



**2022 - 2026**

# Parks and Recreation Master Plan City of Clare, Michigan



Expires: December 31, 2026

# City of Clare

## Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026 Acknowledgements

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

City Council

Pat Humphrey, Mayor  
Robert Bonham, Mayor Pro Tem  
Maegan Jenkins, Commissioner  
Nick Loomis, Commissioner  
Gus Murphy, Commissioner

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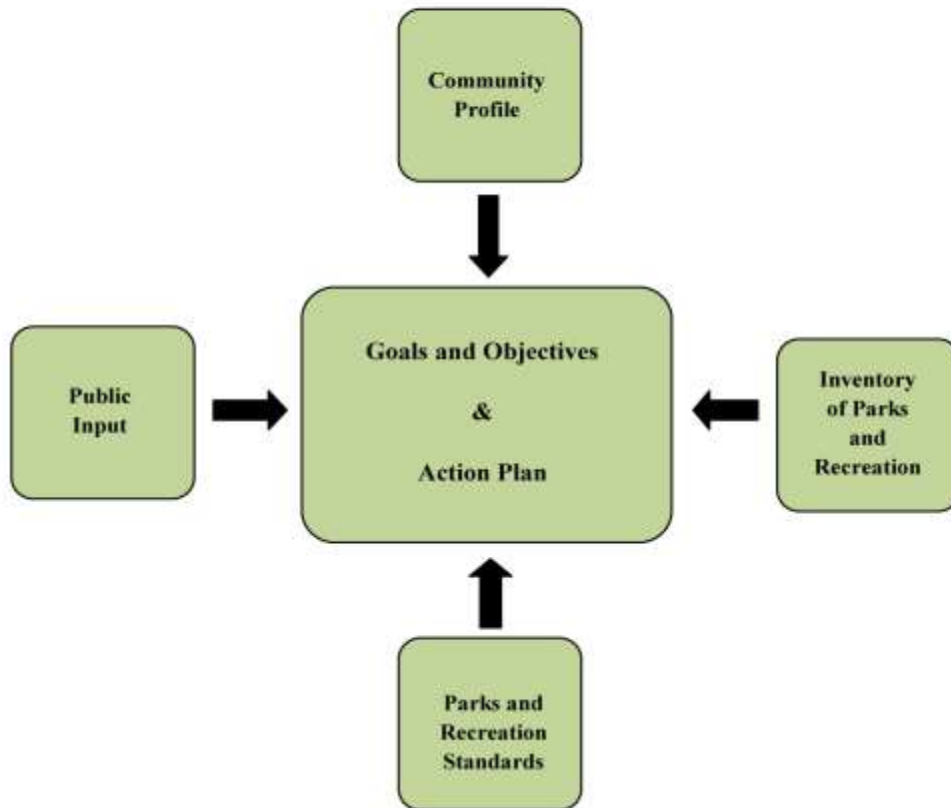
## Table of Contents

I.	Introduction.....	Page 4
II.	Community Description.....	Page 5-9
III.	Organization and Administration.....	Page 10-13
IV.	Recreation Inventory.....	Page 14-23
	Grant History .....	Page 24-26
	Progress Reports and Post Completion Self-Certification ...	Page 27-46
	Recreation Programs and Services .....	Page 47
	Standards Analysis .....	Page 48-49
V.	Park Accessibility .....	Page 50-51
VI.	Public Participation.....	Page 52-57
VII.	Goals and Objectives .....	Page 58-59
VIII.	Action Plan.....	Page 60
	Design of Emerald Isle Recreation Complex Project .....	Page 61
IX.	Recommendation and Adoption of Plan.....	Page
	Submission Letters to Planning Agencies .....	Page
	Checklist .....	Page
Appendices		
	Appendix A – Public Meeting Announcement .....	Page 63
	Appendix B – Letter of Invitation and Mailing List .....	Page
	Appendix C – 2021 Parks and Recreation Survey .....	Page 66-69

## Chapter 1: Introduction

The revision of the City of Clare master plan for parks and recreation began in January 2021, by Joy K.S. Simmer, Director of Clare Parks and Recreation. The planning process was designed to include information from multiple sources using various means of data collection consistent with the purpose of the master planning process.

Data for the City of Clare Parks and Recreation Department was collected in 2009 by RPL students from Central Michigan University. This inventory has been updated and logged yearly ever since the original collection dates.



## Chapter 2: Community Description

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

### ***Location***

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

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

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

**Figure 1: Location Map, City of Clare**



## ***History***

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



## ***Demographics***

According to 2020 Census, the overall population within the City of Clare stands at 3,254. Comparatively, according to the 2010 census, the City of Clare had a population of 3,118. Demographics for the 2020 Census has not been released, but according to the 2010 Census, less than 5% of the population was represented by minority or ethnic groups. Females significantly outnumbered males, 54.8% to 45.2%. The median age in the City of Clare at that time was 36.1 years, which is nearly a year lower than the median state average and national median age (37.2 years). This age difference is evidenced in the percentage of residents over the age of 65 years. While both the state and national average for persons over 65 stood at 13%, in the City of Clare over 16 (16.9%) percent of the population was 65 or older. There is little reason to believe that the demographic makeup of the city has changed significantly since 2010<sup>1</sup>.

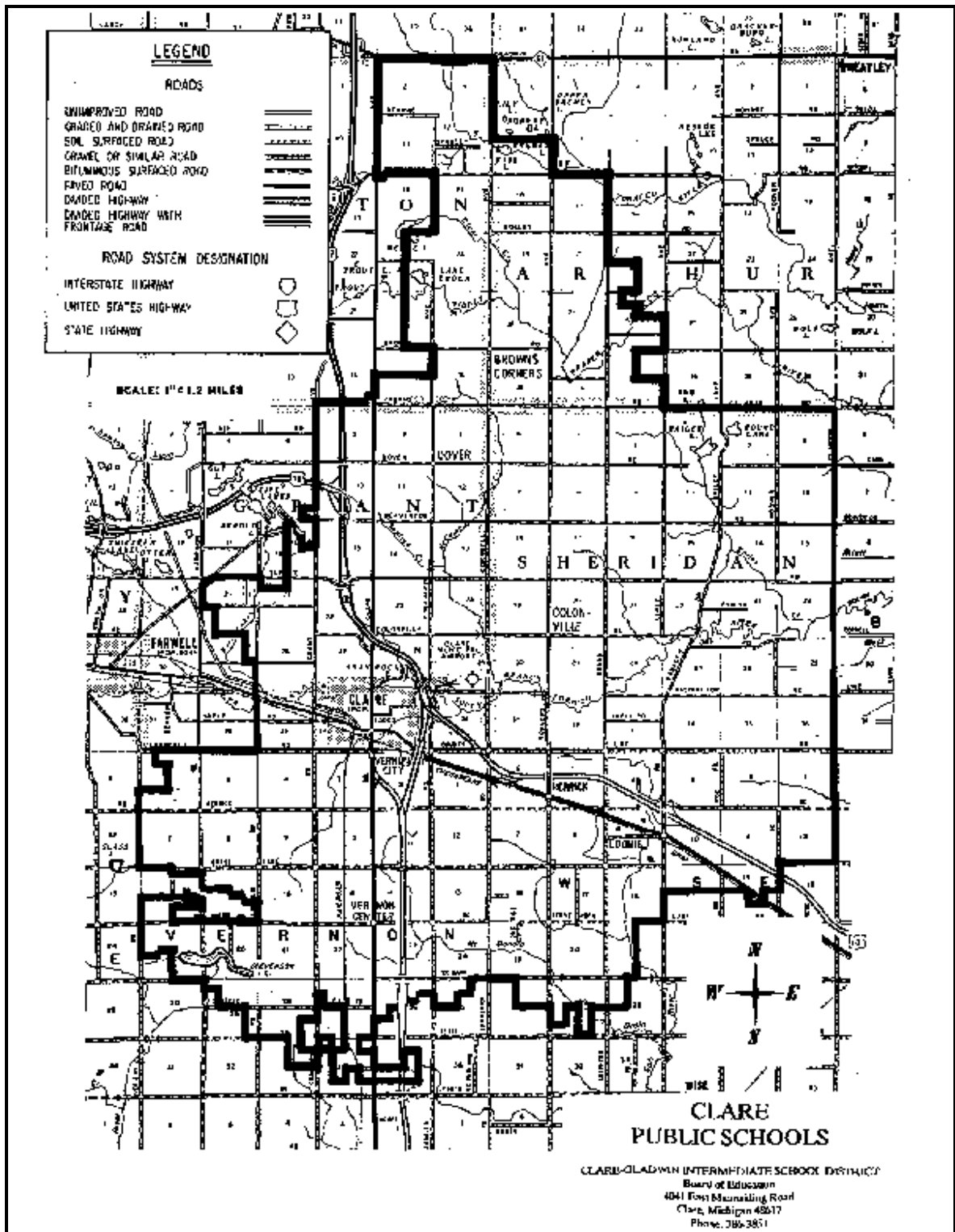
For planning purposes, it is useful to look beyond the City of Clare proper. Because of Clare's rural location, the City of Clare serves as a population center for an area much larger than the city itself. While the population of the City of Clare is only estimated to be about 3,100 in 2014, the Clare Public School district encompasses approximately 120 square miles, including parts of two counties and six townships. The 48617 zip code that represents the Clare Post Office serves an area with a combined population of 8,612<sup>2</sup>. Many of these people choose to shop in Clare, and participate in recreation programs and services provided in the City of Clare. Although not tax payers, non-residents also add to the burden of providing parks and recreation services in the city and should be considered in planning decisions. See Figure 2 for the Clare Public Schools district map.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

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

Figure 2: Clare Public Schools District Map



## ***Population Trends***

The population of the City of Clare has increased with a small 4.4%<sup>3</sup> that has occurred between 2007 and 2020 (Table 1). The county population since 2007 has virtually remained unchanged. The current economic climate in the state of Michigan will likely continue to hold the population growth down or unchanged for the next several years.

The median age of a Clare resident is 41.7<sup>4</sup> years, almost 2 years older than the median age in the state of Michigan.

## ***Economics<sup>4</sup>***

Like the rest of the state, Clare County is suffering from the effects of the current economic conditions. According to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB)<sup>6</sup>, the current rate of unemployment in Clare County stands at 6.8% and ranks 77 out of Michigan's 83 counties. This is a 9.8% decrease in unemployment made over the last ten years, but due to the current economic crisis due and pandemic, the ranking has increased the counties ranking from 69 to 77 in the state.

