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2023-2027



# Duplain Township

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

A public hearing on the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was held on January 11, 2023. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Duplain Township Board of Commissioners on January 11, 2023.

## DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Bruce Levey, Supervisor

Dawn Levey, Clerk

Amy Bowen, Treasurer

Ryan Boots, Trustee

Robert Ladiski, Trustee

## PARKS COMMITTEE

Who are the parks committee members for this round of the rec plan?

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DUPLAIN TWP.  
HALL

01

INTRODUCTION

## OVERVIEW

Duplain Township has developed this Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Plan) to serve as a guide for future decision-making regarding recreation facilities improvements and the development of new recreation opportunities for the next five years. This document is the basis for policy implementation of improvements and new initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests of Duplain Township.

Before any Parks and Recreation Master Plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand the needs of the current residents, existing recreational opportunities, the demographic characteristics of the area, and projects that are best suited for the community. This information was compiled from public input, suggestions from Township residents, and Township officials. Community input was a key component in creating this Plan and together the groups have developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will enhance community members' and visitors' experiences.

The foundation for the development of the Duplain Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community throughout the process of updating the Plan.
- Identify and map existing Township-owned/operated recreation facilities.
- Build common ground among the Duplain Township residents and stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs, and priorities of the Township.
- Enable the Township to be eligible for financial assistance based on the Plan.
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing parks and recreation goals, objectives, and actions in partnership with Duplain Township and other local groups.
- Support the implementation of improvements for barrier-free access to Township parks and recreational sites.

In conclusion, Duplain Township officials intend to use this Plan as a guide for their work on all future recreation and park projects within the Township. It is also a strategic document that articulates specific goals to various agencies and organizations that fund local recreational and park improvement projects. Specifically, this Plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for the development of community Parks and Recreation Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A five-year, DNR-approved Parks and Recreation Master Plan is necessary for Duplain Township to pursue DNR-administered grants. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is written for Duplain Township and covers all aspects of recreation within the Township over a five-year period from 2023-2027.

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COMMUNITY PROFILE

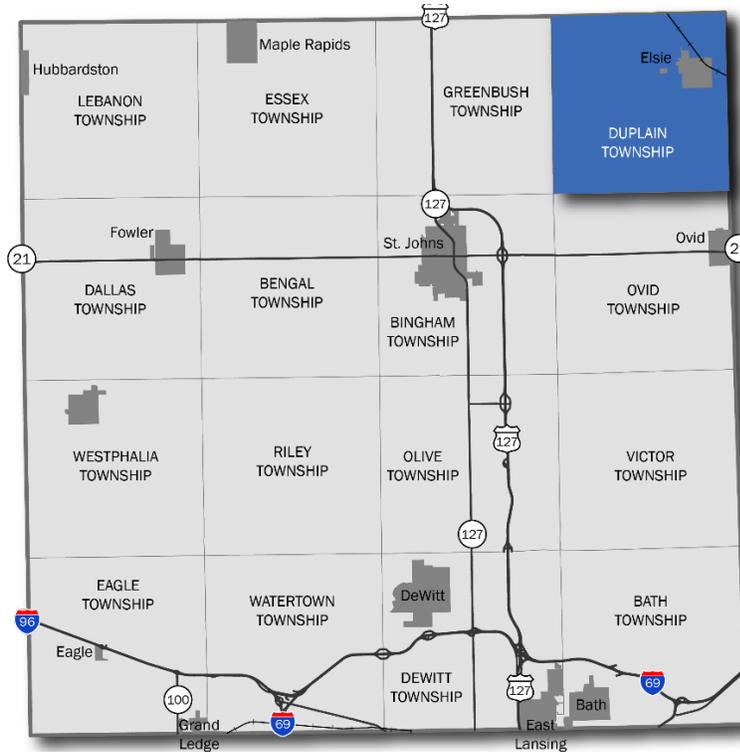
## REGIONAL LOCATION

Duplain Township is located in the northeast corner of Clinton County in mid-Michigan and encompassed 35.4 square miles. The Township is 31 miles north of Lansing, 16 miles northwest of Owosso, and 48 miles southwest of Saginaw. Situated between US-127, M-52, and M-21, these highways provide convenient access to the Township. Major traffic carriers in the Township are Shepardsville and Hollister Roads running north to south and Island and Colony Road running east to west. In addition to the main arterial road, the Great Lakes Central Railroad crosses the northern corner of the Township. The region is serviced by the Capital Region International Airport in Lansing providing commercial services to all domestic and international locations.

Duplain Township is bordered by Greenbush Township to the west, Ovid Township to the south, Fairfield Township in Shiawassee County to the east, and Elba Township in Gratiot County to the north. The Village of Elsie is located in the northeast corner of the Township and has 930 residents. In the southwestern portion of the Township is the small unincorporated community of Duplain. Map 1 below, highlights the Township's location within the greater region.

Later in this section is a natural resources map highlighting important aspects of the Township. One of those aspects is the Maple River, the river is a 74.1-mile-long tributary of the Grand River in the central part of the Lower Peninsula.

**MAP 1 - REGIONAL LOCATION MAP**



## DEMOGRAPHICS

In this section, background information for the U.S Census was used to analyze Duplain Township's current demographic conditions. The following section analyzes Census-based data on overall population trends, housing characteristics, and economic information in the Township to present an overall demographic condition analysis. Understanding the characteristics of the population is helpful when evaluating parks and recreation facilities and needs.

The information presented in this chapter uses the most recent Census Data from the 2020 Census, 2010 Census, and 2020 ACS data. The Township will be compared to Clinton County and the State of Michigan.

The table below provides a comparison of key demographic data for Duplain Township.

**TABLE 1 - DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS**

Select Census Data			
	Duplain Township	Clinton County	Michigan
Population- 2010 Census	2,363	75,382	9,883,640
Population- 2020 Census	2,303	79,128	10,077,331
Percent Of Population 65 & Older	18.3%	17.0%	18.1%
Percent Of Population Under 18	20.2%	22.3%	21.4%
Median Age	43.5	41.5	40.2
Percent With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.1%	32.5%	31.7%
Poverty Rate	11.3%	9.6%	13.1%
Median Household Income	\$50,645	\$76,534	\$63,498
Average Household Size	3.25	3	3.05
Median Housing Value	\$126,500	\$185,500	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as a percent of total Occupied Units	21.0%	17.9%	28.3%
Vacancy Status	5.5%	5.5%	13.7%

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Duplain Township has a population of 2,303, which is a decrease of 60 people (2.54%) from 2010, when the population was 2,363. During this same period, Clinton County and Michigan both experienced an increase in population. The median age in the Township is 43.5, which is in line with the County and State. As the population increases, those residents' recreational needs and wants may change towards more passive facilities such as paths and trails instead of playgrounds. The older population, (65 plus) makes up 18.3% of the Township's population. The younger population (under 18) makes up 20.2% of the population in the Township. Together, the oldest and youngest population groups make up almost 40% of the Township's population.

Understanding your Township living arrangements is important when analyzing your recreation facilities. For example, renters in high-density housing have a greater need for open spaces and recreational facilities. These owners may not have large green spaces at home and therefore will rely on parks and recreational facilities for their needs. In the Township there are 21% of homeowners who are renters.

Within the Township is a wide range of age groups who all have their own recreational needs. Park facilities can create a multigenerational link between individuals in these groups, and across all demographic groups. They provide gathering places, make exercise opportunities available, promote civic participation, and improve the quality of life in an area.

## NATURAL FEATURES

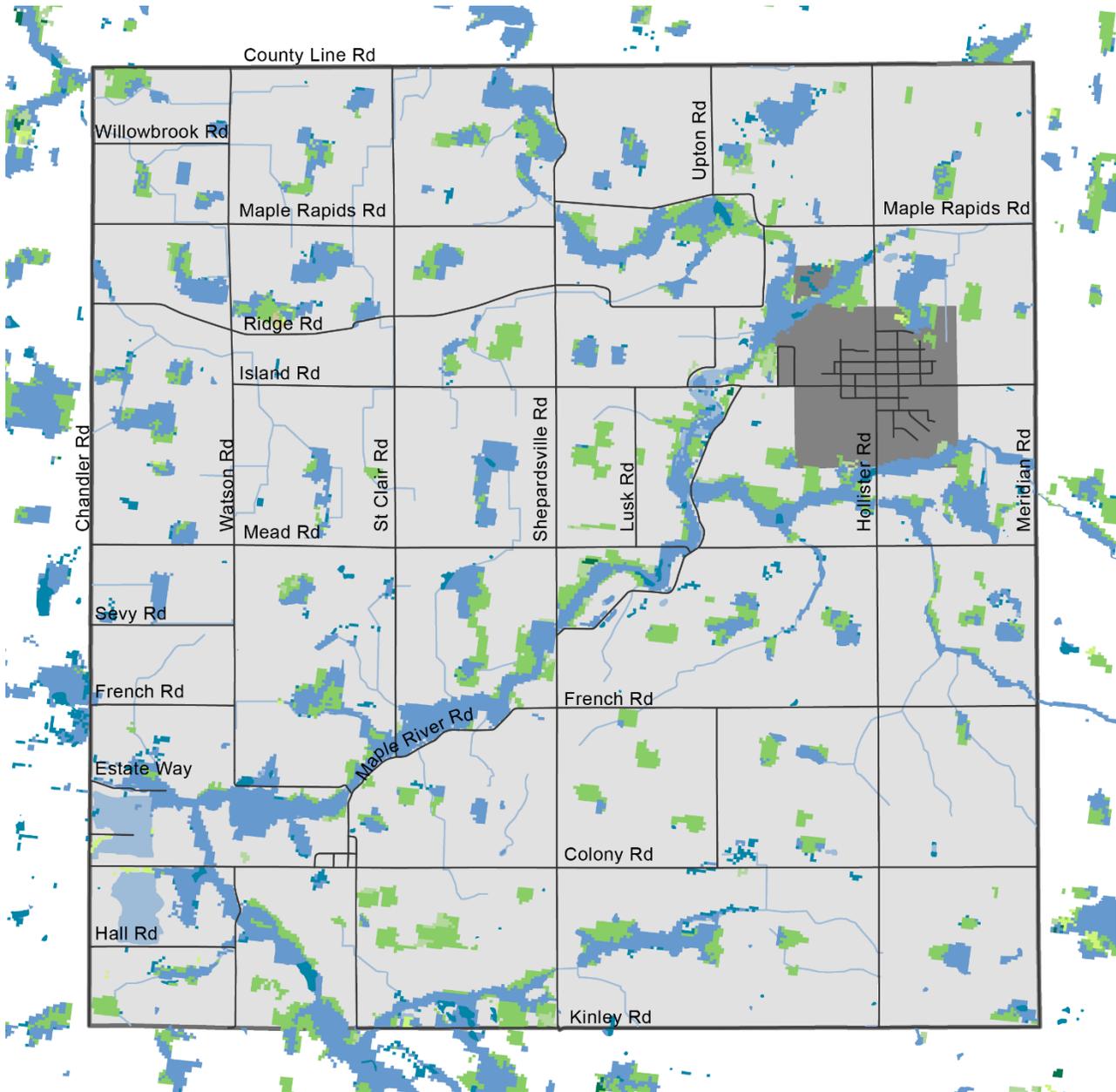
Duplain Township is fortunate enough to have many natural resources located within the Township's boundary and in such close proximity to so many residents. A natural features inventory is useful to recreation planning because it highlights existing natural occurrences of resources and also shows where gaps may be located in the Township. Natural features include things such as wetlands, water bodies, and wooded land. A natural features inventory can help determine the areas that should be protected from development.

Map 2, on the following page, highlights the existing grassland, woodlands, and wetlands in the Township. The majority of the natural features in the Township are wetlands that are along the water courses. The Maple River provides critical waterfowl and wildlife habitat, offering opportunities for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. Outside of the wetlands are pockets of woodlands that are scattered throughout and small areas of grasslands representing urban grasslands such as large lawns or open spaces. In addition, the natural features inventory map can be used as a guide for any future park acquisitions or park and trail development.



Maple River

MAP 2 - NATURAL FEATURES



LEGEND

 Duplain Township	 City of Elsie
 Deciduous Forest	 Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
 Grassland	 Woody Wetlands
 Mixed Forest	 Lakes/Rivers



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ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### INTRODUCTION

The park facilities within the Township are operated by the Township and maintained by **FILL IN (township staff, DPW, outside source?)**, as well as volunteer groups that work to enhance the landscaping in the parks and coordinate park clean-ups. Every five years a parks committee is created to work with the Township Board to help them generate new ideas around park enhancements and developments.

### TOWNSHIP STRUCTURE

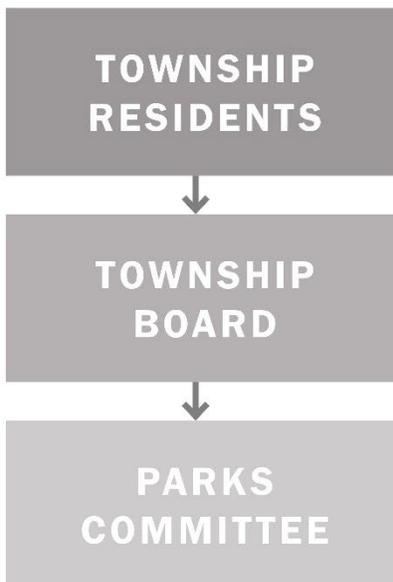
#### TOWNSHIP BOARD

The Township Board is a five-member body who are elected by Township residents. The Board was created in **FILL IN YEAR** by **CHAPTER X, ARTICLE X**. The Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm and is responsible for the parks and recreation functions.

#### PARKS COMMITTEE

**Provide information about the parks committee, when/how were they selected for this recreation cycle, how many members, are they Township residents, business owners, etc. How are they involved in the process?**

FIGURE 1 - DUPLAIN TWP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



## 03 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### FUNDING AND BUDGET

The sources of funding for the parks in the Township are pulled from the Township's general fund. The Township allocates a certain amount for operations and maintenance, programming, and for potential land acquisitions in the Township. Typical expenses include grass mowing and port-a-john rentals.

The Township does not charge to use the pavilion at Friendship Park. Currently, it is "reserved" on a first come first served basis.

TABLE 2 - PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2021	2022
<b>Operations and Maintenance</b>	\$4,400	\$20,000
<b>Programming</b>	266.44	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	\$1,500	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,166.44</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>

### ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Township's park system is small, however, so is the staff that maintains them. Therefore, additional relationships can be a huge benefit to townships like Duplain that do not have a parks department or a permanent parks committee. They can provide assistance in ways that the township cannot. These relationships can include groups such as volunteers, schools, local jurisdictions, local organizations, etc.

