

A topographic map of Billings Township, Gladwin County, Michigan. The map features contour lines indicating elevation, with labels such as 705, 710, 711, 712, 693, 685, 676, 699, and 700. Water bodies include Lake Wixom and Lake Tabawasse. A road labeled 'ROAD' is visible in the upper left. The township name 'BILLINGS' is printed across the center. The title 'Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 - 2019' is overlaid in large green text.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 - 2019

**Billings Township,
Gladwin County, Michigan**

Adopted: December 9, 2013

Acknowledgments

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of the 2014-2019 Billings Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan is greatly appreciated. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of the following individuals:

Billings Township Board

Larry Grell, Supervisor
Daniel Zunich, Clerk
Larry Nelson, Treasurer
Carl Malott, Trustee
Brian Johnson, Trustee

Parks and Recreation Committee

Barb Johnson, Chair
Rose Malott, Secretary-Treasurer
Carl Malott, Township Board Representative
Dee Battista, Member

Consultants

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Our Volunteers

The Parks and Recreation Committee would also like to acknowledge all of the past members of this committee and other Township boards and commissions who contributed to the creation of this plan, and all of the Township residents who participated in the various public meetings and activities associated with this planning project. The committee is also grateful for all of the community volunteers who have given of their time, talents, and energy to help make our initial Community Park clean-up projects successful this year.

Thank you.

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SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

INTENT AND PURPOSE

The Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee developed this five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan under the direction of and with the support of the Township Board of Trustees. The purpose of this plan is to serve as a guide for implementation of improvements and new initiatives that are consistent with the priorities and interests of Township residents. To that end, this plan identifies a set of goals that establish the foundational basis for future decision-making by the Township Board of Trustees, as well as Township staff and appointed committees. The plan was adopted by resolution of the Township Board of Trustees on December 9, 2013.

This document has been developed in accordance with the guidelines for community park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the Township to be eligible to pursue MDNR-administered grants, and the contents of is plan are intended to fully satisfy that requirement.

It is intended that future provision of Township resources for improvements to existing park facilities, development of new recreational opportunities, and preservation of rural open space and significant natural features be consistent with the goals of this plan.

This is the first plan of this type ever adopted by the Billings Township Board of Trustees. It is intended to serve as the master plan for parks and recreation in the Township for the next five years, and encompasses all aspects of recreation and programming for the Township.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee was guided by the following principles during the development of this plan:

- Public involvement and input during the planning process is essential to the plan's success.
- Build consensus among Township stakeholders in addressing the priorities and interests of Township residents for parks and public recreational opportunities.
- Primarily focus on establishing goals and objectives that will guide future decision-making, with an additional specific focus on developing a concept plan for development of the new Billings Township Community Park (formerly the Ice Carnival property).
- Enable the Township to be eligible for grants and other assistance for future projects.
- Facilitate collaboration with the MDNR, Beaverton Rural School District, surrounding jurisdictions, and private groups and individuals to most efficiently provide for recreational opportunities and preservation of rural open space to benefit Township residents.
- Consistency with the goals and objectives set forth in the adopted 2010 Billings Township Master Plan.

SECTION II: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The jurisdiction of this plan is solely for Billings Township located in Gladwin County, Michigan. The Township boundaries are depicted in Map 1.

REGIONAL LOCATION

Billings Township is approximately 22 square miles in area and consists of 24 sections of land, smaller than a standard Michigan township. The Township is located in the southern tier of Gladwin County townships bordering Midland County. This is a predominantly rural, forested, and agricultural area near the center of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

The Township is bisected east and west by the Tittabawassee River, which rises to the north in Roscommon County, flows through Gladwin, Midland, and Saginaw counties, and empties into the Saginaw Bay as a major tributary of the Saginaw River.

Just south of the Township, an impoundment of the Tittabawassee River creates Wixom Lake, the most prominent recreational feature of Billings Township.

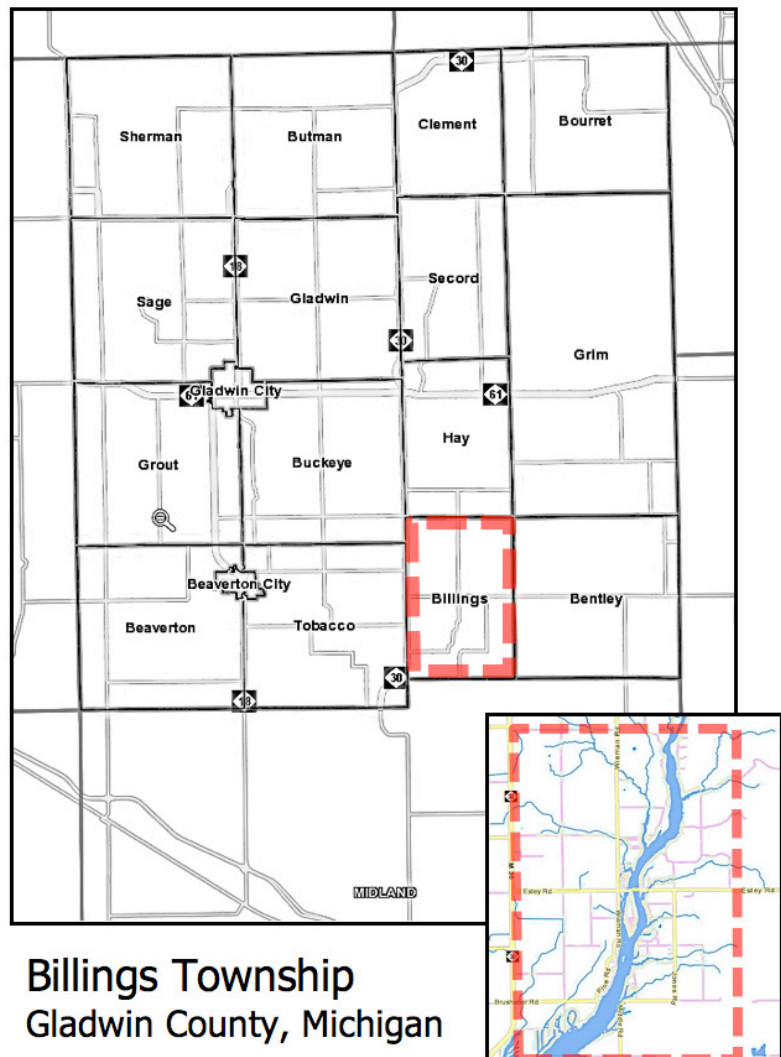
The Township is bisected north and south by Estey Road, and is bordered by M-30 to the west. The Township is located approximately 13 miles west of the I-75 expressway, and 18 miles north of the City of Midland. Within the Township is the unincorporated hamlet of Albright Shores, which is situated on Wixom Lake.

Billings Township is serviced by the Beaverton Rural School District. Elementary, middle and high schools are all located in the City of Beaverton, approximately seven miles to the west.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Detailed demographic information and population projections are provided for in Chapter 2 (Community Profile) of the adopted Township Master Plan, and are acknowledged here by reference.

Map 1 – Location Map of Billings Township



SECTION III: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Billings Township is a general law township in Gladwin County, Michigan, and is governed by an elected Township Board of Trustees whose members are as follows:

Larry Grell, Supervisor
Daniel Zunich, Clerk
Larry Nelson, Treasurer
Carl Malott, Trustee
Brian Johnson, Trustee

The Board of Trustees retains overall responsibility for implementation of programs and projects consistent with the goals established in this Plan; including future land acquisitions, establishment of recreation programs, and funding of capital improvements for parks and recreation facilities.

SUPERVISOR

The Supervisor serves as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Along with the Clerk and Treasurer, the Supervisor oversees specific administrative functions and employees of the Township, as defined by state law. In addition, the Board may delegate some additional administrative responsibilities and day-to-day oversight to the Supervisor, including management of Township-owned facilities and land. Billings Township does not currently employ a professional Township Manager or Superintendent.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Local volunteers and an appointed Parks and Recreation Committee support local parks, recreation, and open space initiatives in Billings Township. The advisory committee was formed by the Township Board for the purposes of preparing this document, assisting in the organization of volunteer efforts to improve the new Community Park in the Township, and acting in an advisory role for the Township Board in the area of parks and recreation funding and programming. The committee consists of Township residents, business owners, and representatives from other Township boards and commissions.