In 2000 Clare's median household income was \$28,734; almost \$20,000 less per year than the state median household income. Clare has now decreased that gap, but remains at \$44,104; around \$15,000 lower than the state median household. According to Sperling's Best Places<sup>5</sup>, the cost of living in Clare is reasonable compared to the nation. They reported that the City of Clare's cost of living is 21.5% lower than the U.S. average.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-51170\\_51713\\_51716-195885--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-51170_51713_51716-195885--,00.html).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.city-data.com/city/Clare-Michigan.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Clare-Michigan.aspx#>

<sup>6</sup> <https://milmi.org/datasearch/unemployment-by-county>

**Table 1: Population of Clare County 2000 – 2020**

Name	April 1, 2000	2000	2002	2004	2006	2020
	Census	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Census
<b>Clare County</b>	<b>31,252</b>	<b>31,382</b>	<b>31,520</b>	<b>31,445</b>	<b>31,042</b>	<b>31,145</b>
Arthur twp.	667	671	680	685	681	647
Clare city (pt.)	3,140	3,163	3,156	3,155	3,121	3,254
Franklin twp.	809	813	819	817	803	825
Freeman twp.	1,118	1,128	1,166	1,191	1,209	1,157
Frost twp.	1,159	1,164	1,169	1,164	1,144	1,047
Garfield twp.	1,968	1,976	1,979	1,967	1,930	1,882
Grant twp.	3,034	3,032	3,041	3,026	2,978	3,259
Greenwood twp.	1,059	1,064	1,073	1,071	1,054	1,041
Hamilton twp.	1,988	1,995	2,000	2,000	1,989	1,829
Harrison city	2,108	2,113	2,098	2,078	2,040	2,150
Hatton twp.	923	931	942	945	935	933
Hayes twp.	4,916	4,932	4,920	4,878	4,782	4,675
Lincoln twp.	1,758	1,767	1,815	1,823	1,828	1,824
Redding twp.	526	529	535	537	531	526
Sheridan twp.	1,588	1,596	1,611	1,612	1,593	1,575
Summerfield twp.	453	455	459	459	453	456
Surrey twp.	2,700	2,709	2,709	2,694	2,650	3,606
Winterfield twp.	483	486	492	495	491	459

## Chapter 3: Organization and Administration

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

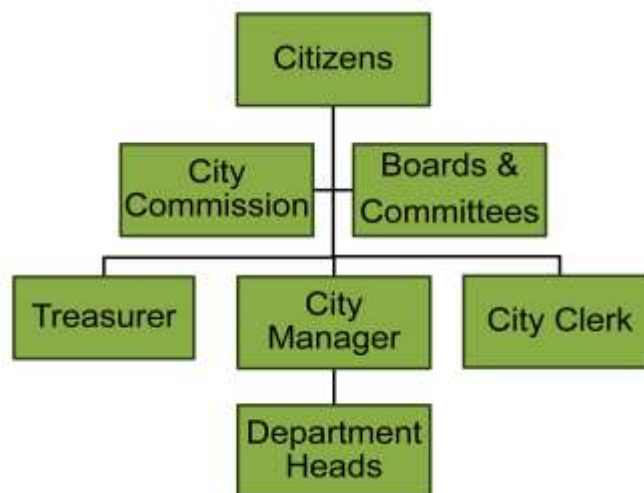
### Organization

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

Figure 3: City of Clare Organizational Chart

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## City of Clare Organizational Chart



## ***Working Relationships***

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

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

In addition, the Director works with other community organizations and partners to provide recreation programs and services. The department partners with the local Chamber of Commerce, Police and Fire Departments, the Pere Marquette District Library, Clare Public Schools, community volunteers, and other groups to offer programs and services.

The City of Clare has leased property at the Brookwood Athletic Complex from Clare Public Schools and has developed that property for recreational use. Old, unsafe playground equipment owned by the school system was removed and a new playground area was installed in its place by the City of Clare and community volunteers. In 2020 the City of Clare also took on a lease of the school owned tennis courts to be able to have them resurfaced and allow for a safe place for tennis and pickleball enthusiasts to play.

Like any community recreation agency, the City relies on a wide range of volunteers to provide recreation programs and services. The Clare Moose Lodge spearheaded the community-built playground project that resulted in the Imagination Gateway Playground development. Students from Central Michigan University, particularly parks and recreation majors, are sometimes recruited to provide leadership for events and programs offered by Parks and Recreation.

## ***Funding***

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

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

**Table 2: Property Tax and Fee Revenue 2021-2026**

Year	Park Property Tax Revenue	Fees
2025-2026	\$72,922.13	
2024-2025	\$71,581.49	
2023-2024	\$68,900.22	
2022-2023	\$68,372.47	
2021-2022	\$67,031.83	

Parks and recreation operations are funded by the General Fund. Table 3 on the following page shows the actual and projected budgets for the 2021-2026 fiscal years for parks and recreation in Clare.

Table 3: Parks and Recreation Budget

**CITY OF CLARE - PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET  
APPROVED AND FORECAST AMOUNTS FOR 2021 - 2026**

<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>	<b>FY 2021/22 APPROVED BUDGET</b>	<b>FORECAST FY2022/23 BUDGET</b>	<b>FORECAST FY2023/24 BUDGET</b>	<b>FORECAST FY2024/25 BUDGET</b>	<b>FORECAST FY2025/26 BUDGET</b>
<b>Revenues</b>					
CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES	67,031.83	68,372.47	68,900.22	71,581.49	72,922.13
INTEREST AND PENALTIES TAXES	50.00	51.00	52.02	53.06	54.12
FEDERAL GRANTS	300,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
STATE GRANTS	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS - OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHARGES FOR SERVICES - PARKS	11,000.00	11,220.00	11,444.40	11,673.29	11,906.75
CHARGES FOR SERVICES - RECREATION	11,500.00	11,730.00	11,964.60	12,203.89	12,447.97
SPONSORSHIPS	4,775.00	4,870.50	4,967.91	5,067.27	5,168.61
INTEREST	62.50	63.75	65.03	66.33	67.65
IN LIEU OF TAXES	325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEPOT LEASE/UTILITY REIMBURSEMENT	2,933.33	2,992.00	3,051.84	3,112.88	3,175.13
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	49,833.92	61,533.28	60,233.74	58,933.34	57,633.80
SALE OF FIXED ASSETS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DONATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS	500.00	510.00	520.20	530.60	541.22
DONATIONS-SOUTH REC/SOCCER COMPLEX	46,000.00	10,000.00	10,200.00	10,400.00	10,612.08
DONATIONS - SKATE PARK	2,500.00	2,550.00	2,601.00	2,653.02	2,706.08
DONATIONS - RAILROAD DEPOT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
REFUNDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>526,511.58</b>	<b>173,893.00</b>	<b>174,000.95</b>	<b>176,279.17</b>	<b>177,235.55</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
WAGES	164,474.84	167,764.34	171,119.62	174,542.02	178,032.86
PAYROLL TAXES	12,582.34	12,833.99	13,090.67	13,352.48	13,619.53
FRINGE BENEFITS	49,827.27	50,823.82	51,840.29	52,877.10	53,934.64
RETIREMENT - LEGACY AND CURRENT	29,784.34	33,164.46	36,273.58	38,004.78	39,791.81
SUPPLIES	25,900.00	26,418.00	26,946.36	27,485.29	28,034.99
SUPPLIES - GAS, OIL AND LUBRICANTS	25,800.00	26,316.00	26,842.32	27,379.17	27,926.75
POSTAGE	155.00	158.10	161.26	164.49	167.78
PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	43,400.00	44,268.00	45,153.36	46,056.43	46,977.56
CONTRACTED SERVICES - LAKE SHAMROCK	30,000.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	47,000.00
TELEPHONE AND COMMUNICATIONS	1,600.00	1,632.00	1,664.64	1,697.93	1,731.89
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	800.00	816.00	832.32	848.97	865.95
SEWER	4,900.00	4,998.00	5,097.96	5,199.92	5,303.92
WATER	7,300.00	7,446.00	7,594.92	7,746.82	7,901.75
ELECTRICITY	7,200.00	7,344.00	7,490.88	7,640.70	7,793.51
NATURAL GAS	2,500.00	2,550.00	2,601.00	2,653.02	2,706.08
REPAIRS - BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	8,100.00	7,262.00	7,407.24	7,555.38	7,706.49
REPAIRS - EQUIPMENT	2,650.00	2,703.00	2,757.06	2,812.20	2,868.45
LEASE-RENT	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL - DATA PROCESSING	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL - MOBILE EQUIPMENT	29,600.00	38,500.00	50,100.00	40,100.00	32,100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	3,900.00	2,854.00	2,911.08	2,969.30	3,028.69
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1,500.00	1,530.00	1,560.60	1,591.81	1,623.65
INSURANCE	3,800.00	3,876.00	3,953.52	4,032.59	4,113.24
CAPITAL OUTLAY - DEPRECIABLE	1,680,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY - NON-DEPRECIABLE	21,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
	<b>2,158,573.79</b>	<b>513,057.70</b>	<b>535,198.68</b>	<b>553,510.39</b>	<b>555,029.53</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>526,511.58</b>	<b>173,893.00</b>	<b>174,000.95</b>	<b>176,279.17</b>	<b>177,235.55</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>2,158,573.79</b>	<b>513,057.70</b>	<b>535,198.68</b>	<b>553,510.39</b>	<b>555,029.53</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(1,632,062.21)</b>	<b>(339,164.70)</b>	<b>(361,197.73)</b>	<b>(377,231.22)</b>	<b>(377,793.97)</b>

## Chapter 4: Park and Recreation Inventory

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

The City of Clare currently operates 65.87 acres of developed and 1.2 acres of undeveloped park space within the city.

Figure 4: Location Map of Clare City Parks



## **City of Clare Parks**

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

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



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

**Emerald Isle Recreation Complex**, located on the south end of Clare on Pinecrest Street. This park includes 10 varied size soccer fields, a multi-purpose field, a butterfly and pollen garden, playground facility, skate and bike park, and a 0.7-mile trail around the outer perimeter of the park.





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

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

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



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

## Trails

In addition to city parks, two developed trails serve the Clare community. The Pere Marquette Rail-Trail currently has a trail head at the Pere Marquette District Library providing access to city residents. The City of Clare received a MDNR grant for the purchase of the rail right-of-way and trail construction from the previous eastern terminus to the Pere Marquette District Library in downtown Clare. The trailhead will be relocated to the Clare Union Railroad Depot once development is completed within the 2.3 mile “gap” that exists within the western area of Clare. The Kevin Sherwood Trail runs for about a mile along McEwan Street from Pettit Park to the north end of town.



**The Pere Marquette Rail-Trail**, currently terminates at the Pere Marquette District Library and starts back up after the Clare Moose Lodge.



