



**HAMILTON
TOWNSHIP**
VAN BUREN COUNTY
ESTABLISHED 1839



**DECATUR
TOWNSHIP**



Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan

Village of Decatur
Decatur Township
Hamilton Township

Adopted: January 27, 2025

This plan was developed by local officials and staff from Decatur Village, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township with assistance from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission.



Village of Decatur Public Officials

Ali Elwaer	Village President
Charlene Jackson	Village President Pro-Temp
Robert Mead Jr.	Village Trustee
Janice Benson	Village Trustee
Cindy Pachner	Village Trustee
Harvey Beute	Village Trustee
Jessica Pelfrey	Village Trustee
Christopher Tapper	Village Manager
Megan Duncan	Clerk/Treasurer
Amber Osha	Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Decatur Township Public Officials

Kevin Kusmack	Township Supervisor
Julie McKee	Township Clerk
Katelin Makay	Township Treasurer
Matthew Kusmack	Township Trustee
Tom Stull	Township Trustee

Hamilton Township Public Officials

Carl Druskovich	Township Supervisor
Rebecca Mott	Township Clerk
Sandra Hanson	Township Treasurer
Karen Makay	Township Trustee
Richard Conway	Township Trustee

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Introduction

Parks and recreational resources provide a structure and aesthetic identity to communities. These resources increase property values, provide natural recreation, enhance animal and plant habitat, contribute to clean air and water, and help preserve and protect the historic character and identity of the community. The Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township were in the process of updating their Joint Master Plan while revising this recreation plan. Much of the background information, including public input methods, from the Master Plan were utilized in updating this plan.

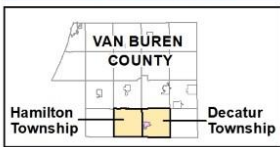
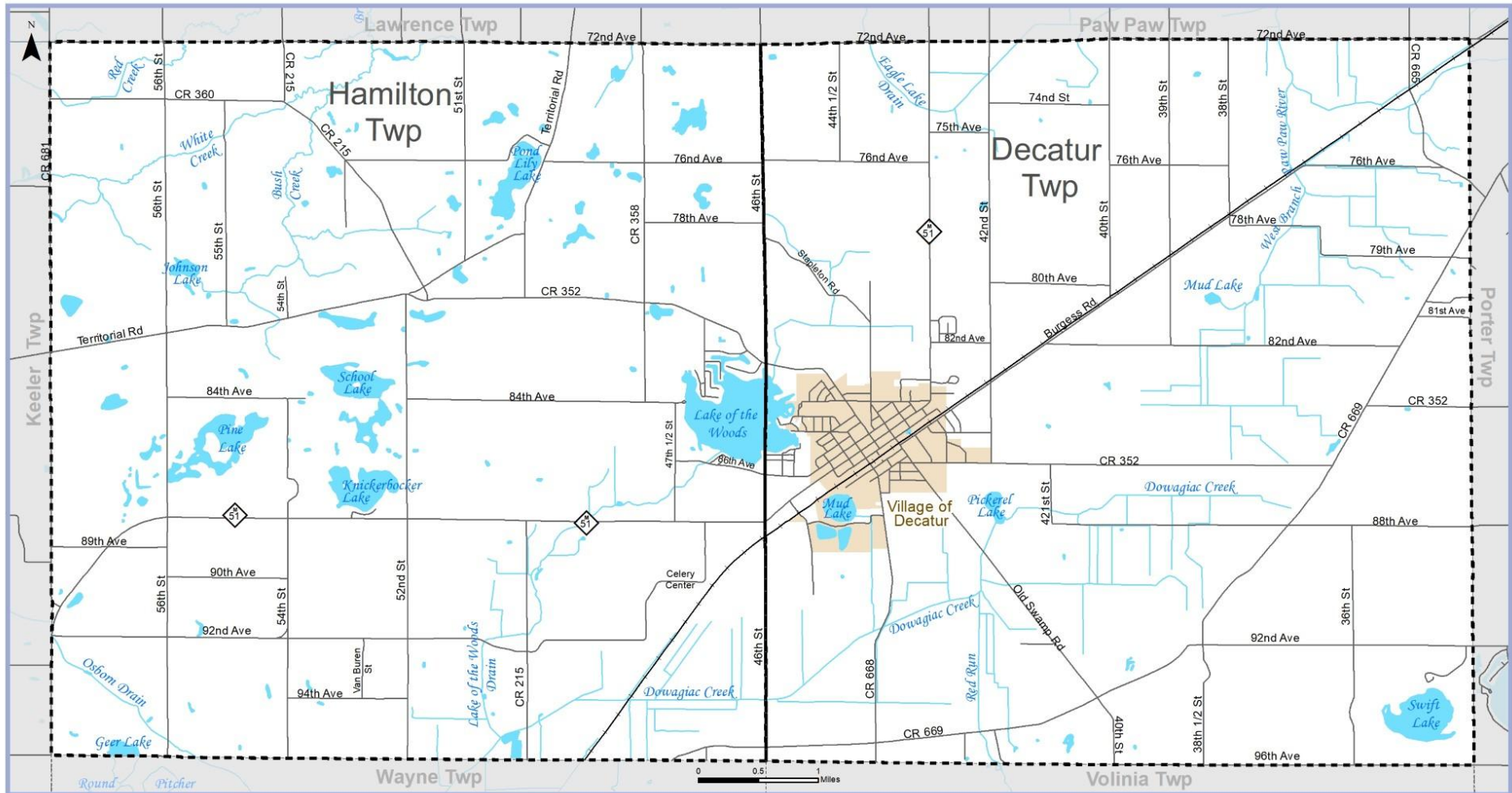
This plan will serve as a guide to the Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township for the development and maintenance of parks and recreational resources. The status of parks and recreation and vision towards the future for the Decatur-Hamilton Community are outlined in this plan. This plan considers the desires of the community for a multitude of recreational opportunities. It also focuses on the needs of the community in the development of goals and objectives. The final product of this plan is an action plan that will guide the community towards its goals.

Community Description

The Decatur-Hamilton Community is comprised of the Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township and is in the southernmost portion of Van Buren County in Southwest Michigan and is approximately forty miles from Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor/St. Joseph, and South Bend, Indiana. Given the size and proximity of these three municipalities, the village and townships often work together on projects including a joint comprehensive plan and a shared fire authority.

Housing is primarily single- or two-family homes with renters making up around 25%. There is also a multi-unit apartment complex for seniors and two multi-unit subsidized and affordable apartment complexes. The Community is home to Davis Elementary, Decatur Middle School, and Decatur Jr. Sr. High School. A significant portion of the Decatur-Hamilton Community is comprised of agricultural lands and open space. Businesses and restaurants are primarily located downtown.

Many visitors come to the Decatur-Hamilton Community during the summer to enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and swimming. Wintertime activities include ice-fishing and snowmobiling.



- Legend**
- Township
 - Village
 - Water
 - Road
 - Railroad

Decatur & Hamilton Township Village of Decatur

Data Sources
 Base Map: MGF 17v
 Roads: SWMPC 2023

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
www.swmplc.org
 The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.
 October 11, 2024 Fig06_Twp_Base

The Decatur-Hamilton Community includes the Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township and is home to 4,945 residents (2020 Census). Population has increased modestly since 1970 with the largest increase seen in Decatur Township. Though more recently, the population in all three communities have shrunk. Around 27.7% of households in the Decatur-Hamilton Community have children under the age of 18 and 31.1% of households contain individuals that are 65 years old or older.

Poverty rates in both the Village and Township of Decatur are higher than the county and state rates at 21.0% and 17.2% respectively. Hamilton Township’s poverty rate was 6.6%. Following national trends, the poverty rate is higher for children in each of the communities. These poverty rates demonstrate a need for accessible parks and recreation facilities that are free or low cost to residents.

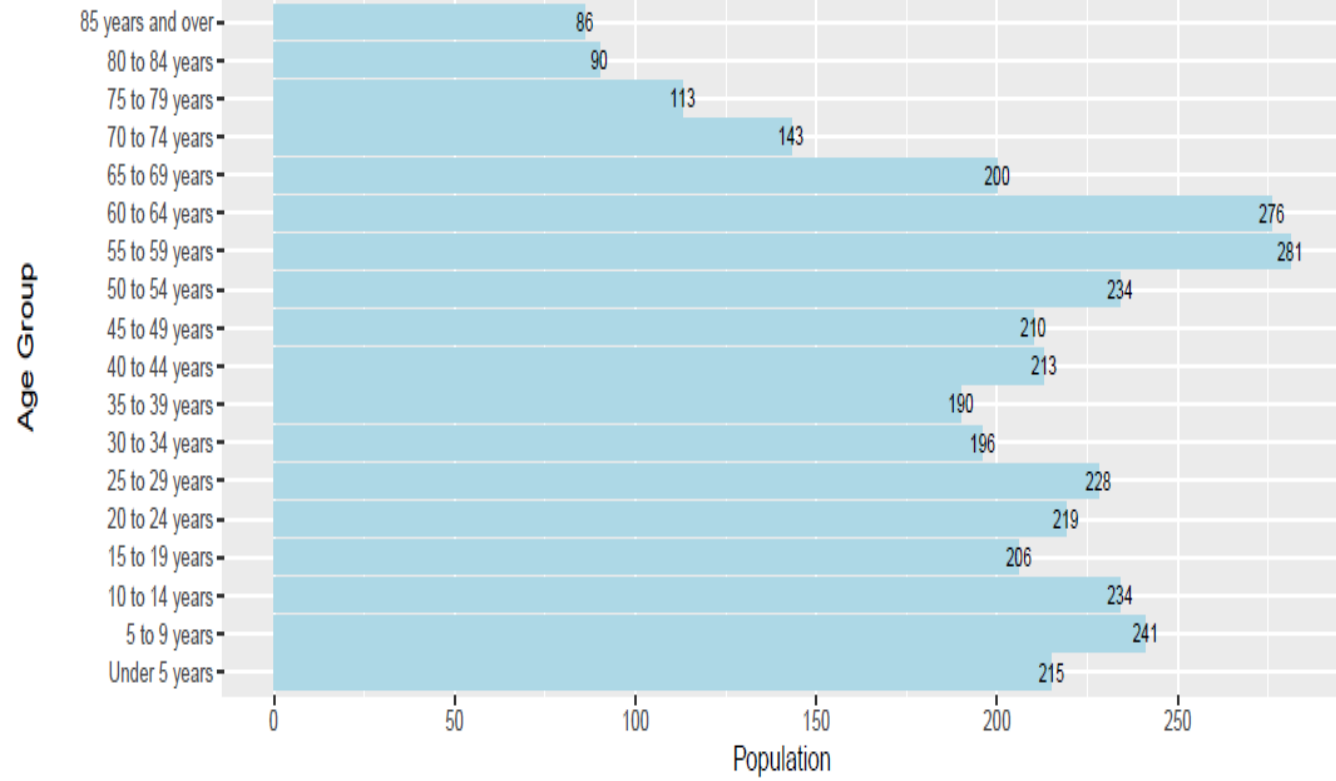
Additionally, both townships and the village have a significant number of disabled residents that must be accounted for when making recreation accessible to the entire community. In the Village of Decatur, 17.6% of residents are disabled, while in Hamilton Township 10.7% of residents are disabled and in Decatur Township 16.7% of residents are disabled. These disability rates indicate the need for accessible recreation options for current and future residents of the Decatur-Hamilton Community.

