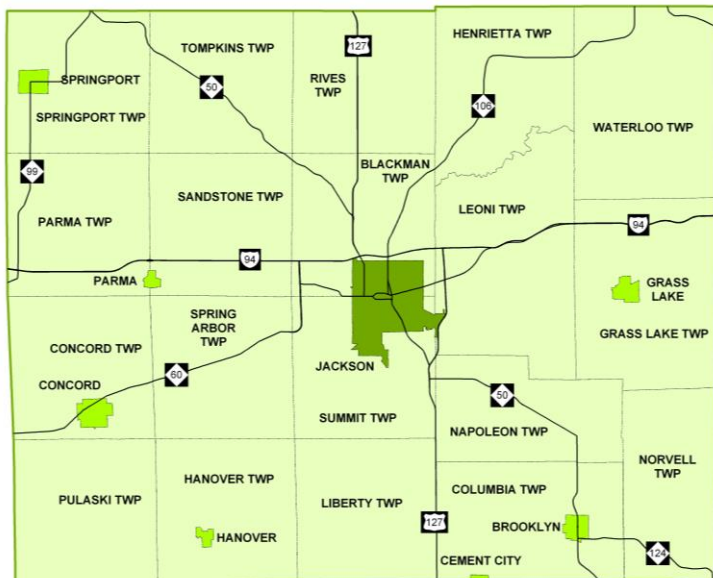


City of Jackson and Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan 2015-2019 Edition



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Plan Approval and Adoption

Jackson City Council	February 24, 2015
Jackson County Board	February 17, 2015
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	March 18, 2015

The 2015-2019 edition of the City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan will expire on December 31, 2019

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Chapter 1

Community Description

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



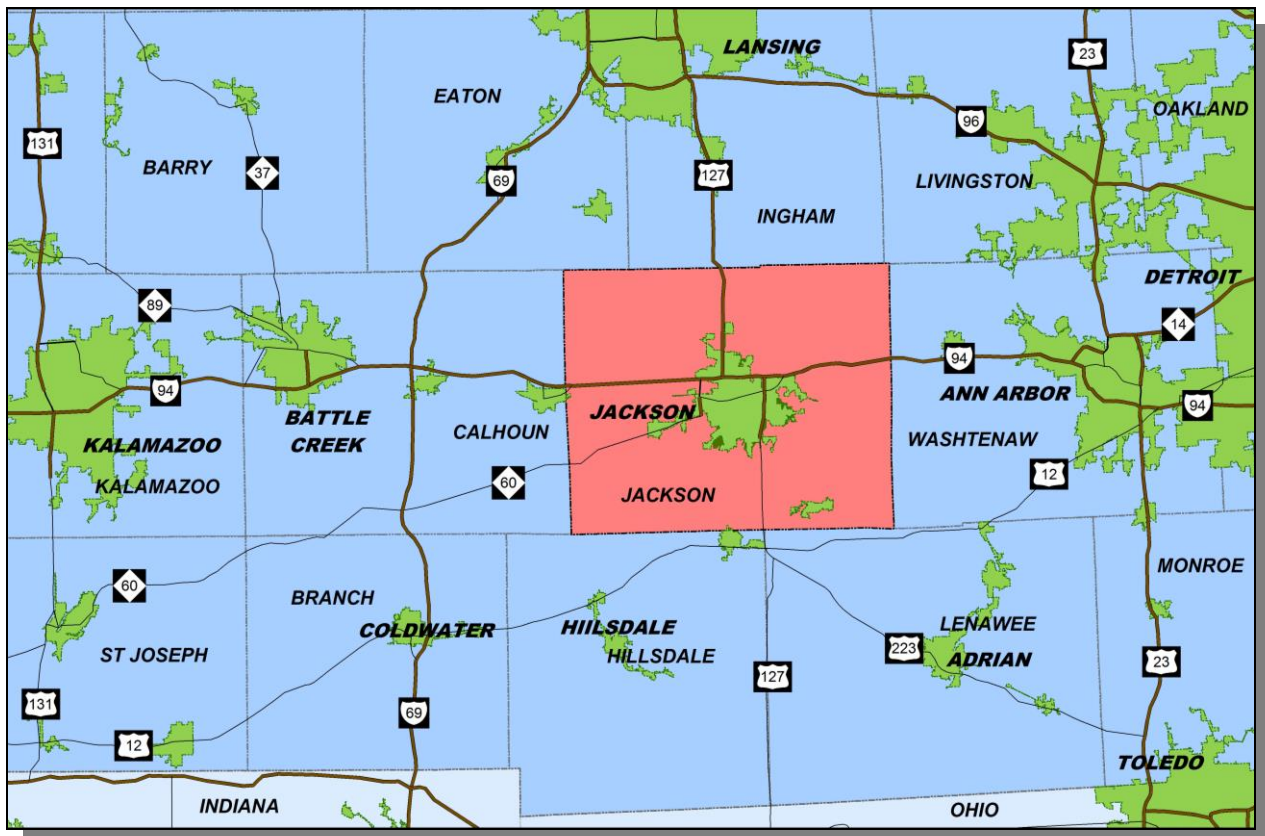
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A priority of Jackson County and the City of Jackson is to develop and implement a joint recreation plan which responds to the recreational desires of their citizens and plans for enhancements to their parks and recreation programs. A sincere effort was spent in developing this joint plan which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in the County and City. For example, the plan provides a clear picture of the recreational opportunities available to residents regardless of who provides them. Nontraditional recreation opportunities such as historic districts/structures and shopping opportunities are catalogued as well as traditional parks and recreation facilities.

Location

Jackson County is located in south-central Lower Michigan, close to the border with Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana. The Jackson area is located in the center of the County. Interstate Highway 94 (I-94) and United States Highway 127 (US-127) converge in Metropolitan Jackson, earning the area the nickname of “Crossroads of Michigan. Those roads connect Jackson directly to Ann Arbor and Detroit to the east, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to the west, and Lansing to the north.

**Figure 1-1
Regional Location**



The City of Jackson has a total land area of 10.8 square miles. Jackson County has a total land area of 720 square miles. In addition to Jackson, the County includes 19 townships and 6 incorporated villages. The townships of Blackman, Leoni, Spring Arbor, and Summit are recognized as urban because the Jackson Urbanized Area extended well inside their boundaries in 2010. The remainder of the townships and the villages are considered to be rural.

A Brief History

Jackson County was first occupied by the Pottawatomie Indians. Jackson was the crossing place of two great trails, the St. Joseph and the Washtenaw. Western tribes stopped in the area to fish in the Grand River.

In 1829 a Federal Act was passed to survey Jackson County. Horace Blackman, the first white settler, arrived in what is now Jackson that year. He came from New York to investigate the region and found dense woods, a beautiful river in a little valley, and an Indian campground.

Jackson may be best known for hosting the first Republican Convention on July 6, 1854. It was selected as the site of the first Republican Convention due to its involvement in the Underground Railroad. Hundreds of influential Michigan citizens made the pilgrimage to Jackson.

The prison in the City of Jackson may have been responsible for Jackson's industrial boom in the mid-1800s. The prison provided a source of cheap labor for factories, making Jackson a very attractive place to do business. However, in 1909 the practice of using prisoners for labor in private industry was prohibited by the Michigan legislature. The current prison is located in Blackman Township.

By the 1930's, Jackson had been transformed from an agricultural community to a bustling city of 55,000 with several tall buildings built of limestone and marble. Jackson was known for its beautiful homes, tree-lined streets and its many fine parks.

A Brief Socioeconomic Summary

The demographic composition of the population of Jackson County—including its urban and rural townships and the City of Jackson—has an effect upon its recreational needs. Pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief paragraph describing the local situation. Each of the components is described in greater detail in Appendix A of this document.

Population History and Projections

Jackson County's population was comprised of 160,248 people in 2010 according to the US Census. The share of County residents living within the City declined to less than a quarter (20.9%) in 2010 with 33,534 residents. Accordingly, the residents of the Urban Townships (42.8%) and Rural Townships (36.2%) grew to comprise correspondingly larger portions of the county population that year. Based upon this pattern:

- **2015 Projections** — The County population in 2015 is estimated to be around 159,248 with the Urban Townships comprising almost one-half (43.0%) of that population, the Rural Townships comprising over one-third (36.4%) of that population, and the City comprising less than one-quarter (20.6%) of that population with 32,881 residents

- **2020 Projections** — The County population in 2020 is projected to be around 159,600 with Metropolitan Jackson (i.e., the City and the Urban Township) comprising almost two-thirds (63.4%) of that population, down slightly from 2015 (63.6%), and the City comprising less than one-quarter (20.2%) of that population with 31,626 residents

However, it should be pointed out that the greatest population densities will continue to be in the City of Jackson. The City's population density is projected to be 4.7 persons per acre and 4.6 persons per acre in 2015 and 2020, respectively. Population densities within the Urban Townships and Rural Townships are projected to be 0.7 persons per acre and 0.1 persons per acre, respectively, in 2015 and 2020.

Households & Group Quarters

The overwhelming majority of residents lived in households between 2008 and 2012, based upon American Community Survey (ACS) estimates. However, that means that a significant minority of County residents (5.4%) reside in group quarters. That minority increases in Metropolitan Jackson (7.5%) although fewer City of Jackson residents (2.2%) resided in group quarters.

The Gender & Age of the Population

The ACS estimated that males comprised slightly more than half of County (51.1%), Urban Township (53.0%), and Rural Township (51.0) residents between 2008 and 2012. In contrast, over one-half (52.7%) of City residents were female. It was also estimated that the average City resident (median age of 32.4 years) also tended to be younger than the average County resident (median age of 39.5 years) or Jackson Urbanized Area resident (median age of 37.1%). The following generations each accounted for approximately one-quarter of the populations of the City and the Urban and Rural Townships between 2008 and 2012: 'Baby boomers' (aged 45-64 in 2010), 'Generation X' (aged 25-44 in 2010), and 'Millennials' (aged 5-24 years in 2010). It is also interesting to note that it is estimated that a greater portion of City's population (8.9%) are under five years of age than the populations of the Urban Townships (4.8%), the Rural Townships (5.4%), or the County (5.9%).

Households & Families

The ACS estimates that there were 59,949 households in Jackson County between 2008 and 2012 dispersed throughout the City of Jackson (21.8%), the Urban Townships (41.9%), and the Rural Townships (36.3%); average household size was estimated to be 2.53 people in the County, 2.46 people in the Jackson Urbanized Area, and 2.52 people in the City. Families comprised a majority of households throughout the County (67.6%), the City (60.2%), the Urban Townships (65.7%), and the Rural Townships (74.3%); average family size was estimated to be 3.08 people in the County, 3.11 people in the Jackson Urbanized Area, and 3.25 people in the City. One-person households, a subset of non-family households, comprised a significant minority of households in the City (34.4%), the Urban Townships (28.2%), the Rural Townships (20.8%), and the County (26.9%).

Racial & Ethnic Minorities

It is estimated by the ACS that Metropolitan Jackson (17.2%)—the City of Jackson (28.2%) and the Urban Townships (11.8%)—were home to the greatest concentration of racial minorities in Jackson County between 2008 and 2012 although some minorities resided in the Rural Townships (3.4%). African Ameri-

cans comprised the largest racial minority group in the City (28.2%), the Urban Townships (7.0%), the Rural Townships (1.1%), and the County (8.1%). People of multiple racial origins comprised the second largest racial minority group in the City (3.8%), the Urban Townships (2.3%), the Rural Townships (1.0%), and the County (2.2%). Persons of Hispanic origin—an ethnic group—were small but important segments of the populations of the City (5.1%), the Urban Townships (3.5%), the Rural Townships (1.3%), and the County (3.0%).

The Disabilities of Residents

Disabled individuals comprised a small but significant segment of the populations of the City of Jackson (17.9%), the Urban Townships (14.9%), and the Rural Townships (12.5%) between 2008 and 2012, with the greatest estimated occurrence manifesting in the 18-64 age group (7.8%) in Jackson County. The ACS also estimated that a significant portion of the populations of the County (7.9%), Metropolitan Jackson—the City (9.5%) and the Urban Townships (8.3%)—and Rural Townships (6.6%) had some type of ambulatory difficulty.

Income

The recent economic downturn is reflected in local household, family, nonfamily and per capita ACS estimates between 2008 and 2012.

- **Median Income** — Median household income was \$46,572 in Jackson County, \$38,377 in the Jackson Urbanized Area, and \$29,144 in the City of Jackson; median family income was \$57,790 in the County, \$47,916 in the Urbanized Area, and \$34,957 in the City; and median nonfamily income was \$26,792 in Jackson County, \$24,678 in the Urbanized Area, and \$20,499 in the City
- **Mean Income** — Mean household income was \$58,056 in Jackson County, \$48,767 in the Jackson Urbanized Area, and \$38,530 in the City of Jackson; median family income was \$68,009 in the County, \$58,065 in the Urbanized Area, and \$44,517 in the City; and median nonfamily income was \$35,018 in the County, \$31,598 in the Urbanized Area, and \$27,263 in the City
- **Per Capita Income** — Per capita income was \$22,388 in Jackson County, \$19,059 in the Jackson Urbanized Area, and \$15,563 in the City of Jackson

The Health of Jackson County Residents

Obesity describes ranges of weight that are above healthy guidelines given a certain height. Body Mass Index is used to calculate an individual's ratio of height to weight. Generally, a person with a Body Mass Index score of 25.0 or greater is considered obese.¹ In 2010, 31.1% of Michigan residents were considered obese (the tenth highest in the nation),² with 34% of adults in Jackson County reporting being obese.³ According to a report published by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and So-

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Adult: Defining – DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/defining.html>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Data and Statistics -- DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

³ County Health Rankings. (2014). Adult obesity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2014/measure/factors/11/data>

cial Research and Institute for Health Care Studies, being overweight or obese substantially increases the risk for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, lipid disorders, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, psychological disorders, stress incontinence, and cancers of the endometrium, breast, prostate and colon.⁴ In 2008, the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan showed that a poor diet and physical activity were second only to tobacco as the greatest cause for actual death in the United States in 1990 and 2000. Furthermore, a publication by the World Health Organization states that physical inactivity and a poor diet are large contributors to overweight and obesity.⁵ According to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 26% of Jackson County residents reported being physically inactive,⁶ placing it in the top 25 counties in Michigan for this measure. These statistics point to a need for more active recreational opportunities in all communities. Those opportunities may include providing more walkable neighborhoods as well as the provision of actual recreational opportunities such as athletic fields (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.) and courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, etc.) Factors of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning contributing to unhealthy weight according to the 2006 Jackson Community Report Card produced by the United Way of Jackson County include:

- “Inadequate community infrastructure limits the ability of people to be active. These include lack of accessible indoor and outdoor exercise facilities, neighborhood sidewalks, walking paths, and bicycle trails. Additionally, inclement weather, lack of adequate recreational opportunities, fear of unsafe neighborhoods, and unattractive/unpleasant local environments may prevent people from exercising.”
- “Programs and policies are necessary to promote smart community growth and the establishment of urban and rural environments supportive of physical activity. Active community environments provide access to safe favorable conditions for physical activity and promote the development of social support networks that encourage activity.”

The Michigan State University Report: *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan Through Physical Activity and Nutrition* (Kreulen, 2002), recommends cooperation among state and local units of government and residents in the promotion of active environments, including the following actions.

- “Develop walkable communities by widening and maintaining or building sidewalks, safe roadway crossings, and aesthetically pleasing areas.”
- “Encourage bicycling by developing, maintaining, and promoting the use of bike paths.”
- “Require [that] all urban planning and re-design incorporate the concepts of active community environments and thereby promote physical activity.”

⁴ Kreulen, G. J. (2002). *Promoting healthy weight in Michigan through physical activity and nutrition (Informing the debate : health policy options for Michigan policymakers)*. East Lansing: Institute for Public Policy & Social Research and Institute for Health Care Studies at Michigan State University.

⁵ World Health Organization. (2009). Unhealthy Diets & Physical Inactivity. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact_sheet_diet_en.pdf

⁶ County Health Rankings. (2014). Physical inactivity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2014/measure/factors/70/data>

**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 1-1

**POPULATION
SUMMARY MAP**

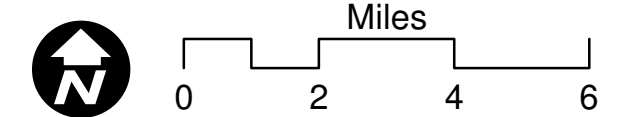
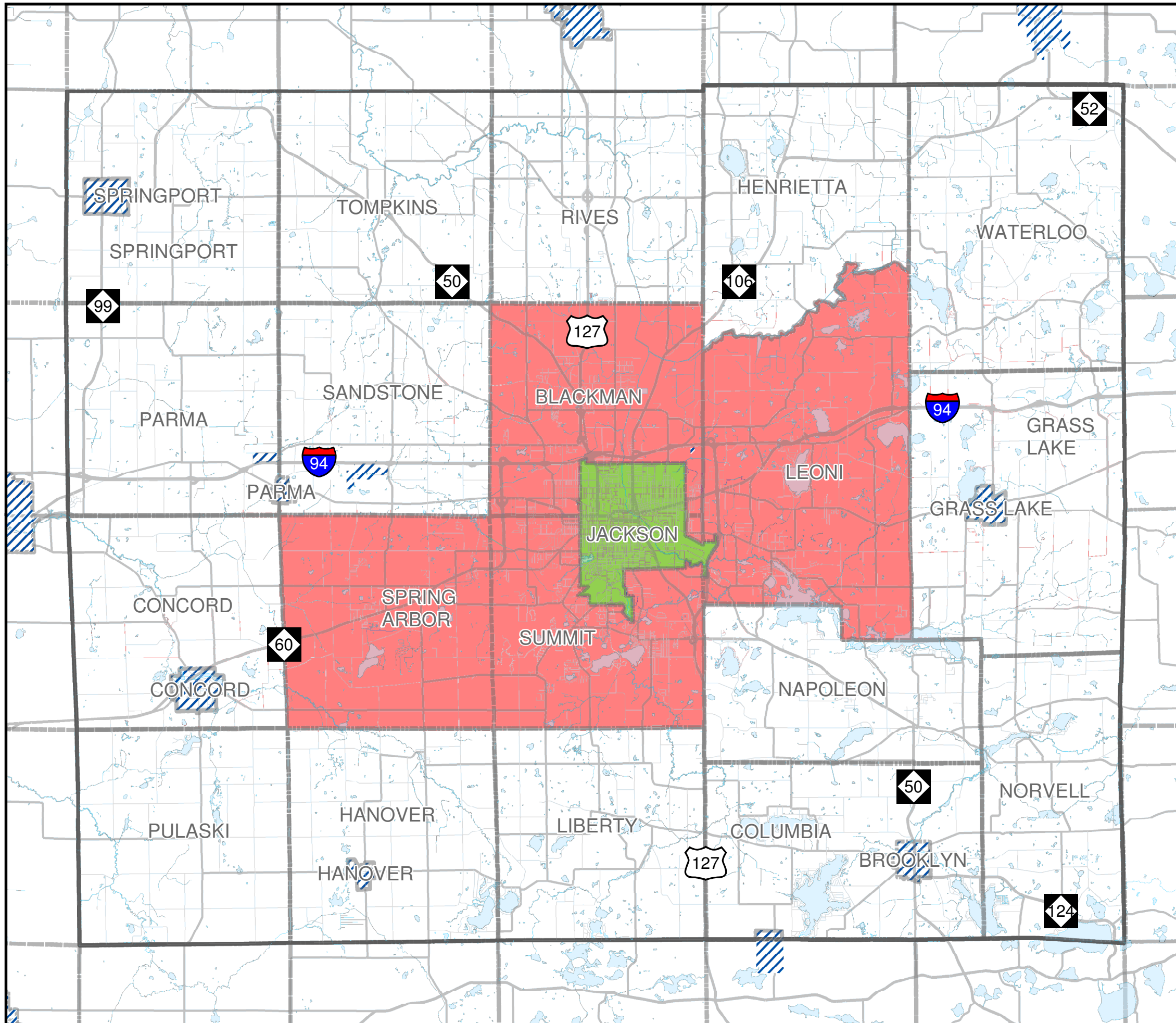
METROPOLITAN JACKSON

- CITY OF JACKSON
- URBAN TOWNSHIPS

OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

- RURAL TOWNSHIPS
- OTHER CITIES AND VILLAGES

SOURCE(S):
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY
- U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



Chapter 2

Administrative Structure

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

Authorization

The authority to provide public park systems and recreation programs is granted by the State of Michigan. Jackson County and the City of Jackson currently operate under the authority of two separate public acts:

- **Jackson County** — Jackson County’s park system is established under the authority of Public Act 261 of 1965, *County and Regional Parks* (MCL 46.351 et seq). The act allowed for the creation of the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission, under the control of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.
- **City of Jackson** — The City of Jackson’s park system is established under the authority of Public Act 156 of 1917, *Recreation and Playgrounds* (MCL 125.51 et seq). The act allowed for the creation of the City of Jackson Parks and Recreation Commission and the Ella Sharp Park Board, both under the control of the Jackson City Council. The act also allows for the recreation millage through Jackson Public Schools.

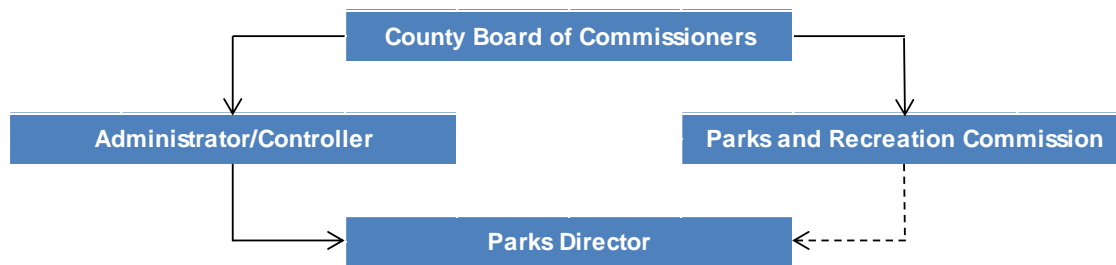
Organizational Structure

The following bodies are involved in the provision of recreation facilities and programs:

Jackson County

The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for planning, constructing, maintaining, programming, and administering all county parks. The Commission is also charged with studying various recreation needs, advising the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on recreation issues, and making appropriate budget requests (see the organizational chart).

Jackson County Organizational Chart



The following members comprise the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- The County Drain Commissioner, or an employee designated by the Commissioner
- A member of Jackson County Planning Commission residing in Jackson County
- Eight members appointed by the County Board, including at least two but not more than three County Commissioners

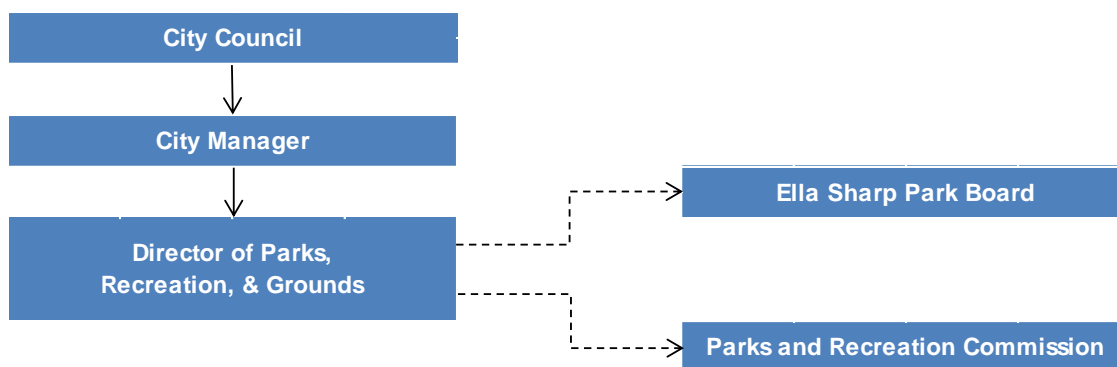
The Parks Director reports to the County’s Administrator/Controller. The Director is in charge of 7 full-time employees and at least 50 seasonal employees. The Jackson County Parks Association, the Friends

of the Falling Waters Trail, the Cascades Park Foundation, and Cascades Inc. volunteer their services to the park system.

City of Jackson

The Ella Sharp Park Board is responsible for planning, constructing, maintaining, programming, and administering Ella Sharp Park and the City of Jackson Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for all other city parks. The Board and the Commission are also charged with studying various recreation needs, advising the City Council on recreation issues, and making appropriate budget requests (see the organizational chart).

City of Jackson Organizational Chart



The Ella Sharp Park Board of Trustees is comprised of the following members:¹

- 1 member of the City Council appointed by the Council
- 4 city residents appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council

The following members comprise the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- 1 member of the City Council and 4 city residents appointed by Council
- 1 member of the Jackson Public Schools' Board of Education and 3 school district residents appointed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board
- 3 ex-officio members (e.g., the City Manager, the Chair of the City Planning Commission, and the Superintendent of Jackson Public Schools)

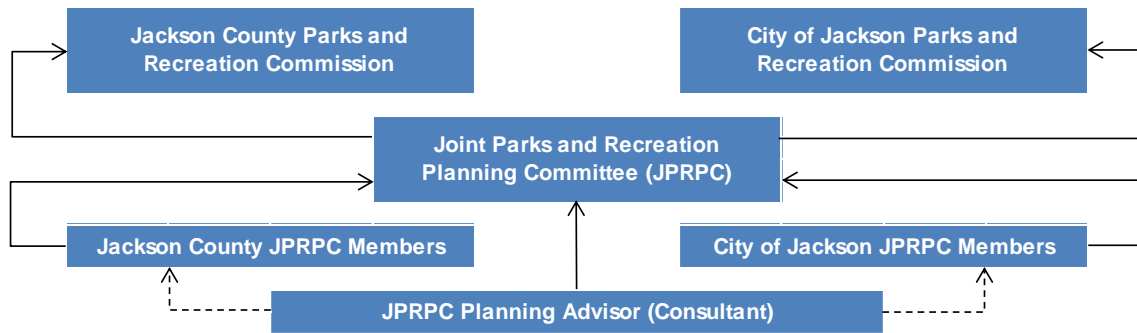
The City's park system is administered in conjunction with its cemetery program within the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Grounds. The Director reports to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Ella Sharp Park Board as well as the City Manager and City Council. The Director is in charge of the 13 full-time employees and 315 seasonal employees who maintain parks and provide recreation programs. Approximately 200 adults volunteer to coach youth sports each year and service groups volunteer to help with park cleanup.

¹ Please note that three of the four city residents appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission are also appointed to serve as members of the Ella Sharp Park Board.

Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee

The Parks and Recreation Commissions of the City of Jackson and Jackson County formed an ad hoc Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee for the sole purpose of developing the second edition of the City of Jackson and Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan (see the organizational chart).

Joint Oversight Committee Organizational Chart



The following members comprised the Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee:

- **Jackson County** — The Director of the County’s Parks and Recreation Department and three (3) other members appointed by the Parks and Recreation Commission
- **City of Jackson** — The Director of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department and three (3) other members appointed by the Parks and Recreation Commission
- The Principal Planner from the Region 2 Planning Commission served as the Committee’s advisor (i.e., consultant) throughout the development of the document

Parks and Recreation Budgeting

The parks and recreation budgets of Jackson County and the City of Jackson illustrate a substantial commitment to their park systems and recreation programs:

- **Jackson County** — The park system’s operating budget (which includes the fairgrounds) for 2015 was \$1,504,051. The County’s Public Improvement and Building Funds provided \$326,180 in capital funding for parks and an additional \$57,267 for equipment. It is important to note that the capital budget for the park system fluctuates on an annual basis, based upon allocations from the County Board and any grants and/or donations secured for a specific project.
- **City of Jackson** — The park system’s operating budget for 2014-2015 was \$2,671,263 and it is anticipated that the budget should remain fairly constant in future years. The capital budget for the park system was \$169,827. It is important to note that the capital budget for the park system fluctuates on an annual basis, based upon allocations from the City Council and any grants and/or donations secured for a specific project.

Sources of Funding

Jackson County and the City of Jackson utilize a variety of funding sources to maintain their park systems and recreation programs:

- **Jackson County** — The following funding sources are utilized by Jackson County’s Parks Department for recreation purposes:
 - general tax fund dollars
 - user fees for golfing, camping, pavilions; and other attractions
 - rental income from weddings, concession stands, and other businesses
 - grants and donations awarded for specific projects
- **City of Jackson** — The following funding sources are utilized by the City of Jackson’s Department of Parks, Recreation, and Grounds for recreation purposes:
 - general tax fund dollars
 - recreation program millage through Jackson Public Schools
 - user fees for golfing, skateboarding, and other facilities and recreation programs
 - the Ella W. Sharp endowment fund
 - grants and donations awarded for specific projects

General tax fund dollars are used by the County and the City for the maintenance of their park systems, including the cost of producing this Plan. The rent generated by concession stands and other commercial vendors contribute to the maintenance of the county system. Revenues from an endowment fund contribute to the maintenance of the City’s Ella Sharp Park. The user fees charged for various facilities (i.e., golfing, camping, skateboarding, pavilions, etc.) contribute to the maintenance of those and other facilities within the park systems. Finally, a millage through Jackson Public Schools — and the user fees charged for recreation sessions and sports seasons — fund the recreation programming provided by the City.

Grants are sought from various state, federal, and philanthropic sources for the acquisition of parkland and the development of a specific park, facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.) or program. Donations from the general public and various service organizations for a specific park, facility, or program are also accepted. A portion of the local match required of most grants may also come from the general fund or donations. Many grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund² Grants for trails (e.g., non-motorized transportation) are likely to come from the Michigan Department of Transportation through the Transportation Enhancement Program³

The Michigan Transportation Fund Act (Act 51) states that “a reasonable amount, but not less than 1% of” funds allocated to the state or a county, city, or village “shall be expended for construction or improvement of non-motorized transportation services and facilities.” That set-aside can be used to fund “an improvement in a road, street, or highway which facilitates non-motorized transportation . . . or im-

² This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.

³ Ibid.

provement of a sidewalk in a city or village, or any other appropriate measure.” The Michigan Department of Transportation, the Jackson County Department of Transportation, the City of Jackson, and the various villages within the county receive funding through Act 51. Coordination with those entities could result in the expenditure of Act 51 funds on non-motorized projects proposed within this document.

Relationships with Other Recreation Providers

Jackson County and the City of Jackson are not the only suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to City and County residents.

Schools

Local school districts are significant suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to their students and boosters as well as the general public. The following school districts maintain recreation facilities within Jackson County (see Map 2-1):

- Columbia School District
- Concord Community Schools
- East Jackson Community Schools
- Grass Lake Community Schools
- Hanover-Horton School District
- Jackson Public Schools
- Michigan Center School District
- Napoleon Community Schools
- Northwest Community Schools
- Springport Public Schools
- Vandercook Lake Public Schools
- Western School District

Those districts — which also provide recreation programs to their students — are part of the Jackson County Intermediate School District (ISD). The ISD provides educational services to residents and local school districts, including some recreation facilities. A millage through the Jackson Public Schools funds recreation programs through the City of Jackson.

The following school districts, which cover portions of Jackson County, provide recreation programs to their students although they maintain no recreation facilities within the county:

- Albion Public Schools
- Chelsea School District
- Homer Community Schools
- Leslie Public Schools
- Litchfield Community Schools
- Manchester Community Schools
- North Adams-Jerome Schools

Local, County, State Government and Private Providers

Some of the villages and townships within Jackson County also maintain parks, trails, and recreation programs. The same is true for some of the surrounding counties and municipalities.

