



Newaygo County Recreation Plan

2012 - 2016



WMSRDC
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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**WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
(WMSRDC)**

The WMSRDC is a regional council of governments representing 127 local governments in the West Michigan counties of Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, and northern Ottawa.

The mission of WMSRDC is to promote and foster regional development in West Michigan... through cooperation amongst local governments.



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INTRODUCTION

This document, the Newaygo County Community Recreation Plan, is intended to guide present and future recreational resource development within the county, including parkland, parks facilities, recreational programs, and public open space.

This plan, in addition to serving as a guide for recreation facility and program development, is prepared to satisfy the requirements set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Recreation plans are required by the MDNR for state and federal grant eligibility.

Overview of the Planning Process

In 2011, Newaygo County contracted with the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission for the purpose of developing a Community Recreation Plan. Every effort has been made to present information that is current and accurate. The Newaygo County Board and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission shall not be held liable for any errors or omissions related to this Plan. This Plan is a general planning document. Therefore, a thorough investigation with original research materials should be undertaken before proceeding with any specific implementation decisions.

Citizen input is very important in addressing recreation-related issues facing county residents as a whole. The planning process is most effective when all sectors of the citizenry provide input into the future of their community. The opportunity for input was provided through a public meeting, County Board Meetings, Newaygo County Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings, and public hearings. Notices of these meetings were published in the Times-Indicator, a general circulation newspaper in Newaygo County.

Function of the Plan

This particular plan is intended to serve as a guide for future decisions and actions related to recreation. It should be used by the decision-makers of Newaygo County based on the desire of the general public and the availability of resources.

The following are specific goals of this Plan:

- To provide a means for county residents to participate in determining the future of their community, thereby promoting the interests of the community.
- To establish goals and objectives to be used as a guide for future decisions regarding public recreation and open space and not to be competing with private enterprise.
- To outline implementation strategies that can ensure that future development is consistent with the goals and objectives of the county.

- To provide a detailed inventory of recreation facilities and assist decision-makers with development decisions related to those facilities.
- To designate suitable areas for future recreation development while encouraging the preservation and conservation of natural resources.
- To provide means by which grant funding can be secured for recreation related development projects.
- To prepare a plan that is consistent with Michigan Public Act 256 of 1917, as amended.

Legal Basis and Development

This Plan is enabled by Michigan law, but does not carry the power of statutory law or ordinance. Its principles are derived from Public Act 156 of 1917, an act authorizing Counties to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds which states, in part that:

Sec. 1 (2-4). Counties may acquire, equip, and maintain land, buildings, or other recreation facilities. Counties may employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants. Counties may vote and expend funds for the operation of such a system.

Sec 3 (1-4). Counties may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds, independently, or cooperate with any other city, village, county, township or school district in its conduct in any manner in which they may mutually agree, or delegate the operation of this system to a Recreation Board created by any or all of them, and appropriate money, voted for this purpose, to such board.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Newaygo County is located in the west central part of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula nearly halfway between the Michigan-Indiana border and Grand Traverse Bay. The county is bordered by Lake County to the north, Mecosta and Montcalm Counties to the east, Kent County to the south, Muskegon County to the south and west, and Oceana County to the west. The county consists of four (4) cities and twenty-four (24) townships, one (1) village and encompasses all or a portion of eleven (11) school districts.

Table #1									
Newaygo County Population (Historical and Projected)									
Historical Census Figures					Projected Population				
1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
27,992	34,917	38,202	47,874	48,460	52,026	54,382	56,846	59,421	62,112

Source: West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission

Newaygo County is a large county with an area of 551,757 acres, or approximately 862 square miles. The City of White Cloud is the county seat located in the central portion of the County. The 2010 Census lists the county's total population at 48,460 with a total of 25,075 housing units. Map #1 indicates the regional location of Newaygo County.

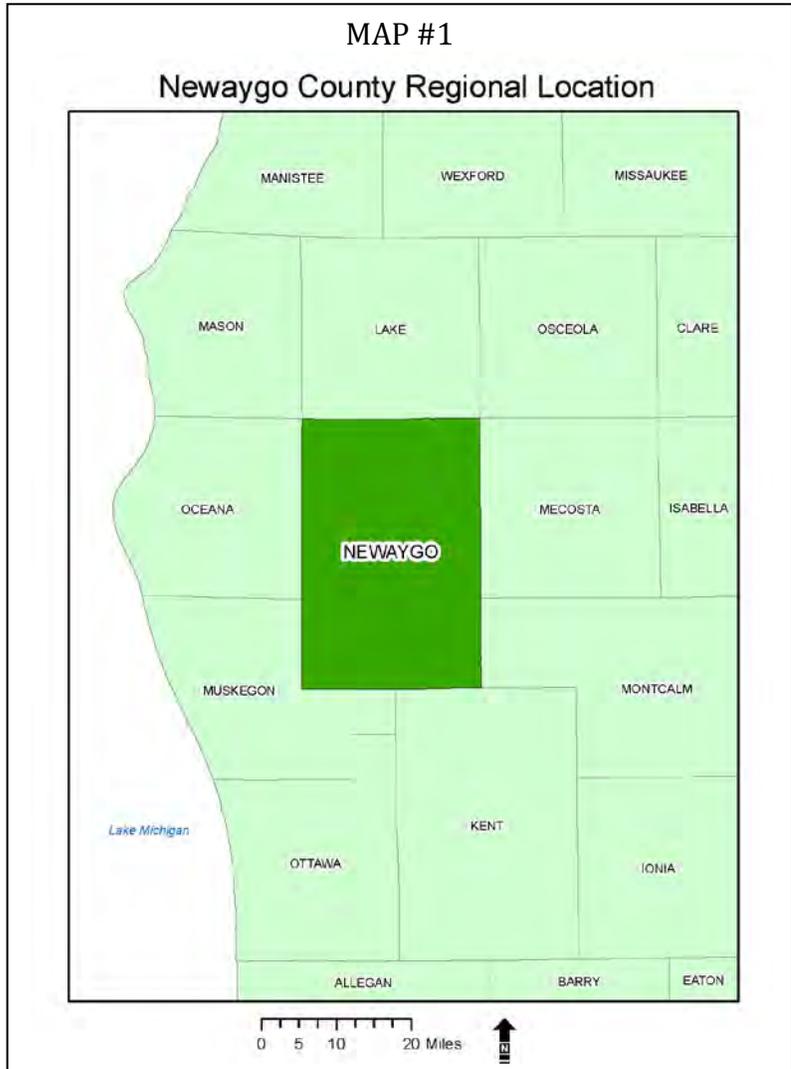
Newaygo County History and Development

The following section was taken directly from the 2006-2011 Newaygo County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the purpose of preserving a public record of the history of Newaygo County.

From 11,000 years ago until the arrival of the first Europeans in Michigan, various Indian tribes periodically occupied what is now Newaygo County. During the retreat of the last glacier, tundra and forests of spruce covered the landscape. Indians of the Paleo Period followed caribou into what is now Michigan. Projectile points (fluted, lanceolate points) that were used by the Indians have been found north of the Muskegon River in Newaygo County.

By 2000 B.C., the forests and rivers began to look like those of today. Between 2000 B.C. and about 500 B.C., Indians of the Archaic Period hunted deer in winter and fished in summer. By about 100 B.C., the Hopewell Indians lived in what is now called Newaygo County. The Hopewell culture probably extended as far north as the Muskegon River in Newaygo County. Artifacts from this period have been found in numerous mounds on the river bluffs between Newaygo and Croton, where the Hopewell Indians buried artifacts with their dead.

The Mallon Mounds near Brooks Lake and other mounds date from the Woodland Period (700 to 1000 A.D.). Indians of this period were probably the progenitors of the



Ottawa Indians, who made contact with the first Europeans. The Ottawas engaged mainly in specialized fur trapping. They exchanged furs for agricultural products grown to the south. They fished in summer and hunted in winter. Archaeological evidence at sites in Oceana County indicates that they hunted buffalo, beaver, and elk.

The first Europeans to navigate the Muskegon River were French trappers who traded with the Indians well before recorded history. The earliest permanent settlement was a trading post on the Muskegon River that dates to about 1834. Another trading post was established at Old Woman's Bend, 2 miles below the present City of Newaygo.

European settlement of Newaygo County began with lumbering. When the Indians gave up title to their land following the Treaty of 1836, speculators came to Newaygo County from Chicago. They established claims over the vast timber resources, established squatters rights at river mouths, and ran sawmills with water power.

A group of capitalists from Chicago journeyed up the Muskegon River, had floated logs down the river before, but the Penoyers were the first to raft them down the river to Lake Michigan and finally to Chicago. A member of this first group to come to the area, Jack McBride, build a cabin at the mouth of Penoyer Creek, thus becoming Newaygo's first permanent white settler.