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

There are currently no Township employees charged with the responsibility for parks and recreation; all efforts towards programming are handled at the Board level or through volunteers. The Township Board will rely heavily on volunteers to implement much of this plan, and will direct the Parks and Recreation Committee to organize these volunteering efforts.

Billings Township also has established contractual relationships with legal, land use planning, landscape architecture and other experts to assist as needed with parks and recreation planning, land acquisition, and site development.

BUDGET

The Township recently acquired its first park facility, the former Ice Carnival property, which has been renamed the Billings Township Community Park. Funds for upkeep and improvement of Township property, including the Community Park, come primarily from the Township's General Fund.

The Township's adopted budget for the current fiscal year (2013-2014) includes \$20,000.00 for parks and recreation-related expenditures. The Township Board of Trustees has further indicated their commitment to consistent funding of parks and recreation improvements in coming years, which will allow the Parks and Recreation Committee to plan for future projects accordingly.

REVENUE FOR GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Revenue sources for the Township's current General Fund expenditures come from the following potential sources:

- ☐ **Property tax revenues**
- ☐ **State shared revenues**
- ☐ **Miscellaneous other sources, including interest income and donations**

The majority of Township operating revenues for are generated through a general property tax millage. The Parks and Recreation Committee has also recommended that a new "Parks and Recreation Fund" be created to receive donations and support recreational opportunities in Billings Township.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE SOURCES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

To support recreational opportunities in the Township, the Parks and Recreation Committee recommends to the Township Board that a separate "Parks and Recreation Fund" be established to receive donations and future park facility rental income. Rental income is anticipated to come from the following sources:

- ☐ **Lease of tower site.** In 2011, Township approval was granted for construction of a new cellular telephone tower on the southern portion of what is now the Community Park property. This new facility, under construction in 2013, is a source of ongoing monthly income to the Township from the tower owner's long-term ground lease.
- ☐ **Park facility rentals for private events.** Park and clubhouse building rentals associated with paintball tournaments, fishing tournaments, flea or farmers markets, and other private events organized by outside groups would provide additional, non-General Fund, dollars to support future park improvements and ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Community Park.

PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

Successful implementation of future parks, recreation, and open space initiatives in Billings Township will depend on the ability of the Township to secure the necessary funding for planning and execution. It is anticipated that funding of future programs and projects consistent with the goals established in this plan will come from a combination of the following revenue sources, as directed and authorized on a project-by-project basis by the Township Board:

- ❑ **Township General Fund.** Specific projects and programs may continue to be funded locally as part of the Township's annual budget, or Township funds may be used to provide the necessary local match to secure public or private grant funding.
- ❑ **MDNR grant programs.** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) grants may be available for park development and land acquisition.
- ❑ **Private and corporate donations.** A special "Park Fund" can be maintained by the Township to receive private donations in support of park improvements and special projects.

SUMMARY OF OTHER POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

State law also permits the Township to make use of the following additional funding sources for parks and recreation projects, typically for large scale or township-wide initiatives or for large capital improvements projects. Such funding would require Township Board approval and would also require voter approval of a ballot measure:

- ❑ **Bond programs.** General obligation bonds are issued for a specific community project and are paid off by the general public with property tax revenues. Revenue bonds are issued for construction of projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.
- ❑ **Dedicated millage.** A special property tax millage can be used to generate revenues for a specific purpose, such as a land or development rights acquisition or fund.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has no plans for and does not anticipate recommending use of these other possible funding sources for future parks and recreation projects in the Township.

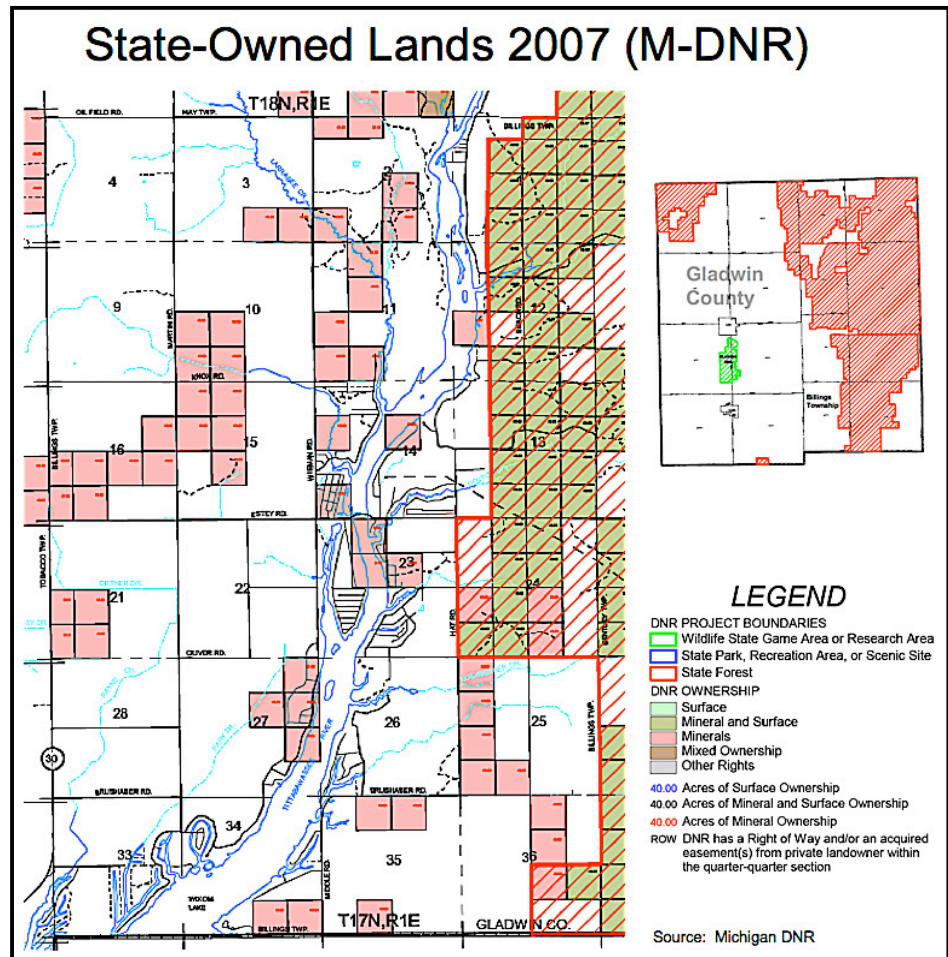
SECTION IV: RECREATION AND RESOURCE INVENTORIES

STATE-OWNED LAND IN THE TOWNSHIP

Much of the eastern quarter of the Township, including significant acreage in sections 1, 12, 13, and 24, is owned by the State of Michigan as state forest land [see Map 2 – State-Owned Lands (2007) at right].

This land is available for limited public use in accordance with applicable state laws and the regulations enforced by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Map 2 – State-Owned Lands (2007)



INVENTORY OF RECREATION PROPERTY

This section provides an inventory of existing recreation resources, government-owned land, and similar resources in Billings Township. The Township currently has one (1) public park, which is the new Community Park and boat launch (see #1 and #4 below). The following is a summary of the characteristics of each resource identified on Map 3 - Resource Inventory Map (see page 6):

1. **Community Park.**

Approximately 66-plus acre site on Wieman Road in sections 22 and 27, formerly owned by the non-profit Gladwin County Ice Carnival organization. This property, including an adjacent boat launch (see #4 below) was recently purchased by the Township for public recreation purposes. Existing facilities include a multi-purpose building, ballfields, grandstands, playground equipment, two (2) sheds, and two (2) outdoor restrooms that are barrier-free accessible. The clubhouse building houses bingo equipment, some tables and chairs, a stove and range hood, and a sound system. Several dilapidated structures on the site are planned to be demolished.

2. Estey Road Bridge.

At the direction of the Township Board, the Township maintains the open land areas adjacent to the Estey Road bridge over the Tittabawassee River for use by Township residents for fishing and related activities.

3. Road End – Lake Access.

Six (6) Township-owned road ends for public access to the Tittabawassee River/Wixom Lake. No public facilities or improvements.

