



Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2012-2016

City of East Jordan

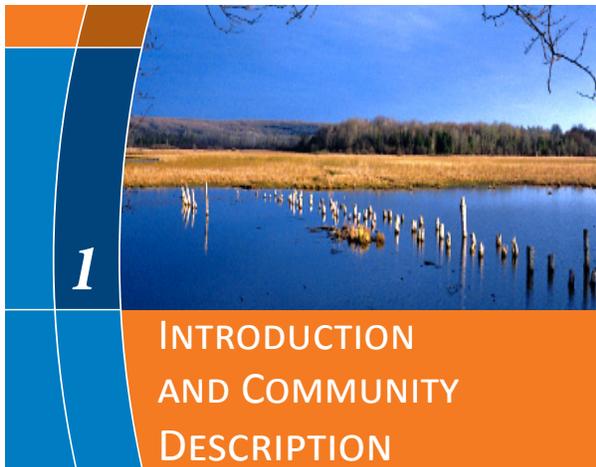
DRAFT REPORT 01-06-2012





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Purpose of the Plan

The Recreation Plan provides citizens of the City of East Jordan a resource to identify and define opportunities for recreational activities and development and to ensure that the recreational infrastructure sustains access to such opportunities now and into the future.

Since many of the recreational opportunities are directly related to the area's natural resources, the importance of ensuring public access to these assets is central to the Plan's purpose. The goals and policies of the Plan center on encouraging development to conform to standards and guidelines necessary to protect the unique character and natural resources of the City. These goals and policies also include the provision and development of recreation infrastructure that enables tourist-based activities, that directly serves the interests and needs of City residents, and that encourages and facilitates, where and when possible, to integrate the full spectrum of private and public opportunities.

This Plan conforms to the guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Approval of this Plan by the MDNR qualifies the City for recreation grants administered by the MDNR's Recreation Grants Section. The grant eligibility period is set for five years from the acceptance date by this department.

Jurisdiction of the Plan

This recreation plan update is being prepared for the City of East Jordan. The plan will focus on all

recreational aspects of the City including City-owned and operated parks, recreational facilities and programs.

Community Description

Regional Setting

The City of East Jordan (Charlevoix County) is located in the northwest portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, situated at the mouth of the Jordan River and at the south end of the South Arm of Lake Charlevoix. Traverse City is approximately 45 miles southwest and Gaylord is approximately 30 miles east. The City of East Jordan incorporates approximately 4 square miles. The City is surrounded on all sides by South Arm Township. A map of the East Jordan area is shown as **Figure 1-1**. An aerial map, **Figure 1-2**, shows the boundaries of the City of East Jordan.

Population Characteristics

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the City of East Jordan was 2,351 persons (1,146 male – 1,205 female) as of the 2010 Census. This represents a decline of 6.2 percent from the City's 2000 Census population of 2,507 and reverses the historical trend of population growth for the City over the past several decades. The population of South Arm Township currently was 1,873 persons as of the 2010 Census, while the population of Charlevoix County as a whole was 25,949.

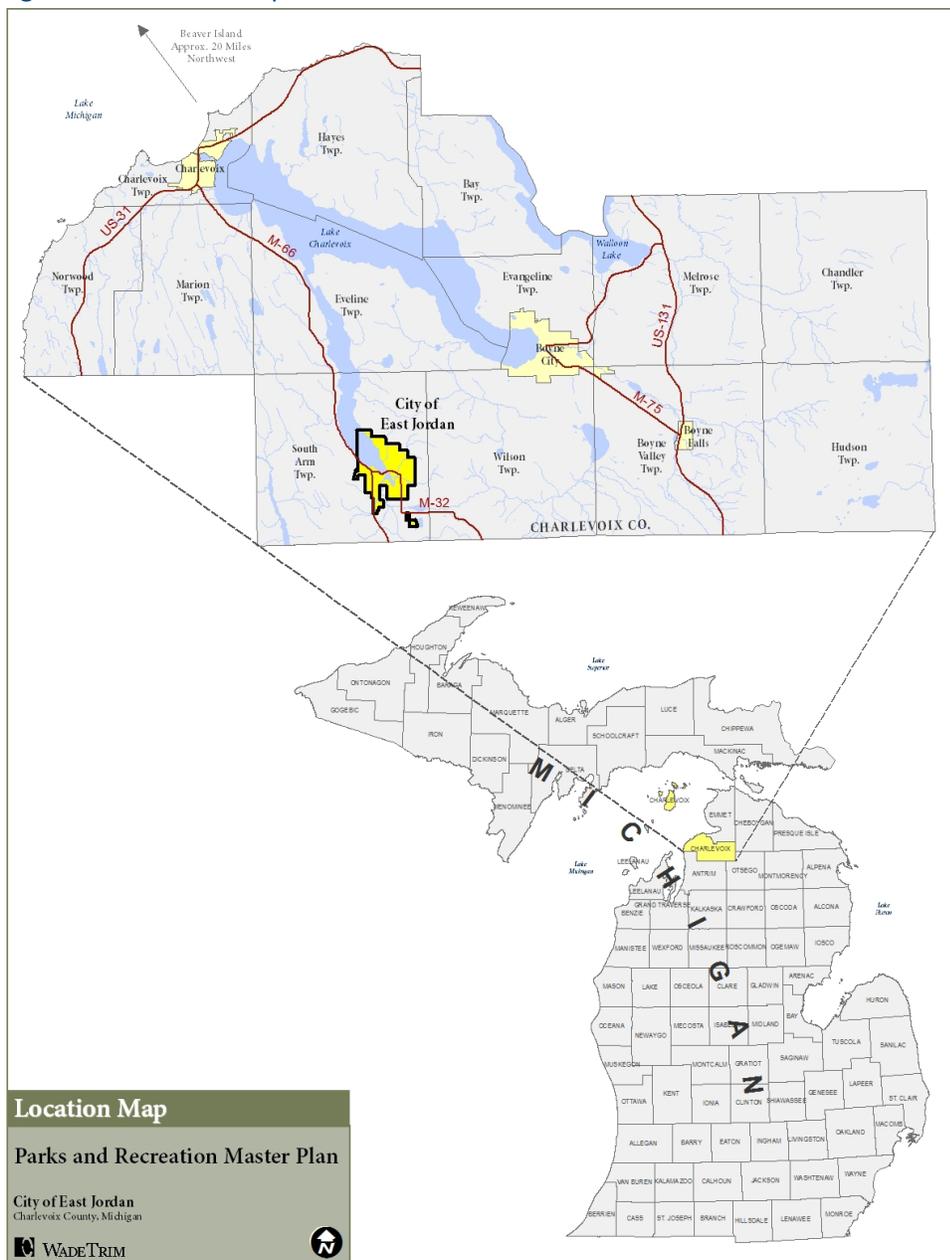
Tourism has a large impact on the East Jordan community, including boosts to local economy and increased demand on recreational facilities. There are seasonal shifts in population due to the summer influx of visitors enjoying the waterfront and environmental aspects of the region. Visitors include people with seasonal housing, campers, boaters and friends or relatives within the area. Peak periods are during the summer months, weekends, holidays and hunting season. There is also a steady flow of winter traffic including skiers and snowmobile users. This number of visitors is limited by the lack of motel rooms in the City.

The population figure from the 2010 Census only counts residents who spend more than six months of the year in the City. In reviewing the housing information from the 2010 Census, figures show

that 116 of the 1,189 total housing units (9.8 percent) in the City of East Jordan are vacant for seasonal, recreational or occasional use. With this in mind, it can be assumed that the City's resident population increases during the summer months, possibly as much as 10 percent during the peak vacation dates. South Arm Township and Charlevoix County also feature significant percentages of seasonal housing at 27.0 percent and 29.9 percent, respectively. The seasonal population increase compounds the demand for facilities by the existing year round residents within the community.

Charlevoix County is a travel destination for many Michigan residents and visitors from throughout the Midwest. The combination of seasonal residences, ski resorts, campgrounds, and outdoor activities/events draws many non-residents into the region. This increase accounts for seasonal housing, campgrounds, bed and breakfast establishments, cabin/cottage/condo rentals, hotels, motels, and other lodging places. Many of these seasonal visitors are likely to use the City's recreational facilities and other services during their stay.

Figure 1-1 Location Map



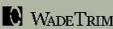
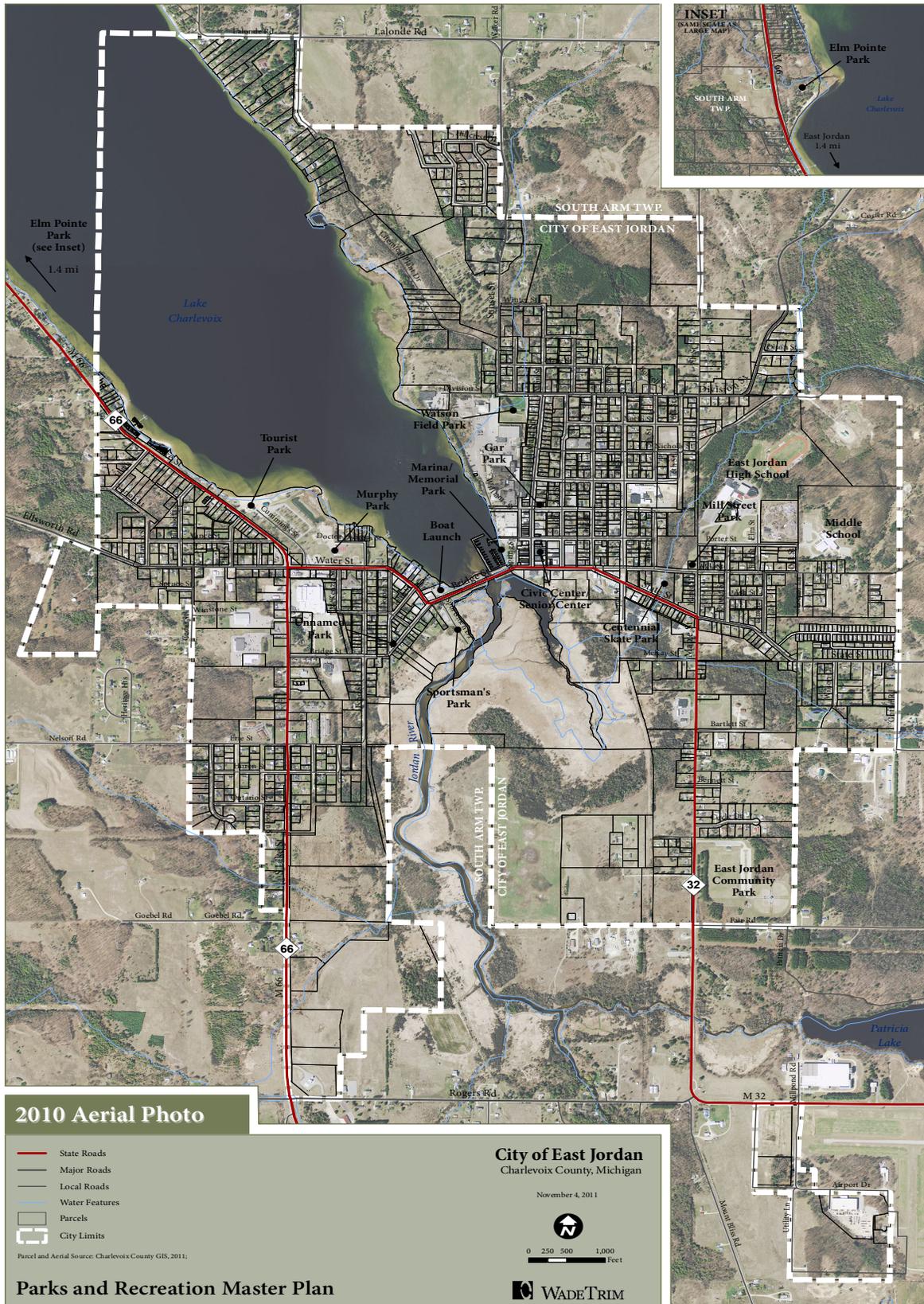
Location Map
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 City of East Jordan
 Charlevoix County, Michigan
 

Figure 1-2 Aerial Map



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This Section defines the organizational structure for the City of East Jordan. A description of governmental structure, budgets and support for recreation is discussed.

The City of East Jordan is a Home Rule City with a Mayor, City Commission and City Administrator. The annual budget is prepared by City staff and approved by the City Commission. The budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 has been approved at \$1,583,142. This budget is administered and expended by the employed staff hired by the Commission. The organizational structure for the City of East Jordan is shown in **Figure 2.1**.

