



G. ACTION PROGRAM



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I. Introduction

The mission of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is “... to **enhance the quality of life in the County by promoting a healthy lifestyle, efficiently providing high quality facilities and programs reflective of current and anticipated recreational needs of County residents and visitors – with particular emphasis on preserving fragile lands, water quality, wildlife habitat, creating pedestrian and greenway connections, and providing high quality services to those of all backgrounds .**”

This mission is realized through: a comprehensive understanding of the various social and physical considerations of the County, which in part influences the goals and objectives; the identification of the types of recreational experiences that can be provided while recognizing the context of the resident’s needs; and the financial limitations within which the County park system operates.

This section will outline the status of completion of the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan’s action items, present this current Master Plan’s Action Program and Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), and provide an ongoing list of initiatives and possible Action Program items for discussion and investigation as part of WCPARC’s ongoing efforts to develop the best county park system for Michigan.

2. Status of Previous Master Plan Action Program (2004 – 2008)

WCPARC has been busy the past five years since the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2004, installing new components and facilities, and making numerous improvements, repairs, or restorations to existing structures and trails. The following is a listing of action items from the previous Master Plan and a review of their completion status. Some of the incomplete items have been incorporated into this Parks and Recreation Master Plan’s Action Program.

Key:

- ✓ *has been completed*
- ✓ *is in progress or is partially completed*
- *has yet to be completed*

County Farm Park and Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- Expand the parking areas at the Recreation Center and County Farm Park for use by Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center users.
- ✓ Relocate the mobile maintenance crew to an alternative facility.

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- ✓ *Develop an accessible children's playground area.*
- Renovate or replace the air conditioning at the Recreation Center.
- ✓ *Repair or replace the Medford picnic shelter.*
- ✓ Renovate and improve the trail system.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of designating a portion of the park for an off-leash dog park facility.

- ✓ Explore the possibility of enclosing the patio for additional recreation space.
- ✓ Explore the feasibility of acquiring the current site of the Washtenaw County Juvenile Center (2270 Platt Road) to provide an opportunity for the expansion of County Farm Park.

Cavanaugh Lake County Park

- ✓ *Improve park signage.*
- ✓ *Repair and renovate picnic shelter, tables and grills.*
- ✓ *Replace and/or repair the playground equipment.*
- Replace the lawn area on the south side of Cavanaugh Lake Road with a wildflower meadow.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of improving the wells at the park.
- ✓ Explore the opportunity for collaborative management with Sylvan Township.

Independence Lake County Park

- ✓ Increase and develop year-round use at the site. Explore the possibility for the development of a cross-country skiing center with skating, groomed ski trails, ice fishing, snowshoeing and winter sports instruction.
- Extend the paved multi-use trail to connect with the gate house.
- Renovate the Group Center building.
- Develop nature and interpretive opportunities at the Gosline property.
- ✓ *Repair and expand the existing fence around the park border.*
- Improve the lawn drainage at the Main Beach area.
- ✓ *Provide electricity to the gate house.*
- ✓ Upgrade existing playgrounds to fully accessible play areas.
- ✓ *Repair/replace beach retaining wall at the Main Beach and the Group Center.*
- ✓ Explore the possibility of rebuilding volleyball courts for league play.

Osborne Mills Preserve

- ✓ *Maintain the park as a nature preserve.*
- ✓ *Continue to explore the possibility of acquiring trail easements to link to the larger Huron River Greenway network.*
- ✓ Continue working with neighbors to pursue the purchase of additional property to improve public access to the park.

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- ✓ Develop interpretive and/or trail signage.
- Add signage for canoeists and kayakers.

Park Lyndon

- Complete a Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) of the site.
- ✓ Improve trails and interpretive signage and build a trailhead kiosk.
- ✓ Improve trails by widening and removing new brush growth.
- ✓ Renovate bathroom facility at Lyndon South.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of renting the trail cabin to scout and camp groups.
- ✓ Renovate and repair trail cabin.
- ✓ Provide access to the former Reith property.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of adding winter recreation activities such as cross-country skiing and or snowshoeing.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of developing a designated primitive campground area at Lyndon South.

