



# The Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024

Adopted December 16, 2019

The Village of Fruitport  
45 N 2nd Ave  
Fruitport, MI 49415

2020-2024 Edition (5-Year Update)

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# Acknowledgments

**Community Members of The Village of Fruitport**

*Thank you for all of your energy, enthusiasm, and wonderful ideas. Without your participation, this plan would not have worked to serve your needs. It is for your sake that this plan exists. Thank you for your involvement!*

**The Village of Fruitport Administration and Council**

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*Ann LaCroix, Village Clerk and Village Treasurer*

*Jay Bolt, Trustee*

*Jeffrey Guiles, Trustee*

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# Introduction

As a society, we are increasingly aware of the psychological and physical benefits provided by open space and recreation. It is the Village of Fruitport's primary goal to actively promote these benefits for the public's well-being in the form of providing and developing recreational areas and activities. Doing this helps to increase the community's livability. However, there are many issues to consider when planning for these recreational areas and opportunities. This plan intends to be the guiding document for the promotion of these recreational opportunities in the Village of Fruitport.

As ongoing health studies show, society is becoming more conscious of healthy living and the opportunities that recreation provides to further healthy lifestyles and improve our quality of life. Health studies also reflect the alarming need for increased physical activity for people of all ages in order to achieve these healthier lifestyles. Finally, improvement to a community's quality of life through recreation also has the potential to better the local economy by drawing new business opportunities to the area. Studies have shown that businesses are drawn to communities that provide quality lifestyles for prospective employees.

Therefore, it is important to project the future parks and recreation needs of the Village of Fruitport to ensure the availability of open space and recreation opportunities. To address these issues and opportunities, it is important for the village to produce a plan to guide the decision-making process. When implemented, this plan will guide the management and improvement of quality parks, recreation programs, and facilities throughout the community.

## **Purpose**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires that community recreation plans be updated every five years as criteria to apply for funding from the State in the form of grants for park and open space acquisition, park development, and existing park improvements. The purpose of this procedure is to provide an opportunity to include changing needs and assets for the community. This recreation plan was developed by analyzing an inventory of issues and physical features for the area and tailoring development of recreation programs and facilities in a systematic manner, or plan, through the next five years; in pursuit of the guidelines established by the DNR.

## **Scope**

The Community Recreation Plan for the Village of Fruitport inventories existing parks and recreation programs, and with this information, the needs for neighborhood parks, supporting facilities, trailway/greenway systems, and recreation programs are analyzed for the next five years. The recommendations in this plan are provided through analysis of demographic projections, village land-use trends, natural features inventory, citizen input, past and future recreational trends, state and federal grant funding requirements and potential land acquisition opportunities.

## Historic Accomplishments (Pre-2020)

Project	Organization/Department	Date
Band Shell	Lions Club	1981
Boat Launch	MDNR, Village Council	1991-1993
Bike Path	Fruitport Township	1991-1996
4 <sup>th</sup> Street Parking (Pomona Park)	Village Council	1996-1998
Fishing Pier	Lions Club, Village Council	2001-2005
Peach Tree Plaza	Jerry Alger, Village Council	2005, 2011-2014
Restrooms/Concessions	Lions Club, Village Council	2005-2006
ADA Walkway (Pomona Park)	Lions Club, Village Council	2006
Band Shell Modifications-Gables End	Lions Club, Village Council	2006
Band Shell Modifications-Reset Walls	Lions Club, Village Council	2011-2014
Historic Panels	Jerry Alger, Brian Zwart, Community Volunteers	2011-2014
Civil War Historical Marker	Jerry Alger, Ram Electronics, Community Support	Fall 2014
Veterans' Park	Community Volunteers, Village Council Members	Fall 2008
8 <sup>th</sup> Street Park Shoreline Improvements	Village Council	2017
Pomona Park Lighting	Lions Club, Village Council	2018
Boat Launch Improvements	Village Council	2018
Acquisition of land adjacent to Pomona Park	Private Donor, Village Council	2018

## Projects in Progress

Project	Project Type	Organization/Dept.	Consultant	Date
ADA Kayak Launch	DNR Trust Fund Grant Application	Village of Fruitport	None	Submitted 2019

## Vision for the Future

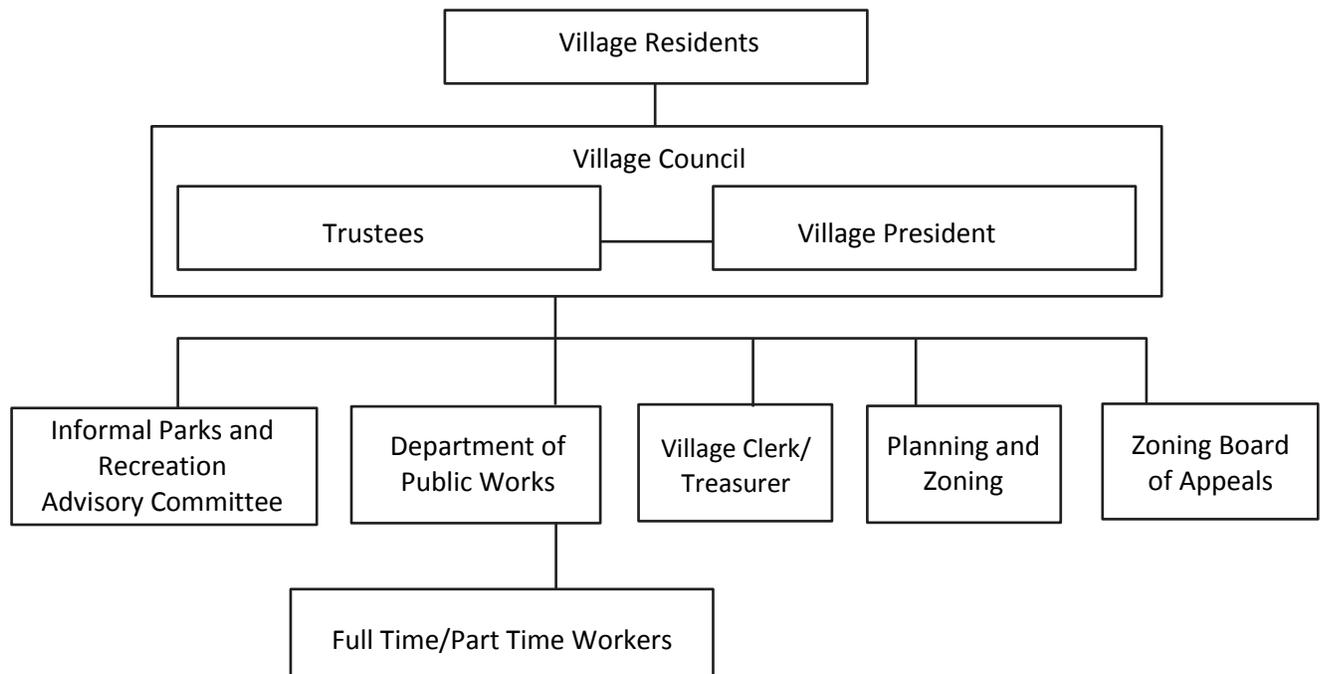
It is within the realm of parks and recreation that the village sees the power to develop community engagement, stimulate economic development, and improve the state of its natural resources. By managing and developing its natural resources identity and brand through parks, the village will be able to foster an environment where people will want to establish families, set up businesses, and visit for leisure. The Village of Fruitport is committed to this long-term investment in community development.

# Community Description

The 2019-2024 the Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Plan has been developed to serve as a guide for future recreation facilities and programs within the Village of Fruitport. This plan focuses on parks, trails and natural areas, including the development, acquisition, and collaboration of park lands for all aspects of recreation within the Village of Fruitport. The plan includes an assessment of current facilities and programs, as well as, the acquisition and development of new facilities and programs based on current and future anticipated demands. It also considers linkages throughout the village to other communities. This community recreation plan covers the jurisdiction controlled by the Village of Fruitport, which encompasses one square mile of land that contains four parks and a trail system. The village is bordered on the west, north, and east by Fruitport Township and on the south by Spring Lake Township. The Village of Fruitport is positioned between two exits on I-96 which allows for easy access to the parks system, Pomona Park boat and kayak launch on Spring Lake, and other available services.

# Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation activities, properties and facilities are controlled by the Village of Fruitport Council, under the General Law Village Act (Public Act 3, 1895). Responsibilities relating to the care and management of the village's parks have been given to the Department of Public Works. All day-to-day administration of recreation programming is the responsibility of the Village Council. The Planning and Zoning Committee acts as a supporting committee that contributes to the planning and regulation of parks. The administrative structure is visualized in the flow chart below.



## Village Staff

The village staff includes the following elected officials: village president and six trustees. The clerk/treasurer is appointed by the village president and confirmed by the village council (position is not a council seat). The village president and six trustees make up the village council, which is responsible for parks and recreation in the village. The village also employs one part-time and two full-time DPW workers.

### *Elected Officials*

Roger Vanderstelt, Village President  
 Jay Bolt, Trustee  
 Jeffrey Guiles, Trustee  
 Amy Haack, Trustee

Bill Overkamp, Trustee  
 Donna Pope, Trustee  
 Carl Rothenberger III, Trustee

### *Appointed Officials*

Ann LaCroix, Village Clerk and Village Treasurer

## Recreation Funding

Parks and recreation is important to the Village of Fruitport and is primarily funded through the general fund. In the past about 5.5% has been annually allocated towards parks and recreation. Over the last three years, however, that percentage has increased to about 10.5%. Additional revenue is generated through boat launch permit sales, park reservations, and occasional private donations. Such revenue is reinvested in the park from where it was generated. The village council will continue to oversee and approve all allocation of funds. The chart below shows the current year and projected annual budgets for parks operation and maintenance, recreation programming, and capital improvements:

<b>Fruitport Village Budget</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
Annual Allocation for Recreation	\$ 54,212	\$41,505	\$50,000
<b>Revenue from Recreation &amp; Donations</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
Boat Launch Permits	\$18,000	\$19,500	\$20,000
Park Reservations	\$2,100	\$2,500	\$2,000
Other Revenues	\$18,040*	\$923,689**	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$38,140</b>	<b>\$983,829</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>

\* 2018 park donations from Lion’s Club for park improvements.

\*\* 2019 park donations; \$921,900 was a donation of land next to Pomona Park, \$1,800 was from Lions Club for park improvements.

## Fruitport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

In 2014, the village council motioned to allow the formation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the intention that the advisory board would help the village council evaluate opportunities and create plans as they relate to parks and recreation. A year later, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was formally created by council vote and confirmed by resolution on February 16, 2015. The formal board was dissolved a few years later; however there is currently an informal committee in the village, called the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Friends Group.

## **Relationship with Other Local Entities**

### ***Neighboring Municipalities***

The Village of Fruitport has a positive relationship with Fruitport Township, Spring Lake Township, and the Village of Spring Lake. However, the Village of Fruitport does not currently have any parks and recreation cooperative agreements with those communities.

The Fruitport Village Planning Commission includes members who are residents of the Fruitport Township. This level of collaboration between the village and the township is commendable.

### ***Fruitport Public Schools***

The Village of Fruitport and Fruitport Community Schools (FCS) enjoy a long standing collaboration on an as-needed basis. However, there are no plans for shared equipment and responsibilities of parks. The village prioritizes snow removal and control of village sidewalks first for safe walking linkages for students to the school complex and for residents who depend on sidewalks for walking, wheelchairs and preference for non-motorized transportation. There is potential for collaboration on a "Safe Routes to School" grant between the Fruitport Village, Fruitport Township, and FCS.

### ***Spring Lake – Lake Board***

The Village of Fruitport has a positive relationship with the Spring Lake – Lake Board, but does not currently have any official parks and recreation collaborative agreements with the board. Roger Vanderstelt, Village President, serves on the Spring Lake – Lake Board as a liaison.