Table 1: Population

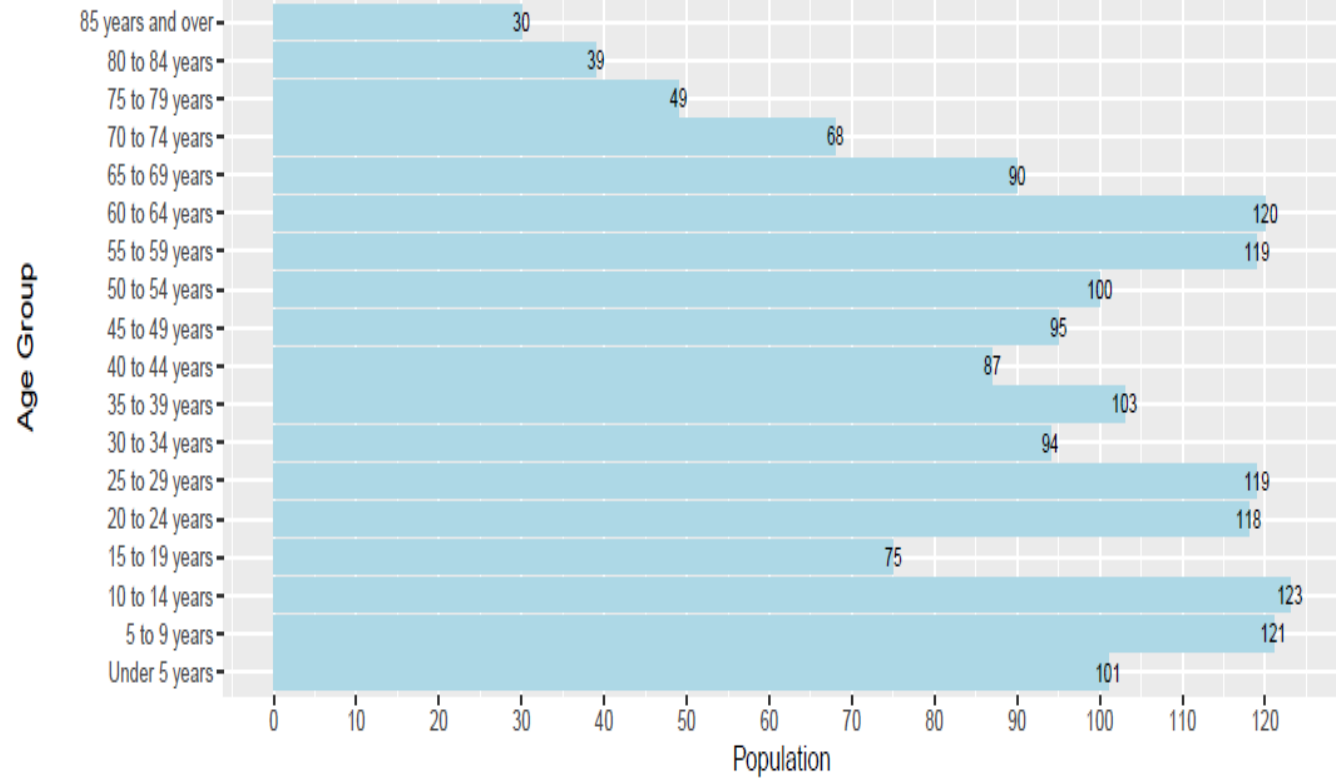
Year	Village of Decatur	Decatur Township (w/o village)	Hamilton Township	Van Buren County
1970	1,764	1,603	1,167	56,173
1980	1,915	1,684	1,586	66,814
1990	1,760	1,784	1,679	70,060
2000	1,838	2,078	1,797	76,263
2010	1,819	1,907	1,489	76,258
2020	1,651	1,924	1,370	75,587

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

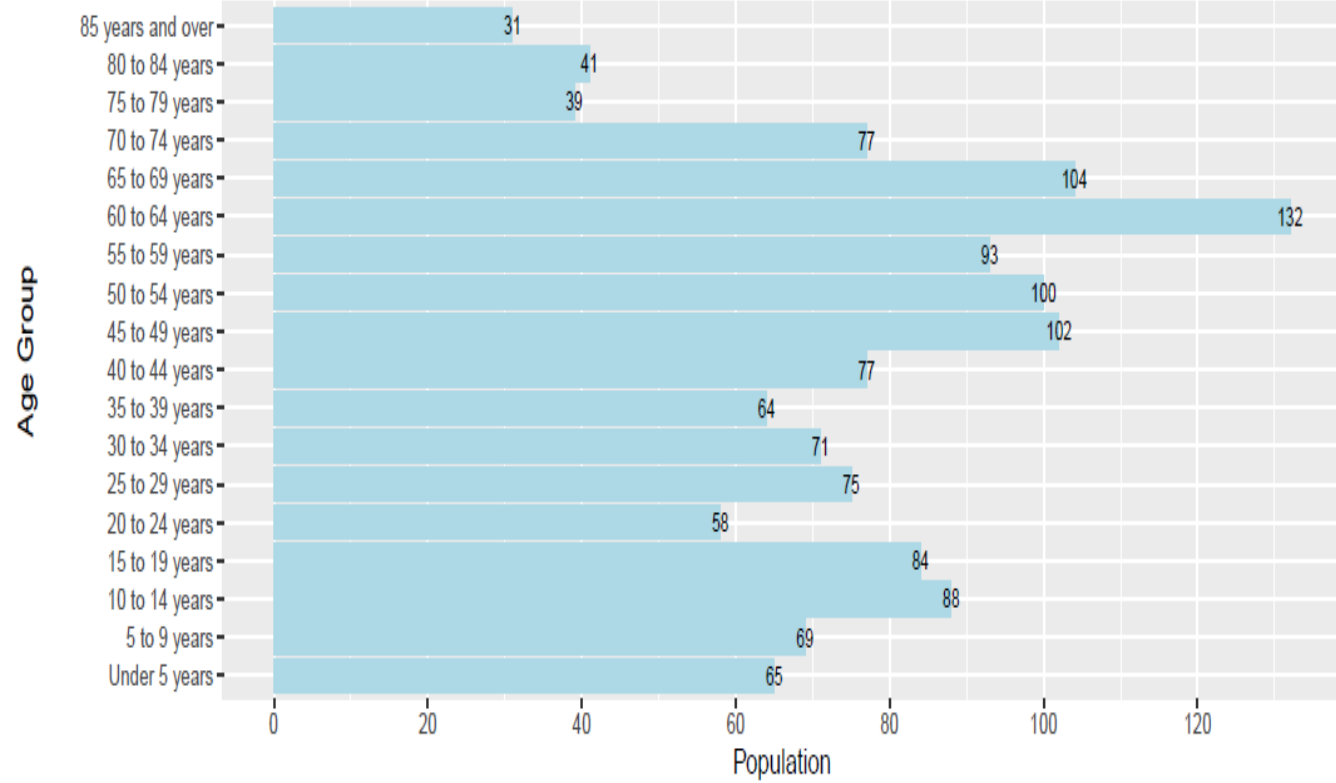
Decatur Township



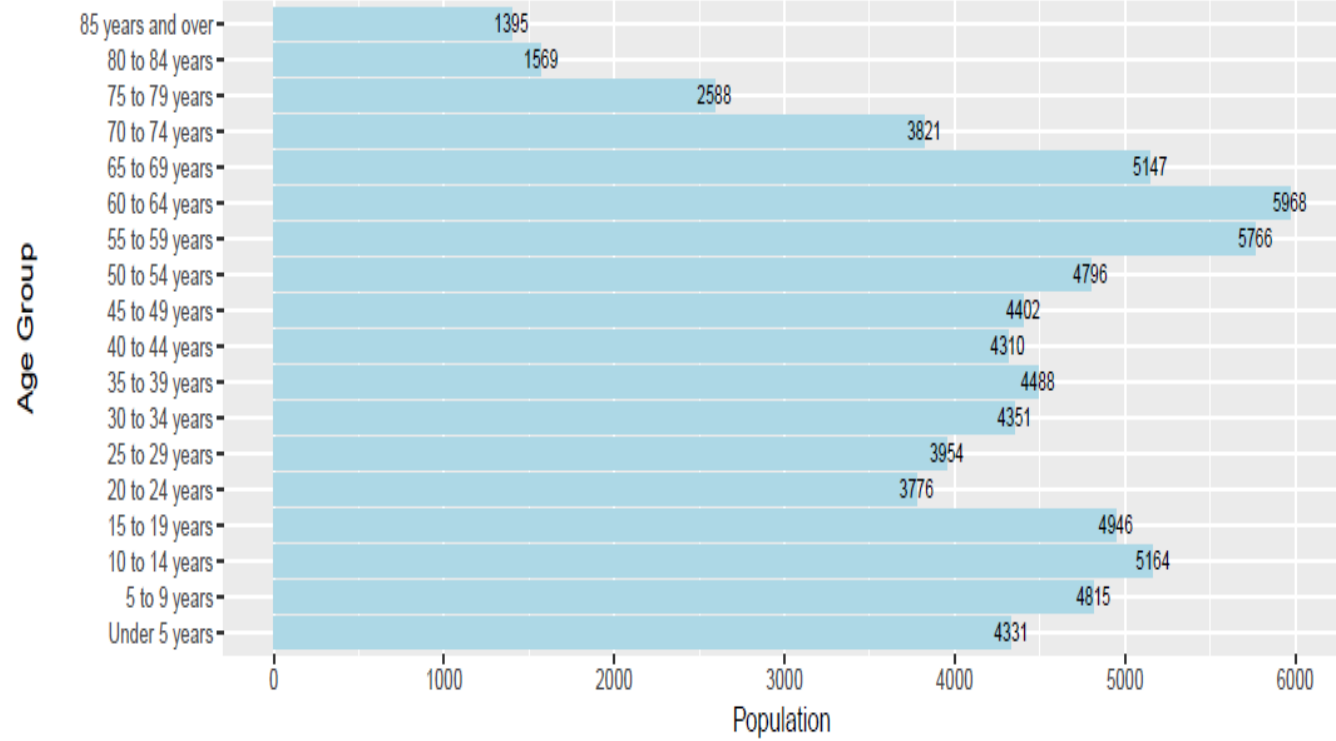
Decatur Village



Hamilton Township



Van Buren County



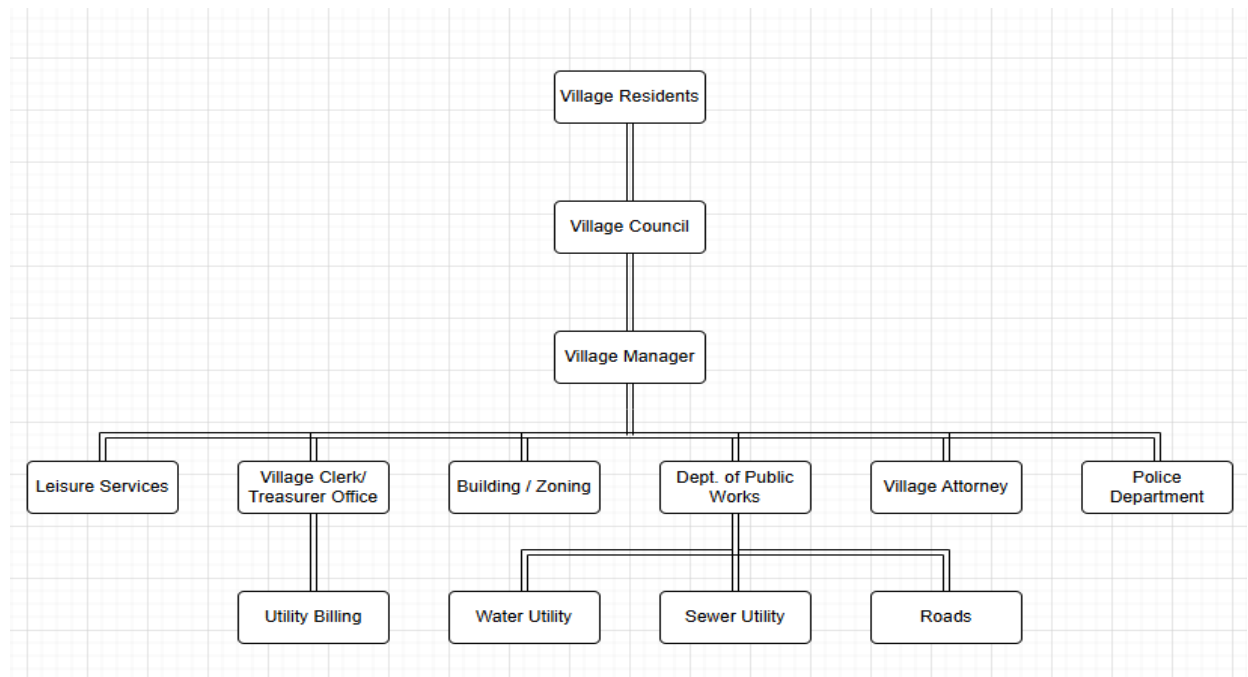
Data from 2020 Decennial Census

Population by age provides a good measure of needs for the community. For example, children under the age of 5 will require different playground equipment than those 15 to 19. Like national and state trends, the Decatur-Hamilton Community is experiencing an aging population. The Decatur-Hamilton Community provides a variety of facilities for different age groups including playground equipment (Raider Romp Park), skating and basketball (Southside Skate Park), and nature trails (Michigan Nature Association and Grange Hall).

