# Henrietta Township Jackson County, Michigan Recreation Plan



2015-2019 edition





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#### Introduction

The Henrietta Township Recreation Plan strives to achieve a vision where recreational opportunities encompass healthy lifestyles, regional heritage, local distinctiveness, and creative pursuits through the arts.

Henrietta's rich agricultural and natural resources have shaped our community since the early 1800's. The economic impact continues today with tourism of our abundant riparian resources, sporting activities, and neighborly environment.

Although Henrietta Township does not manage recreation facilities, it is committed to fostering a better quality of life for our citizens and recognizing the special needs of the aging population. The Recreation Plan contributes to this goal by creating a sense of community and place, nurturing our respect for nature and our natural resources, and highlighting the ties to our heritage. Additionally, it has the ability to impact our economic development by transforming regional park systems and trail systems connectivity into signature recreational destinations.

Implementation strategies are identified over the next five years, at which time the Plan will again be updated. The delineation of these improvements will aid Henrietta Township and other communities in adjustments to long-range priorities and grant solicitations.

The Henrietta Township Recreation Committee recognizes that recreation needs do not necessarily always recognize municipal boundaries, and that the scope of services available to local residents can be expanded through the cooperation of existing service providers. People's lives happen regionally, so rural communities need to be planning regionally through developing diverse partnerships. At a regional level, growth areas can be identified, mapped, and targeted where appropriate infrastructure, economic programs and strategies are focused. Areas that are a source for rural tranquility, scenic vistas, and natural resource assets are better suited for conservation design. A regional approach in planning provides a large enough area in flexibility, where all the resources and attributes which comprise a region can meet the vision of the community.

The Recreation Plan follows the planning guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It begins with an examination of relevant demographic and physical characteristics that may influence the delivery of recreation programs and services. Included in this analysis is an inventory of existing recreation facilities and amenities available from State, regional and local providers. The second half of the Plan identifies short and long-range recreation needs based on accepted planning standards, and local preferences. Based on these identified needs, a comprehensive strategy for addressing the needs is offered, as well as potential methods of funding the improvements.

#### **Community Description**

#### Location

Henrietta Township is located in the north central portion of Jackson County. The Township is centrally located 13 miles northeast of Jackson, 30 miles south of the Greater Lansing area, and 30 miles northwest of Ann Arbor. It is situated geographically in Tiers1&2 South (of the Baseline) and Range 1 East (of the Meridian) of Michigan's Rectangular Survey System (T1-2S, R1E). Its Latitude and Longitude are 42.37444° and -84.31389°, respectively. The Township itself is considered rural with a historically agricultural base. The area's recreational lakes attract increasing residential density and seasonal population growth.

#### Henrietta Township Location





Jackson County

### **Population and Housing**

#### **Population Growth**

The population of Henrietta Township was 4,705 in 2010, according to the US Census. The populations of the townships of Rives and Waterloo in that year were 4,683 and 2,856, respectively. The average annual population growth rate in Henrietta Township between 1970 and 2010 was 0.8%. The average annual growth population growth rate increased to 1.1% between 1990 and 2010. However, the average annual growth rate between the Year 2000 and 2010 was only 0.5%. The growth in population in northeast Jackson County is partially the result of out-migration from the City of Jackson and the Detroit-Ann Arbor metropolitan areas.



#### **Historic Population Growth**

	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Henrietta	1,030	1,490	2,265	3,248	3,594	3,814	3,858	4,483	4,705
Rives	1,198	1,146	1,529	2,017	2,708	4,081	4,026	4,725	4,683
Waterloo	804	908	924	1,638	1,788	2,444	2,830	3,069	2,856

Source: US Census Bureau

#### **Population Forecast**

Population projections are estimates, usually based on past trends of real growth. The period of time used in this study is 2010 through 2030 (i.e., 20 years from the official 2010 census data). Various factors play a role in the future population of a given area (e.g., births, deaths, in-migration, and out-migration). A change in one factor affects the others. In the following figure, population has been projected at five year intervals which can easily be changed as situations occur (nationally as well as locally) which affect local migration patterns, such as a 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>1</sup>

$$Pn = Po \left(1 + r\right) \quad r = \left(\frac{Po - Pm}{Pm} / Y1\right) Y2$$

Based upon the annual growth rates of 0.8%, 1.1%, and 0.5% from 1970-2010, 1990-2010, and 2000-2010, respectively, the population of Henrietta Township is projected to be between 4,963 and 4,821 by 2015. By 2025, the population is projected to be between 5,189 and 5,826. However, it should be noted that the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, & Budget estimates the population of the Township was 4,699 in 2012, a loss of 6 residents. It may be prudent to utilize the lower population projections, based upon that estimate, at least in the short term.



**Population Projections** 

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
1970-2010 (0.8%)	4,705	4,887	5,076	5,272	5,475
1990-2010 (1.1%)	4,705	4,963	5,236	5,523	5,826
2000-2010 (0.5%)	4,705	4,821	4,941	5,063	5,189

Source: Region 2 Planning Commission

#### **Build-Out Analysis**

Related to the population projection, a build-out analysis was conducted as part of this plan to determine whether an oversupply of land is planned and zoned for residential use in the township. That analysis determined that current zoning would accommodate more than 90,000 residents. This information is useful in determining the amount of land needed for future residential development. Details regarding the built-out analysis are found in the ASTI Environmental 4-step report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Pn" is the future population level, "Po" is the base population level, "r" is the growth rate, "Pm" is the past population, "Y1" is the historic time period (20 years), and "Y2" is the future time period (5 years).

#### Age of the Population

Following a national trend, the median age of the population of Henrietta Township is increasing. The median age of township residents was 43 years in 2010, up from the median age of 36 and 33 in the Year 2000 and 1990, respectively, according to the US Census. The following figures provide addition detail regarding the age structure, marriage status, and presence of children for township households.



Age of the Population in 2010

#### Rives Henrietta Waterloo



#### **Generations in 2010**

#### **Household and Family Characteristics**

Employment data is estimated by the American Community Survey (US Census) for people 16 years of age or older. The most recent employment data available for Henrietta Township is for the American Community Survey's 2007-2011 reporting period.

