

# 2006 ROBINSON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN

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**FINAL DRAFT**  
**February 14, 2006**

# **2006 ROBINSON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN**

Prepared for

Robinson Township Park Board and Robinson Township

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## **Plan Prepared by:**

Lisa Cotter  
Dr. Peter Wampler  
Grand Valley State University Geology and the Environment Students  
GVSU  
1 Campus Drive  
Allendale, MI 49401

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## INTRODUCTION

The 2006 Robinson Township Community Recreation Plan has been prepared by Lisa Cotter and Dr. Peter Wampler with assistance from Grand Valley State University's Geology and the Environment students. The Plan will serve as a guide for the Township management of park and recreational facilities and goals for future acquisition and open space preservation.

The Plan presents an assessment of Robinson Township's recreation needs and opportunities. Reviews of program accomplishments, demographic data and the results of the recently conducted Community Perceptions Survey (Appendix A) will be the basis for these adjustments and are intended to be an integral part of the development process. The Plan considers the existing public and private facilities within the Township, the demand for an additional facilities to better suite current land and environmental conditions, and the means for funding future projects during the course of the five-year development.

The 2006 Robinson Township Community Recreation Plan replaces the Plan adopted in 1997 and acts as a guide for the Township's administration of park and recreation facilities in the coming years. The Plan also enables the Township to apply for Federal and State grant funds for parks and recreation facilities within the township.

One of the motivations for updating the Plan is that Robinson Township recently received a \$5.5 million dollar grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the grant was to purchase properties in the Van Lopik and Limberlost areas of the Lower Grand River in Robinson Township. One of the goals identified in this plan is to obtain a grant from Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to provide matching funds to the Federal grant. This will potentially provide residents with the complete buyout cost as reflected in the pre-flood fair market value estimate.

This plan may be amended as priorities and resources within the township change. Submission of an updated plan is required every 5 years by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to remain eligible for state grant funding.

As the area around and within Robinson Township continues to increase in population, the community will see an increased need for recreational opportunities. Robinson Township provides the perfect setting for a recreational area that showcases the natural wetlands and wooded areas found along the Grand River.

# COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

## Description and Location

Robinson Township is located in the northwestern portion of Ottawa County, west of Grand Rapids and southeast of Grand Haven. Figure 1 shows the location of Robinson Township and the surrounding townships.

Robinson Township has a total area of 39.5 square miles with 0.8 square miles of it being water. The Township is mostly agricultural, but land availability is quickly fading as more people are building homes. Robinson Township was originally marshes, open fields, woodlands and wetlands but much of this land has been drained and converted into housing plots, farmland and impermeable surfaces.

Robinson Township has been rapidly growing because of the beautiful rural settings and the close proximity of Holland, Grand Haven, and Allendale. Some of the locations within the Township, notably the Van Lopik and Limberlost developments, have proven to be unfit for residential use because of the high possibility of flooding. There have been at least five major floods recorded since 1994 as well as other significant floods in the past 30 years. The most recent ice jam flood, reaching water levels of 18.3 feet in January of 2005, caused widespread evacuation and suspended occupancies for some homes. The flood affected 30 homes on Van Lopik, and 20 other homes on Limberlost according to the National Weather Services because of contaminated water sources, septic systems and a lack of gas and electric services. The township recently received a 5.5 million dollar grant from FEMA to buy out residents in this area. The grant calls for areas purchased to be converted to open space for public recreation. The FEMA grant requires that the township retain ownership of the open space land and that it remain open space.



**Figure 1: Robinson Township Location**

## **Demographics, Housing and Income**

As of 2004, Robinson Township had a total population of 5,984 residents, and of those residents 70% were adults. Robinson Township has a total of 1,885 housing units of which 28 units are used for seasonal or recreational use, and 80 of the units are currently vacant. Currently there is a density of 49 houses per square mile, and 145 people per square mile. It is projected that the township will almost double in size by 2020.

The median household income of Robinson Township according to the 2000 Census recorded the 1999 level at \$57,110. The most common jobs for the Township citizens are in manufacturing, education and health care. Currently 78.7% of the township population (over 16 years of age) participates in the labor force.

## **Natural Features**

The majority of Robinson Township (approximately 80%) is made up of agricultural and residential land. The Northern boundary of the township is defined by the Grand River. Other significant sources of water are a couple of lakes scattered across the Township. There are also two bayous located in the northwest portion of the Township, which are Stearns bayou and Connor Bayou. Located in the southwest corner of the township are three waterways, Bass Creek, Bear Creek, and Bass River. Wetlands and poorly drained areas are located alongside the bayous and rivers. Lastly, there are ditches and drainage systems scattered throughout the agricultural land in the Township for farming purposes. Many of these are maintained by the Ottawa County Drain Commission.

## **Existing Land Use**

Robinson Township's land is mainly used for residential (47.7%) and agricultural (41.7%) functions. The rest of the land is used for commercial purposes.

