



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:

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Robert Bonham, Mayor Pro Tem
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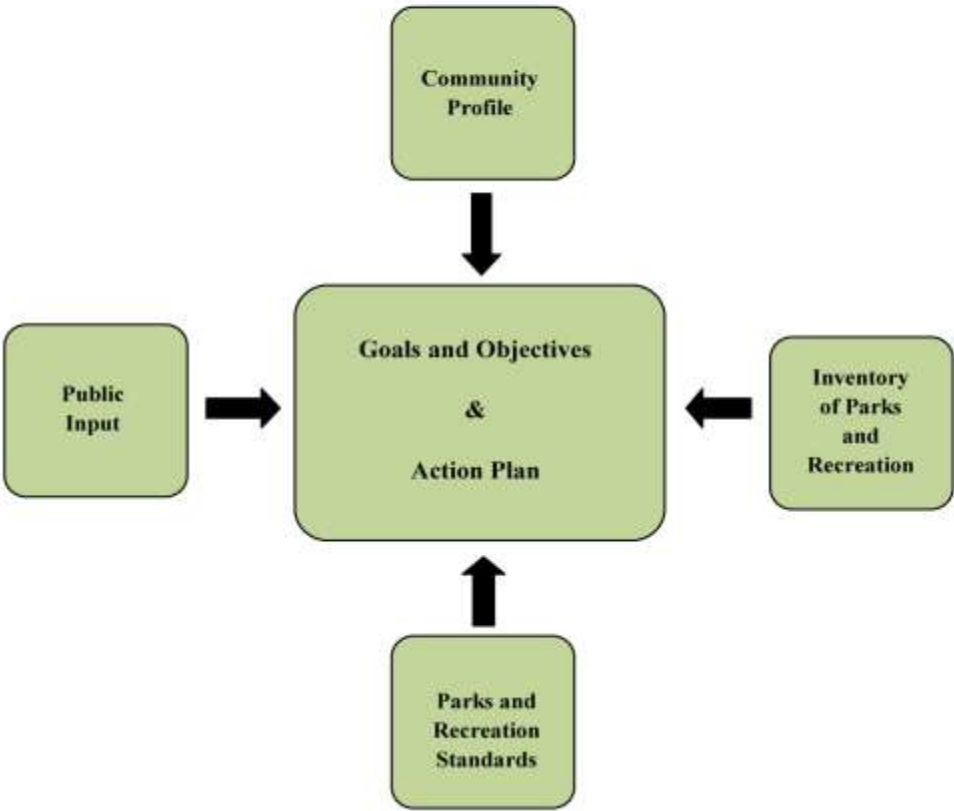
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Chapter 1: Introduction

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

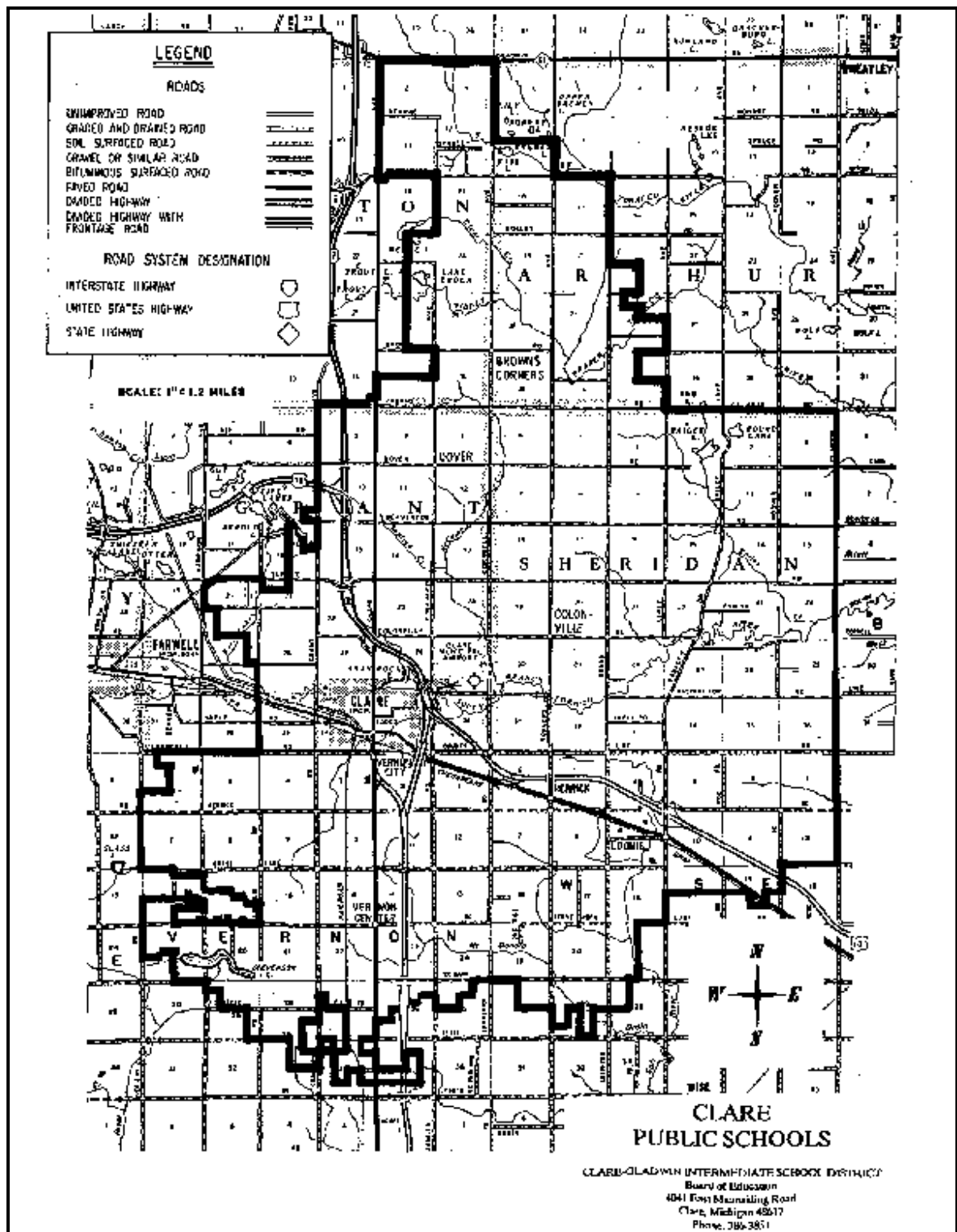
According to 2020 Census, the overall population within the City of Clare stands at 3,254. Comparatively, according to the 2010 census, the City of Clare had a population of 3,118. Demographics for the 2020 Census has not been released, but according to the 2010 Census, less than 5% of the population 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 2010¹.