#### Family and Nonfamily Households

As the following figures show, approximately 71% of households in the township were comprised of families in 2010. Persons living alone accounted for 85% of nonfamily households, according to the US Census. Married couples comprised 84% of family households. However, families with kids under 18 years of age only comprised 33% of family households.



#### **Household Income**

The mean (i.e., average) income for Henrietta Township households between 2007 and 2011 was estimated to be \$62,794 a year, according to the American Community Survey (US Census). The median income for the same time period was estimated to be slightly lower at \$61,685.





Median Mean (Average)

Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-2019



# **Administrative Structure**

The Henrietta Township Board of Trustees created the Recreation Committee as an ad hoc committee that also functions as part of the Henrietta Township Planning Commission and charged it to plan for and implement recreational services and facilities in the community. 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 funding opportunities on behalf of the Township. The 2003-2008 Recreation Plan and 2014 Land Use Plan includes guidance for recreation planning within the Township. The Township's General Fund is the principal source of revenue for recreation expenditures.

Henrietta Township does not maintain any parks and recreation staff. The Recreation Committee undertakes specific improvement projects and maintenance by partnering with volunteers, non-profit groups, and other governmental departments. In 2002, the recreation committee promoted the establishment of a local conservation & recreation conservancy, to identify, manage, and protect natural features, open space, and encourage recreational opportunities.



#### Henrietta Township Organizational Chart

#### **Current and Projected Recreation Budget**

	2015-2016	2016-2017
Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Grant Matching Funds	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00

#### **Grant & Donation History**

The Henrietta Township Recreation Committee was successful with a grant request to the Jackson Community Foundation in 2010 for the initial development of the Pleasant Lake Pathway project. Donations from individuals and local businesses have also been received towards the development of a Disc Golf course and landscaping at the Pleasant Lake County Park in 2012 and 2013. In total the Committee received over \$1500.00 in grant and donated monies, \$2400.00 in in kind contributions during the last Recreation Plan Cycle. The Recreation Committee continues to apply for various recreation grant opportunities.



## Henrietta Township Facilities and Amenities Source: Henrietta Township Master Plan 2014-2018

**Community Recreation** 

The Township recognizes the health, social values and community identity of insuring choices of recreational opportunities and modes of non-motorized transportation. Township patterns of lake residential distribution indicate continued opportunity to promote and strengthen neighborhoods through parks, recreational access, and commercial areas within walking distance. Widely distributed residential area can be connected through the construction of recreational trails as recommended from the Henrietta Township Recreation Plan, Jackson County Non-Motorized Trail Plan, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Lakelands Trail Plan. These recommendations can be implemented as funding becomes available:

- The Township's Pleasant Lake Pathway provides a walking route around the lake area with off road access between Resort & Clyde James Rd., and access of Resort Rd. into the county park.
- Jackson County owns and maintains a park on Pleasant Lake. The park features a swimming area, shelter and picnic area, campgrounds, toilets, and playgrounds.
- The Township is host to Hankerd Hills Golf Course located at Pleasant Lake. This top rated 18 hole golf course also offers year around restaurant and banquet facilities.
- The Township is host to the Hankerd Inn, a historic 1885 Bed & Breakfast accommodation located at Pleasant Lake.
- The former Katz Elementary School (Stockbridge Community Schools) located in Munith features a playground and exercise area, is host to a senior center, fitness programs, and community events.
- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources owns two parkland areas within the township. The Meridian -Baseline State Park, and the Lakeland Trail Linear Park (part of the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance "Great Lake-to-Lake Trail"). The Township borders portions of the Waterloo State Park Recreation Area's Portage Lake Unit..

#### **Commercial Recreational**

This designation takes in specialty businesses such as tourist resorts, banquet facilities, catering, and public recreation located in the Pleasant Lake vicinity.

These areas are in Residential 1 (R-1) and Commercial 1 Zoning (C-1).

#### Parks/Public Land

These areas consist of the Pleasant Lake County Park on Styles Rd., the Pleasant Lake Pathway route, the Meridian-Baseline State Park, the LakelandsTrail Linear State Park, the former Katz Elementary School grounds, and Township owned property on M106 and Kennedy Rd.

These areas are in Residential 1 (R-1) and Agricultural Zoning (Ag-1).

#### **Natural Areas of Concern**

Batteese Creek (aka. Sunfish Creek), Plum Orchard Creek, Portage River and their tributaries have been designated as sensitive natural areas of concern. This is due to the topography and integrated

pre-settlement habitats along the edge in many locations making these surroundings vulnerable to stream-bank erosion, and non-point source pollution. The Upper Grand River Watershed Council has recognized these natural areas in their regional plan. Sections of the Township's watershed are part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Floodplain Insurance Program.

These areas Overlay all Township Zoning Districts.

#### Agricultural

The balance of the Township is designated as agricultural and agricultural preservation, including areas identified as agricultural preservation areas in the Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan. The agricultural designation contains land that is a combination of large tracts, productive soils, and low levels of residential and commercial development. These areas include active farm production in field crops, farm markets, forest, and nursery products. These designations support measures that encourage land availability for continued agricultural commodities production, and farmland preservation.

These areas are presented in Agricultural Zoning 1 (AG-1)

See Appendix A. Henrietta Township Future Land Use Map, School District Map, Park Location & Coverage Map, and Joint Jackson City- Jackson County Action Program Map.





#### **Regional Recreation Inventory**

There are a variety of public and private recreation facilities, and amenities available within Henrietta Township and throughout the region for Township residents. Augmenting and improving existing recreational amenities can improve the environment, attract tourists, build community, as well as enhancing their potential contribution to public health and wellness. Unique recreational assets make this region distinct in attracting the right mix of resilient and sustainable growth and opportunities.

Henrietta Township will continually seek out partnerships and collaborations with all sectors of the regional community to enhance existing services and identify new services. Many seasonal events and activities are organized by quasi-public organizations and the private sector.

