

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey and the Clare City Commission
FROM: Ken Hibl, City Manager
DATE: February 11, 2016
RE: City of Clare Parks & Recreation Master Plan

For the Agenda of February 15, 2016

Background. The City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan is required to be updated every five years to ensure eligibility to any and all programs available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), to include all grant and loan programs. Additionally, it is simply good management sense and good practice to periodically update our Master Plan to ensure that ever-changing community recreation priorities and needs are being addressed and met.

Joy Simmer, our Rec Director, has renewed the Plan (*copy att'd*): has submitted it to our Parks & Recreation Board for consideration; has provided copies to our neighboring governmental entities having recreation programs for review and comment; and has asked Diane to publish notice (*copy att'd*) of a required public hearing to allow public comment to be heard and thereby facilitate the City Commission's approval of the Plan to allow us to submit the Plan to MDNR.

The City Commission is asked to consider hold the requisite public hearing to receive comment and then approve the Plan.

Issues & Questions Specified. Should the City Commission hold the required public hearing and subsequently approve the proposed City of Clare Parks & Recreation Master Plan?

Alternatives.

1. Hold the hearing and approve the Plan.
2. Hold the hearing and approve the Plan with amendments or modifications.
3. Do not approve the Plan.
4. Set aside the decision regarding this matter to a later date.

Financial Impact: If the City Commission does not approve the Plan, the cost to the City would be our loss of opportunity to apply for and receive any available recreation grants and to participate in MDNR Programs that require a current Plan as eligibility criteria. Approval of the Plan would conversely provide us those opportunities.

Recommendation. I recommend that the City Commission hold, by appropriate motion, hold the public hearing and subsequently approve the Parks & Recreation Master Plan by adoption of Resolution 2016-014 (*copy att'd*).

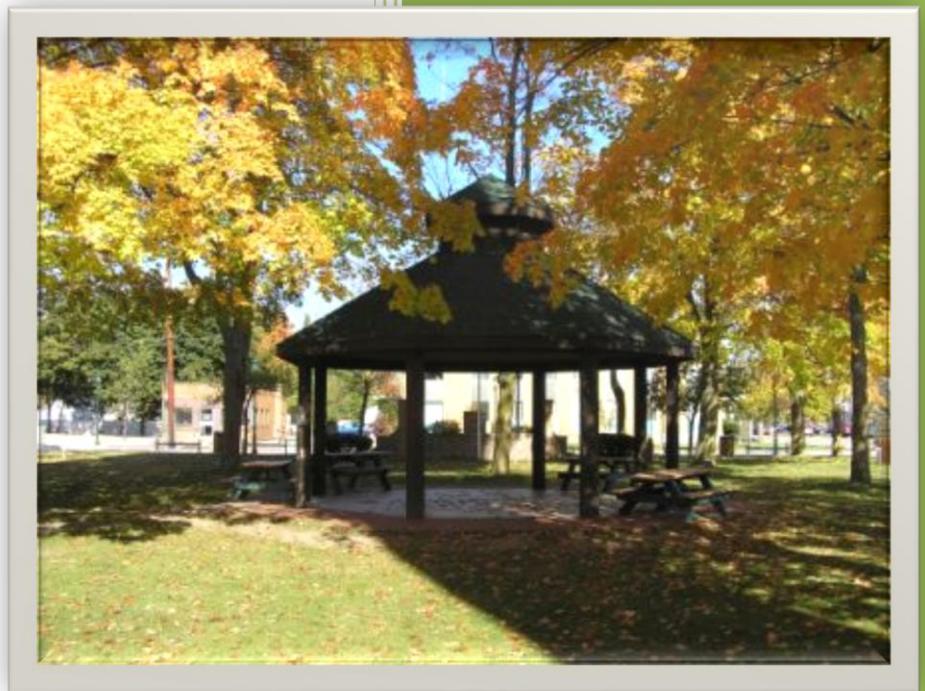
Attachments.

1. Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
2. Public Notice.
3. Resolution 2016-014.



2016 - 2020

Parks and Recreation Master Plan City of Clare, Michigan



Expires: December 31, 2019

City of Clare

Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020 Acknowledgements

The planning process for the Clare Parks and Recreation Master Plan could not have happened without the leadership and participation of numerous city officials, community leaders, and, particularly, the Citizens of Clare. We would like to recognize the following individuals for their efforts:

City Council	Pat Humphrey, Mayor Jean McConnell, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Bonham, Commissioner Gus Murphy, Commissioner Karla Swanson, Commissioner
City Manager	Mr. Ken Hibl
City Parks & Recreation Director	Ms. Joy Simmer
City Parks Supervisor	Gary Bauer
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	Ms. Judy Brankel Mr. Michael Craig Mr. Matt Miller Ms. Rose Michels Mr. Jon Ringelberg Ms. Carol Santini Ms. Tonya Willman
CMU/MLGMA Fellow	Roy Atkinson
Report Prepared by	Joy Simmer Parks and Recreation City of Clare 989-386-7541 ext. 213 jsimmer@cityofclare.org



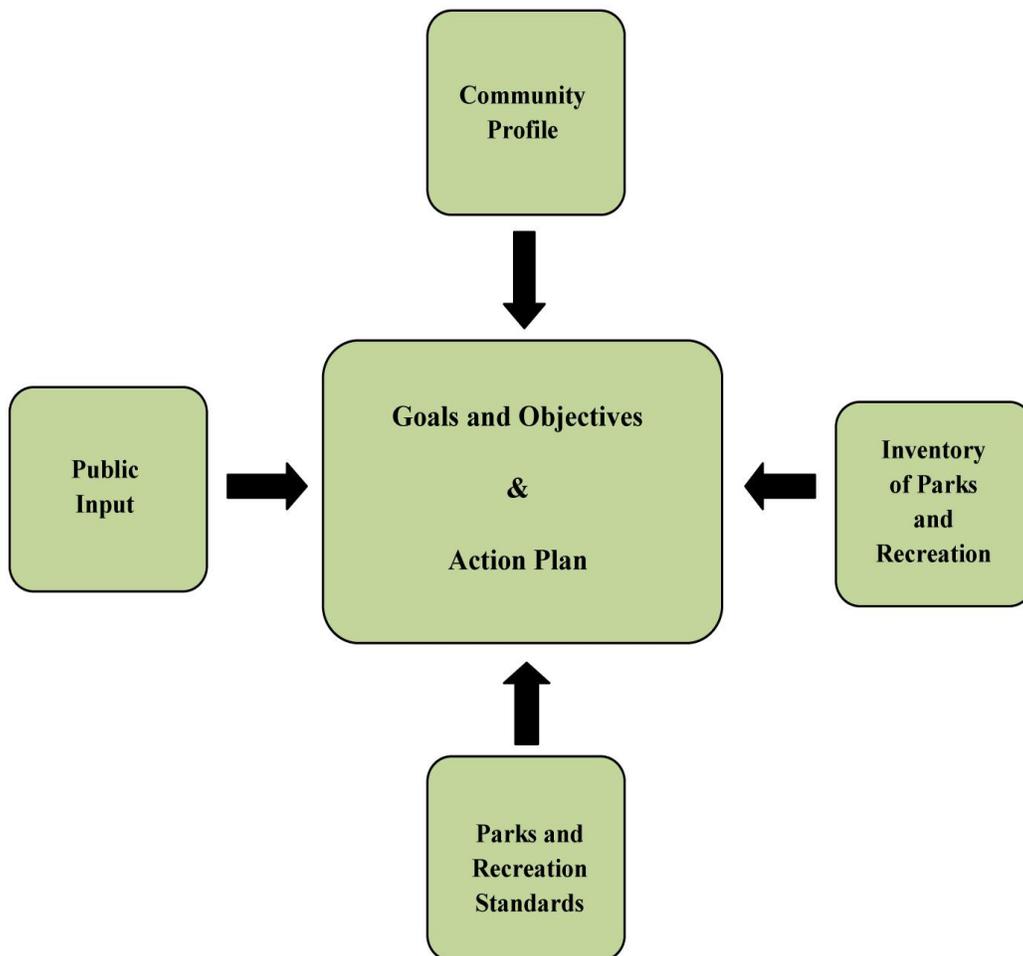
Table of Contents

I.	Introduction.....	Page 4
II.	Community Description.....	Page 5
III.	Administrative Structure.....	Page 10
IV.	Recreation Inventory.....	Page 14
V.	Park Accessibility.....	Page 28
VI.	Public Participation	Page 31
VII.	Goals and Objectives.....	Page 32
VII.	Action Plan.....	Page 33
	Appendices.....	
	Appendix A – Public Meeting Announcement.....	Page 36
	Appendix B – Letter of Invitation and Mailing List.....	Page 37
	Appendix C – 2015 Clare Parks & Recreation Survey.....	Page 38-42
VIII.	Summary of the Planning Process and Adoption	Page 43
	Adoption.....	Page 46
	Checklist.....	Page 48

Chapter 1: Introduction

The revision of the City of Clare master plan for parks and recreation began in February 2015, by Joy K.S. Simmer, Director of Clare Parks and Recreation. The planning process was designed to include information from multiple sources using various means of data collection consistent with the master planning process.

All of the original data was collected January - March 2009. This data was collected by RPL students from Central Michigan University. On April 23, 2009, the students gave a presentation of their findings to the Parks and Recreation Board. This inventory has been updated and logged yearly ever since the original collection dates.



Chapter 2: Community Description

This plan has been prepared for the City of Clare, Michigan. In previous plans, the focus of planning was on the acquisition and development of parks and recreation areas for use by residents and non-residents. Beginning with the 2005 master plan, the City of Clare expanded the scope of the planning process to include planning for the delivery of recreation programs and services to the community. Also, because of the strategic location of the city along the Pere Marquette Rail Trail, the City continues to address planning for the ultimate expansion and completion of the rail trail project through to the western city boundary and the development of a new recreation complex.

Location

The City of Clare, Michigan is located in Clare County at the intersection of U.S. Highway 127 and U.S. Highway 10, approximately 80 miles north of Lansing and 30 miles west of Midland, MI (See Figure 1).

The City of Clare, Michigan is located in the central part of the lower peninsula of Michigan; often referred to as the “middle-of-the-mitt.” The City of Clare is located on the southern edge of Clare County and the northern edge of Isabella County. Clare County, also known as the Gateway to the North, is located at the convergence of the relatively flat agricultural southern part of Michigan and the hill country leading to Michigan’s “High Plains” area.

The location of Clare at the intersection of U.S. Highway 127 and U.S. Highway 10 make it a funnel point for much traffic traveling to Michigan’s North Country. Traffic is so significant that the state of Michigan operates a Michigan Welcome Station on U.S. 127 at Clare (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Location Map, City of Clare



History

The area around Clare was initially settled during Michigan's logging era that followed the Civil War. Michigan's pine timber became important as the supply of trees in the northeast was exhausted. By 1880, Michigan was producing as much lumber as the next three states combined. The growth of the logging industry in this part of Michigan was accompanied by the growth of the railroads. Clare was founded during the early 1870's, when the Pere Marquette Railroad built a station here during the lumber boom. Clare was incorporated into a village in 1879 and later as a city in 1891.



Demographics

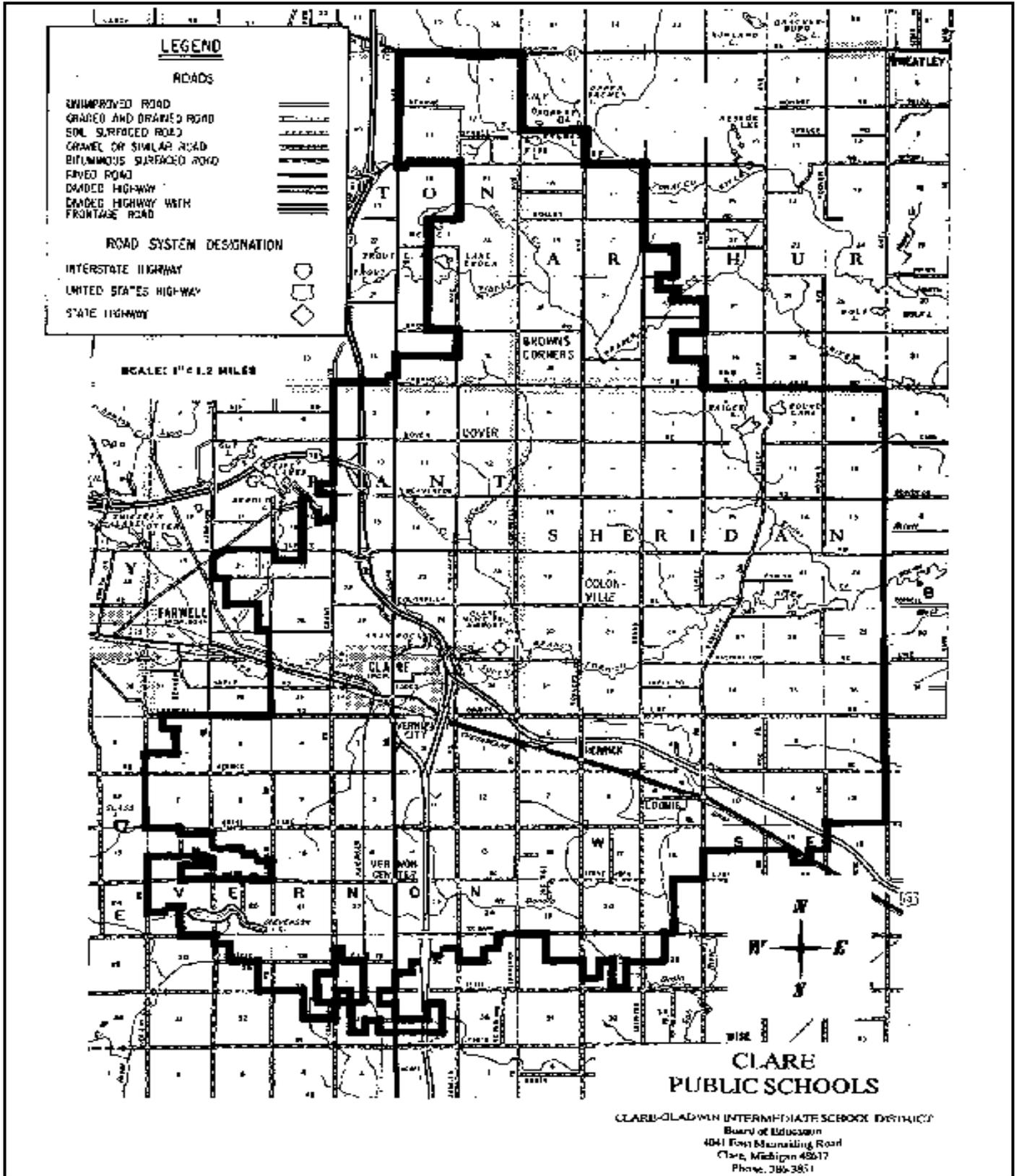
According to 2010 Census, the overall population within the City of Clare stands at 3,118. The updated 2014 population estimates for the City of Clare have that total sitting at 3,089. Comparatively, according to the 2000 census, the City of Clare had a population of 3,140. Less than 5% of the population was represented by minority or ethnic groups. Females significantly outnumbered males, 54.8% to 45.2%. The median age in the City of Clare at that time was 36.1 years, which is nearly a year lower than the median state average and national median age (37.2 years). This age difference is evidenced in the percentage of residents over the age of 65 years. While both the state and national average for persons over 65 stood at 13%, in the City of Clare over 16 (16.9%) percent of the population was 65 or older. There is little reason to believe that the demographic makeup of the city has changed significantly since 2010¹.