Administrative Structure and Budgets

The Village of Decatur is a General Law Village governed by a village council of six trustees and a village president. The Village Council is the only elected body in the Village of Decatur and members are elected to four-year terms. They are responsible for appointing positions, approving projects, establishing budgets and serving on various committees. Positions that are appointed by the village council include: village manager, village treasurer, village clerk, police chief, and director of public works. The Village of Decatur operates a small Parks and Recreation Department directed by the Village Manager with input from the Village’s Parks and Recreation Committee on capital improvements and operations. The Village’s parks are maintained by the Village’s Department of Public Works.

Organizational Chart



The Village Parks & Recreation Department is funded by the General Fund. The budget can be quite variable from year to year depending on what other projects/departments utilizing General Fund dollars are being pursued. Below is the Village’s 2024-25 budget for parks and recreation. Further, the Village has appropriated general funds in its Capital Improvement Program for FY25 for 2 major projects at Red Woolfe Park (splash pad \$180,000 and restrooms \$120,000). These funds would be local match for a MDNR proposed project submitted April 2024.

Dept 751 - PARKS AND RECREATION 24-25		
101-751-703.000	SALARIES-LEISURE SERVICES	25,000.00
101-751-719.000	HEALTH INSURANCE	8,000.00
101-751-756.000	SUPPLIES & MAINTENANCE	5,000.00
101-751-921.000	ELECTRIC	800.00
101-751-930.000	REPAIRS	500.00
101-751-931.000	CONTRACTUAL	4,000.00
101-751-943.000	EQUIP. RENTAL TRANSFER	15,000.00
Totals for dept 751 - PARKS AND RECREATION		58,300.00

Decatur Township is a civil township of Van Buren County and includes the Village of Decatur. Decatur Township was organized in 1837. The Township Hall is located at 103 E Delaware St, Decatur, Michigan. Decatur Township does not own or operate any park or recreation facilities. Decatur Township does not have a parks and recreation budget.

Hamilton Township is a civil township of Van Buren County located east of Decatur Township and Village. Hamilton Township was also organized in 1837. The Hamilton Township Hall is located at 52333 Territorial Road West, Decatur, Michigan. Hamilton Township has a Grange Hall Committee that oversees the operation and improvements to the Grange Hall and Hamilton Township property. The committee is appointed by the Township Board. The Township’s only budget for Parks is the utilities and seasonal portable restroom at Grange Hall, which comes out of their general fund.

Partnerships

The Village of Decatur often utilizes partnerships in maintenance and beautification roles in Village Parks. Partner organizations include the Van Buren Conservation District and the Downtown Development Authority, which often plants flowers in the pocket park in the Downtown District.

Lake of the Woods and Greenwoods Camp is a highly respected and sought after children's summer camp program. As part of a community service program, the children volunteer at community festivals.

The Raider Romp Park was built in 2001. This park is a prime example of partnerships and collaboration in the Hamilton - Decatur Community. Raider Romp Park is located on the grounds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Decatur Post. While the playground and restrooms are owned and maintained by the Village, the VFW owns a covered pavilion, grills, and picnic tables that are open to all who wish to use them. The park was also constructed using funds gathered through a collaborative fundraising campaign.

The Village also has a partnership with the Decatur Public Schools (DPS). The Schools own and maintain an outdoor track that is open to all who wish to use it. The Van Buren District Library (VBDL) also runs many different recreational programs for children focusing on reading and learning. Also, throughout the year the VBDL offers the opportunity for children to participate in different arts and crafts programs and educational presentations.

The Grange Hall committee holds 3 dances annually to raise funds for the Grange Hall. As mentioned previously, the Township pays for the utilities and for a seasonal portable restroom.

Natural Resource Inventory

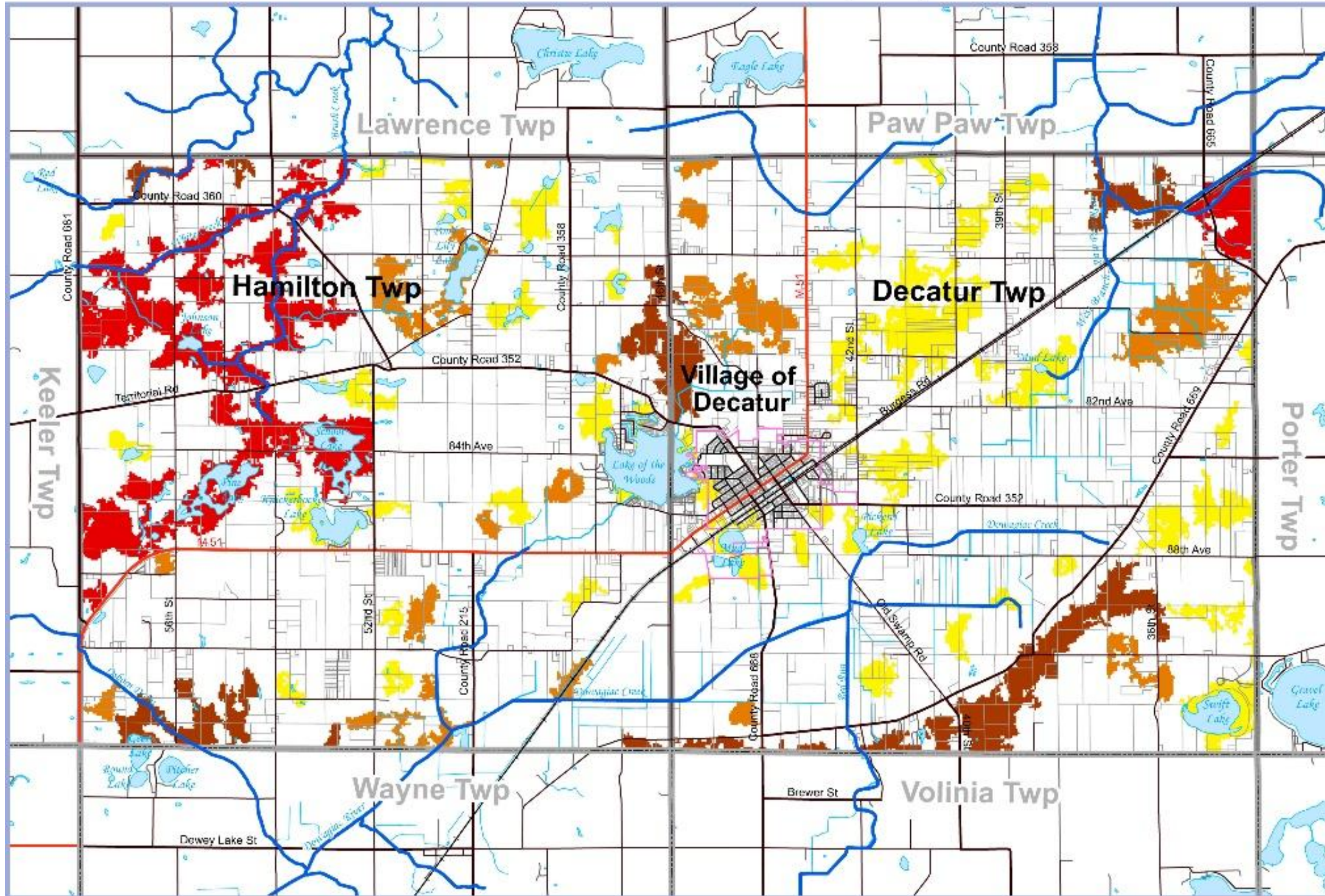
Wetlands and floodplains are extremely valuable resources. There are significant wetlands in the townships that amount to over 200 acres. Concentrations of wetlands are located throughout the western portion of Hamilton Township, particularly south of Territorial Road. A concentration of wetlands occurs in the in the northwestern and extreme northeastern and southeastern portions of Decatur Township.

The Potential Conservation Areas map represents the last remaining remnants of ecosystems and natural plant communities. The map ranks where the landscape is dominated by native vegetation that has various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural communities and unique natural

Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs) are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural communities and unique natural features. Scoring criteria to prioritize areas included: total size, size of core area, length of stream corridor, landscape connectivity, restorability of surrounding land, vegetation quality, and biological rarity score.

features. In addition, these areas provide critical ecological services such as maintaining water quality and quantity, soil development and stabilization, habitat for pollinators of cropland, wildlife travel corridors, stopover sites for migratory birds, sources of genetic diversity and floodwater retention. Consequently, it is to a community's advantage that these sites be carefully integrated into the planning for future development. Striking a balance between development and natural resource conservation and preservation is critical if the Decatur-Hamilton Community is to maintain its unique natural heritage.

Potential Conservation Area (PCA)



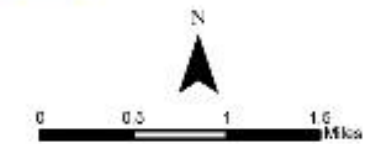
Legend

- Township
- Parcel
- Trout Stream

PCA Score

RANK

- Highest
- Higher
- High
- Medium



Data Sources

Base Map and Trout Streams:
Michigan Center and Geographic Information
PCA: Michigan National Features Inventory
Parcel: Van Buren County

Prepared April 2009

**Southwest Michigan
Planning Commission**

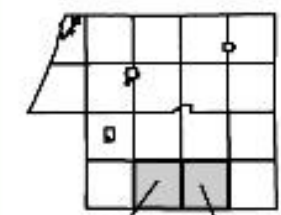
Tel: 269-925-1137

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Website: www.swmpc.org

Van Buren County



Hamilton
Township

Decatur
Township

Recreation Inventory

A park inventory was conducted using a modified park checklist from the last Decatur Recreation Plan. This checklist noted key features and conditions at each park. Park descriptions were formed from previous plans and information from the Village of Decatur. The MDNR Guidelines require that a barrier free ranking be given to each facility for assessing its accessibility to persons with disabilities. The assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves as well as the access routes to them.

The following system, provided by the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (3/19/2021) was used:

1 = none of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines

2 = some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines

3 = most of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines

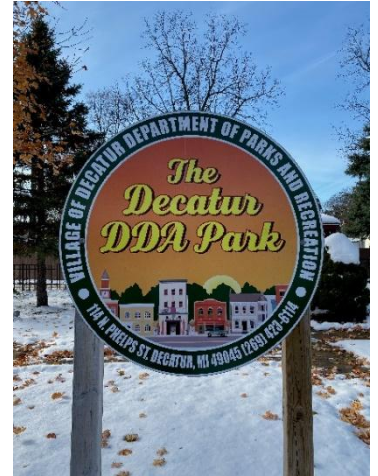
4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Village of Decatur Parks

DDA Park

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Park is located at the north edge of the downtown on the corner of North Phelps and West St. Mary's Streets across from Village Hall. It is a pocket park, equipped with park benches, gazebo, drinking fountain, and Little Free Library. This park's location makes it popular with residents and those employed downtown. In the past, the park has been utilized as a location for the Decatur Night Market. Landscaping requires a great deal of care and regular maintenance. The park has gotten recent updates including new benches, trash cans and a fresh coat of paint on the gazebo.



DDA Park provides easy accessibility with an ADA curb ramp on the corner leading to sidewalks into the park. Park benches, drinking fountain, and gazebo are all accessible from sidewalks. The height of Little Free Library may limit accessibility to those in wheelchairs.

DDA Park		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	Yes	Good
Parking (on street)	Yes	Good
Open Play Area	No	
Sport Facilities	No	
Playground Equipment	No	
Benches	Yes	Good
Picnic Tables	Yes	Fair
Gazebo	Yes	Good
Grills	No	
Public Restrooms	No	
Trash Receptacles	Yes	Good
Accessibility Rating	3	



Raider Romp Park

Raider Romp is located at the corner of N Phelps Street and Veteran’s Memorial Drive. The park is enclosed by a fence and features an expansive assortment of playground equipment designed for use by young children. The park also features many benches for parents or guardians to be able to sit, relax, and enjoy the sun as they supervise their children. There is no accessible path to the benches. In addition, the VFW owns a large pavilion with picnic tables and grills for use by visitors. Bathrooms are located on the west side of the parking area and there are two bike racks available for use.



