



Benton Charter Township

5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

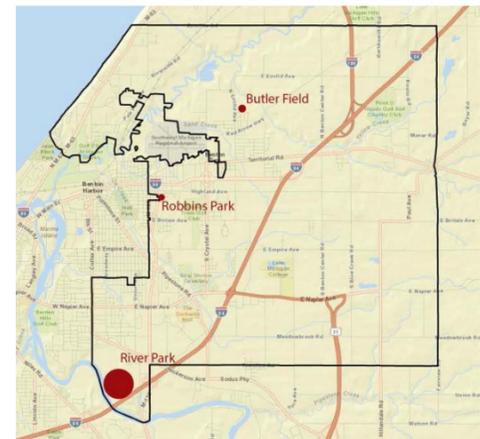
What is a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan and why do we need it?

The Plan serves as a decision guide regarding the parks and recreational facilities owned and run by The Township. Planning for improvements, determining maintenance needs, and forecasting future uses are important decisions to be made. The Plan is also a requirement in applying for Michigan Department of Natural Resource Recreation Grants.

What facilities are covered in the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan?

While the plan takes into consideration the many outdoor recreational opportunities in the area, the plan focuses on the properties owned and run by The Township.

Park Type	Park Name	Size (acres)	Service Area
School – Park	Butler Field	7 ac approx.	Neighborhood/School
Neighborhood	Robbins Park	5.75 ac	Immediate Neighborhood
Special Use Community	River Park	63.7	Community/Region



What are the main points of The Plan?

The Plan fulfills MDNR requirements regarding Community Description, Administrative Structure, Recreation Inventory and Public Input. The development of Goals for parks and corresponding Objectives and Action Program is very important to public input on. This information is as following from the Draft 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan:

Goal: Use Park Operation Funding Efficiently and Effectively

- Focus maintenance efforts on high use park properties and areas
- Consolidate uses and plan improvements to reduce maintenance costs
- Complete planning and design studies to create park facilities that are flexible to accommodate a wide range of uses and constructed to last with minimal maintenance issues

Goal: Focus on Natural Assets and Successful Uses

- Create park amenities based on the natural assets of the park property
- Increase areas of natural landscape in park areas to encourage environmental stewardship and education
- Improve and add amenities that encourage existing successful park uses

Goal: Plan for recreational opportunities that build upon multi-jurisdictional and Statewide efforts and priorities

- Trail systems such as the proposed County-wide Blossom Land Trail and the existing Harbor Shores Trail system can add recreational benefit to Township residents
- 2008-2012 State of Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan lists Fishing, Wildlife Viewing and Boating as primary outdoor recreational activities that are extremely popular with Michigan visitors and residents alike
- 2008-2012 State of Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan lists increased demand of more comprehensive trail systems and flexible multi-use fields to encourage outdoor athletics, as well as increased access and education of hunting, fishing and trapping

Goal: Improve Access, Security and Safety within Park Properties

- Encourage more positive uses within parks through facility improvements and partnerships with durable agencies and organizations
- Identify specific problem issues on each site and address concerns through positive change on site
- Work with local law enforcement to identify effective strategies to improve safety