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

**Table 3: City of Clare Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Brookwood Park	Community Park	Community	Woodlawn Avenue and Ann Arbor Trail	8.8 Acres	1 Lighted Adult Softball Field; Imagination Gateway Playground, Picnic Tables, Tennis Court
Clare City Park	Community Park	Community	West 5th Street and Beech Street; Across from City Hall	0.8 Acres	Gazebo, 27' diameter; Picnic Tables; Grill; Benches; Water Fountain; Skateboard Equipment (Temporary and Seasonal).
Emerald Isle Recreation Complex	Community Park	Community	303 Pinecrest Street	26.27 Acres	10 varied size soccer fields, a multi-purpose field, a 0.7 exercise trail along the outer perimeter, playground facility, picnic tables, benches, a concession trailer, gaga ball pit, butterfly and pollen garden, gazebo, 2 footbridges, compost bins, insect hotel, and a storage building.
McIreland Nature Trails	Trails	Community	820 Schoolcrest Avenue; Adjacent to Stamina Stadium	.5 Mile	Non-Motorized Use Only; Walking; Biking; Jogging; Bridges over Tobacco River; Several Benches; Wildlife Viewing Opportunities.
Pettit Park	Community Park	Community	McEwan Street	5 Acres	21 Campground Sites (16 with Electric Hook-up); Fire Rings; Potable Water; Playground Structure and Equipment; Horseshoe Pit; Picnic Area with Grills; Sanitation Station; Accessible Restroom and Shower Facility; Fishing Pier.
Shamrock Park	Community Park	Community	225 Wilcox Parkway; South Shore of Lake Shamrock	11.3 Acres	1 Lighted Little League Baseball Diamond with Bleachers; Concession Stand; Large Pavilion (Winter, Outdoor Ice Rink) 120' X 48'; Medium Pavilion 48' X 24'; Small Pavilion 30' X 18'; Accessible Restroom Facility; Playground Equipment area with Benches plus Playground Equipment throughout park; Horseshoe Pit; Picnic Tables; Grills; Storage Building; Fishing Access to Lake Shamrock; Barnes Island (Located on Lake Shamrock, boat access only).
Stamina Stadium	Sport Park	Community	820 Schoolcrest Avenue; Adjacent to McIreland Nature Trail	13.2 Acres	4 Fenced Baseball/Softball Diamonds with Bleachers; 1 Fenced T-Ball Field; Concession Stand; Storage; Accessible Restrooms; Batting Cages; Pavilion; Swings; Slide; Jungle Gym.
Undeveloped Property		Community	Woodlawn North of Brookwood Park Softball Field	1.2 Acres	Undeveloped

**Key to Park Types**

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

## **Clare Public School Facilities**

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

Table 4: Clare Public School Facilities

<b><i>Facility</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Inventory</i></b>
Brookwood Park Athletic and Recreation Complex	Woodlawn Avenue and Ann Arbor Trail	1 Turf Field with Home/Away Bleachers; 1/4-mile Track; 1 Baseball Field with Practice Cages, Dugouts, Bleachers; 1 Soccer Field with 2 Goals; Home/Away Locker Rooms; Public Restroom Facilities; Warming House; Concession Stand; Pavilion.
Clare High School	Wheaton Avenue and Cedar Street	Gymnasium with 1 Basketball Court; Bleachers; Concessions; Weight Room/ Fitness Center, 1 Baseball Field with Dugouts, Practice Area for Soccer and Football.
Clare Middle School	Wheaton Avenue and Hemlock Street	Gymnasium with 1 Basketball Court and Bleachers; Playground; Outdoor Basketball Area.
Clare Primary School	Wheaton Avenue	Small Gymnasium/ Multipurpose Room; Playground Equipment; Outdoor Basketball Hoops.
Undeveloped Property #2	Near Brookwood Park	Wooded land, Possibly Wetlands in Some Areas

## ***Other Recreation Resources***

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

**Table 5: Other Recreation Resources in Clare**

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

## ***Private Recreation Service Providers***

- Gateway Lanes
- Clare Family Fitness
- Firefly Golf Course

## ***Nearby Recreation Resources***

### **City of Harrison (15 miles north of Clare)**

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

Another utilized resource located within Harrison is the Mid Michigan College (MMC) public trail system which entails 560 acres of wooded land, with four trails which make up the trail system. These four trails make up a 22-mile combined trail system. The official trailhead for the Harrison Campus trail system is the Poet Family Outdoor Education Center (OEC). The OEC provides access to necessary amenities for visitors, such as; drinking fountains, heated restrooms facilities and changing rooms.

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

### **Village of Farwell (5 miles west of Clare)**

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

Also located within Farwell is CMU's Neithercut Woodland. Neithercut consists of 252 acres of varied land and diverse habitat within 2.5 miles of existing trails.

### **Isabella County (south of Clare County)**

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

### **City of Mount Pleasant (15 miles south of Clare)**

The City of Mount Pleasant has several public parks, offering trails, playgrounds, sport fields, pavilions, outdoor basketball and volleyball courts, shuffleboard, tennis courts, a

skate park, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and tubing access to the Chippewa River. In the winter, parks are available for cross country skiing and sledding. A variety of private recreation service providers including multiple golf courses, bowling lanes, an ice arena and roller-arena are also available in the city. Morey Courts recreation facility offers basketball, volleyball, tennis, racquetball, exercise and fitness equipment, and other activities.

Central Michigan University (CMU), located in Mount Pleasant, offers facilities to the public including swimming, softball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, racquetball, frisbee golf, health and fitness, weight lifting, aerobic exercise programs and other recreation facilities and services.

### **Clare County and Townships**

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

### **Status of all DNR Grant-Assisted Park and Recreation Projects**

During 2005 – 2010 fiscal years, the City of Clare received funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) in the form of two grants. Both grants were in association with extending the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail from its previous terminus at the east boundary of the city in Isabella County into downtown Clare to the Pere Marquette District Library. Planning and execution for the extension of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail proved to be a lengthy and in-depth project, with initial planning starting almost 11 years ago. In order to make the project a success, the City had to secure ownership, easements, or leases for many parcels of property along the route for the trail. With the generous support from grants, millage revenue, and general fund dollars, construction of the trail extension occurred in 2009, with the extension being formally opened via ceremony on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Final elements of the new extension, including signage and final touches on landscaping, are expected to be put into place during spring, 2010.

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

Grant funding was approved in 2020 for PIP surfacing for the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex Playground. The project faced some delays with the contracting companies, but is anticipated to be completed in 2022.

<u>Grant No</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
TF05-171	Pere Marquette Trail-Extension	\$ 99,100
TF07-096	Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension	\$500,000
RP20-0033	Emerald Isle Recreation Complex Playground Dev.	\$ 30,000



### GRANT HISTORY

**Grantee**

City of Clare - Clare - Clare County

<b>Project No.</b> TF05-171	<b>Project County:</b> Clare	<b>Project Year:</b> 2005
<b>Project title:</b> Pere Marquette Trail Extension		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$99,100.00

**Scope Item**

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

<b>Project No.</b> TF07-096	<b>Project County:</b> Clare	<b>Project Year:</b> 2007
<b>Project title:</b> Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$500,000.00

**Scope Item**

- Boardwalk
- Cleaning, Grading, Sidewalk & pavement removal
- Erosion Control/Restoration
- Fence
- Landscape
- Paved Path and Drainage
- Pedestrian bridge
- Permit/
- Retaining Wall
- Road Crossings
- Sidewalk connections, ramp, agg. Base,
- Site preparation
- Trail Signage and MNRTF Plaque

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

<b>Project No.</b> RP20-0033	<b>Project County:</b> Clare	<b>Project Year:</b> 2020
<b>Project title:</b> Emerald Isle Recreation Complex Playground Development		
<b>Project Status:</b> PA Executed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$30,000.00

**Scope Item**



## GRANT HISTORY

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**Grantee**

*City of Clare - Clare - Clare County*

---

Playground Safety Surfacing

**Project Description:** Further development of an inclusive playground within the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex, a new park within the City of Clare. The grant is for assistance with

---

**Total number of projects:** 3

**Total Amount of Grant Given** \$629,100.00



Recreation Grant History

**Applicant**

City of Clare

**Project No.** TF05-171

**Project Year:** 2005

**Project Title:** Pere Marquette Trail Extension

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$99,100.00

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

**Project No.** TF07-096

**Project Year:** 2007

**Project Title:** Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$500,000.00

**Element**

Site preparation  
Cleaning, Grading, Sidewalk & pavement removal  
Paved Path and Drainage  
Boardwalk  
Retaining Wall  
Fence

**Element**

Landscape  
Trail Signage and MNRTF Plaque  
Road Crossings  
Erosion Control/Restoration  
Pedestrian bridge  
Sidewalk connections, ramp, agg. Base,  
Permit/

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



### RECREATION GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

Required by authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Grant Number RP20-0033	Grantee City of Clare
Project Name	
<b>INSTRUCTIONS: Answer the questions below and attach additional sheets, if necessary, to elaborate on responses. Email this completed progress report and a <u>detailed schedule for project completion</u> to the appropriate Grant Coordinator.</b>	
1. Describe the work completed to date: Clare Parks and Recreation has been working with Sinclair Recreation on the design of the playground to get it ready for the PIP surfacing.	
2. Describe the work yet to be completed: Still need to have the engineering completed to move forward with the bid process. Estimating a summer 2022 timeline due to setbacks with COVID.	
3. Will the work be completed by the end of the project period? <b>Provide a detailed schedule for completion.</b> Check your project agreement for the project period expiration date. If you expect expenses to occur after this date, please initiate an amendment approximately 1 month prior to the expiration date. Refer to the Acquisition or Development Project Procedures booklet for instructions. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO, explain below: According to the agreement, the project expiration date is 3/31/2023	
<b>FOR FISCAL YEAR-END REPORTS ONLY</b> List the total expenditures that have, or will be, incurred between October 1-September 30 of the current fiscal year, which have not previously been reported in a reimbursement request. \$0	
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	
Grantee Representative Name <i>Joy KS Simmer</i>	Title Director of Recreation, Clare
Grantee Representative Signature <i>Joy KS Simmer</i>	Date 8/31/2021
Prime Professionals Name	Title
Prime Professionals Signature (optional)	Date

PR1947 (05/23/2018)



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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

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

GRANTEE: City of Clare

PROJECT NUMBER: TF05-171 PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee): Clare Parks and Recreation
Contact Person: Joy Simmer Title: Director
Address: 202 W. Fifth St. Telephone: (989) 386-7541 ext. 213
City, State, ZIP: Clare, MI 48617 Email: jsimmer@cityofclare.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

SITE QUALITY

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

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

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
*The Parks crew goes on the rail trail to maintain and clean-up 2-3x a week.*

**GENERAL**

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

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

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

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
*It is open, however used dawn until dusk.*

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

**CERTIFICATION**

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

<p>Please print <u>Joy Simmer</u></p>	<p><u>Joy Simmer</u> Grantee Authorized Signature</p>	<p><u>9/25/15</u> Date</p>
<p>Please print <u>Steven J. Kinsbury</u></p>	<p><u>[Signature]</u> Witness Signature</p>	<p><u>9-25-2015</u> Date</p>

