



Newaygo Community

NCRA- Recreation Plan
2010 - 2015

Acknowledgements

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Barton Street Skate Park

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Winter Sports Park



Henning Park

Chapter One. Purpose and Planning Process

Project Overview

The Newaygo Community encompasses some of the most abundant and diverse natural resources in West Michigan. The many lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, forests and prairies that make up the landscape provide area residents with a unique natural environment and various outdoor recreation opportunities. The Newaygo Community is also home to several parks and recreational facilities that provide opportunities for organized recreation, personal exploration and relaxation and social interaction.

To address the future of parks and recreation, the people and local governments of the Newaygo Community will need to continue to work cooperatively. This master plan is intended to serve as a comprehensive guide for the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority in planning for the future of parks and recreation in the Newaygo Community. As later described in this document, this plan will focus on recreation administration, park improvements and development, trails and marketing.

In compliance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans*¹, the implementation strategies expressed in this plan are identified for the next five years, at which time the plan will be updated. However, this plan is a *working document* and requires appropriate adjustments as conditions and priorities change and funding opportunities arise.







This plan is the result of community-wide discussions and cooperative planning efforts in the greater Newaygo Community. While this plan focuses on parks and recreation, it is also representative of a much greater effort to establish a collaborative environment in the greater Newaygo area. As used throughout this document, the “Newaygo Community” constitutes the geographical areas within the City of Newaygo, Brooks Township, Garfield Township and Croton Township (see Figure 1.1). However, for the purpose of this plan and future park and recreational planning and development efforts, the “Newaygo Community” refers to one, larger cooperative community.

“Leave all the afternoon to exercise and recreation, which are as necessary as reading. I will rather say more necessary because health is worth more than learning.”

- Thomas Jefferson

¹ Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (IC 1924 - 02/05/2009)

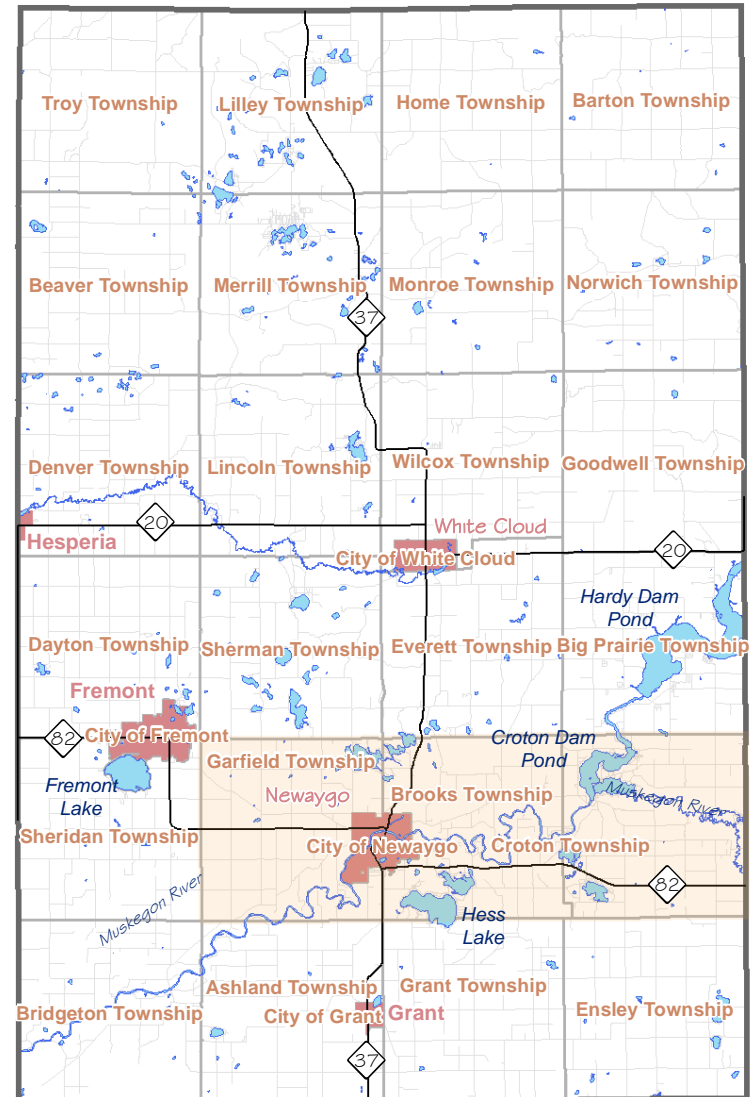
Figure 1.1 - Regional Context Map

-  Project Jurisdictions
-  Jurisdiction Boundaries
-  Cities and Villages
-  Highways
-  Other Roads
-  Lakes



Map Compiled: November 2010

Data Source:
Center for Geographic Information,
Dept. of Information Technology



The Planning Process

In August 2010, the Recreation Authority kicked off a four-step, five-month public planning process. Through a well publicized series of public meetings and open dialogue, citizens and public officials have had many opportunities to shape a recreation plan that is unique to the Newaygo Community.

Step One. In August and September, the Recreation Authority compiled and updated the recreational assets of the Recreation Authority and greater Newaygo Community. The Recreation Authority also reviewed and assessed data from the 2000 Census (including population estimates from the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission) and discussed the implications of projected demographic and recreational trends (see *Appendix A*). The Recreation Authority then conducted a barrier-free compliance assessment of the park and recreation assets. Finally, the Recreation Authority, in cooperation with several different community stakeholders, explored the feasibility and potential development (including a physical assessment) of a new park and trailway that would connect to Marshall Memorial Park.

Step Two. In October, the Recreation Authority engaged the public in an effort to formulate the basis of the community-wide recreation plan. The Authority facilitated a public meeting at which participants were asked to describe a vision for parks and recreation within the community. Notice for the public meeting was placed at each municipal office and advertised in the local newspaper (see *Appendix B*). In addition, community members were encouraged to articulate their preferred vision for parks and recreation at the monthly Recreation Authority meetings. These public engagement opportunities (see results in *Appendix C*) build upon a comprehensive series of public meetings and interactive discussions that took place during the development of the previous recreation plan and subsequent plan amendments.

Step Three. In October, the Recreation Authority worked to develop a *draft* parks and recreation plan for the Newaygo Community. Among other things, the *draft* plan outlined a series of goals and objectives for administration, park developments and improvements, trails and marketing. At the conclusion of their November meeting, the Recreation Authority authorized the release the *draft* plan for public comment and review, placing copies of the plan at each municipal office, the public library and online. A copy of the notice of availability for the draft plan can be found in *Appendix D*.

Step One: Physical Assessment - The Recreation Authority, in cooperation with a number of community stakeholders, conduct a physical assessment of a potential new park and trail-way connected to Marshall Memorial Park.



Step Two: Public Engagement - In October, the Recreation Authority engaged the public to formulate the basis for the plan.



Step Four. In response to comments and suggestions provided after the month long public comment period, the Recreation Authority worked to develop a *final* parks and recreation plan for the Newaygo Community. After a few small revisions, the *final* plan was formally adopted by the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Board (see resolution in *Appendix E*) following a formal public meeting in December. A copy of the notice for the public meeting can be found in *Appendix F*. Upon its formal adoption, the *Parks and Recreation Plan* was submitted (see letters in *Appendix G*) to the Newaygo County Planning Commission and the Regional Planning Agency (West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission). In addition, the Recreation Plan was submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for acceptance and approval.

Community Vision

This vision statement and the associated value statements were developed through a brief but comprehensive community planning process, involving citizens, public officials and the Recreation Authority.

Vision Statement

The Newaygo Community is an exciting four-season center for individual and organized sports, fun and adventure or simple relaxation. The Community offers residents and visitors of all ages, easy access to nature areas, trails and paths, and a wide variety of recreational facilities, as well as educational information.

Value Statements

We are a community that values public access to recreational opportunities that support vigorous lifestyles at all ages and stages of life.

We are a community that values a variety of recreational facilities to support organized sports, individual recreation, and the exploration of nature.

We are a community that values the preservation and protection of natural resources including the habitat required to maintain a broad diversity of plants and wildlife.

We are a community that values communication and education concerning the appropriate use and preservation of our recreational and natural resources.

We are a community that values intergovernmental cooperation in maintaining the recreational and natural resources of the Newaygo Community.

Chapter Two. Administrative Structure

In May of 2006, the City of Newaygo, Brooks Township, Garfield Township and Everett Township worked together to formally establish the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority (NCRA). Established under Public Act 321 of 2000 (MCL 123.1131 *et seq.*), the new intergovernmental body is designed to raise the necessary funds and provide for the construction, operation, and maintenance of new and existing park and recreational facilities. However, within one year, Everett Township initiated steps to formally withdraw from the Authority. Upon Everett Township's withdrawal from the Authority, new Articles of Incorporation were drafted. In July and August of 2007, the remaining three jurisdictions adopted revised Articles of Incorporation by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members serving on each legislative body.

In the fall of 2010, Croton Township officials engaged the Recreation Authority to explore the potential of joining the Authority. The efforts were initiated by local officials who expressed a desire to work more closely on recreational issues. In addition, local officials acknowledge that citizens of Croton Township utilize many of the existing recreational facilities in the greater community and their children attend Newaygo Public Schools. After several lengthy discussions, the three participating jurisdictions and Croton Township adopted revised *Articles of Incorporation* (see *appendix H*) by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members serving on each legislative body. A printed copy of the Articles was then filed with the Secretary of State Office of the Great Seal. Upon the filing, the reorganized Authority became effective In early December 2010. The Authority possesses all the powers specified in Act 321, subject to the limitations of authority as provided by law and or limitations as specified in the Articles of Incorporation.

Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Board

The Newaygo Community Recreation Authority is directed by a nine member board. The Board is made up of two members selected by the legislative body of each jurisdiction and one member selected by the

Recreation Authority Board - 2006,
Board members take the oath of office at
the first meeting of the Authority



Newaygo County Parks Commission. Board members are appointed for two year terms. The Board has four appointed officers. The Chairperson is the presiding officer and in the absence or disability of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson will perform the duties of the Chairperson. The Secretary and Treasurer are *not* considered members of the board and serve only in an administrative capacity.

Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Funding

Over the last five years, the Authority has acquired the management responsibility of several existing parks and recreation facilities within the community. In addition, the Authority has developed and now manages several new park facilities throughout the community. To that end, the four participating jurisdictions fund the Authority with contributions from each jurisdiction's general fund. The contributions are based on a formula that factors a base contribution and the weighted value of the population and SEV of each jurisdiction. In addition, the Newaygo Public Schools contributes funding to the Authority. The total annual adopted budget (based on municipal contributions) of the Authority for the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year is \$13,264. However, the 2010 - 2011 year-to-date budget is \$15,586.55. This figure is based upon the new financial contribution provided by Croton Township. In addition, the Recreation Authority received revenue from fees associated with the renting of Graves Lodge, at the Winter Sports Park. A copy of the budget can be reviewed in *Appendix I*. In addition to the local contributions, the Authority has been awarded several grants from the Fremont Area Community Foundation to develop a number of park improvements. In addition, funding for specific park improvements has been allocated from the City of Newaygo's Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA).

Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Relationships within the Community

The Newaygo Community Recreation Authority is responsible for *only* the goals and objectives outlined in *this* plan. Existing park and recreation resources (i.e. municipal) are administered separately by each jurisdiction. That said, several of the facilities outlined in this plan connect with and/or build upon existing facilities in each of the participating jurisdictions and Newaygo County. In addition, the Recreation Authority contracts with Newaygo County for mowing, oversight and maintenance at Henning Park and the Winter Sports Park. Over the past year, a number of local youth sport associations (e.g. soccer, baseball) provided in-kind maintenance support to the Recreation Authority on several recreational fields. The participating jurisdictions have also provided a number of in-kind services toward the development of specific park projects.

Relationships - The Recreation Authority works closely with the Newaygo County Parks Department to provide maintenance and oversight to portions of Henning Park and the Winter Sports Park.



Relationships - Each jurisdiction has provided "in-kind" services toward the development of many park projects.



Chapter Three. Recreation Inventory

The following chapter describes the current recreation inventory of the Recreation Authority and all the local, county, state, federal and private park areas within the greater Newaygo Community. The recreation inventory is based on detailed research, on-site visits, support work from the Recreation Authority, interviews with the Newaygo County Park Director and the Newaygo Public School Superintendent, and additional resources including, the *Brooks Township Recreation and Natural Resources Master Plan, 1999*; *City of Newaygo Master Plan, 2010*, *Croton Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2005*; and the *Garfield Township Master Plan, 2003*.

The Newaygo Community includes over 700 acres of recreational parkland. The four participating jurisdictions provide over 500 acres of parkland. Newaygo County provides approximately 100 acres of parkland. The State of Michigan provides approximately 17 acres of parkland. Private facilities provide approximately 111 acres of parkland. The Newaygo Public Schools provide an additional 10 acres of parkland. Take into account, the many rivers, lakes and forests that make up the area's landscape and it is clear that there is ample opportunity for year round outdoor recreation. *Maps 1 and 1a* illustrate the location of each officially designated park and recreation resource.

Facilities Managed Under the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority

Henning Park (portions of)

Henning Park is an 88 acre park located on Croton Road, on the north side of the Muskegon River. Henning Park facilities include a campground, boat launch, and access to restrooms and parking. Several amenities within the grounds of Henning Park including a swimming area, a sand volleyball court, picnic tables, grills, two tennis courts, a staircase, bleachers, and fields of play for both softball/baseball and soccer are managed by the Recreation Authority. The remaining facilities are directed by Newaygo County.

Parks: Henning Park



Winter Sports Park

The Winter Sports Park is a 13.4 acre park located along M-37 in Everett Township approximately five miles north of the City of Newaygo. The park was established in 1940 through a collaborative effort between the Manistee National Forest Service, the Newaygo County Chamber of Commerce, the Newaygo County Road Commission, and the White River CCC Camp. At that time, the park featured twin cement based toboggan runs, a ski run, a bob sled course, an ice skating area, and lodge.

In 2007, the Recreation Authority successfully drafted and adopted a lease agreement with Newaygo County to take control of the park. After reviewing and discussing the future of the park at several meetings, the Recreation Authority reasoned that, in the short term, the cost of repairing and/or replacing the equipment in the park was too high and that recent warm weather trends would leave the potential operation of such equipment open for only a short period of time. Therefore, the Recreation Authority determined the park would make an ideal location for a safe, well-lit trailhead that would provide a link with the North Country Trail and other anticipated trail developments. Over the last three years, the Recreation Authority worked with regional representatives from the North Country Trail Association to develop a trail-spur that connects the Winter Sports Park with the North Country Trail.

In addition, due to a grant received from the *Fremont Area Community Foundation* the Recreation Authority took measures to improve the structural quality and amenities of Graves Lodge, including improved signage, paving the parking lot, new restrooms and new landscaping. Today, the park is used year-round, providing access to trails and a large sledding hill. In addition, Graves Lodge can be rented for special events and/or meetings.

Ball Park Facilities

The Ball Park Facilities are a 4 acre site located on old M-37 north of Fremont Street within the City of Newaygo. The park contains two softball/baseball diamonds with outfield fencing and dugouts. The park also contains access to unpaved parking. Over the past year, the Recreation Authority has re-seeded each out-field, repaired and painted each dugout, added protective covers to the out-field fences and constructed new building for concessions and storage.

Parks: Winter Sports Park



Parks: Ball Park Facilities



Croton Road Soccer Fields

The Croton Road Soccer Fields are a 22 acre site located on Croton Road, just east of the cemetery. The soccer complex provides access to six full sized soccer fields which can be marked differently for smaller fields of play. The complex also has access to parking and storage facilities.

Barton Street Skate Park

The Barton Street Skate Park is a large open-air skate park located on Barton Street. The park provides access to several different sized ramps and rails. In addition, bleachers are provided for spectators. Within the larger parcel on Barton Street, areas have been dedicated to accommodate ice-skating in the winter and a small house has been renovated to accommodate a remote police station, restrooms and a warming house.

Facilities Not Managed Under the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority

City of Newaygo

Riverfront Park I. and II.

Riverfront Park I. is located on 108 River Street along the eastern bank of the Muskegon River, accessible from Bridge Street within the City of Newaygo. Park facilities include playground equipment, picnic tables, picnic grills, a covered picnic pavilion, scenic overlooks, portable restrooms, the trail head of a non-motorized, lighted, paved pathway, and parking. Riverfront Park II. is also located along the eastern bank of the Muskegon River, accessible from Wood Street within the City of Newaygo. Park facilities include playground equipment, picnic tables, scenic overlooks, portable restrooms, parking, and the trail head of the non-motorized, lighted, paved pathway linking to Riverfront Park I.

Shaw Park

Shaw Park is an 8.9 acre park located on Croton Road. Park facilities include horseshoe pits, open space, a pavilion and a distinctive staircase that lead to the tennis courts at Henning Park. The park also contains Loomis Lodge, a 3,700 sq. ft. facility that includes meeting space, restrooms, a kitchen and parking.

Linda's Park

Linda's Park is a .3 acre park located on Wood Street, immediately east of the U.S. Post Office and adjacent to the large River Stop Landing District parking lot. Park facilities include a wooden travel-chapel with bench seating and a small open area with walking paths.

Parks: Croton Road Soccer Fields



Parks: Barton Street Skate Park



Marshall Memorial Park

Marshall Memorial Park is a 2.6 acre park located on State Road, above the eastern bank of Brooks Creek at the base of the M-37 hill as you proceed into the River Stop Landing District. The park was named in honor of Michigan State Trooper Kevin Marshall who gave his life in the line of duty. Park facilities include a memorial placard, bench seating, a decorative retaining wall and garden, and parking. The park also contains a gravel pathway that heads along the banks of the valley, overlooking Brooks Creek.

Brooks Park

Brooks Park is a 2.4 acre park located on State Road, on the grounds of the City of Newaygo Municipal Offices. The park is home to several municipal festivals, including celebrations for the 4th of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Christmas. Park facilities include a large open area with sidewalks that meander through the grounds, picnic tables, and band-shell, and a memorial area.

Newaygo Museum

The Newaygo Museum is located at 85 W. Water Street. No closed, the museum offered a historical perspective of the Newaygo area and vividly illustrated the impact of the Muskegon River on the local culture and the economy. Artifacts were inventoried and put into storage.