The inventory that follows provides a detailed look at the amenities available within the Township, as well as the county park, local schools, golf courses, regional state and county parks and recreation areas.

#### Recreational Amenities and Facilities within Henrietta Township (see Appendix A. Community Services Map)

#### Natural Resource Recreation

- Pleasant Lake Pathway, designated road pathway around Pleasant Lake with off-road pathway between Resort & Clyde James Rd. and pathway access off Resort Rd. into the Pleasant Lake County Park.
- Pleasant Lake County Park, 22.4 acres, water access, 60 modern campsites, picnic areas & 3 shelters, seasonal concession, beach, swimming, fishing, bath house, playgrounds, Playscape, basket ball courts, biking, horseshoe pit & Disc Golf area.
- DNR Lakeland Trail, linear park, 10-12 mile rail-trail portion, walk-bike-equestrian trail, underdevelopment through township.
- DNR Meridian Baseline Historic Park, 87 acres, monuments indicate original sites of 1815 Michigan land survey, access and parking is underdevelopment.
- Hankerd Hills Golf Course and Restaurant, 55 acres, 27-holes & range, golfing events.
- Lakes in Henrietta Township
  - Batteese 109 acres, fishing, road end public access, no public boat launch access.
  - Pleasant 269 acres, fishing, boating, county park, private boat launch access.
  - White 70 acres, fishing, no public boat launch access.
- Upper Grand River Watershed
  - o Wetlands- Restoration project along Portage River, Sandhill Crane habitat
  - Portage River & drain, waterfowl habitat
  - Portage Creek-drain, wild turkey, whitetail deer habitat
  - o Plum Orchard Creek-drain, wild turkey, whitetail deer habitat
  - Batteese Creek natural flow creek, remnant habitat

#### **Historic Amenities**

- Batteese Trading Post historic site marker. First Native American Trading Post in Jackson County.
- Holling Corners: Holling Clancy Holling, historic Disney Studios artist (unmarked)
- Historic Cemeteries
  - Harrington, Bunkerhill Rd
  - o Pleasant Grove, Kennedy Rd
  - Nims, Nims Rd.
  - Munith Cemetery, Musbach Rd.
- Pleasant Lake United Methodist Church, Territorial Rd., historic stain glass windows.
- Layton Corners, Meridian & Berry Rd.
  - Christ Episcopal Church, historic structure, historic stain glass windows.
  - Layton Corners General Store, historic structure
- Historic photos of Bartletts' Resort at Henrietta Township.
- Munith Village
  - Historic village photo in Farmers State Bank
  - Munith Community Park, Lions Club picnic shelter
  - Former Katz Elementary School, events auditorium, playground, track.
  - Munith United Methodist Church, historic structure.

#### Farm Markets, Arts, Cultural

- Pregitzer Farm Market, seasonal vegetables and family activities.
- Gee Farm Market & Nursery, seasonal fruits & vegetables, bakery, horticultural classes and family activities.
- Jackson District Library, Henrietta Branch, enhanced library services, arts & cultural programs and family activities.
- Hankerd Inn Bed & Breakfast, Pleasant Lake, arts & craft classes, historic farmstead.
- Am Path Studio, Pleasant Lake, art & craft classes
- Cyndi Tripp Studio of Fine Arts, Pleasant Lake, art classes

#### Surrounding Regional Recreational Amenities and Facilities accessable to Henrietta Township

#### Natural Resource Recreation

- DNR Waterloo State Park and Recreation Area, campgrounds, beach, swimming, bath house, fishing, boat launch, picnic pavilions, seasonal concession, playground, 18 hole Disc Golf Course, and seasonal family activities. The area provides opportunity for cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hiking, biking, and birdwatching.
- Waterloo Riding Stables, horseback trail rides in Waterloo Recreation Area.
- Portage Lake County Park, beach, swimming, fishing, picnic area, playground, boat access.
- Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary Waterloo Recreation Area, birdwatching, Sandhill Crane & waterfowl habitat, Beech-Oak Woods, native grassland site.
- DNR Dansville State Game Area, hiking, hunting
- Falling Waters Trail-Jackson County Parks Linear Trail, walk-bike-equestrian rail-trail from Jackson to the Village of Concord.

#### Natural Resource Recreation (continued)

- Jackson County-Sparks Foundation Cascades Park, historic man-made waterfall, trails, fishing, ice skating, playgrounds, public golf course, seasonal concession.
- DNR Maple Grove Bridge-Grand River boat launch and fishing access is one of 4 access points along the Upper Grand River.
- Rod Miles Memorial Park, Blackman Township, 91.5 acres, hiking, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, baseball field, soccer fields.
- Dahlem Environmental Education Center, S. Jackson, nature trail, classes, events.

#### **Historic Amenities**

- Waterloo farm Museum & Dewey School, Waterloo Township, 19<sup>th</sup> Century farmstead and school house.
- Leslie Historical Museum, regional history and vintage photos, Leslie.
- Coe House Museum, Grass Lake, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Tuscan style home.
- Grass Lake Depot & Whistle Stop Park, 19<sup>th</sup> Century railroad station, host to special events.
- Michigan Whitetail Hall of Fame Museum, Grass Lake
- Jackson County Ella Sharp Park, historic home and art museum, arts & crafts classes, athletic fields, playgrounds, trails.
- Cell Block 7 Museum-history and current state of corrections in Michigan. Located adjacent to working cell-blocks in the grounds of the active Southern Regional Prison.
- Jackson Historic Railroad Depot, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, active Amtrak Station
- Tompkins Historical Museum, regional history, Rives Junction.

