

2012-2016 RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PREPARED FOR

THE VILLAGE OF SARANAC

27 Bridge Street
Saranac, Michigan 48881

DRAFT

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INTRODUCTION

Park facilities and community recreation opportunities continue to be an important service provided to the residents of the Village of Saranac and the surrounding population. Since the recreational needs of any community change over time, the Village of Saranac Parks and Recreation Committee has prepared this new 2012 Recreation Plan that refines and updates the expiring plan and incorporates fresh community input. This plan is based upon an examination of the goals and objectives stated and attained within the prior Recreation Plans in order to determine which of those goals are still desirable for the community, and what additional recreation needs currently exist for Saranac area residents. Illustrations and maps of all Village park facilities are found in **Appendix A**.

This 2012-2016 Recreation Plan utilizes an electronic survey of needs that was made available on the Village's website and distributed in hard copy form via the local newspaper. Also utilized was social media with the creation of a Facebook page. The Village's Parks and Recreation committee held meetings in order to further refine recreational needs and priorities. Additionally, a public hearing was held on February 20, 2012, presenting the draft plan for final public input. This updated plan utilizes information gathered at those meetings and through the tabulated community recreation survey. (**see Appendix B**). The results of the survey determined that a strong desire exists within the Village for:

- A trail connection between Riverwalk and Boat Launch Parks,
- Improvements to the restroom and tot lot facilities at Scheid Park,
- Expanding Boat Launch Park into a "Village gathering place or Village green" by acquiring an adjacent parcel.

It was agreed that these items are the top priorities.

Additional consideration and conceptual design planning was given to the County Rail Trail project planned for development with the abandoned Grand Rapids Eastern/CSX railroad right-of-way. This trail is part of the Midwest Regional Rail-Trail Network and is this section known as the "Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail". Design was undertaken in 2011 and construction will begin in 2012. This rail to trail corridor is located south of the river within the Village and connects the City of Ionia to the east and Lowell/Grand Rapids to the west. (**see Figures A1 and A2 in Appendix A**)

The Village is an active participant in the planning and financing of this project, by contributing a portion of the grant matching funds.

As in the past, local financing of recreational improvements is difficult due to limited funds. However, recognizing the importance of recreation opportunities, the Village has undertaken improvements to Scheid Park in 2007/2008 without grant support. Therefore, one purpose of this plan is to maintain the eligibility of the Village for state/federal funding sources that could assist the Village in its efforts to improve the community's recreational opportunities.

The Village has an excellent track record with MDNR-Trust Fund grant implementation and documentation.

This Recreation Plan is organized as outlined in the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's "Guidelines for the Development of, Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans" publication.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The jurisdiction of this plan falls within the Village limits and is prepared for the citizens of Saranac. That said - the extent of the plan's focus must account for residents of the surrounding rural townships focusing all aspects of recreation opportunities provided by Village facilities.

The Village of Saranac (pop. 1325 in 2010) is located along the Grand River in Boston Township within Ionia County, which is in the south-central portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The Village is comprised of 642 total acres of area. Saranac is approximately midway between the communities of Ionia in the east, and Lowell (Kent County) in the west. Saranac lies about 30 miles east of the City of Grand Rapids, 40 miles west of Lansing and 45 miles north of Battle Creek (**see Figures A and B**). It typifies small town values and sense of community. Bridge-fest festival is held every year in August to celebrate the Village's current and past connection to the Grand River.

Saranac has a well-managed government with a strong commitment to quality of life as supported by their excellent infrastructure including municipal water and sewer systems and extensive riverfront access and park acreage.

Demographic Characteristics:

The historical population growth of Saranac for the years 1900-2010 are summarized in Table 1. While in the past sixty years the Village has experienced continual population growth, the decade from 1990 to 2000 saw a significant reduction of this growth (9.2% decrease). Ionia County as a whole grew at a rate of 0.8% from 1990 to 2000. However, from 2000 to 2005, county wide growth including the communities surrounding Saranac, (Boston, Berlin, Easton and Keene Townships), recorded a 5.0% growth rate.