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

# CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY

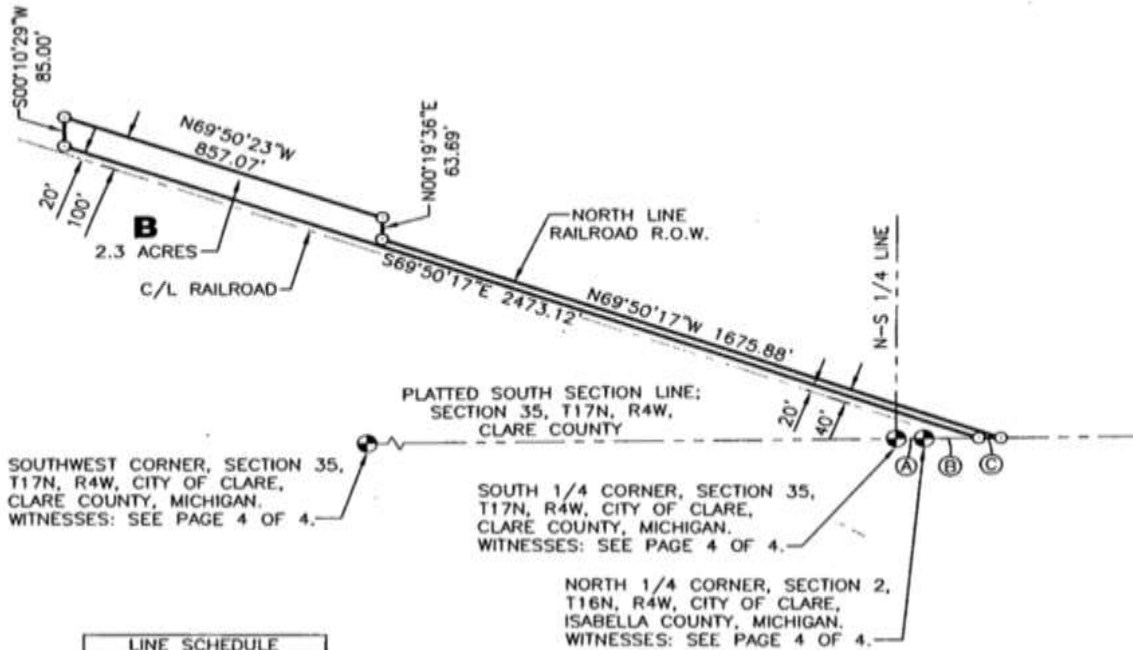
SECTION 35, T.17N.-R.4W., CITY OF CLARE, CLARE COUNTY, MI

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

**Certified to: City of Clare**

**Property Description:**

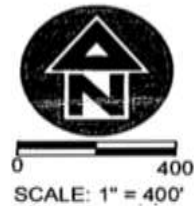
Part of the South One-half of Section 35, T17N, R4W, City of Clare, Clare County, State of Michigan described as: Commencing at the South One-quarter Corner of said Section 35; thence N 89° 15' 55" E, along the platted South Section line, 20.62 feet to the North One-quarter Corner of Section 2, T16N,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



LINE SCHEDULE	
A	N89°15'55"E 20.62'
B	N89°15'55"E 189.10'
C	N89°15'55"E 56.07'

**LEGEND:**

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



515 E. Fifth Street, P.O. Box 33  
 Clare, Michigan 48617

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 PLANNING  
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Ph. (989) 386-7774  
 Fx. (989) 386-7152

www.laphamassoc.com

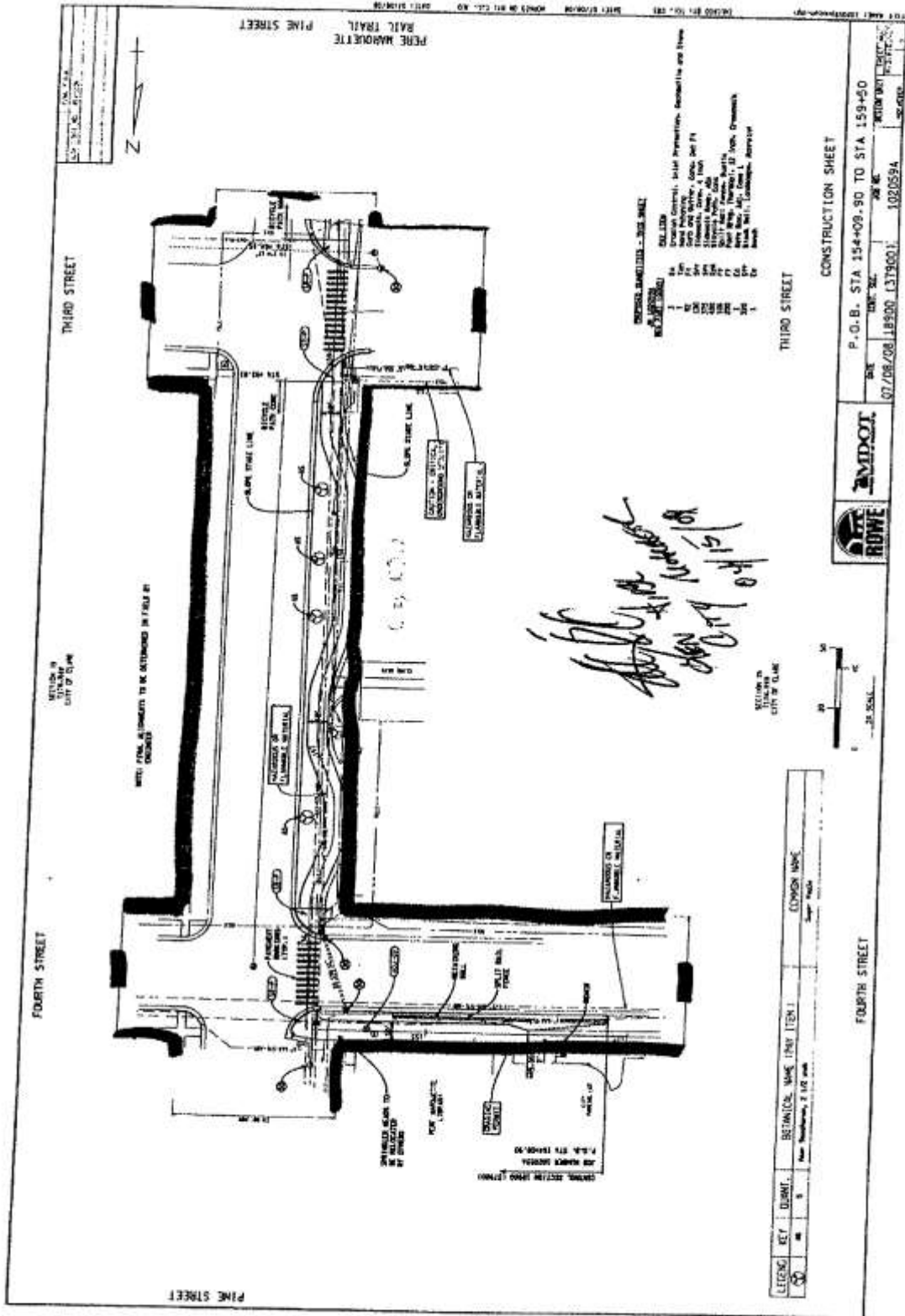
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Job No. C-060016 Sheet 3 of 4

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

ORIGINAL

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



*Handwritten notes:*  
 04/15/08  
 [Signature]

9803863636

**The Pere Marquette Rail Trail  
During Construction**



# The Pere Marquette Rail Trail After Construction and Grants





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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

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

GRANTEE: City of Clare

PROJECT NUMBER: TF07-096

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension

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

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee): Clare Parks and Recreation
Contact Person: Joy Simmer
Title: Director
Address: 202 W. Fifth St.
Telephone: (989) 380-7541 ext. 213
City, State, ZIP: Clare, MI 48217
Email: jsimmer@cityofclare.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

SITE QUALITY

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

Rail trail signage

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

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
*Parks crew goes onto trail 2-3x/wk to maintain and perform clean-up*

**GENERAL**

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

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

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

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
*used dawn until dusk*

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

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

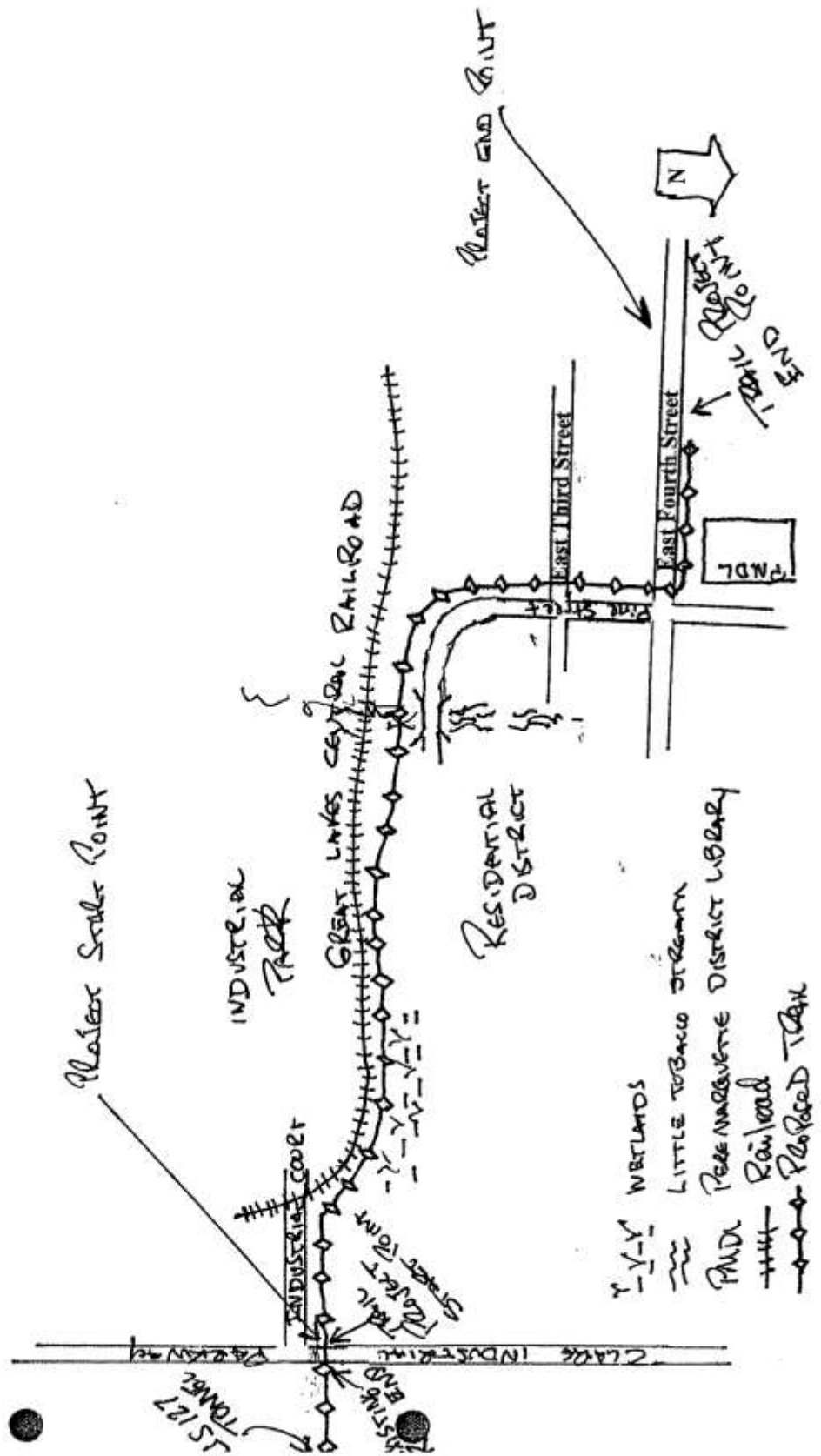
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION		
<i>I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.</i>		
<u>Joy Simmer</u> Please print	<u>Joy Simmer</u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>9/15/15</u> Date
<u>Steven J. Kuyshak</u> Please print	<u>[Signature]</u> Witness Signature	<u>9.25.15</u> Date