Jackson County and the City of Jackson participate with the other local governments within the county in the planning for and provision of recreation facilities as evidenced by the [Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002](#). The intergovernmental cooperation that created the Study is still active. For example, the [Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan](#) covers the Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell. The [Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan](#) covers the Village of Grass Lake and Grass Lake Charter Township.

The State of Michigan provides a variety of recreational facilities in the form of state game, wildlife, and recreation areas; state historic parks; and state parks in and around the county. Jackson County cooperated with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the establishment of the Falling Waters Trail. A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around the Township.

Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of recreation facilities in Jackson County and the City of Jackson.

Public-Private Cooperation.

Cooperation between the public and private sectors is also active. For example, the Jackson County Parks Association, the Cascades Park Foundation, and Cascades Inc. volunteer their services to the County's park system. The Friends of the Falling Waters Trail was instrumental in the development and maintenance of the Falling Waters Trail.

The Jackson County Strategic Plan was developed in conjunction with Jackson 2020, a volunteer organization which utilizes the collective impact model to help improve Jackson County. A major component of the Strategic Plan is 'Arts, Recreational, and Cultural Opportunities.' The Arts, Recreation, and Culture (ARC) Strand of Jackson 2020 was instrumental in developing the Component which contains the following vision statement:

Develop Jackson County as the Crossroads of Michigan for Arts, Recreation, and Culture through collaboration among providing organizations for the benefit of residents, businesses, and visitors.

The ARC Strand is divided into several workgroups:

- Art and Artists
- Events and Institutions & Community Engagement (Marketing)
- Parks, Recreation, and Environment

Goals, strategies, and activities were developed for each of the workgroups, although the activities are meant to change and evolve.⁴ The ARC Strand's workgroups are involved in implementing those activities in cooperation with their mix of members from the public and private sectors as well as the general public. The Jackson Community Foundation has restructured its granting program to align with Jackson 2020.

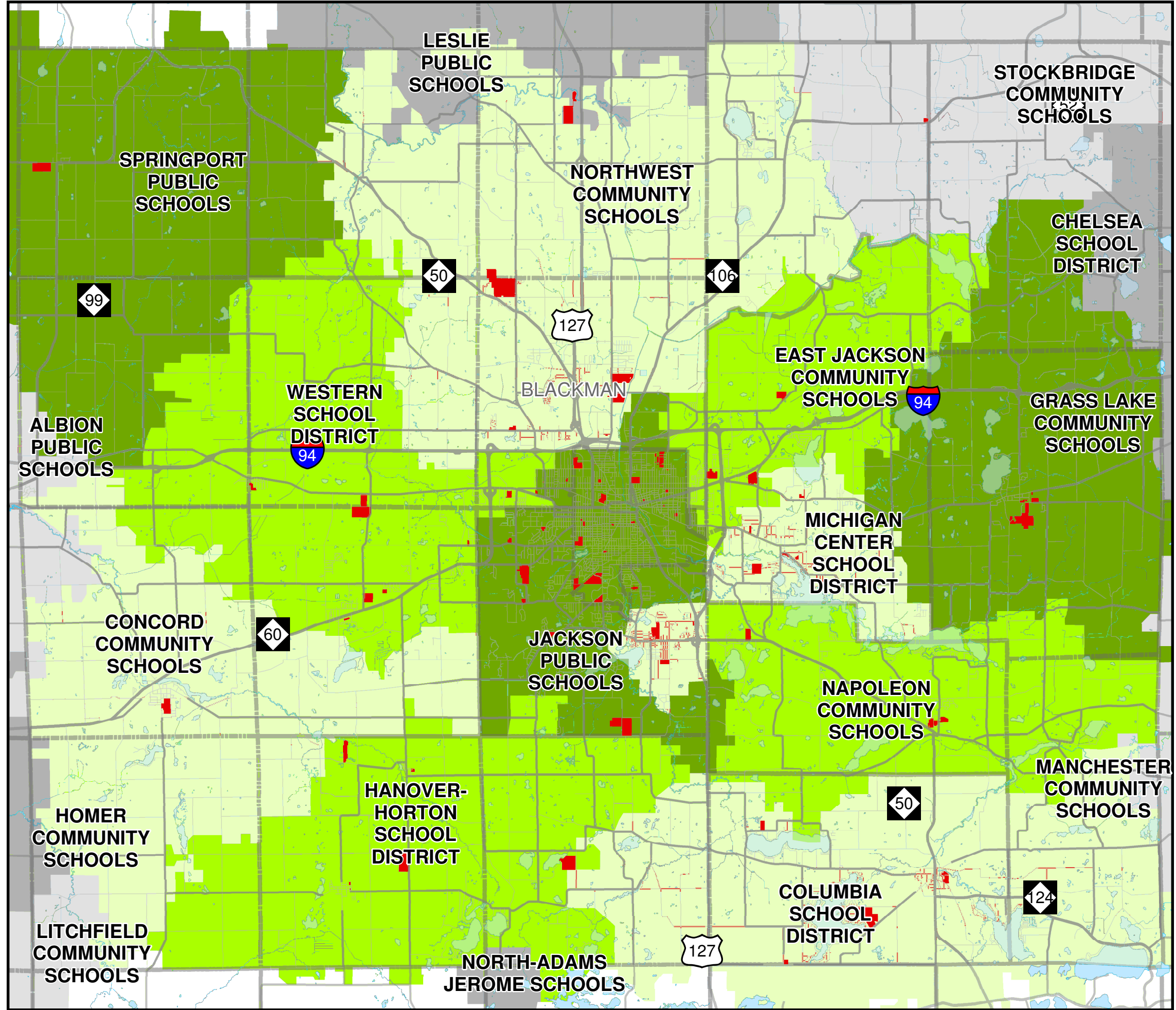
Finally, the Jackson Public Schools has sponsored a millage to fund the vast array of recreation programs provided by the City of Jackson for many years, making them available to residents throughout the District rather than just the City. Voters approved the current version of the millage during the summer of 2014. Please refer to Chapter 3 for a detailed description of those programs.

⁴ Download the 'Arts, Recreational, and Cultural Opportunities' component of the Jackson County Strategic Plan from: www.co.jackson.mi.us/county_info/strategic_planning/cultural_and_recreational_opportunities/docs/ARCO_Strategic_Plan_2020.pdf

**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 2-1


**JACKSON COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
& FACILITIES**



SCHOOL FACILITIES

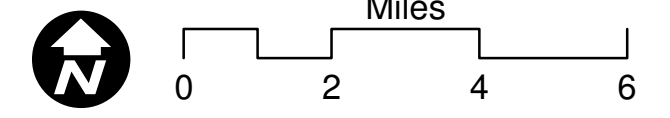
 SCHOOL FACILITIES

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

 DISTRICTS WITHIN THE
JACKSON INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL DISTRICT (ISD)

 DISTRICTS OUTSIDE THE ISD

SOURCE(S):
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY
- JACKSON COUNTY GIS



Chapter 3

Recreation and Resource Inventories

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

In order to plan for future parks and recreation facilities it is important to prepare a complete inventory of existing resources and facilities. The following inventory is comprised of all known parks and recreation facilities and programs available countywide, not just those owned and managed by Jackson County and the City of Jackson. The parks, facilities, and programs were identified through local knowledge and review of current and historic documents and maps.

Park Classifications and Standards

It is also important to be able classify parks and recreation facilities and to apply standards to them in order to identify the need for additional parkland and recreation facilities in Jackson County and the City of Jackson.

Types of Parks

Park systems are comprised of several types of parks:¹

- **Mini-Parks** — Small parks (less than an acre) which address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs
- **Neighborhood Parks** — Informal active and/or passive recreation parks which serve as the focus of the neighborhood; *this park type also serves as a mini-park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility*
- **Community Parks** — Parks which serve a broader focus than a neighborhood and may also preserve a unique landscape or open space; *this park type also serves as a neighborhood park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility*
- **Regional Parks** — Parks which serve the entire county as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces; *this park type also serves as a community park for the area surrounding the facility*
- **Connector Trails** — Linear parks which serve as non-motorized connectors among neighborhoods, business areas, parks, schools, and other destinations

Service Area and Acreage Standards

The park acreage standard advocated by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is 10 acres for every 1,000 residents.² The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recommends the following service areas and minimum sizes for each type of park.³

- **Mini-Parks** — Less than ¼ mile service area and less than an acre in size
- **Neighborhood Parks** — ¼-½ mile service area and a minimum size of 5 acres
- **Community Parks** — ½-3 mile service area and a size of 30-50 acres
- **Regional Parks** — Community-wide service area and a minimum size of 50-75 acres⁴

¹ Springate, Lee, "Defining Parks and Park Systems," From Recreation to Re-creation: New Directions in Parks and Open Space System Planning, Megan Lewis, editor (PAS Report Number 551)

² National Recreation and Park Association, Open Space Guidelines & Standards, C. Castleman, compiler

³ Grants Management Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans IC1924 (Rev.01/27/2006)

⁴ The standard the MDNR uses for large urban parks is also used for regional parks in this report

It is important to note that a single standard cannot meet the needs of all park systems. Accordingly, some of the parks may not meet the minimum size criteria for the assigned park type.

The County and City Park Systems

The park systems of Jackson County and the City of Jackson are the primary source of recreation for many residents.

Jackson County Parks

Jackson County's park system is comprised of 17 parks encompassing 1,026 acres of parkland and 10.5 miles of trails (please see the following tables and maps). Most of the county parks are adjacent to water —providing opportunities for swimming, boating, and/or fishing— making them community facilities. The presence of modern campgrounds and significant cultural facilities make several parks regional facilities. Picnic areas, various sporting facilities, and toilet facilities are also available in many county parks. Please see Appendix B of this document for a complete listing of the recreation facilities found in each park.

JACKSON COUNTY PARKS

#	NAME	PARK TYPE	SIZE	BFA
1.	CLARK LAKE	COMMUNITY	6.5 AC	2
2.	CLEAR LAKE	COMMUNITY	5.5 AC	1
3.	GILLETT'S LAKE	COMMUNITY	5.5 AC	2
4.	GRASS LAKE	COMMUNITY	9.0 AC	3
5.	LIME LAKE	COMMUNITY	320.7 AC	2
6.	LITTLE WOLF LAKE	COMMUNITY	8.8 AC	2
7.	MINARD MILLS	COMMUNITY	5.2 AC	2
8.	PLEASANT LAKE	REGIONAL	20.7 AC	2
9.	PORTAGE LAKE	COMMUNITY	5.9 AC	2
10.	ROUND LAKE	COMMUNITY	0.8 AC	1
11.	ALFRED A. SNYDER	COMMUNITY	61.1 AC	2
12.	SPARKS FOUNDATION	REGIONAL	442.8 AC	3
13.	SWAINS LAKE	REGIONAL	25.6 AC	3
14.	VANDERCOOK LAKE	COMMUNITY	20.7 AC	3
15.	VINEYARD LAKE	COMMUNITY	9.5 AC	2
16.	BURNS ⁵	REGIONAL	78.0 AC	1
17.	FALLING WATERS TRAIL	CONNECTOR	10.5 MI	4

⁵ Burns Park is 78 acres of undeveloped land in Liberty Township.

Jackson County maintains Reynolds Field (the County Airport) and the Jackson County Fairgrounds—both of which provide unique recreational opportunities—in addition to its official 17-park system.

Jackson County Fairgrounds

The Fairground is located in the City of Jackson but impacts the entire county. The Jackson County Fair is held every August. Other special events are hosted throughout the year in the American One Fair Events Center as well as the annual 'Nite Lites at the Fairgrounds.' A master plan for the fairgrounds will provide guidance for its improvement.

Reynolds Field

The Jackson County Airport-Reynolds Field hosts the Aviation Heritage Park—located near the main entrance—which contains a variety of aviation-themed displays:

- *A working airport beacon and the original airport flag/dedication plaques*
- *Several WW2/1950's Era monuments/equipment*
- *The Experimental Aircraft Chapter 306 Museum*

Given the estimated Jackson County population of 159,600 people in 2020, the county park system provides 64.3% of the acreage recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association. It must be noted that the service areas for the parks show that portions of the county are not served adequately (please see Map 3-1). For example, much of Blackman Township as well as other villages and townships are not served by a community park. However, it is important to note that the service area for the three regional parks covers the entire county.

City of Jackson Parks

The City of Jackson system is comprised of 27 parks encompassing 641.6 acres and 3.4 miles of trails (please see the following table and maps). Over half of the city parks are very small, making them mini facilities. Almost a third of the parks serve neighborhoods. The presence of recreation centers, a pool, and a skateboard park make several parks community facilities. The existence of golf courses, a museum, a planetarium, and other unique destinations make one park a regional facility. Green space, playground equipment, walkways and benches, and various sporting facilities are also available in many city parks. Please see Appendix B of this document for a complete listing of the recreation facilities found in each park.

Public Art

In addition to its park system, the City also provides an array of public art installations. Some of those sculptures are in public parks while others are located in public rights-of-way. Pieces include, but are not limited to "The Summer Night Tree" (Nevelson), "In Defense of the Flag" (Taft) and the evolving collection on the grounds of the Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History.

Given the estimated City of Jackson population of 32,253 people in 2020, the city park system provides 198.9% of the acreage recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association. The service areas for community parks cover the

CITY OF JACKSON PARKS

NO.	NAME	TYPE	ACRES	BFA
1.	BEECH TREE	MINI	1.1 AC	2
2.	BEST FIELD	NEIGHBORHOOD	6.6 AC	1
3.	HORACE BLACKMAN	COMMUNITY	1.2 AC	4
4.	GOV. AUSTIN BLAIR MEMORIAL	MINI	0.8 AC	4
5.	BLOOMFIELD	NEIGHBORHOOD	2.4 AC	4
6.	BETSY BUTTERFIELD	MINI	0.5 AC	4
7.	NORM CREGER MEMORIAL	MINI	0.7 AC	4
8.	DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT	MINI	1.1 AC	5
9.	EXCHANGE	NEIGHBORHOOD	3.5 AC	2
10.	GANSON STREET	MINI	0.4 AC	5
11.	GRAND RIVER MEMORIAL	NEIGHBORHOOD	0.2 AC	3
12.	BUCKY HARRIS	MINI	0.3 AC	5
13.	MARTIN LUTHER KING CENTER	COMMUNITY	10.0 AC	3
14.	KIWANIS	NEIGHBORHOOD	1.3 AC	2
15.	LEEKES	MINI	0.5 AC	3
16.	LIONS	NEIGHBORHOOD	9.7 AC	2
17.	LOOMIS	COMMUNITY	14.1 AC	3
18.	ELNORA MOORMAN PLAZA	MINI	0.1 AC	5
19.	WILLIAM NIXON MEMORIAL	COMMUNITY	17.1 AC	3
20.	NEW LEAF	MINI	0.2 AC	4
21.	OPTIMIST	NEIGHBORHOOD	4.2 AC	2
22.	ROTARY	NEIGHBORHOOD	1.7 AC	2
23.	FRIENDSHIP	MINI	0.2 AC	1
24.	ELLA W. SHARP	REGIONAL	563.0 AC	3
25.	UNDER THE OAKS	MINI	0.1 AC	3
26.	WITHINGTON	MINI	0.6 AC	2
27.	INTERCITY TRAIL	CONNECTOR	3.4 MI	3

entire city (please see Map 3-3). The park system also provides 63.4% of the recommended acreage for Metropolitan Jackson (i.e., the City and the Urban Townships) given an estimated population of 101,153 people in 2020. Although a neighborhood park is not located in the southwestern portion of the city, a regional park is located nearby providing adequate parkland. It is also important to note that most of the mini-parks are located in the vicinity of Downtown Jackson and the Inter-City Trail.

Trails & Trail Planning & Programming

Networks of trails and “blueways” are continuing to develop throughout Jackson, sometimes connecting with other nearby systems. For example, Jackson County and the City of Jackson are partnering with other municipalities and governmental agencies as well as the Fitness Council of Jackson and other non-profit advocacy groups on the developing network of trails throughout the City and County. The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) has also developed a series of water trails within the Grand River and sponsors various “paddles” (i.e., canoe and kayak events) throughout Jackson County each year (please see Appendix C for more detail).

Barrier-Free Access

It is important that the parks and recreation facilities operated by Jackson County and the City of Jackson be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, it is estimated that 14.6% of County residents had some type of disability between 2008 and 2012 according to the ACS and 7.9% had an ambulatory difficulty. Accordingly, all of the parks provided by the city and county were also rated according to their level of barrier free access.⁶ The number listed under the BFA column in the tables listing those parks equate to the barrier-free rating listed below:

BARRIER-FREE ACCESS (BFA) ANALYSIS

KEY	DESCRIPTION
1 =	NONE OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
2 =	SOME OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
3 =	MOST OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREA MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
4 =	THE ENTIRE PARK MEETS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES
5 =	THE ENTIRE PARK WAS DEVELOPED/RENOVATED USING THE PRINCIPAL OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded 14 recreation grants to Jackson County and 15 recreation grants to the City of Jackson. Please see the recreation grant history tables for both jurisdictions located in Appendix B for complete listings of those grants.

Other Municipal Parks

Some of the villages and townships within Jackson County also provide parks and recreation facilities to their residents.

⁶ The analysis of barrier free access was provided by Jackson County and the City of Jackson, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

- Village of Brooklyn — Swain Memorial Park
- Village of Concord — Norman Gottschalk Park and public access to the Concord Mill Pond and Paddock Lake
- Village of Parma — W. D. Groner Memorial Park
- Village of Springport — Sykes Park
- Blackman Township — Bill Latham Memorial Park and Rod Mills Memorial Park
- Columbia Township — Columbia Township Hall and Columbia Township Park
- Grass Lake Township — Grass Lake Community Sports and Trails Recreation Park, Grass Lake Township Office/Park, and Grass Lake Depot and Whistle Stop Park
- Hanover Township — Bibbins Lake Park, Perrin Park, Veteran’s Ball Field
- Leoni Township — Peter Alex Ball Park, Leoni Community Park, Bender Park, and a public boat launch
- Napoleon Township — Napoleon Village Park, Napoleon Lions Park, and a softball field
- Norvell Township — Ahrens Park
- Rives Township — Rives Township Park
- Spring Arbor Township — Fritz Gallagher Park and Harmony Park
- Summit Township — Probert Road Trail
- Tompkins Township — Tompkins Township Park

Some of those jurisdictions are also actively planning for recreation. For example, the following recreation plans are currently on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources:

- *Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan* — Village of Brooklyn, Columbia Township, Napoleon Township, Norvell Township, and the Columbia School District
- *Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan* — Village of Grass Lake, Grass Lake Charter Township, and Grass Lake Community Schools (may be out-of-date)
- *Leoni Township Parks and Recreation Plan* — Leoni Township
- *Summit Township Recreation Plan* — Summit Township
- *Blackman Township Recreation Plan* – Blackman Township (not yet submitted)
- *Concord Community Recreation Plan* — Village of Concord (may be out-of-date)

Local Schools

Schools also provide a variety of recreational facilities. For example, elementary schools provide numerous playgrounds aimed at different age groups and sports fields. Middle and high schools provide football fields, ball diamonds and tennis courts. Elementary, middle, and high schools provide gymnasiums. Because of those facilities, schools generally function as community parks.

Jackson Public Schools

The district covers the City of Jackson and portions of Blackman, Liberty, Napoleon, and Summit Townships. Jackson Public Schools, which is part of the Jackson County Intermediate School District, maintains the following facilities:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Bennett Elementary School | ■ Dibble Elementary School |
| ■ Cascades Elementary School | ■ Frost Elementary School |

- Hunt Elementary School
- McCulloch Elementary School
- Northeast Elementary School
- Sharp Park Academy
- Amy Firth Middle School
- Middle School at Parkside
- Jackson High School
- T. A. Wilson Academy

Other Public School Districts

The following school districts, which are also part of the Jackson County Intermediate School District, also maintain facilities within Jackson County.

- **Columbia School District** — covers the Village of Brooklyn and portions of Blackman, Columbia, Liberty and Norvell. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Brooklyn Elementary School
 - Miller Elementary School
 - Columbia Central High School
 - Columbia Options High School
 - Columbia Community Fitness Center
- **Concord Community Schools** — covers the Village of Concord and portions of Concord, Parma, Pulaski, Spring Arbor, and Hanover Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Concord Elementary School
 - Concord Middle School
 - Concord High School
- **East Jackson Community Schools** — covers portions of Blackman, Leoni, Summit, and Waterloo Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Bertha Robinson Elementary School
 - Memorial Elementary School
 - East Jackson Middle School
 - East Jackson High School
- **Grass Lake Community Schools** — covers the Village of Grass Lake and portions of Grass Lake, Leoni, and Waterloo Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - George Long Elementary
 - Grass Lake Middle School
 - Grass Lake High School
 - Little Warriors Pre-School and Daycare
- **Hanover-Horton School District** — covers the Village of Hanover and portions of Hanover, Liberty, Pulaski, and Spring Arbor Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Hanover-Horton Elementary School
 - Hanover-Horton Middle School
 - Hanover-Horton High School
- **Michigan Center School District** — covers portions of Leoni Township. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Arnold Elementary School
 - Keicher Elementary School
 - Michigan Center Junior High School
 - Michigan Center High School
- **Napoleon Community Schools** — covers portions of Napoleon and Norvell Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Ezra Eby Elementary School
 - Napoleon Middle School
 - Napoleon High School
 - Ackerson Lake Community Center

- **Northwest Community Schools** — covers portions of Blackman, Henrietta, Rives, Tompkins, and Sandstone Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Flora List Elementary School and Child Care Center
 - Parnall Elementary School
 - Northwest Elementary School
 - Kidder Middle School
 - Northwest High School
 - Northwest Alternate High School
- **Springport Public Schools** — covers the Village of Springport and portions of Parma and Tompkins Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Springport Elementary School
 - Springport Middle School
 - Springport High School
- **Vandercook Lake Public Schools** — covers portions of Summit Township. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - The McDevitt School
 - The Townsend Elementary School
 - Vandercook Lake High/Middle School
- **Western School District** — covers the Village of Parma and portions of Concord, Parma, Sandstone, and Spring Arbor Townships. The district maintains the following facilities:
 - Bean Elementary School
 - Parma Elementary School
 - Warner Elementary School
 - Western Middle School
 - Western High School
 - Western Options High School
 - Woodville Community Center

An additional 7 districts serve residents living on the periphery of Jackson County. Various religious and other quasi-public and private educational institutions are also providers of recreational facilities.

Local Colleges

There are several colleges which maintain campuses in Jackson County. Baker College’s local campus is located in Blackman Township, north of the Jackson County Airport. Jackson College’s main campus is located in Summit Township. Finally, Spring Arbor University’s main campus is located in the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor.

Many colleges provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities. County and City residents can also avail themselves of the other recreational facilities and programs hosted by those institutions. For example, The Potter Center (Jackson College) “is comprised of the most versatile and complete performing arts complex in the area.”⁷ The Ganton Gallery (Spring Arbor University) “is one of the largest, single-room galleries in Michigan.”⁸

⁷ <http://www.jccmi.edu/events/pottercenter/theatres.htm>

⁸ http://www.arbor.edu/edu_detail.aspx?id=37930

Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

A variety of other public agencies and private entrepreneurs also provide recreational opportunities to City and County residents.

State Parks

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a significant provider of regional parks and recreation facilities, maintains the following parks which extend into Jackson County:

- Meridian-Baseline State Park, Henrietta and Rives Townships
- Walter J Hayes State Park, Norvell Township

Walter J Hayes State Park provides opportunities for boating, fishing, picnicking, metal detecting, playing (i.e., playgrounds), swimming, and camping. The Meridian-Baseline State Park is not open to the public.

The following state game and recreation areas which extend into Jackson County are also provided by the DNR:

- Grass Lake Unit State Game Area, Grass Lake Township
- Sharonville State Game Area, Grass Lake and Norvell Townships
- Waterloo Recreation Area, Grass Lake, Leoni, and Waterloo Townships

The Waterloo Recreation Area provides opportunities for cross-county skiing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, horseback riding, picnicking, playing (i.e., playgrounds), and camping. The Sharonville State Game Area, the Grass Lake Unit State Game Area and the Waterloo Game Unit (part of the Waterloo Recreation Area) provide opportunities for hunting.

Finally, the DNR also maintains 8 other boat launches in Jackson County.

- Center Lake, Leoni Township
- Crispell Lake, Liberty Township
- Gilletts Lake, Leoni Township
- Maple Grove Bridge (Grand River), Rives Township
- Pine Hills Lake, Hanover Township
- Portage Lake, Waterloo Township
- Tompkins Bridge (Grand River), Tompkins Township
- Trestle Bridge (Grand River), Tompkins Township

Private and Quasi-Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

A number of private and quasi-public institutions also provide recreation facilities.

Golf Courses

In addition to the public golf courses associated with the Ella Sharp Park and Sparks Foundation (Cascades) County Park, a variety of private courses are located in Jackson County. Most of those courses are open to the general public. Please see the table on Private Golf Courses in Appendix B.

Recreation and Sport Centers

The YMCA of Jackson provides a variety of sports and recreational activities. The Optimist Ice Arena is also located in the City of Jackson. Finally, several bowling alleys operate in Jackson County. Brooklyn Lanes serves the Brooklyn Area and Airport Lanes and Suburban Lanes serve the Jackson area.

Camps and Campgrounds

A number of organizations maintain camps in Jackson County for the use of their members. For example: YMCA, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts organizations operate Camp Storer, Camp Teetoncal and Camp 'O the Hills, respectively, in southeastern Jackson County. The Jackson ISD operates Camp McGregor in Liberty Township. Various other philanthropic and religious institutions also operate camps in Jackson County. Finally, a variety of private campgrounds throughout Jackson County also provide individual campsites to patrons. Please see the table regarding Private Campgrounds in Appendix B.

Other Recreation Facilities

Michigan International Speedway is the most conspicuous of the private recreation facilities located in Jackson County. However, a wide variety of privately provided recreational opportunities are available to their members and/or the general public. For example, nature preserves, gun and sportsmen's clubs (e.g., Heart Road Gun Club), and other clubs (e.g., Grass Lake Outdoor Club), as well as a variety of other private recreation facilities, can also be found in Jackson County.

Public and Private Facilities with Recreational Benefits

Various other facilities provided publicly and privately also have recreational benefits:

- **Jackson District Library (JDL)** — The JDL's 13 library branches provide access to books and other items of entertainment (e.g., audio books, CDs, DVDs, etc). The Carnegie Branch is located in the City of Jackson and several other branches (e.g., Eastern, Meijer, and Summit) are located in the townships surrounding the City. The other branches are located in the other population centers of the County (e.g., Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Henrietta, Napoleon, Parma, Spring Arbor, and Springport).
- **Airports** — Airports provide opportunities for recreational activities as well as transportation. For example, Reynolds Field (Jackson County Airport) and Shamrock Airport (Brooklyn) provide opportunities for recreational flying. Napoleon Airport provides opportunities for recreational flying and parachuting.
- **Cemeteries** — Cemeteries provide important green space in urban areas. They can also be used as safe places to walk/exercise and contemplate nature. Please see Appendix B for the table listing cemeteries in Jackson County.
- **Sidewalks** — Most of Jackson's streets have sidewalks. All of the incorporated villages contain sidewalks along at least some local streets. Sidewalks also occur in other parts of Jackson County. Those sidewalks are used for exercise as well as transportation and may even connect with non-motorized trails.
- **Shopping and Eating** — Many people enjoy shopping and going out to eat. Consequently, the downtowns of Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Jackson, Michigan Center, Napoleon, Parma, and Spring Arbor are recreation destinations because of their restaurants and/or shops. The proximity of those downtown areas to each other —as well as the various shops and restaurants scattered throughout the rest of Jackson County— increase the opportunities for this type of activity.

Historic Sites

Jackson County and the City of Jackson contain many historic sites that have local, state, and/or national significance.

- **State and/or National Registers** — A total of 58 sites in Jackson County were listed on the State Register of Historic Sites and/or the National Register of Historic Places (as of the Year 2000); over 20 of those sites are located in the City of Jackson
- **City of Jackson Historic Districts** — The City of Jackson's Under the Oaks Neighborhood is a locally designated historic district. The City has also designated 42 other local historic districts; the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 13 of the City Code) describes each of the sites

Recreation Events and Programs

Jackson County and the City of Jackson provide a wide variety of recreation programs. However, it must be pointed out that many of the recreation providers listed above also provide recreational programs. For example, the various bowling alleys also host bowling leagues.

Jackson County

Tournaments and other golf outings occur at the 18-hole Cascades Championship Golf Course and the 9-hole Cascades Executive Course and driving range. Programs are also provided at the Cascades (an illuminated waterfall and museum) as well as the Cascades Rotary Community Band Shell. All of those events take place on the grounds of the Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park. That park also hosts a variety of other events (please see Appendix B for a listing of those events). The Jackson County Parks Association hosts a variety of work bees and recreational events as well in the County's various parks.

City of Jackson

The City of Jackson provides a wide variety of recreation programming. Many of the programs are offered at the Boos Center, the King Center, and the Nixon Skate and Water Parks (please see Appendix B for a listing of those programs).

Resource Inventory

In addition to recreation facilities, Jackson County and the City of Jackson are also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources.

Topography

"Topography in the area of Jackson County," according to the 2000-2025 edition of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan, "can be described as gently rolling, moderately hilly morainal uplands. Elevations range from approximately 900 to 1,150 feet above sea level, with most of the area of the county ranging between 950 and 1,050 feet above sea level."

Water Resources

Several watersheds dominate Jackson County (please see Map 3-5). Approximately 66% of the County drains into the Upper Grand River, including the City of Jackson. To the west and southwest, approximately 22% of the County drains into the Kalamazoo River. To the southeast, approximately 12% of the County drains into the River Raisin.

In addition to the three major rivers and their tributaries, Jackson County is blessed by many lakes and wetlands. For example, large lakes such as Columbia, Grass, Ackerson, Portage and Clark are located in the eastern half of Jackson County. Wetlands still exist in the City of Jackson as well as throughout Jackson County.

Transportation

Jackson County and the City of Jackson share a well-connected transportation system. Interstate 94 (I-94) traverses the County from east-to-west and skirts the northern boundary of the City. I-94 provides access to the major metropolitan areas of Chicago and Detroit. United States Highway 127 (US-127) runs through the center of the County as well as the City. It provides access to the Lansing area and other points north as well as Adrian and Toledo to the south. A wide variety of Michigan highways (e.g., M-50, M-60, M-106, etc.), county primary roads, and city major streets provide access to those major roadways. The City of Jackson and portions of the outlying urban townships are also served by a bus system.

Soils

The types of soils found in Jackson County are important to its development. For example, the 2000-2025 edition of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan identifies lands suitable for agricultural preservation as well as the establishment of greenways (please see Map 3-6). That plan contains a map of 'Agricultural Preservation Areas' which identifies parcels of land eighty (80) acres or more in size with soils classified as prime or unique for agricultural production by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The location of active agricultural land, the location of agricultural and open space areas on township future land use plans, and existing proposed sewer service areas also impacted the designation of those areas. The 'Jackson County Greenways Plan' map contained in the document identifies a possible network of greenways which "generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands".

Land Use

The '2025 Jackson County Land Use Plan' map contained in the 2000-2025 edition of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan shows a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses within the City of Jackson and the surrounding townships, extending along major thoroughfares (please see Map 3-7). The map also shows a mix of residential and commercial uses in and around the County's various villages and some of its lakes. Nodes of industrial development are recognized along some of the County's major roads. The rest of the County will continue to be primarily agricultural.

