

Five Year Community Recreation Plan 2012-2016

Casco Township, Allegan County



Plan Adopted February, 2012



Prepared by:
Casco Township Parks and
Recreation Committee
with assistance from
PM Blough, Inc.

Five Year Community Recreation Plan **2012-2016**

Casco Township, Allegan County

Township Board Members

Allan W. Overhiser-Supervisor
Julie M. Cowie-Clerk
Lu Winfrey-Treasurer
Judy Graff-Trustee
Eldon Ridley-Trustee

Parks and Recreation Committee Members

Bruce Brandon-Chair
Samuel Fleming
Judy Graff
Louis Howerton
John Johnson
Thomas Storr
Sandra Warren

Prepared by:
Casco Township Parks and
Recreation Committee
with assistance from
PM Blough, Inc.

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Community Description Section	6
Plan Jurisdiction	6
Regional Description	7
Brief History	7
Demographic Profile	8
Administrative Structure Section	9
Governmental Structure	9
Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee	9
Township Staff.	9
Park Administration.	9
Organization Chart	10
Parks Ordinance	10
Funding for Parks and Recreation	10
Relationships with School Districts.	11
Volunteer Organizations.	11
Recreation Inventory Section	12
Existing Recreational Lands and Descriptions	12
ADA Accessibility Assessment	15
MDNR Recreation Grant Inventory.	17
Resource Inventory.	18
Action Plan Section	22
Goals and Objectives	22
Priority Project List.	26
Project Location Map	27
Basis of Need Project Summaries	28
Planning Process Section	31
Tour of the Parks and Facility Inventory	31
Casco Township Community Open House	31
Public Workshop.	31
Advertisement for Public Open House and Workshop.	34
Goals and Objectives	35
Project Identification and Prioritization.	35
Development of Action Plan.	35
Development of Draft Five Year Community Recreation Plan Document ..	35
Recommendation of Draft by Parks and Recreation Committee	36
Review of Plan by the Township Board	37
Planning Commission Joint Meeting.	37
Thirty Days of Public Comment Period.	40
Public Notice of Thirty Day Public Comment and Public Hearing.	40
Minutes of Public Hearing	41

Township Board Adoption.	41
Michigan Department of Natural Resources Checklist.	42
Submittal to the MDNR.	44
Submittal to Allegan County.	45
Submittal to Regional Planning.	46

Appendices

Appendix A	2010 U.S. Census Data	48
Appendix B	Parks Ordinance	56
Appendix C	Public Hearing Minutes and Public Comments	64

Introduction

This plan, *Five Year Community Recreation Plan, 2012-2016, Casco Township*, recommended by the Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee, and adopted by the Casco Township Board, replaces the document titled, *Casco Township Recreation Plan: 2007-2011*. This plan is included by reference in the new *Casco Township Master Plan Update, 2012*. This statement of reference is included below:

PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION PLANNING

Casco Township has a Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee under the Township Board. The purpose of the Committee is to develop parks and recreation, to advise the Board on parks & recreation and to draft and maintain a five-year parks & recreation plan for the Township. The plan was developed for the period 2006-2011 and an updated plan is being developed to cover the period 2012-2016. Casco Township's Master Plan hereby includes by reference the Casco Five-Year Parks & Recreation Plan, and any future plans.

This development of this Five Year Community Recreation Plan document included public involvement and comment through the citizen advisory Parks and Recreation Commission, a public open house, a public stakeholders workshop, public comment during Parks and Recreation Committee meetings, a thirty-day public comment period, and a formal public hearing with the Township Board.

The plan document includes sections for a Community Description, an Administrative Section, Park Inventory, an Action Plan, and a description of the overall planning process in the Planning Section.

Regional Description for Casco Township

This Regional Description is as quoted from the Casco Township Master Plan:

“Casco is a blend of a strong rural/agricultural community and seasonal vacation and retirement housing along the bluffs and beaches of Lake Michigan. Although it has two major branches of the Black River and several small lakes, the Township’s seasonal housing is almost entirely on Lake Michigan. The remaining 70% of the households are located in small clusters on the west side of I-196 and scattered in the larger rural and agricultural section of the Township, east of the freeway.

Regionally, the township is located in southwest Allegan County within a relatively rural corner of Michigan. The City of South Haven is immediately south of Casco Township on Lake Michigan. South Haven, which has a permanent population of 4,400, provides public services of water supply and sanitary sewers to parts of Casco Township. The county seat is located in the City of Allegan, which is located 20 miles to the east. The closest urban centers serving Casco Township are the City of Holland, approximately 20 miles to the north, St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, 26 miles southwest; Kalamazoo, which is 45 miles east; and Grand Rapids, 59 miles northeast.

The I-196/US-31 freeway follows the coastline along Lake Michigan throughout its north-south corridor in the township. There are two interchanges in Casco Township; one in the north at 109th Avenue and one in the south at North Shore Drive. There is no other State or Federal highway in the township. County primary roads include Blue Star Memorial Highway, 66th Street, 109th Avenue, 102nd Avenue and North Shore Drive/103rd Avenue.”

Brief History

This Brief History is as quoted from the Township Master Plan:

“Michigan’s archaeological record of history generally starts after the glaciers receded about 12,000 years ago. That is also thought to be shortly after human habitation started to move east on the North American continent. Mound Builders (the mounds were graves) were probably the first Indians in Allegan County until the Ottawa, Miami and Potawatomi Indians arrived either permanently or seasonally by the 1600's.

Father Marquette may have visited somewhere on the Allegan County shoreline in 1675, but the first permanent settlers moved here, cleared the dense forest and engaged in agriculture in about 1830. The Pokagon Indians were neighbors with the new white settlers and remained active and friendly through the turn of the century. Logging, followed by farming, then removed most of the deciduous and conifer forests for lumber by 1900. Fruit production started in the 1880's and then increased in importance after the forests were harvested. Fruit production remains, but has declined with the loss of processors.

At the turn of the century the Lake Michigan shoreline began to witness development of seasonal homes, many of them for Chicago area people. This seasonal housing development and the farming business have remained the mainstay of Casco Township, but many orchards became blueberry producers and field crops became more common.

Although there are about 1,800 residences in Casco Township, many of their occupants are employed nearby in South Haven or the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant.

Even now, most tourism businesses, industry and commercial activities are located near the southern border of Casco Township in or near the City of South Haven. The construction of the I-196/US-31 freeway in the 1960's and 1970's near Casco's western border has not resulted in significant development in the township.

The community remains primarily agricultural and forested east of the Blue Star Memorial Highway with seasonal residences west of the highway to Lake Michigan. Residential development has been slow, but consistent, and continues to make Casco more of a rural residential community.

Demographic Profile

After nearly a century of population growth that peaked at 3,019 in 2000, Casco Township has experienced a small decline over the past decade. Data from the 2010 census indicates a current population of 2,823, a six percent decline since 2000. Please refer to Appendix A for a complete demographic profile of the Township based on both the 2000 and 2010 census data.

Administrative Section

The Administrative Section of the plan provides an overview of the governmental structure that provides, maintains, and administers parks and recreation facilities and activities for the Township.

Governmental Structure

Casco Township is governed by a Township Board comprised of five elected board members which include the Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer, and two Trustees. All of the positions are elected at-large by the Township residents. The Township Supervisor chairs the Township Board. The Township Board generally meets once a month on the third Monday of each month and additional meetings as required to conduct the business of the Township.

Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee

In 2010, the Casco Township Board formally approved restructuring the Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee, which had been originally established several years before this date. Created by Casco Township Board resolution, the seven member Committee serves in an advisory function to the Casco Township Board under established by-laws. The Committee is very active and meets monthly, generally on the second Tuesday of each month. The Chair of the Committee attends the monthly Casco Township Board meeting to provide updates and recommendations to the Casco Township Board. The Township Board refers recreation related items to the Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee for discussion and for recommendation back to the Casco Township Board.

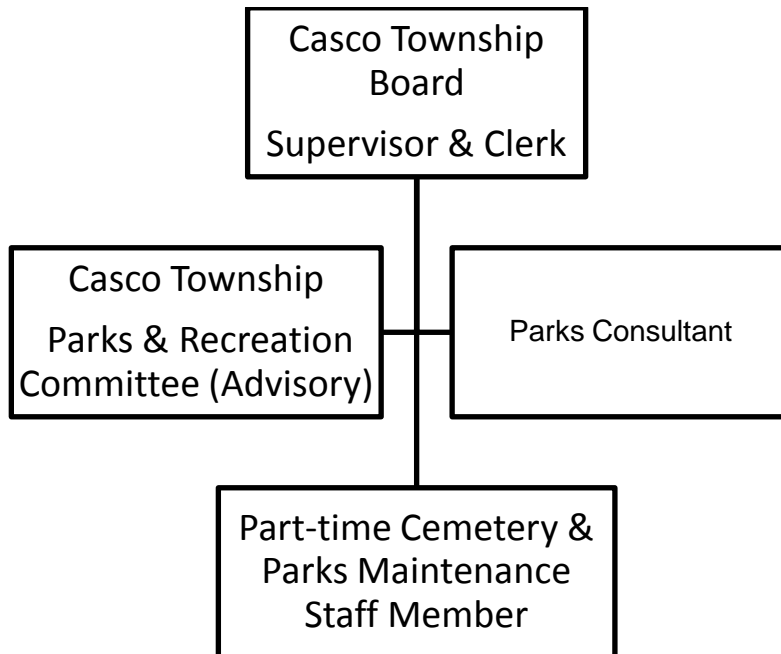
Township Staff

The Township functions with limited staff resources. All staff are part-time and positions include the Supervisor, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, three Senior Program staff members, a cemetery and parks maintenance person, an administrative assistant. Private consultants provide services for Building & Zoning, Assessing, and Parks.

Park Administration

The operation and maintenance of the Township parks and recreation lands is the responsibility of the Township Board. Day to day operations are coordinated by the Township Supervisor and the Township Clerk. A part-time maintenance staff person, who also maintains the cemeteries, provides on-site maintenance of the parks. The Township Board approves all park rules, ordinances, operation plans, development plans, property acquisitions, and special events within the park properties. Additional support for park operations and development is through the Township contracted parks consultant that provides additional expertise as requested by the Board.

Organization Chart for Parks and Recreation



Parks Ordinance

In 2011, the Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee worked through several sessions and recommended to the Board a new Parks Ordinance to provide rules for the public use of park properties within the Township. The Ordinance was approved by the Board and a copy of the Ordinance is included in the Appendix of this document

Funding for Parks and Recreation

Funding for parks and recreation is provided by a voter-approved Township millage of .25 mills for the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. Based on current taxable value, this .25 millage results in approximately \$45,000 collected for parks and recreation, operation and maintenance per year. Acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of park/recreation properties have also been supplemented by Township general funds, State grants, and private gifts.

The current fiscal year budget for Parks and Recreation is \$262,575.00. The revenue streams include approximately \$40,000 from collected millage, \$154,900 from an awarded grant for park development, and just over \$67,000 in appropriated prior fund balance. A portion of parks and recreation millage funds collected over several years have been "banked" to cover the financial match needed for the development grant awarded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; it is expected that the majority of those funds for Nature Preserve development will be expended this fiscal year.

The proposed expenditures for the current fiscal year include development of the new Casco Township Nature Preserve (budgeted at approximately \$220,000), maintenance of parks and

recreation (\$19,675), and support/administration of Parks & Recreation committee goals and activities (approximately \$20,000).

Going forward, maintenance costs for parks and recreation in the Township is estimated at approximately \$20,000/annually, and support/administration of Township Parks & Recreation plans and programs is also estimated at \$20,000/annually. A fund balance from the prior year and any additional funds collected could be put toward capital improvements and/or matches for additional grant funding.

Relationships with School Districts

Students who live within Casco Township attend South Haven Public Schools, Fennville Public Schools, or Bloomingdale Schools. The Township and the school districts cooperate in the following ways: Fennville Schools offers an indoor athletic facility (track, basketball court, and classes) with passes available for purchase by district residents and non-residents. South Haven Public Schools opens their school building for walking in winter months, and also offers use of the pool to the general public for exercise during open swim and swim lessons. The Township and South Haven Public Schools have collaborated on recreational grants including a transportation grant to fund construction of a bike path segment in Casco Township, letters of support for park acquisition and development, and partnering on the Safe Routes to Schools grant program. Volunteer-run athletic leagues engage Township residents in organized recreation, usually located on school-operated practice fields.

Volunteer Organizations

Volunteers provide a variety of benefits to Casco Township residents although the services are not administered by the Township.

The Casco Community Band, an all volunteer community organized concert band which provides a variety of concerts and musical events free of charge for residents to enjoy.

Non-profit youth athletic teams are available in the wider community and include American Youth Soccer Organization, (AYSO) soccer, West Michigan Youth Soccer Association, (WMYSA) soccer, South Haven Junior Youth Leagues (SHJYL) baseball and softball, and Rocket football and cheer.