Brooks Township

Coolbough Natural Area

The Coolbough Natural Area is located on the corner of 58th Street and Hazelwood. The natural area contains 400 acres of environmentally sensitive land with significant natural features, including habitat for rare and endangered species and over 4 miles of interpretive hiking trails. The Natural Area also provides several opportunities for outdoor recreation activities including, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, horseback riding and hiking paths. Access to parking is provided.

Croton Township

Croton Dam Pond

Croton Dam Pond and its surrounding recreational facilities are one of the most visited sites in Croton Township. The dam, on the Muskegon River, was created to generate power. The resulting “large” and “small” ponds are heavily used for fishing, swimming and boating.

Parks: Marshall Memorial Park



Parks: Brooks Park



Parks: Coolbough Natural Area



Al DuChemin Jr. Park

Al DuChemin Jr. Park is a 1 acre park located on the southwest portion of the Croton Dam Pond. Operated in partnership with Consumers Energy, the park features a two-lane gravel approach boat ramp with a skid pier, two picnic areas (w/grills), a shelter, two handicap accessible vault toilets and a handicap accessible fishing platform.

Tailwater Park

Tailwater Park is a 2 acre park located at the southern outlet of Croton Dam Pond. Also operated in partnership with Consumers Energy, the park provides access for boaters through a one-lane, paved approach with a skid pier. The park is customized for the “transient boater” with two paved areas for trailer parking. The park also features a 750ft. riverfront walkway (both gravel and paved) that follows the river north to Croton Dam.

Conklin Park

Conklin Park is a 12 acre park located near the community of Croton, overlooking the south end of Croton Dam Pond. Park facilities include a baseball field (w/bleachers), two enclosed tennis courts, a concrete shuffleboard/basketball platform, a children’s playground, a large picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, restroom facilities and a scenic overlook.

Croton Campground

The Croton Campground is a 25 acre site with 168 campsites. Located on Croton Dam Pond, the campground includes, restrooms, shower facilities, two boat launch sites, 53 rental boat docks, and trailer parking. The campground has thousands of visitors between early spring and fall. Campground facilities also include two basketball courts (half), a playground, two picnic shelters and a public beach.

East Tailwater Fishing Access Park

Situated on a scenic overlook, East Tailwater Fishing Access Park is a 2 acre park located at the southern outlet of Croton Dam Pond. Park facilities include a 200ft. walkway that provides access to nearby wooded areas and the Muskegon River.

Parks: Al DuChemin Jr. Park



Parks: Tailwater Park



Parks: Conklin Park



Parks: Croton Campground



Newaygo County

Hardy Dam Marina

Located on the backwaters of the Hardy Dam, the Hardy Dam Marina has 38 boat slips and access to a boat launch and picnic facilities.

State of Michigan

Michigan Department of Transportation Roadside Parks

The Michigan Department of Transportation manages one roadside park within the Newaygo Community. Robert J. Hogeboom High Rollaway Roadside Park, located along M-82 in Brooks Township features parking, pit-toilets, picnic tables, a high scenic overlook of the Muskegon River, and a stair case leading to the edge of the river.

Private Facilities

Pendergast Ball Diamond

The Pendergast Ball Diamond is located on M-37, in Garfield Township. The Ball Diamond is owned and managed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and includes one softball/baseball diamond and parking access. The area is also used unofficially for soccer practices.

Michigan Nature Association Nature Sanctuary

The Michigan Nature Association holds 110 acres of land in permanent preservation on Poplar Ave., in Brooks Township. The area includes an unmarked parking area, and unmarked trails.

Village Green Golf Course

The Village Green Golf Course is located on 8130 Bingham Avenue, in Garfield Township. The golf course features 18 holes, a restaurant, and pro-shop.

Resort(s) On Croton Dam

There are a number of private resorts located on the backwaters of the Croton Dam, including:

- Riverside Resort
- Alpine Resort
- Croton Bay Trading Post

Parks: Robert J. Hogeboom High Rollaway Roadside MDOT Park



Private Facilities: Riverside Resort



Photo provided by Riverside Resort

Private Campgrounds

There are a number of private campgrounds located near Croton Dam, including:

- Camp Trotter (Bills Lake)
- Camp Calvary (Petitt Lake)
- Croton Dam

Outfitters

Due to its close relationship to the Muskegon River and other area water bodies, there are a number of outdoor outfitters within the Newaygo Community. Outfitters provide opportunities to experience water activities such as tubing, canoeing and kayaking. In addition, there are a number of fishing outfitters.

Newaygo Public Schools

The Newaygo Public School District consists of four schools: Velma Maston Elementary; Vera Wilson Elementary; Newaygo Middle School; and Newaygo High School. The Newaygo Public Schools provide 10 acres of recreational parkland and several indoor recreation facilities. Maps 1 and 1a illustrate the location of each school in the Newaygo Community.

Newaygo Community Trails

There are a number of designated snowmobile/ORV trails within the greater Newaygo Community. There are also a number of non-motorized trails that offer hiking, cross-country skiing, and other forms of recreation. However, bicycle and other multi-use trails are limited.

Snowmobile Trails

The City of Newaygo and the State of Michigan both provide access to snowmobile trails within the Newaygo Community. In 1999, the City of Newaygo adopted zoning ordinances that provide for designated snowmobile “trails” within the city to encourage snowmobile access to the downtown district. Designated snowmobile trails include:

Division Street: Between M-82 and Quarterline

Quarterline Street: Between Division Street and Justice Street

Justice Street: Between Quarterline Street and Justice Street

Wood Street: Between Justice Street and River Street

River Street: Between Wood Street and Bridge Street

Bridge Street: Between River Street and the westerly city limits

Private Outfitters: Wisner's



Schools: Track



The State of Michigan manages a snowmobile trail located on the north side of the Muskegon River in the City of Newaygo and travels north toward the City of White Cloud. *Maps 2 and 2a* illustrate the location of snow mobile trails within the Newaygo Community.

Hiking and Multi-Use Trails

Hiking trails within the Newaygo Community are located within the Coolbough Natural Areas and Henning Park. Several of the Coolbough Natural Areas trails are dedicated for horseback riding. The North Country Trail also provides access to hiking trails within the Newaygo Community. A multi-use trail dedicated for pedestrian, bike, and roller-blade traffic is located along the Muskegon River between Riverfront Park Phases One and Two. *Maps 2 and 2a* illustrate the location of each trail. (The trails at Henning Park are not included on this map.)

North Country Trail

The North Country Trail traverses over 4,000 miles from the Adirondacks of New York State to the plains of North Dakota. Currently, approximately 17.8 miles of the North Country Trail are in the Newaygo Community from the Croton Dam to the M-37 and the 40th St. Area. These portions of the NCT are managed by the Western Michigan Chapter of the North Country Trail. Recently, the North Country Trail Association assisted the Authority in constructing a trail spur from the North Country Trail to the Winter Sports Park.

Riverfront Trail

A smooth hard-surfaced trail runs along the Muskegon River between Riverfront Park Phase I. and II. The pathway provides opportunity for walking, biking, and rollerblading.

Coolbough Natural Areas Trails

The Coolbough Natural Area provides approximately 4 miles of hiking trails. Approximately 1.5 miles of trails are dedicated for horseback riding.

Henning Park Trails

Henning Park provides approximately 1 mile of hiking paths around the northwest portion of the Park.

Trails: North Country Trail



Photo provided by Pure Michigan

Trails: Riverfront Trail



Trails: Coolbough Natural Area Trails



Water Access

State of Michigan Facilities

In addition to the water access sites described in the specific municipal park descriptions, the State of Michigan manages 10 boat launches (see right) within the Newaygo Community. *Maps 1 and 1a* illustrates the location of each boat launch within the Newaygo Community.

Recreational Assets - NRPA Classification & Accessibility Score

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) established a recommended classification system for parks, recreation areas and open spaces. This classification system has been established to assist local governments in the development of future park lands. The general description, local criteria and size criteria for each park classification is located in *Appendix J*.

An assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities is required under the guidelines established under the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. In 2005, the Recreation Authority worked with the *Access Recreation Group LLC.*, to conduct a thorough American with Disabilities (ADA) compliance assessment of parks within the Newaygo Community. Each park was visited and inventoried for safety and code violations in respect to topics such as accessibility, signage and use. Over the last five years, the Recreation Authority has addressed some of results and recommendations of the assessment in the development and redevelopment of several facilities (see photos next page).

Water Access: State of Michigan

- Brooks Lake
- Pickerel Lake
- Newaygo
- Hess Lake
- High Rollaway
- Anderson Flats
- Henning Park
- Pine Street
- Twinwood Lake
- Bills Lake Boat Ramp



For this plan, the following ranking systems were considered for each park managed by the Recreation Authority.

- 1 - None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 - Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 - Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 - The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 6 - The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

The following table (Table 2.1) provides the park type, size, service area and accessibility score for each park managed by the Recreation Authority based on the NRPA classification standards and accessibility ranking system listed above.

Table 2.1 Newaygo Community Park Classifications

Park	Park Type	Size (acres)	Service Area	Accessibility Score
Henning Park	Large Urban Park	88	Entire County	2
Winter Sports Park	Special Use Park	13.4	Entire County	3
Ball Park Facilities	Special Use Park	4	Recreation Authority	2
Croton Road Soccer Fields	Special Use Park	22	Recreation Authority	2
Barton Street Skate Park	Special Use Park	1.5	Recreation Authority	3

Recreation Programming

Currently, none of the four jurisdictions within the Newaygo Community administer any organized sports programming. However, area sports programming is provided through the *Tri-City Little League*, *American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)*, and *Newaygo Area Rocket Football*. The *Tri-City Little League* consists of teams from the City of Newaygo, the City of White Cloud, Hesperia, Grant, and Kent City. The League supports children ranging in age from 5 to 14 years old. The *AYSO Program* is managed under Region (1354) representing most of Newaygo County including the City of Fremont, the City of Newaygo, and the City of White Cloud. AYSO involves children ranging in age from 14 to 18 years old.

Accessibility: Based on the results of a 2005 ADA compliance assessment, the Recreation Authority has incorporated universal access design elements into the redevelopment of facilities (Pictured below, bathrooms at the Winter Sports Park - before and after)



Previous Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants in the Newaygo Community

The Newaygo Community Recreation Authority has never been awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE). However, the City of Newaygo and Brooks Township (participating jurisdictions of the Authority) each have parks that were either partially or completely acquired or developed with DNRE grant funds. In addition, Brooks Township recently (October 2010) submitted a MNRTF grant application - subject 10-150 for a Coolbough Natural Area Addition.



Brooks Township

Project Number: TF99-183

Title: Cold Creek Forest Area

Type: Acquisition

Elements: 400 acres



City of Newaygo

Project Number: TF95-065

Title: Newaygo Riverfront Park

Type: Development

Elements: Access road, pathways, parking, boardwalk, canoe landing, lighting, signage, picnic area and play area



Project Number: BF90-065

Title: Newaygo Riverfront Park

Type: Development

Elements: Access road, parking, fishing pier, lighting, signage, picnic area, rip-rap, pathway and canoe landing



Project Number: BF89-589

Title: Newaygo Riverfront Park

Type: Development

Elements: Fishing Pier, picnic area, trail, parking lots, play area, roads, wastewater treatment plant, signage and lighting

Chapter Four. Physical Inventory

The Newaygo Community encompasses over 68,900 acres of some of the most wild and diverse landscape in West Michigan. This Physical Inventory was conducted with support work from the Recreation Authority Board interviews with the National Forest Service and additional resources including, the *Brooks Township Recreation and Natural Resources Master Plan, 1999*; *City of Newaygo Draft Master Plan, 2004*, *Croton Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2005*; *Garfield Township Master Plan, 2003*; the *Huron-Manistee National Forest Proposed Land and Resources Management Plan 2005*; and *Natural Newaygo*, a report developed for Brooks Township.

Existing Land Use

Map 3 illustrates the current land use configuration of the Newaygo Community. The graphic at right provides the acres (rounded up) and percentages of the *Land Use Type* found in the Newaygo Community. The dominant land use category in the Newaygo Community is *Forest Land* representing 60.2% of the area. *Agriculture* (18.7%) and *Non-Forested Fields* (9.6%) also represent large portions of land use in the Newaygo Community. The total quantity of land categorized as *Residential Urban* land is 2,294 acres (2.3%).

Wetlands

Wetlands compose 1,178 (1.7%) acres of the total acreage of the Newaygo Community. Wetlands are areas in which water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil year-round or for periods of time during the year.

Forest

As previously noted Forest Lands are the dominant natural feature of the Newaygo Community with over 41,516 acres (60.2%) of the total land use. The majority of forest lands are found in Croton and Brooks Townships. Forest species include Jack Pine, White Spruce, Red Pine and Shagbark Hickory.

Farmlands

Farmlands are another dominant land use in the Newaygo Community with over 12,880 acres (18.7%) of the total land use. In recent years, one of the most substantial crops in the Newaygo Community has been Christmas Trees.

Land Use: Newaygo Community

Land Use Type	Acres	Percent
Agricultural, X-tree	12,880	18.7%
Commercial (Urban)	152	.2%
Extractive (Urban)	85	.1%
Forest	41,516	60.2%
Ind. Utility, Transport	255	.4%
Non-Forested Fields	6,621	9.6%
Recreation (Cemetery)	135	.2%
Residential (Urban)	2,294	3.3%
Water	3,792	5.5%
Wetlands	1,178	1.7%
Total	68,908	

Source: Newaygo County - 1998

State and Federal Lands

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) classifies two unique zones in the Newaygo Community for flood insurance rate purposes. The two zones are located along portions of the Muskegon River in Brooks Township and Garfield Township. It is important to consider these areas when planning for future park development.

Huron-Manistee National Forest

The staff members of the Huron-Manistee National Forest (see *Map 4*) manage 6,355 acres of land in the Newaygo Community. To help implement the 2006 Huron-Manistee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, *Management Areas* have been designated in which the desired conditions, objectives, and standards and guidelines are identified for specific areas. There are six management areas within the Newaygo Community. The following section provides the *Purpose*, *Goals and Objectives* and *Desired Future Condition* for the six areas within the Newaygo Community, as provided in the Huron-Manistee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Area 4.4 Rural

Purpose

Management activities provide recreational opportunities, sources of firewood close to users, and moderate to high volumes of timber products. Emphasis includes reducing life-threatening and property-damaging wildfire potential. Wildlife management is coordinated with adjacent non-National Forest land management. Some small blocks will be managed to protect isolated, essential areas for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species; while other small tracts may emphasize grouse management.

Desired Future Condition

The area has no restrictions in size and the National Forest System land is scattered. It is often a mixture of agricultural land, private lots and wooded National Forest System land that creates a rural environment. Human activities are evident and interaction between users is frequent. Users are aware of services provided, such as visitor information and law enforcement. There are few opportunities to test primitive outdoor skills. The area will provide roads and trails appropriate for motorized and non-motorized uses.

Red, white, and jack pine are the dominant tree species, although aspen and other hardwoods are present. The trees within each stand are about the same age and size. The scattered openings on private land are agricultural fields, idle land, borrow pits and roads. Openings are interspersed throughout the area.

There are approximately 6,900 acres of designated old growth in this management area. Facilities, structures, utility corridors, mineral exploration and mineral development are evident and harmonize with the surrounding environment.

Management Area 8.2 Research Natural Areas

Purpose

Management of designated research natural areas will protect unique areas that have scientific, biological, geological or historical characteristics of local, regional or national significance.

Desired Future Condition

Management direction will follow approved management records for designated Research Natural Areas protecting the unique features of the areas. Public ownership of all surface and subsurface mineral rights has been acquired (Federal or State). There are approximately 17,100 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Management Area 8.3 Experimental Forests

Purpose

Management of designated experimental forests will provide a land base for research activities.

Desired Future Condition

Management direction for experimental forests is established by the North Central Forest Experiment Station, St. Paul, MN. There are approximately 2,200 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Management Area 8.4 Special Areas

Purpose

Management of special areas will protect areas that have scientific, biological, geological, historical, social or recreational characteristics of local, regional, or national significance.

Desired Future Condition

These areas are unique or unusual biologically, geologically, or culturally. Public ownership of all surface and sub-surface mineral rights has been acquired (Federal or State). There are approximately 50 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Management Area 9.1 Candidate Research Natural Areas

Purpose

Management of proposed candidate Research Natural Areas will protect unique areas that have scientific, biological, geological or historic characteristics of local, regional or national significance.

Desired Future Condition

Management direction for proposed candidate Research Natural Areas will be the same as Research Natural Areas. There are approximately 5,600 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Management Area 9.2 Wild and Scenic Study Rivers

Purpose

Management of Wild and Scenic Study River corridors will protect unique areas that have scientific, biological, geological, historical or recreational characteristics of local, regional, or national significance.

Desired Future Condition

Complete the evaluation of the study rivers (White and Little Manistee), suitability evaluation (Muskegon and Little Muskegon Rivers), and eligibility (Pine Addition). There are approximately 7,600 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Water

The Newaygo Community includes 4,011 acres of lakes, streams, and rivers representing some of the most valuable recreation assets in the Newaygo Community. The waterways provide access to boating, swimming, fishing and serves as the primary tourist attraction in the Newaygo Community. Newaygo waterways also provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species.

Hess Lake and Brooks Lake in Brooks Township and Pettit Lake and Bills Lake in Croton Township are some of the largest lakes in the Newaygo Community and are predominantly surrounded by residential development.

Bigelow Creek, Coolbough Creek, and the Penoyer Creek systems extend from the northern portions of Everett Township into Brooks Township and the City of Newaygo. The Muskegon River is perhaps the most dominant natural feature of the Newaygo Community running southwest through Croton Township, Brooks Township, the City of Newaygo, and Garfield Township. The impoundments created by the Croton and Hardy dams also provide a total of 2,772 acres of surface water. The Muskegon River is a large cross cutting resource that provides outdoor recreation opportunities and habitat for a variety of fish and animal species. The Muskegon River is also the main artery of the Muskegon Watershed.