### ***Clubs & Organizations***

The Village of Fruitport assists many clubs and organizations with community events and programs, including but not limited to the following:

- Fruitport Lions Club
- Bassmaster
- Dancing Into the Sunset
- Fruitport Community Schools Band
- Numerous church groups and families

The Fruitport Lions Club has benefited from the village allowing them to use Pomona Park and facilities at no cost for a variety of organized events including Old Fashioned Days, a popular annual event. In return, the Lions has generously given part of their proceeds back to the park in terms of funding specific projects such as the band shell, pavilion, fishing dock and others. This collaboration dates back over 30 years.

## **Role of Volunteers**

Other than involvement of the clubs and organizations discussed above, the Village of Fruitport does not rely upon volunteers for maintenance or operation of parks or recreation programs within the village. However, the Village of Fruitport would like to acknowledge the community's legacy of individual donors and benefactors who have contributed time and money to the parks system, its facilities and attractions.

# Recreation Inventory

The recreation inventory is an essential component of this recreation plan. It allows the village council to assess the quantity, type, location, and accessibility of existing facilities. It also explains the variety of programs and events offered and where there may be opportunities for new programs and events. It serves to help identify where new facilities might be built and where ADA upgrades are needed. The inventory was initially developed by a consultant for the 2015 edition of this plan, and has been reviewed and updated by the Village Council for the 2020 edition. It should be noted that new park and village office signage were erected in late 2019.



## Park Classification

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published guidelines for park classification based on size and service area. These categories are recommended by the Michigan DNR guidelines and were used to classify the parks of the Village of Fruitport. The classifications used in this report are as follows:

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park (see appendix for definition of "neighborhood park"). Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.

## Accessibility Assessment

Complying with accessibility standards and planning for universal design are two extremely important efforts that a municipality must undertake in its endeavors to protect the health, safety and welfare of its people. This is true not only for those disabled by birth or by accident, but also for the growing population of people entering old age who are finding normal tasks more and more challenging. Many able-bodied persons forget that disability is often an eventuality as one grows older. Therefore, the Village of Fruitport should seek to improve the accessibility of its environment not simply to comply with law, but to think more broadly and take steps towards developing a compassionate, inclusive, and accessible community, unencumbered by physical barriers.

This inventory includes a cursory assessment of accessibility at existing parks. A member of the Village Council and the hired consultant assigned the accessibility ratings, which are based on 2010 ADA Standards referenced by the DNR's guidelines for recreation plans. It establishes a baseline assessment so that accessibility needs can be incorporated into future projects. This evaluation is not comprehensive and does not identify specific deficiencies.

### Accessibility Ranking System

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines.
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.

## Comparison to Recreation Standards

The Village of Fruitport land was classified using the Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The Village of Fruitport owns 8.33 acres of developed park land per 1,000 people, which is within the NRPA guidelines of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of land per 1,000 people. Currently, mini parks do not meet the recommended acreage per 1000 people, but only by .04 acres. The one community park in the Village of Fruitport meets the NRPA standard. A single connector trail also resides in the village, but there are no NRPA standards for recommended trail acreage or mileage. While there is a multi-school complex in the Village of Fruitport, school recreation facilities are not considered part of the Village of Fruitport's parks and recreation system.

# Park Facilities Inventory

## Inventory Tool

Facility Name	Acres	Park Classification	Accessibility Assessment	Ball Field	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Tennis	Track & Field	Basketball Courts	Open Lawn	5-12 Play Structures	2-5 Play Structures	Swing Sets	Picnic Areas	Yard Games	Multi Use Path	Fishing Access/Pier	Boat Launch	Shelter/Pavilion	Kitchen Facilities	Restroom Building	Bike Racks	Site Amenities (Beaches, Etc)	Historical /Monument	Parking Area	Notes
8th Avenue Park	0.18	MP	1							•																Road end with sheet piling seawall.
Pine Street Park	0.25	MP	1																							Road end with concrete wall and naturalized shore.
Veteran's Park	0.07	MP	1																							
Pomona Park	8.6	CP	2							•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Park in center of town. 1000' of shoreline.
Lakeside Trail	NA	CT	3													•										Around Spring Lake.
Fruitport Public Schools	76	SP	3	5	2	1	8	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•											Multi-School Complex. Fruitport High School, Fruitport Middle School, Edgewood Elementary School

CP = Community Park, CT = Connector Trail, MP = Mini Park, SP = School Park, • = Facility/Activity Present, # = Number of Facilities/Activities Present

### The Village of Fruitport Parks

(Population 1,093†)

	Mini Park 5A	Community Park (5-8A/1,000)	Total
<b>No. of Developed Parks</b>	3	1	4
<b>Total Acres by Type</b>	.5	8.6	9.1
<b>Acres/1,000 People</b>	.46	7.87	8.33*

Total Village Park Land - 9.1

Total Acres Park Land/1000 People - 8.33\*

Total City Parks - 4

\*NRPA recommends 6.25-10.5 Acres per1000 people

† 2010 U.S. Census.

# Recreation Facilities Map





**Pomona Park**

Pomona Park is a small waterfront community park that offers a boat launch, fishing, picnicking, and kayaking as well as a multi-use path, a band shell, a playground, and temporary event space for carnivals or festivals. Winter activities also take place with sledding as a highlight. It is the largest of the parks in the village and serves a much larger population than just village residents due to its public boat launch on the north end of Spring Lake. This provides boaters with direct access to the Grand Haven waterfront, Lake Michigan, and the Grand River. In 2018, the village acquired a 3-acre parcel adjacent and to the west of Pomona Park. The land is currently undeveloped, and therefore not considered “park space” for the purpose of this plan. Regardless, this land will be a valuable addition to Pomona Park when it is incorporated into use.



**Statistics**

Type: Community Park

Size (acres): 8.6

Service Area: 30 Miles

Accessibility Assessment: 2





**8th Avenue Park**

8th Avenue Park is a waterfront park situated at the end of 8th Avenue on the border of The Village of Fruitport and Fruitport Township. It is the third largest park in the village. It offers views of the lake and sunsets, resides on a historical site, has an open lawn area, and a shoreline that was stabilized/improved with large rocks in 2017. It is also a popular spot for fishing from the shore.

**Statistics**

- Type: Mini Park
- Size (acres): .18
- Service Area: 1/2 Mile
- Accessibility Assessment: 1





***Pine Street Park***

Pine Street Park is a waterfront park situated at the end of Pine Street. It is the second largest park in the village. It is used by some as a canoe and kayak launch. It was once a village beach.

***Statistics***

- Type: Mini Park
- Size (acres): .25
- Service Area: 1/2 Mile
- Accessibility Assessment: 1





**Veteran’s Park**

Veteran’s Park is a small park situated in the commercial district of the Village of Fruitport. It contains several monuments dedicated to war veterans.

**Statistics**

Type: Mini Park

Size (acres): .07

Service Area: 1/2 Mile

Accessibility Assessment: 1





### **Lakeside Trail**

The Lakeside Trail, a picturesque 15 mile path around Spring Lake, is part of a larger regional network of bike trails and pathways. The Lakeside Trail loops through Fruitport on the north-east end of Spring Lake at Pomona Park. Pomona Park, with proximity to I-96 and Airline Road is considered a trailhead for the Lakeside Trail. The trail meanders through the park between Park Street and Norris Creek to the South. This heavily used and popular pathway provides easy access to cycle routes on both sides of the Grand River including connections to the Lake Michigan Circle Tour scenic roadway system. Users often stop at the park for water and restroom breaks or to take a rest on the few benches along the trail with views of Spring Lake. The trail is used for running, marathon races, and cycling events. Pomona Park is often used as a trailhead for these activities. Locally, the trail connects to the North Shore, Ferrysburg, Waverly North Beach, Hoffmaster State Park as well as Spring Lake, the Grand Haven waterfront and beaches. Access to the Lakeshore Connector Path linking Grand Haven and Holland is extremely popular.

### **Statistics**

- Type: Connector Trail
- Size (acres): NA
- Service Area: 10 Miles
- Accessibility Assessment: 3



## Program Inventory

### Activities and Events

The Fruitport Village Clerk is responsible for the facilitation of programming activities and events within the village parks. In conjunction with the Fruitport Village Council, the village does not staff a parks department to operate activities, but it does collaborate with organizations, churches, non-profits, and businesses to host public events within the parks. This involves holding reservations for space, opening up facilities for event planners and organizers, and maintaining the facilities before and after the events take place. The following activities are recurring events that take place in the Village of Fruitport.

Event Name	Description	Organizer	Frequency
Old Fashioned Days	Carnival, music, parade, etc	Lion's Club	Annual-Spring
Lion's Easter Egg Hunt	Community Event	Lion's Club	Annual-Spring
Old Fashioned Christmas	Sleigh/Hay Rides, Santa Visit, Food and Drinks, Music	Lion's Club	Annual-Winter
Dancing Into Sunset	Free community dancing and music at Pomona Park.	Susan Halter and Lions Club	Thursdays after Memorial Day, from 7:00 PM until sunset.
Fishing Tournament	Local Amateur and Pro-Am Fishing Tournaments	Local Fishing Clubs, Bassmaster (Occasionally)	Periodic
Craft Fairs	Vendors sell hand-crafted goods	Various	Periodic
Slip & Slide	Giant slip & slide for the community to enjoy	Lions Club, Fruitport Public Safety, Fruitport Trojans Youth Club	Annual
Outdoor Movie Night	Support Fruitport Community Schools bands. Movies in the park.	FCS Bands Movies for Music	Periodic

### Rentals and Services

The Village of Fruitport is responsible for the operation and administration of facilities that are available for rent or for a small fee. These fees go back into the maintenance and operation of the facilities. The following facilities are available for rent or for a small fee.

Facility	Seasonal Availability	Operations Department	Rates
Boat Launch	April-September	Public Works	Please contact Village for current rates
Pavilion & Bandshell	Year Round	Public Works	Reservation Fee

## Regional Recreation Opportunities

Recreation opportunities are abundant around the region. Below is a sample of the parks, trails, schools, and other recreation facilities that are available in nearby municipalities.

### *Fruitport Township*

#### **Public**

- Farr Road Park
- Pine Park

#### **Private**

- Craig's Cruisers
- Fruitport Golf Club
- Lakeshore Sports Center
- Lakes Mall
- West Wind Golf Club

### *Fruitport Community Schools*

- Beach School
- Cummings School Forest
- Fruitport Campus
- Jensen Road Parcel
- Shettler School
- Wilson Road Parcel

### *Spring Lake Township*

- Rycenga Park
- Rycenga Park Foot Trails

### *Muskegon County*

- Blue Lake Park
- Deremo Park
- Duck Lake State Park
- Fairchild Park
- Meinert Park
- Moore Park
- Muskegon State Game Area
- Muskegon State Park
- Patterson Park
- Pioneer Park
- P.J. Hoffmaster State Park
- Twin Lake Park

### *Newaygo County*

- Baptist Lake Park
- Croton Dam Park
- Manistee National Forest

### *Ottawa County*

- Bass River Recreation Area
- Berlin Fairground
- Deer Creek Park
- Grand Haven State Park

- Grose Park
- Hager Park
- Holland State Park
- Kirk Park
- North Beach Park
- Pigeon Creek Park
- Riverside Park
- Spring Grove Park
- Tunnel Park

### *Kent County*

- 5/3 Ball Park
- Johnson Park
- Lamoreaux Park
- Lydell Park
- Long Lake Park
- Palmer Park
- Rouge River Park
- Rouge River State Game Area
- Walfield Park

## Status Report for All Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Village of Fruitport has never received a recreation grant from the Michigan DNR. The first edition of this plan (2014) was the first recreation plan completed by the Village in an effort to secure money from the DNR's grant programs. The village applied for a DNR Trust Fund grant in 2019. The project was recommended for funding in late 2019, with a formal grant offer expected in 2020.