While the 2000 census showed a moderate decline in the prior decade, the areas surrounding the Village continued to increase due to persons seeking a rural lifestyle with accessibility to larger metropolitan areas (Grand Rapids and Lansing), and the availability of affordable land. 2010 census shows essentially no loss or addition to the population in 10 years.

TABLE 1
Historical Population Growth, 1900-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1900	768	
1910	845	+10.0
1920	750	-11.2
1930	729	-2.8
1940	849	+16.5
1950	885	+4.2
1960	1,081	+22.2
1970	1,223	+13.1
1980	1,421	+16.2
1990	1,461	+0.7
2000	1,326	-9.2
2010	1,325	-0.01

Source: U.S. Census and FedStats

Table 2 describes the age characteristics of Saranac population by age group. According to 2010 Census figures, 28% of the population is school age (under age 18). This represents a slight increase in school age persons from 27% in 2000.

Persons in their childbearing years, ages 18 to 44, comprise 31.1% of the population, while those in the 45-64 years age group account for 25.8% which represents an increase from 20.5% in 2000. Persons age 65 or over make up 15.1% of the population, a decrease from 17.9% since 2000.

With little change in population, the school age group will most likely remain the same over the next decade. While the younger adults (18-44 years) slightly decreased, the age group of 45 to 64 is showing an increase as middle aged adults have placed permanent roots in the community. Recreational needs of this increasingly active age group will need to be met. At the same time, an insignificant change in school aged and older adult populations concludes that the needs of a wide range of age groups must be considered for the Village.

Table 2

Age Characteristics		
<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Under 5 years	85	6.4
5 to 19 years	317	24.0
20 to 24 years	60	4.5
25 to 34 years	156	11.8
35 to 44 years	165	12.5
45 to 54 years	170	12.8
55 to 59 years	87	6.5
60 to 64 years	85	6.4
65 to 74 years	103	7.8
75 to 84 years	79	5.9
85 years and over	<u>18</u>	<u>1.4</u>
Total	1,325	100.0%
Total Males:	631	
Total Females:	694	
Median Age:	37.2	

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

Both income and educational attainment are population characteristics that have an effect on the need for recreational services.

In 1999, the median household income was \$31,350, an increase from \$21,685 per household since 1989. This compares to a median household income for Ionia County as a whole of \$46,926 in 2009. In Saranac, 38.8% of households have an income of less than \$25,000, while 61.2% have an income above that figure. Poverty level status or below has been determined for 15.5% of all persons in Saranac. Of those persons for whom poverty level has been determined, 14.1% are persons 18 years of age and over, while related children under 18 years comprise 18.2% of those persons. The largest categories of people living below poverty level are persons age 65 and over (27.7%) and unrelated individuals (35.4%).

Directly related to income are trends in employment. The unemployment rate for Ionia County jumped from 8.1% in 2006 to 15.7 in June of 2009 and down to 9.9% in May of 2011.

In 2000, of the 696 persons between the ages of 21 and 65, 126 persons have a disability. This is a significant percentage of the population (52%). In the labor force, this age group contains 68 persons presently working with a physical handicap and 58 persons prevented from working due to a physical handicap. The age group of 65 years and older consists of 242 persons, including 101 with a disability. These figures are expected to reflect similar amounts from 2000 to 2010 and the next decade should see a slight increase as the population median age increases.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Recreation planning is a method for anticipating and arranging recreational improvements so that they may be implemented on a reasonable schedule and without an adverse effect on a community's administrative and financial structure. An effective recreation plan will recognize the practical relationship between a community's administrative structure and its ability to follow through on a recommended recreational improvement program.

Saranac is a General Law Village with an elected Village President and six-member Village Board (**see Figure C**). From the membership of this Village Board, the Village President annually appoints a four-member Park Committee. This Park Committee meets on a monthly basis and serves in an advisory capacity to the Village Board. It makes recommendations to the Board in regard to recreational policy, park management, and an annual budget for park operation and maintenance. The Village Treasurer, appointed, is responsible for overseeing the disbursement of funds for these purposes.