#### VOLUNTEERS

In the Township are a few groups of volunteers who contribute to the park maintenance and appearance. These volunteers include firefighters, students from local schools, and Friends of Maple River. The Friends of the Maple River annually organize a river clean-up day where they go out into the parks and along the river to pick up trash and move debris.



### VILLAGE OF ELSIE

The Village is working on creating a Parks and Recreation Committee. When the Committee is formed the Township Board and Committee will work closely together on recreation-related events. The Village currently is responsible for hosting events that take place in the Township.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### PROGRAMMING

#### *Youth Leagues*

There is no current programming in the Township. However, there are youth leagues that play at **FILL IN**. The Township can help with park amenities but legally cannot purchase equipment or uniforms.

**Any more items to add?**

### EVENTS / FESTIVALS

**Any events or festivals worth mentioning? Concerts, holiday events, festivals, food truck nights.**

**Please provide us with any other information that would be useful in the plan or that gets the community involved.**

**Insert image**

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RECREATION INVENTORY

## INVENTORY INTRODUCTION

The following inventory studies the parks in the Township. This inventory was updated by the planning consultants in the fall of 2022 and verified by the Township staff. The text below includes an in-depth description of Township-owned parks, park classifications, and ADA accessibility ratings. Table 4, at the end of this section, summarizes park amenities in a tabular form. At the end of this chapter is a brief description of regional recreation facilities.

Dupain Township has 18.65 acres of parkland provided by the Township, the Village of Elsie has 41.25 acres of parkland, and in total there are 59.9 acres. The Township operates two parks; Friendship Park at the Colony and Hope Green Memorial Park. In addition to this parkland, the Elsie Schools provides approximately 49.52 acres of additional recreation facilities.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least accessible, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines) to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design). See Table 3 below for the grading system.

In the fall of 2022, the planning consultants with assistance from Township staff updated the ADA compliance information. Within the Township, are a few sites with some areas of undeveloped land that are not ADA accessible. However, the Township recognizes the importance of equal access for all park users and is dedicated to improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

**TABLE 3 - DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

## PARK SERVICE AREA AND CLASSIFICATION

A recreation inventory is the foundation for developing an understanding of the Township's recreation needs, deficiencies, and future plans. An inventory provides a snapshot of all the available facilities within a community along with details about the types of activities and features. The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. Both Township parks are classified as community parks. The NRPA classifies several other park types (mini-parks, neighborhood, large urban parks, regional parks, and special use parks) that are not all applicable to the Township.

### COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are intended to serve several neighborhoods and usually provide a broad range of uses. The National Standard classifies a community park as a park that has 30 acres or more. The Township's two parks are classified as community parks, however, they are smaller than the nationally recognized standard of 30 acres. Nevertheless, they are included in this category because of the broad population base they reach and the facilities/intended use of the park. The national classification system recommends 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The Community Parks within the Township total 18.65 acres, and include:

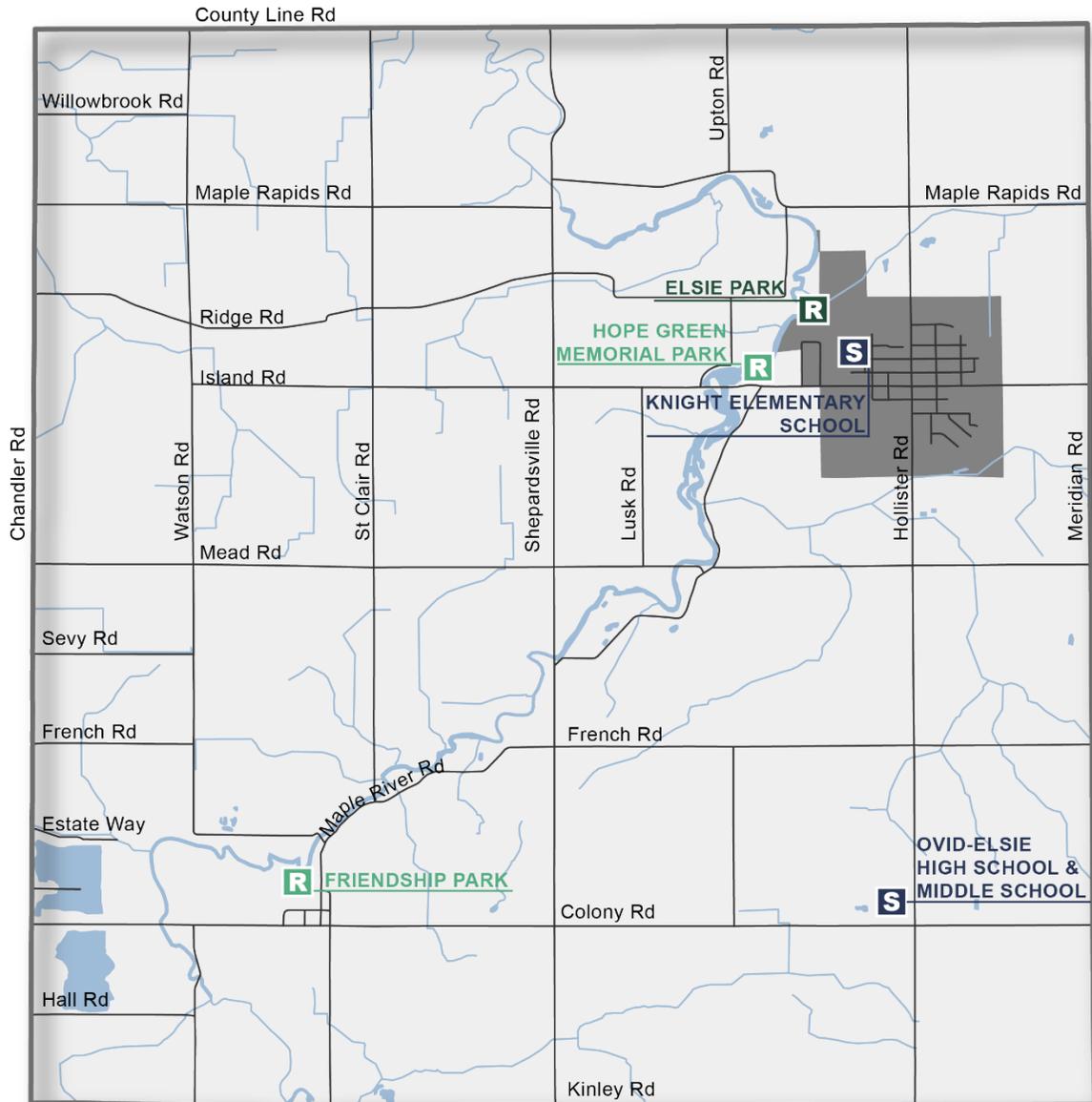
- Friendship Park at the Colony
- Hope Green Memorial Park

Compared to national standards, it appears that the Township may be deficient in terms of community parks. However, the Township schools provide additional park facilities, which can be included in the category of community parks. If schools are included in the community park category, there is a total of 63.17 acres of recreation/parkland which is an excess of 56.65 acres, according to national standards.



TOWNSHIP PARK FACILITIES

MAP 3 - TOWNSHIP PARKS



LEGEND

-  Duplain Township
-  City of Elsie
-  Water bodies
-  Township Park
-  Village Park
-  School



## FRIENDSHIP PARK AT THE COLONY

**Location:** 5599 Maple Rd, St Johns, MI 48879

**Acre:** 2.65 acres

**ADA Accessibility:** 2

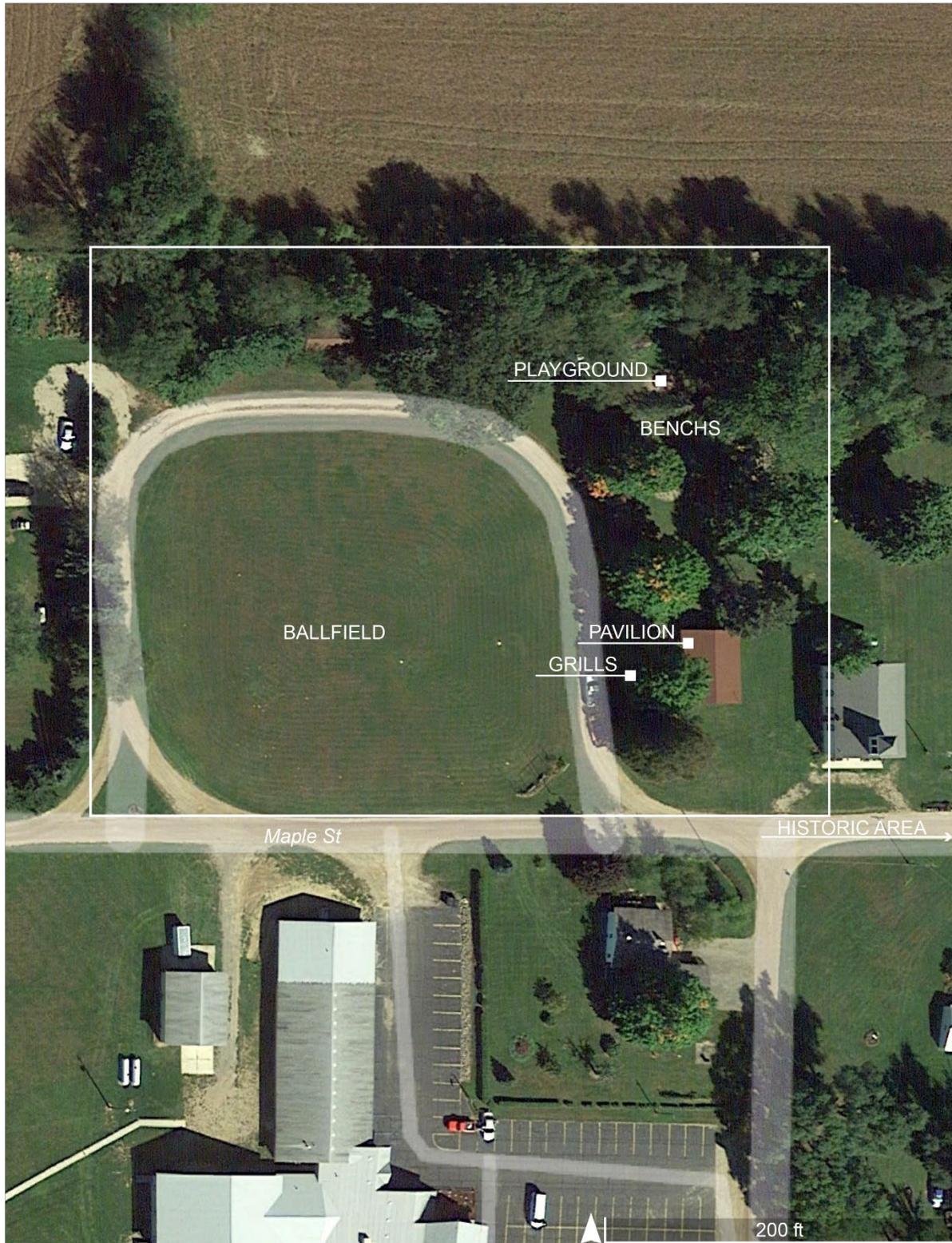
**Classification:** Community Park

Friendship Park is situated between residential and agricultural land. The park is a part of a Michigan Historic Site and was settled in 1836 by a Methodist group from New York. The group was the first organized settlement in Clinton County. Within the park, users can find a pavilion and grills, playground equipment, and an open ballfield.

Provide more details on the park- how did the township acquire the land, and does the Friends of Historic church or the Colony Historic site use the park?



MAP 4 - FRIENDSHIP PARK AT THE COLONY



## HOPE GREEN MEMORIAL PARK

**Location:** Old Upton Rd, Elsie, MI 48831

**Acre:** 16 acres

**ADA Accessibility:** 1

**Classification:** Community Park

Hope Green Park is located off E Island Road. The park is largely known for its historical significance and is primarily undeveloped with a 163-foot-long bridge crossing the Maple River. Recreational facilities in the park include fishing, rustic camping, and nature viewing. The bridge over the Maple River is currently closed to throughway traffic until future repairs but has been a picturesque background for many years.

Within the park are three historic structures: Upton Road Bridge, Elsie Mill Pond Dam, and Kellogg Bros & Johnson Mill Site. In 2015 the three sites were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Upton Road Bridge:** The last known surviving metal truss highway bridge in Michigan built by Detroit Bridge & Iron Works, and one of only three remaining Parker Truss bridges in Michigan.
- **Elsie Mill Pond Dam:** A rock and earth-filled dam with a concrete cap and spillway.
- **Kellogg Bros. & Johnson Mill Site:** The foundation and associated remains of the 1865 Kellogg Bros. & Johnson grist mill.



MAP 5 - HOPE GREEN MEMORIAL



TABLE 4 - DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY			
	Friendship Park	Hope Green Memorial Park	Elsie Park (Village Of Elsie)
Acreage	2.65	16	38.25
Accessibility	2	1	2
Classification	CP	CP	CP
Ballfield	x		x
Picnic Tables	x		
Parking		x	
Nature Viewing		x	
Fishing Access		x	
Grills	x		
Playground	x		x
Pavilion	x		x
Soccer Field			x
Basketball Court			x
Pathways			x



Elsie Park

## COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

The Township has committed to taking a steady and consistent approach to developing park facilities that provide lifelong recreation options for the residents of Duplain. When considering the level of service, it is important to note that Duplain provides de facto recreation services and facilities to a population greater than its residential population.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas, the number of facilities needed to service the population, and the land area needed. These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify the Township's recreation needs. Table 5 provides a comparison of the Township's public recreation facilities against the NRPA's published recreation facility standards.

In general, the Township rates higher, 7.13 acres, compared to the NRPA's suggested facility development standards regarding the acreage of parkland necessary for their population.

In addition to the standards outlined in the table below, more recent park guidelines indicate that officials must also consider the parks and recreation "Level of Service" desired by the residents of a community. If the residents' needs are met with the existing parkland and facilities, then that amount is sufficient, regardless of the standards or acreage suggestions. This is why the community input portion of a recreation plan is so important. While it appears that the Township does have enough recreational land, the community input results indicate a few deficiencies in the parks. Residents would like to see more water access, upgraded play equipment, the bridge restored, a kayak launch, and general park maintenance. The Parks Committee and Township Board need to understand the wishes of the community it serves to provide the appropriate level of service.