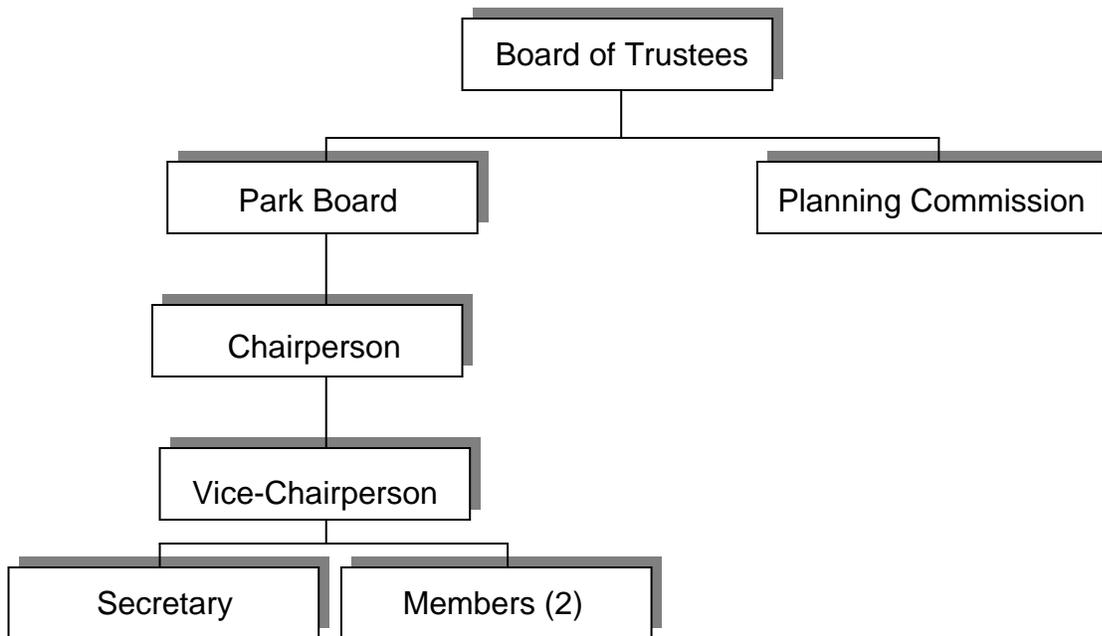
# ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCING STRUCTURE

## Organizational Structure

Robinson Township’s parks and recreations programs are administered by the Park Board, which was formed under the enabling Act 157 of 1905. Committee members are appointed by the Board of Trustees and have staggered memberships. The committee is directly responsible to the township Board of Trustees and serves in an advisory capacity.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Committee formulates park development plans, recommends construction projects and financing procedures, administers recreation programs and recommends maintenance operations and equipment needs for Township Board review, approval and execution. The official actions of the Township such as public hearings, implementation of projects, allocation of funds for grants or capitol projects or programs or the establishment of ordinances and related regulations and procedures are the responsibility of the Board with assistance from the various commissions and committees.

Figure 2 is an organizational chart that illustrates the administrative structure of Robinson Township’s parks and recreation system.



**Figure 2: Robinson Township Parks and Recreation System**

## **Recreation Budget**

Robinson Township's recreation budget for 2006 is \$34,500. This budget helps maintain the Robinson Township Park and planning towards future recreation facilities. Currently, no volunteers are involved in the park and recreation programs. There are also no recreation programs directed by Robinson Township.

The Township residents who are active in recreation programs participate through the following organizations:

### **Public Organizations**

- North Ottawa Recreation Program (NORP) has an agreement with Grand Haven Public Schools as well as local governments that includes Robinson Township. NORP makes financial contributions to subsidize costs for area-wide participation. The sponsoring communities also participate as member representatives for planning and program approvals. Robinson Township is allocated two positions on the Board. Programs are primarily held at Grand Haven facilities with participation depending on the types of activities offered. The funding in the 2005-2006 year was \$10,168.00.
- The City of Zeeland provides recreation programs that draw from a wide area around Zeeland, which includes the south east quadrant of Robinson Township.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS**

The planning process used to prepare the 2006 Robinson Township Community Recreation Plan involved four phases: data collection, analysis, needs identification, and plan development. The data collection phase involved collection and analysis of demographic data, including data from the 2000 U.S. Census and site visits to Robinson Township by Dr. Peter Wampler and Grand Valley State University's Geology and the Environment students.

The analysis phase included an investigation of historical flooding events in the area. There have been at least five major floods recorded since 1994 as well as other significant floods in the past 30 years. With this in consideration, a preliminary list of recreation deficiencies and needs was developed, and a preliminary set of plan goals and objectives was formulated to fit the possibility of future flooding.

Public input regarding park and recreation needs was solicited a written survey that was distributed to all households in the Township. The survey was circulated in the spring of 2005. Of the approximately 1,800 surveys distributed, 51 completed surveys that represented 149 people were returned in time to be included in the analysis. Comments received in the survey were considered in development of the Draft Recreation Plan.

The Robinson Township Park Board reviewed the development of the proposed 5 Year Action Plan at a meeting on February 7, 2006. All comments and recommendations were taken from the Park Board and Board of Trustees concerning changes that needed to be made to the Draft Recreation Plan between February 7 and February 20, 2006. The residents of Robinson Township were able to access the Plan that was posted on the Township webpage between January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Trustees reviewed the draft plan and solicited public input on the plan at the February 20, 2006 Township Board meeting, prior to adopting the Plan.

## RECREATION INVENTORY

Over the past ten years the population of Robinson Township has grown steadily. However, the availability of recreational facilities and services has not grown with them. Robinson Township currently has only one Township Park. The neighboring communities provide any recreation that the Robinson Township residents participate in because they currently have no programs. Robinson Township's Recreation Inventory is summarized in Table 1.

### **Township Facilities**

Robinson Township Park: Approximately 42-acres of land owned by Robinson Township is located south of the Township Administrative Center on Buchanan Street. The park has one softball field, a soccer field, covered picnic area, trail system and playground. A new well was installed in 2005 to provide on-site drinking water.

### **State Facilities**

D.N.R. Launch Site: Is a 5-acre launch facility on the Grand River at the end of 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The park has two boat launch ramps, 650 feet of river frontage, parking for 60 cars and one primitive pit toilet restroom facility. The launch ramp is owned by the State of Michigan and is maintained by the Ottawa County Road Commission. The Park is used by residents from throughout the County.

Bass River State Recreation Area: Bass River State Recreation Area is approximately a 1,100-acre site located in central Ottawa County. Eventually the Bass River Recreation Area will occupy approximately 3,000 acres and provide the region with nearly three miles of river frontage, several large gravel pit lakes are connected to the Grand River and hundreds of acres of natural woodland and floodplain for all forms of casual recreation.

### **County Facilities**

Riverside Park: Is a 64-acre park located on the Grand River on North Cedar Drive just east of 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The park facilities include four boat launching ramps, a 22 feet by 40 feet open shelter structure, two pit toilet restrooms, picnic tables and grills and parking for 14 cars and 43 car/trailer units at the lunch ramp and approximately 80 cars at the picnic area. A maintained lawn area with trees, which is available for general use, occupies approximately 1,200 feet of the nearly 4,350 feet of river frontage. The balance of the park, approximately 65 percent, is natural and receives limited use. The park is owned and operated by Ottawa County and is heavily used most of the year. Barrier free access, fishing pier and picnic and pathway improvements are also facilities offered.

Vacant County Land: There are 2 parcels of publicly owned land in the Township that are undeveloped and are available for low levels of use such as hiking and in some cases hunting. All of the parcels are included in the Ottawa County Timber Management Program that provides for periodic basic timber management practices such as selective harvesting. The program

permits access and hunting on the land; but very few people are aware of the program or the location of the land so these areas are currently unused.

Johnson Street Wildlife Management Area: The Wildlife Management area is a 50-acre parcel of natural woodlands located in the southwest quarter of section 4 on the north side of Johnson Street.

Robinson Forest: There are 80 acres of mixed tree covered land at the intersection of Sleeper Street and 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Approximately half of this parcel is in a 40-50 year old pine forest managed by the Ottawa County Intermediate School District and monitored by Grand Valley State University as a red pine management demonstration area.

### **School Facilities**

The Grand Haven and NORP provide some of the facilities and program opportunities for recreation for Township residents. There is one elementary school in the Township and it is owned and operated by the Grand Haven School District.

Robinson Elementary School: The school is situated on a 20-acre parcel on the west side of 120<sup>th</sup> south of Buchanan Street. The school has an indoor auditorium/gymnasium used for school functions, shuffleboard, basketball, volleyball, slimnastics, aerobics, meetings, dinners and nonalcoholic receptions. Outdoor facilities include three basketball goals, five swing sets with slides, one soccer field, two junior softball fields and one small play area with related equipment. The play apparatus and sport fields are scaled for the elementary school user and are not particularly well suited for older age group or general community use. The only restroom facilities are located within the school building and are available only during school hours and on a very limited basis.

### **Private Recreation Facilities**

Four privately owned and operated commercial facilities are available to the paying public in the Township. Three are located on or near the south bank of the Grand River and one is located at the intersection of M-45 and 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the southeast portion of the Township.

Dick's Landing: Is located on 8.8-acres on North Cedar Drive, has on boat launching site, 78 boat slips and one boat lift for larger boats. Facilities also include a boat storage totaling 11,200 sq. feet and complete bath facilities.

River Haven Marina: Is situated on approximately 3-acres of Grand River frontage at the end of 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This development includes 90 boat slips, two boat launching sites, two modern restrooms and 660 feet of river frontage. The marina is approximately 11.5 miles from Lake Michigan.

Felix's Marina: Developed on a 4.3-acre site, is located on Green Street near Stearns Bayou. Facilities there include approximately 35 boat slips, 4 boat launch sties, approximately 40

primitive campsites with electrical service at 20 of the sites and 4 self-contained pit toilet type restrooms.

TYPE OF FACILITY	Robinson Township Park	D.N.R. Launch Site	Bass River State Recreation Area	Riverside Park	Vacant County Land	Johnson Street Wildlife Management Area	Robinson Forest	Robinson Elementary School	Dick's Landing	River Haven Marina	Felix's Marina
ACRES	42	5	1,100	64	2 Parcels	50	80	20	8.8	3	4.3
Playground	X							X			
Open Shelter	X			X							
Open Lawn				X							
Softball Field	1										
Soccer Field	1							1			
Junior Softball Field								2			
Trails	X										
Boat Launch		2		4					1	2	4
Boat Slips									78	90	35
Boat Lift									1		
Boat Storage									X		
Fishing Pier	X			1							
Drinking Fountain											
Pit Restroom		1		2							4
Modern Restroom										2	
Gymnasium (indoor)								X			
Bath Facilities									X		
Basketball Court (Outdoor)								1			
Primitive Campsite											~40

**Table 1: Robinson Township's Recreation Inventory**

## **Township Recreation Programs**

Robinson Township does not administer nor completely sponsor any recreational programs on its own. It does, however, participate in the financial and administrative support of a variety of programs that involve the residents of the community. Summer recreation, athletic programs and art and craft programs are examples of this participation.

The programs that account for the greatest number of participants are the organized sports and programs from agencies such as the Grand Haven YFCA and the Grand Haven School District in conjunction with North Ottawa Recreation Programs. The organized sports programs have Grand Haven and NORP as the primary sponsors with Ferrysburg, Grand Haven Township and Robinson Township all making financial contributions to subsidize costs for area-wide participation. The sponsoring communities also participate as member representatives for planning and program approvals. Robinson Township is allocated two positions on the Board. Programs are primarily held at Grand Haven facilities with participation depending on the types of activities offered.

Generally, Robinson Township resident participation averages between 5 and 20 percent of total attendance depending on the type of recreation. Limited participation programs are those that appeal to special interest groups such as swimming specialties, tennis and special instruction activities. They normally draw from four to over twenty Township participants. The more popular programs like open swimming, softball, soccer, football, volleyball and basketball that have league type involvement draw larger numbers of Township participants. These activities average approximately fifteen residents per activity with participation in open swim, open gym and some league activities attracting over seventy Township residents in a season.

Robinson Township residents also participate in programs provided by the City of Zeeland. The main attraction is the Little League Baseball Program that draws from a wide area around Zeeland. The actual numbers of Township participants in this estimates range from thirty to over fifty per person.

As mentioned earlier, Robinson Township contributes funding toward the NORP Programs. The funding in the 2005-2006 year was \$10,168.00. The township has participated with the NORP since its inception and will continue to do so through the term of this Plan and into the future with both facilities and programs.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Recreation **goals** establish the long-range recreation policy for Robinson Township.

Short-term recreation **objectives** are general efforts that are intended to help achieve recreation goals.

Recreation **actions** are specific measures that implement the recreation objectives.

**Physical characteristics** are the Robinson Township population features that are being affected by the goals.

**Demographic characteristics** are the features of the land that are being affected by the goals.

### **GOAL: INCREASE UNINTERRUPTED OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAYS IN FLOODPLAINS ALONG THE GRAND RIVER**

**OBJECTIVE:** Reclaim agricultural and residential land that will remain undeveloped to allow natural flooding and river function. Establish open space area and riparian comparable to the conditions prior to land use change to residential and agricultural plots.

#### **POTENTIAL ACTIONS:**

- Identify and acquire land that falls within the 100-year floodplain along Van Lopik and Limberlost areas of Robinson Township. This may include additional parcels of willing sellers interested in expanding greenway along the Grand River.

### **AFFECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **Demographic Characteristics**

##### Residencies:

- There are 60 properties, along Limberlost Lane and Van Lopik Lane, that qualify for the 75% buy-out provide by the FEMA Grant given in early 2005.

##### Michigan Department of Transportation (MDot) Properties:

- There are 4 MDot Properties along Limberlost Lane that have been acquired for a future Grand River crossing.

#### **Physical Characteristics**

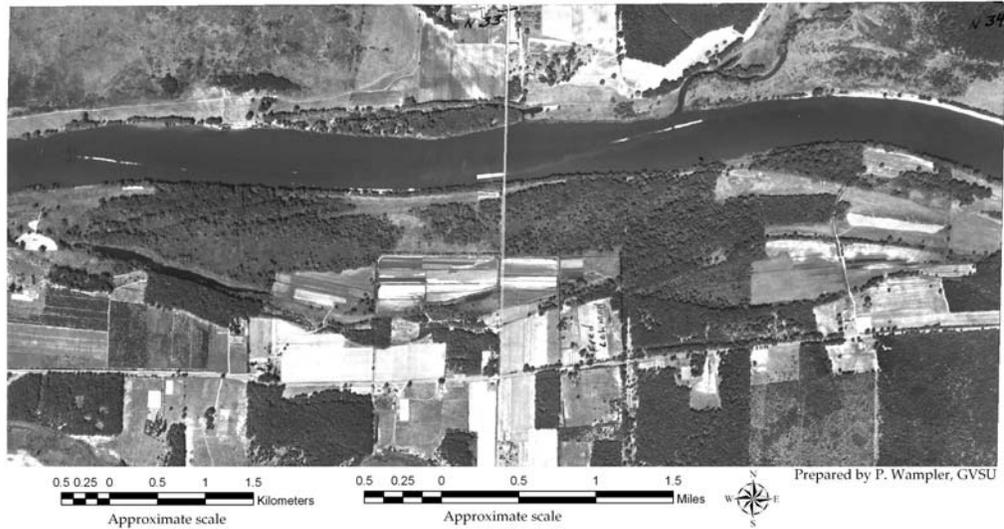
##### Soil:

- Hydric Soils: Ad, Ah, Ak, Bu, Bv, By, Cc, Cm, Ed, Gd, Gl, Gm, Gn, Hg, La, Ls, Me, Pn, Pr, Sm, Sn, Tc, To, Wa, Wm, and Wt. Areas composed on these types of soils were classified as wetlands or flood-prone lands. Therefore, lands composed of these types of soils are not considered suitable lands to support engineered structures.
- Non Hydric and Hydric Mixed Soils: A1A, AmB, ArB, AsB, BeA, BeB, B1A, B1B, BpA, BpB, Ce, CnB, GeA, GeB, IoA, IrA, IsB, KnA, KnB, KoA, KoB, MhA, MnA, MnB, NeB, NwB, RcA, RcB, SeA, SeB, Sh, and WsA. Since these soils contain low amounts of hydric soils they are not considered at risk for flooding and therefore are suitable to support engineered structures.
- Non Hydric Soils: Non-hydric soils are classified as BoB, BoF, BrA, BrB, BrC, ChB, ChC, CrB, CwB, DpB, DpD, DpF, FoB, Gr, ClB, H1C, KaC, Lb, Ma, McA, McB, McC, MmB, MmC, MoB, MoC, MoD, MoF, MrA, MrB, MrC, MtB, MtC2, MtE2, MuD3, MuF3, NeC, NeD, NeF, NsC3, NsD3, NsE3, NsF3, OsA, OsB, OsC, OsD, OwB, RsB, RsD, RsF, Sd, SpA, SpB, SpC, SsD, SsE, SsF, TsB, U1A, U1B, U1C, and WuC. These areas are not considered to be at a risk for flooding, but are not developed due to some other reason. To see the distribution of these soil types across Robinson Township see the soil survey map in Figure 3 (page 14).

Water:

- Based on the soil survey the following soil types: Ad, Ah, Cm, Gd, Gl, Gm, Non Hydric Soils: Non-hydric soils are classified as BoB, BoF, BrA, BrB, BrC, ChB, ChC, CrB, CwB, DpB, DpD, DpF, FoB, Gr, ClB, H1C, KaC, Lb, Ma, McA, McB, McC, MmB, MmC, MoB, MoC, MoD, MoF, MrA, MrB, MrC, MtB, MtC2, MtE2, MuD3, MuF3, NeC, NeD, NeF, NsC3, NsD3, NsE3, NsF3, OsA, OsB, OsC, OsD, OwB, RsB, RsD, RsF, Sd, SpA, SpB, SpC, SsD, SsE, SsF, TsB, U1A, U1B, U1C, and WuC. These areas are not considered to be at a risk for flooding, but are not developed due to some other reason. To see the distribution of these soil types across Robinson Township see the soil survey map in Figure 3 (page 14).

1938 Aerial Photo of the Grand River at 120th Street



**Figure 4: Robinson Township 1938 Aerial Photo**

- Several different types of public water systems supply Robinson Township. Water utilities for the northwest quadrant of Robinson Township are provided by the Northwest Ottawa Water System (NOWS). This water service exists through an intergovernmental agreement with Grand Haven Township. Two water mains run through Robinson Township to provide water for the city of Grand Rapids. Some residents in Robinson Township are supplied with water from the City of Grand Rapids through connections to these two large water mains. However, approximately 95% of the population acquires their water needs through wells.
- The Grand River is the largest River in Michigan. Ottawa county and other counties adjacent to the Grand River are acquiring land to increase the greenway along the Grand River. The greenway provides floodplain functions as well as a continuous pathway for wildlife.

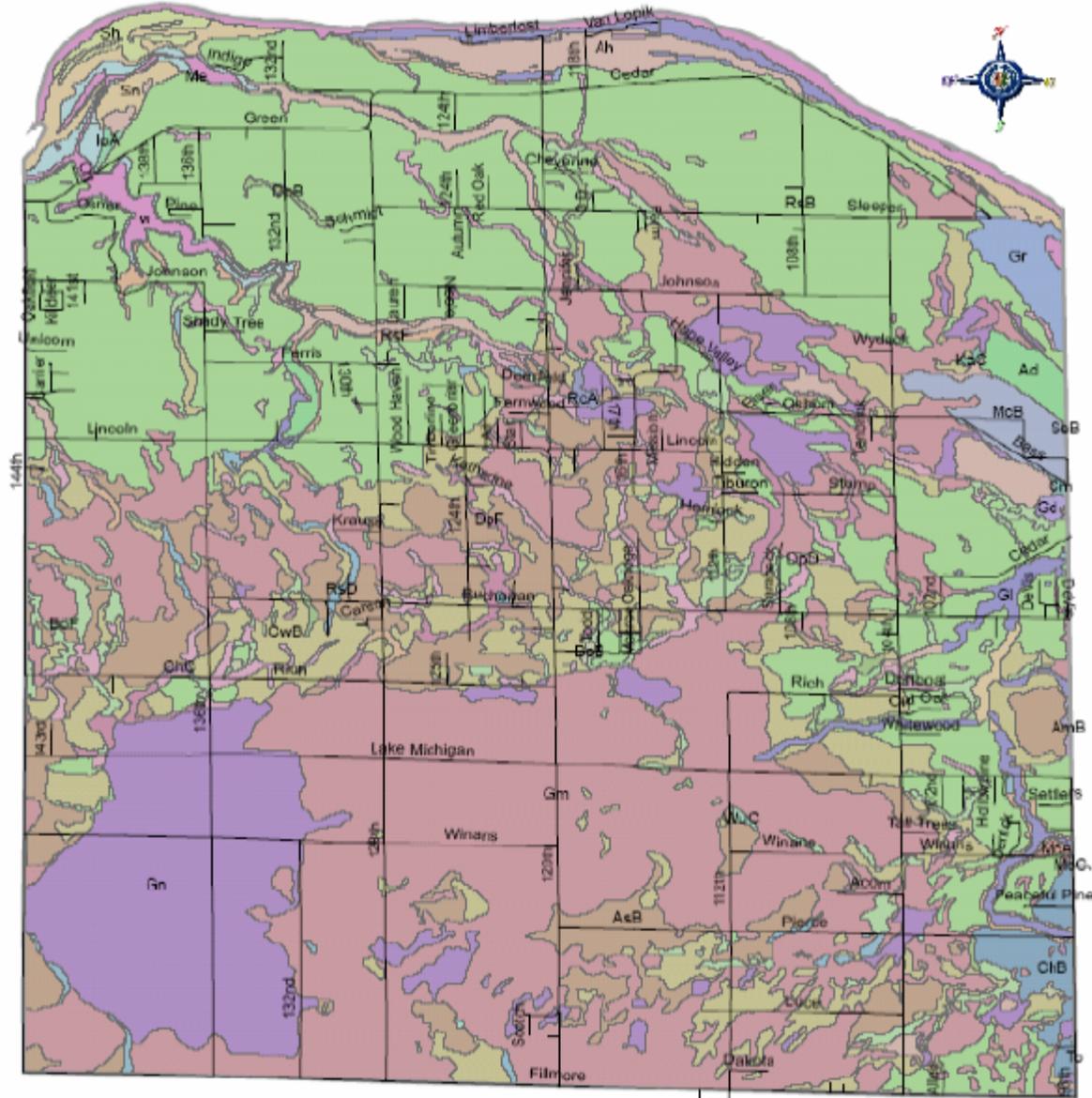
# Soils Robinson Township



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GIS Department  
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 West Grove, Michigan 48395  
 Phone: 810-738-4300  
 Fax: 810-738-4300  
 Website: www.illinoiscounty.org

Legend			
Code	Gm	Gr	RaD
Ah	CwB	IoA	RaF
AmB	DpB	KaC	RaB
AcB	DpD	MoA	Sh
BoB	DpF	MuB	Sn
BpF	Gd	MuC	To
ChB	Gm	Me	WuC
ChC	Gn	RoA	W
	Gn	ReB	Roads



**Figure 3: Robinson Township Soil Distribution**  
 (Robinson Township Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2005)

**GOAL: PLAN AND DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PATHS THAT SHOWCASE THE NATURAL WETLANDS AND WOODLANDS ALONG THE GRAND RIVER.**

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide wood and soil paths to allow non motorized access to the Grand River and wetland and wooded areas. Provide access for wildlife viewing and hiking along the riparian areas adjacent to the Grand River. (Appendix B)

**POTENTIAL ACTIONS:**

- Identify land high enough to support trail ways along the Grand River and through wooded areas.
- Develop raised wooden paths in lower, wetter areas and gravel or wood chip covered trails in dryer areas for hiking and skiing. Eradicate invasive species and restore natural wetland function in the area adjacent to the Grand River near Van Lopik and Limberlost.

**AFFECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Physical Characteristics**

Water and Soil: Affected in the same manner as previous goal.

## ACTION PROGRAM

The plan actions stated in the Goals, Objectives, and Actions section represent acquisition projects or recreational facility development. The projects, listed below, cost for acquisition or development have been estimated and listed in Table 2. The following goals and objectives were structured to fulfill needs and to serve as guidelines for development of the five-year action and financial programs. The plans are intended to be flexible enough to be responsive to changing attitudes and trends and to accommodate opportunities as they occur.

- Acquisition and development of greenway and open space along the Grand River in Van Lopik and Limberlost area is the highest priority in the project. The land has proven to be unstable for agricultural and residential uses due to the high risk of flooding. This acquisition will be an integral part of the growing greenway corridor along the Grand River.
- Developing a trail way system will give the open space a low impact use for the public that will promote safe, meaningful and attractive access throughout the Township, County and region for hikers, skiers, and bikers. It will provide a way to view and access the natural beauty of the lower Grand River.
- Preserving and reclaiming scenic, natural, historic and environmentally sensitive or unique areas for appropriate levels of public use and enjoyment.

It is anticipated that opportunities may arise that could alter the prescribed goals and objectives. However, it is intended that these guidelines remain as priorities even in the event of the introductions of an alternative opportunity that was not anticipated.

The Action and Financial Program that follows will identify specific actions and expenditures required to accomplish the initial elements presented in the goals and objectives.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PROJECTED FUNDING SOURCES			TOTAL REQUEST COSTS
	TOWNSHIP	FEMA GRANT	OTHER	
Van Lopik Land Acquisition	\$779,970	\$2,339,911		\$779,970
Limberlost Land Acquisition	\$905,189	\$2,715,568		\$905,189
Wetland restoration and trail development			\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,685,159</b>	<b>\$5,055,479</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$1,785,159</b>

**Table 2: Robinson Township Recreation Project Description and Cost Projection**

## IMPLEMENTATION

This Plan outlines the path for the next five years that Robinson Township would like to implement in order to improve the current land use in areas of hazardous flooding zones, specifically around Van Lopik and Limberlost. The most recent ice jam flood, reaching water levels of 18.3 feet in January of 2005, caused widespread evacuation and suspended occupancies for some homes. The flood affected 30 homes on Van Lopik, and 20 other homes on Limberlost according to the National Weather Services because of contaminated water sources, septic systems and a lack of gas and electric services. The township recently received a Federal Emergency Management Grant totaling \$5,055,479 to buy out the homes at 75% of their pre-flood market value in this area to be converted into open space. By completing the Plan, homes in these areas would be eligible to apply for grants to receive the remaining 25% of their homes worth in conjunction with the FEMA Grant provided in 2005 after flooding in January.

