



2018-2023

*Parks and Recreation
5-Year Master Plan*



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Introduction

Why Plan?

The city of Owosso's *2018 – 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* shall serve as the guiding document for the future of Owosso's parks and recreation services. This plan sets forth the vision, goals, action plan, and projects for the next five (5) year period, and maps the course for the parks and recreation commission's activities.

Communities plan for a number of reasons. First and foremost, the planning process offers communities an opportunity to analyze their services and discover opportunities for improvement. Regular goal-setting and service prioritization can aid municipalities in maintaining or improving the levels of service expected and experienced by the residents of that community.

In addition to serving as a planning document, Michigan municipalities also develop parks and recreation plans in order to be eligible for State grant funding. Plans must be reviewed, updated and adopted at least every five years in accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) rules which govern several grant programs. One such program is the Michigan Recreation Passport Grant program (MRPG), which can provide up to 75% of the development costs of a recreation facility. Applications for this grant are due April 1 each year.



Figure 1: Footbridge

This update is also designed to address existing and future parks and recreation needs for parks, greenways, trails and open space development as well as the preservation and enhancement of the city's scenic aesthetic features. The plan addresses the needs and concerns of local residents as well as the concerns and needs identified by the parks and recreation commission. In addition, the plan details specific improvements, costs, priorities and years of completion to better represent the long-range vision of the parks and recreation commission.

Community Description

The name Owosso was adapted in 1840 from the name of a Chippewa Indian chieftain called "Wasso". Owosso, the largest city in Shiawassee County, with a population of 15,194 (2010 Census) and area equal to 4.45 square miles, is a widely diversified industrial and commercial center in the midst of a highly agricultural county.





Source: SEDP.org

Lansing, Flint and Detroit are within a 90 minute drive of Owosso, offering area residents enhanced educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities, including access to professional sporting events. Owosso is an attractive place in which to live and work, and its short distance from other major Michigan markets make it an ideal mid-Michigan location for commerce and industry.

Owosso has 250 acres of parks and playgrounds, as well as an auditorium for the performing arts, an outdoor amphitheater, an art museum, and Curwood Castle.

Recreational opportunities include a four-mile river walkway, ice skating rink, skate boarding, a lake for fishing, disc-golf course and many other facilities for sports and fitness.

Owosso is triangularly located between the cities of Flint, Lansing and Saginaw. The Owosso area, in contrast to those three cities, is characterized by a compact urban setting that is coterminous with the city boundary with exception to a large residential area north of the city and two mile commercial strip east of the city. Corunna, a “sister” city three miles to the east, is the county seat for Shiawassee County. The county rural settlement is a combination of single-family homes on one-acre lots, farms and “hobby” farms with 5 to 20 acres. The Shiawassee



River is the only significant body of water in the region. It winds over 40 miles through the heart of the county from south to north.

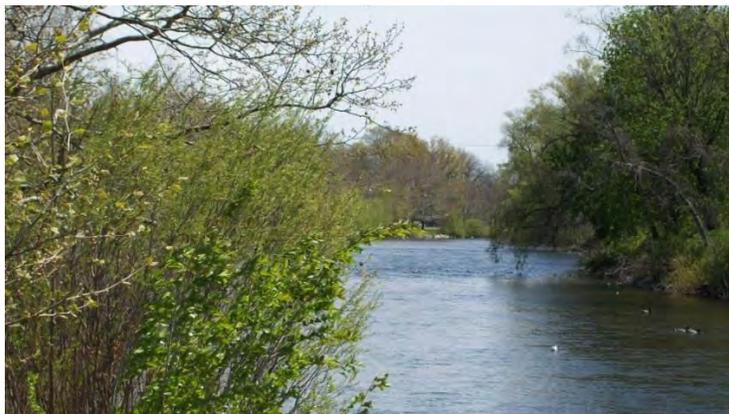


Figure 2: Shiawassee River

No state parks exist in the Owosso area. The closest state park is Sleepy Hollow State Park at 24 miles driving distance. The Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area is also 25 miles southwest of Owosso. There are two wildlife reserves well north of Shiawassee County, and the Pinckney Recreation Area is 40 miles south of Owosso. The Shiawassee County Park system has four parks along the Shiawassee River. The city of Corunna has a large park along the river. The combined open spaces offer many access points for canoeists and fishers. Conversely, no in-county park, because of acreage and facility type limitations, can be considered a regional recreation resource.

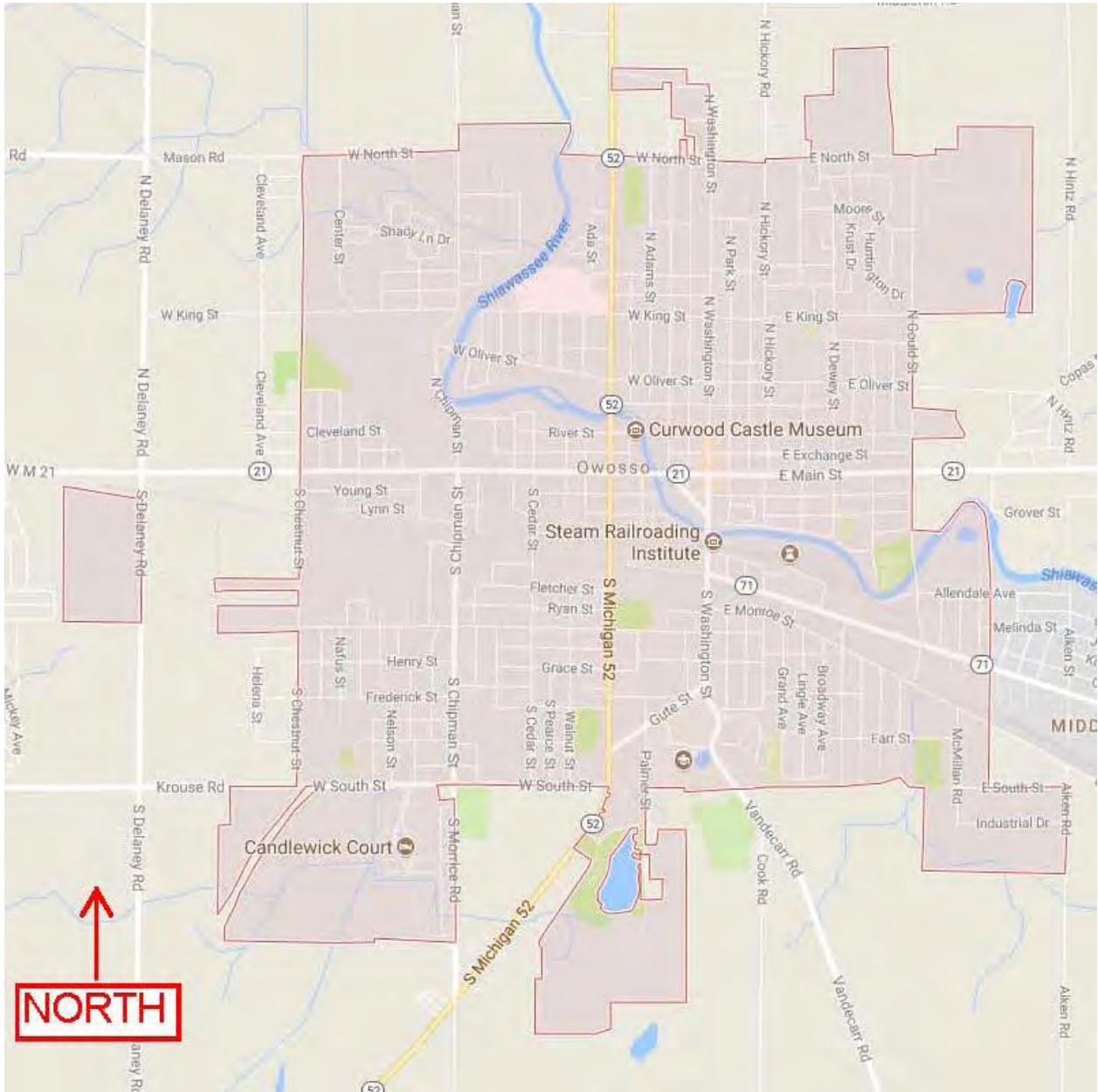
The closest public access swimming lake is Lake Lansing in Meridian Township, at 25 miles and just beyond the scope of the map to the southwest. Port Huron is 100 miles east and Saginaw Bay lakeshore parks at Bay City are 60 to 80 miles northeast. The Owosso area is limited with respect to water-based recreation. This analysis serves to emphasize the critical importance of the Shiawassee River and the 16-acre Hopkins Lake to the community. These regional resources fall far short of reasonable standards of no more than four to ten miles for routine citizen access to a regional-type park for a day trip.

Owosso has a 12 mile separation from the interstate highway system or any regional four-lane highway. The three state highways that converge on Owosso provide the access to the city from a market area fairly equivalent to the Shiawassee County border. Recreationally, Owosso's play spaces and programs attract users from the entire county with concentrated use from those living in the mid-county. Non-motorized transport is shown to have potential with a new rail trail from Owosso to Ionia. Major drains and lowland areas offer several natural environment loops.

The parks master plan must fit into the community setting of neighborhoods and open space. Owosso's characteristics provide a challenge to the traditional planning notions of establishing linkages. The railroad system, three state highways, an industrial belt at its "mid-section" and



the Shiawassee River divide the city into vehicular dependent neighborhoods, resulting in decreased access to and from recreational spaces.



Source: Google Maps

Owosso has six core neighborhoods with support school/church playfields and parks, one dividing beltway of commercial and industrial corridor at Main Street, six distinguished open space destinations, a classic and large downtown and a river system. It is in this geography that the decisions for park facilities and development are influenced along with the preferences of the populace.



The city of Owosso completed the Promoting Active Communities (PAC) Program self-assessment in 2014 gauging how the community supports physical activity. The self-assessment looked at three key components that are essential for a comprehensive approach in creating and maintaining an active living community: current environment of the community, policies and planning, and programming and promotion. The assessment helps the city identify strengths as well as areas that need improvement. The full PAC assessment report is found in [Exhibit A](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Park Administration and Budget

The way parks and recreation functions are carried out in Owosso have been described throughout this planning document. This section provides more detail about park administration and how the parks are financed.

The city council adopts an annual budget that includes a parks and recreation budget prepared by the public works director and the city manager. The city is currently working to create a six year capital improvements plan (CIP) as required through the Redevelopment Ready Communities certification process. The CIP budget will be reviewed annually to provide direction for the parks program.

The maintenance of the parks is financed principally by the city's general fund. Capital improvements are a combination of general funds, State and Federal grants, and contributions. User fees finance the programs in the parks and are operated by various organizations related to recreation such as the Shiawassee Arts Council, the Owosso Historical Commission, the Amphitheater Association, the Youth Baseball League, the Owosso Softball Association, Curwood Festival Inc., the YMCA Soccer Program, and YWCA beach volleyball. Provisions exist for supporting disadvantaged children and handicapped persons to participate in most of these programs

The annual parks operating budget for the 2017/2018 fiscal year is approximately \$190,000. This amount does not account for the cost of recreation programming supplied by nonprofit organizations and other users of the park systems. The city realizes the value in maintaining these relationships as funding for capital improvements in the parks have decreased within the last five years due to declining revenue and budget constraints at the local unit of government level. The city would have an even greater struggle maintaining the park system without the express help and donations from service clubs and other organizations that use these systems on a regular basis.

The city's public works director oversees the park system. The city charter ultimately assigns the responsibility of parks and their management to the city manager. The city oversees the

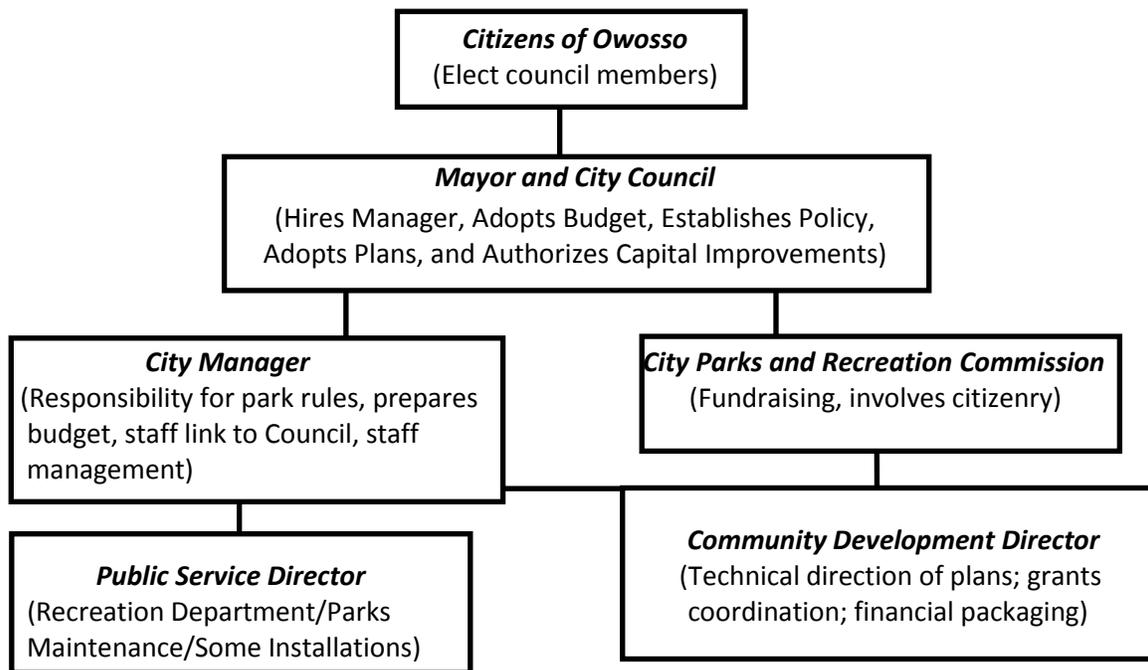


programming bodies that provide recreational play and instruction on city park property. Assurances for accessibility, equal opportunity and safety are incorporated into those relationships. The city does not have a recreation director nor is there a proposal to create that position. The city council reestablished the parks and recreation commission in 2008 and increased membership of this commission in January 2017 from five members to seven members. Park information can be found on the city website at www.ci.owosso.mi.us.

With declining revenues and most of the recent development (the past 20 years) occurring outside the city boundaries, it is essential that the City of Owosso seeks alternatives to the costs of providing parks and recreation services with their local government partners. A Trail Joint Powers Committee was formed in 2016 through an intergovernmental agreement and is comprised of the following members: city of Owosso, city of Corunna, Caledonia Township and the Owosso Airport Board. The purpose of this intergovernmental agreement is to improve and maintain the river trail that runs through each of these jurisdictions as well as broaden the eligibility of potential grant funding.

The existing park system organizational chart is below and the most recent annual budget is provided on the following page.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
CITY OF OWOSSO PARKS AND RECREATION**



Note 1: The Trail Joint Powers Committee is not reflected in this chart; however, the plan supports its formation for the oversight of the James Miner Walkway and the local responsibility for the regional bikeway system that includes the Ionia to Owosso rails to trails route.



Role of Volunteers

At this time the number of volunteers in the city's recreation program is difficult to assign because of the wide dispersal of recreational programming through the non-profit organizations that operate the programs. If one considers the directors of these organizations as volunteers, the number becomes very high, easily 75 persons. The public service department calls upon a number of year-round positions that have part-time responsibility in the parks. The summer temporary help is assigned much of the maintenance chores in the parks.

The primary administrative improvements will continue with attention to a public service director/public works superintendent system, multi-year capital improvements planning and information access to recreation programs. The city relies on volunteers groups who regularly use the parks to assist with parks maintenance, to increase the contributions of the programming partners in parks maintenance and improvements.

Funding

In Michigan, there are a variety of funding options for municipal parks and recreation activities. Although the city of Owosso provides its parks and recreation activities primarily through the City's General Fund, below is an overview of the types of options that are available to communities.

General Fund

The General Fund is the basic operating fund of the City and the traditional source of operating funds for parks and recreation. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. If recreation program user fees were to be implemented by the City, they would be channeled through the General Fund.

Park activities including acquisition, planning, development, and maintenance are funded by the City's General Fund. As shown below, the FY 2017-2018 City budget for parks and recreation facilities is \$189,850. The Parks and Recreation budget is allocated for maintenance of existing parkland, monthly operational costs of work performed by the DPW, landscaping costs, professional services, and capital improvements. DPW staff spends time on the maintenance and operations of the parks along with several seasonal employees. Volunteers help with parks and recreation facilities on a project-by-project basis. Also, volunteers help with general park cleanup and occasional equipment maintenance, such as painting or refinishing benches and picnic tables.



**2017/2018 Parks and Recreation Budget
(July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018)**

Description	Expended
Administration	
Wages and Benefits	\$ 103,850
Operating Supplies	\$ 3,000
Contractual Services	\$ 6,000
Electricity	\$ 12,000
Water & Sewer	\$ 5,000
Refuse	\$ 1,000
Trees & Garden	\$ 1,000
Buildings & Grounds	\$ -
Ballfields	\$ -
Equipment Rental	\$ 58,000
Capital Outlay	\$ - *
Sub-Total	\$ 189,850
Parks Programming	
YMCA Soccer & Volleyball	\$ 24,000
Youth Baseball	\$ 25,000
Youth Softball	\$ 8,000
Arts Gallery Programming	\$ 113,000
Amphitheater (estimated)	\$ 12,000
Owosso Historical Commission	\$ 15,000
Curwood Festival Park Activities (estimated)	\$ 20,000
Sub-Total	\$ 217,000
Grand Total	\$ 405,850

* Future budgets are unpredictable due to financial restraints

Table 1: 2017/2018 Parks and Recreation Budget

2018-2023 Capital Improvements Schedule

The following table presents the actions recommended for the 2018-2023 planning cycle. Individual projects are listed along with the specific task to be accomplished, the time frame for implementation, cost estimates, potential funding sources, and priority if a capital improvement expenditure. Key to potential funding sources: GCF = General city funds, G = Grant, P = Private donation, SC = Service club donation



CITY OF OWOSSO
Projected Capital Improvements Plan 2018-2023

Year	Park Improvement Description	Park	Cost	Potential Funding Source	Priority
On Going	Upgrade and maintain James Miner Trail			GCF, G, P	HIGH
	Tree plantings	Harmon Partridge	\$ 3,000	SC, G	LOW
	Work with landowners on William's Street to maintain vegetative cover to create an erosion-free embankment on the river	Linear Parks			HIGH
	Maintenance on Amphitheater	Cur. Castle Park	\$ 5,000	GCF	MED
	Accessibility Compliance Upgrades (ongoing)	All Parks	\$ 2,500	GCF	HIGH
	Maintenance of James Miner River Trail -- Owosso to Corunna	Linear Parks	\$ 5,000	G, F, G, SC, P	MED
	Total		\$ 15,500		
2018	Acquire easements to sidewalk between the river and the Mueller Bldg.	Cur. Castle Park			HIGH
	Do a study of Hopkins Lake and create a restocking plan	Collamer			HIGH
	Install new playground	Collamer		GCF	HIGH
	Add small playground in SE corner	Fayette Square		GCF	HIGH
	Address drainage issues on the field	Bennett	\$ 10,000	GCF	MED
	Place privacy partitions in bathrooms	Bennett	\$ 2,000	GCF	MED
	Add sand volleyball court	Bentley	\$ 2,000	GCF	LOW
	Build new skatepark - Phase I	Grove Holman	\$ 100,000	GCF, G, P	HIGH
	Add playground	Hugh Parker		GCF	HIGH
	Establish trailhead to connect to CIS trail		\$ 10,000	GCF, G, P	HIGH
	Total		\$ 124,000		
2019	Build a Canoe/Kayak launch at Middle School	Cur. Castle Park	\$ 20,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Build pavilion	Adams	\$ 10,000	G, P, SC	LOW
	Add picnic tables	Adams	\$ 3,000	G, P, SC	LOW
	Install barrier free canoe/kayak landing site at Oakwood Ave. bridge		\$ 40,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Improve landing site at Owosso Middle School			GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Install kayak storage/locker system near trailhead			GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Total		\$ 73,000		
2020	Improve parking lot on Curwood Castle Drive	Cur. Castle Park	\$ 200,000	GCF, G, P	LOW
	Directional Signs for James Miner River Trail	Linear Parks	\$ 2,000	P	MED
	Develop potable water supply near bark park and community gardens	Collamer		P	LOW
	Acquire school bus garage	Rudy DeMuth	TBD		MED
	Plant evergreen screening clusters on south side of Bennett Field Drive to add to park-like atmosphere	Bennett	\$ 5,000	G, P, SC	LOW
	Designate extra area within park for additional 20-40 spaces	Bennett	\$ 20,000	GCF	MED
	Total		\$ 227,000		
2021	Develop parking on east side of lake	Collamer	\$ 30,000	GCF, G, P, SC	LOW
	Add fishing pier on east side of lake	Collamer	\$ 15,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Build a boat launch	Collamer	\$ 15,000	GCF, G, P, SC	LOW
	Make footbridge ADA accessible	Collamer	\$ 5,000	GCF, G, P, SC	LOW
	Skate Park - Phase II	Grove Holman	\$ 75,000	GCF, G, P, SC	HIGH
	Update existing building bathrooms	Grove Holman	\$ 30,000	GCF, G, P, SC	HIGH
	Total		\$ 170,000		
2022	Install trellis at SW & NW entrances	Fayette Square	\$ 5,000	P, SC	LOW
	Create parking lot on Oakwood with turnaround	Rudy DeMuth	\$ 100,000	GCF, G, P, SC	LOW
	Eliminate parking between ball diamonds, maintain service drive	Rudy DeMuth	\$ 10,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Install picnic tables and benches	Rudy DeMuth	\$ 5,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Fix drain culvert	Rosevear	\$ 30,000	GCF, G, P, SC	HIGH
	Create a non-motorized path connecting Rosevear to Collamer Park	Rosevear	\$ 30,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Design and build parking lot	Rosevear	\$ 30,000	GCF, G, P, SC	LOW
	Improve access to park	Rosevear	\$ 5,000	GCF, G, P, SC	LOW
	Establish crossing of M-52 at Cass Street		\$ 3,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Create bikeway through school bus garage site				MED
	Total		\$ 218,000		
2023	Signage for all parks at major entranceways	All parks	\$ 80,000	GCF, G, P, SC	LOW
	Acquire parcel on Curwood Castle Drive to expand park	Cur. Castle Park	TBD		LOW
	Create a footbridge/bicycle path across the river to N. Chipman	Harmon Partridge	\$ 100,000	GCF, G, SC	LOW
	Add perimeter path to provide a surface for walking, jogging or running	Bentley	\$ 6,000	GCF, G, P, SC	MED
	Build equipment storage facility	Hugh Parker	\$ 30,000	SC, G	HIGH
	Improve playing fields	Hugh Parker	\$ 30,000	SC, G	HIGH
Close Jerome Street and improve existing bikeway to 10' width		TBD			
	Total		\$ 246,000		



Table 2: 2018-2023 Capital Improvements Plan

Current Funding Sources

In general, there are several existing and potential funding sources available to the City for parks and recreation facility improvements. In addition to the City providing resources to parks from the General Fund, there are other sources of funding available for parks and recreation; these include a dedicated millage, user fees, bonds, grants, donations foundations, contractual agreements and conveyances. Following is a brief description of these funding sources:

User Fees

Fees can be charged to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities in southeast Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, wave pools, use of lighted athletic fields, and use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in the municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

Grants

Grants are an allotment of funds provided by an organization for a particular purpose. Grants are offered by various organizations and often require matching funds. The greatest provider of grant resources for communities looking to enhance recreation offerings is the State of Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund.

- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants** - Following is a summary of the three viable recreation grant programs available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("MDNR"). The *Recreation Passport Grant* Program funds renovation and improvements to existing parks, along with the development of new parks. The minimum grant request is \$7,500 and the maximum request is \$75,000 with a 25% match. *Land and Water Conservation Fund* ("L&WCF") eligible projects include community recreation and trail way improvements. These are grants of \$30,000 - \$100,000 to local units of government for development of facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails picnic areas; support facilities; and renovation of existing facilities and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through Federal appropriations. The local grant match basis is up to 50%. Current funding priorities are trails, community recreation, green technology, coordination and communication and universal access. *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund* ("MNRTF") eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions must be at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum amount for acquisition



projects. The minimum allowable grant for development is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Funding priorities for 2014 are trails (including water trails), wildlife/ecological corridors and winter deeryard (acquisition only) and projects within an urban area.

- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** - TAP is a competitive grant program that funds projects such as non-motorized paths, streetscapes, and the historic preservation of transportation facilities, which enhance Michigan's multi-modal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. These investments support place-based economic development by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability, and improving residents' quality of life.

Dedicated Millage

A property tax millage could be used to finance specific parks and recreation projects, such as parkland acquisition or operation of recreation facilities. The dedicated millage has gained favor in many communities because voters are increasingly wary of approving millage increases for non-specified purposes. Approval by referendum is required before a millage can be assessed. A millage is subject to periodic renewal by a vote of the people.

Recreation Millage

A district millage through the school could be used to finance the operation costs associated with community education and recreation. This broad area millage could then be used to purchase land and build a facility that is for community use that would not be restricted by school sports and activities.

Bonds

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities.

- General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects such as park land acquisition, and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.
- Revenue Bonds are for construction of public projects that will generate revenue. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. Projects such as water main rehabilitation are paid for by water utility revenues.
- Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case only the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.



Creation of a Regional Recreation Authority

The Owosso City Council entered into a Joint Trail Authority agreement with Caledonia Township, the Owosso Airport Board, and the city of Corunna to manage the river trail that connects these jurisdictions. The goal is to create a broader funding base and substantially improve the recreation opportunities available for all residents in the service area.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute financially and in-kind to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is very limited.