4. Township Boat Launch.

Existing boat launch adjacent to the new Community Park on Wieman Road, recently purchased by the Township. A Township-funded project is underway in 2013 to install new concrete pads, and construct a new dock and seawall for the boat launch.



Existing boat launch facility

5. Private/Subdivision Park.

Two subdivisions in section 14 of the Township include parkland or facilities. The Apple Blossom Subdivision includes a small privately owned and operated park area with minimal public access. The Highland Shores subdivision was platted in 1928 with an approximately 1.5 acre dedicated park adjacent to Wieman Road that was not developed with public facilities or improvements.

6. State Land Access.

The two (2) sites noted on Map 2 provide access to state forest land in and adjacent to the Township. The eastern end of the Brushaber Road right-of-way in the southeast corner of the Township provides all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile access to state forest land in abutting Bentley Township. In section 12, access to the state forest trails is available off of Jones Road.

7. Open Land Adjacent to the Township Sewage Treatment Facility.

Approximately 80 acre parcel owned by the Township in section 25; of which about eleven acres is currently occupied by the Township owned and operated sanitary sewage treatment plant and related improvements. Public access is restricted, and the Township does not currently have any plans for the undeveloped areas of the site.

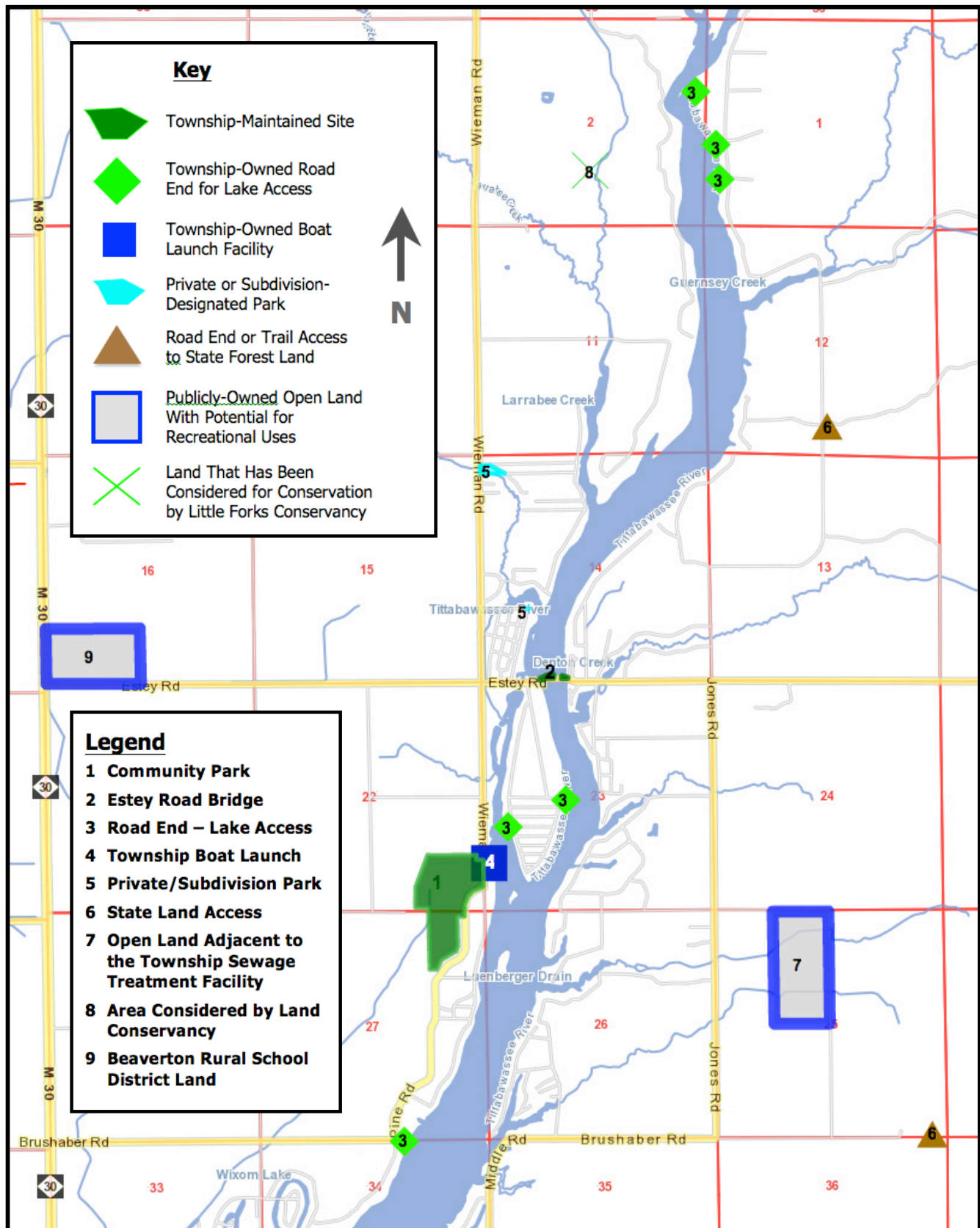
8. Area Considered by Land Conservancy.

Land in section 2 of the Township near Larrabee Creek between Wieman Road and the Tittabawassee River has been considered by the Little Forks land conservancy organization for permanent conservation.

9. Beaverton Rural School District Land.

The Beaverton Rural School District has owned approximately 65 acres of land in section 16 of the Township for many years. The property was donated to the school district with the stipulation that it be used for “educational purposes.” Currently vacant, this property may be suitable for future development of a passive recreational or rural outdoor education facility. The Township does not currently have a formal relationship with the school district for recreational purposes.

Map 3 – Resource Inventory Map



SECTION V: COMMUNITY INPUT

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT PROCESSES

Public involvement and input in the planning process is a key principle guiding the development of this plan. Consistent with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines for the development of community park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans, Billings Township provided the following opportunities for public input during the development of this plan, and as part of the public review of the proposed plan:

- ❑ **Initial Public Meetings.** Four (4) facilitated public meetings of the Parks and Recreation Committee to:
 - discuss the needs of the community and existing green space in the Township;
 - determine what types of recreation improvements and facilities would and would not work within the community based on demographic characteristics, financial capacity, and availability of land and other resources for parks and recreation;
 - outline the recreation plan process, and initial findings;
 - receive comments, suggestions, and ideas from the public, and answer questions and address concerns regarding options for recreation facilities and programs; and
 - begin to develop a list of goals, objectives, and project and program priorities.
- ❑ **Public Displays in the Community.** Three (3) extended periods of public display at the Township Hall showcasing elements of the draft plan, including ideas for Community Park improvements, along with a suggestion box for written comments and ideas; plus public display and comment periods at four (4) other locations around the Township.
- ❑ **Public Meetings of the Parks and Recreation Committee.** The Parks and Recreation Committee met on a monthly basis from April 2012 through October 2013 to review elements of the plan and proposed Community Park and boat launch projects. All meetings were posted at the Township Hall, and the public was invited to participate in the plan development process.
- ❑ **Open House Event.** On November 11, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the Parks and Recreation Committee held an open house event on the proposed plan at the Township Hall, prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m..
- ❑ **Review and Comment Period.** The proposed plan will be available for public review and comment at the Township Hall during regular business hours beginning on October 24, 2013 and extending through the November 21, 2013 public hearing to the date of the Township Board meeting where the plan will be formally considered for adoption.
- ❑ **Public Hearing.** The Parks and Recreation Committee held a public hearing on the proposed plan on November 21, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Hall.
- ❑ **Public Comment Period at the Township Board Meeting.** It is anticipated that there will be a public comment period during the Township Board meeting, prior to any action on the agenda item where the proposed plan would be considered for adoption.

In addition to the above methods of community input, Parks and Recreation Committee members also reviewed and considered the results of public input gathered during the 2009-2010 update to the

Township's Master Plan, which included a goal to:

“(P)rovide community facilities and services to adequately serve Township residents, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to enrich the quality of life in the most efficient, effective, and economical manner possible.”

