

ALMONT FIVE YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

2012-2016

A joint planning project between the
Village of Almont and Almont Township

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INTRODUCTION

This plan is the product of the Almont Parks and Recreation Board in cooperation with the Almont Village Council the Almont Township Board and residents of the village and township who participated in this effort. The plan is an update of the 1999-2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Its composition and adoption process comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. The plan's adoption will qualify the Village and Township to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund and Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grants for the next five years.

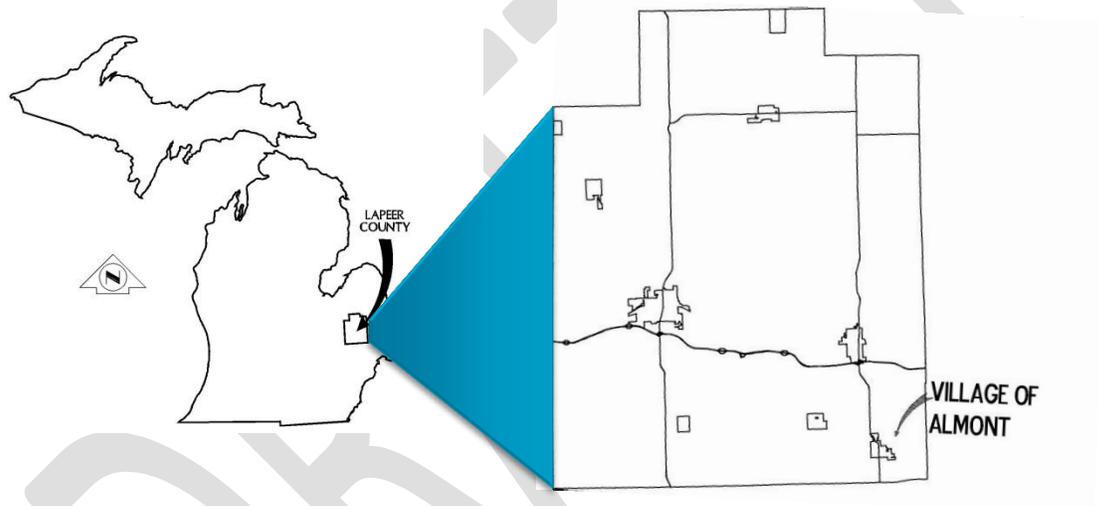
More importantly the plan will provide a road map for the Parks and Recreation Board as it provides direction to efforts to improve recreational opportunities in the community. This plan was established by identifying need in the Almont Area, through public meetings, consideration of State recreational standards, and recreation provider interviews. Neither the Village of Almont nor Almont Township is financially obligated to complete any of the future projects proposed by the Parks and Recreation Board.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Village of Almont is located in Almont Township, in the southeast corner of Lapeer County, approximately 40 miles from downtown Detroit and 35 miles from downtown Flint. The population of Almont Township, which includes the residents of the Village of Almont, was 6,583 in 2010 compared with 4,715 in 1990. .

Both the Township and Village are bisected by State highway M-53, which runs north-south through the community. The highway links the City of Detroit to Port Austin, at the northern tip of the “thumb,” on Lake Huron.

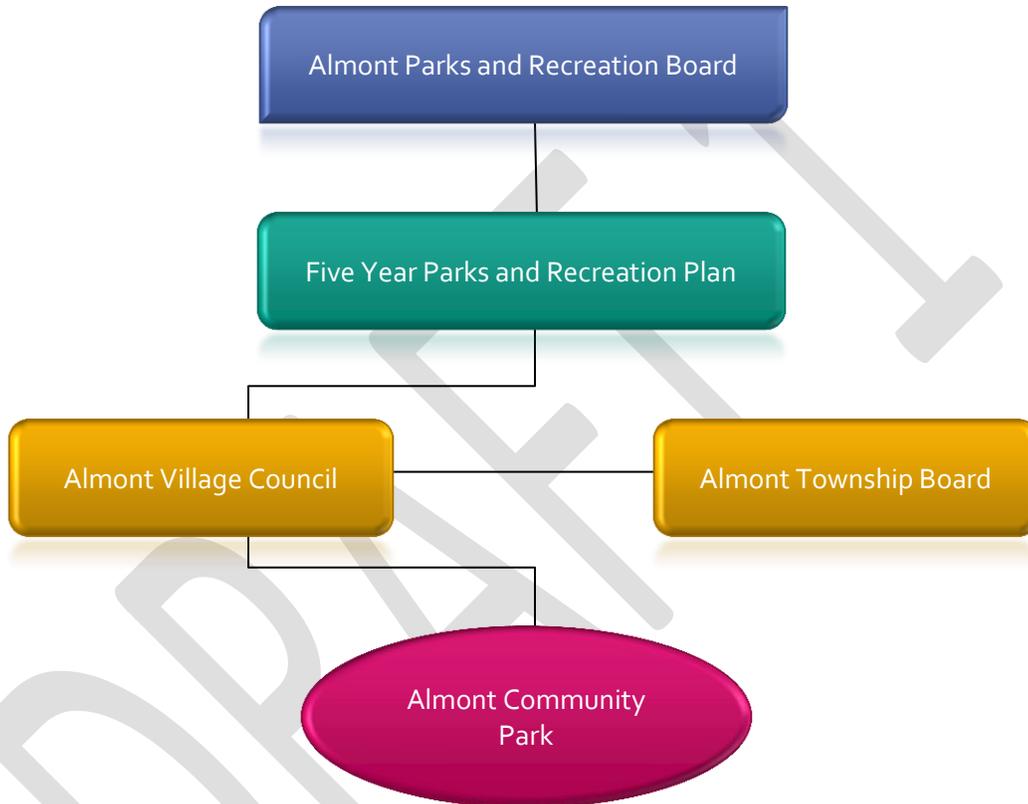
The north branch of the Clinton River runs through the southern half of Almont Township, flowing northeasterly through the Village. The Village Master Plan indicates that much of the land along the river in the Village is comprised of wetlands and woodlands.



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE & PARTNERSHIPS

Village / Township / Parks and Recreation Board

Members of the Almont Parks and Recreation Board are appointed by Village Council and the Almont Township Board. The Parks and Recreation Board is responsible for developing the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which serves as the vision for the future.



Staff

Budgets

The Almont Community Park is the only large recreation facility owned by either the Village or Township (the Village also owns Veterans Park, a small memorial park). For this reason, this facility serves as the focus for recreational development in the Plan. The facility is shared by the Village and Township, which also share the costs for development and maintenance in the park. The Village and Township each contribute one-half of the annual budget. The following Table 1 shows the 2012-2013 budget for Almont Community Park:

Table 1 BUDGET REPORT (FISCAL YEAR 2012-2016)

Operating Supplies
Maintenance and Service Contracts
Picnic and Festival
Liability Insurance
Electrical
Building and Repairs
Equipment and Tools
Light and Heavy Equipment
Total

Funding Sources

Recreation in the Village is funded through allocation of general fund revenue by the Village and Township for individual projects as well as budgeting by the Village of funds for the DPW, which maintains the village parks. The Village and Township also receive donations from time to time from local organizations to help with funding of specific improvements

Volunteer Activities

The Village and Township rely on volunteers from a range of local organizations to assist with programming activities in Almont Community Park and efforts to develop the park. Without them the quality and quantity of events would not be as great. They also undertake activities in other parts of the Village and Township that promote recreation. Their efforts include:

- Almont Lions Club – helps sponsor Easter egg hunt in the park, participate in the Spooky Town Bash and support the Music in the Park program, recently worked on repainting the pavilion in the park
- Almont Chamber of Commerce – helps sponsor Easter egg hunt in the park, and sponsors the Lapeer Symphony’s participation in Music in the Park program
- Almont American Legion Post – conduct Memorial Day services at Veterans Park
- Almont Girl Scouts – Undertake service projects in the park including trash pick-up, and bench painting events
- Almont Masonic Lodge – Sponsors girls softball teams and participates in the Homecoming parade
- Almont Youth Baseball Association – This volunteer organization organized baseball, softball and tee-ball leagues for children from 3 to 16 years old in the community in conjunction with Almont Community Schools

Relationship with School and other Public Agencies

The Village and Township work with several public agencies in their efforts to provide quality recreational opportunities in the community. These include:

Almont Community Schools provide recreational and personal enrichment programming for its own facilities including both their outdoor facilities as well as the gymnasiums at each of the schools and the administration building. Programs other than school sport teams include:

- Tennis
- Karate/Martial Arts
- Boys Basketball
- Zumba
- Yoga
- Flag Football
- Indoor Soccer
- Volleyball
- Cheerleader Clinics

The Almont Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is a quasi-independent organization established by the Village of Almont to promote development within the Village's downtown. As part of their mission the DDA organizes or supports several events to promote the community. These include:

- The Almont Spring Fling
- The Spooky Time Bash (sponsored by the Lions Club)
- The Holly Day Light Parade
- The Almont Holly Day Reindeer Run

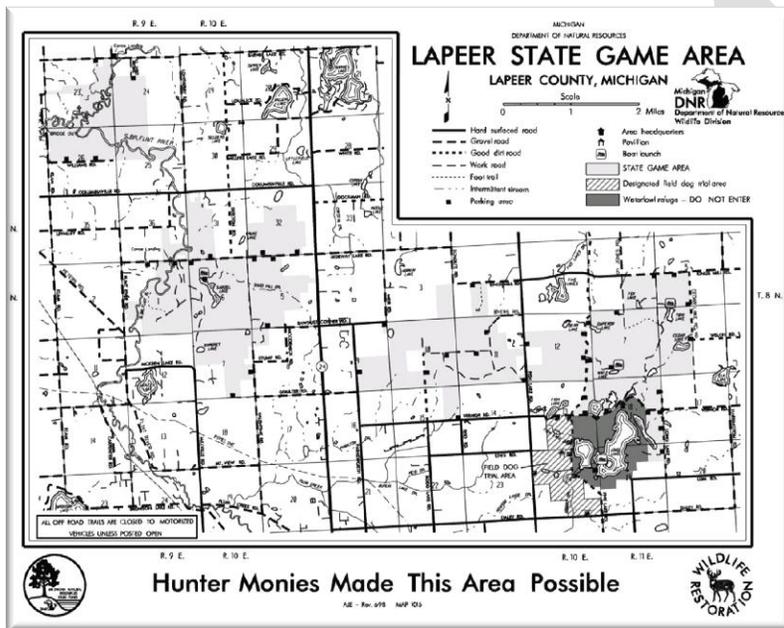
RECREATION INVENTORY

Regional Facilities

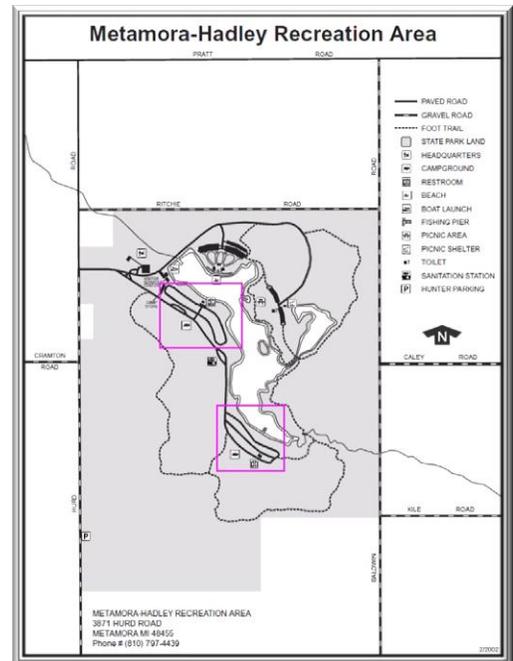
On a regional level, the Village of Almont is located within a 30-mile radius of a number of State and Lapeer County recreation areas and game areas.

State Parks

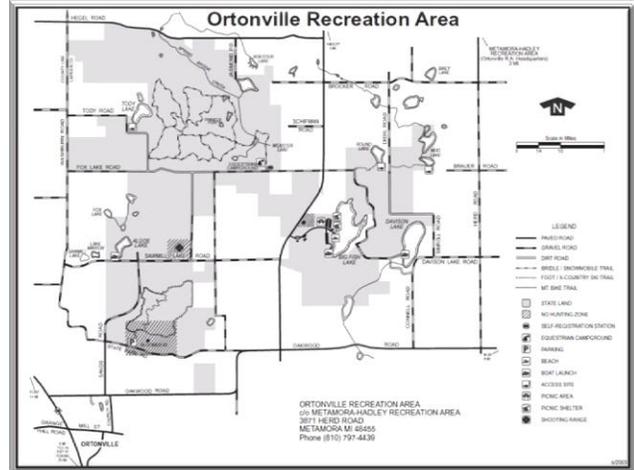
- A. The Lapeer State Game Area covers over 13,000 acres in Oregon, Mayfield, and Arcadia Townships, in northern Lapeer County.



- B. The Metamora–Hadley Recreation Area is 723 acres in size and has beach facilities, camping, mini-cabins, picnic area, picnic shelters, restrooms, showers, 6 miles of hiking trails, beach, concessions, 214 campsites, store, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and hunting.



- C. The Ortonville Recreation Area is a 5,400 acre facility that is under the jurisdiction of Oakland County, although a portion of the park is in Hadley Township. The area has a wide range of facilities including 25 campsites, bathroom and showers, picnic area, boat launch, fishing, swimming, cross country skiing, nature trails, playgrounds, and hunting.



- D. A portion of the Holloway Reservoir is located in Oregon Township. The reservoir is a heavily used facility for boating and water skiing. The boat launch facilities on the reservoir are under the jurisdiction of Genesee County.

County Parks

E. Torzewski County Park



Torzewski County Park in Oregon Township has a wide range of facilities including a children's play pool, water slides, boat rental, picnic area, nature trails, ball diamond, fishing, cross country skiing, sledding, amphitheater, and pavilions.



F. General Squire Park

General Squire Park in Dryden Township has a baseball diamond, water play area, picnic area, cross country skiing, nature trails, sledding, fishing, restrooms, and meeting halls.



Other Parks

G. The Seven Ponds Bird Sanctuary and Arboretum

The Seven Ponds Bird Sanctuary and Arboretum is a 188 acre facility located west of Rochester Road in Dryden Township.



Village of Almont and Almont Township Facilities

The following Recreational Inventory is a comprehensive list of public and private recreation areas and facilities in the Village of Almont (see Map #3). The inventory will be used as a basis of determining the need for specific recreational facilities in the village.

As in many communities in Michigan, the local school districts provide a valuable resource of facilities and programs for local community recreation. For this reason, facilities provided by school districts facilities have been included in the Recreation Inventory.

1. Almont Community Park

Size: 14 Acres
Purpose: Community Park
Service Area: Almont Community
Facilities: Playground equipment; picnic pavilion with kitchen and bathroom facilities; picnic tables; barbeque grills; ball diamond; benches; tennis courts; swing set; sledding hill; outdoor skating rink

Accessibility:
Previous Grant Assistance:



2. Burley Park

Size: 0.5 Acres

Purpose:

Service Area:

Facilities: Memorial

Accessibility:

Previous Grant Assistance:

3. Murphy Park

Size: 0.5 Acres

Purpose:

Service Area:

Facilities: Memorial

Accessibility:

Previous Grant Assistance:

Almont Community School Facilities

4. Almont Administrative Offices

Size: 20 Acres

Purpose:

Service Area:

Facilities: Baseball diamonds; tennis courts; playground

Accessibility:

Previous Grant Assistance:



5. Orchard Primary School

Size: 14 Acres

Purpose:

Service Area:

Facilities: Soccer fields; playground

Accessibility:

Previous Grant Assistance:



6. Almont High School and Middle School

Size: 30 Acres

Purpose:

Service Area:

Facilities: Ball diamonds; tennis courts; football field; running track; basketball nets; indoor gymnasium

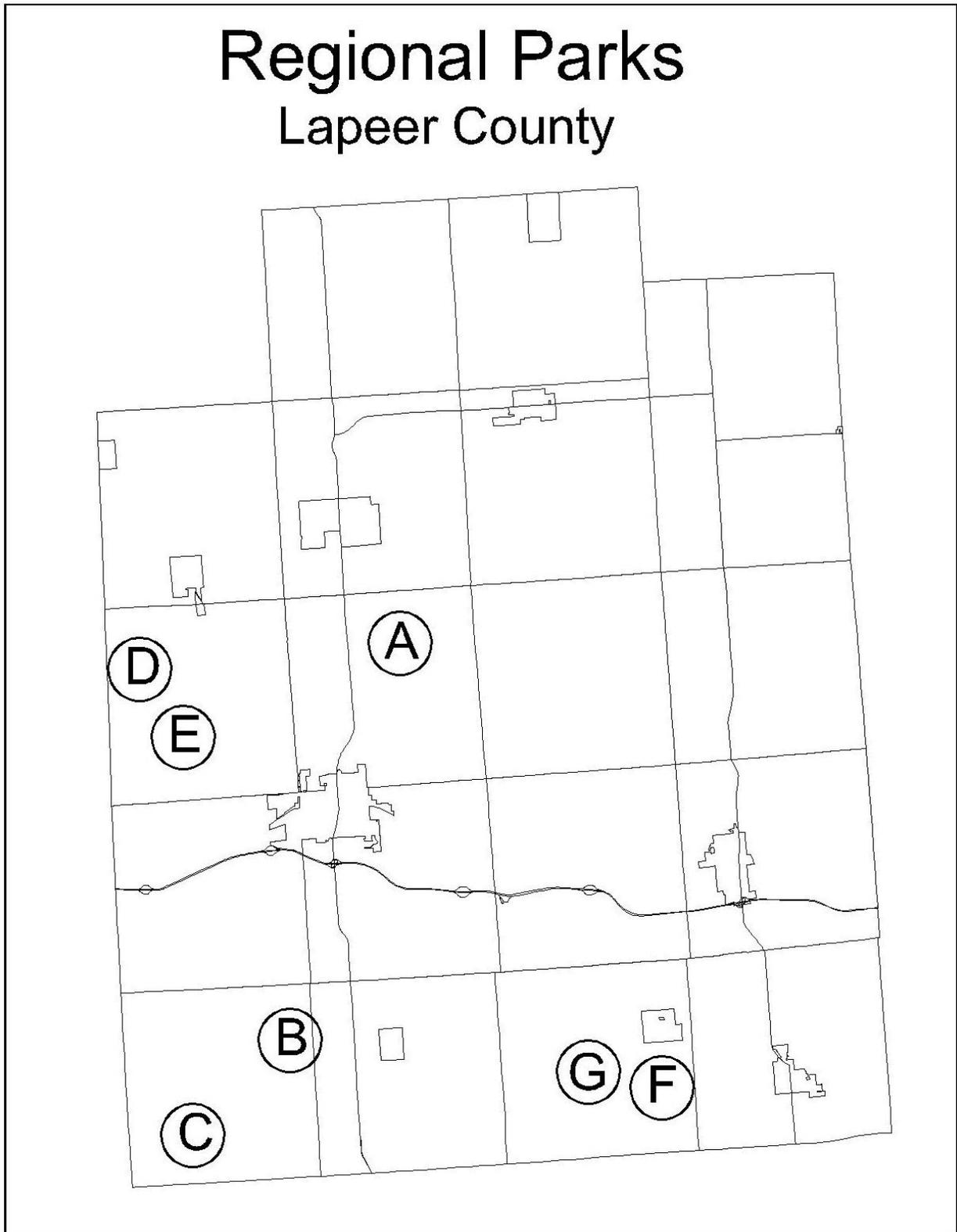
Accessibility:

Previous Grant Assistance:

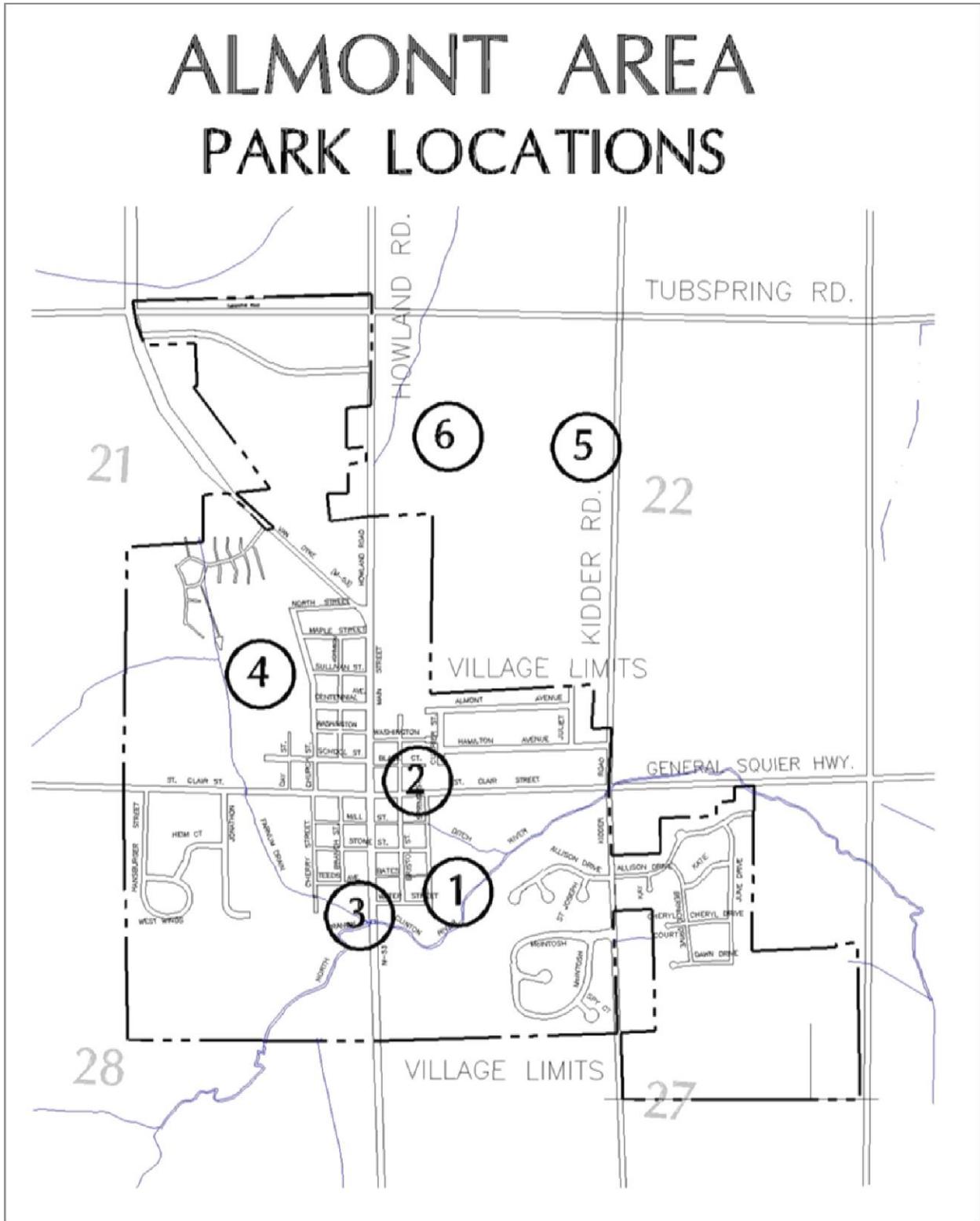


Almont High School & Almont Middle School

Map 1: Regional Park Location Map



Map 2: Park Location Map



PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Public Input

The Almont Parks and Recreation Board was formed to oversee park improvements in the Village and Township. The Board is comprised of representatives of the Village and Township, active citizens and volunteers.

In 1999 the Board developed and the Village and Township adopted a Parks and Recreation Plan for the community. The plan expired in 2003. In 2012 the Village and Township decided to update the plan. The planning process began in August, 2012. Representatives of Rowe Professional Services Company met with the Almont Parks and Recreation Board to discuss the intent of the planning process, and develop a schedule for the planning effort. It was decided that the Board would meet monthly throughout the process. The Board generated a list of "prouds" and "sorries" related to recreational opportunities in the community.

Public input was solicited in a number of ways. All meetings were open to the public, with an opportunity for public comment provided during each meeting. To assist in determining the level of demand and need for recreational facilities, the Board formulated a list of recreation providers in the area. Recreation providers were those people in some way responsible for the provision of recreational opportunities in the Village and Township, through coaching, programming or organizing. Generally, providers were well informed about the facilities available and had insight into the recreational needs of the community, particularly in their specific area of interest. In October, 2012, representatives of Rowe Professional Services Company interviewed the providers, summarized their comments and presented them to the Board for their review.

At the Parks and Recreation meeting held in In October, 2012 the Board discussed the results of the recreation provider interviews and summarized what they felt were the parks and recreation priorities. Each Board member presented their ideas. A preliminary list of plan goals was approved.

The Board met again in November 2012 to review a partial draft of the plan including an inventory of recreational facilities and program structure, goals with draft objectives and a preliminary plan for improvements to the Almont Community Park. The Board approved a preliminary Five Year Capital Improvements Schedule. The Board considered the following in developing the schedule:

- Community description information
- Existing Village facilities in relation to the State recreational standards
- Recreation provider interview results
- Personal experience of Board members
- Public participation

A public hearing draft was prepared. A notice of the plan's availability for review and comment and the time, date and location of public hearings by the Board, the Village and, the Township were included in the notice. The notice was published over 30 days prior to the first public hearing. The Parks and Recreation Board approved the draft Plan, and recommended that the Plan be considered by both the Township Board and the Village Council, at the 2013 meeting. A 24" x 36" copy of the Proposed

Improvements Map was posted at the Village and Township Hall for three weeks prior to the meetings at which the Plan was adopted.

The Plan was adopted by the Almont Village Council on 2013 and by Almont Township on 2013.

Standards for Need

The Michigan Department of Natural resources has adopted a set of standards to determine the need for certain recreational facilities, based on the population of the community. The following Table 2 compares the facilities located in the Village of Almont as identified in the Recreation Inventory to the State’s recreational standards.

Table 2 VILLAGE OF ALMONT RECREATIONAL INVENTORY, 1997 AND STATE RECREATION STANDARDS

Column #1 Item	Column #2 Public Facilities	Column #3 School Facilities	Column #4 State Standards	Column #5 Village/ Township Standards	Column #6 Need 2012
Park Land (acres)	15	50	10/1,000	65	—
Soccer Field (A)	—	—	1/20,000	1	1
Hiking Trails (mi.)	—	—	1/5,000	1.5	1.5
Playground (A)	1	1	1/3,000	2	1
Ball Field (A)	1	6	1/3,000	2	1
Outdoor Basketball Court (A)	—	4	1/5,000	1	1
Ice Rink (outdoor)	1	—	1/20,000	—	—
Fishing Access (ft.)	—	—	1,000/1,000	5,000	5,000
Picnic Areas (tables)	15	—	1/200	29	14
Outdoor Swimming Pools	—	—	1/40,000	—	—
Swimming Beaches	—	—	1/25,000	—	—
Sledding Hills	1	—	1/40,000	1	—
Bicycle Trails/Walkways (mi.)	0.3	—	1/40,000	1.5	1.2
Tennis Courts (A)	0	8	1/4,000	2	—

(A) Recreational facilities on school grounds or private property are not counted toward meeting local recreational needs.

Summary of Table 2

Table 2 identifies the types of recreational facilities (Column #1) owned by the Village of Almont or Almont Township (Column #2) as well as those owned and operated by private interests, schools or regional authorities within Almont Township (Column #3). The State Recreational Standards are listed in Column #4. These standards have been adopted by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources to serve as a measurement of need for recreational facilities. Column #5 shows the present demand for each facility, assuming State Standards are to be met. Column #6 illustrates the deficiencies in the current number of facilities within the Almont Area, assuming a 1997 combined Village and Township population of 5,760 people.

It must be noted that facilities determined by the Parks and Recreation Board to be in poor condition were not included in the above analysis.

Table 2 indicates there is a significant demand for most of the recreational facilities listed in Column #1. There are presently about 65 acres of open space available to Village and Township residents. However, approximately 50 acres of open space is owned and maintained by the Almont Community Schools. While efforts are made to encourage Village and Township residents to utilize school facilities whenever possible, during school hours and extracurricular activities, availability of these facilities for public use is limited. For this reason, it appears that there is the demand for recreational park land that is owned, developed, and maintained by the Village or Township.

The table indicates the need for the following: 1 soccer field, 1 ballfield, 1.5 miles of hiking trails, 1 playground, 1 outdoor basketball court, 5,000 feet of fishing access, and 14 picnic tables. The state standard for Bicycle Trails/Walkways is 1 mile per 40,000 population. This appears low, particularly given the recent list of recreational priorities established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources which emphasize the development of pedestrian pathway systems throughout the State. A standard of 1 mile per 5,000 people appears to be more appropriate. Based on this observation, it appears that there is a need for about 1.2 miles of bike trails in the Village and Township.

These findings were considered by the Parks and Recreation Board, together with the results of the recreation provider interviews, as a basis for developing the Action Plan.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Narrative

Goal 1

Provide a variety of activities and recreational opportunities for residents of every age group, including youth, families, and senior citizens.

Basis for Goal: Discussions among Board members and through input from recreation providers highlighted the fact that some age groups within the community are under served. In addition, it was recognized that facilities that have activities for all ages increase the potential for use by families playing together, and strengthening families is a community priority.

Objective 1A: Provide a wider range of winter outdoor activities, including ice skating

Objective 1B: Expand facilities for very young residents and incorporate seating area for parents adjacent to those facilities.

Objective 1C: Improve barrier free accessibility of facilities to increase the ability of the elderly to use them.

Goal 2

Promote community ownership in the provision of recreational services and provide a transparent and accessible process through which individuals can offer feedback for continuous improvement.

Basis for Goal: Existing volunteer efforts in recreation in the community as well as enthusiastic participation by recreation providers and other members of the public in the recreation planning process indicate public interest in recreation. Ensuring continuing public support is critical for on-going improvements, and responsiveness to public comments and concerns is a key element of maintaining that support.

Objective 2A: Provide ongoing opportunities for public input on recreation issues through the Village website.

Objective 2B: Identify opportunities for citizen involvement in recreation, recruit volunteers to undertake those tasks and provide a method of public acknowledgment for their contributions.

Goal 3

Enhance the overall appearance of the Community Park, with a specific focus on using durable materials to maintain smaller park amenities (grills, benches, etc.) while maintaining a broad focus on land acquisition and facility enhancement.

Basis for Goal: Concerns with the condition of several improvements in the Community Park were expressed during the planning process by Board members, Village staff and members of the public. The

Board recognizes that installing structures and equipment inadequate to the demands of the public reduces the attractiveness of the park and affects the pride the public has in their facilities. It is also recognized that expansion can increase the parks visibility which can increase safety and public support.

Objective 3A: Conduct an inventory of existing equipment and create a priority list for repair replacement

Objective 3B: Establish minimum standards for future equipment purchases or construction.

Objective 3C: Create "hit list" of property or easements for purchase. Contact current owners to determine availability/conditions and maintain watch on future opportunities.

Goal 4

Expand recreational activities with an emphasis on drawing visitors from the broader Thumb region and throughout the State into the Community Park.

Basis for Goal: Recreational facilities and activities have the potential of attracting people to the Almont Community. These visitors have a potential to enhance the community's local economy by serving as customers for local businesses and possibly as future residents.

Objective 4A: Work with the DDA , Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in identifying marketing opportunities for facilities and events outside the community.

Objective 4B: Identify opportunities for building on existing facilities and activities that have the potential for attracting visitors within the region

Objective 4C: Identify regional recreational needs and work to provide them through government or private sector investments.

Goal 5

Continuously analyze opportunities to enhance modes of recreation transportation throughout the park (including the expansion of the walking trail and creation of a children's bicycle path).

Basis for Goal: Promoting physical activity is a key to long term health in our community. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Lapeer County is the 11th unhealthiest in Michigan with an adult obesity rate of 34 percent and a rate of 17 percent for children 2-19. Proving opportunities walking and biking can help people of all ages improve their physical fitness.

Objective 5A: Prioritize the recommendations of the Village/Township Master Plan's complete streets report

Objective 5B: Identify potential non-sidewalk pathways that could connect the Community Park to the surrounding village.

Goal 6

Strengthen partnerships between the Almont Community Park and local and regional service organizations (such as the Lion’s Club, Little League, Girl Scouts, etc.) as well as the Almont Community Schools.

Basis for Goal: Duplication of services can result in a waste in resources. Developing a partnership with other recreation providers can help each group to stretch their resources and provide a wider range of services to more residents.

Objective 6A: Provide representatives of each organization on Parks and Recreation Board

Objective 6B: Identify persons responsible for coordination of various recreational services

Objective 6C: Maintain and update this recreation plan in cooperation with Almont Community Schools and other organizations

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Basis for Action Plan

Action Plan

The following is a list of recommended parks and recreation improvements for the Village of Almont and Almont Township, along with justification for each. Each improvement justified below is prioritized in the Five Year Capital Improvements Schedule. Cost estimates for each improvement are also provided in the schedule.

Proposed improvements are shown on Map #4, which shows Almont Community Park and area around it. This Almont Community Park is the largest park facility in the Almont Area. The park is jointly owned and maintained by both the Village of Almont and Almont Township. Note that while specific locations have been identified by the Board as preferred locations for improvements, the map is intended to be conceptual in nature. It is possible that some of the property proposed for acquisition and development may not become available to the Village or Township. The Plan is to be considered flexible in terms of specific parcels and facility location.

Develop Soccer Field in Almont Community Park

Presently there is a ballfield on the southern side of the Clinton River in the park. Access is provided to the ballfield by way of a pedestrian bridge across the river and a 60 foot wide, 1300 foot long easement from Kidder Road.

The ballfield is underutilized for a number of reasons. The ballfield is located adjacent to the river and is prone to flooding during the spring snow melt. The flooding tends to wash the infield material away, and leaves the ballfield in poor shape each spring. Annual replacement of the material is necessary. The ballfield faces the river. There is no outfield fence to keep well-hit balls in the field, so many balls wind up over the river or in the river. Constructing an outfield fence would keep ground balls in play, but the outfield it is still too short for organized baseball or softball.

There presently are no soccer fields in the Village or Township. State standards indicate the need for a soccer field. The organizer of the Almont/Imlay City American Youth Soccer Association (AYSO) indicated that soccer games played in Almont must be played on a ballfield outfield. With a league consisting of 19 teams and 245 players, a soccer field is needed in the Almont Area. Since the area is already flat, it could be developed as a soccer field for very little cost. Costs would include goals, lines, and a fence or net behind the goal next to the river to stop balls from going into the water.

Improve Park along Clinton River

The Clinton River is a significant natural feature. It has much potential as an educational and interpretive recreational facility. There is an established dirt footpath southwest of the bridge along the south side of the river, however, the area is overgrown with trees and shrubs. This area slopes upward from the river to the south. If the area were to be cleaned up, it could be an

attractive nature trail and would improve accessibility to the Clinton River. The State recreational standards indicated a need for 1.5 miles of nature trails in the Village and Township.

It appears that some children play and hang out in this area. The Board proposes to clean up the area by thinning out the overgrown trees and shrubs. This will make it easier to see into the area from the other side of the river and from the top of the slope, and will improve park security and safety. Damaged trees and trees of poor quality will be removed. The thinned out canopy will provide more sunlight into the area, making it possible to plant trees and flowers in the area. It is anticipated that much of the labor will be comprised of volunteers, perhaps from local organizations such as boy scouts, girl scouts, church groups, etc.

Acquisition of Property South of Park

Many of the recreation provider interviews indicated that there was a lack of parkland in the Almont Area. While there are 15 acres of park property in the Village and Township, much of this is either wooded, hilly, or lies in the floodplain. With the exception of pathways, the potential for facility development is limited. Acquisition of property south of and adjacent to the park would expand the potential for park facility development, and will allow the Village and Township to address a wider range of recreational needs.

- Development of Three Soccer Fields on Property South of Park
- 3 Soccer Fields
- Main Street Entranceway
- Signage
- Access Drive
- Parking Lot
- Landscaping

The Almont Community Park is a popular, well-used park but it has only a limited number of recreational facilities. Presently there are no soccer fields in the Village or Township. State standards indicate the need for at least one soccer field. The Almont/Imlay City AYSO soccer league has 19 teams and 245 players. These numbers are expected to continue to grow as the league becomes more popular. By developing additional soccer fields in the Almont Area, the AYSO will be able to meet local and regional demand.

By developing a total of four new soccer fields in the Almont Area, the ability to program league play will greatly expand. The ability to host regional tournaments will also greatly improve. A pavilion at the facility will provide shelter from the elements. It will also improve the facility as a venue for organized events by providing a covered area for activities such as awards ceremonies, picnics, soccer camps, etc.

Access to the soccer fields will be provided by an access drive off of Main Street. A paved pedestrian pathway into the park will also be developed. The pathway will provide a linkage to the park bridge. Signage will be developed to define the park entrance. Landscaping the site with trees will improve aesthetics, provide shade for spectators, and serve as wind breaks for the soccer fields.

The parking lot will provide improved access to the sledding hill and the pathway system, thereby increasing the year-round usability of the park

Paved Bikeway/Walkway Development

The State standards indicate a need for a 1.5 mile bicycle trail/walkway system in the Village and Township. The need for pathway development was stressed by many of the recreation providers interviewed. When asked to prioritize future recreational facilities in the Almont Area, the high school students interviewed listed a bikeway/walkway as the number one priority. A paved pathway system would provide a safe, multi-use pedestrian pathway that could be used year-round. Accessibility to the Clinton River will be improved. The facility could be used by residents of all ages and interests. The asphalt surface would be suitable for walking and running, wheelchairs and strollers, bicycles and inline skates. It is proposed that the width of the pathway would be at least 8 feet, to allow for shared use. It is anticipated that once a system of paved pathways is established in the Village, future linkages with regional trailway systems such as the Polly Ann Trail would be investigated.

The potential for a system in the Almont Area is great. The park is an attractive destination for pathway users. The Clinton River flows through the park and is a valuable natural resource. Because much of the land along the river is in the floodplain, it is generally not suitable for other types of development. The Board proposes to establish the system and gradually expand it as resources and property become available. Signage will be provided where appropriate, to show the layout of the system. The completion of all seven phases will result in a system that is 8,050 linear feet (LF) in length.

Phase 1: From Kidder Road West to Park Bridge (1650 LF)

It is anticipated that this project would be an appropriate Phase 1 improvement. The proposed pathway would be developed in an existing Village-owned 60 foot wide easement, so no acquisition by the Village and Township would be necessary. No major grading or tree removal would be required. The initial Phase 1 effort will serve as the impetus for future pathway development. That is once Phase 1 is completed, this effort will help to establish public support for future pathway projects. It is intended that support for a paved pathway system will continue to grow once people have an opportunity to use the trail. The Phase 1 improvement will provide a safe, scenic pedestrian route from Kidder Street to Main Street. The paved route will also provide emergency access into the park area.

Phase 2: From Park Bridge, Northeast along North Side of River (1000 LF)

Phase 2 will require the acquisition of an approximately 450 foot easement along the north side of the river. Acquisition of the easement may be feasible, since the potential for development along the river may be limited due to its location in the floodplain. Phase 2 will extend the pathway system by 1000 linear feet. The Board intends to develop a bridge to the south side of the Clinton River at this point.

Phase 3: From Park Bridge, Northeast along South Side of River (1000 LF) Development of Bridge along Clinton River

Phase 3 will require acquisition of an approximately 450 foot easement along the south side of the river. There presently is a proposed residential subdivision development on the property in question. It is anticipated that the area along the river may have development constraints due to its being in the floodplain. Given this constraint, a pathway would be an appropriate feature along the river. The pathway system throughout the Almont Area would be expanded, and pedestrian access to the residential development will be improved.

Phase 3 would be linked to the Phase 2 pathway improvement by the development of a bridge across the Clinton River. Completion of Phase 3 would result in a system of 3,650 linear feet of paved pathways in the Almont Area.

Phase 4: From Existing Park Bridge, West to Main Street Bridge, along North Side of River (1050 LF)

It is proposed that Phase 4 would extend the pathway system by 1050 linear feet. Phase 4 would provide a direct pedestrian link along the river from the park to Main Street. While most of phase 4 is proposed to be developed in the park, a 475 foot easement will need to be acquired in order to connect to Main Street.

Phase 5: From New Park Bridge, NW along North Side of River, to St. Clair Street (900 LF)

Phase 5 is proposed to extend the pathway from the new park bridge to St. Clair Street, north of the park. To complete Phase 5, a 900 foot easement along the river will need to be acquired. The completion of Phase 5 will result in a paved trailway system with direct pedestrian access to the Clinton River from Kidder Street, Main Street and St. Clair Street.

Phase 6: From New Park Bridge, NW along South Side of River, to Kidder Street (1200 LF)

Phase 6 is proposed to extend the pathway from the new park bridge to Kidder Street, about 50 feet south of St. Clair Street. To complete Phase 6, an 1150 foot easement along the river will need to be acquired.

Phase 7: From Main Street along Entry Drive to Park Bridge (1250 LF)

Phase 7 would provide direct pedestrian access into the soccer facility at the Main Street entrance. The pathway would allow for separation of vehicles and pedestrians entering the park, thereby increasing safety on the road and in the parking lot. It is anticipated that the pathway will be parallel with the accessway until the parking lot, where the pathway will continue until the bridge. The parking lot will serve users of the soccer facility as well as users of other park facilities, including the pathway. Users will be able to park their cars and access the pathway from the parking lot.

Develop Basketball Court in Almont Community Park

The State standards indicated a need for an outdoor basketball court in the Almont Area. Many of the recreation providers interviewed stressed the lack of activities for teenagers. This facility would expand the range of athletic facilities in the Village and Township.

Development of Playscape for Younger Children

There is a playscape facility in Almont Community Park. The facility is well used by children and young families. The facility is designed for older children with an ability to climb relatively steep apparatus. For younger children (four years of age and younger), supervising adults most constantly stand beside their child in case the child slips and falls on the steep ladders. This detracts from the park experience for both the adult and the child, as the child has less freedom with which to play. A playscape designed for smaller children, four years of age and under, is proposed to be developed in Almont Community Park. The facility will be designed to be fun and challenging but at the same time easier and safer for a very young child to utilize without requiring hands-on adult supervision. Seating areas for supervising adults is also proposed to be developed around the perimeter of the facility.

Development of a Community Center

There is not a community center in the Village or Township. Because of this, the ability to run indoor recreational programs is severely limited. Many of the recreation providers interviewed

stressed the need for a community center. The Board proposes to develop a multi-use indoor facility to serve a wide range of ages and interests. Presently there is not a senior center or a youth center in the Village or Township. Included in the facility would be a senior center. A youth center with some supervision could also be developed. A community center could be utilized for a wide range of community events, classes, and workshops. As a potential revenue stream, facilities could be rented for wedding receptions, banquets, parties, etc. If a Community Parks and Recreation Director position were to be established, the offices could be located in the community center.

A swimming pool would be included in the facility. A swimming pool would greatly expand the range of programming in the Village. The pool would be utilized for a wide range of activities, including school activities, such as varsity practice and meets, lifeguard classes, learn to swim programs, water aerobics, senior activities, early morning swims, and other community recreational programs. The Board realizes that the cost of the facility will depend on the range of facilities included.

The Village would consider developing and maintaining the community center jointly with the Township or Schools. A specific location has not been selected at this time. It is suggested that consideration should be given to locating the complex within the Village limits to make it pedestrian-accessible to Village residents, particularly the elderly.

Establish Recreation Director Position

One of the goals of the Parks and Recreation Board is to strengthen the cooperation between the Village of Almont, Almont Township, and Almont Community Schools. The importance of cooperation was stressed during the recreation provider interviews. Some of the people interviewed believed that the most effective way to implement the improvements recommended in this plan would be the establishment of an Almont Community Parks and Recreation Director position. The Director could coordinate programming and facility use between the three entities. There are many facilities, particularly school facilities, which could be utilized more intensively. The Board feels that establishing a Director position would be the most effective way to spearhead the parks and recreation planning effort for the community. The position would be jointly funded by the Village, Township, and School, and could be full time or part time, depending on the responsibilities of the position and the resources available. The Director's responsibilities could include preparing an annual budget, programming activities and events, hiring and supervising seasonal help, overseeing park maintenance and improvements, supervising volunteers and coaches, league scheduling, grant investigation and writing, etc.

INSERT PARK IMPROVEMENTS/ACQUISITION MAP

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Five Year Capital Improvement Schedule

The following is a prioritized breakdown of proposed parks and recreation improvements in the Almont Area. This schedule represents the vision of the Almont Parks and Recreation Board. Neither the Village nor the Township is obligated to develop any of the proposed improvements.

Table 3: Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule – 2012

Project	Cost	Potential Funding Source

Table 4: Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule – 2013

Project	Cost	Potential Funding Source

Table 5: Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule – 2014

Project	Cost	Potential Funding Source

Table 6: Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule – 2015

Project	Cost	Potential Funding Source

Table 7: Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule – 2016

Project	Cost	Potential Funding Source

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