The Friends of the Blue Star Trail provide a volunteer non-profit organization that is supporting the development of the Blue Star Trail, a paved pathway through Casco Township along the Blue Star Highway.

The South Haven Area Recreation Authority is an authority organized to provide for recreational facilities on a regional basis. The authority is developing SHARP Park which is located within Casco Township.

Recreation Inventory Section

A park inventory was completed for the development of this plan. The inventory included a review of the Casco Township owned lands, designated park lands, a Parks and Recreation Committee tour of the parks, and other appropriate assessments.

Existing Recreational Lands and Descriptions

The Township has several parcels of land designated as recreational available for public use and enjoyment. These include the following:

Casco Township Nature Preserve & Expansion

The Casco Township Nature Preserve is an eight acre natural area located on Lake Michigan. The wooded site will open for public use in 2012. A current construction project will provide a small parking lot, an ADA accessible trail loop, and outstanding views from a high bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. Other amenities will include ADA accessible picnic tables, benches, interpretive signage, and a toilet facility. Currently negotiations are taking place to purchase the property immediately north of the Preserve with an additional eleven acres of public recreational land. When purchased the goal of the new property will be to provide stairway access to the Lake Michigan beach, additional parking, and expanded picnic facilities. Together, the two properties will provide 700' of Lake Michigan beach frontage. A site master plan which includes both properties is included on the following page.

1st Street Recreational Lake Access

An eighteen foot wide access site is located at the end of 1st Street and includes a non-improved pathway and wood stairway to the Lake Michigan beach. Access to the site is by pedestrian access only. The wood stairway includes a small resting area at a landing which includes two benches.

Miami Park Beach-Currently Unimproved Park

The Township has recently purchased from the State of Michigan two lots located on the beach in Miami Park Subdivision. These lots contain a large tall bluff and the lower beach. No access between the high bluff and lower beach areas exist.

Mt. Pleasant-Currently Unimproved Park

This site is an unimproved wooded parcel located on Lake Michigan. Viewing of Lake Michigan can be enjoyed from the parcel at the top of the bluff.

Other Township Owned Undesignated Lands

Township Hall Property

The property located with the Township Hall that is currently unimproved and leased for farming.

28 Acres of Woodland

The Township retains 28 acres of undeveloped woodlands.

Casco Township Official FUTURE LAND USE MAP

May 9, 2005
Modified February 8, 2012
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

1 MILE
All Land Use Maps are subject to change.
Check with local unit for updates.

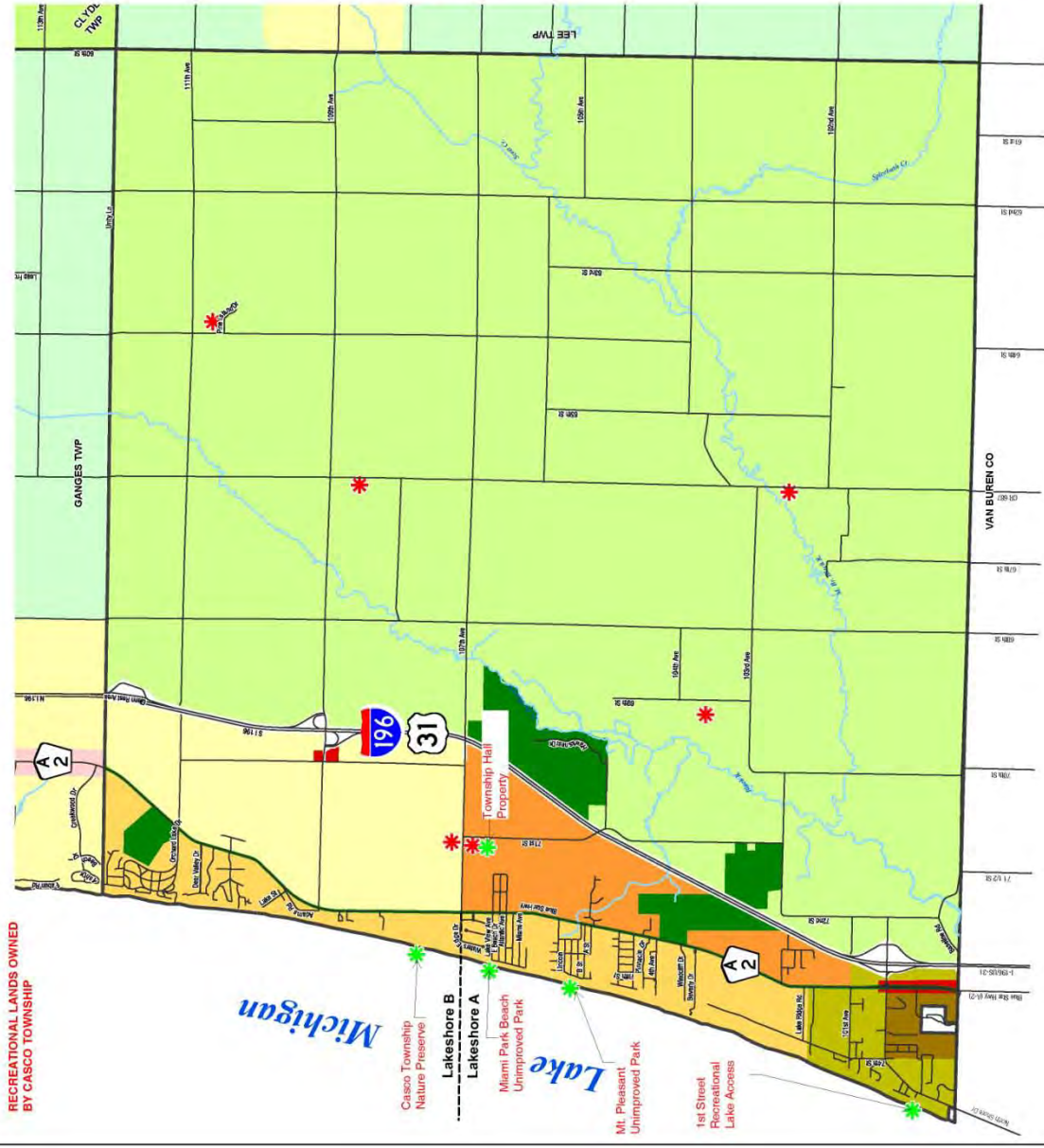
Future Land Use Designations

LAND USE DESIGNATION	ACRAGE
High-Density Residential	19,829
Medium-Density Residential	859
Low-Density Residential	854
Lakeshore Residential A & B Zones	1,188
Medium-Density Residential	360
High-Density Residential	122
Private Recreation/Open Space	671
Community Business	28
Total	24,653

- Casco Township Recreation
- Casco Township Public Facility

Generalized Land Use Designations for Adjacent Jurisdictions

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Government
- Industrial
- Open Space
- Residential
- Right of Way
- Rural
- Water



Allegan County has no jurisdiction over the land use designations shown on this map. For more information, please contact the local planning authority. Map Printed: 2/8/2012

Accessibility Assessment

The Accessibility Assessment is based on guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Below is an excerpt from the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* published Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"Recreational areas, facilities, and programs play an important role in the life of the community; therefore it is essential that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these areas and any programs provided. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and these laws apply to parks and other recreation lands and programs controlled and operated by local units of government. The DNR has a strong commitment to barrier free recreational opportunities in our Department-managed programs and facilities. This commitment extends to those communities that receive recreation grants.

Under the state Utilization of Public Facilities by the Physically Limited Act (1966 PA 1, as amended) all public facilities, including improved areas used for recreation, must meet the barrier free design requirements contained in the state construction code. Under this act, the administration and enforcement related to barrier free design requirements are vested in the local or state government agency responsible for issuing a building permit. If the project does not require a building permit, administration and enforcement of barrier free design requirements are vested in the Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Any request for an exception to the barrier free design requirements of the state construction code must be submitted to the Barrier Free Design Board, within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (517-241-9300). The Barrier Free Design Board has the responsibility to receive, review, and process requests for exceptions to barrier free design specifications; require appropriate equivalent alternatives when exceptions are granted; and receive, process, and make recommendations for barrier free design rules.

Because the state construction code does not apply to many recreation facilities, it is essential that you also be aware of and understand the existing federal guidelines covering these types of facilities. In July 2004, the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (known as the Access Board) issued updated guidelines, entitled the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), for new or altered facilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) or the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-480). These guidelines should eventually be adopted as enforceable standards. Until that occurs, the existing ADAAG standards must be followed when the two conflict.

Included in the updated ADAAG are technical provisions for a number of types of recreation facilities, including play areas, amusement rides, boating facilities, fishing piers and platforms, golf courses, miniature golf courses, shooting facilities, swimming and wading pools, and spas. Technical provisions for these recreation facilities do not exist in the current AADAG. The Access Board has also proposed guidelines for sports facilities, trails, beaches, and picnic and camping areas. While none of these guidelines has yet been adopted as federal standards, they represent the best information available on developing barrier free recreation facilities and may be upheld in a court of law. Therefore, they should be referred to when designing new or renovated recreation facilities. "

The MDNR recommends using the following rating system for assessing each park:

- 1= none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2= some of the facilities/ark areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3= most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4= the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5= the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.

Based on this rating system, the park lands in Casco Township were evaluated:

Casco Township Nature Preserve

Rating: 5 The entire park was developed using the principals of universal design. This park was newly acquired in the fall of 2010. In 2011, a MDNR grant was received for the development of the park. The park construction will be completed in 2012 and the park will open to the public. All of the new facilities have been designed using the principals of universal design including parking, pathways, toilet facilities, picnic area, benches, and signage.

1st Street Recreational Lake Access

Rating:1 None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. The existing natural surface pathway, wood stairway, and sand beach surface are not accessible.

Miami Beach-Currently Unimproved Park

No Rating-Unimproved Land

Mt. Pleasant-Currently Unimproved Park

No Rating-Unimproved Land

Township Hall Property

No Rating-Unimproved Land

MDNR Recreation Grant Inventory

The following is a list of the past grants received by the Township and their status.

Grant Number: TF07-170 and TF08-145 Acquisition Grants

Year Awarded: 2007-2008 (Phased Funding)

Park Name: Casco Township Nature Preserve

Description: 8 acres of wooded land located on Lake Michigan with 300 feet of frontage. The park is a Nature Preserve and is being utilized for passive recreation. A development project is in process, and described below.

Status at the Time of Writing: In MNRTF Close Out Process

Grant Number: TF10-066 Development Grant

Year Awarded: 2010

Park Name: Casco Township Nature Preserve Development

Description: This project is currently under construction and will be completed in 2012. The facilities will include a small parking lot, pathway system, toilet facility, benches, picnic tables, and interpretive signage. The pathway will provide access to the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan.

Status at the Time of Writing: The project is under construction.

Grant Number: TF 10-067 Acquisition Grant

Year Awarded: 2010

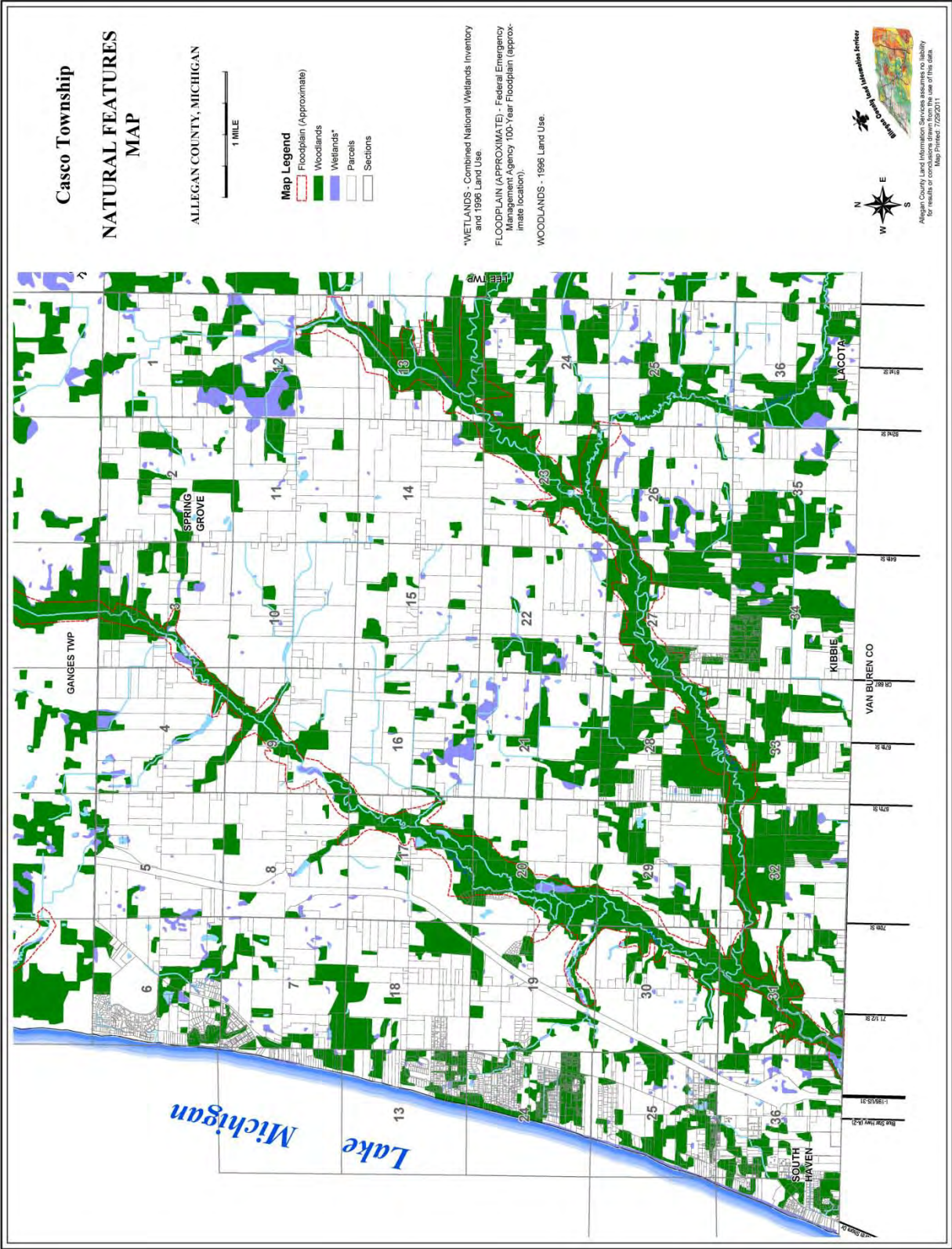
Park Name: Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion

Description: The acquisition is currently in process. The property will expand the Preserve with approximately 11 acres of land including an additional 400' of Lake Michigan frontage.