The boundaries for Newaygo County were set in 1840, but being unorganized, it was attached to Kent County to the south. It became a separate county in 1851, being organized in 1852.

There are many legends and stories concerning the name chosen for the county, Newaygo. It is believed that the name was derived from Ottawa Indian brave, Nah-way-go, who had a reputation for bravery and strength and was known for his courage on the battlefield. Seen and admired by the area's first white settlers, Nah-way-go died sometime in the late 1830's.

In 1853, lumberman from Glenn Falls, New York, came to the area, and with a charter from John Brooks who in the same year plotted out and sub-divided what is now the City of Newaygo built a larger mill called the Big Red Mill that soon employed 200 people. A log dam was built for the mill which became the largest water-powered saw mill in the state with 120 saws. Fire destroyed the mill in 1867 but it was soon rebuilt and expanded. The mill was then sold to D.P. Clay and played a significant role in the lumbering heydays in Newaygo. The company employed up to 300 men and at its height, in 1888, had log drives of a half a billion board feet of lumber per year. Newaygo was the first county seat and a brick courthouse was built in 1886.

The nearby Croton Dam area was also thriving at this time. John Stearns, coming from Croton, New York, named the settlement after his hometown in 1850. Mr. Gauweiler, a lumberman, and Mr. Kaufman, a farmer, settled there at this time. The settlement grew as trade increased, and by 1869, Croton boasted 400 residents. However, a flood in 1881 and a fire in 1889 destroyed most of the settlements.

Other lumbering settlements started in Bridgeton (1853), Fremont (1855), Hesperia (1867), Grant (1893), and White Cloud (1870). As the settlements grew, roads were constructed and in 1849, the first state road was built from Croton and Newaygo to Muskegon. In 1854, a state road was built from Newaygo to Grand Rapids and facilitated the construction of the Big Red Mill at Newaygo. The Grand Rapids, Newaygo, and Lake Shore Rail Road came to Newaygo in 1872, connecting the city with Grand Rapids. In 1875, the rail road was extended to White Cloud.

Settlement and growth came late to the future county seat, White Cloud. Prior to 1870, there was no real growth. However, construction of the railroad in 1875 spurred new growth. When lumberman Wilcox and Morgan came to the area, there was already a settlement there, Alleyton, started by Mr. Alleyton. Wilcox and Morgan started a second settlement across the river called Morgan Station. In 1872, lumbering operations started on the White River and fast growth came to the area. At the request of the postal officials, Morgan Station was renamed White Cloud and in 1872, the Village was incorporated. Both settlements continued to grow and by 1882, they had 136 school age children. Alleyton grew larger and faster and was considered the more elegant of the two. By 1880, it had 550 residents, and 32 businesses. Unfortunately, on July 4, 1894, after already suffering from one fire, another struck, wiping out the village. It was never rebuild, and little remains to indicate its former existence.

When the lumbering era began in the early 1800's in Michigan, it was expected to last hundreds of years. However, within approximately fifty years, the vast softwood timber resources in the Lower Peninsula, including those in Newaygo County were harvested and the slash burned over more than once. Some believe that more logs were floated down the Muskegon River than any other river in the world. It is estimated that only one out of every three trees were actually harvested, the rest having been destroyed by forest fires. The forests and the soils were forever changed as a result of clear cutting, forest fires and farming.

The crops in the area of cleared forest were used to feed the growing population in the lumbering camps. Several hundred acres were cultivated in the mid 1800's in an area of remnant prairie in what is now Big Prairie Township. The soil in this area was Sparta sand that had a 12 to 18-inch layer of mixed sand and organic material. It was devoid of trees and could be easily farmed. The fertility of the soil was fair, and good crops were produced during the first few years. After removal of the nutrients by the first few crops however, the soil was dry and subject to blowing and in some areas, two to three feet were eroded. As a result, the largest area of desert east of the Mississippi River was created. The area became a tourist attraction until it was reforested in the early 1930's. Plantations of pine now cover much of the area.

By the early 1890's, with the vast timber resources depleted, lumbering moved out of the area. By the last quarter of the 19th century, some of the easier to drain wetlands were converted to farmland. In the early 20th century, Rice Lake in Grant Township, was drained and its lakebed is now used for specialty crops. As the logging industry

slowed and farming increased, a canning factory established in Fremont to market the produce, grew into a major enterprise known today as Gerber Products.

With the lumbering era over, other industries began to replace the economic focus of the area. In 1898, the marl beds just north of Newaygo were acquired by D.L. Slivens of Newaygo Manufacturing Company and a group of Grand Rapids businessmen and a cement company was formed. By 1902, the first barrels were shipped.

Not all of the land that was originally settled was suitable for farming and many farms were later abandoned. Much of this land reverted to the Federal Government and today is managed as part of the Manistee National Forest. Today, the United States Forest Service owns approximately 108,000 acres or almost 20% of the county. Other farmland was purchased for recreational uses. Forest products from the second growth forests and recreation are the chief resources of the northern two-thirds of the county. In the southern third of the county, farming and industry has evolved. With some of the largest muck farms located in the eastern half of the county, Grant is known as the onion capital of the world. There are also significant apple and peach orchards.

The county's two hydroelectric dams on the Muskegon River produce enough kilowatts of electricity to power a city of 23,000 people. Both Croton Dam and Hardy Dam are on the National Register of Historic Places. Croton was constructed in 1906-07 and was the first hydro facility in the nation to use 110,000 volt transmission lines. Hardy went into service in 1931 and at the time was the tallest earthen dam in the world. Today it is still Michigan's tallest earthen dam and provides a 3,800 acre reservoir that is enormously popular for outdoor recreation.

Newaygo County's three largest cities incorporate all these major uses. The City of Newaygo is known for its angling opportunities for Chinook salmon, steelhead, and brown trout, as well as boating, canoeing, and kayaking. Fremont is the home of the world's leader in baby food, Gerber Products. White Cloud, with its motto emphasizing its recreation activities, "Where the North Begins and the Pure Water Flows" is the county seat.

In summary, Newaygo County has a rich human, geologic, and biological history. The geologic history shaped the landscape, providing habitat for a wide variety of living organisms. In turn, it also provided opportunity for human habitation and development. The county's diversity, exceptional surface water resources and proximity to major population centers in western Michigan make it an exceptional tourism destination today. The climate provides four seasons, each with its own special recreational opportunities.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Roles of the Newaygo County Board and Parks & Recreation Commission

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission was established under the authority of PA 261 of 1965. See Table 2 for a list of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Board members. The Parks and Recreation Commission reports directly to the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners and has the authority to run the daily operation and management of the Commission's responsibilities. These responsibilities are managed by a hired Parks Director who is under the direction of the Parks Commission and County Administrator. The Parks and Recreation Commission meet regularly on the first Tuesday of every month at 9:00 AM. All meetings are held at the parks administration office located in the Newaygo County Visitors Center at 4684 Evergreen Drive (M-37).

The main responsibilities of the parks director are to plan, develop, and administer a comprehensive program to provide multiple park facilities and recreational opportunities. The director manages maintenance, administrative and support activities through full-time and seasonal personnel; oversees development and improvement projects within the parks; inspects parks to evaluate operations and to ensure safety and enforcement of policies on a federal, state, and local level. The director is also responsible for all personnel, financial, and other administrative functions of the department; and serves as a liaison to various community organizations including the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Board and the Newaygo County Convention and Visitors Bureau. There are also other parks and recreation staff members who report directly to the parks director. The staff members are temporary seasonal workers and include two full-time roving maintenance, three full-time park managers, as well as one full-time and three part-time park attendants/rangers. The parks and recreation staff also includes a part-time administrative assistant housed at the Newaygo County Visitors Center. Below is an organizational chart illustrating the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission staff and structure.