# Existing Boating Inventory

## **Boat Launch at Pomona Park**

Pomona Park is a small waterfront community park that includes a public boat launch and carry-down kayaking access on Spring Lake. This provides boaters with access to Spring Lake, Norris, Creek, the Grand River, Grand Haven waterfront, and Lake Michigan (including the Lake Michigan Water Trail). It is very popular with boaters seeking access to these areas and serves local residents and regional visitors. The village made improvements and expansions to the boat launch in 2017, including new launch docks and parking lot improvements. Also an open air information station with roof, cement floor, and permanent table and seating was added in 2018. Due to reasonable (some might say “cheap”) launch fees and relative ease of access to highly desirable boating waters, this facility is often very busy during the summer. In 2019, the village applied to the DNR for a grant to develop a universally accessible kayak launch adjacent to the facility. The project was recommended for funding in late 2019, with a formal grant offer expected in 2020.

### *Size of Facility*

This facility currently meets the demands of local residents and is considered appropriate in size. Despite its popularity, further expansion of the boat launch is not easily feasible due to the small size of the location and the limitations to accommodate additional trailer traffic and parking.

### *ADA Accessibility*

An ADA accessible pit toilet is available. ADA accessible parking spaces are available. The boat launch dock is at least 60” wide.

### *Site Development Plans*

Current plans include development of a kayak launch. Future site developments may include transient slips adjacent to the boat launch within Pomona Park.

### *Marketing, Events, and Partnerships*

Unofficial fishing tournaments have taken and continue to take place at the boat launch. Also a boat launch assistant is hired on a part-time basis during busy summer weekends happening around holidays and local events.

### *Dredging*

There is currently not a dredging schedule, but conversations have been taking place with local advisors regarding future dredging needs and possible schedule

### *Annual Maintenance Schedule*

Repairs and maintenance, annual supplies, annual services - \$10,660

- Pit toilet and temporary porta-potty because of busy season
- Buildings
- Park lot maintenance
- Lawn mowing
- Seasonal dock removal and spring set-up of dock
- Dock maintenance
- Office supplies
- Insect control
- Top soil
- Buoy install and remove

### *Minor and Small-Scale Infrastructure Replacement*

Dock carts in FY2020 - \$1,000

### *Large Scale Maintenance and Replacement Schedules*

Possible maintenance dredge in FY2020 - \$20,000

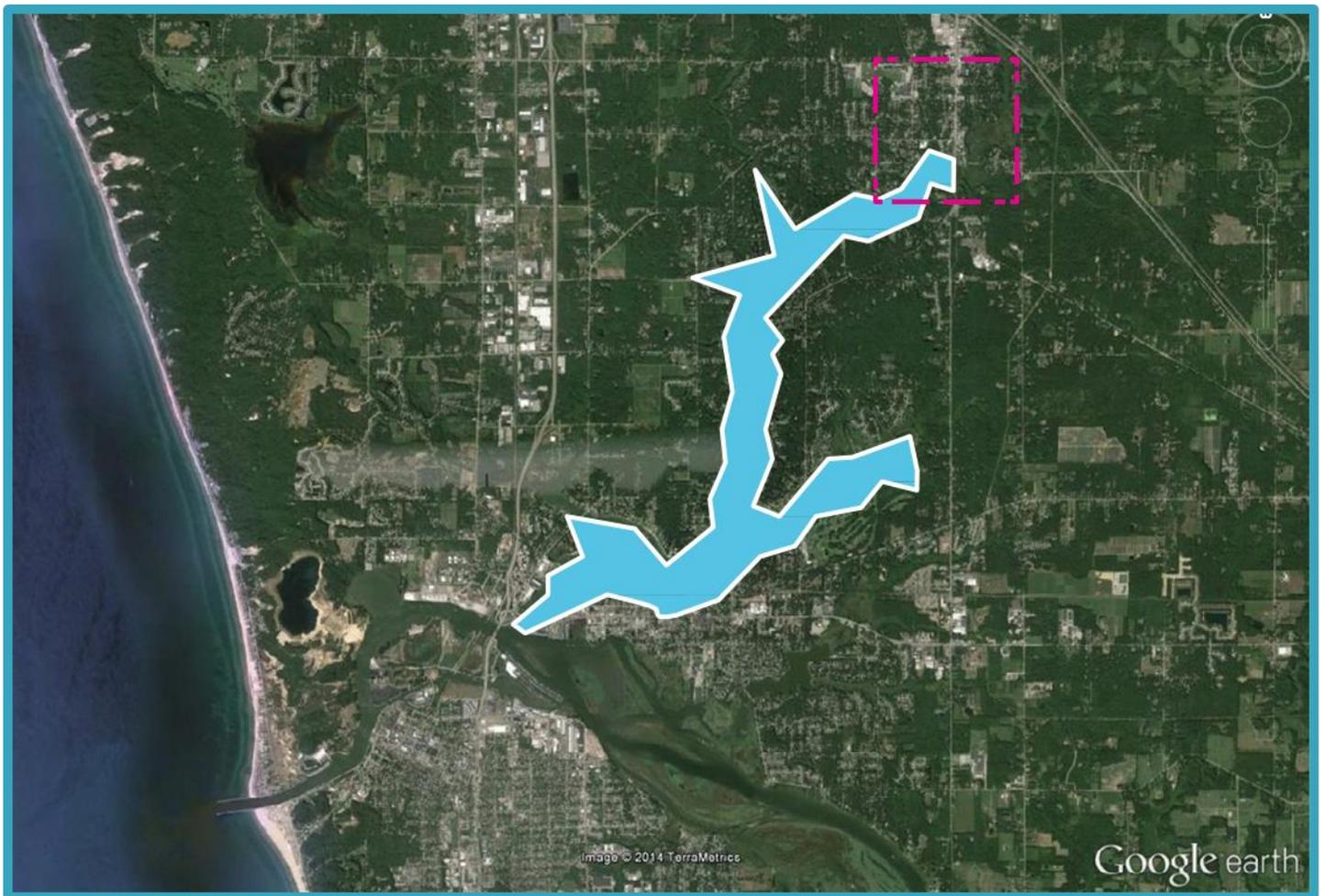
Dock decking maintenance in FY2022 - \$1,000

Match dollars set aside for ADA kayak launch adjacent to boat launch if grant awarded in FY2020 - \$37,500

# Resource Inventory

## Spring Lake

The Village of Fruitport includes approximately 1,200 feet of shoreline along the most north-eastern finger of Spring Lake. The village surrounds the lake on three sides, forming a bay. Spring Lake is over five miles long and often hundreds of yards wide, offering opportunities for recreational boating, kayaking, fishing and swimming. It is connected to the mouth of the Grand River, which spills into Lake Michigan at Grand Haven. From there, a person launching at Fruitport has access to the greatest collection of freshwater bodies in the world – the Great Lakes.



While Spring Lake is a valuable recreation waterway and used by many, the condition of the lake is threatened by environmental pollution. Recent studies have revealed a systemic phosphor loading problem that has resulted in highly eutrophic conditions in the lake (Steinman and Ogdahl 2010, see appendix). No study has

conclusively identified the sources of the lake's pollutants. However this nutrient overload has likely occurred as a result of a combination of pollution sources which may include lawn fertilizers, historic industrial waste, historic use of phosphor-based detergents, septic system failure, septic leeching from improperly placed septic fields, or run-off pollutants from urbanized environments (roadways, rooftops, etc.). Since there is no sewer system in the Village of Fruitport, contamination from septic systems is a real possibility.

Important steps have been taken by the Spring Lake – Lake Board to help raise awareness and establish guidelines for homeowners to follow. However, the eutrophic condition of Spring Lake has not been addressed with comprehensive regional planning, policy making, and enforcement. As phosphor levels continue to accumulate, Spring Lake will inevitably become hypereutrophic (too many nutrients), leading to a variety of serious problems. The environment will eventually become uninhabitable by fish and most other forms of aquatic life (critical to the life of a lake's ecosystems), as well as generally unattractive to and unusable by people (critical to human recreation and consumption). Therefore, it is extremely important to the livelihood of the communities living around the lake that the local communities do what they can to ensure that the lake remain vibrant and usable for generations to come.

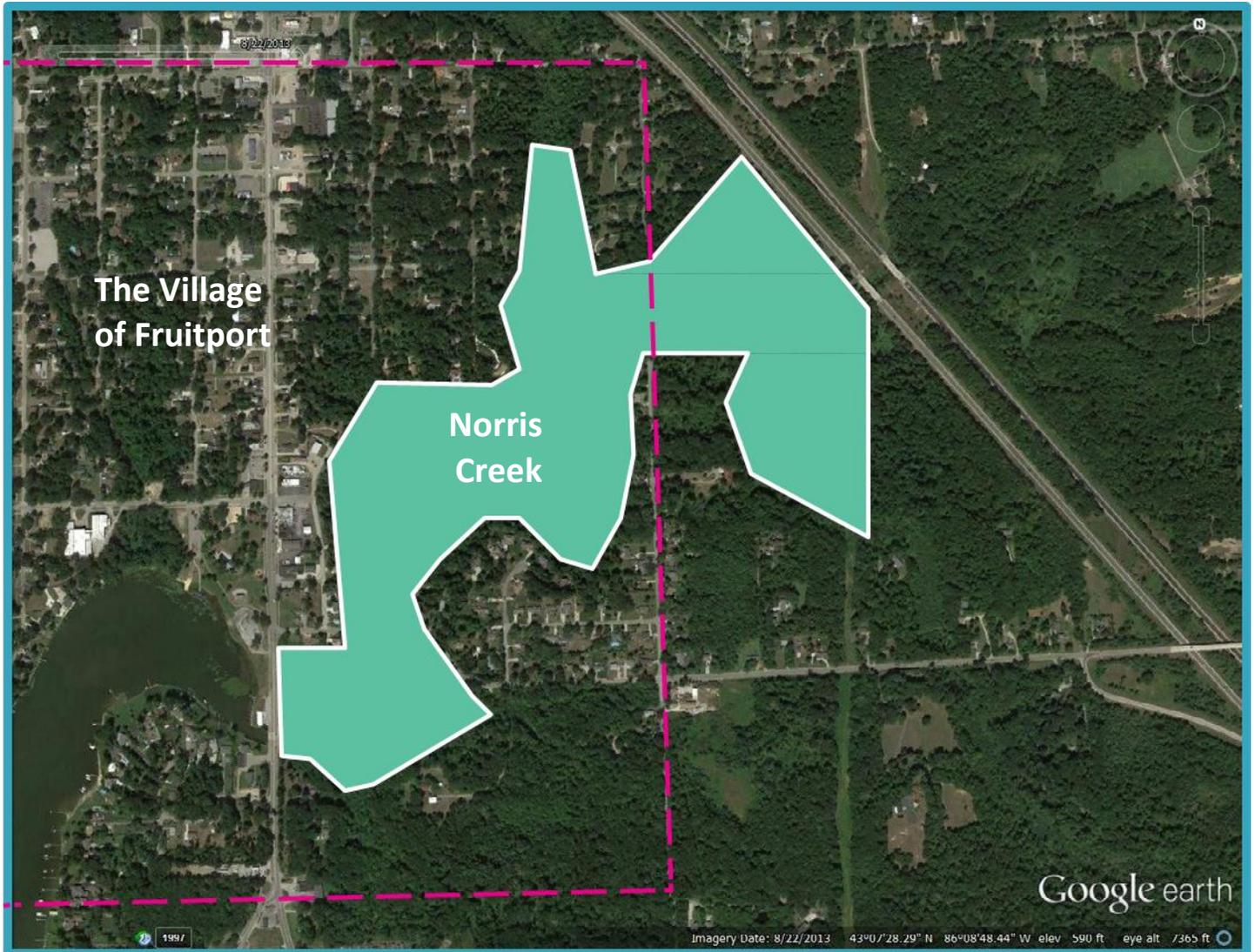
## **Norris Creek**

The Village of Fruitport has a large wetland at the tail waters of Norris Creek. It includes navigable waterways with depths ranging from less than a foot deep to depths of over six feet or more. There are several miles of water that can be explored by kayak, canoe, and even small motor boats. This wetland ecosystem includes habitat for waterfowl, song birds, birds of prey, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. It is bordered by houses, a cemetery, and a highway.

