



# Newaygo County Recreation Plan

2018 - 2022



**WMSRDC**  
WEST MICHIGAN SHORELINE  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

# Table of Contents

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Introduction.....	1
Community Description.....	2
Administrative Structure .....	7
♦ Roles of the Newaygo County Board and Parks & Recreation Commission .....	7
♦ General Summary of Parks and Recreation Director Responsibilities .....	7
♦ Newaygo County Parks & Recreation Commission Organizational Chart.....	8
♦ Annual and Projected Budget .....	9
♦ Sources of Funding.....	9
♦ Recreation Programming.....	9
♦ Role of Volunteers.....	9
♦ Relationship(s) with Other Public or Private Organizations.....	10
Recreation & Resources Inventory .....	11
♦ Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory .....	11
♦ County Parks Map .....	11
♦ Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities .....	12
♦ Accessibility Assessment.....	22
♦ Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities .....	23
Description of the Planning & Public Input Process.....	24
Goals and Objectives .....	31
Action Program.....	33
Conclusion .....	34
Plan Adoption Documentation.....	35
Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports	
♦ Henning Park: 1970, 1973	
♦ Sandy Beach: 1985, 2008	
♦ Diamond Lake: 2006	

## **INTRODUCTION**

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**This document, the Newaygo County 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 2017, Newaygo County contracted with the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission for the purpose of updating the county's 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. Opportunities for input were provided through a series of public meetings, a survey made available online, County Board Meetings, Newaygo County Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings, and a public hearing. Social media was used to notify the public and park visitors of the public input meetings, and notice of the public hearing was 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 functions 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**

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**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**

1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2011*	2012*	2013*	2014*	2015*	2016*
27,992	34,917	38,202	47,874	48,460	48,778	48,517	48,280	48,126	48,029	47,938

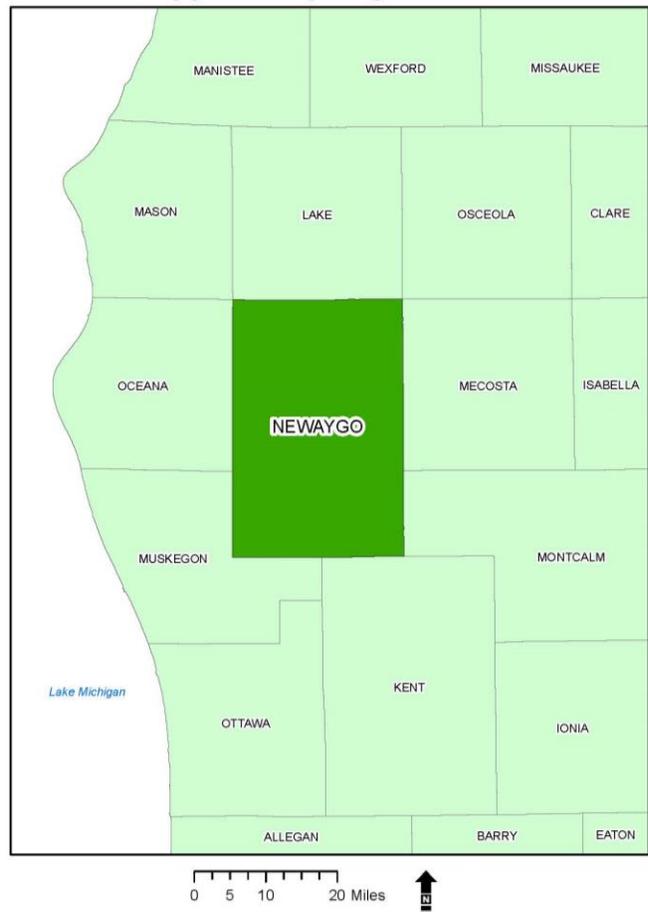
Source: U.S. Census & ACS 5-year Estimates

\*Estimate

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 county’s estimated population in 2016 was 47,938 with a total of 24,973 housing units. Both the number of people and housing units have decreased slightly since the 2010 U.S. Census. Map #1 indicates the regional local of Newaygo County.

**MAP 1**

Newaygo County Regional Location



**Newaygo County History and Development**

*The following section is carried over directly from the previous editions of the Newaygo County Recreation 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 the 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 rebuilt, 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 19<sup>th</sup> century, some of the easier to drain wetlands were converted to farmland. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 for specialty crops. 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, a subsidiary of Nestle. 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**

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### **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 meets 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).

Table 2

#### **2017 Newaygo County Parks & Recreation Commission Members**

Doug Harmon, Chair  
 Stan Stroven, Vice Chair  
 John Clark  
 Steve Hatting  
 James Maike  
 Roman Miller  
 Sam Scholtens  
 Chuck Trapp  
 Dale Twing  
 Janet Westfield

Parks Director: Nick Smith

### **General Summary of Parks and Recreation Director Responsibilities**

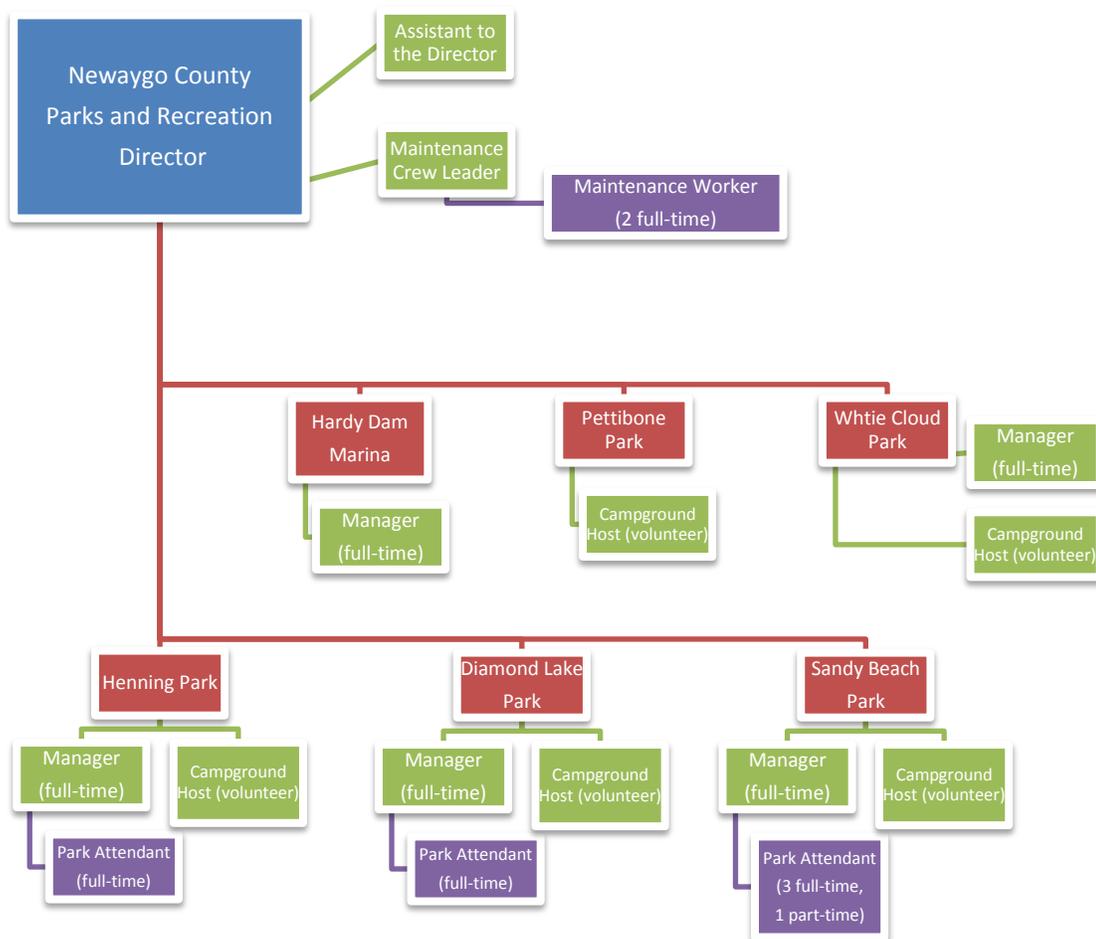
Under the direction of the County Administrator and the Parks Commission, the Parks and Recreation Director is responsible for the following:

- Plan, develop, and administer a comprehensive program to provide multiple park facilities, marinas, and campgrounds as well as recreational opportunities.
- Operations of all County-owned/operated parklands and facilities, including oversight of maintenance, administrative support and full-time and seasonal personnel.