Raider Romp offers two ADA parking spaces and sidewalks to the picnic shelter, restrooms and play area. The play area is lined with woodchips and does not have sidewalks within the fenced area. Picnic tables are available in the pavilion but are not ADA accessible.



Raider Romp Park		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	Yes	Good
Parking	Yes	Good
Open Play Area	Yes	Good
Sport Facilities	No	
Playground Equipment	Yes	Good
Benches	Yes	Good
Picnic Tables*	Yes	Good
Picnic Shelter*	Yes	Good
Grills*	Yes	Good
Public Restrooms	Yes	Fair
Trash Receptacles	Yes	Good
Accessibility Rating	3	

*Owned by VFW

Southside Skate Park

Southside Skate Park is located on the corner of S. Williams and Beers Streets. The parking lot is crushed asphalt with large asphalt pieces. A fenced-in area with cemented surface and skateboard ramps are in place. There is a picnic area with a shelter, a bike rack, and a basketball court. An internal sidewalk network connects the basketball court with the pavilion and skate park section of the park. A seasonal portable toilet is available. Park hours vary and are posted at the site.

The Southside Skate Park is currently not barrier free for accessibility. With the crushed asphalt parking, lack of an ADA designated parking and a sidewalk network connecting the parking to the



park amenities, it would be difficult for someone with limited mobility to use this park.



Southside Skate Park		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	Yes	Fair
Parking	Yes	Poor
Open Play Area	Yes	Good
Sport Facilities	Basketball, Skate Park	Good
Playground Equipment	No	
Benches	Yes	Poor
Picnic Tables	Yes	Good
Picnic Shelter	Yes	Good
Grills	No	
Public Restrooms	Porta Potty	Fair
Trash Receptacles	Yes	Good
Accessibility Rating	1	

Red Woolfe Park

Red Woolfe Park & Beach is owned and maintained by the Village of Decatur and is located on Lake of the Woods at the end of Pine Street. The Park is open from dusk to dawn, early spring through late fall. The Pavilion can be reserved up to a year in advance by calling the Village Hall. The gate is locked before and after hours and no admittance after hours is permitted.



The park offers swings and playground equipment as well as a pavilion, picnic tables, stationery bar-b-que grills, a horseshoe pit, volleyball net, bike rack, benches and swimming. The park is fenced in for safety and a security system was recently installed. Public bathrooms and water are also available. The pavilion is cemented but has no electrical outlets. The park offers gravel parking with internal sidewalks connecting to the beach, pavilion and restrooms. The sidewalks do not connect to the parking lot.

Currently there are no sidewalks connecting to the volleyball court, the playground equipment or to the water's edge. The park including the parking lot and sidewalks are prone to flooding and

Red Woolfe Park		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	Yes	Good
Parking	Yes	Fair
Open Play Area	Yes	Good
Sport Facilities	Sand Volleyball	Poor
Playground Equipment	Yes	Fair - Good
Benches	Yes	Good
Picnic Tables	Yes	Good
Picnic Shelter	Yes	Fair
Grills	Yes	Poor
Public Restrooms	Yes	Poor
Trash Receptacles	Yes	Fair
Accessibility Rating	2	

create further accessibility challenges. The playgrounds do not have accessible surfaces. In April 2024, the Village submitted a grant to MDNR to fund improvements to this park.



Fire Station Park

Fire Station Park (also called Fireman’s Park and The Tennis Park) is located between M-51 (Delaware Street) at the West Village Limits, next to the Decatur-Hamilton Fire Station.

There is currently no parking lot for this park, but rather a turnaround area. This park has a small pavilion, picnic tables, playground equipment, benches, a two net tennis court (paved) and an outhouse type non-flush bathroom that is open to the public. There is an internal sidewalk network connecting the pavilion to the tennis courts and the tennis courts to the bathroom. The playground equipment at this park is quite old. Benches are located near the playground equipment to offer a spot for people to sit while supervising children playing on the equipment. The tennis courts are over twenty-five years old and in disrepair.



Fire Station Park does not have designated ADA parking spaces or a sidewalk connecting the

Fire Station Park		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	Yes	Good
Parking	Yes	Poor
Open Play Area	Yes	Good
Sport Facilities	Tennis Courts	Poor
Playground Equipment	Yes	Poor
Benches	Yes	Good
Picnic Tables	Yes	Good
Picnic Shelter	Yes	Good
Grills	No	
Public Restrooms	Yes	Poor
Trash Receptacles	Yes	Good
Accessibility Rating	1	

parking with the picnic shelter and other amenities. The bathroom is also not ADA accessible. This park does not provide barrier free accessibility. In 2024, the Village submitted a grant for the MDNR Recreation Passport program to fund improvements to this park.



Bergen Building and Property

The Village obtained the Bergen Property in 2016 which is located on three acres off School Street between Eli Street and George Street. The building was built in 1920 and has 35,800 sq. ft of space under roof and masonry construction. The building served as the community's first



school building exclusively for high school students, which at the time included grades seven through twelve. After 1963 the building was renamed the Bergen building and was used for teaching elementary students grades four through six. By 2000, a new middle school was built, and the Bergen Building was used for an alternative education program until 2007. In 2024, the Village received a grant from the state to improve the building.

Bergen Building Property		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	No	
Parking	No	
Open Play Area	No	
Sport Facilities (tennis courts)	No	
Playground Equipment	No	
Benches	No	
Picnic Tables	No	
Picnic Shelter	No	
Grills	No	
Public Restrooms	No	
Trash Receptacles	No	
Accessibility Rating	1	

Hamilton Township Parks

Grange Hall



The Grange Hall is located on County Road 215 at the intersection of 84th Avenue. The Hamilton Grange was started at a meeting in the Red School in 1874. The members built the hall in 1875. The Grange Hall became the social center of the community and was where the Township meetings were held until 1999 when the new township hall was built. The grounds around the Grange Hall were the site of the Hamilton (Donnybrook) Fair. The Fair had up to 5,000 visitors each season and was active until the County Fair was established in

Hartford in 1913. The general-purpose room has a capacity of 110. There is a seasonal portable restroom available outside the Grange Hall along with restrooms inside.

The Grange Hall offers a sidewalk ramp into the building but without paved accessible parking or a sidewalk leading to the ramp, so accessibility is limited. The Township also owns 80 acres across the street from Grange Hall. Twenty-two acres are upland with the remaining acreage wetlands.

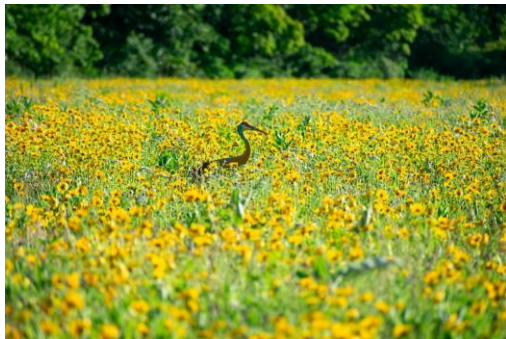


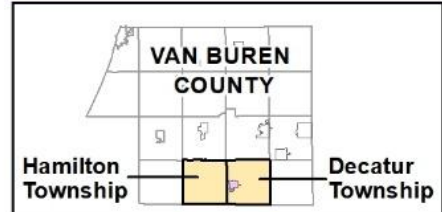
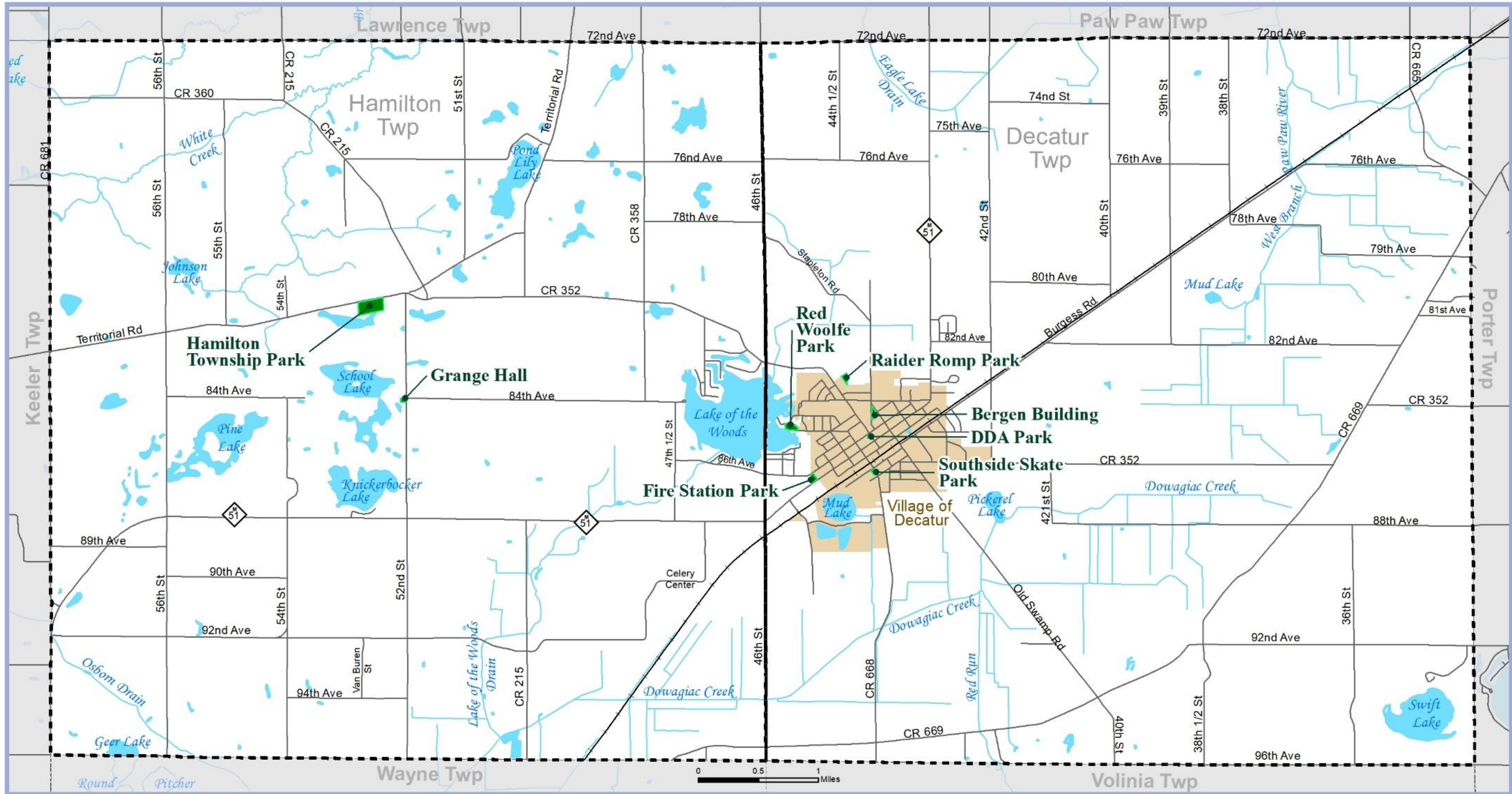
Grange Hall		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	Yes	Fair
Parking	Yes	Poor
Open Play Area	Yes	Good
Sport Facilities	No	
Playground Equipment	No	
Benches	No	
Picnic Tables	Yes	Good
Picnic Shelter	Yes	Good
Grills	No	
Public Restrooms (inside Hall & Porta Potty outside)	Yes	Good
Trash Receptacles	Yes	Good
Accessibility Rating	2	

Hamilton Township Property

The Hamilton Township Property is 12.5 acres, located directly next to the Township Hall located on Territorial Road. A partnership between the Township and the Van Buren Conservation District was formed to design an oak prairie restoration area filled with wildflowers as part of a project to create an educational trail for the public to enjoy. This property has been seeded with native prairie, and there are plans to implement an accessible trail throughout the prairies with educational signage about the benefits of native species and pollinators.

