

Village of Dexter, Michigan

**Adopted by
Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission
February 17, 2009**

**Adopted by
Village of Dexter Council
February 23, 2009**

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Introduction

Park and recreation plans serve as the guiding document for the activities of the Village of Dexter related to parks and recreation. Parks and recreation plans are also completed in order to be eligible for state funding. They must be reviewed, updated and adopted at least every five years in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which administers several grant programs.

This parks and recreation plan and facilities analysis is a component of the 2005 Village of Dexter Master Plan and subsequent update in 2006. The analysis will address how the dramatic demographic, population and area changes that the Village has experienced over the past two decades have and will impact the parks and recreation facility needs within the Village of Dexter and the surrounding areas. This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan builds upon the 1997 Parks and Recreation Plan prepared by McKenna Associates and the update completed by Village staff in 2003. This Master Plan update relied heavily on the input of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the public, as well as extensive collaboration with Allison Bishop, the Village of Dexter Community Development Manager and Parks Liaison. This update addresses existing and future parks and recreation needs within the Village of Dexter, park, greenways and open space development, and the preservation and enhancement of the Village's scenic and aesthetic features. The Plan also addresses the needs and concerns of local residents and concerns and needs as identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan also details specific improvements, costs, priorities and years of completion to better represent the long-range vision of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

This Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan was prepared by Village staff and the Village Parks and Recreation Commission. Pursuant to the Village General Code the Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for preparing, updating and maintaining the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan; advising and assisting the Village Council on matters pertaining to the Village's parks, specifically regarding contributions, donation, and grants related to parks and recreation; advise the Village Council on the use, development, operation and vision for the parks, as well as report information to the Village Council on plan updates and resident input concerning parks and recreation in the Village. The Parks and Recreation Commission is also responsible for guiding the existing and future conditions of the Village's parks and recreation facilities, with the assistance and the involvement of Village

administration, including the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and other local community organizations. Citizen input, through public meetings, public hearings and surveys, also provided key contributions to the information and findings presented in this report. Collaboration with neighboring governmental entities, including Webster, Scio, Dexter, Lima Townships, Washtenaw County and Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, is also crucial to the implementation of the plan.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities plan sets forth the vision, goals, property acquisition and a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for the next five (5) year period and maps the course for the Parks and Recreation Commission's activities.

Community Description and Background Information

The Village of Dexter is located in the northwest corner of Scio Township and the southwest corner of Webster Township [approximately eight miles northwest of the City of Ann Arbor]. The Village is enhanced by the Huron River and Mill Creek, which meander alongside the Village of Dexter and form the northerly and westerly limits of the community. While the Village is conveniently located near urban areas, it is also noted for its picturesque open space, farmlands, recreational opportunities, and historic small town appeal.

The Village of Dexter is a small town characterized by its traditional village center and neighborhoods, and strong school system. In addition, the annexation of 330 acres of land over the last ten (10) years has added more area to the Village's jurisdiction. Growth pressures from the surrounding townships and communities will challenge the Village of Dexter in its effort to maintain the traditional and historic character. The Parks and Recreation Commission and the DDA will work together to maintain the Village's Midwest small town, historic feel within the downtown and the parks.

Within and surrounding the Village of Dexter is the Dexter Community School District (DCS). The DCS is 87.5 square miles and consists of seven (7) townships since 1991 and serves Dexter Village, Dexter Township, and parts of Scio Township, Webster Township, Lima Township, Putnam Township, and Northfield Township. Although the area serviced by the Dexter Community School District has not changed in many years, the surge of residential development in the townships within the Dexter School District has created a significant population and student population increase over the last decade.

**EXHIBIT 1
Total Household By Community**

Community	1980	1990	2000	December 2007 SEMCOG estimate	% Change 2000 – 2007	% Change 1990 - 2000
Village of Dexter	588	633	1,013	1,493	47.3%	60%
Dexter Township	1,265	1,527	1,863	2,202	18.1%	22%
Lima Township	659	891	1,168	1,179	<1%	31%
Scio Township	2,147	4,113	6,070	6,418	5.7%	47.5%
Webster Township	884	1,097	1,774	2,206	24.3%	61.7%
Washtenaw County		105,114	125,327	140,924	12.4%	19.2%
State of Michigan		3,424,122	3,785,661	No data	-	10.5%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census/SEMCOG

**EXHIBIT 1a
Average Household Size By Community**

Community	2000	December 2007	2030 Estimate	Trend
Village of Dexter	2.31	2.39	2.51	↑
Dexter Township	2.80	2.71	2.47	↓
Lima Township	2.79	2.64	2.85	↑
Scio Township	2.65	2.56	2.55	↔
Webster Township	2.93	2.88	2.97	↑
Washtenaw County	2.41	2.34	2.27	↓

Source: 2000 U.S. Census/SEMCOG

The Dexter Community School District campus size has also dramatically increased since 1998. In 1998, two (2) new schools were built, Cornerstone Elementary and Mill Creek Middle School. In 2002 a new high school was opened, and during the summer of 2002 the

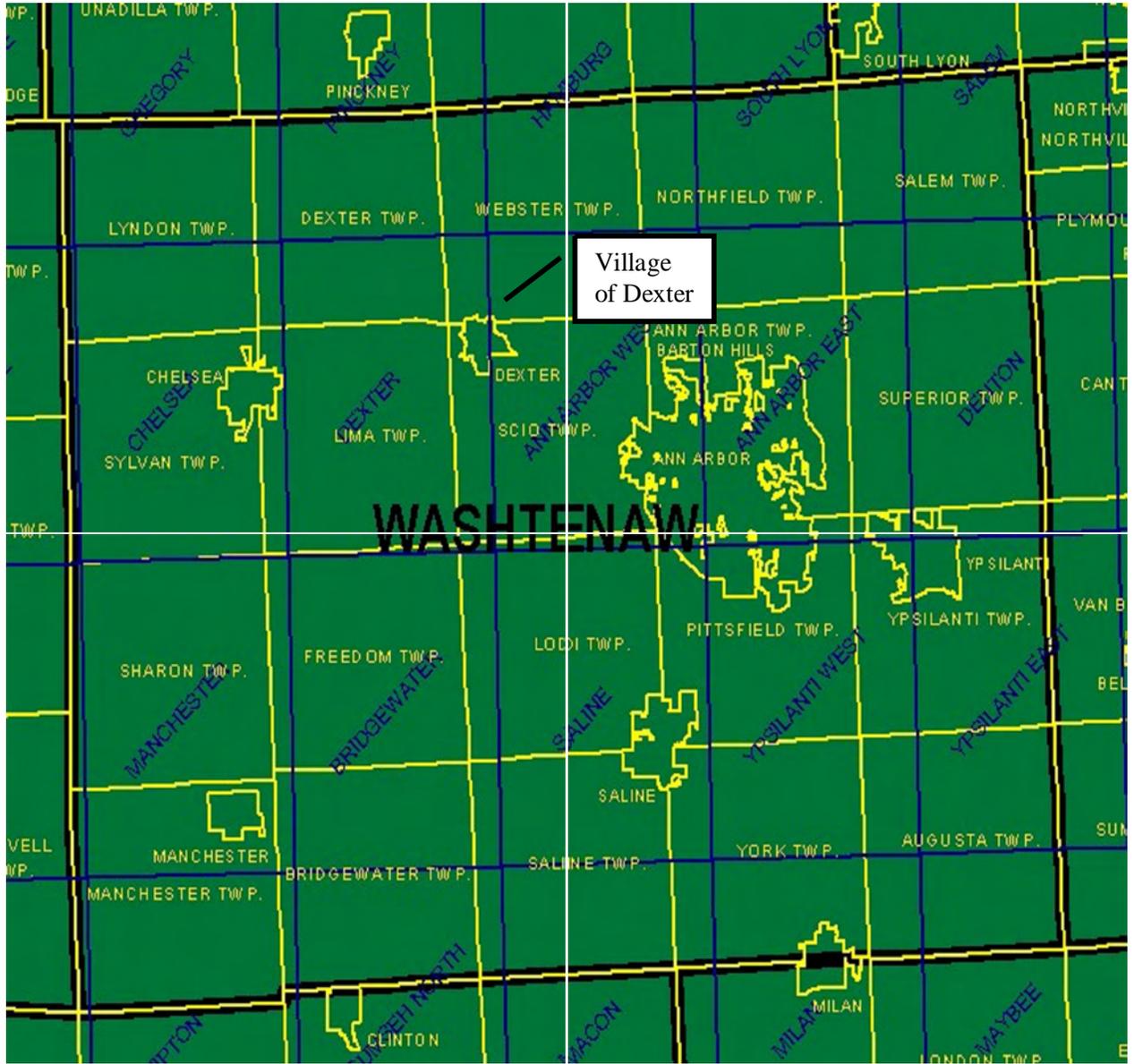
old high school, now Creekside Intermediate School, was retrofitted to fit 5th and 6th graders due to the substantial increase in middle school age students and overcrowding in Mill Creek Middle School, constructed in 1998. The Dexter Area School District now has two (2), Kindergarten through second grade Elementary Schools, Bates and Cornerstone; one (1), third and fourth grade Elementary School, Wylie; one (1), fifth and sixth grade Intermediate School, Creekside; one (1), seventh and eighth grade Middle School, Mill Creek; and, Dexter High School for grades nine through twelve.

Dexter Community School District Projected Headcount (5 Yr)

Grade	Age	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
		School Year									
K	5-6	239	240	240	242	246					
1	6-7	253	258	259	259	261	265				
2	7-8	256	258	263	264	264	266	270			
3	8-9	248	263	265	270	271	271	273	277		
4	9-10	255	254	270	272	277	278	278	280	284	
5	10-11	271	261	260	276	278	283	284	284	286	290
6	11-12	317	283	272	271	288	290	295	296	296	298
7	12-13	283	326	291	279	278	296	298	303	304	304
8	13-14	313	290	335	299	286	285	304	306	311	312
9	14-15	318	326	302	349	312	298	297	317	319	324
10	15-16	293	314	322	298	344	308	294	293	313	315
11	16-17	287	283	304	311	288	333	298	284	283	303
12	17-18	270	290	286	307	314	291	336	301	287	286
Sub-total Ages 10-18		2352	2373	2372	2390	2388	2384	2406	2384	2399	2432
Total All Ages		3603	3646	3669	3697	3707	-	-	-	-	-

Based on the Dexter Community Schools projected headcount data the school age children population will continue to rise and competition for facility usage will increase. The Village should work with the school to provide needed facilities that will benefit both the school district and the Village without duplicating services.

EXHIBIT 2: Regional Location Map



Base Map Source: State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Spatial Data Library, 2003

Regional Location Map

↑ 1/4" = 5 miles

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North

Background Assessment

Intergovernmental Cooperation

The Village of Dexter and the Dexter Community School District provide recreation activities and facilities services within the Village of Dexter. The Village owns and maintains seven (7) park sites that primarily provide passive recreational activities throughout the Village. Since 2006 two (2) new parks have been created on land owned by the Village of Dexter, Lions Park and First Street Park. The parks were developed primarily through community groups and volunteers. The School District owns and maintains a large campus for the three elementary schools, the two middle schools, and the new high school, outside of the Village limits. School District recreation facilities are located at each of the schools and are primarily active recreation opportunities.

Administrative Structure

The responsibility for the Village owned facilities begins with the Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission. Public Act 156 of 1917 gave the Village the authority to create a Commission to advise and make recommendations to the Village Council regarding parks and recreational facilities in the Village. Specifically, the Commission is concerned with acquisition, development, maintenance guidance, management, and planning of the parks. Maintenance and operation is done by the Village Department of Public Works. Parks and Recreation Commission activities involve conducting research on parks and recreation facilities, needs, etc. and providing recommendations to the Village Council on their findings. The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of seven members, appointed by the Village Council for three-year terms. One member of the Parks and Recreation Commission is an Ex Officio from the Village Council. Regular meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission are held once a month, with the occasional subcommittee meeting, and are all open to the public. With the advisement of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Village Council delegates day-to-day management of parks to the Village Manager, the Village Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Community Development Manager/Parks Staff Liaison. The Commission is responsible for researching and analyzing the parks and recreation facilities within the Village of Dexter and reporting their findings to the Village Council.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the outdoor parks and recreation facilities owned by the Village. Because the Village does not have indoor facilities or programming, the Community Education and Recreation Department

of the Dexter Community Schools plays a large role in the providing recreation opportunities and needs. The Village's parks and recreation maintenance, operations and capital improvements are financed by the general fund, although an endowment fund/restricted fund has been created for donations and contributions made by local organizations or individuals. Other funding for parks and recreation comes from private donations, in-kind services, fund raising and various grants, when awarded. The Village has not typically bonded for parks and recreation improvements, although in 2006 a General Obligation Bond was authorized by the Village Council for a restoration and reclamation project along the Mill Creek following the removal of the Main Street Dam. One element of the bond provides funding for a non-motorized pathway connector. The long term goal is to develop a linear park along the Mill Creek waterway, Mill Creek Park. In January 2009 the Village approved a concept plan for the park redevelopment after months of subcommittee meetings and several public input forums (Appendix E).

The Village Community Development Manager is the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison between the Village Department of Public Works, the Village Manager and the Village Council. As the liaison, the Community Development Manager works extensively with the Parks and Recreation Commission on evaluating and implementing long term goals, funding, donations and subcommittees as well as provides information on available funding opportunities, current trends in parks and recreation, capital improvement planning and by providing information and research as needed or as requested.

The Parks and Recreation Commission operates under an ordinance created to establish the way that the Parks and Recreation Commission is to conduct and carry out business. The Parks and Recreation Commission also sets up subcommittees to do research and report their findings back to the Commission on specific projects. After further evaluation and consensus on the findings, the Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson and liaison present a report to the Village Council for consideration. On an annual basis the Parks and Recreation Commission also reevaluates the parks and recreation priorities, projects and capital improvements in order to make a recommendation to the Village Council for consideration when creating the budget for the upcoming year.

The Parks and Recreation Commission also works closely with the Dexter Community Schools to further develop the parks and recreational facilities in the area. The Parks and

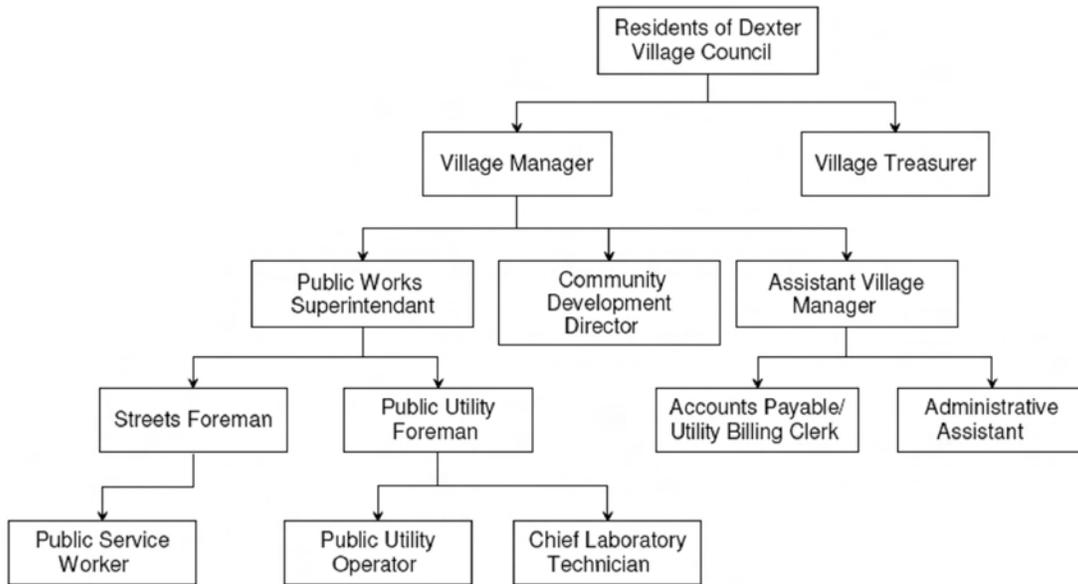
Recreation Commission is working to improve the relationship to establish the most efficient and diverse recreation opportunities within the Village. Consideration is also being given to adding a representative from the schools onto the Parks and Recreation Commission as a representative to most efficiently collaborate on recreation needs of the community.

In 2005 the Dexter Community Schools requested a millage for recreation needs within the schools. The Parks and Recreation Commission worked with the school on the millage request however the request failed. In 2008 the school district will try to secure a bond for additional facility needs including some recreation facility needs which may impact the Village. The Parks and Recreation Commission will work closely with the schools to understand their needs and the impacts to the Village. In the future the Parks and Recreation Commission will likely explore and support a joint recreation millage with the school, although the Dexter Community Schools recreational facilities, primarily serve the recreation needs of school children.

The Dexter Community School District also operates a Community Education program that provides a limited selection of educational, cultural and recreational activities for District residents. The School Board delegates day-to-day management to the School Superintendent. The principals of each school and the Director of the Community Education Program are under the authority of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent. The School's facilities are maintained by their Building and Grounds Department.

There is a significant amount of cooperation that occurs between the Village and School District -- the Village Manager and School Superintendent communicate regularly, the Community Education program regularly use Village parks for School District activities, and Dexter residents take advantage of District facilities when available. Although the school's facilities are generally accessible to the public, facility availability is often limited.

EXHIBIT 3



Funding

Park activities including acquisition, planning, development and maintenance are funded by the village general fund. The FY 2007-08 Village budget for parks and recreational facilities was \$39,500 and in FY 2008-09 the budget is \$132,200. The budget has increased 500% since 2004. The budget increases are primarily due to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Village Council's desire to finalize projects listed in the Capital Improvements Plan (Exhibit 27) and to aggressively initiate planning for the Mill Creek Park following the removal of the Main Street Bridge Dam in 2008.

The Park and Recreation budget is allocated for maintenance of existing parkland, monthly operation costs through the DPW, Landscaping costs, professional services, Capital Improvements, Parks and Recreation Commission compensation and Parks Liaison staff time. The DPW staff consists of five employees who all work part-time on the maintenance and operations of the parks, and one seasonal employee. Parks Liaison staff time is approximately 5% of the total parks budget. Volunteers help with parks and recreation facilities on a project-by-project basis. Volunteers also help with general park clean-up and occasional equipment maintenance such as painting or refinishing benches and picnic tables.

The Dexter Community School District budget for recreational facilities and programming is allocated between community education programs, the community pool, league sports, and summer recreational programs. The schools FY 2007-08 budget was approximately \$800,000. The Village's relationship with the schools is to supplement, but not duplicate, many of the activities and facilities provided by the schools. Community sports clubs and non-profits also provide youth recreation services with separate budgets.

It is becoming more apparent to the Village Parks and Recreation Commission that the population growth is putting a strain on the time that will be available for residents to use the school facilities. As the population in the Dexter area continues to grow, the residents of the Village will be limited in the amount of time that they will be able to use the school facilities and therefore shift the demand for recreation back on the Village and its minimal facilities. As can be seen in Exhibit 10 the population in the township's surrounding the Village increased almost 10,000 people from 1990 – 2000, and over 7,000 people from 2000 – December 2007. The Parks and Recreation Commission has begun to look at the available facilities and the user

needs to determine how the Village can more adequately provide facilities needed by the Village residents.

In general, there are several existing and potential funding sources available to the Village for parks and recreation facility improvements. In addition to the Village providing resources to parks from the General Fund, there are other sources of funding available for parks and recreation; these include a dedicated millage, user fees, bonds, grants, donations foundations, contractual agreements and conveyances. Following is a brief description of these funding sources:

General Fund. The General Fund is the basic operating fund of the Village and the traditional source of operating funds for parks and recreation. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. If recreation program user fees were to be implemented by the Village, they would be channeled through the General Fund.

Dedicated Millage. A property tax millage could be used to finance specific parks and recreation projects, for parkland acquisition, or for operation of recreation facilities. The dedicated millage has gained favor in many communities because voters are increasingly wary of approving millage increases for non-specified purposes. Approval by referendum is required before a millage can be assessed. A millage is subject to periodic renewal by a vote of the people.

Recreation Millage. A district millage through the school could be used to finance the operation costs associated with community education and recreation. This broad area millage could then be used to purchase land and build a facility that is for community use that would not be restricted by school sports and activities. This funding source is currently being explored by the Dexter Community School District.

User Fees. Fees could be charged to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities in southeast Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, wave pools, use of lighted athletic fields, and use of indoor facilities.

User fees are a promising source of funding in the municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services. In 2007 the Parks and Recreation Commission established a user fee for the use of one of the three (3) gazebos in the Village. The user fee has been established for use of the gazebos by non Village residents only.

Bonds. A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities.

General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects such as parkland acquisition, and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues. In 2006 the Village issued bonds for the reclamation and park development of the Mill Creek Park upon the removal of the Main Street Bridge and dam. The goal is to develop the reclaimed property into a Village park. The Village intends to use these bond funds as a match for grant funding in 2009 and beyond.

Revenue Bonds are for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. Projects such as water main rehabilitation are paid for by water utility revenues.

Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case only the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants. Following is a summary of the two viable recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("MDNR"). *Land and Water Conservation Fund* ("L&WCF") eligible projects include community recreation and trail way improvements. These are grants of \$30,000 - \$500,000 to local units of government for development of facilities such as ballfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas; and including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through Federal appropriations. Grant match basis is up to 50 percent MDNR/minimum 50 percent local. *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund* ("MNRTF") eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses

or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, ballfields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least 25 percent of the project cost are required. There is no minimum or maximum amount for acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. There are five special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees for 2008. Proposals will receive special attention if they:

1. Acquisition of land or development of trail ways that provide linkages to recreation opportunities. Projects that contribute to the state trail way system will be given a higher priority.
2. Acquisition of land open to hunting or development of hunting-related recreation facilities, such as shooting ranges. Specific seasons in which hunting will be allowed must be identified. Highest priority will be given to land in the southern Lower Peninsula, land that will be open for all DNR-established hunting seasons, and shooting ranges.
3. Acquisition of a DNR-established winter deer yard, or acquisition of land that connects or provides a buffer area to land that is already protected and that provides critical wildlife habitat or is of high ecological value.
4. Acquisition of land or development of facilities in urban areas.
5. Development of projects that provide universally accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. Highest priority will be given to projects that provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities.
6. Fees charged to enter the proposed project site. Highest priority will be given to applications for projects for which no fee will be charged to enter the site.

Create a Regional Recreation Authority. The Village Council may wish to pursue an agreement with the surrounding Townships to create a broader funding base. Creation of a regional authority could assist in this goal. The Village's neighboring Scio Township has expressed interest in acquiring land for the development of a regional greenway connection in the area and has adopted a Greenway Plan for Scio Township. The Village of Dexter and Scio Township are beginning to explore coordinated planning for the implementation of both community's recreational goals. Eliminating the duplication of services between Dexter,

Webster, Lima and Scio Townships, could substantially improve the recreation opportunities available for a larger service area.

Community Development Block Grant. Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety of community improvement projects, including development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low and moderate income neighborhoods that qualify under the program. CDBG funding could also be used to create parking areas in the downtown that create jobs and serve as parking areas for future trail heads that may be part of the Mill Creek Park redevelopment/reclamation. The Village will continue to look for ways to improve the community through the CDBG program. CDBG funds are administered by the Michigan Economic Development Council (MEDC).

