



Antwerp Township
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MI

Community Recreation Plan
2006 - 2011

AUGUST 15, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Plan.....	1
Plan Organization.....	1
Location and Regional Context.....	1

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Social Characteristics	3
Population.....	3
Current Population and Historic Population Trends	3
Population Projections to 2010.....	4
Gender Distribution of Population.....	5
Age Distribution of Population.....	5
Race and Ethnicity of Population	6
Income Distribution of Population.....	6
Total Households and Household Size	8
Population with Unique Needs	8
Employment.....	9
Physical Characteristics	10
Land Use Patterns	10
Topography and Slopes	10
Water, Fish and Wildlife Resources.....	11
Soils and Vegetation	12
Climate	12
Transportation Systems	12
Zoning	13

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE.....	18
-------------------------------	----

PLANNING PROCESS

Community Description.....	19
Recreation Inventory	19
Administrative Structure.....	20
Basis for Action.....	20
Action Program.....	20

RECREATION INVENTORY

Recreation Inventory – Township Area Facilities and Programs.....	21
Public Facilities.....	21
Semi-Public	23
Public School Facilities	24
Recreation Inventory – Regional Recreation Facilities	26
State Parks	26

State Game Areas/Nature Preserves	26
Recreational Trails	27
Golf Courses	27
Skiing	27
Camping	27
Other Local Park and Recreation Facilities	28

BASIS FOR ACTION

Recreation Trends	31
Facility Standards	33
Recreation Deficiencies	34
Public Involvement.....	35

ACTION PLAN.....	36
------------------	----

APPENDIX A	38
------------------	----

MAPS

1. Geographic Location	1
2. Existing Land Use	14
3. Hydric Soils and Steep Slopes	15
4. Transportation System	16
5. Zoning Districts	17
6. Recreation Inventory	29
7. Regional Recreation Inventory.....	30

TABLES

1. Historic Population Trends	4
2. Population Projections	5
3. Age Distribution	6
4. Race and Ethnicity	7
5. Household Income Distribution	7
6. Occupational Trends	9
7. Existing Land Use	10
8. Recreation Inventory	22
9. Sports Participation Trends	32
10. Recreation Facility Standards.....	33
11. Recreation Facility Deficiencies.....	34

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Plan

Antwerp Township has prepared this Community Recreation Plan in order to establish a vision for the recreational assets of the Township in the future. Specifically, the Community Recreation Plan is prepared to address the diverse recreational needs of the Township residents and provide recommendations for recreation improvements.

The Plan is prepared to conform to the guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Approval of the Plan by the MDNR would qualify Antwerp Township for recreation grants administered by the MDNR's Recreation Grants Section. MDNR grant eligibility is established for a five-year period. After the expiration of the five-year period, a new plan is required to establish future grant eligibility.

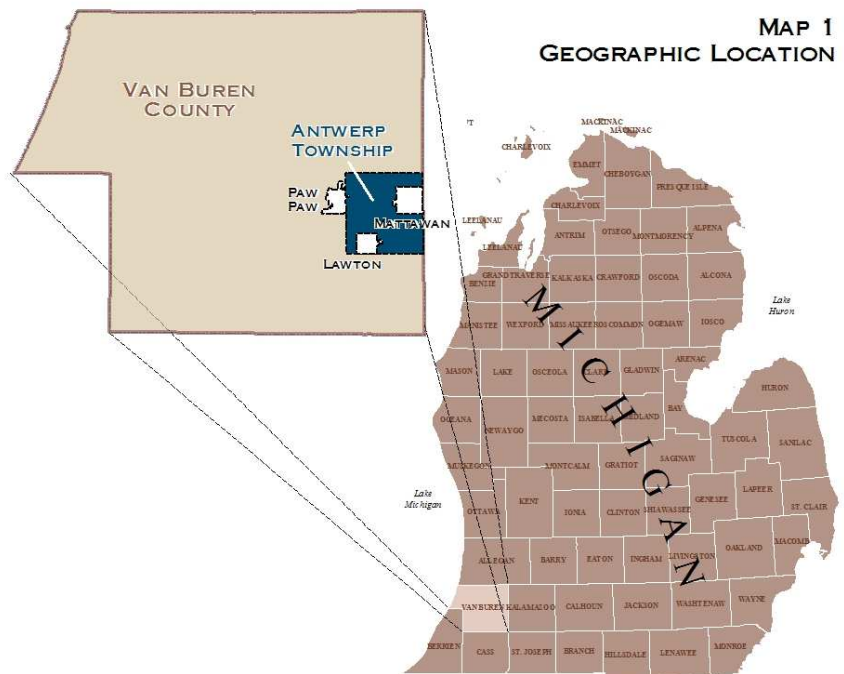
Plan Organization

The Plan is organized according to the MDNR guidelines. The Community Description Section profiles the demographic, land use, and environmental conditions existing at the time the plan was prepared. The Administrative Structure Section describes how the park and recreation functions will be carried out in the Township. The Planning Process describes the process by which the plan was developed.

The Recreation Inventory contains a description of local and regional recreation opportunities that existed at the time the plan was developed. The Basis for Action analyzes various factors within and outside of Antwerp Township that have an affect on the direction of recreation, providing an overall rationale for the recreation goals and capital improvements. The Action Program identifies recreation needs and goals for the Township and describes how they will be met over the next five years.

Location and Regional Context

Van Buren County is located in the southwestern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, almost at its southern border.



Antwerp Township is located centrally on the eastern border of the County. The Township is surrounded by Alma Township to the north, Porter Township to the South, Paw Paw Township to the west, and Texas Township in Kalamazoo County to the east. Three villages are located within Antwerp Township. The Villages of Mattawan and Lawton are located completely within the Township. The Village of Paw Paw lies primarily within Paw Paw Township, although a small portion of the Village does extend into the northwestern portion of the Township. The incorporated land area of the Township is approximately 18,195 acres.

In Antwerp Township there are a number of unique and interesting land use characteristics. The majority of the commercial development found in the Township is located along the Red Arrow and M-40 corridors. The Red Arrow Corridor provides a unique mix of general and local commercial uses, as well as several farms and farmsteads. The M-40 corridor, which runs north and south between the Villages of Paw Paw and Lawton contains primarily small local commercial uses that provide services to the immediate population.

The Township is dotted with small inland lakes and ponds with large parcels of forested upland and wetland areas throughout the Township. The viable farming industry in the Township contributes to the economy and to open space in Antwerp Township.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

An understanding of the community's social, physical, and environmental characteristics is an important consideration in the recreation planning process. This section explores social factors for Antwerp Township, such as population make-up, households, and employment. Where significant, Township data is compared to the surrounding communities, County, and the State of Michigan. Physical characteristics of the Township, including land use, zoning, topography, water resources, soils, transportation, and climate, are also examined in this section.

Social Characteristics

The statistical collection and analysis of local and regional socioeconomic data provides insight into the composition of a community's population, its economy, and general welfare. Disparities are identified and studied to ensure needs are met. Moreover, statistical trend lines that show spikes or depressions in the numbers or bulges in the groupings are carefully examined for their future impact on public services such as recreation. Understanding the composition of a community can assist decision-makers in properly planning for recreation facilities and programs in the future. For example, an influx in the elderly, as is happening in many areas throughout the country, may require communities to examine their provision of recreation activities for seniors, as well as address handicap accessibility issues.



Playground at the Paw Paw Elementary Campus

Population

In the development of a recreation plan, it is crucial that various characteristics of the people who comprise the community are analyzed. The following section evaluates the historical population growth in the area, the age, sex, and race of the population, income distribution, and special needs groups.

Current Population and Historic Population Trends

Table 1 depicts historic population trends for Antwerp Township and the surrounding units of government.

Between 1970 and 2000, the population of Antwerp Township increased dramatically, with the greatest ten year growth taking place between 1970 and 1980. The Township population increased 69.1 percent during that period. In the following decade, 1980 to 1990, the Township population grew an additional 28.9 percent. During the most recent decade, Antwerp's population experienced another significant increase at 24.8%. The overall increase in population between 1970 and 2000 was an impressive 3,977 residents or 172 percent.

During the same period of time (between 1970 and 2000), all of the other surrounding communities experienced population growth, although at a lesser rate than in Antwerp Township. This widespread growth occurring in the area may be an indication that more recreation facilities and programs are needed to accommodate a larger population.

**TABLE 1
HISTORIC POPULATION TRENDS
AREA COMMUNITIES, 1970 TO 2000**

Place	1970	1980	Change, 1970 to 1980		1990	Change, 1980 to 1990		2000	Change, 1990 to 2000	
			No.	%		No.	%		No.	%
Antwerp Twp.	2,312	3,910	1,598	69.1	5,039	1,129	28.9	6,289	1,250	24.8
Village of Paw Paw	3,160	3,211	51	1.6	3,169	-42	-1.3	3,363	194	5.7
Village of Lawton	1,358	1,558	200	14.7	1,685	127	8.2	1,859	174	9.4
Village of Mattawan	1,569	2,143	574	36.6	2,456	313	14.6	2,536	80	3.2
Van Buren County	56,173	66,814	10,641	18.9	70,060	3,246	4.9	76,263	6,203	8.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Projections to 2010

County-wide population projections for 2010 were collected from two sources: the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (MDMB) and the Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., State Profile for Michigan. The MDMB projections are based upon the age-cohort survival methods. Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., a private demographic and economic consulting firm, based their projections upon an employment and transportation model. An average of these two methods was run as a basis for projecting the local share.

For Antwerp Township and the three adjoining Villages, two projection methods were used to arrive at the 2010 population estimate. The first, called the arithmetic method, extrapolates the absolute population change that occurred between 1980 and 2000 at the same rate through 2010. The second method, constant county share, first determines the 2000 ratio of community population to county population. Next, the ratio is multiplied by the average 2010 projection of the County in order to determine the 2010 estimate for the community.

For each community, the average of the two projection methods was then calculated to determine the final 2010 population estimate. The results of the population projections are shown in **Table 2**. As the table illustrates, Antwerp Township and the three Villages are all projected to grow in population by 2010.

**TABLE 2
POPULATION PROJECTIONS
AREA COMMUNITIES, 2010**

Place	Population			2010 Projection		
	1980	1990	2000	Arithmetic*	Constant County Share**	Average
Antwerp Twp.	3,910	5,039	6,289	7,479	6,848	7,164
Village of Paw Paw	3,211	3,169	3,363	3,439	3,674	3,557
Village of Lawton	1,558	1,685	1,859	2,010	2,004	2,007
Village of Mattawan	2,143	2,456	2,536	2,733	2,756	2,745
Place	1980	1990	2000	2010 Projection		
				MDMB	W & P	Average
Van Buren County	66,814	70,060	76,263	87,100	79,916	83,508

*2010 estimate is based on the community's average 10 year increment from 1980-2000.
 **2010 estimate is based on the community's share of the County population in 2000, multiplied by the 2010 average population projection for the County.

Sources: Michigan Department of Management and Budget, (MDMB) Office of the State Demographer, *Population Projections for Michigan to the Year 2020*, 1996; Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., 2000 State Profile, Michigan.

Gender Distribution of Population

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Antwerp Township (not including the villages within the Township) has a nearly even gender distribution of 50.1% males to 49.9% females.

Age Distribution of Population

Table 3 divides the Township's population into life-cycle categories that generally correspond with stages of human development. Each stage carries common characteristics that can be generally applied when assessing future recreation needs. For example, adjustments in recreational programs and facilities for the elderly may be prompted by changes in the Township's senior population (over 65 years of age). Likewise, an increasingly large preschool population (0 – 4 years of age) may demand increasing numbers of recreation programs focused on their development.

The largest age group within the Township for both 1990 and 2000 has been the family formation segment (ages 20-44). Although the family formation age group (ages 20-44) has comprised the largest age segment, the empty nest age group (ages 45-64) has experienced the most increase. Between 1990 and 2000 the empty nest grew nearly 55 percent. The school age group (5-19) experienced an increase in growth of 2.3 percent over the same time period. Interestingly, the preschool age group (ages 0-4) decreased 12.9 percent between 1990 and 2000. This decrease can be attributed to the low 2.8 percent growth in the family formation group during the last decade. It is also interesting to note that the elderly age group (age 75+) increased 23.8 percent in the last ten years. This growth can possibly be attributed to the increase in affordable housing in the villages located within Antwerp Township.

Although the Township’s population has aged slightly since 1990, overall, the data suggests that the Township is very attractive to both empty nesters and young adults who will likely be starting a family in the coming years. Special planning attention should be paid to provide the necessary recreational opportunities to accommodate these age groups.

TABLE 3
AGE DISTRIBUTION
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, 1990-2000

Age Group	1990		2000		Change 1990-2000	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Preschool (0-4 yrs.)	897	9.6	781	7.2	-116	-12.9
School (5-19 yrs.)	2,222	24.0	2,785	25.7	563	25.3
Family formation (20-44 yrs.)	3,627	39.0	3,728	34.6	101	2.8
Empty nest (45-64 yrs.)	1,587	17.1	2,456	22.7	869	54.8
Seniors (65-74 yrs.)	503	5.4	501	4.6	-2	0.4
Elderly (75+ yrs.)	457	4.9	562	5.2	105	23.8
Total	9,293	100	10,813	100	1,520	100
Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census						
Note: Villages included in Antwerp Township figures						

Race and Ethnicity of Population

The racial characteristics of the Township’s population are shown in **Table 4**. It is clear that the Township contains a relatively homogenous population. In 2000, 91.9 percent of Antwerp Township’s population was white. Among the minority groups represented in the Township, the Hispanic population was the most common at five percent of the total population. The Black population comprised one percent and all other races¹ accounted for less than one percent of the total.