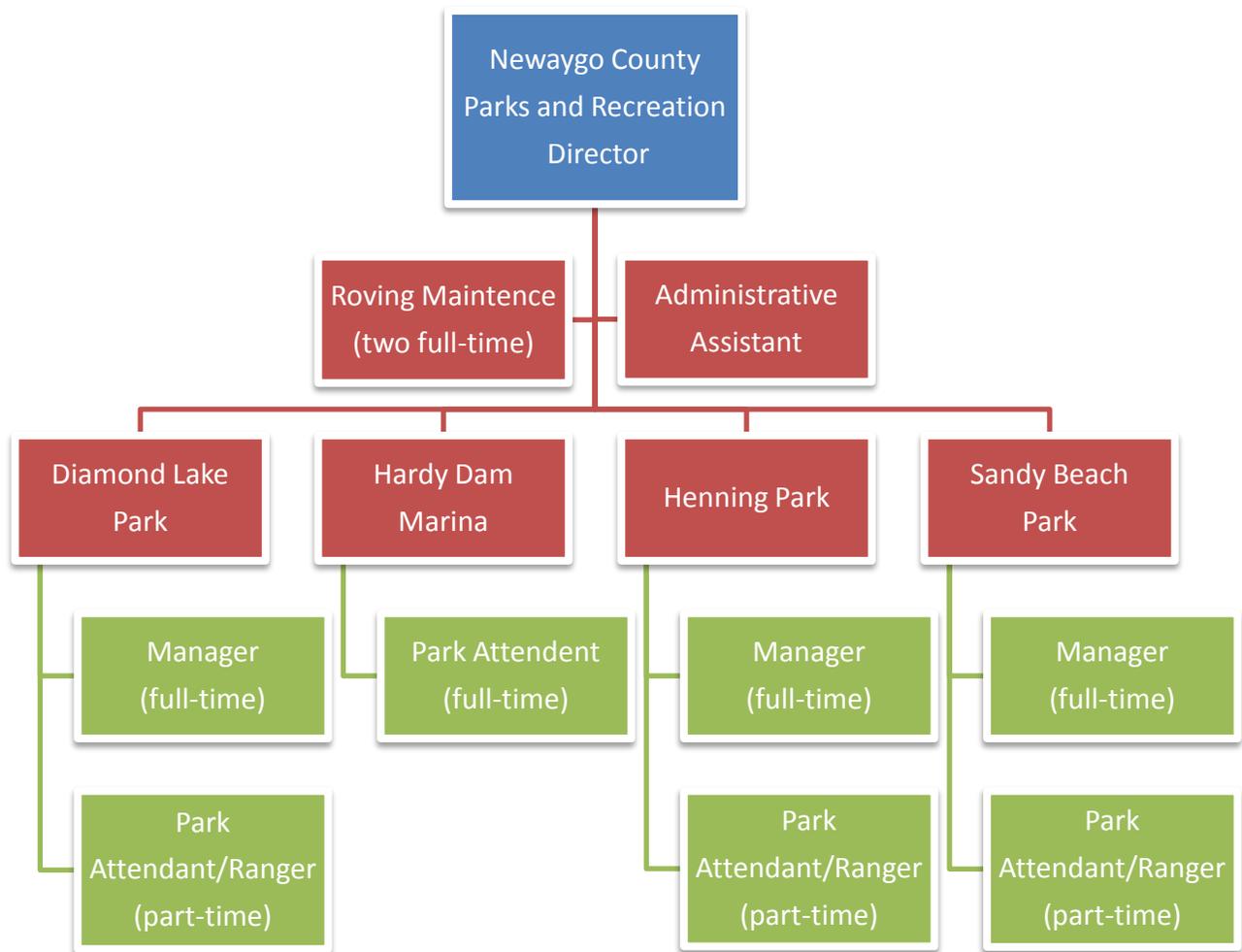
Table #2

2011 Newaygo County Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Pat Baker
Rich Kooistra
James Maike
Roman Miller
Mark Pitzer
Darryl Rettig
Sam Scholtens
Stan Stroven
Dale Twing
Janet Westfield

Parks Director: Ron Welton

Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart



Annual and Projected Budgets

Table #3

Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Current and Projected Budget	
Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012
\$373,343	\$367,804

Sources of Funding

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission receives funding from a variety of sources. These funding sources consist of nightly camping fees, seasonal campsite rental fees, daily watercraft slip rental and launch fees, and seasonal watercraft slip rental and launch fees from the various county parks. These parks include Diamond Lake, Henning, Sandy Beach, Pettibone, and Hardy Dam Marina. The county general fund also contributes to assist in operations. However, the county also consistently contributes for capital improvements, especially to assist in providing local matching funds for state, federal, and private foundation grants.

In addition, the Fremont Area Community Foundation has been a critical partner and asset to the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission. Their generosity in grant funding for capital improvements has also allowed Newaygo County to leverage other grant funds for additional improvement projects.

Recreation Programming

The main role of the Newaygo County Park system is to provide self-directed recreation opportunities to visitors and area residents. These activities include fishing, swimming, camping, boating, relaxing, picnicking, non-motorized trail use, wildlife viewing, socializing, and other self-directed activities. There is currently no programming staff for the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Role of Volunteers

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission appreciate the numerous volunteers that graciously assist with the giving of their time each year. They provide assistance to the county parks through a variety of means including litter clean up, basic maintenance, and fund raising support for capital improvements. Members of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission also serve on a voluntary basis and do not receive pay in providing their guidance for the parks and serving as a liaison to the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners.

Relationship(s) with Other Public or Private Organizations

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission is partnering with the Newaygo County Recreation Authority. This is a group of interested citizens and government officials (including the County Parks Director) from the City of Newaygo and the surrounding townships. The establishment of the Authority was facilitated by the Land Information Access Association (LIAA) a non-profit organization based in northwestern Lower Michigan. The LIAA is no longer facilitating the group. Members of the authority continue to meet regularly.

In addition, cooperation between the county, cities, townships, and school districts is common in programming community recreation activities such as adult and youth athletic leagues.

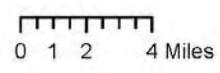
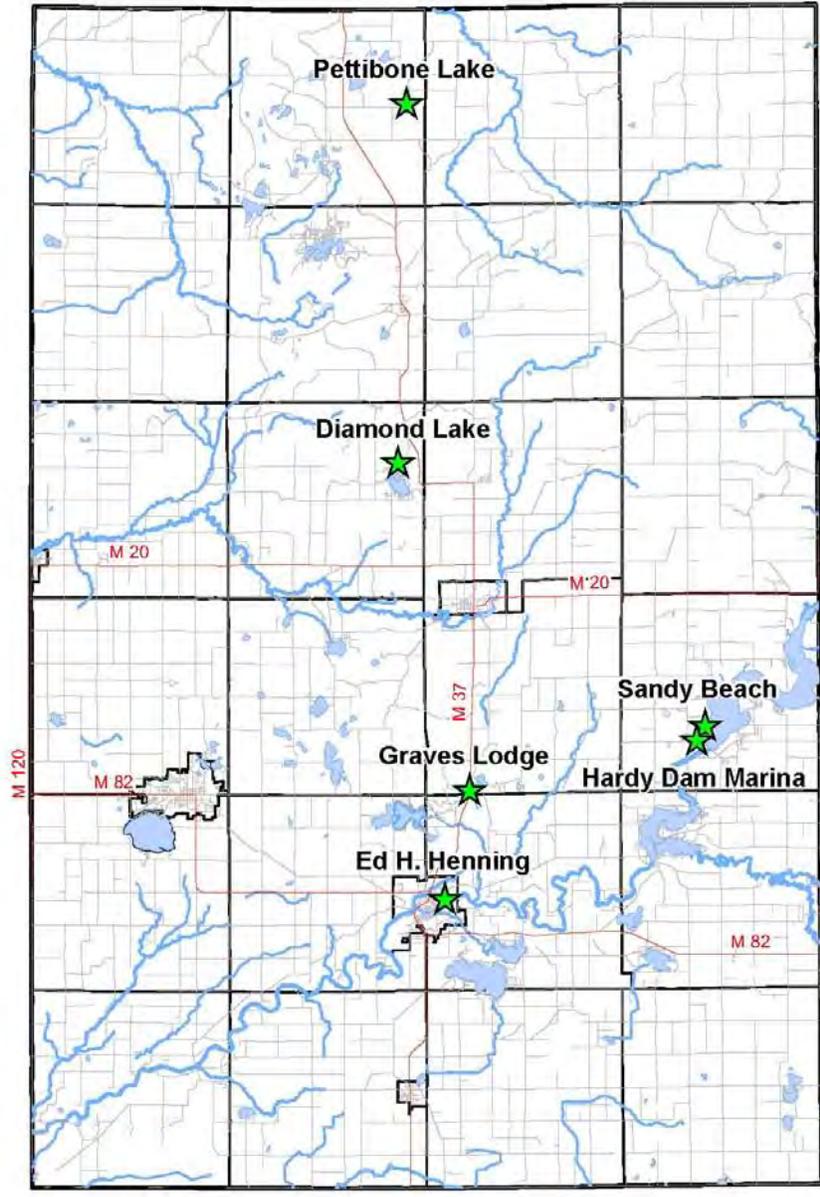
RECREATION INVENTORY

Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

Newaygo County officials and Regional Commission staff worked closely to generate a detailed recreation and resources inventory for the county. Several methods were used to assist in conducting an inclusive inventory. The first method used in conducting the recreation and resources inventory included a detailed review of the recently expired Newaygo County Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan completed in 2006. Secondly, Regional Commission staff did a complete analysis of the Newaygo County Parks website. Finally, the Newaygo County Parks Director, along with Regional Commission staff completed an extensive tour of the county and the recreational facilities located within its jurisdiction.