Natural Heritage Grant Program. Per the DNR Grants Information Packet the Natural Heritage Grant was initiated in 1985 to encourage citizen involvement in achieving the goal of Michigan's Natural Heritage Program. The goal of the Natural Heritage Program is to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, other natural features, and to promote the knowledge, enjoyment, and stewardship of Michigan's native species and ecosystems for present and future generations. Funding for the Natural Heritage Grant is provided by the Nongame Wildlife Fund through a portion of the sale of the Wildlife Conservation license plate, through individual contributions, and through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grants Program. This grant requires a minimum local match of 25% of the total cost of the project. This program was not offered in 2008.

Michigan Equity Grant Program. In August 1989, Public Act 198 was signed into law, setting aside funding for regional cultural projects. Eligible project categories include cultural institutions, historical projects, zoos, convention facilities, tourism facilities, and libraries.

Priority is given to projects that leverage additional public or private investment. The Equity Grant Program is administered by the Michigan State Department of Commerce. Funding for this program has been limited in recent years because of the State's budget constraints.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). With the passage of TEA-21, 10% of the surface transportation funds allocated by the Federal government are set aside for transportation enhancement activities. Activities eligible for these funds include non-motorized facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities; transportation aesthetics which includes acquisition of scenic areas, landscaping and beautification; water quality and wildlife mortality, which includes projects that reduce animal mortality through establishing habitat linkages and water pollution mitigation. The acquisition of historic properties; historic preservation and the establishment of transportation museums, plus many more activities are also eligible under TEA-21.

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative. The Community Foundation was created to help the seven counties with in southeast Michigan, including Washtenaw County, acquire and construct greenway paths and linkages throughout the region.

Nongame Wildlife Fund. A grant administered by the Wildlife Division through the Nongame Fund and Nongame license plates fees for the identification, protection, management and restoration of native plant and animal species and natural features in an effort to promote stewardship in Michigan's native habitats. The Nongame Wildlife Fund was created through Part 439, Public Act 451 of 1994 as amended.

Inland Fisheries Grants. Grants awarded through the Fisheries Division to rehabilitate degraded inland fisheries, encourage education and interpretive programs in fisheries, and to protect, maintain and enhance aquatic environments. The Inland Fisheries Grants are provided from the Game and Fish Protection Fund through Part 5, Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended. This grant requires a minimum of 50% local match. This grant has been suspended for 2008.

Waterways Program Grants. Appropriated annually by the Michigan Legislature, the Parks and Recreation Bureau awards money to applicants requesting funds for the design, construction, engineering, and infrastructure improvements projects for recreational boating facilities and boating access facilities.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Clean Michigan Initiative. The MDEQ offers funding for implementing water quality protection or improvement activities in approved watershed management plan areas which emphasize protection of high quality waterways.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The NOAA provides funding for projects such as dam removal or habitat restoration activities including re-establishment of chemical, physical, hydrologic and biological features. Restoration may include, but is not limited to: improvement of fish passage, planting of native and wetland vegetation, control of invasive species and establishment of riparian buffer zones.

Great Lakes Soil and Sedimentation. This program provides \$35,000-100,000 in funding for soil erosion management including vegetation and seeding efforts that may be needed following a dam removal, stream bank restoration, stream bank stabilization, etc.

Great Lakes Fisheries Trust. This program provides funding for projects that increase access to water including access to fishing opportunities.

Urban and Community Forestry Program. This program provides funding for forest activities, such as tree inventories, management plans, planting and other maintenance activities. This program is appropriated annually by the Michigan legislature from funds through the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service. The Village has received this grant in the past.

Arbor Day Mini Grants. Funds provided to local governments and other groups for urban and community forest activities related to Arbor Day. Funds come from the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service and are appropriated annually by the Michigan Legislature.

DTE Energy Tree Planting Grants. Municipalities within the DTE service area are awarded fund to increase the overall number of properly planted, good condition and health, trees in an area. DTE Energy provides the funds through an annual partnership with the Urban and Community Forestry Program. The Village has received this grant in the past.

Donations. Businesses, corporations, private clubs, and community organizations, and individuals will often contribute in-kind and financially to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities. The Village currently has an endowment fund for any monetary contributions made to the parks.

Foundations. A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is very limited.

Lease or Contractual Agreements. The Village may increase the availability of recreation facilities to its residents by leasing sites and facilities from other recreation providers. For example, the Village could agree to help maintain school recreation facilities in exchange for guaranteed availability of the facility to the public. The Village could also contract with private entrepreneurs to provide services at Village-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing Village administrative costs.

Public Use Conveyances. Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this program provides state lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

The Planning Process

In 2008, the Village of Dexter's Parks and Recreation Commission initiated an update to the Village's Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, adopted in 1997 and updated and recertified in 2003. The intent of this updated document is to:

- review the condition of existing facilities and changes in the facilities since the last Parks and Recreation Commission Recreation Plan update and evaluate various recreation programs in the Village and surrounding area;
- amend, establish, reevaluate, and prioritize new parks and recreation goals for the Village that represents the community's vision for the future and the changes in the composition of the community, for the Village parks and recreational facilities over the next five years;
- further establish and develop a program of improvement and development to ensure access to recreational activities and open space for each Village citizen.
- establish a document to facilitate better communication of the parks and recreation goals to local authorities, organizations and contributors;
- update the capital improvements plans;
- revise the goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

In order to obtain the information necessary to update the plan, the Village Parks and Recreation Commission began interacting with Village administration and the public, utilizing two questionnaires, which were distributed to all Village residents in a newsletter. A link to an online survey was also provided in the Village newsletter. Additionally, open meetings and public hearings were conducted throughout the process to gather public input for the plan.

Due to the importance of planning for the redevelopment of the land exposed following the removal of the Main Street dam a Mill Creek Park subcommittee was created by the Village Council (Resolution – Appendix L). The subcommittee was tasked with establishing goals and objectives for the park and developing a plan for the park. The subcommittee selected a consultant through an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) process and subsequently met multiple times to review the goals and objectives and formulate a concept plan for the park. Two (2) public forums were conducted to review the Mill Creek Park planning. The first was to gather public input on the elements of the park redevelopment and the second was to gather public input on the preferred concept developed by the team. The refined concept has

been included in this plan and will be further refined to the engineering and design phase of the park development. Throughout the process multiple presentations were also given at public meetings of Village Boards and Commissions.

A major component of the Parks and Recreation Plan is the result of thorough field investigations, research and components compiled for the Village Master Plan and updated if new information or data was available. An inventory of existing facilities for both the Village of Dexter Parks and the Dexter School District was completed in November 2002. The inventory was evaluated again in 2008 to determine any new facilities within the Village or the schools. Coordination with the schools helped determine new facilities provided for by the schools.

The 2003 Recreation Plan was analyzed and consideration was given to the 2004 Washtenaw County Comprehensive Plan, the 2004 Washtenaw County Recreation and Open Space Plan and the 2008-2012 DRAFT Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Master Plan (*SCORP*), as well as the resources of the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA).

The Parks and Recreation Commission revised the survey used in 2003 and distributed it to all elected and appointed officials and to all Village residents in a newsletter and online. Copies were also made available at the Village Offices. 114 people responded to the online survey and 19 responded to the hard copy survey included in the newsletter. Based on approximately 1500 households within the Village there was a return rate of 9%. Most of the respondents were between the ages of 25 and 54 and have been area residents for between one and five years. The survey questionnaire is provided in Appendix C. The survey yielded some of the same results as the previous survey conducted in 2003, as summarized by the following:

- Approximately 35% of adult members of the respondent's household use village parks, libraries, museums and Metroparks (regional parks) one to two times per month. This is an increase in village park usage since the 2003 survey when half the respondents said that they only used a village park once or twice a year.
- Similarly, 23% of children of respondents use village parks, libraries, museums and Metroparks one or two times per month, but reliance on school recreational facilities

appears to be reduced and more consistent with use of other facilities in comparison to 2003.

- When respondents visit any recreation facility they tend to travel by automobile. Pedestrian travel has increased to village parks and school facilities. Little pedestrian-type travel is used for other recreational destinations.
- Respondents suggested that the village should improve accessibility to village parks through pathways, trails, walkways and bike paths.

Respondents generally agreed that (i) there are not sufficient opportunities for adults, (ii) there are sufficient opportunities for children, (iii) there are not sufficient recreation opportunities available for people with disabilities, (iv) village parks are easily accessible, (v) more passive and active open space areas such as trails and preserves are needed, (vi) user fees should be implemented for additional services, (vii) generally respondents would support a millage that would support providing opportunities for people with disabilities and for additional publicly owned parkland and recreation facilities, and (viii) acquisition and improvement of land along the Mill Creek and the Huron River for open space, passive recreation facilities such as picnic areas, boardwalks, trails, fishing and non-motorized boating are very important.

- Respondents also generally agreed (majority) on planning for park and recreational facilities. Issues considered to be important or very important are (i) acquire and improve land along Mill Creek and the Huron River for development of passive recreation, i.e. boardwalks, picnic areas, hiking paths, etc., (ii) the village should development and improve existing parkland, (iii) increase handicapped and pedestrian accessibility to village park facilities, (iv) bike pathways should be provided along roadways, (v) the village and school district should coordinate and jointly fund improvements and (vi) the village should coordinate with regional recreation providers for the development of trails, etc., (vii) further develop and improve existing village parks.
- Almost ½ (133 total respondents) of the respondents said they would support a millage to provide additional recreation facilities and program for residents and to make facilities more handicapped accessible and usable.

Respondents also were asked to offer any comments or suggestions relating to park and recreational facilities or the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. Generally, these comments can be summarized as the following:

- Increase recreational activities and programming for children and adults.
- Improve accessibility to and between park and recreational facility sites and schools.
- Acquire and develop land for open space, views and passive recreational use, greenway corridors.
- Utilize a Parks and Recreation Plan to develop a hierarchy of park and recreational facilities, and coordinate with other park and recreational providers.
- Indoor and outdoor swimming pools; indoor and outdoor skate parks; ice rinks.
- Playgrounds, more ADA accessible paths/boardwalks for hiking, biking, rollerblading, and walking. Paths or boardwalks along the Mill Creek., connection to Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority pathways.
- Private Recreation Center or Facility and more ballfields.

Community Character

Physical Characteristics

The Village of Dexter is a rural, small town that has maintained a traditional and historical character despite the growth pressures in the surrounding townships. The following section provides an overview of physical characteristics such as transportation systems, historic landmarks and land use development patterns within the Village. This section also includes an assessment of natural features such as woodlands, steep slopes, wetlands, scrub shrub and, water resources in order to acknowledge unique features within the Village of Dexter and the parks and to protect and focus on the Village's extraordinary elements. Finally, this section determines the opportunities and/or threats these elements could create for the Village's future growth and development.

Access. The Village center is located along Main Street, which provides east and west access through the community, shown in Exhibit 4. Baker Road also provides access north and south from the interstate. The nearby interstate interchanges also provides convenient access to surrounding communities and southeast Michigan. Dexter is serviced by a regional bus system, the Western Washtenaw Area Value Express (WWAVE). The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) used to provide service from the village to Ann Arbor; however funding constraints have eliminated AATA's presence in the Village of Dexter. WWAVE however does provide residents service to connect to the AATA on the west side of the City of Ann Arbor.

Monument Park with its landmark gazebo, is the heart of the Village Center. Peace Park and Warrior Creek Park are open space landmarks that signal entrances into the village center from the east and west and assist in further defining the community's image. Scenic routes entering the Village include Mast Road from the north via a bridge over the Huron River and Main Street from the west via the Main Street Bridge over the Mill Creek. The Huron River Watershed surrounds Dexter and provides a significant natural barrier on the north and west sides of town. To the west, the Mill Pond and Mill Creek connect to the Huron River. Creating a greenway corridor from Warrior Creek Park, the downtown and the future Mill Creek Park, south to the Dexter Community School District property (Shield Road) is a prioritized recreation goal for the Village. It is envisioned that the pathway be incorporated into the Mill Creek Park reclamation project following the removal of the Main Street dam and replacement of the Main Street Bridge. The Village has also included the Mill Creek Park reclamation project in the 2006 General Obligation Bond.

At the intersection of the Huron River and the Mill Creek, HCMA controls property that will be part of a 10-mile greenway corridor connection with the Village. Construction commenced on Phase 1 of the HCMA trail from the Hudson Mills Metropark to the Hudson Mills golf course in the winter of 2007. Phase 2 of the HCMA trail from the Hudson Mills golf course to the Village is being designed with plans to construct in 2010. The Village has included \$100,000 in the 2006 General Obligation Bond for a "Westside connector", which would be help fund a coordinated trail access from the HCMA trail to the Village of Dexter, possibly at Warrior Creek Park. Washtenaw County Parks and the Washtenaw County Road Commission are also applying for Transportation Enhancement funding for the connection from the HCMA property to the village. The Village will contribute to the project if the funding is

awarded. The “Westside connector” must be included in the second series of a General Obligation bond that has been planned for by the Village Council. The Transportation Enhancement grant application includes a pathway from the Westridge of Dexter subdivision southeast to Warrior Creek Park and south underneath the new Main Street Bridge (See Exhibit 22a). The pathway connection can then go into downtown Dexter and continue south along the Mill Creek and be part of the vision for trail system into Scio Township.

A unique entrance to the Village from the west is through a narrow one and a half-lane railroad underpass. The historic, stone structure provides clear definition of the entrance into the Village center. A scenic vista of the Mill Creek is provided to motorists and pedestrians entering or leaving the western end of the Village. The Village and the Parks and Recreation Commission have placed top priority of further enhancement of the Mill Creek to restore the area in an effort to meet the passive recreation needs and the need for more trail systems and open space. The goal of the creek restoration will also be to enhance the ecosystem, provide access to the creek/waterway, provide passive walking trails and nature interpretation, improve the stormwater entering the creek and establish riparian buffers. The 2006 General Obligation Bond authorized by the Village Council included \$500,000 for reclamation, restoration and park development of this area.

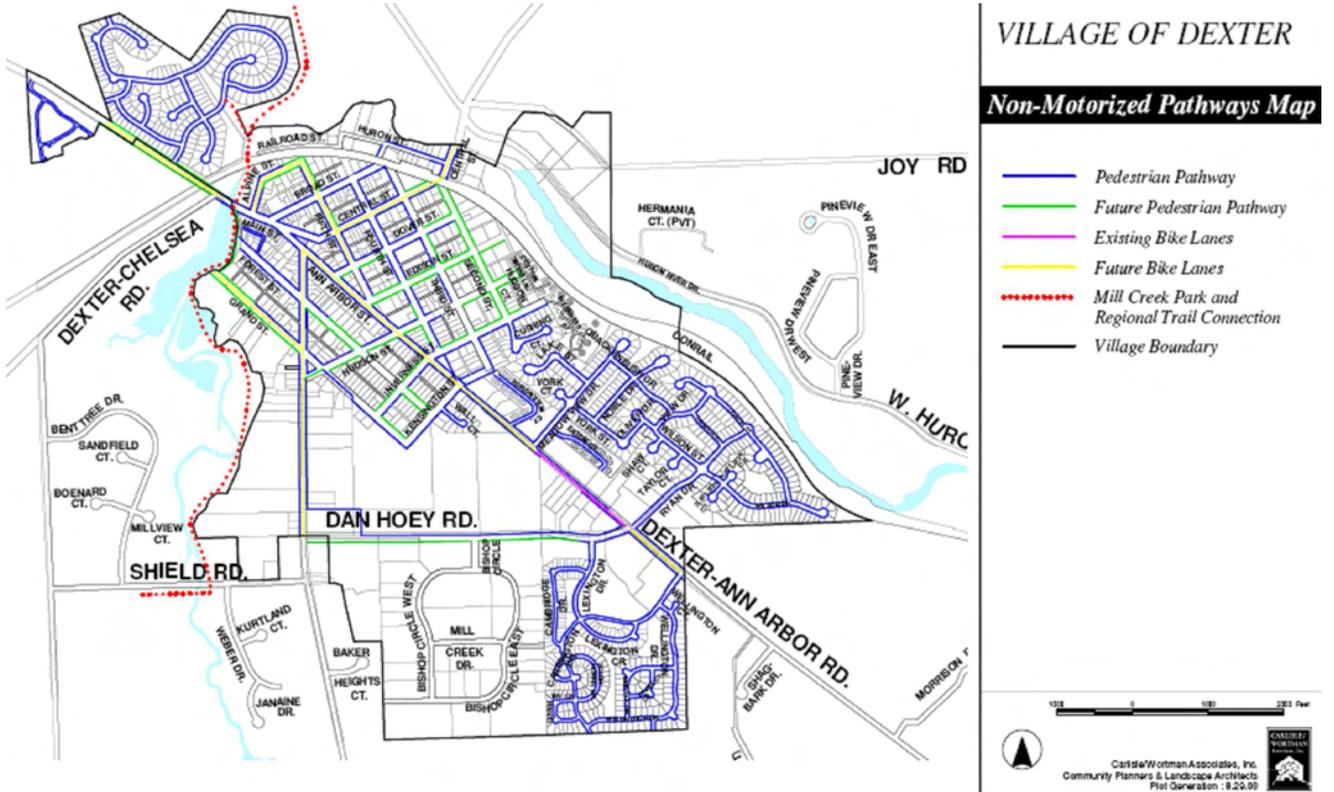
Other landmarks in and around the village include the Village Fire Hall and Sheriff’s substation, the Farmer’s Market, Dexter Library, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Monument Park, the Historical Society Museum, the Dexter Historical Railroad Society and the historic Gordon Hall and associated conservation easements.

The local grid street network, shown in Exhibit 4, in the Village provides convenient movement throughout the Village linking the residential neighborhoods with the downtown business district. Alleys also provide secondary access to properties throughout the Village. Public sidewalks are located along most blocks within the Village center and a safe route to school study done in 1996 has shown where additional sidewalks are needed. In July 2002 a sidewalk survey was also completed to help determine where safe non-motorized routes were needed. The existing non-motorized paths are shown in Exhibit 5. Money is generally set-aside in the capital budget to help fund additional sidewalk construction or repair each year. In FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09 the Village spent over \$80,000 repairing and replacing sidewalks. To provide a complete pedestrian system, the Village has committed to locating

sidewalks along all Village streets, where feasible and as funding permits. This system will also facilitate increasing connection between the parks in the Village.

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 5



Land Uses. The Village center offers a mix of commercial, residential and community facilities located where Main Street, Dexter-Ann Arbor Road, Central Street, and Baker Road converge. Single-family land use is quickly beginning to dominate the overall acreage of the Village in the future. Existing land uses and the percentage of total land uses can be seen in Exhibit 6 and Exhibit 7 the following map.

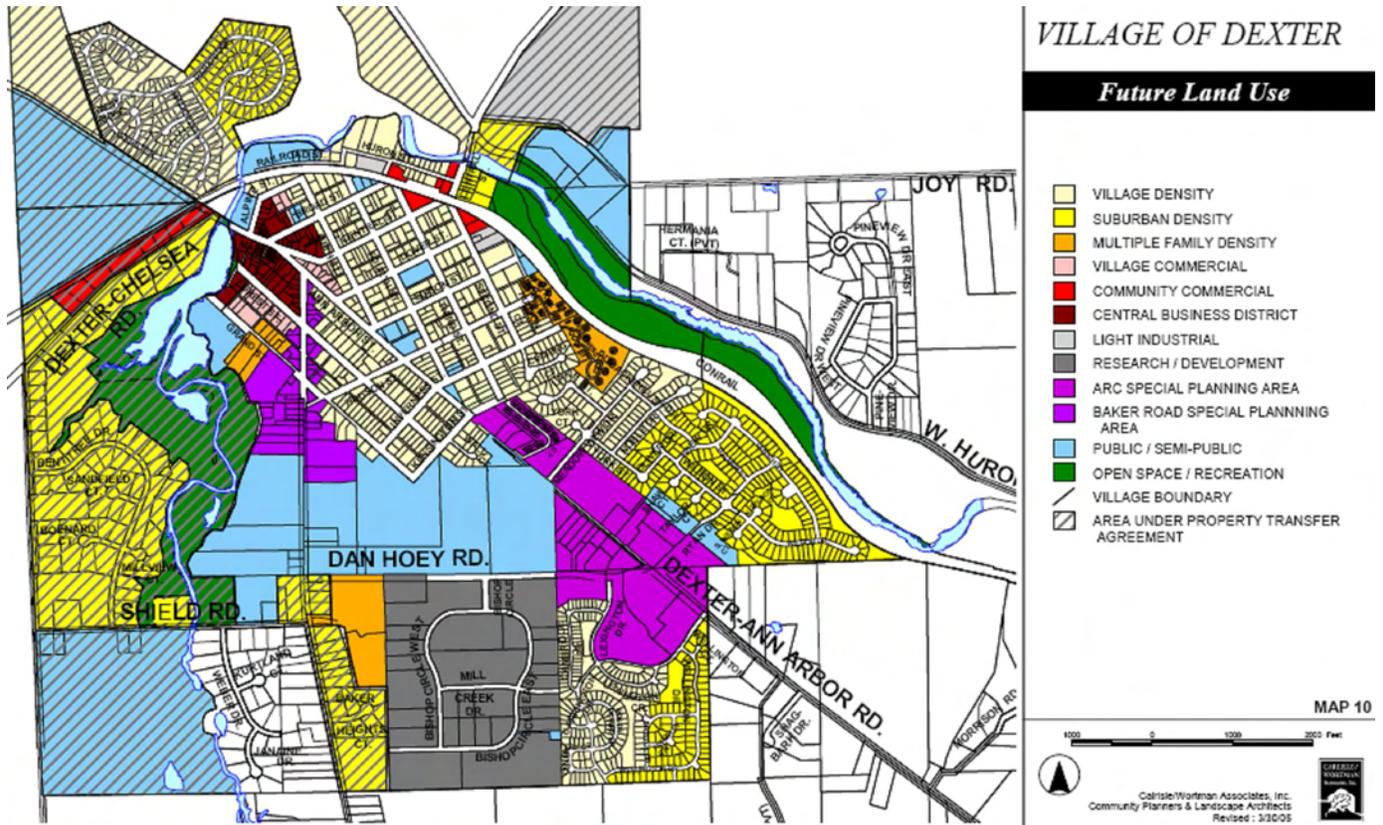
**EXHIBIT 6
Existing Land Use Acreage 2008***

Category	Acreage 2008	Percentage of Total 2008
Single & Two-Family Residential	341.1	30.5%
Multiple Family Residential	56.2	5.0%
Convenience Retail	9.6	1.0%
Comparison Retail	29.7	2.6%
Office	23.3	2.1%
Industrial	127.7	11.4%
Public	145.2	13.0%
Semi-Public	16.8	1.5%
Public Utilities	1.1	0.0%
Vacant	205.7	18.4%
Other	48.25	4.3%
Total Acreage	1115.50	100%

* Field survey completed January 2008.

The Village takes pride in the heritage of the downtown as the historic buildings. Storefronts in the Central Business District have not been significantly altered and some have been restored or rehabilitated. Streetscape improvements have been made that further enhance the character of the traditional, historic village, the downtown and the residential areas within the Village. Additional streetscape improvements will be made in the future to further enhance the downtown area and continue the streetscape theme throughout the Village of Dexter.

EXHIBIT 7



Natural Features. The Village of Dexter is located amongst rural farming townships in southeast Michigan. Many significant natural resources exist within the Village of Dexter, although most of the Village's significant natural resources are limited to its borders and surrounding townships. It will be important for the Village of Dexter to maintain existing natural features as development continues to occur within the Village limits and in the surrounding townships.