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 8,612². 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.

¹ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

² <http://www.city-data.com/zip/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%³ 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 41.7⁴ years, almost 2 years older than the median age in the state of Michigan.

Economics⁴

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)⁶, 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 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 Places⁵, 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.

³ http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-51170_51713_51716-195885--,00.html.

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

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

⁶ <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
Clare County	31,252	31,382	31,520	31,445	31,042	31,145
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

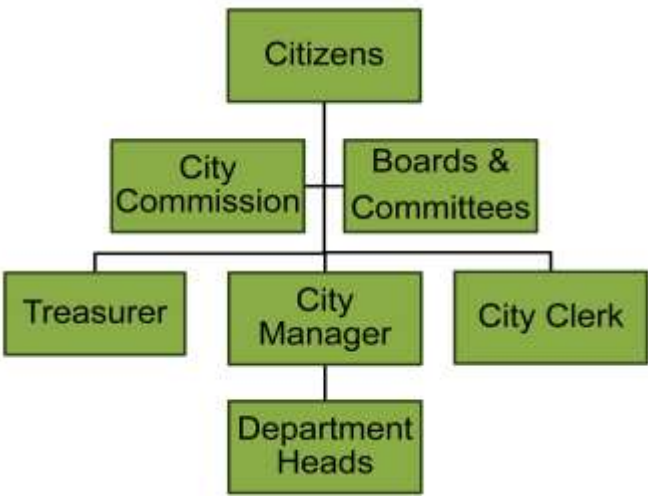
The City of Clare provides parks and recreation services under authorization of MCL section 1917 Public Act 156, which states that “Any city, village, county or township may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; 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

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**

PARKS AND RECREATION	FY 2021/22 APPROVED BUDGET	FORECAST FY2022/23 BUDGET	FORECAST FY2023/24 BUDGET	FORECAST FY2024/25 BUDGET	FORECAST FY2025/26 BUDGET
<u>Revenues</u>					
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	10,404.00	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
	526,511.58	173,893.00	174,000.95	176,279.17	177,235.55
<u>Expenditures</u>					
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
	2,158,573.79	513,057.70	535,198.68	553,510.39	555,029.53
Total Revenues	526,511.58	173,893.00	174,000.95	176,279.17	177,235.55
Total Expenditures	2,158,573.79	513,057.70	535,198.68	553,510.39	555,029.53
NET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES	(1,632,062.21)	(339,164.70)	(361,197.73)	(377,231.22)	(377,793.97)

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

Facility	Park Type	Service Area	Location	Size	Inventory
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

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Inventory</i>
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.

Grant No	Project	Amount
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

Project No. TF05-171 **Project County:** Clare **Project Year:** 2005
Project title: Pere Marquette Trail Extension
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$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.

Project No. TF07-096 **Project County:** Clare **Project Year:** 2007
Project title: Pere Marquette Rail Trail Extension
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$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.

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

Scope Item



GRANT HISTORY

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	
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.	
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? Provide a detailed schedule for completion. 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	
FOR FISCAL YEAR-END REPORTS ONLY 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	
CERTIFICATION	
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: ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ 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)	Contact Person	Title
Clare Parks and Recreation	Joy Simmer	Director
Address	Telephone	
202 W. Fifth St.	(989) 386-7541 ext. 213	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Clare, MI 48617	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 ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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.

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

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY

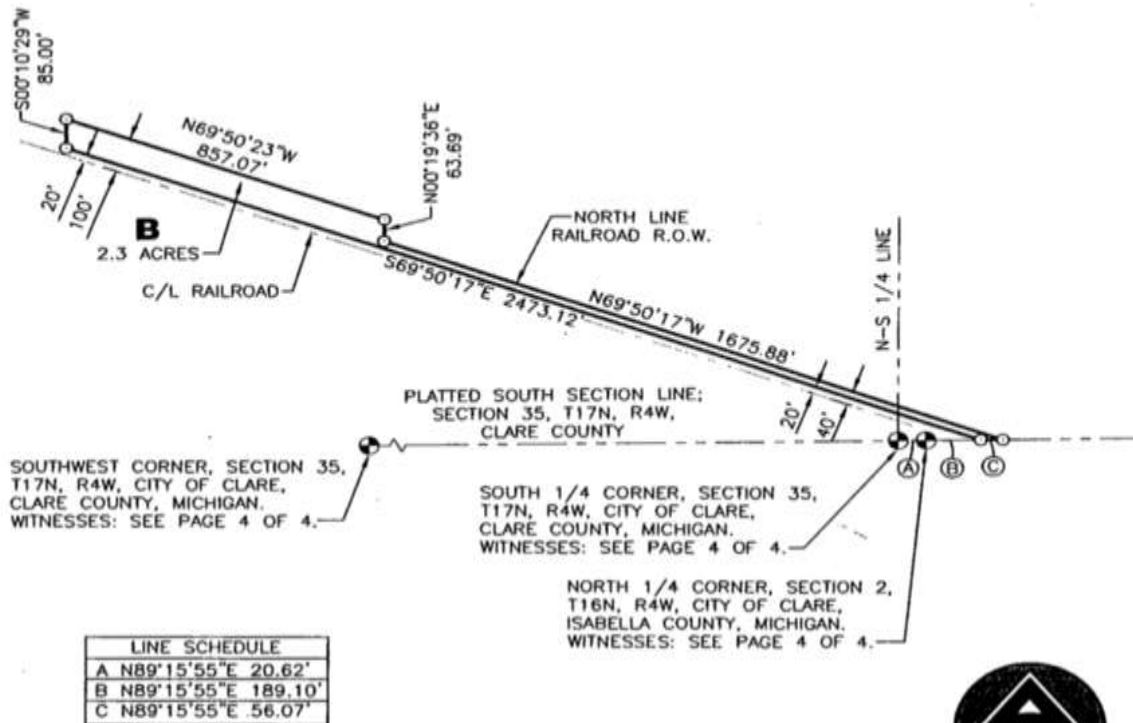
SECTION 35, T.17N.-R.4W., CITY OF CLARE, CLARE COUNTY, MI