- In conjunction with the Parks Commission, oversee developmental and capital improvement projects within the parks.
- Inspect parks to evaluate operations and to ensure safety and enforcement of policies on a federal, state, and local level.
- Financial and other administrative functions of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Serve as a liaison to various community organizations including the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Board and the Newaygo County Tourism Council.

There are also other parks and recreation staff members who report directly to the parks director. The staff members include full-time and temporary seasonal workers as well as an administrative assistant housed at the Newaygo County Visitors Center. Below is an organizational chart of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation department.

**Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart**



## Annual and Projected Budgets

Table #3

<b>Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Current and Projected Budget</b>	
<b>Fiscal Year 2017</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2018</b>
<b>\$652,919</b>	<b>\$674,200</b>

### Sources of Funding

In general, the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation system is self-sufficient, pulling revenue from a variety of parks-generated sources. These 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. On occasion, Newaygo County may contribute for capital improvements, especially to assist in providing local matching funds for state, federal, and private foundation grants. The Parks system typically reimburses the county for such contributions.

The Fremont Area Community Foundation has been a critical partner and asset to the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission. Its 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. In addition, parks occasionally host special organized activities for visitors, such as “Red, White and Blue Day” and “Rockin the Park.” There is currently no programming staff for the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission; however, it is working towards securing programming staff in the future.

### Role of Volunteers

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission appreciates the numerous volunteers who graciously give their time. They assist the county parks through a variety of means, including litter clean up, basic maintenance, and fund raising support for capital improvements. Volunteer service days held two times per year are expected to continue and become more frequent in the future. In addition, five county parks utilize seasonal “campground hosts” who are committed to serving 32 hours per week at a park.

Many members of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission volunteer to serve on the commission. Three members are appointed and seven are volunteers. Parks and Recreation Commission members receive a \$35 per diem for commission meetings.

**Relationship(s) with Other Public or Private Organizations**

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission maintains working relationships with many public and private organizations. The 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 long facilitating the group. Members of the authority continue to meet regularly.

Cooperation between the county, cities, townships, and school districts is common in programming community recreation activities such as adult and youth athletic leagues. Listed below is merely a sample of public and private partners of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Focus	Partner Organizations
Michigan’s Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam	West Michigan Mountain Biking Association MSU Extension, Mecosta County, Nestle Waters, MI Works!, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Consumers Energy, Newaygo Nationals Association, Chambers of Commerce, IMBA, township governments, Spectrum Health/Tamarac
Invasive Species Control	Ottawa County Conservation District MSU Extension
Snowmobile Trail Maintenance	Trail Riders Snowmobile Club
Diamond Lake Trail Maintenance	North Country Trail
Volunteer Service Days	TrueNorth, K-12 education, NCRESA
ORV Rides	West Michigan Ridge Runners
Trail Town Celebration	River Country Chamber of Commerce
Henning Park Pavilion	United Way, Newaygo County PCA
Camping Cabins	NCRESA, Fremont Area Community Foundation

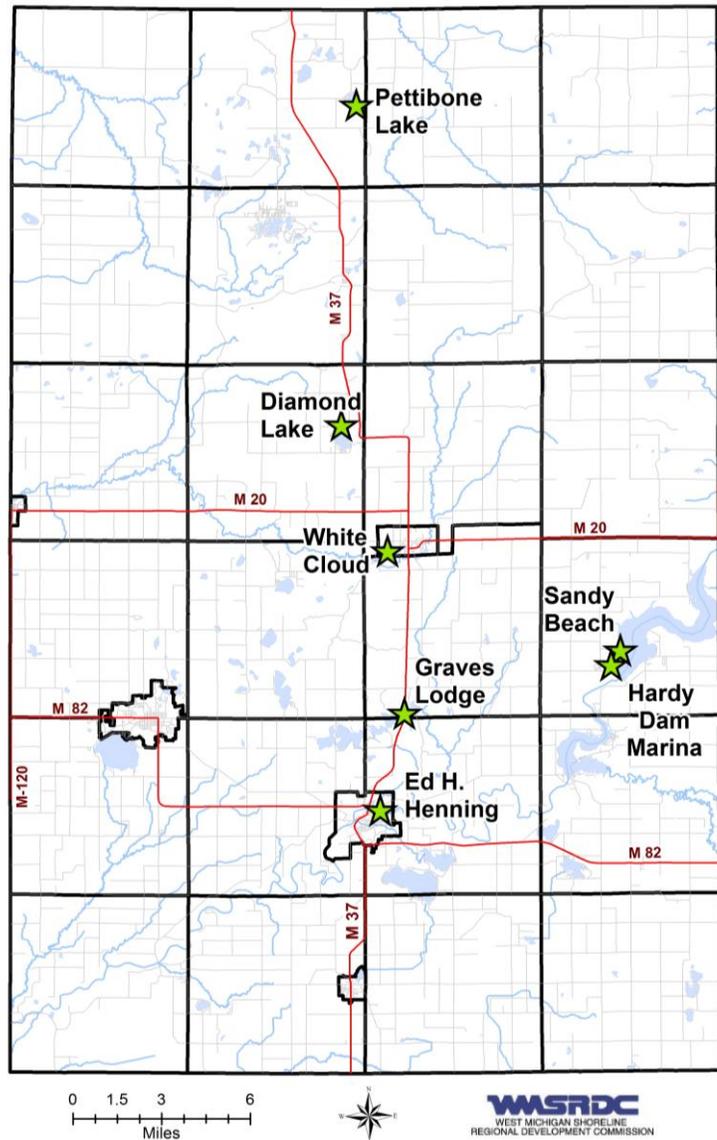
## RECREATION & RESOURCES INVENTORY

### Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

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 most recent edition of the Newaygo County Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan completed in 2011. Second, 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 a tour and debriefing of the county recreational facilities located within its jurisdiction.

Newaygo County currently operates seven parks within the county. Map #2 identifies park locations, followed by descriptions of each park including location, size, amenities, and site maps.