For planning purposes, it is useful to look beyond the City of Clare proper. Because of Clare's rural location, the City of Clare serves as a population center for an area much larger than the city itself. While the population of the City of Clare is only estimated to be about 3,100 in 2014, the Clare Public School district encompasses approximately 120 square miles, including parts of two counties and six townships. The 48617 zip code that represents the Clare Post Office serves an area with a combined population of 8,612². Many of these people choose to shop in Clare, and participate in recreation programs and services provided in the City of Clare. Although not tax payers, non-residents also add to the burden of providing parks and recreation services in the city and should be considered in planning decisions. See Figure 2 for the Clare Public Schools district map.

¹ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

² <http://www.city-data.com/zip/48617.html>

Figure 2: Clare Public Schools District Map



Population Trends

The population of the City of Clare has declined about 2%³ between 2000 and 2007 (Table 1). This decline is a little larger than the rate of population decline of the county as a whole. Surry, Grant and Sheridan Townships, which surround Clare, also show declines in population ranging from 1% to approximately 3%. The current economic climate in the state of Michigan will likely continue to hold down population growth for the next several years.

The median age of a Clare resident is 37.2⁴ years, almost 2 years older than the median age in the state of Michigan.

Economics

Like many areas of the state, Clare County is experiencing gradual economic growth coming out of the recession. According to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG), unemployment in Clare County is at its highest level in decades. In October, 2009, unemployment in Clare County stood at 16.6%; ranked 69th out of Michigan's 83 counties.

Median household income in Clare was \$28,734 (2007); almost \$20,000 less per year than the state median household income of \$47,950.

According to Sperling's Best Places⁵, the cost of living in Clare is reasonable compared to the nation. Clare scores a 78 compared to the national score of 100.

³ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#none

⁴ <https://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/MICLAR5URN>

⁵ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#none

⁶ http://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/city/michigan/clare

Table 1: Population Trend of Clare County 2010-2013

Name	Population, 2010 Census	Population, 2010 Estimate ACS	Population, 2011 Estimate ACS	Population, 2012 Estimate ACS	Population, 2013 Estimate ACS
Clare County	30,926	31,162	31,058	30,924	30,823
Arthur Township	647	754	771	834	834
City of Clare	3,118	3,196	3,191	3,076	3,073
Franklin Township	825	741	704	770	780
Freeman Township	1,157	1,021	1,002	1,030	1,036
Frost Township	1,047	1,332	1,321	1,286	1,172
Garfield Township	1,882	1,635	1,637	1,651	1,657
Grant Township	3,259	3,231	3,244	3,245	3,263
Greenwood Township	1,041	1,121	1,099	1,091	1,173
Hamilton Township	1,829	1,971	1,970	2,057	2,010
City of Harrison	2,114	1,849	2,107	2,100	2,324
Hatton Township	933	853	845	901	844
Hayes Township	4,675	4,756	4,708	4,684	4,660
Lincoln Township	1,824	2,029	1,913	1,898	1,656
Redding Township	526	402	445	433	435
Sheridan Township	1,575	1,724	1,659	1,354	1,414
Summerfield Township	456	556	536	499	475
Village of Farwell	871	1,018	979	924	816
Winterfield Township	459	456	393	416	435

Chapter 3: Organization and Administration

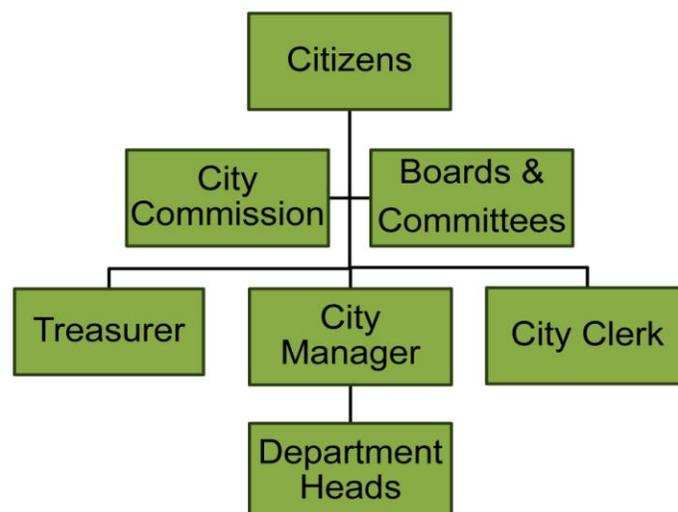
The City of Clare provides parks and recreation services under authorization of MCL section 1917 Public Act 156, which states that “Any city, village, county or township may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; vote and expend funds for the operation of such system.”

Organization

The City Commission oversees operations of parks and recreation with recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which is approved by the City Commission. Parks and Recreation currently exists as one of the departments of city government. Since 2005, the City of Clare has had a full time Director of Parks and Recreation. The Director of Parks and Recreation is supervised by the City Manager.

Figure 3: City of Clare Organizational Chart

City of Clare Organizational Chart



Working Relationships

The Director of Parks and Recreation has responsibility for management of the City's parks and recreation areas, and for planning recreation programs and services for the public. In addition, the Director works closely with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which provides recommendations to the City Commission on matters related to parks and recreation, and with the Director of Public Works in the area of park maintenance.

The Director also works closely with community groups that provide recreation programs in the community using city property. Since 2005, Parks and Recreation assumed responsibility for managing the community soccer program at the request of Clare Public Schools. The Clare Little League, Pony League, Rocket Football, Adult Softball, and Tennis League use city facilities, but are self-managed organizations run by parents and participants.

In addition, the Director works with other community organizations and partners to provide recreation programs and services. The department partners with the Chamber of Commerce, Police and Fire Departments, the Pere Marquette District Library, Clare Public Schools, community volunteers, and other groups to offer programs and services. The City of Clare has partnered with the Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation in support of efforts to expand the trail through the City of Clare.

The City of Clare has leased property at Brookwood Park from Clare Public Schools and has developed that property for recreational use. Old, unsafe playground equipment owned by the schools was removed and a new playground area was installed in its place by the City and community volunteers.

Like any community recreation agency, the City relies on a wide range of volunteers to provide recreation programs and services. The Clare Moose Lodge spearheaded the community-build playground project that resulted in the Imagination Gateway playground development. Students from within The Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services through Central Michigan University, are frequently recruited to provide leadership for events and programs offered by Parks and Recreation.

Funding

Funding for parks and recreation services comes from three primary sources: general fund appropriations, fees & charges for services, and a dedicated property tax for park improvements.

In 2012, the electorate of Clare voted resoundingly (over 77%) to renew a parks millage for a period of ten years, from 2013-2022. The renewal and extension of this millage gave the City the ability and flexibility to plan larger projects with the knowledge that long range funding was secured, with the renewed millage estimated at producing an average of \$63,000.00 each year until 2022. Table 2 represents projected funding levels for parks and recreation from various sources over the next five years.

Table 2: Property Tax and Fee Revenue 2010-2015

Year	Park Property Tax Revenue	Fees
2014-2015	\$63,011	\$25,317
2013-2014	\$66,732	\$21,272
2012-2013	\$64,656	\$19,109
2011-2012	\$64,453	\$17,441
2010-2011	\$66,702	\$21,912

Parks and recreation operations are funded by the General Fund. Table 3 shows the actual and projected budgets for the 2015-2018 fiscal years for parks and recreation in Clare.

Table 3: Parks and Recreation Budget

**CITY OF CLARE - PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET
APPROVED AND FORECASTED AMOUNTS FOR 2015-2018**

PARKS AND RECREATION	2015-2016 RECOMMENDED	2016-2017 FORECAST	2017-2018 FORECAST
<u>Revenues</u>			
CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES	63,007.89	67,819.54	70,911.73
INTEREST AND PENALTIES TAXES	50.00	51.00	52.02
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	0.00	0.00
STATE GRANTS	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHARGES FOR SERVICES - PARKS	8,000.00	8,160.00	8,323.20
CHARGES FOR SERVICES - RECREATION	11,000.00	11,220.00	11,444.40
SPONSORSHIPS	3,500.00	3,570.00	3,641.40
INTEREST	25.00	25.50	26.01
LAND LEASES	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
IN LIEU OF TAXES	325.00	0.00	0.00
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	21,340.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
DONATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS	500.00	510.00	520.20
DONATIONS – SOUTH REC/SOCCER COMPLEX	2,500.00	2,550.00	2,601.00
DONATIONS – SKATEPARK	2,500.00	2,550.00	2,601.00
REFUNDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00
INSTALLMENT LOAN PROCEEDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
BOND PROCEEDS	700,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	814,047.89	119,756.04	123,420.96
<u>Expenditures</u>			
WAGES	108,341.68	110,508.52	111,990.47
PAYROLL TAXES	8,288.15	8,453.92	8,662.99
FRINGE BENEFITS	35,075.86	35,777.38	36,492.93
RETIREMENT - LEGACY AND CURRENT	13,214.02	13,478.30	13,752.86
SUPPLIES AND POSTAGE	19,550.00	20,941.00	20,043.81
PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	13,000.00	13,260.00	13,525.20
CONTRACTED SERVICES - LAKE SHAMROCK	35,500.00	33,710.00	36,884.20
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	100.00	102.00	104.04
SEWER	2,000.00	2,040.00	2,080.80
WATER	6,300.00	6,426.00	6,554.52
ELECTRICITY	5,000.00	5,100.00	5,202.00
NATURAL GAS	350.00	357.00	364.14
REPAIRS - BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	2,000.00	2,040.00	2,080.80
REPAIRS - EQUIPMENT	500.00	510.00	520.20
LEASE/RENT	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL - DATA PROCESSING	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL - MOBILE EQUIPMENT	29,800.00	32,800.00	24,600.00
MISCELLANEOUS	754.34	769.43	784.82
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1,700.00	1,734.00	1,768.68
INSURANCE	2,500.00	2,550.00	2,601.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY - DEPRECIABLE	700,000.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY - NON-DEPRECIABLE	3,442.00	3,442.00	3,442.00
Total Expenditures	529,058.40	305,111.57	317,270.96
Total Revenues	814,047.89	119,756.04	123,420.96
Total Expenditures	529,058.40	305,111.57	317,270.96
NET OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES	184,989.49	(185,355.53)	(193,850.00)

Chapter 4: Park and Recreation Inventory

The park inventory consisted of on-site visits to all city-owned parks and recreation areas. The inventory included recording the assets and features of each park. In addition, school facilities were inventoried where those facilities were used for recreation purposes. Finally, analysis was conducted of other recreation resources in the area by reviewing previous planning documents of the city, county, and other communities in the county, as well as state-owned recreation areas including camping and water access sites.

The City of Clare currently operates 38.5 acres of developed and 27.47 acres of undeveloped park space within the city.

Figure 4: Location Map of Clare City Parks



City of Clare Parks

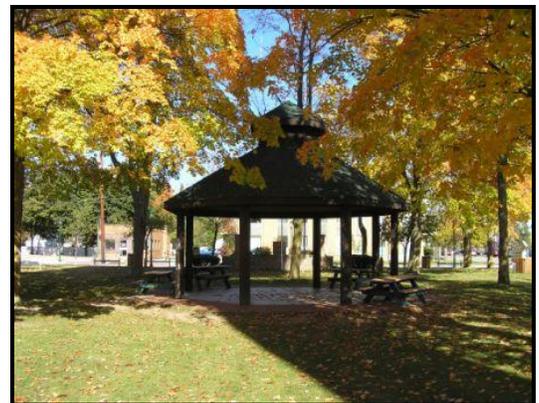
The City of Clare currently operates six developed parks throughout the city.