The Muskegon River Watershed drains approximately 2,723 square miles of land and is one of the largest watersheds in the State of Michigan. The watershed covers and spans across the better part of nine counties: Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Osceola, Clare, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Muskegon. Cities and towns located within the boundaries of the Muskegon River Watershed include; Cadillac, Lake City, McBain, Marion, Evart, Reed City, Big Rapids, Mecosta, Morley, Lakeview, Howard City, Newaygo, Fremont, and Muskegon. The Muskegon River is approximately 219 miles long from its start at Houghton and Higgins Lakes down to its mouth at Muskegon Lake and, eventually, Lake Michigan.

Elevation

The elevation of the Newaygo Community varies from 600 hundred feet to nearly 1000 feet above sea-level. The elevation is higher to the southern areas of the Authority, near the Muskegon River into Brooks Township, Garfield Township, and the City of Newaygo.

Water: The many lakes, rivers and streams are perhaps the Newaygo Community's greatest asset and home to several outdoor recreational activities



Climate

The climate of the Newaygo Community provides recreational opportunities throughout the four seasons, from boating and fishing in the summer to snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter. According to *Newaygo Naturally*, a community-based website, the average maximum temperature in the summer is 80 degrees and the average minimum temperature in the winter is 11 degrees. The average annual snowfall for the region is 80 inches.

Chapter Five. Action Plan

This chapter outlines the goals, objectives and action plan for the Recreation Authority. The goals, objectives and action plans outlined in this chapter were established by the Recreation Authority after considerable discussion concerning the most logical and practical way to achieve the plans' vision. Additionally, many of the action strategies respond to the stated community needs of the public and the completed or on-going projects undertaken during the last five years.

Goals and Objectives

Funding and Administration

Goal One: Expand the Capacity of the Recreation Authority

- Objective. Continue to explore and consider expanding the jurisdictional area of the Recreation Authority
- Objective. Explore ways in which the Newaygo Public Schools could become more integrated into the Recreation Authority
- Objective. Explore the transfer of municipal parks into the Recreation Authority, only as initiated by one of the participating jurisdictions from which the park is located
- Objective. Continue to work with the participating jurisdictions to find qualified, dedicated, involved and passionate members to replace out-going board members
- Objective. Support opportunities for board members to participate in continuing education or recreational training courses/workshops

Climate: The climate of the Newaygo Community provides for recreational opportunities throughout the year.



Objective. Take over the responsibility of the Authority's website and utilize its marketing potential

Goal Two: Provide for Park System Updates, Improvements and Maintenance

Objective. Conduct an annual review and evaluation of park facilities

Objective. Conduct an annual review of maintenance costs and contracts

Objective. Continue to work with local youth sports organizations to maintain sports fields and optimize best management practices

Objective. Explore opportunities for the construction of a new outdoor basketball court(s)

Objective. Explore opportunities to provide for groomed cross-country trails on existing and future non-motorized trails

Objective. Explore opportunities to develop a disk-golf course

Objective. Continue to consider and incorporate universal accessibility principles in the development of new park facilities and the redevelopment of any existing park facilities

Objective. Consider "walkability" and "proximity to population" in determining where new recreational facilities are located

Objective. Explore opportunities to develop a formal "water-trail"

Objective. Work with local and regional agencies, the business community and citizens to support and promote a common "Newaygo Recreation Experience"

Goal Three: Develop New and Continuing Funding Sources

Objective. Continue to seek alternative sources of funding

Objective. Increase the number of times Graves Lodge is used for meetings and/or events

Walkability - The extent to which the built environment is friendly to the presence of people walking, living, shopping, visiting, enjoying or spending time in an area. (Picture below of downtown Newaygo)

Dan Burden, Walkable Communities & Glatting Jackson, Kercher Anglin, Inc.
Walkability - Sault Ste. Marie, 2008



Facilities

Goal Four: Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at Henning Park

- Objective. Continue to fund lawn-mowing services but continue to consider alternative arrangements for service providers
- Objective. Evaluate the surface of the two new tennis courts at least twice a year and make repairs as necessary
- Objective. Explore the potential for developing seasonal ice-hockey facilities
- Objective. Seek new opportunities to improve the swimming area and surrounding grounds
- Objective. Maintain and seek new opportunities to improve the soccer and baseball fields
- Objective. Explore the feasibility of a non-motorized connection to the Croton Soccer Fields
- Objective. Consider replacing the existing signage at the park entrance to reflect all the recreational opportunities within the park

Goal Five: Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at the Winter Sports Park.

- Objective. Consider new development options for the sledding hill, including expansion
- Objective. Consider if new management methods and/or equipment can improve security throughout the park
- Objective. Maintain Graves Lodge at a level that will encourage the use of the lodge for meetings and/or events and consider the application of new technologies and amenities to make it more attractive
- Objective. Consider options for constructing a safe and accessible way for users to get up the sledding hill
- Objective. Continue to promote the park as a “gateway” to the North Country Trail and anticipated trail developments
- Objective. Consider ways to reduce automobile and snowmobile parking conflicts in the winter months
- Objective. Replace the windows in Graves Lodge
- Objective. Continue to evaluate signage throughout the park

Facilities - Henning Park Objective:

Consider replacing the existing signage at the park entrance to reflect all the recreational opportunities within the park.



Facilities - Winter Sports Park

Objective: Work to reduce automobile and snowmobile parking conflicts in the winter months.



Goal Six. Provide for the support and maintenance of recreation facilities and activities at the Croton Road Soccer Fields

- Objective. Continue to work with local youth sports organizations to maintain the soccer fields and optimize best management practices
- Objective. Explore opportunities for paving the driveway and parking areas
- Objective. Explore opportunities for providing for more support facilities, including restrooms and concessions
- Objective. Explore opportunities to host regional soccer tournaments

Goal Seven. Provide for the support and maintenance of recreation facilities and activities at the Barton Street Skate Park

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Objective. | Discuss placing a fence around the skate park |
| Objective. | Pave and clearly delineate the parking area |
| Objective. | Explore opportunities to develop seasonal ice-skating facilities within the park grounds |
| Objective. | Explore opportunities to develop basketball courts within the park grounds |
| Objective. | Work with park users to reduce litter and utilize the existing garbage receptacles |

Goal Eight. Provide for the support and maintenance of recreation facilities and activities at the Ball Park Facilities

- Objective. Continue to provide adequate care for the playing fields
- Objective. Explore opportunities to provide for formal parking areas
- Objective. Explore opportunities to develop additional fields on the adjacent parcel

Facilities - Barton Street Skate Park

Objective: Work with park users to reduce litter and utilize existing garbage receptacles.



Facilities - Barton Street Skate Park

Objective: Explore opportunities to further develop seasonal ice skating facilities.



Goal Nine. Establish a New Park and Trailway that Connects to Marshall Memorial Park

- Objective. Work with an engineer to survey and assess the feasibility of a park (w/trail system) through the designated parcel
- Objective. Work with an engineer to determine a cost estimate for developing a park and trail system through the designated parcel
- Objective. Use funding provided by the Recreation Authority and the Fremont Area Community Foundation and in-kind labor to leverage additional grant funding for the development of the park and trail system
- Objective. Develop a formal application to the DNRE, specifically targeting the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Goal Ten: Establish New Non-Motorized Trails and Explore Opportunities for All Trail Types

- Objective. Provide for paved trails for biking and in-line skating or more natural trails where appropriate
- Objective. Explore options to develop ORV, snow-mobile and equestrian trails where appropriate
- Objective. Provide for trail links to existing and future recreation facilities
- Objective. Link each participating municipality with trails
- Objective. Work with state, regional and local organizations to help develop and build new trails

Programming

Goal Eleven: Establish Way-Finding and Directional Signage

- Objective. Provide clear and well-maintained markers for existing and future trails
- Objective. Provide directional street signs for existing and future parks

Goal Twelve: Establish a Marketing, Communications and Education Program

- Objective. Utilize marketing tools to publicize existing parks and recreation opportunities
- Objective. Utilize marketing tools to publicize existing natural features and wildlife
- Objective. Develop a stewardship program to inform public of proper water and land use issues

Objective. Develop educational tools and public safety programs to inform public of proper water-way etiquette

Objective. Work with local outfitters to promote proper water-way etiquette

Goal Thirteen: Develop opportunities for new recreational programs and events

Objective. Explore opportunities to sponsor and host regional, state and national recreational events, tours and programs (i.e. Gus Macker Basketball Tournament).

Strategic Action Plan

The following section details the strategic actions that will help meet the goals and objectives of this plan. This section provides a short description of the current condition or status of the proposed goal, a description of the basis for action and the direct action plan. In addition, specific capital improvements are identified.

Goal One: Expand the Capacity of the Recreation Authority

Over the last five years, members of the Recreation Authority have worked together to manage, maintain, improve, promote and fund a number of recreational development and redevelopment projects within the Newaygo Community. In doing so, the Board has created a more collaborative environment within the community. At the same time, the Board has gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and understanding of how parks can be funded, planned, developed and maintained. However, over the next couple of years the Board will experience some substantial changes. The terms of several Board members (some who have been on the Board since its inception) are set to expire. In addition, Croton Township recently added two new members to the board.

In an effort to maintain a cooperative environment and a high level of competency and skill on the Board, the Recreation Authority and the participating jurisdictions should continue to seek out and recruit new members who have serious interests in recreation. In addition, new members should be willing to cooperate across jurisdictional boundaries, committed to participate in planning and policy making activities and engaged in local recreation activities.

Programming Objective: Explore opportunities to sponsor and host regional, state and national recreational events in the community (pictured below: Gus Macker Tournament)



Recommended Action(s)

In support of the impending board transition, the Recreation Authority should encourage current and future members to participate in recreational training and workshops whenever feasible. The annual Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Conference provides an excellent opportunity for board members to learn more about new trends and opportunities associated with parks and recreation facilities.

The relationship between the Recreation Authority and the Newaygo Public School is very important. The Newaygo Public Schools contribute financially to the Recreation Authority. In addition, the Public Schools have a number of well-maintained recreational facilities that could provide new opportunities for recreation after regular school hours and activities. Last year, legislators introduced Senate Bill 222, an amendment to the *Recreational Authorities Act* that would allow local school districts to become formal members of an Authority. After much discussion and debate, Senate Bill 222 was approved by both the House and Senate. However, due to specific approval provisions, it remains languishing in legislative discussion.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to monitor the progress of Senate Bill 222. If adopted, the Recreation Authority should explore and discuss the merits of formally integrating the Public Schools into the Authority. Even if no action is taken on the Senate Bill, the Recreation Authority should explore ways to work more closely with the Newaygo Public Schools.

Under the previous parks and recreation master planning effort, a formal website was created for the Recreation Authority. Among other things, the website provides information on meetings (including meeting minutes), updates on projects, pictures and information on how to rent Graves Lodge for meetings and/or events. However, over the past two years, the website has not been updated.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should make serious efforts to update and regularly monitor the website. The Authority should consider designating a sub-committee or individual to provide weekly updates of the website.

Goal Two: Provide for Park System Updates, Improvements and Maintenance and

Goal Three: Develop New and Continuing Funding Sources

Due to the relationship between park maintenance, updates, improvements and funding, Goals Two and Three are addressed together in this section. As described in the *Plan* the Recreation Authority believes that cooperative funding initiatives are needed to support park and recreation development on a community-wide basis. Community planning activities have also shown the need to provide general maintenance and upkeep for existing and potential park facilities.

New funding will be required to implement the park and recreation initiatives outlined during the community planning process. Recreation improvement and maintenance can be financed through several funding sources.

Recommended Action(s)

Local officials should work together to analyze appropriate funding sources that provide general park maintenance functions and support park and pathway development. The following list provides a brief description of funding sources applicable to the Authority.

General Fund

Funding can be provided by general fund appropriations from each of the participating jurisdictions.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, non-profit organizations, religious institutions and individuals may contribute 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 and/or facilities.

Millage

Michigan enabling legislation allows the Recreation Authority to ask voters to approve a property tax millage that finances park and recreation development initiatives for land acquisition, new facilities, and operation. The Recreational Authority Act 321 of 2000 authorizes the Recreational Authority to

Goal Two: The Recreation Authority should continue to explore opportunities to develop the following recreation facilities:

- Basketball Courts
- Designated Water Trails
- Disk Golf Course
- Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails

levy a tax of not more than 1 mill for a period of not more than 20 years on all of the taxable property within the territory of the Authority.

Lease and Fee-For-Service Arrangements

The Newaygo Community could negotiate a lease for the use of parkland facilities by groups and organizations. A common method is to initiate lease agreements with local youth/parent sports organizations for use of parkland facilities. Concessions at these facilities may also generate small amounts of funding. Another method may be to lease underutilized park land for other uses such as cell towers.

Bonds

The Newaygo Community could borrow funds to finance the development of park and recreation facilities. General Obligation bonds can be issued for specific community projects but require repayment with interest by the issuing Authority. Repayment usually requires some form of tax such as a millage. A public vote of approval is required before issuing a General Obligation Bond. Revenue Bonds can also be issued to raise funds for construction of public projects. However, these bonds are tied to a revenue source created by the project such as concessions, lease agreements, and fees.

Private and Community Foundations

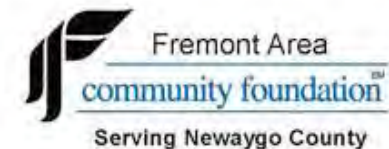
A foundation is a special form of non-profit corporation established as a federally approved mechanism through which land, cash and securities may be accumulated and “gifted” for specified non-profit activities. Therefore, foundation support could help with improving parks and recreation services.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. Grant amounts range from \$15,000 to \$500,000 with a required minimum local match of 25%.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to local units of government to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants. The DNR makes

Goal Three: Over the past five years, the Fremont Area Community Foundation has awarded over \$300,000 to the Recreation Authority to improve and develop a number of recreation facilities.



recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS) which grants final approval. In addition, the DNR provides several grant opportunities for outdoor and recreation subjects such as wildlife, fisheries, boating, forestry, trails, and law enforcement.

Michigan Trail-Way Fund

In 1993, the state of Michigan enacted “trailways” legislation calling for a statewide system of smooth-surfaced trails passing through Michigan’s natural areas and communities. The legislation allows communities to formally designate existing trails as a “Michigan Trailway” through the DNRE Natural Resources Commission. Trails under development can be considered for trailway designation and receive financial assistance from the Michigan Trailways Fund, if a master plan or other documentation that provides a basis for evaluation is presented for review. For more information, please visit the DNRE website at: www.michigan.gov/dnre.

Transportation Enhancement Program

In 1992, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) established the *Transportation Enhancement Program* to improve the quality of life for Michigan citizens by providing funding and other assistance and creating and responding to opportunities to enhance Michigan’s transportation system. The program was the result of the *Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act* of 1991. In 1998, the program was re-authorized in the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)*. In 2005, the program was re-authorized again under the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)*.

Under previous programs, activities eligible for funding included the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, wide paved shoulders and off-road trails, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, landscaping and other scenic beautification improvements including trail and waterfronts, and the preservation of abandoned railway corridors to acquire railroad right-of-way, construct multi-use trails, and develop rail-with trail projects. Between \$20 - 25 million is available for funding each year. Federal law requires the applicant must provide a minimum match of 20% of the project cost. However, regional MDOT representatives are now recommending applicants provide between a 35% and 40% match. In addition, local jurisdictions can leverage MNRTF grant funding (in addition to local funding) to meet the MDOT match requirement. For more information, please visit the MDOT website at: www.michigan.gov/mdot.

Safe Routes To School

Section 1404 of the SAFETEA-LU formally created the federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. The Safe Routes To School Program dedicates funding to every state to help with infrastructure improvements and non-infrastructure activities to encourage and enable students to walk and bicycle to school. Among other things, funding can be dedicated to develop and construct new bike-lanes, pathways, and sidewalks. In addition, funding can be provided for education and programming. No local match is required for this program. However, infrastructure projects must be constructed within a 2-mile radius of an elementary or middle school. For more information, please visit the SRTS website at: www.saferoutesmichigan.org.

Michigan Transportation Funds

Under Public Act 51 of 1951, revenue from state fuel taxes and license plate fees are deposited in the Michigan Transportation Fund. This revenue is shared among local and state transportation agencies for construction, maintenance and operation of state transportation systems. The state transportation law (MCLA 247.660k) requires that a minimum of 1% of state transportation funds be spent for non-motorized transportation. For more information, please visit the MDOT website at: www.michigan.gov/mdot.

Michigan Cool Cities Initiative

In 2003, the Governor established the *Cool Cities Initiative* - a comprehensive grant program designed to build community prosperity, grow investment in financial and human capital, attract a talented workforce to Michigan, and retain its college graduate population. At this time, no grants are available through the Cool Cities Initiative. However, there may be additional funding opportunities in the future. In 2007, the Cool Cities Initiative, in partnership with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) awarded grants to four communities to participate in the Cool Cities Michigan Main Street Program and Cool Cities Blueprints for Michigan's Downtowns Program. Under the grant, the four communities will receive five years of intensive technical assistance through MSHDA, with a focus on revitalization strategies designed to attract new business investment and job creation to its central business district. We believe trail development could be a significant component to any downtown revitalization effort. For more information about the Cool Cities Initiative, please visit: www.coolcities.com.

Michigan Recovery and Reinvestment Plan

Under the recently adopted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), federal stimulus funding has been allocated to states in an effort to jump-start the economy and create jobs. As a result, the new Michigan Economic Recovery Office has posted descriptions of available grants and links to granting agencies. For example, it appears the *Rural Community Facilities Program*, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides funding for public safety and health care facilities. For more information about possible grant opportunities (including the Rural Community Facilities Program) please visit: www.michigan.gov/recovery.

Active Living by Design Grants

Established under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2001, this national grant funds technical assistance to 25 action oriented community partnerships to develop and implement projects that support physical activity and active living. For more information about the grant please visit: www.activelivingbydesign.org.

DALMAC Fund

Established in 1975 to promote bicycling in Michigan, the DALMAC Fund is administered by the Tri-county bicycle Association and supported by proceeds from the DALMAC (Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw) bicycle tour. The Fund has provided over \$500,000 to safety and education programs, bicycle trail development, route mapping projects and bicycle organizations all across the state. For more information about possible grant opportunities please visit: www.biketcba.org.

Bikes Belong

The Bike Belong program strives to put more people on bicycles more often by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the United States. These projects include bike paths and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives. Since 1999, Bikes Belong has awarded 215 grants to municipalities and grassroots agencies in 49 states, investing \$1.7 million in community bicycling projects and leveraging close to \$650 million in federal, state and private funding. Bikes Belong has awarded grants to organizations in Jackson and Petoskey and to the cities of Cadillac and Mayville.