**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 3-1

**JACKSON COUNTY
PARK LOCATION
& COVERAGE**

PARKS & TRAILS

 COUNTY PARKS

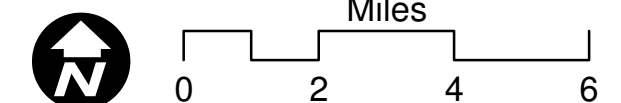
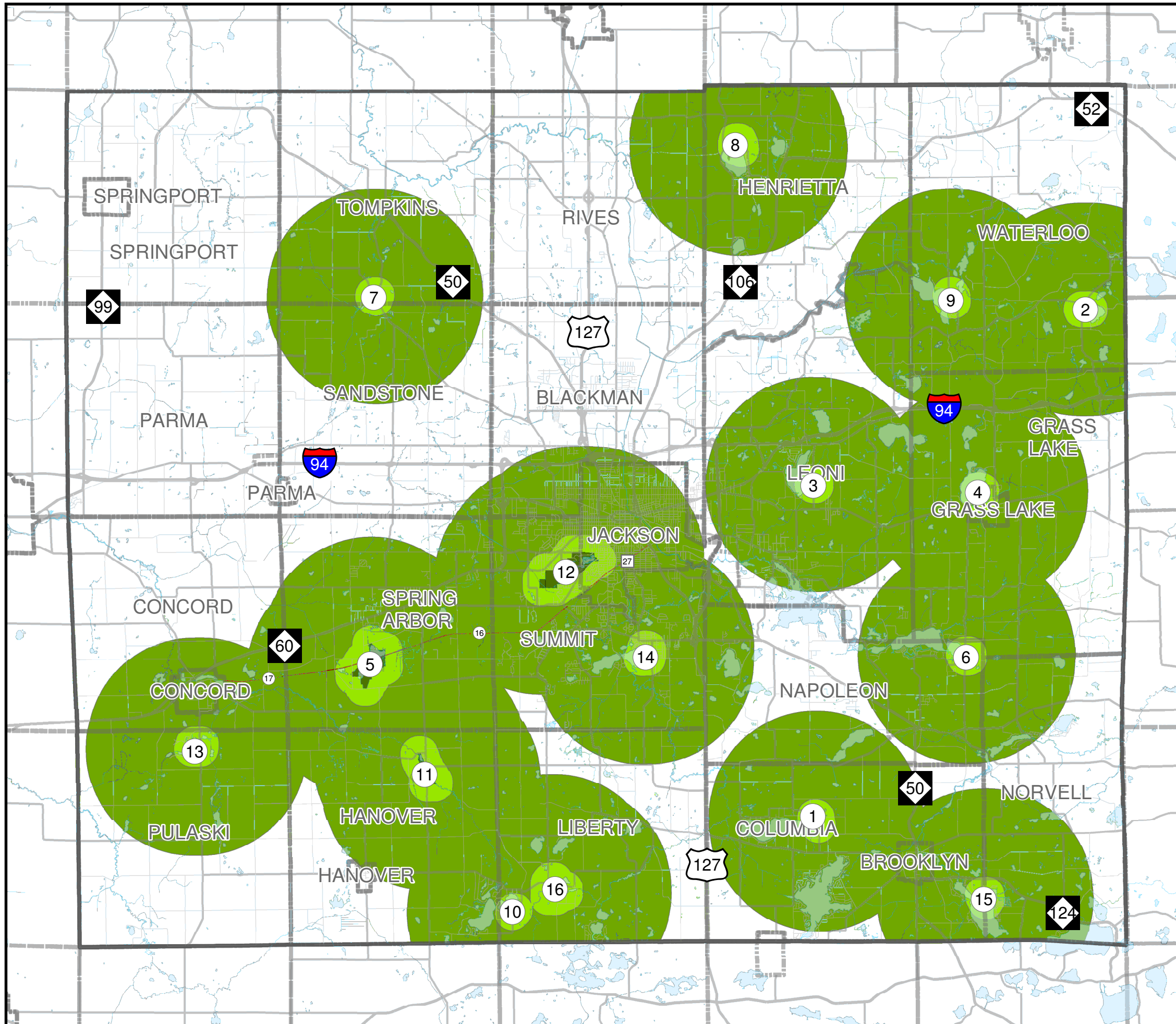
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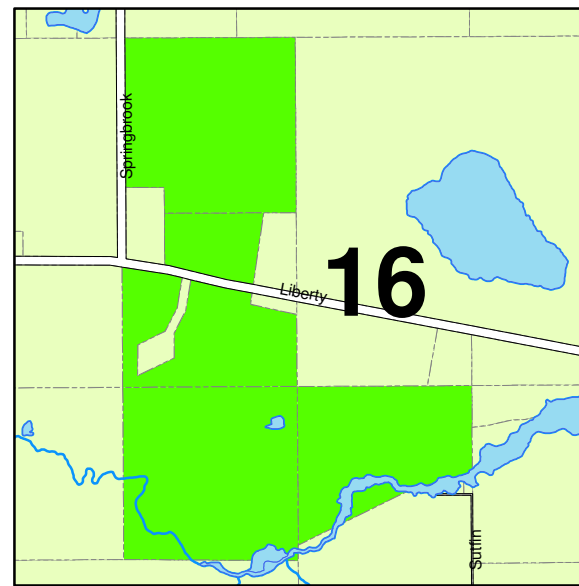
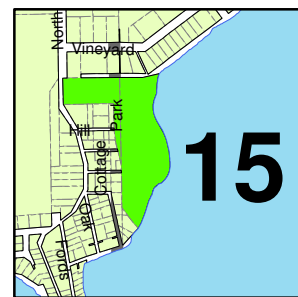
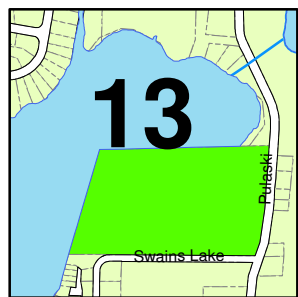
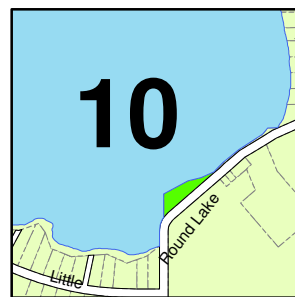
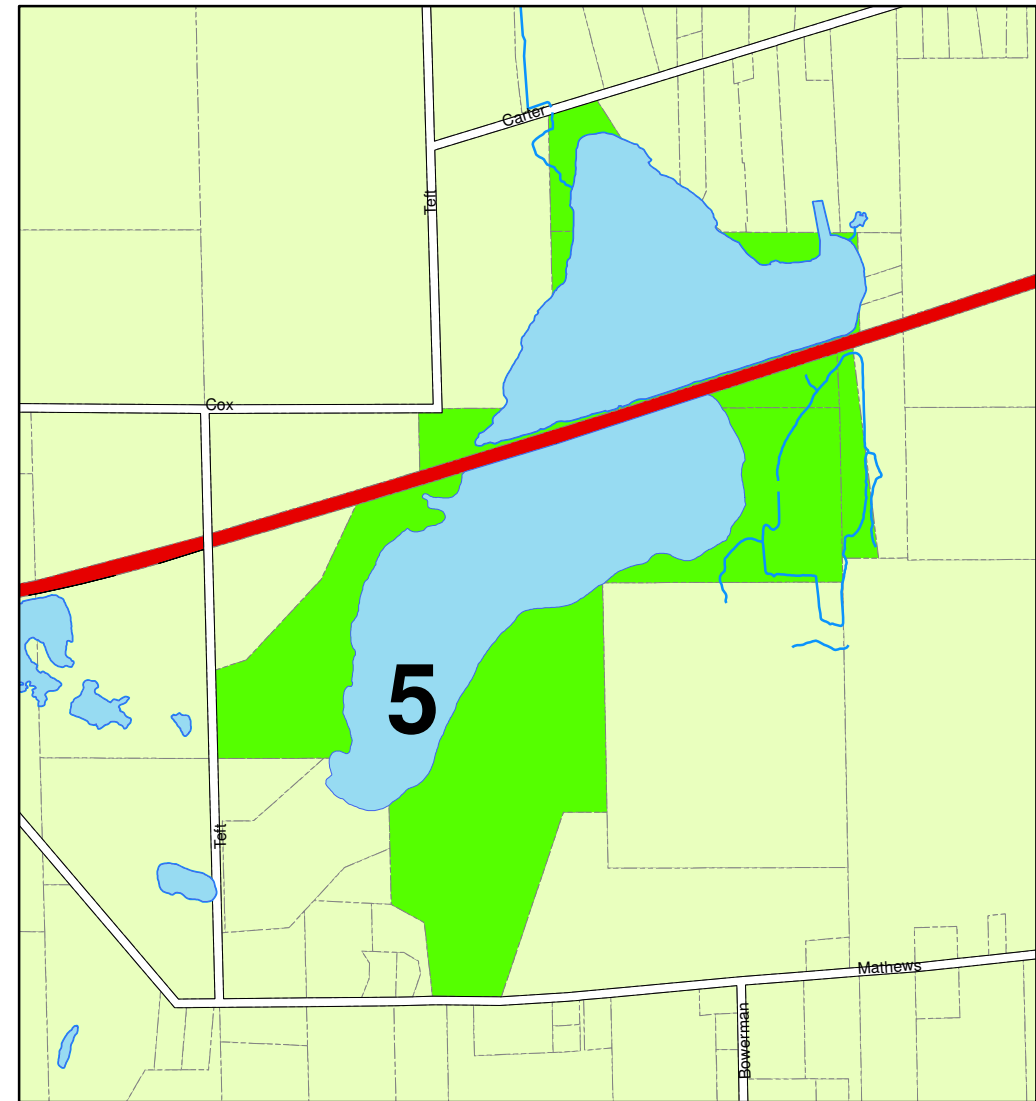
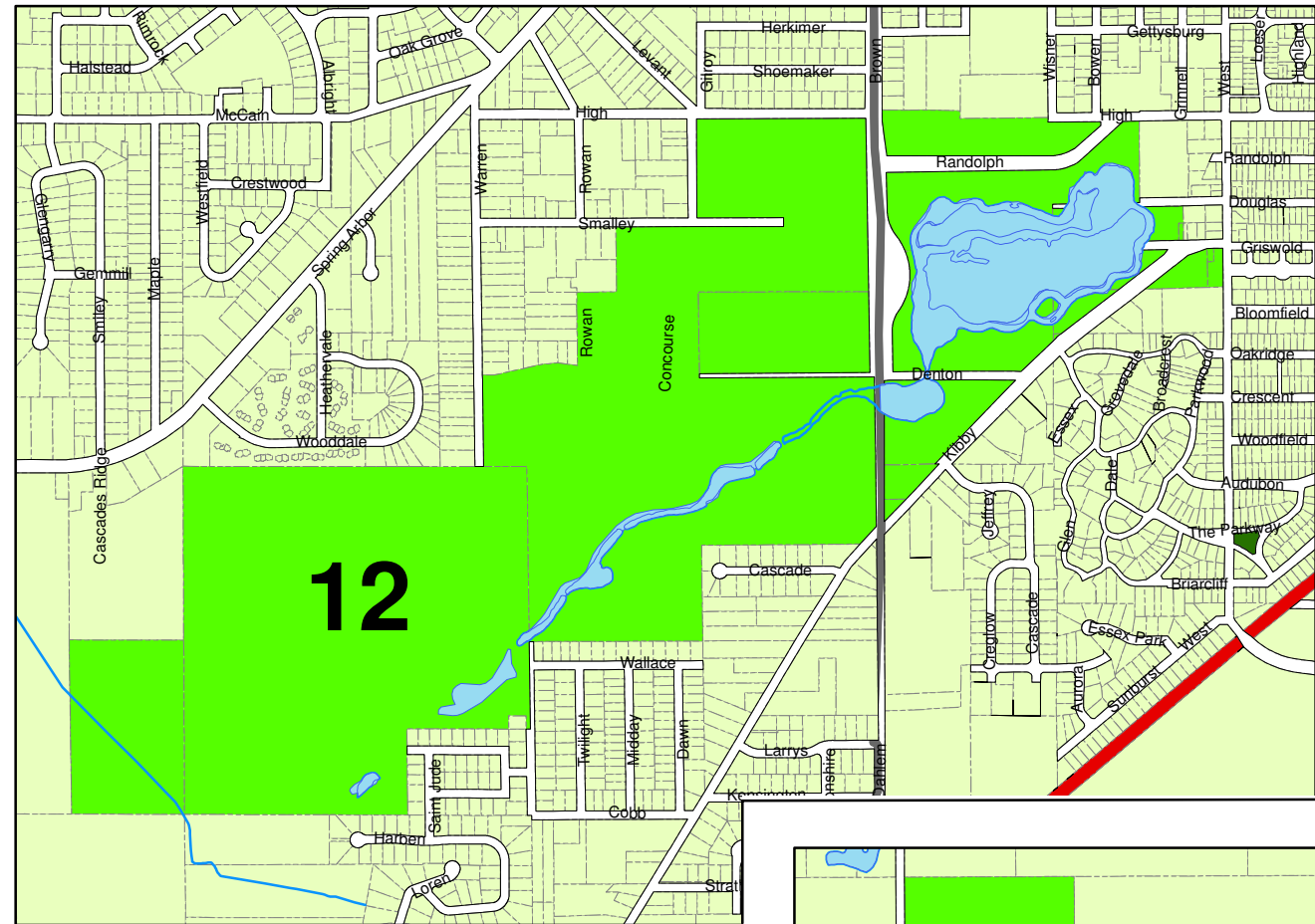
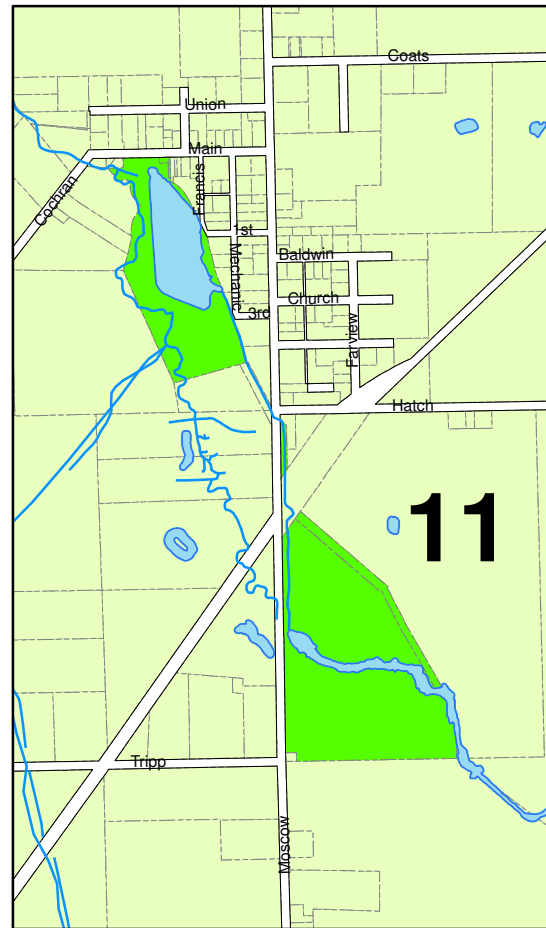
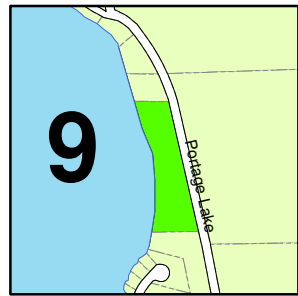
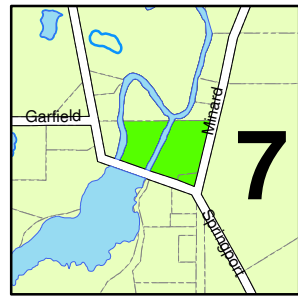
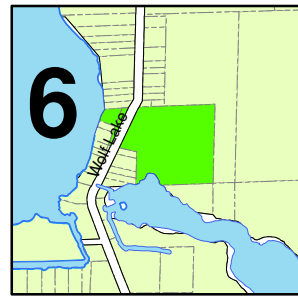
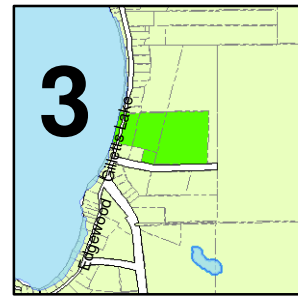
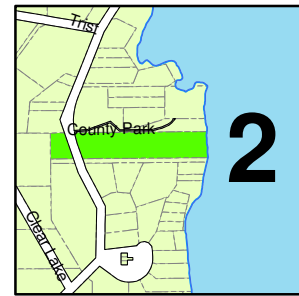
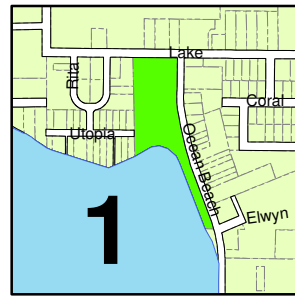
PARK SERVICE AREA

 NEIGHBORHOOD (0.50 MI)

 COMMUNITY (3.00 MI)

SOURCE(S):
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY
- U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

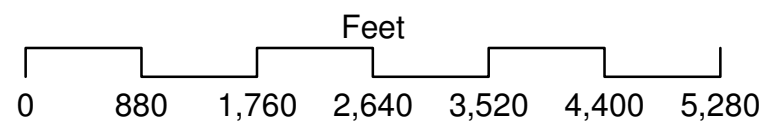


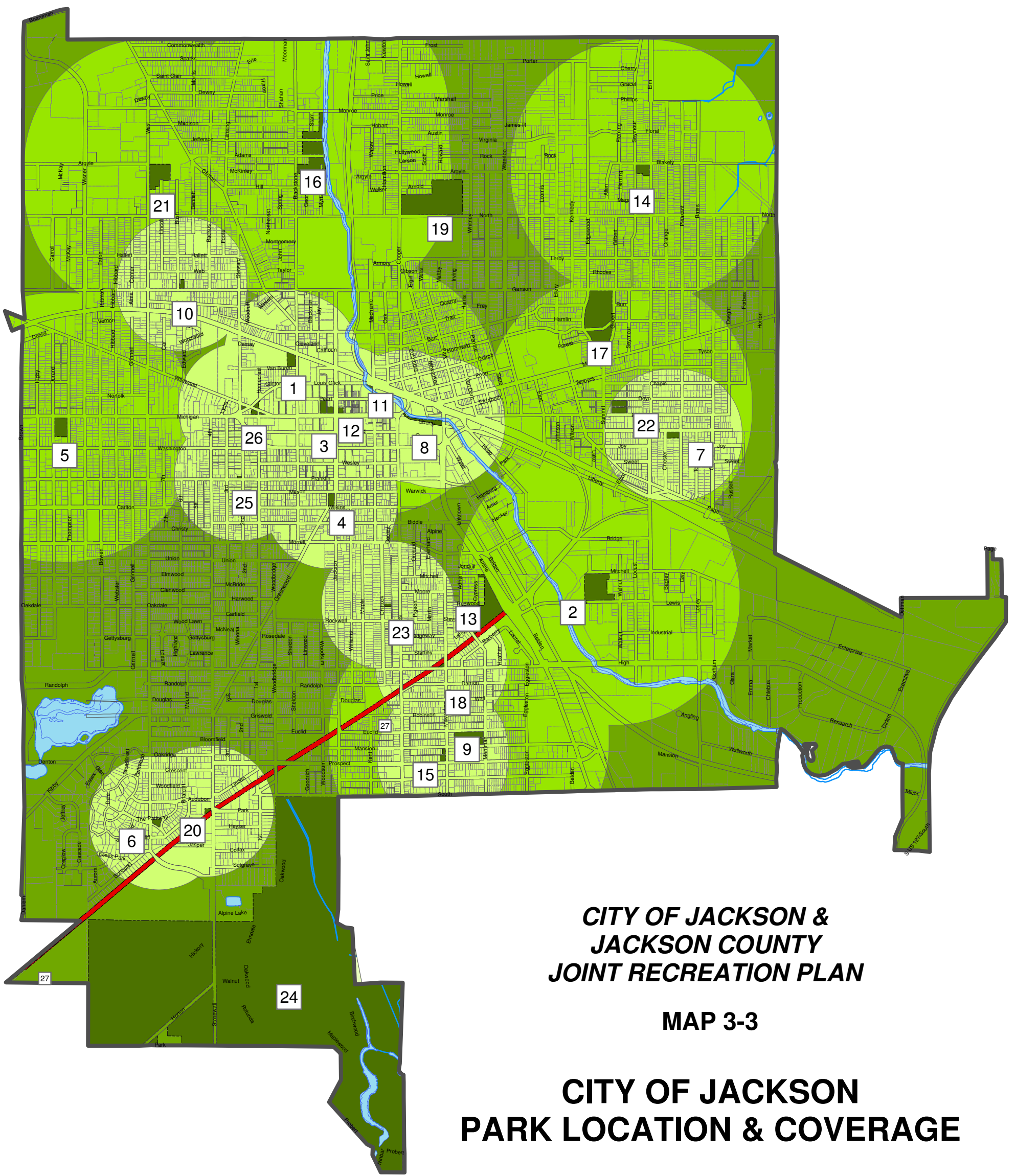


CITY OF JACKSON & JACKSON COUNTY JOINT RECREATION PLAN

MAP 3-2

JACKSON COUNTY PARKS





**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**




MAP 3-3

**CITY OF JACKSON
PARK LOCATION & COVERAGE**



PARKS & TRAILS

-  CITY PARKS
-  RAIL-TRAILS

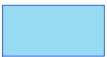

PARK SERVICE AREA

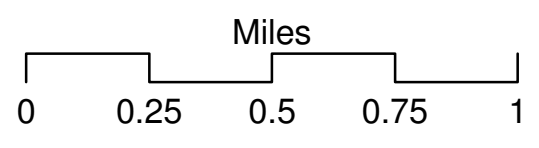
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-  NEIGHBORHOOD (0.50 MI)
-  COMMUNITY (3.00 MI)

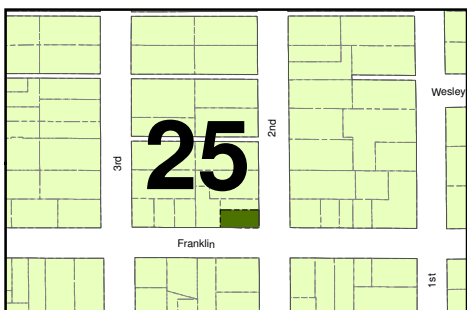
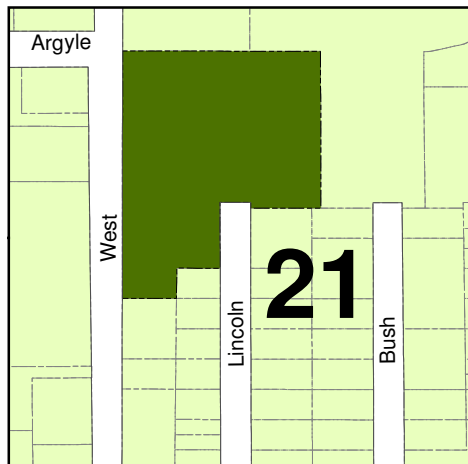
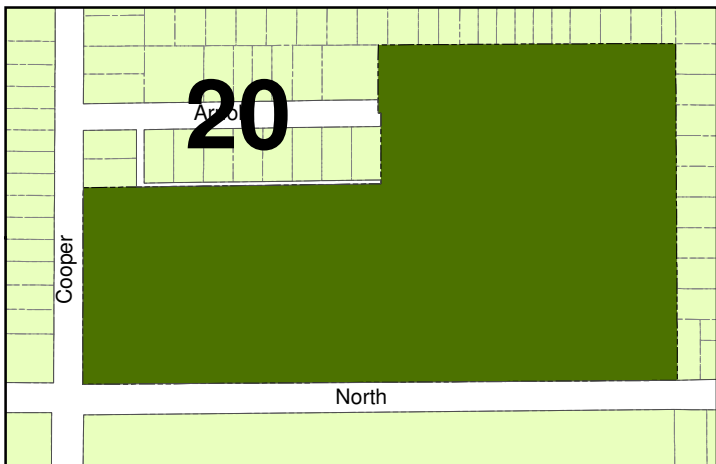
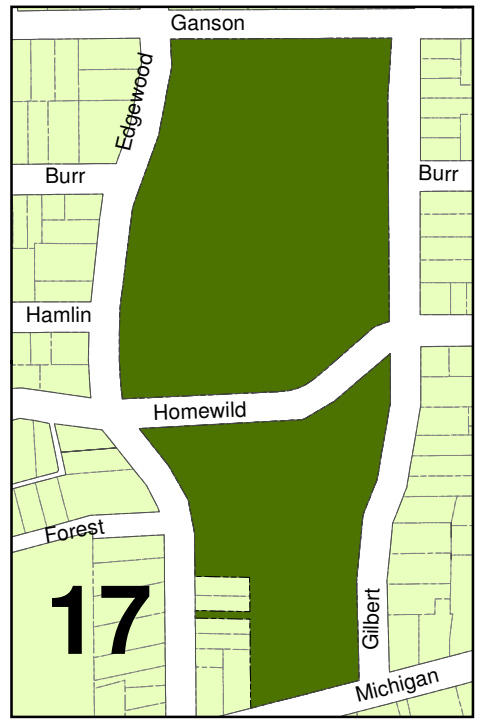
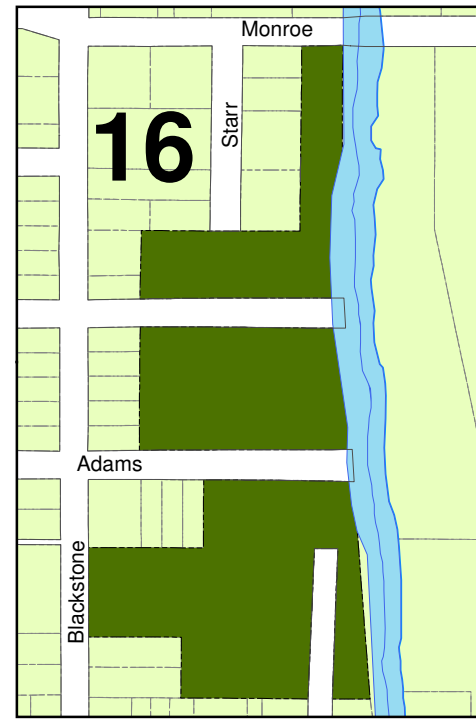
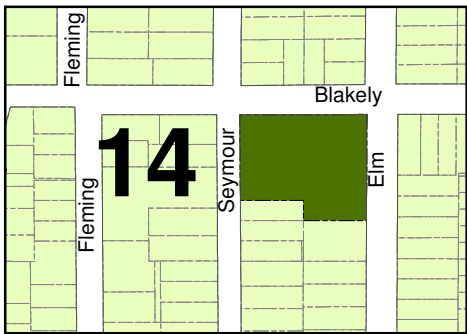
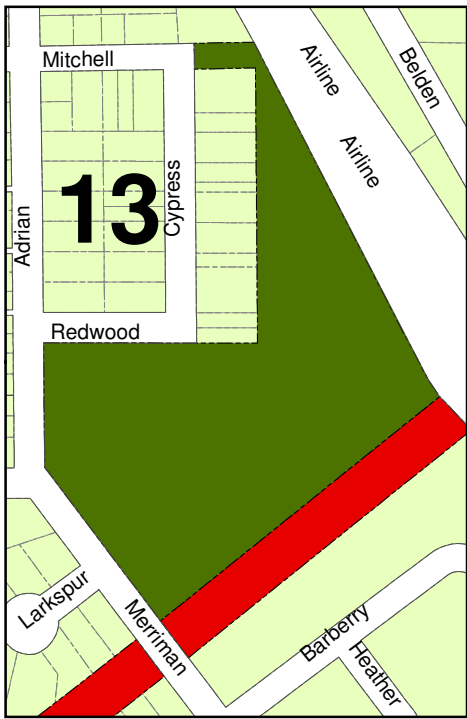
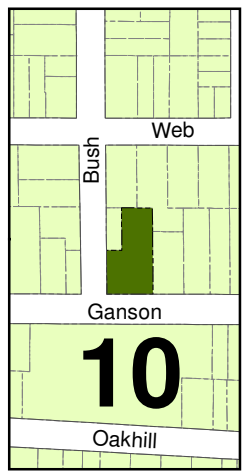
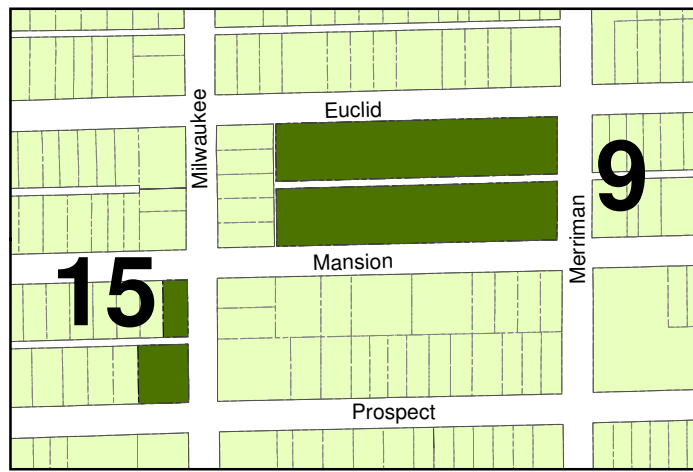
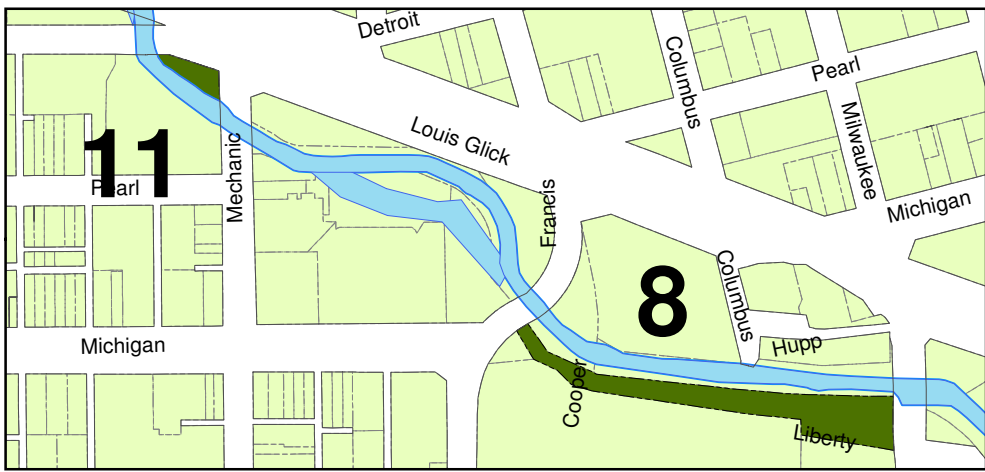
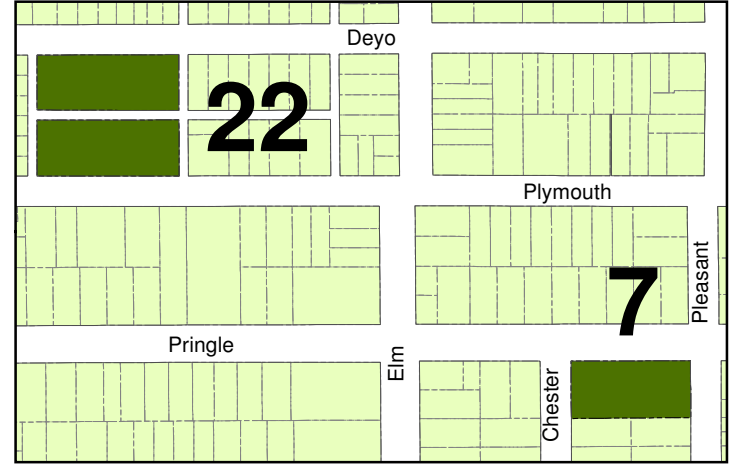
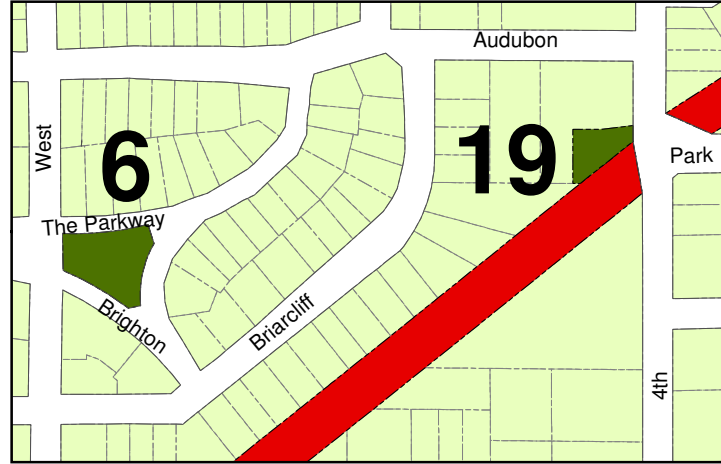
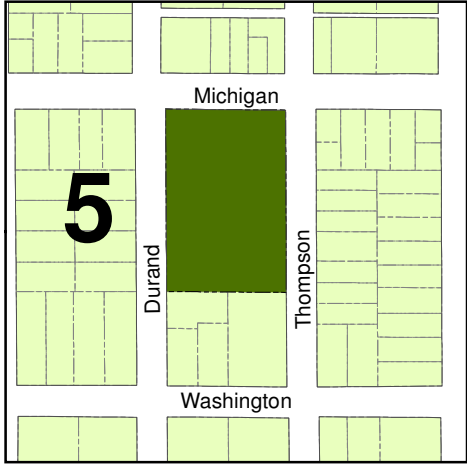
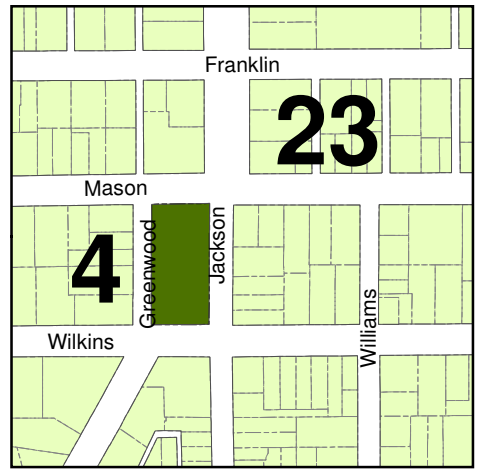
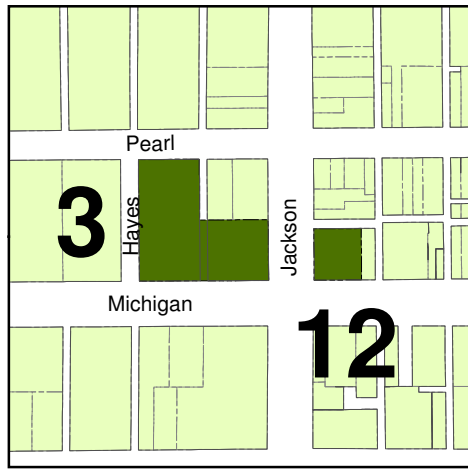
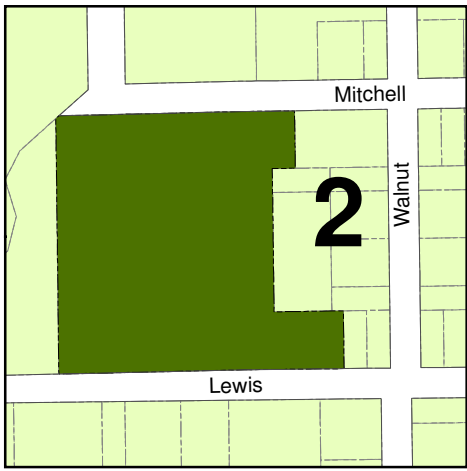
BOUNDARIES