Pettit Park, located on the Tobacco River in Clare, offers day and overnight use. Pettit Park includes 21 campsites (16 of them with electrical hookup), playground equipment, restroom and shower facilities, picnicking and accessible fishing access to the Tobacco River.



City Park, located on Fifth Street across from City Hall, includes a small gazebo and picnic tables. City Park is frequently used for arts and crafts and musical entertainment events.





Maple Street Park, located at the corner of Maple and 3rd, Maple Street Park offers a covered picnic pavilion, picnic tables, grill, and playground structures.



Stamina Stadium & McIreland Nature Trails, located at the end of Schoolcrest Avenue, includes 4 fenced baseball fields, 1 fenced T-ball field, concession stand with storage & restrooms, batting cages, a pavilion, swings, slide, and jungle gym.

McIreland Nature Trails, located in the wooded area south of Stamina Stadium, offers a ½ mile of natural wooded trail including two bridges.





Shamrock Park, located on Lake Shamrock in Clare, offers a variety of day use features to residents and non residents. In addition to one lighted little league baseball field, the park includes two pavilions, playground, lake access, picnicking areas, and a handicapped accessible restroom.



Brookwood Park, located on Woodlawn Avenue, includes one adult softball field and the Imagination Gateway Playground. The park is adjacent to school tennis courts and sports fields.

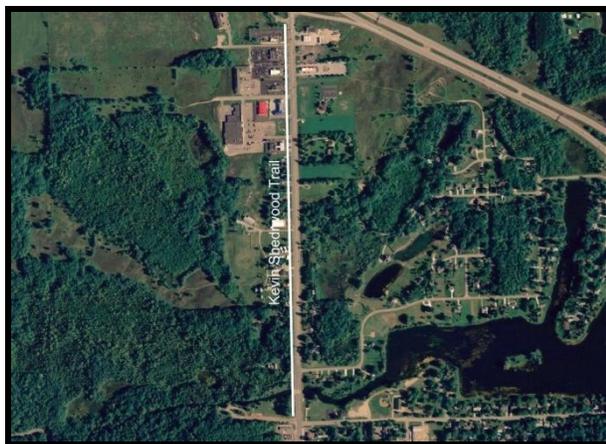


Trails

In addition to city parks, two developed trails serve the Clare community. The Pere Marquette Rail Trail currently has a trail head at the Pere Marquette District Library providing access to city residents. The City of Clare received a DNR grant for the purchase of the rail right-of-way and trail construction from the previous eastern terminus to the Pere Marquette District Library in downtown Clare. The Kevin Sherwood Trail runs for about a mile along McEwan Street from Pettit Park to the north end of town.



The Pere Marquette Rail-Trail, currently terminates at the Pere Marquette District Library. The City recently purchased the additional right of way needed to complete the 2009 trail extension from U.S. 127 overpass to the Pere Marquette District Library.



Kevin Sherwood Trail, located adjacent to McEwan Street provides an approximately one mile long multi-use trail.

Table 4: City of Clare Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Facility	Park Type	Service Area	Location	Size	Inventory
Clare City Park	Community Park	Community	West 5th Street and Beech Street; Across from City Hall	0.8 Acres	Gazebo, 27' diameter; Picnic Tables; Grill; Benches; Water Fountain; Skateboard Equipment (Temporary and Seasonal).
Stamina Stadium	Sport Park	Community	820 Schoolcrest Avenue; Adjacent to McIreland Nature Trail	13.2 Acres	4 Fenced Baseball/Softball Diamonds with Bleachers; 1 Fenced T-Ball Field; Concession Stand; Storage; Accessible Restrooms; Batting Cages; Pavilion; Swings; Slide; Jungle Gym.
Pettit Park	Community Park	Community	McEwan St.	5 Acres	21 Campground Sites (16 with Electric Hook-up); Fire Rings; Potable Water; Playground Structure and Equipment; Horseshoe Pit; Picnic Area with Grills; Sanitation Station; Accessible Restroom and Shower Facility; Fishing Pier.
Shamrock Park	Community Park	Community	225 Wilcox Parkway; South Shore of Lake Shamrock	11.3 Acres	1 Lighted Little League Baseball Diamond with Bleachers; Concession Stand; Large Pavilion (Winter, Outdoor Ice Rink) 120' X 48'; Medium Pavilion 48' X 24'; Small Pavilion 30' X 18'; Accessible Restroom Facility; Playground Equipment area with Benches plus Playground Equipment throughout park; Horseshoe Pit; Picnic Tables; Grills; Storage Building; Fishing Access to Lake Shamrock; Barnes Island (Located on Lake Shamrock, boat access only).
Maple Street Park	Neighborhood Park	Community	Maple Street and West 3rd Street	.4 Acre	Picnic Shelter and Table; Swing Set; Youth Climbing Wall; Sand Box; Grills; Benches.
Brookwood Park	Community Park	Community	Woodlawn Avenue and Ann Arbor Trail	8.8 Acres	1 Lighted Adult Softball Field; Imagination Gateway Playground, Basketball Court, Picnic Tables, Sand Volleyball Court, Tetherball.
McIreland Nature Trails	Trails	Community	820 Schoolcrest Avenue; Adjacent to Stamina Stadium	.5 Mile	Non Motorized Use Only; Walking; Biking; Jogging; Bridges over Tobacco River; Several Benches; Wildlife Viewing Opportunities.
Undeveloped Property		Community	Woodlawn North of Brookwood Park Softball Field	1.2 Acres	Undeveloped
Undeveloped Recreation Complex		Community	West of McEwan St., on the South Side of Pinecrest	26.27 Acres	Undeveloped

Key to Park Types

- Neighborhood Park Park serving a neighborhood within ½ mile radius. Serving as recreation and social focus for the neighborhood. Generally include playground equipment, picnic areas, open play area, and shelters.
- Sport Park Includes facilities primarily for use by organized sport organizations for leagues and tournaments.
- Community Park Multi-use park serving both residents and non-resident visitors. Attractions for visitors and recreation opportunities for residents.
- Trail Multi-purpose trail for biking, walking, hiking. Natural surface.

Clare Public School Facilities

Clare Public Schools and the Parks & Recreation Department have enjoyed a good working relationship over the years. Clare Public Schools operate a wide range of areas and facilities for interscholastic sports and physical education and provide outdoor playgrounds and play fields that serve the community as recreation facilities. Currently, the summer recreation programs have been provided through the Parks & Recreation Department and the schools. These are just a few examples of this cooperative spirit. The following is an inventory of public school area facilities that have recreational value.

Table 5: Clare Public School Facilities

Facility	Location	Inventory
Clare Primary School	Wheaton Avenue	Small Gymnasium/ Multipurpose room; Playground Equipment; Outdoor Basketball Hoops.
Clare High School	Wheaton Avenue and Cedar Street	Gymnasium with 1 Basketball Court; Bleachers; Concessions; Weight Room/ Fitness Center, 1 Baseball Field with Dugouts, Practice Area for Soccer and Football.
Clare Middle School	Wheaton Avenue and Hemlock Street	Gymnasium with 1 Basketball Court and Bleachers; Playground; Outdoor Basketball Area.
Brookwood Park Athletic and Recreation Complex	Woodlawn Avenue and Ann Arbor Trail	4 Tennis Courts; 1 Football Field with Home/Away Bleachers; 1/4 mile Track; 1 Baseball Field with Practice Cages, Dugouts, Bleachers; 1 Soccer Field with 2 Goals; Home/Away Locker Rooms; Public Restroom Facilities; Warming House; Concession Stand.
Undeveloped Property #1	Behind Glen's Market on North McEwan	Rolling Terrain (Half Wooded, Half Open); Significant Wetland Features; Wildlife Viewing Opportunities
Undeveloped Property #2	Near Brookwood Park	Wooded land, Possibly Wetlands in Some Areas

Other Recreation Resources

In addition to city parks, residents can enjoy several other recreation resources in the community.

Table 6: Other Recreation Resources in Clare

Cherry Grove Cemetery	Popular area for walking, biking, jogging and dog-walking. Offers rows of paved lanes for safe, off-street activity. Undeveloped east end provides field space for the Rocket Football program. Connected by trails to the McIreland Nature Trail and Stamina Stadium.
St. Cecilia Cemetery	Popular area for walking, biking, jogging and dog-walking. Offers rows of paved lanes for safe, off-street activity.
Pere Marquette Rail Trail	30 mile non-motorized rail-trail running from Midland, MI to the Pere Marquette District Library in Clare.
Kevin Sherwood Trail	1 mile trail for non-motorized use only along North McEwan from Pettit Park to Colonville Road; walking; biking; jogging; rollerblading.
Lake Shamrock	Boat launch, fishing

Private Recreation Service Providers

- Gateway Lanes
- Clare Family Fitness
- Firefly Golf course

Nearby Recreation Resources

City of Harrison (15 miles north of Clare)

The public facilities consist of public schools, campgrounds, fishing areas, public parks, and senior citizens areas. The public schools contain playgrounds, baseball fields, basketball courts, nature trails, and indoor gymnasiums. There are several campgrounds in the area which can offer swimming, boating and fishing. Along with campground fishing, there are also specific areas you can fish which have boat launches. Within any community there are a series of public parks which have ball fields, pavilions, playgrounds and trails. The last public part is the senior center park, which has a variety of activities such as horseshoes, and shuffleboard. All of these facilities are at the use of the public and can be enjoyed by everyone.

Along with public facilities, there are also several private activities that individuals can participate in. There are several golf courses within the area, as well as a mini golf area. There is also a downhill skiing and snow tubing facility called Snow-Snake Ski & Golf Resort. Other popular activities include go-carts, batting cages and bowling.

Village of Farwell (5 miles west of Clare)

Public areas consist of public parks, and public schools. The parks contain a variety of areas and facilities, such as open space, ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, and pavilions. The public schools have football fields, soccer fields, track lanes, tennis courts, ball fields, and playground equipment.

Isabella County (south of Clare County)

The Isabella County Park Commission operates a number of county parks. These facilities offer camping, cabins, playgrounds, boat launches, nature trails, and lakes. One Isabella County Park, Herrick Park, is located only 2 miles east of the City of Clare off of U.S. Highway 10.

City of Mount Pleasant (15 miles south of Clare)

The City of Mount Pleasant has several public parks, offering trails, playgrounds, sport fields, pavilions, outdoor basketball and volleyball courts, shuffleboard, tennis courts, a skate park, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and tubing access to the Chippewa River. In the winter, parks are available for cross country skiing and sledding. A variety of private recreation service providers including multiple golf courses, bowling lanes, an ice arena, roller-arena and billiards are also available in the city. The recently opened Morey Courts recreation facility offers basketball courts, volleyball, tennis, racquetball, exercise and fitness equipment, and other activities. Central Michigan University, located in Mount Pleasant, offers facilities to the public including swimming, softball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, racquetball, disc golf, health and fitness, weight lifting, aerobic exercise programs and other recreation facilities and services.

Clare County and Townships

Townships in Clare County offer a variety of water access areas and outdoor recreation facilities. Freeman Township has public access at Windover Lake. Frost Township has two public access points on Long Lake. Garfield Township features several lakes with public access, and the park at Crooked Lake has ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts and a swimming beach. Grant township has public access points at Gut, Five and Otter lakes. It also features fishing in the Tobacco River. Hatton Township has a roadside park. Hayes Township has a Civic Center, Community Center, Township Park and Township hall. The township Hall features a gym, exercise floor, dance floor, softball, basketball, picnic, play area and some trails. Redding Township features access to the Muskegon River. Summerfield Township has 30 miles of snowmobile trails and 20 miles of ORV trails and access to the Muskegon River. Other recreation facilities located in Clare County include several golf courses, campgrounds, Snow Snake Ski and Golf, and Duggan’s Canoe Livery and Campground.

Status of all DNR Grant-Assisted Park and Recreation Projects

During 2005 – 2010 fiscal years, the City of Clare received funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) in the form of two grants. Both grants were in association with extending the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail from its previous terminus at the east boundary of the city in Isabella County into downtown Clare to the Pere Marquette District Library. Planning and execution for the extension of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail proved to be a lengthy and in-depth project, with initial planning starting almost 16 years ago. In order to make the project a success, the City had to secure ownership, easements, or leases for many parcels of property along the route for the trail. With the generous support from grants, millage revenue, and general fund dollars, construction of the trail extension occurred in 2009, with the extension being formally opened via ceremony on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Final elements of the new extension, including signage and final touches on landscaping, were put into place during the spring of 2010.

While the extension of the Rail Trail into downtown Clare proved to be a long and detailed project, it is certainly one that has greatly benefited the community, bringing the ability to safely recreate on an off road, non-motorized, multiuse path to the convenience of downtown. The final phase for Clare’s portion of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail will be to work on closing the gap between the current terminus of the trail at the Pere Marquette District Library in downtown and the edge of the paved trail outside the Moose Lodge on the west end of Clare.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources post-completion self-certification reports can be found under

Grant No	Project	Amount
TF05-171	Pere Marquette Trail-Extension	\$ 99,100
TF07-096	Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension	\$500,000



Recreation Grant History

Applicant

City of Clare

Project No. TF05-171

Project Year: 2005

Project Title: Pere Marquette Trail Extension

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$99,100.00

Project Description: Acquisition in fee simple title of 1.4 acres to extend the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail into the City of Clare.