MAP #2  
Newaygo County Parks



## **Diamond Lake County Park**

**Diamond Lake County 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 2,000 feet of frontage on Diamond Lake is located approximately six miles northwest of the City of White Cloud at 3351 Mundy Road.**



*Diamond Lake County Park*

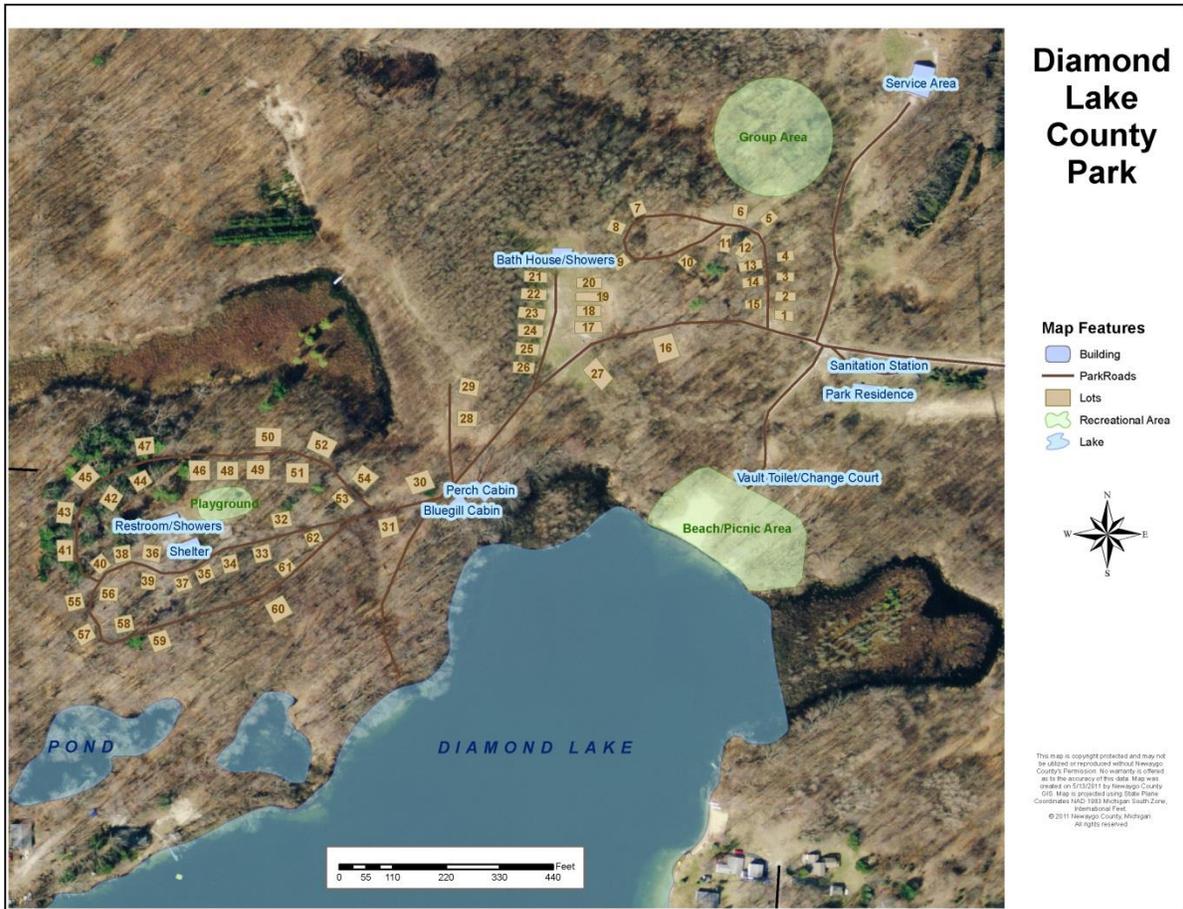
**The campground currently offers 2 camping cabins, 60 campsites of which 24 are full hook-up (water, sewer and electric), and the remaining 36 sites are electric and rustic. There are two bathroom/shower buildings and a shelter building that can be reserved. Additionally the park contains a sanitation station, play areas, swimming beach, horseshoes, beach volleyball, hiking trails, picnic area, and enclosed shelter building.**



*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 the longest National Scenic Trail in the United States. When it is completed, it is expected to be 4,600 miles long, across seven states and twelve national forests.**

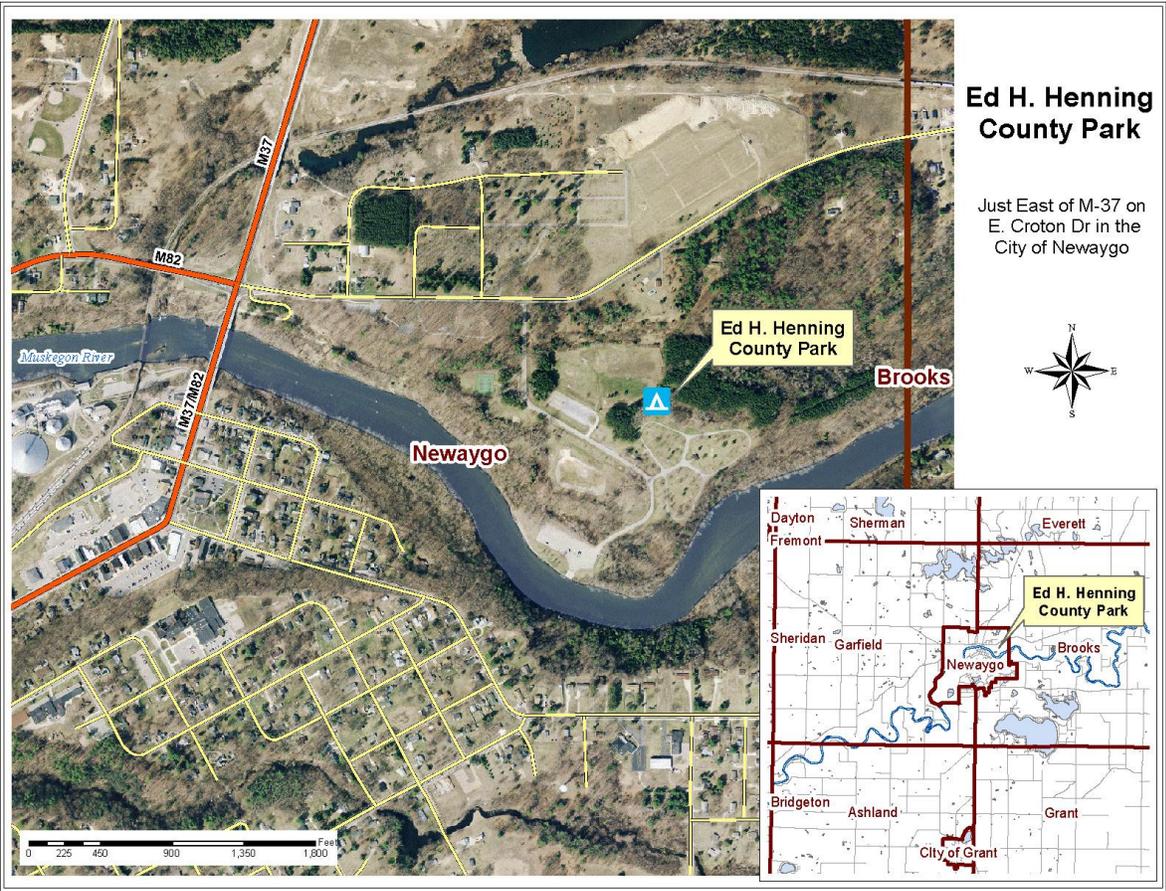


**Ed H. Henning County Park**

Ed H. Henning County Park is located in the City of Newaygo at 500 Croton Road. The park sits on approximately 82 acres along the beautiful and picturesque Muskegon River. It is a regional destination to both Newaygo County residents and non-residents. The modern campground features 60 electric sites, Wi-Fi, camping cabins, bathroom/shower building and sanitation station. Sites are available for nightly and seasonal rental. There is a semi-modern group campground for organized groups. Also featured are picnic areas, swimming beach, boat launch, baseball diamonds, volleyball court, tennis court, and soccer fields. The park is also used by residents for organized youth athletics. There is a free day-use area which is exempt from the county parks vehicle permit.