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

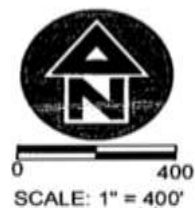
Property Description:

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.



LEGEND:

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



LAPHAM ASSOCIATES

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

www.laphamassoc.com

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ENGINEERING
PLANNING
ENVIRONMENTAL
SURVEYING

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

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:

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

GRANTEE: City of ClarePROJECT NUMBER: TF07-096PROJECT TYPE: DevelopmentPROJECT 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)	Contact Person	Title
<u>Clare Parks and Recreation</u>	<u>Joy Simmer</u>	<u>Director</u>
Address	Telephone	
<u>202 W. Fifth St.</u>	<u>(989) 386-7541 ext. 213</u>	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
<u>Clare, MI 48617</u>	<u>jimmer@cityofclare.org</u>	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No**SITE QUALITY**

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Rail trail signage

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

Parks crew goes onto trail 2-3x/wk to maintain and perform clean-up

☒ Yes ☐ No

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 trail as the Pere Marquette Rail Trail.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

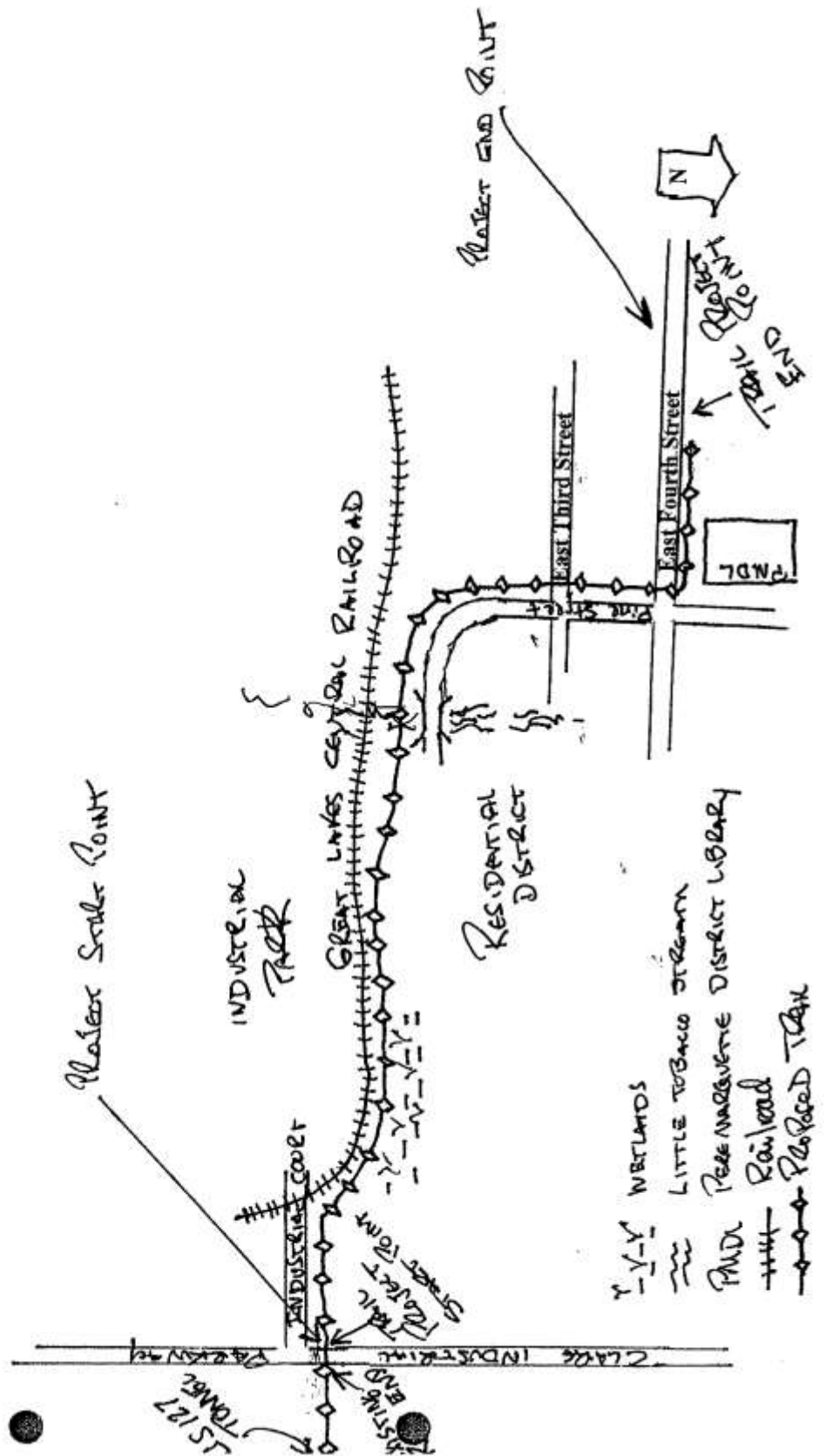
CERTIFICATION

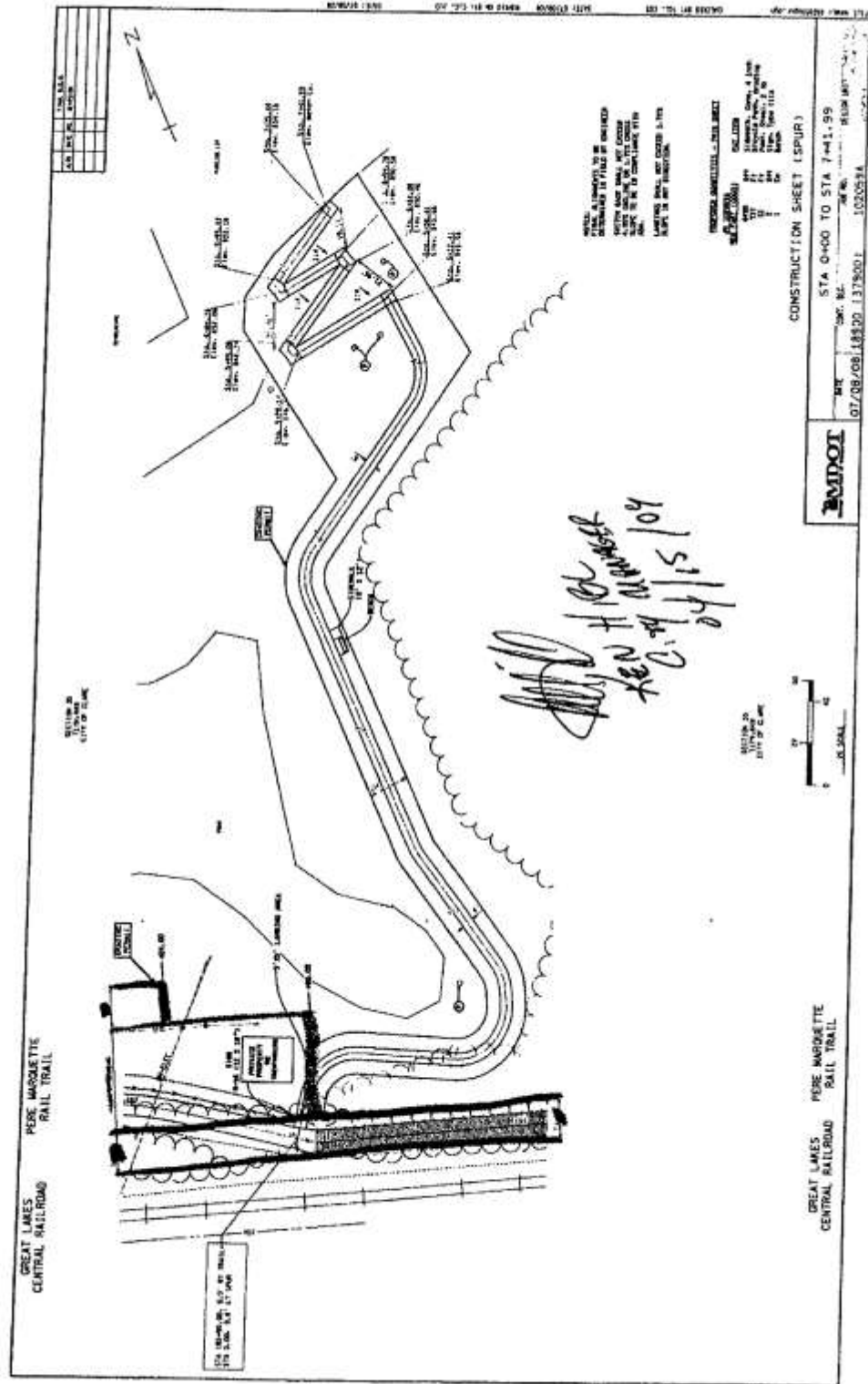
I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

<u>Joy Simmer</u> Please print	<u>Joy Simmer</u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>9/11/15</u> Date
<u>Steven J. Kuyshner</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] 12/22/08





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-8th 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 4th 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

Feature	Standard	Clare Inventory	Evaluation
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 original 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	23.33%
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	6.77% 5	21.05% 12	33.33% 19	33.33% 19	3.51% 2	57
Trails (Bicycle paths, exercise, nature, hiking, walking)	3.39% 2	8.47% 5	16.99% 10	45.79% 27	25.42% 15	59
Picnic Areas & Pavilions	8.62% 5	12.07% 7	34.70% 19	28.65% 16	8.90% 4	58
Playgrounds	1.75% 1	7.00% 4	31.58% 19	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	6.62% 3	58
Indoor Recreation/Community Center	1.69% 1	5.08% 3	11.69% 7	30.51% 18	50.89% 30	59
#	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!					2/12/2019 2:53 PM