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

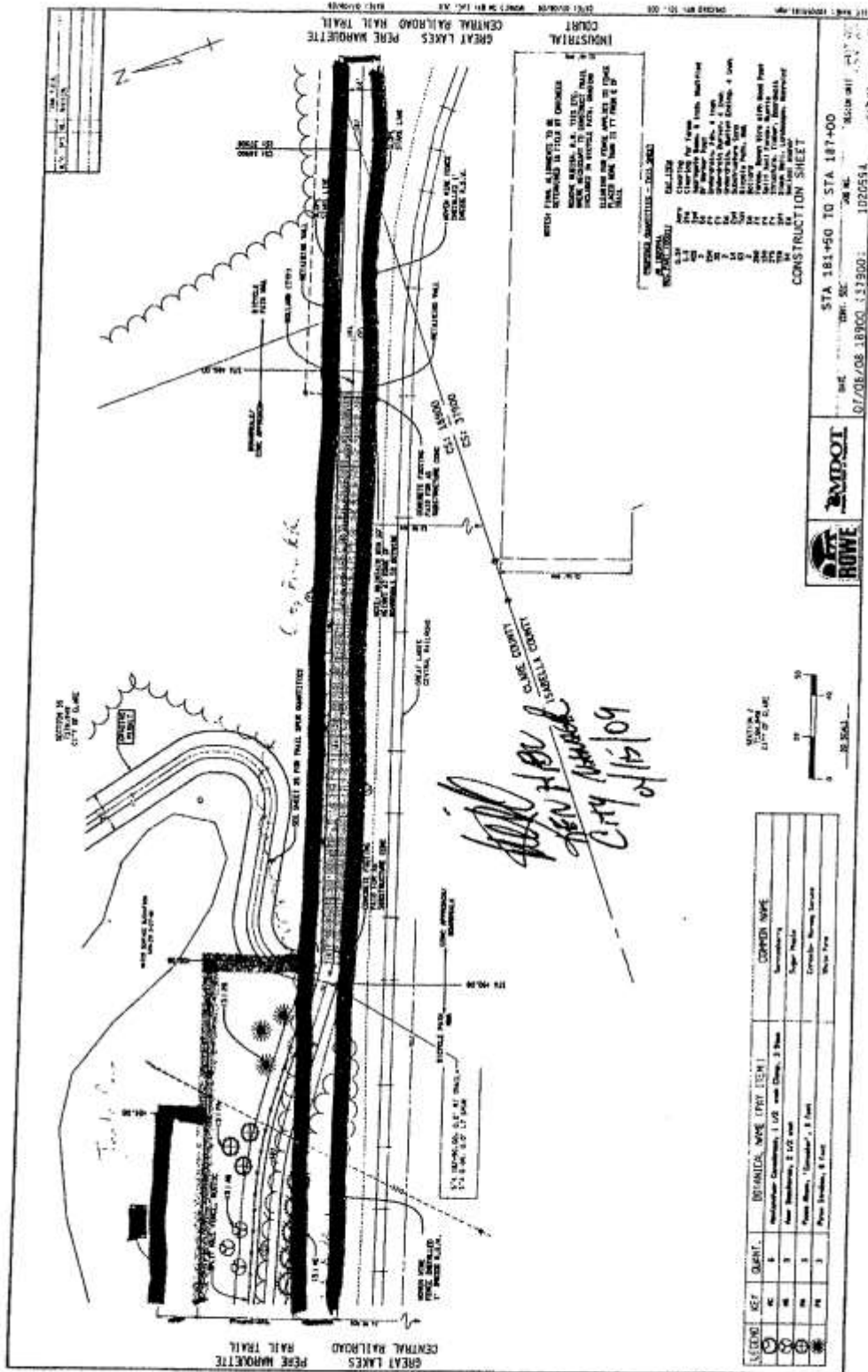
*[Signature]*  
12/24/08

BOUNDARY MAP  
PROJECT #: TF07-096  
PROJECT TITLE: Pere Marquette Rail-Trail Extension