Income Distribution of Population

The distribution of Antwerp Township’s population in terms of household income is shown in **Table 5** and is compared to Van Buren County and the State of Michigan. It is clear that the household income distribution in Antwerp Township differs significantly from the county and state distributions.

¹“ All others” counted include American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander.

TABLE 4
RACE AND ETHNICITY
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, COUNTY AND STATE, 1980-2000

Percentage of Non-White Population			
Unit of Govt.	1980	1990	2000
Antwerp Township	4.1	5.4	8.1
Van Buren County	10.8	11.0	14.8
State of Michigan	15.9	16.6	19.8
Source: 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census Note: Villages included in Antwerp Township figures			

As shown in the table, Antwerp Township has a very low percentage of households found in the lowest household income bracket (less than \$15,000) at 8.4%. This low percentage contrasts with the much higher percentage distributions for both the County and State at 14.9% and 14.1%, respectively. The highest percentage of Antwerp households is categorized in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 household income bracket at 28.2%, followed by the \$75,000 and Higher bracket at 22.6%. In comparison, the County's household distribution in these two brackets is significantly lower at 21.7% and 16.4%, respectively. For Michigan, the distribution of households in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 bracket stands at 20.5%, while 24.1% of households are found in the \$75,000 and Higher bracket.

TABLE 5
HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, COUNTY AND STATE, 1999

Household Income Category	Antwerp Twp. Households		Van Buren County Households		Michigan Households (in thousands)	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Less than \$15,000	312	8.4	4,175	14.9	533.0	14.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999	443	11.9	4,068	14.5	469.1	12.4
\$25,000 to \$34,999	468	12.5	4,088	14.6	470.4	12.4
\$35,000 to \$49,999	610	16.4	5,029	17.9	624.3	16.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,053	28.2	6,069	21.7	778.8	20.5
\$75,000 and Higher	844	22.6	4,609	16.4	913.1	24.1
Source: 2000 U.S. Census Note: Villages included in Antwerp Township figures						

Total Households and Household Size

The average number of persons per household constitutes household size. Average household size numbers shed light on the types of families living in the Township. Higher household size averages usually relate to more and larger families in a community. Communities with very low household size averages are usually associated with a high number of senior citizens, retirement housing, or single parent homes. Knowledge of average household size thus can then help to determine the types of recreation facilities most appropriate for a community.

As of the 2000 Census, Antwerp Township (not including the Villages within the Township) has a total of 2,151 households and an average household size of 2.92. This average household size is quite high when compared to Van Buren County at 2.66 and the State of Michigan at 2.56. This indicates that the Township has a larger number of families, possibly requiring recreation facilities and programs more suited for families.

Population with Unique Needs

Special needs groups are those population groups requiring special services or having different social preferences such as the disabled, low-income families, senior citizens, and ethnic minorities.

Of the 6,031 persons between the ages of 21 and 64 in Antwerp Township, 1,154 or 19.1% have some kind of disability according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Of Antwerp Township's 906 citizens above the age of 65, 426 or 47.0% have some kind of a disability. For the younger population (those between the ages of 5 and 20), 257 individuals or 9.1% have some kind of a disability. In total, the number of disabled citizens in Antwerp Township adds up to 1,837.

The disability status of a population is especially significant when considering recreation needs for a community. Disabled people may have difficulty participating in recreational programs, utilizing facilities, or even getting to designated public areas. Understanding the disability status of Antwerp Township's population may assist decision-makers in determining adequate programs and appropriate locations for recreational activities. Also, with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs.

As shown in **Table 3**, 5.4% of Antwerp's population is in the "Senior" age group, while 4.9% are in the "Elderly" age group.

As shown in **Table 5**, compared to the county and state figures, Antwerp Township has a very low percentage of its households classified into the lowest household income bracket of lower than \$15,000. Even though Antwerp Township's percentage is quite low, there are still more than 300 households in the Township falling within this low income category.

Employment

This section examines employment trends within Antwerp Township in terms of occupation. Occupational information describes the kind of work in which the citizens of the Township participate, regardless of the location of their place of employment. Occupational trends during the past decade for Antwerp Township are illustrated in **Table 6**, and are compared with Van Buren County. Displayed in the table is the percentage distribution of Township/County citizens employed in each occupational category, and whether the percentage distribution has grown or declined in the past decade.

In four out of the six occupational categories, both Antwerp Township and Van Buren Township experienced similar increases or decreases. The occupational categories that grew for both units of government included: Management Professional and Related Occupations; and Production, Transportation and Material Moving Occupations. The occupational categories that declined for both units of government included: Farming, Fishing and Forestry Occupations; and Construction, Extraction and Maintenance Occupations. The primary difference between Antwerp Township and the County came in the Service Occupations category and Sales and Office Occupations category. In the Service category, Antwerp Township increased in percentage distribution, while the County decreased significantly. In the Sales and Office category, the County’s percentage distribution increased significantly while the Township’s distribution declined.

TABLE 6
OCCUPATIONAL TRENDS
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, 1990-2000

Occupational Category (2000 U.S. Census)	Antwerp Township			Van Buren County		
	Percent of Total Employed Persons			Percent of Total Employed Persons		
	1990*	2000	Change, 90-00	1990*	2000	Change, 90-00
Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	27.3	31.5	+4.2	22.8	25.4	+2.6
Service Occupations	11.0	15.6	+4.6	22.9	15.1	-7.8
Sales and Office Occupations	28.8	23.5	-5.3	14.3	21.7	+7.4
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	3.2	0.4	-2.8	5.1	1.9	-3.2
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance Occupations	11.5	10.1	-1.4	13.4	11.4	-2.0
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations	18.2	18.9	+0.7	21.5	24.6	+3.1

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census
 Note: Villages included in Antwerp Township figures.
 *Figures from the 1990 Census Occupational Categories have been combined to correspond with new Occupational Categories from the 2000 Census.

Physical Characteristics

Physical characteristics of a community, which include natural features, existing land uses, transportation network, and zoning districts, play a major role in land development, including the development of recreational facilities. An analysis of the physical attributes currently present in Antwerp is included below.

Land Use Patterns

The relationship between existing land uses in the community is critical in determining the location of future recreational facilities. The Existing Land Use Map (**Map 2**), which is included in this section of the report, will serve as a handy reference for Antwerp Township in its consideration for future recreational facilities. Existing land uses were collected during a parcel-by-parcel field survey in April of 2002. During the survey, each parcel was categorized into one of six general land use categories. **Table 7** shows the land use categories and their distribution within Antwerp Township.

In total, Antwerp Township encompasses 18,195 acres or 28.4 square miles. Currently, there are three primary land uses found within Antwerp Township, each comprising more than one-quarter of the total area: Vacant, Woodlands, Water, R.O.W, and Other (40.0%); Residential (28.0%); and Agricultural (27.2%).

TABLE 7
EXISTING LAND USE
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, 2002

Land Use Category	Acres	Percent of Total
Agricultural	4,944	27.2
Residential	5,084	28.0
Commercial	306	1.7
Industrial	0	0.0
Public/Semi-Public	566	3.1
Vacant, Woodlands, Water, R.O.W., Other	7,284	40.0
Total	18,195	100%

Source: Wade-Trim Field Survey, April, 2002.

Topography and Slopes

Antwerp Township's topography ranges from areas of irregular ridge, basin like depressions, outwash areas, and river flood plains in the southeast portion of the Township, to gently rolling slopes and relatively flat areas in the northwest portion of the Township. Elevations range from approximately 1,033 feet in the southeast portion of the Township, to 722 feet in the north central area of the Township near Mud Lake.

Steep slopes are subject to earth movement, especially where they have been disturbed by excavation and deforestation. Although the amount of movement may be slight, it can result in cracked foundations, tilted basement walls, and damaged sewer and water lines. Where possible, recreation facilities and other buildings should not be placed on slopes in excess of 12 percent.² Construction on these types of slopes is not only subject to earth movement, but it can also prove costly, due to the need for extensive construction engineering provisions.

Map 3 generally depicts the areas in the community with slopes greater than 12 percent. The majority of these are found in the south-central and southeastern portions of the Township.

Water, Fish, and Wildlife Resources

Antwerp Township contains numerous small to mid-size lakes, as well as several rivers and streams. Some of the larger lakes in the Township and adjacent villages include: Maple Lake, Ackley Lake, Mud Lake, and Sand Lake. The most significant river feature within Antwerp Township is the East Branch of the Paw Paw River. Numerous other water features are found outside of the Township limits. Van Buren County features a total of 133 inland lakes, as well as 13 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. The major rivers and watersheds within Van Buren County include the Paw Paw River, Dowagiac River, and the Black River³.

According to digital files from the 2003 Michigan Fish Atlas, provided by the Michigan Center for Geographic Information website, Van Buren County contains a wide variety of fish species in its water bodies. Some of the more common fish species include: bluegill, brook trout, brown trout, catfish, carp, largemouth bass, northern pike, perch, rainbow trout, rock bass, sea lamprey, smallmouth bass, and walleye.



Much of Antwerp Township was once covered with stands of beech, maple, whitewood, black walnut, oak, and white pine forests. Fortunately, several areas of natural forested areas do still exist in the Township. These wooded areas provide natural habitats for a wide variety of wildlife species. Other wildlife habitats such as beach/dune habitats, wetland habitats, and prairies are common within Van Buren County and support a variety of wildlife. Wildlife related recreational activities such as nature viewing and hunting are common in the region.

² Stream Sites: Buying, Building and Care, *Michigan Natural Resources Commission*.

³ *Water Resources*. Van Buren County Community Center. August 11, 2004. <http://www.vbco.org/natfeat0002.asp>.

Soils and Vegetation

When planning for recreational facility development, the condition of soil is one important factor that determines the type of facility that is appropriate for development. The construction of recreational facilities and related structures such as parking lots, roads, and buildings on poor soils requires special design considerations. In addition, costs for developing these sensitive areas are greater than in less constrained parts of the landscape. If developed improperly, the impacts to natural resources can be far reaching.

Hydric Soils information for Antwerp Township is based on the Van Buren County Soils Survey Manual obtained from the Van Buren County GIS Department. Hydric soils are soils with poor potential for development. These soils have high water tables and are often located within the floodplains of creeks or rivers. Areas with high concentrations of hydric soils have a wide range of limiting conditions such as seasonably high water tables, fair to poor bearing capacities, and medium compressibility and shear strength. The locations of hydric soils within Antwerp Township are shown on **Map 3**.

Vegetation and, in particular, woodland areas provide several necessary functions within a community. These functions include: habitat for many wildlife species, climate moderators, protection from soil erosion, wind and noise buffers, as most importantly for the purposes of this Recreation Plan, provide a great opportunity for aesthetic and recreational enjoyment.

The majority of the present forests in the Township consist of small farm woodlots. Fortunately, several areas of natural forested areas do still exist in the Township. These wooded areas include the majority of the central portion of the Township surrounding the East Branch of the Paw Paw River. Several large areas of wooded land also exist in the southeast portion of the Township. Like the areas in the central portion of the Township, these areas generally follow the East Branch of the Paw Paw River.

Climate

The general climatic characteristics of Van Buren County and Antwerp Township are highly varied due to the location of the county in close proximity to Lake Michigan. Lake-effect patterns occur in the area, resulting in somewhat longer winter seasons and heavier snowfalls than those experienced in the eastern half of the State. The United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey for Van Buren County states that the average winter temperature for the County is approximately 25.5° F. In summer, the average temperature is approximately 69.1° F. Average annual precipitation (rain) for the area amounts to approximately 38 inches, with more than half of this amount occurring during the months of April through September. Snowfall for the area averages 91 inches annually.

Transportation Systems

The two purposes of roadways within the Township are to move traffic and to provide access to adjacent property. Each road within the Township serves both of these purposes to a varying degree. Roadways are categorized based on their primary function or purpose. They then are placed in one of the four (4) tier functional hierarchy: Rural Interstate; Rural Minor Arterial; Rural Major Collector; and Rural Minor Collector. All other roads in the Township are considered as local roads. **Map 4** shows the locations of these road systems as found in Antwerp Township.

Aside from the road network, other transportation options are available to residents of Antwerp Township. One rail line currently exists in Antwerp Township. This rail line is owned and operated by Amtrak. The Amtrak line is a high-speed passenger line that runs between Detroit and Chicago. Although Antwerp Township does not currently have public transportation services, public transportation is provided in Van Buren County. Van Buren County Transportation Inc. and Dial-A-Ride provides door to door service throughout the county.

In the spring of 1999, a coalition of local leaders formed to explore the concept of non-motorized trailways in southwestern Michigan, particularly in Van Buren County. The objective of this project is to connect Van Buren communities with safe, non-motorized traffic trailways thereby enhancing the quality of living in the region. Ultimately, the trailway will involve a Van Buren loop connecting to the existing KalHaven Trail, and connections to schools and other community activity centers. As potential means of developing such a route, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Enhancement grants have been discussed. Chances of obtaining funds through this grant are best when any local project is part of a larger railway network, and when the project is supported by local governing bodies and the community. Antwerp's government and recent citizen opinion surveys have indicated support for such a non-motorized trailway.

Zoning

Zoning is another factor that needs to be considered in determining the location for expansion of existing and development of new recreational facilities. Zoning is a locally adopted ordinance, which delineates the municipality into districts (zones) within which uniform regulations and requirements govern the use, placement, spacing, and size of land and buildings. **Map 5** shows the Zoning districts in Antwerp Township.