The Village of Dexter generally follows the same topography as southeast Michigan and the entire State of Michigan, fairly level with some low rolling hills. Two (2) water bodies, the Mill Creek and the Huron River surround the Village, creating elevation changes within the areas adjacent to those water bodies. The following natural features map, Exhibit 8, shows the water bodies and the steep slopes leading to the water bodies that surround the Village. Other areas of the Village have minimal steep slopes, but these areas were used for gravel extraction and have subsequently been altered by extraction processes and are not in their original state. The Village does have small areas with elevation changes, although none of them are major slopes that span across large areas.

Woodlands and wetlands also border the Village boundaries. Due to the lack of any significant woodlots the Village encourages limited removal of mature trees upon site development to help save trees within the borders. When considering land to be annexed, saving existing natural features and protecting habitats should be a priority.

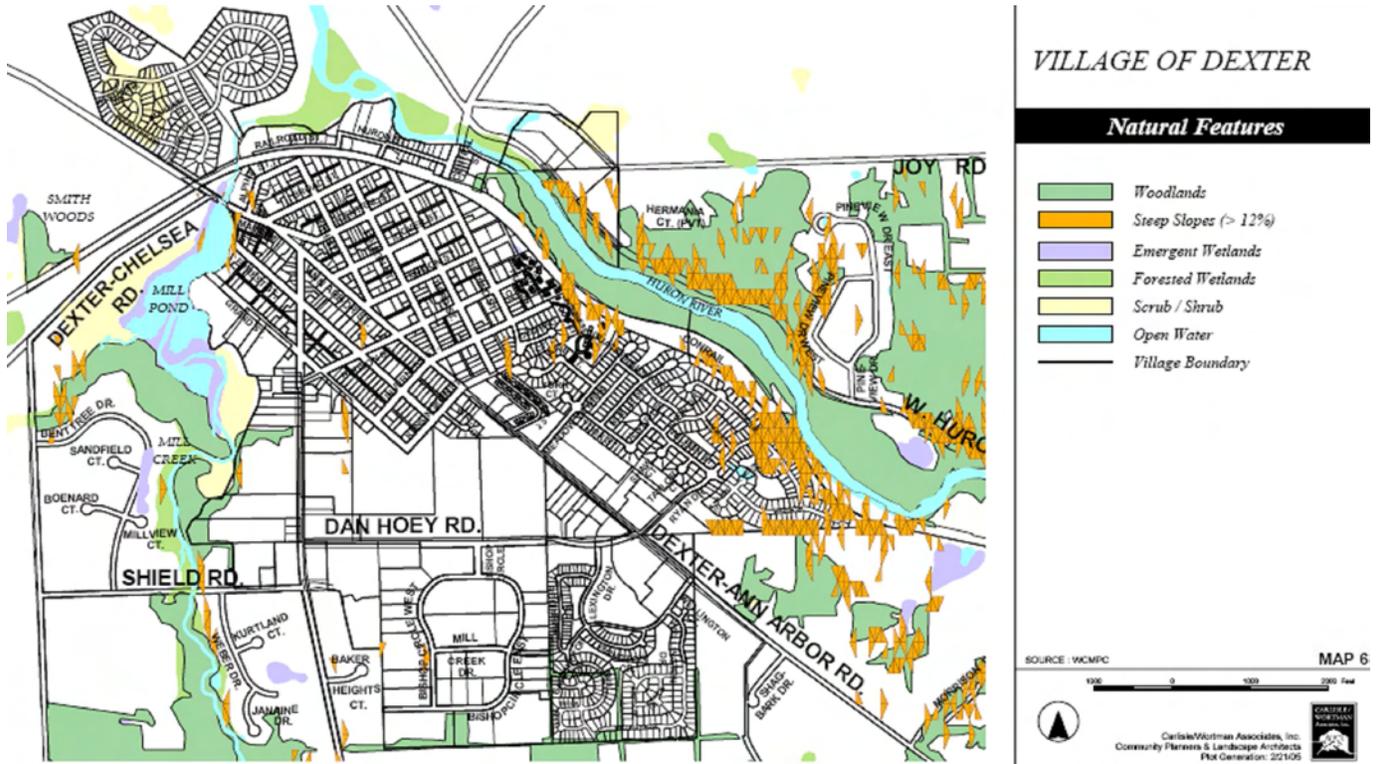
Dexter is within the Middle Huron River watershed and lays along side the Huron River and the Mill Creek, as can also be seen in Exhibit 8. The Mill Creek is located on the westerly boundary of the Village and the Huron River along the Village's northern boundary. Along the western border of the Village and along the Mill Creek is the most diverse landscape. Coming from the south the landscape entering the Village changes from an open water creek and forested wetlands to a more meandering creek with scrub shrub and emergent wetlands becoming more prominent due to the Mill Pond dam embankment. With the removal of the dam the natural features in this area are expected to change substantially. On the north side of town along the Huron River the landscape is primarily open water and forested wetlands. As the Huron River runs east it becomes a more open channel with less scrub shrub and forested wetlands.

The Mill Creek is within the Village providing Village residents with considerable access to natural resources. The Mill Pond, just west of downtown, was created when Henry Ford originally dammed the Mill Creek in 1932 for hydropower to be used in a timber mill. The Mill however was never activated. After the Mill Creek was dammed the tributary began to back up into the floodplain and has resulted in significant surface water on the westerly boundary of the Village.

In 2008 the dam will be removed along with the replacement of the Main Street Bridge. The removal of the dam will further open up recreation opportunities within the Mill Creek tributary and the Dexter area. Draining the Mill Pond will create significant changes in the wildlife and habitat of the area. The area will be returned to its natural habitat and fish passage will be restored and considerations will be given to protection of the watershed habitat in the redevelopment of the area. The Village is working on plans for the reclamation of the area and Village Council has authorized bonds to help fund the improvements. A Mill Creek Park Planning Team has been created to more thoroughly review the plans for the Mill Creek Park. The team is made up of a collaboration of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, Council Trustees, Planning Commissioners, Downtown Development Authority Representative and staff. Appendix L is the resolution establishing the team and Appendix M is the goals and objectives and concept plan established by the team. Plans for the park are to have a passive recreation area with a small entertainment/amphitheatre area, habitat and ecology highlights with information kiosks, boardwalks, parking area, riparian buffer improvement and regional storm water and wetland features. After months of team meetings and public forums the committee provided a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Village Council on how to proceed. The committee also contracted with a park development consultant to help with the concept design and intends to apply for funding through the MNRTF and LWCF grant programs and many others in 2009 and beyond.

The Village of Dexter is within the scenic and natural open areas of the Middle Huron River Watershed and plans on further developing the existing natural areas within the Village to enhance the Midwest historic small town feel. The Village's goal is also to provide wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities for Village residents and guarantee that the resources that exist today continue to be preserved into the future.

EXHIBIT 8



Topography. The Village of Dexter varies in elevation from 830 feet above mean sea level along the Huron River to 940 feet in the southeastern portion of the Village along Main Street. The Huron River flows through Webster Township in a southerly direction and leaves the Township near the northern boundary of the Village. Along with one of the Huron Rivers tributaries, the Mill Creek, these natural features are the most dominant in the community. Most of the Village is located south of the Huron River, sloping upward from the northwest to the southeast. The highest point is the site of the old water tower, which is now Peace Park. Most of the Village is developed or in process of developing, however, some vegetation remains along Mill Creek and the Huron River. Steep slopes throughout the Village are shown in Exhibit 8.

Beyond the Village center and to the southeast, gently sloping hills offer scenic overlooks and vistas, further enhancing the character of Dexter Village as a small, rural community. The scenic areas also contain wooded, low, wet areas that often present limitations for development. However, this undeveloped area has already experienced the growth pressures of the surrounding communities. Residential development beyond the Village center and in surrounding communities tends to be characterized with larger lots, wider curvilinear streets, common open space areas, and uniform housing sizes and designs.

Soils. Major soil types in the area are Oshtemo Loamy Sands (OsB), Kiddie Sandy Loam (KrC), and Miami Loam (MmB) shown in Exhibit 9. All of these soils except Miami Loam contain sand and have either slight or moderate limitations for urban development. Poorly drained soils typically make installation of sewer lines and septic tanks difficult, which would inhibit construction. In addition, they contribute to foundation instability, which also limit development and increase maintenance costs.

EXHIBIT 9

Drainage. The Village of Dexter is located within the Huron River Basin, which is a major drainage basin in Washtenaw County. The Village is also located at the mouth of Mill Creek sub-basin. The Honey Creek sub-basin drains most of Scio Township. The western half of the Village is situated in the Mill Creek sub-basin, while the eastern half is situated in various creekshed basins.

Water. Water features are undoubtedly one of the most important physical resources in the region. Within the Village, Warrior Creek Park is located along the Mill Creek, and the old Mill Pond above this is seen as having great recreation potential.

The Village of Dexter is within the Middle Huron River watershed area and is enhanced by the presence of the Huron River and Mill Creek, which meander along the northern and western boundaries of the Village. These water bodies form a natural boundary for expansion of the Village area to the north and west and assist in defining the unique character of the Village. Major woodland areas line the Huron River and Mill Creek, further defining the Village edge. These water bodies are a scenic and aesthetic resource of the Village of Dexter that provide visual relief, open space areas, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for recreation. With the removal of the Main Street Dam the Mill Pond has drained and the area has been restored back to its natural state and the wetland area will be replaced with the natural stream and smaller wetland areas. The railroad parallels these water bodies forming a man-made boundary along the Village's northern and western Village limits. Together, these natural resources and the railroad encircle the northern and western edges of the Village providing the benefits of scenic beauty and natural open space areas, which enhance the Village character.

Fish and Wildlife. Generally fish and wildlife stay outside of the borders of the Village due to the urbanized character of the Village and the natural water barriers that the Mill Creek and the Huron River provide. As part of the Mill Creek Park Plan the Village is actively planning on investing in rehabilitating fisheries in the next few years. Creation of basins, pools and wetlands throughout the Village have also attracted periodic wildlife.

Climate. The general area has a humid, continental climate that may be considered typical of the upper Midwest, lake states region of the United States. Prevailing southwesterly winds, frequent and often rapid weather changes, extreme seasonal temperature variations, reasonably uniform annual distribution of precipitation and four distinct seasons characterize the climate.

The Great Lakes are a powerful climatic influence throughout the State of Michigan and moderate land temperatures are attained by cooling in summer and warming in winter. Spring is delayed and fall extended approximately one month due to the moderating effect of the Great Lakes.

Environmental Protection. The Village of Dexter has been settled for over 100 years and has consequently experienced the removal of many natural features that were once found in the area. Although the Village of Dexter has been urbanized, areas with significant natural features still exist in close proximity to the Village, including the 17-acre Smith Woods Preserve. Smith Woods Preserve was donated to the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program in 2008 by the Village of Dexter. Smith Woods is adjacent to the Miller Preserve which was purchased by the County in 2007. Together the Miller Preserve and Smith Woods Preserve account for 28-acres to be preserved as part of the County's Natural Area Preservation Program and provides many opportunities to utilize and access natural resources close by. This area also has great potential for becoming a link to the Washtenaw Counties regional greenway system due to its location adjacent to the Huron River and other abundant natural resources and recreation opportunities available. The Parks and Recreation Commission hopes that one day the Miller Preserve and Smith Woods Preserve will be connected to the Gordon Hall property, the County Border to Border trail, the HCMA Hike/Bike trail, Exhibit 22 and 22a, and the Village's Mill Creek linear park trails, Appendix E.

Key Findings. The purpose of reviewing existing physical characteristics is to identify key findings that will guide parks and recreation decision-making in planning for the Village of Dexter.

-  The Village has an active downtown, which is easily accessible to the stable historic neighborhoods through streets, some sidewalks, and scenic open space areas.
-  Streetscape improvements along Main Street, the Central Business District and the Dexter-Ann Arbor Road Corridor could visibly connect the parks located at each end of the downtown.
-  Future streetscape improvements will provide for visible non-motorized connectivity through the Village.
-  The Village of Dexter's parks provide the only public access to passive recreation opportunities in the immediate area.

-  Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Washtenaw County Parks are the only other providers of public parkland within the four surrounding townships.
-  The Village of Dexter is centrally located amongst the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Parks within Washtenaw County. Connection to these regional facilities would provide Village residents and visitors with optional access to the facilities and provide the Village with economic development opportunities within the downtown.
-  The Village can provide parking access and other amenities to surrounding regional park facilities.
-  Dexter, Webster, Lima and Scio Townships all own minimal, if any, public parkland.
-  The topography creates broad rolling hills and scenic views that require protection from future development and expansion of the Village to the north and west.
-  Water features provide an additional level of recreation for the Village. Resources should be used to enhance the public access to these water resources.
-  The Village only has one area where the public can access an improved area adjacent to the Mill Creek. The former Mill Pond area would provide acres of public access to the Mill Creek if it were improved.
-  The Village must actively pursue the preservation of existing natural features when reviewing development plans for projects within the Village boundaries.
-  The Village has extraordinary access and trail linkage possibilities among the areas regional trail systems and trail plans.
-  The Village's plan for trail development along the Mill Creek via the new linear park will add to the regions extensive future trail system.

Socio-Economic Characteristics

Collection and analysis of the data describing the Village's population, housing and economic attributes is an important component of the parks and recreation planning process. The evaluation and comparison of available data allows the identification of trends in population, housing and employment compositions of the Village. The trends provide valuable insights to define potential future conditions based upon the historical trends and the characteristics of surrounding communities and the region. The data will be used to support and guide the Parks and Recreation Commission in the preparation of recommendations for the Village Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

Three primary sources of information were used in the compilation of this information. While the 2000 U.S. Census data is the primary source, information was also obtained from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments ("SEMCOG") and Washtenaw County.

Trends and Projections. Exhibit 10 and 11 describes the population changes from 1970 to 2007 for the Village of Dexter. Exhibit 10 also shows the population estimate for 2030. Between 1970 and 1990 there was a 14 percent decrease in population, which was most dramatic between 1970 and 1980. Since 1990 the population size has dramatically increased 138% due to the annexation of land and the influx of residential development. Between 2000 and 2007 growth slowed however the population still grew over 52%. As can also be seen in the table increases are being experienced in all of surrounding areas, which ultimately impacts the Dexter Community School District.

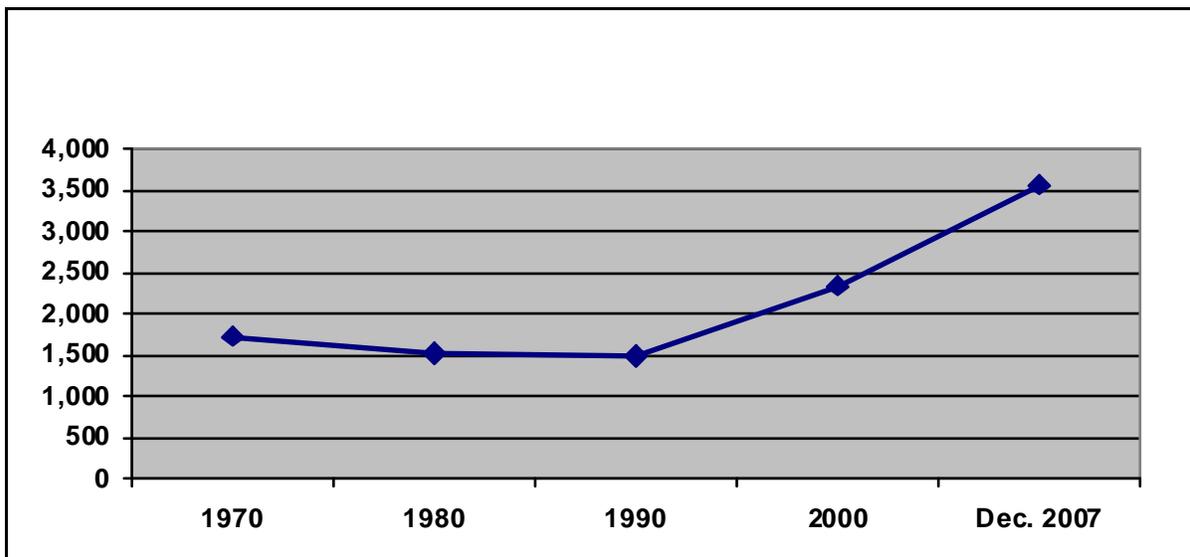
From 2005 to 2007 the number of students enrolled in the Dexter School System increased 149 students, to 3,630, a 3% increase. The increase being felt the most is at the middle school and high school levels. In 2004 the increase was felt most at the kindergarten level. The high school, which now holds 1,183 students, has increased 14% since 2004. The schools have grown substantially over the last decade however the growth has leveled off. The increase in the amount of students has also created the need for more teachers. Since 2002 the academic staff, which includes staff such as counselors and nurses increased from 211 to 235 in 2007, an increase of 11.3%.

**EXHIBIT 10
POPULATION CHANGE 1970 – 2007**

Community	1970	1980	1990	2000	December 2007	2030 Estimate	% Change 2000-2007	% Change 1990-2000
Village of Dexter	1,729	1,524	1,497	2,338	3,565	5,472	52.4%	56.2%
Dexter Township	2,238	3,872	4,407	5,248	6,001	6,029	14.3%	19.1%
Lima Township	1,281	2,124	2,132	2,224	3,114	4,359	40%	4%
Scio Township	5,476	6,505	9,580	15,759	16,430	23,164	4.2%	64.5%
Webster Township	1,981	2,760	3,235	5,198	6,361	13,222	22.3%	60.7%
Washtenaw County	234,103	264,748	282,937	322,895	352,061	369,460	4.9%	14.1%
State of Michigan	8,875,083	9,262,078	9,295,297	9,938,444	10,095,643*	-	1.5%	7%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census/SEMCOG (* 2006 estimate)

**EXHIBIT 11
POPULATION CHANGE PER COMMUNITY**



Source: 2000 U.S. Census/SEMCOG

While the Village is the second smallest municipality in a five-community area and was the second smallest municipality in 1970, the Village has experienced the same large increase in the level of growth as surrounding townships. Population projections estimate that the Village will have a population of 5,472 persons by the year 2030, a 53.4% increase. The data generally demonstrates that the Dexter area is recognized as an attractive residential location and that the population will continue to grow over the next two decades. According to SEMCOG the region has been losing jobs since 2001. It is anticipated that growth will slow due to the weak Michigan economy over the last few years. SEMCOG expects moderate growth in the long-term, however forecasts only a three percent population growth and seven percent job growth from 2005-2035. Overall the population and employment rates in the area will continue to grow, however not as quickly as through the 1990's. According the U.S. Census data and SEMCOG's population estimates, more than 35,471 people now reside in the Dexter vicinity compared to 20,851 in 1990 and 30,767 in 2000.

Changes in population size are often related to other changes in the household or resident attributes in the community. Exhibit 12 indicates the average household size recorded for the Dexter vicinity in 1980, 1990, 2000 and December 2007. With an average household size of 2.39 persons estimated in December 2007, the Village of Dexter has the smallest average household size of the five jurisdictions compared, being only slightly above Washtenaw County's average household size. In 2000 the Village of Dexter's average household size was less than Washtenaw County's.

**EXHIBIT 12
AVERAGE PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD**

Community	1980	1990	2000	December 2007	% Change 2000-2007	% Change 1990-2000
Village of Dexter	2.60	2.36	2.31	2.39	3.4%	-2.1%
Dexter Township	3.08	2.87	2.80	2.71	-3.2%	-2.4%
Lima Township	3.24	2.90	2.76	2.64	-5.3%	-4.8%
Scio Township	2.00	2.69	2.59	2.56	-3.3%	-3.7%
Webster Township	3.14	2.95	2.93	2.88	-1.7%	-0.7%
Washtenaw County	-	2.49	2.41	2.34	-2.9%	-3.2%
State of Michigan	-	2.65	2.56	-	-	-3.4%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census/SEMCOG

Average household size continues to decline throughout the nation and the documented local trends are consistent with the national variations (SEMCOG data from 2007 is only an estimate). Several primary causes have been noted for reductions in household sizes. Many families are choosing to have fewer children or are getting married and starting families at a later age. There are also higher incidences of single parent and single member households due to increased divorce rates or other factors of personal choice. In addition, the population is aging and older households are less likely to include children living at home. The Village's average household size is increasing. The Village was the only jurisdiction that had an increase in average household size since the 2000 Census. This could be a result of younger families moving into Dexter and starting families or expanding family sizes.

Housing. The housing stock within the Village of Dexter has changed dramatically since the 1990 U.S. Census. As shown in Exhibit 13 in 1990, the Village had 676 total housing units, only a 10.3% increase from the 1980 U.S. Census. By 2000 the Village's housing units had increased by 63.6%, almost doubling the number from 676 units in 1990 to 1,096 units in

2000. The number of housing units is still increasing in the Village; however there was an increase of only 445 housing units, 40.7%, from 2000-2007.

EXHIBIT 13
TOTAL HOUSING UNITS BY COMMUNITY

Community	1990	2000	2007	% Change 2000-2007
Village of Dexter	676	1,093	1,538	40.7%
Dexter Township	1,850	2,168	2,543	17.2%
Lima Township	802	923	1,221	32.2%
Scio Township	3,590	5,215	6,588	26.3%
Webster Township	1,173	1,859	2,300	23.7%
Washtenaw County	111,256	131,069	145,872	11.2%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census/SEMCOG

The housing unit increase has been due to the annexation of 330 acres of land into the Village in the 1990's. Prior to the annexations the Village of Dexter had been built-out with little or no room for growth. With the annexation of the land and people's interest in locating within the Village, the population surged, resulting in a substantial increase in housing units. Since 2000 residential development has slowed significantly due to the weak economy, however the Village of Dexter continues to attract residents.

With the possibility of new development proposals, the housing stock in the Village is expected to more than double in the next 10-20 years. If new development occurs, the Parks and Recreation Commission will encourage many to provide private parks, which could help reduce the need for public facilities.

Age Structure. Exhibit 14 illustrates the distribution of the populations of each community by age groups. The information in the table indicates that the Village of Dexter population is younger than the five townships compared with a median age of 33.7 years in the Village. Of particular interest is the fact that although the median age is low in the Village; only 28.5 percent of Dexter's population is less than 18 years old while this population group accounts for 29 percent to 32.2 percent in the other communities.

EXHIBIT 14

PERCENT OF POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND MEDIAN AGE

Age Group	Village of Dexter	Dexter Township	Lima Township	Scio Township	Webster Township	Washtenaw County
0-5	7.7% (164)	6.1% (320)	4.7% (105)	6.8% (1072)	7.3% (379)	3.2% (10333)
5-9	8.1% (189)	7.6% (399)	7.4% (165)	8.0% (1261)	8.8% (457)	6.3% (20342)
10-14	6.9% (161)	9.6% (504)	8.6% (191)	7.9% (1245)	9.3% (483)	6.1% (19697)
15-19	5.8% (136)	7.1% (373)	8.3% (185)	6.4% (1009)	6.8% (353)	8.7% (28092)
20-24	4.5% (105)	3.5% (184)	2.9% (64)	4.9% (772)	2.3% (120)	11.9% (38425)
25-34	19.1% (447)	1.0% (52)	7.3% (162)	12.8% (2017)	8.5% (442)	16.6% (53601)
35-44	19.0% (444)	18.6% (976)	18.4% (409)	17.9% (2821)	20.9% (1086)	15.5% (50049)
45-54	13.1% (306)	19.5% (1023)	20.0% (445)	17.8% (2805)	19.3% (1003)	13.5% (43591)
55-59	3.3% (77)	6.2% (325)	6.2% (138)	6.0% (946)	6.3% (327)	4.3% (13884)
60-64	2.6% (54)	3.5% (184)	4.7% (105)	3.2% (504)	3.3% (172)	2.9% (9364)
65-74	4.8% (112)	5.0% (262)	6.6% (147)	5.1% (804)	4.6% (239)	4.3% (13884)
75+	5.0% (117)	3.3% (173)	5.0% (111)	3.2% (504)	2.5% (130)	3.8% (12270)
Median Age	33.7	38.2	41.3	37.0	38.7	31.3
TOTAL POPULATION	2,338	5,248	2,224	15,759	5,198	322,895
Gender	Population	%				
Male	1,137	48.6%				
Female	1,201	51.4%				

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

The age structure of the Village indicates that many young adults are living in Dexter, which has specific implications related to the types of park and recreation facilities needed. A younger population implies that more active recreation such as biking and hiking trails as well as ball fields are necessary to accommodate the residents. It also implies that the School's facilities are more in demand, or will be more in demand, due to the desire of young residents to have more programmed activities, that required the schools facilities, through the Community Education and Recreation Program administered by the Dexter Community School District. 16.6% of the Village's population is between the ages of 25-34, which also implies that many of the residents are at childbearing years and a population increase should be anticipated. 51.4% of the Village residents are also women. In addition, the percentage of

residents 65 years and older is higher than the County and surrounding townships. This trend needs to be reviewed in relation to park and recreation facility accessibility.