Newaygo County currently operates six recreational facilities within the county. A map identifying the location of the parks, followed by detailed summaries of each park including location, size, and amenities.

MAP #2
Newaygo County Parks



Map by
WASRD
WEST MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL
MECHANICAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
September 2011

Diamond Lake County Park

Diamond Lake County Park was recently added to the Newaygo County Park System. The park was originally developed by Steelcase Corporation as a recreation area for its employees. The Newaygo County Parks Department purchased the property from Steelcase. The 156-acre park with 2000 feet of frontage on Diamond Lake is located approximately 6 miles northwest of the City of White Cloud at 3351 Mundy Road, in central Newaygo County.



Diamond Lake County Park

Amenities of the facility include a 62-site campground, twenty-four (24) of which including full hook-up with water, sewer, and electric. The remaining 36 sites offer electricity. There are three buildings within the park including two bathroom/shower facilities and an enclosed shelter building. Additional amenities include a sanitation station, play areas, swimming beach, horseshoes, beach volleyball, hiking trails, picnic area, boat rentals, and nearby boat launch.



Diamond Lake County Park

Diamond Lake County Park is also adjacent to the Manistee National Forest and is the location of the Birch Grove Trailhead. This ten (10) mile circular trail through the Manistee National Forest passes through the only wildflower sanctuary (Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary) within the entire National Forest System. The Birch Grove Trail also connects with the National Parks Service's North Country National Scenic Trail. When completed, the North Country Trail is expected to be between 4,200 and 4,500 miles long.



Ed H. Henning County Park

Ed H. Henning County Park is located in the City of Newaygo at 500 Croton Road. The Park which sits along the beautiful and picturesque Muskegon River is approximately 82 acres in size. It is a regional destination to both Newaygo County residents and non-residents alike. The modern campground features 60 camp sites with electric, bathroom/shower building and sanitation station. The sites are available for nightly and seasonal rental. There is also a semi-modern group campground for organized groups.



Ed H. Henning County Park

Recreational amenities of the park include picnic areas, swimming beach, boat launch, fishing, playground, baseball diamonds, volleyball court, basketball courts, tennis courts and soccer fields. The park is also used by residents for organized youth athletics.

Henning Park Road Ariel View
 North of City of Newaygo, across Muskegon River, then right at light to Henning Park



Sandy Beach County Park

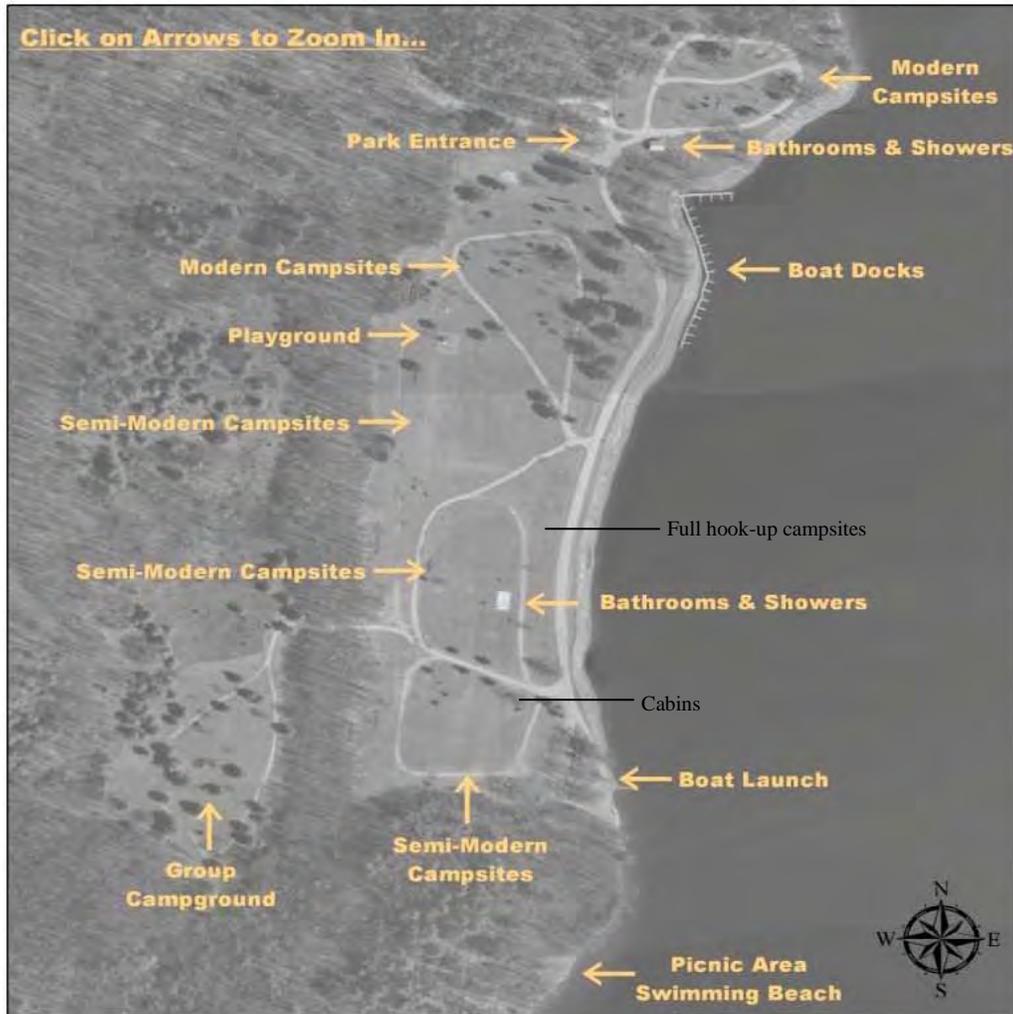
Sandy Beach County Park is located at 6926 30th Street, in Big Prairie Township along the shore of the 4,000-acre Hardy Pond. The park is 129 acres and offers beautiful waterfront views for campers. The modern and semi-modern campground has 72 sites with water and electric, 28 sites with electric and 100 sites without hookups. There are two (2) bathroom/shower buildings and a sanitation station. The newest addition to the campground includes camping cabins for rent. The park also offers a large semi-modern group campground for youth organizations, family, church groups, and camping clubs. Seasonal sites are offered in addition to nightly rentals. In-season storage of campers is also free with a future paid reservation at the park.



Sandy Beach County Park

The park is also available for day use and includes recreational amenities such as picnic areas, large sandy swimming beach, playground, volleyball, basketball, boat launch, and dock rentals.

It is important to note that a portion of Sandy Beach County Park is leased from Consumers Energy. Of the 129 acres, Newaygo County owns 80 acres and leases the remaining 49 acres. As part of the lease agreement, revenues from the park must be used to support and make improvements to the site.

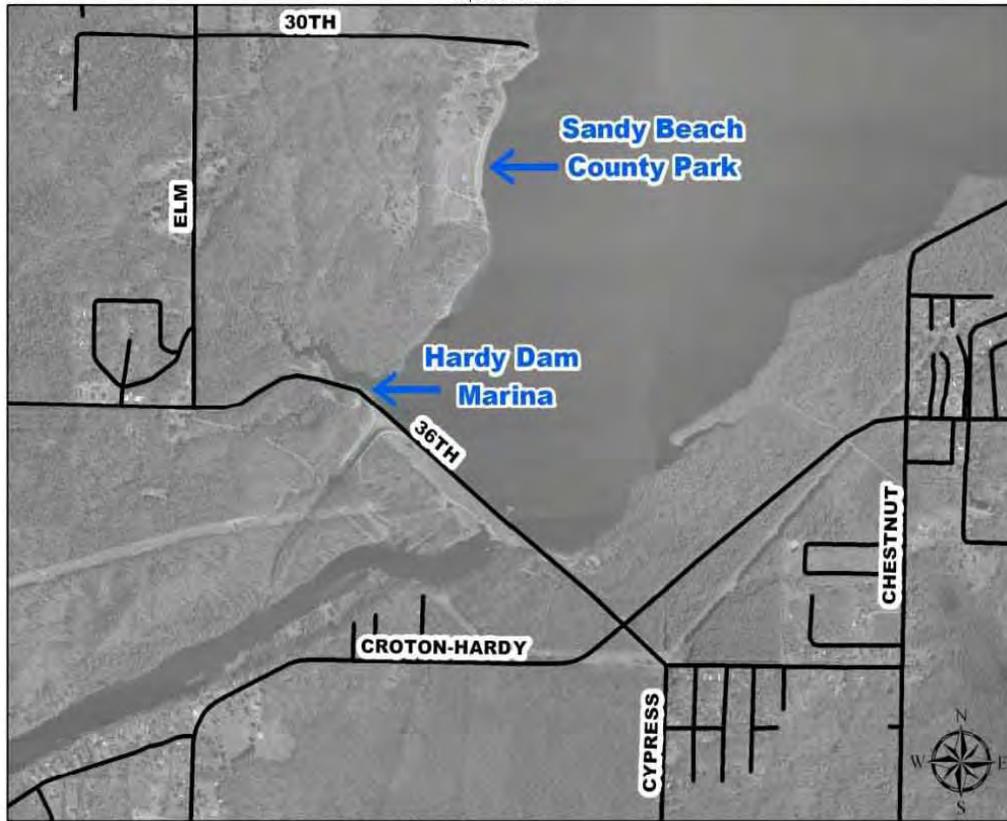


Recent upgrades to the Sandy Beach County Park include paving of the entrance and primary interior roads of the park, construction of a new entrance office, installation of a courtesy boat launch pier, a picnic shelter in the day use area, the completion of two camping cabins, and the addition of 26 full service campsites.