#### Farm Markets, Arts, Cultural

- Young's Apple Orchard, Territorial Rd. seasonal fruit, cider and family activities.
- Sandhill Crane Winery & Cafe, Grass Lake, conservation farm, local food, and seasonal events.
- Lone Oak Winery, Waterloo, music, south-central pioneer wine trail participant.
- Jackson County Fair Grounds, hosts to many special events throughout the year.
- Jackson County Reynolds Field Airport, recreational pilot access.
- Marino's Park, soccer & athletic fields.
- Northwest School District facilities gymnasiums, playgrounds and athletic fields.
- Rives Township, Rives Junction, athletic fields and pavilion.
- Leslie Community Schools-gymnasiums, playgrounds and athletic fields.
- Stockbridge Community Schools-gymnasiums, playgrounds, athletic fields, and nature trail.
- Stockbridge Community Players, seasonal local theater events.
- Jackson Public School facilities gymnasiums, playgrounds and athletic fields.
- Jackson Symphony Orchestra, performing arts, music classes.
- Sherwood Forest Campground, family camping at Portage Lake.
- Oaks Resort, campground at Portage Lake, host to special events
- Wheel Inn Campground, family camping near Leslie.
- P J's Campground, family camping near Stockbridge
- Stockbridge Lanes-bowling
- Suburban Lanes-Jackson, bowling
- Airport Lanes-Jackson, bowling

#### Farm Markets, Arts, Cultural (continued)

- Airport Lanes-Jackson, bowling
- Calderone Golf Club- Waterloo Recreation Area
- Waterloo Golf Course- Waterloo Recreation Area
- Willow Creek Golf Club-Stockbridge
- YMCA Camp Storer- Napoleon, youth camp, family events
- Youth Haven Ranch-Rives, youth camp, family events
- BSA Camp Teetonka-Grasslake, youth camp, family events
- BSA Camp Munhakee-Chelsea, youth camp, family events
- DNR Green Lake-Chelsea, campsites, beach, fishing, boat launch

#### See Appendix A. MDOT University Region Non-Motorized Recreational Amenities and Facilities accessable to Henrietta Township



Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-2019



# **Natural Features Inventory**

The development of land can significantly impact the natural environment. Without careful consideration, land use decisions may unintentionally serve to undermine environmental protection objectives. Thus, when preparing a future land use plan, it is important to determine the extent of environmentally sensitive areas within the community. Destruction or disturbance of environmentally sensitive land areas might affect the community quality of life by: creating hazards such as flooding or slope erosion; contaminating important public resources such as groundwater supplies or surface water bodies; or wasting important productive lands and renewable resources. Each of these effects is detrimental to the general welfare of a community and may result in economic loss. As part of the Upper Grand River Implementation Project (UGRIP), the Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD) proposed a pilot project demonstrating sustainable land use planning and policies for municipalities within the Portage River sub-basin. Henrietta and Waterloo townships agreed to participate in the pilot project, and ASTI Environmental was contracted in 2007 to inventory natural resources within the two townships and develop policy recommendations for natural resource protection. The process (4-Step Planning Review) followed in this project included:

- 1. Inventorying the township's natural resources;
- 2. Reviewing their master plans, zoning ordinances, and other land use policies;
- 3. Conducting a build-out analysis of existing plans; and
- 4. Recommending model ordinances and policies.

Refer to the report's summary for natural features maps, and complete details on methods, results, and recommendations stemming from the 4-Step Planning Review Process in Henrietta Township. Priority rankings are shown on the Natural Resource Preservation Implementation Project Map. Despite development pressure in the region, Henrietta Township has retained a good deal of its rural character. Unlike neighboring Waterloo Township however, Henrietta Township does not contain extensive state-owned recreation lands. Approximately 52% of Henrietta Township is woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, parks, or lakes. When viewed in a regional setting, this contiguous block of natural area extends beyond the township's boundaries into neighboring townships such as Waterloo, where it connects to six miles of contiguous forest that the Michigan Natural Resources Inventory (MNFI) has identified as one of the largest blocks left in southeastern Michigan. Approximately 9% of the circa 1800 land cover may remain as remnant habitat in today's Henrietta Township landscape. A local ordinance would allow local review of development proposals for the remaining habitat, effecting approximately 5% of the township total land area. Township protection of these areas is important to protect regional biodiversity. Policies recommended:

- 1. A Wetlands, Watercourse, and Floodplain Ordinance.
- 2. A Natural Features Setback Ordinance.
- 3. A Woodland and Landmark Tree Protection Ordinance (with allowance for commercial logging).

Approximately 36% of the township is in agricultural use, with a majority of that located in a relatively small block in the northern ½ of the township. Appropriate agricultural protection zoning could significantly reduce the number of residential units possible within the township's agricultural district and lessen the fragmentation of farmland. Policies recommended:

- 1. Quarter-quarter or sliding scale agricultural zoning.
- 2. Inter-township discussion/coordination regarding farmland protection.

Less than 12% of the township has been developed for residential, commercial, and industrial, or other urban uses. The build-out analysis indicates that the township is greatly over-zoned to accommodate the projected 2025 population. This report encourages development of residential areas to meet population increases, while conserving prime agriculture and environmentally sensitive lands. Policies recommended:

- 1. Review site plan and building permit review checklist for sensitive and conserving prime agricultural land.
- 2. Review needs and priorities for commercial and residential expansion.

#### See Appendix A. Natural Resources Preservation Map and Upper Grand River Watershed Map.

Numbers located on the Natural Resources Preservation map indicate highest priority scoring of recognized biodiversity islands and connections to contiguous natural area blocks. The top ten scoring are 42, 05, 21, 02, 13, 28, 31, 44, 09, and 18.



# **Recreation Needs Analysis**

In the early years of recreation planning, national standards were used to analyze the recreational needs of community residents to determine deficiencies within recreation programs. Such standards outlined the requirements for service areas, land needs based on future population, and the ultimate size and extent of the facilities and their location. The resulting analysis was a valuable tool in making a "one-size-fits-all" approach to recreation planning. Today, the needs and conditions of communities should influence the application of those traditional national standards. In addition, consideration should be given to the quality (versus quantity) of recreation opportunities as well as accessibility of facilities, promoting healthy life style, and amenities. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources offers classification system and facility development standards as resources for community recreation planning. (See Appendix for Link)

#### Assessment

There are approximately 98 acres of public recreation areas (Co. park 24ac., St.Park 33ac. & Lakeland 41ac.?) are available within Henrietta Township. Public schools are not located in the Township. Based on national standards, population projections, a minimum of 60 acres of park land should be available for future township residents.