Racial and Ethnic Composition. According to the 2000 Census the Village of Dexter has a relatively homogeneous population with 97% being white. The remainder of the population is a combination of American Indian, Asian, African American, and others. This is important to address in assessing the availability of cultural centers and identifying the different recreation and cultural interests of the residents.

Education. Calculations from SEMCOG indicate that in 2000 the percentage of adults 25 and over that received a high school diploma was approximately 92% of which, 38% went on to obtain a college degree or more.

Employment. Exhibit 15 illustrates the occupations of the Village of Dexter residents. Over 42% of Dexter's residents are employed in high-ranking office jobs such as executive, administrative, managerial and professional specialty occupations. Additionally, another 25% of the population is involved in sales, technical support and administrative support jobs. Manufacturing production-related work including precision production, assembly, and inspection accounts for another one-quarter of the Village workforce. Various services, labor and other jobs account for the remaining employment.

**EXHIBIT 15
VILLAGE OF DEXTER BASED EMPLOYMENT**

OCCUPATION	1990	2000	% TOTAL 2000
Management, professional, and related occupations	256	586	42%
Service Occupations	119	222	16%
Sales and Office occupations	181	348	25%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	10	5	<1%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	108	118	8%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	140	121	9%
INDUSTRY			
Agriculture, forestry and hunting, and mining	17	0	0%
Construction	66	90	6%
Manufacturing	199	241	17%
Whole sale Trade	27	55	4%
Retail Trade	122	139	10%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	38	19	1%
Information	N/A	46	3%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	42	58	4%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	124	141	10%
Educational, health and social services	162	448	32%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	30	70	5%
Other services (except public administration)	N/A	52	4%
Public Administration	13	41	3%
TOTAL Employed civilian population	814	1,400	1,400

Source: 2000 Census

Exhibit 15 indicates that the Village of Dexter has seen a significant increase in the amount of management and professional related occupations. The number of Village residents people employed has also risen, as expected, with the population. Exhibit 15 also shows that the Village of Dexter's resident's occupations appear to be following the same trends as all industries.

A majority of Village residents, or 77.4 percent, are privately employed. Government employment provides jobs to 16.6 percent of the residents and the remainder are self-employed. A total labor force of 1,421 is reported with only 21 persons unemployed at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, resulting in a very low unemployment rate of 1.1 percent. Dexter's median household income as reported in the 2000 Census was \$50,510 per year.

Washtenaw County's median household income for the same period was slightly higher at \$51,990.

However, both the Village and County median incomes were in excess of the State's median household income of \$44,667. Households in Washtenaw County communities tend to possess substantially higher incomes as compared to other communities in Michigan. Exhibit 16 provides detailed household income data for the Village.

**EXHIBIT 16
DEXTER HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

Income Category	Households	Percent
Less \$10,000	20	1.9%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	42	4.1%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	123	11.9%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	141	13.6%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	182	17.6%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	250	24.1%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	135	13.0%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	96	9.3%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	19	1.8%
\$200,000 or more	28	2.7%
Total Households	1,036	100.0%
Median Household Income	\$50,510	

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Persons with Disabilities. Approximately 13.4% of the Village's population aged 21 to 64 years old has some type of mobility or self-care limitation. The Village of Dexter has also seen the percentage of seniors with disabilities increase from twenty three percent (23%) to forty nine percent. In 2000 forty-nine (49%) of all seniors in Dexter are challenged with some form of mobility and/or self-care limitation.

Although persons with disabilities make up only a small portion of the Village's population, other citizens face some form of temporary disability during their lifetime: seniors, young

children, pregnant women, individuals with broken bones, and individuals using crutches. The village shall make every effort to provide persons with accessibility limitations and disabilities with the opportunity to enjoy all recreation facilities provided by the Village of Dexter.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Title II, prohibits discrimination, both intentional and unintentional, against individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities and services provided by public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments and agencies and any other agencies or special purpose districts of state or local governments. Public Act 1 of 1966, as amended, also requires that all public facilities, including improved areas used for recreation, meet the barrier free design requirement contained in the State construction code.

Public recreation providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities and services that screen out, or tend to screen out, persons with disabilities; unless they can establish that the requirements are necessary for the provision of the service, program or activity due to legitimate safety requirements. Furthermore, individuals with disabilities may not be excluded from services, programs and activities because existing buildings or park facilities are inaccessible. The Parks and Recreation Commission understands and has prioritized making the Village's facilities ADA accessible.

Alternatives municipalities may consider to comply with ADA include: alteration of existing facilities, acquisition or construction of new facilities, relocation of a service or program to an accessible facility, or provision of services at accessible sites.

The implications of the ADA for Dexter are significant. Within parks, parking, sidewalks, picnic tables, play equipment, playground surfaces, and other recreation facilities must be examined to determine if their design creates barriers that prevent use by all segments of the population.

In essence, the ADA and MDNR policies mandate that communities work toward developing "inclusive recreation programs." Inclusive recreation programs identify residents' interests and needs, then address these interests and needs with facilities and programs that are not only barrier-free, but also are adaptable so that everyone can have a pleasant recreation experience.

The village will make all efforts to provide barrier free access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Access Guidelines (ADAAG).

Key Findings. Analysis of socio-economic characteristics of the Village provides insight to the needs of its residents.

-  The dramatic population increase defines a clear need for structured park planning in the next 20 years.
-  56% population increase over the past decade indicates that the Village must prepare for continued population growth as it relates to the future and the populations need for more recreational facilities.
-  The Village must cooperate with community organizations, the Dexter Community Schools, adjacent jurisdictions, and the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority to eliminate the duplication of services, while ensuring that appropriate parks and recreation opportunities are available to all Dexter area residents.
-  A large percentage of the population remains in family forming years. A younger population implies that more active recreation is appropriate, such as hiking and biking trails.
-  More mini-park playgrounds (tot lots) for small children will be necessary to decrease reliance on school facilities and to account for the increase in children that is anticipated. More community parks for young adults will become necessary to decrease the reliance on the school's facilities and to account for the increased need for active recreation facilities as the population continues to increase.
-  Employment trends show residents are working "9 to 5" jobs. This implies usage of parks on weekends and weekday nights.
-  Cultural centers are not a priority due to the relatively homogenous population, although a community center with diverse recreation opportunities could help meet the needs of Dexter residents now and in the future as the composition of the population changes.
-  A community center or recreation center should be considered to improve access to recreation facilities, programming and arts and culture opportunities. Reliance of the school should be reduced if possible.
-  Programs must be examined, too, to be certain they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents, regardless of their social, economic, or physical status.

-  Programs and activities for young adults should be increased.
-  Accessibility, including hiking trails, boating access and educational opportunities, to valuable water resources surrounding the village must be created and improved.
-  The Village should continue to evaluate accessibility and provide solutions for parks with accessibility limitations.

Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Analysis of the Village of Dexter's recreational needs requires evaluation of its present parks and recreational facilities on both the regional and local levels. To provide adequate information for this analysis, the inventory provides information regarding parklands and the availability of facilities/activities whether or not these are located in parklands. Inventory, analysis and planning must take place within a defined geographic area, this is called the service area. Recreational opportunities may be active or passive. Active recreational opportunity means games and athletic activities. All other recreational activity is passive.

Community Parks and Recreational Components

The School District is the major source of active recreation programs and facilities. Aside from the yearly team sports they provide for the students, the schools provide a Community Education and Recreation Department that facilitates a wide variety of activities for Village and School District residents of all ages. For example, they offer the basic sports programs, aerobics, arts and crafts courses, martial arts classes, swim lessons, and many other activities. These are all operated with user fees.

Dexter also has many community organizations. These clubs include (but are not limited to) the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, American Business Women's Association, Boy Scouts, Dexter Chamber of Commerce, Merchants Association, Think Dexter First, Dexter Rotary Club, Senior Citizens Group, Dexter Community Band, Dexter Area Historical Society, Faith in Action and the Domestic Violence Support Group. Annual events that take place in the Village include Dexter Days, Apple Days, Victorian Christmas, and an Ice Cream Social. Additional events throughout the summer months include the Summer Series events which provides for various types of entertainment in the downtown parks. The Community Education and Recreation Department also hosts many events each year, including craft fairs, auctions, and parties for community groups.

Regional Parks and Recreational Components

Regional recreation areas generally serve residents from the various communities in the regional service area. They may be publicly or privately held and may be designed to provide for a single recreational activity such or multiple recreational activities. A list of regional recreational opportunities is found in Exhibit 17. The location of regional facilities located in Southeast Michigan is shown in Exhibit 18.

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation (WCPAR) role within the Village of Dexter is to be an active liaison to local governments and to assist local units in providing facilities and opportunities that local governments cannot. The WCPAR's mission is: "To enhance the quality of life in the County by promoting active lifestyles, efficiently providing high quality facilities and programs reflective of current and anticipated recreational needs of the County residents and visitors, with particular emphasis on preserving fragile lands, water quality, wildlife habitat, creating pedestrian and greenway connections and providing high quality services to those of all backgrounds." The WCPARC currently owns and operates 29 parks (14 parks and 15 preserves) with over 2,930 acres of parkland, including a 160-acre park at Independence Lake just 5 miles north of the Village and the recently acquired Robert and Nancy Smith Woods Preserve donated by the Village of Dexter. Washtenaw County parks included areas for field games, gardening, skiing, nature interpretation, picnicking, swimming, hiking and biking.

The Southeast Michigan region is serviced by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), which controls approximately 24,000 acres of land within five (5) counties. Washtenaw County has three regional parks all within 7 miles of the Village limits, totaling 1,800 acres. Hudson Mills Metropark, the largest of the three, 1,595 acres, provides multiple recreation, learning, and group facilities and activities. Dexter-Huron Metropark, a 120-acre park, also provides many recreation and family recreation opportunities. Delhi Metropark, a 53-acre Metropark also along the Huron River provides play areas, picnicking, non-motorized boat and canoe rental. All of the HCMA parks within Washtenaw County are along the Huron River Corridor and are planned to be part of the Border to Border trail initiative being led by Washtenaw County Parks.

The HCMA is the largest provider of parkland surrounding the Village of Dexter. The HCMA is also actively working towards increasing parkland around Dexter through park connections within the County's regional corridor and greenways project. The Village of Dexter is working with the HCMA and Washtenaw County Parks to connect the Village with a regional trail system, and to link the Village's parks into the regional system along the Huron River. The Village and the schools are also working together to extend the system along the Mill Creek south of the Village from Warrior Creek Park to the school's future nature corridor and outdoor lab (Shield Road). Exhibit 19 is an inventory of Metro Park facilities.

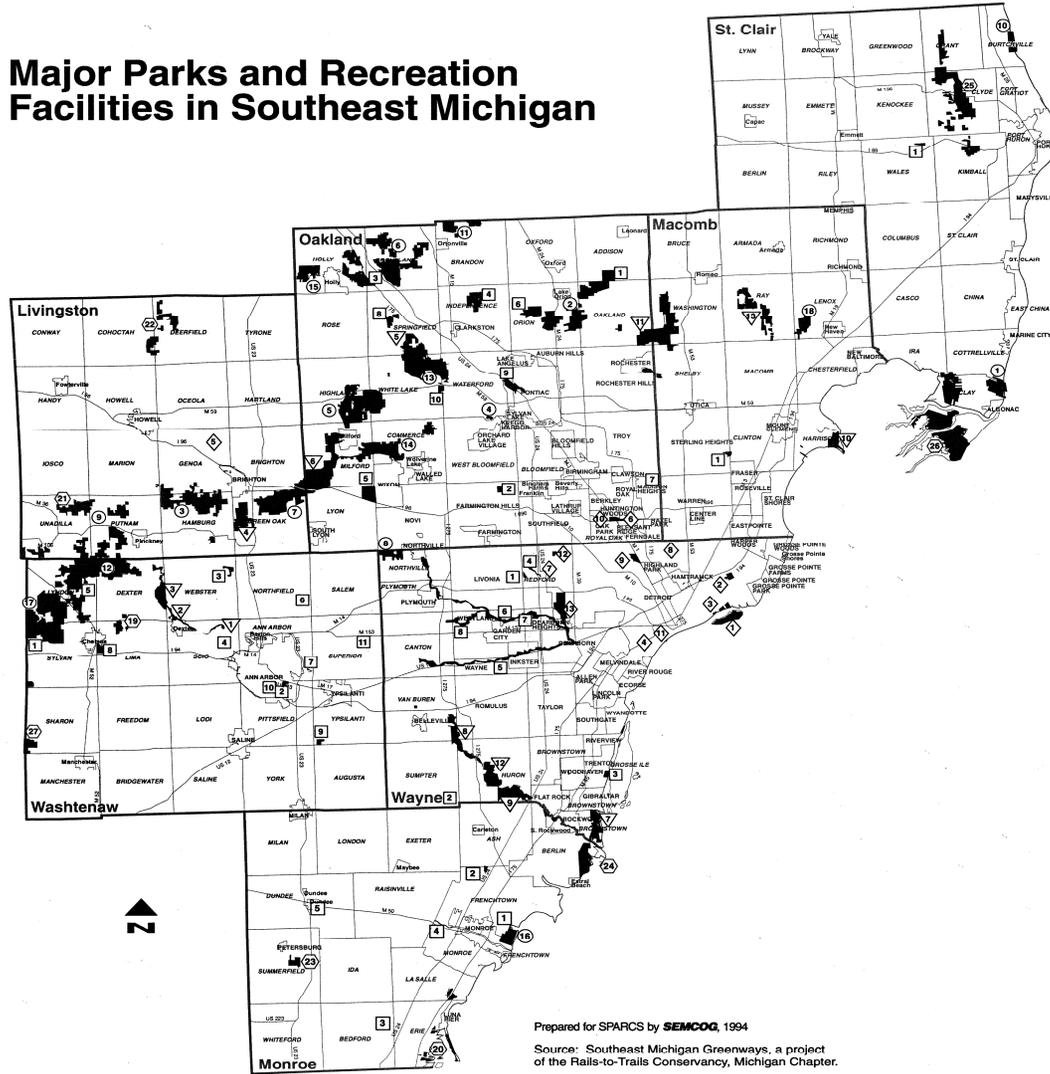
**EXHIBIT 17
INVENTORY OF REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES**

Public Facilities	Private Facilities
1. Metroparks a. Delhi Parks b. Dexter Huron Park c. Hudson Mills Park	A. Ann Arbor Country Club B. Liberty Sports Club
2. Chelsea State Game Area	B. Portage Lake Boating Club
3. Waterloo Recreation Area	C. Ann Arbor “YMCA”
4. Pinckney Recreation Area	D. Bally’s Total Fitness
5. Portage Lake Public Access	E. Canoe Liveries, Huron River
6. Whitmore Lake Public Access	F. Theaters
7. Ann Arbor City Recreation System	G. Private Development Open Space a. Dexter Crossing b. Huron Farms c. Orchard River Hills d. Westridge of Dexter
8. University of Michigan a. Libraries b. Museums c. Theaters d. Sports Facilities	H. Ice Skating a. Ann Arbor Ice Cube b. Chelsea Ice Arena
9. Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation	I. Planet Rock – Rock Climbing Gym
10. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation a. Albert Miller Preserve b. Robert & Nancy Smith Preserve c. Burns-Stokes Preserve d. Brauer Preserve e. Devine Preserve f. Osbourne Mill Park g. Independence Lake Park	J. Wideworld Sports Center - Soccer
	K. Chelsea Wellness Center
	L. Dexter Wellness Center (proposed)

Source: January 2008 Inventory, Village Staff

EXHIBIT 18 – Regional Facilities Location Map

Major Parks and Recreation Facilities in Southeast Michigan



Prepared for SPARCS by SEMCOG, 1994
 Source: Southeast Michigan Greenways, a project of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Michigan Chapter.

- Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas (County Location)
 - 1 Algonac (St.Clair)
 - 2 Bald Mountain (Oakland)
 - 3 Brighton (Livingston)
 - 4 Dodge #4 (Oakland)
 - 5 Highland (Oakland)
 - 6 Holly (Oakland)
 - 7 Island Lake (Livingston)
 - 8 Maybury (Wayne)
 - 9 Lakelands Trail (Livingston, Oakland)
 - 10 Lakeport (St. Clair)
 - 11 Ortonville (Oakland)
 - 12 Pinckney (Livingston, Washtenaw)
 - 13 Pontiac Lake (Oakland)
 - 14 Proud Lake (Oakland)
 - 15 Seven Lakes (Oakland)
 - 16 Sterling (Monroe)
 - 17 Waterloo - part (Washtenaw)
 - 18 Wetzell - undeveloped (Macomb)
- ◻ Michigan State Wildlife Areas (County Location)
 - 19 Chelsea (Washtenaw)
 - 20 Erie (Monroe)
 - 21 Gregory (Livingston)
 - 22 Oak Grove (Livingston)
 - 23 Petersburg (Monroe)
 - 24 Pointe Mouillee (Monroe)
 - 25 Port Huron (St. Clair)
 - 26 St. Clair Flats (St. Clair)
 - 27 Sharonville (Washtenaw)
- ▽ Huron-Clinton Metroparks (County Location)
 - 1 Delhi (Washtenaw)
 - 2 Dexter-Huron (Washtenaw)
 - 3 Hudson Mills (Washtenaw)
 - 4 Huron Meadows (Livingston)
 - 5 Indian Springs (Oakland)
 - 6 Kensington (Oakland, Livingston)
 - 7 Lake Erie (Wayne)
 - 8 Lower Huron (Wayne)
 - 9 Oakwoods (Wayne)
 - 10 Metro Beach (Macomb)
 - 11 Stony Creek (Macomb, Oakland)
 - 12 Willow (Wayne)
 - 13 Wolcott Mill (Macomb)
- ◻ Wayne County Parks
 - 1 Bell Creek
 - 2 Crosswinds Marsh - undeveloped
 - 3 Elizabeth
 - 4 Lola Valley
 - 5 Lower Rouge
 - 6 Hines Parkway
 - 7 Warren Valley Golf Course
 - 8 Wm. Holliday Forest Preserve
- ◻ Oakland County Parks
 - 1 Addison Oaks
 - 2 Glen Oaks
 - 3 Groveland Oaks
 - 4 Independence Oaks
 - 5 Lyon Oaks - undeveloped
 - 6 Orion Oaks
 - 7 Red Oaks
 - 8 Springfield Oaks
 - 9 Waterford Oaks
 - 10 White Lake Oaks
- ◻ Macomb County Parks
 - 1 Freedom Hill
- ◻ Washtenaw County Parks
 - 1 Cavanaugh Lake
 - 2 County Farm
 - 3 Independence Lake
 - 4 Osborn Mills
 - 5 Park Lyndon
 - 6 Park Northfield
 - 7 Parker Mill
 - 8 Pierce Lake
 - 9 Rolling Hills
 - 10 Recreation Center
 - 11 Park Superior
- ◻ Monroe County Parks
 - 1 Heck
 - 2 Nike
 - 3 Vienna
 - 4 Waterloo
 - 5 West County - undeveloped
- ◻ St. Clair County Parks
 - 1 Goodells
- ◊ Detroit Parks
 - 1 Belle Isle
 - 2 Chandler
 - 3 Chene
 - 4 Clark Park
 - 5 Detroit Recreation Camp
 - 6 Detroit Zoo
 - 7 Eliza Howell
 - 8 Farwell Playfield
 - 9 Palmer
 - 10 Rackham Golf Course
 - 11 Riverside
 - 12 Kogell Golf Course
 - 13 Rouge Park & Golf Course

**EXHIBIT 19
INVENTORY OF HURON CLINTON METROPOLITAN PARKS**

Metro Park Facilities Activities	Hudson Mills	Dexter-Huron	Delhi
Size	1,595 Acres	120 Acres	53 Acres
Picnicking	P	P	P
Drinking Water/Toilets	WT	WT	WT
Rental Shelters	RS	RS	RS
Play Areas-Adventure Play Lot	PAP	P	PAP
Bathhouse-Food Service	FS		
Boat or Canoe Rental			CR
Canoeing	C	C	C
Group Rental Facility	GF		
Outdoor Entertainment Program	EP		
Geocaching	G	G	G
Fishing	F	F	F
Golf	G		
Court Games	CG		
Hike-Bike Trail	BH		
Hiking and Fitness Trail	H	H	H
Nature-Discovery Trails	NT		
Cross-Country Skiing	S	S	S
Cross-Country Ski Rental-Food	SRF		
Scenic Views	V	V	V
Interpretive Programs	IP		

Source: Huron Clinton Metropark Guide 2006

State Parks and Recreation Components

The State of Michigan is the largest provider of recreational lands with approximately 15,800 acres within Washtenaw County, primarily located northwest and northeast of the Village in

the Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. The State of Michigan's role in parks and recreation is more specialized than that of local or regional government. Washtenaw County's largest provider of parks and recreation facilities is the State with 15,800 acres of land containing a variety of activities, many of which are near the Village of Dexter. The State's strongest asset is their ability to acquire and develop property for unique parks that other entities may not be able to do. The State's goal is to acquire property near urban areas to preserve open spaces and undisturbed areas.

Local Parks and Recreation Components

The Village of Dexter has grown in population size and in recreation needs. However the Village has decreased in parkland since the 2003 Park and Recreation Facilities Master Plan due to the donation of the Robert and Nancy Smith Woods to the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program. The Village has however created two new parks, although from existing property owned by the Village. Lions Park and First Street Park combined property is slightly more than one acre. Donation of the Smith Woods property decreased the Village's parkland 17 acres for a net decrease of 16 acres.

The Dexter Community School District has built three (3) new schools over the last ten years; a middle school, an elementary school and a new high school, and the former high school being retrofitted to an intermediate school for 5th and 6th graders. Additional parks and recreation facilities were provided at each new school and old facilities were retrofitted as necessary.

The Village of Dexter Parks and Recreational Facilities now consists of six (6) park areas, Monument Park, Warrior Creek Park, Peace Park, Community Park, Lions Parks and First Street Park. The Village hopes to increase the parkland by the redevelopment of the Mill Pond following the 2008 removal of the Main Street dam. In total the Mill Creek Park area will be approximately 24 acres. Monument Park, Warrior Creek Park, Lions Park and Peace Park are close to the Village's downtown district and are frequented by many Village and non-Village residents. With the exception of Warrior Creek Park and Community Park all the parks are passive, open space parks. Monument Park and Lions Park have signature Village gazebos and Warrior Creek and Community Park have play structures, swings, grills, picnic tables and benches. Community Park is an active park with an asphalt path, play structures, a

gazebo, basketball court, grills, picnic tables, swings, spring toys and benches. First Street Park has been developed as a horseshoe throwing park.