*Ed H. Henning County Park*



## Sandy Beach County Park

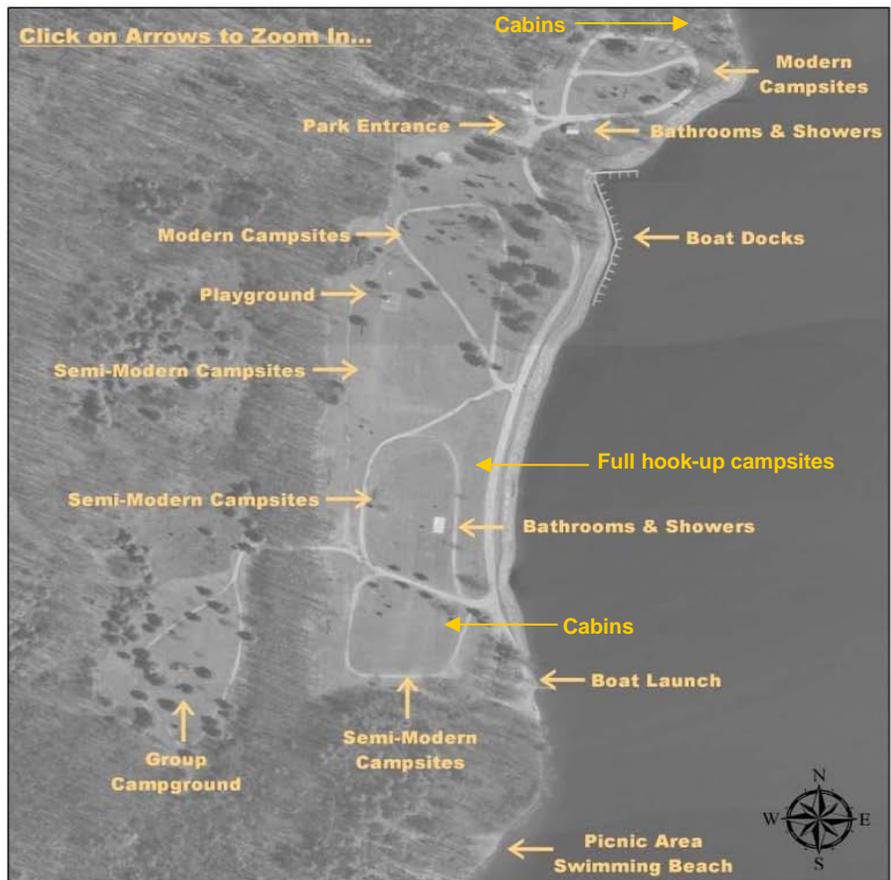
Sandy Beach County Park is located at 6926 30<sup>th</sup> Street in Big Prairie Township along the shore of the 4,000-acre Hardy Pond. The park is 129 acres and offers beautiful waterfront views for campers. The park offers modern and semi-modern camping with 25 water, sewer, and electric sites, 62 water and electric sites, 28 electric sites, 107 sites without hookups, and 7 cabins. The campground has 2 bathroom/shower buildings and a sanitation station. There is a large semi-modern group camping area for youth organizations, family, church groups, and camping clubs. Also available are picnic areas, large sandy swimming beach, playground, boat launch, and dock rentals.

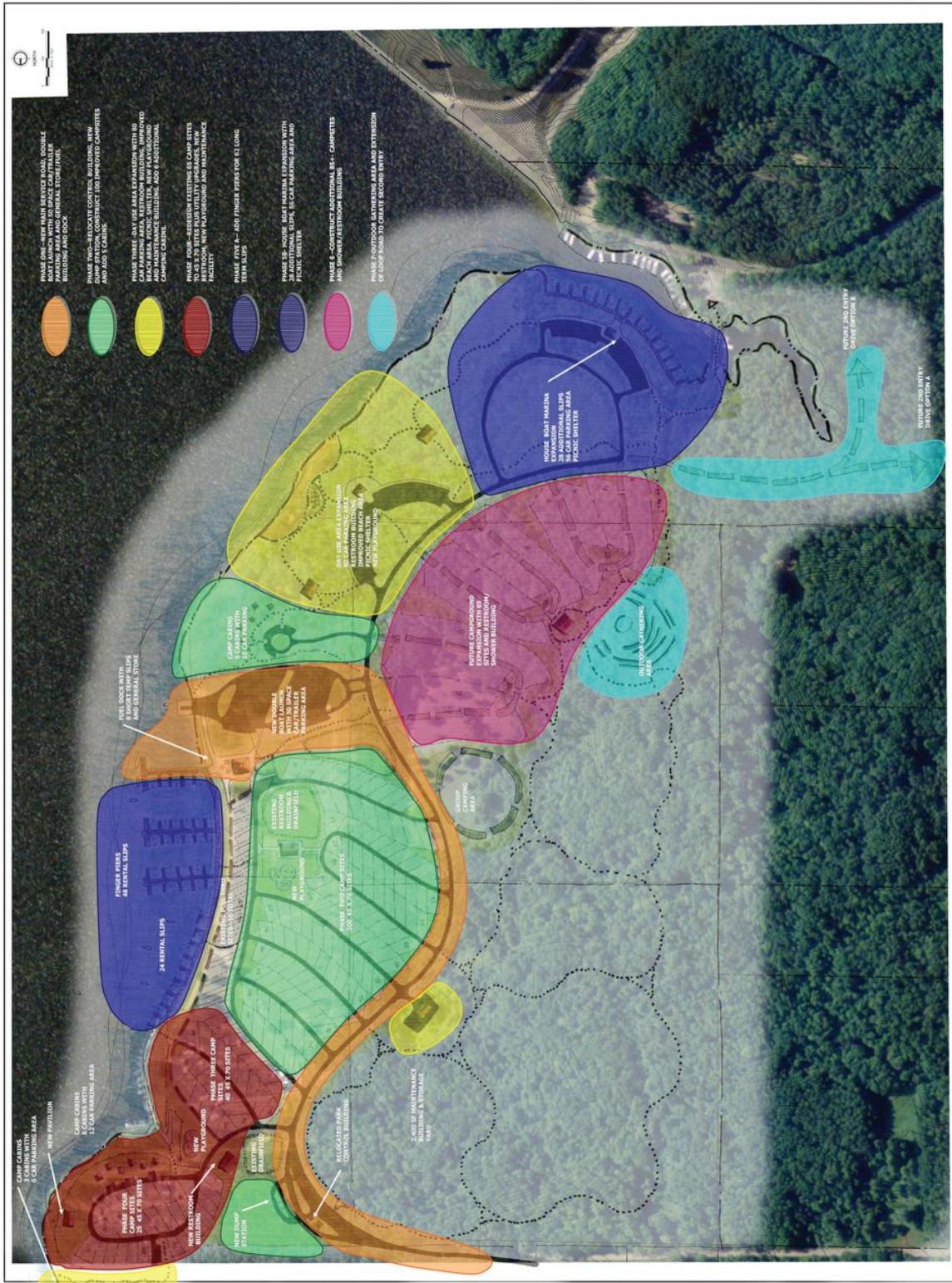


*Sandy Beach County Park*

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.

Within the last five years, a multi-year improvement plan for Sandy Beach was created and then approved by the Newaygo County Board. Upgrades to the park include additional camping cabins, boat launch and parking lot enhancements, and construction of an access road to reduce boat launch and day use area traffic within the campground. A thorough review and reconsideration of the plan are needed. A conceptual drawing of the plan is shown on the next page.