Hamilton Township Property		
Amenity	Yes/No	Condition
Signage	Yes	Good
Parking	Yes	Good
Open Play Area	No	
Sport Facilities	No	
Playground Equipment	No	
Benches	No	
Picnic Tables	No	
Picnic Shelter	No	
Grills	No	
Public Restrooms	No	
Trash Receptacles	No	
Accessibility Rating		2





- Legend**
- Park
 - Township
 - Water
 - Village



PARKS

Decatur & Hamilton Township Village of Decatur

Data Sources
 Base Map: Michigan Center for Geographic Information Framework17v
 Parks: SWMPC 2024

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
www.swmpc.org

The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.

August 13, 2024 Fig05_ParksTwp

Other Public Parks and Recreational Opportunities

Baseball Diamonds and Football Fields

Baseball diamonds and football fields are located between Edgar Bergen Blvd. and Austin Blvd. at the school complex. The fields are owned and maintained by the Decatur Public Schools with help in the summer from the youth program. The Decatur Youth Group sponsors sports programs in baseball and rocket football for children ages 5 to 12.



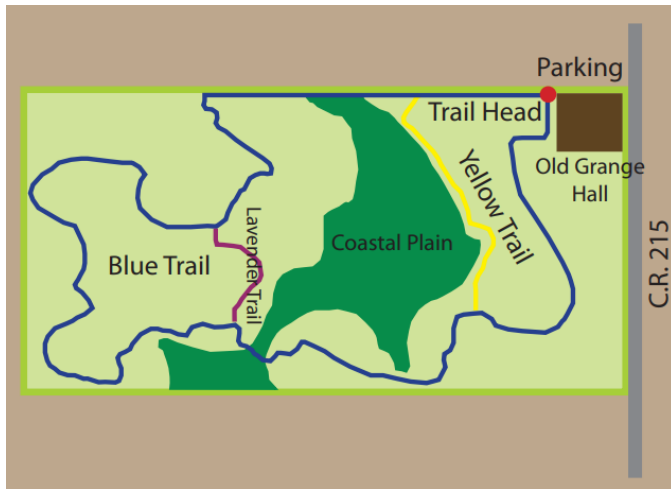
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake of the Woods Boat Launch

The Michigan DNR provides a public boat launch at Lake of the Woods. It is located on the west side of the lake off of 84th Avenue in Hamilton Township and offers 15 parking spaces and restroom facilities. The ramp is hard surfaced and suitable for launching medium-sized watercraft.



Michigan Nature Association (MNA) Phillips Family Memorial Nature Sanctuary

The trailhead for the Sanctuary is located at the Grange Hall (Hamilton Township) on County Road 215 at the intersection of 84th Avenue. This 79-acre sanctuary is home to many rare and unusual plants and has approximately two miles of nature trails. It is one of only three MNA sanctuaries protecting coastal plain marshes. www.michigannature.org/



Van Buren Conservation District’s Hayden Woods

Hayden Woods is located on 56th Street in Hamilton Township and is owned by Van Buren County Soil Conservation District. It is open to the public.

Private Facilities

Forest Haven Campground

Forest Haven Campground is located on 70 acres and features 100 full hookup sites and 10 tent sites with electricity. They are located at 40851 CR 669 in Decatur. <https://campforesthaven.com/>

Lake of the Woods & Greenwood Camps

Summer camp programs are offered for both boys and girls. These programs are open to children ages 6 to 15 and are offered in 2-, 4-, and 8-week lengths during the summer. They are located at 84600 47 ½ Street in Decatur. www.lwgcgwc.com/

Timber Trails RV Park

Timber Trails is a rustic family campground on Lake of the Woods that offers 162 full hookup sites and 16 pull thru sites for large rigs. They are open May 1 – September 30 and are located at 84981 47 ½ Street in Decatur. www.timbertrailsvrpark.com/

Oak Shores Campground

Oak Shores features 281 campsites for tents to full hookups on the shores of Knickerbocker Lake. Cottages, cabins, and park models are also available for rent. The campground is open April 15 – October 15 and is located at 86232 County Road 215 in Decatur. oakshorescampground.com/

Non-Motorized Transportation

As a long-term strategy, the construction of a bicycle/walkway system that connects the parks and points of interest in the Decatur Area fits with the overall desire for a regional non-motorized pathway system throughout the Southwestern Michigan Planning Area. This desire has been expressed in regional strategies, county recreation plans and even in other local 5-year recreation plans.

On-road facilities are part of the roadway design and transportation network. On-road facilities include paved shoulders and bicycle lanes. Minimum widths are based on the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) 1999 standards. Paved shoulders should be at least 4 feet or greater on each side of the roadway. Bicycle lanes should be at least 5 feet or greater on each side of the roadway.

Complete Streets are roadways that are planned and designed to accommodate all transportation modes, including pedestrians and bicyclists. The process of achieving complete streets can involve planning and field surveys to identify where barriers exist to non-motorized travel and addressing those challenges. It often requires new relationships and partnerships between different levels of government to address funding and maintenance agreements between units of government. In a move that will make transportation in Michigan more multi-modal, the House and Senate passed Complete Streets legislation (HB 6151 & HB 6152) in August 2010 that strengthens the lines of communication between road agencies and local units of government regarding transportation projects and takes into consideration the needs of all users.

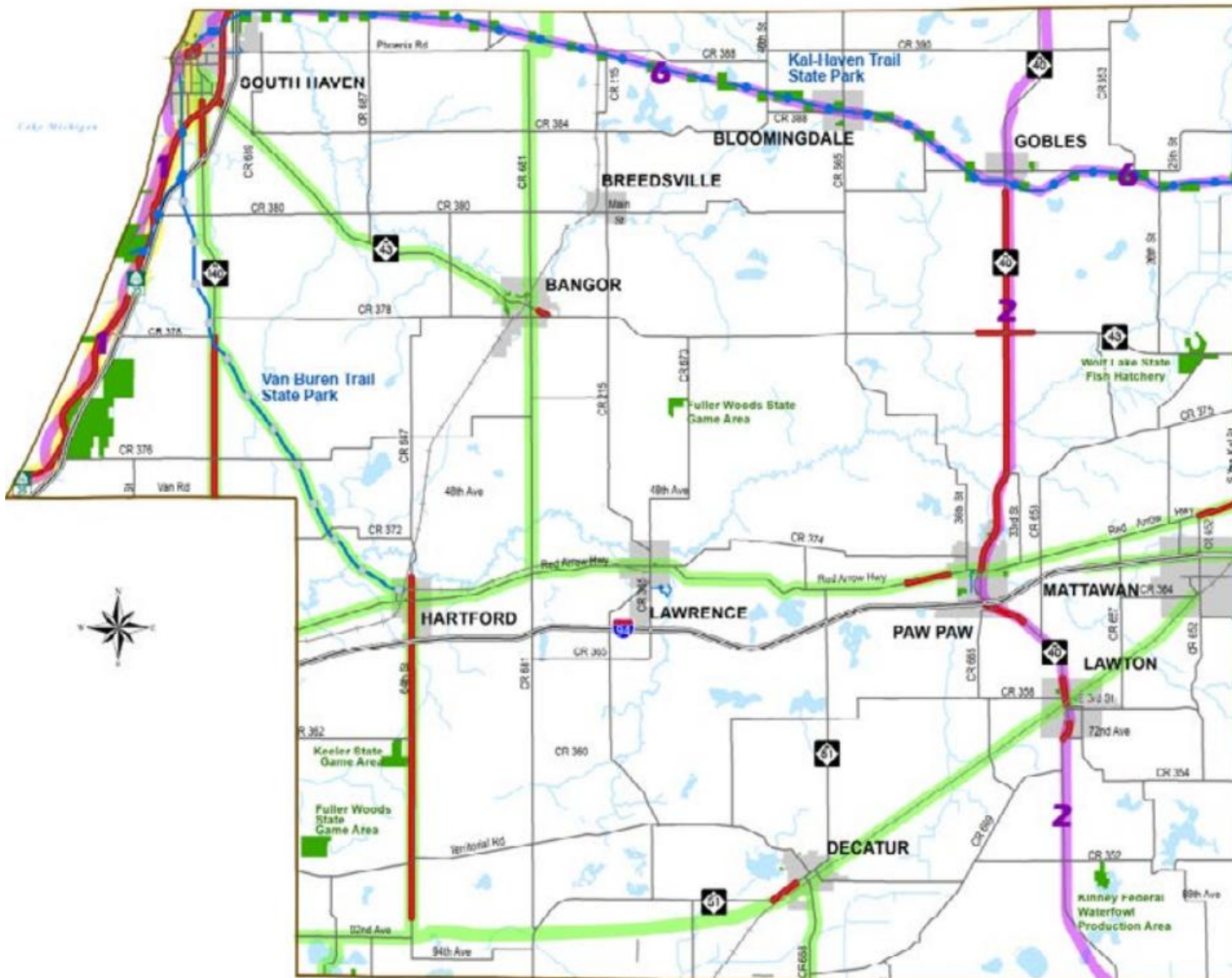
There are many specific ways to improve non-motorized transportation:

- Add and improve existing sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Correct specific roadway hazards to non-motorized transport (sometimes called “spot improvement” programs).
- Improve non-motorized maintenance.
- Utilize universal design concepts when designing facilities (transportation systems that accommodate people with disabilities and other special needs).
- Include amenities such as bicycle parking, streetscape improvements, street furniture (e.g., benches), and Public Bike Sharing Systems (PBS), which are automated bicycle rental systems designed to provide efficient mobility for short, utilitarian urban trips.
- Increase safety with traffic calming, traffic speed reductions, vehicle restrictions, and road space reallocation.

- Provide safety education, law enforcement, and encouragement programs.
- Address security concerns of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Develop kiosks and multi-modal access guides, which include maps and other information on how to walk and cycle to a particular destination.

Off-road facilities include shared-use paths which accommodate multiple non-motorized users (mainly pedestrians and bicyclists) and have a minimum 10-foot width (based on AASHTO standards). Shared-use paths frequently follow green spaces, abandoned rail beds or might be adjacent to natural features like rivers. Due to their separation from vehicular traffic, they provide a popular alternative means of travel for many types of users. Often, unpaved/unimproved paths are more popular with hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians and are more often used for recreation and not as much for transportation. Shared-use paths must be at least 10 feet wide. Surface types are either improved (paved or crushed stone) or unimproved.

The following is a map from the 2020 MDOT Southwest Region Nonmotorized Transportation Plan which shows proposed local nonmotorized corridors through Decatur connecting to Cassopolis, Lawton/Mattawan and Benton Harbor. See full plan here <https://www.swmpc.org/bikeped.asp>



VAN BUREN COUNTY

PROPOSED NON-MOTORIZED NETWORK

- REGIONAL CORRIDORS**
- 1 LAKESHORE/USBR 35
 - 2 M-40
 - 6 GREAT LAKE TO LAKE TRAILS

LOCAL CORRIDORS

- Green line

EXISTING NON-MOTORIZED NETWORK

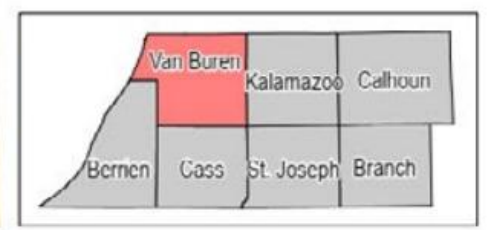
- Red line: >= 4FT SHOULDER OR BIKE LANE
- Yellow line: U.S. BICYCLE ROUTE 35

BICYCLE AND SHARED USE PATHS

- Improved Shared Use Regional Path (Paved or Crushed Finas)
- Unimproved Shared Use Regional Path (Gravel or Dirt)
- Local Shared Use Path

BASE LAYERS

- MAIN ROAD
- LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAY
- RAILROAD
- COUNTY
- CITY AND VILLAGE
- PARK
- WATER



Previous Grant-Assisted Parks

The Village of Decatur has been fortunate to be the recipient of previous Grant Assistance for three different park projects. These projects have been the bathhouse/restroom project at Red Woolfe Park (Project Number 26-01060 L3), Fire Station Park (Project Number BF89-102), and the Southside Park Skateboard Park (Project Number 26-014648). All told, the Village of Decatur has received over \$96,000 in grant assistance for the development of Parks and Recreation. Post-Completion, Self-Certification Report Forms are on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The Red Woolfe Park Bathhouse/Restroom project was completed in 1979. The project was to demolish and remove the existing bathhouse and to construct a new bathhouse with restrooms and changing facilities. The building also has the capacity to serve as a concession stand during the time that the park is open.

