Lake Casino

The Gun Lake Casino is southwest of the service area in Allegan County's Wayland Township. The facility offers a variety of gaming machines, stations and tables and is affiliated with the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, sometimes referred to as the Gun Lake Tribe.

IMPLICATIONS – RECREATION INVENTORY

1. The NRPA evaluations do not contemplate the acreage of large State parks and game areas located in the service area. These facilities, while public and supplemental to local recreational amenities, are not TAPRC facilities and are primarily dedicated to natural resource protection. Accordingly, the land will not likely be developed for active recreational use and it should be recognized that the significant acreage contributions of State land would somewhat distort the NRPA evaluations.
2. Population growth has been constant, suggesting a demand for new facilities to keep up with that growth. In addition, national benchmark standards suggest a deficiency in some facilities. TAPRC should carefully contemplate NRPA suggestions within the context of recreation needs identified by the public during community input exercises.



Thornapple Area Parks & Recreation Commission
 2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan
 Map 3. Regional Facilities

- Legend**
- North Country Trail
 - Paul Henry Trail**
 - Completed, Paved
 - Partially Developed, Unpaved
 - - - Proposed
 - ▭ Village Boundary
 - ▭ Municipal Boundary
 - ▭ Middleville State Game Area
 - ▭ Barry State Game Area
 - ▭ Trail ROW owned by Village of Middleville



CHAPTER 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Planning Process

The planning process involved three inter-related phases:

- Phase One: Understanding Current Challenges
- Phase Two: Outlining a Preferred Future
- Phase Three: From Planning to Action

Phase 1 – Understanding Current Challenges

During the first phase of the planning process, background data was gathered to inform and support the Community Recreation Plan. The purpose of this effort was to develop a snapshot impression of the local community and a comprehensive understanding of its recreational needs. The information gathered during this phase, presented in Chapter 2, serves as a technical resource for the community.

The planning process involved three phases; including a public input process.

Phase 2 – Outlining a Preferred Future

The objective of the second phase was to establish a policy basis for recreational goals. To do so, it was important to gather the opinions of community residents and determine the direction they were looking for the future of parks and recreation in their community. The Community Recreation Plan process employed several methods of acquiring community input: focus groups and a community meeting held during plan development, a public comment review period held upon plan completion, and a public adoption meeting or hearing.

The focus groups and community meeting took place before the preparation of the Community Recreation Plan. Comments gathered from these citizen input opportunities were formed into several broad goal statements, which form the foundation of the Plan. Each goal is supported by several more specific objectives that are intended as steps needed to accomplish each goal. Goals and objectives are presented in Chapter 6.

Implementation projects are based principally on public input.

Generally, a “comparison to standards” process was used, as discussed in Chapter 4, to help determine which types of facilities the community may be missing. Additionally, the public input received also helped to inform the policy-development process and implementation projects are based principally on public input.

Phase 3 – From Planning to Action

The final phase of the planning process involved the development of specific implementation strategies to carry out the Plan. These are included in Chapter 7.

Soliciting Public Input

The first phase of public input was the facilitation of focus groups. The purpose of a focus group is to garner detailed input on specific issues. TAPRC coordinated three focus groups, based on topics of known interest. Although the sessions were open to the public, participants were specifically invited via letter because of their expressed interest or expertise on the issue.

Community meeting participants were primarily invited via word of mouth, a flyer posted throughout the community, and a public notice published in a local newspaper. While it is believed that this concerted effort to draw extensive participation and varied perspectives is sufficient to ensure that the views of the entire community are represented, TAPRC views public input as an open, ongoing process and will continue to receive comments. Appendix C includes the public notice and the flyer used to advertise the community meeting.

TAPRC views public input as an open, ongoing process and will continue to receive comments.

In addition, once the draft Community Recreation Plan was complete, citizens were provided with a period to review and comment on the Plan which exceeded 30 days. The Plan was published and placed in the municipal offices of Thornapple Township and Middleville. Contact information and a comment box were provided. The Plan was also published on several agency websites, including the websites for the Township, Village, TAPRC and school district. To notify the public that the Plan draft had been completed, several notices were published in *The Sun and News*, a newspaper of general circulation in the community, describing the purpose of the review period (see Appendix D).

The notice informing residents that the Plan was available for review also indicated the date of the public adoption meeting and advertised to the public the opportunity to comment once more on the Plan draft prior to adoption.

The Public Input Process and Results

TAPRC is committed to meaningful citizen input and is dedicated to using this input to assist in evaluating conditions and in forming policy. Following is a summary of both the focus group sessions and the community input or visioning meeting. Map 4 graphically illustrates many of the concepts generated during public input exercises.

TAPRC is committed to meaningful citizen input and is dedicated to using this input to assist in evaluating conditions and in forming policy.

Focus Groups

TAPRC selected what it viewed as the three most critical issues in the community pertaining to parks and recreation, and designed focus group sessions around those topics: Trail Improvements and Expansion, Recreation Programming and Facilities, and Park Improvements and Expansion. The meetings were conducted on December 15, 2011 at the Middleville Village Offices. Each session was organized around a set of pre-determined discussion questions appropriate for the topic of the group. Detailed notes of the focus group discussions were prepared and assisted the planning team in developing policy and a list of future recreation

projects. The full set of comments is presented in Appendix E, and a general summary of each focus group follows.

Trail Improvements and Expansion Focus Group. The Trail Improvements and Expansion Focus Group concentrated on the need for non-motorized enhancements, including additional connections and improvements to existing facilities. Sixteen people interested and knowledgeable on the topic participated.

There was consensus in the group that the following should be priorities with respect to trail enhancement as TAPRC plans for the future:

- The planned route for extensions to the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail takes precedence in the effort to provide for regional connections. Moreover, connecting to population centers in Kent County – and to Kent County’s existing regional trails – is important because it would provide non-motorized routes to Cadillac and Muskegon.
- Staging areas and restrooms are important and are needed at reasonable intervals. It was recognized that Parmalee Road was the midpoint between the villages of Middleville and Caledonia, and that, if the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail were to be completed between the two communities, a trailhead should be contemplated somewhere in the vicinity of Parmalee Road.
- Maps are an important feature in a staging area and updated and complete maps should be installed in Stagecoach Park and other areas along the trail, likely as part of kiosks providing comprehensive information about local amenities. It was also acknowledged that smart phone applications are increasingly used for wayfinding and that the community should spearhead an app pertaining to the trail, or review and improve what exists.
- Housing developments on the edge of the Village and in Thornapple Township are not adequately served with non-motorized infrastructure. Additionally, many of the neighborhoods do not have non-motorized access to the school facilities. Bicycle paths should be installed connecting neighborhoods to schools.
- Improved non-motorized safety signage is needed, as well as signage advertising existing routes.
- Several preferred local trail loops were identified: a Mill Pond Trail Loop, around the mill pond south of the village on land that could potentially be donated to the community; a River Loop, along the Thornapple River between Finkbeiner/Crane Road and Main Street; a trail encircling the Crane Road ball fields; and improved trails in and around Wildwood Trails Park. Several additional non-motorized routes were identified.

The planned route for extensions to the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail takes precedence in the effort to provide for regional connections.



Participants map potential trail routes.

Park Improvements and Expansion Focus Group. Fourteen people participated in this focus group, which centered on specific park facilities and improvements. Following is a summary of the discussion:

- The general consensus was that facilities and equipment at existing parks is deteriorating and that improvements to existing developed parks should come before acquiring land for new parks. Also, many parks have no parking, a lack

Facilities and equipment at existing parks is deteriorating and improvements to existing developed parks should come before acquiring land for new parks.

of parking or a crumbling parking lot surface and parking improvements are needed at almost every park.

- Stagecoach Park needs a band shell because the acoustics at the shelter are not sufficient. This adversely affects the quality of the performances.
- Spring Park needs disc golf facilities, improved restrooms, and a long-term plan that contemplates the conservation easement imposed by the DEQ. A long-term plan might include a natural resource area with interpretive nature trails, a fishing dock, and possibly a trailhead if connected to the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail in the future.
- Wildwood Trails Park could remain as a natural resource area, but if Spring Park will be used in that way, Wildwood Trails Park or a portion of it should be developed for recreational purposes. Potential improvements include disc golf, cross-country skiing, restrooms, snow-boarding, a mountain bike course, a picnic area, and improved walking trails.
- Calvin Hill Park needs improvements to the skate park and a restroom building.
- Riverside Park needs a better conceived boat launch, and the large pieces of debris in the river adjacent to the launch need to be removed to ensure safe and full access to the river for emergency responders and recreational users.
- The Crane Road Ball Fields site needs attention. There is considerable concern that any activity may trigger the requirement for an environmental impact statement, because the park is built on an old landfill and there are no records relating to the capping of the landfill. All facilities at this park need enhancement, and new amenities, such as a walking trail loop and a sandbox, are also desired.
- Approximately 10 to 15 acres of the DPW property may be a potential site for new baseball and softball fields.
- Bicycle parking facilities (i.e. bike racks) are needed at parks.

Recreation Programming and Facilities Focus Group. Seven people participated in the focus group on TAPRC recreation programs. Questions asked during the focus group related primarily to types of programming and facility availability.



Focus group participants discuss desired projects.

A primary issue with programming is the lack of baseball and softball fields. A couple of more fields are needed to help with logistical and scheduling conflicts and confusion. Baseball and softball are very popular in the local community, and several entities use the fields in addition to TAPRC.

Additionally, revisions to the scheduling process should be considered, so that users reserve a field for a specific amount of time instead of a whole day, with provisions for inclement weather rescheduling.

Desired new programs may include lacrosse, potentially in conjunction with Caledonia programming. Ice skating and hockey are also desired.

Community Visioning Meeting

In addition to the focus groups, TAPRC solicited public input prior to developing the Plan using the community visioning method. The community meeting was intended to develop a general consensus among the participants as to current recreation ideals and some potential solutions to perceived issues. This process also can assist TAPRC in articulating the values of residents.



Visioning Meeting participants identify needs.

Williams & Works directed the workshop and facilitated the discussion. The workshop was held on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 6:00 PM at the Thornapple-Kellogg Middle School; and 19 people attended. The meeting was open and informal, while following a specific schedule to ensure a useful outcome. Participants were encouraged to engage the process to provide TAPRC with the benefit of their experience, expertise and perspectives. The visioning workshop was structured as follows:

1. Welcome and Overview

The consultants from Williams & Works provided a brief introduction to the process and an overview explanation of how the results of the activity will be incorporated into the Plan. The presentation also included a discussion of the purpose of parks planning, the process and a brief review of the recreation inventory.



Visioning Meeting participants vote on priorities.

2. Visioning Exercise

At the workshop, the larger group of participants was divided into two smaller “breakout” groups of about ten persons each to answer questions, discuss opportunities, present ideal visions, and to talk about desired uses and amenities. A nominal group process was used to rank or prioritize needs. See Appendix F for the workshop handout.

3. Reports to Larger Group

At the completion of the final exercise, all the participants gathered for a brief report of their activities to the reassembled plenary. There was a general consensus among participants on the most important projects that TAPRC should plan to complete.

Results of the meeting, or the recreational projects desired by participants, are as follows. Because this was a community workshop and not an official meeting of an instrumentality of a public entity, official meeting minutes were not taken. However, an article prepared by a local reporter published in the *The Sun and News* is included in Appendix G and provides a summary of the meeting. Projects indicated in bold text were the top-voted priorities of the evening; and the listings under each heading are presented in general rank order, based on the votes of participants.

Table 8a Visioning Meeting Input – Group 1
Parks
Additional multi-purpose ball fields
Additional equipment for skate park
Regional aquatics/recreational center
Boat launches/fishing piers
Multi-purpose park near Thornberry Apartments
Illuminate existing facilities to extend hours of use
Kayak/canoe launches on Thornapple River
Illuminate a few tennis courts
Additional baseball and soccer fields
More flexible, multi-use spaces
Trails
Complete/connect Paul Henry trail north of Village
Connect parks, schools, neighborhoods
Develop trailheads with restrooms
Pave the unpaved portions of Paul Henry trail
Programming
Fast-pitch softball
Adult basketball league
Additional organized river programming
Bowling, disc golf, 3-on-3 basketball, table games
Volleyball in conjunction with YMCA
Establish a regional recreation committee
Fitness/walking classes on trails
Use Freeport fields for softball
Family Recreation Needs
Crane Road Ball Fields: improve restrooms, add scoreboards
Trailheads
Add restrooms to Calvin Hill Park
Evaluate development of southeast corner of high school land
Evaluate development of recreation facilities on land south of high school
Additional and improved parking at all parks

Table 8b Visioning Meeting Input – Group 2
Parks
Paul Henry trail: pave Village portion, connect to north
Handicap dual-use boat launch at Riverside park
Multi-activity community center
Additional baseball fields
Improve DNR launch south of dam
Mill Pond Trail Loop/River Trail Loop
Trails
Trailside camping areas/trailheads
Paul Henry trail connections/completion
Improved wayfinding signs on and off trail for safety and promotion
Mill Pond Trail Loop/River Trail Loop
Natural feature inventory/greenway educational programs
Programming
Natural history programs/aquatic activities/promotion of River as water trail/bike-canoe loops
Pennock Wellness Center educational classes-partner with Community Ed., YMCA, Pierce-Cedar Creek, etc
Family Recreation Needs
Skateboard park improvements
Walkability/sidewalks – Bender Road, etc
Ice-skating – fix elevation at Sesquicentennial Park
Additional golf cart tours/birding activities
Handicap accessibility a priority

Thornapple Area Parks & Recreation Commission

Map 4a. Public Input

Legend

-  Desired Boat Launch
-  Desired Non-motorized Route
-  North Country Trail
- TAPRC Master Plan - Public Input**
-  Mill Pond Loop
-  Paul Henry Trail - Temporary Alternate Route
-  River Trail Loop
- Paul Henry Trail**
-  Completed, Paved
-  Partially Developed, Unpaved
-  Proposed
-  Village Parks
-  School Facilities
-  Regional Trail Right-of-way

General Improvements

- Paul Henry Trail extension - 1st priority
- Add map kiosks to Stagecoach Park
- Improved non-motorized safety signage
- Improved parking as needed
- Add bike racks at all parks