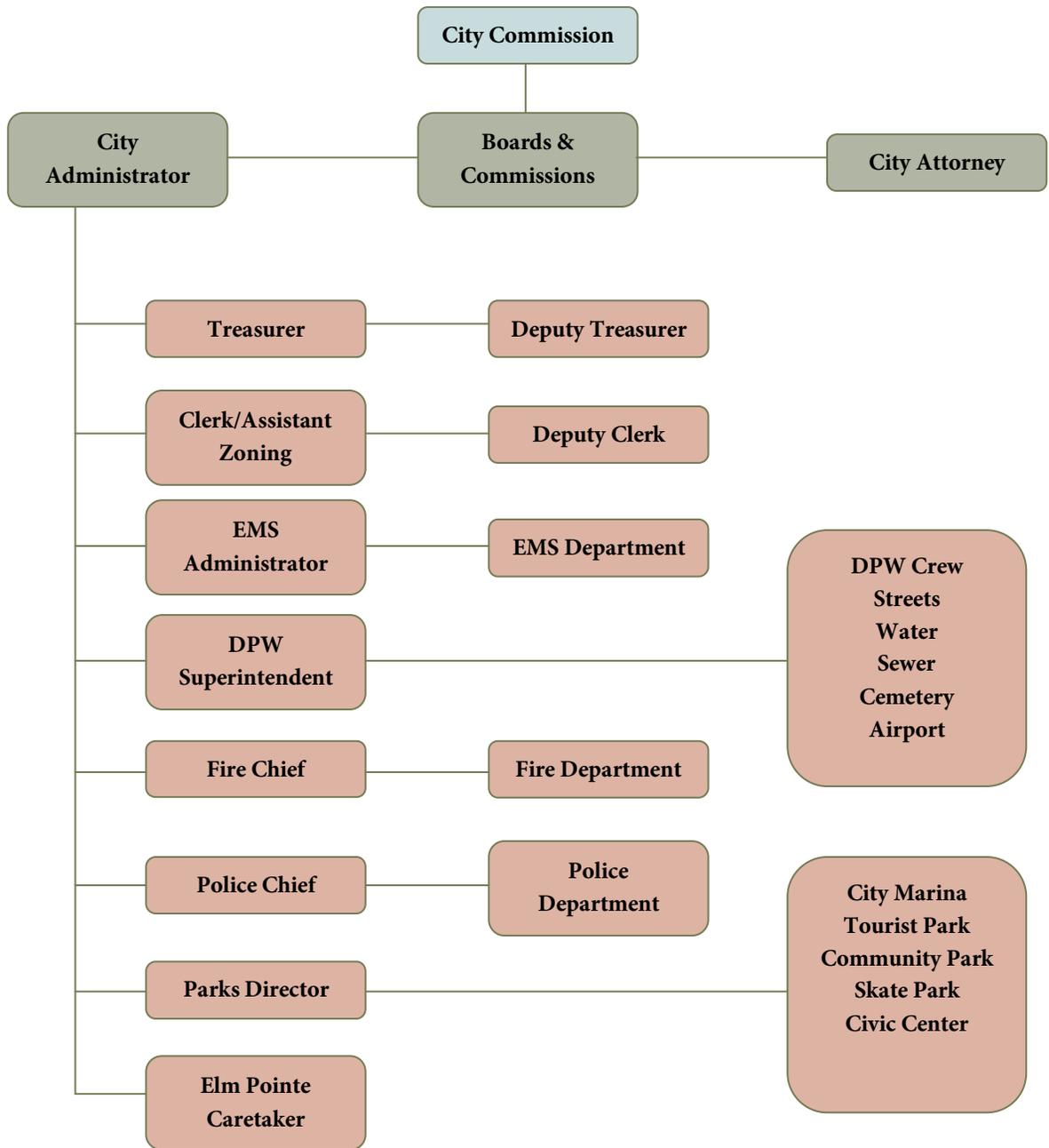
The City Parks Director, under the direction of the City Administrator, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 11 city parks including Community Park, Rotary Centennial Skate Park, the East Jordan Community Center, the Tourist Park/ Softball Field/Murphy Field complex, City Marina/Memorial Park, Elm Pointe, the City boat launch, Sportsman’s Park, GAR Park, Watson Field and Mill Street Park. The Parks Director hires part-time, seasonal staff and also utilizes DPW staff to assist at these facilities. The Tourist Park had 2011 revenues/expenditures of \$125,400/\$124,979. The City Marina and Harbor had 2011 revenues/expenditures of \$209,540/\$284,936. The remaining facilities operated and maintained by the Parks Director had 2011 expenditures totaling \$118,828. This budget is supported by the City’s general fund.

The Department of Public Works, under the direc-

tion of the City Administrator, contributes to the operation and maintenance of City park properties. They complete their responsibilities using their current staff. The DPW has a current annual budget of \$49,575 to operate and maintain the park facilities. Elm Pointe has its own separate annual budget, currently \$28,047. These budgets are supported by the City’s general fund. Elm Pointe Park has a seasonal manager with live-in facilities on-site for the manager.

Special events and league play within the parks are currently organized by local volunteers. Several programs are run by the East Jordan School District and independent organizations. Police, emergency response and fire protection within the parks are provided by the City. The Parks Director and other City staff act as coordinators for the recreation facilities.

Figure 2-1 Organizational Chart for City of East Jordan



Relationship Between the City and School District

The City of East Jordan and the East Jordan School District jointly provide the recreation needs within the community. Outdoor park facilities are funded and maintained by the City, while the District athletic fields and indoor facilities are funded and maintained by the District.

Operations for programs rely heavily on local sponsorship and community service organizations. Volunteers coach fall and summer recreation teams. Sports schools and camps operate on a self-supporting basis, no fees are charged for use of the facilities. The City of East Jordan has taken a stronger role in the development and maintenance of recreational facilities. There is a need to further develop a coordinated system of the community recreation programs. There is also a lack of adequate revenue, generated through user fees, for some facilities which would assist with the cost of development and maintenance of those and other recreational facilities.

Relationship with Other Agencies and Organizations

Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG)

The Northwest Michigan Council of Government's function is to retain and strengthen local home rule by coordinating efforts in resolving problems, politics, and plans that are common and regional. Currently, the NWMCOG's staff is involved in the following areas:

- Economic development
- Community development
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Historic preservation
- Transportation
- Land use planning
- Solid waste planning

Technical assistance for local recreation planning and other kinds of help for special recreation projects is sought as appropriate from the following organizations and agencies:

- East Jordan Downtown Development Authority
- Charlevoix County Community Foundation

- Charlevoix County
- "The Breezeway" Cooperative Venture including Antrim County, Ellsworth, Boyne Falls, Banks Township and Wilson Township
- Friends of the Jordan River Watershed
- Little Traverse Conservancy
- Grand Traverse Conservancy
- Jordan River Arts Council
- Charlevoix Circle of Arts
- Boyne Arts Collaborative
- Beaver Island Arts
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- Conservation Resource Alliance
- Michigan Waterways Commission
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- North Country Trail Association
- Michigan State University Extension Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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An inventory of existing recreational facilities located in the City and surrounding area is detailed in this chapter. **Figure 3-1** illustrates the location of recreational sites within the City of East Jordan, while **Figure 3-2** shows the major recreation sites located within Charlevoix County.

A barrier-free compliance evaluation was conducted for each recreation site under the jurisdiction

of the City and is included with the description of each site. This barrier-free compliance evaluation utilizes a numerical rating of 1 to 5, based on the following definitions:

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Finally, this chapter includes an inventory of past MDNR grants that have been received by the City for recreation purposes.

East Jordan Recreation Facilities

The City of East Jordan maintains numerous public parks and recreational facilities totaling more than 106 acres of land. These facilities are summarized below:

<u>Facility Name</u>	<u>Park Type</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>ADA Rating</u>
Centennial Skate Park	SP	2.7 ac.	1
Community Park	CP	39.8 ac.	2
Elm Pointe	SU	11.1 ac.	2
GAR Park	MP	0.2 ac.	1
City Marina/Memorial Park	SU	3.2 ac.	2
Mill Street Park	MP	0.4 ac.	1
Sportsman's Park	NA/CP	16.3 ac.	2
Tourist Park/Murphy Field Complex	SU/CP	26.4ac.	1
Watson Field Park	NP	3.6 ac.	1
City Boat Launch	SU	1.9 ac.	2
East Jordan Community Center	SU	0.4 ac.	2

Key: MP = Mini-Park; NP = Neighborhood Park; CP = Community Park; SU = Special Use Park; NA = Natural Area

Detailed descriptions of each City-owned recreational facility and its amenities are provided below.

Centennial Skate Park

The East Jordan Centennial Skate Park is a 2.7 acre community park located along the north side of State Street, east of downtown. The park features a skate park and parking lot. Improvements were made to the park in 2002 and 2003 which transformed the park from a winter ice rink area to a new skate park. The skate park includes an asphalt skate pad with 6' high chain link fence, skate ramps, asphalt parking area for (7) vehicles, barrier-free drinking fountain and spare electrical conduit for future lighting. The skate pad is of sufficient size for additional skate ramps in the future.

Community Park

The East Jordan Community Park is the largest park in the City of East Jordan, encompassing nearly 40 acres of land. Located on the east side of M-32 in the southeastern corner of the City, this community park serves the entire City and surrounding area. The park is primarily used for active sports activities, and includes three soccer fields, four baseball/softball fields and a playground area. Additional facilities include a large parking area, concessions facility, a sliding hill, walking trails, heated restrooms, dugouts, bleachers and picnic area. This park experiences a tremendous amount of use by the youth soccer and little league groups.

Elm Pointe

Elm Pointe is situated on approximately 11 acres of land with extensive frontage on Lake Charlevoix. Although the park is owned and operated by the City, it is located approximately 1.4 miles northwest of the City along M-66. This beautiful location is primarily used for passive recreational activities such as picnicking and swimming. Park amenities include a paved parking area, restrooms, grills and picnic tables. A caretaker's house, a Michigan Historic Site, and a museum operated by the East Jordan Historical Society are also found at Elm Pointe. Monroe Creek passes through the site before emptying into Lake Charlevoix. This site is frequently rented for private

outings, art fairs and special events.

GAR Park

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Park is a 0.2 acre mini-park located at the northeast corner of Main and 2nd Streets in downtown East Jordan. Park amenities include a small gazebo, benches, flagpole and lawn area. This park also features a memorial marker which pays tribute to Civil War veterans.

City Marina/Memorial Park

The City Marina/Memorial Park is found on the north side of M-32 on the east bank of Lake Charlevoix within downtown East Jordan. The 3.2 acre park is classified as a special use park, providing specialized facilities that include a 60 slip public marina. The park also features a shower facility for marina guests, lakefront walkway, band shell, accessible restrooms, paved parking area, picnic facilities and historical exhibits.

Mill Street Park

Mill Street Park is a 0.4 acre mini-park located at the northwest corner of Mill and Maple Streets. The park includes very outdated playground equipment (slide, seesaw, merry-go-round, etc.), an open grass area, picnic tables and a gravel parking area.

Sportsman's Park

Sportsman's Park is located on the south side of M-32, along the banks of the Jordan River. The 16.3 acre park is primarily an undeveloped natural area, comprised of expansive wetlands. The developed portion of the park features a lighted boardwalk and viewing platform that enable visitors to enjoy the wetlands, fish and wildlife. The park also provides limited fishing opportunities. Other park amenities include a gazebo, paved parking lot, sidewalks and restroom facilities. The parking lot area is also used seasonally for weekly farmer's market activities.

Due to its strategic location and magnificent natural setting, Sportsman's Park has the potential to become a jewel that would serve to welcome citizens and visitors to the East Jordan community and educate them about the natural and cultural significance of the entire Jordan River Watershed.

A local conservancy group has relocated a historic structure to the park. This building serves as a headquarters and educational center for the Jordan River Valley.

The Jordan River is protected under the state's Natural Rivers Act, 1972 as a wild and scenic river. All future activities will be subject to the conditions of this designation, including the use of natural materials in construction activities and other sensitive design issues.

Finally, there is an elevated platform that is occupied by a pair of eagles within viewing distance of the boardwalk noted above. The distance between the boardwalk and nesting platform is approximately 400 yards, essentially the minimum buffer zone between such a nest and regular human activity. Any and all proposed facilities and activities considered for this site should be very carefully weighed against the need for separation between the eagles and potentially disruptive changes.

Watson Field Park (Formerly Third Ward Park)

Watson Field Park is located north of downtown along the south side of Division Street. This 3.6 acre neighborhood park provides an opportunity for active recreation activities for the nearby residents. Presently, the park features one little league baseball field. Additional facilities include outdated playground equipment, restrooms, and an informal gravel parking area.

Boat Launch

The City boat launch is located adjacent to the M-32 bridge over the Jordan River/Lake Charlevoix. The boat launch is situated on a 1.9 acre site that is classified as a special use park. The site features one boat launch, a paved parking area, restroom facilities, and lighting. The single boat ramp consists of two steel break walls with a wooden pier on the inside of one break wall. The rocks along the shoreline, placed to provide erosion control, provide an opportunity for fishing. The site has been expanded by purchasing and removing a store. Potential expansion opportunities exist.

