



D. RECREATION INVENTORY



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I. Description of Washtenaw County Parks, Preserves, and Trails

Since 1973 the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has strived to develop and enhance their park system, and now the County provides access to over 1800 acres of parks, open spaces, trails, rivers and lakes, diverse ecosystems, a golf course, a recreation center, mills, a water park and spray park, and a family aquatic center. WCPARC has preserved and protected over 1800 acres of nature areas and are helping to develop a County-wide trail system. The Commission also offers a diverse, entertaining, and educational array of programs for all ages that run the gamut from toddlers to seniors. Figure 1 (page 2) shows locations of all the parks and preserves, and descriptions of each follows. A map may also be found on WCPARC's website at:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/directions/directional_map/parks_map.html

a. Washtenaw County Parks (in alphabetical order):

Cavanaugh Lake Park (3 ac.)

This small park features lakeside picnic areas, covered picnic shelters, a children's play area, and fishing opportunities. There is no swimming allowed in Cavanaugh Lake Park, and the park is not wheelchair accessible. This park is open year-round.



Cavanaugh Lake. Source: WCPARC

County Farm Park (127 ac.): In 1836, 141 acres of county land was bought from Claudius Britton for \$1200. A poor house and insane asylum were built in 1837 and used until 1917 when a brick hospital was constructed and named the Washtenaw Infirmary. The Infirmary operated until 1967. In 1972, it was vacated (and eventually razed) and Project Grow began using 8 acres of land for their gardens. Land was transferred to the operation of the newly formed WCPARC in 1973. The Parcours exercise trail was constructed in 1976 (the fitness equipment was replaced in 2000). In 1991, the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center opened in the northeastern corner of County Farm Park, where the Infirmary stood years ago.



This park contains the Britton Woods Nature Area, an 18 acre woodlot named after the last private farmer to own County Farm Park. It contains an interesting mixture of upland and floodplain tree species. Oak, hickory, and cherry species reflect the upland nature of this wooded knoll, while maple, ash, ironwood, and hornbeam occur on the floodplain soils deposited by a glacial water course. Together with trillium and other wild flowers, Britton Woods is a reflection of the Ann Arbor area landscape in presettlement times.

County Farm was primarily used as agricultural land, but it has since renaturalized with lush fields, dense hedgerows, and brushy cover. In this renewed habitat, known as "Old Field Succession", rabbits, pheasant, woodchucks, and skunks, as well as numerous bird species, are found. There are regular sightings of fox and deer. As with all WCPARC parks, the plants, animals, fruits, and flowers of County Farm Park are protected against picking and collecting.

Park facilities include two pavilion/shelters that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis; a perennial garden and community garden; walking/jogging/biking trails; and the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center.

Independence Lake Park (405 ac.): Independence Lake County Park offers swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking, biking, disc golf, and rollerblading in a natural setting.

The Beach Center houses the park office with year round restroom facilities and includes a concession and patio eating area. The Spray Zone, a splash play area with geysers, jet streams and foamies, appeals to all ages, but is particularly exciting for those who are 12 and younger. There is also a Meeting Room that looks out onto the lake and woodlands. The room contains a large screen making it an appropriate site for presentations, meetings and office retreats.



Enjoying the water at Independence Lake Park.
Source: WCPARC

During summer months, Independence Lake offers a sandy beach and swimming as well as excellent picnic areas for family gatherings. The park rents paddleboats and rowboats and also offers a launch site for



canoes, kayaks and motorized boats with ten or less horsepower. There are four picnic pavilions of various sizes to accommodate small groups or several hundred people for birthday parties, family reunions, weddings and company picnics.

A new 18-hole disc golf course was added in 2008 that combines a wilderness experience with play. The course has challenging mixed open/closed fairways with only seasonal play at this point.

Other park activities include hiking nature trails through diverse habitat including wetlands, prairies, and great stands of oaks. Pre-arranged nature programs or guided interpretive tours are available with a Parks Naturalist. Two miles of paved multiuse trails are provided for walkers, runners, bikers or rollerbladers.

This park is open year-round, where winter opportunities offer ice fishing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. There is a fee to visit Independence Lake Park.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center: Since the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center opened in 1991 it has been a popular venue for recreation enthusiasts. The Center helps to achieve the WCPARC's mission to "enhance the quality of life by promoting healthy lifestyles, and providing high quality facilities, programs, and services..." The center has approximately 51,000 square feet of space dedicated to fitness and recreation, and has close to 400,000 visitors annually.

Amenities available at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center include:

- 4 lane wheelchair accessible swimming pool (25 yards long, 3 1/2' shallow end, 6 1/2' deep end)
- Gymnasium (multi-court)
- Cardio Training equipment including stationary bikes, stepper units, rowers, treadmills and elliptical cross trainers
- Strength Training equipment including weight circuit stations, incline benches, hand weights and a multi-station weight machine for users with disabilities
- Two lane elevated walk/run track
- Men's and women's locker rooms with coin operated lockers
- An Assisted Care locker room for anyone needing assistance changing to or from exercise or swim apparel
- Class offerings include fitness, dance, water exercise and instructional swimming for all ages.



A fee is required to use the amenities of the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center.

Osborne Mill Preserve (39 ac.): This land was deeded by The Nature Conservancy to County Parks for preservation as a natural area. Walking trails are available but there are no services. A trail follows the river downstream until it reaches private property. Occasionally, nature walks are led by the Parks staff.

Park Lyndon (340 ac.): Located in the hilly northwestern corner of the county, Park Lyndon contains one of southern Michigan's finest natural area preserves. Over 500 species of plants, some of them quite rare, are found in a wide variety of habitats including fens, marshes, bogs, ponds, forest, and prairie. Two miles of marked nature trails wind through the steep, glacially sculpted hillsides, connecting to the state's Waterloo-Pinckney Trail for a combined hiking experience of almost 50 miles.



Forestry Management with Controlled Burning.
Source: WCPARC

The park is divided by North Territorial Road. Park Lyndon North contains extensive wetlands, hiking trails, picnic areas, and a picnic shelter with grill, children's play area, and toilets. The trail system in this portion of the park connects various area ecological communities known collectively as Embury Swamp Natural Area Preserve. Opportunities abound for birding, photography, or botanizing. Much of the upland part of the trail is along an esker.

Park Lyndon South was formerly grazing land in the 1940s. This portion of the park also contains grassy picnic areas and picnic shelter, water pump, toilets, and hiking trails. The trails wind through oak-hickory forests, pine plantations, fields, wetlands, and Lake Genevieve. These trails are also accessible in the winter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Bicycling is prohibited on the trails.

Park Northfield (12 ac.): This park offers a relatively isolated, natural setting on a busy through route. The park contains a lowland hardwood forest, a small marsh at its western edge, a large rolling open field, and a natural oak hedgerow along its eastern border. Facilities include a picnic area and shelter, nature trail, children's play equipment, toilets and an informal playfield area.



