



Spring Arbor Township  
Recreation Plan  
2013-2017 Edition

## Plan Approval and Adoption

Spring Arbor Township Parks and Recreation Committee ..... July 21, 2014  
Spring Arbor Township Board .....September 8, 2014  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources .....

The 2013-2017 edition of the Spring Arbor Township  
Recreation Plan will expire on December 31, 2017

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**



A priority of Spring Arbor Township is to develop a Recreation Plan which meets and enhances the recreation needs of residents. The Plan gives a clear picture of all the recreation opportunities offered to residents regardless of who is providing them. Recreation opportunities that are non-traditional such as shopping venues and historical districts/structures are listed as well as traditional recreation facilities and parks.

A sincere effort was spent in developing the Recreation Plan which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This document must be re-evaluated regularly and updated to meet the current needs of the community as least every five years.

### **Location**

Spring Arbor Township is located in the southwest quarter of Jackson County, near the west side of the City of Jackson. The Township is bordered by Sandstone Township to the north, Blackman Township to the northeast, Summit Township to the east, Liberty Township to the southeast, Hanover Township to the south, Pulaski Township to the southwest, Concord Township to the west, and Parma Township to the northwest. Spring Arbor Road (M-60) is the major road which traverses the thirty-six (36) square mile Township.

Jackson County is located in South-Central Lower Michigan, close to the border with Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana. The Jackson Urbanized Area—which extends into the Township—is located in the middle of the county. Jackson is connected to Battle Creek and Kalamazoo (to the west) and Ann Arbor and Detroit (to the east) via I-94. Jackson is also linked to Lansing (to the north) via US-127.

### **History**

The first people to live in what is currently known as Spring Arbor Township were the Potawatomi Indians. The Michigan Territorial Legislature surveyed the Township for a road in 1829. The following year land was made available for purchase and was quickly bought up by early pioneers due to its plentiful natural resources.

These early settlers placed a high value on education. A group of Methodist Episcopal Church members established the settlement of Spring Arbor and the Michigan Territorial Legislature granted a charter for a school in 1835. From there, Spring Arbor slowly grew and eventually moved to where it is presently located.

### **A Brief Socioeconomic Summary**

The demographic composition of the population of Spring Arbor Township has an effect upon its recreation needs. Pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief summary describing the local situation. Each of the components is described in greater detail in Appendix A of this document.

- **Population History and Projections.** Spring Arbor Township was comprised of 8,267 people in 2010 according to the US Census. The population of the Township is projected to continue to grow slowly to 8,680 in 2015 and 9,114 in 2020.
- **The Sex and Age of the Population.** Females comprised slightly more than half of the residents (52.9%) in 2010 and males comprised slightly less than half (47.1%). Almost a quarter of



the population (23.4%) was between 15 and 24 years old in 2010, with a median age of 36.3 in 2010. Baby boomers comprised almost a fifth (18.8%) of the population. Residents above the age of 65 accounted for another fifth of the population (20.6%). The remainder of the population is spread pretty evenly over young and older adults and children.

- **Household and Families.** Families accounted for almost three-fourths (72.2%) of Spring Arbor Townships households in 2010, with an average size of 3.02 people. In comparison, the average non-family household was only 2.58 people given that 23.5% of those households were comprised of a single resident.
- **Racial and Ethnic Minorities.** African Americans comprised the largest minority group at 1.5% of the population in 2010. No other minority group comprised over one percent of the total population, leaving it a majority Caucasian (95.5%).
- **The Disabilities of Residents.** According to demographic information in 2000, about 14% of the population of Spring Arbor Township had a disability. It is important to realize that older residents are more apt to have a disability than their younger counterparts. Those over the age of 65 made up almost half (43.8%) of disabled people.
- **Income.** The median household income of Spring Arbor Township families was \$67,829 in 2010, substantially higher than the \$30,089 reported for non-family households. The median household income was \$60,291, given that nonfamily households comprised approximately 27.8 of all households.

### The Health of Jackson County Residents<sup>1,2</sup>

Almost a-third (30.9%) of Michigan residents were considered obese in 2010 (Centers for Disease Control) and the 10th most obese state in the United States in 2011 (Trust for America's Health).<sup>3,4</sup> Increased physical activity and decreased sedentary behavior are associated with lower rates of obesity, and it reduces the risk for many of the diseases associated with obesity, such as diabetes and heart disease, according to the United States Surgeon General.<sup>5</sup> These statistics point to a need for more active recreation opportunities in all communities. Those opportunities may include providing more walkable neighborhoods as well as the provision of actual recreation opportunities such as athletic fields (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.) and courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, etc.).

The 2011 Jackson County Community Health Assessment indicates that nearly one-third (31.6%) of survey respondents reported being overweight and well over one-third (37.0%) reported being obese,

<sup>1</sup> Information of health was not available for Spring Arbor Township.

<sup>2</sup> An earlier version of this section appeared in the 2008-2012 edition of this document and was adapted from text originally prepared for the current edition of the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan (see Appendix C).

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html/#History>

<sup>4</sup> Trust for America's Health (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.healthyamericans.org/report/88/>.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2010). *The Surgeon General's Vision for a Health and Fit Nation*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General.



which means that less than one-third (29.9%) of respondents reported a healthy weight.<sup>6</sup> From 2008 to 2011, the percentage of those overweight decreased 5.8% and the percentage of those obese increased 4.7%, representing an undesirable trend. “Overweight and obesity substantially increase 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,” according to *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan through Physical Activity and Nutrition*. A couple of factors of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning contribute to unhealthy weight, according to that report:<sup>7</sup>

- “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 recreation 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.”

*Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan through Physical Activity and Nutrition* 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.”

The 2011 Jackson County Community Health Assessment indicates that slightly less than one-half (46.6%) of residents meet the guidelines for moderate physical activity (at least 5 times a week for at least 30 minutes) and slightly more than one-quarter (28.6%) meet the guidelines for vigorous physical activity (at least 3 times a week for at least 20 minutes). Overall, only slightly more than one-half (53.8%) of residents meet at least one of these guidelines (either moderate or vigorous physical activity). Therefore, almost one-half of the residents in Jackson County are not getting the recommended amount of physical activity.

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<sup>6</sup> Health Improvement Organization (2012). *Jackson County Community Health Assessment*. Publication pending.

<sup>7</sup> *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan through Physical Activity and Nutrition* is part of a series entitled “Informing the Debate: Health Policy: Options for Michigan Policymakers,” published by Michigan State University’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) and Institute for Health Care Studies (IHCs).

**CHAPTER 2**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**



### Authorization

The authority to provide public park systems and recreation programs is granted by the State of Michigan. Spring Arbor Township's parks are established under the authority of Public Act 156 of 1917, Recreation and Playgrounds (MCL 125.51 *et seq.*). The act also allowed the creation of the Spring Arbor Township Parks and Recreation Committee.

### Organizational Structure

Spring Arbor Township Board of Trustees created the Parks and Recreation Committee and charged it to plan for and implement recreation services and facilities in the community (please see Figure 2-1). The Committee assesses the needs and desires of the community (e.g., develops this document); makes appropriate budget requests to the Board, and seeks out grant opportunities on behalf of the Township.

**Figure 2-1**  
**Spring Arbor Township Organizational Chart**



Spring Arbor Township does not have dedicated parks and recreation staff. Mowing and other ongoing maintenance responsibilities are currently carried out by the Township's general maintenance crew. The Parks and Recreation Committee works with the Township Administration and other commissions, boards, and committees from time to time in order to implement projects and pursue grants. The Committee may also utilize volunteers (e.g., miscellaneous ad hoc committees) in order to complete specific projects.

### Parks and Recreation Budgeting

The Township's operating budget for park and recreation in 2013 was \$31,414 and it is anticipated that the budget should remain fairly constant for the next five years. There is no capital budget for the park system. It is important to note that the capital budget for parks and recreation fluctuates on an annual basis, based upon allocation from the Township Board and any grants and/or donations secured for a specific project.

### Sources of Funding

The following funding sources are utilized by Spring Arbor Township for parks and recreation purposes:

- General tax fund dollars;
- User fees for recreation programs (if made available);
- Grants and donations awarded for certain projects.