Lease or Contractual Agreements

The City may increase the availability of recreation facilities to its residents by leasing sites and facilities from other recreation providers. For example, the City could agree to help maintain school recreation facilities in exchange for guaranteed availability of the facility to the public. The City could also contract with private entrepreneurs to provide services at City-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing City administrative costs.

Public Use Conveyances

Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this program provides State lands, acquired through delinquent taxes, for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

Recreation Programs Offered

Recreation programs comprise another aspect of the parks system that finds a network of providers for organized play. The city does not have a recreation director; however, program providers are authorized under operational agreements with the city to conduct recreational



activities. The programs that take place in Owosso City Parks are primarily warm weather related. The list is organized by the names of the city's programming partners.

1. Owosso Amphitheater Summerfest. The Owosso Area Amphitheater Association, through a lease with the city, operates the Mitchell Amphitheater in Curwood Castle Park. They provide 7 to 8 concerts every summer with an effort to bring in a diversity of entertainers that are infrequently seen in Shiawassee County. In addition the association subleases the theater to a local church organization that provides a gospel series on Sunday summer evenings in the park. The amphitheater draws an average audience of 300 persons per concert. Many of the concerts serve underprivileged populations, disabled and seniors as well as families.
2. Shiawassee Arts Council Gallery. The vision of the Shiawassee Arts Council (SAC) envisions a vibrant community where the arts inspire our innovative spirit, celebrate our cultural diversity and encourage community involvement. The SAC's mission is to sponsor and encourage participation and appreciation of the arts in Shiawassee County and its surrounding area. SAC may research, plan, develop and present quality arts and cultural activities that educate, entertain and enhance the quality of life in our community.

The Shiawassee Arts Council, a non-profit organization, incorporated in 1972, serves our constituents (members, artists, volunteers, donors, etc.), residents of Shiawassee County and the surrounding areas of Chesaning in Saginaw County, Ovid and Elsie in Clinton County, in addition to gallery visitors and tourists from around the mid-Michigan area and beyond.

The Shiawassee Arts Council offers at our facility, the Shiawassee Arts Center:

- Featured Art Exhibitions in River Gallery, Moore Gallery, Hebert Gallery and Docent Gallery with "Meet the Artists" receptions.
- Artist Consignment Space in Gregoricka Gallery, Hill Gallery, McEwan Gallery and Voight Gallery.
- Frederick C. Frieseke Gallery, display of original paintings and reproductions of the well-known Owosso-born impressionist artist
- Specialty Gift Shop.
- Year-round Multi-Media Art Classes, Camps and Workshops for Children and Adults
- Annual Countywide High School Scholarship Show with over \$75,000 awarded to talented young area artists since 1972.
- Special events and activities including *Art in the Park* during the annual Curwood Festival, *ArtWalk*, *Tour Our Town*, *Art a la Carte* and *Owosso Bike Fest*.
- The River Gallery and Cottonwood Terrace are available for business and personal rentals.



The arts council offers another \$100,000 in leisure time and cultural outlet programming for the community and is a tourist attraction in its own right with an annual visitor and art class participant contact of 50,000 persons.

3. Owosso Historical Commission. The Owosso Historical Commission (OHC) is comprised of a board of 11 citizens nominated to the commission by the Mayor of Owosso. The OHC's vision is *"To Foster Appreciation and Discovery of Owosso's Heritage,"* is supported by our mission *"To recognize, preserve and bring public attention to the historical treasures of the city and to promote a historical interest in the arts."* The OHC manages The Curwood Collection, which includes:

- Curwood Castle Writing and Conservation Studio Museum – a replica of a 15th Century French Norman Chateau built in 1922 by author, conservationist, movie pioneer and imagineer James Oliver Curwood.
- The Comstock Pioneer Cabin, a perfectly preserved example of pioneer architecture built by 1836 by Elias and Lucy Comstock.
- The Woodard Paymaster building, a small structure with Victorian Gothic embellishments built in 1885 by the Woodard Company – who continue to make wrought iron furniture in Owosso and are one of the oldest manufacturing firms in the State of Michigan still in operation – as a meeting hall and to pay their employees.

These three historical buildings are located in Curwood Castle Park. The Commission also maintains the Amos Gould House Museum, a grand mansion originally built in 1860 in the Italianate style and then in 1873 remodeled in the French Second Empire style, by railroad and timber magnate, explorer, and Owosso's first mayor and banker Amos Gould. The OHC also manages the Ivan Conger Archive Room – which houses the letters and papers of James Oliver Curwood and Ivan Conger – and the Curwood Collection Archives, both housed at the Amos Gould House.



Figure 3: Curwood Castle

Some of the OHC's goals are to educate audiences in appreciating the past and helping visitors find relevance in their lives through a diverse and progressive program of collections, exhibitions and educational initiatives. The OHC is currently undergoing a strategic planning process in order put into place best practices in the areas of self-governance, capacity building and sustainability and to better utilize its physical

assets to best meet the long term needs of the community in accordance with accepted museum and ethical professional standards. Part of the strategic planning process is will be a discussion around creating an independent 501(c)3 that partners with the City of Owosso to manage the city's historical assets.



4. The Shiawassee YMCA. Youth soccer at Hugh Parker Field and tennis lessons at Bentley Park demonstrate contractual arrangements between the city and a recreational partner—in this instance the Shiawassee YMCA. The long reach of the YMCA throughout the community attracts children, coaches and enthusiastic fans to the park's nine soccer fields every fall. Last year 530 children registered and played soccer. The soccer and volleyball effort constitutes \$24,000 in parks recreational programming.
5. Owosso Girls Softball League. A four-member association operates softball play for the city. Girls in grades 1-10 have access to summer softball at Bennett Field's three ball diamonds. Bennett Field has seen an increase in use with several tournaments scheduled throughout the season and has an estimated draw of 90 teams, along with their families, during these weekend events.
6. Owosso Baseball Association. Yet another non-profit organization exists exclusively to offer programming in Owosso parks—youth baseball. The four diamonds at Rudy DeMuth fields attracted 400 boys to league play. The association coordinates coaches, registrations, umpires, fund raising and recently, field care to maintain the level of participation enjoyed by children from the Owosso area. Tournaments throughout the season have increased the use of this field beyond the regular baseball season.
7. Pavilion Reservation Program. Four park pavilions at Bentley and Harmon Patridge Park can be reserved through city offices for special events. Families and organizations make hundreds of separate reservations of these popular pavilions annually.
8. Curwood Festival. The Owosso Curwood Festival is another non-profit organization that partners with the city to sponsor a hometown festival centered around Curwood Castle Park, the Shiawassee River and the James Miner Walkway. With annual attendance averaging 30,000, the four-day event in June provides recreational events, fun runs, concerts and feasts. Their annual recreational programming budget is \$100,000.
9. “Third Person” Recreational Providers. There are a number of “third person” entities that offer recreational programs in locations other than city parks that provide a host of recreational outlets to the community and, in the case of churches, to their members and their friends. These programs do not take place in city parks and do not involve city budgets; however, their nature is public and quasi-public offering many outlets for citizens with a special benefit of indoor play for the cold weather season.

The Owosso and Corunna Public Schools offer hallway-walking programs, mostly attended by seniors. Their swimming pools are open for exercise in the winter with dedicated lap lanes. There are also adult recreational classes in many areas of interest.

The YMCA offers adult and children recreational programs for swimming (at Owosso High), tumbling, gymnastics, weight lifting, racquetball, basketball leagues, bridge marathons, judo instruction, exercise classes, flag football, summer camp, a fitness room, ballet, water aerobics,



floor hockey, running events, and tennis instruction. The offerings are constantly in flux to maintain a response to contemporary preferences. A closely related program but operated through a non-profit is KICS football for youth.

The area churches offer softball leagues for men and women. Several have basketball courts and sponsor league play and open gym nights. Volleyball nights are offered and open to the public.

Private recreational businesses thrive in the community with four public golf courses, three bowling centers, dance studios, martial arts centers, Kiwanis Acres Nature Center and Day Camp, DeVries Nature Conservancy, and the Shiawassee Dog & Gun Club. This list is not comprehensive yet is an illustration of the diversity and ample supply of leisure time outlets for the local population.

Recreation Inventory

The parks and facilities inventory principally addresses city parks and facilities within those parks. Some mention shall be made of regional recreational opportunities and private or semi-public leisure outlets in the area that compare with park-like facilities. The most important of these is the Owosso Public School system with its high quality open spaces that are available to the public when school is not in session.

Park Areas

The city park system has 250 acres of public open space. There are twelve traditional parks, meaning places with their own defined boundaries. The James Miner River Walkway is the city's thirteenth park that is a linear system with a "tributary trail" at Fisher Redi-Mix, the Lions Club Park, and the current skate park along its route. Four of the parks are located along the Shiawassee River. The largest park is Collamer Park at the south end of the city with 164 acres. The smallest park is Fayette Square in the center of the City at 1.1 acres.

The following charts demonstrate the type, size and location of each park, their acreage, and relation of school parks that are considered as quasi-public open spaces. School parks provide recreation areas for families or persons living within individual communities throughout Owosso and are essential to promoting active lifestyles. The classification of parks is useful in providing an analysis of adequacy of park activities.



CITY OF OWOSSO PARKS -- TYPE, SIZE AND LOCATION

Park Name	Type of Park ¹	Quadrant Location	Acreage
Collamer Park	Regional	SW/SE	164
Hugh Parker Soccer Field	Sports Complex	SE	15
James Miner River Walkway ²	Greenway	NE/SE	13
Rudy DeMuth Field	Sports Complex	SE	10.2
Bennett Field	Sports Complex	NW	10
Bentley Park	Community	SE	8.2
Rosevear Park	Natural Resource	SE	7.8
Curwood Castle Park ³	Special Use	NE	7
Grove Holman Park	Neighborhood	SW	6
Harmon Patridge Park	Community	NW	5.2
AdamsI Park	Mini-Park	NE	1.3
Grand Avenue Park	Mini-Park	SE	1.3
Fayette Square	Special Use	NE	1.1
Total:			250.1

Footnotes:

- 1 Type of Park: See text for a description of classifications.
- 2 The developed walkway acreage is 7 acres. Another 6 acres of greenway was added in 2006.
- 3 This acreage includes the seasonal park on school grounds for the Mitchell Amphitheater.

Table 3: Park type, size, location

SCHOOL "PARKS" & QUASI-PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Name of School	Neighborhood Park Role?	Quadrant Location	Play Area Size
Bryant School	YES	SW	9.5 acre
Lincoln Alt. Ed. High School	YES	NW	350' x 132'
Central School	YES	NW	1.8 ac
Washington School	YES	SE	1.5 ac
Emerson School	YES	NE	11 ac
Bentley School	YES	NW	5.5 ac
St. Paul School	NO	NW	100' x 70'
St. Joseph School	NO	NE	150' x 110'
Exercise Course - Memorial Health	YES	NW	3 acres

Table 4: School "Parks" size, location

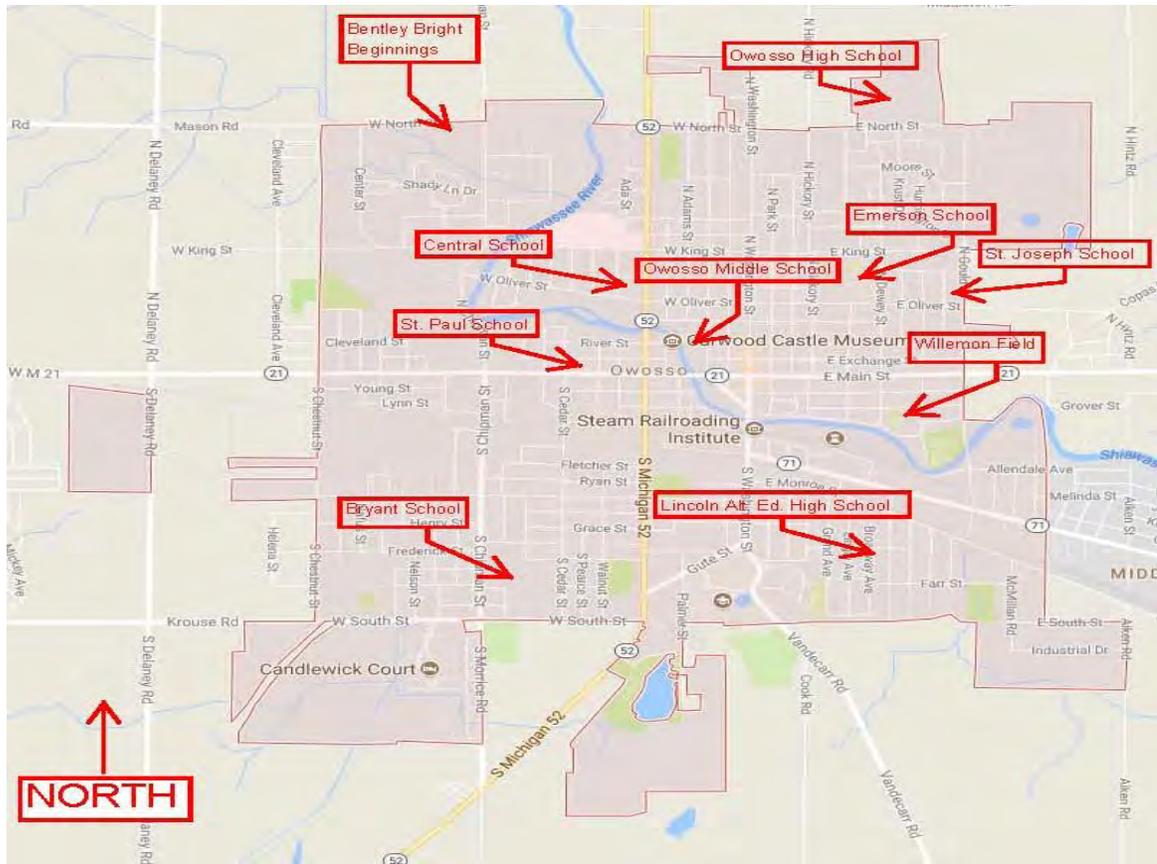
Owosso parks demonstrate the variety of park types present to meet the outdoor recreational needs of its citizens. The plan will detail improvements to these parks. With the prominence of school grounds (*Neighborhood Parks*), McCurdy Park (*Large Urban Park*) in Corunna and the



city parks, no other local park types are missing from the range of park types commonly found in a small metropolitan system.

1. The Regional Natural Resource Area park at *Collamer Park* has the size and characteristics of a landscape that is outstanding in characteristics, vistas and water interest.
2. Community Parks serve areas greater than neighborhoods and serve a variety of recreation needs. At *Bentley Park, Grove Holman, and Harmon Partridge Park*, pavilions, open space, landscaping, swimming, tennis, playgrounds, exercise paths, benches, and basketball offer the variety one should expect from a multi-purpose park.
3. Special Use Parks are located at *Curwood Castle Park* and *Fayette Square* where historic significance, formal gardens, and cultural outlets clearly signify the principle uses for these unique settings. *Rosevear Park*, although small-sized, has returned to a natural area park with a winding drain (stream-like), forested glades and a nicely terraced gully offering interesting terrain breaks.
4. Sports Complex Parks denote places dedicated to programmed athletic fields. *Bennett Field, Rudy DeMuth Fields* and *Hugh Parker Soccer Complex* contribute respectively to the youth baseball, softball and soccer traditions of Owosso.
5. Greenways. The *James Miner Walkway* straddles the Shiawassee River and connects to the regional bikeway system to Corunna. The park plan has elements to improve connection of parks to one another and selected neighborhoods.
6. Mini-Parks. Too small to be considered neighborhood parks, *Adams Park* and *Grand Avenue Park* address limited sections of Owosso neighborhoods.
7. "School parks." Many Owosso Public grounds offer significant acreage for the neighborhood park concept, a park type that does not exist in the city park system. A good neighborhood park serves an area at ¼ mile to ½ mile distance and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Barriers such as heavily traveled roads, the river, and railroads should not pose limitations for access to children. *Bryant School, Emerson School, Lincoln Alternative Ed High School, Roosevelt School, Central School* and *Bentley School* are an impressive collection of playgrounds and playfields that neighborhoods use as if they were public parks. *St. Paul School* and *St. Joseph School* have very nice playgrounds and serve immediate neighborhoods at times other than the school day and are mapped below.





Source: Google Maps

Park Facilities

This plan section will detail the supply of park facilities and the programs that take place in the parks. The adequacy of facilities and programs is analyzed in a later section of the plan.

Recent Park Accomplishments: It is purposeful to acknowledge recent progress as a demonstration that deliberate park planning, budgeting and programming result in advances for the quality of life and leisure pursuits of area residents. Since the 2011 Master Plan these facilities and park expansions are notable:

- Barrier free playground installation at Bentley Park
- Kiwanis basketball court with benches at Bentley Park
- Trail paving at Jerome Street section of James Miner Walkway
- Bikeway underpass at South Washington Street Bridge
- Installation of playscape at Adams Park
- Renovation of ballfield at Adams Park
- Renovation project at Curwood Castle Park
- Installation of Bark Park at Collamer Park
- Addition of Community Gardens at Collamer Park



Park Facilities: When only considering the city parks, the *Park Facilities Chart* located in Exhibit B lists the facilities in rows and the parks in columns. To illustrate, a quick scan across the basketball court row will reveal that there is one outdoor court in the park system. Alternatively, a column review of Curwood Castle Park shows that it has water frontage, a canoe drop-off, an amphitheater, cultural buildings, parking, benches and special landscaping. Both perspectives are instructive about the park system. As might be expected the dominant facilities include parking lots, benches, picnic areas, pavilions, athletic fields, playfields, and playgrounds.

The unique, dynamic aspects to the Owosso City Park system include:

- Curwood Castle – a renowned structure/writing studio of James Oliver Curwood
- Shiawassee Arts Gallery – exhibits, education and gallery
- Comstock Cabin – first settler house in the region
- Mitchell Amphitheater – large stage structure with 3,000 capacity audience area on irrigated grounds
- Fayette Square Gardens – evolving community garden club project
- James Miner Walkway – regional bikeway along the Shiawassee River
- River Frontage – 16,000 linear feet of public access within the city limits
- Grove Holman Hill - large hill for winter sledding activities
- Gould Street (non-park lands) - BMX track (2011)
- Downtown fountain on Ball St.

A list of smaller facilities completes the picture of the park system. Other special places are: the Kiwanis fishing dock at Hopkins Lake, beach volleyball at Collamer Park, the walking trail at Harmon Patridge Park, youth ball diamonds, irrigated soccer fields, the Bentley gazebo, and ice fishing at Hopkins Lake.

The “school parks” offer a variety of facilities to serve neighborhoods. These fill a deficiency in the neighborhood park type with six outdoor basketball courts, six playgrounds that are equal in size or greater than the largest city park playground, five ball diamonds, a field for “peewee” football, eight tennis courts, a model airplane field, a running track and two soccer fields. Without these conveniently located school parks, the outdoor recreation opportunities in Owosso would be deficient.

Individual Parks

The purpose for this plan section is to provide an ongoing reference to help explain why the facilities in the parks are recommended and to supply support information for the inevitable proposals to change the plan over time. Site plans for some parks are outdated and unaffordable to update for this plan. The narratives, for the moment, will have to suffice in the provision of information about development for these parks.



All park facilities are listed in an earlier section of the plan under “Park Facilities.” The 5-year capital improvements plan will show the short-term priorities that the planning commission assigned to the specific parks.



Figure 4: Comstock Cabin with Curwood Castle in background

Curwood Castle Park

Location: Downtown at the confluence of State Highways M-52, M-21 and M-71.

Size: 7 Acres

Key Observations:

- This is a historic/cultural area, and that influence has established the underlying theme for this park’s development. The park’s objective is to promote cultural/historical themes, and expand engagement with the Shiawassee River.
- The park, more than any other public open space in the city, represents a destination for travelers, visitors and tourists and is home to Curwood Castle, Comstock Cabin, Paymaster Building and the Shiawassee Arts Center.
- Special events occur here on a regular basis.
- Surrounding land uses represent assets to the park – the armory and middle school.
- It is helpful to think of the park as consisting of land use zones:
 - Entry/welcome area zone (south end)
 - Museum/heritage zone (arts museum and Cabin area)
 - Castle zone
 - River interaction zone (west of the Castle)
 - Amphitheater and grounds zone
 - Armory/middle school zone



Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes—a parking and traffic concept sketch at [Exhibit C](#).



Figure 5: Collamer Park Entrance

COLLAMER PARK (Previously “Hopkins Lake Park”)

Location: South central Owosso including areas outside the city limits.

Size: 164 Acres

Key Observations:

- Hopkins Lake is regional recreation area and urban park.
- This kind of park serves the whole city and region. It contains activities that cannot be accommodated by neighborhood or community parks such as:
 - A dog park
 - Disc golf course
 - An extensive mountain bike trail that has been mapped showing an interior loop trail system of up to five miles of trail.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? There is a trail map for the park in [Exhibit D](#).





Figure 6: Trail along Shiawassee River, Harmon Patridge Park

Harmon Patridge Park

Location: Owosso Township, Section 12; generally Outlots B, C, E, and a portion of D.

Size: 5.2 Acres

Key Observations:

- *Wooded setting along the Shiawassee River*
- *Three Pavilions*
- *Large playscape*
- *Great park for walking*
- *The Owosso Rotary Club unofficially “adopted” this park and contributes to its beauty and peaceful setting through continued service projects.*

Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix? None.





Figure 7: Gardens in Fayette Square

Fayette Square

Location: In the Original Plat of the City of Owosso at Washington and Oliver Streets.

Size: 1.1 acres

Key Observations:

- This park is the key starting point for most parades that happen in Owosso throughout the year.
- This park is in need of a partnership with a civic group to care for low maintenance flowerbeds. A site plan for the park lays out planting areas and preferred species; however, this plan has been modified to include future benches that surround an area dedicated to veterans.
- In the center of the western portion of the park is a circular gather place containing a number of war memorials; also referred to as “Veteran’s Circle.” A Blue Star Memorial and bench have been added in this area.

Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix? Yes, a site plan of the garden layout in Exhibit E.





Figure 8: Baseball game at Rudy DeMuth Field

Rudy Demuth Field

Location: Eastern limits of the City along the Shiawassee River.

Size: 10.2 Acres

Key Observations:

- This floodplain park is on the inside of a broad meander loop of the Shiawassee River in a beautiful natural setting. This park has as good potential for creating quality of life improvements for the city.
- Baseball field for many local and travel youth leagues.
- Strong partnership with Owosso Kiwanis Club.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix. Yes, a site plan in Exhibit F.





Figure 9: Softball game at Bennett Field

Bennett Field

Location: In northwest Owosso on City boundary line with Owosso Township.

Size: 10 acres; 983 feet north-south and 871 feet east-west; diagonal northeast boundary with “Great Lakes Central Railroad”.

Key Observations:

- This park has a history of sports play for the region, and the plan recognizes the park’s primary role for that use.
- An increase in tournament usage brings 80-90 teams in several times a year.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? None.





Figure 10: Gazebo at Bentley Park

Bentley Park

Location: On State Highway M-52 in south Owosso.

Size: 8.2 Acres

Key Observations:

- The park is one of Owosso's premiere parks with bathrooms, a pavilion, tennis courts, a large playscape, basketball court, gazebo, and two splash pads.
- The park has an ice rink set up every year during the winter.
- There is a large residential neighborhood around the park.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, of the new playscape layout in [Exhibit G](#).





Figure 11: Sledding hill at Grove Holman Park

Grove Holman Park

Location: Southwest Owosso near State Highway M-52

Size: 6.0 Acres

Key Observations:

- Future site of the new skate park.
- This park is used as a sledding hill.
- Park is underutilized during the rest of the year.
- The park could be a potential place for another ice skating rink in Owosso.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, a sketch of the proposed skate park in [Exhibit H](#).





Figure 12: Soccer game at Hugh Parker Soccer Field

Hugh Parker Soccer Field

Location: Southeast limits of City at entrance to Southeast Owosso Industrial Park.

Size: 15 Acres

Key Observations:

- This park is a companion park to Rosevear Park across Farr Street.
- The park is primarily a soccer complex with very adequate parking and a functional open space zone in the southeast.
- This park is noted for poor soils that do not provide for good growth of vegetation.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, a copy of the site plan is located in [Exhibit I](#).





Figure 12: Rosevear Park

Rosevear Park

Location: Southeast Owosso limits near Hugh Parker Field and the Southeast Owosso Industrial Park

Size: 7.8 Acres

Key Observations:

- This park has an excellent start of a BMX course with potential for expansion.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? None.





Figure 13: Playscape at Adams Park

Adams Park

Location: North central Owosso with a walk-in entrance on North Adams Street at Galusha Street

Size: 1.3 Acres

Key Observations:

- The lack of parking limits the types of use for this park.
- The plans for this park will revolve around the interests and resources of the neighborhood that has shown enthusiasm for “their” park.
- New playscape recently built is inviting to families in this area.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? None.





Figure 14: Grand Avenue Park

Grand Avenue Field

Location: In southeast Owosso on the south end of Grand Avenue with another approach from Washington Street via Harper Street.

Size: 1.3 Acres

Key Observations:

- This is part of a drainage system along Saginaw Street with potential retention problems. It may still be enjoyed as a park.
- As an alternate, consider local neighborhood plans for passive recreation, community gardens, or the return of the property to a natural state.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? None.





Figure 15: Voight Loop Trail

Park Linkages, River and Bike System Plan

Location: The existing park linkage is the James Miner River Walkway that begins on Williams Street at the north boundary of the Owosso Middle School and proceeds to the east city limits on the north side of the Shiawassee River. There is a south side connection that begins at Washington St. and heads east.

Size: The James Miner River Walkway is 7,500 lineal feet of trail with a partial roadway section at Jerome Street and Oakwood Street.