Resident Opinions about City Parks

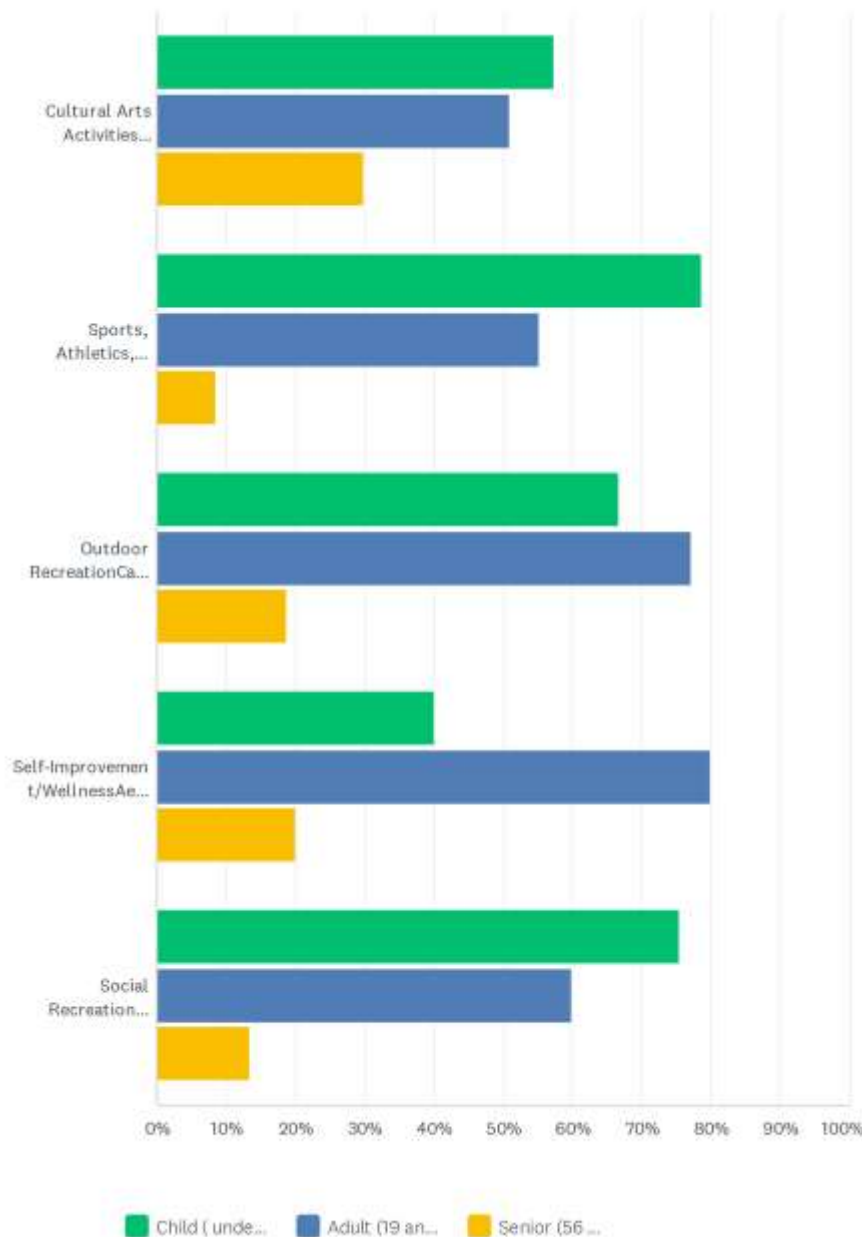
Participants were asked to rate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with a number of opinion statements about Clare Parks and Recreation. Statements were evaluated on a scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree, with 5 being strongly agree and 1 being strongly disagree. The table below 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.	1.95
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. 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. The City intends on going for millage renewal during the 2022 elections and with that potential millage it would create about \$70,000.00 each year during the millage period to assist with parks and recreation projects.

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 reconnect with the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail, for the possibility of traveling the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail again.

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 2022-008, Approving Five Year Master Plan
Final Plan Submission Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies

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

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

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 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 new 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.

EXAMPLE	children 5-12	youth 13-19	adults 20-55	adults 56+
<i>Underwater Basket Weaving</i>			[]	[]

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

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

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

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

	children	youth	adults	seniors
Social Recreation				
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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School handouts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flyers/posters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Television	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Word of mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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

Minutes from PRAB Meeting on 1/25/2022

Clare Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting Held on January 25, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Dill called the Clare Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. Board members present: Dill, Spitzley, Colosky, Helmling, and Willman. Guiliani notified Simmer prior to the meeting that she could not attend and Spicer-Torres has resigned. Others present: Parks and Recreation Director, Joy Simmer and newly appointed Santini.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** Helmling motioned to approve the agenda with Spitzley seconding the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** None.
4. **NEW BUSINESS.**
 - a. **Resignation of Spicer-Torres.** Board member Spicer-Torres moved out of Clare to pursue other career opportunities and formally submitted a resignation letter to Simmer in December. Willman motioned to accept the resignation of Spicer-Torres with Spitzley seconding that motion. Motion carried 5-0.
 - b. **Appointment of Santini.** A. Santini had submitted a board application to the City of Clare and Mayor Humphrey took it to the Clare City Commission for approval for appointment on January 17, 2022. By Resolution 2022-011, that appointment was approved. Colosky motioned to approve and accept Santini onto the board and Helmling seconded that motion. Motion was approved 5-0.
 - c. **Approval of the 2022-2026 5-Year MDNR Master Plan.** The board was previously sent the 2022-2026 5-Year MDNR Master Plan draft. A motion was made by Spitzley and seconded by Willman to accept and submit the plan to the MDNR. Motion carried 5-0.
5. **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION.** Simmer updated the board with information from the recent MDNR/MDOT meeting that took place regarding the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail extension project and upcoming events and programs.
6. **ADJOURNMENT.** Motion to adjourn was made at 6:23 p.m. by Helmling and seconded by Willman, all were in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

Notice of Availability of Draft Plan and Public Meeting



CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

Office 989.386.7541 | Fax 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541
Fx 989.386.4508
www.cityofclare.org
Manager x102
Assessor x103
Clerk x106
Treasurer x107

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ph 989.386.2182 or
989.386.7541 x202
Fx 989.386.4508

UTILITY BILLING

Ph 989.386.7541 x201

W/WWT PLANT

Ph 989.386.2321
Fx 989.386.2387

POLICE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2121
Fx 989.386.0440

FIRE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2151
Fx 989.386.3020

PARKS & RECREATION

Ph 989.386.7541 x213
Fx 989.386.4508

AIRPORT

Ph 989.386.0445
Fx 989.386.4508



PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF CLARE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The proposed draft amendment of the Five-Year Recreation Master Plan for the City of Clare will be available for public review and comment starting Wednesday, December 15, 2021 until January 17, 2022 at Clare City Hall. The draft amendment will be available for review and public comment anytime during this period during normal business hours. City Hall is located at, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan.