General tax fund dollars are used by Spring Arbor Township for the maintenance of its parks including the cost of producing this Plan. The Township also intends to utilize grants, donations, and other income sources provided for specific projects.

Grants are sought from various state, federal, and philanthropic sources for the acquisition of park land and the development of park facilities (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.) 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 recreation facilities are likely to come from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF).<sup>8</sup>

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

### **Relationships with Other Recreation Providers**

Spring Arbor Township is not the only supplier of parks and recreation opportunities to local residents.

**Schools.** Local school districts are significant suppliers of parks and recreation opportunities to their students and boosters as well as the general public. The Western School District covers most of Spring Arbor Township and its schools are located in the Township. However Concord schools also serve some Township youth (see the School Districts map).

**Local, County, State Government and Private Providers.** Some of the surrounding townships, the City of Jackson, and Spring Arbor University also maintain parks, trails, and recreation programs. The same is true for Jackson County. Spring Arbor Township also joined other local governments in planning for a countywide trail system, as evidenced by the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002, which is currently being expanded into a non-motorized plan.

The State of Michigan provides a variety of recreation facilities in the form of state game, wildlife, and recreation areas; state historic parks; and state parks in the vicinity of Spring Arbor Township. 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 available in Spring Arbor Township.

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<sup>8</sup> This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan

**CHAPTER 3**  
**RECREATION AND RESOURCE INVENTORIES**





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 in and around Spring Arbor Township, not just those owned and managed by the municipality. The parks, facilities, and programs listed in this chapter were identified through local knowledge and a review of current and historical documents and maps.

### Park Classifications and Standards

It is also important to classify parks and recreation facilities in order to identify and apply standards for additional park land and recreation facilities in Spring Arbor Township and the surrounding area.

#### Types of Parks

Park systems are comprised of several types of parks.<sup>9</sup>

- **Mini Parks** - Small parks (less than an acre) which address limited, isolated, or unique recreation 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 community as well as preserving unique landscape and open spaces; *this park type also serves as a community park for the area immediately adjacent to 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 Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) is 10 acres for every 1,000 residents.<sup>10</sup> The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recommends the following service areas and minimum sizes for each park.<sup>11</sup>

- **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 of 50-70 acres.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Springgate, 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)

<sup>10</sup> Nation Recreation and Park Association, Open Space Guideline & Standards, C Castleman, compiler

<sup>11</sup> Grants Management Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Guideline for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans IC1924 (Rev.01/27/2006)

<sup>12</sup> The standard the MDNR uses for large urban parks is also used to 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.

### Parks and Recreation Facilities in Spring Arbor Township

Parks and recreation facilities found in Spring Arbor Township are provided by the Western School District and a variety of private and quasi-public entities as well as the Township.

#### Spring Arbor Township Parks

Spring Arbor Township's park system is comprised of the Falling Waters Historical Park, Harmony Park and Gallagher Park. These parks encompass 19.65 acres (please see the following table and the map). Given the population of 8,267 in Spring Arbor Township in 2010, the parks, which serve as community parks, satisfies 24% of the acreage recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association.

**Table 3-1**  
**Spring Arbor Township Parks**

Key	Name	Acres	Facilities	BFA
A	Gallagher Park	10	Picnic Area, ball fields, bathroom, and playground	3
B	Harmony Park	7.65	Bathrooms, two playgrounds, school house museum, basketball, ball field, and picnic area	4
C	Falling Waters Historical Park	2	Historical plaques, walking paths, Indian burial ground, log cabin, and herb garden	4

It is important that the township parks be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, an estimated 14% of township residents were living with a disability in 2000. Accordingly, each park was rated according to its level of barrier free access.<sup>13</sup> The number listed under the BFA column in the above table equates to the barrier-free rating listed in the table below:

**Table 3-2**  
**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 areas meet accessibility guidelines
4 =	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5 =	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principal of universal design

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded no recreation grants to Spring Arbor Township.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The analysis of barrier free access was provided by the Spring Arbor Township Parks and Recreation Committee, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

<sup>14</sup> The MDNR requires a declaration and/or listing of the recreation grants awarded to Spring Arbor Township to be included in the recreation plan.

### County Parks in Spring Arbor Township

Lime Lake County Park is located in Spring Arbor Township and the Falling Waters Trail traverses the municipality (please see the following table and the map). Please note that the added acreage of Lime Lake County Park far exceeds the 82.67 acres of total park land recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association.

**Table 3-3**  
**County Parks**

Key	Name	Acres	Facilities
D	Lime Lake County Park	225	Playground, boat launch, and swimming beach
E	Falling Waters Trail	---	10.5 mile non-motorized trail

### Schools

Schools also provide a variety of recreation 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.

**Table 3-4**  
**Schools**

Key	Name	District	Facilities
E	Warner Elementary School	Western School District	Multi-purpose field and playground equipment
F	Bean Elementary School	Western School District	Multi-purpose field and playground equipment
G	Western Middle School Western High School	Western School District	Baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields. Basketball court, nature trail, and biology pond
H	Trinity Lutheran School	Parochial	Playground Area

The Western School District serves the majority of Spring Arbor Township students and all of its schools are located within the municipality. Other public school districts also serve students from Spring Arbor Township. However, they maintain no facilities in the municipality.

### Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities

Finally, a number of quasi-public entities also maintain facilities in Spring Arbor Township that have some recreation value. For example, the Township is home to the Hickory Hills Golf Course and the Arbor Hills Golf Course also extends into the municipality. A branch of the Jackson District Library (JDL) provides access to books, films, and a variety of other enrichment programs.

**Table 3-5**  
**Other Recreation Facilities**

Key	Name	Facilities
J	Hickory Hill	Golf course
K	Arbor Hills	Golf course



### **Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Surrounding Area**

Parks and recreation facilities utilized by Spring Arbor Township residents are also located in the surrounding area.

#### **Other Municipal and County Parks**

Some of the surrounding municipalities also provide parks to their residents (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more facilities).

- **City of Jackson.** The City maintains a total of 27 parks (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail).
- **Village of Parma.** W. D. Groner Memorial Park
- **Blackman Township.** Rod Mills Memorial Park and Bill Latham Memorial Park
- **Village of Concord.** Norman Gottschalk Park and public access to the Concord Mill Pond and Paddock Lake
- **Summit Township.** Probert Road Trail
- **Hanover Township.** Bibbins Lake Park, Perrin Park, Veteran's Ball Field
- **County of Jackson.** The County maintains a total of 15 other parks, including Sparks Foundation County Park and Alfred A. Snyder County Park in nearby Summit and Hanover Townships, respectively (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail)

#### **Other Public School Districts**

The following school districts also maintain facilities within the surrounding area (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more school districts).

- **Concord Community Schools** cover 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
- **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

#### **Local Colleges**

There are several institutions of higher learning in Jackson County. Spring Arbor University's main campus is located within the Township and a satellite campus is maintained in the nearby City of Jackson. Baker College's local campus is located in Blackman Township. Jackson College maintains two campuses.

Many colleges provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities. Township residents can also avail themselves of the other recreation facilities and programs hosted by those institutions. For example, Spring Arbor University has approximately 70 acres which are open to the public including tennis courts.



The Ganton Gallery "is one of the largest, single-room galleries in Michigan."<sup>15</sup> Jackson College's Potter Center "is comprised of the most versatile and complete performing arts complex in the area."<sup>16</sup>

### Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

A variety of other public agencies and private entrepreneurs also provide recreation opportunities to Township 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.

- **State Game and Recreation Areas.** 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-country 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.

- **Boat Launches.** Finally, 13 other boat launches are located in Jackson County in addition to launch located at Lime Lake County Park:
  - **DNR.** 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; and Trestle Bridge (Grand River), Tompkins Township
  - **Jackson County.** Grass Lake County Park, Grass Lake Township; Swains Lake County Park, Pulaski Township; and Vineyard Lake County Park, Columbia/Norvell Townships
  - **Local Townships.** Leoni Township Park (Center Lake)

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.arbor.edu/edu\\_detail.aspx?id=37930](http://www.arbor.edu/edu_detail.aspx?id=37930)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.jccmi.edu/events/pottercenter/theaters.htm>

### **Jackson County Fairground**

The Jackson County Fairground is located within the City of Jackson, but impacts the entire county. The Jackson County Fair is held every August. However, it is important to note the Fairground also hosts other special events throughout the year, including the annual 'Nite Lights at the Fairground.'

