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Table of Contents

| Community Description | 7 |
|--|----|
| Location | 9 |
| Demographic Overview | 9 |
| Administrative Structure | 13 |
| Authorization | 15 |
| Organizational Structure | 15 |
| Sources of Funding | 15 |
| Recreation Budget | 15 |
| Relationships with Other Public Agencies | 16 |
| Recreation and Resource Inventories | 19 |
| Parks and Recreation Facilities in Raisin Charter Township | 21 |
| Lenawee County Recreation Facilities | 23 |
| Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities | 24 |
| Resource Inventory | 25 |
| Description of the Planning and Public Input Processes | 29 |
| Description of the Planning and Public Input Processes | 31 |
| Goals and Objectives | 33 |
| Goals and Objectives | 36 |
| Action Plan | 41 |
| Action Plan | 43 |
| Appendices | |
| A. Adoption Documents | 47 |
| B. Township Location Map | 51 |
| C. Recreational Facilities Map | 55 |
| D. Public Input | 59 |
| Maps | |
| Location Map | 53 |
| Recreational Facilities Map | 57 |

CHAPTER ONE

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This Recreation Plan outlines the existing recreational facilities and characteristics of Raisin Charter Township. It evaluates current opportunities and the socio-economic context of the township and its surrounding areas. The plan identifies community recreational needs and outlines strategies for improvement, securing funding, and fostering partnerships. Additionally, it aims to promote future collaboration across municipal boundaries.

Raisin Charter Township is located in Lenawee County, in the southeastern part of Michigan. It is situated approximately 45 minutes south of Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport, and 45 minutes north of Toledo. The township covers an area of 36.16 square miles, with 35.77 of that encompassing land and 0.39 miles of water area. Of that water, all is within the River Raisin watershed; spanning a total of 135 miles and referred to as "the most crooked river in the world"

The history of Raisin Township dates back to its establishment in 1826. The area was originally part of the Northwest Territory, created by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. Early settlers were attracted to the region by its rich soil and dense forests, which were ideal for agriculture. The River Raisin played a crucial role in the township's early development, providing a source of water and transportation.

One notable historical event associated with the area is the Battle of the River Raisin during the War of 1812. This battle, also known as the Battle of Frenchtown, was a significant conflict between American forces and British-Canadian troops, along with their Native American allies. The battle resulted in a devastating defeat for the Americans and a subsequent massacre, which had a lasting impact on the region's historical narrative.

In addition to its early agricultural roots, Raisin Township has a rich history of involvement in the antislavery movement. The Logan Female Antislavery Society, founded in 1832 by Elizabeth Chandler, was the first antislavery society in the Michigan Territory. This society, along with other local activists, played a crucial role in the Underground Railroad, helping to guide escaped slaves to freedom. One of the hiding places was underneath Sutton Place off Sutton Road.

Today, Raisin Township continues to honor its historical heritage while providing a vibrant community for its residents. The township's parks and recreation plan aims to enhance the quality of life by developing and maintaining recreational facilities and programs that reflect the needs and interests of the community³.

This chapter provides a brief assessment of the Raisin Township community demographics, including its social, household, and economic characteristics. Using this data, Township officials can establish benchmarks for comparison and plan for future recreation needs and infrastructure improvements more efficiently.

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

The demographic composition of Raisin Charter Township significantly influences its recreational needs. Understanding these characteristics helps in planning and providing include:

Population History & Projections: Establish the need for general recreational facilities based on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources criteria.

Age & Sex of the Population: Further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among various age groups and gender interests.

Household & Family /Composition: Refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced between family-oriented and individual activities.

Racial & Ethnic Composition: Refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among the various interests of racial and ethnic groups.

Disabilities of Residents: Identify the need for special recreation facilities and disability accommodations to general recreation facilities.

Income: Illustrate the need for publicly- funded recreational facilities.

Raisin Charter Township has experienced various growth phases over the past few decades, reflecting broader trends in rural population dynamics. This growth is indicative of the area's appeal and the effectiveness of local planning efforts in accommodating new residents while maintaining the community's rural character.

POPULATION THEN & NOW

According to the U.S. Census, Raisin Charter Township had a population of 7,559 in 2010. The Township experienced a 27.2% population growth between 1970 and 1980, but only a 2.7% growth rate in the following decade. Between 1990 and 2010, the Township saw double-digit growth in both decades (15.2% and 16.2%, respectively). Overall, Raisin Charter Township has grown by 3,237 people, or about 75%, over the past 40 years.

The population was recorded at 7,900 in the 2020 Decennial Census and 7,922 in the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) census. Below is a table showing the population of the Township over the preceding decades, starting in 1970 to the present day.

RAISIN TOWNSHIP POPULATION HISTORY
1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020

7,900

4,323 5,.499 5,648 5,507 7,559

TABLE 1. RAISIN TOWNSHIP POPULATION HISTORY

POPULATION PROJECTS & AGE DISTRIBUTIONS

Population projections are crucial inputs into the planning process as they provide a basis for determining future needs. However, producing accurate projections can be challenging due to numerous factors, such as birthrate, housing, migration, and employment.

This Plan uses three techniques to project the future population of Raisin Charter Township. The first two techniques involve the arithmetic and geometric projection methods. The arithmetic method determines numerical growth over the previous decade and adds it to each projected decade. The geometric technique applies the percentage growth from the 2000s to future

decades.

The third technique is the "Constant Share" method, which assumes the community will maintain an unchanging proportion of the county's population. This percentage is then applied to the Township's future population projections. In 2020, Raisin Charter Township made up approximately 8.1% of the County's total population. Using these methods, we project the future population of Raisin Charter Township as follows:

TABLE 2. RAISIN TOWNSHIP POPULATION HISTORY

| | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 | Total Increase |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Arithmetic | 5,648 | 6,507 | 7,559 | 7,900 | 8,241 | 8,582 | 8,923 | 3,275 |
| Geometric | 5,648 | 6,507 | 7,559 | 8,784 | 10,207 | 11,859 | 13,764 | 8,116 |
| Constant Share | 5,648 | 6,507 | 7,559 | 8,133 | 8,707 | 9,281 | 9,855 | 4,207 |

The age distribution shown below indicates a relatively balanced population across most age groups, with a noticeable concentration in the younger (under 5 to 44 years) and middle-aged (45 to 69 years) brackets. Notably, there is a significant drop in the population for residents aged 75 and above. Census data shows the median age of residents in Raisin Township at 40.7 years, a slight increase from 40.1 in 2010. Males (51%) comprise slightly more than half the Township's population.

TABLE 3. RAISIN TOWNSHIP POPULATION DISTRIBUTION: 2022 CENSUS PROFILE

| Population Distribution: | Population: | % of Total Population |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | - Janationi | r opanation |
| 85 years and up | 92 | 1.2 |
| 80 to 84 years | 172 | 2.2 |
| 75 to 79 years | 116 | 1.4 |
| 70 to 74 years | 301 | 3.8 |
| 65 to 69 years | 320 | 4.0 |
| 60 to 64 years | 439 | 5.5 |
| 55 to 59 years | 550 | 6.9 |
| 50 to 54 years | 582 | 7.4 |
| 45 to 49 years | 708 | 8.9 |
| 40 to 44 years | 774 | 9.8 |
| 35 to 39 years | 527 | 6.7 |
| 30 to 34 years | 377 | 4.8 |
| 25 to 29 years | 339 | 4.3 |
| 20 to 24 years | 539 | 6.8 |
| 15 to 19 years | 614 | 7.8 |
| 10 to 14 years | 637 | 8.0 |
| 5 to 9 years | 545 | 6.9 |
| Under 5 years | 290 | 3.6 |

HOUSEHOLDS

As of the 2020 Census, there were 2,850 households in Raisin Charter Township. The majority

(78.2%) of these households were comprised of families. Within the group of family households, the majority (83.5%) included families with a husband and wife present in the home. The remaining 16.5% of family homes were led by a single male or female without a spouse present. Non-family households constituted 21.8% of all households in 2020. The average household size was 2.68 people, and the average family size was 3.02 people. This indicates that most households in the township are relatively small, with a significant portion being traditional family units. The presence of non-family households, which include individuals living alone or with non-relatives, highlights the diversity in living arrangements within the community.

RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION

The Township's population is largely homogenous with 92 percent classified as white. Persons of Hispanic heritage comprised the largest minority group in the area with eight percent of the population in 2022.

DISABILITIES OF RESIDENTS

Township residents with at least one disability in 2022 comprised an estimated 11.4 percent of the population. In terms of recreation accommodation 4.5 percent of local residents have an ambulatory disability.

INCOME

The median household income for Raisin Charter Township of \$84,903 in 2022 was significantly greater than that for the U.S. (\$74,755), Michigan (\$69,183), and Lenawee County (\$63,952).

CHAPTER TWO

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

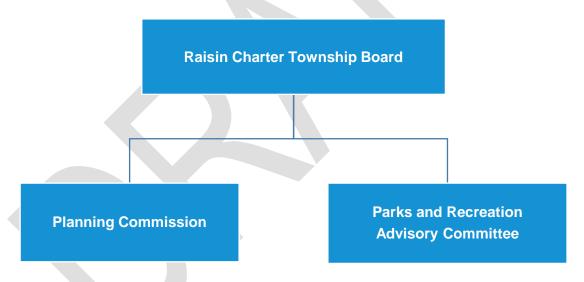
AUTHORITY

Raisin Charter Township's authority to provide public parks and recreational programs is granted by the State of Michigan. The township's parks are established under Public Act 156 of 1917, known as Recreation and Playgrounds (MCL 125.51 et seq). This legislation not only authorizes the creation of Raisin Township Parks but also the formation of the Raisin Township Parks and Recreation Committee.

ORGANIZATION

The Raisin Township Board established the Parks and Recreation Committee to oversee the development and implementation of additional recreational services and infrastructure. In addition to creating the Parks and Recreation Plan, this committee assesses community needs, seeks grant opportunities, proposes annual budget allocations, and recommends future park enhancements.

Raisin Township does not employ dedicated parks and recreation staff. Ongoing maintenance tasks, such as mowing and general upkeep, are managed by the Township's general maintenance operations. The Parks and Recreation Committee collaborates with other local commissions, boards, and committees on projects and explores opportunities for securing grants and community partnerships.



FUNDING

Raisin Township's Parks and Recreation services do not have a dedicated capital budget. The 2024 operating budget for Parks and Recreation was \$42,500 and is expected to remain relatively constant in future years. The capital budget varies annually, depending on allocations from the Township Board and any grants or donations secured for specific projects or improvements. General tax fund dollars support park maintenance and facility infrastructure, including the cost of producing this Plan. The Township also relies on outside grants, donations, and other income sources for specific projects.

Many grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from the Michigan

Department of Natural Resources as well as any applicable grants and programs for specific projects available. A stipulation of such grants is a local dollar match, which may also come from the general fund or donations.

The Michigan Transportation Fund Act (Act 51) requires that "a reasonable amount, but not less than 1%," of funds allocated to the state or a county, city, or village "shall be expended for construction or improvement of non-motorized transportation services and facilities." These funds can be used to improve roads, streets, or highways to facilitate non-motorized transportation, such as sidewalks or other appropriate measures. Coordination with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Lenawee County Road of Commission (LCRC) could result in the expenditure of Act 51 funds on non-motorized projects proposed within this document.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Raisin Township is not the sole provider of parks and recreational opportunities for local residents. The Lenawee County Parks and Recreation Department and the Adrian District Library offer programming for all ages.

Various private recreation providers are also available to residents, including the YMCA of Lenawee County, which offers fitness classes, swimming pools, and sports leagues. Local sports clubs and community centers provide additional recreational opportunities, such as youth sports leagues, adult fitness programs, and special events.

Raisin Township encourages additional partnerships with numerous private and non- profit organizations to offer recreational facilities and programs. These entities provide a range of options, including trails, sports fields, playgrounds, fitness centers, educational programs, and cultural events. The township recognizes the value of collaborating with these and other potential providers to enhance the quality and diversity of recreational services for the community.



SCHOOLS

Raisin Township collaborates with various recreational providers to offer a range of parks and recreational opportunities to residents and visitors, including four public school districts:

Tecumseh Public Schools: Serving the majority of the township, particularly the northern areas, Tecumseh Public Schools offer a wide range of recreational facilities. Tecumseh High School provides sports fields, tennis courts, and a gymnasium that are accessible to the public during non-school hours. The middle school also has a community walking path around its grounds, while Tecumseh Acres Early Learning Center features playgrounds that are well-utilized by families in the area.

Adrian Public Schools: Covering the southwestern region of the township, Adrian Public Schools provide several recreational amenities for community use. Adrian High School, for instance, has a well-maintained track and field complex and outdoor tennis courts open to residents. The elementary schools within the district, such as Lincoln Elementary, offer playgrounds and green spaces that are ideal for families and children. Additionally, Alexander Elementary has a dedicated indoor gymnasium that hosts various community events and fitness classes.

Blissfield Community Schools: Although only a small portion of the southeast corner of the township falls under this district, Blissfield Community Schools add to the local recreational opportunities. Blissfield Elementary School, for example, features a playground and basketball courts that are accessible to township residents. The district also has a community garden area near the middle school where residents can participate in gardening and environmental education programs.

Britton Deerfield School District: Serving a small section in the southeast, Britton Deerfield School has a community-use auditorium for local theater productions, public meetings, and cultural events. The High School also features soccer fields and a baseball diamond available for use by local sports leagues and recreational groups.

Outside of K-12, Lenawee County is home to several higher education institutions, including:

Adrian College: Offers modern facilities, including expanded classroom spaces, a state-of-theart science wing, a full-service bookstore, and a bistro. The campus also features athletic facilities that support various sports and recreational activities.

Siena Heights University: Provides a diverse range of programs and facilities, including a library, fitness center, and multiple recreational spaces. The university supports both traditional and adult students with amenities that foster a vibrant campus life.

Jackson College @ LISD Tech: Located in Adrian, this campus offers educational and recreational resources, including technology- equipped classrooms and spaces for community events and activities.

Together, these schools play a crucial role in providing local recreation, ensuring that high-quality recreational facilities are available not only to students but the general public as well.

QUASI-GOVERNMENT PROVIDERS

In addition to the school districts, other local, county, state, and private providers offer

recreational facilities and programs in the area. Surrounding townships and the City of Lenawee maintain parks, trails, and recreational programs accessible to Raisin Township residents. The State of Michigan also provides a variety of recreational facilities, including state game areas, wildlife areas, historic parks, and state parks. For a detailed inventory, please refer to Chapter 3.



CHAPTER THREE

RECREATION INVENTORIES

The residents of Raisin Charter Township have limited opportunities for recreation on the local, county, and regional levels. However, the neighboring communities of Adrian and Tecumseh do provide several recreational facilities and programs. Additionally the State of Michigan has a number of recreational areas nearby that are accessible to Township residents, although Michigan Department of Natural Resource boat launches are excluded from this list because they are too numerous to list. This chapter describes the recreational facilities available around the Township and its immediate area.



RAISIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION

The Township currently owns three park areas: Mitchell Memorial Park; the Osburn Subdivision Park; and the Sutton Road property. The Township also operate a Community Center in combination with its Township Offices and Fire Station at the corner of Grady Road and Occidental Highway. For a map showing the location of these facilities, see Appendix C.

An inventory of the Township's three park areas is found below, although Mitchell Memorial Park is the only developed recreational facility owned by the Township.

| Facility | Size | Description | Service Area | BFA | MDNR Grant Funding |
|--|-------------|--|---|-----|--------------------------|
| Mitchell Memorial Park | 38 acres | 8 ball diamonds, 3 soccer fields, 2 picnic pavilions, basketball court, volleyball court, small tot play structure, playground equipment, 2 horseshoe pits | Community park located on the corner of Green Highway and Gady Road | 2 | No |
| Osburn Subdivision Park | 3 acres | Undeveloped greenspace | | N/A | No |
| Sutton Road | 9 acres | Undeveloped greenspace | | N/A | No |
| Raisin Charter Township Community Center | 6 acres | Large meeting room, restrooms, and kitchen area | Community Center located on Gady Road | 2 | No |

Barrier-Free Access

It is important that recreation facilities be accessible to people with disabilities especially considering 11.4 percent of Raisin Charter Township residents had at least one disability in 2022. Each of the recreational facilities operated by Raisin Charter Township was also rated according to their level of barrier-free access.¹ The number listed in the BFA column of the inventory above equates to the barrier-free rating listed below:

BARRIER-FREE ACCESS (BFA) ANALYSIS

| KEY | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|---|
| 1 = | NONE OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES |
| 2 = | SOME OF THE FACILITIES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES |
| 3 = | MOST OF THE FACILITES/PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES |
| 4 = | THE ENTIRE PARK MEETS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES |
| 5 = | THE ENTIRE PARK WAS DEVELOPED/RENOVATED USING THE PRINCIPAL |
| | OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN |

LOCAL AREA RECREATION

In neighboring communities, there are many different park facilities that provide recreational opportunities for Township residents. Within the City of Adrian nearly 662 acres of parklands exist. However, Heritage Park, their largest at 400+ acres, is located within the boundaries of Raisin Charter Township in the west-central area.

The Kiwanis Trail, approximately 12.7 miles in length, located along the abandoned Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad corridor begins in the City of Adrian and proceeds north through the Township to the Ives and Green Highway intersection. The entire railroad corridor was purchased by a private citizen and donated to the City of Adrian, which currently maintains the corridor. Development of the trail was funded with the assistance of the Adrian Kiwanis Club.



¹ The analysis of barrier-free access was provided by the Parks and Recreation Committee, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

The City of Tecumseh provides a wide range of programs through its recreation department. They have 18 parks ranging from one acre mini-parks to a 130-acre specialty park. Many of these park facilities and programs are utilized by residents of Raisin Charter Township.

The Tecumseh Public School District operates an elementary school which occupies approximately ten acres on Sutton Road. The school grounds include two multi-feature play structures, several swings, a slide, a climbing dome, and two small soccer fields. Adjacent to the Sutton Elementary School, the Lenawee Intermediate School District operates a school for children with disabilities. This facility occupies approximately 24 acres and has minimal recreation opportunities for use by the Township.

Other privately operated recreational facilities exist within the Township, including but not limited to the following:

- Lenawee County Conservation Club
 - Archery ranges, indoor and outdoor
 - o Shooting ranges, pistol and .22 rifle
 - Trap shooting
- Fishing pond
- Raisin Valley Golf Club
- Stone Mountain Miniature Golf Course
- Camp Sequoia



BI-CENTENNIAL PARK/WOERNER WOODS NATURE AREA

LENAWEE COUNTY RECREATION

Lenawee County provides four parks, a small boat launch, and one undeveloped site of recreational facilities to its citizens. The County also operates the Lenawee County Fairgrounds within the City of Adrian. Additionally, county level park facilities are available in the neighboring counties of Jackson, Washtenaw and Monroe; however these facilities are approximately 45 minutes to an hour's drive away. For a map of Lenawee County recreational areas, see Appendix C.

| Lenawee County Recreational Areas | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Bicentennial Park | Gerber Hill Park | Iron Lake Boat Launch | Medina Park | Ramsdell Nature Park | Taylor Road Park (undeveloped) | |
| A | 70 | 40 | | 40 | 400 | 00 | |
| Acreage | 78 | 40 | 1 | 40 | 180 | 80 | |
| Picnic Shelter | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | |
| Picnic Area | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | |
| Playground | Yes | Yes | | Yes | | | |
| Softball Field | | Yes | | Yes | | | |
| Soccer Field | Yes | Yes | | | | | |
| Tennis | | | | | | | |
| Court | | | | | | | |
| Boat | | | Yes | | | | |
| Launch | | | | | | | |
| Nature | Yes | | | Yes | | | |
| Study | | | | | | | |
| Restrooms | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | |
| Hiking | Yes | | | | | Yes | |

REGIONAL RECREATION

The regional recreational facilities available to the residents of Raisin Charter Township include three state parks. As indicated on the map located in Appendix C, two of these parks, Cambridge State Historic Park, and W.J. Hayes State Park, are located in the far northwest corner of Lenawee County. The other park, Lake Hudson State Park, is located in the far southwest corner of the County.

Hidden Lake Gardens, a botanical garden west of Tipton, is operated by Michigan State University and is open to the public offering hiking and walking trails, a skywalk, nature study and interpretive displays relating to plants and the environment.

| Michigan State Parks Located in Lenawee County | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Cambridge State Historic Park | W.J. Hayes State Park | Lake Hudson State Park | | |
| | | | | | |
| Acreage | 80 | 654 | 2,796 | | |
| Campsites | N/A | 185 | 50 | | |
| Picnic Area | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Playground | | Yes | | | |
| Beach House | | Yes | | | |

| Boat Launch | | Yes | Yes |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | |
| Interpretive Center | Yes | | |
| | | | |
| Swimming | | Yes | Yes |
| | | | |
| Hunting | | | Yes |
| | | | |
| Fishing | | Yes | Yes |
| | | 163 | 163 |
| | | | l |

NATURAL RESOURCES AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

Raisin Charter Township is located in an area characterized by relatively flat, fertile topography in the northeast portion of Lenawee County, with gently rolling terrain throughout the rest of the community. Most of these lands are used for the agricultural production of corn, wheat, and soybeans.

The River Raisin runs through the Township in a north-south direction, nearly dividing it in half. It is a key natural resource for the community, characterized by wet soils and steep slopes that make much of its shoreline undevelopable. The river flows through a valley that ranges in width from a few hundred feet to nearly half a mile and is prone to flooding, creating a natural river corridor. The slopes of this valley vary from gentle inclines to steep drop-offs, and the area is predominantly covered with woodlands and wetlands, featuring a mix of maple, ash, elm, and cottonwood trees. A major focus of this Recreation Plan is to promote the preservation of this vital natural resource through partnerships and programs that encourage community education about its benefits.

The Nature Conservancy has recognized the River Raisin basin as a valuable natural resource by acquiring nearly 400 acres in the northern part of the Township, known as the Ives Road Fen, one of the largest prairie fens in Michigan. Additionally, the Michigan Nature Association owns 90 acres within the Township, ensuring these areas are protected from development and degradation. By acquiring and maintaining land in the Township, these organizations play a crucial role in preserving natural habitats, safeguarding the River Raisin, and protecting other critical environmental resources. Their efforts help maintain biodiversity and support local ecosystems, benefiting the region as a whole.

LAND USE

Land uses throughout Raisin Charter Township are diverse, reflecting the community's varied needs and resources. The most predominant land use is agriculture, which takes advantage of the township's fertile soil and favorable growing conditions. This agricultural land is primarily used for the production of corn, wheat, and soybeans, contributing significantly to the local economy and maintaining the rural character of the area.

Following agriculture, residential development is the second most common land use. This includes a mix of single-family homes, multi-family units, and residential subdivisions. The residential areas are primarily concentrated in the more developed parts of the township,

providing housing for a growing population and supporting community stability.

Industrial land use ranks third, encompassing various manufacturing and processing facilities. These industrial areas are crucial for local employment and economic development, offering jobs and supporting the township's economic base. The industrial zones are typically located in areas with good transportation access, facilitating the movement of goods and services.

Commercial, office, and business land uses are the fourth most common, providing essential services and amenities to residents. These areas include retail stores, professional offices, and service businesses that cater to the daily needs of the community. The commercial zones are often strategically located along major roads and intersections to maximize accessibility and visibility.

Extraction activities, such as mining and quarrying, constitute the fifth most common land use. These activities are generally limited to specific areas where natural resources are available and are regulated to minimize environmental impact.

The remainder of the land in Raisin Charter Township is vacant, constituting the majority of land throughout the center of the township. This vacant land is mainly attributed to the River Raisin, which flows through the township and creates areas unsuitable for farming or development due to wet soils and extreme slopes. However, this land offers significant recreational and preservation possibilities.

RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED OFF RAISIN CENTER HWY

The vacant land along the River Raisin provides a rich area for recreational activities and environmental preservation. The township can leverage this natural resource to enhance community well-being and attract visitors. Potential recreational uses for this area include:

Fishing: The River Raisin offers excellent fishing opportunities, attracting anglers from the local community and beyond.

Environmental Education Centers: Establishing centers focused on environmental education can provide valuable learning experiences for residents and visitors, promoting awareness and

conservation of natural resources.

Picnicking: Designated picnic areas along the river can offer scenic spots for families and groups to enjoy outdoor meals and gatherings.

Hiking: Trails along the river and through the wooded areas can provide recreational opportunities for hikers, nature enthusiasts, and bird watchers.

Camping: Developing camping facilities can attract outdoor enthusiasts and provide a unique way to experience the natural beauty of the township.

By promoting these recreational opportunities, Raisin Charter Township can enhance the quality of life for its residents, preserve its natural resources, and create a vibrant, attractive community for future generations.



CHAPTER FOUR

PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The development of the *Raisin Charter Township Recreation Plan:* 2025 – 2029 Edition included the following steps:

- 1. The Township recognized the need to update the Recreation Plan. The Township's Parks and Recreation Committee oversaw the development of the Plan.
- 2. Region 2 Planning Commission staff was hired to review the development of the 2025 2029 edition of the Recreation Plan.
- 3. Public input was solicited through a posting on the Township's website.
- 4. The Parks and Recreation Committee utilized the public input that was collected to revise and update the goals and objectives and action program included in the last edition of the Recreation Plan.
- 5. The Parks and Recreation Committee provided the plan for public review from December 4, 2024 through January 3, 2025 and held a public hearing on January 13, 2025.
- 6. The Township Board adopted the Plan on January 13, 2025.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

To ensure adequate public input during the preparation of the Plan, three methods used, each targeting a different demographic.

Newspaper Ad: For daily newspaper readers, older residents and those who prefer traditional media, an ad was placed in the *Adrian Daily Telegram* and *Tecumseh Herald* directing residents to an online comment box as well as a physical location at the Township Hall. Additionally, staff reviewed past surveys to gather historical data and identify unmet needs based on resident feedback.

Flyers at Local Businesses: To reach young families and busy residents, flyers were posted at the checkout and on the bulletin board at local businesses and grocery stores.

Newspaper Article and Online Post: An article was published in the *Adrian Daily Telegram* and simultaneously posted on its website. The article discussed efforts to update the recreation plan, developments since the last plan, and future improvements to the Parks and Recreation infrastructure. While the newspaper article targeted the same audience as the classified ad, the online post aimed to engage younger demographics and social media users. The Township also made a social media post linking to the article, encouraging residents to view the draft plan and submit comments.

PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

A public hearing for the plan was held by the Raisin Charter Township Board on January 13, 2025. The subject of the meeting was the update of the Recreation Plan. A notice of the meeting was distributed throughout the area (please the notice in Appendix A).

ONE MONTH REVIEW PERIOD

The recreation plan was submitted for public comment for a one month period beginning on December 4, 2024 and ending on January 3, 2025. A notice announcing the public meeting was published in the *Adrian Daily Telegram*, which serves as the paper of record for the Township, on January 3, 2025 (please see the notice in Appendix A).

The plan was available for review in the Township office. The plan was also available for review online at the Township's website (www.raisinchartertownship.com) and the Region 2 Planning Commission website (www.region2planning.com).

COMMISSION MEETINGS

All meetings of the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Township Board were open to the public.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

The required transmittal letters were sent to the Lenawee County Parks Department and the Region 2 Planning Commission (please the letters in Appendix A).

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the recreation plan was held on January 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Raisin Charter Township Office, during a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee. A notice announcing the meeting was published in the *Adrian Daily Telegram* on January 3, 2025 (please see the public notice in Appendix A). The meeting took place prior to the vote on the resolution recommending adoption of the Raisin Charter Township Recreation Plan by the Township Board (please see the meeting minutes in Appendix A).

CHAPTER FIVE

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

A Vision for Parks and Recreation

The vision for Raisin Charter Township's Parks and Recreation system is to create active, accessible, and well-connected spaces that foster a sense of community, encourage outdoor activity, and promote healthy living for all residents. Developing inclusive parks, improving recreational facilities, and strengthening connections between our community spaces is our way of ensuring that our recreation system is resilient and sustainable for current as well as future generations.

The future of Raisin Township's parks and recreational facilities relies on a clear, actionable framework that articulates a vision for community spaces that serve all residents. This chapter outlines the Goals and Objectives that will guide the development, enhancement, and maintenance of parks, trails, and recreational amenities over the coming years, ensuring they are accessible, safe, and well-connected. The goals have been crafted based on community feedback, demographic needs, and best practices in municipal parks development, focusing on accessibility, safety, connectivity, and environmental preservation.

This plan aims to balance the protection of natural resources with the enhancement of community facilities, fostering a vibrant and active environment that encourages outdoor recreation, healthy living, and improved connections between parks and key community spaces. Public input, gathered through surveys and community meetings, has played an essential role in shaping these goals and objectives, which respond to specific demographic needs and preferences, including the requirements of elderly, disabled, and low-income residents.

Accessibility and Inclusive Development

A primary focus of this plan is to ensure that Raisin Township's parks and recreational facilities meet ADA standards, especially for individuals with disabilities, while enhancing overall user experience through thoughtful design and development. Accessibility is a cornerstone of Raisin Township's commitment to creating welcoming and inclusive recreational spaces. By ensuring compliance with ADA standards, the township aims to provide equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of physical abilities, to enjoy its parks and facilities.

To support these initiatives, Raisin Township will actively pursue funding through state and federal grants, with an emphasis on projects that increase accessibility, develop multi-use pathways, and create facilities that serve diverse age groups, income levels, and areas within the township. This includes the development of accessible trails and paths, adaptive playgrounds, and other amenities designed to cater to the needs of all residents.

Community Engagement and Feedback

The following goals and objectives provide a roadmap for the township's long-term vision, prioritizing community engagement and ensuring that all residents have access to quality outdoor spaces. This plan emphasizes the need for continuous feedback from the community to better understand their needs and preferences. By engaging with residents, the township aims to create a sense of ownership and pride in local parks and recreational areas. This inclusive approach ensures that the development and enhancement of recreational facilities are aligned

with the community's aspirations, ultimately fostering a healthier, more active, and connected community.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

These Goals and Objectives incorporate a range of initiatives to meet the unique needs of Raisin Township residents. Each goal is accompanied by specific actions and projects identified through public input, demographic data, and best practices in park planning. These actions are designed to be adaptable, with priorities established annually based on available funding and evolving community needs. Flexibility in implementation ensures that Raisin Township can respond effectively to changing circumstances and emerging opportunities, maintaining a dynamic and responsive parks and recreation system.

Goal 1: Enhance Accessibility and Inclusivity in Township Parks

Objective 1.1: Upgrade Existing Facilities for ADA Compliance: Assess and improve playgrounds, sports fields, and other facilities to ensure full ADA compliance, making parks accessible for all residents, including those with mobility challenges.

Objective 1.2: Ensure New Constructions Meet ADA Standards: Require all new amenities, including shelters, restrooms, and recreational facilities, to meet or exceed ADA standards, creating inclusive spaces for a diverse range of users.

Objective 1.3: Secure Funding for Accessibility Enhancements: Actively apply for state and federal grants focused on accessibility improvements, with the goal of funding facility upgrades that support safe and inclusive recreation for all residents.

Goal 2: Improve Connectivity between Parks and Community Spaces

Objective 2.1: Expand Pathways to Connect Key Community Spaces: Advocate for the extension of pathways to link parks, schools, and neighborhoods, prioritizing safe routes to schools and enhanced walkability for residents of all ages and abilities.

Objective 2.2: Construct ADA-Compliant Walkways in Mitchell Memorial Park: Develop accessible walkways connecting sports fields, picnic areas, and other key amenities, ensuring that Mitchell Memorial Park is fully accessible.

Objective 2.3: Collaborate for Regional Trail Connections: Pursue partnerships with neighboring municipalities and agencies to create regional trail connections, including water trails that link Raisin Charter Township to larger regional pathways such as the Kiwanis Trails and Heritage Park.

Objective 2.4: Pursue Funding for Pathway Development: Seek grants to support the development of perimeter pathways around Mitchell Memorial Park, creating passive exercise and transportation opportunities for residents.

Goal 3: Enhance Recreational Opportunities and Safety

Objective 3.1: Install Safety Features Along Pathways: Improve lighting, signage, and seating along pathways to enhance safety and encourage outdoor activity, incorporating dark-sky-friendly lighting to reduce light pollution and maintain natural surroundings.

Objective 3.2: Adopt Dark-Sky-Friendly Standards: Update current facilities to use dark-sky-compliant lighting and require this standard for future construction near recreational spaces. Objective 3.3: Promote Civic Engagement: Partner with local schools, organizations, and businesses to foster civic engagement, encouraging residents to take an active role in preserving and enhancing park spaces.

Goal 4: Upgrade and Expand Park Facilities and Equipment

Objective 4.1: Develop a Designated Wilderness Park: Create a natural area that prioritizes conservation and low-impact recreation, with trails for hiking, birdwatching, and nature exploration, allowing residents to experience and appreciate Raisin Township's natural environment.

Objective 4.2: Upgrade Osburn Sub Park: Enhance the existing facilities at Osburn Sub Park with modern playground equipment, seating, and landscaping, ensuring ADA compliance to make it a welcoming community hub for families and local residents.

Objective 4.3: Conduct Routine Assessments for Facility Maintenance: Regularly inspect park facilities to ensure safety, accessibility, and preservation of natural character, establishing a maintenance schedule to address repairs and improvements as needed.

Goal 5: Improve Access to Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

Objective 5.1: Secure Land for Raisin River Access: Acquire necessary parcels along Sutton Road and Raisin Center Highway to facilitate access to the Raisin River, including developing canoe and kayak launches for increased water-based recreation opportunities.

Objective 5.2: Collaborate with Environmental Groups for River Conservation: Partner with local environmental organizations to clear debris from the Raisin River, creating a safe, navigable waterway for recreation while promoting conservation efforts.

Objective 5.3: Expand River-Based Recreation and Regional Connectivity: Seek funding to support river-based recreational facilities and connectivity projects that link Raisin Township with neighboring communities such as Blissfield, Tecumseh, and Manchester, fostering a broader regional network.

Funding and Grant Opportunities

To support the realization of these goals, Raisin Township will apply for grants targeting accessibility, connectivity, and environmental preservation. Key funding sources may include the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and ADA-focused grant programs. By aligning projects with grant opportunities, Raisin Township can strategically leverage external resources to maximize impact. Securing such funding is essential for the successful implementation of the plan, as it allows the township to undertake significant improvements and expansions without placing undue strain on local resources.

Evaluation and Community Engagement

Progress will be evaluated annually, with the Raisin Township Recreation Committee reviewing achievements and adjusting priorities, and in conjunction with the Raisin Township Board of Trustees, as necessary. This iterative process ensures that the plan remains relevant and effective over time. Ongoing community engagement through surveys, public meetings, and partnerships will ensure the plan remains responsive to resident needs and builds a strong foundation for the continued development of parks and recreation in Raisin Township. Active participation from the community not only helps in refining the plan but also fosters a sense of ownership and accountability among residents, making them integral to the plan's success.

Looking Ahead: Detailed Action Plan and Implementation

For a comprehensive framework to achieve these goals, Chapter 5 delves into a detailed Action Plan and Implementation strategy. This chapter outlines specific projects, timelines, and resource allocations necessary to bring the vision of Raisin Township's parks and recreation to fruition.

While a capital improvement plan (CIP) for park development projects is not required, Chapter 6 may be revised in the future to include such a schedule to aid in planning. This would be at the discretion of Township Board members, at the recommendation of the Raisin Township Recreation Commission. The schedule may detail the type of improvement, estimated cost, funding sources, and a construction timeline, providing further clarity and direction.

By providing a clear direction for the upcoming years, Chapter 6 serves as a critical tool for tracking progress and making informed decisions. Raisin Township has outlined this strategic approach to address immediate needs while setting the foundation for long-term sustainability and community engagement. Readers are encouraged to explore Chapter 6 for a deeper understanding of the actionable steps and measures that will drive the successful implementation of this plan, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all residents in Raisin Township.





ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan outlines the specific actions Raisin Township will take to implement the goals and objectives identified in Chapter 5 of this Plan. The following chapter serves as an **Implementation Action Plan**, providing a roadmap for achieving a well-connected, accessible, and engaging parks and recreation system that serves all residents and fosters community and environmental stewardship.

This plan emphasizes strategic development, enhanced safety, community engagement, and sustainable funding to support future growth of the recreation facilities and programming for Raisin Charter Township.

Raisin Charter Township is committed to creating a recreational environment that caters to the needs of all its residents, regardless of age, ability, or economic status. By prioritizing projects that enhance accessibility and connectivity, the Township aims to ensure that every community members has the opportunity to enjoy high-quality outdoor spaces. This approach not only promotes physical health and well-being but also strengthens social bonds and community cohesion. The following plan integrates community feedback and best practices in park development to create inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable recreation facilities and opportunity.

Goal 1: Enhance Accessibility and Inclusivity in Township Parks

Upgrade ADA Compliance in Existing Facilities

ACTIONS: Assess and upgrade existing playgrounds, sports fields, and other recreational facilities to be fully ADA-compliant.

FUNDING STRATEGY: Pursue state and federal grants focused on accessibility enhancements to support these upgrades.

Ensure New Constructions Meet ADA Standards

ACTIONS: Implement ADA standards for new constructions, such as shelters, restrooms, and other facilities, ensuring accessible spaces for all users.

FUNDING STRATEGY: Apply for grants, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to offset costs and support inclusive development.

Secure Funding for Accessibility Upgrades

Actions: Develop and submit grant proposals to support accessibility upgrades in collaboration with state and local partners.

Potential Partners: Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local disability advocacy groups.

Goal 2: Improve Connectivity between Parks and Community Spaces

Expand Pathways Connecting Key Community Spaces

Actions: Advocate for the expansion of pathways to connect parks, schools, and residential areas, creating safe and walkable routes.

Prioritized Areas: Focus on pathways that connect to local schools and neighborhoods for safe and secure nonmotorized transit.

Construct Accessible Walkways at Mitchell Memorial Park

Actions: Prioritize ADA-compliant pathways connecting sports fields, picnic areas, and various spaces at Mitchell Memorial Park.

Funding Strategy: Seek grant funding for pathway development.

Collaborate for Regional Trail Connections

Actions: Partner with neighboring municipalities to establish regional trail connections, including connections to the Kiwanis Trail, Cal Zorn Park, and Heritage Park.

Potential Partners: Neighboring municipalities, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, environmental groups, etc.

Develop Perimeter Pathways at Mitchell Memorial Park

Actions: Construct a pathway around the park perimeter to support passive recreation.

Funding Strategy: Apply for grant funding and advocate for community partnerships to develop / expand perimeter pathway.

Goal 3: Enhance Recreational Opportunities and Safety

Install Safety Features Along Pathways

Actions: Add lighting, signage, and seating areas along main pathways to improve safety and encourage outdoor activities.

Focus Areas: Install dark-sky compliant lighting to reduce light pollution and maintain park ambiance, supporting wildlife and visitor comfort.

Adopt Dark-Sky Friendly Lighting Standards

Actions: Update existing lighting to dark-sky friendly options and establish this standard for future installations near recreational areas.

Implementation: Work with lighting contractors familiar with dark-sky standards to retrofit current lighting systems.

Foster Civic Engagement Through Partnerships

Actions: Partner with schools, civic organizations, and local businesses to promote community involvement and build stewardship of parks.

Potential Partners: Local schools, environmental groups, Raisin Township Recreation Committee

Goal 4: Upgrade and Expand Park Facilities and Equipment

Develop a Designated Wilderness Park

Actions: Create a natural park area with low-impact trails and passive recreation options like birdwatching, hiking, and nature exploration, prioritizing habitat preservation.

Funding Strategy: Seek grants focused on conservation and nature-based recreation to support wilderness park development.

Upgrade Osburn Sub Park

Actions: Improve facilities at Osburn Sub Park by adding modern playground equipment, seating, and landscaping; ensure that park is ADA-compliant.

Implementation: Conduct assessments to prioritize upgrades that enhance safety and create a welcoming environment for local families.

Conduct Routine Facility Assessments

Actions: Regularly assess and maintain park facilities to ensure safety, accessibility, and preservation of the natural environment.

Funding Strategy: Allocate annual budget for maintenance and establish partnerships for volunteer support in preservation efforts.

Goal 5: Improve Access to Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

Secure Land Access Along Raisin River

Actions: Acquire parcels along Sutton Road and Raisin Center Highway to facilitate access to the Raisin River, including developing a canoe or kayak launch.

Funding Strategy: Explore land acquisition grants and collaborate with land trusts and conservation organizations.

Collaborate on Raisin River Conservation

Actions: Partner with local environmental groups to clear debris from the Raisin River, improving its navigability and recreational potential.

Implementation: Work with conservation agencies and volunteer groups on cleanup projects and preservation efforts.

Expand River-Based Recreation and Conservation Efforts

Actions: Seek funding for river-based recreational facilities and ecological preservation, promoting connectivity to neighboring communities like Blissfield, Tecumseh, and Manchester.

Potential Partners: Environmental nonprofits, conservation groups, and neighboring municipalities.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The implementation of these actions will depend on available funding, community support, and coordination with local and regional partners. Raisin Township will prioritize projects annually based on grant cycles, budget allocations, and emerging opportunities for partnerships.

Short-Term Priorities (1 – 2 years)

Focus on ADA-compliance upgrades, safety improvements, and foundational projects at Osborn Sub Park and Mitchell Memorial Park.

Mid-Term Priorities (3 – 5 years)

Continue facility upgrades, expand pathway connections, and pursue land access for riverbased recreation.

Long-Term Priorities (5+ years)

Complete regional trail connections, wilderness park development, and sustained maintenance and improvement efforts.

Raisin Township will seek funding and partnership opportunities to ensure the successful implementation of this Action Plan, aligning recreation and conservation goals with community needs and values. This strategic approach not only addresses immediate needs but also sets the foundation for long term sustainability and community engagement.

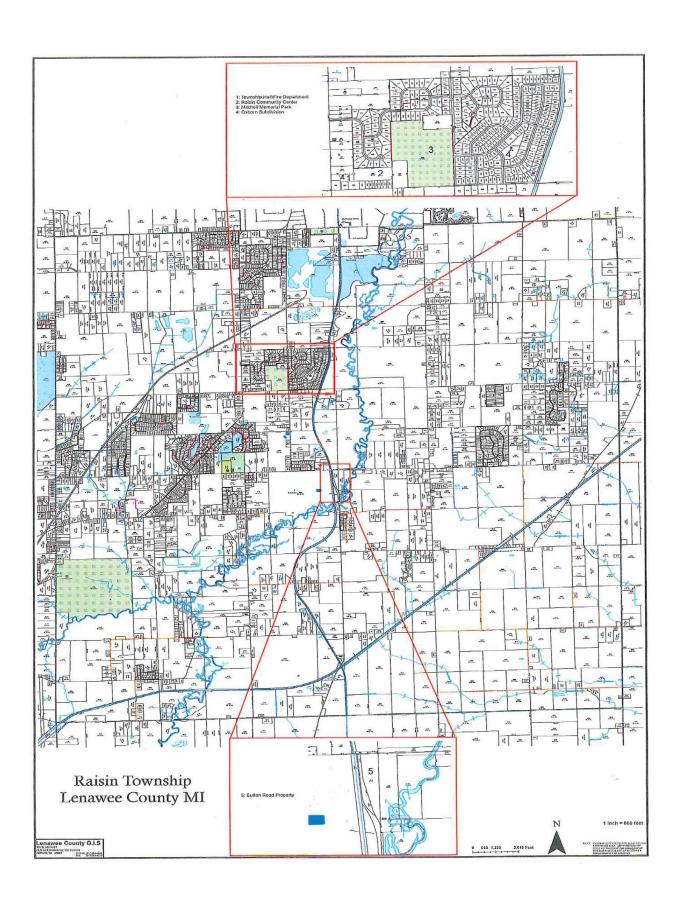
APPENDIX A

ADOPTION DOCUMENTS

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APPENDIX B

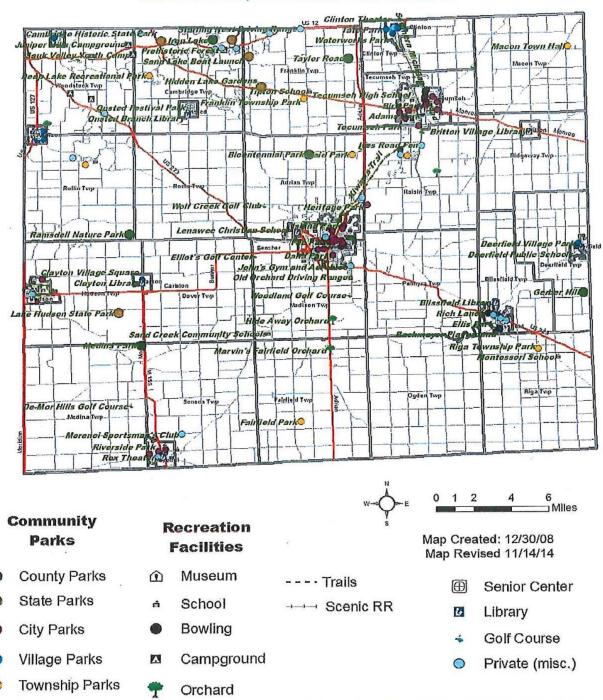
TOWNSHIP LOCATION MAP



APPENDIX C

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES MAP

Lenawee County Parks & Recreation Facilities



APPENDIX D

PUBLIC INPUT

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