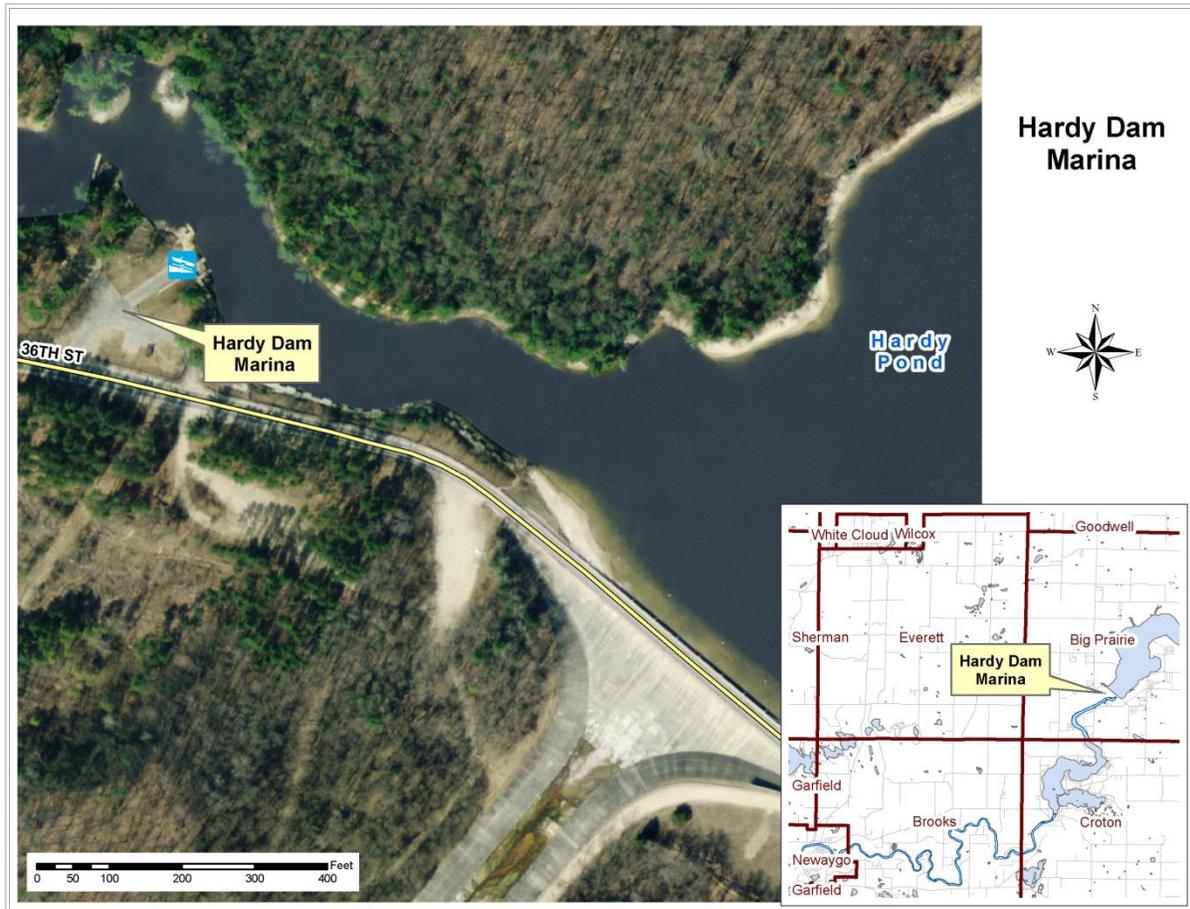
## Hardy Dam County Marina



*Hardy Dam County Marina*

Hardy Dam County Marina is located at 6619 36<sup>th</sup> Street, in Big Prairie Township. The 2.2-acre marina lies in a cove near 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 for 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 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*

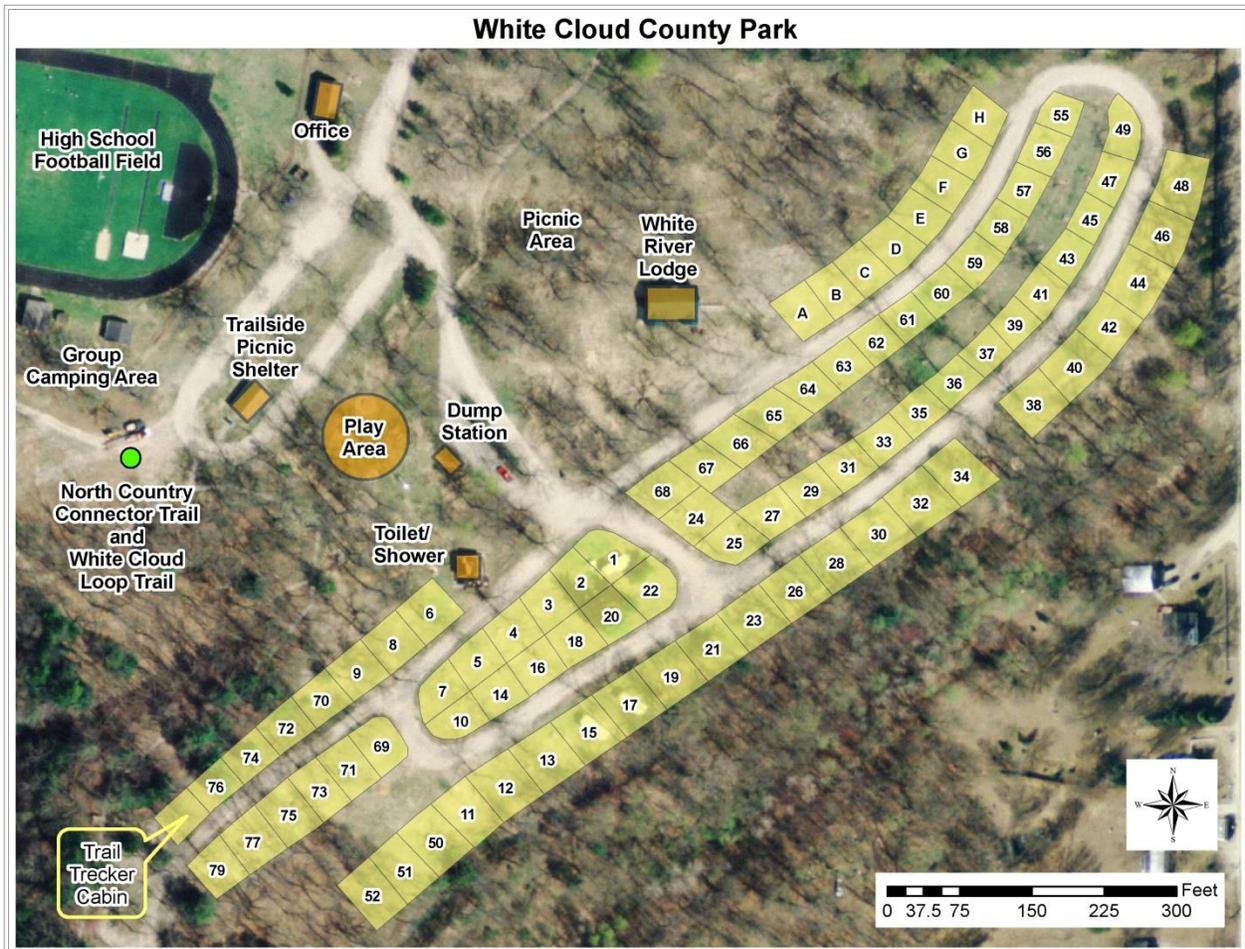


## White Cloud County Park

White Cloud County Park rests on over 80 acres that include a half mile of wild scenic White River frontage. The park is a former state park and is currently leased from the City of White Cloud. Features include a campground with electric and water hookups and a bathhouse, a camping cabin, picnic area, playground, and open air and enclosed shelters. Also available is an 8-mile loop hiking trail connecting to the North Country National Scenic Trail.

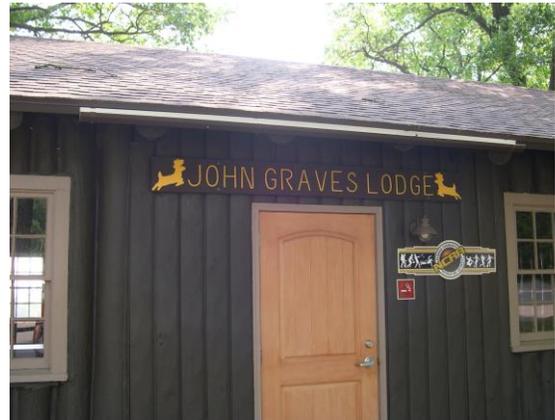


White Cloud County Park



## Graves Lodge and Welcome Center

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 and the North Country National Scenic Trail.



