



parks & recreation master plan **Village of Lake Orion**

2017 - 2021 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN
VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN

Adopted by the Lake Orion Village Council on February __, 2017

JAN. 2017 DRAFT

Acknowledgments

Thank you.

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and stakeholders in the preparation of the 2017-2021 Lake Orion Parks and Recreation Plan is greatly appreciated and we thank everyone who participated in its development. The content in this Plan reflects the on-going collaboration between Village residents, stakeholders, the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC), and Village appointed and elected officials.

In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of:

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Teresa L. Rutt, Secretary
Shauna Brown, Village Council Representative
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01 Introduction





Welcome

Welcome to the Village of Lake Orion's 2017 - 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This Plan reflects a vision for the future of Lake Orion's parks and recreation facilities: their operations, maintenance, and enhancements for the next several years. It serves as a roadmap for future recreation facilities and programs by considering existing parks and programs in and around the Village and the anticipated demand for additional or improved recreation facilities.

This Plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations. Lake Orion's Plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR's *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*.

Most importantly, this Plan will act as Lake Orion's play book for community building as it relates to parks and recreation over the next five+ years.

LAKE ORION'S PLANNING PROCESS

KEY STEPS

The 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared with technical assistance from McKenna Associates, a planning and design consulting firm, and with the active involvement of the Village's Administration and the Lake Orion Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC).

Citizen input through an online survey and public hearing also contributed to this Plan. Following several discussions held by the Village Recreation Advisory Committee and a draft review by the Planning Commission, the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was submitted to Lake Orion's Village Council for adoption. Throughout the process, all meetings were open to the public. Notices were posted beforehand, and where required, advertised in the newspaper, as provided by the Open Meetings Act. The planning process kicked-off in August of 2016 and concluded with the adoption of the Plan in February of 2017.



Project Initiation

Kick-off meeting with Village Administration; schedule and work plan finalization.

Review of 2006 - 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and other community recreation documents.



Identify & Quantify

Parks and recreation facility inventory by McKenna to catalogue amenities and update accessibility assessments.

Documentation of updated demographics and community profile.

IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEMS

The Village of Lake Orion prides itself on its park and recreation system as a healthy system affords residents and visitors with a higher quality of life standard. The benefits of creating and maintaining a quality parks and recreation system include:

- Greater opportunities for a healthy lifestyle;
- Rises in adjacent property values;
- Encouragement of economic development, which in turn, can further attract investment;
- Natural beauty;
- Environmental gains and benefits;
- Social and fun; and
- Sense of place and identity.

The intent of this Plan to afford all members of Lake Orion the opportunity to participate and enjoy in the Village's parks and recreation facilities and to act as gathering spaces for community building.





Public Engagement

Public engagement solicitation via an online survey which was open to the public during the months of September - November 2016.



Analysis & Mapping

Analysis and incorporation of public engagement results.

Mapping of Lake Orion's recreation facilities and comparison to national land and amenity standards.



Action Plan & Metrics

Determination of strategic actions and creation of the action plan and implementation matrix.

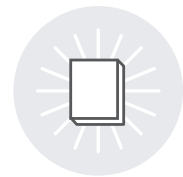
Identification of the top five priority projects and the respective scopes of work.



Draft Plan & Review

Creation of a cohesive, easy to follow document for improved functionality.

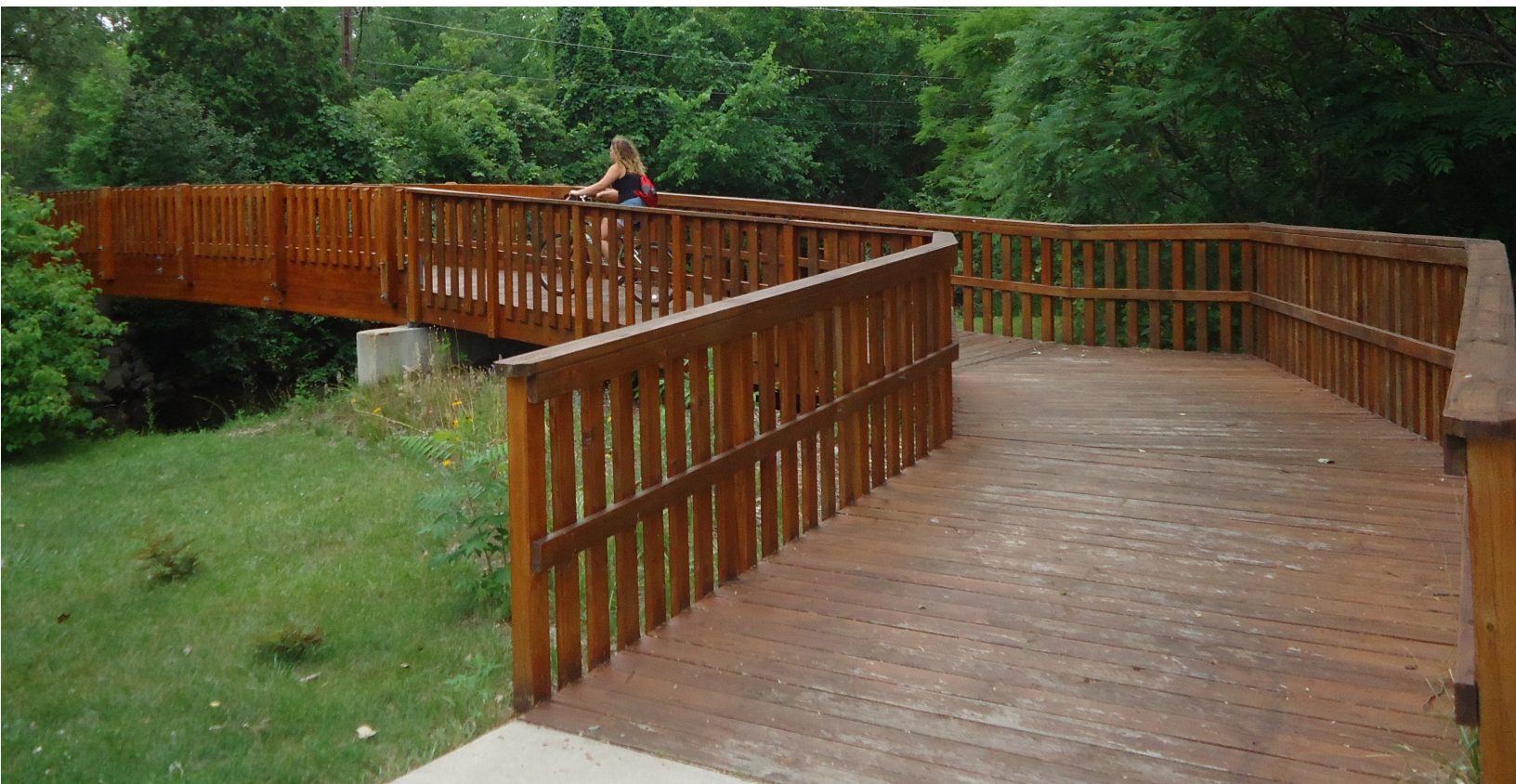
Review and approval of the draft Plan by the Recreation Advisory Committee in 2017.



Final Plan & Adoption

30 day public viewing and comment period.

February __, 2017 Village Council meeting, with public hearing, for the adoption of the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



02

Community Snapshot





Lake Orion

The Village of Lake Orion is located in the northern portion of Oakland County, Southeast Michigan. While part of the larger Detroit Metropolitan Area and facing growth pressures, the Village continues to grow in a sustainable manner.

Established in 1859 on the shore of Lake Orion, the Village stands apart from other communities, boasting a historic downtown, well-established residential neighborhoods, and natural resources with abundant lakefront and rivers.

Surrounded by Orion Township, the Village of Oxford is due north and the City of Auburn Hills located to the south. The primary transport route is State Highway 24 (M-24) which acts as a center dividing line for the community - separating the waters of Lake Orion from the historic downtown located just east of M-24.

The Community Snapshot chapter presents the social composition of Lake Orion, together with the administrative structure and funding mechanisms, as these fields strongly inform the realm of possibilities for park and recreation facilities.



Community Profile

DATA SOURCES

Lake Orion's current demographic situation and trends provide understanding to the types of recreation facilities and amenities that are needed. The figures used in this Plan comes from the US Census Bureau's 2014/15 ACS 5-year data, which uses statistical sampling over a 5-year period to describe the average characteristics over the period of collection. Information for smaller geographic regions generally have a higher margin of error in statistical sampling, yet the ACS is considered very reliable and is a dataset that we believe can provide the most accurate portrayal of the changing population in the Village and surrounding communities. Comparison data also comes from the US Decennial Census.