Hardy Dam Marina & Sandy Beach Campground Road Ariel View

Hardy Marina is on the west side of the Hardy Dam

Sandy Beach Campground from Hardy Dam - go west from the dam on 36th street to Elm, go north on Elm to 30th street and follow 30th street to park entrance.



Hardy Dam County Marina



Hardy Dam County Marina

Hardy Dam County Marina is located at 6619 36th Street, in Big Prairie Township. The 2.2-acre marina is situated in a cove near the scenic Hardy Dam and on the 4,000-acre Hardy Pond with 17 miles of open waterway and miles of undeveloped shoreline. The marina offers 35 slips with daily and seasonal rental, a boat launch, potable water, vault toilets, and pump-out service. There is also room for fishing and picnicking.

It is important to note that Hardy Dam County Marina is leased from Consumers Energy. As part of the lease agreement, revenues from the park must be used to support and make improvements to the site.

Pettibone Lake County Park

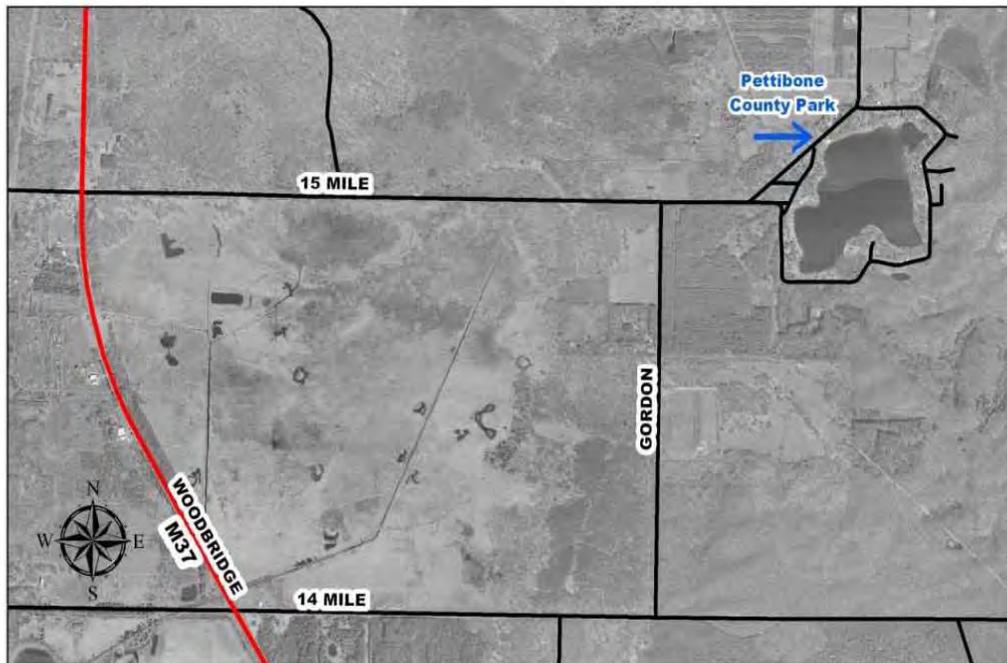
Pettibone Lake County Park is the smallest of the Newaygo County parks. The three (3) acre park is located at 490 Pettibone Drive in northern Newaygo County and sits on the northwest shore of Pettibone Lake. The park offers 16 campsites with electrical hookups and vault toilet facilities. Other amenities at the park include a boat launch, swimming beach, picnic area including shelters and grills, fire pits, and playground equipment. The park is also available for day use.



Pettibone Lake County Park

Pettibone Lake Park & Campground

Located in Northern Newaygo County - M-37 north, through Lilley Township, to 15 Mile Road, then east to park entrance.



Graves Lodge



John Graves Lodge

Located behind the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Office and the Newaygo County Welcome Center at 4684 Evergreen Drive (M-37) is the historic John Graves Lodge. The lodge is located on nearly 90 acres overlooking scenic Little Placid Lake. Newaygo County Parks and the Newaygo County Recreation Authority have partnered to make the lodge available for group and meeting rentals. It features accessible restrooms and has a maximum capacity

of 80 people. In addition to the lodge, the property also provides sledding, an outdoor stage/theatre, and trailhead for the Newaygo County snowmobile trail.

Accessibility Assessment

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission has been making improvements to its park systems over the past several years. One of their motivations for improvements has been to make their park system accessible for all people. Below is an assessment of the current accessibility of the Newaygo County Park system.



John Graves Lodge

Diamond Lake County Park: The east campground toilet has accessible toilets and shower.

Henning County Park: Henning County Park currently does not offer any amenities that are accessible.

Newaygo County Visitor Center & Graves Lodge: The Visitors Center is a fully accessible building with toilets. Graves Lodge is also a fully accessible rental lodge with accessible toilets.

Pettibone Lake County Park: Pettibone County Park offers an accessible unisex portable toilet.

Sandy Beach County Park: Sandy Beach County Park recently upgraded its entrance so that it is now fully accessible. The south campground toilet building has accessible toilets and shower. The day use area has accessible unisex portable toilet. There is also

an accessible floating courtesy dock at the boat launch. The park also offers two accessible camping cabins and there are three accessible pull through, full-service campsites.

Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

During the summer of 2011, the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission completed work on a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant at Sandy Beach County Park. Task of the grant included paving the entrance and primary interior roads of the park, construction of a new entrance office, installation of a courtesy boat launch pier, a picnic shelter in the day use area, the completion of two camping cabins, and the addition of 26 full service campsites.

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission recently received a grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. The three-year grant will assist the Parks Commission in the construction of two (2) camping cabins per year over the next three years – totaling six (6) cabins. The camping cabins will be constructed in partnership with the Intermediate School District Building Trades Class beginning during the 2011/2012 school year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

In early 2011, Newaygo County approached the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) for assistance in the update of the Newaygo County Recreation Plan. A contract between Newaygo County and the WMSRDC was signed in March 2011 with work on the Plan update beginning in June. Regional Commission staff attended a regularly scheduled Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on June 7, 2011. During the meeting, WMSRDC staff informed the commission of the steps involved in the process of updating the plan. A calendar outlining the planning process was also presented at the meeting and can be found in the appendix. In addition, staff also gathered information regarding past, current, and future issues regarding the Newaygo County Park system through an open dialogue with the commission members.

Following the meeting, the Newaygo County Parks Director guided WMSRDC staff on an extensive tour of the Newaygo County Parks. During the tour, the group visited John Graves Lodge, Ed H. Henning County Park, Sandy Beach County Park, Hardy Dam County Marina, Pettibone Lake County Park, and Diamond Lake County Park. WMSRDC staff was able to gather detailed information regarding each park, as well as take pictures and gain a better understanding of the Newaygo County Park System.

On August 23 at 7:00 PM, the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission hosted a public meeting at the John Graves Lodge. Notice of the meeting was published on August 10 in the Times-Indicator a general purpose newspaper of major circulation within Newaygo County. A copy of the notice is located in the appendix. The purpose of the public

meeting was to explain the purpose and process of updating the Newaygo County Recreation Plan as well as to gather input from the public to help identify goals and objectives for the plan. Unfortunately, no one from the general public attended the meeting.

In order to gather information from the public to assist in the development of the goals and objectives for the plan, WMSRDC staff and the Parks Director decided to reuse the materials intended for the public meeting. The material was distributed to those using the Newaygo County Parks, as well as local units of government within the county in the form of a survey. The survey asked respondents three simple questions.

