

CASCO TOWNSHIP Draft Parks & Recreation Plan

2022 - 2026

DRAFT



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Introduction

Casco Township recognizes that an ongoing commitment to its parks and recreation facilities and programs is a vital investment in its future. These programs and facilities have a unique potential to increase an overall quality of life for both current and future generations of Township residents. Promoting personal health and education, fostering economic activity, creating intricate social networks, and protecting environmental landscapes, are some of the most compelling benefits gained through well-maintained parks and recreation facilities. Ultimately these benefits are contingent upon a well planned and executed system of parks, trails, open space, water access, and recreational programming.

This Parks & Recreation Plan provides the community with a five-year work plan and a long-range vision to guide future recreational investments. The Township of Casco intends to use this plan to: guide decisions on capital improvement projects, guide the acquisition of open space and available public buildings, explore the implementation of future recreational programming, and pursue both state and federal grant opportunities.

The Plan follows the guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and includes the following:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Parks & Recreation Inventory
- Resource Inventory
- Recreational Needs & Opportunity Analysis
- Planning & Public Input Process
- Goals and Objectives
- Action Strategies

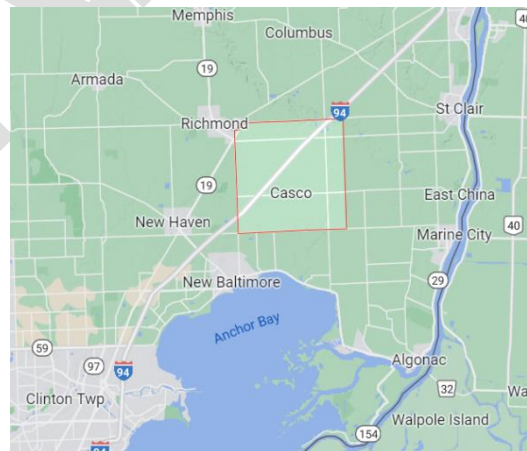
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Community Description

The following is a description of the various physical features of Casco Township. This description is important to the recreation planning process because it establishes the physical context in which future decisions regarding recreation facility and program development will take place.

Community Profile

Casco Township is in southwestern St. Clair County and is approximately 37 square miles in size. The Township is bordered by Columbus Township to the north, China Township to the east, Ira Township to the south, and Lenox Township to the west, and the City of Richmond to the Northwest. Access to the Township is provided by 1-94, as well as M-29 and Marine City Highway.



Population

The estimated 2020 population for Casco Township is 3,990 persons. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) projects the Township population will remain steady, with 3,949 persons by 2045.



Population Trends for Casco Township & Surrounding Communities

	2000	2010	2020	2030	2045
Casco Township	4,748	4,107	3,990	4,127	3,949
Columbus Township	4,615	4,070	4,112	3,682	3,734
China Township	3,340	3,551	3,625	3,909	3,835
Ira Township	6,966	5,178	4,531	4,538	4,631
Lenox Township	5,362	5,828	6,022	6,647	7,322
City of Richmond	4,896	5,733	5,875	6,379	6,540
Clay Township	9,822	9,066	8,845	8,868	8,979
New Baltimore	7,405	12,084	11,929	12,596	12,454

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Households

Average household sizes have dropped across the country, from 2.62 in 2010, to 2.53 in 2020. Michigan experienced a larger drop (2.75 to 2.52) during the same period. Casco Township has followed this trend, with the average household size decreased from 2.59 to 2.47.

The number of households in the Township has decreased from 4,107 in 2010 to 3,990 in 2020.

Casco Township Population and Household Data

	2000	2010	2020	2045 Forecast
Population	4,747	4,107	3,990	3,949
Households	1,634	1,503	1,540	1,596
Persons Per Household	2.91	2.73	2.59	2.47

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Age Characteristics

An important demographic factor influencing recreation planning is the age composition of the community and the extent to which this composition has changed over time. This can assist in matching recreational services to community characteristics, and in determining the special needs of certain age groups.

While the Township’s population has decreased, there have been increases in the following segments of the population: young children under 5, adults aged 20 to 34, adults aged 55 to 64, and adults aged 65 to 84. SEMCOG projects that this trend will continue in the Township. Growth among these age groups will play a role in the planning of recreation needs now and in the future.

Casco Township Population by Age Brackets

	2010	2020	2010 – 2020 Percentage Change
Under 5	208	240	15.83%
5 – 19	870	791	-9.08%
20 – 34	558	780	39.78%
35 – 54	1,314	1,001	-23.82%
55 – 64	268	485	80.97%
65 – 84	494	720	45.74%
85 +	48	28	-41.66%
Median Age	43.1	40.6	-5.80%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Racial Composition

One important social characteristic of a community is its racial make-up. Understanding the racial composition of a community helps to identify the diverse needs of its population.



The following chart indicates the racial make-up of the Township in both 2010 and 2019.

Casco Township Race Composition

	2010	Percentage of 2010 Population	2019	Percentage of 2019 Population
White	8,786	96.9%	7,935	93.9%
Black	13	0.1%	16	0.2%
Asian	27	0.3%	19	0.2%
Hispanic	97	1.1%	103	1.2%
Multi-racial	98	1.1%	336	4%
Other	45	0.5%	37	0.4%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Income and Poverty Levels

Studying income and poverty levels is a good way to measure the relative economic health of the community. Casco Township saw a decrease in median income from 2010 to 2019, matching the trend of St. Clair County in general for that period.

In Casco Township, the number of households living in poverty was 8% in 2019, significantly less than St. Clair County (10.7%), and Michigan (14.1%).

Income and Poverty Levels 2010 - 2019

Community	2010 Median Household Income	2019 Median Household Income	Percentage of households living in poverty
Casco Township	\$69,184	\$63,496	8%
St. Clair County	\$57,590	\$56,951	12.3%
Michigan	\$52,414	\$54,938	14.1

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Education Levels

A community's educational attainment metrics are a vital statistic to track. The correlation between education attainment and economic prosperity is remarkably high. As residents continue to gain degrees and credentials, there is more opportunity for job growth.

As of 2019, the percentage of residents in Casco Township with a Bachelor's or Graduate College Degree was 32%. In addition, the percentage of residents with a high school degree or higher was 90%.

Highest Level of Education Completed – 2019 (Percentage of Residents)

Highest level of education	Casco Township	St. Clair County	Michigan
Graduate/Professional	13.7%	6.8%	11.9%
Bachelor's	19.2%	11.8%	18.2%
Associate	8.9%	12.4%	9.4%
Some college, no degree	22.8%	25.8%	22.8%
High school graduate	25.9%	34%	29.1%
Did not graduate from high school	9.5%	9.2%	8.7%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Housing & Building Trends

Housing is a vital characteristic of any community. Houses are highly visible and relatively permanent, and for these reasons serve as great indicators of the wellbeing of a community.

Housing values in Casco Township decreased 11.2% from 2010 to 2019. The median housing value in Casco Township was \$195,900 in 2019, which exceeded the county median by over \$41,600.

Median Housing Value 2010 – 2019

Community	2010	2019	Change
Casco Township	\$229,626	\$195,900	-11.2%
St. Clair County	\$184,839	\$154,300	-16.5%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

In 2010 there were 3,528 owner-occupied units, which represented 62% of all occupied units. In 2019, the percentage of owner-occupied remained at 62%.

Casco Township Housing Tenure 2010 - 2019

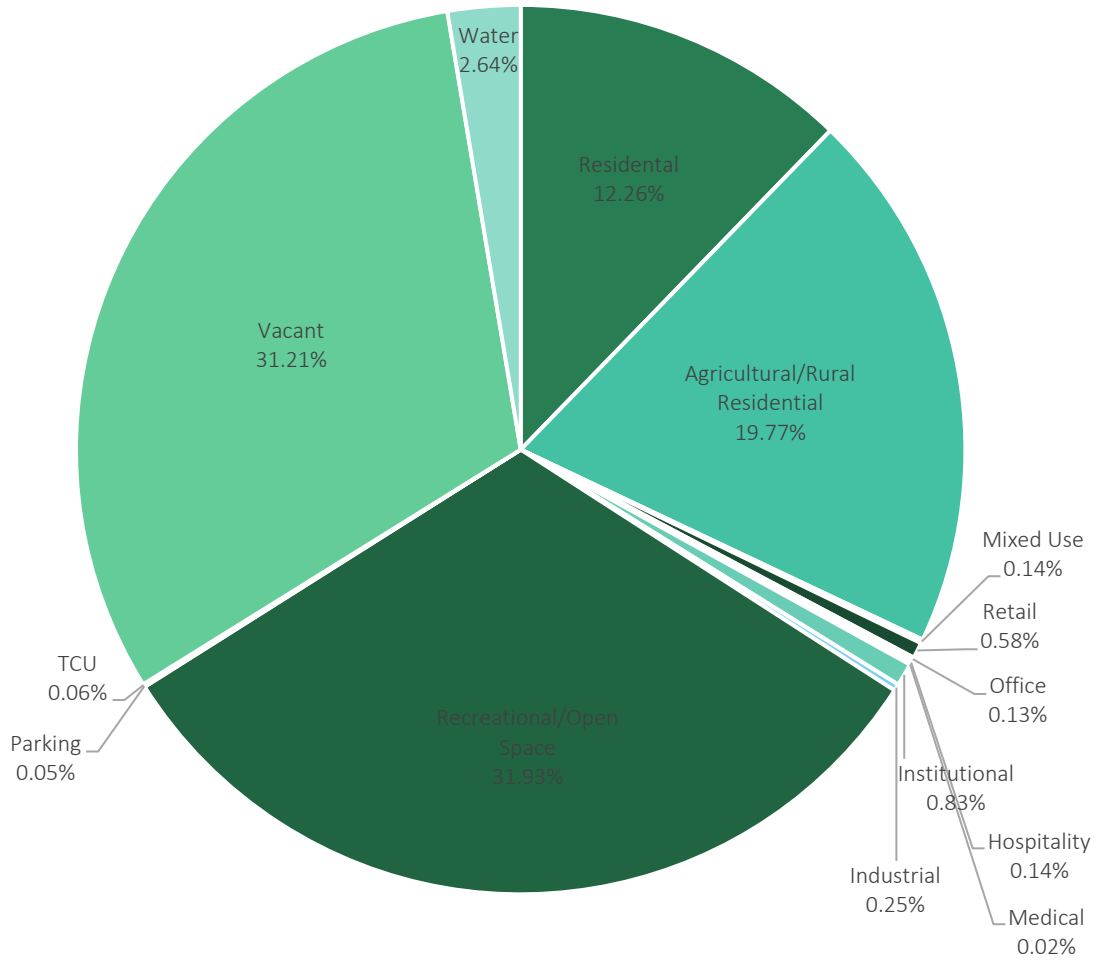
	2010	2019
Owner-Occupied Units	3,528	3,660
Renter Occupied Units	419	469
Vacant Units	1,684	1,726
Total Units	5,631	5,855

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Existing Land Use

Most of the Township's land remains undeveloped (63%). Nearly 20% of land is categorized at agricultural or rural residential, and 12% is considered residential. All other uses (water, commercial, institutional, etc.) make up the remaining 5% of land in the Township.

2020 Existing Land Use



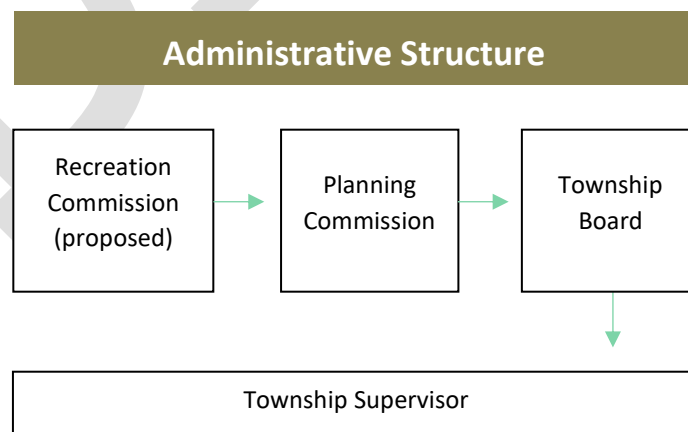
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Administrative Structure

In terms of recreation planning, Casco Township’s seven-member Recreation Commission provides an advisory role to the Township Board on the needs of the community. In addition, the Township has a Recreation Director who oversees recreational programming.

Casco’s current recreation budget for recreation is \$9,334. Recreation funding primarily comes from the Township’s general budget and the St. Clair County parks millage

The Township is furthering the recreation planning process through development of this Recreation Plan to develop a recreation program which meets the current and future needs of Township residents.



Budget

Casco Township's Park and Recreation Budget		
	2021	2022
Summer Tax	\$1,814.00	\$1,874.00
Administrative Fees*	\$5,049.00	\$7,460.00
TOTAL	\$6,863.00	\$9,334.00

*Administrative fees include payment to consultant services for grant writing and other park related development.

Casco Township Parks and Recreation Revenues		
	2021	2022
Millage	\$20,000.00	\$20,435.00
Other Income*	\$3,200.00	\$3,221.00
TOTAL	\$23,200.00	\$23,656.00

*Other income includes rental fees collected on a lease.

The Role of Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome and critical to recreational offerings in the Township, especially as the Township begins rebuilding programs, activities, and special events. Volunteers have participated in park clean-up efforts.

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Parks & Recreation Inventory

When a community seeks to develop a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan, it is imperative to catalog existing parks and recreation facilities. An extensive inventory of parks and recreation will allow a community to highlight its assets, develop linkages, build from innovative trends, and determine any gaps in services.

Existing Facility Inventory

Various methods were employed to assess these recreational facilities, including a review of aerial photographs and existing maps, windshield surveys, site visits, and discussions with recreational providers. The inventory that follows provides a detailed look at the amenities available at private and regional recreational facilities/parks.

State and Regional Parks

Casco Township is part of a region that has a wealth of parks and recreation destinations. As a region, southeast Michigan has illustrated a longstanding commitment to parks and recreation. From major park systems to wildlife preservation areas, the State of Michigan and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority have established a network of facilities that provide users of all abilities and interests with plentiful parks and recreation destinations.

Sixteen (16) state parks and recreation areas are located in the five-county area surrounding Casco. In total, these recreation facilities encompass over 50,000 acres of land, and offer a wide range of services including trails, swimming, fishing, boating picnicking, camping, nature preserves, cross-country skiing, and many others. St. Clair County is home to Lakeport State Park, Algonac State Park, St. John's Marsh Wildlife Area, Port Huron State Game Area, and St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority operates 13 parks across Southeast Michigan, including three (Stony Creek Metropark, Wolcott Mill Metropark, and Lake St. Clair Metropark) in Macomb County.

Stony Creek Metropark, Shelby Township

Established around Stony Creek Lake, this park includes a nature center, hiking and mountain biking trails, campgrounds, boat rental and launch, bike rental, golf course, and a disc golf course.

Lake St. Clair Metropark, Harrison Township

Located on the Lake St. Clair shore, this park offers a splash pad, swimming pool, and beach, tennis, par- 3 golf, a sledding hill, nature center, trails, windsurfing launch, and boat launch, among other amenities.

Wolcott Mill Metropark, Ray Township

Wolcott Mill Metropark, containing 2,380 acres of land, is located within Ray Township. The park is three parks in one, and includes a late 20th century working farm, a historic grist mill, and a campground. In addition, the park has over 10 miles of trails that meander through woods, meadows, and along the Clinton River.



Wolcott Mill Metropark

St. Clair County Recreational Facilities

Columbus County Park

This county park, located in Columbus Township along the Belle River, provides natural area for outdoor enjoyment, a sledding hill, lodging, and a variety of trails.

Goodells County Park

This park occupies 327 acres and includes the County Farm Museum and 4-H Fair Grounds, as well as a butterfly garden, natural areas, a sledding hill, and a splash pad.

Fort Gratiot County Park

This park in north St. Clair County offers scenic views of Lake Huron, and provides a public beach, picnic areas, playscapes, trails, and the 1971 Tunnel Explosion Memorial, which honors 22 workers killed in an accident during construction of a water intake tunnel in the area.

Fort Gratiot Light Station

This former Coast Guard station is home to Michigan's oldest lighthouse, which has been renovated and restored, and is St. Clair County's newest county park.

Woodsong County Park

This park was purchased from the Girl Scouts – Michigan Waterways Council Inc. This site contains trails and runs along a half mile of the Black River, and offers opportunities for nature study, hiking, biking, and paddling.

Blueways of St. Clair

St. Clair County's Blueways Trail is a water trail system implemented throughout the county's many waterways and lakeshore. Implemented in 2009, this 17-route system, including some ADA accessible launches, includes the Island Loop Route, which runs up the Black River and along the Lake Huron shoreline, and has been recognized as a National Water Trail by the US Department of the Interior, the first such trail in Michigan.

Bridge-To-Bay Trail

The Bridge-To-Bay Trail is a biking and walking path that follows the lakeshore the County from New Baltimore to Burtchville. Most of the trail is a shared-access route, and the segment in Casco Township is along Dixie Highway.

Wadhams to Avoca Trail

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail is a rails-to-trails pathway located on the former CSX rail line. The trail is open to hikers, bikers, and equestrians, and its scenic rural character also supports birding. The trail also contains the 60-foot Mill Creek Trestle, which provides four overlook areas into the Mill Creek Valley.

In 2021, St. Clair County acquired 10 acres of waterfront property in Casco Township between the Algonac Harbour Club and the DNR Boat Launch on M-29 to develop a new county park. The project is in partnership with Casco Township, the City of Algonac, and the Six Rivers Land Conservancy. Proposed developments include a swimming beach, kayak launch, a playground, walking trails, parking areas, and fishing amenities.

Local Facilities



Volunteers at Belle River Park

Casco Township Belle River Park

Casco Township Belle River Park was purchased in partnership with the Six Rivers Conservancy in 2019. The park, which is currently undeveloped, contains X acres. Plans for the park includes passive and active recreation areas,.

In addition to the Belle River Park, Casco Townships has three private recreation facilities.

Michigan Meadows

An 18-hole golf course and banquet facility open to the public.

Golden Hawk

An 18-hole golf course, driving ranges, and rental facility open to the public.

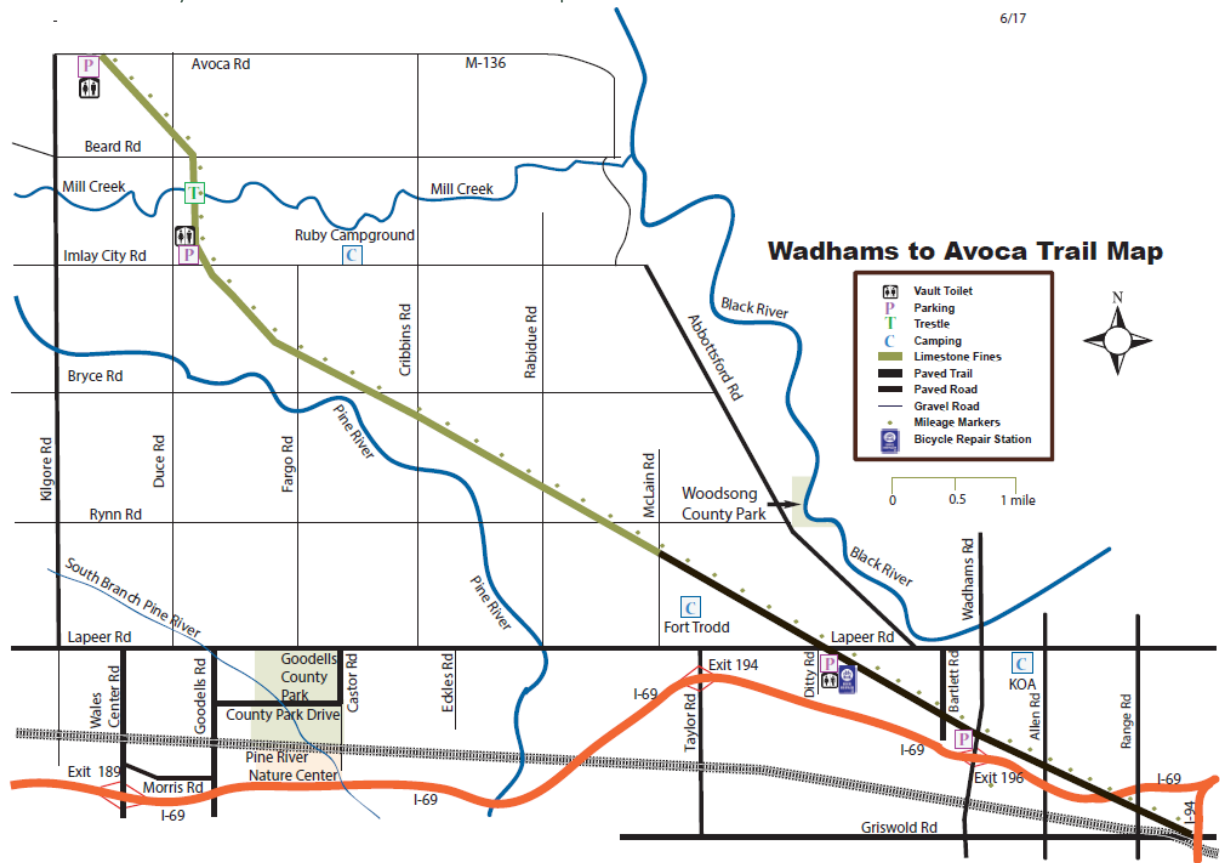
Perch Point Conservation Club

A private gun and archery club with a hall available for rent.

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St. Clair County Wadhams to Avoca Trail Map

6/17



Source: St. Clair County Parks and Recreation



Bay-To-Bridge Trail Map



Source: St. Clair County Parks and Recreation

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Resource Inventory

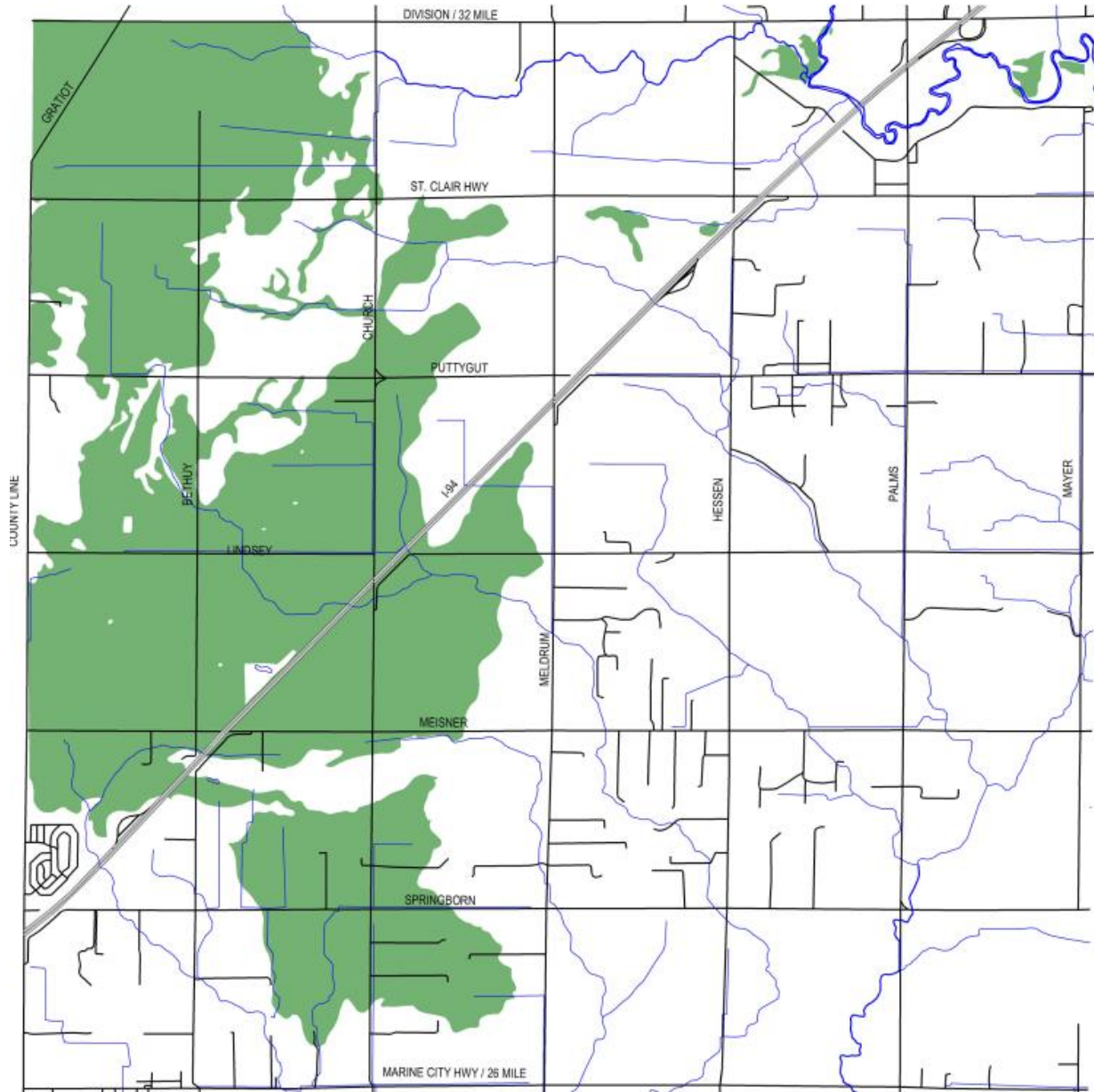
In a community such as Casco Township, where recreational opportunities are heavily intertwined with the natural environment, an inventory of natural resources clarifies where potential opportunities may be available.



Belle River Park

The following maps depict Natural Features, Sub-Watersheds/Elevations, and Soil types within the Township.

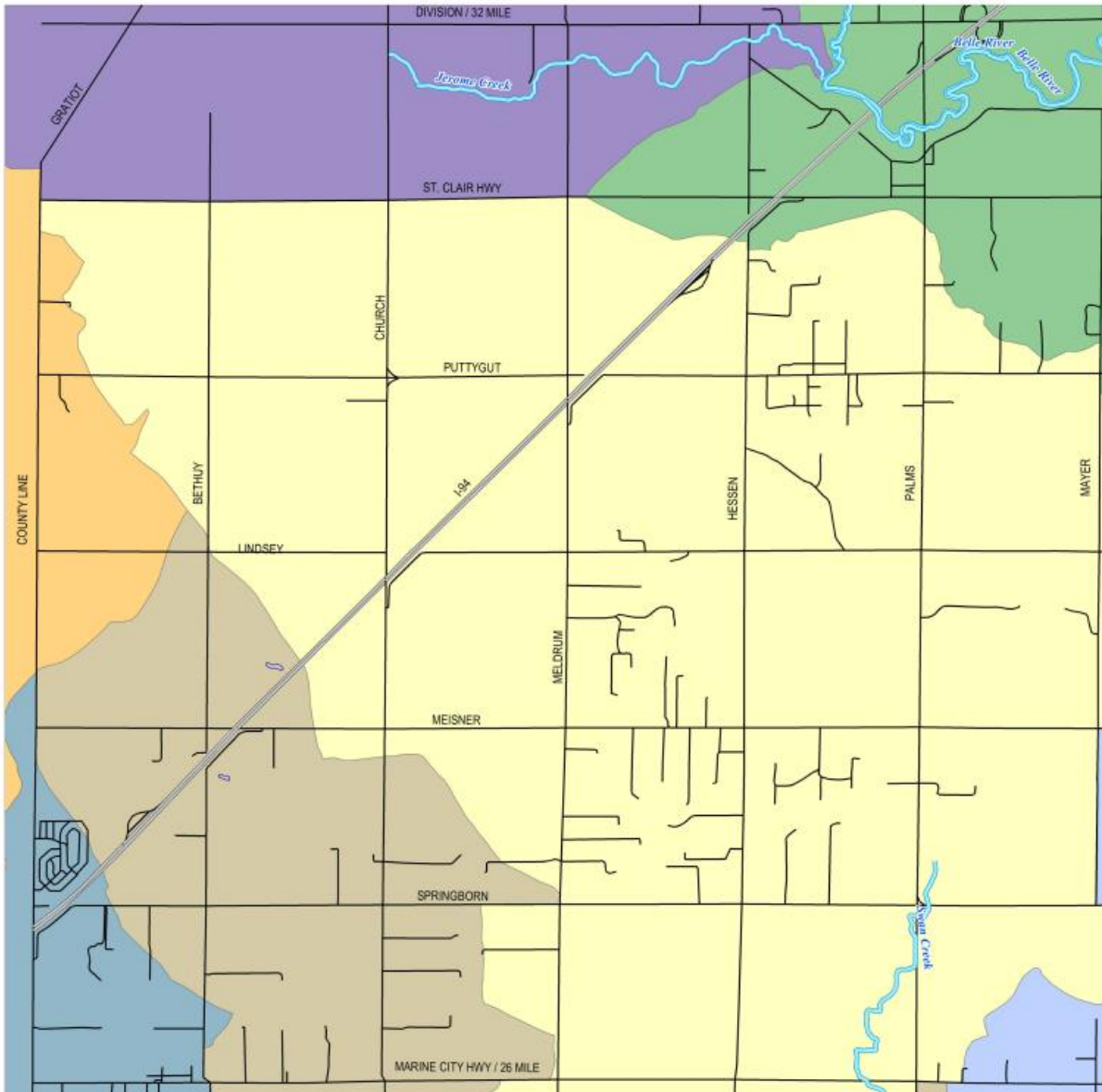
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Casco Township Prime Farmland

 PRIME FARMLAND (WHEN DRAINED)

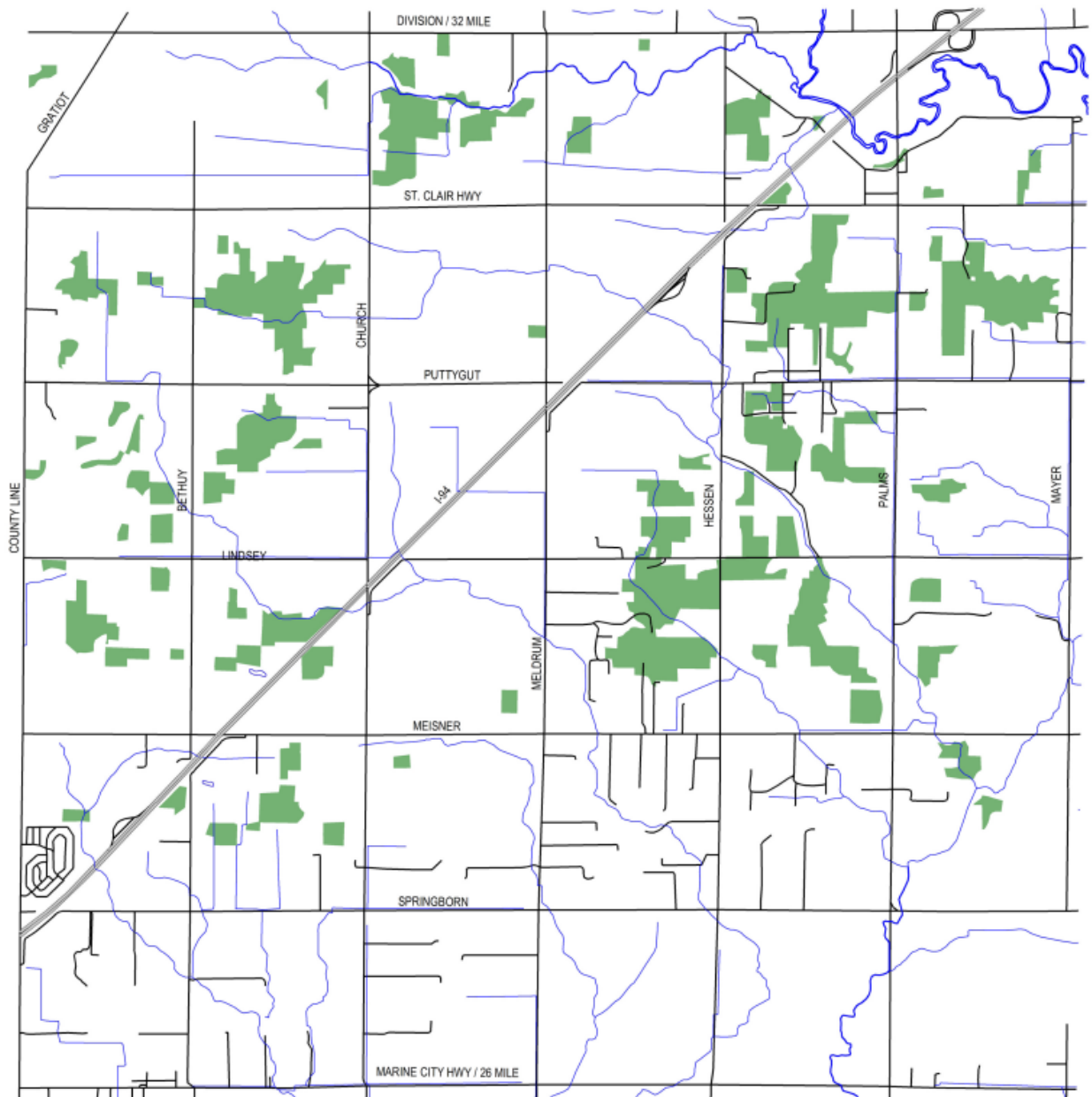





Casco Township Belle River Sub-Watersheds

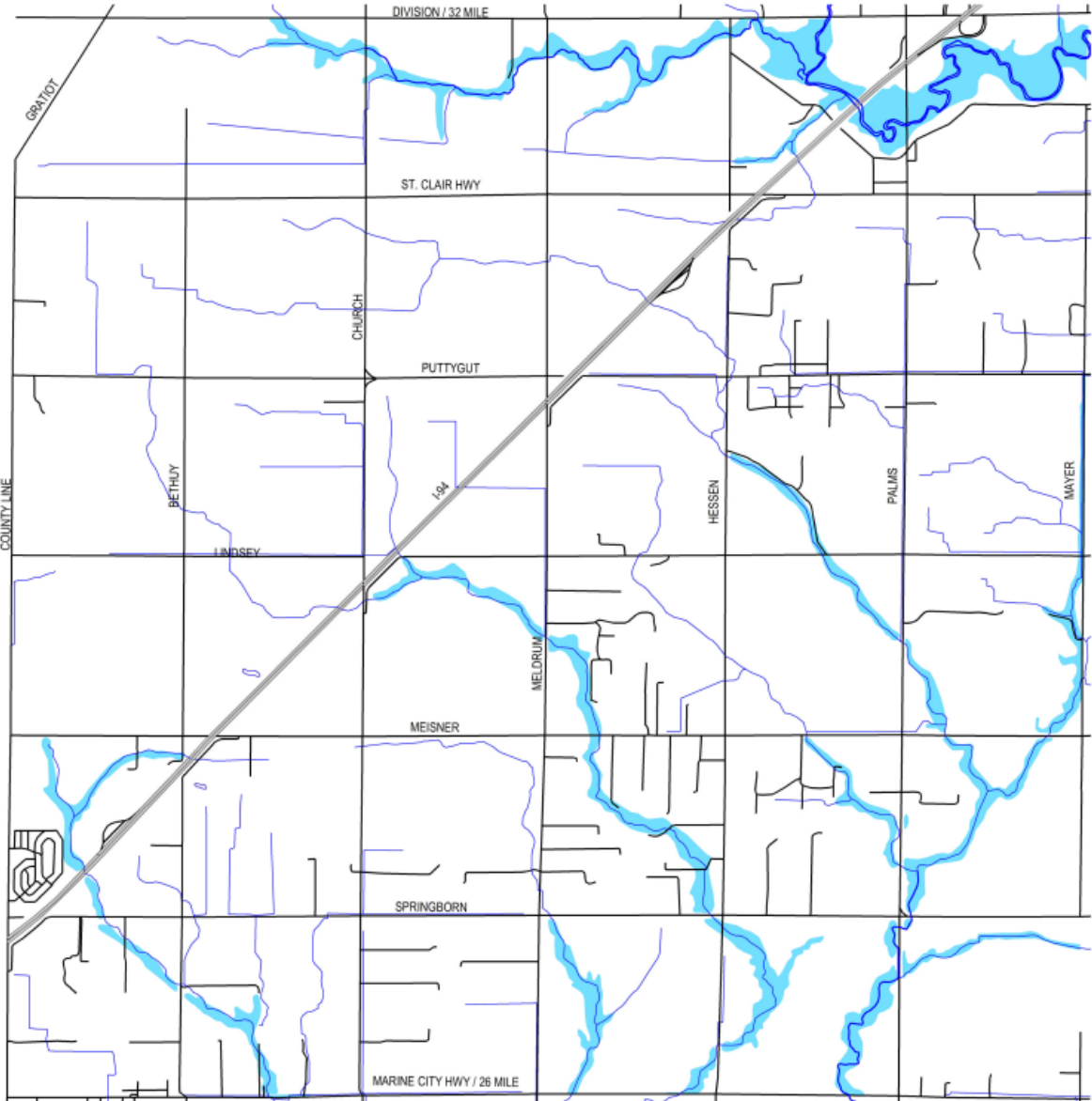
- SUBWATERSHEDS OF THE BELLE RIVER WATERSHED**
- BELLE RIVER
 - JEROME CREEK
- SUBWATERSHEDS OF THE ANCHOR BAY WATERSHED**
- BEAUBIEN CREEK
 - CRAPAUD CREEK
 - LAKE DRAINAGE
 - SALT RIVER
 - SWAN CREEK