TABLE 2.1: Population, 2010-2014

Population	Lake Orion	Ortonville	Oxford	Holly	Oakland County	State of Michigan
2010	2,973	1,442	3,436	6,086	1,202,362	9,883,706
2014	3,036	1,488	3,488	6,142	1,220,798	9,889,024

Source: US Census Bureau

POPULATION

Trends in the number of people residing in a community are an important indicator for parks and recreation planning. Growing communities have different parks and recreational communities than communities with stable or declining populations. Table 2.1 shows the relative populations of the Village of Lake Orion and nearby comparable communities.

The Village of Lake Orion has experienced a slight increase in population, approximately 2.1 percent between 2010 and 2014, which is more than surrounding comparison communities (except for Ortonville at 3.2 percent). The increase in population is indicative of the stability and resiliency of the community during a tumultuous nationwide economic crisis. As Lake Orion has regained population growth in the past five years, it alludes to the fact that the Village is a highly desired community to live in within the region and is experiencing aging in place.

HOUSEHOLDS

This section analyzes the composition and characteristics of households in the Village of Lake Orion. Household growth has a different impact on demand for recreational services than population growth. If the population is growing faster than the number of households, this would suggest that more children are being born to existing households. If households are growing faster than population, this typically suggests that more singles or couples are moving into the community.

The number of households in the Village has increased by 3.0 percent since 2010. The increase in number of households and total population indicates that people are moving into the community in order to raise families. The age data (see below) further indicates that the population is increasing due to the rise in family households.

Average household size is another indicator of community composition. Larger average household sizes generally mean more children and fewer single-parent families. Nationally, household sizes have been shrinking as young singles wait longer to get married and life expectancy increases for the senior population.

Table 2.2 compares the change in average household size since 2010 for Lake Orion, comparison communities, Oakland County, and the State of Michigan. The Village of Lake Orion household size increased from 2.19 to 2.43. The 11 percent increase in household size for Lake Orion indicates that the Village is a popular community for families with children. Ortonville also experienced an increase in household size, a 6.9 percent increase in four years. The other surrounding communities remained relatively the same without significant increase or decrease in household size. This reaffirms the trends seen in the previous section where there were increasing number of households and increasing population.

TABLE 2.2: Average Household Size, 2010-2014

Community	2010	2014
Lake Orion	2.19	2.43
Ortonville	2.76	2.95
Oxford	2.49	2.48
Holly	2.45	2.43
Oakland County	2.46	2.43
State of Michigan	2.49	2.60

Source: US Census Bureau



DISABILITY

The type of disability and number of residents impacted will shape the design and accommodations made for them on the Village Parks and Recreation Plan. The US Census Bureau reports that approximately 11 percent of Lake Orion residents have a disability of some sort, with the most impacted populations being the 18 to 64 and 65 and over subgroups. The most prevalent disabilities within the population are ambulatory and independent living difficulties, followed by cognitive difficulties. Ambulatory difficulties encompass serious difficulties with walking or stairs, issues that limit physical activity, leading to steeper decline in health. Giving consideration to these difficulties in planning for parks and recreation activities could result in positive health outcomes for a population that already experiences great difficulty on a day-to-day basis. Accommodations could include ramps or payment improvements in order to ease accessibility concerns for those who suffer from ambulatory difficulties, or by installing audible and visually assisted cross walks that are conscious of those who may be visually or hearing impaired.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Operations, maintenance and improvements to Lake Orion's recreation facilities are the responsibilities of Village staff, the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC), the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Department of Public Works (DPW). Ultimate authority for the provision of parks and recreation is held by Village Council.

Organizational Structure



ADMINISTRATIVE PLAYERS DETAIL

1

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Village Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) was formed by the Village Council to provide input on the acquisition of new play equipment for all of the Village parks. Additionally, the Committee oversees the recreation programs offered by the Village and leads the Recreation Master Planning process.

The Advisory Committee has five (5) members, comprised of four (4) citizens and one (1) Village Council member.

2

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

The Village's DDA also plays a key role in the provision of recreation in the Village. The nine (9) member DDA board is appointed by the Village President with the approval of Council, and funding for DDA projects is provided by tax increment financing.

Since park facilities are located within the District, the DDA has a vested interest and responsibility in the promotion and enhancement of recreation.



Collaborative Opportunities

Parks and recreation development is an integral part of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) District and is an opportunity for the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) and DDA to collaborate and partner on projects. Within the DDA District are four (4) of the Village's parks: Green's Park, Children's Park, Meek's Park, and Atwater Park. A strong partnership with aligned resources provides Lake Orion with the opportunity to generate even more activity, improve the downtown vibrancy and provide greater recreational and cultural amenities. Green's Park (pictured above) is one example of a successful joint collaboration between the Village and the DDA.

3

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

Reporting to the Village Manager, the DPW Superintendent and Crew handle routine maintenance of the grounds and equipment, as well as the installation of new equipment. Work Alternative for Misdemeanants (WAM) workers are also used at times for Village park and facility maintenance.

4

VILLAGE COUNCIL

A seven (7) member board, maintains final authority over all of its parks and recreation facilities.

5

SWIM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Swim Program Director is a part-time position charged with managing the summer swim program and hiring swim instructors and life guards. The DPW Director oversees the Swim Program and associated employees.

6

VILLAGE MANAGER

In charge of day-to-day parks and recreation administration, the Village Manager works closely with the Advisory Committee and DPW. The Village manager is appointed by Village Council.



FUNDING

Primary funding for the maintenance and programming of Lake Orion's recreation facilities comes almost entirely from a sub-account of the Village's general fund. Alternative funding sources and revenues include passes and swim lesson registration fees for Green's Park, donations from individuals / private organizations and grants awarded for specific projects, all of which the Village continues to pursue. Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will at times, contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the Village.

Table 2.1 details the Village of Lake Orion's Parks and Recreation budget expenditures with consolidated categories. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Parks and Recreation budget was \$24,190. The largest percentage of Parks and Recreation expenditures is for lifeguard wages (66.6 percent in 2015-2016). Additional funds are expended on social security (4.7 percent), utilities (11.6 percent), and grounds repairs (8.3 percent).

The Village has invested considerably in land improvements and has put forth a strong effort to maintain and upgrade parks and recreational facilities when possible.

BUDGET

TABLE 2.3: Parks Recreation Budget Expenditures, 2013-2016

Expenditure Category	2013 - 2014 Actual	2014 - 2015 Actual	2015 - 2016 Amended	2015 - 2016 Actual: (thru 6.30.16)
Wages - Lifeguards	\$16,379	\$18,452	\$16,100	\$16,448
Social Security	\$1,180	\$1,412	\$1,130	\$1,258
Supplies		\$532	\$350	\$268
Contractual Services	\$1,828	\$1,086	\$1,000	\$1,430
Telephone - Park	\$335	\$330	\$410	\$405
Utilities	\$2,089	\$1,725	\$2,800	\$1,839
Repair/Maintenance – Equipment	\$571	\$696	\$400	\$151
Repair/Maintenance - Grounds	\$703	\$2,266	\$2,000	\$1,668
Dues & Misc.		\$870		
TOTAL	\$23,085	\$27,369	\$24,190	\$23,467

Source: Village of Lake Orion, 2016

TABLE 2.4: Lake Orion, MDNR Parks and Recreation Grant History

Project Title	Project Year (Project No.)	Grant Amount	Site Elements	2016 Condition of Elements
Atwater Park	1980 (LWCF 26-01117)	\$8,000.00	Two ball field upgrades; Paved parking; Bleachers; Drinking fountains; and Landscaping.	Fountains have been removed; additional upgrades to ballfields and landscaping needed.
Atwater Park	1985 (LWCF 26-01344)	\$11,000.00	Basketball court; Wood sign; Landscaping; and Tot lot.	Basketball court in need of resurfacing and net equipment, additional landscaping and play structure upgrades due.
Meek's Park	1991 (26-01497)	\$29,750.00	Walkway and footbridge; Fitness activity center; Benches; Checkerboard and table; Entry sign; Shoreline improvements; and Landscaping.	Footbridge due for structural repair, replacement of benches and signage needed.
Children's Park Improvements	2009 (26-01692)	\$75,000.00	At-grade slide; Entry gateway and ornamental fencing; Landscaping; Rock seatwall; and Stairs and sidewalk.	2009 improvements in great condition.

Source: Grants Management, Department of Natural Resources

GRANT HISTORY

Over the past 30 years, the Village has been the recipient of the above four (4) grants for recreation facility development; all projects are closed.



03

Blue & Green Framework





Natural Resources

Understanding Lake Orion's environmental setting is critical when planning for recreation facilities and the connections between them. The location, topography, and existing environmental features all influence the types of facilities, amenities, and programs that are best suited for implementation. In addition, environmental quality significantly affects the quality of life in a community. Visual aesthetics, clean air, and clean water and soil all enhance the public health and economy. Therefore, a thorough plan requires that the condition of the environment be considered in future decisions and promote best practices for the stewardship of the land.