Unique assets can make a region distinct in attracting the right mix of resilient and sustainable growth and opportunities. These include natural, environmental, community and quality of life assets. Henrietta Township's rural character offers unique recreational assets and potential opportunities to leverage natural resource amenities on a regional level. Conservation management of the township's natural resources along with protection of sensitive natural areas will provide a positive approach for the public's enjoyment of natural amenities.

#### **Community Park**

In Henrietta Township the Pleasant Lake County Park is a major community park, owned, operated, and maintained by the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department. Planning and future needs for the park are indicated in the City of Jackson and Jackson County Parks and Recreation Plan. The county park meets the neighborhood park needs for residents around Pleasant lake and the northwest quadrant of the township. The park includes a community built playscape for children. The township continues to partner with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department to add amenities that increase healthy opportunities and use of the park.

The Recreation Team is working to coordinate planning, installation, and cost-sharing with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department to expand parks amenities. The initial addition of a Disc Golf Course in 2014 with the installation of three Post Hole Baskets, planted trees and shrubs to create obstacles landscaping as part of course play, and provided Frisbees<sup>®</sup> type discs has enhanced community

use of the park, and provides improvement in health and quality of place for residents and visitors alike.

## Heritage Tourism

Heritage tourism presents scenic traveling to experience places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past. Unique and historic sites within the region include the Meridian-Baseline State Park that serves as the initial points of the 1813 survey designating the spot where all township, range and section measurements begins for the entire State of Michigan. The park is marked with two monuments that show where the two mismatched baselines meet the principal meridian at the North Initial Point and South Initial Point. The 87 acre park is accessible to the public with parking and trails under development. In 1816, John Batteese Berrard (Baptise Barboux) established the first Indian trading post in Jackson County near the east shore of present day Batteese Lake. Today a plaque on the east side of Bunkerhill Road a half mile north of M-106 marks the believed location of his trading post. Other historic sites are listed in the Regional Recreation Inventory.

## Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

The former Katz Elementary School in Munith presently offers the community use of the gymnasium, playgrounds and athletic field. Other local public school facilities located outside the township remotely serve the needs of residents with school age children.

## Non-motorized Connector Trails & Pathways

Two off-street pathway sections create a connector between the neighborhood street on the southeast side of Pleasant Lake and access to the east side of the county park.

Road easements throughout the township have been designated in the Township Master Plan as connector trails and pathways from Pleasant Lake to the Meridian Baseline State Park, Lakeland Trail between Jackson, Munith and Stockbridge, and the Waterloo State Park & Recreation Area.

The county park facility at Pleasant Lake in the northwest quadrant of the township is generally consistent with the coverage suggested by the DNR. The remaining parts of the township are underserved both by neighborhood parks as well as school facilities and athletic fields, due to the Township's dispersed population.

## Other findings include:

- The Meridian-Baseline State Park and the Lakeland Trail may eventually serve as community parks for township residents. Its limited facilities cause them to satisfy only acreage demand as natural resource areas at this time.
- The planning & development of trails that connect various parks and recreation destinations will be a high priority, as will upgrading and improving existing pathways.
- Coordination with neighboring communities and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department might suggest that Henrietta develop partnerships that provide new opportunities, rather than duplicating what is already offered in the region.



# **Planning Process**

Henrietta Township's planning process should ultimately reflect community priorities while also addressing vital organizational enhancements needed in order to be successful. Thanks to the efforts of initiatives such as the Jackson 2020 Plan, City of Jackson & Jackson County Parks and Recreation Plan, Jackson County Regional Trailsways Study, Jackson County Comprehensive Plan, Jackson County Arts Alliance Plan, Jackson District Library 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, Five Healthy Towns Plan-Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation, and Michigan Department of Transportation-University Region Non-Motorized Plan an enormous amount of work has already been done in the south central region to identify community priorities. In Henrietta Township's 2012 Recreation Survey, residents were asked to identify areas of interest. Respondents selected trailways, county park improvements, fitness areas, and athletic field opportunities as top choices. Members of the community were also invited to attend the planning commission and recreation committee's monthly meetings to identify issues, and concerns.

The primary responsibility for the Recreation Plan rests with the Township Board. The planning commission and recreation committee then developed a Recreation Plan for the Township identifying deficiencies, addressing the goals, and including citizen desires. The Henrietta Township Planning Commission approved the draft plan, including the 5-year action program of priority projects for public review and comment for at least 30 days prior to the public hearing. Notice of the public review period was provided in the newspaper and on the Township's website. The draft plan was presented for formal adoption by the Township Board. (Copies of Notices and survey are included in the Appendix)

#### **Citizen Input**

The Recreation Committee offered monthly public forums from October 2014 through March 2015 to review and solicit ideas and opinions on the draft Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-202 development. Augmenting traditional meetings, in July, 2012, Henrietta Township conducted a survey of township residents to provide the perspective of residents who counld not attend meetings.

Care should be taken in interpretation not to assume that the survey results of meeting forum comments are representative of all Township residents and property owners, but representative of those residents that actually responded to the survey and attended meetings.

The survey and the results are presented in the Appendix.

A summary of priorities addressed and enhancements are presented in Appendix B. Input and Adoption Documents.



#### **Goals & Objectives** Source: Henrietta Township Master Plan 2014-2018

Goals & Objectives formulated by the Township are the basis for the recreation planning process and form the framework for decision-making regarding recreational facilities and programs in the Township. The purpose of the Recreation Plan is to pursue long-range recreational goals through specific short-range action strategies.

The following goals and objectives were adopted by the Henrietta Township Board, with input from the general public through surveys and stakeholder meetings. The goals are based on the findings of the inventory and service area analysis and have been correlated with the goals of the Township's Master Plan.

The recreation goals and objectives are <u>not prioritized</u>. The yearly Action Program in the Recreation Plan chapter that follows will detail the specific actions necessary to achieve those goals that are short-range in nature.

Demands for recreational opportunities increase with population growth and available land resources for recreation decrease as residential and other land uses consume greater amounts of what was previously open space and potential outdoor recreation land. Recreational lands must be purposefully pursued and are planned for through the Township's Recreation Plan, as with any other principal land use.