Status at the Time of Writing: The acquisition is in process.

Resource Inventory

Casco Township has several significant natural resources within the Township. These include the entire west edge of the Township forming the beach along Lake Michigan, several miles of the Black River, as well as significant undeveloped active agricultural lands. As part of the Township Master planning process completed in 2012, these resources were mapped. On the following pages are maps which are excerpts from the plan and included as a resource. These maps include the Natural Features Map, Existing Land Use, and Topography.



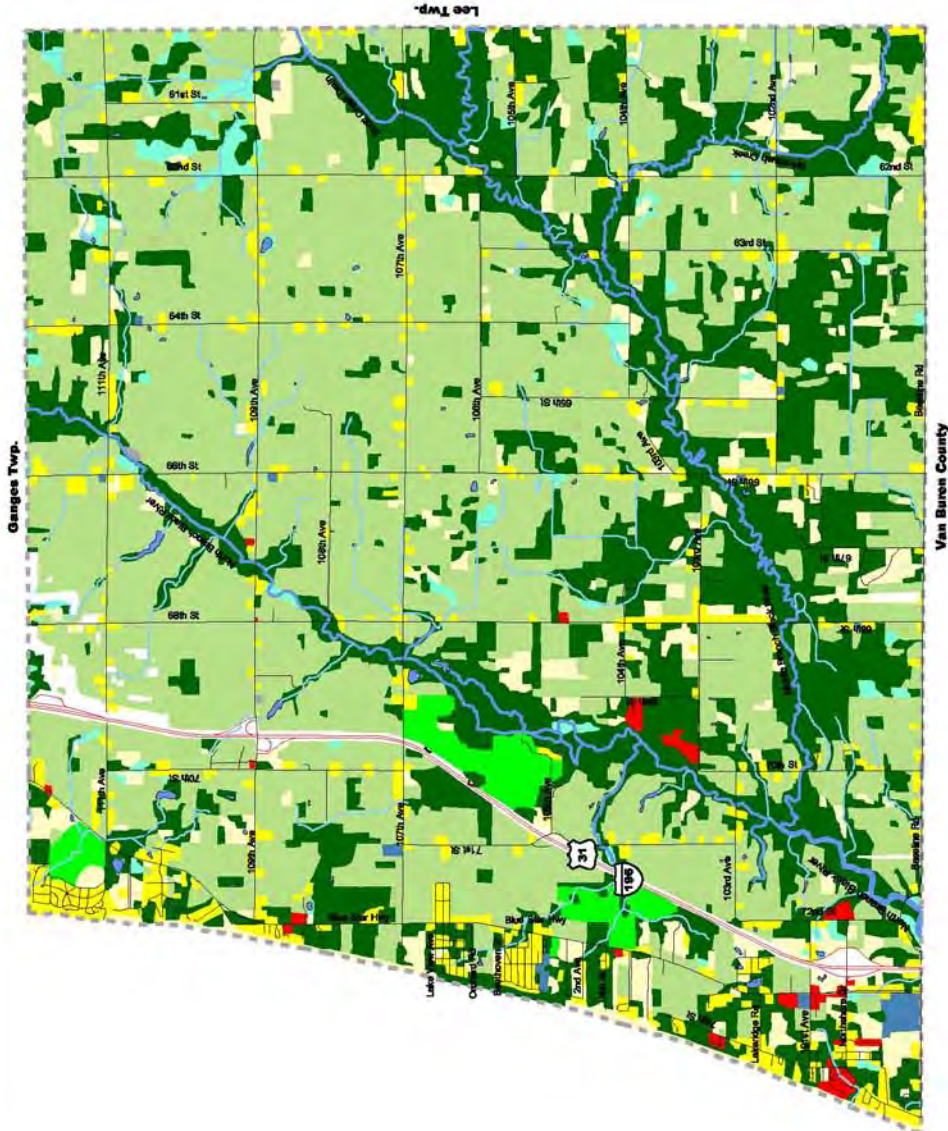
Casco Township Existing Land Use Allegan County, Michigan May 9, 2005

This is not a zoning map.
Existing land use classifications differ significantly from zoning ordinance classifications. The map is a snapshot in time, based on data from the Michigan Center for Geographic Information (CGI), 1998 aerial photography and selected on-site review of conditions. Complete accuracy is not required or alleged for master plan purposes as the map portrays general land use patterns rather than detailed uses.

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agriculture
- Public/Quasi-Public
- Outdoor Recreation
- Forest
- Wetland
- Open
- Lakes
- Transportation/Utilities



Data Source:
Basis - State of Michigan Center for Geographic Information
Aerial Photography - 1998
BLU - CGI MAPS, LSL, Veribac



Action Plan Section

The Action Plan Section is the section of the plan that focuses on the future vision and plans for parks and recreation within the community. This section includes the Goals and Objectives, a list of prioritized projects, a project location map, and a summary write up of each of the proposed activities.

Goals and Objectives

The Goals and Objectives section of the plan provides goals for the future of parks and recreation within the community. These goals have been written for the Casco Township community based on public input for current and future recreational opportunities. Each goal is further defined by the Objectives that follow. The Action Plan section of the final plan will determine the proposed projects that help to meet these goals.

Goal Number 1: *To provide multi-generational recreational opportunities within the community as the Township is comprised of persons of all ages.*

Objectives:

- a. Provide recreational opportunities for each of the major age and activity groups living within the Township.
- b. Provide for recreational activities and experiences that can be enjoyed together with persons of multiple ages.

Goal Number 2: *To provide recreational facilities for persons of all abilities both mentally and physically.*

Objectives:

- a. Develop new facilities that will expand recreational opportunities for all residents.
- b. Develop new facilities that will meet or exceed the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA).
- c. Develop new facilities that integrate ADA accommodations in such a way that they are seamlessly used by all residents within the community and to not cause separation of users based on abilities.

Goal Number 3: *To continue to support and encourage non-profit organizations to provide recreational programming and special events within the community, as the community is small and the financial resources are limited.*

Objectives:

- a. The Township will continue to assist, as funds allow, the non-profit organizations through the development and maintenance of recreational facilities that support recreational activities, programs, and events.

Goal Number 4: *The Township will continue to utilize and develop the Casco Township Nature Preserve as a focus for natural experiences, Lake Michigan access, and picnicking opportunities.*

Objectives:

- a. The Site Master Plan provides the overall vision and expands the facilities to improve opportunities for recreational activities.
- b. The Site Master Plan will increase accessibility for all residents to recreational activities within the community.

Goal Number 5: *To continue to provide, as much as possible, free use of the parks and facilities.*

Objectives:

- a. Continue to allow for open use of the park lands and to not charge admission into the facilities.
- b. Minimally charge, as required to cover costs, for special events to keep the facilities available for public use.

Goal Number 6: *To retain the Casco Township Nature Preserve to provide access to a natural area for the community.*

Objectives:

- a. The Casco Township Nature Preserve Master Plan provides that the property and natural Lake Michigan frontage will remain natural.
- b. The Casco Township Nature Preserve Master Plan provides for trails and benches through this area to provide ADA accessible access within the wooded natural area for access by all residents to this unique resource.

Goal Number 7: *To provide Lake Michigan access to all residents for wildlife viewing, swimming, and beach access.*

Objectives:

- a. Retain the Casco Township Nature Preserve and the "Maple Grove" property a public park with Lake Michigan frontage
- b. Develop a stairway access point to the Lake Michigan beach from the bluff on the "Maple Grove" parcel.
- c. Continue to maintain First Street Lake Access Stairs

Goal Number 8: *The Township will preserve and protect existing lands for appropriate recreational uses for future generations.*

Objectives

- a. The Township will continue to maintain, to the best of its ability, the existing park facilities.
- b. The Township will continue to make improvements to the parks based on the Community Recreation Plan and allowable funding.

Goal Number 9: *To maximize funding for parks and recreation through the continual renewal of the parks millage and other non-Township funding sources in order to provide recreational facilities for the community.*

Objectives:

- a. To support the renewal of the parks millage providing recreational opportunities for the residents of Casco Township.
- b. Utilize the millage funds to the greatest extent possible to match grant opportunities which become available that fit the needs identified in the Community Recreation Plan.

Goal Number 10: *To participate as appropriate in the regional planning of parks and recreation facilities within the regional area.*

Objectives:

- a. Attend and participate in strategic planning activities on a regional basis which support parks and recreation for the Casco Township residents.
- b. To participate in the development of regional projects, as determined to be prudent by the Township Board.

Goal Number 11: *To encourage private development which supports the goals of parks, recreation, wildlife corridors and natural areas within the community.*

Objectives:

- a. Encourage site planning that provides for recreational opportunities, wildlife corridors and natural areas in the built developments.
- b. Encourage individual residents to adopt site development methods that provide for low impact on the environment.
- c. Encourage development within the community that protects the natural Lake Michigan shoreline and the Black River shoreline and watershed.

Goal Number 12: *To explore any potential acquisition of additional lands as they might become available.*

Objectives:

- a. Make it known that donations of land to the Township will be considered.
- b. Seek grants as appropriate to assist with the acquisition and development of properties.

Priority Projects

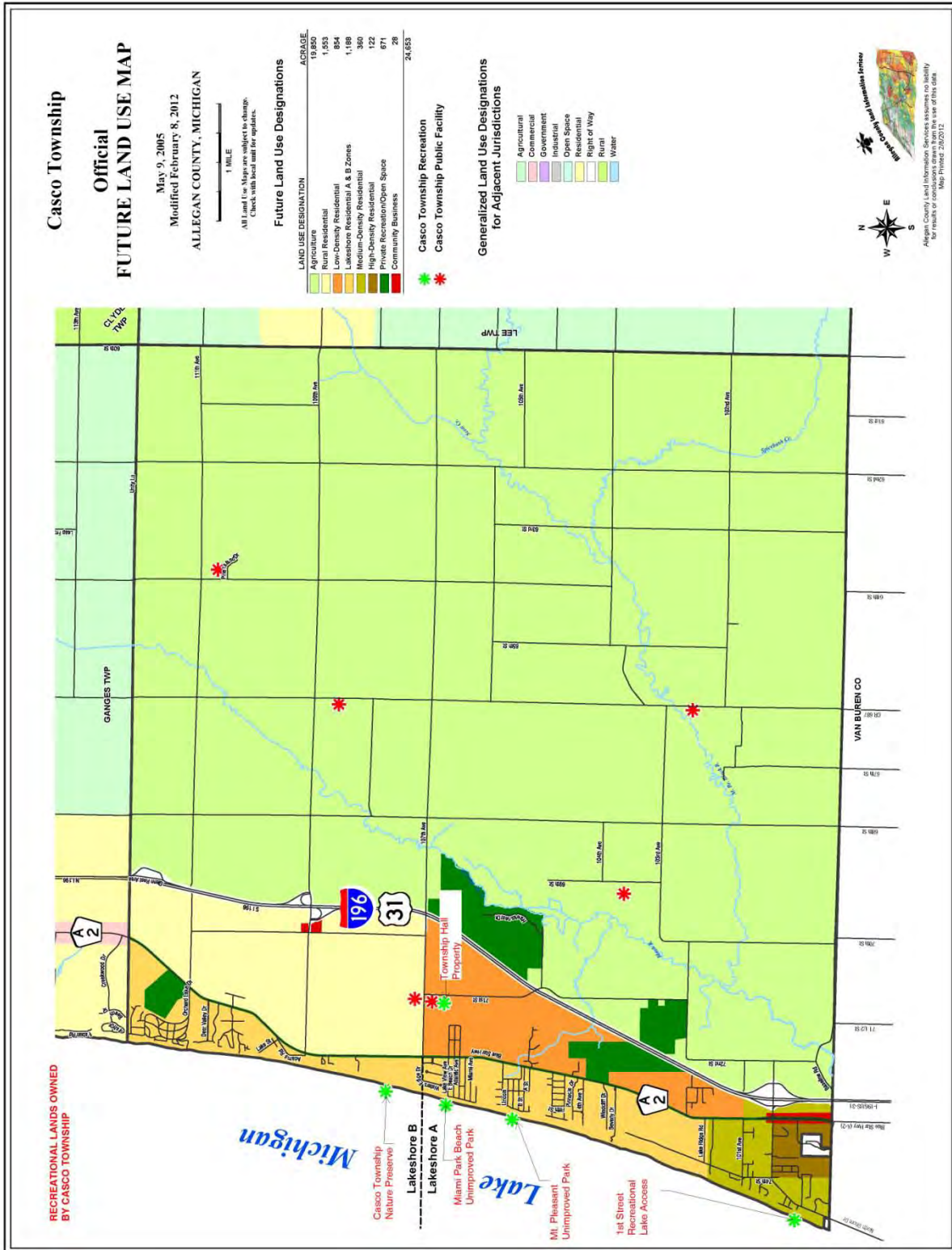
The following projects were identified as desirable projects for Casco Township through public input, participation and recommendation of the Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee, and through final approval by the Township Board. After the projects were identified, they were prioritized and are shown in priority order below. Projects under Item 1 Casco Township Projects in Process are all considered the highest priorities with available funding sources primarily determining which of the projects is completed first. This project list will serve to help guide the decisions, expenditure of Township funds, and future development of the Township parks. Written descriptions of the projects follow the list.