The Green and Blue Framework chapter describes the benefits and challenges associated with Lake Orion's location and natural resources features. Also included within this chapter is the Village's existing formal park system, with an inventory of the current recreation amenities provided at each facility and a description of recreational facilities available outside of Lake Orion. The existing recreational facilities and land devoted to such uses then provides the backdrop for analysis and comparison to MDNR standards; highlighting where the Village is excelling or may have room for improvement.

Additionally, this chapter follows a holistic, regional approach to environmental quality, transportation linkages, parks and recreation facilities, and other assets. The Village seeks collaboration with not only Orion Township and Oakland County, but also within the larger southeast Michigan region.

NATURAL FEATURES FRAMEWORK

Lake Orion's green and blue framework highlights the Village's array of environmentally significant features, including open spaces, waterbodies, and wetlands:

LAKE ORION

The foremost natural feature and single greatest resource in the Village of Lake Orion is Lake Orion. Over 350 acres, the surface waters of Lake Orion account for over 40 percent of the Village's total area. The Lake offers a number of amenities, including scenic views, waterfront residential settings, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Nearly half the population of the Village lives on Lake Orion and all residents have access to the Lake through Green's Park. Lake Orion is an "all-sports" lake, meaning it is used primarily as a recreation resource.

PAINT CREEK

Paint Creek, a tributary of the Clinton River, begins at the dam at the east end of Lake Orion and flows through the middle of the Village. Paint Creek is a high-quality, cold water stream with a significant trout population. In the mid 1990s, the Village and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) joined forces to improve the trout habitat within Paint Creek by helping to regulate the temperature of the water. A bottom-draw tube was installed near the dam of Lake Orion to draw cold water off the bottom of the Lake, directing the cold water to Paint Creek, lowering the Creek's temperature and providing a better trout habitat. The Clinton River Watershed Council coordinates the Paint Creek Habitat Improvement Project. This is an on-going volunteer project with Trout Unlimited to improve habitat on Paint Creek by adding gravel, cobble, and natural wood structures to create a safer habitat for trout.



CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED

Both Lake Orion and Paint Creek are parts of the Clinton River watershed. The Clinton River watershed is made up of 760 square miles of land in four (4) counties, which drains rain and snowmelt into the Clinton River and eventually into Lake St. Clair. The watershed includes more than 1.6 million people in 60 municipalities.

The Clinton River Watershed Council was established in 1972 as a communication forum to coordinate local governments' efforts to protect and improve the river basin. Today, the Council is a broad-based organization with representatives from the business community, academia, and local governments that work together to support the Watershed. The Council organizes volunteer efforts, such as River Day, Adopt-A-Stream and the Student Monitoring Program, and provides education and outreach services for local governments, organizations, and individuals.

FLOODPLAIN

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) publishes Flood Insurance Rate maps that identify flood-prone lands, defined as those containing a hundred-year floodplain with a flooding probability of at least one (1) percent a year.

As a community with substantial Lake front development, the potential of Lake Orion to flood is an important concern to property owners. The 100-year floodplain follows the perimeter of the Lake at lower elevations. Based upon local experience, the Lake edge does not flood. Lake level is controlled by a dam at the M-24 bridge which is capable of releasing excess waters in time of flood to Paint Creek. Paint Creek has a greater potential to flood because of its function as the collector of excess water from the Lake and as a collector of runoff from nearby State and County drains and adjacent land.

Floodplains are typically environmentally sensitive areas with limited development potential because of their function for stormwater drainage. Floodplains are periodically inundated with water and can sometimes also be characterized as wetlands. Because of the potential to flood, development is often restricted or heavily regulated in floodplain areas. Development within the floodplain is possible, subject to flood proofing and elevation above base flood level.

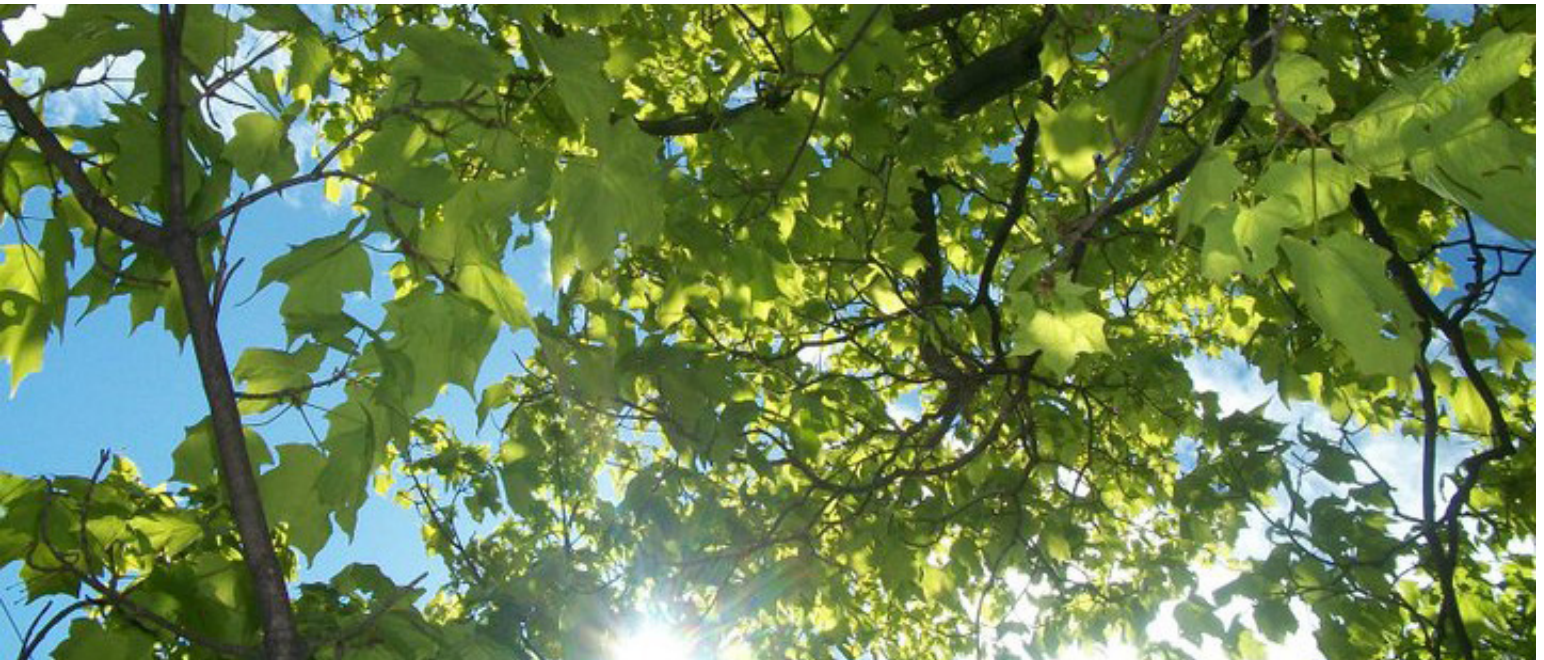


WETLANDS

In the simplest terms, a wetland is a land where water is found, either on the surface or near the surface. However, this simple definition minimizes the challenge of wetland delineation. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, In order to determine if a wetland is present, land must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (plants specifically adapted to live in wetlands); (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric (wetland) soil; and (3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

In the past, wetlands were considered useless land. However, it is now known that they have an important role in the hydrological and ecological systems. In addition to providing habitat for fish and wildlife, wetlands also maintain and stabilize groundwater supplies, reduce dangers of flooding, control erosion, and improve water quality.

The Village of Lake Orion is rich with surface water, but has only a few remaining wetlands. Some wetlands are located along the floodplain of Paint Creek, others are on undeveloped parcels of land with areas of steep slopes and woodlands, and some are connected to the Lake. There are four regulated wetlands in the Village and six “emerging” wetlands according to the Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS). Emerging wetlands are wetlands that are somewhat unstable, with irregular water, and are typically dependent on climatic conditions.



VILLAGE TREES

The Village of Lake Orion has mature tree canopies within its residential neighborhoods. Shaded, tree-lined streets are a major feature of the community's appearance, charm, and character. Residential neighborhoods on either side of M-24 are uniquely characterized by the large number of trees, reminiscent of Lake Orion's past as a summer lake resort.

Tree-lined streets distinguish the Village from new, suburban-type developments that often lack trees or have trees of smaller diameter, many years away from full development. The trees provide a vaulted canopy over sidewalks, filtering sunlight for pedestrians, providing needed shade for houses, and reinforcing residential setbacks and human-oriented patterns of development. Additionally, the mature trees make life outside the house more enjoyable in the summer, provide energy and savings to residents by reducing air-conditioning costs, and create windbreaks that reduce heating costs in the winter.