### **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 course associated with the nearby Sparks Foundation (Cascades) County Park and other institutions, the Country Club of Jackson and a variety of other private courses are located throughout the county. Many of those courses are open to the general public (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for a complete listing of golf courses in Jackson County).
- **Recreation and Sports Centers.** The YMCA of Jackson provides a variety of sports and recreation activities. Allskate Fun Center and Optimist Ice Arena are also located in the City of Jackson. At least three bowling alleys operate in surrounding municipalities: Airport Lanes, AMF Summit Lanes, and Suburban Bowling Lanes. Finally, Jackson County is also home to a branch of Extra Innings, a premier baseball facility that also contains a large multi-use field house for different sports.
- **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 Teetonkah, and Camp 'O the Hills, respectively, in southeastern Jackson County. 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 City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for a complete listing of private campgrounds in Jackson County).
- **Public and Private Facilities with Recreation Benefits.** Various other facilities in the surrounding area (provided publicly and privately) also have recreation benefits:
  - **Cemeteries.** Cemeteries provide important green space. They can also be used as safe places to walk/exercise and contemplate nature (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for a complete listing of cemeteries in Jackson County).
  - **Sidewalks.** Existing sidewalks are used to exercise as well as for transportation and may even connect with non-motorized trails.
  - **Shopping and Eating.** Many people enjoy shopping and going out to eat. Consequently, nearby local downtowns and other commercial districts provide recreation because of their restaurants and/or shops (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more on shopping and eating opportunities in Jackson County).
  - **Jackson District Library (JDL).** The JDL's 12 other library branches provide access to books and other items of entertainment (e.g., audio books, CDs, DVDs, etc.) throughout the county (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for a complete listing of JDL branches in Jackson County).



- **Airports.** Airports provide opportunities for recreation activities as well as transportation. For example, Reynolds Field (Jackson County Airport) and others provide opportunities for recreation flying.
- **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 recreation opportunities are available to their members and/or general public. For example, nature preserves, sportsmen's and other clubs, and a variety of other private recreation facilities can be found in Jackson County.
- **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 are listed on the State Register of Historic Sites and/or the National Register of Historic Places. Spring Arbor Township hosts 5 of those sites (see the table below). Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office describes each site through its 'Historic Sites Online' database.<sup>17</sup>

**Table 3-6**  
**Historic Sites**

Historic Site	Location	Register
Edward & Edith Cross Farm	321 Teft Road (¼ mile south of M-60)	SR, M
Spring Arbor College Info. Desig.	Main Street (M-60)	SR, M
Spring Arbor Commemorative Desig.	SW Corner of Hammond and South Cross	SR, M
John Timbers House	201 E. Main Street	SR, M
Soloman Walcott House	6707 Cross Road	SR, M
Key: SR = State Register & M = Marker		

- **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

Spring Arbor Township does not maintain any recreation programming although it hosts the annual Memorial Day parade. The Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park also hosts a variety of events (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more detail). It should also be pointed out that many of the recreation providers listed above also provide recreation programs. For example, the various bowling alleys also host bowling leagues.

### Resource Inventory

In addition to recreation facilities, Spring Arbor Township is also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/hso/advancesearch.asp>



**Topography**

Elevations of land in Spring Arbor Township range from under 951 feet to over 1,115 feet above sea level. The 1,115 foot high point is just at one spot. In general the more consistent high points are located in the southwestern corner of the Township and range at about 1,082 feet. The low areas are typically located around the Township's wetlands.

**Water Resources**

The Township has a wealth of aquatic resources (please see the natural resources map). The majority of the Township is located in the Upper Grand River Watershed. However the Kalamazoo River traverses the southwestern corner of the Township and the Kalamazoo River Watershed extends into the western edge of the municipality. Sandstone Creek flows through the northeastern corner of the Township and several smaller streams and country drains also extend into the municipality. Spring Arbor Township is also home to Cross Lake, Lime Lake, and Spring Arbor Lakes. There are also many wetlands located along the shores of many bodies of water as well as in the Township's lowlands.

**Transportation**

Michigan Highway 60 (M-60), the municipality's main thoroughfare, traverses the Township from the northeast to the southwest. The highway—known locally as Main Street in the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor and Spring Arbor Road throughout the rest of the municipality—turns into a freeway at the eastern Township line and provides direct access to Interstate 94 (I-94) approximately three miles to the north (please see township map). I-94 provides access to the major metropolitan areas of Chicago and Detroit.

**Soils**

The types of soils found in Jackson County are important to its development. Spring Arbor Township is prominently agricultural to the west, south, and north of the Township (please see the prime farmlands and greenways map). There are also several greenways that traverse the Township (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more information on agricultural preservation and greenway areas).

**County Land Use**

The '2025 Jackson County Land Use Plan' contained in the 2000-2025 edition of the [Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan](#) shows a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses along the M-60 Corridor. The rest of the Township will continue to be primarily agricultural.

**CHAPTER 4**  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING**  
**ANDPUBLIC INPUT PROCESSES**



### Description of the Planning Process

The development of this initial edition of the SpringArborTownshipRecreationPlan included the following steps:

- Spring Arbor Township's Parks and Recreation Committee recognized the need to create a Parks and Recreation Plan.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee contracted with Samuel Lunt, a Spring Arbor University student, to assist in the development of the Parks and Recreation Plan.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee conducted a community survey, an inventory of parks and recreation facilities, and other needed information with the assistance of Mr. Lunt.
- A mission statement, goals and objectives, and the first draft of the plan were also developed by the Parks and Recreation Committee with the assistance of Mr. Lunt.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee contracted with the Region 2 Planning Commission to assist it in finalizing the Spring Arbor Township Recreation Plan.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee created a second draft of the plan with the assistance of Region 2 staff.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee approved the second draft of the Recreation Plan on May 22, 2014 and released it for public review between June 19, 2014 and July 20, 2014.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee held a public hearing on the Recreation Plan on July 21, 2014. The Committee subsequently approved the document and recommended it for adoption by the Township Board.
- The Township Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Plan on September 8, 2014.

### Description of the Public Input Process

A variety of methods were used to gather public input. The results of those methods enabled the Parks and Recreation Committee to understand the community needs, suggested changes, and other improvements.

#### Public Opinion Survey

The Parks and Recreation Committee focused on the needs and concerns of the community by organizing a public opinion survey which discerned what recreation facilities residents and business owners wanted as well as information on how they felt about current parks and recreation facilities in Spring Arbor Township. From March 2012 to July 2012 Township Trustees distributed the survey to their constituents, which was mailed to Township residents and posted on the Township's website. The survey was also distributed to park participants, schools, businesses, visitors to the Township Office, and others. A total of 205 surveys were completed and tabulated.

The following table provides a summary of the responses to the short answer questions on the survey (please see Appendix B for a copy of the full survey). The responses listed are a summary of the most popular results and do not show every opinion. It was determined that listing every suggested item would be too lengthy and could cause confusion and overemphasize items of little concern.