Parker Mill Park (44 ac.): Parker Mill County Park is comprised of 27 acres owned by the County and 18 acres on long-term lease from the City of Ann Arbor. This tract is mostly wooded land that encompasses the lower reach of Fleming Creek, including the mouth of the creek, where it joins the Huron River. Several trails are available at this park.

The Parker Grist Mill was built in 1873 and is one of the historic treasures in the Washtenaw County area. The mill is operable and contains original milling machinery left in the mill when the Parker family ceased operation in 1958. The mill is open for public tours on weekends in the fall, and group tours are available by appointment May – October, and several programming events are held here during the year.

The Hoyt G. Post Trail is a mile long handicap-accessible boardwalk which accesses five natural/interpretive areas along Fleming Creek and near the Huron River. This trail is a flat walkway with wide side curbs to keep wheelchairs and walkers on the boardwalk. This trail was constructed with a donation made by the late John C. and Thelma B. Post, in honor of John's brother, Hoyt Garrod. The trail is available to walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers year-round but would be accessible only to walkers during inclement/snowy weather. Nature walks along the boardwalk are available by reservation.

The “Helen and Norris Post Legacy Trail” and pavilion was recently constructed in part by the generous donation from John and Thelma Post. The trail includes an interpretive trail, educational signage, and custom-designed interpretive pavilion. The main trail loop has been designed to replicate the approximate size, shape and location of the old millpond that was used to store water to power the mill. The interpretive pavilion sports a green vegetated roof, and local material was used for construction, further making the project green.

A bituminous path connects Parker Mill County Park with the City of Ann Arbor's Gallup Park. This scenic route that crosses the Huron River is appropriate for use by bikers, joggers and/or runners. This path is open year-round, but accessibility during the winter is best made from the Dixboro Road parking lots.

There is limited fishing available at Parker Mill County Park.

Pierce Lake Golf Course & Park (232 ac.): This park features an 18-hole golf course designed by Harry F. Bowers, which opened in 1996. The front nine holes provide enjoyment for all levels of golfing abilities,



while the back nine is considered more difficult. Wooded areas coupled with wetlands and tighter fairways make this back nine a formidable challenge. The clubhouse also provides a golf pro-shop with snack bar. Greens fees are required to use Pierce Lake Golf Course.

While golf is the main attraction at this park, there are also picnicking opportunities at a rentable pavilion, and nature trails with a wetland boardwalk and observations decks around Pierce Lake.

Rolling Hills County Park (363 ac.): This large park is open year-round from 8 a.m. to dusk, offering 1.8 miles of paved trails, 3 miles of nature trails with rolling terrain, a challenging 18-hole disc golf course, picnic tables and grills located throughout the park, and guided interpretive tours by appointment.

From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, the Water Park is open - featuring a wave pool, water slides, lazy river, spraygrounds, sand play area, and a concession with affordable summertime treats, healthy choices and grilled foods.



Path along Prairies at Rolling Hills Park.
Source: Carol Schulte

Additional park amenities include a pond with a handicapped accessible fishing pier, and for special occasions, one indoor and six outdoor pavilions that accommodate parties of 12 to 200. The park offers a playground level ball diamond, sand volleyball court and horseshoe pits (horseshoes are available for loan).

In winter, the park features a sledding hill, a half mile of cleared walking trail, three miles of groomed x-country ski trails and a half mile of torch lit ski trail (weather permitting). Toboggans, sledding tubes and x-c skiing equipment are available for rent.

A fee is required to visit Rolling Hills County Park.

Sharon Mills County Park (170 ac.): Located on the banks of the River Raisin in southwestern Washtenaw County, Sharon Mills County Park has a rich history offered in a beautiful natural setting. A sawmill was first built there about 1834, and 20 years later, a gristmill was erected. In 1928, Henry Ford purchased and rebuilt Sharon Mills, adding a hydroelectric generator and stone addition. As a Ford Village Industries plant, the facility manufactured parts for Ford vehicles, eventually closing in 1946. Over the next 5 decades, Sharon Mills



served as private residence, an antique business, and, prior to its acquisition by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission in 1999, Sharon Mills was most recently used to house a winery. Sharon Mills is listed on the State of Michigan Register of Historic Places.

In 2005, 119 acres of land west of Sharon Hollow Road were added to the park. This area remains largely in agricultural production but does provide a mountain bike trail and a 20 space parking lot, constructed in 2008. In 2009 another 25 acres were added with frontage on Bethel-Church Road.

Along with the Mill structure, the site includes extensive interpretive signage, as well as fishing, picnicking and canoeing opportunities. Interpretive programs are conducted at the park, discussing both the history and ecology of the site. In January of 2004, Sharon Mills County Park received a facility Design Award from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

Sharon Mills County Park can be reserved for weddings and other private events. Reservations are handled through an arrangement with a private catering firm.

Staebler Farm (98 ac.): In 2000 and 2001, WCPARC purchased 98 acres of land on Plymouth Road just east of Prospect Road in Superior Township from Donald Staebler and the Heidt family for use as a County Park. This property includes farm and residential buildings, frontages on 4 water bodies, a flowing perennial stream, two woodlots, and dozens of acres of pasture and hayfields.

Originally constructed prior to 1880, before the farm was purchased by the Staebler family, the loafing barn was a significant and long standing local landmark. The loafing barn has been the focus of most of the restoration attention. The net result of the restoration effort is a barn that is structurally sound, plumb, and one that offers the public an example of historic construction techniques.

Most of the other onsite structures were physically sound and the repairs needed were more modest. For example, damaged and rotted siding required replacement, and interior barriers used to enclose animals (stanchions) were removed. Cows, sheep and goats graze the fields surrounding the barns but are no longer permanently housed in the barns. The soil in the barnyard, which had experienced nearly a century of farm animal presence, was replaced with gravel which is clean, drains effectively, and is relatively easy to walk on. All the



structures were cleaned inside and out. Finally a number of the buildings received coats of paint to help preserve their wood and brighten up this historic and highly visible farmscape.

In 2009, WCPARC completed repairs to the Staebler Farm buildings. Work included eight structures: three barns, a corn crib, pig house, milk house, silo, and a well house. Concurrent with these physical improvements, WCPARC staff planners are preparing a master plan for park development. Implementation of the plan will culminate in public access to Staebler Farm.

Superior Center (1 ac.): Superior Center is a small (one acre) corner park with shaded picnic area in Superior Township near the Township Hall.

Swift Run Dog Park (13 ac.): The Swift Run Dog Park is a collaborative project between the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department. The dog park is an outdoor space established for dog owners to allow their dogs to legally run free off-leash within the City of Ann Arbor's Olson Park. This dog park is an unsupervised recreational area and users of this facility do so at their own risk. Facilities include a 10-acre grassy field area with perimeter fencing, large and small dog run areas, double entry/exit control gates that are wheel chair accessible, a mowed trail with site benches, portable toilet, and dog waste disposal stations.