TOPOGRAPHY

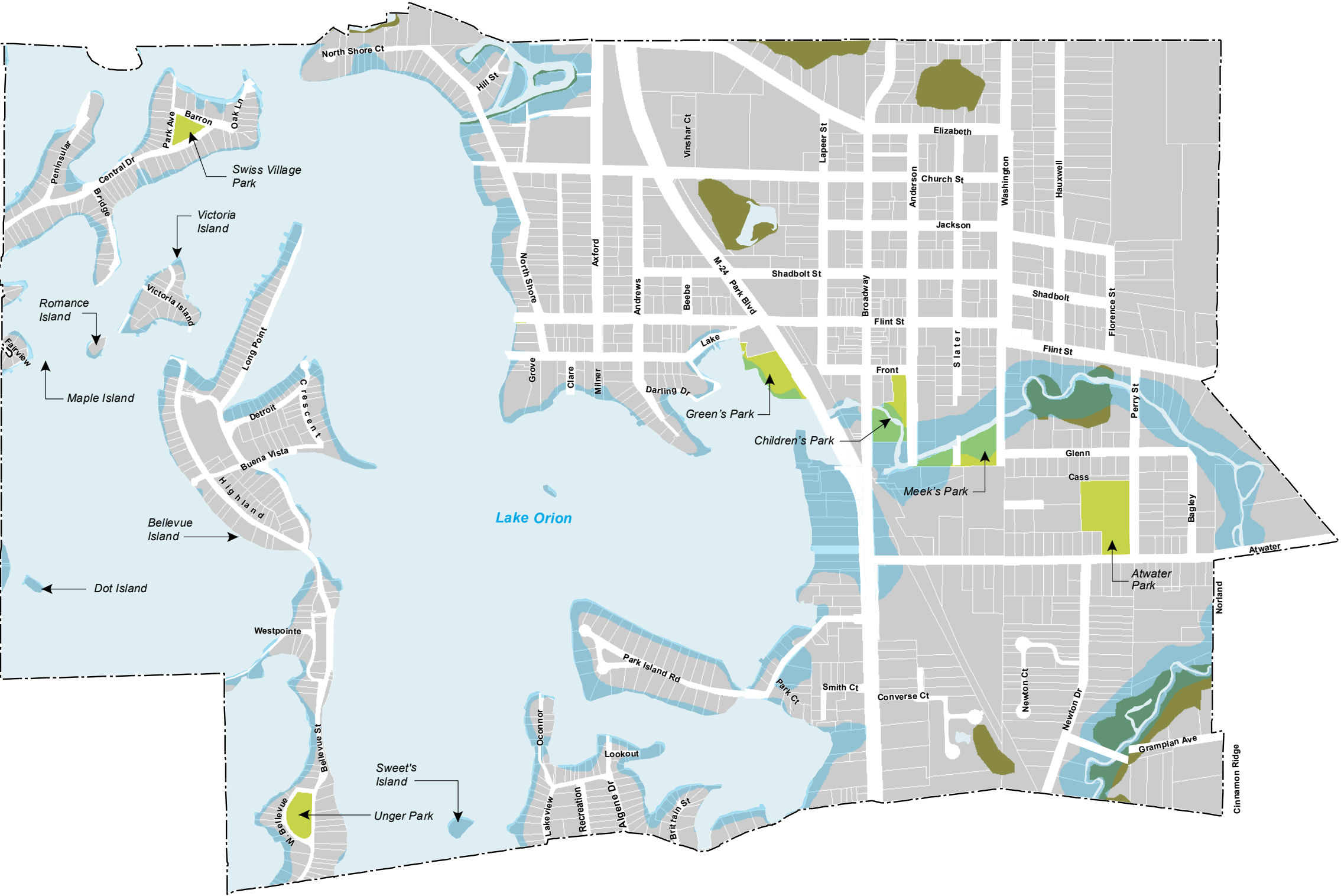
The topography surrounding the lake shore in the Village of Lake Orion consists of low rolling hills. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, elevations surrounding the lake reach up to 1,000 feet, 15 feet higher than the level of the lake itself. The portion of the Village east of M-24 is relatively flat with variations in elevation of 10 feet or less.

SIGNIFICANT VIEWS

The beautiful and naturalistic views within the Village of Lake Orion are predominately scenes of Lake Orion from the Village and perspectives of the Village from across Lake Orion. Views are difficult to describe and quantify, but they are a feature that contribute to quality of life. Often, views are an afterthought in the planning of places and new developments by Village residents, but they should be seriously considered as a resource deserving protection. For passers-by and travelers through the Village, a glimpse of the Lake from M-24 is an unusual pleasure that reinforces the Village's history and patterns of development as a Lakeside community.

Natural Features Map

Village of Lake Orion,
Oakland County, Michigan



Floodplain

100 Year Floodplain

Wetlands

Wetlands

Parks and Recreation

Village Parks & Recreation Facilities

Water

Municipal Boundaries

January 18, 2017

0 500 1,000 Feet

MCKenna ASSOCIATES



Base Map Source: Oakland County GIS 2008

LAKE ORION'S RECREATION INVENTORY & VARIETY

In total, the Village of Lake Orion features six (6) public recreation facilities, with almost 10 acres of land and a trail system. The Village's parks and recreation facilities each have different types of amenities and opportunities for a wide variety of recreation experiences. The following inventory and the adjoining Park and Recreation Inventory and Services Areas Map details the amenities currently available at each facility and the facility's respective location.

SWISS VILLAGE PARK

Classification:	Mini-Park
Area:	0.61 acres
Accessibility Ranking:	Level 2

Located in the northwest portion of the Village and on a peninsula of Lake Orion, Swiss Village mini-park serves the immediate neighborhood and is a prime example of scattering greenspace in a community highlight divided by natural features and waterways.

A popular spot for family gatherings, Swiss Village features a half basketball court, swing set, picnic tables and large open area for various active recreation activities. Parking areas are located on the peripheries of the park.



UNGER PARK

Classification:	Mini-Park
Area:	0.91 acres
Accessibility Ranking:	Level 1

Located in the southwest corner of the Village, Unger Park, like Swiss Village, is located on a peninsula of Lake Orion and serves the needs of those living in the immediate vicinity. Unger Park is oval in shape, surrounded by residential units and bordered by Bellevue and West Bellevue Streets.

Located below grade, the Unger Park features a play structure, set of swings, chess table, seating and bike racks. The play equipment is outdated and the vegetation is overgrown and invasive.





CHILDREN'S PARK

Classification:	Community Park
Area:	1.54 acres
Accessibility Ranking:	Level 4

Located in downtown Lake Orion, Children's Park is a major community gathering place and is surrounded with natural beauty as Paint Creek runs directly through the park. Throughout the year, various community events occur at the park including, the Optimists Club annual rubber ducky race, River Day events each year and concerts in the park during summer months. The gazebo within Children's Park also hosts a number of events and other performances.

In the center of the park boasts two (2) playscapes, one designed for young toddlers and a second designed for children 5-12 years old. The Park also features several picnic tables located on the periphery of the site and scattered park benches and bike racks. Public, paved parking is located along Anderson Street in the DDA lot which is connected to the park by a pedestrian bridge spanning Paint Creek on the southwest side of the park.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKINGS

Providing accessible facilities that may be utilized by persons with varied disabilities is one of Lake Orion's community goals. Each Village owned recreation facility was evaluated for compliance to the ADA Standards of Accessible Design by McKenna in the summer of 2016. Recreation facilities are rated on a 1-5 scale, as defined by MDNR:

- 1 None of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 2 Some of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 3 Most of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 4 The entire recreation facility meets ADA accessibility.
- 5 The entire recreation facility was developed / renovated using the principles of universal design.

All of the Village's facilities have accessibility ratings of 2, 3, or 4, with the exception of Unger Park which carries an accessibility ranking of 1 due to the grade change and lack of paved surfaces to access any features within the park. While most of the recreation facilities include elements that are handicapped accessible, many of the routes to reach such facilities are lacking in compliance.

Recreation Facilities

Village of Lake Orion,
Oakland County, Michigan



- Village Parks & Recreation Facilities
- Quarter (1/4) Mile Walkability Radius
- Paint Creek Trail
- Water
- Municipal Boundaries

January 18, 2017

0 500 1,000 Feet



Base Map Source: Oakland County GIS 2008

GREEN'S PARK

Classification:	Community Park
Area:	2.21 acres
Accessibility Ranking:	Level 3

A highly visible community park located off of M-24, Greens Park is the only programmed park abutting Lake Orion, with over 560 feet of shoreline frontage. Once only open to Village residents (permit required), the use of Green's Park is open to the public, provided a user fee is made.