Park Northfield

- ✓ Explore the possibility of developing an off-leash dog-park facility.
- Replace and improve park signage.
- Renovate entrance drive.
- Renovate and improve restroom facility.
- Renovate trails.
- ✓ Build a trailhead kiosk with trail map.

Parker Mill County Park

- ✓ Continue working with the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor Township to develop a passive nature and interpretive trail, creating a connection to the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens.
- Develop living history exhibit by replacing turf areas with wheat and barley.
- ✓ Renovate the log cabin.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of adding a small children's playground area.
- ✓ Explore paving the existing parking area.

Pierce Lake Golf Course and Park

- ✓ Explore the feasibility of developing men's and women's locker room facilities adjacent to existing clubhouse.
- ✓ Develop separate and secure storage areas for chemicals and fertilizer and build storage area for bulk items such as sand and topsoil.
- ✓ Place curbing around cart paths adjacent to all tees and greens.
- ✓ Improve bridges on cart paths.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of enlarging selected tees and/or greens.
- ✓ Renovate and repair cart barn and maintenance building.
- ✓ Explore the feasibility of developing an event center.

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Rolling Hills County Park

- Develop non-motorized trail connections to adjacent communities and activity centers.
- ✓ *Explore the possibility of expanding the water park to include additional water features.*
- ✓ *Expand the disc golf course and explore the possibility of developing a disc golf center with multiple courses.*
- ✓ Explore the possibility of developing a winter ice skating facility.
- ✓ *Expand winter activities to include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sledding.*
- ✓ Explore the possibility of developing a skate park facility.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of developing an area devoted to field and court games.
- ✓ *Improve pond habitat and stock pond with appropriate game fish.*
- ✓ *Determine the feasibility of developing an adventure (miniature) golf center.*

Sharon Mills County Park

- ✓ Explore the possibility of acquiring additional land adjacent to the park for natural area preservation, resource conservation and/or park expansion.
- ✓ *Enhance indoor interpretive displays and exhibits.*
- ✓ Develop an MNFI of the site.
- Explore the possibility of developing a water “greenway” - a canoe/kayak network with designated portage areas and launch facilities.
- ✓ Explore the opportunity to expand parking.

Staebler Farm County Park

- ✓ Explore the possibility of acquiring additional land adjacent to the park for natural area preservation, resource conservation, agricultural preservation and/or park expansion.
- ✓ Develop a Master Plan for the property.

Superior Center County Park

- ✓ Explore the possibility of developing a collaborative management strategy for the park with Superior Township.
- Install additional picnic tables.

3. Action Program

a. Action Program Section Overview

The Action Program outlined under this section identifies how the WCPARC intends to work toward meeting the goals and objectives over the course of the next five years. The list of improvements in the park system is presented as follows:



- Overall Guiding Principles and Priorities that are meant to influence design and future projects, and shape policy and programming decisions. (see “b.” this section).
- A presentation of this Master Plan’s Action Program for each park from the CIP, in alphabetical order, followed by additional items for consideration that were added subsequent to adoption of the CIP (see “c.” this section).
- The overall Capital Improvement Program (CIP) list, with dates and costs, is provided in Appendix D. It was adopted by the WCPARC in September 2009 for fiscal years 2009 through 2013. Year 2014 is currently under development and will be added at a future date to be determined. NAPP does not have a CIP but it does have an Action Program; funds from the millage will go toward completing the Action Program items.

b. Overall Guiding Principles and Priorities

During the strategy sessions conducted for the refinement of the Goals and Objectives and the Action Program, a series of new initiatives were developed based on priorities set by the Commission at their 2009 Planning Retreat. These items presented below include both short and long-term opportunities. Focused on a variety of topics, they will be refined and become part of the next CIP when developed.

In the following paragraphs, use of the phrase “short-term” references those improvements that can be implemented during the life of the CIP (or, for the next five years). “Long-term” references improvements implemented in the next CIP cycle or beyond. “Short- and long-term” references those improvements that could be implemented in the immediate future due to the relatively low cost and effort to implement, while the associated long-term improvements are more costly and may require a more thoughtful approach toward financing.