SUGGESTED AMENITIES FOR A NEW COMMUNITY PARK

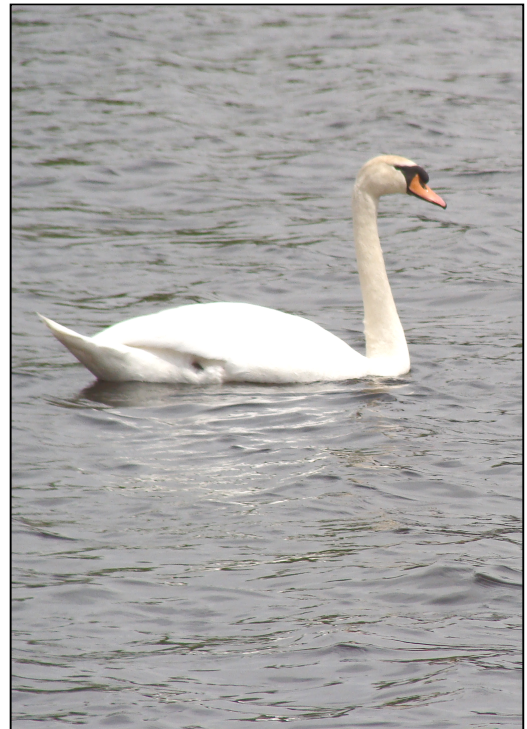
During their public meetings and through the other available methods of public input, the Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee received a wide variety of suggestions and recommendations for potential amenities associated with a new Community Park in the Township. The following is a summary list:

- Dog park – two section fenced for large and small dogs
- Establish road system for park grounds
- Grills for picnic areas
- Pavilion for picnics
- Picnic tables – wheelchair accessible
- Basketball court (2)
- Shuffle board court
- Walking/bike path – concrete or hard pack (2)
- Exercise path
- Cross country skiing trail
- Ice skating rink with benches and pavilion
- Docks at boat launch (2)
- Sign for park rules when appropriate
- Paint ball area – move to northwest corner
- Additional bathroom facilities
- Refurbish existing (clubhouse) building
- Volleyball court (2)
- Band Shell for concerts/theater
- Meditation area with benches
- Lighting
- Campgrounds
- Baseball diamond (3)
- Soccer field
- Fix the boat launch
- Skateboard park
- Cell tower
- Swimming beach
- Big wooden swing/slide
- Play equipment
- Tennis courts

SUGGESTED PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

The committee also received many suggestions and recommendations for potential recreation-related programs and events for a new Community Park in the Township. The following is a summary list:

- Fishing activity for Michigan Free Fishing Weekends
- Senior day and children's day at the park
- Flea market or farmer's market (2)
- Truck or Treat for Halloween
- Open House at Park
- Easter egg hunt
- Movie night
- Mud bogs



The new Billings Township Community Park will include a renovated public boat launch facility on Wixom Lake, the most prominent recreation amenity in the Township.

ADDITIONAL OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

During the open house and the public hearing, the committee accepted the following additional suggestions and comments related to the proposed plan:

- “Mark the walking path in the Community Park at one-half mile intervals so people can keep track of their walking distance.”
- “A kayak course on Wixom Lake, especially north of (the Estey road) bridge.”
- Develop a trailhead amenity and parking area on the vacant land adjacent to the Township’s Sewage Treatment Facility to provide improved access to the established trails on state forest land.
- Terry Steele, Township resident and wife of the Beaverton High School Cross Country Coach alerted the committee to an unmet need for a cross-country running track for practice and meets.

2010 MASTER PLAN POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATION

In addition to the above methods of community input, Parks and Recreation Committee members also reviewed and considered the results of public input gathered during the 2009-2010 update to the Township’s Master Plan, which included the goal to “provide community facilities and services to adequately serve Township residents, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to enrich the quality of life in the most efficient, effective, and economical manner possible.”

The 2010 Master Plan further recommended the completion and adoption of a Parks and Recreation Plan for the Township, and establishment of a new public recreational facility on the Ice Carnival property that would “be one that provides year-round economic and recreational benefits to the community while having minimal adverse impacts on its neighbors.”

As part of this planning process, a facilitated visioning workshop was held at the Township Hall, with approximately 35 participants. The following is a summary of recreation-related comments received during this public input process, as taken from Chapter 4 of the adopted Master Plan:

“Visioning session participants identified the Wixom Lake waterfront and State Forest land as two significant Township strengths. However, the “Wayfinding/Landmark Map” exercise results show that state forestland is not recognized as a prominent or highly visible landmark in the community. In addition, some participants viewed public access to Wixom Lake as difficult for those that do not own waterfront property.”

“Public parkland along the waterfront and additional public access to Wixom Lake would improve access to the lake for non-waterfront landowners, and may increase visitor/tourism-related business in the Township. An all-season recreational trail system connecting state forestlands to the All Bright Shores commercial area could also be highly desirable improvement that could also have benefits for Township businesses.”

The complete set of visioning workshop results is available in the adopted Township Master Plan, and is acknowledged here by reference.

COMMUNITY INPUT REFLECTED IN THE PLAN

The Township Parks and Recreation Committee has carefully considered all input and suggestions from Township residents, officials, visitors, and other Township stakeholders in the development of this plan. Community input received through these varied means has directly driven the content of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

SECTION VI: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The establishment of a set of goals and objectives is necessary to guide future Township decision-making with regards to provision of funds for park improvements and new public recreation initiatives. The overall goal of this plan is to provide such facilities and services to Township residents in the most efficient and cost effective manner, taking into account the demographic characteristics of the population served, the physical and environmental characteristics of the area, and the input of the community.

The goals are broad and address general needs, and establish the basis for expanding its programs, and facility objectives. The objectives are measurable results that the community works toward accomplishing. The Action Plan, which follows in Section VII of this plan, includes more specific policy, project, and program recommendations. The Township has formulated the following goals and objectives:

PROGRAMMING

The following list of parks and recreation programming goals and objectives:

1. **Goal:** Establish a permanent parks and recreation organization for the Township.
2. **Goal:** Establish a volunteer/programming plan.
 - Objective: Devise a volunteer plan/network to create and improve the types of programs offered, and how they should be serviced.
 - Objective: Recruit and train a pool of volunteers and mentors to assist in implementation of various programs.
3. **Goal:** Create a programming component in the parks and recreation facilities, and begin to create programs for the community that provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure, and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to all citizens.
 - Objective: Continue good public relations for special events.
 - Objective: Provide programming for all ages based on input from focus groups.
 - Objective: Continually update program selection with respect to new ideas and interests especially in regard to hobbies and exercise.
 - Objective: Create programs that provide inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth/preschoolers.
 - Objective: Create new programs to enhance water access and physical fitness, including bicycling, walking, jogging, etc.

- Objective: Continue leadership efforts in establishing collaborative programming, workshops, training, and networking opportunities for youth-serving community agencies which would result in enhanced services to area youth.
- Objective: Develop a working relationship with community organizations, and neighboring communities in facilitating a continuum of recreation and leisure programs for the community.
- Objective: Seek alternative funding for services in order to increase revenue, and decrease general fund contribution through requests to service clubs, private sector, and professional organizations for sponsorships of various programs.
- Objective: Solicit and apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs.

FACILITIES

The following list of facility goals and objectives.

1. **Goal:** Provide facilities that meet the community wide recreation needs of Billings Township residents.
 - Objective: Ensure that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is implemented and periodically reviewed and updated as needed.
 - Objective: Complete a Pathway and Trails Master Plan that outlines planned pathway and trail facilities and activities for various types of users (bicycling, walking/hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicles, etc.), and allows for connectivity from the parks to the neighborhoods.
 - Objective: Begin to develop the Billings Township Community Park based on the conceptual park development plan [See Map 4 - Action Plan: Billings Township Community Park (page 18)].
2. **Goal:** Maintain a balanced system of parks and open spaces by having well operated and maintained facilities.
 - Objective: Coordinate and assist in planned events in public spaces and parks.
 - Objective: Remove existing physical barriers that limit use of parks and facilities by portions of the community.

ACCESS TO FACILITIES

1. **Goal:** Eliminate existing barriers to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and adopting a policy of inclusive recreation.

Objective: Ensure that each play setting and activity area is accessible, that accessible play components are placed throughout each activity area, and that similar play opportunities are provided to children with disabilities.

Objective: Install accessible routes of travel, connecting parking areas, drop off points, all activity areas and accessible activities.

Objective: Provide an accessible surface and pathway that is firm, stable, slip resistant, and resilient at all public recreational facilities.