Key Observations:

- The city's sidewalk system is offered as a pedestrian link to parks and open space areas and another basis for keeping fit.
- There is a regional trail plan for the former Central Michigan RR line from Owosso to Ionia. Owosso Township Planning Commission will consider routes into the city street and trail system to permit access to the James Miner Walkway.
- The city council has adopted a "Bike City" policy goal in 2011. Efforts are on-going to install and promote wayfinding signs, bike racks, and complete streets.
- City entered into an intergovernmental agreement with three other jurisdictions to provide maintenance along the James Miner Trail into the city of Corunna.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, a map of the James S. Miner River Trail and Voight Loop in [Exhibit J](#).

Water Trails

In 2017, the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition applied to receive a designation as a National Water Trail. One of the requirements in the application is to demonstrate efforts to improve accessibility to rivers for the disabled; a feat that is not easily accomplished on rivers without reservoirs/dams and with inconsistent flow levels. The cost is approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 with an additional cost to build an approach.



The city of Corunna has plans to install a barrier free launch facility that does not have a corresponding landing at Brady Street. During the dam removal meetings in Corunna there was consensus that the Oakwood Avenue landing in Owosso would be the best landing (not a launch) to pair up with Corunna's.



Figure 16: Proposed barrier-free landing

Because Owosso is the largest municipality on the Water Trail a downtown landing to access services and perform as the take out point for the Corunna to Owosso events with many more possible if a landing were developed. One way to achieve this is to upgrade the landing at the Owosso Middle School. This goal is important as many more users will

explore this river once it is designated as a National Water Trail. The image depicts how the potential barrier-free landing might look.

The city of Owosso supports the development of the Shiawassee River National Water Trail along the Shiawassee River through Owosso as shown in Exhibit K. The river is approximately 3.5 miles long running through the city of Owosso.

Development of the water trail through the city of Owosso is part of a 120-mile long trail traversing through communities in Oakland, Genesee, Shiawassee, and Saginaw counties. This water trail, sometimes referred to as a paddling trail or a canoeing/kayaking trail, would essentially identify part of the Shiawassee River as a navigable waterway that could accommodate low-impact, human-powered watercraft such as canoes and kayaks. Such small watercraft typically creates "no wake" and embraces the "Leave No Trace" code of outdoor ethics, which would promote the responsible use and enjoyment of the ecologically-sensitive marsh areas along the River.

The water trail would further serve as a place for solitude and respite from the urban environment, while providing educational and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. The trail can also serve to create economic opportunities in supporting existing business as well as creating new businesses that cater to river paddlers.



Important factors for establishing a water trail are the provision of safe and convenient access to a navigable waterway with unobstructed passageways. A launch site or public access point is already established in several locations. Additional launch sites in the city of Owosso could be established at the Owosso Middle School and at the Oakwood Bridge.

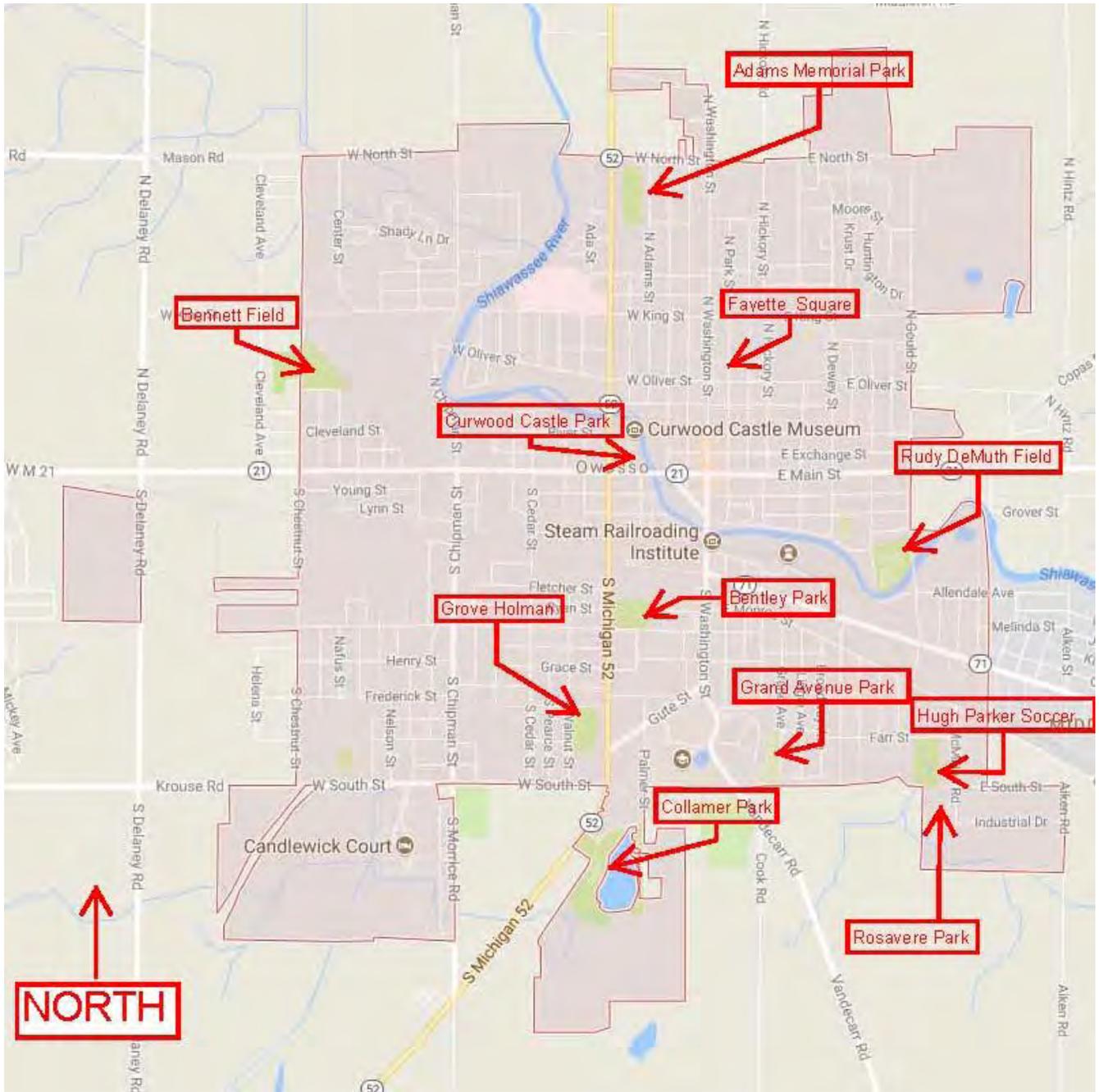
These launch sites and/or public access points are maintained. Other water trail improvements could include clearing logjams for navigability, installing wayfinding and educational signs, and providing safe portaging areas. In addition, narrow or low underpasses (i.e. small culverts or low bridges) should be replaced with larger openings, when reconstruction is warranted. Large box culverts or higher bridges are recommended, provided that the floodwater flow and storage capacity is not significantly affected, which is subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Since bridges or overpasses may not be reconstructed for a period of time or not at all, an alternative is to provide safe portaging areas. A durable path should be provided for carrying watercraft, which should consist of more natural, less engineered facilities, such as submerged pavers with openings for vegetation to grow through to help retain the natural river bank appearance, along with providing proper roadside signage forewarning motor vehicle traffic of potential portage crossings.

A "water trail" is an officially designated trail along a waterway or portion of waterway that usually contains a sufficient water level to navigate a small watercraft such as a canoe or kayak with unobstructed passageways while providing safe and convenient access points (put-in and take-out points). Support facilities for water trails may include parking areas, restrooms, signage and picnic areas.

A detailed water trail plan helps guide development of a Shiawassee River Water Trail. It identifies improvements for trail-related facilities to help establish a safe and navigable trail corridor for both recreational and educational pursuits in an ecologically sensitive manner. The designation of an official water trail may further instill a sense of trail stewardship among canoeists/kayakers to respect the quality of the water and become good caretakers of the river. Specific trail improvements and support facilities that should be identified on the plan may include providing parking facilities, restrooms, handicapped access, and picnicking areas; removing litter and fallen trees for navigability; installing wayfinding and educational signs; and improving underpasses or providing safe portaging areas with durable paths and crossing signs.



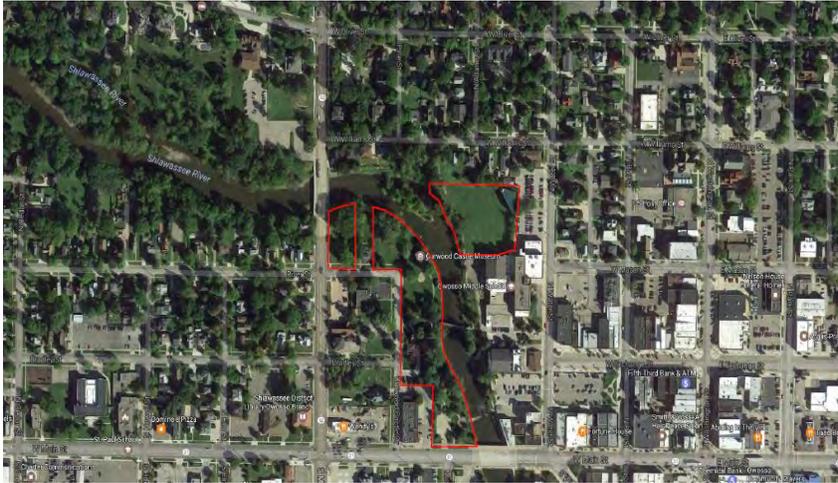
Maps of Primary Service Areas



Source: Goggle Maps



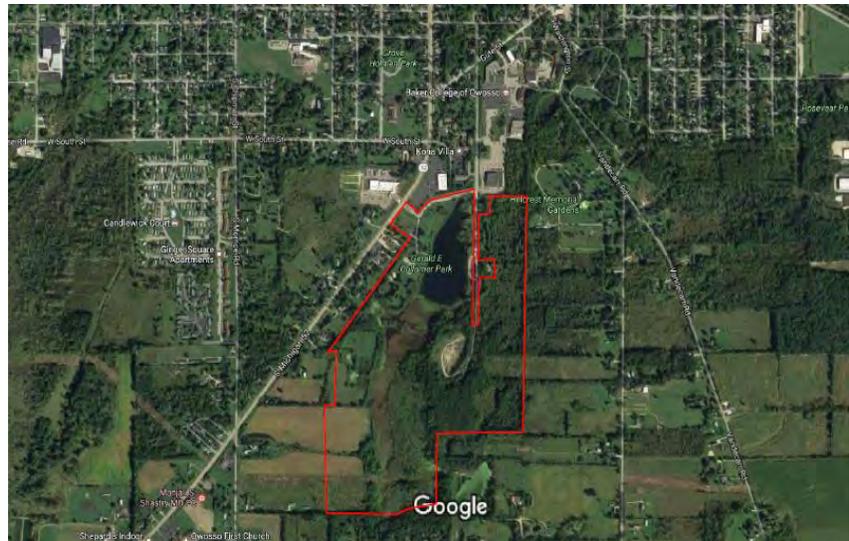
Curwood Castle Park and James and Metta Mitchell Amphitheater



Source: Google Maps

Curwood Castle Park and the Amphitheater are centrally located in the city just past two major intersections, M-52 and M-21 with the Shiawassee River dividing them. Both have sidewalk linkages to the downtown. Curwood Castle Park is in the process of having a large portion of its sidewalks replaced with six foot walkways and improved lighting.

Collamer Park "Hopkins Lake"



Source: Google Maps

Collamer Park is located at the southern edge of the city along M-52. Sidewalks from the north connect this park to the rest of the city and to Baker College, with buildings located to the north.



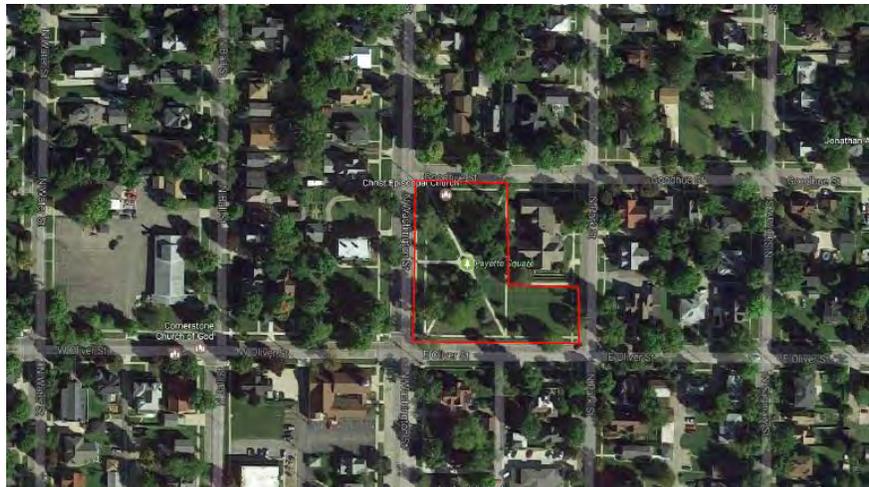
Harmon Patridge Park



Source: Google Maps

Harmon Patridge Park is located north of the city, outside of city limits. No clear sidewalks or connections, other than roadways and trails, easily connect this park to the city. The unique setting, however, lends itself to a truly open space, country like setting and is enjoyed by many.

Fayette Square



Source: Google Maps

Fayette Square is located to the north of the traditional downtown. This park is considered centrally located within the city. Fayette Square is connected by sidewalks, with pathways through the park.



Rudy DeMuth Field



Source: Google Maps

Rudy DeMuth Field is located along the Shiawassee River on the city's east side. The park is next to Gould Street and has sidewalks connecting it to the rest of the city. Gould Street has a lot of vehicular traffic and makes the park feel less approachable. Entering from Jerome or Oak Street has a residential feel and is welcoming.

Bennett Field



Source: Google Maps

Bennett Field is located on the city's west side. Sidewalks connect the adjacent neighborhood. Roads are used primarily as a means of access to this park.



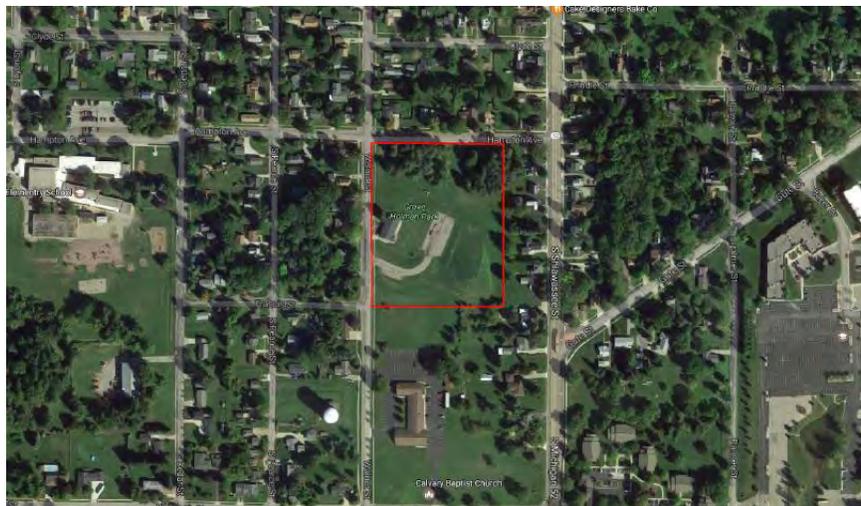
Bentley Park



Source: Google Maps

Bentley Park is located along South M-52 with sidewalks along its west and south edges, connecting the park to adjacent neighborhoods.

Grove Holman



Source: Google Maps

Grove Holman is located a little further south of Bentley Park, off Walnut Street. Sidewalks connect this park to the city. This park is the site of the proposed skate park. Being connected to the city via sidewalks and roadways is essential in providing access to all.



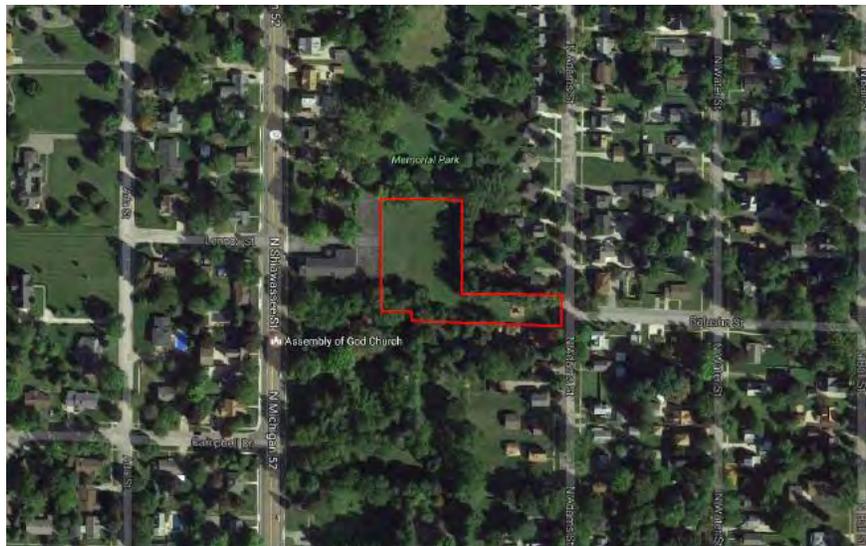
Hugh Parker Soccer Complex and Rosevear Park



Source: Google Maps

Both of these parks are located in the southeast quadrant of the city. Sidewalks stop at the neighborhood just to the west of the complex. The parks have roads surrounding them and are accessible that way.

Adams Park

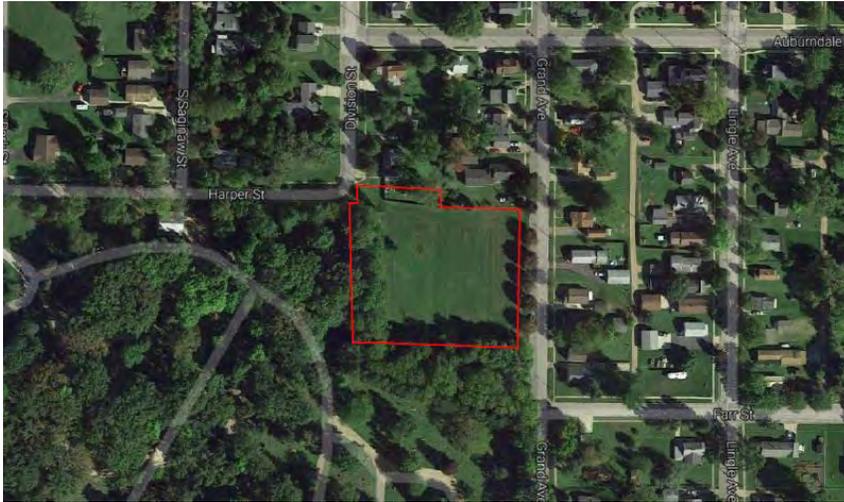


Source: Google Maps

Adams Park is nestled in a neighborhood on the north side of town. Sidewalks allow for easy access to this park.



Grand Avenue Park



Source: Google Maps

Grand Avenue Park is truly an open space location. The park is located in a neighborhood on the south side, with sidewalks connecting the park to the surrounding neighborhood.

Previous DNR Grants Received

The following is an update on the City of Owosso's recreation grant history.

Project No.: TF89-046

Project Title: Heritage Park/Curwood

Status: Closed

Year: 1989

Grant Amount: \$80,000

Project Description: Acquire 0.30 acre tract with two flood plain single family dwellings to permit development of support grounds for Curwood Castle and Heritage Park.

Current Status: The grant was fully executed and the dwellings have been subsequently demolished. An aggregate parking lot has been installed at this location to serve the park and the art center.

Project No.: TF96-242

Project Title: Hopkins Lake Park Expansion

Status: Closed

Year: 1996

Grant Amount: \$32,000

Project Description: To acquire 43 acres of land south of existing Hopkins Lake Recreation Area.

Current Status: The land has been purchased and serves as a passive recreation area.

Project No.: CM99-396



Project Title: Harmon Patridge Park Updates

Status: Closed

Year: 1999

Grant Amount: \$84,000

Project Description: Park improvements to include two pavilions, playscape, canoe landing, parking lot and trail.

Current Status: All improvements have been made and are in good repair. The trail will need some maintenance in the near future. The well onsite was compromised by sulfur in the groundwater and is no longer used.

Project No.: RP11-431

Project Title: Bentley Park Renovation

Status: Closed

Year: 2011

Grant Amount: \$29,300

Project Description: Park improvements including a new playscape structure, repairs to the tennis courts, seating, bathroom updates / renovations, and two splash pads

Current Status: Closed

Project No.: RP16-0089

Project Title: Curwood Castle Park Renovation

Status: Open

Year: 2016

Grant Amount: \$45,000

Project Description:

Current Status: In process

Accessibility Evaluation

The city of Owosso recognizes the importance of providing recreational opportunities to people with accessibility limitations. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the most recent update in 2010, all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs.

The following information addresses the accessibility of the city of Owosso parks and recreation facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A ranking for each park was based on the following scoring system, developed by the DNR, and each park score was determined through site visits as follows:

Grade	Definition
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 guideline
4	The entire park areas meet accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design



Park Name	Access Grade	Non-Compliant Facilities	Non-Compliant Approaches	Non-Compliant Parking Spaces	Compliance in Master Plan?
Collamer Park	2	Well; pavilion tables	Approach to West Side; pavilion; approach to well	West side parking area - two spaces, one to be vac accessible	Yes
Hugh Parker Soccer Field	3	Fence walk-thru; H/P picnic table	Approach to bridges; approach to pavilion	No accessible parking spaces marked; needs a van accessible space	Yes
James Miner Walkway	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rudy DeMuth Field	2	n/a	n/a	Designated parking spaces & van accessible spaces	Yes
Bennet Field	3	Bathrooms	n/a	Designated parking spaces & van accessible spaces	Yes
Bentley Park	3	Parking lot is uneven; H/P picnic table		Designated parking spaces & van accessible spaces	Yes
Rosevear Park	1	BMX park entrance	Toddler soccer fields require accessibility pathways	Designated parking spaces on Farr Street	Yes
Curwood Castle Park	3	Parking lot; sidewalks	slope from parking lot to street is too steep	Van accessible space is needed	Yes
Grove Holman Park	2	n/a	Access trail to playground	No van space and no space in proximity to playground	Yes
Harmon Patridge Park	3	H/P picnic table	n/a	Van space is non-compliant and in the wrong space	Yes
Adams Park	3	Pathway is needed to playground	Pathway	No drop-off space with curb ramp	Yes
Grand Avenue Park	3	Gate opening	No drop-off location with curb ramp		No
Fayette Square Park	3	Pathway	Pathways are too narrow	No accessible spaces marked at curb cut	Yes

Table 5: Accessibility Score

Comparison to Recreation Standards

The **Standards for Park Types** chart is an evaluation of parks standards by park types and shows a few pedestrian barriers and distance problems for some neighborhoods for certain park types, principally *playgrounds*. One underserved neighborhood representing 370 persons in a



145-home section low-income area east of Chestnut Street, south of M-21, north of the Grand Trunk Railway and west of Chipman Street and the GLC Railway. The aforementioned references to the state highway, two arterial streets, and two railways demonstrate the isolation.

Another underserved neighborhood, although smaller at 60 homes is east of Gould Street and north of M-71 (Corunna Avenue). The city-owned land at the former Oliver Foundry has an open field and *skate park* but the neighborhood is isolated from city and school playgrounds and parks. The city intends to move the skate park to Grove Holman Park.

Finally, the 110-dwelling unit neighborhood north of Corunna Avenue (State Hwy M-71) and between Washington Street and Gould Street with the GLC rail yard on the north boundary is quite isolated from safe walking to facilities that are not nearby. The Washington Street School playground via the Gould/Corunna walk signal is a ½ mile walk for children and exceeds the practical use standard of ¼ mile. The plan does not have a solution for this neighborhood except that a sidewalk approach to *Rudy DeMuth Fields* will take children to a small picnic area/play facility planned for that park.

The **Standards for Recreational Activity** chart in Exhibit L lists the types of facilities and their commonly held number per 1,000 residents. Except where noted on the chart, the per capita standard was measured against a user population of 16,000 persons. The Planning Commission altered the National Recreation and Parks Association Standards and those modifications are shown in a column on the charts. Notable findings from these charts include:

- Owosso's park system has about 100 acres of parkland above the NRPA standard. Ten acres of land at Collamer Park are sought to make the trial system and open space functional for the context.
- Ample surpluses are identified in playfields, playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, youth baseball fields, and play lots.
- Standards are met for an amphitheater, concession stands, cultural centers, roller blading facility, sledding hills, skate park (1/3 of a system), ice skating (highly seasonal), and softball.
- Deficiencies were noted in number of picnic tables/places, volleyball (1), walking trails (3 miles), bicycling trails (1 mile), campsites, restroom buildings, 2/3rds of a skate park facility, landscaping at many locations, and a canoe drop-off (1). Drinking water is routinely mentioned in surveys of park needs.

The Parks and Recreation Commission proceeded with an analysis of each park's particular qualities and applied improvements from a qualitative analysis as well as the response to the standards tables. For example at Bentley Park a perimeter exercise path surrounding the park is not a deficiency in the system but fits the park and the neighborhood. It also responds to the critical need for introducing more exercise opportunities for everyone.

Later sections of the Plan—The Five Year and Long-Term Capital Improvements Plans list the recommended facility improvements, the scheduling of those improvements and the park areas to receive them.



Understanding the make-up of the community from a city and regional standpoint sets the stage for parks and recreation planning. These categories are a useful way to understand the community for parks planning purposes: 1) population make-up; 2) the local economy; 3) community structure; 4) natural resource description; 5) climate; 6) regional character and; 7) history. The challenge in this description is to successfully relate these subject areas to substantive recommendations in the plan. For example a description of January and July temperatures is made easily enough, but what does one do with that information for parks and recreation? To offset that frequent shortcoming of community analysis, a list of impacts of each subject area on the plan will immediately follow each section. Plan recommendations will address the impacts.