Pay Boxes on Trails

Each of the participating jurisdictions could place pay boxes at primary access points on the trail to collect donations

Utility Leases

Public pathway corridors can obtain lease revenue from compatible uses, such as buried pipelines or communication lines. There can be one-time payments for acquisition for operation and maintenance.

In-Kind Services

Local governmental jurisdictions can often provide labor and materials toward small-scale park projects.

Public and Private and Public to Public Partnerships

Public and private and public to public partnerships can also be utilized to help develop and fund recreational projects. According to the Croton Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan², *implications of reduced funding at the public and private sector have created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as two public entities on the development of projects. For example, Croton Township currently has a public-public partnership with Consumers Energy to offer recreational opportunities to residents. Similar partnerships in the future may be beneficial, including the school districts, the county and private recreation providers for regional scale users, such as hockey and swimming.*

Goal Four: Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at Henning Park

With large open fields devoted to soccer and baseball, a volley-ball court and a swimming pond Henning Park is a primary location in the Newaygo Community for organized and individual sports. The park property is owned by Newaygo County. The Recreation Authority successfully negotiated the management responsibility of the recreation facilities located in the park. Since that time, the Recreation Authority has successfully completed several physical improvements including, a distinctive staircase connecting the park to Shaw Park, expanded parking, the resurfacing of the tennis courts and structural improvements to the swimming pond.

Recently, a close inspection of the tennis courts revealed areas where grass is breaking through the playing surface. Over this past summer, local officials received comments suggesting that the beach area

Henning Park - Capital Improvements:

- Playground Equipment
- Patches for Tennis Courts
- Non-Motorized Pathway
- Additional chemical to address algae in Swimming Pond
- Pavilion
- Seasonal Ice-rink

² Croton Township Parks and Recreation plan: 2005 - 2010. LSL Planning Inc.

around the swimming pond should be improved, including the development of a children's playground. Other discussions revealed interest in connecting the park with the Croton Soccer Complex through a non-motorized pathway.

Recommended Action(s)

The first priority of the Recreation Authority should be to maintain the existing recreation facilities located throughout the park. These include the soccer/baseball fields, swimming pond, the tennis courts, volleyball court and parking lot. The Recreation Authority should continue to work with local organizations that provide youth summer program activities at the park. In addition to these priorities, the Recreation Authority should continue to move forward with on-going improvements to the park, including: a pavilion, pathways and new playground equipment along the pond. In addition, the Recreation Authority should consider applying additional chemicals to the swimming pond to address elevated algae concerns.

Goal Five: Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at the Winter Sports Park

The Winter Sports Park is a 13.4 acre park located along M-37 in Everett Township approximately five miles north of the City of Newaygo. The park was established in 1940 through a collaborative effort between the Manistee National Forest Service, the Newaygo County Chamber of Commerce, the Newaygo County Road Commission, and the White River CCC camp. Park features included twin cement based toboggan runs, a ski run, a bob sled course, an ice skating area, and lodge.

Over the last five years, the Recreation Authority successfully drafted and adopted a lease agreement with Newaygo County to take control of the park. After reviewing and discussing the future of the park at several meetings, the Recreation Authority reasoned that, in the short term, the cost of repairing and/or replacing the equipment in the park was too high and that recent warm weather trends would leave the potential operation of such equipment open for only a short period of time. Therefore, the Recreation Authority determined the park would make an ideal location for a safe, well-lit trailhead that would provide a link with the North Country Trail and future trails. In fact, in 2009, the Recreation Authority worked with representatives from the North Country Trail Association to develop a new trail-spur that connects the Winter Sports Park with the North Country Trail.

Winter Sports Park - Successful Capital Improvements: A trail-spur to the North Country Trail



In addition, due to a generous grant from the *Fremont Area Community Foundation*, the Recreation Authority has drastically improved park ground including signage, a new parking lot and landscaping. The Authority also made substantial structural improvement to Graves Lodge, including new restrooms, electrical upgrades, a new roof and new beams. Over the last couple winters, the sledding hill has been very actively used. However, there continues to be several conflicts between sledders and snow-boarders. Snow-boarders create large ramps or jumps that are hard to see and can very harmful to unsuspecting sledders. In addition, several users sled or snowboard on unauthorized areas of the park.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to pursue the development of the Winter Sports Park as the primary trailhead for the Newaygo region. Additional improvements to the park should include directional signs and a large orientation map. In addition, the Recreation Authority should continue to examine and explore opportunities to rebuild the tow-ropes, add lighting for the sledding hill and reduce conflicts between sledders and snow-boarders. The Recreation Authority should also consider installing video equipment to assist with security within the park. Finally, the Recreation Authority should continue to market Graves Lodge to prospective organizations and interested parties for rental purposes. The Recreation Authority should continue to examine and consider structural (new windows) and infrastructure improvements (WiFi) to the Lodge, making the Lodge more appealing to prospective renters.

Goal Six. Provide for the support and maintenance of recreation facilities and activities at the Croton Road Soccer Fields

Located on Croton Road, the Soccer Fields, provide a central location for soccer activities in the greater Newaygo Community. Park facilities include six full size soccer fields which can be re-marked to accommodate a smaller field of play for younger players. Over the past year, maintaining the fields has become a primary concern for the Authority. However, there have been discrepancies as to who is responsible for watering and mowing the fields. These discrepancies resulted in an extremely high water bill for the park in August. For portions of the summer, the fields were mowed by volunteers from the local youth soccer organization, with in-kind support (i.e. tractor equipment) provided by the City of Newaygo. The Recreation Authority continues to discuss the future watering and fertilizing needs of the fields.

Goal Five. Winter Sports Park -
Strategies: Continue to make structural improvements to the Lodge and make it more appealing to prospective renters.



Goal Five. Winter Sports Park -
Strategies: Explore opportunities to upgrade the way in which users get up the sledding hill (e.g. tow-rope)



Recommend Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to work with local volunteers and municipal public works agencies to determine who and how the fields are maintained. In doing so, the Recreation Authority should be sure best management principles are being utilized.

Goal Seven. Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at the Barton Street Skate Park

The Barton Street Skate Park has been an excellent recreational addition to the Newaygo Community park system. However, over the past summer, local officials experienced problems with excessive litter around the site. In addition, there appeared to be some confusion on the extent of the parking area dedicated for the park. Recent discussions of the Recreation Authority revealed an interest in locating basketball courts and a seasonal ice-rink within the park grounds.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to meet and speak with park users and reiterate the importance of using the existing trash receptacles. In addition, the Recreation Authority should continue to explore the development of a more formal parking lot for the park.

Goal Eight. Provide for the Support and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Activities at the Ball Park Facilities

Over the last two years, the Recreation Authority has worked to upgrade the playing fields at the Ball Park Facilities. In addition, the Authority has repaired and re-painted the dugouts. Recent discussions of the Recreation Authority reveal interest in expanding the park and adding additional ball fields.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to maintain the current condition of the park and explore options for park expansion.

Goal Nine. Establish a New Park and Trailway that Connects to the Existing Facilities at Marshall Memorial Park

Over the last year, the Recreation Authority has been working closely with the Marshall Memorial Park Committee to explore the development of a new park and trail system that would connect to Marshall Memorial Park. The new park and trailway is planned to cut along the steep banks overlooking Brooks Creek. Recreation Authority Board members and Marshall Park Committee members believe the park and trailway could provide a very unique recreational opportunity in the community - a place to truly get away from the surrounding urban environment. In addition, the proposed trailway would overlook and incorporate the historical remains of an old bucket factory. The proposed pathway will also connect with one of the city's neighborhoods and a local elementary school. After an initial physical assessment of the area, the Recreation Authority is concerned that the steep terrain might pose limitations for people with disabilities. However, the Recreation Authority remains committed to developing a trailway that allows people of all abilities to experience at least some portions of the unique landscape.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to work with the Marshall Memorial Park Committee and an engineer to survey and assess the feasibility of a trailway in this location. In addition, the local bodies should work with the engineer to determine a cost estimate for the trailway. Once these activities have been completed, the Recreation Authority should proceed with efforts to seek funding for implementation, including the Michigan National Resource Trust Fund. Figure 5.1 shows the location of the proposed trailway project.

Goal Nine Strategy - Develop New Park & Trailway Elements:

- Overlook Brooks Creek
- Interesting Topography (Valley)
- Within the Urban Core
- Connects downtown and a nearby neighborhood
- Historical Significance (bucket factory)
- Concerns with steep banks



Figure 5.1 Proposed Trailway Site



Goal Ten: Establish New Non-Motorized Trails and Explore Opportunities for All Trail Types

The Newaygo Community currently has four non-motorized trails at different, unconnected locations throughout the area. Trails include the Riverfront Trail, extending between Riverfront Park I and Phase II, the nature trails located in the Coolbough Natural Areas, the North Country Trail extending through portions of Croton and Brooks Township, and nature trails located at Henning Park. Newaygo Community citizens and public officials have called for the development of a “system” of non-motorized trails providing linkages to existing parks and trails, natural areas, and each jurisdiction. The extent of function and surface type for the trail system remains to be determined. However, the community is committed to developing trails for hiking, biking, in-line skating. In addition, there is great interest in exploring the development of ORV, snowmobile and horseback trails.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to explore the development of a system of trails throughout the community. More specifically, the Recreation Authority should continue to explore the possibility of using the existing, and active railroad corridor to develop a trail connecting the Winter Sports Park with the City of Newaygo. In addition, the Recreation Authority should explore opportunities to develop trails for ORV’s, snowmobiles and horses.

Goal Eleven: Establish Way-Finding and Directional Signage

Current way-finding and directional signage within the Newaygo Community provides minimal assistance and direction for both residents and visitors. Community planning activities revealed that many residents were not aware of the location of several parks within the Newaygo Community. In addition, several residents expressed concerns over the same lack of awareness for potential visitors.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreational Authority should work to design, fund, and install new signage that directs residents and visitors to Newaygo Community Parks. The signage design should be similar throughout the Newaygo Community, and be clear and easy to read. Directional signs should be strategically located on minor arterial and major collector roads. Directional signs should also be located along all roads on which a park is located and at major intersections.

Goal Twelve: Establish a Marketing, Communications and Education Program

Currently, each jurisdiction promotes and markets area park and recreation resources on an individual basis. Brooks Township and the City of Newaygo provide on-line information, as well as brochures and pamphlets. General inquiries can be directed to each government office. In addition, Newaygo County produces an annual visitor's guide with information pertaining to park and recreation opportunities.

Community planning research has documented broad public concern over the lack of general knowledge pertaining to existing park and recreation facilities and natural resources within the Newaygo Community. Concern has also been expressed over both trail and boating etiquette.

Educational materials pertaining to environmental awareness and trail and boating etiquette remain limited in the Newaygo Community. Brooks Township has published *Natural Newaygo*, a natural resource guide to the Newaygo Area. Brooks Township, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy, has also developed natural resource and outdoor etiquette pamphlets and informational kiosks specifically for the Coolbough Natural Areas.

Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should work with community leaders, the National Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop and market an attractive and convincing "Newaygo Community Recreation and Natural Resource Guide." The guide should include information regarding park and recreation opportunities, including opportunities for organized, individual, and outdoor recreation. Information should also be provided on trail and boating etiquette and individual environmental protection measures. Finally, the guide should provide general information pertaining to the Newaygo Community's natural resources including unique natural features and wildlife species.

Goal Thirteen: Develop Opportunities for New Recreational Programs and Events

At this time, the Recreation Authority and the local jurisdictions do not sponsor or host regional, state or national events and/or tours in the community. However, members of the Board have expressed interest in hosting and facilitating these types of events in the Newaygo Community. In 2011, the USCA Canoe and Kayak Championships will be held along the Newaygo River, and through the Newaygo Community. The event is anticipated to bring in several thousand participants from around the country.














Recommended Action(s)

The Recreation Authority should continue to explore new opportunities to hold these types of events within the Newaygo Community. In addition, the Recreation Authority should work with local organizations, area businesses and regional tourism and economic development bodies to help promote the region for recreation events.

Maps

**Newaygo Community
Recreation and Natural Resources
Conservation Plan, 2010-2015**

Park Location Map Map 1

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Recreation Authority |  Jurisdictional Boundary |
|  Newaygo Community |  Highways |
|  County |  Roads |
|  State |  Railroads |
|  Private |  Lakes |
|  School Locations |  Streams |
|  Boat Launch | |

Park Locations

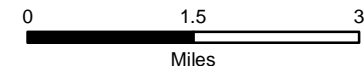
- A - Ball Park Facilities
- B - Brooks Park
- C - Coolbough Natural Areas
- D - Winter Sports Park
- E - Linda's Park
- F - Marshall Memorial Park
- G - Newaygo Museum
- H - Riverfront Park Phase I
- I - Riverfront Park Phase II
- J - Shaw Park
- K - Henning Park (Dual Management)

School Locations

- 1 - Newaygo High School
- 2 - Newaygo Middle School
- 3 - Velma Matson Upper Elementary School
- 4 - Vera Wilsie Lower Elementary School

Park Locations - continued

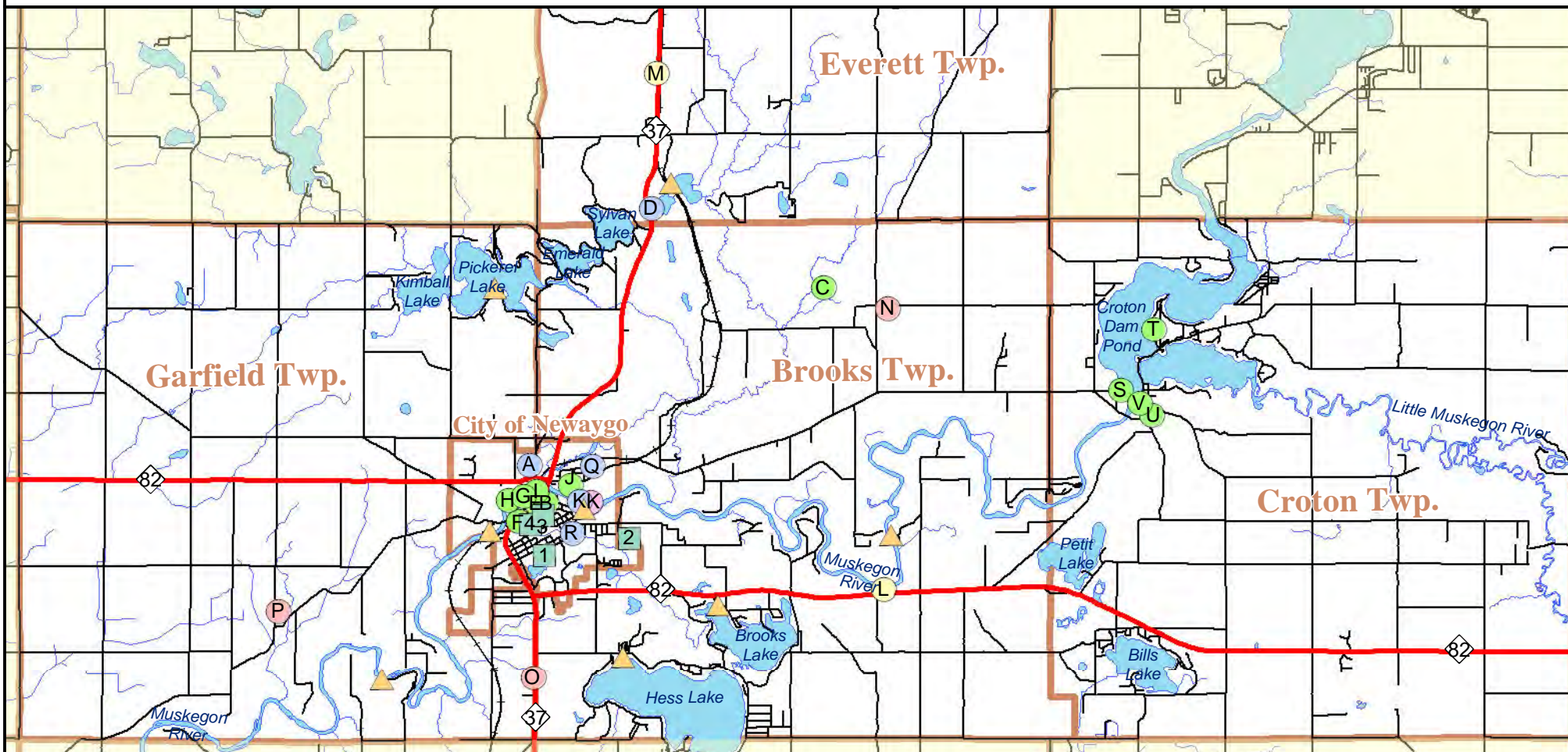
- L - MDOT Robert J. Hogeboom Roadside Park
- M - MDOT Charles Zeigler Roadside Park
- N - Michigan Nature Association
- O - Pendergast Memorial Ball Diamond
- P - Village Green Golf Course
- Q - Croton Road Soccer Fields
- R - Barton Street Skate Park
- S - Al duChemin Jr. Park
- T - Croton Twp Campground
- U - Conklin Park
- V - East Tailwater Park



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**Newaygo Community
Recreation and Natural Resources
Conservation Plan, 2010-2015**

Park Location Map Map 1a

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Recreation Authority |  Jurisdictional Boundary |
|  Newaygo Community |  Highways |
|  County |  Roads |
|  State |  Railroads |
|  Private |  Lakes |
|  School Locations |  Streams |
|  Boat Launch | |

Park Locations

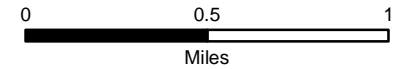
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Park Locations - continued

