



A. INTRODUCTION



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Parks and recreation are vital to human mental and physical health. An increased quality of life is realized when people live and work in a community with a well-developed park system that can provide recreational experiences for all age groups. Not only does recreation provide an outlet for daily stress, parks also hold significant land in trust for public use and for ecological, educational, and economic benefits. Parks offer a place for families, friends, and societies to share experiences, and provide locations for physical exercise as well as opportunities to appreciate the beauty of nature.

The Washtenaw County park system began in 1973 with four small roadside parks. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) now owns or manages 1847 acres of parks and has protected 1807 acres of valuable land through the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP). WCPARC has made a serious commitment to expand hike and bike trails throughout the county through its Connecting Communities Initiative, and the completion of several important segments of the planned 35-mile Border to Border Trail (B2B) is WCPARC's most significant accomplishment toward meeting this commitment. WCPARC also continues to work collaboratively with other organizations and communities to develop greenspace, trails, and preserve open land.

Figure 1 shows the locations of each Washtenaw County park and nature preservation area.

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's mission statement is: **"... to enhance the quality of life in the County by promoting a healthy lifestyle, efficiently providing high quality facilities and programs reflective of current and anticipated recreational needs of County residents and visitors – with particular emphasis on preserving fragile lands, water quality, wildlife habitat, creating pedestrian and greenway connections, and providing high quality services to those of all backgrounds."**

This 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an ongoing effort to meet this mission by providing information to develop and update recreation and resource goals and objectives, and to enable the County to become eligible for State of Michigan recreation grants.

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010 - 2014

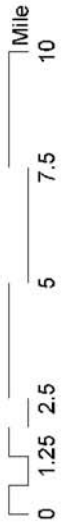
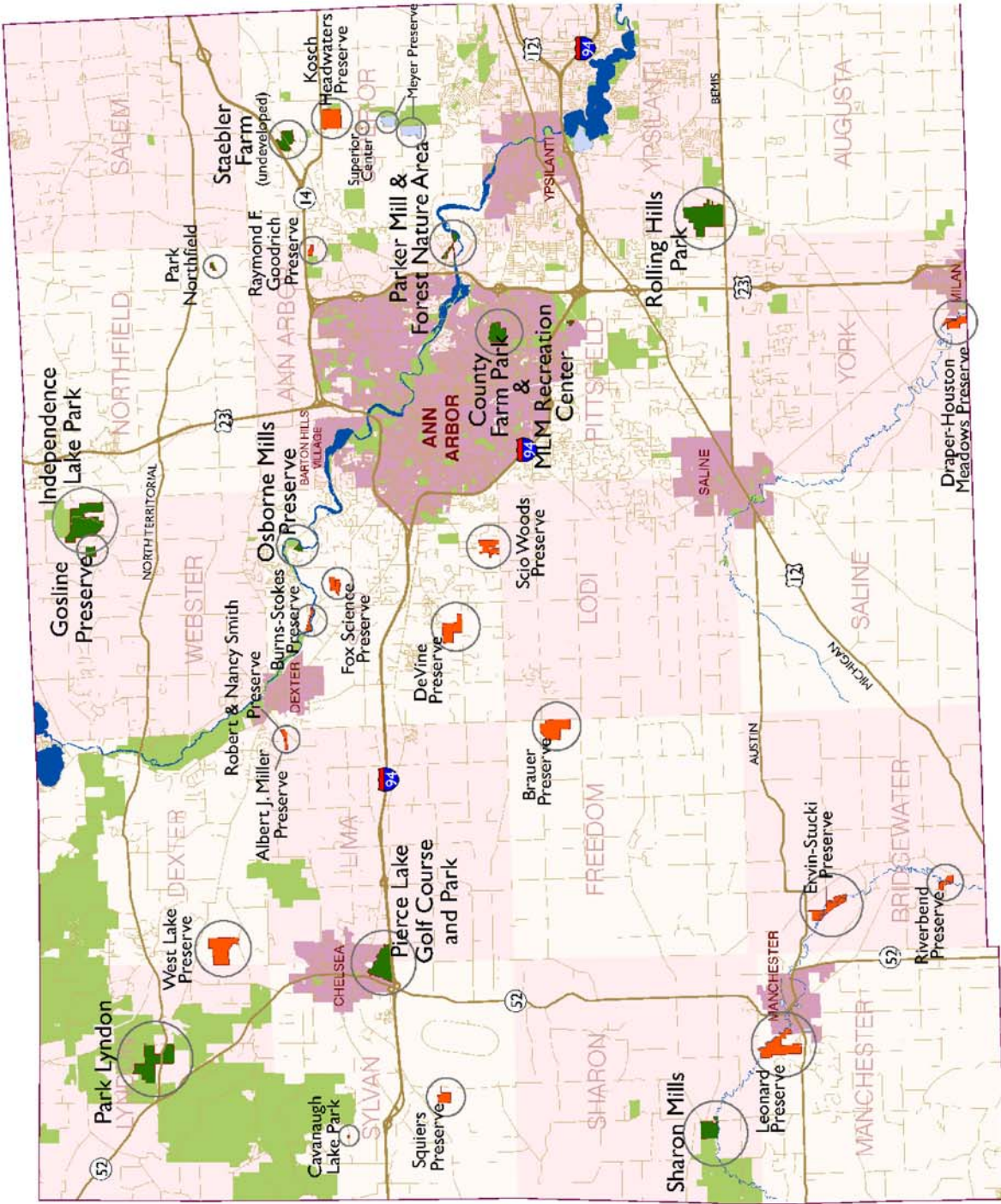


Figure 1.
Facilities Map

Prepared by:
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
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Data:
Washtenaw County GIS

Legend

-  County Park
-  County Preserve
-  Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)
-  Other Public Recreation & Conservation Lands



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