

Erie Township 5-Year Park & Recreation Plan 2018 - 2022



**Erie Township
Monroe County, Michigan**

ERIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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ERIE TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION

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Eric Carsner

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Darlene Andrzejewski

This document prepared with assistance from:

Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc

**RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND
APPROVAL OF THE
ERIE TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Erie Township Parks Commission has prepared an update to Erie Township's 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 2018 and 2022, and

WHEREAS, a public planning workshop was held on January 3, 2018 at The Erie Township Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Erie Township Parks Commission has also taken steps to obtain community input with respect to the goals, objectives and proposed actions described in the plan using the township web site, and

WHEREAS, a draft plan was made available for public review at the Township Hall and Library on January 16, 2018 and,

WHEREAS, a notice was published in the Monroe Evening News on January 17, 2018 indicating that the Recreation Plan is available for public review, and

WHEREAS, the Township Board who will hold a public hearing on this document on February 13, 2018 and then consider approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Erie Township Parks Commission hereby recommends adoption of the Erie Township Recreation Plan to the Erie Township Trustees as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Erie Township, subject to additional public input.

Yeas 4 Nays 0

Absent 0

I, Kristine Crammond - Recording Secretary, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a Resolution adopted by the Erie Township Parks Commission at a meeting thereof, held on the 7th day of February, 2018.

Kristine Crammond
(Signature)

RECEIVED FEB 08 2018

Community Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan
Erie Township
Monroe County

WHEREAS, the Erie Township Parks Commission is made up of representatives from Erie Township, and

WHEREAS, the Erie Township Park Commission has developed an updated plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Township of Erie, and

WHEREAS, the Erie Township Parks Commission began the process of updating a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in the fall of 2017 in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Township of Erie were provided with an opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan during a planning workshop held on January 3, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the a draft plan for numerous weeks, and

WHEREAS, a final public hearing was held on February 13, 2018 at the Erie Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all resident s of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, and taking into account all necessary changes, the Erie Town Board voted to adopt said recreation and natural resources conservation plan.

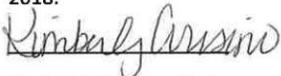
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Than the Erie Township Board hereby adopts the Erie Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation plan.

Yeas: 4

Nays:

Absent: 1

I, Kimberly Cousino, Erie Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Erie Township Board at a Meeting held on the thirteenth day of February, 2018.



Kimberly Cousino, Clerk

2/14/18

Date

ATTEST:



William Frey, Supervisor

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INTRODUCTION

This Park and Recreation Plan was developed to identify existing recreational opportunities and facilities, to consider future recreational needs, and provide direction for the future development of local parks and recreational programs in Erie Township. This plan is regarded as a supplement to the Erie Township Master Plan and is integrated into a larger local planning framework. This document is also considered to be a Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan as defined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). MDNR provides financial assistance to local governments through its recreation grants programs. Assistance is available for both acquisition of land for parks and open space, or in terms of developing existing recreation facilities. To be eligible to apply for certain grants, a community must have an approved, five-year recreation plan on file with Grants Management Office of MDNR.

This Erie Township 5-year Park and Recreation Plan updates a previous document covering the years 2013 – 2017 and fully replaces that document adopted in early 2013. Park and recreation issues are also addressed to a limited degree in the current Township Master Plan, but this document provides a more complete and thorough effort to define local recreational needs, opportunities and goals.

Planning Process

This 5-year Park and Recreation Plan was prepared with input from a variety of sources. The Erie Park Board met several times in the fall of 2017 to review and consider local needs. Discussions about local recreation needs also occurred at both the Erie Township Planning Commission and Board of Trustees meetings while the plan was under development. To provide an opportunity for more focused dialog about park and recreation needs in Erie Township, a public planning workshop was held on January 3, 2018 at the Erie Township Hall. This event was advertised in the local newspaper and it was advertised on the Erie Township website (see Appendix). It was billed as an opportunity for the public to collaboratively discuss the need for updated goals, new potential projects and long-term priorities.

On January 10th, 2018, the Park Board also meet to consider and reflect on public input before producing a draft document for public review and consideration on January 12, 2018. This draft plan was made available for public review and comment for more than 30 days before it received formal considered by the Erie Township Board at its regular public meeting on February 13, 2018.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Erie Township is a local political jurisdiction organized under Michigan law and this Park and Recreation Plan addresses facilities and needs related to its approximately 4,500 residents. Erie Township is located at the far southeast corner of the State next to Lake Erie and its southern border is also the Michigan/Ohio border. Erie Township's northern border is shared with LaSalle Township and its western border is shared with Bedford Township. The City of Luna Pier, located east of I-75 was once part of Erie Township, but it incorporated as a separate municipality in the 1960's.



Erie Township is the first Michigan community northbound motorists' encounter on I-75

The purpose of this section is to factually describe Erie Township and provide related insights into local park and recreation needs. As such, only the characteristics that most directly influence future park and recreation needs are discussed and presented herein.

Natural Landscape

Like many areas along the western Lake Erie shoreline, Erie Township is very flat. Soil conditions are generally well suited for agriculture, especially when drainage improvements are provided. Similarly, urban development activity also often requires measures to overcome soil wetness in terms of building foundations and on-site wastewater treatment facilities. Much of Erie Township was cleared many years ago for farming, and therefore much of the landscape consists of open productive agricultural fields.

Erie Township also includes Turtle Island which is located several miles off shore in Lake Erie to the east. Turtle Island is a small island that is privately owned. Lake-related erosion has

reduced the size of this island in recent decades and this property contains the ruins of the Turtle Island Lighthouse which ceased operations in 1904.



Southeast Erie Township Showing Lake Erie, Erie Marsh Area and I-75 Corridor

Hydrology

Surface waters in Erie Township include the Lake Erie coastline which forms the eastern boundary as well as a network of waterways that generally flow in an easterly direction to Lake Erie. The largest river in Monroe County is the River Raisin which is several miles north of Erie Township. East of I-75, the Lake Erie coastal area is generally characterized as low-lying wetlands and marshes. Low water levels on Lake Erie have exposed more dry land in recent times.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

Wildlife resources are an important feature of Erie Township. The Erie State Game Area is located along the Lake Erie Shore and east of I-75, just north of the State Line. In total, the Erie State Game Area includes more than 3,200 acres and it extends out toward Lake Erie to include the Woodtick Peninsula. The Erie State Game Area is managed for wildlife conservation by the MDNR Wildlife Division.

Along with the Erie State Game Area, the Nature Conservancy owns the 2,200-acre Erie Marsh Preserve. This area includes coastal wetlands, agricultural fields and opens water. The Nature Conservancy manages this property with the Erie Shooting and Fishing Club who retain a hunting lease on the property. Ducks Unlimited is also involved in projects in this area to improve habitats for water fowl. These coastal marshes provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife, including endangered or threatened species.

In 2006, Erie Marsh Preserve became a privately-owned component of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge was established in 2001 as North America's first International Wildlife Refuge. It includes islands, coastal wetlands, inland marshes, shoals, and riverfront lands along 48 miles of the Detroit River and western Lake Erie. Erie Marsh Preserve is managed through a collaboration of The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other partners.

Western Lake Erie is a popular spot for birds and bird-watchers in North America. The forests, grasslands, marshes and mudflats along the shoreline provide food and roosting areas for millions of birds during spring and fall migration. Fishing is also a significant wildlife related recreational pursuit. Lake Erie is especially noted for its walleye and perch fisheries. A large number of the charter fishing boats operating in the Great Lakes are based in Lake Erie; most of those are in the western basin.

Forested Areas & Woodlots

A majority of Erie Township was cleared for farming many years ago. A few woodlots and forested areas remain in today and dot the landscape. For the most part, these wooded areas represent areas where soil conditions and/or wetness issues made farming more difficult. Forested areas are also found east of I-75 and are associated with wetlands and marshes along Lake Erie.



Common landscape features in Erie Township

Land Use

Data from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMOCG) illustrates the rural nature of Erie Township. This data is about ten years old, but it shows more than two-thirds of the

Township is devoted to agricultural land uses, park, recreation and open space, or water. These latter categories of land use relate to extensive tracts of land east of I-75 associated with the Erie Marsh as previously mentioned. This also explains why Erie Township includes almost 20 percent of Monroe County's park, recreation and open space-related land uses.

SEMCOG 2008 Land Use	Erie Township		Monroe County	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Agricultural	8,420	52.3%	193,439	54.2%
Single-family residential	2,697	16.8%	110,716	31.0%
Multiple-family residential	4	0.0%	880	0.2%
Commercial	335	2.1%	8,398	2.4%
Industrial	71	0.4%	8,134	2.3%
Governmental/Institutional	523	3.3%	5,780	1.6%
Park, recreation, and open space	1,903	11.8%	10,066	2.8%
Airport	0	0.0%	316	0.1%
Transportation, Communication, and Utility	1,923	11.9%	14,036	3.9%
Water	214	1.3%	4,981	1.4%
Total Acres	16,091	100.0%	356,746	100.0%

Source: SEMCOG

Transportation

Erie Township's road network is dominated by three parallel regional thoroughfares cutting across the Township in a southwest to northeast direction. These include Interstate 75 which travels generally parallel to the Lake Erie shoreline connecting Detroit with Toledo. Telegraph Road (U.S. 24) also connects Detroit to the north with Toledo to the south. South Dixie Highway (M-125) originates just north of the City of Monroe and travels southwest to Toledo. These three highways provide comparatively good accessibility to and from the Township. In addition, U.S. 23 is within nine miles of the Township's western border, linking Ann Arbor with Toledo. Local county roads complete the roadway system providing both access to adjacent property and general vehicular circulation.

Rail is also an important consideration in Erie Township. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad operates a rail line adjacent to Telegraph Road and both The Grand Trunk Western Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railroad operate lines adjacent to one another (generally parallel to and within ½ to 1 ½ miles of I-75).

Tourism

Monroe County is home to a strong tourism industry, and much of this activity relates to outdoor recreation. The marinas and boat ramps on Lake Erie attract fishermen, and hunters are drawn to the coastal wetlands, especially in the fall. Bird watchers and other nature enthusiasts are also commonly attracted to view the large numbers of resident and migratory birds. Area history, particularly as it relates to the War of 1812, is also a draw and a growing number of tourists who are now visiting the River Raisin Battlefield site in Monroe. This site was recently brought under the Management of the National Park Service. The Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau recently updated its website content, and a fuller and more complete listing of area attractions is now available. The web site is - www.monroeinfo.com.

Demographic Characteristics

Erie Township has been stable in terms of population change. While the number of housing units increased in the past, the population has declined slightly along with the average size of each household. This drives the demand for housing units as more units are needed to house fewer people in each unit. This partially explains the increase in housing units in a community with population decline.

Population and Households	Census 2010	Change 2000-2010	Pct Change 2000-2010	SEMCOG EST Jul 2017
Total Population	4,517	-333	-6.9%	4,444
Group Quarters Population	5	0	0.0%	5
Household Population	4,512	-333	-6.9%	4,440
Housing Units	1,969	52	2.7%	1,952
Households (Occupied Units)	1,781	-8	-0.4	1,756
Residential Vacancy Rate	9.5%	2.9%	-	10.0%
Average Household Size	2.53	-0.17	-	2.53

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG Community Profiles

Future population is projected to remain stable in Erie Township in the coming decades. Naturally, many factors determine population change, but current projections developed by SEMCOG indicate that Erie Township will have about the same number of residents in 2040 as current reside in the Township. This is contrasted somewhat with more growth county-wide.

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Change	Change
								2010-40	2010-40
								Num.	Per.
Monroe Co.	152,021	155,690	156,592	158,332	160,841	163,180	164,720	12,699	8.4%
Erie Twp.	4,517	4,929	4,765	4,652	4,645	4,644	4,635	118	2.6%

Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles.

Household composition in Erie Township is also changing as more and more households include seniors who are 65 years old or older. Between 2000 and 2010 there was a 25% increase in the number of households with seniors present. This mirrors a national trend and a similar drop in the numbers of households without children. These demographic changes suggest shifting demand for community services, and provide implications regarding future needs for specific types of recreational facilities.

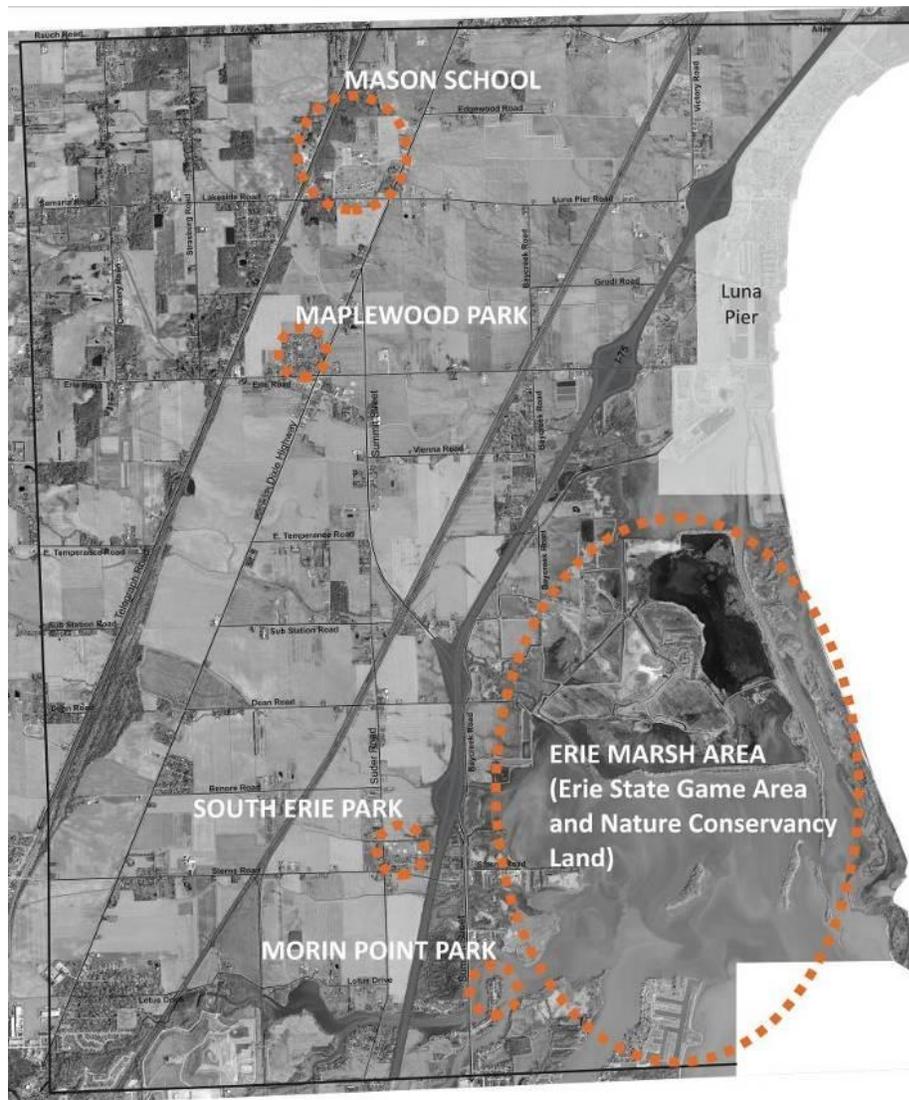
	Census	Census	Pct. Change
With seniors 65+	377	476	26.3%
Without seniors	1,412	1,305	-7.6%
Two or more persons without children	740	796	7.6%
Live alone, 65+	124	170	37.1%
Live alone, under 65	243	273	12.3%
With children	682	542	-20.5%
Total Households	1,789	1,781	-0.4%

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Erie Township Park Commission is a five-person body created pursuant to the Township Parks and Places of Recreation Act (157). It is responsible for acquisition and management of parks and recreational facilities on behalf of Erie Township. Meetings are held monthly and the Park Commission utilizes funds appropriated from the Township Board. The 2017-2018 Budget for the Parks Commission is about \$40,000, and major budget items include repair and maintenance, improvements and equipment (the complete 2017- 2018 budget is provided in the Appendix). The Park Commission works closely with other Township officials and schedules usage of recreational facilities such as ball diamonds during the seasons. The Erie Township Park Commission does not have any full-time employees and relies heavily on volunteers to help maintain facilities. The Erie Township Parks Commission also maintains a strong relationship with the Mason School District. One member of the Parks Commission is the Erie Mason Varsity Basketball Coach.

RECREATION INVENTORY

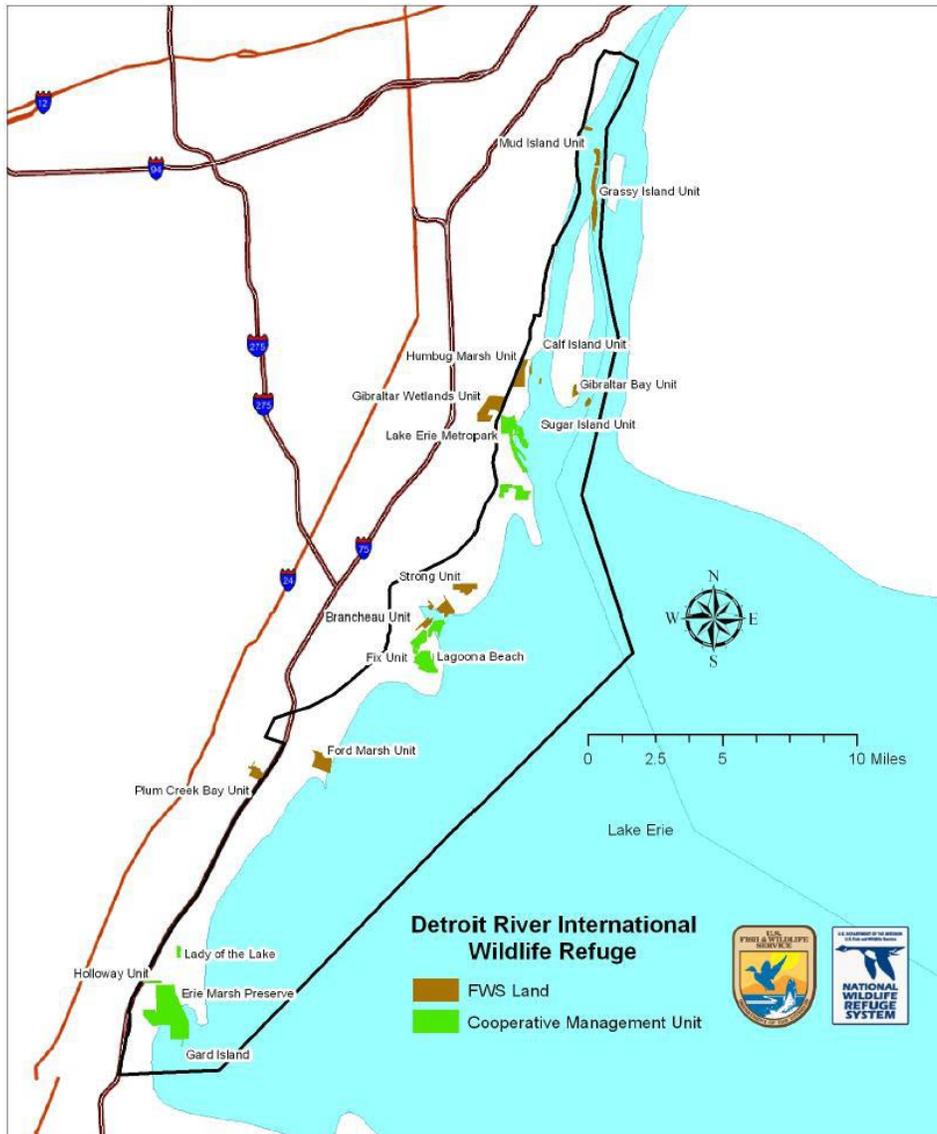
Before considering future needs, an updated inventory of existing recreational facilities in Erie Township was assembled and is presented below. Also, to help illustrate the locations of major facilities, the following map is presented.



Federal Sites

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) is the only International Wildlife Refuge in North America. It includes islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of Detroit River and Western Lake Erie shorelines. DRIWR extends into Monroe County and into Erie Township. Specifically, “units” of the DRIWR include the 49-acre “Lady of The Lake” unit under a cooperative management agreement with Consumers Energy next to the J.R. Whiting Power Plant, the “Holloway Unit” which is a slice of the Erie Marsh and Erie State

Game Area, a cooperative unit with The Nature Conservancy and the 19-acre Gard Island Unit which is managed cooperatively with the University of Toledo.



State Sites

The Erie State Game Area encompasses a large area in Monroe County and extensive acreage in Erie Township. This area is managed for species such as mallards and wood ducks, osprey and deer. The DNR Wildlife Field Office is at 37205 Mouillee Road, Rockwood, MI 48173. The Erie State Game Area does include a boat launch on a 2.9 acre site, called the Halfway Creek Access Site. This site is located at the end of Algonquin Street, just east of Summit Street in southeast Erie Township. This access site is designed for smaller boats and the parking lot is not paved.

Aerial View of the Erie Marsh Area



Private/Non-Profit

The Nature Conservancy is a private non-profit corporation working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters. The Nature Conservancy was founded in 1951 and currently has more than one million members. As noted previously, the Nature Conservancy owns the 2,200-acre Erie Marsh Preserve. The Nature Conservancy acquired this property through a donation from the Ottawa Bay Development Company in 1978. As part of the terms of the donation, land is leased for waterfowl hunting in the fall and owns cottages at the southern end of the preserve. For safety reasons, the preserve is closed from September 1 through December 31 each year during waterfowl hunting season. In 2011 and 2012, The Nature Conservancy implemented a large-scale restoration project within the Erie Marsh to provide better fish access, to improve water management capacity, increase wetland quality and control invasive plants.



School Facilities

Mason Consolidated Schools includes a Senior High School, a Middle School and Central Elementary. All three facilities are located at 2400 Mason Eagles Drive in Erie, Michigan. The Mason School Campus is about 115 acres in size and includes multiple recreational facilities.

Mason School Facilities



St. Joseph Catholic School is located in Erie and is a private parochial school with some recreational facilities. St. Joseph Church and School has a long local history in the community with roots that go back to 1826 when doors first opened. School facilities were open intermittently after that date. Most recently, St. Joseph was reopened in 1979 with classes for Kindergarten through Grade 2, and in subsequent years, more grades were added. This yearly expansion continued and now there is Kindergarten to Grade 8 classes. Further, a Pre-kindergarten was added in 1986 and a Pre-school was added in 1992. A gymnasium and dining hall were added to the school in 1994.

Indoor recreation facilities include a regulation-size gym, locker rooms, new scoreboards, additional practice basketball nets, new volleyball apparatus, and easy access to kitchen for concession stand. Outdoor facilities included baseball, softball, and soccer fields, new scoreboards, dugouts, concession stand with electricity, ample parking for parishioners, visitors, sports teams, and tournaments.

Erie Township Facilities

Erie Township has three recreational facilities.

- South Erie Park is 18.1 acres in size and offers a playground, shelter, walking trail, ball diamonds and picnic sites. South Erie Park was upgraded recently with the aid of an MDNR Recreation Passport Grant which funded projects such as ball field improvements, a walking trail and new pavilion.
- Maplewood Park is 4.1 acres and offers a playground, ball diamond, basketball and picnic area.
- Morin Point Park is 1.6 acres in size and offers a playground and pavilion.

An accessibility evaluation for each of the three parks is provided below. Resources provided in MDNR's *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, And Greenway Plans* were reviewed in the context of these three parks. Specifically, each facility was compared to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and ranked from 1-5. The value of 1 relates to a condition wherein none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The value of 3 relates to the condition wherein most site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards, and 5 relates to meeting the Principals of Universal Design.

- **South Erie Park.** The western parking lot was resurfaced several years ago and recent upgrades to south Erie Park (with MDNR funding) enhanced accessibility, specifically in terms of signage, drinking fountains and the new pavilion. Enhancements to the trail surface allow for greater mobility and access to natural areas and wheelchair spaces at ball fields are needed, along with more extensive accessible routes to fields and play areas. South Erie Park is rated as a #3
- **Maplewood Park.** Maplewood Park has several ADA issues requiring attention. Specifically, these includes a better accessible route to play areas, improved surface systems under the play areas, and wheelchair spaces at ball fields. Maplewood Park is rated as a #2
- **Morin Point Park.** This small park is largely unimproved with recreational facilities it has fewer ADA issues. However the playground surface systems and access to the pavilion could be improved to provide a more accessible route. Morin Point Park is rated at a #2

Prior MDNR Grant Awards

Three MDNR grants have been provided in the past. All have been completed and closed out.

Year	Project #	Project	Status
1972	26-00363	Acquire 8.4 Acres at S. Erie Park	Complete / Grant Closed
1977	26-01023	Develop a portion of South Erie	Complete / Grant Closed
2013	RP13-458	Replacement of existing pavilion and shed, waterline extension, ball field upgrade & trail improvements.	Complete / Grant Closed

South Erie Park



Maplewood Park



Morin Point Park

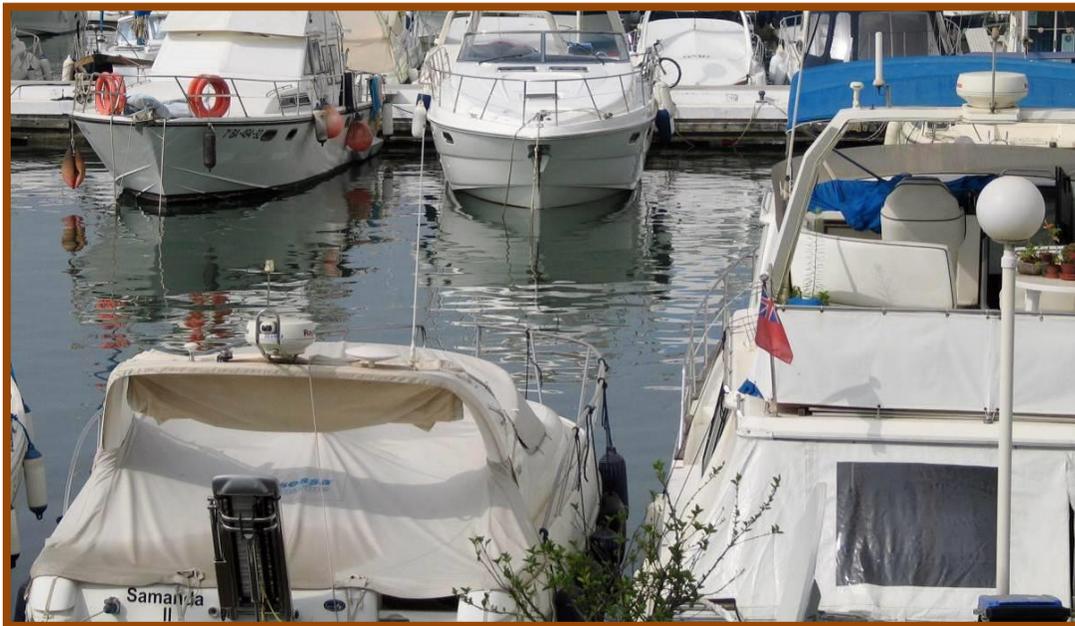


Marinas

Because of its location on Lake Erie, Erie Township has several marinas. Combined, these marinas provide more than 400 boat slips. Additionally, the Luna Pier Harbour Club (in Luna Pier) has nearly 400 slips.

Blair's Marina	80
Burlen's Dock	35
Bay Harbor Marina	227
Folden Marina	22
Halfway Marina	39
John Fisher's Marina	32
Lost Peninsula Marina	400

Source: Monroe County 5-Year Recreation Plan 2013 – 2017 & PDG



Sportsman Clubs

The Mudjaw Bowman Lodge is located at 6240 Benore Road and it is a private archery club. Mudjaw Bowman is affiliated with organizations such as the Michigan Bow Hunters, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, National Field Archery Association, Ohio Archers Association, Ohio Bowhunters Association and USA Archery. Mudjaw Bowmen was founded in 1953 and reported

to be the oldest known private archery club in the Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio. The site is located on 24 acres of land and includes a woods, stream, two archery ranges, a large clubhouse, storage building, and practice area. There is an outside covered patio area with picnic tables that is used for meetings and other club activities.

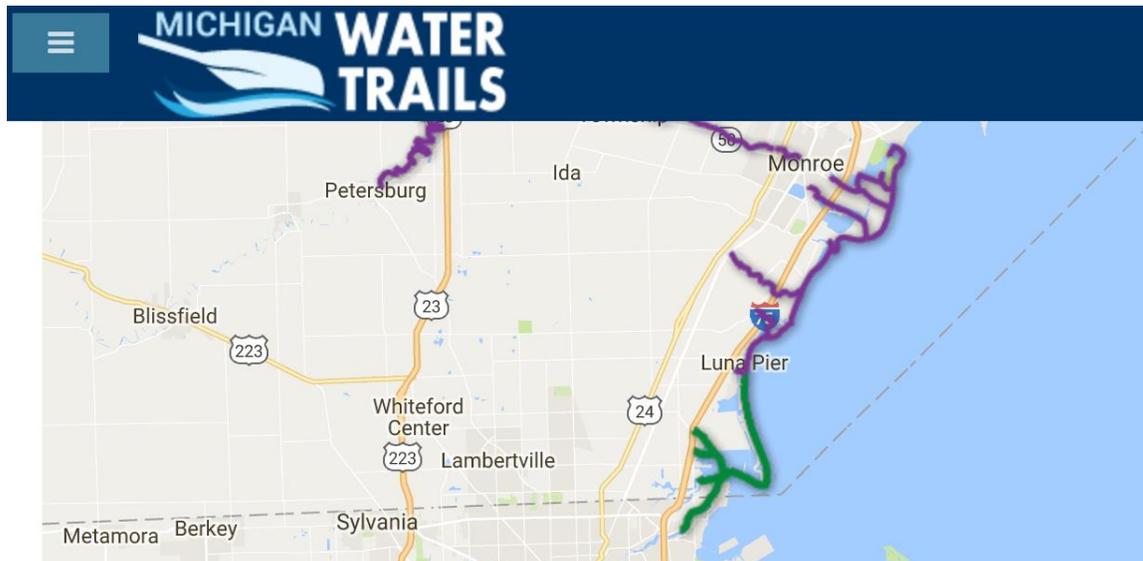
REGIONAL PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING

Erie Township is part of a larger region and plays a role in the development of a regional park and recreational system. First and foremost, Erie Township is part of Monroe County. In July, 2014, Monroe County produced a Water Trail Master Plan. This work was funded by a grant from Michigan's Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). It was focused on providing a framework for water trails in the area and to assist local communities maximize rivers and coastlines for recreation and community and economic development. Notably, a water trail is shown in Erie Township, connecting existing boat ramps, destinations in and near the City of Luna Pier, the City of Toledo, and Woodtick Peninsula as shown below.



Source: Monroe County Water Trail Master Plan

Water trails in Erie Township are similarly included in material published on the Michigan Water Trails Web Site (www.michiganwatertrails.org) as shown below. This material was generated by The Michigan Great Lakes Water Trails Working Group.

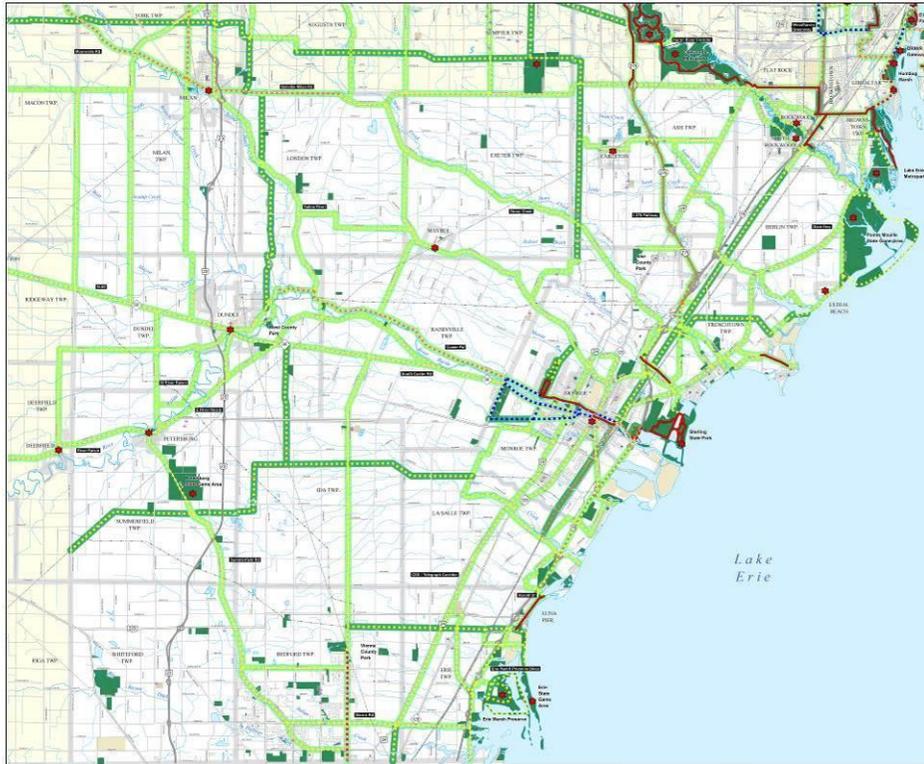


Source: www.michiganwatertrails.org

Other regional planning has occurred in Southeast Michigan. These regional recreational planning efforts include the following:

The Southeast Michigan GreenWays Initiative

The Southeast Michigan GreenWays Initiative is a comprehensive effort to define Greenways throughout all of Southeast Michigan. One product of this effort was to develop and refine a regional vision of linked trails and greenways. This plan does indicate potential for both off-road and on-road corridors (bike lanes & sidewalks or side paths) in Erie Township that would help link greenway hubs (the anchors of the greenway system, such as large parks and major cultural attractions), greenway sites (smaller features than hubs that serve as points of interest and frequent destinations, such as schools and local parks). This plan highlights interesting potential projects that can be considered more fully with greater local involvement.



Erie Township Enlargement



ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Erie Township Parks should be used by persons, regardless of their disability status. Erie Township fully intends to update play areas, outdoor developed areas, parking areas, and other facilities to comply with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In large part, this can be accomplished as equipment and facilities are repaired and replaced.

It is also understood, that there are opportunities to design improvements to meet “Universal Access.” Universal access goes beyond meeting ADA requirements and strives to make parks more usable by all people. Universal Design offers a framework for design that supports the widest range of people with various physical abilities.

As described previously, there are many areas where the three parks in Erie Township can be improved to support greater accessibility. The largest needs are thought to be in the areas of mobility.

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Erie Township encourages resident participation in all forms of community planning. In 2011, Erie Township updated its Master Plan and sought community engagement through public meetings, surveys and formal public hearings. As part of this process, residents were asked a variety of questions pertaining to growth and development. This information provided a platform for good land use decision-making.

The prior effort to prepare the previous 5-year Recreation Master Plan (2013) included a survey of township residents. That survey yielded 30 responses and some notable conclusions from the survey included the following:

- A clear majority of residents are either somewhat satisfied, or very satisfied with existing park facilities and recreational opportunities.
- Recreational facilities deemed to be most important include playground equipment, hard surface courts (basketball, tennis), non-motorized trails, ball diamonds, and picnicking areas.
- The most desired improvements include picnic areas / pavilions, playgrounds and tot lots, and non-motorized trails.
- Residents recognize the importance of the proximity to Lake Erie and they encourage the development of facilities that support nature-related activities such as bird/wildlife viewing, fishing, and kayak/canoe trails.

For this Recreation Master Plan update, the Erie Township Recreation Board decided to hold planning workshop on January 3, 2018. This workshop was advertised on the township web site and in the local newspaper. It was thought that this kind of event would provide more opportunity for constructive dialog and a fuller exchange of ideas.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

A review of five-year goals and objectives were developed as a product of conversations at the planning workshop on January 3, 2018 and with the Erie Township Recreation Board and Erie Township Board of Trustees. As part of these discussions, characteristics of existing park and recreational facilities were compared with new perspectives gained from this planning process. Members of the Erie Township Recreation Board have meet regularly for several years to discuss both and long and short-term plans for developing adequate recreational facilities. This plan, and particularly the following goals, represents the result of these discussions that set a framework for future actions.

Goal 1: Maintain and enhance existing facilities.

- Support the development of each Township Park to its full potential.
- Maintain existing facilities with regular and sustained efforts to make sure equipment and facilities have a long useful life.

Goal 2: Preserve the natural features of the Township.

- Encourage public, private and non-profit efforts to preserve woodlands, wetlands, and other natural areas.
- Develop partnerships with other public and private organizations engaged in conservation efforts.

Goal 3: Continue to develop the long-range strategy for acquisition and development of new parks, preserves, public access, and recreation facilities.

- Continue to update this recreation plan every 5 years, and more often if necessary, to maintain continued relevance and significance.
- Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.

Goal 4: Continue to develop a long-range strategy for acquisition and development of new greenways, multi-use trails and linkages between recreation facilities.

- Continue to explore opportunities for multi-use trails, bike paths, bike lanes, and other linkages both locally and within a regional context.

- Wherever possible, link existing or planned multi-use trails, bike paths, bike lanes and facilities.
- Work with Monroe County and surrounding local governments on the planning and development of new greenways, multi-use trails and linkages – especially as they help create connections between recreation facilities.
- An evolving image of connecting recreation facilities is expressed within the following graphic titled – Erie Active Recreation Loop. This planning concept relates to a series of improvements that will take years to fully implement and will continue to be refined and developed in the years ahead.

Erie Active Recreation Loop (EARL) Planning Concept *(Draft)*



Goal 5: Develop funding mechanisms for maintenance and management for these outdoor recreation facilities.

- Identify the likely costs associated with the maintenance and management of existing facilities.

- Identify all potential funding tools that could be used in developing financial strategies.
- Apply regularly to the MDNR for state grant funds for land acquisition and outdoor recreational development and improvement funds.

Goal 6: Improve communication and coordination between agencies involved in public access and use of public lands for recreation.

- Seek and develop cooperative relationships with other public and private organizations.

ACTION PLAN

This section establishes a five-year plan for the capital investments required to support the specific goals and objectives outlined above. The following table represents the specific actions and recommended projects to be accomplished during the five-year planning horizon. This action plan should be viewed as being flexible as it contains many more projects than can be reasonably expected to be completed. Unknowns such as grant funding availability, land availability, project feasibility and many other factors will determine what specific steps can be taken in the future. Several projects do not yet have a set time frame or funding sources and cost estimates are provided without the benefit of detailed design or a clear definition of all project elements. Further, the list does not represent a priority or ranking among projects as opportunities to complete various project elements are dependent on a wide range of variables.

2018-2022 Action Plan

Project	Project Elements	Estimated Costs
Maplewood Park	Exercise course, ball diamond upgrades, bleachers, lighting, restroom upgrades, band shell, ice rink, bleachers, storage shed replacement, trees, tree trimming and signage upgrades.	\$50,000 – \$100,000
South Erie Park	South Erie Park received a number of upgrades in 2014 funded in part by MDNR Recreation Passport Funding. Remaining improvement needs include ball field lighting, signage upgrades, construction of permanent restrooms connected to an on-site septic system. A sledding hill and/or water feature are potential improvements.	\$25,000 – \$100,000

Project	Project Elements	Estimated Costs
Bay Creek Road	Kayak launch and/or wildlife viewing deck. Kayak launch connects to defined water trail. This would be a collaborative effort with MDNR.	\$50,000 – \$75,000
Erie Mason School Nature Trail	Creation of nature trail on or adjacent to school property. Trail elements include natural trail surface (crushed stone or wood chips), interpretative signage and benches. Opportunities exist to partner with school to develop educational project components and to construct associated improvements. A trail could also include fitness workout stations.	\$50,000 – \$100,000
Create Active Recreation Loop with bike lanes/walking paths (Bay Creek, Sterns, Dixie (or Telegraph), Luna Pier Rd.)	Create a non-motorized transportation loop connecting Maplewood, South Erie Parks, Erie Mason Schools, Erie Marsh area and local population centers.	Per mile costs vary per local conditions and design (paved shoulders vs. separate bike path, etc.)
Morin Point Park	Repair or replace existing recreational equipment.	\$5,000
Cooperative Ventures with non-profit and/or private conservation groups that relate to Natural area preservation.	TBD based upon opportunities that may present themselves. While Erie Township could act unilaterally, opportunities to partner with the Nature Conservancy, land trusts, or private conservation groups may present themselves in the future. Ongoing work elements will include identification of and evaluation of sites and habitats worthy of preservation that help to establish township-wide system of natural areas with high conservation value.	TBD – depending on project details.
Dog Park	The potential to develop a dog park in Erie Township is recognized and is tied to site-specific opportunities.	TBD

Project	Project Elements	Estimated Costs
Habitat Improvement Projects	Convert appropriate areas from turf grass to native vegetation to support wildlife populations. Projects may include partnerships with state or local conservation organizations.	TBD
Community Center	Erie Township does not have a local community center to house indoor community gatherings and events. Such a facility could be located in either South Erie Park or Maplewood Park, or perhaps on public property elsewhere in the township. Such a project could be a collaborative venture with the local VFW or a senior group.	\$75,000 – \$125,000
Public Information	Create website, logos, maps and programs	\$15,000

APPENDIX

Township Web Page Announcing Planning Workshop

Erie Township Gateway to Michigan

January 4, 2018

Home

Departments

Contact

Meetings

News & Events

Services

Township Information

Ordinance

Quick Links

- Property Information Online
- Newsletters
- Cemetery Rules
- Park Rules & Rental Agreement
- Permit and Meeting Fees
- Monroe County Senior Village
- Township History
- New Resident Information
- Township Board
- Local Businesses
- Building Department Applications
- Complaint Form
- Monroe Co. Road Commission-Service Request
- Police Property Check Form
- Erie Historians Group
- Hunter Education Course

Performance Dashboard

Erie Township Dashboard

New Master Plan

Master Plan Info ...

Online - Property Information

Property Information Online

South County Water System

Click Here to link to the South County Water website where you can pay your bill and lookup your information.

New-Monroe County Medical Reserve Corps

medical reserve corps

Click Here For Information From - The Monroe County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) with Profassium Infiltrate (IKI) information and how to

Home

Web Site

ERIE TOWNSHIP HALL
2065 Erie Road
Erie, MI 48133
Open Monday-Friday
7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Erie Township will be Closed on the following dates for **Christmas** and **New Years**
Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26, 2017
and
Monday, January 1 & Tuesday, January 2, 2018
Have a Safe and **Happy Holiday!**

ATTENTION: ERIE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Parks Commission

On January 3, 2018, Erie Township will host a community planning workshop to consider potential projects to be included in an updated 5-year Recreation Plan. This workshop will be held at the Erie Township Hall at 7:30 PM. The Erie Township Parks Commission has been working toward developing an updated Recreation Plan for several months. The workshop will include discussions about the need to update goals and objectives, along with the need to update the action plan that identifies projects and potential improvements to the local recreation system. All residents are invited to attend this workshop and contribute thoughts and ideas about how existing recreation facilities can be further developed to meet changing needs, or how new facilities can be provided to meet new needs.

Road Closings

Please click the following links for more information on known road closings.

[VFW Santa Parade](#)
Saturday December 9, 2017
Parade starts at 11:00 from St. Joseph School through Erie to the VFW Hall

[2017 VFW Santa Parade.pdf](#)

Credit Card Payments

Property Tax Payments may be made using Credit or Debit Cards. There is a fee for this service using a 3rd party vendor: Point & Pay. To make a payment follow the Property Information Online link below, locate your property, review tax information and click pay taxes button. For fees and more complete information look on the Treasurers' Page of this web site.

New Open Burning Restrictions

Attention:
New Open Burning Restrictions Effective October 16, 2012
[Click Here For More Information](#)

Erie Police Department

Attention Residents. Scam Alert!!!

The Police Department has been flooded with concerned citizens calling and reporting phone scams. I am advising people not to give money out to anyone calling and asking for money. I am also warning people not to give out any personal information over the phone. A lot of times scammers are calling to see if anyone is home, or they will tell you that you won a prize and want to know when they can deliver it. They are doing this to see when they can call you back.

Erie Park and Recreation Commission Mission

Erie Township Park Commission

2065-Erie Road, Erie MI 48133

BY-LAWS

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Erie Township Park Commission to provide the residents of this township a safe and well maintained area for the children and adults to enjoy the outdoors. We will strive to make our parks the best that we can.

Erie Park and Recreation Commission By-Laws

ERIE TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION BY-LAWS JUNE 2006

COMPOSITION

The Erie Township Park Commission will be composed of 5 (five) members who are elected to a 4 (four) year term. They must be residents of this community and sworn within 90 (ninety) days of election.

PURPOSE

- A. The chairperson and secretary shall be elected for a 1(one) year term by the park commission members immediately after taking office.
- B. Subcommittees may be set up by the chairperson as deemed necessary.
- C. The chairperson shall conduct business for the commissioners. In the absence of the chairperson the secretary shall conduct business or appoint another member to lead the meeting.
- D. If a commissioner misses 3 (three) consecutive meetings that are unexcused absences, a letter of intent will be sent to this commissioner and if no logical response is written to the board it will be concluded that said commissioner is resigning from the position.

DUTIES

- A. Once a park commission has been established in accordance with the within procedures, the township board ceases to be a park commission.
- B. Such commission has the authority to acquire, maintain, manage and control township parks and places of recreation. It may accept, in the name of the township, gifts, grants, and devices of land suitable for parks and places of recreation and gifts and bequest of money for the acquisition and improvements of land for such purpose.
- C. The township board may authorize the park commission to also act as a recreation board, the authority of which will later be discussed under appointed board and commission.
- D. The members of the park commission shall be paid such compensation as is fixed by the compensation committee/board, plus travel expenses to and from meetings as well as and including park commission meetings.
- E. The park commission is authorized to submit to the voters at the township meeting the question of the issuance of township bonds for the acquisition of lands for township parks and places of recreation a 3/5ths majority vote of those voting is necessary to

authorize such bonds. Any borrowing must be approved by the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission, unless the lands are purchased under an installment contract.

F. The park commission is given authority also to sell and convey any portions of land acquired which are not needed for park purposes on whatever terms the park commission may deem proper.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. All bills must be approved by the Erie Township Park Commission before being paid, with paid copies forwarded to the park commission.

B. The park commission may maintain their own mailbox for their bills and correspondence, so as none are misplaced.

C. All work to be done by park employees will be done by work orders unless stated in the job description or by signed contract through Erie Township Park Commission.

D. The park commission reserves the right to hire and fire their own contract subcontracted employees.

E. Amendments to the by-laws shall be approved by the park commission then forwarded to the Township Board for final approval.

MEETINGS

A. A maximum of 17 (seventeen) meetings shall be held during the course of the year. An organizational meeting shall be held prior to March 1, to elect officers, sign employee contracts, set goals and objectives for the year, and orientate new members.

B. Workshops and additional meetings shall be held as needed.

C. Regular meetings will be held on the first Monday of the Month at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.

D. A quorum of 3 or more members is deemed necessary to conduct a meeting.

E. In the event of inclement weather, or emergency the chairperson has the authority to cancel, change locale, and modify meetings. Any changes must be posted at the township hall, and phone calls to the park commission must be attempted.

BUDGET

The park commission has no restriction on the dispersment of their budget.

HIRING

A. All vacancies occurring within the staff of the parks and recreation department will be announced publicly by the appropriate means, in a geographic area wide enough for employment on forms provided by the park commission and all necessary requested information.

PURCHASE

A. Accounts are set up for the park commission. Copies of invoices for these accounts shall be sent to the park commission for approval.

B. If deemed necessary, any park commissioner shall be authorized to buy supplies needed and turn in the receipt for payment as long as this amount does not exceed \$100.00. Receipt for unauthorized expenditures must be presented to the park commission members at the next scheduled meeting.

COMPENSATION

Meeting compensation to be issued to the Chairperson, Secretary, and Commission members in accordance with those set by the compensation committee.

PARK COMMISSION BUDGET

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR ERIE TOWNSHIP									
PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2017									
Page: 1/1									
GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2017-18 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 12/31/2017 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 12/31/2017 INCREASE (DECREASE)	NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	AVAILABLE BALANCE	% BSGT USED		
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND									
Expenditures									
Dept 750-RECREATION COMMISSION		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		
101-750-575.0006	ERIE PARK GRANT	1,000.00	742.50	0.00		257.50	74.25		
101-750-702.0003	SALARIES-MAINTENANCE	3,000.00	144.75	17.60		255.25	36.19		
101-750-715.0000	SOCIAL SECURITY	0.00	1,150.00	230.00		1,850.00	38.33		
101-750-725.0000	FEES PER DIEM	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		
101-750-727.0000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	5,000.00	284.23	0.00		4,715.77	5.68		
101-750-740.0000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	2,000.00	1,088.94	289.20		446.54	54.45		
101-750-817.0000	CONSULTANT	500.00	53.46	0.00		250.00	10.69		
101-750-860.0000	TRANSPORTATION	1,200.00	404.40	0.00		795.60	33.70		
101-750-900.0000	PUBLISHING & PRINTING	500.00	228.36	122.92		271.64	45.67		
101-750-921.0000	ELECTRIC	16,000.00	10,043.50	600.00		5,956.50	62.77		
101-750-927.0000	WATER	5,000.00	0.00	0.00		5,000.00	0.00		
101-750-930.0000	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	15,000.00	0.00	0.00		15,000.00	0.00		
101-750-930.0816	R&W-WAILEWOOD	5,000.00	0.00	0.00		5,000.00	0.00		
101-750-976.0000	IMPROVEMENTS	5,000.00	0.00	0.00		5,000.00	0.00		
101-750-977.0000	EQUIPMENT	5,000.00	0.00	0.00		5,000.00	0.00		
Total Dept 750-RECREATION COMMISSION		54,850.00	14,140.14	1,259.72		40,709.86	25.78		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		54,850.00	14,140.14	1,259.72		40,709.86	25.78		
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND:									
TOTAL REVENUES		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		54,850.00	14,140.14	1,259.72		40,709.86	25.78		
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		(54,850.00)	(14,140.14)	(1,259.72)		(40,709.86)	25.78		
TOTAL REVENUES - ALL FUNDS									
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS		54,850.00	14,140.14	1,259.72		40,709.86	25.78		
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		(54,850.00)	(14,140.14)	(1,259.72)		(40,709.86)	25.78		

Notice of Plan Availability and Public Hearing

Year 2018

w, GM expects es will be favor- e company and y as a whole. e nation's big- ks, JPMorgan Wells Fargo, an- combined \$5.75 hit, but shares ged higher be- re favorable tax ing forward for is. General Motors 3 percent at the 1 Tuesday. s into 2018 with sts and ongo- in U.S. pickup . In 2017, GM /Vauxhall and ial European ut business in a and India.



NEW OFFICE BUILDING

— Monroe News photo by DEAN COUSINO

A new office building under construction at the corner of Cahill and Vreeland Rds. in the City of Flat Rock is about ready for occupancy. Built by Phil Liparoto, the structure has more than 13,000 square feet of space and includes several offices for leasing, said Larry Dishaw, building official for the city. "He's pretty much ready to move in and is looking for tenants," Dishaw said last week.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE MICHIGAN
COURT
COUNTY
Court Court
Division
ATION OF
IF HEARING
2018-2022-NC
ryl E. Lohmeyer

BETH BURKARDT

INTERESTED PERSONS

are unknown and the matter may be by the following: A hearing will be by March 14, 2018 106 E. First Street, before Judge Cheryl 710 on the petition BETH BURKARDT inge of Name to N HAYEAU.

BURKARDT

2

Notice of Plan Availability for Public Review and Comment and Notice of Public Hearing

Erie Township 2018-2022 Recreation Plan

A draft 5- Year Recreation Plan for Erie Township is available for public review and comment. This Plan is required to remain eligible for MDNR grant funding. Anyone interested in reviewing this document may obtain a copy at the Erie Township Offices, or at the Erie Township Library. Written comments may be sent to Kim Cousino, Erie Township Clerk, at the Erie Township Hall, 2065 Erie Road, Erie, Michigan.

The Erie Parks Commission will consider recommending this plan for adoption at its next regular meeting on February 7, 2018 at 7:30PM at the Erie Township Hall. The following week, the Erie Township Board will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Erie Township Hall. Following the public hearing, the Township Board will decide to approve the plan as is, or make changes based on comments and feedback. If approved, Erie Township's 2018-2022 Recreation Plan will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

January 17, 2018

Indian tribe with thee Michigan casinos opening first in Indiana

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — The opening of an American Indian's new casino in northern Indiana is being celebrated with local officials.

Leaders of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians joined with South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg and others for a ceremony for Tuesday's opening day of the Four Winds South Bend casino. The doors open to the public at 4 p.m. Tues-

day. It is the first tribal casino in Indiana and joins three that the Pokagon Band owns in nearby southwestern Michigan.

The tribe says the casino has 1,800 electronic gambling machines, four restaurants, three bars and employs about 1,200 people. It is on South Bend's southwest side, near the U.S. 31/20 bypass.

Township Board Meeting Agenda

TOWNSHIP BOARD
ERIE TOWNSHIP
Erie, Michigan

Regular Meeting & Public Hearing
February 13, 2018
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER- ROLL CALL- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. RECOMMENDED ACTION (consent agenda)

1. Minutes approval from January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting
2. Building Report January, 2018
3. Blight Report January, 2018
4. Treasurer's Report January, 2018
5. Police Report January, 2018
6. Revenue & Expense January, 2018

C. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from MDEQ

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

E. BUSINESS:

1. Bills Approval
2. Ask the Chief
3. Resolution To Set An Alternate Date For March Board of Review
4. Adopt Ordinance No. 117-A Effective Retroactive Jan. 9, 2018
5. Public Hearing: Five Year Recreation & Natural Resources Conservation Plan
6. Resolution to Adopt Erie Recreation & Natural Resources Conservation Plan
7. Convert Street Lights to LED at Certain Intersections
8. 2018 Road Improvement Contracts: Erie Rd., Dixie Ave., Fletcher St., Hickory St., James St., Brown St., Suder Ave., Manhattan St.
9. 2018 Roadside Mowing Contract
10. 2018 Dust Control Contract
11. Justin Stark Resignation from Erie Fire Department
12. Waive Park Rental Fees for Curt Gordy Memorial
13. Consumers Life Insurance Renewal
14. Township IT Support: Contract with Monroe County
15. Change Township Email Domain to Google
16. ZBA Letter of Interest – Jolene Upchurch
17. Committee Openings: CDBG (2), Compensation Commission(1), ZBA(1), Park Commission(1)

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

G. MEETING DATES

Presidents Day – Monday February 19, 2018 – Township Office Closed
Planning Commission Tuesday February 20, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
Township Board Meeting Tuesday March 13, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
Park Commission Saturday March 17, 2018 @ 10:00 – Maplewood Park Spring Walkthrough

H. ADJOURNMENT

Transmittal Letter to Monroe County Planning



POGGEMEYER
DESIGN GROUP

AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

February 19, 2018

Monroe County Planning Department
125 East Second Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

Re: Erie Township Park and Recreation Plan, Monroe County

Dear Staff:

On behalf of our client, we are sending you a copy of the Erie Township 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan (2018-2022). This plan was prepared to meet prerequisites set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources related to various grant programs.

Should you have any questions, please contact this office or the Erie Township Clerk, Ms. Kim Cousino at 734-848-5915, ext. 2

Sincerely,

POGGEMEYER DESIGN GROUP, INC.

Randy A. Mielnik, AICP, LEED-AP
Principal Owner

Encl.

Transmittal Letter to SEMCOG



POGGEMEYER
DESIGN GROUP

AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

February 19, 2018

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Ave.
Suite 1400
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Re: Erie Township Park and Recreation Plan, Monroe County

Dear Staff:

On behalf of our client, we are sending you a copy of the Erie Township 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan (2018-2022). This plan was prepared to meet prerequisites set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources related to various grant programs.

Should you have any questions, please contact this office or the Erie Township Clerk, Ms. Kim Cousino at 734-848-5915, ext. 2.

Sincerely,

POGGEMEYER DESIGN GROUP, INC.

Randy A. Mielnik, AICP, LEED-AP
Principal Owner

Encl.