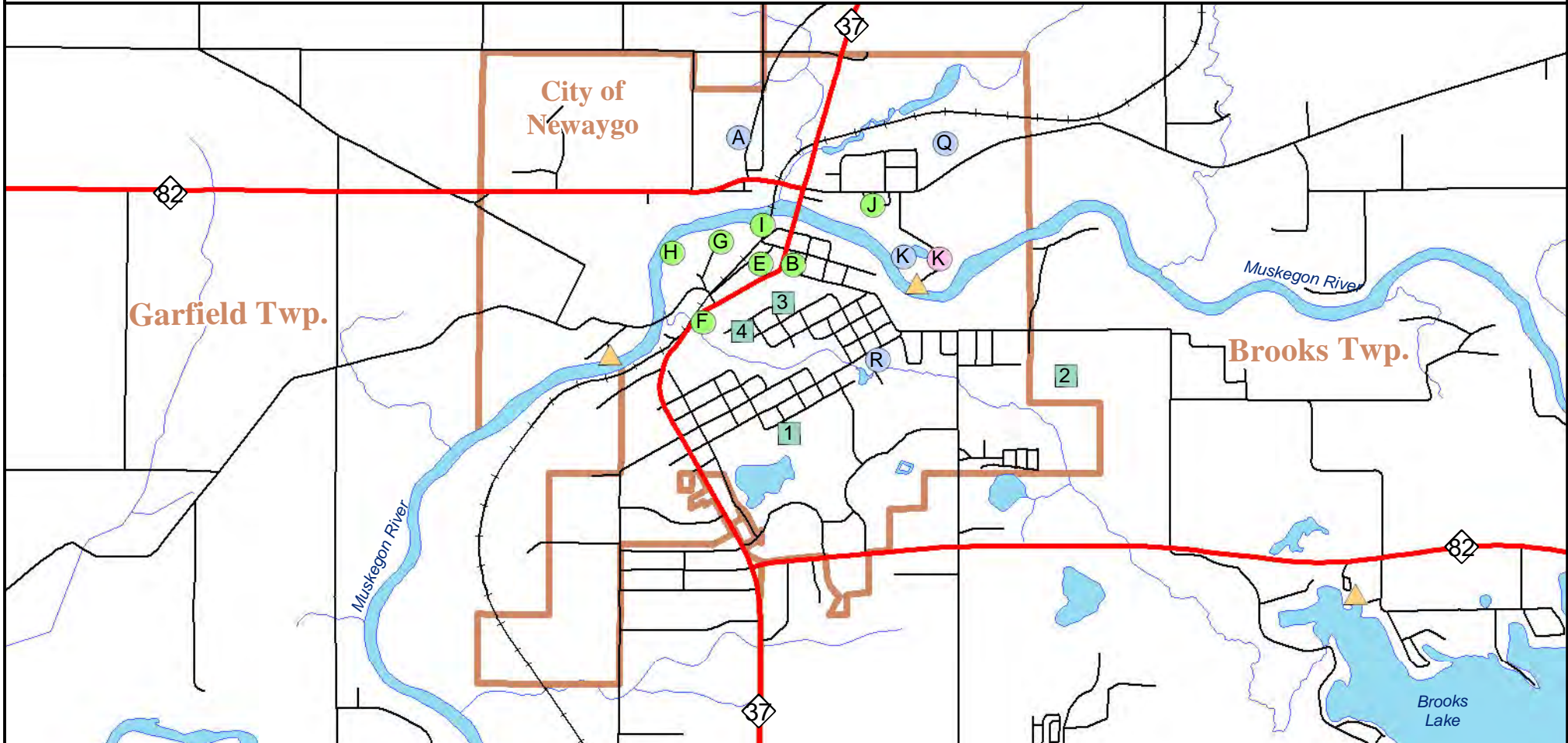
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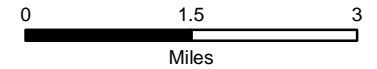


Newaygo Community
Recreation and Natural Resources
Conservation Plan, 2010-2015

Trails Map

Map 2

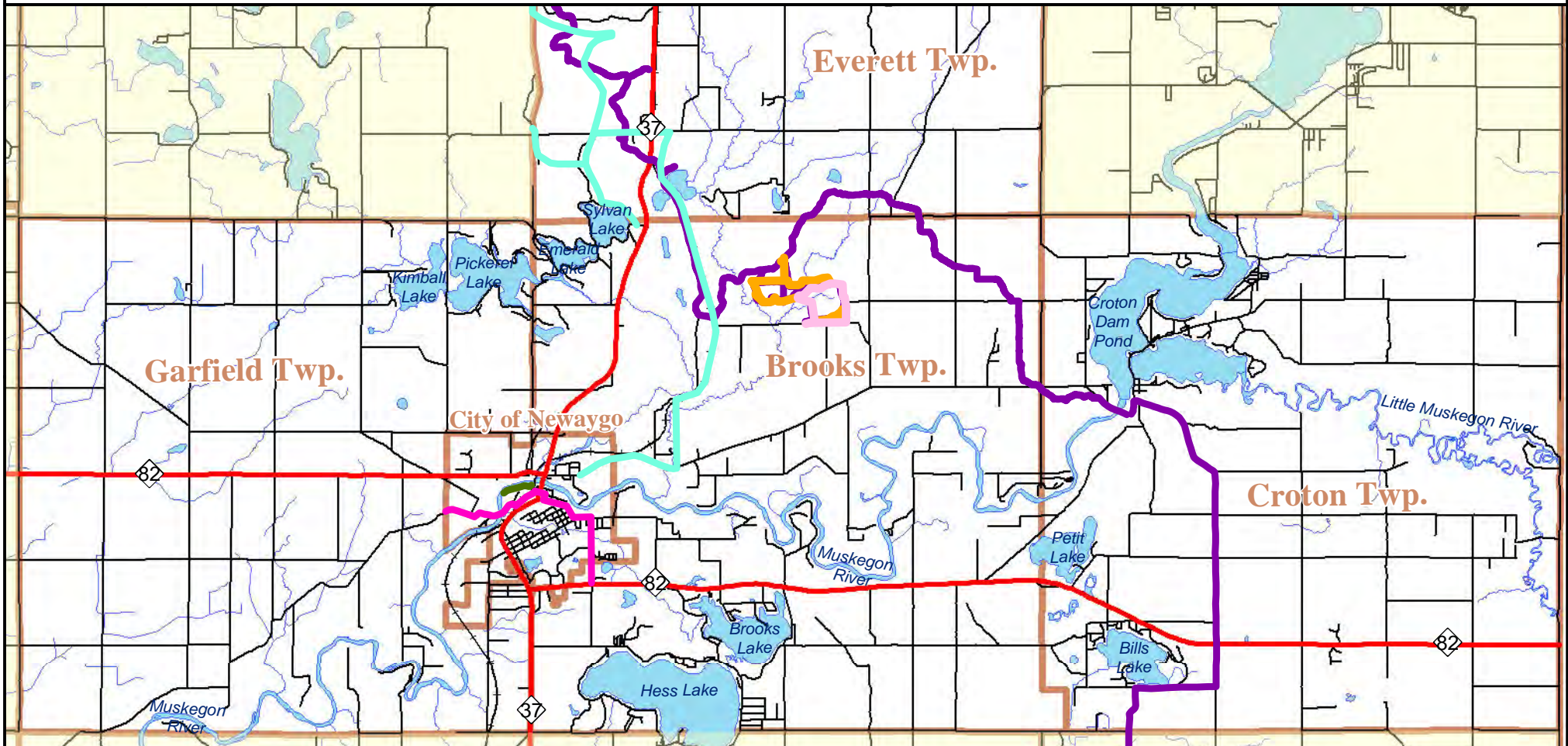
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|  Snowmobile Trail (City of Newaygo) |  Jurisdictional Boundary |
|  Snowmobile Trail (State of Michigan) |  Highways |
|  North Country Trail |  Roads |
|  Riverfront Trail |  Railroads |
| Coolbough Natural Areas Trails |  Lakes |
|  Foot Traffic Only |  Streams |
|  Horses Permitted | |



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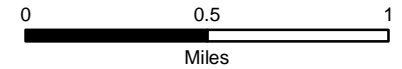


Newaygo Community
Recreation and Natural Resources
Conservation Plan, 2010-2015

Trails Map

Map 2a

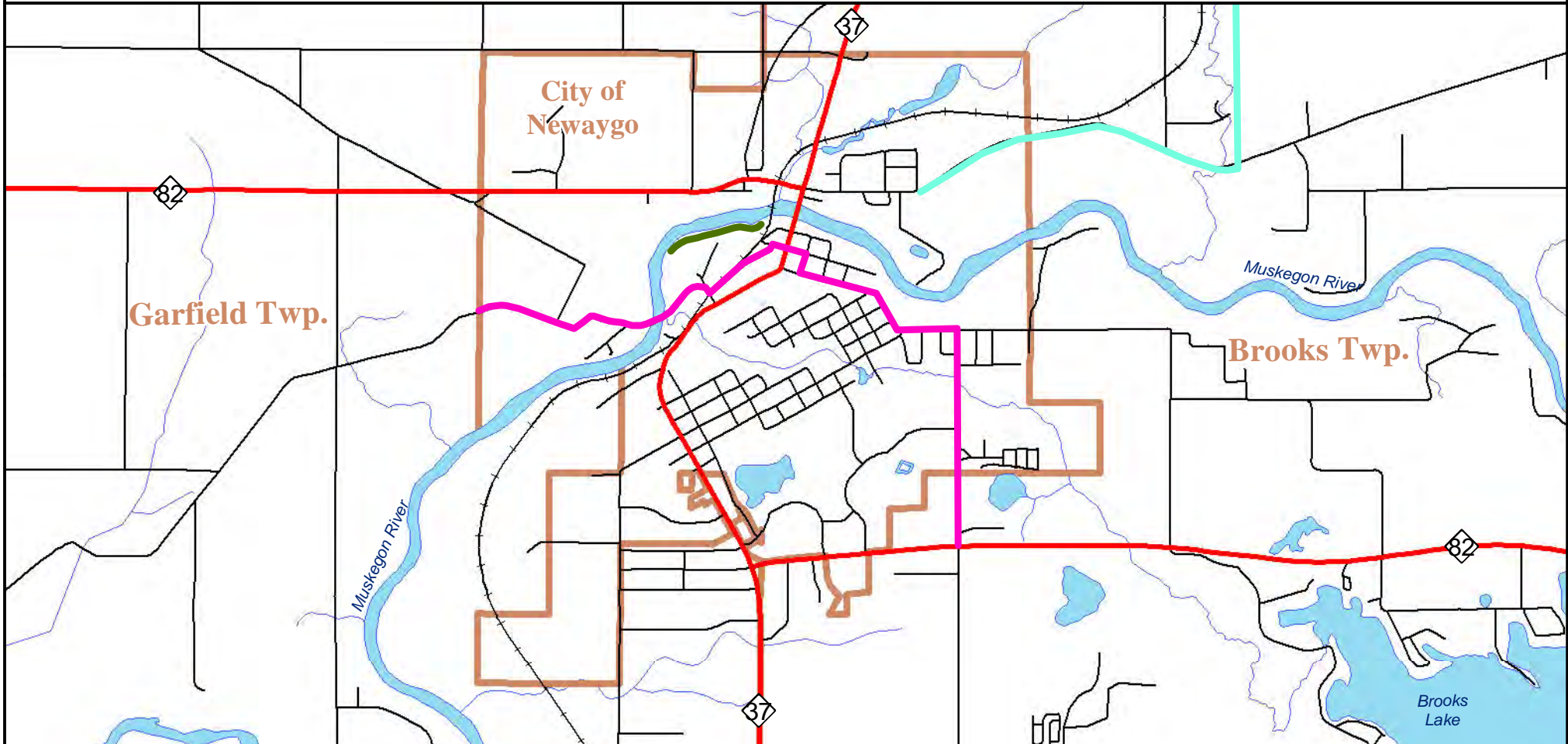
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|---|---|
|  Snowmobile Trail (City of Newaygo) |  Jurisdictional Boundary |
|  Snowmobile Trail (State of Michigan) |  Highways |
|  North Country Trail |  Roads |
|  Riverfront Trail |  Railroads |
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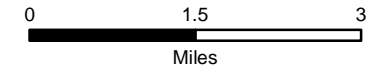
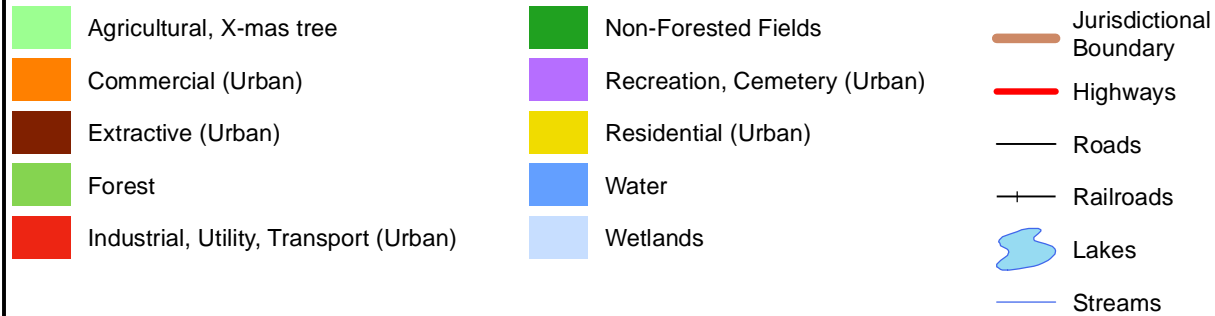
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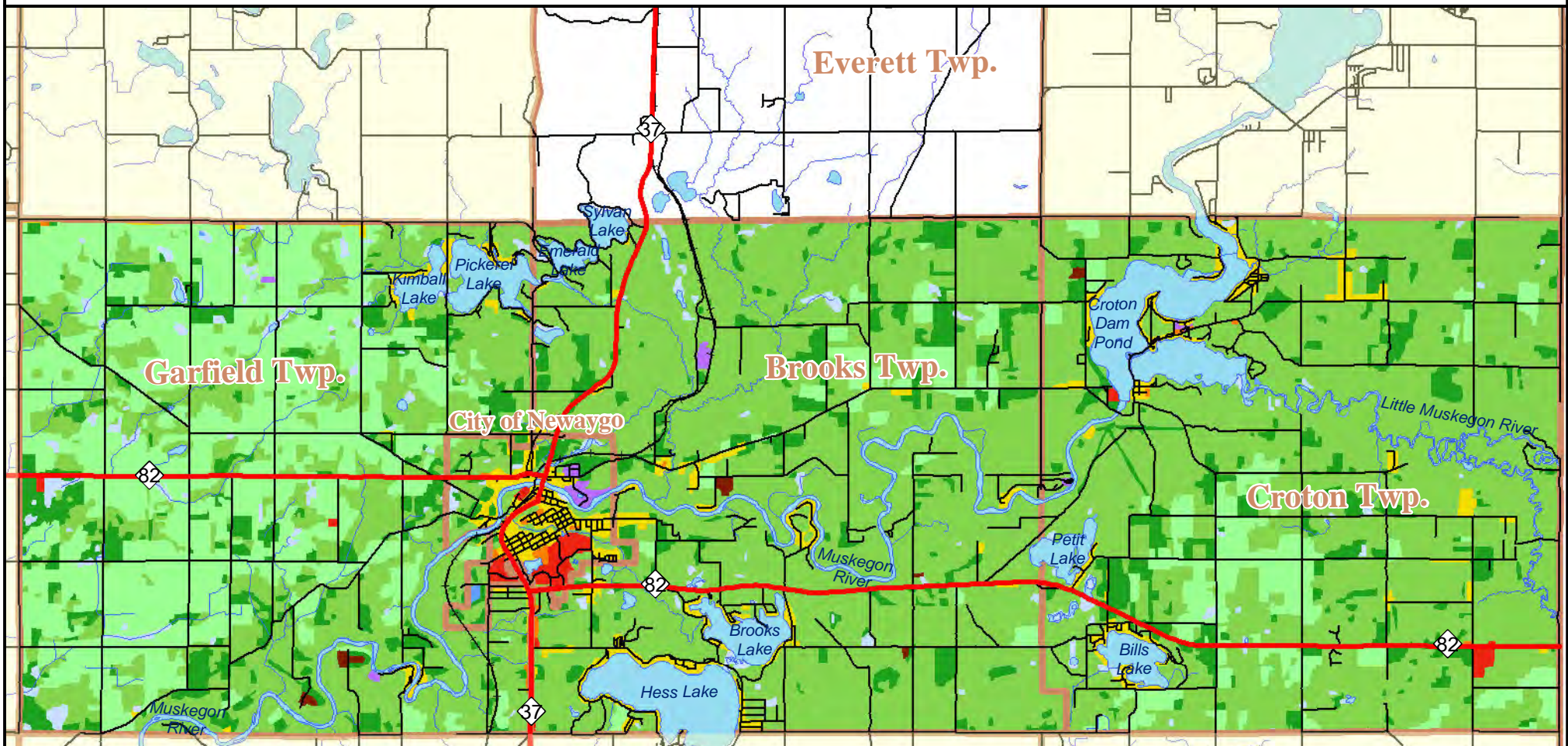
1998 Land Use Map Map 3



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





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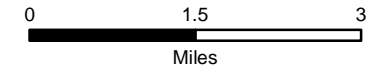
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Newaygo Community
Recreation and Natural Resources
Conservation Plan, 2010-2015