Local recreation areas serve residents of a specific community. They may also be publicly or privately held, and may be designed to provide for a single recreational activity or multiple recreational activities. For the purpose of the Village of Dexter’s Plan, Exhibit 20 defines the local service area, size, and level of service standard per 1,000 population according to park type. Along with this table is the inventory of existing park facilities in Dexter. The location of these local facilities is shown in Exhibit 21.

The standards outlined in Exhibit 20 provide a means for determining the primary purpose or use of parklands. It should be noted, however, that in practice most parklands are used in such a manner that they may be arguably placed in more than one category. When this occurs, the purpose for which the park or recreational facility is intended shall be the determining factor for placement in a given component category.

When evaluating the Park and Recreation facilities within the Village of Dexter, the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) standards were used. The standards help to determine the amount of parkland that a community is either deficient in, or has a surplus of.

**EXHIBIT 20
PARK CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

Park Type	Local Service Area (mile radius)	Minimum Recommended Size (acreage)	Recommended Minimum Acreage per 1,000 residents
Regional Parks	15 mile radius	50 or more acres	5-10 acres
Community Parks	0.5 – 3 mile radius	10 -50 acres	5 acres
Neighborhood Parks	0.25-0.5 mile radius	5 -10 acres	1 acre
Mini-Parks	Less than 0.25 mile	.25 acres – 1 acre	.25 acres
School Park	School District	Varies	Varies

Source: NPRA Standards

EXHIBIT 20a
VILLAGE PARK CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

Village Park	Park Type	Recommended Size	Actual Size
Warrior Creek Park	Neighborhood Park	2-10 acres	2.15 acres
Monument Park	Mini-Park	0.05 – 1 acre	0.3 acres
Lions Park	Mini-Park	0.05 – 1 acre	0.25 acres
First Street Park	Mini-Park	0.05 – 1 acre	0.94 acres
Peace Park	Mini-Park	0.05 – 1 acre	0.2 acres
Community Park	Neighborhood Park	2-10 acres	5 acres
Mill Creek Park	Community Park	10-50 acres	24 acres
Private Parks/Open Space			
Westridge of Dexter	Neighborhood Park	2-10 acres	2 acres
Huron Farms	Mini-Park	0.05 – 1 acre	1.5 acres
Dexter Crossing	Neighborhood Park	2-10 acres	7 acres
TOTAL			32.84
Including private			43.34

The following are the types of parks that the NPRA uses to evaluate park facilities based on service area and park amenities:

Regional Parks. Regional parks are auto oriented; that is, at a minimum, adequate parking for park facility users is provided. They offer a variety of recreational activities providing access to active and/or passive pursuits such as: court games, field sports, picnic facilities, play equipment, shelter and restroom facilities. Ideally, significant, local natural resources will be included, and thereby these resources will obtain some protection, within these parks.

Within the Village of Dexter boundaries, there are no regional parks. As mentioned previously, residents are served by the various regional parks in the Washtenaw County area, which can all be accessed via waterways and roadways surrounding the Village and Warrior Creek Park.

Community Parks. Varied environmental conditions exist in community parks, which may be designed to provide areas for intense, active recreational opportunities such as

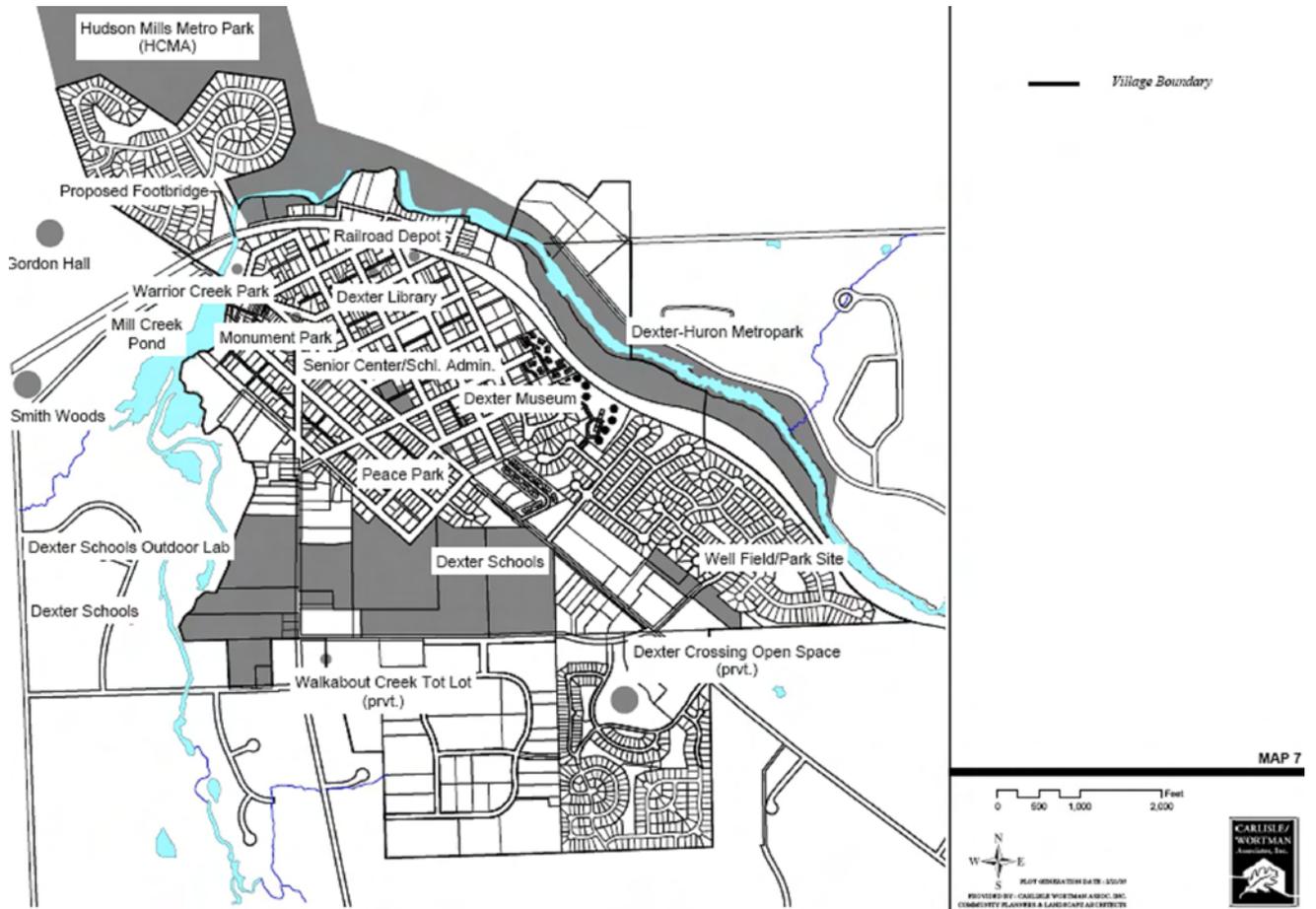
sanctioned football, swimming or baseball meets or games. They may also serve only passive recreational uses.

Community parks may include areas of significant natural features, land suitable for intense recreational development, and parks used for community-wide events. Where both are included, sufficient acreage must be made available to protect the fragile areas often associated with natural features from over or inappropriate use. Community parks may draw from an area with a 2-3-mile radius from the village. This component is a multi-purpose area developed as athletic fields for highly organized, active sports opportunities and is generally 25 acres or more in size. Spectator seating and rest room facilities are highly desirable. Dual use of playfields by the school district and the community is encouraged. Playfields are currently located on Dexter Community School property. The village provides one basketball court at Community Park.

Where acreage permits, facilities for both passive and active recreational opportunities may be provided in the same park. Vehicular access and parking should generally be provided in community parks permitting easy access to the neighborhoods served by the park.

Community Parks are parks that typically serve areas of a ½-3 mile radius. The recommended size for a Community Park is 5 acres per 1000 people, and a minimum of 10 acres in size. Community Parks are areas with intense recreation opportunities and have a much larger and more diverse environment of plant and animal life. The Village's only Community Park is the Mill Creek Park. The Village has plans to develop the area now that the Main Street dam has been removed. The school district also provides facilities considered Community Parks.

EXHIBIT 21



Neighborhood Parks. Facilities, scaled to the recreational requirements of the neighborhood, generally are designed to meet several needs. Tables, benches, lawn area, play equipment and play fields are generally the basic facilities. Non-league ball diamonds, skating facilities, and sledding areas may also be included. Monument Park, Warrior Creek Park, and Community Park could be considered neighborhood parks because they also serve as gateways to the Village of Dexter.

Neighborhood Parks or playgrounds are parks that serve a 0.25 –0.5-mile radius. Neighborhood parks are usually 1 acre per 1000 people, with a minimum recommended size of 5 acres that specialize in more active recreation such as field games. The Neighborhood Parks, and most widely used parks within the Village are Monument Park in the downtown and Warrior Creek Park along the Mill Creek very close to downtown and Community Park on the eastern side of the Village.

Mini-Parks. Mini parks serve the immediate sub-neighborhood depending on their use. These serve a variety of purposes such as tot lots, block parks, play lots, or even a public garden. They are small, usually about the size of the average residential building lot (7,400 to 10,000 square feet). If equipped for the use of small children, parks should not be situated so that children are required to cross heavily traveled streets to get to them. Desirable features in these parks include fencing or hedging, swings, slides, sand boxes, benches, and tables in keeping with the size of the park. Peace Park, Lions Park, First Street Park and the other private subdivision parks are classified as mini-parks.

A Mini- Parks is the smallest park type, typically serving an area with a 0.25-mile radius. Mini-parks are usually 0.25 – 0.5 acres per 1000 people and specialize in a particular age group, such as tot lots. Mini-parks are typically between 0.05 and 1 acre in size. Private parks throughout the single-family subdivisions are also considered mini-parks and comprise 10.5 acres of private parkland within the Village limits.

Additional Park and Recreational Components

Linear Parks. Linear parks, also called greenways, are lands developed to provide varying means of recreational travel generally between important elements of a service area. They may also serve to protect and/or provide access to various recreational resources including the various types of parklands previously discussed. Modes of travel can include hiking, biking, skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, canoeing, and driving.

Linear parks can serve as links between various parks, neighborhoods, schools, libraries and the commercial areas and can therefore include elements from wooded trails to sidewalks. Linear parks may be built along road or utility rights-of way, rivers, or bluff lines. There is no recommended size requirement but they should be wide enough to protect any natural features and promote usage. There is a need and potential for open space connections in the Village of Dexter and the surrounding area.

Development of a greenway system would enhance the village character of the area and create continuity for residents between uses within the community and the surrounding townships. The Village has also prioritized the need for a greenway corridor linkage with the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Parks and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation. The Village has begun to look into ways to connect fragmented annexed areas across the Mill Creek and Huron River at Warrior Creek Park and has jointly pursued funding with the Washtenaw County Road Commission and Washtenaw County Parks. The following Hudson Mills Metro Park map and the Washtenaw County Border to Border trail map, Exhibit 22 and 22a, shows the proposed Hike/Bike Trail greenway system, and demonstrates what a linear park may look like. The Village hopes to connect the Hike /Bike pathway in the Village with a Village linear pathway from the Main Street Bridge and Warrior Creek Park south to the Dexter Community Schools property and Shield Road as part of the Mill Creek linear park following the removal of the Main Street dam. The Village's pathway vision is also shown in Exhibit 22b.

EXHIBIT 22



EXHIBIT 22a Proposed Hike Bike and Border to Border Trail Connections

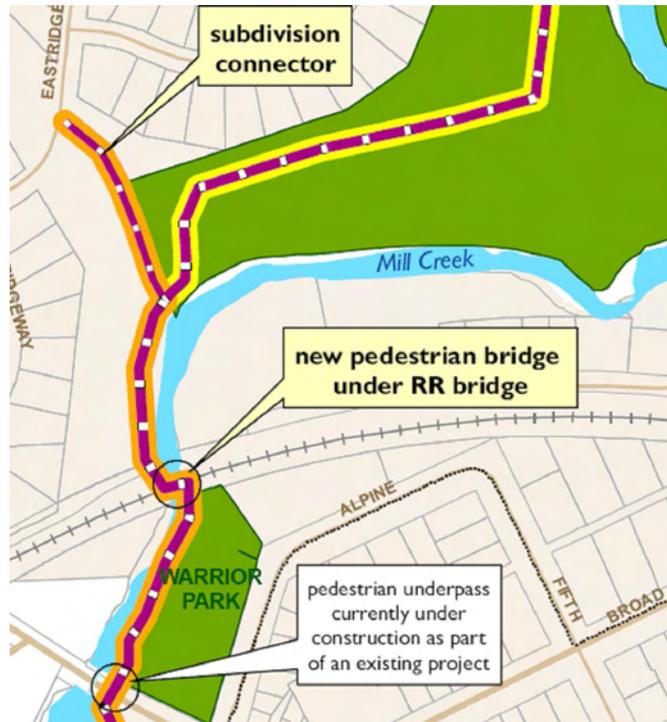
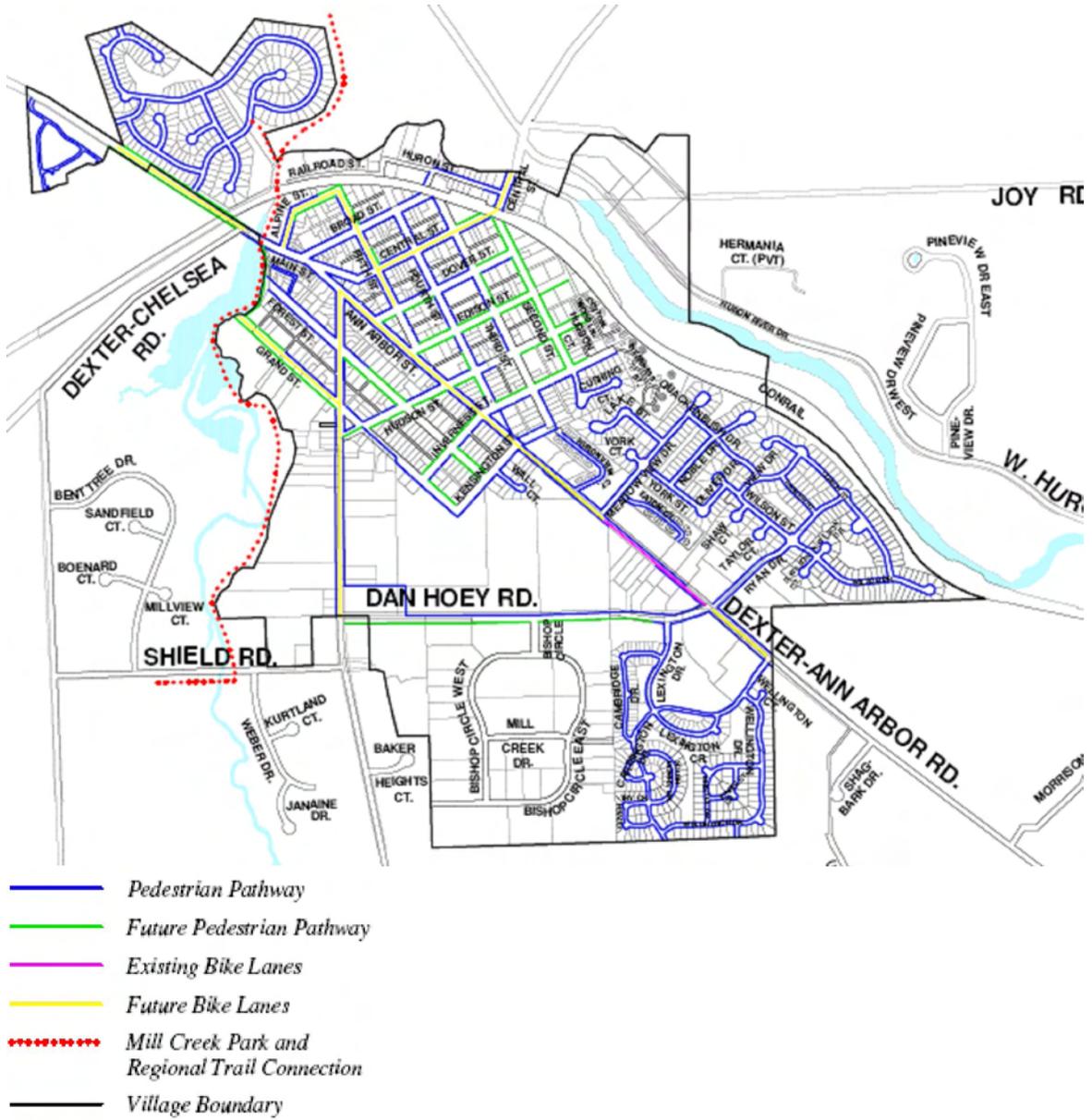


EXHIBIT 22b



Recreational Special Use Areas. The historical, cultural, environmentally sensitive or other unique resources of the Village of Dexter are included in this category as well as plazas, squares, parkways, etc. in commercial areas. Warrior Creek, Monument, Community, Peace Parks and the Gordon Hall property could be included in the recreational special use parklands component. The future Mill Creek Park could also be considered a special use area with the planned trails, nature interpretation, paddling, fishing, hiking, biking, photography, etc.

The Dexter Historical Museum and Gordon Hall property are examples of this type of special use in the Village. Although the Gordon Hall property is not within the Village limits the property provides a scenic view of the Village from the west and provides a natural open space greenbelt along the Village's western border.

Other special recreation use areas might include a golf course, outdoor theater, or locations of significant archeological or architectural interest such as Gordon Hall, the United Methodist Church, Dexter's Historical Railroad Station, or the recently restored Dexter Mill. Special use areas may be a part of or combined with other park elements, for example a linear park may include a self-guided tour of historically and/or architecturally significant sites and buildings in the Village, similar to the walking tour of historical sites put together by the Dexter Chamber of Commerce or the walking tour maps created through the Healthy Communities Walking Program and displayed around the Village.

Conservancy. A conservancy primarily provides for protection of a natural, cultural or historical (including pre-historic) area and only secondarily may be considered for recreational use. Smith Woods Preserve is a Washtenaw County conservancy within ½ mile of the Dexter park system.

Private Parks. Due to a recent trend in Michigan, many residential developments have come before the Village with proposals to develop neighborhoods and incorporate their own private open space/park area (see Appendix F). This type of development is called cluster or open space development and is possible by clustering homes on to smaller lots. The remaining property is preserved as common land for the residents of the neighborhood. More opportunity for this method of development was created by the annexations to the Village in

the 1990's. The Village will encourage this type of park development in the future and has adopted standards for 50% open space in future subdivision communities.

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Exhibit 24 identifies the Village of Dexter's public parks and recreation areas with the facilities each area provides. This information will be used later in the plan to determine whether there are any deficiencies in the level of service based upon the population of the Village. Additional local recreation opportunities not considered include Dexter Area Library, Dexter Museum, Dexter Mill, Dexter's Historical Railroad Station, various private exercise center's and Tot Lots throughout the Village.

**EXHIBIT 23
Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Park	Site Size (Acres)	Type	Outdoor Facilities
Monument Park	.3 Acres	Mini-Park	Picnic Area, Benches, Drinking Fountain, Gazebo/Bandstand
Warrior Creek Park	2.15 Acres	Neighborhood Park	Playground Equipment, Picnic Areas, Scenic Viewing Areas, 2 Porta-Johns
Peace Park	.2 Acres	Mini-Park	Picnic Areas, Benches, Reflection Areas
Community Park	5 Acres	Neighborhood Park	Pavilion, picnic tables, walking trail, basketball court, fun hoops, grills, play equipment, swings, benches, Porta-Johns
Lions Park	.25 Acres	Mini-Park	Small gazebo, benches
First Street Park	.94 Acres	Mini-Park	Horseshow pits, picnic tables, Porta-Johns, grill
Mill Creek Park	24 Acres	Community Park	None
Private Park/Open Space			
Westridge of Dexter	2 acres	Neighborhood Park	Benches, play structure, swings, picnic tables, gravel walking pathway
Huron Farms	1.5 acres	Mini-Park	Benches, play structure, swings
Dexter Crossing	7 acres	Neighborhood	Benches, picnic tables, play structure, asphalt walking path
Bates Elementary School	5 Acres	Public School/ Neighborhood Park	Playground Equipment, 1 soccer field, 1 basketball court
Cornerstone Elementary School	5 Acres	Public School/ Neighborhood Park	Playground Equipment, Walking path
Wylie Elementary School	10 Acres	Public School/ Neighborhood Park	Playground Equipment, Walking Trail, 1 baseball, 1 softball, Indoor Community Pool
Creekside Intermediate School	25 Acres	Public School/ Neighborhood Park	Playground equipment, 3 football/soccer, 2 softball, 1 baseball field
Mill Creek Middle School	5 Acres	Public School/ Neighborhood Park	6 tennis courts, 2 soccer fields, 2 softball fields
Dexter High School	30 Acres	Public School/ Neighborhood Park	10 tennis courts, 3 soccer fields, 3 basketball courts, 2 baseball and 1 softball field, Indoor Pool

Source: January 2008 Inventory, Village Staff and Dexter Community Schools.

Basis For Plan

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has adopted a set of standards, based upon those developed by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRRA), to determine the need for recreation facilities in each community. These standards establish 1) the specific recreation facilities such as tennis courts or soccer fields, which should be available based upon the population of the community; and 2) the “service areas,” or number and type of parks that should be available to residents within a certain distance of their homes. Each of these standards will be applied to the existing inventory of community-wide and school district recreation facilities to determine if deficiencies are present. The results of this analysis will be incorporated into the Action Plan.

Evaluation of the Village’s Parks and Recreation Facilities

The National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRRA) has developed standards to help communities across the country determine park and recreation facility needs based on population. The standards are used much less now due to the varying needs and composition of different communities, although the standards are still used as a guide. The Village of Dexter still uses the standards as a guide, although the standards are generally for much larger communities, because no other standards currently exist.

The Village’s available recreation relies heavily on the Dexter Community Schools for many of its facilities. With the Village having only approximately 10 acres of public parkland and approximately 10 acres of private parkland, the schools provide multiple indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities. The Dexter Community Schools provides the Village with between 75 and 80 acres of community parkland, although 30 to 40 of those acres are at the new high school located outside the current Village limits. The schools outdoor recreation facilities are always open to the residents of the Village, with the exception of the indoor pool and other indoor recreation facilities that are used on a daily basis by the school and the Community Education Program. The Community Education Program administered through the Dexter Community Schools is open to the residents of the Village although space and schedule limitations do exist.

The Village currently has adequate parks and recreation facilities when the schools facilities are considered, but it should be noted again that use of the school facilities is somewhat limited.

The Village and the Parks and Recreation Commission would like to become self sufficient with the ability to provide the substantial portion of the variety of recreation opportunities for all age residents, within the context of limited resources and the desire to avoid the duplication of services. The schools provide four (4) baseball fields, six (6) softball fields, seven (7) soccer fields, two (2) football fields, including one track, ten (20) tennis courts, three (3) outdoor basketball courts, three (3) indoor regulation size gyms, three (3) other non-regulation gyms, and two (2) indoor pools all administered through the school's Community Education and Recreation Department.

One of the goals of the Village of Dexter and the Parks and Recreation Commission is to facilitate providing indoor recreation opportunities for Village and area residents. It is unlikely that the Village or Parks and Recreation Commission will build an indoor recreation center however the Village understands and commits to facilitating the availability of indoor recreation for Village residents via easily accessible alternative venues.