Project No. TF07-096

Project Year: 2007

Project Title: Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Element

Element

Site preparation

Landscape

Cleaning, Grading, Sidewalk & pavement removal

Trail Signage and MNRTF Plaque

Paved Path and Drainage

Road Crossings

Boardwalk

Erosion Control/Restoration

Retaining Wall

Pedestrian bridge

Fence

Sidewalk connections, ramp, agg.

Base,

Permit/

Project Description: Construction of a .4 mile, 10 foot wide non-motorized asphalt trail on former railroad right-of-way to extend the existing Pere Marquette Trail from its current terminus at the outskirts of Clare to downtown Clare.



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Clare

PROJECT NUMBER: TF05-171

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition in fee simple title of 1.4 acres to extend the Pere
Marquette Rail-Trail into the City of Clare

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee): Clare Parks and Recreation
Contact Person: Joy Simmer
Title: Director
Address: 207 W. Fifth St.
Telephone: (989) 386-7541 ext. 213
City, State, ZIP: Clare, MI 48617
Email: jsimmer@cityofclare.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please
describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No

The Parks crew goes on the rail trail to maintain and clean-up 2-3x a week.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

It is open, however, used down until dusk.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<i>I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.</i>		
<i>Joy Simmer</i> Please print	<i>Joy Simmer</i> Grantee Authorized Signature	<i>9/25/15</i> Date
<i>Steven J. Kingsbury</i> Please print	<i>[Signature]</i> Witness Signature	<i>9-25-2015</i> Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY

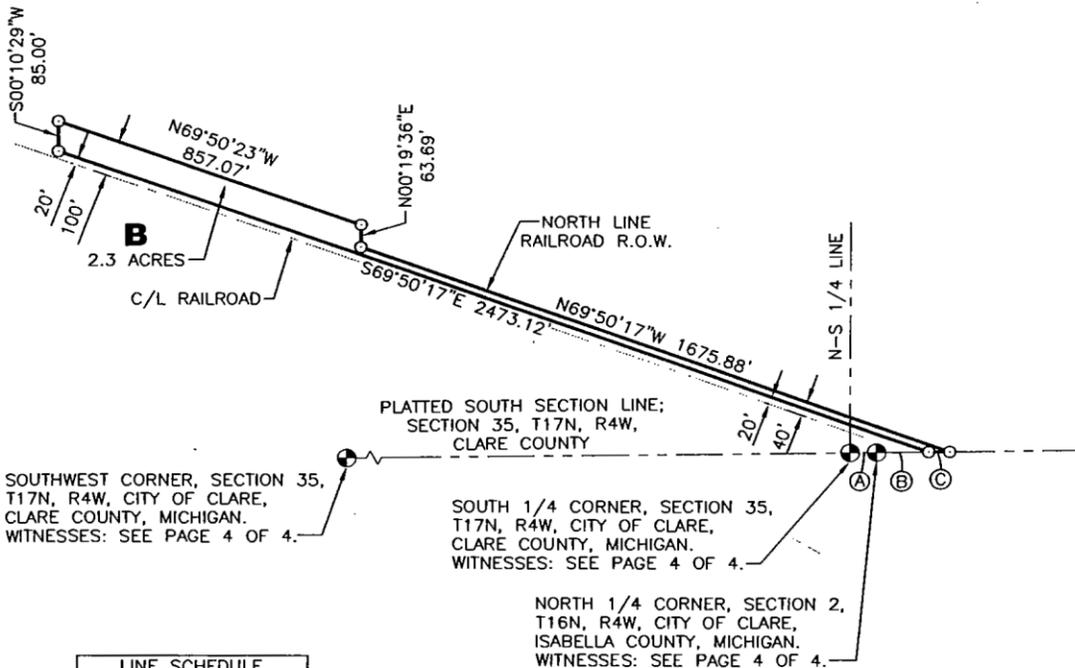
SECTION 35, T.17N.-R.4W., CITY OF CLARE, CLARE COUNTY, MI

I, Scott O. Graham, hereby certify that on February 2, 2006 I surveyed the land described hereon, and that all of the requirements of PA 132 of 1970, as amended, have been met.

Certified to: City of Clare

Property Description:

Part of the South One-half of Section 35, T17N, R4W, City of Clare, Clare County, State of Michigan described as: Commencing at the South One-quarter Corner of said Section 35; thence N 89° 15' 55" E, along the platted South Section line, 20.62 feet to the North One-quarter Corner of Section 2, T16N, R4W, City of Clare, Isabella County, State of Michigan; thence continuing N 89° 15' 55" E, along said platted South Section line, 189.10 feet to the TRUE PLACE OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; thence continuing N 89° 15' 55" E, along said platted South Section line, 56.07 feet; thence N 69° 50' 17" W, 1675.88 feet; thence N 00° 19' 36" E, 63.69 feet; thence N 69° 50' 23" W, 857.07 feet; thence S 00° 10' 29" W, 85.00 feet; thence S 69° 50' 17" E, 2473.12 feet back to the place of beginning. This property is subject to an easement for the installation and maintenance of public utilities. Containing 2.3 acres and being subject to restrictions, reservations, easements, rights-of-way, zoning, governmental regulations, and matters visible, if any, upon or affecting said lands.



LINE SCHEDULE	
A	N 89° 15' 55" E 20.62'
B	N 89° 15' 55" E 189.10'
C	N 89° 15' 55" E 56.07'

LEGEND:

- = SET 1/2"x18" RE-ROD (P.S. CAPPED)
- BEARINGS WERE ESTABLISHED FROM PREVIOUS SURVEYS.



LAPHAM ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING PLANNING ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYING

515 E. Fifth Street, P.O. Box 33 Clare, Michigan 48617 Ph. (989) 386-7774 Fx. (989) 386-7152

www.laphamassoc.com

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Job No. C-060016 Sheet: 3 of 4

Scott O. Graham, P.S. No. 49107

ORIGINAL

Date: 8-31-06	Scale: 1" = 400'	Drawn by: JAF
Field: JS, JP	Checked: <i>JML</i>	Revised:

The Pere Marquette Rail Trail During Construction



The Pere Marquette Rail Trail After Construction and Grants





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Clare

PROJECT NUMBER: TF07-096

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension

.4-mile asphalt trail, boardwalk over wetland, trail signage, landscaping/erosion control, pedestrian bridge, site

PROJECT SCOPE: preparation/grading, road crossing, sidewalk connections, fencing and retaining wall

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Handwritten entries include: Clare Parks and Recreation, Joy Simmer, Director, 202 W. Fifth St., (989) 380-7541 ext 213, Clare, MI 48717, jsimmer@cityofclare.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Rail trail signage

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes No

Parks crew goes onto trail 2-3x/wk to maintain and perform clean-up

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

used down until dusk

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Rail-trail sections are marked by entry poles (red) and a sign that marks trail as the Pere Marquette Rail Trail.

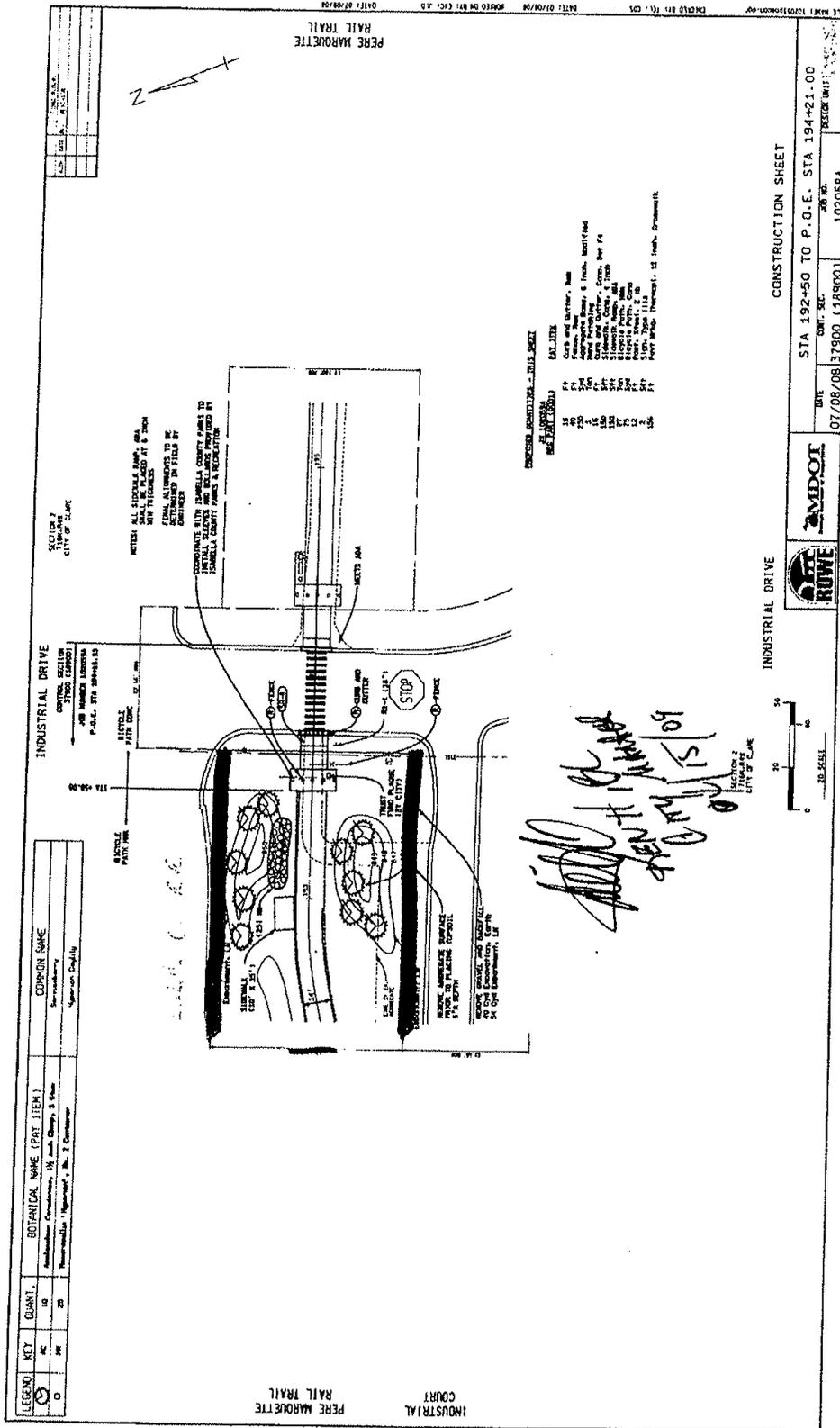
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

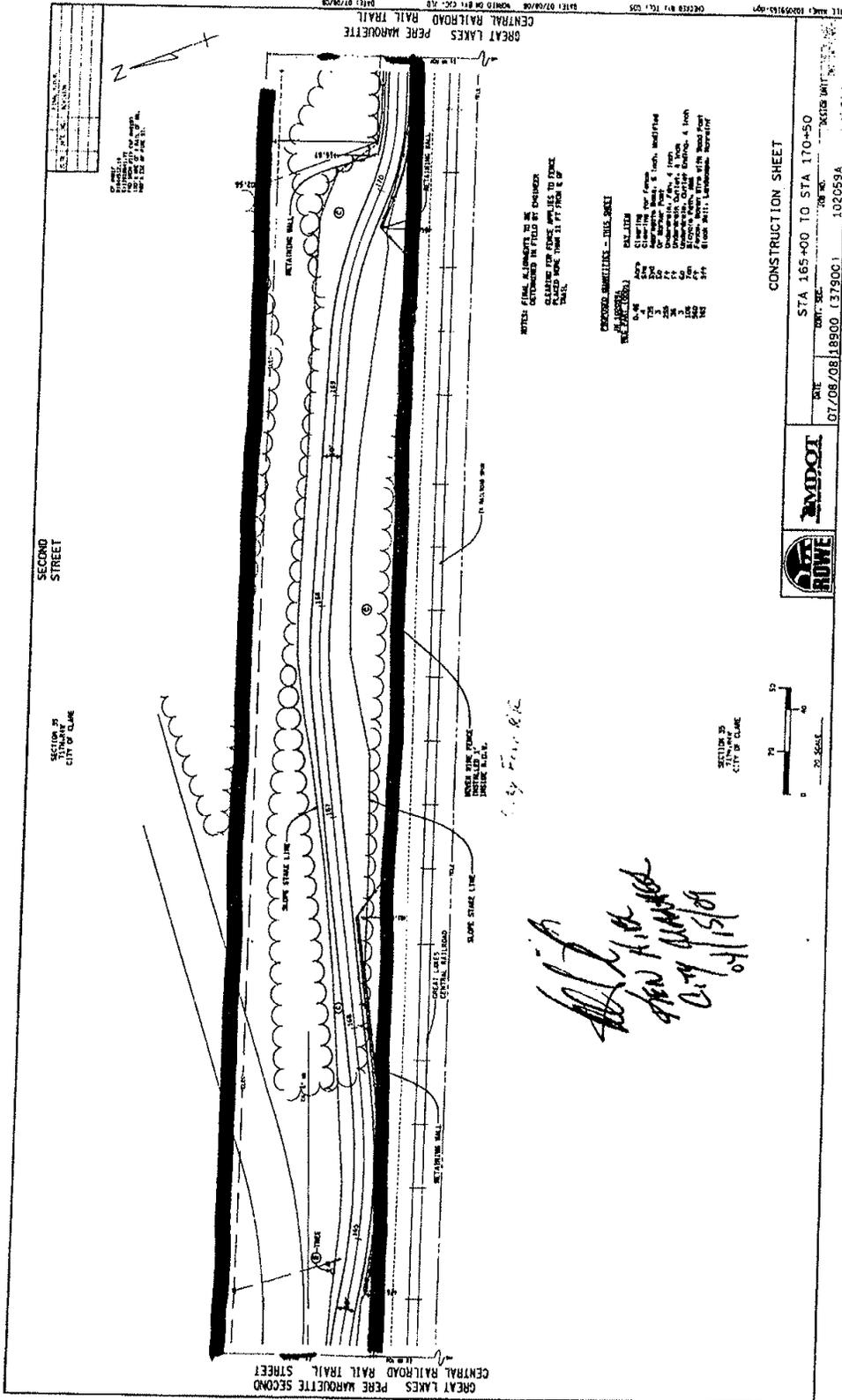
CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

<u>Joy Simmer</u> Please print	<u>Joy Simmer</u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>9/11/15</u> Date
<u>Steven J. King</u> Please print	<u>[Signature]</u> Witness Signature	<u>9.25.15</u> Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**





Recreation Programs and Services

City of Clare Parks and Recreation

Over the past several years, the City of Clare has been able to support a city employee to organize and lead a variety of recreation programs and services in the community. Initially the leadership was part-time, but in 2005 the City was able to create a full-time position of Director of Parks and Recreation. The following is a list of past and current recreation programs and services that have been provided within the community by the City of Clare Parks and Recreation Department alone or in partnership with community groups and organizations.

Youth

Great EGGstravaganza
Jr. Academy (elementary-middle school)
 -Police
 -Fire Fighter
Free Climb (CMU student cooperation)
 -High Adventure Day
Halloween Spook-Tacular
Hoop Skills
Hoop Zone
 -Lil Dribblers (4-6 years)
 -Rookie Co-ed basketball (2nd-3rd grade)
Pumpkins in the Park (carving)
Punt Pass Kick
Pitch, Hit, and Run
Read and Roll (roller rink passes for reading)
Soccer
 -Leagues
 -Summer camps and clinics
Spring Break Event
St. Patty's Day
 -Essay Contest
 -Carnival
 -Fun Run
 -Irish Pet Photo Contest
Tennis Lessons
Themed parties (ex: Harry Potter Party)
Wonders of Water (collaboration with the City of Clare Waste Water Treatment Plant)

Teen

Bike, hike, roller blade, etc.
Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt
Misc. Teen events
New Years Eve Game Fest
Pumpkin Smash Bash
Passport to Safety
 -Bike inspection
 -Neighborhood Watch
 -First Aid
 -Give out helmets
Teen Group
Middle to High school
Plan events and run them (volunteer)
Haunted Basement
Teen Lock-in

Adult

Clare Car and Bike Show
Men's and Women's Softball Leagues
Old 27 Power Tour
Parents Day Out (kids Valentine's Day)
Snow Shoeing 101 (2hr learn to class)
Summer Shape Up
 -Mom's on the Move
Tai-Chi
Walking Programs
Get Fit on Route 66
Women's Spa Day (2007)
Women and Power Tools
Yoga

Seniors

Jamborees (usually 3 per year)
 -Acoustic Country
Kaleidoscope program (2006)
 -Senior health and well being
Senior Cards and Coffee
Senior Shuffleboard

Family

Big Screen Movie
Bowl-a-Thon
Christmas
 -Clare Christmas Fest
 -Elf Run (with Clare Family Fitness)
 -Lunch with Santa
 -Reindeer Games
 -Christmas Open House
 -North Pole Calling
 -Santa's Mailbox
Clare Pride Day/Clare Clean Up
Halloween
 -Halloween Spook-Tacular
 -Pumpkin Run (with Clare Family Fitness)
Mid-Winter Blast
Nature Programs
 -1 hour nature hike
Outdoor ice rink (under Shamrock Park pavilion)
Show Us Your Snow
Summer Concert Series
 -Clare Super Star Contest
 -Summer Fun – kid addition
Summerfest Fireworks
Summer Parks Program
Tour de Trail
 -Through Isabella county

Clare County Arts Council
The Art of Gardening Tour

Clare Chamber of Commerce
Art

- Art Alley
- Art-traction Tour
- Bike Art Show
- Cocktails and Canvas

BBQ, Brews and Tunes

Biggest Loser

Bowl-a-Thon Fundraiser

Business After Hours

Business Expo and Career Fair

Chamber Golf Outing

Clare Christmasfest

Clare Summerfest

City wide yard sales

Amish Community

- Yoder's Flea Market & Quilt Auction
(Spring and Fall)

Clare County Parks and Recreation

Annual Fall, Fun, Frenzy Halloween Party

Autumn Bike Ride

Gateway Affair

Middle of Mitten Multi-Sport Fitness Kick-Off

Track –N- Snow Snowshoe Event

Clare Irish Festival

Irish Recipe Contest

Children's Carnival (Clare Public Schools)

Irish Craft Show

Leprechaun Contest

Bed Race

Irish Parade

5/10K Road Race and Walk

(Clare Public Schools)

Standards Analysis

Standards applied in this section are based on standards proposed by the National Recreation and Park Association 1995 report “*Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines,*” and Michigan Department of Natural Resources publication “*Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans.*” It should be noted that there are no “national standards” for park development. Instead, the latest NRPA study recommends that each community is unique, and that standards which reflect the local “uniqueness” should be established.

This review looks at three types of park standards. First it looks at total acreage of parkland within a system. This analysis is broken into park types. From this analysis we can begin to see how existing facilities compare with other communities, both with overall park acreage and with park types within this overall acreage.

The second analysis looks at recreation activity area standards and the facilities required to provide these activities. By establishing a population-based standard for various recreation activities, this study establishes the type and quantity of facilities the City should develop in the future.

The third analysis looks at the service area standard recommendation for different park types to determine whether all citizens of Clare have access to appropriate park areas in their geographic areas.

Park Land Standards

The Park Land Standard is a recommended guideline for developed park space in a community. Regardless of the purpose for which it is developed, the Park Land Standard measures only the gross acreage of space that has been developed for recreational use. The City of Clare exceeds the standard for developed park land (Table 7).

Table 7: Park Land Area Standards

Total Acres of Developed land	35.8 acres
2000 Census Pop. of Clare	3,118
Acre/Person	11.8 acres per 1000 people
Recommended Standard*	6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population

*National Recreation and Park Association

Recreation Activity Area Standards

The Recreation Activity Area Standards provide an assessment of the number and types of specific recreation use areas in a community, based on national data for a “typical” community. Some of the most common types of recreational uses are included in these standards; however, they are by no means comprehensive. Clare meets or exceeds the standard for the most common types of recreation activity areas (Table 8).

Table 8: Activity Area Standards

Feature	Standard	Clare Inventory	Evaluation
Basketball courts	1 per 5,000	3	Exceeded
Tennis courts	1 per 2,000	4	Exceeded
Baseball – Official	1 per 5,000	1	Met
Baseball – Little League	1 per 30,000 (lighted fields)	1 lighted, 4 not lighted	Exceeded
Football - HS	1 per 20,000	1	Met
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1	Met
Golf Driving Range	1 per 50,000 or 30 min travel	2	Exceeded
Running Track	1 per 20,000	1	Met
Softball fields	1 per 5,000	3	Exceeded
Trails	1 system per region	1	Met
Golf Courses	1 per 25,000 or 30 min travel.	2	Exceeded

*National Recreation and Park Association

Activity Area Standards do not reflect many of the recent changes in recreation activity preferences. Some popular recent developments, including such things as dog parks, spray parks, disk golf courses, and skate parks, are not addressed in these standards. Also, growth in girls and women’s sports, such as softball, are not reflected in these 1960’s standards for softball fields. In addition, preferences for specific recreation activity areas can vary considerably between communities in different geographic areas of the country. For instance, winter sport activities are almost nonexistent in the standards, while the demand for winter recreation activity areas is higher in northern climates such as Clare.

Chapter 5: Park Accessibility

Methods

For this portion of the assessment, the investigator worked with Dr. Mary Lou Schilling, Assistant Professor of Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services Administration at CMU whose expertise is recreation for persons with disabilities. Dr. Schilling has developed an assessment tool to evaluate outdoor recreation areas and facilities for compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Access Guidelines (FSORAG). This assessment instrument includes evaluation measures for pavilions, picnic tables, routes of travel (paths), cooking surfaces and grills, benches, restrooms, parking areas, playgrounds, fishing piers and platforms, boating facilities, boat launches, campgrounds and RV parks, tent pads and platforms, fire rings, and outdoor athletic facilities.

Each park was visited and evaluated using the Barrier Free Access Survey instrument. Parks were assigned a score based on the percent of applicable standards that were met for each park. In addition, key findings for each park are identified below (Table 9).



Table 9: Park Accessibility Assessment

Park	Score	Comments & Recommendations
Shamrock Park	73%	All elements of the park are not connected by an accessible route. Grills and picnic tables do not meet guidelines for access or number. Playground area does not have an accessible route to the equipment itself.
City Park	71%	Grill (1) is not barrier free. 20% of picnic tables are not barrier free
Brookwood Park	65%	There is not an accessible route of the Imagination Gateway playground. There is not an accessible route of travel or barrier free parking at the ball field.
Pettit Park	55%	All elements of the park are not connected by an accessible route. Picnic tables and grills do not meet guidelines for access or number. Playground equipment is not accessible. There is no designated barrier free parking. There should be a 2" edge protection along the sides and front edge of the fishing platform. No campsites meet guidelines for ground surface, fire rings, and signage.
Stamina Stadium	50%	All elements of the park are not connected by an accessible route. There is no designated or signed barrier free parking. Playground equipment is not accessible.
Maple Street Park	<50%	All elements of the park are not connected by an accessible route. The existing route is less than 36" wide in places. Playground equipment is not accessible. The picnic pavilion does not provide adequate space to maneuver a wheelchair. The grill is not accessible. Picnic table is not wheelchair accessible. There is no designated barrier free parking.

Recommendations

The highest priority should be placed on developing appropriate accessible routes of travel within the city parks. More accessible routes will permit barrier free access to all major elements of the park. This should be incorporated into long-range park planning efforts with future development of parks tied to the developed accessible route.

Decisions about future purchase of park amenities should be made with a plan toward selecting elements that are functional for all users regardless of ability. Picnic tables, benches and grills should be selected and installed to accommodate the widest range of abilities. Tables, grills and benches should be located along accessible routes to allow for ease of access and use.

Existing playground equipment should be improved by creating a barrier free accessible path both to the equipment areas and up to the accessible elements of the equipment.

As the city continues the paving of parking areas in parks, attention should be paid to assuring that barrier free parking is appropriately located and marked in all parks.

Chapter 6: Public Participation

Public Meeting

FILLED IN AFTER MEETING

Methods

FILLED IN AFTER PUBLIC INPUT AND MEETINGS

Figure 5: Public Meeting Focus Statement

Focus Statement
In order to meet the future park and recreation needs of our community what kinds of improvements and additions should be made to Clare's parks and recreation areas?

During the first step of the Nominal Group Process, participants were asked to take 5-7 minutes to list the specific park and recreation improvements/additions they thought were needed in Clare. In the second step of the process, each participant was given an opportunity to share one idea from his or her list. Ideas were written on flip charts as they were offered by participants. After all participants had offered one idea, a second round of listing followed. Sufficient rounds were used to create an exhaustive list of all ideas from all participants. The third step of the process permitted participants to ask questions of other participants in order to understand and clarify ideas that had been suggested. This process resulted in almost forty specific project ideas (Figure 8).

Figure 6: Initial Project Listing (in no particular order)

Soccer Fields	Accessible Water/Fishing Area
Farmers Market	Trail Signs
Horseshoe Pits at City Park	Scattered Fields
Walking Routes in the City	Snowmobile Trails
Develop the Cemetery	Softball Fields
Clean Lake Shamrock	Sledding Hill
Restrooms at City Park	Ice Skating
Park Security	Bike Lanes
Football Facility	Bike Racks
Neighborhood Parks	Uniformed Signage
Community Swimming Pool	Water Tubing Area
Expand Campground	Splash Park
Enhance Picnic Areas	High School Sized Baseball Field
Shuffleboard at City Park	Rail Trails
Community Center	Nature Trail
Band Shell	Community Garden
Tennis Courts	Purchase Land
Pavilion	Outdoor Basketball Court
	Park by Dam

The fourth step of the Nominal Group Process followed the listing and clarification process. At this step, participants were asked to vote on the top 15 ideas from the combined listing. This process was used as a way to narrow down the overall list to a more manageable priority list based on the input of the participants. Participants were then given a break for refreshments, during which time the results of the voting were tabulated and a revised list of the top ideas was created (Figure 9).

