



4 Planning & Public Input

Recreation Planning

Recreation planning plays an important role in maintaining the quality of life in a community. If a community is to provide effective recreational opportunities, it needs a way of identifying and solving current problems and anticipating future needs. Recreation planning is one means of obtaining a perspective on these problems; developing realistic alternatives; formulating goals, policies, and recommendations; developing criteria to measure change; and involving people in the planning, design and decision processes.

This 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan presents an evaluation of the Township's recreational needs and opportunities. It considers the existing amenities in and around the Township, the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities.

Since the previous 5-year plan was adopted by the Township in 2008, the Township has made some important accomplishments. A summary of the key accomplishments can be found in the Appendices of this report.

This plan is to serve as a guideline for directing the Township in the operation and maintenance of existing and future facilities and programs to meet the recreational needs of its citizens. The plan summarizes long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreation opportunities, and describes an action and capital improvement program for implementation over the next five years.



A community survey was sent out to gather public input for the Recreation Planning process. Holland Charter Township received a good response and wonderful comments.





Plan Process and Development

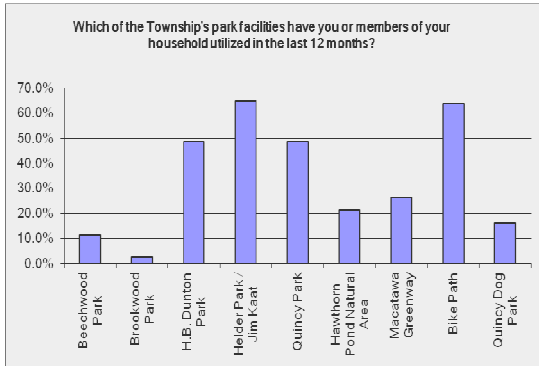
This 2014 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan was developed by Holland Charter Township, with the assistance of M. C. Smith Associates, Inc., a park and recreation planning consultant. Township staff and representatives met regularly with Representatives of M.C. Smith Associates, Inc. between June and December 2013, for the development of this Plan.

Criteria considered and evaluated for plan development evolved from the examination of goals and recreation standards determined through a wide variety of input sources. This information was collected from the inventory and review of existing facilities; the identification of recreation needs and deficiencies; public opinion; current statewide recreation issues and priorities; and future expectations.

Public input was sought throughout the process by means of a Community Recreation Survey and two public workshops held to solicit public desires and concerns regarding parks and recreation. These workshops took place on Wednesday July 17, and Wednesday, September 25, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holland Charter Township Offices. These meetings were advertised in the local media and on the Township’s website. Meeting minutes summarizing comments and discussion items can be found in the Appendices of this report.

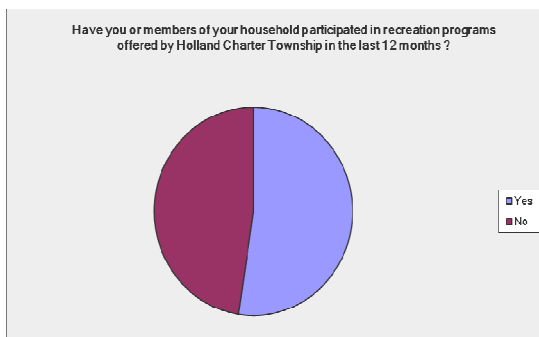
Comments from the public meetings and the Community Survey were incorporated into a final draft of the Plan, which was made available to the public for one month commencing on (Date) to solicit further comments prior to a public hearing and plan adoption.

The Parks and Recreation Board officially adopted the 2014 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan on (Date). The plan was then presented during a public meeting to the



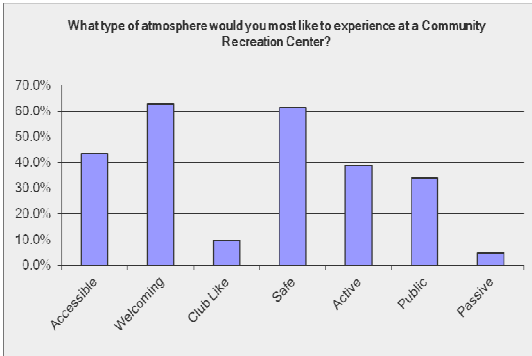
“Thank you for all the time and effort you put into the facilities.”

-Holland Charter Township Resident





Board of Trustees on (Date). The Resolutions adopting this plan can be found in Section 8.



Community Recreation Survey

A written survey distributed to Township residents and non-residents was considered a good method of gaining input from a large percentage of the population. M.C. Smith Associates developed a survey for Holland Charter Township, with input from the Township staff, covering a range of topics relating to parks and recreation facilities and programming and people’s hopes and aspirations. The surveys were made available at the Township Offices and on the Township’s website, enabling responses to be received electronically. A total of 84 responses were received.

“The Township has done a super job so far. Keep up the good work.”

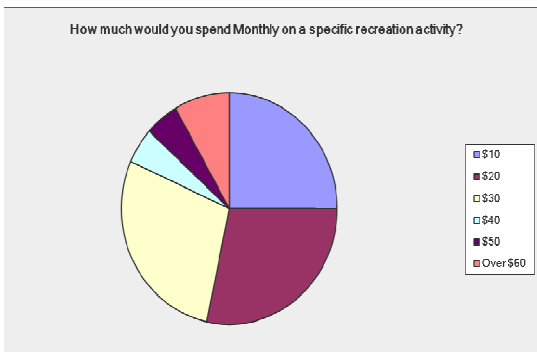
-Holland Charter Township Resident

Survey Content

Questions addressed recreation facilities, recreation programming and park maintenance. A copy of the survey can be found at the end of this section. As well as choosing from a list of given responses, people were given the opportunity to write in their own answers.

Survey Results

Following is a summary of the results to each question. The full range of responses can be found at the end of this section.



Survey Analysis

The responses received indicated a strong interest in parks and recreation and generated positive suggestions for improvements.



Conclusion

Overall, the response to the Survey was encouraging. The analysis of the responses helped to guide the Township in developing the Action Program and in prioritizing these improvements in the Capital Improvement Schedule.