In 2012, the Casco Township Nature Preserve will be opened to the public and was therefore not included on the list.

Priority Projects

1. Casco Township Projects in Process
 - Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion
 - Township Hall Renovation for Community Programming Use
 - Township Hall Property Site Development Master Plan, Probable Costs, Phasing
2. Blue Star Non-Motorized Trail
3. Black River Access Property Acquisition
4. Miami Beach Access Property Survey

Project Location Map



Basis of Need Project Summaries

Below are project summaries for each of the projects identified as priorities within the Action Plan.

1. Casco Township Projects in Process

Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion

The Nature Center Expansion Property, also known as the "Maple Grove" property, is in the process of being acquired through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, (MNRTF), grant. The property has been included in a joint site development master plan with the parcel to the south known as the Casco Township Nature Preserve. The planned minimal development of the Nature Preserve will be completed in 2012. With the acquisition of the expansion property, development will be focused on the northern portion of the park. The site development master plan which includes both parcels, can be referenced in the Recreation Inventory Section of this document.

The Casco Township Nature Preserve provides needed public access to Lake Michigan within the Township and the beach, as it includes parking and other amenities. The acquisition and development of these properties for public access has been a key priority within the Township for several years. The northern expansion property will be the site of beach stairs, restrooms, and parking, while the southern parcel will be retained as a natural wooded area. All of the facilities to be constructed will be ADA accessible.

a. Access to the Lake Michigan Beach

Along Lake Michigan in Casco Township, the beach is separated from the land by a large bluff. Unlike other areas of the Lake Michigan shore line which are adjacent to windblown sand dunes, this lakeshore is unique with 30' tall or more sand and clay bluffs. To access the beach will require a stairway, ramp system, or other means as the bank cannot be walked or climbed in its natural state. The bluff is also very fragile ecologically, so access will also limit damage and disruption to the natural bank caused by large numbers of people accessing the beach.

b. Entrance Drive & Parking

Key to providing access to the Preserve and the Lake Michigan beach is the construction of a public entrance drive and parking. The site's previous use was a cottage where vehicle access was limited to a rustic residential one-lane driveway. The entrance drive will provide access to Blue Star Highway and be designed to Allegan County Road Commission standards. Parking will provide the ability for Township residents and visitors to park and enjoy the many recreational opportunities at the park. Parking has been master planned for this northern parcel as it will better protect the wooded areas of the park from development and it will be closer to the facilities which generate the most visitors including the access point to the beach, restrooms, picnic facilities, open lawn areas, and the future proposed Blue Star Trail to be constructed along the Blue Star Highway. The parking lot and ADA accessible parking spaces will link to the proposed walkway system of the park providing access to all facilities.

c. Restroom Facility

The development of a restroom facility will provide toilet facilities for park visitors. Currently there is not a restroom facility located on the northern portion of the property to serve the busier recreational facilities.

d. Picnic Facilities

Picnic facilities of individual tables and potentially a picnic shelter will provide opportunities for eating as well as the use of the tables for sitting, wildlife watching, and other passive uses. The potential picnic shelter will provide for tables within the shade and protection from inclement weather for picnic use as well as for educational classes by local schools and nature interests.

e. Connecting Walkways

walkways will provide ADA accessibility to the parking, restrooms, beach access, picnic areas, and the natural areas of the park.

Township Hall Renovation for Community Programming Use

Recently the South Haven Area Emergency Services, (SHAES), vacated the Township Hall. This has provided additional space within the Township Hall. Plans are to renovate and incorporate community and especially senior programming into the Township Hall facility. A feasibility and redesign study has been completed calling for the renovation to provide for better use for government and administrative functions and also varied and much needed community programming space. The Township Hall is the only publicly owned building located within the Township available for community activities. The new renovations will also provide needed ADA accessibility upgrades to the building.

Township Hall Property Site Development Master Plan, Probable Costs, Phasing

The Township Hall property, a 40 acre site, has been discussed to be utilized as a public park. A site development master plan would provide a process to involve the public in discussing potential uses for the property, desired facilities, priorities for development, uses with the Township Hall functions, and many other ideas and concerns. The planning process will develop a conceptual site design, probable costs for facilities, and a phasing plan.

2. Blue Star Non-Motorized Trail

The Blue Star Non-Motorized Trail will be a pathway constructed within the right-of-way of the west side of the Blue Star Highway either as a separate pathway or as a paved wider shoulder to the road surface. The linear trail will provide a connection between the City of South Haven and the City of Douglas. The proposed development is being promoted and planned by the Friends of the Blue Star Trail, a non-profit organization. The exact location and construction of the pathway has not been determined but various grants, foundations, and donations are being explored by the Friends. Planning for this future pathway is continuing with specific dates for construction not having been set and will be contingent upon funding.

3. Black River Access Property Acquisition

Currently a public access point to the Black River does not exist within the Township. A property acquisition along the Black River by the Township will provide much needed public access to the river for viewing, wildlife observation, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking.

4. Miami Beach Access

The Township recently purchased from the State of Michigan two beach parcels within the Miami Beach subdivision for public use. In order to determine the actual boundaries of the property, a boundary survey with the setting of property corners will be completed. Once the survey is completed, the feasibility of stairs and parking will be explored.

Planning Process Section

The Planning Process Section includes a description of the overall process that was completed for the development of the Community Recreation Plan. The Planning Process included an assessment of existing park lands, a tour of the properties, opportunities for the public to participate, formal adoption of the plan, and submittal of the plan to local agencies and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Tour of the Parks

On October 11, 2011 the Parks and Recreation Committee hosted a tour of the Township's park lands and beach access points. The tour was publicly advertised and the tour began from the Township Hall and concluded back at the Township Hall with the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. During the tour, an assessment of the facilities concerning ADA (American's with Disability Act), was also conducted.

Casco Township Community Open House

On October 18, 2011 the Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee hosted a Community Open House to invite public comments regarding the new 5 Year Community Recreation Plan. The Open House was advertised in the local paper and flyers were handed out.

The following comments were received and noted:

Favorite Family Activities

- Disc Golf
- Bike Paths
- Swimming

New Facilities Desired

- Kayak and Canoe Rentals on the Black River
- Polo Field, also could be used as a fund raiser

New Programs Desired

- Flower Fund Raiser for parks, ie: sunflowers could be raised and sold
- Cycling trail event

Public Workshop

On October 20, 2011 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM the Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee hosted a public workshop to invite resident input into the future of recreation within the Township. The event was publicly advertised in the "South Haven Tribune" and invitation letters were sent out to many stakeholders who might be interested in local recreation.

The participants were divided into three groups with each group seated at individual tables. Large sheets of paper were handed out to each group with a specific question posed. The groups were given ten to fifteen minutes to discuss and write down ideas and responses to the questions. The sheets with questions were then passed around the room with each group adding to the answers of the previous groups until all groups had seen all questions. Once this was completed, the sheets were hung on the wall for review. Each participant was given ten small stickers and 1 large sticker to place strategically on the sheets with the small stickers

representing their ten most liked ideas and the large sticker representing their favorite idea. The stickers were not meant as a voting process, but rather to help indicate areas with higher interest than others within the public attending.

The results of the workshop are summarized below with the answers listed in the order they were received.

1. Should the Township develop other park lands? If yes, which property(s)?

Small Stickers	Large Stickers	Idea
4	1	Develop Maple Grove property
2	2	Blue Star pathway
2	1	Trade taxes for relief for property acquisition
4	2	Township Hall property
		Need coordinator to organize volunteers/draw a plan
		Shuffleboard/horseshoes
		Band shell
		Plantings
2	0	Explore other properties through land donation or acquisition
1	0	Develop 68th St. property into second nature preserve (28 acres)
1	0	Acquire Black River frontage
1	0	Land for parking areas for bike trail
0	0	Property adjacent to schools and churches for shared facilities
1	0	Play role for SHARA
0	1	Property in the Center of the Township
0	0	Black River watershed
0	0	Outdoor use of Township Hall would match community center use
0	0	Glenn Haven Shores
3	0	Acquire tax delinquent properties along the Black River
0	0	Protect available wetlands
2	0	Wetland area for wildlife viewing

2. What new park facilities would you like to see?

Small Stickers	Large Stickers	Idea
3	0	Band shell or gazebo at Township Hall site
1	0	Develop stairs and parking at Miami Park and survey property
4	0	Have a true community center
2	0	Stairs for Maple Grove
0	0	Concessions for parks-vendors
1	0	Ample bike racks
2	0	Floors for dancing and exercise classes
0	0	Disc golf
1	0	Shuffleboard/Horseshoes
0	0	Chess/Checkers (Lawn sized)
3	0	Bike path/trail
1	0	Walking path at Township Hall
2	1	Playground

0	0	Picnic shelter at Township Hall or Maple Grove, etc.
1	0	Canoe/Kayak launch on Black River
2	0	Renovate/create community center at Hall
0	0	Interpretive signs

3. Do you have any maintenance or operation concerns?

Small Stickers	Large Stickers	Idea
1	0	Need to Clean/Sweep "Bike Path" on Blue Star 2 times per year
4	1	Security -Fast Response to any problems-police
0	0	Maintenance staff-youth groups could handle routine
1	0	Safety concerns for winter usage
1	0	Costs? Donations could be used
1	0	Worries about wildlife and environmental degradation
0	0	Water permeable surfaces on paths and parking, etc.
0	0	Vandalism
1	0	Maintenance of stairways
3	0	Develop a maintenance plan for all parks using paid and volunteer staff assigning specific tasks
1	0	Rip current and lake safety
0	0	Summer residents and full-time differences


4. What types of programs would you like to see? Any ideas of how to offer them?

Small Stickers	Large Stickers	Idea
0	0	Organized community bonding events
4	0	Fruit and orchard events
0	0	Maple Fest
0	0	Casco Historical Village
0	0	Respite for caregivers
5	0	Senior travel
3	0	Clean up day celebration
0	0	All ages for events
0	0	Card playing and games
0	0	Movies
1	0	Disc golf
0	0	Skate park
1	0	Octoberfest
1	0	Cross country skiing
1	0	Nature walks/tours
0	0	Bicycle poker run
0	0	Basketball hoops
0	0	Gus Macker type of event
1	0	Horseshoe pits
1	0	Shuffleboard
1	0	Picnic areas

0	0	Library
0	0	Bird watching
4	0	Music concerts/Casco Community Band
3	0	Ice cream social
1	0	Educational/compost making, gardening/"green" education, worm bins
4	0	Exercise programs/anti-obesity
0	0	Polo match
1	0	Scout meetings/4H programs/youth camp in summer
2	0	Community garden

Advertisement for Public Open House and Workshop

Below is the advertisement from the South Haven Tribune for the public meetings. Announcements were also distributed by personal handouts and through the mail to those interested in recreation within the community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CASCO TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular October Meeting (Tuesday, October 11) This meeting will include a tour of all parks in Casco Township and begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Casco Township Hall, immediately followed by regular business to be conducted at the Township Hall.