#### Goal: Provide and protect open space and recreational opportunities for current and future needs.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1. Protect or regulate development and reduce fragmentation of environmentally fragile areas and maintain them for recreational and/or educational purposes.
- 2. Encourage the establishment of public lands and parks in Henrietta Township.
- 3. Support Federal, State and Local open space preservation programs and encourage availability of locally leased land for hunting sports.
- 4. Discourage the use of poorly designed outdoor lighting that creates glare and unnecessary uplight pollution of the night sky.
- Recognize the need to preserve and/or restore the Greenways system (diverse wetland areas, drainage ways, and forest lands) that helps assure high quality surface water, native species, wildlife habitat and movement.
- 6. Utilize existing fragile lands or existing natural resource areas as buffer zones of open space between adjoining land uses (i.e., housing units and agricultural operations).

- 7. The Township will adopt incentives to encourage the provision of open space and recreational areas within future residential development projects.
- 8. Encourage future recreational fitness opportunities with added layering of activities within parks. Link trailways with primary population centers, facilitating movement to and within recreation areas for pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and the physically challenged. Promote an information network between regional and local officials and citizens (i.e., newsletters, bulletins, website, mailings etc.).





# **Action Program**

The Township's long range plan for recreational facilities and programs is based on the goals and objective which were developed during the planning process. The future recreation plan illustrates the Township's long-term goals and objectives as included in the adopted Henrietta Township Master Plan. The Action Program describes what the Township hopes to achieve in the near future. The Township has identified the following main priorities for the next five years.

It is important to note that there has been no ranking of these priorities. The Township plans to pursue specific actions under each priority as opportunities become available and as funding allows. Whenever possible, the Township will seek donations and grants to offset the cost on these recreation improvements.

#### Henrietta Township Priority Recreation Enhancements

- Connector Trail and Pathway Development
  - Construct non-motorized paved shoulder trail between Pleasant Lake County Park to the DNR Meridian-Baseline State Park.
  - Construct non-motorized paved shoulder trail between the Pleasant Lake County Park to the DNR Lakeland Trail in Munith.
  - o Determine suitable trailhead site in Munith to provide basic parking.
- Pleasant Lake Pathway Development
  - Work with the Jackson County Road Commission Department to implement pathway route signage along roads around Pleasant Lake.
  - Sections of this pathway could be routed through private property if landowners are willing to grant easements or donate land.
- Pleasant Lake County Park Enhancement
  - Work with the Jackson County Parks & Recreation Department to expand recreation potentials in the park's management plan.
  - Develop an expansion of a perimeter pathway (fitness track) within the park.
  - Support upkeep efforts on Playscape structure.
  - Develop an overall landscape and planting plan to create an inviting park environment.
  - Develop a public art component for the park as a possible funding stream for placemaking.
  - Enhance camping experience through campsite improvements by terracing or leveling and enlarging sites for modern RV parking.
  - Encourage assessment of the County Parks long-term camping policy. Enforce length of stay limits.

#### Henrietta Township Priority Recreation Enhancements (continued)

- Enhance use of the park's lake access through beach sand improvements, develop a fishing pier, seasonal kayak and paddle board rentals (with revenue re-invested into the park), and hosting ice fishing opportunities.
- Enhance athletic field play areas (soccer, softball), and increase number of disc golf post hole baskets to improve course.
- Lengthen park's lake access season. Open park for winter activities, when applicable.
- Promote County and MDNR Development of the Lakeland Trail-Jackson County
  - Constructing improvements to this section will require agreements and cooperation between many different parties. Work in partnership with the MDNR, Jackson County Parks & Recreation, and various concerned groups.
  - Focus on connector trail routes to regional natural resource recreation areas, historic amenities, farm markets, and arts & cultural opportunities.
- Promote DNR Development of the Meridian-Baseline State Park
  - Work in partnership with the DNR and various concerned groups.
  - Focus on connector trail routes to regional natural resource recreation areas, historic amenities, farm markets, and arts & cultural opportunities.
- Promote Development and Improvement of Athletic Fields
- -Develop collaborative efforts with Northwest School District and Stockbridge Community Schools to make public facilities available for community use and create a stronger community outreach.

#### **Background Information**

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

- <u>Connector Trail and Pathway Development</u> will help to fulfill the aim of **Goal 7** to make the community more walkable and bike-able. The project is part of other countywide and regional plans which helps to fulfill the aim of **Goal 8** to increase collaboration.
- <u>Pleasant Lake Pathway Development</u> will help to fulfill the aim of **Goal 2** to increase amenities and use of public land. The project helps to fulfill the aim of **Goal 7** to make the community more walkable and bike-able and **Goal 8** to encourage recreational fitness opportunities.
- <u>Pleasant Lake County Park Enhancement</u> will help to fulfill the aim of **Goal 2** to increase amenities and use of public land. The project helps to fulfill the aim of **Goal 8** to encourage recreational fitness opportunities with added layering of activities within parks.
- <u>Promote County and DNR Development of the Lakeland Trail-Jackson County</u> will help to fulfill the aim of *Goal 7* to make the community more walkable and bike-able. The project is part of other countywide and regional plans which helps to fulfill the aim of *Goal 8* to increase collaboration.
- <u>Promote DNR Development of the Meridian-Baseline State Park</u> will help to fulfill the aim of *Goal* 7 to make the community more walkable and bike-able. The project is part of other countywide and regional plans which helps to fulfill the aim of *Goal* 8 to increase collaboration.
- <u>Promote Development and Improvement of Athletic Fields</u> will help to fulfill the aim of **Goal 2** to increase amenities and use of public land. The project helps to fulfill the aim of **Goal 8** to encourage recreational fitness opportunities.