Summary of Public Input

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on the regular Parks Commission agenda for over 6 months, held two (2) public meetings on the Mill Creek Park concept plan, presented the Master Plan to Council on January 26, 2009 for comment and held a public hearing on February 17, 2009. Throughout the planning process, the Commission received comment and input from citizens with regard to existing and future parks and recreation facilities and programs in the Village. Public input was also gathered from two surveys distributed in the village wide newsletter and online. It should be noted that all Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are open to the public. Community input throughout the process and the sessions is summarized below:

Community-Wide Parks and Recreation Issues. Residents addressed general issues that pertain to various aspects of park and recreation facilities:

- Redevelopment of the Mill Creek area following the removal of the Main Street dam is a priority concern. Access to the Mill Creek is important to the residents of the Village and important for trail connectivity to regional trail ways in the area.
- Access to Warrior Creek Park and pedestrian access in front of the Fire Station is a priority.

- Preservation of natural features within parks and along future designated bike paths.
- Acquire additional property to meet current and future demand for active recreation needs, i.e. possible skatepark and outdoor ice skating rink.
- Preservation and enhancement of existing parkland is important.
- Acquire additional property to meet future goals for passive recreation, including expansion of trail connections with adjacent regional trails and parkland.
- Continue to coordinate with surrounding entities to construct pedestrian access across the Mill Creek from the Westridge subdivision, i.e. Westside Connector.
- Continue the existing cooperation/organization between the Village and the Dexter Community School District, Scio Township, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority and Washtenaw County Parks. Coordinate with these organizations to construct regional trail ways surrounding the Village.
- Keep the Dexter area attraction with green areas and open space, capitalize on the Village's location amongst numerous regional trail connections and bikeways.
- Acquiring new park areas, passive and active, would benefit the community by providing additional recreation opportunities close to home.
- Pedestrian connections/walkways/greenways that link Village parks are important. A combination of pathways and sidewalk is sufficient. Bike lanes should be considered when road projects are completed as an additional method of transportation between parks.
- Develop Mill Creek Park with walking, hiking, biking paths, nature interpretation, sitting/reflection areas, amphitheatre and other passive recreation amenities. Develop Mill Creek Park in accordance with the Master Plan created for the park.
- Provide a pedestrian connection from historic Gordon Hall, Cedars of Dexter (senior housing project) and the Westridge subdivision to the Village.
- Establish a long term funding mechanism to enhance existing parks and acquire new parkland.

- Improved access and usage to the Mill Creek and Huron River surrounding the Village should be a priority.
- Providing diverse types of parks is important to serve all cross sections of the population.
- Make the Village a trailhead and destination for a larger number of pathways.
- Protect and enhance existing parkland.
- Improve parking for parks. Coordinate park parking with other public parking goals.
- Develop a system of interconnect parks with trails, sidewalks, signage.
- Restore the riparian buffers along the Mill Creek and within the Mill Creek Park.
- Enhance the habitat along the Mill Creek and within the Mill Creek Park.
- Provide entertainment space within the Mill Creek Park.

Governing Bodies. The Parks and Recreation Commission was the primary source of input on the plan. Their concerns and knowledge of facilities is reflected in the action plan portion of the report. The Village as a whole has expressed a desire to redevelop the Mill Pond area to a park that connects with the school's outdoor lab property south to Shield Road along the Mill Creek, upon the removal of the Main Street dam and the reclamation of the stream. Improving Warrior Creek Park as a universally accessible park to promote connectivity in the parks and encourage economic development is also a high priority for the DDA, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Village. Appendix E is preliminary plans for improvements to the Mill Creek area proposed by the Village of Dexter.

It is clear that the Parks and Recreation Commission and the DDA both encourage greenway connections, universal access to the parks through the downtown, and providing ADA compliant facilities. Visual connectivity between parks is also important.

Recreation Deficiencies

A review of recreation facilities serving the Village of Dexter and School District, applying MDNR standards, is provided in Exhibit 25. Finally, service area boundaries are graphically represented for existing facilities in Exhibit 24. These comparisons provide a general idea of deficiencies, but it must be understood that the MDNR standards are not intended to be followed to the letter. Needs of the population vary from one community to the next and should be considered.

Exhibit 25 shows a surplus or adequate amount of the listed recreational facilities. Primarily, all active recreation is provided by the Dexter Community Schools. Deficiencies in active recreation include hiking, biking, skatepark, inline skating cross country skiing and other related type of trails.

EXHIBIT 24

EXHIBIT 25

Recreation Facilities Evaluation – The Village Of Dexter and Dexter Community Schools

	Recommended Standard	Existing Municipal/ Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended Need in Dexter	Surplus/(Deficiency) in Dexter
Basketball Courts ^(3,5)	1 / 5,000	1	9	10	1	10
Tennis Courts	1 / 2,000	0	14	14	3	11
Volleyball Courts	1 / 5,000	0	3	3	1	2
Baseball Fields	1 / 5,000	0	4	4	1	3
Softball	1 / 5,000	0	6	6	1	5
Football Fields	1 / 20,000	0	2	2	1	1
Soccer Fields	1 / 10,000	0	7	7	1	6
Golf Course, 9-hole	1 / 25,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Golf Course, 18-hole	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Driving Range	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Swimming Pool – Indoor	1 / 20,000	0	2	2	1	1
Swimming Pool – Outdoor	1 / 40,000	0	0	0	1	(1)

EXHIBIT 25 (cont.)

Recreation Facilities Evaluation – The Village of Dexter and Dexter Community Schools

	Recommended Standard	Existing Municipal/Public Facilities	Existing School Facilities	Total Existing Public Facilities	Recommended Need in Dexter	Surplus / (Deficiency) in Dexter
Ice Rinks – Indoor	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Ice Rinks – Outdoor	1 / 20,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Archery Range	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Running Track (1/4 mile)	1 / 20,000	0	1	1	1	0
Playgrounds	1 / 3,000	2	4	6	1	5
Picnic Areas	None Published	4	0	4	N/A	N/A
Cross Country Ski Trails (miles)	1 / 10,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Nature Trails (miles)	1 / 20,000	1	1	2	1	1
Sledding Hills	1 / 40,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Bicycle Trails (miles)	1 / 40,000	0	0	0	1	(1)
Horseback Riding Trails (miles)	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	1	(1)

- Notes
- 1 Recommended number of each facility per unit population (National Recreation and Park Association/Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards)(Appendix Q).
 - 2 Based on July 2008 SEMCOG population estimate of 3,593.
 - 3 Two backboards were considered to be equal to 1 court for the purposes of this analysis.
 - 4 All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
 - 5 Not regulation courts – (located at elementary schools, ½ courts, etc.)
 - 6 Indoor/Outdoor

Exhibit 26 compares the existing community parkland acreage to recommended standards, based on current population estimates. The analysis indicates that if the school sites are considered in the park acreage figures, the Village has a surplus in community parks and is deficient in mini-park and neighborhood park acreage. Although when the schools facilities are not considered the Village is severely lacking in community parks.

EXHIBIT 26
Comparison to Accepted Standards

The Village of Dexter Community Comparison to Accepted Standards	Recommended Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents	Existing Acreage	Recommended Acreage in Dexter for Proposed Population	Surplus (Deficiency) in Dexter Based on Proposed Population
Mini-Parks	0.25	3.19	0.89	2.3
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	16.15	3.56	12.58
Community Parks	5.0	24	17.83	6.17
Regional Parks	5.0 - 10.0	0	8	Not Applicable

Notes: 1 Based on National Recreation and Parks Association recommendations.
 2 Existing public acreage includes the Village of Dexter only.
 3 Includes private open space that addresses deficiency to immediate area.
 4 Based on July 2008 SEMCOG Population Estimate of 3,593.

Park	Park Type	Park Size
Warrior Creek	Neighborhood Park	2.15 acres
Community Park	Neighborhood Park	5 acres
Westridge of Dexter	Neighborhood Park (Private)	2 acres
Dexter Crossing	Neighborhood Park (Private)	7 acres
	TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD	16.15 acres
Monument Park	Mini-Park	0.3 acres
Lions Park	Mini-Park	0.25 acres
First Street Park	Mini-Park	0.94 acres
Peace Park	Mini-Park	0.2 acres
Huron Farms	Mini-Park (Private)	1.5 acres
	TOTAL MINI-PARK	3.19 acres
Mill Creek Park	Community Park	24 acres
	TOTAL COMMUNITY PARK	24 acres

Analysis Of Existing Facilities And Service Areas

Analysis of existing park and recreation facilities is summarized in Exhibit 27. The table is a compilation of comments and recommendations based on the preceding exhibits, which compare the Village's facilities to NPRA standards.

The exhibits that follow take a calculated look at existing parks and recreation facilities in Dexter. This portion of the overall assessment has provided the Village with a starting point for further investigation of the recreation needs in the Village.

The evaluation of existing park and recreation facilities was based on NPRA standards is outlined in Exhibit 25. A comparison of existing parkland acreage to accepted standards are defined in Exhibit 26. The service area boundaries, as interpreted by the NPRA, are graphically represented for existing facilities in Exhibit 24.

EXHIBIT 27

Analysis of Existing Facilities – Village of Dexter and Dexter Community Schools

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>MINI-PARKS: Mini-Parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than one acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots and senior citizens. Mini-Parks typically have a radius of only a few blocks. Mini-parks are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.</p>	<p>Most of the village’s public parks and private parks within developments are considered mini-parks due to their size.</p> <p>Monument Park – Gazebo, drinking fountain, benches, picnic tables, special events, sidewalks.</p> <p>Peace Park - Benches, picnic tables, perimeter sidewalk and peaceful landscape design.</p> <p>Lions Park - Small gazebo, benches, landscaping, sidewalks.</p> <p>First Street Park – Horseshoe tossing, porta johns, picnic tables and grills.</p> <p>Private Tot lots – Association owned, provide play equipment, swings, benches, picnic tables.</p>	<p>The NPRA recommends 0.25 to 1 acre per 1,000 residents. Currently, the Village has sufficient mini-park acreage with or without the inclusion of private parkland.</p> <p>The current mini-parks should continue to be maintained and upgraded as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Funding is budgeted annually for equipment replacement and landscaping maintenance. The equipment replacement inventory is used to determine what and when equipment is replaced in each of the parks.</p> <p>The Village should continue to require private developments to have private parks for use by the residents and to help meet the needs of the population in the immediate area. As land becomes available throughout the village the Parks and Recreation Commission should consider acquisition for addition public mini-park land throughout the village.</p> <p>The Village is also planning for the development of a skatepark. Preliminary research (Appendix P) shows that a 5,000 square foot skatepark would likely service the Village’s population and skatepark needs.</p>

Type of Facility / Recreational Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS: Typically multi-purpose facilities that provide areas for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks are generally more than 2 acres in size and serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within ½ mile radius from the neighborhood they serve. Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.</p>	<p>The village has 2 public neighborhood parks and 2 private neighborhood parks consisting of 16.15 acres.</p> <p>Community Park and Warrior Creek Parks are public neighborhood parks that provide picnic areas and play areas. Development in these parks is primarily complete, however Warrior Creek park will be further developed with the development of the Mill Creek Park.</p> <p>Private neighborhood parks within the village consist of 9 acres, which includes walking paths, play structures, benches and picnic tables.</p> <p>Some of the schools facilities could be considered neighborhood parks, however, since they are primarily located in one area are classified as a community park.</p>	<p>Five (5) acre neighborhood parks are recommended as a minimum per 1,000 residents. The Village of Dexter is deficient if 5 acres is used as a minimum, however with all other considerations and including private neighborhood parks the village has sufficient neighborhood parks. Considering only public neighborhood parks there are portions of the village that are not served by neighborhood parks. This must be considered when evaluating land acquisition possibilities.</p> <p>The Parks and Recreation Commission current consideration of a skatepark would help reduce the deficiency of public neighborhood parks, however additional property would have to be acquired.</p> <p>A winter ice skating rink should also be considered for Warrior Creek park to utilize the parks year round.</p>

Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>COMMUNITY PARKS: Community Parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from neighborhoods and the Dexter area. Community Parks may include areas for active recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other passive recreation opportunities facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities. Community Parks typically serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.</p>	<p>The Village of Dexter does not have any Community Parks. Pursuant to the recommended size for Community Parks the village will not likely have any Community Parks. Community Parks are more likely to be provided by a regional recreation and open space provider.</p> <p>The village does hope to create the Mill Creek Park (approximately 15 acres) which will essentially address the recommended Community Park needs per population. There will still be a slight deficiency; however there will be linear connections to a much larger Community and Regional Park network.</p> <p>Primarily all active recreation is provided by the Dexter School District on their property, mostly within the Village limits, and some outside the Village limits at the new High School. The schools facilities include ball fields of all types and as well as indoor activities. These facilities can be utilized through school teams and programming offered through Community Education and Recreation.</p>	<p>The NPRA’s standard requirement for Community Parks is 20-50 acres per 1,000 residents. Active recreation facilities are provided by the Dexter School District. Some of this property is within the Village limits so it is easily accessible for all residents, but the facilities at the new High School are not. Dexter Community Schools students’ usage of the facilities also takes priority over the usage of the residents of Dexter Village.</p> <p>Development of the Mill Creek area following the removal of the Main Street dam will provide Village and regional residents with a unique opportunity to access the Mill Creek and the unique open space landscape created by the dam removal.</p> <p>The Village should continue to explore acquisition opportunities to complement the Mill Creek Park development along the Mill Creek and south. The Village should also continue to work with regional recreation providers, HCMA and Washtenaw County Parks, to add to the recreation and open space available to area and Village residents.</p>

Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>SPECIAL USE/ NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS: Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities such as, golf courses, nature centers, interpretive centers, facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment. Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment is the primary focus with recreation use as a secondary objective.</p>	<p>The Village of Dexter does not have any special use or natural resource areas. The only park near the Village of Dexter that would be classified in this category are Washtenaw County's Miller and Smith Preserves located less than 1 mile outside of the village boundary. The Miller and Smith Preserves protect the 40-50 year old trees in the oak barren with a nature trail and unpaved parking area. The Miller Preserve and Smith Woods contain 28-acres of woodlands that provide one of the only remaining undeveloped, habitats and sanctuaries in the area for plants and animals. The property also contains various wetland areas.</p>	<p>Washtenaw County recently purchased the Miller Preserve through the County Natural Areas Preservation Program. The Village then donated the Smith Woods Preserve. Plans for improvement include upgraded parking (completed in 2008); signage to identify the preserves and nature trails throughout the 28-acre park.</p> <p>The Village should continue to coordinate with the County to publicize the park area and encourage pedestrian connections to downtown, the Mill Creek and Warrior Creek Parks as well as the County Border to Border trail and HCMA Hike Bike trail.</p> <p>The Village should consider property acquisition in the area surrounding the Mill Creek and connections to the Smith and Miller Preserve to expand the linear park and open space network.</p>

Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>PASSIVE PARKS: The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas, pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments, and fountains, and historical features.</p>	<p>Monument Park and Peace Park were developed as passive parks, as well as private open space or common areas in residential developments are classified as passive recreation areas. The Gordon Hall property, west of the Village, was recently acquired by the Dexter Historical Society. DHS goal is to further enhance the historical features and monuments that have existed within the Village for the past 100 years and preserve the Gordon Hall property as public open space.</p>	<p>General maintenance of these parks is most important. A common connection between them would create a more cohesive park system and pedestrian network. This can be accomplished through signage, lighting, benches, pathways and sidewalks. Pathway connections throughout the Village should be evaluated to increase accessibility to parks and elsewhere.</p> <p>The Village will work with the Dexter Historical Society to preserve the historic Gordon Hall and the property on which it is located. Sidewalk connections must be made to assure pedestrian access to and from the Village's parks and the historical asset just outside the Village's border.</p>

Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Type of Facility / Recreation Standards	Village of Dexter Community Facilities	Comments / Recommendations
<p>LINEAR PARKS: A linear park is any area developed for one or more modes of recreation travel, such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. A linear park would be a greenway corridor connecting a regional system.</p>	<p>Built along natural corridors, such as utility right-of-ways, abandoned railroad easements, vegetation patterns, rivers and streams, and roads that links other components of recreation systems or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas and desirable site characteristics may be developed into linear parks.</p> <p>The Village’s goal is to develop a linear park along the Mill Creek following the removal of the Main Street dam. The goals for the park development are included in Appendix E. The linear Mill Creek Park will connect to the school property to the south and the Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail and HCMA Hike / Bike Trail to the north and east.</p> <p>Development of the linear Mill Creek Park is a top priority for the Village.</p>	<p>A linear park of some sort would be an exciting tool for creating connections within the existing park system. For example, a linear park along Main Street/Ann Arbor Street could connect the three anchors – Peace Park, Monument Park and Warrior Creek Park. A linear park would also be located along a natural feature such as the Mill Creek and Huron River as planned by the Village of Dexter, Washtenaw County and HCMA.</p> <p>Linear parks can include bike paths, hiking paths, boardwalks, benches, information kiosks, fishing and water access and non motorized boat linkages.</p> <p>The Village places high priority on the Mill Creek Park trail network to provide connection to the Metro-Parks across the Huron River and the Washtenaw County Border to Border trail heading east along the Huron River. This would also provide a pedestrian linkage that is needed within the Village for the protection of pedestrians and visitors, and to provide more universal access to Warrior Creek Park and the downtown district. Warrior Creek Park and another location in the downtown as a trail heads would link downtown to the parks and the regional trail network and promote health, fitness, and economic development, as well as safe pedestrian access within the Village and the parks. Development of the trail system to the south to the school property will also create a valuable passive recreation opportunity to Village residents on property already owned by the Village.</p>

Several residential subdivisions under construction have small open space areas within the development. These private facilities function as mini-parks as they provide recreational facilities for the neighborhood residents.

Additional Deficiencies. This analysis provides useful information on quantity; the raw numbers do not address the *quality* of existing parks and recreation facilities. Upon closer examination, deficiencies or limitations in the Village Parks and Recreation system become apparent. These deficiencies are due to a number of reasons, including the following:

Increased Population Projections. The analysis of deficiencies does consider future demand generated by projected population increases in the Village due to growth and new developments. Based on SEMCOG 2030 Regional Development Forecasts, projections and an analysis of local trends, the population in the Village is projected to increase an additional 53% by 2030. This must be taken into account when acknowledging the validity of the facilities evaluation; such an increase in population requires a re-evaluation of existing facilities based on future needs. This is addressed in the Action Plan portion of this report.

Reliance on School Sites. Most community park facilities in the Village are located on School District property. Cooperation between the community and school district provides for efficient use of the land. Nevertheless, there are limitations associated with having many of the community park facilities on school sites, because use of these facilities are first available to school athletic teams and scheduled programs and then open to the general public on a request basis only.

Distribution of Existing Park. Exhibit 24 illustrates how the Village is served by the existing park facilities. While some areas in the Village are not well serviced others have access to a variety of park and recreation facilities. The distribution of parkland should be a consideration in future recreational land acquisition.

The northeast portion of the Village will soon be developed into residential neighborhoods. The recreation area in these developments will range from passive, natural open space to private mini-parks to public land developed with active recreation facilities. These new recreational developments will serve only the needs of the adjacent residential subdivisions, but they will also address some of the existing deficiencies within the newer areas.

Barrier-Free Facilities. Many of the existing playgrounds located at park and school facilities are not accessible to residents with disabilities. Modern equipment with transfer points and ramps, resilient surfacing, and universally accessible pathways are required to ensure “integrated play” by all residents of the community. Universal accessibility is a priority in park development over the next 5 years and beyond. The Village Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the DDA are working together to provide ADA access to Warrior Creek Park via the reconstruction of the Main Street Bridge however accessibility will likely continue to be a problem without future improvements to Mill Creek Park. Accessibility standards for equipment can be found in Appendix D.

Since the Village has placed a high priority on providing access to existing park and recreation facilities, providing access to Warrior Creek Park, and a future connection to the proposed Mill Creek linear park, is one of the Village highest priorities.

General Maintenance. Though Village owned parks adequately serve the existing population, park maintenance is an important component to providing desirable recreation opportunities for residents. In general, Warrior Creek is in need of basic maintenance to improve their appeal to the Village residents. In particular, lighting and uniform signage is needed in most of the parks, as well as parking facilities at Warrior Creek Park. Parking improvements would address safety and access concerns. Parking improvements along Alpine Street have been completed as part of the Farmer's Market project however access and parking to Warrior Creek Park is still not sufficient.

Residents' walking their dogs has also become a problem. Installation of doggie bag dispensers has been a priority, but continued education is important. Installation of bag dispensers may encourage owners to pick up after their pet as well as decrease the risk of pollution and disease transmission. As the population increases in Dexter, so will the number of residents and dogs in the Village parks.

Non-Motorized Accessibility. Non-motorized pathway connections seem to be lacking between all facilities. A pathway system between all parks, schools, and public buildings, such as the Farmer's Market, Dexter Library, Dexter Museum, Railroad Depot, and even churches, would provide safe and convenient accessibility for pedestrians. The Village is

lacking pedestrian linkages throughout the existing pedestrian system and to some Village parks.

Visual Connections. Similar lighting and signage that is consistent with the traditional village design in the downtown area should distinguish all public parks. The Parks and Recreation Commission has established a signage theme that will be carried out throughout the Village's parks. The Village hopes to have uniform signage in all parks by 2010. The Village has also installed information "I" kiosks throughout the Village. The kiosks are in place to provide visual connections throughout the Village's walking destinations and to display maps and other park, Village and community information.

Where possible greenways and pathways will also visually connect the parks and recreational facilities available to the public. The Downtown Development Authority is also interested in helping to create visual connections through the Village and create a "gateway" at each Village entrance. The east entrance to the Village has been improved by a developer and the Village and Parks and Recreation Commission hopes to continue the theme at each Village entrance.

Access to Natural Resources. Dexter is in a prime location nestled between the Huron River and its tributary the Mill Creek. The Village plans to take advantage of these waterway assets and also improve access to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) through the proposed Hike /Bike Trail and bridge connection. Phase 1 of the HCMA trail has started construction and the Village is committed to working with HCMA to connect the trail system to the Village's downtown and proposed Mill Creek linear park. An application for Transportation Enhancement funding was applied for in 2008 in an effort to facilitate completion of a connection across the Mill Creek and into Warrior Creek and the proposed Mill Creek linear park that would link the village with the HCMA trails and Washtenaw County's Border to Border trail.

The Village has also placed top priority on the planning, development, and conversion of the Mill Pond property into the proposed Mill Creek linear park upon removal of the Main Street Bridge dam to extend access to the natural resources available along the Mill Creek Tributary. The vision for the area is to extend a trail system along the Mill Creek to the south highlighting the significant natural resources, ecology and habitats along the waterway.

Reliance on Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Park Land. Due to the close proximity of the Huron Clinton Metro Parks, just across the Mill Creek, Dexter residents readily use the facilities. The Metro Parks provide easy access to a variety and natural resources that are not accessible within the Village limits. However, as the population of Dexter and the surrounding communities increase, the Metropark may begin to congest. As this growth occurs, the Village will need to improve its park and recreation facilities to accommodate the needs of its residents from within rather than being entirely reliant on Metro Parks system. The HCMA's proposed Hike / Bike trail may help alleviate some of the congestion that the Village residents create on the regional parks and will also provide additional recreation opportunities for an even larger service area. The proposed trail is shown in Exhibit 22 and 22a along with a map of the Westside Connector. The Village will need to be prepared for additional parking needs if the downtown area and the proposed Mill Creek linear park becomes a major trailhead to the Metroparks greenway corridor. A non-motorized pathway bridge at the historic railroad bridge, or vicinity, accessing Warrior Creek Park and the proposed Mill Creek Park would also provide a pedestrian link, for Village residents and visitors of the Metro-Parks, to a regional trail system and to Washtenaw County's Border to Border trail system, Exhibit.