**TABLE 5 - COMPARISON TO STANDARDS**

	Standard	Township Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess
<b>Community Parks</b>	5 acres/1,000 residents	18.65	11.52	+7.13
<b>School Facilities</b>	-	49.52	-	-
<b>Community Park- Elsie Park</b>	-	41.25	-	-
<b>Total</b>		109.42		

*Table is based on the 2020 Census populations*

## REGIONAL FACILITIES

### LOCAL PARKS

- **Village of Elsie** - Elsie Park, the community park has ballfields, soccer fields, a basketball court, a pathway, a playground, three pavilions, and dog waste sites.
- **City of St Johns** -
  - Senior Citizen Park
  - J.C Park,
  - Kibbee Street Park
  - Water Tower Park
  - Oak Street Park
  - St. Johns City Park.
- **Village of Ovid** -
  - Gumaer Park
  - Boyer Park
  - Ovid Recreation Field
  - City of Ovid Park.
- **Village of Ashley, Gratiot County** -
  - Village Park
  - Community Center
  - Veterans Memorial.

### COUNTY PARKS

- **Franci Motz County Park** - Located in St. Johns, the 42-acre park has a 15-acre lake with beach frontage, a fishing pier, restrooms, a picnic area, a playground, and paved pathways.
- **Clinton Lakes County Park** - Located in St. Johns, the 272-acre park has two lakes and a natural resources area with fishing, waterfowl, a small game area, and nature observation. In addition, park visitors can find a beachfront area, hiking/walking trails, and kayak/canoe access.

### STATE PARKS

- **Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center** - Located in Lansing, the park has seven miles of woodland trails and eight miles of meadow trails.
- **Sleepy Hallow State Park** - Located in Clinton County the 2,678-acre park has a variety of activities for visitors including 16 miles of hiking and biking trails, 6.5 miles for horseback riding and dog sledding, two hunting blinds, and 181 campsites. Found in the middle of the park is Lake Ovid.
- **Muskrat Lake Game Area** - Located in Clinton County, the 200-acre park is full of marshes and wetlands. There is a boat launch, parking, restrooms, fishing access, and wildlife viewing.
- **Maple River State Game Area** - Located in Clinton County, Gratiot, and Ionia County. The 9,252 acres has a variety of trails, hunting access, trapping, fishing, and bird watching opportunities.
- **Portland State Game Area** - Located in Clinton and Ionia County, the marshy park includes trails and a game area.

## NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

Communities across the United States are creating regional trail systems in both cities and rural areas to provide a higher quality of life for residents. Trails give residents the opportunity to be more active and healthier, safer than walking or biking on the roads. These are additional ways to experience their community and give all users the option of increased mobility in different modes of travel.

### *Why trails are important*

While trails can be a challenge to implement, their positive effects on a community cannot be disputed. It has been proven that trails create a place of pride and a sense of ownership in Michigan residents. Trails are also an important driver in the local and regional economy, they increase property values, and provide safe and healthy recreation options. The growing trail trend in Michigan has not made its way to the Township yet but there are nearby trails accessible to residents. Trails and pathways are an asset to every community.

Trail users have a measurable impact on the local economy. Working with the surrounding townships and other jurisdictions is an effective way to connect with existing systems and expand the non-motorized pathway infrastructure. These projects create a long-term, valuable investment in the community and the opportunity to connect the Township to others in the region. Which promotes economic vitality, encourages a healthier lifestyle in residents, and creates a safer travel environment.

### FRED MEIJER CLINTON-IONIO-SHIAWASSEE TRAIL

The 42.3-mile-long trail crosses through three counties connecting Owosso, Ovid, St. Johns, Fowler, Pewamo, Muir/Lyons and utilizes railroad corridors. The trail segment, FM CIS Trail, is just south of the Township and can be accessed from any arterial streets in the Township that travels south. There are parking lots and trailheads located not far from the Township in St Johns and Ovid. The trail connects to three other Fred Meijer trails totaling 125 miles.

### OTHER NEARBY TRAILS

- **Sleepy Hallow State Park** - 16 miles of hiking and biking trails
- **City of Lansing** - 20 miles of paved trails

Trail Maps can be found in Appendix A

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### PAST GRANT HISTORY

The Township has not been awarded any grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, as reported by DNR Grants Management. Therefore, we do not have a list, however, this does not reflect the other grant sources that have been used for recreation projects.

### FINANCING POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Funding for parks and recreation capital improvements can come from a myriad of local, state, and federal programs. Grant funding is available for parks and recreation projects; applicants need to target potential agencies and programs very carefully to meet the specific criteria required. Appendix B contains a current listing of programs and agencies that can provide funding for parks and recreation projects.



**Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionio-Shiawassee Trail**

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COMMUNITY INPUT

## OVERVIEW

Duplain Township believes in solid community input as the basis for decisions and capital improvement projects in the Township. Public input helps community leaders determine the needs of residents and then provides the framework and basis for parks and recreation goals and objectives. To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans, the Township offered two public input opportunities. These included an online community input survey and a 30-day public review period for comments on the draft plan.

The Plan was available for public comment during the required 30-day public review period held between **December 2022** to **January 2023** and concluded with a public hearing and adoption by the Board on **January 11, 2023**.

## SURVEY RESULTS

The Duplain Township community-wide survey was available from September 2022 to October 2022, under the web address [www.duplaintwprecsurvey.com](http://www.duplaintwprecsurvey.com). The community-wide survey received 167 responses. It was published on the Township's website, Facebook page, and flyers were posted around the Township. The online survey included 19 questions regarding public park usage, appearance, facilities, ADA-accessible equipment, and respondent demographics.

Key points of the survey are summarized on the following pages, and the remaining tables developed for the report can be found in Appendix C.

"Elsie Dam area has great potential and should be preserved."

"Make them accessible, inviting, peaceful. Preserve the natural beauty. Be forward thinking and creative."

"A drinking fountain and restrooms would be wonderful, especially for small children. More historic information would also be nice"

"The Elsie dam is loved by many and a piece of our history. It should be maintained and preserved "

"We do spend a lot of time at the Elsie dam and the bridge is amazing just right now it is a sad sight love to see it at its original beauty again and usable"

"It's important for everyone to have green space"

"More development for picnicking and benches."

"Would love a fishing pier by the bridge."

## ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

Respondents that took the survey were not required to answer every question, therefore, not all the questions have a total of 167 responses. To have a general understanding of who was taking the survey, the survey started by asking demographic questions about the respondents.

- Of the 167 respondents, 33% are Township residents, 31.1% are Village of Elsie residents, 25.1% live in Clinton County, and 10.8% live outside these areas.
- Almost every age cohort participated in the survey. The responses below are listed from highest to lowest percentage.
  - **Age 30 - 39:** 20%
  - **Age 50 - 59:** 19%
  - **Age 60 - 69:** 18%
  - **Age 40 - 49:** 17%
  - **Age 18 - 29:** 13%
  - **Age 70 - 79:** 7%
  - **Age 80 and older:** 6%
- The survey asked respondents when they visit the parks who they visit with. The top response was "myself". The responses are listed below.
  - **Myself:** 53.3%
  - **Children:** 46.1%
  - **Spouse:** 46.1%
  - **Friends:** 40%
  - **Pets:** 32.7%
  - **Grandchildren:** 26.7%
  - **Other write-ins:** 7.3%,  
Family, great grandchildren,  
nephews and nieces,  
siblings.

## PARK VISITATION

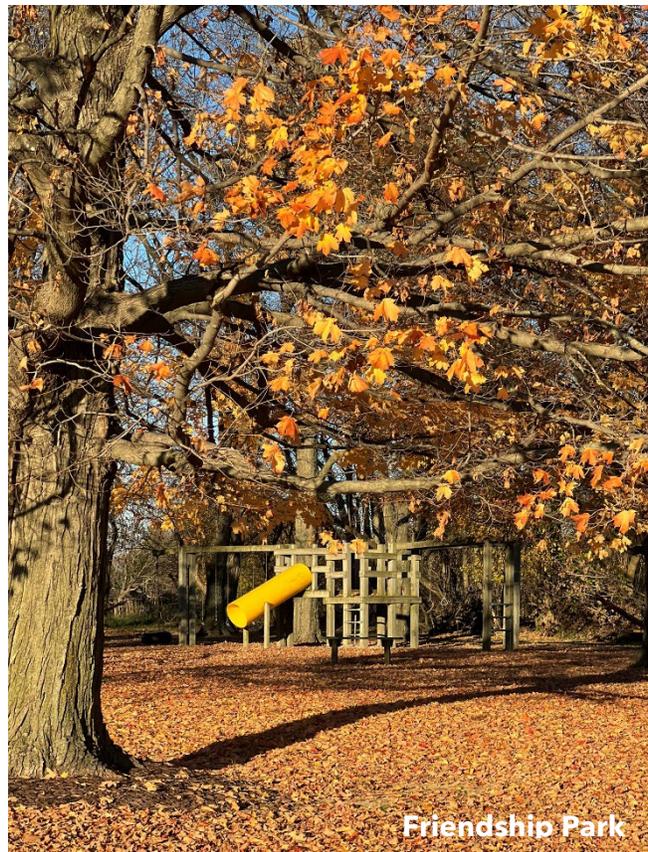
**Respondents were asked how often they visit the parks.**

Friendship Park at the Colony

- Several times a month: 15%
- Once a month: 15%
- 2-3 times per year: 27.5%
- Rarely: 42.5%

Hope Green Memorial Park

- Several times a month: 12.3%
- Once a month: 11%
- 2-3 times per year: 19%
- Rarely: 57.7%

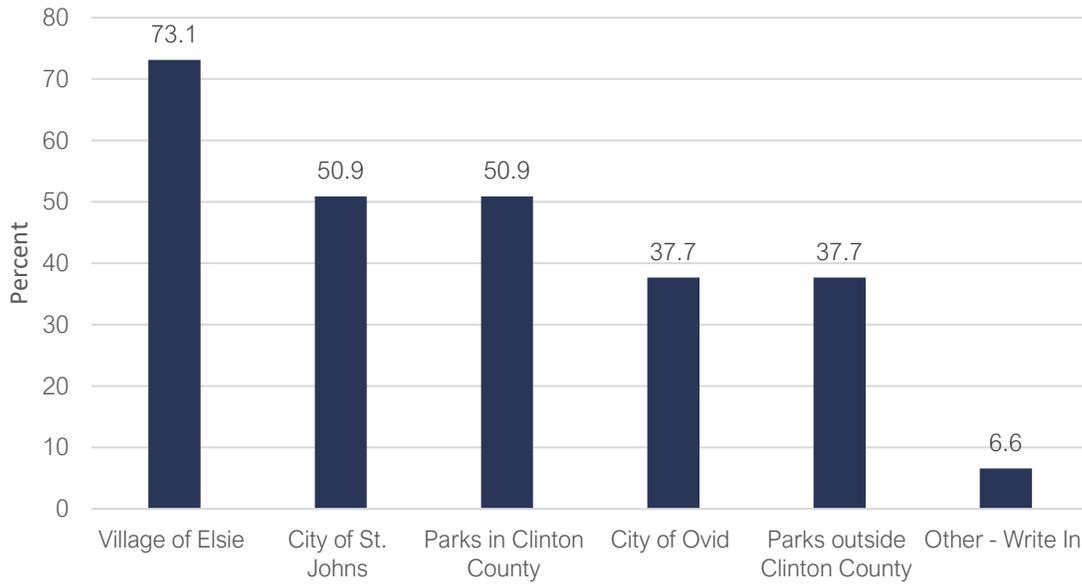


Friendship Park

**Respondents were asked what public parks outside of the Township they visit.**

The top response was the Village of Elsie, 73.1%. The remaining responses are below.

**FIGURE 2 - PUBLIC PARKS**

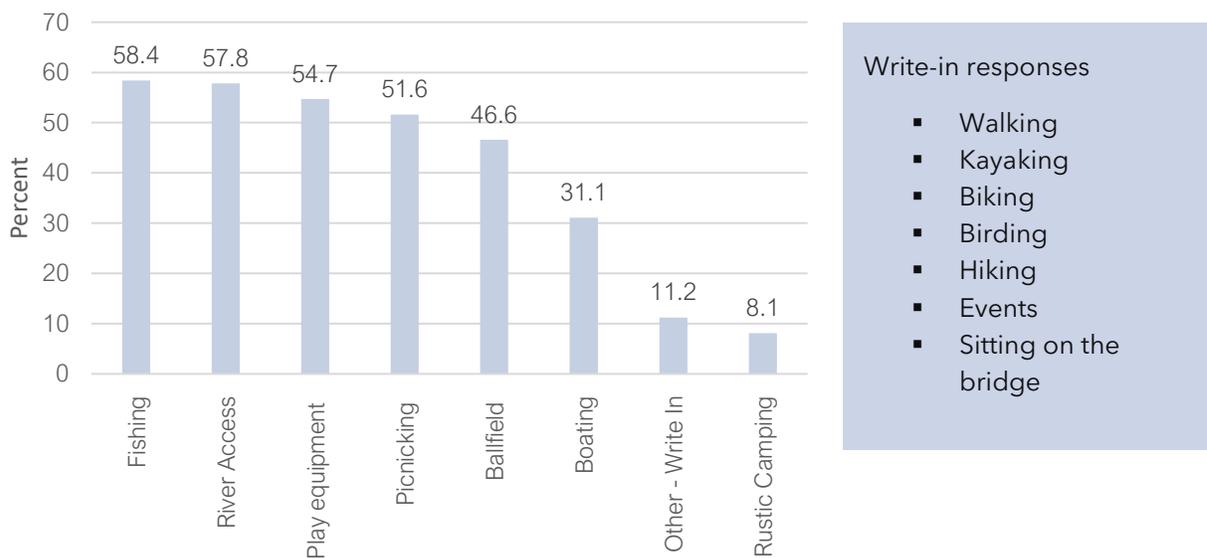


## PARK USAGE

**Respondents were asked to select which of the following amenities they have used in the Township parks.**

Of the amenities offered, the majority of them are used the same amount by residents.