*John Graves Lodge*

## Water Trails

Water trails are recreational routes on waterways with a network of public access points supported by broad-based community partnerships. Water trails provide both conservation and recreational opportunities.

The website [www.michiganwatertrails.org](http://www.michiganwatertrails.org) designates the Muskegon River from the City of Newaygo downstream to Muskegon Lake as the 41.2-mile Muskegon River Water Trail. This was designated in conjunction with the Lake Michigan Water Trail Plan and associated efforts. The plan is available for download at <http://wmsrdc.org/publications/>. The Lake Michigan Water Trail spans more than 760 miles of Michigan's Lake Michigan shoreline. From its western-most access point in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, south along the Lake Michigan shoreline to Indiana, the trail includes:

- 287 public access sites available for paddlers
- 55 campgrounds located at shoreline access sites
- The Lake Michigan Watershed includes 32 major river systems that provide access to additional water trails in Michigan.

When completed, the Lake Michigan Water Trail will offer safe, legal and adequate access around the four Great Lakes States of Michigan, Wisconsin,

Illinois and Indiana. The 1,600-mile Lake Michigan Water Trail will be the longest continuous- loop water trail in the world. Wisconsin completed detailed inventories for access to Lake Michigan in support of trail development. In 2011, 75 miles from Chicago to New Buffalo was designated as the Lake Michigan Water Trail National Recreation Trail by the National Parks Service. In 2014, Michigan's Regional Planning Councils completed inventories of access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline from Wisconsin to Indiana. There are approximately 287 paddler-friendly, public access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline and more than 215 within connecting harbors, lakes and rivers.

### **Michigan's Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam (proposed)**

Michigan's Dragon at Hardy Pond is a non-motorized hiking and biking trail being developed around the Hardy Pond in Mecosta and Newaygo counties. The trail will stand out as a significant and unique outdoor adventure destination for people from around the state, region, nation and world. It promotes west Michigan's triple bottom line: financial, social and environmental performance measures. Hardy Pond boasts over 50 miles of shoreline and over 4,000 acres of fresh water. The Hardy Pond enjoys a long history as a premier recreational destination for tourists and residents alike.

Michigan's Dragon at Hardy Pond will span over 47 miles along the banks of the Hardy Pond upon the Muskegon River as it winds through Mecosta and Newaygo counties, crossing the massive Hardy Dam. This project is strategically located within 45 minutes of Grand Rapids, 3 hours from Detroit and 3.5 hours driving time from downtown Chicago.



*Proposed Michigan's Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam (green line)*

## Accessibility Assessment

The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission has been making improvements to its park system for several years. One significant motivation for improvement has been to make parks accessible for all people. Below is an assessment of the current accessibility of each Newaygo County park. A ranking of 1-5 has been assigned by the parks director to provide a baseline for improvements that are needed and to track future progress. Rankings are given on the following scale: 1 = none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design; 2 = some; 3 = most; 4 = all; and 5 = the facility meets the Principals of Universal Design.

### Diamond Lake County Park

Accessibility Ranking: 2

Description of Accessible Elements: The east campground toilet has accessible toilets and shower.

### Henning County Park

Accessibility Ranking: 2

Description of Accessible Elements: Henning County Park has a new, fully accessible pavilion.

### Newaygo County Visitor Center & Graves Lodge

Accessibility Ranking: 4

Description of Accessible Elements: 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

Accessibility Ranking: 2

Description of Accessible Elements: Pettibone County Park offers an accessible unisex portable toilet.

### Sandy Beach County Park

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Description of Accessible Elements: Sandy Beach County Park recently upgraded its entrance so that it is now fully accessible. The boat launch and parking lot is accessible. The south campground toilet building has accessible toilets and shower. The park also offers two accessible camping cabins (with additional units coming within the near future) and there are three accessible pull through, full-service campsites.

### White Cloud County Park

Accessibility Ranking: 2

Description of Accessible Elements: White Cloud County Park has an accessible, private, unisex bathroom and shower.

## **Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Newaygo County has completed five recreation grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports for each of these projects have been completed by Newaygo County and submitted to the MDNR along with this recreation plan.

**Title: Edgar E. Henning Park                      Year: 1970                      Grant Amount: \$93,500.00**

**Project Description: Develop about 82 acres include roads, parking, boat launching ramp, and 60 site camping area on the north Muskegon River in the City of Newaygo, Newaygo County.**

**Title: Ed Henning County Park                      Year: 1973                      Grant Amount: \$67,536.03**

**Project Description: Develop 20 acres to include 2 ball fields, parking, 2 tennis courts, swimming pond, bathhouse, sanitary system and fencing.**

**Title: Sandy Beach Project                      Year: 1985                      Grant Amount: \$80,000.00**

**Project Description: To acquire 80 acres of land adjacent to Sandy Beach County Park which abuts the Hardy Dam Reservoir.**

**Title: Camp Swampy Acquisition                      Year: 2006                      Grant Amount: \$962,000.00  
Diamond Lake County Park**

**Project Description: Acquisition of 151 acre Steelcase Camp including white oak-pine barrens, forests, dry sand prairie, and an 11 acre wetland bog with 2,000 feet on Diamond Lake adjacent to existing protected areas for habitat protection, camping, hunting, fishing and swimming.**

**Title: Sandy Beach County Park                      Year: 2008                      Grant Amount: \$267,500.00  
Improvement**

**Project Description: Improvements to Sandy Beach Park on Hardy Pond will include paved entrance and interior road, upgrade of 22 campsites to full hook-ups, two camping cabins, courtesy ramp at boat launch, and day use picnic shelter with walkway.**

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

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In early 2017, Newaygo County approached the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) for assistance in the update of the Newaygo County Recreation Plan. Regional Commission staff attended a regularly scheduled Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on May 2, 2017. During the meeting, WMSRDC staff informed the commission of the steps involved in the process of updating the plan. A timeline outlining the planning process was also presented at the meeting.

A contract between Newaygo County and the WMSRDC was signed in June 2017 with work on the plan update beginning immediately. Meetings to gather public comments and input regarding Newaygo County Parks were held at four county parks on Saturday, June 17. Meetings were organized by the Newaygo County Parks Director and facilitated by WMSRDC staff. Each meeting began with a presentation regarding the recreation plan planning process, which was followed by an exercise to solicit feedback from meeting attendees. Attendees were asked what they like and don't like about Newaygo County Parks, and also were asked to provide ideas for improvements to recreation facilities or programming in Newaygo County. Each meeting concluded with an exercise to brainstorm and prioritize a list of improvements for that park. In all, approximately thirty park visitors and county residents attended the meetings.

At the regular Newaygo County Parks Commission meeting on July 11, 2017, WMSRDC staff presented the public comments gathered on June 17 and engaged in an open dialogue with commission members regarding the goals and objectives of the recreation plan. It was also agreed that a public input survey be posted on the Newaygo County Parks website to allow the public another means of providing input. The survey poses the same three questions that were asked at the public meetings:

- ◆ 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 new programs, facilities, or improvements would you like developed in Newaygo County?

The following section reveals all of the public comments collected through public meetings, online survey, and email correspondence.