Population Dynamics. The 2010 Census shows Owosso with a population of 15,194. Dynamics in demographics have shown that the 10-year gap in the Census effort yields significant trends and changes in the make-up of a community. Significant changes occur in the representative populations of age-groups. Educational attainment levels are rising. The most startling statistic is that the parks system serves less people than it did in 1970 but has grown significantly with acreage and facilities.

From a growth standpoint only, Owosso City's population has been relatively unchanged in over 50 years. The combination of the landlocked character and the decline in average family size has more than offset the apartment and subdivision developments that have occurred in the City since 1950. The 2000 population was 15,713. In 1950 Owosso's population was 15,948. The Shiawassee County area is projected to grow only 0.7% per year or 7% per decade.

Assuming fixed city boundaries, Owosso's population is not projected to grow through the year 2020; in fact, the 2010 census shows a decrease. As with Shiawassee County, the Mid-County population is projected to increase by 0.7% per year through 2020. Much of this growth will have urban character in the form of apartments, specialized housing and smaller lot subdivisions close to municipal services. In 1960 the other three government units of the Mid-County comprised 35% of the Mid-County population. Owosso is seeing an uptick in the number of residents in the downtown as housing developments occur through rehabbing of older, existing buildings. The demand for open space, recreation and recreational programs for 2,000 extra residents will become a policy issue on a Mid-County level in the next 15 years.

Another population trend that might affect parks and recreation is the relative no- growth character of the Mid-County with respect to advances elsewhere in Shiawassee County. The growth in southwest Shiawassee County is significant. In 1960 the Mid-County had 50% of the county's population within two of the 16 townships (Corunna and Owosso lie within the two townships). By 2020 the Mid-County will only represent 36% of the County's population. Other geographic areas of the County will become more urbanized and confront parks and recreation needs separate from past reliance on the Mid-County park facilities.

The conclusions about growth in this area are drawn from trends in:



- a reduction in commuter settlement trends of the past
- more productivity in industry with less employment in that sector
- no growth in government or influx of institutions
- no improvement in the highway linkages to interstates or metro-markets of Flint or Lansing
- no change in fertility
- out-migration of key age groups
- reductions in average family size

The projections are also based on a stable economy setting with adequate employment opportunities and improved skill-based educational opportunities. Graphically stated, Owosso's population is expected to be the same in the year 2020, perhaps smaller, than it was 70 years prior to that time. Changes that could alter those projections positively would involve boundary amendments, conversions to multi-family residential, growth in college dorm residency, and/or a change or growth in the economic base of the community for sectors other than industrial. Other descriptive elements of Owosso's population are helpful in forming the park plan. These are:

Age Distribution—The population in Shiawassee County and the Owosso area is proportionately aging. The County and Owosso areas are losing young adults aged 25 to 44, the family forming segment, because of lack of employment opportunities. There is a significant increase in empty nesters aged 45 to 64. There has been a decrease in the number of people under 18 years of age.

Owosso has a higher population rate in the 35 to 49 year range and 50 to 64 cohort with a lower representation for those 65 and older. These numbers indicate recreational programming needs to persist for youth and young families.

Housing Settings--The housing setting has seen the most dramatic difference. Single-person households have risen sharply since 1980. Three in ten households in the City have only one occupant. This is well above the county average of 20% and State average of 21%. Another phenomenon is that married couples without children have increased. Households with persons over 65 have increased. Owosso has also seen a sharp increase in the number of rental vs. owner occupied housing since the housing market crash in 2008.

This demographic summary indicates that there are special population characteristics that persuade an effort to offer some customized or targeted park improvements for the system. When combined with information on the economy, these characteristics assist in the development of special areas for parks and recreation.

Population and the Parks Plan. These points show the influence of population characteristics on the 2018 Plan:

- There is a higher representation of younger families that persuade the plan to feature walkways for strollers, youth playground equipment with benches, spray pools, youth recreation, and drinking water.



- The loss of the 20 to 24 year old population will affect organized league play for sports. This has already affected women's softball in the County where it is difficult to participate outside of church organizations.
- The number of persons working outside of the area persuades the parks plan to recognize time limitations and offer immediate recreational opportunity in the form of convenient places to walk or exercise.
- Regional population growth and the proportionately lesser acreage for parks and recreation will superimpose increased use for parks and organized recreational participation for citizens outside of the city. The plan will encourage a broadened sense of responsibility for parks and recreation for the Mid-County and County.
- The relatively higher elderly population focuses on sidewalks and neighborhood access to recreation. Handicapper parking accommodations and barrier free access rise in importance.

Economic Conditions. With the loss of so many manufacturing jobs in the Owosso area and the transfer to service sector employment, no aspect of the city and region has been analyzed more than the area economy. The vital signs are many and indicate that Owosso is not faring well.

These signs include:

- ✓ Chronic high unemployment rates.
- ✓ Vacant industrial buildings—almost 1,000,000 square feet in the city.
- ✓ Slower growth in property values and even decline in some price points.
- ✓ Relatively low per capita incomes and household incomes.
- ✓ Comparatively lower educational and skill levels of the adult population.
- ✓ Population decline in the family formation group that includes a net out-migration of the 20-40 year old educated workforce.

The reports on these indicators have caused local leaders, businesses and involved citizens to address the evolving make-up and well-being of the community.

Poverty and low-moderate income levels are a sign of household stress for maintaining shelter, health (a good diet), education, and transportation. Recreation and exercise may seem extravagant when compared to these needs; however, it has been demonstrated in the literature that an active life is critical for this population. *For a growing number of people who are unemployed or underemployed, the needs for self-esteem, peer group recognition, a desire to be successful, and excitement will be fulfilled in familial or leisure milieus or not at all.* The parks plan will address these areas of the city for their access to public parks and recreation programs.

The Area Economy. Under State of Michigan guidelines, the City of Owosso has been labeled an “eligible distressed area.” Unemployment rates are lower than the national rate, Owosso is



4.70% while the nation is at 5.20%. Jobs have slowly been returning to Owosso and new companies have moved to Owosso over the last two years.

With respect to property values, the commercial and industrial sector has declined in its share of the Owosso tax base. With the increase in jobs and companies relocating to Owosso, so have the number of tax incentives and abatements. While this spurs economic development on one side it does not support the tax base for service, such as park programs and improvements on the other side. Property taxes on development outside the city do not contribute to the city parks system. The downward trend connects with municipal revenues for city operations. City operations for the parks and recreation system, for both capital improvement plans and level of maintenance are adversely affected.

The county indicator of significance in terms of relative well-being is the high number of commuters who work out-of-county. In fact almost as much income is gained from out-of-county employment as is earned from in-county employment. Forty-six percent of workers living in the county commute elsewhere for work. These jobs are generally higher paying but most live east and south of Owosso to access the Flint and Lansing job markets. The trend has the side effect of conversion of rural farmland to countryside housing on large lots. The other trend has two outcomes affecting parks: 1) the lessening of time available for leisure pursuits in area parks, and; 2) a break in the traditional connection of the hinterland with the center city.

Local economic development strategies now turn to education and resultant knowledge economy jobs leading the area's resurgence. The knowledge economy employment sector leads to the service sector for growth. To gain workers in this sector, communities must offer a quality of life to be taken seriously for people with mobility and education.

The economy's impact on the park plan focuses on these park plan elements:

- There is a reduction in the five-year capital improvements schedule. This plan will be less ambitious about new park facilities than prior plans.
- The need for parks and recreation access increases for the unemployed and low income households. Maintaining park grounds and assuring equitable distribution of facilities rises in importance.
- Parks appearance, especially in visible high traffic zones, should recognize the importance of projecting the community in a favorable manner. Quality of life opportunities become more critical to community economic development strategies if knowledge-economy jobs are to increase.
- An increase in pooling of intergovernmental resources for parks must occur to offset declines in revenue sharing and tax base growth.

The Need for Preservation of Open Space. Owosso was first settled in 1837. The city began near small rapids of the Shiawassee River and initially served area agriculture. Rail service (1856) and industry soon developed in the mid to late 1800's and the city became a regional rail center. Settlement by lumber "barons" and early industrialists established many of the fine



historical homes, many of which are concentrated along Oliver Street. Owosso continued to grow as a free-standing service/industrial center throughout the 1900's. The commuter era that began in the late 1950's developed a stronger link between Owosso and the cities of Lansing, Saginaw, and Flint. Owosso and the mid-county communities have evolved as a micropolitan area without the sprawl development connecting those cities to Owosso. Another surge of industrial development and residential settlement happened in the recent era--this time mostly in township areas as Owosso's available development areas declined and older buildings were judged obsolete or unavailable. Today Owosso is landlocked, yet there is a historical commercial center and a well-maintained residential sector. Mid-county growth will be tempered by the absence of a four-way highway connector to the interstates but potentially offset with quality of life decisions to settle here for the emerging job sector that is not tied to traditional site selection parameters.

The 100 subdivision plats that compose the majority of Owosso's land division developed in piecemeal fashion and made no allowance for a coordinated, linked open space scheme. Even the original plat of the city retained only a small square (Fayette Square) that ultimately did not become the central square of downtown, but an open space area three blocks north of the heart of the downtown. The river's initial uses were for waterpower for grain mills, gray water supply, wastewater release, and grain transport.

The rail lines, older industrial areas, older neighborhoods and the Shiawassee River compose the setting for recreation and park development. These conditions explain the plan's emphasis on improvement of existing long-standing park areas and, reliance on school grounds and improved linkages as a park alternative for many sectors of the city.

Owosso's history has provided the community with a high regard for its past and preservation of character as well as structures. This value expresses itself in the maintenance of open spaces on home sites with tree-lined streets that give the city a park-like setting outside the boundaries of the city parks.

A history of recreation and parks in Owosso shows a strong attachment to baseball, softball and family picnic grounds. Most city parks were established in the early 1900's. Hopkins Lake and Hugh Parker Field are exceptions and examples of newer parks in the system. The more recent park concepts revolve around:

- linkages,
- a greenbelt along the river,
- an historic and cultural theme park,
- outsourcing recreational programming, and
- a regional passive use natural area park.

These have a shorter historic basis; however, they are budding fixtures of the system that have become the park history for this era. The history of the establishment of city parks is shown below:



<u>Name of Park</u>	<u>Year Established</u>
1) Fayette Square	1877
2) Rosevear Park	1892
3) Bennett Field	1904
4) Bentley Park	1915
5) Rudy DeMuth Ball Fields	1928
6) Harmon Patridge Park	1929
7) Curwood Castle Park	1944
8) Adams Park	1949-52
9) Grove Holman Park and Pool	1957
10) Grand Avenue Park	1962
11) Collamer Park	1968
12) River Walkway/Lions Club Park	1975/1985
13) Hugh Parker Field	1988-89
14) Amphitheater and Grounds (seasonal park)	1990

The relationship between history and this park plan has these following associations:

- The distribution of open space as it has evolved over time around the city is relatively even, but only when the school grounds are added to the evaluation. With exception to a few smaller neighborhoods, the system is quite equitable.
- Sidewalks and tree-lined streets in historic neighborhoods gives the city a park-like atmosphere and establishes preservation and improvement of neighborhoods as an end objective of the parks plan.
- Owosso's divided sectors from rail lines, the river and state highways offers a logistical challenge for tying recreational areas and circulation about the city.

The river continues to have historical land uses along its course that do not have an association with the river frontage and deter from its potential contribution to community open space.

The Planning Process

The city of Owosso Parks and Recreation Commission, along with city staff, had the primary responsibility for compiling the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The process of developing this document involved a great deal of research, analysis, and coordinating data collection from a variety of sources.

Staff began the process by reviewing the previous 5-Year Master Plan, which was used as a template for the current Plan. Due to work and investment in Owosso's parks since 2011, much of the information was no longer relevant and the Plan required significant updates. Staff conducted a review of existing physical conditions of parks within the city of Owosso. This review included visiting each site, taking photographs, and logging amenities.



Staff used reliable sources of data from the United States Census to perform an analysis of City demographics, population, and social and economic data. This information was used to evaluate recreation needs and opportunities compared to National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards. The NRPA standards may be found in Exhibit M.

With this information, the Parks and Recreation Commission met to review the Facilities Inventory sections of the Master Plan. The Commission also performed a preliminary review of the Goals and Objectives section of the Plan. With these processes underway, the Parks and Recreation Commission sought public input, creating a list of goals and objectives from public engagement sessions.

Public Input

The parks and recreation commission held monthly meetings from August, 2016 to January 2017 as a way of gathering public input regarding the parks system. Minutes of those meetings are attached in Exhibit N. City council has set a public hearing date of November 20, 2017 to meet the 30 day viewing window as required by the DNR. A resolution by the legislative body adopting the plan will also be attached following the public hearing. Copies of the draft document will be available at city hall, at the library, and will be posted on the city website for viewing during the 30 day process.

Goals and Objectives

The parks and recreation commission formulated these goals and objectives based upon the needs of the community and the input received during the course of several working sessions. The goals and objectives listed below represent a flexible tool that will guide where resources are focused on regarding park and recreation maintenance and development versus a ridged capital improvement schedule. This format will allow decisions to be made based on changing conditions and allow the community to take advantage of opportunities as they are presented.

Curwood Castle Park

1. Add bus parking along Curwood Castle Drive in front of the Castle along with additional barrier free parking spaces.
2. Establish a traveler's/visitors mini-lot with picnic facilities overlooking the Shiawassee River.
3. Continue with sidewalk and lighting program for the planned walkways.
4. Irrigate the castle grounds.
5. Acquire scenic easements to the west walls of the Matthew's Building and Armory and apply architectural treatment to assure compatible vistas from the park.
6. Plant evergreens on the east river bank of the middle school from the castle perspective.
7. Acquire the house at 408 Curwood Castle Drive to expand the park.
8. Work with landowners on Williams Street to maintain a vegetative cover for a scenic, erosion-free embankment on the river.



9. Reapply dry-vit surface to the amphitheater roof façade.
10. Update sidewalk to become ADA compliant
11. Install in-ground lighting along the sidewalk next to the river's edge.

Collamer Park

1. Do a study of Hopkins Lake and create a plan for restocking.
2. Install a new playground to replace the removed west side playground.
3. Develop an east side parking facility at the lakeshore with fishing pier to satisfy the needs of the trailhead and pier at the south end of Palmer Street. This could supplement parking for the use of the small pavilions.
4. A boat launch should be constructed.
5. Develop a potable water supply for the area near the dog park and community garden
6. Make the footbridge ADA accessible.

Maintenance Recommendation.

The parkland mowing scheme can be reduced through an edge mowing along roadsides and pathways while converting to twice a year mowing of meadow areas.

Harmon Partridge Park

1. The park is not in the city, although it has been annexed to the city. It would be an ideal destination for northwest Owosso neighborhoods if there were a footbridge/bicycle path to North Chipman and on to North Street. The city would need partnerships with other organizations and service clubs for funding of the footbridge.
2. Install park signage at M-52 and Getman Road.

Maintenance Recommendations.

Continued partnership with the Owosso Rotary Club to do the following:

1. Routine maintenance of the trail is required along with some repairs to sloped sections where wash-outs occur.
2. Trees planted by the Rotary club should be inventoried and replaced when trees die. The species must be adhered to in order to maintain compatibility with the interpretive map at the park.

Fayette Square

1. The park needs a sign at both the Washington/Oliver corner and the Park/Oliver corner. The sign material requires attention for compatibility for this historic district of Owosso.
2. The park plan recommends installing a trellis structure for an entryway to the park at Washington and Oliver Streets.
3. Develop a garden maintenance program.



Rudy DeMuth Field

1. Acquire and develop the school's bus garage area for parking (for football games as well), James Miner Walkway, and riverside landscaping.
2. Create a parking lot on a closed Oakwood Street with turnaround.
3. Eliminate parking between ball diamonds but maintain a gated service drive.
4. Improve drainage, if possible, for fields and add security lighting.
5. Apply some outfield fence landscaping for screening, baseball visibility.
6. Build a small tot lot in the south lot of the bus garage property.
7. Build a Gould Street gated entrance and north side parking lot if stadium parking needs are not met on #1 above.
8. Add a park sign at SE corner of Jerome and Oakwood Streets.
9. Install covered tables and benches [a pavilion has not been recommended for this park].

Bennett Field

1. Address the flow of water and drainage issues on the junior playing field and in the parking lots.
2. Place privacy partitions in bathrooms.
3. Plant evergreen screening clusters on south side of Bennett Field Drive to add to park-like atmosphere.
4. Designate extra area within park for additional 20-40 parking spaces.
5. Install park sign on a landscaped mound.

Bentley Park

1. A new sand volleyball court will be constructed.
2. Add a perimeter path to provide a surface for walking, jogging or running.

Grove Holman Park

1. This park is the former site of the community pool until its closing in 2005. In 2016, city council approved this park as the site for the future skate park.
2. The park has an existing building on site with bathrooms that will need updating. The building can double as a warming place in the winter.
3. Install park sign at SE corner of Hampton and Walnut Streets and on the corner of Hampton and M-52.

Hugh Parker Soccer Field

1. Continue partnering with the Owosso Rotary Club and other service clubs to receive grants to improve bathrooms, add a storage structure, and improve the playing field.
2. Establish a maintenance standard and implement it for the embankments along the Abrey Creek drain. Consider a meandering route alteration.



3. Consider adding permanent surface in the parking lot along Lincoln Avenue.

Rosevear Park

1. The park will have a natural plantings master plan with incremental efforts to implement the plan over a period of time.
2. Install a signed interpretive trail constructed with donations.
3. The drain culvert will be maintained (repaired) and guarded from accidental falls.
4. Consider a scenic overview, with sign, above the current access spot and clear an area to establish a visual presence on Farr Street.
5. Investigate the potential for a non-motorized path that can connect Rosevear to Collamer Park via the industrial park.
6. Add signage.
7. Investigate potential parking options at this park.
8. Improve the access to the park as well as rideability and connectivity.

Adams “Eagle Scout” Park

1. The park needs signage both at the park and near local intersections as a form of wayfinding from all four compass points.
2. There is a need to build a pavilion and place picnic tables.

Grand Avenue Field

None, leave as open space.

Park Linkages, River and Bike Systems Plan (Linear parks)

Unite the city on designated routes with clearly marked signs and maps.

1. Establish crossing of M-52 at Cass Street.
2. Create bikeway through school bus garage site.
3. Close Jerome Street and improve existing bikeway to 10' width.
4. Establish pedestrian/biking rail crossing in Westtown at Lynn Street and Lansing Street.
5. Intergovernmental efforts to apply major maintenance upgrade to James Miner Walkway.
6. Consider constructing Footbridges at the following locations:
 - a. City hall parking lot to Clinton Street
 - b. Water treatment plant grounds
 - c. Northwest Owosso from N. Chipman Street to Harmon Patridge Park
7. Participate and apply for the Safe Routes to School grant program to increase connectivity throughout Owosso from residential areas to schools.



8. Establish a trailhead in the city that connects to the Ionia trail, preferably in or near downtown. There is also a parcel that was acquired adjacent to the water treatment plant in 2011 that could be used.
9. Formal designation of National Water Trail.
10. Work with the Friends of the Shiawassee River to:
 - a. Install a barrier free landing site at Oakwood Avenue Bridge
 - b. Improve landing site at Owosso Middle School and designate as a Trailhead with appropriate signage.
 - c. Install kayak storage/locker system near trailhead to encourage through paddlers to access downtown service.

ACTION PROGRAM

This is the action plan for the parks. It shows how the city intends to meet or will work towards achieving projects and programs derived from the goals and objectives over the next five years. Individual projects that are greater in scope and cost will be described with an explanation as to how these will be accomplished. Three parks that are in the five-year plan will be detailed with special attention to the funding sources. It should be noted that the long-term CIP follows. Opportunities from dedicated private funding sources may accelerate implementation of long-term projects into the five-year program.

With the impetus of community surveys and the goals and objectives, the planning commission ranked the improvements from a long list of pending park facilities. The product of that effort begins with a chart of projects that details costs, and estimated year of improvement. Consistent with the goals statements of this plan, major maintenance items will be listed as capital improvements.

Together with trail system and sidewalk improvements, there are three parks that will undergo major renovations in this order: Rudy DeMuth Field, Collamer Park and Curwood Castle Park. The planning commission preferences identified individual improvements in the parks but later grouped them with a strategy for comprehensive approaches to individual parks for a greater opportunity for outside funding assistance.

The years given for improvements are based on current information. These timeframes, costs, and work scope can change due to future circumstances.

Park maintenance is fundamental to an evaluation of undertaking a park improvement. The new facilities must carry with them an understanding of the responsibilities that are created for their care. Routine maintenance, ordinary repairs, vandalism repairs, outworn facility replacement, mowing, water supply monitoring, trash removal, trail maintenance, and snow removal all raise concerns about the city's capacity to have the park system proposed for this



plan. Grant applications to the State of Michigan must address the city's capacity to operate and care for the new facilities that the state funds.

This plan organizes four approaches to the maintenance challenge:

1. A scan for maintenance efficiencies in the existing system;
 2. Examination of the organizational set-up for maintenance and list of suggested improvements;
 3. Description of the maintenance impact for those facilities in the 5-year plan that will have a maintenance impact; and
 4. Definition of partners for future maintenance of the system or key facilities of the system.
1. Maintenance improvements for existing facilities:
 - a) Change the mowing plans from several locations that can be designated as 'meadow' and stop regular mowing in favor of twice yearly high grass mowing.
 - b) Develop a volunteer base with volunteer leadership and volunteer workers to care for special park areas such as Curwood Castle Park and Harmon Patridge Park and facilities, especially the trail systems.
 - c) Investigate the advantages of competitive bid contracting for maintenance duties.
 2. Examine the organizational format for maintenance and re-organize to more effectively and efficiently manage the duties. The City Managers has consolidated engineering services under one supervising engineer with a public works superintendent assigned the duties of parks administration. Parks planning and grants administration will continue in the Department of Community Development.
 3. Describe the maintenance impact of key improvements in the 5-year plan.
 - a) *The Voight Loop Trail.* The trail requires an annual 20 to 30 hourly increase for city maintenance workers. The nature of the work should be transferred to the volunteer group.
 - b) *Rudy DeMuth Field Upgrades.* Parking lots (cleaning), canoe launch, picnic area cleaning, mowing of picnic area adds about 15 hours per year to this park.
 - c) *Collamer Park Upgrades.* The new events pavilion adds 20 hours per year for cleaning and trash removal for summer help and potentially the volunteer group. The trails represent 60 hours per year in maintenance for the volunteer group or an organization established especially for this trail system.
 - d) *Curwood Castle Park.* The picnic area at M-52 creates 20 hours of work annually, some of which is seasonal part-time workers or the volunteer group.
 - e) *River Walkway from Museum to Footbridge.* The DDA will maintain this upgrade.



4. Define partners for future maintenance of the system or key facilities of the system.

The most compelling goal of the plan calls for a regional parks system where the citizens and businesses of the mid-county take care of the parks through their respective government bodies. The reorganization can also involve maintenance and programming improvements. Throughout the State of Michigan there are increasingly greater numbers of cooperative schemes, including the nearby Fenton area and Grand Blanc area coalitions. State enabling legislation is in place for this park-saving initiative.



EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A: Promoting Active Communities Assessment

**Promoting Active Communities Program Report for
Owosso city**

October, 2014

Introduction & Overview

Thank you for taking the time and effort to submit this year's self-assessment related to how your community supports physical activity. People cannot be physically active unless there are safe, convenient opportunities for activity. Studies have shown that community design can influence physical activity levels, both positively and negatively.

The Promoting Active Communities Self-Assessment Tool and associated Award recognize communities that have made a commitment to become healthier places to live. Taking a look at your community is the first step toward making it easier for people to be active. The Promoting Active Communities Program began in 2000, with just a handful of community participants. The first year the self-assessment could be completed online was in 2003. In 2006, a new and more extensive online Promoting Active Communities assessment was launched. This year, your community is one of **18** community participants.

This report provides a summary of your responses and compares your results with those of other communities. The chart below offers information on the number of this year's participants categorized by community size (number of residents): small, medium and large.

Number of Applicants by Community Size

Community Size	Criteria	Total Submissions
Small	<10,000 residents	9
Medium	10,000 to 60,000 residents	8
Large	>60,000 residents	1

Summary Information About Your Community

Name/Title of Community Contact: Susan Montenegro, Asst. City Manager

Population (Census): 15,713

Median Household Income: \$ 36,668

Total Area: 5 square miles

Type of Community: City

Date of Final Submission: 7/15/2014

Award Achievement Level: Silver

Your Award Level Description: Communities at the Silver Level have achieved significant progress toward making it easy for people to be active.

There are three key components that are essential for a comprehensive approach to create and maintain an active living community.

1. **Current environment of your community:** The infrastructure your community has in place that supports active living. Examples of the current environment include existing sidewalks, bike paths and bike facilities, and the design of your downtown or shopping areas.
2. **Policies and planning:** Your community's commitment to creating an active living community as reflected in the written policies and plans, as well as the funding your community has in place. Examples of the policies and planning component include zoning ordinances and how various community master plans address active living concepts.
3. **Programming and promotion:** The programs and events your community offers that promote and encourage physical activity at work, school and community-wide.

About the Award Levels

To determine your award level designation, all three of the above components are considered. Your percent of total score as well as percent score in each of the three key components are used to determine your award level.