This wetland, referred to as Norris Creek, has the potential to support a vibrant fishery, massive populations of migratory birds, and stable numbers of year-round animals. It could support the sustained productivity of not just the local ecosystem, but also the regional ecosystems that depend on Norris Creek's fish, bird, and mammal nursery to restock populations in Spring Lake, the Grand River, Lake Michigan, and across the landscape of the Muskegon-Ottawa County area.

From an education perspective, it is unparalleled within the village, providing boundless opportunities for experience-based learning and in-the-field studies. Elementary, middle and high school programs could

incorporate the natural area into the core science curriculum by getting out on site and observing natural processes at work.



In addition to these benefits, the wetland complex has the potential to provide profound ecosystem services to the human landscape (and likely already does). The massive area occupied by the high-bank wetland offers tremendous flood storage capacity to take on changes in lake elevations. This helps mitigate damage to homeowners and businesses residing near flood-prone areas. The wetland complex also filters run-off that is collected and channeled into the creek. Plants, soils, and bacteria serve to strip nutrients, waste, and some chemicals from the water, converting those compounds into energy, biomass or non-toxic waste, neutralizing the pollution and immobilizing the suspended particles. The filtered runoff flows into Spring Lake, replenishing

it and helping to dilute its pollution. The plant mass and organic soils also serve another function as a carbon sink, capturing carbon emissions and converting them into organic, reusable materials.

Threats to Norris Creek currently include the presence of invasive species and the existing monoculture of cattails. First, several invasive species have begun to take hold within the wetland complex. The most notable invasive species is Phragmites; a tall, fast-growing plant that spreads through subsurface rhizomes and wind-borne seed dispersion. This plant can expand its reach by 50' to 100' each season, crowding out existing plant communities. Another notable invasive species is Reed Canary Grass. Like Phragmites, it spreads quickly and can out-compete native plants, but it is much shorter and usually passes as overgrown lawn to the untrained eye. Both types of invasive species are significant fire hazards to nearby buildings and they both decimate the livelihood of the ecosystems they inhabit. Other invasive species may be present as well.

Second, the monoculture of cattail has acted as an invasive species, crowding out most other plants and creating an unproductive landscape. While some animals benefit from cattail, many that would otherwise live in this area do not. The result is lower diversity and fewer total numbers of plants and animals. The cattails are also tall, making it difficult to see anything beyond the edge of the stream, restricting views into the habitat. This diminishes the recreation opportunities for wildlife viewing, photography, and other passive, nature-based activities.

While Norris Creek is already a vast sea of cattail, it has yet to be inundated by invasive species. Future actions can be taken to mitigate the oncoming invasive species and to re-diversify the vegetation to encourage a more vibrant ecosystem. This calls for a comprehensive landscape management plan that addresses all of the threats and sets a realistic schedule of corrective actions. This should be undertaken as soon as possible to prevent the massive spread of invasive species, which, when unmanaged, will make it harder and harder to restore the wetlands with each passing year.

# The Planning Process

## Plan Development Process

This recreation plan is an update of a plan that was developed in 2014-2015. At the outset of the update process, a member of the village council led the consultant on a guided tour of the village-owned parks on July 12, 2019. The village council then hosted a community visioning session, facilitated by the consultant, on July 15, 2019. Information gathered at that meeting was then used to evaluate the inherited recreation plan goals and objectives. The village council, with assistance of the consultant, held a work session to review the goals and objectives on August 12, 2019, and reviewed the list of potential recreation projects on August 19. All meetings were open to the public. A draft document was made available for public review from November 15 through December 16 2019; after which a public hearing was held by the village council. The plan was adopted by the village council on December 16, 2019 following the public hearing.

A new section, "Existing Boating Inventory," was added to the inherited plan in the event that an opportunity arises for the village to apply for a waterways grant within the next five years.

## Public Participation

All Fruitport Village residents were mailed a post card inviting them to attend the public visioning session on July 15. In addition, notice of the meeting was published on the Fruitport Village website. During the meeting, the consultant gave an overview of recreation planning process and then facilitated a visioning session. Attendees were divided into four groups of six to eight individuals. Each group was presented with a list of the following four questions and given time to discuss and answer them.

1. What do you think is the best thing about the park system?
2. What do you think are the park system's biggest weaknesses?
3. What types of recreation activities do you have an interest in?
4. What do you want to see accomplished in the next 5 years?

This was the same set of questions used to solicit public comments for the creation of the community's first recreation plan in 2014-2015. Doing so allowed the village council to observe how comments from the public changed over time. A compilation of comments gathered during this exercise is included in the appendix.

When a draft recreation plan was prepared, the following efforts were taken to notify and engage the public of the 30-day review period: 1) a public notice was published in the November 9 and December 7 editions of the Grand Haven Tribune; 2) the proposed recreation plan was posted on the Fruitport Village website along with notice of the public meeting to follow the review period; 3) a post was made on the Village’s Facebook account, and 4) a paper copy of the proposed draft was available in the Village office for public viewing. No comments were received from the public, either in writing or during the public hearing. Therefore, no substantial adjustments were made to the proposed recreation plan draft.

Important Note: The planning process for the inaugural edition of this recreation plan, conducted in 2014 and 2015, included an extensive public engagement campaign. During the five-year update of the original plan, conducted in 2019, it was determined by the consultant and the village council that the results of the initial process were still relevant and retained value five years later. Therefore, public comment summaries and analysis from 2014 and 2015 have been carried forward and preserved in the appendix of this document in appreciation and recognition of the planners, community leaders, and citizens that participated in establishing the foundation for recreation planning in the Village of Fruitport.



Pictured above: The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Project Based Learning Class from Orchard View Middle School held their class at Pomona Park in the fall of 2019, making observations of water levels and flooding of the park. Weeks later they met with two Village Council members, Jay Bolt and Bill Overkamp, to share their findings and ideas for resolving some of the water issues facing the park.

# Goals and Objectives

After careful study of demographics, review of public comment and past studies, and comparison to national standards the following goals and objectives were established for the Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Plan. Many goals and objectives were identified through the planning process. They are numbered for ease of discussion but do not reflect any particular priority.

## Goals and Objectives

- I. **Create and provide a framework for an effective, responsible and cooperative parks and recreation system that seeks to benefit visitors and residents of the village.**
  - A. **Enhance the operations and maintenance of the parks and recreation system by establishing and maintaining operation and maintenance cooperative agreements and contracts with other organizations**
    1. Look for ways to strengthen and sustain public involvement.
    2. Look for ways to continue working with the surrounding townships of Fruitport and Spring Lake.
    3. Identify and carry out opportunities to work with other organizations/agencies to support parks and recreation operations and maintenance.

### **Rationale:**

Partnerships help to provide high quality operation and maintenance services without duplicating efforts. The Village Council should look for mutually beneficial relationships that enhance the operation and maintenance of the parks system.

- B. **Develop and maintain partnerships/coalitions with community groups, organizations, businesses, local and regional governmental jurisdictions, and educational institutions that provide services that enhance the parks and recreation system**
  1. Collaborate with other municipalities, townships, and counties to serve the broader recreational service area.
  2. Continue to work with clubs and organizations such as the Lions Club to provide community programs and support capital improvement projects.
  3. Develop collaborations with user groups.
  4. Create and maintain partnerships with entertainment and event planners to bring in new programs.
  5. Maintain communication and cooperation with the Spring Lake – Lake Board.

### **Rationale:**

The Council coordinates and has partnerships with many organizations within the community and will continue to maintain these relationships as well as seek to establish new partnerships. These

partnerships are mutually beneficial and provide important recreation opportunities to the community.

**C. Maintain a budget that is sufficiently funded and appropriately allocated.**

1. The Village general fund is the major source of funding for the parks and recreation system. The Village Council will work to provide the necessary funding to adequately serve the residents of the Village of Fruitport.
2. Seek grant approvals whenever feasible to extend available village dollars and provide quality capital improvement projects.
3. Donations, gifts, endowments, corporate partnerships or other contributions toward maintaining and developing the park system need to be encouraged for specific projects.

**Rationale:**

Parks and recreation activities are funded by the general fund. While this continues to be a viable funding source, it is important to supplement these dollars with others in order to maintain a healthy budget. The village has been successful in obtaining grant funding and donations in the past and will continue to pursue these and other opportunities to enhance and preserve the park system to meet the community's recreation needs.

**II. Provide quality recreational facilities that meet the recreation needs and wants of the village residents**

**A. Update, renovate, and maintain existing waterfront, parks, trails and other recreation facilities**

1. Norris Creek – Develop management strategy for short and long-term ecosystem improvements.
2. Pomona Park – Continue boat launch amenities updates, upgrade ADA access and trail enhancements, clean up shoreline, band shell improvements, and upgrade playground.
3. 8th Avenue Park – Maintain beautification and public access.
4. Pine Street Park – Maintain beautification and public access.

**Rationale:**

Existing park facilities must be properly maintained throughout the life of the facility. Some facilities must be renovated when they have reached the end of their safe and effective life. Others must be replaced. These types of projects help to achieve a high level of quality at all of the existing park facilities.

**B. Expand or develop existing waterfront, parks, trails, and other recreation facilities, to accommodate new recreation opportunities and to meet growing demand**

1. Pomona Park – Add kayak launch, create boardwalk trail along shoreline, develop interpretive/educational shoreline areas, develop library/park shared outdoor space.
2. Pomona Park – Develop trailhead signage within Pomona Park for the Lakeside Trail and the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

3. Pomona Park – Continue boat launch amenities upgrade.
4. Pomona Park – Explore feasibility of developing a splash pad.
5. Pomona Park – Explore feasibility of transient docks.
6. Promote Pomona Park boat launch as an access point of the Spring Lake segment of the Lake Michigan Water Trail.
7. Enhance recently acquired land adjacent to Pomona Park.

**Rationale:**

It is important to continue expanding and developing existing facilities in order to provide a variety of recreation options that keep up with trends in recreation. The public input process identified many needs and wants that have come forth as potential projects for Pomona Park.

**C. Identify uses for undeveloped properties, utilizing community input through the master planning process, in order to develop new parks, trails, and other recreation facilities that accommodate new recreation opportunities and meet growing demand**

1. Norris Creek - Develop waterway into pristine quiet-waters experience, find opportunities to utilize waterways for outdoor education.
2. 2nd Avenue - Develop trail along upper ridge of Norris Creek.

**Rationale:**

Undeveloped or underutilized properties are in public domain. As the community has grown around these properties, it has become clear that there is a need to develop them for recreation use. Each undeveloped area could have the potential to host a variety of facilities and amenities, ranging from highly-sophisticated buildings to simple nature trails. In order to fully understand their potential, these properties need to go through the master planning process.

**III. Bring the village park facilities up to current accessibility and safety standards**

**A. Evaluate and determine playground deficiencies throughout the park system.**

1. At least once with every code change and once every 5-10 years as equipment ages, conduct playground audits of existing facilities to identify deficiencies.

**Rationale:**

As standards change and as equipment ages, it is important to re-evaluate the conditions of the facilities to ensure that all play equipment meets code.

**B. Improve or replace playground equipment that is out of compliance or under-used**

1. When necessary, develop construction plans for and construct code-compliant equipment to replace all non-compliant equipment.

**Rationale:**

Equipment should be maintained up to code to ensure the safest environment possible. New equipment should be installed to meet the needs of the community.