## SANDY BEACH PARK MEETING – JUNE 17, 2017

### **Improvement Priorities**

1. Restroom improvements
2. Dock improvements
3. Fishing pier

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

- Scenery
- Closeness to dam
- Water views
- Boating
- Launch improvements (accessibility, parking lot, etc)
- River/pond

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

- Lacking tie-up area for boats
- Not enough sand on beach
- Need restroom facilities at park area

### **What new programs, facilities, or improvements would you like developed in Newaygo County?**

- Dock improvements
- Standardized lot sizes/shapes
- Fishing pier
- More full hookup sites
- Allow families/groups to camp together
- Restroom improvements

## HARDY DAM MARINA MEETING – JUNE 17, 2017

### **Improvement Priorities**

1. Metered electricity
2. Showers
3. Potable water
4. Affordability
5. WIFI
6. Slip Transfer
7. Dock Repairs
8. Parking Improvements
9. Security Cameras

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

- Paradise
- Tim (park manager)
- Location
- Clean & well-kept
- Affordable
- Clean
- Good management

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

- Parking for houseboater/slips
- Bath house
- Shore power
- Slip cost goes up with no improvements made
- Fresh water hose kinks
- Crooked docks
- Spent several years on waiting list (now I have no complaints)
- Hard to sell a boat if slip can't be sold with it.

### **What new programs, facilities, or improvements would you like developed in Newaygo County?**

- More parking for non-slip users
- Showers
- Repair steps at both ends of cove
- Water spigots every 5th or 6th slip
- Electricity
- WIFI
- Resurface driveway/parking lot
- Gas pump at a dock closer to our end of the pond
- Shore power & potable water: some want, some don't. it needs to be fairly assessed
- WIFI
- Showers
- Electricity (metered use)
- Water

## DIAMOND LAKE PARK MEETING – JUNE 17, 2017

### **Improvement Priorities**

1. Rebuild park office
2. Additional trash cans
3. Playground updates
4. Beach park improvements
5. Drainage improvements

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

- Openness
- Park layout
- Signage leading to park
- Quiet & low-key
- Nature

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

- Park office
- Erosion issues at seasonal sites
- Lacking trash receptacles

### **What new programs, facilities, or improvements would you like developed in Newaygo County?**

- Grass would be nice
- Trash cans
- Road improvements
- Rebuild park office
- Handicap accessibility
- Improve access to waterfront and fishing
- Picnic tables & trash cans at boat launch
- Playground updates
- Camp store (camping essentials, Newaygo county merchandise)
- Washer & dryer
- Activities & programming for families
- Drainage improvements
- Beach park improvements
- Spigots at field area
- Extended camping season
- Bee farming

## ED HENNING PARK MEETING – JUNE 17, 2017

### **Improvement Priorities**

1. New bath house
2. Full service hookup
3. Playground equipment
4. Handicap accessibility

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

- Grassy sites
- Paved roads
- Quiet at night
- Trails

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

- Trash & drunk people from the river
- Congestion at launch ramp
- Launch usage
- Sandy water faucets
- Blocked trails
- Poor drainage (ponding)
- Few activities for children

### **What new programs, facilities, or improvements would you like developed in Newaygo County?**

- Full service hookup
- New bath house
- Handicap accessibility
- Playground equipment
- Launch ramp cement pad
- Water on every site
- Open trails
- Activities & games

## PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

- Incorporate a description of the North Country Trail in the recreation plan.
- Need more tennis courts at Henning Park. There are only two tennis courts in the whole of Newaygo and every morning, except Sunday, they are dominated by pickleball players.

## Public Notice

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A public notice was published in the Fremont Times-Indicator on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 and Wednesday, November 15, 2017. The notice announced availability of the draft plan for public review and comment, as well as the date, time, and location of the public meeting held after the one month public review period.

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

Please be advised that the Newaygo County Parks & Recreation Commission, with the assistance of the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 to receive comments regarding the proposed Newaygo County Recreation Plan. The meeting will take place at 9:30 AM - 10 AM at the Newaygo County Administration Building in the Board of Commissioners' Conference room located at 1087 E. Newell St., White Cloud, MI 49349. The meeting is open to the public. Those with an interest in the Newaygo County Recreation Plan are encouraged to attend. A copy of the Draft Recreation Plan will be available to the public for review at the Newaygo County Clerk's Office, also located at 1087 E. Newell St., White Cloud, MI 49349, from 10-11-17 through 11-9-17 during regular business hours.

Written comments regarding the proposed draft may be submitted prior to Tuesday, November 21, 2017 to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, 316 Morris Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440 or via email at [scarlson@wmsrdc.org](mailto:scarlson@wmsrdc.org). Questions should be directed to Mr. Stephen Carlson (231) 722-7878 (extension 11).

JASON VANDERSTELT  
NEWAYGO COUNTY CLERK

TimesIndicator

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

## Public Meeting Minutes

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### Meeting Minutes: Public Meeting regarding the Newaygo County Recreation Plan

Date: November 21, 2017

Time: 9:30 – 10:30

Location: Newaygo County Administration Building, Board of Commissioners Conference Room  
1087 E. Newell Street, White Cloud, MI 49349

Attendance: Stephen Carlson, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission  
Nick Smith, Newaygo County Parks Director  
Steve Hatting, Newaygo County Parks Commission  
Doug Harmon, Newaygo County Parks Commission  
Dale Twing, Newaygo County Parks Commission  
Sam Scholtens, Newaygo County Parks Commission  
Chuck Trapp, Newaygo County Parks Commission

#### Meeting Notes:

- Nobody from the general public was in attendance.
- No comments were received from the general public.
- One misspelled name on page 7 was identified. This was the only suggested change to the proposed plan.
- There was discussion regarding possible grant opportunities and potential projects
  - o Henning Park improvements
  - o Connect Sandy Beach to Hardy Marina (preliminary engineering needed)
  - o Might be best to wait for progress to be made on the Dragon Trail to make a better case for any grant applications
  - o Link future parks improvements to the Dragon Trail / trailheads
- There was discussion regarding pay scales and staffing issues
- Next meeting of the Newaygo County Parks Commission will be December 5, 2017

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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The following goals and objectives were formulated using feedback from county residents and park visitors, as well as input provided by the Newaygo County Parks Commission and the parks director. For this edition of the Newaygo County Recreation Plan, all three major goals remain the same as the previous edition of the plan. Many of the objectives also remain the same; however notable adjustments were made to include mention of water trails and to support the linkage of trail systems. Another significant revision was to restate certain objectives in a manner that could be applied to most parks, rather than to a specific park. The goals and objectives are intentionally general, and listed in no particular order.

### **Goal #1: Maintain and enhance the existing Newaygo County Park facilities.**

- ◆ Review progress on the Sandy Beach multi-year improvement plan and reassess the remaining tasks.
- ◆ Upgrade park facilities, including their accessibility, 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.
- ◆ Maintain access points to surface water resources.
- ◆ Provide level camping sites with proper drainage.
- ◆ Explore the possibility of providing a camp store at one or more of the parks.
- ◆ Upgrade the playground equipment at the county parks as needed.
- ◆ Expand and improve day-use facilities.
- ◆ Add camping/family games and activities at park facilities.
- ◆ Explore the pros and cons for expanding camping season of the Newaygo County Parks.

**Goal #2: Maintain the natural resources and rural character of Newaygo County through recreational uses.**

- ◆ Develop and maintain non-motorized trails for paddling, biking and walking throughout Newaygo County.
- ◆ Seek to connect trail systems to enhance the regional trail network.
- ◆ Work with local agencies and groups to expand and move to designate sections of existing rivers as blue water trails.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to expand existing parks and/or develop additional parks in the county.
- ◆ Maintain a working relationship with the Newaygo County community and recreational organizations to provide recreation opportunities to area residents and visitors.

**Goal #3: Increase public recreational opportunities within Newaygo County for residents and visitors of all ages.**

- ◆ Coordinate efforts with local, state, and federal governments who provide recreational opportunities within the county.
- ◆ Support development of Michigan's Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam, a proposed non-motorized natural surface trail along the Hardy Dam Pond of the Muskegon River.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ When appropriate, acquire and develop additional properties for recreation through purchase or donation.