# Appendices

- A. Maps:
  - <u>Community Services</u>
  - <u>Future Land Use</u>
  - Natural Resources
  - Upper Grand River Watershed
  - Joint Recreation Plan School Districts
  - Joint Recreation Plan Park Coverage
  - Joint Recreation Plan Non-Motorized Trail Network
- B. **Community Data** continued:
  - Education, Employment and Housing
- C. Input and Adoption Documents:
  - <u>Resolution of Adoption</u>
  - Notice of Public Hearing
  - Notice of Public Review Period of Draft 205-2020 Plan
  - Township Board and Planning Commission meeting minutes (public hearing and adoption)
  - <u>Transmittal of adopted plan to Region 2 and Jackson County Planning Commissioners Survey</u> results and Public input
- D. Links to Grant Funding and Information Resources:
  - <u>Funding List</u>
  - Other Resources

Appendix A Maps



# **Community Services**





Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-2019



Natural Resource Preservation Implementation Project



# Upper Grand River Watershed Implementation Project Focus Area

Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-2019 A-5





Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-2019



9

Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-2019

6
Appendix B Community Data (continued)

# Education

A large percentage of residents living in the township between 2007 and 2011 had continued their education after completing high school, according to the American Community Survey (US Census). This is reflected in the numbers of residents with some college or a college degree. A total of 90.4% of residents had at least a high school diploma, and 25.4% had earned an associate's degree or higher.



#### **Educational Attainment**

# **Employment**

Employment data is estimated by the American Community Survey (US Census) for people 16 years of age or older. The most recent employment data available for Henrietta Township is for the American Community Survey's 2007-2011 reporting period.

#### **Occupations**

Occupation is a term that describes the nature of a job. The top occupational category in Henrietta Township was estimated to be management, business, science, and arts occupations (29.9%). Many residents were also employed in production, transportation and material moving occupations (22.4%); sales and office occupations (21.9%); and service occupations (19.5%).



#### **Employment by Occupation**

## Industry

Industry, which describes the type of company that employs the worker, supports the largest number of workers at 24.4 percent in manufacturing jobs. The fields of education, health and social services provide 13.1 percent of jobs to residents.

Henrietta residents reflect levels of higher education and skilled trades needed for changing employment opportunities. However, the average time spent commuting is 32 miles one-way.



# **Employment by Industry**

# Housing

There were an estimated 2,073 dwellings in Henrietta Township between 2007 and 2011, according to the American Community Survey (US Census). It was further estimated that 87.3% were occupied; 7.6% were utilized seasonally, recreationally, or occasionally; and 5.1% were vacant. It is interesting to note that townships which contain lakes tend to have higher percentage of seasonally-dwellings. However, many of those summer cottages have been converted to full-time residences. Such conversions can have a negative effect on the condition of a lake when the area is not served by municipal sewers.

Township	Housing Units (Dwellings)				Median	Rental	Median
	Total	Occupied	Seasonal	Vacant	- Home Value	Units	Rent
Henrietta Township	2,073	1,810	157	106	\$147,800	175	\$835
Rives Township	1,776	1,697	9	70	\$125,200	271	\$1,113
Waterloo Township	1,298	1,056	87	155	\$169,700	61	\$691

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey, US Census

# **Housing Costs**

In 1990, the median house value in Henrietta Township was \$53,000 and the median household income was \$34,100. It is estimated that the median house value rose by 279% to \$147,800 while the median household income only increased by 172% to \$58,681 for the 2007-2011 reporting period, according to the American Community Survey (US Census).. Housing affordability is often measured in terms of housing costs as a percentage of income. Some housing agencies believe that housing is not affordable if the occupants are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. The American Community Survey estimated that 44.3% of Henrietta Township rental households spent 35% or more of household income of housing costs during the 2007-2011 reporting period. It was further estimated that 29.7% of owner-occupied households with mortgage during that time period spent at least 35% of household income on housing costs. Finally, it was estimated that only 4.4% of owner occupied households without a mortgage during that time period spent at least 35% of household income on housing costs. Safety and risks posed to residents by long emergency response times must be taken into account before approving new scattered development.

## **General Housing Characteristics**

According to the American Community Survey, it is estimated that the vast majority of dwellings in Henrietta Township were single-family homes. It is further estimated that 87.3% of dwellings were owneroccupied and 12.1% were renter-occupied. Finally, it is estimated that almost 40% of dwellings in the Township were built after 1989.

Drilled wells are the main source of water for residences and businesses in the Township. The principal method of sewage disposal is by means of a septic tank and tile field. Consumers Energy provides utilities to the Township although natural gas is not available to the entire Township. According to the American Community Survey (US Census), an estimated 61.9% of homes are heated by natural gas. Other estimated heating sources consisted of 22.8% bottle, tank or LP gas; 8.8% wood; 3.4% electricity; 1.8% fuel oil or kerosene; and 0.4% other. Apparently, 0.9% of dwellings had no heating source.

#### **Dwellings in a Structure**





Appendix C Input and Adoption Documents

#### Henrietta Township Recreation Survey 2012 --- 130 Surveys receive to date 11/27/2012

1. I feel that public recreation areas in my township are adequate. Yes 56% No 44%

2. I feel that the Township needs: More neighborhood parks 30% No additional parks 70%

3. Would you support a 1/8 millage (\$6.25 per year on an assessed value \$50,000 home) for trail and<br/>park development and improvements?Yes 49%No 42%Not sure 9%

4. In planning for the next 10 years, should the Township work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop a walking/bike/horse trail on the abandoned Rail Corridor that extends through the Township? Yes 70% No 30%

 If developed, what recreational opportunities would you use. (Please circle all that applies) walk/bike paths-1, horse trails-3, fitness track-2, soccer field, baseball field-4, other

6. In planning for the next 10 years, should Henrietta Township develop walking/bike traits within the existing road easements around Pleasant Lake? Yes 53% No 47%

7. Are there any specific locations you would like to see developed as recreation areas in our township?

County Park/Pleasant Lake , Lakeland Trail,

8. Are there any specific activities (for example: baseball, soccer, exercise track) you would like to see developed in recreation areas?

trails, exercise track, baseball field, tennis courts

9. What leisure/recreational activity do you participate in most often?

walk, bike, boating

10. Beside from recreation, on what efforts should the Township place the most emphasis?

public safety, road maintenance, lower taxes

11. The Henrietta Township Transfer Station is open every Saturday 9am to 3pm, located at M106<br/>offers free recycling, and garbage drop-off for a small fee, and free brush drop-off on Kennedy Rd<br/>located near the corner of M106.Do you use this service?<br/>Yes 60%Yes60%No 40%

12. The Playscape at the Pleasant Lake County Park needs some TLC.Would you participate in a workday?Yes 28%No 72%

# Solicited Remarks:

The following are priorities addressed in the draft Henrietta Township Recreation Plan 2015-2020. The enhancement remarks have been expanded for clarity in these notes.