The following sums represent the general funds expended for park operation and maintenance for 2000-2011 (fiscal year ending in February):

2000	\$20,251
2001	\$18,978
2002	\$18,382
2003	\$18,610
2004	\$29,359
2005	\$26,880
2006	\$27,636
2007	\$27,356
2008	\$38,435
2009	\$34,075
2010	\$39,548
2011	\$31,420

Projected budgets for park operations are as follows:

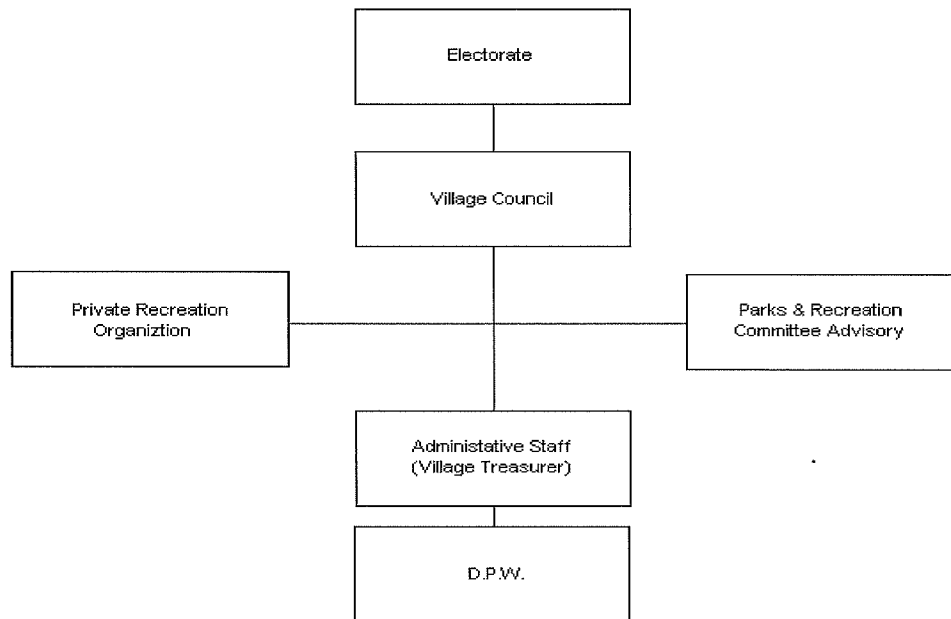
2012	\$34,167
2013	\$35,875
2014	\$37,669
2015	\$39,552
2016	\$41,530

Maintenance for park facilities is undertaken by a crew consisting of a Department of Public Works supervisor and three full-time general maintenance workers. Flexible part-time summer staff is used when the workload dictates. This crew also works on other Village projects in addition to the park. Inmates on a Work Release program from the nearby Ionia Correctional Facilities have from time to time assisted laborers on specific Village maintenance projects.

The annual operation and maintenance funds listed above were used for grounds upkeep, and repairs to park facilities.

**Recreation
Administrative Structure
Village of Saranac**

Fig. C



RECREATION INVENTORY

An essential element of a recreation plan is the inventory of local, and regional, public and private recreation facilities that are available to a community's residents. Such an inventory provides a basis from which a comparison can be made of existing recreation opportunities with the community's identified recreation needs. This inventory process also identifies barrier-free facilities. This will ensure that citizens with disabilities will fully enjoy these facilities. Involving advocate organizations will help facilitate this element of the inventory process. Further, this facility inventory establishes the foundation from which a recreational improvement program can be developed and implemented. **Figure B** also shows the location of local recreational facilities.