Casco Township Woodlands

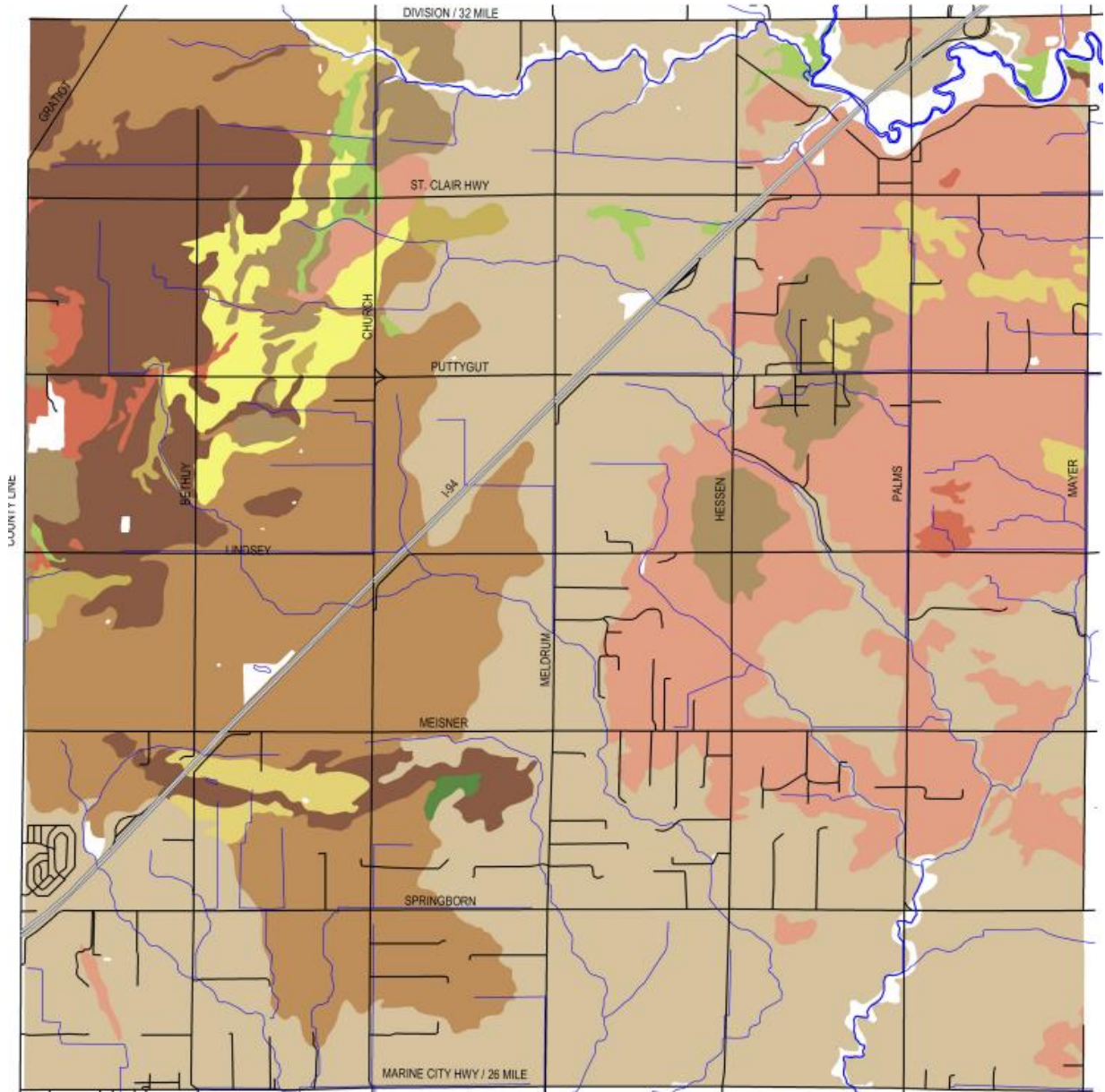
 WOODLANDS



Casco Township Floodplains

 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN





- FINE SAND
- SAND
- LOAMY SAND
- LOAMY FINE SAND
- LOAMY SAND & SAND
- FINE SANDY LOAM
- SANDY LOAM
- LOAM
- SILT LOAM
- SILTY CLAY LOAM
- MUCKY FINE SAND

Casco Township Soil Conditions



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Recreation Needs & Opportunities Analysis

To analyze the recreational needs of Township residents, and to determine deficiencies within recreation programs, it is helpful to consider standards for recreation service areas, land needs based on future population, and the ultimate size and extent of recreation facilities and their location.

Recreation Needs & Opportunities Analysis

It is important to determine adequacy and need for recreation facilities, both currently and in the future. Several techniques are commonly used to accomplish this. Perhaps the most common method of determining recreation needs and deficiencies is to compare existing park acreage and facilities with accepted recreation planning standards. The standards normally suggest optimum or ideal conditions that communities should strive to meet in the development of park facilities and provide a benchmark against which progress can be measured. The risk in using these standards, however, is that they may not be uniformly applicable to every community and as such, need to be evaluated in light of the unique physical, social, and economic conditions that may characterize a specific community.

Recreation Planning Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers generalized standards to assist communities in recreation planning activities. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has also developed a set of standards based on NRPA guidelines entitled "Michigan

Recreation Opportunity Standards,” which will be utilized in this recreation needs and deficiency analysis. These standards specify the amount of developed recreation acreage, and the amount/number of recreation facilities that a community should have per 1,000 residents.

Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards	
Type of Recreation Opportunity	Plan Standard
Developed Local Park Land	10 acres / 1,000 population
Archery Ranges (including private & commercial)	1 / 50,000 population
Ballfields (not including school facilities)	1 / 3,000 population
Outdoor Basketball Courts (not including school facilities)	1 / 5,000 population
Bicycle Trails (miles)	1 / 40,000 population
Golf Courses (including private & commercial)	1 / 25,000 population
Indoor Ice Rinks	1 / 50,000 population
Outdoor Ice Rinks	1 / 20,000 population
Picnic Areas (tables)	1 / 200 population
Playgrounds (not including school facilities)	1 / 3,000 population
Rifle Ranges (including private & commercial)	1 / 50,000 population
Shotgun Ranges (including private & commercial)	1 / 50,000 population
Sledding Hills (not including school facilities)	1 / 40,000 population
Soccer Fields (not including school facilities)	1 / 20,000 population
Outdoor Swimming Pools	1 / 40,000 population
Outdoor Tennis Courts (not including school facilities)	1 / 4,000 population
Campground Sites (including commercial)	1 / 150 population
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)	1 / 10,000 population
Fishing Access (feet)	1,000 / 1,000 population
Fishing Piers	1 / 100,000 population
Hiking Trails (miles)	1 / 5,000 population
Horseback Trails (miles)	1 / 20,000 population
Nature Areas (each)	1 / 50,000 population
Nature Trails (miles)	1 / 20,000 population
ORV Areas	1 acre / 7,500 population
ORV Trails (miles)	1 / 10,000 population

Snowmobiling Land	10 acres / 1,000 population
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	1 / 3,000 population
Swimming Beaches	1 / 25,000 population

Current Recreation Needs

While the Recreation Opportunity Standards reference a very broad set of facilities, it is important to note that many of the standards reference populations that are considerably larger than Casco Township’s, or in several cases, populations larger than the Township and its neighbors combined.

Casco Township is in the process of developing the Belle River Park, which is intended to meet some of these standards.

Casco Township’s Current Recreation Needs			
(Based upon an estimated 2020 population of 3,990 persons)			
Recreation Facility	Existing Amount	Suggested Amount (based upon Recreation Standard)	Need
Ballfields	0	1.3 acres	1.3 acres
Playgrounds	0	1	1
Public Boat Launch parking	0	10 spaces	10 spaces
Campground Sites	0	26 sites	26 sites
Cross-County Ski Trails (miles)	0	0.4 miles	0.4 miles
Fishing Access (lineal feet)	0	3,990 feet	3,990 feet
Hiking Trails (miles)	0	0.8 miles	0.8 miles
ORV Areas (acres)	0	0.5 acres	0.5 acres
ORV Trails (mile)	0	0.4 miles	0.4 miles
Snowmobiling Land	0	38.9 acres	38.9 acres
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	0	1.3 miles	1.3 miles
Outdoor Tennis Courts	0	1	1

As can be seen in the table on the previous page, there may be a need to provide additional recreational facilities. Casco Township should keep these facilities in mind in weighing the priorities for recreation opportunities. Expanding public access to the lakeshore for activities such as fishing and natural enjoyment should be considered a top priority.

Future Recreation Needs

Based on the Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards and the 2030 and 2045 projected populations of Casco Township of 8,845 and 4,493 (respectively), the Township’s future needs for developed recreation acreage and for the various types of recreation activities for those years were derived. The two tables below list the future recreation needs that may exist within the Township, if none of the current recreation deficiencies noted previously are addressed between now and the years 2030 and 2045. It should be noted that the recommendations remain relatively similar for current recreation needs and the projected needs for both 2030 and 2045.

Casco Township’s Current Recreation Needs			
(Based upon an estimated 2030 population of 4,127 persons)			
Recreation Facility	Existing Amount	Suggested Amount (based upon Recreation Standard)	Need
Ballfields	0	1.3 acres	1.3 acres
Playgrounds	0	1	1
Public Boat Launch parking	0	10 spaces	10 spaces
Campground Sites	0	26 sites	26 sites
Cross-County Ski Trails (miles)	0	0.4 miles	0.4 miles
Fishing Access (lineal feet)	0	3,990 feet	3,990 feet
Hiking Trails (miles)	0	0.8 miles	0.8 miles
ORV Areas (acres)	0	0.5 acres	0.5 acres
ORV Trails (mile)	0	0.4 miles	0.4 miles
Snowmobiling Land	0	38.9 acres	38.9 acres
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	0	1.3 miles	1.3 miles
Outdoor Tennis Courts	0	1	1

Casco Township's Current Recreation Needs

(Based upon an estimated 2040 population of 4,069 persons)

Recreation Facility	Existing Amount	Suggested Amount (based upon Recreation Standard)	Need
Ballfields	0	1.3 acres	1.3 acres
Playgrounds	0	1	1
Public Boat Launch parking	0	10 spaces	10 spaces
Campground Sites	0	26 sites	26 sites
Cross-County Ski Trails (miles)	0	0.4 miles	0.4 miles
Fishing Access (lineal feet)	0	3,990 feet	3,990 feet
Hiking Trails (miles)	0	0.8 miles	0.8 miles
ORV Areas (acres)	0	0.5 acres	0.5 acres
ORV Trails (mile)	0	0.4 miles	0.4 miles
Snowmobiling Land	0	38.9 acres	38.9 acres
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	0	1.3 miles	1.3 miles
Outdoor Tennis Courts	0	1	1

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The Planning & Public Input Process

The recreation planning process in Casco Township was intended to involve individuals who represent a broad cross-section of the community's population. The Township Board is responsible for implementing the Recreation Plan, but the Planning Commission provides input, analysis, and recommendations.

The Township developed an online public survey (with hard copies available at the Township Hall), to collect public input on community priorities for future parks and recreation. Using the inventory and survey findings, this Recreation Plan identifies goals, opportunities, and implementation measures.

The draft plan and 5-year action program of priority projects were then reviewed by the Recreation Commission. Following the recommendation of approval by the Planning Commission, the plan was forwarded to the Township Board.

The draft plan was made available for public review and comment for at least 30 days prior to formal adoption by the Township Board. Notice of the public review period was provided in the local newspaper. The plan was presented at a public hearing held by Township Board. Copies of the notices announcing the review period and public hearing are included in the Appendix.

Public Input

Understanding the important role of public involvement in developing this plan, the Planning Commission developed an online survey to gather general input from the community regarding their thoughts on parks and recreation facilities and programming in the Township.

The survey was available from September 26, 2022, until November 15, 2022. It was advertised on the Township's website. A total of 45 people responded to the survey. Many participants (91%) were residents of the Township, while others worked within Casco or were visitors. Respondents represented a diverse range of households, from families with young children to older adults. More than half of respondents were aware of Casco's Belle River park, but had not yet visited the site, and 13% were unaware of the park. The top recreational activities participants enjoyed doing within the Township were walking, hiking, and other outdoor activities. Survey takers indicated that social media was their preferred way of learning about recreational offerings (64%), followed by the Township website (16%), and in print (14%). Features survey takers would like to see within the Township were better fishing access, trails, playgrounds and other opportunities for children, splash pad, kayak launch, and picnic areas, among others. (See Appendix for the complete survey results.)

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Goals & Objectives

Goals and Objectives formulated by Casco Township are the basis of the recreation planning process. They form the framework for public and private decision-making regarding recreational facilities and programs in the Township. This Recreation Plan seeks to pursue long-range recreational goals and objectives through specific short-range actions on the part of the Township, County, and State as well as private entities.

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Township after review of the Township's natural features, population, housing, existing land uses, existing recreational facilities and programs, and the results of the community recreation survey.

The recreation goals and objectives are not prioritized. The Action Program in the Chapter that follows, will detail the specific program strategies to achieve the goals and objectives.

GOAL 1

Continue to develop the Belle River Park to provide a wide range of active and passive recreation opportunities.

- Design the Belle River Access Area to ensure barrier free access to all active and passive recreational facilities.

GOAL 2

Enhance and increase the quality of life of Township residents by providing a full range of recreational programs and facilities to meet the character of Township

- Promote the establishment of cooperative public / private partnerships with adjacent community school districts, or non-profit organizations, to develop and provide recreational facilities programs.

- Support private non-profit organizations which provide recreational facilities or programs through financial, in-kind, or facility access agreements.
- Avoid duplicating recreational facilities and programs that are already being provided by other levels of government or by the private sector.

GOAL 3

Coordinate with St. Clair County in a trail program to connect with adjacent communities, if feasible.

- In coordination with the county, design a multi-use non- motorized path system, which link the community to areas of interest, schools, and other recreational facilities in the area.
- Coordinate with St. Clair County and other regional agencies to provide trails which could, in the future, indirectly or directly link to other trails within the region such as the Macomb Orchard Trail, the Gratiot Avenue Trail, and the Bridge to Bay Trail.
- Design paths and trails to insure barrier free access to all active and passive recreational facilities.

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Action Strategies

Action Strategies outline Casco Township’s approach to implementing the goals and objectives identified in the previous chapter. These strategies are intended to provide guidance for planning and budgeting purposes for the next five years. They suggest priorities generally but are not intended to be set in stone or limit additional creative approaches. Generally, parks and recreation action strategies should consider the following when outlining a strategy to implement goals and objectives:

- Based upon the Public Survey, as part of this Recreation Plan, what projects or activities were considered most important by the respondents?
- Is there immediate health and safety concerns that need to be addressed?
- What opportunities exist to partner with other groups towards a common goal?
- Is there a person or group who can champion specific goals/objectives?
- Are there multiple goals that can be achieved by implementing a project?
- What projects affect the greatest number of people in the community and/or address the greatest need?
- How can projects be broken down into phases for a multi-year approach?
- What funding opportunities exist for implementation of certain goals?

Casco Township Parks and Recreation 5 Year Action Plan

Action	Year	Projected Cost(s)	Funding Source
Develop Park Driveway	2023	\$40 per ton of gravel	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop second parking area	2023	\$40 per ton of gravel	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop a picnic pavilion	2023	TBD	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop a seasonal kayak & fishing dock	TBD	TBD	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop a multi-purpose athletic field	2023	TBD	
Develop a pedestrian path	TBD	\$300/linear foot	Local/CPRM/LCF
Install benches for nature viewing	TBD	\$500 each	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop a playground	TBD	\$150,000	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop restroom	TBD	TBD	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop universal accessible bridge across ravine	TBD	TBD	Local/CPRM/LCF
Develop bike rack	TBD	TBD	Local/CPRM/LCF
Consider hiring Recreation Coordinator to develop and lead recreation programs for the Township	2023	TBD	Local/CPRM/LCF
Provide recreation programming	2024	TBD	Local/CPRM/LCF

LCF = Local community foundations

Local = Local Funds/General Funds

CPRM = St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Millage

TBD = To be determined

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Appendix

- Approving Resolution
- Public Notices
- Transmittal Letters
- Public Survey Results

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