All Casco Township Residents are warmly invited to a Parks and Recreation Open House at the Casco Township Hall on Tuesday, October 18. Come any time between 6 pm and 8 pm for cider, donuts, and information about parks in Casco—present & future plans.

Regular November Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 pm due to the School election slated for the previous Tuesday.

Questions? Call Pam Blough, Parks & Recreation Consultant, at 616-402-2398.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk | Casco Township
 7104 107th Avenue | South Haven MI 49090
www.CascoTownship.org | 269-637-4441 | Clerk@CascoTownship.org

Draft Goals and Objectives

Draft Goals and Objectives were developed for the plan. The Goals and Objectives were reviewed at the November, 2011 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and the final versions are included in the Action Plan Section of this document.

Project Identification and Prioritization

The projects for future development were identified by the Parks and Recreation Committee through review of the information gathered through the park tours, the public comments received, and the goals and objectives. The identified projects were then prioritized based on importance to the community for future recreational needs and desires. The list of projects appears in the Action Plan Section of this document.

Development of Action Plan

The Action Plan Section of the plan was developed to include the Goals and Objectives, the Prioritized Project List, and Basis of Need Project Descriptions.

Development of Draft Five Year Community Recreation Plan Document

A draft of the plan was completed and provided for review prior to adoption.

Recommendation of Draft by Parks and Recreation Committee

The Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed the draft document and revisions were made. Based on the revised document, the plan was forwarded to the Township Board with the recommendation that the plan was ready for the public comment period.

Casco Township Parks & Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting of January 12, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bruce Brandon called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Present: Brandon, Johnson, Warren, Graff, Fleming, Howerton, and Pam Blough, Consultant. Tom Storr was absent. Samuel Fleming served as recording secretary.
2. **Agenda** was reviewed.
3. **Election of Officers:** Johnson nominated Bruce Brandon for Chair, supported by Warren; carried unanimously. Howerton was nominated to serve as Vice Chair by Fleming, supported by Graff; carried unanimously. Brandon nominated Fleming to serve as Secretary, supported by Warren; carried unanimously.
4. **Minutes** from November and December were not available for approval.
5. **Correspondence** from committee member Thomas Storr was distributed to all committee members and noted.
6. **Public Comment:** none, despite the opportunity. One member of the public was present.
7. **Annual Planning Meeting:** Consultant Pam Blough emphasized that Parks & Recreation committee members should maintain an active role in Township planning, in light of the 2/11/12 workshop.

8. Parks & Recreation Five year Plan

An updated five year draft was presented and approved for recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Committee to the Township Board with changes as noted below. The draft will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the meeting in January. Following approval for public comment by the Township Board, the plan will be made available for a 30 day public comment period, and then for approval at the February Township Board meeting.

Page 6: Blough removed reference to the 28 acres as a future Township park;

Page 9: Third paragraph wording to be changed to more accurately reflect the history of the Parks committee and also to state that the Parks committee operates under its own by-laws;

Page 10: Correction needed in second paragraph; non-grant funding did not come from the Township General Fund, but rather the Parks millage fund. Graff recommended that donations of property with Lake access appear in the list, in addition to funding sources.

Page 11: SHARA should be listed with other volunteer organizations, and also the Bike Trail Friends group (FOTBST)/Bike Trail project;

Page 12: Removal of Glenn Shores as part of the parks inventory;

Page 13: Removal of Township-owned 28 acres from inventory list;

Page 18: Regarding grant inventories, Graff suggested adding the year of origination and status at the time of writing;

Pages 5 to 19: change dates to 2012;

Page 25: Goal #8, remove objective a.; add "preserve and protect" rather than simply "protect."

Page 27: Brandon will report at the Board of Trustees meeting that our committee has concerns that removing the 28 acres from inventory will jeopardize future uses of that parcel for recreation.

9. Casco Township Nature Preserve:

a. **Appraisals for the Maple Grove acquisition** have been submitted to the MDNR and are moving along with timely responses. Blough reports that personnel are very cooperative.

b. **Construction** has been halted until Spring.

10. Board of Trustees Representative: no report.

11. Comments: no further comments from committee members.

12. Johnson motioned to adjourn, supported by Warren; adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Samuel Fleming and typed by Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Review of Plan by the Township Board

The Township Board reviewed the draft plan and approved for the plan to continue through the public comment period.

Planning Commission Joint Meeting

The plan was presented at the Annual Joint Meeting hosted annually by the Planning Commission. The Meeting hosted, on February 11, 2012, provided an overview of the plan and full copies of the document were available for review and comment. Notice of this opportunity was included in the public notice for the thirty day public comment period and the Public Hearing which appears later in this section of the plan.

DRAFT

Casco Township Planning Commission Workshop (Joint Meeting)

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Bruce Barker called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. Present: Barker, Macyauski, Campbell, Liepe, Fleming; Graff and Stroud were absent (excused). Also present: Overhiser and Cowie from the Board of Trustees; Pam Blough (consultant) and Sandra Warren from the Parks & Recreation committee; Alfred Ellingsen, Zoning Administrator; and 3 interested persons.

Chair Barker welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda, and described the purpose of the meeting.

Concerns for John Stroud and his son (who is hospitalized) and Judy Graff and her husband (Ken Graff, who is hospitalized) were expressed, with regrets over their absence and hopes for good recovery.

Barker reviewed the agenda. There was no additional comment about the agenda from anyone present.

A. Revenue sources, projections and outlook:

Overhiser provided an update on revenue sharing which comes from sales tax. While historically we have received up to \$250,000/annually, we have more recently budgeted \$160,000. Recent news suggests revenue will be closer to just under \$200,000. Projections for 2013 suggest over \$200,000 in revenue sharing.

Overhiser raised the issue of a special assessment district for law enforcement. A police millage has failed twice. County response times to the SW corner of the Township can take more than 60 minutes. The City of South Haven is open to servicing the entire Blue Star corridor west of Blue Star Highway. They would guarantee full time coverage, and would be the first response onto the scene. Their cost is .7 mills, or approximately \$87,000.

A question was raised about providing police coverage to the SHARP park and the Nature Preserve. This is still under discussion with the City, but it deemed feasible.

The Allegan County Sheriff is also working out funding for road patrols. They would like to organize into 6 districts and Casco would be included with Lee, Ganges, and Manlius. A problem with this is our rural area would be underserved and our interests would be underrepresented at the County level. There is no current millage for police protection collected by the County.

David Campbell, a resident of Glenn Shores, favored the idea of having police protection from the City of South Haven include coverage all along Blue Star Highway/West corridor, including northward of 107th Avenue.

The process would be a Special Assessment District established by the Board of Trustees. A potential negative would be securing/funding good coverage for the balance of the Township that would not be specially assessed. The taxable value of the remainder of the Township is less and the area is significantly larger, so the formula would have to be reworked. The District, if established, would not have an end date.

1

Regarding the State Police that use this site as their office, we have no control over them, nor any commitment to them or from them.

This would be the first time to ask residents if they want to contract with the City of South Haven. Benefits include 24 hour coverage and better response time.

Barker asked about increased revenue sharing for regional cooperation. That potential increase applies only to statutory revenue sharing, not constitutional revenue sharing, which is what the Township receives.

Questions were asked about the registered voters in the district to be covered (it will not come to a vote). A Constable position was eliminated in the early 1980s due to liability issues, the number of actual incidents in our Township, and the types of incidents. Examples of break-ins and the frequency thereof was discussed.

Another option is a law enforcement authority like SHAES. Overhiser was asked to have the City quote on the balance of the Township also being included in the Special Assessment District.

Bob Fender of Glenn Shores asked if the County would reduce the collection for Law enforcement. Overhiser thought this was highly unlikely. Overhiser thought the discussion would continue over the next year.

Water/Sewer: mandatory hookup letter went out over the past two weeks. We expect another 150 customers to hook up through the mandatory process. The proposed apartment complex on Baseline Road (with potential WSA revenue of \$600,000 to \$700,000), Meijer, and a potential development in Geneva Township all are potential sources of increased revenue for the Authority, which would potentially result in lowered monthly fees for current users.

Renovation of the Township Hall: this project is on hold until the Maple Grove acquisition is completed.

B: Parks: Bob Fender of Glenn Shores shared an idea from Naperville IL of selling bricks along a walkway to raise money for parks and community use.

Pam Blough presented an update from the committee. The Casco Township Nature Preserve is being developed through grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Construction began in early Fall of 2011, with hopes to be officially open by late Summer, 2012.

The acquisition of Maple Grove parcel to the north of the Stefan parcel is in process. The five year plan is in process now, with the public comment period underway now until February 20, 2012. The updated plan will allow the Township to continue to qualify for grant funding from many State sources.

Committee is also following development of the SHARP park, the Blue Star Bike Trail, and reviewing the budget concerning parks. A question was raised about how much non-grant funding has been spent on the Maple Grove acquisition to date. Pam Blough did not have this number on hand.

The status of Blue Star Trail was raised. There is no construction plan for this, nor funding in hand. It could be constructed in the road right of way. Other questions were asked and answered.

Grants: there are sources of funds but no action can be taken until the Maple Grove acquisition is completed.

C. Master Plan & Zoning: The revised Master Plan has been printed and the Planning Commission will be asking the Board to distribute the plan at the next Board meeting, on February 20, 2012. This will start the review period. The Parks & Recreation plan will be included by reference into the Master Plan when it is ready. Census data is still being distributed and will be folded into the plan as it comes out. The Planning Commission has worked on this for the past year and Chair Barker expressed appreciation to the Commissioners.

Due to changes in the Master Plan, there will be changes in the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Administrator, the Planning Consultant, the Township Attorney, and the public are invited to consider proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Barker would prefer potential changes to be completed by the end of the summer, 2012.

Alfred Ellingsen spoke to those items that need to be changed. He is working with Patrick Hudson to address parameters for the new zoning district that is proposed in the Master Plan. Ellingsen favors a local, hands on practical approach.

Overhiser thanked Chair Bruce Barker and the Planning Commission for working quickly through several issues that arose in December and January that impacted the Master Plan process.

D. Seniors: In the short term, the Casco Township Senior Care Program is running the transportation for seniors. Starting April 1, ACRDC will be providing transportation for seniors. Cowie asked that seniors who pursue County services let the Township know how they are served.

A question was asked about the history of the County serving seniors with transportation. Liepe proposed that it is legitimate to ask the County to prove what they've done for Casco. Sandra Warren asked if Susan and Rachel will be involved in evaluating how the County transportation program will operate.

Bruce Barker asked for public comment:

John Geisler asked that refreshments be served at every public meeting. He expressed appreciation for the coffee cake baked by Dian Liepe.

Julie Cowie announced that there is training for persons interested in running for public office. (Training will occur on March 19 or March 20 in the evening).

Barker expressed appreciation to Julie Cowie for acting as Recording Secretary today, given the various recording secretaries over the past several months.

Liepe moved to adjourn, supported by Fleming; adjourned at 10:49 am.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Thirty Day Public Comment Period

The draft plan was made available for at least thirty days for public comment. Copies of the draft plan were available at the Township Hall and on the Township's website in PDF format. The Public Notice immediately follows.

Public Notice of Thirty Day Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

Affidavit of Publication

State of Michigan County of Van Buren) SS
TARA WILKINSON, being duly sworn and says that she is the advertising consultant of
The South Haven Tribune, a newspaper published, printed and circulated in the County of
Van Buren, State of Michigan; That the affixed printed notice has been printed and
published in said newspaper 1 times. Same being on the following days, to wit:

1-22-12
SH Tribune

Signature
Tara W

Subscribed and sworn to me this
23 Day of JAN A.D. 20 12

Public Notice
Casco Township
Community Recreation Plan 2012-2016

Casco Township is in the process of finalizing a new Five Year Community Recreation Plan for the years 2012-2016. The public is invited to review the plan at the Township Hall during open hours or on the Township website. The plan will be presented and discussed at the Saturday, February 11, 2012 Annual Planning Meeting beginning at 9:00 A.M. in the Township Hall. Public comment can be submitted via written correspondence or at the Public Hearing, held Monday, February 20, 2012 at the Township Board Meeting in the Township Hall at 7:00 P.M. The Township Hall is located at 7104 307th Ave., South Haven, MI 49090. Phone: 269-637-6441. The website is at www.cascotownship.org.