**Table 4-1**  
**Park Survey Short Answer Total Results**

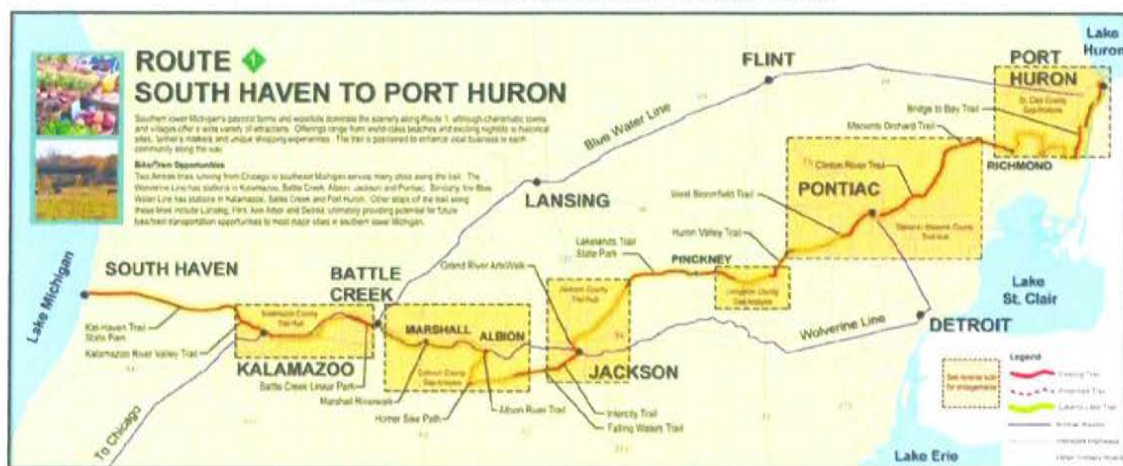
<p>1. <b>Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Family/friend time</li> <li>● Exercise/relaxation</li> <li>● Clean/safe</li> <li>● Sports</li> <li>● Nature</li> </ul>	<p>3. <b>Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in park/recreation facilities?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trails</li> <li>● Pool</li> <li>● Fitness area</li> </ul>
<p>2. <b>What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unkempt/unsafe</li> <li>● No restroom</li> <li>● Bad equipment</li> <li>● Crowds</li> <li>● Distance/no parking</li> <li>● No seating/shade</li> <li>● Unattended/troublesome kids or teens</li> <li>● Lack of opportunity</li> <li>● No lighting</li> </ul>	<p>4. <b>What have you seen at parks or recreation facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Restrooms</li> <li>● Water activities</li> <li>● Trails</li> <li>● Winter activities</li> <li>● Pavilion</li> <li>● Dog park</li> <li>● Shade</li> <li>● Concession stand</li> </ul>

### The Great Lake-To-Lake Trails

The Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance's "The Great Lake-To-Lake Trails" project was created in 2009 to accelerate the development of five cross-state trails:

- Route #1 — South Haven to Port Huron
- Route #2 — Muskegon to Bay City
- Route #3 — Charlevoix to Alpena
- Route #4 — Manistique to Marquette
- Route #5 — Escanaba to Porcupine Mountain State Park

**Figure 4-1**  
**Route #1 of the Great Lake-To-Lake Trails**

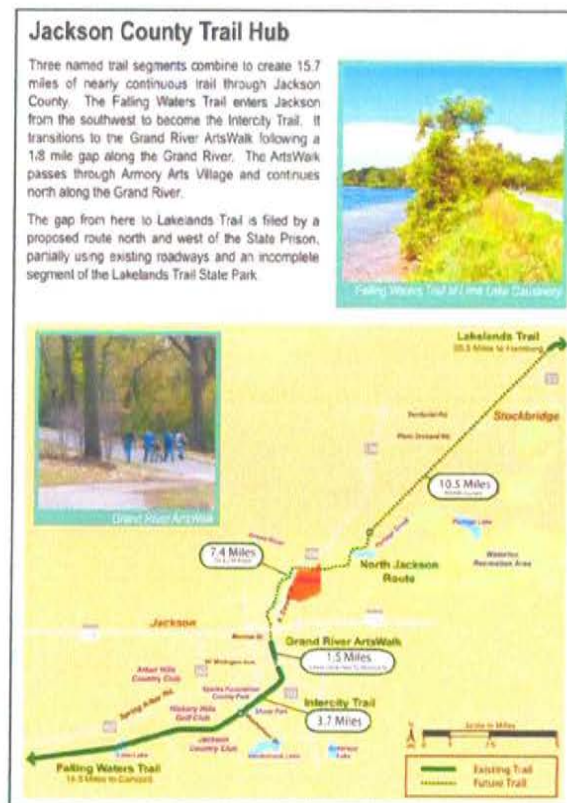


Route #1 is proposed to traverse southern Lower Michigan, linking Greater Jackson with the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo metropolitan areas to the west and the northern reaches of Metropolitan Detroit to the east. The trail will also intersect with two Amtrak routes, creating several multi-modal (i.e., pedestrians, bicyclists, and trains) recreation opportunities.<sup>18</sup>

### **Jackson County Regional Trailway Study**

Spring Arbor Township joined with other local governments and citizens in 2002 to develop the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study (please see Map 7). Upon completion of background information and the development of a concept plan, public meetings were held at Blackman Township Hall, Summit Township Hall, and Jackson City Hall to present the materials and solicit public comment. Several other public meetings were also held at Jackson City Hall 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 (organized to accommodate Route #1 of the Great Lake-To-Lake Trails):<sup>19</sup>

**Figure 4-2**  
**Jackson County Trail Hub**



**Table 4-2**  
**Jackson County Regional Trailway Study Corridors**

<b>Route #1 Corridor:</b>	<b>Other Trail Corridors:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakelands Trail (Extension) - 15.4 mi.</li> <li>• Henrietta Loop - 19.9 mi.</li> <li>• Portage Lake Trail - 6.5 mi.</li> <li>• Blackman Township Loop (Partial) - 8.0 mi.</li> <li>• Intercity Trail - 7.5 mi.</li> <li>• Falling Water Trail - 11.5 mi.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Trail - 7.6 mi.</li> <li>• Airport trail - 5.5 mi.</li> <li>• Hanover Trail - 8.9 mi.</li> <li>• Summit Township Loop - 7.2 mi.</li> <li>• Ella Sharp Park Trail and Cascades Park - 4.4 mi.</li> <li>• South Trail - 19.5 mi.</li> <li>• Connection to Existing Page Avenue Trail - 0.3 mi.</li> </ul>

<sup>18</sup> The images concerning the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails were taken from a flyer published by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance in January 2011.

<sup>19</sup> Please refer the Trail map in Appendix C as well as the full study for greater detail



Significant segments of Route #1 of the Great Lake-To-Lake Trails traversing Jackson County are complete. For example, the majority of the Intercity Trail was already in place at the time the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study was released (although more constructions is required). The Grand River Arts-Walk, a 1½ mile extension of the Intercity Trail to the north city limits, has since been completed. The 10½ mile section of the Falling Waters Trail traversing Spring Arbor Township was also completed from the east village limits of Concord to Weatherwax Road in Summit Township.

### **Spring Arbor Township Master Plan**

The 2012 edition of the Spring Arbor Township Master Plan also supports the development of parks and recreation. Goal #2 of that plan follows:

**Identify and preserve the qualities that make the Township a great place to live and raise a family.**

Objectives under that goal which relate to parks and recreation are:

- Encourage the continual development of our parks through the acquisition of land for additional parks. Consider the possibility of building a roller blade course.
- Encourage the acquisition of additional parking space for spectators at our parks.
- Encourage the development of pedestrian and bike paths.
- Encourage the development of a policy to require sidewalks for safe walking to and from schools and elsewhere when possible (new development and retrofitting.)

The Future Land Use Map also proposes trails along portions of Chapel, Dearing, Harmony, King, and Teft Roads, as well as Main Street (M-60). The trails will provide non-motorized connections among the Falling Waters Trail, various Western School District schools, Spring Arbor University, and the rest of the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor (please see Map 8).

### **Committee Discussions**

The Spring Arbor Township Parks and Recreation Committee met regularly to discuss the needs of the community and the Township's park and recreation facilities. During those meetings—which are open to the public—many recreation-related issues are discussed. Among the ideas are the following:

- Build a new park
- Modification of Gallagher Park
- Connector Trail to Falling Waters Trail
- Add a walking path, lighting and more to Harmony Park

All of these future needs are derived from extensive planning and analysis of Spring Arbor Township's parks and recreation facilities and community input.



**CHAPTER 5**  
**MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES**



**Mission, Goals, and Objectives**

The mission of Spring Arbor Township regarding parks and recreation can be summarized in the following statement:

**Provide a variety of community-wide recreation opportunities and give Township residents a well maintained park and facility system.**

The following goals and objectives will help the Township to realize that mission:

**Goal A*****Create new recreation opportunities***Objectives:

1. Create new park.
2. Send out surveys to residents to see what they want in a new park.
3. Bring in help to write a new five year park plan to help in acquiring grants for the park.
4. Design the park.
5. Purchase all the equipment going into it.
6. Bring in contractors to build the new park.

**Goal B*****Update current parks to make them more beneficial to Township residents.***Objectives:

1. Add a walking path and steps at Harmony Park.
2. Install lighting, landscaping, and benches at Harmony Park.
3. Other upgrades to Harmony Park
4. Modification of Gallagher Park.