LOCAL PARK & RECREATION INVENTORY

Recreation Grant Inventory – Village Owned & Operated

Scheid Park. The Village of Saranac owns and operates Scheid Park. This 11-acre neighborhood park is located in the northeast portion of the Village but serves the entire Village. (See **Figure E**) Following is a listing of the recreational facilities provided at the park – unless noted, all in fair/good condition. (BF= barrier free)

- Three picnic shelters
- Picnic tables and grills (BF)
- Timber and plastic play structure with slides and swings (**poor condition**)
- Animal character springs
- Tot swing set (**poor condition**)
- Climbing dome
- Four seat swing
- Three little league baseball fields with spectator seating (**2 in poor condition**)
- One half court basketball court (BF)
- Parking facilities (BF)
- Paved Paths (BF)
- Skate park facilities (BF)
- Restrooms (**poor condition**)

Many of these improvements were funded in part by a Michigan Recreation Bond Fund grant.

Scheid Park serves as the focal point for summertime activity within Saranac. While records for transient park use are not kept, in 2011 a total of 37 reservations were recorded for the use of the two picnic facilities during the summer months. These reservations represented family, corporate, and organization activities during the period May through September.

In addition, the Saranac area Little League utilizes the baseball facilities at the park on a regular basis. During the 2011 season, the League's members held all scheduled games and regular practices at the park. The field area of the park is also utilized for "Rocket" football leagues and occasionally as a practice soccer field for a local soccer organization. The current site is now nearly completely utilized, with only limited ability to support new facilities. Plans call for replacing the aged play structures, restoration of the existing restroom facility and a paved trail link to the adjacent future County rail trail and the Village Nature Park.

Accessibility Assessment: 2

Saranac Village Nature Park. The Village acquired land along the Grand River and subsequently developed this as a natural resource area and park trail in 2003. Both acquisition and development grant through the MNRTF were used for the creation of this park. The acquired property possesses natural ascetics favorable to numerous outdoor activities. Phase I was constructed with grant assistance from the MDNR Trust Fund. **(See Figure F)** The park is 63 acres in size, offers the following barrier free features serving the Village and surrounding townships – all in excellent condition:

- Parking area for 40 automobiles
- Picnic area
- River Overlook which provides direct access for fishermen
- One mile of paved pedestrian trails through scenic areas
- Toilet facility
- Wetland educational opportunities

Accessibility Assessment: 4

Saranac Riverwalk Park. The Village acquired land along the Grand River at it's own expense and subsequently developed this facility in 2006 with a MDNRTF grant. The property preserves about 1/3 of a mile of Grand River shoreline and connects the Nature Park to the downtown area as a natural resource area and connector trail park. **(See Figure G)** This park is 5 acres in size and offers the following barrier free features – all in new condition:

- Parking area for 16 automobiles – shared with the Depot Museum
- Picnic area (Depot Museum shelter)
- Bench seating
- River Overlook which provides direct access to the shoreline
- 0.36 mile of paved pedestrian trails through scenic wooded wetlands, uplands and along the Grand River – south bank.

Accessibility Assessment: 4

Boat Launch Park. The Village acquired land and constructed a boat and canoe launch located along the Grand River, west of Bridge Street. The 2-1/2 acre Boat Launch Park is a special use facility serving the surrounding area that contains a parking area, picnic area and launching facilities providing very convenient access for boaters and fishermen who use the Grand River. All facilities are in good condition. This popular addition to the Village was partially funded with grant funds administered through the MDNR. **(See Figure H)**

An opportunity has been presented to acquire an adjacent parcel to the south. If successful, this acquisition will help further develop the park into a community gathering place and provide opportunities for a future trail link to the nearby Fred Meijer Rail-Trail.

Accessibility Assessment: 3

To enhance the above described community facilities, the Village, over the last fifteen years has successfully participated in eight specific land acquisitions and /or park improvement projects totaling **\$811,518** utilizing local monies and various State and Federal grant funds. These projects have resulted in a total Village expenditure of **\$452,708** (plus engineering) and grant funds of **\$410,810**. This is an excellent ratio that maximizes grant funding.