- What do you like about the current recreation facilities in Newaygo County?
- What don't you like about the current recreation facilities in Newaygo County, or what would you like changed?
- What types of new programs or facilities would you like developed in Newaygo County?

A total of 51 surveys were collected from a variety of sources that included both residents from Newaygo County and campers using the Newaygo County Park facilities. Below are the responses to each of the three questions.

What do you like about the current recreation facilities in Newaygo County?

- The varying styles, the numerous locations, the access to our natural resources.
- We have a nice variety which meets the needs for every season.
- Easy to access and waterways are excellent, well taken care of and supervised.
- Close to home; near the water; well maintained.
- Various location and amenities are very nice.
- Convenience.
- Good sized lots.
- Quiet.
- Beautiful lots. Untouched. Clean. Great Staff.
- Quiet even with kids and dogs (and peaceful).
- Clean restrooms, spacious sites, nice beach/playground area, great manager, boat/kayak rental on site, horseshoes, wooded lots (Diamond Lake).
- Diamond Lake Park – Clean RR (rest rooms) & Showers nice beach. Beautiful lots with many activities to choose from, friendly, helpful staff.
- At the Diamond Lake Park location, we really enjoy how friendly the manager is. Also, that there are great features offered to us, like boat rental on site, firewood, shelter room for gatherings or to get out of the rain, horseshoes, and more.

- Clean bathrooms, nice facility, boat, kayak, & paddleboat rental at this campground (Diamond Lake). Nice beach, friendly helpful manager. Horse shoe pits, nice playground. Lots of trees and spacious sites.
- Like the set up (Diamond Lake), quiet park, love the lake & playgrounds, renting boats is great too.
- Nice large wooded lots.
- Quietness.
- The fact that they bring income in area.
- Have not used any “facilities” other than “Camp Swampy” Diamond Lake County Park. Still beautiful but could use some repairs.
- Love that there is boat rental at Diamond Lake.
- Clean bathrooms, clean beach, nice boat dock. Love the playground go grandchildren.
- Everything at the parks we have visited.
- Very Nice!!
- Peaceful, quiet, clean – nice bathrooms/showers, sites dept clean, natural settings (Diamond Lake).
- Clean and geared for families.
- Lots of well maintained grass and shade. Henning is more family oriented.
- Small, quiet and near the river.
- The large grassy lots.
- Large & grassy lots.
- DTE Grounds and restrooms are very well maintained. Tim Bailey does a great job as the attendant.
- Beautiful well kept and clean. Scenery – Open – Water.
- I love the seasonal campsites, I am on site 90 (Sandy Beach) and I think it is the best site for me and my disability.
- We feel Kim has been more than capable to run Sandy Beach.
- I enjoy it – it’s very relaxing.
- We like the atmosphere at Sandy Beach, the easy access to the river, the view of the river.
- Location, clean grounds, walkways and docks, other boaters. Tim Bailey.
- Very clean, water oriented.
- How clean they are. Staff are great. Sandy beach has grass.
- Relaxing atmosphere, the water, the sunsets, the friendly people.
- Atmosphere at Sandy Beach is relaxing and enjoyable. People are friendly and interesting.
- I enjoyed the rustic facilities and the fact that they were clean.
- It’s a good location for a sports park. Being able to rent the lodge. Plenty of parking. Informative.
- How clean they are and how polite the workers are.
- Lot size, grassy lots, paved roads, internet.
- We love that Henning Park is small and quiet.
- The Muskegon River, boat ramp, size of lots, lots of grass.

- Clean, Nice size camp sites.
- Good area, nice grassy, big sites.
- The grassy lots and the shade.
- I really like the wi-fi. It allows me to be here and work instead of staying home. It keeps me connected to my kids when they are home. I hope you keep it. The lot sizes are very nice and of course we love Loretta!
- Big lots, nice quiet park, good group of seasonals.
- I like the wooded lots and that the seasonal lots are in an area that does not get much traffic which makes it ideal for kids. The lots are also a good size.

What don't you like about the current recreation facilities in Newaygo County, or what would you like changed?

- State Recs have more modern/updated facilities such as showers & restrooms.
- I would encourage you to plant more trees in the newer pull-thru campsites at Sandy Beach. We thought they were very nice, but needed a little shade.
- A lack of paved trails for biking, walking, rollerblading, etc. It would be nice to have more recreation facilities in southern Newaygo County, but it cannot be helped.
- I would like to see the beach at "Sandy Beach" turned into a sandy beach. Bulldoze the grass along the beach edge and bring in sand.
- The boat launch (at Henning) needs to be fixed. Someone is going to break a leg
- Fix water issue near lots 48 & 49 (at Henning). Bring fill in to raise ground level.
- Nothing.
- Sites need to have a level pad for trailers/tents (Diamond Lake).
- Water to far West end of campground (Diamond Lake).
- Daily vehicle pass should be included in camping fees.
- Fill in drop off sites from road (Diamond Lake).
- Lack of scheduled activities.
- Everyone enjoys privacy, so more wooded campsites also makes the campers experience a little more rustic feeling – showers with doors are always nice.
- Level out the sites. Don't like having to pay for a vehicle pass on top of the campground fee – should be included for one vehicle, any additional vehicles being charged would be ok.
- Some sites (Diamond Lake) need to be leveled a little. We love this campground! Thanks!
- Update playgrounds – get rid of merry-go-round (dangerous). Would love camping season to be longer: April 15 – Oct. 15. Willing to pay more to be here longer.
- More fishing boats.
- I hope they at least break even so tax payers don't subsidize parks.
- Repairs to water pumps in campsite #33 far end (Opps! Guess I just cannot work it).
- Repair/Replace window in shower house so we don't freeze on cold nights (Diamond Lake). Put in place a few No Littering signs.
- The monkey bars need something under them like sand for softer landing for children. Also a couple of the bars spin on the monkey bars on the wooden set – just a little bit unsafe (Diamond Lake).

- Nothing. Don't fix what is not broken.
- When Camping the Park Fee should be included in the Camping Fee (or waived).
- Some of the sites could be leveled better for trailer or pop-up use. Electricity at all sites (Diamond Lake).
- Would like to see small store or game room for the rainy days and this would help parents to get more candy, snacks, etc. without having to leave the parks.
- We would like the showers and bathrooms power washed more often.
- Henning launch ramp needs maintenance.
- We love the location of our lot #17. We just wish it could be leveled out a little and full hook-up would be nice, but I'm okay with current hook-up.
- We don't like the fact that the seasonal sites are not being mowed on a regular basis.
- Don't maintain well.
- Fees should be adjusted for small, medium, and larger houseboats. Summer boats such as pleasure and pontoon boats require less room and do not have holding tanks.
- Rules should be posted and should include no chainsaws used in the park, no washing of RVs, cars & boats – this uses more electric & water costing the count more \$ (may on exception for seasonal). No bike riding after dusk, someone is going to get hurt. 5 miles an hour after dusk. A camp store with copy machines, camp supplies, including extension cords, no smoking near office. Also – pave path to boats it won't wash out and handicap access. Camp ground roads should be paved. Grills at Sandy Beach.
- The season to extend to 2nd weekend in October.
- Water Accessibility, (Site 72 – 96) would be nice to have a water spigot – near site 93 so we can fill our water without running a 450 foot hose across the road.
- Sites 88 & 89 should both be tent only sites.
- Lack of voltage on site 84.
- We would like more of a beach at the day-use park, steps to get down to the docks, a paved road by the seasonal and wi-fi availability.
- Security, parking, could be improved. Use of camera, ID cards, more hours for manager, parking area for those renting slips.
- Charged money to ride moped – not fair.
- You can't try out other lots because someone already has had it for years. I would like to suggest an idea regarding seasonal camping lots. Idea: Everyone rotates every year, you cannot hold the same lot year after year.
- Improve electric put in grills @ campsites. Print STOP on pavement side next to office. Also paint lanes to make two lanes with dotted yellow lines on the right side of office as you're coming into park. Better direction signs to bath house & registration posted on office. So the car/campers aren't all bunch up by the road, make 2 lanes with painted dotted lines to the right of the office.
- Don't like this frog ponders wondering thru the park at all hours causing problems. Neon or florescent colors in vehicle permits stickers.
- I would not change anything.
- I would like the toboggan run back. Maybe a hot dog and/or popcorn wagon only for activities on weekends in the winter. Maybe some sort of downhill skiing. Picnic Tables for summer time. Outside water faucets for filling water bottles.
- Nothing so far.