Park-specific Improvements

Lions Spring Park

- New restrooms
- Long-term plan needed

Riverside Park

- New boat launch
- Remove river debris

Stagecoach Park

- Bandshell

Calvin Hill Park

- Skate park improvements
- Restrooms

Wildwood Trails Park

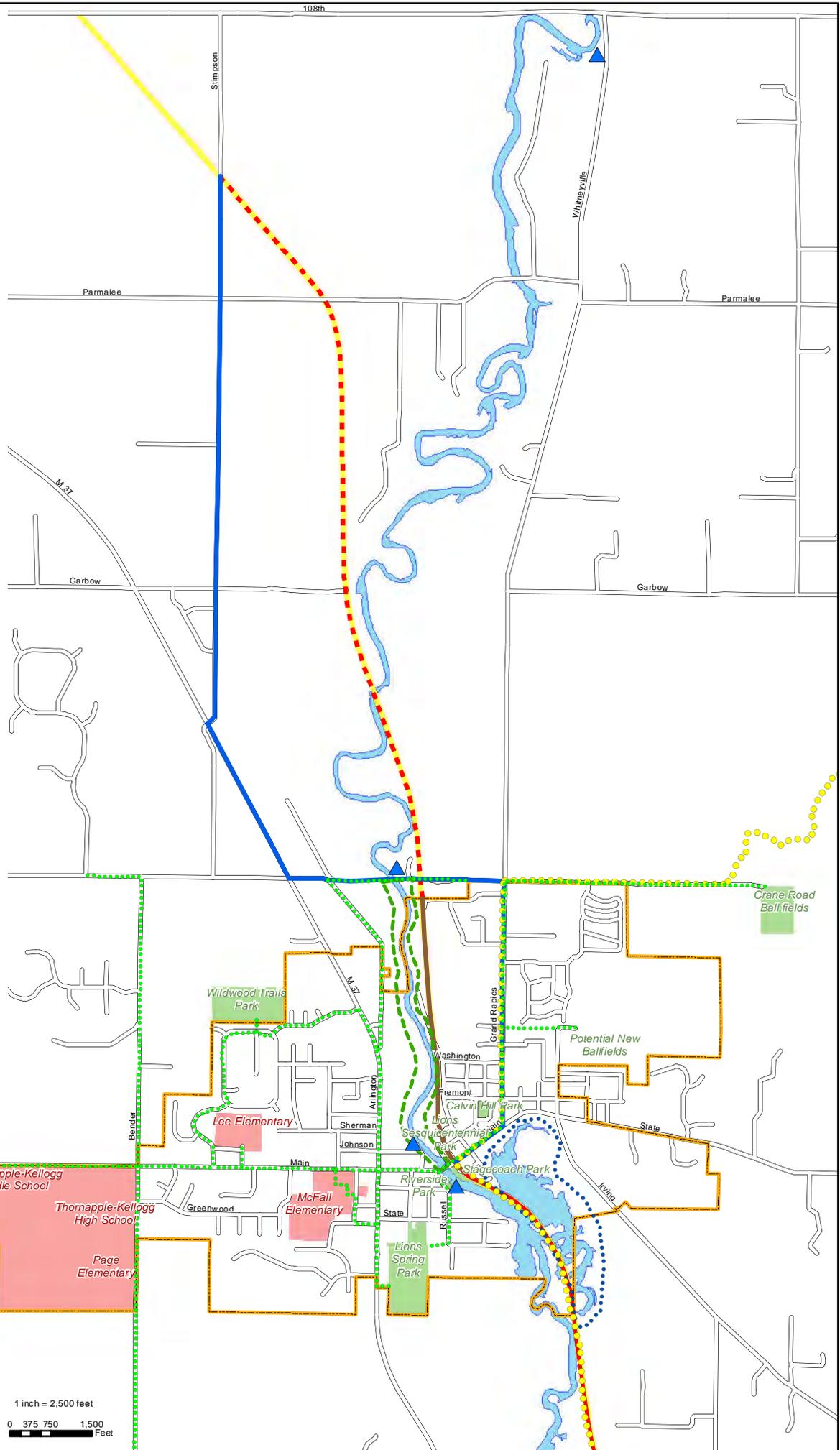
- Developed trails
- Long-term plan needed

Crane Road Ball fields

- New walking path
- Long-term plan needed
- Investigate environmental concerns

Lions Sesquicentennial Park

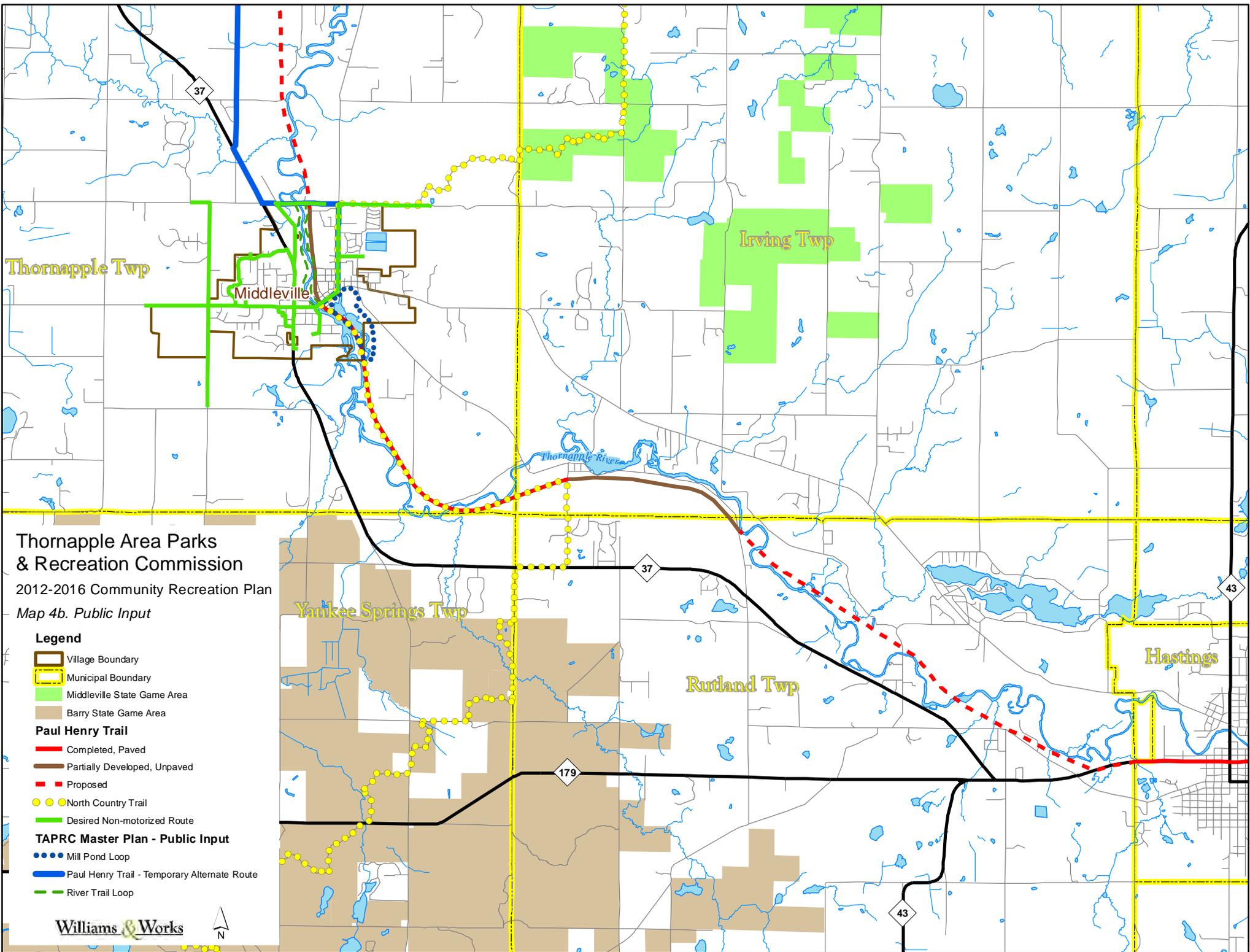
- Ice skating rink



1 inch = 2,500 feet

0 375 750 1,500 Feet

Williams & Works



Thornapple Area Parks & Recreation Commission
 2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan
 Map 4b. Public Input

Legend

- Village Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Middleville State Game Area
- Barry State Game Area
- Paul Henry Trail**
- Completed, Paved
- Partially Developed, Unpaved
- Proposed
- North Country Trail
- Desired Non-motorized Route
- TAPRC Master Plan - Public Input**
- Mill Pond Loop
- Paul Henry Trail - Temporary Alternate Route
- River Trail Loop



Public Review and Comment Period / Public Adoption Meeting

Once the draft plan was prepared, it was published for public scrutiny for a period exceeding 30 days, as described on page 34. Contact information was provided to enable the public to contact designated officials with comments and a comment box was provided, as well. No comments were received. In addition, at the conclusion of the plan development process, public adoption meetings were held; where the TAPRC Board and the three participating jurisdictions approved Resolutions which officially adopted the plan. Several members of the public attended the sessions. At the hearing facilitated by the Village, two citizens expressed opinions and their comments were discussed by the Council. Changes were made to the draft plan accordingly. Appendix H includes the minutes of the adoption meeting.

CHAPTER 6. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A collection of broad goal statements, each supported by more specific objectives, is a result of the focus groups, community meeting and the analysis of public facilities. This Community Recreation Plan is founded on the policies outlined in these statements. The goals are intended to describe the state of the community within the next five years, or more. They are intentionally general, but are thought to be attainable through concerted effort and cooperation by a multitude of entities. The objectives are more detailed and may be thought of as milestones in the journey to achieving the goal. The goals and objectives are supported by the Action Program, presented in Chapter 7.

GOAL I TRAILS & NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES

The residents and visitors of the TAPRC service area will enjoy a network of trails and safe and inviting connections to local and regional points of interest and recreational facilities.

OBJECTIVES:

Pave the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail in the Village and connect that segment north to Caledonia.

1. Explore funding opportunities or general resource partners, including the DNR, Barry County Parks & Recreation, Thornapple Trail Association, Bikes Belong Coalition, Barry County Road Commission, MDOT, West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition, and Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.
2. Pave the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail in the Village and connect that segment north to Caledonia. The south segment should also continue to Hastings.
3. Ensure that trailhead staging areas are planned at reasonable intervals, offering modern restrooms, interactive and complete mapping kiosks, and informal places to rest overnight.
4. Coordinate with the Thornapple-Kellogg School District to spearhead a Safe Routes to School initiative to connect neighborhoods in Thornapple Township and Middleville to outlying school campuses.
5. Ensure that non-motorized signage is used to promote wayfinding and use of facilities while also encouraging safety.
6. Incorporate the principles of “complete streets” in future road projects to allow pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and users of assistive devices to safely move along and across a street without giving preference to any particular mode. Preliminary routes are mapped.

GOAL 2 GENERAL EXPANSION & IMPROVEMENT OF PARK FACILITIES

The citizens of the TAPRC service area will benefit from accessible and plentiful parkland that offers a multitude of recreational opportunities.

OBJECTIVES:

Improve Calvin Hill Park with the addition of modern restrooms, outdoor illumination, and enhanced skate park facilities; and develop multi-use ball fields to meet the high demand of facilities in the community.

1. Explore funding opportunities for park development, including the DNR Trust Fund Recreation Grants Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
2. At a minimum, design facilities in compliance with ADA requirements; and strive to achieve universal design.
3. Develop multi-use ball fields to meet the high demand of facilities in the community. In conjunction with new ball fields, also develop restrooms, concession areas, seating, and scoreboards, as needed.
4. Improve Calvin Hill Park with the addition of modern restrooms, outdoor illumination, play equipment, and enhanced skate park facilities. Additionally, improve the basketball court and add some parking.
5. Develop facilities at Wildwood Trails Park, including disc golf, cross-country skiing, paved walking trails, parking, restrooms, and other amenities while preserving the forested areas of the park.
6. If further investigation indicates that Crane Road Ball Fields can be improved, enhance ball fields and restrooms; and add accessible seating, a sandbox, play equipment, scoreboards, and a walking path encircling the facilities.
7. Prepare a long-term plan for Spring Park. Add improved restrooms to Spring Park, as well as disc golf and nature trails, if possible.
8. Add bicycle racks and improve vehicular parking at all facilities, as needed.
9. Coordinate with the Thornapple-Kellogg School District to provide illumination of tennis courts. Add additional illumination to parks, as needed, to extend hours of use.

GOAL 3 RIVER-THEMED IMPROVEMENTS

The Thornapple River will become an iconic community resource used for recreational activities and special events that help bolster the local economy via increased tourism. Enhanced access to the water and to the Village via the water will be provided while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the water resource.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve the boat launch at Riverside Park and remove debris from the river to enable access to and from the river.

2. In conjunction with property owners and funders of non-motorized infrastructure, construct a “River Trail Loop” and “Mill Pond Trail Loop” as identified during public input exercises. Add fishing platforms along both trails.
3. Explore and resolve, as appropriate, topographic issues at Sesquicentennial Park to enable the development of a designated ice-skating facility overlooking the river.
4. Add or improve boat launches and fishing piers within the service area. New or improved launches should be multi-use, facilitating non-motorized and motorized access. Additionally, partner with the DNR to improve the small DNR-owned access point south of the dam.
5. Promote and maintain the river as a water trail, facilitate bike-canoe loops, and offer informal places to rest overnight alongside the river.

GOAL 4 RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Residents and visitors of the TAPRC service area will benefit from robust and diverse educational and recreational resources and activities.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Explore the feasibility of a multi-activity “Community Center” or “Regional Aquatics Center.” Desired amenities include environmental education and natural history programs, fitness facilities, and aquatic activities that utilize the river.
2. Explore and establish additional programs, as feasible. Examples include adult basketball, fast-pitch softball, volleyball, lacrosse, ice-skating, hockey, bowling, group table games, fitness classes, yoga, and disc golf.
3. In conjunction with the development of additional ball fields, adjust scheduling practices as necessary to improve utilization of facilities.
4. Partner with the numerous local and regional agencies in meeting local programming needs. These may include the YMCA, Pennock Wellness Center, Community Ed., Pierce-Cedar Creek Institute, etc.
5. Develop a marketing campaign to actively promote facilities and programs to residents and others.

CHAPTER 7. ACTION PROGRAM

TAPRC has prepared the following Action Program, based primarily on the expertise of residents and area leaders, and the goals and objectives listed in Chapter 6. The Action Program details what the community plans to achieve within the next five years or more.

The Action Program does not supplant the goals and objectives, but should be used in conjunction with the goals and objectives. Many of the goals and objectives presented may be long-term in nature, and in many instances, entities in addition to TAPRC will need to work together in order to fully implement them. The Action Program recognizes this and proposes a general timeframe based on citizen priorities. Additionally, preliminary cost estimates and a general phasing plan are included.

The Action Program is based on public input.

However, parks and recreation planning should be viewed as flexible; and the timing of new projects may, in part, be influenced by the availability of property; requirements of funders; and cooperation of a multitude of entities. Moreover, public opinions and ideas may change or be refined over time; and this plan may be amended from time to time to reflect shifts in perception and needs. Priorities should be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary.

Accessibility

The principles of universal design are supported by this Community Recreation Plan. Table 7 in Chapter 4 includes an assessment of accessibility for public facilities. As recreational facility development or improvement is considered in the future, barrier-free accessibility is a significant priority item to help ensure that recreation can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors of the Thornapple River Valley.

Improvements can include proper unitary surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables and restrooms, resting benches frequently placed along a walking route, and transition plates between elevation changes. To alert someone to pay attention, contrasting color or texture treatments or interpretive stations should be used. Gentle slopes, Braille, and play equipment that is easy to get to and use are strongly encouraged. Water access areas should include portable or temporary matting to allow wheelchair users an easy, gently-sloping route to the water. In play areas, unitary surfaces, such as poured-in-place rubber tiles can be used, instead of shredded wood chips, sand or some other non-unitary surface which makes wheelchair use difficult.