East Jordan Community Center

The East Jordan Civic Center/Senior Center is located along Main Street, north of M-32 within downtown. The building is situated on a 0.4 acre site and hosts many civic activities, shows, and senior programs. The building features a commercial kitchen, meeting rooms, gymnasium, showers and restrooms. The gymnasium includes a carpeted track and is used for indoor volleyball and basketball. Owned by the City, the facility is leased to the Commission on Aging for the senior programs.

Tourist Park/Softball Field/Murphy Field Complex

This complex is a 26.4 acre special use and community park located at the intersection of M-32 and M-66 and having frontage on Lake Charlevoix. The Tourist Park is a popular destination for tourists and features a campground, beach, and small craft marina which is not useable at this time. The Parks and Recreation Department has an office for both Tourist Park business and year-round operations.

The Tourist Park campground provides modern and rustic campsites for tents and RVs. Eighty-seven campsites are available with full hook-up facilities, including water, sewer, electricity, and cable. Twenty-four tent campsites are present. The RV sites are typically full from the end of June through August, with waiting lists for many of the holiday weekends. The campground is also used in the winter months by snowmobilers.

The beach and small craft marina are open to the public and provide boat slips for rental and a beach/park area for public use. However, the marina is not usable due to the sand deposition problems and shallow water depths in the lake. Current slips are limited in length and are intended to serve small to medium size boats (18-24 feet in length). The City addressed the future use of the small craft marina as part of the Amendment to the 1998 Feasibility Study, with specific updates to the City Boat Launch and Tourist Park Small Craft Marina Master Plans, completed in 2004, which is on file at City Hall.

According to the 2006 East Jordan Recreation Plan, the park attracts an average of 500 users per weekend, including 100 for the public beach. In addition to the campground, beach and boat slips, Tourist Park includes a beach volleyball court, pavilion, outdated playground equipment, a fenced toddler play area, a beach house, public restrooms and a storage building. The beach house, which features electric and water services, cooking facilities and a fireplace, is available for rental during non-winter months at a nominal fee.

Murphy Field and the Softball Field are located along M-32 along the southern edge of the complex. In addition to the adult softball field (lighted) and Murphy Field (little league field), there are two full-size basketball courts (lighted), and two tennis courts (lighted). Additional facilities include a playground area, press box, restrooms, informal gravel parking areas and limited open space. Additionally, there is a tandem concrete boat ramp. The boat ramp is in reasonably good condition. However, the launch is not usable due to the sand deposition problems and shallow water depths in the lake.

East Jordan Public School District Facilities

The East Jordan Public School District facilities are primarily concentrated in one campus area, totaling approximately 106 acres in size with Brown's Creek running through a deep valley situated in the middle of the campus area. These facilities include the East Jordan High School, Middle School and Elementary School (see **Figure 3-1**). A variety of recreational facilities, primarily sports facilities, are found at the public school campus. Although owned and operated by the school district, some of these facilities, such as the playground at the Elementary School may be utilized by the citizens of East Jordan when they are not in use for school functions.

Recreational programs offered by the school district include boys and girls basketball, softball, track/cross-country, girls volleyball, boys football and baseball, and boys and girls soccer. The recreational facilities found at the public schools campus are described below:

- One community indoor pool is located within the High School. The pool maintains regular

hours and programs for the general public.

- Boswell Stadium, adjacent to the High School, includes a lighted football field and track, scoreboard, bleachers, concessions building and restrooms.
- One practice football field adjacent to Boswell Stadium
- Indoor gymnasium and community auditorium within the High School
- One girls softball field adjacent to the High School
- One boys baseball field adjacent to the High School
- The Elementary School includes a fenced play area containing basketball hoops, paved play area and a large multi-level accessible play structure. This playground is open to the public during after-school hours.
- The Brown's Creek Nature Area is an approximately 7 acre area that includes a gazebo and boardwalk.
- North Field is a 2.5 acre site north of the elementary school.

Conservancy Owned Properties

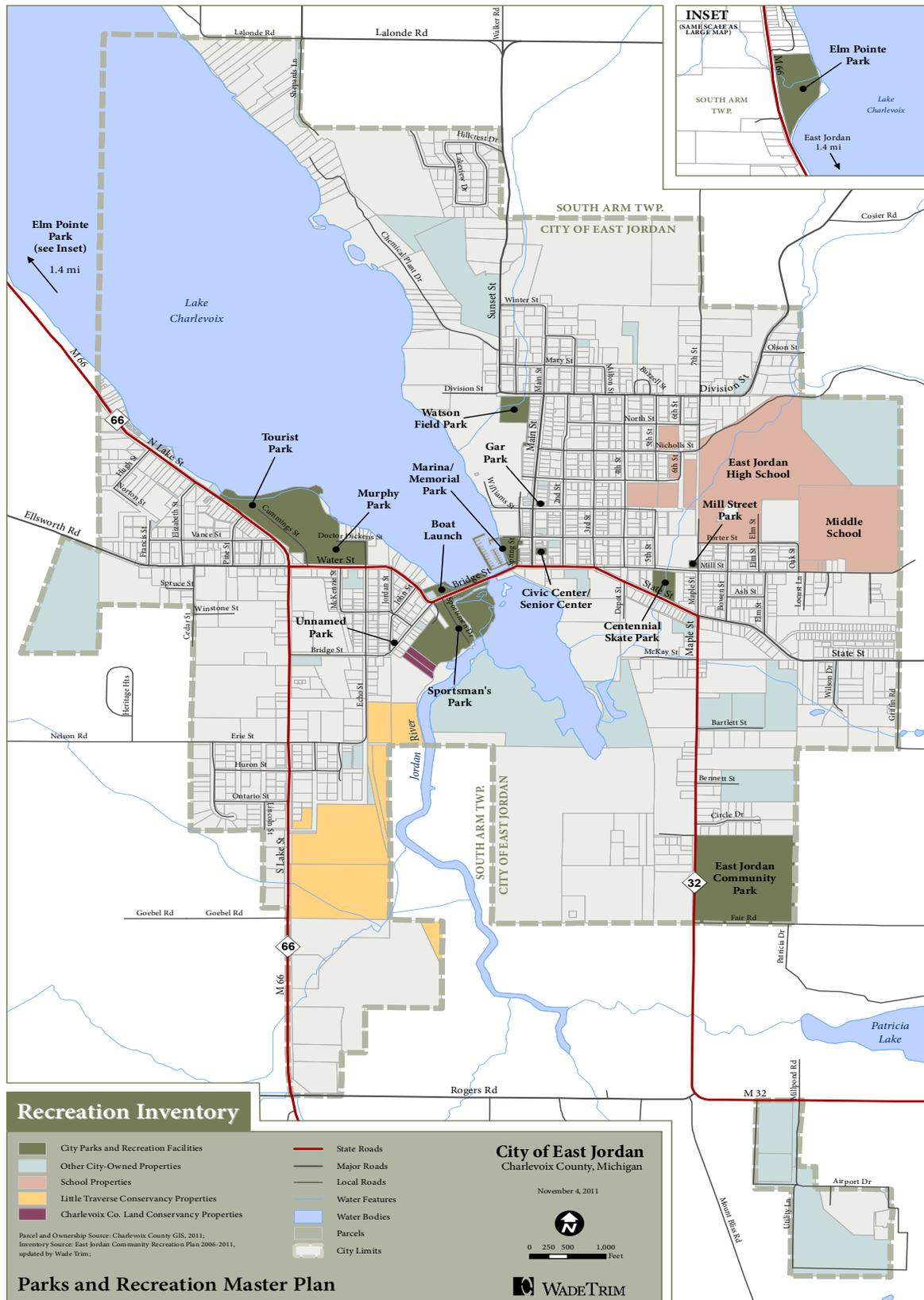
Several conservancy-owned properties are found within the City of East Jordan. These properties are highlighted on **Figure 3-1**. These properties serve as undeveloped nature preserves. The largest conservancy property, owned by the Little Traverse Conservancy, is located east of M-66 in the southern portion of the City.

Private/Commercial Recreational Facilities

Beyond the public and school recreational facilities, several additional recreational facilities are generally available for use by the public. These facilities are listed below:

- The Jordan Valley District Library is a 10,000 square foot facility located at the High School.
- The Anishinabe Inter-Council Grounds, located on the south side of Mill Street in the eastern portion of the City, is a cultural and ceremonial site for various activities.
- Gemini Lanes is a 6 lane bowling alley located on Main Street in downtown.
- The Jordan River Arts Center is located at the intersection of Main and Williams Streets within downtown. It hosts various art exhibits and holds various activities.

Figure 3-1 Recreation Inventory



- The Downtown Historical Museum is located adjacent to City Hall and includes numerous items of historical significance.

Regional Recreation Facilities

Many regional recreation facilities are located within a close proximity to East Jordan and are frequently utilized by its citizens. The locations of these facilities are shown on **Figure 3-2**, while a description of each facility follows.

Golf Courses

Several golf courses are found in the County, which include:

- The Mallard
- Ye Nyne Olde Holles
- Boyne Mountain Resort and Spa
- Belvedere

Raven Hill Discovery Center

Raven Hill Discovery Center is a children’s activity area with animals, hiking trails and a museum that is open to the public for seasonal use. This recreation facility is located approximately 4 miles east of East Jordan within Wilson Township.

Whiting County Park

Whiting County Park is an area of 118 acres in Eveline Township that was donated to the County for use as a county park by Perry Whiting in 1923. With frontage on Lake Charlevoix, this park has approximately 50 campsites, a swimming beach and boat launch. Additional facilities include a ball field, community buildings, pavilions and picnic facilities.

Thumb Lake County Park

Thumb Lake County Park is an approximately ten acre site which features over 1,500 feet of frontage on the east end of Thumb Lake. This is a popular swimming beach used by residents and visitors. A variety of improvements have been made to the park in recent years, include the construction of a new parking lot for visitors.

Porter Creek County Park

The approximately 100 acre Porter Creek County Park is located north of East Jordan in Wilson Township. In 1996, the County assumed ownership of the land from the Michigan Department

of Natural Resources. The land is undeveloped and is characterized by a mixture of wetlands and wooded uplands.

Little Traverse Wheelway

The Little Traverse Wheelway is a non-motorized trail that was opened to the public in 2002. It begins at the corner of Waller Road and U.S. 31 in Charlevoix Township and stretches 7.5 miles through Charlevoix County up to the Emmet County line. The Emmet County portion of the trail extends through Petoskey and ends near Harbor Springs. The trail is widely used by bicyclists, rollerbladers and walkers during the spring, summer and fall, and cross-country skiers during the winter months.

Fisherman’s Island State Park

Fisherman’s Island State Park is located northwest of East Jordan. It includes 90 rustic campsites along with picnic areas and is located on 2,678 acres of Lake Michigan shoreline. Activities include swimming, hunting, fishing and hiking.

Young State Park

Young State Park is located on the north shore of Lake Charlevoix near Boyne City. The 563 acre facility includes 293 modern campsites with electricity, flush toilets, showers and a sanitation station. The park is a popular location for swimming, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing. The park has picnic facilities, playground equipment, swimming beach and beachhouse.

Jordan River Valley and State Forest

The Jordan River is protected under the state’s Natural Rivers Act, 1972 as a wild and scenic river. There are more than 18 miles of footpaths located throughout the valley which includes habitat of a variety of wildlife including eagle nesting sites.

Past MDNR Grants

When preparing a Recreation Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that information be provided concerning grants that have been received in the past for acquisition or development of recreation facilities. In the past, the City of East Jordan has received two grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for park facility development. An assessment of each grant is provided below.

Third Ward Park: Grant No. 26-00725

In 1976, the City received a grant of \$8,000 for Third Ward Park, which is now known as Watson Field Park. The funding was used to provide a restroom with utilities, picnic equipment, lighting, and miscellaneous site improvements.

With its Little League baseball field, Watson Field Park remains an active and well utilized neighborhood park. Constructed more than 30 years ago, the restrooms and picnic facilities remain at the park, but are in a deteriorating condition.

Community Park: Grant No. CM99-056

In 1999, the City received a grant in the amount of \$369,000 for a major development project at Community Park. The grant was used to construct new soccer fields, ball diamonds, barrier-free restrooms, a concession stand, lighted parking lot, picnic area, paved bike/pedestrian path, and a quarter-mile nature trail. Other grant elements included landscaping, signage and bleachers. As was noted earlier, this park is the City's primary location for active sports activities. In particular, this park experiences a tremendous amount of use by the youth soccer and little league groups.