Award Level	% of Points	Award Level Description
Platinum	90% or more of maximum total points AND 90% or more of points in each key component area	Communities at the Platinum Level are models of commitment to healthy, active living.
Gold	75% to 89% of maximum total points AND 70% or more of points in each key component area	Communities at the Gold Level can document outstanding achievements in making it easy for people to be active.
Silver	60% to 74% of maximum total points AND 50% or more of points in each key component area	Communities at the Silver Level have achieved significant progress toward making it easy for people to be active.
Bronze	45% to 59% of maximum total points	Communities at the Bronze

	AND 30% or more of points in each key component area	Level have taken significant steps toward making it easy for people to be active.
Copper	30% to 44% of maximum total points AND 25% or more of points in each key component area	Communities at the Copper Level have made a commitment to becoming a healthier place to live and have begun to take steps toward removing barriers to physical activity.

Feedback About Your Scores On the Key Components. Your score in each of the three key components along with a comparison to other communities that completed the PAC assessment this year appear below.

Category	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Community Policies and Planning	90.2	127	71.1 %	60.1 %	60 %	43.9 %
Programming & Promotion	59	96	61.5 %	58.5 %	63.6 %	55.7 %
Current Environment	112.9	136	83 %	67.6 %	69.1 %	60.2 %

Feedback About Your Complete Streets Score

Your complete streets score is 51.75 points out of 66.5 or 77.8 %. To learn more about this score, [click here](#).

Section by Section Feedback

Although the award level determination was based on the key components, the sections of the assessment were organized by topic to assist communities in collecting and entering community data. Looking at your section and subsection scores may also help you identify strengths as well as areas that might be improved. We have also provided information on how each section relates to the three key components of an active community.

Section 1 Feedback — Community Planning

All the questions in Section 1 contribute to your Policies & Planning score. To create and sustain an active community, it is necessary to have written plans and policies in place that will support an active living environment.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 1	32.5	51	63.7%	70.6%	66.7%	92.2%
Community Commitment to Active Living	2	2	100%	61.1%	81.2%	100%
Community Planning Documents	13.5	25	54%	72.9%	66%	100%
Government Support for Active Living	17	20	85%	74.2%	70.3%	97.5%
Complete Streets Policy & Responsibility	0	4	0%	43.1%	45.3%	12.5%

Section 2 Feedback — Ordinances, Zoning and Codes

All the questions in Section 2 contribute to your Policies & Planning score. Municipal ordinances and zoning codes can “set the stage” for communities by creating guidelines to ensure community design that supports active living.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 2	44	58	75.9%	58.1%	57.9%	13.4%
Zoning	9.5	12	79.2%	51.4%	55.7%	31.2%
Sidewalks	21	21	100%	65.6%	61.3%	4.8%
Street Trees	0	2	0%	55.6%	56.2%	0%
Redevelopment	1	1	100%	33.3%	37.5%	100%
Connectivity	4	6	66.7%	57.4%	60.4%	0%
Dogs	1	1	100%	100%	100%	50%
Crossing Areas	6	7	85.7%	47.6%	55.4%	0%
Parking Standards	1.5	7	21.4%	60.3%	51.8%	21.4%
Access Management	0	1	0%	33.3%	37.5%	0%

Section 3 Feedback — New Community Development

All the questions in Section 3 contribute to your Policies & Planning score. Local governments review proposed development plans to ensure that the proposed land use or activity complies with municipal ordinances and zoning codes, as well as the community’s character.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 3	13.8	18	76.4%	36.9%	48.3%	5.6%

Section 4 Feedback — Maintenance

All the questions in Section 4 contribute to your Current Environment score. To encourage community residents to participate in active living, regular maintenance of pedestrian, bicycle, and recreation facilities must be sustained. Safe and accessible sidewalks, bike lanes, and shared-use paths will be inviting to residents and motivate them to incorporate physical activity into their daily routines.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 4	12	14	85.7%	75%	75.4%	39.3%

Section 5 Feedback — Programs, Promotions and Facilities for Physical Activity

The questions in the Programming & Promotion subsection contribute to your Programming & Promotion score, whereas the remaining subsections contribute to your Current Environment score. Creating space for residents to be recreationally active is an important component of a healthy community. Programs and promotion are important to encourage use of such places. Furthermore, giving residents equal access to parks, shared-use trails, sports facilities, and programs that encourage active living will ensure that all residents have the opportunity to participate in physical activity and learn about the benefits of active living.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 5	37.5	49	76.5%	81.4%	76.7%	61.2%
Programming & Promotion	15	23	65.2%	87.9%	74.7%	78.3%
Recreation Facilities	10	13	76.9%	75.2%	79.8%	15.4%
Parks	6.5	7	92.9%	95.2%	82.6%	85.7%
Trails/Shared-Use Path	6	6	100%	53.7%	70.8%	66.7%

Section 6 Feedback — Safety and Security Policies and Education

All the questions in Section 6 contribute to your Programming & Promotion score. Safety and security are essential precursors for physical activity. Residents must be confident that they will not feel threatened or come to physical harm while they are being physically active in their community.

Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
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Total Section 6	11	13	84.6%	84.6%	85.6%	30.8%
Education	1	2	50%	83.3%	62.5%	100%
Injury Prevention	1	2	50%	69.4%	68.8%	0%
Security From Crime	9	9	100%	88.3%	94.4%	22.2%

Section 7 Feedback — Bicycle Facilities

All except one of the questions in Section 7 contribute to your Current Environment score; the other contributes to the Programming & Promotion score. Having adequate bicycle facilities (e.g., bike lanes or bike racks) and related programs/promotions will make bicycling a safer and more enjoyable activity for residents. Without such facilities, few will choose this healthy mode of transportation and recreation.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 7	10	13	76.9%	32.1%	46.6%	38.5%

Section 8 Feedback — Public Transportation

All the questions in Section 8 contribute to your Current Environment score. A public transportation network is an important component of active living because it can reduce traffic congestion that makes walking and biking challenging. It can also encourage walking between transit stops and destinations, and accommodate residents traveling with bicycles.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 8	19	19	100%	42.7%	55.3%	73.7%

Section 9 Feedback — Downtown*

All the questions in Section 9 contribute to your Current Environment score. Downtowns that are designed for higher density and mixed-use tend to be more amenable to active living. Locating attractions close together encourages residents to walk or bike between destinations. Higher density also means that there are more “eyes on the street” to make people feel safe when they are out in the community.

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 9	32	36	88.9%	79.4%	79.3%	74.3%
Presence of Downtown	5	5	100%	100%	100%	100%

Mixed Land Use & Accessibility	10.5	13	80.8%	70.1%	72.1%	73.1%
Sidewalks	6	6	100%	86.6%	84.4%	66.7%
Crosswalks	3.2	4	81.2%	75%	66.4%	50%
Streetscape	3.5	4	87.5%	80.6%	75.8%	87.5%
Lighting	1	1	100%	88.9%	87.5%	50%
Parking	1.8	2	87.5%	58.3%	76.6%	75%
Crime	1	1	100%	100%	100%	75%

*Note: Not all communities have a downtown area. Therefore, the average scores for the small, medium and large communities for this section are comprised only of those communities that have a downtown.

Section 10 Feedback — Shopping Areas*

All the questions in Section 10 contribute to your Current Environment score. Designing shopping areas near residential neighborhoods with connected sidewalks, adequate lighting, and traffic safety measures will make walking or bicycling to the store a more safe and pleasant experience. It also means more residents have access to these shops.

- Name of Shopping Area: M-21 Commercial Area
- Type of Shopping Area: Other, please describe

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 10	12.5	15	83.3%	62.6%	64.3%	
Accessibility	2.5	3	83.3%	78.6%	76.2%	
Sidewalks	3	3	100%	81%	76.2%	
Streetscape	1.8	2	87.5%	58.9%	55.4%	
Lighting	1	1	100%	85.7%	92.9%	
Crosswalks & Traffic	3	4	75%	57.1%	53.6%	
Parking	1.2	2	62.5%	14.3%	44.6%	

*Note: Not all communities have a shopping area. Therefore, the average scores for the small, medium and large communities for this section are comprised only of those communities that have a shopping area.

Section 11 Feedback — Schools

All the questions in Section 11 contribute to your Programming & Promotion score. In this

section, you were asked to assess one elementary school in your community. Encouraging children to walk or bicycle to school is one step in building a life-long habit of incorporating physical activity into daily routines. Providing quality physical education and other physical activity opportunities helps ensure that children are able to be active on a regular basis.

- Name of School: Bryant Elementary
- School Enrollment: 506
- Number of Students who live:
 - Within one mile of school: 175
 - Within two miles of school: 220

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 11	12	22	54.5%	57.2%	57.2%	65.9%
Healthy School Action School	0	1	0%	22.2%	12.5%	100%
Safe Routes to School	4	10	40%	62.5%	54.1%	70%
Physical Education	4	5	80%	46.7%	65%	50%
Other Physical Activity Opportunities	2	3	66.7%	77.8%	68.8%	66.7%
Physical Activity Policies	2	3	66.7%	48.1%	58.3%	66.7%

Section 12 Feedback — Neighborhoods

Most of the questions in Section 12 address the Current Environment, but some, such as the recreation questions, contribute to your Programming & Promotion score. In this section, you were asked to assess one community neighborhood that had an income level below the median household income level for your community. Neighborhoods that are proximate to places for activities, shopping, and services and designed with connected networks of sidewalks and roads will allow residents to choose active transportation for enjoyment or purpose-driven trips.

- Name of Neighborhood: Bryant Elementary

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 12	9.9	21	47.2%	65.3%	60.6%	58.8%
Services Nearby	1.8	4	45.5%	58.8%	65.5%	67%
Access to Services	1.3	2	66.7%	70.4%	65.6%	66.7%

Streets in Neighborhood	1	2	50%	92.6%	52.1%	66.7%
Places for Walking	1.3	2	66.7%	88.9%	81.2%	83.3%
Neighborhood Surroundings	0.8	2	37.5%	73.6%	59.4%	62.5%
Neighborhood Safety - Pedestrian and Bike	1	2	50%	79.6%	69.8%	66.7%
Neighborhood Safety - Crime Rate	0.7	2	33.3%	100%	81.2%	50%
Neighborhood Safety - Crime Prevention	2	3	66.7%	18.5%	33.3%	66.7%
Recreation	0	2	0%	5.6%	37.5%	0%

Section 13 Feedback — Worksites

All of the questions in Section 13 contribute to your Programming & Promotion score. In this section, you were asked to assess physical activity opportunities offered to public employees and opportunities offered by a private employer. The private employer must be within the geographic boundaries of the community and ideally employ a large number of community residents. Encouraging community residents to walk or bike to work is one way to build a habit of incorporating physical activity into daily routines. Having a worksite environment equipped to support and encourage physical activity is also important.

- Name of Private Employer: Memorial Healthcare
- Number of Employees: 500 or more

	Your Score	Maximum Possible Score	Your % of Possible	Average % - Small Communities	Average % - Medium Communities	Average % - Large Communities
Total Section 13	16	30	53.3%	36.3%	53.8%	46.7%
Private Worksite Promotion of Physical Activity	9	15	60%	37.8%	55%	73.3%
Promotion of Physical Activity for Public Employees	7	15	46.7%	34.8%	52.5%	20%

Section 14 — Summary and Next Steps

Although there are no points associated with Section 14, the required questions are important. Each is asked to consider recent accomplishments and set realistic goals based on current assets.

Your community’s accomplishments and strengths include the following:

- Most significant accomplishments in the past year for promoting/encouraging walking

Raising community awareness of events such as Girls on the Run, Owosso Glow 5K, and the Memorial Healthcare 5K. Starting the SR2S program and educating kids and parents on the benefits of biking/walking to school.

- Most significant accomplishments in the past year for promoting/encouraging bicycling

Weekly bike trips averaging 18 miles for families. P.A.L.M with over 800 cyclists riding through our community and the Assenmacher coming through town! Starting the SR2S program and educating kids and parents on the benefits of biking/walking to school.

- Most significant accomplishments in the past year for promoting/encouraging recreation

Continued work on the CIS trail connecting a 125 mile biking loop from Alma to Owosso. Starting the Owosso Glow 5K and having a great turnout!

- The three most important things about your community that make it easy for residents to be active or encourage residents to be active
 1. Having the YMCA available with running, biking and walking groups.
 2. Enhanced river trail with signage.
 3. Owosso is a safe town with a low crime rate.

Three changes you identified that your community could realistically make in the next one to two years that would make it easier for people to be active and/or would encourage residents to be active:

1. Hold biking awareness/education for cyclists and drivers.
2. Stripe more roadways to incorporate biking and increase driver awareness of bikers on the roadways.
3. Continue installing bike racks throughout town.

Three changes you identified that your community could realistically make in the next three to five years that would make it easier for people to be active and/or would encourage residents to be active:

1. Add striped bike lanes.
2. Increase number of sidewalks, crossings and bike paths around Bryant School.
3. Creating a biking/trail policy.

We commend your community for conducting this in-depth self-assessment. You have taken a very important step toward making it easier for your citizens to lead healthier lives. If you would like to talk with someone about approaches to make your community even more activity-friendly, please contact Sarah Panken at the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness at 800-434-8642, slpanken@michiganfitness.org.

EXHIBIT B: Park Facilities Chart

PARK FACILITIES - CITY OF OWOSSO PARKS

FACILITY	PARK NAME												
	CURWOOD CASTLE	COLLAMER PARK	BENTLEY PARK	BENNETT FIELD	ROSEV' / HUGH PARKER	RUDY DEMUTH FIELD	HARMON PATRIDGE	GROVE HOLMAN	FAYETTE SQUARE	GRAND AVENUE	MEMORIAL PARK	RIVER WALKWAY	
Basketball Courts			X										
Tennis			X										
Volleyball		X											
Baseball - Youth						X				X*	X*		
Softball - Adult				X						X*	X*		
Softball - Youth				X						X*	X*		
Soccer					X					X*	X*		
Soccer Playgrounds			X				X				X		
Sledding Hill							X		X				
Splash Pad			X										
Trails - Bicycling					X							X	
Trails - Hiking / Jogging			X				X					X	
Picnic Areas			X	X	X		X					X	
Pavilions			X	X	X		X						
Public Rest Rooms**			X	X	X		X						
Amphitheater/Gazebo	X			X									
Fishing/Water Frontage	X	X					X					X	
Canoeing Drop-off/Pick-up	X						X					X	
Concession Stand							X						
Cultural Center/Historic	X								X				
Special Landscaping	X						X		X			X	
Urban Forests		X			X		X					X	
Playfield	X			X		X	X			X	X*		
BBQ Grills		X		X		X							
Drinking Water				X			X						
Parking	X		X	X			X		X-paved			X	
Ice Skating/Skate Park				X-paved					X-paved				
Park Benches	X	X			X				X		X		
Bleachers					X								
Park Entrance Signs		X		X		X		X					

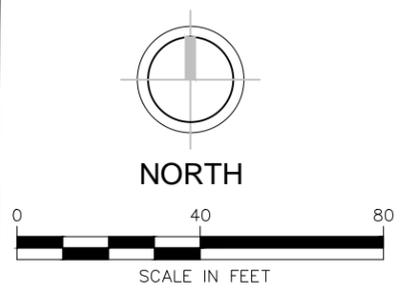
*No League Play: Practice and "Sandlot" games
 **Port-A-Johns are provided in all parks with recreational programming and pavilions.

EXHIBIT C: Parking Lot conceptual drawing— Curwood Castle Drive



PARKING LAYOUT OPTION #4

CLOSING BRADLEY STREET
 YIELD: 54 - STANDARD SPACES
 33 GRASS OVERFLOW SPACES
 5 DIAGONAL STREET SPACES
 6 ADA ACCESSIBLE SPACES



THE EXISTING FEATURES SHOWN ON THIS LAYOUT WERE TAKEN FROM A TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY BY LANDMARK SURVEYING PROVIDED ON 4-30-14 AND FROM GOOGLE AERIAL IMAGERY.

CITY OF OWOSSO
 DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (DIG) - PART 1

CURWOOD / BRADLEY
 PARKING LOT
 MAY 6, 2014 818848

EXHIBIT D: Hopkins Lake Trail Map

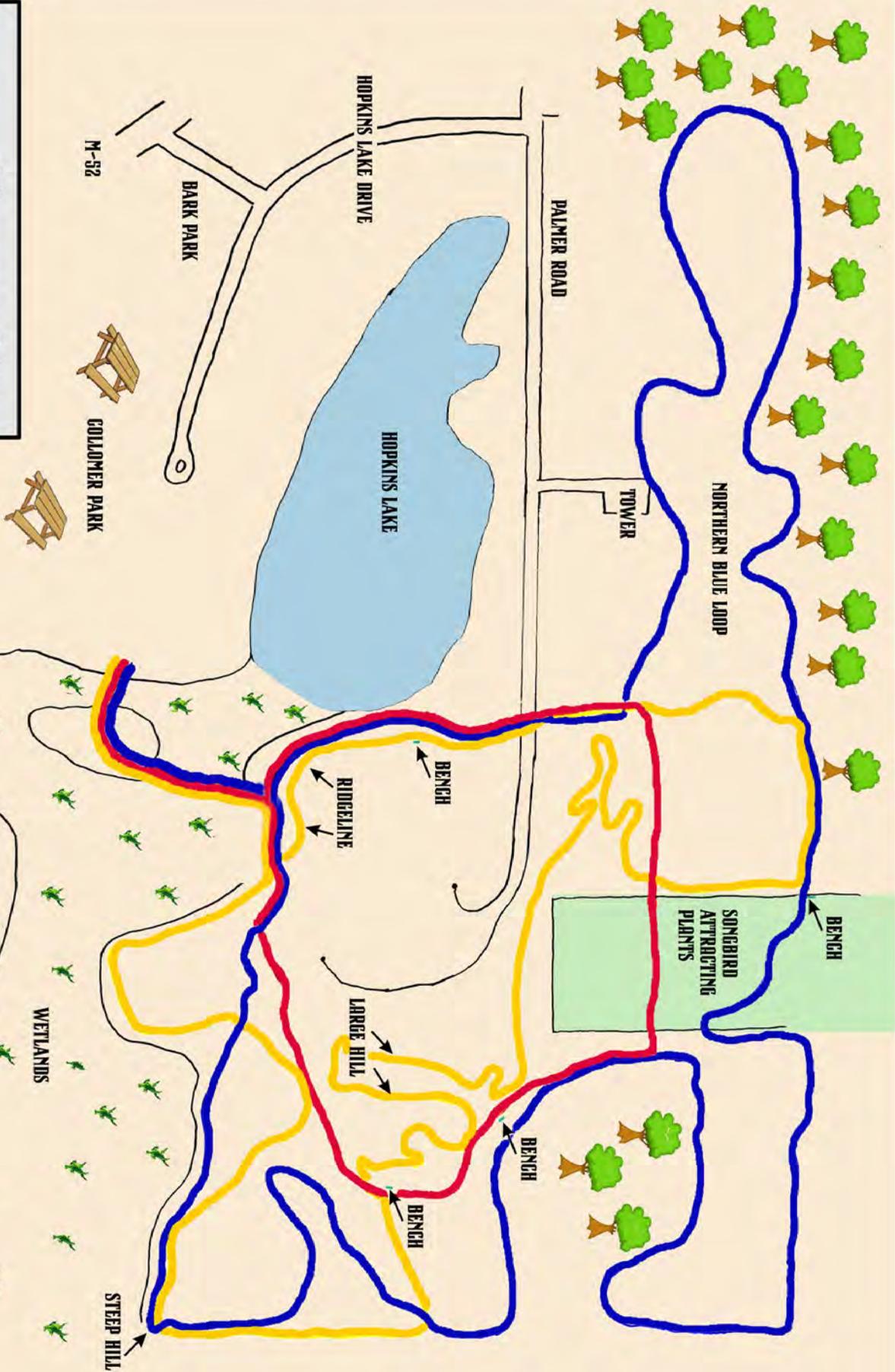


Kewanee Trails

RED EAGLE LOOP 1.5 MILES (BEGINNER)

BLUE 3 MILES (INTERMEDIATE)

YELLOW 2 MILES (DIFFICULT)



Ryan Comrie - Troop 420 Eagle Project 2012

EXHIBIT E: Fayette Square Garden Map

SITE PLAN FAYETTE SQUARE GARDENS

A Partnership with the Owosso
Master Gardener's Association

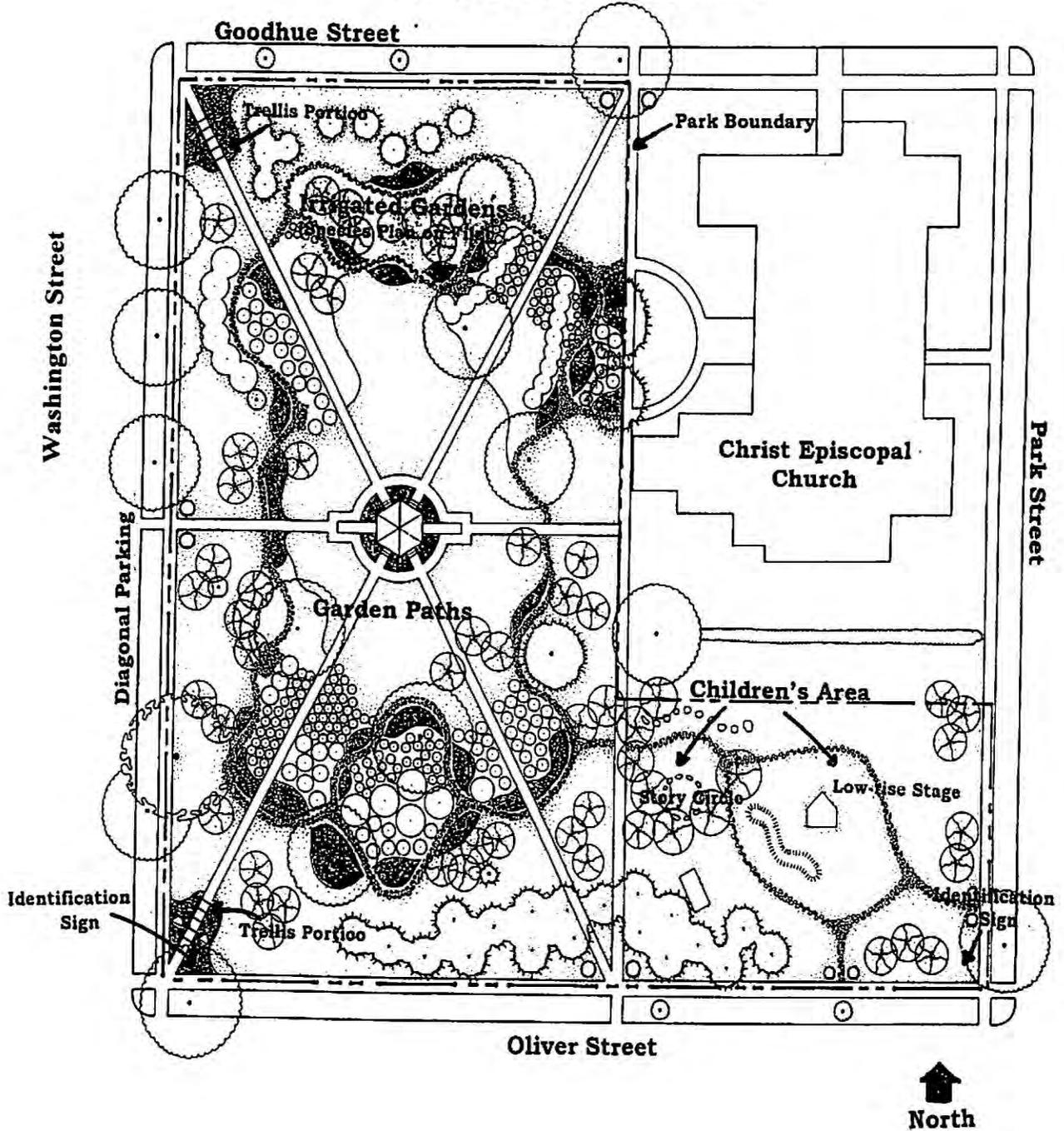


EXHIBIT F: Rudy DeMuth Site Plan



PREPARED BY
ROWE INCORPORATED
 CORPORATE OFFICE
 125 N. Sibley St.
 (989) 241-7500
 (989) 864-6411
 MT. PLEASANT
 (989) 779-3138

DATE: NOVEMBER 2005
 PROJECT NAME: DAS
 SCALE: 1"=80'

PREPARED FOR
CITY OF OWOSSO
RUDY DEMUTH FIELD IMPROVEMENT
 MASTER PLAN

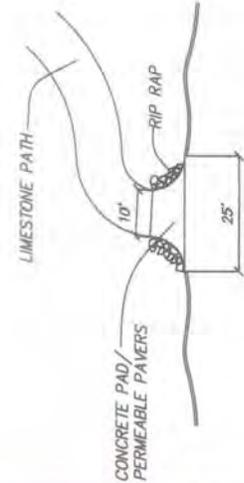
ROWE
 CONSULTANTS

REV: _____
 SHEET# 1 OF 1
 Cool File:



LEGEND

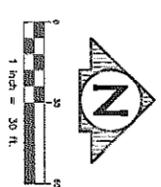
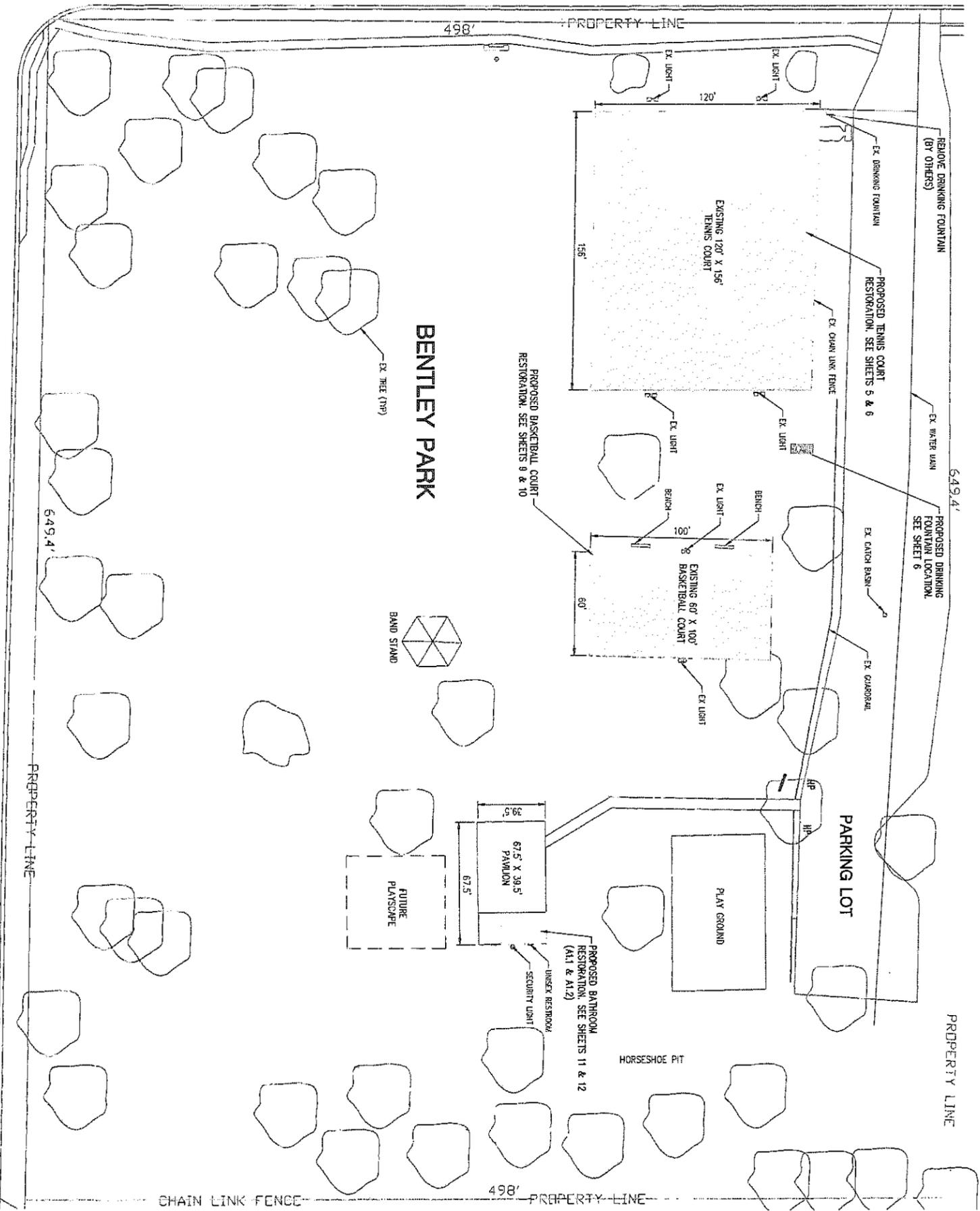
- PROPOSED LANDSCAPE/BUFFER
- EXISTING VEGETATION
- PARK BOUNDARY



CANOE LAUNCH DETAIL N.T.S.