Swift Run Dog Park is open daily year-round between dawn and dusk unless otherwise posted, but may be closed in extremely wet conditions or for regular or posted maintenance periods. An annual permit tag is required to be worn by all dogs inside the dog park. The permitting process is intended to help provide a safe environment for users and their pets.

b. WCPARC Nature Preserves (in alphabetical order):

Albert J. Miller and Robert and Nancy Smith Woods Preserve (29 ac.): The 12-acre Albert J. Miller Preserve and adjacent Robert and Nancy Smith Woods Preserve together comprise 29 acres of protected land. The lack of invasive species in the woodland, numerous pocket wetlands, and remnant prairie species all contributed to WCPARC's decision to acquire the land, and the village of Dexter donated the Robert and Nancy Smith Woods Preserve. Located on Dexter-Chelsea Road in Lima Township, visitors can access the preserve through Robert and Nancy Smith Woods Park, which has a parking area and



rustic nature trails. The Miller property was purchased in September 2006 from Susan Miller and named in honor of her father.

Brauer Preserve (187 ac.):

Purchased from the Brauer family in 2003, the Brauer Preserve protects a diversity of habitat types. Upland habitat communities include dry-mesic forest and dry southern forest; wetland community types include southern swamp, marsh, and open water. In particular the swamp around the lake has many mature trees and an impressive fern community. The preserve also includes approximately



Snapping Turtle at Brauer Preserve.
Source: WCPARC

70 acres that were farmed prior to the County acquiring the property. With assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Washtenaw County Conservation District, WCPARC developed a conservation management plan to include the continuation of farming on the land. Conservation farming practices include crop rotation, establishment of field borders and buffer strips to protect waterways, and minimum use of fertilizer and pesticides.

Burnes-Stokes Preserve (29 ac.):

While only 29 acres in size, the long narrow shape of this preserve sandwiched between the Huron River and the railroad makes it feel like a much larger area. River shoreline makes up the entire southern edge of this site, about three-quarters of a mile, and almost all of the property is forested with both rich floodplain forest and drier



View of Huron River from Burnes –Stokes Preserve.
Source: WCPARC

mature uplands. Tucked into the woods visitors will find sunny little sedge meadows, two prairie remnants along the railroad tracks, and a stone tepee ring that was built by the former owners. Located within the state's Natural Rivers Program protection zone, this land has been a wildlife area since 1980 and was acquired through the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program in 2005. While a popular destination for fishing, bird watching and canoe landings, the property is valuable from a historical perspective as well. Portions of an old mill dam and race provide evidence of the site's former use and an important reminder of the water-powered past of local area industry.



DeVine Preserve (137 ac.): This natural area on West Liberty Road was the first property purchased through NAPP in 2003. Wetlands, which make up the majority of the site, surround a small upland woodland in the southernmost portion of the site along Liberty. From the trailhead at the parking area, two loop trails wind through the woods. The east loop connects with a seasonal trail that takes visitors out into the wetlands and old fields in the northern areas of the preserve. Large bur oak and hop-hornbeam trees are notable here.

Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve (80 ac.): This preserve is located on the Saline River in York Township west of Milan. It was purchased in December 2008 from the Houston family. The property includes high-quality woodlots, wetlands, and over ½ mile of frontage on the Saline River, the preserve's most significant natural feature. Of particular interest is a stand of native paw-paw, a once-common floodplain understory tree that is becoming increasingly difficult to find in Washtenaw County. The Saline River Greenways Alliance was instrumental in protection of this property.

Ervin-Stucki Preserve (126 ac.): The Ervin-Stucki Preserve in Bridgewater Township contributes to the protection of the second largest watershed in the County (River Raisin), including over half a mile of River Raisin shoreline on both sides of the river. High quality woods, wetlands and cropland occupy this area.

From the parking lot, a long boardwalk across wetlands takes visitors toward the River Raisin. A second boardwalk over a smaller wetland guides visitors to an overlook of the river. From the overlook, the preserve continues downriver. A trail is being finalized which will take visitors further into the preserve. Prior to completion of the trail visitors are welcome to explore the woods along the river, which are preserve property, by walking in the grass along the woods' edge, but walking in or across the non-Preserve farm fields is not allowed.



Emergent Wetlands at Ervin-Stucki Preserve.
Source: WCPARC

The preserve parking lot is located on Clinton Road, just 0.6 mile south of Austin Road on the west side of the road, directly opposite Burmeister Road. There is a second Austin Road access point to the Ervin-Stucki Preserve, but there is no formal parking lot and no signage at this location.



Fox Science Preserve (69 ac.): The Fox Science Preserve is a former gravel pit, now home to glacial boulders and evidence of prehistoric vegetation. Purchase of this site was a collaborative effort involving the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, the Scio Township Land Preservation Commission, and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, which now owns and manages the land. 2009 saw another 20-acre addition north of the preserve with the purchase of the Jarskey property.

The gravel pit was originally dug to contribute sand and gravel for the construction of I-94. Former owners Mel and Betty Fox have been allowing students to access this property for more than 35 years and over 40,000 students have used the site as an outdoor classroom. Scattered around the bottom of the pit are table-sized glacial boulders of granite, tillite, gneiss, and limestone, glacially transported to their present location. Glacial scratches on boulders allow students to see evidence of moving glaciers and to imagine what it would be like for a mile of ice to sit above where they are standing. Fossils can be found in the limestone, and countless small samples of every sort of rock have been collected over the years.

This site is valuable for studying plant communities as well. Perhaps the most unique feature of the pit is the presence of a well-developed cryptogamic crust: areas of ground that appear to be bare but are in fact covered with algae, fungi, tiny mosses and the precursors of lichens. Primary plant succession begins when these tiny plants develop on bare rock or sterile sand where no previous plants or soils exist. Only recently understood, this living crust is of vital importance in stabilizing soil and providing nutrients so that higher plants can get a foothold. Untouched for almost forty years, the gravel here resembles that which must have occurred upon retreat of the glaciers 12,000

years ago. In fact, the pit bottom represents one of the best examples of primary plant succession in our area. In other areas of the pit where succession is more advanced, mosses, prairie grasses, goldenrods, asters, and shingle oaks are present on the developing soils. Being able to see so many primary plant species, glacially transported boulders, and a well-developed cryptogamic crust is truly unique for this area.

Gosline Preserve (40 ac.): Gosline Preserve comprises 40 acres, located just west of Independence Lake County Park. In 2003 Ann Gosline donated a conservation easement on this parcel to the Washtenaw Land Trust (now Legacy Land Conservancy). WCPARC purchased the property and holds title. This preserve contains some deep water marsh habitat.