Waterways Commission Grants - City Marina

Feasibility Study 2006 - \$7,500.00

Infrastructure Upgrades 2007 - \$10,600.00

Dredging and Electrical Upgrades 2009 - \$180,000.00

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

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. The ultimate goal is to

provide recreation opportunities that include everyone regardless of physical or mental impairment.

When evaluating the accessibility of parks and facilities, barriers should be recognized from the perspective of the participant. These perspectives aid in preparing the design and planning future improvements to both current and existing facilities. Therefore, we can determine whether a site, building, and/or facility is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Perspectives to Consider:

- Could a person with vision impairment have a reasonable means of identifying the facilities?
- If a person is physically disabled, is there a means to access all facilities and if there are barriers, is an alternate route available?
- If a person has a reading disability, could the person recognize standard symbols indicating parking, restrooms or trailways?
- If a person uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, could the person participate with a group in facilities and move from the arrival place (parking area) to the activity area?

Consideration should also be given to accessibility for people with physical limitations that are not considered handicaps, but are increasingly prevalent in a society with a growing number of aging but active adults.

An evaluation of the City's parks and recreation system accessibility to persons with disabilities has been conducted as a component of the recreation inventory found in this chapter. Each site was assessed relative to accessibility status and is noted early in this chapter.

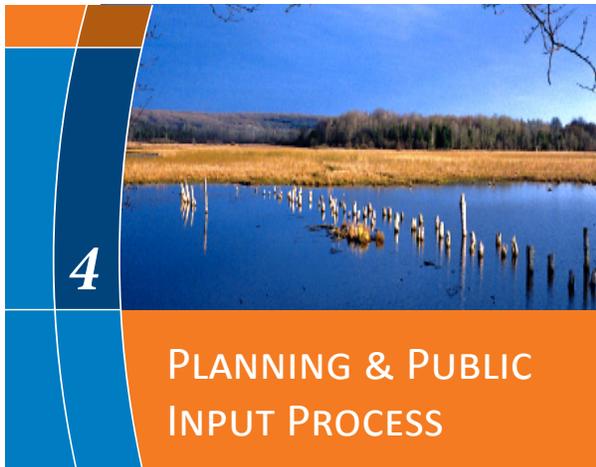
Transition Plan

Much of the transition plan for the City consists of removal of small-scale accessibility barriers which is in part achievable through general fund expenditures. This would include the systematic upgrade of play areas, the removal of uneven surfaces and sidewalk obstructions, the provision of accessible parking spaces, the provision of accessible walks from such parking to recreation

facilities, and the procurement of wheelchair accessible picnic tables.

Capital improvement expenditures are targeted for more comprehensive accessibility remediation projects which will be incorporated into the overall improvements of existing facilities. All new playground equipment, site furnishings, landscaping, and facilities included in the capital improvements plan should be designed and installed in compliance with the most current federal, state and local accessibility standards.

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Planning Process

The City has consistently engaged in recreation planning over the past decade. The City Commission has consistently supported recreation initiatives and has authorized the formation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The City proposed and submitted a master recreation plan to MDNR for the 2006-2011 period and has identified numerous new opportunities for expansion of services to residents and tourists.

This 2012 Plan builds upon the 2006 Plan, and outdated sections have been revised to current conditions. The community description sections have been updated utilizing information from the 2010 Census and other resources as necessary. The consultant met regularly with the Park and Recreation Director. The Director took the consultant on a tour of all park sites and provided facts, figures, insights and recommendations for each site. The consultant revisited these sites at later dates as necessary to update assessments and formulate recommendations.

In addition to the inventory items updated in this plan, properties controlled by the Little Traverse Conservancy were added to the recreation inventory. Plans for regional trail initiatives have been reviewed and incorporated into this plan. Major snowmobile trails have been researched and indicated in the inventory mapping.

Interviews were conducted with key individuals. These interviews are summarized as follows:

Interview: Lyle Shipe, Publisher, Michigan Snowmobiler

October 20, 2011

Mr. Shipe's comments and observations can be summarized as follows:

- Limited snowmobile access within city limits.
- Need a staging area within city limits that includes:
 - o Adequate parking.
 - o Restrooms.
 - o Informational material about restaurants, lodging, parts stores, shopping, etc.
- City needs a hotel / motel and restaurants that stay open long-enough hours to accommodate snowmobilers.
- Good trails to East Jordan, but no place to stay overnight. This limits activity and money spent in town.
- Good maps and wayfinding signage would be very helpful to riders.
- East Jordan is not currently a starting point. Most people ride to East Jordan, but do not stay.
- The down side of snowmobiling within the City is noise and congestion.

Interview: Mary Faculak, Director, Chamber of Commerce

October 20, 2011

Ms. Faculak's comments and observations can be summarized as follows:

- The marina is an asset and a problem. People enjoy boating to East Jordan and staying to visit. However, sand deposition is limiting use of the marina and can only be managed as an ongoing maintenance cost. Improvement suggestions include:
 - o upgrade docks.
 - o upgrade harbor house.
 - o upgrade boater bathrooms.
 - o upgrade shopper's dock including enhanced visibility, repair of crumbling wall and adding some aesthetic "zip".
- People like to boat to East Jordan because it's not the busy harbor experience like Charlevoix.
- Transportation links (car rental, bike rental, for-hire options) need to be available at the marina.

- East Jordan should participate in the development of a bike trail around Lake Charlevoix.
- “The Breezeway” is a cooperative venture between East Jordan, Antrim County, Charlevoix County, Ellsworth, Boyne Falls, Banks Township and Wilson Township. This venture is not fully developed as of yet.
- Breezeway activities include (so far):
 - o cycling events (ridethebreezeway.com)
 - o geocaching.
 - o snowmobiling.
 - o canoe / kayak events.
 - Snowmobiling:
 - o need separate bridge over river.
 - o suggests using Sportsmen’s Park as a staging area.
 - o need for wayfinding signage
- Welcomes collaborative effort between the City and the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed. The Watershed Center should be used for a variety of functions.
- Believes nature-base recreation and tourism can be of economic benefit to the City.
- Would like to see interpretive signs and smart phone scan-apps at Sportsmen’s Park boardwalk.
- Notes that not many communities can boast of access to a wild and scenic river and a world-class industry in the same place.
- Music programs bring in people, but could be expanded with more ambitious programming, theater (local thespian groups), comedy, and local musicians.
- Can see benefits to moving locomotive to open up park for larger groups.
- Use the “move” of the locomotive and its new location as the basis for a “train festival”.
- Other festivals include:
 - o Pumpkin Festival
 - o Freedom Festival
 - o South Arm Classics
- Cultural Arts can and should contribute to the vitality of the community. Local organizations include:
 - o Jordan River Arts Council
 - o Charlevoix Circle of Arts
 - o Boyne Arts Collaborative
 - o Beaver Island Arts
- Regarding the Beaver Island connection,

people stay in town and take shuttle to boats.

- Community needs (in addition to this recreation master plan) an overall master plan, a vision, and a distinctive sense of place.
- High-speed internet needs to be promoted and developed.

[Interview: Maureen Radke, Charlevoix County Community Foundation](#)
October 27, 2011

Ms. Radke’s comments and observations can be summarized as follows:

- The plan should address the City’s wealth of natural resources and tourism, in addition to more traditional recreational activities and facilities.
- The plan should include a comprehensive inventory of natural resources and all City-owned properties.
- The plan should focus, at least in part, on connections between schools, neighborhoods and downtown. These connections should be non-motorized.
- A non-motorized connection to Elm Point is needed.
- Use of old railroad beds for non-motorized trails should be developed as much as possible.
- Coordination with the Friends of the Jordan River Watershed is important. The Watershed Center should be used for a wider range of events, meetings and activities.
- Planning for East Jordan should be a regional effort including all surrounding townships. Vision beyond just recreation is needed. Community leaders need to act upon and implement plan objectives.
- Coordinate with Little Traverse Conservancy, Grand Traverse Conservancy, Conservation Resource Alliance and numerous trail groups. Learn what properties are targeted / desired for conservation and / or access.
- Believes waterfront access is critical for everyone and should not be an experience primarily available to the elite. Water-based resources should serve the common good and be tourist-attractive. Water-based resources are one strong reason people are here.
- Does not believe that existing waterfront parkland should be sold for condominium

development.

- Would like to see trails and a bridge crossing developed in the stream valley adjacent to the high school.
- Some people have stated to her that they would rather be poor and live in northern Michigan than in a more prosperous area in metropolitan regions of the state.
- There is an interest in expanding the farmer's market including a covered pavilion, in expanding the market to more than one day per week, and to having a market active on a year-round basis.
- There is an interest within the community to improve nutrition, reduce obesity and support local food sourcing.
- Sees advantages to relocating the locomotive.

[Interview: John Richter, President, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed](#)
October 27, 2011

Dr. Richter's comments and observations can be summarized as follows:

- Values collaboration with the City.
- A bridge for snowmobiles over the Jordan River should be located as close to the M-32 bridge as possible.
- County lines pose many obstacles to developing comprehensive watershed protection measures.
- The proposed hotel (near the BC Pizza site backing up to Lake Charlevoix wetlands) impinges on a very fragile environmental area.
- There has been a significant increase of watercraft on the Jordan River. Consequently, existing stop and pull-out facilities are not adequate, resulting in fragile areas being disrupted. It would be desirable to control the number of watercraft on the river at any one time. An expansion of suitable pull-out areas is needed.
- He is reluctant to see a kayak / canoe pull-out facility developed up or down stream from the boardwalk at Sportsmen Park. Just having more watercraft float by disrupts nesting eagles. The eagles have a 400 yard comfort zone which, if disrupted, may cause them to relocate.
- The sand deposition problem has greatly

simplified habitat.

- The Jordan River was originally a grayling stream. Most trout and all salmon have been introduced.
- The Watershed Center is very underutilized.
- A pedestrian bridge up stream, if considered, needs to be well away from the eagles, perhaps at the Stokes Reserve. The eagles take their fledglings up stream from the nest site to teach them to hunt and fish.
- The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed have made many attempts to engage kids - with mixed results.
- There is a strong ethic in East Jordan to love the Jordan River, but it is possibly being "loved to death".
- Believes the City has tremendous assets such as the Jordan River, the lakefront, the Brown Creek ravine and Elm Point.
- There was at one time a plan to dredge the lower river back to the original river bed.
- The harbor, boat launch and end of the lake are all being degraded by the heavy deposition of sand.
- Coordinate with numerous groups including the North Country Trail Association.

[Interview: Mark Penzien, City Commissioner](#)
October 27, 2011

Mr. Penzien's comments and observations can be summarized as follows:

- Would consider selling public waterfront land for private development as a means to increase tax base.
- Large sum of money still owed for land acquired next to boat launch.
- Tourist Park and ballfields are "staples", but modest ones.
- Would like to see trails around wetlands at end of lake.
- Would like to see the mile square defined by M-32, M-66 and Rogers Road developed as a biking loop with widened shoulders.
- Would like to see old railroad beds developed as non-motorized trails.
- The park at the corner of Mill and Maple Streets has been neglected and needs attention.
- Has no opinion regarding the potential

- relocation of the locomotive.
- Would like to see more music festivals and perhaps an Irish Festival.
- Watson's Field is used periodically. Family will place new park identity sign in memory of family.
- Park across from the Jordan River Arts Council needs to be more frequently utilized and upgraded accordingly.
- Priorities include:
 - o protecting and promoting the area's natural resources.
 - o development of a hotel in the City limits (possibly at the Tourist Park).
 - o stabilization and enhancement of downtown.
 - o promoting a positive attitude about the need for growth and change in East Jordan.
- City should promote bike lane along M-66 to Charlevoix.
- A non-motorized connection to Elm Point is needed. A boat dock at Elm Point is needed.
- Need a better means for snowmobiles to cross the river, probably in close proximity to M-32 bridge.
- Greatly admires covered bridges; would like to see one developed in conjunction with a trail. Envisions sleigh rides from hotel, through covered bridge and across country-side.

The City has provided updates to their records of budget and expenditures. The City identified all grants, donations and funding sources that were used over the past five years for recreation purposes. The public was invited to give input at a properly called meeting. This part of the process is described later in this chapter.

A draft plan was presented to the City Commission, City Administrator and Parks and Recreation Director on February 21, 2012. The plan was also made available for public review and comment for a minimum period of 30 days, beginning on February 21, 2012.

Upon completion of this review period, input from the public was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Director and the City Administrator. Their recommendations were incorporated into

the plan. The plan was then presented at a public hearing on _____, 2012. The input received at this public hearing was incorporated into the plan. The plan was adopted by the City of East Jordan on _____, 2012.

Public Input Process

Public input was solicited through a public input meeting held at the East Jordan City Hall on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The notice for this meeting was given via _____. The notice itself is shown below:

The City of East Jordan Needs Your Input!