Potential Resource Partners

A variety of resource partners and potential funding sources may exist to assist in implementing the strategic implementation summary provided on the following pages. A non-exhaustive summary of these resources is provided below.

- ◆ **Michigan DNR.** The Michigan Department of Natural Resources offers two popular grant programs that should be contemplated by TAPRC as it implements this plan. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund can

A variety of resource partners and potential funding sources may exist to assist in implementing this plan.

provide assistance for TAPRC's outdoor recreation projects, including land acquisition and physical development of park facilities. This assistance is intended to bolster existing facilities, protect critical natural resources and establish new parkland. Development project grants may range between \$15,000 and \$300,000; there is no limit to acquisition requests. The minimum required local match is 25%. This opportunity should particularly be contemplated for general acquisition and development activities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is similar to the Trust Fund grant described above, in that it is meant to help fund land acquisition and park development. The minimum grant request amount is \$30,000 and the maximum grant request amount is \$100,000. The required local match is exactly 50%; meaning that total project costs range from \$60,000 to \$200,000. Natural feature preservation has historically been the primary award criteria; and as such, this opportunity should especially be taken into account when planning for new passive recreation facilities. In addition, the LWCF now places emphasis on trails, "green" technology in outdoor recreation, universal design and coordination among recreation providers.

- ◆ **Trails and Non-Motorized Facility Planning.** Trails encourage health and wellness, enhance quality of life, and promote sense of community. Trails also can improve non-motorized system safety. Aside from the programs described above, several other entities can provide assistance with trail funding and/or planning. These include the regional planning agency, Barry County, the Bikes Belong Coalition, the Thornapple Trail Association, the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition, and the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

In addition, the Michigan Department of Transportation may provide funding for numerous types of projects that encourage safe, accessible and efficient forms of multi-modal transport, including non-motorized facilities and other improvements related to transportation. Grant programs to review include the Transportation Enhancement Program, Small Urban Program, and the Federal Local Safety Program.

Additionally, the Recreation Improvement Fund Grant and Recreation Trails Program Grant may help to fund projects that connect facilities on DNR-owned property. A DNR division or bureau is always the applicant, but a local government partnership may be considered if the project contributes to DNR goals and is located on, or linked to, DNR land. Given the extent of State land within the TAPRC service area, exploring these grant programs in connection with non-motorized linkages to State parks is a recommended long-term planning activity.

- ◆ **River-Themed Improvements.** Waterways Program Grants is a DNR-based initiative aimed at assisting communities in the design and construction of recreational boating facilities. Local units of government are eligible to apply, and although the minimum match required is 50%, preference is given to applicants who can exceed that match. Also, the Inland Fisheries Grant

program may fund projects that improve property for fishing activity; however, funding availability is unpredictable, as there were no grants available for 2011.

TAPRC may receive more “points” for a grant application when regional cooperation is demonstrated.

- ◆ **Regional Planning and Leveraging Resources.** Grant application guidelines increasingly include a provision for regional coordination and cooperation. TAPRC will generally receive more “points” for a grant application if it can demonstrate that the proposed project is the result of collaboration with an adjacent community or multiple units of government. While the very nature of TAPRC already exudes regional cooperation, further exploration of regional collaboration possibilities should be continued, especially when planning for future trail connections that may traverse more than one community.

In addition, most recreation grants will stipulate a minimum required local match. It is possible to be awarded grant dollars from multiple funding sources, and use the monies leveraged from one source as a partial match for another. An example might be a local trail project, where the community uses MDOT funds as the match for a DNR grant and vice versa. This can help save local government resources and is permitted by some grant programs.

TAPRC should also seek partnerships with the many local organizations interested in augmenting quality of life in the community. These may include, without limitation, Barry Community Foundation, Pennock Foundation, United Way, Thornapple Trail Association, the North Country Trail Association, and the many service clubs in the area. These entities may offer pecuniary contributions, volunteer services, or the gift of equipment.

Implementation Summary

This section of Chapter 7 will provide a listing of recommendations. Some are ongoing efforts that will involve time, commitment, planning and coordination; while others are physical improvements that will require investment. This summary of implementation, presented in Table 9, includes the top priority items that will entail financial commitment from TAPRC and the local community.

The cost estimates in Table 9 are provided in 2011 dollars generally and based on information available at the time the plan was prepared. These figures must be viewed as preliminary estimates and not actual or proposed costs. Actual costs may be influenced by natural features, wetland presence, property owners, tree removal, topography, land values, trail crossings, changes in material costs, right-of-way acquisition, engineering design fees, permit fees, etc. The details and costs of each specific project must be evaluated on an individual basis as detailed plans and grant applications are prepared. Trail estimates have assumed roughly \$70 per linear foot for a 10-foot wide paved trail. These estimates may be high, but are inclusive of the many unknowns at this time, including the extent of wetland crossings necessary to develop the desired trail routes near the river.

Table 9

Implementation Summary

Phase	Projects	Estimated Costs	Potential Resource Partners
1	Begin Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail extension reconnaissance	\$5,000	Thornapple Trail Association, West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition, property owners, Rails to Trails Conservancy, North Country Trail Association
	Improvements to Calvin Hill Park: restrooms, skate park, outdoor illumination, play equipment, basketball court, parking	Lights: \$2,500 each, restrooms: \$80,000, skate park: \$30/square foot, play equipment/rubber base: \$35,000, basketball: \$12,000, parking: \$18/square yard	MNRTF, LWCF
	Conduct Crane Road Ball Fields environmental study	\$12,000	County Parks, local environmental organizations, MEDC, DEQ
2	Extend the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail north to connect with the Caledonia segment	\$70/linear foot for 3.5 miles: \$1,256,640	MNRTF, MDOT, LWCF, West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition, County Parks, Thornapple Trail Association, North Country Trail Association, neighboring townships, Bikes Belong Coalition, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
	Extend the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail south to connect with the Hastings segment. McCann Road to Irving Road may be a first phase	\$70/linear foot for 6 miles: \$2,217,600	
	Develop new ball fields – location to be determined. Add restrooms, seating, parking, scoreboards	\$70,000/field, restrooms: \$80,000, parking: \$18/square yard, scoreboards: \$500 each, seating: \$5,000 per set of bleachers	MNRTF, LWCF, MEDC, DEQ
	If feasible, improvements to Crane Road Ball Fields: ball field enhancements, restrooms, seating, parking, scoreboards, sandbox, walking path, play equipment	TBD	MNRTF, LWCF
3	Improvements to Riverside Park: boat launch, parking, remove concrete river debris, kayak landings with handrails for disabled	Boat launch: \$25,000, parking: \$18/square yard, river cleanup: TBD, kayak landing: \$1,000 each	Waterways Program Grant, MNRTF, LWCF, local environmental organizations
	Develop River Trail Loop and Mill Pond Trail Loop, with fishing platforms and birding scopes	\$70/linear foot for .75 miles each: \$280,000 each, 10'x20' fishing platform: \$20,000, birding scopes: \$1,000 each	MNRTF, LWCF
	Develop permanent (multi-use) 100'x50' ice-skating facility at Lions Sesquicentennial Park	6" concrete base with curbs and drainage system, no cooling system: \$22,000	MNRTF, LWCF
4	Development of Wildwood Trails Park: disc golf, cross-country skiing, paved walking trails, parking, restrooms, pavilion, additional facilities	Disc golf: \$12,000, dual-use trails: \$34/linear foot, parking: \$18/square yard, restrooms: \$80,000, pavilion: TBD	MNRTF, LWCF
	Develop designated non-motorized routes throughout community	\$1,200/wayfinding or non-motorized safety sign, \$5,000/mile per bike lane	Safe Routes to School, School District, Road Commission, Village, Township, TAPRC, Bikes Belong Coalition
	Add illumination of school tennis courts and other facilities	Lights: \$2,500 each	Donations / partnerships
	Improvements to Lions Spring Park: restrooms, disc golf, nature trails	Restroom: \$80,000, disc golf: \$12,000, dual-use trails: \$34/linear foot	MNRTF, LWCF
	Develop a trailhead staging area: rustic camping, parking, restrooms	\$130,000/trailhead	MNRTF, LWCF

**VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE
THORNAPPLE KELLOGG SCHOOL**

AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH

THE THORNAPPLE AREA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

As Amended Dec. 20, 2011

AGREEMENT is entered into by the Village of Middleville, a Michigan general law village, the address of which is 100 E. Main Street, Middleville, Michigan 49333 (the "Village"), the Township of Thornapple, a Michigan general law township, the address of which is 200 E. Main Street, Middleville, Michigan 49333 ("Township") and the Thornapple Kellogg School, a General Powers School District organized and operating under the provisions of the Revised School Code, MCLA 390.1 *et seq.*, as amended, the address of which is 10051 Green Lake Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333 (the "School District") (collectively the "Member Units") pursuant to the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967, Act No. 7 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1967, Extra Session, as amended ("Act No. 7").

RECITALS

- A. The Village, Township, and the School District desire to cooperate to provide recreational opportunities to their citizens.
- B. The parties desire to formalize their arrangement so as to provide more coordinated recreational services through the creation of a separate public entity.
- C. The creation of such an entity is authorized pursuant to Act No. 7.
- D. The Agreement is executed in order to create such an entity and to identify its authority, make-up and purpose.

ARTICLE I – CREATION AND PURPOSE

Section 1.1 Creation of Commission. There is established, pursuant to Act No. 7, the Thornapple Area Park and Recreation Commission (the "Commission"), as a separate public corporation with the powers, functions and duties provided for in this Agreement.

Section 1.2 Purpose. The Commission is created for the purpose of planning, operating and providing park and recreational programs and services for the citizens of the Member Units.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.1 Membership in Commission. Member Units of the Commission shall be those public agencies which are signatories to this Agreement or an amendment to this Agreement.

Section 2.2 Additional Members. Subsequent to the effective date of the Commission, other public agencies may become Member Units by entering into an amendment to this Agreement. This

Agreement and any amendment or other agreement entered into or obligation incurred by any Member Unit in accordance with this Agreement, shall be binding upon that Member Unit's successor in interest, if any.

ARTICLE III – GOVERNANCE

Section 3.1 Board.

- A. The Commission shall be governed by a Board. The governing body of each Member Unit shall appoint three (3) members to sit on the Board.
- B. Board members shall be appointed to four (4) year terms except, of the initial appointments made pursuant to this Agreement, one Board member from each Member Unit shall be appointed to a two (2) year term, one Board member from each Member Unit shall be appointed to a three (3) year term and one Board member from each Member Unit shall be appointed to a four (4) year term.
- C. Board members shall serve at the pleasure of their Member Unit and may be removed by majority vote of the Member Unit's governing body at any time, with or without cause.
- D. Any vacancy on the Board arising for any reason shall be filled by appointment by the Member Unit governing board that made the original appointment, within ninety (90) days of the vacancy, for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 3.2 Officers.

- A. At the January meeting each year, the Board shall elect from its membership a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem appropriate. Offices may be combined at the discretion of the Board, except that the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may not be held concurrently by the same Board member. All officers shall serve terms of one (1) year commencing on the first meeting of January, except for the officers first elected who shall serve that fraction of the calendar year between Board election and December 31. Officers may be re-elected by the Board.
- B. Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed from office by majority vote at any time.
- C. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by the Board within thirty (30) days of the vacancy, for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- D. The following officers of the Board shall perform the following function:
 - 1. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the board and shall have all privileges and duties of a Board member, including the right to vote on all matters.
 - 2. The Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which the Chairperson is absent.
 - 3. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be made all non-financial reports, records and minutes required by this Agreement or applicable law.

4. The Treasurer shall have custody of all Board funds which shall be deposited, invested and/or disbursed by the Treasurer as directed by the Board and as otherwise authorized by this Agreement. The Treasurer shall be charged with assuring complete financial records and reports as required by this Agreement, applicable law or contract.
5. All monies shall be deposited in a financial institution(s) to be designated by the Board, and all checks or other forms of withdrawal therefrom shall be signed by the Treasurer and one (1) other officer of the Commission, or as the Commission may by resolution authorize. All monies shall be deposited and invested in accordance with the requirements of applicable State and Federal law. The officers of the Commission shall have such other powers and duties as may be conferred upon them by the Commission.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section 4.1 Schedule/Call of Meetings.

- A. The Board shall meet at least quarterly and shall annually establish a regular meeting schedule which shall be posted at the offices of the Member Units and the meeting site, in the manner and time provided by law.
- B. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairperson or, in the absence of the Chairperson, by the Vice Chairperson, or at any time upon the request of any two (2) members of the Board.

Section 4.2 Voting

- A. A majority of the Board members in attendance shall be necessary to take any official action at a regular or special meeting.
- B. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for all official purposes.
- C. Bills which represent expenses not previously included in the budget may only be approved by no less than 5 members including at least one member representing each Member Unit
- D. All meetings of the Board shall be held and conducted as required by law, including the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

Section 4.3 Minutes

- A. Minutes of all Board meetings shall be prepared and approved as required by law, including the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended. Copies of approved minutes shall be provided to all Member Units within 10 days following the Board meeting in which the minutes were approved.
- B. Minutes and other public records shall be kept and made available in accordance with applicable law including the Freedom of Information Act, Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

Section 4.4 Rules

- A. The Board may adopt procedural by-laws for the conduct of Board meetings.

- B. Robert's Rules of order, when not in conflict with this Agreement or any adopted procedural by-laws adopted by the Commission, shall govern all meetings.

ARTICLE V – POWERS

Section 5.1 Powers of Commission. The Commission shall have the following powers, authority and functions:

- A. To use, lease, operate, improve or maintain property of any nature, whether or not owned or held by a Member Unit. The Commission may exercise authority, of any nature, over a Member Unit's property only with the consent of that Member Unit.
- B. To plan, establish, maintain and operate public recreational facilities, programs and services.
- C. To contract or cooperate with Member Units, other governmental units, public agencies or private parties, as appropriate, to carry out Commission functions or fulfill Commission obligations.
- D. To employ a Director and such other personnel as it may determine necessary, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. Any employee, including the Director, employed by the Commission who was transferred from a Member Unit shall be entitled to all rights and benefits formerly held by such employee with the pertinent Member Unit in accordance with Act No. 7. Pursuant to the requirements of Sections 1230 and 1230a of the Revised School Code, any person(s) employed or permitted to volunteer services by the Commission that will be in contact with the School District's students will be subject to criminal background checks.
- E. To accept funds, goods, voluntary work or other assistance to carry out Commission functions or obligations, from any source public or private, including, but not limited to, local governmental funding of specific projects, state or federal grants and private donations. A complete record of all funds received from any source shall be maintained and made a part of the annual financial budget.
- F. To establish and adopt fees, charges, policies, or rules governing the use of Commission property, facilities, programs or services, consistent with state and local law as well as this Agreement.
- G. To recommend local ordinance provisions to Member Units, as necessary, to provide for the safety of the public utilizing Commission property, facilities, programs or services.
- H. To make application for federal or state grants, loans and other assistance. Any financial assistance which would effect obligations of a Member Unit shall require the written consent of the Member Unit prior to application. Grants or loans may be made payable to any individual or several Member Units or the Commission as may be available and appropriate to carry out Commission functions and obligation.
- I. Maintain an office at such place or places as it may designate.
- J. In general, and subject to such limitations and conditions as are or may be prescribed by law, to exercise such powers which now are or hereafter may be conferred by law upon an authority

organized pursuant to Act 321 of the Public Act of Michigan of 2000, as amended from time-to-time, and for the foregoing purposes and all those powers incident thereto.

