

# Chesaning Area Parks & Recreation Plan



**2022 - 2027 MASTER PLAN**

# Chesaning Area Parks and Recreation

## Master Plan 2022 - 2027

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## Important Dates

Public Workshops: 10.06.2021 and  
10.20.2021

Plan on Public Review Dates: 02.22.2022  
- 03.23.2022

Public Hearing and Adoption  
by Village Council: 05.03.2022

Adopted by Township Board: 05.05.2022

Adopted by School Board: 05.09.2022

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## Introduction

Provided below is a general description of the planning and public input process used for the preparation of this plan. The necessary data to begin the creation of the plan was collected from various sources within the Village, Township and Public Schools; Past Five Year Parks and Recreation Plans, community and staff input, and field observations (conducted by OHM Advisors). The Plan is a joint effort between the three entities and serves the whole of Chesaning area.

**The Community Description** includes a brief introduction to the Chesaning area

**The Administrative Structure** section describes how parks and recreation is governed and operated within the City. This includes information gathering, staff responsibilities, the function of the Committee and Council, and a fiscal analysis (as it relates to recreation) of the last few years.

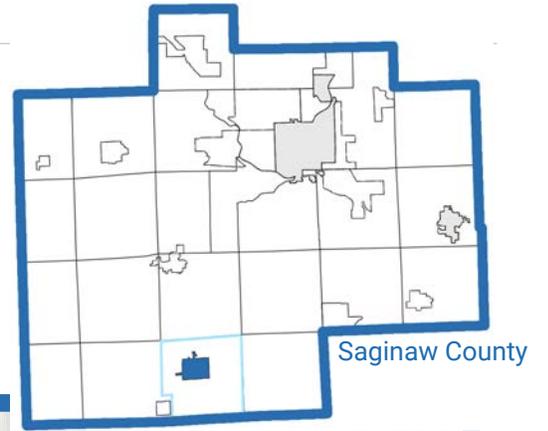
**The Parks and Recreation Inventory** provides an inventory of the recreational facilities and programs provided for the residents of Chesaning. This information was collected in June of 2021. The location of each facility is defined, described, and mapped.

**The Basis for Action** section of the document analyzes factors inside and outside of the community that may influence the direction of the recreation over the next five years. This portion of the plan provides the rationale for the goals, guidelines, and recommended capital improvements. Several factors were analyzed including current recreation trends, comparison of recreational opportunities to acreage and facility standards, service area gaps, existing plans and reports, and results of the community workshops, community survey, staff and Park and Recreation Committee's input.

**Two Public Workshops** were held to gain public input. These were held October 6 and 20, 2021 at Chesaning Union High School. Residents were notified about the workshop through a variety of methods including a notice in the local newspaper, electronic sign in the area, Facebook Page, and announcements made at Village, Township, and school meetings. Input from these meetings is found within the Appendix, including advertising details.

**The Draft Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan** was made available for public review at the Library. A notice of the plan being available for review was advertised in the local newspaper.

**The Action Plan** outlines the direction that the community would like to take over the next five years in order to maintain and improve recreational opportunities within the Chesaning area. The Action Plan includes goals and objectives, as well as a **Capital Improvement schedule**. The draft Action Plan was presented to the Chesaning Joint Committee for review, discussion and consensus.



# Regional Location

Map One



# Chesaning Parks and Recreation

# 01

Community Description

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## Community Description

The 2022-2027 Chesaning Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared by the Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and adopted by the Village of Chesaning, Chesaning Township, and the Chesaning Union School District to serve as a guide and decision-making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The Plan presents an inventory of existing facilities and programs within the community as well as an evaluation of opportunities and needs. The Plan considers the existing facilities in and around the community, as well as the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs. The Plan also includes goals, objectives, and a 5- Year Action Plan.

The jurisdiction of this Recreation Master Plan includes the Chesaning Parks and Recreation Commission, which includes the Village of Chesaning, Chesaning Township, and the Chesaning Union School District. The Plan is intended to enable the Chesaning community to apply for funding assistance from various agencies to work toward implementing recommendations made within the document. The Plan provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Chesaning is located in the south-central portion of Saginaw County, Michigan (see pg 5). The Village was incorporated in 1869 and is approximately 3-square miles in size with the Township surrounding it. The Shiawassee River traverses south-north throughout the Community. The Chesaning community has a total population of 6,760 (American Community Survey, 2019) with 2,339 in the Village and 4,421 in Chesaning Township.

The community grew out from the historic downtown area on the banks of the river, creating a distinct sense of place from the quaint small-town charm. Union School District serves the Chesaning community and much of surrounding populations in educating over 1,400 students a year (NCES). The district employs over 100 staff and countless community volunteers aid youth development.

The primary transportation route is State Highway M-57, which traverses east-west through the Township and center of the Village. M-52 is the primary north-south transportation corridor on the western edge of the Township. The Village is approximately 18 miles west of I-75. The Howard Nixon Memorial Airport is a publicly owned airport located in the southwestern portion of the Village. The Tuscola and Saginaw Bay Railroad travels southwest to northeast through the Township and Village.



The following is a demographic report of the Chesaning area, which reveals unique characteristics of the community taking an in-depth look at population, health, education, and employment statistics. The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the quality and quantity of the area's facilities and programs necessary to serve area residents.



[www.michesaning.org](http://www.michesaning.org)

## People and Population

Since the last report, the population in the Chesaning area has increased due to varying factors. The current median age of the village and township is 38.3 and 43.8 respectively.

As seen in averages across Michigan, the majority of the population in the Chesaning area is within the 18–65-year range, with 20% falling into the 65+ range in both the village and township.

There is a significant veteran population within the community of 6.8% which is just shy of the Michigan average (American Community Survey, 2019).

Much of the area is White Alone (92%) in Race and Ethnicity; the area is increasing diversity with Black or African American Alone, Asian Alone, Some Other Race Alone, and Two or More Races all having small percentages.

English is the most spoken language in the home, with Spanish, Other Indo-European Languages, and Asian/Pacific Islander Languages also being spoken (6%). This makes the Chesaning area above average from surrounding Saginaw County in diverse languages spoken at home.

## Health

Health of a community population is an important consideration that goes into the plan. As the need to age in place rises, facilities are necessary to cater for a wide range of users. Accessibility within parks and public spaces ensure that all can enjoy what Chesaning has to offer. Within the community, numerous individuals are dealing with vision, hearing, and self-care difficulties. In Village limits, 9.9% of the population has independent living difficulty, for the township the percentage is 7.4%. This classification measures respondents who “because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping” (American Community Survey, 2019). Related classifications, cognitive difficulty and ambulatory difficulty come in at 8.6% and 7.7% respectively for the village, and 7.0% and 7.5% for the township. The whole of Chesaning community needs to take care for and look out for each other and keep best interests for all at the forefront of planning.

## Township Fast Facts

Chart One



## Village Fast Facts

Chart Two



## Education

Chesaning Union School District ranks high in metrics and achievement of the surrounding Saginaw County and Mid-Michigan which makes the area attractive to live. Within the current population, roughly 20.5% have obtained a bachelor’s degree, a percentage that is expected to rise in the future. 92.5% of the population are high school graduates or higher, above Michigan and United States averages. As previously mentioned, the school district spans outside of the Chesaning area, within township and village limits there are 3,135 housing units. The area can provide for its current population and available places to live is an apt measure for future planning purposes.

## Employment

Within village limits there are 965 civilians in the workforce and the employment rate is 52.2%. Median household income is 44,009\$. The poverty rate is 17.5%, slightly above the Michigan average but less than the surrounding county percentage. Within township limits there are 1,881 civilians in the workforce and the employment rate is 51.1%. Median household income is 48,322\$. The poverty rate is 11.8%. These census numbers give insight into the existing population of the community which can be used to establish needs and figure out how to achieve them.

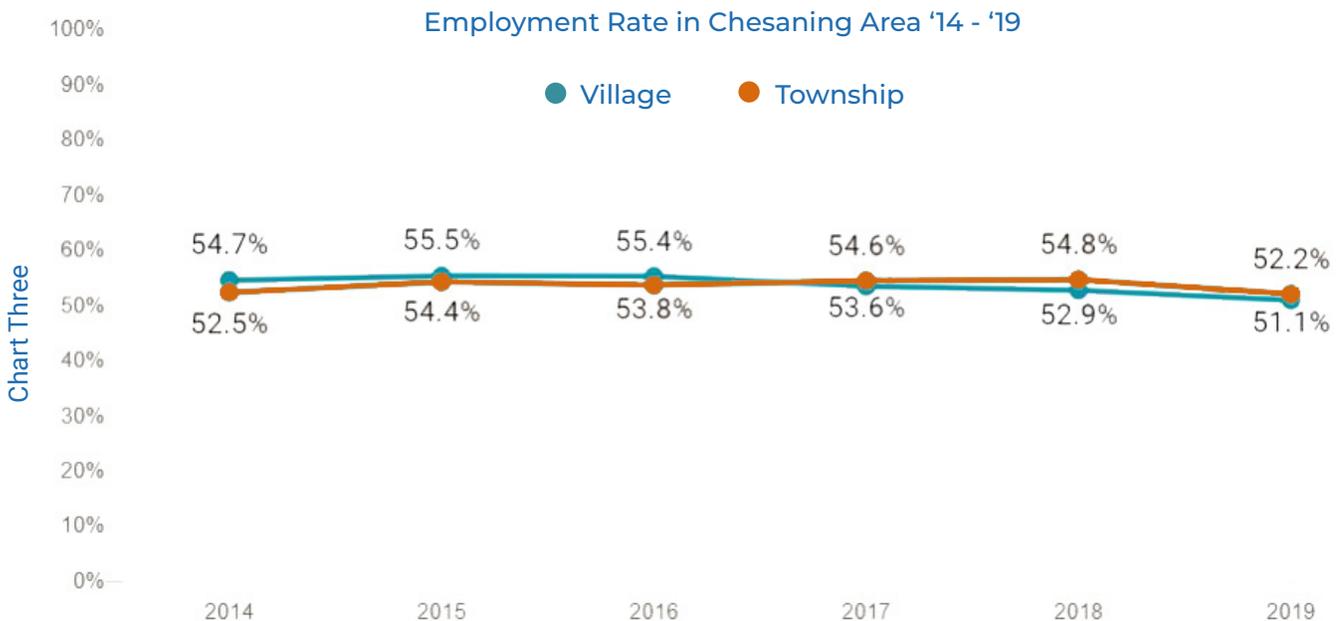


Chart Survey/Program: 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles



## Topography and Soils

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The Chesaning area is comprised of relatively flat land throughout the municipal boundaries. The general grade falls to the northeast, with the highest elevation being in the southwest. Low points along the Shiawassee River valley cuts almost directly through the middle of the area boundaries. The agriculture fields within the area contain their own slopes known to community who tend them. With the prevalence of this type of land, the soil has been worked and compromised over the years, seeing a reduction in topsoil. A greenway built from the river sees richer soils to sustain the foliage. Historically the area was made up of sands and loams, deposited here from glacial out-wash.

## Water Resource

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The Shiawassee River plays an important role in communities that it runs through. For the Chesaning area, recreation on and along the river attract high numbers of community members, and visitors, throughout the year. Flowing northward to drain into Saginaw Bay, the natural resource amplifies wildlife enjoyment and programming opportunities. With only smaller tributaries in the area and surrounding communities, the Shiawassee is a gem to be protected that numerous conservation groups take up. It serves to bring the people of the Chesaning area together and to welcome neighbors and visitors.

## Vegetation & Wildlife

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As mentioned, the foliage built up along the Shiawassee is the most prevalent canopy cover of the area. Throughout Chesaning, typical Michigan species can be found with maples and oaks making up many trees. On the rivers edge, the under-story provides for local wildlife. The typical mammals that are found throughout Michigan thrive in the environment created by the watershed. Within the water, 61 species of fish traverse different portions of the river, freshwater mussels, and other aquatics such as frogs and turtles are known to be seen. The river also plays an important role for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Inland between the residential and agricultural lands are the same types of species and wildlife, just found at varying levels. Depending on time of year, the crop rotation that makes up the landscape changes, as well as the wildlife it attracts. Windbreaks help to serve the farmer and break up view-sheds. In town, the birding and wildlife trail is a great preservation of land that makes up a high concentration of the vegetation and wildlife.

## Climate

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The weather over an extended period makes up the climate of the region. Chesaning area sitting in mid-Michigan is classified as a humid continental climate; meaning the occurrence of distinct summers and winters with a fairly even distribution of precipitation throughout the year. The average rainfall per year is 33 inches, average inches of snow is 36, and there is typically 172 sunny days throughout the year. In classic fashion, the summer months are classified as the most comfortable and the winter being the least pleasant. The distinct seasons make for enjoyable times though, as each brings new activities and programs to explore. Traditionally, the Chesaning area has seen higher averages in hotter and colder days compared to the rest of Michigan. Time will tell how recent weather events will affect the future of the region.

# Chesaning Parks and Recreation

## 02

Administrative  
Structure & Funding

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## Administrative Structure

The following describes how parks and recreation facilities, activities and resources are governed and administrated within the Chesaning community.

### Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

The Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was formed in the 2020 to take place of the old commission. It is comprised of representatives from the Village of Chesaning, Chesaning Township, and the Chesaning Union School District. Representatives are appointed to the Committee by each of the agencies. The purpose of the Committee is to advise for a system of public recreation; make recommendations to acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities and to take other actions as authorized by the Committee.



[www.chesaningchamber.org](http://www.chesaningchamber.org)

The Committee meets monthly to discuss projects, programs and administrative issues. Partnerships have been developed with various local organizations such as Sports Boosters, Softball League, Chamber of Commerce, and Little League to provide comprehensive recreation and entertainment offerings throughout the community.

Village and Schools are responsible for their own recreational property including maintenance. The Township pays the Village a yearly amount decided upon by the 5-Year Plan to maintain and develop Parks in the area. Duties include opening and closing restrooms and showers, managing campground rentals, and other general park management and maintenance activities, and the Committee serves in an advisory role to this work.

### Fiscal Analysis

The Committee is funded by the Village through the Village General Fund. Chesaning Township provides an annual contribution to the Village for park operations. The school district incorporates youth programming into their existing programming, as well as provides use of the gymnasiums and the pool for various programs for its contribution.

To understand the revenue and expenditure patterns related to recreation in the Chesaning community, annual parks and recreation budget information for 2019 – 2022 is on the following page.

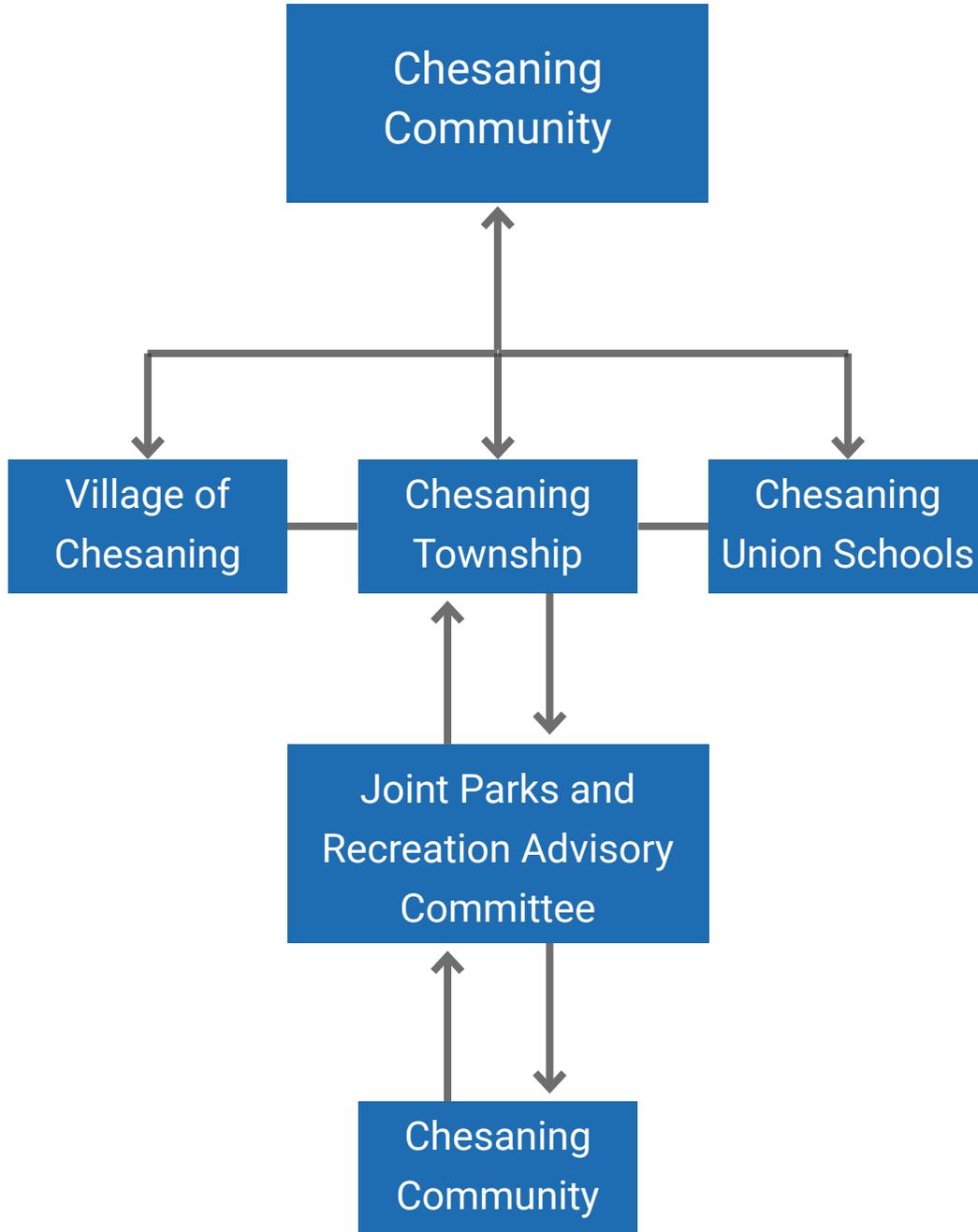
# Budget Report

Table One

	<u>2019/2</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
Dept 751.000-Parks			
702.000	\$0	\$0	\$0
702.100	\$40,000	\$45,972	\$52,500
715.000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
715.100	\$750	\$750	\$750
716.000	\$800	\$800	\$800
726.000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$100,000
743.000	\$600	\$600	\$600
801.000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
910.000	\$525	\$525	\$525
920.000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
932.000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
940.000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
956.000	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION	\$156,175	\$162,147	\$248,675

## Structure Chart

Chart Four



## Funding Opportunities

Potential funding sources from outside entities for recreation, non-motorized, and environmental restoration projects change and evolve on a regular basis. Understanding available funding programs, their requirements and deadlines requires continuous monitoring. A few of the more common funding sources have been detailed here as a reference and resource. These are in addition to traditional funding methods such as the general fund, millages, bonds, DDA's, etc.

### Transportation Enhancement Funds

Transportation Enhancements through the Michigan Department of Transportation activities are federally funded, community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the enhancement activities and relate to surface transportation. Activities that relate to the implementation of this Master Plan include:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, bus racks, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses.
2. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists. Programs designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets and signage.
3. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian and bicycle trails).
4. Acquiring railroad rights-of-way; planning, designing and constructing multi-use trails; developing rail with-trail projects; purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

### Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and, 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization, or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus in recent years has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ballfields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests were \$30,000 and maximum grant requests were \$75,000. The match percentage must be 50% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in June or July.

## **Bikes Belong**

The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories.

## **Facility Education Capacity Building**

Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and transit, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis. More information can be found at [www.bikesbelong.org](http://www.bikesbelong.org).

## **Safe Routes to School Program**

The Safe Routes to School Program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need to succeed. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's SR2S program will make schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program as defined in the federal legislation is:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- To facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

## Local Foundations

The Chesaning, Saginaw, Midland Area has several private/public foundations that have historically provided between \$1,000 and \$50,000 for community projects. Potential foundations to consider assisting in implementation include:

Consumers Energy Foundation  
Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation  
Morley Foundation  
Herbert and Grace Dow Foundation  
Detroit Tigers Foundation  
The Dow Chemical Company  
The Dow Corning Corporation  
Saginaw Community Foundation



# Chesaning Parks and Recreation

# 03

Recreation Inventory

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An inventory of existing local and regional recreation facilities was conducted by OHM Advisors, with additional input from members of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The regional inventory consisted of review and compilation of regional park facilities. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded and reviewed with regard to location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition.

## Accessibility

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With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service, including parks and other recreational facilities, are to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of the Chesaning area's parks and recreation facilities has been conducted. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if impaired persons can safely and independently access and use the park or facility. Each facility was given a rating of 1 through 5, determined through site visits in June of 2021. The levels are as follows:

Level 1: Park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 2: Park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 3: Park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.

Level 4: Park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

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## Park Classification

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### Community Parks (25 Acres or greater)

Community parks contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of area residents. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in small or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally 25 acres or greater in area and serve residents within one-half to three miles. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community. (CP in following table).

### Neighborhood Parks (3-24 acres)

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the focus of recreation activity for the more immediate neighborhood around the park; typically a one-mile square township section, bounded on four sides by major roadways. Facilities may or may not include a small parking lot, open space, seating, picnic facilities and some athletic facilities such as ballfields or basketball courts. (None classified within the area).

### Mini Parks (Less than 3 Acres)

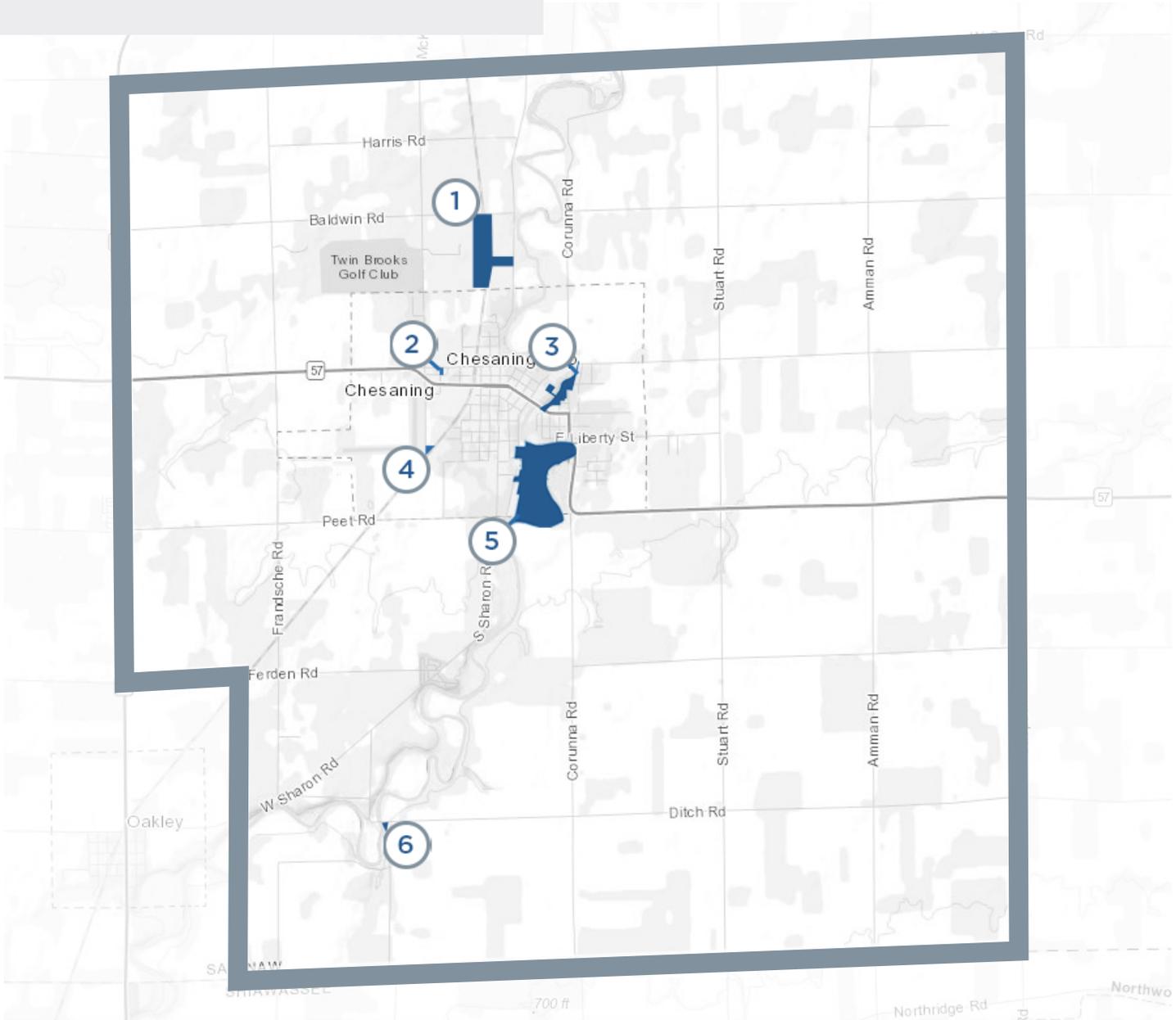
Mini parks or small parks are three acres or less in size and may represent only a single lot. Their purpose is dependent on their location, size and the needs of the immediate area. They may be developed as urban parks, neighborhood play areas, community gardens or as passive green space. (MP in following table).





# Public Parks

Map Two



- ① Birding and Nature Trail Park
- ② Township Hall Park
- ③ Cole Park
- ④ Airport Property
- ⑤ Showboat Park
- ⑥ Parshallburg Park

 Public Parks and Facilities

## Birding & Nature Trail

Village Owned

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 1

MDNR Grant Funding Received: No

Size: 50.24 acres



Natural area to be enjoyed throughout the year with passive and active recreation. 2 mile walking trail that is a wood chipped surface. The wooded trail opens up to the pond area that is great to sit and rest, read, or just enjoy the wildlife. Snow shoe or cross country skiing in the colder months is a peaceful way for the family to get out and see the season change.

## Township Hall Park

Township Owned

MDNR Accessibility Rating: 2

MDNR Grant Funding Received: No

Size: 0.34 acres



Township Hall Park is a small, 0.34-acre mini park adjacent to the Chesaning Township Hall within the Village limits. The park includes 2 picnic tables, 2 benches, play equipment and is accessible from the surrounding neighborhood by a sidewalk. Close to the downtown, the area here is a retreat off the main drag that surrounding neighbors and families love to enjoy.

## Cole Park

Village Owned

MDNR Accessibility  
Rating: 3

MDNR Grant Funding  
Received: Yes

Size: 9.21 acres

### MDNR Grants:

TF11-092 - Development to include bridge, pathways and site restoration/preparation. (2011).



Located behind the River Rapids District Library on the banks of the Shiawassee River. Parking is located along Canal Street. A large playscape (built in 2000) with slides, swings, picnic area, young tot play area, maze, etc. The playscape has a Fibar safety surface and an accessible ramp leading up to a play area. Lighting is included in and around the playscape. The river restoration project that took the remnants of the old dam and established it into rock rapids waterway/fish ladder feature is at this location. The park also includes a walkway leading to an accessible restroom facility (2 stalls) and drinking fountain. Further north in the park is a picnic shelter with tables, a grill, a water spigot and additional play equipment with sand safety surfacing. The walking trail continues to a pedestrian bridge crossing over the Shiawassee River. Open space is included throughout the park.



## Airport Property

Village Owned

MDNR Accessibility  
Rating: 1

MDNR Grant Funding  
Received: No

Size: 15 acres

Undeveloped Parcel



## Showboat Park

Village Owned

MDNR Accessibility  
Rating: 3

MDNR Grant Funding  
Received: Yes

Size: 68.38 acres

### MDNR Grants:

26-00282 - Develop 67.32 acres to include a toilet building, rehabilitation and construct new lighting system for softball field, relocate entrance road, parking, reconstruct power distribution system to serve court and ice rink. (1972).

26-00938 - Develop parking, access road, water line, and LWCF sign (1977)

TF90-222 - Construct a boat launch ramp, fishing pier, and small shelter on the Shiawassee River. (1990).

TF14-0220 - Riverbank Improvements, five total projects. (2014).

Showboat Park is a 68-acre community park located on the banks of the Shiawassee River. The park offers a wide variety of amenities and facilities including an outdoor amphitheater, concession stands, ticket office, storage buildings, picnic pavilions, campground with 125 sites, 63 with electrical hookups and the rest being rustic, drinking water, restrooms and showers, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, football field, a boat launch, fishing dock, sledding hill, ball diamonds with dugouts, open space, 18 hole disc golf course, and over 6,000 feet of shoreline. Numerous events are held at Showboat Park throughout the year including Fireworks in the Park. The access drives and parking areas are paved in the north end of the park and gravel in the south end of the park.

## Parshallburg Park

Township Owned

MDNR Accessibility  
Rating: 2

MDNR Grant Funding  
Received: No

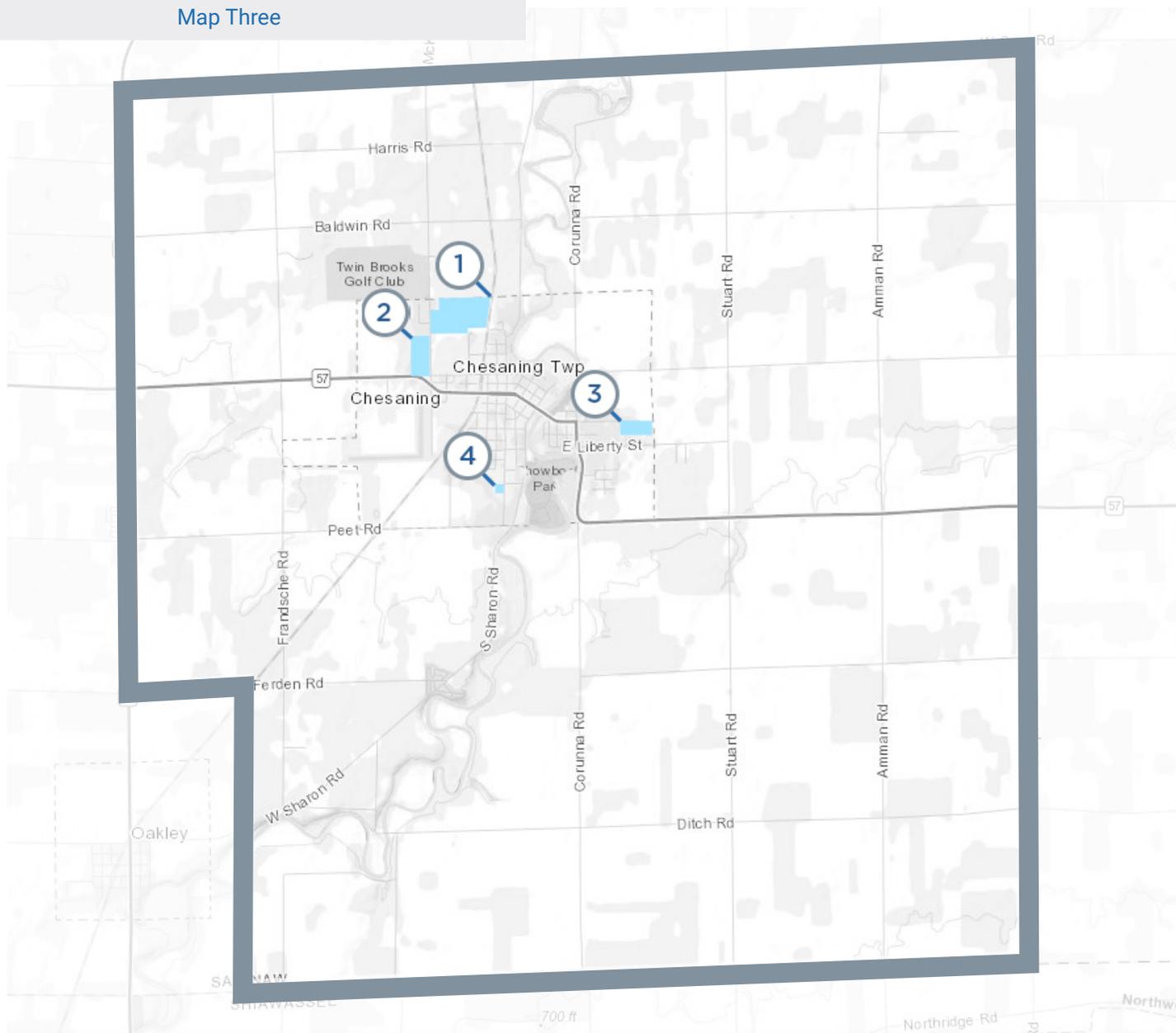
Size: 0.70 acres



Paved Parking lot with temporary restroom. Informal and rustic launch at rivers edge. Informal seating to enjoy the river passing by and another natural space to be in

# Schools

Map Three

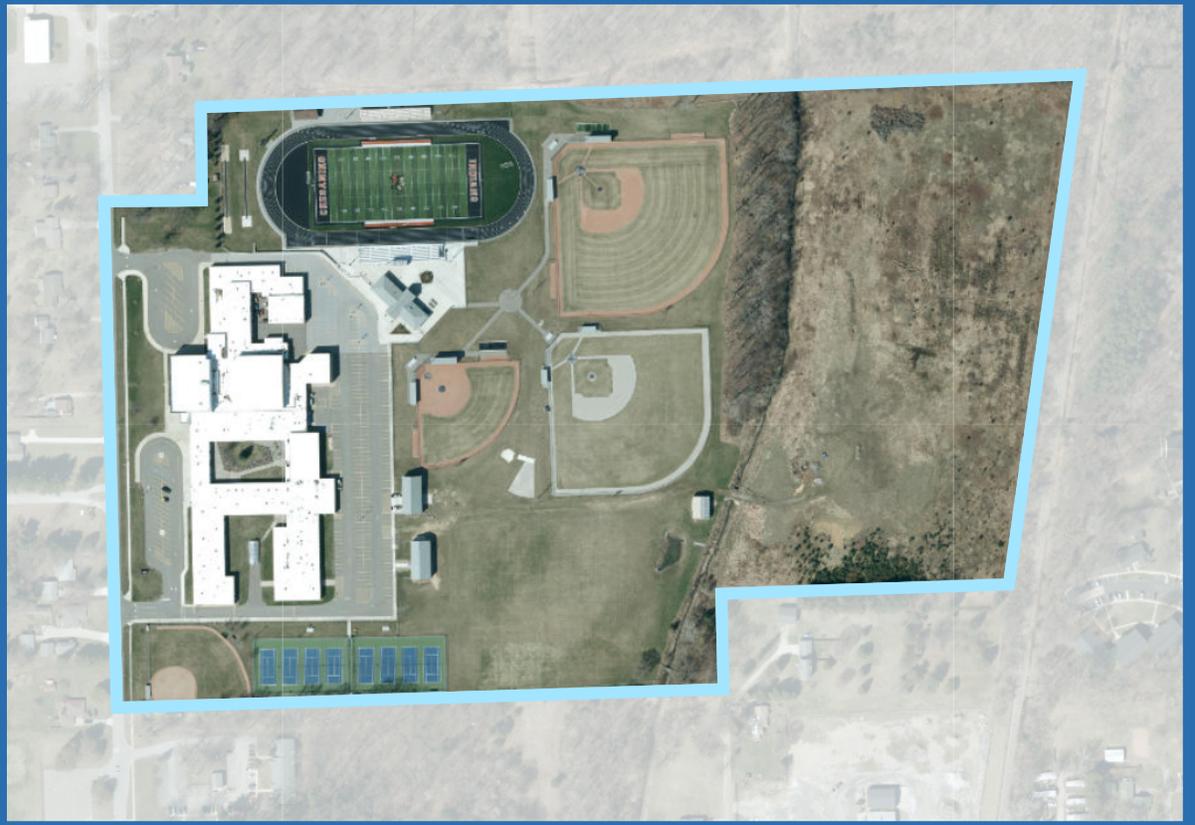


- 1 Chesaning Union High School
- 2 Chesaning Middle School
- 3 Big Rock Elementary School
- 4 School Bus Garage

 Public Schools

## Chesaning Union High School

Size: 53.88 acres



Located on the north edge of the Village off of McKeighan Rd. providing football and soccer stadium with running track, ball fields, open space, and tennis courts.



## Chesaning Middle School

Size: 19.85 acres

Located across the street from the High School. Outdoor facilities include a ball field and soccer field with bleachers and scoreboard. The Middle School also has a gymnasium and indoor swimming pool.

## Big Rock Elementary School

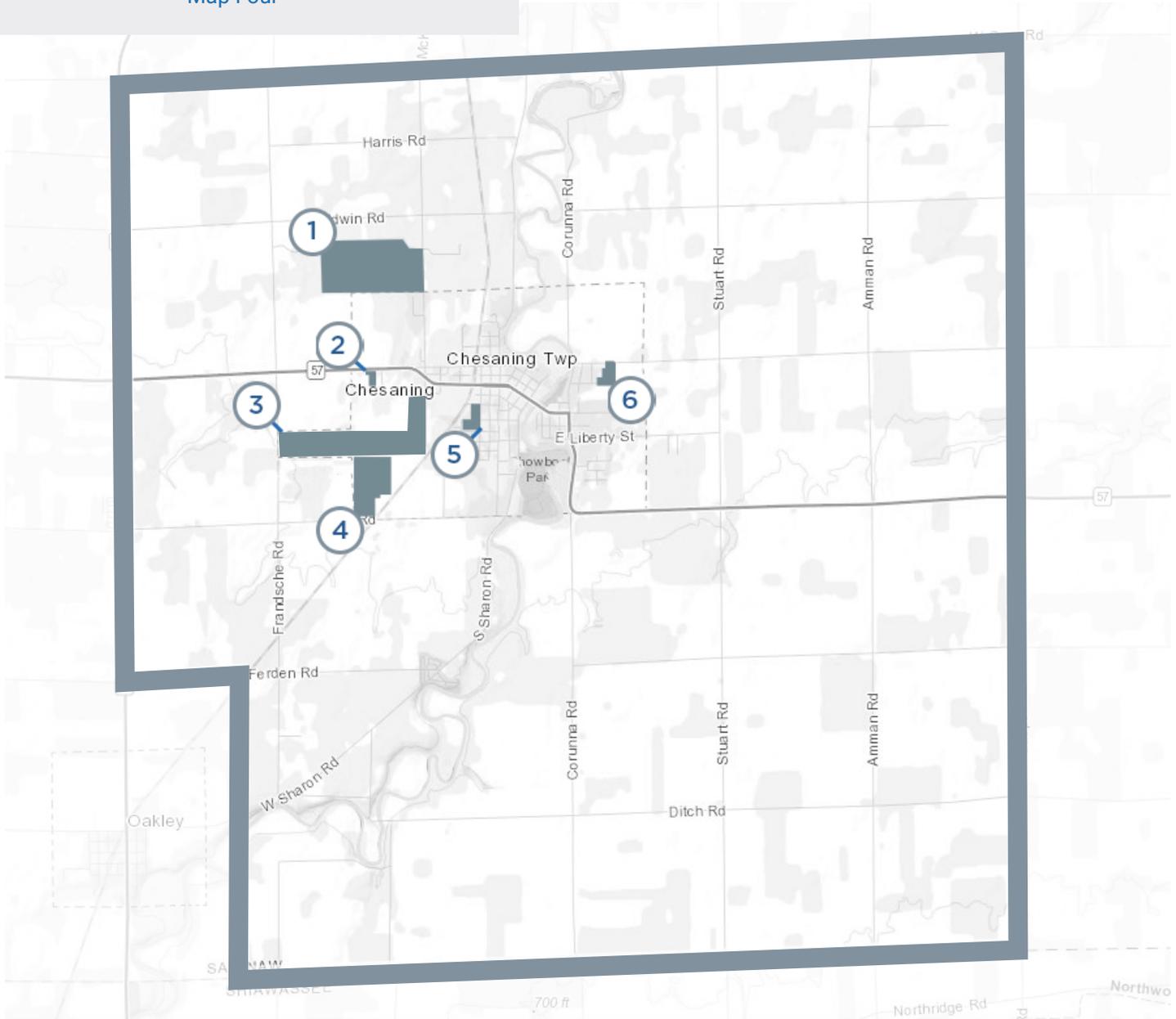
Size: 12.53 acres



Located on the eastern edge of the Village of Chesaning. Outdoor facilities include a shelter/pavilion with picnic tables, a basketball court, and a significant amount of play equipment. The school also has a gymnasium.

# Other

Map Four



- ① Twin Brooks Golf Course
- ② Trinity United Methodist
- ③ Chesaning Airport
- ④ Saginaw County Fairground
- ⑤ St. Peter Parish
- ⑥ Zion Lutheran School

 Facilities Not Owned by Public



<https://www.michigan.org/property/twin-brooks-golf-cc>

## Private/Semi-Public Facilities

### Twin Brooks Golf Course

Twin Brooks is an 18-hole golf course located in the northwest portion of the Village. The golf course has been in the community since 1960 and also includes a driving range, contoured putting green, chipping green, a full bar and lounge area and a pro shop. The course is open to the public and hosts leagues as well multiple tournaments, outings, and events throughout the year.

### Trinity United Methodist

Trinity United is located on the south-side of M-57, just west of downtown Chesaning, within the Village limits. Behind the Trinity United Methodist Church is a pavilion and picnic tables.

### Saginaw County Fairgrounds

The 49.66-acre County Fairgrounds are located in the southwest portion of Chesaning. The site includes a large, heated exhibit hall and campground sites for year round camping. Major events at the Fairgrounds include the County Fair and a Business Expo organized by the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce.

### St. Peter Parish

This Parish includes outdoor open space, a small ballfield, a basketball court and play equipment.

### Zion Lutheran School

Zion Lutheran School is located in the northeast portion of the Village and includes a soccer field, basketball court, a small ballfield, small play equipment and a pavilion/shelter with tables.

## Regional Facilities

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- Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge: Also known locally as the Shiawassee Flats, the 9,870-acre refuge is located south of Saginaw city and within the Saginaw Bay watershed, one of the largest and productive in Michigan. Established in 1953, the land varies with marsh, bottomland hardwood forest, and grasslands. Programming includes walking/hiking trails, hunting opportunities, fishing, boating, environmental education programming, and wildlife observation.

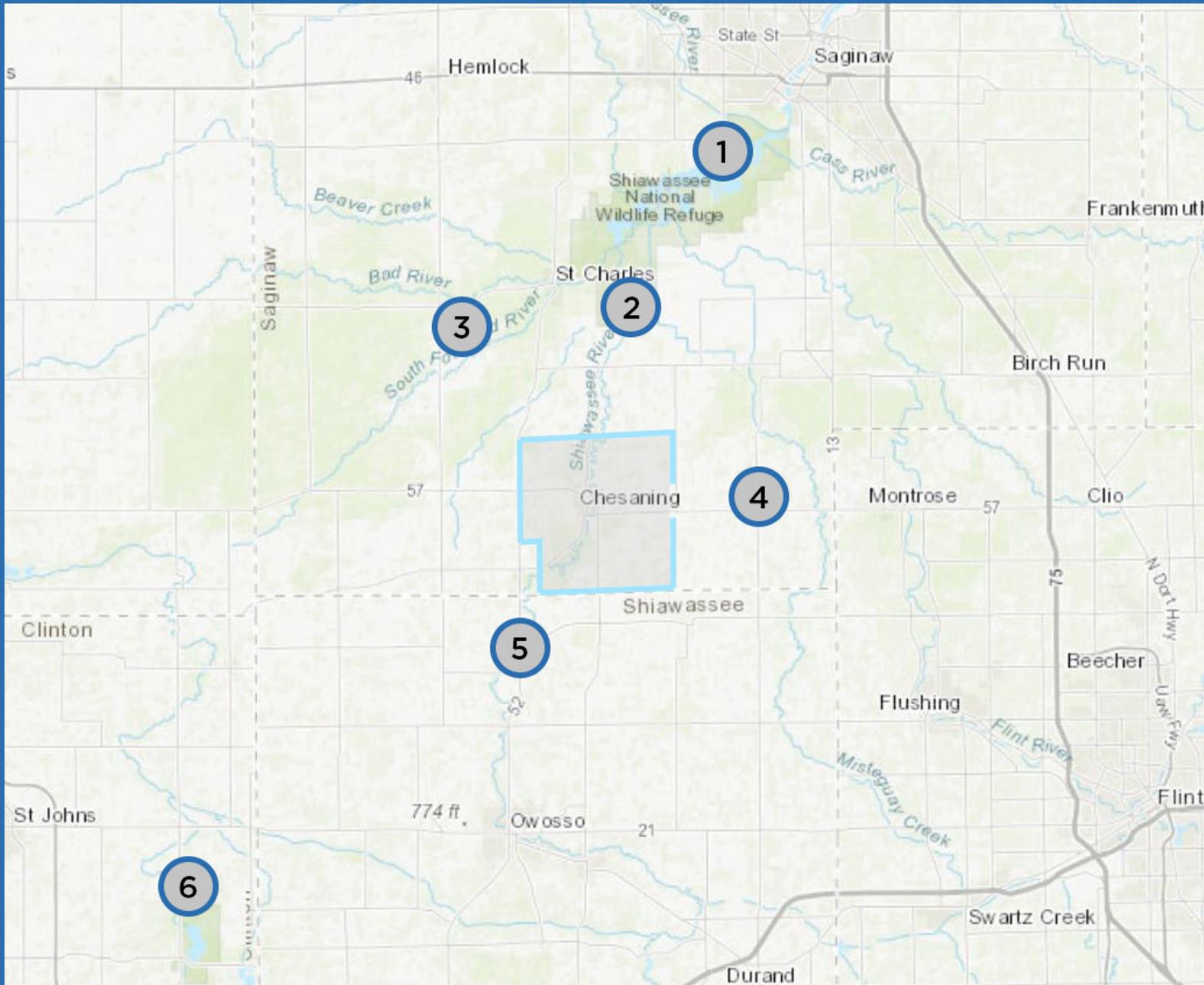
- The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail is one of Saginaw Counties gems, stretching 11 miles from St. Charles to Saginaw. It incorporates several natural features including: eight bridges over various rivers and creeks, The Shiawassee State Game Area and many wetland areas. The Rail Trail also offers an equestrian trail, trail shelters, restroom facilities at the Van Wormer parking lot, viewing platforms and benches.

- Saginaw County Ringwood Forest: "160 acres include some of Michigan's oldest forest plantations. This parks three miles of trails offer picnickers, nature lovers, hikers and cross-country skiers towering pine forests, hilly terrain, fishing access and canoe launch on the Bad River. The parks also holds a pavilion available on a first come first serve basis along with a playground, horseshoe pits, grills and pit toilets. Pavilion is available on a first come, first served basis. Ringwood is located 2 miles South of St. Charles and 2 miles West of M-52 on Ring Road.

- Maple Grove Township Baseball Park: Multi field facility that serves Maple Grove and the surrounding community. Concessions and bathrooms on site as well as playground. Area is large enough for tournament play with planned expansion and amenities in the future.

- Henderson Park: "28 acres of ancient oaks and mixed hardwoods standing high on riverside bluffs and Shiawassee River bottomlands amidst spring wildflowers or autumn leaves. Henderson Park's facilities include 3 pavilions with playgrounds, numerous free-standing picnic tables with grills, two ball fields, horseshoe pits, trails, a bluff overlook, restroom facilities, and potable water. Canoe access and a primitive boat launch can also be found at the east end of the park.

- Sleepy Hollow State Park: "2,600 acres including a river winding its way through the woods, fields and trails. Lake Ovid nestled in the middle of it all was developed by damming the Little Maple River and covers 410-acres. The park offers year-round opportunity for recreation.



## Regional Facilities Map

Map Five

1. Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
2. Saginaw Valley Rail Trail
3. Saginaw County Ringwood Forest
4. Maple Grove Baseball Park
5. Henderson Park
6. Sleepy Hollow State Park

# Chesaning Parks and Recreation

## 04

Parkland Analysis  
& Service Areas

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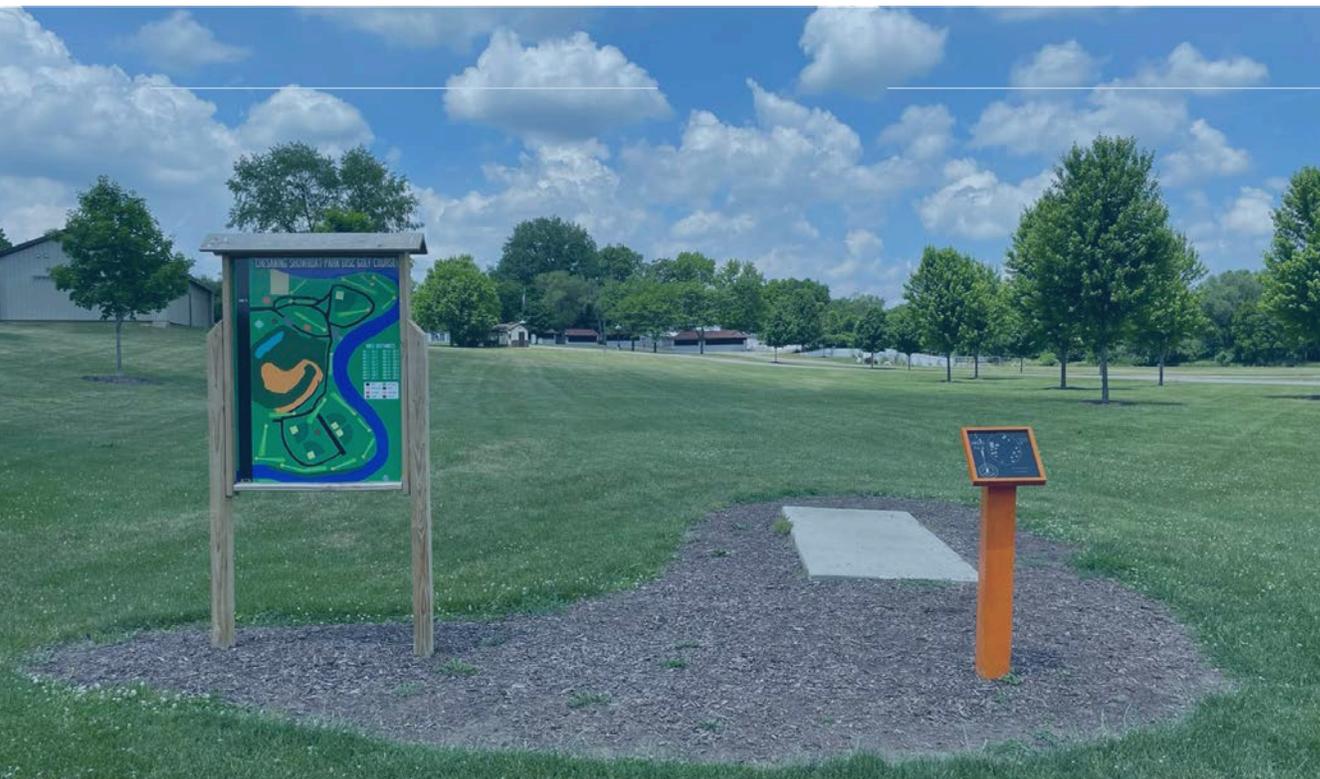
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# Service Area Analysis

When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to closely consider where residents in the City live. The MDNR offers a recommended service area for each type of park. The recommended service radius for each park type was used to determine the areas in Chesaning that lack easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

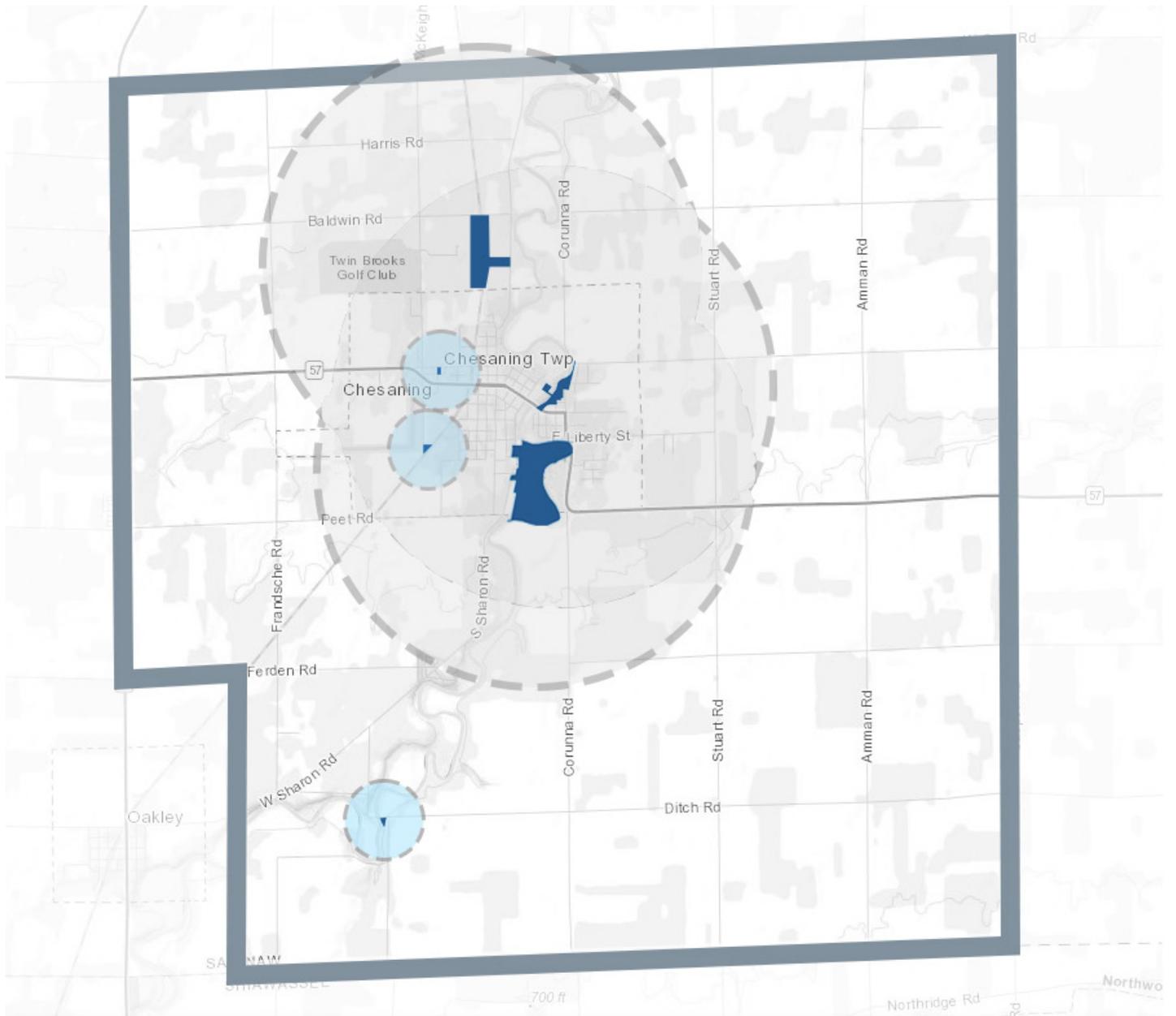
- Mini Parks less than 0.25 miles
- Neighborhood Parks 0.25 – 0.5 miles
- Community Parks 0.5 – 3.0 miles

This service area is reflected in the map on the following page. For purposes of evaluation, a radius of 0.25 miles was used for mini parks, 0.5 miles for neighborhood parks, and 1.5 miles for community parks and natural resource areas. Note that the Chesaning area does not have any parkland that is classified as a Neighborhood Park.



# Service Area Map

Map Six



**Mini Park - .25 Radius**



**.5 mile**



**Community Park - .25 Radius**

# Amenities Analysis

The area’s existing recreation facilities were compared against the guidelines set by the NRPA and MDNR to determine if the existing facilities are adequate to meet the needs of residents in comparison to national standards. The following table identifies the NRPA guideline for each facility type, the recommended number of facilities and the existing number of facilities in the area, and the surplus or deficiency. With a population such as Chesaning’s, several amenities are needed to accommodate the residents. As funding allows, the following facilities should be considered based on the public request for additional facilities:

	MDNR Standard	Recommended Facilities	Existing Facilities	Deficiency
Ball Fields	1 per 5,000	1	10	None
Basketball (outdoor)	1 per 5,000	1	5	None
Boat/Kayak Launch	1 per 5,000	0	1	None
Disc Golf	1 per 50,000	1	1	None
Dog Park	1 per 50,000	None	None	None
Multi -purpose Field	1 per 10,000	None	2	None
Playground	1 per 3,607	2	5	None
Running Track	1 per 20,000	None	1	None
Skate Park	1 per 50,000	None	None	None
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	None	2	None
Tennis	1 per 2,000	2	8	None
Trails	1 System Per Region	1	1	None
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	1	3	None

Table Three

# Chesaning Parks and Recreation

## 05

Basis For Action - Planning &  
Public Input Process

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# Basis For Action

Many elements must be considered prior to the decision-making process of establishing goals, guidelines, and a prioritized capital improvements schedule for the next five years. A community must not base recreation improvement and service decisions solely on the voice of a handful of residents or the needs and wants of community officials, but must also be aware of recreational trends, national standards, community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings. This section attempts to consolidate the various factors which must be acknowledged and the abundance of aspects, perceptions, and ideas that need to be filtered and categorized with the result of producing the prioritized needs of the community. Because there are so many factors that will ultimately determine needs, caution should be taken to not analyze each piece of information individually but integrate them all to produce the “big picture.”

In terms of recreation trends, like much of the rest of the nation, the community is interested in pickleball. The sport is popping up all over as it fun for all ages, easy to understand, and play. With the ability to play indoors, on top of existing tennis facilities, or new construction, the game is widely accessible and community members are pushing for their own established courts. Trail systems also fall in high importance of maintaining and adding on to. The Plan helps to establish needs where more connectivity is needed and see where users are wanting to get out and move.

Unique to the area is the campground within Showboat Park. In recognition of the opportunity that this feature presents, there is the desire for updates within the campground itself and the whole of Showboat Park.

A trend that is shaping within Michigan is connectivity between park land, along with overall increased connectivity within communities themselves. For the Chesaning area this desire rings true with also the potential of water recreation connectivity. Along the river there is numerous points existing and available to drop in boats, canoes, and kayaks. It is the desire of the community to see improvements and additions in making connections.

Another passion of the community is natural area protection, with the Birding and Nature Trail Park topping the list from community engagement sessions followed closely by the Shiawassee River.

In general, a trend from the COVID-19 Pandemic is the need for community spaces and public land. No matter what the use of the park land, it is important to have the variety of space for residents and users to get in outdoor recreation.

## Planning and Public Input Process

The previous Chesaning Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan expired. The Committee decided to update and formulate a new Parks and Recreation Plan and will now adjust to any changes from the past years, receive new input from community members, and continue eligibility for MDNR funding. Citizen input played a crucial role in the development of this plan and public engagement undertaken as part of the process was used in the development of this Plan. Attention was also paid to other important documents developed in the past that are relevant to the scope of this plan. Recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those stakeholders who have participated throughout these processes and especially those who use the area's parks and recreation facilities. The process for developing this plan included tasks that are described below

**Task One: Community Description.** The first task was to obtain a description of Chesaning's physical and social features. These features include land use, community facilities, environmental and natural features, as well as population characteristics including age distribution, household size, and income. The Community Description can be found in Chapter 2

**Task Two: Parks and Recreation Inventory.** The parks and recreation inventory includes written descriptions of facilities in the area. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. Each park was visited to ensure accurate and updated information early in the Plan process. The Inventory can be found in Chapter 4

**Task Three: Administrative Structure and Funding.** The administrative structure of the area's parks and recreation facilities and programs, as well as budget and funding information, can be found in Chapter 3

**Task Four: Public Participation.** On the following page, public participation methods were conducted as part of the process of preparing this plan:



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Public Community Open Houses - The Community Open Houses were put on as a joint effort between the Commission and OHM Advisors, taking place in the evenings of October 06 and 20, 2021 where residents could come to the high school and participate in conversation. Engagement activities looked at parks and facilities as a “protect, add, remove, and keep” format. The Open Houses allowed the community to come together with each other and with the different organizations involved in the formulation of the Plan.

Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting - The Committee met initially for a brainstorming session as a part of starting the community input process. The group brought a wide range of ideas to the table and the direction desired in the Plan writing. Priorities from this session were developed and can be found in the appendix.

Review Period – With the Commission's authorized distribution of the plan, the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was made available for public review and comment from Feb, 22nd 2022, through March, 23rd 2022. The Draft Plan was available at the Library.

Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Recommendation - The Parks and Recreation Board recommended approval of the plan.

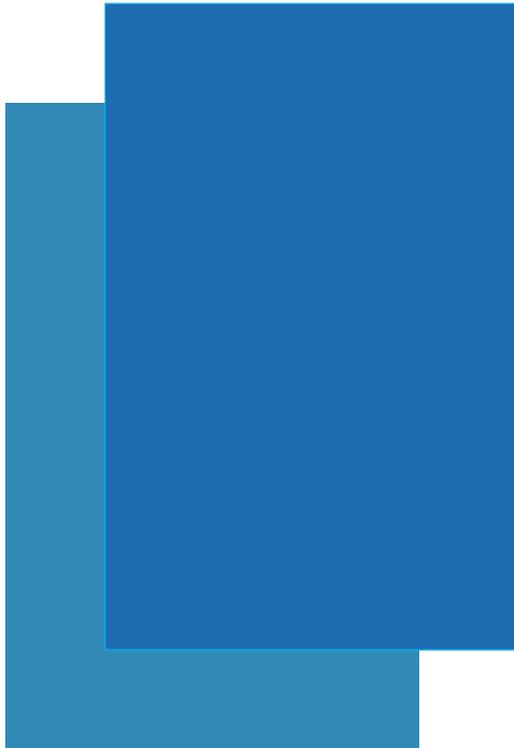
Public Hearing - After conducting a public hearing, the Chesaning entities approved the plan.

**Task Five: Analysis.** Taking data collected in tasks one through four, relevant information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of Chesaning Village, Township, and school staff, the desire of the residents, and potential funding sources. The formulation of the Plan is a cyclical process, and builds upon each iteration as well as with information in the area from other documents.

**Task Six: Goals and Objectives.** From the previous tasks, goals and objectives were created by the Committee as a measure to guide ideals and how to focus future development. For the Plan, the goals and objectives were reviewed from previous master plans and other city documents. The goals are meant to be broad with the objectives narrower and obtainable items that will help reach the goals.

**Task Seven: Action Plan.** Considering the analysis, goals and objectives, and public input results, a five-year plan was created. The Plan provides the area with a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources. The Five Year Capital Improvement List can be found in Chapter 6

**Task Eight: Plan Completion and Adoption.** The Public Review Period lasted for the 30 day time period, after which the three entities all approved the plan on May 3rd, 5th, and 9th.



# Chesaning Parks and Recreation

# 06

Action Plan

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# Action Plan

The Action Plan outlines the direction that the Chesaning community would like to take over the next five years in order to maintain and improve recreation opportunities within the community. As was described in the Basis for Action section, a community must base recreation improvement and service decisions on recreational trends, national standards, existing facilities, community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings. Statements of parks and recreation-specific goals and recommended objectives will then guide the formulation and implementation of the Recreation Master Plan. These statements of goals and guidelines are expressions of agreement on the Plan, as established by the Parks and Recreation Commission and as adopted by the Village, Township and School Board.

## Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives statements were developed to assist in providing direction to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Village, Township and School Board. Goals are statements that describe how the Commission views its own future. They are the long-term ideal or end product that is desired. Goals should meet the following guidelines:

- Provide guidance, but not be too detailed;
- Be realistic and achievable; and,
- Inspire people to action.

Statements of specific goals and recommended objectives are intended to guide the formulation and implementation of the Recreation Master Plan. Objective statements below each goal have been established to assist in implementing the overarching goal. The objectives are intended to be as significant as the capital improvements schedule and serve to provide further guidance and direction to the Commission and community over the next five years. It is envisioned that these objectives will be reviewed on a regular basis and be utilized as a tool for decision making.

On the following page, goals and objectives were developed by discussing new goals and issues the community is facing, as well as input from the public workshop. They are listed in no particular order of importance or priority

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1. Non-Motorized Connections Goal - Improve and enhance non-motorized transportation.

1. Provide accessible connections between Chesaning parks, school properties, and downtown.
2. Utilize rail and river corridors to provide non- motorized connections into the regional non- motorized system in St. Charles and Owosso.
3. Increase access to the Shiawassee River to include the installation of kayak/ canoe launches along the River in coordination with the larger Shiawassee River Blueway project.

2. Partnerships and Programs Goal - Volunteerism and partnerships are a long-standing tradition in Chesaning. Continue to foster relationships, seek partnerships, and encourage volunteerism to assist in the provision of high-quality parks and recreation opportunities

1. Work collaboratively with the Chamber of Commerce and non-profit organizations to increase the number and type of activities and events in our community.
  2. Continue close collaboration with the schools to maximize use of properties, programs, and resources in order to offer various parks and recreation opportunities to area residents.
  3. Work collaboratively with the Friends of the Shiawassee River and the Shiawassee Clean-Up Action Committee to improve the condition of the Shiawassee River that borders Showboat and Cole Parks.
- 

### 3. Facilities and Land Acquisition Goal - Provide Chesaning area residents with quality parks and recreation facilities and diverse opportunities.

1. Continue to make improvements to the park properties in order to provide additional recreation opportunities and provide up-to-date, safe, efficient and aesthetically pleasing parks.
2. Enhance camping facilities and amenities at Showboat Park.
3. Increase activities available to the youth in Chesaning particularly for middle and high school ages.
4. Upgrade play equipment and pavilions at Chesaning parks.
5. Increase the quantity and quality of soccer fields in the community.
6. Continue to work to improve ADA accessibility at all parks.
7. Develop water sport opportunities along the Shiawassee River.
8. Be aware of real estate that may become available for use and/or expansion of parks and recreation areas, particularly properties that will/are:
  - Increase access to the Shiawassee River
  - Provide for non-motorized connectivity
  - Protect natural resources
  - Adjacent to existing parks and recreation facilities
  - Assist in providing facilities and opportunities that are currently lacking in the community

### 4. Recreational Programming Goal - Create and promote opportunities to enhance the physical, social and emotional health of the community.

1. Identify opportunities for activities and events in the community that engage youth, and adults.
2. Partner with the schools to develop programming.

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5. Protection and Enhancement of Natural Resources Goal - Create and promote opportunities that improve the quality and biodiversity of the community's natural resources.

1. Identify opportunities to promote biodiversity.
2. Provide educational and programming events for river cleanup awareness and projects.
3. Partner with the schools and local scout organizations, and community based clubs for river cleanup opportunities and programs.
4. Maintain riverbank maintenance including refuse and unwanted plant species.
5. Maintain the quality of the waterways.



## Capital Improvement Schedule

Potential capital improvements for this Recreation Master Plan have been established not only to provide a guide and foundation for decision makers, but also to enable the Parks and Recreation Commission, Village, Township and School Board to apply for grant funding for proposed projects. The capital improvements schedule is not a fixed element and is not all inclusive or exclusive. The schedule reflects the results of the Parks and Recreation Commission input and input from the public workshop and public hearing.

It is very likely that the schedule and plan will be amended at some point during its life due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, community opinion, and/or available funding. The schedule should be considered in close conjunction with the goals and objectives of the plan.

Five - Year Capital Improvement Plan		
Location/Organization	Capital Improvement	Estimated Cost
<b>Year One - 2022</b>		
<b>Parks</b>	Install security cameras at Showboat, Cole and Airport Park.	<b>\$17,000</b>
<b>Parshallburgh Park</b>	Undergo a master planning process for development	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Showboat Park</b>	Undergo a master planning process for the redevelopment of outdoor amphitheater	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Parks</b>	Write a grant for phragmite control for Birding and Nature Trail Park	<b>In-house</b>
<b>Parks</b>	Provide reliable Wi-Fi at the campground	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Parks</b>	Work with County to continue the plan and development of the Saginaw Rail Trail	<b>In-house</b>
<b>Year One Total -</b>		<b>\$55,000</b>

Five - Year Capital Improvement Plan		
Location/Organization	Capital Improvement	Estimated Cost
<b>Year Two - 2023</b>		
Parks	Install pickleball courts at Line Street Park	\$27,000
Parks	Conduct phragmite control for Birding and Nature Trail Park	\$7,000
Parshallburgh Park	Engineering design plans for Park Development Phase	\$21,000
Parshallburgh Park	Write grants for the development of Phase II	\$5,000
Showboat Park	Write grants for the redevelopment of outdoor amphitheater	In-house
Parks	Work with County to continue the plan and development of the Saginaw Rail Trail	In-house
<b>Year One Total -</b>		<b>\$60,000</b>

Five - Year Capital Improvement Plan		
Location/Organization	Capital Improvement	Estimated Cost
<b>Year Three - 2024</b>		
Showboat Park	Engineering design plans for outdoor amphitheater redevelopment	\$30,000
Parks	Install dock at Birding and Nature Trail Park	Community Project/ \$5,000
Parks	Master plan for campground improvements and growth	In-house
Parks	Work with County to continue the plan and development of the Saginaw Rail Trail	In-house
Showboat Park	Install a kayak/canoe launch	\$15,000
<b>Year Three Total -</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

Five - Year Capital Improvement Plan		
Location/Organization	Capital Improvement	Estimated Cost
<b>Year Four - 2025</b>		
Showboat Park	Construction Showboat Park outdoor amphitheater redevelopment	\$300,000
Parks	Improve trails at Birding and Nature Trail Park	Community Project
Parks	Develop a Capital Improvement Plan for Community Pool	\$5,000
Parks	Seek grants for pool improvements	In-house
Showboat Park	Write grants based on master plan for campground improvements and growth	\$5,000
Parks	Work with County to continue the plan and development of the Saginaw Rail Trail	In-house
<b>Year Four Total -</b>		<b>\$310,000</b>

Five - Year Capital Improvement Plan		
Location/Organization	Capital Improvement	Estimated Cost
<b>Year Five - 2026</b>		
Showboat Park	Redevelopment of campground	\$360,000
Parks	Work with County to continue the plan and development of the Saginaw Rail Trail	In-house
<b>Year Five Total -</b>		<b>\$360,000</b>



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# Appendix A

Public Involvement

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