Stacey Clark
NOTARY PUBLIC, Van Buren County, MI
My commission expires 10.27.2017

Bill amount _____

The South Haven Tribune
255 Center St.
South Haven, MI 49090
269-637-1104
classifieds@southhaventribune.com

STACEY CLARK
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Allegan
My Commission Expires Oct. 27, 2017
Acting in the County of VAN BUREN

Preparation of MDNR Checklist



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

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

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

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: Five Year Community Recreation Plan, 2012-2016, Casco Township, Allegan County		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Casco Township	Allegan	February 2012

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

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

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

Date of the Notice January 22, 2012

Type of Notice Newspaper and Township Website

Plan Location Casco Township Hall and Township Website

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

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

Date of Notice January 22, 2012

Name of Newspaper The South Haven Tribune

Date of Meeting February 20, 2012

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

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

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

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

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: February 20, 2012

2. Official resolution of the Recommendation by the Parks & Rec. Committee Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: January 10, 2012

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: February 28, 2012

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: February 28, 2012

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

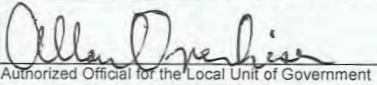
NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Casco Township *includes the required content, as indicated*

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.


Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

2-28-12
Date

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

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

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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

Date _____

By: _____

Grants Management _____ Date _____

Transmittal of the Plan to the MDNR



February 28, 2012

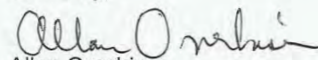
Grants Management Section
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

RE: Casco Township, Allegan County
Community Recreation Plan

Please find enclosed the completed Community Recreation Plan Certification Checklist and a copy of the Community Recreation Plan 2012-2016 for Casco Township, Allegan County. The plan was adopted by the Township Board on February 20, 2012.

If you have any questions regarding the plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at 269-637-7441. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Allan Overhiser
Township Supervisor

Transmittal of the Plan to Allegan County



February 28, 2012

Kevin Ricco, Director
Allegan County Parks
3255 - 122nd Ave., Suite 102
Allegan, MI 49010

RE: Community Recreation Plan
Casco Township

Dear Mr. Ricco,

Please find enclosed for your files a copy of the new Community Recreation Plan 2012-2016 for Casco Township. The plan was adopted by the Township Board on February 28, 2012. The plan has been submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

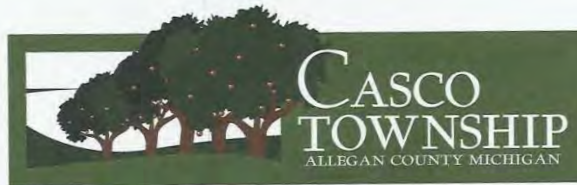
If you have any questions regarding the plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at 269-637-7441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Overhiser". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Allan Overhiser
Township Supervisor

Transmittal of the Plan to Regional Planning



February 28, 2012

Mr. Dave Bee
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
820 N. Monroe, NW Suite 214
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Re: Community Recreation Plan
Casco Township, Allegan County

Dear Mr. Bee,

Please find enclosed for your files a copy of the Community Recreation Plan 2012-2016 for Casco Township, Allegan County. The plan was adopted by Township Board on February 20, 2012. The plan has been submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 269-637-7441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Overhiser".

Allan Overhiser
Township Supervisor

Appendices

Appendix A-2010 U.S. Census Data from the Casco Township Master Plan

Appendix B- Parks Ordinance

Appendix C- Public Hearing Minutes and Public Comments

Appendix A

Demographic Information as Reprinted from the Township Master Plan

APPENDIX I

2010 DEMOGRAPHICS

[TO BE UPDATED AS DATA BECOMES AVAILABLE]

The following tables are to be compared to the tables in Chapter IV. Minimal text is added where the 2010 U.S. Census data shows significant changes from past trends.

POPULATION HISTORY, STATUS & PROJECTIONS (TO 2010)

During the last century Casco Township lost population until it had dropped 1,373 people in 1930. Then it recovered – as did most of the adjacent communities – and continued its growth until the present time. The growth was not spectacular but steadily rose from 2,304 persons in 1970 to 2,856 in 1990 until the population peaked at 3,019 in the year 2000. In 2010 the population fell back to 2,823.

The current population of Casco and the surrounding communities is shown on the accompanying chart. With the loss of year-round city population the City of South Haven and all of the townships are now between 2,500 and just over 4,000 residents. Casco Township is in the middle third of area townships according to population. Allegan County, which is somewhat larger than the Michigan average, had a population of 105,665 in 2000 rising to 111,408 in 2010. On the other hand, Van Buren County's population was 76,263 in 2000 and remained virtually unchanged in 2010, being 76,258.

POPULATION CHANGE 1990-2010

1990, 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census counts & calculated percentages

	1990	2000	% Change 1990-2000	2010	% Change 2000-2010	% Change 1990-2010
Casco Township	2,856	3,019	5.7	2,823	-6.5	-1.2
Ganges Township	2,124	2,524	18.8	2,530	0.2	19.1
Clyde Township	2,001	2,104	5.1	2,084	-1.0	4.1
Lee Township	2,672	4,114	54.0	4,015	-2.4	50.3
Fennville City	1,023	1,459	42.6	1,398	-4.2	36.7
South Haven City	5,563	5,013	-9.9	4,400	-12.3	-20.9
South Haven Twp	4,183	4,046	-3.3	3,983	-1.5	-4.8
Geneva Township	3,162	3,975	25.7	3,573	-10.1	13.0

AGE (2010)

The table below compares ages in Casco Township with selected other lake front communities in the area. Ganges and the City of South Haven are both immediately adjacent to Casco. Allegan County is also included as a county-wide barometer.

The age composition of Casco's population has begun to differ markedly from that of Allegan County. The most significant variation is within the population 55 years and older which comprises 35.4% of the Township's population, but only 25.7% of the County's. This is a marked change from previous census when the townships had a substantially younger population than the City of South Haven, where 39.3% of the residents are in the 55+ category.

Year 2010 Profile of Selected Communities

2010 US Census counts and calculated percentages

LOCAL UNIT OF GOV'T	PRE-SCHOOL <5 Yrs.	SCHOOL 5-19 Yrs.	COLLEGE/ EARLY WORK 20-24 Yrs.	WORKING YEARS 25-54 Yrs.	WORKING/ EARLY RETIRE 55-59 Yrs.	WORKING/ RETIRE 60-64 Yrs.	RETIRED >65 Yrs.
CASCO TOWNSHIP	5.0% 141	19.8% 560	3.8% 107	36.0% 1,017	9.6% 270	9.0% 254	16.8% 474
Allegan County	6.7% 7,501	22.0% 24,482	5.2% 5,816	40.4% 45,013	7.0% 7,803	5.7% 6,355	13.0% 14,438
Ganges Township	5.3% 134	18.4% 465	3.8% 96	38.8% 981	8.7% 220	8.3% 209	16.8% 425
South Haven City	5.4% 238	17.0% 754	5.6% 245	32.6% 1,437	9.6% 421	7.2% 319	22.5% 989
South Haven Township	6.5% 258	20.7% 812	5.3% 213	36.6% 1,459	7.8% 310	6.8% 269	16.4% 652
Fennville City	10.5% 147	27.2% 380	5.7% 79	40.1% 561	5.1% 71	3.8% 53	7.7% 107

INCOME (2010)

No data available

Median and Per Capita Income 2010

	Family Income	Household Income	Per Capita Income	Poverty Level *
Allegan County				
CASCO TWP				
Ganges Twp.				
Clyde Twp.				
Lee Twp.				
Fennville C.				
South Haven C.				
South Haven T.				
Geneva Twp				

* Poverty Level is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2010 Census as

EDUCATION (2010)

(This data was not reported for the 2010 Census)

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2010

	High School	Bachelors
Casco Township		
Ganges Township		
Clyde Township		
Lee Township		
Fennville City		
South Haven City		
South Haven Township		
Geneva Township		
Allegan County		

HOUSING (2010)

HOUSING OCCUPANCY & TENURE (2010)

The Housing Occupancy and Tenure for the year 2010 is shown on the following table. Casco Township has a very large percentage of seasonal housing; in fact, it has the highest percentage of seasonal housing in the area slightly more than Ganges Township and the City of South Haven which also have land directly fronting on Lake Michigan.

The percentage of renter-occupied homes is lower for Casco Township than many neighboring communities. There may be two reasons for that. One is that there are relatively few rental units such as apartment complexes in the rural township. The second reason is probably because the vacation property which is classified as "seasonal" are second homes and not generally available for rent.

The low amount of occupied housing is in direct correlation to the very high percentage of seasonal homes. If those were considered as owner-occupied the rate would be substantially

higher. Many of the reported “seasonal” homes may, in fact, be occupied for much of the year, thus distorting the true picture of Casco’s population growth and service needs. The “Other Vacant” rate is near the average for neighboring communities. These figures may be misleading if the number of actual owner-occupied homes in Casco Township were under reported as “seasonal”.

2010 HOUSING UNITS & OCCUPANCY STATUS

Community	Total Housing Units	Total Occupied	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Seasonal Vacant	Other Vacant
Allegan County	49,426	42,018 85.0%	34,052 81.0%	7,966 19.0%	4,038 8.2%	3,370 6.8%
Casco Township	1,957	1,130 57.7%	975 86.3%	155 13.7%	658 33.6%	169 8.6%
Ganges Township	1,626	1,050 64.6%	895 55.0%	155 9.5%	460 28.3%	101 6.2%
Clyde Township	890	717 80.6%	641 72.0%	76 8.5%	103 11.6%	70 7.9%
Lee Township	1,940	1,329 68.5%	951 49.0%	378 19.5%	348 18.0%	263 13.6%
Fennville City	588	505 85.9%	315 62.4%	190 37.6%	8 1.4%	75 12.8%
South Haven City	3,329	1,957 58.8%	1,203 35.0%	756 22.6%	1,004 30.0%	383 11.4%
South Haven Twp	2,081	1,625 78.1%	1,205 57.9%	420 22.2%	227 10.9%	229 11.0%
Geneva Township	1,569	1,324 84.4%	1,109 70.7%	215 13.7%	79 5.0%	166 10.6%

HOUSING VALUE (2010)

No data available

YEAR HOUSE BUILT (2010)

Between 1990 and 2000 the volume of new home construction in Casco Township surpassed all area communities, except Geneva Township. Over 400 new homes were built in Casco during that period, according to the U.S. Census. Between 2000 and 2010 once again Casco Township added over 400 new homes, however this growth consisted of a housing bubble that accelerated over the decade from 2000 to 2007 and then collapsed.

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION BY YEAR

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
45	36	63	60	37	40	62	28	9	19	13

Source: Township Building Inspector

In 2010 Casco Township had a total of 1,957 dwelling units. Of these 22.9% were constructed prior to 1940, 35.5% were constructed between 1941 and 1990, 20.4% between 1991 and 2000, and 21.1% since 2000.

ECONOMIC FACTORS (2010)

No data available

WORK COMMUTE

No data available.

SECTORS OF EMPLOYEMENT FOR CASCO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS (2000)

No data available

FARM ECONOMY

No data available

Appendix B

Parks Ordinance

Appendix B-Parks Ordinance

Casco Township
Allegan County, Michigan

Ordinance No. 110221
Adopted: 2/21/2011, Effective April 13, 2011

PARK ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS TO CONTROL AND GOVERN THE USE OF ANY PUBLIC PRESERVE, PARK, BEACH OR TOWNSHIP CONTROLLED ROAD END LOCATED IN CASCO TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

THE TOWNSHIP OF CASCO, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Public Park.

For this Ordinance, "Public Park" shall mean all public preserves, parks, beaches, and Township controlled road end beaches within the geographical limits of the Township.

Section 2. Application.

This Ordinance shall be applicable to, and shall govern the use of, Public Parks.

Section 3. Litter.

No person (i.e., individual, partnership, corporation, association, club, joint venture, estate, trust, governmental unit, any other group or combination acting as a unit, and the individuals constituting the group or unit) may litter or dump in Public Parks refuse matter of any kind, including but not by way of limitation sacks, cans, papers, containers, cartons, garbage, food, food scrap, trash, rubbish, refuse, leaves, yard waste, construction materials, junk or waste material. Persons may dispose of such material, if generated through permitted use of a Public Park, in refuse containers provided for such purpose. If refuse containers are not provided, Persons shall dispose of such material generated through permitted use of a Public Park by removing the material from the Public Park.

Section 4. Glass Prohibition.

No Person may be in possession of any bottle, receptacle or container made of glass in any Public Park.

Section 5. Tobacco and Alcohol.

No Person may bring, use or possess tobacco, alcoholic beverages or controlled substances in a Public Park. No Person may be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances in a Public Park. "Controlled substances" shall mean any substance defined as a Controlled Substance under State law.

Section 6. Fires.

No Person may kindle, build, maintain or use a fire on any Public Park property except in authorized park grills provided by the Township. No Person may leave an approved fire in a Public Park unattended. All permitted fires shall be completely extinguished, including the embers, by the Person who built or started the fire, before the Person leaves the immediate vicinity of the fire.

Section 7. Camping.

No Person may camp or stay overnight in any Public Park.

Section 8. Pets.

No Person may permit any pet (dog, cat, or other domestic animal or any other animal under, or intended to be under, the custody or control of a Person) to run at large in any Public Park. All Pets must be on a leash no greater than six feet in length and under the immediate control of a competent Person. Horses and ponies are not allowed in any Public Park. Pets are not allowed on beaches from May 1 to September 30 each year. All Pet litter shall be picked up, bagged, and disposed of in a litter container or removed from the Public Park. Pets are not permitted in any Public Park designated as a Nature Preserve.