Currently, Antwerp Township has six zoning districts which include Agriculture, three residential districts (R-1, R-2 and R-3), Commercial, and Industrial. Generally, the zoning districts allowing the most intensive land uses, such as commercial, industrial and high density residential, are located in close proximity to the three villages. Lower intensity agricultural and residential districts are scattered throughout the Township. In addition to the regular zoning districts, the Township has an environmental buffer overlay district which is generally located surrounding the Township's water features.

MAP 2 EXISTING LAND USE

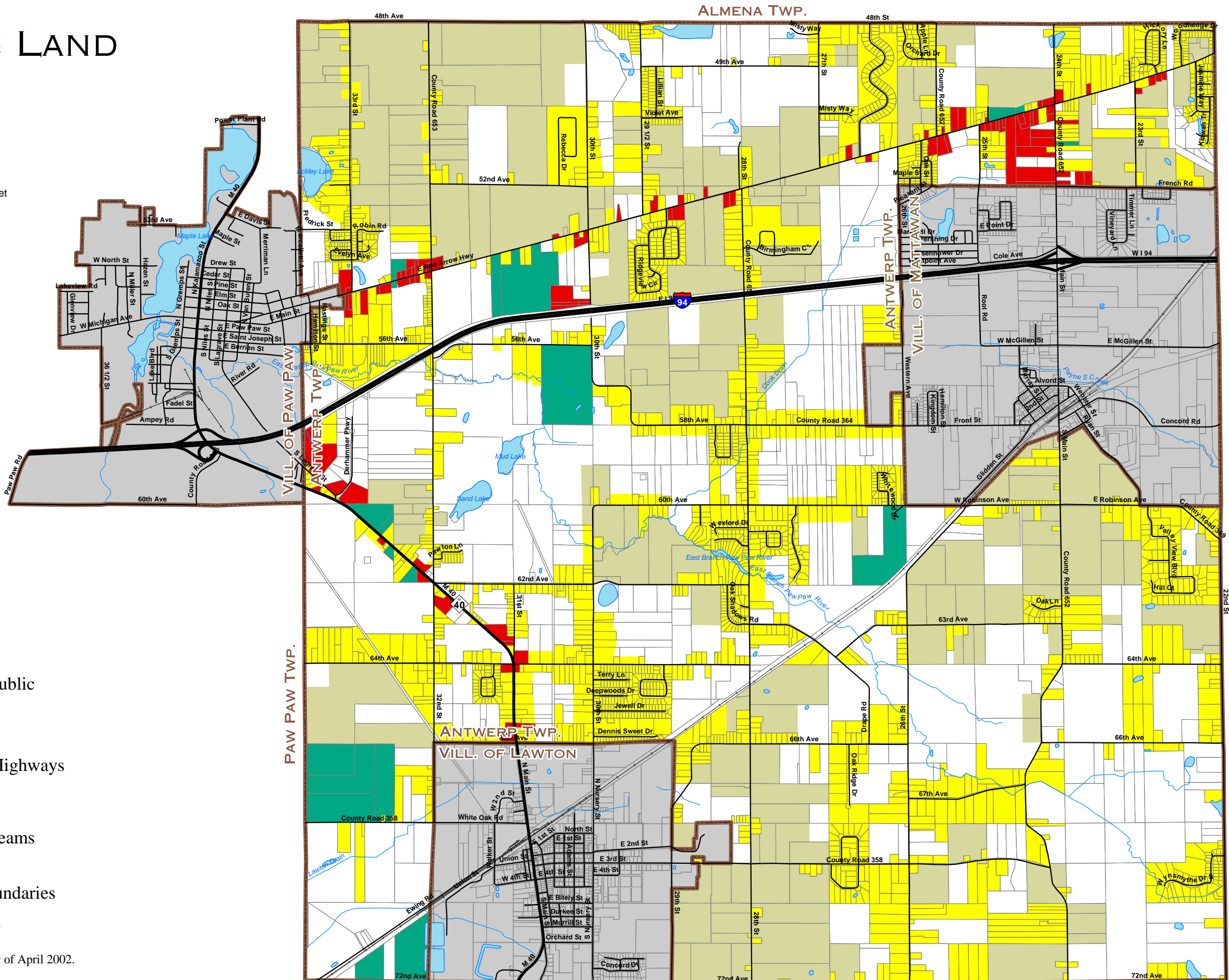


0 1,250 2,500 5,000
Feet

LEGEND

- Agricultural
- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Vacant/Open
- Public/Semi-Public
- Villages
- State or U.S. Highways
- Other Roads
- Railroads
- Rivers and Streams
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- Property Lines

Source: Wade-Trim field survey of April 2002.
Draft Date: December 2004.



PORTER TWP.

MAP 3 HYDRIC SOILS AND STEEP SLOPES

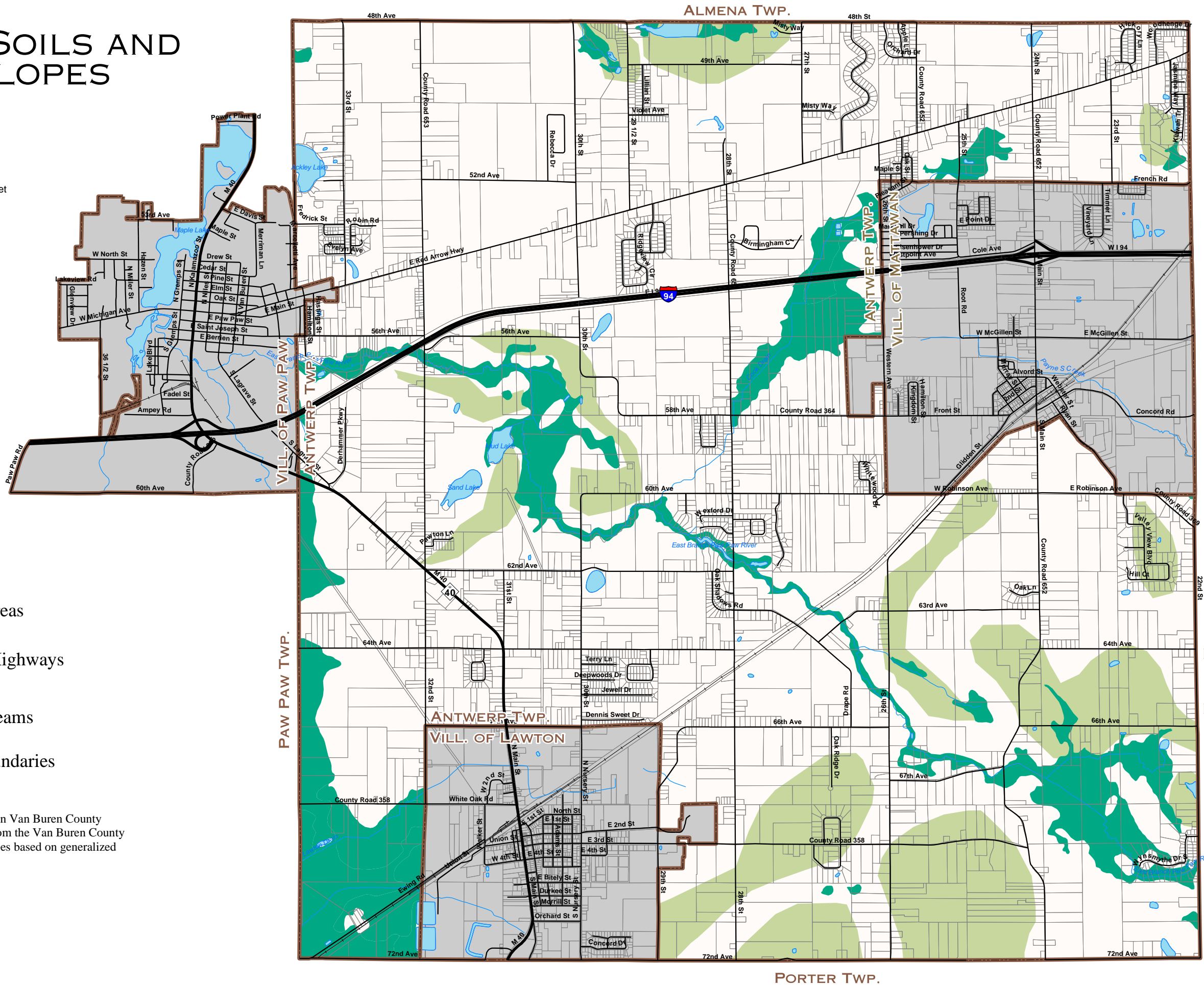


0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet

LEGEND

- Hydric Soils
- Steep Slope Areas
- Villages
- State or U.S. Highways
- Other Roads
- Railroads
- Rivers and Streams
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- Property Lines

Source: Hydric soil data based on Van Buren County Soil Survey Manual obtained from the Van Buren County GIS Department. Excessive slopes based on generalized USGS quad map observations.
Draft Date: December 2004.



MAP 4 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

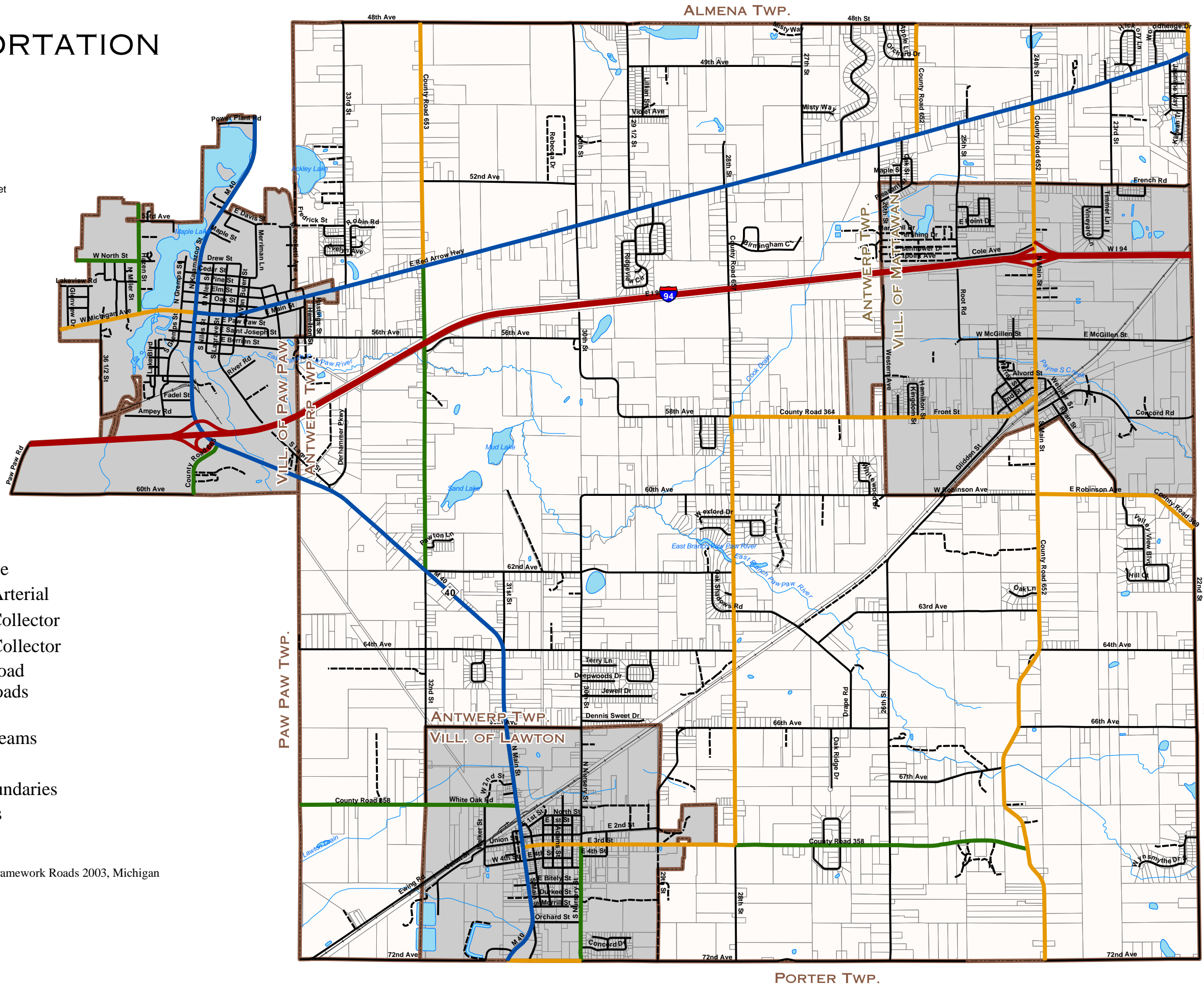


0 1,250 2,500 5,000
Feet

LEGEND

- Rural Interstate
- Rural Minor Arterial
- Rural Major Collector
- Rural Minor Collector
- Rural Local Road
- - - Uncertified Roads
- |— Railroads
- Rivers and Streams
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- Property Lines
- Villages

Source: Michigan Geographic Framework Roads 2003, Michigan Geographic Data Library.
Draft Date: December 2004.



MAP 5 ZONING DISTRICTS



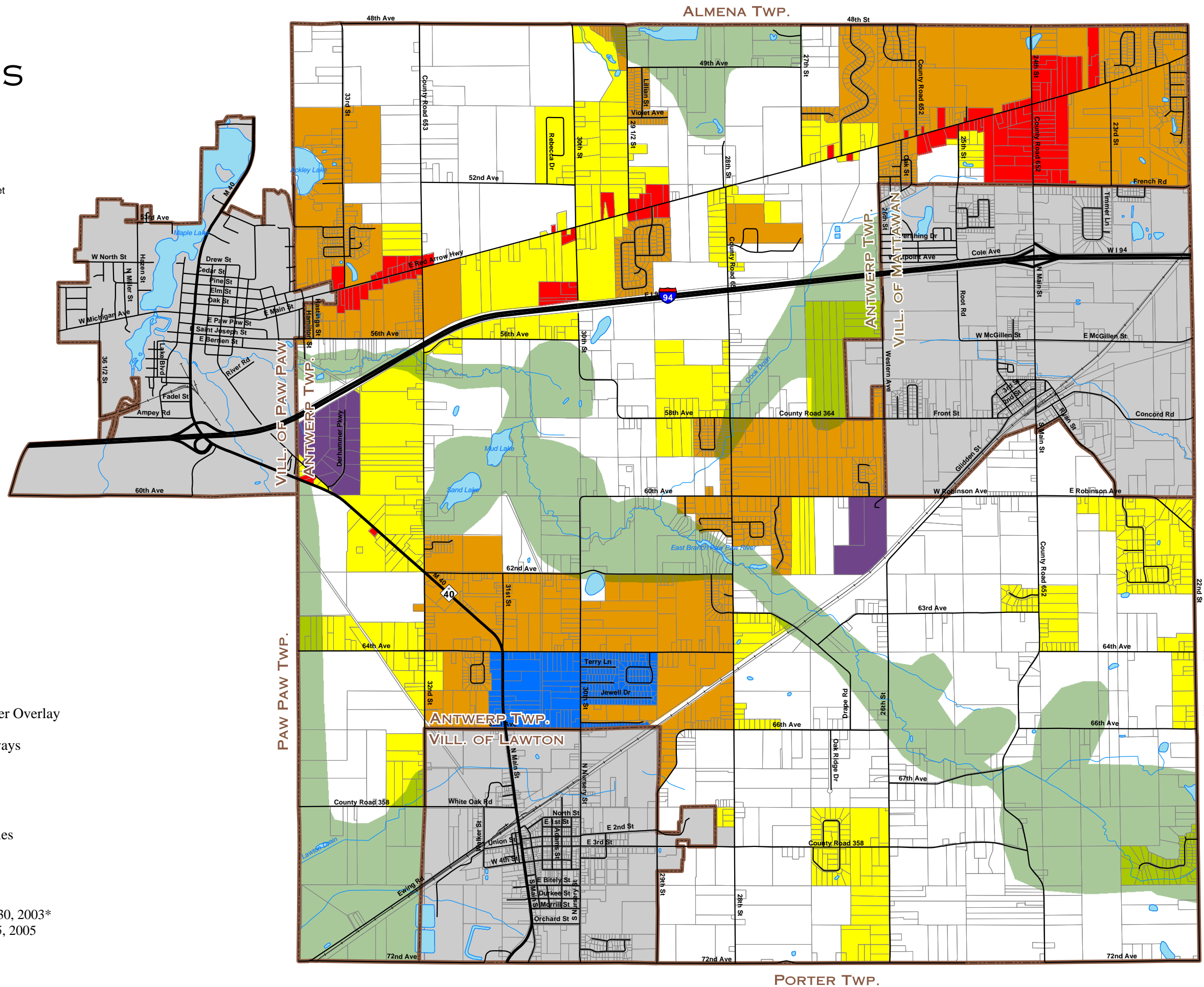
0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet

LEGEND

- Agriculture
- R-1
- R-2
- R-3
- Commercial
- Towns or Cities
- Industrial
- Environmental Buffer Overlay

- State or U.S. Highways
- Other Roads
- Railroads
- Rivers and Streams
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- Property Lines
- Villages

Zoning adopted September 30, 2003
Amended Through: January 5, 2005



PORTER TWP.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The following describes how recreational activities and resources are governed and administrated within Antwerp Township.

In Michigan, townships, cities, villages, counties, and school districts are authorized to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. Currently in Antwerp Township, recreational opportunities outside of the school programs are administered through individual organizations. Activities and organizations include Little League Baseball, American Youth Soccer Organization, and the Senior Center. The Antwerp Township Hall functions as the clearinghouse for information regarding these community programs. Additional recreational opportunities are administered by private entities within the Township and the surrounding area.



Soccer Fields at the Mattawan Schools Complex

On January 10, 2006, the Antwerp Township Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution for the formation of a Township Recreation Committee. In recognition of their diligent work on the development of the Recreation Plan, the members of the Planning Commission were appointed to serve as the Recreation Committee. Going forward, the Recreation Committee should champion the implementation of the Recreation Plan and strive to sustain existing and create future recreational opportunities.



Baseball Field at the Mattawan Schools Complex

PLANNING PROCESS

The Recreation Planning process commenced in January of 2004 with the Township's contracting of Wade Trim, Inc., (a planning consulting firm located in Grand Rapids, Michigan) to assist in the facilitation of the process. Representatives from Wade Trim and the Recreation Committee met on a monthly basis during the Recreation Planning process to review, discuss, and proceed with the formulation of the Plan. The Committee's familiarity with the operation of recreation within the Township and surrounding areas, as well as their understanding of the needs of the community were invaluable in the creation of this Plan.

It is believed that the inclusion of ample public participation during the planning process has allowed the Plan to identify true recreational needs/issues in the community. Public participation has been ensured by having all Recreation Committee meetings open to the public, providing notification of these meetings posted in advance at the Township Hall, conducting a resident survey, and holding a public hearing at the conclusion of the planning process. The resident survey (Appendix A) was randomly delivered to 600 of Antwerp Township households. Of the 600 surveys delivered, 275 were completed and returned to the Recreation Committee. This represents a return rate of more than 45%.

Once the entire draft document was completed to the satisfaction of the Recreation Committee, the required 30 day legal notification and review period was provided and a public hearing was held on August 2, 2006. The Recreation Committee recommended the adoption of the plan to the Township Board and subsequently the Township Board unanimously adopted the plan.

Following is a description of each of the steps undertaken in creating this Recreation Plan update.

Community Description

The initial phase of the planning process required the compilation and analysis of background information relative to Antwerp Township. Information included both socio-economic and physical profiles of the community. This element of the Recreation Plan was presented to the Recreation Committee for review and consideration.

Recreation Inventory

Prior to determining and discussing recreation needs and priority projects, an inventory of the existing recreation facilities was conducted. This inventory includes public parks and facilities, school district facilities, private recreation opportunities, as well as recreation opportunities found in the larger region. The results of this inventory were presented to the Recreation Committee.



Playground on Maple Island Park

Administrative Structure

A description of how parks and recreation functions are accomplished within the Township was prepared to define the responsibilities of the operation and maintenance of parks and recreation in Antwerp, to understand the role and responsibilities of the Recreation Committee and to analyze recent expenditures in regards to recreation. All the information included within this section was received from the Township.

Basis for Action

In determining the recreational needs of a community, a comparison of existing facilities to national standards proves to be informative. Park facility standards were included as a reference for analysis of specific needs.

Action Program

Action programming is the process of prioritizing recreation needs for action. Priorities were based upon several factors including identified needs, community attitude, recreation goals, and potential funding sources. The Recreation Committee convened on March 1, 2006 and came to a consensus on the goals for recreation in Antwerp Township, as well as the prioritization of the capital improvement schedule for the next five years. The projects were prioritized by year, cost, and candidate funding sources.

RECREATION INVENTORY

Developing a complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs, and events is an essential component of a 5-year Recreation Plan because it provides a base of information to use in developing the action program. Understanding what facilities, programs, and events are available to the residents of Antwerp Township will assist in decision-making in the future.

This portion of the plan entails several components. Descriptions of the recreation opportunities within the Township and adjacent Village limits include public properties, semi-public properties, and public school facilities. A brief summary of the principal recreation facilities outside of the Township limits is provided to assist in the identification of recreation needs and opportunities in the immediate area.

Recreation Inventory – Township Area Facilities and Programs

Recreation facilities inventoried include those located within Antwerp Township and the villages of Mattawan, Lawton, and Paw Paw. Some of these facilities are publicly owned, owned by local school districts, or privately owned but available to the public (semi-public). **Map 6** shows the locations of the recreation facilities. **Table 8** provides the complete list of recreation facilities in the Antwerp Township area. Also included in the table are the specific recreational activities offered at each recreational facility. A brief description of each recreational facility within the Antwerp Township area is also included below. Unless otherwise noted, the Antwerp Township Recreation Committee representatives were the major source for this information.

Public Facilities:

1. Antwerp Township Activity Center

The Antwerp Township Activity Center is located adjacent to the Township Hall, in the Village of Mattawan. The activity center features a multi-purpose room with kitchen facilities, restrooms, and a dance floor, and is available for rental by citizens.

2. Cannon Park

Cannon Park is located on a quarter acre lot off of North Main Street in the Village of Lawton. This park features a picnic area and is occasionally used as a car wash area for local fundraisers.

3. Chancy Lewis Park

Chancy Lewis Park is located off of South Main Street in the Village of Lawton. This public park features a wide variety of recreational amenities including one tennis court, outdoor basketball court, playground structures, horse shoe pits, an ice rink during the winter months, picnic pavilions, and restrooms.

4. Courtyard Park

This park is a pocket park located in the central business area, with some landscaping, picnic tables and seating areas. Courtyard Park is under the jurisdiction of Van Buren County⁴.

TABLE 8

⁴ Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Village of Paw Paw. 2004.

RECREATION INVENTORY
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP AREA, 2004

Map Number*	Facility Name	Location**	Open Space	Swimming Pools	Football Fields	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts (Indoor)	Volleyball Courts (Outdoor)	Basketball Courts (Indoor)	Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	Soccer Fields	Baseball Fields	Playground Equipment	Boating	Golf	Non-motorized Trails	Skate Park	Track	Ice Rink	Picnic Areas	Multi-Purpose Room / Rental	Restrooms
Public Recreation Facilities																						
1	Antwerp Township Activity Center	M																			■	■
2	Cannon Park	L	■																		■	
3	Chancy Lewis Park	L	■			1				1			■						1		■	■
4	Courtyard Park	PP	■																		■	
5	Hazen Street Park	PP	■																		■	
6	Maple Island Park	PP	■										■	■							■	■
7	Sunset Park	PP	■											■							■	■
8	South Shore Park	PP	■											■		■					■	
9	Tyler Field	PP	■		1	3						1										■
10	Mattawan Village Park	M	■										■								■	
Semi-Public Recreation Facilities																						
10	Adult Softball League Fields	A										2										
11	Lawton Golf Club	L													■							■
12	West Point Hills Community	M	■			2				1			■	■							■	
13	Mattawan Little League	M										10										
14	Formula K Family Fun Park	M													■							■
Public School Recreation Facilities																						
15	Lawton Elementary School	L	■						2	2	2		■								■	■
16	Lawton Middle School	L	■				1		1	1												■
17	Lawton High School	L	■		3		1		2		2	2						1				■
18	Learning Tree and Early Education Center	PP	■				1		1				■									■
19	Mattawan Schools Complex	M	■		1	12	3		3	9	9	2	■				1	2			■	■
20	Paw Paw Middle School	PP	■		1	4	1		1	4	4	5	■					1				■
21	Paw Paw High School/Performing Arts Center	A	■		1	8	3		3		2	2										■
22	Paw Paw Community Education Center	PP	■				1		1	1			■									■
23	Paw Paw Elementary Campus	PP	■				1		1	1			■									■

Source: Data compiled by Township staff, 2004.
 *Map Number corresponds to Recreation Inventory Map.
 **Location Abbreviations: A = Antwerp Township, PP = Paw Paw, M = Mattawan, L = Lawton.

5. Hazen Street Park

Hazen Street Park, located on the west shore of Maple Lake in Paw Paw, is known to local citizens as “Duck Park.” The park features an open space area and picnic tables.

6. Maple Island Park

Maple Lake is a 172-acre natural lake which is used for fishing, boating, swimming and general recreation. Maple Island Park is a 5-acre park accessible by footbridge which includes swimming, a playground area, picnic tables and restrooms⁵.

7. Sunset Park

Sunset Park is located along the northeast shore of Maple Lake in the Village of Paw Paw. This approximately seven acre park features one dock, a boat launch ramp, picnic area, restrooms, and open space.

8. South Shore Park

South Shore Park is an approximately five acre park located along the southern shore of Maple Lake in the Village of Paw Paw. This park is open year round and features an amphitheater, boat docks, canoe launch, picnic tables, and a boardwalk.

9. Tyler Field

Tyler Field is an approximately ten acre park located in the eastern portion of the Village of Paw Paw. Currently, the park features one softball field, a football field which is primarily used for “rocket” football, three tennis courts (without nets), bleachers, restrooms, and a vending building.

Semi-Public Facilities:

10. Adult Softball League Fields

Adult league softball is organized by the Village of Paw Paw and played on two fields located behind Mitchell’s Tavern just outside of the Village limits on Red Arrow Highway.

11. Lawton Golf Club

The Lawton Golf Club is a public 9-hole golf course located in the northern portion of the Village of Lawton. The course, which was built on the site of an old airport, also features a driving range area, snack bar, and clubhouse⁶.

12. West Point Hills Manufactured Home Community Recreation Facilities

The West Point Hills Manufactured Home Community provides a number of recreation facilities on four acres to its residents. Recreation facilities include: a playground, basketball court, tennis courts, picnic areas, and a lake featuring fishing and boating.⁷

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Michigan Golf Course Directory*. Michigan Smart Pages. August 13, 2004.
<http://mich.info/michigan/recreation/golftp3.htm>.

⁷ *Village of Mattawan Parks & Recreation Plan*. Adopted 1997, Revised 2004.