Park Planning and Design (short- and long-term): Complete natural features inventories of all major parks and preserves, prepare a master site development plan for every major facility that lacks one, and update existing facility plans. Acquire land adjacent to existing facilities to increase habitat conservation value where suitable. Maintain and implement an asset management program for every facility. Conduct HVAC and lighting assessments as appropriate.

Sustainability (short-term): Make energy conservation a high priority and develop and implement strategies for minimizing WCPARC’s carbon footprint. This can occur in many ways, including the use of products



that conserve energy consumption, to innovative means for improving water quality in our lakes, streams and rivers. As part of the park planning and design initiatives, a comprehensive sustainability approach should be integrated into the design process.

Increased Public Awareness of the Park System (short-term): Improve communication tools (i.e., web, social networking sites, maps, etc.) to publicize the facilities and programs provided, and to facilitate wayfinding and information sharing at developed facilities.

Accessibility (short- and long-term): Many existing park amenities already provide an acceptable level of access to the disabled. But access can be improved throughout the Park system by utilizing current accessibility principles that focus on a greater level of user interaction. A major focus should be adopted to ensure that all future development projects incorporate principles of "Universal Design" that enable use of facilities by all users, regardless of age and abilities.

Wellness (short- and long-term): As the average age of the County residents rise, demands for recreation that cater to maintaining healthy life styles during their golden years will increase. The park system can promote active, healthy lifestyles by providing facilities and programs that encourage active participation in a variety of levels. The County will continue to evaluate and improve existing offerings and develop plans to address identified deficiencies.

Increased Programming (short- and long-term): Promote creative use of sites and facilities for community uses: sport competitions, science and art classes, dance performances, theater and musical events, etc.

Partnership Parks (short- and long-term): Opportunities abound for partnering with communities and school districts and should be expanded beyond the current levels. Partnering occurs in many ways and usually results in cost savings to the park system. Opportunities include: land acquisition, capital improvements, staffing, programming, maintenance, and security.

Expanded Environmental Education and Stewardship Programs (short-term): Most of the preserves and several of the parks lend themselves to low-impact passive recreation, environmental education, and stewardship programs that build upon current programs and initiatives. The opportunity to evaluate all preserves and parks for these uses should be documented. Opportunities include self-guided vs. conducted tours of unique locations within the County utilizing current staff (Park Naturalists) or as self-guided walking tours. When Naturalists are



involved, programs could be fee based to offset staffing costs. Nature centers, interpretive signage, trails, trailhead parking, and environmental stewardship programs using volunteers are all considerations. Land management and stewardship practices that protect the natural environment, landscaped and planted areas, and constructed facilities are integral to this initiative.

Fishing (short-term): Urban fishing opportunities with a sustainable approach (i.e., catch and release) - by stocking some of the smaller ponds and lakes within the park system with game fish, should be considered. Fishing opportunities in some of the larger lakes accessible from County parks (utilizing floating platforms and boat launches and providing related parking) could also be developed or expanded. Grant funding for these types of recreational activities are a high priority with the State.

Canoe/Kayak Access-Livery (short-term): Canoe rentals generate revenue that could pay for itself. Opportunities for renting canoes exist at Sharon Mills, Independence Lake, and Pierce Lake. Development of access points (put-in and take-out sites) and small parking areas for park users who are canoe/kayak enthusiasts warrants investigation.

Camping and Cabins (short-term): Both organized group camping and non-organized individual camping is a County-wide deficiency. Organized campgrounds could be developed at larger park sites where water-related or other recreational opportunities exist. Individual camp sites for small groups or individuals could also be provided in certain locations associated with boating, hiking and fishing. Cabins are relatively inexpensive to construct and generate four season revenue, and several of the rural park sites would provide good opportunities for these facilities.

Winter Recreation (short- and long-term): The opportunity to increase park use through the expansion of winter activities exists at several sites. Expanded activities could include: toboggan hills, ice-skating (indoor and outdoor), cross-country skiing, and ice-fishing.