The City of East Jordan has begun the process of updating its 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires every community and/or agency to have a 5-Year Plan on file in order to be eligible to receive funding assistance for park improvements. The Master Plan will include community descriptions, an overview of the administrative structures for both jurisdictions, an inventory of existing facilities, a basis for action, as well as recommended goals, guidelines and capital improvements recommendations for the next five years.

In order to gather input from the community, the City will be holding a public input meeting on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m. Tell us what you think of the current facilities and programs, what needs to be improved at the parks, where you'd like to see additional trails, what programs you'd like to see offered, and what potential new facilities should be developed. You can provide your input by attending this meeting:

Public Input Meeting

Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
East Jordan City Hall

The City will utilize the input gathered from the meeting to develop goals and objectives and a 5-year Action Plan for parks and recreation. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to provide input, please email Tom Cannon, Parks and Recreation Director, at _____, or Mark Robinson, Wade Trim, at mrobinson@wadetrim.com. Thank you!

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

Agenda:

1. Introduction to Process
2. Overview of Existing Parks and Resources
 - Parks and Facilities
 - o Tourist Park/Murphy Field
 - o Elm Pointe
 - o Boat Launch
 - o Marina/Memorial Park
 - o Community Park
 - o Sportsman's Park
 - o Skate Park
 - o Mill Street Park
 - o Watson Field
 - o Gar Park
 - o East Jordan Community Center
 - Recreational Programming
 - o Sports
 - o Trail-Based
 - o Ecology and Nature-Based
 - o Health and Fitness
 - o Age-Specific
 - o Special Needs
 - o Cultural
 - Natural Resources
 - o Lake Charlevoix
 - o Jordan River
 - o Seasonal/Scenic Attributes
 - o Wildlife Habitat
 - Tourism
 - o Lake Charlevoix
 - Boating, Fishing
 - o Jordan River
 - Canoe/Kayak, Floating, Fishing
 - o Trails and Corridors
 - The Breezeway, Snowmobiling, Off-Road Vehicles, Geocaching, Jordan River Valley, Biking, Hiking, Cross Country Skiing
 - o Camping
 - Tourist Park, RV Rallies
 - o Festivals
 - o Cultural Arts
 - Economic Development
 - o Tourism
 - Lodging
 - Trail Heads
 - East Jordan as a Destination

- East Jordan as a Hub
- RV Rallies
- Eco-Tourism
- o Local and Regional Center
 - Sports Tournaments
 - Boating Events
 - Fishing Derbies
- Placemaking and Community Building
 - o World-Class Natural Resources
 - o World-Class Industrial Leader
 - o Solid Local Corporate Entities
 - o Strong Foundation of Parks and Facilities
 - o How Do We Build On These?
- 3. Summary of Comments Received
- 4. Adjournment

The following people attended this meeting:

Mark Robinson, Wade Trim Consultant
Bart Petrich
Bob Anderson, City Administrator
Barb Worgess
Tom Cannon, Parks Director
Marty Carey
Cheltzi Wilson, City Clerk
Carolyn Barnett
Susan Grutsch, City Treasurer
Tinea Spence
Mark Lindsey
Kathy Danforth
Maggie Willette
Carron Rogers
Mark Penzien, City Commissioner
Tom Kenyon
Thomas Breakey, City Commissioner
Paul Timmons, City Commissioner
Chip Hansen
Bill Derenzy
Laura Hansen
Denny Graham
Don McKinnon
Dan Miller
Dawn Pringle
Lee Symonds, City Commissioner
Linda Robinson
John Kempton
Floyd Wright

The summary of comments, suggestions and responses received at the public input meeting is

as follows:

City Administrator Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and introduced Mark Robinson of Wade Trim and indicated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to exchange ideas and have some discussion.

Mark Robinson stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is a public input meeting only and to gather ideas and ultimately put those ideas into a plan for the City.

Robinson stated he will note key ideas from the audience and will look at how the community wants to look at Recreation, Tourism, Natural Resources, Eco-Tourism, and Placemaking/Community Building.

Robinson reviewed GIS mapping with the audience showing the City's parks, city limits and county of Charlevoix.

Administrator Anderson stated we have discussed connectivity to Elm Pointe and felt that was important.

Robinson stated he would like to go through each list of parks and asked the audience to give their ideas, values, likes, dislikes, etc. or anything they would like to say about these parks.

RECREATION

Tourist Park/Murphy Field

Robinson stated Wade Trim is going to be including a separate Master Plan for this complex and will probably have another meeting specifically for this facility.

Bob Anderson stated Lynn Carson had called him this morning and stated the name of the park has always been an issue and inquired if it conveys the image the City wants or can we have a better name.

Dan Miller stated he was on the Tourist Park Committee at the time the name was being discussed with Kay Harper and they had done some market research and found out that it is outdated and to some people it is derogatory. They felt it should

be changed but there was a lot of objection from city residents as that was how it always had been.

Robinson stated it has also been discussed about renaming the entire area of 30 acres including Murphy Field and the Softball field.

Robinson stated someone had shared with him about the camping at the Tourist Park and having RV rallies and changing the site size.

Tinea Spence stated the boat slips at the Tourist Park need to be redone and utilized.

Dawn Pringle stated in the Economic Development Committee she is on the Tourist Park was the most controversial issue that they have discussed.

John Kempton stated we need to look at the land use versus the interior use and how much of the lake front is being used by campers and what else is available for something more that could generate some revenue for the city.

Robinson stated in one conversation he has had in interviews regarding this amter plan update that there is so much lakefront property already and whatever is already in the public realm should stay that way for public use but this is something that will need to be discussed in detail as there are views on both ends of the spectrum on this issue.

Mr. Kempton stated we would need to get a feel for how many square or linear feet are actually used by the public or the tourists versus the unused.

Barb Worgess inquired if there were statistics on what the occupancy was for the Tourist Park from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Parks Director Cannon stated 1200 reservations, 400 people.

Worgess inquired if it could be defined further as far as what was weekend and what was weekday.

Cannon stated there are always more during the weekend but the reservation number has stayed consistent and the number of nights has increased

and people are staying longer.

Laura Hansen inquired how modern the facilities were for the campers.

Cannon stated the campsites are very modern but the actual facilities are not very modern and very aged.

Cannon stated the log building and restroom facilities are required due to the beach and in the Master Plan there is a plan to add a restroom facility by

Barb Worgess stated the beach at the Tourist Park has a lack of shade and felt it could be a deterrent.

Mark Penzien stated he felt the boat launch needed to be included in the discussions of the Tourist Park as it is tied in with the study that was presented at the Library and we need to look at the relationship between the marina, the current boat launches and the best uses and the most cost effective.

Elm Pointe

Chip Hansen stated he went on a tour of the facility recently and it is a community treasure and it needs some attention and repair and we need to maintain it at not only what the community expects but what visitors to the area expect as well.

Mark Robinson stated values and priorities followed by maintenance.

Robinson also inquired if the Historical Museum was needed there or if that building should be used for public events where it generated income.

Robinson also inquired if a boat dock facility should be built out there.

Robinson stated a non-motorized path to Elm Pointe has been mentioned as well.

Dawn Pringle stated the Economic Development Committee knows that Don McKinnon was working out there this summer and we know it's the hidden jewel of East Jordan and one of the things they talked about was moving the museum down-

town.

Barb Worgess stated she has put together a group called Friends of Elm Pointe to raise funds for items needed at Elm Pointe, one being a railing on the bridge, and would like to put together community events to raise money for things needed at that facility.

Mark Penzien inquired if there has been any discussion about upgrading the kitchen.

Parks Director Cannon stated as the facility is a Michigan national Historic Site it is in the plans but we have to keep the authentic look.

Thomas Breakey stated other than the fantastic volunteer support and the grants received which is appreciated, all of the 13 parks are solely supported by the city taxpayers and maybe we need to think about user fees.

Mr. Robinson stated this situation is not unique to East Jordan and there are a lot of people who use the facilities and there needs to be some consideration as to who is using the facilities.

Barb Worgess inquired about the relocation of the historical society if there has been discussion about using that venue to house social events or a revenue source.

Mr. Robinson stated yes but very lightly.

John Kempton stated Parks Director Cannon could get the occupancy sheet for the Tourist Park for the next meeting and maybe he could also get Profit and Loss sheet as well.

Kempton also thought of having a motor coach park on the undeveloped land at Elm Pointe.

Parks Director Cannon stated the Class A motor homes are only coming up and parking where they can get everything.

Kempton stated this could be their own little park.

Boat Launch

Dan Miller stated the boat launch could be a rev-

enue stream and would encourage having fishing tournaments with a leader board and returning some fish to the lake.

Miller also stated he is part of the Michigan Bass Federation and they are always looking for areas willing and eager to host them.

Mark Penzien stated we need the Tourist Park and Elm Pointe but one thing is missing in our community that we have been working on for a long time and a hotel is needed in East Jordan to help accommodate people.

Miller stated there are a variety of people who like to camp but there are also those who want to stay in hotels as well.

Thomas Breakey inquired about what the ramifications would be if the Marina was closed.

Mr. Robinson stated it has been lightly touched on but the sand has been an ongoing problem and the ongoing maintenance of it.

Parks Director Cannon stated we have 3 facilities that we are under an agreement with the State of Michigan with the Waterways and our job is to maintain these facilities by the fees given to us by the State of Michigan. We have a unique situation at our Marina than others do and if we were to sell or close our Marina we would have to pay back every dollar the State has ever given to us since the Marina was opened in 1987.

Dan Miller stated other DNR sites are now charging a \$6.00 launching fee.

Cannon inquired with Miller about fish cleaning stations.

Miller stated fish cleaning stations are okay but you need someone maintaining it after Labor Day but they are great if they are maintained.

Barb Worgess inquired how the insides were disposed of.

Cannon stated it would have to be disposed of through the city's sewer system.

Harbor/Marina

Chip Hansen felt the same way he did about the Harbor/Marina as he did about Elm Pointe and you have a sense that you are in a special place and it is an economic driver for the City.

Hansen stated the facilities need to be improved.

Mark Robinson stated there has been discussion about moving the train over to Sportsman's Park.

Dan Miller stated it could just be moved 90° or moved it away from the common area.

Barb Worgess felt it impedes the development of Spring Street s it takes away the visual of the lake.

John Kempton stated part of the success of other communities is that weekend events occupy a large space and also keep people downtown.

Bob Anderson inquired if there was anyone that didn't feel that the train should be moved.

Dawn Pringle stated there were people in the Economic Development Committee that felt there wouldn't be enough money to move it.

Mark Robinson stated everything will cost money and we can't get hung up on that.

Mark Penzien stated the train represents a part of East Jordan's history and we should keep it a focal point

Paul Timmons inquired about the State Trust Fund and stated it was his understanding they are focusing a lot on going green and hiking trails etc.

Robinson stated the current focus has more of a trails' bend to it but in 3 years it may not be that at all, every few year sit's different.

Timmons stated he sees potential here and we need to move things to be more self supporting and felt if there's a well there's a way.

Robinson stated we need to focus on objectives but to keep in mind these are blueprints for the future regardless of the costs.

Bob Anderson felt the boat slips at the Tourist Park would be an asset.

Community Park

Robinson felt Community Park is very under utilized.

Marty Carey inquired with Robinson on how familiar he was with the original Community Park Plan.

Robinson stated he has briefly seen it but not looked at it in detail.

Marty Carey stated it was done in phases and only 1 phase was completed out of that entire plan and we need to be working towards this.

Carey also agreed there needed to a connector to Community Park sooner than later.

Parks Director Cannon stated we need a better way to connect to Community Park and thought the Snowmobile Trail was an idea.

Maggie Willette stated it needed to remain a snowmobile trail in the winter time.

Mark Robinson stated doing the first phase of a project and then forgetting the rest of the project is something you can't lose site of but it is something that is not uncommon but it doesn't always happen right away but it does take some disciplines.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Mark Robinson inquired on any ideas that could be added to Recreational Programming.

Maggie Willette stated snowmobiling should be added and it used to be bigger in East Jordan than it is today and stated she was concerned that the new parking lot at Huntington Bank had blocked off the snowmobile trail by the bridge and down by the lake behind the bank.

Barb Worgess stated the DDA has talked about it and there needs to be some remedies.

Bob Anderson stated he and Mark Penzien went over to the Huntington property and they haven't

moved the railing but have reduced the space.

Mark Penzien stated they have changed the curbing.

Mark Robinson stated one of the interviews he conducted was with Lyle Shipe and he indicated the need for another bridge for pedestrians and snowmobiles.

Barb Worgess stated that was also in the feasibility study done about 10 years ago.

Dawn Pringle stated in the Economic Development Committee they identified the strengths and weaknesses and recreation was one of the strengths and indicated the need for a person to organize activities and promote the activities going on in East Jordan.