**FIGURE 3 - TOWNSHIP PARK USAGE**

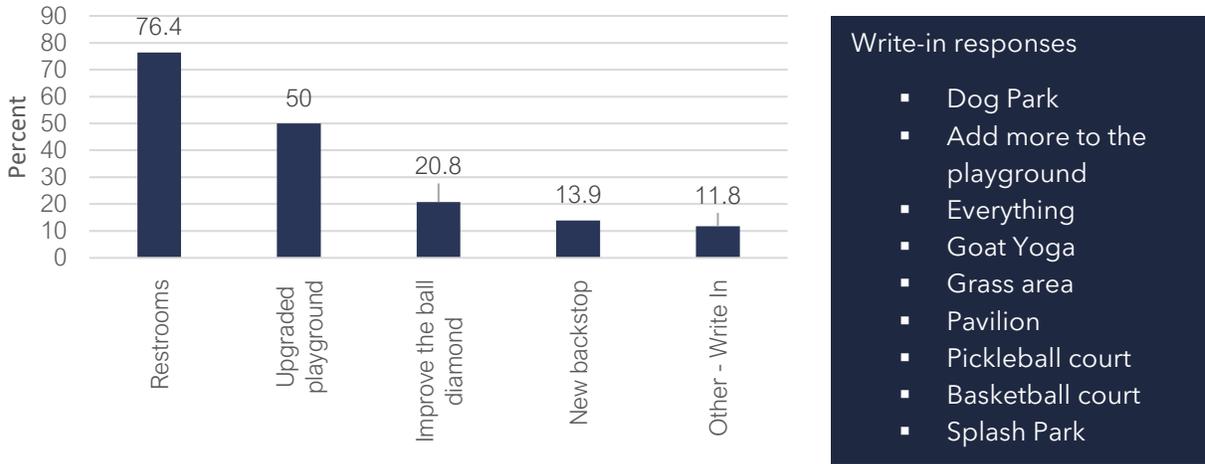


FRIENDSHIP PARK

Respondents were then asked which amenities they would like to see improved or added at Friendship Park.

Of the four options provided, restrooms were the top response, 76.4%. The remaining responses are below.

FIGURE 4 - FRIENDSHIP PARK AMENITIES



To gather how respondents feel about the park, the survey asked respondents to evaluate the following aspects.

Respondents generally think Friendship Park is average.

TABLE 6 - FRIENDSHIP PARK EVALUATION

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
<b>Variety of the Facilities/Amenities</b>							
Number	4	36	<b>66</b>	17	1	34	158
Percentage	2.5%	22.8%	<b>41.8%</b>	10.8%	0.6%	21.5%	
<b>Maintenance and Appearance</b>							
Number	5	41	<b>65</b>	14	3	30	158
Percentage	3.2%	25.9%	<b>41.1%</b>	8.9%	1.9%	19.0%	
<b>Safety and Security</b>							
Number	14	42	<b>60</b>	9	2	32	159
Percentage	8.8%	26.4%	<b>37.7%</b>	5.7%	1.3%	20.1%	

Respondents were asked if they selected poor or very poor to explain why.

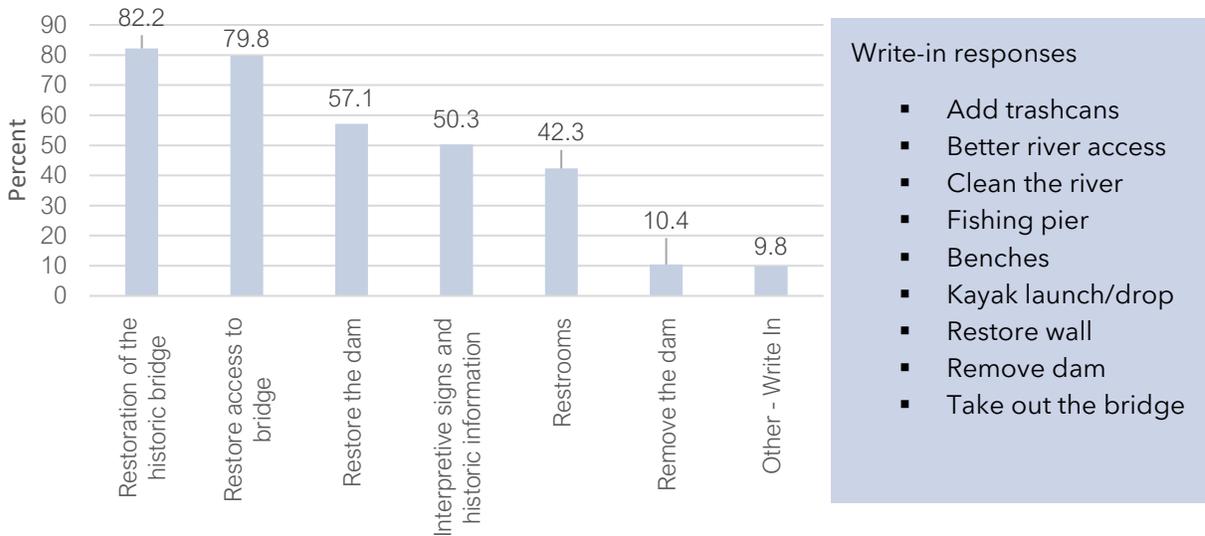
Respondents said: nothing to it, old equipment, needs more, very small.

HOPE GREEN MEMORIAL PARK

**Respondents were asked which amenities they would like to see improved or added at Hope Green Memorial Park.**

Of the six options provided, restoration of the bridge was the top response, 82.2%. The remaining responses are below.

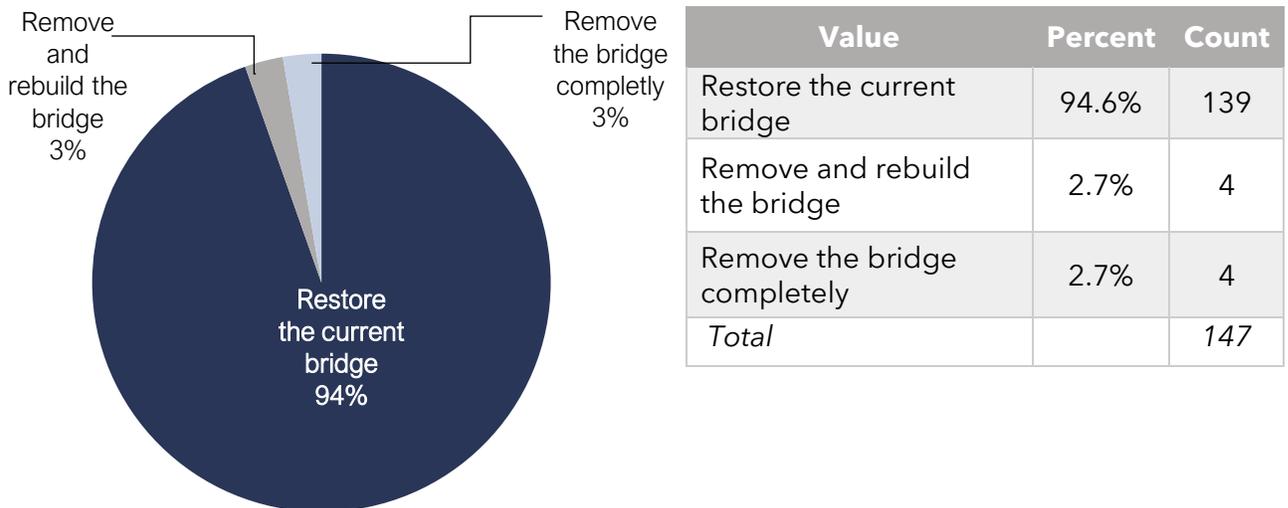
**FIGURE 5 - HOPE GREEN MEMORIAL PARK AMENITIES**



**The historical bridge is a huge part of the Township. Respondents were asked what improvements they would like to see at the bridge.**

94.6% of the respondents would like to see the bridge restored.

**FIGURE 6 - HISTORICAL BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS**





NO  
MOTOR  
VEHICLES

NO  
HORSES  
ALLOWED

06

## OVERVIEW

An important part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to identify effective and achievable goals and objectives. Duplain Township wants to provide high-quality recreation opportunities for the community. The goals and objectives are based on the demographic characteristics of the population, the physical and environmental characteristics of the Township, and community input results.

Duplain Township's recreational facilities bring people together and add to a sense of civic pride and belonging. Maintaining and updating park and recreational facilities will preserve the value and popularity of the Township's parks. Demographic and lifestyle changes will lead to new demands such as more biking and walking trails or intergenerational programming.

The following goals are overarching ideas that the Township would like to accomplish while the objectives are more detailed strategies to help carry out the goals. Finally, the Action Plan is more precise and identifies specific projects and programs the Township would like to complete over the next five years. The Action Plan can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, capital improvements, and operations and maintenance actions. Duplain Township formulated the following goals and objectives.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### **GOAL 1 - RETAIN PUBLIC LAND AND CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

#### *Objectives*

1. Maintain existing parkland while enhancing the parks to meet the recreational needs of the community and visitors.
2. If deemed appropriate, acquire additional recreational land for potential park facilities that are high in natural resource value.
3. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural features in Duplain Township.

**GOAL 2 - CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES THAT INSPIRE COMMUNITY PRIDE.***Objectives*

4. Restore the historic bridge in Hope Green Memorial Park to be a focal point and gathering spot in Duplain Township.
5. Ensure that Duplain Township parks are safe.
6. Design sustainable and attractive recreation facilities that contribute to community character.
7. Identify access points to the Maple River for kayaking, fishing, and other water activities.

**GOAL 3 - PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT ARE FUNCTIONAL FOR A VARIETY OF USES AND AGES.***Objectives*

1. Continue to provide outdoor recreation experiences for people of all ages and abilities.
2. Improve existing facilities to be barrier-free and include universal design standards at the parks.
3. Develop new recreational opportunities that can be used by those of all abilities.

**GOAL 4 - USE PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP IMPROVE THE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES IN DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP.***Objectives*

1. Work with the County, to provide recreation opportunities for Duplain Township residents.
2. Continue to seek partnerships with other recreation providers, agencies, and neighboring communities to share ideas and provide complementary programs and facilities. Examples include but are not limited to civic groups, community groups, places of worship, scouts, user groups, etc.
3. Apply for grants and seek donations, endowments, and/or sponsorships for the maintenance and development of facilities that support the vision of the Duplain Township Parks
4. Continue to coordinate with the school district on shared use of facilities and clearly define facility and programming needs for each party.
5. Continue the relationship with the Village of Elsie to provide recreational amenities that meet the needs of all residents without overlapping.

**GOAL 5 - CREATE AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.***Objectives*

1. Develop a website and social media presence for the Township and Township parks.
2. Work with schools, government entities, and non-profit organizations to share information regarding Duplain Township parks and recreation opportunities.
3. Install monument signs at park entrances.
4. Create interpretive signage that identifies the historical, cultural, and natural resource significance of the parks and park amenities/features.

**ACTION PLAN**

With goals and objectives in place, Duplain Township was able to develop a five-year Action Plan that helps them work toward accomplishing their goals. The Action Plan details the direction the Township wishes to go over the next five years in order to maintain and improve the quality and diversity park and recreation opportunities.

Action items were assigned a priority of 1 through 3 with 1 being most important and 3 being least important. Each action item relates to one or more of the goals stated previously in this chapter. Potential projects described below have been established not only to provide a framework for decision-makers but also to enable the Township to apply for grant funding.

The action items are not fixed elements, the list reflects the results of the input received from the online survey, Township officials, and the Parks Committee. Future circumstances, especially the availability of funding, may change priorities or require the reprioritization of items. Before proceeding with any potential projects, the Township will require further studies, such as but not limited to developing conceptual plans, seeking additional community input, or developing operation and maintenance plans. The proposed action items are shown in the table on the following page.

Insert image

ACTION ITEMS		
Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
<b>Hope Green Memorial Park</b>		
Historical bridge restoration, including exploring funding sources, historical signages, and access.	2	1
Land acquisition adjacent to the park property	1	2
Repair and restore the dam	1	3
Add a universally accessible canoe/kayak launch	3	3
Explore the possibility of adding a fishing pier	2	3
<b>Friendship Park</b>		
Improve picnic areas, pavilions, and playground equipment at the park	1& 2	1
Improve accessibility for all ages and abilities at the park	3	2
<b>General</b>		
Install signage at park entrances	5	3



DRAFT



PLANNING PROCESS

## THE PROCESS

In a continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Duplain Township has developed this Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of community parks and recreational facilities over the next five years. The Plan is an update of the Township's most recent plan which was adopted in 2018. The Plan will provide the Township eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

Duplain Township contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan to assist with the completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The consultant met with the Township Supervisor, Clerk, and Board several times during the development of the Plan.

During the development of the Plan, two opportunities for input, participation, and review were provided:

- Online community input survey that was available during the month of September.
- 30-day review period and public hearing held on **January 11, 2023**.

Based upon the existing information and public input, the Township updated the goals and objectives for parks and recreation for the next five years. Then, the Township updated its Action Plan to accomplish the goals and objectives.

## REVIEW AND ADOPTION

A draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed and available for the required 30-day review on the Duplain Township **website and a hard copy** was available at the Township office. The review period from **December 2022 to January 2023** was publicized in the Meridan Weekly, on the Township's website, and Facebook page. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public hearing held prior to the adoption of this Plan, which was held on **January 11, 2023**. At the **January 11, 2023** meeting the Township Board passed a resolution to the adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Copies of the Plan were transmitted to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. The Plan was uploaded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval in January 2023. Copies of the notice advertisement, the public hearing minutes, and the resolution are included in Appendix D.

DRAFT



08

APPENDIX

**APPENDIX A**

TRAIL MAPS

## TRAIL GUIDELINES

- No unauthorized motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail.
- Stay on the trail. Respect adjacent private property and do not trespass.
- Obey all signs posted along the trail.
- When passing announce your intention: "Passing on your left"
- Keep pets on a six-foot leash.
- Clean up wastes.
- Alcohol or illegal drugs are prohibited.
- No hunting, dumping, cooking, campfires, or camping.
- Open daylight hours only.
- Please preserve our trail - do not litter,
- Pack In / Pack out
- Keep your speed appropriate for the trail conditions and user volume.