**C. Perform a system-wide accessibility evaluation and upgrade**

1. Develop ADA Transition Plan that addresses accessibility barriers throughout the recreation system.
2. Implement the schedule from the ADA Transition Plan.

**Rationale:**

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, requires that public accommodations must remove architectural barriers and communication barriers that are structural in nature in existing facilities. However, "A [Title II] public entity is not required to take any action that would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of its service, program, or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens."

The U.S. Board of Health, Education, and Welfare's view is that compliance "would in most cases not result in undue financial and administrative burdens on a public entity." The burden of proof rests on the public entity, making it harder to justify non-compliance. Therefore, while required only for municipalities with more than 50 employees, it is highly recommended that a "Transition Plan" be in place to demonstrate that The Village of Fruitport is attempting to the best of its ability to complete these changes in a reasonable time line. Completing improvements will allow all members of the community the ability to experience recreational facilities and programs.

**IV. Acquire land for recreation in quantities sufficient to meet the existing and future recreation needs of the village residents and to protect the village's natural resources, especially the waterfront**

**A. Study specific demographic trends that correspond to the recreation and entertainment services within a geographical target area to determine if additional land is required to meet the needs and demands of the community**

1. Study potential of acquiring all or part of the Modular Systems property for recreation use.

**Rationale:**

There are many questions that need to be answered relative to serving a recreational need, identifying the market, determining the funding for acquisition, and feasibility and logistics of operation. It is important to understand these issues before making decisions about park expansions.

Modular Systems is available for sale. It is prime time to study and evaluate whether a portion of the property or the entire property should be assimilated into the park system.

Because of its proximity to Pomona Park, Modular System provides a link between the neighborhood and Pomona Park. It also has Spring Lake shoreline that could provide recreation opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, and water access. Converting it to a park would help preserve the shoreline with its natural habitat.

However, the existing building on site may require extensive renovation and its potential use is unknown. This requires additional study to determine if all or part of the property should be acquired.

**B. Identify and acquire land adjacent to existing park lands to allow for program expansion and to create connections between parks throughout the park system**

1. Study a connection between Fruitport Community Schools and Pomona Park.
2. Study potential linkages to active local/regional trail projects, including non-motorized trails and waterway trail designations.
3. Study trails on historic interurban right-of-way to convert right of way into recreation corridor.

**Rationale:**

Having the ability to expand or connect existing park facilities is a crucial strategy of a park system as this allows the parks system to reach as many residents as possible and serve a diverse set of recreation needs.

**C. Identify and acquire land that has significant natural features that are high quality and strategically located, and that serve populated areas or significant natural areas.**

1. Study recreation potential of lands in river corridors and natural areas.
2. Evaluate Norris Creek/Spring Lake area to determine possible connections to Pomona Park and the regional trail system as well as potential public access points.

**Rationale:**

The village does not have a park that focuses on natural features. Natural features can be expensive to restore and hard to find in urbanized areas making it important to protect lands with existing high quality features. Finding these types of lands will provide the park system with the ability to provide a variety of passive, nature-based recreation uses.

**V. Promote the development of new recreation programs with active sports facilities and passive leisure opportunities which are in high demand, or are innovative, or are unique or not presently provided by municipal or private sectors**

**A. Identify new trends in recreation/leisure programming**

1. Send Village Council members to conferences or other educational programs to learn about new trends in recreation/leisure programming.
2. Review recommendations from residents.
3. Sustain membership with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (mParks).

**Rationale:**

New trends in recreation programming offer exciting opportunities for residents to participate in and often help create attractive, dynamic places to live. Ignoring trends can lead to under-served residents.

**B. Facilitate third-party programs to provide recreation programming options in the village parks and park facilities**

1. Explore funding and staffing partnerships to help facilitate third-party program providers.
2. Coordinate recreation resources and identify ways to facilitate programs in other village or non-village affiliated facilities.
3. Reach out to organizations to attract events and recreation programs such as performances, farm markets, art and car shows, fundraisers, water-sports, and triathlons to the Village of Fruitport facilities.

**Rationale:**

By sharing facilities and other resources and coordinating programming services with other entities, the village can support a wider variety of programs to residents than would otherwise be possible with parks staff alone.

**C. Monitor service and participation levels of existing programs to inform future planning efforts.**

1. Produce a programming review and restructure activities as necessary to provide residents with convenient and appropriate recreation opportunities.
2. Compile user records and numbers in quantified format to assist in determining participation rates and trends.

**Rationale:**

Tracking participation levels helps monitor demand and assess recreation needs. The board does not currently monitor programming, but should do so on a yearly basis.

# Action Plan

The following action plan outlines potential future recreation projects in the Village of Fruitport. It is a long-term wish list that was developed with detailed information gathered for the previous edition of this recreation plan (extensive public input, interviews, demographic data, land use trends and efforts of adjacent communities), community input gathered for the purpose of performing the 5-year update of the previous edition, and thoughtful input from the Village Council.

Potential projects may be considered as opportunities arise and resources become available. Potential funding may be offered by the Michigan DNR, such as through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grants, Waterways Program Grants, Michigan Habitat Improvement Fund Program Grants, Invasive Species Grant Program, or Wildlife Habitat Grant Program. On occasion, other grants may be available through private corporations, non-profit organizations, and other state and federal agencies as well.

Please note: The projects are categorized by location and not listed in priority order. At the time this list was created, the village was waiting to receive the results of a 2019 grant application to install a kayak launch at Pomona Park. This was considered the highest priority project at the time.

## Potential Projects

Location	Description
Pomona Park	Tot-lot/playground update and enhancements and location study
	Kayak Launch – continue with plan in progress for kayak launch near boat launch with additional parking
	Shoreline boardwalk and shoreline improvements
	Library building upgrade/expansion study in conjunction with the Library Board
	Additional parking-Overall comprehensive parking plan for entire park
	Band shell improvements (lighting, parking for equipment loading/unloading, etc.)
	Pavilion kitchen upgrades
	Transient boat docks-Move up with the other shoreline, perhaps extend the driveway
	Splash pad feasibility research – Location?
	Landscaping, irrigation, beautification of park
	Gazebo
New Property Adjacent to Pomona Park	Construct elevated trail that follows the path of Maple Creek and construct boardwalk along shoreline
	Benches, hammocks, and research ADA accessible tree house
	Gazebo
	Transient boat dock
	Zip line
Modular Systems	Investigate acquisition of building and surrounding property by studying renovation needs, potential environmental issues, potential uses, and finance
Norris Creek and Spring Lake	Water quality study, invasive and unwanted species eradication, land scape management plan, dredging
Norris Creek	Ridgeline trail development/study

Resolution of Adoption

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTING  
A RECREATION PLAN**

*THE VILLAGE OF FRUITPORT COMMUNITY RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
For Fruitport Village,  
Muskegon County, MI*

WHEREAS, Fruitport Village 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 2020 through 2024, and

WHEREAS, Fruitport Village 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 Fruitport Village 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 December 16, 2019 during the regular Fruitport Village Council meeting to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the proposed Fruitport Village Recreation Plan, and

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

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Fruitport Village Council voted to adopt said Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Fruitport Village Council hereby adopts the Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan.

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

I, *Ann LaCroix*, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Fruitport Village Council at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 16th day of December, 2019.

*Ann LaCroix*

# Meeting Minutes - 12/16/2019 – Public Hearing & Plan Adoption

VILLAGE OF FRUITPORT  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

1. **Call to Order**  
President Roger Vanderstelt called the meeting to order at 7pm
2. **Pledge**
3. **Prayer**
4. **Roll call**  
Present: Roger Vanderstelt, Donna Pope, Amy Haack, Bill Overkamp, Jay Bolt, Jeff Guiles and Carl Rothenberger (arrived at 7:06pm excused) and Ann LaCroix
5. **Approval of December 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Agenda**  
Motion made by Donna to approve the agenda, supported by Amy. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.
6. **Approval of November 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting minutes**  
Motion made by Amy to approve the meeting minutes, supported by Jeff. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.
7. **Public Comment**  
None
8. **Correspondence**  
Ann read a letter from resident Bob Weber regarding 3 axle trailers at the boat launch.  
Ann advised that the Village received correspondence from the State of Michigan regarding the transfer of a liquor license at 340 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Approval of the local government is not required but we may submit an opinion on the application.
9. **Report from Officers**  
**Donna** had nothing to report.  
**Jeff** had nothing to report.  
**Amy** advised that the Village was award the Kayak Launch grant from the MDNR in the amount of \$125,000.00. The local Village match is \$75,000.00 for a total cost of \$200,000.00. Additional information is required from the Village and will be put together in January.  
**Jay** advised that the next Planning Commission meeting is tomorrow December 17<sup>th</sup>. They will discuss administrative issues, the Master Plan and possibly appointing committees.  
**Carl** had nothing to report.  
**Bill** had nothing to report.  
**Roger** had nothing to report.
10. **Appointment to Library Board**  
Roger referred council to a letter from Rose Dillon, Library Chair recommending the appointment of Bill Overkamp to the open library position replacing Donna Pope. Motion made by Roger to appoint Bill Overkamp to the library board, supported by Amy. Roll call AYES: Pope, Haack, Rothenberger, Overkamp, Bolt, Guiles and Vanderstelt NAYS: None

**11. Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals**

Roger discussed appointing Alex Vickers to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion made by Roger to appoint Alex Vickers to the Zoning Board of Appeals, supported by Carl. Roll call AYES: Pope, Haack, Rothenberger, Overkamp, Bolt, Guiles and Vanderstelt NAYS: None

**12. Recognition of Planning Commission Member**

Jay presented the Distinguished Service Award to DeVere Bendixen for is many years of service to the Village of Fruitport. DeVere served on the Planning Commission, the Council and is an active member of the Lions Club. The council thanked DeVere for his service to the Community.

Motion made by Carl to close the regular council meeting at 7:16pm, supported by Amy. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

Motion made by Amy to open the Public Hearing at 7:16pm, supported by Carl. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

**13. Community Recreation Master Plan Public Hearing**

Stephen Carlson discussed the updating of the Community Recreation Plan. He advised that the plan was available for review for the last 30 days and this hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions or make comments. No comments were made by the public. Stephen advised that the Community Recreation Plan is a companion to the Master Plan. Stephen commended the council for investing in the plan and being pro-active. He also complimented the gem of a community we have in the Village of Fruitport.

Motion made by Carl to close the Public hearing at 7:26pm, supported by Amy. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

Motion made by Amy to open the council meeting at 7:26pm, supported by Carl. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

**14. Resolution for Adopting Community Recreation Master Plan**

See attachment.

**15. End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Repair**

Roger passed out pictures of an issue at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. We have 1 bid for repairing it and are waiting on 2 additional bids. The item is tabled until the next meeting.

**16. 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Project**

Jay advised that documents have been submitted to MDOT. Work will go out for bids in March and construction starting mid-June. Roger received a proposal for Professional Engineering Services from Prein and Newhof. The amount was higher than originally proposed. Jay will check with Prein and Newhof on why there is a difference in cost and report back at the next council meeting.

**17. 5<sup>th</sup> and Beech Project**

Roger reviewed the project and there was a suggestion of running the new pipe at a diagonal. He will have contractors requote the project with a diagonal run and report back at the next council meeting. A discussion took place about engineering services and Carl suggested that we get multiple engineering services bids for future projects.

**18. Public Comment**

None

**19. Warrants**

Motion made by Carl to approve the warrants, supported by Amy. Roll call AYES: Pope, Haack, Rothenberger, Overkamp, Bolt, Guiles and Vanderstelt NAYS: None

**20. Adjournment**

Motion made by Donna to adjourn at 7:55pm, supported by Carl. With a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ann LaCroix  
Clerk

# Letter to Regional Planning Agency

December 18, 2019

Erin Kuhn, Executive Director  
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission  
316 Morris Ave, Suite 340  
Muskegon, MI 49440

Dear Ms. Kuhn,

On behalf of the Fruitport Village Council, and pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the development of a community park and recreation plan, I am transmitting to you the recently adopted Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024.