- Nothing for older kids to do – teens to young adults.
- Limited as to which lots are seasonal – the majority of campgrounds let you choose among all lots. This park is not large so it's not as if weekend campers will be that far away from their friends.
- Cost. This park has significantly raised seasonal cost since we have been here but nothing has changed in the park. For a park without full hook-up or many types of amenities, the price is steep.
- Showers get wet in the changing area. There is not much for kids, as far as play equipment!
- Boat ramp at Henning park needs to be re-paved not patched.
- Would like it if the branches could be trimmed on lots 44, 45, and 46.
- Cleaner bathrooms, more places for children to play. Place for tenters to do dishes.
- Maybe full hook-up, more facilities for kids, better swimming hole. Seasonal weekend campers; weekend campers don't have the same rules.
- Could someone please fix the boat ramp? The holes are awful, someone is going to get hurt. I know you tried filling it with stones, but that didn't work (A place for tenters to do dishes).
- Having to pay for a parking sticker on top of your seasonal cost. It would be nice to get 2 parking stickers with your seasonal cost (without adding it to the seasonal cost).
- The seasonal lots desperately need to be leveled and knocked down so they can accommodate trailers longer than 20ft. without needing multiple layers of concrete blocks to level them. Seasonal lot campers should be required to have a sewer hose seal or threaded elbow to seal sewer gas from escaping when the hose is just placed loose in the drain pipe. Most campgrounds require them for smell and sanitation.

What types of new programs or facilities would you like developed in Newaygo County?

- Bike & Walking Trails.
- A bike trail from Newaygo to Croton or Newaygo north or south. Biking is huge and there is no place close to go without having to drive many miles. Cross Country ski trails would be a great asset as well.
- Family activities and more activities for the kids about swimming and safe boating.
- Looks like you are doing a good job in these tough economic times. I would think maintaining current programs and facilities would be the way to go.
- Comment from one of my children. Points out how the internet is used as campers make their selections. Also campers like make reservations on line. Please incorporate these comments into the file for Sandy Beach master plan.
- Any programs that showcase the various locations would be nice. Some people have no idea that all of these facilities are available here in Newaygo County.
- Sandy Beach needs a real toilet near the picnic/beach area. Could be the type found at Hardy Marina.
- Recreation Center (ping pong, etc.).
- None. We like Diamond Lake Campground the way it is. Just need level sites.

- More motorcycle, ATV, and hike trails. Rustic camping on North Country Trail. Interpretive hiking trails.
- None.
- We like the closeness of the campground to G.R. and Muskegon. Should run specials on facebook, internet.
- Dog run would be awesome in old ball field near 1st loop (Diamond Lake).
- Happy the way it is now.
- Expand bike path.
- Nature hikes, bird watching, invasive species info – maybe these are available but we have not heard.
- It's all good!
- Some years a longer season would be nice.
- Bicycle trails connected to each other.
- Small Camp Store (Diamond Lake).
- Have bean bag games, washer games, etc. I think this would bring the campers together more.
- We would like to see a pavilion built for reunions, birthday parties, and park get togethers. This could bring in more campers.
- Large roofed picnic table area, screened in fish cleaning area would be nice at Henning.
- More river patrol, remove the alcohol from floaters, make it more known to use garbage cans at pumps.
- Sewer hook-up on the seasonal sites.
- More for children.
- It appears that more houseboats are being brought into our waterways. More slip space should be available. Although, I believe that may be on the “drawing boards”.
- Security is an issue – suggest unscheduled 24/7 roaming patrols.
- How about a pool in the county.
- Do this survey every year.
- New bathroom/shower in north circle (Sandy Beach).
- Would like horseshoe pits near the south restroom building (Sandy Beach).
- Rules should be handed out once to seasonal and then every camping unit that comes thru the gate!
- Electricity, civilian patrols, increased security – use of cameras.
- More cabins.
- New boat launch at Sandy Beach. More cabins at Sandy Beach. More electric/water/sewer lots available for seasonal sites with a rotation every year.
- A kid center/clubhouse – something to keep them occupied in the summer and/or after school.
- STOP painted on pavement by office north side. Would like to see a pavilion available for group day use, family reunions etc. Would like to see more boat docks for v-bottom boats (longer). Need more parking areas for boaters. Heated pool for Sandy Beach park guests only.
- Some type of youth center.

- Some type of toilet facilities maybe on the North Country Trail. Something more for kids to do in Newaygo County. Snowboarding activities maybe.
- None that I can think of.
- Laundry service (washer/dryer). Put it in the office – there’s room.
- Continue internet service
- Pool
- Mini store (butter, bread, milk, toilet paper to offer basic supplies
- Full hook-up.
- New playground for sure. Camp store would be nice. Vending machines?
- Pavilion in Henning Park. Big enough for park pot lucks. Some place for tents to wash dishes, laundry tub near shower house.
- Pavilion.
- Again more things for little ones. A better showerhead, some kind of door so when you get out of showers the floor isn’t wet & dirty.
- Screened in fish cleaning area. Covered pavilion for picnic tables in the center of the circle for the campers.
- As for the campground, a new park for the kids. As for the county, bike trails would be great!
- Wi-fi was really nice while we had it and would be nice even it for a small additional fee. Added activities on one or two weekend a month would be nice.
- Not sure off hand. Programs can be difficult to plan with smaller seasonal groups such as Diamond Lake.

Draft Plan Public Review Notice and Comments

The Draft Newaygo County Recreation Plan was placed on display at the Newaygo County Welcome Center located at 4684 S. Evergreen Drive (M37), Newaygo, Michigan 49337 beginning on January 2, 2012 through February 1, 2012. A notice indicating the public review period was published on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 and again on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in the Newaygo County Times-Indicator. Below is a copy of the notice that was published.

It is important to note that no individuals reviewed the plan during the public review period. In addition, no written comments were submitted to the Newaygo County, or the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission offices.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC REVIEW REGARDING
THE NEWAYGO COUNTY RECREATION PLAN**

Please be advised that Newaygo County, with the assistance of the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 to receive input for the proposed Newaygo County Recreation Plan. The hearing will take place at 7:00 PM at the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Administrative Office located at 4684 Evergreen Dr. (M-37), Newaygo, Michigan 49337. The meeting is open to the public, and those with an interest in the Newaygo County Recreation Plan are encouraged to attend. A copy of the Draft Recreation Plan will be on display at the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Administrative Office starting January 2 through February 1, 2012 during regular business hours.

Written comments may also be submitted by February 1, 2012 to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, P.O. Box 387, Muskegon, Michigan 49443 or via electronic mail at ekuhn@wmsrdc.org. If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Erin Kuhn, Program Manager, WMSRDC, (231) 722-7878 (extension 18).

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

A public Hearing to receive comments regarding the draft Newaygo County Recreation Plan was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Newaygo County Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is located at 4684 Evergreen Drive (M-37), Newaygo, Michigan 49337. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Newaygo County Times-Indicator on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 and again on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Below is a copy of the notice that was published.

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It is important to note that no individuals attended the February 1, 2012 public hearing. In addition, no verbal or written comments were submitted to Newaygo County, or West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission offices. Minutes from the February 1, 2012 public hearing are presented in the Appendix of this document.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As a result of the surveys collected during the months of August and September, participants provided valuable input regarding their wishes and desires regarding the recreational facilities and activities within the Newaygo County Park system. This information was taken and analyzed to identify the community's goals and objectives. The main tools used to formulate these goals and objectives were the answers on the completed surveys, as well as the general discussions with the Newaygo County Parks Commission and Parks Director.

Based on the feedback gained through above mentioned methods, the following goals and objectives were formulated. Please note that the goals and objectives are listed in no particular order.

Goal: Continue to maintain and enhance the existing Newaygo County Park facilities.

- Begin implementation of the Sandy Beach multi-year improvement plan.
- Continue to upgrade park facilities as money and opportunities arise.
- Maintain knowledgeable and friendly park staff, as well as a good relationship with campers and users of the park facilities.
- Replace/fix the boat launch at Henning Park.
- Level the sites at Diamond Lake Park.
- Explore the possibility of providing a camp store and one or more of the parks.
- Upgrade the playground equipment at the county parks as needed.
- Look into the addition of a covered pavilion area at Henning Park.

- Add camping/family games and activities at park facilities.
- Explore the pros and cons for expanding camping season of the Newaygo County Parks.

Goal: Maintain the natural resources and rural character of Newaygo County through recreational uses.

- Strive to develop non-motorized trails for biking and walking throughout Newaygo County.
- Explore opportunities to expand existing parks and/or develop additional parks in the county.
- Continue to maintain a working relationship with the Newaygo County community and recreational organizations to provide recreation opportunities to area residents and visitors.

Goal: Increase public recreational opportunities within Newaygo County for residents and visitors of all ages.