Figure 7: Revised Project List

Soccer Fields	Community Center
Farmers Market	Band Shell
Horseshoe Pits at City Park	Accessible Water/Fishing Area
Walking Routes in the City	Trail Signs
Develop the Cemetery	Softball Fields
Clean Lake Shamrock	Sledding Hill
Restrooms at City Park	Bike Lane
Community Swimming Pool	Bike Racks
Expand Campground	Rail Trails
Showers at Pettit Park	Nature Trail
Enhance Picnic Areas	Outdoor Basketball Court
Shuffleboard at City Park	Park by Dam

When the meeting was called back to order, the results of the voting were shared with the participants. The final step of the process called for participants to again vote on their favorite ideas. To cast their votes, each participant was given five colored stickers. It was explained that each sticker counted for one vote. Participants were asked to cast their votes by placing stickers next to what they considered the top five ideas. Once all participants had voted with the stickers, each participant could clearly see which ideas were favored (Figure 10). Only projects that received five or more votes are included in the final list.

Figure 8: Project List Final Voting

Rail Trail (12)
 Farmers Market (12)
 Soccer Fields (9)
 Clean Lake Shamrock (7)
 Expand Campground (7)
 Softball Fields (7)
 Accessible Water at Fishing Area (6)

Before the meeting was adjourned, all participants were reminded that this was not a policy setting meeting, but only an open forum to hear the wishes of Clare residents. Participants were also reminded that they were mailed a parks and recreation survey, and were encouraged to complete it and return it as soon as possible. They were then assured that their input with the meeting and survey would be included in the Master Planning process and would be used to develop a capital improvements schedule for the next 5 years. The participants were then thanked for braving the winter storm to share their valuable input into the Clare Parks and Recreation master planning process and wished a safe journey home.

Results

There was an overall consensus that continued development of the rail trail and the reconstitution of a city farmers market were highly desirable. Creation of soccer fields and creation of adult softball fields were also highly valued. Cleaning Lake Shamrock was also a desired project.

Recommendations

Based on participant input and voting, the following list of recommendations is suggested to the City of Clare for future development.

- Trail development, linear parks, connectors
- Initiate a farmers market
- Improvements to Pettit Park
- Improve fishing access at parks

Other Program Ideas

Participants were also asked to list ideas for programs and services that they would like to see offered. Sheets of paper were provided and labeled by user groups. The following is a summary of programs and services that were suggested.

School Age Children

- Grandparent's day out
- Volunteer days
- Tour of City facilities
- Art Classes
- Community/children gardens
- Fishing events

Youth & Teen

- A group of peer advisors (Teen Group)
- More volunteer opportunities.
- Summer Sport and Art programs.

Families

- Horseshoe Tournaments
- Outdoor Sports Tournaments
- Live Music
- Board Game Tournaments (chess, checkers, etc)
- Fishing Tournaments
- Biking and walking events

Senior Adults

- Card Tournaments
- Horseshoe Leagues
- Shuffle Board Leagues
- Music at Noon
- Dancing
- Travel Club
- Art Classes
- Walking groups

Other

- Fishing Contests
- Boating Events
- Special Olympics
- Computer Classes at the Library
- Air Plane rides
- Art Classes
- Music Classes

Public Survey

A survey of Clare residents was also part of the public input process. The survey included questions about preferred park improvements, recreation interests, and attitudes and opinions about Clare parks and recreation services. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix C.

Methods

A survey was developed with input from the current and former parks and recreation directors from the City of Clare. Surveys were distributed several ways. Surveys were available at Clare Parks and Recreation events and programs, the Pere Marquette District Library, Clare City Hall, on the City of Clare website, and local sporting functions. They were also advertised on Facebook along with the online link.

Out of the surveys that were printed and handed out, there were ____ completed and returned. An additional **eighteen** surveys were completed using the on-line survey option.

Results

Characteristics of subjects and households

Eighty five (84.7%) percent of respondents indicated that they were residents of the City of Clare.

Park Use

Respondents were asked to classify themselves as either regular, occasional, infrequent, or non-users of Clare parks. Almost half (45.7%) of residents classified themselves as occasional park users. Those indicating that they were regular park users made up almost one quarter (22.5%) of the respondents. Only about five percent (4.7%) indicated that they were not park users (Table 10).

Table 10: Park Use by Household Type

Which of the following best describes your family’s use of city parks?	All households	Households with children & youth	Households with adults over 55
Regular users	23%	40%	8%
Occasional users	46%	44%	42%
Infrequent users	27%	12%	42%
Not users	5%	2%	8%

Respondents were also asked to indicate which of the city parks members of their family had used in the previous year. Shamrock, the Pere Marquette Rail Trail and City Park were the most frequently identified parks used during the previous year. Among households with children and youth, the most used parks included Shamrock Park, Brookwood park and the Pere Marquette Rail Trail. Among households with adult over 55, the most used parks included Shamrock Park, City Park, and the Pere Marquette Rail Trail. Table 11 shows the breakdown of park use.

Table 11: Parks Used During Past Year by Household

Park	Percent of All Households	Percent of Households with children & youth	Percent of Households with Adults over 55
Airport Soccer Fields	7.2%	26.9%	6.2%
Brookwood Park	20.8%	75.0%	37.5%
City Park	26.6%	36.5%	53.1%
Maple Street Park	2.5%	5.8%	4.7%
McIreland Nature Trail	13.1%	25.0%	20.3%
Pere Marquette Rail Trail	28.3%	59.4%	40.6%
Pettit Park	18.1%	44.2%	21.9%
Shamrock Park	38.0%	76.9%	68.8%
Stamina Stadium	11.8%	38.5%	12.5%

In addition to asking which parks the respondents used during the previous year, respondents were asked to indicate the park they used most often. Brookwood Park, Shamrock Park, and the Pere Marquette Rail Trail were identified as the most frequently used parks by respondents.

Priorities for New Recreation Facilities

Participants were asked to indicate the priority the city should place on developing new kinds of recreation areas and facilities. Options ranged from “highest” to “lowest” with 5 being the highest priority and 1 being the lowest priority. The following table shows the overall priority based on all responses as well as priorities of households with senior adults present and households with school aged children present (Table 12).

Table 12: Priorities for New Recreation Facilities

	Overall	Households with adults	Households with school aged children
Indoor recreation/community center	3.80 (1)	3.38 (2)	4.12 (1)
Trails (Bicycle paths, exercise, nature, hiking, walking)	3.76 (2)	3.61 (1)	3.81 (2)
Sledding hill	3.46 (3)	3.29 (3)	3.79 (3)
Swimming Pool	3.20 (4)	3.02 (5)	3.37 (4)
Picnic areas & Pavilions	3.19 (5)	3.11 (4)	3.17 (6)
Playgrounds	3.07 (6)	2.92 (6)	3.07 (7)
Sport courts (basketball, volleyball, etc)	3.03 (7)	2.57 (8)	3.32 (5)
Permanent skateboard park	2.82 (8)	2.55 (9)	2.95 (8tie)
Public Campground	2.78 (9)	2.65 (7)	2.95 (8tie)
Sport fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football, etc.)	2.69 (10)	2.45 (10)	2.95 (8tie)

Resident Opinions about City Parks

Participants were asked to rate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with a number of opinion statements about Clare parks and recreation. Statements were evaluated on a scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree, with 5 being strongly agree and 1 being strongly disagree. The table below shows the average response to each statement (Table 13).

Table 13: Resident Opinions about Clare Parks

	Average response
Clare city parks make a positive contribution to the quality of life in Clare	4.41
I feel it is safe to walk or bike from my home to the nearest city park.	4.33
The City of Clare has an adequate number of parks to meet the current needs of the population for park space.	4.25
There should be an increased emphasis on providing recreation for youth in the community.	4.20
Clare city parks are a point of pride in the community	4.13
There should be increased emphasis on providing recreation programs and services to senior adults in the community.	3.85
There should be an increased emphasis on providing activities that the whole family can participate in.	3.79
There should be an increased emphasis on instructing people how to enjoy different leisure and recreation activities	3.54
There should be increased emphasis on additional development of existing Clare parks.	3.49

Residents Underserved by Recreation Services

Respondents were asked whether they felt that there are any groups of citizens in the Clare community who do not have adequate access to recreation programs and activities. Almost one third (32.1%) of those answering the question answered yes. As a follow-up to this question, respondents were asked to identify the groups they felt lacked adequate access to recreation programs and services. By far, senior adults were most frequently identified as a group in need of better access to recreation programs and services. Senior adults were mentioned nineteen times out of thirty-eight comments (50%) Following senior adults, groups to receive mention were teens (16%), children and youth (14%), persons with disabilities (8%), and low income (5%).

Desired Programs and Services

Respondents were provided with a menu of recreation programs and service ideas, and were asked to indicate those in which members of their household might have an interest (Table 14). The following is a summary of the results.

Ages 5-12: Thirty-seven respondents indicated the presence of children below the age of 12 in their household. Among those, greatest interest was expressed in summer day camps, (68%), family activity programming (65%), arts & crafts (62%), winter activities (62%), and sport leagues and tournaments (60%).

Ages 13-19: Twenty-four respondents indicated the presence of youth from 13-19 years of age in the household. Greatest interest was expressed in swimming, camping, canoeing, and winter activities (50% each).

Ages 20-55: Eighty respondents indicated the presence of adults from 20-55 in the household. Greatest interest was expressed in aerobics/fitness and community special events (55% each), canoeing (54%), and hiking/backpacking (49%).

Ages 56 and up: Sixty-four respondents indicated the presence of adults above the age of 55 in the household. The greatest interest was expressed for aerobics/fitness (53%), community-wide special events (45%), trips to see entertainment/sports (42%), healthy eating/dieting and music (35% each).

Table 14: Recreation Programs and Services Preferences

	Children under 12 (N=37)	Youth 13-19 (N=24)	Adults 20-55 (N=80)	Adults above 55 (N=64)
Dance, theatre, drama	51%	46%	30%	22%
Arts, crafts	62%	42%	30%	33%
Music	57%	42%	39%	35%
Sport skill instruction	57%	29%	11%	3%
Sport leagues and tournaments	60%	42%	38%	NA
Ice skating	51%	42%	28%	6%
Swimming	57%	50%	39%	23%
Camping	51%	50%	42%	6%
Canoeing	54%	50%	54%	14%
Hiking/backpacking	48%	42%	49%	27%
Winter activities	62%	50%	42%	13%
Aerobic/fitness activities	32%	8%	55%	53%
Computer instructions	30%	13%	41%	31%
Healthy eating/dieting	27%	8%	42%	35%
Summer day camps	68%	29%	11%	2%
Community special events	54%	42%	55%	45%
Family activities	65%	46%	54%	16%
Dances/socials	19%	29%	32%	17%
Trips to see entertainment/sports	35%	46%	42%	42%

Sources of information about parks and recreation

When asked how residents obtained community information about events in Clare, most people indicated the city newsletter (43%), the newspapers (40%), or word of mouth (30%) as their source of information (Table 15).

Table 15: Sources of Information

Source of Information	
City Newsletter	43%
Newspapers	40%
Word of mouth	30%
Cable TV	14%
Posters & Flyers	14%
School handouts	11%
Web/Internet	7%
E-mail from City Hall	6%

Recommendations

Based on the results of the survey, the City of Clare should focus on the following priorities:

- Development of an indoor community /recreation center, trails (of all types), and a sledding hill.
- Additional attention should be focused on programs and services for senior adults, children and youth.

Chapter 7: Goals and Objectives

Review of 2010 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

The 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan document identified numerous specific strategies to carry out the goals and objectives of the plan. Goals, objectives, and strategies were organized into three categories: Park & Facility goals, Recreation goals, and Trails goals. Tables 16 thru 18 report on the status of the strategies identified in 2010.

Table 16: Status of 2010-2014 Park Goals

Goal	Status
All park projects should be undertaken with a goal of improving ADA access guidelines for persons with disabilities.	Several sites are being reviewed
All purchases of park equipment (playground equipment, picnic tables, benches, grills, etc.) should be undertaken with a goal of meeting ADA access guidelines for persons with disabilities.	Progress has been made. Several sites are still being reviewed.
Continue to support efforts of community organizations to expand the Pere Marquette Rail Trail into and through Clare.	Committee has been formed and engineer is currently working on design and project details.
Develop a comprehensive park plan including existing parks and other city-owned property with recreational potential.	Several sites are being reviewed
Work in partnership with existing community organizations to meet leisure needs. i.e. schools, Council on Aging, local businesses, Chamber of Commerce).	Current partnerships with local community organizations have been developed.
Continue to support efforts by community groups to restore the Old Depot structure.	In progress. Old Depot is in the continued process of restoration, construction is underway at this time to both the inside and the outside of the structure.