Following is a breakdown of these projects and the grant and local funds expended over and above those itemized and discussed above.

1. ***Grand River Boat and Canoe Launch - Land Acquisition of the entire park area***

Total Acquisition Cost	\$14,054
Village Expenditure	\$3,654
Grant Amount	\$10,400

Grant Source: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND – GRANT NO. 89-024

2. ***Scheid Park Improvements***

Total Project Cost	\$175,182
Village Expenditure	\$50,182
Grant Amount	\$125,000

Grant Source: MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND – GRANT NO. BF 89-345

3. ***Grand River Boat and Canoe Launch Construction***

Total Project Cost	\$60,358
Village Expenditure	\$45,918
Grant Amount	\$14,440

Grant Source: MDNR WATERWAYS COMMISSION AND
FEDERAL DINGELL - JOHNSON (LWCF FUNDS) GRANT NO. 116-89

4. ***Scheid Park Expansion - Land Acquisition of the entire park area***
(Re-named - Saranac Village Nature Park)

Total Acquisition Cost	\$60,000
Village Expenditure	\$24,000
Grant Amount	\$36,000

Grant Source: MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND

5. ***Saranac Village Nature Park – Phase I***

Total Construction Cost	\$268,193
Engineering Fees	\$23,900
Village Expenditure	\$102,723
Grant Amount	\$165,470

Grant Source: MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND – GRANT NO. 01-092

6. **5 acre Riverfront - Land Acquisition of the entire park area**
(Future Riverwalk Park – see #7)

Total Acquisition Cost \$22,000
Village Expenditure \$22,000
Grant Amount \$0

7. **Riverwalk Park Development**

Total Construction Cost \$105,893
Village Expenditure \$46,393
Grant Amount \$59,500

Grant Source: MICHIGAN RECREATION BOND FUND – GRANT NO. TF04-059

8. **Scheid Park - Skate Park Facility**

Total Construction Cost \$105,838
Additional Equipment in 2009 \$52,000
Village Expenditure \$105,838
Grant Amount \$0

Utilizing the above Village facilities are several private recreation organizations that are very active in the area. These include the Saranac Little League, the Youth Football Organization, and the Ionia Hunting and Fishing Club.

The Little League, which fully utilizes the existing three baseball fields at Scheid Park scheduled games and numerous practice sessions at Scheid Park. Use of the park by the Little League and the Youth Football Organization is by approval of the Village Council. The Rocket Football League also uses the limited open space.

As in all communities, the popularity of soccer continues to grow. The Village contributed funds to assist the Saranac Public Schools and other service organizations in the construction of the area's only soccer field at the high school athletic field. This provided relief to an overcrowded Scheid Park schedule.

REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Public

Saranac Public Schools. Three primary school facilities belonging to the Saranac Public School District are clustered within short distance of each other in the near southeast portion of the Village. These include an elementary school, middle school and high school.

The Elementary School has the following playground equipment:

- indoor gym
- soccer field
- various slides, swings sets, monkey bars, etc

Located at the Middle School are:

- football/soccer field
- basketball backboards
- tether ball
- indoor gym

Located in association with the High School are:

- football field/track
- baseball field
- softball field
- indoor gym

The local chapter of the American Youth Soccer Organization presently utilizes the school's soccer field facilities for its organized soccer program as well as a privately owned practice field located on Mill Street.

Ionia County owns and operates Bertha Brock County Park which is located about five miles northeast of Saranac along M-21 (**see Figure A**). The nearly 200-acre park contains a stream; a campground with 25 rustic campsites; 9 miles of hiking and skiing trails; 1 baseball and 2 softball diamonds; a lighted ice skating rink on a spring-fed pond along with a warming shelter, 2 tennis courts; several playgrounds; picnic area with shelter; 2 horseshoe pits; a sledding/tobogganing hill; and two lodges available for rental. This year-round park is operated and maintained by the county road commission. A daily use fee is charged, or an annual permit can be purchased, with differing fees for county and out of county park users. Fees for camping are also collected.