**Emergency Call 911**

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY SPONSORS

### **GOLD**

Meijer Foundation  
Main Street Pizza - St. Johns/Ovid  
Independent Bank  
Mahle Engine Components USA, Inc.  
Ionia Community Foundation  
DALMAC  
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance  
Genessee Wanderers  
Cook Family Foundation  
Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail

### **SILVER**

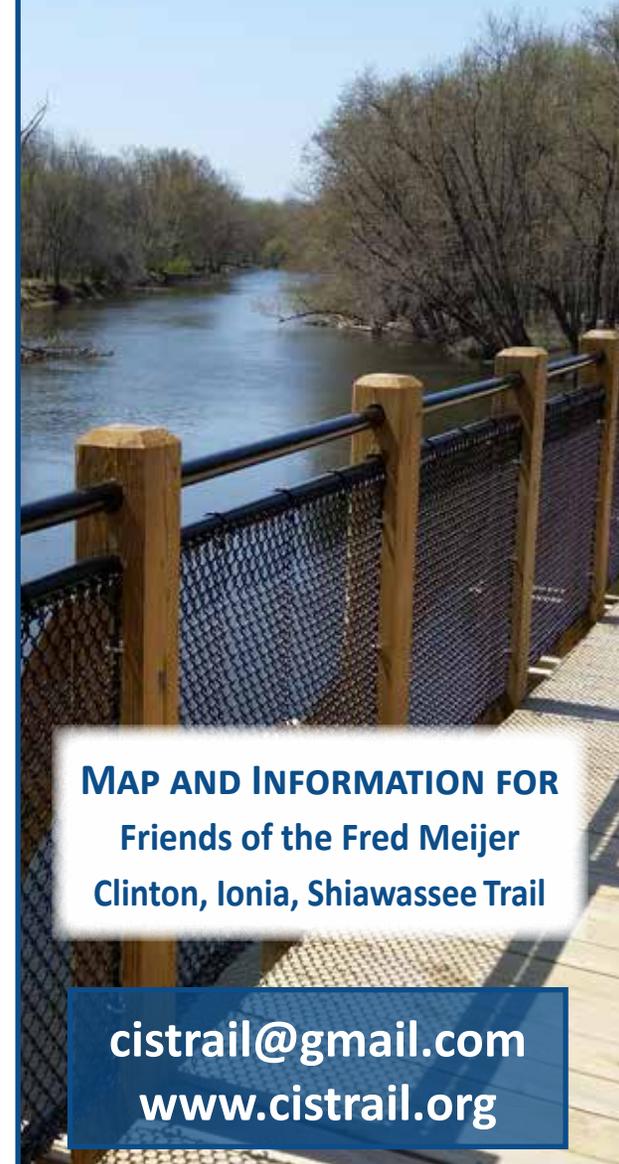
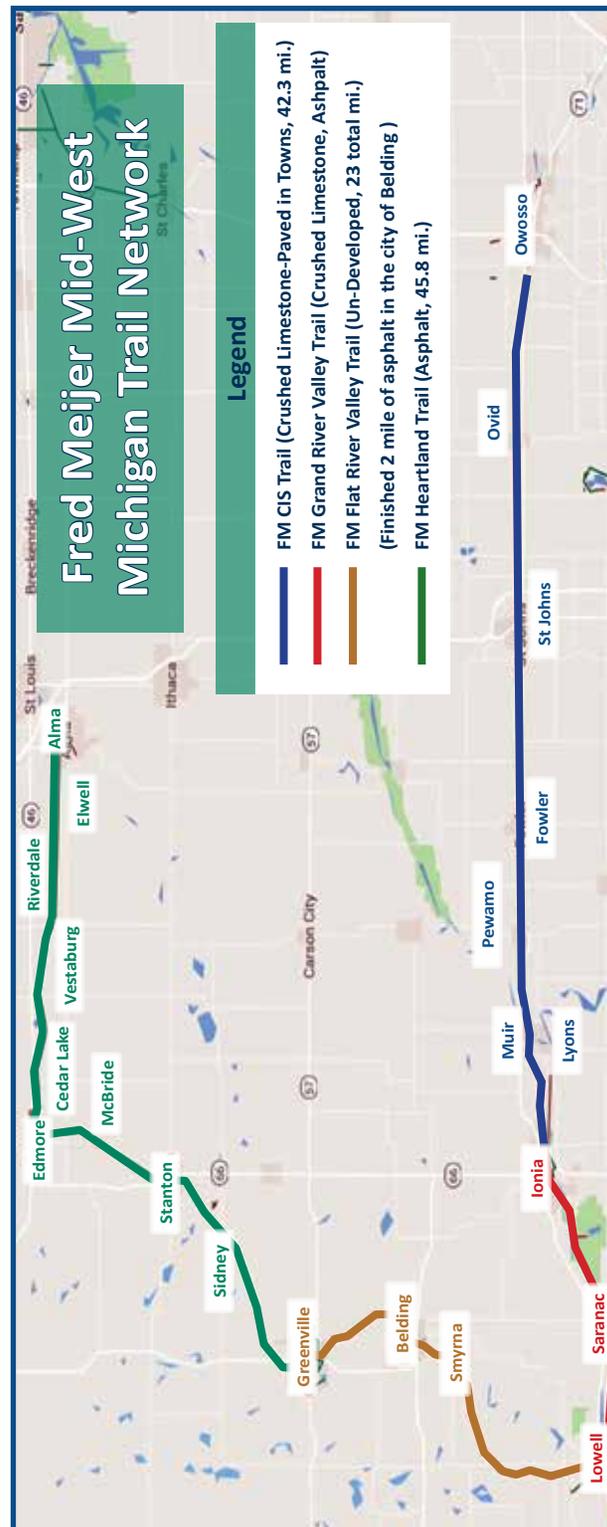
Waste Management  
Memorial Healthcare

### **BRONZE**

Dan's Bike Shop  
Martin-Brower  
Deborah M. Gadille, DDS  
Fred Haight Insurance Agency  
Becker Furniture  
Advanced Drainage Systems

### **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (through MDNR)  
Federal Transportation Enhancement Funding (through MDOT)  
Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority



## LEGEND

- P PARKING
- PAVED TRAIL
- FMCIS TRAIL (CRUSHED LIMESTONE)
- PAVED RD & TRAIL (OWOSSO)
- GRAVEL RD
- FM GRAND RIVER VALLEY TRAIL

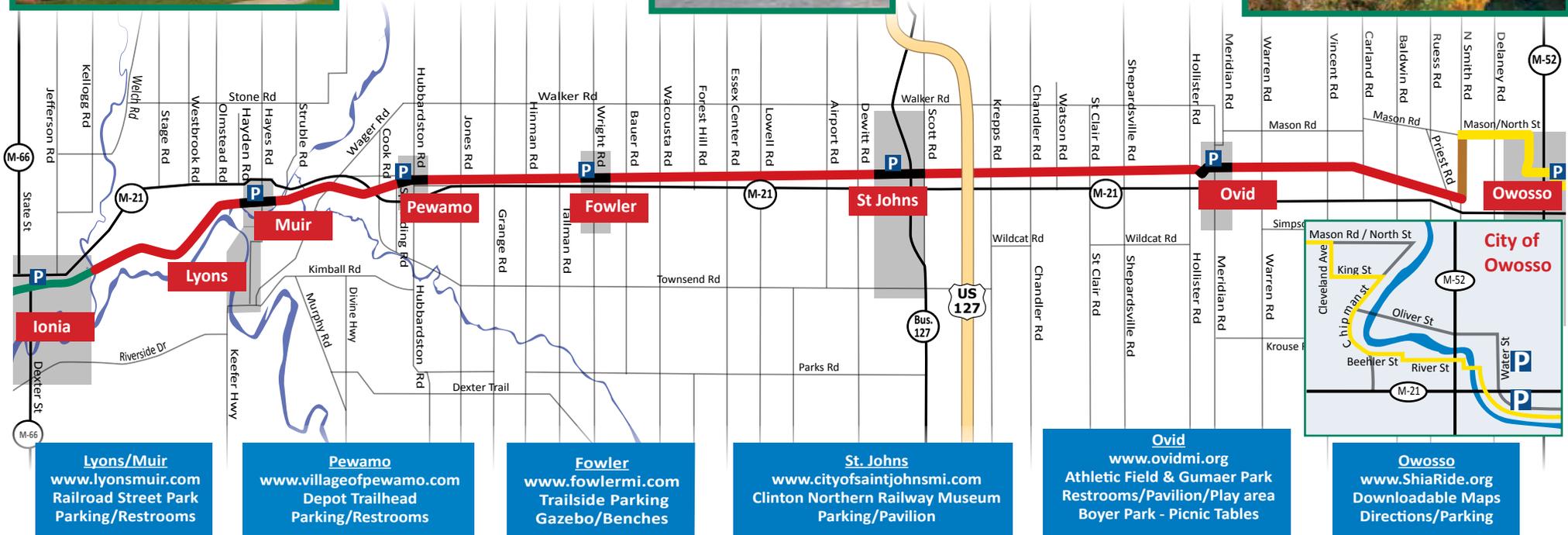
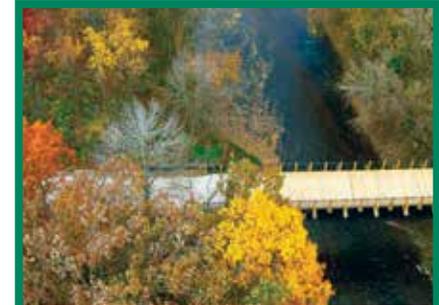
## CAMPING

Island Park (Lyons-Muir) [www.lyonsmuir.com](http://www.lyonsmuir.com)  
 Sleepy Hollow State Park (Ovid) [www.michigan.gov/sleepyhollow](http://www.michigan.gov/sleepyhollow)  
 Ionia State Recreation Area (Ionia) [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)  
 Bertha Brock Park (Ionia) [www.berthabrockpark.INF](http://www.berthabrockpark.INF)  
 Additional State Trail Information: [www.michigantrails.org](http://www.michigantrails.org)



## MILEAGE CHART

	Ionia	Muir	Pewamo	Fowler	St. Johns	Ovid	Smith Rd.
Ionia		6.7	11.6	17	26.2	35.5	43.3
Muir	6.7		4.9	10.3	19.5	28.8	36.6
Pewamo	11.6	4.9		5.4	14.6	23.9	31.7
Fowler	17	10.3	5.4		9.2	18.5	26.3
St. Johns	26.2	19.5	14.6	9.2		9.3	17.1
Ovid	35.5	28.8	23.9	18.5	9.3		7.8
Smith Rd.	43.3	36.6	31.7	26.3	17.1	7.8	



**Lyons/Muir**  
[www.lyonsmuir.com](http://www.lyonsmuir.com)  
 Railroad Street Park  
 Parking/Restrooms

**Pewamo**  
[www.villageofpewamo.com](http://www.villageofpewamo.com)  
 Depot Trailhead  
 Parking/Restrooms

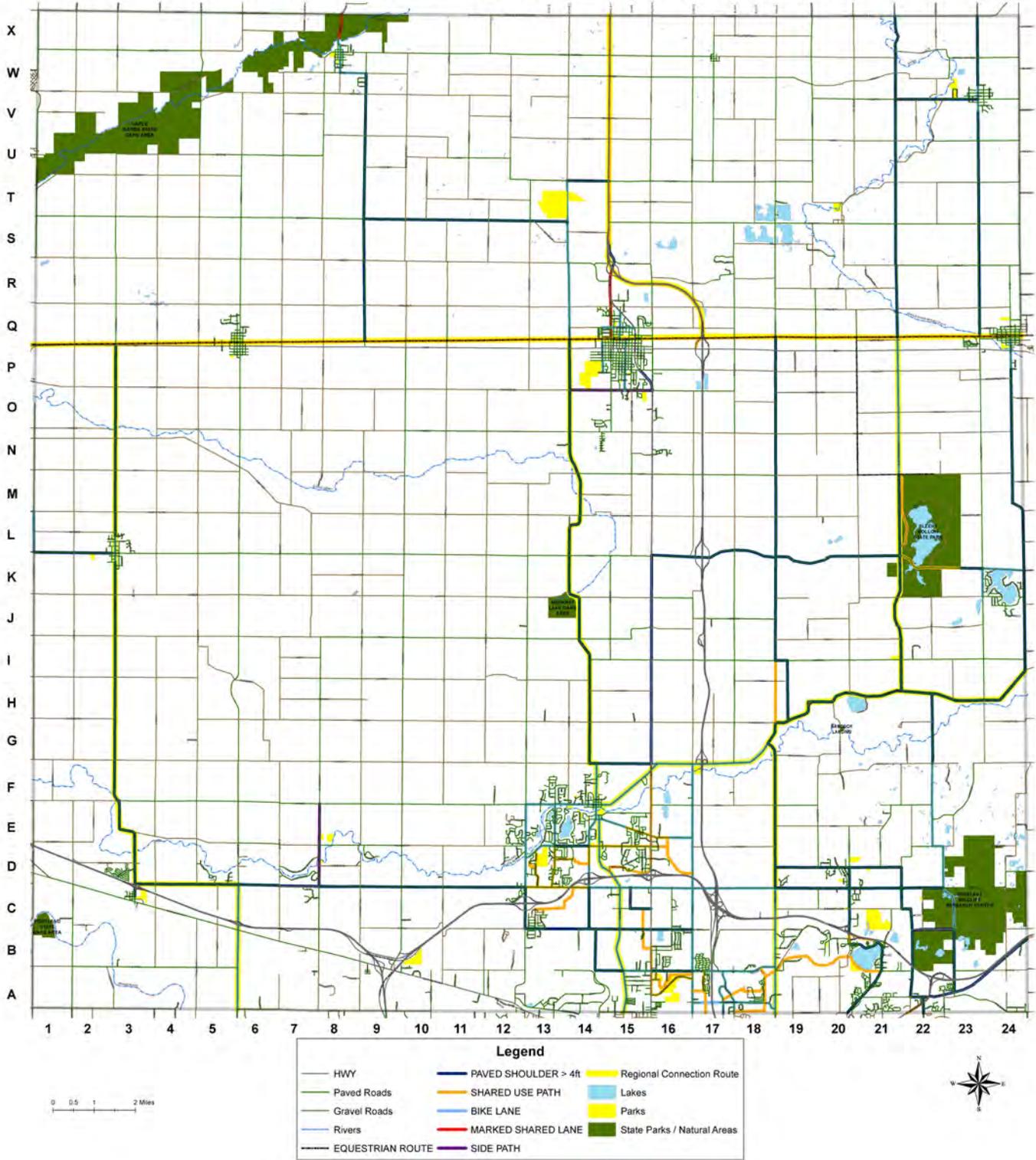
**Fowler**  
[www.fowlermi.com](http://www.fowlermi.com)  
 Trailside Parking  
 Gazebo/Benches

**St. Johns**  
[www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com](http://www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com)  
 Clinton Northern Railway Museum  
 Parking/Pavilion

**Ovid**  
[www.ovidmi.org](http://www.ovidmi.org)  
 Athletic Field & Gumaer Park  
 Restrooms/Pavilion/Play area  
 Boyer Park - Picnic Tables

**Owosso**  
[www.ShiaRide.org](http://www.ShiaRide.org)  
 Downloadable Maps  
 Directions/Parking

**Figure 7 - Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities Conceptual Network Plan**  
 CLINTON COUNTY, MI  
 NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES CONCEPTUAL NETWORK PLAN



## APPENDIX B

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPTIONS

## SOURCES OF RECREATION GRANT FUNDING IN MICHIGAN

### Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

- Match requirement – minimum of 25%
- Development grants
  - Minimum Grant Request \$15,000
  - Maximum Grant Request \$300,000
- Acquisition grants
  - No minimum or maximum
- Goals of MNRTF Board
  - Resource Protection
  - Water Access
  - Community Recreation
  - Urban Recreation
  - Economic Development
- Due annually on April 1. Awards announced in December.
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

### Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Administered by MNRTF
- 50% match required
- Minimum grant request \$30,000 (\$60,000 project total)
- Maximum grant request \$150,000 (\$300,000 project total)
- Funds a wide variety of outdoor recreation development projects
- Applications due annually on April 1. Awards usually announced in December.
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)
- A pass-thru grant from the National Park Service. Involves a bit more grant administration.