Please contact the Village at 231-865-3511 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Roger Vanderstelt, President  
Village of Fruitport

Enclosure

# Letter to County

December 18, 2019

Bob Lukens  
Community Development Director  
Muskegon County  
610 W. Western Avenue  
Muskegon, MI 49440

Dear Mr. Lukens,

On behalf of the Fruitport Village Council, and pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the development of a community park and recreation plan, I am transmitting to you the recently adopted Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024.

Please contact the Village at 231-865-3511 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Roger Vanderstelt, President  
Village of Fruitport

Enclosure

# Meeting Notices

## Postcard Mailed to All Village Residents

### **VILLAGE OF FRUITPORT NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**



The Fruitport Village Council, with assistance from the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, has begun the process of updating the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan. This document will communicate the community's vision for the Village-owned and operated recreation facilities over the next 5 to 20 years. Successful completion of the recreation plan will enable the village to apply for recreation grants offered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**All Fruitport Village residents are invited to attend a public visioning session at 7pm on July 15, 2019 at the Village of Fruitport DPW, 45 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue., Fruitport, MI.** The meeting will feature a summary of the planning process and opportunities to comment on recreation within the village.

For additional information about the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan or the public meeting, please contact Mr. Stephen Carlson, Program Manager, at (231) 722-7878, ext. 11 or at [scarlson@wmsrdc.org](mailto:scarlson@wmsrdc.org)

Village of Fruitport, 45 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Fruitport, MI 49415 Phone (231) 865-3577

30-Day Public Review Notice & Public Hearing Notice - 1st (11/09/19)

PRINTED COPY

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING FRUITPORT VILLAGE RECREATION PLAN

The Fruitport Village Council will hold a public hearing on December 16th to receive comments regarding the proposed Fruitport Village Recreation Plan update. The hearing will take place at 7pm at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport. The hearing will be in conjunction with the regular council meeting. The meeting is open to the public. Those with an interest in the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan are encouraged to attend. A copy of the proposed Recreation Plan will be available from November 15th through December 16th for public viewing at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport and online at villageof-fruitport.org.

Written comments regarding the proposed draft may be submitted by December 15th to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, 316 Morris Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440 or via email at scarlison@wmsrdc.org.

Questions should be directed to Mr. Stephen Carlson (231) 722-7878 (extension 11).

The Village will provide necessary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice to the Village.

ANN LACROIX CLERK 231-865-3577 November 9, 2019

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF OTTAWA

Chelsea Carlson, being duly sworn, says:

That she is a Customer Service Representative of the Grand Haven Tribune, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Grand Haven, Ottawa County, Michigan; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following date(s):

November 9, 2019

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:

[Signature of Chelsea Carlson] Chelsea Carlson

Scribed and sworn before me on November 9, 2019

[Signature of Audra A. Fitzpatrick-Cook] Audra A. Fitzpatrick-Cook

Notary public, State of Michigan, County of Ottawa

My commission expires: November 13, 2023

AUDRA A FITZPATRICK-COOK Notary Public, State of Michigan County of Ottawa My Commission Expires 11-13-2023 Acting in the County of \_\_\_\_\_

30-Day Public Review Notice & Public Hearing Notice - 2nd (12/07/2019)

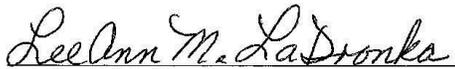
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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF OTTAWA

Lee Ann M. LaDronka, being first duly sworn, says that she is the OFFICE CLERK of the Grand Haven Tribune, a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper. And that annexed there to is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published.

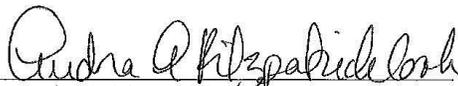
December 7th, 2019



Lee Ann M. LaDronka

Scribed and sworn before me on

December 7th, 2019



Audra A. Fitzpatrick-Cook  
Notary public in and for Ottawa County  
State of Michigan  
My commission expires: November 13, 2023

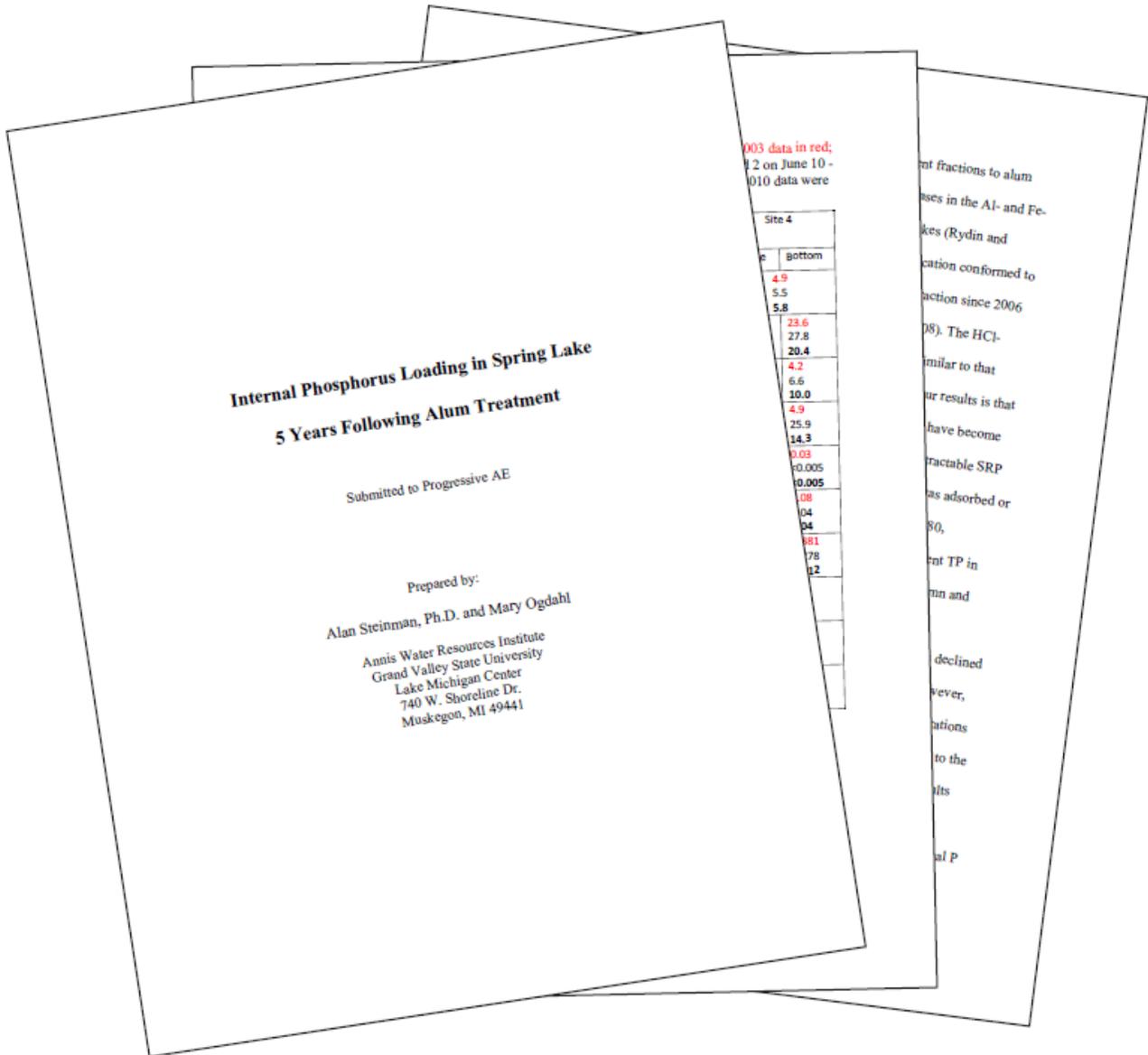
AUDRA A FITZPATRICK-COOK  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Ottawa  
My Commission Expires 11-13-2023  
Acting in the County of \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC REVIEW AND  
PUBLIC HEARING  
FRUITPORT VILLAGE  
RECREATION PLAN

The Fruitport Village Council will hold a public hearing on December 16th to receive comments regarding the proposed Fruitport Village Recreation Plan update. The hearing will take place at 7pm at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport. The hearing will be in conjunction with the regular council meeting. The meeting is open to the public. Those with an interest in the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan are encouraged to attend. A copy of the proposed Recreation Plan will be available from November 15th through December 16th for public viewing at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport and online at [villageof-fruitport.org](http://villageof-fruitport.org). Written comments regarding the proposed draft may be submitted by December 15th 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). The Village will provide necessary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice to the Village.

ANN LACROIX  
CLERK  
231-865-3577  
December 7, 2019

# Steinman and Ogdahl 2010



# Regional Trail Map

Ride to the lighthouse pier in Grand Haven.

**Grand Haven • Spring Lake • Ferrysburg Trail Network**

Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
1 Pomona Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 North Bank Trailhead	Yes	No	No
3 Central Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 Mill Point Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
5 Ferry Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 Linear Park	Yes	Yes	No
7 Chinoak Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
8 Grand Haven State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
9 Mercury Drive Park	Yes	No	No
10 Pottawatomie Park	Yes	Yes	No
11 Holms Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
12 Rosy Mound Natural Area	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Trails Legend**

- Paved Trail
- Connector Route
- Under Development
- Proposed or Planned Trail
- Highways
- Roads

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**Grand Haven / Spring Lake / Ferrysburg Trail Network**

The tri-cities of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg have become a crossroads for trail riders with an extensive network of paved paths and bike lanes interwoven throughout these communities. Wherever you are in this area, you'll find trails nearby and easy connections to other local trails. Spend a sunny day or weekend exploring the area's beaches, bayous, lakes, rivers, parks, and local attractions by bike, brisk run or leisurely stroll.

There are plenty of public access areas to embark on your journey. In Grand Haven, you'll find easy access to the Grand Haven Waterfront Trail at Grand Haven State Park and public parking areas along the waterfront.

**Lakeside Trail**

When you cross over the north side of the US-31 drawbridge, the trail system connects with the 15-mile Lakeside Trail, which encircles Spring Lake through the communities of Ferrysburg, Fruitport and Village of Spring Lake. Trails in the Village of Spring Lake also lead to the

**Elevated boardwalk on the Lakeside Trail travels along the channel between Ferrysburg and Spring Lake.**

**North Bank Trail**

Grand River Greenway Trail North with views of the Grand River.

**North Bank Trail**

The first 3 miles of the North Bank Trail were paved and opened to the public in 2011. State funding has been approved to acquire the remaining section of abandoned rail bed to be developed from Spring Lake to Cooperville, where it will eventually connect to the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail and downtown Grand Rapids. Starting at Central Park, the trail travels through a scenic landscape of blueberry fields, woodlands and marshes.