Diversify Village Owned Facilities. The majority of Village owned facilities tend to be passive parks. As opportunities arise to acquire additional facilities or re-develop existing property, the Village should provide more active recreation for the residents, such as tennis courts and ballfields. Trends and projections show a younger population occupying the Village in the future. Therefore, creating a more diverse recreation base will increase and maintain usage by the Village residents. The Village should begin to explore a community recreation center or encourage a private developer to build a recreation to meet additional active recreation needs that may present themselves in the near future as the population escalates as it has over the last decade.

Reliance on the Dexter Community Schools. All of the active recreation facilities available to Village of Dexter residents are through the school district. Scheduling conflicts and sporting events severely limit the availability of these facilities to residents and residents are dependent on the Dexter Area School District for all classes and activities. The Village should not duplicate the schools facilities, but should work closely with them to ensure that both entities recreation goals are met, and that the needs of the Village residents and district

residents are fulfilled. A community center in collaboration with the Dexter Community Schools should be explored. The village should also collaborate with the schools Community Education Program to assure that active recreation opportunities are offered through programming.

Limitation of Site Size. Most of the existing village parks are adequate in terms of size based on accepted standards. However, as the population increases, these parks could be subject to overuse and will no longer adequately serve the recreational needs of the residents. The Village puts high priority on making the existing facilities accessible to all individuals who want to use them and on the development of the Mill Creek Park which will provide an additional 15 plus acres of parkland and provide trail/pathway access from the southern to the northern border of our community.

Increase Communication. The Village governing bodies need to increase communication with each other to create awareness of each commission's goals and objectives. This plan can be utilized to "spread the word" to the Village administrators and elected officials, as well as its residents about the importance of parks and recreation in the Village of Dexter and the Dexter vicinity. This type of implementation will facilitate more change and an increased knowledge of the important issues the Village faces, as addressed in this plan.

The Parks and Recreation Commission needs to engage the public into the park planning process for residents to feel a sense of ownership in the parks. The Parks and Recreation Commission should also keep the public posted on potential projects to encourage more public input and participation. The Village currently works with the local paper, The Dexter Leader, on a regular basis to involve the public. The Ann Arbor News also provides information on park activities, events and park planning projects. The village's website calendar keeps interested residents informed of public meetings and special events and all Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agendas and minutes are posted online. The Village will also continue to include the surrounding entities in recreation planning and implementation.

The Parks and Recreation Commission and the DDA will continue to collaborate on projects that impact both groups in an effort to accomplish the goals and vision of each entity. The

Parks and Recreation Commission will continue to update the DDA, the Village Council and other community organizations interested in helping achieve a vision for the Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Conclusions

The Village of Dexter (excluding schools) currently has recreational deficiencies. Deficiencies exist in active recreation, such as ballfields, tennis courts and other active recreation facilities. With the donation of Smith Woods to Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program the Village's Community Park acreage has also decreased resulting in additional passive recreation deficiencies. Portions of the Village are under served by existing parkland and various types of parkland; however with the inclusion of private parkland within residential developments the Village has sufficient Mini-Parks and Neighborhood Parks. Village residents also feel as though there is a lack of universally accessible parks and passive interpretive, walking and biking trails.

Active recreational deficiencies are being supplemented by the school facilities and nearby regional facilities. However, as the population of the Village continues to increase, as it is projected based on current development trends, reliance on other facilities will not accommodate deficiencies. The proposed development of the Mill Creek linear park following the removal of the Main Street dam, will also address some of the deficiencies in passive recreation and fill the village's deficiencies in community parkland. Diversity in Village owned facilities, land acquisition/planning and enhancement of existing and reclaimed facilities to serve residents better would have to be a top priority, as is the development of more active and universally accessible recreation for the entire Village population.

For this five-year plan the Village must put a high priority on development of the Mill Creek Park. Awareness has been established and support is prevalent for the long-term goals of greenway and corridor connections with the HCMA Hike Bike Trail, Washtenaw County's Border to Border Trail, Scio Township's Greenway Plan and the Dexter Community Schools. High priority has also been placed on providing more active and passive recreation around Warrior Creek Park, Mill Creek Park, and Community Park. Continued maintenance and improvements to existing parkland is also important to provide recreation facilities that appeal to the residents of the Village.

Action Plan

This Chapter of the plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with the thorough analysis of the physical and demographic attributes of the Village of Dexter. Existing parks and recreation facilities and programs were inventoried and evaluated. An assessment of need was then developed that considered both accepted recreation standards and the specialized needs of persons with disabilities. Finally, these needs were analyzed and reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission with public input.

The results of research, analysis and planning are presented in the following statement of goals and objectives, a list of implementation measures and a list of recommendations.

Goals describe a desired state of affairs for the community in the future. Goals are broad, general statements towards which objectives and implementation strategies are directed. Goals establish the standards and principles of the Plan.

Objectives are more specific in nature and designed to achieve goals. These are more narrowly defined statements to help clarify and identify appropriate implementation measures to achieve the broad-based goals.

Implementation measures are specific actions the Village may choose to achieve, carry out or fulfill goals and objectives. Implementation measures can be selected based on benefit, cost and priority or need of a particular goal or objective.

Long Range Goals and Objectives

I.GOAL: (Space/Facilities) Meet present and future community needs for parks, greenways, trails, and recreation.

A. Objective: Plan and develop a system of parks, greenways, open space, and recreation facilities that provides a minimum of 16 acres per 1,000 Village residents.

1. *Strategy: Identify desirable parcels within or adjacent to the Village and evaluate for park system inclusion.*
2. *Strategy: Seek to provide required space or facilities through the development of partnerships, or the purchase of easements or property.*
3. *Strategy: Consider the location of existing parks and facilities when choosing new sites in order to provide a balanced distribution.*
4. *Strategy: Encourage the development of parks and facilities in areas which are pathway accessible and will serve a large number of Village residents or a priority targeted group.*
5. *Strategy: Provide park and recreation facilities that are consistent with NPRA standards and guidelines and that coincide with the needs of the Village.*
6. *Strategy: Develop park and recreation assets with safe, universally accessible pathway linkages as a priority consideration.*

B. Objective: Encourage the preservation of green space and the development of new parks and/or recreation assets when opportunities arise.

1. *Strategy: Encourage park projects that honor and preserve local history and historic architecture.*
2. *Strategy: Promote the integration of our goals with the Village Planning Commission and their development review process to ensure that projects meet increased parks and recreation needs.*
3. *Strategy: Use the development review process to encourage the clustering of dwellings facilitating more space for parks, recreation, pathways, open space, or linear parks.*
4. *Strategy: Encourage large developments to dedicate a minimum of 30% of their project as green open space, exclusive of stormwater detention/retention ponds and paved surfaces.*
5. *Strategy: Encourage small developments to provide green open space for small mini-parks.*
6. *Strategy: Encourage developers to preserve green open space and mature trees in their projects, to protect significant ecosystems, and to use greenways and linear parks to buffer their projects, to provide for the safe movement of wildlife, and to connect to the linear parks or greenways of adjacent jurisdictions.*
7. *Strategy: Encourage developers to provide pathways connecting their project with the Village's system of pathways and the pathways of adjacent parks, trail systems, or jurisdictions.*
8. *Strategy: Encourage developers to meet the recreation demands created by their project through the construction of new neighborhood parks and active recreation facilities.*

9. *Strategy: Encourage developers to contribute to the restricted parks and recreation endowment commensurate with the size of their project and estimated population.*

C. Objective: Following removal of the Mill Creek dam, plan and develop a linear park along the Mill Creek.

1. *Strategy: Seek Village Council creation of a Mill Creek Park Planning Team, with Parks and Recreation Commission representation, to formulate goals, objectives and related criteria to guide the planning and development process.*
2. *Strategy: Collaborate with the Mill Creek Park Planning Team to develop an environmental framework and master plan for the new park.*
3. *Strategy: Coordinate linear park and pathway connections with regional and local jurisdictions including the planned Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Hike-Bike Trail, Washtenaw County's Border-to-Border Trail, other adjacent Washtenaw County Parks and Preserves, and with the master plans of neighboring townships.*
4. *Strategy: Select a consultant through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to help develop detailed plans for the park's development.*
5. *Strategy: Secure approval and funding from Village Council to engage the services of preferred consultant to develop a Master Plan for the Mill Creek linear park.*
6. *Strategy: Apply for funding from both Village and non-Village sources to help execute the Mill Creek Park plan and park development.*
7. *Strategy: Execute the park development plan in phases as funding allows.*
8. *Strategy: Encourage adjacent jurisdictions to collaborate when appropriate.*

II. GOAL: (Recreation) Encourage healthy lifestyles for Village residents through recreation.

A. Objective: Offer Village residents a balanced program of active and passive recreation opportunities.

1. *Strategy: Develop and promote a program of active and passive recreation activities and local events that are affordable and provide good value to citizens of all ages.*
2. *Strategy: Make pathway and passive recreation development first priority in order to achieve the highest utilization and return on investment.*
3. *Strategy: Develop active recreation facilities secondarily but as required to meet specific high priority needs.*
4. *Strategy: Collaborate with the Dexter Community Schools and other public and private interests in the planning and delivery of recreation opportunities while eliminating duplication.*
5. *Strategy: Evaluate the feasibility of developing passive facilities in support of birding, photography, and environmental education.*
6. *Strategy: Evaluate the feasibility of developing active facilities in support of a skateboarding/inline skating, outdoor ice skating, outdoor rock climbing, fishing, and paddle sports.*

B. Objective: Offer Village residents multiple opportunities to walk, run, bike, skate, or paddle without leaving their community.

1. *Strategy: Identify, promote, and help develop longer outings via additional pathway and water trail linkages to adjacent parks, trail systems, greenways, and waterways owned and operated by other jurisdictions.*
2. *Strategy: Build the proposed west side connector and other linkages to the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail and the Miller/Smith Preserves.*
3. *Strategy: Develop a pathway system within the boundaries of the proposed linear park at Mill Creek.*
4. *Strategy: Develop a Mill Creek water trail from Shield Road to the Huron River.*

III. GOAL: (Accessibility) Strive to make every Village park and recreation site accessible.

A. Objective: Design and develop a system of all-season, non-motorized pathways, trails, sidewalks, and bike paths linking Village neighborhoods with both Village and adjacent non-Village parks, greenways, pathways, recreation venues, schools, and commercial retail areas.

1. *Strategy: Develop a pathway system within the boundaries of the proposed linear park at Mill Creek that will serve as a central hub connecting to other pathway systems.*
2. *Strategy: Construct the proposed west side connector from WestRidge to the proposed Mill Creek linear park.*
3. *Strategy: Identify and develop bicycle lanes on all major roads and streets in the Village.*
4. *Strategy: Segregate bicycle and pedestrian traffic from motorized traffic where appropriate and feasible.*
5. *Strategy: Collaborate with the Dexter Community Schools to establish pathways connecting the High School and Intermediate Schools with the proposed linear park at Mill Creek.*
6. *Strategy: Coordinate park and trail planning with the State of Michigan, specifically with the goals of the Michigan State Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).*
7. *Strategy: Coordinate park and trail planning with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, especially their regional Border-to-Border Trail Initiative.*
8. *Strategy: Coordinate park and trail planning with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, especially their Hike-Bike Trail initiative.*
9. *Strategy: Proactively invite other Village and/or regional groups involved in planning to enhance linkages to Village parks and recreation for a broader regional system.*

B. Objective: Ensure that all parks and recreation assets are barrier-free and universally accessible.

1. *Strategy: Review all plans, for new parks and recreation facilities, for compliance with current ADA standards.*
2. *Strategy: Develop and implement strategies to make existing parks and recreation facilities compliant with current ADA standards.*
3. *Strategy: Explore securing funding assistance for ADA-related improvements.*

IV. GOAL: (Environment) Make nature and healthy ecosystems an important characteristic of our Village.

A. Objective: In designated Village natural areas, enhance and preserve healthy ecosystems for native plants, fish, and wildlife.

1. *Strategy: Develop and implement a comprehensive management plan, including environmental framework, to enhance and sustain the above.*
2. *Strategy: Prioritize invasive species and minimize their impact where practical.*
3. *Strategy: Identify desirable species and provide supportive habitat.*
4. *Strategy: Periodically repopulate desirable native species where and when appropriate.*
5. *Strategy: Perform maintenance as required within natural areas and waterways to enhance the environment for native species.*
6. *Strategy: Encourage the Village to maintain best practice stormwater solutions to increase water quality.*
7. *Strategy: Promote and maintain riparian buffers to reduce erosion and lower water temperatures.*
8. *Strategy: Promote and maintain sufficient ability for fish to move upstream.*
9. *Strategy: Educate community about habitat, plants, wildlife, fishery, and their value.*
10. *Strategy: Educate community about potential for pet damage to habitat, plant life, wildlife, fishery, and water quality.*
11. *Strategy: Develop and promote identification and education programs in our natural areas using citizen volunteers, teachers, or partnering with non-Village organizations.*
12. *Strategy: Promote the use of our natural areas by residents in an effort to increase their sense of ownership and support.*
13. *Strategy: Develop a volunteer stewardship program in support of our natural areas, including school-based programs to educate and nurture interest.*

B. Objective: In Village urban areas, enhance the natural feel of each park.

1. *Strategy: Integrate the use of native plants with non-native perennials and annuals.*
2. *Strategy: Use bioretention islands, bioswales, rain gardens, and other innovative water retention strategies when appropriate.*
3. *Strategy: Add and maintain features or structures that invite and support wildlife, e.g., hummingbird gardens, birdhouses, bat houses, etc.*
4. *Strategy: Consider integrating large boulders, water features, or other natural-style hardscape.*

C. Objective: Advocate for the enhancement and preservation of natural features within and surrounding our Village.

1. *Strategy: Promote the preservation of scenic vistas, natural land buffers, greenways, and waterways.*

2. *Strategy: Promote the preservation and enhancement of important wildlife habitat and migration routes, including aquatic, in and through the Village.*
3. *Strategy: Promote increased public access to adjacent waterways, greenways, and public lands.*

V. GOAL: (Management) Use sound planning, financial, and operational management practices.

A. Objective: Deliver on our stated goals and objectives.

1. *Strategy: Develop and annually review the development plan for each Village park and recreation site.*
2. *Strategy: Annually maintain and implement project priorities as listed in the 5-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).*
3. *Strategy: Develop an annual plan for meeting program objectives through the implementation of specific strategies, both CIP and non-CIP items.*
4. *Strategy: Review progress quarterly on the implementation of our annual plan to keep on track.*
5. *Strategy: Annually review degree to which prior year's plans were implemented and recommend adjustments for the future.*

B. Objective: Ensure that our parks and recreation assets remain available for enjoyment, now and in the future.

1. *Strategy: Develop a parks and recreation master plan and update it at a minimum of every 5 years.*
2. *Strategy: Annually secure adequate funding for operations and maintenance.*
3. *Strategy: Establish and promote a restricted parks and recreation endowment fund.*
4. *Strategy: Leverage outside funding, partnerships, and other assets whenever possible.*
5. *Strategy: Consider opportunities for the development of parks and recreation revenues from user fees, rentals, and/or other direct services when appropriate and desirable, e.g., gazebo rentals, facility and equipment rentals, concessions, etc.*
6. *Strategy: Periodically consider asking citizens to provide a dedicated and stable revenue base through a renewable millage.*
7. *Strategy: Annually develop and submit a budget and capital improvement plan.*
8. *Strategy: Fully implement and live within the authorized operating and capital improvement budgets.*
9. *Strategy: Build effective working relationships with Village Council, staff, and other Village and non-Village agency representatives as required.*
10. *Strategy: Develop community support as required.*

C. Objective: Foster smart and efficient management practices.

1. *Strategy: Ensure appropriate staff and volunteers are educated in relevant current best practices of the parks and recreation profession.*

2. *Strategy: Ensure that appropriate staff and volunteers are provided the resources and support of Village government to be successful.*
3. *Strategy: Stay abreast of changing trends and add this information to our discussions.*
4. *Strategy: Recommend investment in assets and programs that satisfy community needs and values while staying true to our mission and goals.*
5. *Strategy: Develop and implement appropriate asset maintenance schedules, reflective of the investment and projected long-term value of the asset.*
6. *Strategy: Participate in Village and regional groups involved in planning that would impact Village parks and recreation.*
7. *Strategy: Partner with other public and private entities where duplication could be eliminated or to help provide new programs and facilities for Village residents.*

D. Objective: Identify and utilize all available Village and non-Village funding resources to meet our goals.

1. *Strategy: Identify and apply to funding sources that may serve as alternatives or supplements to Village funds.*
2. *Strategy: Consider selling park, facility, hardscape, or equipment sponsorships as a part of any funding campaign.*
3. *Strategy: Develop and promote efforts to fund a Village Parks and Recreation Endowment, e.g., Dexter Parks & Recreation Guide to Giving, raffle-style giveaway, or other fundraising device.*

VI. GOAL: (Community) Foster a community-wide sense of pride in and support for our parks and recreation program.

A. Objective: Promote parks and recreation activities in the community and our broader service area.

1. *Strategy: Request amendment from Village Council to change existing name from Parks and Recreation Commission to Parks and Recreation Commission.*
2. *Strategy: Communicate with the Village Planning Commission and Village Council the importance of parks and recreation initiatives in the community.*
3. *Strategy: Meet with the Downtown Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, and other local civic organizations about our initiatives.*
4. *Strategy: Develop and consistently use a Village Parks & Recreation brand including logo, marketing message, etc.*
5. *Strategy: Develop a Parks & Recreation branded website as part of the Village site, e.g., www.villageofdexter.org/parksandrec.*
6. *Strategy: Produce an integrated set of branded print and PDF brochures promoting our parks and recreation assets and programs.*
7. *Strategy: Promote our parks and programs through participation in major downtown events.*
8. *Strategy: Promote our parks and programs through branded wayfinding and activity promotion signage and advertising.*
9. *Strategy: Communicate our annual plan to the general public.*
10. *Strategy: Communicate our success and shortfalls to the general public annually.*
11. *Strategy: Provide periodic updates through a combination of communication channels, e.g., Village newsletter, website, brochures, Dexter Leader.*
12. *Strategy: Work with other public and private agencies to promote our parks and recreation program through shared mailings and/or joint sponsorship, e.g., education, recreation, events, etc.*

B. Objective: Provide and promote opportunities for individual citizens and community groups to influence the mission, priorities, management, and operations of the parks and recreation program.

1. *Strategy: Regularly survey residents to measure program and service quality, user satisfaction, and to collect citizen input.*
2. *Strategy: Establish an online comment form and email address for suggestions or feedback.*
3. *Strategy: Regularly invite residents to attend and participate in Parks and Recreation meetings.*
4. *Strategy: Invite citizens to volunteer in support of Parks and Recreation objectives.*
5. *Strategy: Understand the importance of engaging the public and local community organizations.*
6. *Strategy: Identify and promote project opportunities for voluntary community participation.*

7. *Strategy: Meet annually with the Downtown Development Authority, Dexter Community Schools, Washtenaw County Planning and Recreation Departments, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and other local units of government within the Dexter vicinity.*
8. *Strategy: Meet annually with local civic organizations and neighborhood groups to inform them of our goals and projects and to invite their feedback and participation.*
9. *Strategy: Annually review citizen feedback, incorporating desired ideas.*

C. Objective: Deliver superior service to citizens and others seeking our help.

1. *Strategy: Commit to serving residents with warmth, courtesy, and respect in all matters.*
2. *Strategy: Communicate with residents regularly to enhance timeliness of information, transparency of process, and support for parks and recreation in our Village.*
3. *Strategy: Make ease of use and affordability priorities when developing recreation programs.*

D. Objective: Develop an overall parks and recreation program that makes a positive contribution to the economic sustainability of the Village.

1. *Strategy: When developing park and recreation assets and programs, maximize how each will contribute to the local economy consistent with our mission and goals.*
2. *Strategy: When possible and appropriate, consider improvements that will support efforts to build "Dexter as a Destination".*
3. *Strategy: Stay abreast of, influence, and support the activities and objectives of other Village organizations, e.g., DDA, Chamber of Commerce, Dexter Community Schools, Historical Society, when consistent with our mission and goals.*

E. Objective: Develop and maintain parks and recreation assets that incorporate a high degree of aesthetic appeal.

1. *Strategy: Engage the services of appropriate design professionals when developing or upgrading parks and recreation assets.*
2. *Strategy: Develop and implement design standards for all park and recreation assets.*
3. *Strategy: Periodically review existing assets for appearance and invest as necessary to elevate to desired standard.*
4. *Strategy: Utilize or compliment other design standards used in the Village by other departments and organizations.*

F. Objective: Develop and maintain park and recreation assets and recreation programs that meet current industry safety standards and, where standards do not exist, develop and maintain assets and programs with careful consideration for user or participant safety.

1. *Strategy: Engage the services of appropriate safety or risk assessment professionals when developing or upgrading parks and recreation assets.*
2. *Strategy: To assure safety of users, require that current industry standards be identified and met when developing any design or bid specification.*

3. *Strategy: Work with local law enforcement personnel to develop appropriate design safeguards and post-implementation strategies.*
4. *Strategy: Where identifiable, clearly indicate potential risks to participants or users and any limits to participation or use, e.g., signage.*
5. *Strategy: Follow recommendations of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA).*

Implementation Measures

This portion of the Action Plan proposes tasks that incorporate the existing facilities evaluation, the Village's goals and objectives and future projections/conditions within the Village. The tasks are applied specifically to each park and recreational facility as well as to future conditions. For all of the parks the Village intends on coordinating park and recreation facilities through the installation of conforming signs, lighting, and landscape design to unify the park system. A focus on pedestrian and handicapped pathway connections and defined entrances will accomplish this.

1. **Warrior Creek Park.** With the swings, playground equipment, picnic tables and benches, this community park is the most active and most visited recreational facility in the Village. Establishing a universally accessible connection to Warrior Creek Park, Mill Creek Park and the future regional trail connections around the Village is a top priority. The topography of the area surrounding Warrior Creek Park is very steep, creating extreme limitations on access. The Parks and Recreation Commission and the Village realize that Warrior Creek is a highly used park due to the proximity to the Mill Creek and to the downtown district. The Parks and Recreation Commission has placed their highest priority for Warrior Creek Park as accessibility with a secondary emphasis on broadening and improving its active recreation components.

Prioritized renovations for Warrior Creek are, creating an entrance and defined access point, parking improvements, and a pavilion that can be used for picnicking. The preferred location for park access is Alpine Street near the Dexter Library and Farmers Market and underneath the newly constructed Main Street bridge where access can be connected to Main Street and the future Mill Creek Park trail heading south. Access should lead into the park and link up to the proposed HCMA Hike Bike trail and the Washtenaw County Parks Border to Border trail. A trail system should be extended into and out of the park and should connect to all other existing or proposed trail

linkages, such as the Mill Creek Park upon reclamation of the property following the dam removal.

Warrior Creek Park renovations should also include additional landscaping and improved riparian buffers and streambank stabilization to emphasize the natural environment and surroundings, fishing and non-motorized boat access. Ornamental lighting and signage should be installed to match other Village parks upon further streetscape improvements. Improvements to facilitate a temporary ice skating rink in the winter should be considered. Other desired improvements to Warrior Creek Park include, permanent bathrooms, picnic tables, benches, trash cans and a bike rack.