The Fire Station Park Project was rather comprehensive. Completed in 1989, the project was to develop a community park for both active and passive recreation. The project included the development of tennis courts, playground equipment, a picnic area and a pavilion. The roughly twenty-five years since installation have taken a toll on the tennis courts and they are in poor condition. The playground equipment, though outdated, is generally in good repair. The picnic area remains in good condition.

The Southside Skateboard Park was originally planned to be built in two phases. The first phase was completed with the assistance of DNR Grant Funds. This phase consisted of creating the skateboard park section of the park. This was completed in 2005 and remains in good condition. Phase two consisted of the construction of basketball courts and was completed in 2009.

Planning Process

Previously, the Village of Decatur had a Community Parks and Recreation Plan in 2015, 2003, and 1998. The Village and Townships developed a joint plan in 2020, and this update continues to be a joint effort. Representatives from the three communities reviewed the 2020 plan to discuss projects that have been completed and projects still needing implementation. On July 15, 2024, a joint meeting was held with representatives from Decatur Township, Hamilton Township, and Decatur Village to review and update the inventory, goals and objectives and action plan.

Also, as described in the Recreation Inventory, the current condition of Village and Township facilities was assessed. This information was then discussed at the joint meeting and utilized, along with the information gathered through the survey, to assess the Strengths and Weaknesses of the parks and recreation opportunities. This information, as well as specific demographic information, was then used to help revise the goals and improvement projects for Village and Township Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Public input is an important aspect of the planning process. Not only does gathering public input help guide the development of the plan but it also helps develop a sense of ownership of the plan with the public. Several methods of public engagement were utilized in updating the recreation plan. The first method of soliciting public input was through the Decatur Downtown Development Authority survey. The results were reviewed and below are results from three questions. For further information on the DDA survey, please refer to the 2023 Decatur DDA Plan's in the appendix.

Below are some survey results relating to Parks and Recreation.

Question 1 of Decatur's DDA survey asked respondents to rank which aspects contribute most to their quality of life.

- 14.02% said recreational opportunities were the highest priority to their quality of life.
- 39.25% said recreational opportunities were the second highest priority to their quality of life.
- 31.78% said the recreational opportunities were third highest priority to their quality of life.

- 14.95% said the recreational opportunities were fourth highest priority to their quality of life.

Question 12 asked respondents to rank improvements by priority.

Responses are as follows.

- Upgrading existing park amenities is the highest priority.
- Expanding the park system is the second highest priority.
- Expanding availability of public waterfront/beach access is third highest priority.
- Trail connectivity throughout the community is the fourth highest priority.
- Sidewalk connectivity throughout the community is the third lowest priority.
- Youth sports field are the second lowest priority.
- Planting new trees is the lowest priority.

Question 20 asked respondents to rank potential improvements to Downtown Decatur by priority.

Responses are as follows:

- Economic development is the highest priority.
- Recreation improvements are the second highest priority.
- Physical improvements are the third highest priority.
- Housing improvements are the third lowest priority.
- Transportation improvements are the second lowest priority.

A draft plan was developed and posted on the Village of Decatur's website, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission's website, and paper copies were available for public review at the Village Hall and the Webster Memorial Branch Library in downtown Decatur. The public review period lasted for 30 days and a public meeting was held prior to the adoption of the plan by the Village Council and Township Boards.

Goals and Objectives

The Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed and updated the strengths and weaknesses listed in the 2020 Village Community Parks and Recreation Plan. The goals are formulated based on the understanding of these strengths and weaknesses and therefore have a better probability of being achieved.

Strengths:

- 1. Strong Relationships** The number one strength of the Decatur-Hamilton Community is the strong relationships between the Village, the two townships and the different community organizations. These strong relationships are critical for developing successful partnerships and for the ability to improve and develop recreational opportunities.
- 2. Good Distribution of Parks** The Village of Decatur currently maintains five major parks. In a Village that covers less than 1.5 square miles the ability to provide parks that serve nearly all the residents is a strength.
- 3. Hamilton Township Property and Grange Hall** The Hamilton Township owned property offers the opportunity for a diverse array of passive and active recreational opportunities. Additionally, this property has significant historical and cultural ties in the community. This property can offer community members more of a “nature experience” than the Village parks can offer because of its size and natural features.
- 4. The Public Beach** The Village operates the only public beach on Lake of the Woods. This public beach is an unique and significant asset for public recreation in the community.

Weaknesses:

- 1. Age and Condition of Facilities** A major weakness is the current age and condition of many of the recreation facilities. Many amenities are over 20-30 years old and are in need of significant upgrades and improvements in accessibility.
- 2. Lack of Funding** The available funding currently for Parks and Recreation is also a weakness as there is not currently enough money available to make significant upgrades and to increase the maintenance of the parks as they require due to their age.

These strengths and weaknesses give another perspective with which to formulate goals and objectives for this Community Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan.

With all the information that has been collected, analyzed, and discussed, the following three major goals were developed to guide the operation and development of Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs within the next five years in the Decatur-Hamilton Community.

Goal #1: Increase maintenance of municipal owned parks and recreation facilities to provide safe and enjoyable opportunities for the community.

Objective: Keep the 5-year recreation plan up to date.

- a. Involve the public in recreation planning and implementation.
- b. Prioritize recreation improvements and acquisitions and identify potential funding sources.

Objective: Increase satisfaction with maintenance of facilities.

- a. Utilize resident/user surveys to measure satisfaction of parks and park maintenance.

Objective: Increase maintenance in all parks based on objective measures.

- a. Create Park Maintenance Review forms that focus on safety and landscaping to utilize for random inspections at parks.

Goal #2: Enhance and improve existing facilities at parks to meet the needs and desires of the community.

Objective: Utilize the principles of universal design so that facilities are available to persons of all ages and abilities.

- a. Review accessibility scores in this plan and develop plans and budgets to make improvements.

Objective: Increase the lighting throughout the parks to improve security.

Goal #3: Increase opportunities for recreation.

Objective: Develop a system of pedestrian and bicycling trails to connect residential areas, parks, and points of interest.

- a. Increase bike racks in downtown parks and at the library.

Objective: Develop at least one indoor recreation opportunity to provide recreational options during the winter months.

Objective: Expand the recreational opportunities at Hamilton Township property.

Objective: Purchase additional property for parks and recreation as opportunities arise.

- a. If suitable property becomes available, the communities should evaluate it for recreational purposes and consider purchasing it to expand recreational opportunities.

Action Program

The action program lists specific projects that were identified during the planning process. The projects listed below will help the community achieve or work towards the goals and objectives of this plan. Many of the items listed below address ADA and universal design upgrades that are needed in many of the parks.

General Items

- Develop comprehensive development plans for parks that include upgrades for improved accessibility and with the goal of universal design.
- Expand funding for parks and recreation.
 - Work collaboratively on a millage to support maintenance and improvements to parks.
 - Write grants and fundraise.
- Improve maintenance of current facilities.
- Improve nonmotorized network.
 - Identify appropriate facilities (paved shoulders, sharrows, sidewalks, multiuse paths, etc) and prioritize county and village roads for nonmotorized improvements.
 - Add bike racks to all park locations.
- Purchase available property for expanding recreational opportunities.
- Update 5-year joint recreation plan.
 - The three jurisdictions should meet at least once a year to discuss opportunities, plans and funding of park improvements.

The following lists specific projects/improvements for each park that will help the community meet the plan's goal and objectives.

DDA Park

High priority improvements identified for the DDA Park include replacing bricks to be ADA accessible, adding a bike rack, repairing sidewalk for ADA compliance, community garden and improved landscaping using MSU Extension. Other ideas included lighting, a porch swing, and a picnic area.

Raider Romp

High priority improvements identified for Raider Romp include an accessible playground surface, adding shade structures for the playground and sitting area. Other ideas included additional seating, water fountain, basketball court, soccer fields, softball field, nature play spaces and a rock-climbing wall.

Fire Station Park

A site plan has been developed (see appendix) and the Village submitted a MDNR Recreation Passport grant in April 2024. If funded, that project would include the following items:

- Renovated paved parking lot with two ADA/van accessible parking spots.
- Renovated ADA accessible walking paths connecting parking lot to all Park amenities.
- Renovated sport courts; converting tennis courts to pickleball courts.
- New sport courts fence and ADA compliant gates.
- New ADA accessible drinking fountain with bottle filler and pet bowl.
- New ADA accessible benches with companion seating.
- Native plantings and landscaping.
- Pavilion painting.

Other desired improvements include new ADA accessible playground equipment and renovating the existing vault toilets.

Southside Skate Park

High priority improvements for Southside Skate Park include paved accessible parking spaces, permanent restrooms, adding a sidewalk network to all park amenities and lighting. Other ideas include a water fountain, additional trash cans and a graffiti wall.

Red Wolfe

A site plan has been developed (see appendix) and the Village submitted a MDNR Natural Resources Trust Fund grant in April 2024. If funded, that project would include the following items:

- New evergreen buffer at both south and west edge of the property along fence line.
- New native habitat proposed to be located on the west side of property.
- New ADA accessible splash pad proposed to be located on the west side of property.

- New ADA accessible seating areas proposed to be located at several locations on the west side of property.
- New trash and recycle bins proposed to be located on the west side of property.
- New “foot shower” and drinking fountain proposed to be located on the west side of property.
- New ADA accessible route connecting parking lot area to beach and kayak launch, splash pad and concession stand / restroom area.
- New kayak rack and kayak launch proposed to be located on the southwest corner of property.
- Expanding existing beach area further northwest of property.

Other improvements desired include a new paved, ADA accessible parking area and new restrooms and concession stand. Further, many people are interested in extending the hours/season to allow for ice fishing and other activities. Other high priority improvements include adding accessible playground surfacing and a bike rack. In the future, paddleboat, paddleboard and kayak rentals may be considered. Other ideas include new grills and vending machines.

Bergen Building Property

High priority improvements include ensuring its structural integrity through roof replacement and tuckpointing which will be accomplished with a grant the Village received from the state. Desired improvements include an indoor pickleball court, a dog park, indoor recreation space, and a community gathering space.

Hamilton Township Grange Hall

High priority improvements included paved accessible parking spots and adding a sidewalk ramp, a unisex bathroom and bike rack.

Hamilton Township Property

High priority improvements include constructing a ¼-mile crushed limestone walking path, benches, interpretive signage and a bike rack.

The following list contains projects/improvements that are not tied to a specific existing park. These projects and improvements will help the community meet the plan’s goals and objectives.