Kosch Headwaters Preserve (160 ac.): Representing continued collaboration with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC), Conservancy staff first brought the availability of the property, and the impending development pressure, to the attention of Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Adjacency to the SMLC's Springhill Nature Preserve (30 acres of protected land), high quality plant communities, and a commitment by SMLC to assist with maintenance, restoration and trail development all contributed to the County's decision to purchase the land.

A beech-maple woodlot, shared with Springhill Preserve in the southeastern corner of the property, is home to many mature beech. The rather uncommon blue ash is found in relative abundance on the western portion of the site. Wetlands, seasonal streams, and a spring flowing out of the maple-beech woodland all contribute to the headwaters of Fowler Creek which ultimately flows into the Rouge River, hence the name headwaters. Cultivated land makes up about 50% of the property. The open land presents future opportunities for wildlife conservation plantings and habitat restoration that will further protect the existing high quality natural areas.



Mowed Trail at Kosch Headwaters Preserve.
Source: WCPARC

LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (74 ac. of 325 ac.): LeFurge Woods is one the finest mature woodlands in Washtenaw County. In 2003, Washtenaw County partnered with the Southeast Michigan Land

Conservancy (SMLC) to add the 64-acre Meyer Property to their LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve. NAPP funds purchased a conservation easement on the 64 acres and SMLC holds title to the land. SMLC owns and maintains all 325 acres of the preserve. In 2007, NAPP funds contributed to SMLC's purchase of a conservation easement on the Schultz Farm, 158 acres on the eastern boundary of the preserve. NAPP funds secured a conservation easement with public access on the 10-acre woodlot in the northwest corner of the farm.

LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve protects a diverse cross section of southern Michigan habitat types. Trails wind throughout wetlands,



meadows, agricultural lands, and, of course, the wonderfully preserved LeFurge Woods.

Leonard Preserve (259 ac.): Currently, the Leonard Preserve is the largest natural area in the County's system of NAPP preserves with 259 acres that protect nearly one mile of River Raisin shoreline. Located just northwest of the Village of Manchester, this rich and diverse landscape includes rolling hills, woodlands, wetlands, prairie and former pasture land.

The purchase of the Leonard Preserve in 2004 was made possible by an alliance between Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation and The Nature Conservancy. By purchasing the historic farm house and surrounding 40 acres of land, The Nature Conservancy enabled Washtenaw County's Natural Areas Preservation



Prairie Fields at Leonard Preserve. Source: WCPARC

Program to acquire the remaining 205 acres, protecting nearly one mile of River Raisin shoreline and riverine habitat. A 32-acre addition along the southern boundary, purchased from the Beaudoin family in 2005, slopes to the west providing scenic vistas of the western skyline and a relatively unusual habitat known as dry sand prairie.

In 2009 the Schaffer Trust Property was purchased adding 22 acres just across the river from the original Leonard Preserve. At present, access to this new addition will be from the river via canoe or kayak.

Meyer Preserve (139 ac.): Preservation of this land in Superior Township was a collaborative effort between WCPARC, Ann Arbor Greenbelt, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC), and Superior Township. This preserve consists of two separate properties: 55 acres northeast of Prospect and Vreeland Roads, and 84 acres to the southwest. The preserve consists mainly of open agricultural land, with about 45 acres of valuable woods and wetlands. A local farmer is under contract to farm the agricultural portion of the land. SMLC participates in management of the land, such as controlling invasive species. Parking for the Meyer Preserve is available at SMLC's LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve across Prospect Road from the 84 acre parcel.



Northfield Woods Preserve (48 ac.): This newly acquired property is largely comprised of a “middle-age” woodlot. Of particular note is the quality of the forest structure, which exhibits a diversity of both species and age classes. This woodlot, while of high quality at present, will be of even higher quality as it matures because of that diversity. It possesses an open understory with only a limited presence of invasive species, which are primarily confined to the edges of the property. There are a number of vernal ponds found on the property, providing important habitat for amphibians. This environment is also more resistant to invasive species such as garlic mustard.

Raymond F. Goodrich Preserve (29 ac.): The Goodrich Preserve, originally an 11-acre parcel on Dixboro Road, was expanded to the north in 2008 with the 6-acre Exelby addition, and again in 2009 with the 12-acre Domino’s Farms addition. This preserve is adjacent to the University of Michigan’s Horner-McLaughlin Woods, and together these properties make up over 130 acres of protected land. The Horner Woods complex - used primarily by U of M for research, teaching and fieldwork - is dominated by old growth forest that grades from hilltop Oak-Hickory on the eastern Goodrich property to Maple-Mixed Hardwoods covering rich central valleys. Native shrubs, predominantly buttonbush, surround several small wetlands and fill a large swamp which separates much of the woodland from the M-14 freeway. The central portion of this forest, known for its outstanding spring wildflower displays, is preserved by U-M as a plant sanctuary. The Goodrich Preserve is located on Dixboro Road just south of M-14, in Ann Arbor Township.

Riverbend Preserve (43 ac.): The Riverbend Preserve originally consisted of a 17 acre parcel, purchased from the Griewahn family. In 2008 an additional 26 acres was purchased from the Grzesiak family.

The northern portion of the property is bisected by the remains of the Clinton Branch of the Michigan Southern Railroad, a prominent railroad grade running north to south. Built in the early 1850s, this branch was an important line from Toledo, Ohio to Jackson, Michigan.

This 43 acre preserve spans both banks of the River Raisin and has added another link in the expanding corridor of protected land along the river. In this wide, flat, slow moving section of the Raisin, where the river winds a convoluted path, the property is approximately three-quarters wetlands and includes over 1,100 feet of river shoreline. Many tamarack trees are found in the riparian zone, which thrive on the poorly drained soils found there. The remaining acreage is comprised of dry, upland soils along Hogan Road.



Scio Woods Preserve (91 ac.): Located on the southern edge of Scio Township, this preserve is comprised of 91 acres assembled through purchase of parcels from four separate owners. The property contains a mix of high-quality, mature woodland, numerous wetlands, ponds, and a seasonal stream. The terrain is very interesting, with significant elevation change and steep slopes. Preservation of this property was a collaborative effort of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, Scio Township Land Preservation Commission and the WCPARC.

Squiers Preserve (50 ac.): On May 1, 2007, Washtenaw County acquired another new natural area, the Squiers Preserve in Sylvan Township. This 50-acre parcel has quite a nice diversity of habitat types including dry-mesic southern forest, buttonbush swamp, hardwood swamp, sedge meadow, and marsh. The most unique aspect of the preserve's hydrology is the presence of artesian springs which seep to the surface in several areas. Pressure from the upward seepage of one of the springs has created a peat dome along the eastern boundary of the property.

Like several other properties acquired through the Natural Areas Preservation Program, NAPP funds were used to purchase a conservation easement from the Squiers family. The easement allows for public access and the property will be managed as a nature preserve by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation. The Squiers family retains title to the land.