Objective: Provide a means of getting on, through (experience), and off the equipment for children with a range of mobility impairments.

Objective: Ensure that landscape areas, gardens, picnic areas, and significant natural features are accessible.

Objective: Provide accessible parking.

SECTION VII: ACTION PLAN

This section provides more specific policy, project, and program recommendations for parks and recreation facilities and programs over the next five years. It is based upon the goals established in the previous section, and the needs identified through the public input process. Potential capital improvements described in this section have been established to provide a framework for decision-makers, and to enable the Township to apply for grant funding for specific projects. Project or program implementation may occur in phases as funding becomes available.

The following is not intended to be an exclusive list of recommended action items. However, all projects and programs identified by the Township for potential grant funding administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) should be consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan.

The following Action Plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with the thorough analysis of the needs and desires of the community. Public meetings were held to develop community input and consensus. An assessment of need was then developed that considered existing Township resources, community needs, and the specialized needs of persons with disabilities. Finally, these needs were analyzed and reviewed by the Township Parks and Recreation Committee to develop the goals and objectives of this plan.

ACTION PLAN ELEMENTS

The Action Plan is divided into three (3) parts, as follows:

- ✓ **Table 1 (General Action Items);**
- ✓ **Table 2 (Action Plan: Community Park Clubhouse Building Renovations); and**
- ✓ **Map 4 (Action Plan: Billings Township Community Park).**

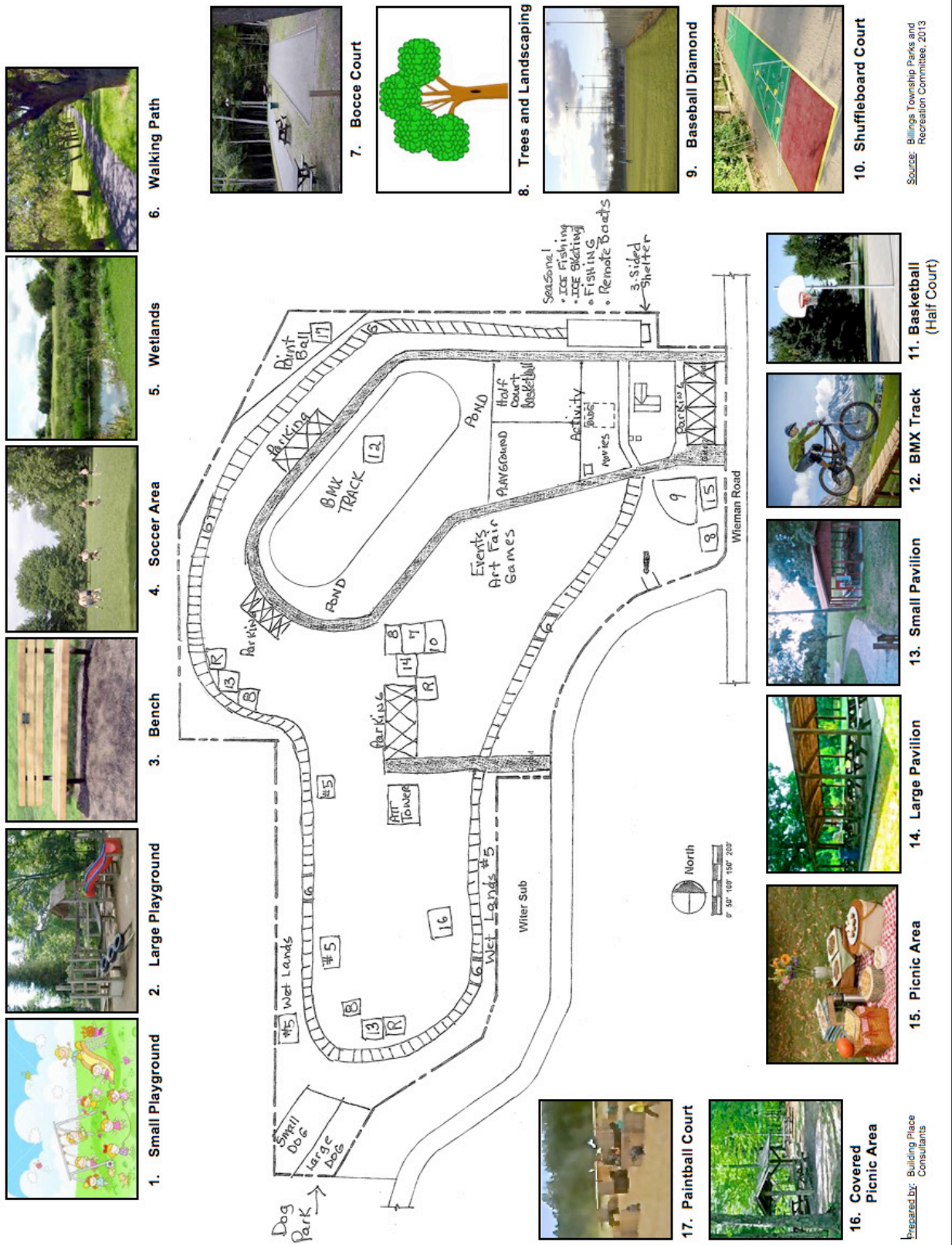
Table 1 – General Action Items

Issue	Finding/Observation	Recommendation
Development of the new Community Park	The Township is in need of parkland that is accessible, prominent, and offers water recreational opportunities.	See Map 4 - Action Plan: Billings Township Community Park (page 18)
Estey Road Bridge Access	Public access and parking for the fishing area on the north side of the Estey Road bridge is severely limited.	Install a small parking area at the southwest corner of the Township Cemetery property, adjacent to the Tittabawassee River frontage and the Estey Road bridge.
Provide a More Extensive Trail System	The Township is in need of multi-use trails; including nature walks, non-pedestrian pathways, snowmobile trails, and small non-motorized boating routes.	Prepare a conceptual Pathways and Trails Master Plan; and work in collaboration with the Gladwin County Road Commission and state agencies with jurisdiction to construct non-motorized pathways and multi-use trail connections to and through the Community Park and the Albright Shores Hamlet area.
Create a Volunteer/ Maintenance Plan to Aid in the Development and Upkeep of Township Parks	Township needs to develop volunteer action plans to provide programming activities, and maintenance plans for proposed facilities.	Analysis of the Township's desired parks and recreation facilities programs, and provide a Volunteer/ Maintenance Plan for the new Community Park.
Create a Plan for Road End Parcels	Township needs to devise and implement a plan for all road end green spaces that provide access to the water.	Devise and implement a plan for all road end green spaces that provides access to Wixom Lake.
Create More Recreational Opportunities	The Township is in need of more recreational opportunities for all ages.	Implement this Action Plan; and periodically evaluate and update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, at least every five years.
Access to and Through Facilities	Need to provide access to playgrounds, parking and program elements.	Installation of barrier-free signage, pathways, parking, and playground equipment.
Hunting Opportunities	Investigate hunting opportunities within the Township.	Review hunting opportunities within the Township.
Cross-Country Running Course for Township Residents and Local Athletes	There is an unmet need in the community for a cross-country running track for local team practices and hosting of competitions that may provide additional customers for All Bright Shores businesses.	Develop a new cross-country running course in the Community Park, in cooperation with the Beaverton Rural School District and with the assistance of local athletic program volunteers, that complements other planned improvements shown on Map 4 - Action Plan: Billings Township Community Park.