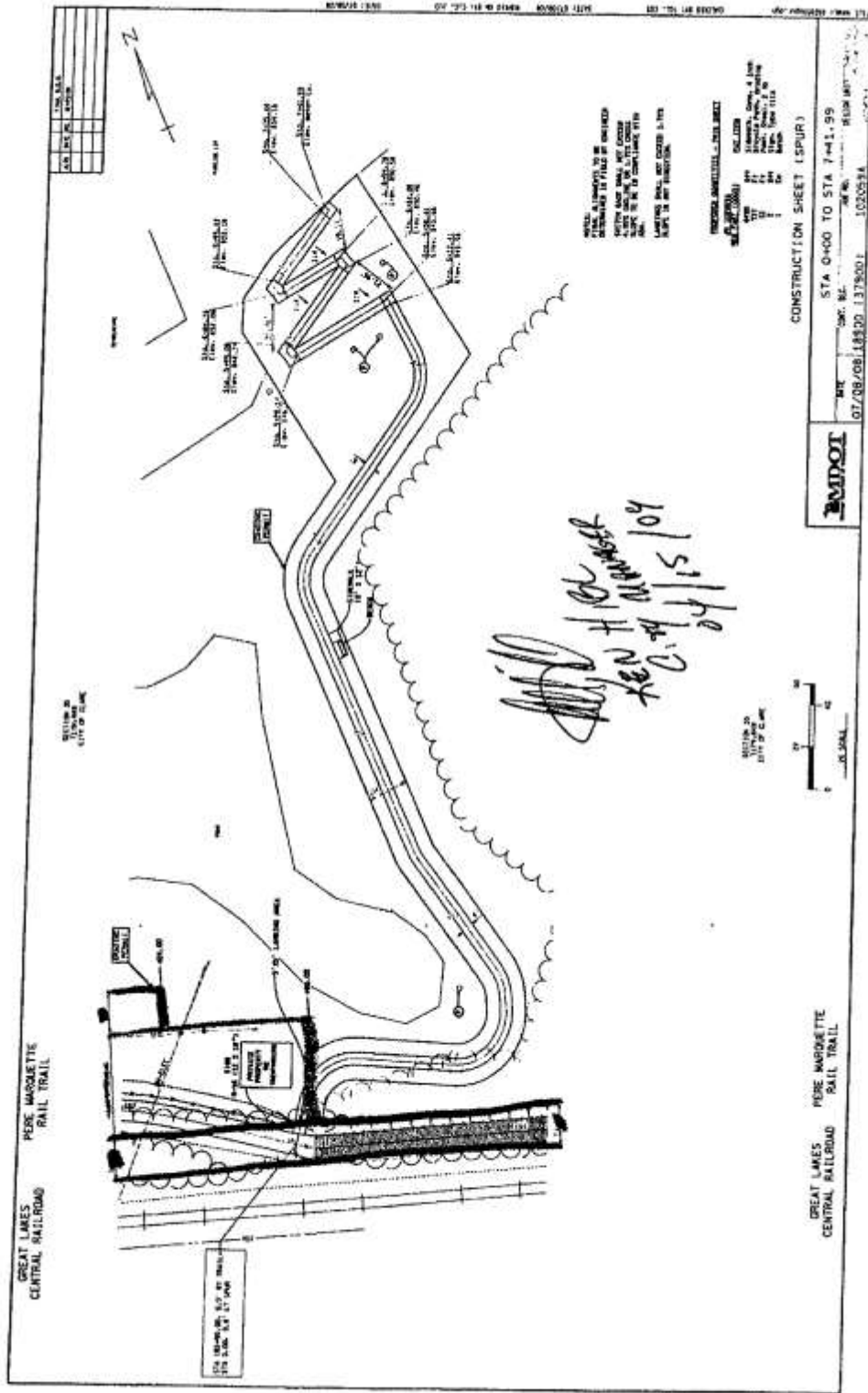


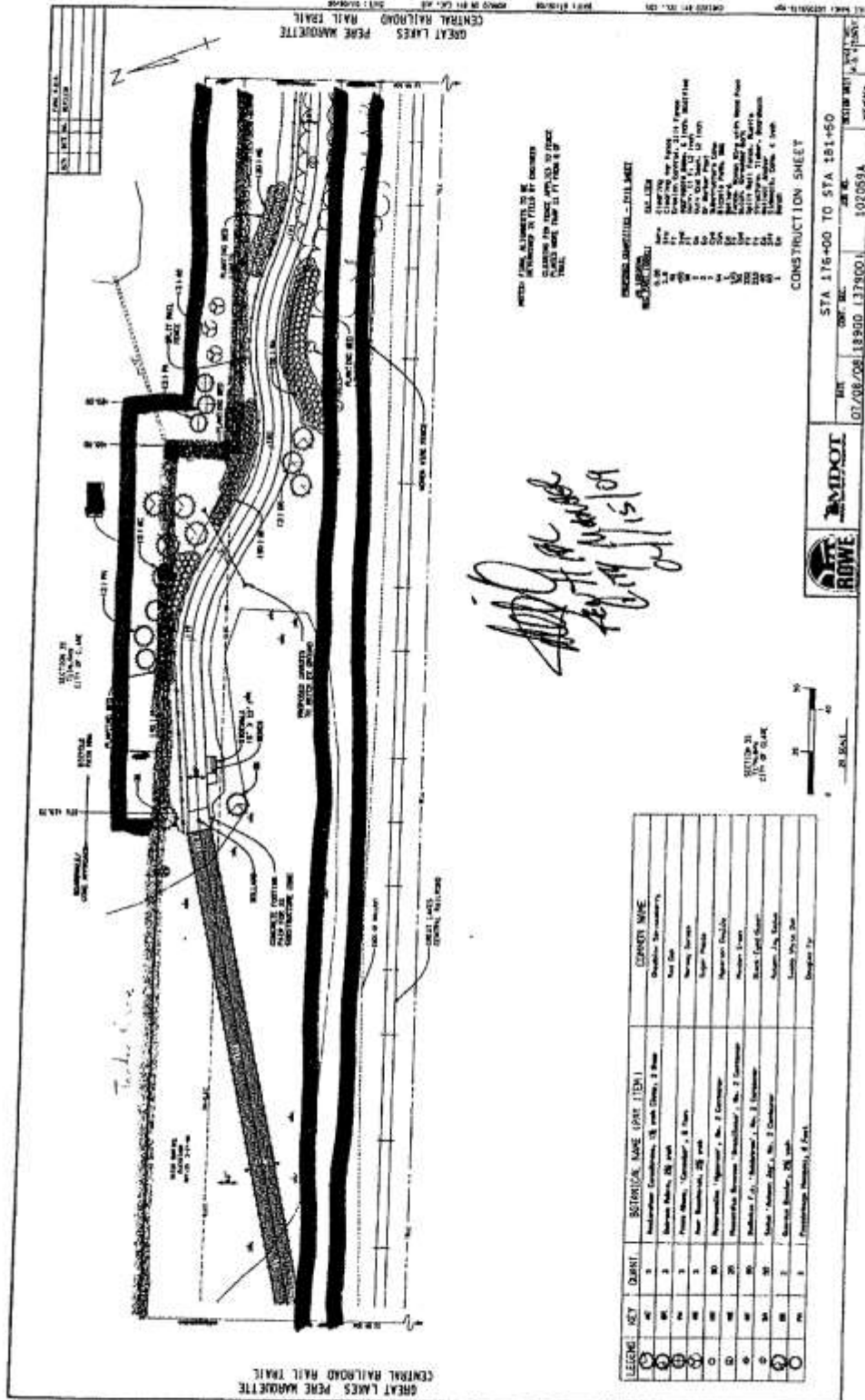




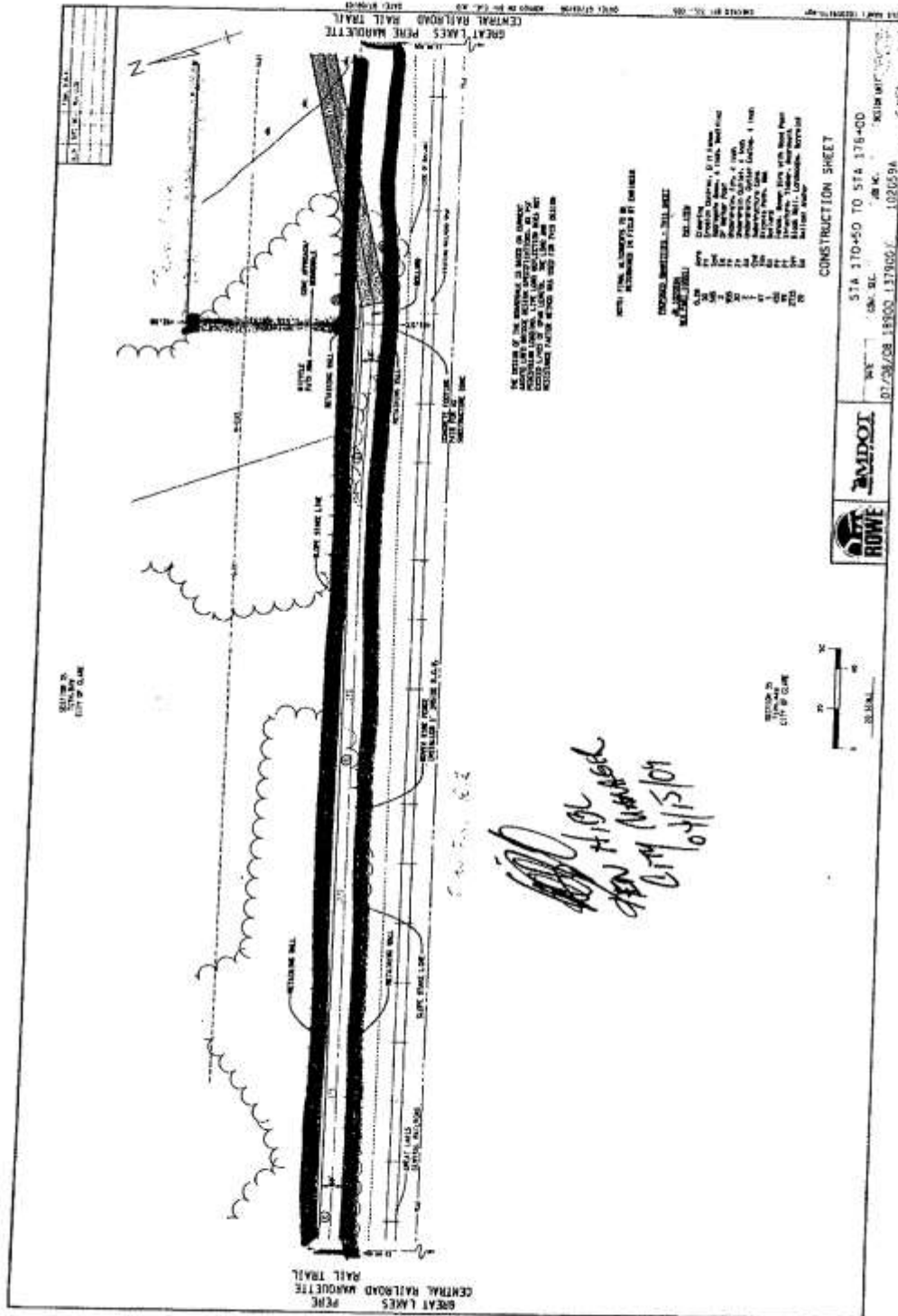


SYMBOL	KEY	QUANT.	DETAILS, MAKE, TYPE, ETC.	COPPER NAME
○	1	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	2	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	3	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	4	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	5	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	6	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	7	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	8	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	9	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume
○	10	1	1/2" DIA. GALV. STEEL	Galvalume

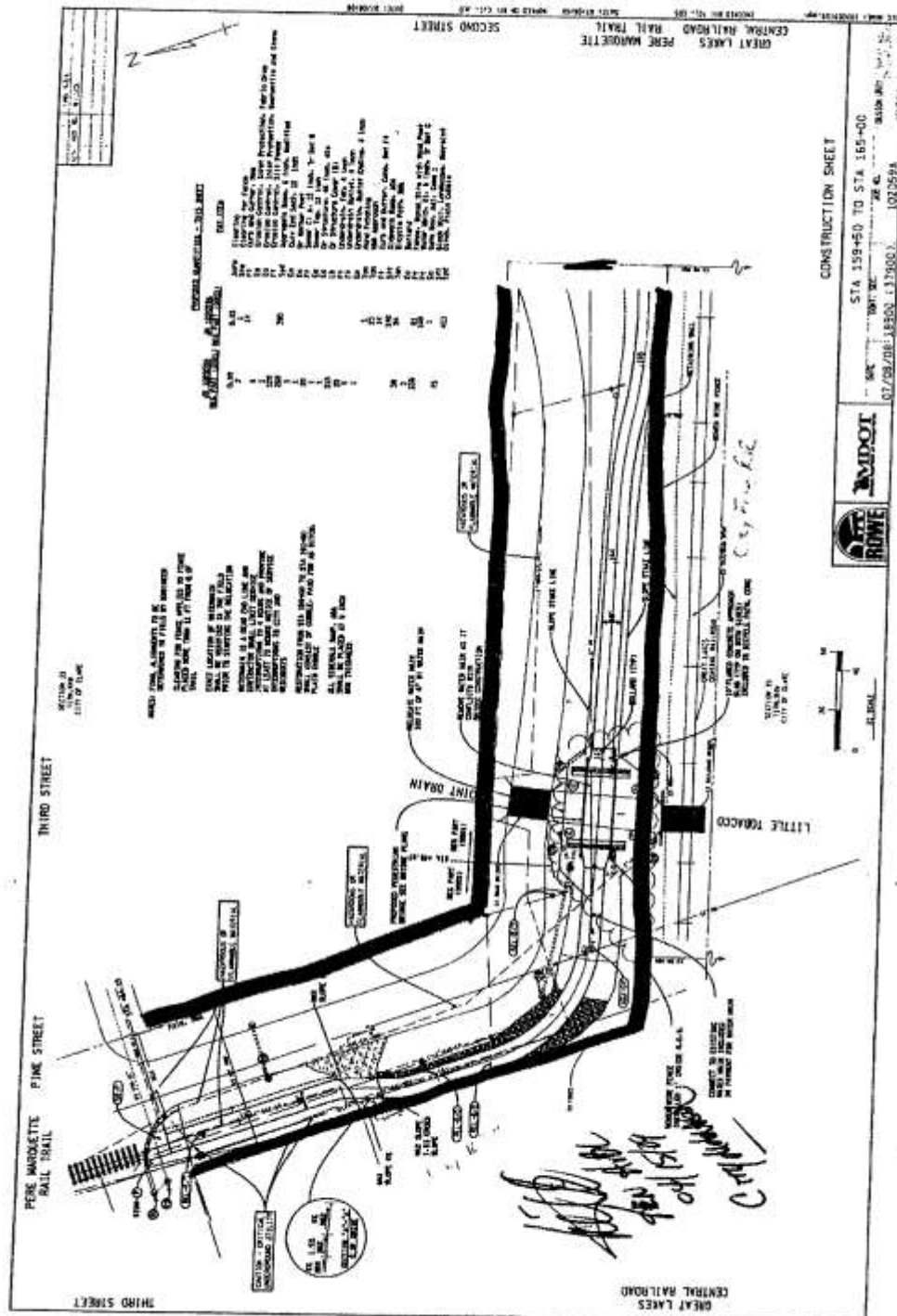




LEGEND	KEY	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION NAME (SPEC ITEM)	COMMENTS NAME
○	1	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	2	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	3	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	4	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	5	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	6	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	7	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	8	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	9	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	10	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	11	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	12	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	13	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	14	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	15	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	16	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	17	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	18	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	19	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete
○	20	1	Asphalt Concrete, 1 1/2 inch, 100% Bitumen, 2 1/2 inch	Asphalt Concrete







## ***Recreation Programs and Services***

### **City of Clare Parks and Recreation**

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

#### **Easter Programs/Events**

- Great EGGstravaganza  
(collaboration with the Clare Municipal Airport)

#### **Halloween Programs/Events**

- Clare Pumpkin Run 5K (walk/run)
- Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt  
(collaboration with Clare Family Fitness)
- Tract-or-Treat  
(collaboration with the Clare County Farm Bureau)

#### **Summer Programs/Events**

- Ethan Gage Junior Fire Academy  
(collaboration with Clare FD/Clare Fire Boosters)
- Jack Winter Memorial Golf Outing Fundraiser  
(collaboration with Firefly Golf Course)
- Soccer Camp  
(collaboration with the high school soccer program)
- Youth Police Academy  
(Run by the Clare Police Dept.)
- Summer Concert Series (Thursday evenings June to August)
- Summer Fun – Kid Addition

#### **Time for Recreation Series**

(collaboration with the Pere Marquette District Library)

- Earth Day Story Walk
- Halloween Story Walk
- Irish Pet Photo Contest
- Step into Spring Story Walk
- Stuffed Animal Slumber Party
- Time for Dance
- Time for Conservation
- Time for Tea

#### **Fall and Winter Programs**

- Fall Youth Soccer League (ages pK-8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Gateway Affair
- Ice Skating (Under large Shamrock Park Pavilion)
- Winter Drop-In Soccer (High School Soccer Program)

#### **Christmas Programs**

- North Pole Calling
- Santa Mail
- Christmas Cookie Fundraiser for Parks

#### **Clare Area Chamber of Commerce**

- Business After Hours
- City Wide Yard Sales
- Clare Christmas Fest
- Clare Summerfest
- Family Night Out
- Old 27 Car Show

#### **Clare County**

- Clare County Fair held annually in August
- Harrison 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Parade
- Thousands of Acres of State Land
  - Snowmobile and ATV trails
  - Over 20 Public Access Lakes
  - Swimming
  - Fishing/Ice Fishing
  - Boat Rentals
  - Canoeing/Kayaking/Tubing
  - Hiking/Biking
  - Hunting
  - Mushrooming
  - Bird Watching
- Golf Courses
  - Eagle Glen
  - Firefly Golf Course
  - Snow Snake Ski and Golf
  - The Tamaracks
- Amish Country
  - Yoder's Flea Market & Quilt Auction  
(Spring and Fall)