**Huron-Manistee National Forest
Management Areas Map Map 4**

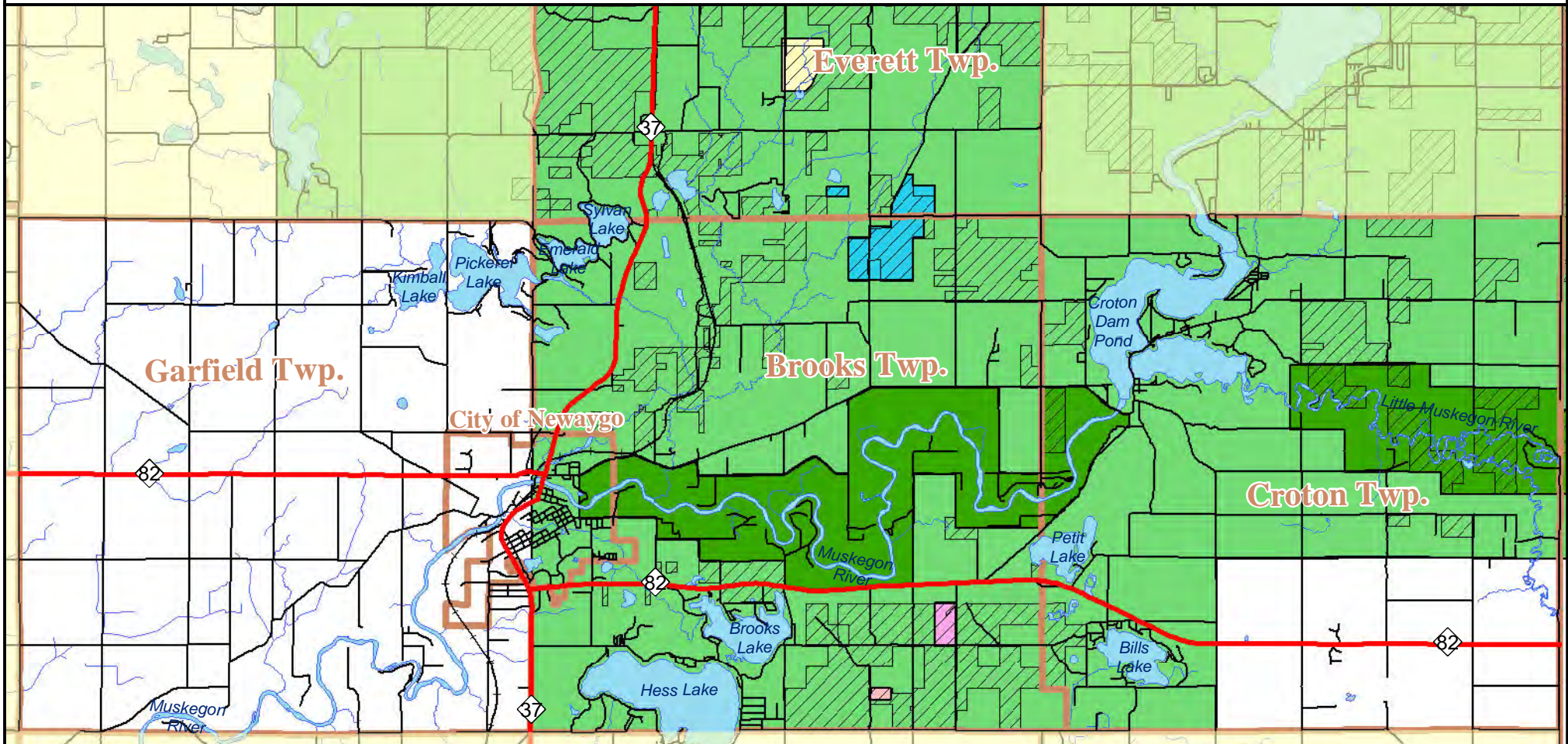
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|  | 8.2, Research Natural Areas |  | Highways |
|  | 8.3, Experimental Forests |  | Roads |
|  | 8.4, Special Areas |  | Railroads |
|  | 9.1, Candidate Research Natural Areas |  | Lakes |
|  | 9.2, Wild and Scenic Study Rivers |  | Streams |
|  | U.S. Government Properties | | |



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Appendix A. Community Description

Population Trends and Projections

The following section discusses some of the population, housing and economic characteristics and trends of the Newaygo Community. For the purpose of this plan, we have used figures provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.

Population Trends

Based on data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, there were an estimated 11,126 people living in the Newaygo Community in 2008. This is about a 121% increase over the population recorded in 1970 (5,031 people). Between 1990 and 2000, each jurisdiction within the Newaygo Community experienced a substantial increase in population, especially Croton Township at 54.8%. However, between 2000 and 2008, it is estimated the population in the City of Newaygo decreased by approximately 2.6%, and Brooks Township by 1.2%. Table A-1 presents the population trends from 1970 to 2008 for the Newaygo Community and Newaygo County.

Table A-1. Population Trends 1970 - 2008

Community	1970	1980	Percent Change 1970 - 1980	1990	Percent Change 1980 - 1990	2000	Percent Change 1990 - 2000	Estimate 2008	Percent Change 2000 - 2008	Total Percent Change 1970 - 2008
Brooks (twp)	1,330	2,349	76.6%	2,728	16.1%	3,671	34.6%	3,626	-1.2%	172.6%
Croton (twp)	872	1,556	78.4%	1,965	26.3%	3,042	54.8%	3,408	12.0%	290.8%
Garfield (twp)	1,448	1,822	25.8%	2,067	13.4%	2,464	19.2%	2,466	0.1%	70.3%
Newaygo (city)	1,381	1,271	-8.0%	1,336	5.1%	1,670	25.0%	1,626	-2.6%	17.7%
NCRA	5,031	6,998	39.1%	8,096	15.7%	10,847	34.0%	11,126	2.6%	121.1%
Newaygo (cnty)	27,992	34,917	24.7%	38,202	8.6%	47,874	25.3%	48,897	2.1%	74.7%
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.										

Population Projections

Recent trends suggest that a modest increase in the overall population of the Newaygo Community can be expected over the next several decades. Although there is no way to predict the total population growth with certainty, we can use projection methods to obtain useful estimates. Table A-2 presents the population projections for the Newaygo Community for the next 25 years. The projections are provided by the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and are based on the Proportional Forecasting Technique. According to the Commission, this technique involves calculating each local unit's population as a percentage of the total county population for a recent representative year in which data is

available. Please note, these projections may not account for in and out migration. The population projections predict a population increase of 24.6% for the Newaygo Community. If these predictions are correct, the resident population for the community would increase by 2,673, to 13,520 people by 2030.

Table A-2. Population Projections

Community	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Total Change 2000 - 2030	Total Percent Change 2000 - 2030
Brooks (twp)	3,671	3,691	3,858	4,033	4,215	4,406	735	20.0%
Croton (twp)	3,042	3,469	3,626	3,790	3,962	4,141	1,099	36.1%
Garfield (twp)	2,464	2,510	2,624	2,743	2,867	2,997	533	21.6%
Newaygo (city)	1,670	1,655	1,730	1,808	1,890	1,976	306	18.3%
NCRA	10,847	11,325	11,838	12,374	12,934	13,520	2,673	24.6%
Newaygo (cnty)	47,874	49,771	52,026	54,382	56,846	59,421	11,547	24.1%
Source: US Census Bureau: Forecast by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission								

Age Distribution

The age distribution of the Newaygo Community can be an important factor in identifying recreational needs. There are several identifiable stages that individuals go through during the span of a lifetime. Using U.S. Census Bureau statistics, this plan characterized, eight life-stages, including: (1) Preschool; (2) Elementary; (3) Secondary; (4) College; (5) Young Family; (6) Established Family; (7) Mature Family; and (8) Retired.

As detailed in Table A-3, in 2000 the Newaygo Community's largest population group falls within the *Established Family* group, ages 35 to 54 years old (3,168 people or 29.2% of the population total). The smallest population group is the *College* group, ages 20 to 24. The second and third largest populations fall within the *Elementary* (16.2%) and *Retired* (14.6%) group. Due to the specialized (and year-round) nature of most youth sports, communities are looking for opportunities to develop many different types of exclusive use parks (e.g. soccer fields, baseball fields). U.S. Census statistics also demonstrate that the Nations overall population is getting older. In 2011, the first members of the *Baby Boomer Generation* will reach the age of 65. The last members of the *Baby Boomer Generation* will reach the age of 65 by 2029. People are participating in recreation activities at much older ages. As the number of retirees increases, there will be more demand for mid-day recreation programs and less active outdoor pursuits such as walking and gardening.

Table A-3. Age Distribution

Stage of Life	Age Group	Brooks (twp)	Croton (twp)	Garfield (twp)	Newaygo (city)	NCRA	Newaygo (cnty)
		2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Preschool	Under 5 years	215	183	148	163	709	3,285
	Percent of Total	5.9%	6.0%	6.0%	9.8%	6.5%	6.9%
Elementary	5 to 14	595	452	415	296	1,758	8,249
	Percent of Total	16.2%	14.9%	16.8%	17.7%	16.2%	17.2%
Secondary	15 to 19	250	200	186	153	789	3,653
	Percent of Total	6.8%	6.6%	7.5%	9.2%	7.3%	7.6%
College	20 to 24	131	126	93	120	470	2,311
	Percent of Total	3.6%	4.1%	3.8%	7.2%	4.3%	4.8%
Young Family	25 to 34	399	366	236	201	1,202	5,465
	Percent of Total	10.9%	12.0%	9.6%	12.0%	11.1%	11.4%
Established Family	35 to 54	1,128	934	690	416	3,168	14,036
	Percent of Total	30.7%	30.7%	28.0%	24.9%	29.2%	29.3%
Mature Family	55 to 64	437	341	263	129	1,170	4,760
	Percent of Total	11.9%	11.2%	10.7%	7.7%	10.8%	9.9%
Retired	65+	516	440	433	192	1,581	6,115
	Percent of Total	14.1%	14.5%	17.6%	11.5%	14.6%	12.8%
Totals		3,671	3,042	2,464	1,670	10,847	47,874
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and Arranged by LIAA							

Racial Composition

Citizens identified as *White* make up approximately 95% of the Newaygo Community. Approximately 4% of the citizens are identified as *Hispanic/Latino*. Table A-4 presents the racial composition of the Newaygo Community for 2000. While the racial composition of the Newaygo Community remains fairly singular, the U.S. Census Bureau predicts that minorities will make up 50% of the Nations population by 2050. In addition, the Census Bureau predicts that the *Hispanic* population will contribute 45% of the Nations growth between 2010 and 2030. This shift in demographics may impact the type of facilities and programs that should be provided within the Newaygo Community.

Table A-4. Racial Composition

Race	Brooks (twp)	Croton (twp)	Garfield (twp)	Newaygo (city)	NCRA
White	3,532	2,946	2,302	1,601	10,381
Black or AA	7	12	7	4	30
American Indian	17	24	19	4	64
Asian	10	4	19	4	37
Hispanic or Latino	132	50	180	80	442
Some Other Race	63	26	86	39	214
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.					

Gender Composition

The 2000 population distribution of males and females in the Newaygo Community was relatively even. Males made up 5,400 or 49.8% of the population and females made up 5,447 or 50.2% of the population. National trends suggest that women are participating more in recreation and sporting activities. In addition, women (and men) are postponing marriage and having children. As a result, many communities are changing the way they provide for recreation opportunities. Communities are directing more assets toward facilities and programs (particularly “adventure” activities) that better cater to female participants. In addition, communities are extending hours of recreation facilities to serve a growing population of young professionals who have very demanding but flexible recreation patterns. Table A-5 presents the gender composition of the Newaygo Community for 2000.

Table A-5. Gender

Gender	Brooks (twp)	Croton (twp)	Garfield (twp)	Newaygo (city)	NCRA
Male	1,857	1,555	1,201	787	5,400
Female	1,814	1,487	1,263	883	5,447
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.					

Education Attainment

Numerous studies have shown that educational attainment is related to an individual’s earning capacity. That is, people with higher levels of education tend to have higher total income levels over a lifetime. Therefore, the average educational achievement of the citizens of a community is an indicator of the economic capacity of that community. Communities with higher levels of educational achievement tend to have a higher earning capacity than those with lower levels of educational achievement. The earning capacity of individuals may affect community support for potential fee increases or millage proposals for recreation. That is, people with higher levels of income tend to have greater expectations as to the quality of recreation facilities and a willingness to pay for facilities.

Table A-6 presents information on the educational attainment of people in the Newaygo Community as tallied by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000. The proportion of people in the community who graduated from high school and extended their education beyond high school is relatively high at 79.5%. However, at 12.2% the proportion of people in the community with a bachelor's degrees or higher remains relatively low.

Table A-6. Education Attainment

Educational Attainment	Brooks (twp)	Croton (twp)	Garfield (twp)	Newaygo (c)	NCRA
	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Less than 9th grade	72	102	175	54	403
Percent of total	3.0%	5.1%	10.6%	5.6%	6.0%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	351	325	196	146	1,018
Percent of total	14.7%	16.2%	11.9%	15.1%	15.1%
High school graduate	918	930	622	378	2,848
Percent of total	38.5%	46.2%	37.7%	39.0%	42.3%
Some college, no degree	521	403	326	234	1,484
Percent of total	21.9%	20.0%	19.8%	24.1%	22.0%
Associates Degree	137	90	94	58	379
Percent of total	5.7%	4.5%	5.7%	6.0%	5.6%
Bachelor's Degree	242	87	171	72	572
Percent of Total	10.2%	4.3%	10.4%	7.4%	8.5%
Graduate of Professional Degree	142	75	64	27	308
Percent total	6.0%	3.7%	3.9%	2.8%	4.6%
Percent high school graduate or higher	82.2%	78.8%	77.5%	79.4%	79.5%
Percent with Bachelor's Degree or higher	16.1%	8.1%	14.3%	10.2%	12.2%
Total population over 25 years	2,383	2,012	1,648	696	6,739
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.					

Disability Status

Based on the figures provided by the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 1,841 people living in the Newaygo Community with a disability. The U.S. Census Bureau includes sensory, mental, or self-care disabilities in defining the disability status of the civilian non-institutionalized population. Table A-7 indicates that just over 16% of the Newaygo Community population is listed as having a disability. At this time, this population appears

to be underserved by the parks and recreation facilities of the Newaygo Community. Therefore, future recreation facilities should reflect the needs of this substantial population.

Table A-7. Disability Status

Community	Persons 5 to 20 with Disability	Persons 21 to 64 with Disability	Persons over 65 with Disability
Brooks (twp)	68	345	167
Percent	8.6%	17.2%	34.2%
Croton (twp)	33	314	134
Percent	4.8%	18.1%	33.3%
Garfield (twp)	46	268	134
Percent	7.2%	21.1%	40.7%
Newaygo (city)	54	212	66
Percent	11.3%	24.9%	32.2%
NCRA	201	1,139	501
Percent	15.5%	19.6%	35.1%
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.			

Income by Household

Total household income is a key barometer of the economic condition of a community. Often, income can determine the amount of money voters may be willing to pay for specific recreational facilities. Table A-8 presents the median household and per capita income of the Newaygo Community in 2000. The median household income for the Newaygo Community is \$38,712 and the per capita income was \$17,794. Additionally, the percentage of residents in the Community below the poverty line was 9.0%, while the percentage of residents in the City below the poverty line was much higher at 15.2%. This information suggests the need for affordable recreation opportunities in the Newaygo Community.

Table A-8. Income

	Brooks (twp)	Croton (twp)	Garfield (twp)	Newaygo (city)	NCRA
Median Household Income	\$42,434	\$41,596	\$38,548	\$32,273	\$38,712.75
Per Capita Income	\$19,088	\$21,036	\$16,410	\$14,643	\$17,794.25
% of Families Below Poverty Line	9.6%	5.2%	5.8%	15.2%	9.0%
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.					

Employment

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people employed in the Newaygo Community increased from 3,195 people in 1990 to 4,782 in 2000, an increase of about 49%. The total number of people in the civilian labor force also increased from 3,465 in 1990 to 5,001 in 2000. At the same time, the percentage of people unemployed from 1990 to 2000 increased by 18%. The only jurisdiction to experience an increase in unemployment between 1990 and 2000 was Croton Township, with 17 people.

Table A-7. Employment

	Brooks (twp)		Croton (twp)		Garfield (twp)		Newaygo (city)		NCRA	
Employment Status	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Population Over 16 Years	2,066	2,664	1,543	2,309	1,586	1,875	927	1,214	6,122	8,062
Civilian Labor Force	1,261	1,771	810	1,402	865	1,046	529	782	3,465	5,001
Employed	1,174	1,717	747	1,322	799	1,010	475	733	3,195	4,782
Unemployed	87	54	63	80	66	36	54	49	270	219
Percent of Civilian Labor Force, Unemployed	6.9%	3.0%	7.8%	5.7%	7.6%	3.4%	10.2%	6.3%	(x)	(x)
Source: US Census Bureau: Compiled by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.										

Appendix B. Public Meeting(s) Results and Public Comments From Public Comment Period



Meeting Notes:

Funding:
Explore expansion of Authority
Find qualified/interested people to participate in NCRA
Working with sport groups (mowing)
Walking Distance to Parks
Green Infrastructure
Website

Goal 2: Remove #1
Explore of maintenance operations, (soccer) - Review maintenance costs
ORV Scramble
Coolbough in Authority

Facilities:
Goal 4: #1 Explore new options – basketball maybe not at Henning – other locations?
#2 take out “saves”
Explore hockey at Henning – more \$ on chemicals in summer because of algae
#3 No need for improvements – working gate valve – sediment
New - beach area improvements – better playground near beach (teaching physical activities)
#5 Remove parking
#6 Maintain tennis courts (asphalt has cracks)
#7 Signs for activities

Goals #5
Explore use and expansion of sledding hill – video camera, improve security – snow-boarders
Explore additional options for renters
Rope railing up stair too steep
#4 remove
#6 Parking conflicts with snowmobiles
#7 Lodge – replace windows
#8 review signage (safety)

Goal #7
Explore new parks – Scott
#8 Eliminate
#9 Where cloud out – park new Croton
#12 Eliminate
Ball diamonds on 82
Trail from Newaygo to Croton
Skatepark – use parking lot (improvements) fence
Basketball – explore ice-rink at skate park (hockey) (garbage issue)

New
Marshall Park
Advertising water trail idea
Yubers and issue – family orientated – enforcement
Trails – paved shoulder to hess/brooks lakes
Groomed X-country trails
Tour events (Gas Maker)
Disk Golf

Public Meeting Results

- Develop a Riverwalk from Henning Park to downtown
- Establish branding and/or events (i.e. canoe race)
- Establish a consistent user experience

Appendix C. Notice for Public Meeting to Discuss Vision

Newaygo County Recreation Authority seeks ideas

The Newaygo County Recreation Authority is seeking recreation suggestions from local people.

The NCRA has begun work to develop an updated Parks and Recreation Plan that will serve as a guideline for future projects and map out recreational needs for the community. The NCRA will hold a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 14 to hear ideas and suggestions from local people. The meeting will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Loomis Lodge in Newaygo.

For more information on the meeting or the work being done by the NCRA, call the Newaygo city offices at 652-1657.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Appendix D. Notice of Availability of Plan for Review and Comment

(notice placed at municipal offices and library {with draft plan} and emailed to stakeholders on November 11th 2010)

Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Notice of Public Meeting & Plan Availability for Public Review Proposed Parks and Recreation Plan

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority (NCRA) Advisory Board on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the City of Newaygo Council Chambers, 28 N. State Rd. Newaygo, MI 49337.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments and suggestions on the draft five-year Parks and Recreation Plan (for years 2010-2015) regarding the community's parks and recreation needs. Copies of the draft Recreation Plan is available for review and comment at the City of Newaygo, Croton Township, Brooks Township, and Garfield Township Robinson Township municipal offices and the Newaygo Area District Library during regular business hours. The draft plan is also available for review on each municipal website.