**Goal C*****Create a more walkable community.***Objectives:

1. Create a connector trail to Falling Waters Trail.
2. Add walking paths to current parks.
3. Make current paths more biker, stroller, skating, and wheelchair friendly.

**Goal D*****Work with other recreation entities to help meet people's needs.***Objectives:

1. Have an increased collective effort with community schools, fellow communities, and other recreation providers.
2. Take advantage of the unique advantage Spring Arbor University and the Western School District offer with their recreation facilities to create more diversity of opportunity for Township residents and to build a stronger community.

## Background Information

The following resources were instrumental in the development of the three goals and their objectives.

- **The Spring Arbor Township Parks and Recreation Survey**
  - The survey responses regarding what residents see as important or unnecessary regarding a new park provides a clear vision of what should be incorporated into the new park and what should be avoided. The open ended questions portion of the survey gave the Parks and Recreation Committee also contributed ideas for the new park **(Goal A)**.
  - Survey results also demonstrate the need to update current parks, including the addition of bathrooms and essential park equipment, in order to make them more user friendly **(Goal B)**.
  - Survey responses also show considerable support for a more walkable/pedestrian-friendly community and the addition of more walking area and connector trails **(Goal C)**.
- **Regional Trail Efforts**
  - The Jackson County Regional Trailway Study—in which Spring Arbor Township participated—illustrates the importance of multi-use pathways and the creation of a more walkable community. Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail shows the importance of linking local trails to create the evolving statewide network **(Goal C)**.
  - The plans mentioned above shows a collaborative effort within Jackson County and throughout the State of Michigan to which Spring Arbor Township can contribute to and benefit from **(Goal D)**.
- **Relationships with Other Recreation Providers**
  - This Plan clearly illustrates that Spring Arbor Township is not the sole provider of recreation opportunities to its residents and lists the wide diversity of facilities offered by an assortment of private and public recreation providers. It is clear that it is beneficial to continue to take advantage of this resource **(Goal D)**. Partnering with other local units of government and schools which maintain parks and recreation facilities, as well as quasi-public and private recreation providers (when appropriate), and partnering with them to allow for shared use will meet a variety of recreation needs. For example, Spring Arbor University has a free swim night where Township residents can utilize an indoor pool. Maintaining and strengthening relationships with the different recreation providers will continue to benefit the whole community **(Goal A, C, and D)**
  - Continued intergovernmental cooperation is also needed to realize the goal of a non-motorized trail system if the Township in order for the Township to continue to evolve into a more walkable community **(Goal C)**.



**CHAPTER 6  
ACTION PLAN**



### Action Program

The following table shows the anticipated updates and changes that Spring Arbor Township intends to implement over the next five years (please see Map 9 for the location of the various projects).

**Table 6-1**  
**Action Program**

	Project	Project Details
#1	Create a new community park	70 acres was donated for a new community park. The township released surveys to see what residents wanted in their new park. The park currently is under design.
#2	Update Harmony and Gallagher Parks	Bathrooms, walking paths, steps, lighting, landscaping, and benches are proposed for Harmony. Gallagher is also going under similar modifications.
#3	Connector trail to Falling Waters Trail	In order to develop a more walkable community, a connector trail will be developed to connect non-motorized trails with the Falling Waters Trail
#4	Cooperate with other recreation entities to meet the needs of township residents	Increased collaboration with Spring Arbor University, Western School District, public, and private recreation providers to make more facilities available for community use and to create a stronger community.

### Background Information

The action program listed above is supported by the goals and objectives listed in the previous chapter:

- #1. Create a new community park will help to fulfill **Goal A** of creating more recreation opportunities for township residents.
- #2. Update Harmony and Gallagher Parks will help to fulfill **Goal B** in updating and maintaining current park systems to make them more users friendly.
- #3. Connector trail to Falling Waters Trails will help meet **Goal C** with creating a more walkable community.
- #4. Cooperate with other recreation entities will help fulfill the aim of **Goal D** with partnering with other recreation providers in order to increase opportunities and build a stronger community.



**APPENDIX A**  
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

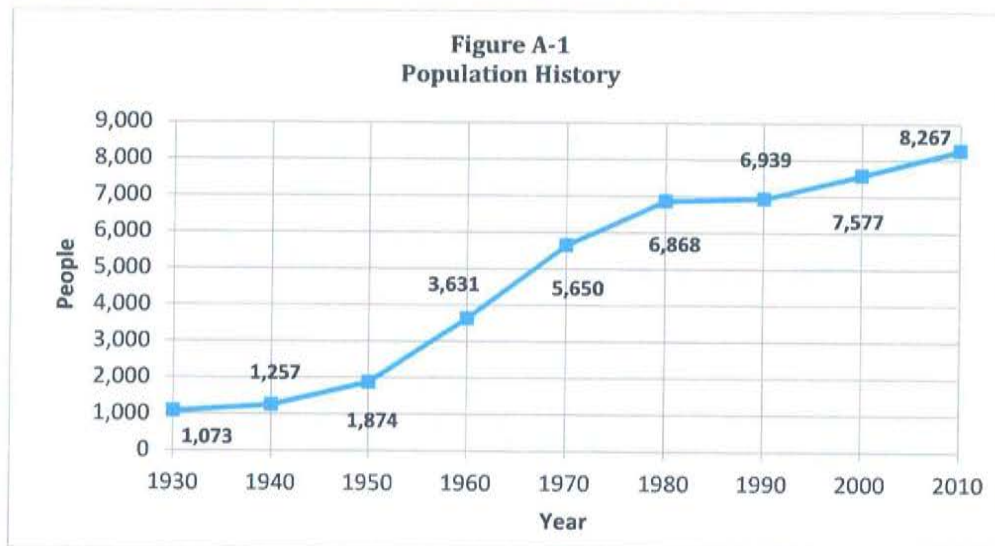


The demographic composition of the Township's population will have an effect upon its recreation needs. For example:

- **Population History & Projections.** Establish the need for general recreation facilities (standards for which are based upon the size of the population).
- **The Age & Sex of the Population.** Further refine the need for general recreation facilities balanced among various age groups and gender interests.
- **Household & Family Composition.** Further refine the need for general recreation facilities balanced between family-oriented and individual activities.
- **Racial & Ethnic Composition.** Further refine the need for general recreation facilities balanced among the various interest 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 recreation facilities.

### Population History and Projections

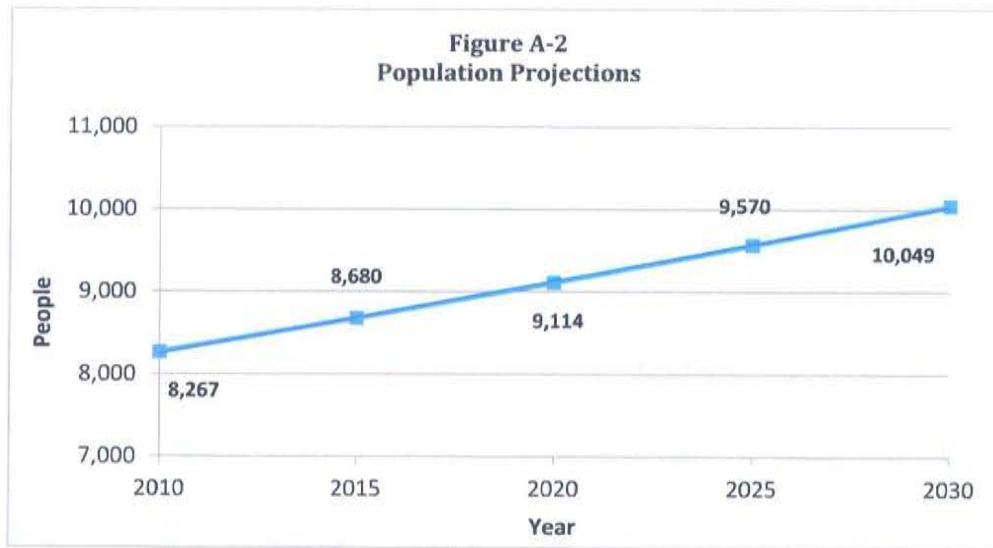
Spring Arbor Township's population comprised 8,267 people in 2010 according to the US Census. The figure below shows a steady increase in population over time. The growth trend had continued at a slower pace despite the difficult economic times during the last decade.