Geocaching (short-term): Geocaching currently occurs within certain park areas as an unsupervised activity. It is an inexpensive form of recreation that is quite popular. WCPARC requires that all geocaches be registered to avoid sensitive resources.

Multi-use Recreation Centers (long-term): A need exists in certain areas of the County for the development of a multi-use recreation center, similar in function to the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center. Facilities of these types are costly to build, maintain, and staff; therefore, one idea for this



facility is to partner with school districts for shared facilities and staff. The center would service all age groups and should contain programming opportunities as well. Possible alternative locations are the northeast or southeast areas of the County.

c. **Action Program for Each Facility**

WCPARC's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) list provided in Appendix D was adopted by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission in September 2009. Subsequent to the adoption of the CIP, additional ideas for each park have emerged for consideration. Items from the CIP for each park are listed below, with possible topics for future implementation presented afterward. The complete CIP list is available in Appendix D.

One of WCPARC's goals is to increase individual park experience and provide opportunities for year-round recreation experiences for all ages, skill sets, and levels of ability. Attainment of these goals will be furthered by the possible addition of a new community recreation center (Rolling Hills), a new nature center and observations decks (Independence Lake), and water park expansion (Rolling Hills). WCPARC will improve and renovate existing facilities from restrooms, parking, and pavilions, to LCD TV's in the Recreation Center cardio room and Spray Play area at Independence Lake.

WCPARC's commitment to County trail systems is demonstrated by an investment of almost \$12 million to greenways and non-motorized trails. WCPARC is also targeting over half a million dollars to trail improvements at Parker Mill and a quarter of a million dollars in trail development at Park Lyndon. These investments also show WCPARC's dedication to providing recreation facilities that promote a healthy, active life-style.

The increasing number of both private and public dog parks in and around Washtenaw County demonstrates a need for this type of facility. WCPARC proposes to answer that need by adding a second County dog park, this one at Rolling Hills Park. Additionally, disc golf is highly popular in Washtenaw County and southeast Michigan, and WCPARC responded to this need by establishing a new disc golf course at Independence Lake.

In their ongoing effort to increase accessibility, WCPARC is continuing their accessibility improvements at their most popular park, Rolling Hills.

One of the newest additions to the County Park system that fulfills the goal of providing historic and cultural experience is Staebler Farm.



WCPARC is investing \$2.3 million toward creating a master plan and subsequent development of the park.

Cavanaugh Lake County Park

Being a small (3 ac.) and established park with mainly picnic facilities, only a small portion of the total budget is necessary to maintain facilities at this pleasant park.

Items on CIP list:

1. Resurface parking lot.

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Add amenities to make the park more inviting and address the shoreline deterioration issues.
2. Replace rest rooms and renovate signage.
3. Collaborate with Sylvan Township on management.

County Farm Park

County Farm Park contains picnicking facilities and playgrounds, trails, gardens, and natural areas. Being an established park that does not require extensive expansion or new facilities, less than 2% of the total CIP budget has been allocated for County Farm Park. Most of the work will focus on improvements, repairs, and upgrades of existing facilities, with the exception of new restrooms and water service at the Medford entrance. Future possibilities include improving the natural and planted areas of the park.

Items on CIP list:

1. Complete Phase 2 of playground improvements to create a major attraction for families, and renovate Platt Road park entry. Renovate adjacent pavilion rest rooms for year-round use. (CIP: 2010)
2. Add rest rooms and water service at the Medford Lot entrance. (CIP: 2010)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Reconstruct Platt Road parking lot. Replace facility signs at all entrances (Platt Road, Medford Road and Shrewsbury Ave).



2. Renovate trail system, including way-finding system and provide appropriate access to the neighborhoods surrounding the park. Replace fitness trail equipment.
3. Expand natural areas in the park and restore site vegetation. Reduce the acreage of mowed lawn and renovate the perennial gardens and pergola. Collaborate with stake holders and environmental groups on creek restoration.
4. Include horticultural gardens in marketing and programming materials and presentations. Create a signage system for gardens planting areas including plant identification and interpretive signs.