The State of Michigan maintains three State game areas, several public access sites, and a State recreation area in Ionia County. The Lowell State Game Area is located in Keene Township along the Kent and Ionia border about five miles northwest of Saranac. Approximately 923 acres of the State game area is in Ionia County, with the remainder in Kent County. The Portland State Game Area is found in both Portland and Danby Townships about fifteen miles southeast of Saranac. This State game area contains over 1600 State-owned acres, most of which borders along the Grand River. The Flat River State Game Area is located approximately twelve miles directly north of Saranac in Otisco and Orleans Townships with over 2000 State-owned acres which lie along or near the Flat River, a tributary of the Grand River.

The Ionia State Recreation Area is located three miles east of Saranac in Berlin Township. The 4,000-acre park is a relatively new State facility. A 150-acre lake, Sessions Lake, was created

by damming Sessions Creek, providing opportunities for swimming, boating, and fishing at the park. Two picnic areas with playgrounds are also located on the lake. In addition, the park contains four miles of river frontage (Grand River), several miles of equestrian trails, a shooting range, foot and ski trails, and 100 campsites with electric service. The park is still undergoing development. Plans indicate the creation of a second lake, an off-road vehicle area, a winter use area, and additional picnic areas and boat launches.

Other nearby State recreation facilities available to Saranac residents include public access sites on Morrison Lake, Long Lake, Woodward Lake, Maple River, Flat River, and Grand River. Significant recreation facilities in Kent County less than half an hour away from the Village include:

- Fallsburg County Park - about 10 miles
- Cascade Township Park - about 18 miles

Private/Commercial

Regional recreation facilities that are privately owned and/or commercially operated include several golf courses, a resort, etc.

TABLE 3

Private/Commercial Recreation Facilities

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Candlestone Golf Course	Belding	public - 18 holes
Morrison Lake Country Club	Clarksville	public - 18 holes
Portland Country Club	Portland	private
Deer Run Golf Course	Near Saranac	public - 18 holes
Rolling Hills Golf Course	Ionia	public - 9 holes
Shadow Ridge Golf Course	Ionia	public - 9 holes
Forest Hills Family Nudist Club	Near and west of Saranac	Nudist camp resort
Double R Ranch	Smyrna	600 acres, Flat River, canoe livery, 100 campsites, trails, stables

RESOURCE INVENTORY

Land Forms

Saranac lies along the Grand River valley which at this point, in its lengthy course across the State, occupies the deeply cut channel of an old glacial drainage way. Within the Village, Lake Creek has cut a steep stream bank as it flows northward towards the Grand River. The emptying of Mill Pond on the southwest edge of the Village limits after the dam was removed has left a depression. The southern part of the Village is high compared to its northern portion.

The soils associated with this loping river terrace (Mancelona-Fox-Boyer Association) are well drained loams underlain by sand and gravel. Major limitations to developing these soils include susceptibility to erosion (depending on degree of slope), stoniness, and droughtiness. Soils found within the floodplain of the Grand River are represented by level, or nearly level, poorly drained organic soils that are subject to excessive wetness (Carlisle-Choctah-Sloan Association).

Vegetation varies from open farmlands to dense woods. These woods consist of mature stands of hardwoods, mainly along the Grand River basin to softwood areas. Extensive flood plains and wetlands exist also, north and south of the Grand River basin.

Water Resources

The most noticeable natural feature within the Village is the Grand River which flows into the Village from the north and forms a loop as it exits in the northwest. This river loop represents nearly two miles of river frontage within the Village (including both sides of the river). Another predominant natural feature within the Village is Lake Creek which flows through the center of the Village from the south and enters the Grand River within the northwest corner of the Village. Generally, land drainage is east and west to Lake Creek, except nearer to the Grand River where it flows south and north.

Lake Creek flows from Morrison Lake which is five miles directly south of Saranac. The 325-acre Morrison Lake is the nearest inland lake to Saranac and does have a public access site.