Population projections are estimates, usually based on past trends of real growth. The period of time used in this estimate is 2010 through 2030, or 20 years from the official 2010 census data. Various factors play a role in the future population of a given area. Primary factors that affect growth are births, deaths, in-migration, and out-migration; a change in one of those factors affects the others. In the following figure, population has been projected at five year intervals. Five year projections can easily be changed as situations occur (nationally as well as locally) that will affect local in- and out-migration, such as new industrial or housing development.

A simple projection model has been used to estimate population growth that might reasonably be expected in the future for the Township. The *Linear Method* is based upon the following formulas.<sup>20</sup>

$$P_n = P_o (1 + r) \quad r = \left( \frac{P_o - P_m}{P_m} \right) \left( \frac{Y_1}{Y_2} \right)$$



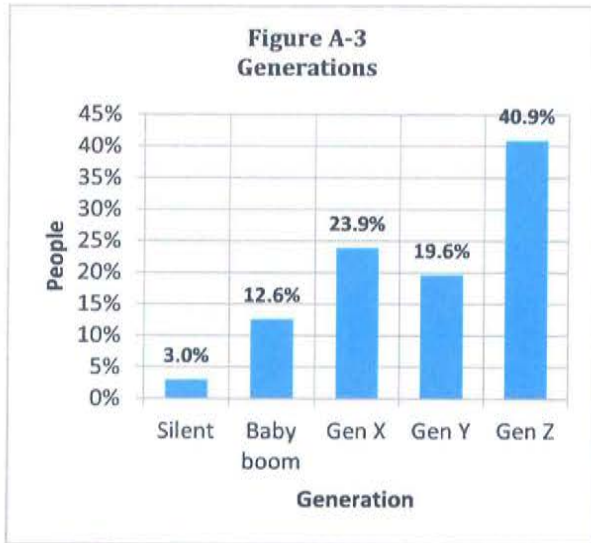
The model above describes a pattern of population growth in which the population level will continue to change at a given rate based upon the change in population over the two decades preceding 2010. Based upon this information, it is reasonable to expect that the population of Spring Arbor Township will continue to increase slowly over the next 20 years despite the current economic downturn. It is also reasonable to expect that the 2015 population for the Township will be around 8,680 and the 2020 population will be around 9,114.

### Age and Sex of the Population

The median age of Spring Arbor Township residents in 2010 was 36.3 years. The median age of male township residents was 34.8 years. The median age of female residents was 37.4 years. As Figure A-3 illustrates, Generation Z is the largest population group coming in at a little over 40% of the population in the 2010 census. About 14% of the population had a disability according to the 2000 Census. About half (43.8%) of those people were aged 65 and up.

<sup>20</sup> "P<sub>n</sub>" is the future population level, "P<sub>o</sub>" is the base population level, "r" is the growth rate, "P<sub>m</sub>" is the past population, "Y<sub>1</sub>" is the historic time period (20 years), and "Y<sub>2</sub>" is the future time period (5 years).





### Income

The estimated median household income in Spring Arbor Township for a family according to the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) reporting period was \$67,829.<sup>21</sup> This was significantly greater than the \$30,089 median non-family household income for the same time period. The estimated median income for all Spring Arbor Township households was \$60,291, given that non-families comprised and estimated 27.8% of all households.

**Table A-1  
Age of the Population**

	Male	Female	Total
Total Population	3,892	4,375	8,267
Under 5 years	184	175	359
5 to 9 years	241	237	478
10 to 14 years	312	299	611
15 to 19 years	432	528	960
20 to 24 years	466	510	976
25 to 29 years	146	159	305
30 to 34 years	172	178	350
35 to 39 years	209	227	436
40 to 44 years	255	272	527
45 to 49 years	266	268	534
50 to 54 years	231	304	535
55 to 59 years	244	245	489
60 to 64 years	208	208	416
65 to 69 years	156	190	346
70 to 74 years	123	134	257
75 to 79 years	94	139	233
80 to 84 years	76	131	207
85 years & older	77	171	248

**Table A-2  
Household Income**

	Total	Family	Non-Family
Median Income	\$60,291	\$67,829	\$30,089
Mean Income	\$66,707	\$74,250	\$38,750
% of Households	100.0%	72.2%	27.8%

The estimated mean family income in the Township during the 2006-2010 ACS reporting period was \$74,250.<sup>22</sup> This was significantly greater than the \$38,750 mean income for non-family households during the same time period. The estimated mean income for all of Spring Arbor Township households was \$66,707 given that families only comprised an estimated 58% of households.

<sup>21</sup> The median amount means that ½ of the incomes were greater than the median income and ½ were less than that amount.

<sup>22</sup> The mean income is the average income (i.e., the sum of all household incomes divided by the number of households).

**APPENDIX B**  
**PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**





**SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP  
2012 Parks & Recreation Survey**

Spring Arbor Township is conducting a survey to evaluate the needs of the community as it relates to parks and recreation. We appreciate your assistance in completing this survey. **Please complete and return the survey by (Date TBA). You may also go to (Website TBA) and complete the survey online.**

Age Group:    ☐ 6-12    ☐ 13-15    ☐ 16-18    ☐ 19-25    ☐ 26-35  
                   ☐ 36-45    ☐ 46-55    ☐ 56-65    ☐ 66-75    ☐ 76+

---

Which of the following would you like to see developed in our new community park?  
 Please rate them on a scale of 1 to 4:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier-Free Access Routes              | <b>1. Very Important</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball                                | <b>2. Important</b>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Courts                       | <b>3. Not Very Important</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike Trails                             | <b>4. Unnecessary</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden Area                   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connector Path to Falling Waters Trails |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disk/Frisbee Golf                       |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park                                |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Course                          |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handball Court                          |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoe Pits                          |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating Area                        |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Recreation Facility              |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Night Lighting                          |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Putt/Chip Golf Area                     |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rollerblade/Skateboard Area             |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Volleyball Court                   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shuffleboard Court                      |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding Hills                          |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields                           |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spray Park                              |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Park Millage                    |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swings/Playground Equipment             |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Courts                           |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Trails                          |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Suggestions: _____                |                              |

**Park Questionnaire:**

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What have you see at parks or recreation facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?

Additional Comments about new park:



Optional:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The following spreadsheets show total results and breakdowns for each age category based off page one of the survey. Only the total result spreadsheet has percentage data. The rest simply show the number of responses for each category. Behind each page of spreadsheet data is the short answer summary data. The survey short answer results do not show every opinion and are open ended questions. They are instead a summary of the most popular expressed results from the surveys. To list everything suggested item was lengthy and distorted what items were higher ranked in concerns and what were of little concern. The Spring Arbor Park Committee instead just listed the higher concern items in the short answer survey to maintain a higher degree of purity in the results.

Park and Recreation Survey Total Results						
Importance Level:	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Other Suggestions</u>
Barrier Free Access	47/23%	52/25%	41/20%	17/8%	48/23%	Pool
Baseball	28/14%	54/26%	52/25%	25/12%	46/22%	Picnic Area
Basketball	32/16%	80/39%	38/19%	12/6%	43/21%	Bathrooms
Bike Trails	68/33%	68/33%	22/11%	15/7%	32/16%	Pavilion
Garden Area	23/11%	44/21%	49/24%	43/21%	46/22%	Grills
Connector Path	102/50%	48/23%	19/9%	15/7%	21/10%	
Disk Golf	17/8%	39/19%	55/27%	45/22%	49/24%	
Dog Park	35/17%	40/20%	42/20%	48/23%	40/20%	
Fitness Course	33/16%	65/32%	46/22%	22/11%	39/19%	
Handball	9/4%	18/9%	70/34%	54/26%	54/26%	
Horseshoe	9/4%	49/24%	65/32%	34/17%	48/23%	
Ice Skating	22/11%	65/32%	43/21%	33/16%	42/20%	
Indoor Facility	40/20%	36/18%	43/21%	38/19%	48/23%	
Night Lighting	68/33%	51/25%	34/17%	18/9%	34/17%	
Putt Golf	23/11%	45/22%	53/26%	36/18%	48/23%	
Rollerblade/Skating	20/10%	45/22%	64/31%	33/16%	43/21%	
Sand Volleyball	21/10%	55/27%	61/30%	25/12%	43/21%	
Shuffleboard	16/8%	38/19%	64/31%	41/20%	46/22%	
Sledding Hills	34/17%	63/31%	38/19%	30/15%	40/20%	
Soccer	33/16%	56/27%	42/20%	30/15%	44/21%	
Spray Park	29/14%	29/14%	43/21%	39/19%	65/32%	
Park Millage	46/22%	56/27%	25/12%	14/7%	64/31%	
Playgrounds	85/41%	59/29%	16/8%	15/7%	30/15%	
Tennis	18/9%	62/30%	52/25%	28/14%	45/22%	
Walking Trails	91/44%	65/32%	13/6%	16/8%	20/10%	
Number of Responses 205						
Short Answer Summary Refer to Back						
The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.						
The first column of numbers stands for the number of people who ranked that category according to the numbers 1-4. The percentage column shows the total percent of the people that rated that category from overall total number of responses						