Directions for this preserve are not public until WCPARC is able to provide adequate parking facilities.

West Lake Preserve (217 ac.): The largest acquisition for 2008 was the 217-acre West Lake Nature Preserve in Dexter Township north of Waterloo Road and east of Werkner Road. WCPARC bought 141 acres of the land from a private owner and another 76 acres from the state of Michigan to create the preserve. The property offers a nice diversity of habitats, including a buttonbush swamp, oak hickory forest, a small glacially formed "kettle" lake, shoreline on West Lake and open fields.



Pond at West Lake Preserve. Source: WCPARC



c. **Connecting Communities**

Throughout its history, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has been a significant proponent of the development of non-motorized trails within the community. This position stems from both a commitment to the importance of non-motorized trails and an understanding of the interests and priorities expressed by community members. Respondents to a survey of County residents conducted to identify recreation needs and associated priorities assigned the highest priority to the development of non-motorized trails - 71% of total respondents. However, development of a County-wide non-motorized trail network is a larger task than any single community or organization can assume.

In 2009, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission established an initiative called "Connecting Communities". The intent of the Initiative is to work in partnership with other communities and organizations, providing funds to supplement those provided or obtained by the partner organization. Funding will be available only for construction, not for planning or design development. Eligible projects will be those that accomplish the Commission's primary goal of providing valuable, non-motorized connections between communities and activity centers thus offering a healthy alternative for recreation, transportation, fitness and energy conservation.

To date, WCPARC has spent or allocated approximately \$5 million to nearly 40 miles of trails and paved shoulders that have either been built or are in design development.

The Connecting Communities website is:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/news/2009/f_cover.html

d. **Border to Border Trail:**

The Border to Border (B2B) trail is a multiagency, collaborative project to construct a multiuse trail traversing Washtenaw County, from Livingston County to Wayne County, along the Huron River. When completed, the 35 mile trail will permit non-motorized travel through the linked open spaces encompassing Washtenaw County's most distinctive natural feature - The Huron River Corridor. The B2B Trail will enhance the livability of the county's main urbanized area where approximately 70% of its residents live in river-linked communities. For implementation purposes, the B2B trail is being developed in 13 segments from Segment A in the northwest (Livingston Co. border) to



Segment M in the southeast (Wayne Co. border). Several segments have already been constructed.

The trail travels by the University of Michigan Medical Campus, Fuller Park, Gallup Park, Washtenaw Community College, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti neighborhoods and downtown, and eventually Ford Lake. Because of its proximity to several job and school-related locations, the trail is not only used for recreational purposes but also as an alternative transportation method to fuel-burning vehicles.



Users enjoying the Border to Border Trail. Source: WCPARC

2. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's Recreation Inventory

Appendix A contains the table of the "Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation, Open Space, and Trails". Appendix B shows the "Suggested Facility Development Standards". These standards are to be viewed as guides only, addressing the minimum objectives to be achieved, and not maximum objectives. These standards should be interpreted according to each community's specific social and economic needs and the particular circumstances to which they are relevant.

The Washtenaw County Recreation Inventory can be found in Table 3. This information was gathered by developing a questionnaire form and distributing it to Park superintendents and Park maintenance superintendents to complete during the summer of 2009.

The exact classification for each of these parks is difficult to pinpoint, because each park is large or unique enough to encourage people from all over the county and Detroit metropolitan area to visit and enjoy the facilities, as well as local citizens. Many of the nature preserves are smaller in scale and so would be considered for local use only, but they can contain exceptional features not easily found in this part of Michigan that draw visitors from far and wide, such as the Fox Science Preserve's glacial gravel pit.



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

Table 3 - Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Inventory

NAME	PURPOSE OR USE	CLASSIFICATION	ACREAGE	FACILITIES IN 2004 (listed in 2004-2008 Master Plan)	FACILITIES ADDED SINCE 2004 (facilities not listed in 2004-2008 Master Plan)	FACILITIES REMOVED SINCE 2004	HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS PRIOR TO 2007	HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS SINCE 2007	HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY MATING (1-3)	PROGRAMMING	MAINTENANCE STAFF
ALBERT J. MILLER PRESERVE and ROBERT AND NANCY SMITH WOODS	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	29	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2007	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2007	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
BAULER PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	187	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2007	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2007	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
BURNS-STOKES PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	29	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2007	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2007	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
DEVINE PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	127	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2005	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2005	NONE	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
DAMON HOUSTON MELGOWS PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	86	NONE	trail, driveway, and parking lot scheduled for 2009	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2008	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
BYRN-STUCKI PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	126	NONE	trail, boardwalks, driveway, and parking lot in 2008	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2008	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
FOX SCIENCE PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	89	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2008	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2008	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
KOZICH-HEADWATERS PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	160	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2007	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2007	2 or 3	Interpretive nature programs by WCFPMC and the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy maintains the trail. WCFPMC ROC maintains area surrounding parking lot
LEFURGE WOODS/NATURE PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	WCFPMC has easements on two parcels 64 and 10 acres of 335 acre preserve	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2009	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2009	2 or 3	Interpretive nature programs by WCFPMC and the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy maintains the trail. WCFPMC ROC maintains area surrounding parking lot
LEONARD PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	209	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2006	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2006	NONE	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
METTER PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	139	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	N/A	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
NORTHFIELD WOODS PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	48	N/A	RECALLY ACQUIRED IN 2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nature and interpretive program	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
RAYMOND F. GOODRICH PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	29	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2007	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot 2007	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
RIVERBEND PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	43	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	N/A	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
SCIO WOODS PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	91	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot scheduled for 2009	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
SQUIRES PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	50	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE (parking lot in design phase)	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)
WEST LAKE PRESERVE	Natural area preservation	Natural Resources Area	217	NONE	Trail, driveway, and parking lot in 2009	NONE	NONE	Driveway and parking lot	2 or 3	Nature and interpretive programs	NAPP CREW (one crew leader and 2 seasonal laborers)

NOTES:
 - HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY MATING: SCALE
 In some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
 In some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
 In most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
 In the entire park areas meet accessibility guidelines
 In the entire park was developed/reconstructed using the principles of universal design.



