

BYRON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY CENTER

**BYRON TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN 2023**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

Introduction

Plan Purpose
Plan Scope

2

Community Description

Social Characteristics
Physical Characteristics
Zoning Maps

3

Administrative Structure

Organization Structure
Parks and Recreation Budget
Recreation Programming
Personnel Descriptions

4

Recreation Inventory

Park Facilities and ADA Assessment
School Facilities
Commercial Facilities
Existing Recreational Facilities Matrix and Service Map
DNR Recreation Grant History

5

Planning and Public Input Process

Recreation Planning
Planning Process and Development

6

Recreation Needs & Deficiencies

Recreation Standards for Recreational Acreage and Facilities
Recreation Standards for Deficiencies



7

Goals and Objectives

8

Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule


9

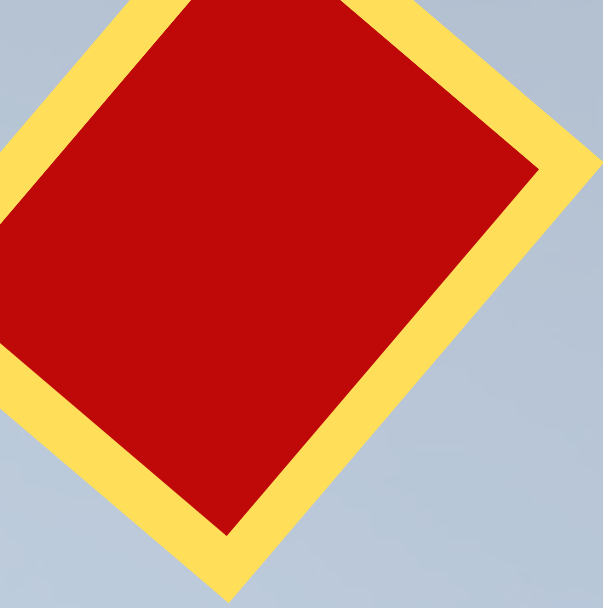
Local Adoption & Certification

Recreation Plan Certification Checklist
Public Workshop Summary
Advertisement for Public Review
Township Board Resolution

Appendices

Community Parks and Recreation Survey





INTRODUCTION

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

PLAN PURPOSE

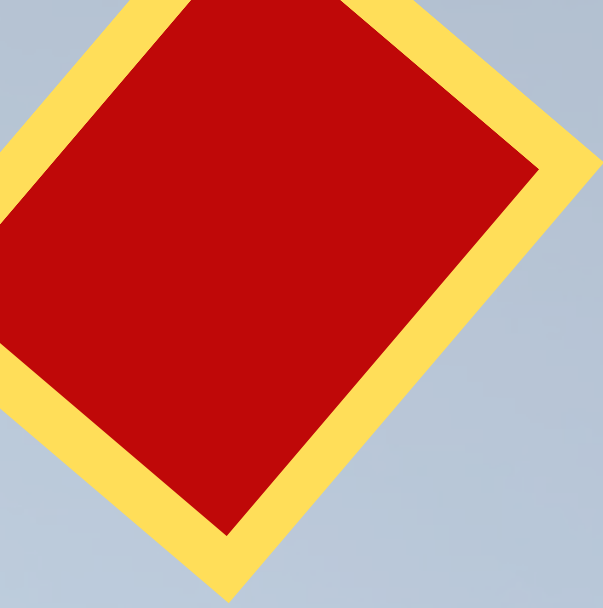
The 2023 Byron Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to help the current and future residents by putting focus on current parks and recreation assets while also identifying deficiencies and providing a blueprint for future recreation plans. A quality plan is representative of what the people want and need. Many opportunities for public input and suggestions were compiled to complete this plan. This document provides the framework for a guide to future improvements and implementation for recreational programming, park planning, land acquisition and facility additions and enhancements. This plan will replace the previous Byron Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2013-2018. The Byron Township Parks and Recreation Director took the lead in this planning process, with guidance from the Byron Township Parks and Recreation Commission and the Township's engineering consultant, VK Civil.

This plan has been developed to understand the needs of residents, document the goals of the community and meet the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements to qualify for State and Federal funding assistance.

PLAN SCOPE

The scope of this plan includes current recreation facilities, programs and existing parks as well as undeveloped open space, trails, non-motorized transportation, facilities additions and program expansion. The area of the plan is essentially limited to Township boundaries but consideration is made for neighboring municipalities and regional facilities that contribute to usage patterns. Byron Township is continuing to grow rapidly and this plan accounts for the community's growth impact on recreation.

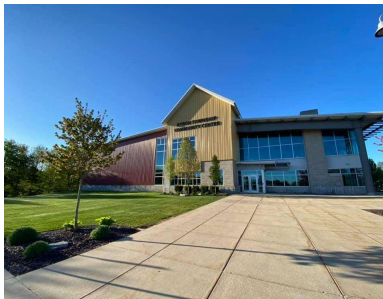
The Capital Improvements Schedule within this plan covers the next five years and beyond. Byron Township officials intend to use this plan to guide their work on all future recreation and park projects.



BYRON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY CENTER

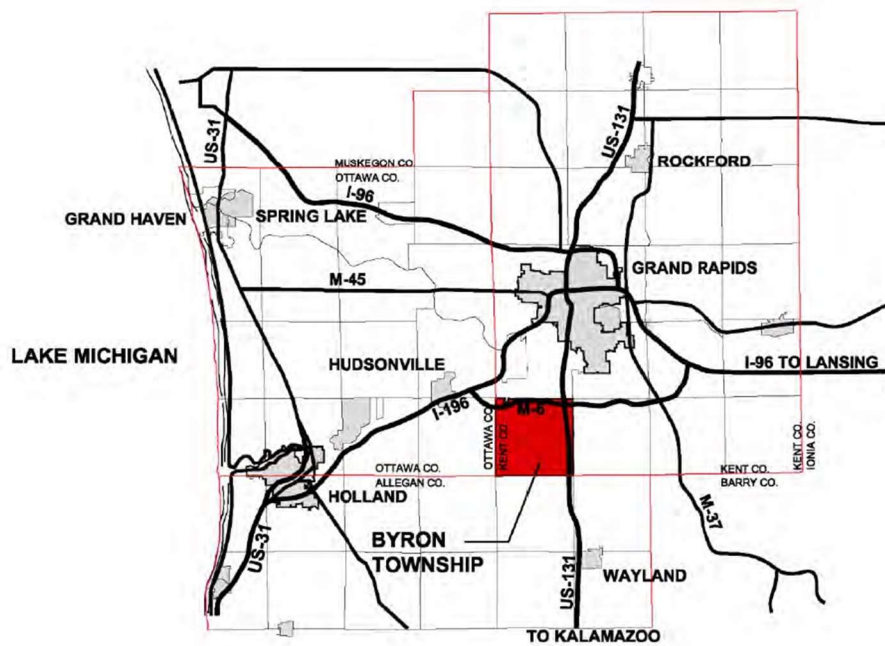
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023



SECTION 2: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Byron Township is located in the southwest corner of Kent County, south of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The approximate 36 square miles of the Township includes agricultural land, suburban neighborhoods as well as commercial and industrial land. The Township is bounded by the City of Wyoming to the North, Gaines Township to the East, Allegan County's Dorr Township to the South and Ottawa County's Jamestown Township to the West.



LOCATION MAP



SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

HISTORY

Byron Township was incorporated in 1836, when the first town meeting was held. The highest number of votes cast was 20 at that first meeting. Twelve years later the State legislature created Byron Township in 1848 and by 1868 the number of total votes grew to 336.

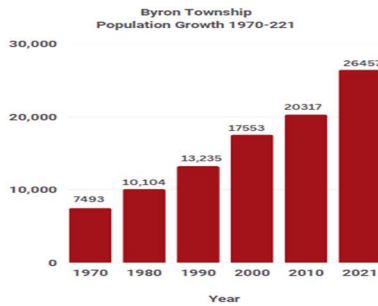
The Township originally grew slowly with woodlands being cleared to provide agricultural land. In 1870 the population was 1,328 people but the area was quickly becoming one of the foremost agricultural townships in Kent County. With a varied soil, adapted to nearly all of the different branches of farming, Byron Township farms soon stood among the best. Two business districts eventually started forming as the population grew. One business district formed in the northeast corner of the Township called Cutlerville and one business district in the center of the Township called Byron Center. The Township was crossed by two railroads, the northern branch of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R. R. and the Grand Rapids and Indiana R. R. The Lake Shore R. R. ran north and south through the center of the Township and had two stations on its line located at Byron Center and North Byron. The Grand Rapids and Indiana R. R. also ran north and south through the eastern part of the Township, and had one station near the south part of the Township in a place called Corinth.

POPULATION

Byron Township continued to see significant population growth. From 2010 to 2021, the Township saw a 30% population increase. The 2021 US Census Report depicts Byron Township with a population of 26,457.

Population density is measured by people per square mile; Byron Township records 773 which measures in as the smallest population density in the metro area. This is significant for future planning because there is much room for population growth.

The median age of the population as estimated in 2021 is 37.6 years. Residents under the age of 20 make up the highest proportion of that at 31.5%. Families make up 76% of the population and average family size is 3.4 people. The population distribution is indicative of a stable family population and suggests a high need for recreational facilities and programs. The Township population is about 84% white with 11% of the population black or African American and Hispanic or Latino.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

TOPOGRAPHY

The grade of Byron Township varies from gently rolling hills to predominately level areas. Average elevation in the Township is 728 feet (222 meters) and the highest point is 941 feet (287 meters) and the lowest point is 649 feet (198 meters).

WATER RESOURCES

There are no significant natural lakes located in the Township, but several creeks do flow through the area. Buck Creek flows through the east side of the Township, Rush Creek and its tributaries flow to the northwest, Black Creek flows to the southwest, and tributaries of the Rabbit River flow in the south-central part of the Township making up the four main drainage basins of the Township. There are a handful of small lakes scattered throughout the Township (including several man-made lakes associated with residential development) and wetlands make up 5.5% of the land area. One of these wetland areas is a 78 acre parcel owned by MDOT and the Township is working to acquire this parcel of land to develop into a walking path and natural viewing area for a passive recreation opportunity. There is also a wetland area within the boundary of Bicentennial Park about 11 acres in size and a 2.5 acre pond at Whistlestop Park.

SOILS

The soils survey of Kent County of 1986 provides soil classifications that are grouped into various associations. Byron Township possesses primarily loamy soil. Loamy soil is of sandy composition, with excessive to well drainage and gently rolling in elevation.

In the South-Central area the soil turns to predominately muck soil, a poorly drained and mostly not suitable for development. Muck is ideal for specialty farming for crops such as celery, onions, carrots, lettuce, potatoes, etc.

Complex soils can be found in the urban and more built-up areas of the Township. Complex soils are sandy and sandy loam.

Many of the areas still in agriculture production are characterized as loam or loamy-sand soils which with proper management make them productive for agriculture uses.

LAND COVER

The Township Master Plan reports that the most significant land use change since 1978 to present is the loss of agricultural lands, which is directly proportional to the increase of urban and built up land for commercial/industrial use.

TRANSPORTATION

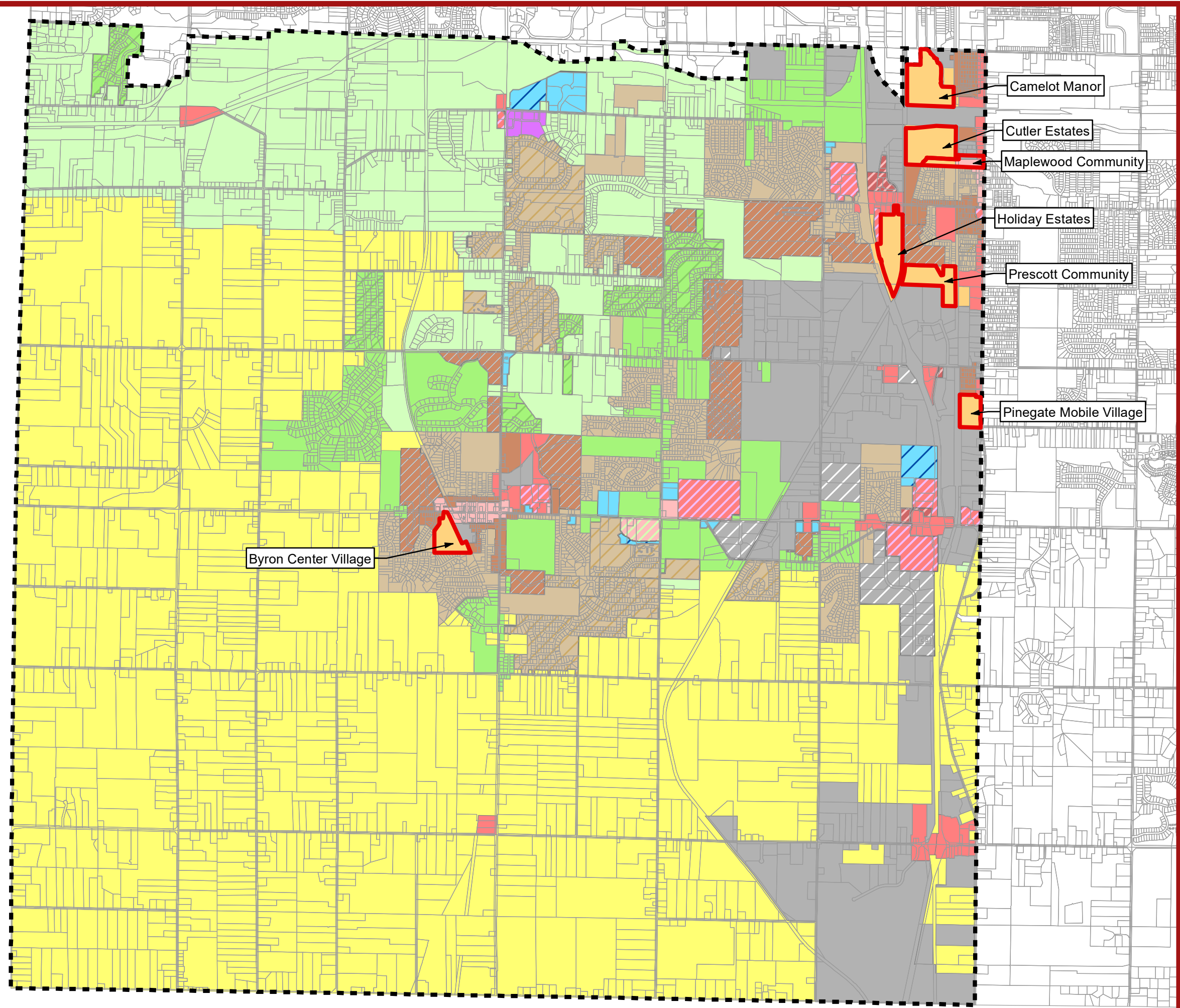
Byron Township has excellent transportation connectors with U.S. 131 running north-south connecting the Township to Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo easily. The M-6 expressway runs through the north end of the Township and opened up connections to east to Lansing and west to Holland and the lakeshore.

Kent Trails, owned and managed by Kent County, is a non-motorized trail following the route of an abandoned railroad from 84th Street to the northern boundary of the Township and beyond through Millennium Park, Johnson Park, and John Ball Zoo. Kent Trails also has a connector from Kent County's Douglas Walker Park located in Byron Township to 76th Street that can be taken to the main trail. Kent Trails also links to trail networks located in Jamestown Township and further west. The Fred Meijer M-6 Trail runs east from Kent Trails parallel to M-6 linking up with 68th Street and Cutler Park continuing into Gaines Township.

Sidewalks are generally required in new developments but many primary roads do not yet have sidewalks. Improved pedestrian access and connections via an improved sidewalk network should link schools, parks, and other points of interest in the Township.

Zoning

Byron Township Kent County, Michigan



- B-1 - Central Business
- B-2 - General Business
- D-1 - Industrial
- MFR - Multi-Family Residential
- MHC - Manufactured Housing Community
- O-S - Office Services
- R-A - Rural Agricultural
- R-R - Rural Residential
- R-S - Suburban Residential
- R-U - Urban Residential
- B-1 - PUD Central Business PUD
- B-2 PUD - General Business PUD
- B-3 PUD - Interchange Business PUD
- D-1 PUD - Industrial PUD
- M-U PUD - Mixed Use PUD
- MFR-PUD - Multi-Family Residential PUD
- O-S PUD - Office Services PUD
- R-R PUD - Rural Residential PUD
- R-S PUD - Suburban Residential PUD
- R-U PUD - Urban Residential PUD



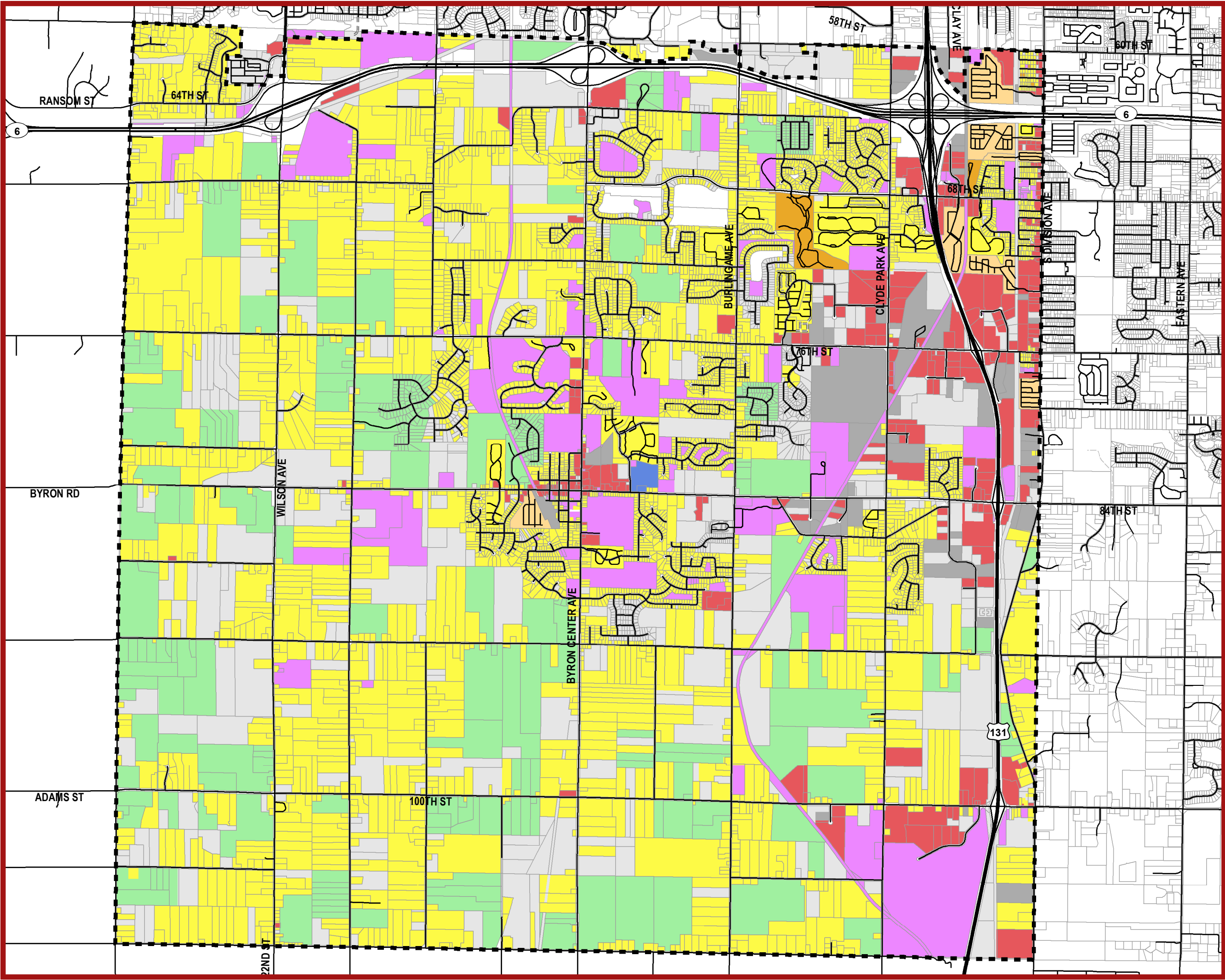
1 inch = 3,200 feet

Byron Township
RECREATION



Existing Land Use

Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan



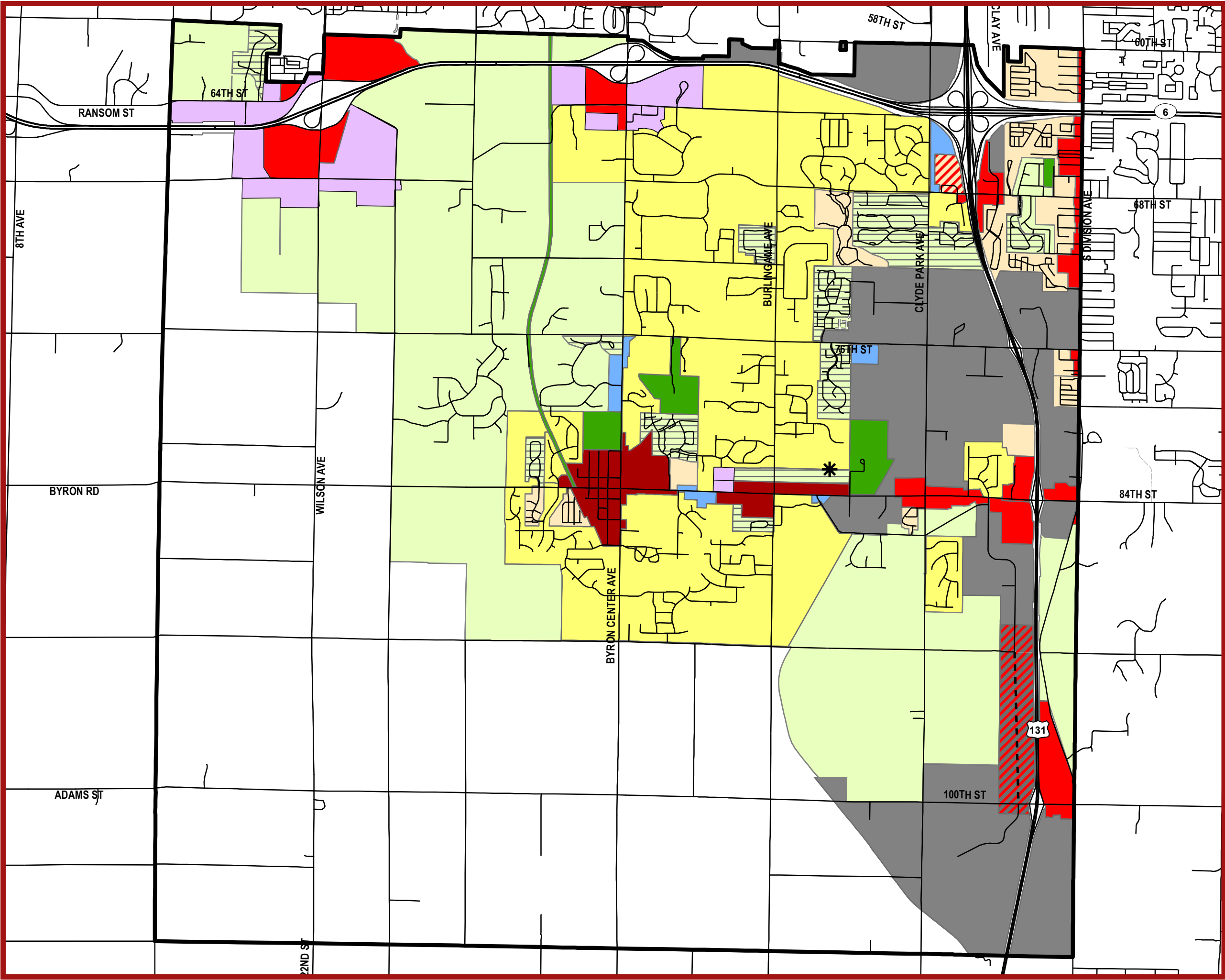
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mobile Home Park
- Multi-Family Residential
- Office
- Public/Quasi-public
- Residential
- Vacant



1 inch = 3,200 feet

Byron Township
RECREATION





Future Land Use

Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan

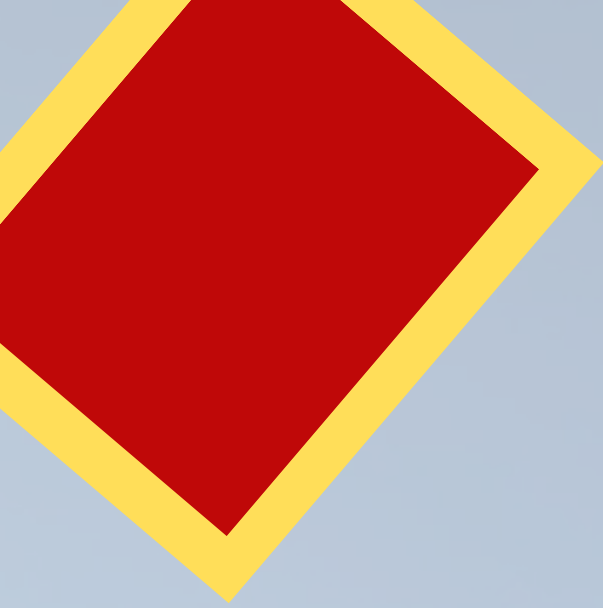
- Agricultural and Rural Residential
- Commercial
- Commercial or Industrial and Research
- Commercial or Multi-Family Residential
- Industrial and Research
- Mixed Use
- Mixed and Attached Single-Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Offices and Services
- Public
- Single-Family Residential
- Urban Residential
- Village Commercial
- Alternative Development Area
- Future Roads



1 inch = 3,200 feet

Byron Township
RECREATION





ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023



SECTION 3: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Byron Township is governed by the Township Board. The Board is composed of: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four Trustees. These are all elected positions on a four year cycle. The Supervisor serves as the Board Chairman and the Clerk serves as the Recording Secretary. All other officials are voting members of the Board. The Township Board is responsible for approving the budget, adopting resolutions and ordinances and voting on other matters brought to their attention.

In 1971, the Township Board created the Recreation Commission to make recommendations to the Township Board regarding recreation facilities, programming, recreation planning and budgets. The Michigan Public Act 271 of 1921 enabled the creation of a recreation commission. The Recreation Commission has seven voting members appointed by the Township Board, including one Township Board member. The Parks and Recreation Director and Recreation Programmers serve as ex-officio members of the Commission.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Byron Township Parks and Recreation Department has five full-time employees; a Recreation Director, a Recreational Programmer, a Building Supervisor/Event Coordinator, an Office Manager and a Parks Supervisor. The full-time staff manage a number of part-time and contractual staff including ten community center staff, approximately 25 umpires/referees, 10 scorekeepers, 12 program instructors, 25 park seasonal staff. Volunteers make up the balance of the work. The Township partners with Byron Center High School National Honor Society for volunteers as well as providing opportunities for members of the community to help out. For example, Byron Township Little League has a volunteer board providing oversight while working closely with the Parks and Recreation Director to implement projects, plan and schedule their season. Organizational charts for Byron Township and the Parks and Recreation Department are provided in the following pages.

BUDGET

The primary source of funding for parks and recreation is through the General Fund of the Township. The Township fiscal year runs April 1 through March 31 each year. For the fiscal year '22-'23, the Parks Budget was \$477,000, the Recreation Budget was \$444,000, and the Community Center Budget was \$275,000. The projected revenue was \$465,381 with the remaining balance being offset by the Township General Fund.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Recreation Department offers a variety of youth, adult, older adult and family programming. There are youth and adult sport leagues, fitness classes, dance, art and music. Offerings for seniors include luncheons, bingo, reverse mentoring, and lunch and learn seminars. Children of all ages enjoy camps, clinics, summer recreation and toddler playtime. The majority of the programs are held at the Township's Community Center or at one of the three Township parks. Programs are offered to residents and also to non-residents for a slightly higher fee. A full list of programs is provided.

The Recreation Department also holds a number of special events over the course of the year including: Comic Con, Easter Egg Hunt, Women's Expo, Health Expo, Trunk or Treat and a Candy Cane Hunt which attract thousands of people to our venues.

The Parks and Recreation Department also provides facilities for several youth organizations that include Byron Center AYSO, AYSO United, Byron Township Little League, West Michigan Junior Football League and Michigan Youth Lacrosse Association.

The Byron Center Public Schools (BCPS) athletic complexes are generally limited to school use only; however the Township partners with BCPS to use school facilities for recreation programming such as rocket football, lacrosse and tennis. The partnership between Byron Rec and the Schools is an ever-growing relationship as amenities are added at all locations.

PERSONNEL DESCRIPTIONS

Full-Time Personnel:

Parks and Recreation Director - Responsible for the overall operation of the department including personnel, budgets, grants, overseeing all programming and day-to-day Community Center operations, purchasing, acting as main liaison with outside agencies (schools, community groups, etc.). Duties also include scheduling of all park activities and overseeing supervision of youth sports leagues softball/baseball tournaments and working closing with the Byron Township Little League.

Parks Supervisor - Responsible for oversight of all park facilities, cemeteries and amenities, landscape and maintenance upkeep, snow removal for all Township facilities, season projects, and supervising all park seasonal staff.

Recreation Programmer - Responsible for older adult enrichment programming, youth educational programming, community events and outreach. Duties include: insurance billing for Community Center membership, coordinating volunteer program with local schools for events, planning and managing monthly luncheons, bingo, and bus trips. Planning large community events including: Candy Cane Hunt, Comic Con, Easter Egg Hunt, Health Expo, and Trunk or Treat. Also handles publication of senior monthly newsletter.

Building Supervisor/Event Coordinator - Responsible for oversight of all building schedules maintenance, and upkeep of the fitness floor. Manages all building rentals and special events. Also runs the adult softball and volleyball league.

Office Manager: Responsible for daily operations of the Community Center office and front desk. Handles all media, brochures, and advertisements. Oversees front desk staff.

Part-Time Personnel:

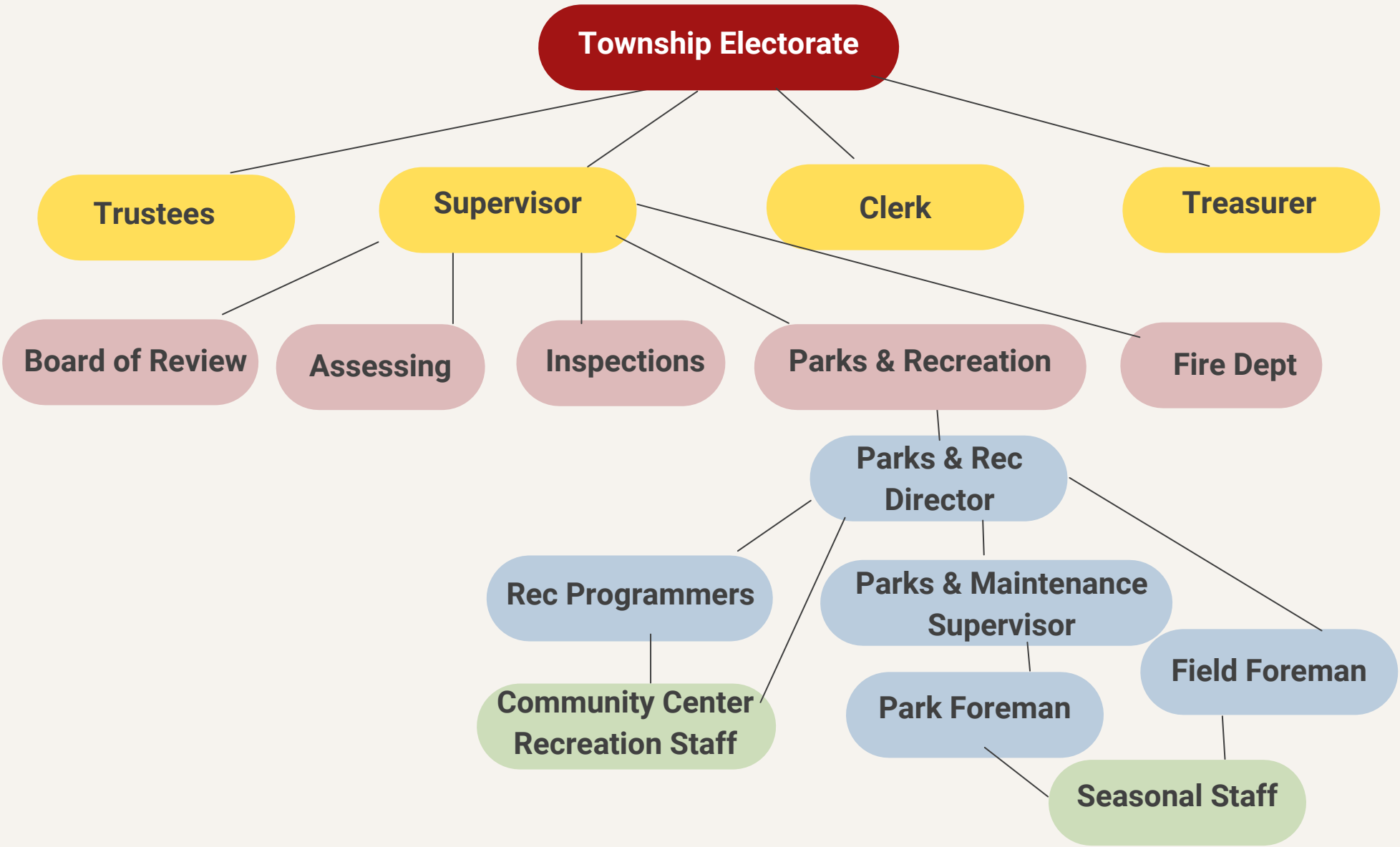
Community Center Front Desk - Provide customer service to all members and guests to the community center, answer phones, process registrations and memberships, cash register control, and assist the Director, Programmer and Building Supervisor with various tasks.

Seasonal Parks Employees - Reports to the Parks Supervisor for daily jobs which include lawn care, general upkeep of grounds, equipment installation, and any other park or cemetery duties.

Field Foreman - Responsible for upkeep and set-up of all Township ballfields. Works closely with the Parks and Recreation Director and the Little League for scheduling. Also supervises the ballfield crew.

Ball Field Crew - Duties include preparing fields, cleaning bathrooms, trash pick-up and removal, and assisting pavilion rentals with any needs.

Byron Township

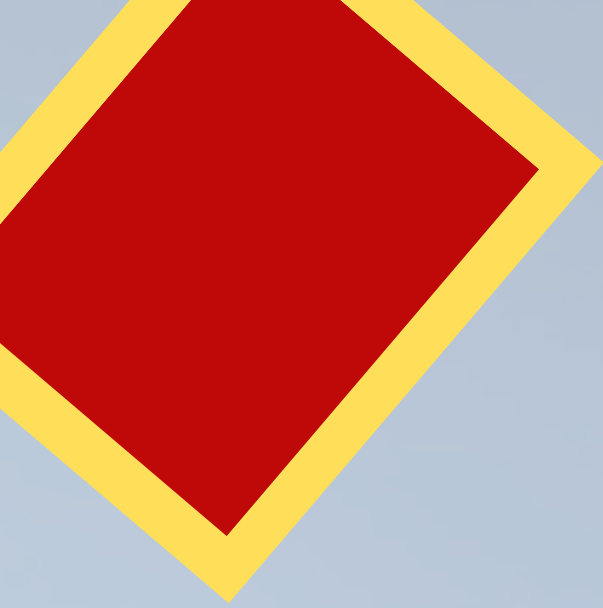


02/27/2023

BUDGET REPORT FOR BYRON TOWNSHIP
 Calculations as of 03/31/2023

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2022-23 ACTIVITY THRU 03/31/23	2022-23 RECOMMENDED BUDGET	2022-23 AMENDED BUDGET	2023-24 REQUESTED BUDGET
ESTIMATED REVENUES					
Dept 000					
208-000-506.000	FEDERAL GRANTS - CARES ACT (COVID)				
208-000-642.000	SALES, BOOKS, COPIES	179			
208-000-651.001	SENIOR CITIZENS	5,492	8,000	8,000	8,000
208-000-651.002	SENIOR MEALS	4,144	10,000	10,000	10,000
208-000-651.003	SENIOR TRIPS	19,995	25,000	25,000	20,000
208-000-651.004	SUMMER RECREATION FEES.	1,352	2,500	2,500	2,000
208-000-651.005	SOFTBALL	67,452	110,000	110,000	110,000
208-000-651.006	VOLLEYBALL	12,357	13,500	13,500	13,500
208-000-651.007	TENNIS	1,910			0
208-000-651.008	LACROSSE	10,093	37,000	37,000	37,000
208-000-651.009	ADULT PROGRAMS	970			0
208-000-651.010	PERSONAL TRAINING	5,565	3,000	3,000	5,000
208-000-651.011	FITNESS	14,647	20,000	20,000	20,000
208-000-651.012	FOOTBALL	11,748	11,000	11,000	11,000
208-000-651.013	YOUTH PROGRAMS	24,384	22,000	22,000	22,000
208-000-651.014	SPECIAL EVENTS	8,211	9,000	9,000	9,000
208-000-651.017	COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBERSHIPS	72,046	75,000	75,000	75,000
208-000-651.018	TODDLER RECREATION	2,153	2,600	2,600	2,600
208-000-651.019	CC MEDICARE MEMBERSHIP FEE	41,383	25,000	25,000	40,000
208-000-665.000	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS (P&R)	1,676			0
208-000-667.000	INTEREST ALLOCATED	375	200	200	200
208-000-667.200	PARK RENTALS	32,725	30,000	30,000	35,000
208-000-667.300	COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL	33,118	25,000	25,000	35,000
208-000-676.000	MISCELLANEOUS	2,105			0
208-000-693.000	SALE OF EQUIPMENT	12,513	10,000	10,000	10,000
208-000-697.001	T-MOBILE	25,460	26,581	26,581	26,000
208-000-699.101	TRANSFER FROM GENERAL	550,000	550,000	550,000	800,000
Totals for dept 000 -		962,053	1,015,381	1,015,381	1,291,300
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		962,053	1,015,381	1,015,381	1,291,300

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2022-23 ACTIVITY THRU 03/31/23	2022-23 RECOMMENDED BUDGET	2022-23 AMENDED BUDGET	2023-24 REQUESTED BUDGET
Dept 751 - PARKS					
208-751-703.000	SALARIES - GROUNDS	133,717	165,000	165,000	150,000
208-751-703.001	SALARIES - FIELDS				75,000
208-751-711.000	SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE	10,219	15,000	15,000	21,000
208-751-713.000	PENSION				8,000
208-751-715.000	INSURANCE				25,000
208-751-752.000	SUPPLIES	35,676	32,000	32,000	10,000
208-751-752.100	GROUNDS				15,000
208-751-752.200	FIELDS				15,000
208-751-801.000	CONTRACTED SERVICES	43,475		41,000	43,000
208-751-925.000	UTILITIES	23,220	35,000	35,000	30,000
208-751-934.000	MAINTENANCE	20,213	55,000	55,000	50,000
208-751-985.000	CAPITAL EXPENSES	239,274	175,000	175,000	20,000
208-751-986.000	CAPITAL >10K				20,000
Totals for dept 751 - PARKS		505,794	477,000	518,000	482,000
Dept 753 - RECREATION					
208-753-703.001	SALARIES	61,292	69,000	69,000	75,000
208-753-703.002	SEASONAL RECREATION EMPLOYEES	17,094	18,000	18,000	20,000
208-753-703.003	RECREATION PROGRAMMER SALARY	44,378	51,000	51,000	57,000
208-753-703.007	RECREATION COMMISSION	2,800	3,500	3,500	3,500
208-753-703.008	SUMMER RECREATION SALARIES	3,630	6,000	6,000	5,000
208-753-711.000	SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE	9,613	14,000	14,000	14,000
208-753-713.000	PENSION	11,072	17,000	17,000	15,000
208-753-715.000	INSURANCE	47,169	42,000	42,000	47,000
208-753-752.000	SUPPLIES	1,629	3,000	3,000	3,000
208-753-801.000	CONTRACTED SERVICES	11,675	13,000	13,000	13,000
208-753-801.100	PLANNING FEES	15,608			5,000
208-753-850.000	LEGAL NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS		10,000	10,000	0
208-753-860.000	TRAVEL & EXPENSES	74	2,000	2,000	2,000
208-753-932.000	ADULT SOFTBALL	70,972	65,000	65,000	65,000
208-753-933.000	SOFTBALL EVENTS	414		500	500
208-753-933.100	YOUTH EVENTS	2,751		3,000	3,000
208-753-933.200	SENIOR EVENTS	5,323		5,000	5,000
208-753-933.300	COMIC CON	200		1,000	1,000
208-753-933.400	WOMEN'S EXPO	836	21,000	900	1,000
208-753-934.001	LACROSSE	13,118	20,000	20,000	20,000
208-753-934.100	FOOTBALL	14,011	16,000	14,500	15,000
208-753-934.300	INSTRUCTORS	24,767			25,000
208-753-934.400	YOUTH PROGRAMS	13,226	20,000	20,000	20,000
208-753-934.500	RECREATION CREDIT CARD FEES	6,730	7,500	7,500	7,500
208-753-937.000	ADULT VOLLEYBALL	5,991	6,500	6,500	6,500
208-753-939.000	SUMMER RECREATION	802	500	850	850
208-753-955.000	SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS		2,000	2,000	2,000
208-753-957.000	DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	820	1,000	1,000	1,000
208-753-958.000	SENIOR CITIZENS	24,734	36,000	36,000	30,000
208-753-985.000	CAPITAL <10K				
Totals for dept 753 - RECREATION		410,729	444,000	432,250	462,850
Dept 754 - COMMUNITY CENTER					
208-754-703.000	SALARIES	118,001	120,000	120,000	150,000
208-754-711.000	SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE	9,003	9,000	9,000	13,500
208-754-713.000	PENSION	3,734		5,000	9,300
208-754-715.100	HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE	4,066	8,000	5,000	10,000
208-754-752.000	SUPPLIES	12,372	16,000	16,000	16,000
208-754-801.000	CONTRACTED SERVICES	33,102	28,000	28,000	35,000
208-754-925.000	UTILITIES	42,256	45,000	45,000	45,000
208-754-934.000	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	12,039	18,000	9,000	15,000
208-754-935.000	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	8,869		9,000	9,000
208-754-985.000	CAPITAL		25,000	25,000	25,000
Totals for dept 754 - COMMUNITY CENTER		243,442	275,000	271,000	327,800
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		1,159,965	1,196,000	1,221,250	1,272,650
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 208		(197,912)	(180,619)	(205,869)	18,650



BYRON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY CENTER

RECREATION INVENTORY

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023



SECTION 4: RECREATION INVENTORY

In order to create a clear and accurate determination of recreational needs for Byron Township, an analysis of existing facilities and programs was done. This analysis provides a detailed evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the current recreational opportunities within the Township. The inventory is based on site inspections and information provided by Township staff and consultants.

TOWNSHIP PARKS AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Byron Township owns and operates three Township Parks totaling 106 acres of recreational land; Bicentennial Park, Cutler Park and Whistlestop Park. In addition to these parks there are five public school sites that provide various facilities for township use. There is also one Kent County Park and two major trail systems cutting through the Township. Byron Township is acquiring from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) a 92-acre property in a conservation easement for the purpose of a natural park.

A neighborhood park is the basic unit of the park system and typically serves a residential area of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distance. A size of 5-10 acres is optimal for this type of park. The Township has just one neighborhood park, Cutler Park.

A community park serves a larger purpose than a neighborhood park. Community parks are designed to serve more than one neighborhood and they allow for large group activities and various recreational opportunities. These parks are usually between 30 and 50 acres in size and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to 3 miles in distance. The Township has two community parks, Bicentennial Park and Whistlestop Park.

An Accessibility Assessment of each site was done using the following ranking system:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

In order to evaluate accessibility, parks were reviewed by VK Civil, the Township's engineering consultant. They used checklists produced by the New England ADA Center. The detailed checklists and supporting data, including photos and descriptions, are available upon request to Byron Rec staff. The 92nd Street wetlands park was not evaluated because it remains un-improved. It will be developed for accessibility.

Bicentennial Park
8085 Byron Center Avenue
39 acres

Bicentennial Park is a 39-acre community park located adjacent to the Township Hall and the Library complex. The north section of the park has a large parking area, two baseball/softball fields, a concessions/restroom building and a skate park. The south section of the park holds two open air pavilions with picnic tables, a restroom building, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, twelve pickleball courts (installed April 2022), three shuffleboard courts, a playground, a walking path with life fitness stations, and a paved parking lot. The park also includes a large undeveloped wetland and wooded area which accounts for approximately 50% of the park area.

Accessibility Rating: 2

Paved paths connect the parking areas with the restrooms and picnic shelters as well as the majority of the park's features.

Accessibility Deficiencies

- Not all accessible parking spaces have identifying signs conforming to ADA requirements, nor are designated accessible aisles adjoined to accessible routes. No accessible spaces are identified as van accessible.
- Routes from the library parking area and the Township Hall to park activities and bathrooms to the west have running and cross slopes in excess of ADA limits.
- The entrance to the basketball courts has a running slope in excess of ADA limits.
- The accessible route to the shuffleboard courts has no passing space. There are no internal accessible routes within shuffleboard courts for players or spectators.
- The surface for internal routes to baseball spectator and player seating is a fine gravel which would likely not comply with ADA mobility requirements. Player seating for baseball has no accessible space for a wheelchair, unlikely as it may be to be used.
- There is no accessible route to the east entrance of the pickleball courts.
- The surface for internal routes within the playground is woodchip which would likely not comply with ADA mobility requirements. The playground also lacks sufficient ground level play components to comply with ADA requirements.
- The path from the west parking area to the pickleball courts and playground is unnecessarily a 'ramp' and can be flattened out for easier conveyance of a wheelchair or traverse by any individual.

Condition

Several current park facilities are outdated and in need of repair.

BICENTENNIAL PARK cont.



Cutler Park
6701 Cutler Park Dr
8 acres

Cutler Park is the oldest of the Township parks, located in a heavily populated residential area just east of US 131. Park facilities include one baseball/softball field, one full-size soccer field, a small play structure and picnic shelter on the southwest side, a large playground on the northside, restroom building, 5 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts and a walking track around the park perimeter. There is a paved parking lot onsite as well as a Consumer's Energy corridor that is available for overflow parking.

Accessibility Rating: 2

This is an older park with few connecting walkways. The paved walking path has improved accessibility but a few more paths are needed. The picnic shelter and restroom building are accessible from parking lots.

Accessibility Deficiencies

- Stripe and line barrier-free parking spaces.
- Provide barrier-free spectator areas.
- Provide barrier-free routes to the park from Cutler Park Ave, Buchanan Ave and the mobile home village on the north side.
- Not all accessible parking spaces have identifying signs conforming to ADA requirements, nor provided with designated accessible aisles adjoining to accessible routes to park activities. Placement of some accessible parking spaces appears to be random. No accessible spaces are identified as van accessible.
- The surface for internal routes within the playground is woodchip, which would likely not comply with ADA mobility requirements. The north playground woodchip surface has a plastic border/threshold which exceeds ADA threshold limits. The south playground has no ground-level play components.
- There is no space around the basketball courts for wheelchair accessible spectator seating which does not overlap internal accessible routes.
- There is no accessible route to spectator seating on the west side of the baseball diamond, nor to player seating.
- Not all of the surrounding communities have barrier-free routes to the park.

Condition:

This park is due for several updates. There is also unlimited potential for this park based on location and space to allow more recreational activities.

CUTLER PARK cont.



Whistlestop Park

2120 76th St

59 acres

Whistlestop Park is the newest and largest recreation facility located in the central area of the Township. The 59-acre park has two vehicle entrances, one on Byron Center Ave and the primary entrance on 76th St. There are paved paths connecting the park to two separate condo developments to the south and west. An additional side path along the 76th Street entrance leads to a bike route connecting to regional trails.

Whistlestop Park is the primary location for adult and youth league and recreational programming. There are four youth baseball/softball fields, four adult softball fields, two football fields, three various sized soccer fields, two lacrosse fields, an archery area and a dog park. There are two restroom concessions buildings, one at each ballfield quad and a third restroom building in the center of the park near a large playground area and large open air picnic pavilion. There is a designated spot for the community garden, a natural trail through a small wooded area, as well as a 2.5-acre pond with two fishing decks. A paved walking path circles the pond and connects to the other paths throughout the park.

The Byron Township Community Center is located within Whistlestop Park. The Historical Society also has a refurbished train depot building in the north end of the Park that is used for various community events.

Accessibility Rating: 3

Several upgrades have been made to pathways and connections to many of the features. A paved path around the pond was redone in 2021.

Accessibility Deficiencies:

- Not all accessible parking spaces have identifying signs conforming to ADA requirements, nor are many designated accessible aisles adjoined to accessible routes. No accessible spaces are identified as van accessible. There is not an adequate quantity of accessible parking in the parking lot adjacent to the dog park.
- The surface for internal routes within the playground is woodchip which would likely not comply with ADA mobility requirements. The play complex for younger children has no ground-level play components.
- The surface for internal routes to baseball spectator and player seating is a fine gravel which would likely not comply with ADA mobility requirements. Player seating for baseball has no accessible space for a wheelchair, unlikely as it may be to be used.
- There is no accessible route to the soccer fields, football fields, garden plots and other less-developed amenities.
- The bottom landing of the ramp entrance to the dog park has a running slope exceeding the ADA limit. The transition from concrete to grass within the dog park exceeds ADA threshold limits. There is no internal accessible route within the dog park.
- The entrance to the north fishing dock has a running slope in excess of the ADA limit. The threshold from the concrete/asphalt approach to the wooden dock, for both the south and north docks, exceeds ADA threshold limits. On both docks, there is an insufficient amount of railing meeting ADA height requirements and insufficient clear space gaps within the railing for wheelchair accessible fishing.

- Not enough accessible shade structures.
- No accessible grills with hard surface access.

Condition:

This park was developed in 2000 and the facilities have been well maintained and are in good shape. The crushed stone surface at the ball fields is not the correct aggregate mix and does not provide a safe and accessible route. The playground also currently has no accessible pieces. The dog park is also not fully accessible up to the gate entrance of the play area.



92nd STREET WETLANDS PARK

1200 92nd Street

78 acres

This piece of 78 acres is vacant and currently under MDOT's control. The Township approached MDOT regarding a transfer or ownership several years ago. Since then the Township has been working closely with both MDOT and EGLE to create a management plan for the property to allow for a smooth transfer. A conservation easement and endowment to help with control of invasive species are points of focus.

The park plan would include a drive with a small parking area at the 92nd entrance. This will be a nature park and include walking paths, boardwalks, wild flowers, bird viewing, and natural vegetation. One of our hopes is this park could be a place for school groups to use for learning about nature.

Accessibility Rating: 1

This property is not a park yet so there is minimal accessibility. We will have to create it all.

Accessibility Planning:

- Provide crushed stone and boardwalks to allow public viewing opportunities of the plants and wildlife.
- Add signage.
- Add accessibility parking.
- Add a few bench seating areas for resting locations throughout the path system.



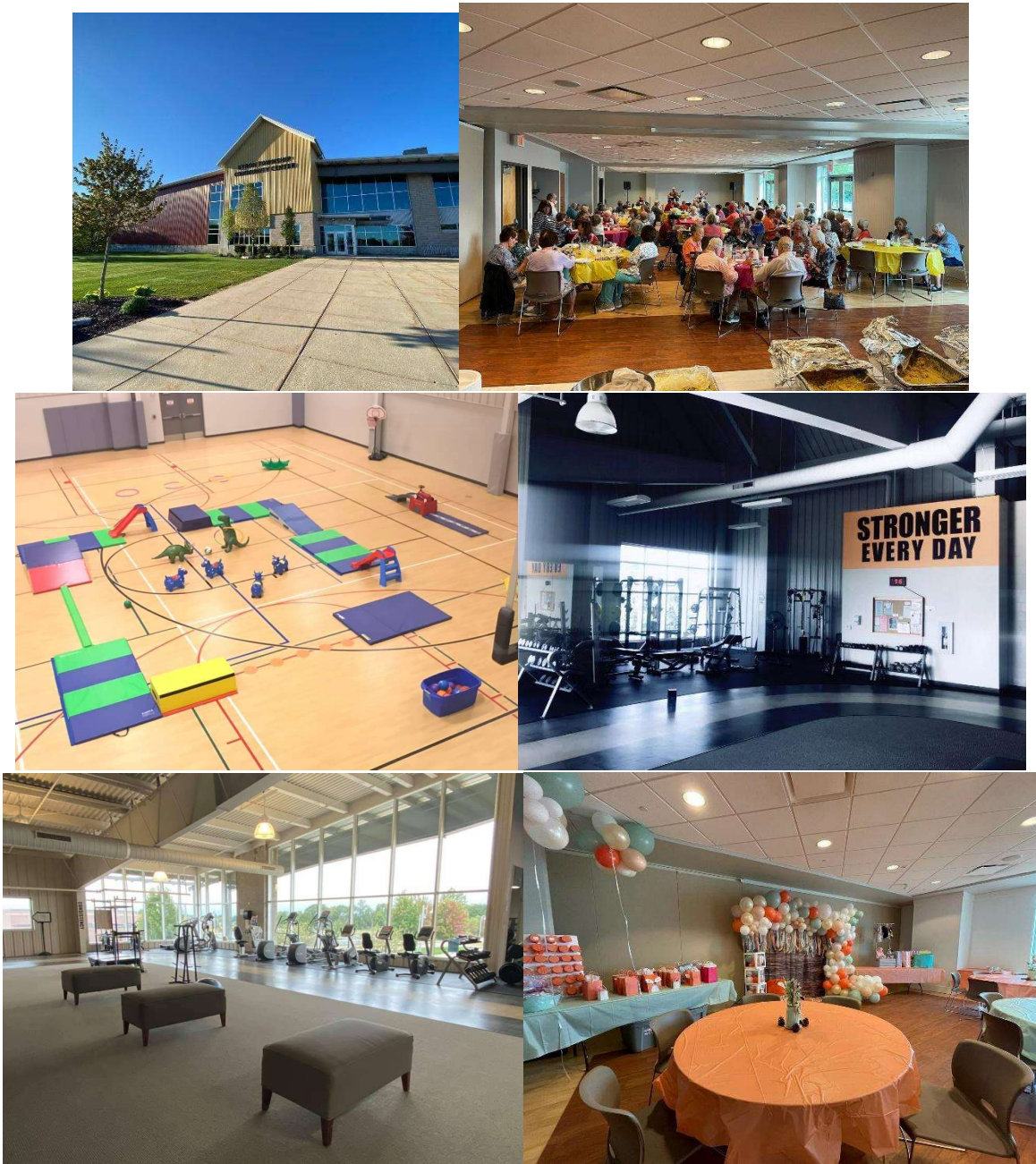
INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Community Center

The Byron Township Community Center is located in Whistlestop Park and was completed in 2009. The Center features a 9,600 square foot gymnasium, a large multi-purpose room, community library bookshelf, two lounge areas, a kitchen, a fitness area and a walking track on the second level. There is also a large multi-purpose room that can be divided into three separate rooms that is used for classes, rentals, and special events. The Parks and Recreation offices are located in the Community Center.

Accessibility Rating: 4

Condition: This building is 14 years old and was designed and kept current with ADA guidelines

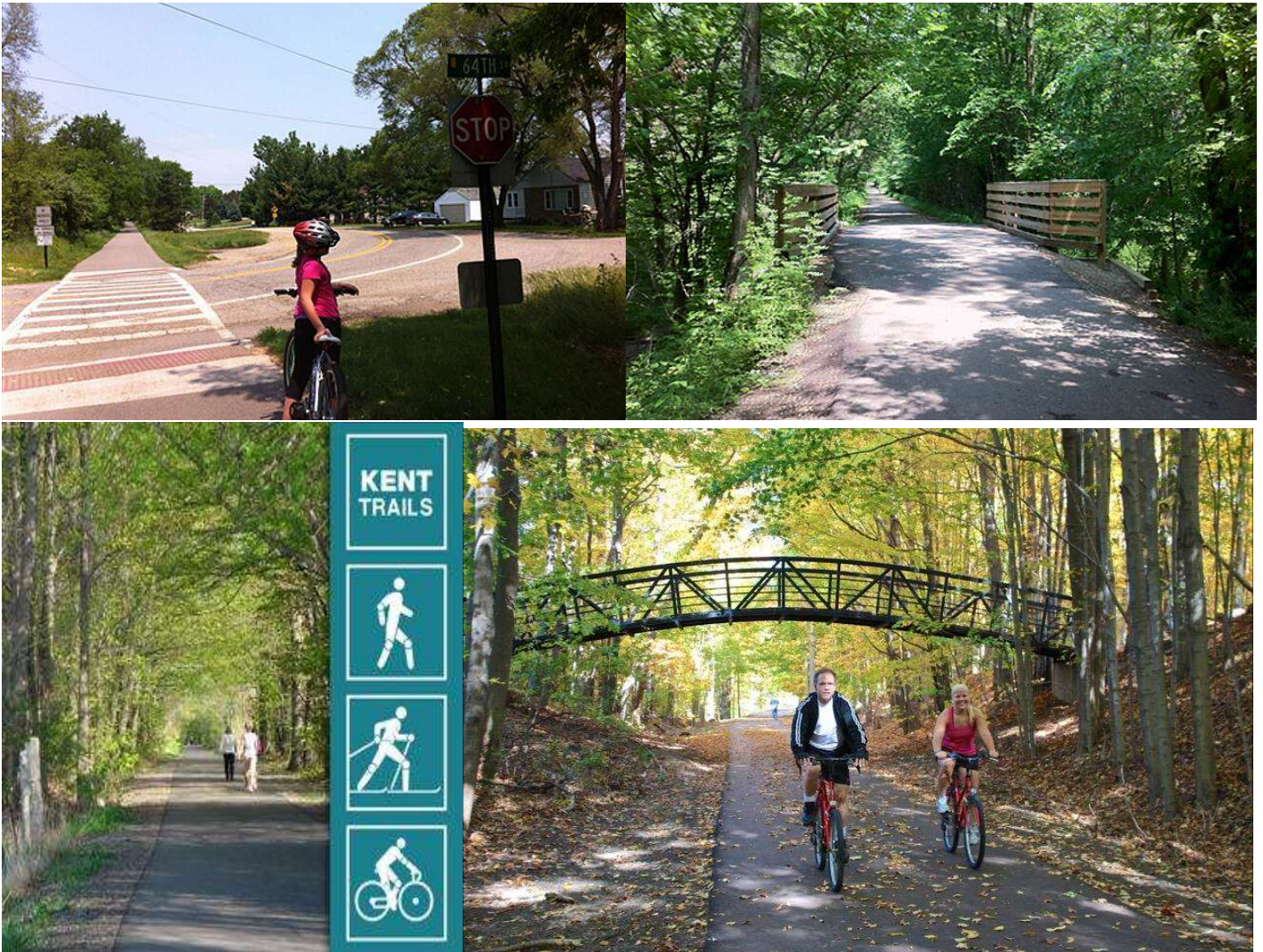


Non-Motorized Transportation

Byron Township has many miles of trails and sidewalks throughout the Township. Kent County Parks Department owns and maintains *Kent Trails*, which runs from 84th Street to the north boundary line of the Township & the *Fred Meijer M-6 Trail*, which runs from Kent Trails to Division Avenue. These two trails are

very popular and well used by residents of the Township. The trails also connect to the regional trail network which brings people into the Township and allows for Township residents to access the wider area for recreation.

Byron Township has been requiring new developments to install sidewalks as new residential, commercial, and industrial buildings are approved and constructed. As development has occurred, the Township has created a vast network of pedestrian routes. The Township has often connected these sidewalk networks by constructing sidewalks along major corridors or filling gaps to improve pedestrian access.



School Facilities Within the Township

The Byron Center Public School District serves over 4,300 students at six schools. A fourth elementary school will open for the 2023-24 school year as the district continues to see large growth. Countryside Elementary is the only district school that is not physically located in Byron Township but their boundary does contain a significant number of Township residents. The Byron Township Parks and Recreation Department schedules programs throughout the district at the school facilities. In addition to the use of gymnasiums and meeting rooms, many of the outdoor facilities are open for public use.

The Township also has working partnerships with the Christian schools in the area to provide space needed for programs and in turn is able to use facilities if needed as well.

Byron Center High School

Byron Center High School was constructed in 1998. In 2020 they finished a large expansion and renovation project. The facility has a swimming pool, two gymnasiums, and also houses the Van Singel Fine Arts Center.

Byron Center West Middle School

The Middle School facilities include an indoor gymnasium, two soccer football fields and four basketball hoops in the parking lot. In 2018 construction began as part of a \$68 million mileage for a new athletic complex on the grounds. This new complex boasts 12 tennis courts, a grass practice soccer field, a turfed and lighted soccer stadium and a locker room/concessions/restroom building.

Nickels Intermediate School

Outdoor facilities at Nickels include a playground, two baseball diamonds, two softball diamonds, four basketball hoops in the parking lot, a grass practice stadium and Waddell Field (the turfed high school football stadium complete with large locker room/concessions/restroom building). The school has a spacious gymnasium.

Brown Elementary

Brown Elementary school is located across the street from Bicentennial Park and the Township Offices. Facilities include two (2) playgrounds, three (3) basketball hoops, two (2) open play fields and a paved walking path.

Marshall Elementary

The newest elementary school in the Township is Marshall. Outdoor recreation on site includes three (3) small playgrounds, a ball field, and a large open play field.

Byron Center Christian Middle School

Outdoor recreational facilities include a large outdoor playground, several basketball hoops, a soccer field and an open space play area.

Byron Center Christian School

This Pre-K-5th grade building has two (2) playgrounds, a ball field and a large open play space.

Zion Christian School

Zion has a baseball field, a soccer field, a softball field, several basketball hoops as well as a large open grassy area for future growth.

PRIVATE PROPERTIES/FACILITIES

There are several private gyms and recreation facilities in Byron Township.

Courthouse Athletic Center features eight (8) basketball/volleyball courts. Their calendar is ruled by youth and adult leagues, youth camps as well as in-house and outside group-reserved tournaments.

F45 Training offers daily class drop ins, monthly and yearly memberships. Classes are scheduled and run by professional trainers.

Fit Body Boot Camp is a members only fitness class facility. Classes are pre-scheduled and run by professional coaches. No drop in class option.

GR Skate and Event Center is a family friendly roller skating rink that is open to the public. They also provide a location for rentals and special events.

Ironwood Golf Course features an 18-hole course with practice putting green and a pro shop.

Railside Golf Club is a members only facility. The site includes an 18 hole course as well as a large outdoor pool, locker rooms and a clubhouse.

The Southside Ice Arena is one of the premier family ice sports complexes in the Western Michigan area featuring two NHL sheets of ice.

Special Olympics of Michigan has acquired and is renovating a former high school in Byron Township in the biggest Special Olympics site in the world. The non-profit organization will utilize the facility for offices and to host sporting events.

The surrounding area has a variety of recreational facilities offered by the City of Grand Rapids, the City of Wyoming and Kent County. Frog Hollow is a one-acre park located just north of Byron Township that offers a universally accessible playground with a shade shelter and restroom building. Ideal Park is a 91-acre older park located just north of the Township. This park was reopened in 2020 after a \$1.8 million upgrade which included 2 picnic shelters and a universally accessible play structure. Kent County's Brewer Park is also just east of the Township and is a popular location for disc golf, soccer, cricket, beach volleyball. There is also a picnic shelter and playground onsite.

BYRON TOWNSHIP 2023 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

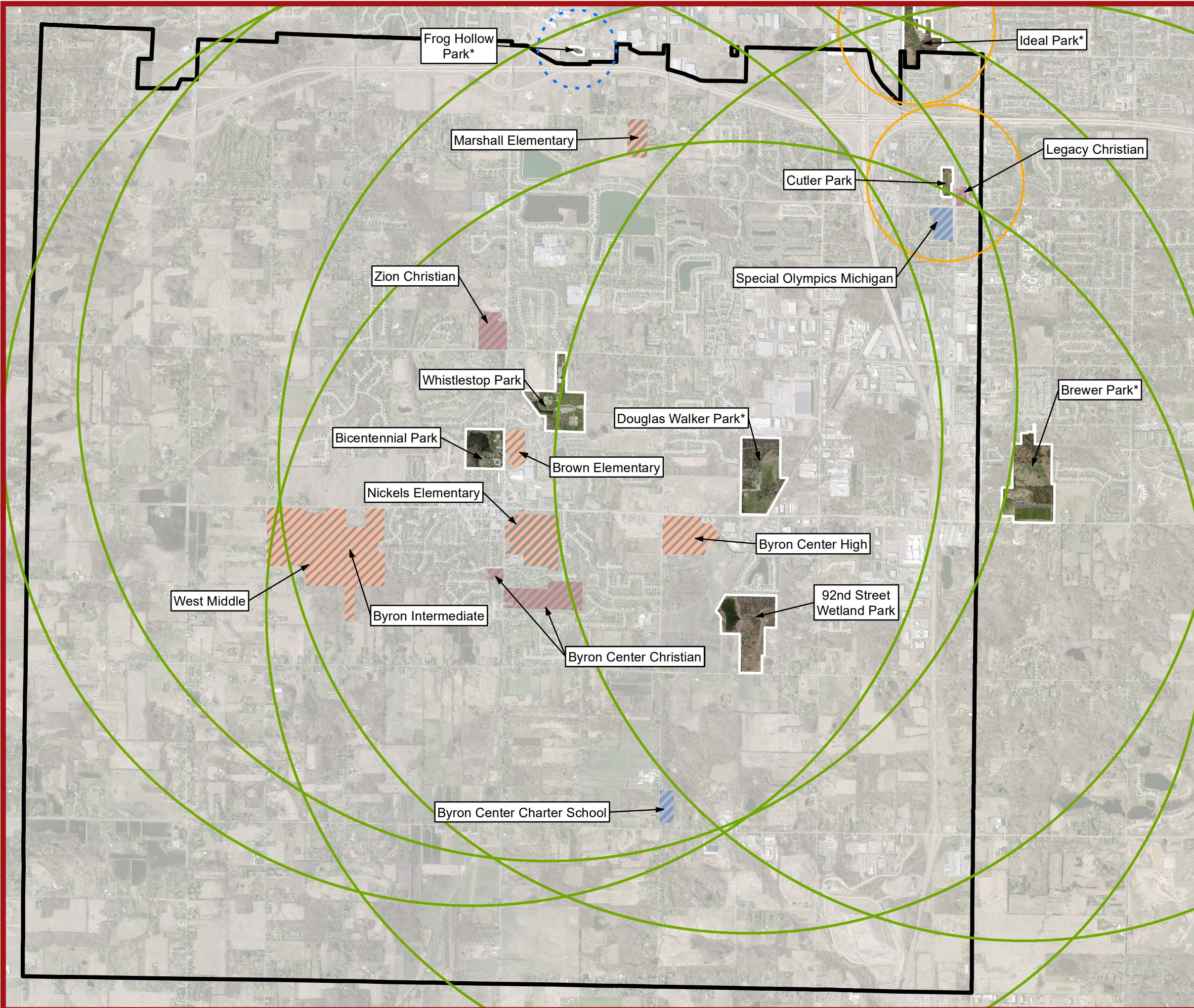
	Acres	Active Recreation												Amenities				Trails			Other			
		Playgrounds	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Volleyball Courts	Baseball Courts	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Track	Open Play Field	Shuffleboard	Skate Park	Parking Lots	Restroom	Concessions Building	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Picnic Tables/Grills	Natural Area		Nature Trail	Paved Walking/Multi-Purpose Path	
TOWNSHIP PARKS																								
BICENNTENNIAL PARK	39	1	1	1				2	2	12				3	1	2	2	1	2	20	X	X	X	Life Exercise Trail
CUTLER PARK	8	2	1		1			2	3	2						2	1		1	8			X	Connection to M6 trail
WHISTLESTOP PARK	59	1	4	4	3	2					X	X				3	4	2	1	20	X	X	X	Pond with 2 fishing decks, dog park, community center
92ND ST WETLANDS	78																				X	X		
KENT COUNTRY PARKS																								
DOUGLAS WALKER	81	2	1		10							X				3	3			20+	X	X	X	Kent Trails trailhead
KENT TRAILS	5 miles															X	X						X	
M6 TRAILS	3 miles															X	X						X	
PUBLIC SCHOOLS*																								
BYRON CENTER HIGH SCHOOL	38					2	X	5								X	X	X						Community Pool, VanSingel Fine Arts Center
BYRON CENTER W MIDDLE SCHOOL	158				2	2	X	3	12		X					X	X						X	
BYRON CENTER ATHLETIC COMPLEX	30		2	2	1	1					X					X	X	X						
NICKELS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	8	1					X	3								X	X							
BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	6	2			1		X	1			X	X				X	X						X	
MARSHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	12	2			1		X	1				X				X	X						X	
	439	11	9	7	19	7		17	17	14				3	1				6	4	68+			




*Percentage of land estimated for recreation use

Park Service Area

Byron Township

Kent County, Michigan



-  3 Mile Radius Service Area
-  0.5 Mile Radius Service Area
-  0.25 Mile Radius Service Area

*Parks Not Operated or Maintained by Byron Rec



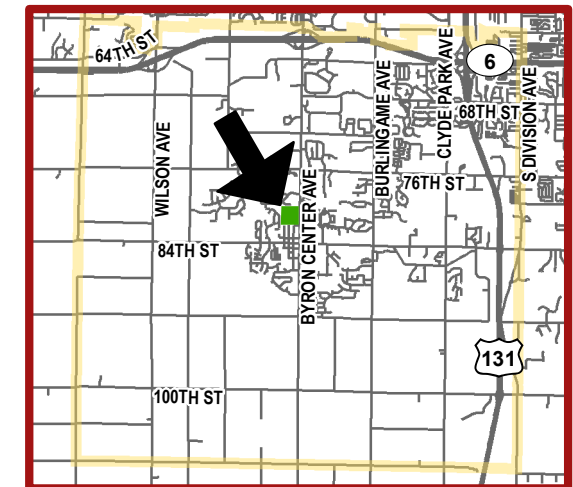
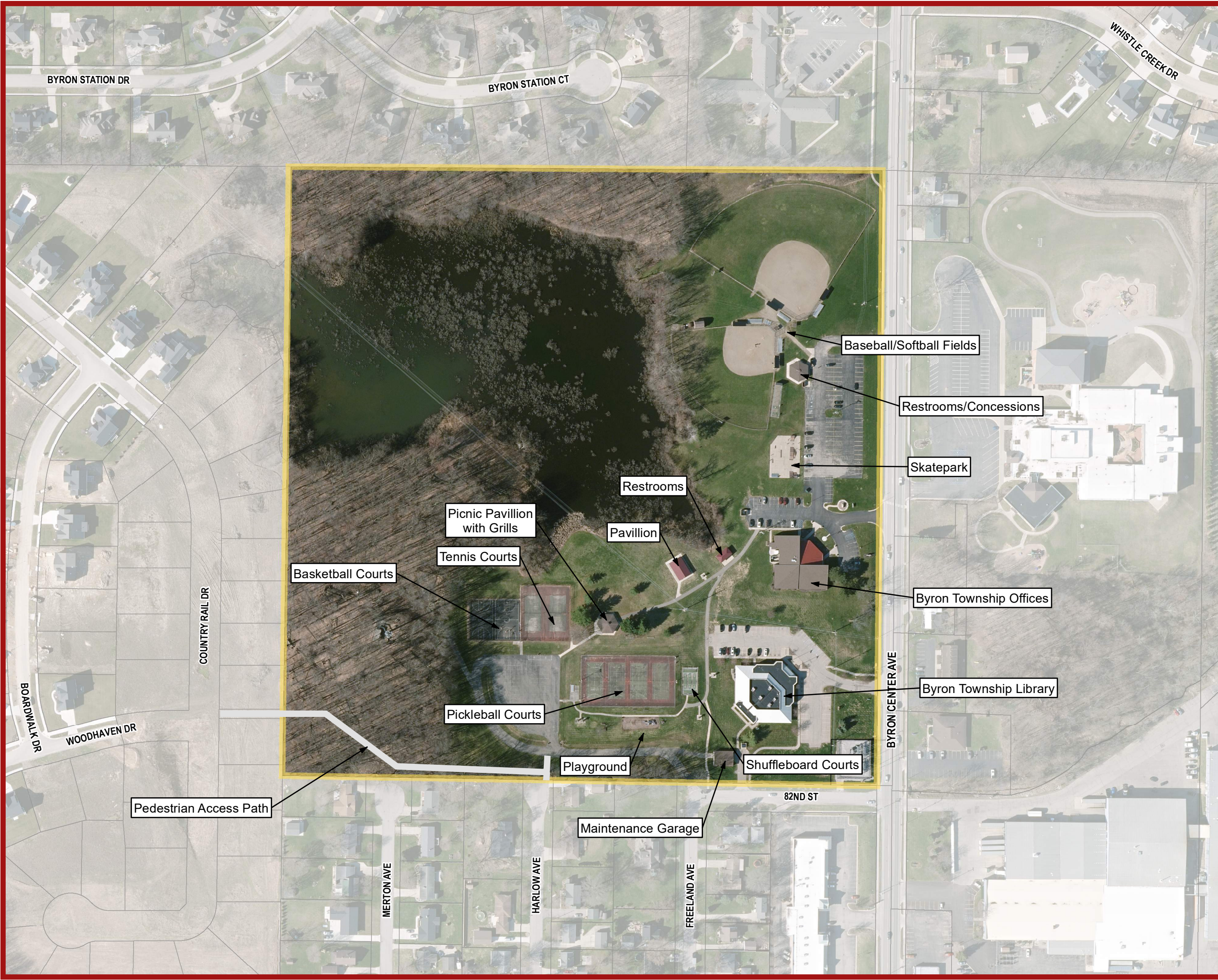
1 inch = 3,200 feet



Bicentennial Park

Existing Layout

Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan



Location Map
Not to Scale



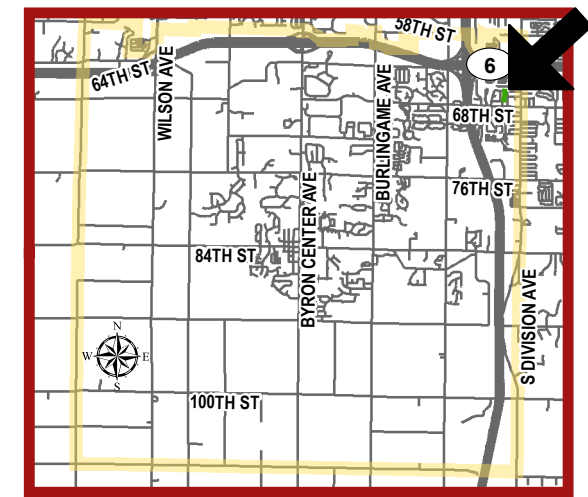
1 inch = 200 feet

Byron Township
RECREATION



Cutler Park Existing Layout

Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan



Location Map
Not to Scale



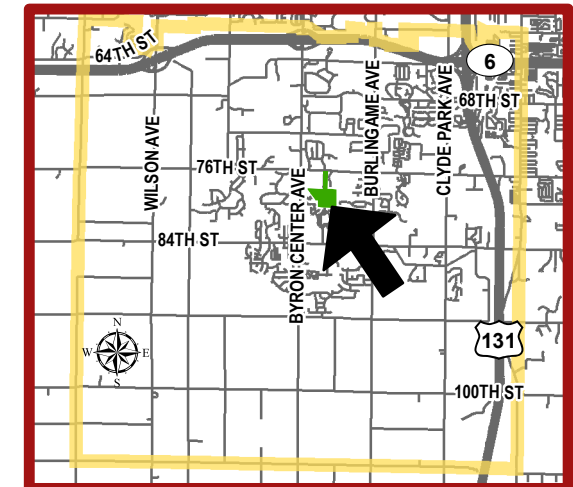
1 inch = 100 feet



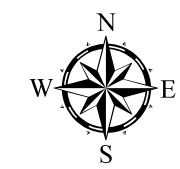
Whistlestop Park

Existing Layout

Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan



Location Map
Not to Scale



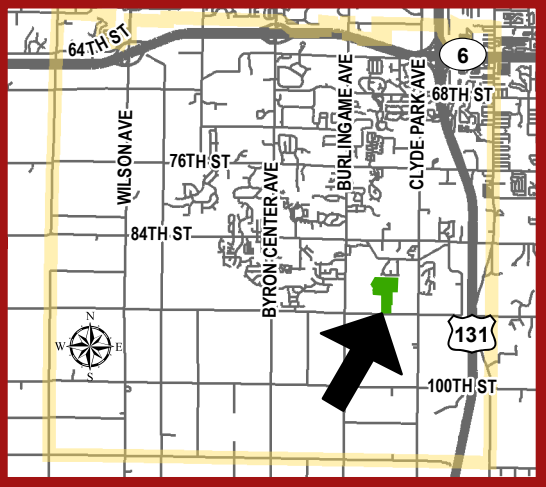
1 inch = 300 feet

Byron Township
RECREATION



92nd Street Wetlands Park

Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan



Location Map
Not to Scale



1 inch = 400 feet

Byron Township
RECREATION



Non-Motorized Facilities

Existing Facilities

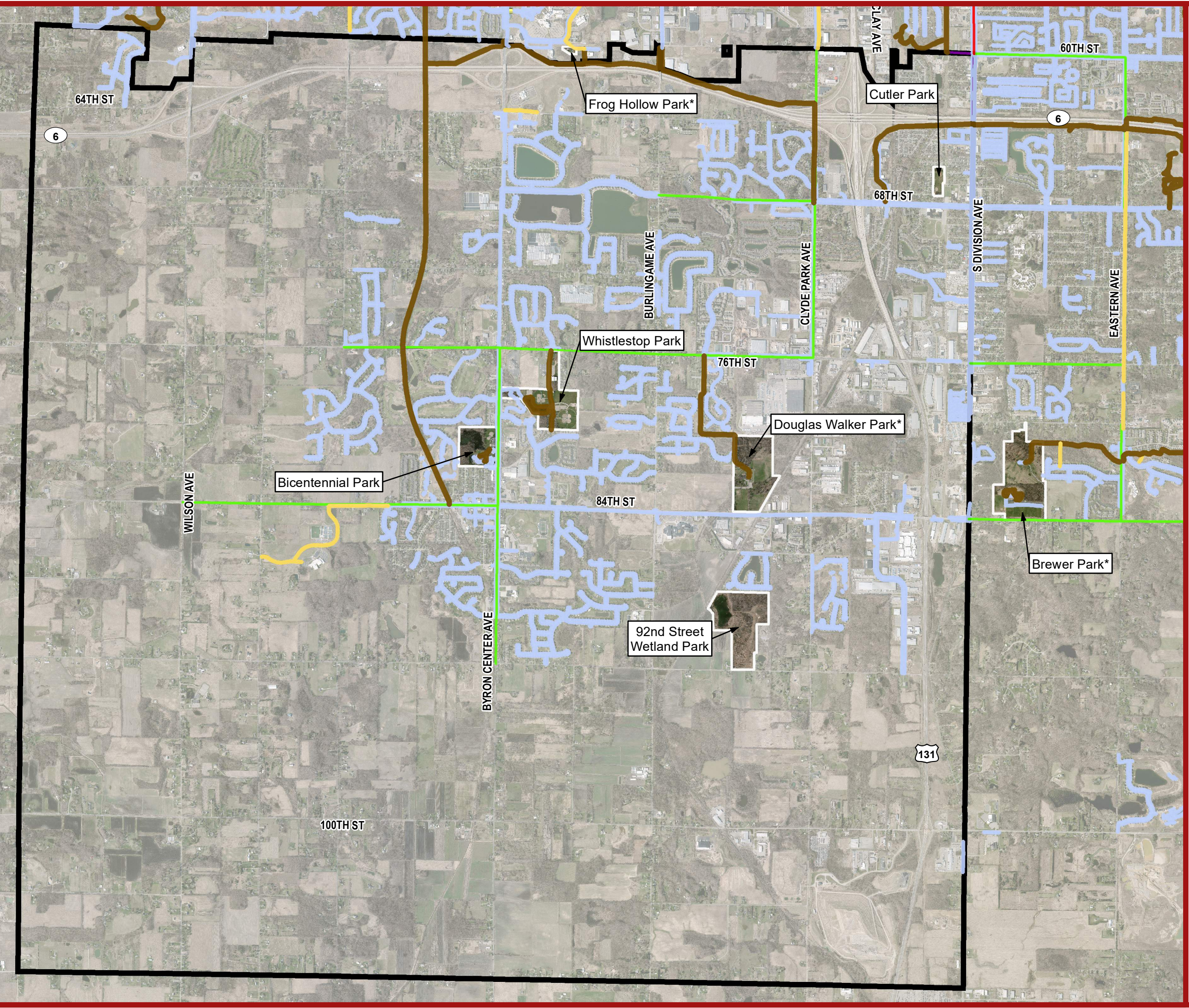
Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan

-  Sidepath
-  Trail
-  Standard Bike Lane
-  Paved Shoulders 4'+
-  Bicycle Route
-  Sidewalk

*Parks Not Operated or Maintained by Byron Rec



1 inch = 3,200 feet





GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

Byron Township - Kent County

Project No. 26-00627 **Project County: Kent** **Project Year: 1975**

Project title: Byron Twp. Recreation Area

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount:
\$23,435.01

Scope Item

Four tennis courts

Parking

Picnic equipment

Road

Senior citizens area

Site improvements

Tot lot

Project Description: Develop site improvement, road, parking, 4 tennis courts, picnic equipment, senior citizens area, tot lot, and LWCF sign

Project No. 26-00823 **Project County: Kent** **Project Year: 1977**

Project title: Bicentennial Park

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount:
\$81,312.88

Scope Item

Landscaping

Parking

Shelter/restroom with utilities

Storage building

Two ball fields

Two tennis courts

Underground electrical wiring

Walks and trails

Water well

Project Description: 2 ball diamonds, storage building, shelter/restrooms/w/utilities, walks, and trails, 2 tennis courts, landscaping, water well, and LWCF sign



GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

Byron Township - Kent County

Project No. CM99-131	Project County: Kent	Project Year: 1999
Project title: Whistle Stop Park		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$299,472.00

Scope Item

- 2 Softball Fields/bleachers
- 3 Soccer Fields
- Construction of Two-Acre lake, 24,500 CY
- Entrance Drive and Parking Lot
- Fishing Pier, 400 SF
- Landscaping and Signage
- Nature Area (trails and pedestrian bridge)
- Picnic equipment
- Restroom Building

Project Description: Construction of 60-acre park to include lighted softball fields, fishing pond and pier, nature trails, and picnic area. The site includes Rush Creek, wetlands and eight acres of forest land.

Project No. 26-01722	Project County: Kent	Project Year: 2012
Project title: Cutler Park Improvements		
Project Status: Withdrawn		Grant Amount: \$98,800.00

Scope Item

- Accessible pathways
- Bench
- Fence around splash pad
- Garbage can
- Grill
- Landscaping
- Picnic table
- Security system with cameras
- Site lighting
- Splash pad

Project Description: Development to include splash pad and restroom/concession/storage building.

Total number of projects: 4

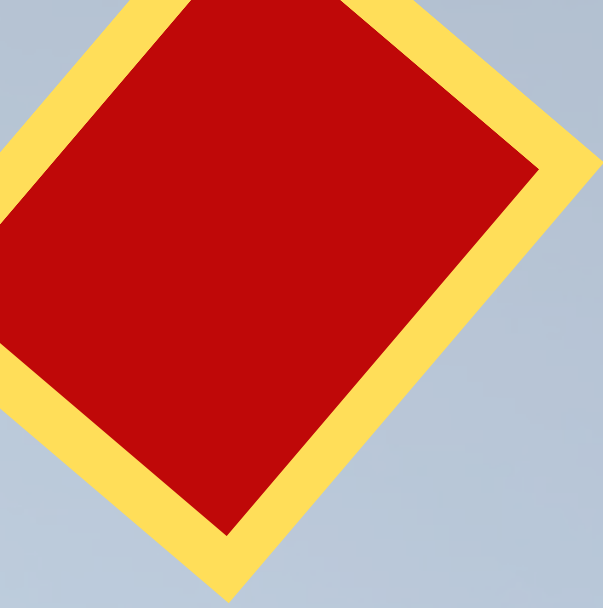


GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

Byron Township - Kent County

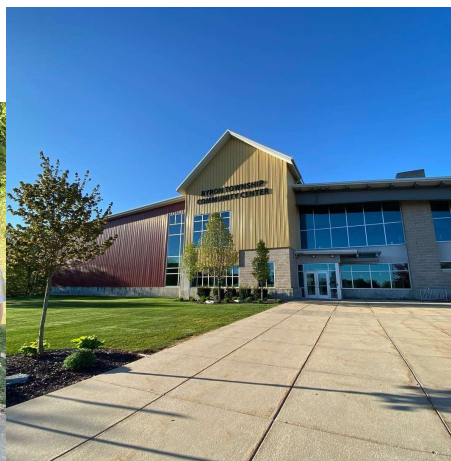
Total Amount of Grant Given \$503,019.89



BYRON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY CENTER

PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023



SECTION 5: PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

RECREATION PLANNING

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan gives an evaluation of the Township's existing needs and opportunities. It also takes into consideration the existing amenities within the Township including public school facilities and country parks, and then anticipates the demand for additional amenities and improved facilities and means for providing them.

The previous plan was developed in 2018 and the Township has seen continued growth in population since. Although some improvements have been made to the Township's parks and recreation facilities in this time period, many of the Township parks are in need of updates and improvements. A particular focus of planned improvements is improved ADA accessibility.

This 2023-2027 plan serves as a guideline for directing the Township in operation and improvement of existing and future facilities and programs to meet the recreational needs of Township residents. This plan summarizes the long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreational opportunities. Capital improvements, action plans with project descriptions and estimated costs over the next five years is laid out with a future scope 5-10 years beyond.

PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

This Parks and Recreation Plan was developed by the Parks and Recreation Director with assistance from VK Civil and oversight by the Byron Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

The planning process started in 2022 by the Parks and Recreation Commissions by hosting special monthly workshops focusing on each individual park, future land acquisition, the community center and recreation program expansion. Each month from May to September 2022, a new topic was introduced to the public to gather input. A survey was created and distributed to gather public opinions. Hard copies were set out for Community Center members to fill out when they came, emails were sent to the entire township database, and they were posted online on the Recreation website and Township mainpage.

Attendance varied at the workshops with the highest participation at the Bicentennial Park workshop. The newly added pickleball courts have created much activity and interest in further updating all of the facilities in the park. Cutler Park had the lowest turnout for the workshop, so we contacted several neighborhood residents and spoke to them directly about their concerns and suggestions for what they would like to see updated and added. Making an effort to continue to reach out to the Cutler Park neighborhood will be important to help that park reach its potential.

Under the guidance of the Rec Commission, comments and ideas from these meetings and the survey have been incorporated into this Plan. The Plan was also made available for public viewing for one month starting March 17th through April 16th. A final public in person review was held on April 19th at the Community Center

Following the 30-day review period the final plan was presented to the Township Board during the April 24, 2023 public hearing meeting. The Resolution to formally adopt this plan can be found in Section 8.^[1]^[2]

Recreation Commissions Special Meeting
Planning Session - Land Acquisition/Non-Motorized Paths
June 13th, 2022 7pm

Brainstorming/Ideas & Questions/Answer Period Discussion

Future Whistlestop Park expansion was a point of interest. What will be done with the east portion of Park owned property? Most of the land back there has been sold to builders but the Township still owns a large undeveloped portion.

There is a square parcel of land that juts into the east portion of Whistlestop. Acquiring that property down the road would square off the park and allow for more options with what develops in that area.

Currently, the Township has a working relationship with neighbor Woodward Baptist church to share parking lots for overflow; there is a potential to grow this relationship down the road.

A non-motorized pathway connecting the center of park to Burlingame with neighborhood connectors is needed, especially one with the new development adjacent to the park.

The northwest quadrant of the Township would be a great location for additional parkland or natural preservation area. The 92nd St Wetlands will be a great addition in the south. There is also the potential to scoop up some land around Marshall Elementary School for a pocket park or green space.

Connecting the parks to as many neighborhoods and trails as possible needs to be a focus.

**Recreation Commissions Special Meeting
Planning Session - Whistlestop Park
June 13, 2022 7pm**

Brainstorming/Ideas & Questions/Answer Period Discussion

Ideas included: another picnic/pavilion area, splash pad, larger dog park, playground, more parking, additional lacrosse specific field, larger community garden, bathroom, and walking/bike path.

Expansion of the Community Center would go south off the existing building into the small wooded area and would likely not affect any currently used green space. The issue we are potentially looking at from there is additional needed parking.

The south parking lots could also use a redesign to add more spaces. Cars are creating their own spots and creating traffic issues and damage to the grass in some areas.

Looking for a location for a t-ball field. It does not appear that Whistlestop would be a great option unless it was put in when developing the east portion. There is already an abundance of traffic in the area that would be a potentially dangerous spot to add more kids running around.

Beach volleyball was also mentioned. There used to be a grass court by the pavilion.

Nature trail has a lot of potential.

**Recreation Commissions Special Meeting
Planning Session - Bicentennial Park
July 11, 2022 7pm**

The new pickleball area is really nice, but some things could be added to finish it off.

- A concrete apron around the courts
- Shade structure on the west side by the bleachers
- More storage
- A drinking fountain

The parking lot is quite small with almost unreadable lines. Currently there are 43 spots. A redesign could increase spaces substantially.

The shuffle board area could be redesigned for bocce ball, corn hole, or just update the shuffleboard area with storage and benches.

Playground could use an update, no accessible options. Also, it was suggested that a fence run along the driveway to separate from the driveway.

Basketball courts with adjustable hoops would be great for youth/families.

Resurface tennis courts.

Wood area - clean up walking paths, create more with maps and advertise - no one knows those trails are there. Maybe add an RC (remote control) course.

Ball fields need more protective netting installed.

Also look into a small play structure over there - after nets are up.

Accessibility to fields needs to be fixed. Gravel is not accessible for all.

Drinking fountain could be installed there as well.

Update the concessions building.

Enlarge skate park. Or add a play structure or youth track nearby.

The wetlands - scenic overlook, fishing dock, boardwalk connecting north and south park.

**Additional gates on the pickleball courts was a major concern - this was addressed and corrected by August 2022.*

**Recreation Commissions Special Meeting
Planning Session - Cutler Park
August 8, 7pm**

The walking trail was a great addition and is very busy.
What about adding exercise stations around the path like at Bicentennial?

Ball field backstop is in rough shape and needs fixing or replacing.

New play structure by ball field. Add accessible structures.

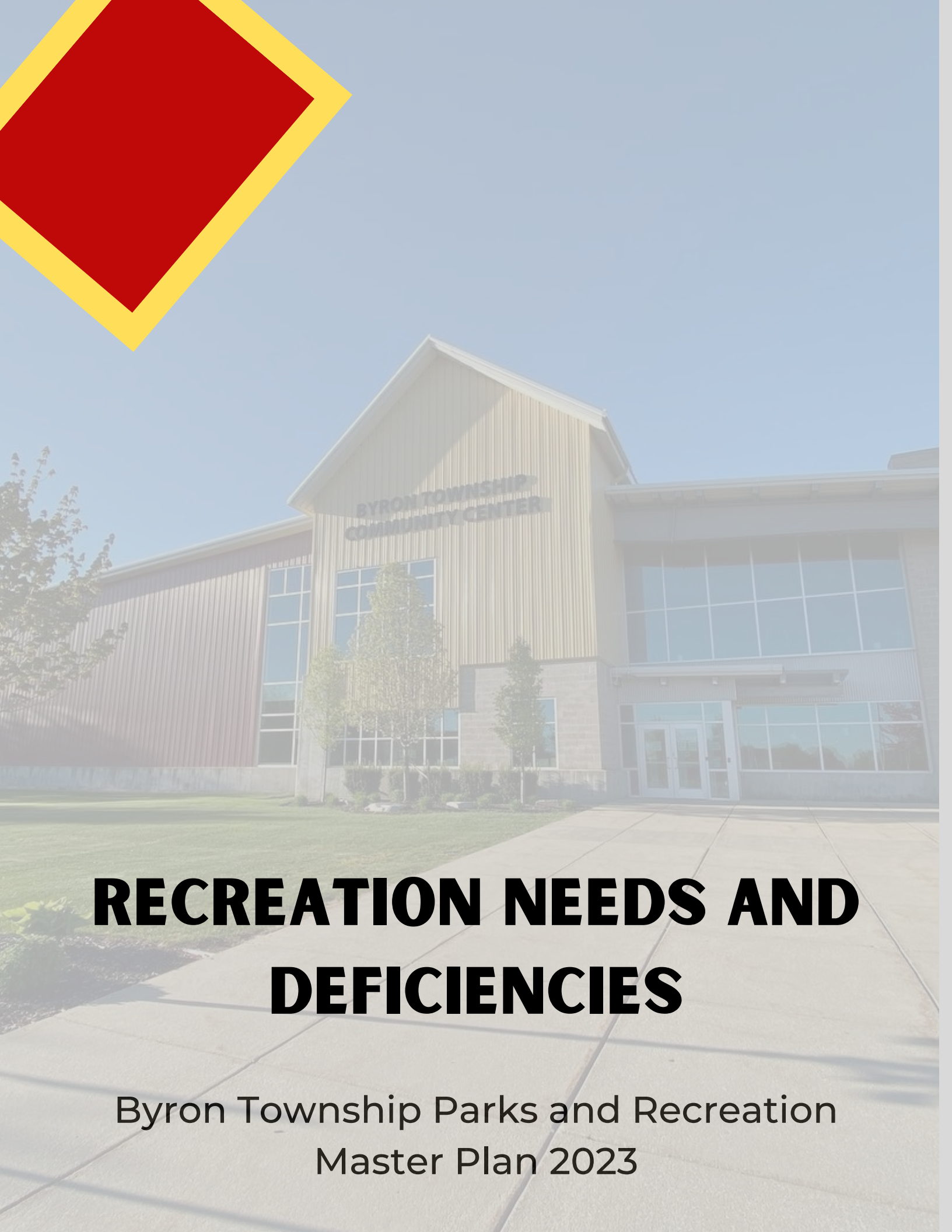
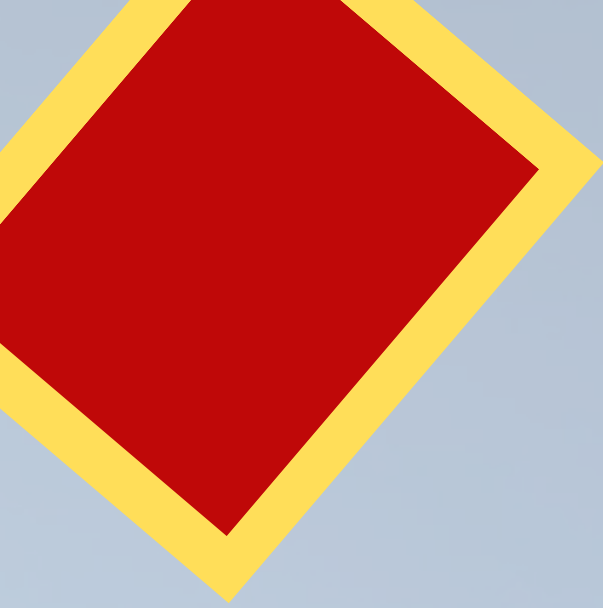
Tennis courts needs resurfacing.

Bathrooms - timer locks? More lighting near building.

Add activities to the park so more people are around, good activity will keep bad activity out.

Paths connecting the park to neighborhoods on all sides.

More programming at the park. Neighborhood kids camp week?



RECREATION NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023



SECTION 6: RECREATION NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

This Plan identifies recreation deficiencies as well as current and future needs. Information was collected for the Township facilities and a comparison was done for acreage, facilities and geographic distribution. Direct input from township staff and representatives, along with public input was also taken into consideration for future planning.

The 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review is not representative of parks and recreation “standards” but it does provide data to help organizations start to tailor their own needs and build a customized plan.

Byron Township’s population in 2021 was just over 26,000. We based our needs and deficiencies for each activity and facilities per 1000 people. For example, per NRPA the average parks and recreation agency manages 10.6-acres of parkland for every 1000 people. Byron Township currently has 184-acres of park land which is about 90-acres below average. Based on this information, any future planning will likely include land acquisition for more parkland.

An area of need not included in the matrix is accessibility upgrades with inclusive play opportunities in all of our parks. Currently, none of our three parks have adaptive play amenities available. Bringing this attention and focus in our planning is key to making sure we are meeting the needs of all of our township residents.

2021 RECREATION STANDARDS AND DEFICIENCIES

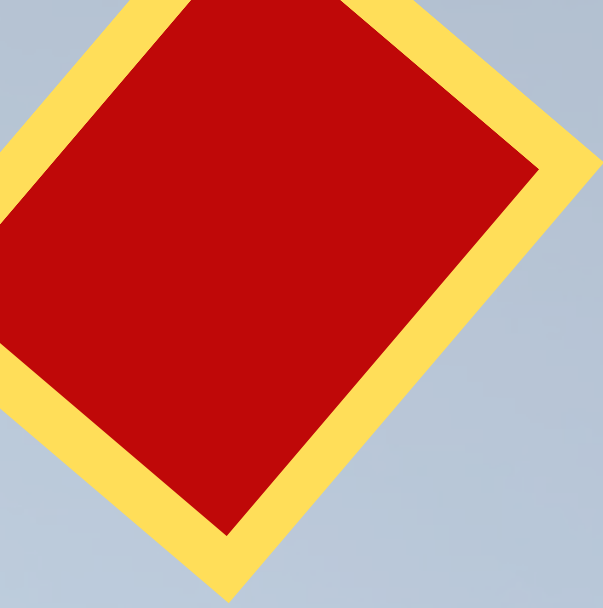
Byron Township

Estimate 2021 Population: 26,457

FACILITY	STANDARD	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES	EXISTING FACILITIES	FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
Softball/Baseball	2:5,000	11	11	OK
Soccer	1:10,000	3	4	OK
Basketball (outdoor)	1:5000	6	4	-2
Football	1:20,000	1	2	OK
Tennis/Pickleball	1:2000	13	19	OK
Picnic Shelter	1:2000	13	4	-9
Playground	1:3000	9	4	-5
Community Center	1:20,000	1	1	OK
Running Track	1:20,000	1	1	OK
Park Acres**	10.6:1000	275	184	-91 acres

*Totals do NOT include schools or county recreational facilities within the Township
National Recreation and Parks Association standards applied*

**92nd Street Wetlands is in the process of transfer of ownership. Without it Existing Facility Acres is 106 and our Deficiencies would then be -169



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023



SECTION 7: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section outlines the newly created goals, objectives and action items for the 2023-27 Byron Township Parks and Recreation Plan. The action plan then prioritizes the items and creates a timeline over the next five years.

GOAL #1

Develop a Mission Statement for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Objectives

- To effectively communicate the purpose of the Byron Township Parks and Recreation Department.
- To clearly state our values and direction.
- Inspire a vision of the future.

GOAL #2

To provide and create recreational programs and facilities within Byron Township that promote accessible and inclusive opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Objectives

- Direct resources to opportunities that include accessible and barrier-free facilities or improve existing accessibility.
- Provide a greater range of activities of active and passive recreational programs and strive to reduce deficiencies.
- To provide space in parks, facilities, and programs for all abilities and all generations to enjoy.
- Create programming and events that are family friendly.

GOAL #3

As the Township continues to grow, ensure that existing parks and facilities meet the needs of the community.

Objectives

- Ensure resources in the annual budget to maintain needed funding levels.
- Create long-term maintenance plans for parks, pathways, facilities, and equipment.
- Add amenities and infrastructure to support and best serve the community's needs.
- Recommend capital improvement projects to the Township Board based on the Master Plan action items and timeline.

GOAL #4

Collaborate with surrounding governmental agencies, private agencies and school systems to provide recreational facilities and programs which are most needed for serving our community.

Objectives

- Actively reach out to outside groups for partnership programs to bring people and activity to our facilities.
- Stay current with Kent County and State of Michigan parks and natural resource information and programming.
- Seek out and apply for grants to provide funding for future programming.

GOAL #5

To preserve important natural features such as streams, wetlands, wooded areas and wildlife habitats.

Objectives

- Design park plans to encourage appropriate use and preservation of natural features.
- Promote community appreciation and engagement of the world around them.
- Create an educational space for all ages to learn about and enjoy nature.

GOAL #6

Increase public awareness of our Township parks, programs and facilities.

Objectives

- Develop a Parks homepage on the website.
- Offer online scheduling and registration.
- Actively post park content on social media and online to attract more visitors.
- Coordinate parks signage and branding to make it clear they are aligned.

GOAL #7

Provide a geographically balanced park system to ensure all residents have available access to recreation facilities.

Objectives

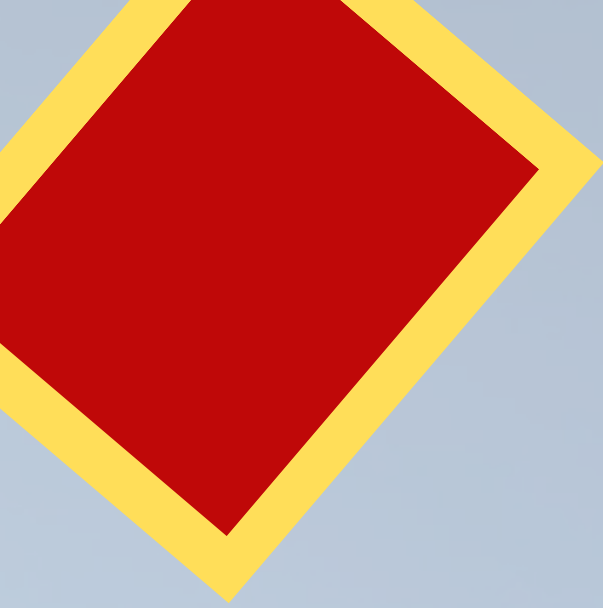
- Acquire new property at the Recreation Commission's recommendation to solve existing geographical and facility deficiencies and prevent deficiencies in the future.
- Use future land-use maps to determine where larger concentration of people will be in the future and earmark locations for potential park space to be included in plans.

GOAL #8

Improve routes for non-motorized transportation for recreational use.

Objectives

- Require developments to incorporate non-motorized and pedestrian facility construction.
- Connect gaps between sidewalks in developments identified by the Township's Sidewalk Committee.
- Encourage regional trails and connections by community partners.

The background of the page is a photograph of the Byron Township Community Center. The building is a modern structure with a prominent gabled section on the left side, featuring vertical corrugated metal siding. The words "BYRON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER" are visible on the facade of this section. To the right, there is a large glass-walled entrance area. The building is set on a green lawn with a paved walkway leading towards it. The sky is clear and blue.

ACTION PROGRAM AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE				
YEAR	PROJECT	FUNDING: TOWNSHIP	FUNDING: OTHER	TOTAL PROJECT COST
2023	92nd ST WETLANDS Finalize park agreement with MDOT and EGLE Develop and approve final plan for natural area			\$2K
2023	BICENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN Develop Park Plan for future park developments			\$2K
2023	CUTLER PARK MASTER PLAN Develop Park Plan for future park developments			\$2K
2023	WHISTLESTOP PARK MASTER PLAN Develop Park Plan for future park developments			\$300,000
2024	WHISTLESTOP PARK IMPROVMENTS (to be confirmed by individual park plan) - Playground update with accessible features - Nature themed play area in wooded area - Expand dog park with shade structure and more equipment - Non-motorized path for Burlingame access			\$50,000
2024	CUTLER PARK IMPROVEMENTS (to be confirmed by individual park plan) - New benches and updated lighting - Update small SW playground - Accessible routes to surrounding neighborhoods			\$100,000
2025	BICENTENNIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS (to be confirmed by individual park plan) - Update/expand playground - Play structures on north side - Update basketball/tennis courts - Update all accessible routes			
2026	COMMUNITY CENTER EXPANSION Expand Community Center - Fitness area - Storage/maintenance space - Office space - Gym/multi-purpose area	COST AND FUNDING TO BE DETERMINED		
2023- 2027	AQUIRE LAND - Seek out potential areas for future park space	COST AND FUNDING TO BE DETERMINED		

Byron Township Parks and Recreation Department

Byron Township Parks and Recreation Department provides year round recreation programming for all ages. In addition special events are also hosted seasonally bringing guests to the facilities all year as well.

Youth

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
4H Classes	4H Classes	4H Classes	4H Classes
Art Class	Art Class	Archery	Art Class
Babysitting Class	Babysitting Class	Art Class	Babysitting Class
Cooking Class	Cooking Class	Babysitting Class	Cooking Class
Dance - Tap/Ballet	Dance - Tap/Ballet	Cooking Class	Dance - Tap/Ballet
Gymnastics	Gymnastics	Dance - Tap/Ballet	Football - Rocket
Tae Kwon Do	Lacrosse	Football Camp	Gymnastics
Toddler Recreation	Sports Sampler	Gymnastics	Tae Kwon Do
	Tae Kwon Do	Lacrosse	Toddler Recreation
	Theatre Camp	Pickleball	Volleyball Camp
	Toddler Recreation	Sports Sampler	
		Summer Recreation	
		Tae Kwon Do	
		Theatre Camp	
		Volleyball Camp	

Adult

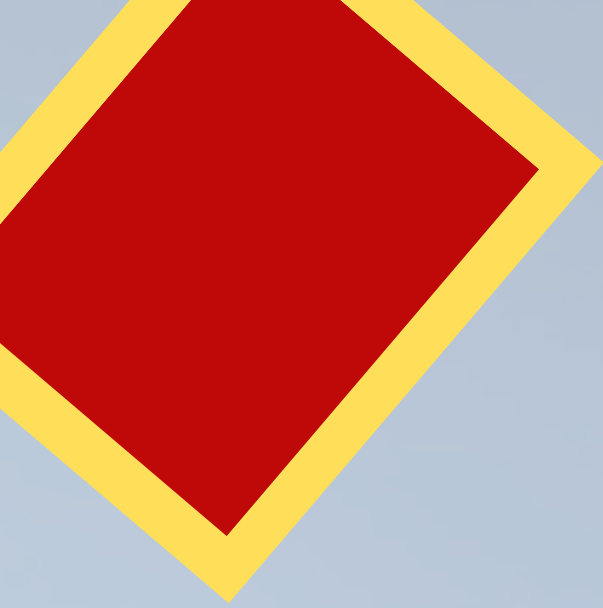
Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Dance Class	Dance Class	Dance Class	Dance Class
Fitness Class	Fitness Class	Fitness Class	Fitness Class
Line Dancing	Line Dancing	Line Dancing	Line Dancing
Open Recreation	Open Recreation	Open Recreation	Open Recreation
Pickleball	Pickleball	Pickleball	Pickleball
Volleyball Leagues	Softball League	Softball Leagues	Volleyball Leagues
Yoga	Yoga	Yoga	Yoga

Seniors

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Bingo	Bingo	Baseball Game Bus Trip	Bingo
Bowling League	Craft Classes	Bingo	Bowling League
Craft Classes	Fitness Classes	Craft Classes	Craft Classes
Fitness Classes	Gentle Stretch	Fitness Classes	Fitness Classes
Gentle Stretch	Hearing Screening	Gentle Stretch	Flu Shots
Hearing Screening	Lunch & Learn	Ice Cream Socials	Hearing Screening
Lunch & Learn	Luncheons	Lunch & Learn	Lunch & Learn
Luncheons	Reverse Mentoring	Luncheons	Luncheons
Reverse Mentoring	Trips	Reverse Mentoring	Reverse Mentoring
Trips	Yoga	Trips	Trips
Yoga		Yoga	Yoga

Family

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Comic Con	Easter Egg Hunt	Baseball Bus Trip	Trunk or Treat
Craft Classes	Garden Plots	Concerts in the Park	Garden Plots
Puzzle Exchange	Zoo Day	Dog Obedience	
		Garden Plots	
		Women's Expo	



LOCAL ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023

TOWNSHIP OF BYRON
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A PARKS
AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Byron, Kent County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall, 8085 Byron Center Avenue, Byron Center, Michigan on the 8th day of May, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Local Time.

PRESENT: Members: Donald Tillema, Peggy Sattler, Robin Haaksma, Jay DeKleine, Marty Tilma, Scott Tubergen

ABSENT: Members: Tom Hooker

The following resolution was offered by Member Peggy Sattler and supported by Member Jay DeKleine:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-23-24

WHEREAS, the Byron Township Parks and Recreation Committee has undertaken a planning process to determine the parks, recreation, and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2028; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee is made up of representatives of Byron Township; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee began the process of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Byron Township were provided with five (5) well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the parks and recreation master plan; and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft of a period of at least 30 days; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on April 19, 2023 at the Byron Township Community Center, 2120 76th Street, Byron Center, Michigan to provide an opportunity for all residents of Byron Township to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the *Byron Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan*; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee and Byron Township have developed the plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation opportunities for the residents of Byron Township; and

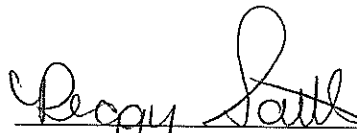
WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Parks and Recreation Committee voted to adopt said *Byron Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED the Byron Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the *Byron Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

AYES: Members: Donald Tillema, Peggy Sattler, Robin Haaksma, Jay DeKleine, Marty Tilma, Scott Tubergen

ABSENT: Members: Tom Hooker

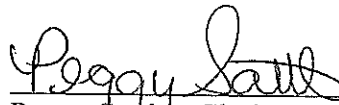
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.


Peggy Sattler, Clerk
Township of Byron

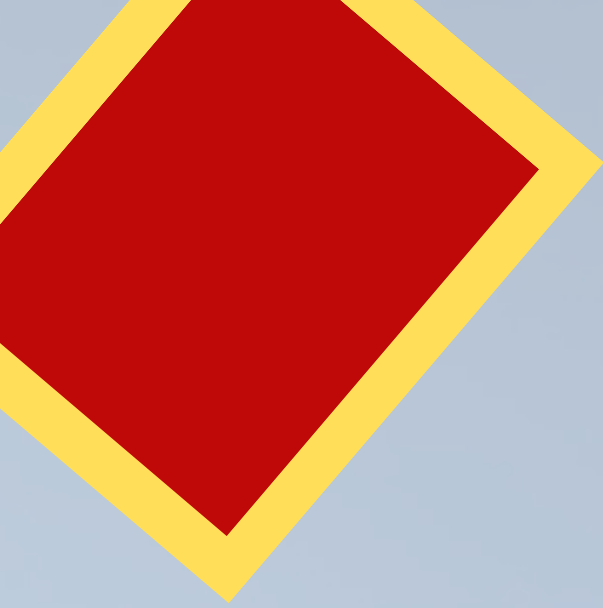
STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF KENT)

I, Peggy Sattler, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township of Byron, Kent County, Michigan (the "Township") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Township at a regular meeting thereof held on May 8, 2023, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by publication or posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my official signature this 8th day of May, 2023.



Peggy Sattler, Clerk
Township of Byron



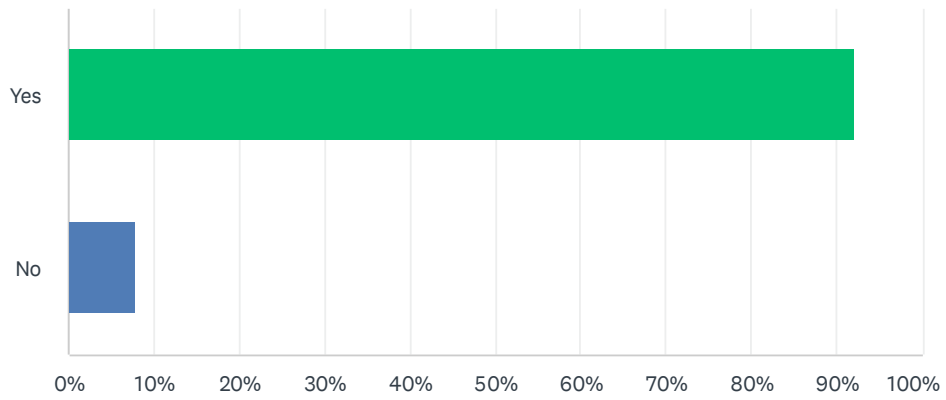
BYRON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY CENTER

APPENDICES

Byron Township Parks and Recreation
Master Plan 2023

Q1 Do you live in Byron Township?

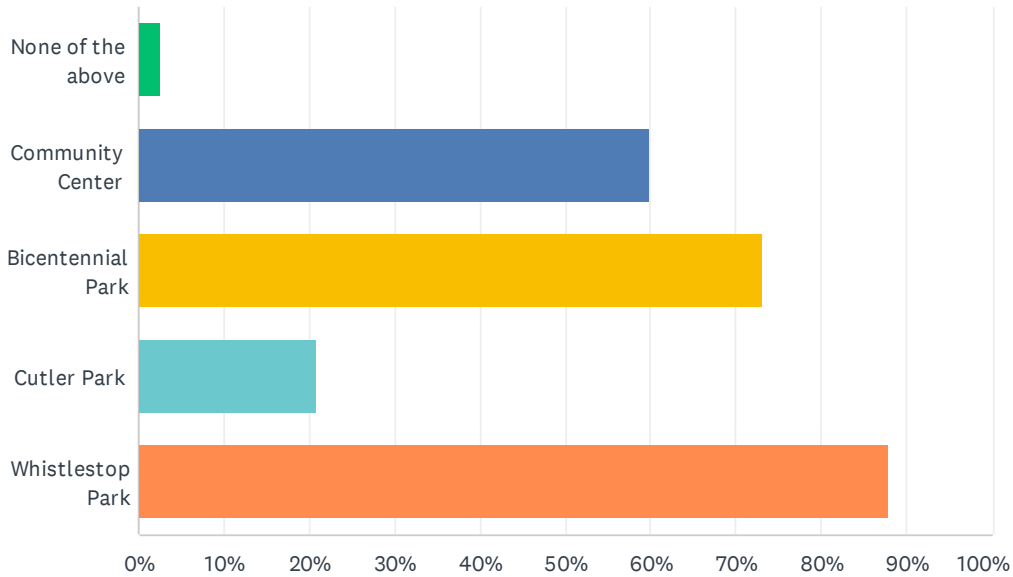
Answered: 115 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.17%	106
No	7.83%	9
TOTAL		115

Q2 Which of the township parks and facilities have you or members of your household used in the last 12 months?

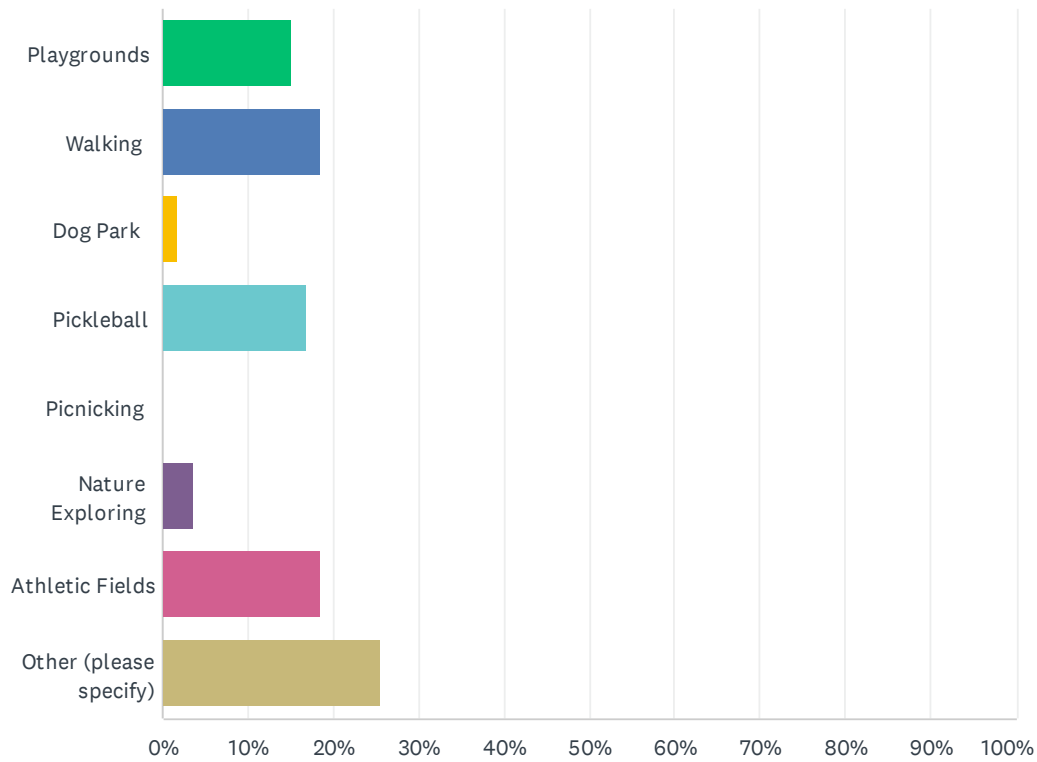
Answered: 115 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	2.61% 3
Community Center	60.00% 69
Bicentennial Park	73.04% 84
Cutler Park	20.87% 24
Whistlestop Park	87.83% 101
Total Respondents: 115	

Q3 What activities do you and your household enjoy.

Answered: 113 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Playgrounds	15.04% 17
Walking	18.58% 21
Dog Park	1.77% 2
Pickleball	16.81% 19
Picnicking	0.00% 0
Nature Exploring	3.54% 4
Athletic Fields	18.58% 21
Other (please specify)	25.66% 29
TOTAL	113

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	All of the above	7/23/2022 10:48 AM
2	Gym. Parks. Playgrounds	7/9/2022 9:19 AM
3	This could have been a multiple choice question. We enjoy walking, nature exploring, athletic fields	7/8/2022 2:25 PM

4	Tennis	7/6/2022 12:42 PM
5	Yoga with Jami	6/13/2022 5:19 PM
6	Playgrounds, walking, nature exploring	6/13/2022 1:48 PM
7	Pickle ball, playgrounds, Kent trails, nature, pushing a stroller, biking and walking	5/22/2022 4:33 PM
8	Should be multi select answer- but my family enjoy all above that	5/18/2022 4:08 PM
9	Line dancing	5/13/2022 5:36 PM
10	Can only answer one above? Pickleball, walking & Playgrounds	5/11/2022 7:43 AM
11	softball fields, nature exploring, picnicking, walking, playgrounds	5/5/2022 4:43 PM
12	Walking, pickle ball, dog park, swimming, skate park, athletic fields	5/5/2022 6:32 AM
13	Playgrounds, walking paths, pet friendly, nature	5/4/2022 10:04 PM
14	All but dogs	5/4/2022 9:33 PM
15	Playgrounds, walking, nature exploring	5/4/2022 8:54 PM
16	we enjoy all of the above except the dog park and no longer the athletic fields	5/4/2022 6:47 PM
17	Walking, dog park, playgrounds	5/4/2022 5:02 PM
18	All except athletic fields	5/4/2022 3:52 PM
19	Basketball	5/4/2022 3:25 PM
20	Can only select 1, but we enjoy the playgrounds, athletic fields and walking/nature exploring.	5/4/2022 3:17 PM
21	I can't pick multiple-we use athletic fields, playgrounds and pickle ball courts	5/4/2022 3:06 PM
22	Athletics, walking, riding bikes, playground, explore nature	5/4/2022 2:47 PM
23	This only allowed one option! We use the athletic fields, walking trails. Nature	5/4/2022 2:44 PM
24	Playgrounds, picnicking, biking, nature exploring	5/4/2022 2:39 PM
25	All except pickleball	5/4/2022 2:36 PM
26	Playgrounds walking and athletic fields	5/4/2022 2:30 PM
27	Playgrounds, waking, picnicking, nature exploring	5/4/2022 2:26 PM
28	All	5/4/2022 2:18 PM
29	Playgrounds, walking, dog park, nature exploring and athletic fields	5/4/2022 2:12 PM

Q4 What additional types of parks/amenities would you like to see in the Township?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 35

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Community events. Farmers market, craft/artisan.	7/23/2022 10:48 AM
2	More trees/shade canopies near playgrounds, soft play material under playground areas, splash pad, small paved walking paths for little bike riders/walkers/strollers/roller skating/rollerblading around playgrounds like at Veterans Memorial Park, unwieldy play structures, merry go rounds , see saws, seating areas with tables, natural playground features,	7/19/2022 9:21 PM
3	Splash pad	7/11/2022 6:28 PM
4	SPLASH PAD!	7/11/2022 4:10 PM
5	Please extend early morning Community Center hours. The Community Center was previously open at 6am. The current 7am opening is very difficult for working parents with school-aged children.	7/10/2022 9:20 PM
6	More gates on pickleball courts. Also, wind screens.	7/10/2022 8:12 AM
7	Improved strategically placed/additional entry gates to the pickleball courts. Additional bench seating along the outsides of the pickleball courts.	7/9/2022 10:41 PM
8	Expand on the bike trails	7/9/2022 9:19 AM
9	Either a splash pad or a community swimming pool	7/9/2022 8:00 AM
10	Splash pad	7/8/2022 4:14 PM
11	Would like to see more entrances to the beautiful new Pickleball courts. Presently with the 3 that are there players are constantly having to stop play so as not to injure anyone. Also would be nice to have windscreens, could have local businesses promote their business by purchasing screens.	7/8/2022 3:49 PM
12	Splash pad	7/8/2022 3:03 PM
13	Tennis courts resurfaced.	7/8/2022 2:41 PM
14	Splash pad, single-track mountain biking	7/8/2022 2:25 PM
15	Splash Pad, Swimming Pond/Pool	7/8/2022 2:04 PM
16	More tennis courts	7/6/2022 12:42 PM
17	Splash pad	6/26/2022 8:18 AM
18	Swimming pool	6/14/2022 10:08 AM
19	I would love to see a swing for special needs kids. I have five kids, one with special needs and there isn't any equipment in Byron Center that my daughter can use.	6/14/2022 9:01 AM
20	More activities for seniors.....over 55	6/13/2022 8:37 PM
21	Pool	6/13/2022 8:12 PM
22	Ice Rink, Roller Hockey Rink	6/13/2022 7:54 PM
23	Pool	6/13/2022 7:35 PM
24	I love that you added Pickleball. I also love walking around the beautiful lake!	6/13/2022 5:19 PM
25	Splash Pad	6/13/2022 3:42 PM
26	Longer walking paths/loops	6/13/2022 1:48 PM

27	A pool!	6/13/2022 1:30 PM
28	Splash pad at whistle stop park. More shade structures at new pickleball courts. Water cooler/fountain.	6/13/2022 1:06 PM
29	Splash pad or community outdoor pool	6/13/2022 12:10 PM
30	Splash pad! Bicentennial needs a playground expansion as well.	5/28/2022 7:59 PM
31	More sidewalks and bike paths connecting to whistlestop, parks and Kent trails. Burlingame and 76th are dangerous to bike or run along, so it's hard to get to the parks and bike paths from peoples houses. Connecting paths would be so appreciated! Having an entrance to whistlestop through kings land Dr sw would be great!	5/22/2022 4:33 PM
32	Update Bicentennial fields. Add more full size soccer fields accessible to general public	5/19/2022 1:14 PM
33	Mowing/upkeep of athletic fields at whistlestop park	5/19/2022 11:37 AM
34	Toddler social activities	5/18/2022 4:08 PM
35	Splash Pad. More places to walk and bike. Connectivity to trails & parks.	5/11/2022 7:43 AM
36	Splash pad	5/10/2022 1:09 PM
37	Beach volleyball	5/9/2022 1:33 PM
38	Love the new pickleball courts going in and can't wait for them to be finished! Also love the idea that you are exploring non motorized pathways in the Byron Center area - so needed!!	5/6/2022 9:54 AM
39	I would like to see additional hours for the rec/community center. It should open earlier and close later.	5/5/2022 5:37 PM
40	bike trail at whistlestop, entrance to park via burlingame, basketball hoops, expand bicentennial to more than just two softball fields, add more baseball fields somewhere,	5/5/2022 4:43 PM
41	would love to see more sidewalks from neighborhoods connect to the park system. More pickelball courts	5/5/2022 1:21 PM
42	Splash pad, more walking trails. Finish the side walk from the corner of Clyde park & 76th to link up to Kent trails on 76th by the cemetery. Also to have side walk along 76th street from the same intersection to US 131.	5/5/2022 11:18 AM
43	Splash pad	5/5/2022 7:02 AM
44	Splash pad or community pool	5/5/2022 6:56 AM
45	Community pool/water park, larger dog park, non chain farm to table restaurants, lacrosse fields	5/5/2022 6:32 AM
46	Splash pad	5/4/2022 10:04 PM
47	Splash pad	5/4/2022 9:56 PM
48	Showers at the rec center, longer hours	5/4/2022 9:38 PM
49	A splash pad. More dog free areas. So annoyed with dogs urinating on soccer fields, dig poo on the playground. Just disgusting	5/4/2022 9:33 PM
50	Continue bike trail to 92nd. Level 2 car chargers at parks. A larger skate board park. Outdoor ice skating rink in winter. Community pool.	5/4/2022 8:54 PM
51	A splash pad and upgraded equipment at Bicentennial Park	5/4/2022 7:51 PM
52	Nature park , splashpad	5/4/2022 7:31 PM
53	would love to see a pool with aerobics and open swim/lessons	5/4/2022 6:47 PM
54	Better tennis/bball courts	5/4/2022 5:21 PM
55	Splash pad, community pool, walking pathways through nature(paved), ponds to walk around,	5/4/2022 5:02 PM
56	Bigger Dog park that isn't on a mud slide.	5/4/2022 4:56 PM

57	Bike paths away from traffic. Connected.	5/4/2022 4:54 PM
58	Play equipment for kids 6+ Splash pads	5/4/2022 4:45 PM
59	Paths connecting neighborhoods to schools. Neighborhoods do a great job of providing sidewalks for walking/biking/etc, but there is often no safe way to go from one neighborhood to another or to get to a park without traveling on busy roads with no shoulder/bike lane/sidewalk.	5/4/2022 4:06 PM
60	Waterpark/aquatic center	5/4/2022 4:00 PM
61	Splash pad, RC park. More seating in the dog park with dedicated parking (it's impossible to find parking at the dog park or the playground when little league is going. Update basketball or tennis courts with practice board)	5/4/2022 3:52 PM
62	more indoor Pickleball space	5/4/2022 3:45 PM
63	More basketball courts that are dedicated to just basketball, specifically indoor from 3-9 pm	5/4/2022 3:25 PM
64	Updated play equipment to include less post/platform play amenities. Playground grade zip line (from playground company, not high ropes/adventure style) varying surface types under certain amenities (poured in place/artificial turf) under high wear areas(swings,slides). "Challenge course" layout of some equipment.	5/4/2022 3:17 PM
65	Water park	5/4/2022 3:06 PM
66	Would love a splash pad	5/4/2022 3:05 PM
67	Increased sidewalks for safe bike riding	5/4/2022 2:59 PM
68	Community pool, better parking at whistlestop. Possibly a different park for soccer and lacrosse	5/4/2022 2:50 PM
69	Sidewalks. Ability to bike/walk within our community safely to reach parks, community center, and Kent trail. We have no connections. We came from a community that has bike routes and walking paths and it was such a great feeling and made residents get out more and explore the township.	5/4/2022 2:47 PM
70	More walking trails	5/4/2022 2:44 PM
71	Splash pad	5/4/2022 2:42 PM
72	Splash pad, more walking trails (or connected)	5/4/2022 2:42 PM
73	Connected bike system between the parks and town, accessible playgrounds (turf or rubber), improvement to bicentennial play structure (next to pickleball courts)	5/4/2022 2:39 PM
74	A larger playground for kids similar to grand Haven park. More seating for parents, etc	5/4/2022 2:33 PM
75	More rec programs in the parks	5/4/2022 2:30 PM
76	Splashpad More summer day camp/classes for school age kiddos	5/4/2022 2:26 PM
77	Additional fields, green space, and larger playground equipment.	5/4/2022 2:18 PM
78	Pool!	5/4/2022 2:14 PM
79	Splash pad, outdoor shuffleboard	5/4/2022 2:12 PM
80	Outdoor tennis and pickle ball courts and leagues	5/4/2022 2:11 PM

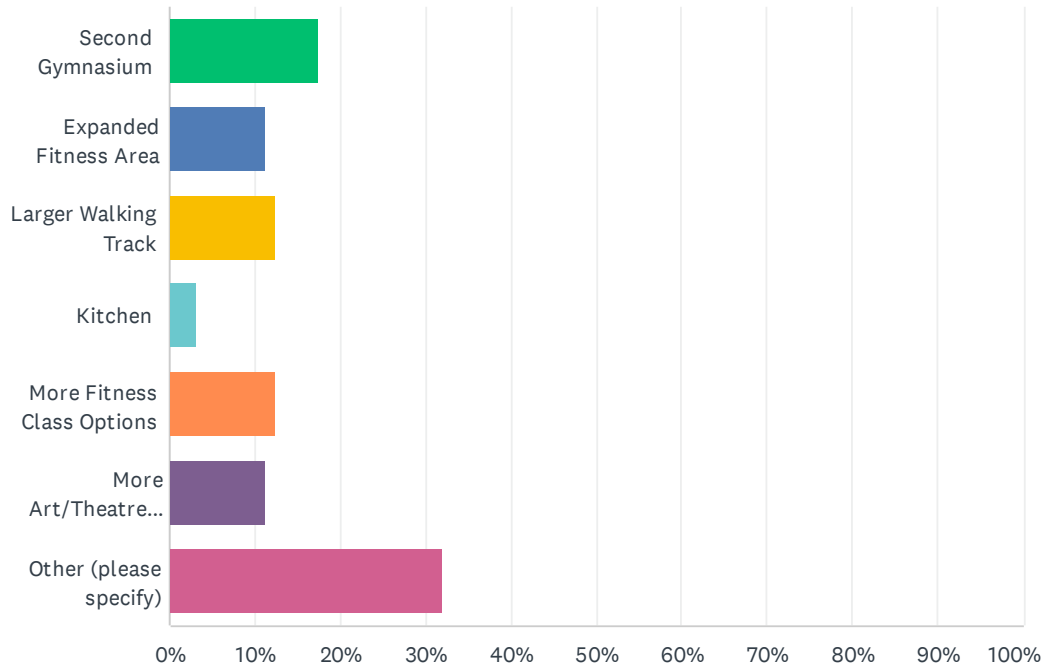
Q5 Is there an area within that Township that would be a great location for additional park space/recreational use? If yes, where?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 89

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Cutler park is way underutilized. Tennis courts are a waste of space with very little to no use.	7/9/2022 9:19 AM
2	Maybe grabbing up some land before it's developed into half million dollar houses	7/8/2022 2:25 PM
3	n/a	7/8/2022 2:04 PM
4	Whistlestop park	6/14/2022 10:08 AM
5	Whistle stop park	6/13/2022 1:30 PM
6	No	6/13/2022 1:06 PM
7	Bicentennial. Why are there so many pickle ball courts and nothing new for the kids? It's a shame we need to drive to other locations for larger playground equipment and splash pads.	5/28/2022 7:59 PM
8	East of Burlingame	5/22/2022 4:33 PM
9	Adjacent to the Kent Trails.	5/17/2022 11:48 AM
10	Northwest side of the township	5/10/2022 3:50 PM
11	South or west part of the township.	5/9/2022 1:33 PM
12	expand whistlestop towards burlingame	5/5/2022 4:43 PM
13	More in west side	5/5/2022 3:41 PM
14	?	5/5/2022 11:18 AM
15	Wilson and M6 area is lacking a park	5/5/2022 6:56 AM
16	Across from the Byron center high school? I don't know the exact lines of the township though	5/5/2022 6:32 AM
17	Not sure	5/4/2022 10:04 PM
18	Maybe Cutler Park	5/4/2022 4:56 PM
19	Idk	5/4/2022 4:45 PM
20	Wetlands conservatory near 92nd and Clyde Park, south of the Carlisle Shores neighborhood (I thought I saw potential renderings a few years ago, but haven't heard anything since)	5/4/2022 4:06 PM
21	Across from high school	5/4/2022 4:00 PM
22	In general, SW quadrant of township. Old school sites (northwest/ etc) that could be utilized on medium term lease if schools need to preserve for future development, farmland adjacent to whistlestop Park. Farmland by speedway gas station/m6. 10740 Wilson property for sale.	5/4/2022 3:17 PM
23	No idea	5/4/2022 2:44 PM
24	Bicentennial park improvements! It's well connected to downtown by the bike path, plenty of parking. Would love to see an accessible playground installed there for all families to use! Great location there too because of the farmers market there and the library.	5/4/2022 2:39 PM
25	NW part of the township.	5/4/2022 2:18 PM
26	Unknown	5/4/2022 2:12 PM

Q6 Looking toward an expansion of the community center building, what additional amenities or activities would you like to see?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 18



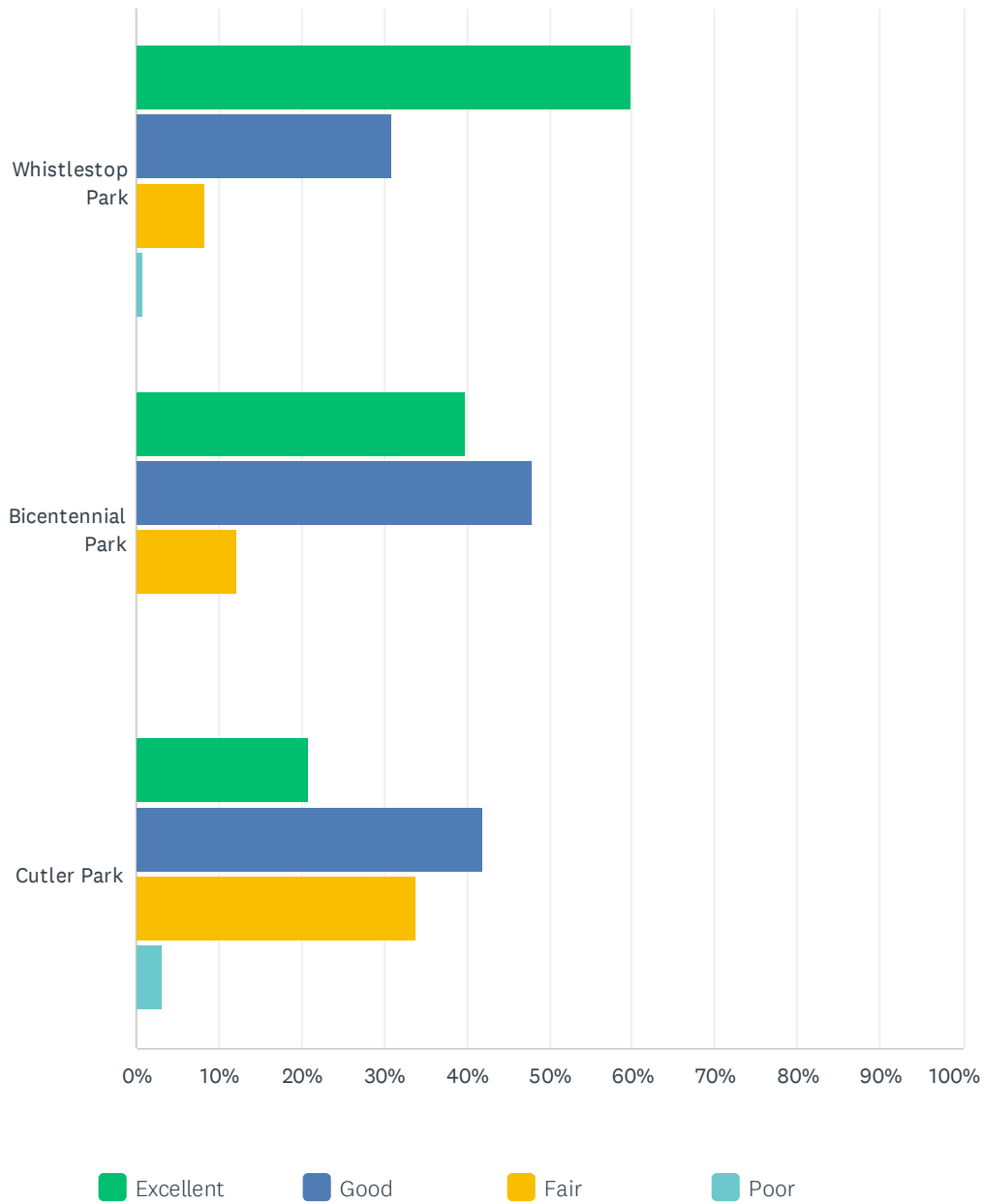
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Second Gymnasium	17.53% 17
Expanded Fitness Area	11.34% 11
Larger Walking Track	12.37% 12
Kitchen	3.09% 3
More Fitness Class Options	12.37% 12
More Art/Theatre Programming	11.34% 11
Other (please specify)	31.96% 31
TOTAL	97

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Pool/ aquatic activities	7/23/2022 10:48 AM
2	Activities like what the library offers....their space is wayyy too small	7/19/2022 9:21 PM
3	Pool or splash pad	7/11/2022 6:28 PM
4	Please resume the previous Community Center hours: please open at 6am on weekdays & 7am on Saturday, staying open past 12pm on Saturday.	7/10/2022 9:20 PM
5	Pool - the pool at the high school is very hard to get in and out if you are out of shape :) and it is not set up for family use.	7/8/2022 4:14 PM

6	Larger a gym for more Pickleball	7/8/2022 3:49 PM
7	More kids classes	7/6/2022 12:42 PM
8	Swimming pool	6/14/2022 10:08 AM
9	Open Sundays!	6/13/2022 5:19 PM
10	Pool	6/13/2022 1:30 PM
11	Kids area	5/22/2022 4:33 PM
12	Indoor turf	5/19/2022 11:37 AM
13	Again multi select - art programs, fitness options, larger walking area	5/18/2022 4:08 PM
14	Can only check one above. Expand fitness area and walking track.	5/11/2022 7:43 AM
15	Showers	5/10/2022 3:50 PM
16	larger fitness area, more green area	5/5/2022 4:43 PM
17	Pool	5/5/2022 11:18 AM
18	More fitness classes offered during the day, more kids classes	5/5/2022 6:32 AM
19	Second gym, art and theatre	5/4/2022 10:04 PM
20	More gym, more exercise equipment, especially for young teens, such as 11 year olds	5/4/2022 9:33 PM
21	Maker space, 2nd gym	5/4/2022 7:31 PM
22	All	5/4/2022 5:02 PM
23	expanded hours of operation....open early enough to go before work and on weekends	5/4/2022 4:06 PM
24	Pool! Then I would not have to go to the ymca	5/4/2022 3:52 PM
25	Can only select 1 option, would like another gym with at least 1/2 turf area for fitness/training. And more art/theatre options.	5/4/2022 3:17 PM
26	More rentable rooms	5/4/2022 2:42 PM
27	More adult fitness, feels like there are a lot of options for seniors/older adults	5/4/2022 2:39 PM
28	Pool	5/4/2022 2:36 PM
29	Additional kids activities and classes!	5/4/2022 2:33 PM
30	More sports that aren't private funded	5/4/2022 2:30 PM
31	Tennis and pickleball outdoors	5/4/2022 2:11 PM

Q7 How would you rate the maintenance of the Byron Township Parks you have visited?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 5



	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Whistlestop Park	59.81% 64	30.84% 33	8.41% 9	0.93% 1	107	1.50
Bicentennial Park	39.80% 39	47.96% 47	12.24% 12	0.00% 0	98	1.72
Cutler Park	20.97% 13	41.94% 26	33.87% 21	3.23% 2	62	2.19

Q8 If you rated something fair/poor, please explain.

Answered: 19 Skipped: 96

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Zero sun coverage, taking is far and confusing, no easy to use paved paths from the playground to baseball fields (playground itself is amazing)	7/19/2022 9:21 PM
2	Grass is dead. Courts are in shambles.	7/9/2022 9:19 AM
3	Cutler Park has the bathrooms way over by the trailer park and they are so run down.	7/9/2022 5:58 AM
4	Bicentennial-the pickleball courts are beautiful but the playground could be improved.	7/8/2022 4:40 PM
5	As a recent dog owner, my family has started to utilize the dog park 3-5 times a week. I like that we have one, but we also visit other dog parks and ours is woefully under maintained and is quite small. The gates, the water fountain and the picnic table all need repair. I would love to see some shade like a small pavilion and benches over picnic tables and a larger space. Because of the lack of shade, the grass is dead. It would be great to get something over at bicentennial park so we wouldn't have to compete with the overwhelming little league parking lot that often fills up all. Caledonia has a very nice park and would be great if we had something more like that. The dog park is not a great representation of our community. This is a sentiment that I often hear by others at the park. Thanks for listening and asking for feedback!	7/8/2022 4:14 PM
6	You guys are doing a great job!	6/13/2022 5:19 PM
7	Athletic fields are rutted and not kept up. Grass is often high and field not consistently marked	5/19/2022 11:37 AM
8	Older park and needs some TLC. Restrooms need updating.	5/11/2022 7:43 AM
9	Some of the maintenance men are very nice but some of them are very lazy. I've seen a few of those guys sitting on their butts a lot, ie hanging out in lawn chairs while assumingly on the clock. Trash needs to be emptied more often. I walk through the park each day; last week, the day after my granddaughter's game, the trash had still not been emptied even though it was overflowing. My dog tries to eat the trash. Also, why isn't there a trash can near the concessions window? I'm going to start putting my trash in the pop returns. The fences should also be weed-whacked. I love Whistlestop, but I have been disappointed in its care recently.	5/5/2022 4:43 PM
10	An explanation: I have never used any of the facilities or parks until Feb 5, 2022, for the comic convention.	5/5/2022 4:11 PM
11	The grounds are not kept as nice as previously	5/4/2022 9:38 PM
12	Cutler is run down. No bathrooms.	5/4/2022 7:28 PM
13	since Pickleball is becoming so popular, you may want to consider charging a small fee for non resident silver sneaker members. Premier Fitness (Ramblewood) charges \$3.00 for Silver Sneaker members. Seems taxpaying residents should have some advantage over non residents.	5/4/2022 3:45 PM
14	Very little attention given to Cutler Park - if not for playing baseball at this field I'd have no clue it was part of Byron Parks	5/4/2022 3:25 PM
15	Needs additional turf management/field leveling/drainage solutions. Rating is more so infrastructure related than staffing abilities. Bicentennial always looks great.	5/4/2022 3:17 PM
16	Cutler park is just run down and my least favorite for sporting Events. It definitely could use new dugouts and field could use an upgrade	5/4/2022 3:05 PM
17	Needs a bathroom closer to the field.	5/4/2022 2:45 PM
18	Parks maintenance has declined.	5/4/2022 2:18 PM
19	Cutler Park just simply not maintained like the other areas. The restroom is far away from the	5/4/2022 2:07 PM

fields and really don't feel safe letting kiddos go into them. Just a different feeling to the environment compared to the other locations.