## **ACTION PROGRAM**

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**Newaygo County is committed to providing recreational opportunities to its community residents and visitors alike; capitalizing on the abundant natural resources while sustaining them and maintaining the community's rural character. The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Plan will be used by the Newaygo County Parks Commission and its director to pursue the goals and objectives set forth through this planning process, and to react appropriately as unforeseen needs arise.**

**It is a priority of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission to maintain and upgrade the county's park facilities in a manner that meets and exceeds park users' expectations. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been able to make several improvements to its many facilities through their existing budget and grant assistance. Work to make improvements to the parks will continue into the foreseeable future. Through the planning process, the members of the parks commission and the director reaffirmed their commitment to this mission. Public input gathered for this plan will remain a valuable tool to guide and prioritize maintenance and investment projects over the next five years.**

**Another 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 overarching priority of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission is to grow tourism of the county and sustain its rural character through the provision of high quality recreational opportunities. The county offers abundant natural resources including its lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, woodlands, and unique wildlife habitats. Residents and visitors cherish these resources and consider it an utmost priority to preserve and protect these attractive features. Tourism is an important economic sector 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.**

**Two initiatives the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission intends to pursue over the next five years:**

- Continue collaboration to establish Michigan's Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam in Newaygo and Mecosta counties.**
- Work with local agencies and groups to expand and move to designate sections of existing rivers as blue water trails.**

## CONCLUSION

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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, founded upon input from county residents and park visitors, 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.





**RESOLUTION 2017-02  
RESOLUTION FOR RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF  
A RECREATION PLAN**

*NEWAYGO COUNTY RECREATION PLAN  
For Newaygo County, MI*

At the regular meeting of the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission held on the date of December 5, 2017.

WHEREAS, the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2018 through 2022, and

WHEREAS, Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Newaygo County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at the Newaygo County Administration Building to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the proposed Newaygo County Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Newaygo County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission pass a resolution to recommend the adoption of the proposed Newaygo County Recreation Plan for the period of 2018-2022 by the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners.

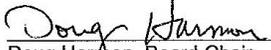
The Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission resolution was offered by **Stroven** and Seconded By **Hatting**

Yes: **Harmon, Stroven, Trapp, Miller, Clark, Westfield, Hatting**

Nays: **None**

Absent: **Maike, Twing, Scholtens**

The above resolution was declared adopted by Newaygo County Park and Recreation Commission at the regularly scheduled meeting on December 5, 2017.

  
Doug Harmon, Board Chair

12-5-17  
Date



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF NEWAYGO  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

At a regular session of the said Board, held in the City of White Cloud, in said County,  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION #01-001-18  
2018 - 2022 NEWAYGO COUNTY RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Newaygo County has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2018 through 2022, and

WHEREAS, Newaygo County began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Newaygo County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at the Newaygo County Administration Building to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the proposed Newaygo County Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, Newaygo County has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Newaygo County, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt said Newaygo County Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Newaygo County Recreation Plan.

Motion by: Deur Supported by: Trapp to adopt the foregoing Resolution.  
Ayes being: Deur, Gardner, Kolk, Maik, Trapp, Willett  
Nays: None Absent: Ortwein

The Resolution was adopted  
on January 10, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick J. Gardner, Chairman  
Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
                                  ) ss  
COUNTY OF NEWAYGO)

I, Jason VanderStelt, County Clerk do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution #01-001-18 adopted by the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason VanderStelt  
Newaygo County Clerk

## **POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORTS**

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- ◆ **Henning Park: 1970, 1973**
- ◆ **Sandy Beach: 1985, 2008**
- ◆ **Diamond Lake: 2006**





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Newaygo County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-00212 PROJECT TYPE:

PROJECT TITLE: Edgar W. Henning Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Develop 82 acres-roads, parking, boat launching ramp, and 60 camp sites

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Newaygo County, Nick Smith, Parks Director, 4684 Evergreen Drive, 231-689-, Newaygo, MI 49349, nicks@co.newaygo.mi.us

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Added day use with pavillion, group camping, and two camping cabins, 2 ball fields, parking, 2 tennis courts, swimming pond, bathhouse, sanitary system and fencing

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [X]Yes [ ]No

One bathroom on occasion - increased patrols, lock facilities in non-peak hours

## POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Seasonally May - December and checked periodically throughout the winter

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

See attached fee structure

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

24/7 end of April - middle of October for camping, 24/7 all year for boat launch/day use

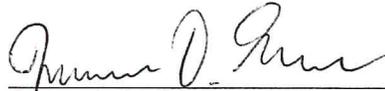
### COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Nick Smith  
Please print

  
Grantee Authorized Signature

9-22-17  
Date

Melanie Carrier  
Please print

  
Witness Signature

10/3/17  
Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Newaygo County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-00385 PROJECT TYPE:

PROJECT TITLE: Edgar W. Henning Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Develop 20 acres-ball fields, parking, tennis courts, pond, bathhouse

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Newaygo County, Nick Smith, Parks Director, 4684 Evergreen Drive, 231-689-7340, Newaygo, MI 49349, nicks@co.newaygo.mi.us

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Added day use with pavillion, group camping, and two camping cabins

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [X]Yes [ ]No

One bathroom on occasion - increased patrols, lock facilities in non-peak hours

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No

Seasonally May - December and checked periodically throughout the winter

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

See attached fee structure

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

24/7 end of April - middle of October for camping, 24/7 all year for boat launch/day use

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Nick Smith  
Please print

  
Grantee Authorized Signature

9-22-17  
Date

Melanie Carrier  
Please print

  
Witness Signature

10/3/17  
Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Newaygo County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF1043

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Sandy Beach County Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquire 80 acres adjacent to Sandy Beach, abutting Hardy Dam resevoir

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Newaygo County, Nick Smith, Parks Director, 4684 Evergreen Drive, 231-689-7340, Newaygo, MI 49349, nicks@co.newaygo.mi.us

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Added group camping, boat parking, entrance road, seasonal camper storage

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ]Yes [X]No

## POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Seasonally May - October and checked periodically throughout the winter

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

See attached fee structure

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

24/7 May - October for camping

### COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Nick Smith

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

9-17-22

Date

Melanie Carrier

Please print



Witness Signature

10/3/17

Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Newaygo County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF08-113

PROJECT TYPE: Improvements

PROJECT TITLE: Sandy Beach County Park Improvement

PROJECT SCOPE: Paved entrance road, upgrade 22 sites to full hook-up, 2 cabins, ramp

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Newaygo County, Nick Smith, Parks Director, 4684 Evergreen Drive, 231-689-7340, Newaygo, MI 49349, nicks@co.newaygo.mi.us

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Added 7 camping cabins, new park office, paved entrance to boat launch, launch parking lot

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ]Yes [X]No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No

Seasonally May - October and checked periodically throughout the winter

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

See attached fee structure

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

24/7 May - October for camping

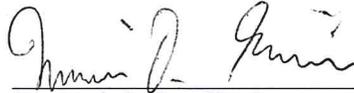
**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Nick Smith  
Please print

  
Grantee Authorized Signature

9-22-17  
Date

Melanie Carrier  
Please print

  
Witness Signature

10/3/17  
Date

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PO BOX 30425  
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DIAMOND LAKE  
COUNTY  
PARK





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Newaygo County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF06-204

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Camp Swampy Acquisition - Diamond Lake County Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 151 acres on Diamond Lake

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Contains information for Newaygo County, Nick Smith, Parks Director, 4684 Evergreen Drive, 231-689-7340, Newaygo, MI 49349, nicks@co.newaygo.mi.us

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Added 2 camping cabins, new park office

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ]Yes [X]No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No

Seasonally May - September and checked periodically throughout the winter

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

See attached fee structure

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

24/7 May - September for camping

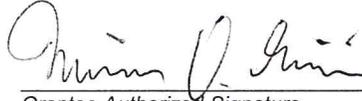
**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

**CERTIFICATION**

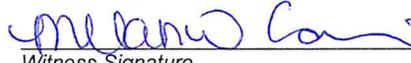
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9-22-17  
Date

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