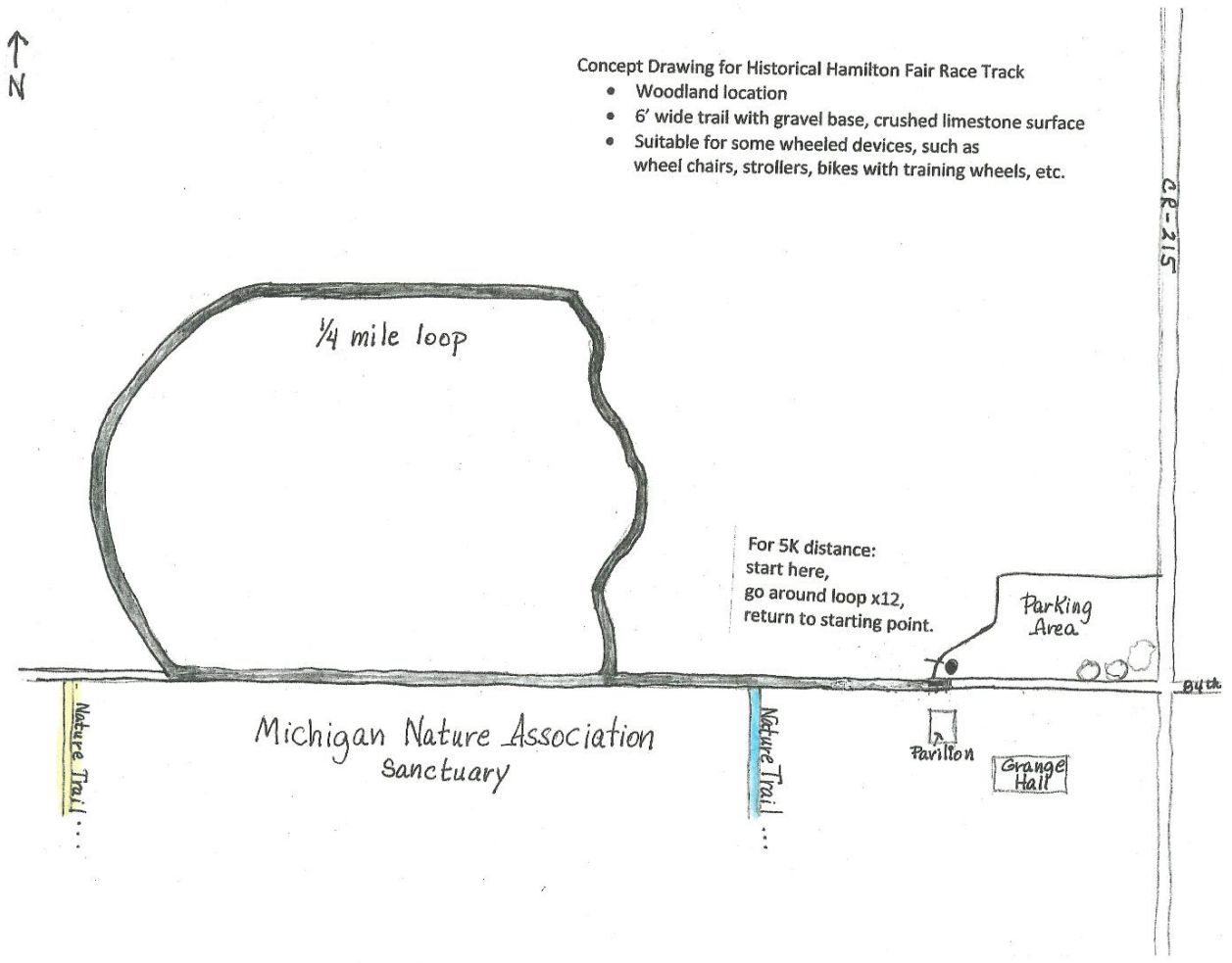
High priority improvements include a dog park, more nature trails, improve the non-motorized facilities/network, implement trail/paved shoulders to connect Oak Shores Campground to Grange Hall along CR 215 and along 84th Ave and into town to the MDNR lake access.

Medium to high priority improvements include adding soccer fields and bike paths.

Other ideas include offering indoor recreation opportunities, constructing a bandstand, ice skating rink and a community swimming pool.

Appendix A Hamilton Township Property Concept

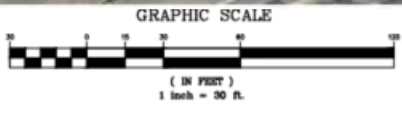
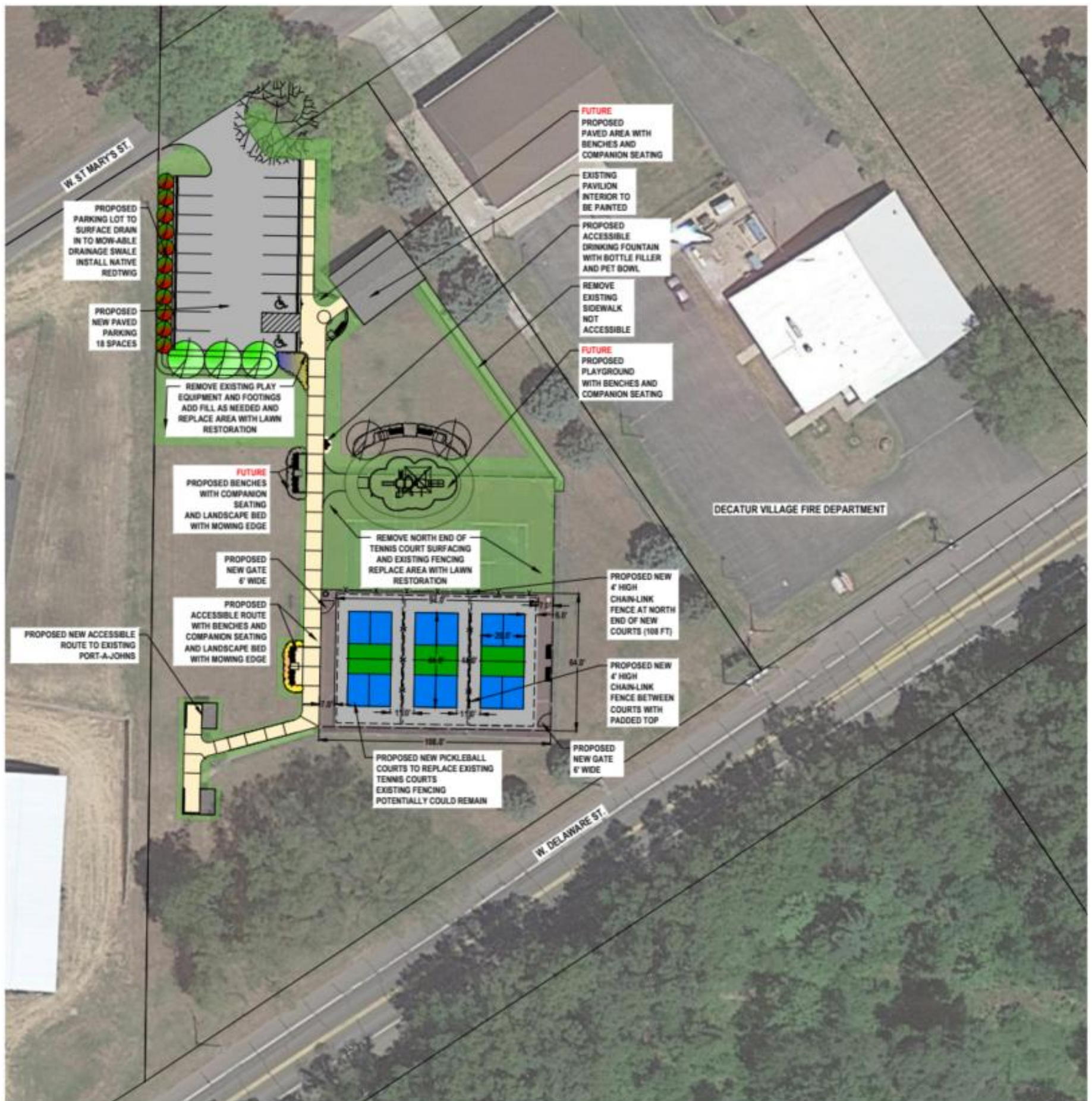
Hamilton Township owns 80-acres across from Grange Hall. The concept is to develop a walking track on the property which would use a portion of the harness racing track that was used prior to 1913. The distance would be measured so it could be used for walking/running one-quarter mile and 5K. A surface of smooth crushed limestone would allow access by wheelchairs, strollers, tricycle and tike bikes. The plan would also include benches and interpretive signage on the site's natural features and history.



Appendix B Red Woolfe Park Site Plan



Appendix C Fire Station Park Upgrades



Appendix D Post Completion Reports



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

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: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Village of Decatur - Van Buren County

PROJECT NUMBER: BF89-102 PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Fire Station Park

PROJECT SCOPE: (see comment section)

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)		
Name of Agency (Grantee)	Village of Decatur - Van Buren County	Contact Person Christopher Tapper Title Village Manager
Address	114 N. Phelps Street	Telephone
City, State, ZIP	Decatur, MI 49045	Email ctapper@decaturmi.us
SITE DEVELOPMENT		
Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s).		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
GENERAL	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site? Open All Year	
COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)	
Project Scope included 2 tennis courts, benches, landscaping, ovens, picnic tables, playground equipment, shelter, vault toilet.	
Pending grant funding for improvements	

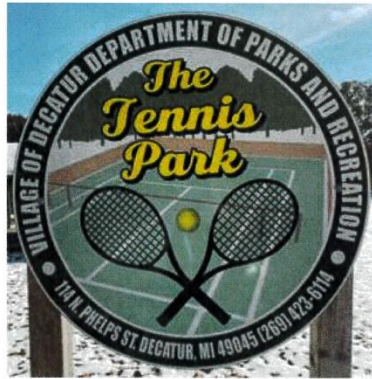
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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>Christopher Tapper</u> Please print	<u></u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>10/24/2024</u> Date
<u>Amber C. Osha</u> Please print	<u></u> Witness Signature	<u>10/24/2024</u> Date

Please be sure to upload the completed Post Completion Report and plaque photographs to the 5-Year Recreation Plan in MiGrants.





Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

**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: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Village of Decatur - Van Buren County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01060 L3

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Woolfe Park Bathhouse/Restrooms

PROJECT SCOPE: demolition of existing bathhouse, construct new bathhouse and restrooms

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)		
Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Village of Decatur - Van Buren County	Christopher Tapper	Village Manager
Address	Telephone	
114 N. Phelps Street		
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Decatur, MI 49045	ctapper@decaturmi.us	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes No
Recently installed security cameras

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

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?

Sunrise-Sunset, Memorial Day until Labor Day

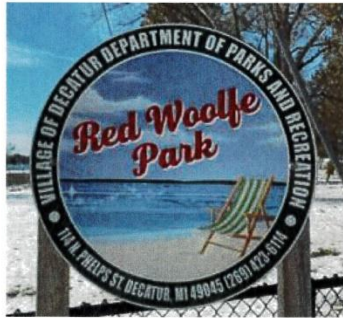
COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Pending grants for future improvements

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<p><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></p>		
<p><i>Christopher Tappan</i></p> <hr/> <p>Please print</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <hr/> <p>Grantee Authorized Signature</p>	<p><i>10/24/24</i></p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>
<p><i>Amber C Osha</i></p> <hr/> <p>Please print</p>	<p><i>Amber C Osha</i></p> <hr/> <p>Witness Signature</p>	<p><i>10/24/2024</i></p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>

Please be sure to upload the completed Post Completion Report and plaque photographs to the 5-Year Recreation Plan in MiGrants.





Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

**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: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Village of Decatur - Van Buren County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01648 **PROJECT TYPE:** Development

PROJECT TITLE: Southside Park Skateboard Park

PROJECT SCOPE: (see comment section)

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) Village of Decatur - Van Buren County	Contact Person Christopher Tapper	Title Village Manager
Address 114 N. Phelps Street	Telephone	
City, State, ZIP Decatur, MI 49045	Email ctapper@decaturmi.us	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. Yes 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. Yes No
on fence but not roadside

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

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes 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
every day

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?
memorial day- Snowfall

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Scope items: fencing, site work, skate park (including equipment,) signage.
Temporary restrooms

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>Christopher Tapper</u> Please print	<u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>10/24/24</u> Date
<u>Amber C. Osha</u> Please print	<u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Witness Signature	<u>10/24/2024</u> Date

Please be sure to upload the completed Post Completion Report and plaque photographs to the 5-Year Recreation Plan in MiGrants.



Appendix E Adoption Documents

Joint Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR JOINT RECREATION PLAN

The Village of Decatur, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township will hold a public comment period ending with a public hearing at 4:15 PM on January 16, 2025 at Decatur Village Hall, 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045.

The purpose of the comment period and public hearing is to invite and hear comments on the Proposed Joint Recreation Plan for Decatur Village, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township. At the hearing, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.

If you cannot attend the public hearing, written comments can be sent to hamiltonm@swmpc.org or mailed to Decatur Village, 114 N. Phelps, Decatur, MI 49045 and must be received before January 16, 2025.

The proposed plan can be reviewed at the Decatur Village Hall, Decatur Township Hall, Hamilton Township Hall and at the Webster Memorial Library during business hours. The plan can also be reviewed online at <https://www.swmpc.org/decham.asp>.