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NAME	PURPOSE OR USE	CLASSIFICATION ¹	ACREAGE	FACILITIES IN 2004 (Based in 2004-2008 Master Plan)	FACILITIES ADDED SINCE 2004 (Facilities not listed in 2004-2008 Master Plan)	FACILITIES IMPROVED SINCE 2004	HANDICAPPED IMPROVEMENTS SINCE 2007	HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY RATING (1-3) ²	PROGRAMMING	MAINTENANCE STAFF
CANAUGH/LAKE COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Neighborhood Park	3	Play area, picnic shelter, play areas, restrooms	Children's playground installed in 2006	Children's play equipment	NONE	2 or 3	NONE	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
COUNTY FAIR PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Large Urban Park	122	Walking trails, and exercise trails, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, dog pits, dog waste stations, interpretive signage, permanent and temporary exhibits, multipurpose pavilion, viewing tower, gazebo, outdoor concert, ice skating rink, swimming beach, water park, trails, restrooms, playground, observation tower, tennis courts, all trails, no biking	New addition - Medical center, 2006, additional playground added in 2006, food operations building, 2008	Obscure shelter and play equipment	New children's playground in USA	3	Frequent interpretive nature programs and summer day camps, Camp Big Bears for physically disabled, water-tossing equipment pools	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Large Urban Park	405	Play area, picnic shelter, play equipment, restrooms, observation tower, tennis courts, all trails, no biking	One golf course (18 holes), being year-round	One picnic and playground	HA playground and cross	2 or 3	Day camps in summer, special events including New American heritage events, interpretive nature trails and programs, Family Camp Out, evening hikes and lectures	Maintenance Supervisor, 1.5 Maintenance workers
PRELUDE/INBAY RECREATION CENTER	Recreation Center	Sports Complex	N/A	Shower trails, on-boat launch area, strength training area, gymnasium for basketball, basketball, and volleyball, pool, locker rooms, health programming	NONE	NONE	The recreation center is fully handicapped accessible	4	Events, classes, swim lessons, private recreational services for all ages, all year programming	One supervisor, 23 laborers
OSBORNE HILLS PRESERVE	Passive recreation and natural areas	Natural Resource Area	29	Trails	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	Observational tour for nature and interpretive programming	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
PARK LYNDON COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Large Urban Park	340	Hiking trails, interpretive signage, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, fishing areas, gazebo	3 acres purchased for access to both, without driveway scheduled for completion in 2009	NONE	NONE	1	Frequent site for water and interpretive programming, Evening Hike and Barkley	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
PARK NORTHFIELD COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation	Community Park	11	Play area, picnic shelter, play equipment, restrooms, observation tower, tennis courts, all trails, no biking	NONE	NONE	NONE	1 or 2	NONE OR LIMITED	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
PAMPER HILL COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Large Urban Park	44 owned, 18 on long term lease from the City of Ann Arbor (Forest Park)	Play area, picnic shelter, play equipment, restrooms, observation tower, tennis courts, all trails, no biking	Trail on Geddes in 2007, 6 acres north of Geddes Road developed with trails and new green roof portion in 2009	NONE	HA Hiker Trail, interpretive pavilion, restrooms	2	Guided interpretive tours by employees, events that include candle-making, games, etc.	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
PRECLE LAKE GOLF COURSE AND PARK	Golf course	Special Use	221	Golf course, golf course with clubhouse and observation deck, clubhouse, restrooms, observation tower, tennis courts, all trails, no biking	New restrooms constructed in 2006 and 4 (2008) replaced car park, and improved back 4 (2008) clubhouse remodel in other school building services (starting in 2010)	all restrooms	NONE	3 or 3	Regular golf program (tournaments) junior golf league	All year - 1 Supervisor, 1 Supervisor (part-time), 100 full-time participants
ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Large Urban Park	363	Walking trails, interpretive signage, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, playground, restrooms, fishing areas, gazebo	18 hole disc golf course, new children's playground, restrooms, bike trail (in progress)	9 hole disc golf course, interpretive play equipment	New children's playground, wheelchair accessible, restrooms and water fountain, HA	3	Frequent interpretive nature programs, annual County Mathews Memorial Disc Golf Open, disc golf league, disc golf tournaments, disc golf events, disc golf clinics and disc golf clinics for school children and their families, annual dog walk	Disc supervisor, 1.5 park workers
SHARON HILLS COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Large Urban Park	120	Play area, picnic shelter, play equipment, restrooms, observation tower, tennis courts, all trails, no biking	119 acres, west of Sharon Hillside Road, parking, recreation lake trail	NONE	Building and use improvements 2001-2003 provided HA access to trail	3 or 3	Programs on weekends by staff or volunteers Age-5+,	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
STABLEY FARM COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Community Park	98	Play area, picnic shelter, play equipment, restrooms, observation tower, tennis courts, all trails, no biking	Bluffs and other surrounding north of Plymouth Road, increased in 2008-2009	NONE	NONE	1	NONE	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
SURBOCK CENTER, COUNTY PARK	Active and passive recreation, natural areas	Neighborhood Park	1	Play area	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	NONE	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)
SWIFT RUN DOG PARK	Disc recreation and natural areas	Special Use	13 (See Open Park record by City of Ann Arbor)	NONE	Off-leash area for first dog park separate area for large and small dogs, information kiosk, dog waste station, bench seating	NONE	Designated parking spaces, wheelchair accessible pathway, restrooms (Picnic tables)	3	NONE	HOWING OPERATIONS CREW (BOC) (1 Supervisor, 3 Park Laborers, all full time employees)

¹ For the entire park was developed/recreated using the program.



3. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Grant Inventory

Table 4 provides the list and description of previous recreation grants awarded to the Washtenaw County Parks system.

4. Other Recreation Opportunities:

a. Other Park Facilities:

Table 5 shows other parks within Washtenaw County (although not all parks have their entire acreage within County limits), from local to regional to the state level.

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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Table 4 - Washtenaw County DNR Grant Inventory