**Grand Haven Waterfront Trail**

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# Public Visioning Meeting 7-15-19

## Questionnaire Results

### 1. *What do you think is the best thing about the park system? (40 comments)*

Pomona Park	Basketball court
Size / Like how open the park is	Lights
Water / On the water / Water access	Library at park
Pavilion expand / Picnic shelter	Slip-n-slide
Availability for (park) use	Potential of the park & the new property
Bike path / Trail connectivity / Bike path/walkway / Bike path	
Bandshell / Bandshell / Band shelter / Bandshell	
Concerts / Events in the park / Old fashioned days / Dancing into sunset	
Central location / Centralized / Community center	
View / Very peaceful / More park-like setting / Great place to have	
Landscaping / Well-maintained / Landscaping (trees) / Shade trees	
Boat launch / Boat launch / The boat launch is a real plus for the village	

### 2. *What do you think are the park system's biggest weaknesses? (28 comments)*

Playground update / Playground parking / Tot lot needs overhaul & expansion	Signage
Irrigation / No irrigation	Small flag
Water quality / Weeds/algae in water	Kitchen needs update – would bring in more events
Access (to water) / Access to the waterfront	Parking
Needs public beach / Public beach	Needs more drinking fountains by tot lot
Needs boardwalk	Not enough bike racks (boat launch needs one)
Pylons / Old pilings	Needs a big gazebo
Lighting / Lighting at small parks	Kayak launch
Underutilization / Under development of water	Visiting boat dock for quick stops
	8 <sup>th</sup> Ave Park neighbors want “no trespassing” sign

### 3. *What types of recreation activities do you have an interest in? (19 comments)*

Swimming / Swimming / Swimming/beach / Swimming	Splash pad
Walking / Walking / Hiking	Kayak fitness stations
Dog Park / Dog park	More bike paths
Pavilion / Restaurant facility/pavilion	Safer crosswalks
Concerts	Tree house
Boat dancing	Kayaking

**4. What do you want to see accomplished in the next 5 years? (22 Comments)**

Playground / Move playground / Playground update  
Swimming beach / Public beach  
Boardwalk / Boardwalk  
Kayak launch / Kayak launch  
Visiting boat dock  
Docking areas from new property  
New property development  
Dog park  
Splash pad

Trailways  
Waterfront development  
Update kitchen  
Bike racks  
Improvements to picnic area  
Bigger flag  
Park/library/community center (future)  
Pomona house (future)

**5. Other Comments (12 comments)**

- Combination community center
- Playground relocation
- Trailway connectivity with existing trails
- Norris Creek environmental issues
- Pomona Park and Dancing into Sunset is a pleasant addition for us “more mature folks” plus nice to see young mom bringing kids down and having fun outside.
- I realize you are working on a kayak launch so sooner the better so we don’t mix with the boaters at the launch. The process is long and takes time but please don’t give up on it.
- If the Lions Club stops having this a Lions Club event and will no longer support it, will the Village be able to keep it running with their current budget? Hate to see it go away.
- The three acres that were donated to the Village could be turned into a Land of Oz theme like in North Carolina – Beach Mountain Resort that is only open twice a year for a few weeks [www.landofoznc.com](http://www.landofoznc.com). Give reason for people to come to Fruitport for an adventure. A huge thought but every idea starts with a thought. Or not such a big feat, how about miniature golf?
- How about an exercise program in the park in the morning. Or a bike club meets in the park and travels together on around the lake. Sometimes people don’t want to go by themselves.
- I run Sunrise Water Adventures in Florida and would love to see it happen during the summer on Spring Lake
- I would love to see a boardwalk all along the Village property on the water with boat slips to rent out like Grand Haven and transit ones as well and little shed building along the boardwalk to keep the building cost down, does not have to be permanent like Grand Haven but like the ones in Muskegon along the road that can house vendors during the summer. Again give people a reason to come to Fruitport by land and water.
- Keep up the good work of keeping things nice and neat and festive.

## **Public Engagement and Participation, 2014-2015**

*The planning process for the inaugural edition of this recreation plan, conducted in 2014 and 2015, included an extensive public engagement campaign. During the five-year update of the original plan, conducted in 2019 and 2020, it was determined that the results of that process were still relevant and retained value five years later. Therefore, public comment summaries and analysis from 2014 and 2015 have been carried forward in the following section in appreciation and recognition of the planners, community leaders, and citizens that participated in establishing the foundation for recreation planning in the Village of Fruitport.*

### **Public Participation**

Various methods were employed to ensure that the public played a vital role in the shaping of this document. The consultant conducted interviews with select individuals based upon their knowledge or related experience of the recreation and parks opportunities throughout the region and the village. Residents also had a well-publicized opportunity to attend two workshop sessions regarding the plan on September 20, 2014 and on November 12, 2014. The public also had the opportunity to review the work and comment at a public meeting on February 5, 2015. The public was also given a month to review the draft plan prior to a public hearing that was held on February 16, 2015. Public notices are in the appendix at the end of this document.

### **First Public Workshop, September 20, 2014**

A public workshop was held on September 20, 2014 at 12:00pm at the pavilion at Pomona Park in The Village of Fruitport. Public notice was given by volunteers going door to door within the village and handing out flyers to residents and by posting on the Village sign. Attendees included the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, members of the community, business owners and representatives from the Lions Club. Items discussed were needs, dreams and desires relating to the development of The Village of Fruitport's parks system, possible recreation enhancements for a waterfront development plan, and programming and events.

### **Questionnaire Summary**

A questionnaire was handed out at the workshop asking residents about the park system regarding strengths, weaknesses, interests and what would they like to see happen in the next five years. The results are included in the Appendix. In general, people found the lake-shore to be the greatest strength, with its pleasant views and access to water. Limited facilities and limited recreation opportunities were the most common weakness listed. There were a wide variety of interests listed including art festivals, zumba, boardwalks and trails, and skate parks. The most common vision for the next five years revolved around bringing more activity and programming to the parks system.

### **Participation Summary**

The workshop revolved around a series of stations where the public was asked to participate in activities including answering a series of questions while a moderator wrote down comments, drawing ideas on plans and aerials, and marking up plans with sticky notes with ideas for the future. The public provided a

long list of creative ideas for the future of the parks, many of which have been reflected in this plan. All of the input was summarized and can be found in the Appendix.

Some of these ideas included updating/upgrading the play equipment, adding more picnic amenities, building court games (basketball, volleyball, etc.), offering more sports fields and courses (soccer, disc golf, etc.), accommodating bicycles, creating fitness opportunities, providing skating options (winter and summer), adding interpretation and learning stations, adding boardwalks along the water, completing boating and kayaking facility improvements, providing swimming access, and creating a splash pad, among other ideas. The public also suggested adding programming such as fitness classes, art activities, kayaking, civil war re-enactments, and movies in the park. They also suggested adding festivals and events such as music festivals, Halloween blood drives, craft and art shows, swap meets and farmers markets, beer tents, and car shows.

The public also identified possible acquisitions and improvements that included purchasing portions or all of the neighboring Modular Systems property, improving parking availability, improving the amphitheater and band shell area, adding Wi-Fi to the parks, burying power lines, improving handicap accessibility, updating the library area (possible conversion to a community center), and adding a public announcement system to Pomona Park.

## **Second Public Workshop, November 12, 2014**

A public workshop was held on November 12, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Fruitport Township Hall. Public notice was given through direct mailers that went out to village residents who had attended the previous workshop, by notice on the Village sign and by flyers posted in local businesses. Attendees included the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and members of the community. Items discussed included a “strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats” (SWOT) analysis, an evaluation of Norris Creek, and a discussion of goals and objectives. The results are included in the Appendix.

## **SWOT Analysis**

**Strengths** identified by the community included the waterfront, boating, walkability, access to highway, nature viewing opportunities, the trail, existing events.

**Weaknesses** identified by the community included dangerous boat traffic, lack of info (maps, signage, etc), poor communication and community engagement, outdated facilities, limited programming, not universal access, no acknowledgment of community investments, weak business area around park, no voice from the youth.

**Opportunities** identified by the community were many. The list included opportunities to enhance/upgrade existing playground, increase band-shell programming, connect library to park via a “town square” or some other public space, develop healthy living programs and facilities, increase the environmental health of the parks, work with the school system, develop more trails, improve picnic and seating options, create a boater destination, engage the history of the village, and promote more events.

**Threats** identified by the community included cattails that are overtaking the lake-shore, invasive species in natural areas, the small size and obscurity of the village from a regional perspective, and the regulatory environment.

## **Public Input Regarding Norris Creek**

The workshop included a presentation of the findings from the exploration of Norris Creek. Items that were discussed included the presence of invasive species (specifically Phragmites and Reed Canary Grass), the monoculture of cattails, navigability of the creek, ecological highlights, and recreation

potential. The public provided comments and support for ideas regarding the creek. These comments included:

- Implement invasive species control as soon as possible!
- Improve the habitat to encourage wildlife.
- Integrate recreation programming into natural resources (hunting, fishing, kayaking), especially for school-age kids. Possible opportunities to do parent-kid events to learn how to enjoy recreation in nature.
- Access to creek via kayak and canoe is important.
- Nature viewing is important to have access to.
- Possible conservation easement on privately held wetlands to improve ecosystem and protect natural resources could be explored.

### **Public Meeting, February 5, 2015**

A public meeting was held on February 5, 2015 to review the concurrent waterfront master plan and to discuss the five year recreation master plan's goals and objectives and capital improvement schedule. Invitations were given to those who had attended previous meetings. No changes were made to the goals and objectives. A poll was taken during the meeting to prioritize the top projects in the capital improvement schedule. The following priorities were determined based on public comments:

1. Landscape Management Plan and Invasive Species Control
2. Boat Launch Improvements
3. Playground/Tot-lot Enhancements
4. Kayak Launch Facility Upgrades

### **Public Hearings**

- A public hearing was held on February 16, 2015 during regular Council meeting at DPW Building 45 N 2nd Ave @ 7pm. Notice was given in the newspaper on January 20th, 2015 and January 23, 2015. The public was given the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions regarding the plan.
- The plan was formally adopted by the Village Council on February 23, 2015 during regular Council meeting at DPW Building 45 N 2nd Ave @ 7pm. This meeting was open to the public.

### **Public Survey**

The Village of Fruitport conducted a survey of the boat launch facilities at Pomona Park in the summer of 2014. The boat survey was used to determine the service area of the facility and to begin understanding the current capacity of the launch. It was found that users of the boat launch were coming from as far as 57 miles away.

#### **Distance traveled**

- Most from Fruitport, MKG, Spring Lake, Mona Shores.
- Furthest - Wyoming 36 miles, Greenville 57 miles. However, interviews (not surveyed) confirm significant use by Grand Rapids area residents who stated consistently they preferred the Fruitport facility because of 1) easy access from I 96 and 2) they can avoid huge weekend and holiday traffic jams. This is clearly closest boat ramp to I 96.

**Respondents indicated they prefer the Pomona ramp for the following reasons:**

- Not busy.
- Convenient access to Spring Lake and Lake Michigan.
- Immediate access to I 96 - 1) avoids Grand Haven traffic which can be extremely heavy 2) closer access to ramps than Muskegon facilities.
- Least busy during high use times: July 4th holiday, Coast Guard Festival, weekends (majority of ramp users).
- Most launch motor boats.
- Day use Plans/intent 1) cruising 2) fishing for warm water species (about equal cruising 11 - fishing 9 some both).
- Destination generally Spring Lake Bayou (11).
- All but a couple of respondents were aware of No Wake rules.
- Destination overwhelmingly Spring Lake Bayou or Village area.
- Four listed Lake Michigan beach or dockage as destination.
- Mix of daily and season pass holders (purchasers) about even.
- Respondents that indicated they use bike trail (and fam) about even Yes - No.
- Use frequency range ~5-20x/year.
- Weekend use 3:1.
- Four respondents had passes at other ramps.
- Most respondents very satisfied with facilities.

**Most respondents suggested:**

- Improved dock.
- Larger capacity.
- Better toilet facilities.
- Separate areas for kayak/canoe and jet skis.
- Transient dock big support.
- More benches, trash cans, tables - facilities.
- Like idea of access to library and local businesses - park boat for a short time.
- Liked attendant at boat ramp - felt security enhanced.
- Restore the shoreline and rain garden got checked.
- Promote summer concerts at bandshell.

## Interview Summaries

In an effort to obtain a better understanding of the needs and desires for the park system, as perceived by local and regional representatives, interviews were held as part of the public input process.

Interviewees Contacted:

Mike Dykehouse – Ottawa County Sheriff’s Department Marine Division

Ben Gillette – Tractor Supply Co.

Bob Szymoniak – Fruitport Area Schools Superintendent

Rachel Church – Fruitport Library Manager

### Comments

#### Marine Sheriff – Mike Dykehouse – Ottawa County Sherrif Department

1. Have you reviewed the plan? No.
2. How would you describe the relationship between your organization and the Parks Board (Council)?