EXHIBIT G: Bentley Park Playscape Site Plan

SHIAWASSEE STREET (M-52)



REVISIONS	
NO.	DATE

3 WORKING DAYS
BEFORE YOU DIG
CALL MISS DIG
1-800-482-7171
FOR THE LOCATION OF
UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

PREPARED FOR
CITY OF OWOSSO
BENTLEY PARK IMPROVEMENTS
BASE BID
SITE MAP

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY
The ROWE Building
540 S. Saginaw St., Ste. 200; P. O. Box 3748
Flint, MI 48502
O: (810) 341-7500
F: (810) 341-7573
www.rowepsc.com

PLAN DATE: DECEMBER 2012
PROJECT MGR.: LPF
REVIEWER: JTW
SCALE: 1" = 30'

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

REV: SHIT# 2 OF 14
JOB No. 1200194

PLO1RDS 12/15/2012 11:22 AM R:\Projects\1200194\Drawings\Owosso Bentley Park.dwg

EXHIBIT H: Grove Holman Skate Park plan



OWOSSO
SKATEPARK
CITY OF OWOSSO, MI

SKATEPARK DESIGN BY
SPOHN RANCH
© CONCEPT 2016

EXHIBIT I: Hugh Parker Soccer Field Site Plan

HUGH PARKER SOCCER COMPLEX

- Field 1 - U6 (4 v 4 - 5 v 5)
- Field 2 - U13+ (11 v 11)
- Field 3 - U10 (7 v 7)
- Field 4 - U10 (7 v 7)
- Field 4B - U10 (7 v 7)
- Field 5 - U12 (9 v 9)
- Field 6 - U6 (4 v 4 - 5 v 5)
- Field 7 - U8 (4 v 4 - 6 v 6)
- Field 8 - U8 (4 v 4 - 6 v 6)

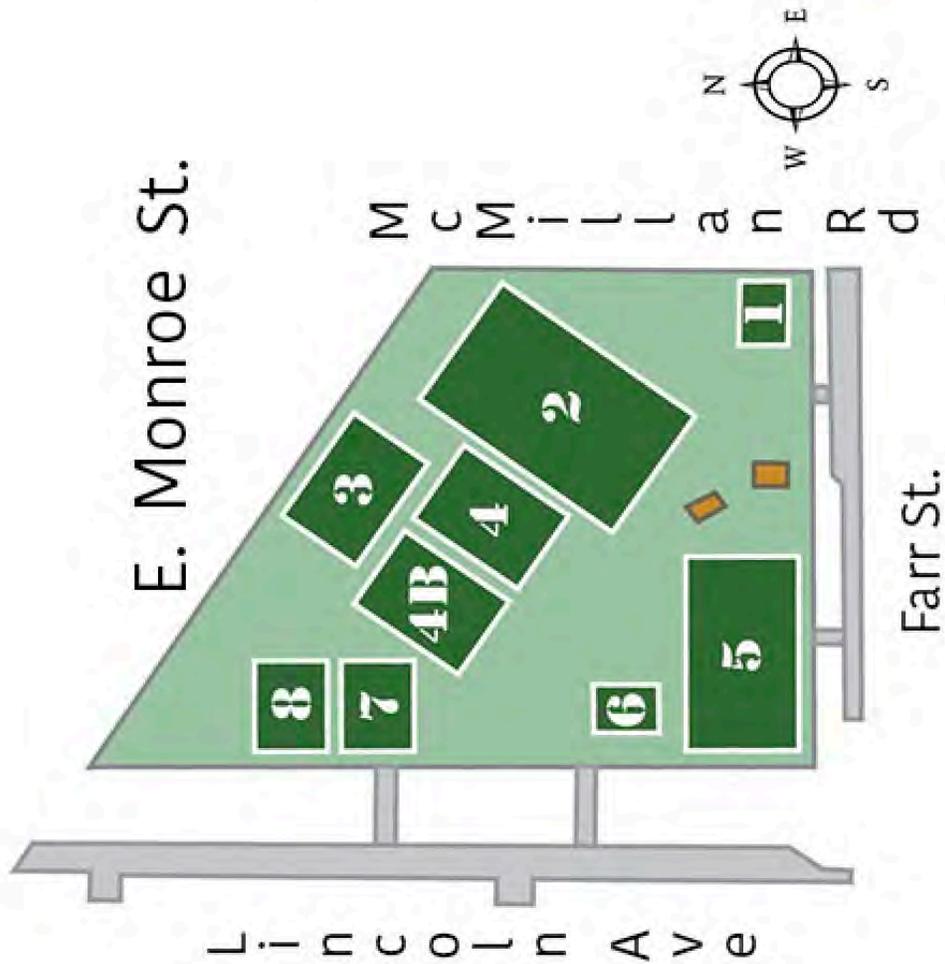


EXHIBIT J: James S. Miner Trail and Voight Loop Map

James S. Miner River Trail

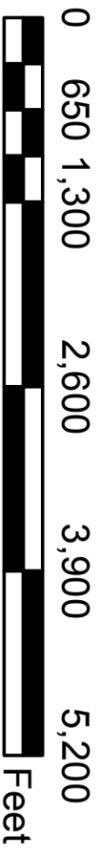


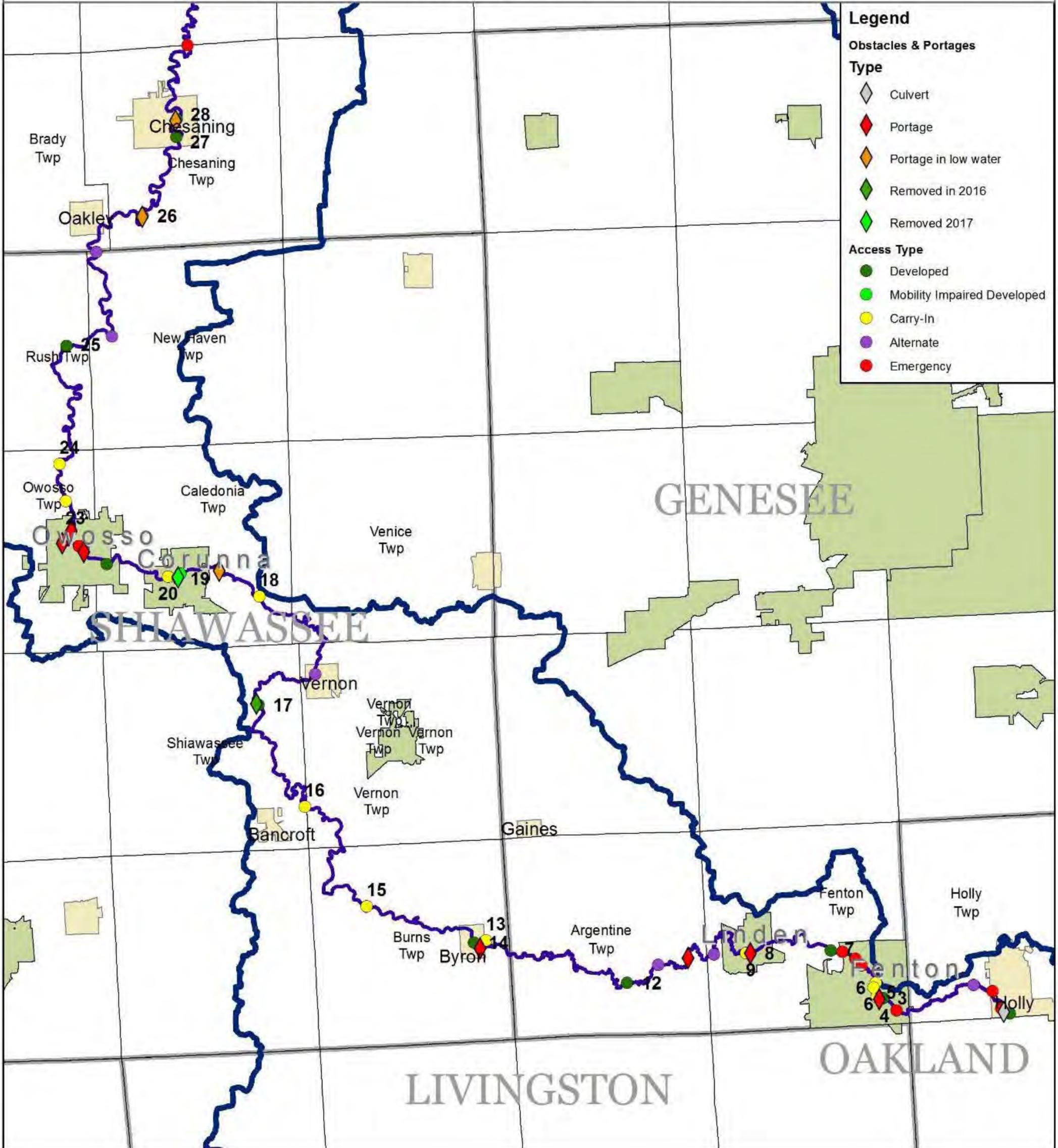
EXHIBIT K: Shiawassee River National Water Trail

Shiawasse River National Water Trail



0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles

Map produced by University Outreach, University of Michigan-Flint
 Funding support provided by the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network



Legend

Obstacles & Portages

Type

- ◊ Culvert
- ◊ Portage
- ◊ Portage in low water
- ◊ Removed in 2016
- ◊ Removed 2017

Access Type

- Developed
- Mobility Impaired Developed
- Carry-In
- Alternate
- Emergency

EXHIBIT L: Standards for Recreational Activity

STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY/FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF OWOSSO PARK SYSTEM (Page 1 of 2)
[National Recreation and Parks Association Standards]

By Activity/Facility	Space Requirements	Service Radius	Per Capita Standard	Existing in Owosso ¹	Owosso Standard	Surplus (Deficiency)
1) Badminton (or game courts)	1,620 sq. ft.	1/4-1/2 mile	1 per 5,000	0	0	0
2) Basketball (Outdoors)	5,040-7,208 sq. ft.	1/4-1/2 mile	1 per 5,000	8	4	4
3) Handball/Raquetball/3-walls	1,000 sq. ft.	15-30 minutes	1 per 20,000	0	0	0
4) Tennis	7,200 sq. ft. per court	1/4-1/2 mile	1 court per 2,000	11	8	3
5) Volleyball	4,000 sq. ft.	1/4-1/2 mile	1 court per 5,000	2	3	(1)
6) Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft.	1/2 hour	1 per 30,000	0	0	0
7) Roller Blading Rink	12,375 sq. ft.	1/2 hour	1 per 30,000	0	0	0
8) Skate Park	11,000 sq. ft.	1/2 hour	1 per 30,000	1/3 System	1	(2/3rds System)
9) Baseball (youth/Little League)	1.2 acres	1/2 mile	1 per 5,000	6	4	2
10) Softballs A. Adult	2 Acres	1/4-1/2 mile	1 per 5,000	2	2	0
10) Softballs A. Youth	1 Acre	1/4-1/2 mile	1 per 5,000	3	3	0
11) Football	1.5 Acres	15-30 minutes	1 per 20,000	1	1	0
12) Soccer	1.7-2.0 Acres	1-2 miles	1 per 10,000	6	5	1
13) Playgrounds	4,000 sq. ft.	1/4 mile	1 per 3,000	13	6	7
14) Swimming/Spray Pools	2 Acres	15-30 minutes	1 per 20,000	1	1	0
15) Sledding Hill	5 Acres	15-30 minutes	1 per 40,000	2	2	0
16) Natural Ice Skating Area Pond	Pond	15-30 minutes	1 per 20,000	1	1	0
17) Trails A. Bicycle/Jogging	5 miles	30 minutes	1 per 40,000	4 miles	5	(1 mile) ⁴
17) Trails B. Walking/Nature/Skiing	Regional	30 minutes	1 Mile per 5,000	1/2 system	5 miles	(3 miles) ⁵

Footnotes:

- 1--School and church facilities are counted where neighborhood play is permitted.
- 2--Coruna facility is counted here.
- 3--Coruna facility is counted here and the population served is 25,000.
- 4--The mile is the completion of the Loop Park Trail and the Fisher Redi-Mix Trail section.
- 5--The three miles are available in Collamer Park and Roseyear Park.

STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY/FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF OWOSSO PARK SYSTEM (Page 2 of 2)
[National Recreation And Parks Association Standards]

By Activity/Facility	Space Requirements	Service Radius	Per Capita Standard	Existing in Owosso ¹	Owosso Standard	Surplus (Deficiency)
18) Picnic Area and Tables	16 tables/area	5 Miles	1 Table/200	74 Tables ²	80 Tables	(6)
19) Rest Room Buildings	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	3	(1)
20) Amphitheater/Bandshell	2 acres	1 Hour	1 per 50,000	2	1	1
21) Natural Swimming Beach/Pool	600-800 LF	30 minutes	1 per 20,000	1	1	0
22) Passive Water Sports-Fishing	1,000/1,000 population	30 minutes	20,000 lineal ft.	20,000 l.f.	16,000 l.f.	5,000 l.f.
23) Canoeing/Livery/Drop-Offs ³	20-30 canoes	30 minutes	1 livery/50,000	1 drop-off	2 drop-offs	(1)
24) Concession Stands	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3	0
25) General Recreational/Cultural Ctr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2	0
26) Landscaping/Urban Forests	25% of each park ⁴	N/A	N/A	5	6	(1)
27) Campsites Regional Park	Regional park	N/A	1/150 Population	0	50	(50)
28) Playlots/Mini Parks	Less than 3 acres	1500 feet	1 per 3,000	10	6	4
29) Community Playground/Park	20 Acres/Park	1-2 miles	5 Acres/1,000	73	70	3
30) City Wide Regional Park	200 Acres	4 miles	10 acres/1,000	160	170	(10)
31) Overall Standard	10 Acres/1,000	N/A	10 Acres/1,000	252	262	(10)
32) Linear Park	N/A	Regional	Resource-based	16,650 l.f. ⁴	15,000 l.f.	1,165 l.f.

Footnotes:

- 1--School and church facilities are counted where neighborhood play is permitted.
- 2--There are five picnic areas with adequate tables; other tables are needed in other parks.
- 3--There is a private canoe livery serving the Owosso area.
- 4--4,140 lineal feet are undeveloped.

EXHIBIT M: NRPA Standards

NRPA STANDARDS

Classification of Park Types	Size ²	Service Radius	Area per 1,000 pop.	Existing Park Areas ¹	Acres	Adopted Standard	Resultant Acreage	Surplus (Deficiency)	Unserviced Areas ³
1) Playground	3-7 Acres	1/4 Mile	1.25 acres	Memorial Grove Holman 10 Schools	18	1.25/1,000	20	(2)	12 & 13 (distance) 16 & 17 (barrier) 4 (portion-barrier)
2) Playfields	20-25 Acres	1 mile	1.25 acres	Grand Ave Rudy DeMuth Bennett Field Hugh Parker 3 Schools	59	1.25/1,000	20	39	
3) Community Parks	25-50 Acres	1-2 miles	2-8 acres	Castle Park Grove Holman Harmon Pat. Bentley Memorial Rosevear	46	3/1,000	49	(3)	None
4) Regional Parks	200+ Acres	30-60 min	5-10 acres	Collamer	160	10/1,000	163	(3)	None
5) Special Use Areas	Variable	city/region	Variable	Fayette Sq. River Walkway	1.1 ac. 4 miles	n/a 5 miles	1.1 acres 5 miles	0 (1 mile)	5 & 8- Barriers 17- Barriers

Footnotes:

1--Schools and churches are included if the neighborhoods are permitted access for play.

2--This standard cannot be achieved. The acreage needs are weighed against the parks as if they were contiguous and meeting that standard.

3--An unserved area is a neighborhood that is not within the NRPA service radius or is a group of 60 dwelling units or more that have barriers to safe bicycling or pedestrian access to park and recreation areas.

Also see Exhibit A for a map reference to the numbered neighborhoods in this column.

EXHIBIT N: Public Meeting Minutes

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.
- ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, and Commissioner Shane Nelson.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Kristen Woodbury and Randy Woodworth.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Eve Hickey, Marissa Rose and the leaders from Girl Scout Troop 30331; Tyler Leppanen, Assistant Director of Community Development.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **COMMISSIONER NELSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR AUGUST 23, 2016, WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: ITEM NO. 2, TRAIL UPDATE BY RICK MORRIS MOVED TO NEXT MONTH, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER NELSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 26, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR SELBIG. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from July 26, 2016

BUSINESS:

1. Girl Scout Troop 30331 “Little Free Library” at Bentley Park

Eve Hickey and Marisa Rose, from Girl Scout Troop 30331, explained to the commission that they want to earn a bronze award. In order to receive this award they need to do something to help their community. Troop 30331 decided they would like to install a “Little Free Library”. They explained that this is a box or cupboard placed outdoors for anyone in the community to use. You can borrow a book from it and return it or donate a different book. They chose Bentley Park near the round gazebo because they felt it is a popular spot and it would be used frequently. The girls stated if the commission didn’t think Bentley Park is a good spot they would take a suggestion from them as where to place a Little Free Library. The girl scouts mentioned another spot could be in the grassy area next to the Shiawassee Arts Council. They will be building this with the help of their leaders. They explained

Troop 30331 would be responsible for the care and maintenance of it. They thought a motion sensor light on or near it would discourage vandalism.

Vice Chair Selbig asked why not install one in both locations. The girls and their leader agreed to both locations. Their leader was in the audience and explained the girls had to come up with the idea and how to build it. Leaders can only guide them.

Commissioner Nelson stated he was for this idea and his family would be willing to donate books for it. He also stated that the YMCA manages Bentley Park in the summer and would be able to help out with the Little Free Library. He asked the girls when they will be starting the project. They said the end of September. Commissioner Nelson also offered to help with donation of books from other people in the community and to store the books at the YMCA.

Chairman Espich stated he has enjoyed using the Little Free Library on Washington Street for many years.

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG TO ALLOW PLACEMENT OF A “LITTLE FREE LIBRARY” AT BENTLEY PARK BY GIRL SCOUT TROUP 30331, MOTION SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER NELSON.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Vice Chair Selbig, Commissioner Nelson and Chairman Espich.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners Woodbury and Woodworth.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NELSON TO ALLOW PLACEMENT OF A “LITTLE FREE LIBRARY” BY GIRL SCOUT TROUP 30331 AT CURWOOD CASTLE PARK, MOTION SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Commissioner Nelson, Vice Chair Selbig and Chairman Espich.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners Woodbury and Woodworth.

2. Trail Update from Rick Morris.

Moved to next month.

3. Disc Golf Update.

Chairman Espich reported that there was a construction session held at 1 p.m. at Collamer Park to prepare for the disc golf course. There will be a work session every Saturday. They meet on the east end of the Lake off Palmer Street. He also reported that there is a Facebook Page for the Hopkins Lake Disc Golf Course. This will have all the updates on the course.

Mr. Leppanen reported that Norm Campbell called and says he owns the property where the cell phone tower is located. He says holes, number 14 & 15, are on his property. Chairman Espich says there is a fence around the tower pretty close to the tower. Chairman Espich believes he has a right

of way off of Palmer but doesn't believe Mr. Campbell owns that property. The fairways of holes 14 and 15 go over the water. Mr. Leppanen says he will be working on this and figure it out. He may contact Landmark to find out where the lines are.

3. Skate Park Update.

Mr. Leppanen explained that the Parks and Rec Commission will need to update the 5 year plan if the commission plans on applying for the DNR grant next year. Vice Chair Selbig thought they should have the plan done by November because December is usually an off month. Chairman Espich reported that 5 years ago they sent the update to council in August or September. Mr. Leppanen explained that was a large update and he didn't think this would be such a large update. Chairman Espich stated for the record that the discussion was now covering both business items #4 and #5.

The commission discussed the updated drawings from Spohn Ranch for the skate park located at the Holman Pool site. Chairman Espich questioned Mr. Leppanen if the drawings took into consideration the elevation. Mr. Leppanen reported he wasn't certain but knew the designer had used Google for the design. Mr. Leppanen felt that further into the process the design would take that into consideration.

Chairman Espich asked Mr. Leppanen if he knew the exact amount that has been raised for the skate park. Mr. Leppanen knew it was around \$23,000.00. Chairman Espich asked Mr. Leppanen to find out the exact amount. Mr. Leppanen said he would find out that amount and bring the information to the next meeting.

Vice Chair Selbig questioned if they could check with other designers of skate parks. He also would like to check with designers based in Michigan. Chairman Espich shared when he was looking for skate park designers most of them were West Coast based. Mr. Leppanen stated that there wasn't anything tying them to Spohn Ranch. Vice-chair Selbig would like to get other quotes from other companies.

4. Discussion of Updating Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Chairman Espich questioned if the best way would be to update the master plan. Mr. Leppanen suggested a park by park update. Chairman Espich suggested assigning parks for the next meeting. The commission chose Bennett, Memorial (Adams Park) and Grand Avenue Park. Chairman Espich asked the commissioners to review the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Leppanen stated that commissioners have until April to update the Parks and Recreation Plan and would still be able to apply for the DNR grant.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: **VICE CHAIR SELBIG MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:16 P.M., SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER NELSON. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.
- ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig (arrived at 7:33 p.m.), Commissioners Shane Nelson, Kristen Woodbury and Randy Woodworth.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2016, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER NELSON.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER NELSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR SELBIG.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
- COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Staff memorandum
 2. Plunge balance memorandum
 3. Minutes from August 23, 2016.
 4. Disc Golf Map.
 5. Norm Campbell's property map.

BUSINESS:

Disc Golf update

Chairman Espich reported that they are cleared through "Hole Number 4".

Ms. Montenegro stated that Tyler Leppanen and Mark Sedlak met with Norm Campbell and pointed out where the property lines are located. Chairman Espich asked that Tim Law be contacted with any problems he has taken the lead on the project.

Skate Park Update

Commissioners discussed the master plan relating to applying for the grant for the skate park.

The commission feels they must reengage the public in the skate park again. Commissioners discussed the reasons some people may not want the skate park at Grove Holman Park. Commissioner agreed they should send the work to construct a new skate park out for bids.

Commissioner Woodworth shared that he thought the cost would depend on the location of the skate park.

Commissioner Woodworth wants to make certain they don't miss another opportunity for applying for the grant. He said he would like to get the location set.

**COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG TO SEND THE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL THAT GROVE HOLMAN PARK BE APPROVED FOR THE FUTURE SITE OF THE SKATE PARK.
ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion of Updating Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Ms. Montenegro reported that she has been approached by the Boy Scouts in the past to do something with the parks. She thought it would be a good idea to partner with a service organization for updating the parks.

Vice Chair Selbig suggested discussing Bennett, Memorial (Adams Park), and add Grove Holman Park at the next regular meeting.

Ms. Montenegro suggested driving by the parks and taking pictures, videos and asking children by sending information home with school children.

Chairman Espich suggested he assign each park to a meeting. Commissioners come up with the following schedule.