- Work with the Jackson County Parks & Recreation Department to expand recreation potentials in the park's management plan.
  - Coordinate action plans.
  - Address concerns and issues from local residents such as property line and fence issue along Maiden Ln., and controls addressing sporadic rowdy activity from park campers.
  - Address pooh bag supplies at doggy station and adding two more stations in the park.
- Develop an expansion of a perimeter pathway (fitness track) within the park.
  - There is potential opportunity for a ½ mile track that could offer off-road, safe area for healthy run/walk/exercise station activities. This offers a layering of choice for park users.
- Develop an overall landscape and planting plan to create an inviting park environment.
  - Welcoming aesthetics can provide a positive perception as well as windbreaks, shade, and stormwater controls.
- Develop a public art component for the park as a possible funding stream for placemaking.
  - Regional art involvement can enhance a community's uniqueness and attract broader use of parkland for events and participant in an arts & craft trail.
- Enhance camping experience through campsite improvements by terracing or leveling and enlarging sites for modern RV parking.
  - Large bus-style family RV's require larger and level sites. Sites for RV's could attract camping from special regional summer events such as MIS races.
- Encourage assessment of the County Parks long-term camping policy. Enforce length of stay limits.
  - Park neighbors have concerns over campers occupying sites all summer. Stay limits could be similar to the state parks.
- Enhance use of the park's lake access through beach sand improvements, develop a fishing pier, seasonal kayak and paddle board rentals (with revenue re-invested into the park), and hosting ice fishing opportunities.
  - Pleasant Lake is considered an all-sport lake but lacks a public boat dock (private dock only). The park provides the only public lakeshore access. Creating an improved beach area, offering a play raft in the swim area and rentals increase choice of activities. A bike rack could be added closer to the beach and the park store could offer ice cream.
- Enhance athletic field play areas (soccer, softball), and increase number of disc golf post hole baskets.
  - Although the parkland area is to small for regulation athletic fields, areas for play and group practice can offer activity choices. Unlike most townships, Henrietta does not have an operating school facility to provide these options.
- Open Pleasant Lake County Park for seasonal winter events such as ice fishing and ice hockey.
- Improve road shoulders for bike route between county park and Meridian-Baseline State Park and throughout region.
- Provide birdwatching and "dark sky" opportunities.

Appendix D Links to Grant Funding and Information Resources

# Sources of Recreation Grant Funding in Michigan

# Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

- Match requirement minimum of 25%
- Development grants i, Minimum Grant Request \$15,000 Maximum Grant Request \$300,000
- Acquisition grants
   No minimum or maximum
- Goals of MNRTF Board Resource Protection - very important Water Access Community Recreation Urban Recreation Economic Development
- Due annually on April 1 (secondary application for acquisition only in August)
- www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants

# Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Administered by MNRTF
- 50% match required
- Minimum grant request \$30,000 (\$60,000 project total)
- Maximum grant request \$100,000 (\$200,000 project total)
- Funds a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects
- Applications due annually on April 1
- <u>www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants</u>

# Michigan-Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement Funds

- For non-motorized transportation (paths) and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (bridges, railroad depot, etc.)
- 20% minimum match required, 40% recommended
- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, and villages. Other organizations may sponsor applications (i.e. County Road Commission or local MDOT office sponsors a township application)
- Rolling on-line application process
- www.michigan.gov/mdot Go to "Projects and Programs"

# Specific sports and sports foundations

 United States Tennis Association (USTA) funding for tennis courts and programs WWW.usta.com

- Major League Baseball
   Baseball Tomorrow Fund
   www.baseballtomorrow.com
- United States Soccer
   <u>www.ussoccerfoundation.org</u>

## Safe Routes to School

- For projects near elementary and middle schools:
  Sidewalks
  Traffic calming and speed reduction i .,
  Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
  On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
  Off-street pedestrian facilities
  Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Need to complete the safe routes planning process to apply
- www.saferoutesmichigan.org

# Trust for Public Land (TPL)

Conservation Transactions

TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. TPL-serves as an independent agent, buying land from willing landowners and then transferring it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups for protection. In some instances, TPL will protect land through conservation easements, which restrict development but permit traditional uses such as farming and ranching.

www.tpl.org

# Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants

- Must be part of awatershed management plan
- Projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution (streambank and shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, erosion control, conservation easements)
- <u>www.michigan.gov/deq</u>- Go to "Surface Water" and then to "Non-point Source Pollution".

# Community Foundations

#### **Private Foundations and Endowments**

- Jackson County Community Foundation
- Weatherwax Foundation
- Hurst Foundation
- Foote Hospital Foundation for a Healthy Community
- Consumers Energy Foundation
- Louis Glick Foundation
- Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation

## **Informational Resources:**

- Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management <u>www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr</u>
- Jackson City-Jackson CountyParks& Recreation Plan www.co.jackson.mi.us/departments/Parks/parks master plan.asp
- Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan 2000-2025
   www.co.jackson.mi.us/jacksoncounty/county commissioners/
- Jackson 2020 Plan
   <u>www.co.jackson.mi.us/county info/strategic planning/</u>
- Jackson County Regional Trailway Study2002
   <u>www.region2planning.com</u>
- Jackson County Arts Alliance Plan
   <u>www.artsinjackson.com</u>
- Jackson District Library Plan
   <u>www.myjdl.com</u>
- MDOT- University Region Non-Motorized Plan
   <u>www.uregionnomoplan.com</u>
- 5 Healthy Towns Plan
   <u>www.5healthytowns.org</u>