Improvements for Warrior Creek Park should also be coordinated with the improvements to Mill Creek Park. Upon completion of the improvements the name of Warrior Creek Park should be retired and changed to Mill Creek Park to denote its incorporation into the larger linear park.

2. Community Park. The Village purchased 5 acres of land for the location of the new municipal wells, and has turned the land into a dedicated park. The following is a list of active and passive recreation facilities that the Parks and Recreation Commission and local residents indicated that they would like provided:

- a. Pavilion (shelter) for the new basketball court, additional picnic tables, trashcans, drinking fountain and additional benches.
- b. Exercise Station (incorporated with ADA pathway plan)
- c. Permanent bathrooms
- d. Open Space
- e. Parking Area- On street and Off street
- f. Improved rain gardens

Many of the improvements to Community Park have been completed. The next major project should be providing parking along Ryan Drive for park users, permanent bathrooms, drinking fountain and a shelter at the play court.

3. **Mill Creek Property.** The dam on the Mill Pond and Mill Creek, on the westerly side of the Village, has been removed causing changes in the drainage way and result in the draining of Mill Pond and the reestablishment of the natural Mill Creek. The Village has identified redevelopment of this land as a **top priority**. A detailed study was completed with the assistance of a consultant that provides for park development with an emphasis on property remediation, including habitat and riparian buffer restoration, regional and local pathway connections, universally accessible boardwalks, nature observation areas, water access, including fishing and boating, stone seating areas, walking trails, nature interpretation and informational kiosks (Appendix E). The long-range goals are to install a nature trail along the entire length of the Mill Creek from Warrior Creek Park to the Dexter Community Schools, Outdoor Lab (Shield Road). The master plan for the project was adopted by the Village Council on January 26, 2009 and is currently in the planning and design process. The Mill Creek Park property is a high priority for redevelopment and funding now that the dam is removed. Execution of the Mill Creek Park Master Plan will implement the vision for the Mill Creek Park.
4. **Future Land Acquisition.** Obtain land for parks and recreation facility sites through public investment, private contributions, developer dedications, fundraisers, community organizations or fees-in-lieu. The Village should also keep informed of possible land acquisition opportunities through community organizations and redevelopment sites. Development projects should also contribute to the acquisition or improvement of parks and recreation facility sites proportionate to the park and recreation demand created by the new developments. Open space preservation should be a component of all subdivision and residential development plans. The Village should also continue to pursue possible land acquisition for a skatepark or more desirable active recreation alternative. A list has been established that has general information on potential sites.
5. **Monument Park.** Monument Park is in good condition considering it is the most highly used park within the Village and location for many summer events and festivals. Uniform signage should be installed that coordinates with other parks. Gazebo repair or replacement has been added to the Capital Improvements Plan for consideration as it ages. The Village should also consider installing informational kiosks to highlight

historic or key points about the Village. This kiosk should also have a map indicating park connections. The focus for this park should be to create a visual connection to Peace Park and Warrior Creek Park for a more complete park gateway system in the Village. With the assistance of the Village and the Village's DDA, streetscape and parking improvements throughout the Village will provide significant improvement to the connection between Warrior Creek Park and Monument Park. The planned improvements to connect the two parks will include installation of sidewalks, landscaping, and barrier free access for pedestrians.

The existing facilities should continue to be maintained with the level of quality currently existing. The Village should engage the community in the development of this park. Due to the "town center" feel of the park many residents feel a sense of ownership in the park.

6. **Peace Park.** Picnic areas and sidewalks must be maintained for safe, non-motorized access. A matching sign and informational kiosk should be installed to identify the park as being part of the Village's system. Recommendations from the University of Michigan Students to remove trees should be considered to assure that site lines are maintained for safety and to maintain open space. Current tree plantings will eventually lead to the park transforming to a wood lot not usable as open space by residents.

7. **School Property.** Continual cooperation with the school in order to create a working relationship. The schools are the only source of active recreation at this time within the Village limits. They are expected to continue to be a valuable recreation resource opportunity for Village residents. The Village and School District will continue to work on improving recreational facilities and programs, while exploring millage opportunities and potential.

The school's Outdoor Lab property should be considered for trail improvements once the Mill Pond property is dewatered. If a trail connection were made with the school, significant access to natural resources would be provided to the residents of Dexter and the vicinity. The Village will work with the school to make this trail connection a priority.

8. **Private Parks.** Open space areas and tot lots provided within developments help meet the mini-park needs of Village residents. Dexter should continue to encourage common open space preservation as developments are planned.

Capital Improvement Program

EXHIBIT 27 provides a detailed capital improvements plan based on fiscal years from 2009 to 2014.

PROJECT NAME: Mill Creek Park Improvements/Construction

PROJECT ID: 02-2.0-2009

PRIORITY: URGENT

PROJECT TYPE: Park Development

TOTAL COST: \$3,300,000

SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year): 9 (2000)

DESCRIPTION:

Following the Main Street bridge reconstruction and dam removal development of a park in the reclaimed property has been a goal of the Village's. Development of a linear park along the Mill Creek and in connection with regional recreation and trail provi

LOCATION MAP: East of Mill Creek South of Main Street



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable 1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

2	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
3	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
2	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
3	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
3	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
13	TOTAL SCORE

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

Preserve and enhance the parkland along the Mill Creek and west of the Village, improve habitat and natural areas, connect parks and provide recreational opportunities to citizens.

MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009-2014 AND Mill Creek Park Master Plan 2009

SCHEDULE:

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		2008		2009
Design/Acquisition:		2009		2010
Construction:		2010		2014

Engineering and Design should be completed in 09-10 due to potential for stimulus funding. Schedule is dictated by grant schedule and GO Bond. Project will likely be a multi year project.

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Park Development- see Mill Creek Master Plan	Phase 1	\$1,200,000
See Warrior Creek Worksheet	Phase 2	\$3,700,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
Village Commitment		\$150	\$250	\$250	\$200			\$850
MNRTF Grant/Other Grants			\$500	\$500	\$200			\$1,200
Stimulus/STP Urban (WATS)			\$275	\$458				\$733
DDA			\$100	\$100				\$200
Inland Fisheries			\$40					\$40
Restricted Parks			\$35					\$35
Mill Creek Sedimentation								\$0
Community Forestry Grant	max \$4000							\$0
Tree Fund - Landscaping								\$0
TOTALS	\$0	\$150	\$1,200	\$1,308	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$3,058

PROJECT NAME: Warrior Creek Park Improvements

PROJECT ID: 03-2.0-2001

PRIORITY: IMPORTANT

PROJECT TYPE: Park Enhancement

TOTAL COST: \$905,000

SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year): 8 (2001)

DESCRIPTION:

Redevelopment is planned in conjunction with the development of the Mill Creek Park, plans for regional trail connection, and potential plans to upgrade the Village facility. Plans include ADA access, bathrooms, pathways and pervious parking improvements

LOCATION MAP: Main Street and Alpine Street



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable 1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

2	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
3	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
2	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
3	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
2	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
12	TOTAL SCORE

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

Enhancement of the existing park by improving access, connection and trailhead to regional trail system and public restrooms that serve a larger area.

MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009-2014 AND Mill Creek Park Master Plan 2009

SCHEDULE:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		2008		2009
Design/Acquisition:		2012		2013
Construction:		2012		2015

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

Redevelopment of the Fire Station may result in improvements to Warrior Creek Park sooner. Depending on the timing of development of Mill Creek park and the regional trail connection, redevelopment of Warrior Creek will follow.

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Park Redevelopment	General Fund/Grants	\$439,000
Public Restrooms	General Fund/Grants	\$188,000
Park Access	General Fund/Grants	\$278,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
GO Bond								\$0
MNRTF Grant							\$300	\$300
Other Grants					\$178	\$88		\$266
General Fund					\$100	\$100	\$139	\$339
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$278	\$188	\$439	\$905

PROJECT NAME: Community Park Improvements

PROJECT ID: 04-2.0-1998

PRIORITY: IMPORTANT

PROJECT TYPE: Park Enhancement

TOTAL COST: \$350,000

SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year): 11 (1998)

DESCRIPTION:

LOCATION MAP: Dexter Ann Arbor Road and Ryan Drive

Installation of park improvements to enhance the park for the residents of the Village. Improvements have been ongoing since 2004. Remaining improvements include playcourt sign/rules, picnic tables, permanent bathrooms, water fountain. Bi-annual woodch

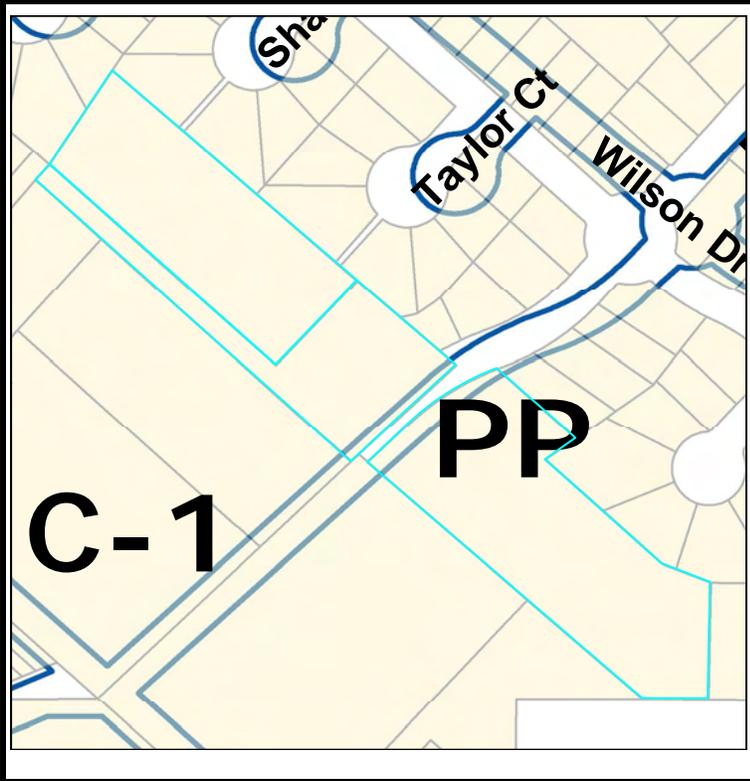
PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable 1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

1	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
2	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
2	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
3	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
2	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
10	TOTAL SCORE

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

By providing and improving Village parks, citizens will have access to recreation opportunities within the Village. The main goal is to improve parks and recreation opportunities for citizens of all ages.



MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

See Parks and Recreation Master Plan Goals 1, 2 and 6

SCHEDULE:

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		1998		ongoing
Design/Acquisition:		1998		ongoing
Construction:		2004		2014

The project schedule has been and will be ongoing until the project is slated for completion in 2013-2014.

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Bathrooms and Water Fountain	General Fund	\$100,000
Pavilion/Shelter at Playcourt	General Fund	\$50,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
General Fund	\$200					\$150		\$350
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
TOTALS	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$350

PROJECT NAME: Property Acquisition (Skatepark)

PROJECT ID: 05-2.0-2008

PRIORITY: IMPORTANT

PROJECT TYPE: Park Development

TOTAL COST: \$150,000

SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year): 1 (2008)

DESCRIPTION:

LOCATION MAP: LOCATION TBD

The Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending that funds be set aside for the purchase of property for locating a skatepark. The Parks Commission is also recommending that annually funding be set aside for a land acquisition fund for when property

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable
1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

2	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
2	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
1	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
3	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
2	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
10	TOTAL SCORE

UNKNOWN

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

Funding will be available for property purchase when properties become available. Property is necessary for a skatepark.

MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009-2014 AND Property Acquisition Inventory 2008

SCHEDULE:

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		2008		ongoing
Design/Acquisition:		2013		2014
Construction:		2014		2015

Property acquisitions restricted fund will not have \$150,000 (assuming Council restricts funds as recommended) until 2014.

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Park Development/Property

Acquisition

General Fund

\$150,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
General Fund		\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$150
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
TOTALS	\$0	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$150

PROJECT NAME: Lions Park Enhancement

PROJECT ID: 06-2.0-2005

PRIORITY: DESIRABLE

PROJECT TYPE: Park Enhancement

TOTAL COST: \$10,000

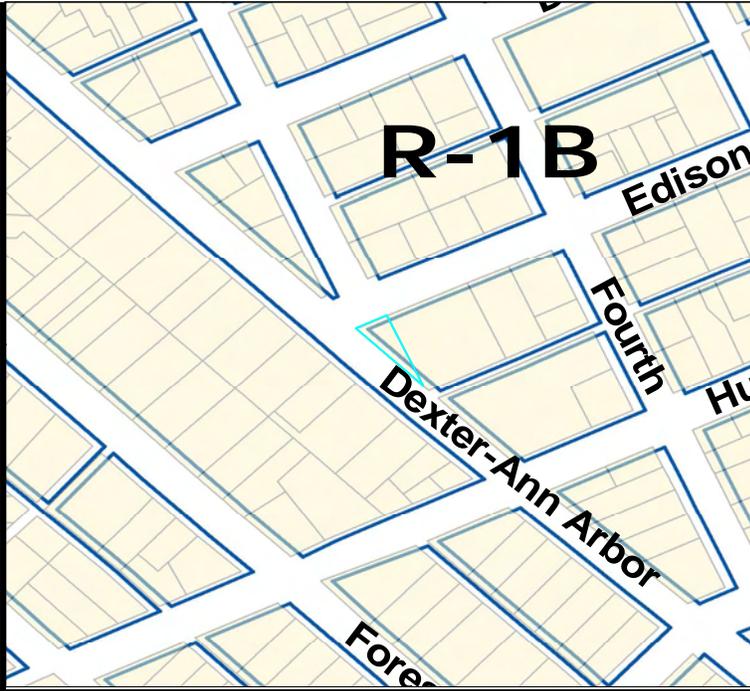
SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year):

DESCRIPTION:

Lions Park has the small gazebo and benches. Park improvements should consist of bench replacement, signage, and landscaping upgrades, including tree trimming, planting and replacement.

LOCATION MAP: Dexter Ann Arbor and Edison Street



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable
1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

1	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
2	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
1	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
2	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
2	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
8	TOTAL SCORE

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

Enhancement to this passive park will improve the entrance to the Village and provide for additional reflection and resting place for pedestrians.

MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009-2014

SCHEDULE:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		2009		2010
Design/Acquisition:		2009		2010
Construction:		2013		2014

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

In 2009 U of M students prepared design enhancement plans for the parks at the entrances to the Village. After reviewing and estimating the costs of the proposed improvements implementation plans will be formulated.

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Park Enhancement	General Fund	\$5,000
	Donations	\$5,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
Donations						\$5		\$5
General Fund						\$5		\$5
								\$0
								\$0
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$0	\$10

PROJECT NAME: First Street Park

PROJECT ID: 07-2.0-2005

PRIORITY: DESIRABLE

PROJECT TYPE: Park Enhancement

TOTAL COST: \$10,000

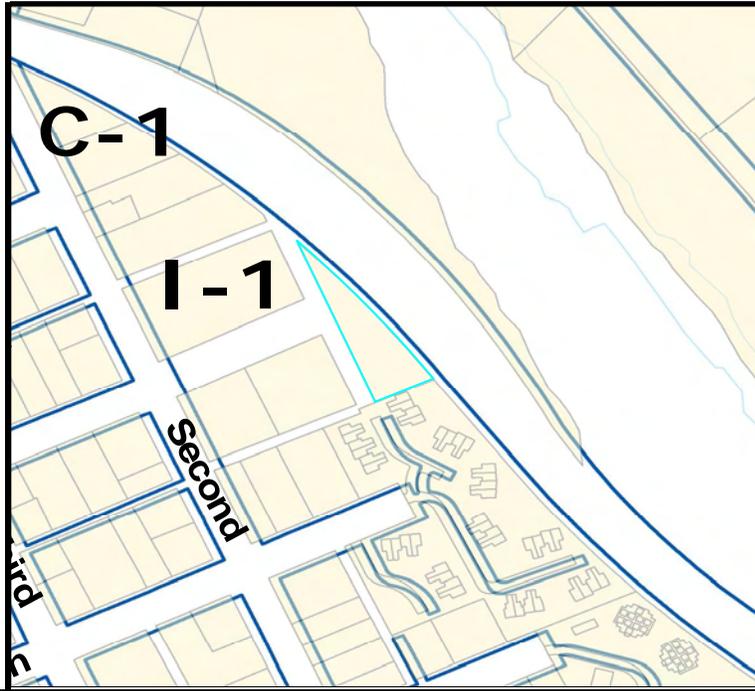
SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year): 4 (2005)

DESCRIPTION:

Signage, fencing, and picnic tables should be added to enhance the park for the Horseshoe Club.

LOCATION MAP: Second and Edison



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable
1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

2	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
1	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
1	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
1	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
1	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
6	TOTAL SCORE

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

Signage will help identify an additional Village park, fencing will help define the parks edge from the Railroad and picnic tables will give citizens using the park a place to sit.

MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009-2014

SCHEDULE:

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		2006		ongoing
Design/Acquisition:		2012		2013
Construction:		2012		2013

Improvements to this park are not a priority. The Parks and Recreation Commission anticipates donations and volunteers will complete the work and/or provide funding for the completion of the improvements.

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Park Enhancement	Donations	\$5,000
	General Fund	\$5,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
Donations					\$5			\$5
General Fund					\$5			\$5
								\$0
								\$0
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$0	\$0	\$10

PROJECT NAME: Monument Park Enhancement

PROJECT ID: 08-2.0-2007

PRIORITY: IMPORTANT

PROJECT TYPE: Park Enhancement

TOTAL COST: \$80,000

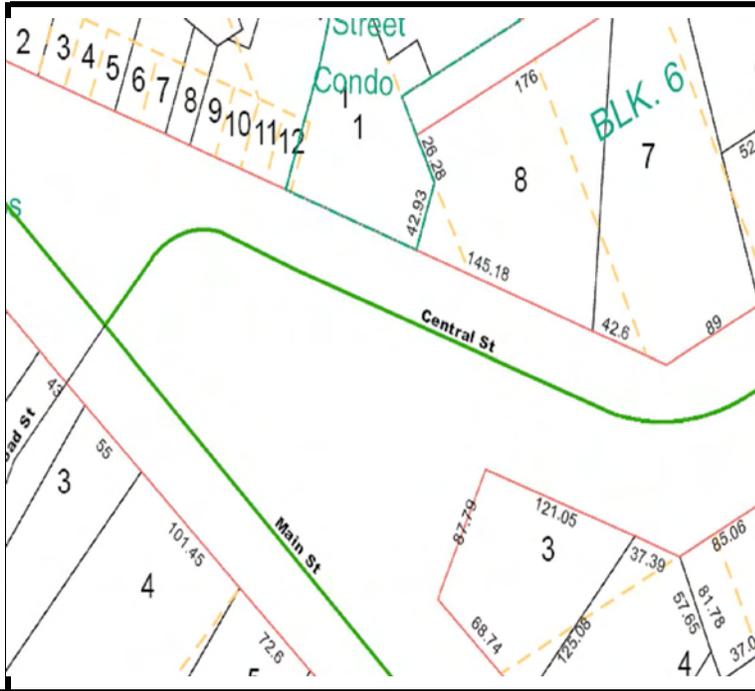
SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year): 2 (2007)

DESCRIPTION:

Gazebo replacement/enhancement.

LOCATION MAP: Main Street and Central Street



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable
1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

1	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
3	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
1	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
3	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
3	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
11	TOTAL SCORE

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

The gazebo in Monument Park is a centerpiece for downtown and festivals. The gazebo is wood and will eventually require replacement. It is recommended that a new gazebo be designed to be consistent with the architecture downtown or consistent with the g

MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009-2014

SCHEDULE:

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		2012		2013
Design/Acquisition:		2013		2014
Construction:		2014		2015

The gazebo is in good condition currently, however should be evaluated in the next 5 years for rehab or rebuilding.

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Park Enhancement	General Fund	\$40,000
	DDA	\$20,000
	Donations	\$20,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
General Fund							\$40	\$40
DDA							\$20	\$20
Donations							\$20	\$20
								\$0
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80	\$80

PROJECT NAME: Skatepark

PROJECT ID: 09-2.0-2004

PRIORITY: DESIRABLE

PROJECT TYPE: Park Development

TOTAL COST: \$200,000

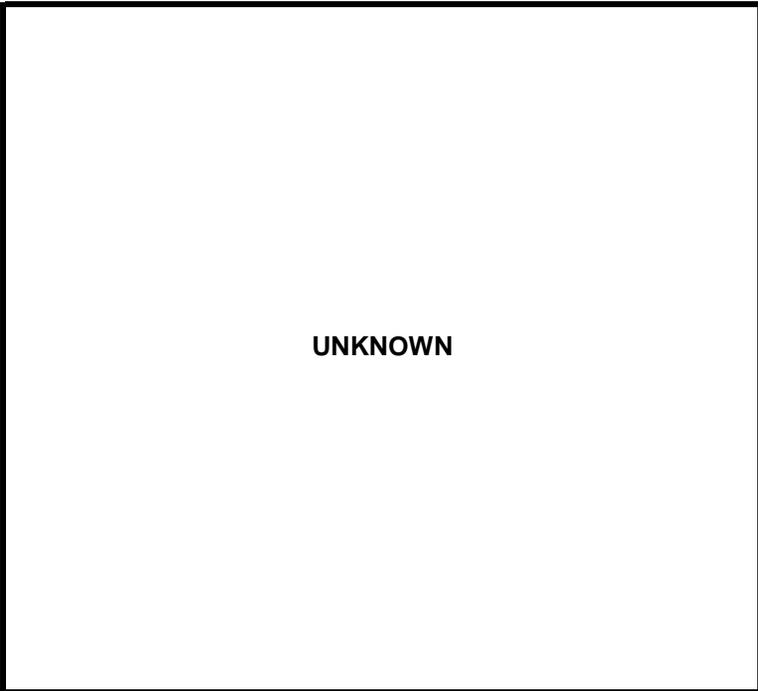
SUBMITTED BY: Parks and Recreation

YEARS IN CIP (Beginning year): 5 (2004)

DESCRIPTION:

LOCATION MAP: LOCATION TBD

The Parks and Recreation Commission has been exploring the option of a skatepark for a number of years. Research has been completed on costs, design, etc., however a location has not been determined or recommended. Property acquisition will likely be re



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Value indicates the degree to which the project will help to: 0=Not Applicable
1=Somewhat Important 2=Important 3=Very Important

2	Protect health, safety, lives of citizens
2	Maintain or improve public infrastructure, facilities
1	Reduce energy consumption, impact on the environment
3	Enhance social, cultural, recreational, aesthetics opportunities
2	Improve customer service, convenience for citizens
10	TOTAL SCORE

UNKNOWN

BENEFICIAL IMPACTS:

Providing additional park facilities/amenities for citizens of all ages. Providing the Village youth with a place to skate reduces the chances that they will skate downtown and damage property. Promotes exercise and health for local youth.

MASTER PLAN AND/OR STUDY REFERENCE:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009-2014 AND Skatepark Research in file (2008)

SCHEDULE:

SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

	Start		End	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
Study:		2007		2009
Design/Acquisition:		2014		2015
Construction:		2015		2016

Basic study has been completed. The Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending funding be set aside annually to prepare for property acquisition and construction. (\$25,000/year)

PROJECT COST DETAIL:

Park Development	General Fund	\$175,000
	Donations	\$25,000
Property Acquisition	* See Project #08-2.0-2008	\$150,000

EXPENDITURES (in thousands)

Funding Source	Prior Yrs	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	Beyond FY14	TOTALS
General Fund		\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$175
Donations		\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5		\$25
								\$0
								\$0
TOTALS	\$0	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$50	\$200