#### **Clare Irish Festival Committee**

- Clare Irish Festival
- Irish Recipe Contest (Youth and Adult Division)
- Irish Craft Show
- Leprechaun Contest
- Bed Race
- Irish Parade
- 5/10K Road Race and Walk

## Standards Analysis

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

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

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

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

## Park Land Standards

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

**Table 6: Park Land Area Standards**

Total Acres of Developed land	65.87 acres
2000 Census Pop. of Clare	3,254
Acre/Person	20.2 acres per 1000 people
Recommended Standard*	6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population

\*National Recreation and Park Association

## Recreation Activity Area Standards

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

**Table 7: Activity Area Standards**

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

\*National Recreation and Park Association

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

## Chapter 5: Park Accessibility

### Methods

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

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

**Table 8: Park Accessibility Assessment**

Park	Score	Comments & Recommendations
Brookwood Park	65%	There is not an accessible route of the Imagination Gateway playground. There is not an accessible route of travel or barrier free parking at the ball field.
City Park	71%	Grill (1) is not barrier free. 20% of picnic tables are not barrier free
Emerald Isle Recreation Complex	90%	Park is newer and was designed with accessibility in mind. Afton Stone trails outline the park and are located through the butterfly and pollen garden. Accessible picnic tables are available at the park and benching is placed every 500 ft along the trail. Playground area is waiting for PIP surfacing to be installed to make this area accessible as well.
Pettit Park	55%	All elements of the park are not connected by an accessible route. Picnic tables and grills do not meet guidelines for access or number. Playground equipment is not accessible. There is no designated barrier free parking. There should be a 2" edge protection along the sides and front edge of the fishing platform. No campsites meet guidelines for ground surface, fire rings, signage.
Shamrock Park	73%	All elements of the park are not connected by an accessible route. Grills and picnic tables do not meet guidelines for access or number. Playground area does not have an accessible route to the equipment itself.
Stamina Stadium	50%	All elements of the park are not connected by an accessible route. There is no designated or signed barrier free parking. Playground equipment is not accessible.

## ***Recommendations***

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

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

Existing playground equipment should be improved by creating a barrier free accessible path both to the equipment areas and up to the accessible elements of the equipment. As the city continues the paving of parking areas in parks, attention should be paid to assuring that barrier free parking is appropriately located and marked in all parks. Currently the City of Clare is updating the City Master Plan where an ADA transition plan will be incorporated in, for future city and park planning.



## Chapter 6: Public Participation

### Public Survey

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

### Methods

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

Out of the surveys that were printed and handed out, there were only five completed and returned. An additional fifty-five surveys were completed using the online survey option.

### Results

#### *Characteristics of subjects and households*

Fifty (50%) percent of respondents indicated that they were residents of the City of Clare. Respondents were asked to indicate which of the city parks members of their family had used in the previous year. Imagination Gateway Park (at the Brookwood Athletic Complex), Shamrock Park and the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail were the most frequently identified parks used during the previous year. Table 11 shows the breakdown of park use.

**Table 9: Parks Used During Past Year by Household**

Park	Percent of All Households
Clare City Park	5%
Emerald Isle Recreation Complex	20%
Imagination Gateway Park	<b>23.33%</b>
McIreland Nature Trail	3.33%
Pere Marquette Rail-Trail	11.67%
Pettit Park	5%
Shamrock Park	21.67%
Stamina Stadium	10%

In addition to asking which parks the respondents used during the previous year, respondents were asked to indicate the park they used most often. Imagination Gateway Park, the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex and Shamrock Park were identified as the most frequently used parks by respondents.

**Priorities for New Recreation Facilities**

Participants were asked to indicate the priority the city should place on developing new kinds of recreation areas and facilities. Options ranged from “highest” to “lowest” with 5 being the highest priority and 1 being the lowest priority. The following table shows the overall priority based on all responses (Table 12). Additional feedback was received and there were three responses that also indicated that they would like to see a dog park added to the community parks and recreation facilities.

**Table 10: Priorities for New Recreation Facilities**

Request for new recreation areas and facilities	
Indoor recreation/community center	4.24
Sledding Hill	3.83
Trails (Bicycle paths, exercise, nature, hiking, walking)	3.81
Playgrounds	3.68
Sport Courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	3.47
Sport fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football, etc.)	3.28
Swimming Pool	3.24
Picnic Areas and Pavilions	3.24
Skate & Bike Park	3.05
Public Campground	3.02

	LOWEST	SOMEWHAT LOW	NEITHER HIGH OR LOW	SOMEWHAT HIGH	HIGHEST	TOTAL
Sports Fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football, etc.)	12.07% 7	8.62% 5	34.48% 20	29.31% 17	15.52% 9	58
Public Campground	8.77% 5	21.05% 12	33.33% 19	23.33% 13	9.51% 5	57
Trails (Bicycle paths, exercise, nature, hiking, walking)	3.39% 2	8.47% 5	18.95% 10	45.79% 27	23.42% 15	59
Picnic Areas & Pavilions	8.62% 5	12.07% 7	30.76% 18	28.65% 16	8.90% 5	58
Playgrounds	1.75% 1	7.00% 4	31.58% 18	40.35% 23	19.30% 11	57
Swimming Pool	22.03% 13	13.56% 8	10.17% 6	27.12% 16	27.12% 16	59
Sledding Hill	6.67% 4	6.67% 4	10.00% 6	50.00% 30	26.67% 16	60
Sports Courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	7.02% 4	15.79% 9	17.54% 10	42.11% 24	17.54% 10	57
Skate & Bike Park	10.34% 6	18.97% 11	34.48% 20	27.69% 16	8.62% 5	58
Indoor Recreation/Community Center	1.69% 1	5.08% 3	11.69% 7	30.51% 18	50.95% 30	69

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Dog Park	12/14/2021 2:00 PM
2	Dog Park	11/9/2021 3:11 PM
3	Dog Park	3/14/2019 2:20 PM
4	Our youth need a community center!	2/13/2019 2:53 PM

## ***Resident Opinions about City Parks***

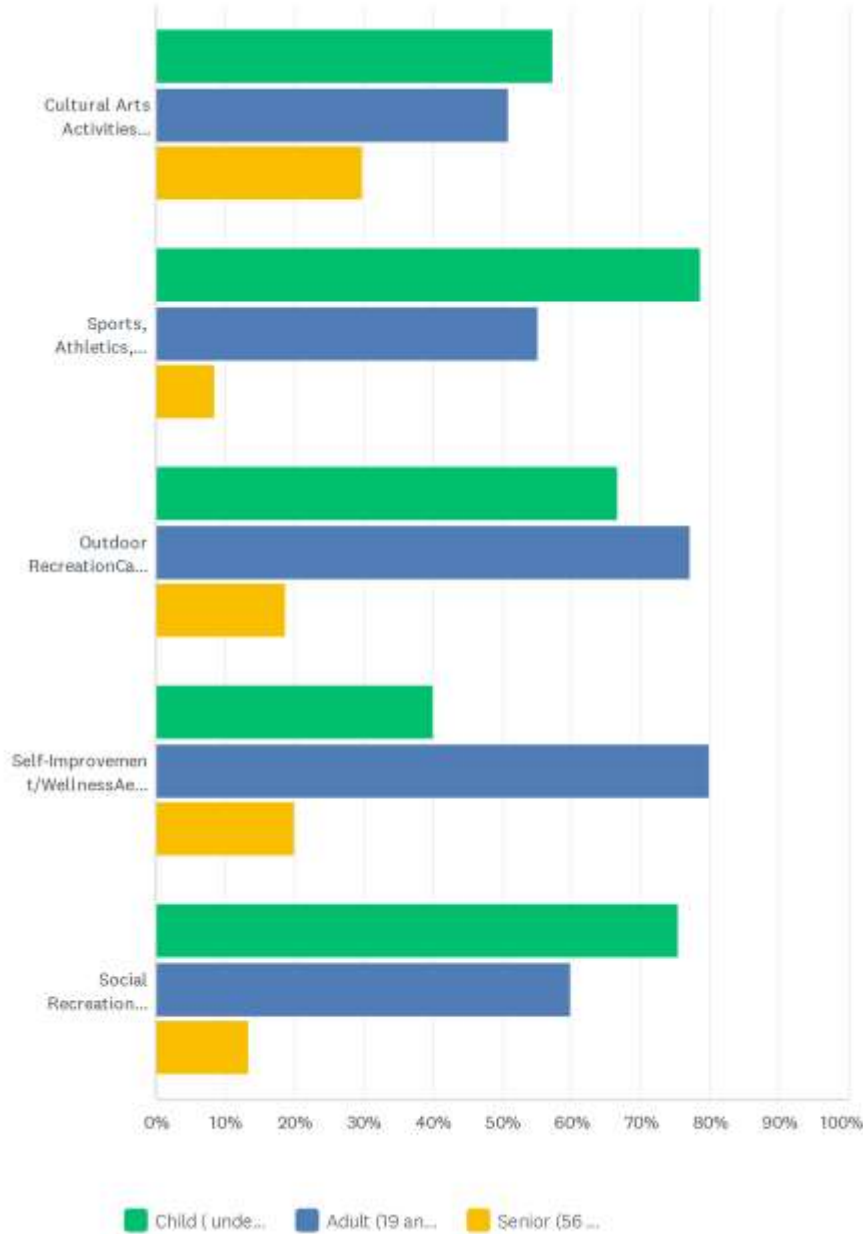
Participants were asked to rate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with a number of opinion statements about Clare Parks and Recreation. Statements were evaluated on a scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree, with 5 being strongly agree and 1 being strongly disagree. The table below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

**Table 11: Resident Opinions about Clare Parks**

	Average response score
There should be an increased emphasis on the additional development of existing parks.	<b>1.95</b>
There should be an increased emphasis on providing family activities.	1.92
There should be an increased emphasis on providing recreation programs/activities to our seniors in the community.	1.92
The City of Clare has an adequate number of parks to meet the current needs of the community.	1.90
I feel safe walking or riding my bike to the nearest city park.	1.80
The parks are a point of pride in the community	1.77
There should be an increased emphasis on recreation activities available for youth in the community.	1.62
Our parks make a positive contribution to the quality of life of Clare residents.	1.53

### Desired Programs and Services

Respondents were provided with a menu of recreation programs and service ideas, and were asked to indicate those in which members of their household might have an interest (Table 14). Based on those results of the community needs, it has been determined that the community members want more self-improvement based recreational activities, such as; fitness, computer, and healthy eating programs.



## Chapter 7: Goals and Objectives

### **Review of 2016-2020 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies**

The 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan document identified numerous specific strategies to carry out the goals and objectives of the plan. Goals, objectives, and strategies were organized into three categories: Park & Facility goals, Recreation goals, and Trail goals. Tables 16 thru 18 reports on the status of the strategies identified in 2016.