-  PROPERTIES & PARCELS
-  POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

HYDROLOGY

-  LAKES & PONDS
-  RIVERS, STREAMS, & DRAINS



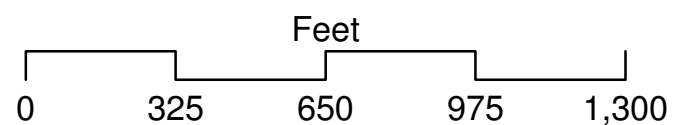


**CITY OF JACKSON
& JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 3-4

**CITY OF
JACKSON PARKS***

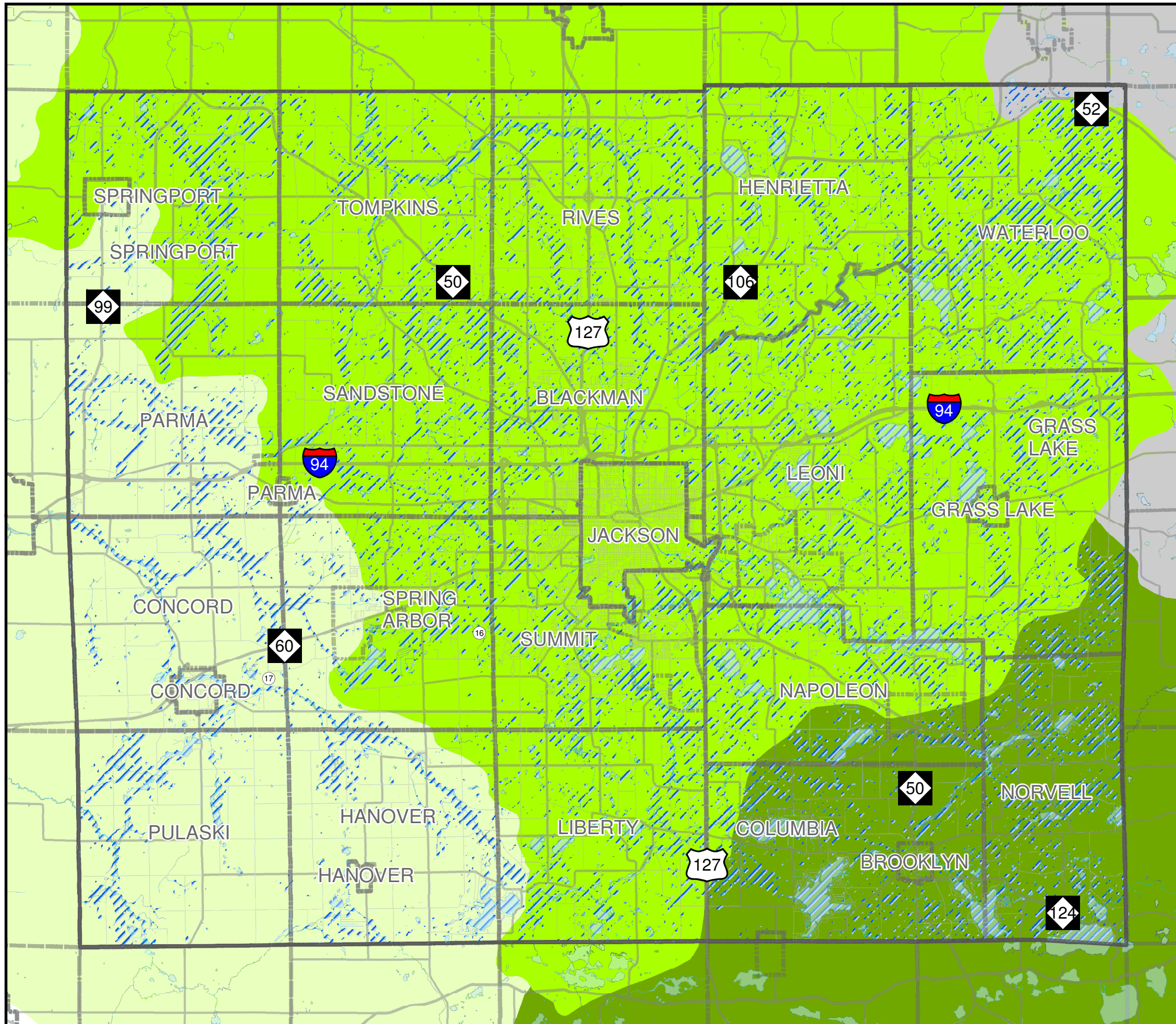
*ELLA SHARP PARK
IS NOT DISPLAYED



**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 3-5

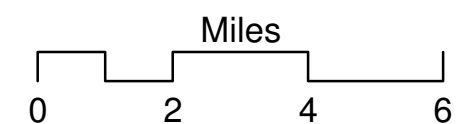
**JACKSON
COUNTY
WATER
RESOURCES**



WATERSHEDS

- UPPER GRAND RIVER
- RIVER RAISIN
- KALAMAZOO RIVER
- HURON RIVER

SOURCE(S):
 - MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY
 - NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY (NWI)





**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

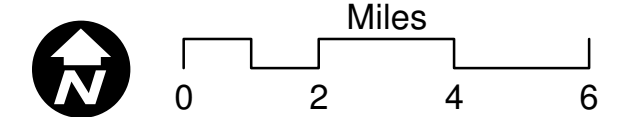
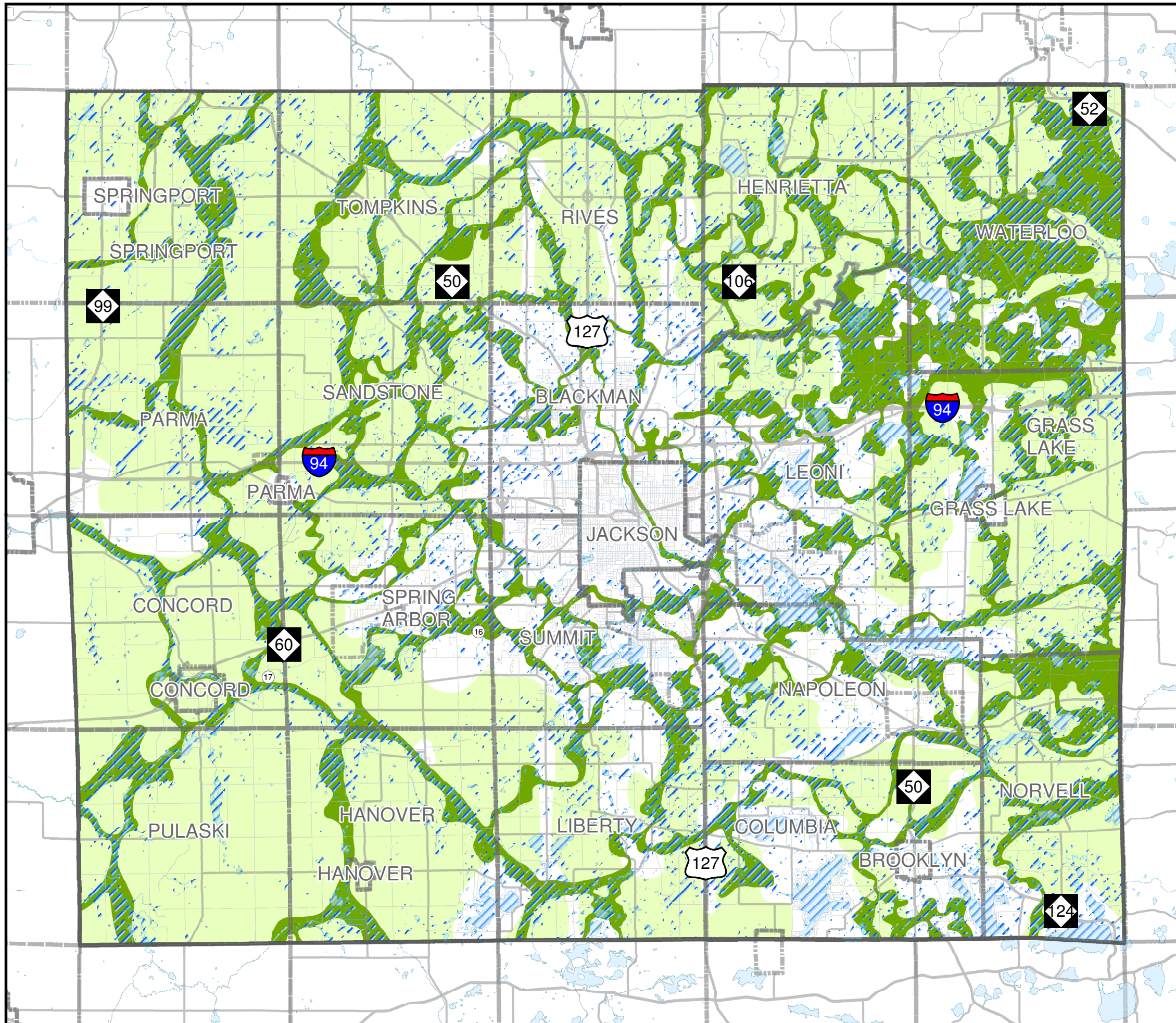
MAP 3-6

**PRIME FARMLAND
& GREENWAYS**

**PRIME FARMLAND
& GREENWAYS**

-  POSSIBLE GREENWAYS
-  AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AREA

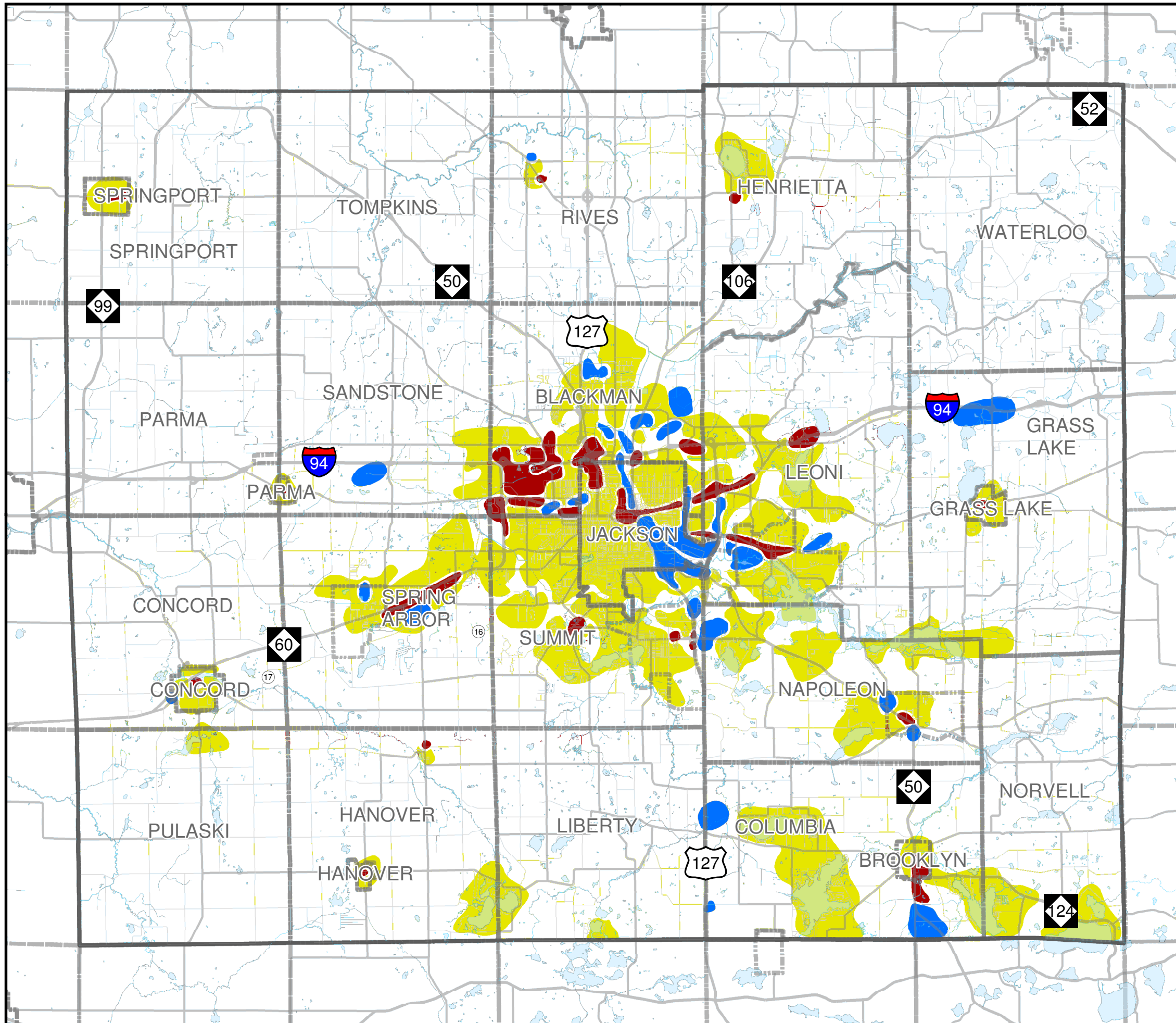
SOURCE(S):
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY







**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 3-7

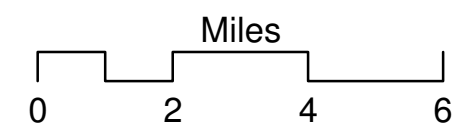
**FUTURE
LAND USE**



LAND USE AREAS

-  INDUSTRIAL
-  COMMERCIAL
-  RESIDENTIAL
-  AGRICULTURAL

SOURCE(S):
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY



Chapter 4

Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

Description of the Planning Process

The development of this initial edition of the City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan included the following steps:


- Jackson County and the City of Jackson recognized the need to update the City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan
- The County's Parks Director and the City's Director of Parks, Recreation, and Grounds contracted with Region 2 Planning Commission staff to facilitate the development of the 2015-2019 edition of the Plan in the spring of 2014
- The City's Director of Parks, Recreation, and Grounds and the County's Parks Director also formed the Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee in the spring of 2014
- Region 2 staff updated the 'Community Description,' 'Administrative Structure,' and 'Recreation and Resource Inventories' chapters of the Plan, including associated appendices and new/updated mapping, and reported the findings to the Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee during the summer and fall of 2014
- The Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee conducted a recreation survey published on the websites of Jackson County and the City of Jackson, and available at several City and County recreation facilities in the fall of 2014
- The Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee utilized the input collected from the survey and the information produced by Region 2 staff to develop the goals and objectives and action program included in the Plan
- The Joint Parks and Recreation Planning Committee provided the plan for public review from December 4, 2014 through January 6, 2015 and held a public hearing on January 7, 2015. The Plan was subsequently approved by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the County and City
- The Jackson City Council and the Jackson County Board adopted the new edition of the City of Jackson and Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan during the month of February

Description of the Public Input Process

A variety of methods were employed to incorporate public input into the development of this plan:

Citizen Opinion Survey

A citizen opinion survey was conducted between October 26, 2014 and November 9, 2014. The survey was conducted online via www.surveymonkey.com and linked to the websites of Jackson County (www.co.jackson.mi.us), the City of Jackson (www.cityofjackson.org). Hard copies of the survey were also made available at Jackson County's Cascades Golf Course as well as the City's Boos and King Recreation Centers. The parks departments of the City and County also linked to the survey on their Facebook pages. A press release announcing the opportunity to take the citizen opinion survey was released to area media outlets on October 20, 2014. That press release resulted in promotion of the survey on the October 22, 2014 episode of the "Bart Hawley Show" which runs on JTV (Jackson TV), the local public access television station. JTV also promoted the survey on its website (www.jtv.tv) and Facebook page. An article regarding the survey was also published on MLive on October 29, 2014 and in the Jackson Citizen Patriot on October 30, 2014.



Public input wanted for Jackson County/City joint recreation plan, survey available online

Fall color golf
A pair of people walk through Ella Sharp Park toward the golf course. (J. Stodd Park | MLive.com)

Will Forgrave | wforgrave@mlive.com By **Will Forgrave | wforgrave@mlive.com**

Follow on Twitter
on October 29, 2014, at 9:00 AM, updated October 29, 2014, at 9:20 AM

JACKSON COUNTY, MI -- Administrators in Jackson County and the city of Jackson are asking residents to provide their input on a joint five-year parks and recreation plan.

A survey is available online on the **city of Jackson's website** and the **county website**. The survey is available online through Sunday, Nov. 9.

Region II Principal Planner Grand Bauman said the survey is required for the city and county to receive certain grant funds and provides officials with important information from residents.

"Part of the survey is to fulfill a state requirement to receive grant funding from the Department of Natural Resources for park projects," Bauman said. "Part is getting good information from residents that can point us in the right direction with park projects and programs."

The plan is set to provide officials with a roadmap for park projects and activities from 2015-2019.

(Related: City and county officials look to provide more boat/kayak launches in Jackson County)

Survey questions ask participants -- among other questions -- how often they visit county and city parks, which parks they have visited in the last year, should the city and county continue to develop a trail system.

"With past recreation plans we found that a trail system was very popular," Bauman said. "Does the community still value this? We want to find out."

Hard copies of the surveys are also available at Cascades Golf Course, 1992 Warren Road, the fifth floor of City Hall, 161 W. Michigan Ave.; the Boos Center, 210 Gilbert St.; and the King Center, 1107 Adrian St.

Contact **Will Forgrave** at **wforgrave@mlive.com** or 517-262-7554. Follow him on Twitter at @WillForgrave.
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JACKSON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 20, 2014
Contacts: Mr. Scott Robbins | Director of Jackson County Parks | Jackson County | srobbins@co.jackson.mi.us | 517.788.4320
Ms. Kelli Hoover | Director of Parks, Recreation, and Grounds | City of Jackson | khoover@cityofjackson.org | 517.788.4040

CITY OF JACKSON AND JACKSON COUNTY JOINT RECREATION SURVEY

Jackson County and the City of Jackson are cooperating on the development of the second edition of the *City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan*.

The Joint Recreation Plan provides the most complete and detailed listing of parks and recreation facilities and programs available to County and City residents, regardless of who provides them. It will also contain a listing of parks and recreation construction projects the two parks departments have planned for the 2015-2019 time period. **Your input is needed in order to create that project listing. Please take the online survey developed to gather that public input.** The survey is located on the home pages of the following websites:

- City of Jackson -- www.cityofjackson.org
- Jackson County -- www.co.jackson.mi.us

Hard copies of the surveys are also available at the following locations:

- Jackson County | County Parks Department Cascades Golf Course | 1992 Warren Road | Jackson, MI 49203
- City of Jackson | Parks, Recreation, and Grounds Department | 5th Floor of City Hall | 161 W. Michigan Avenue | Jackson, MI 49201
- Boos Center | 210 Gilbert Street | Jackson, MI 49201
- King Center | 1107 Adrian Street | Jackson, MI 49203

The survey will be available online and at the locations listed above between Sunday, October 26, 2014 and Sunday, November 9, 2014.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS
THANKS FOR PROVIDING YOUR INPUT!

A total of 128 surveys were completed. The answers to the survey questions were then tallied and disseminated as follows:

Visitation and Ranking

1. Where do you live?

Respondents were asked where they live (n=123). Township and village residents of Jackson County comprised 55.3% (n=68) of respondents. City of Jackson residents comprised 39% (n=48) of respondents. People residing in another county comprised just 5.7% (n=7) of respondents.

2. How many times have you visited any of the City or County parks or recreation facilities within the last year?

Respondents were asked how many times they visited a City or County park in the past year (n=123). 49.6% (n=61) of respondents visited a park more than 20 times within the last year. 24.4% (n=30) visited a City or County park between 1 and 10 times in the last year. 23.6% (n=29) visited a park between 11 and 20 times last year. Only 2.4% (n=3) did not visit a park in either system.

3. What County parks have you visited in the last year?

Respondents were asked what County parks they have visited in the past year (n=102). The results for each park follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ■ Falling Waters Trail – 78.4% (n=80) | ■ Gillett’s Lake – 8.8% (n=9) |
| ■ Vandercook Lake – 29.4% (n=30) | ■ Little Wolf – 8.8% (n=9) |
| ■ Lime Lake – 27.5% (n=28) | ■ Round Lake – 8.8% (n=9) |
| ■ Clark Lake – 26.5% (n=27) | ■ Clear Lake – 7.8% (n=8) |
| ■ Portage Lake – 22.5% (n=23) | ■ Minard Mills – 6.9% (n=7) |
| ■ Grass Lake – 12.7% (n=13) | ■ Vineyard Lake – 6.9% (n=7) |
| ■ Swains Lake – 11.8% (n=12) | ■ Alfred A. Snyder – 1.0% (n=1) |
| ■ Pleasant Lake – 9.8% (n=10) | |

4. What City parks have you visited in the last year?

Respondents were asked what City parks they have visited in the past year (n=111). The results for each park follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Ella W. Sharp – 94.6% (n=105) | ■ Kiwanis – 8.1% (n=9) |
| ■ Loomis/Boos Center – 34.2% (n=38) | ■ New Leaf – 8.1% (n=9) |
| ■ Bucky Harris – 31.5% (n=35) | ■ Optimist – 7.2% (n=8) |
| ■ Intercity Trail – 31.5% (n=35) | ■ Withington – 5.4% (n=6) |
| ■ William Nixon – 27.9% (n=31) | ■ Rotary – 4.5% (n=5) |
| ■ Downtown Riverfront – 22.5% (n=25) | ■ Ganson Street – 3.6% (n=4) |
| ■ Bloomfield – 20.7% (n=23) | ■ Under the Oaks – 3.6% (n=4) |
| ■ Betsy Butterfield – 20.7% (n=23) | ■ Friendship – 2.7% (n=3) |
| ■ Horace Blackman – 12.6% (n=14) | ■ Elnora Moorman Plaza – 2.7% (n=3) |
| ■ Gov. Austin Blair – 12.6% (n=14) | ■ Beech Tree – 1.8% (n=2) |
| ■ Lions – 12.6% (n=14) | ■ Best Field – 1.8% (n=2) |
| ■ Martin Luther King – 10.8% (n=12) | ■ Norm Creger Memorial – 0.0% (n=0) |
| ■ Grand River – 8.1% (n=9) | ■ Leeks – 0.0% (n=0) |

5. How do you rate the City and County parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked to rate the city and county park systems (n=125). 58.4% (n=73) of respondents rated the City and County park systems as good. 20.0% (n=25) of respondents rated the park systems as fair. 18.4% (n=23) of respondents rated the City and County park systems as excellent. Only 3.2% (n=4) rated the systems as poor.

Visitation and Ranking

6. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?

Respondents were asked why they visit a park/recreation facility (n=117). 65.0% (n=76) visit in order to 'enjoy the outdoors.' 62.4% visit due to 'closeness to home.' 44.4% (n=52) visit 'for fitness.' 42.7% (n=50) visit for 'special events.' 42.7% (n=50) visit to 'participate in sports/games.' 32.5% (n=38) visit to 'use playground equipment.' 4.3% (n=5) visit to 'use campgrounds.'

An additional 13 write-in responses were provided. Non-motorized access predominated: mountain biking at Ella Sharp Park (n=5), walking and hiking (n=2), and bicycle commuting to work and community events (n=1). A variety of other uses were also recorded: Cascades Falls (n=1); fishing (n=1), swimming at Vandercook Lake, eating lunches at parks close to work (n=1), special family events (n=1), and never visit (n=1).

7. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?

Respondents were asked what discouraged them from visiting a park/recreation facility (n=83). 39.8% (n=33) cited 'distance from home.' 38.6% (n=32) indicated a 'concern for personal safety.' 37.3% (n=31) replied that there is 'nothing interesting to do.' 15.7% (n=13) cited 'no parking.' 4.8% (n=4) stated it was 'too expensive.'

An additional 20 write-in responses were provided. Non-motorized access predominated: 'mountain bike trail not allowed to be properly marked' (n=1), a 'lack of interest from the City in cooperative maintenance with [the Michigan Mountain Biking Association]' (n=1), a 'lack of wheelchair access' (n=1), and 'I did have my car window smashed out [approximately] one month ago at the Teft Road parking lot while walking' (n=1). Several people declared that 'nothing discourages me' (n=3). A couple of responses stated that they did not need parks due to the rural nature of their neighborhoods (n=2). A couple of responses noted a lack of personal time (n=2). A couple of responses cited the goose droppings at Sparks Foundation County Park (n=2). A couple of responses indicated none/not applicable (n=2). There were also a variety of other responses: the 'closing of [the] Ella Sharp pool' (n=1), the 'condition of facilities (n=1), 'don't like to go alone' (n=1), 'would like to see more unique recreational activities' (n=1), and 'people letting [their] dogs run off leash and officers not doing anything' (n=1).

8. What are the City recreation programs in which you participate?

Respondents were asked in what City recreation programs they participate (n=70). The results for each program follows:

- Pools, including swimming lessons and events – 44.3% (n=31)
- Youth programs (e.g., arts/crafts, sports, etc.) – 32.9% (n=23)
- Annual special events (e.g., bingo, monthly dinners, etc.) – 30.0% (n=21)
- Youth and adult basketball leagues – 20.0% (n=14)

- Walking programs – 17.1% (n=12)
- Golf tournaments – 15.7% (n=11)
- Yoga, aerobics, and step aerobics – 12.9% (n=9)
- Youth and adult gym sessions – 10.0% (n=7)
- Youth and adult volleyball leagues and open play – 10.0% (n=7)
- Youth gymnastics – 8.6% (n=6)
- Skateboarding, including events and competitions – 4.3% (n=3)
- Summer tennis tournaments – 4.3% (n=3)
- Senior activities (e.g., bingo, monthly dinners, etc.) – 2.9% (n=2)

An additional 16 write-in responses were provided. Non-motorized access predominated: mountain biking (n=2), biking (n=1), and hiking and mountain biking (n=1). So did softball (n=4). Swimming accounted for several responses: 'none since [the] closing of [Ella Sharp] pool' (n=1), 'member of the YMCA and love swimming laps' (n=1), and 'please [replace] the outdoor pool' (n=1). Several responses indicated 'none' or 'n/a' (n=3). A few other responses were recorded: soccer (n=1) and dodgeball.

9. In what County programs/events do you participate?

Respondents were asked in what County programs/events they participate (n=90). The results for each park follows:

- Fireworks – 78.9% (n=71)
- Cascades Falls – 75.6% (n=68)
- Civil War Muster – 34.4% (n=31)
- Relay for Life – 31.1% (n=28)
- Community Band Shell Concerts – 14.4% (n=13)

An additional 8 write-in responses were provided. A few of the responders indicated 'none' (n=2), 'none', just the beach and playground' (n=1), and 'busy all spring, summer, fall presenting historic prison tours' (n=1). A few other responses were recorded: 'hot air jubilee' (n=1), 'biking' (n=1), 'Earth Day' (n=1), and 'lupus walk, diabetes walk' (n=1).

Possible Facilities and Programs

10. Should the City and County continue to develop a coordinated trail system?

Respondents were asked if development of a coordinated trail system should continue to be a goal of the City and County (n=120). 87.5% (n=105) of respondents said 'yes'. 9.2% (n=11) of respondents were 'not sure'. 3.3% (n=4) said 'no'.