Located within park are various recreation facilities, including a basketball court, playground area, swings, picnic tables, grills, benches, and bike racks. In addition to the parking lot located directly off of M-24, Green's Park features a restroom facility, water fountains, and concession / storage facility for visitor convenience. One of the major assets of Green's Park is the public beach, which is enclosed by a small, u-shaped dock that extends out to Lake Orion, providing a boardwalk and a beautiful vista for the community. Swimming lessons are also provided at Green's Park.

MEEK'S PARK

Classification:	Community Park
Area:	1.68 acres
Accessibility Ranking:	Level 2

Also located near the downtown core of the Village and connecting to Children's Park is Meek's Park which runs along Paint Creek for approximately 600 feet. Lake Orion's newest park, Meek's is a linear park which provides both active and passive recreation opportunities. The park is accessed at several points with pedestrian access at Glenn Street, Broadway Street, a pedestrian bridge at Washington Street, and a pedestrian bridge from the Lake Orion Art Center (near Children's Park). The key amenity to Meek's Park is the paved, pedestrian path which runs along Paint Creek and provides opportunity for walk, running, and cycling.

Less passive recreation is also available as among the scenic backdrops there are various nodes of seating scattered along the path and a checkerboard table. Residents and visitors enjoy the opportunity to walk through this natural area, watch ducks and other wildlife, and visit with friends / family. As Meek's Park also abuts the Heritage Place senior housing complex, the park truly provides recreation for all ages.

ATWATER PARK

Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Area:	2.88 acres
Accessibility Ranking:	Level 4

Located in the eastern portion of the Village within a traditional style neighborhood, Atwater Park provides the community with a gathering space and opportunities for active recreation. A majority of the park is comprised of two (2) ball fields, with the infields opposite one another. The ball fields are augmented with bleachers and player benches and maintained in part by the ball leagues that schedule games and practice here.

On the south end of the park, closer to Atwater Street, is a less intensive and contains a mix of playgrounds and other recreation amenities, including two (2) play structures, benches, picnic tables, bike racks, swings and a basketball half-court. Its central location to the neighborhood and its mix of recreation amenities make Atwater Park an ideal space to bring children. Parking is limited to the area along Perry Street and can become quite crowded during baseball games, at times hindering pedestrian circulation of the sidewalk.

VILLAGE RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Village offers a swim program at Green's Park in the summer, but otherwise, offers little recreation programming, partially due to the fact that Village residents have access to Orion Township's recreational programs, which are numerous. The Township offers classes generally lasting six to ten weeks for both children and adults.

There are also a number of private youth and adult recreation leagues available to the residents of Lake Orion. These include the Orion Lions Youth Football, Lake Orion Youth Baseball Club, Lake Orion's Girl's Softball League, Lake Orion Men's Softball, LOBOS Soccer Club, Lake Orion Horseshoe Club, Orion Dragons Wrestling Club, and the Orion/Oxford Soccer League.



ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTIES

The Lake Orion Community School District has two school properties within the Village of Lake Orion that offer recreation (see Recreation Inventory Map). The Blanche Sims Elementary School is located in the northeastern corner of the Village. The open space adjacent to the Administration Building is located along Church Street.

Although designed and maintained primarily to meet the recreational needs of students, school facilities in most communities offer a broader range of recreational resources than those found in neighborhood parks. For instance, schools often have indoor gymnasiums which the public can use on a restricted basis. However, school recreation sites are not good substitutes for well-designed parks. They do not offer the full range of facilities normally provided in a park, such as picnic facilities for example. Also, school recreation sites are designed to meet the needs of school children and are generally not adequate for the recreational pursuits of the general public, ranging from organized sports for adults to passive recreational activities like hiking.

Blanche Sims Elementary School

A wide selection of recreation facilities is available at the school including an indoor gymnasium, baseball field, soccer field, asphalt play area, basketball hoops, playgrounds, swings, picnic tables, and benches.

Open Space

The Lake Orion Community Schools also owns open space adjacent to their Administration Building (former high school property). The property features a walking track, playground, swings, benches, and open space.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Three social and cultural facilities also provide recreation opportunities within the Village of Lake Orion and are thus included in the recreation inventory. These facilities include the Orion Senior Center, Orion Art Center, and Lake Orion United Methodist Church (see Recreation Inventory Map). Each of the facilities is described below.

Orion Senior Center

The Orion Senior Center is located in the Village of Lake Orion, but is owned by Orion Township. The Senior Center serves lunch daily, has a home delivery services for meals, and provides a variety of recreational activities and informational services for area seniors. NOTA (North Oakland Transportation Authority) offers a transportation service for seniors to medical facilities, as well as shopping in Lake Orion and surrounding areas. The facility also has a variety of scheduled activities from card games to field trips.

Orion Art Center

The Orion Art Center (OAC), located at 115 South Anderson in a former United Methodist parsonage, offers days and evening classes, art exhibitions, community involvement, and the Joan Brace Scholarship fund. The purpose of the OAC is to promote, encourage, and support the development of the arts in the community; to lend enrichment to the life of its citizens; and to provide a forum for the dissemination of knowledge and the sharing of ideas pertinent to our common purpose. After more than 20 years of existence, the OAC was awarded its first grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs in 2002. This organizational development grant assisted the Art Center to grow and better serve the needs of the North Oakland County area.

The Orion Art Center is adjacent to Children's Park.



Lake Orion United Methodist Church

The Lake Orion United Methodist Church facility is located near the Village Hall on Flint Street. The church is technically not a public facility, however, the church often offers its facilities as a public meeting hall when meeting room capacity is exceeded at Village Hall. Many important community meetings have taken place in the Church's fellowship hall.

Orion Township Public Library

The Village of Lake Orion receives library services from the Orion Township Public Library, located in the Township of Joslyn Road. The Township library is heavily used by Township and Village residents. The library shelves over 140,000 books and periodicals in addition to the Lake Orion Community Information Network, a computerized network of community information. Library circulation for 2001 was estimated at over 284,000 items with 160,000 visits from over 18,000 registered borrowers.

To serve the senior residents of the Village, the library operates a small satellite branch at the Lake Orion Senior Center. The Senior Center library is open weekdays and is staffed by a part-time librarian. The Senior Center library provides large print periodicals, large print paperback books, and e-mail and internet training classes. The library estimates that this small branch circulates over 8,400 items per year.

REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

Within the greater Lake Orion and Oakland County region, numerous important recreational resources and facilities can be found. These facilities may include Orion Township parks, Michigan State Parks, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, and Oakland County Parks. In addition to regional park facilities, many other cultural and recreational attractions, such as museums and professional sports venues, are available within the region. These regional facilities offer a variety of activities that are not available within the Village but are desired by its residents.

A brief description of the regional facilities having the most significance in terms of proximity to Lake Orion is presented below:

Orion Township Parks

Lake Orion Village residents are also residents and taxpayers of Orion Township and have the right to access all Township recreation facilities. The Township has four parks: Civic Center Park, Friendship Park, Gingell Nature Area and McConnell Field.

Civic Center Park is located near Joslyn and Greenshield Roads in the center of the Township. This park features a playground, soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, sand volleyball court, basketball courts, picnic areas and a natural trail.

Friendship Park comprises 137 acres of land near Clarkston and Baldwin Roads. This park features playgrounds, soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, walking paths, and open space.

The Gingell Nature Area is located at Maybee and Grafton Roads. The 40 acre wetland area is currently undeveloped. McDonnell Field is a small park located within a residential subdivision in the southwest corner of the Township.

Safety Path System of Orion Township

The Safety Path System is a 31 mile network of paths adjacent to roads that run through Orion Township. Pedestrians, runners, bicyclists and other non-motorized traffic can travel safely on these paved pathways. The Safety Path System is maintained and administered by Orion Township.

DNR Lake Orion Access Site

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns and operates an access site to Lake Orion. This site is located north of the Village Limits on Indianwood Road. This public access site provides boating and other water recreation opportunities for non-lakefront owners within the Village of Lake Orion and southeast Michigan.

Paint Creek Trail

The Paint Creek Trail begins in the Oakland County community of Rochester and extends northwestward through Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township, and into the Village of Lake Orion. The trail is used by hikers, cyclists, joggers, equestrians, nature observers and photographers. The trail follows the old Penn Central Railroad up the Paint Creek Valley through highlands, pastures, and wetlands. The compacted limestone surface provides a solid, but natural surface for no-motorized uses. During the winter months, many residents utilize the trail for cross-county skiing. The Paint Creek Trail is a vital part of the recreation available in northeastern Oakland County, not only linking parkland and facilities, but also for use as a recreation resource itself. The Paint Creek Trail is owned and managed by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, Oakland Township, Orion Township, City of Rochester and City of Rochester Hills.