**Park and Recreation Survey results for Mutli/Unmarked ages**

<b>Importance Level:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Other Suggestions</b>
<b>Barrier Free Access</b>	8	8	7	5	Pool
<b>Baseball</b>	6	11	9	5	Picnic Table/Seating
<b>Basketball</b>	4	19	4	2	Concerts/Festivals
<b>Bike Trails</b>	17	6	5	3	Golf area
<b>Garden Area</b>	4	6	11	8	Racquet ball
<b>Connector Path</b>	19	5	4	4	Pavilion
<b>Disk Golf</b>	5	11	5	9	Grills
<b>Dog Park</b>	3	10	9	8	Bathrooms
<b>Fitness Course</b>	5	11	10	5	Track
<b>Handball</b>	2	4	8	15	
<b>Horseshoe</b>	1	10	10	8	
<b>Ice Skating</b>	3	11	5	11	
<b>Indoor Facility</b>	9	7	7	8	
<b>Night Lighting</b>	16	8	5	2	
<b>Putt Golf</b>	6	8	9	6	
<b>Rollerblade/Skating</b>	5	10	9	6	
<b>Sand Volleyball</b>	5	14	6	4	
<b>Shuffleboard</b>	2	9	10	8	
<b>Sledding Hills</b>	8	11	4	8	
<b>Soccer</b>	7	10	7	6	
<b>Spray Park</b>	5	8	6	9	
<b>Park Millage</b>	13	6	3	3	
<b>Playgrounds</b>	19	11	0	2	
<b>Tennis</b>	3	6	12	8	
<b>Walking Trails</b>	18	6	4	4	

**Number of Responses 36**

**Percent of Total Responses -- 18%**

**Short Answer Summary Refer to Back**

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.



**Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 6-12**

<b><u>Importance Level:</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>Other Suggestions</u></b>
Barrier Free Access	2	5	2	1	Tether Ball
Baseball	4	5	1		Community Pool
Basketball	5	4	1		
Bike Trails	3	5	2		
Garden Area	4	1	3	2	
Connector Path	4	5	1		
Disk Golf	2	2	6		
Dog Park	5	2	3		
Fitness Course	4	3	3		
Handball	2	1	5	2	
Horseshoe	2	2	4	2	
Ice Skating	3	4	2	1	
Indoor Facility	4	2	3	1	
Night Lighting	4	4	2		
Putt Golf	3	5	1	1	
Rollerblade/Skating	3	3	3	1	
Sand Volleyball	6	1	3		
Shuffleboard	3	5	1	1	
Sledding Hills	6	4			
Soccer	6	4			
Spray Park	4	1	4	1	
Park Millage	4	4	1	1	
Playgrounds	7	4			
Tennis		5	5		
Walking Trails	3	7			

**Number of Responses 11**

**Percent of Total Responses -- 5%**

**Short Answer Summary Refer to Back**

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.

### Park Survey Short Answer Summary for Ages 6-12

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?  
-Safe and clean place where people can have fun with family
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?  
-Unkempt or unsafe park without enough things there. Also to many people, lack of restrooms, and night lighting
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?  
-Organized events, night lighting, and water involved activities
4. What have you seen at parks or recreational facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?  
-Plenty of play equipment for all ages with water/pool activities. Also a dog park or music stand

## Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 19-25

<u>Importance Level:</u>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Other Suggestions</b>
Barrier Free Access	1	1		1	Airsoft/paintball field
Baseball	1	1	1		BMX skate park
Basketball	2	1			Indoor Skating
Bike Trails	1	2			Bandshell
Garden Area		1	2		Grills
Connector Path		1	2		
Disk Golf		1	2		
Dog Park	1	3			
Fitness Course			3		
Handball			2	1	
Horseshoe		1	2		
Ice Skating		1	1	1	
Indoor Facility	1	2			
Night Lighting	1	2			
Putt Golf		1	2		
Rollerblade/Skating			3		
Sand Volleyball		1	2		
Shuffleboard			2	1	
Sledding Hills		1	2		
Soccer		2	1		
Spray Park		1	2		
Park Millage		1	2		
Playgrounds	2			1	
Tennis		1	1	1	
Walking Trails	3				

Number of Responses 4

Percent of Total Responses -- 2%

Short Answer Summary Refer to Back

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.



### Park Survey Short Answer Summary for Ages 19-25

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?  
-To relax spend time with family and exercise.
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?  
-Crowds, no parking, bad equipment, lack of diversity with opportunities. Also location can affect it.
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?  
-Extreme or nontraditional sports. Also concerts, other unique shows, and agriculture. Play area for kids.
4. What have you seen at parks or recreational facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?  
-Landscaping, artists, and morning yoga. Also shade trees and bathrooms

## Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 26-35

<u>Importance Level:</u>	1	2	3	4	Other Suggestions
Barrier Free Access	2	3	9	5	Security Cameras
Baseball	6	7	7	2	Snack Shop
Basketball	5	10	6	1	Grills
Bike Trails	8	10	2	2	Eating Area
Garden Area	3	7	4	9	Restrooms
Connector Path	13	5	3	2	Bike/Boat Rental
Disk Golf	4	4	8	7	
Dog Park	6	5	6	5	
Fitness Course	4	7	7	4	
Handball	1	2	14	5	
Horseshoe	1	4	11	7	
Ice Skating	5	6	7	4	
Indoor Facility	7	3	7	5	
Night Lighting	9	7	6	1	
Putt Golf	4	7	8	2	
Rollerblade/Skating	2	4	12	4	
Sand Volleyball	3	3	12	4	
Shuffleboard		2	11	9	
Sledding Hills	5	11	4	2	
Soccer	5	7	6	4	
Spray Park	5	3	7	4	
Park Millage	5	8	3	2	
Playgrounds	13	6	2	1	
Tennis	3	8	9	2	
Walking Trails	12	8	2	1	

Number of Responses 23

Percent of Total Responses -- 11%

Short Answer Summary Refer to Back

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.

### Park Survey Short Answer Summary for Ages 26-35

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?  
-Sports, family, playing, and exercise. Other things include walking/biking and enjoying the outdoors.
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?  
-Crowded, lack of opportunity, bad equipment, unkempt park, unsafe, and no shade. Other things include no seating, distance, lack of restroom, and no parking.
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?  
Trails, bathrooms, eating facilities, and pools. Other things include winter activities and festivals
4. What have you seen at parks or recreational facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?  
-Fences/gates, fireworks, lighted fields, splash pad, and shade. Also parking, seating, restrooms, fitness classes, diversity of opportunities.



### Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 36-45

<u>Importance Level:</u>	1	2	3	4	Other Suggestions
Barrier Free Access	6	9	9	1	No vehicles on trails
Baseball	4	6	9	4	Swimming pool
Basketball	5	9	8	3	
Bike Trails	8	9	6	3	
Garden Area	2	6	8	8	
Connector Path	14	9	4	1	
Disk Golf	1	7	8	7	
Dog Park	6	5	8	7	
Fitness Course	2	16	5	2	
Handball		2	10	11	
Horseshoe		7	10	7	
Ice Skating	1	13	7	4	
Indoor Facility	2	3	10	7	
Night Lighting	8	6	6	4	
Putt Golf	2	7	11	5	
Rollerblade/Skating	2	6	14	4	
Sand Volleyball	2	7	12	5	
Shuffleboard	1	2	12	8	
Sledding Hills	4	9	9	5	
Soccer	4	7	7	5	
Spray Park	10	4	5	3	
Park Millage	6	12	2	1	
Playgrounds	13	7	2	3	
Tennis	4	8	7	5	
Walking Trails	10	13	1	4	

Number of Responses 30

Percent of Total Responses -- 15%

Short Answer Summary Refer to Back

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.