**Table 12: Status of 2016-2020 Park Goals**

Goal	Status
Increase environmental awareness and stewardship within the community.	Progress has been made with the development of the newest park. This goal is being continued until completely executed.
Enhance and maintain partnerships with local organizations.	Progress has been made. Many partnerships have been established, but more opportunities for partnerships are needed.
ADA compliance and accessibility will be considered in all future park development.	Progress has been made. Improvements and renovations have been made to existing parks. The newest park addition was developed with consideration of ADA compliance and inclusiveness.
Develop a comprehensive park plan including existing parks and other city-owned property with recreational potential.	Progress has been made. Longstanding projects such as the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail extension, development of the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex, rehabilitation of the Clare Union Railroad Depot, and Lake Shamrock dredging have continued.
Development of the Clare Recreation Complex	Progress has been made. What is now called the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex, is still undergoing park development. Although many of the elements have been completed, there are still some that are in progress, such as; the paving of the exercise trail, exercise stations along the trail, building a concession stand with bathroom, two pavilions, paved parking, and safety lighting.

**Table 17: Status of 2016-2020 Park Improvement Goals Continued**

Goal	Status
Complete paving of parking at Brookwood Park.	No progress.
Identify a location and develop a sledding hill.	No progress.
Replace signage at McIreland Trail entrances.	No progress.
Develop shuffleboard Courts.	Completed. Indoor courts are available in the lower level of the Pere Marquette District Library.
Develop pickleball courts.	Completed
Develop basketball courts.	Equipment has been purchased, location for them has been identified and they w
Purchase grills as needed for all parks.	Completed

## **2022-2026 Goals and Objectives**

### **Goal Number 1: *To increase environmental awareness and stewardship within the community.***

Objective: Develop a recycling program within the city parks and partner with public schools to promote stewardship.

### **Goal Number 2: *Enhance and maintain partnerships with local organizations.***

Objectives:

- a. Work in partnership with existing community organizations to meet leisure needs. (i.e., schools, Council on Aging, Clare Area Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses).
- b. Seek out opportunities to partner with other local organizations within the community.
- c. Create support to other organizations and service providers that offer recreational opportunities.

### **Goal Number 3: *ADA compliance and accessibility will be considered in all future park development.***

Objectives:

- a. All park guidelines will be undertaken with a goal of improving ADA assess guidelines for persons with disabilities.
- b. Renovate existing facilities to meet or exceed the requirements for the ADA.
- c. All park purchases of park equipment (playground, picnic tables, benches, grills, etc.) will be considered with a goal of meeting ADA assess guidelines for persons with disabilities.

### **Goal Number 4: *Develop a comprehensive park plan including existing city parks and other city-owned property.***

Objectives:

- a. Continue to support efforts of community organizations to expand the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail into and through Clare.
- b. Design a comprehensive park plan including existing city parks and other city-owned property with recreation potential.

- c. Continue to support efforts by community groups to rehabilitate the Clare Union Railroad Depot.
- d. Work towards constructing permanent bathroom facilities at Clare City Park and Brookwood Park.
- e. Work with Lake Shamrock Association on the dredging of Lake Shamrock.

**Park Improvement Goals:**

- a. Continue development of the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex, which will include; a butterfly and pollen garden, skate and bike park, walking trails with exercise stations, eight varied-size youth soccer fields, two full size soccer fields, one multi-purpose field, a concession stand with bathroom attached, two pavilions, storage building, ADA accessible playground area, paved parking, and safety lighting.
- b. Complete paving of parking at Brookwood Park and the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex.
- c. Identify a location and develop a sledding hill.
- d. Replace signage at McIreland Trail entrances.
- e. Complete installation of basketball courts.
- f. Purchase grills as needed for all parks.
- g. Purchase picnic tables as needed for all parks.

**Recreation Goals:**

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

## Chapter 8: Action Plan

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

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

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

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

Since the millage renewal, the City of Clare was successful in purchasing 26.27 acres of property in the southern part of the City for the intended purpose of constructing a new recreation park and serving as a permanent home for soccer fields and creating exercise trails. All facilities within this park will be constructed to be fully ADA accessible and compliant. The City of Clare Planning Commission reviewed and approved a special use permit on March 13, 2013 that allows the property to be fully utilized and developed as park and trail lands.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) received a revised park design in February 2015, along with general costs predictions from GFA engineering. Based on the estimated costs, the PRAB identified that the project would need to be completed in phases. The PRAB recognizes the importance of the exercise trails that will be surrounding the new fields and the health benefits they will provide to the community, identifying the need and priority to connect the exercise trails to the nearby Pere Marquette Rail-Trail. The exercise trails can formally be connected to the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail through use of existing bike lanes, and through widened sidewalks, and connection trails planned throughout the City. Trail users would be able to travel a current distance of over 30 miles on the trail, connect to the exercise trails at the new park, and perform circuit training through the utilization of outdoor exercise equipment strategically placed along the park's interior trails. Users could then

# EMERALD ISLE RECREATION COMPLEX



Appendices

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

**Additional Documents for Completion and Approval of Plan**

Minutes from Advisory Board Recommending Plan Approval to City Commission  
Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting  
Proof of Publication for Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting  
Minutes from Public Meeting and Plan Approval by City Commission  
Resolution , Approving Five Year Master Plan  
Final Plan Submission Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies  
Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist

## **Appendix A: Public Meeting Announcement**

**Posted at Clare City Hall, the Pere Marquette District Library, City of Clare Public Access Channel, and Facebook on 12/15/2021**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### **Clare Residents Invited to Participate in Parks and Recreation Planning**

The City of Clare Parks & Recreation Department is in the process of updating and revising the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation for the City of Clare. The City of Clare Parks & Recreation board invites all interested citizens of Clare to participate in this process by completing an interest survey. Over the last year there has been a survey available for public to help Parks and Recreation assess our parks and currently offered programs, as well as provide feedback for future use. The survey is also available online through a link to the City of Clare web page at <http://www.cityofclare.org>. This survey is only one of the ways that public input is being gathered. In addition to the survey, a public meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Clare City Hall.

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

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

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

## **Appendix B: Letter of Invitation and Mailing List**

December 14, 2021

Dear Fellow Citizen:

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

**We are inviting you to attend a public meeting on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Clare City Hall.**

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

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

Sincerely,

Joy K.S. Simmer  
Parks and Recreation

**List of Contacts for Mailings**

Addresses not provided for public view

## Appendix C: Survey



Dear Resident:

Clare Parks & Recreation is in the process of updating our Parks & Recreation 5-year Master Plan. Your participation in this planning process is needed. By completing and returning this questionnaire you will be providing valuable input to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board that will be used in decision-making about parks and recreation facilities and services in Clare. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential.

If you would prefer, you can complete this survey online. Go to [www.cityofclare.org](http://www.cityofclare.org) and look for the link the survey or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3JW9FMQ>.

1. Are you a resident of the City of Clare?      Yes                  No
  
2. How many persons in the following age groups reside in your household?
 

Pre-school (under 5)      _____	Adults (20-40)      _____
Young Children (6-12)      _____	Adults (41-55)      _____
Teens (13-19)      _____	Adults (over 55)      _____
  
3. Which of the following statements best characterizes your family's use of city parks?
 

Regular users	Occasional users	Infrequent users	Not users
---------------	------------------	------------------	-----------
  
4. Please check all of the Clare Parks that you or a member of your household have used during the past year
 

Clare City Park      [ ]	McIreland Nature Trail      [ ]	Pettit Park      [ ]	
Emerald Isle Recreation Complex      [ ]	Pere Marquette Rail-Trail      [ ]	Shamrock Park      [ ]	
Imagination Gateway Park      [ ]	Pettit Park      [ ]	Stamina Stadium      [ ]	
  
5. Which of the Parks listed in #4 above does your family use the most? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Which of the Parks listed in #4 above is closest to your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 2021

7. Please indicate your agreement/disagreement with each of the following statements.


	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The City of Clare has an adequate number of parks to meet the current needs of the community					
The parks are a point of pride within the community					
There should be an increased emphasis on providing activities for the whole family					
There should be an increased emphasis on having recreation activities available for youth in the community.					
There should be increased emphasis on the additional development of existing parks.					
There should be increased emphasis on providing recreation programs/activities to our senior adults in the community.					
I feel it is safe walking or riding a bike to my nearest city park					
Our parks make a positive contribution to the quality of life of our residents					

8. Need for New Recreation Areas & Facilities

Please indicate the priority you think the City of Clare should place on developing the following kinds of <b>new</b> recreation areas & facilities.	Lowest	Somewhat low	Neither high or low	Somewhat high	Highest
Sport fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football, etc.)					
Public Campground					
Trails (Bicycle paths, exercise, nature, hiking, walking)					
Picnic areas & Pavilions					
Playgrounds					
Swimming Pool					
Sledding hill					
Sport courts (basketball, volleyball, etc)					
Skate & bike park					
Indoor recreation/community center					
Other: _____					
Other: _____					
Other: _____					

Revised 2021

9. Recreation Programs and Services

Please place a check mark  in the appropriate boxes to indicate the age group of persons in your household who might have an interest in participating in each of the types of activities listed below. If you do not feel there would be any interest in the activity, leave the box blank.

**Example:** For the activity, “Underwater basket weaving,” if you feel your elementary-aged children and teens (youth) would be interested, but you (adults) are not interested, you would place check marks in the boxes indicating children, and youth, but not adults.

<b>EXAMPLE</b>	children 5-12	youth 13-19	adults 20-55	adults 56+
<i>Underwater Basket Weaving</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]

	children 5-12	youth 13-19	adults 20-55	adults 56+
<b>Cultural Arts Activities</b>				
Dance, theatre, drama	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Arts, crafts	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Music	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Other _____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

	children	youth	adults	seniors
<b>Sport, Athletics, Aquatics</b>				
Sport skill instruction	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Sport leagues & tournaments	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Ice skating	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Swimming	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Other _____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

	children	youth	adults	seniors
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>				
Camping	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Canoeing	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Hiking/backpacking	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Winter activities	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Other _____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

	children	youth	adults	seniors
<b>Self-Improvement/Wellness</b>				
Aerobics/fitness activities	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Computer instruction	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Healthy eating/dieting	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Other _____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

	children	youth	adults	seniors
<b>Social Recreation</b>				
Summer day camps	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Community-wide special events	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Family activity programs	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Dances/socials	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trips to see entertainment/sports	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Other _____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Revised 2021

10. How do you usually get information about community activities in Clare? (Check all that apply.)

- |                  |                          |                 |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| City news letter | <input type="checkbox"/> | School handouts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flyers/posters   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social Media    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Internet         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Television      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Newspaper        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Word of mouth   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Radio            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

11. Do you feel that there are any groups of citizens in the Clare community who do not have adequate access to recreation programs and activities? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, which groups \_\_\_\_\_

12. Were you aware that The City of Clare has a Parks & Recreation Board that meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month and invites public participation?  
Yes  No

Thank you for your time and participation!

To return this survey by mail, fold and add postage.

If you prefer, you can drop the survey off at City Hall or in the green water bill mailbox located outside of City Hall, when outside of business hours.

Please Tape Closed Before Mailing

-----fold here-----

Place  
Stamp  
Here

City of Clare  
Parks & Recreation Survey  
202 W. Fifth Street  
Clare, MI 48617

Revised 2021

**TO BE INSERTED**

***Minutes from PRAB Meeting***

***Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting***

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

***Proof of Newspaper Publication***

***Copy of Publication***

***Minutes from the Public Meeting and Plan Approval by City Commission***

***Resolution 2021- , Approving Five Year Master Plan***

***Final Plan Submission Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies***

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