Section 5.2 Reports. The Commission shall, at least annually, make a full and complete report of all of its activities to the governing bodies of all Member Units.

Section 5.3 Limitations. The Commission shall have no power or authority to:

- A. Levy any tax or issue any bonds.
- B. Indebt any Member Unit in any way except as provided in this Agreement.
- C. Condemn property for any purpose.

ARTICLE VI – STATUS, INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

Section 6.1 Separate Entity. The Commission is, for all purposes under or pursuant to this Agreement, a separate public body corporate. No employee, agent or contractor of the Commission shall, for any purpose, be construed or interpreted to be an employee, agent or contractor of the Member Units, individually or jointly.

Section 6.2 Indemnification.

- A. The Commission shall hold the Member Units, individually and jointly, harmless from, indemnify them for, and defend them against any and all claims, demands, judgments, losses, fines, fees, penalties, damages, arbitrations, lawsuits and administrative proceedings which in any way results from or are claimed by any third party to result from the Commission's acts or failures to act, or the exercise of the Commission's authority under this Agreement, whether or not the Commission was acting in compliance with the Agreement when so acting or failing to act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the "Member Unit" shall include each Member Unit as provided for in this Agreement, as well as each Member Unit's officers, employees and agents.
- B. To the extent permitted by law, each Member Unit shall hold harmless and indemnify the other Member Units from any and all causes of action, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising within that Member Unit's jurisdiction and for which that Member Unit would be separately liable.

Section 6.3 Liability Coverage.

- A. The Commission shall, independently or by contracting with one or more Member Units, purchase public liability insurance covering any cause of action, claim, damage, accident, injury or liability that may arise as a result of the ownership, construction, maintenance or operation of the property, facilities, programs or services of the Commission or otherwise provided for under the terms of the Agreement.
- B. The Commission shall secure and maintain commercial insurance for Director and Officers, Excess Accidental and General Liability. Coverage limits to be reviewed annually at time of renewal. The Commission will provide all insurance as required by law. If the Commission owns or leases a vehicle, the vehicle must be insured.
- C. All insurance required pursuant to this Agreement shall name the Commission and each of the Member Units, together with their officers, employees and agents, as named or additional

insureds and as certificate holders. All policies and certificates of insurance shall be provided by insurance companies authorized to transcribe business in Michigan and by companies reasonably acceptable to the governing bodies of the Member Units. All such policies and certificates shall provide that coverage to a named certificate holder may not be canceled or terminated without at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to such certificate holder. The Commission shall regularly provide a copy of certificate of insurance showing the premiums to have been paid prior to each premium period during the term of this Agreement. Upon request, the Commission shall provide a complete copy of the policies of insurance, paid receipts and certificates of insurance to the governing bodies of the Member Units.

ARTICLE VII – FINANCE

Section 7.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the commission shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Section 7.2 Operational Budget.

- A. Before the start of each fiscal year, the Commission shall annually develop, prepare and adopt an operational budget which shall include meeting, postage, document, accounting and similar basic costs. In addition, the budget shall include personnel, professional services, development, operational and maintenance costs anticipated by the Commission. The budget shall also include all sources of anticipated revenues whether in the form of Member Unit contributions, gifts, fees, charges or otherwise.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, Commission funds may only be disbursed to the extent authorized by the Board pursuant to an adopted annual budget.

Section 7.3 Financial Audits/Reports. The Treasurer shall make or cause to be made a full and complete financial report to Member Units of all Commission financial transactions and affairs at the end of each fiscal year. The report shall include a complete audit by a certified public accountant. State and federal audit requirements shall be fully met as applicable.

Section 7.4 Financial Contributions.

- A. It shall be a condition of each Member Unit's continuing participation in the Commission and the privileges and benefits resulting from the Agreement that a minimum financial contribution of Three Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) and one-third of annual audit expense be made annually to the Commission. Each Member Unit's minimum financial contributions must be received by the Commission no later than March 1.
- B. Prior to the imposition of an annual financial contribution for each Member Unit exceeding Three Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00), the Commission shall obtain the unanimous written approval of all Member Units.
- C. Charges, rates, fees and rents fixed and collected by the Commission for services and programs provided by the Commission shall be the property of the Commission.
- D. The Commission may contract with any one or more Member Units for services, property or equipment. The provisions of such services, property or equipment by a Member Unit shall be in addition to its minimum financial contribution as identified above in Subsection 7.4.A.

Section 7.5 Contracts. The Commission may enter into contracts with private parties, and/or one or more Member Units to fulfill the Commission's purposes and functions as set forth in this Agreement. The Commission is only authorized to enter into contracts if contracts conform to the approved annual budget.

ARTICLE VIII – TERMINATION/DISSOLUTION

Section 8.1 Member Unit Termination. A Member Unit may terminate its membership only upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Commission and termination shall be effective only upon the elapse of the thirty (30) days. A Member Unit terminating its membership shall retain all rights to property owned by it. A Member Unit voluntarily terminating its membership shall remain liable for all obligations incurred by it pursuant to the Agreement for the current fiscal year and shall waive any right to any contributions that the Member Unit has made pursuant to Paragraph 7.4.a, herein.

Section 8.2 Commission Dissolution.

- A. If a majority of the Member Units terminate their membership, the Commission shall be considered dissolved.
- B. Upon the dissolution of the Commission, property held or used by the Commission shall be allocated and distributed in accordance with the follow:
 1. All property, of any nature, which is titled to or otherwise owned by a Member Unit shall remain the property of that Member Unit.
 2. All monies and funds, from whatever source, which are the property of the Commission shall be distributed to the Member Units based on each Member Unit's proportionate contribution pursuant to Paragraph 7.4.A herein, after deducting administrative expenses associated with the dissolution of the Commission.
 3. All property, other than that otherwise provided for in Subsection 8.2.B.1 and 8.2.B.2 shall be disposed of by the Commission at public auction. All revenues received as a result of any auction shall be distributed to the Member Units based on each Member Units proportionate contribution pursuant to the Paragraph 7.2.A herein, after deducting administrative expenses associated with the dissolution of the Commission, including expenses incurred as a result of any auction.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 9.1 Amendments. This Agreement may be amended, in whole or in any part, by written agreement of the governing bodies of all Member Units.

ARTICLE X – APPLICABLE LAWS

Section 10.1 Compliance with Laws. The Commission shall fully comply in all activities with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulation and with applicable grant conditions or contract provisions.

ARTICLE XI – MISCELLANEOUS

Section 11.1 Benefit: No Assignment. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefits of the Parties and their respective legal representatives, successors and assigns. No party may assign any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of all other Parties.

Section 11.2 Waiver. The waiver by any Party to this Agreement of any provisions of this Agreement or of any breach of this Agreement shall not operate as or be construed as a continuing waiver of such provision or a waiver of any continuing breach, subsequent breach, or any other breach, and any statement or conduct by any Party or such Party's representative with respect to any provisions or any subsequent, continuing or other breach. No waiver shall be valid unless it is asserted in a written document and signed by the duly authorized representative of the Party against whom such waiver is being asserted.

Section 11.3 Severability. If any provision or part of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remaining parts or provisions of this Agreement which shall continue in full force and effect, unless such severance would materially destroy the intent of the Parties in entering into this Agreement, in which case the Parties shall immediately commence negotiations to achieve a revised, fully valid and enforceable Agreement; provided, however, that if such a revised, fully valid and enforceable Agreement is not executed by all Parties within sixty (60) days after the event triggering severance, than any party may immediately terminate this Agreement by written notice to the other Parties.

Section 11.4 Prior Agreement and Amendments. This Agreement embodies the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. There are no other agreements or understandings, oral or written, between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and, this Agreement supersedes all previous negotiations, commitments, agreements and understandings, oral written, between the parties hereto and with respect to the subject matter hereof.

Section 11.5 Counterparts. The Parties may execute this Agreement in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and all of such counterparts together shall constitute and be one and the same instrument.

Section 11.6 Modifications. This Agreement can be modified or amended only by a written document signed by each Party's presiding officer after his/her receipt of any authorization of that Party's governing body required by law.

Section 11.7 No Rule of Construction. All Parties have read, negotiated and participated in the drafting of the language and terms used in this Agreement. Accordingly, no rule of construction shall apply to this Agreement which construes any language, whether ambiguous, unclear or otherwise, in favor of, or against any Party by reason of this Party's role in drafting this Agreement.

Section 11.8 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan.

Section 11.9 Notices. Notices to be given pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing; be signed by an authorized representative of the Party giving same; and be given by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or by hand-delivery, or by overnight express courier, charges prepaid. Notice shall be addressed as follows:

As to the Village:

*Village of Middleville
Attention: Village Manager
100 East Main Street
Middleville, Michigan 49333*

As to the Township:

*Township of Thornapple
Attention: Supervisor
200 East Main Street
Middleville, MI 49333*

As to the District:

*Thornapple-Kellogg School
Attn: Superintendent
10051 Green Lake Road
Middleville, MI 49333*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the Member Units have signed this Agreement on the dates indicated below.

WITNESSED

**THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE,
a Michigan general law village**

Karen Winans
Donald Boysen
Karen Winans
Wendy Beckwith

By: Charles T Pullen
Charles Pullen, President
Date: 12-23-11
By: Elaine Denton
Elaine Denton, Clerk
Date: 12-21-11

**THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP
a Michigan general law township**

Catherine Getty
Karen Winans
Catherine Getty
Karen Winans

By: Donald Boysen
Donald Boysen, Supervisor
Date: Dec. 21, 2011
By: Susan Vlietstra
Susan Vlietstra, Clerk
Date: 12-27-11

**THORNAPPLE KELLOGG SCHOOL
a Michigan general powers school district**

Sandra Rider
Karen Winans
Cindy A Wilkshie

By: Gary Rider
Gary Rider, Superintendent
Date: 12/30/11
By: David R Smith
David Smith, President, Board of Education
Date: 12-29-11

Budget Report Report of Revenue & Expenses

Agency Name: Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission
Agency fiscal year 7/1/11 Thru 6/30/12

Support/Revenue	Last year-10 Actual	Current year-11 Apprvd budget	Next year-12 Est. budget
BCUW Allocations	7521	10000	10000
BCUW Net Designations	0	0	0
Other United Way Allocations	0	0	0
Other United Way Designations	0	0	0
Contributions	10825	11075	10800
Grants & Contracts	0	0	0
Program Service Fees	24976	26700	27000
Special Events	4813	5400	5500
Investment Income	311	50	50
Misc. Income (specify)			
Total Operating Revenue	48446	53225	53350
Expenses			
Expenses	Last Year-10	Current Year-11	Next Year-12
# of Employees FT: 1 PT: 1			
Salaries	14746	14000	12500
Advertising	729	1000	1100
Payroll Taxes	1128	1050	960
Professional Fees	1700	1800	3600
Maintenance/ Capital Improvement	5648	12210	12000
Supplies	11694	4150	4250
Telephone/Website	1475	1900	900
Postage & Shipping	120	300	300
program Equipment	21797	9175	9740
Printing and Publication	18	50	50
Travel	22	750	750
Umpiring/Referee	2080	1740	1850
Membership Dues	35	0	0
Awards & Grants	300	2100	2100
Restricted Funds	0	0	0
Insurance/Workers Comp	2733	3000	3250
21. Total Operating Expenses	64225	53225	53350
Excess (Deficit) Revenue/Expense	(15779)	0	0



**THORNAPPLE AREA
PARKS & RECREATION**

We NEED your ideas!

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TAPRC Community Recreation Plan
Visioning Meeting**

The Thornapple Area Parks & Recreation Commission (TAPRC) is in the process of updating its Community Recreation Plan and will be facilitating a community visioning meeting on **Thursday, January 5th at 6:00 pm** in room 1616 of the TK Middle School, located at 10375 Green Lake Road.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the thoughts and ideas of residents and stakeholders and to guide the formation of policies in connection with the future of parks and recreation in the community.

*Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation
Commission, P.O. Box 250, Middleville,
MI 49333. www.taprc.org.
email: info@taprc.org.*

PLEASE JOIN US!



The Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission needs you to tell us how to plan for parks and recreation in our community.

COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

FOR THE NEW THORNAPPLE AREA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH
BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM
ROOM 1616 - THORNAPPLE-KELLOGG
MIDDLE SCHOOL
10375 GREEN LAKE ROAD

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Appendix D – Public Notice for Public Review Period and Adoption Meeting



PUBLIC NOTICE

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE THORNAPPLE AREA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission has completed the process of updating its Five-Year Community Recreation Plan and will publish the draft Plan for public review. The Community Recreation Plan will be available at the following locations until the final public hearing on the Plan:

www.TAPRC.org
www.thornapple-twp.org
www.villageofmiddleville.org
Middleville Village Offices, 100 East Main Street
Thornapple Township Offices, 200 East Main Street
Thornapple-Kellogg School Library, 3885 Bender Road
Thornapple Kellogg Administration Offices, 10051 Green Lake Road

The Community Recreation Plan is intended to help guide improvements to recreation facilities in the community. The process to develop the Plan included community input elements. Now that a draft of the Plan has been completed, the TAPRC Board is offering a public comment review period to give residents and stakeholders an opportunity to review and comment on the Plan prior to adoption.

To provide comments on the draft Plan, please submit questions or suggestions at www.taprc.org with any questions or suggestions. Thank you; and we appreciate your input.

TAPRC and the Village of Middleville will hold public hearings on the Plan, as follows:

TAPRC Board: 7:00 PM on Monday, February 20, 2012 at the Thornapple Township Offices, 200 East Main Street.

Middleville Village Council: 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at the Village of Middleville Council Chambers, 100 East Main Street.

The draft Plan is available and may be examined by the general public at the locations and websites noted above and at the public hearings. All interested persons are invited to submit their comments in person or in writing at or before the public hearings.

77665436

Sun News 1.21.12

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY

SS.



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Village of Middleville
Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation
Commission**

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To provide comments on the draft Plan, please submit questions or suggestions at www.taprc.org with any questions or suggestions. Thank you; and we appreciate your input.

TAPRC and the Village of Middleville will hold a public hearing on the Plan, as follows:

Middleville Village Council: 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at the Village of Middleville Council Chambers, 100 East Main Street.