11. Should the developing trail network be expanded to include water trails (blueways)?

Respondents were asked if the developing trail system should include blueways (n=119). 70.6% (n=84) of respondents said 'yes.' 20.2% (n=24) of respondents were 'not sure.' 9.2% (n=11) said 'no.'

12. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked if there was an activity they would like to see more of in the City and County parks (n=95). The results for each park follows:

- Community festivals — 47.4% (n=45)
- Splash park/ water slides — 40.0% (n=38)
- Ice skating — 36.8% (n=35)
- Fishing — 28.4% (n=27)
- Beaches — 27.4% (n=26)
- Sledding — 26.3% (n=25)
- Boat Ramps — 21.1% (n=20)
- Cross-County Skiing — 20.0% (n=19)

- Disc Golf — 20.0% (n=19)
- Picnicking — 17.9% (n=17)
- Camping — 14.7% (n=14)
- Soccer — 13.7% (n=13)
- Volleyball — 11.6% (n=11)
- Golfing — 10.5% (n=10)
- Baseball/Softball — 10.5% (n=10)
- Tennis — 8.4% (n=8)
- Basketball — 8.4% (n=8)
- Hockey — 8.4% (n=8)

An additional 20 write-in responses were provided. Non-motorized access predominated: mountain biking (n=7), multi-use trails (n=4), on- and off-road cycling (n=3), snowshoeing (n=1), horseback riding stables (n=1), and running clubs (n=2). Swimming-related responses were also popular: a new outdoor pool (n=3), swimming and swimming lessons (n=2), and a splash pad (n=1). A variety of other responses were also submitted: folk music concerts (n=1), benches/seating (n=1), sledding with a tow rope (n=1), fitness classes (n=1), teenager activities (n=1), soccer (n=1), golf (n=1), wrestling program for kids and teens (n=1), and skateboarding (n=1).

13. What have you seen at parks or recreation facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?

Respondents were asked what types of parks and recreation facilities they have seen elsewhere that they would like to see here (n=48). Non-motorized access predominated: connected multi-purpose trails that connect parks and neighborhoods (n=10), well-maintained and signed mountain bike trails (n=6), nature trails (n=2), and a ‘bikeshare’ program (n=1). There is also a call for access to water: splash pads/parks (n=8), outdoor pools—including the return of the pool at Ella Sharp Park—and lakes (n=3), nicer beaches (n=1), and boat rentals (n=1). Access to art and culture was requested: public art/sculptures (n=3) fairs/festivals for music/art/food/wine (n=2), food trucks (n=1), and ‘tot lot’ art classes (n=1). The need for better maintained parks and facilities (n=3), opportunities to recycle/compost and dispose of trash (n=1), and better signage (n=1). Nature education (n=3) was remarked upon as were playgrounds (n=2). A variety of other responses were also received: celebration party places (n=1), lacrosse (n=1), programs for kids under 5 (n=1), ultimate Frisbee (n=1) and disk golf (n=1), ‘footee golf’ (n=1), ADA accessible camping cabins (n=1), plentiful picnic areas (n=1), neighborhood parks/community centers (n=1), basketball courts near Downtown Jackson (n=1), a millage (n=1), getting ‘rid of the geese’ (n=1), ‘organized sledding/cross country skiing with rentals and warming houses’ (n=1), updated softball field (n=1) and batting cages (n=1), dog parks (n=1), and bird watching sites (n=1).

Sparks Foundation County Park Master Plan

The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners adopted the Master Plan for Sparks Foundation County Park (Cascades Park) in October and November of 2006, respectively. Public involvement was an important element in the development of that document. For example, participants identified their likes and dislikes regarding the park as well as their ideas for new facilities during a public forum attended by 200 residents held in April of that year. This information was used to develop the plan’s goals and objectives. The 50 attendees of a second public forum held in May discussed various design alternatives and voted on the most desirable design elements of each alternative. That information was then used to develop the master plan which comprises the following elements:

- Cascades Falls
 - Existing Cascade Falls Upgrades
 - Expanded Cascade Falls Area
 - Amphitheater Area
- Historic Paredo Restoration
- Children’s Play Area
- Open Field Area – Passive Recreation
- Bandshell and Restrooms
- Natural Area – Trout Pond
- Little League Fields
- Active Rec. Area – Paved Surfaces
 - Batting Cages
 - Maintenance Building
- Active Recreation Area – Open Field
- Gateway Landscaping
 - Brown St./Randolph St. Roundabout
 - Randolph St./High St. Intersection
 - Denton Rd./Kibby Rd. Intersection
 - Brown St./Denton Rd. Intersection
- Interpretive/Visitors Center
- Natural Area
 - Canal and Pond Dredging
 - Wetland Interpretive Opportunities
 - Viewing Chamber
- Open Areas
 - Cascades Manor House
 - Multi-use Path
 - Brown Street Improvements

Please refer directly to the master plan for greater detail.

Ella W. Sharp Park Master Plan

The Ella Sharp Park Board adopted the Ella W. Sharp Park Master Plan in November of 2013 (see Map 3-1). Public involvement was an important element in the development of that document. For example, residents were invited to participate in an ‘Internet Survey Visioning’ process and the visioning in which the Board participated was held during meetings which were open to the general public. That information was then used to develop the master plan which comprises the following elements:

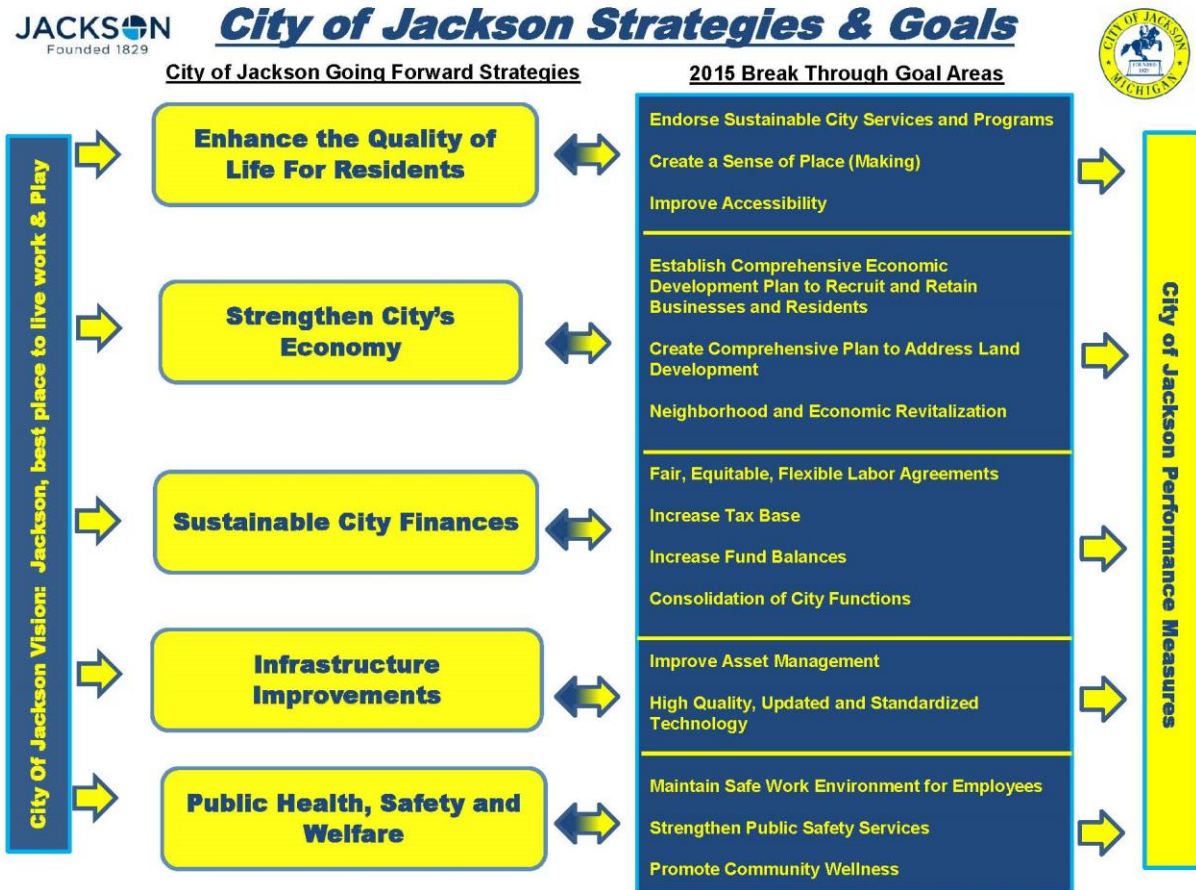
- Renovated/Updated Elements
 - Improved park shelters
 - Possible warming element for sledding
 - Updated/expanded playground(s)
 - Expanded destination-quality miniature golf course
 - Reorganized/improved softball fields
 - Expanded/improved parking based on demand
 - Expanded/improved trail network – paved and unpaved
 - Improved/restored Rose Garden
 - Restoration of historic farm lane
 - Improved wedding accommodations
- Natural area management plan
- New Elements
 - Permanent restrooms
 - Additional park shelters
 - Disc golf course
 - Sand volleyball
 - Dog park
 - Paintball course
 - Nature center
 - Grand River recreation
 - Overlook
 - Fishing platform
 - Canoe/kayak launch

Please refer directly to the master plan for greater detail.

City of Jackson Strategies and Goals

The City of Jackson has also developed a series of ‘Going Forward Strategies’ and ‘2015 Break Through Goal Areas’ which impact parks and recreation. For example, ‘[Creating] a Sense of Place (Making)’ and ‘[Improving] Accessibility’ are ‘Goal Areas’ under ‘Enhance the Quality of Life For Residents’, the first

‘Going Forward [Strategy]’. ‘Neighborhood and Economic Revitalization’ is a goal under ‘Strengthen [the] City’s Economy’. ‘Improve Asset Management’ is a goal under ‘Infrastructure Improvements’. Finally, ‘Promote Community Wellness’ is a goal under ‘Public Health, Safety and Welfare’, the last ‘Going Forward [Strategy]’.



Regional Trailway Study

The parks departments of Jackson County and the City of Jackson; the townships of Blackman, Spring Arbor, and Summit; the Falling Waters Trail Committee; and the Lakelands Trail effort joined together to develop the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002. Public involvement was also an important element in the development of this document. For example, upon completion of background information and the development of a concept plan, public meetings were held at the Summit Township Hall, the Blackman Township Hall, and the Jackson City Hall to present the materials and solicit public comment. Several other public meetings were also held at the Jackson City Hall (2) and the Summit Township Hall to present the revisions made to the concept plan after the first series of meetings. A preliminary master plan was based upon the background information, the concept plan, and the feedback gained from the public forum. The final trailways study contains the following elements:

- Lakelands Trail – 15.4 miles
- Henrietta Loop – 19.9 miles
- Portage Lake Trail – 6.5 miles
- North Trail – 7.6 miles
- Blackman Township Loop – 8.0 miles
- Inter-City Trail – 7.5 miles
- Airport Trail – 5.5 miles
- Falling Waters Trail – 11.5 miles
- Hanover Trail – 8.9 miles
- Summit Township Loop – 7.2 miles
- Ella Sharp Park Trail and Cascades Park – 4.4 miles
- South Trail – 19.5 miles
- Connection to Existing Trail on Page Avenue – 0.3 miles

Please refer the full study for greater detail.

The Falling Waters Trail has since been completed from the east village limits of Concord to Weatherwax Road, and connecting to the existing portion of the Inter-City Trail. Local units of government have also proposed the following trails to supplement the basic framework provided by the railway study:

- **Heart of the Lakes Area** — The action program located in the 2014-2018 edition of the Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan includes several non-motorized pathways designed to supplement the regional railway study's South Trail, as it flows through the Village of Brooklyn and the townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell. Please refer directly to the local recreation plan for greater detail.
- **Grass Lake Area** — The action program located in the 2009-2014 edition of the Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan includes several non-motorized pathways within Grass Lake Township and the Village of Grass Lake designed to connect with trails planned for Leoni Township, the Heart of the Lakes Area, and the other trails within the regional railway study. Please refer directly to the local recreation plan for greater detail.
- **Leoni Township** — The action program located in the 2008-2012 edition of the Leoni Township Parks and Recreation Plan includes a boardwalk/shared use path along Michigan Ave. which extends into the Grass Lake Area. The action program also includes a shared-use path along Ann Arbor Rd. in the local Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Please refer directly to the local recreation plan and other township documents for greater detail.
- **Village of Concord** — The action program located in the 2008-2012 edition of the Concord Community Recreation Plan includes projects that will extend the regional railway study's Falling Waters Trail westward to the Village's Norman Gottschalk Park as well linking to the trail extending southward to Swains Lake County Park. Please refer directly to the local recreation plan for greater detail.
- **Summit Township** — The action program located in the 2013-2017 edition of the Summit Township Recreation Plan includes projects that further interconnect the existing trails within the community and those proposed in the regional railway study, including the Falling Waters Trail. Please refer directly to the local recreation plan for greater detail.

Finally, the existing Inter-City Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor and the proposed extension of the Lakeland Trail provide the backbone of Route #1 of the proposed Great lake-to-Lake Trails as it traverses Jackson County (see Appendix C).

City of Jackson's Destination-Based Bike Routes

Jackson has also continued to refine the non-motorized pathways proposed within the city. The Destination-Based Bike Routes Map includes existing and proposed non-motorized lanes and trails and signed bike lanes. The map also identifies the destinations they are designed to interconnect. Of particular interest is the Inter-City trail, which was built through the King Center and along S. Cooper St. to Biddle St. (from there to the Consumers Campus only sidewalk exists). The River ArtsWalk—an extension of the Inter-City Trail— was built from Louis Glick Hwy. to Monroe Street since the last edition of this plan was approved. The route follows Mechanic Street northward (utilizing the existing sidewalk and bike lanes), traverse the Armory Arts Village (at North Street), and then follow the Grand River.

Public Meetings

Public input is received throughout the year during the regular meetings of the parks and recreation commissions of Jackson County and the City of Jackson and in the form of suggestions, requests, and complaints received by their parks and recreation department. The development of the 2015-2019 edition of the Joint Recreation Plan was also the main topic of discussion during the meetings of the Joint Recreation Planning Committee, which were open to the general public.

One Month Review Period

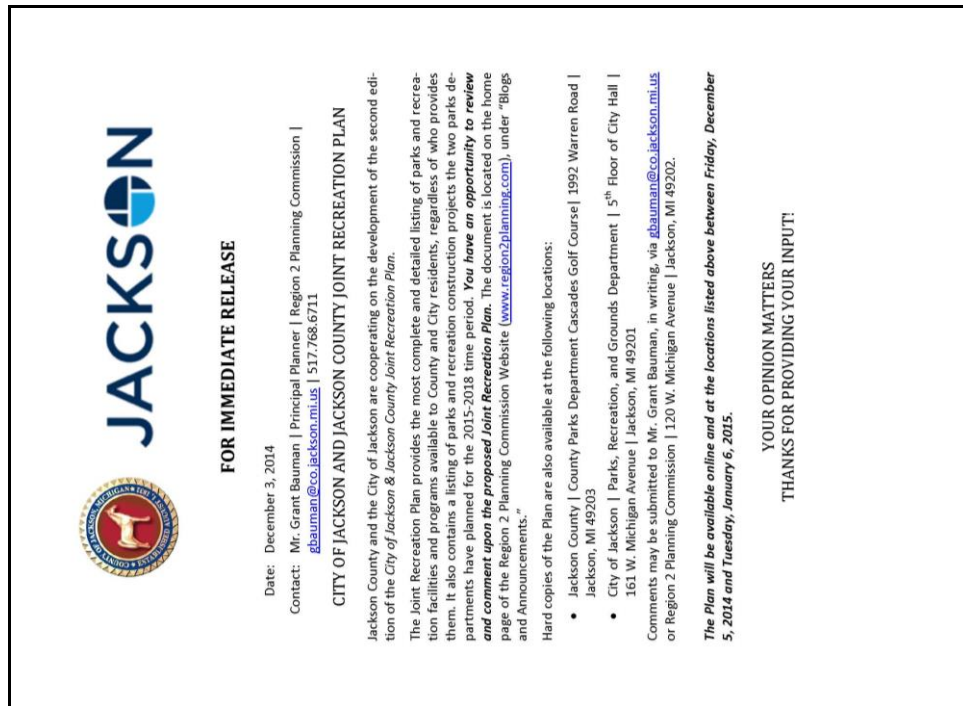
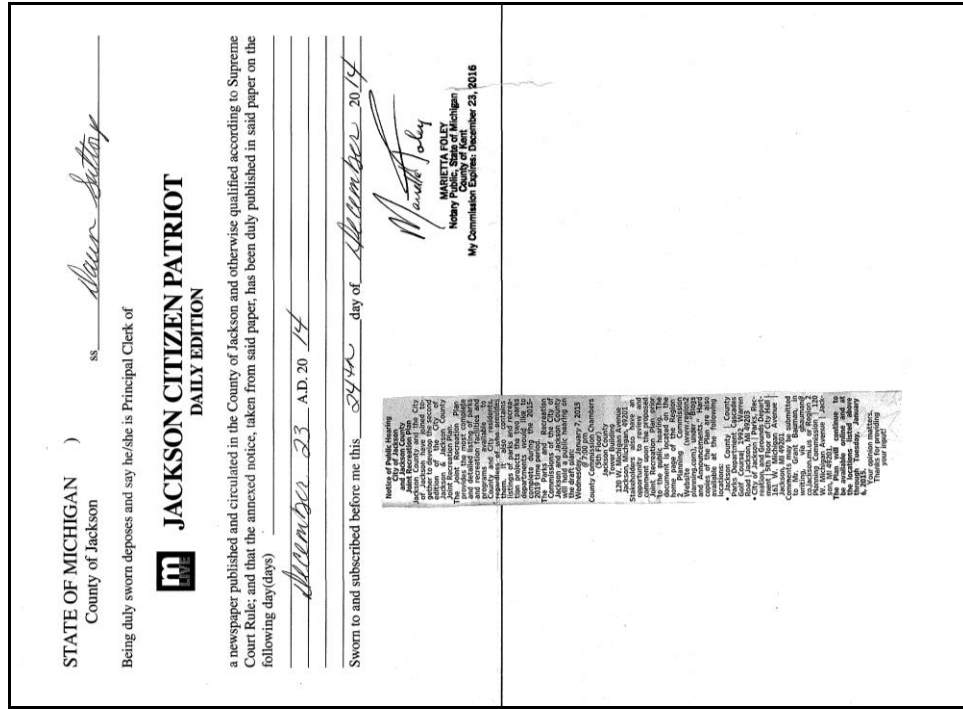
The 2015-2019 edition of the Joint Recreation Plan was submitted for public comment beginning on December 5, 2014, and ending on January 6, 2015. A press release was sent out to the local media and posted in offices of the City and County (please see the notice), resulting in an interview on JTV's 'Bart Hawley Show' on December 16, 2014. JTV is the public access television station serving Jackson County and also airs the 'Bart Hawley Show' online (<http://www.jtv.tv/>). The plan was available for review in the Parks offices of the City and County as well as online via the website of the Region 2 Planning Commission (www.region2planning.com). Comments made during the public comment period included a variety of suggested edits (none of which were substantive), as well as the 'City Of Jackson Strategies and Goals' for 2015.

Jackson County and the Region 2 Planning Commission

Local units must provide copies of the joint recreation plan to its county board and regional planning commission. Copies of those letters were transmitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) along with the DNR's Plan Certification Checklist.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the recreation plan was held on January 7, 2015. The public hearing was noticed in the Jackson Citizen Patriot on December 23, 2014 (please see the affidavit of publication). No substantive changes were requested during the public hearing. However, additional meetings held by Jackson County and the City of Jackson did result in the revision of the organizational charts for the City and County as well as the addition of demographic data regarding the City as well as a few projects to the City's Action Program.



Map 4-1 Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Master Plan



Map 4-2 Ella W. Sharp Park Master Plan



Chapter 5

Vision, Goals, and Objectives

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

Vision, Goals, and Objectives

The vision provided by this recreation plan can be summarized in the following statement:

Provide all persons with a variety of well-maintained and programmed parks, recreation areas, and facilities at the neighborhood level in the City of Jackson and at the community and regional levels throughout Jackson County.

The following goals and objectives will help Jackson County and the City of Jackson to fulfill the vision summarized above:

1. Develop lines of communication, collaboration, and cooperation with other local communities and recreation providers

Investigate various ways of communicating, collaborating, and cooperating with the other local providers of recreation in order to provide adequate facilities and programs throughout Jackson County as well as avoiding the duplication of facilities and services in any given sub-area of the county (i.e., the Dahlem Center, MacCready Reserve, etc.).

2. Develop a non-motorized trail network

Continue the efforts of both Jackson County and the City of Jackson to develop a non-motorized trail network:

- Continue to implement the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study
- Encourage local governments to plan for and develop additional non-motorized trails which will supplement the framework proposed in the Regional Trailway Study
- Cooperate with and support the efforts of partners to increase access to water trails (i.e., blueways) throughout the City and County

4. Renovate existing parks and recreation facilities

Concentrate efforts on improving the existing parks maintained by Jackson County and the City of Jackson:

- Upgrade existing parks and recreation facilities as needed
- Improve existing parks and recreation facilities to meet (and exceed where possible) the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Improve the safety of parks and recreation facility patrons and increase the positive impact of parks on their surrounding areas
 - Continue to install vandal resistant facilities
 - Continue to improve a consistent and systematic park maintenance program
 - Improve traffic control within parks

- Implement master plan created for specific parks and recreation facilities, including Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park and Ella W. Sharp Park
- Make recreation improvements to the Jackson County Fairgrounds and Reynolds Field

4. Provide recreation programs and events

Provide a variety of recreation programs which the community enjoys, and attempt to involve everyone as a participant, coach, or spectator.

- Continue to provide the various recreation programs provided by the City of Jackson and to identify ways of expanding recreation programming throughout Jackson County
- Continue to allow special events such as the Civil War Muster and Juneteenth celebrations in county and city parks
- Provide educational and conservation programs regarding the natural resources found throughout the City and County park systems

5. Develop new parks as opportunities arise

Opportunities for the acquisition and development of new parks should not be ignored even though Jackson County and the City of Jackson will concentrate on the redevelopment of existing parks and recreation facilities.

- Provide new mini, neighborhood, community, or regional parks (as applicable) in underserved areas of the city and county
- Protect natural resources (i.e. forests, wildlife habitat, and wetlands) and to create and/or preserve needed open space in urban/suburban settings
- Provide a venue for a new recreation facility which cannot be accommodated in any existing park

Background Information

Input into developing the goals and objectives listed above included:

- Existing recreation facilities and programs available to City and other County residents, regardless of the provider
- The health and disabilities of City and other County residents
- Opportunities for acquiring land and facilities
- Responses from the Citizen Opinion Survey and the other opportunities for public comment

Develop lines of communication, collaboration, and cooperation

A variety of the factors identified in the Joint Recreation Plan support the need to develop lines of communication, collaboration, and cooperation among recreation providers. Other factors identify where those lines already exist:

- **Recreation and Resource Inventories** — A variety of public, quasi-public, and private entities provide recreation facilities and programs. People rarely restrict their activities—including recreation—to a single jurisdiction. Accordingly, Chapter 3 of this Plan already provides an overview of the parks and recreation facilities and services available to local residents, regardless of the provider.
- **Jackson County Regional Trailway Study** — The parks departments of Jackson County and the City of Jackson; the townships of Blackman, Spring Arbor, and Summit; the Falling Waters Trail Committee; and the Lakelands Trail effort joined together to develop the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study, demonstrating that some cooperation, communication, and collaboration among recreation providers already exists. Various municipalities have expanded upon the ‘stick network’ proposed in the Study. Finally, the Inter-City and Falling Waters Trail Corridor contained in the Study provides the backbone for the Iron Belle Trail and Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails as they traverse the City and County of Jackson (please see Appendix C).
- **Recreation Programming** — The City’s recreation programs are funded through a millage levied on residents within the Jackson Public Schools district, which extends beyond the City limits into the majority of Summit Township and smaller portions of the Townships of Blackman, Napoleon, and Liberty (see Map 2-1). Consequently, participants in recreation sessions and sports seasons living within the Jackson Public Schools district are charged a smaller user fee than participants living within another school district.

Develop a Non-Motorized Trail Network

A variety of the factors identified in the Joint Recreation Plan support the development of a non-motorized trail network:

- **Citizen Opinion Survey** — Responses to a couples of the survey questions show strong support for non-motorized trails. For example, 87.5% of respondents to question #10 said ‘yes’ when asked “should the City and County continue to develop a coordinated trail system.” When asked “should the developing trail network be expanded to include water trails (blueways),” 70.6% of respondents said ‘yes’ (question #11). Finally, non-motorized access predominated the ‘write-in’ answers to many survey questions.
- **Jackson County Regional Trailway Study** — A framework of trails was developed in the Study, which was completed in 2002. Jackson County’s ‘Falling Waters Trail’ was the first study element to be implemented. The ‘River Artswalk,’ an extension of the City of Jackson’s ‘Inter-City Trail,’ was completed after the previous edition of this Plan was adopted. Various municipalities have also expanded upon the trail network proposed in the Study as it flows through their jurisdictions. The City of Jackson has also expanded upon the proposed trail network via its map of ‘Destination-Based Bike Routes’ (please see Appendix C).
- **The Health of Jackson County residents** — Information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicates that 31.1% of Michigan residents were considered obese (the tenth highest in the nation) in 2010. County health rankings indicate that 34.0% of adults in Jackson County reporting being obese that year (please see Chapter 1).

Renovate Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

A variety of the factors identified in the Joint Recreation Plan support a focus on the renovation of existing parks and recreation facilities over the development of new parks:

- **Citizen Opinion Survey** — Responses to a couple of questions support focusing on the renovation of existing parks and recreation facilities. For example, 23.0% of respondents rated the park systems as fair and 3.2% rated the systems as poor (Question #5). When asked “what discourages [them] from visiting a park/recreation facility?” (Question #7), 38.6% of respondents indicated a ‘concern for personal safety,’ 37.3% replied that there is ‘nothing interesting to do’, and 15.7% cited ‘no parking’. Those responses indicate that there is an opportunity to improve existing parks and recreation facilities.
- **Disabilities of residents** — The American Community Survey (ACS) estimated that a significant portion of the population of Jackson County (7.9%) had some type of ambulatory difficulty between 2008 and 2012. Parks and recreation facilities should continue to be retrofitted to accommodate them.
- **The economic downturn** — Although the economy appears to be improving, the County and City are still affected by the same downturn their residents continue to experience. Unfortunately, this trend is likely to continue for some time in Michigan. Concentrating on existing parks is an example of trying to ‘do more with less’.
- **Park Master Plans** — Master plans have been developed for various parks, including Sparks Foundation County Park and Ella W. Sharp Park (reflecting the status of the parks as the ‘jewels’ of the park systems). The various elements of those master plan were subject to public scrutiny. Implementing those elements will ensure that the parks remain important components of what people remember about Jackson County.
- **City of Jackson Strategies and Goals** — The City has developed a series of strategies which promote the renovation of existing parks: ‘Enhance the Quality of Life For Residents’, ‘Strengthen [the] City’s Economy’, ‘Infrastructure Improvements’, and ‘Public Health, Safety and Welfare’.

Provide Recreation Programs and Events

A variety of factors identified in the Joint Recreation Plan support recreation programs and events:

- **Citizen Opinion Survey** — Responses to a couple of survey questions indicate interest in recreation programs and special events. For example, 44.3% of respondents cited pools, including swimming lessons and events; 32.9% cited youth programs (e.g., arts/crafts, sports, etc.), 31.5% cited annual special events (e.g., bingo, monthly dinners, etc.); and 20.0% cited youth and adult basketball leagues when asked what City recreation programs they participate (see Question #8). When asked in what County programs/events they participate, 78.9% cited fireworks, 75.6% cited the Cascades Falls, 34.4% cited the Civil War Muster, 31.1% cited Relay for Life, and 14.4% cited Community Band Shell Concerts (Question #9).

- **City of Jackson Recreation Millage** — The City’s recreation programs are funded through a millage levied on residents within the Jackson Public Schools district. That millage was renewed and expanded from 0.2 mills to 0.5 mills in the summer of 2014. The new millage will go into effect in the summer of 2015. The fact that this millage increase passed indicates strong support for recreation programming and events.
- **The health of Jackson County residents** — The Joint Recreation Plan recognizes that being overweight and obesity are significant local health issues. The availability of active recreation programs for all ages through the City provides Jackson Area residents with the opportunity for a more active lifestyle.

Develop New Parks as Opportunities Arise

A variety of the factors identified in the Joint Recreation Plan support the development of new parks under certain circumstances:

- **Taking advantage of opportunities** — The County and City may wish to take advantage of opportunities for new parks when they arise even though they are focusing on the renovation of existing parks.
- **Non-motorized trail network** — The development of a non-motorized trail network, as proposed in the regional trailway study, and expanded upon in the recreation plans of a number of local governments, is a local priority. The development of the proposed linear park system cannot be accommodated in existing parks. The health benefits attributed to the use of non-motorized trails are also a factor in favor of new trails.

Chapter 6

Action Program

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

Action Program

Jackson County and the City of Jackson have separate action programs:

Jackson County Action Program

Please see the map 6-1 for the location of the various projects (*listed in alphabetical order and not all inclusive*).

- A. Clark Lake County Park upgrades** — Addition of modern restrooms, a play structure, a picnic shelter, and landscaping
- B. Lime Lake County Park upgrades** — Addition of modern restrooms, a picnic shelter, a play structure, landscaping, and fence repair
- C. Pleasant Lake County Park campground restroom** — Replacement of the 1980 restroom and shower building serving campers and day-users. The new facility will be universally accessible
- D. Round Lake County Park upgrades** — Addition of modern restrooms, a play structure, a picnic shelter, and landscaping
- E. Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park** — Continue to implement the Park’s master plan including, but not limited to, the following projects:
 - **Cascades pond and canal dredging project** — Improvement of the natural habitat of the Cascades Lagoons through dredging. Water quality and plant habitat will improve in the park upon completion
 - **Cascades Falls renovation** — Major renovation of the historic Cascade Falls. Complete renovation of the plumbing, electrical, and concrete fixtures
 - **Play structure renovation** — Replacement of the aging and heavily used play structures in the park
 - **Outdoor accessibility improvements** — Addition and renovation of non-motorized pathways and outdoor education facilities
- F. Vineyard Lake County Park upgrade** — Upgrades in the park will consist of the addition of modern restrooms, a play structure, a picnic shelter, and improved driveway infrastructure
- G. Fishing piers** — The construction of fishing piers at parks with water access including, but not limited to: Grass Lake, Clark Lake, Lime Lake, Swains Lake, and Vineyard Lake County Parks¹
- H. Invasive species management** — Invasive species management projects are needed at Sparks Foundation (Cascades), Lime Lake, and Burns County Parks as well as the other County parks²

¹ These projects are not mapped given that they apply to multiple locations.

² These projects are not mapped given that they apply to multiple locations.

Trail Development

- I. Lakelands Trail Development** — Development of 10-12 miles of rail-trail along abandoned rail-road right-of-way, stretching northeast from Blackman Township to the Jackson County Line
- J. Sparks Foundation County Park Trail Connector** — Development of a non-motorized trail connector between Sparks Foundation County Park and the Inter-City/Falling Waters Trail corridor

City of Jackson Action Program

Please see the Map 6-2 for the location of the various projects (*listed in alphabetical order and not all inclusive*).