13. Mattawan Little League Baseball Fields

This Little League baseball facility is located on Front Street in the Village of Mattawan. The facility includes several baseball fields as well as a concession area.⁸

14. Formula K Family Fun Park

This commercial recreation facility is privately owned and is located just off of I-94 in the Village of Mattawan. The “fun park” features Go Karts, Batting Cages, and Miniature Golf.⁹

Public School Facilities:

15. Lawton Elementary School

Recreation facilities at the Lawton Elementary School include: two indoor basketball courts, two outdoor basketball courts, two soccer fields (shared with American Youth Soccer Organization AYSO), playground area, and picnic tables.

16. Lawton Middle School

Recreation facilities at the middle school include indoor basketball courts (can be converted to volleyball), and one outdoor basketball court.

17. Lawton High School

Recreation facilities at the high school include three football fields, indoor basketball courts (can be converted to volleyball), two soccer fields, baseball and softball fields, outdoor track, cross country running trails, and outdoor restrooms.

18. Learning Tree and Early Education Center

Located in the Village of Paw Paw, this facility is used by the Paw Paw School District for pre-K school and day care programs. Recreation facilities available at the center include a gymnasium for basketball and volleyball, playground equipment and indoor restrooms.



Skate Park at the Mattawan Schools Complex

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

19. Mattawan Schools Complex

This large site located within the Village of Mattawan includes the Mattawan High School, Middle School, Later Elementary School, Early Elementary School, and related accessory facilities. A wide variety of recreation facilities available to the public are located at the complex including: tennis courts, soccer fields (also used by AYSO), softball and baseball fields, football field, outdoor track, outdoor basketball hoops, picnic area, playgrounds, outdoor skate park, indoor gymnasium (used for basketball and volleyball), indoor track, restrooms, and open spaces.

20. Paw Paw Middle School

The approximately 70 acre Paw Paw Middle School site is located along the western edge of the Village of Paw Paw. The facility features a variety of recreation facilities available to the public including: a football field, tennis courts, gymnasium used for volleyball and basketball, four outdoor basketball courts, soccer fields (shared with AYSO), baseball fields (managed by the Village of Paw Paw), playground equipment, and an outdoor track.

21. Paw Paw High School and Performing Arts Center

The approximately 90 acre Paw Paw High School site is located on Red Arrow Highway within Antwerp Township. Recreation facilities available at the site include: 30 acres of open space, one practice football field, tennis courts, indoor gymnasium (volleyball, basketball, exercise and walking areas), and outdoor soccer fields. Summer youth sports camps are also offered to the public at the high school site. The open space is used for a variety of activities including golfing practice, kite flying, and dog walking.

Also included at the high school site is the Paw Paw Performing Arts Center. This fairly new facility seats more than 900 and is used for a variety of events and productions (outside groups as well as school related) throughout the year.



Tennis Courts at Paw Paw High School

22. Paw Paw Community Education Center

The Paw Paw Community Education Center is located at the old Michigan Avenue school building in the Village of Paw Paw. The facility features indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and offers a wide variety of recreation programs for the public. The community education program schedules all community recreational uses of Paw Paw schools facilities. All buildings except the offices are available to public uses when not in use for school activities.

Recreation facilities at the site include: indoor basketball and volleyball courts, outdoor basketball courts, and outdoor playground equipment. Programs offered at the community education center include: adult basketball leagues, summer youth athletic programs, times reserved for public walking, aerobics classes, yoga classes, and karate/self-defense programs.

23. Paw Paw Elementary Campus

This approximately 40 acre facility is located in the northwestern portion of the Village of Paw Paw. Recreation facilities available include: gymnasium for basketball and volleyball, outdoor basketball courts, playground equipment, and open space areas which are used for soccer, nature walking and other related activities.

Recreation Inventory – Regional Recreation Facilities

As citizens are not limited to utilizing only those recreation facilities found within the limits of the Township, it is important to catalogue the recreation facilities available within the larger region. Included is a brief description and listing of those facilities located in Van Buren County and the four westernmost townships in adjacent Kalamazoo County. Unless otherwise noted, the information for regional recreation facilities comes from the Van Buren Community Center website, located at <http://www.vbco.org/default.asp>. **Map 7** shows the locations of the major recreation facilities in the region.

State Parks

Van Buren State Park offers approximately 400 acres of land located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in northern Van Buren County. The focal points of the park are its high dune formations and one mile of sandy beach. Facilities available at the state park include playground areas, swimming, and picnic areas.¹⁰

State Game Areas/Nature Preserves

Algird Barvicks Dunes Nature Sanctuary features two distinct habitats: the Atlantic Coast Plains marsh and hardwood conifer swamp. The 40 acre dune/forest complex is a refuge for numerous plant species including several with threatened status. The sanctuary is located about one mile from Lake Michigan, northwest of Coloma in Van Buren County.

Jeptha Lake Fen Preserve. This 49-acre nature preserve is located in Columbia Township in the north central portion of Van Buren County. The preserve is owned by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

Ross Preserve, a 1,449 acre preserve located in Covert Township in the western edge of Van Buren County, is owned by The Nature Conservancy. This preserve contains coastal plain marshes, wooded inland dunes, wetlands, small lakes and northern hardwood forests.

The **Keeler State Game Area** is a 400-acre mini-game area open to the public for hunting and fishing, picnicking, and hiking on work roads. Camping is allowed seasonally with a permit. The facility is located in Keeler Township, in the southwestern corner of Van Buren County.

Al Sabo Preserve is located in neighboring Texas Township in Kalamazoo County. The preserve contains 710 acres of woods, lakes, and wetlands and is used for passive recreation such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.¹¹

¹⁰ *Van Buren State Park.* Michigan Department of Natural Resources. August 13, 2004. <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.asp?id=502>.

¹¹ *Texas Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan 1996-2000.*

Recreational Trails

The **Kal-Haven Trail** is a multi-use recreation trail on an abandoned rail line linking Kalamazoo and South Haven in Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties. The trail provides opportunities for hiking, bicycling, nature viewing, snowmobiling, horse riding, and cross-country skiing. The trail was built as a State Park but is jointly operated by the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail, a nonprofit organization, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The **Van Buren Trail State Park** is a 14-mile long dirt or gravel surfaced multi-use trail that runs between Hartford and South Haven in Van Buren County. The trail is currently used mainly by bikers and hikers. The DNR currently provides only emergency maintenance services and seeks governmental agencies to operate and maintain its linear park trails.¹²

Golf Courses

According to the Van Buren Community Information Center, there are currently seven golf courses in Van Buren County (including Lawton Golf Club described earlier). Within the four westernmost townships of Kalamazoo County, there are three golf courses. All of the area golf courses are listed below.

- **Heritage Glen Golf Club**, Paw Paw, Van Buren Co.
- **Jeptha Lake**, Bloomingdale, Van Buren Co.
- **Lake Cora Hills**, Paw Paw, Van Buren Co.
- **Shamrock Hills**, Gobles, Van Buren Co.
- **Thornapple Creek Golf Club**, Alamo Township, Kalamazoo Co.
- **Ridgeview Golf Course**, Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo Co.
- **Olde Mill Golf Club**, Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo Co.

Skiing

The **Timber Ridge Ski Area** is located in Pine Grove Township outside of Gobles in Van Buren County. The resort features a variety of ski slopes suited for advanced skiers as well as beginners. Facilities and services within the resort include a lodge, restaurants, rental shop, ski instruction classes, night time skiing, and other activities and events.¹³

Camping

Numerous camping options are available within Van Buren County and the four westernmost townships of Kalamazoo County. The campgrounds are listed below:

- **Covert Township Park**, Covert, Van Buren Co.
- **Leisure Valley**, Decatur, Van Buren Co.
- **Oak Shores Campground**, Decatur, Van Buren Co.
- **Pioneer Point Campground**, Lawton, Van Buren Co.
- **Thousand Adventures Travel Inn Resort**, Hartford, Van Buren Co.
- **Three Mile Mobile Home Park**, Paw Paw, Van Buren Co.
- **Timber Trails Tent And Trailer Park**, Decatur, Van Buren Co.
- **Van Buren State Park**, South Haven, Van Buren Co.

¹² *Van Buren Trail State Park*. Michigan Department of Natural Resources. August 13, 2004. <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.asp?id=503>.

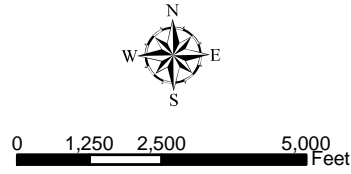
¹³ *Timber Ridge Website*. August 20, 2004. <http://www.timberidgeski.com/facilitiesShop.html>.

- **Winding River Campground**, South Haven, Van Buren Co.
- **Rota-Kiwan Boy Scout Camp**, Texas Township, Kalamazoo Co.
- **Pretty Lake Camp**, Texas Township, Kalamazoo Co.

Other Local Park and Recreation Facilities

In addition to the major regional recreational opportunities mentioned above, there are a significant number of local public parks and recreation facilities within the region. Many communities, especially the larger townships, cities, and villages contain public recreation facilities that are used not only by residents from the local community, but also by residents throughout the region. Two such communities are the cities of South Haven and Kalamazoo, which both serve as regional recreational destinations.