Iron Belle Trail

The Iron Belle Trail, once complete, will provide residents and visitors across Michigan with access to over 1,200 miles of hiking routes from Belle Isle Park in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. Presently, the Iron Belle Trail runs directly south of the Village and is planned to run west along W. Clarkston Road.



Polly Ann Trail

The Polly Ann Trail is a 14.2 mile long, non-motorized trail located north of the Village of Lake Orion. The trail begins near Indianwood Road and Joslyn Road west of the Village, and extends north and northeast through the communities of Orion Township, Oxford Township, the Village of Oxford, Addison Township, and the Village of Leonard. The linear park utilizes the abandoned P.O. & N. railroad corridor and transverses through some of the most beautiful and untouched some of the most beautiful and untouched landscape in northern Oakland County. The trail is open year round during daylight hours and is restricted to non-motorized uses. Walking, hiking, jogging, cycling, horseback riding, and cross country skiing in winter are just some of the activities enjoyed by users of all ages. The Polly Ann Trail is owned and managed by the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council, Inc.

Oakland County Trailway System

In addition to the Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails, other trails are found and planned within the region as part of the Oakland County Trailways System. The map on the following page illustrates the master plan for non-motorized trails within Oakland County. The graphic shows the proposed locations of new trails, which is an initiative to link existing pathways and greenways throughout Oakland County and Southeast Michigan.

Orion Oaks County Park

Orion Oaks County Park is located southwest of the Village on Clarkston Road in Orion Township. This park is owned and operated by Oakland County. The park features 927 acres of open space, a dog park, fishing, hiking trails, and a boardwalk.

In total, Oakland County operates eleven parks. The closest park is Orion Oaks, but other county parks are located within a short distance of Lake Orion. These include Independence Oaks Park, in Independence Township, and Addison Oaks Park in Addison Township.

Bald Mountain Recreation Area

The Bald Mountain Recreation Area comprises 4,637 acres of land in three major concentrations south and east of the Village of Lake Orion. The primary entrance to the recreation area is located off of M-24 a few miles south the Village. The recreation area is owned and operated by the State of Michigan. The park area has some of the steepest hills and most rugged terrain in southeastern Michigan.

The Bald Mountain Recreation Area offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities. Such activities and facilities include hunting, swimming, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, boating, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, playground areas, picnic areas, and an archery/shooting range.



RECREATION SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

COMPARISON TO STATE AND NATIONAL STANDARDS

The type of parks and their location, number of amenities, and distribution throughout the Village are all components that are assessed together as a recreation system analysis. The following comparisons are made between Lake Orion and the state and national standards for service areas, acreage, and number of facilities.

Overall, Lake Orion has a strong formal parks and recreation system and the Village has made considerable efforts towards improving recreation facilities and making them more accessible to neighborhoods and other community destinations.

SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to identify areas in the community that are lacking access to recreation facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

Mini-Park>	0.25 mile walkability service radius
Neighborhood Park	0.25 – 0.5 mile service radius
Community Park	1.0 mile service radius

As illustrated on the Parks and Recreation Inventory and Services Areas Map, Lake Orion’s formal park system extends to the entire downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods, as well as small pockets in the northwestern and southwestern areas of the Village. This is considered adequate park service, as those living closest to the downtown area have at least walkable access to two or more park facilities. However, several neighborhoods are outside this walkability range, especially the areas to the north, the south and the western areas, in the middle of Lake Orion. New park facilities should be considered in the north of the Village, as well as on Bellevue Island. The Village should also build upon the existing non-motorized / trail system to link neighborhoods to parks as a means to improve assess and expand recreation opportunities for residents.

TABLE 3.1: Lake Orion's Recreation Land Acreage Analysis

Facility Type	NRPA Guideline for Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents	Lake Orion's Minimum Recommended Acreage*	Lake Orion's Actual Acreage	Surplus / Deficiency
Mini Parks	0.25 acres	0.76 acres	1.62 acres	+ 0.86 acres
Neighborhood Parks	1.00 acres	3.04 acres	2.88 acres	- 0.16 acres
Community Parks	5.00 acres	15.19	5.43 acres	- 9.76 acres
Greenways / Trails	Variable	Varies	<1.0 linear mile	n/a

* Based on the 2015 ACS population count of 3,038 individuals.

ACREAGE ANALYSIS

Table 3.1 compares Lake Orion's park acreage to national guidelines for Michigan communities. As a state-wide measure, these standards are general in nature and do not always reflect the quality of the facilities, the character of the community, or other local differences that impact community recreation facility needs. Thus in evaluating the results, the actual conditions and trends present in the Village must be accounted for.

As a baseline indicator, Table 3.1 highlights the surplus / deficiencies of all park land that is available to residents. While there is a surplus of mini park acreage available to Lake Orion residents, there is a serious deficiency of community park acreage. The Village should explore the potential addition of parkland for residents north of Downtown.

FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Additionally, MDNR recommends a certain number and type of recreation facilities for a community based on its population size. Table 3.2 compares Lake Orion's recreation facilities to the MDNR standards. Although Blanche Sims Elementary School is within Village limits, it is part of the Lake Orion Community School District and thus, not calculated in the Villages facility count. However, it is important to note that public school facilities are utilized by members of the community.

Considering Lake Orion's 2015 estimated population of 3,038, the Village has mostly exceeded MDNR standards for several types of applicable recreation facilities. The surplus of recreation amenities may be greater if the count included the elementary school that belongs to the Lake Orion Community School District. It is recommended that collaboration is continued with the School System and other entities, including Orion Township, in order to provide residents with even greater access to recreation facilities.

TABLE 3.2 Lake Orion's Recreation Amenities Standard Analysis

Amenity Type	MDNR Standard	Lake Orion's Recommended Amenity Count*	Lake Orion's Actual Amenity Count	Surplus / Deficiency
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000	1	7	+ 6
Baseball / Softball Field	1 per 5,000	1	3	+ 2
Multi-Purpose Athletic Field	Varies	-	-	-
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	0	1	+ 1
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	2	0	-2
Greenway / Trail System	1 system per region	1	1	+/- 0
Volleyball Court	1 per 5,000	1	1	+/- 0
Beach	Varies	-	1	+1

* Based on the 2015 ACS population count of 3,038 individuals.

04 Lake Orion's Strategy





Our Vision

Goals and objectives formulated by the community are the cornerstone of the recreation planning process as they form the framework for public and private decision-making. The purpose of this Plan is to provide a basis for public policy decisions and technical coordination in recreational development and to inject long-range consideration into the determination of near-term actions.

The goals and objectives, as outlined in this chapter, were developed through the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Village Administration, incorporate park and recreation best practices, and were confirmed by the results of the public engagement process.

Lake Orion's strategy hinges on its ability to provide a variety of parks that are flexible spaces to serve multiple users, creating an inclusive space for which the community to enjoy.

This chapter details the public engagement process and key results and establishes the Village's goals and various corresponding objectives.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Community participation brings vitality to a Parks and Recreation Plan and thus, the following pages detail the Village's public engagement process and feedback, and the resulting themes, goals, and objectives. To solicit public input for the goals and objectives process, an on-line survey was hosted by the Village from September - November of 2016, which generated approximately 60 respondents. The survey was publicized by the Village on its website and paper copies were also available at the Village Offices.

KEY SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked a series of questions pertaining to the existing condition and the future goals and priorities for Lake Orion's park and recreational facilities. A slight majority of respondents were Village residents (approximately 53 percent) with the remaining 47 percent from Lake Orion Township and other surrounding communities. Key results of the survey are detailed below with full results included in the appendix.

Major themes which emerged from the public engagement results and are embodied in the goals and objectives section. They include a priority on maintenance, the development of non-motorized pathways, preservation of natural features and the lakefront, and the creation of public spaces for community events.



VISITS TO FACILITIES IN THE PAST YEAR AND CONDITION RANKING

The most popular visited parks and recreation facilities within the Village in the past year are listed below, along with the most frequent rating of their current condition (excellent, good, fair, poor).

Children's Park	98%	Condition: Good
Paint Creek Trail	91%	Condition: Good
Green's Park	76%	Condition: Good
Meek's Park	68%	Condition: Fair
Atwater Park	57%	Condition: Fair
Swiss Village Park	24%	Condition: Fair
Unger Park	14%	Condition: Fair

IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following recreational facilities received the highest frequency of "importance" rankings for respondents:

Playground equipment / play areas	85%
Beach	81%
Small neighborhood parks (pocket parks)	80%
Paved walking / biking trails	80%
Park shelter / picnic areas	75%
Additional lighting at parks	61%

Overall, 56 percent of respondents were satisfied with the appearance, maintenance and cleanliness of the Village's parks and recreation facilities. Participants were asked to rate the variety, quality, and availability of park amenities, and each category reflected over 50 percent satisfaction.

FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION INVESTMENTS AND AMENITIES

Respondents were asked to identify the reasons that prevented members of the household from using any of the Village’s parks, recreation facilities, or programs. The following were the most common reasons:

Too far from residence	29%
I do not know the location of parks and facilities	27%
Availability of parking	27%
Facilities are too hard to reach, poor access	25%
Fees are too high	17%

PARK AND RECREATION PRIORITY INVESTMENTS

In the future, respondents would like the Village to pursue the following:

- Canoeing / kayaking
- Hiking / walking trails
- Adult fitness and wellness
- Special events / festivals
- Sledding
- Swimming

Popular activities that respondents indicated that they would like to see added in the Village, or expanded and enhanced, include the following:

- Open Green’s Park to non-Village residents; remove park fees
- Install rest rooms, drinking fountains at Children’s Park
- Allow paddle boarding, kayaking rentals, boat docks at Green’s Park
- More shade at the parks
- Expand bike paths and Paint Creek Trail to downtown Lake Orion

Survey respondents most frequently visit Green’s Park, Children’s Park and Paint Creek Trail and offered feedback specific to these sites. As a result, they have been identified as the facilities that should receive priority investment in the next five (5) years. Respondents are most likely to travel to each facility by foot or by car. Several respondents commented that they would like to see a connection between downtown Lake Orion and the lake. This includes boat docks at Green’s park and / or a bridge over / under M-24 that would allow boaters to dock and then frequent shops and restaurants.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
QUOTEABLES,

what Lake Orion stakeholders are saying:

"Continuing to work on outdoor spaces and programs that get people, old and young, out and moving are very important to the health of Lake Orion."

"Expand walking and biking paths within the Village and beyond the major trails."

"There needs to be more shade at the parks!"

"I would love to see Green's park expanded: an extended beach and pier that people can walk out to and enjoy the sunset."



COMMUNITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals, as related to community planning, are general statements of ideals toward which the Village strives towards. They also express a consensus of community direction for public and private agencies, groups, and individuals, and are long-range considerations that guide the development of specific objectives and actions.

Objectives are a means to achieve goals and identify the methods by which the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan may be realized.

The stated goals and objectives are grouped according to major community themes and developed using feedback from the public engagement surveys and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

1) FUTURE PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

GOAL: Develop, improve and expand (where possible and appropriate) park and recreation facilities to provide a variety of experiences (both passive and active) that are desired by the community.

+ MEET DEMAND

Strive to provide the recreation opportunities of this Plan over the next 5-year period to meet the Village's unmet need for parks and recreation pursuits.

+ LAND ACQUISITION

Look for opportunities to acquire land that: (1) is adjacent to/near existing parks; (2) provide increased/enhanced recreation opportunities; and/or (3) will help to ensure protection and access to community natural features.

+ BEST PRACTICES

Utilize environmentally-friendly design and construction techniques, ensure parks are inviting, friendly, aesthetically-pleasing, and consistent with the Village's overall design standards, and prioritize park safety.

+ CONTEXT SENSITIVE

When improving parks, particularly in the downtown area, seek to incorporate elements that complement and enhance the historic nature of the community in terms of materials, design, etc.

+ SIGNAGE

Develop and implement consistent signage for the parks system and along access roads to raise awareness of park locations and facilities (including historical interpretative signage, where appropriate).



2) GREENWAY & TRAIL SYSTEMS

GOAL: *Create a system of non-motorized trails to offer both recreation and transportation opportunities, to connect with regional / state trails and to link people with parks and other destinations, promoting mobility and public health.*

+ PAINT CREEK TRAIL

Continue enhancement of the Paint Creek Trail and its connection to the regional Polly Ann Trail network.

+ DOWNTOWN CONNECTIONS

Establish a pedestrian / non-motorized connection between the downtown and Lake Orion, potentially with Green's Park.

+ SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS

Add missing links between existing Village sidewalks and connect existing paths to existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

+ WATER ACCESS

Expand recreation access to Lake Orion/Paint Creek through land acquisition and/or conservation easements for greenways/trails, especially along water corridors that are ideal for trails but less suitable for other land uses.

+ WAYFINDING PROGRAM

Develop a consistent wayfinding program for the greenways / trails that directs users of the non-motorized paths to Village destinations (to coordinate with park signage).

+ NEW DEVELOPMENT

Require developers to provide greenways / trails, in addition to sidewalks, in new developments to connect them with other community neighborhoods, amenities and destinations.

3) RECREATION PROGRAMMING

GOAL: *Coordinate with other parks and recreation providers and supporters to ensure safe, quality, affordable, accessible, and diverse program and event opportunities.*

+ INTEGRATED SYSTEM

Develop and maintain online registration capabilities and integrate the Village's system for recreation passes / facility rental for a more streamlined and efficient process.

+ DIGITAL OUTREACH

Develop and maintain a stronger, more viable website and other social media platforms to increase awareness of planned activities and upcoming events and to link the recreation passes / facility rental system.

+ WATER-BASED PROGRAMMING

Continue to offer swimming lessons at Green's Park and promote the existing lake / water resources in the Village, (expanding on programming, including water skiing, boating, fishing clubs and other water-based uses).

+ VOLUNTEERS

Establish and maintain job descriptions and duties in the park system for volunteers to help deliver services and support staff work.

+ WEALTH OF PROGRAMS

Continue to work with local athletic organizations, clubs, and institutions to provide a wealth and variety of organized activities within the community.



4) PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL: *Coordinate and partner with other entities to ensure the availability of and opportunity for comprehensive, quality, services and facilities.*

+ EVENTS

Continue to support and work with the DDA to continue events such as the Halloween Parade, Summer Concert Series, New Year's Resolution Run, Flower Fair, Christmas Parade, Main Street Mingle, etc.

+ EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Work closely and support the Lake Orion Community School District to continue to provide recreational program activities and events.

+ RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT

Actively seek and encourage the involvement of residents in the recreation planning and implementation process.

+ PUBLIC RELATIONSHIPS

Foster, promote, and encourage cooperative relationships with public entities, including:

- Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
- Orion Township and Nearby Communities
- Senior Center
- Oakland County
- Paint Creek Trailways Commission and Polly Ann Trail Council
- MDNR

+ PRIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

Foster, promote, and encourage cooperative relationships with private entities, including:

- Athletic organizations/associations (i.e. the LO Youth Baseball League, Girls' Softball League, Horseshoe Club, and LOBOS Soccer Club)
- Art Center
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Trout Unlimited
- Lions Club

5) NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL: *Preserve and protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands while maintaining public use, access, and enjoyment.*

+ VIEWSHEDS

Ensure the preservation of viewsheds of the natural resources.

+ WATERCOURSES

Protect and restore water quality, stream channels, natural areas, wetlands, and ecosystems, enhance in-stream habitat, and implement streambank restoration/erosion control measures utilizing soft shoreline techniques.

+ STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Where possible, utilize low-impact development (LID) techniques to manage storm water that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source.

+ EDUCATION

Increase awareness and education of the natural resources through interpretive signage.

+ PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Meet the recommendations of the Stony / Paint Creek Subwatershed Management Plan, and other valid natural resource plans, when implementing projects.



6) EXISTING FACILITIES

GOAL: *Ensure the continual operation, maintenance and accessibility of existing Village parks, recreation facilities and trail systems.*

+ ACCESSIBILITY

Ensure barrier free accessibility to all existing parks, recreation areas and trail systems within the community, including paths, transfer points, resilient surfacing, picnic tables, play equipment, curb cuts, parking, etc.

+ MAINTENANCE

Develop maintenance standards for developed park areas and the cost to maintain the standard on a yearly basis.

+ RESPONSIBILITIES

Clearly define maintenance roles and responsibilities between the Village DPW, the DDA, and other entities.

7) FINANCE

GOAL: *Prioritize funding streams and seek alternative funding sources to assist in implementing the goals, guidelines, and capital improvement projects of this Plan.*

+ FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Track how the Village will spend its future financial resources on recreation projects and inform the public on resources available. Consider long-term maintenance costs with all new projects and improvements.

+ SELF - GENERATING

Seek to make improvements, offer programs and events, and maintain facilities that will generate revenue, when applicable.

+ GRANTS

Identify and pursue all applicable federal, state, and local grants, including the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF).

+ SPONSORSHIPS

Seek sponsorships for facilities and programs where appropriate.

+ LONG - RANGE PLANNING

Review and update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years to maintain a current assessment and ensure grant funding eligibility.

05

Planning for Change





Call to Action

Lake Orion's Action Plan serves as a template for future projects and is intended to be a flexible, year-by-year list of improvements for 2017-2021. The Action Plan supports the goals and objectives for the Village development, growth, and enhancement through a comprehensive set of network improvements, policies and programs that are staggered over the five (5) year period.