Independence Lake County Park

Independence Lake is the largest and one of the County's most popular parks with a spray play feature, pavilions, trails, boating, fishing, swimming, playgrounds, and nature programs. Ten percent of the total CIP budget has been allocated for the addition of new features including a nature center, boardwalk and observation deck, beach wall, perimeter fencing, two linking paved trails, and access drive. Other action items involve expansion, repairs, or renovations of existing facilities.

Items on CIP list:

1. Complete the master site development plan, making improvements and providing year round attractions especially to the recently added property. Construct new access drive and paved parking lots. (CIP: 2010, 2011)
2. Construct paved multiuse trail from the gatehouse to the Gamble Pavilion. Develop a new disc golf course, separating the disc golf from high use areas, and providing all necessary operational support. (CIP: 2010)
3. Create outside patio space adjacent to the park headquarters. Add air conditioning to the building. Consider ways to provide nearby parking for the headquarters and better circulation for patrons' vehicles to pavilions. (CIP: 2010, 2011)
4. Provide access to Little Independence Lake (trail boardwalk, overlook, fishing dock). (CIP: 2010)
5. Determine appropriate measures to expand the Spray Zone. Investigate solar and wind applications for powering it and other site amenities. (CIP: 2012)
6. Make plans for a multiuse building possibly incorporating a nature interpretation center, accommodations for summer camps and



overnight visits by individuals, and other year round uses. (CIP: 2013)

7. Renovate the Group Center area and add handicapped accessible playground. (CIP: 2013)
8. Repair and reconstruct boardwalks and upgrade observation deck. Replace bollard system at parking areas. Provide temporary enclosure (wind protection) to the beach pavilion. Correct drainage problems at the main beach area. (CIP: 2013)
9. In cooperation with the University of Michigan, provide physical and/or visual access to the UM's Mud Lake Bog north of the park boundary (trail with boardwalk and overlook). (CIP: 2013)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Investigate access to the Gosline Preserve.
2. Expand the prairie – by providing space for natural expansion and renovate the Spray Zone and other landscape plantings.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

The Recreation Center is an established, high quality facility that is mainly in need of renovations and improvement, both inside and out; on the inside, mainly due to the heavy use of its equipment. Thus it will receive 4% of the total CIP budget to supply these needs, as well as to install some new components to increase the user's enjoyment of the facility.

Items on CIP list:

1. Make improvements and updates to the building and site as required to provide a comfortable, safe, enjoyable, and stimulating recreational environment of high quality. (CIP: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Investigate the feasibility of employing solar applications for heating and/or cooling of the building and water in the pool (e.g., solar panels on the roof).
2. Improve community connections to County Farm Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.



Osborne Mill Preserve

Osborne Mill Preserve provides a quality nature experience with no extra facilities beyond trails and signage. Only a very small portion of the total budget is necessary to maintain this Preserve and improve signage.

Items on CIP list:

1. Expand and improve trails, add interpretive signage and improve the natural area. (CIP: 2010)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Replace entry sign and add signage visible from the river.
2. Investigate options for providing vehicular access to the site.

Park Lyndon

Park Lyndon is a natural area in a rural setting that has been enjoyed by nature enthusiasts, hikers, cross-country skiers, botanists, and others for years. The focus is on nature with minimal facilities beyond pavilions, restrooms, and play equipment. WCPARC has allocated only 1% of the total CIP budget for upgrades to the playground structure and signage, and renovations at the trail cabin. Access to the Reith addition will be improved with future development of a trail system.

Items on CIP list:

1. Complete access drive to the Reith addition and consider alternatives for trails (with boardwalks) for pedestrians. (CIP 2009, deferred to 2010)
2. Add new play structure and other amenities to attract families. (CIP 2009, deferred to 2010)
3. Renovate trail cabin, rest rooms and remove old Reith cottage. (CIP: 2011)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Continue to restore special habitats, especially the oak barrens (Bur Oak Savanna).
2. Explore public access (trail/boardwalk) to the Reith addition.