- Work and coordinate efforts with local, state, and federal governments who provide recreational opportunities within the county.
- Support the efforts of the Michigan's Great Outdoors organization including the counties of Newaygo, Oceana, Mason, Manistee, and Lake. The group's mission is to partner together to promote tourism for a stronger economy.
- Continually promote and market the Newaygo County Park facilities to area residents and visitors.
- Explore the possibility of adding county-wide recreational programs for teens and young children.

ACTION PROGRAM

Over the next five-year period, the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Plan will be used by the Newaygo County Parks Commission and its director to accomplish the goals set forth through this planning process. Through the planning process, it became apparent that the county is committed to providing recreational opportunities to its community residents

and visitors alike in order to capitalize on the area's abundant natural resources while maintaining the community's rural character.

Over the past few years, the highest priority for the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission has been to maintain and upgrade the county's park facilities. This high priority will continue over the next five years. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been able to make several improvements to its many facilities through their existing budget and grant assistance. The parks director and dedicated staff has worked hard to make much needed improvements to the parks and will continue to do so over the next several years. Through the planning process, the members of the parks commission and the director reaffirmed their commitment to this high priority task.

Another task and high priority of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission is to become financially self sustaining. Currently, the Parks Commission relies on a variety of funding sources to sustain its staff, facilities, and functions. It is the hope of the Commission to have the income from user fees and park rentals fund the entire Parks and Recreation budget.

An additional priority of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission is to grow the tourism, as well as promote the natural resources and rural character of the county through recreational uses. The county offers abundant natural resources including its lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, woodlands, and unique wildlife habitats. Both residents and visitors to the county cherish these resources and consider it an utmost priority to preserve and protect these attractive features. Tourism is a large industry within Newaygo County. By taking efforts to preserve and protect the rural character and natural resources of the county, the tourism industry will continue to thrive and grow. Promotion of the county is another vital part to growing tourism. The county will continue its partnership and support of cooperation and collaboration with other recreational providers, as well as offering and maintaining an informative website and promotional materials.

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission recently approved a multi-year, multi-phase improvement vision for Sandy Beach County Park. Below is a rendering of the vision. The Parks and Recreation Commission will work to find funding sources and opportunities to implement the identified vision over the next several years.

CONCLUSION

If used appropriately, the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Plan will assist Newaygo County in properly managing future recreation development. The plan is a guide for decision making and should be consulted regularly. Public input is an essential facet of this process and should be utilized when recreation facility decisions need to be made.

The plan should be updated as the local situation warrants, or every five years as required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to allow the county to remain eligible for grant consideration.



APPENDIX



STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF NEWAYGO
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

At a regular session of the said Board, held in the City of White Cloud, in said County,
on the 22nd day of February 2012, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION #02-007-12
County of Newaygo
Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Resolution of Adoption
Board of Commissioners of the County of Newaygo

WHEREAS, the County of Newaygo has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2012 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held February 1, 2012, at 4684 Evergreen Dr. (M-37), Newaygo, Michigan to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County of Newaygo has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

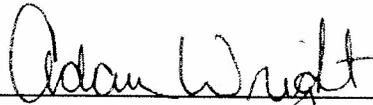
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Newaygo County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the County of Newaygo.

Motion by: Gardner Seconded by: Maike, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

The Ayes being: Gardner, Geno, Maike, Nieboer, Scholtens, Trapp, Wright

Nays: None Absent: None

The Resolution was adopted
on February 22, 2012



Adam Wright, Chairman
Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF NEWAYGO)

I, Laurel J. Breuker, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on the 22nd day of February, 2012.



Laurel J. Breuker
Newaygo County Clerk



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

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: Newaygo County Recreation Plan 2012 - 2016		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Newaygo County	Newaygo	02-2012

PLAN CONTENT
<p>INSTRUCTIONS: Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RECREATION INVENTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</p>

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

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

Date of the Notice 12/28/2011

Type of Notice Public, Newspaper

Plan Location _____

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

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

Date of Notice 01/25/2012

Name of Newspaper Times-Indicator

Date of Meeting 02/01/2012

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

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

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

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

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: 02/22/2012

2. Official resolution of the Park and Recreation Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: 02/07/2012

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: 02/22/2012

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: 02/22/2012

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Newaygo County

(Local Unit of Government)

includes the required content, as indicated

above and as set forth by the DNR.

[Signature] 2/22/12
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

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

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

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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

By: _____ Date _____

Grants Management _____ Date _____



NEWAYGO COUNTY
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Park's Administrative Board Room

February 1, 2012

Public hearing to hear input on proposed Newaygo County Recreation Plan

Present for Park Commission:

Erin Kuhn, Program Manager, WMSRDC

Ron Welton, Director, Newaygo County Parks

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Public Comment – None

Written Comments – None

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Submitted by:

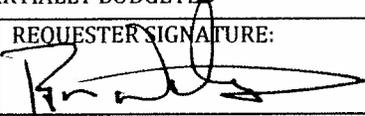
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Welton", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Welton, Director

Request for consideration – Park & Recreation Commission – County of Newaygo



Motion: 02-01

ORIGINATOR: Ron Welton, Director		___ BUDGETED ___ NON-BUDGETED ___ PARTIALLY BUDGETED	
REQUESTING UNIT Park Administration		REQUEST DATE: 02/07/12	REQUESTER SIGNATURE: 
SUMMARY OF REQUEST (GENERAL DESCRIPTION, FINANCING, OTHER OPERATIONAL, IMPACT, POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES): <p>With conclusion of the public review period and 2/1 public hearing, we are now ready to adopt the Five Year (2012-2016) Newaygo County Recreation Plan developed in conjunction with the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.</p>			
SUGGESTED MOTION (STATE EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR IN THE MINUTES): <p>Motion to approve the 2012-2016 Newaygo County Five Year Recreation Plan as developed by the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for their review with the recommendation that they adopt the plan.</p>			
ACTION TAKEN: Park Board approval 2/7/12 County Board approval 2/22/12		ATTORNEY ANALYSIS: N/A	
PARKS AGENDA DATE: 02-07-12	REFERRED TO COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE: FIANCE: _____ PHYSICAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: _____	COUNTY BOARD AGENDA DATE: 02-22-12	



NEWAYGO COUNTY
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Park's Administrative Board Room

February 7, 2012

Parks commission meeting called to order at 9:00am by Rich Kooistra, chair. All members present except Mark Pitzer and Parks Director Ron Welton.

Administrator Tobi Lake attended as visitor also, no other public in attendance.

J Maike moved and J Westfield 2nd to approve agenda as presented, M/C.

S Stroven moved and D Rettig 2nd to approve January 10, 2012 meeting minutes, M/C.

S Stroven moved and R Miller 2nd to place accounts payable on file as presented, M/C.

S Stroven moved and R Miller 2nd to place budget performance report on file as presented, M/C

Parks Director report was read. Commission members liked the written report and prefer to have such in all future packets. Commission members all expressed the desire to receive the meeting packets by email, preferably by the Friday prior to meeting day, hard copies could be made available at the meeting.

The 5 year recreation plan was discussed; commission members would have preferred to have copies of final draft prior to adoption. However due to time constraints D Twing moved and P Baker 2nd a motion to "approve the 5 year

recreation plan developed by WMSRDC and recommended by the Parks Director and also to forward the Plan to the County board of Commissioners for their with the recommendation they review and adopt said Plan”. M/C

D Twing moved and J Maike 2nd to approve the amendments to the bylaws as proposed and forward the same to the County Board of Commissioners, M/C.

J Maike moved and R Miller 2nd to recommend to the County board of Commissioners the approval of the rescored Parks Director position with immediate implementation upon their approval, M/C.

P Baker moved and S Stroven 2nd to authorize the County Administrator to submit a grant proposal for improvements to Sandy Beach Campground (phase 1 of the Sandy Beach master plan) in the amount of \$150,000 to the Fremont Area Community Foundation. M/C

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Kooistra', written in a cursive style.

Richard Kooistra
Chairperson



Park and Recreation Department

EXPERIENCE OUR GOOD NATURE!

February 22, 2012

Sandeep Dey, Executive Director
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC)
PO Box 387
Muskegon, MI 49443

Dear Mr. Dey:

At its February 22, 2012 meeting the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners by way of Board Resolution #02-007-12, adopted the 2012 – 2016 Newaygo County Recreation Plan.

WMSRDC serving as both the Newaygo County and West Michigan Regional Planning Agency may now consider this our plan of record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Welton".

Ron Welton, Director

316 Morris Avenue - Suite 340 - PO Box 387 - Muskegon, MI 49443-0387

Telephone: 231/722-9362 - Fax: 231/722-9362

www.wmsrdc.org - wmsrdc@wmsrdc.org