Interested citizens may also view the draft plan at Pere Marquette Public Library, 185 East Fourth Street, Clare, Michigan, and online. The City of Clare encourages public participation and will accept comments at the hearing or in writing if the written comments are received by the City Clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the date of the public hearing and review for adoption which is proposed for January 17, 2022.

The City of Clare is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Joy Simmer
Clare Parks and Recreation Director



This public notice was posted on December 15, 2021 at the Pere Marquette District Library, Clare City Hall, on the City of Clare website and on the Clare Parks and Recreation Facebook Page.

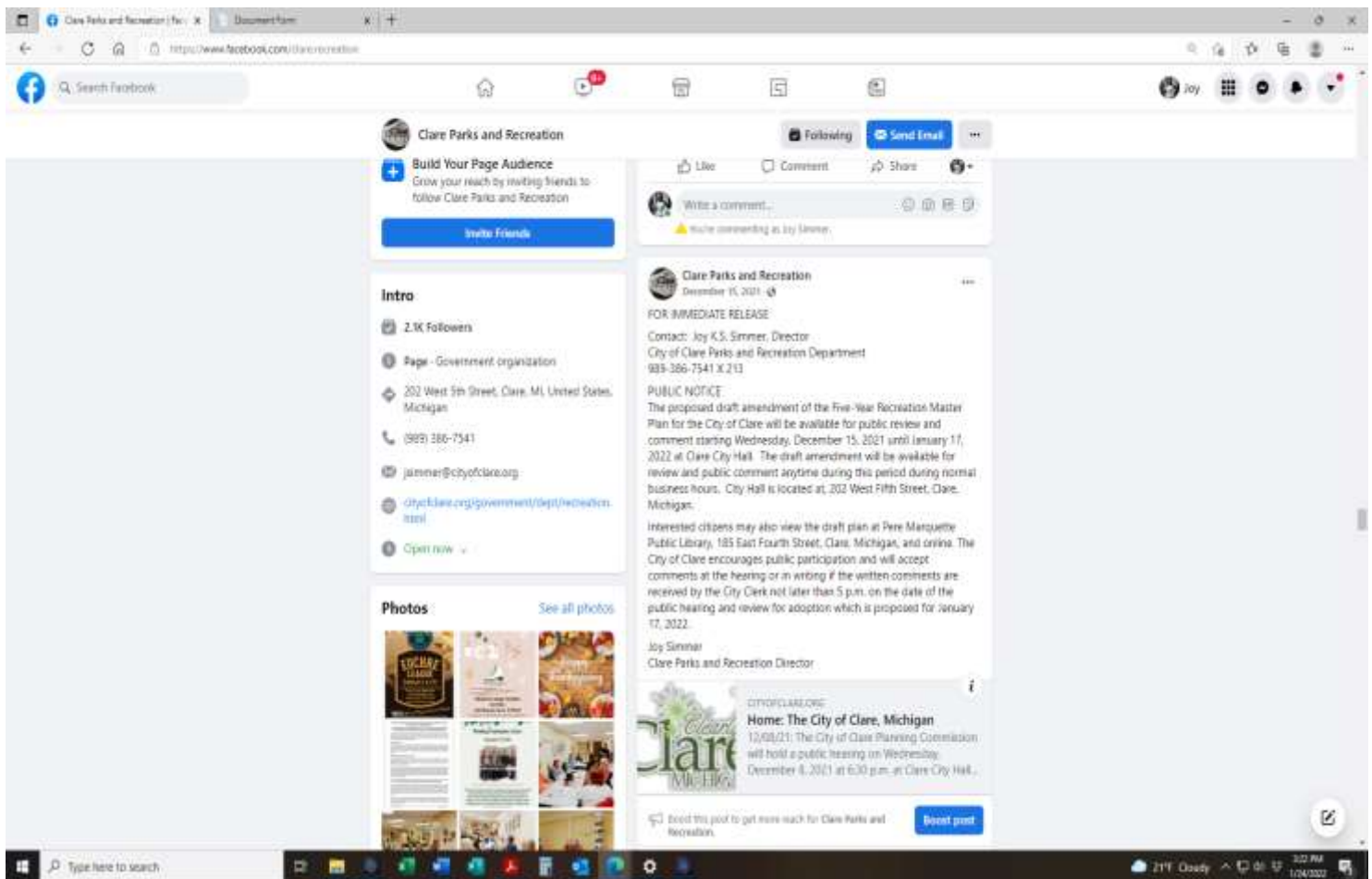
Joy KS Simmer
-Joy KS Simmer

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

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

Facebook Posting Notice

December 15, 2021



Proof of Newspaper Publication

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan
County of Clare

R. Michael Wilcox, being duly sworn says he is one of the principal clerks of the Clare County Review, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit. 12-17-22

R. Michael Wilcox
R. Michael Wilcox

Subscribed and sworn to me before this

7 day of Jun A.D. 2022

Julie K. Hotchkiss

Julie Hotchkiss
Notary Public,
Acting In Allegan County, Michigan
My commission expires 03/15/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF CLARE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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The City of Clare is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Joy Simmer
Clare Parks and Recreation Director



Minutes from the Public Meeting and Plan Approval by City Commission

January 17, 2022

UNOFFICIAL

Page 1 of 4

The regular meeting of the Clare City Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers of Clare City Hall, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan by Mayor Pat Humphrey who led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: None. Also, present: Jeremy Howard, City Manager; Shannon Sirpilla, City Treasurer; Jaynie Hoerauf, City Attorney; Luke Potter, DPW Director; Jim Chapman, Fire Chief; Sam Eberhart, Assistant Fire Chief; and Diane Lyon, City Clerk.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the items listed with an asterisk (*) (Agenda, Minutes, Department Reports, Communications, Professional Development, Board & Committee Appointments, and Bills) that are considered to be routine by the City Commission. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approved by Consent Agenda.

4. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Approved by Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. APPROVAL OF CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION-BUCCILLI'S PIZZA, 1541 NORTH MCEWAN STREET

The City has received a request for the approval of a Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) Class C license from Shari Buccilli to allow her to make application to the LCC to serve beer and wine to dine-in customers at Buccilli's Pizza of Clare.

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the application by adoption of Resolution 2022-006. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

B. APPROVAL OF MDNR GRANT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Clare Fire Department has been awarded a Michigan DNR Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant for the third year in a row. It is a 50/50 matching grant. In the past two years the grant award was \$2,500; however, this year the city has been awarded the maximum amount of nearly \$4,999 (\$9,998 total with our match) to help cover the costs involved in upgrading some of the fire radios and replacing a flatbed box for the grass truck (1846). In order to officially receive the grant funds, the City is required to approve the attached grant agreement between the City of Clare and MDNR.

In addition to approving the grant agreement, I ask that the Commission authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City of Clare.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Bonham to approve the grant agreement by adoption of Resolution 2022-007. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

C. APPROVAL OF UPDATED 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan is required to be updated every five years to ensure eligibility to any and all programs available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), to include all grant and loan programs. Additionally, it is simply good management sense and good practice to periodically update our Master Plan to ensure that our ever-changing community recreation priorities and needs are being addressed and met.

Joy Simmer, Recreation Director, has updated the Plan and has submitted it to our Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for consideration. She has provided copies to our neighboring governmental entities having recreation programs for review and comment and has asked the City Clerk to publish notice for the requisite public hearing to allow public comment to be heard and thereby facilitate the City Commission's approval of the Plan to allow us to submit the Plan to MDNR.

The City Commission is asked to consider holding the requisite public hearing to receive comment and then approve the Plan as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to open the public hearing. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to close the public hearing. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Loomis to approve the Parks and Recreation Master Plan by adoption of Resolution 2022-008. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

D. APPROVAL OF PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE RENEWAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The voter-approved .75mill parks and recreation millage expires at the end of FY22/23. The millage has enabled the City to make extraordinary improvements to its parks properties (the purchase of the property at 303 Pinecrest to develop a new park and home for the Clare Youth Soccer Program; development within the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex such as placement of a skate and bike park and the purchase of related equipment; obtaining property to relocate the historic Clare Union Railroad Depot and help fund rehabilitation of the facility and railcars; and for the purchase of numerous park benches and tables; etc.) since this dedicated, voter-approved millage was instituted. There remains a long list of proposed recreation capital improvements to include the continued development at the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex and at the skate & bike park; closing the 2.3 mile gap that exists within the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail; campground improvements at Pettit Park; a dog park; park improvements to the adult softball field; completion of Lake Shamrock dredging and beach restoration; a community center, etc., as identified in the City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan that simply will not be accomplished or will be long-delayed if the millage is not again approved by the electorate of Clare.

The City Staff and the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board consider the proposed future capital improvements essential to maintaining and improving quality of life for Clare residents and suggest that the continuance of this dedicated millage is imperative to continue the type of improvements that have been made to date as a result of the millage.

If this millage is to continue, the Clerk's office must provide the proposed ballot language to the Clare County Clerk by February 8, 2022, for inclusion on the May ballot. Therefore, the City Commission is asked to consider approving this topic as an item on the May ballot.

The proposed ballot language for this millage is: "Shall the City of Clare, Clare and Isabella Counties continue to levy three-quarter (3/4) mill (\$.75 per \$1,000.00) on taxable value of property located in the City of Clare for four years beginning with the 2023 tax year and running through 2026 tax levy year (inclusive), which will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated revenue of \$70,592.55 to be used for parks and recreation purposes. This is a renewal of a millage that will otherwise expire in 2023. Taxes within

the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) districts will be distributed as prescribed by law.”

The Commission is asked to approve the proposed ballot language.

Motion by Commissioner Loomis second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the Parks and Recreation ballot language by adoption of Resolution 2022-009.

The entrance to Emerald Isle Recreation Complex (EIRC) is located on Pinecrest Street and while the city owns the EIRC property, Pinecrest Street is under Vernon Township’s jurisdiction. The City Commission desires to take jurisdiction of Pinecrest Street so that the roadway can be paved and added to the city’s Act 51 map however, water and sewer services need to be installed prior to paving.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

E. APPROVAL OF STREETS IMPROVEMENTS MILLAGE RENEWAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The voter-approved 3-mill street millage expires June 30, 2022. The City has been able to make much needed improvements to our city streets including John R. Street, Wilcox Parkway, Second Street, Forest Avenue, Ann Arbor Trail, Beech Street, Seventh Street, Dunlop Road, Hillcrest Street, Fourth Street, Park Street, Witbeck Drive, 6,290’ of curb and gutter, and 7,300’ of sidewalk since this dedicated, voter-approved millage was instituted. There remains a long list of proposed capital improvements for streets improvements yet to be completed over the next several years including Rainbow Drive from Glendale Drive to Glendale Drive reconstruction, East Fourth Street 200 Block reconstruction, a thin overlay on Schoolcrest Avenue, mill and fill on Maple Street from Seventh Street to State Street, reconstruction of the 200 Block of East Sixth Street including sidewalks, and the 200 and 300 Blocks of East Seventh Street with sidewalks, that are listed in the City’s Capital Improvements Plan, which simply will not be accomplished or will be long-delayed if the millage is not again approved by the electorate of Clare.

The proposed future capital improvements are essential to maintaining and improving quality of life for Clare residents and continuance of this dedicated millage is imperative to accomplish the types of improvements that have been made to date as a result of the millage.

If this millage is to continue, the Clerk’s office must provide the proposed ballot language to the Clare County Clerk by February 8, 2022, for inclusion on the May ballot. Therefore, the City Commission is asked to consider approving this topic as an item on the May ballot. Suggested ballot language for this millage proposal is attached. The Commission is asked to approve the proposed ballot language.