The draft Plan is available and may be examined by the general public at the locations and websites noted above and at the public hearings. All interested persons are invited to submit their comments in person or in writing at or before the public hearings.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Denton
Village Clerk

06774116

Fredric J. Jacobs

of said county, being duly sworn, deposes, and says that...he is one of the publishers of the Sun and News, a public weekly newspaper, printed, published and circulated in said County of Barry. That the annexed printed notice of

Thornapple Area Parks and
Recreation Commission Public
Notice

taken from said newspaper, was duly printed and published therein once in each week for.....1.....successive weeks, to wit:

February 18	A.D.	20	12
.....	A.D.	20
.....	A.D.	20
.....	A.D.	20
.....	A.D.	20
.....	A.D.	20

FURTHER; that the affiant has knowledge personally that the facts contained in this affidavit are true, and further saith not.

[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this...18th...day of...
February.....A.D. 2012

[Signature: Bobbie Wilkins]
NOTARY PUBLIC

In and for said county.

BOBBIE WILKINS
Notary Public, Barry County, MI
My Commission Expires Nov.27, 2012
Acting in the County of Barry

My commission expires.....

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY **SS.**

Fredric J. Jacobs

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Township of Thornapple
Thornapple-Kellogg Schools**

Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission

The Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission has completed the process of updating its Five-Year Community Recreation Plan and has published the draft Plan for public review. The Community Recreation Plan is intended to help guide improvements to recreation facilities in the community. The process to develop the Plan included community input elements. Now that a draft of the Plan has been completed and a public review period has been offered, public hearings will be conducted, as follows:

Thornapple Township Board, 7:00 PM on Monday, March 12, 2012 at the Thornapple Township Offices, 200 East Main Street, Middleville.

Thornapple Kellogg School Board: 7:00 PM on Monday, March 12, 2012 at the Thornapple Kellogg Middle School, Room 1816, 10375 Green Lake Road, Middleville.

TAPRC Board, 7:00 PM on Monday, March 19, 2012 at the Thornapple Township Office, 200 East Main Street, Middleville.

The draft Plan is available and may be examined by the general public at the locations noted above and at the public hearings. All interested persons are invited to submit their comments in person or in writing at or before the public hearings.

For more information please contact Catherine Getty, TAPRC Program Director, info@taprc.com 953-3151.

06775412

of said county, being duly sworn, deposes, and says that...he is one of the publishers of the Sun and News, a public weekly newspaper, printed, published and circulated in said County of Barry. That the annexed printed notice of

Public Notice

taken from said newspaper, was duly printed and published therein once in each week for.....successive weeks, to wit:

March 3 A.D. 20 12

..... A.D. 20.....

FURTHER, that the affiant has knowledge personally that the facts contained in this affidavit are true, and further saith not.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of

March A.D. 20 12

Bobbie Wilkins
NOTARY PUBLIC

In and for said county.

BOBBIE WILKINS
Notary Public, Barry County, MI
My Commission Expires Nov. 27, 2012
Acting in the County of Barry

TAPRC Community Recreation Plan Update
Trail Improvements and Expansion Focus Group
December 15, 2011 (3:30 – 4:30 PM)

1. Can paths of “least resistance” be easily identified for potential future trail corridors? Think in terms of utility corridors, easement corridors, public rights-of-way, etc.
 - 108th street south for ¾ mile is a rail-to-trail controlled by the twp
 - Have alternate route. Currently paul henry trail somewhat underutilized due to lack of signage
 - Google maps shows this information (look up thornapple trail) updated monthly(ish)
 - Village owns paved completed portion to the SW (paul henry)
 - Goal is to connect all of it (paul henry trail)
 - Kent county also working on link (to paul henry trail)
 - (Paul Henry)Trail starts in Kentwood, heads south to Caledonia, then to Middleville
 - Total corridor is about 28 miles from Kentwood to eaton county that is trying to be developed
 - What is biggest priority?
 - i. Connecting to kent county is key
 - ii. Connection kent county could take you to Cadillac or farther
 - Least resistance would be southwest of village
 - Also in Middleville near crane road that is unfinished needs to be completed
 - Mdot is committed to building wide shoulders now to accommodate bicycles
 - Could soon take crane road trail to Holland
 - Plan B drawn on map in blue
 - Trail looping around mill pond south of village desired (see map)
 - Also a river loop around thornapple river in village (kind of like in Rockford)(see map)
 - Trail around outside of crane road ballfield areas
 - Trails in and around wildwood trails park
 - No one knows about a lot of the trails and existing or potential sidewalk connections within the village limits
 - Need to change NCT loop (contact NCT) (see chief noonday section of NCT website)
 - Barry county GIS has a map book that shows ownership and potential trail routes
 - Housing developments are in area, schools want bike paths
 - Nothing on bender road that is safe for kids to walk or bike to schools
 - People who like to kayak like to leave their bikes
 - Need to add further developments of water trail for kayakers and landings
 - Amenities are available
 - Indian valley campground
 - Trail gets cut off during hunting season, loops south of village would solve problem of lack of use during November

- Trails need to be grown and improved and marketed as an economic development tool.
 - Strong community support in multiple locations
 - Like to see it paved from McCann Rd to Irving Rd (is path of least resistance)
 - Is path of least resistance, in cap improvement plan for the next five years
 - Maintenance is a big issue if they will be paved
 - What about other connections in the region? (Brian)
 - Gun lake has usable areas.
 - People who live near gun lake don't have places to go that are safe other than around the lake, which is hazardous, especially when it is busy
 - Need to have connections to get funding in these tough economic times. Important!
 - (gun lake people path) has facebook page and google map
 - New Buffalo, Battle Creek, Jackson, Port Huron trail exists (or is under planning/development) if we can find a way to connect that is important
 - Connections are key to funding
2. Are there existing (or potential) areas of particular concern with regard to pedestrian or bicyclist safety?
- In wildwood trails, for example, you don't need to pave it. Woodchips or something would be good.
 - The 'main trail' should be paved, but others for walking do not need to be paved necessarily.
 - More economical as well
 - Paved section is important for people who cant walk (and this segment is growing)
 - Part of MDOTs plan is crane road going east
3. Trail uses determine width, surface material, location and slope. What types of trails are desired? Think in terms of biking, walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, equestrian/motorized, etc.
- Do they need to be paved?
- Not for walking, but for biking
 - Less maintenance on crushed rock surface than paved. Also, maintenance is easier at times. Can be re-compacted and so forth
 - Would prefer asphalt for ADA, rollerblading, etc
 - Many people ask when they are going to pave the rest of it?
 - Blockage that stops trail from going to airport road in hastings
 - Currently it dead ends
 - Paving depends on section you are talking about. Smaller loops in natural areas can be unpaved, whereas regional connecting trails should be paved.

4. What land use types, institutions, parks, population centers and amenities should be connected with a trail? How can the community build upon the current network of facilities in making those connections?
 - Bathrooms are really important. Especially for women and families with small children
 - Public restroom also wouldn't be burden on merchants, etc
 - Need to consider where would be the best place for bathroom? Need to make sure they can be serviced and are located at reasonable intervals
 - Wellness Center and Pennock Hospital should be connected. Its near Paul Henry trail
 - Bradford White could also play a role in helping
 - Whispering Waters campground could be developed more and become a link.
 - Things like bicycle shops should also be promoted.
 - Make sure those entities (Pennock, Bradford) can contribute financially.
 - People need maps of things to do so people can plan their day
 - Fixed map at trailhead
 - Information kiosk to direct people where to go and do things in town, what types of wildlife can be seen, etc. its been discussed.
 - Fit strips also
 - Kiosks are fundable.

5. How should motorists and trail-users interact with one another? What amenities are needed to help ensure safety for non-motorized facility users? Where are they needed?
 - Issues with pedestrian safety?
 - Near stempson road it's a problem
 - Lack of signage is also a problem (trail crossing, bike crossing, etc)
 - Side walk from the traffic light north to Arlington (m-37) stops and starts near Arlington
 - If you want to go to the grocery store you have to cross 37 twice
 - West side is complete all the way to town center, but not to Mid-Villa

6. Staging areas can provide parking, drinking fountains, restrooms, maps, business information and directions to restaurants, bicycle racks, etc. Where should staging areas be planned; and where might an existing facility be expanded to provide an enhanced staging area?
 - Staging areas with accessible restrooms available year round are helpful for cyclists
 - Staging areas are helpful as are areas letting people know where they are
 - Grant applications need to be based on a detailed plan with specific projects
 - Working on trail systems apps for cell phones, need to participate in those
 - i. There are apps for that already, and google maps are also available
 - ii. West mi trail and greenways assoc has trail booklet
 - Where would a new staging area be located?

- Whispering waters could be a good spot, its between hastings and Middleville
 - i. But they are only open may to October
 - ii. Staging area could be open even when the park isn't
 - iii. Need better development at Caledonia
- Parmalee is midpoint between Caledonia and Middleville.
- What about towards Gun Lake?
- Program called Gun Lake people's path.
 - i. Looking at routes from Middleville to Gun Lake
 - ii. NCT is a walking path and only 18"
 - iii. Barry County looking at what roads would be safest
 - iv. Maybe we promote route from gun lake to Middleville
 - v. NCT staging area signs are small and easy to miss
 - vi. Chief Noonday has paved shoulder for bike lanes
- Gun Lake trail is relatively safe but there is debris and you need to be aware for drivers that are not paying attention
- But if you want to go faster it's more dangerous
- NCT is looking to make sure signage is in place

TAPRC Community Recreation Plan Update
 Park Improvements and Expansion Focus Group
 December 15, 2011 (4:45 – 5:45 pm)

1. What do you like about current facilities?
 - Like stagecoach park, but needs acoustic upgrades. Needs to project the sounds out; it keeps the sound in. bandshell is severely needed there
 - Township talked about some park development along the river
 - Discussion has occurred about expanding bandshell onto the Twp land in village
 - That was also potential farmers market that could also be flooded in the winter
 - Crane road baseball fields have grass infields! Looks like a real field.

2. What types of amenities might be needed in the community? Think in terms of specifics like ball fields, swing sets, tennis courts, etc. Also, think in terms of which parks need which improvements.
 - Are there soccer fields? Available through school
 - Disc golf at spring park (would like to see expanded)
 - Want another disc golf at wildwood trails
 - City of hastings has had difficulty maintaining disc golf course, trash is an issue even though users self police quite a bit
 - Cross country skiers like mowed areas (currently cant use cemetery)
 - Ditto kite flying

- Cross country skiing could be developed at trails at wildwood trails, and playground equipment, picnic areas,
- Facilities and equipment at parks are starting to look aged; need to look at improving or replacing much of the equipment
- Also improving parking in some areas
- Some amenities are not used as much. Skate park is used daily. Others are used one a few times a year. Maybe should focus on things that would get used more frequently?
- We don't provide many places for young people to go do anything
- Activities have changed. Don't see as many kids playing tennis, baseball, etc
- Many skate park kids are 'fringe' kids that don't really like to do the more traditional recreational activities
- Skate park is small, which is a plus in many ways
- Skate park is in Calvin hill park
- Is Calvin Hill park a good location for skate park?
 - i. Yes, easily accessible, visible, policed by neighbors a lot, neighbors like it. It has helped park because the activity has driven out some of the riff-raff.
 - ii. Residents were extremely supportive of it
 - iii. Sometimes there is trash left around, but not huge issue
 - iv. The nicer the facility is, the cleaners its kept
 - v. Needs a bathroom, many says
 - vi. Church says that too many kids come in a use their bathrooms
 - vii. Calvin Hill is the 'neighborhood' park
 - viii. Need to upgrade many of the parks we already have before we make new ones and fill them with stuff
- Spring Park
 - i. Much of what happens is stuck to conservation easement management plan
 - ii. Are there supporting amenities that compliment the plan and what is already there?
 - iii. Bathrooms need to improve
 - iv. Ballpark needs improvement, its wet a lot
 1. this is going to move already to a better spot and be smaller
 - v. Make a destination with fishing dock, trail connection, accessible downtown
 - vi. Could become trailhead if connected
 - vii. Conservation easement area is basically off-limits for most things
 - viii. Conservation area is great and should not be seen as a negative
- Wildwood Park
 - i. Nature preserve? Maybe not necessary if this is done already in Spring Park
- Riverside Park
 - i. Boat launch is there now that can be developed further.

- ii. Trail connection also possible here or a path along the river
- iii. 3rd worst boat launch in the state
- iv. Boat launch needs to be revamped; although it does supply river access
- v. There are big chunks of concrete, boulders, eroded, steep and hard to back in/out of
- vi. Move it? No, just improve it
- vii. It would be a big effort with the dnr to get a new one placed, maybe impossible
- viii. Also a portage for canoers
- ix. Dnr launch on other side of river is also a canoe spot maybe
- x. Rollers are also available for handicapped people to access river
- xi. Boat launch should also be kayak launch area too

- Crane road ballfields
- Took grass off of one ballfields to accommodate more activities (softball)
- In process of redoing one ball diamond
- Also drainage issues being worked on
- Walking trail would be good
- Sandbox near playground would be good
- Kids like big piles of dirt!
- Everything there needs attention.. fence, building, fields, parking, etc. all needs help
- Not a very accessible facility. Also safety concerns. Foul balls, etc.
- Reconfiguring of fields might be a good idea.
- Also move spectator area to behind dugouts instead of on site
- Building there is junky... tear it down? Concessions?
- Electrical box is also a problem.. literally everything needs to be fixed
- Is this a high priority? Yes. Either upgrade it or do you move it and build new ball diamonds
- Cant do a lot of work that might disturb soil because its on an old landfill.
- Need EIS before you do a lot and that is expensive
- No records of caps, how deep
- Almost any work, including renovating, may trigger EIS permitting.
- Reconfiguring it, moving fences, all may trigger EIS process
- Maybe they remain practice fields
- This is the big concern.

3. Are there opportunities for new parkland on municipally-owned, vacant land? How should vacant land be used?

- Maybe at DPW site? See map. Already owned by village.
- 10-15 acres could be used for recreational purposes. Its flat

- behind midvilla is possibility. Midvilla owner may be open to this.
 - Ball fields possible? There are wetlands there.
 - Any area can be made flat.
 - What if WWTP or DPW building needs to expand? Does that encroach into potential ballfields?
 - Not many other places are flat.
 - Other places may work for picnic areas and nature type uses
 - Township has expressed some interest in parks
 - Are they adequate for seniors? Generally, yes.
 - Are scooters and motorized wheelchairs able to use them?
 - What about outside the village boundaries in the school district?
 - If a farmer or someone donated it, would they be open to that? Yes, for sure.
 - Fairgrounds? In Rutland township. The fair board governs that property. They sit there a lot.
 - What about a spot halfway between Hastings and Middleville.
 - County interested in field development too
 - Need to be economically efficient
 - If you have a regional approach to your park, you have a better chance to get grant funding. (more points)
 - Worth considering
4. How should pedestrians and bicyclists be considered in planning for new parks? If connections to neighborhoods and trails are desired, how might they be integrated into the site? Should new parkland be used as a trail staging area?
- Twp has been looking at bicycle parking
 - Needed at park
 - Only 2 bike racks, at village hall and boat launch. Need more if we are going to be a bike friendly community.
5. Is parking a concern at existing facilities? Is safety a concern?
- Yes, everywhere, either its not adequate or its in poor condition, poorly marked.
 - Calvin hill has no parking. Onstreet only.
6. How might the local community better market existing amenities?
- Leagues often to their own promotion, like soccer or discgolf people.
 - Service clubs. Lions, rotary, etc. good marketing tool
 - Important to remember the contributions of those who contribute to parks
 - \$20,000 is the goal needed to get calvin hill/skate park to make everything functional and exciting.