### Michigan Recreation Passport Grant

- Administered by MNRTF
- Minimum 25% match
- Focus is on improving and renovating existing parks
- Minimum Grant Request - \$7,500, Maximum \$150,000
- Applications due on April 1. (Application is not quite as extensive as LWCF and MNRTF)
- For outdoor *and indoor* recreation projects
- [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)
- Applications due annually on April 1. Awards usually announced in December.

### Michigan Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternatives Program

- For non-motorized transportation (paths) and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (bridges, railroad depot, etc.)
- 20% minimum match required, 40% recommended
- Funds are for construction only
- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, and villages. Other organizations may *sponsor* applications (i.e. County Road Commission or local MDOT office sponsors a township application)
- Rolling on-line application process
- [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) Go to “Projects and Programs”.

## **Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT)**

- Objective – improve or create shore-based Great Lakes recreational access.
- Must be located on the Great lakes or lower portions of major tributaries
- Matching funds not required but projects with local funding will be favored.
- Due in August/September
- [www.glft.org](http://www.glft.org)

## **Michigan Coastal Management Grants**

### Objectives

- Protect, manage and restore coastal communities and habitats
- Restore historic structures
- Revitalize urban waterfronts
- Increase recreational opportunities along Michigan’s Great Lakes coast
- Applicant must be a coastal unit of government
- Maximum grant request - \$50,000
- Match requirements – 50% (some flexibility in match for non-construction projects that result in changes to local master plans or zoning ordinances, regional greenways, or include conservation planning)
- Eligible projects
  - Studies, Designs and Land Use Plans – must have a direct connection to coastal planning and/or resource protection.
  - Construction – boardwalks, trails, lighthouse preservation, habitat restoration, scenic overlook, etc.
- Due annually on May 1
- [www.michigan.gov/deqcoastal](http://www.michigan.gov/deqcoastal)

### *Other grant programs to consider:*

## **Coastal Program – Great Lakes – US Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Grants to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to support healthy coastal ecosystems
- Rolling application process
- [www.fws.gov/coastal/coastalgrants/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/coastal/coastalgrants/index.html)

## **Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network**

- For projects that improve the watershed and help build sustainable communities
- Good for use as seed and match money
- Have helped fund canoe launches, trails, and other park projects
- Applications taken on a rolling basis, awarded semi-annually
- See [www.saginawbaywin.org/grants/](http://www.saginawbaywin.org/grants/) for more info

## **Specific sports and sports foundations**

- United States Tennis Association (USTA)
  - funding for tennis courts and programs
  - [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)
- Major League Baseball
  - Baseball Tomorrow Fund
  - [www.baseballtomorrow.com](http://www.baseballtomorrow.com)

- United States Soccer  
- [www.ussoccerfoundation.org](http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org)

## **Safe Routes to School**

- For projects near elementary and middle schools:
  - Sidewalks
  - Traffic calming and speed reduction
  - Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
  - On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
  - Off-street pedestrian facilities
  - Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Need to complete the safe routes planning process to apply
- [www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org)

## **Trust for Public Land (TPL)**

- Conservation Transactions  
TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. TPL serves as an independent agent, buying land from willing landowners and then transferring it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups for protection. In some instances, TPL will protect land through conservation easements, which restrict development but permit traditional uses such as farming and ranching.
- [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

## **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants**

- Must be part of a watershed management plan
- Projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution (streambank and shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, erosion control, conservation easements)
- 25% match required
- [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq) - Go to "Water", then "Surface Water" and then to "Non-point Source Pollution".

## **Community Foundations**

### **Private Foundations and Endowments (Examples)**

- Wickes Foundation
- Strosacker Foundation
- Gerstacker Foundations

For more complete lists of foundations, search online databases that can be found at [nccs.urban.org](http://nccs.urban.org) or [foundationcenter.org](http://foundationcenter.org)

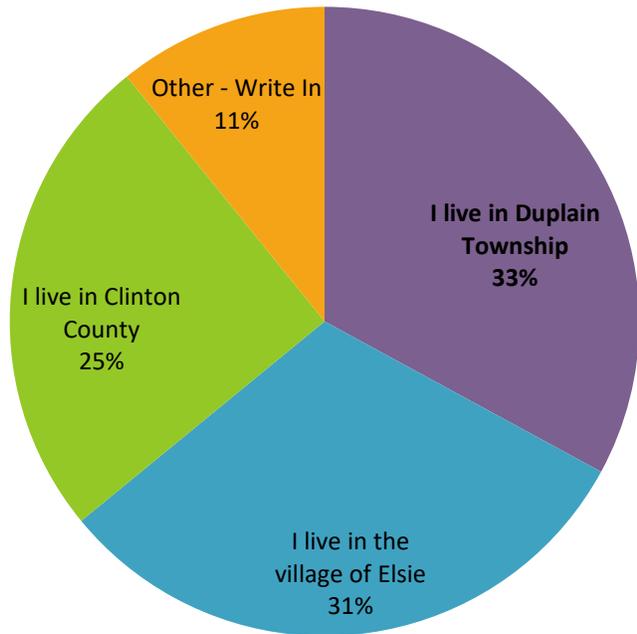
**APPENDIX C**  
PUBLIC INPUT RESULTS

# REPORT FOR DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP REC SURVEY

Responses 167

## 1. What is your relationship to Duplain Township?

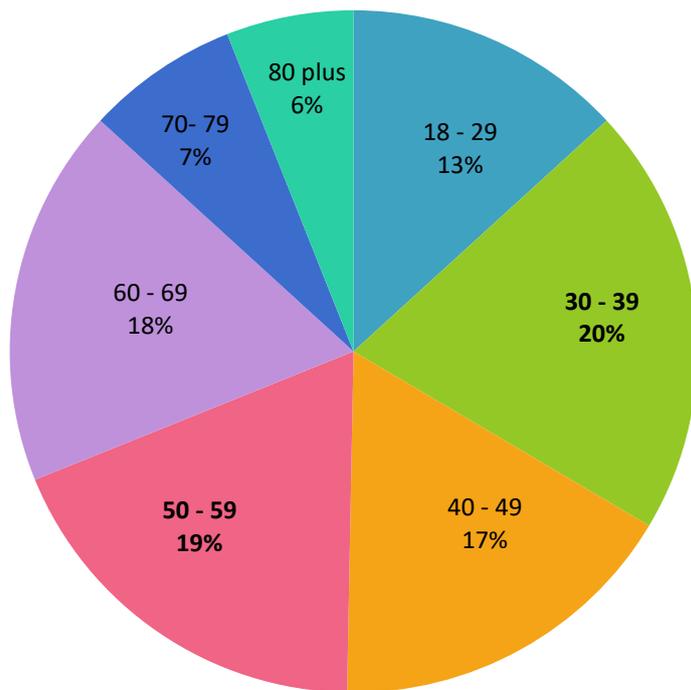
Value	Percent	Count
I live in Duplain Township	32.9%	55
I live in the village of Elsie	31.1%	52
I live in Clinton County	25.1%	42
Other - Write In	10.8%	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>167</b>



### Other- write in

- Business owner
- Grew up in the area
- Visit the area often
- Property Owner
- Family is there
- Other- attend church, Shiawassee County, visit the cemetery

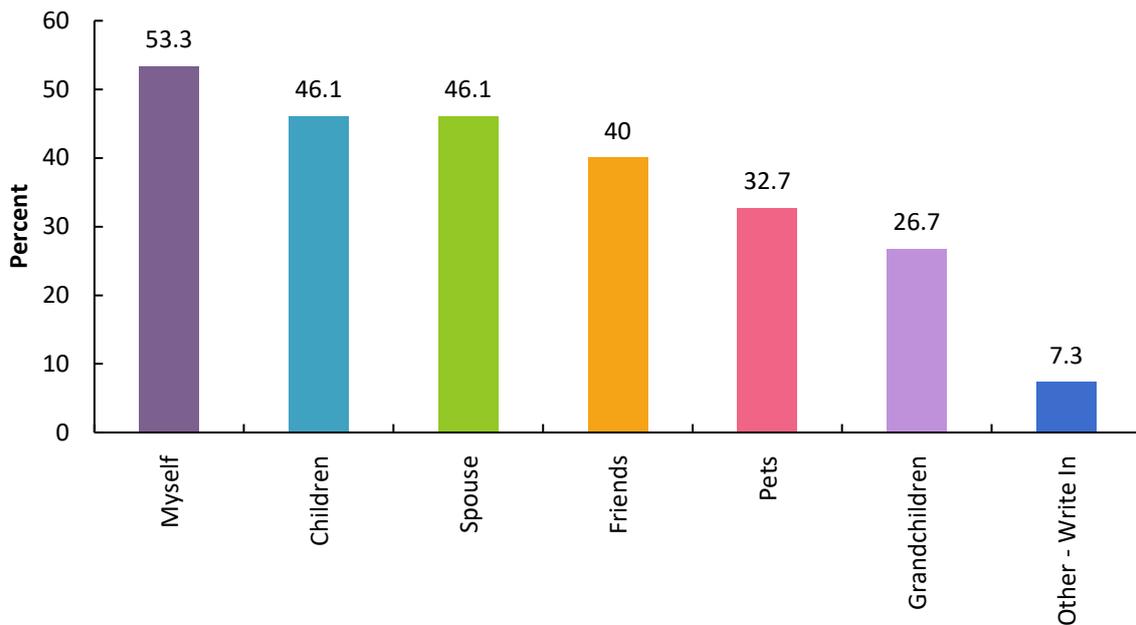
## 2. What is your age range?



### Ranking

1. 30-39
2. 50-59
3. 60-69
4. 40-49
5. 18-29
6. 70-79
7. 80+

## 3. When you visit Duplain Township parks, who do you normally visit with? Please check all that apply.



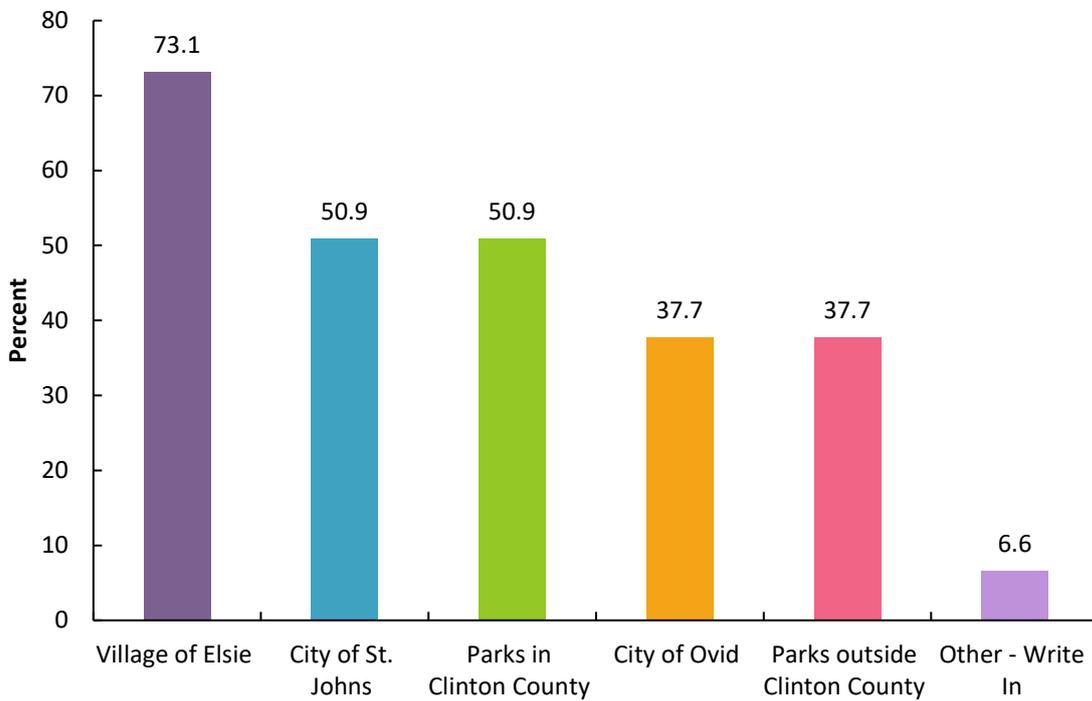
### Other – write in

- Family
- Great grandchildren playing sports
- Nephews and nieces
- Sibling

**4. How often do you visit the Duplain Township parks?**

	Several times a month	Once a month	2-3 times per year	Rarely	Responses
<b>Friendship Park at the Colony</b>					
Count	25	25	46	<b>71</b>	167
Row %	15.0%	15.0%	27.5%	<b>42.55</b>	
<b>Hope Green Memorial Park</b>					
Count	20	18	31	<b>94</b>	163
Row %	12.3%	11%	19%	<b>57.7%</b>	