The proposed ballot language for this millage is: Shall the City of Clare, Clare and Isabella Counties continue to levy three mills (\$3.00 per \$1,000.00) on taxable value of property located in the City of Clare for five years beginning with the 2022 tax year and running through 2026 tax levy year (inclusive), which will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated revenue of \$282,370.22 to be used for the purpose of street improvements authorized by law. This is a renewal of a millage that will otherwise expire in 2022. Taxes within the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) districts will be distributed as prescribed by law.

The Commission is asked to approve the proposed ballot language.

Motion by Commissioner Loomis second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the Parks and Recreation ballot language by adoption of Resolution 2022-009. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

F. *BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: *Approved by Consent Agenda*
Resolution 2022-011, Mr. Andrew Santini, PRAB

G. *BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: *Approved by Consent Agenda*

Resolution 2022-012, Messrs. Dennis Purkis, Wayne Terpening, Izak Post & Mrs. Carol Santini.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT: A report was provided by the City Treasurer.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Planning Commission / City Commission Annual Joint Meeting: Every year the City Commission and Planning Commission hold a joint meeting to review the Planning Commission's Annual Report for the previous year along with other topics of interest. After talking with the Planning Commission about scheduling the joint meeting at their January 12 meeting, I would suggest the City Commission meet with them on the night of their next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 9th. The Planning Commission's regular meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. so I recommend that the two councils hold their joint meeting at 5:30 p.m. that evening before their regular meeting.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission approved a site plan at their last meeting for Renosol Corporation, who intend to fabricate polyurethane components at a new facility they intend to build at 14 Consumers Energy Parkway. The Planning Commission selected their 2022 Chairperson (Jason Lowe) and Vice Chairperson (Nick Wyman); completed a review and approved their bylaws; and a reviewed and approved of their 2021 annual report.

Lake Shamrock Dredging: EGLE is now considering allowing our new location for placement of spoils to be considered a minor permit change. Luke and I are meeting with our engineer to try and work that out and we intend to bring you the contractual agreement for siting the spoils.

Shamrock Park Ice Rink: The ice rink at Shamrock Park is open for the first time in a couple of years. The flyer was provided to the Commission and has been shared on our social media platforms.

Police Tahoe/Buy-Back Program DPW Service Trucks: The Police Tahoe that was ordered and partially grant funded almost 2 years ago has finally been received. Due to the delay in receiving the Tahoe, the vehicle was not in the budget for FY21/22. However, no budget amendment is needed because we had budgeted for the purchase of a DPW service truck (Buy Back Program) this year but cannot get a vehicle until FY22/23 at the earliest. Therefore, we will be using the money that was slated for DPW service truck to pay for the city's proportional cost of the Tahoe. We then hope to purchase 2 new service trucks in the buy-back program in FY22/23.

Police Vehicles – Hummers: The Police Department is getting rid of the Hummers that were obtained from the military surplus years ago. With almost all of the current fleet being four-wheel drive, it makes sense to create garage space for patrol vehicles thus, the Hummers are being given to the City of St. Louis and Bay City.

10. *COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
11. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
12. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS: None.
13. *APPROVAL OF BILLS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
14. *PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
15. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Jenkins to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.* Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Pat Humphrey, Mayor

Diane Lyon, City Clerk

Resolution 2022-008, Approving Five-Year Master Plan

RESOLUTION 2022-008

A RESOLUTION OF THE CLARE CITY COMMISSION APPROVING THE CITY OF CLARE 2022-2026 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN.

WHEREAS, the City of Clare has consistently maintained and updated a Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, said Plan outlines the City's Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives and incorporates an Action Program to accomplish said goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, said Master Plan is required to be updated every five years to remain current; and

WHEREAS, with guidance and oversight from the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the City Staff has completed its most recent update for the Plan Years of 2022-2026; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has recommended that the Clare City Commission approve said updated Plan; and

WHEREAS, said Plan has been distributed to the City's neighboring communities for comment; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been noticed to accept public comment related to said updated Plan; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the conduct of said public hearing held by the Clare City Commission, the Commission duly considered comments provided at said hearing and duly reviewed, discussed and considered said updated Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Clare City Commission hereby approves the 2022-2026 City of Clare Parks & Recreation Master Plan and directs its Parks and Recreation Director to ensure said Plan is forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and subsequently cause implementation of said Plan.

ALL RESOLUTIONS AND PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS INsofar AS THEY CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION BE AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY RESCINDED.

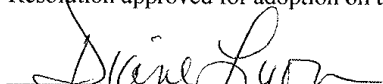
This Resolution was introduced by Commissioner Loomis and supported by Commissioner Murphy. The Resolution declared adopted by the following roll call vote:

YEAS: Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Resolution approved for adoption on this 17th January, 2022.


Diane Lyon, City Clerk

Final Plan Submission Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies

January 25, 2022

Sue Ann Kopmeyer
Isabella County Parks and Recreation
200 N. Main St.
Mt. Pleasant, MI
48858

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Clare Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to provide for your use and information a copy of our Master Plan for Parks and Recreation 2022-2026. The Clare City Commission unanimously voted to approve this plan on January 17, 2022.

The Clare Parks and Recreation Department has come a long way since its last plan. Through the hard work and dedication of staff, board and committee members, residents, volunteers, and cooperation with other organizations and entities such as yourself, the quality of life for those in the Clare community has greatly improved.

We look forward to continued communication and potential collaboration on projects as we embark on the beginning of our next five years!

Yours in Parks and Recreation,

Joy KS Simmer
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Clare
(989) 386-7541 x 213
jsimmer@cityofclare.org

January 25, 2022

Clare County Planning Commission
225 W. Main St.
Harrison, MI
48625

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jsimmer@cityofclare.org

January 25, 2022

East Michigan Council of Governments
3144 Davenport Avenue
Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48602

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