**Decatur Township Planning Commission
Hamilton Township Planning Commission
Village of Decatur Planning Commission**

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan
County of Van Buren

R. Michael Wilcox, being duly sworn, says he is one of the principal clerks of the Courier-Leader, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in said counties. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit: 12/19

R. Michael Wilcox
R. Michael Wilcox

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

20 day of December A.D. 2024

Arteria C. Taylor
Arteria C. Taylor

Notary Public, State of Michigan,
County of Saint Joseph

My commission expires 05/11/2030

WILCOX NEWSPAPERS, LLC
DBA WILCOX NEWSPAPERS
P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010 - (269) 657-5080

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Planning Commissions for Decatur Village, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township will hold a public comment period ending with a public hearing at 4:00 PM on January 16, 2025 at Decatur Village Hall, 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045.

The purpose of the comment period and public hearing is to invite and hear comments on the Proposed Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for Decatur Village, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township. At the hearing, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.

If you cannot attend the public hearing, written comments can be sent to hamiltonm@swmpc.org or mailed to Decatur Village, 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045 and must be received before January 16, 2025.

The proposed plan can be reviewed at the Decatur Village Hall, Decatur Township Hall, Hamilton Township Hall and at the Webster Memorial Library during business hours. The plan can also be reviewed online at <https://www.swmpc.org/decham.asp>.

Decatur Township Planning Commission
Hamilton Township Planning Commission
Village of Decatur Planning Commission

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE FOR JOINT RECREATION
PLAN**

The Village of Decatur, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township will hold a public comment period ending with a public hearing at 4:15 PM on January 16, 2025 at Decatur Village Hall, 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045.

The purpose of the comment period and public hearing is to invite and hear comments on the Proposed Joint Recreation Plan for Decatur Village, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township. At the hearing, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.

If you cannot attend the public hearing, written comments can be sent to hamiltonm@swmpc.org or mailed to Decatur Village, 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045 and must be received before January 16, 2025.

The proposed plan can be reviewed at the Decatur Village Hall, Decatur Township Hall, Hamilton Township Hall and at the Webster Memorial Library during business hours. The plan can also be reviewed online at <https://www.swmpc.org/decham.asp>.

**Decatur Township Planning Commission
Hamilton Township Planning Commission
Village of Decatur Parks & Recreation Committee**

Resolution of Adoption - Village of Decatur

VILLAGE OF DECATUR

COUNTY OF VAN BUREN

STATE OF MICHIGAN

**RESOLUTION 2025-002: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE JOINT COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN:
VILLAGE OF DECATUR, DECATUR TOWNSHIP, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, a plan which addresses the future use and development of parks and recreation areas has been developed for Decatur Village, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township with the assistance of a planning committee consisting of representatives from each municipality and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and

WHEREAS, the planning process included public input opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the plan has been developed to meet the recreational needs (based on data and public input) of the community, and

WHEREAS, a 30-day public comment period and a public hearing to take comments on the plan were held.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY MICHIGAN, THAT:

The Decatur Village Council hereby adopts the Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, Hamilton Township.

AYES: Trustee Beute, President Pro Tem Jackson, Trustee Janssen, Trustee Pachner, Trustee Pelfrey, President Elwaer

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Mead Jr.


ABSTAINING:


RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolved this 27th day of January, 2025:

Ali Elwaer, Village President

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk & Treasurer





CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

I, Megan Duncan, Clerk & Treasurer of the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and complete copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, at a Special Meeting held January 27, 2025.

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk & Treasurer



Resolution of Adoption – Decatur Township

RESOLUTION 2025-1: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE JOINT COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN:

DECATUR TOWNSHIP, VILLAGE OF DECATUR, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, a plan which addresses the future use and development of parks and recreation areas has been developed for Decatur Village, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township with the assistance of a planning committee consisting of representatives from each municipality and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and

WHEREAS, the planning process included public input opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the plan has been developed to meet the recreational needs (based on data and public input) of the community, and

WHEREAS, a 30-day public comment period and a public hearing to take comments on the plan were held.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY MICHIGAN, THAT:

The Decatur Township Board hereby adopts the Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Decatur Township, Village of Decatur, and Hamilton Township.

AYES: Kevin Kusmack, Julie McKee, Katelin Makay, Zach Polomick

NAYS: Josh Hunsberger

ABSENT: Ø

ABSTAINING: Ø

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolved this 27th day of January 2025:

Kevin Kusmack, Decatur Township Supervisor: Kevin F. Kusmack

Julie McKee, Decatur Township Clerk: Julie McKee

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

I, Julie McKee, Clerk of Decatur Township, Van Buren County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and complete copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Township Board of Decatur, Michigan, at a Special Meeting held January 27, 2025.

Julie McKee Decatur Township Clerk: Julie McKee

Resolution of Adoption – Hamilton Township

Hamilton Township, Van Buren County, Michigan

**A Resolution to Adopt the
Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Village of Decatur, Decatur
Township, Hamilton Township**

Whereas, a plan which addresses the future use and development of parks and recreation areas has been developed for Decatur Village, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township with the assistance of a planning committee consisting of representatives from each municipality and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and

Whereas, the planning process included public input opportunities, and

Whereas, the plan has been developed to meet the recreational needs (based on data and public input) of the community, and

Whereas, a 30 day public comment period and a public hearing to take comment on the plan was held.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved, the Township Board of Trustees adopts the **Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, Hamilton Township**

Yeas: *KAREN MAKAY, SANDRA HANSON, Rich Conway*

Nays: *none*

Absent: *Justin Klein, Rebecca Mott*

Abstain: *none*

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Date: *1-16-2025*

Minutes of Public Hearing – Joint Parks & Recreation Committee

Village of Decatur
Parks & Recreation Committee Joint Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 4:15 P.M.
Village Hall, 114 N. Phelps Street
Decatur, MI 49045

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Pelfrey called the meeting to order at 4:23 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Village of Decatur: Trustee Jessica Pelfrey- Chairperson, Janice Benson, Trustee Harvey Beute, Nicky Fassett (excused), Shantel Pentland- Administrative Assistant, Megan Duncan- Clerk/Treasurer (excused)

Decatur Township: Kevin Kusmack- Supervisor

Hamilton Township: Richard Conway- Supervisor, Steve Peterson, Sherry DeLoach, Karen Makay, John Young, Sandy Hanson, Bill Lawson

4. **Public Comments**

Let the record show no public comment was given.

5. **Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

5A.1 – Benson offered a motion to approve the consent agenda for January 16, 2025, with support from Beute, carried unanimously 12-0.

5A.2 – Benson offered a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 16, 2024, with support from Beute, carried unanimously 12-0.

6. **Communications- Presentations & Guest**

6A.1 – Marcy Hamilton from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission discussed the completion of the Joint Community Parks & Recreation Plan update, which includes input and feedback from all three communities. Hamilton shared that this plan is unique as a Joint Plan, and all three communities should feel proud of this accomplishment.

7. **Public Hearing**

7A.1 – Beute made a motion to exit the Joint Meeting and enter the Public Hearing to receive public comments on the Joint Community Parks & Recreation Plan at 4:28 PM, supported by Benson, carried unanimously 12-0.

Let the record show no public comment was given.

Benson made a motion to exit the Public Hearing and re-enter the Joint Meeting at 4:29 PM, supported by Beute, carried unanimously 12-0.

8. **Unfinished Business**

8A.1 – None

9. **New Business**

9A.1 – The Village of Decatur Parks and Recreation Committee, Benson, made a motion to recommend Resolution 2025-002: Joint Community Parks & Recreation Plan, to the Village Council for adoption at a Special Village Council Meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025, with support from Beute, carried unanimously 4-0.

9A.2 – Decatur Township, Kusmack, will recommend the adoption of the Joint Community Parks & Recreation Plan to the Decatur Township Board

9A.3 – Hamilton Township, Conway, made a motion for the Hamilton Township Board of Trustees to adopt the Joint Community Parks & Recreation Plan, with support from Makay, carried unanimously 7-0.

10. **Public Comments- Second Opportunity**

Let the record show no public comment was given.

11. **PRC Members Comments**

Pentland expresses gratitude and appreciation for everyone who was able to attend the Joint Meeting. Village Manager Tapper thanked everyone for their time and is looking forward to continuing work with Decatur Township and Hamilton Township in the future. Hamilton stated the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission would be happy to write letters of support for future grants and funding options.

12. **Adjournment**

Benson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m., with support from Beute, motion carried unanimously 12-0.

Minutes submitted by: Shantel Pentland, Administrative Assistant

Minutes for Adoption – Joint Meeting

Village of Decatur
Village Council Special Joint Meeting Minutes

Monday January 27, at 5:00 P.M
Village Hall, 114 N. Phelps Street
Decatur, MI 49045

I. President Elwaer called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

II. **Roll Call**

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Davis provided roll call; Trustee Beute, President Pro Tem Jackson, Trustee Janssen, Trustee Mead Jr. (excused), Trustee Pachner, Trustee Pelfrey, and President Elwaer. Also in attendance Village Manager, Christopher Tapper, Village Clerk/Treasurer, Megan Duncan, Chief of Police Thomas VanDerWoude, Administrative Assistant Shantel Pentland, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Amber Osha.

Township Supervisor Kevin Kusmack provided roll call; Trustee Hunsberger, Trustee Polomcak, Treasurer Makay, Clerk McKee, and Supervisor Kusmack.

III. **Public Comments**

a. No public comments given.

IV. **Approval of Special Meeting Agenda**

a. Trustee Pelfrey made a motion with support from President Pro Tem Jackson to approve the Special Council meeting Agenda for January 27, 2025, motion carried 6-0.

V. **Communications to the Council – Presentation & Guest**

a. Marcy Hamilton, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, wanted to thank the Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, and Hamilton Township for working together to make a Joint Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan. We should be proud of ourselves for working as a community instead of individual municipalities.

VI. **Unfinished Business – Village of Decatur Council – request to review and adopt Resolution 2025-002, Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, Hamilton Township.**

a. Trustee Pachner made a motion with support from Trustee Beute to review and adopt Resolution 2025-002, Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, Hamilton Township, Roll Call Vote, Trustee Beute, President Pro Tem Jackson, Trustee Janssen, Trustee Pachner, Trustee Pelfrey, President Elwaer all voting yes, motion carried 6-0.

VII. New Business – Decatur Township Board – Request to review and adopt Resolution 2025-001, Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, Hamilton Township.

- a. Treasurer Makay made a motion with support from Clerk McKee to review and adopt Resolution 2025-001, Joint Community Parks and Recreation Plan: Village of Decatur, Decatur Township, Hamilton Township. Roll Call Vote, Treasurer Makay, Clerk McKee, Trustee Polomcak, Supervisor Kusmack, voting yes, Trustee Hunsberger voting no, motion carried 4-1.

VIII. Public Comments

- a. No public comment given.

IX. Council Comments & Additional Public Comments

- a. Village Manager Tapper informed Village Council that both townships, Decatur and Hamilton, have decided to contribute funds to the upcoming park projects for 2025, and thanked Supervisor Kusmack, Supervisor Conway, and their boards for their generosity.

X. Adjournment

- a. Trustee Pachner made a motion with the support of Trustee Pelfrey to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 P.M., motion carried 6-0. Minutes submitted by Megan Duncan, Village Clerk/Treasurer.



January 30, 2025

Van Buren County
Administration & Land Services Building
219 Paw Paw Street, Ste 302
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Dear Ms. Ransler,

Enclosed please find a copy of the adopted Community Parks and Recreation Plan for the Village of Decatur, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township for your records. This five-year plan reflects the community's commitment to comprehensive recreational planning that includes measures to protect natural resources through responsible use and provides opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in healthful living.

Sincerely,

Marcy Hamilton

Marcy Hamilton
Senior Planner



January 30, 2025

Mr. K. John Egelhaaf, Director
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 W. Main Street, Ste 130
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Mr. Egelhaaf:

Enclosed please find a copy of the adopted Community Parks and Recreation Plan for the Village of Decatur, Decatur Township and Hamilton Township for your records. This five-year plan reflects the community's commitment to comprehensive recreational planning that includes measures to protect natural resources through responsible use and provides opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in healthful living.

Sincerely,

Marcy Hamilton

Marcy Hamilton
Senior Planner