There will be an opportunity for public comment on the proposed plan at the public hearing, OR comments may be submitted in writing to Rich Blachford, Chairperson, Newaygo Community Recreation Authority, 28 N. State Rd. Newaygo Mi, 49337. Comments must be received no later than the day of the hearing.

Appendix E. Notice for Public Hearing and Public Hearing Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 Page 13

**NEWAYGO COMMUNITY RECREATION AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & PLAN AVAILABILITY
FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN**

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority (NCRA) Advisory Board on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the City of Newaygo Council Chambers, 28 N. State Rd. Newaygo, MI 49337.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments and suggestions on the draft five-year Parks and Recreation Plan (for years 2010-2015) regarding the community's parks and recreation needs. Copies of the draft Recreation Plan is available for review and comment at the City of Newaygo, Croton Township, Brooks Township, and Garfield Township municipal offices and the Newaygo Area District Library during regular business hours. The draft plan is also available for review on each municipal website.

There will be an opportunity for public comment on the proposed plan at the public hearing, OR comments may be submitted in writing to Rich Blachford, Chairperson, Newaygo Community Recreation Authority, 28 N. State Rd., PO Box 308, Newaygo MI, 49337. Comments must be received no later than the day of the hearing.

MINUTES
Newaygo Community Recreational Authority
Newaygo County, Michigan
December 16, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM at the Newaygo City Hall Council Chambers at 28 N. State Rd., Newaygo MI 49337 by Rich Blachford.

Present: Jennifer Badgero (Brooks Twp), Rich Blachford (City of Newaygo), Ron Welton (County Park's Dept.) arrived at 8:15 am, Nancy Kinniburgh (Garfield Twp), Jane Parsley (City of Newaygo), Les Salacina (Brooks Twp), Erik Larsen (Garfield Twp), Bill Sheehan (Croton Township)

Absent: Morgan Heinzman (Croton Township)

Also Present: Jon Schneider, City Manager

MINUTES

Motion by Salacina, support by Badgero to approve meeting minutes from 11/11/10. AIF/MC

Motion by Salacina, support by Larsen to amend the agenda to swear in Croton Township. Bill Sheehan of Croton Township was sworn in as a NCRA Trustee. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

RESERVED TIME

Motion by Kinniburgh, support by Parsley at 8:07 am to open public hearing to discuss and take comments on NCRA's five year Master Plan. AIF/MC No comments were made. Motion by Salacina, support by Badgero at 8:09 am to close public hearing. AIF/MC

OLD BUSINESS

Schneider updated the board on the status of the Marshal Memorial Park trail. Survey is basically complete with the exception of some flood plain level information. He is moving ahead with cost estimates and has spoken with one contractor who is interested in bidding. The DNR Trust Fund grant application for 2011 is not online yet; should be in January. Also, need to submit costs spent thus far to the Fremont Area Community Foundation for reimbursement. Blachford reminded the board to look at doing something at "Christensen Landing"; benches and little park area. Salacina stated that the DNR Trust Fund Grant Board is adamant about funding projects having to do with hunting and fishing; park should incorporate this opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Salacina, support by Badgero to approve Resolution 10-01 which adopts the NCRA five year Master Plan. Roll call: Yeas: Blachford, Parsley, Welton, Kinniburgh, Larsen, Salacina, Badgero, Sheehan Nays: None Absent: Heinzman.

Schneider is looking for volunteers for the warming house over the winter months. Need people to run the concessions and watch over the rink. City will continue to maintain the watering, shoveling of snow and scrapping on the rink itself for this year. City has paid a person to do this on the weekends in the past but can not continue to do so. This should be a shared effort by all boards on NCRA. Skating will be open daily but warming house only to be opened on the weekends.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kinniburgh mentioned that Garfield Township has some property on the river (Old Woman's Bend) they would be interested in turning over to NCRA; board will look at this in the spring
Welton noted that the sledding hill is being utilized; over 100 people last weekend.
Parsley asked if there was any more news on the claims sent to NCRA; there hasn't been.
Blachford noted this was his last meeting and he has enjoyed his time on this board.
Schneider stated he was appointed to this board. In January new officers will be appointed and the meeting dates will need to be set for the 2011 calendar year.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2011 at 8:00 am at the Winter Sports Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.

Kim Biegalle, Secretary

Appendix F. Resolution of Adoption

Newaygo Community Recreation Authority

RESOLUTION #10-01

Trustee Sulmina, supported by Trustee Badgero, moved to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution to Adopt the Newaygo Community Recreation Plan

Whereas, the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority has undertaken a Five Year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation programming and facilities during the period between 2010 and 2015;

Whereas, the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority and the *Recreation Plan* is designed to coexist with and compliment the Recreation Plans of the City of Newaygo, Township of Croton, Township of Brooks and the Township of Garfield;

Whereas, the Recreation Authority has developed the *Recreation Plan* for the benefit of the entire community and as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community;

Whereas, the *Recreation Plan* was developed with extensive public participation and reflects the goals and wishes of the community residents;

Whereas, a formal public hearing (proceeding a 35 day public comment period) was held December 16, 2010 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the *Recreation Plan*;


Whereas, after the public meeting, the Recreation Authority voted to adopt said *Recreation Plan*;

Whereas, the Recreation Authority plans to submit the *Recreation Plan* to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority adopts the *Recreation Plan*.

Yeas: 8 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1

Resolution adopted by the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority on December 16, 2010.


Kim Biegalle - Secretary

Appendix G. Letters Transmitting Plan to County and Region Planning Agencies



December 17, 2010

Newaygo County Planning Commission
1087 Newell Street
PO Box 885
White Cloud, MI 49349

Attention: Mark Pitzer, Chair

On behalf of the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority I am submitting the *Newaygo Community Recreation Plan* to the Newaygo County Planning Commission.

The primary objective of the *Newaygo Community Recreation Plan* is to coordinate and guide future efforts and investments and to provide improved programming and recreational facilities for the greater Newaygo Community and their guests.

The *Newaygo Community Recreation Plan* does not replace the individual recreation plans for each of the four participating municipalities of the Authority: City of Newaygo; Township of Croton; Township of Garfield; and the Township of Brooks. Rather, the Plan is designed to coexist with and compliment the individual Recreation Plans.

Through the implementation of this Plan, we hope to continue to provide for community-wide recreation programs and explore the development of new and/or improved recreation facilities.

The plan was formally adopted by the Recreation Authority on December 16, 2010. The plan was developed through a comprehensive public planning process that encouraged citizen participation and open dialogue.

This plan has been sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for their approval and certification.

Please direct any comments to:

Kim Biegalle, Secretary
Newaygo Community Recreation Authority (NCRA)
28 N. State Road, PO Box 308
Newaygo, MI 49337

Sincerely,

Rich Blachford, Chairperson
Newaygo Community Recreation Authority



December 17, 2010

West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
P.O. Box 387
316 Morris Avenue, Suite 340
Muskegon, MI 49443-0387

Attention: Sandeep Day, Executive

On behalf of the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority I am submitting the *Newaygo Community Recreation Plan* to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.

The primary objective of the *Newaygo Community Recreation Plan* is to coordinate and guide future efforts and investments and to provide improved programming and recreational facilities for the greater Newaygo Community and their guests.

The *Newaygo Community Recreation Plan* does not replace the individual recreation plans for each of the four participating municipalities of the Authority: City of Newaygo; Township of Croton; Township of Garfield; and the Township of Brooks. Rather, the Plan is designed to coexist with and compliment the individual Recreation Plans.

Through the implementation of this Plan, we hope to continue to provide for community-wide recreation programs and explore the development of new and/or improved recreation facilities.

The plan was formally adopted by the Recreation Authority on December 16, 2010. The plan was developed through a comprehensive public planning process that encouraged citizen participation and open dialogue.

This plan has been sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for their approval and certification.

Please direct any comments to:

Kim Biegalle, Secretary
Newaygo Community Recreation Authority (NCRA)
28 N. State Road, PO Box 308
Newaygo, MI 49337

Sincerely,

Rich Blachford, Chairperson
Newaygo Community Recreation Authority

Appendix H. Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Articles of Incorporation

Articles of Incorporation *Newaygo Community Recreational Authority*

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the Authority shall be and is the “Newaygo Community Recreation Authority”, hereinafter referred to as the Authority.

ARTICLE II

DEFINITIONS

1. Expressly Defined Terms: The terms “authority,” “board,” “participating municipality,” “park,” “recreational purposes,” “and territory of the Authority” as used in these Articles of Incorporation shall be now or hereafter defined in Section 3 of the Michigan Public Act 321 of 2000, as amended hereafter referred to as “Act 321”, that being MCL 123.1131, *et seq.*
2. Other terms shall have such meaning as may be specified in the various provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, and shall otherwise have the meanings customarily ascribed to them, considering the context and subject matter of these Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE III

PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES AND TERRITORY

The participating and creating municipalities of the Authority are the City of Newaygo, a Michigan Municipal Corporation, Township of Brooks, a Michigan Municipal Corporation, Township of Garfield, a Michigan Municipal Corporation and the Township of Croton, a Michigan Municipal Corporation, all of which are hereby designated and referred to in these articles as the “participating municipalities.” The territory of the Authority shall include all of the property situated within the corporate boundaries of all of the participating municipalities.

ARTICLE IV

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Authority shall be to acquire, construct, operate, maintain and/or improve:

1. Public parks, meaning areas of land or water, or both, dedicated to one (1) or more of the following uses:
 - (i) Recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, landscaped tracts; picnic grounds; playgrounds; athletic fields; camps; campgrounds; zoological and botanical gardens; living historical farms; boating, hunting, fishing, and birding areas; swimming areas; and foot, bicycle and bridle paths.
 - (ii) Open or scenic space.
 - (iii) Environmental, conservation, nature or wildlife areas.

ARTICLE V

POWERS

The Authority shall possess all the powers specified in Act 321, subject to the limitations of authority as provided by law and/or limitations as specified in these Articles of Incorporation, including the power to:

1. Acquire and hold, by purchase, lease with or without option to purchase, grant, gift, devise, land contract, installment purchase contract, bequest, or other legal means, real and personal property inside or outside the territory of the authority. The property may include franchises, easements, or rights of way on, under, or above any property. The authority may pay for the property from, or pledge for the payment of the property, revenue of the authority.
2. Apply for and accept grants or contributions from individuals, the federal government or any of its agencies, this state, a municipality, or other public or private agencies to be used for any of the purposes of the authority.
3. Hire full-time or part-time employees and retain professional services.
4. Provide for the maintenance of all of the real and personal property of the authority.
5. Assess and collect fees for services provided by and expenses incurred by the authority.
6. Receive revenue as appropriated by the legislature of this state or a participating municipality.
7. Enter into contracts incidental to or necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes of the authority.

ARTICLE VI

TERM

The Authority shall continue in existence perpetually or until dissolved by the majority vote of each of the then participating municipalities. A participating municipality shall not withdraw from the Authority during the period for which the Authority has been authorized to levy a tax by the electors of the Authority.

ARTICLE VII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Authority shall commence on the first day of July in each year and shall end on the last day of June of the subsequent year.

ARTICLE VIII

GOVERNING BOARD

The Authority shall be directed and governed by a seven member Board of Trustees, known as the “Newaygo Community Recreational Authority Board” and hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “Board”.

1. Membership of Board: The Board shall be made up of:
 - a. Two members selected by the legislative body of each participating municipality, each of whom shall be a registered voter of said participating municipality; and,
 - b. A member selected by the Newaygo County Parks Commission.
 - c. The term of each board member shall be two (2) years.
2. Oath of Office: Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the constitutional oath of office and filing it with the clerk of his or her respective participating municipality, or in the case of the member selected by the Newaygo County Parks Commission, with the County Clerk.
3. First Board; Organizational Meeting; Subsequent Board Members: The members of the first Board shall be selected within forty five (45) days after the effective date of the incorporation of this Authority. Within sixty (60) days after the effective date of the incorporation of the Authority, the members of the first Authority Board shall qualify by taking the constitutional oath of office and shall meet for the purpose of organization. At such organizational meeting, the Board shall select a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, each of whom shall be a member of the Board. The City of Newaygo Clerk and City of Newaygo Treasurer, who shall not be members of the Board, shall act and assume the authority and responsibilities of the Secretary and Treasurer of the authority, respectively. At the organizational meeting, the Board shall confirm by vote that the City of Newaygo Clerk and City of Newaygo Treasurer shall serve as the first secretary and treasurer of the Authority, respectively. All of such officers shall serve until the organizational meeting of the following year, which shall be held each year in February, or until their respective successors shall be selected and qualify.
4. No selection to the Authority and no selection of an officer shall be deemed to be invalid because it was not made within the times or at the time specified in these Articles. Any Board member may be removed at any time for cause or without cause by action of the governing body that selected such member.

ARTICLE IX

COMPENSATION

Pursuant to the requirements of Act 321, members of the Authority Board shall not be compensated for their service by the Authority. Each member of the Board shall, however, be entitled to reimbursement for all expenditures made by him or her in carrying out official duties as may be approved by the Board and to the extent authorized by the budget for the Authority for each fiscal year.

ARTICLE X

VACANCY

In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the governing body selecting such representative shall fill the vacancy as expeditiously as possible.

ARTICLE XI

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Authority shall be held as required and at least quarterly at such time and place as shall be prescribed by resolution of the Board. Each member of the Board shall have one vote. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairperson, or any two (2) members thereof, by written notice at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of such meeting.

Any meeting of the Board shall be held, and any notice therefore shall be given, in accordance with the provisions of Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended (the Open Meetings Act). Any member may waive notice of any special meeting either before or after the holding thereof.

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, which shall be required in order to conduct a meeting of the Board. The Board shall act by motion or resolution. A vote of the majority of the members of the Board who are present at any meeting, at which a quorum is present, shall be sufficient for passage of any motion or resolution. However, any decision regarding the annual budget, revenue sources, financing, property tax levy, capital expenditures, projected revenues, projected expenditures, budget and budget amendments, must be supported by a vote of the majority of the members of the Board. Any decision regarding a property tax levy shall also require the vote of at least one representative of each participating municipality.

The Board shall have the right to adopt rules governing its procedures, which are not in conflict with the terms of any statute of the State of Michigan or of these Articles of Incorporation. The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings, which record shall be signed by the Secretary and open to the public. All votes shall be "Yes," "No" or "Abstain," provided where the vote is unanimous, it shall only be necessary to so state.

A writing prepared, owned, or used by an authority in the performance of an official function shall be made available in compliance with the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

ARTICLE XII

DUTIES OF BOARD AND OFFICERS

The Chairperson of the Board shall be the presiding officer thereof, and shall be permitted, with the consent of the Board, to appoint committees of the Board as necessary. Except as herein otherwise provided, the Chairperson and Board Members shall not have any executive or administrative functions other than as a member of the Board. In the absence or disability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson.

The Secretary shall be the recording officer for the Board. The Board shall determine within the first year following the appointment of the first Board whether the City of Newaygo Clerk shall continue to serve as Secretary. If a person other than the City of Newaygo Clerk is to serve as Secretary, the Board shall establish qualifications for such office, such as the capability of

carrying out the duties of office, including, without limitation, compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and other state laws relating to record keeping and management.

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Authority and shall give to it a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his or her office. All money shall be deposited in a bank or banks, to be designated by the Board, and all checks or other forms of withdrawal there from shall be signed by two (2) persons, which persons shall be the Secretary, the Treasurer or their respective designees, as approved by the Board of Directors. All authorized signatories shall give a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of the prescribed duties. The Authority shall pay the cost of the bonds. The Board shall determine within the first year following the appointment of the first Board whether the City of Newaygo Treasurer shall continue to serve as Treasurer for the Board. If a person other than the City of Newaygo Treasurer is to serve as Treasurer for the Board, the Board shall establish qualifications for such office, including the capability of carrying out the duties of office as provided by law and these Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE XIII

REVENUE SOURCES, BUDGETING, AND FINANCING THE AUTHORITY

Revenue Sources

The Authority shall have the power to raise revenue in the manner authorized by Act 321.

Financing the Authority

A. Financial Contribution From Each Participating Municipality Until Millage Election

Unless and until the Authority is funded by a separate tax levy, the participating municipalities will fund the Authority with direct contributions. The participating municipalities will provide enough funding to assure that the Authority can carry out its operations, as agreed by the legislative bodies of the participating municipalities. Each municipality shall contribute a minimum of \$2,000 plus a supplement fee of \$0.50 for each resident of that municipality living within the Newaygo Public School District, based on the most recent decennial census conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The table below provides an example of this supplement fee calculation using the Census conducted in 2000.

Jurisdiction	Population (2000)	Area in Newaygo Public School District	Per Person Fee	Supplemental Fee Total**
City of Newaygo	1,670	100%	\$0.50	\$835.00
Brooks Township	3,671	100%	\$0.50	\$1,835.50
Garfield Township	2,464	50%	\$0.50	\$616.00
Croton Township	3,042	65%	\$0.50	\$988.65

** The total is derived by multiplying the numbers in columns 2, 3 and 4.

Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing a participating municipality or non-participating organization, by action of its governing body, from providing additional contributions to the Authority, for either general or a specific use.

B. Property Tax Levy

As an alternative to the financial contribution formula in subsection A of this section, and in years following FY 07-08, the Authority may levy a tax on all taxable property within the territory of the Authority as authorized by Section 11 of Act 321. For so long as the Authority is funded by a levy as authorized by Section 11 of Act 321, the imposition of such a levy shall preclude the Authority from requiring any further financial contributions from each participating municipality. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing a participating municipality, by action of its governing body, from providing additional contributions to the Authority, for either general or a specific use.

Prior to making a final determination to levy a tax, as provided above, the Board must receive the approval of the legislative body of each participating municipality. Additionally, the Authority may levy the tax only upon the approval of a majority of the electors in each of the participating municipalities of the Authority.