Robinson stated trails is another subject and we are a destination of trails but we could benefit by being an origination.

Dawn Pringle stated we need to have a map of the trails to be able to show people where they are or how to get to them.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mark Robinson stated as you pass over the bridge you see the Harbor/Marina on one side and on the other is the eagles' nests. He has heard praises and grumbles.

Dawn Pringle stated we need to add the Jordan valley to the listing.

TOURISM

Maggie Willette stated Lady Biker Day is willing to come back to East Jordan but there is the problem of having a place for them all to stay.

Laura Hansen stated we have a beautiful big dark sky that most people some times don't get to see where they are at and may be there is an area where there can be a look out point for viewing. Chip Hansen stated Cultural Arts and the Portside Arts Fair and is that properly located.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dawn Pringle stated Tom Teske has been on DDA since it began and he has some reports from when Rod Benson was the Economic Coordinator for the City and in these reports it has indicated we need to involve our recreation more with our festivals.

Pringle also stated lodging is very important.

John Kempton stated having more activities and bringing back the Iron man Triathlon.

Mark Penzien stated having more involvement in the parks such as GAR Park such as music or awards ceremonies.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Parks Director Cannon stated the Civic Center and Senior Center is now the Community Center and the Community on Aging would like to find more ways to keep it open all day and into the evening for use.

Chip Hansen stated the Commission on Aging just completed a survey of senior services in Charlevoix County and baby boomer seniors are more different than those older than them and they are thinking differently now and what is the best future use for that facility.

Bob Anderson inquired how much the Civic Center is utilized at night.

Parks Director Cannon stated currently it is used every night from 3-9.

Dawn Pringle inquired about the city moving over into that building and what ever happened with that.

Bob Anderson stated there was talk of it but one of the concerns was the building we are in would be vacant.

Anderson felt there is going to be a need for a senior center for a while.

Barb Worgess stated the Senior Center has been the main focus for a while and what it does to the parking on Main Street and it is a big deterrent

and it hurts the businesses on Main Street.

Mark Penzien stated there have been discussions at Rotary and there is a need for a place for kids to go.

Parks Director Cannon stated City Hall would be more marketable to businesses than the Senior Center as it is solid concrete and a gymnasium but the City would have to make that decision as to where they want their home base to be.

Carron Rogers stated there will be the Winters Farmers Market in the Civic Center this winter.

Mark Penzien inquired about a movie festival in the Civic Center.

Barb Worgess stated she felt Mill Street Park and Watson Field both have B grade equipment and both could use a few picnic tables and some replacement of the equipment.

Dawn Pringle felt signage is missing and was something needed.

Chip Hansen stated under Placemaking we need to keep our quality local schools.

Dawn Pringle stated she was concerned as we do not partner with other organizations and work together.

Barb Worgess inquired about the next step in this process.

Mark Robinson stated he will still be putting more items on the table and then will meet with Administrator Anderson and Parks Director Cannon. He will then put together some written recommendations and after the first of the year will have a draft plan and those recommendations to present to the public.

Robinson stated in between that time we have a public input meeting on the Tourist Park/Murphy Field and those 30 acres.

Robinson stated the deadline to submit this recreation plan is April 1st to the State.

Thomas Breakey added something which is not mentioned is the outstanding volunteer emergency services departments this town has.

Robinson stated if we were doing a Master Plan for the City it could be critical but that is why it is not of the listing as it is a Recreational Plan but did agree with Mr. Breakey it was important.

Robinson thanked everyone for coming and for their input and adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

The summary of input received was prepared by Cheltzi Wilson, City Clerk.

The “Notice of Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment” and the “Notice for the Public Meeting Held After the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan’s Adoption by the Governing Bodies” used was as follows:

Notice of Availability of Proposed Recreation Plan & Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is Hereby Given that a copy of the proposed City of East Jordan Recreation Plan 2012-2016 will be available for inspection by all interested parties at the East Jordan City Hall starting February 20, 2012. East Jordan City Hall is located at 201 Main Street, East Jordan, Michigan 49727.

Notice is Hereby Given that a public hearing will be held by the City of East Jordan City Commissioners on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Jordan City Hall. The hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for interested citizens to express their opinions regarding the aspects of the proposed Recreation Plan. After the public hearing, the City Commissioners will consider a resolution to recommend adoption of the Recreation Plan.

A Recreation Plan assists the City in identifying recreation needs within the community. The plan will serve as a guide for maintaining, improving and expanding 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 City, an inventory of existing facilities, a basis for action and recommended goals, guidelines and capital improvements for the next five years.

Cheltzi M. Wilson, CMC
East Jordan City Clerk

The date of this notice was Monday, February 19, 2012. The notice was placed _____. The plan was available in the City offices and in the public library located at 1 Library Lane during normal business hours. The Draft Plan Public Review Period began on February 19th and ended on March 20th for a total period of 30 days. The minutes from the meeting on March 20, 2012 are inserted below:

This update for the master recreation plan was adopted by the City of East Jordan on March 20, 2012.

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Many elements must be considered prior to the decision-making process of establishing goals, guidelines and a prioritized capital improvements schedule for the next five years. A community must not base recreation improvement and service decisions solely on the voice of a handful of residents or the needs and wants of community officials, but must also be aware of recreational trends, national standards, community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings.

This chapter attempts to consolidate the various factors that must be acknowledged and the abundance of aspects, perceptions, and ideas that need to be filtered and categorized with the end result of producing the prioritized needs of the community. Because there are so many factors that will ultimately determine needs, caution should be taken to not analyze each piece of information individually, but integrate them all to produce the “big picture.”

Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally may 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.

Figure 5-1 lists the top sports by total participation in 2010 and 2000, percentage change from 2000 to 2010, and rank by percentage change.

In 2010, the top five sports in which people participated were:

- Exercise Walking (95.8 million)
- Exercising with Equipment (55.3 million)
- Swimming (51.9 million)
- Camping (vacation/overnight) (44.7 million)
- Bicycle Riding (39.8 million)

In terms of change over the past ten years, the top five fastest growing sports were:

- Target Shooting - Airgun (76.7%)
- Hockey (ice) (73.7%)
- Running/jogging (55.7%)
- Hiking (55.1%)
- Workout at Club (50.6%)

In terms of change over the ten five years, the top five declining sports were:

- In-line Roller Skating (-66.1%)
- Scooter Riding (-36.2%)
- Fishing (-31.4%)
- Backpack/wilderness camp (-27.9%)
- Billiards/pool (-26.2%)

National Planning 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 important to compare the provision of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to standard acreage and facility recommendations is another tool to assist in determining needs within the City of East Jordan. However, it should be noted that the latest available national standards were developed in the 1970’s and 1980’s and may not fully reflect today’s needs and trends.

Acreage Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association provides a recommended park classification system which recognizes that open space has various functions. The system categorizes open space as either mini-parks, neighborhood parks or community parks. The desirable characteristics relative to size, function, amenities and acreage provisions

Figure 5-1 National Sports Participation Trends, 2000 to 2010

Sport	Participation in Millions		Percent Change 2000 to 2010	Rank by Change
	2010	2000		
Exercise Walking	95.8	86.3	11.0%	14
Exercising with Equipment	55.3	44.8	23.4%	11
Swimming	51.9	60.7	-14.5%	27
Camping (vacation/overnite)	44.7	49.9	-10.4%	23
Bicycle Riding	39.8	43.1	-7.7%	21
Bowling	39.0	43.1	-9.5%	22
Aerobic Exercising	38.5	28.6	34.6%	7
Hiking	37.7	24.3	55.1%	4
Workout at Club	36.3	24.1	50.6%	5
Running/Jogging	35.5	22.8	55.7%	3
Fishing	33.8	49.3	-31.4%	37
Weight Lifting	31.5	24.8	27.0%	9
Basketball	26.9	27.1	-0.7%	20
Billiards/Pool	24.0	32.5	-26.2%	35
Golf	21.9	26.4	-17.0%	30
Boating, Motor/Power	20.0	24.2	-17.4%	31
Target Shooting	19.8	14.8	33.8%	8
Hunting with Firearms	16.3	19.1	-14.7%	28
Soccer	13.5	12.9	4.7%	17
Baseball	12.5	15.6	-19.9%	32
Tennis	12.3	10.0	23.0%	12
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	11.1	15.4	-27.9%	36
Softball	10.8	14.0	-22.9%	33
Volleyball	10.6	12.3	-13.8%	26
Football (tackle)	9.3	7.5	24.0%	10
Skateboarding	7.7	9.1	-15.4%	29
Scooter Riding	7.4	11.6	-36.2%	38
In-Line Roller Skating	7.4	21.8	-66.1%	39
Skiing (alpine)	7.4	7.4	0.0%	19
Mountain Biking (off road)	7.2	7.1	1.4%	18
Paintball Games	6.1	5.3	15.1%	13
Snowboarding	6.1	4.3	41.9%	6
Target Shooting - Airgun	5.3	3.0	76.7%	1
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	5.2	4.7	10.6%	15
Water Skiing	5.2	5.9	-11.9%	24
Hockey (ice)	3.3	1.9	73.7%	2
Muzzleloading	3.1	2.9	6.9%	16
Wrestling*	2.9	3.8	-23.7%	34
Skiing (cross country)	2.0	2.3	-13.0%	25

*No data in 2000; figures from 2006 utilized for participation and percent change.

Source: National Sporting Goods Association, 2010.

per 1,000 people (where available) are identified in **Figure 5-2**.

According to the population standards for the three types of parklands, 0.25 to 0.5 acres of mini-parkland should be provided for every 1,000 persons, 1.0 to 2.0 acres of neighborhood parkland should be provided for every 1,000 persons, and 5.0 to 8.0 acres of community parkland should be provided for every 1,000 persons. Based on these standards, the City of East Jordan, with a total population of 2,351 (2010 Census), should provide the following amount of parkland:

- Between 0.59 and 1.18 acres of mini-parkland;
- Between 2.35 and 4.70 acres of neighborhood parkland;
- Between 11.76 and 18.81 acres of community parkland; and,
- Between 14.70 and 24.69 acres of total parkland (all types).

Currently, the following parks are found within the City of East Jordan:

<u>Mini-Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
GAR Park	0.2 ac.
<u>Mill Street Park</u>	<u>0.4 ac.</u>
Sub-Total	0.6 ac.

<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Watson Field Park	3.6 ac.
<u>Centennial Skate Park</u>	<u>2.7 ac.</u>
Sub-Total	6.3 ac.

<u>Community Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Community Park	39.8 ac.
Tourist Park/ Softball Field/ <u>Murphy Field</u>	<u>26.4 ac.</u>
Sub-Total	66.2 ac.

<u>Special Use Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Elm Pointe	11.1 ac.
Marina/Memorial Park	3.2 ac.
Boat Launch	1.9 ac.
East Jordan <u>Community Center</u>	<u>0.4 ac.</u>
Sub-Total	16.6 ac.

<u>Natural Areas</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>Sportsman's Park</u>	<u>16.3 ac.</u>
Sub-Total	16.3 ac.

All Parks Total 106.0 ac

As noted in Chapter 3, the City of East Jordan presently contains 106.0 acres of total parkland. This existing acreage total well exceeds the recommended total park acreage based on the City's current population.

Of the City's total park acreage, 0.6 acres are mini-parks, 6.3 acres are neighborhood parks and 66.2 acres are community parks. These totals also exceed the recommended acreage for each park type based on the City's current population.

The remainder of the City's parkland is used for special or unique purposes (special use parks) or as nature preserves (natural areas). These lands do not function as parks in the traditional sense. Therefore, no national acreage standards have been developed to determine the amount of such land that should be provided within a community based on its population.

Park Service Areas

As shown in **Figure 5-2**, each park type is given a typical service area. For community parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.5 to 3-mile service area (the median of this range, 1.75 miles, will be used for the purposes of this report). For neighborhood parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.25 to 0.5-mile service area (the median of this range, 0.375 miles, will be used for the purposes of this report). For mini-parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.25-mile service area.

The extent of the service areas within the City of East Jordan based on existing parks and their park classification is shown on **Figure 5-3**. This map effectively shows the locations within the City that are out of range of a mini-park, neighborhood park or community park. As can be seen, all residents within the City are within the recommended range (1.75 miles) of a community park. However, residents within the northern, eastern and southwestern portions of the City are out of range (0.375 miles) of a neighborhood park.

Similar to neighborhood parks, residents within the northern, eastern and southwestern portions of the City are out of range (0.25 miles) of a mini-park.

should also be noted, however, that these standards are somewhat dated and may not accurately reflect the popularity or decline in popularity of the particular recreation activity.

Similar to the acreage analysis, special use parks and natural areas do not function as parks in the traditional sense. Therefore, they are not factored into the park service area analysis.

Sports Facility Standards

The NRPA has also published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas, the number of facilities needed to service the population as well as the land area needed. Standards for active sports facilities usually located within neighborhood and community parks are provided in **Figure 5-4**. These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify the City’s recreation needs. It

Figure 5-2 Park Classification System

Mini-Parks	
General Description	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.
Location Criteria	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.
Size Criteria	Between 2,500 sq.ft. and 1 acre.
Acres per 1,000 Population	0.25 to 0.5
Neighborhood Parks	
General Description	Remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation
Location Criteria	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads & physical barriers.
Size Criteria	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal size
Acres per 1,000 Population	1.0 to 2.0
Community Parks	
General Description	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
Location Criteria	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance
Size Criteria	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Between 30 and 50 acres.
Acres per 1,000 Population	5.0 to 8.0

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Figure 5-3 Park Service Areas

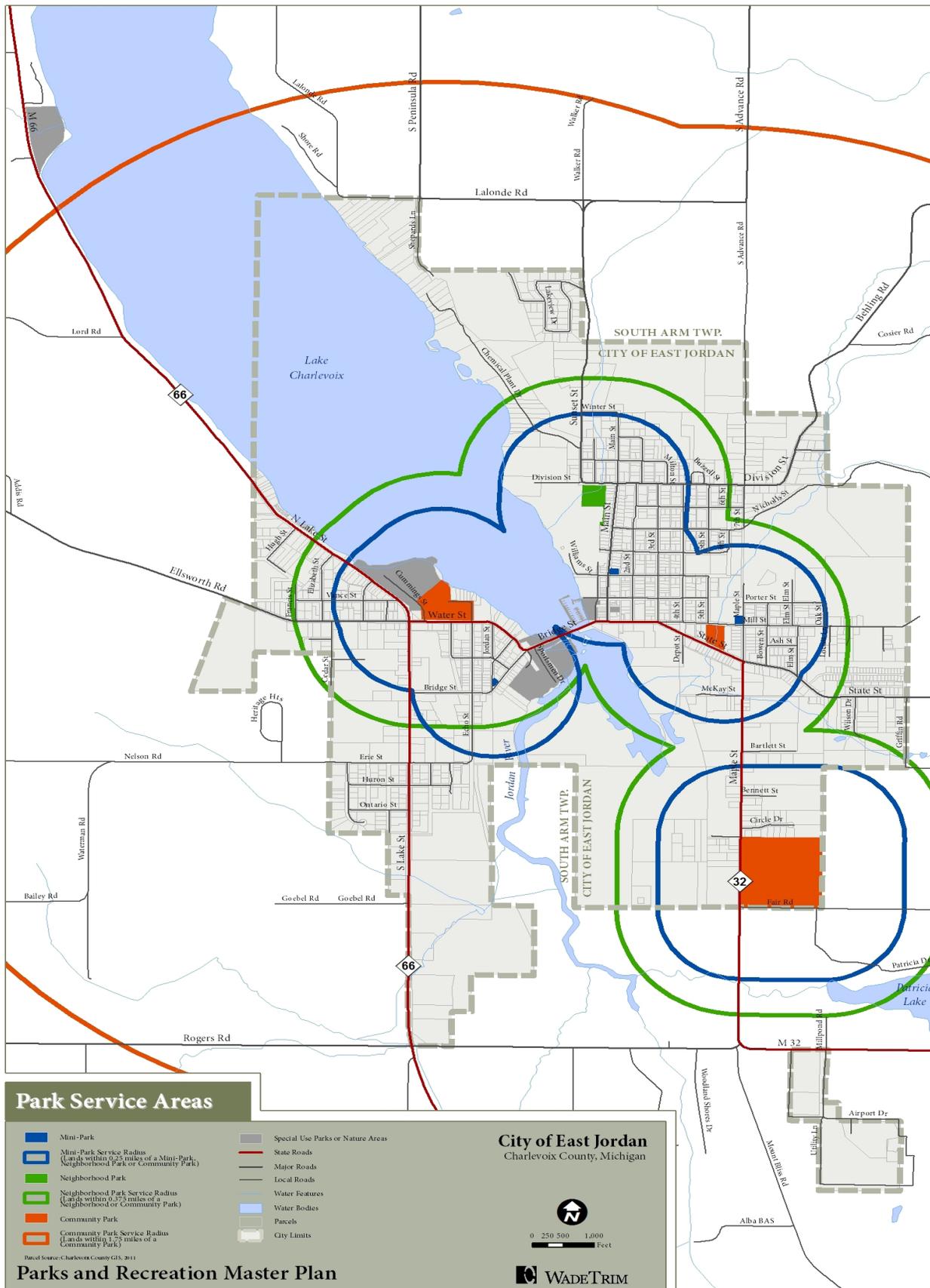


Figure 5-4 Active Sports Facility Standards

Activity/Facility	Minimum Space Requirements	Units per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	2,400-3,036 sq.ft. (youth); 5,040-7,280 sq.ft. (high school)	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. per court; 2 ac. per 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	3-3.85 acres	1 per 5,000; 1	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex. Softball fields may also be used for youth baseball.
Little League	1.2 acres	lighted field per		
Softball	1.5-2 acres	30,000		
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 school site.
Trails	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	N/A

Source: Data from Roger A Lancaster, Ed., *Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983, pages 60-61.

The narrative below provides a comparison of the City’s park facilities against published sports facility standards based on the 2010 population of the City (2,351 residents). Based on the standards, the following types and number of sports facilities should be present in the City:

<u>Facility Type and Population Standard</u>	<u>Number of Facilities Needed Based on Standard</u>
Basketball Court (1 per 5,000)	1
Ice Hockey (1 per 100,000)	None
Tennis Court (1 per 2,000)	1
Volleyball Court (1 per 5,000)	1
Baseball/Softball Fields (1 per 5,000)	1
Football Field (1 per 20,000)	None
Soccer Field (1 per 10,000)	None
Swimming Pool (1 per 20,000)	None
Trails (1 per region)	1

Currently, the following active sports facilities are found within the City:

<u>Existing Facility Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location (s)</u>
Basketball Courts	3	Two at Murphy Field; One at the Elementary School
Ice Hockey	None	
Tennis Courts	2	Murphy Field
Volleyball Courts	2	Beach Volleyball at Tourist Park; Indoor Volleyball at Civic Center
Baseball/Softball Fields	10	Four at Community Park; Two at Murphy Field; One at Watson Park; Two at the High School; One practice field at North Field
Football Fields	2	High School
Soccer Fields	4	Three at Community Park; Practice field at North Field
Swimming	3	Beach at Elm Pointe; Beach at Tourist Park; Indoor pool at High School
Trail	None	

Based on the comparison of the sports facility standard against existing sports facilities within the City, the City is only lacking a regional trail route. Presently, no non-motorized trail routes extend through or near the City of East Jordan.

This data can be used in conjunction with other factors contained within this plan such as results of the public meeting. It should also be noted that these standards are somewhat dated and may not accurately reflect the popularity or decline in popularity of recreation activity.

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Goals and objectives statements were developed along with the Park and Recreation Director to give purpose and direction to the enhancement, development and sustainment of parks and recreational resources within the City. These goals and objectives were formulated based upon input received at the Public Input meeting, from numerous meetings with the Director, from an understanding of existing natural resources, an analysis of accessibility, and national and regional trends.

As used herein, a goal is the purpose toward which an endeavor is directed. It is the most general level of recommendations and sets the broad framework for more specific objectives. An objective is a specific and often incremental action taken toward achieving a certain goal. Objectives are more specific than goals and are susceptible to modification due to changing economic, organizational and political forces in the community.

The following goals and objectives reflect the community's parks and recreation interests and intentions. The order of listing does not impart any indication of importance or priority.

1. Partnerships

GOAL:

Coordinate with other recreation providers and entities in order to provide the community with diverse program and facility opportunities that are cost effective and efficient.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Collaborate with nearby communities and entities in order to leverage resources, avoid

duplication of services, and provide a wide-range of programs and facilities. This includes collaboration with:

- a) Charlevoix County
- b) Antrim County
- c) Village of Ellsworth
- d) Village of Boyne Falls
- e) Banks Township
- f) Wilson Township
- g) South Arm Township
- h) Michigan Waterways Commission
- i) Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- j) Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- k) Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- l) Michigan State University Extension Service
- m) USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- n) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- 2) Maintain high levels of communication and cooperation with the various service clubs, associations, and athletic organizations including:

- a) Rotary Club
- b) Lion's and Lioness' Club
- c) Jordan River Arts Council
- d) Downtown Development Authority
- e) Friends of the Jordan River Watershed
- f) Little Traverse and Grand Traverse Conservancies
- g) North Country Trail Association
- h) East Jordan Public Schools

- 3) Seek and develop partnerships with corporations, businesses, and the retail community in order to implement improvements, sponsor events, and/or provide facilities.

2. Tourism

GOAL:

Offer the same recreational opportunities to residents and tourists alike, whether they arrive by road or by water.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Educate the community about the benefits

of environmental conservation to the community's quality of life, economic development and tourism.

- 2) Create community awareness of county-wide and regional recreation opportunities.
- 3) Educate the public on the value of the natural world.
- 4) Promote the City, surrounding Townships and Charlevoix County as eco-tourism destinations.
- 5) Facilitate privately funded efforts to construct a motel or hotel within the City limits.
- 6) Develop East Jordan as a hub for local and regional events.
 - a) Cycling
 - b) Snowmobiling
 - c) Boating - River and lake
 - d) Fishing - River and Lake
 - e) Geocaching
 - f) Wildlife Viewing

3. Accessibility, Connectivity and Recreational Trails

GOAL:

Ensure that parks and recreation facilities are accessible, provide non-motorized links to promote a walkable, connected community, and provide trails, links and trailhead facilities suitable for snowmobiling, biking and hiking. Promote and connect to regional trail networks.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Ensure barrier free accessibility to all parks and recreation facilities within the community.
 - a) Identify and encourage the use of Universal Design Standards for new and upgraded facilities.
 - b) Promote health and fitness by encouraging walking and in coordination with efforts to improve nutrition, reduce obesity and promote local food sourcing.
- 2) Expand and improve connectivity between neighborhoods, the downtown area, the riverfront, lakefront, parks and schools.
 - a) Support the development of a walkable community and Safe Routes To Schools criteria.
- 3) Develop non-motorized connections to and between all parks.
- 4) Develop a non-motorized link between the Tourist Park and Elm Pointe.

- 5) Work with surrounding cities, counties, villages and townships to develop a non-motorized trail around Lake Charlevoix.
- 6) Develop loop trails with the City as a central hub for day hiking and recreational biking.
 - a) Develop the mile-square route defined by M-32, M-66 and Rogers Road.
- 7) Work with surrounding jurisdictions to improve water routes along the Jordan River and within Lake Charlevoix.
 - a) Expand and improve canoe/kayak pull-out areas along river.
- 8) Expand and further develop boat launch facilities.
- 9) Redevelop marina at the Tourist Park.
- 10) Dredge and develop solutions to control sand infiltration to keep the City Marina at Memorial Park fully viable.
- 11) Preserve, protect and support acquisition of shorelines and streams for public access.
- 12) Promote development of trailheads and trail routes for snowmobiling.
 - a) Build separate bridge for snowmobile use across river in close proximity to M-32 bridge.
- 13) Develop a trail network along Brown's Creek that is accessible and visible to the general public, that connects to adjacent schools, and that is more easily maintained.

4. Natural Resources

GOAL:

Preserve and protect the natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands within and around the community while maintaining public use, access, and enjoyment.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Strive to protect and restore water quality, stream channels, riparian corridors, natural areas, wetlands, and unique ecosystems.
- 2) Increase awareness and education of local natural resources through interpretive signage.
- 3) Implement stream bank restoration and erosion control measures utilizing soft shoreline techniques.
- 4) Work with public and private entities to conserve contiguous stretches of wild lands for the benefit of wildlife, water quality, and ecosystem integrity.

- 5) Where possible, utilize low-impact development (LID) techniques to manage storm water that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source.
- 6) Restore and enhance in-stream habitat.
- 7) Limit development and activities that potentially threaten existing eagle nesting sites.
- 8) Support limits to canoeing, kayaking, and floating on the Jordan River if/when use levels lead to ecological degradation.
- 9) Prepare, adopt and enforce zoning codes and development ordinances that respond to the “Local Ordinance Gaps Analysis” prepared by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Specific shortcomings to be addressed include shoreline protection, impervious surface reduction, stormwater management, soil erosion and sedimentation control, and wetland protection.

5. Maintenance and Operation

GOAL:

Strive to ensure effective and efficient operation and maintenance of public parks and facilities within the City.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Seek assistance from dedicated service clubs, organizations, volunteers, and associations to assist in maintaining and improving facilities.
- 2) Consider utilizing seasonal interns from college or university-based landscape management programs.

6. Funding

GOAL:

Seek alternative funding sources and partnerships to assist in implementing the goals, guidelines, and capital improvement projects in the 5-year Recreation Master Plan.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Develop a database of all of the community based service organizations and foundations. Research missions, funding targets, etc. Make contacts and learn how potential applications for funding are best prepared.
- 2) Seek to offer and maintain programs, events

and facilities that will generate revenue for the community to invest back into parks and recreation.

- 3) Obtain assistance from alternative funding sources such as grants from private and public entities, individual and corporate donations, sponsorships, and fund-raising events.

7. General Vision and Planning Development

GOAL:

Build, define and consolidate community understanding of and support for the value of developing, implementing and constantly refining coordinated plans that define the values and long-term interests of the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Clearly link park, recreation, tourism, economic development and natural resource conservation with land use master planning and zoning code updates.
- 2) State and act in accordance with the resolution that water-based resources should first and foremost serve the common good and be equally attractive and accessible to residents and tourists.

8. Facility Development, Improvement and Expansion

GOAL:

Continue to improve parks, expand trail systems, meet recreation facility needs, and provide diverse recreation opportunities for all age and ability groups. Where appropriate, seek opportunities to acquire additional park sites in support of overall recreation goals and objectives.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Elm Pointe
 - a) Upgrade electrical and plumbing systems in the Porter House.
 - b) Build new free-standing accessible restrooms.
 - c) Relocate Historical Museum to downtown (fire station?).
 - d) Use museum space as community events facility, rentable gathering/event space, and the upstairs for overnight lodging. Upgrade should include suitable kitchen and restroom facilities.

- e) Make all facilities and use areas universally accessible.
 - f) Consider options for north end development including a motor coach facility and additional site parking.
 - g) Upgrade footbridge across Monroe Creek to meet accessibility and safety standards.
 - h) Enhance and expand access to all lake front areas.
 - i) Extend non-motorized trail to Tourist Park.
- 2) City Boat Launch
- a) Make all facilities and use areas universally accessible.
 - b) Develop facilities and amenities to support fishing tournaments.
 - c) Add fish cleaning station.
 - d) Develop accessible trail between boat launch and City Marina/Memorial Park.
- 3) City Marina/Memorial Park
- a) Move locomotive to Sportsman's Park.
 - b) Upgrade marina facilities including docks, harbor house, boater's bathrooms, and shopper's dock.
 - c) Develop an "aesthetic style" that defines and enlivens the marina and harbor.
 - d) Make all facilities and use areas universally accessible.
 - e) Dredge and keep marina functional at full capacity.
 - f) Study and determine how to efficiently and effectively control or manage sand infiltration.
- 4) Community Park
- a) Make all facilities and use areas universally accessible.
 - b) Develop high school regulation baseball field.
 - c) Develop well for irrigation at sports fields.
 - d) Develop trail that links Community Park to downtown.
 - e) Further develop internal trail system for all-season non-motorized use.
 - f) Revise master plan for site to address ice skating (potential year-round synthetic ice), paving of parking areas, primitive camping facilities, extended winter use and expanded daily/casual use by residents.
- 5) Tourist Park/Softball Field/Murphy Field Complex (see **Figure 6-1**)
- a) Reconstruct and dredge small boat marina. Reconfigure to include 30 slips with longer and potentially floating docks.
 - b) Add aerator/water feature at north end of marina to maintain water quality.
 - c) Build elevated rental cabins and pavilion over new ground and/or wetlands created from dredge materials.
 - d) Rebuild boat launch and construct associated vehicle/trailer parking.
 - e) Build fish clearing station.
 - f) Design and build new lighthouse at northeast point of site.
 - g) Build new pavilion at lighthouse point.
 - h) Develop "boardwalk" edge to beach area.
 - i) Develop picnic, gathering, and seating areas in shady groves adjacent to beach.
 - j) Build new shade and seating structures at several locations along beach.
 - k) Build new community building along beachfront. This building should include a kitchen and be suitable for year-round use. Include restrooms that are accessible both by community building users and by beach users.
 - l) Develop water play splashpad adjacent to beach area.
 - m) Rebuild both restroom/bathhouse facilities in the Tourist Park area.
 - n) Build office suitable for Tourist Park operation and for park and recreation administrative staff.
 - o) Build new restroom/concessions facility between softball and Murphy fields.
 - p) Build new pavilion associated with sports field, basketball, tennis and children's play facilities.
 - q) Rebuild press box at softball field.
 - r) Remove random parking along M-32. Add plantings, walks and other amenities as desired to enhance the appearance of this edge of the park.
 - s) Relocate and reconstruct basketball courts.
 - t) Develop adequate, controlled off-street parking.
 - u) Create looped walking trails within the complex.
 - v) Make all use areas and facilities universally accessible.
 - w) Upgrade water and sanitary sewer

- systems. Configure to allow seasonal shutdown of camping sites while maintaining year-round service where needed.
- x) Redesign and rebuild fire pits at camp sites.
 - y) Rebuild irrigation system at softball field.
 - z) Build new scoreboard at Murphy Field.
 - aa) Conceive, design and build all structures in one unified architectural style.
 - bb) Rename complex.
- 6) Sportsman's Park
- a) Move locomotive to this site. Develop park amenities with this as a central feature.
 - b) Restore fishing canals.
 - c) Expand boardwalk system along river and wetland edges.
 - d) Explore feasibility/desirability of site as pull-out area for canoes and kayaks.
 - e) Upgrade pedestrian level lighting.
 - f) Expand internal trail system.
 - g) Connect Watershed Center in more obvious ways and utilize Center as community resource.
 - h) Make all use areas and facilities universally accessible.
- 7) East Jordan Community Center
- a) Prepare study of how center uses can be changed and diversified to serve youth, "baby boomer" seniors, and the population in general.
 - b) Improve visibility, aesthetic appearance, accessibility and parking.
- 8) Watson Field
- a) Remove fencing.
 - b) Prepare master plan for development as a neighborhood and/or special use park.
 - c) Address universal accessibility in conjunction with any new development.
- 9) GAR Park
- a) Make all use areas and facilities universally accessible.
 - b) Build an accessible parking space for park use.
- 10) Skate Park
- a) Expand and enhance skating elements and amenities.
 - b) Make the facility universally accessible.
- 11) Mill Street Park
- a) Develop trail connection to Brown's Creek Greenway.
 - b) Prepare master plan to study and determine how the site can potentially be used to accommodate neighborhood use and use by high school students.
 - c) Address universal accessibility in conjunction with any new development.
- 12) General Recreation Objectives
- a) Consider development of a dog park.
 - b) Consider development of city-wide standards that are conducive to creating "dark sky" conditions. This would facilitate night sky viewing for residents and tourists alike.
 - c) Coordinate efforts with Grandvue Medical Care Facility to support recreation facilities and activities for senior citizens and their families.
 - d) Consider development of an Archery Park. MDNR has design standards for this type of facility. Interest state-wide is rapidly growing. This type of facility can be used for individual, family and competitive uses.
 - e) Develop city-wide wayfinding maps and signage.
 - f) Develop interpretive signage throughout the city and city parks, including smart phone scan apps, that address history, natural resources, wildlife, and so on.
 - g) Develop signage noted in e) and f) above with a unified graphic/structural format.
 - h) Coordinate use of recreation facilities with civic events, festivals, regional initiatives and daily living to promote desirable lifestyles, economic development and placemaking principles.
 - i) Continue to expand and enhance musical performances within park settings.
- 13) Seek opportunities to acquire land for recreational purposes.
- a) Protects environmental features
 - b) Provides public waterfront access
 - c) Conserves open space
 - d) Is adjacent to or near existing parks
 - e) Provides linkages between destinations
 - f) Could provide increased and enhanced recreation opportunities
 - g) Provides locations for parks in currently underserved areas.

Figure 6-1 Tourist Park/Softball Field/Murphy Field Complex





Continued on the next two pages.

Capital Improvements Schedule

Potential capital improvements for this Recreation Master Plan have been established not only to provide a guide and foundation for decision makers, but also to enable the City to apply for grant funding for proposed projects. The capital improvements schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive nor exclusive. The schedule reflects the results of discussions with staff, all forms of input from the public, input from elected officials, and the public hearing.

It is very likely that the schedule and plan will be amended at some point during its life due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, community opinion, and/or available funding. The schedule should be considered in close conjunction with the goals and guidelines of the plan. The following capital improvements schedule provides an outline and guide. It is difficult to predict desires, funding availability, etc. in the years to come. However, it is important to note that recreation capital projects undertaken by the City should address the goals and guidelines previously set forth in this plan.

- Item 1. Construct separate bridge over Jordan River for recreational purposes**
Rationale: The M-32 bridge is dangerous for cyclists and snowmobilers and limitedly suitable for pedestrians. The City has recreation resources on both sides of the river. A connection that is developed to facilitate both motorized and non-motorized use would greatly enhance connectivity, development options and recreation value.
Estimated Cost: \$500,000 - \$650,000
Year: 2016
Potential Funding Sources: MDNR, MDOT, Local Matches
- Item 2. Elm Pointe - Porter House Electrical and Plumbing Upgrades**
Rationale: To protect this Historical Register structure, such upgrades are necessary for safety, operation and maintenance purposes.
Estimated Cost: \$50,000
Year: 2013
Potential Funding Sources: Private donations
- Item 3. Elm Pointe - Construct New Freestanding Accessible Restrooms**
Rationale: The current restrooms are not accessible and are in a state of decline.
Estimated Cost: \$90,000
Year: 2014
Potential Funding Sources: MDNR, Private Donations, Local Matches
- Item 4. Elm Pointe - Convert Museum to Community Space and Lodging**
Rationale: The Elm Pointe site is highly conducive to community events, private gatherings, overnight stays, and special activities of many types. Converting this space would greatly enhance such opportunities.
Estimated Cost: \$150,000
Year: 2016
Potential Funding Sources: Private Donations, Private Foundations
- Item 5. Elm Pointe - Footbridge Improvements**
Rationale: The existing bridge is not safe and is not accessible.
Estimated Cost: \$15,000
Year: 2013
Potential Funding Sources: Private Donations
- Item 6. Elm Pointe - Accessibility Improvements**
Rationale: Accessibility needs to be improved into buildings and to all use areas.
Estimated Cost: \$30,000
Year: 2015
Potential Funding Sources: MDNR, Local Matches, Private Donations
- Item 7. Boat Launch - Fishing Amenities**
Rationale: Develop fish cleaning station and modest amenities that can be used to enhance normal fishing activities and fishing tournaments or derbies.
Estimated Cost: \$7,500
Year: 2014
Potential Funding Sources: MDNR, Local Matches, Fishermen Organizations

Item 8.	Marina/Memorial Park - Move Locomotive to Sportsman's Park
Rationale:	The locomotive consumes too much of Memorial Park which is a great venue for downtown events. The locomotive would be an attractive addition to Sportsman's Park.
Estimated Cost:	\$100,000
Year:	2016 or later
Potential Funding Sources:	Private donations
Item 9.	Marina/Memorial Park - Marina Upgrades
Rationale:	The marina is an economic generator, a port of refuge, and a tremendous recreation resource. It needs to be maintained to a high standard of care.
Estimated Cost:	\$450,000
Year:	2016
Potential Funding Sources:	Michigan Waterways Commission, MDEQ, MDNR, Local Matches
Item 10.	Community Park - Build New Baseball Field
Rationale:	A tournament-regulation field for high school-aged participants is in high demand.
Estimated Cost:	\$200,000
Year:	2015
Potential Funding Sources:	General Fund, Private Donations, Sports Associations
Item 11.	Community Park - Irrigation Well and Distribution System
Rationale:	Irrigation will enhance and extend turf quality throughout sports seasons.
Estimated Cost:	\$40,000
Year:	2014
Potential Funding Sources:	General Fund, Private Donations, Sports Associations
Item 12.	Tourist Park - Marina and Boat Launch Development
Rationale:	Strong demand for boating slips and access to lake.
Estimated Cost:	\$175,000
Year:	2014
Potential Funding Sources:	MDNR, Local Matches, MDEQ
Item 13.	Tourist Park - New Community Building
Rationale:	A new facility is needed to better accommodate park campers and local groups. This facility is a potential revenue generator as well. Restrooms are needed for beach users.
Estimated Cost:	\$350,000
Year:	2016
Potential Funding Sources:	Private Donations, General Fund, Private Foundations
Item 14.	Sportsman's Park - Expand Boardwalks, Improve Accessibility, Add Interpretive Signage
Rationale:	The river and wetland edges are remarkably rich interfaces with the riverine environment. Additional, sensitive access would be highly desirable.
Estimated Cost:	\$150,000
Year:	2016
Potential Funding Sources:	MDNR, Local Matches, Private Donations

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