TAPRC Community Recreation Plan Update
Recreation Programming and Facilities Focus Group
December 15, 2011 (6:00 to 7:00 PM)

1. What do you like about current recreation programming?
 - Flag football, good gateway to 3rd and 4th grade when tackling begins
 - Parent volunteers for coaches are good; promotes participation
 - Teaches good lessons to kids (teamwork, respect each other, etc)
 - The interaction is good, meets a lot of new people. People are really involved.
 - Many different groups willing to take on all the different programs

2. What types of additional programs might be needed in the community? How might existing programs be improved, and what is needed to deliver the improved programs?
 - Not a lot of adult stuff. Mens softball, volleyball, basketball. Participation is dwindling
 - Hard for parents to participate because kids are doing many of those things and parents have to drive them everywhere
 - Lacrosse a potential expansion program, maybe with Caledonia
 - Need a place to ice skate.
 - Hockey is more fun at night. But then you need lights.
 - Explore and keep lighting in mind for some facilities.
 - Construction lights, seasonal maybe? Be more expensive in long run
 - Not many areas to flood for skating
 - There was logistical and scheduling confusion last year.
 - Need more fields
 - Delegating is needed for programming
 - Help from rocket people to help transition to tackle football.
 - Kids were/are concerned about going into tackle due to fear of injury
 - Camps and practice during off-season times (pitching practice in a gym)
 - Training sessions and stuff for kids to do in the winter to teach kids the games so they aren't thrown into it at the beginning of the season.
 - Incentivize parent participation? Small discount for your kid if you are a coach?
 - It's a big commitment. One or two practices a week plus a game on the weekend.
 - It can be as much work to coordinate practice as it does to actually practice.
 - Too many coaches can be a problem, but have different techniques or anything

3. Is a lack of facility availability affecting the quality or extent of programming? What upgrades to facilities are necessary to accommodate new or expanded programs? What new facilities might be necessary to accommodate new or expanded programs?
 - Need more fields
 - Last summer is was pretty much 100 percent filled
 - In most places mounds for pitching are not necessary
 - Mounds require a lot of upkeep
 - Mounds maybe can be taken out entirely if there aren't really needed until high school
 - 2 leagues: parks and rec and south central
 - What size fields are needed?

4. How might coordination among facility owners be improved to help ensure maximum usage of existing facilities?
 - Yes!
 - Need a different scheduling philosophy. Create and have people sign up for slots of time; previously they would schedule for a certain day.
 - Its logistically difficult, but its much more efficient.
 - There are different interests as well.
 - Registration times vary for sport, and people would get bumped occasionally on school facilities.
 - Say a school team gets rained out, and moves to the next night. But that a night a parks and rec league has it so they get moved out
 - Wesleyan Church at McCann and M37 has a field, and they might be open to improvements. Could land be leased from them?
 - Just getting scheduling coordinated would be a big plus.
 - If both have tues/thurs game nights there is conflict potential
 - Although the scheduling problem is largely fueled by the fact that there aren't enough places to play.
 - Crane road fields could be improved with a couple thousand yards of topsoil and reseeded without disturbing what is underneath. But that would be expensive.
 - Potential site for new fields? Calvin hill too small.
 - Mulberry off of bender, area in front of development could be an area. No it couldn't. intended to be a drain
 - Lee? School controls this, would need their cooperation. Seems likely based on past experiences, especially if they are simple and non intrusive improvements.
 - Leighton church has immaculate fields, maybe a gym. But it would be far
 - McFall? If they can be convinced to let them rework the field.

5. How might the local community better market existing programs?
 - Is marketing needed?

- There are a lot more sports now
- Maybe some people don't know about it or don't want to travel.
- Some quit because of traveling requirements
- School is best way to marketing
- Reminder flyers, etc
- Also has to be in the paper
- Cant send anything home after 6th grade
- Wintertime skills training would be good tool to keep people involved and interesting



TAPRC



Community Recreation Plan Visioning Workshop

Thank you for your participation!

By participating in this input exercise, you are helping to shape the goals, objectives and action strategies of the Community Recreation Plan.

The Assignment

Each group will be responsible for completing this activity with assistance of a facilitator who will take notes and answer any questions.

1. Silent Listing of Ideas.

On the back of this sheet are four questions related to recreation. The first step is to silently review these questions and make note of your thoughts.

2. Share Your Ideas.

Each participant will have an opportunity to share their responses. The facilitator will make a group list.

3. Discuss Your Ideas.

The facilitator will review the list of ideas to make sure there is common understanding of each listing. The ideas will be discussed.

4. Rank the Ideas.

Using the dots your facilitator has given you, each person in the group will personally rank the top six items on the group lists in terms of importance to your vision. Use the following system:

Blue = Top Priorities; Green = Second Priorities; Red = Third Priorities

5. Tabulate the Votes.

Once you have placed all 6 of your dots on the group lists, take a break while your facilitator tabulates the votes. When this is finished, it will be possible to assign priorities. Those receiving the highest score would be considered most important to the group.

6. Report on Your Activities.

When all groups have finished with step 5, all groups will be re-assembled and will be asked to report on the activities of each group.

If you feel the community is underserved with park facilities, what types of new facilities should be developed? For example, tennis courts, ice-skating, boat launches, sports fields, fishing piers, playgrounds, etc. Think both in terms of new parkland and improvements to existing facilities.

What programmed activities would you like to see? For example, exercise classes, horse-riding, ice-skating, etc. Should existing TAPRC programming be modified or enhanced, and how?

What new trail connections would you like to see?

What specific recreation needs do you or your family have?

Thank you!

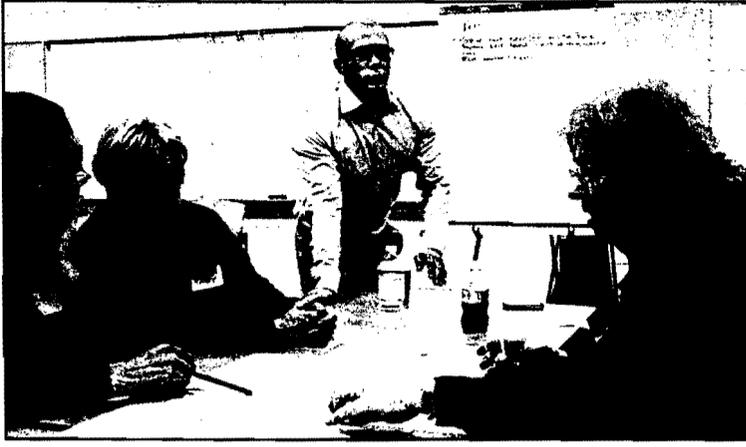
Trail improvements, extension top recreation visioning meeting discussion

by Casey Cheney
Staff Writer

Several dozen people from within the Thornapple Kellogg school district attended a community recreation visioning meeting Thursday to have their say.

The Thornapple Parks and Recreation Commission, in conjunction with Williams and Works Inc., hosted the meeting "to discuss the thoughts and ideas of residents and stakeholders and to guide the formation of policies in connection with the future of parks and recreation in the community."

The meeting took a divide-and-conquer approach, separating into two groups, each attacking the objective of focusing the efforts of the commission.



Associate community planner Brian Wegener (middle) facilitates discussion and records ideas at the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission visioning meeting Thursday. (From left) Cal Lamoreaux and Audrey Van Strien discuss with Wegener and Jean Lamoreaux important issues the commission should address.

around ideas for where these staging areas could be, the location of signs and what the signs would say and informational kiosks positioned where trails intersect.

For programmed activities, Cal Lamoreaux mentioned a community project called a natural features inventory, in which people inventory every plant species within a park and compile the information. He said because of the event, in other areas, community members have discovered species they didn't know were there.

The group determined that the Thornapple area could use some environmental education classes.

An emphasis as big as the trails was the Thornapple River.

"I think of the river as an undeveloped water trail," is how Cal Lamoreaux put it.

Important to its development is improved boat launches, compatible with both kayaks and fishing boats, and loops coordinated with the trails. These loops would allow people to park their vehicles at the boat launch, for example, ride their bikes part way, kayak the rest, and arrive back at their vehicles.

Suggested family needs considered all ages, from improving the skateboard park, to the ice skating rink, to providing more golf carts for trail tours.

Getty and Jean Lamoreaux emphasized the importance of using the natural surroundings to draw people to the area.

"That's the new small-town economy," Getty said. Events such as the wood-

pecker festival, which met with great success last year, ought to be developed as much as possible to bring more people in.

These were the discussions of just one group, and of all of these ideas, only the top three were selected, as was the case with Group 1.

The three items chosen by Group 1 were: more multipurpose ball fields, more equipment for the skate park and the completion of the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail north of the village.

In Group 2, the top three were: trail connections in the north, developing the Thornapple River into a diverse and easily accessible trail of its own, and development to the existing trails - trail-side camping, staging areas and signage.

Now, Williams and Works will take this data and begin to develop a plan, updating those in attendance regarding future sessions.

6th Annual *Waldorf Bridal Show*
Saturday, January 28, 2012
12:00 to 4:00 pm
105 E. State Street, Hastings MI
269-945-4400
FREE ADMISSION
Prizes & giveaways • Hors d'oeuvres
Cash bar • Cash-n-carry
00760296

The groups, both headed by community planners from Williams and Works, addressed four specific categories: facilities, programmed activities, trail connections and recreation needs.

The discussion flowed as school officials, township and village employees and concerned citizens put their heads together to think of the strongest needs and practical ways of meeting those needs.

In Group 2, Associate community planner Brian Wegener scribbled down ideas on a giant sketch pad, asked follow-up questions to further discussion, and prompted the group forward when participants hit a wall.

Then, each group member voted on the top priorities. The decisions were difficult, and many group members lingered, debating if one item was too similar to the other, whether both items deserved a "top priority" vote, or which should be labeled "second priority."

Once the results were tallied, the two groups compared notes, which the Williams and Works crew will compile and use to form a plan.

After an hour of discussion, several pages of the pads were filled with ideas, some as

basic as more baseball fields and others as complex as which incomplete section of a trail would be most profitable to Middleville, how to obtain the land to complete it, what signs should be placed on and off the trail, and so on.

Downtown Development Authority event coordinator Jean Lamoreaux and her husband, Cal, suggested a community center.

"It could just be a pole barn. It doesn't have to be a big, fancy building," Jean said.

As for what it could contain, maybe basketball courts, concert halls, fitness facilities. The point was not to nail down details but to provide a vision.

Trail connections gathered most of the attention. Group 2 determined that, while completing every trail would be nice, connecting the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail from Middleville to Caledonia takes precedence.

Village Zoning Administrator Catherine Getty said, "If we connect Kent County to Middleville, that is huge."

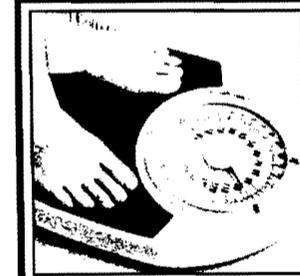
She added that it would open the door for other projects to be completed, as well.

Cal Lamoreaux added that, "Timewise, the north is more doable, too."

Audrey Van Strien suggested that the trails could have staging areas where users could pitch a tent for the night. The group tossed

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MON-TH 6:20, 9:20
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SAT-SUN 12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:10
MON-TH 6:10, 9:10
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS:
CHIPWRECKED (G)
LOWES (PG)
SAT-SUN 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 6:40, 8:00
MON-TH 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
© SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13)
SAT-SUN 12:50, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
MON-TH 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

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From our family to yours... **Thank you for a fantastic 2011.**
We look forward to seeing you in 2012!
Start the New Year out with a new career

Appendix H – Minutes of Adoption Meeting

Minutes of the March 19, 2012 Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission

Call to order by President VanNoord at 7:17 PM.

Present for the meeting: Board members VanNoord, Vanderwilk, Eavey, Ackerman, and Bremer. Also in attendance: Program Director Getty, and resident Luke Fleishman.

Motion by Bremer supported by Ackerman approves Agenda as presented.

Motion by Vanderwilk supported by Eavey approves Minutes of the February 20, 2012 meeting.

There were NO Public Comments.

President VanNoord opened the Public Hearing on the 5 Year Recreation Plan at 7:20. Getty reported that all three (3) entities (Village of Middleville, Thornapple Township, and the Thornapple Kellogg School Board) have approved "The Plan". She also stated that there have been many positive comments regarding the Plan. As there were no other public questions or comments, VanNoord closed the Public Hearing and returned to the Regular Meeting at 7:21. *Motion by VanNoord, second Eavey. All eyes. Motion*

Motion by Bremer supported by Vanderwilk approves payment of bills in the amount of \$4,135.51. *Passed*

Under Old Business: Contact has been made with former Program Director Hildabrand regarding his purchase of a T.A.P.R.C. computer for \$800.

Motion by Bremer supported by Vanderwilk to authorize VanNoord to negotiate a payment plan with Hildabrand.

During New Business: Getty updated the Commission on the upcoming youth baseball/softball season. She has had very good help from volunteers regarding registrations, team structure, and equipment readiness and availability.

She reported that our request for funding from the Barry County United Way was successful and that the T.A.P.R.C. has been granted a \$7,000 allocation. (We had requested \$10,000.)

It was announced that Saturday April 14, would be Field Day at the Crane Rd. and Lee Elementary ball fields.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel and Programming – none

Budget and Finance – none

Building and Grounds – Bremer reports that a request for bids to mow the Crane Rd. fields will be put to the public this week. Also that the committee would be meeting at the Crane Rd. diamonds to outline a plan for Field Day.

Fundraising – Vanderwilk reported that the search for sponsors was continuing and each board member present agreed to talk to potential sponsors.

Barry County Parks and Recreation Report – Getty was unable to attend the last meeting due to a conflict with presenting the 5 Year Plan to our entities. Getty shared that she has been made Chair of the newly created "Marketing Committee" of the B.C.P.R.B. More to follow on that appointment later.

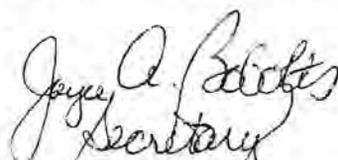
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Eavey shares that the Township may be interested in supporting an increase to the fees paid by the entities.

With no other comments offered:

Motion by Vanderwilk supported by Ackerman adjourned the meeting at 8:42.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Bremer – interim Secretary



Secretary

**VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 29, 2012**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Village Council of Middleville, Michigan was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Pullen in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall. Roll Call Members present: Endsley, Lutz, Lytle, Pullen, Reyff, Schellinger. Absent; Van Noord.

Pledge of Allegiance: President Pullen asked all present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Reyff, support by Schellinger to accept the agenda as printed. Voice Vote. Ayes; six. Nays; none. Absent; one. **Motion Passed.**

PUBLIC HEARING – Community Recreation Plan

The public hearing was opened at 7:01 PM by President Pullen.

Cal Lamoreaux of 3 Market Street asked for corrections to references to the Thornapple Trail; he feels it should read Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail. Lamoreaux also asked for wording that would express the goal to protect and maintain the river as a trail. He addressed the improvements to the Riverside Park boat launch which he feels should include a kayak launch with handrails for those with disabilities.

Geoff Moffat of 116 Hunters Trail feels that the Community Recreation Plan's original purpose was to facilitate local recreation programs for youths and adults. Moffat was not in favor of a band shell at Stagecoach Park nor a permanent ice skating facility in Sesquicentennial Park as the DDA had previously ratified the Depot Plaza Plan.

As no further public comment was offered, President Pullen closed the Public Hearing at 7:13 PM and the regular Village Council meeting was re-opened.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Reyff, support by Endsley to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 14, 2012. Voice Vote. Ayes; six. Nays; none. Absent; one. **Motion Passed.**
Motion by Lytle, support by Endsley to approve the MCOW meeting minutes of February 13, 2012. Voice Vote. Ayes; six. Nays; none. Absent; one. **Motion Passed.**

Public Comments: Craig Stolsonburg of 1558 Heritage Bay informed Council that he is seeking re-election to the Barry County Board of Commissioners

- B. Wellhead Protection Program
Motion by Reyff, support by Schellinger to approve a Wellhead Protection Program for the Village of Middleville. Voice Vote. Ayes; six. Nays; none. Absent; one. **Motion Passed.**
- C. Engineering Services
Motion by Endsley, support by Schellinger to approve a two-year contract with Williams and Works for Engineering Services and to authorize the Village Manager to sign all documents related to this matter. Voice Vote. Ayes; six. Nays; none. Absent; one. **Motion Passed.**
- D. Planning Services
Motion by Schellinger, support by Endsley to approve a two-year contract with Williams and Works for Planning Services and to authorize the Village Manager to sign all documents related to this matter. Voice Vote. Ayes; six. Nays; none. Absent; one. **Motion Passed.**
- E. Amendment to Personnel Policy
Motion by Endsley, support by Lytle to approve an amendment to the Personnel Policies to include language on the offering of a 457 Plan to eligible employees. Voice Vote. Ayes; six. Nays; none. Absent; one. **Motion Passed.**

Administrative Reports:

- A. Village Manager Fleury
1. Administration
 - a. Quotes for a sound system in the Council Chambers have been requested from three companies for council consideration.
 - b. Fleury attended a seminar on prescription drug abuse and disposal. A drug collection box located in the police department is recommended and could be coordinated with the Barry County Health Department as well as other Police Departments.
 - c. Republic Services has published an ad in the *Sun and News* asking for participation in the pilot recycling program they offer. If adequate response is not received, they will re-publish in the next issue.
 2. Finance
 - a. 45 shut offs were scheduled for the week of Feb. 20 which prompted many payments for late water/sewer bills. The ability to accept credit card payments decreased the number of shut offs needed.
 3. Public Works
 - a. Four bids were received for the WWTP Operations, Maintenance and Management Services. A pre-bid meeting held on Feb. 15 was attended by three of the four qualified service providers.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Elaine W. Denton
Village of Middleville Clerk

I, Fern O'Beshaw, certify the above minutes were duly passed and approved by Village Council at a regular meeting held March 13, 2012.

Fern O'Beshaw
Fern O'Beshaw, Deputy Village Clerk

3-13-12
Date

Attested to by:

Charles T. Pullen
Charles T. Pullen, Village President

3-13-12
Date

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting, Monday, March 12, 2012

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Boysen at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by those present.
2. Present: Don Boysen, Deb Buckowing, Ross DeMaagd, Walt Eavey, Pat Harrison, Bill Kenyon and Susan Vlietstra.

Also present: David Middleton, Catherine Getty, Becky Schultz, Cal and Jean Lamoreaux, Nick Wake, Joe Miller, Aaron Wisner, Rod Preslar, John Sager and Julie Makarewicz of The Sun and News.
3. Meeting closure time set at 9:30 p.m. on motion by Kenyon, support by Eavey. Motion carried with all yes votes.

Resolutions for Township Officers' Salaries

4. Motion by Harrison, support by Buckowing, to adopt Resolution 01-2012 that sets Supervisor's salary at \$32,800 for fiscal year 2012-2013. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.
5. Motion by Buckowing, support by Harrison, to adopt Resolution 02-2012 that sets Clerk's salary at \$37,160 for fiscal year 2012-2013. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.
6. Motion by Vlietstra, support by Harrison, to adopt Resolution 03-2012 that sets Treasurer's salary at \$37,160 for fiscal year 2012-13. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.

Supervisor recessed general meeting and opened Budget Hearing for fiscal year 2012-2013 at 7:06 p.m.

7. Boysen read the proposed budget in its entirety.

Budget Hearing closed at 7:21 p.m. and General Meeting resumed

8. Motion by Buckowing, support by Vlietstra, to adopt General Appropriation Resolution for Fiscal Year April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013 as amended. The \$54,103 left in the current fiscal year for the Roads and Highways Department in the General Fund should be added to projected expenses for the next fiscal year according to auditor. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.

Thornapple Township Board
March 12, 2012

Approval of printed agenda

9. The agenda was approved as amended on motion by Harrison, support by Buckowing. Under "Old Business" add #2 Guest Internet and under "New Business", add Property Insurance approval. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.

Approval of Minutes

10. Minutes of the February 13 regular and February 10 special meetings were approved as printed on motion by Harrison, support by Vlietstra. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.

No County Report

First Public Comment on matters not on agenda

11. Nick Wake, assistant to State Representative Mike Callton, reported on bills being worked on at this time with special attention to the budget process and language for a new bill regarding Medical Marijuana which would give more authority to the municipalities. When Nick asked for questions, Harrison wondered about county Road Commissions being under state supervision and was told this would not happen in Barry County. Eavey asked about the State Revenue sharing projections through 2013 and was told this is not a 'hard' number.

Payment of Bills

12. Buckowing noted the Finance Committee met twice to review current bills and moved, support by Vlietstra, to approve payment in the amount of \$51,533.92. Roll call vote: Vlietstra, yes; Boysen, yes; Buckowing, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Eavey, yes; Harrison, yes; Kenyon, yes. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report

13. Vlietstra reported a 22% turnout at the February 28 Presidential Primary. She expects the costs to be reimbursed in the next fiscal year. Plans are starting for the May election for a Grand Rapids Community College proposal.

14. Clerk requested the following changes to the 2011-12 budget:

General Fund	add	\$29,900
101-000-574.000		
(State Shared Revenue appropriations under projected)		
Supervisor's Dept.	add to expenses	\$ 3,200
101-175		
Elections	add to expenses	1,000
101-191		
Assessing Dept.	add to expenses	2,400
101-209		
Board of Review	add to expenses	300
101-247		
Treasurer's Dept.	add to expenses	1,500
101-253		
Cemetery Bldg. & Grounds	add to expenses	2,500
101-276		
Street Lighting	add to expenses	300
101-448		
Roads & Highways	Reduce by	54,103
101-449		
Fire Dept. (legal fees)	add	9,000
206-000-826.000		
Duncan Lake Weed Control	add	3,000
220		
Ambulance Dept. (legal fees)	add	9,000
303-000-826.000		
Ambulance (Federal Grant) add revenue		108,100
303-000-501.000		
Ambulance Capital Outlay	add	107,500
303-000-970.000		

Motion by Buckowing, support by Harrison to make the appropriate adjustments as recommended by clerk. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call. In discussion prior to vote, Harrison asked if some of these changes could be done earlier, in a more pro-active way. Clerk's response was that a quarterly review of revenue and expense by each department would be helpful.

Treasurer's Report

15. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented and placed on file. Buckowing reported that additional taxes would be on next month's report because taxes received on Feb. 29 could not be banked that day.

16. Supervisor Boysen reported the following fund balances at the end of February, 2012: General Fund, \$516,604.48; Fire Fund, \$75,809.90; Ambulance Fund, \$97,492.29; Sewer O&M \$77,211.03 for a total of \$767,117.70. Restricted funds include: EMS fund, \$165,845.06; Capital Improvements, \$197,958.99; Bond Payment, \$247,093.69; Trust and Agency \$17,915.50; Shaw Cemetery, \$70,220.41 and DL Weed Control \$12,604.09 for a total of \$711,638.56. Grand total, \$1,478,756.26.

Correspondence

17. Supervisor received communication from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission concerning Thornapple Township's participation. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to ask Valerie Byrnes of the Barry County Economic Development to explain this at the next board meeting.
18. Trustees are invited to the Michigan Township Association, Barry County, meeting on March 20, at the Commission on Aging meeting room at 6:30 for appetizers and 7:00 meeting at which Ben Geiger will speak about farmland preservation.

Old Business

19. Motion by Vlietstra, support by Buckowing, to adopt Resolution 04-2012, Poverty Guidelines at 125% of Federal guidelines, which will be in effect for Tax Year 2013. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.
20. Motion by Buckowing, support by Vlietstra, to allow expenditure of \$560 to adapt and protect Township's wireless internet so it can be accessed by citizens using the public room, and by the general public. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call. Board feels this is a good service to Thornapple Township residents.

Regular meeting closed at 8:30 p.m. to open Public Hearing for Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan

21. Catherine Getty distributed copies of the TAPRC Five-year Plan and reviewed how much public input went into the document with 50-60 people involved. Selecting priorities from this input, the Paul Henry Trail came up frequently with hopes for extension to the north to Caledonia and south to Hastings. The current parks could be improved and grants are available to groups with such a plan though it is too late in this year for a grant. Getty noted the cooperation of Village, Township and School is a good one.

Thornapple Township Board
April 12, 2012 – page five

22. Jean Lamoreaux reported a 'full parking lot' at the Paul Henry Trail on Sunday. The Trail Association is working with Kent County on expansion to the north.
23. Cal Lamoreaux said he's been promoting the trails for 35 years and is glad the public has finally caught on. Thanks to TAPRC for their hard work.

Public Hearing closed at 8:38 and Regular meeting reopened by Supervisor

24. Motion by Eavey, support by Buckowing, to adopt Resolution 05-2012, Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan, 2012 – 2016. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.

New Business

25. At the absence of representative from Burnham and Flower, the Clerk briefly reviewed property insurance proposal that will cost \$20,146. Harrison said since the insurance rep was not here, he would like more time to study proposal. Other Board discussion noted this is our long time carrier and that there is no other proposal and the rate has not increased. Motion by Buckowing, support by Kenyon, the Township accept proposal from Burnham and Flower for property insurance at a cost of \$20,146 for year from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, with no optional additions. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.

Planning and Zoning

26. Trustees received printed report on Planning and Zoning. Getty remarked on the two mineral extraction permits that were renewed, indicating Yerrington had come up with a viable reclamation plan. She commended the Planning Commission for their action.
27. Trustees also received the monthly ordinance enforcement report.

Emergency Services

28. Middleton reported a busy February with 105 calls, mostly medical. Report indicated type of incident and municipality served.
29. Motion by Harrison, support by Kenyon, to allow the purchase of 30 T-Bar Filters for firemen's face masks as recommended at MIOSHA seminar at a cost of \$43 each for a total of \$1,290. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.

30. Middleton reported on Chief's workshop he attended. There is a new law regarding fireworks. He recommended an addition to the Township ordinance that would specify where "tent sales" could be located. The matter will be referred to counsel before further action is taken.
31. The workshop also included regulations regarding social media and its use while on duty. This is covered in new employee manual.
32. Chief reported the donation (for \$1) of a modular home that he would like to set up near the Emergency Services building to use as a training house. Getty would like the opportunity to see how this placement will impact the trail head as it moves north, and reminded Middleton they would need a permit to move the home to its new location. Motion by Harrison, support by DeMaagd, to allow Chief to pursue application for permit and moving of structure. Motion carried with 7 yes votes by roll call.
33. Middleton reported on national registry for accreditation of EMT training.
34. It being 9:30 p.m., Boysen moved, support by Buckowing, to extend meeting until 9:50 p.m. Motion carried with all ayes by voice vote.
35. Middleton reported that Chad Klutman fell on the ice while attending class at Traverse City and will be off work for four months because of injuries sustained. Since he is one of the two service's full time workers, some additional part-time help may be needed. Upcoming MFR classes are almost full.
36. Chief reported he had attended Yankee Springs Township Board and they are looking at the extra paid ambulance coverage for summer.
37. Harrison noted Middleton would like to be able to go on second hit ambulance calls after hours and be paid the same as other on-call employees. Middleton was asked to present a proposal on this request.

Committee Reports

38. Administrative Committee gave copy of monthly Trivalent report to Board members and noted that Trivalent had accepted the one-year term as requested and discussed at last month's meeting.
39. Emergency Services: Harrison commended Chief for working on reducing the MIOSHA fines and keeping up with their constant changes.

40. Election: Vlietstra reminded ballot language for Emergency Services millage needed by April meeting.
41. Cemetery: Vlietstra has asked the Ordinance Enforcement officer if he would be able to enforce the township's cemetery ordinance with direction from the cemetery committee. The Board agreed this would be included in his role as enforcement officer.
42. Personnel: the draft policy manual will be ready for April meeting.
43. Parks and Recreation: Eavey asked Getty to send a copy of the five-year plan to the Barry County Parks and Recreation Committee.

Second opportunity for public comment

44. Joe Miller wondered if the groundskeepers at Mt. Hope Cemetery could mulch the grass when mowing as the grass currently covers many headstones.
45. Cal Lamoreaux thanked the Board for promoting the trail and noted that "the beavers are back and chewing."
46. Supervisor adjourned meeting at 9:50 p.m. without poll of members.

Lois Bremer, Recording Secretary

THORNAPPLE KELLOGG BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 7:00 p.m. in Middle School Room #1616.

Members present: Ordway, Haney, Smith, Kiel, Thomas, Selleck

Members absent: Bobolts
*Entered at 7:09 p.m.

Administrators present: Rider, Enslin, Marcy, Koski, Balding, Birely, Langschied, Gelmi, Jefferson, Washburn, Price

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Haney, seconded by Ordway that the Board of Education adopt the agenda as presented.

Affirmative: All
Negative: None
Motion: Carried

APPRECIATION /
RECOGNITION

Due to the weather conditions, appreciation and recognition of our high school competitive cheer team, state wrestlers and high school robotics team was postponed until the April meeting.

Gary recognized our high school student teachers that were in the audience, Nicole Sheppard and Rachel Gardner.

PUBLIC INPUT

None at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING

Open 7:03 p.m.

A public hearing for the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission (TAPRC) was held to review the Five Year Community Recreation Plan.

Each of the three entities; Thornapple Kellogg Schools, Thornapple Township and the Village of Middleville need to approve the resolution to adopt the TAPRC 2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan.

The community was able to attend two public sessions, a visioning session, as well as a focus group to review the Plan.

THORNAPPLE KELLOGG BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2012

Closed 7:08 p.m.

RESOLUTION – THORNAPPLE
AREA PARKS & RECREATION
PLAN

Motion by Haney, seconded by Ordway that the Thornapple Kellogg Board of Education adopt the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission 2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan Resolution.

Roll Call Vote

Affirmative: Ordway, Haney, Smith, Kiel, Thomas, Selleck

Negative: None

Motion: Carried

Member Bobolts entered at 7:09 p.m.

CONSENT GROUPING

Motion by Haney, seconded by Thomas that the following Consent Grouping items be approved:

- A. February 13, 2012 Regular Board meeting minutes
- B. Leave of absence for speech pathologist Bethany Kemler
- C. BPA State Leadership Competition March 23-25, 2012
- D. Schools of Choice resolutions

Roll Call Vote

Affirmative: Haney, Smith, Kiel, Bobolts, Thomas, Selleck, Ordway

Negative: None

Motion: Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT / BILLS

Motion by Kiel, seconded by Haney that the Thornapple Kellogg Board of Education approve expenditures for the payment of bills for February 2012 in the amount of \$2,457,580.95.

Roll Call Vote

Affirmative: Thomas, Selleck, Ordway, Haney, Smith, Kiel, Bobolts

Negative: None

Motion: Carried

THORNAPPLE KELLOGG BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2012

HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO
WASHINGTON, D.C.

High school teachers Todd McGrumb and Jeff Dock shared information about a World Strides presidential inauguration trip to Washington, D.C. In past years, students have attended Close Up, but that trip is becoming very expensive and students have to miss five days of school. World Strides takes place every four years and students would only miss two days of school. World Strides is responsible for all the travel arrangements and fundraising is handled through them on-line. The cost of the trip is \$1,500 per student and includes their flight, hotel, admission to various venues and two meals per day. Todd and Jeff will be contacting other school districts that have participated in the World Strides trip to learn more about their experiences.

RESOURCE ROOM TEACHER

Motion by Haney, seconded by Selleck that the Thornapple Kellogg Board of Education approve Whitney Hudson for employment for the 2011/2012 school year as a .5 resource room teacher.

Affirmative: All
Negative: None
Motion: Carried

"ESSENTIALS" TRACK FOR
WORLD LANGUAGES

Motion by Haney, seconded by Ordway that the Thornapple Kellogg Board of Education approve the creation of an "essentials" track of classes for World Languages beginning the 2012/2013 school year.

Affirmative: All
Negative: None
Motion: Carried

UPGRADE OF INTERNET
FIREWALL (WATCHGUARD
XTM 810)

With the expansion of internet use at the elementary buildings, the technology department requested an upgrade to our current firewall. While the current firewall, Watchguard XTM 510, is only one year old, it cannot handle the traffic and is slowing down productivity.

THORNAPPLE KELLOGG BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2012

Motion by Kiel, seconded by Thomas that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a Watchguard XTM 810 in the amount of \$12,694.97 and includes a three year security subscription from Insight Public Sector. This expenditure would come from the 2007 Capital Projects Fund.

Roll Call Vote

Affirmative: Selleck, Ordway, Haney, Smith, Kiel,
Bobolts, Thomas

Negative: None

Motion: Carried

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Gary reported the following:

1. Congratulated the high school robotics team who qualified for Worlds on April 21, 2012 in California.
2. Congratulated the following athletic teams on their success: competitive cheer took 7th at the state competition, four wrestlers went to state, one placed 5th and one placed 7th, Special Olympics basketball team took the gold in the district tournament.
3. Seven of our nine Odyssey of the Mind competitive teams placed and will be going to state in April.
4. The results from the parent kindergarten survey indicates about half of our parents want Every Day All Day Kindergarten and the other half want the current schedule. Goal is to let parents know by spring break the district's decision on kindergarten for the 2012/2013 school year.
5. Gary and several Board members were able to attend the KIASB dinner and tour the Tech Center and Innovation High. Don Haney shared some highlights from that evening.

PUBLIC INPUT

Kevin Kane, TKEA President, Thornapple Kellogg teacher and parent thanked the high school teachers for staying for the Board meeting after their presentations. He discussed the importance of keeping certified teachers in the classroom with students.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Selleck, seconded by Thomas to move into closed session for the purpose of negotiations.

Time in: 7:50 p.m.

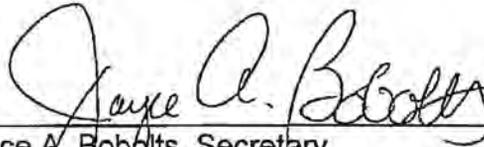
THORNAPPLE KELLOGG BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2012

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 8:54 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

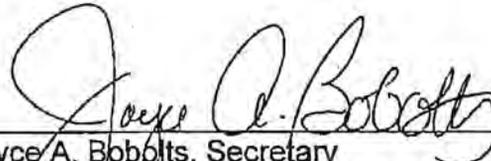
Smith adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Joyce A. Bobolts, Secretary
THORNAPPLE KELLOGG BOARD OF EDUCATION

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the attached are a true copy of the approved minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 12, 2012, and that said approved minutes have been available to the public at the address designated on the posted public notice of said meeting from and after April 16, 2012.



Joyce A. Bobolts, Secretary
THORNAPPLE KELLOGG BOARD OF EDUCATION

Appendix I – Adopting Resolution, Appendix H Checklist and Forwarding Letters

Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission

**2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan
Resolution of Adoption**

WHEREAS, the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission (TAPRC) has engaged the process to develop a new Community Recreation Plan, which describes pertinent features, recreation facilities, policies and desired implementation to improve recreational offerings in the community during the period between 2012 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, the TAPRC facilitated focus group workshops on December 15, 2011 and a community visioning meeting on January 5, 2012 prior to the development of the Plan, enabling citizens and stakeholders to express opinions and needs, ask questions, offer advice, and discuss all aspects of parks and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the TAPRC has prepared the Community Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and to meet the recreation needs of residents as expressed during public input sessions; and

WHEREAS, a notice was published indicating that the Plan was published in several locations and offered for a period of at least 30 days for public comment and review; and

WHEREAS, each of the TAPRC member entities have held public hearings on the Plan and have adopted the Plan; and a public hearing was held on the Plan on today's date.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission hereby adopts the Community Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents and visitors of the community.

Yeas: VanderWilk, Ackerman, Bremer, Van Noord, Eavey

Nays: None

Absent: Bobolts, Chrisinske, Sprague, Kane

I, Joyce A. Bobolts Secretary, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of the resolution adopted by the TAPRC Board at a meeting held on March 19, 2012 at _____ PM.

Joyce Bobolts
Joyce Bobolts
Secretary

RESOLUTION 12-07
THORNAPPLE AREA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN
FOR THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

February 29, 2012

WHEREAS, the Village of Middleville has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation needs and desires of its residents during a period covering the years 2012 through 2016 and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Middleville has entered into this planning process in collaboration with Thornapple Township and Thornapple Kellogg Schools, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Middleville is of the understanding that the governing bodies of the aforementioned local units of government intend to pass a similar resolution of adoption of the Community Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Village of Middleville were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Village of Middleville voted to adopt said recreation plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Middleville hereby adopts the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission Community Recreation Plan for 2012-2016 on February 29, 2012.

Moved by: *Lytle*
Supported by: *Schellinger*

YEAS: *Lytle, Pullen, Schellinger, Endsley*

NAYS: *Reiff, Lutz*

Absent: Van Noord

**THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 05-2012**

**To adopt the
Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission
2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan**

WHEREAS, the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission (TAPRC) has engaged the process to develop a new Community Recreation Plan, which describes pertinent features, recreation facilities, policies and desired implementation to improve recreational offerings in the community during the period between 2012 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, the TAPRC facilitated focus group workshops on December 15, 2011 and a community visioning meeting on January 5, 2012 prior to the development of the Plan, enabling citizens and stakeholders to express opinions and needs, ask questions, offer advice, and discuss all aspects of parks and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the TAPRC has prepared the Community Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and to meet the recreation needs of residents as expressed during public input sessions; and

WHEREAS, a notice was published indicating that the Plan was published in several locations and offered for a period of at least 30 days for public comment and review; and

WHEREAS, each of the TAPRC member entities will hold a public hearing on the Plan and a public hearing was held on the Plan on today's date.

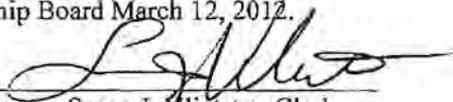
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Thornapple Township Board hereby adopts the Community Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents and visitors of the community.

Yeas: Boysen, Buckowing, DeMaagd, Eavey, Vlietstra, Harrison and Kenyon

Nays: None

Absent: None.

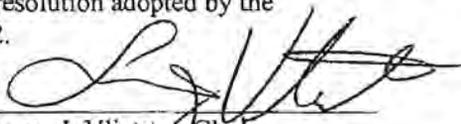
Resolution declared adopted by the Thornapple Township Board March 12, 2012.


Susan J. Vlietstra, Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF BARRY)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified clerk of the Township of Thornapple, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a meeting held March 12, 2012.

Dated March 12, 2012


Susan J. Vlietstra, Clerk

**Thornapple Kellogg School District
Board of Education
Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission
2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan
Resolution of Adoption**

WHEREAS, the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission (TAPRC) has engaged the process to develop a new Community Recreation Plan, which describes pertinent features, recreation facilities, policies and desired implementation to improve recreational offerings in the community during the period between 2012 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, the TAPRC facilitated focus group workshops on December 15, 2011 and a community visioning meeting on January 5, 2012 prior to the development of the Plan, enabling citizens and stakeholders to express opinions and needs, ask questions, offer advice, and discuss all aspects of parks and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the TAPRC has prepared the Community Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and to meet the recreation needs of residents as expressed during public input sessions; and

WHEREAS, a notice was published indicating that the Plan was published in several locations and offered for a period of at least 30 days for public comment and review; and

WHEREAS, each of the TAPRC member entities will hold a public hearing on the Plan and a public hearing was held on the Plan on today's date.

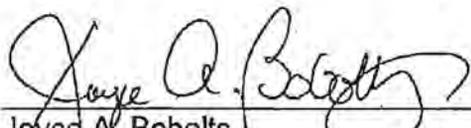
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education for the Thornapple Kellogg School District hereby adopts the Community Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents and visitors of the community.

Yeas: Ordway, Haney, Smith, Kiel, Thomas, Selleck

Nays: None

Absent: Bobolts

I, Joyce A. Bobolts, Secretary, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a meeting held on March 12, 2012 at 7:00 PM.



Joyce A. Bobolts
Secretary, Thornapple Kellogg School District

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.

PLAN INFORMATION		
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
Village of Middleville	Barry	February 2012
Township of Thornapple	Barry	March 2012
Thornapple - Kellogg School District	Barry	March 2012

PLAN CONTENT

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RECREATION INVENTORY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

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

Date of the Notice 1/21/12 and 3/3/12

Type of Notice newspaper

Plan Location see Appendix D

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) see Appendix D (31 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 1/21/12 and 3/3/12

Name of Newspaper Sun and News

Date of Meeting 3/19/12

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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: 3/19/12

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: 6/21/12

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: 6/21/12

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

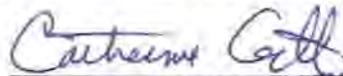
I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

TAPRC

(Local Unit of Government)

includes the required content, as indicated

above and as set forth by the DNR.



6-14-12

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**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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

By _____ Date _____

By _____ Date _____

Grants Management

Date

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 1/21/12 and 2/18/12

Type of Notice newspaper

Plan Location see Appendix D

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) see Appendix D (31 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 1/21/12 and 2/18/12

Name of Newspaper Sun and News

Date of Meeting 2/29/12

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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: 2/29/12

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: 6/21/12

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: 6/21/12

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for
Village of Middleville *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**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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 _____

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 3/3/12

Type of Notice newspaper

Plan Location see Appendix D

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) see Appendix D (31 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 3/3/12

Name of Newspaper Sun and News

Date of Meeting 3/12/12

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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: 3/12/12

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: 6/21/12

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: 6/21/12

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

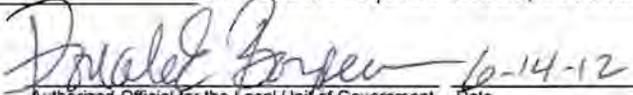
NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Thornapple Township
(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated


Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date 6-14-12

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**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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

By: _____ Date _____
Grants Management _____ Date _____

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4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: 6/21/12

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Thornapple - Kellogg Schools
(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated

 6/14/12
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**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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 _____



THORNAPPLE AREA PARKS & RECREATION

TAPRC

*P.O. Box 250,
Middleville,
MI 49333*

Program Director:

*Catherine Getty
info@taprc.org
269-953-3151*

Board Members:

*Phil VanNoord, Chair
Tom Ackerman
Joyce Bobolts
Michael Bremer
Dave Chrisinske
Walt Eavey
Kevin Kane
Ross Sprague
Wesley VanderWilke*

June 21, 2012

Ms. Jule Stafford, Grant Coordinator
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909

**Re: Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission
2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan**

Dear Ms. Stafford:

Enclosed please find the 2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan for the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan was prepared, approved and adopted by Thornapple Township, the Village of Middleville, the Thornapple-Kellogg School District and the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission. Additionally, copies of the Plan have been submitted to the South Central Michigan Planning Council and the Barry County Planning Commission.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission

Catherine Getty
Program Director

Enc.



THORNAPPLE AREA PARKS & RECREATION

TAPRC

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Middleville,
MI 49333*

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Walt Eavey
Kevin Kane
Ross Sprague
Wesley VanderWilke*

June 21, 2012

Mr. Randy Bowman, Executive Director
South Central Michigan Planning Council
P.O. Box 2137
Portage, MI 49081

**Re: Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission
2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan**

Dear Mr. Bowman:

Enclosed please find the 2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan for the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan was prepared, approved and adopted by Thornapple Township, the Village of Middleville, the Thornapple-Kellogg School District and the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission. Additionally, copies of the Plan have been submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Barry County Planning Commission.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission

Catherine Getty
Program Director

Enc.



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Walt Eavey
Kevin Kane
Ross Sprague
Wesley VanderWilke

June 21, 2012

Mr. James McManus
Barry County Planning Commission
220 West State Street
Hastings, MI 49058

**Re: Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission
2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan**

Dear Mr. McManus:

Enclosed please find the 2012-2016 Community Recreation Plan for the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan was prepared, approved and adopted by Thornapple Township, the Village of Middleville, the Thornapple-Kellogg School District and the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission. Additionally, copies of the Plan have been submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the South Central Michigan Planning Council.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission

Catherine Getty
Program Director
Enc.