- A. Bucky Harris Park** — Make various updates to the park
- B. Lions Park** — Resurface the parking lot; improve site lighting; and add a canoe/kayak landing
- C. Loomis Park** — Add playground equipment and wellness park as well as parking lot resurfacing
- D. Martin Luther King Center** — Install a splash pad, add extra gym space, resurface parking lot
- E. New Leaf Park** — Resurface the parking lot
- F. William Nixon Memorial Park** — Upgrade the irrigation system, improve fencing, resurface the parking lot, and add new bleachers and scoreboards to the softball field
- G. Optimist Park** — Add new playground equipment and resurface an existing basketball court
- H. Ella W. Sharp Park** — Continue to implement the Park's master plan including:
 - **Addition of recreation facilities** — Add playground equipment and a disc golf course
 - **#1 & #2 softball fields** — Resurface the parking lot serving the softball fields and improve related fencing and lighting
 - **Maintenance building** — Make improvements to the maintenance building
 - **Parking lots** — Construct new parking lots
 - **Trail development** — Please see item N below
- I. Under the Oaks Park** — Create a new entrance to the park and install landscaping
- J. Withington Park** — Install landscaping and general park beautification

Trail Development

- K. Downtown Riverfront Park expansion** — Redevelopment of a brownfield site as an extension of the mini-park/Consumers Energy Campus located across Francis Street to function as part of the Inter-City Trail, as does the existing park.³

³ The property is owned by Jackson County, but the proposed pathway would function as part of the Inter-City Trail. This provides another potential opportunity for multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

- L. Inter-City Trail** — Continue the walking/biking trail along the Grand River north of the Armory Arts Village. Repave the existing pathway and fill in the remaining gaps in the trail.
- M. Michigan Avenue Trail** — Construct a new trail along the south side of Michigan Avenue between Brown Street and Downtown Jackson.
- N. New Leaf Park to Ella W. Sharp Park Trail** — Construct a connecting trail from the Inter-City Trail (at New Leaf Park) through Ella W. Sharp Park where it will continue along Horton Road to the Weatherwax Trail (and the Falling Waters Trail) in Summit Township.

Background Information

The Plan's goals and objectives are the basis for the action programs listed above.

Develop Non-Motorized Trails

Jackson County proposes the development of 10-12 miles of the proposed extension of the 'Lakelands Trail' as well as a connector trail to the Falling Waters/Inter-City Trail Corridor. The City of Jackson proposes the extension of the 'Inter-City Trail' north of the Armory Arts Village and the resurfacing of the exiting trail. The City is also proposing the development of a trail loop in cooperation with Summit Township, connecting the Inter-City Trail at New Leaf Park with the Falling Waters Trail via the Weatherwax Trail. The City's portion of the trail will traverse Ella W. Sharp Park to Sharp Park Academy at Park Road) Summit Township's portion will parallel Horton Road southward to the Weatherwax Trail. The projects will implement portions of the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study, an objective under the "develop a non-motorized trail network" goal of this Plan.

Concentrate on Improving Existing Parks

Jackson County proposes the addition of restrooms, play structures, picnic shelters, landscaping, and other improvements to the county parks on Clark Lake, Lime Lake, Round Lake, and Vineyard Lake. Improvements to the restroom and shower buildings in the campgrounds located in the county parks on Pleasant Lake and Swain's Lake are also planned. Fishing piers in many county parks and the management of invasive species across the system are also proposed. Finally, various improvements to Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park proposed in the master plan developed for the park are identified.

The City of Jackson proposes improvements such as new playgrounds and picnic shelters, basketball and tennis court resurfacing projects, improvements to softball fields and associated equipment, a splash pad, parking lot resurfacing projects, and a canoe/kayak landing. Various buildings and site/landscape improvements are proposed in the following parks: Lions, Loomis, William Nixon Memorial, Optimist, Under the Oaks, Bucky Harris, Withington, and the Martin Luther King Center. Various improvements to Ella W. Sharp Park proposed in the master plan developed for the park are also identified.

All of the projects listed above are supported by the goal mandating the concentration of efforts on improving existing parks and its various objectives, including the implementation of park master plans.

Develop New Parks as Opportunities Arise

The City of Jackson includes the expansion of the Downtown Riverfront Park eastward to include a portion of the site of the Riverwalk Hotel now that it has been demolished. Taking advantage of such opportunities is a goal of this plan. For example, the new park will provide increased access to the Grand River in Downtown Jackson and function as part of the Inter-City Trail.

Provide Recreation Programs and Events

The proposed trails and improvements to the existing parks maintained by Jackson County and the City of Jackson will provide venues for various recreation programs and events. The provision of those programs and events is a goal of this Plan.

**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 6-1

**JACKSON COUNTY
ACTION PROGRAM**

ACTION PROGRAM

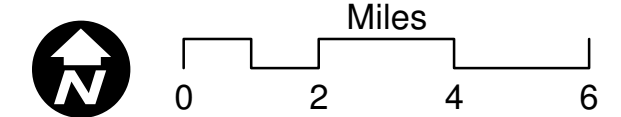
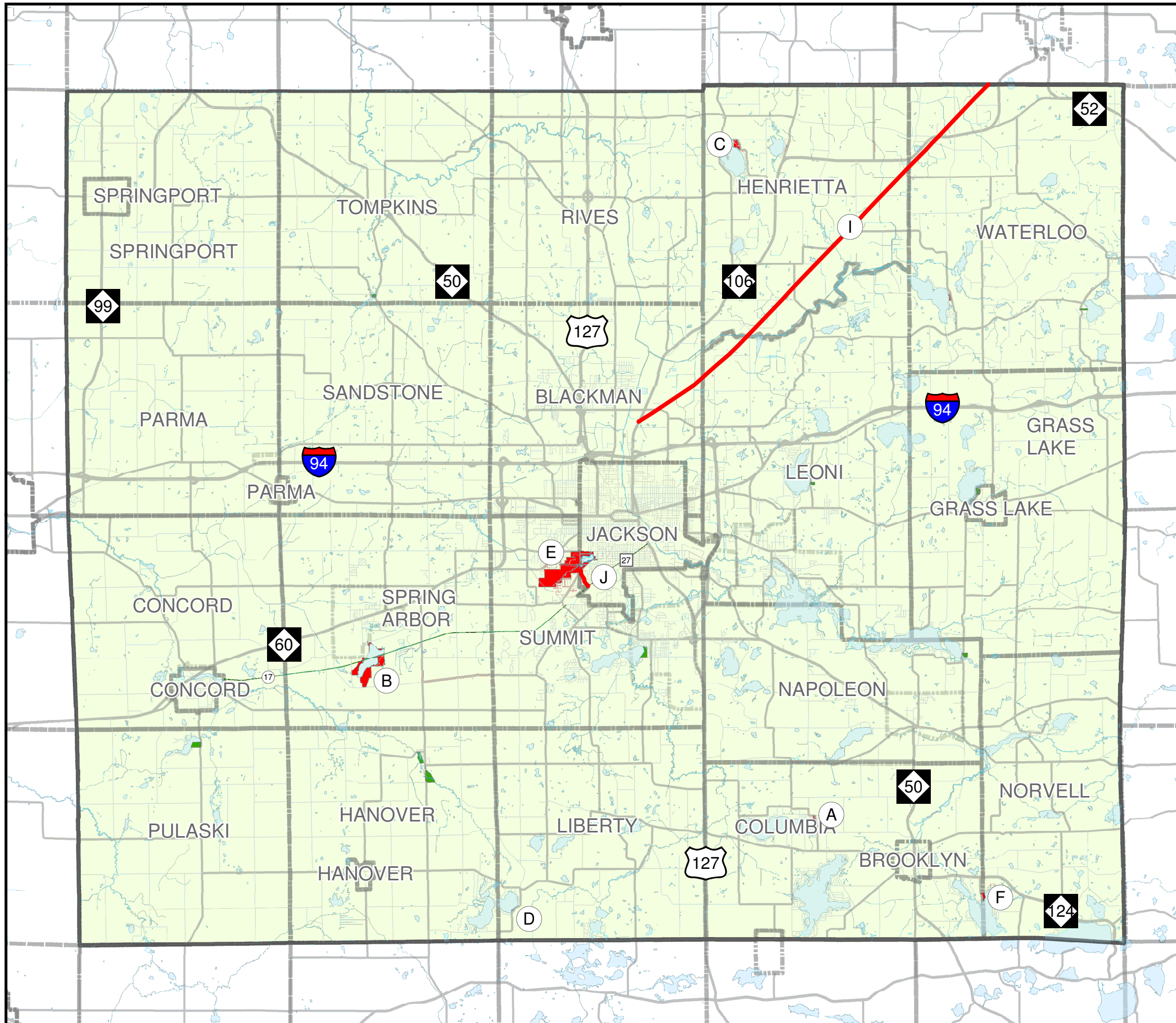
A POSSIBLE PROJECT

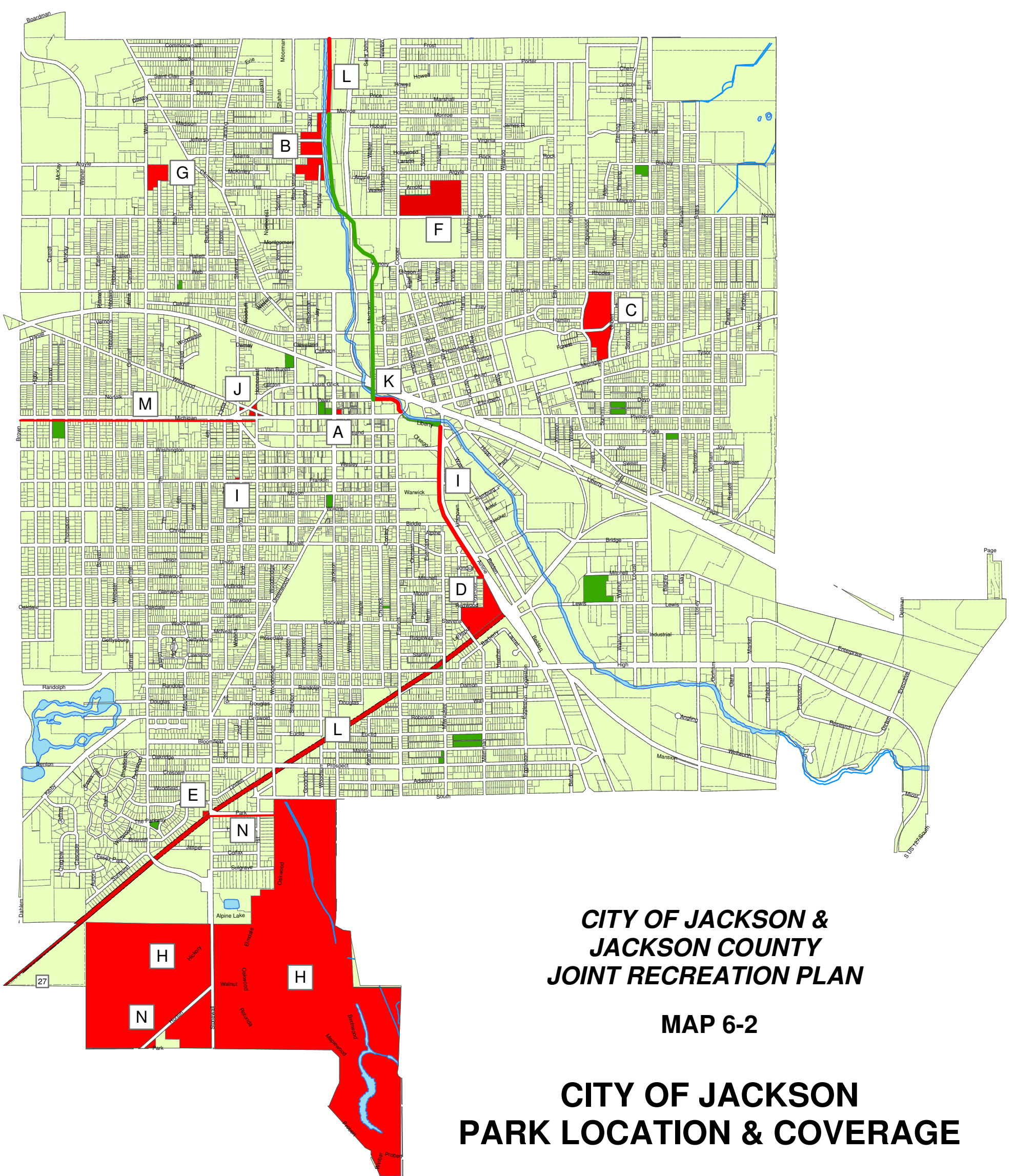
BOUNDARIES

PROPERTIES & PARCELS

POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

SOURCE(S):
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY
- U.S. CENSUS BUREAU





**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP 6-2

**CITY OF JACKSON
PARK LOCATION & COVERAGE**

ACTION PROGRAM

A POSSIBLE PROJECT

BOUNDARIES

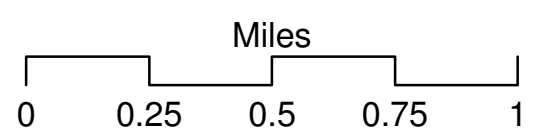
PROPERTIES & PARCELS

POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

HYDROLOGY

LAKES & PONDS

RIVERS, STREAMS, & DRAINS



Appendix A

Population Summary

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

The demographic composition of Jackson County residents has an effect upon their recreational needs. For example:

- **Population History & Projections** – establish the need for general recreational facilities (standards for which are based upon the size of the population).
- **The Gender & Age of the Population** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among various age groups and gender interests.
- **Households & Families** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced between family-oriented and individual activities.
- **Racial and Ethnic Minorities** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among the various interests of racial and ethnic groups.
- **The Disabilities of Residents** – establish the need for special recreation facilities and disability accommodations to general recreation facilities.
- **Income** – helps to illustrate the need for publicly-funded recreational facilities.

Metropolitan Jackson

The Jackson Urbanized Area—as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau— comprises significant portions of Blackman, Leoni, Spring Arbor, and Summit Townships as well as all of the City of Jackson. Collectively, the municipalities comprise Metropolitan Jackson (please see Map A-1).

Population History

Jackson County’s population comprised of 160,248 people in 2010 according to the US Census. The Jackson Urbanized Area had a population of 90,057 people.¹ A total of 33,534 people lived in the City of Jackson and the Urban Townships were home to 68,633 people, resulting in a total population for Metropolitan Jackson of 102,167. Rural Township residents comprised 58,081 people.²

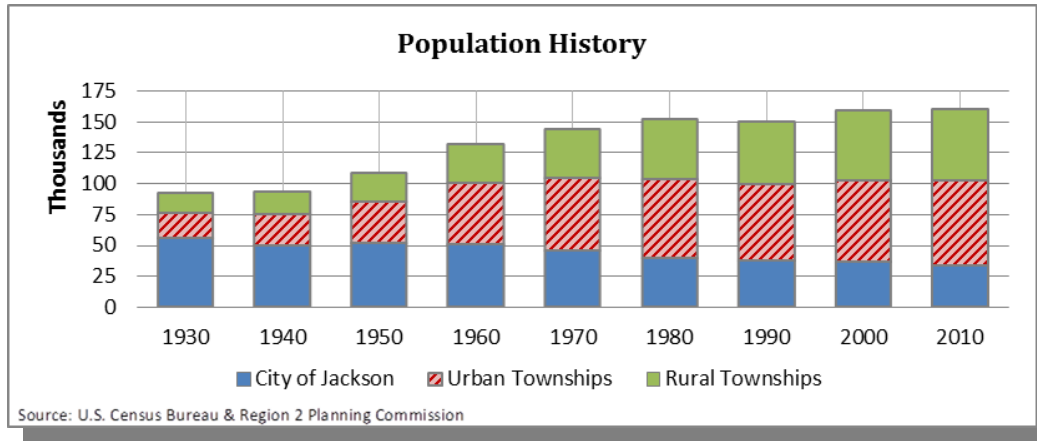
Population History

	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Jackson County	92,304	93,108	107,925	131,994	143,274	151,495	149,756	158,422	160,248
City of Jackson	55,187	49,656	51,088	50,720	45,484	39,739	37,446	36,316	33,534
Urban Townships	20,204	24,753	33,460	49,222	58,354	62,981	61,996	65,370	68,633
Rural Townships	16,913	18,699	23,377	32,052	39,436	48,775	50,314	56,736	58,081

Source: U.S. Census Bureau & Region 2 Planning Commission

The population of the City of Jackson has steadily declined since 1950. Consequently, the percent of County residents living in the City has declined from 59.6% in 1930 to 20.9% in 2010. Accordingly, the residents of the Urban Townships (42.8%) and Rural Townships (36.2%) grew to comprise larger portions of the County than the City in 2010. However, the percent of County residents living in Metropolitan Jackson also declined from 81.7% in 1930 to 63.8% in 2010.

¹ Please note that the shape and size of the Jackson Urbanized Area changes with each decennial census.
² Village populations are not reported separately because they are included in the rural township totals.



Population Projections

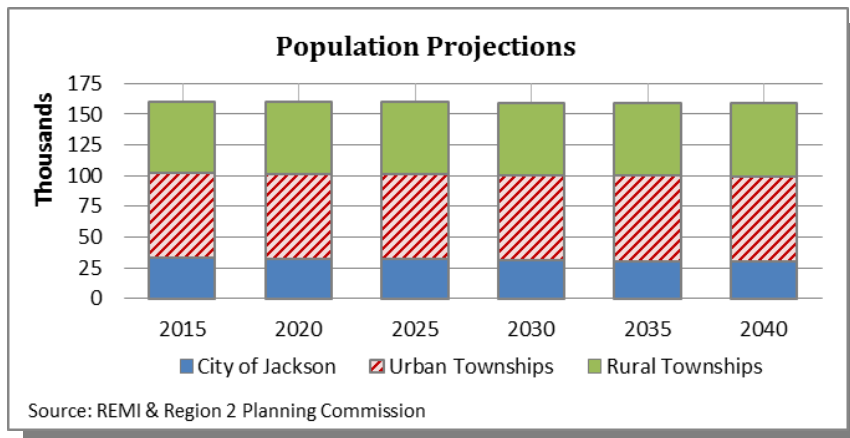
The 2040 population projections utilized in this plan were developed for the Jackson Area Comprehensive Transportation Study’s 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan “based on previous trends as depicted in” historic U.S. Census data “and on the Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) forecast data developed for the Michigan Department of Transportation. The REMI data forecast is based upon the Cohort Survival methodology in association with economic development factors for a particular jurisdiction.” The data was then “straight-lined” to obtain the 5-year increments.

Population Projections

	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Jackson County	159,248	159,924	159,600	159,952	158,628	158,304
City of Jackson	32,881	32,253	31,626	30,999	30,371	29,744
Urban Townships	68,784	68,900	69,016	69,1316	69,247	69,363
Rural Townships	58,260	58,447	58,635	58,822	59,010	59,197

Source: Region 2 Planning Commission

As the table above depicts, the countywide population is projected to remain fairly stable, decreasing slightly to 0.20% by 2015, 0.40% by 2020, 0.61% by 2025, and 1.21% by 2040. The slight population loss projected for Jackson County is due to the City of Jackson which is projected to lose 11.23% of its population by 2040. However, the population will be fairly stable in the remainder of Jackson County. A small amount of population growth is projected in the Urban Townships (1.01%) and Rural Townships (1.94%).



The slight population loss projected for Jackson County is due to the City of Jackson which is projected to lose 11.23% of its population by 2040. However, the population will be fairly stable in the remainder of Jackson County. A small amount of population growth is projected in the Urban Townships (1.01%) and Rural Townships (1.94%).

Population density is also projected to remain fairly stable countywide, decreasing by an estimated 2.7 persons per square mile between 2010 and 2040. Consequently, the estimated population density range is 221.0-220.1 persons per square mile for 2015-2025. However, the City of Jackson is projected to lose 345.4 people per square mile between 2010 and 2040. Nevertheless, the City will remain the most densely populated area in Jackson County with an estimated population density range of 2,997.0-2,882.6 persons per square mile for 2015-2025.

Current and Projected Population Density (Persons Per Square Mile)

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Jackson County	221.5	221.0	220.6	220.1	219.7	219.2	218.8
City of Jackson	3,056.5	2,997.0	2,939.8	2,882.6	2,825.4	2,768.3	2,711.1
Urban Townships	460.7	461.8	462.5	463.3	464.1	464.9	465.6
Rural Townships	80.3	80.5	80.8	81.0	81.3	81.6	81.8

Source: Region 2 Planning Commission

In contrast, the population density within the remainder of Jackson County is projected to remain fairly stable with a slight increase in population density. Population density within the Urban Townships is projected to increase by 4.9 persons per square mile between 2010 and 2040. Consequently, the population density range within the Urban Townships is estimated to be 461.8-463.3 persons per square mile for 2015-2025. The Rural Townships are also projected to increase slightly by 1.5 persons per square mile between 2010 and 2040. Accordingly, the population density range within the Rural Townships is estimated to be 80.5-81.0 persons per square mile for 2015-2025.

American Community Survey

The use of estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) provides more up-to-date demographics. Reporting jurisdictions the size of the Rural Townships are provided five-year average estimates on a regular basis. The reporting period utilized for this plan is 2008-2012.

Group Quarters

The American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau, estimates that the overwhelming majority of residents live in households. However, a significant minority of residents (5.4%) reside in group quarters. That minority increases in Metropolitan Jackson (7.5%) although fewer City of Jackson residents (2.2%) resided in group quarters.³ The minority is smallest in Rural Townships (1.7%). It is important to keep this minority in mind when comparing demographics.⁴

Gender

The ACS estimated that males (51.1%) slightly outnumbered females (48.9%) throughout Jackson County as well as in Metropolitan Jackson between 2008 and 2012. It was estimated that males (53.0%) also

³ Southern Michigan Prison and Spring Arbor University increase the estimated population living in group quarters significantly in the Townships of Blackman (22.2%) and Spring Arbor (14.1%). Retirement homes also contribute to this population in many of the Urban Townships.

⁴ Group quarters may artificially raise or lower the median age of a population as well as other population characteristics.

outnumbered females (47.0%) in the Urban Townships although females (52.7%) outnumbered males (47.3%) in the City of Jackson.⁵ The ACS further estimated that males (51.0%) comprised a slight majority of all Rural Township residents.

Group Quarters

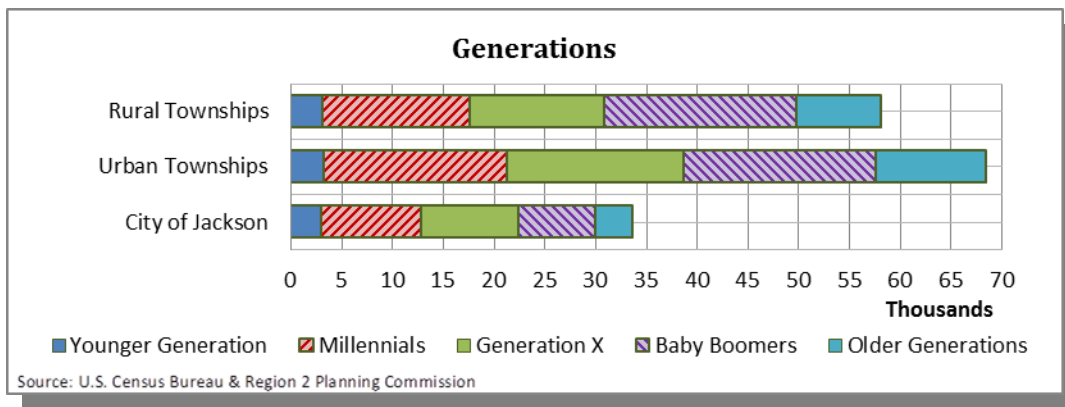
The U.S. Census Bureau defines group quarters as “a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement, that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. This is not a typical household-type living arrangement. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance, and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. People living in group quarters are usually not related to each other.

Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers’ dormitories.”

The Age of the Population

The median age of all Jackson County residents between 2008 and 2012 was an estimated 39.5 years by the American Community Survey, greater than the Jackson Urbanized Area (37.1%) or the City (32.4 years) residents. However, it should be recognized that the estimated median ages for all but one of the Urban Townships in Metropolitan Jackson were greater.⁶

It is estimated that between 2008 and 2012 ‘Baby boomers’ (people between 45 and 64 years of age in 2010), ‘Generation X’ (people between 25 and 44 years of age in 2010) and ‘Millennials’ (people between 5 and 24 years of age in 2010) each accounted for approximately a quarter of the countywide population as well as the populations of Metropolitan Jackson—the City and Urban Townships—and the Rural Townships. Older and younger generations comprised the final quarter of those populations.



⁵ It is important to note that the presence of Southern Michigan Prison (i.e., group quarters) most likely artificially increases the estimated male population in Blackman Township (59.7%), and the Urban Townships as a consequence.

⁶ The estimated median age was 40.2 years in Blackman Township, 41.6 years in Leoni Township, and 41.3, Summit Township. It is reasonable to assume that the presence of Spring Arbor University (i.e., group quarters) in Spring Arbor Township artificially decreased the median age (33.8 years) for that municipality.

Households & Families

There were an estimated 59,949 households countywide between 2008 and 2012 according to the ACS. They were dispersed throughout Metropolitan Jackson (63.7%)—the City of Jackson (21.8%) and the Urban Townships (41.9%)—and the Rural Townships (36.3%). Average household size was estimated to be greater countywide (2.53 people per household) than in most of Metropolitan Jackson.⁷

Households

	Jackson County	City of Jackson	Urban Townships	Rural Townships
Family households (families)	40,529	7,858	16,507	16,164
Nonfamily households	19,420	5,194	8,634	5,592
Householder living alone	16,108	4,492	7,094	4,522

Source: U.S. Census Bureau & Region 2 Planning Commission

Families comprised a majority of households throughout Jackson County (67.6%) as well as Metropolitan Jackson (63.8%)—the City of Jackson (60.2%) and the Urban Townships (65.7%)—and the Rural Townships (74.3%). One-person households, a subset of non-family households, comprised a significant minority of households throughout Jackson County (26.9%) as well as Metropolitan Jackson (30.3%)—the City of Jackson (34.4%) and the Urban Townships (28.2%)—and the Rural Townships (20.8%).

Racial & Ethnic Minorities

The American Community Survey estimates that Metropolitan Jackson (17.2%)—the City of Jackson (28.2%) and the Urban Townships (11.8%)—were home to the greatest concentration of racial minorities between 2008 and 2012 although some minorities resided in the Rural Townships (3.4%). Countywide, racial minorities comprised 12.2% of residents. African Americans comprised the largest racial minority group throughout the

Race and Ethnicity

	Jackson County	City of Jackson	Urban Townships	Rural Townships
Total	160,257	33,661	68,502	58,094
White	140,747	24,172	60,431	56,144
African American	12,940	7,499	4,790	651
Native American	1,027	245	425	357
Asian	1,176	132	893	151
Other	915	327	380	208
2+ Races	3,452	1,286	1,583	583
Hispanics	4,859	1,709	2,387	763

Note: Native Americans include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau & Region 2 Planning Commission

County (8.1%) as well as in the Metropolitan Jackson (12.0%)—the City of Jackson (22.3%) and the Urban Townships (7.0%)—and the Rural Townships (1.1%). Persons of Hispanic origin, an ethnic group, were a small but important segment of the population of the County (3.0%) as well as Metropolitan Jackson (4.0%)—the City of Jackson (5.1%) and the Urban Townships (3.5%)—and the Rural Townships (1.3%).⁸

⁷ Average household size was estimated to be higher in Spring Arbor Township (2.73), similar in the City of Jackson (2.52) and Summit Township (2.52), and lower in the other Urban Townships of Blackman (2.28) and Leoni (2.44).

⁸ Please note that 'Hispanic' is an ethnic rather than a racial description. Each Hispanic person is also a member of one or more races.

The Disabilities of Residents

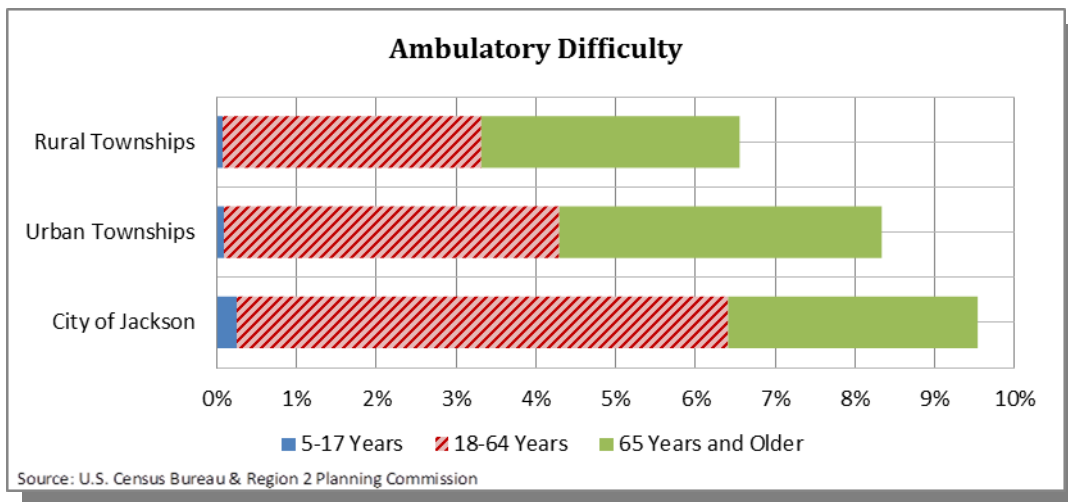
The ACS estimated that a significant portion of the population of Jackson County (14.6%) had some type of disability between 2008 and 2012. Disabled residents also comprised significant portions of the populations of Metropolitan Jackson (15.9%)—the City of Jackson (17.9%) and the Urban Townships (14.9%)—and the Rural Townships (12.5%). The greatest estimated occurrence of disabilities was in the 18-64 year age group in Metropolitan Jackson (8.6%)—the City of Jackson (11.1%) and the Urban Townships (7.3%)—and the Rural Townships (6.5%) as well as all of Jackson County (7.8%).

Residents with a Disability

	Jackson County	City of Jackson	Urban Townships	Rural Townships
Under 5 Years	90	59	31	0
5 to 17 Years	2,065	720	827	518
18 to 64 Years	11,958	3,686	3,885	2,916
65 Years and Older	8,272	1,471	3,885	2,916
Total Non-institutionalized Population	153,103	33,203	62,685	57,215

Source: U.S. Census Bureau & Region 2 Planning Commission

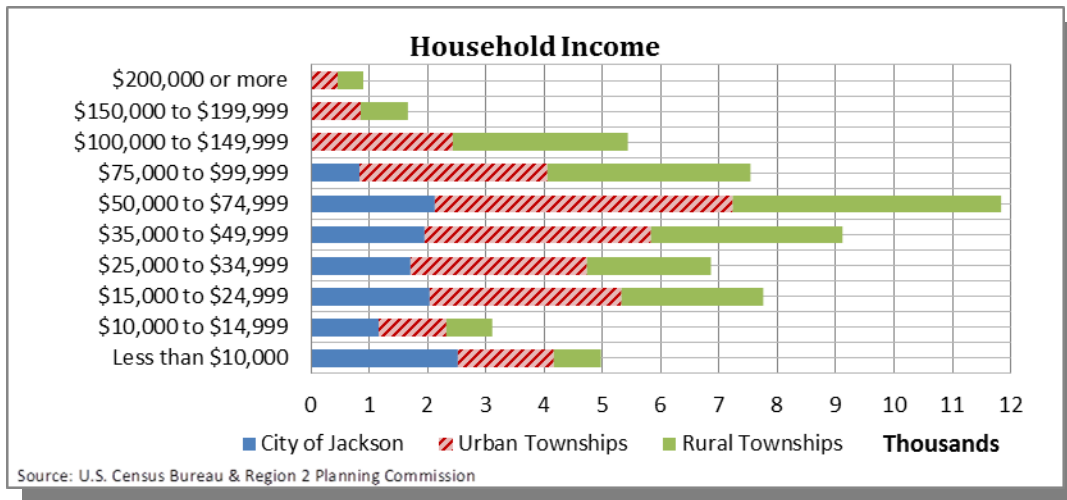
The ACS also estimated that a significant portion of the population of Jackson County (7.9%) had some type of ambulatory difficulty between 2008 and 2012. In fact, they comprise the largest segments of the disabled population Countywide (54.3%) as well as in Metropolitan Jackson (55.5%)—the City of Jackson (59.0%) and the Urban Townships (56.0%)—and the Rural Townships (52.6%). It is also interesting to note that the occurrence of ambulatory difficulties appear to increase with the age of the population. For example, an estimated 65.8% of disabled County residents aged 65 years and older had an ambulatory difficulty as opposed to 54.7% of disabled 18- to 64-year olds and 8.1% of 5- to 17-year olds.⁹



⁹ The ACS does not compile information on ambulatory difficulties for the population less than 5 years of age.

Income

The median household (HH) income in Jackson County was estimated to be \$46,572 between 2008 and 2012 by the American Community Survey, higher than those estimated for the Jackson Urbanized Area (\$38,377) and the City of Jackson (\$29,144).^{10,11} The estimated median family HH income for Jackson County was \$57,790 for the same time period, greater than those generated for the Jackson Urbanized Area (\$47,916) or the City of Jackson (\$34,957). Finally, the median non-family HH income estimated for Jackson County (\$26,792) was also higher than those generated for the Jackson Urbanized Area (\$24,678) and the City of Jackson (\$20,499).



The mean (i.e., average) household (HH) income in Jackson County (\$58,065) was higher than those estimated for the Jackson Urbanized Area (\$48,767) and the City of Jackson (\$38,530) between 2008 and 2012, according to the ACS. The mean family HH income estimated for Jackson County (\$68,009) was also greater than those generated for the Jackson Urbanized Area (\$58,065) or the City of Jackson (\$44,517) during the same time period. In comparison, the estimated mean non-family HH income was lower for all of Jackson County (\$35,018) as well as in the Jackson Urbanized Area (\$31,598) and the City of Jackson (\$27,263). Finally, the ACS estimated that the per capita income was \$22,388 in Jackson County, \$19,059 in the Jackson Urbanized Area, and \$15,563 in the City of Jackson.¹²

¹⁰ Household income, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), includes “income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder.”

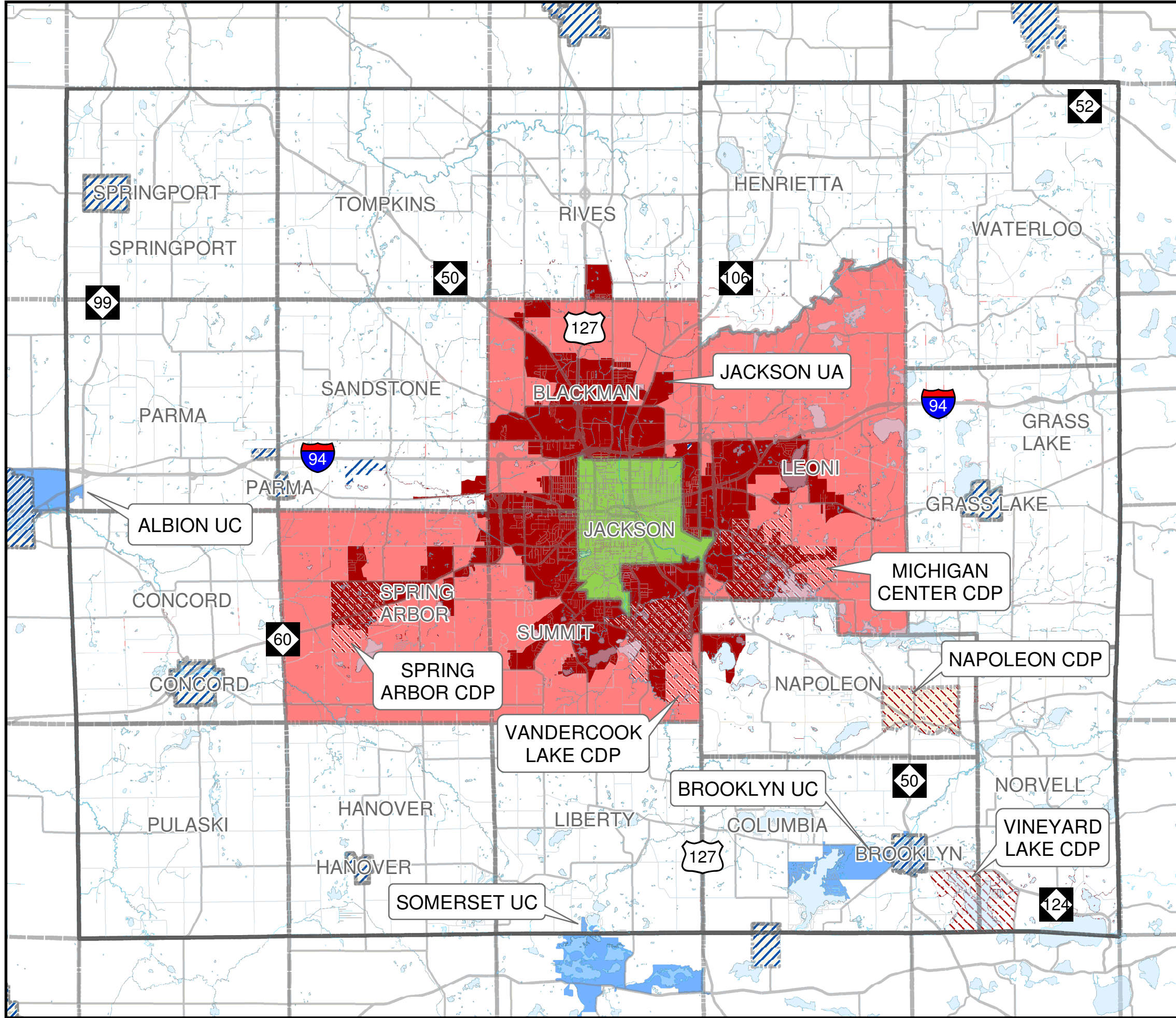
¹¹ The ACS defines median household income as the “point that divides the household income distribution into halves, one-half with income above the median and the other with income below the median. The median is based on the income distribution of all households, including those with no income.”

¹²According to the ACS, per capita income means “money income received in the past 12 months computed for every man, woman, and child in a geographic area. It is derived by dividing the total income of all people 15 years old and over in a geographic area by the total population in that area. [It should be noted that] income is not collected for people under 15 years old even though those people are included in the denominator of per capita income. This measure is rounded to the nearest whole dollar.”

**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

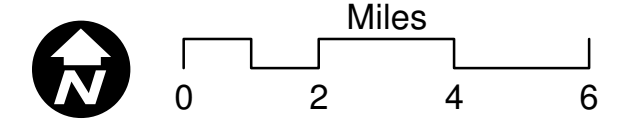
MAP A-1

**POPULATION
SUMMARY MAP**



- METROPOLITAN JACKSON**
- CITY OF JACKSON
- URBAN TOWNSHIPS
- OTHER MUNICIPALITIES**
- RURAL TOWNSHIPS
- OTHER CITIES AND VILLAGES
- U.S. CENSUS BUREAU DESIGNATIONS**
- CENSUS DESIGNATED PLACE (CDP)
- URBANIZED AREA (UA)
- URBAN CLUSTER (UC)

SOURCE(S):
- MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY
- U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



Appendix B

Recreation and Resource Inventories

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

Jackson County Park and Recreation Facility Inventory

Information on the recreation facilities available in each county park follows:

1. **Clark Lake County Park**
 - Ocean Beach Rd., Columbia;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - Swimming area, &
 - Boat launch;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including grills),
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Portable toilets.
2. **Clear Lake County Park**
 - Clear Lake Rd., Waterloo;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Water access &
 - Swimming area;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including a shelter),
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Portable toilets.
3. **Gillett's Lake County Park**
 - Gillett's Lake Rd., Leoni;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Water access &
 - Swimming area;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area,
 - Playground structure,
 - Softball backstop, &
 - Portable toilets.
4. **Grass Lake County Park**
 - Lake St., Grass Lake;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - Swimming area, &
 - Boat launch;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic areas (including grills and a shelter (by reservation)),
 - Playground structure,
 - Modern restrooms, &
 - Concession stand.
5. **Lime Lake County Park**
 - Teft Rd., Spring Arbor;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - Boat launch, &
 - Swimming area;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including grills and tables), &
 - Portable toilets.
6. **Little Wolf Lake County Park**
 - Wolf Lake Rd., Napoleon;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Water access &
 - Swimming area;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including a shelter),
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Portable toilets.
7. **Minard Mills County Park**
 - Springport & Minard Rds, Tompkins;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Water access;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space;
 - Picnic area (including tables, grills, a shelter (by reservation), etc.),
 - Ball diamond,
 - Playground area, &
 - Modern restrooms.

8. Pleasant Lake County Park

- Styles Rd., Henrietta;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - 60 modern campsites (including water and electricity, restrooms with hot showers, a sanitary dump station and a water tower),
 - 3-hole disc golf course,
 - Swimming area, &
 - Fishing;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Horseshoe pits
 - Picnic areas (including three shelters (by reservation)),
 - Shuffleboard courts,
 - Biking area, &
 - Play structure

9. Portage Lake County Park

- Portage Lake Rd., Waterloo;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - Swimming area, &
 - Boat launch;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including grills),
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Portable toilets.

10. Round Lake County Park

- Round Lake Rd., Liberty;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access &
 - Boat launch;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including grills),
 - Playground equipment,
 - Flowing well, &
 - Portable toilets.

11. Alfred A. Snyder County (Horton Mill Pond) Park

- Moscow Rd., Horton;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access &
 - Fishing;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including a shelter),
 - Playground equipment,
 - Gazebo, &
 - Pit toilets.

12. Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park

- Kibby Rd., Jackson & Summit;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - The Cascades (an illuminated waterfall built on a 500 foot hill with six giant fountains, musical accompaniment, and museum),
 - 9-hole Cascades Executive Course and driving range,
 - 18-hole Cascades Championship Golf Course,
 - Cascades Manor House (banquet facility),
 - Cascades Ice Cream Co.,
 - Cascades Rotary Community Band Shell, &
 - Fishing pier (disability accessible).
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic areas (including a shelter (by reservation)),
 - Basketball court,
 - Playground structures,
 - Modern restrooms, &
 - Portable toilets.

13. Swains Lake County Park

- Pulaski Rd., Concord;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access;

- 56 modern campsites (including water and electricity, restrooms with hot showers, a sanitary dump station and a water tower),
- Swimming area,
- Boat launch,
- Trails (biking, hiking & nature), &
- Fishing;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic areas (including 3 shelters (by reservation)),
 - Playground areas (sandbox),
 - Softball diamond,
 - Basketball court,
 - Volleyball area, &
 - Horseshoe pits.

14. Vandercook Lake County Park

- Avenue A, Summit;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - Swimming area, &
 - Boat launch;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Picnic area (including a shelter),
 - 2 ball diamonds,
 - Playground area, &
 - Restrooms.

15. Vineyard Lake County Park

- M-124, Columbia & Norvell;
- Signature facilities:
 - Water access,
 - Swimming area, &
 - Boat launch;
- Standard facilities:
 - Picnic areas (including grills and tables),
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Portable toilets.

16. Burns Park

- Liberty Rd., Liberty;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - N/A.

17. Falling Waters Trail

- Inter-City Trail to Concord;
- Signature facilities:
 - 10½ mile, 12-ft wide asphalt pathway, &
 - Water access – Concord Trailhead
- Standard facilities:
 - Portable toilets at Weatherwax Road, Teft Road, and Concord Trailheads,

City of Jackson Park and Recreation Facility Inventory

Information on the recreation facilities available in each city park follows:

1. Beech Tree Park

- Location — Corner of Van Buren & Blackstone;
- Signature facilities:
 - State Champion Beech Tree;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space.

- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Baseball fields,
 - Horseshoe pits, &
 - Parks maintenance garage.

2. Best Field

- Location — Lewis (near Walnut);

3. Horace Blackman Park

- Location — Corner of Michigan & Jackson;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Sidewalks,
 - Fountain, &
 - Park benches.

4. Gov. Austin Blair Memorial Park

- Location — Intersection of Greenwood & Jackson;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Playground,
 - Picnic table, &
 - Parking.

5. Bloomfield Park

- Location — Michigan (between Durand & Thompson);
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Two tennis courts,
 - Two basketball courts,
 - Ball field,
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Picnic tables.

6. Betsy Butterfield Memorial Park

- Location — Intersection of West & Brighton;
- Signature facilities:
 - Trellis area with statue;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space (including landscaping),
 - Playground equipment,
 - Picnic tables,
 - Benches,

- Walkway, &
- Sidewalks.

7. Norm Creger Memorial Park

- Location — Corner of Pleasant & Pringle;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Benches, &
 - Playground area.

8. Downtown Riverfont Park

- Location — One Energy Square;
- Signature facilities:
 - Art installations,
 - A concert stage, &
 - River access;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Sidewalks,
 - Benches, &
 - Sidewalks.

9. Exchange Park

- Location — Corner of Merriman & Euclid;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Playground equipment,
 - Two basketball courts,
 - Ball field, &
 - Two tennis courts.

10. Ganson Street Park

- Location — Corner of Ganson & Bush;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Benches, &
 - Playground equipment.

11. Grand River Memorial Park

- Location — Corner of Louis Glick & Mechanic;
- Signature facilities:
 - A place to honor area citizens with small monuments;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space.

12. Bucky Harris Park

- Location — Corner of Jackson & Michigan;
- Signature facilities:
 - A restoration of the historical Jacksonburg Square,
 - A concert stage, &
 - Fountains;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Benches, &
 - Sidewalks.

13. Martin Luther King Center

- Location — Corner of Adrian & Mitchell;
- Signature facilities:
 - Community center, &
 - Inter-City Trail trailhead;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Playground equipment,
 - Picnic shelter,
 - 2 outdoor multi-use courts,
 - 2 ball fields,
 - Benches, &
 - Sidewalks.

14. Kiwanis Park

- Location — Corner of Elm & Blakely;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Playground equipment,
 - Picnic shelter, &
 - 1 Lighted softball field.

15. Leekes Park

- Location — Corner of Prospect & Milwaukee;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Walkway, &
 - Benches

16. Lions Park

- Location — Corner of Blackstone & Adams;
- Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
- Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - 2 softball fields (including 1 lighted),
 - 1 tennis court,
 - Playground equipment,
 - Picnic shelter, &
 - 2 basketball courts.

17. Loomis Park

- Location — Michigan (between Edgewood & Gilbert);
- Signature facilities:
 - Charles A. Boos Recreation Center, &
 - Playground (community built wooden play structure);
- Standard facilities:
 - Greenspace,
 - 2 outdoor basketball courts,
 - 2 outdoor tennis courts,
 - Picnic area (including shelter and grills),
 - Benches; &
 - Ball diamonds.

18. Elnora Moorman Plaza

- Location — Corner of High & Milwaukee;
- Signature facilities:
 - Inter-City Trail trailhead; &

- Trellis;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space &
 - Benches.
- 19. William Nixon Memorial Park**
- Location — Corner of North & Cooper;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Swimming pool with water features, &
 - Skateboard area/roller blade arena;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - 4 softball fields,
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Picnic area (including shelter).
- 20. New Leaf Park**
- Location — 4th & Inter-City Trail;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Inter-City Trail trailhead;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space.
- 21. Optimist Park**
- Location — North at Clinton;
 - Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - 1 softball field,
 - Basketball court,
 - Playground equipment, &
 - Picnic area.
- 22. Rotary Park**
- Location — Elm (between Deyo & Plymouth);
 - Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space,
 - Playground equipment,
 - Tennis courts,
 - Ball field, &
 - Basketball court.
- 23. Friendship Park**
- Location — Chittock, South of Morrell;
 - Signature facilities:
 - N/A;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Playground equipment.
- 24. Ella W. Sharp Park**
- Location — 3225 4th;
 - Signature facilities:
 - 18 hole golf course,
 - 18 hole miniature golf course,
 - Golf practice and learning center (driving range),
 - Ella Sharp Museum,
 - Hurst Planetarium,
 - Rose garden & annual flower gardens (green space), &
 - Golf simulator.
 - Standard facilities:
 - 4 tennis courts,
 - 2 picnic areas (including shelters),
 - 2 lighted softball fields,
 - 3 regular softball fields,
 - 10 soccer fields,
 - 4 baseball fields,
 - Tennis courts,
 - 1 basketball court,
 - Playground areas, &
 - Cross country ski trails.
- 25. Under the Oaks**
- Location — Corner of Franklin & Second;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Monument honoring birth place of Republican Party;
 - Standard facilities:
 - Green space.
- 26. Withington Park**
- Location — 1st & Michigan;
 - Signature facilities:
 - Veterans memorial;
 - Standard facilities:

- Green space,
- Sidewalks, &
- Benches.

- Signature facilities:
 - 3.4 mile asphalt pathway;
- Standard facilities:
 - N/A.

27. Intercity Trail

- Location — The King Center southwest to the Falling Waters Trail;

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY — JACKSON COUNTY

PARK NAME	PROJECT NO.	YEAR	ELEMENTS & USAGE
PLEASANT LAKE COUNTY PARK	26-00788	1976	SHELTER, 2 BASKETBALL COURTS, PICNIC EQUIPMENT, SITE IMPROVEMENTS/SEEDING, PLAY EQUIPMENT, AND LIGHTING. ALL EQUIPMENT, STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES ARE STILL IN PLACE. THE SHELTER IS SCHEDULED TO BE REPLACED IN 2010. BASKETBALL COURT SURFACING IS IN NEED OF CRACK REPAIR AND RESURFACING. PLAY EQUIPMENT IS STILL IN PLACE AND HAS BEEN MAINTAINED TO INDUSTRY STANDARDS.
SPARKS PARK DEVELOPMENT	26-00765	1976	4 TENNIS COURTS, PARKING, 6 HORSESHOE PITS, AND LANDSCAPING. TENNIS COURT SURFACING DEVELOPED LARGE CRACKS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND COURTS HAVE BEEN CLOSED DUE TO UNSAFE CONDITIONS. HORSE SHOE PITS AND LANDSCAPING ARE STILL ACTIVE IN THE PARK.
SPARKS FOUNDATION COUNTY PARK	26-01060 K2	1978	CONCESSION/COMFORT STATION AND LANDSCAPING. CONCESSION STAND AND COMFORT STATION HAS BEEN UPDATED AND MAINTAINED, STILL IN USE.
SWAINS LAKE COUNTY PARK	26-01211	1981	RESTROOM/BATHHOUSE AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS. RESTROOM/BATHHOUSE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AND HAVE RECEIVED MINOR UPDATES OVER THE YEARS. THIS FACILITY AND PARKING AREA IS STILL IN USE AT THE PARK.
NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAIL SYSTEM	TF86-259	1986	NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL FROM THE VILLAGE OF CONCORD TO SWAINS LAKE COUNTY PARK. THE TRAIL WAS USED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. JACKSON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION WIDENED THE ADJACENT ROAD IN 2005, REMOVING THE PATHWAY IN THE PROCESS AND RE-BUILDING THE PATH AS A WIDENED SHOULDER.
NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY	BF91-252	1991	9-FT ASPHALT PATHWAY IN SPARKS FOUNDATION CO. PARK TO CASCADES FALLS. 9 FOOT ASPHALT PATHWAY HAS BEEN MAINTAINED AND SEES HEAVY USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
PLEASANT LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENT	BF92-126	1992	2 PICNIC SHELTERS, 2 SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT TABLES, RESTROOM RENOVATION, BURIAL OF OVERHEAD LINES, 1 SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT, 2 HORSESHOE COURTS, AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS. ALL IMPROVEMENTS ARE STILL INTACT AND USED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT.
GRASS LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS	TF94-114	1994	SEAWALL, UPGRADE BOAT LAUNCH, INCREASE / IMPROVE PARKING, RESTROOM/CONCESSION BUILDING, PICNIC SHELTER, PLAY

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY — JACKSON COUNTY

PARK NAME	PROJECT NO.	YEAR	ELEMENTS & USAGE
			EQUIPMENT, TABLES, AND LANDSCAPING AND TREE REPLACEMENT. ALL IMPROVEMENTS ARE STILL IN USE AND HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED TO INDUSTRY STANDARDS.
VANDERCOOK LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS	TF95-066	1995	RESTROOM/CONCESSION BUILDINGS, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, PICNIC AREA, EXERCISE PATH, NEW PICNIC SHELTER, UPGRADE BOAT LAUNCH ACCESSORIES, PARKING IMPROVEMENTS, TREE REPLACEMENT/LANDSCAPING, BASKETBALL COURTS, AND DRINKING FOUNTAIN. ALL FACILITIES ARE IN GOOD CONDITION AND STILL IN USE EXCEPT FOR EXERCISE PATH, WHICH WAS REMOVED FROM PROJECT SCOPE.
SWAIN'S LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS	TF99-209	1999	PICNIC SHELTER AND WALKWAY, UPGRADE BOAT RAMP/PARKING AREA, NEW PLAY UNIT STRUCTURE, PARKING LOT AND DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS, 10 GRILLS, BENCHES, TREES, AND PICNIC TABLES. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
FALLING WATERS TRAIL PROJECT	TF05-117	2005	TRAIL CONSTRUCTION, BRIDGE RAILINGS, TRAILHEAD, RESTROOM, LANDSCAPING, SIGNAGE, AND AMENITIES. CONSTRUCTION OF THE FALLING WATERS TRAIL WAS COMPLETED IN LATE 2007. THE 10.2 MILE RAIL-TRAIL IS HEAVILY USED AND IN EXCELLENT CONDITION,
SPARKS COUNTY PARK URBAN FISHING PROJECT	TF08-085	2008	10-FT DEEP POND DREDGING, STREAM CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION, WOOD FISHING PLATFORM, PICNIC SHELTER WITH ELECTRICAL, SIDEWALK, LANDSCAPING AND PARKING, BENCHES, TABLES, TRASH RECEPTACLES, SIGNAGE, AND SITE ACCESSORIES. THE PROJECT IS IN THE ENGINEERING PHASE.
SPARKS COUNTY PARK TRAIL CONNECTOR ACQUISITION	TF11-085	2011	ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES TO DEVELOP A NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY CONNECTION AND GREENBELT BETWEEN THE INTER CITY TRAIL AND SPARKS FOUNDATION COUNTY PARK.
SWAIN'S LAKE COUNTY PARK RESTROOM REPLACEMENT	RP12-429	2012	DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE REPLACEMENT OF THE RESTROOM/SHOWER FACILITY AT SWAIN'S LAKE COUNTY PARK AND CAMPGROUND.

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY — CITY OF JACKSON

PARK NAME	PROJ. NO.	YEAR	ELEMENTS & USAGE
OPTIMIST PARK ACQUISITION	26-01280		THE PROJECT WAS WITHDRAWN
ROTARY PLAYGROUND	26-00186	1969	FENCING, GRADING, DRAINAGE, BASKETBALL COURT, AND LIGHTING. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
JACKSON NORTH ST. REC-	26-00415	1971	SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR ICE RINK/SKATE PARK AND BATH-

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY — CITY OF JACKSON

PARK NAME	PROJ. NO.	YEAR	ELEMENTS & USAGE
REATION CENTER			HOUSE. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
EXCHANGE PARK PLAY-GROUND	26-01023 P4	1977	DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDING, SITE IMPROVEMENTS, 2 TENNIS COURTS, 2 BASKETBALL COURTS, AND STORAGE BUILDING. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
NIXON MEMORIAL PARK	26-01023 P4	1977	4 BALL FIELDS WITH FENCING, BACKSTOPS, BENCHES, BLEACHERS, AND STORAGE BUILDING. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
LOOMIS PARK	26-01121	1980	2 BASKETBALL COURTS, 2 TENNIS COURTS, PARKING WITH WALKWAY, PLAY EQUIPMENT, AND PICNIC FACILITIES. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
OPTIMIST PLAYGROUND	26-01199	1981	PLAYGROUND, UTILITY BUILDING, BALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS, FENCING, AND BASKETBALL COURT. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
OPTIMIST PARK ACQUISITION	26-01280	1985	THE PROJECT WAS WITHDRAWN
JACKSON MARTIN LUTHER KING PARK	26-01461	1986	2 BASKETBALL COURTS, 1 TENNIS COURT, PLAY AREA, WIRE BURIAL, AND PARKING. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
NIXON PARK IMPROVEMENT	BF90-281	1990	PICNIC SHELTERS, IRRIGATION FOR TWO FIELDS, PICNIC TABLES/GRILLS, AND PLAY EQUIPMENT. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
KING CENTER PICNIC SHELTER	BF91-176	1991	30-FT X 50-FT PICNIC SHELTER, A MINIMUM OF 30 PICNIC TABLES, ASPHALT PATH, WATER LINE AND DRINKING FOUNTAIN, AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLY. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
LIONS PARK IMPROVEMENTS	26-01520	1992	PICNIC SHELTER, PLAYGROUND, AND PICNIC EQUIPMENT. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
SHARP PARK LAND ACQUISITION	TF96-056	1996	ACQUISITION OF 27 ACRES FOR A NATURAL AREA. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
GRAND RIVER GREENWAY/TRAIL	TF97-113	1997	ACQUIRE 1 ACRE OF LAND ALONG THE GRAND RIVER IMMEDIATELY EAST OF AIRLINE DRIVE TO COOPER STREET. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
NIXON PARK IMPROVE-	CM99-208	1999	SWIMMING POOL RENOVATIONS, INTERACTIVE WATER PLAY SYS-

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY — CITY OF JACKSON

PARK NAME	PROJ. NO.	YEAR	ELEMENTS & USAGE
MENTS			TEM, WATERSLIDE, IN-LINE SKATING HOCKEY RINK, SKATEBOARD AREA, AND BUILDING RENOVATIONS. ALL FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED AND STILL IN USE.
BLOOMFIELD PARK COURTS RESURFACING	TF11-081	2011	DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE RESURFACING OF THE BASKETBALL AND TENNIS COURTS IN BLOOMFIELD PARK.

PRIVATE GOLF COURSES

GOLF COURSE	NUMBER OF HOLES	LOCATION
ARBOR HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	18-HOLES	SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP
BURR OAK GOLF CLUB	18-HOLES & RANGE	SANDSTONE TOWNSHIP
CALDERONE GOLF CLUB	18-HOLES	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP
CLARK LAKE GOLF COURSE	27-HOLES	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
CONCORD HILLS GOLF COURSE	18-HOLES	PULASKI TOWNSHIP
COUNTRY CLUB OF JACKSON	27-HOLES	SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
COUNTRY TOWN GOLF COURSE	9-HOLES	SPRINGPORT TOWNSHIP
DEER RUN GOLF COURSE	9-HOLES	LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
GAUSS'S GREEN VALLEY GOLF COURSE	18-HOLES	NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP
GREENBRIAR GOLF COURSE	18-HOLES	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
HANKERED HILLS GOLF COURSE	27-HOLES & RANGE	HENRIETTA TOWNSHIP
HICKORY HILLS GOLF COURSE	36-HOLES & RANGE	SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
HILL'S HEART OF THE LAKES GOLF COURSE	18-HOLES	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
LAKELAND HILLS GOLF COURSE	18-HOLES	LEONI TOWNSHIP
PINE HOLLOW GOLF COURSE	18-HOLES	LEONI TOWNSHIP
WATERLOO GOLF COURSE	18-HOLES	WATERLOO TOWNSHIP
WHIFFLETREE HILL GOLF CLUB	18-HOLES	CONCORD TOWNSHIP

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

FACILITY NAME	JURISDICTION
ALL SEASONS RESORT	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP
FOUR SEASONS CAMPGROUND	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP
GREENWOOD ACRES CAMPGROUND	LEONI TOWNSHIP
OAK TREE TRAVEL TRAILER CAMP	LEONI TOWNSHIP
HAPPY VALLEY CAMPGROUND	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
SAUDER'S PIER 66 MARINA, CAMPER, AND TRAILER PARK	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
STANDARD INTERSTATE CAMPGROUND	PARMA TOWNSHIP

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

FACILITY NAME	JURISDICTION
BIG 9 SPORTSMAN'S CLUB	PULASKI TOWNSHIP
TWIN PINE CAMPGROUND	PULASKI TOWNSHIP
HIDDEN HILLS CAMPGROUND	RIVES TOWNSHIP
ANDY'S ACRES TRAVEL-TRAILER PARK	WATERLOO TOWNSHIP
FELDKAMP'S CAMPGROUND	WATERLOO TOWNSHIP
LOCUST GROVE CO-OP CAMPGROUND	WATERLOO TOWNSHIP

CEMETERIES

CEMETERIES	OWNER OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION
MOUNT EVERGREEN CEMETERY	CITY OF JACKSON	CITY OF JACKSON
WOODLAWN CEMETERY	CITY OF JACKSON	SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY	CONCORD TOWNSHIP	VILLAGE OF CONCORD
OAKWOOD CEMETERY	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP
MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP
HANOVER CEMETERY	HANOVER TOWNSHIP	HANOVER TOWNSHIP
HORTON CEMETERY	HANOVER TOWNSHIP	HANOVER TOWNSHIP
LIEDLEY CEMETERY	HANOVER TOWNSHIP	HANOVER TOWNSHIP
RICHARDS CEMETERY	HANOVER TOWNSHIP	HANOVER TOWNSHIP
LEONI CEMETERY	LEONI TOWNSHIP	LEONI TOWNSHIP
MAXON CEMETERY	LEONI TOWNSHIP	LEONI TOWNSHIP
NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY	NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP	NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP
NORVELL TOWNSHIP CEMETERY	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
LUTTENTON CEMETERY	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
MCMAIR CEMETERY	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
PULASKI TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
BUCK CEMETERY	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
HEATH CEMETERY	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
NORVELL TOWNSHIP CEMETERY	NORVELL TOWNSHIP	NORVELL TOWNSHIP
HILLCREST MEMORIAL PARK	PRIVATE	BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP
PATCH CEMETERY	PRIVATE	LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
ROSELAND MEMORIAL GARDENS	PRIVATE	NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP
HEBREW CEMETERY	RELIGIOUS	CITY OF JACKSON
ST. JOHNS CATHOLIC CEMETERY	RELIGIOUS	SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
DRAPER TOWNSHIP	RIVES TOWNSHIP	RIVES TOWNSHIP
RIVES TOWNSHIP CEMETERY	RIVES TOWNSHIP	RIVES TOWNSHIP
COLE CEMETERY	RIVES TOWNSHIP	RIVES TOWNSHIP
JONES CEMETERY	RIVES TOWNSHIP	RIVES TOWNSHIP

CEMETERIES

CEMETERIES	OWNER OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION
EAST RIVES CEMETERY	RIVES TOWNSHIP	RIVES TOWNSHIP
WALKER CEMETERY	RIVES TOWNSHIP	RIVES TOWNSHIP
CROUCH CEMETERY	SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP	SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP
SPRING ARBOR CEMETERY	SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP	SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP
CLARK LAKE CEMETERY	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
CEMENT CITY CEMETERY	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON CEMETERY	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
HIGHLAND CEMETERY	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP

Jackson County Recreation Event Inventory

Information on the recreation events hosted by Jackson County — all of which take place in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades Falls) Park — follows:

- Fireworks and Entertainment:
 - On or around Memorial Day,
 - On or around July 4th, &
 - On or around Labor Day;
- Annual Civil War Muster in August;
- Cascades Falls Family Nights;
- Community Band Shell Concerts; &
- Relay for Life.

The Jackson County Parks Association also hosts a variety of work bees and recreational events in the various parks.

City of Jackson Recreation Program Inventory

Information on the recreation programs provided by the City of Jackson — much of which are offered at the Boos Center, the King Center, the Nixon Skate and Water Parks, and the Ella Sharp Park Pool — follows:

- **Boos Center Programs**
 - Homeschoolers Gym,
 - Tumble Bugs,
 - Tumbling Tots,
 - Boot Box,
 - Kick Boxing,
 - Basketball (Adult & Jr. High & High School),
 - Open Gym (individual and family),
 - Power Pump,
 - Yoga,
 - Various Aerobics & Step Aerobics,
 - Adult Volleyball (Adult Drop-In and League, Girl’s High School League, & Reverse 4-on-4 Coed League),
 - Adult Dodgeball,
- Gymnastics (ages 5-7 & 8-12),
- ‘Sporty for Shorties’ (ages 3-5 & 6-8),
- Arts & Crafts Camp (ages 3-5 & 6-8), &
- Senior Activities (e.g., Drop-In, Bingo, Euchre, Monthly Dinners, Welcome Back Potluck, Dump Soup Lunches, Senior Travel Program, Walking Club, & Chair Exercise).
- **King Center Programs**
 - Summer Youth Program (ages 5-14),
 - Youth & Adult Open Gym Sessions,
 - Various After School Activities (all ages),
 - Kids Tyme (K to 2nd Grade),
 - Sports Camp (elementary and Jr. High),
 - High School Sports Training,

- Open Gym (General, Jr. High, & Girls),
- Sports Drilling,
- Adult Open Run,
- Jr. High Activities,
- Recreation Teams Practice,
- Volleyball (Open & League),
- Basketball Skill Development (Elementary & Jr. High & High School),
- Adult Volleyball League,
- Basketball (High School (Short/Full Court), Adult Open, Jr. High, Over 30, Bitty, & High School Leagues),
- Reserved Group Time, &
- Elementary & Jr. High Fun-Tyme.
- **Nixon Park**
 - National Skateboarding Day,
 - Learn-to-Ride Skateboard Lessons,
 - In-line Hockey Leagues (Youth & Adult),
 - Summer Competitions,
 - Best Trick Sk8 Contest,
 - Summer SK8-Fest,
 - Sk8 Park Competition,
 - Sk8oberfest,
 - Sk8 Halloweenie,
 - Seasonal Skate Passes,
 - Party Room Rental, &
 - Pool Events at Nixon Water Park,
 - Pirates Party,
 - Luau, &
 - Back-to-School Splash Bash.
- **Parkside Pool Swimming Lessons**
 - Progressive Swimming Lessons &
 - Parent/Tot Swimming Lessons.
- **Annual Special Events**
 - Punt, Pass, & Kick,
 - McJack Rabbit Easter Egg Hunt,
 - Daddy/Daughter Dance,
 - Mother/Son Dance,
 - Mother and Daughter Tea,
 - Kite Flying Extravaganza,
 - Senior Citizen Miniature Golf,
 - Father and Sons Day Out!,
- David Fusch Tennis Clinic,
- Iron Kids Triathlon,
- Ella Sharp Park Pool Splash Bash,
- Haunted Halloween Celebrations,
- Annual Turkey Trot,
- Thanksgiving Aerobics,
- Aerobics Holiday Stress Reliever,
- Santa Calls, &
- Paint-a-Pumpkin and Pizza Party.
- **Walking Programs**
 - Walk Jackson,
 - Walk the Park, &
 - Who Let the Dogs Out?
- **Youth Programs**
 - Basketball Camp (ages 7-12),
 - Youth Tennis Lessons,
 - Summer Playgrounds,
 - Cheer Camps,
 - Instructional Football (4th, 5th, & 6th grades),
 - Basketball (3rd & 4th - 6th grades, middle school, and high school), &
 - Soccer (1st to 6th Grade, 6-v-6 Coed Middle School Soccer, & 7th & 8th Grade Coed Spring Soccer).
- **Adult Programs**
 - Adult Dance Classes,
 - Dodgeball,
 - Drop-in Ballroom Dance Classes,
 - Adult Basketball,
 - Volleyball (4-on-4 Coed, Fall Coed 6-on-6, Winter League, & Adult Drop-In),
 - Adult Euchre,
 - Water Exercise,
 - Soccer (Spring 6-on-6 Coed & Summer Leagues),
 - Adult Tennis (Lessons & Doubles League),
 - Senior Summer Swims,
 - Spring & Summer Water Aerobics, &
 - Lap Swimming.
- **Summer Tennis Tournaments**

- Doubles Tournament,
- Senior Tournament (JATA),
- Spring Arbor Junior Tournament, &
- Sidmore Tournament.
- **Sharp Park Golf Tournaments**
 - Jackson Stableford,
 - JCWGA Ladies Senior Classic,
 - Lyle Ambs Match Play,
- JCWGA Ladies Match Play,
- Mercer Tour,
- PGA McGladrey,
- City Junior Championship,
- Joe Fiero City Senior, &
- Mini Open.

Appendix C

Trails & Trail Planning & Programming

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan



JACKSON

Jackson County and the City of Jackson are partnering with other municipalities and governmental agencies as well as the Fitness Council of Jackson and other non-profit advocacy groups on the developing network of trails throughout the City and County. The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) sponsors various “paddles” (i.e., canoe and kayak events) throughout Jackson County each year.

Water Trails (“Blueways”)

Various blueways exist (in some fashion) along waterways in Jackson County.¹ Water trails are maintained along the Grand River as it traverses Jackson County. Smaller blueways are also located along portions of the River Raisin and the Kalamazoo River (please see Map C-1).

GREAT Routes

The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) has twelve (12) routes (i.e., trips) along the Grand River as it flows through Jackson County and the City of Jackson. GREAT also sponsors canoe and kayak “paddles” each year which utilize those and other routes (please see Map C-1).²

■ Southern County Routes

- **Trip 1.** Grand Lake to Liberty Dam. *Access Point 1.*
- **Trip 2.** Liberty Dam to US-127 (Meridian Road). *Access Points 1 -3*
- **Trip 3.** US-127 (Meridian Road) to Reed Road. *”Access Points 3 & 4*
- **Trip 4.** Reed Rd. to Vandercook Lake Park. *Access Points 4 - 8*

■ Jackson Metro Routes

- **Trip 5.** Vandercook Lake County Park to Ella Sharp (City) Park. *Access Points 8 & 9*
- **Trip 6 |** Ella Sharp (City) Park to High Street. *Access Points 9 & 10*
- **Trip 7 |** Michigan Center to Lions Park. *Access: Points 13*
- **Trip 8 |** Lions Park to Maple Grove Road. *Access Points 13 – 15*

GREAT

The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) sponsors canoe and kayak “paddles” each year which traverse the Grand River and other defined water trails (i.e., “blueways”) throughout Jackson County. Please visit www.great-mi.org to learn more about future “paddles” and other GREAT events. The synopsis of Trips and Access Points which comprise this section of the Appendix is based upon information obtained from GREAT (please see Map C-1).

¹ These routes (i.e., trips) are shown for informational and planning purposes. The Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) points out that there should be no water trails unless there is a commitment to perform the needed maintenance (i.e., chain saw cutting) to keep the routes open for paddlers. At this point, GREAT rotates cutting 3 of the 12 routes each year for its monthly public paddles—in addition to the annual clean-up within the City of Jackson—and these are only done a month prior to an event. To solve this blocking issue, GREAT suggests that local governments should undertake this maintenance along the stretches of the river within their jurisdiction in the spring of each year.

² Please note that fluctuating water levels and maintenance issues may cause difficulties for any of the trips. Fallen trees and limited clearance under bridges are of particular concern.

■ Northern County Routes

- **Trip 9** | Maple Grove Road to US-127 (State Road is adjacent). *Access Points 15 & 16*
- **Trip 10** | US-127 (State Road is adjacent) to Dixon Road. *Access Points 16 & 17*
- **Trip 11** | Dixon Road to Tompkins Road. *Access Points 17 & 18*
- **Trip 12** | Tompkins Road to Baldwin Park (Onondaga). *Access Point 18*

Grand River Access Points

GREAT also developed the following access points (please see Map C-1):

Grand River Access Points

ACCESS POINT	NOTES FROM GREAT
1. LIBERTY DAM	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING (ASK AT STORE)
2. CULVER RD.	GOOD ACCESS & LIMITED PARKING
3. US-127 (MERIDIAN RD.)	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING
4. REED RD.	LIMITED PARKING & OK ACCESS
5. US-127 (MERIDIAN RD.)	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING AT THE NEARBY MDOT COMMUTER LOT
6. LOOMIS RD.	PARKING ON ROAD & ACCESS
7. DRAPER RD.	ACCESS & PARKING ON ROAD
8. VANDERCOOK LAKE COUNTY PARK	ACCESS & PARKING
9. ELLA SHARP (CITY) PARK	GOOD ACCESS & LIMITED PARKING
10. HIGH STREET	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING
11. GRAND RIVER (CITY) MEMORIAL PARK	DOWNTOWN JACKSON
12. THE TOY HOUSE	ACCESS & PARKING
13. LIONS (CITY) PARK	ACCESS THROUGH LOCKED GATE & PARKING
14. R.A. GREENE (CITY) PARK	GOOD ACCESS & PARKING
15. MAPLE GROVE ROAD	DNR BOAT LAUNCH
16. US-127 (STATE ROAD IS ADJACENT)	ACCESS & PARKING VIA STATE ROAD ON BOTH SIDES (NORTH/SOUTH) OF THE RIVER
17. DIXON ROAD	DNR BOAT LAUNCH
18. TOMPKINS ROAD	DNR BOAR LAUNCH

Non-motorized Trails

The City and County partnered with other municipalities in 2002 to develop the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study. That document has been used as a guide ever since and various municipalities have expanded upon the basic “stick” network as part of their recreation planning efforts. The Falling Waters/Intercity Trail Corridor also serves as the backbone for a developing statewide trail as it traverses Jackson County.

Regional Trailway Study

The parks departments of Jackson County and the City of Jackson; the townships of Blackman, Spring Arbor, and Summit; the Falling Waters Trail Committee; and the Lakelands Trail effort joined together to develop the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study which was completed in 2002. The Study is comprised of the following “stick” network of trails throughout the County (please see Map C-2):³

- Lakelands Trail – 15.4 miles
- Henrietta Loop – 19.9 miles
- Portage Lake Trail – 6.5 miles
- North Trail – 7.6 miles
- Blackman Township Loop – 8.0 miles
- Inter-City Trail – 7.5 miles
- Airport Trail – 5.5 miles
- Falling Waters Trail – 11.5 miles
- Hanover Trail – 8.9 miles
- Summit Township Loop – 7.2 miles
- Ella Sharp Park Trail and Cascades Park – 4.4 miles
- South Trail – 19.5 miles
- Connection to Existing Trail on Page Avenue – 0.3 miles

Statewide Trail Planning Efforts

There are two statewide trail planning efforts which impact Jackson County and its developing network of non-motorized trails:

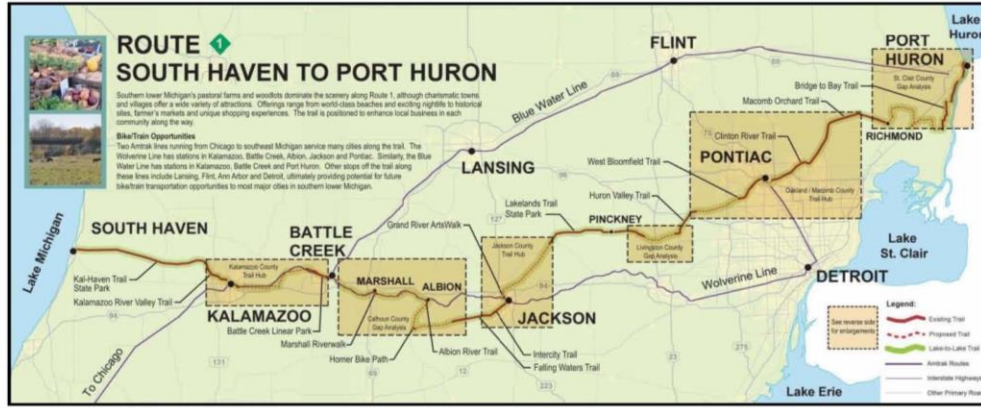
- **Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake (GLTL) Trails.** The Michigan Greenways Alliance proposes the development of a series of trails which provide five non-motorized connections among the Great Lakes once they are developed. Route #1 will eventually connect Port Huron (Lake Huron) and South Haven (Lake Michigan), traversing Jackson County along the way. This opportunity increases the significance of the emerging trail network within Jackson County to statewide significance (please see Figure C-1).
- **Iron Belle Trail.** Governor Snyder unveiled the routes of his showcase trail, which links Belle Isle Park in the City of Detroit with Depot Park in Ironwood (located along the Wisconsin border in the western Upper Peninsula) in early 2015. The hiking portion of the Iron Belle Trail will follow the current route of the North County Scenic Trail, traversing Jackson County along the way. This opportunity increases the significance of the emerging trail network within Jackson County to national significance (please see Figure C-2).⁴

These trails utilize the primary non-motorized corridor planned for Jackson County. For example, the existing Falling Waters/Inter-City Trail Corridor will be utilized by the Iron Belle Trail and Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails as they traverse Jackson County. The planned extension of the Lakelands Trail Corridor into Jackson County will also serve as part of that backbone.

³ Please refer the attached map as well as the full study for greater detail.

⁴ The North County Scenic Trail stretches from eastern New York to central North Dakota.

**Figure C-1
Great Lake-to-Lake (GLTL) Trails**



The Great Lake-to-Lake Trails project began in 2009 with a generous grant to Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance from the Kresge Foundation to accelerate the development of cross-state trails. Anticipated outcomes include enhanced tourism, transportation, health and fitness and economic development opportunities. Stakeholder identification and collaboration on a multi-agency level is ongoing. A marketing/branding strategy and recommended next steps are included in the planning effort.

Michigan ranks #1 in the country with 2,478 miles of open rail-trail. With connecting non-rail-trail miles, there are well over 3,000 miles of multi-use trail for hiking, bicycling, running and often snowmobiling, horseback riding and ORV use, operated by state, county, township, city, village or nonprofit entities. Michigan is now at the enviable point of being able to connect long stretches of trail corridor across the state. Many of the east-west cross-state trail routes can be connected from one Great Lake to another in the foreseeable future. A system of five Great Lake-to-Lake Trails is envisioned for promoting Michigan's tourism and nonmotorized transportation assets. Route 1 extends from South Haven to Port Huron and is comprised of 15 trails totaling 178 miles already in place. Many opportunities for thematic promotion will present themselves as these trails are connected to each other. For a current map of Michigan's multi-use trail system, see www.michigantrails.org.

Jackson County Trail Hub

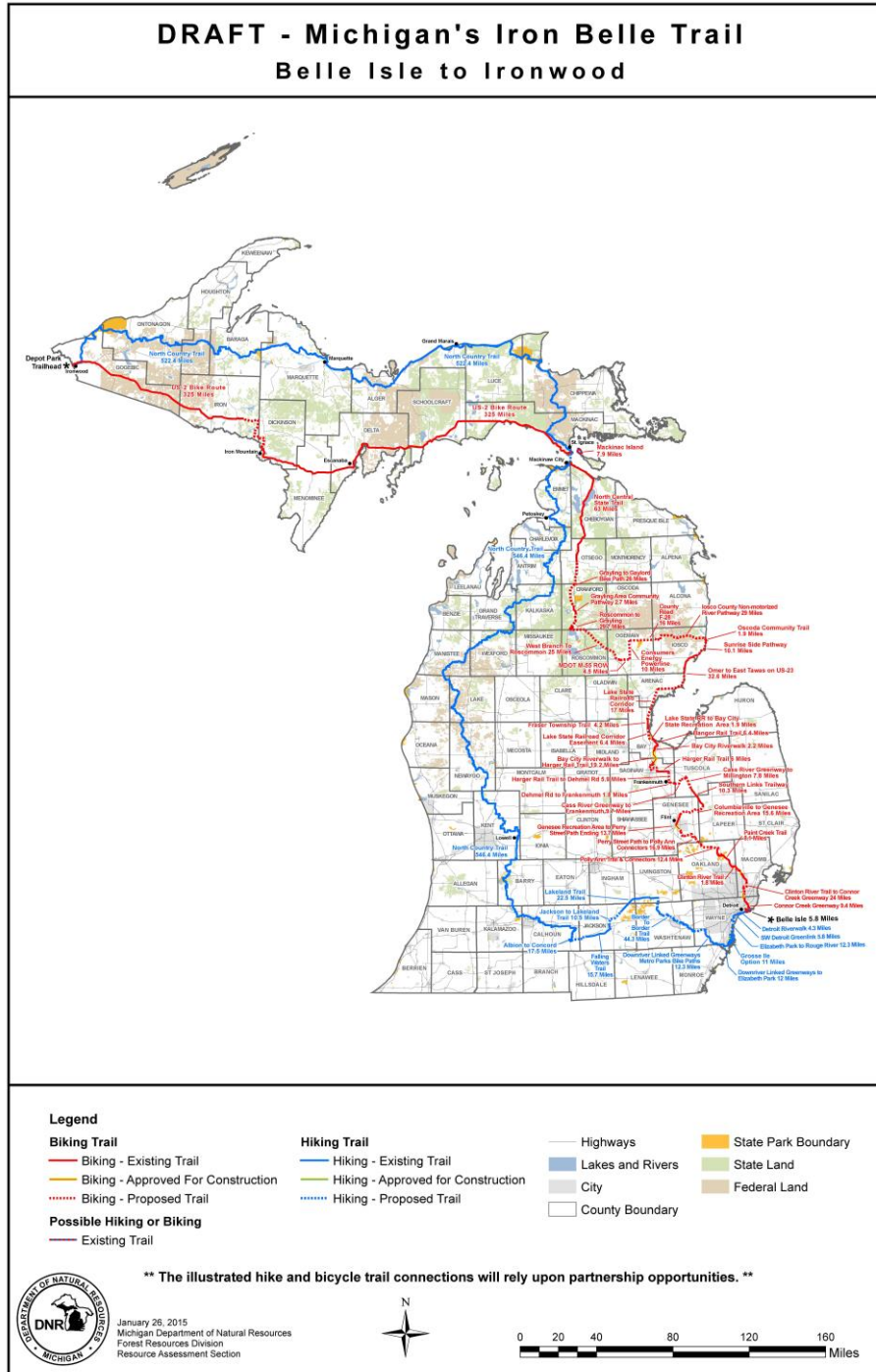
Three named trail segments combine to create 15.7 miles of nearly continuous trail through Jackson County. The Falling Waters Trail enters Jackson from the southwest to become the Intercity Trail. It transitions to the Grand River ArtsWalk following a 1/8 mile gap along the Grand River. The ArtsWalk passes through Armory Arts Village and continues north along the Grand River.

The gap from here to Lakelands Trail is filled by a proposed route north and west of the State Prison, partially using existing roadways and an incomplete segment of the Lakelands Trail State Park.

The map details the trail hub in Jackson, Michigan, showing segments: Falling Waters Trail (10.2 Miles to Concord), Grand River ArtsWalk (1.5 Miles to Jackson), Intercity Trail (3.7 Miles), and Lakelands Trail (20.5 Miles to Hamburg). Other nearby trails include North Jackson Route (10.5 Miles) and Stockbridge. A scale bar indicates 0 to 2.0 miles.

The Great Lake-to-Lake Trails concept and the above graphics are the creation of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

**Figure C-2
Iron Belle Trail**



Other Local Trail Planning Efforts

The City of Jackson and other municipalities within Jackson County have also engaged in non-motorized trail planning with the aim of supplementing the network defined in the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study.

City of Jackson’s Destination-Based Bike Routes. Jackson has also continued to refine the non-motorized pathways proposed within the City. The Destination-Based Bike Routes Map (please see Map C-3) includes existing and proposed non-motorized lanes and trails and signed bike lanes. The map also identifies the destinations they are designed to inter-connect.

Local Recreation Plans. Various municipalities have also proposed local expansions of the “stick” network proposed in the Trailway Study. Those plans include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Heart of the Lakes Area
- Grass Lake Area
- Leoni Township
- Village of Concord
- Summit Township
- Blackman Township

Intergovernmental Cooperation. The above listing of municipal plans illustrates that the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation that created the original Trailway Study is still active in trail planning for Jackson County. For example, the Heart of the Lakes Area Recreation Plan covers the Village of Brooklyn and the Townships of Columbia, Napoleon, and Norvell. The Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan covers the Village of Grass Lake and Grass Lake Charter Township.

Public-Private Cooperation. Cooperation between the public and private sectors is also active in the sphere of trail planning. For example, one of the strategies contained in the ‘Arts, Recreational, and Cultural Opportunities’ component of the Jackson County Strategic Plan is to “continue to improve the non-motorized System in the Jackson Community.” Current activities listed under this strategy are:

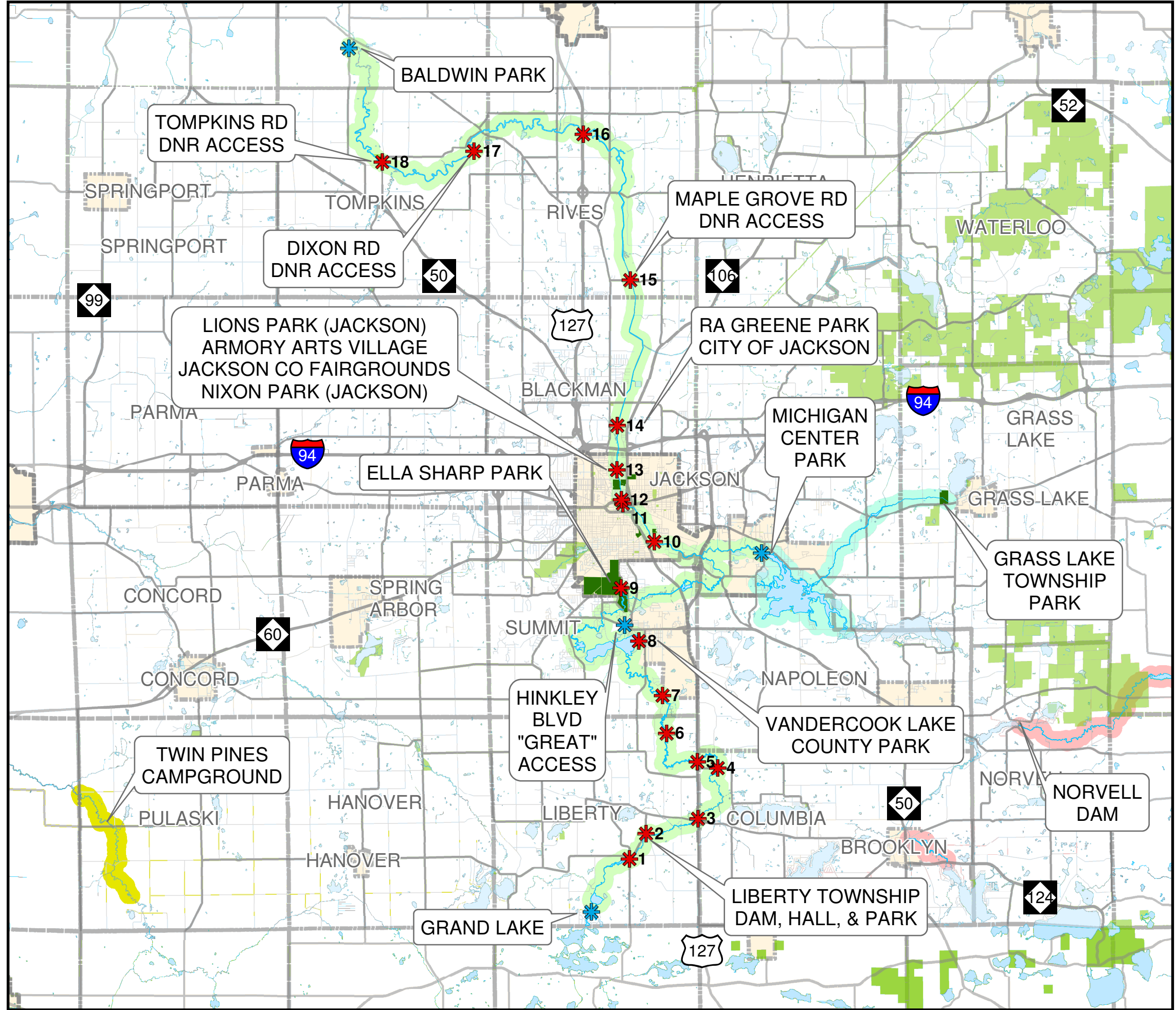
- “Help facilitate the update of the Jackson County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan” (i.e., the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study)
- Develop the Sparks Park/Inter-City Trail Connector
- Develop more statewide connection trails (Lakelands Trail to Stockbridge)

The Arts, Recreation, and Culture (ARC) Strand of Jackson 2020 helped to develop the ‘Arts, Recreational, and Cultural Opportunities’ component of the Jackson County Strategic Plan. The Parks, Recreation, and Environment Workgroup within the ARC Strand is involved in implementing those activities in cooperation with its mix of members from the public and private sectors as well as the general public.

**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

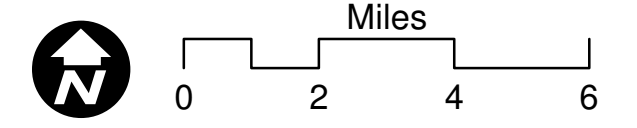
MAP C-1

**"BLUEWAYS"
WATER TRAILS**



- LAKES & PONDS
- RIVERS & STREAMS
- "GREAT" ACCESS POINTS
- NEARBY PARKS
- 1/4 MILE BUFFER
- "GREAT" ROUTES
- OTHER GRAND RIVER ROUTES
- RIVER RAISIN ROUTES
- KALAMAZOO RIVER ROUTES

SOURCE(S):
 - MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY
 - "GREAT" & THOMAS GILBERT
 (WWW.GREAT-MI.ORG)




**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP C-2




**NON-MOTORIZED
TRAIL NETWORK**

PROPOSED STATEWIDE TRAILS




 IRON BELLE TRAIL
ROUTE #1 - GLTL TRAILS

**2002 TRAILWAY STUDY
AND CITY DESTINATION-
BASED BIKE ROUTES**




MULTI-USE PATHWAYS

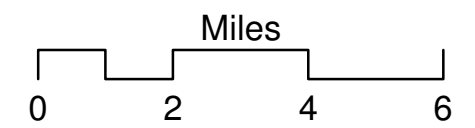
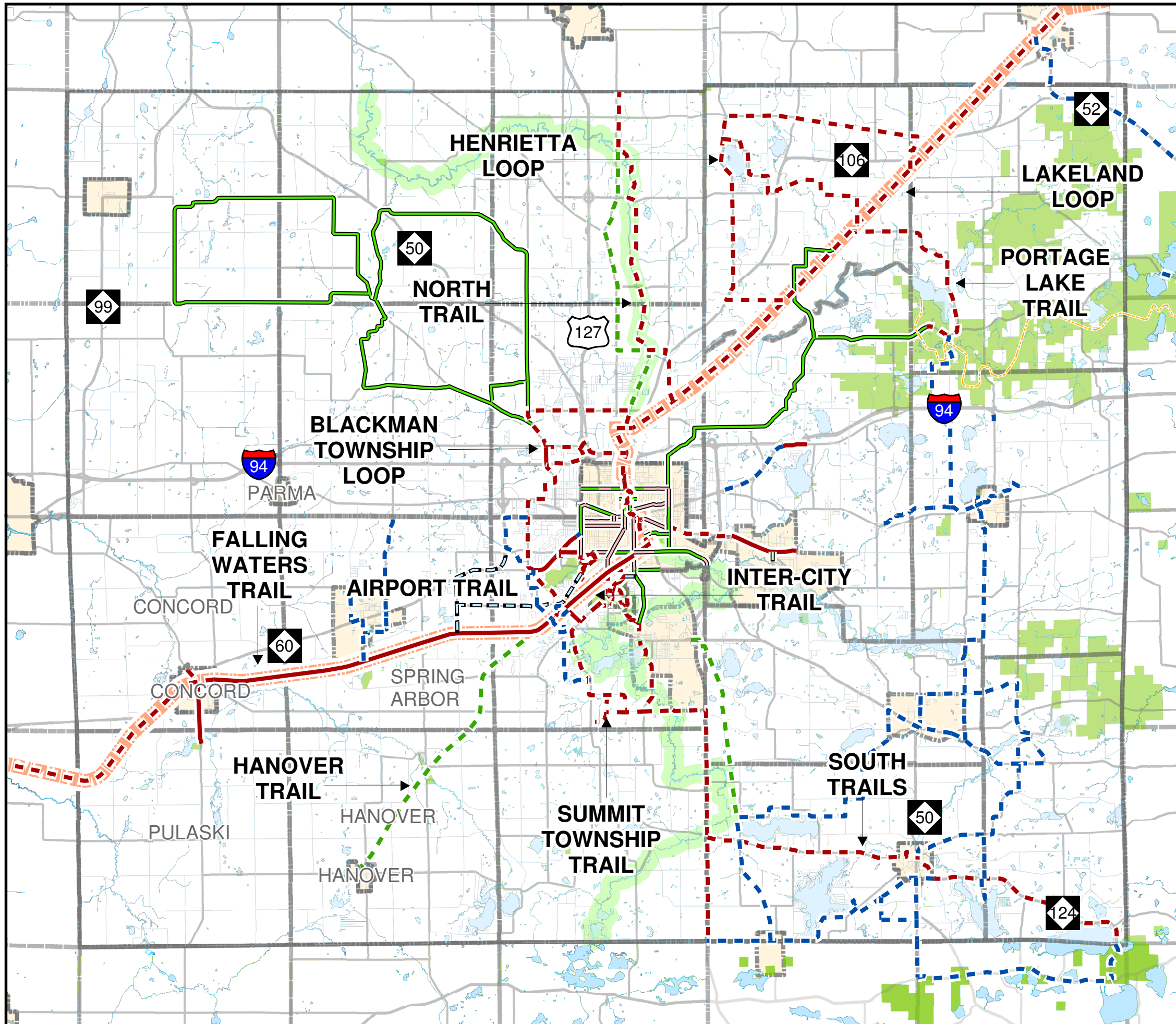
-  CURRENT
-  PROPOSED
-  ALTERNATE (PROPOSED)

BIKE ROUTES

-  POSTED ROUTES
-  EXISTING LANES
-  PROPOSED LANES

OTHER PROPOSED PATHWAYS

-  PROPOSED MULTI-
USE PATHWAYS
-  PROPOSED BIKE LANES
-  PROPOSED RUSTIC TRAIL



**CITY OF JACKSON &
JACKSON COUNTY
JOINT RECREATION PLAN**

MAP C-3



**DESTINATION-BASED BIKE ROUTES
CITY OF JACKSON, MI** (October, 2007)

DESTINATIONS

- Large Employers
- Entertainment/Shopping
- Schools
- Parks

BIKE ROUTES

- Existing Lanes & Trails
- Designated (Signed) Routes
- Proposed