Table 2 – Action Plan: Community Park Clubhouse Building Renovations

Task	Description of Work	Anticipated Cost
Interior Demolition	Demolish and remove all existing paneling, drywall under-paneling, and all items identified on walk-through list by the Parks and Recreation Committee. Gutting of both restrooms and closet; removal of all insulation; three (3) exterior doors; removal of hot water heater; removal of all ceiling tile and any grid that would need to be replaced; and removal of front office.	\$6,000.00
Insulation	Insulation of all exterior walls, R-13 type Kraft. Insulation of ceilings, blown cellulose, eight inches deep minimum.	\$4,025.21
Flooring	Clean existing floor; repair all cracks, installing new concrete patch in kitchen area. Epoxy as needed and repaint flooring.	\$3,136.00
Ceiling	Completely remove drop-down ceiling. Install furring strips throughout to strengthen and support a new 5/8-inch ceiling grid, lighting fixtures, and blown-in insulation.	\$4,464.00
Plumbing	Install new 40-gallon hot water heater; center gas stove to center of existing opening.	\$1,645.00
Cabinets	Installation of new cabinets and countertops.	\$2,240.00
Doors	Framing, hardware, closures, and installation of new exterior metal doors, including two (2) six foot double doors and one (1) three foot door on the north end of the building.	\$6,272.94
Trim	1/8-inch by four inch vinyl base trim, installed throughout.	\$1.00 per lineal foot
Painting	Prime two (2) coats and paint main hall, walk-in cooler, kitchen, bathrooms, closet, hallway, and all ceilings.	\$2,400.00
Electrical	Necessary electrical work and light fixture replacement.	To be determined
Kitchen	Full renovation/modernization of the kitchen facilities.	To be determined
Roof	Roof renovations, including extension of eaves to drain water away from the foundation wall.	To be determined
Barrier-free access	Necessary improvements to entrances and bathrooms to provide barrier-free accessibility to all parts of the building.	To be determined
Anticipated costs are estimates only, based on contractor's estimated dated 1/30/2013. Cost estimates include all necessary permits, cleanup, and haul away of debris. \$850.00 allowance for unforeseen costs.		

Map 4 – Action Plan: Billings Township Community Park



ADDITIONAL PROJECTS ALREADY IN PROCESS

Upon acquisition of the former Ice Carnival property by the Township Board for a new Community Park, the Township Parks and Recreation Committee immediately began to organize and facilitate several initial park improvement projects. To date, the Committee reports that committee members, residents, and other individuals have logged more than 500 hours of volunteer work on these projects:

Project: New Entrance Sign

A new “Billings Township Community Park” entrance sign was created and installed at the Wieman Road entrance to the property, courtesy of a local Boy Scout Eagle Project. New flowerboxes around the sign are also planned.

Project: Community Park Clean-Up

The Parks and Recreation Committee are facilitating a series of clean-up projects in the new park.



Project: Boat Launch Renovations

In 2013, the Township initiated reconstruction work on the Community Park's boat launch facility:



SECTION VIII: SUMMARY AND ADOPTION

SUMMARY

Billings Township has prepared this Parks and Recreation Master Plan to serve as a guide for implementation of improvements and new initiatives over the next five years, consistent with the priorities and interests of Township residents. This is the first plan of this type ever adopted by the Township Board.

The plan establishes a set of goals intended to guide future decision-making by the Township Board of Trustees, as well as Township officials, staff, and appointed committees. It was developed in accordance with state guidelines to ensure that the Township will be eligible for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to assist the in reaching these goals.

It is intended that future provision of Township resources for improvements to existing park facilities and development of new recreational opportunities will be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of this plan.

As part of the development of this plan, data was collected about the community, including maps, demographics, and an inventory of existing resources in the Township and the surrounding area.

Community input into the development of this plan was achieved through a series of initial public meetings, strategically placed displays and invitations for public comment throughout the community, an open house to showcase the proposed plan, an extended public availability for review and comment on the proposed plan, and a public hearing held by the Parks and Recreation Committee prior to adoption by the Township Board.

ADOPTION

The proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan was made available for public review at the Township Hall for at least 30 days beginning on October 24, 2013. The public was also invited to review comment on the proposed plan during a public hearing held on November 21, 2013. These invitations to review and comment on the proposed plan were advertised in the Township's newspaper of record. The final opportunity for review and comment on the proposed plan prior to adoption occurred at a public meeting of the Billings Township Board of Trustees, held on December 9, 2013.

The Township Board adopted this Parks and Recreation Master Plan by resolution on December 9, 2013. Copies of the public notice, meeting minutes, and resolution are included in the Appendix.

APPENDIX A

Public Notices and Minutes of the Public Hearing

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE FOR THE
PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
BILLINGS TOWNSHIP, GLADWIN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED to attend an open house hosted by the Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee on **Monday, November 11, 2013 from 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m.** at the Billings Township Hall (1050 Estey Rd., Beaverton, MI) to learn more about the proposed new Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and future plans for the Community Park (formerly the Ice Carnival property). Comment cards will be available at the Township Hall, and committee members will be available to answer questions.

The regular meeting of the Township Board will follow at 7:00 p.m.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
BILLINGS TOWNSHIP, GLADWIN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.** the Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee will hold a public hearing at the Billings Township Hall (1050 Estey Rd., Beaverton, MI) to invite public comment on the proposed new **Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan**.

The document is available for review at the Township Hall during regular business hours. Comment cards will be available at the Township Hall, or written comments may be sent to: **Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee, 1050 Estey Rd., Beaverton, MI 48612.**

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who require special accommodations should contact the Township Clerk at (989) 435-4037 at least five business days prior to the hearing.

Published on October 23, 2013

**Billings Township
Parks and Recreation Committee
5Yr Plan Public Hearing Minutes
November 21, 2013**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Acting Chair Rose Malott
Members in attendance: Carl Malott, Dee Battista and Rose Malott.
Barb Johnston was absent due eye surgery.
Five Citizens attended
The Pledge of recited
No minutes from another meeting to approve.
Motion to accept agenda by Carl, 2nd Dee, all in favor, No Opposed M/C
Motion made by Carl to Open Public Hearing, 2nd by Dee All in favor, No opposed M/C.
Pubic Meeting opened at 7:35.

Object of tonight's public hearing is to discuss the additional suggests and ideas from the Open House on November 11, 2013 and the request for the grounds to be used for Beaverton Schools Cross Country events. At this time we would like to invite our public to speak and share their ideas and thoughts. Nothing to share at this time from the public.

During our Open House we received 5 more suggestions and a request from Cross Country Coach Toby Steele.

Suggestions:

1. To mark the foot path in posted ½ mile increments, for people who are tracking distance.
 - This is something we have discussed to do on the foot path, agreed this is a good idea.
2. Kayak Course on Wixom Lake, especially north of bridge.
 - This is a good future idea.
3. Use property adjacent to Sewer Plant as a State of Michigan Trail Head.
 - This has been discussed; this too is a good idea.
4. Find the old Rail Bed for potential Rail Trails.
 - This has been investigated and nothing could be found relative use in Billings Township. No right of ways were to be found to use. One is on Highwood Rd that is now all tore up. Heads to Grim Township.

Where is The Boy Scout Trail relative to Billings Township? (Trail from Pontiac to Mackinaw City.)

- One of our Citizens commented that the Trail was present off Baker Rd, in Midland Co., however it is fenced off and runs thru Grim Township and isn't accessible or useable for Billings Township.

Carl suggested that the Boy Scout Trail and the Rail Head ideas not be included as not accessible or not in Billings. Only add the first three.

Rose suggested that the Beaverton Cross Country be added to the Action list. Carl asked for an update on the plan from Toby and Terry Steele. Terry Steele was invited to explain. Terry explained that her husband Toby is the Beaverton High School Cross Country Coach. A place is needed to host the meet. They are required to have Jack Pine Meet, which is 8 schools, and maybe an Invitational, with even more schools. Living here in the township maybe this could be the solution and could hopefully bring in revenue for the township. Their training starts in the summer. The distance that is needed 3.1 miles, not necessary a track of 3.1, as long as they can loop to get that distance. They have people that have volunteered to work and machinery that can be used for the completion of the foot path. Brad Brushaber has volunteered the use of equipment as long as he is not planting. She also has others that have stepped up to help. Carl suggested they put a plan together and bring to us and we can set up a meeting to discuss. They also asked if we could change the configuration of the foot path. Committee thinks this is an excellent idea. They are also asking about the property to the west of the park as a possible additional track.

Anything additional to be added to the plan? Dave Schmidt asked with there had been any thoughts on any motor sports? He was showed the list of suggestions that we were given and so that is what we will be working with for the Park. Rose also stated that there was a typo on page 6, it is actually 66+ acres. Rodney to correct.

Carl has asked is the Launch is already included in the plan if we do decide to do more at that location. Yes it is. We might want to add the Launch to the map. Rodney will check but does not need to be on the action list.

Terry asked if we don't get things done in the 5 years, does the state come in and we get in trouble for not completing. Rodney explained that no, this is the plan for the next 5yr plan and at the end of that term we would simply renew the plan and carry on without any penalties.