Park Northfield

Park Northfield, like Park Lyndon, is in a secluded rural setting but has a stronger focus on active recreation. The park has open fields, picnic areas, play equipment, restrooms, and trails. Although there are quite a few upgrades and improvements slated for this park, they are not costly and thus Park Northfield will receive less than 1% of the total budget.

Items on CIP list:

1. Replace the play structure and add some other amenities to attract more users, especially families. (CIP: 2010)
2. Replace the pavilion and make general park improvements. (CIP: 2012)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Renovate entrance drive and add a new gate. Open views into the park.
2. Explore the possibility of conversion of a portion of the park to a Dog Park.

Parker Mill County Park

Since the grist and cider mills are in fairly good shape, the focus in the next five years will be on this park's other major attraction – its trail system. The Mill Pond Trail was completed in 2009; refurbishment of the Hoyt Post Trail is scheduled to take place in 2011. This park will receive 1.5% of the total CIP budget to complete the action items.

Items on CIP list:

1. Implement plans for the sedge meadow in the location of the former mill pond and make additional improvements to the area north of Geddes Road. Complete plans for trails and site interpretation. (CIP: 2009, deferred to 2010)
2. Refurbish the Hoyt Post Trail. (CIP: 2011)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Add children's play equipment.
2. Conduct a building assessment of the grist mill. Replace the roofs on both mills.



3. Provide an entry kiosk. Add exhibits to the cider mill and dress the mill stones of the grist mill.
4. Replace fencing along Geddes Road. Collaborate with the Washtenaw County Road Commission to improve drainage along the road.
5. Review interpretive signage and replace missing signs along the shared-use path.
6. Renovate the garden beds and native plant gardens to more closely reflect the various habitats in the park. Create better identification signage.
7. Increase visitation by offering more programs led by volunteers.

Pierce Lake Golf Course and Park

The golf course is not in need of major refurbishment or expansion, nor are the trails, boardwalks, observation decks, or picnic pavilion. Work will mainly concentrate on improvements to the pavilion and outdoor patio area, the concession, to the electric cart fleet, and maintenance building. New aerators are scheduled for the pond, as well as new TV's and rubber matting replacement on bridges. These Action Program items are not costly and thus less than 1% of the total budget will be needed to complete these tasks.

Items on CIP list:

1. Make improvements to the clubhouse to accommodate expanded concession operations and other needs. (CIP: 2010)
2. Implement capital projects to improve the maintenance building and golf cart fleet and associated functional spaces. (CIP: 2010)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Enlarge pavilion (or construct new) to provide additional space for outdoor dining.
2. Renovate boardwalks and the cart return area in front of the clubhouse.
3. Enlarge planting to screen Maintenance Building and area.

Rolling Hills County Park

With the completion of the Rolling Hills Master Site Development Plan in 2009, this large, multi-use park is slated to receive the greatest portion of the funding in the next 5 years – 40% of the total CIP budget. The

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following action items represent the major improvements suggested in the Master Site Plan. It is expected that a sizeable portion of the budget will continue to be allocated to Rolling Hills in the future.

Items on CIP list:

1. Complete Accessibility Enhancement project: playground, tree house, pavilion, dock and pier improvements, interpretive materials, and trails. (CIP 2009, portions deferred to 2010)
2. Implement recently revised master plan starting with new park drive/ring road, roundabout and paved trails. Expand the disc golf course, construct mountain bike course and dog park. (CIP 2010, 2011)
3. Expand the Water Park. Construct promenade and new bath house. (CIP 2011, 2012)
4. Construct Miracle Field, softball facilities, and amphitheater. (CIP 2011)
5. Conduct feasibility study for new southeast community recreation center. (CIP 2011)
6. Construct soccer fields, turf areas and concession for participants and spectators. (CIP 2012, 2013)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Explore the opportunities to provide municipal sewer service for the site.
2. Expand prairie acreage and increase connectivity between blocks of habitat (Sassafras Woods, Spring Pond, Walnut Prairie and Underwood Prairie). Manage new park areas (old fields, orchard, etc.) until developed.
3. Install interpretive signs in existing natural areas and gardens.
4. Collaborate with Ypsilanti Township to form a link/trail connection with the adjacent Hewen's Creek Park.