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT NO.	APPLICATION YEAR	GRANT AMOUNT	PROJECT STATUS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Independence Lake County Park	26-00955	1977	\$229,177.80	Closed	Acquire 312.51 acres for outdoor recreation.
Rolling Hills County Park	26-01011	1977	\$240,765.03	Closed	Acquire 158 acres of land for out door recreation.
Independence Lake County Park	26-01060 Q1	1978	\$158,628.47	Closed	Gravel access road, gravel parking lot, beach, sunbathing and play area, bathroom complex, restrooms, first aid office and open shelter, sewage disposal system, water supply, entry improvements, maintenance area, walkways, LWCF sign.
Parker Mill County Park	TF411	1980	\$250,000.00	Closed	Acquisition of 26.97 acres with 2,500 feet of frontage on Fleming Creek and 500 feet of frontage on the Huron River.
County Farm Park Phase I	26-01197	1981	\$50,042.75	Closed	Develop: gravel entry/parking, gravel trails, and surfaced trails, site grading, turf establishment, landscaping, water service, and LWCF sign.
Pinckney and Waterloo State Recreation Area Acquisition (Park Lyndon)	TF614	1982		Closed	Acquisition of 305 acres at the common border of Pinckney and Waterloo State Recreation Areas. Land purchased by DNR (see TF70-614) and 219.6 acres deeded to Co. to expand Park Lyndon.
Rolling Hills Park	26-01273	1983	\$444,703.00	Closed	Swimming pond with beach area, and dock, dike spillway, recreation building, complex, with bathroom, storage and warming shelter, picnic areas with shelters, toboggan run, roadway with entrance control point, meadow for cross country skiing, hiking.
County Farm Park Phase II	26-01396	1985	\$117,068.24	Closed	Develop: construction of year round shelter with restrooms, group picnicking and summer activities; perennial garden/native shrub plantings and irrigation system, and community gardens.
Independence Lake Park-Phase II	26-01462	1986	\$245,386.00	Closed	Picnic/activity center (incl picnic eqpt.), utilities, access & parking, swimming beach, site dev., walkway/nature trail, fishing pier.
County Farm Park Recreation Center	BF89-378	1989	\$750,000.00	Closed	Development of multi-purpose activities center for Washtenaw County.
Rolling Hills Park	TF89-033	1989	\$375,000.00	Closed	Develop wave-action pool, water playground, twin-flume water slide, turf decks and sand play areas & support facilities.
Parker Mill Park	26-01535	1993	\$107,250.00	Closed	Bridge along connector route between Park Mill and Forest Parks.
Pierce Lake Park Acquisition	TF93-010	1993	\$400,000.00	Closed	Acquire 200 acre tract of parkland in western portion of Washtenaw County encompassing 5,000 feet of frontage on Pierce Lake.
Park Lyndon Expansion	TF99-323	1999	\$787,500.00	Closed	Acquisition of 129.6 acres bordering Park Lyndon to include and additional significant natural features, including a 50-acre wetland fen and its associated groundwater, rare and threatened species and other natural areas, including South Lake (800-feet fr).
Rolling Hills County Park Development	CM00-074	2000	\$750,000.00	Closed	Development of Rolling Hills County Park to include water park expansion, sports pavilion, fishing dock on 4-acre pond, trail system and picnic area expansion, road and parking improvements. Main purpose is to promote increased and expanded seasonal use.
Rolling Hills Park Accessibility Enhancements	TF08-060	2008	\$96,000.00	Active	Development will provide universally accessible amenities to include playground equipment, picnic pavilion, observation treehouse, fishing dock, pier improvements at 3-acre spring pond, signage, and trail improvements.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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TABLE 5 – OTHER PARK FACILITIES

PARK NAME	TOTAL ACRES
STATE OF MICHIGAN	
Pinckney Recreation Area	11,000
Waterloo Recreation Area	20,500
Sharonville Game Area	6,000
Chelsea Game Area	1,000
Gregory Game Area	695
Little Goose Lake Game Area	202
Subtotal:	39,397
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY	
Hudson Mills Metropark	1,549
Dexter Huron Metropark	122
Delhi Metropark	53
Subtotal:	1,724
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARKS	
City of Ann Arbor	2,095
Barton Hills	33
Chelsea	12
Village of Dexter	20
Village of Manchester	44
Milan	198
Pittsfield Township	865
City of Saline	191
Superior Township	269
York Township	163
City of Ypsilanti	76
Ypsilanti Township	890
Subtotal:	4,856

Sources:

www.metroparks.org

www.michigan.gov

www.a2gov.org

www.twp.ypsilanti.mi.us/recreate

<http://cityofypsilanti.com/services/recreation/parks>

www.washtenawguide.com/chesea-parks-and-recreation-areas.html

www.washtenawguide.com/manchester-parks-and-recreation-areas.html

Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Environment

www.ci.milan.mi.us/parks.shtml

www.pittsfieldtwp.org/P&R_Park_Facilities.html

www.twp-york.org/

www.superior-twp.org/

www.city-saline.org/parks

www.villageofdexter.org

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WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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b. Golf Courses:

TABLE 6 – GOLF COURSES IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

NAME	COMMUNITY
Ann Arbor Country Club	Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor Golf & Outing Club	Ann Arbor
Barton Hills Country Club	Ann Arbor
Brookside Golf Course	Saline
Eagle Crest Golf Club	Ypsilanti
Georgetown Country Club	Ann Arbor
Green Oaks Golf Course	Ypsilanti
Hudson Mills Metro Park	Dexter
Huron Hills Golf Course	Ann Arbor
Inverness Country Club	Chelsea
Lake Forest Golf Club	Ann Arbor
Leslie Park Golf Course	Ann Arbor
PIERCE LAKE GOLF COURSE	CHELSEA
Pine View Golf Course - Championship Course	Ypsilanti
Pine View Golf Course - Little Pines Course	Ypsilanti
Polo Fields Golf & Country Club	Ann Arbor
Radrick Farms Golf Club	Ann Arbor
Reddeman Farms Golf Course	Chelsea
Rolling Meadows Country Club	Whitmore Lake
Rustic Glen Golf Course	Saline
Stonebridge Golf Club	Ann Arbor
Travis Pointe Country Club	Ann Arbor
University of Michigan Golf Course	Ann Arbor
Washtenaw Country Club	Ypsilanti

Note: Washtenaw County Parks facilities are expressed in CAPITAL LETTERS

Source: http://www.golfable.com/golfcourses/county/Washtenaw_County_MI



Golfing in Washtenaw County. Source: WCPARC

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c. Trails:

Table 7 shows trails that are available in Washtenaw County, although this table is presumably not inclusive. Trails exist in most parks and many are not included in this table. Trails are able to be established quickly with little (or much) investment, so any list presented may quickly become outdated.

TABLE 7 – TRAILS

NAME	biking	horseback riding	x-country skiing	walking and/or hiking	mountain biking	paddling	in-line skating
Bandemer Park and Argo Nature Area			*	*		*	
Bird Hills, Barton, and Kuebler Langford Nature Area			*	*		*	
BORDER TO BORDER TRAIL	*			*			*
COUNTY FARM PARK			*	*			
Creekshead Nature Preserve			*	*			
Dolph Nature Area			*	*		*	
Furstenberg Nature Area			*	*		*	
Gallup Park	*		*	*		*	*
Hudson Mills Metropark	*		*	*			*
Huron Hills Cross Country Ski Center			*				
INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK	*		*	*			
Leslie Science Center and Black Pond Woods				*			
Matthaei Botanical Gardens				*			
Nan Weston Preserve at Sharon Hollow				*			
Nichols Arboretum			*	*			
Northeast Area Park (Olson Park)			*	*	*		
OSBORNE MILL PRESERVE NATURE TRAIL				*			
PARK LYNDON			*				
PARKER MILL PARK	*						
Pinckney State Recreation Area			*	*	*		
Pinckney-Waterloo Hiking Trail		*	*	*			
Rodman Memorial Plant Preserve				*			
ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK	*		*	*	*		
Searles Audubon Nature Preserve			*	*			
Sharon Hills Preserve			*	*			
SHARON MILLS COUNTY PARK				*	*		
Waterloo State Recreation Area		*	*	*			

NOTE: Washtenaw County Parks facilities are expressed in CAPITAL LETTERS

Source: <http://www.michigantrails.us/washtenaw-county-michigan/washtenaw-county-michigan-trails.html>

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d. Campgrounds:

Table 8 shows campgrounds that are available in Washtenaw County.