C. Borrow money/issue bonds or notes

The Authority may borrow money and issue bonds or notes to finance the acquisition, construction and improvement of a public park, including the acquisition of sites and the acquisition and installation of furnishings and equipment. Prior to making a final determination to borrow money or issue bonds or notes, as provided above, the Board must receive the approval of the legislative body of each participating municipality. The Authority shall not borrow money or issue bonds or notes for a sum that, together with the total outstanding bonded indebtedness of the authority, exceeds 2 mills of the taxable value of the taxable property within the district as determined under section 27a of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.27a. Bonds or notes issued by the Authority are a debt of the Authority and not of the participating municipalities.

D. Rollover Funding During Initial Operations

In addition to the above sources, the Authority may, during its first year of operations and additionally until the approval of a Property Tax Levy, be funded in part or whole via allocation of funds already designated for recreational activities by one or more of the participating municipalities. Any funds allocated directly from any participating municipality under this paragraph shall be credited toward that participating municipality's share under any budgetary computations under paragraph A for the first year or part thereof of operations of the Authority. During the start-up period of the Authority, and until the commencement of the Property Tax Levy, the Authority's funds shall be administered by the Newaygo City Clerk/Treasurer's office, which shall account separately for all funds of the Authority. Prior to commencement of the Property Tax Levy, the Authority shall determine whether to continue an arrangement for separate administration by the Newaygo City Clerk/Treasurer's office, or whether the Authority

shall, internally or by contract, make other arrangements for the management and accounting of the Authority's finances.

Budgeting

E. Budget Process During Periods Not Funded by Property Tax Levy

For so long as the Authority is not financed by a Property Tax Levy as provided in Section 11 of Act 321 and Article XIII (B) of these articles, the mandates of this paragraph shall apply to the Authority's budgeting process. The Board shall prepare a proposed annual operating and capital budget reflecting the projected revenues and projected expenditures of the Authority for the next fiscal year beginning July 1. The Board shall adopt the proposed budget by a majority vote of the members of the Board in such a manner as to assure submission of the adopted tentative budget to the participating municipalities no later than July 1 of each year. The proposed budget shall provide for contributions from the member municipalities which are not greater than those which would be arrived at using the formula utilized in subparagraph A. After the approval of the proposed budget by the governing bodies of a two-thirds majority of the participating municipalities, the Board shall give final approval to the Authority budget for the next fiscal year. The budget may be amended from time to time upon approval by the governing bodies of a two-thirds majority of the participating municipalities.

F. Budget Process During Periods Funded by Property Tax Levy

During any period in which the Authority is financed by a Property Tax Levy as provided in Section 11 of Act 321 and Article XIII (B) of these Articles, the mandates of this paragraph shall apply to the Authority's budgeting process, and shall supercede the mandates of paragraph (D) of this Article. The Board shall prepare a proposed annual operating and capital budget reflecting the projected revenues and projected expenditures of the Authority for the next fiscal year beginning July 1. The Board shall adopt the proposed budget by a majority vote of the members of the Board in such a manner as to assure that said budget is approved prior to July 1 of the year it is to commence. The Board's approval by majority vote shall be the final approval required for the budget. The budget may be amended from time to time upon approval of a majority of the Board. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a participating municipality to fund the Authority with any general fund monies without the approval of said funding by that participating municipality's governing body, which shall retain the discretion to approve or deny general fund monies to the Authority during the time periods to which this subsection applies. During any period in which the Authority shall cease to be funded by a Property Tax Levy as provided in Section 11 of Act 321 and Article XIII (B) of these Articles, the budget procedure followed shall be that found in Paragraph (D) of this Article, which shall supercede this Paragraph during all such times.

G. Accounting and Budgeting Practices

The accounting and budgeting practices of the Authority shall conform with standard accounting practices, the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, Act 2, Public Acts of Michigan, 1968, as amended, and all other applicable provisions of law.

ARTICLE XIV

PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY WITHDRAWAL

A participating municipality shall not withdraw from the Authority during the period that a tax is authorized to be levied by the electors of the Authority.

A participating municipality may withdraw from the Authority, subject to the limitation in the first paragraph of this Article, by resolution of the participating municipality's legislative body approving the withdrawal. A certified copy of the resolution shall be provided to the Board at least three (3) months prior to the beginning of a new fiscal year for the Authority. Such new fiscal year shall serve as the effective date for the withdrawal.

A participating municipality that withdraws from the Authority shall remain liable for a proportion of the debts and liabilities of the Authority incurred while the participating municipality was a part of the Authority. The proportion of the Authority's debts for which a participating municipality remains liable as a result of this withdrawal from the Authority shall be determined by dividing the state equalized value of the real property in the participating municipality by the state equalized value of all real property in the Authority on the effective date of the withdrawal.

Any property owned by the Authority, which is in the possession of the withdrawing municipality or in the possession of personnel who will no longer remain with the Authority as a result of the participating municipality's withdrawal from the Authority, shall be returned to the Authority before the effective date of the withdrawal. The withdrawing municipality shall not be entitled to the return of any credit for any property or money it transferred to or paid to the Authority prior to the withdrawal.

ARTICLE XV

DISSOLUTION OF AUTHORITY

The Authority may be dissolved by the concurring resolution of the governing body of a majority of the participating municipalities of the Authority at the time of such dissolution. Prior to dissolution of the Authority any outstanding indebtedness of the Authority, including any bonds issued under Section 21 and/or Section 23 of Act 321 shall be paid. Any assets of the Authority remaining after the payment of any such outstanding indebtedness shall be distributed to the participating municipalities of the Authority at the time of the dissolution based upon each participating municipality's most recent financial contribution to the Authority. Any land, buildings, and/or facilities that were contributed to the Authority by a participating municipality and is maintained, owned, or operated by the Authority shall revert back to the originating municipality. Any land purchased by the authority or donated shall be sold and the proceeds distributed according to the 1) the formula in Article XIII, paragraph A, if the participating municipalities, at the time of dissolution, are directly funding the Authority's budget or 2) according to the formula arrived at by dividing the state equalized value of the real property in each participating municipality by the state equalized value of all real property in the Authority on the effective date of the dissolution. In all instances, the participating municipality in which said real estate is located shall be given the right of first refusal on the purchase of said real

estate. In the event of a dissolution following a period of property tax levy by the Authority, any funds obtained via levy, and/or property purchased by such funds, which are subsequently distributed to the participating municipalities pursuant to this Article shall be assigned by the participating municipalities to public purposes consistent with the purposes approved by the electorate for the original levy.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, in the event that, at the time of dissolution, the Authority is in possession of lands acquired with, or developed with, in whole or in part, grant funds from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (hereinafter the "MNRTF"), the following procedure shall control the disposition of said lands. All lands purchased or developed with MNRTF funds, in whole or in part, must be maintained as public outdoor recreation land in perpetuity, unless said lands are replaced with land of equivalent fair market value and recreational usefulness, unless said lands, instead of being purchased, are leased for a period of at least twenty (20) years with the assistance of MNRTF funds. Accordingly, to comply with MNRTF mandates in the event of dissolution, the participating municipality in which the lands acquired or developed with MNRTF funds are located shall assume title and control of said lands, and shall be required to maintain said lands as public outdoor recreation land in perpetuity, or until the expiration of any lease of the lands from any party to the Authority or its successors whose original period was twenty (20) years or longer, whichever is greater, unless said lands are replaced with land of equivalent fair market value and recreational usefulness. Said lands shall be transferred to the participating municipality in which the lands are located, and said transfer shall not be credited, set-off, or computed against any other allocation under this Article's dissolution procedure, nor shall any credit, computation, or set-off be made in recognition of any maintenance costs associated with said lands.

ARTICLE XVI

EMPLOYEES

The Board may employ such personnel and employees as it may consider desirable and may retain from time to time the services of attorneys, accountants, and other consultants, as the Board considers necessary to carry out the purpose of the Authority.

ARTICLE XVII

AUDIT

The Board shall procure an annual audit, consistent with the requirements of Section 27 of Act 321, to be made of the books, records and financial transactions of the Authority by a certified public accountant. Four copies of the audit report prepared by the certified public accountant shall be furnished to each participating municipality. The books and records of the Authority shall be open for inspection by any participating municipality at all reasonable times.

ARTICLE XVIII

STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE GRANTS

The Authority shall have the power to apply for and accept grants, loans or contributions from the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, the State of Michigan or other public or private organizations or foundations; and to do any and all requirements necessary or desirable to secure such financial or other aid or cooperation in carrying out any of the purposes of Act 321. In the event that any grant, loan or contribution shall require a long term obligation as to the use, maintenance, or operation of a specific piece of property, the approval of the governing body of the participating municipality in which such property is located shall be required prior to the acceptance of the grant, loan, or contribution by the Authority.

ARTICLE XIX

INVESTMENT

The Treasurer of the Authority when authorized by a resolution of the Board may invest general funds of the Authority. The board must approve the treasurer's investment policy. Such investment by the Treasurer shall be made in compliance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE XX

EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION

The property of the Authority shall be exempt from all taxation and assessments and no writ of attachment or writ of execution shall be levied upon the property of the Authority.

ARTICLE XXI

PUBLICATION

These Articles of Incorporation shall be published not less than once in a newspaper generally circulated within the participating municipalities, before they are adopted. The adoption of these Articles of Incorporation by a participating municipality shall be evidenced by an endorsement on these Articles by the clerk of such participating municipality. Upon adoption of these Articles of Incorporation by each of these participating municipalities, a printed copy thereof shall be filed with the Secretary of State by the City Clerk of the City of Newaygo.

ARTICLE XXII

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Authority shall become effective upon the filing of certified copies of these Articles with the Secretary of State, as provided in the preceding Article.

ARTICLE XXIII

AMENDMENTS

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any time so as to permit any county, city, village or township to become a participating municipality of the Authority, if such amendment to the Articles of Incorporation are adopted by the legislative body of such county, city, village or township proposing to become a member, and if such amendment is adopted by the legislative body of each participating municipality of which the Authority is composed. Other amendments may be made to these Articles of Incorporation at any time if adopted by the legislative body of each participating municipality of which the Authority is composed. This requirement shall apply to all amendments to the articles, including those which would otherwise be exempted by paragraph (4) of Section 5 of Act 321. Any such amendment shall be published, endorsed, and certified and printed copies thereof filed in the same manner as the original Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE XXIV

REVERSION OF LEASES OF EXISTING PARK LAND

In the event that any land leased to the Authority shall, during the Authority's stewardship and lease of said lands, be improved or developed, in whole or in part, with the assistance of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund ("MNRTF") and/or Land and Water Conservation Fund ("LWCF") monies, the Authority shall, throughout the Authority's stewardship and lease of the lands, be responsible for maintaining said lands in accordance with all grant requirements attendant to funding under the MNRTF and/or LWCF requirements. In the event of the dissolution of the Authority, or any other termination of the Authority's lease for any reason, the participating municipality which holds title to the lands shall maintain said lands in accordance with all grant requirements attendant to funding under the MNRTF and/or LWCF requirements, in perpetuity for those obligations occurring pursuant to LWCF requirements, and for the entire period of the grant or original lease of the property, whichever is longer, for those obligations occurring under the MNRTF. The requirements of this paragraph shall not be utilized in any way in determining any calculations, credits, or set-offs in regards to any dissolution arrangements under Article XV of these Articles.

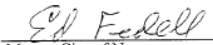
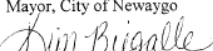
ARTICLE XXV

MISCELLANEOUS

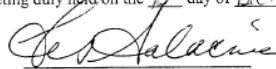
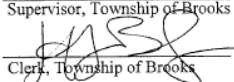
These Articles of Incorporation may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. The captions in these Articles of Incorporation are for convenience only and shall not be considered as part of these Articles of Incorporation or in any way limiting or amplifying the terms and provisions hereof.

These Articles have been adopted by the governing bodies of the: City of Newaygo, the Township of Brooks, the Township of Garfield and the Township of Croton as set forth in the following endorsements, and in witness whereof the Mayor and City Clerk of the City or Newaygo, Supervisor and Township Clerk of the Township of Brooks, Supervisor and Township

Clerk of the Township of Garfield, and the Supervisor and Township Clerk of the Township of Croton have endorsed thereon the statement of such adoption.


Mayor, City of Newaygo

Clerk, City of Newaygo

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the City Council of the City of Newaygo, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the 17th day of Dec., 2010.


Supervisor, Township of Brooks

Clerk, Township of Brooks

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Brooks, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the 17th day of Dec., 2010.

Supervisor, Township of Garfield

Clerk, Township of Garfield

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Garfield, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the ____ day of ____, 2010.

Supervisor, Township of Croton

Clerk, Township of Croton

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Croton, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the ____ day of ____, 2010.

Clerk of the Township of Garfield, and the Supervisor and Township Clerk of the Township of Croton have endorsed thereon the statement of such adoption.

Mayor, City of Newaygo

Clerk, City of Newaygo

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the City Council of the City of Newaygo, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the ____ day of ____, 2010.

Supervisor, Township of Brooks

Clerk, Township of Brooks

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Brooks, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the ____ day of ____, 2010.

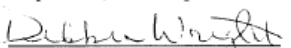
Supervisor, Township of Garfield

Clerk, Township of Garfield

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Garfield, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the 13th day of Dec., 2010.



Supervisor, Township of Croton



Clerk, Township of Croton

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Croton, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the 13th day of December, 2010.

Clerk of the Township of Garfield, and the Supervisor and Township Clerk of the Township of Croton have endorsed thereon the statement of such adoption.

Mayor, City of Newaygo

Clerk, City of Newaygo

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the City Council of the City of Newaygo, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the ____ day of ____, 2010.

Supervisor, Township of Brooks

Clerk, Township of Brooks

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Brooks, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the ____ day of ____, 2010.



Supervisor, Township of Garfield



Clerk, Township of Garfield

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Garfield, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the 14th day of Dec., 2010.

Supervisor, Township of Croton

Clerk, Township of Croton

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Croton, Newaygo County, Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the ____ day of ____, 2010.

Appendix I. Budget

CITY OF NEWAYGO

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BUDGET

JULY - NOVEMBER 10-11

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Account	Acct Descr	09-10 Budget	09-10 Amt	10-11 Adopted Budget	10-11 Amended Budget	10-11 YTD	10-11 % Budget Comment
Fund 705 NCRA							
Dept 000000 NO DEPT							
R 705-000000-400301	NCRA - BROOKS TWP	\$3,835.00	\$3,835.00	\$3,835.00	\$3,835.00	\$3,835.00	100.00%
R 705-000000-400302	NCRA - GARFIELD TWP	\$2,616.00	\$2,616.00	\$2,616.00	\$2,616.00	\$2,616.00	100.00%
R 705-000000-400303	NCRA - EVERETT TWP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
R 705-000000-400304	NCRA - CITY OF NEWAYGO	\$3,252.00	\$3,252.00	\$3,252.00	\$3,252.00	\$3,252.00	100.00%
R 705-000000-400305	NCRA - NEWAYGO COUNTY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
R 705-000000-400306	NCRA - NEWAYGO PUBLIC SCH	\$2,561.00	\$2,561.00	\$2,561.00	\$2,561.00	\$2,561.00	100.00%
R 705-000000-400307	NCRA-CROTON TWP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,988.65	0.00%
R 705-000000-539000	STATE GRANTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
R 705-000000-540000	OTHER GRANTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
R 705-000000-626010	NSF	\$0.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
R 705-000000-665000	INTEREST	\$0.00	\$161.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.90	0.00%
R 705-000000-668000	RENTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$975.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$325.00	32.50% Graves Lodge
R 705-000000-699999	TRANSFERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Dept 000000 NO DEPT		\$13,264.00	\$13,505.46	\$13,264.00	\$13,264.00	\$15,586.55	
Act Type R Revenue		\$13,264.00	\$13,505.46	\$13,264.00	\$13,264.00	\$15,586.55	

CITY OF NEWAYGO

11/04/10 9:15 AM

BUDGET

Page 2

JULY - NOVEMBER 10-11

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Account	Acct Descr	09-10 Budget	09-10 Amt	10-11 Adopted Budget	10-11 Amended Budget	10-11 YTD	10-11 % Budget Comment
Dept 000000 NO DEPT							
E 705-000000-740000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$500.00	\$103.80	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$2.56	0.51% Tools,Custodial
E 705-000000-775000	R & M	\$2,300.00	\$2,629.47	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,268.98	90.64% Bldg & Grounds
E 705-000000-800000	OTHER SERV&CHGS	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$166.13	66.45% Travel
E 705-000000-800001	PROGRAM EXP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
E 705-000000-802000	AUDIT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,895.00	\$1,895.00	\$1,000.00	52.77%
E 705-000000-818000	CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$1,500.00	\$360.20	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00% LIAA
E 705-000000-818010	MOWING	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	100.00% Pd to County
E 705-000000-900000	PUBLISHING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
E 705-000000-910000	INSURANCE	\$1,500.00	\$1,969.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,150.00	107.50% MML
E 705-000000-920100	GAS	\$2,200.00	\$991.16	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$66.87	4.78% Graves Lodge/Ba
E 705-000000-921000	ELECTRIC	\$750.00	\$1,849.23	\$1,105.00	\$1,105.00	\$561.32	50.80% Henning
E 705-000000-923000	WATER/SEWER	\$600.00	\$217.68	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$102.45	17.08% 164 Barton
E 705-000000-970020	STATE GRANT EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
E 705-000000-970030	OTHER GRANT EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Dept 000000 NO DEPT		\$13,100.00	\$11,620.54	\$13,150.00	\$13,150.00	\$8,818.31	
Act Type E Expenditure		\$13,100.00	\$11,620.54	\$13,150.00	\$13,150.00	\$8,818.31	

Appendix J. NRPA Park and Trail Classifications

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and 1 acre in size
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains 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	¼ to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sport complex and special use	Determined by location of school district property	Variable-depends on function
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open spaces, and visual aesthetics/buffering	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable
Sport Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community	Strategically located community-wide facilities	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreational facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use	Variable-dependent on specific use	Variable
Private Park/Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreational system	Variable-dependent on specific use	Variable

Classification	General Description	Description of each type
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclist/in-line skaters • Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters • Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians, may be hard or soft surfaced
Connector Trail	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclist/in-line skaters located in independent r.o.w (e.g. old railroad r.o.w • Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters typically located within r.o.w
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic	<p>Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists</p> <p>Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders</p>
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas
Cross-Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled