



VILLAGE OF
LEXINGTON

LEXINGTON

Recreation Plan

VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON, MICHIGAN

ADOPTED: December 19, 2022



Recreation Plan

VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON, MICHIGAN

ADOPTED December 19, 2022

Prepared with the assistance of:



235 E. Main Street, Suite 105

Northville, MI 48167

T: 248.596.0920

F: 248.596.0930

www.mcka.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of this 2023-2027 Recreation Plan are greatly appreciated; we thank everyone who participated in its development.

The content in this Plan reflects the ongoing collaboration between residents, stakeholders, and Village Council and its appointed boards and commissions.

Village Council

Kristen Kaatz, President
Peter Muoio, President Pro Tem
Larry Adams
Kathleen DeCoster

Parks and Recreation

Arlette Sutton, Chairperson
Dennis Klaas
Peter Muoio
Susan Pomilia
Amanda Dickinson, Vice Chairperson

Planning Commission

Mike Ziegler, Chairperson
Kristen Kaatz, Commissioner
David Picot, Commissioner
Jamie McCombs, Commissioner
Will Morris, Vice President
Steve Stencel, Commissioner
Jackie Huepenbecker, Secretary
Mike Fulton, Commissioner

THE FOLLOWING VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS SUPPORTED THIS PLANNING EFFORT:

Alexandria Sutton, Village Manager
Vicki Scott, Village Clerk

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Community Description	5
Demographics	7
Physical Characteristics	12
Inventory of Recreational Facilities and Programs Overview	17
Other Recreation Facilities	25
Regional Recreation Resources	26
Historical Recreation Sites	28
Recreation Programs	28
Administrative Structure and Funding	29
Administrative Organization	30
Parks and Recreation Funding	31
Grant History	34
Basis for Action Plan	35
Summary of Public Input	36
Recreation Deficiencies	42
Action Plan	51
Goals and Objectives	52
Action Plan	54

List of Maps

Map 1.	Regional Map.....	3
Map 2.	Parks Inventory.....	19
Map 3.	Parks Service Area Map.....	50

List of Tables

Table 1.	Population.....	7
Table 2.	Age Structure.....	8
Table 3.	Median Household Income.....	9
Table 5.	Existing Parks.....	23
Table 6.	Existing Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities.....	26
Table 7.	Budget.....	31
Table 8.	Lexington Grant History.....	34
Table 9.	Outdoor Recreation Facilities Evaluation, Village of Lexington.....	45
Table 10.	Comparison to Accepted Standards, Village of Lexington.....	46
Table 11.	Analysis of Existing Facilities, Village of Lexington.....	47
Table 12.	Summary of Action Items, Village of Lexington.....	54

01

INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Board and Village staff coordinated this open, public planning process to create a comprehensive vision for Lexington parks and recreation programs, satisfying the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for a Recreation Master Plan.



A Recreation Plan is a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made over a five-year period, as well as a way to project future needs. The Plan includes all required elements of a Recreation Plan, and therefore qualifies The Village of Lexington for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the Plan gives the Village a better understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation facilities and programming based on public engagement and industry trends going forward.

This Recreation Plan covers the years of 2023 through 2027, though it will be a useful planning tool beyond the five-year mark. The Village's current Recreation Plan was adopted in 2016, and resulted in the following improvements during the ensuing years:

Updated playgrounds and parks equipment, including:

- Reconstruction of the Tierney Parks Tennis Court
- Enhanced and improved playground equipment at the Lexington North Shores.

Maintenance of grounds, facilities, and natural features at Village parks, including:

- Addition of recycle bins and trash receptacles, replacement of old and added new picnic tables, repair and/or replacement of park benches
- Installation of renewable energy-powered lighting throughout Tierney Park

Efficient and effective administration of parks and recreation functions.

Map 1. Regional Map



Regional Location

Village of Lexington, Michigan

November 4, 2022

LEGEND

-  Municipal Boundaries
-  County Boundary
-  Bodies of Water



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Village of Lexington, 2022. McKenna 2022.



This page intentionally left blank.

02

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Comprised of 1.4 square miles, the Village of Lexington is located in Sanilac County, Michigan, bordered by Lexington Township and Worth Township. Lexington is located on the shore of Lake Huron in the “thumb” area of southeast Michigan. The Village is approximately 80 miles north of the City of Detroit, approximately 60 miles east of the City of Frankenmuth, and approximately 25 miles southeast of the City of Sandusky, Michigan.



Lexington is largely comprised of single-family residential homes and several manufactured home communities. Further, the Village includes a large swath of agricultural land on the southwest side, as well as several areas of mixed uses (including commercial and industrial mixed uses), and a central business district. The Village's entire east boundary is located on Lake Huron, which equates to approximately 1.2 miles.

Parks and recreation is a critical component of a thriving community, and this Plan is an important document for implementation of place-based improvements.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The Lexington Recreation Plan is updated and maintained to determine needs and opportunities that exist within the Village. Consideration is given to:

- Estimates of the number of likely users of recreational amenities;
- Projections of what type of programs users will enthusiastically participate in;
- The facilities that are necessary to further the community's parks and recreation-related goals and objectives.

By understanding current conditions and past trends, the Village can appropriately anticipate and plan for the future needs of the community.

Data within this plan is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, analyzed and synthesized by McKenna.

Population

Population trends are important indicators for parks and recreation planning. Growing communities likely have different parks and recreational needs than communities with stable or declining populations. The table below shows the relative populations of Lexington and nearby comparison communities.

It should be noted that, due to its attraction as a tourist destination, the Village's seasonal population (and the number of users of its parks, especially Tierney Park) significantly increases in the summer season when vacationers, second home-owners and weekend tourists visit the town.

Table 1. Population

	VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON	CITY OF CROSWELL	VILLAGE OF PORT SANILAC	SANILAC COUNTY
2010	1,040	2,611	564	44,010
2021	1,098	2,372	681	40,829
% Change	↑ 5.43%	↓ 9.59%	↑ 18.80%	↓ 7.50%

Source: 2010 and 2021 American Community Survey, Five Year Estimates

The Village of Lexington experienced a modest population gain during the years from 2010 to 2021, though Sanilac County experienced a decline in population.

Households

Average household size is another indicator of community composition. Larger average household sizes generally mean more children and fewer single-parent families. Nationally, household sizes have been shrinking as young singles wait longer to get married and life expectancy increases for the senior population.

The average household size in Lexington was 1.52 persons in 2021. This data, combined with the age distribution, indicates that it is likely that the Village of Lexington has a relatively high proportion of older 2-person families that no longer have children living in their homes, and older single-person households.

Housing Occupants

The make-up of housing occupants within a community can provide additional information about the community's profile. According to the 2021 American Community Survey, about 63% of households in Lexington are owner-occupied, while about 37% of housing units are renter occupied. Parks and recreation amenities are frequently rated as important elements when individuals and families make locational decisions.

Age Structure

The age of a community's population is extremely important when planning for parks and recreation improvements. Older residents may have different needs than childless 20-somethings, or those who have families with children. Further, families with children also have different needs than one another, depending on the ages of the children living in the home. For example, households with younger children will likely require parks with restrooms, play equipment, splash pads, and other similar amenities. Households with older children, such as high school and college age, may require parks with a more robust trail network, ball fields and courts, or exercise stations.

The table below compares the median ages of Lexington residents to surrounding communities (2021).

Table 2. Age Structure

	VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON	CITY OF CROSWELL	VILLAGE OF PORT SANILAC	SANILAC COUNTY
Median Age	60.6	43.0	58.4	45.3

Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality's population are in which stages of life) gives a nuanced view of the makeup of a community. To compare age structure, the percentage of the population in Lexington is divided into the following age groupings.

- Under 5 (Pre School) 0.6%
- 5 to 19 (School Aged) 7.0%
- 20 to 44 (Family Forming) 23.0%
- 45 to 64 (Mature Families) 29.4%
- Over 65 (Retirement) 39.9%

As the data above indicate, a large proportion of the Village's residents are retirement age and senior citizens. The median age of the Village is also quite a bit older than the comparison communities, and the County as a whole.

In recent years, changing trends in childcare show that grandparents are taking a larger role in assisting with childcare needs for parents. As such, parks facilities and playgrounds are more frequently utilized by seniors, older adults, and those of retirement age. For this reason, it is imperative that park design and amenities also accommodate this age group as well. These amenities can include more benches and seating areas, pavilions, walking paths, and other items.

Income

Household income data can have important planning implications. Current income levels suggest that Village residents need quality and accessible public recreation, as residents are more likely to utilize public rather than private recreation facilities due to cost. The table below illustrates the median household income trend since 2010.

Table 3. Median Household Income

YEAR	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
2010	\$32,228*
2015	\$28,802*
2020	\$39,375*

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010, 2015, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates,
 * inflation-adjusted dollars

Disabilities

While it is encouraged that all park and play equipment in the Village is ADA compliant, the type of disability and number of residents impacted by disabilities will impact the design and accommodations within the Village's Recreation Plan, and on future improvements to Village facilities. The Census Bureau reports that approximately 9.6% of residents under age 65 have a disability of some sort in Sanilac County in 2020.

Planning for parks and recreation could result in positive health outcomes for a population that already experiences difficulties on a day-to-day basis. Accommodations could include ramps or pavement improvements in order to ease accessibility concerns for those who suffer from ambulatory difficulties or installing audible and visually assisted cross walks that assist those who may be visually or hearing impaired.



Inclusive Play

For children with and without disabilities, the community playground can facilitate a positive environment for physical activity and inclusion.

The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), signed into law in 2010, detail enforceable standards for physical accessibility. However, these standards do not include elements designed for children with Down syndrome, sensory disorders, and visual and hearing impairments.

New attention has been focused on inclusive playgrounds and universal design that can serve a diverse population, including children with physical, cognitive, emotional and sensory disabilities.

The following elements are considered essential activities for inclusive play:

- Sensory play
- Music
- Swinging
- Spinning
- Sliding
- Socialization/imaginative
- Safety, comfort and access

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Topography

The elevation of the Village of Lexington is approximately 617 feet. The Village is fairly flat with little significant topographical variation. It is not likely that topography will play a role in play equipment or future needs for parks amenities or upgrades.

Water Resources / Fish and Wildlife

Lexington is located adjacent to Lake Huron, without other large bodies of water running through the Village. The Lake plays a large role in the Village's, and regions, recreational assets. As such, the Lake's ecosystem, including fish, birds, and other animals, should be considered in parks and programming development. The Village is surrounded by rural farmland and wooded/natural areas to the south, north, and west.

Soil

Soil characteristics have an important influence on the ability of land to support various types of equipment, drainage, and park target locations. Four specific soil characteristics influence their ability to be used for various purposes. These include the following:

- **Bearing capacity:** the ability to support the weight of trails, buildings, and vehicles
- **Erodibility/stability:** the susceptibility to withstand erosion hazards
- **Drainage:** the ability for soils to retain, drain, and receive water
- **Resource value:** the economic worth

Lexington's soil characteristics were identified as part of the larger Sanilac County Soil Survey conducted in 1967 by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. Categories of soils with different characteristics and physical properties were identified as part of the survey. A number of individual soils types are present in the Village. These individual categories are grouped together into several generalized classifications of soils that share similar characteristics. A total of nine of these grouped categories are located in Sanilac County. Three of these cover the Village of Lexington. The characteristics of these categories are described as follows:

- Conover-Parkhill-Locke Association
- Lenawee-Corunna-Lamson
- Hoytville-Sims-Nappanee-Blount

Vegetation

Sanilac County is largely rural in nature. As such, the Village of Lexington's vegetation (as well as the area as a whole) can be described as wooded with mature trees. With the area's prominent agricultural community, the County also includes large areas with few trees where farming and agricultural activities take place.

Vegetative trends in the Village include plants that thrive near the Great Lakes as well as other popular types of trees and shrubs frequently grown in Michigan. Examples of these include:

- Sugar Maple
- Red Maple
- White Cedar
- Evergreen

Climate

According to U.S. Climate Data, the average temperature near Lexington is 49.5 degrees Fahrenheit, with the average high at 59.3 degrees Fahrenheit and 39.8 degrees Fahrenheit. The yearly high temperature averages 84 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 27 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. This climate is suitable for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, such as biking, running, ice skating, hockey, etc.



Existing Land Use Characteristics

Lexington generally consists of several land use types. Differing from zoning districts, land use types describe the overarching character of an area and how the land is occupied. The land use types are then described further and encoded by zoning districts with corresponding regulations. The existing land uses represented in Lexington include:

- **Agriculture:** Agriculture areas are predominately located on the southeast portion of the Village. These areas are dedicated for the growing and selling of various crops, livestock, and other agricultural activities.
- **Single Family Residential:** Single-family homes occupy the majority of the Village's total land area. Single-family residential areas typically include residential neighborhoods with detached one-family homes constructed on small-to-medium size lots.
- **Multi-Family Residential:** This classification includes land areas that are occupied by predominately residential structures containing dwelling units for two, three, or more households. The Multiple Family classification includes apartments and attached condominiums.
- **Mobile Home Park Residential:** Notably, the Village includes several mobile home communities within its boundaries. These communities are located throughout the Village, within close proximity to Lake Huron.
- **Central Business District:** At the heart of the Village is a quaint downtown. The central business district includes multiple mixed-use buildings with classic downtown-like architecture, such as retail storefronts on the ground floor and apartments on the top floor. The central business district is located generally at the intersection of Main Street and Huron Avenue, and is within close walking distance to Lake Huron and Tierney Park.
- **Commercial:** The commercial land use category includes all commercial uses related to goods and services. Primarily focused on major road intersections and arterial corridors, the commercial category includes a wide-range of uses from large retail and grocery stores to smaller shops and services like dry cleaners and specialty stores. Most of the commercial land in Lexington is located along Main Street, running north and south through the Village.
- **Industrial:** This category includes manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, fabrication facilities, and other non-manufacturing industrial and utility uses. Lexington has several industrial land uses located throughout the northeast side of the Village.
- **Public/Semi-Public:** Public/Semi Public uses are comprised of schools and municipal buildings and municipally owned parcels. These land uses are generally intended to provide a public service.
- **Park/Open Space:** This classification includes parcels (both improved or unimproved) that are used for public or private non-intensive recreational activities, including parks, golf courses, swimming pools, ice rinks, natural areas, and private outdoor recreational facilities.



Transportation Systems

The Village of Lexington' circulation system can be largely described as being grid-like in structure. The Village has mostly lower speed residential roads with lower traffic volumes. Main Street runs parallel to Lake Huron. Roads adjacent to Lake Huron are residential in nature or lead to a public space such as Tierney Park. In general, the Village does not have an expansive road network or road system. There are a few corridors that serve most of the Village's traffic which include:

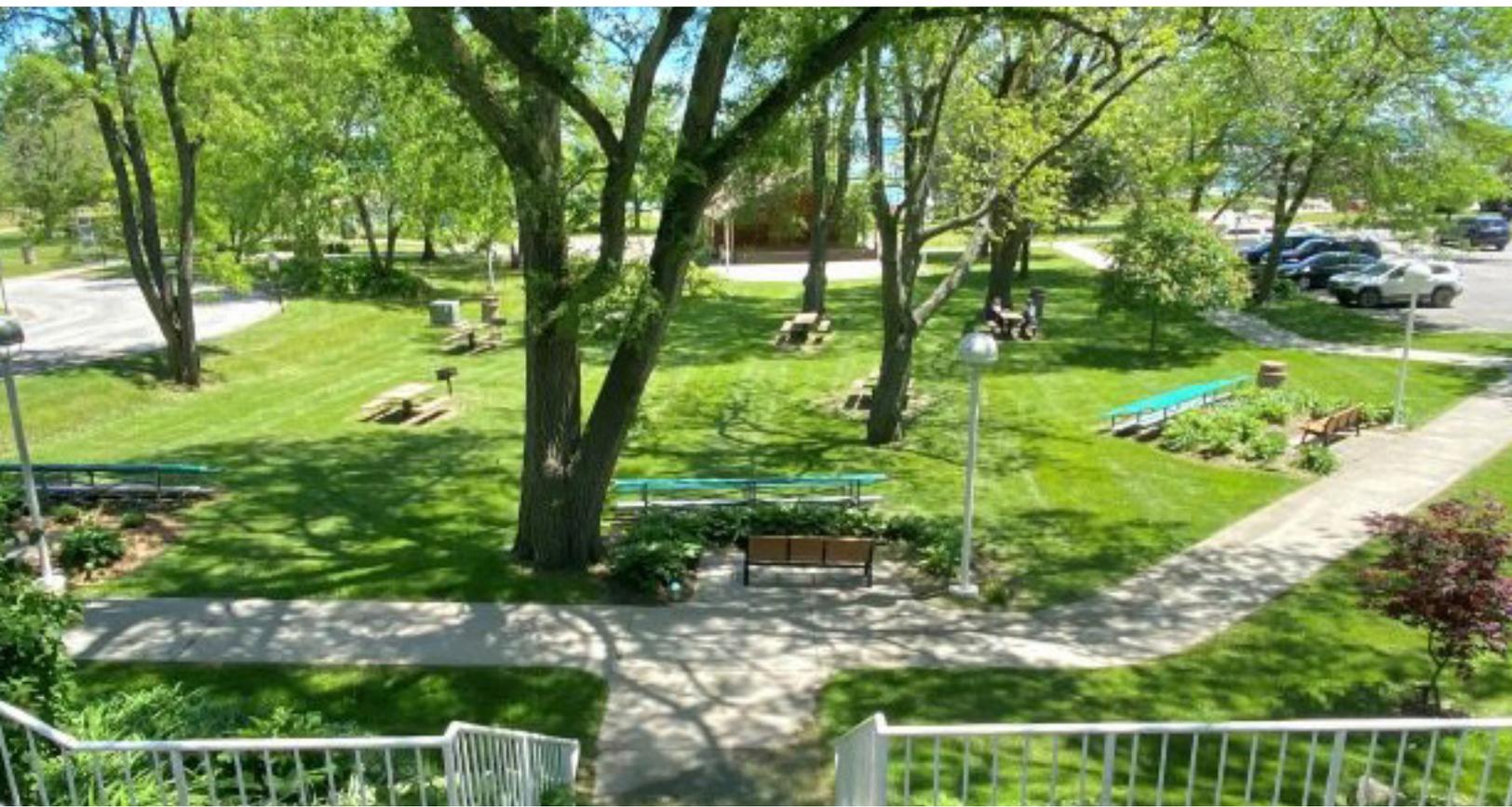
- Main Street (M-25)
- Huron Avenue (M-90)
- Union Street
- Lake Street
- Denissen Street
- Washington Street

This page intentionally left blank.

02

INVENTORY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The physical inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections of all Village parks and recreation sites. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded and reviewed with regard to location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition. The regional inventory consisted of review and compilation of regional park facilities.



Municipal Facilities

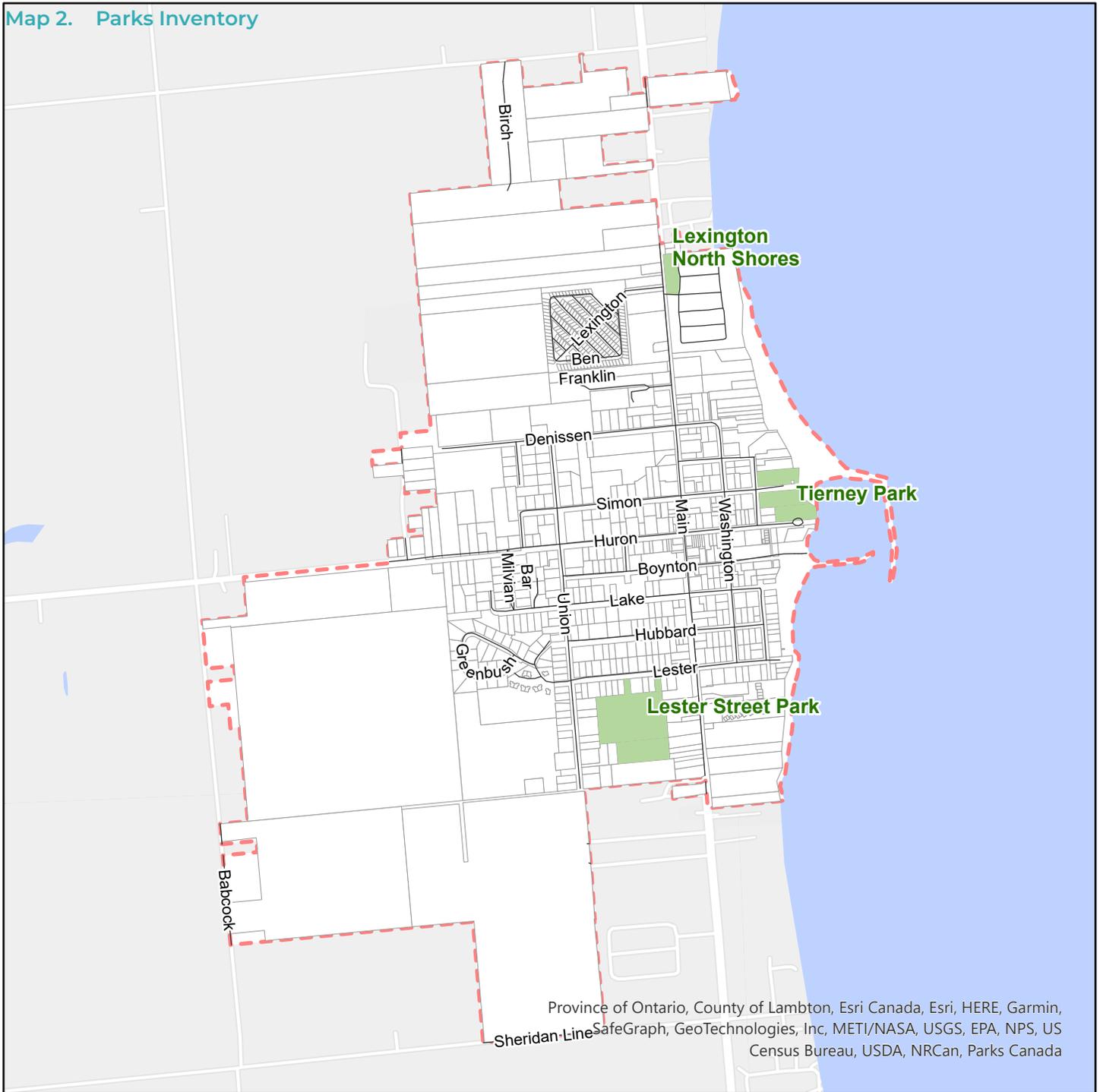
Currently within the Village of Lexington, the Village owns and operates three parks - one mini park and two neighborhood parks (see Map 2). All these facilities are owned and maintained by the Village of Lexington.

Table 5 illustrates the existing inventory of recreational equipment and fields at these facilities. Play areas include various fields for organized games such as baseball and soccer. Hard court areas include tennis courts, pickleball courts and basketball courts. Play structures are modular equipment while playground equipment includes swing sets, slides and jungle gyms.

Fitness areas consists of any fitness stations, chin-up bars, balance beams or some type of equipment to facilitate a workout. Passive areas include picnic areas or nature/hiking trail/foot paths.

The inventory indicates that Lexington currently provides some play equipment and facilities, but many of these facilities are nearing or past their useful service life and in need of repair and/or replacement. Further, as the facilities were largely planned and installed many years ago, the facility provision does not meet current demand or trends in recreation.

Map 2. Parks Inventory



Park Location

Village of Lexington, Michigan

October 12, 2022

LEGEND

-  Parks
-  Village Boundary
-  Bodies of Water



0 500 1,000
Feet

Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Village of Lexington, 2022. McKenna 2022.



TIERNEY PARK

Neighborhood Park | 2 acres



Tierney Park, located on the Village's waterfront, provides active and passive recreation opportunities for a variety of age groups. It includes beach access and is utilized by both tourists and Village residents.



LESTER STREET COMMUNITY PARK

Neighborhood Park | 8 acres



Lester Street Community park is located within the Village's residential neighborhood fabric and provides many outdoor recreation opportunities.



LEXINGTON NORTH SHORES

Mini Park | 0.9 acres



The park at the Village-owned Lexington North Shores Mobile Home Community, located on the north side, provides playground and picnic facilities and includes the largest public beach access in the Village.

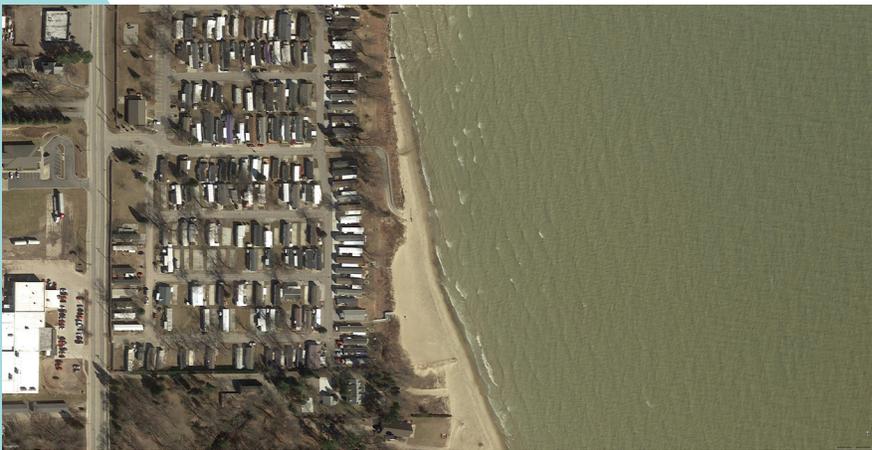


Table 5. Existing Parks

		TIERNEY PARK	LESTER STREET COMMUNITY PARK	LEXINGTON NORTH SHORES
Acres		2	8	1
Type		Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Mini Park
Parking Spaces		X	X	X
Amenities	Concessions			
	Restrooms	X	X ¹	
	Storage			
	Vending Machines			
Hard Surfaced Areas	Basketball Courts		X	
	In-Line Skating Area			
	Skate Park		X	
	Tennis Courts	X	X	
	Track			
Passive Areas	Benches	X		
	Fishing Pier			
	Pathway	X	X	
	Fitness Equipment			
	Pavilion		X	
	Picnic Areas	X		X
	Stage/Band Shelter/ Amphitheater	X		
Spectator Seating				
Play Areas	Ball Diamonds (Baseball/Softball)		X	
	Swings	X	X	X
	Slides	X	X	X
	Jungle Gym/Climbers	X	X	
	Lighting	X		
	Multiple Purpose Field			
	Pool (Outdoor)			
	Sand Volleyball Courts	X		
Soccer		X		

¹ Semi-permanent restroom facilities.

		TIERNEY PARK	LESTER STREET COMMUNITY PARK	LEXINGTON NORTH SHORES
Play Structures & Grounds	Metal Play Structure	X	X	X
	Modular Play Equipment	X	X	X
	Number of Playgrounds	1	1	1
	Resilient Surface			
	Timber Play Structure			
Indoor Facilities	Fitness Center			
	Gymnasiums			
	Ice Skating Rink			
	Meeting Rooms/Clubhouse			
	Pool			
	Stage			
	Memorial / Lake / Pond / Wetland	X		X
	Current Conditions (good, fair, poor)	Good	Fair	Fair
	Accessibility Assessment (scale 1-5)	3	2	2
	Notes	Additional amenities: Lakefront for swimming/public beach, disc golf, toy box for public use with beach and sports equipment, boat docks and launch, fish cleaning station	Additional amenities: Pickleball courts, toy box for public use with sports equipment, disc golf	Additional amenities: Public beach / swimming

LEGEND:

Based on Field Observations, August - October 2022

X = one present;

= identified present

SERVICE AREAS:

CP = Community Park

MP = Mini Park

NP = Neighborhood Park

ACCESSIBILITY

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

5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

The Village of Lexington has private and state recreation facilities in addition to the Village's three public parks. These include:

Harbor/Marina Facilities

The Village of Lexington does not own or operate any harbor or marina facilities.

Lexington Marina is a privately-owned marina that includes 71 boat slips. Private operators offer boat rentals.

The MDNR-owned and operated Lexington State Harbor, which contains 108 marina slips, is adjacent to Tierney Park.

Lexington State Harbor was the subject of a Redevelopment Study (published January 28, 2020) that presented recommendations for increasing the number of seasonal slips to improve seasonal occupancy and the financial viability of the harbor, in turn supporting future expansion. The report also recommended a series of improvement strategies, including renovation of the existing DNR restroom facilities (implemented), improved pedestrian connections, and improving infrastructure and operations.

The Village of Lexington and the MDNR have a long-standing and cooperative relationship relative to the DNR's ownership and operation of the Lexington State Harbor, and the MDNR's operation of leased waterfront property owned by the village. The Village and the MDNR share a common vision for improving the Lexington State Harbor, the Village-owned and MDNR-operated assets, and Tierney Park.

The Village of Lexington acknowledges and intends to fulfill its obligations and commitments as described in the Memorandum of Understanding dated January 25, 2022, by and between the Village of Lexington and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and intends to continue to collaborate and work in good faith with the MDNR for the improvements of Lexington State Harbor, Village-Owned and MDNR-operated assets, and Tierney Park.

REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCES

Regional recreation areas are large facilities serving people within a broad geographic area. The region has been defined as the area within roughly a one-half to one hour driving radius of Lexington. Table 6 summarizes and locate these regional facilities. The size and type of facilities vary.

Table 6. Existing Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

FACILITIES ON SITE	Croswell-Lexington Community Schools	Historic Barn Theater	Huron Shores Golf Course	Kautz Shore Lanes	Lake Huron Campground	Lakeport State Park	Lakeview Hills Golf Resort and Conference Center	Putt in 4 Paws	Port Sanilac Harbor	Sanilac County Forester Park	Sanilac County Historical Village & Museum	Sanilac County Lexington Park	Sanilac Perto Glyphs, Michigan Historical Museum System	Sanilac State Game Area	Thumb Trail for Kayaks & Canoes	Township Bicycle Path
Acres						565				68	240	27	240	900	103 miles	4 miles
Camping					X	X				X		X				
Picnic Areas					X	X			X	X		X				
Concession Stands/ Bathrooms	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X				
Playground/ Play area	X				X	X			X							
Boat Launch									X							
Boat or Canoe Rental															X	
Swimming/ Beach						X			X	X		X				
Hunting/ Fishing														X		
Cross Country Skiing														X		
Snowmobiling																
Sledding																
Ice Skating																
Riding Stables																

FACILITIES ON SITE	Croswell-Lexington Community Schools	Historic Barn Theater	Huron Shores Golf Course	Kautz Shore Lanes	Lake Huron Campground	Lakeport State Park	Lakeview Hills Golf Resort and Conference Center	Putt in 4 Paws	Port Sanilac Harbor	Sanilac County Forester Park	Sanilac County Historical Village & Museum	Sanilac County Lexington Park	Sanilac Perto Glyphs, Michigan Historical Museum System	Sanilac State Game Area	Thumb Trail for Kayaks & Canoes	Township Bicycle Path
Nature Center/ Visitor Center/ Education						X					X					
Hiking Trails										X			X	X		
Biking Trails																X
Marina									X							
Pool	X				X											
Court Sports	X									X		X				
Field Sports	X															
Fitness Center							X									
Golf/Driving Range			X				X	X								

HISTORICAL RECREATION SITES

There are no known recreational sites or structures that have historical significance within the Village limits.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

A variety of recreation programs is offered in the Village of Lexington. Many activities are organized by private groups, including:

- Cros-Lex AYSO Region 1285 Soccer Club
- Cros-Lex Little League (baseball)
- PHASD Basketball League
- Bowling League
- Cros-Lex Pee-Wee Football
- Cros-Lex Cheer
- Cros-Lex Little League (softball)
- Lexington Pickleball League
- Lexington Volleyball Club

03

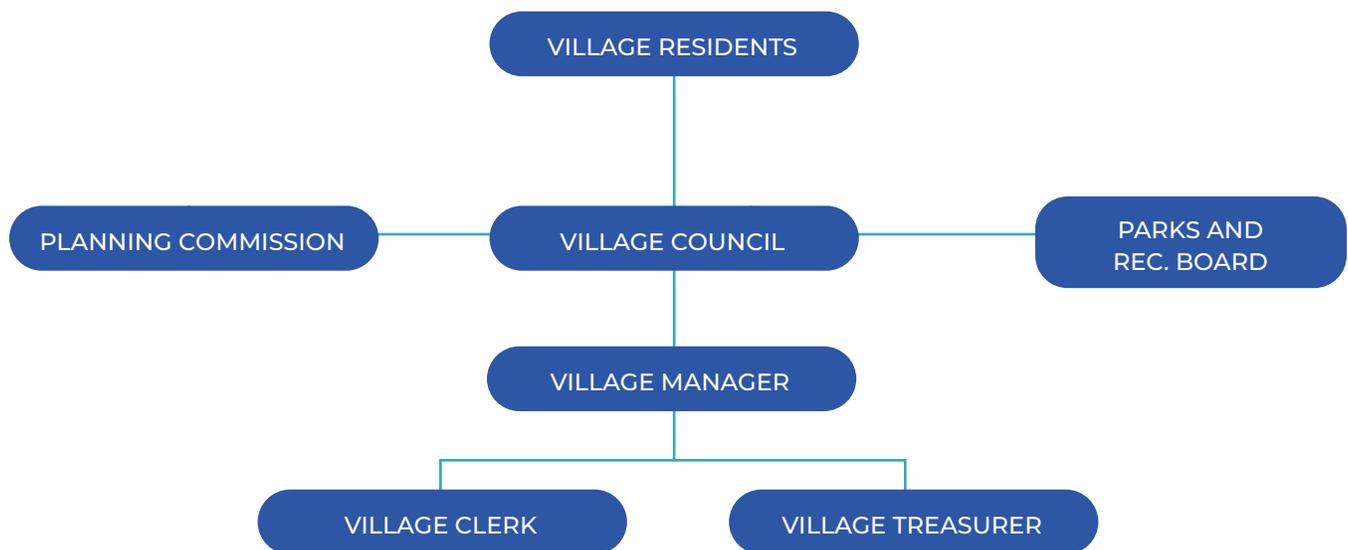
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Figure 1 illustrates the administrative structure currently in place.

The Village Council controls the development and administration of parks and recreation within the Village. The Village Manager and the Department of Public Works (DPW) operates, maintains, and repairs Village facilities. The Parks and Recreation Board is currently comprised of 6 members (although it is a seven-member board). The Parks and Recreation Board is “in charge of insuring the adequacy of the Village parks and develops plans for facilities and services that would enhance recreational activities.”

Figure 1. Village of Lexington Administrative Structure



PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING

Budget

The funding for the operation and maintenance of the Village parks comes from the Village's general fund. Table 7 summarizes recent, current and projected expenditures for parks and recreation in Lexington. These expenditures include salaries for maintenance, supplies, and capital outlays. Vendor permits have historically contributed a modest amount of revenue to the Recreation/Parks department budget, but no permit revenue is budgeted in the 2022-2023 cycle.

Table 7. Budget

RECREATION / PARKS	2022-23 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES (\$)
DPW Wages, Overtime, Benefits, Insurance	42,700
Supplies	20,000
Utilities	1,300
Contracted Services	13,600
Maintenance	10,000
Liability Insurance	1,006
Capital Outlay	5,000
TOTAL RECREATION / PARKS	\$93,606

Current and Potential Funding Sources

There are several existing or potential funding sources available for parks and recreation facility improvements. In addition to the Village's General Fund, other potential sources of funding for parks and recreation include: a dedicated millage (such as a land acquisition millage), user fees, revenue bonds, donation of land and/or easements, and contractual agreements involving privatization. Following is a brief description of current funding sources and other potential sources the community may consider:

GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is the basic operating fund for the Village of Lexington. It is also the traditional source of operating funds for parks and recreation. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees are usually channeled through the General Fund.

MILLAGE

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

USER FEES

Fees can be charged by the community to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities throughout Michigan have established user fees for tennis courts, use of lighted athletic fields, and use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in the municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

BOND PROGRAMS

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

- **General Obligation Bonds:** General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.
- **Revenue Bonds:** Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. For example, revenue bonds could be issued for construction of a concession and restroom facility at one of the community parks.
- **Special Assessment Bonds:** Special Assessment Bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

Following is a summary of the three most well-known recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for communities that have an up-to-date recreation plan:

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF)

Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor-recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, ballfields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least 25 percent of the project cost are required. There is no minimum or maximum amount for acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000.

There are three special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Proposals will receive special attention if they:

- Are located within U.S. Census Bureau Metropolitan Statistical Areas;
- Increase environmental education facilities statewide; but particularly in urban areas; and
- Acquire land or develop trail ways that contribute to the development of a statewide trail network.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

Administered eligible projects include community recreation and trailway improvements. These are grants of \$10,000 to \$250,000 to local units of government for development of facilities such as ballfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas; and including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through federal appropriations. The grant match basis is 50 percent MDNR/50 percent local.

RECREATION PASSPORT

The Recreation Passport program is funded through proceeds of park passes purchased for admission to State Parks in Michigan. Grants of between \$7,500 and \$75,000 are available to communities mainly for the improvement of existing parks, though new park development is technically eligible.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, PTO's (Parent Teacher Organizations/Associations) and community organizations will often 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 or facilities.

Foundations

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

Lease or Contractual Agreements

The Village of Lexington could consider contracts with private entrepreneurs to provide services at Village-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Typically, the privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing the Village's administrative costs.

Public Use Conveyances

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

GRANT HISTORY

Though the Village of Lexington does not regularly receive grant funding for maintenance or improvements to its parks, it has been a recipient of grant funds for specific capital projects in the past. Table 8 provides a description of the projects for which the Village received grant funding.

Table 8. Lexington Grant History

PROJECT YEAR / PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT TITLE	GRANT AMOUNT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
90-229	Village Harbor Park	\$123,000	Village Harbor Park improvements

04

BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

This Chapter describes the public input received, analysis of existing facilities, and basis for the Action Plan found in Chapter 6.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

Recreation Opinion Survey

An important component of the public engagement for the Village of Lexington' update to its Recreation Plan. The survey received **185** responses.

Survey Results

PARK ASSETS

Respondents were asked to provide their opinion on the Village's greatest recreational assets. Some of the most popular responses to this question include:

- The beach
- Walkability
- Lake Huron
- Pickleball courts
- DNR boat launch
- Music in the park

VISITING LEXINGTON'S PARKS

Respondents were asked if they (or a household member) have visited the following recreation facilities in the past year. Responses include:

PARK FACILITY	YES	NO
Tierney Park	98%	2%
Lester Street Community Park	64%	36%
Lexington North Shores	48%	52%

Further, respondents were then asked to indicate how their experience was when they visited each park facility. Responses include:

PARK FACILITY	VERY SATISFIED	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED
Tierney Park	55%	36%	4%	3%
Lester Street Community Park	19%	36%	20%	7%
Lexington North Shores	16%	26%	17%	14%

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on suggested improvements to the existing facilities that would incentivize more use. Some of the most common responses include:

- More activities / fitness equipment
- More parking
- Dog park
- A walking track
- Adult exercise stations
- A bigger public beach
- More updated playground and playscape equipment
- More wheelchair accessibility
- More picnic areas
- Hiking trails
- More biking trails

PARK ACCESS

Respondents were asked to note how long they are willing to drive to a park.

- Less than 10 minutes: 39%
- 11-20 minutes: 36%
- 21-30 minutes: 13%
- More than 30 minutes: 12%

Respondents were asked to note how long they are willing to walk to a park.

- Less than 10 minutes: 43%
- 11-20 minutes: 44%
- More than 20 minutes: 13%

The next question asked respondents how often they would ride their bicycle to access parks and recreational assets.

- A couple times per week: 18%
- A couple times per month: 14%
- At least once per month: 6%
- A couple times per year: 13%
- At least once per year: 4%

PARK IMPRESSIONS

Overall, respondents indicated the following levels of satisfaction with parks maintenance, appearance, and cleanliness.

- Satisfied: 52%
- Somewhat satisfied: 34%
- Unsatisfied: 9%
- Strongly unsatisfied: 4%

If a respondent has a person with disabilities in their household, they were then asked to provide a response on what would make the Village's parks more user-friendly (responses in descending order):

- N/A (no one with disability in our household): 59%
- Accessible waterfront access: 28%
- Paved trails: 21%
- Accessible parking: 20%
- Flatter, easier grades: 17%
- Accessible playgrounds: 15%
- Accessible spectators' viewing areas: 13%
- Interpretive signage: 1%

Respondents were asked to select the reasons that prevent them from using any of the Village's recreation facilities, programs, and parks (in descending order):

- None/no opinion: 44%
- Availability of parking: 21%
- Facilities do not have the right equipment: 18%
- Facilities are not well maintained: 17%
- Program or facility not offered: 11%
- Quality of programs is poor: 7%
- Facilities are too hard to reach, poor access: 5%
- Online registration for programs is too difficult: 5%
- Security is insufficient: 5%
- I do not know the location of parks and facilities: 3%
- Poor customer service by staff: 2%
- Too far from residence: 1%
- Participate in programs provided by other communities or organizations: 1%
- Registration for programs is too difficult: 1%
- Program times are not convenient: 1%
- Fees are too high: 0%

Respondents then selected which activities, programs, and facilities are needed in the Village:

• Adult fitness and wellness	56.00%
• Adult/Senior swim	33.71%
• Arts and crafts	24.00%
• At-risk programs for youth	12.00%
• Baseball/softball	14.29%
• Basketball	8.00%
• Bicycling-road	32.57%
• Bike rental	24.57%
• Canoeing/kayaking	34.86%
• Cultural/historical programs	16.57%
• Dance	13.71%
• Disc golf	14.29%
• Dog park (off leash)	33.71%
• Fishing	17.71%
• Football	1.14%
• Gymnastics	2.29%
• Hiking/walking trails	42.29%
• Jazzercise	6.86%
• Martial arts	1.14%
• Nature educational programs	20.00%
• Pickleball	46.29%
• Picnicking	18.29%
• Playgrounds	25.71%
• Programs for people with disabilities	12.00%
• Self-defense	6.29%
• Senior fitness and wellness	40.57%
• Skateboard/bike park	11.43%
• Sledding	18.29%
• Soccer	6.86%
• Special events/festivals	21.71%
• Swimming	15.43%
• Tennis	12.00%
• Volleyball	1.50%
• Youth fitness and wellness	14.77%
• Youth and teen summer camps	12.50%

NEW PROGRAMS

Respondents provided a short answer response as to their opinions on new amenities or programs they would add to the Village's parks and recreation system. The most common responses include:

- Pickleball courts
- Dog park
- New playground equipment
- More walking and biking paths, especially along the lake shore
- Winter events
- Programs for seniors or senior center
- Picnic tables and barbecue stations
- Swimming pool
- Yoga classes or yoga in the park

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Age Range

- 65 and older: 43%
- 50-64: 41%
- 35-49: 13%
- 18-34: 4%
- 17 and younger: 0%

Residence location

- I am a resident of the Village of Lexington: 56%
- I am not a resident of the Village of Lexington, but I live in Sanilac County: 22%
- Elsewhere: 22%

SPREADING THE WORD

Best way to inform about Lexington trails, parks facilities, and recreational programs:

- Advertisements 19.89%
- Brochures/flyers 36.36%
- Community calendar of events 52.84%
- E-mail blasts 35.80%
- Friends and neighbors 22.16%
- Municipality website 38.07%
- Social media 75.00%
- Word of mouth 18.75%

Summary

Overall, survey responses indicate an overall satisfaction with the Village's parks and recreation facilities. As the Village moves into implementation phase of the 5-Year Recreation Plan, consideration should be given to the following items:

- More pickleball courts
- Updated playground equipment at all playgrounds
- Adult fitness and wellness stations
- More walking and biking paths
- Opportunities for water recreation, such as kayaking and canoeing
- Opportunities for more adult and senior programming, such as swim, senior activities, recreation leagues, arts and crafts, nature walks, and others
- Exploring the availability of parking and if more parking is needed at each park

RECREATION DEFICIENCIES

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

Service Areas

Map 3 illustrates the typical service area by mini and neighborhood parks in Lexington. The map indicates that the majority of the Village is underserved by pocket / mini parks. However, the Village is largely served by a park of some capacity, be it a neighborhood park or a mini park. The parks service area associations in the Village of Lexington are as follows:

- Mini Park: 0.25 mile service area (Lexington North Shores)
- Neighborhood Park: 0.5 mile service area (Tierney Park and Lester Street Park)

The eastern portion of the Village is not served by a park facility. However, it should be noted that the areas underserved by parks include mostly industrial and agricultural land. On the northernmost portion of the Village, a few rural residential homes are underserved by parks facilities.

Existing Facilities

Table 9 outlines the provision of outdoor recreation facilities compared to national averages for all park and recreation agencies, and the median number of residents per facility type for agencies serving populations of 20,000 people or less. These standards provide a frame of reference for minimum standards for different recreation facilities based on existing and projected population. According to this analysis, the Lexington project area generally meets standards for multiple facilities such as sports fields/courts, playground equipment and other recreation activities.

The raw numbers do not address the quality of existing parks and recreation facilities. Upon closer examination, deficiencies or limitations are apparent because of the maintenance, level of development and individual size of existing open space available. **The condition of many of these facilities warrant attention and renovation/replacement within the time frame of this plan.**

Accessibility

The assessment of accessibility in Lexington parks indicates that some of the facilities in Lexington's parks are accessible, but opportunities for improvement exist.

Explored further within this Plan is the need to achieve more accessibility to Lexington's parks in terms of ADA compliance and non-motorized connectivity.

ADA Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all citizens have access to all facilities provided by the Village regardless of physical disability. Each of the Village's three parks should be updated to ensure ADA accessibility and compliance in terms of:

- Pathway resurfacing
- Sidewalk resurfacing
- Play structure equipment
- Benches and pavilions
- Signage

Further, the Village should ensure that all citizens have access to all recreation programs.

Pedestrian Linkages

The Village Master Plan, adopted in 2020, notes several recommendations to enhance and improve the Village's nonmotorized pathway and sidewalk system. In general, nonmotorized and sidewalk connectivity priorities should include:

- Sidewalks within the central business district (on both side of the street)
- Sidewalks connecting the central business district to adjacent neighborhoods
- Sidewalks to connect the elementary school to adjacent neighborhoods
- Pathways to connect to larger County and region-wide systems
- Pathways to connect to local systems, filling nonmotorized gaps

Program Deficiencies

The following program and recreational deficiencies were identified by the public survey

- Pickleball courts
- Outdated playgrounds and play equipment
- Adult fitness and wellness stations
- Pathways
- Water recreation
- Adult and senior programming

Safety

Safety and the perception of safety are important to increasing the use of existing parks. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a program adopted nationally that increases the perception of safety for a normal user and the perception of risk for a would-be offender. CPTED “is [the] proper design and effective use of the built environment which can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and an improvement in the quality of life” (National Crime Prevention Institute, 1986). Four principles are utilized:

1. The placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way as to maximize visibility (Natural Surveillance);
2. The physical guidance of people coming and going from a space by the judicious placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping and lighting (Natural Access Control);
3. The use of physical attributes that express ownership, such as fences, pavement treatments, art, signage and landscaping (Territorial Reinforcement); and
4. Maintenance.

The Village of Lexington is committed to ensuring that all parks and municipal buildings are safe and welcoming to all visitors and citizens.

Table 9. Outdoor Recreation Facilities Evaluation, Village of Lexington¹

FACILITY TYPE	PERCENT OF AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE FACILITY	PRESENCE OF CITY OWNED AND OPERATED FACILITY IN LEXINGTON	MEDIAN NO. OF RESIDENTS/ FACILITY ²	NO. FACILITIES BASED ON LEXINGTON'S POPULATION ³	NO. OF CITY OWNED AND OPERATED FACILITIES IN LEXINGTON
Playgrounds	95%	Yes	1,986	0.47	3
Tot Lots	45%	No	6,642	0.14	0
Basketball Courts	86%	Yes	3,750	0.25	1
Tennis Courts	78%	Yes	2,723	0.35	3
Pickleball Courts	18%	Yes	3,346	0.28	2
Diamond Baseball Fields (youth)	79%	Yes	3,107	0.30	1
Multipurpose Field	68%	No	4,362	0.22	0
Multipurpose - Synthetic	22%	No	12,962	0.07	0
Soccer Field	50%	No	3,504	0.27	0
Football Field	35%	No	8,004	0.12	0
Dog Parks	67%	No	11,100	0.08	0
Swimming Pool	53%	No	8,637	0.11	0
Community Gardens	51%	No	8,773	0.11	0
Skate Parks	39%	Yes	11,100	0.08	1
Ice Rinks (Outdoors)	18%	0	7,997	0.12	0
Golf Course (18-hole)	29%	0	9,183	0.10	0
Driving Range Stations	26%	0	5,055	0.19	0

¹ Based on NRPA Metrics published in the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

² Based on data from communities with a population of less than 20,000 people.

³ This column compares Lexington's population to the average national provision of these facilities. Based on the Village's U.S. Census 2020 population count of 943.

Table 10. Comparison to Accepted Standards, Village of Lexington

LEXINGTON COMMUNITY COMPARISON TO ACCEPTED STANDARDS	RECOMMENDED MINIMUM ACREAGE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS ¹	TOTAL PARK ACREAGE IN LEXINGTON ²	TYPICAL ACREAGE FOR THE POPULATION ³	SURPLUS (+) / DEFICIENCY (-)
Mini-Parks ³	0.25	0.9	0	+1
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	10	0	+10
Community Parks	5.0	0	0	-5
Regional Parks	5.0	0	0	Not Applicable ⁴
Special Use Facilities	Variable	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Linear Parks (approximate miles)	Variable	0	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

¹ Based on National Recreation and Parks Association metrics.

² Equals sum of Village Parks acreage.

³ The need for mini-parks may also be addressed partially by subdivision common areas, apartment, condominium recreation areas (acreage not determined).

⁴ It would be misleading to assess the adequacy of regional park resources based on recommended acreage for the Village's population, since the regional resource must serve a much broader segment of the metropolitan area.

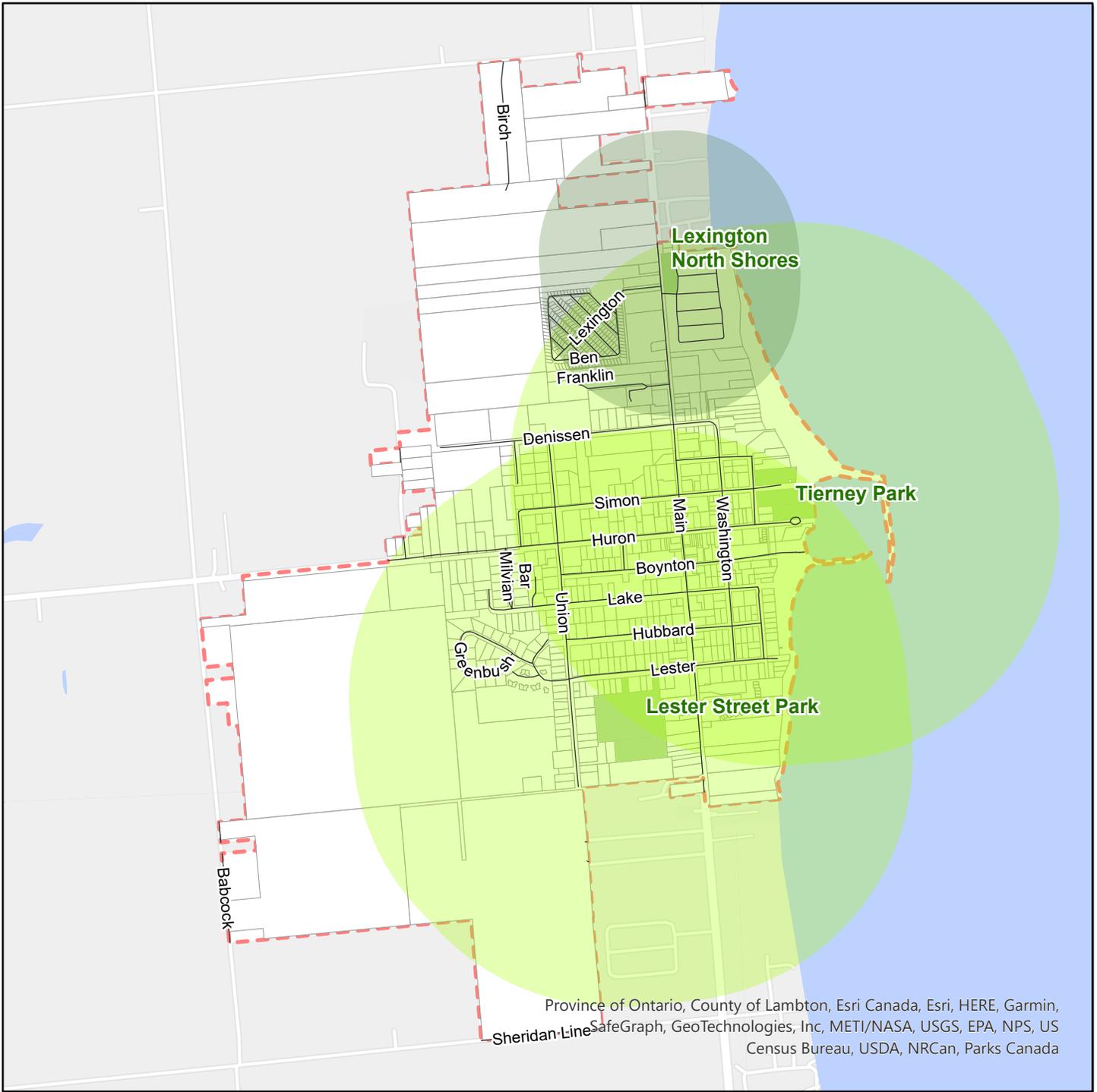
Table 11. Analysis of Existing Facilities, Village of Lexington

TYPE OF FACILITY	RECREATION STANDARDS ¹	LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FACILITIES	COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS
Mini-Parks	Mini-Parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Lexington North Shores is the Village's only Mini-Park, totaling approximately 0.9 acres. Only residents in the northeast end of the Village have access to this park.	<p>The NRPA recommends 0.25 to 0.50 mini-park acreage per 1,000 residents.</p> <p>A mini-park should be located within a five-minute walk from all residents. More pocket parks should be developed in the Village as land acquisition or residential development/redevelopment opportunities arise. Areas within (or adjacent to) the central business district would be prime locations for pocket parks.</p>
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide areas for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks are generally 15 acres or more in size and serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within ¼ to ½ mile radius from the neighborhood they serve.	Lexington has two parks classified as a neighborhood park even though they are less than 15 acres. These parks include Tierney Park and Lester Street Community Park.	<p>One to two acres of neighborhood parks are recommended per 1,000 residents.</p> <p>There are a number of necessary improvements to the Village's Neighborhood Parks planned as part of this document's Action Plan (Table 12)</p>

TYPE OF FACILITY	RECREATION STANDARDS ¹	LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FACILITIES	COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS
Community Parks	Community Parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from several neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas for intense recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities.	The Village of Lexington has no community parks within its boundary.	The NRPA's metric for community parks is 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents.
Regional/ Metropolitan Parks	Regional parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail use. Many also include active play areas.	The Area is well served by regional parks and facilities.	Regional parks typically serve several communities within a one-hour drive. Partnerships with regional local, county, and state facilities may be explored to fill existing voids within the Village's Park and recreation system.
Special Use/ Conservancy Parks	Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities, such as golf courses, nature centers, outdoor theaters, interpretative centers, or facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment. Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment may be the primary focus with recreation use as a secondary objective.	The Village of Lexington does not have facilities such as golf courses, nature centers, outdoor theaters, interpretative centers, or facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment within its boundary.	If areas cannot be identified within the Village where these facilities can be developed, then partnerships with neighboring communities and school districts to share facilities should be considered, if and when the community desires these types of facilities.

TYPE OF FACILITY	RECREATION STANDARDS ¹	LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FACILITIES	COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS
Passive Parks	The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas and other pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments and fountains, and historical features.	All three parks within the Village include elements of passive recreation. These facilities include benches, picnic areas, pavilions, fitness equipment, and walking paths.	These facilities should be preserved and maintained in the Village. As the community survey indicates, more consideration should be given to passive recreation opportunities for adults and seniors. Especially given the Village's higher median age.
Linear Parks	A linear park is any area developed for one or more modes of recreation travel, such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, canoeing, horseback riding, and pleasure driving.	There are no identifiable linear parks within the Village.	Not Applicable.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources: Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983, Lancaster, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).



Province of Ontario, County of Lambton, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, NRCAN, Parks Canada

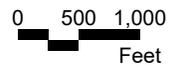
Park Service Area

Village of Lexington, Michigan

October 12, 2022

LEGEND

- Parks
- Neighborhood Park (0.5 Miles Service Area)
- Mini Park (0.25 Mile Service Area)
- Village Boundary
- Bodies of Water



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Village of Lexington, 2022. McKenna 2022.

05

ACTION PLAN

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

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals should be broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable results that the community works toward accomplishing.

FACILITIES

01

Improve and enhance the recreational opportunities in Lexington Parks.

- Objective | Monitor and repair/replace outdated playground equipment with updated structures as necessary.
- Objective | Include greater variety of play equipment that appeals to all ages.
- Objective | Increase playground accessibility, including complying with ADA requirements at minimum.

02

Provide both passive and active multi-generational recreation opportunities for the community.

- Objective | Improve the quality of year-round opportunities available to Village residents.

03

Provide, promote, and encourage the establishment and maintenance of non-motorized trails, paths and connections.

- Objective | Develop a pedestrian pathway system throughout the Village to encourage interaction and communication, improve pedestrian safety, and provide linkages between Village parks and Lake Huron.

PROGRAMMING

04

Provide the community with municipal recreation, leisure and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to all residents.

- Objective | Organize physical activities for older residents.
- Objective | Create new programs that provide inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth/preschoolers.
- Objective | Seek new partnerships for programming with non-profit, institutional and public-sector partners.
- Objective | Solicit and apply for state and local grants for recreation, leisure, and cultural arts programs.

05

Preserve and enhance the Lake Huron shoreline by providing appropriate recreational opportunities suitable to the Great Lakes waterfront area.

- Objective | Increase public awareness of beach areas and lake access, increasing the utilization of beach access at municipal facilities.
- Objective | Seek partnership opportunities to provide swimming, canoeing and kayaking opportunities, identified as desired by the public input process for this plan.

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

06

Meet the diverse recreational needs of residents and regional visitors.

- Objective | Create an administrative Parks and Recreation Department, with a Director on Village staff.
- Objective | Promote and solicit community involvement thereby fostering a sense of pride and ownership of the community parks and recreation program.

ACTION PLAN

Table 12 is a summary of actions that the Village and its partners should undertake during the planning period, and beyond; these activities are discrete and consistent with the Goals and Objectives, public input received, and the analysis of the Village’s parks and recreation needs.

Table 12. Summary of Action Items, Village of Lexington

ISSUE	FINDING/OBSERVATION	RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS
Develop and Enhance Playgrounds	<p>Urgent Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing equipment may need replacement or repair over life of this plan. The facilities at Tierney Park are of particular concern with regard to current state of repair. • Maintain industry standard fall zones. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace and repair equipment as it becomes obsolete or unsafe, utilizing modular equipment. 2. Use resilient surfacing and make accessible to all citizens (ADA compliance at minimum).
Maintenance	<p>Urgent Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some outdoor hard courts, especially the tennis courts at Lester Street Park, need resurface or replacement. • Parking facilities at Lester Street Park are in need of repair, resurfacing, and additional infrastructure to address drainage problems. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake annual evaluation and budgeting process so that maintenance of existing facilities is prioritized. 2. Continuously evaluate playground structures for maintenance / safety deficiencies, and prioritize repair / replacement when present. 3. Repair, resurface, and address drainage issues at Lester Street Park.
Enhance Beach Access and Enjoyment	<p>Need Identified:</p> <p>This planning processes identified a need to provide additional opportunities that enhance the shoreline experience. The Village endeavors to redevelop vacant property at Boynton and Washington to add amenities and public parking for Village commercial areas and the beach.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add a Ship Viewing station, including a deck with telescopes and benches, on Village-owned property at the corner of Washington and Boynton streets, in conjunction with the creation of more public parking in the village.

ISSUE	FINDING/OBSERVATION	RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS
Facility Deficiencies	<p>Need Identified:</p> <p>Engaged stakeholders identified specific recreation needs, including the following that may be good to develop based on public input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional pickleball court. • Adult fitness equipment at neighborhood parks • An off-leash dog park. • Additional hiking and walking trails. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunities to develop these facilities should be investigated over the course of the time period covered by this plan (on an annual basis). 2. Community need for these facilities is offset by existing regional facilities and partnerships. 3. At minimum, redesign and upgrade baseball,/softball and soccer fields at Lester Park.
Connectivity and Accessibility	<p>Need Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged residents expressed a desire for additional walking amenities, including hiking and biking trails . Engaged residents also expressed a desire for additional wheelchair accessibility. • The Lexington Master Plan notes several recommendations to enhance and improve the Village’s nonmotorized pathway and sidewalk system. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and repair existing parks pathways to ensure ADA Compliance, especially the Tierney Park wheelchair-accessible beach access. 2. Add additional sidewalks and repair or replace existing sidewalks as necessary to ensure accessibility. 3. Create paved, accessible paths into and within Lester Street Park. 4. Evaluate the feasibility of and initiate design of additional biking and walking trails.
Geographic Distribution	<p>Future Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents and stakeholders engaged during public process did not indicate a dissatisfaction with location / distribution of parks, and Lexington fares well regarding neighborhood parks provision compared to national standards. • National standards indicate that there is more opportunity for mini parks, so that every Lexington resident is within a five-minute walk of a park or green space. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify vacant or under-utilized land for future acquisition, prioritized in areas not currently serviced by a pocket or neighborhood park.



235 East Main Street, Suite 105

Northville, Michigan 48167

T: 248-596-0920

F: 248-596-0930

www.mcka.com

John Jackson, AICP . . . President

Paul Urbiel, AICP Project Manager

Danielle Bouchard, AICP Project Planner

Erin Raine Graphic Designer