Section 9. Noise.

No Person may make an excessive noise, or cause or allow an excessive noise to be made by any device. An "excessive noise" is louder than a normal conversational tone at a distance of 50 feet or more from its point of origin.

Section 10. Hours.

First Street Lake Access shall be closed from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour after sunrise daily. The Casco Township Nature Preserve shall be closed from ½ hour after sunset until 8:00 a.m. daily. No hours of closure are determined for other public parks. No Person may occupy or use any portion of the Public Parks during those hours. All vehicles left unattended and parked within a Public Park during the closed hours shall be towed away and impounded at the owner's expense.

Section 11. Vehicle Parking.

No Person may block the entrance of any Public Park with a vehicle, nor may any Person double park a vehicle along a road leading to a Public Park entrance. All vehicles left unattended shall be towed away and impounded at the owner's expense, unless properly parked during Public Park hours in an area designated for parking and in a manner which does not form a traffic obstruction.

Section 12. Operation of Motor Vehicles.

- A. No Person may drive or operate a motor vehicle (i.e., a self-propelled vehicle) except on roads and in parking lots in Public Parks. Vehicles authorized by the Township and emergency vehicles responding to an emergency are exempt from this prohibition.
- B. No motor vehicle may be operated in a Public Park in excess of 10 miles per hour. If a lower speed limit is posted in a Public Park, the lower speed limit applies.
- C. No motor vehicle may be operated in a Public Park so that its tires squeal or so that it causes damage to any area of a Public Park.
- D. No motor vehicle may be operated in a Public Park unless the motor vehicle can legally be operated on the public streets of the State.

Section 13. Regulation of Wheeled Devices.

Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller skates, rollerblades, and other similar wheeled devices which are not motor-driven may be operated in a Public Park, but only in areas specifically designated by signs for their use.

Section 14. Watercraft.

Persons may not launch motorized watercraft from a Public Park. Hand carried non-motorized canoes, kayaks, and small sailing craft are allowed to be hand placed in the water from a Public Park. However, the hand carried craft may not be transported with the use of a trailer across Public Park property, except upon roads and in parking lots. Watercraft shall not be slid across Public Park property. No motorized watercraft may be beached on Public Park property from the water. No fueling of watercraft is allowed in Public Parks.

Section 15. Construction Machinery.

No Person may move construction machinery in, upon or across Public Parks without first securing written permission from the Township.

Section 16. Language or Conduct.

No Person in a Public Park may, with the intent to annoy or insult another, or in a manner likely to annoy or insult another: use threatening, abusive, insulting, or indecent language which would tend to inflict injury or incite a breach of the peace; or use obscene language or make an obscene gesture.

Section 17. Interference.

No Person may interfere with or in any manner hinder any employee, contractor or agent of the Township in the performance of duties at a Public Park.

Section 18. Refusal to Obey.

No Person may refuse to obey a lawful command of any duly appointed law enforcement officer with jurisdiction in a Public Park, or any Township officer or Township employee acting on behalf of the Township.

Section 19. Natural Resources.

No Person may remove or disturb any plant life, natural material, or wildlife. This includes, but is not limited to, the removal of firewood, the harvesting of plants or the killing, hunting or trapping of animals. Persons may not remove, damage or destroy any soil, earth, peat, boulder, mineral, gravel or sand. Persons may not run, climb, walk or otherwise disturb the face of a dune in a Public Park.

Section 20. Weapons.

No Person may at any time possess, discharge or set off a firearm or a weapon in a Public Park, unless the Person is a sworn police officer acting within the scope of the officer's duties or has a valid concealed pistol permit and complies with the limitations of that permit. A weapon is any device or article used for fighting or hunting, including, but not limited to, the following: crossbows, bow and arrows, blowguns, air guns, water guns, paintball guns, slingshots, disks, daggers, stilettos, brass knuckles, and any knife with a blade longer than 3.5 inches unless legitimately and exclusively for meal preparation or service.

Section 21. Fireworks.

No Person may at any time fire, discharge or possess any rocket, firecracker, torpedo, squib, fireworks, or any other such substances of an explosive nature.

Section 22. Public Property.

No Person may deface, destroy, remove or damage in any manner any public property in a Public Park.

Section 23. Business Activity.

No Person may operate a business, peddle or solicit business of any nature whatsoever, distribute handbills or other advertising matter, post unauthorized signs, or in any other way use Public Park property as a base of commercial operations, unless prior written permission is obtained from the Township. No gambling, gaming, or illegal competition is allowed in a Public Park.

Section 24. Fishing.

No Person may fish in, on, or from a Public Park from May 1 to September 30 of each year.

Section 25. No Trespass.

No Person may trespass onto adjacent property from a Public Park.

Section 26. Winter Sports.

No Person may sled, snow ski, ice skate, or engage in similar winter sports on or in a Public Park unless specifically permitted by the Township. The Township shall erect appropriate signage if such winter sports are allowed on a regular basis.

Section 27. Launching and Landing.

No Person may launch or land a hot air balloon, helicopter, hang glider, parachute, or any similar type of device in a Public Park.

Section 28. Adult Supervision

No Person under the age of 12 years of age is permitted in a Public Park unless under the direct supervision of an adult over the age of 18 years of age.

Section 29. Repeal.

Any ordinance or resolution, or any part of any ordinance or a resolution, inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance is repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

Section 30. Severability.

If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 31. Enforcement.

The Township ordinance enforcement officer, members of the Allegan County Sherriff's Department, members of any law enforcement agency which contracts with or is assigned to the Township, and any other individuals who may from time to time be appointed by Township Board resolution, are authorized to issue and serve municipal civil infraction citations for violations of this Ordinance.

Section 32. Violations.

Any Person who violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction. The sanction for a violation of this Ordinance shall include the following.

- A. A civil fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$500.00, plus costs and other sanctions, shall be assessed for an initial violation of this Ordinance.
- B. Increased civil fines may be imposed for repeated violations of this Ordinance. A "repeat violation" of this Ordinance is a second or subsequent violation of this Ordinance committed by a Person within six months of a prior violation of this Ordinance.
- C. The sanction for a violation of this Ordinance which is a first repeat violation shall be a civil fine of not less than \$250.00, plus costs and other sanctions.
- D. The sanction for a violation of this Ordinance which is a second or subsequent repeat violation shall be a civil fine of not less than \$500.00, plus costs and other sanctions.
- E. Each day during which any violation of this Ordinance continues constitutes a separate offense and shall be subject to penalties or sanctions as a separate offense.
- F. In addition, the Township specifically reserves the right to proceed in any court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of obtaining an injunction, restraining order or other appropriate remedy to compel compliance with this Ordinance.

Section 33. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was approved and adopted by the Township Board of Casco Township, Allegan County, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on February 21, 2011, and it is

ordered to take effect 30 days after publication in the South Haven Tribune (published March 13, 2011), a newspaper with general circulation in the Township.


Allan W. Overhiser, Supervisor


Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, Julie M. Cowie, the Clerk for the Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, certify that the foregoing Casco Township Park Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting of the Casco Township Board of Trustees held on February 21, 2011. The following members of the Township Board were present at that meeting: Allan Overhiser, Supervisor; Lu Winfrey, Treasurer; Julie Cowie, Clerk; Judy Graff and Eldon Ridley, Trustees; and the following members of the Township Board were absent: none. The Ordinance was adopted by the Township Board with members of the Township Board, Cowie, Ridley, Graff, Winfrey, and Overhiser, voting in favor and no members of the Township Board voting in opposition. A summary of the Ordinance was published in the South Haven Tribune on March 13, 2011. A certified copy of the Ordinance was sent to the Allegan County Clerk, by first-class mail with postage pre-paid on March 21, 2011 (within seven days of publication following adoption).


Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Appendix C

Public Hearing Minutes and Public Comments

Casco Township Board of Trustees

Public Hearing: Parks & Recreation Plan, 7:00 p.m., February 20, 2012

[excerpted from the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of February 20, 2012, 7:00 p.m.]

Supervisor Overhiser called the Public Hearing on the Community Recreation Plan Update at 7:08 p.m. Present: Supervisor Allan Overhiser; Clerk Julie Cowie; Treasurer Lu Winfrey; Trustee Eldon Ridley. Trustee Judy Graff was absent due to health concerns in her family. Also present: Sandy Warren of the Parks & Recreation committee; Pam Blough, Parks & Recreation consultant, and approximately 9 interested persons.

Supervisor Overhiser called on Consultant Pam Blough to review the process engaged by the Parks & Recreation committee up to this point. Ms. Blough provided a summary of steps taken, including the proper noticing of this public hearing, which is a requirement of the approval process to update the five-year Community Recreation Plan, and subsequently file it with the State and then be eligible for grant funding. The draft plan has been available for 30 days at the Township Hall and on the Township website.

The Supervisor opened public comment:

Jeanne Van Zoeren, 7205 Point Betsie Dr. noted that page 11 of the draft states that none of the groups use Township-owned facilities, but in fact the Friends of the Blue Star Trail (FOTBST) uses the Township address as their own, and also uses the Township Hall for meetings. Q/Will a stairway be provided regardless of the ability to acquire Maple Grove? A/if Maple Grove is not successful, there would be beach stairs located on Stefan.

Ms. Van Zoeren pointed out that the Maple Grove parcel has 400' of Lake Michigan frontage, the Stefan parcel (now, the Casco Township Nature Preserve) has 300' of Lake Michigan frontage, Stefan is 300', and the parcels in Miami Park add additional frontage.

Ms. Van Zoeren had attended the public meetings and participated in the sticker process for marking priorities. She interpreted the voting process as being weighted with points, as a way of setting priorities.

It was explained that the process was not a voting process, it was one of many ways of looking at parks. The committee developed goals & objectives out of the public input of that meeting.

Per Jeanne, according to survey mailed to residents about 6 years ago, Lake access was the highest priority to residents, and a bike trail was the second priority. She asked the committee to review the priority process. She preferred to see the trail much higher than #6 on the priority list. She felt the bike trail development is a regional effort, with the city of South Haven and Douglas also being involved and

interested in Casco's involvement. There could be a link from the existing path in South Haven to the Nature Preserve for Casco's southern residents.

Ms. Blough responded that the Nature Preserve and renovation of the Township Hall for recreation/community programming are higher priorities by the committee.

Van Zoeren desired the trail to be listed higher, not as a last priority, to be in a better position to receive funding.

Dan Way asked if money was set aside for this trail at Allegan County. He had been told that State money was coming to the bike trail from the State. Ms. Van Zoeren explained that CMAQ funding had been pursued through the Allegan County Road Commission. She feels that the trail is still in line for CMAQ dollars. She shared a report that bike trails have economic, development, and health value, and can bring billions of dollars of value (tourism, economic development) to communities who have them.

David Campbell asked about the funding necessary to develop the trail, and it was noted that the Township on its own doesn't have anything close to what it would take to put up matching dollars for major grant opportunities with other unfinished projects (Nature Preserve development, Nature Preserve Expansion, and Township Hall renovation) currently underway.

Dan Way, 649 Lakeshore Dr. was present and read his letter dated 2/19/2012 (attached).

Several other letters were read aloud (all attached), namely those from Marv Haveman, 5271 Beach Avenue; Julie Werkema, Lakeview Avenue, Miami Park Subdivision; Michael Werkema, 7250 Lakeview Avenue; Tamsie Haskell, 7256 Beach Drive; Jim & Karen Hart, 619 Lake Shore; and Denny & Eileen Mead, 900 Adams Road.

Sandra Warren was present and read a statement dated 2/19/2012.

Dave Campbell, resident of Glenn Shores, asked if any resident of Miami Park subdivision was supportive of the rankings as they were, especially where the Miami Park Beach Access lots were located in the list of priorities.

Pam Blough responded that the Miami Park beach was purchased with millage funds and that is, in part, why it is on the priority list.

Toni Carroll, a resident of North Shore Drive, asked if the priorities needed to be linear.

Pam Blough stated that the committee was focused on what to spend millage money on.

Bruce Barker, a resident of Miami Park subdivision, spoke against developing the Miami Beach access; given the very high bluff and great erosion, any park site there would never be handicapped accessible.

Brief discussion ensued about two different sets of Township-owned parcels in Miami Park subdivision, some located on Lakeview Avenue and used for water/sewer connections, and some located on the bluff face and beach (the latter parcels being purchased from the State of Michigan).

Sandra Warren spoke to the focus of the Parks & Recreation committee in establishing the priorities. She felt the committee was most interested in developing the Nature Preserve, securing the Nature Preserve Expansion, and developing the Township Hall property. Other projects listed were of interest to the committee—which is why they were on the list—but would be developed (only) as funds become available. The committee doesn't want to put the Township in a position to have to come up with thousands of dollars.