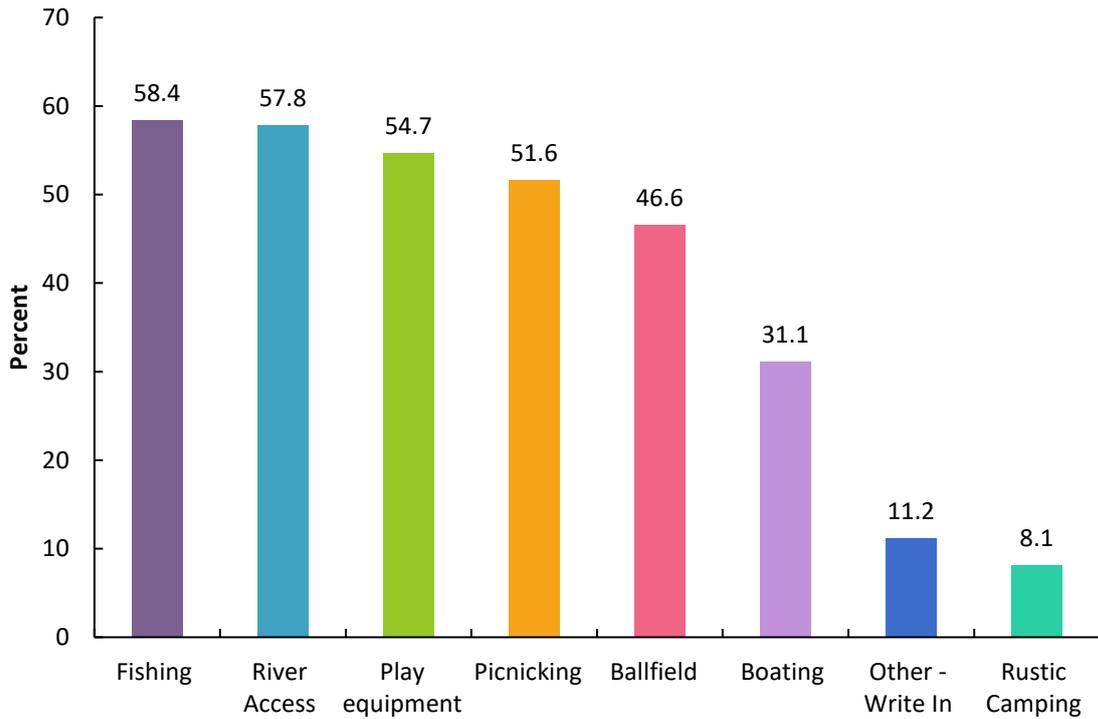
**5. Where do you go to visit other public parks? Please check all that apply.**



Other- write in

- Bentley in Owosso, st johns
- Elsie dam- not a park but should be
- National parks
- Ovid dog park
- Reed's park north star, Gratiot county
- Rodchester colony
- State & National Parks
- State parks

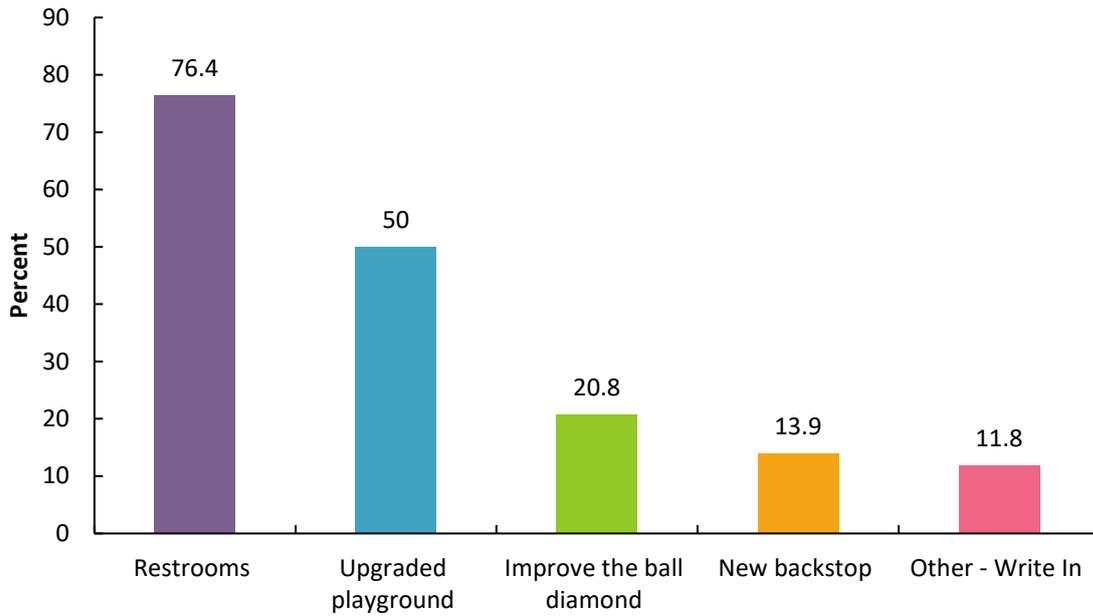
**6.I have participated in the following recreational activities in Duplain Township. Check all that apply.**



Other – write in

- Walking (2)
- Kayaking (3)
- Biking
- Birding, hiking
- Events
- I used to love to sit on the bridge at the dam with my girl at night n watch the stars

**7. What amenities would you like to see added/improved at Friendship Park? Please check all that apply.**



Other - write in

- Add dog park
- Add more to the playground
- Everything!!
- Fix bridge at elsie dam
- Fix up old tennis courts and basketball hoops
- Goat yoga
- Grass and area fixed up and grounds leveled
- Keep it the same really. Maybe update the pavilions.
- New basketball court
- Pickleball court
- Some form of splash park/sprinkler system in Elsie Park
- We go to Friendship Park to play on the OLD playground equipment. Please don't take it out!
- basketball

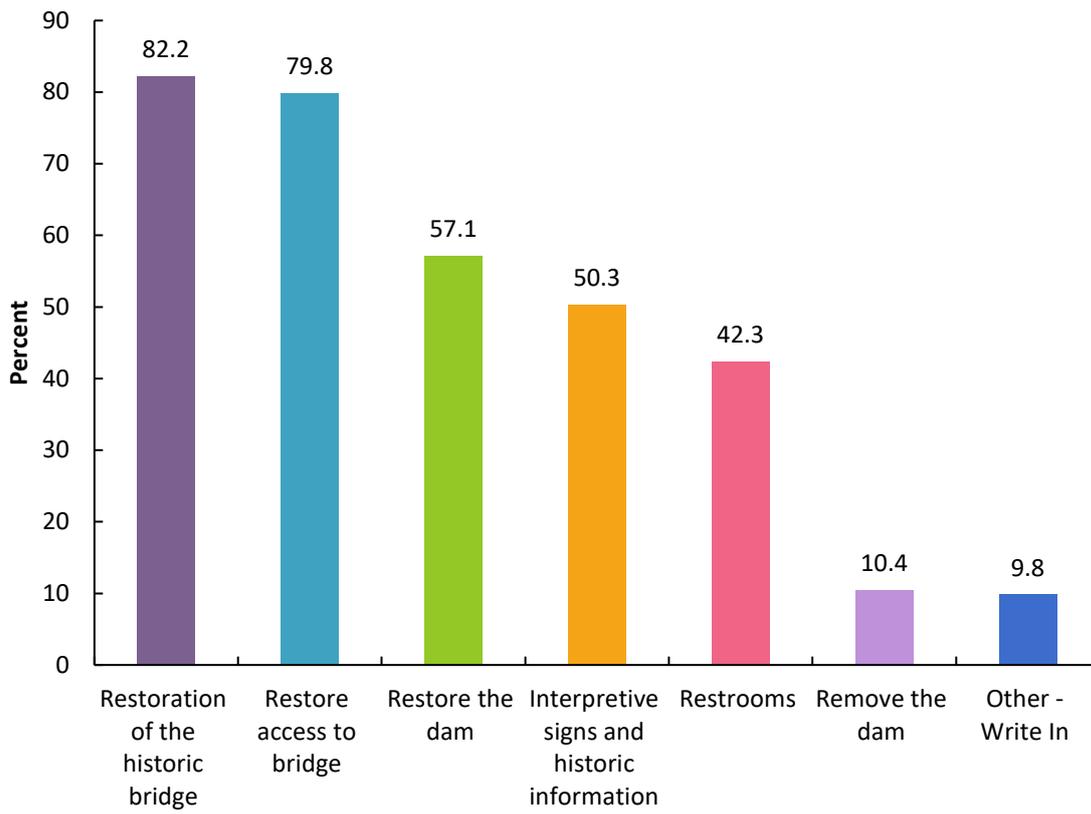
**8. Please evaluate the following aspects of Friendship Park.**

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
<b>Variety of the Facilities/Amenities</b>	25.3%						
Count	4	36	<b>66</b>	17	1	34	158
Row%	2.5%	22.8%	<b>41.8%</b>	10.8%	0.6%	21.5%	
<b>Maintenance and Appearance</b>	29.1%						
Count	5	41	<b>65</b>	14	3	30	158
Row%	3.2%	25.9%	<b>41.1%</b>	8.9%	1.9%	19.0%	
<b>Safety and Security</b>	35.2%						
Count	14	42	<b>60</b>	9	2	32	159
Row%	8.8%	26.4%	<b>37.7%</b>	5.7%	1.3%	20.1%	

**9. If you selected "poor" or "very poor" on the previous question please explain why.**

- Nothing to it
- Old equipment
- Needs more up keep,
- It's very small

**10. What amenities would you like to see added/improved at Hope Green Memorial Park (Elsie Dam)? Please check all that apply.**

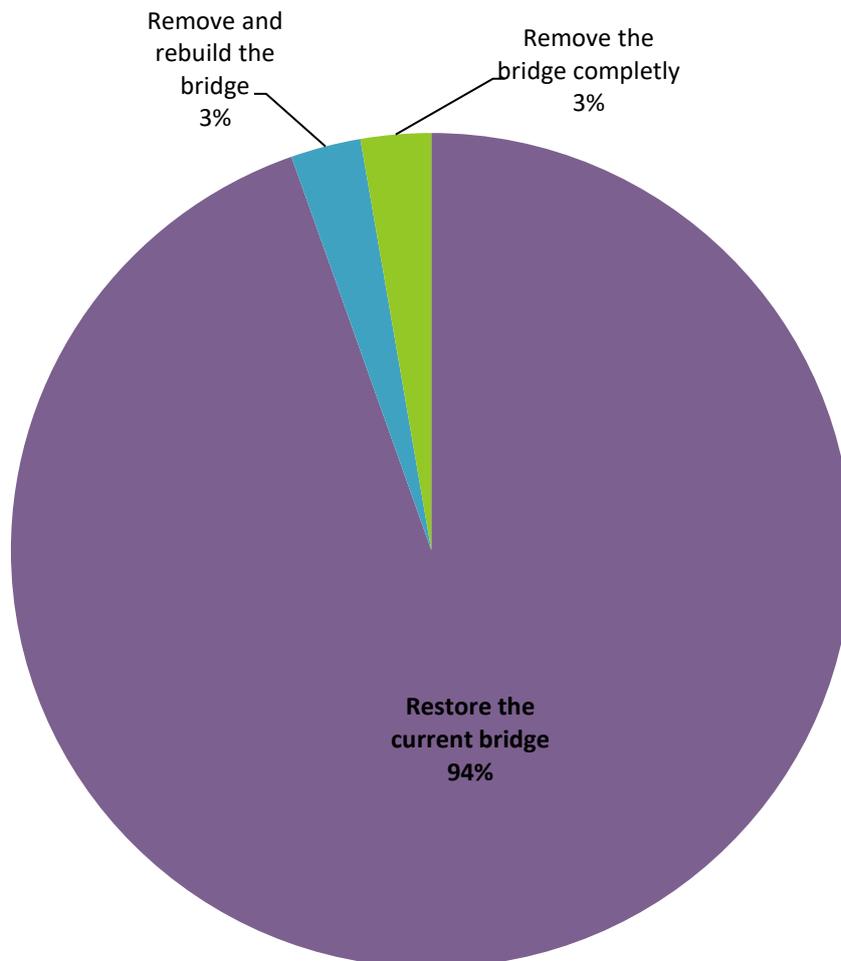


Other – write in

- Add trash cans so consciences people won't litter
- Better river access for kayaking
- Clean the river to make it viable again
- Fishing pier, Benches, more trash cans
- Fix stone wall for fishing
- I really don't care for the bridge or dam, have never stopped to see it to be honest
- Place to drop kayaks in the river
- Remove the dam
- Restore wall
- Take out the bridge
- Take out the bridge . If you can't remove the dam then dredge the millpond
- The dam needs to remain. The fish upstream and downstream need it. As well as many other species of wildlife. The bridge is quite an expensive project an I personally don't think it needs restored, as much as it hurts to say.
- Trash cans
- Trash cleanup
- Turn into hydroelectric dam to power the parks.

### 11. What improvements would you like to see for the bridge?

Value	Percent	Count
Restore the current bridge	94.6%	139
Remove and rebuild the bridge	2.7%	4
Remove the bridge completely	2.7%	4
Total		147



**12. Please evaluate the following aspects of Hope Green Memorial Park (Elsie Dam).**

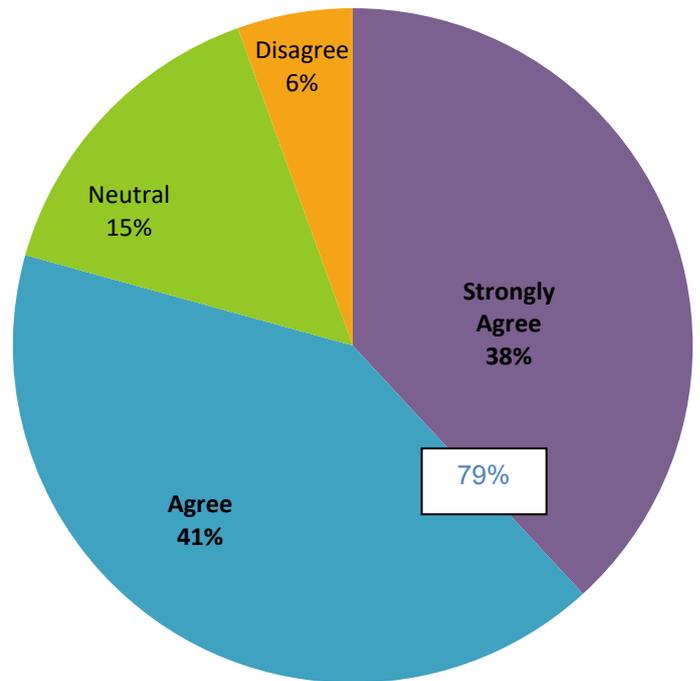
	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
<b>Variety of the Facilities/Amenities</b>	11.6%			62%			163
Count	2	17	32	65	36	11	
Row%	1.2%	10.4%	19.6%	39.9%	22.1%	6.7%	
<b>Maintenance and Appearance</b>	10.7%			56.3%			160
Count	3	14	44	59	31	9	
Row%	1.9%	8.8%	27.5%	36.9%	19.4%	5.6%	
<b>Safety and Security</b>	20.7%			40.8%			164
Count	5	29	51	42	25	12	
Row%	3.0%	17.7%	31.1%	25.6%	15.2%	7.3%	
<b>Water Accessibility</b>	19.1%			38.6%			163
Count	5	26	51	52	11	18	
Row%	3.1%	16.0%	31.3%	31.9%	6.7%	11.0%	