Within this chapter, projects are identified which will develop the Village's recreation system in a manner that provides a total recreation experience for the entire family. With the goal to continually develop facilities for active and passive recreation, competitive sports, for children, adolescents, and seniors, and picnic and gathering spaces, and natural landscapes, Lake Orion will continue to afford residents and visitors a high-quality park and recreation experience.

Detailed on the next several pages is Lake Orion's Action Plan, top five (5) projects for prioritization, and project descriptions to help guide and inspire responsible parties towards a common understanding and lay the groundwork for implementation.



ACTION PLAN

Lake Orion's Action Plan is detailed in Table 5.1 which presents each of the proposed project titles, the anticipated time frame, estimated cost range, and potential funding sources / partnerships. Some park facilities contain various projects that are planned to occur over multiple years and involve coordination with other agencies. Other park and recreation facility projects involve targeted improvements that Lake Orion can implement quickly within one year and/or with the help of volunteers.

Cost range estimates for Lake Orion's Action Plan projects were derived in 2016 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project should be specifically determined with the aid of site surveys, programming elements, and engineering requirements. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the project based on the schedule provided, the project's implementation time frame could be stretched over additional years or the scope of the project condensed.

Projects of the Action Plan should be reviewed annually by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and reported to the Village Council, allowing for adjustments to respond to updated needs / conditions and the identification of funding opportunities.

TOP PRIORITY 5 PROJECTS

The following five (5) priority projects represent near-term investments that have the potential to create major and immediate improvements to the Village's parks and recreation system.

These top projects were identified by Village Administration and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and serve as an excellent starting point for future prioritization and action:

Full project descriptions are detailed on the following pages.

- 1 *Children's Park Improvements*
- 2 *Environmental Resource Management*
- 3 *Green's Park Improvements*
- 4 *Administrative Facilitation*
- 5 *Park and Wayfinding Signage Plan*

TABLE 5.1: Lake Orion Parks and Recreation Action Plan, 2017-2021

Project	Time Frame			Estimated Cost Range	Funding Source(s) & Collaboration
	Near-term	Mid-term	Long-term		
Children's Park Improvements		X		\$\$\$	GF, D/P, LSO, G, DDA, PRC, DEQ
Environmental Resource Management			X	\$\$	GF, G, PRC, OT, DEQ
Green's Park Improvements	X			\$\$\$	GF, D/P, LSO, G, DDA, PRC, DEQ
Administrative Facilitation	X			\$	GF, VC
Park and Wayfinding Signage Plan		X		\$\$	GF, D/P, LSO, G, PC, VC, DDA
Flint Street Park	X			\$\$	GF, G, VC, DEQ
Atwater Park Improvements			X	\$\$	GF, G, VC, LSO, PRC, DDA
Meek's Park Improvements		X		\$\$	G, LSO, DEQ, DDA
Swiss Village Park Improvements		X		\$	GF, PRC
Unger Park Improvements			X	\$\$	GF, G, PRC
Paint Creek Trail System and Bike Paths	X	X		\$\$	GF, G, OT, OC, VC
M-24 Crossover	X	X	X	\$\$\$	- all-
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update			X	\$	GF, PRC, PC, VC

LEGEND

Time Frame Key:

Near-term	Less than 1 year
Mid-term	1 - 3 years
Long-term	Over 3 years

Estimated Cost Range Key:

\$	\$0 - \$10,000
\$\$	\$10,001 - \$500,000
\$\$\$	\$500,001+

Funding Sources and Collaboration Key:

GF	General Fund (Lake Orion)
D/P	Donation or Partnership
LSO	Local Service Organizations
CS	Corporate Sponsor
G	Grants (i.e. MDNR, CDBG)
DDA	Downtown Development Authority
PC	Planning Commission
PRC	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
VC	Village Council
OC	Oakland County
OT	Orion Township
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality



PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

CHILDREN'S PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement infrastructure improvements, including repairs to the existing bridge; creek shoreline stabilization and erosion control; greater accessibility into and within the park; additional pedestrian-scale lighting; and the creation of public restrooms.

Design and implement passive recreation improvements, including the addition of shade trees or shade sails, especially near playground areas and existing seating; and the screening of Valentino's dumpsters and the adjacent parking lot with a decorative fence and/or landscaping.

Design and implement active recreation improvements, including the repair / replacement of the gazebo; updated playscapes with new playground surfacing that is designed to absorb shock and is ultra-durable; public art; and the creation of a fenced tot lot. And educational talks in Children's park re: vegetation, wildlife, etc. for youth.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Create, ingrate, and maintain blue and green infrastructure centered around the Village's water systems that aims to improve the water quality (including algae removal, water flows and levels) so that they remain healthy and attractive and maintain and improve the tree canopy. This includes:

- Stormwater management;
- Lake Orion water quality and invasive species; and
- Land use management around Lake Orion.

Environmental resource management also involves the acquisition and preservation of greenbelts of land around water systems to protect the watershed from development impacts and pollution and collaboration on regional projects to address environmental quality. Project specifics include the design and implementation of shoreline and bank stabilization improvements with one or two designated public outlooks along Paint Creek in both Meek Park and Children's Park.

GREEN'S PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement infrastructure improvements, including the repair / replacement of building roofs; creation of a barrier-free accessible sidewalk to and within the park and down to the beach; removal of the concrete slab (former concession stand) and replacement with grass, vegetation; and provide WiFi access to help facilitate the sale and online system for park passes.

Design and implement water infrastructure improvements, including the replacement of swim docks; enlargement of the sandy beach area with a paved sidewalk wrapping around it; expansion with four or five more boat docks; seawall improvements, including the reworking of the breakwall are to improve safety; creation of two fishing / scenic outlook areas with paved sidewalks to them; and a goose management plan.

Design and implement passive recreation improvements, including shaded picnic tables and general site maintenance of vegetation and the beach.

Design and implement active recreation improvements, including a new play structure; new pavilion (potential to rent out); and the creation of a fenced tot lot.



ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITATION

Create a comprehensive parks and recreation management system that allows for the sale of electronic tickets and registration, including investment in IT infrastructure to permit an integrated system for reservations / passes (as Eventbrite does not currently integrate with Village BS&A system).

PARK AND WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PLAN

Design and implement new signage at all parks, following a consistent theme. Study, design and implement a new wayfinding signage plan to highlight parks, Village destinations and trailways that will complement other Village signage. Trail signage should include a map with routes and incorporate travel times for each segment to help guide unfamiliar users.

FLINT STREET PARK

Implement a public engagement study for the park development, including adjacent residents.

Design and develop the existing ROW into a passive pocket park for enjoyment of the lake views. Project design includes: seawall work, designated area for fishing, landscaping, buffering of the site from adjacent residential uses (landscaping, fencing, etc.), picnic tables, benches / other seating, and trash / recycling receptacles.



ATWATER PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement general park improvements, including paving the parking lot and stripping angled parking spaces; screening of the DPW garage; addition of shade trees; repair of fencing; and addition of new bike racks.

Design and implement active recreation park improvements, including the resurface / replacement of the basketball court and backboard / net; baseball field upgrades, including new dugouts with repaired and painted bleachers; and improved accessibility within the park to playground facilities and swing pads.

MEEK'S PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement infrastructure improvements, including repair / replacement to the east end pedestrian bridge; mitigate flooding with the potential option of replacing existing concrete with an elevated boardwalk to maintain open access of the park; creek shoreline stabilization and erosion control; address adjacent storm drain; address vandalism of facilities; install a system of fit stations along the path for additional exercise opportunities; replace benches and tables with steal, thermo plastic coated amenities; and replace existing chain link fence with something more inviting, such as a living wall at the park entrances.

SWISS VILLAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Relocate picnic table and checkerboard table (including concrete slabs) to permit greater room for active recreation on the grassy area and sledding.

UNGER PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement improved accessibility to and within the park; relocate low wires to eliminate hazards; and redesign vegetation to provide for low-maintenance, non-invasive species, removing existing Chinese bamboo.

PAINT CREEK TRAIL, NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEM AND BIKE PATHS

Extend the trail system to Lake Orion's destinations. Expand bike paths to link with parks and add a bike routes on- and off-street where feasible.



M-24 PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER

Conduct a feasibility study for a pedestrian connection to link downtown Lake Orion and Lake Orion, potentially at Green's Park.

Per the results of the feasibility study, design and implement a safe pedestrian connection across M-24.

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years (2022 deadline).

EXPAND AND PARTNER FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Investigate the possibility of providing new recreation facilities that will be available to all residents of the Lake Orion Area, including: the Lake Orion Community School's recreation facilities, and county and township parks in the area; and provide opportunities for a healthier lifestyle through exercise.



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