TABLE 8 – CAMPGROUNDS IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

NAME	COMMUNITY	OWNER
Pinckney Recreation Area Glenbrook Yurt	Pinckney	State of Michigan
Pinckney Recreation Area Blind Lake (rustic)	Pinckney	State of Michigan
Pinckney Recreation Area Bruin Lake (modern)	Pinckney	State of Michigan
Pinckney Recreation Area Crooked Lake (rustic)	Pinckney	State of Michigan
Waterloo Recreation Area Green Lake (rustic)	Chelsea	State of Michigan
Waterloo Recreation Area Portage Lake (modern)	Chelsea	State of Michigan
Waterloo Recreation Area Sugarloaf (modern)	Chelsea	State of Michigan
Waterloo Recreation Area Equestrian	Chelsea	State of Michigan
Waterloo Recreation Area Group Use Area	Chelsea	State of Michigan
Waterloo Recreation Area Rustic Cabins	Chelsea	State of Michigan
Timberland Campground	Dexter	Private

Sources: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>
www.hikercentral.com

e. Disc Golf Courses:

Disc golf appears to be a very popular, year-round sport in Southeast Michigan. Table 9 shows some of the disc golfing opportunities in and around Washtenaw County.



Disc Golfer at Rolling Hills County Park. Source: WCPARC

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WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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TABLE 9 – DISC GOLF COURSES IN AND NEAR WASHTENAW COUNTY

NAME	COMMUNITY	OWNER
Bandemer Park	Ann Arbor	City of Ann Arbor
BRATS	Ann Arbor	Private
Brighton High School	Brighton	Brighton School District
Cass Benton Hills DGC	Northville Township	Wayne County
Hudson Mills Metropark	Dexter	Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK	WHITMORE LAKE	WASHTENAW CO PARKS
Kensington Metropark	Milford	Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Mary Beth Doyle Park (Brown Park)	Ann Arbor	City of Ann Arbor
Pioneer High School	Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor School District
Ponds at Lakeshore	Ypsilanti	Private
ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK	YPSILANTI	WASHTENAW CO PARKS
The Lacy Inn	Milford	Private
Water Works Park DGC	Ypsilanti	City of Ann Arbor
White's Acres	Milford	Private
Willow Metropark	Belleville	Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

NOTE: Washtenaw County Parks facilities are expressed in CAPITAL LETTERS except for BRATS

Sources: http://www.golfable.com/golfcourses/county/Washtenaw_County_MI
<http://www.a3disc.org/maps/index.htm>

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f. Canoe Liveries:

With 2 major rivers and numerous lakes in Washtenaw County, paddling is important to County recreation. Table 10 shows canoe liveries in and near Washtenaw County.

TABLE 10 – CANOE LIVERIES IN AND NEAR WASHTENAW COUNTY

NAME	COMMUNITY	OWNER
Argo Canoe Livery	Ann Arbor	City of Ann Arbor
Brighton Recreation Area	Howell	State of Michigan
Crosswinds Marsh	New Boston	Wayne County Parks
Delhi Metropark	Ann Arbor	Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Gallup Park & Canoe Livery	Ann Arbor	City of Ann Arbor
Heavner Canoe & Kayak Rental Livery	Milford	Private
Hell Canoe & Kayak Rental	Hell	Private
Independence Oaks County Park	Clarkston	Oakland County Parks
Kensington Metropark	Milford	Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Lower Huron Metropark	Belleville	Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Michigan Paddlesports & Hobby	Dexter	Private
Outdoor Escorts, LLC	Lake Orion	Private
Pinckney Recreation Area	Pinckney	State of Michigan
Proud Lake Recreation Area	Commerce Township	State of Michigan
Quiet World Sports	Jackson	Private
River Raisin Canoe Livery	Carleton	Private
Riverside Kayak Connection	Wyandotte	Private
Sharonville State Game Area	Manchester	State of Michigan
Skip's Huron River Canoe Livery, LLC	Ann Arbor (Delhi Road)	Private
Village Canoe Rentals	Milford	Private
Walter J. Hayes State Park	Onsted	State of Michigan

NOTE: Washtenaw County Parks facilities are expressed in CAPITAL LETTERS

Source: <http://www.michigan.org/Things-to-do/Paddle-Sports/Default.aspx?city=G2854&lm=pf>



Kayakers Paddling Down the Huron River.
Source: WCPARC

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g. Senior Centers:

Table 11 lists available senior centers in Washtenaw County.

TABLE 11 – SENIOR CENTERS IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

NAME	COMMUNITY
Ann Arbor Community Center	Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor Senior Center	Ann Arbor
Bryant Community Center	Ann Arbor
Chelsea Senior Citizen Activities Center	Chelsea
Dexter Senior Center	Dexter
Jewish Community Center (SPICE program)	Ann Arbor
Lincoln - Golden Age Seniors	Ypsilanti
Manchester Senior Citizens	Manchester
Milan Senior Center	Milan
Northfield Township Senior Center	Whitmore Lake
Pittsfield Township Senior Center	Ann Arbor
Saline Area Senior Center	Saline
Turner Senior Center	Ann Arbor
Ypsilanti Senior Center	Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti Township Senior Center	Ypsilanti

Source: <http://www.blueprintforaging.org/documents/WebContactList.pdf>

h. Dog Parks:

Washtenaw County dog citizens want recreation too!! Table 12 lists dog parks in and near Washtenaw County.

TABLE 12 – DOG PARKS IN AND NEAR WASHTENAW COUNTY

NAME	COMMUNITY	SIZE (ac.)
Copper Leaf Crossing Dog	Ann Arbor (Ann Arbor-Saline Road)	1
Mill Pond/Saline Dog Park	Saline (Mill Pond Park)	1
Olson Park Off-Leash Play	Ann Arbor (Pontiac Trail)	0.5
Paw Run Recreation Area	Webster Township (North Territorial Road)	17
SWIFT RUN DOG PARK	ANN ARBOR (CORNER OF PLATT AND ELLSWORTH)	10

NOTE: Washtenaw County Parks facilities are expressed in CAPITAL LETTERS

Source: <http://www.Annarbordog.com/parks.htm>

Section D – Recreation Inventory



i. Miscellaneous Recreation Opportunities (in or near Washtenaw County – not meant to be inclusive):

- Leslie Science Center, Ann Arbor
- Bryant Community Center, Ann Arbor
- Mack Pool, Ann Arbor
- Hands On Museum, Ann Arbor
- Community Center, Ypsilanti Township
- Nan Weston Preserve at Sharon Hollow, Manchester
- Matthaei Botanical Garden, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Nichols Arboretum, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- The Boundless Playground at High Point School, Ann Arbor
- Veteran’s Memorial Sports Complex, Ann Arbor
- Spring Valley Trout Farm, Dexter
- Imagination Station, Brighton
- Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton