2015 - 2019

Vassar Township

Park and Recreation Master Plan



Created by Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee
PREPARED BY TUSCOLA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Adopted Master Plan, September 8, 2015

Vassar Township 2015 – 2019 Park and Recreation Master Plan

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Introduction

The Township of Vassar recognizes the contribution parks and recreation add to the quality of life and the physical health of its citizens as well as the economic health of the Township. This recognition has been manifested in this effort to develop the 2015 – 2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan with the hopes of creating, improving, and developing local parks and recreational offerings, public trails, preservation of natural areas, and the opening of Vassar Township owned lands to enhance public parks and recreational opportunities.

The 2015 – 2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan provides a specific framework for utilizing the Township's resources for park and recreational purposes in order to effectively meet identified needs. This Park and Recreation Master Plan represents a guideline about the future of parks and recreation in Vassar Township and provides a blueprint for making desired improvements over the next five years. In addition it outlines the vision for parks and recreation in Vassar Township and provides a realistic, workable plan to realize it.

The vision of the Vassar Township Parks and Recreation is to create recreational opportunities and communication enhancement for growth and enrichment by developing areas or natural resources that promote citizen involvement and a strong sense of community while striving to increase the social, cultural, and physical well-being of residents.

The 2015 – 2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan is the first park and recreation plan prepared for the Township of Vassar. The last park and recreation master plan was developed for Vassar Township in a partnership with the City of Vassar and Tuscola Township in 1999. This new park and recreation master plan assesses the expanding need for park and recreation facilities in the Township and identifies projects to meet the demands of existing and future residents. As a result, the 2015 – 2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan will provide a more comprehensive strategy for meeting park and recreational needs and eliminating any identified deficiencies.

The 2015 – 2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan is an investment in the community that will enable the Township of Vassar to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors through parks and recreational opportunities.

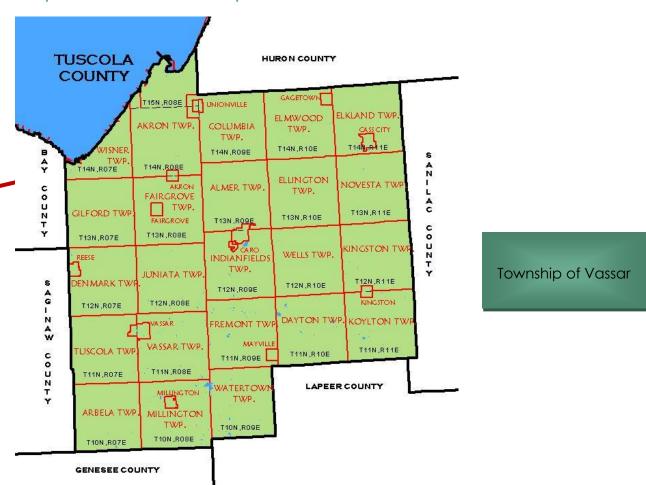
Community Description

The Township of Vassar is a civil township located in the southwestern portion of Tuscola County. The Township has a total area of 35.3 square miles of which 35.2 square miles is land and 0.1 square miles is water. The City of Vassar is located in the northwestern portion of the Township. The Township of Juniata is located on the northern border, the

Township of Fremont is located on the eastern border, with the Township of Millington to the south and the Township of Tuscola on the west. The Cass River runs in a

southwesterly direction across the northwest corner of Vassar Township. Bay City, Birch Run, Detroit, Flint, Frankenmuth, Midland, MBS Airport, Flint Bishop Airport, and Saginaw are a short driving distance away.

Vassar Township Park is currently under creation and beginning development. While the Township of Vassar has owned the 26 acre property since 1983, it has not been developed into a public park until now. While the creation and development process continues, the Township of Vassar firmly believes that Vassar Township Park will be a focal point or destination of the Township which will further enhance Vassar Township's sense of place.



Map 1 Location of the Township of Vassar

Administrative Structure

Under Public Act 157 of 1905 the Township of Vassar Board of Trustees approved the Vassar Township Parks and Recreation Committee which is currently comprised of seven

volunteer members from the Vassar Township Community. The role of the Parks and Recreation Committee is to advise and recommend policy and projects regarding parks and recreation. The Parks and Recreation Committee reports to the Township of Vassar Planning Commission, who then reports to the Township of Vassar Board of Trustees, who are ultimately responsible for parks and recreation within the Township.

The Township of Vassar is honored to have a group of volunteers who have agreed to manage and operate Vassar Township Park. This group of volunteers is being led and directed by the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee Chairperson.

The fiscal year of the Township of Vassar, which includes parks and recreation, runs from July 1 to June 30. The current year's budget is comprised of \$8,000 for creation and beginning development of Vassar Township Park. The main source of funding for parks and recreation is from the Township of Vassar park and recreation budget.

The Township of Vassar has partnered with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Cass River Greenway, and received assistance from the Tuscola County Road Commission in the creation of a Cass River access site, located on the southwest corner of Caine and Waterman Roads. In addition, each year the Township of Vassar contributes funds to help support the park and recreation facilities in the City of Vassar. It is the plan of the Township of Vassar to continue and encourage the partnership and volunteer relationships that have been created and to seek out new partnership opportunities.



Organization Chart for the Township of Vassar Parks and Recreation

Residents

Vassar Township 2015 – 2019 Park and Recleation Master Plan

Board of Trustees

Volunteers

Recreation Inventory

Accessibility



Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals within the community, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities, which are most, and least, handicap accessible and usable, based on the ADA guidelines. The following accessibility

grading system uses a five (5) point system ranging from one, none of the facilities/park areas meets accessibility guidelines, to five, both parks were developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance assessment of Vassar Township Park was conducted on October 29, 2014. The assessment consisted of a visual inspection of the park in regards to access and circulation in relation to the park facilities. As noted in the inventory listing most of the park does not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. The Township of Vassar will continue its efforts towards improving accessibility at Vassar Township Park when improvements are made.

Vassar Township Park

Vassar Township Park is in the beginning development and creation stage. It is presently easily classified as a greenspace park however the intention of the Township of Vassar is

to develop it into a Community Park, which serves the community based park and recreational needs as well as preserving green open spaces in Vassar Township. It is 26 acres of wooded and grassy terrain and serves the Township of Vassar, City of Vassar, and surrounding Townships. Current recreation and support facilities include a driveway, rustic parking lot, and wooded green space. The entire park is in the development stage and does not yet meet accessibility guidelines and therefore ranks a 1.

In addition to the developing Vassar Township Park, the Township of Vassar owns 40 acres in the southeast corner of section 24. This land has the potential of being developed into a special use park in the future as there are two small lakes on the property.

Another potential future addition to the recreational inventory of the Township of Vassar would be a rail trail that connects to the Southern Links Trailway in the southern portion of the Township and runs northwesterly to connect with the trailway in the City of Vassar.

The residents of the Township of Vassar have access to the following public park and recreational opportunities –

- The City of Vassar Harper Park, White Birch Park, T. North Pavilion, Vassar Riverside RV Park, Vassar Memorial Park, Veterans Park, Gazebo Park, Vassar Rail Trail, and McKinley Park.
- Township of Arbela, Township of Millington, and Village of Millington Arthur Latham Park.
- Township of Tuscola Tuscola Township Park
- MDOT Roadside Park, along M-15

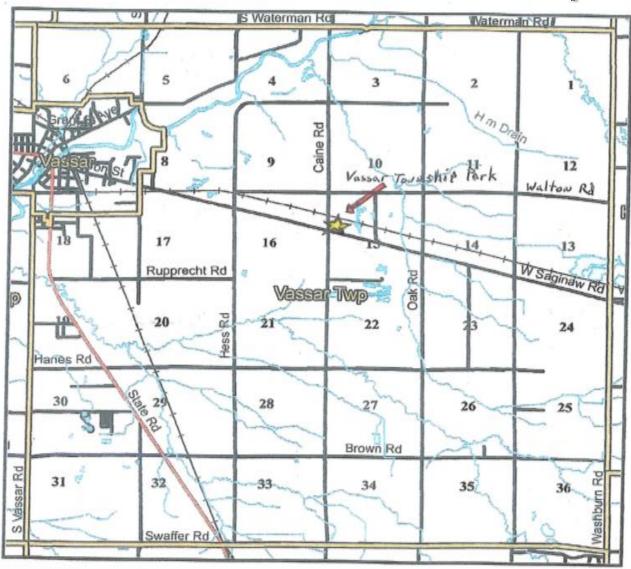
The residents of the Township of Vassar also have access to the following State of Michigan public lands – Vassar State Game Area, Murphy Lake State Game Area, and Tuscola State Game Area.

While there is no public or private school system located in Vassar Township, the majority of student residents reside in the Vassar Public School District with a minority of student residents who reside in the Millington Community School district. Each of these school districts offer some form of recreational opportunities to residents.

Map 2 Vassar Township Park

Key: Vassar Township Park







Planning Methods

The planning process undertaken for this master plan used a systems approach to planning which analyzed the population and economic characteristics of Vassar Township, its relevant development patterns, the physical and natural attributes of the Township, accessibility of facilities, and resident opinions related to recreation. Another element of this process is an assessment of the Township's local and area wide park and recreational resources.

Vassar Township Population Demographics

Table 1.1 Township of Vassar Population						
Subject	Number	Percent				
Total Population	4,093	100.0%				
Under 5	228	5.6%				
5 to 9 years	264	6.5%				
10 to 14 years	279	6.8%				
15 to 19 years	319	7.8%				
20 to 24 years	250	6.1%				
25 to 29 years	220	5.4%				
30 to 34 years	244	6.0%				
35 to 39 years	273	6.7%				
40 to 44 years	259	6.3%				
45 to 49 years	343	8.4%				
50 to 54 years	378	9.2%				
55 to 59 years	322	7.9%				
60 to 64 years	226	5.5%				
65 to 69 years	170	4.2%				
70 to 74 years	138	3.4%				
75 to 79 years	85	2.1%				
80 to 84 years	54	1.3%				
85 years and over	41	1.0%				
Median age (years)	39.5	(X)				

(Source 2010 U.S. Census Bureau)

As indicated on the above table 1.1 for the 2010 U.S. Federal Census Vassar Township had a total resident population of 4,093. The highest percentage of residents was in the 50 to 54 year age bracket with 9.2%. The second highest age group was the 45 – 49 year bracket with 8.4%. The third highest age group was the 55 to 59 year age bracket with 7.9% and the 15 to 19 year age bracket being the fourth highest with 7.8%.

Vassar Township Population Demographics Continued

Table 1.2 Female Population						
Subject Total Percent						
Female Population	2012	49.2%				
Under 5	109	2.7%				
5 to 9 years	131	3.2%				
10 to 14 years	125	3.1%				
15 to 19 years	162	4.0%				
20 to 24 years	121	3.0%				
25 to 29 years	105	2.6%				
30 to 34 years	123	3.0%				
35 to 39 years	127	3.1%				
40 to 44 years	126	3.1%				
45 to 49 years	161	3.9%				
50 to 54 years	208	5.1%				
55 to 59 years	156	3.8%				
60 to 64 years	116	2.8%				
65 to 69 years	77	1.9%				
70 to 74 years	66	1.6%				
75 to 79 years	49	1.2%				
80 to 84 years	24	0.6%				
85 years and over	26	0.6%				
Median Age	40.1					

Male Population	2081	50.8%
Under 5	119	2.9%
5 to 9 years	133	3.2%
10 to 14 years	154	3.8%
15 to 19 years	157	3.8%
20 to 24 years	129	3.2%
25 to 29 years	115	2.8%
30 to 34 years	121	3.0%
35 to 39 years	146	3.6%
40 to 44 years	133	3.2%
45 to 49 years	182	4.4%
50 to 54 years	170	4.2%
55 to 59 years	166	4.1%
60 to 64 years	110	2.7%
65 to 69 years	93	2.3%
70 to 74 years	72	1.8%
75 to 79 years	36	0.9%
80 to 84 years	30	0.7%
85 years and over	15	0.4%
Median Age	38.8	

Total

Percent

(Source 2010 U.S. Census Bureau)

(Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau)

Table 1.3 Male Population

Subject

The information from tables 1.2 and 1.3 above indicate 49.2 % of the resident population of Vassar Township is female and 50.8% is male. Of the female residents the highest population bracket was 50 to 59 years of age with 208 residents or 5.1%. The second highest was the 15 to 19 age bracket with 162 female residents or 4%. The third highest was the 45 to 49 year age bracket with 161 residents or 3.9% of the female population. The fourth highest population group was the 55 to 59 year age bracket with 156 residents or 3.8% of the female population. The median age of the female residents is 40.1 years of age.

Of the male residents the highest population bracket was the 45 to 49 year of age bracket with 182 male residents or 4.4%. The second highest age bracket was the 50 to 54 year bracket with 170 male residents or 4.2% of the male population. The third highest age bracket was 55 to 59 years of age with 166 male residents or 4.1%. The fourth largest age bracket was the 15 to 19 year age group with 157 male residents or 3.8%.

Household Demographics

According to the 2010 U.S. Federal Census there were 1,541 households in Vassar Township. Of these 459 of them included children less than 18 years of age and 1,154 were classified as family households. There were 906 married households with 325 of them with children less than 18 years of age. There were 89 households with a male household and no wife present. Fifty (50) of these had children less than 18 years of age. There were 159 households with a female householder with no husband present and 84 of these households had children less than 18 years of age. There were 387 nonfamily households. The number of resident who live alone is 311. Of this number 176 were male and 135 were female. Seventy Two (72) residents in this classification were 65 years of age and over. There were a total of 520 households with children under the age of 18 and 362 households with resident who were 65 years and over.

In the 2010 U.S. Federal Census there were 1,668 housing units in the Township with 1,541 or 92.4% of them listed as occupied. There were 127 vacant housing units with 13 for rent, 21 for sale, 10 sold but not occupied, 22 seasonal, recreation, or occasional use dwellings, and 61 listed as all other vacant.

Of the 1,541 housing units 87.3% or 1,346 of them were owner occupied housing units with a population of 3,585 residents living in these classified dwellings. There were 195 rental units in the Township in 2010 with 505 residents occupying them.

From evaluation of the demographic makeup of Vassar Township residents, it appears that there are two majority population groups residing in the Township; Baby Boomers and Generation Y, born between 1980 - 2000.

The Baby Boomer societal generation is those individuals who were born during the years of 1943 to 1964. They are the largest population group in American history. Because of improved health, fitness, and lifestyle changes, many members of the Baby Boomer Generation are participating in recreational activities at ages well past those in previous generations. Members of this generation often look for park and recreation destinations that offer activities such as hiking, trailway, or water sport activities.

After the Baby Boomer Generation, birth rates declined until the majority of the Baby Boomers became parents themselves, which created the societal generation known as Generation Y.

Members of this societal age group often make up the largest park and recreational user group in America. As Generation Y continues to enter the workforce and have families of their own, their specific wants and needs will increasingly shape parks and recreational supply and demand.

Their values and desires are very different from those of their parents', the Baby Boomer generation. Tendencies within this group include a demand for instant access to information, high levels of multitasking, and low rates of physical activity. Interestingly,

Generation Y often seeks out park and recreational offerings that are based on family group or friend activities, such as picnic and community gathering areas such as a pavilion.

In evaluating the population age brackets of Vassar, it is apparent the largest age group is the Baby Boomer Generation. As this group continues to enter into retirement the wants and needs of Vassar Township residents concerning parks and recreational opportunities may shift from the present demand.

In addition, analysis shows the second largest resident group is Generation Y. This societal group differs in park and recreational wants and needs compared to those of their parental group the Baby Boomers. Another factor that warrants consideration is the emergence of a variety of new and non-traditional family structures. These new family types which are often found in Generation Y, have created many new and different leisure patterns and recreation demands.

More adults in Generation Y remain single until their 30's and 40's, with many of those that do marry either postponing having children until later in their lives, or choosing to not have children at all. At the same time, single-parent families have also increased.

For all age groups, free time is perceived as an opportunity to spend time with family and friends and as such, they often seek out recreation activities that allow group participation. While group activities are popular among single-parent and no-children families, members of these demographics are often also interested in the more active and unusual recreation available in experiential trips and other non-traditional recreation activities. Traditional team sports such as football have reached a plateau in their growth, while more modern activities such as canoe, kayaking, and disc golf continue to rise in popularity. Interestingly both the baby boomers and generation Y often want and place a high priority on park and recreation areas that have wireless internet access.

Public Input

Public participation in the community of Vassar Township is always sought and welcomed. As part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires at least two opportunities for public participation, with the first taking place before or during the preparation of the plan (i.e. community workshop, survey, questionnaire, citizen luncheon) and the second taking place as an advertised public meeting at which the plan is presented for adoption.

The Township of Vassar exceeded the minimum Michigan DNR requirements for public input, as well as the required 30-day period for review and comment of the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Draft Master Plan.

During the planning process the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee hosted a public opinion survey. They received 58 responses to the survey. For the question of "Do you feel that more recreational development would be desirable?" Some of the positive responses were:

- Yes, it would draw people to Vassar Township
- Yes, it would add to the beauty of Vassar Township
- Yes, Citizens need to socialize more, and get to know each other
- Yes, we should have local access to a park and to the Cass River as do other local communities
- Yes, there is no place to walk without cars passing by very fast

Some of the negative responses were:

- No, the City of Vassar already has parks
- No, it is a waste of taxpayer money and would be very frustrating to see it become a flop
- No, it wouldn't be used
- No, it would cost to much money
- No/Yes I think it would be good but too many people would not appreciate it For the question of "What recreational activities do your children need?" Some of the positive comments were:
 - Soccer, basketball, hockey, and baseball
 - Skateboard park, internet, and music
 - Skate parks, play areas, and something for small and older children
 - Places to hike and fish, and a public swimming pool.
 - Walking trail or playground area with picnic table
 - Bike trails, walking trails, senior citizen activities (yoga, tai chi, etc...)

Some of the negative comments were:

- Parents should pay for activities
- Our children are grown and have moved away

For the question of "What kinds of recreational development should Vassar Township consider becoming involved with?" Some of the positive comments were:

- Anything that might enhance the township
- Installing broad band internet access
- Expanding the rail trail and walking and bike paths
- Skateboard, paintball, and mud bogging

The majority of negative comments felt there wasn't a need for a park

For the question of "What kind of recreational development should be Vassar Township's highest priority?" Some of the positive suggestions were:

- Extend the rail trail to Caro
- Internet access
- Parks, skate parks, and bike parks
- Swimming pool
- Nature Park
- Cass River Access
- Canoe and Kayak Launch

The majority of the negative comments felt there shouldn't be a park

When asked if surveyors would be willing to volunteer in organizing activities or maintain recreation facilities in the Township 13 responded with yes, and 3 responded with sometimes and/or maybe. A copy of this survey can be found in Attachment A on page 23.

The Vassar Township Planning Commission and Park and Recreation Committee hosted a public meeting to solicit ideas and gather feedback on specific ideas related to development of Vassar Township Park on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. before and after the Vassar Township Planning Commission Meeting. The proposed park and recreation master plan was open for review, comment, and suggestion from members of Vassar Township and the surrounding community. In addition, members of the Planning Commission and Park and Recreation Committee were on site and available to answer question and/or clarify information or take suggestions from community members.

Public Meeting Notice

The following Public Review Notice was posted on the Vassar Township website and in the Vassar Pioneer Times newspaper more than 10 days before the public meeting.

> Township of Vassar Public Review Five Year Recreation Plan 2015 – 2019

The Township of Vassar Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee will be holding a Public Review on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7 pm at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768.

The purpose of the public review is to make the public aware a draft of the Vassar Township Five Year Park and Recreation Plan 2015 – 2019 will be available for review and comment at the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library 520 West Huron Ave, Vassar, MI 48768 or the Vassar Township Hall 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768. For more information, contact the Township at (989) 823-3541.

Michael Clinesmith Vassar Township Clerk

Review

The proposed park and recreation master plan was available for a 30 day review by area residents in three locations, the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 W. Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI, the Vassar Township website www.vassartownship.org, and the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library, 520 W. Huron Avenue, Vassar, MI. There was also notification of the availability of the park and recreation plan for review and an upcoming public hearing clearly posted in the Tuscola County Advertiser of which a copy is located in Attachment A.

The proposed Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan was also presented to the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, the City of Vassar, the Townships of Arbela, Denmark, Fremont, Indian Fields, Juniata, Millington, Tuscola and Watertown. The proposed master plan received a resolution of approval from Arbela Township, Juniata Township, and the Village of Millington, which is included in the Resolutions of Approval section beginning on page 27. It was also made available for review, comment, and suggestions to the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG).

Goals and Objectives

Vassar Township parks, recreation, and open space exists to serve the needs and wants of the residents of Vassar Township and the community by striving to provide a full spectrum of recreational opportunities, while enhancing the visual quality of neighborhoods and Vassar Township as a whole. Parks, recreation, and open space are looked upon as one of the most important elements in the quality of life for Vassar Township residents.

In order to best serve the park and recreational needs of Vassar Township, the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee has developed the following park and recreational guiding principles.

- Provide accessible facilities and leisure opportunities for all persons regardless of their physical and socio-economic characteristics.
- Efficiently employ Vassar Township resources, in concert with other public, private, and volunteer resources, to provide a wide range of recreation and leisure opportunities and where unnecessary avoid duplication of services.
- Actively seek the most appropriate acquisition and uses of community open space and natural features to meet the community's needs for active, structured recreation, as well as passive enjoyment of the out-of-doors.

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the park planning process. Based on the guiding principles, the overall goal of the Township of Vassar is to provide park and recreational opportunities for the community and/or region it serves.

The Township of Vassar formulated the following goals and objectives based upon the input received at multiple open public meetings, the community survey, and the community input session on June 11, 2015 as well as the demographic characteristics of Vassar Township.

Goal 1

Provide safe, broad, and community based park and recreational opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of the Vassar Township area.

Parks serve as a natural gathering place for community residents and provide free or inexpensive recreation opportunities. To enrich the quality of life in Vassar Township, it is important for the Township of Vassar to provide and improve park facilities. Township residents fall below the average income ranges; and therefore, wish to have community parks with basic amenities that appeal to all age groups. Community input is a solid indicator of what residents in Vassar Township and surrounding communities want in terms of parks and recreational facilities. The Township of Vassar will continue to plan its improvements based upon the needs expressed in formal and informal input sessions.

Objectives

- Add amenities to the park facilities in the Township of Vassar based upon community input
- Provide increased and improved access to and through Vassar Township Park
- Acquire additional parkland, if necessary

Goal 2

Continue to develop and improve Vassar Township Park so as to offer the community a park of which they can be proud.

Park facilities are among the most visible indicators of a community's identity and pride, as well as local tax dollars at work. The Township of Vassar wishes to provide a quality park and facilities that show they are an active community that takes pride in its community facilities.

Objectives

- Keep Vassar Township Park safe and well maintained
- Add support facilities so as to improve the ease of use

Goal 3

Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. The Township of Vassar wishes to provide park and recreational opportunities for all residents, including those with disabilities. This will be especially important as the population in the community continues to age because mobility and accessibility issues increase with age.

Objectives

• Make sure all improvements and upgrades to Vassar Township Park, where feasible, are barrier free.

Goal 4

Improve the health and fitness of the Township of Vassar residents. The Township of Vassar wants to offer park facilities that will allow residents to enjoy the benefits of physical fitness. This will raise the quality of life for Township residents. There may be partnering opportunities with school districts, recreational groups, and other governmental agencies. The ability to offer programming or recreational opportunities is dependent upon available funding and volunteer staffing for such a project.

Objectives

- Investigate programming opportunities that take advantage of present and planned park facilities
- Add passive and active facilities and programming as needed based upon available funding and community input

Action Program

With goals and objective in place, the Township of Vassar was able to develop a 5-year- action program to work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives. The Action Program details the direction the Township of Vassar wishes to take over the next five years in order to develop and improve the quality and diversity of park and recreational opportunities within Vassar Township. These decisions were made based on park and recreational trends, national standards, community input, and demographic trends in comparison.

Potential capital improvements (CIP) for the parks and recreation master plan have been established not only to provide a framework for decision makers, but also to enable the Township of Vassar to apply for grant funding for these proposed projects. The CIP schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all-inclusive nor exclusive. The schedule merely reflects the results of the input from the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee, Vassar Township Board of Trustees, Vassar Township Planning Commission, input from the community open house and data gathered in conjunction with the community survey. It is very likely that the schedule and plan will be amended at some point during its life due to unanticipated circumstances, such as changing recreational trends, community opinion, available funding, and/or private donations.

The following Capital Improvement Schedule (CIP) provides an outline and guide as to the desires of the community. Major priorities for the coming years include a pavilion, playground equipment, and creating a nature trail.

	TOWNSHIP OF VASSAR – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE – FIVE YEAR PARK & RECREATION MASTER PLAN							
							TOTAL	
	FACILITY / PROJECT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	COST	
	VASSAR TOWNSHIP PARK							
1	Create a Nature Trail	Х					\$5,000.00	
2	Playground Equipment		Х				\$10,000.00	
3	Install Outdoor Lighting			Х			\$12,000.00	
4	Public Restrooms (Chemical and/or Portable)		Х				\$5,000.00	
5	Pavilion				Х		\$15,000.00	
6	Park Benches	Х					\$4,000.00	
7	Signage	Х					\$2,000.00	
8	Paved Parking Lot/Driveway					Х	\$10,000.00	
9	Install a Broad Band Internet/Cell Tower		Х				0	
	Total \$63,000.00							

Action Program Rationale

Should the funds become available the future improvements to Vassar Township Park include:

Install Park Signage – Since Vassar Township Park is a new park, it is important to place appropriate signage.

Create a Nature, Walking, Jogging, Trail – from the public survey and community input session this is a high priority want and need of the park.

Install Playground Equipment – This also was a high priority need and suggestion from the survey and input session.

Install Outdoor Lighting – it is a community need to have parks that are safe and easily accessible.

Install Public Restrooms – this is a community request as well as a public health issue to have restrooms in the park.

Construct a Pavilion – one of the highest requests from the community was to have a gathering place in the park to host picnics and community and/or family events.

Install Park Benches – from the survey and public input, the citizens would like park benches placed in the new park.

Construct a Paved Driveway and Parking Lot – in order to achieve an ease of access for all park users it is important to have a paved driveway and parking area.

Install a Broad Band Internet/Cell Tower – the community has requested internet and cell phone service be available. Presently, there is very limited or nonexistent broad band internet service coverage throughout the Township.

Adoption Process

Public Meeting Notice

The following notice was placed in the Tuscola County Advertiser newspaper, Saturday May 2, 2015.

Township of Vassar Public Review Five Year Recreation Plan 2015 – 2019

The Township of Vassar Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee will be holding a Public Review on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7 pm at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768.

The purpose of the public review is to make the public aware a draft of the Vassar Township Five Year Park and Recreation Plan 2015 – 2019 will be available for review and comment at the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library 520 West Huron Ave, Vassar, MI 48768 or the Vassar Township Hall 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768. For more information, contact the Township at (989) 823-3541.

Michael Clinesmith Vassar Township Clerk

Because of unforeseen circumstances the public review was rescheduled for June 11, 2015. The following meeting notice was published on the Vassar Township website (www.vassartownship.org).

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Michael Clinesmith Vassar Township Clerk The public review notice was also available to the public on the Vassar Township Facebook page and the Vassar Township Community Sign, in front of the Township Hall.

The public review was called to order by Vassar Township Planning Commission Kendall Woodruff at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was well attended with at least 8 community members present. Some of the questions and comments were: "What is the relationship of the Park and Rec Master Plan to the Planning Commission Master Plan", "What is the purpose of the Resolution of Approval", and the Capital Improvement Schedule was asked to be explained. Hearing no other comments or questions the public review was adjourned and the planning commission meeting was resumed. The following Resolution was adopted.

Vassar Township Planning Commission Resolution

Resolution PC01-2015

Township of Vassar 2015 – 2019 Park and Recreation Master Plan Resolution of Approval for Public Review

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Park and Recreation Committee has undertaken a Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2015 and 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Planning Commission was presented and reviewed the Park and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Park and Recreation Master Plan and a 30 day public review is now being provided, and

WHEREAS, the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee has developed the master plan for the benefit of the entire community, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVE, the Vassar Township Planning Commission hereby recommends approval of the 2015-2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving park and recreation for the residents of the Vassar Township community and recommends that the Township of Vassar Board of Trustees adopts said plan.

Janice Zawol, Fred Welsh, Kendall Woodruff, Orv

NAYS: Hartung , Don Clinesmith , Bill Gray

ABSENT: Russ Kime

RESOLUTION DECLARED ____ ADOPTED

UNADOPTED

Kendall Woodruff - Chairperson

I hereby certify and attest that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Vassar Township Planning Commission of the Township of Vassar at a regular meeting thereof held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

by law.

Frederick Welsh - Secretary

Public Hearing Notice

"This meeting is open to all members of the public under Michigan's Open Meetings Act"

James S. MacFarlane Wisner Township Supervisor/Assessor

DENMARK TOWNSHIP Planning Commission Special Use Permit Public Hearing

The Denmark Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Denmark Township Hall, 9386 W. Saginaw Rd., P.O. Box 44, Richville, Michigan 48758.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following: Requesting a "Special Use Permit" for the property located at 9323 Saginaw Rd., Richville, Michigan 48758, parcel number 006-500-100-1300-00. The "Special Use Permit" is being requested by Mr. Tom List through his company List Trucks & Equipment for outdoor sales and display, for exclusive sale of second-hand automobiles, trucks, farm equipment and other vehicles. No physical changes to the property will be made except as required as a condition for the issuance of the "Special Use Permit".

All interested persons are encouraged to attend this hearing. "This meeting is open to all members of the public under Michigan's Open Meetings Act."

Tim Rupprecht Denmark Township Planning Commission Chairman

MORTGAGE SALE
THIS FIRM IS A DEBT
COLLECTOR
ATTEMPTING TO
COLLECT A DEBT. ANY
INFORMATION
OBTAINED WILL BE
USED FORTHAT
PURPOSE.

highest bidder. The sale will be held on August 13, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. local time at the main entrance to the Tuscola County Court Facility, 440 N. State Street, Caro, Michigan, that being the place of holding Circuit

18, 2015 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. located at the Kingston VFW, 5317 Ross St. for Koylton Township residents. (Collection will end earlier if trailer becomes full before 2 p.m.)

No tires over 4 ft tall or 12" wide. No tractor tires.

Limit of 7 tires per household.

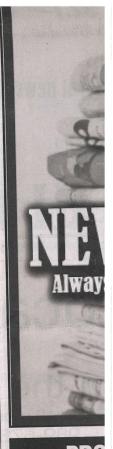
James R. Borek Koylton Twp. Clerk

Township of Vassar Public Hearing 2015 – 2019 Park and Recreation Master Plan

The Township of Vassar Board of Trustees will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comments regarding the adoption of the proposed Vassar Township Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan. After the public hearing, the Board of Trustees may take action to adopt the master plan. For more information, contact the Township at (989) 823-3541.

Michael Clinesmith Vassar Township Clerk

"This meeting is open to all members of the public under Michigan's Open Meetings Act."



RESOLUTION 22-2015 RESOLUTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF THE VASSAR TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE 2015 – 2019 PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Township of Vassar held on <u>September 8, 2015</u>, at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, Michigan 48768, County of Tuscola, at 7:00pm.

Present: Stack, Clinesmith, Forbes, Tester, Gray Absent: NON.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Michael Clinesmith supported by Bill Gray.

WHEREAS, the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee with the Vassar Township Planning Commission has undertaken a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2015 and 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Vassar Township Planning Commission was presented, reviewed, and approved the Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, an open meeting for review was held on <u>June 11, 2015</u>, at <u>7:00pm</u> at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768, and

WHEREAS, a 30 day public review of the Park and Recreation Draft Plan was provided to the public at the Township of Vassar Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, Michigan and the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library, 520 West Huron, Vassar, MI 48768 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Park and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreational needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing session was held on <u>August 11, 2015</u> at <u>7:00pm</u> at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, Michigan, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Vassar, hereby adopts the Vassar Township 2015 – 2019 Park and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving park and recreation for the residents of the Township of Vassar.

AYES: Stack, Clinesmith, Forbes, Tester, Gray

NAYS: NONE ABSENT: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED X ADOPTED UNADOPTED,

Michael Clinesmith - Clerk

I hereby certify and attest that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Vassar at a regular meeting thereof held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Michael Clinesmith - Clerk

Minutes from the Public Hearing

Vassar Township Board of Trustees Special Meeting/Budget Hearing – August 11, 2015

Phone: (989) 823-3541

4505 W. Saginaw Rd Vassar, MI 48768

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.

A prayer was led by Michael Clinesmith

Roll Call:

Present: Michael Clinesmith, Bob Forbes, Sam Tester, Bill Gray

Excused Absence: John Stack

Public hearing opened on the 2015-2019 Parks and Recreation Plan at 6:34pm.

Michael Clinesmith discussed the basic rules for the public hearing. The public will have an opportunity to make comments; name and address is requested. Vicky Sherry will begin by going over the plan, then the public will have the opportunity to make comments, then the hearing will be closed, for the Board to have discussion. Approval of the plan is planned for the regular Board meeting.

Vicky Sherry started by personally offering the highest commendation to those involved—the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Planning Commission who went above and beyond. The Township is lucky to have such dedicated people. This is the plan that was developed. It follows all of the Michigan Department of Recreation mandates. So Vassar Township is in line for future grants. The EDC office was told that last year every grant that was applied for \$50,000 and under was accepted. In the future because of the capital improvement portion—those are things that are kind of like the wish list of what you would like to put in the park, if the funds are available and if it is affordable. But sometimes you can put something in the plan, and get a grant to do it, but if it will cost you so much to maintain, why do it? So that wouldn't happen. Some of the things that are proposed are to create a nature trail, playground equipment in the park, outdoor lighting, public restroom, chemical or water wise, a pavilion, park benches, signage, a paved parking lot or driveway—although after looking at that picture—it looks pretty good the way it is. And install broadband internet or a cell tower. Because a lot of people in the park, like to have their internet now. Those are some of the things. A lot of it deals with the community profile, which would be the wants and needs. I don't know how of many of you filled out the survey in December, a year or so ago; that is actually in here, some of the things

were requested, we made sure to get them in here. And that is about it. Are there any questions from anybody?

Mike Slocum: How much will it cost to maintain the outdoor lighting on an annual basis?

Sherry: That I don't know, it depends on what you put in. Are we talking just one light and will it be an LED light or normal light...

Slocum: Well how do they determine the cost to be \$12,000 if you don't know what the light going to be?

Sherry: Well you just put in, like I said, this is a wish list. It is like Santa's Christmas list. In doing it it is good to plan high and then if you can get a grant for that and then there was money available to maintain it, then absolutely, why not have it if that's what the public wants?

Slocum: So the cost to Vassar Township to maintain the lights on an annual basis is included in this proposal?

Sherry: That would absolutely have to be that portion if you wanted to do it, absolutely. That has to be there. Not only for the State's sake, but also for the Township. You don't want to get anything in there that you cannot possibly maintain.

Slocum: How is the trash pickup going to be accomplished? Who's going to pick that up?

Sherry: Well, I would suggest getting trash cans and whatever municipal company you contract with, I would contact them.

Bill Gray: You said this is a wish list...

Sherry: Yes...

Gray: This doesn't mean we have to approve any of this. It's not approved if we approve this master plan, that does not mean these things are approved.

Sherry: Correct. It just means that if the funds are available and if the community wants that...

Gray: I just wanted to double check that...

Sherry: Absolutely.

Dan Zuzula: You said that you put comments in there from the survey—did you put any of the bad comments from the survey?

Sherry: Yes it is covered in there.

Zuzula: What was the percentage rate in the survey of the people that wanted it and the people that didn't want it?

Sherry: That part wasn't...You mean the percentage that wanted the park itself? This survey was after the park was created.

Zuzula: Then where did you send the survey off to?

Sherry: I believe it was sent out to all the residents.

A few comments: I never got one.

Sherry: Oh, it was when, December...

Zuzula: Did you send it to the people you knew who wanted it?

Sherry: No, no, it was sent to everybody.

Slocum: It went out to 3% of the Township population responded, and only 1% were in favor. The responses were 30 against, and 20 in favor, which represents 2% of the Township population was opposed to it, and only 1% of the Township was in favor of it.

Zuzula: And so the Township is donating money to a something that the majority didn't want. I don't understand that...

Michael Clinesmith: Just to be clear, I want to get the public comment, if you want to get it recorded; we're getting a lot of crosstalk... We can open it up to the floor to the public now, then you can make your comments, then I can get your comments written down here, as we get a lot of crosstalk, I won't get them all. So say your name and address, then the chair will call on you, and we can go through and do that. To Sherry: Are you done?

Sherry: Yep. Not a problem.

Bob Forbes: Alright, so we'll open it up to public comment.

Mike Slocum, 4303 O'Brien: I note that you received 58 responses to the survey. That means about 3% of the Township population responded. There is 1541 households. Bob you said that the ratio of responses was 30 were opposed and 20 were in favor. That means 1% of the Township population is in favor of this proposed expenditure of \$63,000, and the notion that you're going to approve it, just to receive grants, that's not what it says, because the language says, "The following capital improvement schedule draws an outline and a guideline as to the desires of the community." This is not saying, apparently based on the statistical responses, how did you determine that is a guideline for the desires of the community when only 1% of the Township population says they are in favor of it...and this does not reflect the true cost of the plan when you say that you're going to have to contract with the Republic trash dumpsters, and I recall what happened when you placed trash dumpsters in front of the building, they were full the day after they were emptied, and if you're going to put trash dumpsters over there they will be full the day after they are in. That's not reflected in here, and the operational cost of lighting, how much is that going to be? And I would like to strongly suggest the notion that if you are going to put this out there with the hope that you are going to continue to get grant money, it needs to say that.

Bob Forbes: I have said that from the beginning that if this park gets built it will have to be done by grants.

Slocum: Well, it doesn't say that in the plan.

Forbes: I didn't write it.

Slocum: It says the following capital improvement schedule provides an outline to guide as to the desires of the community, and that's not an accurate statement. Thank you.

Fred Welsh, 7040 Sheridan Rd: We worked in a group of folks around the Parks and Rec group that anybody can be on just come in here and work on it. There is about six or seven folks working on that now and also on the Planning Commission. I think we need to hear some of the things Mrs. Sherry is saying very well. This is a plan, and a plan is a working document. It's a guideline, and a way to focus on what you are heading toward in the future. This is not, basically a budget, this is not an approval, this is not necessarily even the numbers that people are working on this type of thing have. We have to have a guideline on what we might do. We also need to know one very important thing about this document. This document has to exist in a certain format because it deals with grants, and the special language they speak. It's not a plan I would make if I were making a plan, but we hired people who were experts at this, so that we can qualify for the grants. Also, I hear of...to get feedback from the community a lot more about the park relative to what this thing is compared to the whole Township. This is about a plan for the Township in the next decades. When this Township will see huge changes, we have surprises that came out of that document. Did you believe, like I believed that this is mostly a senior Township? It isn't. We have almost equal numbers of people in every category. How much time have you spent thinking about what the 30 year olds want? How much time have you spent thinking about what a 5 year old wants, there's as many of those folks as there are of me. It surprised me. So when you think about this, remember this is kind of a guideline that we use as we go forward with our plan. Bob and the people that replace Bob will never allow us to spend money foolishly on a thing like this and we will won't recommend it either. So as you think about this plan, remember, it's good to have people thinking about where this place could go in the future.

Sherry: Can I speak?

Forbes: Go ahead.

Sherry: Also, within the plan is, after the capital improvement is the part that is called the action plan rationale, and that's where you have to explain each item on the, we'll call it the wish list because that is what it is. And the first sentence of that portion does state, "should the funds become available, the future improvements to Vassar Park include." It's covered in both ways. The public has to want it, and the Township has to be able to afford it, and has to be willing to maintain it. There is no way you would ever want to put an improvement in a park that you couldn't afford to maintain.

Dan Zuzula, 4975 West Saginaw: You said that the funds would have to come in..

Sherry: Be available, yes...

Zuzula: That means that more of my tax money would have to be along with the grant

Sherry: No.

Zuzula: Be just period, grant...

Sherry: Yes. There is some grants there is matching funds, that's what they call it. But that's usually maybe 10%, up to, I think 20% on some of the grants. But it would also have to be something that the community was willing to have. It could not go forward unless the community was willing to have it.

Zuzula: So, did we get a grant for them to pay for them to come up with this, or did that come out of our tax money?

Forbes: Don't know. To Clinesmith: How did we do that?

M. Clinesmith: The amount of money for the preparation for the plan that did come out of the general Township budget.

Zuzula: Did that come out of the Township fund?

M. Clinesmith: Yes.

Zuzula, or did that come out of the Park and Recs fund, and if it didn't come out of the Parks and Rec fund, why did it come out of the Township fund?

M. Clinesmith: It's just regular taxpayer money.

Slocum: How much did that cost?

Zuzula: So you're taking more money for the Parks & Rec to pay for these people, but instead of taking it out of the Park and Recs fund, that's misappropriation of funds.

M. Clinesmith: It's just the regular money that the Township has set aside in the budget. Money was set aside to do the Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Slocum: How much was spent so far, on the plan portion?

M. Clinesmith: For the parks plan, \$4,000 was spent on it, to develop that plan.

Bill Gray, Township Trustee: If you move forward with this park, to get a grant, I believe this Master Plan needs has be adopted before you are eligible for a grant.

Sherry: Right

Gray: That's how come we voted to go ahead with the Master Plan, the Park and Recreation Master Plan, am I right?

Sherry: That is correct.

Gray: So that's how come it was voted on to go ahead with the plan. And I want to say again that just because it is written here to have whatever in 2017, that doesn't mean it's going to be done. Do you understand that?

Slocum: It's not what it says in the following capital improvement schedule, "It provides and outline and a guide for the desires of the community."

Gray: She said it is a wish list, I believe, to get this wish list started, you have the Parks and Recreation Committee has to approve it, then you go to the Planning Commission, and they approve it, and then they send it to this Board, correct? So, it has to go through some channels.

Sherry: Even to apply for the grant, you go through, the Park and Rec Committee, the Planning Commission, and your Board. There is no way you can even apply for the grant without your approval.

Steven Erickson, Tuscola County EDC: And a DNR grant, that has to be a public hearing too...

Sherry: Yes.

Erickson: for these funds. So it isn't as if the Board can do it without knowledge of the public. So you would informed that you were applying for this grant, and you'd be asked for public input, before it would be sent in.

Forbes: What would be the procedure of the accomplishing this, put for a vote?

Sherry: You would have the public hearing, like we are having today, and after you went through each committee and/or board, then it would be presented to the Board of Trustees. You would have your public hearing, and then you would decide whether the grant could be written or not.

Erickson: Submitted...

Sherry: Yes.

Forbes: Okay. Thank you.

Donald Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd. Vassar: The park was okayed by the Township Board, and that's basically what you see on the screen up there is what we have at this time. We started this park and then opportunity came up to talk to the DNR, and one of our members talked to the DNR, and the DNR okayed, Russ over here, I'm glad it was Russ, he's got the personality to talk to people, and they put in the drive and a parking lot on the north end of the Cass River Bridge, which will allow people that hunt, and people that fish now, to have access to the bridge down, just below the bridge now they're going to be able to take their kayaks and canoes in there, and in the future we know what's happening at the Cass River, the DNR, the State of Michigan, somebody is spending money. Several conservation groups are working now in Frankenmuth, they're building a new type of fish ladder, it's like rubble stone, crushed stone, instead of the old type ones they had ladders on and they...

Janice Zawol: Here.

Zawol showed a newspaper article of the ladders.

D. Clinesmith: Yes. That's a nice picture of it...

Janice Zawol: Yes.

D. Clinesmith: And they hoped that that will bring up the game fish back up to the upper Cass River now, and I hope it does too, because we have not much in this area going for us, in the future, unless you consider farming. I'm sorry Bill, farming is a wonderful thing, but there's not too much for recreation, you have to go up to the upper thumb almost all the way to the lake shore to get anything like that, and the fact that the park is already in existence, and it's...thanks mostly to one hard working person that made the trails and stuff like that. It's going to be...I went over a week ago, took a walk through it, and it was very nice, very well laid out because it's dry. There might be low spots, there might be high spots, but it's in most cases it's dry. Also that land isn't just pictured in the future as a park, it may become home for a new Township hall, and I did want people to understand that, more than 20 years ago, they started laying money away for two things in the Township, and the two things were parks and recreation, and a new Township hall. Now I'm not in a rush to see the Township spend that money, but they've taken good care of it. It doesn't draw much interest with the interest rate but it sits there, and it's safe, and maybe before my lifetime is over will see a combination of the parks and maybe even a new Township hall. Who knows, it could happen? That money's set aside already. We're not using it to work on the park system now.

Welsh: You led into a point. The point is that we can have a meeting like this. We had our general meeting for the Township and I think we had 18 people present. We have 4,000 people in the Township. If you listen to what's happening with the tax situation in the State of Michigan, you will find a great deal of money is being taken out of areas and moved to other areas. I doubt any one of us in this room knows much about it. When you're talking about possibly having a Township hall, having that area over there become a bigger center of the community, rather than just a park, or a bigger center of more people interested in what the State of Michigan is doing, that could be very important. Right in this Township we have people who were blind-sighted by the drain situation when it happened. People who do not come to these meetings are aware of that sort of thing, and if people come to these meetings we need to have more of a community center for those types of things to happen. Part of the reason for that piece of property right over there that isn't like any other piece we have is that it is in the center of the Township and we can talk about things we need to know about like this. We had a survey, we sent out a survey, we got 50 responses and people say the survey happens to go x or y. Well, I'm not that good at statistics but let me make you a bet. That if you get 50 responses out of a possible 1,000, you don't have a significant survey. It's ten difference. So, that doesn't tell me too much, particularly since the ones that really came were motivated. They had a reason to come. But the point is, think more than about just that. That area right across the road there is where we can more interest in what is going on locally. And locally we are blind-sighted again and again. Wayne County just got, went bankrupt. We are going to help pay for it, wouldn't it be nice to know? The County Commissioners are talking about getting rid of planning, for the County. Wouldn't it be nice to know? There are businesses coming in and things going on all over. These plans are important, and not because of whether we put in a trash can or not, they're about whether anybody is looking. So with that I see that's the importance of the document and that's the importance of the process.

Russ Fall, 7144 Down Creek Drive: I wanted to address some of the things that have been commented on here. Now, this gentleman here, I don't know if he's read the Parks and Rec Master Plan or not. Sir, have you read the plan? Okay, on page 17, on the second paragraph, the word "potential capital improvements for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan have been established not only to provide a framework for decision makers but also to enable the Township of Vassar to apply for grant funding for these proposed projects. The CIP schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive nor exclusive." Those words, "potential", "fixed" and "exclusive" or "all inclusive" means that these are just plans. This is a framework, \$4,000 that went into this, is to take and have a possible ability for grants. I think it is money well spent, for the future. But this plan is a good plan for working from for the next 5 years, to take and move the Township forward. Whether we address everything that's in there

Slocum: Does this represent the desires of the community?

Fall: Well, when you go back to the survey, what, right now we're having a meeting, and what percentage of the Township is at this meeting, right now? Let's take a percentage of the Township, that would be the basis for the survey also. You have very few people that actually show up and get involved. So the percentage here is, well, the same percentage is what you have for the survey. So, I don't think you can go by one or the other, but there are many citizens in the community that are interested in having these things.

Zuzula: You keep talking about the survey, the survey said "no." You know, it said "no", and then you went ahead with it anyways. Who made the decision to go ahead with it and why did you give money to something that the majority of the people, were you pressured? Because people don't come to the meetings because of the bureaucracy that goes on here that is being given to the fox and bread, that's why I'm here. I didn't know nothing about this, and that survey, if I would have got that survey, I definitely would have said, "No way."

Onna Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd.: Thank you for this opportunity. If you look at what goes on nationally, people like fun, and what they like, when they have an area they are moving into, they look at the schools, they look at the security, and they look at the recreation. They look at the recreation. It doesn't matter how many answer the survey, people want fun, and a park is fun, and that's what we're looking for, we're going to make some fun in Vassar Township. The people are going to want to be here; the people that are here, maybe they can't go to the movies, but they can go to a park. Maybe they can't go off on a vacation, but they can go to their park. That's what the park is for, for the people who are here, for some fun. It's not just about the money, if it was about money, people wouldn't go on vacation. It's not just about the money. We have to do this for other people, this is about some fun in the Township. Thank you.

Zuzula: So, people do come to your Township, and to your City, for the recreation, and for the police and for how nice it is, but the majority of the people will go into Vassar City where there are a variety of parks, where there are a variety of stores, ice cream stores where they can pay a quarter for a small ice cream. You know, they can fish off the new bridge that's being put in there, so why would we put in a new park when there is five parks, that's not even three miles away from here, and being used, and then we got another park down here that we need the boat ramp; now that's a good one there and everything because that is something that everybody can use, so why would we have a park so far away from a boat ramp, when people want to go fishing

or something. I wonder if there's going to be picnic tables or toilets down there, that the State won't pay for?

Sam Tester: I'd like to ask the young lady a question. I'm against this park. But, I want a park. Now it says we have 35 square miles of land. Point one mile is water. We've got ponds out here on Washburn Road. Okay, so if we accept this grant, but we decided to turn this one down and can that grant still go to a park out here?

Sherry: We'd have to create a park out there. You would literally have to create that as a park. Right now it's just Township owned land.

Tester: Okay

Sherry: And I think we are losing a little focus here. This meeting isn't about whether to have a park or not; it's about whether to approve or not the Master Plan for the park you do have and that was voted into existence. So perhaps we could stay a little more focused on that.

Forbes: I'd like to say something. We've had a gravel pit over here quite a few years, and we've put the money we've made off of that, it's pretty close to half a million dollars. That money was set aside years ago, way before my time over here, that some day that money would be used build a park, either there, or build a hall. We haven't used that money, and I not allocated any of that money to this project over here. I've not been a big supporter of this, and Russ will tell you that to begin with. But, we do have money for a park that's set aside just for that, and we're also talked about putting a tower in this park over here, which could bring money from different cell phone companies and bring money to the Township. Now since we've put gravel in over there, I've had Kip Kross come out and he brush-hogged all the property over here at the old gravel pit; he's putting down topsoil, some kind of grass that's going to be beautiful caisson that's has palm there that could be very valuable for the park for the fish to fish. So on the next thing I want to ask, how many people here are, go to parks and walk for recreation, could you raise your hand? Six people out of this audience,

M. Clinesmith: I've gone on walks for recreation.

Forbes: Okay, I'll get you, Anything else?

D. Clinesmith: I don't want to say anything more at this time. I think it's very worth...We're actually here to meet just like we said, it's the recreation plan, it's not the park. People are focused on the park, and the park is a thing that exists already, and what we want to talk about is the paperwork that goes with having a Parks and Recreation plan. The City of Vassar, yes, they do have five parks. They may have six or seven; they're not even sure how many they have over there. But, it's only been there for less than 20 years. And there was one man, who was responsible for the City in Vassar getting all those parks. One person. I know what the last name was, Kishnick, Brian Kishnick. He used to be City manager, he was also before that, they had a Parks and Recreation manager, and this man got all these grants from the State of Michigan, and he was the one that got the City behind him to write and do all this work for those parks, and that's why they have them there. And the City formed a plan with Vassar Township and the plan with Tuscola Township, and the only thing that Tuscola Township and Vassar Township got out of the whole planning area for the time that they were involved in it, was the City of Vassar's parks, because neither one of the other two townships got a park, they didn't get riverfront access, they didn't get anything. And so that's why Tuscola Township broke off now, they formed their own Parks and Recreation. They have their own Parks and Recreation Plan, and that's why we're doing it, because we get nothing out of it from the City except for the use of those, and they're there, yeah, people can drive there, and they can use them. That's wonderful, that they're there, but they're not in your own Township; they don't belong to you. The people in the City don't care whether you use them or not, but they probably would just assume say, this is our stuff, we paid for it, we like to use it. That's the way I'd probably feel.

Barb Walker, 6132 Sheridan: I just want to say for some children, I want a swing set. That's all I'm here to say. I want, I don't care if it is all the playground stuff—swing set. Make it big enough for me to swing on, because when I go into, like a park or something, they're built for 8 year olds. You know, make it a commercial swing set where I can go there and I can swing and I will be there every day. Every day.

Michael Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd.: I want to kind of just mention a few other things because there have been some things that have been commented about. One is the question about if we should do it or not, if the community in support of it or not. So this last survey that we did had, I think, 58 responses. The Township, and this is one of the things that we've looked at in the past, too, is that the Township has send out surveys in the past. One survey was sent out, I think was it 2006, 2007. At that time, remember, there was another issue going on there, people were complaining about the frontage, and people did not like their...the big question about the frontage of the property. A lot of people were upset about that frontage issue. So they sent out a survey, with a lot of different questions, one of them was recreation. And they got about 280

responses back. At that time, in that survey, when they were asked about the possible question about the frontage, they asked about recreation. At that time, they asked, "Do you feel that more recreational development would be desirable?" At that time, 181 said "yes", 50 said" no", and 36 said "don't know." And then they asked, "Should the facilities be public or private?" 165 said public, 49 said private. So at that time, there was a significant amount of people that believed that recreation is something the Township should be looking at. Now where have here, again it's been mentioned, we have a small segment of the population we have people that have maybe, most of all, and I thank you for your comments, and I do my best to write down everything, but it is important to have the discussion. Remember, that I'm not everyone in the Township, and Bob's not everyone, and we are here to represent the needs of everyone of the Township. There's some people that want recreation in the Township, and some people that don't. But we are supposed to serve the needs of everyone. Just because one person doesn't want recreation in the Township, is that something the Township should say one person or a small group of people... We have to look at the concerns of everyone. We need to be respectful of the money. We have to distribute the money appropriately, and part of what we are doing with this plan is, we're trying to come up with a very thoughtful way of going about... how to be looking at it. There is a certain segment of the population that believes that this Township needs to be more community minded. We need to have a center for recreation. And we want to respect everyone, treat everyone with respect, and we need to serve the needs of everyone. So there is a group of people that do believe in recreation, and that's why we take all these surveys in account, but they're not the whole thing, because with the last one we got, we got 58 responses, and this one we got 280 or so. And so we know that there's people out there that are interested in what is going on, and we plan to serve the needs of everyone. I believe that as a Township we should be looking at recreation, not as the sole thing; not all the money going to recreation; a responsible way of doing it. The Township has \$360,000 dollars set aside for recreation, and we want to use that responsibly. So, and part of this is why we're trying to do the plan. We're doing it in a responsible way. If there's things we can do, we'll look for grants. We have a Recreation Committee, we'd welcome input from everyone, you know, if you'd come to the Recreation Committee, you can bring up things, things that would be nice. But that's what we're looking in here with this plan we're trying to be very thoughtful. There was a lot of time and energy put into this plan, and there have been people at this Township that have spent a lot of time, of their own time, not getting paid for it to work on improving recreation in the Township, and people in this Township are going to benefit. The whole Township benefits because people are looking at recreation, so we want to be responsible, the Township has the \$600,000, \$700,000 budget each year, we want to be responsible with the money. And that's why we're doing this, and we want to get input from everyone. There is people that would like a swing set, you know, you can go on the swings. There's people that want government body to vote for police protection, there is people that want taxpayer money to go for roads; our job is to balance that. We set aside our budget \$200,000 for roads, and now we're looking at maybe tens of thousands of dollars for recreation this year. Is that, I think that's a thoughtful procedure that we're going through. So we want to respect and use everyone's money wisely, and that's why we're glad you're here.

Fall: I just want to take and say that Vicky is right, that the focus of this hearing tonight is the Parks and Rec Master Plan for the next 5 years. Is it a good one, or is it something that the people don't want. My own personal opinion is a lot of work went into this right here, and it is a good workable plan. It does not mean that money has to be spent if the people of the Township don't want any more than a rustic park there, then it can stay the way it is, but like you've heard from one person, and there have been many people that have stopped and talked to me while I've worked there, that they are in favor of it. They like what they're seeing. I've had positive comments; I've had a guy stop; that he was very dead set against it. I talked to him at length, and after we were done talking, he said "Well, I see where you're coming from", and he thinks it might be a good thing. But he doesn't want to take and tell anybody that he's changed his mind.

Forbes: Well, I'll have to say this. Russ has done a lot of work over there, cause I haven't been very willing to give him much money, so he's done a lot of work himself over there, and I thank you to be honest.

Fall: Thank you.

The public hearing was closed at 7:15 pm.

Current Business:

Board Discussion of 2015-2019 Parks and Recreation Plan

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester to delay approving the recreation plan until the next regularly scheduled meeting in September.

Vote 4-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Janice Zawol, 4280 Oak Road, mentioned that she was Vice Chair on the Planning Commission and Recreation Committee. "The Park is a means to an end; a way to get money to the Township. The Township needs a sense of community. Everybody wants the Park. There is so much positive feedback it is unbelievable. There is a trend in the State moving in favor of recreation. This is the future for Michigan. Why are people going to other locations? They should be coming to us. This is our community, our pride. I am proud to be in the Township, It is what we need."

Fred Welsh mentioned that the purpose of the property and plan is not just a park. "The Township does not regard itself as a community. We have 4,000 people in the now growing Township; we are a large group of people." He mentioned the how the Township was when

the Hall was built. "We have 2900 voters in the Township and they would not all fit in this building. We need a facility for public things, with multiple uses." He remembered seeing Onna and Mike sitting in chairs in the sun with political activities, and suggested there should be better facilities for that. "We need to have a community center; grant money can get us working in that direction. The Parks & Recreation Committee has already walked the trail. Bob mentioned the Washburn Road property—we can do that. We need to think broadly."

Motion by Gray, supported by Clinesmit	h to adjourn.
Vote 4-0, MOTION CARRIED.	
Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm	
Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.	
Vassar Township Clerk	Vassar Township Supervisor

Letters of Transmittal

Township of Vassar 4505 West Saginaw Road Vassar, MI 48768

October 19, 2015

Tuscola County Planning Commission 125 East Lincoln Street, Suite 500 Caro, MI 48723

Dear Tuscola County Planning Commission,

In order to have comprehensive and coordinated Tuscola County planning the Township of Vassar hereby submits the 2015 - 2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan.

The Master Plan was approved by the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee and the Vassar Township Planning Commission. It was adopted by the Township of Vassar Board of Trustees and filed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments.

The 2015 – 2019 Vassar Township Park and Recreation Master Plan will be subject to future review and will be updated as deemed necessary by the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee and the Vassar Township Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

Russ Fall – Park and Recreation

Committee Chair

Kendall Woodruff – Planning Commission Chairperson

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Checklist



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

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

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

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

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR <u>with</u> a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body September, 2015 ed in the final plan.					
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Programming ☑ Current Funding Sources						
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nly						
or Commission a	and the Recreation Departments of					
у						
 ✓ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities ✓ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) 						
·	,					
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	encies or Private nly or Commission a y tion Facilities d but not required					

Page 1 of 2

PR1924-1 (Rev. 03/20/2015)

☐ 6. DESCRIPTION OF TH	E PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS
Copy of the Survey	Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a y or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
Copy of the Notice	of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
Date of the Notice	May 2, 2015
Type of Notice	Newspaper and Website
Plan Location	Township Hall, Public Library
	Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 40
Plan's Adoption by Date of Notice	for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the the Governing Body(ies) July 28, 2015 Tuscola County Advertiser
Date of Meeting	August 11, 2015
	es from the Public Meeting
☑ 7. GOALS AND OBJECT	TIVES
■ 8. ACTION PROGRAM	
☐ 9. POST-COMPLETION	SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)
	PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION
	N: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.
1. Official resolution	ution of adoption by the governing body <u>dated:</u> September 8, 2015
2. Official resolution	ution of the Vassar Township Planning Commission Commission or Board,
recommend	ding adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: June 11, 2015
	r transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: October 19, 2015
4. Copy of letter	r transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: October 19, 2015
	OVERALL CERTIFICATION
	olans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. eparate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.
I hereby certify that the recrea	ation plan for
Vassar To	includes the required content, as indicated
above and as set forth by the	

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.

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PR1924-1 (Rev. 03/20/2015)

Attachment A

Vassar Township Survey Sample

Vassar Township Opinion Survey

Recreation plans are designed to help plan recreational facilities and activities and help communities set goals based upon local need, want, anticipated participation and usage. A recreation plan not only provides detail on goals, they provide a format to achieve those goals. The purpose of this survey is to obtain your opinion about recreation to help Vassar Township in the development of its recreation plan. The results of this survey will be used by the Township Planning Commission and Board of Trustees to create a recreation plan for future recreation development. Please return by **June 30, 2014** to:

Vassar Township Recreation Committee 4505 W Saginaw Rd.

PO Box 1651

Vassar, MI 48768

<u>Directions:</u> Answer in terms of our township. For each question, please mark (X) in the blank next to the answer that most closely matches your feelings on the subject. Space is provided in each category and at the end of the questionnaire for you to give your views on each of the topics covered and to add any suggestions you care to make.

1.	•	at more recre	ational developme No	nt would be desir	rable?	
Mhys _						
2.	What recreation	onal activities	do your children ne	ed?		
3.	What kinds of (Mark all appli		·	l Vassar Township	consider become involved wi	th
Parks	s Rai	l Trail	Bike Park	Hur	nting	
	Festivals	1	nternet	Euchre	Fishing Swimming	
	Senior Grou	ps Skateboo	ard Park Eas	ter Egg Hunt	Swimming	
	Music		Archer Range	Paintball		
	Frisbee Golf	f (Canoe Launch	Sports		
			'Social groups" (i.e.		Girl Scouts)	
Other						
Explain						
4.			·	be Vassar Townsl	nip's highest priority?	
						
5.	Should the Tov Saginaw Rd in		er the developmen	t of a park on the	NE corner of the Caine and	
	Yes	No	Mhàs			
6.	Would you be	willing to supp	oort recreation in th	e township with v	oluntary donations?	
	Yes	No	Mhàs ———			
7.	What sources	of funds shoul	d the township use	in providing recre	eation in the township?	

	Federal Gr	ants	State Grant	S .	Grants from Char	ritable Groups
	Voluntary (Contributions	Special Asse	essment	General Fund	
	Other					
8.	Would you be township?	e willing to volun	teer in organizing (activities or	r maintaining recrec	ation facilities in the
	Yes	No	Mhys			
9.			·		would interest you ir	n the township?
10.	•		ated comments fo		·	
11.	(Optional):	Age:	Gender:	Years as	township resident: _	

For further information about this survey, contact the Vassar Township Recreation Committee at 989-823-3541 and leave a message for the clerk Michael Clinesmith. The committee meets at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 W Saginaw Rd on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Upcoming dates are March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3. Anyone interested in recreation in the township is invited to attend and participate.

Attachment B: Resolutions of Approval

MARY C. WARREN CLERK

JODY A. HUNT

ARBELA TOWNSHIP CENTER

8935 BIRCH RUN ROAD MILLINGTON, MICHIGAN 48746

KENNETH PANEK, SUPERVISOR

PHONE 989.871.2022

FAX 989.871.5537

WILLIAM JACOBI TRUSTEE

WAYNE SCHULTZ TRUSTEE

RESOLVED, the 2015 - 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of Vassar be approved.

TOWNSHIP OF VASSAR

2015 – 2019 PARK AND RECREATION PLAN
RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL
TOWNSHIP OF ARBELA

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Park and Recreation Committee has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2015 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held on June 11, 2015 at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 W. Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Park and Recreation Master Plan and a 60 day public review is being provided; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Park and Recreation Committee has developed and the Township of Vassar Planning Commission has approved the plan for the benefit of the entire community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Arbela hereby approves the Township of Vassar 2015 – 2019 Park and Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Vassar Township Community.

At a regular meeting of the Arbela Township Board held on August 10, 2015, it was moved by Jody Hunt and seconded by Mary Warren

AYES Kenneth Panek, Mary Warren, Jody Hunt, William Jacobi Wayne Schultz.

NAYS: 0

Supervisor Declared the Resolution ADOPTED

STATE OF MICHIGAN}
COUNTY OF TUSCOLA}
TOWNSHIP OF ARBELA}

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT A REGULAR

MEETING HELD ON 08/10/2015

Mary C. Warren - CLERK

25

Juniata Township

Tuscola County, MI

Resolution of Support

- PUBLIC INTEREST -

At a regular meeting of the Juniata Township Board of Trustees, Tuscola County, Michigan, held at the Township hall of said Township on the 13th day of July, 2015, at 800 o'clock P.M. Eastern Standard Time.

PRESENT: Supervisor, Neil A. Jackson; Clerk, Heidi Stark; Treasurer, Karmen Loney; Trustee, Violet J. Schafsnitz; Trustee, Elaine Schunn.

ABSENT: Deputy Treasurer, Maryellen Campeau; Deputy Clerk Tom Hile.

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Schafsnitz and seconded by Trustee Schunn.

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Park and Recreation Committee has undertaken a five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be take to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period of 2015 and 2019 and,

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Committee has forwarded a draft copy of the five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the review of Juniata Township and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Planning Commission has approved the plan for the benefit of the entire Vassar Township community and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE JUNIATA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES hereby HAS NO OBJECTION TO the Township of Vassar's effort to implement the 2015-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Supervisor, Neil A. Jackson; Clerk, Heidi Stark; Treasurer, Karmen Loney; Trustee, Violet J. Schafsnitz; Trustee, Elaine Schunn.

NAYS: NONE

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Township Clerk for Juniata Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township/County Board of said Township/County at a regular meeting held on the 13 day of July, 2015.

Signed

Heidi Stark, Township Clerk

VILLAGE OF MILLINGTON 8569 State Street Millington, MI 48746

RESOLVED, the 2015 - 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of Vassar be approved.

TOWNSHIP OF VASSAR

2015 — 2019 PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL

VILLAGE OF MILLINGTON

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Park and Recreation Committee has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2015 and 2019 and,

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held on June 11, 2015 at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 W. Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Park and Recreation Master Plan and a 60 day public review is being provided, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar Park and Recreation Committee has developed and the Township of Vassar Planning Commission has approved the plan for the benefit of the entire community, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Millington hereby approves the Township of Vassar 2015 – 2019 Park and Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Vassar Township Community.

AYES:

Bassett, Bonadurer, Cobb, Fackler, Maxfield, Springsteen, Reinert

NAYS: ABSENT: None None

ABSTAINED: Nor MOTION: CARRIED

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF TUSCOLA)
VILLAGE OF MILLINGTON)

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF THE MINUTES MADE, PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD IN VILLAGE CHAMBERS, ON AUGUST 10, 2015, AT 6:00 PM.

Kaylene Long - CLERK