Enforce water rules on Spring Lake. A dozen deputies patrol Spring Lake. One Police Boat stationed at Mike’s home. Many boaters come from Fruitport boat launch. Checking safety equipment and help them be familiar with the rules on the water. Currently patrol for Fireworks during Old Fashion Days.

3. What do you think needs to happen to improve the park system? Too many signs at the boat launch. So many that people don’t read them. Large sign by public (Pine Street) in a location that no one can read without stopping their boat. Should go at the boat launch. See Petty’s Bayou for signage. Standard for Spring Lake.
4. How would you like to be involved in the future? Would like to attend meetings.

#### Business Owner – Ben Gillette – Tractor Supply

1. Have you reviewed the plan? Yes.
2. How would you describe the relationship between your organization and the Parks Board (Council)?

Pretty important, they do a lot of business with us. Rec plan/waterfront development plan will bring more traffic to the area. We help put together events for Old Fashion Days.

3. What do you think needs to happen to improve the park system? Sidewalks are important to lead from area businesses to the parks. Acquire Modular Systems to do more with Pomona. Currently great for its current uses. It is limited. Acquiring MS would allow them to expand their programming (basketball, ice rink, winterfest event, etc.). Norris Creek runs into Sullivan Township. Would be great for Kayaking. Would be a good thing for the community. Need to advertise the park’s offerings. Open up park to dogs.
4. How would you like to be involved in the future? Continue coordinating with events. Everything we do ties into being outdoors. We are an outdoor store. Cutting grass, maintenance, etc. Allow them to use our tents and other items. Pet events keep going (currently do them). Tie into park events.

#### School Superintendent – Bob Szymoniak – Fruitport Area Schools

1. Have you reviewed the plan?
2. How would you describe the relationship between your organization and the Parks Board (Council)? No relationship with village.

Desire to? No need in past. Possibility in the works to add community library (township collaboration, not village). Possible interest in expanding outdoor learning opportunities.

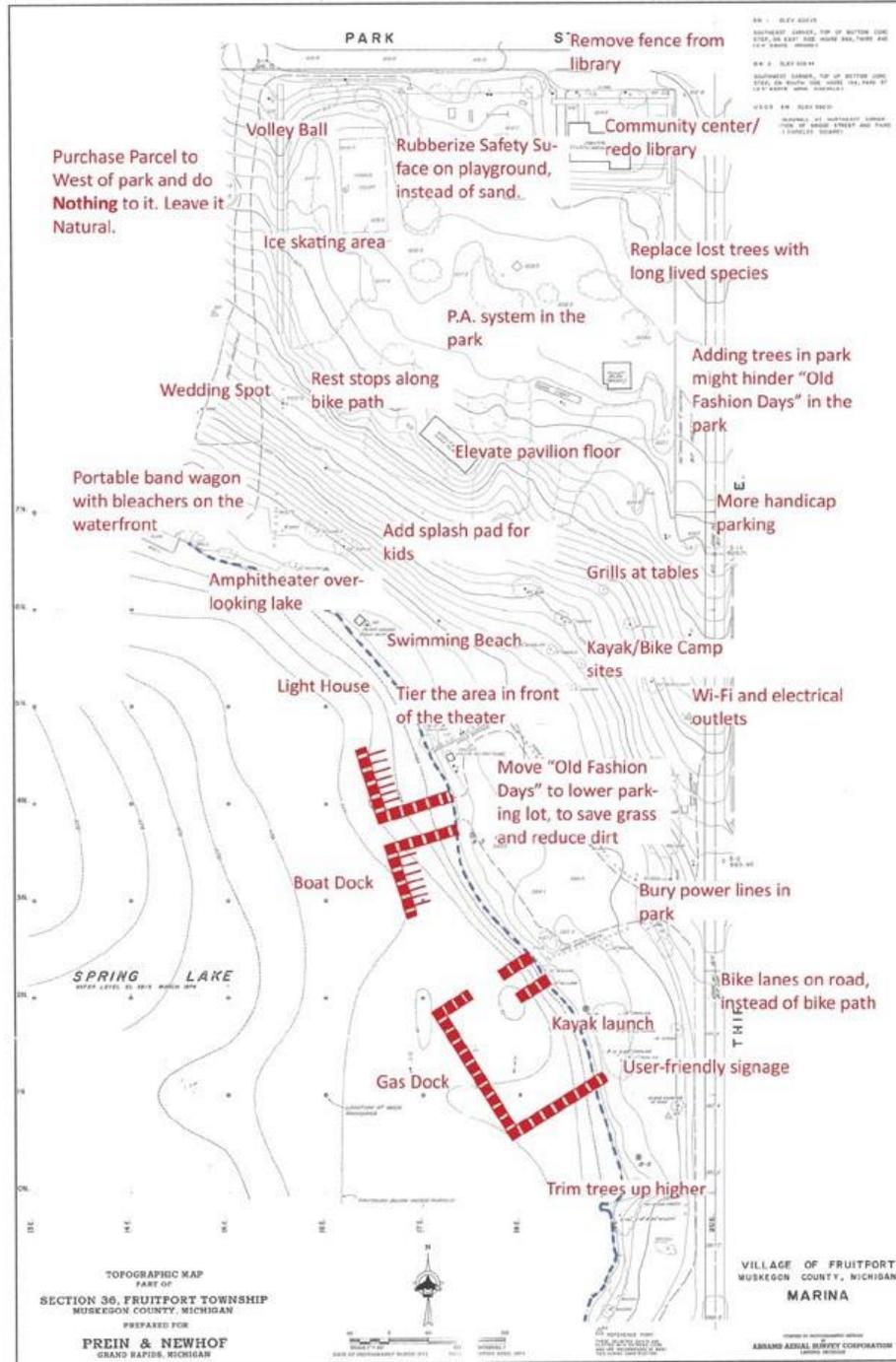
3. What do you think needs to happen to improve the park system? Shoreline improvements would be wonderful.
4. How would you like to be involved in the future? Would be great to have student participation on parks board and/or council.
5. How to be informed? Send email with agendas to meeting.

Library Manager – Rachel Church – Fruitport Library

1. Have you reviewed the plan? Yes
2. How would you describe the relationship between your organization and the Parks Board (Council)? Not much. Meetings are on days I can't attend. They use the basement community room resources. Summer reading program held in pavilion at Pomona Park due to flooding.
3. What do you think needs to happen to improve the park system? Like the bike path. Lots of visitors via the bike path. Signage or markings to help guide bikers to the bike path in the park.
  - Beach or mooring area.
  - More fishing areas. Dog run area would be nice.
  - Goal is to work towards ADA accessibility. Would serve the community well.
  - A community room that is accessible would be a great draw for the parks and community. Could be attached to library or not. Would do more with better ADA access in and out of the building. This is very critical. Loosing patrons.
  - Library size is deficient. Not enough resources. In a good location, though.
  - Possibly uncap the old artesian well. Would be a good point of interest and historical feature. Other historical stuff would be good. A little museum in town would be great.
4. How would you like to be involved in the future? Not sure.
5. Interest in joint programming? Definitely could be worked out. Fruitport Library Committee has money for them to use however. The Friends of the Library group has limited funds.
6. How to be informed? Currently – monthly postings are how we are informed. Website is deficient (need someone who is on it and posting on a regular basis). Updated website would be great for everyone. Talk to branch director for more information regarding other forms of communication. Kelly Richards.
7. Other comments? Great place and great area. Would like to see it used in ways that the public could benefit from it.

# Workshop 9/20/2014 - Results Summary Map

Village of Fruitport  
 5 Year Master Plan & Waterfront Development  
 9/20/2014



## Workshop 11/12/2014 - Norris Creek Field Investigation

Fruitport/Norris Creek Site Visit

November 12, 2014

On November 12, 2014 a site visit was conducted by Designs By Nature, LLC of the Norris Creek wetland complex north of Spring Lake, Muskegon County, Fruitport, Michigan. The following summary is the result of that site visit:

The Norris Creek wetland complex is a 100+ acre emergent wetland fed primarily by the Norris Creek with supplemental water inputs from the Willow Hill Creek and Vincent Creeks from the north and east. Water flows through the wetland emptying into Spring Lake. The wetland is an ecological site functioning as a hydrologic filter to Spring Lake. It also is an excellent waterfowl production area, a cold water fish spawning area and a critical habitat area for a wide range of wildlife to include neo-tropical migratory song birds. The soil make-up of the wetland and surrounding area is primarily Saranac Loam and Plainfield Sands.

Vegetation of the wetland complex is dominated by cattails (*Typha latifolia*) with spotty populations of smartweed (*Polygonum hydropiper*), wild iris (*Iris versicolor*), beggar's ticks (*Bidens frondosa*) and other native wildflowers. Reed Canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), a non-native rhizomatous perennial grass, is establishing scattered populations on exposed soils during summer water draw downs. Reed Canary grass does provide some habitat for wildlife but over time will become a dominate species displacing native vegetation and disrupting the integrity of the wetland. Reed Canary grass needs to be controlled during this early stage of development to head off any further problems.

Scattered small to medium populations of the invasive *Phragmites* (*Phragmites australis*) are present in and around the wetland complex. *Phragmites* can and will take over the entire wetland area if not controlled immediately. Eighty percent of the *Phragmites* plant mass is below ground in an extensive rhizome system and capable of spreading vegetatively up to 50 feet per year.

Phragmites can also spread by seed in open exposed soils or heavily populated vegetated areas. Monocultures will be formed displacing all native vegetation and native wildlife.

Recommended Treatments:

GPS populations of invasive species for development of a management plan to conduct a controlled cattail burn in the wetland during January – February to reduce thatch build-up and enhance existing vegetation. Permits for burning will be required and qualified personnel need to conduct the burn.

Treat the Reed Canary grass with an aquatic approved glyphosate after green-up. Re-treatment may be necessary for control. A MDEQ permit will be required and licensed applicators will be necessary.

Treat Phragmites with a combination of imazapyr and an aquatic approved glyphosate in August and September when the plant is most vulnerable. A MDEQ permit and licensed applicators will be required. Multiple treatments may be necessary.

In the forested area west of the pavilion remove the Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and stump treat with a combination of triclopyr and aminopyralid. Remove and treat any Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.) with the same herbicide mixture. Stabilize the shoreline with native sedges and forbs.

On either side of the pavilion shoreline treat the existing Phragmites with a combination of imazapyr and an aquatic approved glyphosate in August - September when the plant is most vulnerable. Once controlled, re-establish the shoreline with native sedges and forbs. In the sloped grassy areas before the pavilion entry plant native wildflower gardens concentrating on pollinator, butterfly, hummingbird and songbird gardens. These gardens will reduce mowing and help filter run-off prior to entering the water edge. EXCELLENT school and community program.

Recommended Uses:

Establish a water quality baseline in the wetland area where the three creeks enter the wetland and when it departs the wetland into Spring Lake. Conduct this yearly to measure the effectiveness of the wetland over time. Elements should include turbidity, flow rate, dissolved oxygen, nutrient loading and temperature ranges to name a few. EXCELLECT school project.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt Area - Establish several blinds throughout the wetland for a controlled youth/mentor hunt experience. Look to local waterfowl groups for support.

Youth Fishing Area - Team up with Orvis, Bass Pro Shop, Cabelas, and local fishing groups to provide youth mentored fishing programs in the wetland and shoreline park area. Establish fishing docks/walkways along the shoreline of the forested and pavilion areas.

Bird Watching Area - Promote and partner with Audubon and local bird watching groups for bird watching in the wetland complex. Hunting blinds can be multi-purposed as viewing stations during non-hunting seasons.

Youth Kayak Adventure Area - Establish a youth kayak program that can evolve into an adventure tour of the wetland area as a final exercise. Training occurs in the shallows of the pavilion area and graduates to the lake and wetland.