Table 17: Status of 2010-2014 Park Improvement Goals

Goal	Status
Identify and develop permanent site for the skateboard park.	Skateboard park will be relocated into the new recreation complex, when the complex is ready.
Complete paving of parking at Stamina, Brookwood, Pettit, and Maple Street parks.	A paved parking area has been created and paved at Imagination Gateway playground and Pettit Park. Still in progress on the remaining parks.
Construct shower facility at Pettit Park.	Completed
Improve camp sites at Pettit Park including upgrading pads, fire circles, and adding water hookups.	Completed
Construct a picnic pavilion at Pettit Park.	Completed
Improve or replace playground equipment at Pettit Park.	Completed
Improve signage for all parks.	Completed
Construct a new adult softball field.	Completed
Identify a location and develop a sledding hill.	No progress
Find a permanent location for soccer fields.	Property has been purchased and a design has been completed by an engineer for a new complex, which will house the soccer fields.
Develop shuffleboard courts.	No Progress
Develop horseshoe pits.	Completed Horseshoe pits are located at Shamrock Park.
Develop basketball courts.	Equipment has been purchased, location for them needs to be identified and then they can be installed.
Purchase grills as needed for all parks.	Completed
Purchase picnic tables as need for all parks.	Completed
Identify locations for “pocket parks” in underserved neighborhoods.	Several sites are being reviewed
Relocate/improve small pavilions at Shamrock Park.	Completed

Table 18: Status of 2010 – 2014 Recreation Goals

Assure continuation of the Recreation Millage for Parks.	Millage has been renewed and secured until 2022.
Continue to work with citizen advisory groups to meet leisure needs: i. Youth ii. Senior Adults	Currently in the process of developing advisory groups.
Re-establish farmer’s market program within the city.	No progress
Develop a Red Cross instructional program to include swimming lessons.	No progress

2016-2020 Goals and Objectives

1. Global Planning Goals:

- a. All park projects should be undertaken with a goal of improving ADA access guidelines for persons with disabilities.
- b. All purchases of park equipment (playground equipment, picnic tables, benches, grills, etc) should be undertaken with a goal of meeting ADA access guidelines for persons with disabilities.
- c. Develop recycling program within the city parks and partner with public schools to promote stewardship.
- d. Continue to support efforts of community organizations to expand the Pere Marquette Rail Trail into and through Clare.
- e. Develop a comprehensive park plan including existing city parks and other city-owned property with recreation potential.
- f. Work in partnership with existing community organizations to meet leisure needs. i.e. schools, Council on Aging, local businesses, Chamber of Commerce).
- g. Continue to support efforts by community groups to restore the Old Depot structure.

2. Park Improvement Goals:

- a. Develop the Clare Recreation Complex, which will include; butterfly garden, skatepark, walking trails with exercise stations, eight youth soccer fields, one multi-purpose field, concession stand with bathroom attached, two picnic pavilions, ADA accessible playground area, paved parking, and safety lighting.
- b. Complete paving of parking at Brookwood and Maple Street parks.
- c. Identify a location and develop a sledding hill.
- d. Replace signage at McIreland Trails entrances.
- e. Develop shuffleboard courts.
- f. Develop basketball courts.
- g. Purchase grills as needed for all parks.
- h. Purchase picnic tables as needed for all parks.
- i. Identify locations for “pocket parks” in underserved neighborhoods.

3. Recreation Goals:

- a. Continue to work with citizen advisory groups to meet leisure needs:
 - i. Youth.
 - ii. Senior Adults.
- b. Re-establish a farmer’s market program in the city.

Chapter 8: Action Plan

The Action Plan represents a proposed plan of action for the next five years. The Action Plan may be revised from year to year and an updated Action Plan will be filed with the Department of Natural Resources as required.

Factors that may influence the revision of the Action Plan include continuing levels of general fund support, continued support for the Park Millage, and continued revenues from program and rental fees. In addition, opportunities to partner with other organizations, external funding opportunities, and well as significant changes in the recreational needs of the community may all influence changes to the Action Plan. Updates to the Action Plan are always submitted for public review and input prior to approval by the City.

In 2012, the electorate of Clare voted resoundingly (over 77%) to renew the parks millage for a period of ten years, from 2013-2022. The renewal and extension of this millage now gave the City the ability and flexibility to plan larger projects with the knowledge that long range funding was secured, with the renewed millage estimated at producing an average of \$63,000.00 each year during the millage period.

With the knowledge that a ten year millage renewal was secure until 2022, ensuring long range funding, the City was able to update the Action Plan 2015-2019 based on the increased priorities of some of the Park Improvement Goals previously identified. Specifically, the community had voiced support in heightening the importance of finding and developing a permanent home for soccer fields and continuing trails and fitness opportunities throughout our community.

Since the millage renewal, the City of Clare has been successful in purchasing 26.27 acres of property in the south part of the City for the intended purpose of constructing a new recreation complex, serving as a permanent home for soccer fields, creating exercise trails, providing flush toilets and a concession stand for guests at the fields, playground area, parking, and a pavilion. All facilities would be constructed to be fully ADA accessible and compliant. Initial design layouts for the property have been created, and the City of Clare Planning Commission reviewed and approved a special use permit on March 13, 2013 that allows the property to be fully utilized and developed as park and trail lands.

The Parks and Recreation Board (PRAB) received a revised recreation complex layout in February 2015, along with general costs predictions from GFA engineering. Based on the estimated costs, the PRAB identified that the project would need to be completed in phases, and the initial phasing of the project is to be proposed for the submission of the DNR Trust Fund Grant and use of the anticipated sponsorships. The PRAB recognizes the importance of the exercise trails that will be surrounding the new fields and the health benefits they will provide to the community, identifying the need and priority to connect the exercise trails to the nearby Pere Marquette Rail Trail. The exercise trails can formally be connected to the Pere Marquette Rail Trail through use of existing bike lanes, and through widened sidewalks, and connection trails planned throughout the City. Trail users would be able to travel a current distance of over 30 miles on the trail, connect to the Exercise Trails at the new park, and perform circuit training through the utilization of outdoor exercise equipment strategically located along the park's interior trails. Users could then reconnect with the Pere Marquette Rail Trail, for the possibility of traveling the Pere Marquette Rail Trail again.

Table 19: 2015-2019 Action Plan

Year	Action	Cost	Funding Source
2015-2016	The third of ten payments for the recreation complex property	19,558	Park Millage
	Parks land acquisition and development	30,000	Park Millage
	Rail land acquisition and development	3,000	Park Millage
	General park improvements (signs, picnic tables, etc.)	3,442	Park Millage
	Annual paving projects	7,000	Park Millage
			\$63,000
2016-2017	The fourth of ten payments for the recreation complex property	19,558	Park Millage
	Annual bond payment	20,000	Park Millage
	Parks land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	Rail Trail land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	General park improvements (signs, picnic tables, etc.)	3,442	Park Millage
	Annual playground improvements	4,000	Park Millage
	Annual paving projects	7,000	Park Millage
		\$63,000	
2017-2018	The fifth of ten payments for the recreation complex property	19,558	Park Millage
	Annual bond payment	20,000	Park Millage
	Parks land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	Rail Trail land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	General park improvements (signs, picnic tables, etc.)	3,442	Park Millage
	Annual playground improvements	4,000	Park Millage
	Annual paving projects	7,000	Park Millage
		\$63,000	
2018-2019	The sixth of ten payments for the recreation complex property	19,558	Park Millage
	Annual bond payment	20,000	Park Millage
	Parks land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	Rail Trail land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	General park improvements (signs, picnic tables, etc.)	3,442	Park Millage
	Parks land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	General park improvements (signs, picnic tables, etc.)	3,442	Park Millage
	Annual playground improvements	4,000	Park Millage
	Annual paving projects	7,000	Park Millage
		\$63,000	
2019-2020	The seventh of ten payments for the recreation complex property	19,558	Park Millage
	Annual bond payment	20,000	Park Millage
	Parks land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	Rail Trail land acquisition and development	4,500	Park Millage
	Annual playground improvements	4,000	Park Millage
	Annual paving projects	7,000	Park Millage
		\$63,000	

Appendices

- A. Public meeting announcement
- B. Mailing list
- C. Survey

Appendix A: Public Meeting Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joy K.S. Simmer, Director
City of Clare Parks and Recreation Department
989-386-7541 X 213

Clare Residents Invited to Participate in Parks and Recreation Planning

The City of Clare Parks & Recreation Department is in the process of updating and revising the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation for the City of Clare. The City of Clare Parks & Recreation board invites all interested citizens of Clare to participate in this process by completing an interest survey. Over the last year there has been a survey available for public to help Parks and Recreation assess our parks and currently offered programs, as well as provide feedback for future use. The survey is also available online through a link to the City of Clare web page at <http://www.cityofclare.org>. This survey is only one of the ways that public input is being gathered. In addition to the survey, a public meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Clare City Hall.

Information from the survey and from this public meeting will be used by the parks and recreation board to establish a plan of action for parks and recreation for the City. The revised Master Plan will provide a framework for decision making about improving parks, recreation areas and leisure opportunities in the City of Clare.

It is important that a wide variety of people participate in the survey and public meeting and that input of all segments of the population be heard. Whatever your leisure interests may be, your input is wanted. Bikers, tennis players, hockey players, walkers, dancers, seniors, volleyball players, skateboarders, parents, soccer players, fishermen, nature lovers, skaters, campers, football players, artists, picnic lovers, playground users, softball and baseball players, and just plain park users.

Upon completion of the master planning process, the revised Parks & Recreation Master Plan will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. By having an approved Master Plan on file with the DNR, the City of Clare also qualifies for a number of grant programs that can be used to improve the quality of life of Clare citizens by enhancing our parks and leisure resources.

Appendix C: Letter of Invitation and Mailing List

January 28, 2016

Dear fellow citizen:

The City of Clare Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is currently working on an update of the Master Plan for the City of Clare Parks and Recreation. The Master Plan for Parks and Recreation serves as a planning and decision-making framework that will guide decisions about the development and improvement of parks and recreation amenities for the next five years. In addition, updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will make the City of Clare eligible for a number of grant opportunities that can be used to enhance the parks and recreational opportunities available to the citizens of Clare.

We are inviting you to attend a public meeting on Monday, February 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Clare City Hall.

You have been personally invited because you are a key member of the Clare community whose input we are seeking in this planning process. We have tried to identify the many individuals, organizations, and groups in the community whose interests may intersect with the provision of quality parks and recreation services. By inviting a wide ranging group of community members we are seeking to assure that the interests of all citizen groups are considered in this planning process.

Thank you for your leadership in our community and we look forward to hearing from you on February 15.

Sincerely,

Joy K.S. Simmer
Parks and Recreation

President, Clare Rotary Club c/o Doherty Hotel 604 North Mc Ewan Clare, MI 48617	Greg McMillan, Superintendent Clare Public Schools 201 E. State Street Clare, MI 48617	Sheila M. Bissonnette, Director PMDL 185 E. Fourth Street Clare, MI 48617
President, Clare Kiwanis Clubs c/o Doherty Hotel 604 North Mc Ewan Clare, MI 48617	Don Kolander, Director Clare County Parks & Recreation 225 W. Main St P.O. Box 438 Harrison, MI 48625	Extension 4-H Youth Agent County Building P.O. Box 439 Harrison, MI 48625-0439
Cy Tope IBT Title Clare County 404 N. Mc Ewan Clare, MI 48617	Lori Enos Pioneer High School 670 Ann Arbor Trail Clare, MI 48617	Eagles Aerie 2977 11227 S. Grant Ave. Clare, MI 48617
ATTN: Pastor and Youth Minister Clare United Methodist Church 105 East 7 th Street Clare, MI 48617	Dwayne Miedzianowski Police Chief City of Clare 207 West Fifth Street Clare, MI 48617	President, Lions Club c/o Doherty Hotel 604 North Mc Ewan Clare, MI 48617
Pastor Jim Young Clare Church of the Nazarene 10160 South Grant Avenue Clare, MI 48617	Mike Sargent, Fire Chief City of Clare 202 West Fifth Street Clare, MI 48617	Masonic Lodge 504 Jackson Clare, MI 48617
Pastor, Doug Blackwell First Baptist Church 302 Wilcox Parkway Clare, MI 48617	Lori Schuh, Executive Director Clare County Convention & Visitors Bureau P.O. Box 226 Clare, MI 48617	Moose Lodge 2268 1890 E. Ludington Dr. Clare, MI 48617
St. Cecilia Church & School Business OFC 106 West Wheaton Avenue Clare, MI 48617	Clare & Gladwin County Council on Aging 101 W. Michigan Ave Farwell, MI 48622	VFW Post 5738 145 Wilcox Parkway Clare, MI 48617
Jeannie Mishler, Principal Clare Primary School 205 E. Wheaton Ave Clare, MI 48617	Clare Chamber of Commerce 429 N. Mc Ewan St. Clare, MI 48617	John Wolf, County Commissioner 225 West Main Street Harrison, MI 48625
Steve Newkirk, Principal Clare Middle School 209 E. State Street Clare, MI 48617	Mid Michigan Community Action Agency Gary Gilbert, Executive Director 1574 E. Washington P.O. Box 768 Farwell, MI 48622	Lori Schuh Downtown Development Authority Clare City Hall 202 W. Fifth Street Clare, MI 48617

Lee Turner, Principal
Clare High School
201 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Jim Allen
412 Wilcox Parkway
Clare, MI 48617

Dick Acker, Airport Manager
Clare City Hall
202 W. Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617

Bob Bonham,
Director of Public Works
Clare City Hall
202 W. Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617

Kay Haven, City Clerk
Clare City Hall
202 W. Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617

Pat Humphrey, Mayor
City of Clare
711 North Rainbow Drive
Clare, MI 48617

Renee Crawford
11423 North Mission
Clare, MI 48617

Steven Kingsbury
421 Forest
Clare, MI 48617

Bill Horwood
City Commission
425 Wilcox Parkway
Clare, MI 48617

Tom Hurdle
Clare Middle School
209 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Mary Schuelte
Clare Middle School
209 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Bruce Hales
Clare Middle School
209 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Dave Gould
Clare Primary School
205 E. Wheaton Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Jamie Winkler
Clare High School
201 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Al White, Liaison Officer
Clare Public Schools
201 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Director of Operations & Maint.
Clare Public Schools
201 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Michael Schubart, Athletic
Director
Clare High School
201 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

George Gilmore
Clare High School
201 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Denny Purkis
Clare High School
201 E. State Street
Clare, MI 48617