Anything else, with no further additions, a motion to close the Public meeting. Dee motioned to close the Public Hearing, Carl 2nd, all in favor, none opposed. M/C Hearing is closed.

We need motion to add the additional suggestions discussed to our ideas list and add the Beaverton Cross Country event to the Action list for presentation to the Board at the next Township meeting. Carl made motion to update our list with the three new suggestions and the addition to the Action Plan for the Cross Country plan for the recommendation presentation to the Township Board at the next meeting. Dee 2nd, All in favor, none opposed, M/C

Public Comments:

None

Larry thanked Rodney for the nice job, looks good. Thanked the committee for a good job, Carl does other things too, and did nice job. It looks nice and we are moving forward.

Committee Comments:

Carl thanked Dee, Barb and Rose for the hard work to get this completed. Took a lot of time and effort to get this far. And to the past committees and volunteers that helped with the cleanup. This

is a great accomplishment. We've waited so long to try to get this going and we're finally at that stage. Rose also mentioned the volunteers 500 plus hours of the volunteers. Carl also thanked the Township for the little bit of budget given to get this accomplished. Also thanked Rodney, he did take this on at the spur of the moment and he did a great job.

Rodney stated that with our recommendations he'll make the additions to the plan, print new copies.

Rose wondered when the new copies for the Board to give a least a week of review before the next Township meeting.

No Other Comments.

Next meeting will be December 3, 2013 at 2PM

Carl motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Dee. All in favor. No opposes M/C Adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Unapproved Minutes submitted by Rose Malott

**Billings Township
Parks and Recreation Committee
5Yr Plan Public Hearing Minutes
December 3, 2013**

Meeting called to order at 2:10 PM by Chair Barb Johnston.

Members in attendance: Carl Malott, Dee Battista and Rose Malott.

The Pledge of recited

Approve minutes from November 21, 2013 Public Hearing. Dee motioned to approve minutes, 2nd by Carl. All in favor, No opposed M/C.

Add ins to agenda and approval. Old business Completion of Launch-Notification to DEQ for sign off from Township and Completion of 5 yr Plan presentation to Township at next meeting.

Discuss mailings from Rodney Nanney.

Motion to accept agenda by Carl, 2nd Dee, all in favor, No Opposed M/C

Old Business:

Larry Grell had called asking if we were satisfied with the launch work as he had received a card from DEQ to sign off on the launch permit for completion. Rose told him that we were satisfied. Larry signed the card and returned to DEQ

Rose stated that she had forwarded communications from Rodney Nanney to the rest of the Park Board.

Carl explained that part of it was for the budget to make the Township Board aware. Discuss the check sheet that Rodney sent as well.

Barb turned meeting over to Rose to explain.

Rose explained that Rodney had sent a list of to do's to finalize park plan.

Reviewed the new book for all additions voted in from the public hearing.

Reviewed the task list to insure we are on schedule. See attached list.

Board discussed how many copies of the Adopted Plan copies we need, Board decided on 15 copies.

Help Barb work and reviewed what pages to bring to the attention of the Board as important to note. Ask them to approve, adopt and sign the resolution for the presented 5YR Park Plan. It also records our presentation is recorded in their minutes. See attached presentation sheet.

Board agreed to have one more meeting with Rodney to finalize all forms to insure everything is correct.

Tentative meeting scheduled for Dec. 16, 2013.

Public Comments:

None

Committee Comments:

No other Comments.

Rose motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Barb. All in favor. No opposes M/C Adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Unapproved Minutes submitted by Rose Malott

APPENDIX B

Township Board of Trustees – Resolution of Adoption and Meeting Minutes

Billings Township
Gladwin County, Michigan

COPY
Daz

**A Resolution of the Township Board of Trustees to Adopt the
2014 – 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

The following preamble and resolution were offered by BRIAN JOHNSON and supported by DANIEL ZUNICH.

WHEREAS, Billings Township desires to promote the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of Township residents by planning for improvements to park facilities and for new recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Township initiated a process under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Committee to prepare a five-year parks and recreation plan consistent with the Township Master Plan and the guidelines for community park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); and

WHEREAS, the Committee invited public input into the development of the plan through strategically placed displays and invitations for public comment throughout the community, an open house to showcase the proposed plan, and an extended public availability for review and comment on the proposed plan, and

WHEREAS, the Committee reviewed the results and all elements of the draft plan during a series of public meetings; and

WHEREAS, after notices were duly posted and published and copies of the proposed five-year plan made available for public review in accordance with MDNR guidelines, the Committee conducted a public hearing on November 21, 2013 to receive additional public comments on the proposed plan; and

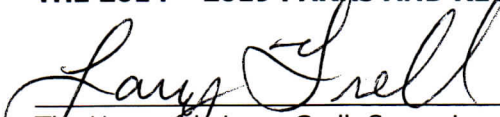
WHEREAS, following the public hearing, the Committee deliberated on and recommended approval of the proposed plan to the Township Board.

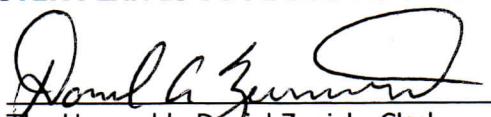
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Billings Township Board of Trustees accepts the Parks and Recreation Committee's recommendation and hereby adopts the new 2014 – 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5 CARL M. DANIEL Z. LARRY N. LARRY G. BRIAN J.
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0

THE 2014 – 2019 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN IS DECLARED ADOPTED.


The Honorable Larry Grell, Supervisor
Billings Township


The Honorable Daniel Zunich, Clerk
Billings Township

Dated: Dec 9 2013, 2013

Billings Township Board Meeting
December 9th, 2013
Meeting Minutes

COPY 

Attendance: Larry Grell, Carl Malott, Larry Nelson, Brian Johnson, Dan Zunich

Meeting called to order, 7:00 pm Pledge of Allegiance by Larry Grell

Agenda:

- Carl M. made motion to accept the agenda with adding election workers pay section to new business, seconded by Brian J.. All in favor. M/C

Approval of the minutes:

- Dan Z. made motion to accept the minutes with minor corrections seconded by Carl M.. All in favor: M/C.

Approval of bills to be paid:

- Dan Z noted adding the election workers extra \$0.50 per hour that was missed on their last election pay. Larry N. made motion to accept the bills, with the additions, being added. Seconded by Dan Z. Roll Call vote : All Yes, M/C with check # as follows General: 10615 -10659, Fire: 1030 - 1037, Sewer Ops: 1380 - 1392

Fire Chief's Report:

- 11- Medical calls in Billings, 2- Medical calls in Tobacco, 1- Tree on Power lines in Bentley, 1- Two overturned trailers and one pickup truck in Bentley due to high winds.
- Purchased office chairs and monitors for new fire hall. A lot of wind damage this past month with trees down and one barn that was blown down.

WWTP Report:

- Dave D. not available. Larry G. noted that WWTP Generator has had some problems but are being corrected. Septage hauling is on going.
- Car port cover is up and installing steel walls for truck coverage. Had 3 new hook ups to the system this past month. Changing over the clarifiers for winter is in progress.

Commissioner's report: No report, Terry W not here will check in later in meeting if he comes in.

Park Committee:

- Barb J. and Rose M. noted that the 5 year plan is complete. Suggestions and corrections have been made from the open meeting / hearing that was held.
- Beaverton Schools have expressed interest in using the park for cross country track events. Volunteers would come from the schools to set up a track, Waiting for a written proposal from the school district. This would greatly help out with the costs of construction and may help us get some grant money also.
- The new 5 year park plan was submitted to the board. Brian J. made motion to approve the Park 5 year plan with a resolution. Seconded by Dan Zunich who read the resolution (**Resolution of the Township Board of Trustees to Adopt the 2014 – 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**) Roll Call Vote with all 5 Ayes, M/C and resolution was signed by Larry G. and Dan Z. on this date of Dec 9th, 2013.
- Clerk will give park committee Reps a Draft copy of the These minutes ASAP so paperwork can be submitted to the County and State.
- The Park Committee is still looking for new members that are willing to help out with setting up the park.

Planning Committee:

- Larry N. noted that 4 amendments are on the table for the board to review at a later date.