Julie Cowie, resident of 876 ½ Blue Star Highway (and Board member), read her comments. The new idea of a water trail makes the Miami Park subdivision beach lots a possible resting spot for water trail people (kayakers and boaters). Dan Way acknowledged that kiteboarders coming from North Beach might also see it as a resting spot.

Township Treasurer Lu Winfrey asked about the exact wording of park and recreation millage (and the feasibility and legality of using millage funds for the bike trail). She also felt the Township Hall renovation was more squarely the task of the Board of Trustees. She was enthusiastic about the exercise one can get from climbing beach stairs.

Pam Blough stated that the renovation of the Township Hall was discussed at length by the Parks & Recreation committee and addressed in this plan because a renovation of the Township Hall could lead to increased recreation oriented programming, and funded by grants for such purpose.

Lu Winfrey expressed concern over millages being renewed given the economic hardship felt by many in the Township.

Supervisor Overhiser stated that the renovation of the Township Hall would be shaped by available sources of funding. The parks millage is not enough to do what we want to do with the former Stefan parcel, Maple Grove, and/or the Township Hall parcel.

Cowie spoke to moving the Bike Trail higher on the list, even though she acknowledged that this doesn't mean that Township funding will follow.

John Geisler, a resident of Glenn Shores association, commented that the numbering of the first priority was odd; he proposed simplifying it and moving the bike trail higher on the list.

There being no further public comment, the Supervisor entertained a motion to end the public hearing. Cowie moved to close the public hearing pertaining to the Community Recreation Plan update, supported by Winfrey, at 8:39 p.m. MSC.

Minutes Prepared by Julie Cowie, Township Clerk

February 19, 2012

Dear Casco Township Clerk and Park and Recreation Committee,

In regards to the 5 year Park and Recreation Plan, I would like to share my thoughts and concerns with you.

❖ BLUE STAR PATH

I believe that the Blue Star Path improves cycling, walking and jogger safety and that the users become a part of the surrounding environment rather than being isolated from it. It allows the bicyclists, walkers and joggers to experience different neighborhoods and find attractions that would normally be missed by driving in an automobile. There are many benefits from the economic, health and community advantages that trails provide to surrounding areas.

Roads are supposed to be designed to promote safe use and access for vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians and people with physical disabilities. Roadways are a significant portion of public space that has a large impact on our local culture and overall quality of life.

I do agree with you that the first priority is the completion of the Casco Nature Preserve and Maple Grove Park but I believe the next priority should be the Blue Star Trail project.

❖ Parks

In regards to the parks, we already have a Preserve park with another planned park (Maple Grove). Casco Township will have two ten acre parks on Lake Michigan with bathrooms, pavilions, and a switch back access to the beach and many other amenities. The third planned park is Miami Park which would be about a ½ mile away.

It is a fact that “people that are traveling by car, jogging, or bicycling are going to choose a 20 acre park over a small park with 140 plus steps to the beach and with limited or no amenities”. Most the people that would use the Miami Park / beach would be within walking distance from Miami Park West, Miami Park East or other very close by neighborhoods.

I would like to suggest that you look at the lot that is owned by Casco Township in Miami Park that would be used for very limited parking and limited bench seating and consider selling it to help finance the Blue Star Path and provide amenities needed for two 10 acre parks and the potential Black River property acquisition. With the limited use of this very small parking area and seating area in Miami Park verse a 20 acre park I believe that the proceeds of selling this property would be better spent in other areas.

If the vacant lot where the proposed parking lot was sold in Miami Park there would still be many options for the stairs to Casco beach. A minimum of \$50,000 plus to build steps and an annual cost of repairs to the stairs from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per year should be expected. The bluff in Miami Park has been known for erosion and shifting so this is a given that you will have continued cost year after year in maintaining the stairs.

❖ Parks And Trails

Parks and trails have many benefits and they fill many different needs such as play, exercise, and connecting with nature around it. They also encourage people in the community to interact with one another and they increase the value of nearby homes, and if they are safe and well maintained, they reduce crime in the area. A park and trail is not just about its size and location, but also its design, operating hours, safety, usability for people with special needs and the quality of life.

I highly recommend that the Blue Star Trail project be a higher priority on the 5 year plan list than being suggested.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Daniel Way

649 Lakeshore Dr. South Haven, Mi – Miami Park

February 20, 2012

My name is Marvin Haveman, I live at 5271 Beach Ave in Miami Park.

I would think that Blue Star Trail would be at the top of the list to get finished. I am an avid biker and walker. I find Blue Star H/W to be very unsafe.

In a time when the USA is so over weight ,it would be of great importants to keep this trail at the top of your agenda. The delays are very disappointing, at each meeting we feel defeat. We all know how important this is keeping this trail going.

It would be a great way to let our young people, as us baby boomers know we are doing what we can to keep them active!! Walking and running and biking is soooo important to our health. We must keep this at the top of our agenda for health and SAFTY alone. We need this trail much more then we need another access to the beach at this point.

Thank you for your time

Marvin Haveman

To: Casco Township Board and Parks Committee

RE: 5 Year Parks Plan

Date: February 20, 2012

With the acquisition of the Stephan and Maple Grove properties, Casco will now have a premier nature preserve and park for the residents and visitors in Casco Township. This is a tremendous asset for Casco Township residents and the efforts of all who have worked to secure these properties is greatly appreciated.

I do believe that the parks would be enhanced by installing a non-motorized bike trail so that the parks could be easily accessed by children and families living in neighborhoods along Blue Star Highway. Currently those families would either have to drive to the park or risk walking or biking along Blue Star Highway. A bike path would provide an alternative to driving, create a safer environment and contribute to a cleaner and a healthier community.

With regard to the priority of a beach access in Miami Park, this appears to be a redundant goal as the new Nature Preserve and Maple Grove Property are in very close proximity and provide Lake Michigan beach access. Property in Miami Park could best be utilized as a tool to raise funds for other park efforts such as a bike trail and perhaps development of the property surrounding the Township Hall for playgrounds/ball diamonds, etc.

A bike trail along Blue Star Highway would provide non-motorized access to 107th Street and the Township Hall and would also provide a connection with the established bike trails in other Lake Michigan communities as well as the Kal-Haven Trail.

As I have stated in previous correspondence, I am a survivor of head injuries caused in a car/pedestrian accident. The safer environment of a paved path for Casco residents to utilize, separate from the highway, would minimize the chances of harm to the residents and visitors who enjoy our beautiful community.

I am fully in support of improvement of our Township and hope you will take my thoughts into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Werkema

February 19, 2012

Dear Casco Township Clerk and Park & Recreation Committee:

I would like to share my thoughts and comments with you regarding the proposed 5-year plan.

I would first like to commend you on making the Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion a priority. The acquisition and development of a property within Casco Township that will allow public access to Lake Michigan while also providing the amenities of parking and other recreational activities is long overdue. The ability to develop a property with only a 30-foot bluff in this area makes it very appealing and fits well with the goal of providing ADA accessible spaces. This will provide a park accessible to many people with very easy access.

I am however disappointed that the committee did not see the development of the Bluestar Non-motorized Trail as a higher priority. The number one goal that was proposed in the five-year plan was:

To provide multi-generational recreational opportunities within the community as the Township is comprised of persons of all ages.

Objectives:

1. Provide recreational opportunities for each of the major age and activity groups living within the Township.
2. Provide for recreational activities and experiences that can be enjoyed together with persons of multiple ages.

As an avid runner, Bluestar Highway has made Casco Township a very difficult and unsafe community to practice a hobby that I sincerely enjoy. Running, hiking, walking and cycling are excellent multi-generational activities that in our current community are very difficult to partake in and enjoy safely due to the fact that there is no safe platform to perform on. Also, there is no connection between the communities where families can safely commute between. The addition of a non-motorized trail would immediately alleviate the treachery that is currently associated with running along Bluestar Highway, and with the addition of the nature preserve what an excellent opportunity to further link the community.

Thirdly, to see the development of Miami Park as a higher priority than the non-motorized trail seems to contradict the higher goal of providing ADA accessible activities to all community members. You place priority in developing a beach access that will require a 150 step walk down a steep bluff instead of developing a trail which would allow access to all.

I thank you very much for your time and ask you to consider these comments.

Michael S Werkema
7250 Lakeview Ave South Haven, MI
Community Recreation Plan
2012-2016
Casco Township

Dear Julie Cowie: We are summer residents at 7256 Beach Drive in Casco Township and were so pleased to read of your vision of the development of the township and construction of the Blue Star Trail. The trail offers such a wonderful avenue for healthy and safe activity to included jogging, walking, biking, etc. Your plan has caused us to work to one day make our property our permanent home. However, we were recently surprised and very disappointed to learn that Casco Township had placed the Blue Star Trail at a low priority. Please encourage your board to reconsider this goal as a top priority and continue the heathy growth of Casco Township that means so much to us, our families and neighbors.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Jon and Tamsie Haskell

7256 Beach Drive

269-372-3573

From: <jhart76679@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 20, 2012 at 6:16 PM
Subject: Miami Park Initiative
To: clerk@cascotownship.org

Dear Julie,

We purchased a home in Miami Park in October, 2010 after falling in love with the area. We are thrilled with the Nature Preserve and the Maple Park build-outs and look forward to some of the proposed changes and goals in your Plan that will improve the quality of life for many of us in the township. One issue has come to our attention and it appears on page 26 of the 5-Year Plan document. It is shown as Priority Item #4. A public access site is a major concern for us and we hope that you will reconsider this item. We understand the purchase of the beach lots from the State and the lot from the Boardwalk community.

First of all, it seems to us that the expenditure for a boundary survey and installation of a new staircase is unwarranted and not the best use of funds. Those funds will likely exceed \$60,000 and perhaps they could be used in another manner. We propose that you move the non-motorized trail up the list of priorities in order to improve access to the park just north of Miami Park. For those people who will want to enjoy the new park, a safe trail along Blue Star Highway will help facilitate access to the park for many people. We know you are faced with many difficult planning decisions, but in this economic environment it is important to make the most prudent financial decisions possible given the variables involved. We believe you will obtain more "bang for your buck" with a trail leading to the park. It should also increase the number of visitors who will utilize the park each year.

Secondly, the parking lot could be a significant issue because of the space available and the wear and tear on the unpaved roads in Miami Park.

Thirdly, the amenities at the new park will accommodate guests better than the Miami Park beach.

Lastly, your time and energy may be better spent on a number of other items mentioned in the 52 page report.

We appreciate your strategic plan for the next 5 years and wish you nothing but success. Our family is thrilled to be part of the community and we look forward to being part of it for many years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time, if you have any questions or want to explain your plan in more detail to us.

Best regards,

Jim & Karen Hart
574-360-5029
619 Lake Shore
South Haven



5 year recreation plan

1 message

Dennyeileen <dennyeileen@aol.com>
To: Clerk@cascotownship.org

Sun, Feb 19, 2012 at 7:58 AM

Hi Julie

Hope you've had a good winter. Look forward to returning north in just four weeks time so please keep the relatively mild temps around for our arrival! Jeanne shared with me the draft of the five year recreation plan and it sounds like the plans for the Blue Star Trail were given a very low priority although I recall from the workshop I attended that there was much enthusiasm for our endeavor and no mention of acquisition of possible purchase of Black River property. Was there another meeting where enthusiasm for this possibility surfaced? Just thought I'd put my two cents in before the meeting and if you'd like to share my email with the Parks and Recreation committee feel free to do so.

Sure you've talked to [REDACTED] Once he's well we'll have to get him on a better fitness plan and biking/walking on the Blue Star Trail would be a great start! Say hello to Will and the girls for me! Eileen

Five Year Community Recreation Plan for 2012-2016 - Public Comment

1 message

Sandra Warren <sjeanw05@yahoo.com>

Sun, Feb 19, 2012 at 6:38 PM

Reply-To: Sandra Warren <sjeanw05@yahoo.com>

To: supervisor@cascotownship.org

Cc: "PamBlough@aol.com" <PamBlough@aol.com>, "bbrandon47cpt@yahoo.com" <bbrandon47cpt@yahoo.com>, "juliecowie@i2k.com" <juliecowie@i2k.com>, "sjeanw05@yahoo.com" <sjeanw05@yahoo.com>

Hi Allan-

The 28 acres of wooded land owned by Casco Township on 68th Street was removed from the Inventory Section of the Five Year Plan at the January 12, 2012, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. It was my very strong opinion at this meeting that this land should not be removed from our inventory. I would like to see this parcel again listed in the Plan on page 12 under the heading "Other Township Owned Undesignated Lands". It should not present a problem with the writing of future grants since it would not be designated as an Existing Recreational Land.

Any land owned by Casco Township should remain on a list for all citizens to see. At some future time, this 28 acre parcel might be developed as a park or even sold. But it should not be removed from our list and possibly lost for future generations.

It is my request that this parcel be placed back on the inventory at the meeting on February 20, 2012. Thank you.

Sandra Warren
Citizen of Casco Township
Member, Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee