

IONIA COUNTY RECREATION PLAN

2024-2028

**PREPARED BY:
IONIA COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD WITH THE
ASSISTANCE OF THE
WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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Introduction

Ionia County has established the importance of recreation to the County's quality of life by maintaining an up-to-date Recreation Plan. The County has maintained an up-to-date recreation plan for many years and has benefited from grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund. The County met most of the several previous plans' goals.

This Plan represents the ideas of the County's officials and residents through meetings, an "Issue Identification" Workshop, and a public meeting to review a draft of the Plan. Since the 2014-2018 Recreation Plan was developed five years ago, Ionia County created the Ionia County Parks Advisory Board, which was formerly made up of two separate committees. This planning process was a combined effort of the Ionia County Parks Advisory Board, County officials and staff, interested citizens, and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

The Action Plan provides a schedule for completing a number of improvements. The County should strive to follow the established schedule, but should consider the schedule as a "living document" since funding opportunities and other events may not always align with the schedule. The integrity of the plan will not be compromised if actions are rescheduled during the five-year planning period.

Finally, this plan should be a working document that is frequently used for guidance and updated if necessary. The next complete update of the Plan should occur in 2029.

Community Description

This Plan serves Ionia County, which is located in south central Michigan and is bordered by Montcalm County to the north, Clinton County to the east, Barry and Eaton counties to the south, and Kent County to the west (Map 1).

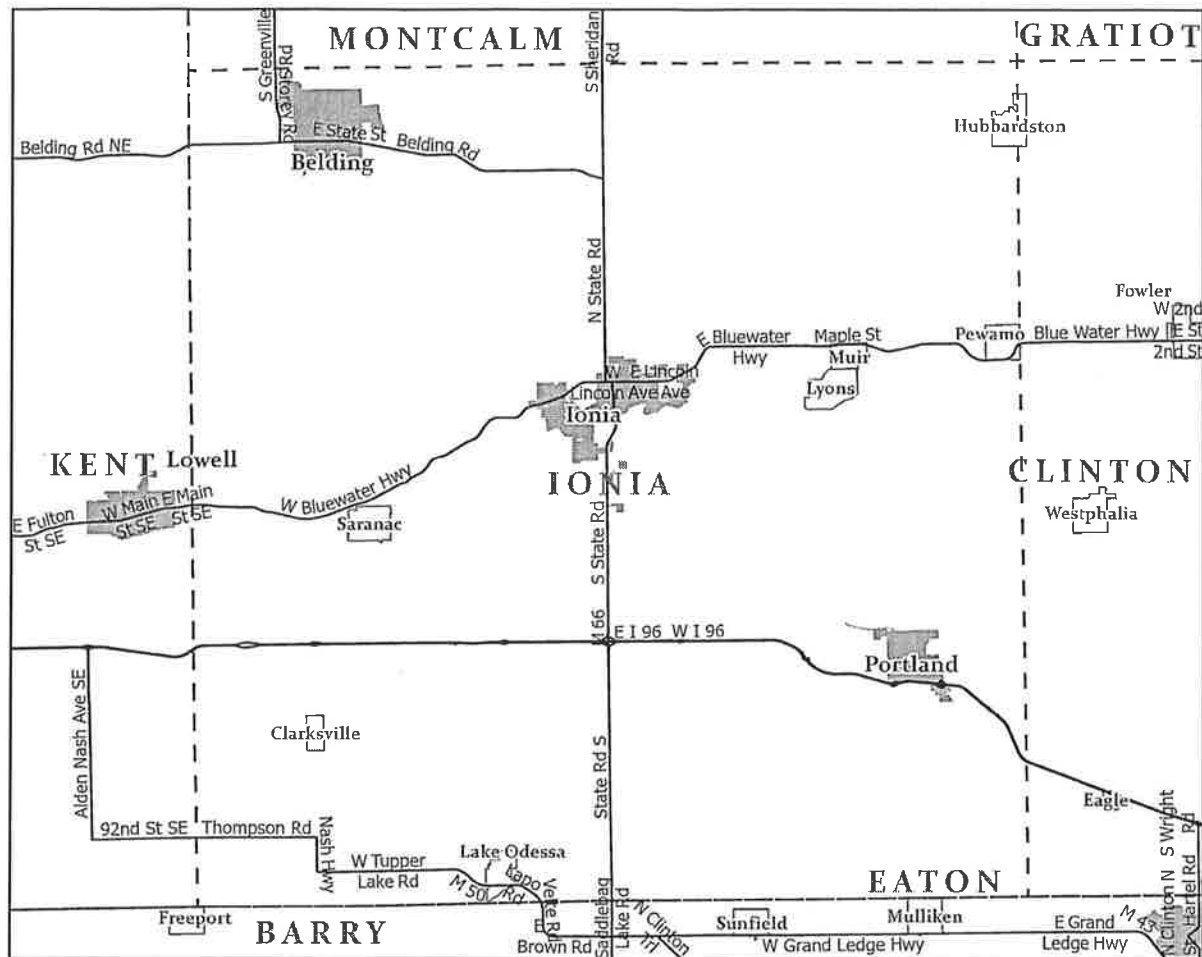
Ionia County is a traditional county with 16 townships, three cities, and seven villages. Much of the county is used for agriculture with wooded areas along the Flat, Grand, Looking Glass and Maple rivers. The urban, residential, commercial, and industrial land uses are concentrated within, or near, the cities and villages. There are also several State of Michigan Correctional Facilities located in the County, which influence land use and the local economy.

There are currently two established park sites maintained by the County: Bertha Brock Park, west of Ionia and Green View Point, east of Lyons. Other recreation sites with County involvement include: a 7 mile stretch of railroad corridor, extending from Ionia east through Pewamo, for a Rails-to-Trails multi-use path; and a 200 acre parcel south of West Main Street in Ionia, along the Grand River. In addition to Ionia County parks, the State of Michigan maintains the Ionia Recreation Area and all of the cities and villages have recreation facilities to serve the area's population – and there are also a few parks maintained by townships. Many of the communities maintain up-to-date recreation plans and have benefited from grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and other resources. Finally, schools across the County provide a range of recreation resources focused on the students and their families.

Ionia County's population increased from 61,518 in 2000 to 63,979 in 2010. All of the townships are expected to continue increasing in population. The City of Ionia is expected to increase, while the other two cities (Portland and Belding) and all of the villages are expected to remain fairly stable.

Ionia County

Map 1: Location Map



Legend

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

- State Owned Roads
- Village
- City
- ▭ County



Prepared by the West Michigan Regional Planning
Commission

Administrative Structure

The County's residents are the final authority in the County, since they elect the County's Board of Commissioners, which must approve any improvements to the County's parks. Currently, the County's recreation-related planning activities are undertaken by a Park Advisory Board, which reports to the County's Board of Commissioners. Members of the County Board of Commissioners and the Ionia County Park Advisory Board are listed below:

County Commissioners

- David Hodges, Chair
- Terence Frewen, Vice Chair
- Larry Tiejema
- Gordon Kelley
- Scott Wirtz
- Jack Shattuck
- Phillip Hesche

Ionia County Park Advisory Board

- Don Benjamin
- Cindy Cotter
- David Hodges
- Charles Babcock
- Bernard Russell
- Ally Cook
- Kathleen Cook
- David McCord
- Jack Shattuck, Chair
- Rod Steel
- Diana Almy
- Jeff Montgomery (Park Manager)

County Administrator

- Patrick Jordan

Additionally, the County employs a full-time park manager for Bertha Brock Park, and a part-time maintenance employee. The manager is in charge of the day to day operations of the park and supervision of maintenance staff and volunteers, and works closely with the Bertha Brock Park Advisory Board, the County Commissioners, and the various departments within Ionia County. A network of volunteers currently maintains Green View Point Park.

The majority of the County's recreation resources are devoted to maintaining Bertha Brock Park, but additional funds are required for maintenance of Green View Point Park. Currently many needs of Green View Point Park are funded through donations secured from local citizens by the volunteer network. Additional County resources are frequently directed towards the parks in the form of maintenance by other County Departments, community service personnel, and other expenditures. The County recognizes the need for funds to maintain the rails-to-trails path as it becomes a developed and established multi-use path that crosses Ionia County.

Table 1 identifies budget information specific to the County's Parks and Recreation Budget for 2024. Projected annual budgets for park operations and maintenance would reflect slight increases in these amounts.

Table 1 – 2024 Budget Information

Category	Amount
Estimated Revenues	
Fees and Permits	\$19,550.00
Facility and Farmland Rental	\$38,150.00
Other	\$1,610.00
Total	\$59,310.00
Ionia County Appropriation	\$75,956.00
Estimated Expenditures	
Wages	\$70,729.00
Benefits	\$43,737.00
Supplies	\$9,950.00
Services	\$2,450.00
Operating	\$8,400.00
Total	\$135,266.00

Source: Ionia County

The County has demonstrated a strong commitment by choosing to fund the parks through general fund appropriations. Additionally, there is a trust established for improvements to Green View Point Park.

School Districts

Ionia County is served by many school districts. Each of the districts provides recreation resources focusing on the needs of students, but often benefiting the County as-a-whole as well as the individual communities in which the schools are located. This Plan does not address the needs of any of the County's schools.

Ionia County Communities

In addition to County Parks, many of the communities within Ionia County provide recreation resources that are available to the general public. Many of the cities and villages also maintain up-to-date recreation plans and frequently benefit from grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Staff & Volunteers

Ionia County has full and part-time positions established that maintain the County's two parks. Bertha Brock Park has a full-time Park Manager and a seasonal maintenance person. Both Bertha Brock Park and Green View Point Park rely on an extensive network of volunteers to guide development and to assist with maintenance if necessary.

Recreation Inventory

The following description of the County parks and recreation facilities was developed through the knowledge base of the current Park Manager employed by Ionia County and visits by staff from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. County information includes acreage, buildings, types of recreation activities, types of equipment, an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, surrounding land uses and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the County's recreation facilities. Map 2 shows the location of the County's recreation facilities.

Ionia County Parks

Bertha Brock Park – Bertha Brock Park is a 186 acre park west of the City of Ionia in Easton Township. It is a regional park that serves the entire County, as well as surrounding areas. This unique park was founded in 1931 and was developed with the use of WPA labor. During the park's early years it was a major attraction drawing visitors from across Michigan for both summer and winter activities such as Winterfest, the crowning of a Snow Queen, and a destination of the Detroit "Snow Train."

The park has several different areas with different functions. The entrance area, located immediately off M-21, includes a residence for the "Park Host" or the Park Manager, a maintenance building, and privies. There is a gate to the entrance of the park that can be closed, but that generally remains open since campers are allowed to arrive and depart at any time of their stay. The entrance area has a playground area that includes swings, teeter-totters, and a play structure. The entrance area also has a picnic shelter, picnic areas, grills, 20 picnic tables, and a gravel parking area. Immediately off the entrance is a tennis court. The entire park is linked with paved roadways.

The Palmer Lodge Area includes a rustic indoor lodge that has many functions. Facilities around Palmer Lodge include lighting, drinking water, flush restrooms with running water, two paved parking areas, one large gravel parking area, ADA fire pit, paved trails leading to a fishing pond, boardwalk, and fishing platform. The lodge has a kitchen that includes a stove and refrigerator, but no running water. The fishing pond can be used for ice skating if weather permits. The area also has a gazebo, picnic shelter, picnic areas, grills, and 24 picnic tables. Nearby is the Ionia County Fishing & Hunting Club (another indoor facility) that is operated within the Park by a separate group. Also nearby is a large area suitable for a variety of winter sports such as sledding. Nearly five miles of trails suitable for hiking or cross-country skiing also begin in this part of the park and circle through the entire park.

The most recent addition to the Park is an eighteen "hole" ("targets" in disc-golf lingo) disc golf course that winds through the natural areas. The park also has a baseball field. Facilities at the ball field include fencing, backstops, a scoreboard, dugouts, picnic tables, privies, and a gravel parking area. A set of soccer goals was recently acquired to diversify the potential uses at the field.

Bertha Brock Park also provides camping facilities. A total of 23 rustic campsites are located in a heavily wooded area and are fairly separated from the rest of the park. Facilities

exist to serve the needs of the campers. Each site has a fire pit, a picnic table, and a trash barrel. Many sites have grills. In addition to the campsites, the park has nine individual picnic sites; all with grills and picnic tables. Two pressurized potable water sources are located around the picnic sites.

In addition to the specific areas within the park, there are many additional features that exist throughout the park. Bellamy Creek runs through the park. Paved roadways also link all of the areas and signage exists to guide park users. Hiking trails, bridges, and other interesting features are located throughout the park, which is covered in thick forests, with the exception of areas that are cleared for recreational uses.

The park is conveniently located in Easton Township, just west of the City of Ionia (the county seat) on a well-traveled state route (M-21). The park has a large amount of historical significance due to its age, size, location, and variety of facilities.

Strengths of the park include the large size of the park and the variety of facilities and features within the park. Other strengths include the wonderful topography, large forested areas, many historic structures, and proximity to the County's population base. Weaknesses relate primarily to the fact that the park requires a lot of attention and maintenance. The Bertha Brock Park Advisory Board and Park Manager have created a prioritized list of projects to help improve the accessibility, safety, and usefulness of the park.

A mutually beneficial relationship exists between the Park and the Ionia Fishing and Hunting Club. Access to the Club is through the Park, and Club property is contiguous to and used in conjunction with Park property. The Club maintains a trap/skeet shooting facility exclusively for the Club's use.

Land uses surrounding the park include very low density residential uses and open space. Nearby facilities include an MDOT roadside park and State of Michigan Correctional Facilities.

Summary of Recreation Facilities at Bertha Brock Park

- 186 acres
- 1 play structure
- 23 campsites
- 9 picnic areas (various sizes)
- 1 ball field
- 1 20'x40' pavilion with 20 picnic tables
- 1 15'x25' pavilion with 20 picnic tables
- Palmer Lodge with five tables outside and paved parking
- 1 hunting/fishing club (private)
- Several gravel parking areas
- 1 house (residence of host or manager)
- Access control
- 1 maintenance building
- 3 sets of restrooms (1 with running water)
- Signage
- Pond with ice skating and warming hut
- Bellamy Creek
- 5 Miles of hiking trails
- 2 tennis courts (poor condition)
- 3 stone pedestrian bridges
- 2 vehicle bridges
- 1 covered foot bridge
- 18 target disc golf course
- Gazebo
- Two miles of interpretive nature trails

Accessibility Assessment of Bertha Brock Park:

Rank: 2 (Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Inventory at Bertha Brock Park:

1977 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Development Grant

Project Number: 26-01023

Bertha Brock Park Improvements

Scope Items Constructed:

- Tennis Courts
- Chemical Toilets
- Ice Skating Pond
- Warming Shelter

Current Condition:

- Available, but in poor condition
- In use and in fair condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition

1985 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Development Grant

Project Number: 26-01398

Bertha Brock Park Improvements

Scope Items Constructed:

- Picnic Shelter

Current Condition:

- In use and in good condition

2004 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Development Grant

Project Number: 26-01635

Bertha Brock Park Improvements

Scope Items Constructed:

- Site Preparation
- Walkways
- Parking
- Bituminous Pathways
- Water Service
- Utilities
- Signage
- Restroom Building
- Boardwalk
- Fishing Pier
- Overlook Deck
- Site Amenities

Current Condition:

- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in fair condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition

Grant Funds: \$72,300

Total Project Cost: \$144,600

Green View Point Park – The Green View Point Park facility is a four acre park located east of Lyons on Kimball Road. It is a regional park that serves the entire County and surrounding areas. Of the four acres, two are level and maintained, while the remaining two acres are steeply sloped, but well-maintained. The park offers wonderful views of the Grand River several hundred feet below the park. The park was named for Governor Fred Green (elected in 1926), who used to stop at the site to enjoy the view. Governor Green lived in Ionia and his former home is a historic site. Currently, the park includes a paved parking area, signage, picnic tables, grills, privies, a gazebo and overlook deck, bike racks, a pedestrian bridge, irrigation, in-car viewing, and wooden stair pathway leading down to the Grand River. The park is surrounded by farms and low density residential uses. Interest in improving the park began over twenty years ago with the efforts of a group of volunteers, who continue to raise funds for improvements and future maintenance.

Strengths of the park include its unique topography, its historical ties to one of Michigan's past governors, and the quiet surroundings. Weaknesses include the limited ADA capabilities, and the fact that the park is not very well-known due to its location. The fishing pier was destroyed by fire in 2023 and replaced in 2024.

Recreation Facilities at Green View Point Park:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • 4 acres | • Picnic facilities and benches |
| • Paved parking | • Signage and flag pole |
| • Pedestrian Bridge | • Overlook Deck |
| • Scenic views | • Rustic Trail (to fishing pier) |
| • Privies | • Fishing Pier on Grand River
(replacement in progress) |
| • Wooden stairs to lower level | • In-car viewing |
| • Historical Plaque and more recent plaque | • Grills |
| • Lighting | |

Accessibility Assessment of Green View Point Park:

Rank: 2 Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines but there are areas that are not accessible due to steep grades of the property accessible only by stairs or steep slopes (fishing pier).

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory at Green View Point Park:

2005 - Michigan Natural Trust Fund Development Grant

Project Number: TF04-007

Green View Point Park Improvements

Scope Items Constructed:

- Overlook Deck
- Stairway
- Restroom
- Landscaping
- Nature Trail

Current Condition:

- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition
- In use and in good condition

(continued next page)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pathways• Paving• Site Amenities• Signage• Fencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In use and in good condition• In use and in good condition• In use and in good condition• In use and in good condition• In use and in good condition |
|--|--|

Grant Funds: \$144,700

Total Project Cost: \$196,700

Unnamed Park Property – Another important recreational property is referred to as the “Main Street Property” and consists of 200 acres situated south of Main Street on the west end of the City of Ionia. The property was recently acquired from the Michigan Department of Corrections for use as County parkland. The property abuts the west end of the Ionia Fairgrounds and is situated along the north side of the Grand River. Running through the property is a rails-to-trails multi-use path. Other potential recreational uses of the property are being analyzed, but no development is planned to occur in the near future. This property will likely serve as a regional park in the future, serving the entire Ionia County and surrounding areas, however, currently there are no recreational facilities offered on this site.

Accessibility Assessment of “Main Street Property”:

Rank: 1 (Property is undeveloped, so nothing meets accessibility guidelines)

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory at “Main Street Property”:

This property was not acquired, nor has it been developed, using recreation grant funds.

Rail Trails – There are three rail trails systems in Ionia County: the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail in the northwest quadrant of the County, the Grand River Valley Rail Trail in the western portion of the County, and the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawasee (CIS) Rail Trail in the eastern portion of the County. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants were provided to assist with development of the trail system. Project Number 11-055 granted \$300,000 in 2012 for rail trail development and Project Number 17-0035 granted an additional \$290,000 in 2018 for the south phase of the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trail. These two projects are part of a much larger multi-county network of trails.

Other Local Facilities: (not owned or maintained by the County)

In addition to County facilities, there are a number of other recreation opportunities across Ionia County. This is not a complete list, but offers a sample of facilities located in the County’s cities and incorporated villages.

- **Rails-to-Trails** – A length of abandoned railroad was purchased by the Michigan Department of Transportation in the eastern side of Ionia County for development as a future rails-to-trails multi-use path, serving residents from multiple counties. The length comprises the western most section of a 41.3 mile corridor beginning at the east edge of the City of Ionia, and extending easterly through Muir and Pewamo. Beyond the

borders of Ionia County, the trail continues east through Clinton County and into Shiawassee County, ending in the City of Owosso.

- The Greater Ionia Free Fair attracts visitors from across Michigan for the annual fair and other activities throughout the year. The Fair is governed by an independent board and maintains a year-round director and staff. The fairgrounds are located on M-66, along the north bank of the Grand River, in the City of Ionia. The grounds and structures provide a unique mixture of facilities specific to large gatherings like fairs. The City's hiking/biking trail terminates at the Fairgrounds and other amenities include a boat launch/landing on the Grand River as well as a skateboard park.
- The City of Ionia maintains a complete parks and recreation department that maintains the City parks and organizes activities for residents. The City maintains four large parks and 17 neighborhood parks. The City offers basketball, bike paths, an indoor community center, nature trails, tennis courts, pickleball, play equipment, and picnic facilities. The City has two National Historic Districts with more than 250 buildings included and has several prisons including the old "Reformatory." The City, along with the fairgrounds, sponsors a variety of activities throughout the year. Other unique features include the City-owned Ionia Theater in Ionia's downtown, and the Blanchard House Victorian Mansion & Museum. Two areas utilized by City residents are located south of the city limits. They are the athletic facilities at the Ionia High School (including soccer fields) and a softball and baseball complex adjacent to the Ionia County Intermediate School District campus.
- The City of Portland maintains ten parks totaling 168 acres that include an 8 mile trail system, a skateboard park (created and maintained by local youth), baseball, basketball, boating, fishing, nature trails, ice skating, picnic facilities, play equipment, and tennis courts. The City recently began the Portland River Festival to capitalize on its position at the confluence of the Grand and Looking Glass Rivers.
- The City of Belding maintains four parks with 130 acres that provide opportunities for baseball, basketball, boating, fishing, and tennis. Other facilities include an indoor community center, picnic facilities, and play equipment. The City sponsors the Belding Labor Day Celebration annually. Other attractions include two canoe liveries on the Flat River, the Belding Museum and several "U-Pick" farms in the surrounding area.
- Lake Odessa maintains two parks with a total of 14 acres. The parks include picnic facilities, play equipment and swimming in adjacent Jordan Lake. Other opportunities in the Village include the Depot Museum, the Antique Mall, the I-96 Speedway and the only inland lighthouse in Michigan. Lake Odessa also has Art in the Park in July, an Easter egg hunt before Easter, and the Village Fair in June. The Village also has a youth rodeo and chicken barbecue in May as well as events on Arbor Day, Memorial Day, Christmas Eve, and other dates during the year.
- The Village of Saranac has one 13 acre park and has acquired 63 additional acres for future parks. The existing park offers baseball, basketball, boating, picnic facilities, and play equipment. Saranac has a Bridgefest in August and also has the Depot Museum.
- The Village of Lyons maintains several sites including the Hazel Devore Island Park, which provides many amenities in a unique island setting. The Village also maintains several smaller parks and a boat launch.
- The Village of Muir has a playground behind its downtown and the CIS Trail passes

through the Village.

- The Village of Hubbardston maintains four parks, a community center, and a butterfly garden. The parks include Mill Pond Park, Dugan Field (a ball diamond adjacent to the downtown), the Commons, and Patriarch Park. The Community Center is housed in a former elementary school and includes the Village Offices, the Library, and community space for meetings.
- The Village of Pewamo maintains a variety of parks for residents and visitors. The Village constructed a visitors center/trailhead along the trail in the Village's downtown. The primary park is the Pewamo Recreational Park/Cvetnich Memorial Blossom Time Park, which includes both passive and active recreation opportunities. Sesquicentennial Park is a small park in the downtown with a clock and landscaping and Water Tower Park is nearby and provides basketball and picnic facilities.
- Campbell Township maintains a park south of the Village of Clarksville.

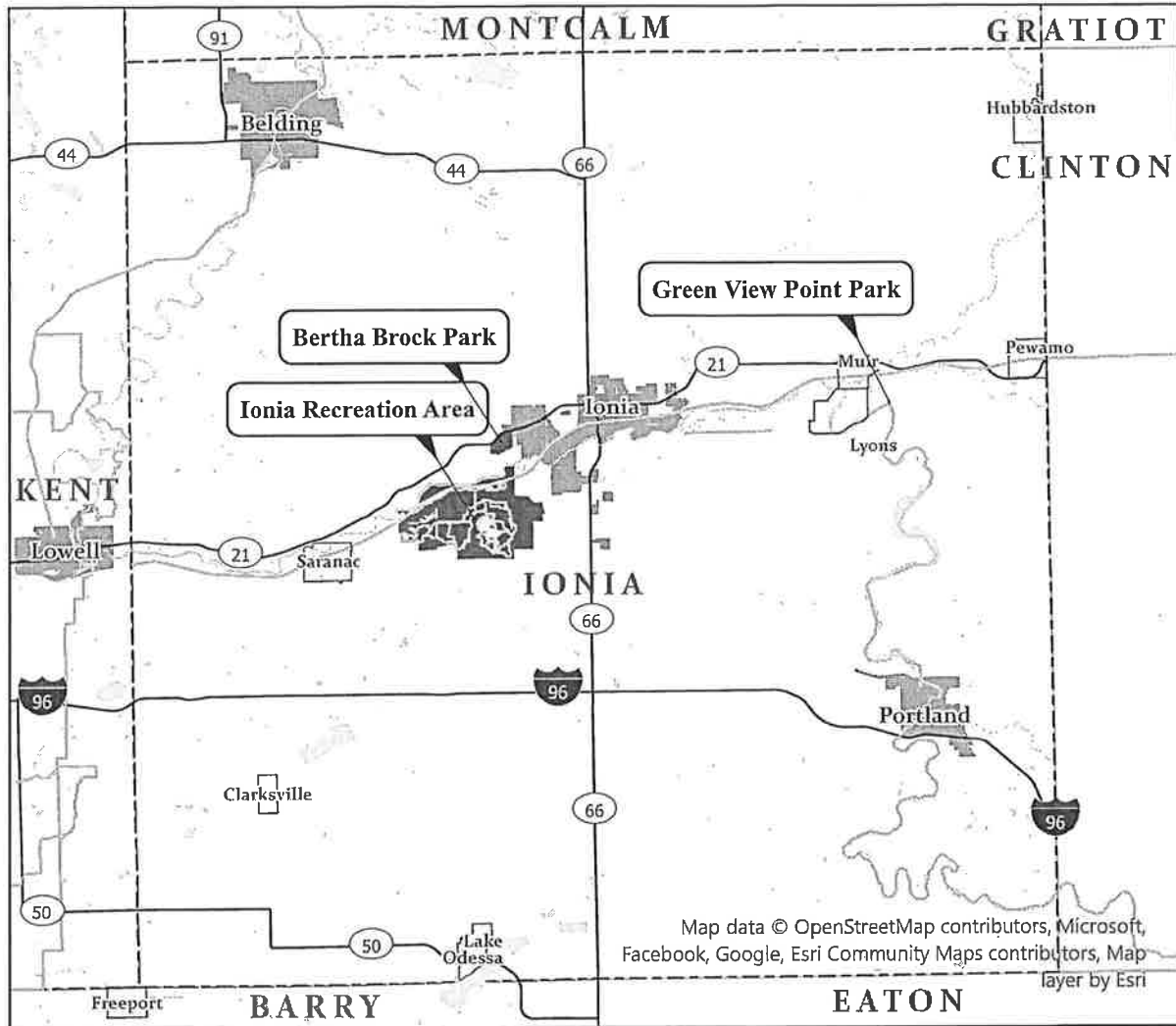
Local Festivals and Events:

- Greater Ionia Free Fair, Ionia
- Farm Power Festival, Ionia
- Michigan Wizard of Oz Festival, Ionia
- Cruisin' Classics Car Show, Ionia
- UPstairs DOWNtown Tours, Ionia
- Portland River Festival, Portland
- Belding Labor Day Celebration, Belding
- Art in the Park, Lake Odessa
- Easter Egg Hunt, Lake Odessa
- Village Fair, Lake Odessa
- Youth rodeo and chicken barbeque, Lake Odessa
- Arbor Day, Memorial Day, Christmas Eve, Lake Odessa
- Bridgefest, Saranac
- Fall Festival, Bertha Brock Park
- Island Festival and Steam Engine Show, Lyons

Golf Courses

- Rolling Hills, Ionia
- Morrison Lake Country Club, Saranac
- Double RR Rance, Belding
- Ridgeview Golf Club, Belding
- Candlestone Inn Golf & Resort, Belding
- Huckleberry Creek Golf Course, Pewamo
- Portland Country Club, Portland
- Willow Wood Country Club, Portland

Map 2 Recreation Inventory



0 1 2 4 Miles

Legend

- DNR Trails
- State Roads
- Ionia County Parks
- County
- WMRPC



Prepared by the West Michigan Regional Planning
Commission

Sports Clubs:

Ionia Fishing and Hunting Club, Ionia
Oak Hill Gun Club
Qua-ke-zik Sportsman's Club, Saranac
Portland Conservation Club, Portland
Western Michigan Rifle and Pistol Club

State Game Areas:

- Flat River State Game Area (Belding Area)
- Grand River State Game Area (Ionia Area)
- Lowell State Game Area (Lowell/west side Ionia County Area)
- Portland State Game Area (Portland Area)
- Maple River State Game Area (Hubbardston Area)

State Recreation Facilities:

Ionia State Recreation Area – This 4,500 acre facility located between Saranac and Ionia in Ionia County has 147 campsites (modern, semi-modern, mini-cabins, modern cabins, and equestrian) and offers a variety of opportunities including picnic facilities, playground equipment, swimming, boating, a beach house, a boat launch, hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Public Boat Launches:

There are 13 public boat launch sites maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources within the County.

Lakes-

- Long Lake, Orleans Township
- Morrison Lake, Boston Township
- Sessions Lake, Berlin Township
- Woodard Lake, Ronald Township

Rivers-

- Flat River, Belding Dam
- Flat River, Belding Impound
- Humany Dam Impound, Flat River State Game Area/Orleans Township
- Grand River, Ionia
- Grand River, Saranac
- Grand River, Lyons
- Grand River, Weber Dam, Lyons Township
- Maple River, Muir
- Grand River, Towner Road, Danby Township

Campgrounds:

There are several campgrounds in Ionia County:

- Double R. Ranch Resort, Smyrna, 100 campsites
- Alice Springs RV Park & Resort, Ionia, 121 campsites
- Ionia State Recreation Area, Ionia, 147 campsites
- Lakeside Resort, Ionia, 98 campsites
- Forest Hills Campground, Saranac, 50 campsites
- Maple River Campground, Pewamo, 64 campsites

The Ionia County Health Department also lists the following campsites: Bertha Brock Park (see above), Ionia Fairgrounds, and Riverbend Primitive Campground. The State of Michigan (as of 4/9/2019) lists all of the above except Lakeside and Maple River and also lists Shiloh Campground in Ronald Township. Campgrounds, and other privately operated facilities are sometimes difficult to accurately list due to frequent turnover. These lists are intended to provide a general list of opportunities versus an accurate inventory.

Ski Areas in Region:

- Bittersweet, Allegan County
- Cannonsburg, Kent County

Regional State of Michigan Facilities (Located in West Michigan)

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Saugatuck State Park- Allegan County | • White Pine State Park – Kent to Wexford Counties |
| • Yankee Springs Recreation Area- Barry County. | • Orchard Beach State Park – Manistee County |
| • Grand Mere State Park – Berrien County | • Duck Lake State Park – Muskegon County |
| • Warren Dunes State Park – Berrien County | • Muskegon State Park – Muskegon County |
| • Warren Woods Natural Area– Berrien County | • P. J. Hoffmaster State Park – Muskegon County |
| • Wilson State Park – Clare County | • Hart-Montague Trail – Muskegon/Oceana Counties |
| • Sleepy Hollow State Park – Clinton County | • Newaygo State Park – Newaygo County |
| • N. Higgins Lake State Park – Crawford County | • Charles Mears State Park – Oceana County |
| • Interlochen State Park – Grand Traverse County | • Silver Lake State Park – Oceana County |
| • Traverse City State Park – Grand Traverse County | • Holland State Park – Ottawa County |
| • Fort Custer Recreation Area – Kalamazoo County | • Grand Haven State Park – Ottawa County |
| • Kal-Haven Trail – Kalamazoo/VanBuren Counties | • S. Higgins Lake State Park – Roscommon County |
| | • Van Buren State Park – Van Buren County |
| | • William Mitchell State Park – Wexford County |

Ionia County Historic Sites:

Historic Sites offer an outstanding opportunity to attract people from outside the area since there are a number of facilities that can be linked into day tours. Ionia County has 33 sites listed on either the state or national registers of historic places. In addition to the sites located on the historic registers, the communities are all hosts to many wonderful homes typical of the 1800's. Many of the communities' downtowns also focus on history and have restored storefronts, decorative streetlights, and offer antique shops for browsing and shopping.

Table 2 – Ionia County Historic Sites

Ionia County Historic Sites: Names and Addresses	National Register	State Register	Marker
Belding, Alvah N., Memorial Library, 302 E. Main, Belding	1993	1980	1981
Belrockton Dormitory, 108 Hanover St., Belding	na	1990	1993
Blanchard, John, House, 253 E. Main, Ionia	1974	1973	na
Brock, Phillip and Bertha, House, 409 Union, Ionia	na	1989	na
Burhans, Winslow, House, 220 Rich St., Ionia	na	1973	na
Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railway Depot, Emerson St., Lake Odessa	na	1989	na
Essick, Louis, House, 644 E. Main, Ionia	na	1987	na
First Roadside Table Informational Site, Grand River Ave., near Saranac	na	1963	1964
Grand Trunk Western Saranac Depot, Depot St., Saranac	na	1990	na
Green, Governor Fred, House, 320 Union, Ionia	na	1973	1973
Hall, Frederick, House, 126 E. Main, Ionia	1971	1971	1992
Ionia Church of Christ, 130 E. Washington, Ionia	na	1984	1986
Ionia County Courthouse, 1000 E. Main, Ionia	1979	1976	1983
Ionia Downtown Commercial Historic District, Ionia Downtown	1984	na	na
Ionia Historic District, Ionia	1984	na	na
Long, Oscar, House, 144 E. Main, Ionia	na	1973	na
Muir Church of Christ, 138 Garden, Muir	1983	1973	1993
Olry, John, Farmstead, 3226 E. Musgrove, Lake Odessa	na	1986	1987
Orleans Township District No. 10 School, 8013 N. Decker, Orleans Twp.	na	1991	na
Pere Marquette Railway Belding Depot, 100 Depot, Belding	1997	na	na
Portland First Congregational Church, 421 E. Bridge, Portland	1984	1973	na
Richardson Silk Mill, 101 Front, Belding	1985	na	na
Robinson, Andrew, House, 515 Ionia, Muir	na	1973	na
St. John's Episcopal Church and Parish House, 107 W. Washington, Ionia	na	1981	1983
Saranac, Village of, Informational Site, Main Street, Saranac	na	1969	1970
Sessions Schoolhouse, Riverside Drive @ Jordan Lake Road, Ionia	1985	1973	na
Stevenson, Edward, General Store, 351 W. Main, Ionia	na	1973	na
Thayer, Isaac, House, 116 E. High, Ionia	na	1973	na
VanderHeyden, William, House, 926 W. Main, Ionia	1990	1973	na
Vosper, Benjamin and Lucia, House, 267 E. Main, Ionia	1984	1993	na
Webber, Samuel, House, 644 Bridge, Lyons	na	1976	na
Weippert Mill, Corner of Keefer and Bippely, Sebewa	na	1979	na

Source: Michigan Department of State

Description of Planning and Public Input Process

The following identifies the steps used to develop the County's Recreation Plan.

Community Description – A community description was developed and included in Appendix A. Both physical features and demographics are included in the Appendix.

Recreation Inventory – The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission updated the description of the facilities through on-site visits to the County's two parks. Information includes acreage, buildings, types of recreation activities, types of equipment, an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, surrounding land uses and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's recreation facilities.

Goals and Objectives – This step established the County's recreation issues. A public meeting was held on September 11, 2024 to identify issues and goals. A follow up meeting with the Ionia County Park Advisory Board was held on October 9, 2024 to review a draft of the plan.

Action Program – This step identifies what actions Ionia County will perform over the five-year planning period. The Plan identifies actions in an easy to understand format that allow readers to understand each action. The Action Program also identifies where and when an action will occur; who will accomplish the action; how much the action will cost; and potential funding sources. The Action Plan includes a Basis for Action Program that identifies why each of the actions is a priority.

Administrative Structure – This step describes how Ionia County administers recreation facilities and activities. This step also provides copies of the plan to Ionia County and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. This step also includes following all of the requirements of adopting the plan, including advertising, resolutions, etc. Appendix B contains all of the documentation.

Public Input and Issues, Goals, and Objectives

Public Input

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) met with the Ionia County Park Advisory Board on August 14, 2024 to discuss issues and goals for the future and to discuss how to move forward in the County. On September 11, 2024 the WMRPC facilitated a workshop to help the County identify issues, set goals, and develop actions. The workshop was advertised in the Ionia Sentinel. The following people attended the meeting at 4:30 p.m. at Bertha Brock Park's Palmer Lodge. The following people participated:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diana Almy• Charles Babcock• Ally Cook• Kathleen Cook• Cindy Cotter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David McCord• Jeff Montgomery• Jack Shattuck• Dave Bee (WMRPC) |
|---|---|

The results of the workshop follow.

Issues, Goals, and Objectives

Issue #1 – Due to the age of Bertha Brock Park and the variety of facilities, the park is not completely barrier free. This was identified as an issue during this planning process as well as the last recreation plan – and will be an ongoing goal.

Goal #1 – Improve accessibility of facilities at Bertha Brock Park and Green View Point Park.

Objectives:

1. Focus on accessible pathways throughout Bertha Brock park to link parking facilities to recreation facilities and activities.
2. Ensure any new facilities at Bertha Brock Park are barrier-free and incorporate universal accessibility into the design and construction.
3. Maintain a capital improvements schedule for improvements related to accessibility.
4. Make Bertha Brock Park a destination for people seeking universal accessibility opportunities by developing and promoting playground and other recreational facilities.
5. While Green View Point Park has some accessible facilities at the top level, due to the steep terrain and size of the park it is virtually impossible to provide universal access to the facilities near the Grand River. One improvement that could make accessing the fishing pier easier would be to add steps from the middle level to the recently rebuilt fishing pier (currently a steep unpaved path).

Comments: Universal Design Standards improve accessibility for everyone in an affordable and efficient manner (designing improvements prior to construction is less expensive than retrofitting afterwards). The idea of making Bertha Brock Park a destination/attraction for barrier free facilities would be an outstanding way to attract more users to the park and to serve Michigan's aging population as well as people with a variety of physical capabilities.

Issue #2 – Several administrative functions and programming functions could be expanded to address the needs of the area's residents.

Goal #2 – Continue to expand the roles of the Ionia County Park Advisory Board to promote more coordination between the various rail-trail groups, to expand recreation activities, and to gain a better understanding of residents' desires.

Objectives:

1. Develop a suggestion box to allow people to comment on their experience and to complete a survey developed during this planning process.
2. The Park Advisory Board should invite the various trail groups to meetings to promote coordination of efforts.
3. Identify recreation programming opportunities (activities, music, art, etc.) to encourage regular use of the parks and provide opportunities for residents.

Comments: In addition to physical improvements it is also important to regularly review the administrative issues that are important for the overall recreation experience. Gaining an understanding of park users' desires is important as well as providing activities for all age groups to expand the experience beyond simply strolling through the parks. Finally, ensuring that the people in charge of the parks, and the volunteers, are able to use their time and energy in a productive manner is essential.

Issue #3 – There are limited potable water facilities at Bertha Brock Park.

Goal #3 – Promote long-term visits to the park by adding additional restrooms with running water, drinking fountains, and showers in the campground portion of the park.

Objectives:

1. Develop new restroom facilities at the front of the park near/in place of the existing facilities, at the sledding hill, and at the ball diamond.
2. Identify a central location (base camp) in the campground portion of the park that could accommodate shower and restroom facilities and allow campers to acquire potable water for drinking and cooking.

Comments: Bertha Brock Park has a number of facilities that require a lot of time – such as picnics, sledding, baseball, hiking, etc. The overall experience can be greatly enhanced if people can access water to drink and wash-up and for a more pleasant

restroom experience. Camping takes this issue to an even higher level since people like to have regular showers and need access to water for a modern camping experience.

Issue #4 – There are limited activities for younger park users.

Goal #4 – Expand opportunities for physical activities for youth at Bertha Brock Park. Insure a range of equipment is available for young people with a variety of interests and physical abilities. Include activities around pavilions.

Objectives:

1. Add playground equipment to others areas (pavilions, ball field) of Bertha Brock Park and improve existing playground equipment. Keep playground equipment in character with the park.
2. Provide opportunities for young people with a variety of interests and abilities.
3. Encourage the use of woods, streams, and hills as natural attractions for youth.

Comments: A lot of Bertha Brock’s facilities and attractions target older residents (hiking, picnics, disc golf, baseball, etc.). While sledding, hiking, etc. can be enjoyed by youth, it is also nice to have equipment near these activities that parents can easily supervise their kids and allow them to safely enjoy the park.

Issue #5 – Balance is needed between the historic aspect of Bertha Brock Park and the desires of users to enjoy a more modern experience.

Goal #5 – Provide a balanced experience that strives to meet the many and varied demands of residents and visitors.

Objectives:

1. Redevelop the existing tennis courts to “pickle ball.”
2. Additional improvements to Palmer Lodge are often discussed that would impact the overall character of the facility (heat, cooking facilities, etc.).
3. Construct an additional gazebo in Bertha Brock Park large enough to serve a variety of needs.
4. Consider additional camping cabins and electricity at camp sites.

Comments: The County’s two parks are very unique and provide opportunities to enjoy some peace and quiet in relatively nearby facilities. Making changes for one group of people could impact another group’s primary reason for enjoying a resource – so careful consideration should go into such decisions.

Issue #6 – Long-term maintenance and improvement for the support-infrastructure (roads, traffic bridges, parking lots, and maintenance equipment) of Bertha Brock Park is difficult due to the amount of these features in the park.

Goal #6 – Continue to seek additional funding and revenue to maintain the Park's support-infrastructure.

Objectives:

1. Blacktop additional portions of the roads through the campground areas in Bertha Brock Park.
2. Lay down new chip-seal on the main road through Bertha Brock Park.
3. Identify potential locations for additional parking to allow for more visitors and to prevent the destruction of natural features due to people parking in non-parking areas.
4. Develop an asset management program to properly maintain roads, parking areas, and bridges (maintenance is less expensive than replacement).
5. Develop and maintain a capital improvements schedule to allow expenses to be distributed over long periods of time.

Comments: Maintaining all of the roads, bridges, and parking areas of the park is a big job that requires planning and funding. Scheduling maintenance prior to facilities needing to be replaced requires commitment and continuous support and monitoring.

Issue #7 – Pedestrian access along M-66 between the City of Ionia and Tuttle Road is limited.

Goal #7 – Work with MDOT, the Ionia County Road Department, the City of Ionia, Ionia and Berlin townships, and others to determine the feasibility of building a non-motorized pathway along M-66 between the City of Ionia and Tuttle Road.

Objectives:

1. Coordinate efforts with MDOT with planned improvements to M-66 in 2025 and 2026 related to design and construction of pathway.
2. Identify potential funding sources for development and maintenance.

Comments: Linking the City of Ionia to development south of town along M-66 with a pathway is key to providing safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Action Program

The previous sections lead to performing actions to address the recreation-related needs of Ionia County's residents and visitors. The following actions identify the year, location, approximate cost, and justifications for improvements. The Action Program is a guide. Some actions may be performed prior to, or after, the scheduled time due to funding opportunities, or difficulties in obtaining funds, land, or other resources.

2025	Action 1 Action: Develop a capital improvements schedule that identifies improvements necessary to enhance accessibility in Bertha Brock Park. Location: Bertha Brock Park Cost: Administrative Funding Sources: County General Fund Justification: Universal Design Standards improve accessibility for everyone in an affordable and efficient manner (designing improvements prior to construction is less expensive than retrofitting afterwards). The idea of making Bertha Brock Park a destination/attraction for barrier free facilities would be an outstanding way to attract more users to the park and to serve Michigan's aging population as well as people with a variety of physical capabilities.
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2025	Action 2 Action: Maintain a capital improvements schedule and seek funding for long-term maintenance and improvements to Bertha Brock Park's natural features and recreational facilities. Location: Bertha Brock Park Cost: To be determined Funding Sources: Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport Program, County General Fund, Private resources. Justification: Maintaining all of the park's natural and recreation features is a big job that requires planning and funding. Scheduling maintenance prior to facilities needing to be replaced requires commitment and continuous support and monitoring.
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2025	Action 3 Action: Determine best type of stairs/pathway to improve access to fishing pier at Green View Point Park. Add signage identifying location of fishing pier at upper and mid-level sections of the park. Location: Green View Point Park Cost: \$50,000 (estimated) Funding Sources: Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport Program, County General Fund, Private resources. Justification: Improving access to the pier and informing people of its existence will improve visibility of the facility and discourage vandalism.
2025	Action 4 Action: Work with MDOT, the Ionia County Road Department, the City of Ionia, Ionia and Berlin townships, and others to determine the feasibility of building a non-motorized pathway along M-66 between the City of Ionia and Tuttle Road. Location: M-66 Cost: To be determined Funding Sources: Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport Program, County General Fund, Local Units of Government, Businesses along M-66. Justification: Linking the City of Ionia to development south of town along M-66 with a pathway is key to providing safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists.
2026	Action 1 Action: Expand events at Bertha Brock Park in anticipation of the 100 year celebration in 2031. Location: Bertha Brock Park Cost: To be determined Funding Sources: To be determined Justification: Expanding festivals and events at the park will provide people with an opportunity to experience the park in a variety of season and will improve visibility of the park and encourage new users. Events such as Christmas in the Park, Halloween/Autumn festivals, winter events, and eventually the 100 Year Anniversary are all ways to bring additional people to the facility.

2027	Action 1 Action: Seek funding to provide restrooms with potable water to additional sites in Bertha Brock Park and shower facilities in the campground. Location: Bertha Brock Park Cost: \$400,000 (estimated) Funding Sources: Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Trust Fund (outdoor facilities and limited indoor facilities), Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport Program, County General Fund, private resources. Justification: Providing water and showers enhance the ability of Bertha Brock Park to attract day long visitors to the park and longer term campers to the campground facilities.
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2027	Action 2 Action: Identify appropriate improvements related to facilities for youth to enjoy including playground equipment and other facilities. Location: Bertha Brock Park Cost: To be determined by additional input and analysis. Funding Sources: Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport Program, County General Fund, Private resources. Justification: A lot of Bertha Brock’s facilities and attractions target older residents (hiking, picnics, disc golf, baseball, etc.). While sledding, hiking, etc. can be enjoyed by youth, it is also nice to have equipment near these activities that parents can easily supervise their kids and allow them to safely enjoy the park.
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2028	Action 1
	Action: Develop a capital improvements schedule and seek funding for long-term maintenance and improvements for the support-infrastructure (roads, traffic bridges, parking lots, lighting, electrical outlets at campsites, and maintenance equipment) of Bertha Brock Park. Location: Bertha Brock Park Cost: To be determined by capital improvements schedule Funding Sources: Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Recreation Passport Program, County General Fund, Private resources. Justification: Maintaining all of the roads, bridges, and parking areas of the park is a big job that requires planning and funding. Scheduling maintenance prior to facilities needing to be replaced requires commitment and continuous support and monitoring.

2029	Action 1
	Action: Evaluate progress of five-year plan and determine the best approach for updating the plan. Location: Ionia County Cost: Administrative costs Funding Sources: Ionia County General Fund Justification: This plan lays out an aggressive set of actions that may be difficult for the County to implement in a five-year period. Taking the time to see how far the County progresses and determining the best approach for the next planning period is essential to maintaining and improving Ionia County's parks.

Conclusion

The Ionia County Park Advisory Board is made up of dedicated people that have been involved in the County's two primary parks as well as involvement in other recreation and community development activities. The activities listed in this Plan identify the financial commitment required to improve Bertha Brock Park and Green View Point Park, which are both unique facilities that provide both recreational opportunities and ties to the County's past.

APPENDIX A

Physical Features

The following section describes many of the area's natural and man-made features. The purpose is to provide users of this Plan with an overview of the natural features since recreation activities are closely related to the physical features of the County.

Climate

Ionia County's weather, like all of Michigan's, influences the recreational opportunities available throughout the year. The area can support a variety of activities throughout the year from swimming to skiing. Table A-1 identifies information related to the area's climate. Generally, January is the coldest month (31.3 average daily temperature) while February has the highest snowfall (3.7 inches). July is generally the warmest month in the County (84.5 average daily temperature). May usually has the highest average precipitation (4.25 inches) and February generally has the lowest average (1.26 inches). Prevailing winds are from the west.

Table A-1 – Climate in Ionia County

Month	Temperature (F)		Precipitation (inches)	
	Average Daily Maximum	Average Daily Minimum	Average	Average Depth of Snow on Days with Snow Cover
January	31.3	16.2	1.6	2.5
February	32.9	15.9	1.3	3.7
March	43.7	24.5	2.4	2.9
April	59.0	35.3	3.2	0
May	68.7	44.7	4.3	0
June	79.7	55.5	3.6	0
July	84.5	58.7	3.2	0
August	83.0	57.2	3.4	0
September	74.8	50.2	3.0	0
October	64.1	40.1	2.4	0
November	46.2	30.4	2.4	2.8
December	34.8	21.6	2.1	3.7
Annual Average	58.6	37.5	32.7	---

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Land Use

Ionia County is a fairly rural county with a lot of land devoted towards agriculture (field crops as well as livestock) and open space (Ionia State Recreation Area, Portland State Game Area, and a portion of the Flat River State Game Area). The land uses are influenced by many natural features including the Grand River, Flat River, and Maple River. There are also several lakes including Long Lake, Morrison Lake, and Jordan Lake. I-96, which passes through the County, also influences land use distribution. The more developed areas

are located in and around the three cities of Belding, Ionia, and Portland – all three of which contain a variety of residential, commercial, public, and industrial uses. The County also has seven villages where residential, public, and some commercial uses are concentrated.

Wildlife

The County's wildlife is typical of that found in most of lower Michigan. Common wildlife includes deer, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, muskrats, beavers, squirrels, rodents and other small mammals. The area is home to a variety of birds including owls, eagles, wild turkeys, pheasants and many others. The area is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including ducks and Canada Geese.

Vegetation

Originally, Michigan was covered with a dense forest of deciduous trees. As the area was cleared for farming and development, or the trees were removed for timber, the area's forests were replaced by farm fields, open field areas, orchards and smaller forested areas containing both deciduous and coniferous trees.

Social Features

Population Trends & Projections

Ionia County's population increased by 20.7 percent between 1990 and 2020 to reach a total of 68,804 (Table A-2). Projections indicate Ionia County's population will continue to grow and by 2040 will reach 76,027.

Table A-2 – Population Trends & Projections for Ionia County and Michigan

	Trends					Projections	
	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Change	2030	2040
Ionia County	57,024	61,518	63,905	68,804	20.7	71,415	76,027
Michigan	9,295,277	9,938,444	9,883,640	10,077,331	8.4	10,240,000	10,490,000

Source: U.S. Census of Population, WMRPC, Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget

Population Traits

Table A-3 compares Ionia County's population traits to the State of Michigan's. Between 2000 and 2010 the County's population increased by 3.9 percent to reach 63,905 while the State of Michigan's population decreased by 0.6 percent to reach 9,883,640. The County's population under the age of five makes up 6.4 percent of the population, which is similar to the State of Michigan figure of 6.0 percent. Ionia County has a similar percentage of residents under 18 (24.5 percent) as Michigan (23.7 percent). The County's population 65 and over makes up 11.3 percent of the population, which is lower

than Michigan's figure of 13.8 percent. The County's median household sizes of 2.63 persons per household is larger than Michigan's median of 2.53. Ionia County is unusual since it has fewer women than men (46.3 percent women and 53.7 percent men) due in part to the concentration of prisons in the County.

Racial distribution is also different between the County and the State of Michigan. There is a higher percentage of Whites in Ionia County (91.6 percent) than Michigan (78.9 percent). The County has a lower percentage of Blacks (4.7 percent) than Michigan (14.2 percent). The County's percentage of Native Indian and Alaska Native (0.5 percent) is similar to Michigan (0.6 percent). The County has a lower percentage of Asians (0.4 percent) than Michigan (2.4 percent). The County has a lower percentage of residents reporting two or more races (1.4 percent) than Michigan as-a-whole (2.3 percent). Ionia County's percentage of Hispanics or Latinos (4.4 percent) is the same as Michigan.

In Ionia County, 86.7 percent of people over 25 have a high school degree compared to 88.0 percent in Michigan. Similarly, 13.1 percent of the County's population over the age of 25 has a bachelor's degree or higher, while 25.0 percent of Michigan's over 25 population has at least a bachelor's degree. The County's Veteran's make up 8.2 percent of the population while Michigan's make up 7.4 percent.

Table A-3 – 2010 Population Traits for Ionia County and Michigan

	Ionia County	Michigan
2000 Population	61,518	9,938,444
2010 Population	63,905	9,883,640
% Change 2000-2010	3.9	-0.6
% Under 5	6.4	6.0
% Under	24.5	23.7
% 65 and Over	11.3	13.8
Number of Households	22,645	3,843,997
Persons Per Household	2.63	2.53
% Female	46.3	50.9
% Male	53.7	49.1
% White	91.6	78.9
% Black	4.7	14.2
% American Indian & Alaska Native	0.5	0.6
% Asian	0.4	2.4
% Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	--	--
% Reporting 2 or More Races	1.4	2.3
% Hispanic or Latino	4.4	4.4
% of People 25+ with High School Degree	86.7	88.0
% of People 25+ with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	13.1	25.0
% of Population Veterans	8.2	7.4

Source: U.S. Census of Population; American Community Survey

Housing Traits

Table A-4 identifies information about housing in Ionia County and the State of Michigan. The homeownership rate in Ionia County (79.1 percent) is higher than Michigan (74.2 percent). The County's percentage of multi-family units (12.9 percent) is

much lower than Michigan's figure of 18.0 percent. Finally, the median value of owner occupied housing in Ionia County of \$123,700 is lower than the State's median of \$144,200.

Table A-4 – 2010 Housing Traits for Ionia County and Michigan

	Ionia County	Michigan
Number of Housing Units	24,778	4,532,233
Homeownership Rate	79.1	74.2
% Multi Unit	12.9	18.0
Median Value of Owner Occupied Housing Units	\$123,700	\$144,200

Source: U.S. Census of Population; American Community Survey

Income and Business Traits

Table A-5 includes income information and business traits for Ionia County and the State of Michigan. Ionia County's median household income of \$46,454 is lower than Michigan's median of \$48,432, and the County's per capita income of \$19,386 is lower than Michigan's figure of \$25,135. Ionia County has a higher percentage of people below the poverty level (15.4 percent) than Michigan (14.8 percent).

Table A-5 – Income & Business Traits for Ionia County and Michigan

	Ionia County	Michigan
2010 Median Household Income	\$46,454	\$48,432
2010 Per Capita Income	\$19,386	\$25,135
Persons Below Poverty Level	15.4%	14.8%
Number of Firms in 2007	3,731	816,972
Number of Firms Per Capita	0.058	0.083
Manufacturing Shipments (\$1,000)	\$1,117,372	\$234,455,768
Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	\$17,484	\$23,721
Wholesaler Sales (\$1,000)	\$118,801	\$107,109,349
Wholesaler Sales Per Capita	\$1,859	\$10,837
Retail Sales (\$1,000)	\$446,654	\$109,102,594
Retail Sales Per Capita	\$6,976	\$10,855
Accommodation and Food Services Sales (\$1,000)	\$37,417	\$14,536,648
Acc. and Food Services Sales Per Capita	\$585	\$1,470
Building Permits (2010)	28	9,075
Building Permits Per Capita	0.0004	0.0009
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)	26.5	23.7

Source: U.S. Census of Population; American Community Survey

Table A-5 also shows some facts related to business and sales. In 2007 Ionia County had 3,737 businesses, which equaled 0.058 businesses per capita – which was lower than the State of Michigan (0.083). When the per capita sales of the various types of businesses are compared between the County and Michigan it shows that the County has fewer Manufacturing Sales (\$17,484 in Ionia County versus \$23,721 in Michigan). Wholesaler Sales were much lower in the County (\$1,859 in Ionia County and \$10,837 in Michigan) as were Retail Sales (\$6,976 in Ionia County and \$10,855 in Michigan). With per capita sales of \$1,470, Michigan did better than Ionia County (\$585) in Accommodations. The

County had a lower ratio of building permits than Michigan. Ionia County's commute time of 26.5 minutes was longer than the Michigan's commute of 23.7 minutes.

Table A-6 shows differences between employment distribution in Ionia County and the State of Michigan. In Ionia County there are 26,751 people over 16 employed in the civilian labor force and in Michigan the figure is 4,369,785. Ionia County has a higher percentage of people employed in Agriculture and related fields (4.5 percent) than Michigan (1.3 percent). The County also has a higher percentage employed in construction (6.3 percent) than Michigan (5.3 percent). Manufacturing accounts for 19.5 percent of the County's jobs (the County's largest category) and 17.6 percent of Michigan's. The County has a higher percentage of Retail workers (12.0 percent) than Michigan (11.6 percent) which is the third largest employment category in both areas. Ionia County has a higher percentage of workers in Transportation (4.4 percent versus 4.2 percent in Michigan). Finance accounts for 7.0 percent of Ionia County's workforce compared to 5.7 percent in Michigan. Public Administration accounts for 7.5 percent of Ionia County's workforce and 3.8 percent of Michigan's. Wholesale trade accounts for 3.2 percent in the County and 2.8 percent in Michigan.

Table A-6 – 2010 Employment Traits in Ionia County and Michigan

	Ionia County	Michigan
Population 16 and Over	50,242	7,836,314
In Labor Force	30,191	4,944,003
Civilian Employed Population 16 and Over (# / %)	26,751/100.0	4,369,785/100.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	1,202/4.5	54,946/1.3
Construction	1,691/6.3	230,305/5.3
Manufacturing	5,206/19.5	770,715/17.6
Wholesale Trade	850/3.2	122,378/2.8
Retail Trade	3,198/12.0	507,530/11.6
Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities	1,178/4.4	181,648/4.2
Information	342/1.3	82,395/1.9
Finance and Insurance, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,867/7.0	250,855/5.7
Profess., Scien., and Mngt., and Admin. and Waste Mngt.	1,494/5.6	388,626/8.9
Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance	4,641/17.3	1,012,153/23.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Rec., and Acc. and Food Services	1,756/6.6	397,267/9.1
Other Services, Except Public Administration	1,312/4.9	206,152/4.7
Public Administration	2,014/7.5	164,815/3.8

Source: U.S. Census of Population; American Community Survey

In other categories, the County has a lower percentage than in Michigan: Information accounts for 1.3 percent in the County and 1.9 percent in Michigan; Professional accounts for 5.6 percent in Ionia County and 8.9 percent in Michigan; Education, Health Care, and Social Services account for 17.3 percent (the County's second largest category) of the County's workforce and 23.2 percent of Michigan's; and Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations, and Food Services account for 6.6 percent of the County's workforce and 9.1 percent of the State's.

Population Trends– Ionia County’s population increased by 12.7 percent between 1990 and 2019 to reach a total of 64,300 (Table A-7).

Table A-7 – Population Trends for Ionia County, Region 8, and Michigan

Area	Trends				
	1990	2000	2010	2019	% Change
Ionia County	57,024	61,518	64,651	64,300	12.7
Region 8	1,063,017	1,117,476	1,226,384	1,305,616	19.1
Michigan	9,295,297	993,844	9,877,574	9,986,857	7.4

Source: ACS 5-Year 2019 Estimates

Population Traits – Table A-8 compares Ionia County’s population traits to the Region’s and the State of Michigan’s. Between 2010 and 2019 the County’s population decreased by 0.5 percent to 63,300 while the Region’s population increased by 6.5 percent to reach 1,305,616 and the State of Michigan’s population increased by 1.1 percent to reach 9,986,857 during the same period. The County’s population under the age of five makes up 5.7 percent of the population, which is the same as both the Region’s and Michigan’s amount. Ionia County has a similar percentage of residents under 18 (23.1 percent) as the Region (22.6 percent) and Michigan (21.5 percent). The County’s population 65 and over makes up 14.3 percent of the population, which is lower than the Region’s figure of 17.3 percent and Michigan’s figure of 17.7 percent. The County’s and Region’s similar median household sizes of 2.63 and 2.58 persons per household are larger than Michigan’s median of 2.46. Ionia County is unusual since it has fewer women than men (46.7 percent women and 53.3 percent men) due in part to the concentration of prisons in the County. The Region has a lower percentage of women (49.5 percent) than Michigan (50.8 percent) – and a higher ratio of men than the State as-a-whole.

Racial distribution is also different between the County, Region, and the State of Michigan. There is a higher percentage of Whites in Ionia County (93.7 percent) than either the Region (93.3 percent) or Michigan (78.2 percent). The County has a higher percentage of Blacks (5.6 percent) than The Region (3.7 percent), but a lower percentage than Michigan (13.7 percent). The County’s percentage of Native Indian and Alaska Native (1.1 percent) is similar to the Region and Michigan (1.1 percent in the Region and 0.6 percent in Michigan). The County has a lower percentage of Asians (0.8 percent) than the Region (1.5 percent) or Michigan (3.3 percent). The County has a lower percentage of residents reporting two or more races (2.3 percent) than the Region (2.4 percent) or Michigan as-a-whole (3.0 percent). Ionia County’s percentage of Hispanics or Latinos (4.8 percent) is lower than the Region (5.8 percent) and Michigan (5.3 percent).

Table A-8 – 2019 Population Traits for Ionia County, Region 8, and Michigan

Category	Ionia County	Region 8	Michigan
2010 Population	64,651	1,226,384	9,877,574
2019 Population	64,300	1,305,616	9,986,857
% Change 2010-2019	-0.5	6.5	1.1
% Under 5	5.7	5.7	5.7
% Under 18	23.1	22.6	21.5
% 65 and Over	14.5	17.3	17.7
Number of Households	22,964	483,934	3,969,880
Persons Per Household	2.63	2.58	2.46
% Female	46.7	49.5	50.8
% Male	53.3	50.5	49.2
% White	93.7	93.3	78.2
% Black	5.6	3.7	13.7
% American Indian & Alaska Native	1.1	1.1	0.6
% Asian	0.8	1.5	3.3
% Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.0
% Reporting 2 or More Races	2.3	2.4	3.0
% Hispanic or Latino	4.8	5.4	5.3
% of People 25+ with High School Degree	90.5	90.8	91.4
% of People 25+ with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.4	22.5	30.0
% of Population Veterans	7.3	7.5	6.6

Source: ACS 5-Year 2019 Estimates

In Ionia County, 90.5 percent of people over 25 have a high school degree compared to 90.8 percent of the population in the Region and 91.4 percent in Michigan. Similarly, 16.4 percent of the County's population over the age of 25 has a bachelor's degree or higher, while 22.5 percent of the Region's population and 30.0 percent of Michigan's over 25 population has at least a bachelor's degree. The County's Veteran's make up 7.3 percent of the population while the Region's Veteran's comprise 7.5 percent of the population and Michigan's make up 6.6 percent.

Housing Traits – Table A-9 identifies information about housing in Ionia County, the Region, and the State of Michigan. The homeownership rate in Ionia County (76.6 percent) is lower than the Region (77.8 percent of the housing units) but higher than Michigan (71.6 percent). The County's percentage of multi-family units (12.6 percent) is higher than the Region's rate of 10.0 percent but lower than Michigan's figure of 18.0 percent. Finally, the median value of owner-occupied housing in Ionia County of \$131,800 is lower than the Region's median of \$144,363 or the State's median of \$169,600.

Table A-9 – 2019 Housing Traits for Ionia County, Region 8, and Michigan

Category	Ionia County	Region 8	Michigan
Number of Housing Units	24,967	531,735	4,629,605
Homeownership Rate (Percentage)	76.6	77.8	71.6
Percent Multi Unit	12.6	10.0	18.0
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units	131,800	144,363	169,600

Source: ACS 5-Year 2019 Estimates

Income and Business Traits – Table A-10 includes income information and business traits for Ionia County, Region 8, and Michigan. Ionia County’s median household income of \$57,043 is higher than Region 8’s median of \$56,920 but lower than Michigan’s median of \$59,584, and the County’s per capita income of \$24,286 is lower than the Region’s amount of \$27,570 or Michigan’s figure of \$32,892. Ionia County has a higher percentage of people below the poverty level (11.1 percent) than Region 8 (10.9 percent), but lower than Michigan (12.7 percent).

Table A-10 -- Income & Business Traits for Ionia County, Region 8, and Michigan

Category	Ionia County	Region 8	Michigan
2019 Median Household Income	\$57,043	\$56,920	\$59,584
2019 Per Capita Income	\$24,864	\$27,570	\$32,892
Persons Below Poverty Level	7,129	143,270	1,269,062
Number of Firms in 2012	4,163	101,701	834,087
Number of Firms Per Capita	0.065	0.078	0.083
Manufacturing Shipments (\$1,000)	\$1,362,984	\$38,541,890	\$238,892,383
Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	\$21,197	\$29,520	\$23,920
Wholesaler Sales (\$1,000)	N/A	\$21,359,485 (No Ionia/Mecosta)	\$254,318,884
Wholesaler Sales Per Capita	N/A	\$17,828	\$25,465
Retail Sales (\$1,000)	\$430,395	\$14,297,670	\$119,302,046
Retail Sales Per Capita	\$6,694	\$10,951	\$11,945
Accommodation & Food Services Sales (\$1K)	\$35,460	\$1,797,920	\$17,962,356
Acc. and Food Services Sales Per Capita	\$551	\$1,377	\$1,798
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)	26.7	24.675	25.1

Source: ACS 5-Year 2019 Estimates

Table A-10 also shows some facts related to business and sales. In 2012 Ionia County had 4,163 businesses, which equaled 0.065 businesses per capita – which was lower than the State of Michigan and the Region (0.083 and 0.078). When the per capita sales of the various types of businesses are compared between the County, Region, and Michigan it shows that the County has fewer Manufacturing Sales (\$21,197 in Ionia County versus \$29,520 in the Region and \$23,920 in Michigan). With per capita sales of \$1,798, Michigan did better than the Region (\$1,377) or Ionia County (\$551) in

Accommodations. Ionia County's commute time of 26.7 minutes was longer than the Region's commute of 24.7 minutes or Michigan's commute of 25.1 minutes.

Table A-11 – 2019 Employment Traits in Ionia County, Region 8, and Michigan

Category	Ionia County	%	Region 8	%	Michigan	%
Population 16 and Over	51,310	N/A	1,029,390	N/A	8,095,913	N/A
In Labor Force	30,381	N/A	682,175	N/A	5,010,213	N/A
Civilian Employed Population 16 and Over	28,978	N/A	654,828	N/A	4,755,016	N/A
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	1,375	4.7	12,376	1.9	56,518	1.2
Construction	1,908	6.6	38,441	5.9	272,095	5.7
Manufacturing	6,083	21.0	138,553	21.2	878,855	18.5
Wholesale Trade	714	2.5	23,296	3.6	114,985	2.4
Retail Trade	3,328	11.5	69,423	10.6	497,136	10.5
Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities	1,151	4.0	25,839	3.9	207,441	4.4
Information	319	1.1	8,522	1.3	57,036	1.2
Finance and Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,635	5.6	33,250	5.1	258,613	5.4
Professional, Scientific, and Management, and Administrative and Waste Management Service	1,912	6.6	56,975	8.7	450,625	9.5
Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance	5,174	17.9	143,652	21.9	1,110,708	23.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, and Accommodation and Food Services	2,098	7.2	55,120	8.4	471,380	9.9
Other Services, Except Public Administration	1,350	4.7	31,970	4.9	224,808	4.7
Public Administration	1,931	6.7	15,830	2.4	154,816	3.3

Source: ACS 5-Year 2019 Estimates

Table A-11 shows differences between employment distribution in Ionia County, Region 8, and the State of Michigan. In Ionia County there are 28,978 people over 16 employed in the civilian labor force, In Region 8 this figure is 654,828 and in Michigan, the figure is 4,755,016. Ionia County has a higher percentage of people employed in agriculture and related fields (4.7 percent) than either the Region (1.9 percent) or Michigan (1.2 percent). The County also has a higher percentage employed in construction (6.6 percent) than Region 8 (5.9 percent) or Michigan (5.7 percent). Manufacturing accounts for 21.0 percent of the County's jobs (the County's largest category), 21.2 percent of the Region's workforce, and 18.5 percent of Michigan's. The County has a higher percentage of Retail workers (11.5 percent) than Michigan and Region 8 (10.5 percent and 10.6 percent) which is the third-largest employment category in all three areas. Ionia

County has a similar percentage of workers in Transportation (4.0 percent versus 4.4 percent in Michigan and 3.9 percent in Region 8). Finance accounts for 5.6 percent of Ionia County's workforce compared to 5.1 percent in Region 8 and 5.4 percent in Michigan. Public Administration accounts for 6.7 percent of Ionia County's workforce, 2.4 percent of Region 8's, and 3.3 percent of Michigan's. Wholesale trade accounts for 2.5 percent in the County, 3.6 percent in Region 8, and 2.4 percent in Michigan.

In other categories, the County has a lower percentage than in Region 8 or Michigan: Information accounts for 1.1 percent in the County, 1.3 percent in Region 8, and 1.2 percent in Michigan; Professional accounts for 6.6 percent in Ionia County, 8.7 percent in Region 8 and 9.5 percent in Michigan; Education, Health Care, and Social Services account for 17.9 percent (the County's second-largest category) of the County's workforce, 21.9 percent of the Region's, and 23.4 percent of Michigan's; and Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations, and Food Services account for 7.2 percent of the County's workforce, 8.4 percent of Region 8's and 9.9 percent of the State's.

Table A-12 -- Employment Trends in Ionia County, Region 8, Michigan, and the United States

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Jan-May)
Ionia County					
Labor Force	30,119	30,280	30,414	29,513	29,711
Employment	29,082	29,252	28,000	28,105	28,566
Unemployment	1,037	1,028	2,414	1,408	1,145
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.4	7.9	4.8	3.9
Region 8					
Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.0	7.5	4.6	3.6
Michigan					
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	9.9	5.9	6.7
United States					
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.7	8.1	5.3	5.9

Source: Michigan Department of Career Development, Labor Market Information

Table A-12 shows the unemployment trends for Ionia County, Region 8, Michigan, and the United States for the five years between 2018 and 2022. Ionia County's unemployment rate ranged from a low of 3.4 percent in 2018 and 2019 to a high of 7.9 percent in 2020. The County's labor force increased slightly between 2018 and 2019 before dropping in 2020 and partially recovering in 2021 and 2022. Ionia County's unemployment rate was higher than Region 8's for the period and lower than Michigan's for period. Region 8's unemployment rate ranged from a low of 3.0 percent in 2019 to a high of 7.5 percent in 2020. Region 8's unemployment rate was lower than Michigan's during the entire five-year period. Region 8's unemployment rate was also lower than the national average for the five-year period.

APPENDIX B

Public Notice

The Ionia County Park Advisory Board is working with the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission to update the Ionia County Recreation Plan. The Plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to qualify the County for grant funds for park improvements. A Public Input Session is being held September 11, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Palmer Lodge in Bertha Brock Park, 2311 West Bluewater Hwy., Ionia, Michigan 48846. The meeting will allow residents with an opportunity to express their thoughts on what types of recreation-related improvements should be a priority over the next five years.

Notice of Public Hearing

**COUNTY OF IONIA
IONIA COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR
THE IONIA COUNTY RECREATION PLAN
Ionia County Administration Building
101 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 4:30 p.m. on November 13, 2024 by the Ionia County Park Advisory Board on the proposed Ionia County Recreation Plan.

Copies of the proposed plan are available for review in the Ionia County Administrator's Office.

Written or oral comments will be received by the Ionia County Park Advisory Board at the Public Hearing.

Information on the Recreation Plan can be obtained by contacting Dave Bee of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

COUNTY OF IONIA



County Clerk

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
IONIA COUNTY RECREATION PLAN**

November 13, 2024

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Park Advisory Board has reviewed the Ionia County Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, after due notice in the Ionia Sentinel, a paper of general circulation in Ionia County, a meeting was held on November 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. at the Ionia County Administration Building, 101 West Main Street, Ionia, Michigan 48846 for the purpose of hearing comments related to the Ionia County Recreation Plan at said Public Hearing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ionia County Park Advisory Board approves the Ionia County Recreation Plan and recommends approval by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners.



Chair, Ionia County Park Advisory Board



County Clerk

Dave Bee

From: Elliott, Jami <jelliott@ioniacounty.org>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 3:17 PM
To: Dave Bee
Subject: RE: Signed Resolution

Thank you Dave,
Since this was at a regular BOC meeting I didn't do a special posting. It was on the website and here is a screenshot from the website

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Tuesday, November 26, 2024
Board of Commissioners Meetings
3:00 PM

Ionia County Board of Commissioners Meeting Room

Jami Elliott

"Shoot for the moon and if you miss you'll be among the stars."-Les Brown

Ionia County Administrative Assistant
101 W. Main St
Ionia MI 48846
616-527-5300 or 616-900-9139
jelliott@ioniacounty.org

From: Dave Bee <dbee@wmrpc.org>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Elliott, Jami <jelliott@ioniacounty.org>
Subject: RE: Signed Resolution

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
IONIA COUNTY RECREATION PLAN**

November 26, 2024

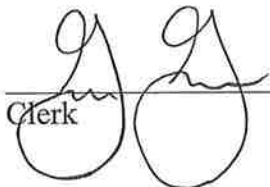
WHEREAS, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Park Advisory Board has recommended approval of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, after due notice, a meeting was held at the Ionia County Administration Building, 101 West Main Street, Ionia, Michigan 48846, a handicapped accessible building, for the purpose of hearing comments related to the County's Recreation Plan at said Public Hearing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approves the Ionia County Recreation Plan.


Chair


Clerk



Order Confirmation

Not an Invoice

Account Number:	703300
Customer Name:	Ionია County Board Of Commissioners
Customer Address:	Ionია County Board Of Commissioners 100 W MAIN ST IONIA CO COURT HOUSE IONIA MI 48846
Contact Name:	Ionია County Board Of Commission
Contact Phone:	6165275300
Contact Email:	
PO Number:	IC Recreation Plan

Date:	08/20/2024
Order Number:	10496692
Prepayment Amount:	\$ 0.00

Column Count:	2.0000
Line Count:	15.0000
Height in Inches:	0.0000

Print

Product	#Insertions	Start - End	Category
HOL Ionია Sentinel-Standard	1	08/23/2024 - 08/23/2024	Public Notices
HOL hollandsentinel.com	1	08/23/2024 - 08/23/2024	Public Notices

Total Cash Order Confirmation Amount Due	\$94.00
Tax Amount	\$0.00
Service Fee 3.99%	\$3.75
Cash/Check/ACH Discount	-\$3.75
Payment Amount by Cash/Check/ACH	\$94.00
Payment Amount by Credit Card	\$97.75

As an incentive for customers, we provide a discount off the total order cost equal to the 3.99% service fee if you pay with Cash/Check/ACH. Pay by Cash/Check/ACH and save!

Order Confirmation Amount

\$94.00

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME	REPRESENTING	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #	E-MAIL
Kathleen Cook	Park Advisory Bd- Ionia Co. Hist. Soc.	244 E. Main St. Ionia	616.755.2423	kathleencook@live.com
CHARLES BABECK	Park Board.	1355 STALEY RD. LYONS, MI 48851	989 620.4780	—
DAVID MCCORD	B.S.A.	3000 PATTERSON RD IONIA MI 48846	902-0033	DAVID@HPRWCREATIVE.COM
Ally Cook	Park's Board	411 W. Main Ionia, MI 48846	616 821 1406	allycook91@gmail.com
JACK SHATTUCK	County	Portland MI 6055 Keefaufer Hwy	517-256-2870	cmanjck@gmail.com
Cindy Cotter	Easton Twp	4401 Sayles Rd Ionia MI 48846	517-3318690	—
Jeff Montgomery	Berkna Brock Park	2311 Blue water Hwy	616-522-1189	jmontgomery@Ionia.org
Diana Amy	Lyons township	7125 Reeder Road Lyons	616-820-2980	dampdiana@gmail.com

APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

Name of Plan: <u>Ionia County Recreation Plan 2024-2028</u>		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
<u>Ionia County</u>	<u>Ionia</u>	<u>November 2024</u>

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

☒ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

☒ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

- ☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- ☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- ☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation
- ☒ Programming
- ☒ Current Funding Sources
- ☒ Role of Volunteers
- ☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations
- Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only**
- ☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation

☒ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

- ☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ☒ Accessibility Assessment
- ☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

☐ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**

☒ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

☒ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- ☒ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- ☒ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
- Date of the Notice 10-9-2024
- Type of Notice On Line
- Plan Location County Website
- Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 33 Days
- ☒ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
- Date of Notice 10-9-2024 / Sept 11, 2024
- Name of Newspaper Ironia Sentinel Standard
- Date of Meeting _____
- ☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- ☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: November 26, 2024
- ☒ 2. Official resolution of the Ironia County Park Ad. Bd. Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____
- ☐ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: County Plan
- ☐ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: Planned by Region

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Ironia County

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated

Dan Ber

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

Date

12-12-24

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

Date

By:

Grants Management

Date



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hodges, Chairman

November 26, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Members Present: County Commissioner David Hodges, County Commissioner Scott Wirtz, County Commissioner Larry Tiejema, County Commissioner Phil Hesche, County Commissioner Gordon Kelley, County Commissioner Jack Shattuck, County Commissioner Terence Frewen

Members Absent:

Others Present: County Administrator Patrick Jordan, County Finance Director Bernadette Blonde, County Clerk Greg Geiger

- I. Call to Order
Hodges called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
Hodges led the pledge of allegiance.
- III. Invocation
Hodges led the invocation.
- IV. Approval of Agenda
Board discussed the agenda
Motion to Approve Agenda
Moved by Wirtz
Supported by Kelley
Motion carried by voice vote
- V. Public Comment
Robert Sitzerlitz commented various topics.
- VI. Action on the Consent Calendar
Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- VII. Unfinished Business
No unfinished business.
- VIII. New Business



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hodges, Chairman

Board discussed Emergency Management Performance Grant Work Agreement. Emergency Management Director Sgt. Straubel presented the agreement and recommended approval.

Motion to Approve Agreement

Moved by Tiejema

Supported by Frewen

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed Ionia County Recreation Plan Resolution. Dave Bee presented the resolution and recommended adoption.

Motion to Adopt Ionia County Recreation Plan Resolution

Moved by Shattuck

Supported by Kelley

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Yes – Hodges, Frewen, Wirtz, Tiejema, Hesche, Kelley, Shattuck

No –

Board discussed FY 2025 SCAO Grant Contract for the 8th Circuit Court Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program. 8th Circuit Court Administrator Selina Schmidt presented the contract and recommended approval.

Motion to Approve Contract

Moved by Frewen

Supported by Wirtz

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed FY 2025 SCAO Grant Contract for the 8th Circuit Court Adult Recovery Court Program. 8th Circuit Court Administrator Selina Schmidt presented the contract and recommended approval.

Motion to Approve Contract

Moved by Wirtz

Supported by Frewen

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed entering into Host Agency Agreement with the AARP Foundation for the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Commission on Aging Director Carol Hanulcik presented the agreement and recommended approval.

Motion to Approve Agreement

Moved by Tiejema

Supported by Kelley

Motion carried by voice vote



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hodges, Chairman

Closed Session

Motion to Exit Closed Session

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed letter of understanding with Road Department Union.

Motion to Approve Letter of Understanding

Moved by Frewen

Supported by Kelley

Motion carried by voice vote

Shattuck Dissented

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Frewen

Motion carried by voice vote

David Hodges, Chairman

Greg Geiger, County Clerk