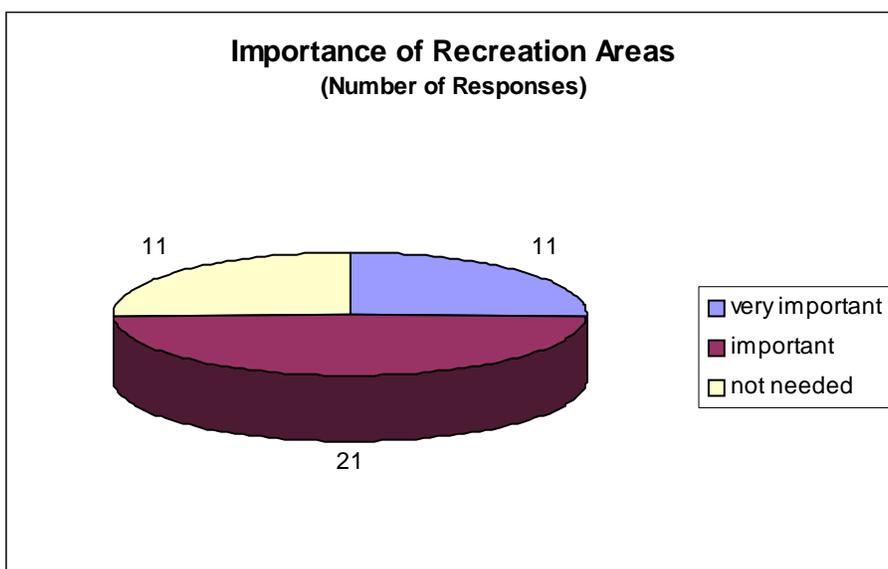
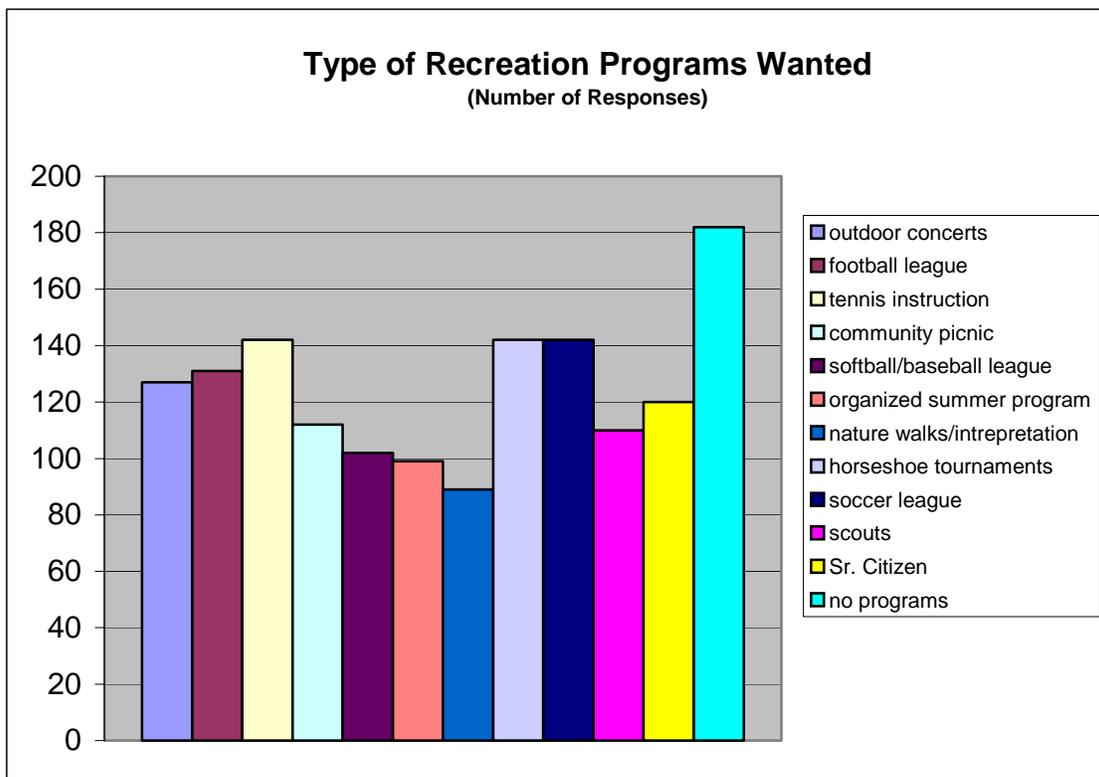
The Plan also includes guidelines for converting the land into lower-impact usages. A new trail way system would compliment the natural wetlands and wooded areas. The trails would be suitable for year round use for biking and hiking in the warmer months, and cross-country skiing and hiking in the winter. The paths would wind through wooded and open areas as well as offering a walk along the riverbank. These would be simple dirt or woodchip paths for the most part. Two or three wooden foot bridges over the more marshy areas and low-lying land would be provided along the trail. If the area would flood after the trails were in place, there would be minimal damage and clear of human danger.

Restoration and trail construction will be accomplished through volunteer and school group participation under the supervision and direction of geoscientists and biologists from Grand Valley State University.

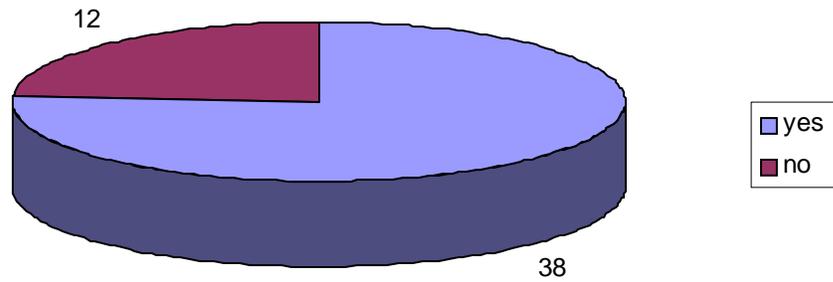
## APPENDIX A

### Summary of Citizen Survey Input

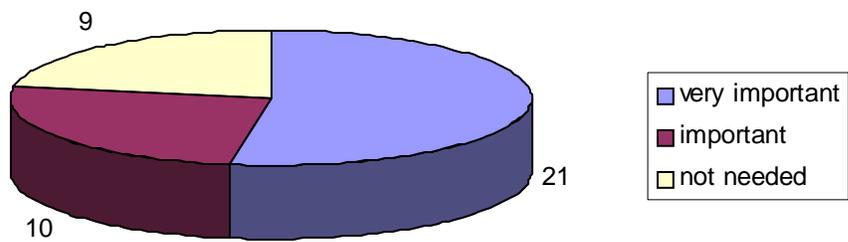
The survey that was given was completed by 2.67% of the residents. This shows that more data needs to be collected to gain a better idea what the area residents want. Surveys were not given to children, young adults, and non-homeowners.



**Should the Township Acquire Land for the Future?**  
(Number of Responses)



**Is Green Space Important?**  
(Number of Responses)



# Community Perceptions Survey

## Page 1

### ROBINSON TOWNSHIP 2005 Park and Recreation Survey

Dear Resident.

We are in the process of updating our Park and Recreation Plan and would like to get your input as to what activities you like to participate in and what you would like to have available in your Township. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it to us either by mail or drop it off to the Township office during office hours or in the front door drop box. Please return it by April 22, 2005. --Thank You

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Household Description          | 2. Resident of the Township |
| a. Number of Adults over 55 _____ | a. Over 20 years _____      |
| b. Number of Adults over 18 _____ | b. 10-20 years _____        |
| c. Children 10-18 years _____     | c. 5-10 years _____         |
| d. Children under 10 years _____  | d. Less than 5 years _____  |

3. Have you lived in Robinson Township your whole life? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Last year did **YOU** participate in any of the following activities? (Indicate frequency)  
(Frequency) 1. Daily 2. Weekly 3. Twice/month 4. Monthly 5. Never

- |                         |                          |                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Walking/Jogging   | _____ Mountain biking    | _____ x-country skiing |
| _____ Frisbee golf      | _____ Wildlife viewing   | _____ Football         |
| _____ Fishing           | _____ Canoeing           | _____ Picnicking       |
| _____ Softball/baseball | _____ Horseback riding   | _____ Kayaking         |
| _____ Boating           | _____ Nature photography | _____ Soccer           |

5. If **CHILDREN** in the household, did they participate in any of the following activities?  
(frequency) 1. Daily 2. Weekly 3. Twice/month 4. Monthly 5. Never

- |                         |                          |                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Walking/Jogging   | _____ Mountain biking    | _____ x-country skiing |
| _____ Frisbee golf      | _____ Wildlife viewing   | _____ Football         |
| _____ Fishing           | _____ Canoeing           | _____ Picnicking       |
| _____ Softball/baseball | _____ Horseback riding   | _____ Kayaking         |
| _____ Boating           | _____ Nature photography | _____ Soccer           |

6. Does your **CHILD/CHILDREN** participate in any of the following league activities?

- |                         |                  |              |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| _____ Softball/baseball | _____ Football   | _____ Tennis |
| _____ Swimming          | _____ Gymnastics | _____ Soccer |
| _____ Other             | _____ Volleyball |              |

7. Where does this league activity take place?

- |                         |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| _____ Robinson Township | _____ Grand Haven | _____ Allendale |
| _____ Other             |                   |                 |



18. In what capacity?  
 Development committee     Construction     Programs  
 Maintenance     Park Monitor     Other

If yes please provide contact information or contact the Township office.

19. How important is the acquisition of green space and natural areas?  
 Very Important     Important     Not needed

20. How important is the development of additional parks and recreation areas?  
 Very Important     Important     Not needed

21. Where in the Township do you LIVE?  
 North of Lincoln St     South of Lincoln St  
 East of 120<sup>th</sup> Ave     West of 120<sup>th</sup> Ave

22. If a new open space/natural area with improved trail access were created, how often would you use it?  
 Daily     Twice weekly     Monthly     Never

23. If a new park or recreation area were created, how often would you use it?  
 Daily     Twice weekly     Monthly     Never

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

# APPENDIX B

## Concept Drawing of Park