Sharon Mills County Park

Sharon Mills County Park contains historic mill buildings, cultural, historic, and environmental interpretive exhibits, a canoe/kayak launch, outdoor staging area, and comfort facilities. Currently, only a small portion (less than 0.5%) of the total CIP budget is apportioned to this park for updating the park Master Plan, repairs, and bird netting installation. The potential for future action items at the park is considerable, however.

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Items on CIP list:

1. Update park master site development plan. (CIP: 2009, deferred to 2010)
2. Repair turbine for generator and assess generator function. (CIP: 2009, deferred to 2010)

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Complete a safety plan. Create a long-term renovation and maintenance plan for the dam and raceway walls to address erosion and structural integrity. Repair the decking on the dam wall of the mill pond.
2. Plan trails in the Bethel Church Road addition and possibly a canoe/kayak launch. Construct a new parking area on the property. Continue to manage a conservation buffer along river.
3. Expand trails on the property west of Sharon Hollow Road. Enhance trail connections through collaboration with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy.
4. Improve exhibits inside the mill building. Create interpretation station around the old mill stone.
5. Install irrigation for horticultural gardens.
6. Explore generation of electricity via the generator for onsite use.
7. Open the mill more often and consider a charge for tours. Recruit more volunteers to be stewards and tour leaders.

Staebler Farm County Park

Staebler Farm is home to historically renovated farm buildings, a perennial stream, woodlots, and agricultural fields. This park is in transition from its renovation period to its permanent use as a County Park; thus 7% of the total CIP budget is earmarked for it. Facility development and completion of the park master plan are scheduled.

Items on CIP list:

1. Obtain topographic survey and complete a master site development plan. (CIP: 2009, deferred to 2010)
2. Make major park improvements (identified in master planning process) including entrance drives allowing public access to both sides of Plymouth Road. Consider alternatives for crossing Fleming Creek. (CIP 2011, 2012, 2013)

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Additional Items for Consideration:

- I. Investigate the feasibility of renovating the farm house and installing heirloom or period landscaping plants/gardens.

Superior Center

Having only picnic facilities, this small park (1 acre) is not in need of major facility upgrades or renovations, thus it will receive the smallest portion of the total CIP budget to make signage improvements.

Items on CIP list:

- I. Replace bollards and signage. (CIP: 2010)

Additional Items for Consideration:

- I. Manage collaboratively with Superior Township.

Greenways/Non-Motorized Trails:

The WCPARC is committed to the continued development of non-motorized trails throughout the County. The Commission has made significant investments in non-motorized trails during the last 10 years and has earmarked 34% of the total CIP budget to trails development. Through the Connecting Communities Initiative, WCPARC has pledged to make available up to \$600,000 each year during the 2010 – 2014 period (\$3 million total) toward the cost of eligible trail projects. Other notable commitments focus on the Huron River corridor with the B2B focusing on the completion of four critical segments (\$3.2 million in total).

Items on CIP list:

- I. Continue to construct segments of the Border to Border trail: Segments C, D1, and D2. Fabricate and install signage. (CIP 2010, 2012)
2. Contribute to the construction costs of trails in the County: Dixboro Road trail, Ypsilanti Water Edge trail, trails on Bemis, Stony Creek and Clark Road. (CIP 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)
3. Make funds available to assist communities to construct trails that link them together and to the Border to Border trail (Connecting Communities Initiative). (CIP 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)
4. Collaborate with partners to fund construction of the Geddes Road US-23 bridge and path. (CIP 2010)



Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) Preserves

Budgeted Items:

1. Provide vehicular and pedestrian access to preserves (driveway, parking lot and trails) as soon as possible after land acquisition.
2. Provide all sites with an entrance sign, kiosk, bike racks, trails map and property description.

Additional Items for Consideration:

1. Recruit stewards to help with preserve maintenance and interpretation.
2. Care for the land in a way that increases its resilience, complexity, connectivity and diversity.
3. Collaborate with government agencies and environmental organizations to support efforts that enable natural communities to persist over time.