#### Park Survey Short Answer Summary for Ages 36-45

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?  
-Clean, family fun, exercise, socializing, and sports.
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?  
-Unkempt and older kids who bully or are disrespectful. Other reasons include crowds, lack of lighting, dogs, no safety, no dog park, distance, and no parking.
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?  
-Spray park, winter activities, trails, sport events, fitness, and dog park.
4. What have you seen at parks or recreational facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?  
-Workout stations, pavilion, grills, bathrooms, skate park, and spray park. Other things include trails, pool, dog park, and garden area.

## Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 46-55

<u>Importance Level:</u>	1	2	3	4	Other Suggestions
Barrier Free Access	8	10	3	1	Fix roads first
Baseball	4	10	8	3	Raquetball
Basketball	5	13	8	1	Band Pavilion
Bike Trails	10	11	3	3	No motor vehicles
Garden Area	4	7	7	6	Pool
Connector Path	18	7	1	2	Sidewalk/bike lanes
Disk Golf	2	8	8	6	Bathrooms
Dog Park	3	6	8	9	Concessions
Fitness Course	5	12	6	4	
Handball	2		12	9	
Horseshoe	1	7	10	6	
Ice Skating	5	10	5	6	
Indoor Facility	5	5	7	7	
Night Lighting	10	8	5	3	
Putt Golf	3	5	9	9	
Rollerblade/Skating	1	5	8	9	
Sand Volleyball	2	7	9	5	
Shuffleboard	1	4	11	7	
Sledding Hills	4	9	8	5	
Soccer	4	11	7	5	
Spray Park	2	4	5	8	
Park Millage	7	8	4	3	
Playgrounds	10	7	4	6	
Tennis	4	11	5	7	
Walking Trails	12	10	1	5	

Number of Responses 30

Percent of Total Responses -- 15%

Short Answer Summary Refer to Back

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.



### Park Survey Short Answer Summary for Ages 46-55

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?  
Some reasons include safety, well kept, useful activities, walking/biking, and picnics. Other things include family time, sports, exercise, nature, and relaxation.
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?  
Some discouraging things include access, nothing to do, noisy, unclean, and lack of opportunity. Other things include lack of parking, seating, unsupervised/rough kids, no shade, distance, lack of safety, and no trails.
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?  
Some activities fitness, walking, biking, picnic area, and trails. Other things include dog park and concession stand.
4. What have you seen at parks or recreational facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?  
Dog area, skate park, shaded areas, bathrooms, and racquetball. Others were winter activities, multi-use trails, picnic area, connecting paths, batting cages, spray/fountains, and night lighting. Lastly, they had gardens, pavilion, and community art.

## Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 56-65

<u>Importance Level:</u>	1	2	3	4	Other Suggestions
Barrier Free Access	7	7	4	1	Handicap access
Baseball	1	4	8	4	Swimming pool
Basketball	1	8	7	3	Pavilion/Tables/restroom
Bike Trails	9	8	1	1	Drinking fountain/grills
Garden Area	2	7	7	3	Paved path to Western high
Connector Path	17	5		1	
Disk Golf	2	3	6	5	
Dog Park	6	4	4	4	
Fitness Course	5	6	3	3	
Handball	1		11	4	
Horseshoe	1	6	8	1	
Ice Skating	2	6	6	2	
Indoor Facility	6	5	2	3	
Night Lighting	7	8	3	1	
Putt Golf	2	6	3	6	
Rollerblade/Skating	4	8	3	4	
Sand Volleyball	1	8	5	4	
Shuffleboard	2	4	8	4	
Sledding Hills	4	8	3	4	
Soccer	3	5	6	4	
Spray Park	1	2	6	6	
Park Millage	2	8	3	1	
Playgrounds	5	10	4	1	
Tennis		10	6	2	
Walking Trails	14	8	1		

Number of Responses 24

Percent of Total Responses -- 12 %

Short Answer Summary Refer to Back

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.

### Park Survey Short Answer Summary for Ages 56-65

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?  
Dog park, exercise, family, sports, nature, picnics, fishing, social, relaxation
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?  
Nothing to do for age group, unkempt, no restroom, poor supervision, distance, unsafe, over population, no dog policy, no parking, no handicap access, lack of opportunity
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?  
Trails with gardens, ponds, exercise, do it yourself activities, indoor facility, nature, paths, fitness course, seating, golf, paid workers to keep park maintained, activities for kids, handicap access, connecting path to falling waters
4. What have you seen at parks or recreational facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?  
Winter activities, pool, activities for kids that are fun and safe, picnic tables, trails with exercise stations, night lighting, dog park, park commissioned activities, bathrooms, electric chairs for handicap, indoor facility, petting zoo, water fountain, golf, concessions, security



# **Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 66-75**

<b><u>Importance Level:</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Other Suggestions</b>
Barrier Free Access	9	4	5	1	Encourage Exercise
Baseball	2	4	4	5	Mini Golf
Basketball	5	8	2	1	Security Cameras
Bike Trails	9	7	1	3	Lower Taxes
Garden Area	2	5	3	5	Sidewalk
Connector Path	13	4	2	4	Restrooms
Disk Golf	1	1	5	9	
Dog Park	2	1	2	11	
Fitness Course	6	3	5	3	
Handball	1	2	6	5	
Horseshoe	2	8	4	3	
Ice Skating	2	10	5	2	
Indoor Facility	6	2	2	7	
Night Lighting	9	3	4	4	
Putt Golf	3	2	5	6	
Rollerblade/Skating	2	6	6	4	
Sand Volleyball	1	9	7	1	
Shuffleboard	5	7	4	3	
Sledding Hills	2	7	4	3	
Soccer	4	5	3	5	
Spray Park	2	2	5	5	
Park Millage	7	7	2	2	
Playgrounds	11	8	2	1	
Tennis	3	8	3	2	
Walking Trails	14	6	1	2	

**Number of Responses 28**

**Percent of Total Responses -- 14%**

**Short Answer Summary Refer to Back**

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.

### Park Survey Short Answer Summary for Ages 66-75

1. Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?  
Picnics, well maintained park, good facilities, family, walking, relaxation, exercise, nature, sports
2. What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?  
No security, unkempt facilities, rude people/bad or illegal behavior, unattended children, no bathrooms, no lighting, crowds, distance, dogs
3. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?  
Shuffleboard, walking trails, more children play areas, skate area, picnic area, dog park
4. What have you seen at parks or recreational facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?  
Motorized carts for elderly to take trails on, seating, trails, pavilion, pool, bathrooms, spray park, concession stand, variety of opportunities

## Park and Recreation Survey results for ages 76+

<u>Importance Level:</u>	1	2	3	4	Other Suggestions
Barrier Free Access	4	5	2	1	Exercise room
Baseball		6	5	2	Upgraded playground
Basketball		8	2	1	Hand held trolley
Bike Trails	3	10	2		Street repair
Garden Area	2	4	4	2	Swimming area
Connector Path	4	7	2	1	Girls softball
Disk Golf		2	7	2	
Dog Park	3	4	2	4	
Fitness Course	2	7	4	1	
Handball		7	2	2	
Horseshoe	1	4	6		
Ice Skating	1	4	5	2	
Indoor Facility		7	5		
Night Lighting	4	5	3	3	
Putt Golf		4	5	1	
Rollerblade/Skating	1	3	6	1	
Sand Volleyball	1	5	5	2	
Shuffleboard	2	5	5		
Sledding Hills	1	3	4	3	
Soccer		5	5	1	
Spray Park		4	3	3	
Park Millage	2	2	5	1	
Playgrounds	5	6	2		
Tennis	1	5	4	1	
Walking Trails	5	7	3		

Number of Responses 19

Percent of Total Responses -- 9%

Short Answer Summary Refer to Back

The numbers above stand for level of importance. Number 1 is the highest importance where number 4 is considered unnecessary.



**APPENDIX C  
MAPS**