**13. If you selected "poor" or "very poor" on the previous question please explain why.**

- Hard to get to water (4)
- It's broken and falling apart. I have been shooting pictures there for 16 years. The few years it has been covered and the rock wall had fallen into the river during a spring flood. The trees have been cut down and ripped out. It's sad! Extremely sad how much lack of car exists for something that was so beautiful!!
- Hard to get to.
- Very difficult to put a kayak in the water or walk down to fish
- Doesn't appear maintained, river needs cleaned up
- It would be nice to have access for kayaking. The wall is falling in. Very dangerous. It could be a nice place.
- Use of this park is very difficult for people who are limited in agility.
- Need area more handicap accessible for fishing
- At this time accessing the water is difficult to do if you have little kids the paths are very steep and slicked down. Even accessing the water from the west side parking for kayaking removal is extremely difficult.
- To steep for elderly people
- Why would it be better than poor you explain there's nothing good about it
- No way to launch a boat or kayak

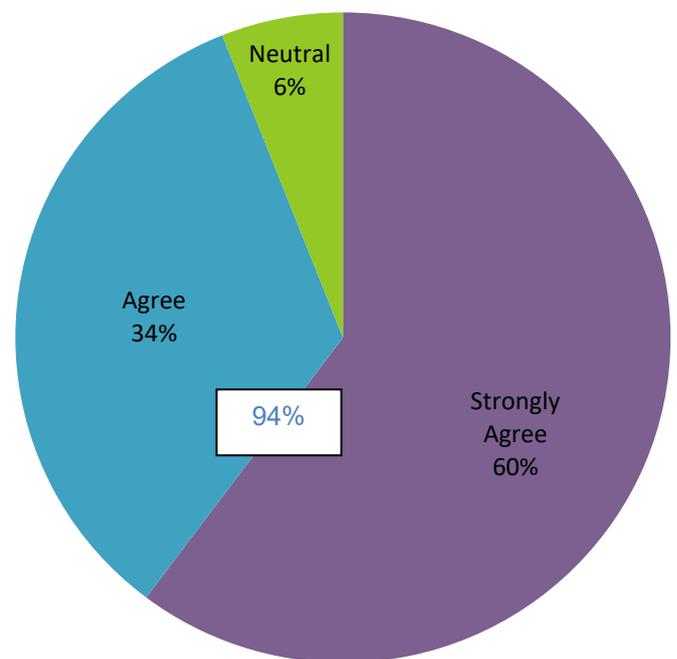
**14. Would you like to see more public access points or parks on the Maple River in Duplain Township?**

Value	Percent	Count
Strongly Agree	38.2%	63
Agree	41.2%	68
Neutral	15.2%	25
Disagree	5.5%	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>165</b>

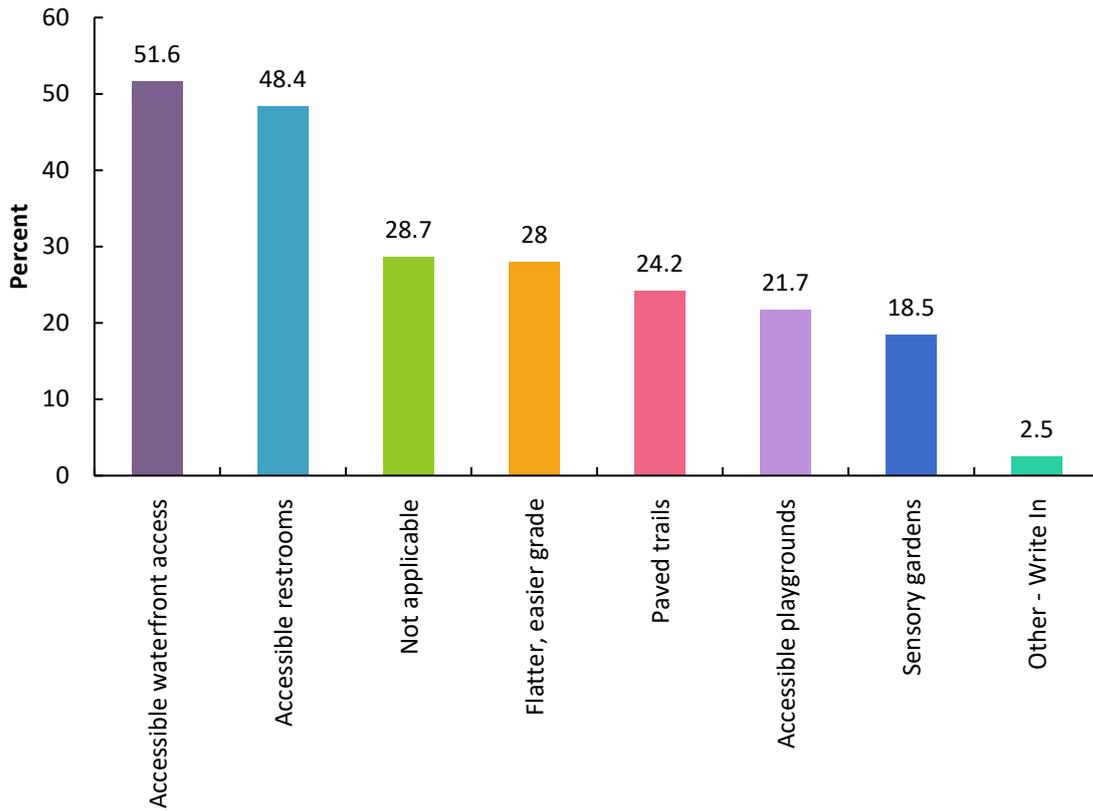


**15. Do you think it's important to preserve the scenic quality of the Maple Rivers in the Township?**

Value	Percent	Count
Strongly Agree	60.2%	100
Agree	33.7%	56
Neutral	6.0%	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>166</b>



**16.If you or a family member benefit from accessible facilities, please indicate which of the following are needed in the Duplain Township Parks. Please check all the apply.**

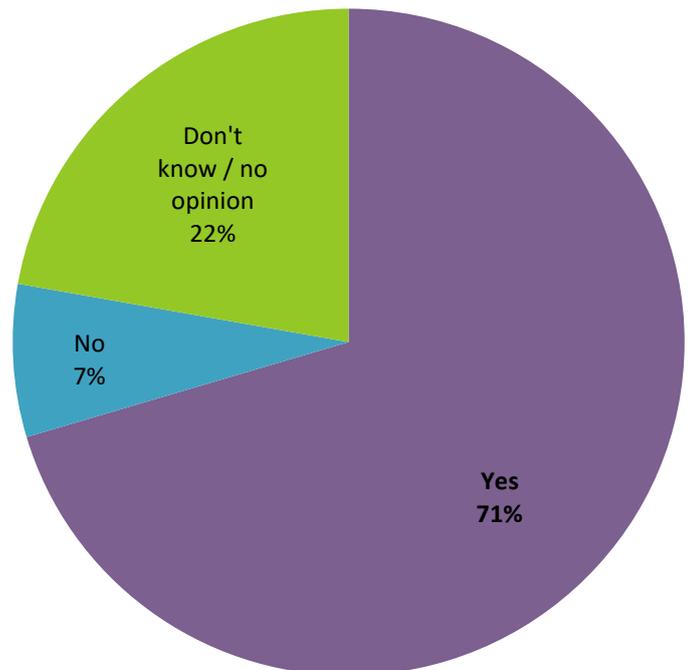


Other- write in

- Grounds leveled and made level
- It would be nice if there was a better access to launch boats there.
- Maybe some nice trails

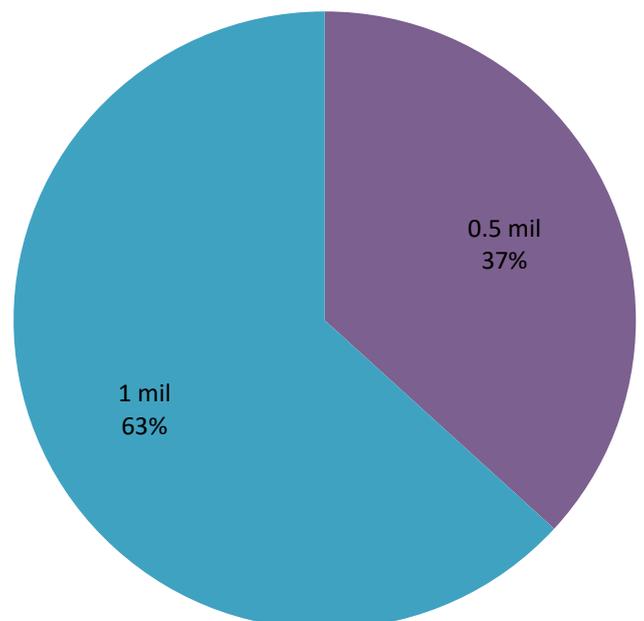
**17. Would you support a millage for parks and recreation?**

Value	Percent	Count
Yes	70.4%	38
No	7.4%	4
Don't know / no opinion	22.2%	12
Total		54



**18. What level of millage would you support? If the Township were to levy 1 mils for parks and recreation, a home valued at \$100,000, would spend an additional \$50 per year, or home valued at \$200,000, would spend an additional \$100 per year for park improvements.**

Value	Percent	Count
0.5 mil	36.8%	14
1 mil	63.2%	24
Total		38



## 19. Do you have other feedback regarding the parks?

### Common Responses

- Rebuild the bridge
- River access
- Restore the dam
- Preserve the river
- Kayak launch
- More park amenities (play equipment, trash cans, restrooms, picnic tables)
- Maintenance / clean up

- Why can't there be a homeless cat park where cats can be spayed or neutered and kept in an area where they are cared for by the residents of Elsie
- Do more for the library, please
- It's important for everyone to have green space
- I'd like to see: Keep rural areas rustic. (Not your prob, but stop building ugly housing developments around gravel pit "lakes".) Rebuild the historic Elsie bridge, and wouldn't it be great to build a working reconstruction of the old mill as a museum? No paving anywhere except wheelchair accessibility. Let's not think of "improvement" as being able to attract people, but making the area be what we love : nature. (BTW, in question 13 you asked, " Do you think it's important to preserve the scenic quality of the Maple Rivers in the Township?". Does preserving the "scenic quality" mean altering the river (ex: cleaning it up, making it conform to some romantic notion?) Or does it mean leaving it alone? Guess you know what I think.
- I would really like a boat launch at the Elsie dam, the bridge restored, and the dam removed for easier access to the river for boaters.
- We do spend a lot of time at the Elsie dam and the bridge is amazing just right now it is a sad sight love to see it at its original beauty again and usable
- More development for picnicking and benches.
- Please restore that historic bridge!
- Elsie Bridge needs to be brought back to life to be used
- Elsie dam park would be nice to reference the saw mill and some of its history with the community
- Elsie main park basketball courts are a disgrace. Horrible run down and can't be used. There are pieces of metal coming up the court, hoops are crap, and there has been a pile of "dirt" there forever. Can't even use it for the 3 on 3 for Elsie Days.
- Elsie Park could really use new back stops on the softball fields and to have the infield worked up with some clay added.
- Please restore the Elsie dam area and bridge
- More trash receptacles, emptied more often
- The Elsie dam and bridge (mill pond) have historical significance in the community and must be preserved. Locals from the area who have ancestral roots in the community Have all grown up with stories about the old grain mill. The dam and bridge have also served as a backdrop of

countless senior photos of the graduates at the Ovid Elsie high school. The fact that so many people have chosen to use this location to be part of a significant milestone in their life indicates the importance that the mill pond serves. The Mill Pond Bridge is also represented in the village of Elsie's logo. This once again represents the importance the bridge has in the community. The Mill Pond Bridge should be restored back to its former glory so that it can be used to facilitate recreation in the park and saw that it can serve to be a historical landmark to be enjoyed by many generations to come

- Kayak and canoe launch at dam. Like bathroom facilities. We do use the mostly the village park. But would like the Hope Green park more useable. Also the river views etc. kept up better.
- I don't necessarily want to see more parks but I would love to see Hope Park improvements, especially to the bridge. I'd rather see money taking care of the parks we have than to have more.
- Elsie dam looks horrible with "pole barn" ends. I know it's a safety issue with bridge traffic but this is degrading to such a historical structure. There has to be other options. Living close, I spent nearly every night of the summer camping and fishing here. It is really sad to see the litter and total disrespect to the area. I just hope it's not locals doing this.
- The Elsie dam is loved by many and a piece of our history. It should be maintained and preserved
- Would love a fishing pier by the bridge.
- Don't spend money we don't have.
- Only for Elsie Dam is a beautiful spot but not handicap accessible would nice to see picnic area, bathrooms play area and to be able to walk the bridge
- The bridge is a historic bridge and needs to be restored and preserved
- I used to go down to fish at the dam prior to it being blocked off for safety, now I'm essentially unable to get close enough to the river for fishing access due to uneven terrain on the "goat paths" from the parking areas. I use a cane much of the time when walking around, even on paved walk ways!!!
- I hope the "Elsie Bridge" will be repaired! That place could be a gem!!
- Thank you for maintaining Friendship Park!
- Mowing and brush cleaning at Dam sight.
- Replace or restore bridge depending on cost
- Thank you for asking for feedback and for any improvements and maintenance to the parks.
- There should be connecting trails to the rail trail in Ovid Township
- The maple river is a great place to canoe/boat. If there was a crew who was responsible for clearing fallen trees and blockage from the river to make it more easily passable it would be cool. Maybe organize volunteers.
- Clean the river out.
- A drinking fountain and restrooms would be wonderful, especially for small children. More historic information would also be nice- perhaps a few photos, etc
- No more gates, abutments and etc. blocking access to areas. Safety can't be mandated, let visitors enjoy the already very limited river access. Add a few feet to the top of the dam so the flats hold more water! Offer a real place to fish. Thx.

- Apply for grants
- Make them accessible, inviting, peaceful. Preserve the natural beauty. Be forward thinking and creative.
- Elsie Dam area has great potential and should be preserved.
- The bridge is a dangerous eyesore and needs to go.
- The bridge is a dangerous eyesore and needs to go.
- Remove dam but have a walk across bridge.

**APPENDIX D**  
ADOPTION DOCUMENTS