Road Committee:

- Larry G. noted the next road meeting will be the 3rd Monday of the month.

ZBA report: Nothing to report this month.

Correspondence

- Dan Z. noted a bill from the Drain commissioner to clean out Leuenberger Drain and the Ortner Drain for a total cost of \$3487.21. Dan Z made motion to not pay this bill at this time until more information is given with regards for who is doing the work, what time frame, who is inspecting the work ext.. This is due to the recent issues that are going on with Stop orders being issued to the Drain Commissioner and the like. Seconded by Larry G. with all in favor. M/C
- Second was a request for the township to join /become a member of a service group that creates a directory of cities and townships throughout the country. The cost would be \$500.00 per year. Dan Z. noted that he doesn't see any value in this service at this time. Our township listing will still show up in this registry anyway. This feeling was shared by the entire board.

Old Business:

- Larry G. noted that any RV's that are left on vacant lots will be given a citation this year. NO HUNTING on Township Property was again mentioned People have been found and talked to over by the WWTP. This is for the safety of everyone in the area.
- Taxes / News letter went out. Brian J noted Bills went to people and not to mortgage companies. Larry N. stated that this is how it has to be. "The owners get the tax bills".

New Business:

- Brian J. noted that he and Rodney N. made up a new Township Zoning permit application with simple instructions. This will help eliminate incomplete applications and help speed up the process of issuing a permit. Dan Z. made motion to accept the new format, seconded by Larry N. with all in favor, M/C Brian J will place this out on our township web site.
- Discussed putting assessment and taxes on line. Larry G stated that all questions on how the site works should be directed to Deb B. the assessor. This way it doesn't take up any of the clerks time trying to explain how the website works. Dan Z agreed. Carl M made motion to table this issue till next month when Deb B. can be here and explain the costs better. Seconded by Brian J. all in favor, M/C
- Township insurance renewal. Dan Z and Larry G explained the cost structure of the next years policy. Carl M. made motion to accept the quote from Ted Hartleb agency for the insurance needs of the township. Seconded by Brian J. Roll Call vote; all in favor, M/C
- Snow plow bids never came in, Delieles was called and gave costing to Larry G. the cost was less than last year and that included salting the parking lot when needed for only \$40.00. Brian J made motion to use this bid, seconded by Larry N. Roll Call with all in favor, M/C

Public comments:

- Barb J noted that if we might have a company come in to mark all assets that would be a great time to update the whole townships assets. This has not been done in many years and should be done not just for insurance reasons. Congrats to the board members for really trying to make the township better and getting things done and moving forward.

Board Comments:

- Larry N. noted board of review is tomorrow, Bob Cudee passed away, Great work on decoration by Larry, Dan, Brian, Barb and all that worked on them. Thanks to Tree Rivers for the use of their truck to decorate. Carl M. noted thanks to all volunteers past and present for all the hard work on the park. Larry G noted the Gladwin light parade was wonderful this year, had thank you card to three rivers. Merry Christmas from all board members.
- Larry N. made motion to adjourn, seconded by Larry N. All in Favor: M/C 8:25pm
- **Minutes Created by: Daniel Zunich, Billings Township Clerk**



APPENDIX C

Transmittal Letters and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Checklist

BUILDING PLACE

RODNEY C. NANNEY, AICP
301 WEST NELSON STREET
MIDLAND, MI 48640

TRANSMITTAL

2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Billings Township, Gladwin County, Michigan

December 20, 2013

East Michigan Council of Governments
Attn. Sue Fortune, Executive Director
3144 Davenport Avenue, Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48602

VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Fortune,

On behalf of the Billings Township Board of Trustees and the Township Parks and Recreation Committee, we are pleased to provide for your information the enclosed copy of the 2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as adopted on December 9, 2013. Per your organization's request, a complete .PDF file of the adopted document can be downloaded directly from the following website:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/23813611/BillingsTwpParksandRecPlan-adopted.pdf>

Copies of the adopted document have also been provided to the Gladwin County Planning Commission and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Please direct any written correspondence to:

Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Attn. Carl Malott, Trustee
1050 Estey Road
Beaverton, MI 48612

This is the first plan of this type ever adopted by the Township Board. Billings Township has prepared this plan to serve as a guide for implementation of improvements and new initiatives over the next five years, consistent with the priorities and interests of Township residents. The document has been developed in accordance with the guidelines for community park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Respectfully submitted,
BUILDING PLACE

Rodney C. Nanney, AICP
Township Planning Consultant
rodney@buildingplace.net

www.buildingplace.net

BUILDING PLACE

RODNEY C. NANNEY, AICP
301 WEST NELSON STREET
MIDLAND, MI 48640

TRANSMITTAL

2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Billings Township, Gladwin County, Michigan

December 20, 2013

Gladwin County Planning Commission
Attn. Justin Schneider, Building Official
555 W. Cedar Ave., Suite C
Gladwin, MI 48624

VIA U.S. MAIL

Dear Mr. Schneider,

On behalf of the Billings Township Board of Trustees and the Township Parks and Recreation Committee, we are pleased to provide for your information the enclosed copy of the 2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as adopted on December 9, 2013. Per your organization's request, a complete paper copy of the adopted document is enclosed for your use. Digital copies in the .PDF file format can also be downloaded directly from the following website:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/23813611/BillingsTwpParksandRecPlan-adopted.pdf>

Copies of the adopted document have also been provided to the East Michigan Council of Governments and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Please direct any written correspondence to:

Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Attn. Carl Malott, Trustee
1050 Estey Road
Beaverton, MI 48612

This is the first plan of this type ever adopted by the Township Board. Billings Township has prepared this plan to serve as a guide for implementation of improvements and new initiatives over the next five years, consistent with the priorities and interests of Township residents. The document has been developed in accordance with the guidelines for community park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Respectfully submitted,
BUILDING PLACE

Rodney C. Nanney, AICP
Township Planning Consultant
rodney@buildingplace.net

www.buildingplace.net

BUILDING PLACE

RODNEY C. NANNEY, AICP
301 WEST NELSON STREET
MIDLAND, MI 48640

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Billings Township, Gladwin County, Michigan

December 20, 2013

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management Office
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

VIA U.S. MAIL

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of the Billings Township Board of Trustees and the Township Parks and Recreation Committee, we are pleased to submit the 2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your review and acceptance. A complete paper copy of the adopted document is enclosed for your use. Digital copies in the .PDF file format can be downloaded directly from the following website:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/23813611/BillingsTwpParksandRecPlan-adopted.pdf>

Copies of the adopted document have also been provided for information purposes to the Gladwin County Planning Commission and the East Michigan Council of Governments.

Please direct any written correspondence regarding the plan or the Township's eligibility for future grant funding opportunities to:

Billings Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Attn. Carl Malott, Trustee
1050 Estey Road
Beaverton, MI 48612

This is the first plan of this type ever adopted by the Township Board. Billings Township has prepared this plan to serve as a guide for implementation of improvements and new initiatives over the next five years, consistent with the priorities and interests of Township residents. The document has been developed in accordance with the MI-DNR guidelines for community park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans.

Respectfully submitted,
BUILDING PLACE

Rodney C. Nanney, AICP
Township Planning Consultant
rodney@buildingplace.net

www.buildingplace.net

APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

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

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

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan: <u>2014-2019 Billings Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan</u>		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
<u>Billings Township</u>	<u>Gladwin</u>	

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of <u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities <u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RECREATION INVENTORY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

☒ 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

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

Date of the Notice 10/23/2013

Type of Notice Publication in the township newspaper of record.

Plan Location Township Hall, 1050 Estey Rd., Beaverton, MI. 48612

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 30 Days prior to public hearing and at least 49 days prior to adoption.

☒ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the

Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice 10/23/2013

Name of Newspaper Gladwin County Record

Date of Meeting 11/21/2013

☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ 7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

☒ 8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

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

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

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

- ☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: _____
- ☒ 2. Official resolution of the Parks and Recreation Committee ^(meeting minutes) ~~Commission or Board,~~ recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____
- ☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: _____
- ☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: _____

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Billings Township Gladwin County, Michigan includes the required content, as indicated
(Local Unit of Government)
above and as set forth by the DNR.

Larry Gull Dec 17, 2013
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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

Date

By:

Grants Management Date

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

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