

City of Bay City

2005-2009

Park & Recreation Plan



City of Bay City
301 Washington Avenue
Bay City, Michigan 48708

Adopted March 21, 2005

2005-2009

**BAY CITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN**

**Adopted by City Commission of
City of Bay City
on March 21, 2005**

Prepared by

**Bay City Planning Department
301 Washington Avenue
Bay City, MI 48708**

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FOREWORD

The Bay City Park and Recreation Plan was developed to serve as a guide for improving recreation facilities and park areas in the city. Bay City provides a broad range of parks and recreation resources that address the needs of all segments of the population. The community is served by both small neighborhood parks and large parks that serve the region for events and activities. The provision of recreation facilities and programs in Bay City is a joint responsibility of the City of Bay City and the County of Bay. This relationship has served the community since 1968.

To achieve the best results in the development of the plan, efforts have been made to involve residents from the community in the planning process. The proceeding chapters of the plan will provide a description of the following: the planning process and public participation, the community's social and physical characteristics, and an inventory of the existing recreation facilities in the community. The plan will also highlight the administrative structure of recreational programming in the community, discuss recreation trends and provide definitions for the types of parks available, as well as an action plan stating the goal and objectives that are recommended for short and long term planning strategies and means to fund the improvements.

The primary purpose of the recreation plan is to provide information to area residents, governmental leaders, recreational providers, public and private organizations and the city's Citizens District Councils to use as a tool for improving and better utilizing of the park system.

Chapter One

THE PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The City of Bay City Planning Department directed the process to update the Parks and Recreation Plan with involvement of the Parks Department. The plan has been prepared according to guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is a planning tool for a period of five years. Early in the process, meetings were held between the Planning Department and the Parks Department to develop the planning process and discuss the project components and timeline. The process is graphically depicted in **Figure 1**.

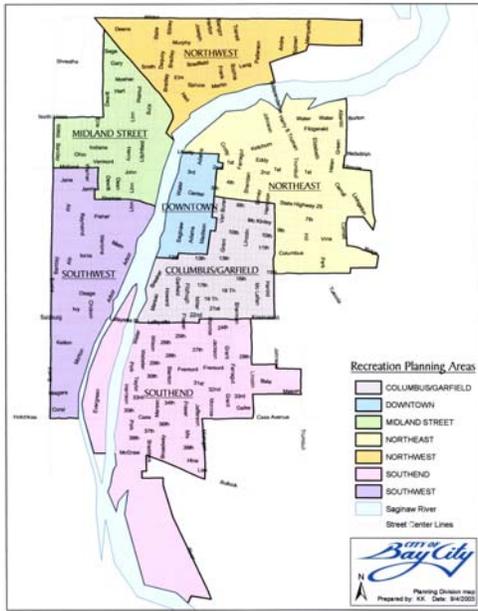


Figure 1. Planning Process.

The process included the following components:

Project Initiation. To initiate the revision of the plan, the Planning Department and the Parks Department created an outline as a guide for discussions on the planning process schedule. Specifics of the work program and the establishment of the management for the plan served as a guide for the plan revision. The procedures to involve public participation, coordination with citizens' groups and regional agencies were formulated with the goal of creating a community based plan.

Community Description and Inventory. To establish a base line of current conditions, the present Recreation Plan was reviewed. Data and the description of existing facilities were updated to identify revisions to maps, tables, text and graphics. Elements of the plan such as the social and physical characteristics were identified and recreational opportunities discussed. Community and neighborhood facilities that currently exist and supporting data was researched or obtained from area agencies such as the Bay City School District.



Map 1. Recreation Planning Areas.
See also Appendix D for full size map.



Recreation Planning Areas. To represent the entire city for recreation planning purposes, the Citizens District Councils boundaries were expanded to include 100 percent of the city within a planning area. Census tract boundaries served as a guide for the areas and minor modifications were made to the CDC areas. Two additional planning areas resulted from the expanded boundaries and have been designated as the Southwest and Downtown area. The seven Recreation Planning Areas are represented on **Map 1**.

Public Participation. Public participation is crucial to identifying issues that the Recreation Plan should address. Public participation can insure meaningful input for the city’s recreational needs. Meetings for public input and discussion with Citizen District Council members were used in the plan development allowing input from people familiar with the recreation opportunities within their respective neighborhoods.

Administrative Structure and Action Program. The current administrative structure, operational policies and the management for the plan were reviewed. Funding sources, annual and projected budgets, maintenance and capital improvements were also evaluated. The roles of the Planning Commission, City Commission, City Staff and the relationship with other recreational providers in the community were discussed.

Preparation of the Final Document and Approval. The information was compiled, analyzed and a draft of the plan was prepared. It was presented to the Planning Commission for a public hearing for any adjustments, comments, or suggestions. The plan was then presented to the City Commission for final approval. Distribution of the final plan was also presented to each of the Citizen District Councils and county and regional planning agencies. A copy of the final plan is sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Division.

Implementation. The document provides guidance to the City of Bay City and Citizens District Councils in the selection of recreational improvements. The Action Plan provides short and long term planning

recommendations and strategies for park facilities. During annual budget procedures and allocation of Community Development Block Grant funding cycles, the Park and Recreation Plan will serve as the primary tool for expenditures related to these facilities. Projects in the plan can also be considered for recreation grant applications administered by the state.

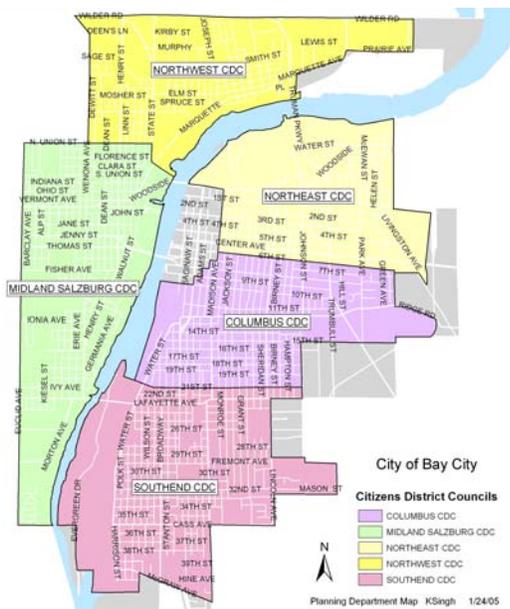
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public input is an integral component of the process of preparing the Park and Recreation Plan. Community workshops were conducted with representatives from the Citizens District Councils (CDCs). The general public was invited to attend one or all of the four workshops in the community. The purpose of the workshops was to give the public an opportunity to express opinions and concerns regarding parks and to make suggestions for recreational improvements.

Citizen District Councils

The City of Bay City has established Citizens District Councils that represents the entire city. The five councils include the Columbus Avenue, Northeast, Northwest, Midland-Salzburg and the South End. These five CDCs are represented on **Map 2**.

The CDCs are composed of residents who have been elected or appointed from their respective neighborhoods and meet on a monthly basis. A City staff member from either the Economic Development/Redevelopment Department or Planning Department serves as liaison to each of the groups and works closely with them on a broad range of issues, including the park and recreation areas within the districts. Responsibilities include preparing plans for park and recreation improvements, soliciting input for community projects and determining expenditures for Community Development Block Grant funds. Over the past several years, specific facility improvements have been completed within the CDCs and are listed under “Recent Improvements” at the end of this chapter.



Map 2. Citizens District Councils.
See also Appendix D for full size map.



2004-2008 Park & Recreation Plan Community Workshops

The City of Bay City is in the process of updating its Park and Recreation Master Plan. Your participation is necessary in helping us identify community needs.

An updated plan is necessary to allow the City to participate in State sponsored grant programs that fund improvements of recreational opportunities. Also, it will guide the maintenance and development of the community park system over the next five years.

You are invited to attend the workshop in your area. Each workshop will last approximately two hours.

Columbus/Garfield	
October 21, 2003	7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317
Downtown	
October 21, 2003	7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317
Midland Street	
November 13, 2003	7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317
Northeast	
October 21, 2003	7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317
Northwest	
October 22, 2003	7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317
South End	
October 16, 2003	7:00 p.m. 1001 Marsac St. Bay County Child & Senior Citizen Center
Southwest	
November 13, 2003	7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317



For more information
Contact the Bay City Planning Division
301 Washington Avenue
Bay City, Michigan 48707
989-894-8173

Public Notice

In addition to the workshops being held during the regular meetings of the Citizens District Councils, several other forms of communication were used to notify as many residents as possible, including the following:

- 21,000 notices for the workshops were placed in the utility billing statements sent to residents throughout the area.
- The Bay City Times published an article on September 24, 2003.
- A public notification was published in the Bay City Times classified section.
- Information was mailed to key stakeholders, recreation providers and county governmental officials.
- Information was posted on the City of Bay City Web site.

Community Workshops

At the community workshops, the meetings began with a presentation prepared by the Planning Department that explained the purpose of the workshop, an explanation of a recreation plan and its purposes, specific elements or chapters contained within the plan and improvements within the park system that have occurred during the past five years. Each of the workshops was attended by approximately 20 people and others unable to attend sent e-mails expressing their concerns.

The participants were then asked to participate in a visioning discussion to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities of recreation facilities. During the visioning process, participants were asked to consider questions such as what role will parks play in the community, what benefits do citizens want the parks to provide, how will park facilities serve the residents, and what kind of partnerships can be formed to maintain and upgrade the parks. This visioning process allowed the community to envision the future it wants and actions to be taken to achieve it. As a result of the workshops, recommendations described within the

action program of the plan reflect the needs and ideas of residents who utilize the city's park and recreation facilities. The resulting prioritized summary of the four workshops are as follows:

Strengths

- The quantity of parks within the city with a variety of parks large and small that are conveniently located.
- Parks available for a variety of activities such as special events and charity events.
- Tourism generated from the use of parks.
- Level of maintenance and cleanliness of the park areas.
- Cooperation for care of the parks from the County, Bay City in Bloom, Master Gardeners and volunteers.
- Riverwalk and the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop is a key asset to the city and its links to other areas of the community.
- Strengthens identity of community and brings community together for opportunity to meet neighbors and people.
- Recent improvements to park areas such as Bigelow Park, playstation, and school playgrounds.
- Park land along the riverfront and the benefits of the Saginaw River to recreation uses.
- Recognition that parks are not as well funded as they could be.
- The Citizens District Councils representing their neighborhood and the ability to work with citizens for oversight of parks.



Weaknesses

- Lack of restroom facilities.
- Vandalism done to parks, parks not used properly, safety.

- Lack of funds to make improvements and provide maintenance.
- Lack of amenities such as lighting, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, park equipment and signage.
- Lack of awareness of the park areas and intergovernmental responsibility.
- Replacement of older outdated equipment that may be safety hazards.
- Slow process to make improvements to parks.
- Limited opportunities of recreation for teenagers.
- Lack of water system for planting material in adopted areas.
- Staffing shortages for lawn maintenance during summer.
- Limited access to parks during special event activities.
- Hours and rules for parks should be clearly posted.
- Accessibility upgrades to the park areas and equipment.

Opportunities



- Upgrade the parks with drinking fountains, pavilions, picnic tables, and batting cages.
- Develop a dog park with dog runs, watering fountains and fenced area.
- Create spurs and extensions of the Riverwalk/Railtrail to a regional trail system or greenway.
- Adopt a Park, create “Friends of” for a park, volunteerism, public/private partnerships and stewardship from school children.
- Create maps and brochures to promote and give publicity to parks.
- Improved restrooms, lighting, and signage.
- Create better uses or enhance the park space at Carroll Park, Ramsey Park and Birney Park.

- Improve sledding hill such as tire steps.
- Development of a water park, community garden.
- Doggie bags provided at parks.
- Create an endowment, pursue grants or do fundraising for improvements.
- Work with the county and state to provide a usable beach area at the State Park.
- Maintain existing park space and not add more to system.
- Create a theme or design for selective parks to include special lighting fixtures, signage.

At each of the workshops participants were asked to select which parks they use the most. Based on the total number voted upon, the recreation areas used the most in the city were:

- Riverwalk
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Wenonah Park
- Riverwalk and the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop
- Carroll Park

Participants were then asked to rank recreation services provided within the city. The results are as follows:

Recreation opportunities for **children**:

25 % rated them as poor or below average
75% rated them at average or above average.

Recreation opportunities for **teens**:

58 % rated them as poor or below average.
38% rated them average or above average.
4% rated them excellent.

Recreation opportunities for **adults**:

11% rated them poor or below average.
89% rated them average or above average.

Recreation opportunities for **elderly**:

52% rated them poor or below average.
48% rated them average or above average.

Recreation opportunities for **disabled**:
43% rated them poor or below average.
57% rated them average or above average.

When asked about the **maintenance** of the existing parks:
50% rated them poor or below average.
46% rated them average or above average.
4% rated them excellent.

When asked about the **school athletic facilities** provided:
32% rated them poor or below average
68% rated them average or above average.

The input from the workshops is further discussed in the “Action Plan” and is incorporated in the short and long term recommendations and strategies. Additional results from each of the workshops representing the five Recreation Planning Areas can be found in Appendix B.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

To better understand the improvements that have been made to the park system since adoption of the previous plan, information was provided at the workshops highlighting the following improvements for each of the recreation planning areas:

NORTHEAST RECREATION PLANNING AREA

Edward M. Golson Boat Launch and Nature Park

- Completed in 2003, a 43 acre park located at the end of Johnson Street with direct access to the Saginaw River. Two boat launch platforms and a ramp specifically designed for handicap accessibility to a boat were installed.
- 26 acres of the 43 acre park is a nature area with paved and gravel trails that include two viewing platforms overlooking a wetland.
- A large gazebo for use as a covered shelter area for student classroom tours.



- River viewing and fishing platform includes a gazebo with a picnic table.
- Parking and restrooms are provided.

Maplewood Park

- Installation of playground equipment in 2004.

Carroll Park

- Sidewalk installation adjacent to Groveland Road.
- Decorative metal fence constructed near duck pond.



NORTHWEST RECREATION PLANNING AREA

Defoe Park

- Installation of playground equipment in 2004.

Infinity Skate Park

- Outdoor recreation area opened in 2002 containing professionally designed ramps for skateboards.



Riverwalk/Railtrail loop

- Truman Parkway Extension from Marquette Avenue to Wilder Road completed in 2003.

MIDLAND STREET RECREATION PLANNING AREA

Veterans Memorial Park

- Playscape playground equipment installed.
- Improvements to the concession building.
- Installation of a floating dock for persons with disabilities to gain better access was completed in 2003.



SOUTHWEST RECREATION PLANNING AREA



Bay County Euclid Linear Park

- Completed in 2003, a 9 acre nature/wetland area located east of S. Euclid Avenue constructed by Bay County.
- Raised boardwalk, asphalt walkway, picnic tables, viewing deck.

SOUTH END RECREATION PLANNING AREA



Cass Avenue Boat Launch Park

- Completed in 2003, a single boat dock and parking area constructed.
- The site includes the boat launch, parking, restrooms, landscaping improvements, and river viewing and fishing platform.

Bay County Child and Senior Citizen's Center Playground

- Removal of outdated playground equipment and installation of new equipment in 2002.

Riverwalk/Railtrail loop

- The former GT&W railroad right-of-way near 27th Street developed as a Railtrail connection to existing trail system within the city limits and the Portsmouth Township trail to the east.

COLUMBUS/ GARFIELD RECREATION PLANNING AREA



Columbus Green

- Construction of a neighborhood/business district pocket park in 2003.
- Improvements include brick walking paths, four flag staffs, butterfly garden and benches in a landscaped area.
- The Columbus Avenue Management Board maintains oversight of the park.

Rexer-Jablonski Park

- Removal of dilapidated homes in 2002.
- Removal of street paving and curbing to form park area in 2003/2004.
- The park was completed in 2004 and includes open play area, pedestrian walkways, playground and gazebo.

Breakers Cove Riverfront Park

- Approximately 7 acres of public riverfront open space constructed in 1999.
- Riverwalk path, lighting and bench seating.

DOWNTOWN RECREATION PLANNING AREA

Wenonah Park

- World Friendship Shell fountain was renovated and water feature operational in 2003.
- Improvements made to the exterior of the band shell.



GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION

Planning Commission

City staff briefed the Planning Commission on the progress of the plan throughout the process and a presentation of the draft plan was conducted at the February 16, 2005 Planning Commission meeting. The Park and Recreation Plan was then forwarded to the Bay County Recreation and Youth Development Department and the East Michigan Regional Planning Committee.

City Commission

The draft Park and Recreation Plan was distributed to the City Commission on March 14, 2005 for review and comment. A presentation highlighting the key components of the plan was conducted during a public hearing before the City Commission on March 21, 2005. The 2005-2009 Park and

Recreation Plan was adopted by the City Commission on March 21, 2005.

Chapter *Two*

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Bay City is located in southern Bay County, in the central section of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The city encompasses 11 square miles and is bisected by the Saginaw River, which flows northerly into the Saginaw Bay. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Bay City is the largest city in Bay County with a population of 36,817. It is bordered by the City of Essexville, as well as Hampton, Bangor, Portsmouth and Frankenlust Townships.

Bay City is also part of a larger metropolitan area, along with the cities of Midland and Saginaw, known locally as the Tri-Cities. The city is accessible to surrounding communities by way of state highways M-15, M-25, M-84 and M-13 and is within 2 miles of I-75.

In order to assess the recreation opportunities in the city, it is necessary to establish a clear picture of the community by considering specific characteristics of the local population along with the physical characteristics of the area. This chapter uses 2000 Census data to present demographic information and up to date maps to illustrate the physical characteristics.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

It is essential to evaluate population trends of the area, as well as the impact of these trends on recreational needs. Demographic information makes it possible to identify recreational needs based on age, disability, cultural identity, and other relevant characteristics. For example, if a community is aging or has become a destination for retirees, there may be a need to plan for additional senior programs and ensure adequate accessibility to those programs. It is important to determine the status and location of segments of the population that have special needs as a result of disability. Social characteristics such as employment trends, household sizes, incomes, race/ethnicity and gender are also considered and presented within the following text.

Population and population Trends

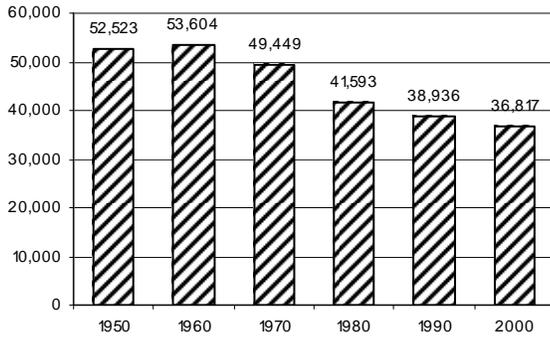


Figure 2. Total Population, Bay City, 1950-2000.

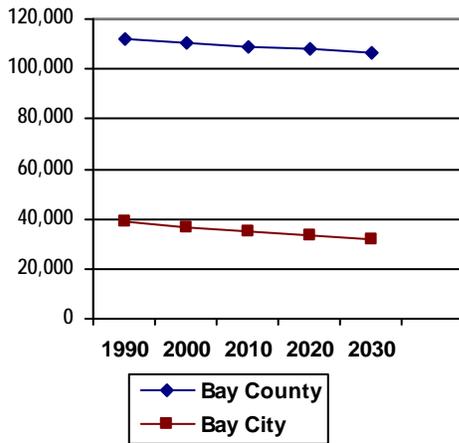


Figure 3. Population Projections to 2030, Bay City and Bay County.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau and East Central Michigan Planning & Development Region
Method: Linear Trend Extrapolation

Population data from 1950 through 2000 was gathered to establish the trends in population growth and decline within the City of Bay City as well as surrounding communities, the county and the state as a whole.

In 2000, the population of Bay City was 36,817, down from 38,936 persons in 1990. The population of Bay City peaked in 1960 at 53,604 residents (*see* Figure 2). Over the last several decades the city's population has declined with the greatest decrease occurring between 1970 and 1980 of over 15% (*see* Table 1). The loss of population in Bay City reflects a larger national trend of people migrating out of urban areas and into suburban and rural areas. In some instances, communities have seen a reversal of this trend, with residents moving back into urban areas especially in downtown centers. This trend is occurring in Bay City in recently completed projects of residential living units being constructed in renovated historic buildings in the downtown area.

The loss of population within the city is the result of out migration to the surrounding areas and a decrease in household size. The Bay County population in 2000 was 110,157 compared to 111,723 in 1990. Approximately 65% of the total Bay County population is located in the urbanized areas. Townships experiencing population increases are located near the I-75 corridor west of the city.

Bay County's overall population is expected to decrease based on population projections to 2030 (*see* Figure 3). Bay City's 2000 population of 36,817 is expected to fall to 31,565 by 2030.

Table 1. Population changes for Bay City and Bay County.

Year	Bay City			Bay County		
	Total	Numerical Change	Percent Change	Total	Numerical Change	Percent Change
1950	52,523	-	-	88,461	-	-
1960	53,604	1,081	2.06%	107,042	18,581	21.0%
1970	49,449	(4,155)	(7.75%)	117,339	10,297	9.6%
1980	41,593	(7,856)	(15.69%)	119,881	2,542	2.2%
1990	38,936	(2,657)	(6.39%)	111,723	(8,126)	(6.8%)
2000	36,817	(2,119)	(5.44%)	110,157	(1,566)	(1.4%)

Households Size

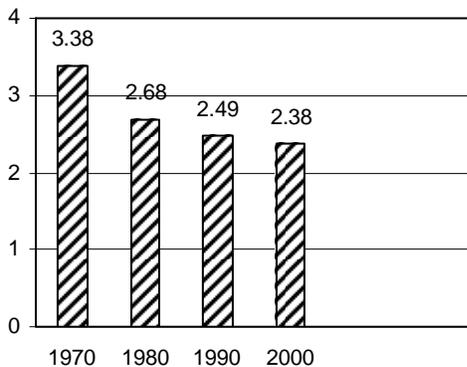
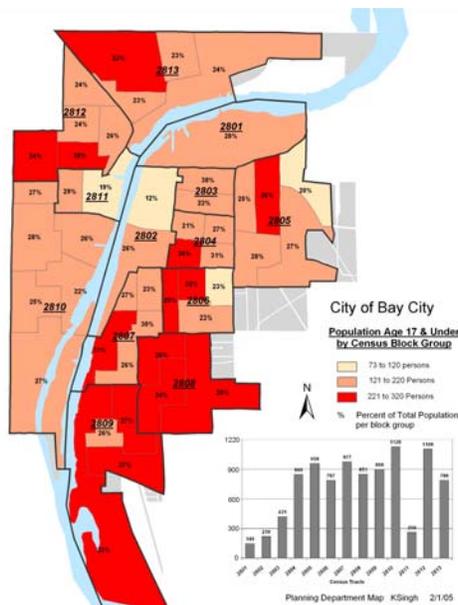


Figure 4. Average Household Size, 1970-2000.

One of the principal causes of population decline is decreasing family size. From 1970 to 1990, the number of total households dropped a mere 2%, from 15,818 to 15,570. Since 1990, the number of households in Bay City has declined an additional 2% to 15,208. Since 1970, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that the average number of persons per household has dropped from 3.38 to 2.38 (see Figure 4). This represents a 25% drop in household size. There are several factors that may be contributing to this decline, such as people marrying later and having fewer children. Married couple families are still the largest group of households however.

Age

The age distribution of Bay City is shown in **Table 2** and summarized in **Figure 5**. The only segment of the population demonstrating significant growth is the segment aged 40-49 years, which increased by 30%. The second largest segment of the population demonstrating growth is 75 years and older, which increased 10.4% representing 7.6% of the total population. All other segments decreased significantly, raising the median age in Bay City to 35.2 years. Statewide, the median age rose from 32.6 in 1990 to 35.5 in 2000 and follows national trends. In Bay County, the median age rose from 33.9 in 1990 to 38.4 in 2000.



Map 3. Population Age 17 & Under by Census Tract and Block Group.

See also Appendix D for full size map.

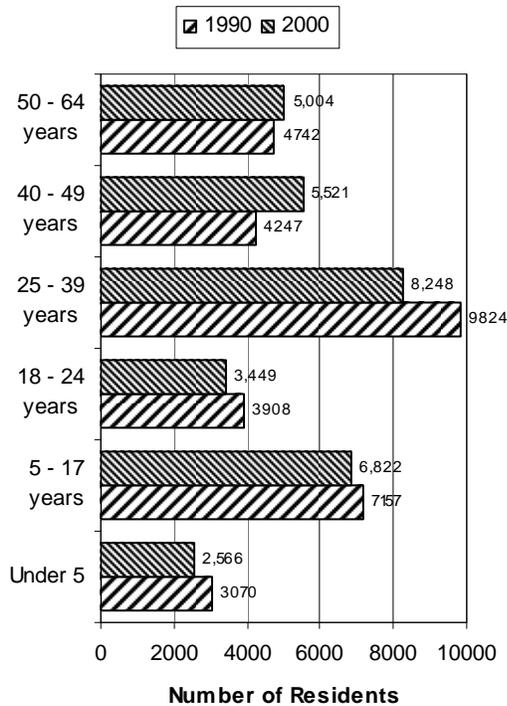


Figure 5. Population Age Structure.

The most significant impact on the city from the demographics trends is the decline of persons between the ages of 18 and 39. This age group is of child bearing age and affects school enrollment and recreation facilities.

The trend toward an older population indicates a need to evaluate handicapped accessibility issues at facilities to ensure all persons have the opportunity to fully participate in recreation.

Based on information provided at the Census tract and block group level (see **Map 3**), the age group 17 and under is located primarily on the east side of the city in the Columbus/Garfield and South End Recreation Planning Areas in block groups found in Census tracts 2808 and 2809. It is important to note that the population figures for this age group are considerably lower in the commercial areas located in the Midland Street district and the downtown area. The area with the second highest concentration of the population 17 and under is located within the Northwest and Midland Street Recreation Planning Areas, in block groups contained in Census tracts 2812 and 2813.

Table 2. Age Structure, Bay City, Michigan.

	1990		2000		Change	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	3,070	7.88%	2,566	6.96%	(504)	(16.4%)
5-17	7,157	18.38%	6,822	18.5%	(335)	(4.68%)
18-24	3,908	10.04%	3,449	9.36%	(459)	(11.7%)
25-39	9,824	25.23%	8,248	22.4%	(1,576)	(16%)
40-49	4,247	10.91%	5,521	15%	1,274	30%
50-64	4,742	12.18%	5,004	13.6%	262	5.52%
65-74	3,451	8.86%	2,407	6.53%	(1,044)	(30.3%)
75 and older	2,537	6.52%	2,800	7.6%	263	10.4%
Total	38,936	100%	36,817	100%	(2,119)	(5.44%)

School Enrollment

Table 3. School Enrollment, Bay City Public Schools.

	Grades K - 5	Grades 6 - 8	Grades 9 - 12
1997-98	4,686	2,416	3,407
1998-99	4,598	2,341	3,399
1999-00	4,467	2,341	3,430
2000-01	4,305	2,354	3,332
2001-02	4,161	2,417	3,290
2002-03	4,126	2,362	3,311

The Bay City Public School District serves students in Bay City, Auburn, Hampton Township, and Monitor Township. The district has 11 schools: seven elementary, two middle schools, and two high schools. The Bay City district has 9,836 students enrolled in the 2003-04 school year compared to 9,851 of the previous year.

Table 3 shows that enrollment for K-12 has declined overall. Between 2001-02 and 2002-03, the high school enrollment increased slightly while other grades showed a loss of students from the previous year. In general, some fluctuation occurs each school year, but the overall trend has been a decrease in the number of students in the public school system.

Table 4 details the school enrollment in February 2003 by grade and by school for both public and private schools in the Bay City area. Washington Elementary School, located in the Northeast Planning District has the highest number of students with 576, followed by McAlear Elementary, located just west of Bay City in Monitor Township, with 561 students enrolled. Immanuel Lutheran School, located in the Columbus/Garfield Recreation Planning Area, is the largest school by enrollment in the private school system.

In a one year period, the school count dropped by 119 students between the Fall semester in 2002 and February 2003. Factors contributing to the decline may include parent job transfers, population loss, non-attendance, and transfer to private schools.

Table 4. School Enrollment: Public and Private Schools.

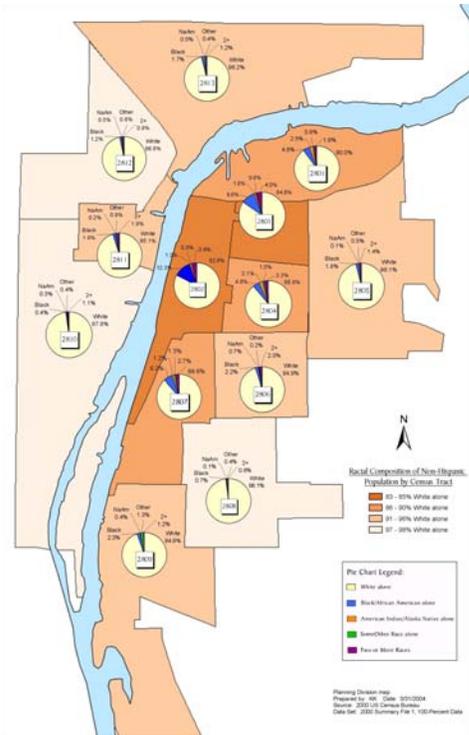
Elementary Schools	Sp. Ed.	Y5	Kdg	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Auburn	18	-	72	66	77	73	76	82	446
Bethel Lutheran	-	22	14	6	7	7	3	10	69
Faith Lutheran	-	74	10	15	17	18	22	22	178
Forest	-	20	21	-	-	-	-	-	41
Hampton	17	-	73	101	89	80	81	81	505
Holy Trinity	-	40	9	21	21	13	14	17	135
Immanuel Lutheran	-	47	24	20	19	18	18	24	170
Jefferson	-	23	27	20	18	23	15	-	126
Kolb	0	-	73	76	83	99	86	105	522
Linsday	44	-	49	52	46	63	76	58	344
MacGregor - Dist.	18	-	50	42	45	52	47	47	283
MacGregor - Bal.	19	-	50	38	34	51	50	36	259
Mackensen	-	-	45	50	47	61	53	61	317
McAlear	40	-	78	92	96	93	101	101	561
Riegel	-	-	27	22	18	25	16	24	132
St. James		51	22	11	23	15	27	13	162
St. Johns Lutheran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
St. Paul Lutheran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Trinity Lutheran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Trombley PPI	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Washington	59	-	93	95	90	93	98	107	576
Zion Lutheran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Eastside Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	49
Elementary Totals	251	277	737	727	730	784	783	837	4,875
Middle Schools	Sp. Ed.		6	7	8				
Bethel Lutheran			7	7	3				17
Eastside Middle	38		89	59	-				148
Faith Lutheran	-		22	14	15				51
Handy Middle	186		373	447	449				1,269
Holy Family Middle	-		60	46	62				168
Immanuel Lutheran	-		19	22	20				61
St. Johns Lutheran	-		-	-	-				0
St. Paul Lutheran	-		-	-	-				0
Trinity Lutheran	-		-	-	-				0
Western Middle	50		283	311	327				921
Wenona 7/8	-		1	6	6				13
Zion Lutheran	-		-	-	-				0
Middle School Totals	274		847	905	879				2,631
High Schools	Sp. Ed.		9	10	11	12			
All Saints Central	-		56	52	38	39			185
Central High	140		500	452	354	315			1,621
Western High	68		400	351	357	277			1,385
Wenona Center	-		74	50	35	11			170
High School Totals	208		1,030	905	784	642			3,361
Totals									10,867

Source: Bay City Public Schools Private/Church related schools.

Race and Ethnicity

Map 4 represents the overall racial composition of the city's population by census tract. The city is predominately white with 91.2 % of the population, a decrease of 2.4% from 1990 (see **Table 5**). African Americans represented 2.7% of the population in 2000, a 0.3% increase from 1990. The fastest growing segment of the population in terms of ethnicity is the Hispanic population, currently at 6.7% of the population. This represents an increase of 12.4% since 1950.

While the data reveals a small percentage of minority populations living within the city limits, this represents most of the minority population living in Bay County.



Map 4. Racial Composition.
See also Appendix D for full size map.

Table 5. Racial Composition : 1990-2000.

	Bay City		Bay County		Region	
1990	38,936	100%	111,723	100%	399,320	100%
White	36,446	93.6%	107,747	96.4%	346,643	86.8%
Hispanic origin (of any race)	2,189	5.6%	3,494	3.1%	17,715	4.4%
African-American	953	2.44%	1,242	1.11%	38,810	9.71%
Asian or Pacific Islander	174	0.44%	428	0.38	2,504	0.63%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	313	0.8%	726	0.65%	1,975	0.49%
Some other race	1050	2.69%	1,580	1.41%	9,388	2.35%
2000	36,817	100%	110,157	100%	403,070	100%
Persons indicating one race	35,958	97.6%	108,456	98.4%	396,362	98.3%
White	33,575	91.2%	104,580	94.9%	341,948	84.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,473	6.7%	4,308	3.9%	19,670	4.9%
African-American	1,003	2.72%	1,389	1.26%	41,369	10.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	198	0.53%	533	0.48%	3,493	0.86%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	272	0.74%	600	0.54%	1,798	0.45%
Some other race	910	2.47%	1,354	1.23%	7,754	1.92%
Persons indicating 2+ races	859	2.33%	1,701	1.54%	6,708	1.66%

Income and Poverty Levels

Income levels in the city have been analyzed using measures based on median household income and median family income.

A household represents all the persons who occupy a housing unit and includes even those with one person living alone. Median household income, the level of income at which half of all households earn more and half earn less, is a broad measure of relative economic health of a community. Family incomes are a measurement of all members of a family above the age of 15 years.

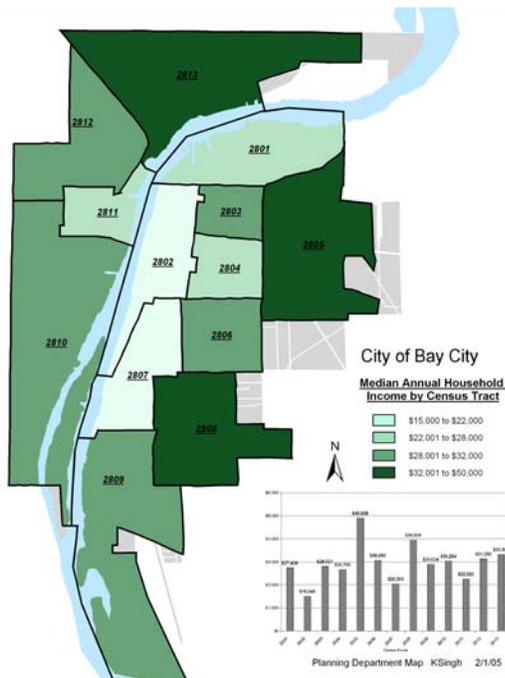
It should be noted that income statistics for the 2000 Census reflect information from the 1999 calendar year and are in 1999 dollars while the information from the 1990 Census reflects the 1989 calendar year. These figures have been adjusted for inflation (based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index).

The median household income in Bay City in 1999 was \$30,425, an increase of 3.87% from 1989 (*see Table 6 and Table 7*).

The median family income in Bay City in 1999 was \$38,253, a decrease of 0.41% from 1989. 10.3% of the city's families had income below the poverty level; while 42 percent of the families within the city were of low and moderate income (low and moderate income is equivalent to 80 percent of the SMSA median income or below). 18% of Bay City families had income below 50 percent of the SMSA median.

In comparing both measures of income in relation to the county and region, income levels in Bay City are from 20% to 24% lower across the board.

Data was also gathered for 2000 Median Household Income levels by Census Tract in the City of Bay City. As is depicted on **Map 5**, the lowest annual household income levels are located in Census Tracts 2802 and 2807. With the construction of high end residential dwelling units in the downtown, the



Map 5. Household Income Level.

See also Appendix D for full size map.

trend in the coming years will be a rise in the income levels for this area.

In neighborhoods where single family, owner occupied dwellings units predominate, household incomes are higher. The lowest income levels are in the Columbus/Garfield, South End and the Northeast Recreation Planning Areas. Census Tract 2805 had the highest median household income at \$49,028 followed by tract 2808 with \$39,505.

Table 6. Income Trends - Reported Income Adjusted for Inflation: 1979 - 1999.

	1979	1989	% Change	1999	% Change
Bay City					
Median household income	43,717	29,291	(33%)	30,425	3.87%
Average household income				39,652	
Median family income	50,583	38,412	(24.1%)	38,253	(0.41%)
Average family income				47,323	
Bay County					
Median household income	43,717	38,287	(12.4%)	38,646	0.94%
Average household income				48,695	
Median family income	50,583	46,627	(7.82%)	48,111	3.2%
Average family income				57,046	
Region					
Median household income	45,670	39,945	(12.5%)	39,909	(0.09%)
Average household income				51,731	
Median family income	51,272	47,576	(7.2%)	48,806	2.58%
Average family income				59,754	

Table 7. Annual Household Income, Bay City, Michigan.

	1989		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than \$15,000	5,904	38.08%	3,436	9.33%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	2,835	18.29%	2,744	7.45%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	2,329	15.02%	2,443	6.63%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	2,463	15.89%	2,387	6.48%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	1,509	9.73%	2,412	6.55%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	330	2.13%	1,026	2.78%
\$100,000 or more	132	0.85%	804	2.18%
Median Household Income		\$29,291		\$30,425

Persons with disabilities

The disability status of a population is especially significant when considering recreation needs for the city. Disabled people may have difficulty participating in recreational programs, utilizing facilities, or even getting to designated public areas. Identifying and locating disabled populations may assist decision-makers in determining adequate programs and appropriate locations for recreational activities. Also, with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Figure 6 and **Figure 7** represent the extent of the city's population age 5 years and over considered disabled, either with sensory, physical, mental, or self-care limitations. The Census Bureau figures do not allow for persons with multiple disabilities, such as those who have both a physical and mental disability. As a result, the figure given for the total number of persons with a disability must be treated as an approximation.

The Census collects disability data for three major age groups: those between 5 and 15 years of age, those between 16 and 64 years of age, and aged 65 or over. The first age group refers most commonly to school age population. The second age group refers most commonly to the working age population, and the third to the senior and elderly population.

In 2000, there were approximately 8,462 persons (22.9% of the total population), 5 years or older, who were faced with some degree of disability. Of these, the largest group reporting a disability (52.3% of those disabled) were people between the ages of 16 and 64 years old, the majority of whom (43%) reported having a physical limitation. Forty-one percent of the disabled population is over age 65, with the majority of them (41.8%) reporting a physical limitation.

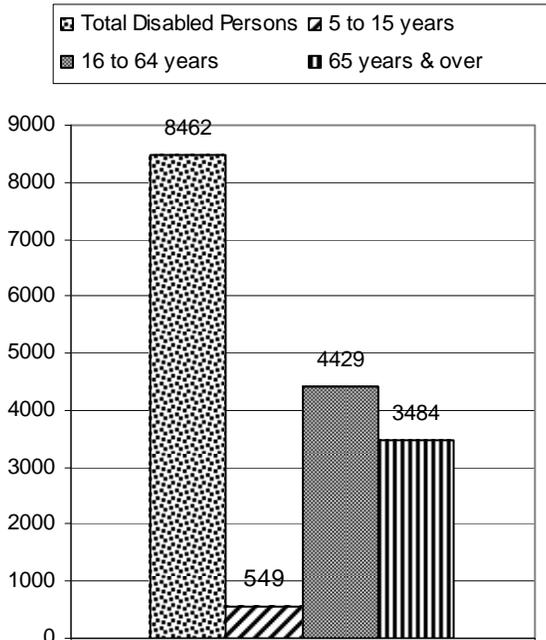


Figure 6. Percent of Persons with Disabilities, Bay City, Michigan, 2000 Census.

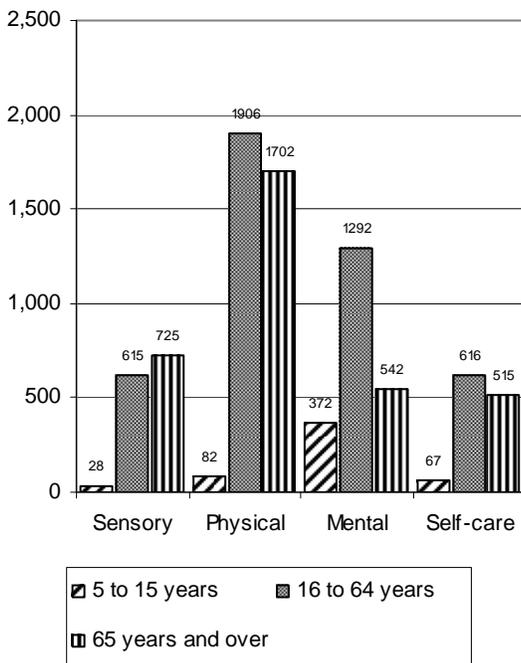
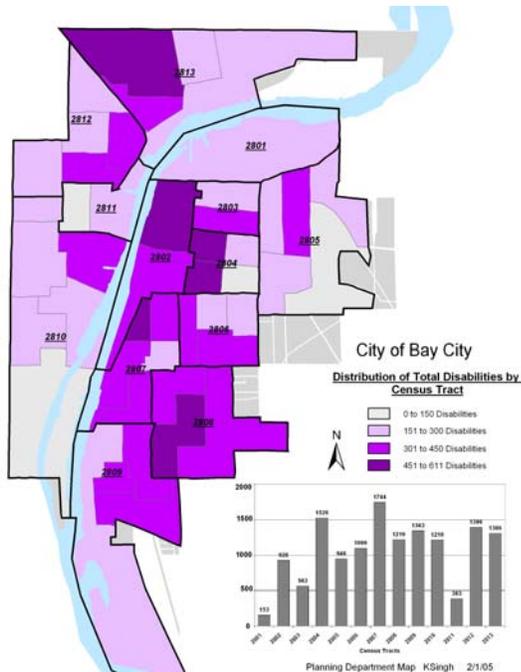


Figure 7. Disabled Population by Type, Bay City, Michigan, 2000 Census.



Map 6. Distribution of Disabled Population by Census Tract.

See also Appendix D for full size map.

Sector	1990	2000	% Change
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	91	85	-6.6%
Construction	713	1020	43%
Manufacturing	3174	2670	-15.8%
Transportation	347	783	125%
Communications	392	358	-8.6%
Wholesale	645	610	-5.4%
Retail	3832	2656	-30.6%
Financial	719	862	19.8%
Professional, scientific, administrative	1089	894	-17.9%
Art & Entertainment	215	1803	738%
Education & Health	2801	3425	22.3%
Governmental	431	481	11.6%

Table 8. Employment Growth by Sector 1990-2000.

Map 6 illustrates the Census block groups of the city that have high numbers of residents considered disabled. The high number of disabilities in three block groups (located in Census tracts 2802, 2804, and 2807) may be due to the presence of senior citizen living facilities with a high concentration of disabled residents. These facilities range in size from Smith Manor with approximately 150 residents, to Bradley House with approximately 180 residents.

Employment Trends

Traditionally, the economy of Bay City had its base in the manufacturing sector. The state's manufacturing base currently employs 745,400 workers or 16.6% of the work force. (Detroit News, August 7, 2003). Historically, Michigan's employment numbers are directly related to the automobile industry. Since 2000, Michigan lost 150,000 jobs in the industrial sector. This is due in large part to changing dynamics in the automobile industry, such as changing market shares to foreign competition and newer factories being built in southern U.S. states and overseas. Other manufacturing industries, such as Dow Corning and Dow Chemical, where a number of Bay City and Bay County residents are employed, also feel the effects from overseas competition.

The two largest employment sectors in the city are the Manufacturing and the Education & Health sectors. The Education & Health sector has shown a 22.3% increase since 1990, while the manufacturing sector has shown a 15.8% decline. Two areas have shown a significant growth trend that may impact recreation uses. Transportation employment has increased by 125% and the Art & Entertainment industry by 738%. The transportation sector includes industries providing transportation of passengers and cargo, warehousing and storage of goods, scenic and sightseeing transportation, and support activities related to modes of transportation. The arts, entertainment and recreation sector includes a wide range of

establishments that operate facilities or provide services to meet the varied cultural, entertainment and recreational interests of their patrons.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

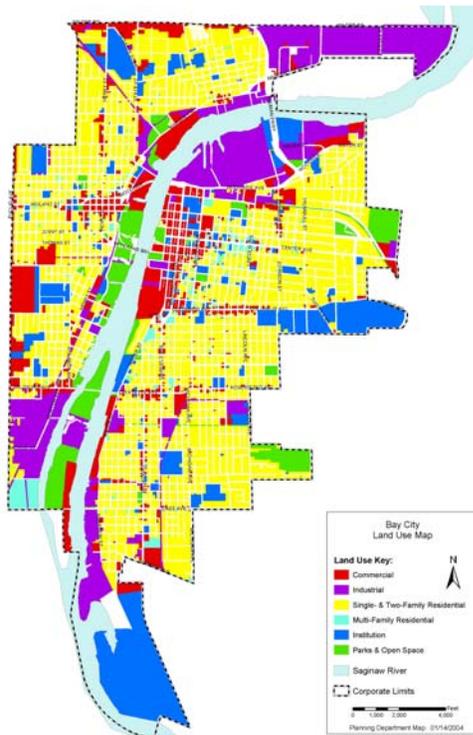
Understanding the physical characteristics of a community is an important element in recreation planning. Physical characteristics to be discussed include the general existing land use pattern of the community, the zoning regulations that affect recreation, the transportation system of the city, and finally the natural features found within the corporate limits of Bay City. Natural features include the climate of the area, topography, soils, water resources, and wetlands.

Existing Land Use Pattern

Map 7 represents the existing land use in the city. Bay City's existing land-use pattern reflects the historic economic importance of the Saginaw River. A portion of the riverfront is zoned C-3, central business district, and contains a combination of commercial uses, residential uses, and open space. Within the past several years there also has been a significant amount of condominium development on the Saginaw River riverfront. Large regional parks such as Veterans Memorial Park, Bigelow Park and Wenonah Park are all directly adjacent to the river.

Bay City's residential area extends to the southeast and northwest of the Saginaw River. The city's residential areas are traversed by business development located in strips along major thoroughfares. Public and institutional uses are scattered throughout the city. Uses such as schools, parks and churches help define the neighborhood that they serve.

Three areas of the city have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Midland Street Business District, the Downtown Business District, and the Center Avenue area which is also designated a State Highway Heritage Route.



Map 7. Existing Land Use Map.
See also Appendix D for full size map.

Trumbull Avenue is part of M-15 and is designated by the state as a Recreation Heritage Route.

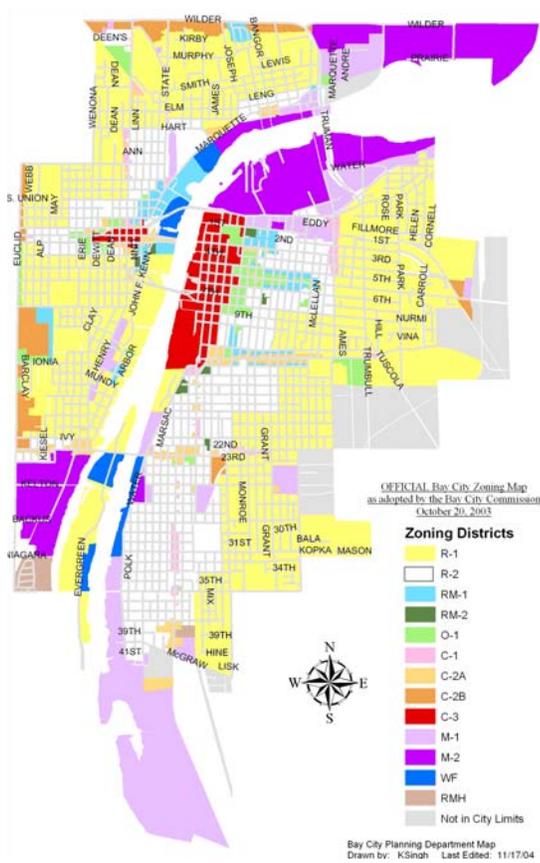
The city has seen a substantial increase in park and open space lands since 1964. Today, 238 acres are used for parks and open space, compared with only 144 acres in 1964. As the city has grown, total vacant land acreage has been reduced from 880 acres to 323 acres. Bay City has acquired extensive public recreation space on the Saginaw River. Veterans Memorial Park and the Middlegrounds recreation area are the two largest open-space areas with access to the river. Wenonah Park, located in the central business district, also fronts on the river. Two new boat launches have been established on the river, the Cass Avenue Boat Launch at the foot of Cass Avenue and the Edward M. Golson Boat Launch and Nature Area at the foot of Johnson Street.

Zoning

The City of Bay City Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 122 of the Municipal Code, was adopted in 2003 by the City Commission. An intricate part of the Zoning Ordinance is the Zoning Map (**Map 8**). Each of the zoning districts, from residential to commercial is indicated on the map. Most public parks and schools within the city are located within residential zoning districts. Parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers that are owned and operated by the City of Bay City, county, or a noncommercial, nonprofit entity are specifically permitted in all residential districts.

Topography

From the bay, there is a very gradual rise in the land to the west and north. The southern part of the County is low and very level, at no point rising more than 25 feet above the level of the bay. The highest point is near the southern boundary of the County - 760 feet. The land is not quite as level in the western and northern parts of the County, where many sandy ridges are found which were formed by glacial lakes. In the far northern part of the County, the surface is



Map 8. Zoning Map.
See also Appendix D for full size map.

high and rolling. A glacial moraine near the County line has hills 820 feet above sea level - the highest land in Bay County.

Water, fish and wildlife resources



Bay City covers 11 square miles, divided into an east and west side by the Saginaw River. It is a little more than 3 miles wide at its greatest width, and no point within the city is more than 2 miles from the river, making the river one of the city's most important natural resources.

The Saginaw Bay, a southwestern extension of Lake Huron, is located about 2 miles north of the northern boundary of Bay City. Rivers and streams which help drain Bay County include the Saginaw River, Squaconning Creek, Pinconning River, Kawkawlin River, Quanicassee River and Pine River. Of these rivers, only the Saginaw River traverses the city. Drainage patterns were established as a result of the movement of the great glaciers. The northern part of the County is better drained because of its well defined natural drainage pattern.

The southern part of the County which is located in the river valley and on an old lake bottom, is low and very swampy, and has very poor natural drainage. Man-made drains, dredging and diking activities have reclaimed much of the area, which is now fertile farm land. The shoreline of the Saginaw Bay is approximately 580 feet above sea level.

The drainage system of the county has its outlet into Saginaw Bay, and is influenced by the bay's varying water levels. Normal seasonal pattern flows of high in the winter-spring season and low during the summer and fall is typical.

Winds can influence water levels in the bay. A strong southwest wind can cause very low water in the Saginaw River and along the bay. A strong northeast wind will cause the water from Lake Huron to flow into the bay, which in turn flows into the Saginaw River and causes the water along the shoreline and in the river to rise to high levels. In the early spring, this same northeast wind will push ice

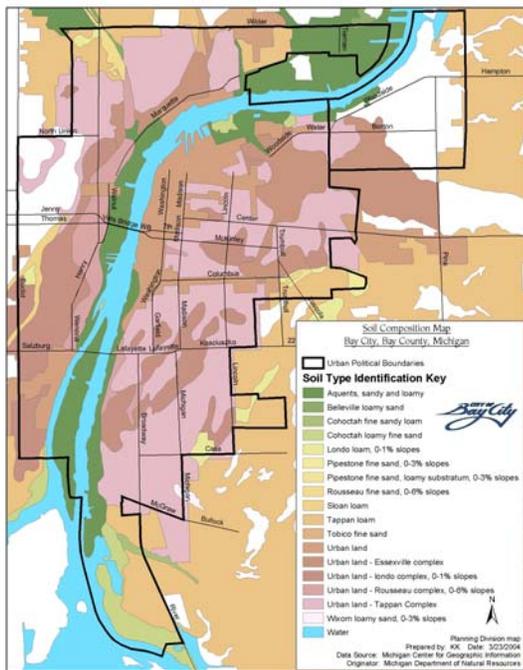
flows into the bay and cause damage to the bay shore and the riverfront.

Bay City and the immediate surrounding area drain into the Saginaw River. This river and its tributaries form the largest watershed in the State of Michigan. Although severe flooding has been virtually eliminated in Bay City, wind influences, such as those mentioned above, can cause flooding and water damage to adjacent riverfront properties.

Soils and vegetation

Soils in Bay County vary from fine clay in the southern part, to sandy soil along the bay (*see Map 9*), and in the northern part of the county, to muck soil of former swamps. The best agricultural soils are located in the southeastern part of the county. Clay-loam and sandy-loam soils in this area provide rich soils for a variety of agricultural products. Floodplains, wetlands, swamps and similar environmentally sensitive areas found throughout the county should be preserved.

At one time in the area's history, Bay City and Bay County had great forests of evergreen and deciduous trees including Norway pine, fir, spruce, maple, oak, hickory, birch and elm. However, virtually none of the magnificent tree stands remain today. The tree cover that remains is found primarily in the northwest part of the county. There are no significant stands of trees in Bay City.



Map 9. Soil Composition.

See also Appendix D for full size map.

Transportation Systems

Transportation systems have a direct effect on the local economy, environmental quality, energy use, and land development. It is a factor in recreation planning because it affects accessibility to recreation facilities and programs by both residents of the community and visitors. Transportation facilities define current and future land use development patterns. Properly designed road and transportation facilities increase efficiency, safety, and the wise use of land resources and contribute to the economic stability and vitality of its users. From a recreation

standpoint, trails systems developed in the city play a key role to outdoor recreation. Besides trails, portions of the city streets contain designated bicycle route systems. The City of Bay City continues to develop a trail system for pedestrian and bicycle use and is covered in other areas of this Plan.

The City of Bay City is located along the I-75 corridor. Principal arterials through the city under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation include M-13, M-15, M-25 and M-84. Implementing agencies for transportation related issues in the region are under the direction of the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) policy and technical committees. Members from the cities of Bay City and Essexville, the Bay County Road Commission representing six surrounding townships, and the Bay Metro Transit Authority are involved. BCATS is responsible for reviewing and evaluating transportation revenues are invested by the state and local agencies that have legal responsibility to build, operate, and maintain the state's highway, road, street, non-motorized and public transit systems. The 2025 Transportation Plan was adopted in July 2002 and is amended as needed on a continuous basis.

There are two public airports that serve Bay City. MBS International Airport functions as a feeder airport to major airline hubs such as Chicago and Detroit. The James Clement Airport is city-owned and provides limited passenger and cargo service. Rail service for freight is provided to the area by Central Michigan Railroad, CSX and Lake State Railroad. Rail passenger service is not available in the Bay City area. The Bay Metro Transit Authority provides public transit services in Bay County and fixed route bus transportation is provided in all areas of Bay City. Bus routes originate from the Central Station located downtown and eleven routes serve neighborhoods within the city.

The city's location on the Saginaw River makes it an important inland port for commercial freighters and pleasure craft. The Saginaw River is one of Michigan's most important commercial harbors and is ranked fifth among Michigan ports in values of

commodities shipped. The Saginaw River is also used extensively for recreation boating and fishing and includes several marinas along the riverfront. Tourism passenger boats also provide tours upriver towards the City of Saginaw and downriver to the Saginaw Bay throughout the summer.

Climate

The climate of Bay City and the surrounding area is affected by several conditions. Its latitude places it within the wind belt known as the prevailing westerlies. Winds are usually from the southwest or northwest. As a result, the area is also subject to high and low pressure systems that can produce storms and rapid weather changes.

The city's proximity to the Great Lakes is another significant influence on its climate, bringing cooler temperatures in summer and warmer temperatures in the winter.

Precipitation is well distributed throughout the four seasons. The mean annual rainfall in Bay County is estimated at 28.7 inches. The annual depth of snowfall is 39 inches.

Environmental Issues

The Saginaw River, as previously mentioned, is one of the city's most valuable natural resources. Therefore, every opportunity must be seized to preserve the river itself, and to provide public access sites on the river. Historic development patterns saw industrial uses established along the riverfront because of its value as a water supply source and as a means of transporting goods, particularly lumber. This land use pattern remains today, although efforts are being made to establish plans and policies which emphasize the recovery of the riverfront for public recreation space and private housing and boating facilities. The City of Bay City's Master Plan proposes that a policy of developing an open-space system along the Saginaw River be provided. This plan concurs with such a policy.

Chapter *Three*

PARK & RECREATION INVENTORY

This chapter presents a descriptive summary of the existing park and recreation facilities within Bay City, as operated by the Bay City Parks Department and the Bay County Park and Recreation Department. This includes an inventory of existing recreation sites and facilities and the types of activities available. The recreation facilities inventory is broken down into four sections: public park and recreation areas, public and private school sites, non-profit/civic facilities and agencies, and commercial or private recreation facilities. Major recreation attractions outside of the city are also documented.

PUBLIC AND PARK RECREATION AREAS

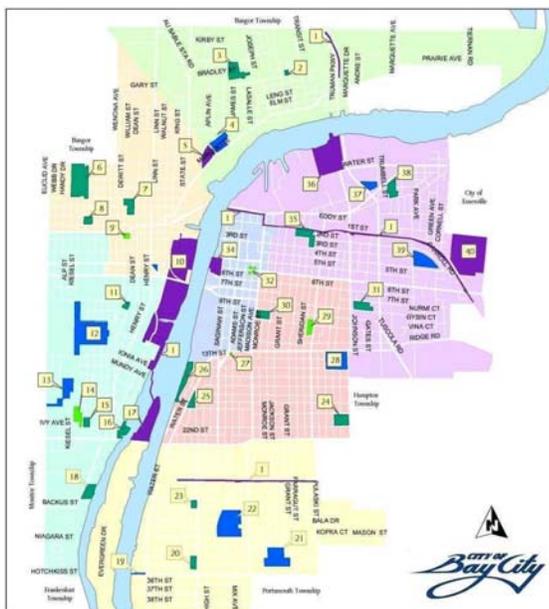
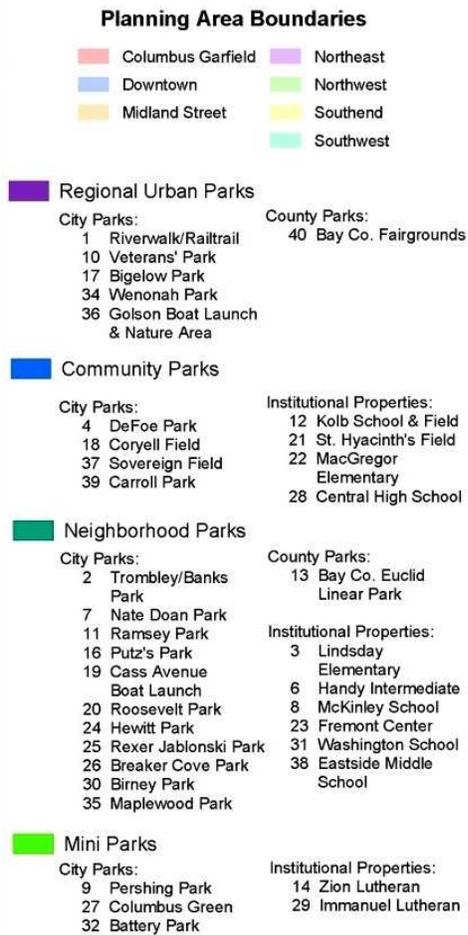


Public park and recreation areas within Bay City serve not only Bay City residents, but draw heavily from the entire county. The County Park and Recreation Department programs use of these facilities on a county-wide basis, and the larger and more specialized facilities within the city, draw extensively from outside the corporate limits, as well.

Map 10 indicates the location of recreation facilities within each of the Recreation Planning Area designated in the city and classified by their levels of service in providing recreational opportunities. Recreation planning standards and levels of service for parks within the community are discussed in Chapter Five.

There are 25 public park and recreation sites within Bay City, which cover approximately 228 acres. These sites range in size from 0.1 acre to 90 acres, and contain a wide variety of active and passive uses. Seasonal and year-round parks have a regional emphasis. Veterans Memorial Park and Bigelow Park (Middlegrounds) provide superior recreational complexes because of their size and location on the Saginaw River. Veterans Memorial Park is the city's best recreational facility providing significant active and passive facilities, including ball fields, playground

Inventory of Recreational Properties



Map 10. Recreation Inventory by Type.
See also Appendix D for full size map.

equipment, and boat launch facilities. Other facilities located in or adjacent to the park include the historic Trombley House, an arboretum, and the Community Center with indoor recreation facilities and an outdoor pool.

Early in its history, Bay City devoted land to public open space as town squares and dedicated parks. Battery Park, Birney Park and Carroll Park are the oldest parks in the city.

The following is a brief history for each of the city parks and a general description of recreation elements provided.

Battery Park

Battery Park is a dedicated passive park located in the downtown area encompassing the four corners located at Center Avenue and Jefferson Street. It is one acre in size and was platted as a public square in 1849. It features short paved pathways, trees and benches, and will serve as a passive park area for the new Bay County Public Library.

Bicentennial Commons Park

Bicentennial Commons Park is actually two small parks located on the east and west ends of Veterans Memorial Bridge. The park space provides lawn area with a scattering of trees. The west parcel has a flagpole and a covered picnic table, and is surrounded by single family homes. The park space on the east side of the river contains a 30 foot monument as a memorial to the veterans of the Revolutionary War. The property is maintained by the city, but is owned by the Michigan State Highway Commission.

Bigelow Park

Bigelow Park is located at the north end of Middleground Island and is approximately 9 acres. The property for the park was donated in 1929 as a gift from Charles Bigelow, who operated a large saw mill on the riverfront. Additional land was

purchased by the city in 1949. It was not until 1991 that it was developed into a park. The park contains an extensive footbridge that crosses the river channel and connects the park to Veterans Memorial Park and the Riverwalk. Playground equipment and a pavilion were constructed by the Bay City Lions Club. The pavilion is frequently rented for family reunions, company picnics and other social events. The north end of Middleground Island also contains a Victorian style building leased to the Rowing Club as a clubhouse, a Boys and Girls Club facility, and a transient boat dock.



Birney Park

Birney Park is bordered by 9th Street, 10th Street, Jackson Avenue and Madison Avenue and is 3.4 acres in size. Formerly known as Madison Park. This large rectangular park is primarily open playing field with playground equipment and a covered pavilion. A basketball court lies on its eastern side. Along with Carroll Park, Birney Park is one of the oldest parks in the city.

Breakers Cove Park

A 6.6 acre public open space along the Saginaw River, the park includes a walking path, lighting and bench seating. The parcel was improved when the Breakers Cove condominiums were constructed in 1998. It is anticipated that the walking path to the north will be extended as the Uptown at RiversEdge property is developed.



Carroll Park

Carroll Park is located on the northeast corner of Groveland Road and Park Avenue and is 13.7 acres. The park is the oldest platted park in the city and was established in 1875. The unique features of the park include a duck pond and bridge. The park contains a large stand of old maple and oak trees. The park is bordered by historic homes and can be accessed by the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop. Park facilities include

playground equipment, a baseball diamond, tennis courts, a pavilion and picnic areas.

Cass Avenue Boat Launch

The Cass Avenue Boat Launch was constructed in 2003 and is adjacent to the Saginaw River at the end of Cass Avenue. The one acre site features a single boat dock, restrooms and a small grassy area with bench seating.

Columbus Green

Columbus Green is a ½ acre public square dedicated in 2003 and is bordered by Columbus Avenue, Washington Avenue and Fitzhugh Street. It has brick walking paths, benches, four flag displays and a butterfly garden. The Columbus Avenue Management Board maintains oversight of this park.

Defoe Park

Defoe Park is adjacent to Marquette Avenue and is 11 acres in size. The park has five baseball diamonds that are leased to the Little League. The original 3 acre property was given to the city by the North American Construction Company in 1914. The company stipulated that the land be used for “playground or park purposes” and went by the name of Aladdin Park. It was later renamed Defoe Park in honor of Harry Defoe of the Defoe Shipbuilding Company.

Dwan Property

The Dwan property is 8.5 acres bordered by Marquette Avenue, the Saginaw River and Central Michigan Railroad Tracks. The site is a natural area on the western bank of the Saginaw River. The property is an undeveloped parcel of land. The property was purchased by the city in 1998 and a conservation easement is recorded for the site. Proposed improvements to the property may include benches, a boardwalk, and a foot trail.

Edward M. Golson Boat Launch and Nature Area



Located at the intersection of the former Johnson Street and the Saginaw River, the 43 acre recreational facility was completed in 2003. It provides two boat launch platforms and a ramp specifically designed for handicap accessibility. Included in the 43 acre park is a 26 acre nature area with paved and gravel trails that includes two viewing platforms overlooking a wetland area provided. The site includes a large gazebo for use as a covered shelter area for student classroom tours, as well as a river viewing and fishing platform includes a gazebo with a picnic table.

Hewitt Park

Hewitt Park is 6.1 acres and is bordered by Johnson Street, Hampton Street, 19th Street, and 20th Street. This is a rectangular sports park that contains two tennis courts, a baseball diamond, a playground, and a basketball court. The park name was formally changed from “Hewitt Field” to “Hewitt Park” in 1994.

Infinity Skate Park

The Infinity Skate Park is located adjacent to Defoe Park on Marquette Avenue. This outdoor recreation area opened in 2002 and is a professionally designed facility with an elaborate network of cement ramps.

Joseph M. Tromble/Banks Park

Tromble Park is a small 1/2 acre park located in the Banks area. The park serves the neighborhood and offers tennis and basketball courts. The park had been casually known as “Smith Park” or “Banks Park,” but in 1985 the City Commission formally renamed it “Joseph M. Tromble / Banks Park” named for an early settler who established the Village of Banks in 1843.

Maplewood Park

Maplewood Park is a 9.7 acre park bounded by 1st Street, 3rd Street, Sheridan Street, and vacated Van Buren Street. The park provides a baseball diamond and is popular for its basketball courts. Playground equipment and a pavilion for picnics are provided. The property was acquired with a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant and Community Block Grant funds and dedicated in 1987.

Nate Doan Park

Nate Doan Park is located in the Midland Street Neighborhood and is 6.4 acres in size. It is designed for low-impact activities and includes a playground and a small, hilly play field. A shelter building and restrooms are provided on the site. The park is named in honor of Mr. Nate Doan a community volunteer and was established in 1977.

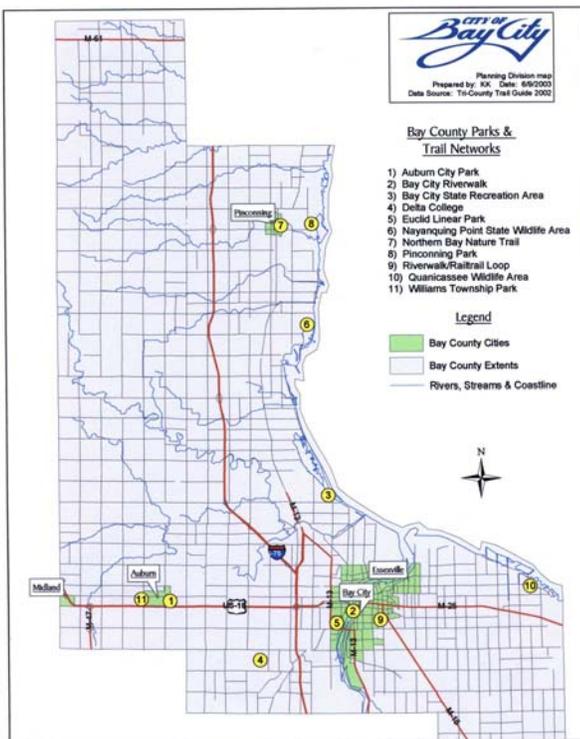
Pershing Park

Pershing Park is adjacent to the Sage Library located in the Midland Street Historic Preservation District. The parcel is one and a half acres and contains green space, trees and a monument dedicated to Veterans of World War I. The park is leased to the Sage Library, and the library is responsible for its upkeep.

Riverwalk/Railtrail loop

A 10 mile looping trail that surrounds the east side of Bay City and follows the west bank of the Saginaw River. The trail is an asphalt and cement path on land once used as railroad right-of-way. It was designed to be used by joggers, cyclists, and roller-bladers. The Riverwalk/Railtrail loop connects or passes very near to the following parks: Maplewood Park, Carroll Park, Bigelow Park, Ted Putz Nature Area, Riverwalk, Veterans Memorial Park, Dwan Property, Defoe Park, and Infinity Skate Park.

(See **Map 11** and **Map 12**.)



Map 11. Bay County Parks & Trail Networks.

See also Appendix D for full size map.

Riverwalk

The Riverwalk is a scenic path that provides public access to the Saginaw River. The path is paved to encourage use by cyclists and roller-bladers. The pathway travels through Veterans Memorial Park, Kantzler Arboretum, Fitness Park and along the riverfront. A pier with a large gazebo extends into the Saginaw River. The Riverwalk was connected to Bigelow Park when a pedestrian bridge was built in 1993. Access and continued improvements to the system on the east side of the river will provide public use of the riverfront and will expand the Riverwalk to both sides of the river.

Ramsey Park

Ramsey Park is 1.3 acres located in the southwest area of the city adjacent to Fisher Avenue. It was deeded to the city for park purposes in 1949. The park is a small, irregularly shaped parcel in a residential neighborhood and contains a playground and open space.



Map 12. Bay City Riverwalk & Railtrail.
See also Appendix D for full size map.

Rexer-Jablonski Park

Rexer-Jablonski Park is a 3.3 acre park that was designed and constructed in 2004. The park is named after two police officer's killed in the line of duty near the present park site. Elements in the park include a memorial area for the fallen officers, open play area, playground equipment and other amenities.

Roosevelt Park

Roosevelt Park is a 2.8 acre park adjacent to Broadway Avenue in the south end. Originally named Broadway Park, it was renamed Roosevelt Park in 1907. A boulder and a memorial plaque is located in the park in memory of a Native American Indian whose remains rest beneath the stone. The park provides a tennis court, playground equipment and open space area.

Sovereign Field

Sovereign Field is a city-owned park located at the corner of Truman Parkway and Woodside Avenue and is 3.2 acres in size. It was established in 1974 as a play field for the Little League. It lies adjacent to another baseball diamond that is privately owned. This park is leased from the city and operated by the Little League.

Ted Putz Nature Area

Located on the western bank of the Saginaw River at Ivy Avenue in the Salzburg Business District, this 4 acres park is an open space area and contains a boardwalk overlooking wetlands along the river floodplain.

Veterans Memorial Park

Overview



Veterans Memorial Park is the central park of Bay County containing approximately 97 acres. It is roughly 1.2 miles long and 0.2 miles wide. This area includes land that encompasses Liberty Harbor Marina, the Veterans Memorial Park ball fields, Kantzler Arboretum, Santa House, Trombley House, and Fitness Park. It includes the Riverwalk and the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop. Major community events such as the 4th of July Fireworks celebration, the River Roar, Pig Gig and concerts take place in the park.

Liberty Harbor Marina

Liberty Harbor is a public marina just north of Veterans Memorial Bridge. Liberty Harbor is listed as one of 80 certified harbors by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Facilities include the 99 berth marina, a concession stand building and parking lot.



Kantzler Memorial Arboretum

The 12 acre arboretum is a landscaped plaza with various plantings maintained by civic and private organizations. It is located along the riverfront and near the Community Center. On the north edge of the arboretum is the Davidson Dry Dock, a 500-foot inlet that had once been used for ship building. A pedestrian bridge crosses the dry dock at its mouth and joins with the Riverwalk that runs the length of Veterans Memorial Park and beyond.

Santa House and Trombley House

The Santa House is a log building that is leased seasonally to Santa House Inc. for its event every December. The site is located near the entrance to Veterans Memorial Park on John F. Kennedy Boulevard.

The Trombley House is Bay County's first frame house, completed in 1837, by pioneer Joseph Tromblé. The Trombley House was moved to this site in 1981. The structure is owned by the Bay County Historical Society. The house is being restored, maintained, and used by the Bay County Historical Society for public events.

Fitness Park

The Fitness Park is an exercise track that is specially equipped for the disabled. The looping track breaks off from the Riverwalk and leads through marked exercise areas. The Fitness Park was established in 1986.



Wenonah Park

This 6.1 acre, downtown park is centered on an amphitheater and is used primarily for arts performances at the World Friendship Shell. It is decorated with a large oval sculpture and water fountain that can be seen down the length of Center Avenue. There is a boat dock at the seawall to accommodate all sizes of vessels.

The Bay Area Arts Council schedules concerts throughout the summer and in conjunction with major events such as the 4th of July, River Roar and the Tall Ships Festival. Wenonah Park was established in 1908 and has a rich history serving as public space in the downtown area.

COUNTY FACILITIES

Fairgrounds

The Bay County Fairgrounds are located on the eastern boundary of the city. The 40.3-acre site contains year-round recreation facilities, as well as specialized facilities in connection with the Bay County Fair. The Bay County Park and Recreation service building and the Animal Control facility are also located on the site. Horse stables and a riding track are provided for the 4H Club, who utilize the facilities.

Euclid Linear Park

This county park is located on South Euclid Avenue on property commonly known as Keit's Wetland. Dedicated in 2003, this 8.7 acre recreation facility includes 8-foot wide, hard-surface pathways, a boardwalk, viewing platform that overlooks a wetland, and interpretive signage.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL FACILITIES

Public School Sites

There are 11 public school sites identified on **Map 10** on page 32 and **Table 10** on page 45. Four of the school sites are large enough to provide significant outdoor recreation areas. The two largest sites are Kolb and MacGregor Middle Schools, which are 20 acres and 16 acres respectively. Kolb has two Little League ball fields, two tennis courts, a basketball court, and has added two baseball fields. MacGregor

School has three baseball fields, two tennis courts, a soccer field, a sand volleyball court and an ice rink.

Handy Intermediate and Bay City Central High School are each located on 8 acre sites. Handy Intermediate has a better developed play field with eight tennis courts, two ball fields, track, football stadium and practice field, and a basketball court. Central High School has two tennis courts, a ball field, a track, a football stadium and practice field.

Most of the elementary schools are located on sites of 2 acres or less, with limited opportunity for outdoor recreation space or facilities other than playground equipment. A proposed wetland park is planned at Kolb Elementary School that could include footpaths on a vacant wooded parcel containing a wetland west of the school.

Parochial School Sites

Ten parochial school sites appear in the recreation facilities inventory comprising a total of 43.0 acres. In terms of the contribution of these school sites to the recreation system, it should be noted that parochial school recreation facilities generally cannot be counted on to serve public recreation needs on a long-term basis because of the inability of the public sector to control use of the site, and decisions to open, close and/or sell school sites are outside the public purview.

Two of the sites, Visitation and St. Joseph AC have athletic fields that are closed to the general public, and not available to the surrounding neighborhood for recreation use. With the exception of Mt. Olive Lutheran and St. Hyacinth, the sites are small in size and preclude development for significant recreation facilities. Mt. Olive Lutheran has a site size of 5 acres, with no outdoor recreation facilities other than an open play area. St. Hyacinth, 8.8 acres in size, has softball fields, including a Little League baseball field and a tennis court. St. Hyacinth is probably the most heavily used parochial school site in Bay City, and actively serves the surrounding neighborhood's recreation needs. St. Stanislaus Athletic Field,

although outside the city limits, is also used by Bay City residents during special events.

Other Educational Facilities

Three public school facilities outside Bay City attract city residents; Delta College, Saginaw Valley State University and Garber High School. Delta College is the largest school facility in Bay County and provides a variety of recreational opportunities. Saginaw Valley State University is located in Saginaw County, however it attracts residents in the Bay area and provides exceptional recreation facilities. Garber High School is used extensively by the Bay County Park and Recreation Department for indoor and outdoor recreation programs. In addition, Bay City Public Schools are used for basketball and volleyball programs.

Table 9. City and County Recreational Facilities Inventory, Bay City, Michigan.

City Parks		Total Acres	Seasonal Use	Year-Round Use	Playground Equipment	Picnic Areas	Baseball/Softball	Swimming Pool – Outdoor	Swimming Pool – Indoor	Ice Skating	Tennis Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Basketball – Outdoor	Indoor Gymnasium	Hockey	Open Play Area	Shelter Bldg /Restroom	Football/Soccer Field	Parking	Special Features		
1	Battery Park	1	●																	●	Passive park; minimal landscaping	
2	Bicentennial Park, east	1.4																				
3	Bicentennial Park, west	0.5																				
4	Bigelow Park (Middlegrounds)	11.8	●	●	●										●	●	●	●			●	Rowing facility
5	Birney Park	3.5	●	●	●	●									●	●						
6	Breakers Cove	6.6																				
7	Carroll Park	13.7	●	●	●	●				●					●	●					●	Duck pond
8	Cass Avenue Boat Launch	1	●													●					●	Boat launch
9	Columbus Green	0.5	●																			Passive park
10	Defoe Park	11.2	●	●	●	●			●								●				●	2 Lighted Ball fields
11	Golson Boat Launch & Nature Area	43	●													●					●	Boat launch, walking trails
12	Hewitt Park	5.4	●			●			●	●		●					●					
13	Infinity Skate Park	5.1																				
14	Liberty Marina	9																				
15	Maplewood Park	9.7	●			●				●		●			●	●						
16	Marquette Avenue River Park	8.5																				
17	Nate Doan Park	6.4	●	●	●										●	●					●	Sledding hill
18	Pershing Park	1.5	●																		●	Passive park
19	Riverwalk/Railtrail Loop	10 miles	●																			Non-motorized pathway; appr. 10 miles long
20	Ramsey Park	1.3	●	●	●	●									●							
21	Roosevelt Park	2.5	●	●	●					●					●							
22	Trombley/Banks Park	0.7	●	●						●	●	●			●						●	
24	Veterans Memorial Park	87.5	●	●	●	●	●		●	●			●		●	●	●	●			●	Boat launch; historic house, marina pier, arboretum, community center

City Parks		Total Acres	Seasonal Use	Year-Round Use	Playground Equipment	Picnic Areas	Baseball/Softball	Swimming Pool – Outdoor	Swimming Pool – Indoor	Ice Skating	Tennis Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Basketball – Outdoor	Indoor Gymnasium	Hockey	Open Play Area	Shelter Bldg./Restroom	Football/Soccer Field	Parking	Special Features
25	Wenonah Park	6.1	●	●	●										●					Scenic park; art shell; fountain; promenade; river's edge walk
	Total Acres	238																		
County Parks		Total Acres	Seasonal Use	Year-Round Use	Playground Equipment	Picnic Areas	Baseball/Softball	Swimming Pool – Outdoor	Swimming Pool – Indoor	Ice Skating	Tennis Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Basketball – Outdoor	Indoor Gymnasium	Hockey	Open Play Area	Shelter Bldg./Restroom	Football/Soccer Field	Parking	Special Features
1	Bay County Fairgrounds	40.3	●																●	Passive park; minimal landscaping
2	Euclid Linear Park	8.7																		
	Total Acres	49																		

Table 10. Schools Recreational Facilities Inventory, Bay City, Michigan.

	Total Access	Seasonal Use	Year-Round Use	Playground Equipment	Picnic Areas	Baseball/Softball	Swimming Pool – Outdoor	Swimming Pool – Indoor	Ice Skating	Tennis Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Basketball – Outdoor	Indoor Gymnasium	Hockey	Open Play Area	Shelter Bldg./Restroom	Football/Soccer Field	Parking	Special Features
Public Schools																			
1	Lindsay School	8.5	●	●	●		●			●	●		●		●	●			
2	Handy	8	●		●		●		●	●	●				●	●			Track; Stadium
3	McKinley	2	●							●			●				●		
4	Kolb Middle	20	●	●	●		●		●	●	●				●	●			Passive Park
5	Riegel	1.5	●	●													●		
6	MacGregor	16		●	●		●		●	●	●		●	●			●		Walking Path
7	Bay City Central High	8	●		●		●		●		●				●	●			Track; Stadium
8	Washington	2.5	●	●	●		●			●	●		●				●		
9	Dolsen	0.8	●	●													●		
10	Woodside	8	●	●					●	●							●		Walking Path
11	Thomas Jefferson	1.8	●	●															
12	Trombley	1	●	●										●			●		
Total Acres		78.1																	
Private Schools																			
1	Mt. Olive Lutheran	5	●											●					
2	Bay County Academy	9	●									●							Closed to Public – former Visitation
3	St. Mary AC	5	●												●		●		Closed to Public
4	Zion Lutheran	3	●									●		●					Bowling Alley
5	St. Hyacinth	8.8	●		●			●											
6	St. Stanislaus	2.1	●								●	●							
7	St. James	1.5	●									●							
8	Immanuel Lutheran	1.6	●											●					
9	St. Joseph	2	●	●							●	●							
10	St. Joseph AC	5																●	Closed to Public
Total Acres		43																	

Table 11. Private Recreational Facilities Inventory, Bay City, Michigan.

	Total Access	Seasonal Use	Year-Round Use	Playground Equipment	Picnic Areas	Baseball/Softball	Swimming Pool – Outdoor	Swimming Pool – Indoor	Ice Skating	Tennis Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Basketball – Outdoor	Indoor Gymnasium	Hockey	Open Play Area	Shelter Bldg./Restroom	Football/Soccer Field	Parking	Special Features
Private Facilities/Voluntary Agencies																			
1	Boys & Girls Club	3	●		●							●				●	●		
2	Coryell Field	1.8	●		●													●	Pony League Ball field
4	Sovereign Field	3.7	●		●														
5	YMCA (Bay Area "Y")	1.8	●				●					●						●	
	Total Acres	10.3																	

OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

Non-Profit/Civic Recreation Facilities

This category of recreation facilities includes publicly used recreation facilities located on privately owned land and recreation facilities operated by voluntary agencies open to the general public for a minimal fee. Five such facilities exist within Bay City: Coryell Field, Boys' & Girls' Club, YMCA, and Northeast Little League Field. Coryell Field is owned by the Monitor Sugar Company, and is programmed by the county for Pony League baseball. The Northeast Little League Field is located on city-owned land and is leased to the Little League Association.

The Boys' & Girls' Club, located on the Middlegrounds, leases its site from the City of Bay City. It provides a variety of facilities and activities for the youth of Bay County. The YMCA, located at Columbus Avenue and Madison Avenue, provides indoor recreation facilities to the public on a fee basis.

Commercial Recreation Facilities

Commercial recreation facilities play a significant role in the provision of recreation services to the public. The public sector cannot, nor should not be expected to provide every type of recreational facility for which there is a demand. In some cases, capital and operating costs may be too great for the public sector to bear, or the facility may be too specialized to meet the needs of the general public. Further, where there is tremendous public demand for a certain type of facility, the commercial sector may have to absorb that demand when it cannot be met by the public park and recreation system.

Within the scope of this inventory no attempt is made to include such commercial enterprises as amusement or game centers, dance halls, billiard parlors, theaters, or similar entertainment establishments.

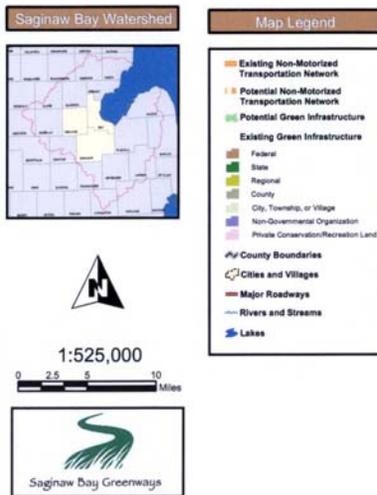
Regional Recreation Attractions

There are many recreational facilities located outside Bay City that are used by Bay City residents. These facilities tend to be those not normally found within an urbanized city, either because of the large amounts of land required to support the facility, or because the facility capitalizes on a unique natural setting such as a forest or lake. **Table 14**, Regional Recreation Attractors, located on page 68 identifies the major attractions for recreation.



Greenways

The Saginaw Bay Greenways Collaborative is a group of organizations working to develop a greenways network for the Bay, Midland and Saginaw area. The greenway network will improve the quality of recreation opportunities for people in the tri-county area. A planning document entitled *A Vision of Green* recommends natural greenway corridors and a non-motorized transportation network of pathways. The Riverwalk/Railtrail in Bay City provides a vital link to the area wide pedestrian pathway.



Map 13. Saginaw Bay Greenways.

See also Appendix D for full size map.

Greenway corridors and public land areas are shown on **Map 13**. Five of the areas are state and regional facilities: Nayanguing Point, Tobico Marsh, Quanicassee Area, Pinconning Park, and Bay City Recreation Area. These facilities focus on natural settings, both for preservation and nature study, as well as for providing recreational activities must take place in such settings, including camping, hiking and hunting.

Special Events



Bay City is fortunate to have a number of special events planned each year for local residents and out of town visitors. Numerous public events are cosponsored by the City of Bay City. Typically these community wide events are open to the public or an admission fee may be charged for major events or concerts. Some of the larger special events throughout a typical year include:

January

Klondike Derby-Veterans Park

March

St. Patrick's Day Parade-Center Avenue

St. Patrick's Day Race-East side streets

April

Easter Egg Hunt-Wenonah Park

May

Aviation Weekend-James Clements Airport

June

Riverside Art Festival-Wenonah Park

Bay Area Arts Council, events throughout summer at band shell

River Roar-Wenonah and Veterans Park

Pig Gig Rib Fest

July

4th of July Fireworks Festival-Riverfront

4th of July parade-Washington Avenue

Motorsports Festival-downtown

Corvette Show-downtown

August

Tall Ships Celebration-riverfront

September

Blooperball Tournament- Defoe Park

Birney Park Car Show-Birney Park

River of Time-Veterans Park/Kantzler Arboretum

October

Homes Tour-city wide

November/December

River of Lights

Santa House

GOVERNMENT

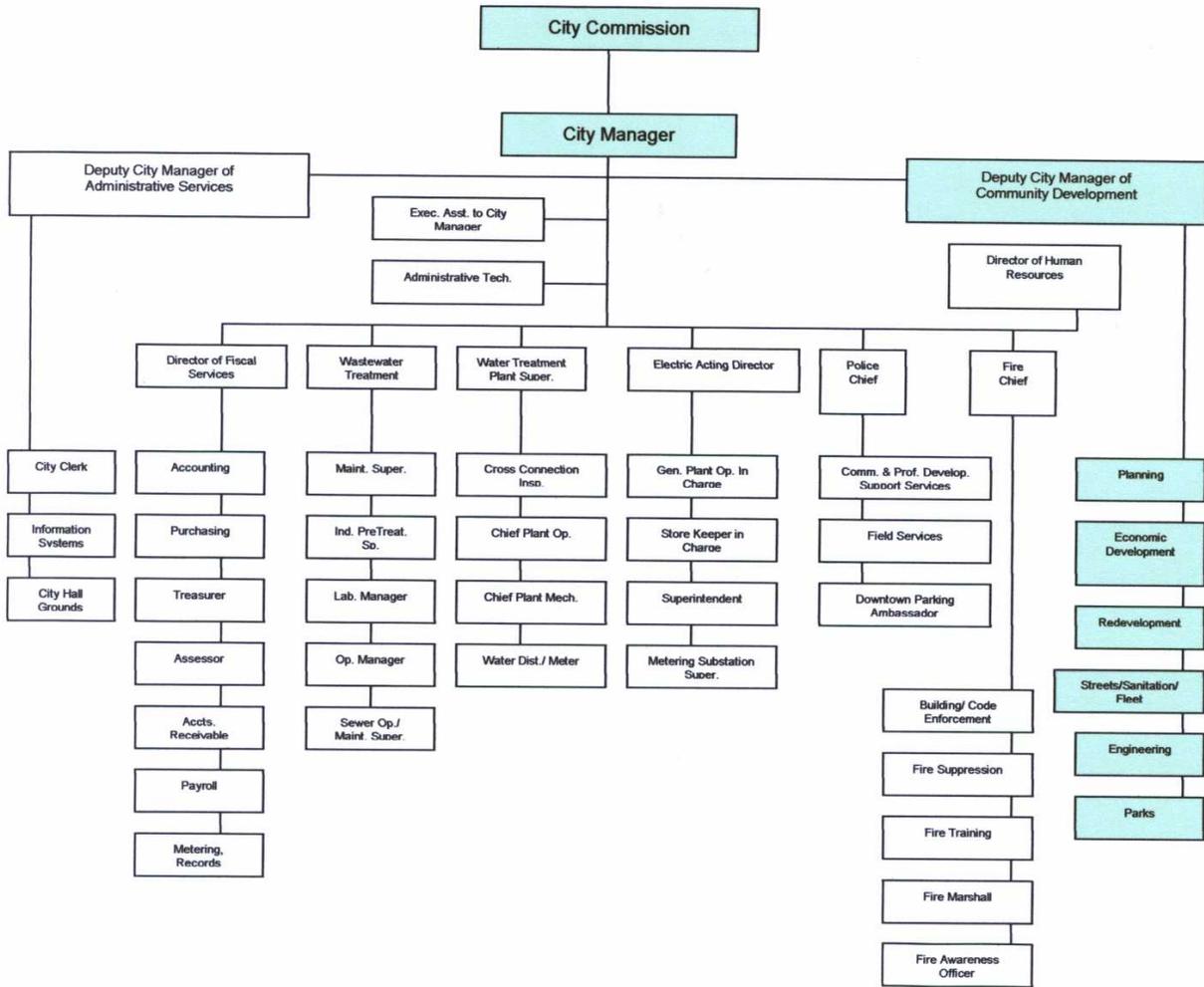
Bay City has a commissioner-manager form of government. The City Commission consists of nine members who are nominated and elected by the ward system. The voters also choose a Mayor who is elected at large. A City Manager is appointed by the Commission and is largely responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the city.

Figure 8 illustrates the organizational chart in Bay City's governmental structure. As can be seen, Parks is an operational unit under the direction of the Deputy City Manager of Community Development. The City Parks Department maintains all facilities comprising the community parks system. This includes the maintenance of buildings and grounds, and includes equipment, furnishings, walkways, parking lots, drives and utility systems.

The city does not have a formal role in recreation programming, and shares responsibilities for the maintenance and development of certain community park areas which are programmed for recreation by the county. The city and county have developed a successful partnership to coordinate the shared use of recreational facilities in the city.

Bay County has an elected executive form of county government. County voters elect a Board of Commissioners, consisting of nine members nominated and elected by district, and a County Executive. The County Executive is both the top administrator and the political leader of the county with appropriate appointive and supervisory powers.

Figure 8. City of Bay City Organizational Chart.

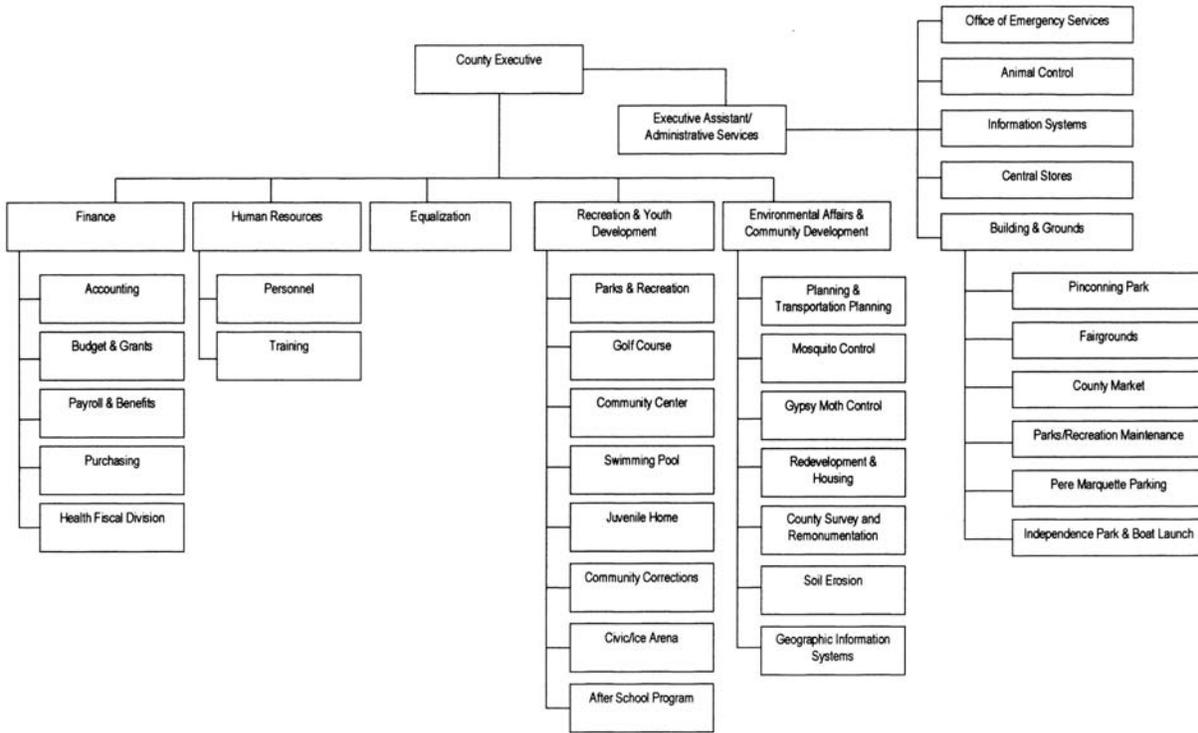


The organization chart for Bay County government (see **Figure 9**) illustrates how recreation services are provided for the county.

The Bay County Recreation Department is responsible for funding, programming and maintaining park and recreation facilities throughout Bay County. This includes select recreation facilities located within the city’s park system.

The City of Bay City and Bay County have partnered to become the primary providers of recreation in the city. This unique arrangement dates back to 1968 and has worked well to maximize resources and reduce overlapping services.

Figure 9. Bay County Organization Chart.



Bay County Recreation funds the maintenance and improvement of select city park facilities. Additionally, they fund and manage organized recreation activities such as softball and volleyball leagues, operate a community center and pool, and sponsor a variety of community recreation programs.

Where a local matching share is required for a state or federal grant, the city and the county have at times split the local share on a 50-50 basis. In the discussion which follows, existing operations involving the delivery of services to support community recreation at both the city and county level are described. It is not the intent of this plan to address problems or recommend strategies for improving the county's operations. This is the responsibility of the county since only the county can determine the best use of its resources, and how to effectively manage services in that regard. These issues are addressed in the 2003 Bay County Recreation Plan.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Although informal and spontaneous use of recreational facilities is important, an organized program of recreation activities and events greatly enhances the scope of recreational opportunities. It is desirable for recreation service systems to provide such opportunities, since they contribute to a balanced recreation program.

As previously mentioned, most of the recreation programming of facilities in Bay City is the responsibility of the Bay County Recreation Department, which carries out programming on a county-wide basis. The department attempts to offer programs to meet the interests of all Bay County residents. It also assists private organizations in their programming efforts, along with public schools and parochial school athletic clubs.

Bay County has been able to offer a well-balanced, year-round recreation program for all age groups and both sexes at varied locations throughout the county. The following list is a representative sample of programs offered by the county during 2003-2004, and available to the residents of Bay City.

Table 12. Bay County Recreational Programs.

Sports, Games, Exercises	Location
Beach Volleyball	Veterans Memorial Park
Baseball	Fields throughout county
Basketball	Various Schools, Community Center
Speed Skating Team	County Fairgrounds/County Ice Arena
Golf Instruction & Tournament	County Golf Courses
Ice Skating	Rinks throughout county/County Ice Arena
Hockey Teams & Casual Play	Rinks throughout county/County Ice Arena
Softball	Veterans Memorial Park, Fields throughout county
Special Olympics	Community Center, Veterans Memorial Park
Tennis	Hewitt Park Courts throughout County Community Center
Table Tennis	Bay City Fields & Essexville/ Hampton Schools
Touch & Flag Football.....	Community Center Bigelow Park, Middlegrounds & Veterans Memorial Park
Swimming.....	Veterans Memorial Park
Soccer	Veterans Memorial Park
Volleyball	Various Schools & Community Center
Winter Slides Women's Walk & Talk.....	County Fairgrounds, Community Center
Music/ Fiddler's Jamboree.....	County Fairgrounds
Social Activities	
Senior Citizens Club	County Fairgrounds & Essexville/ Hampton
Card Clubs	Community Center
Education	
Hunter Safety Class	Community Center
First Aid Skills.....	Community Center

As is evident from the above description, a wide variety of classes, events, organized team sports and social opportunities are available, most at locations within Bay City. The Community Center, recreation facilities located in Veterans Park, and the County Fairgrounds are the heaviest utilized facilities in terms of recreation programming. County recreation administrators have always held the philosophy that they will attempt to program for activities where sufficient interest can be demonstrated.

Budget cuts affecting recreational services have necessitated program cuts by the county in recent years. These cuts have left the county with a

deficiency in program areas for which there is a demand, such as teen dances.

Recreation programming for special populations include: a senior citizens club, holiday dances for seniors, a handicapped swim program, and a handicapped horseback riding program.

The Bay City State Recreation Area, which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, has an interpretive nature trail for the blind. The emphasis in providing recreational opportunities for the handicapped has been to mainstream these groups as much as possible into the regular recreation program. Several schools in Bay City, which are utilized for special education purposes, also provide recreational opportunities for the handicapped.

As previously stated, this report makes no attempt to comment, study or make recommendations regarding recreation programming. The Bay County Recreation Department provides these services through input from their constituencies, which includes city residents. The City of Bay City will however, continue to support the use of municipal park facilities for programmed uses by the county, as well as other recreational providers.



RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

Planning

The Bay City Planning Department works with Parks Department staff to develop plans for recreation improvements in the community parks system. The County Recreation Department is included in the planning process when facilities are being designed to support recreation program activities.

The Park and Recreation Plan considers recommendations from the city's Citizens District Councils to define recreational interests, and to

coordinate recreation planning with other city planning and development activities.

Issues related to the planning of recreation facilities require coordination and communication between a number of municipal entities, including: the Planning Department, Department of Public Works, Engineering Department, Parks Department and the City Commission. In addition, the planning and implementation of physical recreation space is reviewed by the Planning Commission based on the Municipal Planning Act 285.

Parks Department

Table 13 lists the Parks Department budget since July 2000. The budget expenditures for personal services and fringe benefits, operating supplies, capital outlay and other services and charges are included in the budget figures.

Fiscal Year	Budget
2000/01	\$909,479
2001/02	\$934,708
2002/03	\$1,101,636
2003/04	\$1,093,792
2004/05	\$1,219,679

Table 13. Parks budget, City of Bay City, Michigan.

The budget for park maintenance is determined in the same manner as other general fund budgets. Each department presents a proposed budget to the City Manager, based upon previous budgets, current year needs, and the city's five-year Capital Improvement Program. The City Manager and the Finance Director then work out a proposed budget that is submitted to the City Commission. The Commission holds hearings, votes on a preliminary budget which again goes through a revision process, and is subsequently adopted. There are no problems with the process that place funding for park maintenance at a disadvantage with other departments.



Maintenance/Operations

The Parks Department, under the direction of the Deputy City Manager of Community Development, has responsibility for managing and maintaining the community park system. Responsibilities are shared with Bay County as it relates to facilities used for programmed recreation activities such as softball diamonds, volley ball courts and ice skating rinks.

In cases where the county has not been able to fund facility improvements related to programmed recreation use, the City of Bay City has elected to install these facilities with its funds or state and/or federal grants. Examples of this are the tennis and basketball courts in Maplewood Park.

In addition to maintaining community park facilities, the Parks Department has a number of other non-parks related responsibilities. These include managing and maintaining the Liberty Harbor Marina, James Clements Airport and Oakridge Cemetery. The Parks Department also supports a community wide forestry program to trim, remove and plant trees in the public right-of-way on city streets. During the winter months, personnel have snow removal responsibilities in locations throughout the city. These varied and non-park related responsibilities mean that less time is available for park maintenance. Since there are no other staff available to undertake these responsibilities, it is doubtful this issue can be meaningfully addressed in the near future.

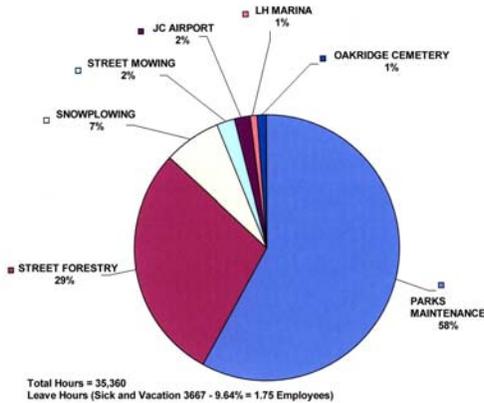


Figure 10. Parks Department Personnel Distribution.



Maintenance Personnel

The approved personnel complement for the Parks Department during FY 2003/04 included seventeen full-time employees, two contractual employees and twelve part-time employees.

Part-time employees are primarily used to supplement the full-time labor force during the summer months. Employees are hired through a contractual labor service, and federally funded youth employment programs. Additional labor services are occasionally retained through volunteer groups, local work programs sponsored by the school system, and community service programs administered by detention centers and the local court system. Part-time personnel are deployed to assist in performing general maintenance routines, provide services for special events, and to staff the Liberty Harbor Marina.

During the winter months, full-time employees are responsible for plowing cul-de-sacs and alleys city-

wide, school crossings, parking lots associated with business districts, and public properties and park walkways. Depending on weather conditions, they also perform maintenance in parks, refurbish picnic tables and benches, and repair equipment.

In order to meet the growing demand for a variety of public services, the Parks Department is placing greater emphasis on several strategies to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the workforce. Parks Administrative Staff are committed to a process of reinventing the organization, reshaping the manner in which services are provided, and creating a high performance workforce. In that regard, improvement efforts have focused on the following five general areas: organizational development, planning, training, technology and equipment.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The organizational structure of the Parks Department is being overhauled, in an effort to achieve a seamless interface between the work and the workforce. The objective is to create an efficient, productive and flexible organization capable of executing core responsibilities, while possessing the ability to react to new priorities in an expeditious manner.

A study of personnel deployment is being conducted to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. Job titles have been simplified and consolidated under Maintenance classifications. New positions were created to provide opportunities for career advancement and to attract and retain employees with higher skills. Key to this effort is a reorganization of job duties and work assignments. This initiative is expected to better match employees to work, and to more effectively use employees to improve productivity.

In support of these efforts, lines of communication are being established to define the organizational mission, and accommodate employee input into changes and decision making.

Strategies are also being developed to coordinate the activities of all personnel (full-time, part-time, community service and volunteer), and to focus these resources in a manner which will ensure maximum productivity.

Planning

Park maintenance operations are generally structured into maintenance routines. Typical maintenance routines include: mowing, litter pickup and removal, restroom cleanup, park equipment inspection and repair, special event services, snow removal and horticultural tasks.

Efforts are underway to identify and reinforce critical maintenance routines that comprise core services, and to regularly monitor and evaluate them on the basis of efficiency, effectiveness and cost.

Strategic partnerships are being developed with groups, individuals, and organizations to provide a pool of volunteers who could assist with maintenance. As an example, a cooperative program has been developed with the “Bay City in Bloom” organization to manage the care of “pocket parks” located along 10 miles of the Riverwalk and Riverwalk/Railtrail loop in the city. Parks Department staff will continue to identify, pursue and promote similar initiatives in the future. Guidelines have been prepared to assist in identifying the required procedures for volunteers, as well as a list of potential projects.

Opportunities to adopt and implement “best practices” will be an on-going process. Incorporating successful practices into parks operations will standardize work functions while enhancing the quality of services.

Operational strategies that depart from the traditional work week are also under review. Constraints and opportunities for deploying the workforce across a seven day workweek are currently being studied.

Through a process of collecting, evaluating and organizing information, Parks Department staff will

eventually establish statistical measures to define the levels of service provided, and to identify how and where resources are being directed. This information will be useful in evaluating services and the deployment of resources, establishing priorities and refining work routines.

Parks Department staff will also become more proactive in participating in the planning of new recreational facilities, to ensure proposed designs comply with established standards for maintenance and use.

Training

In addition to recruiting new personnel with higher qualifications, parks administrators see education and training as being key drivers to increasing productivity. Enhanced and directed training is also expected to create a safer workplace and reduce injuries, as well as lost time. Parks Department staff are currently working to establish a formal and professional program for safety training. A primary objective is to conduct this training on a regular and timely basis.

As work processes become more sophisticated, it will be necessary for personnel to be able to continually develop and maintain skills.

Technology

Technology is being employed in a variety of forms, for application across a broad spectrum of parks operations. Examples include:

- Utilization of computer software to generate, store and archive information, create a variety of records including operational forms, work reports, maps, data bases and inventories. Software uses will also provide the ability to track, analyze and manipulate information.
- Acquisition of state-of-the-art grounds maintenance equipment including wide area mowers and litter removal vacuum systems.

- Implementation of new products and materials including recycled plastic lumber for picnic tables and parking lot wheel stops, vandal resistant window screens, tamperproof fasteners and durable-low maintenance plant materials.

The application of technology is significantly improving efficiency and productivity, which will translate into substantial savings of money and manpower over time.

Equipment

The Parks Department has aggressively pursued the acquisition of new equipment for the purpose of increasing productivity and improving services. Recent acquisitions include state-of-the-art grounds maintenance equipment for mowing, litter pick-up and snow removal. Future challenges to meet the ever increasing demands of maintenance and service will rely heavily on the acquisition of additional equipment, particularly a rubbish packer and replacement mowers.

Maintenance Operations

The management of future Parks operations faces serious challenges as new facilities are added to current maintenance responsibilities, and as special event services continue to increase on a yearly basis. The growing number of events are a particular concern because they compete for scarce resources, disrupt planned activities and typically require a redeployment of personnel who are engaged in performing scheduled maintenance routines.

In an effort to shape the Parks organization to meet the ever increasing demands for service, a number of previously discussed strategies have been identified. While these strategies are intended to maximize the effectiveness of service delivery, they are by no means the final solution. Currently, service demands are increasing at a rate that cannot be entirely offset by improvements in efficiency and productivity. Unless future responsibilities are scaled to fit available resources, the Parks organization will

struggle with competing priorities, a lack of focus and divergent expectations. This scenario will ultimately lead to a reduction in the quality of services, increased complaints, and a less productive and efficient workforce. While potentially unpopular, the only remedy that will affect this condition is to dedicate additional funds to increase personnel services and purchase equipment.

Chapter *Five*

BASIS FOR ACTION

This chapter will evaluate information provided at the public workshops, interviews with city staff and an analysis of the facility inventory. This chapter will discuss the classification of parks, recreation trends and sports participation using national standards and measurements and serve as the basis for decisions relating to park improvements.



During the community visioning sessions, members of the community consistently expressed satisfaction with the number and size of parks in the city. Another strength that was stressed was the convenient location of city parks for serving area residents. Park space in the city can be classified as a neighborhood, community or regional park, all serving area residents.



It is important to keep in mind throughout this discussion that the division of recreation areas into neighborhood, community and regional parks is somewhat artificial since in reality, a facility's use is determined by the types of uses located on the site rather than by site size or location. For example, a community park located in a particular neighborhood will be used by the residents of that area as a neighborhood facility because it is in the vicinity of their homes. Similarly, a regional facility will be used by the residents of the particular community in which it is located as a community facility if it contains the appropriate uses.

Neighborhood & Community Park Service Areas*

* Community Parks show a 1/2 mile service area while Neighborhood Parks show a service area with a 1/4 mile radius.)

Neighborhood Park Service Area

Community Parks Service Area

Park Identification Key:

Community Parks

City Parks:

- 4 DeFoe Park
- 19 Cass Avenue Boat Launch
- 37 Sovereign Field
- 39 Carroll Park

County Parks:

- 13 Bay Co. Euclid Linear Park

Institutional Properties:

- 12 Kolb Elementary & Field
- 21 St. Hyacinth's Field
- 22 MacGregor Elementary
- 28 Central High School

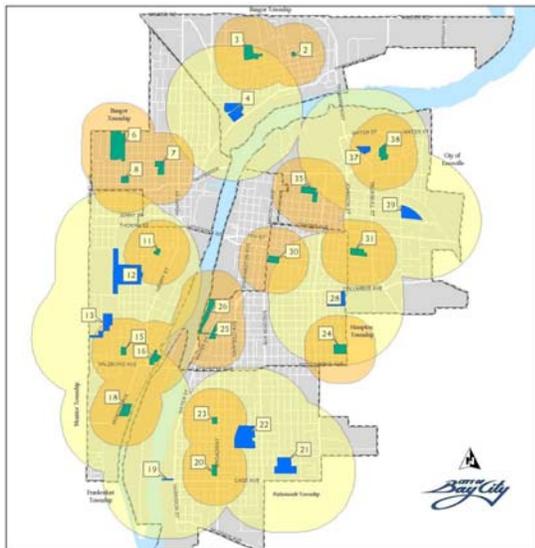
Neighborhood Parks

City Parks:

- 2 Trombley/Banks Park
- 7 Nate Doan Park
- 11 Ramsey Park
- 16 Putz's Park
- 20 Roosevelt Park
- 24 Hewitt Park
- 25 Rexer Jablonski Park
- 26 Breakers Cove Park
- 30 Birney Park
- 35 Maplewood Park

Institutional Properties:

- 3 Lindsay Elementary
- 6 Handy Intermediate
- 8 McKinley School
- 15 Reigel Elementary
- 18 Coryell Field
- 23 Fremont Center
- 31 Washington Elementary
- 38 Eastside Middle School



Map 14. Neighborhood & Community Park Service Areas.

See also Appendix D for full size map.

Facility Standards

There are many different types of standards which have been developed by recreation planning entities, such as the National Recreation and Park Association. These standards govern the amount of recreational acreage that should be provided within a municipal recreation system, as well as the type, size, number and location of recreation activity areas that should be provided. Such standards are useful in that they provide a yardstick against which a community can assess the adequacy of its park and recreation system, and indicate general future space needs. They also function to “objectify” goal statements by providing specific goal measures. Standards do not however have to be used as a rule for what a community must provide. Standards can be used in conjunction with other methods to determine recreation deficiencies and priorities within the community. They should be used to help the community focus on areas of greatest need, types of facilities needed and areas of emphasis for the future development of park and recreation facilities. Standards must also reflect the space a community can realistically provide within the context of its pattern of development. The Analysis of Inventory section of this chapter will discuss available park and open space needs within the city.

Map 14 identifies the Inventory of Recreational Properties within the seven Recreation Planning Areas meeting the criteria as neighborhood park, community park, or a regional urban park. As discussed previously, institutional properties such as schools provide open space areas and playground equipment available to the public and have been listed. **Map 14** uses the service area criteria for coverage or the distance a facility serves for the categories of neighborhood park and community park uses. In the Midland Street and Southwest Planning Areas, Veterans Memorial Park and its facilities have not been listed due to the regional draw for the use of the park.

PLANNING SERVICE AREA

Standards are generally applied to recreational facilities and spaces based upon their intended service area. Three levels of service areas are defined in this study: (1) neighborhood parks, (2) community parks, (3) and regional parks. The following describes the three levels of service areas and types of facilities.

The Neighborhood Park

The neighborhood is the basic planning organizational unit within the urban area. It is based upon the principle that neighborhood-serving institutions, such as the elementary school, parks, playgrounds, and churches should be within that neighborhood. Thus, neighborhood is used here as a description of a geographical area with no social connotations implied other than that residents of the same neighborhood share the neighborhood facilities, institutions and services. Neighborhood boundaries are usually defined on the basis of physical and topographic barriers, such as major streets, railroads, rivers, bridges, and use the elementary school service area as a determinant. A neighborhood typically contains 3,000 to 6,000 persons. Mini-parks can also be included when describing neighborhood parks and range in size from 2500 square feet to one acre in size and should be located less than a ¼ mile from a residential setting. A neighborhood park may range in size from 5 to 10 acres and generally draws users from a ¼ mile to ½ mile distance.

Neighborhood recreation facilities should generally include a neighborhood park and a neighborhood playground, thus providing active and passive recreational opportunities for all age groups within the neighborhood setting. The playground should contain a variety of play equipment for children as well as informal play spaces and fields for games and sports. The park should be aesthetically attractive, containing lawn, shrubs and picnic areas, with some open field area for unsupervised play. It is desirable to develop the neighborhood park and playground

adjacent to each other and, where feasible, to combine the park-playground complex with an elementary school site. The school can then be used as an indoor and outdoor center, thereby enhancing the neighborhood recreation complex and maximizing use of the school property.

The Community Park

The community is a geographic area which incorporates several neighborhoods and facilities that serve a population segment larger than a neighborhood but smaller than the city. The size of a community park would range from 10 to 30 acres and usually serves two or more neighborhoods within a ½ mile to 3 miles of the park.

Community oriented recreation facilities include community parks and community playfields. They are generally larger in size and offer a greater variety of activities than neighborhood facilities in order to serve a larger population and service area. Also, much like neighborhood recreation facilities, it is recommended that the community park-playfields be located adjacent to a middle school or senior high school to maximize recreational opportunities at the site. The community park offers passive recreational opportunities for all age groups and may include such active facilities as tennis courts, basketball courts, ice rinks and swimming pools. The community playfields serves ages 15 and over and provides facilities such as ball diamonds or football fields for organized competitive activities.



The Regional Park

The third service area level comprises the city and surrounding urban area. Many community facilities are provided on a region-wide basis, particularly those which require significant population levels for support. Regional facilities have a very definite role in meeting urban recreation needs. These facilities meet the needs of a very large geographic area and provide recreational opportunities to in-city residents, tri-county residents or people coming in from out of town for special events. Regional parks are typically

over 30 acres to serve community based recreation needs. They may provide facilities not available in other areas of the region and be a strong attractor of users. One such example is the Infinity Skate Park. Regional recreation facilities are usually located to make effective use of natural areas such as lakes, rivers and forests, while offering recreational experience not available in neighborhood or community recreation areas.

In addition to the standards described above, principles have been developed by the National Recreation Association's National Committee on Recreation Standards by Robert W. Crawford. These principles provide further evaluation criteria for recreation facilities and expand the concept of space standards beyond mere acreage and site size requirements and are shown on page 69 of this plan.

Private and Commercial Facilities

Public entities can never expect to provide every type of recreational experience the public may desire. Some recreation facilities are better provided through the private and commercial sectors, especially where the capital outlay to develop such facilities would be prohibitive for public sector involvement. Such facilities may include marinas, skating rinks, bowling alleys, ski resorts and golf courses. The ability of the private and commercial sectors to more effectively provide these recreation facilities should be considered when defining recreation activities and facilities to be provided by the public sector.

Regional recreational opportunities are provided in **Table 14**.

Table 14. Regional Recreation Attractors, Bay County, Michigan.

Facility	Site Size Acres	Description
PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION AREAS		
Pinconning Park	201.0	Picnic Area; Camp Ground
Nayanguing Point	799.0	Game Area; Hunting & Fishing
Tobico Marsh	1,270.0	Wildlife Refuge
Paraleon Beach	2.7	Beach
Bay City State Park	214.0	Campground; Beach; Nature Center
Wild Haven Park	12.0	Boat Ramp; Picnic Area
Bay County Golf Course	135.0	18 Holes
Quanicassee Area	3,027.0	Wildlife Refuge
Pond Site Park	30.0	Tennis; Toboggan Hill; Picnic Area; Ball field
Monitor Township Park	19.0	Ball field; Ice Rink; Playground
Smith Park	1.0	Boat Ramp; Playground; Picnic Area; Tennis
Ridge Road Park	6.0	Ball fields; Ice Rink; Picnic Area; Playground
Aetna Boat Launch	-	3 Boat Ramps
Patterson Field	3.8	Football/ Soccer Field
PUBLIC SCHOOLS		
Delta College	640.0	Tennis; Pool; Gym; Auditorium; Nature Trail; Cross Country Ski Trails
Garber High	40.0	Ball fields; Pool; Ice Rink; Tennis; Basketball
Non-Profit/Civic		
YWCA	2	Pool; Gym; Indoor Recreation
COMMERCIAL		
Deer Acres	19.5	Deer Farm
Green Hills Golf Course	-	18 Holes
Maple Leaf Golf Course	77.0	18 Holes
Hoyle's Marina	-	124 Slips; Full Service
Oak Lake Golf Course	80.0	9 Holes
Spring Valley Golf Course	80.0	18 Holes
State Park Driving Range	20.0	Driving Range; Par 3 Golf
Sandy Ridge Golf Course	169.0	18 Holes
White Birch Golf Course	98.8	18 Holes
Metro Skate West	-	Indoor Skating Rink
Bay City Yacht Club	-	Private Yacht Club
Bay Harbor Marina	-	350 Slips; Full Service
Monitor Lanes	-	Bowling Alley – 40 Lanes
Bay Valley	490.0	Championship 18 Hole Golf Course; Tennis
Twin Oaks Golf Course	177.0	27 Holes
Bay City Country Club	135.0	18 Holes; Members Only
Baker's Yacht Service	-	Storage; Railway Haul Out
Saginaw Bay Yacht Club	-	Private Yacht Club; 125 Slips
Eastland Recreation	-	Bowling Alley – 48 Lanes
Alert Lanes	-	Bowling Alley
Bay Lanes	-	Bowling Alley
Bowman's Club	-	Archery
Linwood Bay Sportsman's Club	-	Shooting
Bay Area Soccer Association	25.0	Soccer, all age groups, 200 teams.

Principles of the National Committee on Recreation Standards

1. A recreation system requires properly distributed areas and facilities.
2. A recreation system requires areas and facilities that are diversified in physical character, type, size and degree of development.
3. The different types and sizes of areas are determined by the basic kinds of recreation service they are designed to provide, while the distribution and degree of development of areas are determined by the density and composition of the population to be served.
4. Each recreation area or facility should be located on usable land which is topographically appropriate to and suitable for the purpose for which it is intended.
5. Each recreation area or facility should be centrally located within the area it is intended to serve and should afford safe and convenient access for those it is intended to serve.
6. Each recreation area or facility should include facilities that will offer recreational opportunities for all age groups it is intended to serve.
7. Whenever possible, appropriate recreation areas and facilities should be located near or adjoining public schools, libraries, or community agencies of a recreational group or informal educational nature.
8. In addition to the actual space required for the recreation activities to be provided, consideration must be given to the space required for safety, aesthetic or scenic values and service functions.

RECREATION TRENDS AND SPORTS PARTICIPATION

A recent study titled *Sports Participation in 2000* was conducted by the National Sporting Goods Association. This is a retail trade association that conducts research and tracks trends in the sporting industry. Questionnaires were sent to a sample of participants in the United States seven years of age or older in order to provide information for tracking trends in sports participation. The results are summarized in **Table 16** which represents a Ten-Year History of Sports Participation. **Table 15** provides data ranked by total participation along with the change from the 1992 study. Exercise walking is the leading activity among those seven years or older and is reflective of the national trend for building recreational greenways and pathways for pedestrian and bicyclists use.

Table 15. 2002 Ranked by Total Participation.

Sport	Total	% Change
Exercise Walking	82.2	5.0%
Camping (vacation/overnight)	55.4	13.8%
Swimming	54.7	-0.2%
Exercising with Equipment	50.2	14.4%
Fishing	44.2	-0.5%
Bowling	43.9	4.8%
Bicycle Riding	41.4	6.1%
Billiards/Pool	35.3	7.8%
Hiking	30.5	17.0%
Aerobic Exercising	29.0	10.4%
Basketball	28.9	3.0%
Golf	28.3	6.1%
Weight Lifting	28.1	17.4%
Boating, Motor/Power	26.6	11.4%
Running/Jogging	24.7	0.9%
Hunting with Firearms	19.5	1.6%
Target Shooting	18.9	9.6%
Roller Skating (in-line)	18.8	-2.0%
Dart Throwing	18.5	9.4%
Baseball	15.6	5.1%
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	15.5	6.8%
Mountain Biking (on road)	15.3	8.7%
Soccer	14.5	4.7%
Softball	13.6	3.2%
Scooter Riding	13.4	5.6%
Volleyball	11.5	-4.8%
Tennis	11.0	0.5%
Football (touch)	10.3	8.6%
Skateboarding	9.7	0.4%
Mountain Biking (off road)	7.8	12.6%
Canoeing	7.6	11.5%
Skiing (alpine)	7.4	-3.4%
Football (tackle)	7.4	-9.8%
T'ai Chi/Yoga	7.1	n/a
Paintball Games	6.9	24.4%
Water Skiing	6.9	18.4%
Snowboarding	5.6	4.6%
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	4.6	-1.8%
Martial Arts	4.2	-18.3%
Archery (target)	4.2	-11.3%
Muzzleloading	3.6	11.0%
Skiing (cross country)	2.2	-5.8%
Hockey (ice)	2.1	-4.9%

Table 16. Ten-Year History of Selected Sports Participation.

Participated more than once (in millions)
 Seven (7) years of age and older

Sport	2002	2000	1998	1996	1994	1992
Aerobic Exercising	29.0	26.7	25.8	24.1	23.2	27.8
Archery (target)	4.2	4.5	4.8	5.3	n/a	n/a
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	15.5	15.4	14.6	11.5	9.8	9.7
Baseball	15.6	15.6	15.9	14.8	15.1	15.1
Basketball	28.9	27.1	29.4	31.8	28.2	28.2
Bicycle Riding	41.4	43.1	43.5	53.3	49.8	54.6
Billiards/Pool	35.3	32.5	32.3	34.5	34.0	29.3
Boating, Motor/Power	26.6	24.2	25.7	28.8	26.4	22.3
Bowling	43.9	43.1	40.1	42.9	37.4	42.5
Camping (vacation/overnight)	55.4	49.9	46.5	44.7	42.9	47.3
Canoeing	7.6	6.2	7.1	8.4	8.5	7.2
Dart Throwing	18.5	17.4	20.8	21.3	21.2	18.8
Exercise Walking	82.2	81.3	77.6	73.3	70.8	67.8
Exercising with Equipment	50.2	44.8	46.1	47.8	43.8	39.4
Fishing	44.2	47.2	43.6	45.6	45.7	47.6
Football (tackle)	7.4	8.0	8.1	9.0	n/a	n/a
Football (touch)	10.3	9.8	10.8	11.6	n/a	n/a
Golf	28.3	26.4	27.5	23.1	24.6	24.0
Hiking	30.5	24.3	27.2	26.5	25.3	21.6
Hockey (ice)	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.6
Hunting with Firearms	19.5	19.1	17.3	18.3	16.4	17.8
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	4.6	4.7	5.6	5.5	n/a	n/a
Martial Arts	4.2	5.4	4.6	4.7	n/a	n/a
Mountain Biking (off road)	7.8	7.1	8.6	7.3	5.7	n/a
Mountain Biking (on road)	15.3	14.3	15.3	13.3	9.0	n/a
Muzzle loading	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.2	n/a	n/a
Paintball Games	6.9	5.3	n/a	n/a	3.7	n/a
Roller Skating (in-line)	18.8	21.8	27.0	25.5	19.5	9.7
Running/Jogging	24.7	22.8	22.5	22.2	20.6	21.9
Scooter Riding	13.4	11.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Skateboarding	9.7	9.1	5.8	4.7	4.9	5.5
Skiing (alpine)	7.4	7.4	7.7	10.5	10.6	10.8
Skiing (cross country)	2.2	2.3	2.6	3.4	3.6	3.5
Snowboarding	5.6	4.3	3.6	3.1	2.1	1.2
Soccer	14.5	12.9	13.2	13.9	12.5	10.6
Softball	13.6	14.0	15.6	19.9	18.1	19.2
Swimming	54.7	58.8	58.2	60.2	60.3	63.1
T'ai Chi/Yoga	7.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Target Shooting	18.9	16.9	18.9	21.2	n/a	n/a
Tennis	11.0	10.0	11.2	11.5	11.6	17.3
Volleyball	11.5	12.3	14.8	18.5	17.4	22.1
Water Skiing	6.9	5.9	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.9
Weight Lifting	28.1	22.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

SOURCE: National Sporting Goods Association, Mt Prospect IL 60056 847.296 NSGA FAX: 847.391.9827

RECREATION ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES



A 2003 report by the Trust for Public Land entitled *The Excellent City Park System* identified seven factors as key to city park excellence. These seven factors are:

1. A clear expression of purpose.
2. An on-going planning and community involvement process.
3. Sufficient assets in land, staffing and equipment to meet the system's goals.
4. Equitable access.
5. User satisfaction.
6. Safety from crime and physical hazards.
7. Benefits for the city beyond the boundaries of the parks.

Each of these issues is important to acknowledge and discuss throughout the Park and Recreation Plan. The vision statement, goals and objectives which will lead to short and long term planning recommendations and strategies found in Chapter Six, can be further developed in the Action Plan. Building civic pride, increasing tourism and economic investment, and contributing to the health and vitality of the city and its residents can be provided through the parks system and action taken as a result of this plan can continue to serve the residents of the Bay City community.

Current Issues

The City of Bay City's capacity to provide additional recreation facilities is limited at this time, given current economic conditions and concerns regarding maintenance of existing facilities.

In addition to this, issues related to additional physical development as part of the recreation

system have been reviewed. Issues discussed include the following:

1. How much emphasis should be placed on new development as opposed to rehabilitation of existing facilities. In addressing this issue, factors to be considered include limited vacant land for new development, high costs of new park development, critical need for improvement of existing facilities, and the importance of quality of facilities over quantity of facilities. These factors indicate that the Action Plan should focus primarily on facility rehabilitation as the main thrust of the Plan.
2. Loss of tax base as a result of property acquisition for public park land is an issue of concern to cities such as Bay City, which are currently experiencing a decline in their tax base. Recreation has to compete with residential, commercial and industrial uses, all of which have the benefit of producing tax revenues. However, it should be remembered that recreation is a vital city service, especially during times of economic hardship, and opportunities for future recreation development should not be ignored. On the other hand, the physical development plan should be sensitive to the need to preserve valuable land for tax generating purposes.
3. Discussion has occurred on whether some city parks that are under utilized should have a portion of the site sold for other land uses. In the past, this was considered for Maplewood Park and Ramsey Park. Due to covenants and deed restrictions placed on the properties, this plan does not recommend selling this park space.
4. In previous Recreation Plans, standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association were used to determine the amount of park space and recreation uses in the city. As a result of analysis of updated recreation data, the amount of park space in the city and the need to maintain existing and proposed parks,

no additional parkland is being sought for development.

Analysis of Inventory

Community input obtained from the Community Workshops identified the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the parks. Participants frequently commented on the large number of parks, their variety in size, and their convenient location to the neighborhoods.

Two recently completed planning studies indicate that the recreation needs for park land is met in the city. An analysis of the inventory identified in the Bay County Recreation Plan 2003-2007 suggests the need is met for recreational facilities in the city with the exception of tennis facilities.

In addition, the Bay County Department of Environmental Affairs and Community Development initiated a fiscal impact analysis entitled *An Analysis of the Impacts of Land Use and Zoning Decisions on the Demand for Public Facilities and Services*. The purpose of the report was to analyze the relationship between land use identified in the *Zoning and Land Use Plan Build-Out Assessment* prepared in 2000 and the demand for public facilities and services. The fiscal impact analysis is a means of quantifying or measuring the need for additional public facilities. Within the Bay County Regional Park system the report identified a need of only 20.3 acres throughout the entire county.¹

Based on the inventory of exiting park land and population projections, the report identified an overall, but uneven distribution of park areas within the city classified as a community or neighborhood park. Based on Map 14, an area near Madison Avenue in the Columbus/Garfield Recreation Planning Area may be deficient in neighborhood park facilities.

¹ An Analysis of the Impacts of Land Use and Zoning Decisions on the Demand for Public Facilities and Services, Jane Fitzpatrick Consulting, L.L.C., through the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) and the Bay Area Community Foundation, October 2002, p. 26.

The Bay City Master Plan adopted in 2000 makes the following recommendations.

It is the city's intent to maximize use of the existing parks and recreation facilities, by emphasizing a high level of maintenance, and redesign and updating of existing facilities, where necessary. If funding resources are tight, the priority will be placed in maintenance and updating existing facilities rather than acquisition of new facilities.

- Proposals for new facilities must be thoroughly evaluated in light of the city's ability to fund the construction and ongoing maintenance of existing and proposed parks and recreation facilities.
- Alternative methods of providing services need to be investigated, such as privatization, corporate sponsorship, and further coordination with the county and school district.
- Any proposals for new or refurbished parks and recreation facilities require the input of residents.

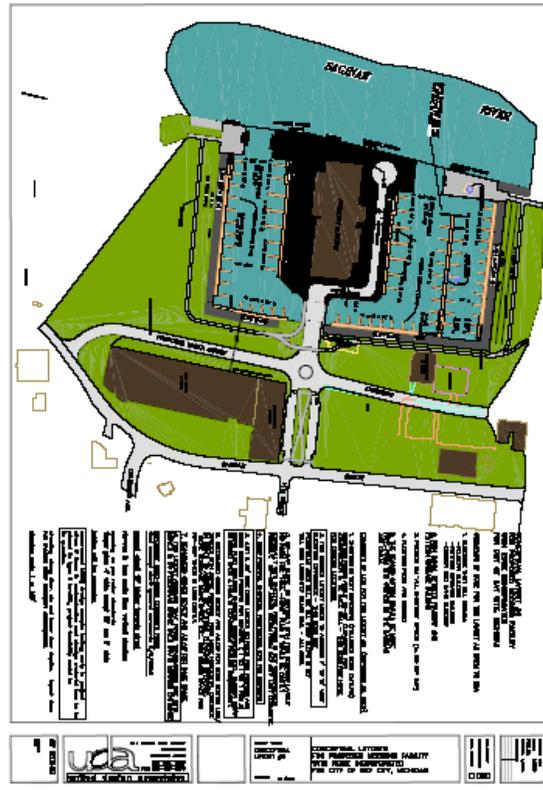
The focus for the city is the completion of proposed parks and the rehabilitation of existing facilities. For long range planning, a goal outlined in the Bay City Master Plan calls for establishing a continuous greenbelt along the Saginaw River. With the help of community foundations and public support, efforts for extensions or spurs of the Riverwalk and the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop to historic or natural features can occur within the timeframe of the plan, examples include extending the railtrail in the southwest portion of the city near Morton Street to the adjacent township and on the property under development for Uptown at RiversEdge for an east side extension of the Riverwalk.

Physical Development Initiatives

Some park development is currently in the planning phase and is carried over from the previous Recreation Plan. Most of these projects and improvements have funds earmarked in the current city budget.

Uptown at River's Edge Public Space/Riverwalk

Uptown at RiversEdge is a 48 acre parcel of land with prime waterfront property, located between Ninth Street, Water Street, Saginaw Street and the east bank of the Saginaw River. A mixed use of the property is anticipated to include residential, commercial and civic developments to include a marina. The City of Bay City intends to environmentally remediate the site and construct public infrastructure to include a public plaza and a continuation of the Riverwalk directly adjacent to the Saginaw River that will provide access for fishing opportunities. A connection to the adjacent Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center site is also proposed. The goal is to create a waterfront promenade with a mix of residential, commercial, and destination entertainment and recreational facilities. Site reclamation began in 2004 and improvements in the initial phase will occur during a three year time period.



Marquette Avenue Riverfront Park

Also known as the Dwan Property, the 8.5 acre parcel of land is located in the northwest portion of the city between Marquette Avenue and the Saginaw River. The property is subject to a conservation easement that was granted by the City of Bay City to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Land and Water Management Division in 1998. The purpose of the conservation easement is to maintain the property in an undeveloped, natural state in perpetuity. The easement does allow the construction of wood chip trails, construction of a boardwalk and observation deck on the bank of the Saginaw River.

Riverwalk/Railtrail loop

In 2002, the final link of the loop itself to the Riverwalk/Railtrail was completed with the 27th Street segment. The pedestrian pathway provides a 10 mile recreational facility for bicyclists, walkers and roller-bladers. To create a linkage to pathways outside the city limits, a connection has also been completed on Truman Parkway to a proposed extension of the trail from Bangor Township and the Bay City State Recreation Area. A proposal is also in the planning phase for the trail to continue south

of the Lafayette Bridge on the west bank of the west channel of the Saginaw River to the city limits. The trail would continue into Frankenlust Township to a trail in Zilwaukee. Recommendations are also proposed for short spurs to connect historic or other recreational facilities. One such example is the connection to the Pere Marquette Railroad depot in the downtown.

Third Street Waterfall Pocket Park

The Third Street Waterfall Pocket Park is envisioned on the Saginaw River at the end of Third Street and would feature a waterfall, a plaza overlooking the river, a stage and deck. The waterfall park has been discussed for this area since 1993 and is being spearheaded by the Bay City Downtown Management Board and Downtown Development Authority. Funding for the site has included grants from area foundations and a \$100,000 “Cool Cities” grant secured from the state. Construction should be completed in 2005.

City Owned Parcel

The City of Bay City owns a vacant 45 acre parcel of land in the south end near Lincoln Street. A single-family residential development is proposed for the site. As part of the development it is recommended that parkland be developed and maintained by a homeowner’s association for the new neighborhood that will be created.

Downtown Micro Parks

The Bay City Downtown Management Board and Downtown Development Authority plan to have seven micro parks or kiosk centers within existing parks in the downtown or on private property. The micro parks will have benches, decorative brick paving and other amenities. A kiosk of historical information on a transparent panel will provide history and photographs of the downtown.



Facility Rehabilitation Initiatives

As indicated in the goals and objectives in the chapter that follows, rehabilitation needs within the existing park and recreation areas are a strong determinant for the short and long range development of the park and recreation system. Many of these rehabilitation activities will be carried out in cooperation with the Citizens District Councils (CDC). Rehabilitation of existing parks is an integral part of the Plan.

Chapter Six

ACTION PLAN

The preceding chapters presented an inventory and analysis of existing recreation facilities and resource opportunities, identified community needs, and established a framework to determine the goals and objectives for the park and recreation plan. This chapter synthesizes that information and proposes a park and recreation plan to meet identified needs and goals.

The action plan makes recommendations for short and long term planning strategies to achieve the stated goals. In addition, the action plan discusses the management of the plan and operational policies. It concludes with a capital improvement schedule for the physical improvements necessary for a five year period.

MISSION STATEMENT

Enhance the community and the city's vitality through its parks and recreation areas and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn and build community.

The purpose of the mission statement is to provide direction and guide decision making as well as establishing practices and policies that will guide the improvement of recreation opportunities over the next five years. To that end, this plan is intended to promote the following:

- To instill a sense of pride in the community.
- To enhance the health and vitality of all residents of the City of Bay City.
- To provide attractive and well maintained facilities.
- To provide a balanced array of year round programs, activities and events that appeal to a broad range of users, abilities and interests, for both citizens and visitors.
- To cooperate with groups, agencies and organizations for the purpose of strengthening development, revitalization and tourism efforts in the city.

- To develop the riverfront to it's full potential as the focal point of the city and as a unique setting for festivals, events and activities that showcase the community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



The establishment of goals and objectives for the recreation system is an important part of the recreation planning process. These goals and objectives establish a basis for recreation policy and planning decisions, priorities and implementation strategies, both within this document and on an operational basis. The goals and objectives which follow embody many of those stated in the County Recreation Plan for the county-wide system, while elaborating on those most applicable to the City of Bay City.

Goal: Provide facilities and services that meet the diverse recreational needs of residents and visitors to the community.

- Provide a balanced recreation system characterized by a variety of active, passive and cultural opportunities.
- Provide a recreation system that reflects the needs of all users.
- Emphasize quality of facilities and programs rather than quantity, especially in view of existing budget constraints.

Goal: Support the preservation and restoration of park areas or features having historical, cultural, architectural or natural significance. Preserve and enhance parks as a visual resource in the community.

- Maintain existing plant communities, while continuing to improve landscapes by introducing new plantings and historical tree species, such as elms and chestnuts.
- Adopt superior design practices. Ensure that all park improvements are utilitarian, attractive and fit within the context of existing site features.

Goal: Continue efforts to enhance the river corridor.

- Develop Master Plans for Wenonah and Veterans Memorial Park to reduce activity conflicts, and rehabilitate areas to better support both current and future uses.
- Capitalize on opportunities to expand use of the river, by providing improved access for a variety of activities like fishing, boating and walking.
- Strengthen pedestrian connections to parks within and from neighborhoods.
- Strengthen both physical and pedestrian connections to parks within and from business districts.
- Join with other entities to promote the river as a major recreational resource.

Goal: Achieve a sound financial basis for maintenance and development.

- Develop long term funding strategies including the investigation of establishing a maintenance endowment fund.
- Investigate opportunities to implement select fees.
- Shift more financial responsibility for event services to event sponsors.
- Develop a reliable base of volunteers to assist with maintenance needs.
- Aggressively pursue state and federal grants for recreational improvements.
- Seek alternative sources of funding including private donations and local grants.
- Create an endowment program for tree plantings.

Goal: Increase public awareness and participation of the parks.

- Utilize the City of Bay City website, newsletter, press releases to communicate information.
- Cooperate with local volunteers, non-profit organizations and foundations that are actively participating in park improvements.
- Explore opportunities and establish priorities for public-private partnerships to realize the full potential of park spaces.

Goal: Elevate the cultural qualities of the community, by incorporating visual arts disciplines in parks design and development.

- Whenever feasible, promote and emphasize the unique characteristics of individual neighborhoods and the community, by incorporating artistic, historical and/ or cultural features in park areas.
- Strengthen relationships with the local arts community, to identify opportunities to incorporate art and cultural features in park areas.

Goal: Adopt a sound planning basis for future park developments.

- Develop master plans for all parks identifying needs and improvements.
- Continue to assess community needs
- Continue to monitor leisure trends to validate future improvements and to exploit the opportunity to modify or add services.
- Develop a “Maintenance Impact Statement” for all proposed park improvements.
- Insure sufficient funding is available to support all new developments or programs.
- Focus on the rehabilitation of existing facilities.
- Identify and modify underutilized facilities.

Goal: Ensure current and future park facilities comply with all facility use and development standards.

- Perform regular safety inspections on all play equipment.
- Inspect all park areas for compliance with the “American With Disabilities Act”.
- Develop a transition plan to address barriers to accessibility.
- Incorporate universal accessibility and safety standards into all new designs.

Goal: Continue to develop partnerships with entities to program and maintain facilities.

- Renew agreement with Bay County for continued cooperative programming and maintenance of community park areas.

- Promote cooperation and resource sharing among recreation providers.
- Support volunteer efforts to maintain and improve park areas.
- Pursue “community service opportunities” with the local court and school systems.
- Inventory potential maintenance needs
- Where feasible, design facilities for multi-purpose uses.

Goal: Improve the efficiency of park maintenance and management operations.

- Develop priorities for maintaining service levels.
- Refine maintenance routines.
- Enhance personnel training
- Equip workforce with state-of-the-art tools and equipment.
- Apply new technologies to maintenance management (equipment, methods, and materials).
- Develop data base and inventory of each park facility.
- Upgrade and continue to improve maps, records and record keeping.
- Refine policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
- Adopt best practices.

SHORT TERM PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

The actions outlined in the 5-Year Action Plan provides guidance for how the park and recreation system is managed for short and long term capital improvement projects. Certain neighborhood-related projects that are either already funded or unfunded at present are included in the short term planning recommendations. Efforts currently underway are presented and other suggestions are made for steps that may be taken but will require long term action to implement.

Master Planning

Developing master plans for individual parks provides an opportunity to analyze the comprehensive needs of each park, rather than simply considering potential improvements separately. The focus of the master planning process centers on the opportunity to improve and restore park features, while at the same time ensuring that parks continue to meet community needs for both active and passive recreational uses. This Park and Recreation Plan strongly encourages the development of individual park plans, guided by public input to determine future needs and improvements. Master Plans presently scheduled for the planning process include the following:

Wenonah Park Plaza

Wenonah Park plays an increasingly important role in the growth of Downtown, as well as an integral part in the development of the business district. A Master Plan, expected to be completed in 2005 will be prepared to address the following design objectives:

- Redevelop park facilities to support general use, organized activities and special events.
- Strengthen the visual and physical connections to the Downtown Business District.
- Improve pedestrian and vehicular linkages.
- Contribute to the orderly design of urban spaces in the business district.

Birney Park

A Master Plan will be prepared to address the changing site uses and recreational needs of the neighborhood in a historic context. The plan is expected to reflect features of the original design, as well as accommodations for current events and activities.



Carroll Park

A detailed Master Plan will be prepared to identify recreational needs and renovate park facilities. Specific to that initiative will be an evaluation of both the pond and related facilities to determine appropriate improvements. Planning will include the preparation of a capital improvements budget to guide future renovation investments. Discussion at the recreation plan workshops suggested an opportunity to create a historic theme or design to include special lighting fixtures and signage.

Battery Park

The City Commission is considering transferring this park from the city's jurisdiction and from the city's Master Plan and Park and Recreation Plan. In the future, the Bay County Library System will be responsible for maintaining and managing this park.

NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

Third Street Waterfall Pocket Park/Micro Parks

The Third Street Waterfall Pocket Park is in the final steps of the planning process. It will be located on the Saginaw River at the end of Third Street and will feature a waterfall, plaza overlooking the river, stage and deck. Spearheaded by the Bay City Downtown Management Board and Development Authority, funding for the site has included grants from area foundations and from the Cool Cities Initiative. Small informational areas for local history area also being planned by the Downtown Development Authority. The projects will begin in the Spring of 2005.

Riverwalk and Riverwalk/Railtrail Loop Development

The Uptown at RiversEdge development project is a priority project of the City of Bay City's overall

strategy to develop an exciting neighborhood that incorporates a mix of residential, commercial and destination entertainment uses, which complements the characteristics of the community. Chief among the goals for the development of the site is the requirement for the river's edge to remain publicly accessible space. A continuous public path that allows pedestrian access adjacent to the Saginaw River is anticipated. A small fishing pier will be provided for the growing walleye fishery in the river. A Riverwalk spanning the entire length of the waterfront is being planned adjacent to the public marina.

The first phase is to extend the existing Riverwalk located in the public space in front of the Breakers Cove condominiums to the north onto the Uptown at RiversEdge site. Another section is planned for the north end of this site connecting to the existing Riverwalk that runs under Veterans Memorial Bridge (M-25) from Wenona Park.

Another section is planned for the northern part of downtown, which will connect to Water Street, travel past the Jennison Boathouse condominiums to First Street, and then along the river, passing under the Liberty Bridge.

Marquette Avenue River Park

The 8.5 acre site is a natural area on the western bank of the Saginaw River. The property is an undeveloped parcel of land and is anticipated to be developed as passive open space. A conservation easement is recorded for the site and limited improvements will be identified for future passive uses.

CONTINUING PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Riverwalk/Railtrail Loop

The Bay Area Community Foundation has been an active partner with the city for the creation of the pedestrian pathway. Efforts to extend the trail systems are ongoing. One example, is the continuation of the trail along the west channel of the Saginaw River traveling south to the city limits.

Maintenance and improvements will be an ongoing effort. Adoption of pocket parks along the trail and signage for trail users is recommended by the foundation. The city is committed to work in partnership to improve this popular recreational facility.

Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park is the largest and most heavily used recreational site in the community. Improvements are needed to address conflicting uses and inadequate support facilities, related to both the number and scope of special events. This is expected to be a major undertaking and will encompass Veterans Park in its entirety. The plan will consider options for improving a variety of community recreational services currently provided, in a manner that enhances experiences, and improves the ability to manage and maintain activities and facilities. Additionally, the plan will establish both long and short term strategies for developing priority improvements in an orderly manner.

Bay County Recreation Plan 2003-2007 recommends the following improvements to the park for the area of the park where recreational programming conducted by the county occurs:

- Drain tile for Field #5.
- Additional drinking fountain and foot shower for the volleyball area and concession stand ramp.
- Walking path between softball fields, tree planting and viewing pads.
- Walking path connection from baseball fields to the Riverwalk.

Edward M. Golson Boat Launch and Nature Area



The initial phase of improvements has been completed. Improvements may be necessary to address current conditions, such as screening adjacent industrial uses, preventing vehicular access to areas other than parking lots and drives, improve wildlife habitat by establishing selective plantings and developing pond features, improve educational values by placing interpretative signage, and improve views and access to the river. The Northeast Citizen's District Council can spearhead these improvements with the cooperation from the public schools and area environmentalists.

REHABILITATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Over the next five years, the city will continue to evaluate existing parks for potential upgrades to improve use and reduce maintenance. Following is a potential list of sites to be surveyed.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Bigelow Park | Putz Park |
| Defoe Park | Ramsey Park |
| Hewitt Park | Roosevelt Park |
| Maplewood Park | Trombley/Banks Park |
| Nate Doan Park | |

LONG TERM PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

Improvements to Wenonah Park and Veterans Memorial Park require long term planning and coordination with the county. These large public spaces will continue to evolve and steps must be taken to address changing needs.

Other recreational system improvements that will require long range strategies include:

Riverwalk/Railtrail Loop Expansion

Abandoned railroad property south of the city is ideal for construction of a Railtrail leading towards the City of Saginaw. This Railtrail would connect to the existing Riverwalk/Railtrail system currently completed. A connection could be made near the existing trail on the Middlegrounds and extending near the Salzburg Avenue Business District. The development of this trail is outlined in the Middlegrounds Island Master Plan completed in 1997.

Another potential expansion for the Riverwalk/Railtrail is an extension of the Marquette Avenue route near the Fletcher Oil property on the west side of the river. If redevelopment of the site were to occur, a Riverwalk along the rivers edge may be designed to compliment the existing pedestrian trail system in the Bank's area that presently lacks river front access.

Middlegrounds Island

A Master Plan was prepared in 1997 outlining various proposals for improvements to the Middleground Island. The plan recommends the development of the pedestrian oriented Riverwalk/Railtrail on both the west shore of the island and the east shore of the channel at the rear of the properties on Morton Street and extending to the city limits.

Other recreation improvements including development of the former landfill as a multi-use facility for skiing, sledding, biking; development of a nine hole executive golf course, and creation of park space has been proposed.

The plan recognizes the long term strategy of the development of the Middlegrounds and recommends projects be reviewed, validated and prioritized, based on the relative importance and funding needs of the project.

Barrier-Free Compliance Status



Parks staff will continue to work to insure that all recreational facilities and programs comply with requirements of the “Americans with Disabilities Act”.

New facility development will reflect the needs of accessibility as defined by current standards. Existing facilities are being inventoried and accessibility evaluated. Plans will be developed to remove barriers and bring facilities into compliance. To the extent possible, improvements will be funded through operating budgets that support yearly maintenance routines. Capital improvement monies will be requested for individual projects that require significant funding support, and which cannot be undertaken as a routine maintenance operation.

Achieving accessibility in recreational services and programs is viewed as an ongoing process that requires a commitment over time. Parks staff will work to engage individuals and agencies representing special needs communities, for the purpose of identifying needs and guiding accessible improvements.

FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Funding Initiatives

Recreation services and operations are primarily financed from city and county general fund budgets, supplemented by state and federal grant monies. In addition, there are separate county division budgets for the Community Center, the swimming pool, the County Fairgrounds, Pinconning Community Center. Bay City and Bay County have been successful in grant applications for recreation facility projects in the last few years. Grants from the U.S. Department of Interior and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for Veterans Memorial Park alone totaled more than \$1 million in years past. Funds have also been received from other state funding sources, such as the Waterways Division Grants, Coastal Zone

Management Program, as well as from local private sources such as the Bay Area Community Foundation and the Kantzler Foundation. An additional leverage tool has been the use of Community Development Block Grant funds to provide a part of the city's local share for matching grants.

Administrative and Management Plan

This section of the Plan addresses the administrative and management component of the recreation delivery system. The primary or key issue that is addressed in this section is the need to develop and maintain systematic and on-going communication and coordination between the various city and county departments which have a role in the administration of recreation services. At the county level, the County Executive is responsible for the administrative oversight of the recreational facilities and activities is a shared responsibility of the Division of Recreation and Youth Development, Buildings and Grounds Department and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Community Development. The reader should reference the 2003 Bay County Recreation Plan for an in-depth description of the county organization.

City Parks Department: Management Strategy

The Parks Department under the direction of the Department of Community Development faces a number of budget related problems and needs which are identified in the above portions of the Plan, and which are repeated here to emphasize the importance of these issues to the Plan. Improved maintenance of existing city parks is one of the primary needs to be addressed in terms of the city's recreation responsibilities. On a short-term basis, limited funding defines the parameters of the strategies which can be implemented to resolve maintenance problems, including staffing, equipment and operations. However, a longer-term view of addressing these problems should be adopted, to insure that maintenance and management capabilities are sufficient to meet future service needs. The

city's ability to improve and expand recreational opportunities will be entirely dependent on the level of funding appropriated. The development of new facilities, along with an increase in special events and expanding responsibilities for other services, are already beginning to tax limited personnel resources. Efficiencies can be realized through operational refinements, however the level of personnel resources dedicated to maintenance and management of park services will ultimately determine the city's ability to improve and advance recreational opportunities in the community.

The following strategies and activities have been identified to address the staffing, equipment, and operational needs of the Parks Department.

Personnel

- Provide sufficient personnel to support service needs and expectations. Currently, the Parks, Buildings and Grounds Department has a staff of seventeen full-time employees, ten of which are dedicated to parks maintenance. Traditionally, up to twelve additional employees are hired on a part-time basis yearly, as required by increasing service demands and corresponding workload during the warm seasons. Recent budget cuts reduced the number of part-time employees to six. Efforts should be made to restore a full complement of seasonal employees, and/or hire additional full-time employees, commensurate to future increases in maintenance and management responsibilities.
- Place greater emphasis on training and cross-training needs for all Parks employees, to improve skills, reduce injuries and create a more flexible work force.
- Continue to recruit volunteer assistance from individuals, agencies and organizations to maintain and improve recreational assets and provide assistance with special event services.
- Continue with efforts to secure court appointed community service workers for parks maintenance assignments.

Equipment

- In order to create a workforce, which is productive and capable of delivering efficient services, employees must be equipped with the proper tools. Existing equipment must be maintained and upgraded when necessary, and additional new equipment purchased. A rubbish truck and maintenance cart are immediate needs. The purchase of portable metal fencing replacements for snow fence should continue, since this has proven to reduce both maintenance and fence replacement costs.

Operations

- Refine the mission and goals of the Parks Department. The diversity of services provided often leads to confusion over priorities. Core responsibility focus is more frequently blurred by expectations for the Department to do many things, and undertake higher levels of service. Unless this issue is resolved, core responsibilities will be neglected and the quality of all services will eventually decline.
- Privatize maintenance services which can be done more cost-effectively by a subcontractor. This is particularly relevant in areas where the Parks Department has no expertise, experience or equipment necessary to perform the task, and for services that require low-skilled manual labor.
- Collaborate with individuals, organizations and businesses throughout the community to establish partnerships for the maintenance and improvement of park areas.
- Develop performance measures for all services. Establish maintenance priorities and maintenance routines for the park system and individual facilities. Improve and refine record keeping practices.
- Develop facility inventories. Collect, assemble and organize drawings and information detailing all features - including utilities, for all facilities.
- Employ new methods and technologies to refine maintenance and management practices. This

includes a wide range of operational initiatives to create efficiencies, improve services and reduce costs, Examples include: Adopting “best practices”; expanding the use of computer software for record keeping purposes; expanding the use of vandal resistant materials and design details for parks facilities; continue investing in state-of-the art maintenance equipment.

- Develop a tree inventory program for the entire city, detailing the number, type, size, location and condition of all city trees. The inventory would be valuable for a community-wide evaluation of forestry assets, and would assist to identify future needs related to tree maintenance and replacement. The scope and complexity of this project requires the assistance of a consultant.

As previously noted, the implementation of these strategies cannot be looked upon as a short-term program. They are part of a long-range program to improve maintenance of city parks. The Plan, as mentioned above and as explained in the previous section on funding, can provide same financial assistance, and the Plan can also be utilized to implement innovative programs and strategies to improve delivery services.

Operational Policies

In the process of preparing this Plan, several operational policies were identified which the project team felt needed to be expressed. Some appear elsewhere in the report; those not previously discussed appear below.

- In meeting identified recreation needs, Bay City will seek to provide those recreation facilities for which there is sufficient public demand, which are not being provided by the private sector.
- In providing recreation services to the public, the city will encourage maximum participation from the private sector, including use of public

facilities by those private non-profit recreation organizations which meet the recreation goals and objectives of the City of Bay City.

- The City of Bay City will actively recognize special facility and programming needs of the handicapped, the elderly, and the disadvantaged.
- The city will seek to maximize local funds available for recreation by taking advantage of all state and federal grant programs and other funding sources, particularly where local dollars can be leveraged to obtain additional funding.
- The city will not discriminate against low-income or minority persons in the employment of park and recreational personnel, and shall provide equal opportunity to all potential candidates through its hiring practices..
- The city's policy on pass-through funding for grant-funded projects shall be that pass-through applications will be submitted only if the city is not making application on behalf of itself. if pass-through applications will be submitted, the county and School District shall have first priority; then any non-profit organization which meets the grant program requirements and submits an overall plan for its recreation development needs to the city. This is to assure that the plans of such organizations are in conformance with the city's recreation plans.

Evaluation And Updating Of Action Program

The Park and Recreation Plan is an important tool for guiding future actions and investments to improve recreational opportunities in the community. In shaping the planning process, an intended outcome was to “build-in” flexibility. Any program or plan which is based upon changing needs and resources should provide a mechanism for periodic review, evaluation and update. The Plan is structured to embrace a philosophy of informed decision making, that reacts to events, opportunities and circumstances, in a manner that reflects the best interests of the community. The Recreation Plan

will be updated every five years or amendments made if needed during the five year period.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

The Capital Improvement Schedule (C.I.S) is the multi-year scheduling of public physical improvements with an estimated cost of \$5,000 or more. The scheduling is based on studies of fiscal resources and the choice of specific improvements to be constructed for a period of six years. The first year of the C. I. S. are projects included in the city's next budget.

Table 17 contains the 2005/2009 Capital Improvement Schedule based on priority and known cost estimates. The second portion of the table represents both short and long term planning initiatives that will be developed for parks. At the time the master plans are completed with cost estimates for the improvements, the schedule will be updated accordingly.

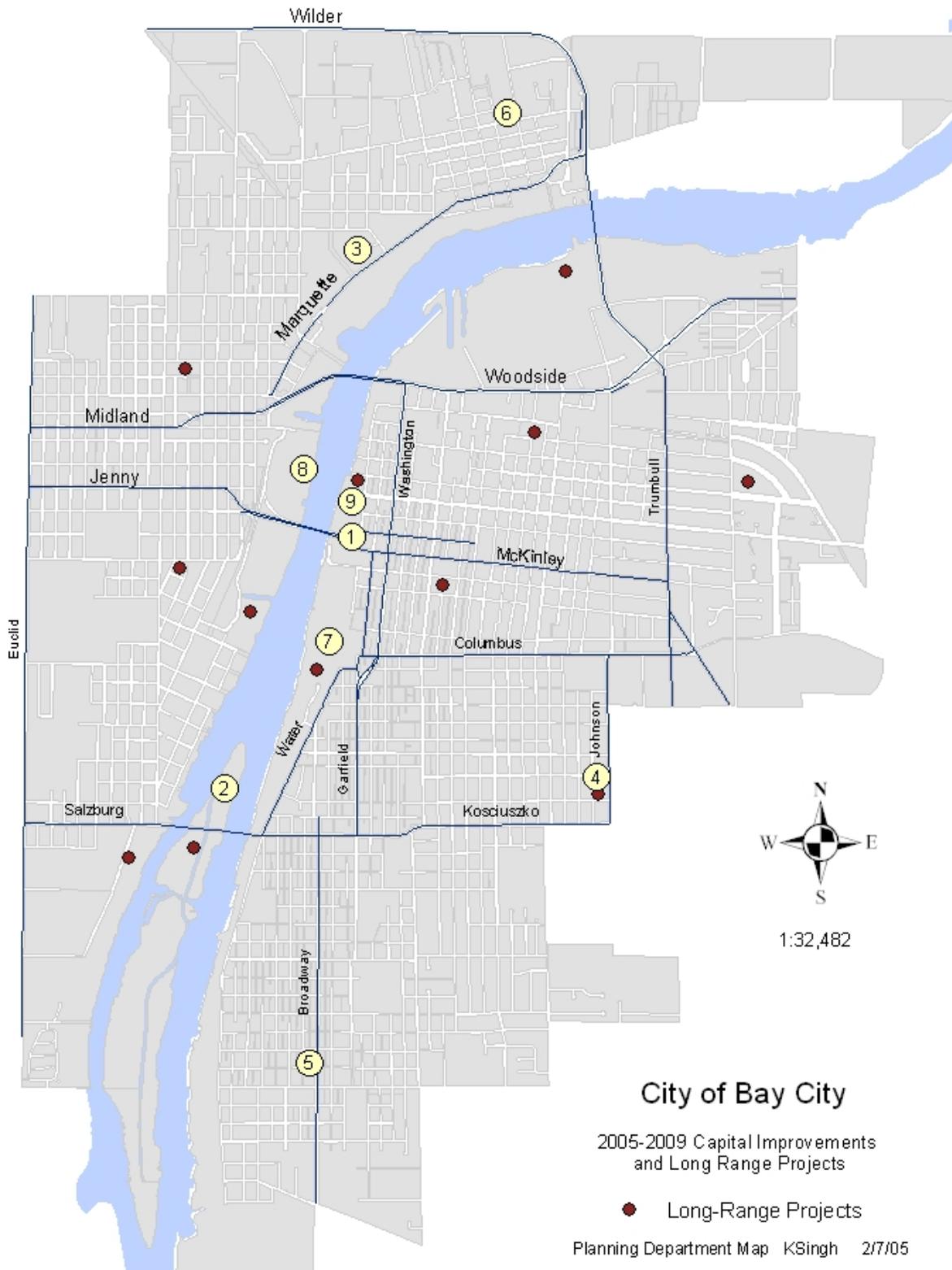
Table 17. 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Schedule And Long Range Projects.

See Map 15. Capital Improvements and Long Range Projects. Page 99.

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Table 17. 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Schedule And Long Range Projects.

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Map 15. Capital Improvements and Long Range Projects.

Funding Sources

State And Federal Sources

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Funding from the CDBG program can be expended for a variety of activities and can be used for the development and improvements of park and recreation facilities. In most circumstances, the funds may be used as matching dollars for requiring a local share or match for grants. CDBG funds should be used as leverage funds to achieve desired goals and maximum benefit. The five Citizens District Councils typically request CDBG funds for projects in their district for park improvements. Annual budget allocation hearings take place in January and projects selected receive funds in July. <http://www.hud.gov/community/index.cfm>

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR)

The UPARR program was established in 1978 to provide matching grants and technical assistance to urban communities and is administered by the National Park Service. The purpose of the program is to provide federal assistance to urban localities for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. Grants available through the UPARR program include rehabilitation grants that provide capital funding to renovate or redesign existing close-to-home recreation facilities and innovation grants that usually involve more modest amounts of funding aimed to support specific activities that either increase recreation programs or improve the efficiency of the local government to operate existing programs.

Zero funding was available for fiscal year 2003/04. Due to the history and success of the program it is anticipated that funding will be restored in future appropriations.

<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/uprr/index.html>

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF is a federal program administered by the National Park Service that provides financial assistance to state government for land acquisition, and for the development of outdoor recreation facilities. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources makes recommendations to the National Park Service on which applications to fund. A 50% local match is required.

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The MNRTF is a state program that provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of recreation facilities. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and applications due April 1 of each year's funding cycle. A 25% local match is required.

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP)

Administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The money is directed toward shoreline management, planning for coastal parks, site design, engineering and low-cost shoreline preservation and restoration. Projects eligible for funding also include low-cost construction projects such as boardwalks, education and/or interpretive displays, and trails. Projects are funded on a 50% federal, 50% local basis. Grants are limited to a maximum of \$50,000.

www.deq.state.mi.us/lwm

*Urban and Community Forestry Program –
Community Forestry Grant*

The purpose of the program is to provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments, schools and volunteer groups for urban and community forest activities such as tree inventories, management plans, planting and other maintenance activities. Grant requests may be up to \$20,000.

DTE Energy Tree Planting Grants

Tree planting projects such as park, right-of-way, city street, nature study areas, school grounds planting and neighborhood revitalization projects qualify when planted on public land. Grants requests may be up to \$4,000.

<http://www.michigan.gov>

Waterways Fund Grant-in-Aid Programs

Grants-in-Aid provide financial and technical oversight assistance to local units of government for the planning, design, construction and development of recreational boating facilities, including developing and/or expansion of launching ramp projects. Projects may include mooring facilities or engineering and infrastructure repair grants. The legislature makes an annual appropriation from such sources as the marine fuel tax and boat registration fees to support this fund.

The matching formula appears to vary, although the state encourages 50-50 sharing with local units. <http://www.michigan.gov/naturalresources>.

Clean Michigan Initiative

Clean Michigan Initiative was approved by voters and designated bond proceeds for environmental and natural resources protection programs. One category receiving funding includes Local Recreation Grants. Grants range from \$15,000 to \$750,000 to construct, expand, develop or rehabilitate local recreation facilities. Proposals must include a 25% match. <http://www.michigan.gov/deq>

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA)

An agency of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries it serves to encourage, develop and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative activity in Michigan. Grants applicable to outdoor spaces include the Design and Visual Art categories for the placement of outdoor sculpture in city parks and open spaces. Funding up to \$30,000 with a 50% match.

<http://www.michigan.gov/mcaca>

Foundation Grants

The Kantzler Foundation

The Kantzler Foundation is a grant-making organization and provides grants to governmental agencies charitable organizations for use in financing the cost of special projects and capital improvements.

The Foundation is designed to provide financial support for charitable, educational, scientific, or artistic purposes, beneficial to the people of the greater Bay City community and fields of interest include arts/cultural programs and natural resources conservation.

http://www.co.bay.mi.us/bay/home.nsf/Public/Kantzler_Foundation.htm

Downtown Management Board & Development Authority (DDA)

The Bay City Downtown Development Authority promotes the redevelopment of the Central Business District. The Downtown Development Authority may prepare a tax increment financing plan to capture increased taxes within an established development area to undertake development within that defined area. The funding of recreation projects within the defined development area would be permitted as an eligible activity.

<http://www.downtownbaycity.com>

Bay Area Community Foundation (BACF)

The Bay Area Community Foundation provides funds through the Community Initiative Fund and the Environmental Fund. The endowment is for environmental programs and special projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship to improve the quality of life in the community. BACF grants have been used to develop the Riverwalk and the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop.

<http://www.bayfoundation.org>

Bikes Belong Coalition

Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. They assist local organizations and agencies in developing bicycle facilities and partially funded with TEA-21 grants. Eligible projects include bike paths and trails. Funding up to \$10,000 for facility and education projects.

<http://bikesbelong.org>

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation

The Dow Foundation grants are limited to organizations within Michigan and improving the quality of continues to be a major goal of the Foundation. The foundation has been very supportive of the extension of pedestrian greenways system and for fish and wildlife improvements projects. Grant money has been given to the Saginaw Bay Watershed Network. Steering committees have been developed for programs such as Land Use, Water Resources and Wildlife Stewardship.

<http://www.hhdowfdn.org>

Michigan State University Library-Funding Center

The Funding Center contains information about all kinds of funders and grant opportunities. The website contains all the tools needed to identify foundations, as well as many other grant-makers such as corporations, government agencies, associations and individuals.

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/gratns/Ofdncoll.htm>

APPENDIX A

PLAN REVIEW AND ADOPTION DOCUMENTS

City Commission Resolution of Adoption

Planning Commission Resolution Recommending Adoption

Letter to Bay County Recreation Department

Letter to East Central Michigan Planning

City Commission Resolution of Adoption

CITY OF BAY CITY, MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
(AFFIDAVIT)

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF BAY)
CITY OF BAY CITY)

I, Dana L. Muscott City Clerk of the City of Bay City, County and State aforesaid, Do hereby Certify that I have compared the annexed excerpt from the regular meeting of the Bay City City Commission held on March 21, 2005, with the original on file in my office, and that it is a true and correct copy therefrom and of the whole of such original.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the

Corporate Seal of the City of Bay City, Michigan, this

Of Commission as a Whole:

Whereas, the City of Bay City has an established dynamic park and recreation system that serves city residents and residents of nearby communities; and

Whereas, the City of Bay City has a Parks Department equipped to maintain and develop park sites and facilities; and

Whereas, the County of Bay has a Recreation Department with the responsibility of recreation programming on all public park and play areas in Bay City, as well as, the balance of Bay County; and

Whereas, the existing park and recreation facilities have been developed to meet the needs of Bay City as it developed, but there is now a need to improve the facilities to meet the needs of a mature urban community; and

Whereas, city staff has prepared a city-wide park and recreation plan; and

Whereas, this plan presents a short and long term, comprehensive, coordinated, and sequential plan to meet identified park and recreation needs of citizens of the community; and

Whereas, this plan is required for continued eligibility for funding from state and federal grant-in-aid programs;

28th day of March, 2005

Dana L. Muscott
Dana L. Muscott, City Clerk

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Bay City City Commission adopts the "2005-2009 Bay City Park and Recreation Plan."

Commissioner Kurzer moved to allow public input. There was no objection. No one came forward.

Commissioner Kurzer moved adoption of resolution.

Adopted by the following vote:

Yes, Commissioners Hennessy, Wooley, Legner, Flannery, Gorney, Davidson, Kurzer, Newsham, Brunner, 9.
No, None.

Planning Commission Resolution Recommending Adoption

CITY OF BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

(AFFIDAVIT)

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

COUNTY OF BAY)

CITY OF BAY CITY)

I, Dana L. Muscott City Clerk of the City of Bay City, County and State aforesaid, Do hereby Certify that I have compared the annexed resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Bay City held on February 16, 2005, with the original on file in my office, and that it is a true and correct copy therefrom and of the whole of such original.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of the City of Bay City, Michigan, this

28th day of March, 2005

Dana L. Muscott

Dana L. Muscott, City Clerk



Of Planning Commission:

Whereas, the Planning Commission held a public meeting on February 16, 2005, to review the 2005-2009 Bay City Park and Recreation Plan; and

Whereas, the City of Bay City has a Parks Department equipped to maintain and develop park sites and facilities and has an established dynamic park and recreation system that serves City residents and residents of nearby communities; and

Whereas, the County of Bay has a Recreation Department with the responsibility of recreation programming on all public park and play areas in Bay City, as well as the balance of Bay County; and

Whereas, the existing park and recreation facilities have been developed to meet the needs of Bay City as it developed, but there is now a need to improve the facilities to meet the needs of a mature urban community; and

Whereas, the staff of the Planning Department has prepared a City-wide park and recreation plan; and

Whereas, this plan presents a long-range, comprehensive, coordinated, and sequential plan to meet identified park and recreation needs of citizens of the community; and

Whereas, this plan is required for continued eligibility for funding from state and federal grant-in-aid programs;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the City Commission of Bay City adopt the "2005-2009 Bay City Park and Recreation Plan ."

Frank Starkweather moved adoption of the resolution. Robert Shea seconded.

Adopted by the following vote:

Yes, Lawrence Beson, Ronald McGillivray, Robert Shea, Warren Smith, and Frank Starkweather. No, None.

Letter to Bay County Recreation Department

February 28, 2005



Thomas A. Tonkavich
Bay County Recreation & Youth Development
520 West Hampton Road
Essexville, MI 48732

RE: City of Bay City Park and Recreation Plan

Dear Tom:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, we have enclosed one (1) copy of the 2005-2009 Park and Recreation Plan for the City of Bay City for your review. After several months and workshops being held we will be submitting the plan to the MDNR as required for grant considerations by the April 1st deadline.

The Planning Commission held a public meeting on the proposed plan on February 16, 2005 and will be forwarding the document to the City Commission. A presentation will be given during the Finance & Policy meeting on March 14 and will be on the agenda for the City Commission meeting on March 21, 2005 for final adoption.

Upon your review, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments at 894-8177.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry A. Moulane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Terry A. Moulane
Community Development Planner

Enclosure

City of Bay City, Planning Division
301 Washington Avenue • Bay City, Michigan 48708
Phone: 989.894.8173 • Fax 989.894.8213
www.baycitymi.org

Letter to East Central Michigan Planning

February 28, 2005



Phil Grimaldi
East Central Michigan Planning &
Development Region
3144 Davenport Avenue
Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48602

RE: City of Bay City Park and Recreation Plan

Phil,

Pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, we have enclosed one (1) copy of the 2005-2009 Park and Recreation Plan for the City of Bay City for your review. After several months and workshops being held we will be submitting the plan to the MDNR as required for grant considerations by the April 1st deadline.

The Planning Commission held a public meeting on the proposed plan on February 16, 2005 and will be forwarding the document to the City Commission. A presentation will be given during the Finance & Policy meeting on March 14 and will be on the agenda for the City Commission meeting on March 21, 2005 for final adoption.

Upon your review, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments at 894-8177.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry A. Moulton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Terry A. Moulton
Community Development Planner

Enclosure

City of Bay City, Planning Division
301 Washington Avenue • Bay City, Michigan 48708
Phone: 989.894.8173 • Fax 989.894.8213
www.baycitymi.org

Public Hearing Notices



2004-2008 PARK & RECREATION PLAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The City of Bay City is in the process of updating its Park and Recreation Master Plan. Your participation is necessary in helping us identify community needs.

An updated plan is necessary to allow the City to participate in State sponsored grant programs that fund improvements of recreational opportunities. Also, it will guide the maintenance and development of the community park system over the next five years.

You are invited to attend the workshop in your area. Each workshop will last approximately two hours.

Columbus/Garfield

October 21, 2003 7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317

Downtown

October 21, 2003 7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317

Midland Street

November 13, 2003 7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317

Northeast

October 21, 2003 7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317

Northwest

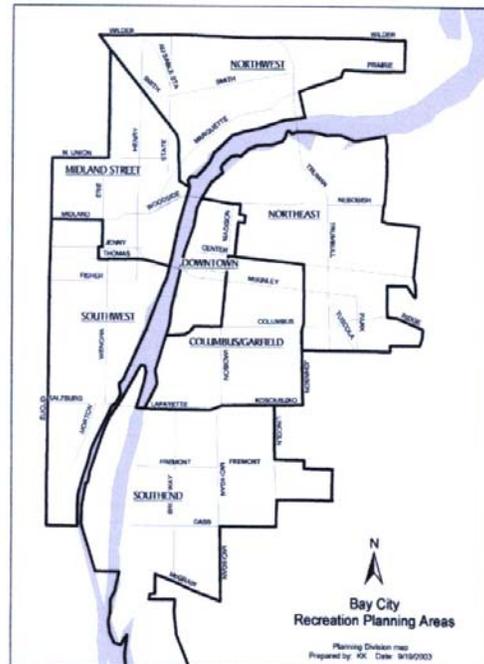
October 22, 2003 7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317

South End

October 16, 2003 7:00 p.m. 1001 Marsac St.
Bay County Child &
Senior Citizens Center

Southwest

November 13, 2003 7:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 317



For more information
Contact the Bay City Planning Division
301 Washington Avenue
Bay City, Michigan 48708
989/894-8173



2004-2008 PARK & RECREATION PLAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The City of Bay City is in the process of updating its Park and Recreation Master Plan. The last City-wide plan update was completed and adopted by the City Commission in February 1998.

An updated Park and Recreation Master Plan is necessary to allow the City to participate in State sponsored grant programs that fund improvements of recreational opportunities. Also, it will guide the maintenance and development of the community park system over the next five years.

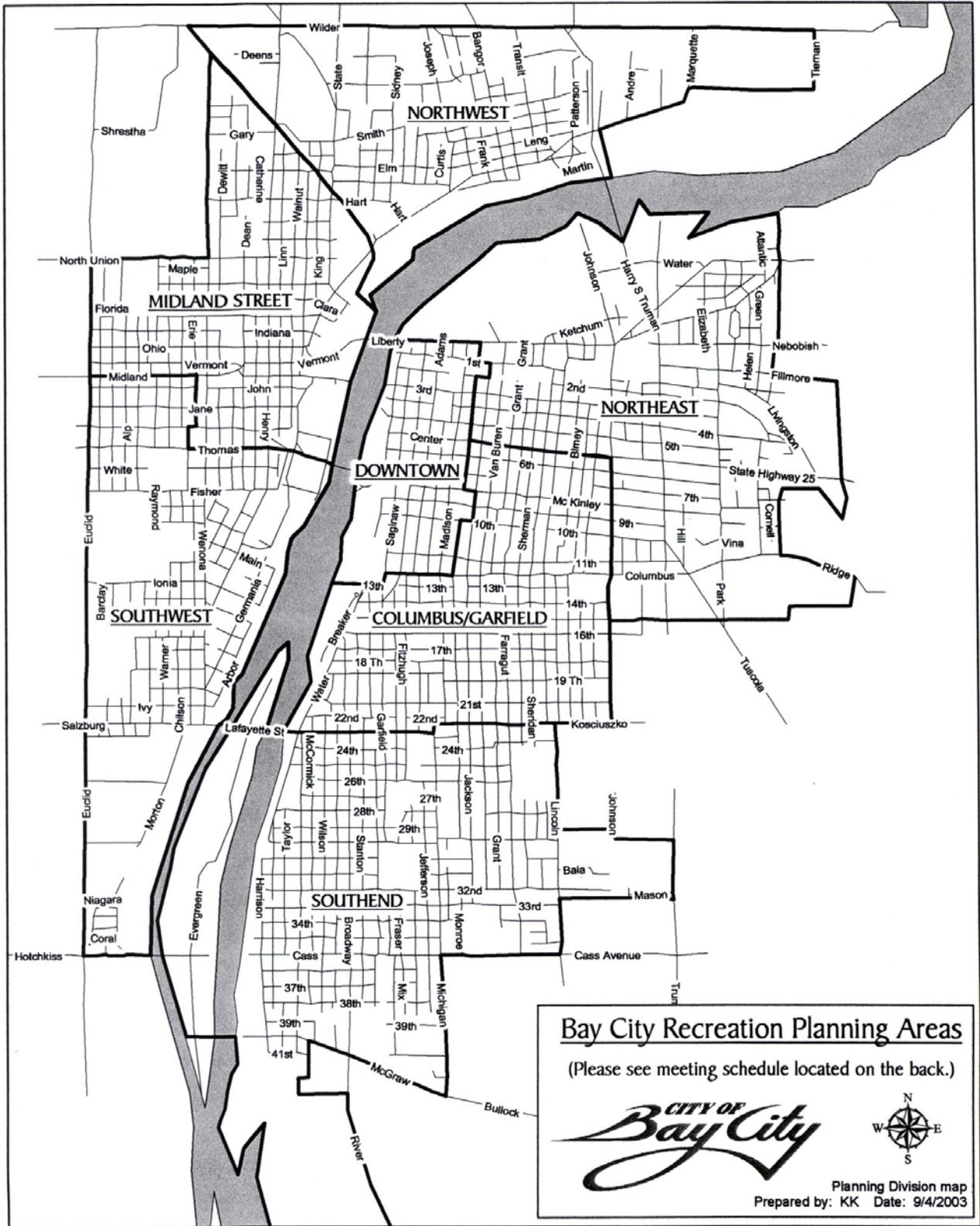
It is necessary to evaluate current facilities and services, identify interests and opportunities, establish priorities for development, and address future needs.

Your participation is necessary in helping us identify community needs and will make it possible to develop strategies for shaping services and undertaking improvements.

You are invited to attend the workshop in your area. (Please refer to the map on the back to determine which area you live in.) Each workshop will last approximately two hours.

Columbus/Garfield	October 21, 2003	7:00 p.m.	City Hall, Room 317
Downtown	October 21, 2003	7:00 p.m.	City Hall, Room 317
Midland Street	November 13, 2003	7:00 p.m.	City Hall, Room 317
Northeast	October 21, 2003	7:00 p.m.	City Hall, Room 317
Northwest	October 22, 2003	7:00 p.m.	City Hall, Room 317
South End	October 16, 2003	7:00 p.m.	1001 Marsac St. Bay County Child & Senior Citizens Center
Southwest	November 13, 2003	7:00 p.m.	City Hall, Room 317

For more information
Contact the Bay City Planning Division
301 Washington Avenue
Bay City, Michigan 48708
989/894-8173 • FAX 989/894-8213



APPENDIX B

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP RESULTS

South End

Opportunities

	Vote
Extend trail to boat launch	10
Doggie bags at parks	7
Dog runs	6
Free batting cage like Dutch Village at Boys & Girls Club	5
Brochure for parks/ publicize	4
Community garden for veggies and flowers	3
Skate park indoor/outdoor	2
Incorporation of stewardship classes in schools	2
Maintenance/ Watering truck/ watering plants in town	1

Strengths

	Vote
Railtrail and Riverwalk	8
Number of parks	5
Variety/ diversity	4
Good portion of Railtrail in South End	3
Offer places for functions to start and end (heart walk, runners club)	3
River	3
Level of maintenance	2
Ice skating rink at McGregor School	2

Weaknesses

	Vote
Vandalism – damage to improvements	13
Lack of opportunities for teens	9
Riverwalk overrun with bikes and skateboards. Loss of sense of safety	6
Potential lack of resources for improvements and maintenance	5
No women’s restrooms at McGregor Field	5
Droppings along Riverwalk	2

Columbus/Garfield

Strengths 1

	Vote
Recognition that parks are not as well funded as they could be	11
Bring the community together/opportunities to meet neighbors/people	10
Parks are very attractive	8
Easy accessibility	7
Strengthens identity of community/image of community on the move	5
Parks are well lit	4
Beauty of Bigelow Park	1

Strengths 2

	Vote
Well used – events galore	11
Birney Park Car Show	11
Special events	10
Cleanliness, maintenance	6
Quantity – lots of parks	5
Variety of activities	5
New playscape/play station	4
Accessibility	4
Pocket park	4

Weaknesses 1

	Vote
Complete Rexer-Jablonski Park	9
Need bathrooms	7
Susceptibility to vandalism	6
Lack of security at Breaker Cove walk	5
Threats – drug sales in Birney Park	4
Lack of resources dedicated to small parks/big parks get all the stuff	3
Threats – budget constraints/ability to cover costs	3
Clumping of cut grass smells bad	2
Benches at Battery Park when library opens	2
Hours should be posted	2
No alcohol	2
Broken lights on fishing pier	1
Poor maintenance	0
Lack of improvements at Birney Park	0
Most are passive parks – no major attraction	0

Weaknesses 2

	Vote
Lack of restrooms	10
Incomplete park	6
Limited resources for maintenance	5
Knowledge of facilities – not well known	5
Lack of trash cans	5
Location & identity	4
City departmental bureaucracy	4
Slow progress in developing parks	4
Vandalism	3
Lack of recreation equipment in some parks	3
Post rules and regulations	3
Animal control – dogs	2
Public not sure who to complain to	2
Some parks are not well known or are hard to get to	1
Developing more parks than can be maintained	1
Intergovernmental cooperation is not understood	1
Events that exclude non-paying customers	1

Opportunities 1

	Vote
Doggie bags for dog waste	8
Endowment for maintenance	7
Dog walks	6
More picnic tables	4
Seating in gazebos	4
Shorter loops within existing bike trail system	3
Maps for City parks/city-wide	3
Need more small parks	2
Adult swings	2
Video cam for observation of Vets Park & pier	2
Additional landscaping	1
Pet-friendly water fountains	1
More water fountains and ice rinks	1
Natural amphitheater at foot of 18th St. in Rexer-Jablonski Park	1
Highlight parks at Conference Center kiosk/video presentation of parks	1
More permanent seating	0
Visioning for improvements at Birney Park	0
Complete Rexer-Jablonski Park	0
Flag pole at center of all parks	0

Opportunities 2

	Vote
Volunteer park rangers – caretakers	10
Birney Park upgrades	9
Improve lighting for security	7
Public service announcements re: parks	6
Use park facilities for intended use – not storage	5
Water park	5
Grant funding for more equipment	4
Publicity for parks – BC Times, Bay 3 TV	4
Restrooms	3
Pavilions	2
Volunteers provide risk management	1
Imaginative creative architectural designs	1
Theme for parks – lighting standards	1
Standard sign	1
Fundraisers for parks – T-shirts	1
Adopt-a-park program for all parks	0
City/County/Schools partnership	0
Replace obsolete play equipment	0

Northwest

Strengths

	Vote
CDCs ability to work with residents and corporate citizens to care for parks	9
City/County cooperation	6
Railtrail links to other areas in and out of city	5
Improvements at Defoe Park	4
Wide variety of parks – large and small	4
More regional parks (Vets, Wenonah)	3
Well maintained parks	3
CDCs ability to partner with schools (walkways and skating rink)	2
Accessibility of Vets Park	0
Small community with big city facilities	0

Weaknesses

	Vote
Need for restrooms at Vets Park	12
Summer staffing for lawn mowing	10
Lack of funds to spruce up parks – funds needed for other than routine maintenance	8
Access is limited during special events to other areas of Vets Park	5

Accessibility of Vets Park to handicapped	1
Trailer left on site after River Roar	0

Opportunities

	Vote
Can work with County & State to provide a beach for all at State Park	12
Larger pavilion at Defoe Park	9
Continued maintenance of skate park	5
Walkway for seniors at Defoe – loop around park	4
Continue to link to regional trail system	3
Separate bike park	3
Can take a regional view	0
Existing & potential public/private partnerships	0

Northeast

Strengths

	Vote
Amount of park lands	13
Diversity of park lands	11
Good locations – spread throughout city	9
Public involvement	8
Natural resources	7
Community charity events	7
Bay City in Bloom	5
Education – Master Gardeners	4

Weaknesses

	Vote
Lack of restrooms at Maplewood Park	16
Lack of water system for adopted areas	12
Lack of drinkable water	10
Tall metal slide	8
Lack of awareness of some park areas	7
Lack of electrical service	4
Carroll Park Roller slide	4
ADA updates	2
Lack of updated equipment	1

Opportunities

	Vote
Enclosed dog park	16
Steps on sledding hill – tires	15
Greenways and community gardens	8
State and regional sports tournaments	7
Carroll Park – play areas for age groups that use park/expand uses	7
Spurs off Railtrail	7
Location to showcase Saginaw Bay watershed along the river	5
Bay-Zilwaukee Railtrail	5
More barbeque pits	5
Education – Golson Park	4
Maintaining our existing park land	4
A “Camp Fishtails” –like park	4
Small pocket parks	2
Community involvement with existing non-profit groups	2
Decorations for specific holidays throughout the year	2

Midland Street/Southwest

Strengths

	Vote
Riverwalk	10
Conveniently located	8
Tourism from out parks	8
Festivals	6
Safe to use the parks	5
Well-maintained – grass is cut, clean	5
River of Lights	5
Sledding at Vets Park	5
Ball fields	4
Park land along the river	3
Volunteers	3
New equipment, parks accessible to all	2
Euclid Linear Park	2
Maintenance of broken, vandalized equipment	1
New parks are well designed	1
River is cleaned up	1
Volleyball courts	0
Ice rinks	0

Weaknesses

	Vote
No restroom facilities	9
Ramsey Park lacks equipment	8
Broken equipment, features not repaired or replaced	8
People don't know where they are or what they have	8
Lighting	8
Limited equipment for teens	5
Lack of signage or confusing signage	5
People don't know Ramsey Park exists	4
No drinking fountains	4
People drive through Ramsey Park	3
Parking at Liberty Harbor Marina that's off-limits to others	3
Railroad tracks at Vets Park	2

Opportunities

	Vote
Ramsey Park improvements – picnic, pavilion, playground, barriers, identification	6
Fix broken equipment	5
Lighting for safety	5
Improve pedestrian access to Vets Park	5
Promote Ramsey Park	4
Develop soccer field at Nate Doan Park	4
Create restrooms (not Port-a-johns)	4
Drinking fountains	4
Use volunteers – residents, BC in Bloom, Master Gardeners	4
Batting cages	3
Pershing Park to have benches etc.	3
Private donations for improvements	3
Equipment activities for older kids	3
Morton area Riverwalk	3
Water park like Midland	3
Improve sledding at Vets Park	3
Make equipment safe	2
Improved signage	2
Draw park users into area businesses	2
Street hockey rink	1
Improved parking for day use at marina	0
Sled crossing signs at Vets Bridge	0

APPENDIX C

BAY CITY PARKS PROGRAMMING AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Agreement made this 6th day of May 1996, between the City of Bay City, 301 Washington Avenue, Bay City, Michigan 48708, a Michigan municipal corporation, referred to as “City”, and the County of Bay, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan 48708, a Michigan municipal corporation, referred to as “County”.

Recitals

1. City owns certain parks located within its geographic boundaries, namely:

Veterans Memorial Park, Defoe Park, Hewitt Park, Carroll Park, Trombley Banks Park, Roosevelt Park, Maplewood Park, Ramsey Park, Birney Park, and Doan Park which are City-wide parks used by city residents and county residents who reside in Bay City, the suburbs and rural areas alike

2. County owns the Bay County Community Center which is used by City residents and County residents alike.

3. The County wishes to continue to provide recreational programs that require the use of the above-referenced parks.

4. The parties want to keep the parks safe and clean for use by all city and county residents.

5. The parties want to provide for the most cost-efficient maintenance of the parks by sharing maintenance responsibilities in an equitable manner.

6. The parties have agreed that the County shall maintain all ball diamonds, volleyball courts and ice rinks unless otherwise stated herein, and the City should maintain all basketball courts, tennis courts and play equipment in those park designated in Recital 1.

For the reasons set forth above, and in consideration of the mutual promises of the parties to this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

Section I.

Programming

County shall, subject to the scheduling of special events by City, plan and develop recreational activities pertaining to the use of park facilities that it is responsible to maintain under this

Agreement. The County shall assume any and all responsibilities relating to recreational activities and shall, to the extent allowable under Michigan law, hold the City harmless and defend it from any and all liability that may result from such activities. This paragraph shall not, however, relieve the City from liability for any actions or omission for which it is directly responsible in damages. Park facilities subject to County programming/use jurisdiction are: Bay County Community Center; six softball and baseball diamonds at Veterans Memorial Park; six beach volleyball courts at Veterans Memorial Park; ice rink at Veterans Memorial Park; two softball fields at Defoe Park; and, the baseball diamond at Hewitt Park. The parties agree that the large-scale events including, but not limited to, the River of Time, Fourth of July Festival, River Roar and the Pig Gig shall have scheduling priority and may require pre-planning or alteration of park use schedules. The City shall retain the right to determine, in its sole and absolute discretion, the type of recreational activities that may take place in the hours during which the facilities that the City is responsible to maintain under this agreement are open to the public. To assure workable team/league calendars, and to provide otherwise compatible schedules every year, the City and County shall endeavor to provide written schedules by March 15 as to the dates of any anticipated City or County approved events to be held between that date and September 30; and by July 1 as to dates between June 30 and March 15. Exclusive use of facilities for large-scale events shall be granted upon 30 days written notice by the City, anything to the contrary contained here in notwithstanding. The City shall to the extent allowable under Michigan law, assume any and all responsibilities relating to such recreational activities and shall hold the County harmless and defend it from any and all liability that may result from such activities. This paragraph shall not, however, relieve the County from liability for any actions or omission for which it is directly responsible in damages.

Section II.

Maintenance

The parties shall perform specified maintenance on park facilities subject to this Agreement as set forth, below:

- a. Bay County Community Center. County shall perform all maintenance whatsoever relating to the Bay County Community Center including, but not limited to: keeping, storing, maintaining, replacing and making available to the general public recreational equipment, keeping all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; keeping all floor surfaces cleaned regularly and especially after heavy use or special events; removing trash and refuse; keeping all toilets, showers and drinking fountains cleaned and in good repair; keeping all electrical fixtures, including lights, in operable condition and replacing all bulbs and other equipment as necessary; keeping the building waterproof, repairing all windows, etc.; mowing the grass around the facility and keeping it free of debris, etc., as stated, above; maintaining the parking lot, repairing it when necessary and keeping it free of debris, etc., as stated, above; and removing all ice and snow from the sidewalks and parking lot area. The City shall not have any maintenance responsibility for the Bay County Community Center.
- b. Veterans Memorial Park. County shall perform maintenance of six softball and baseball diamonds as follows: keeping playing fields free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; removing all trash and refuse; mowing the grass on the playing fields (within the

fences); erecting/repairing bleachers; maintaining/repairing/replacing fences and backstops; smoothing/leveling the diamonds and playing fields; chalking the fields; and keeping all electrical fixtures, including lights, in serviceable condition. Neither City or County shall have maintenance responsibilities relating to the pavilion located at the center of the four southernmost softball diamonds, the drinking fountain or sprinkler-irrigation system. The County shall not have any maintenance responsibilities relating to the concession building or to the parking lots. City shall perform all maintenance whatsoever relating to the concession building and parking lots including: keeping all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; keeping all floor surfaces cleaned regularly and especially after heavy usage or special events; removing trash and refuse; keeping all toilets clean and in good repair; keeping all wall surfaces, interior and exterior, cleaned, painted and otherwise in good repair; keeping all electrical fixtures (except those related to ball fields), including lights in operable condition including replacing bulbs and other equipment as needed; keeping all buildings waterproof including keeping roofs in good repair and replacing the windows as needed; mowing all grass around ball facilities; keeping all areas around ball facilities, including parking lots, free of debris, etc., as set forth, above. County shall perform all maintenance whatsoever relating to six beach volleyball courts as follows: maintain, repair and/or replace nets as need; level and smooth the sand; put up/maintain bleachers; and keep “volleyball courts free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; and remove trash and refuse. City shall mow grass around beach volleyball courts, keeping surrounding area free of debris, etc., as set forth, above; and remove trash and refuse. City shall perform maintenance of six tennis courts, including, but not limited to: putting up and taking down nets; repairing and/or replacing nets as needed; repairing and/or replacing fences as needed; painting courts and/or resurfacing them as need; keeping the tennis courts free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; keeping the court surfaces clean and removing trash and refuse after City approved events. i.e. River Roar and 4th of July. County shall perform maintenance relating to the ice rink as follows: flood it; broom it; and plow it. City shall be responsible for all other maintenance whatsoever in Veterans Memorial Park including, but not limited to: keeping all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; regularly removing trash and refuse; keeping all toilets and drinking fountains clean and in good repair; keeping all buildings, equipment and structures, including benches and fences, clean, painted, waterproof and otherwise in good repair; and keeping all non-ball field electrical fixtures, including lights, in operable condition.

c. Defoe Park. County shall perform maintenance of two softball fields as follows: keep fields free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage, removing same, mow softball playing fields' grass (area within fences); smooth/level playing fields; line (chalk) playing fields; and, repair/maintain fences and backstop. City shall be responsible for all other maintenance at Defoe Park (excluding two Little League fields) including, but not limited to: keeping all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; removing trash and refuse; keeping all toilets and drinking fountains clean and in good repair; keeping all buildings (excluding the concession buildings), equipment and structures including benches and fences, clean, painted and otherwise in good repair; keeping all electrical fixtures (except those related to ball fields), including lights, in operable condition; mowing all grass outside baseball fields' fences.

d. Hewitt Park. County shall maintain ball diamond as follows: smooth and level it; line (chalk) it; and, repair/maintain dugouts, backstop and related fencing. City shall perform all other maintenance at Hewitt Park including, but not limited to: keeping all areas free of debris,

broken glass, trash and garbage; removing all trash and refuse; keeping drinking fountains clean and in good repair; keeping all buildings, structures and equipment including benches and fences, clean, painted and otherwise in good repair; keeping all electrical fixtures (except those related to ball fields), including lights, in operable condition; and, mowing all grass.

e. Carroll Park. County shall smooth out/level baseball diamond and chalk it beginning in the spring. monthly thereafter and as unusual weather conditions require. The City shall perform all other maintenance in Carroll Park including, but not limited to: mowing all grass; keeping all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; removing all trash and refuse; keeping all toilets and drinking fountains clean and in good repair; keeping all buildings, structures and equipment, including benches and fences, clean, painted and otherwise in good repair; keeping all electrical fixtures, including lights, in operable condition; putting up/taking down tennis court nets; repairing/replacing tennis court nets; painting/resurfacing tennis courts as necessary; and, filling, draining and maintaining pond; and, assume all responsibility for care, feeding and maintenance of animals kept in Carroll Park.

f. Trombley Banks Park. County shall have no maintenance responsibility whatsoever at Trombley Banks Park. City shall keep all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; remove all trash and refuse; keep all toilets and drinking fountains clean and in good repair; keep all buildings, structures and equipment, including benches and fences, clean, painted and otherwise in good repair; keep all electrical fixtures, including lights, in operable condition; mowing all grass; and, all other maintenance.

g. Maplewood Park. County shall smooth/level baseball diamond beginning in the spring, monthly thereafter and as unusual weather conditions require. County shall flood, broom and plow ice rink. City shall be responsible for all basketball courts and tennis courts and all other maintenance at Maplewood Park including, but not limited to: keeping all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; removing all trash and refuse; keeping all drinking fountains clean and in good repair; keeping all buildings, structures and equipment, including benches and fences, clean, painted and otherwise in good repair; keeping all electrical fixtures, including lights, in operable condition; and, mowing all grass.

h Birney Park. County shall reestablish the infield for the existing baseball field once in the spring by cutting out the sod at the various base locations and putting down crusher dust and 2NS sand and maintain the same monthly thereafter and as unusual weather conditions require. City shall be responsible for all other maintenance at Birney Park including, but not limited to: keeping all areas free of debris, broken glass, trash and garbage; removing all trash and refuse; keeping all toilets and drinking fountains clean and in good repair; keeping all buildings, structures and equipment, including benches and fences, clean, painted and otherwise in good repair; keeping all electrical fixtures, including lights, in operable condition; and, mowing all grass.

- i. Doan Park. Same as Birney Park.
- j. Ramsey Park. Same as Birney Park.
- k. Roosevelt Park. Same as Birney Park.

All maintenance requirements imposed upon either party shall be completed promptly, without undue delay.

Section III.

Other Agreements

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent either party from contracting with third parties to perform all or part of required maintenance responsibilities.

Section IV.

Costs

Any party responsible for specific repairs/maintenance shall pay all associated costs, including, but not limited to, labor, material costs, etc.

Section V.

Term

The initial term of this Agreement shall be for 10 years, effective the 1st day of January, 1996, and ending on the 31st day of December, 2005. The term of this agreement shall be automatically renewed yearly thereafter unless either party notifies the other in writing of its intent not to renew at least 90 days prior to the end of the initial term or any renewed term.

Section VI.

Default

Should either party fail in any respect to comply with the terms of this Agreement and should the party notify the defaulting party in writing of the claimed default, and should defaulting party fail either to cure the default within 30 days after the giving of notice or to commence within 5 days to rectify the default and continue thereafter to use due diligence to rectify the default unless it is fully rectified or cured, then the non-defaulting party may cancel this Agreement at any time thereafter during the continuance of the default by giving written notice to the defaulting party of the election to terminate. It is expressly agreed that the defaulting party shall in no event be liable for damages and that the sole remedy of the non-defaulting party for any default shall be to terminate this Agreement in the manner provided, above. This paragraph shall not, however, relieve a defaulting party from any liability for any act or omission for which it is directly responsible in damages.

Section VII.

Effect of Termination

In the event of termination of this Agreement, County shall remove its personal property from all involved park facilities. All improvements on City property shall become the property

of the City on termination of this Agreement for any reason.

Section VIII.

Delays Beyond Control of Parties.

Neither party to this Agreement shall be liable to the other party on account of any delay or inability to perform if such delay or inability is due in whole or in part to any cause beyond the control of the party in default. If any delay is caused in such manner, the non-defaulting party shall have the power to extend the time for performance of any act required by the other party.

Section IX.

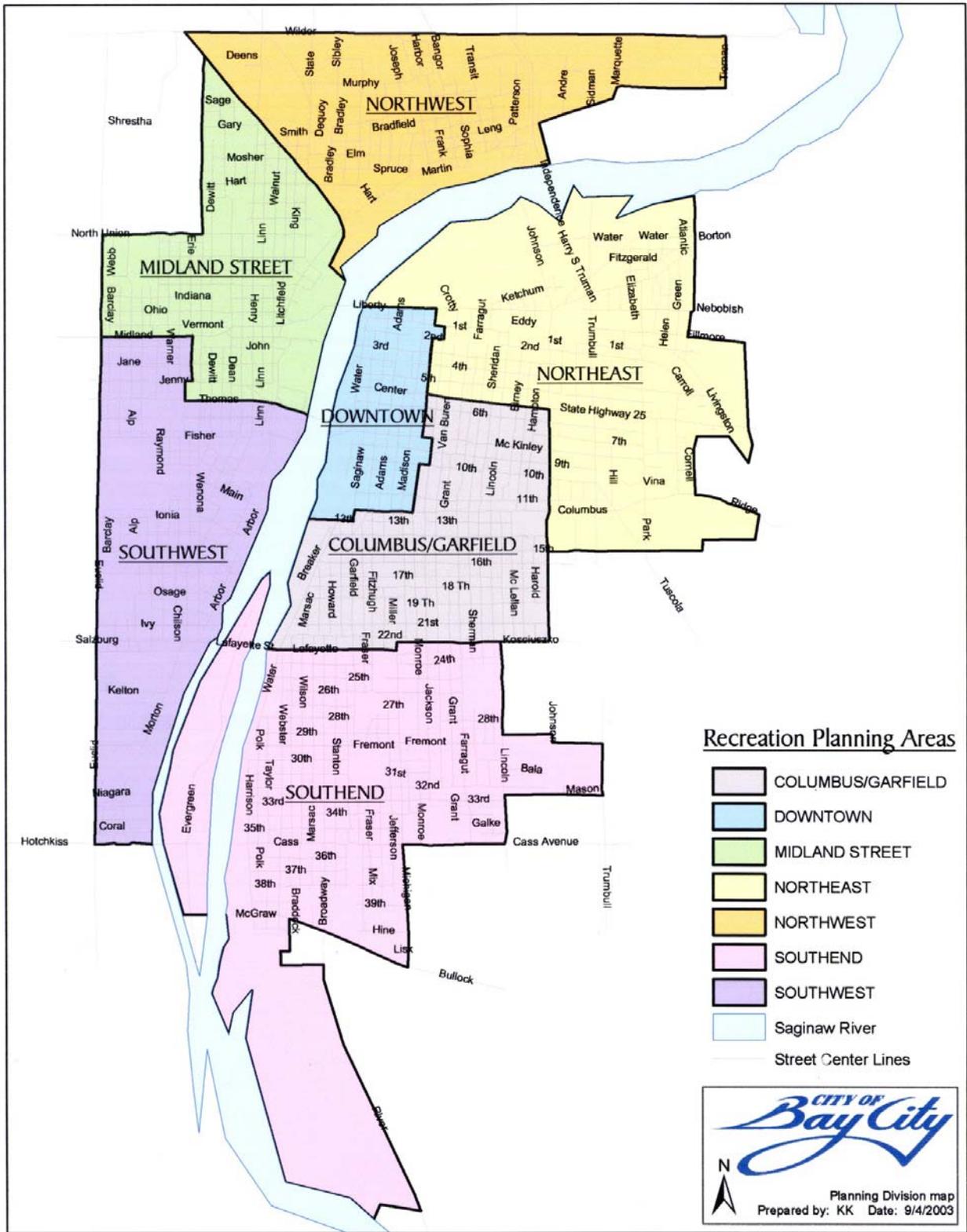
Modifications

This Agreement can only be modified by a written instrument bearing the signatures of authorized representatives of both parties.

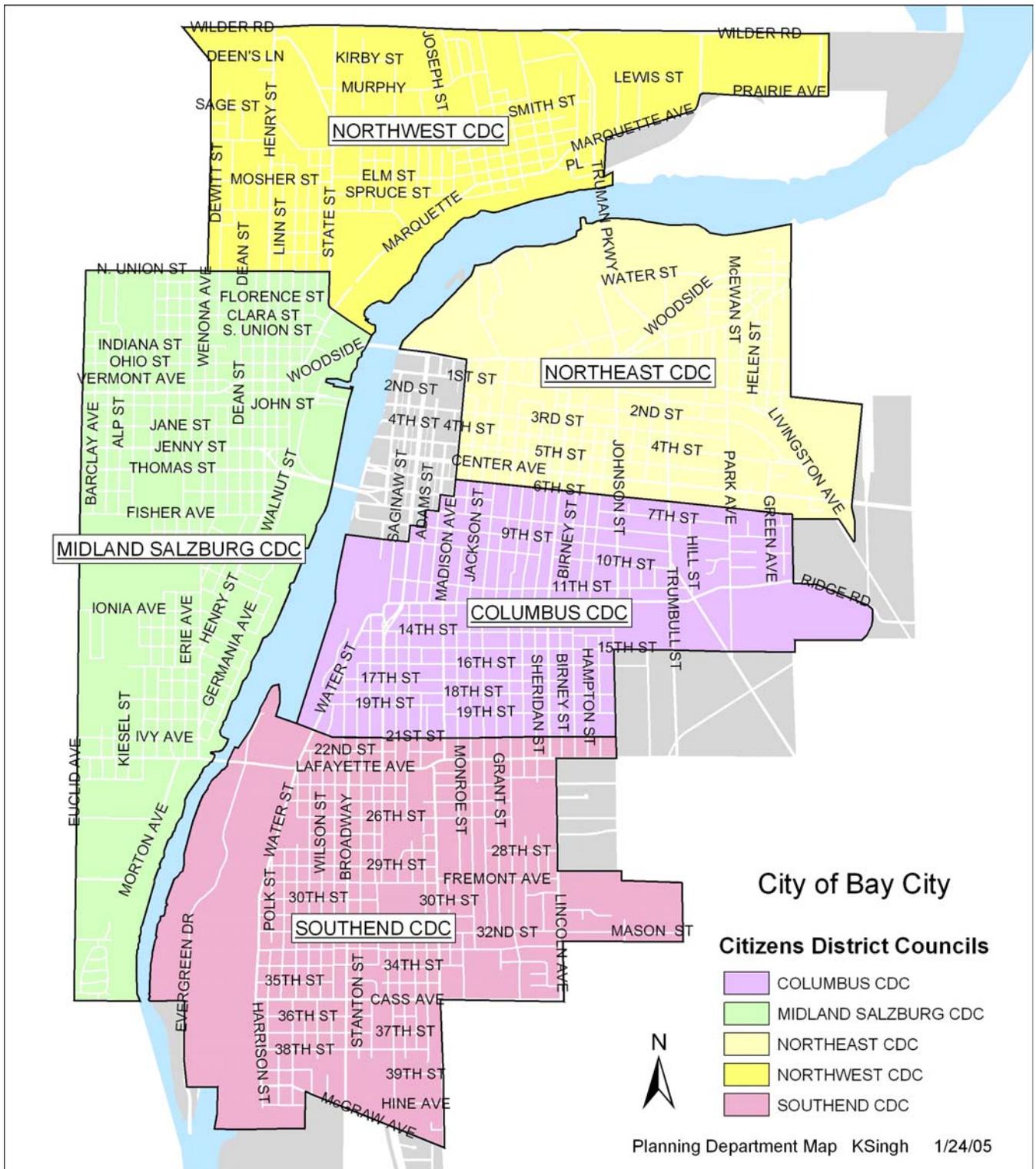
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement at Bay City, Michigan on the day and year first above written

APPENDIX D

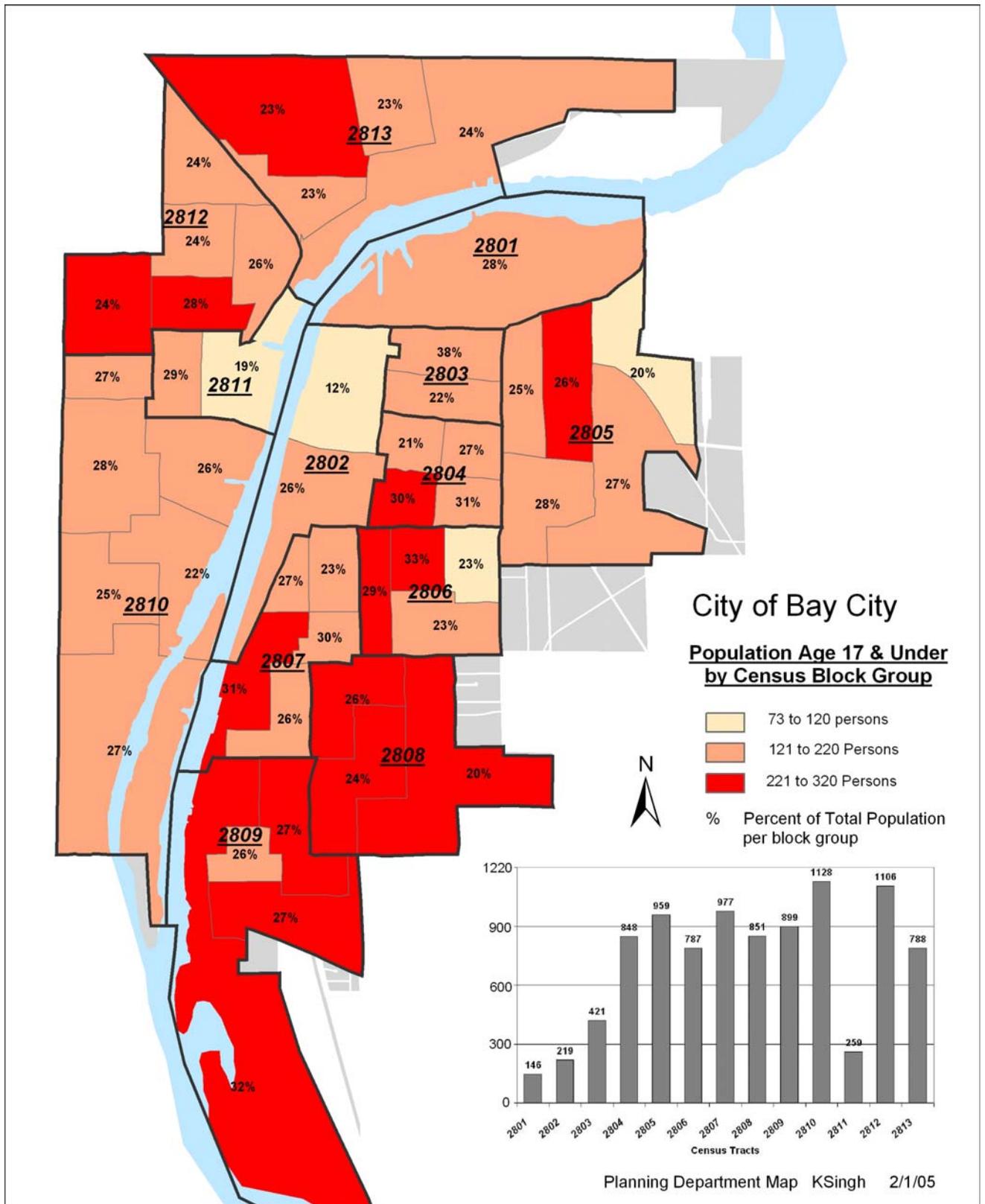
MAPS



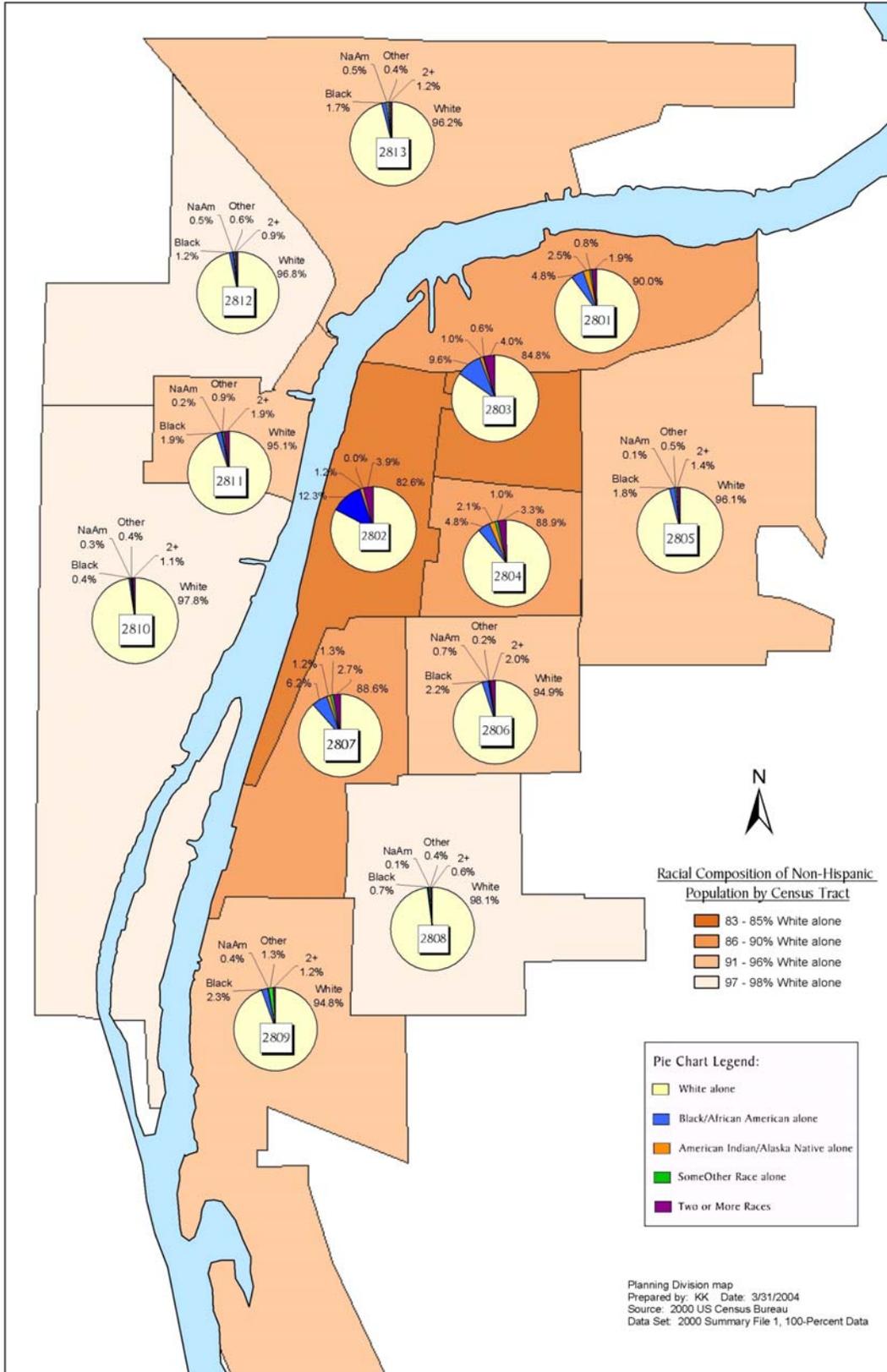
Map 1. Recreation Planning Areas.



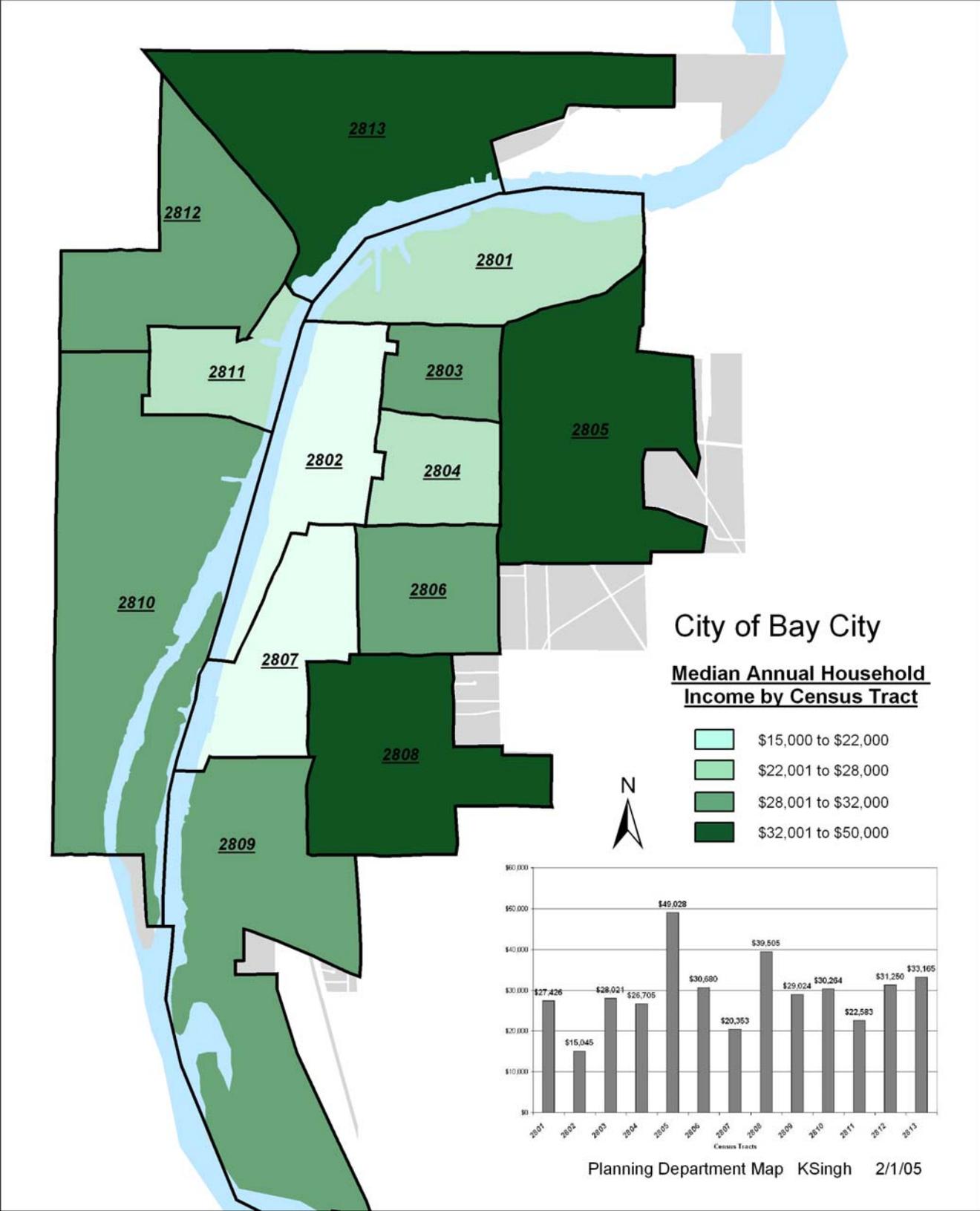
Map 2. Citizens District Councils.



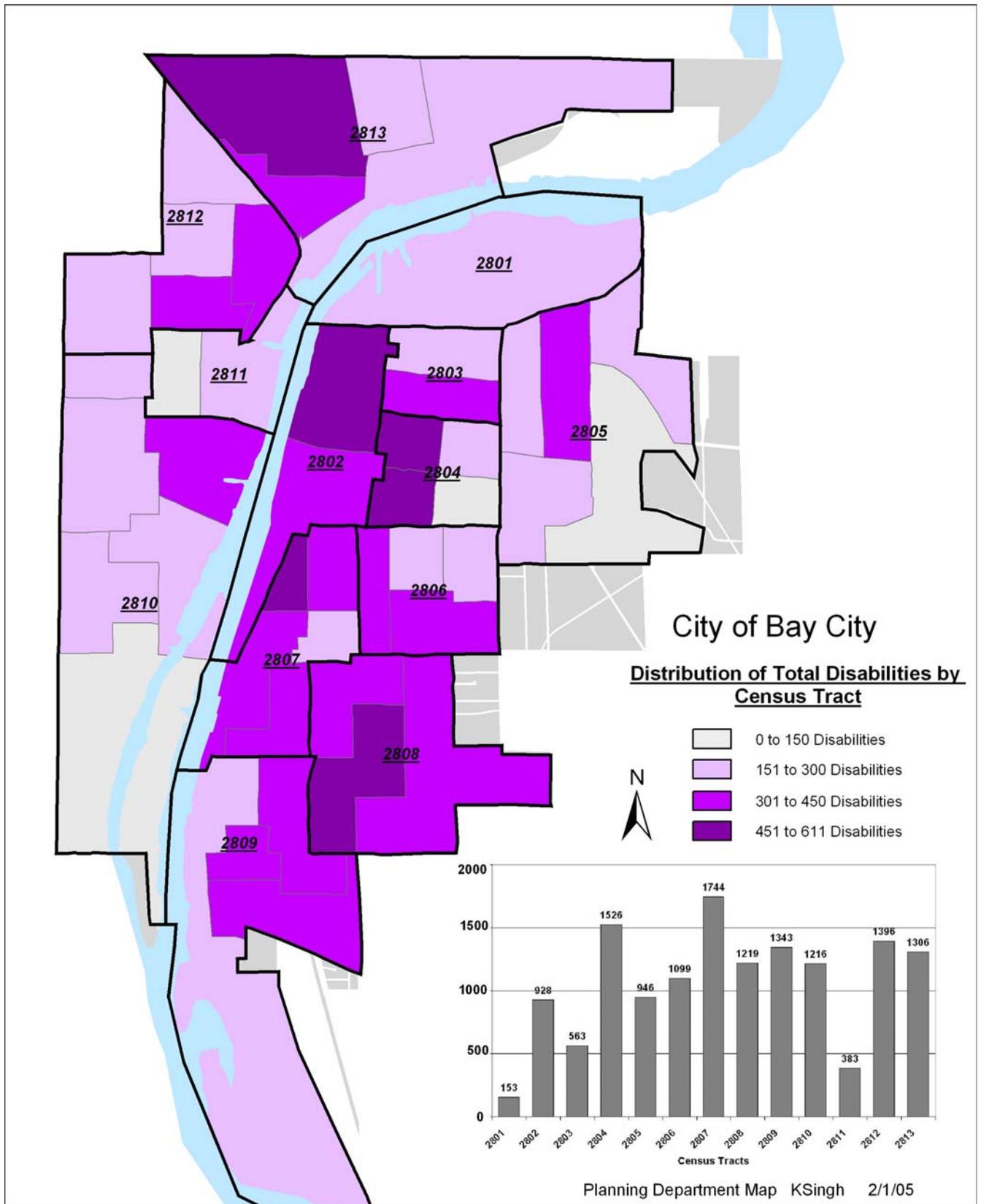
Map 3. Population Age 17 & Under by Census Tract and Block Group.



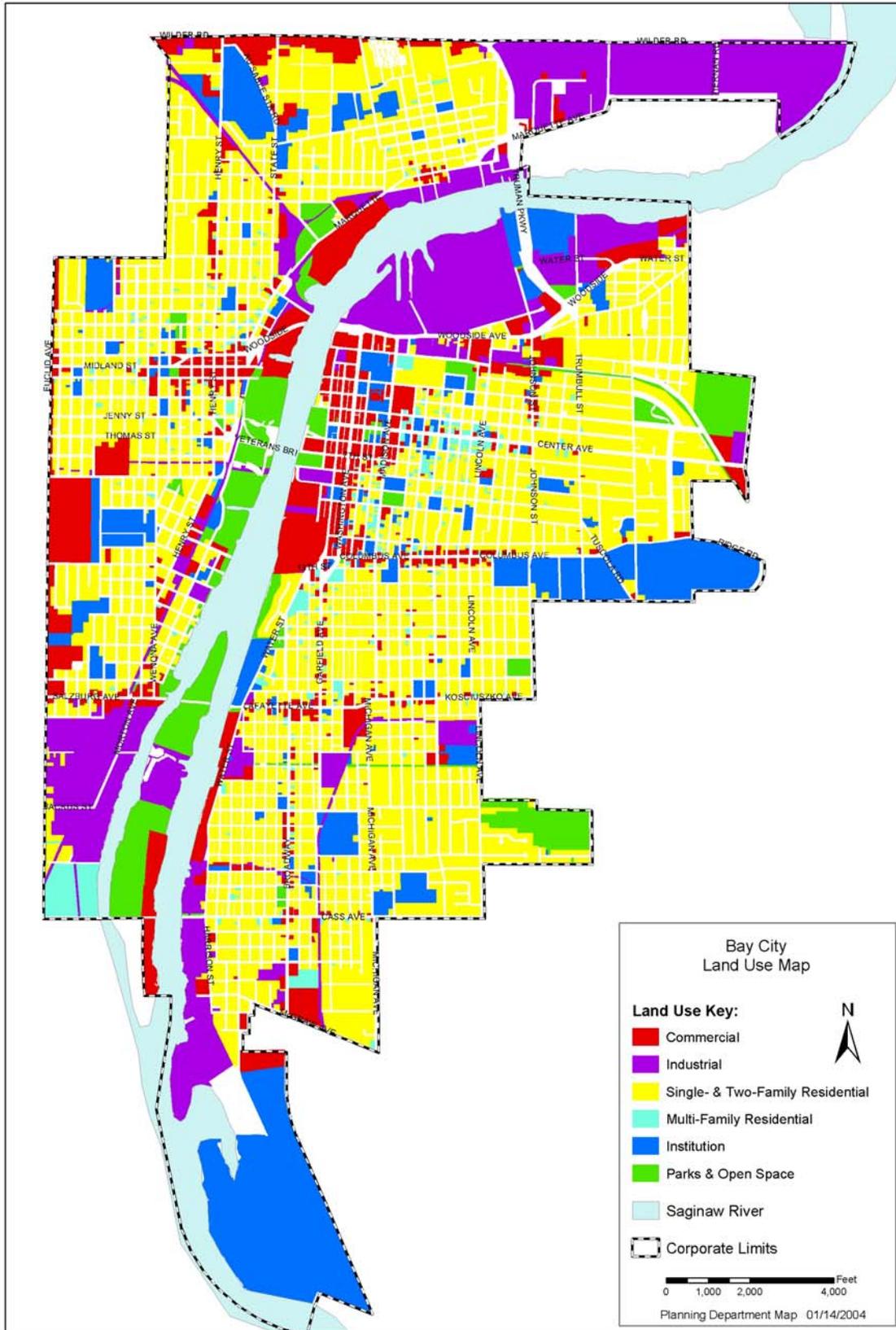
Map 4. Racial Composition.



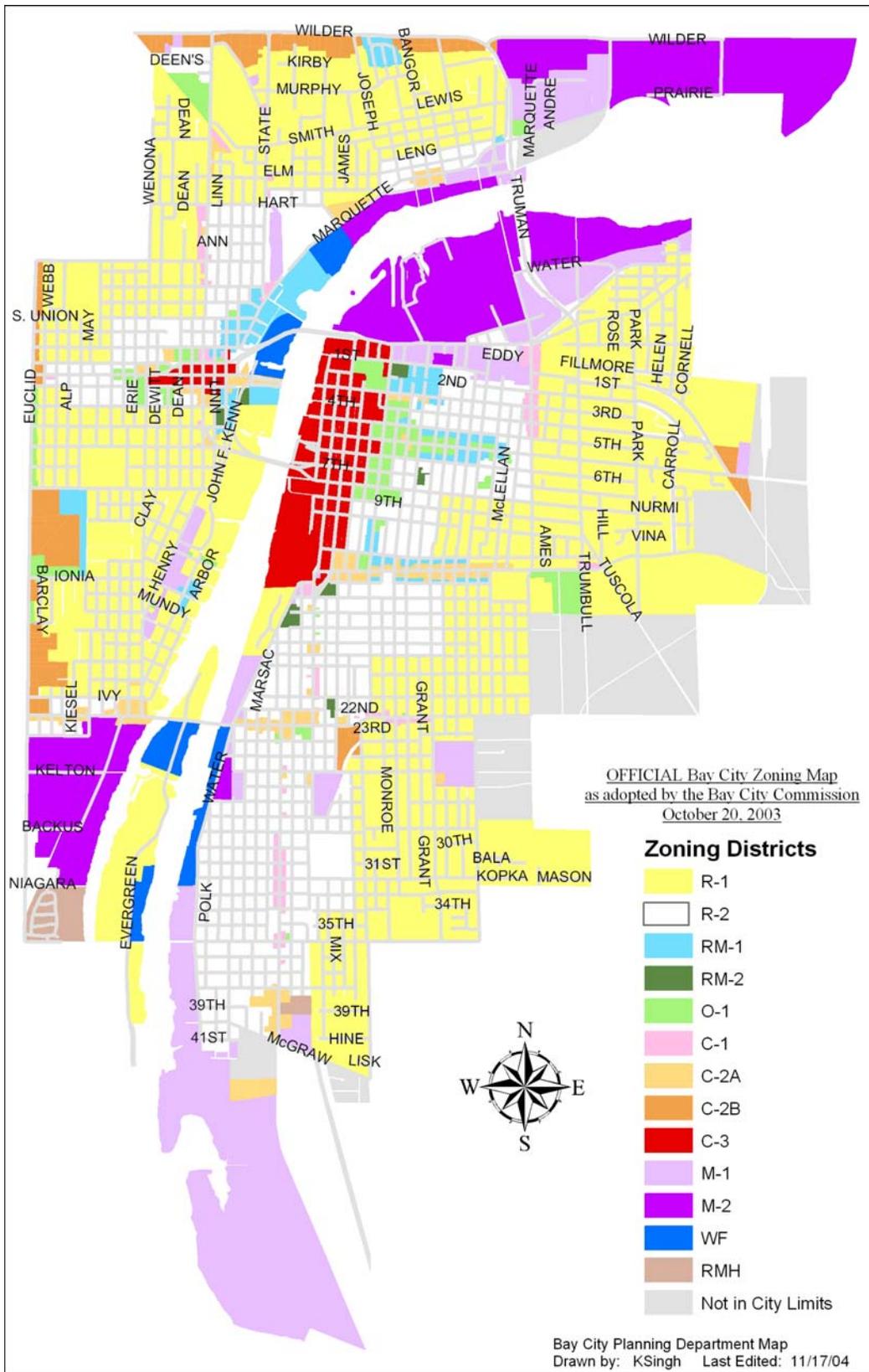
Map 5. Household Income Level.



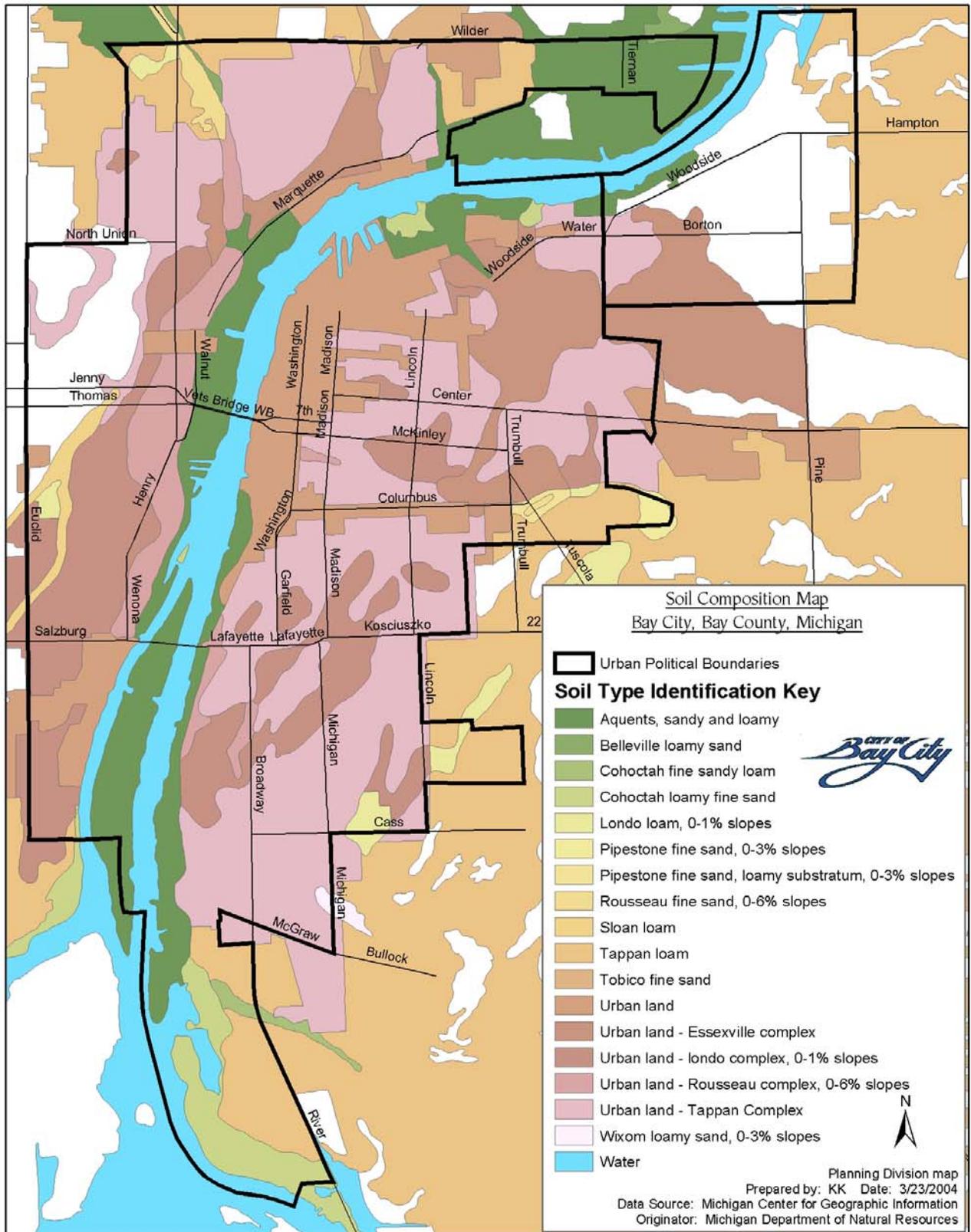
Map 6. Distribution of Disabilities by Census Block Group.



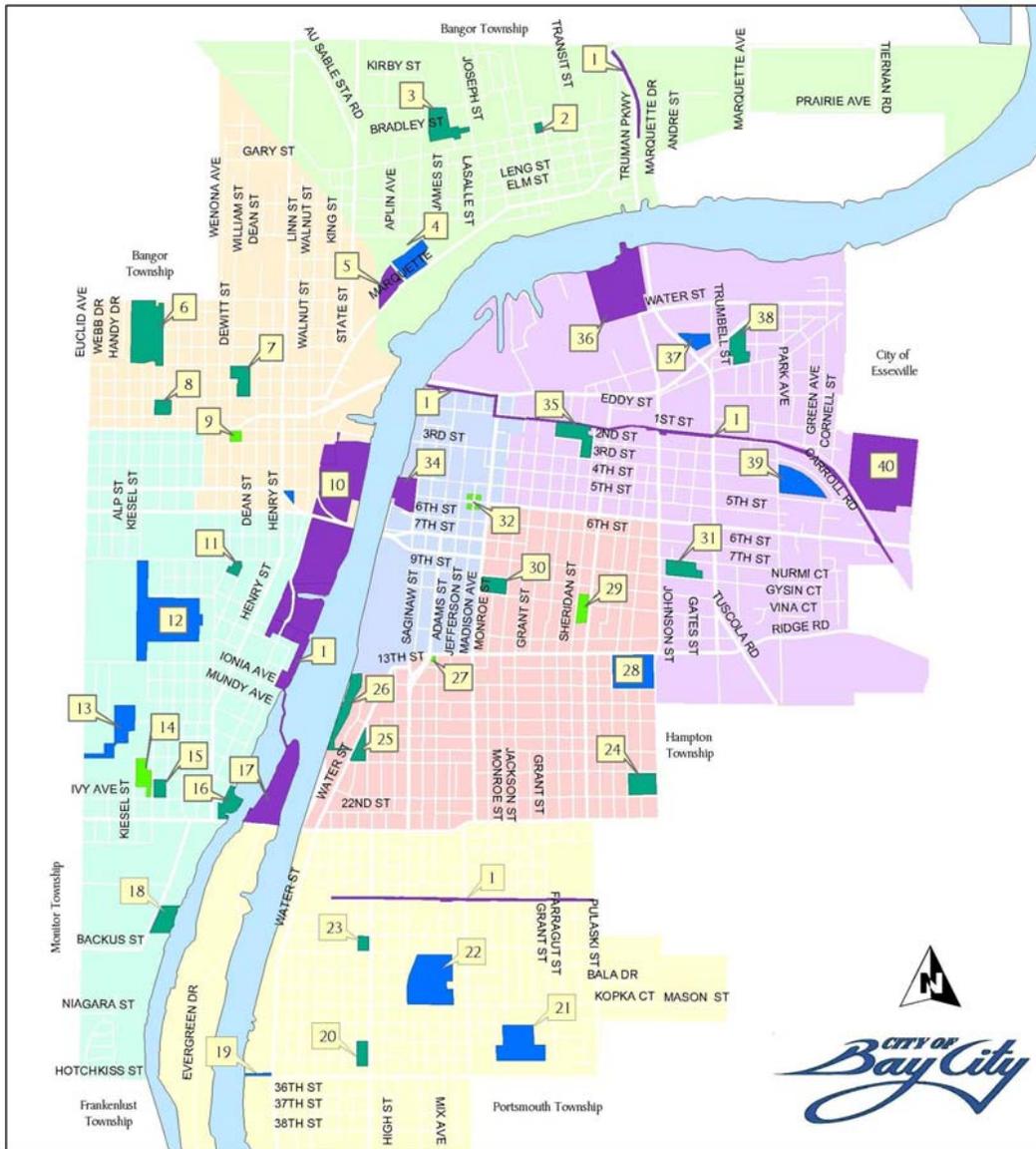
Map 7. Existing Land Use Map.



Map 8. Zoning Map.



Map 9. Soil Composition.



Inventory of Recreational Properties

Planning Area Boundaries

- Columbus Garfield
- Downtown
- Midland Street
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southend
- Southwest

Regional Urban Parks

City Parks:

- 1 Riverwalk/Railtrail
- 10 Veterans' Park
- 17 Bigelow Park
- 34 Wenonah Park
- 36 Golson Boat Launch & Nature Area

County Parks:

- 40 Bay Co. Fairgrounds

Community Parks

City Parks:

- 4 DeFoe Park
- 39 Carroll Park

Institutional Properties:

- 12 Kolb School & Field
- 18 Coryell Field
- 21 St. Hyacinth's Field
- 22 MacGregor Elementary
- 28 Central High School
- 37 Sovereign Field

Neighborhood Parks

City Parks:

- 2 Trombley/Banks Park
- 7 Nate Doan Park
- 11 Ramsey Park
- 16 Putz's Park
- 19 Cass Avenue Boat Launch
- 20 Roosevelt Park
- 24 Hewitt Park
- 25 Rexer Jablonski Park
- 26 Breaker Cove Park
- 30 Birney Park
- 35 Maplewood Park

County Parks:

- 13 Bay Co. Euclid Linear Park

Institutional Properties:

- 3 Lindsday Elementary
- 6 Handy Intermediate
- 8 McKinley School
- 23 Fremont Center
- 31 Washington School
- 38 Eastside Middle School

Mini Parks

City Parks:

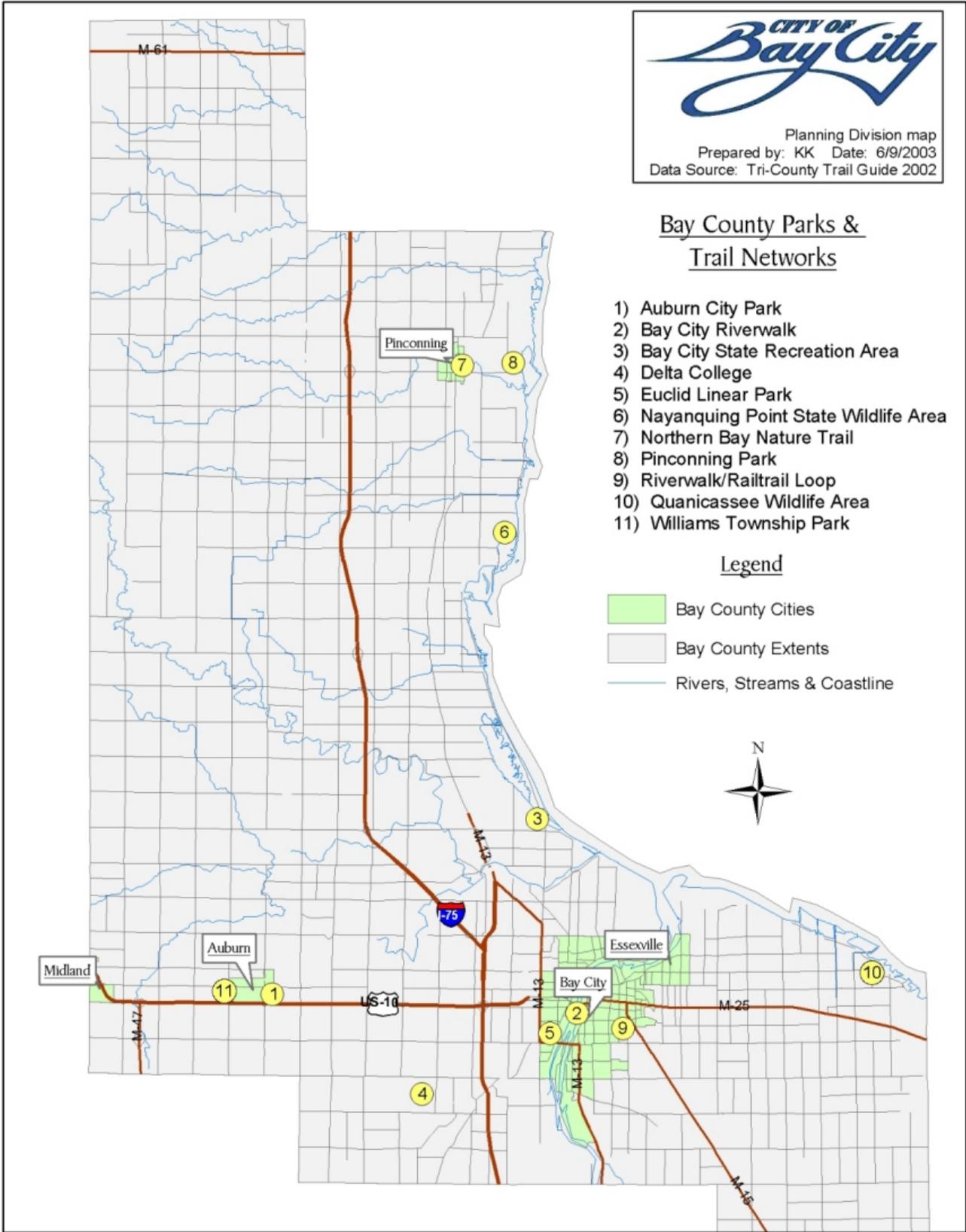
- 9 Pershing Park
- 27 Columbus Green
- 32 Battery Park

Institutional Properties:

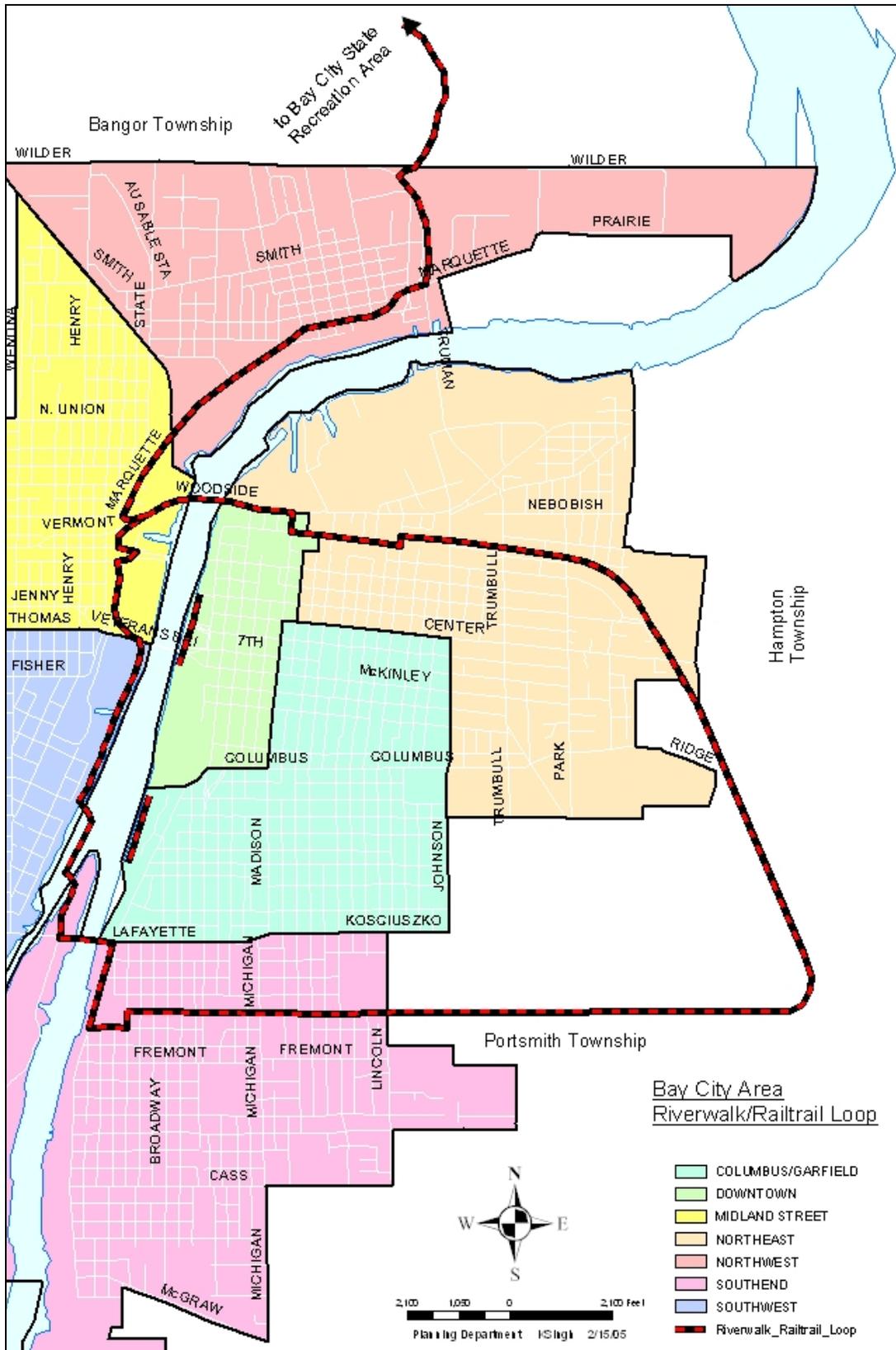
- 14 Zion Lutheran
- 29 Immanuel Lutheran

Planning Division map
Prepared by: KK Date: 01/05/2004
Data Source: Bay City Equalizer

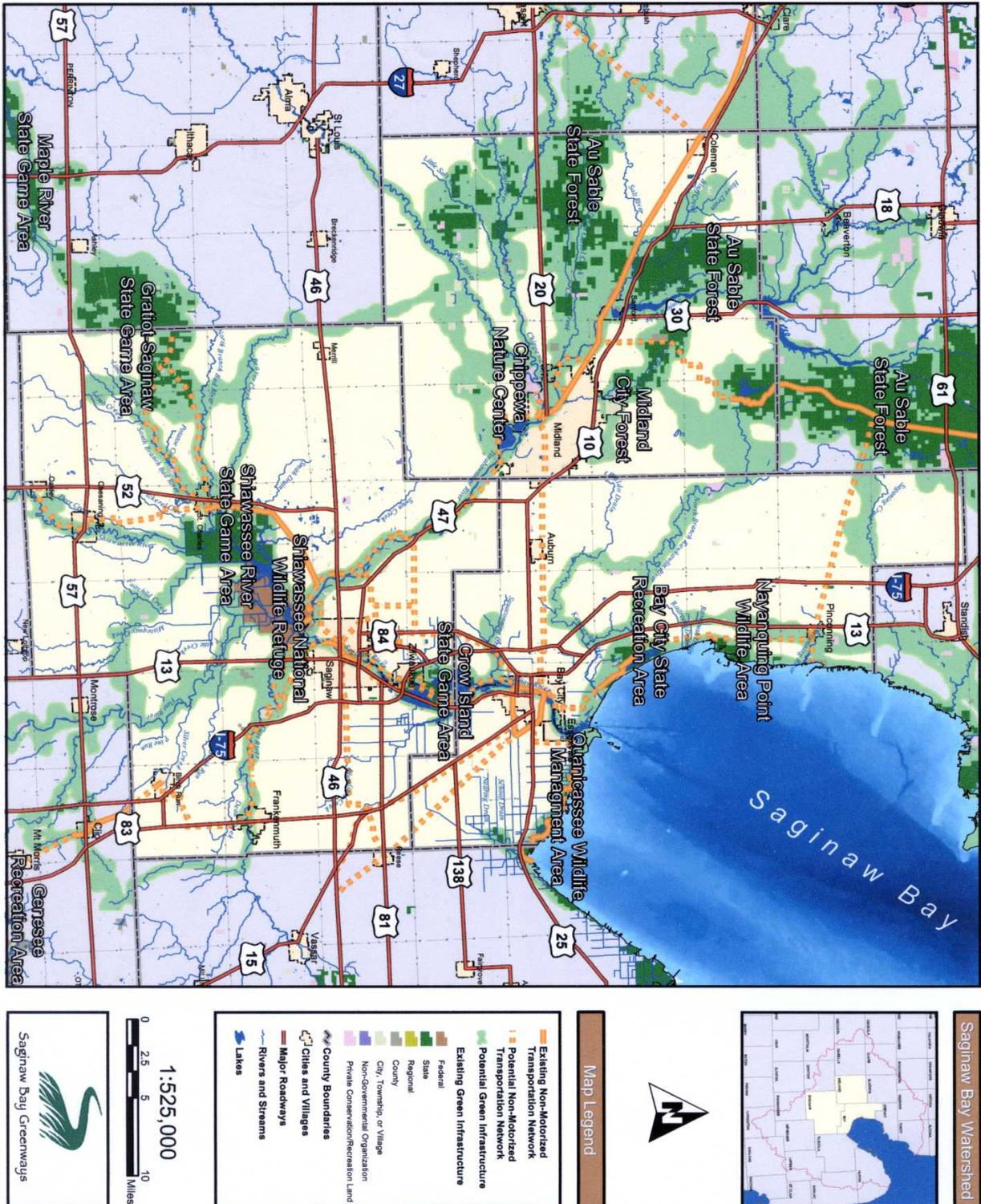
Map 10. Recreation Inventory by Type.



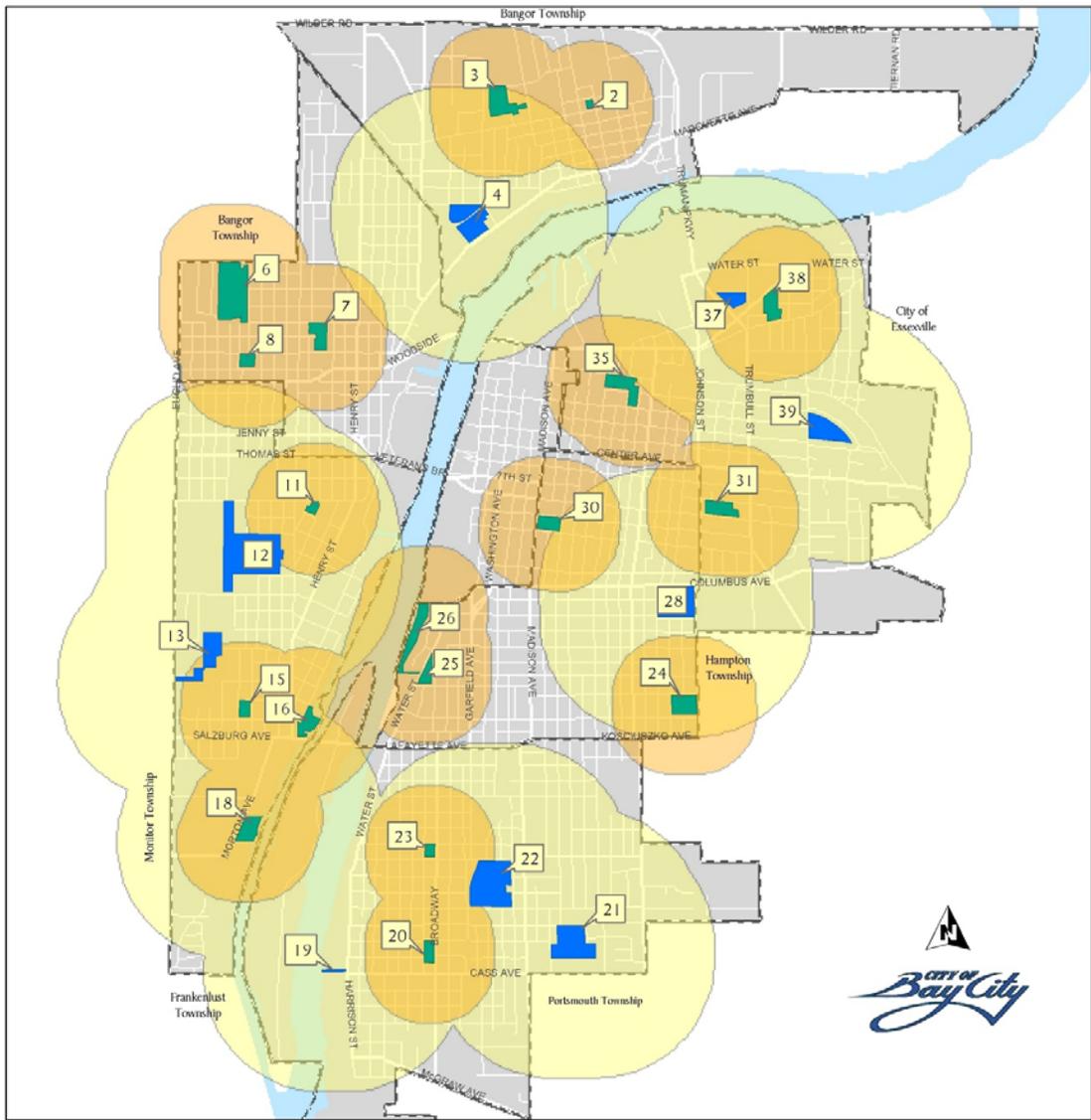
Map 11. Bay County Parks & Trail Networks.



Map 12. Bay City Riverwalk & Railtrail.



Map 13 . Saginaw Bay Greenways.



Neighborhood & Community Park Service Areas*

* Community Parks show a 1/2 mile service area while Neighborhood Parks show a service area with a 1/4 mile radius.)

- Neighborhood Park Service Area
- Community Parks Service Area

Park Identification Key:

- Community Parks
- City Parks:
 - 4 DeFoe Park
 - 19 Cass Avenue Boat Launch
 - 37 Sovereign Field
 - 39 Carroll Park

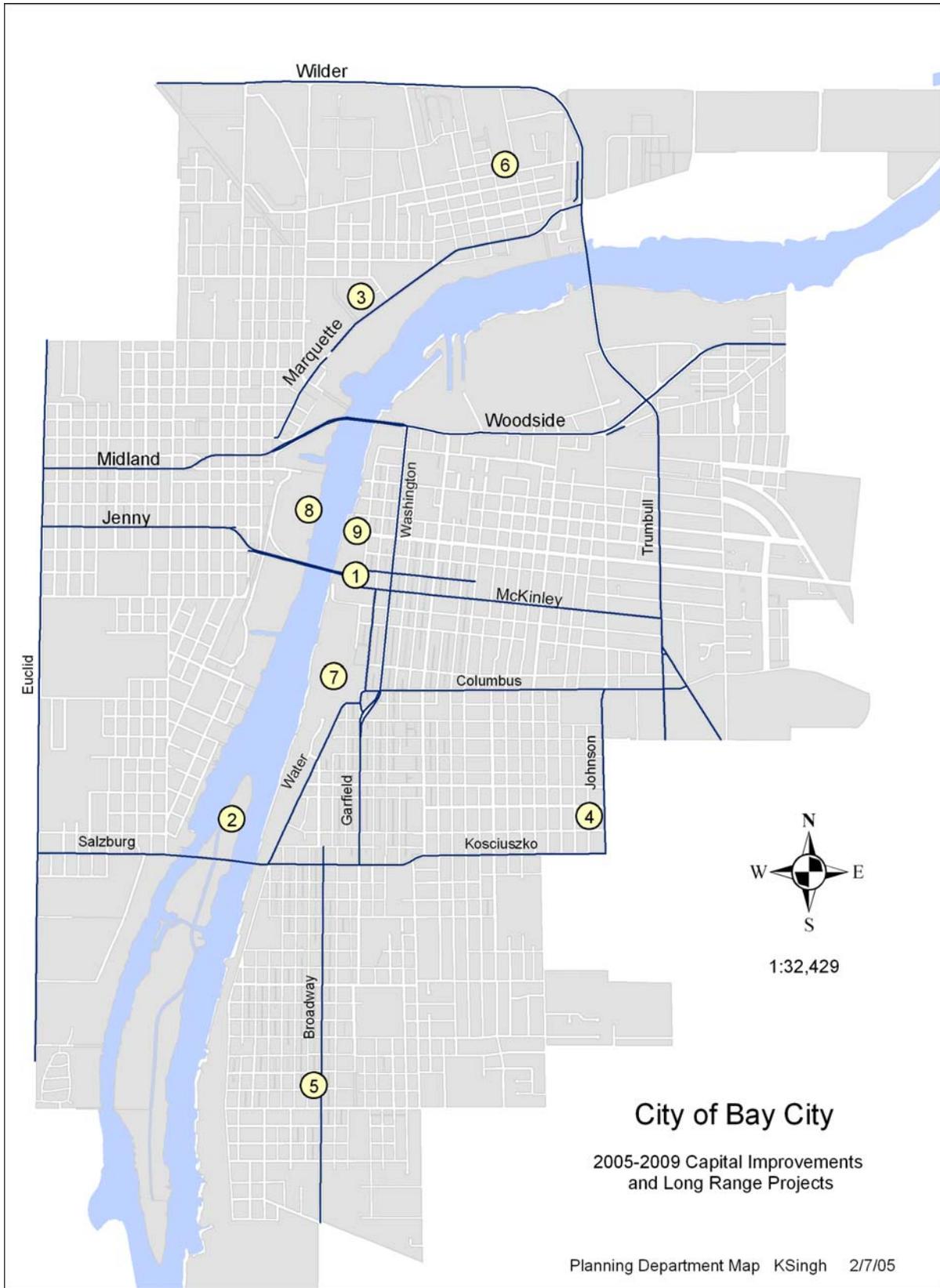
- County Parks:
 - 13 Bay Co. Euclid Linear Park

- Institutional Properties:
 - 12 Kolb Elementary & Field
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 - 22 MacGregor Elementary
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- Neighborhood Parks
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 - 31 Washington Elementary
 - 38 Eastside Middle School

Map 14. Neighborhood & Community Park Service Areas.



Map 15. Capital Improvements and Long Range Projects.