Rod & Gun Club
10844 E. Eberhart
Clare, MI 48617

Mrs. Pat Snyder
590 Wilcox Parkway
Clare, MI 48617

John Merillat, President
Clare Little League
10020 S. Grant Ave
Clare, MI 48617

Mr. John Green
Rocket Football
408 John R Street
Clare, MI 48617

Ben Walters
Planning Commission
1451 Woodlawn Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Jerry Forsberg
Planning Commission
201 W. First, #1E
Clare, MI 48617

Dave Prawdzik
Planning Commission
411 John R Street
Clare, MI 48617

Jan Winter
Planning Commission
713 N. Rainbow Dr
Clare, MI 48617

Karla Swanson
Planning Commission
712 N. Rainbow Dr
Clare, MI 48617

Darren Acton
Planning Commission
130 Woodlawn Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Rebecca Terpening
Irish Festival Committee
P.O. Box 294
Clare, MI 48617

Glenda Carmoney
Planning Commission
504 Forest
Clare, MI 48617

John Kline
Planning Commission
120 W. Wheaton Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Elaine Demasi
Planning Commission
417 Wilcox Pkwy
Clare, MI 48617

Pat McCrady, President
Clare County Arts Council
502 E. Sixth Street
Clare, MI 48617

Dave Waite, President
Friends of Pere Marquette Rails-
Trails
6030 Emerson Ct
Midland, MI 48640

Jon Ringelberg
P&R Advisory Board
5986 E. Dover
Clare, MI 48617

Marian Matyn
P&R Advisory Board
1469 Woodlawn Ave
Clare, MI 48617

Carol Santini
P&R Advisory Board
603 Glendale
Clare, MI 48617

Bill Carlson
P&R Advisory Board
646 George Street
Clare, MI 48617

Doug Randle
P&R Advisory Board
314 E. Second
Clare, MI 48617

Kelly Koch
P&R Advisory Board
1461 Woodlawn
Clare, MI 48617

Rose Michels
P&R Advisory Board
416 Forest
Clare, MI 48617

Jays Sporting Goods
8800 S. Clare Ave
Clare, MI 48617

Horizon Senior Living
Activities Director
1324 Vinewood Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Prestige Place
Activities Director
684 Ann Arbor Trail
Clare, MI 48617

Gateway Lanes and Lounge
1410 N. Mc Wan St
Clare, MI 48617

Firefly Golf Links
7795 S. Clare Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Joe Phillips
Clare Softball League
1492 Columbus Dr.
Farwell, MI 48622

John Koch
City Commission
1461 Woodlawn Ave
Clare, MI 48617

Jean McConnel
City Commission
731 Eastwood Dr
Clare, MI 48617

Tom Koch
City Commission
206 W. Seventh St
Clare, MI 48617

Ken Hibl
City Manager
202 W. Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617

Appendix C: Survey



Clare Parks & Recreation Survey

Dear Resident:

You are invited to participate in our Clare Parks and Recreation survey which will ask you about the recreation opportunities/facilities in the City of Clare.

By completing and returning this questionnaire you will be providing valuable input to the Parks & Recreation Board that will be used in decision-making about parks and recreation facilities and services in Clare. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential.

Thank you for your participation!

1. Are you a resident of the City of Clare?

- Yes
- No

2. How many people in the following age groups reside in your household?

	0	1-2	3-4	5-6	7+	N/A
Young Children (under 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Children (6-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Teens (13-19)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Adult (20-40)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Adult (41-55)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Adult (over 55)	<input type="checkbox"/>					

3. Which of the following statements best characterizes your family park use?

- Regular users
- Occasional users
- Infrequent users
- Not users

4. Please mark all of the Clare Parks facilities/parks that you or members of your family have used during the past year:

- Airport Soccer Fields
- Brookwood Park
- City Park
- Maple Street Park
- McIreland Nature Trail
- Pettit Park
- Shamrock Park
- Stamina Stadium
- The Rail Trail

5. Which of the facilities/parks does your family use the most?

- Airport Soccer Fields
- Brookwood Park
- City Park
- Maple Street Park
- McIreland Nature Trail
- Pettit Park
- Shamrock Park
- Stamina Stadium
- The Rail Trail

6. Which of the following facilities/parks are located closest to your home?

- Airport Soccer Fields
- Brookwood Park
- City Park
- Maple Street Park
- McIreland Nature Trail
- Pettit Park
- Shamrock Park
- Stamina Stadium
- The Rail Trail

7. Please indicate your agreement/disagreement in the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
The City of Clare has an adequate number of Parks to meet the needs of the city population.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Clare city parks are a point of pride within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
There should be increased emphasis on instructing people how to enjoy different leisure and recreation activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
There should be an emphasis on providing activities that the whole family can participate in.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
There should be an increased emphasis on providing recreation for youth within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
I feel safe walking or biking from my home to the nearest city park.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Clare city parks make a positive contribution to the quality of life in Clare.	<input type="checkbox"/>					

	Lowest	Somewhat Low	Neither High or Low	Somewhat High	Highest
Sports Fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public Campground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Picnic Areas and Pavilions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sledding Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sports Courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Skateboard Park (permanent)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor Recreation Center	<input type="checkbox"/>				

New Recreation Areas and Facilities

8. Please indicate the priority you think the City of Clare should place on developing the following kinds of new recreation areas and facilities:

Recreation Programs and Services

9. Please indicate the recreation activities which someone in your household would have interest in.:

	Young Child (under 5)	Children (6-12)	Teens (13-19)	Adults (20-40)	Adults (41-55)	Adults (over 55)
Cultural Art Activities:						
Dance, theater, drama	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Arts or crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Music	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Sports, Athletics, Aquatics						
Sport skill instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Sports leagues and tournaments	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Ice skating	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Outdoor Recreation						
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Canoeing	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Geocaching	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Hiking/backpacking	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Winter Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Self Improvement/Wellness						
Aerobics/fitness activities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Computer instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Healthy eating/dieting	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Social Recreation						
Summer Day Camps	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Community-wide special events	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Family Activity Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Dances	<input type="checkbox"/>					

10. Are you aware of the new undeveloped recreation complex property south of town?

- Yes
- No

*For more information follow us on the Clare Parks and Recreation Facebook page or website!

11. How do you receive information about community activities in Clare?

- City Newsletter
- Internet
- Newspaper
- Posters and Flyers
- Radio
- School Handouts
- Social Media
- Television
- Word of Mouth
- Other

To return this survey by mail, fold and affix postage. If you prefer, you can drop the survey off at City Hall or in the green water bill mailbox located outside of City Hall.



Thank you for your time and participation!

Please Tape Closed Before Mailing
FOLD HERE

Place
Stamp
Here

City of Clare
Parks and Recreation Survey
202 W. Fifth St.
Clare, MI 48617

Additional Documents for Completion and Approval of Plan

Minutes from Advisory Board Recommending Plan Approval to City Commission

Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting

Proof of Publication for Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting

Minutes from Public Meeting and Plan Approval by City Commission

Resolution 2016-2020, Approving Five Year Master Plan

Final Plan Submission Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies

Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist

Minutes from Advisory Board Recommending Plan Approval to City Commission

Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Clare City Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Clare City Hall to receive public comment pertaining to the proposed draft amendment of the Five Year Recreation Master Plan for the City of Clare.

As a requirement of the Department of Natural Resources, a current Recreation Master Plan must be on file in order for the city to be eligible to apply for DNR parks and recreation grant funds.

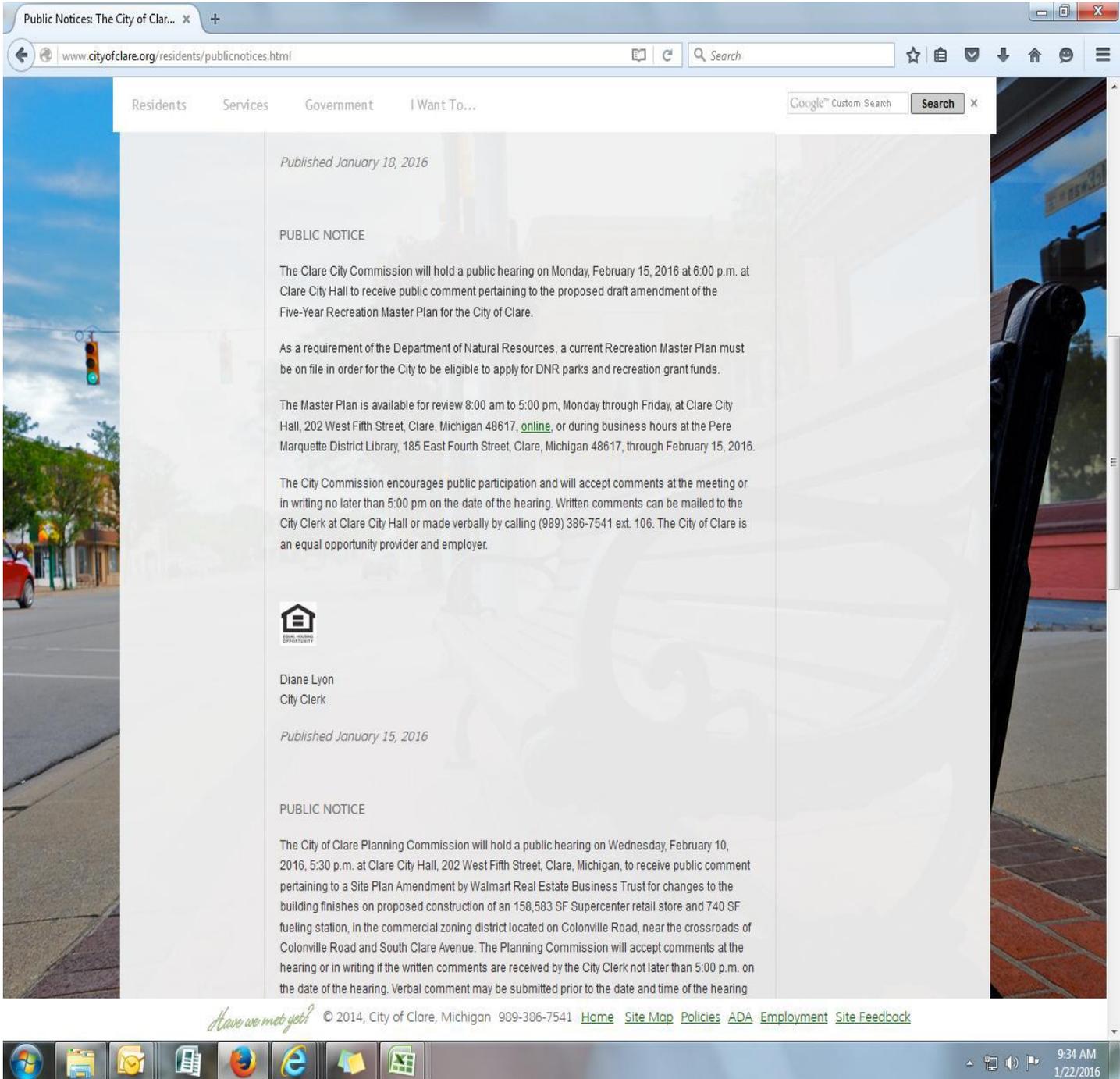
The Master Plan is available for review 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at Clare City Hall, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan 48617, online at www.cityofclare.org/government/dept/recreation, or during business hours at the Pere Marquette District Library, 185 East Fourth Street, Clare, Michigan 48617, through February 15, 2016.

The City Commission encourages public participation and will accept comments at the meeting or in writing no later than 5:00 pm on the date of the hearing. Written comments can be mailed to the City Clerk at Clare City Hall or made verbally by calling (989) 386-7541 ext. 106. The City of Clare is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Diane Lyon
City Clerk



Proof of Publication for Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting



Minutes from the Public Meeting and Plan Approval by City Commission

Resolution 2016-2020, Approving Five Year Master Plan

Final Plan Submission Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies

Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist

Additional Documents for Completion and Approval of Plan

Minutes from Advisory Board Recommending Amendment Approval to City Commission
Notice of Availability of Draft Plan Amendment and Public Meeting
Proof of Publication for Notice of Availability of Plan Amendment and Public Meeting
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Diane Lyon
City Clerk



RESOLUTION 2016-014

A RESOLUTION OF THE CLARE CITY COMMISSION APPROVING THE CITY OF CLARE 2016-2020 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN.

WHEREAS, the City of Clare has consistently maintained and updated a Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, said Plan outlines the City's Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives and incorporates an Action Program to accomplish said goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, said Master Plan is required to be updated each five years to remain current; and

WHEREAS, with guidance oversight from the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the City Staff has completed its most recent update for the Plan Years of 2016-2020; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has recommended that the Clare City Commission approve said updated Plan; and

WHEREAS, said Plan has been distributed to the City's neighboring communities for comment; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been noticed to accept public comment related to said updated Plan; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the conduct of said public hearing held by the Clare City Commission, the Commission duly considered comments provided at said hearing and duly reviewed, discussed and considered said updated Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Clare City Commission hereby approves the 2016-2020 City of Clare Parks & Recreation Master Plan and directs its City Manager to ensure said Plan is forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and subsequently cause implementation of said Plan.

ALL RESOLUTIONS AND PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS INSOFAR AS THEY CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION BE AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY RESCINDED.

The Resolution was introduced by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.. The Resolution declared adopted by the following roll call vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

Resolution approved for adoption on this 15th day of February 2016.

Diane Lyon, City Clerk