Discussion at October meeting

Grand Avenue
Bennett,
Memorial (Adams Park)
Grove Holman

Discussion at November meeting

Bentley Park
Hugh Parker
Harmon Patridge
Fayette Square

Discussion at December meeting

Rosavere
Rudy Demuth
Collamer
Curwood Castle Park
James Miner River Walkway

Parks and Recreation - Minutes – 09/27/2016

Ms. Montenegro explained the length of the process for updating the Master Plan to the commissioners. Vice-Chair Selbig asked for a time line on paper at the next meeting he also encouraged the commission to read the master plan before they visit the parks.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: **COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:37 P.M., SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was recited.

ROLL CALL: Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, Commissioners Shane Nelson, Kristen Woodbury and Randy Woodworth.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **VICE-CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 25, 2016, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER NELSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, AS CORRECTED, FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR SELBIG. WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

Chairman Espich asked that Tim Law be contacted with any other similar logistical ^ problems as he has taken the lead on ~~this~~ that part of the project.

~~The commission feels they must reengage the public in the skate park again.~~ Commissioners discussed the reasons some people may not may or may not want the skate park at Grove Holman Park. .

AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Councilperson Burton Fox, 216 E Oliver, stated he wanted to clarify what happened at the council meeting and why council did not approve Grove Holman Park as the site for the skate park. He said the council was not entirely opposed to the skate park and a 3 to 3 vote sent it back to Parks and Recreation Commission for clarification and discussion. Councilperson Fox also stated that both he and councilperson Teich are looking at all locations; specifically that offer more use and are more centrally located. Councilperson Fox also stated he feels there are safety problems regarding the sled hill and he prefers the Monroe Street property. He feels like not enough information was provided to the neighbors in advance to put it at this location. Councilperson Fox also believed the Monroe Street property would allow for expansion of the skate park if it were placed there. He also stated that Councilperson Teich was thinking the skate park could be placed at Bentley Park east of the playscape. Councilperson Fox thought they could possibly get some land from Rugged Liner or Consumers Energy to the north. Councilperson Fox asked the parks and recreation commission what is the vision and purpose of the

skate park and how large of a grant are they are looking for. Five years ago someone came to council and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the skate park in Gaylord. He doesn't know what happened and stated council is not opposed to it and they would like to discuss the skate park.

Tom Manke, thanked the commissioners for all of their hard work. He feels the commissioners are spot-on in their decision. Mr. Manke said he was disgusted on how the council voted against the Grove Holman Park, claiming it is a north and south divide. He feels they are worried if the north end kids could get to the Grove Holman Park. He said that it is a centrally located spot. He is for the skate park at Grove Holman Park. He feels Monroe Street Property is too small, Bentley Park will not work and Monroe Street is a no deal.

Keith Pratt brought in pictures of the current skate park and said it is in horrible shambles. Chairman Espich clarified that Mr. Pratt was speaking of the dirt track at the current skate park off Gould and Allendale. Mr. Pratt stated would like to get that dirt track and ramps at the skate park fixed up. He also inquired about \$3500.00 that was donated for the Park by the Iron Wheels 4 years ago. He wants to maintain the park now.

Rick Morris 1229 Willow Street came to talk about Rail to Trails. He reminded everybody that the skate park was at the Grove Holman Park when it started. He was chosen to go to Pure Michigan to decide how to spend their money. Pure Michigan did a survey on what people would do for vacation or a weekend. The survey revealed that bicycling was number two on the list, which is why he is here tonight to engage the parks and rec commission to get the Fred Meijer trail from Smith road to Owosso. He is encouraging someone else to "take up" this cause. He referenced "Michigan Trails Magazine" and said Owosso has a couple of nice pages. He also explained that there would be a lifetime maintenance on the trails through the Fred Meijer Foundation and he wants to encourage someone to step up to finish the trail.

Commissioner Woodworth thanked Keith Pratt for sharing the current state of the skate park. He feels that they should spend some money on maintaining the current skate park. He did reach out to a local contractor and said he would donate his time and equipment to resurface the jumps and remove the ruts out of the dirt track. He also knows the ramps are in disrepair. He feels the current skate park needs to be maintained. He thanked Rick Morris for his comments. He explained that he drove the Rails to Trails and it seems they need to bring into town and he encouraged someone to take up that cause. He wants to discuss Councilperson Fox's comments about the skate park but will wait until the discussion on the skate park.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from September 27, 2016
3. Skate park designs and cost update – Spohn Ranch

BUSINESS:

Skate Park Update – Council decision update

Chairperson Espich shared that the he was felt that the skate park location at Grove Holman was not approved because Ms. Montenegro did not present enough information to council that night and blames her for council turning it down.

Ms. Montenegro stated that she fought for that the location of Grove Holman Park.

Commissioner Woodworth was shocked stating he thought they had a various obvious choice. The Monroe Street and Bentley Park locations are not good choices. From a cost standpoint, it is cheaper to go to Grove Holman Park because of the existing infrastructure that is already there. The expansion isn't something that should be a consideration. The skate park will not be made "bigger" in the future. There will be competition which will bring money into the community. The majority of the persons who use the skate park already have a vehicle or ride with someone else. The thought of putting it at Bentley Park

because it is more centrally located really isn't a good argument as Grove Holman Park is only a few blocks away. Commissioners have spoken to the skate boarders and they believe Grove Holman makes the most sense.

Councilperson Fox stated he didn't threaten anyone and that this was not a north south issue, stating it will be on the south side of the city wherever it is located. Councilperson Fox stated he says he feels it was a communications issue between council and the parks and rec commission.

Commissioner Woodworth stated he felt that it was a no brainer and the skate park, which was why he did not come to the council meeting.

Commissioner Woodbury shared that as a mom of a young child she does not want her little one sneaking off to the skate park.

Vice Chair Selbig stated one of the reasons Bentley Park was not chosen is that it has already had a lot of attention given to it and that Grove Holman is underutilized.

Councilperson Fox stated he also felt Bentley Park was too crowded and wanted to share that Councilperson Teich brought up Bentley Park. He also stated that he heard about placing another ice skate rink at Bentley Park. Councilperson Fox stated maybe another ice rink could be placed at Curwood Castle Park.

Mr. Pratt suggested that they use the Main Street Plaza. Commissioners explained that traffic there would be a problem.

Rick Morris stated Iron Wheels originally gave \$3500.00 and he gave \$2500 to develop the current skate park. The reason the skate park was originally put at Grove Holman was for the bathrooms. One day they were told they were taking it out of that location. He also stated that the city was supposed to put money into the skate park he each year to develop it into something better but that didn't happen. A former city councilperson asked Mr. Morris to help him and he ended up doing the whole thing. The city brought in dirt from Bach Drive but it was not the right kind of dirt. Rick Morris, Rick Reynolds and Rick Howard made it into what it is now using the dirt they were given at the time.

Nick Sebasty commented kids don't go to the park to repair the park, they simply want to ride and enjoy the park and it doesn't make sense to expect them to "maintain" the park.

Commissioner Woodworth did reach out to his friend who is an officer with the Iron Wheels now and updated him with the skate park information. His friend appreciated the update and told Commissioner Woodworth to let them know if they need anything. Commissioner Woodworth wanted again to mention that he wants to allocate some of the money to the current skate park for maintenance.

Commissioner Nelson shared that the Owosso is a great Community with great people and giving kids more things to do would add to that. The commission needs to do what is best for the community. This is what brought his family here.

Chairman Espich asked Ms. Montenegro what is the process to have it put on the agenda for the next council meeting. Ms. Montenegro explained you need to address the questions the council asked. Commissioners did respond to the all the questions from Councilperson Fox.

COMMISSIONER NELSON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WOODBURY TO SEND THE RECOMMENDATION BACK TO COUNCIL FOR THEIR NOVEMBER 7, 2016 MEETING, THAT GROVE HOLMAN PARK BE APPROVED FOR THE FUTURE SITE OF THE SKATE PARK. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

VICE CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO MOVE THE SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS TO NEXT MEETING SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NELSON.

**VICE CHAIR SELBIG AMENDED THE MOTION TO MOVING THE DISCUSSION ON ADAMS PARK, GRAND AVENUE PARK, GROVE HOLMAN PARK IN ADDITION TO THE PARKS ALREADY LISTED FOR THAT MEETING.
YES- 3, NO - 1, MOTION CARRIED.**

Bennett Field – Chairman Espich stated there are seven action items from the 2011 Parks and Rec Master Plan.

Commissioner Woodworth pointed out that the plan for Bennett Field was repeated from 1996.

Commissioners went through each item listed.

Chairman Espich stated six out of the seven items listed haven't been done. He asked Ms. Montenegro whose responsibility is it to get the things done. Ms. Montenegro explained the budget process begins in March. She said at that time she would bring a budget worksheet and the commission could decide the things they wanted to include in the budget. She also explained that capital improvement is projected three years out. Additionally, budget and staff cuts have really impacted the ability to get projects completed. Staff members have more responsibility and less bodies and financial resources to complete, which makes their jobs very difficult. Ms. Montenegro encouraged parks and rec commission members to focus on three to four action items, stating it would be more realistic.

Commissioner Woodworth asked Mr. Dibeau what was the one glaring thing that needed to be done right away. His response was that the water flow is an issue and always causes problems to the junior field. When they get a hard rain he has to do out and try to remove the ruts add dirt and it makes a mess of the parking lot.

Commissioner Woodworth suggested the following for the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Bennett Field.

6) BENNETT FIELD

Location: In northwest Owosso on City boundary line with Owosso Township.

Size: 10 acres; 983 feet north-south and 871 feet east-west; diagonal northeast boundary with "Penn Central" Railroad.

Key Observations:

- This park has a history of sports play for the region, and the plan recognizes the park's primary role for that use.
- An increase in tournament usage brings 80-90 teams in several times a year.
- ~~The traffic signal installation at Main and Chestnut Streets permits better access to this park and better reliance on Chestnut for exiting the park.~~

2011 Park Plan Components:

- ~~1. The plan repeats the 1996 plan recommendation for a bicycling/trail access to the northwest (to King Street) and neighborhoods in NW Owosso.~~
- ~~2. Limit access to and from the park using Hoyt Street and Lafayette Boulevard by creating cul de sacs at the end of these streets and close the Brooks Street connection.~~
 1. Address the flow of water drainage issues on the junior playing field and in the parking lots.
 2. ~~The bathrooms must be completely overhauled.~~ Place privacy partitions in the bathrooms.
 3. Plant evergreen screening clusters on south side of Bennett Field Drive to add to park-like atmosphere
 4. ~~Acquire sufficient land from west side of north ball diamond for a 20-space parking lot.~~ Designate extra area within Bennett Park for an additional 20-40 parking spaces.
 6. ~~Install a new gate at right field fences for access to warm-up areas.~~
5. Install park sign on a landscaped mound.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? None.

Vice Chair Selbig asked the cost of dirt/diamond dust needed each year at this park. Mr. Dibeau said it cost \$2,500.00 per 100 ton and it usually washes out over a couple of years.

Chairman Espich stated that in the key observations that Mr. Dibeau has brought many tournaments to the fields. Mr. Dibeau said that Mike Ihms from Hit-N-Pitch in Owosso is the one that set up the tournaments. He brought in 90 teams from all over the state.

Vice Chair Selbig suggested because of the tournaments the bathrooms should be number 2 on the list.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

A question was raised regarding Grand Avenue Park on whether or not it was ever decommissioned as a park. Ms. Montenegro will check on this and inform everyone at the meeting in November.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Manke explained that Rick Dibeau has done an extreme amount of work at Bennett Field over the years. He said the city hasn't given him anything. He also wanted to thank the commission for the continued work on the skate park. He has discovered on his travels that not all skate parks are located in the center of town. The skate park located in Frankfort is off the beaten path as well as the skate park in Traverse City. He also expressed his thanks for all the work the commission has done and stated that his readers appreciate all the work as well.

Nick Sebasty has been all over the country for skate parks. He said people do travel all over for the skate parks and they can bring in a lot of money to the community.

Keith Pratt commented that he has been to a lot of skate parks and most have six foot transitions for skateboarders but if the park has eight foot transitions then the bikes can use it also. Commissioner Woodworth explained they have taken into consideration the concerns of bikers so they can also use the skate park.

Chairman Espich reminded the commissioners they will be discussing seven parks at the next meeting. He said he was a little concerned about the timeline after reading the memo regarding when the parks plan has to be in place.

Vice Chair suggested doing special meetings.

Commissioner Woodworth suggested that they stay with the timeline and see where they are at the end of the next meeting. Then they could schedule a special meeting after that.

ADJOURNMENT:

COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:10 P.M., SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER NELSON. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.
- ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, and Commissioner Kristen Woodbury.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Shane Nelson and Randy Woodworth.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Several citizens (see attached list), Donald Crawford, City Manager; Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development; Glenn Chinavare, Utilities Director.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **VICE-CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2016, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER ~~WOODWORTH~~ WOODBURY. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER WOODBURY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR SELBIG. AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from October 25, 2016
3. Guidelines for Park Master Plan Update/Revision

BUSINESS:

Skate Park Update – Council decision update.

Ms. Montenegro reported that council approved Grove Holman Park for the location of the skate park.

Vice Chair Selbig asked if council had any questions or suggestions.

Ms. Montenegro reported that they did not have either.

DNR Grant timeline/requirements discussion.

Ms. Montenegro explained that the DNR have not even released the notice of funding availability and that

it normally happens in December. To give everyone a feel of what needs to be done she emailed the commission last year's "Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Manual". She reported that commission already has a lot of the requirements done, the cost estimate for the skate park, the conceptual design, the resolution by council approving the location have all been completed. The major part will be filling out the application narrative.

The application has to be in the DNR by April 1, 2017. If the commission wants to seek money from the city they have to request that money from council. The city's budgeting process starts in April and everything for budget has to be approved by May 1, 2017. The commission can also count "in-kind work" as part of budgeted money. In the beginning of September the DNR sends a preliminary scoring and allows applicants to go in and tweak the application where permitted to improve final scoring. The city only shows what the city is committing for funding; however, the project expense breakdown has to show where all funding is coming from. The application is submitted by 11:59 p.m., April 1st. Chairperson Espich stated he thought it would be a good idea for March 1st to be the deadline for money commitments.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan timeline/requirements

Chairperson Espich had requested Ms. Montenegro go through the timeline and make certain the commission doesn't miss the deadline.

Ms. Montenegro reported the timeline would be to submit a revised plan that has been adopted by the local unit of government by March 1st. A 30 day public viewing period must take place prior to council adoption. The revised plan could go to the council for adoption at the second meeting in February as long as the plan revisions completed by that time. The plan would be at city hall front desk for the 30 days. Public notification announcing the revised plan could be put in the paper, on the city website and on Facebook so citizens could come in look at the plan and give input on that plan. The commission has to show that they had public input and is why tonight's meeting was posted as a public workshop/forum, allowing for public input on the park plan. Ms. Montenegro also explained to the commissioners if you change the Master Plan it isn't set in stone and revisions can be submitted to the DNR at any time during the five year life cycle of the plan once it is adopted. She suggested a couple of extra meetings maybe one in December and one in January just to get things ironed out. The next meeting will be December 13, 2016 because of the Christmas Holiday. The plan must be submitted by March 1, 2017.

DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:

Adams (Partner with Boy Scouts)

Chairperson Espich asked Ms. Montenegro about clarification of the partnering with the boy scouts.

Ms. Montenegro reported that the boy scouts had built the play scape and she had invited them to the meeting but they were not sure they could attend tonight's meeting. The playscape at Adams Park was built as an Eagle Scout project as well as painting the existing swing set. Two benches were placed near the playscape as well. The boy scouts would like to see a pavilion built there on the cement pad.

Vice Chair Selbig questioned the need to even have "this is a neighborhood park that was formerly a city rink with lighting and a warming house" as a key observation.

Ms. Montenegro pointed out that there isn't much parking because it is located in the middle in of a residential area.

Chairman Espich asked if there had been any attempt to work with the church for parking signage and way finding from a park and where it is located.

The following changes were suggested for Adams Park in the master plan:

11) MEMORIAL FIELD (ADAMS)

Location: North central Owosso with a walk-in entrance on North Adams Street at Galusha Street

Size: 1.3 Acres

Key Observations:

1. ~~This is a neighborhood park that was formerly a city ice rink with lighting and a warming house~~
1. The limited parking limits the types of use for this park.

2. The plans for this park will revolve around the interests and resources of the neighborhood that has shown enthusiasm for “their” park.

3. ~~Youth soccer and ball teams find this field to be a good practice area.~~
3. New play scape recently built is inviting to families in this area.

2016

~~2014 Park Plan Components.~~

needs signage and adopt wayfinding from all four compass points.

1. ~~The park ^ is unsigned and in its context requires a gateway announcement of its availability and status as a city park.~~

2. ~~Philanthropic or service club donation of a tot lot will serve a neighborhood that is quite isolated from public open space in the northeast quarter of the city.~~
Build a pavilion and place picnic tables.
3. ~~^ Improve the pathway to the field—crushed limestone.~~

Vice Chair Selbig asked for comments or suggestions from the audience on Adams Park. There weren't any comments.

Grand Avenue

Chairman Espich asked if this was still part of the parks system.

Ms. Montenegro reported it is still part of the parks system.

Suggestions were to reforest or sell it. If you sell a park you have to put it to the public vote and it has to pass by two-thirds.

City Manager Donald Crawford stated that this park is part of a drainage channel. Old records show that this is a peat bog with a note that homes should not be built here. City manager suggested it should be used as more of a holding area for sandlot/ playground area.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODBURY SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR SELBIG TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES TO ADAMS PARK AND GRAND AVENUE FIELD.
ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

12) GRAND AVENUE FIELD

Location: In southeast Owosso on the south end of Grand Avenue with another approach from Washington Street via Harper Street.

Size: 1.3 Acres

Key Observations:

- ~~1. The Planning Commission recommends removing this park from the park system. A process is recommended that incorporates neighborhood planning for the possible uses of the land that might include: reforestation into a conservation area; partial sale south side to the cemetery as buffer area only; some residential lots along Grand Avenue.~~
1. This is part of a drainage system along Saginaw Street with potential retention problems. It may still be enjoyed as a park.
2. As an alternate, consider local neighborhood plans for passive recreation, community gardens, or the return of the property to a natural state.

Commissioner Woodbury left at 8:24 p.m. ending the quorum for the evening. No further motions could be made but public discussion and input continued.

Nick Tereck spoke on behalf of the Owosso Rotary Club. The Owosso Rotary also has had a long history working with the YMCA at Hugh Parker Field. The Owosso Rotary Club can request money for Hugh Parker to make it much better than it is. The Rotary will be able to receive \$4,000 grant, and locally their club will match with another \$4,000. He also said that the Owosso Soccer League has committed to raising \$4,000 to help make the soccer field better, stating the money would be used to expand bathrooms make the parking lot more than gravel. The quality of the field could be made better by adding layers of top soil. Vice Chair Selbig asked if there has been any cost estimates on the work to be done. Mr. Tereck said he didn't think there had been any quotes yet. Ms. Montenegro suggested getting a Recreation Passport Grant to add to the money further down the road.

Mr. Tereck also stated that the Owosso Rotary Club uses Harmon Patridge Park for their events and club members enjoy the natural feeling of the park and stated the club would like to continue to work with the city on Harmon Patridge Park.

Vice-Chair Selbig stated he has a project and he would like to see a labyrinth.

Ms. Montenegro reported that Rotary members thought signage on M-52 for Harmon Patridge Park is needed and would increase awareness of the park and its location.

Janae Fear said she is always traveling to Lansing Area Fields due to her children on the traveling soccer team, stating there are 6 – 8 leagues participating. She stated Hugh Parker Field is way overdue for maintenance and feels that the YMCA is not doing a good job on the maintenance. The field brings people from out of town.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Gary Burk is board member for the Friends of the Shiawassee River. He is at the meeting tonight in regards to the National Water Trail Designation. He stated he wants the commission to think of the river as a linear park connecting with other parks and other elements. He shared in the past there was talk about Harmon Patridge Park being connected to the Northwest because there is a lack of parks there. Mr. Burk explained the south side could be a trail head. Mr. Tereck said there is a great economic value to have the National Water Trail Designation

Ms. Montenegro stated that there is a joint trail authority with the City of Owosso, Caledonia Township, Airport Board and the City of Corunna as members. The authority is working toward improving the entire length of the trail between Corunna and Owosso. Most recent efforts have cleared brush along the trail allowing widening of the trail near the airport.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting Ended at 9:00 p.m. No adjournment due to a lack of quorum.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.
- ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, and Commissioner Randy Woodworth.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Shane Nelson and Kristen Woodbury.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development; Glenn Chinavare, Utilities Director.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 13, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **VICE-CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2016 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, MOTION SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODBURY NOT COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Espich expressed his appreciation of serving on the commission and his appreciation of Crisler Arena.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from November 22, 2016

BUSINESS:

Changing the ordinance to increase the number of commission members from five to seven.

Chairman Espich explained that Vice-Chair Selbig had suggested this and it had been discussed previously.

Ms. Montenegro reported that she felt the council would support this and it would help the commission obtain a quorum more regularly. It would take four out of seven members to have a quorum. Ms. Montenegro stated she would put it on the agenda to set the public hearing Monday, December 19th and

the public hearing would be January 3rd. If approved the change would take effect 20 days after the public hearing.

Commissioner Woodworth stated he felt it was necessary to increase the number of members.

**MOTION BY WOODWORTH TO ASK COUNCIL TO CHANGE THE COMMISSION SIZE FROM 5 TO 7 MEMBERS.
SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
ALL AYES MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:

8) GROVE HOLMAN PARK

Location: Southwest Owosso near State Highway M-52

Size: 6.0 Acres

Key Observations:

- ~~1. This park primarily served the community with a swimming pool. The pool was closed in August-2005 and reopened with a local fund raiser for the 2006 season. The pool has subsequently closed permanently and demolition has begun.~~
- ~~2. In 2010, a sledding hill was constructed.~~
 1. Park has a sledding hill.
 2. Park is underutilized during the rest of the year.
 3. Possible future location of skating rink.

2011 Park Plan Components:

- ~~1. Evaluate the potential for the former pool area to be used for ice skating or some other winter activities to create a critical mass of wintery fun that will promote the park's winter identity.~~
 1. House the Skate Park.
 2. Investigate the potential to turn the pool building into a winter warming house with bathrooms, concessions and other fun stuff.
 3. Install park sign at SE corner of Hampton and Walnut Streets (~~no sign on M-52~~) Signage along M-52.
 4. ~~Consider a leveling of the hill or the construction of a wooden platform at the top.~~
Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, a sketch of a sledding hill at **Exhibit H.**

7) BENTLEY COMMUNITY PARK

Location: On State Highway M-52 in south Owosso.

Size: 8.2 Acres

Key Observations:

- ~~1. The park has developed as a community park serving the entire city and very likely regional citizens and organizations.~~
- ~~2. The industrial boundaries on the north and east and the major thoroughfare boundaries on the south and west isolate this park from safe approaches by any means other than automobile.~~
- ~~3. There is a large residential neighborhood round the park.~~
 1. Over the last five years this park has been updated to include placement of a new gazebo, splash pad, playscape, a new ice rink has been added to the newly resurfaced tennis courts.
 2. More people now attend and use this park.

2011 Park Plan Components:

1. ~~Construct a playscape in two phases (a splash pad should be considered as an alternate for the second phase).~~
2. A new sand volleyball court will be constructed.
3. ~~The tennis courts will be resurfaced and potentially outlined with evergreens on the south and west for wind buffer and reduced interference from highway traffic.~~
4. ~~The open space area will continue to be reviewed for ice skating potential but does not have a specific plan recommendation.~~
5. ~~A 2,000' Add a perimeter running path. will provide a fitness facility.~~
6. ~~An added land dimension on the north side will provide better 90 degree parking and/or facilities that relate to a trailhead. The land would be acquired or leased from Consumer's Power.~~
7. ~~Add 6 covered tables and benches.~~

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? None

4) FAYETTE SQUARE

Location: In the Original Plat of the City of Owosso at Washington and Oliver Streets.

Size: 1.1 acres

Key Observations:

1. This park ~~has a~~ is in need of a partner for development, ~~and some~~ maintenance and care.—~~the Owosso Master Gardeners Club.~~ A site plan for the park lays out planting areas and preferred species; however, this plan has been modified to include future benches that surround an area dedicated to veterans.
2. In the center of the western portion of the park is a circular gathering place that contains a number of war memorials. The area within this circle is referred to as “veterans circle,” and is landscaped by volunteers.

2011 Park Plan Components:

1. The park needs a sign at both the Washington/Oliver corner and the Park/Oliver corner. The sign material requires attention for compatibility for this historic district of Owosso.
2. The park plan recommends a trellis structure for an entryway to the park at Washington and Oliver Streets.- If the trellis is at the park remove from Park Plan and move to Key observations
3. ~~Construct a low-profile, low-tech creative play space in southeast park area.~~
4. ~~Add four additional benches in the approaches to the veterans circle.~~
5. ~~Continue the garden development over the short and long term. Develop a garden maintenance Program.~~

Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix? Yes, a site plan (which has been subsequently amended) of the garden layout in the Appendix, **Exhibit Q**.

Commissioners discussed some changes for Rudy Demuth Field; however, they felt they needed to speak with someone more involved with the field for their input for changes. Commissioners will make recommendations on this park at a later date.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES AS PRESENTED FOR GROVE HOLMAN, FAYETTE SQUARE AND BENTLEY PARKS TO THE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.

ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

**COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:42 P.M., SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.
- ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, and Commissioner Randy Woodworth.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Shane Nelson and Kristen Woodbury.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Manke, Community News and Views; Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development; Glenn Chinavare, Utilities Director.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **VICE-CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JANUARY 10 2017, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
- COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Staff memorandum
 2. Minutes from December 13, 2016
 3. Park sites for 2011 Parks and Rec Master Plan

BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:

9) HUGH PARKER SOCCER FIELD

Ms. Montenegro shared that at the November Parks and Rec meeting Nick Tereck from the Owosso Rotary Club explained the Rotary wanted to apply for a grant and do fundraising to raise potentially \$16,000.00 (4,000.00 from the Owosso Rotary Club, 4,000.00 from the YMCA, 4,000.00 from the soccer league and potentially \$4,000.00 from the city) to put into the improving the field.

Mr. Chinavare suggested doing soil borings of the field for analysis.

Location: Southeast limits of City at entrance to Southeast Owosso Industrial Park.

Size: 15 Acres

Key Observations:

1. This park is a companion park to Rosevear Park across Farr Street.
2. The park is primarily a soccer complex with very adequate parking and a functional open space zone in the southeast.
3. The park gives a barren appearance but has a landscaping plan on file.
4. This park is noted for poor soils that do not provide for good growth of vegetation.

2011 Park Plan Components.

~~1. Implement the plan on file in the Office of Community Development that demonstrates detailed landscaping recommendations, planned for three phases, for the berms and park borders--~~

- ~~65 _____ Canopy Trees~~
- ~~35 _____ Coniferous Trees~~
- ~~52 _____ Ornamental Trees~~
- ~~22 _____ Spreading Evergreens~~

~~(cluster the trees along Monroe Street to preserve views of park)
(avoid species that will spread tree litter on the fields)~~

- ~~1. Continue partnering with Rotary or other service clubs to receive grants to improve bathrooms and the field.~~
- ~~2. Create parking "mall" on Farr Street one side of this 50' right of way.~~
2. Establish a maintenance standard and implement it for the embankments along the Abrey Creek drain. Consider a meandering route alteration.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes--Tree/Species List in the Appendix, **Exhibit I**.

3) HARMON PATRIDGE PARK

Location: (Insert Annexed portion) -Owosso Township, Section 12; generally Out lots B, C, E, and a portion of D.

Size: 5.2 Acres

Key Observations:

- ~~1. This park received a "makeover" in 2004.~~
2. This park was established for the enjoyment of the public on July 6, 1929, by deed from Laura Patridge. The deed restriction states, "That the premises hereby conveyed shall always be kept in such a condition as to be attractive as a place for recreation."
- ~~3. Chippewa Trail was a county road. Now that the road is closed the east side park boundary at the north end had been the east line of the former roadway right of way. A city survey of the road revealed that the pathway is on the east side of the roadbed and no longer available to the public. The west half of the road right of way is wooded and impassable now.~~
- ~~4. The north boundary of the park ends at Wilkinson Road. There is a public way up the hill on a worn pathway that reaches the crest of the valley wall. The serious bicyclists use this as a link on a 16 mile loop trail that routes through Corunna too.~~
- ~~5. The park is not in the city but would be an ideal destination for northwest Owosso neighborhoods if there were a footbridge/bicycle path to Chipman and on to North Street.~~

Ms. Montenegro will take No. 2, 3, and 4 and pull it into a more descriptive paragraph. Such as this is a park with a key partnership established with the Owosso Rotary Club. She will bring her changes back to the next meeting for the commissions' approval.

Key observations could be;

1. Three pavilions,
2. Large playscape
3. Lays along the Shiawassee River

2011 Plan Components:

1. ~~Identify a solution to the brackish water supply at the well and redevelop a potable water supply for this heavily used picnic facility.~~
2. ~~Complete woods trail back to the south from the north terminus.~~
 1. The park is not in the city, although it has been annexed to the city. It would be an ideal destination for northwest Owosso neighborhoods if there were a footbridge/bicycle path from Chipman and on to North Street. The city would need partnerships with other organizations for funding of the footbridge as well as identify the cost of the structure.
 3. Signage at M-52 and Getman Road. Chairman Espich shared, if he remembers correctly, the city didn't want to encourage cars driving through the residential neighborhood to get to the park.

Maintenance Recommendations.

Continued partnership with Rotary Club to do the following:

1. Routine maintenance of the trail is required along with some repairs to sloped sections where Wash-outs occur.
2. Trees planted by the Rotary club should be inventoried and replaced when trees die. The species must be adhered to in order to maintain compatibility with the interpretive map at the park.

Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix? None.

Mr. Chinavare is going to look into testing the artisan well water at this park.

2) COLLAMER PARK (previously "Hopkins Lake Park")

Chairman Espich noted that someone has put up barbed wire fence and it needs to be addressed because it is so close to the bike trail that is furthest to the south.

Location: South central Owosso including areas outside the city limits.

Size: 164 Acres

Key Observations:

1. ~~Hopkins Lake is regional recreation area and urban park. Since the 1972 Michigan Recreational Bonding Program, Hopkins Lake has had this concept. Four other government units dedicated their bond revenues to this park at that time. A metropolitan park with diversified recreational activities should have at least 200 acres. The park at complete build-out and ownership would have 174 acres and is deemed a sufficient match for that standard.~~
2. ~~This kind of park serves the whole city and region. It contains activities that cannot be accommodated by neighborhood or community parks.~~
 1. ~~The 16 acre lake and land area is very sensitive to intensive recreational activity. It is more characteristic of a natural reservation for nature study and hiking. There are soil and slope limitations, and the lake is in an advanced stage of eutrophication. Resource management and carrying capacity monitoring will command attention in the care of this park.~~
 1. This park has a lake, a dog park, disc golf course and an extensive mountain bike trail, which has been mapped. The map shows an interior loop trail system of up to five miles in length. The local Kiwanis clubs and local mountain bikers are heavily vested in this system and its maintenance.
4. A regional park suggests that there should be a regional support mechanism in place.

2011 Plan Components:

1. ~~Selective fencing locations may be required to resolve boundary and use area conflicts. The~~

~~fencing material in favor is the woven wire 6" fence with cedar posts and a height of 5 feet. A design-influence of the enforcement strategy is to maintain the free passage of wildlife to and from the wetland, forests and meadow areas of the park with surrounding uplands outside of the park.~~

~~2. A means to improve the oxygen levels in the lake should be investigated. A passive windmill float system is used on smaller ponds and may provide the much needed oxygen supply to the lake's very eutrophic condition. Do a study to make a plan for restocking the lake.~~

~~3. The plan shows an additional 9 acres of lake area potential beyond the southwest area of the lake. A dredging operation would remove the muck accumulation and create more surface water.~~

~~4. A map at Exhibit N shows an interior loop trail system of up to five miles in length. The local Kiwanis clubs are heavily vested in this system and its maintenance. Discussions with BMX-bikers may also generate more interest.~~

~~5. The 12-acre "Verlac" parcel is designated for about 50 camping spaces. A traveler/visitor campground franchise should be examined for its feasibility at this location.~~

~~6. A pavilion for large group outings will overlook Hopkins Lake at the southeast boundary of the Verlac/Fairchild parcel. The setting is ideal for companion use by the campground and day camp activities planned for the area.~~

~~7. A companion east side parking facility will be developed on the upland section between the former Verlac house location and the pavilion~~

~~8. An expanded parking facility is possible to serve the pavilions and volleyball courts on the west side.~~

2. Install a new playground is to replace the removed west side playground.

~~10. Lakeshore plantings are to provide shade for lakeside users and relief from the sterile shoreline. ;lkjhgfpoiuy setting on the west side and diminish foraging Canadian geese.~~

3. Develop an east side parking facility at the lakeshore with fishing pier to satisfy the needs of the trailhead and pier at south of the end of Palmer Street. This lot could supplement parking for the use of the small pavilions.

~~13. Ultimately, Palmer Street should be vacated as a public street and closed at a point south of the residence at the north end of the Verlac property. This closure would enable structural closing of the east end of the park at dusk.~~

~~14. Construct a new 5-acre level playfield on the former landfill and current stump disposal site.~~

4. A boat launch should be constructed.

5. Develop a potable water supply for the area near the dog park and community garden.

~~17. The east side of Collamer Park may serve as an alternate disk golf location.~~

6. Make the foot bridge more ADA Accessible.

Maintenance Recommendation.

1. The parkland mowing scheme can be reduced through an edge mowing along roadsides and pathways while converting to twice a year mowing of meadow areas.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? There is a hand-drawn trail map for the park in the Appendix, **Exhibit N.** Playground and campground designs are included in the Appendix at **Exhibits O and P** respectively.

5) RUDY DEMUTH FIELD

Location: Eastern limits of the City along the Shiawassee River.

Size: 10.2 Acres

Key Observations:

1. This floodplain park is on the inside of a broad meander loop of the Shiawassee River in a beautiful natural setting. This park has as good potential for creating quality of life improvements for the city.
2. Rudy DeMuth Field is one of three parks slated for “makeovers” in the 5-year plan.

2011 Park Plan Components:

1. Acquire and develop the school’s bus garage area for parking (for football games as well), the James Miner Walkway and riverside landscaping.
 2. Create a parking lot on a closed Oakwood Street with turnaround.
 3. Eliminate parking between ball diamonds but maintain a gated service drive.
 4. Improve drainage, if possible, for fields and add security lighting.
 5. Apply some outfield fence landscaping for screening, baseball visibility.
 6. Build a small tot lot in the south lot of the bus garage property.
 7. Build a Gould Street gated entrance and north side parking lot if stadium parking needs are not met on #1 above.
 8. Relocate tot lot ball diamond to the southeast corner of the park.
 9. Install park sign.
 10. Build a canoe launch on the south lot of the bus garage site.
 11. Add a park sign at SE corner of Jerome and Oakwood Streets.
 12. Install covered tables and benches [a pavilion has not been recommended for this park].
- Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix.* A site plan in the Appendix, **Exhibit M.**

10) ROSEVEAR PARK (“ROSEVEAR WOODS”)

Location: Southeast Owosso limits near Hugh Parker Field and the Southeast Owosso Industrial Park

Size: 7.8 Acres

Key Observations:

~~1. The better suggestions for this park over the years talk about restricting vehicle access and restricting off road vehicles that have damaged the parks slopes. The park has a grotto like setting with a small stream in its center and gently sloping valley walls. It may easily be planted with native shrubs and trees in a natural setting for nature interpretation along a simple trail system. Potential exists to unify with a nearby elementary school for support to this end.~~

This park has an excellent start of a BMX Course with potential for expansion.

2011 Park Plan Components:

1. The park will have a natural plantings master plan with incremental efforts to implement the plan over a period of time.
2. Install a signed interpretive trail constructed with donations.
- ~~3. The Farr Street parking facility will provide the parking for this park.~~
3. The drain culvert will be maintained (repaired) and guarded from accidental falls.
- ~~5. The erosion scars from the bicycle park experiment will be repaired if they conflict with other uses.~~
4. Consider a scenic overview, with sign, above the current access spot and clear an area to establish a visual presence on Farr Street.
- ~~7. Consider a disc golf design that has the potential to integrate with Oak Hill Cemetery~~
5. Investigate the potential for a non-motorized path that can connect Rosevear to Collamer Park via ~~Oak Hill Cemetery industrial park or other routes.~~
6. Add Signage.
7. Investigate into more parking.
8. Improve the access to the park and ride-ability and connectivity.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, an interpretive trail map at **Exhibit K.**

13) PARK LINKAGES, RIVER, AND BIKE SYSTEM PLANS

Location: The existing park linkage is the James Miner River Walkway that begins on Williams Street at the north boundary of the Owosso Middle School and proceeds to the east city limits on the north side of the Shiawassee River. There is a south side connection that begins at Washington St. and heads east.

Size: The James Miner River Walkway is 7,500 lineal feet of trail with a partial roadway section at Jerome Street and Oakwood Street.

Key Observations:

1. The city's sidewalk system is offered as a pedestrian link to parks and open space areas and another basis for keeping fit.
2. The CIS regional trail plan for the former Central Michigan RR line from Owosso to Ionia has been established and connects with the Fred Meijer Trail system. The trail ends at Owosso Township just to the west of the city of Owosso. Volunteer groups continue to work on connecting

the city street and trail system to permit access to the James Miner Walkway.

3. The city council has adopted a “Bike City” policy goal in 2011. Efforts are on-going to install and promote wayfinding signs, bike racks, and complete streets.
4. City entered into an intergovernmental agreement with three other jurisdictions to provide maintenance along the James Miner Trail into the city of Corunna.

2011 Park Plan Components.

1. Unite the city on designated routes with clearly marked signs and maps.
2. Establish crossing of M-52 at Cass Street.
- ~~3. Connect Bennett Field with northwest Owosso via 15' easement west of RR to King Street.~~
- 3 Create a bikeway through school bus garage site.
- ~~5. Upgrade trail from Oakwood Bridge to Gould Street on south side of river.~~
4. ~~Curb and drain.~~ Close Jerome Street and improve existing bikeway to 10' width.
- ~~7. Add two features to bikeway:~~
 - ~~a) Install tot lot at Lyon's Club Park south of the Comstock Center lot.~~
 - ~~b) Through donations, double the size of the skate park off the walkway at South Gould and Allendale Streets with a loop connector from James Miner Walkway to the Gould Street sidewalk.~~
5. Establish pedestrian/biking rail crossing in Westown at Lynn Street and Lansing Street.
6. ~~Initiate Intergovernmental efforts through the joint trail authority to:~~
 - ~~a) Widen Copas Road to Hintz Road and plaza with dedicated bike lanes.~~
 - ~~b) Develop route to rails to trails bikeway trailhead west of Delaney Road.~~
 - ~~c) Apply major maintenance upgrade to James Miner Walkway from Williams Street in Owosso to McCurdy Park in Corunna.~~
7. Consider constructing Footbridges at the following locations:
 - a) City hall parking lot to Clinton Street (~~covered~~)
 - b) Water treatment plant grounds
 - c) Northwest Owosso from N. Chipman Street to Harmon Patridge Park
- ~~11. Create 5K and 10K road race routes for special events.~~
- ~~12. Narrow M-52 to 3 lanes from M-21 to Wilkinson Road and establish 5' wide bikeways on each side.~~
- ~~13. Upgrade sidewalks for circulation—neighborhood fitness walking and connection to parks at the locations outlined in the Appendix.~~

Participate and apply for the Safe Routes to School grant program to increase connectivity throughout Owosso from residential areas to schools.
14. Establish a trailhead in the city that connects to the Ionia trail, preferably in or near downtown. ~~The Consumers gas plant site north of Bentley Park on M-52 and the parcel at the northwest corner of Washington St. and the river are candidates.~~ There is also a parcel that was acquired adjacent to the water treatment plant in 2011 that could be used.

8. Formal designation of National Water Trail

9. Work with the Friends of the Shiawassee River to: ~~replant available riparian areas to their natural state.~~

Install barrier free landing at Oakwood Avenue Bridge

Improve landing site at Owosso Middle School and designate as a Trailhead with appropriate signage.

Install kayaks near trailhead to encourage through paddlers to access downtown services.

~~Consider multiple canoe/kayak launches that are readily signed.~~

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix:

a) Downtown Loop Trail, **Exhibit E.**

~~b) Covered bridge concept at Clinton Street, **Exhibit G.** Construct a Footbridge at Clinton Street.~~

c) "Active Living by Design—Sidewalk Linkage Plan, **Exhibit R.**

~~d) Recommended 5K and 10K road race route map, **Exhibit L.**~~

e) Map of James Miner Walkway. **Exhibit J.**

Ms. Montenegro will pull in more information on work with the Friends of the Shiawassee River and bring it back to the commission for approval.

1) CURWOOD CASTLE PARK

Location: Downtown at the confluence of State Highways M-52, M-21 and M-71.

Size: 7 Acres

Key Observations:

1. This is a historic/cultural area, and that influence has established the underlying theme for this park's development.

2. Home to Curwood Castle, Comstock Cabin, Paymaster Building and the Shiawassee Arts Center.

~~2. The park, more than any other public open space in the city, represents a destination for travelers, visitors and tourists.~~

~~3. The downtown greenspace at two major highway intersections is a regional park in a downtown setting.~~

3. Special events occur here on a regular basis.

4. Surrounding land uses represent assets to the park – the armory and middle school.

5. It is helpful to think of the park as consisting of land use zones:

a) Entry/welcome area zone (south end)

b) Museum/heritage zone (arts museum and Cabin area)

c) Castle zone

d) River interaction zone (west of the Castle)

e) Amphitheater and grounds zone

f) Armory/middle school zone

6. The park's objective is to promote cultural/historical themes, and expand engagement with the Shiawassee River.

2011 Plan Components: What follows are the planned new or improved facilities:

~~a) Reconstruct the parking lot and Curwood Castle drive to reduce traffic speed and design all street access points as park entry drives. A sketch of the traffic and parking concept is in Exhibit E. Add bus parking along Curwood Castle Drive in front of the Castle along with additional barrier free parking spaces.~~

~~b) A new park sign and arrival feature is to be designed and installed at the south entranceway.~~

c) Establish a traveler's/visitors mini-lot with picnic facilities overlooking the

Shiawassee River.

d) Continue with sidewalk and lighting program for the planned walkways. e)

Irrigate the castle grounds.

~~f) Build a stairway off the Main Street Bridge to the walkway.~~

g) Acquire scenic easements to the west walls of the Matthew's Building and Armory and apply architectural treatment to assure compatible vistas from the park.

~~h) Plant evergreens on the east river bank of the middle school from the castle perspective.~~

~~i) Continue to explore the establishment of a white water dam at the existing dam. j)~~

Acquire the house at 40 8 Curwood Castle Drive and plan a pond and perimeter landscaping in this area to expand the park.

k) Work with landowners on Williams Street to maintain a vegetative cover for a scenic, erosion-free embankment on the river.

Programming or Maintenance Recommendations:

a) Clean the island north of the castle of flood debris on an annual basis.

b) Reapply dry-vit surface to the amphitheater roof façade.

Update sidewalks to become ADA compliant

Install inground lighting along the sidewalk next to the river's edge

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes—a parking and traffic concept sketch at **Exhibit E** and the report from the Curwood Castle Park Planning Committee **at Exhibit D.**

Ms. Montenegro will make some more suggested changes to the Curwood Castle Park and bring them to the next meeting for review and approval by the commission.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES AS PRESENTED TO THE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN WITH THE CAVEAT THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE ADDITIONAL CHANGES MADE AT THE JANUARY 24, 2017 MEETING.

SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.

ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Manke shared his thoughts that the public overwhelmingly want the parks to be continued to be mowed. He stated the Friends of the Shiawassee River want everything back to fields. He said you can have the wild when you leave the park.

He also stated that the Rails to Trails needed to be finished and someone needs to be the person to be a flag bearer and bring it to Owosso.

He also suggested that once the commission has more members that each member adopts a park. So they could report on their park.

Chairman Espich reported that Terry McCloud and Rick Morris are getting a group together to finish the "Rails to Trails" last leg of the trail into the City of Owosso.

ADJOURNMENT:

COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 10:00 P.M., SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.

ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Mike Espich and Vice Chair Jeff Selbig.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioners Shane Nelson, Kristen Woodbury and Randy Woodworth.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Community Members Present: Dan Smith, Owner of Owosso PC and Electronics, Nick Sebasty, Corey Martin, and Mike Erfourth with the Owosso Soccer League.
Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/ Director of Economic Development; Glenn Chinavare, Public Utilities Director

The meeting was canceled due to a lack of a quorum.

There wasn't a quorum so Ms. Montenegro suggested having a discussion session and asked that I take notes on the discussion. **THESE ARE NOT MINUTES!!!!!!!**

Ms. Montenegro explained the expense of the skate park and the grant money and how much fundraising is needed. The skate park design chosen cost \$250,000.00 plus 15% contingency for unexpected cost extras that increases the cost to \$287,500.00. She explained she will apply for a Land & Water Conservation Fund DNR Grant. This grant is a dollar for dollar match. This means approximately \$143,000.00 will need to be raised. Deduct the \$23,000.00 raised by the previous Polar Plunges. This would leave a balance of \$120,750.00. If the crowd funding grant of \$50,000 could be obtained it would bring the amount down to \$71,000.00. The amount needed to be raised would be either \$71,000.00 or 121,000.00.

Mr. Chinavare suggested the target be the larger amount.

There was a discussion on approaching area businesses to donate an amount of money.

Nick Sebasty suggested approaching Meijer for a donation. He said he knows that the corporate office does donate for things like these.

Ms. Montenegro explained to the audience that the commission will need help to raise money for the skate park.

Dan Smith owns Owosso PC and Electronics. He said he is going to take \$20.00 from each phone he fixes and put it aside for this project for a couple months. He also repairs computer and will take \$20.00 and put it towards this project.

Chairman Espich asked Corey Martin from the audience what skateboarders and bikers could do for fundraising. He suggested a summer jam at the current skate park and sell hotdogs.

Chairman Espich shared that Commissioner Woodworth would like to have the Polar Plunge on March 4, 2017. He also stated that Commissioner Woodworth has volunteered his wife to organize it.

Chairman Espich expressed the fact that the commission will need a lot more help to accomplish this.

Chairman Espich said he will speak with Mark Agnew to make a sign to put out to show the amount of money already raised.

Ms. Jones believes there is a lack of awareness for the new skate park. She said she would work to get the flyers out for the schools.

Vice Chair Selbig and Chairman Espich agreed that the whole amount needed for the skate park because the grant money is not a guarantee.

Chairman Espich asked about having a special meeting on February 7th at 7:30 p.m. for a discussion on a fundraising plan for the park and any updates.

Chairman Espich thanked everybody for attending for the discussion on the skate park.

Mike Erfourth presented a hand-out to the commission He shared with the commission the Soccer League's involvement at Hugh Parker Soccer Complex. The Soccer League had heard that the field would be ripped up and just wanted to communicate with the commission. The YMCA has a general master lease and the Owosso Soccer League sub leases. Starting this past summer the Owosso Soccer League has done some of the maintenance. They have planned and developed with Crooked Tree a plan for the maintenance of the fields. The Soccer league would like to be a party of the lease when the lease is up with the YMCA. They would like to the city to stop dumping snow there. He felt because the city dumps snow there it adds to the problem of flooding of the parking area Mr. Erfourth stated that the city also uses this area for staging of construction vehicles on the weekends blocking a lot of parking during weekend. He said this causes a problem for people finding parking places during soccer matches. He would like the city to do some of the maintenance if they can.

Mr. Chinavare asked Mr. Erfourth bring him information the quantity and pricing by budget time around mid or end of February. Mr. Chinavare said he would try and help.

Vice-Chair Selbig asked about the size of the fields. Mr. Erfourth explained the size of the fields and said that this is governed by U.S. Soccer parameters.

Ms. Montenegro asked Mr. Erfourth about what another set of bathrooms.

Mr. Erfourth said the most important right now would be a storage building.

Ms. Montenegro explained about applying for a grant for future years for possibly another set of bathrooms.

The discussion meeting ended at 8:41 p.m. no adjournment due to a lack of a quorum.

EXHIBIT O: Public Hearing Affidavits

EXHIBIT P: Certified Resolution

Parks Plan Update

A public hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment on the proposed 2017 Parks and Recreation Plan Update.

The following person commented in regard to the proposed Parks Plan:

Joseph Tejkl, Cook Road, said the residents surrounding the park had been promised a fence would be installed around the border of the park and he wanted the fence to be installed. He said he has had two incidents of theft from his property and he felt the perpetrators were coming from the park. He went on to ask that the park be closed until such time as a fence is installed.

City Manager Donald D. Crawford noted that Mr. Tejkl's request would be quite cost prohibitive as not only would a fence need to be installed but first many trees and a large quantity of brush would need to be removed. He said that he had recently visited the park and found only a couple of spots that would allow a person to cross onto Mr. Tejkl's property, the rest of the border was either marsh land or heavy brush.

Mayor Eveleth indicated he did not want to hold up the entire Parks Plan for one issue.

In light of the Mayor's desire to move forward City Manager Crawford asked that the Council consider adding an exhibit for the soccer fields to the plan.

Councilmember Fox highlighted a letter from Mike Erfourth detailing concerns with the plans specified for the soccer fields. In response to Mr. Erfourth's concerns Councilmember Fox asked the Council to consider adding an item to the Plan to improve the parking lots at the soccer fields.

No one present expressed an objection to the additions.

Motion by Councilmember Fox to approve the 2017 Parks & Recreation Master Plan with the addition of an exhibit showing the layout of the soccer fields and the addition of an item to improve the parking lots at the soccer fields as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 161-2017

2017 OWOSSO PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso must review its parks and recreation plan every five years in accordance with parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994 of the State of Michigan, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the city council has appointed a parks and recreation commission to oversee the plan; and

WHEREAS, the parks and recreation commission reviewed the 2011 plan by holding workshops and meetings on August 23, 2016, September 27, 2016, October 25, 2016, November 22, 2016, December 13, 2016, January 10, 2017 and January 24, 2017 in order to get public participation and input for a potential update; and

WHEREAS, updates and amendments to the plan were made in accordance with public, commissioner, and staff input; and

WHEREAS, the plan was approved by the Owosso parks and recreation commission for distribution and review by the city council on October 16, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing is required by the Owosso city council to be held no less than 30 days after distribution in accordance with the above statute and DNR guidelines in order to validate the plan and where this hearing was held on November 20, 2017.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City of Owosso City Council, County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, hereby approves the 2017 Owosso Parks and Recreation Plan with the addition of an exhibit showing the layout of the soccer fields and the addition of an item to improve the parking lots at the soccer fields.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the council hereby directs staff to distribute the plan to the city clerk's office, the County of Shiawassee Planning Commission, the City of Corunna, the Region V Planning Commission, Caledonia Charter Township, Owosso Charter Township, SATA, and the city website. Motion supported by Councilmember Greenway.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmember Greenway, Mayor Pro-Tem Osika, Councilmembers Fox, Law, Teich, and Mayor Eveleth.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Bailey.

I hereby certify that the foregoing document is a true and complete copy of action taken by the Owosso City Council at the regular meeting of November 20, 2017.


Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk