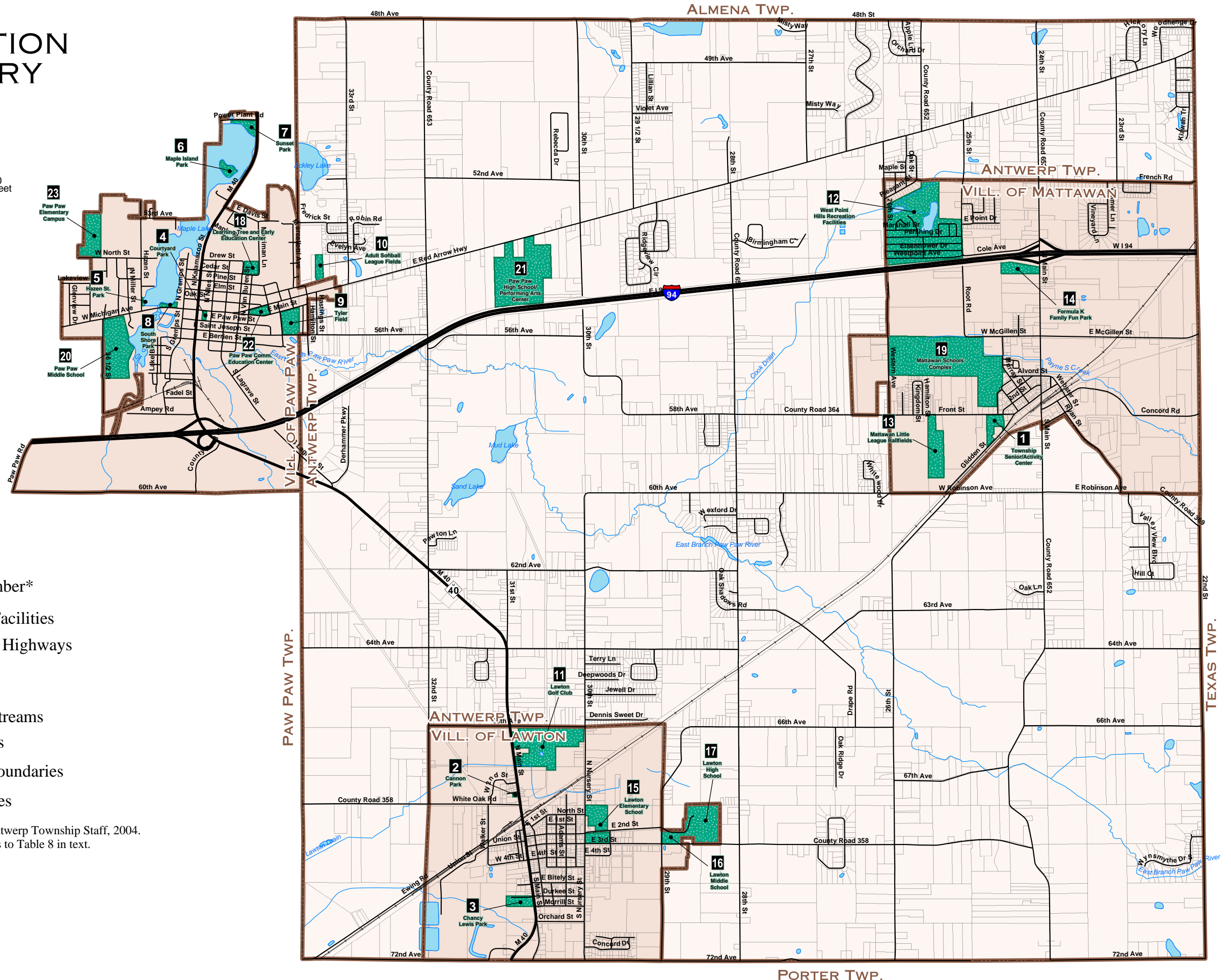
MAP 6 RECREATION INVENTORY



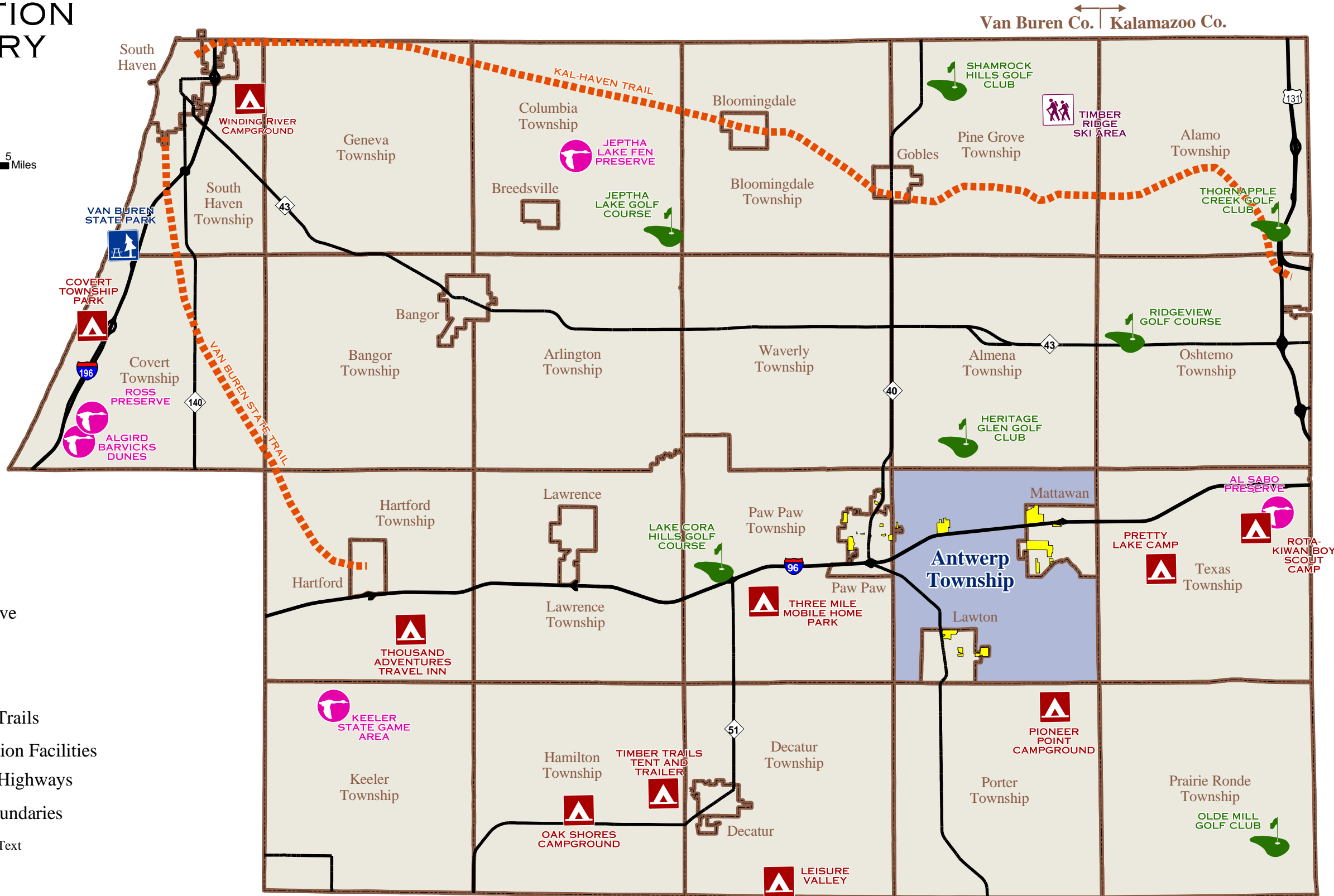
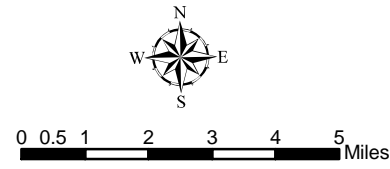
LEGEND

- 14 Facility Number*
- Recreation Facilities
- State or U.S. Highways
- Other Roads
- Railroads
- Rivers and Streams
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- Property Lines

Source: Data compiled by Antwerp Township Staff, 2004.
 *Facility number corresponds to Table 8 in text.
 Draft Date: December 2004.



MAP 7 REGIONAL RECREATION INVENTORY



LEGEND

- Skiing
- Camping
- Nature Preserve
- State Park
- Golf Courses
- Recreational Trails
- Local Recreation Facilities
- State or U.S. Highways
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Various Sources - See Text
Draft Date: December 2004.

Van Buren Co. | Kalamazoo Co.

BASIS FOR ACTION

The basis for action is intended to continue to analyze various factors within and outside of Antwerp Township that have an affect on the direction of recreation, and ultimately the capital improvements schedule over the next five years. This portion of the plan provides the rationale and framework for the goals, guidelines and recommended capital improvements based on an analysis and consideration of many elements including: current recreation trends, comparison of parks to acreage and facility standards, service area gaps, existing plans, and results of community and staff input.

Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally provide insight into activities that can be expected to draw a large number of participants and activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts national surveys that measure activities by participation and percent change from the previous survey. The definition of participation includes those persons seven years and older who have participated in the activity more than once during the year of the survey.

Table 9 ranks the top sports by total participation in 2002 and also compares the rate of change for each sport since 1997.

In 2002, the top five activities in which people participated were:

- Exercise walking (79.5 million)
- Camping (51.4 million)
- Exercising with Equipment (48.6 million)
- Swimming (47.0 million)
- Bowling (39.4 million)

In terms of change between 1997 and 2002, the top five fastest growing sports were:

- Snowboarding (73.5%)
- Skateboarding (55.3%)
- Kayaking/Rafting (47.1%)
- Kick Boxing (31.7%)
- Workout at Club (11.0%)

In terms of change between 1997 and 2002, the top five declining sports were:

- Roller Skating (in-line) (-40.9%)
- Ice/Figure Skating (-34.6%)
- Volleyball (-29.4%)
- Skiing (cross-country) (-26.8%)
- Sailing (-26.2%)

TABLE 9
SPORTS PARTICIPATION TRENDS
NATION-WIDE, 1997-2002

Sport	Participation (in millions)		Percent Change (%)	Rank by Change
	2002	1997		
Exercise Walking	79.5	77.6	2.4	12
Camping (vacation/overnite)	51.4	46.5	10.7	6
Exercising with Equipment	48.6	46.1	5.4	10
Swimming	47.0	58.2	-19.3	34
Bowling	39.4	40.1	-1.6	15
Fishing	38.2	43.6	-12.4	27
Bicycle Riding	36.3	43.5	-16.7	32
Billiards/Pool	30.5	32.3	-5.7	18
Workout at Club	29.5	26.5	11.0	5
Aerobic Exercising	28.0	25.8	8.8	7
Basketball	27.9	29.4	-5.2	17
Golf	25.7	27.5	-6.7	21
Hiking	25.0	27.2	-7.9	23
Boating, Motor/Power	24.2	25.7	-5.9	19
Running/Jogging	22.9	22.5	1.8	13
Hunting with Firearms	17.9	17.3	3.6	11
Target Shooting	17.0	18.9	-9.9	24
Roller Skating (in-line)	16.0	27.0	-40.9	41
Baseball	14.6	15.9	-7.7	22
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	13.7	14.6	-6.2	20
Softball	11.8	15.6	-24.1	35
Soccer	11.1	13.2	-15.8	31
Volleyball	10.4	14.8	-29.4	39
Tennis	9.6	11.2	-14.7	30
Football (touch)	9.3	10.8	-14.0	28
Skateboarding	9.0	5.8	55.3	2
Football (tackle)	8.7	8.1	6.1	8
Mountain Biking (off road)	8.2	8.6	-4.7	16
Skiing (alpine)	6.8	7.7	-11.8	26
Snowboarding	6.3	3.6	73.5	1
Water Skiing	5.5	7.2	-24.4	36
Ice/Figure Skating	5.1	7.8	-34.6	40
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	5.0	5.6	-11.4	25
Martial Arts	4.8	4.6	5.7	9
Kayaking/Rafting	4.7	3.2	47.1	3
Archery (target)	3.9	4.8	-19.1	33
Muzzleloading	3.1	3.1	0.0	14
Kick Boxing	3.0	2.3	31.7	4
Sailing	2.6	3.6	-26.2	37
Skiing (cross country)	1.9	2.6	-26.8	38
Hockey (ice)	1.8	2.1	-14.2	29

Source: National Sporting Goods Association Website, November 2004.

Facility Standards

In the process of determining and prioritizing needs, it is not only important to understand the national trends in terms of participation levels and popularity, but it is also imperative to compare the provision of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to facility recommendations may be used as another tool to determine needs within Antwerp Township.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has published typical recreation facility standards that can help a community identify recreation surpluses and deficiencies. The NRPA standards specify the approximate service radius for recreation facilities, the minimum space requirements for such facilities, and the number of facilities that are needed based on the total population of the community. Standards for facilities usually located within community parks are provided on **Table 10**. These standards can be used to begin to further identify recreation needs within the area.

TABLE 10
RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS

Activity/Facility	Minimum Space Requirements	Units per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	2,400-3,036 sq.ft.	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ Mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq.ft.	1 per 100,000	½ hour to 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration including travel time affecting number of units.
Tennis Court	7,200 sq.ft./court 2ac./complex	1 per 2,000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood community park or adjacent to school site.
Volleyball Court (Outdoor)	4,000 sq.ft.	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
<u>Ballfields</u> Baseball Little League Softball	3-3.85 acres 1.2 acres 1.5-2 acres	1 per 5,000; 1 lighted field per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted Fields part of community complex. Softball fields may also be used for youth baseball.
Football Field	1.5 acres	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Soccer Field	1.7-2.1 acres	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Swimming Pool	1.5 to 2 acres	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Located in community park or travel time school site.
Source: Data from Roger A Lancaster, Ed., <i>Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines</i> , Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983, pages 60-61.				

Recreation Deficiencies

As shown on Map 6 (previous chapter), only two recreation facilities are actually found within the limits of Antwerp Township: the Adult Softball League Fields and the recreation facilities within the Paw Paw High School complex. Comparing the number and type of amenities at these two facilities with the standards for recreation facilities listed above, it is possible to determine what facilities are lacking in Antwerp Township. Currently, Antwerp Township has a total population of 6,289 persons, but is projected to have a population of 7,164 by the year 2010 (see Table 2). Based on this projected population, **Table 11** shows the recreation facility deficiencies in Antwerp Township.

Due to Antwerp's close proximity to Paw Paw, Mattawan, and Lawton, the recreation facilities found within these neighboring communities have been taken into account throughout the preparation of this Recreation Plan. As such, **Table 11** also provides a listing of recreation deficiencies within the entire study area, based on the total projected 2010 population of the four communities combined (15,473).

TABLE 11
RECREATION FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
BASED ON PROJECTED 2010 POPULATION

Facility	Standard per Population	Required Facilities based on Projected Population*	Existing Facilities**	Deficiency
Antwerp Township Only (2010 projected population of 7,164)				
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	1	0	1
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	0	0
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	4	8	0
Volleyball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	1	0	1
Baseball Field	1 per 5,000	1	4	0
Football Field	1 per 20,000	0	1	0
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	1	2	0
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	0	0
Entire Study Area (total 2010 projected population of 15,473)				
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	3	20	0
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	1	0
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	8	30	0
Volleyball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	3	0	3
Baseball Field	1 per 5,000	3	24	0
Football Field	1 per 20,000	1	7	0
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	2	19	0
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	1	0	1
*Rounded to the nearest whole number.				
**Includes all Public, Private and School recreation facilities.				
Source: Table 10 Recreation Facility Standards and Table 8 Recreation Inventory.				

When compared to the published standards, Antwerp Township (not including the three villages) is deficient in the provision of two types of facilities: outdoor basketball and outdoor volleyball courts. For the entire study area, there is a deficiency of three outdoor volleyball courts as well as a swimming pool facility. This data can be used in conjunction with other factors contained within this chapter and information such as population projections, sports participation information, results of the community workshops and staff knowledge.

Public Involvement

During the development of the Recreation Plan, Antwerp Township conducted a survey of 600 randomly selected households in the Fall of 2005 (Appendix A). The survey was randomly sent to 600 households in the community. Of the 600 surveys sent, 275 surveys were returned, representing a return rate of almost 46%. The resident survey was instrumental in the formulation of the goals of the Recreation Plan.

The culmination of the public process was the public hearing that was held at the Township Hall as part of the adoption process. The Recreation Committee held a public hearing on August 2, 2006 at which time they adopted a resolution recommending that the Township Board adopt the Recreation Plan (Appendix A). On August 8, 2006, the Township Board adopted a resolution approving the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan (Appendix A).

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is a guideline for the activities and expenditures in the next five years toward the goals of the Township in sustaining, enhancing, and developing park and recreation facilities. It is a flexible plan used in budgeting, for grant applications, and as a guideline for future recreation opportunities. The Plan is reviewed every five years.

Three main goals were developed to guide the Township over the next five years. The formulation of these goals is a direct result of the Recreation Committee meetings, the public participation process, and the investigation conducted during the development of the Recreation Plan. This can be demonstrated by examining the Antwerp Township resident survey and the 2002 NSGA survey. The results of the resident survey indicated that pedestrian paths, bike paths, and nature trails are viewed as projects worthy of consideration. The resident survey also indicated that preservation of open space and environmental education areas are worthwhile endeavors. The NSGA survey indicated that exercise walking was the number one activity in which people participated. Once the goals were developed, specific guidelines, also called action items, had to be developed to identify steps that should be acted on to achieve the desired goal. Each action item is accompanied by a timeframe that should be used in the pursuit of each goal.

Goal: Create the framework for the railway/ecology park concept.
Year 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish/adopt by-laws for the Recreation Committee and establish the administrative structure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop relationships with State and local agencies. For example: Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Nature Conservancy, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy; Southwest Michigan Regional Planning Commission; Van Buren County Planning Commission; Van Buren County Road Commission; and local service groups and organizations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find and retain consultant for railway/ecology park planning.
Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin public relations, education, fundraising efforts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and adopt ordinances to protect crucial lands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an overlay district for the proposed railway/ecology park.

Goal: Identify and assess potential recreational lands.
Year 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and evaluate environmentally crucial and important lands in the Township.
Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the availability of crucial lands for purchase or protection. Obtain easements for planned trailways and require installation in certain areas.
Year 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire properties that are deemed acceptable through the evaluation and investigation process.

Goal: Implement trailway/ecology park plan.
Year 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create trailway/ecology park conceptual plan and design standards.
Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine phases for implementation. Identify and plan trailhead parks.
Year 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize plan and design Phase I of trail system.
Year 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue design and acquisition of planned lands. Begin Phase I construction.
Year 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin Phase II construction.

APPENDIX A



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

By Authority of Parts 18, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION
Name of Plan: Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan 2006-2011
Table with 3 columns: List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan, County, Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body.

PLAN CONTENT
INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.
List of items with checkboxes: 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION, 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE, 3. RECREATION INVENTORY, 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL), 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

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

Date of the Notice June 30, 2006

Type of Notice Newspaper

Plan Location Antwerp Township Hall

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 34 Days

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

Date of Notice June 30, 2006

Name of Newspaper The Courier-Leader

Date of Meeting August 2, 2006

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

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

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

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

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: August 15, 2006

2. Official resolution of the Planning Commission Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: August 2, 2006

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: October 25, 2006

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: October 25, 2006

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Antwerp Township
(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

Date

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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

12/31/2011
Date

By:

Grants Management

Date

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

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

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

**Notice of Recreation Plan Survey
For Antwerp Township Residents**

Antwerp Township is in the process of drafting a Community Recreation Plan. This plan will help ensure that future generations in Antwerp Township have a variety of recreational opportunities and open space areas. Six hundred (600) Township households were randomly selected to receive a survey related to the Recreational Plan. If you have not received a survey but would like to participate, you may pick up a copy at the Antwerp Township Hall, 24821 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI. The office hours are: Monday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; the office is closed on Friday. We encourage the public's participation in this survey. Please return all surveys no later than October 10, 2005.

Sept. 30, 2005

**OFFICE OF
THE COURIER-LEADER**

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN 49079

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

SS.

County of Van Buren,

Robin L. Racette-Griffin

being duly sworn, says I am the printer of
THE COURIER-LEADER,

a weekly newspaper printed and circulating in said county, that the annexed is a printed copy of notice published in said paper, that the first insertion was on the 30th day of September A.D. 2005, and the same was published each week thereafter until the day of ~~day of~~ One time only A.D. 2005, when the last insertion appeared.

Robin L. Racette-Griffin, Printer.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this
30th day of September, A.D. 2005

Judy A. Janda
NOTARY PUBLIC, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

JUDY A. JANDA
Notary Public, Van Buren Co., MI
My Commission Expires 11/24/2008

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES _____

Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan Survey

Dear Resident:

Here is your copy of the Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan Survey. It should take only a few minutes to complete and will provide local officials valuable insight into how the residents feel about a number of recreation and open space issues. Thank you in advance for your assistance and if you have any questions, please call Linda Anderson at 1.800.931.9135.

General Information

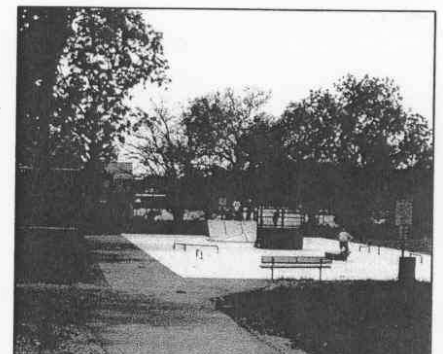
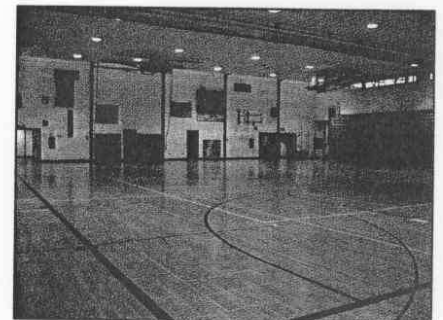
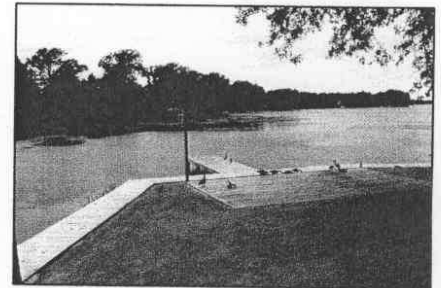
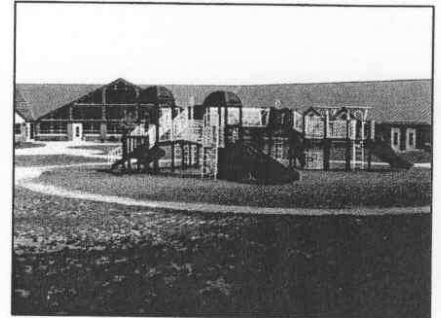
(Number in parentheses are from the 2000 survey)

- 1) How many years have you lived in the community?
 - Less than 2 years **8% (9%)**
 - 2 to 5 years **19% (15%)**
 - 6 to 10 years **13% (11%)**
 - 10 to 20 years **17% (26%)**
 - More than 20 Years **43% (40%)**

- 2) Which best describes your household?
 - Single adult living alone **10% (12%)**
 - Single adult with children **5% (6%)**
 - Married couple w/no children living at home **43% (34%)**
 - Married couple with children at home **38% (46%)**
 - Two or more unrelated adults **4% (2%)**

- 3) Which of the following ranges includes your age?
 - 18-24 years – (**<1%**)
 - 25-34 years **12% (14%)**
 - 35-44 years **20% (26%)**
 - 45-54 years **29% (28%)**
 - 55-64 years **27% (17%)**
 - 65-74 years **7% (8%)**
 - 75 years or older **5% (7%)**

- 4) Which best describes your home?
 - Farmstead **6% (10%)**
 - Single family home on one acre or more **46% (55%)**
 - Single-family home on less than one acre **40% (27%)**
 - Duplex **<1% (0%)**
 - Apartment **0% (3%)**
 - Condominium **0% (0%)**
 - Modular or mobile home on your own lot **6% (6%)**
 - Modular or mobile home in a mobile home park **<1% (<1%)**

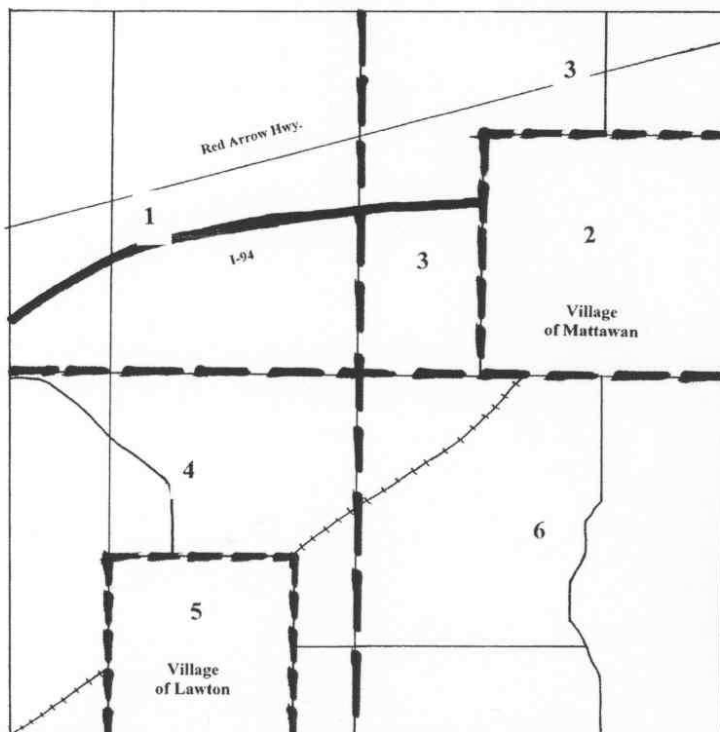


5) Do you rent or own your home?

- Rent <1% (4%)
- Own 100% (96%)

6) Using the map on the next page, indicate the area of the Township in which your primary residence located.

- 1 29% (31%)
- 2 1% (6%)
- 3 26% (22%)
- 4 21% (17%)
- 5 <1% (3%)
- 6 19% (21%)



7) How often do you use the following regional recreation facilities?
(Responses shown by percentage of total)

FACILITY	SOMETIMES (Between 1 and 4 times per year).	OFTEN (More than 5 times per year)	NEVER
Kal-Haven Trail	30	5	65
Timber Ridge Ski Area	19	4	77
Keeler State Game Area	5	<1	95
Campgrounds	20	8	72
Golf Courses	25	28	27
Lake Michigan Beaches	50	30	20
Lake Michigan Boating	20	10	70
Dune Preserves	25	5	70
Other (Please List)			

8) Of the following, which recreation/environmental projects do you feel are worthwhile expenditures for Antwerp Township? (Responses shown by percentage of total)

Projects Ranking	Extremely important! (I would support a millage for this)	Important! (I hope to see action on this).	Somewhat important. (It would be nice to see)	Not important. (Don't waste money on this)	Don't have an opinion or don't care.	Don't have an opinion but would like to know more.
Teen/Youth Recreation Center	14	15	38	14	14	5
Pedestrian/Bike Paths along roadways	19	27	27	16	9	2
Public Golf Courses	4	8	20	47	19	2
Nature Preserves/Nature Trails/ Environmental Education Areas	15	24	37	12	10	2
Soccer Fields	5	18	30	26	17	4
Ball Fields	5	17	34	25	17	2
Tennis Courts	2	14	28	32	21	3
Senior Citizen Activities Center	10	24	37	12	15	2
Cross Country Trails (hiking, biking, skiing)	11	30	27	16	13	3
Hunting areas	8	7	17	44	22	2
Sidewalks in subdivisions	5	14	20	39	20	2
Canoeing/fishing access (Paw Paw River)	6	18	29	24	20	3
Land Preservation/farms	21	22	23	13	17	4
Land Preservation/ecologically sensitive	19	26	22	13	16	4
Land Preservation/natural open space	18	27	23	13	16	3
Baseball/softball fields	7	15	32	28	16	2
Football fields	4	13	25	37	19	2
Neighborhood parks (subdivisions)	8	24	21	25	20	2
Other (please list)						

Antwerp Township Recreation Plan Survey Summary of Responses

A total of 275 Recreation Plan surveys have been returned as of October 24, 2005. With the exception of the Villages of Lawton and Paw Paw, the returns came in consistent with the percentage of population in each quadrant of the Township. According to the 2002 Master Plan, there were estimated to be 2441 households in the Township in 2002. A statistically accurate survey (6%) would result in returns from 146 households. We have exceeded that number with a return of eleven percent. This will be adequate to cover additional households since 2002.

Demographics

We compared the demographic returns with the responses from the 2000 survey and found the responses to be generally consistent. There were a few notable changes in the responses received including the number of childless couples living in Antwerp Township. In 2000, 34% of respondents were married couples with no children at home. In 2005 the same demographic group jumped to 43%. This statistic is validated by the large increase in the age group 55-64 (up 10% since 2000). That age group is generally referred to as the "empty nesters" or "baby boom" group and will proceed to swell the next age group, those 65-74, over the next several years.

Also of interest is the reverse of residents living on lots of less than one acre. In 2000, 55% of respondents lived in single family homes on lots of more than one acre in size. In 2005, that number dropped to 46% while the number living on homesites of less than one acre jumped from 27% to 40%. This is a result of new subdivisions established over the past few years. This development trend is also demonstrated in the drop in those living on farmsteads from 10% to 6%.

Recreation Preferences

The question "How often do you use the following regional recreation facilities?" brought responses indicating that Lake Michigan beaches and local golf courses are the most used regional resources. Only 20% of respondents stated that they *never* use the beaches and 27% *never* use the golf courses. While the beaches are a popular spot, boating on Lake Michigan was pursued by less than one-half of the bathers.

Several facilities rated poorly in that residents report never using them. Included in the poor showing are Keeler State Game Area, Campgrounds, Dune Preserves and the Kal-Haven Trail with 95%, 72%, 70% and 65%, respectively.

Residents in two age groups, 35-44 and 45-54, were consistently more likely to be frequent users of the regional facilities than the other age groups. This could be attributable to the fact that persons in these age groups would be the most likely to have school age children at home prompting them to use the facilities.

One interesting note is that the most active users of the regional facilities live in the northwest quadrant of the Township. Residents there were at least two percentage points higher in their use of facilities than the next highest users in the northeast quadrant. This high use of facilities might be partially attributable to the fact that there are more people living on smaller lots in those areas as opposed to the southwest and southeast where larger homesites are more common.

The next section of the questionnaire asked the respondents to rate a number of future recreation possibilities. Those projects involving land preservation came in with relatively high scores with an important rating (the total of the three *important* ratings) of greater than 65%. The top rated overall item in this section was Nature Preserves/Nature Trails and Environmental Education Areas with 76% of respondents rating those uses as important. Pedestrian Bike Paths along roadways and cross country hiking trails also came in with strong positive responses of 73% and 68% respectively for those stating importance.

In the 2000 survey, open space preservation was an important issue and it appears it is equally as important in 2005. Land Preservation/Farms garnered the highest Extremely Important response at 21%. Tennis Courts rated lowest in this regard at 2%. Fifty-three percent of respondents rated tennis courts as either Not Important or Don't have an Opinion/Don't Care. The two uses rated lowest overall in this section were Public Golf Courses and Hunting Areas.

The rating of Don't Have an Opinion but Would Like to Know More did not receive a lot of responses in this survey. Teen Youth Center rated highest at 5% but the majority of uses received 2-3% of responses.

With the exception of Hunting Areas, Sidewalks in Subdivisions and Baseball/Softball Fields, respondents living in the community for more than 20 years tended to give higher scores to the uses in this section than did other groups. Sidewalks in Subdivisions and Bike paths Along Roadways received highest interest from residents in the northeast quadrant. Respondents in the southeast quadrant felt the strongest about land preservation issues with responses of extremely important near 20%.

For complete return information, please refer to the attached survey pages.

Written Comments

Forty-one respondents added written comments to their returns. Some of these were irrelevant to a recreation program such as a desire for downtown beautification in Lawton, improved road maintenance, curbside recycling and the need for more restaurants. The most often seen comments were related to the senior center, taxes and ball fields. Respondents commenting on these issues generally felt the community center is underutilized and could be used for a number of leisure classes and other activities for seniors. Many felt that any improvements to recreation should be made through user fees and not a general millage. It was also stated several times that the ball fields at the schools are more than adequate for Antwerp Township residents.

Of the written ideas for additional facilities, a community pool and skateboarding park came in on top with five references each. Playgrounds and a nature center each received three votes. Other uses proposed with one mention each were:

Climbing tower
Casino
Indoor basketball courts
Indoor track course
Cable access center (for production)
Trails for hikers only
Mountain bike course
Motorized trails

Three respondents recommended primary areas for bike paths including Red Arrow Highway, 24th Street north of Mattawan and routes to connect residential areas to the Kal-Haven Trail.

Antwerp Township Planning Commission
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 2, 2006

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Antwerp Township Planning Commission on Wednesday, August 2, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Hall at 24821 Front Avenue to receive public comments and consider the adoption of the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan.

A Recreation Plan assists the Township in identifying recreation needs within the community. The plan will serve as a guide for improving and expanding recreation programs and facilities. While a Recreation Plan assists the community in determining its goals and needs, if approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), it also qualifies the community for recreation grants which are administered through the MDNR Grants Administration Section. The proposed Recreation Plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the Township, an inventory of existing facilities, a needs assessment and analysis, and finally recommended goals and guidelines for the next five years.

The hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for interested citizens to express their opinions regarding the aspects of the proposed Recreation Plan.

Copies of the proposed Antwerp Township Recreation Plan will be available for review at the Township Hall AFTER June 29, 2006.

June 30, 2006

LAWRENCE Community Calendar

-
- | | |
|--------|--|
| JULY 1 | Village Council Dept. of Public Works Comm., 6 p.m. |
| JULY 3 | American Legion, 7 p.m.
Lawrence School Board, 7:30 p.m.
Lawrence Twp. Quick Response, 7 p.m.
(Lawrence Fire Station) |
| JULY 4 | INDEPENDENCE DAY |
| JULY 5 | Village Council Police Comm., 6:30 p.m. |
| JULY 6 | Lawrence Fire Dept. Business Meeting |

LEONARD FUNERAL HOME

Gerald M. Birmele, Owner Dale D. Leonard, Manager

222 East St. Joseph Street • Lawrence

Draft of the Regular Antwerp Township Planning Commission Meeting
August 2, 2006

1. Call to Order-Chairperson Cronenwett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
2. Roll Call-Present: Derhammer, Paquin, Van Uum, Cronenwett, Schultz and Driscoll
Absent & Excused: Kucinich
3. Approval of Minutes- Motion by Driscoll second by Van Uum to approve the minutes of July 12, 2006 as presented. Abstained: Derhammer and Schultz. All others voted in favor.
4. Approval of Agenda- Motion by Driscoll second by Schultz to approve the agenda with the following addition by Cronenwett 9B. Discussion of Cerven rezoning. Addition by Driscoll 8A. Continuing education. All voted in favor.
5. Public Hearings-Antwerp Township Recreation Plan
Chair Cronenwett called the public hearing to order at 7:05 pm
Public Comment-none
Motion by Driscoll second by Derhammer to close public hearing at 7:05 pm

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION ANTWERP TOWNSHIP PLANNING
COMMISSION/RECREATION COMMITTEE. ANTWERP TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2006-2011.

WHEREAS, the Antwerp Township Planning Commission has been appointed as the Recreation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has overseen the development of the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a survey of residents of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan has been completed and a public hearing held before the Planning Commission on August 2, 2006 to hear comments from the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Antwerp Township Planning Commission does hereby recommend the adoption of the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan 2006-2011

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation Plan shall serve as a guide to future recreation development in Antwerp Township.

Motion by Driscoll Supported by Van Uum Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Absent 1

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items-none
7. Unfinished Business-none
8. New Business
 - A. Continuing Education-Driscoll reported on an educational workshop that will be available for commissioners on local government's important role in environmental protection. Request that the office make copies and disburse them to planning commissioners for consideration.
 9. Any other Business/On-Going Business
 - A. Zoning Ordinance Amendments-discussion by Cronenwett in regards to suggestions made by the subcommittee of, Van Uum, Driscoll and Cronewett for reviewing the following areas of the ordinance.
 1. Corridor overlay should have design guidelines. 2. Sidewalk discussion. 3. Greenbelt ordinance will be re-done to be user friendly. 4. Commissioners need to review previous notes for discussion next month, on trailers (blight) there is a need to define terms better and clarify wording. 5. PUD discussion.
 - B. Discussion of Cerven rezoning-clarification of tabled action, there is no set deadline for this tabled action.

Derhammer excused from meeting at 8:10 pm.

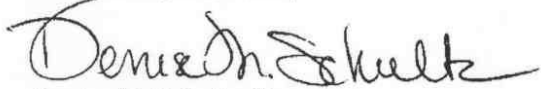
10. Public Comments and Communications Concerning Items not on the agenda
Gary Stock-commented that the booklet of Design Guidelines would be helpful reference for commissioners in regard to sidewalks/trail development in communities.

Driscoll request that the township office copy and disperse to commissioners the following: Antwerp Township Code of Conduct, Antwerp Township Planning Commission Rules for the Transaction of Business and the information on the Educational Workshop-Filling the Gaps: Local Government's Important Role in Environmental Protection.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Driscoll second by Schultz to adjourn. All voted in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise M. Schultz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Denise M. Schultz, Secretary

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP BOARD

ANTWERP TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2006-2011

WHEREAS, the Antwerp Township Board of Trustees has appointed the Planning Commission as the Recreation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission was asked to oversee and guide the planning process and to provide a recommendation in the form of a draft Recreation Plan to the Township Board for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has made investigations and surveys of the existing recreation resources and probable future need for recreation facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan has been completed and a public hearing held before the Planning Commission on August 2, 2006 to hear comments from the public; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the Recreation Plan and passed a resolution recommending adoption at their meeting on August 2, 2006

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Antwerp Township Board of Trustees does hereby adopt the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan 2006-2011, to serve as a guide to future recreation development in Antwerp Township.


Motion by Cutting

Supported by Osborne

Ayes: -4-
Nays: -0-
Absent: -1-

I, Virg Hendrickson, Clerk of Antwerp Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Antwerp Township Board at its regular meeting held on August 15, 2006.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2006


Virg Hendrickson, Township Clerk

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION / RECREATION COMMITTEE
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2006-2011

WHEREAS, the Antwerp Township Planning Commission has been appointed as the Recreation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has overseen the development of the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a survey of residents of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan has been completed and a public hearing held before the Planning Commission on August 2, 2006 to hear comments from the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Antwerp Township Planning Commission does hereby recommend the adoption of the Antwerp Township Recreation Plan 2006-2011

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation Plan shall serve as a guide to future recreation development in Antwerp Township.

Motion by Driscoll

Supported by Van Uum

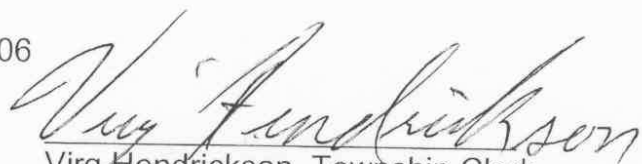
Ayes: -6-

Nays: -0-

Absent: -0-

I, Virg Hendrickson, Clerk of Antwerp Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Antwerp Township Planning Commission\Recreation Committee at its regular meeting held on August 2, 2006.

Dated this 2nd. day of August, 2006


Virg Hendrickson, Township Clerk



If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

To: Van Buren County Planning Commission
219 Paw Paw Street
Suite 303
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Date: October 25, 2006

Attn: Mr. Ted Thar, GIS Coordinator

Transmitted By: [X] Regular Mail [] Overnight Delivery
[] Hand Delivered
[] Picked Up By:
[] Other:

RE: Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan

We are transmitting [1] copy(s) of the following:

- [] Certificate for Payment No. [] Discs [] Prints [] Specs.
[] Contract Change Order No. [] Drawings [] Product Literature [] Tracings
[] Construction Change Req. No. [] Field Measure Plans [] Samples [] Work Orders No.
[] Copy of Letter [] Plans [] Shop Drawings
[X] Other: Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan

For your: [] Action [] As Requested [] Information [X] Review/Comment [] Use
[] Approval [] Distribution [] Records /Files [] Signature

Remarks: On behalf of Antwerp Township, we are forwarding a copy of the recently approved Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan for your review. A copy of this plan has also been sent to the Southwestern Michigan Commission for their review. Please contact us if you have any comments or questions. Thank you.

Job No. ANT 2060-03N

By: Mark Kellenberger/sc

cc: Mr. Dan Ruzick, Antwerp Township Supervisor

\\grdata\projects\ANT2060\03N\Admin-support\Transmit\Van Buren County Letter of Transmittal.doc

25251 Northline Road 734.947.9700
P.O. Box 10 800.482.2864
Taylor, MI 48180 734.947.9726 fax
www.wadetrim.com



If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

To: Southwestern Michigan Commission
185 East Main Street
Suite 701
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Date: October 25, 2006

Attn:

Transmitted By: [X] Regular Mail [] Overnight Delivery
[] Hand Delivered
[] Picked Up By:
[] Other:

RE: Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan

We are transmitting 1 copy(s) of the following:

- ___ Certificate for Payment No. ___ Discs ___ Prints ___ Specs.
___ Contract Change Order No. ___ Drawings ___ Product Literature ___ Tracings
___ Construction Change Req. No. ___ Field Measure Plans ___ Samples ___ Work Orders No.
___ Copy of Letter ___ Plans ___ Shop Drawings
[X] Other: Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan

For your: ___ Action ___ As Requested ___ Information [X] Review/Comment ___ Use
___ Approval ___ Distribution ___ Records /Files ___ Signature

Remarks: On behalf of Antwerp Township, we are forwarding a copy of the recently approved Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan for your review. A copy of this plan has also been sent to the Van Buren County Planning Commission for their review. Please contact us if you have any comments or questions. Thank you.

Job No. ANT 2060-03N

By: Mark Kellenberger/sc

cc: Mr. Dan Ruzick, Antwerp Township Supervisor

\\grdata\projects\ANT2060\03N\Admin-support\Transmit\Southwestern Michigan Commission Letter of Transmittal.doc

25251 Northline Road 734.947.9700
P.O. Box 10 800.482.2864
Taylor, MI 48180 734.947.9726 fax
www.wadetrim.com



If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

To: Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Section
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

Date: October 25, 2006

Attn: Ms. Lisa McTiernan

Transmitted By: [X] Regular Mail [] Overnight Delivery
[] Hand Delivered
[] Picked Up By:
[] Other:

RE: Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan

We are transmitting 1 copy(s) of the following:

- ___ Certificate for Payment No. ___ Discs ___ Prints ___ Specs.
___ Contract Change Order No. ___ Drawings ___ Product Literature ___ Tracings
___ Construction Change Req. No. ___ Field Measure Plans ___ Samples ___ Work Orders No.
___ Copy of Letter ___ Plans ___ Shop Drawings
[X] Other: Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan

For your: ___ Action ___ As Requested ___ Information [X] Review/Comment ___ Use
___ Approval ___ Distribution ___ Records /Files ___ Signature

Remarks: On behalf of Antwerp Township, we are forwarding a copy of the recently approved Antwerp Township Community Recreation Plan for your review and approval. A copy of this plan has also been sent to the Van Buren County Planning Commission and the Southwestern Michigan Commission for their review. Please contact us if you have any comments or questions. Thank you.

Job No. ANT 2060-03N

By: Mark Kellenberger

cc: Mr. Dan Ruzick, Antwerp Township Supervisor

\\grdata\projects\ANT2060\03N\Admin-support\Transmit\MDNR Letter of Transmittal (2).doc

25251 Northline Road 734.947.9700
P.O. Box 10 800.482.2864
Taylor, MI 48180 734.947.9726 fax
www.wadetrim.com



BAY CITY, MI
800.322.4500
989.686.3100

CLEVELAND, OH
216.363.0300

DETROIT, MI
313.961.3650

FLINT, MI
810.235.2555

GAYLORD, MI
800.968.4440
989.732.3584

GRAND RAPIDS, MI
616.363.8181
800.931.9135

INDIANAPOLIS, IN
317.829.5881

LIVONIA, MI
734.432.3100

PALM BAY, FL
321.728.3389

PITTSBURGH, PA
412.454.5566

TAMPA, FL
813.882.8366

TAYLOR, MI
800.482.2864
734.947.9700

TRAVERSE CITY, MI
800.968.6660
231.947.7400

Antwerp Township
Community Recreation Plan