Land Use

The Village is comprised of 642 total acres of area. Residential land uses account for over one third of the total land uses in the Village. Commercial and Industrial uses together comprise around 10% of all land uses. In general, undeveloped lands (including those used for parks and agriculture) make up approximately 54% of the total land in the Village while developed lands account for 46%.

Originally, the development of Saranac was tied to the historical role of the Grand River as the major transportation route during the region's settlement and the commercial exploitation of the region's resources, particularly timber and agricultural products. As the river's role diminished and other transportation routes dominated, Saranac became and remains a retail and service center for the surrounding agricultural areas. Development of the railroad approximately parallel to the river, as well as construction of M-21 north of the Village and I-96 approximately 3.5 miles to the south, have historically influenced the location of industrial and commercial land uses within the Village.

In addition to the historical role of the Grand River as the major transportation route of the past, the Village of Saranac is now served by several major highways and an important east-west rail line. Interstate 96, connecting Detroit with Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon, has an interchange six miles southwest of the Village. Highway access via M-21, another important east-west statewide route, is located north of the Village just outside of the Village limits. The north-south connection from Saranac to these east-west highways is provided by Morrison Lake Road in the south and Hawley Highway in the north.

The Grand Rapids Eastern (CSX) Railroad has been abandoned as part of a County Rail Trail project planned for development previously mentioned.

While the presence of Lake Michigan 60 miles to the west generally influences the climate in the Saranac area, its effect is not as pronounced as those areas nearer to the lake. Winds from the west flowing over Lake Michigan will tend to moderate the temperature and increase precipitation here, but when winds originate from other directions, this effect is eliminated and the climate becomes more continental.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Community recreational facilities cannot be effectively provided without some basis from which the type, quantity, location, need, and priority for that facility has been determined. Several methods for determining a community's recreation needs and priorities have been identified. These include observed use levels for existing facilities, comparisons of recreational facilities between similar communities, unique opportunities for certain types of facilities, guidelines or standards based on quantity per population, and projected population growth, to identify a few methods.

History:

During the preparation for the original 1987-1992 recreation plan, the planning process utilized a citizen survey that was distributed to Saranac residents. That survey collected the opinions and perceptions of Village residents on what recreational needs and priorities should be addressed by their community. That survey resulted in a representative measure of recreation need and was used extensively as a guide in the provision and development of now existing community recreation facilities.

Having carried through and successfully implemented the majority of the priorities established under the original plan, it was determined by the Parks and Recreation Committee in 1992, that the original survey remained essentially valid and a follow up survey for this update was not necessary. In place of the survey, a public workshop was held specifically to discuss the Village's current recreation needs and the priorities on which the 1993-1998 Recreation Plan would be based. This strategic planning workshop was held on December 9, 1992, and involved a good number of community leaders, organizations, and citizens. For the 1999-2004 Recreation Plan, the successful process was continued and a strategic planning workshop facilitated by the Parks and Recreation Committee, was held on May 11, 1999, and involved community leaders and concerned citizens. The community was invited through public notice, and receiving direct invitations were the representatives of the Saranac Little League, Saranac Housing Commission, Saranac Public Schools, American Youth Soccer Organization, and the Boston-Saranac Historical Society. At the workshop, it was determined that a strong desire existed within the village to finish what was started related to Scheid Park improvements. The expansion of Scheid Park and the creation of a Senior Park were also stressed. While much interest was expressed for river front enhancements at the historic depot facility, it was agreed that the completion of Scheid Park improvements were the top priority. Additionally, five workshop meetings were held with the recreation committee and the planning consultant during the update process.

Continuing forward and successfully implementing a major project established under the 1999-2004 plan, (Saranac Village Nature Park – Phase I), it was determined by the Parks and Recreation Committee in late 2003, that the plan needed to be amended. In 2003, the Village acquired a 5 acre parcel of property along the Grand River at its own expense. This property was considered as a future acquisition for linking the trail system at the new Saranac Village Nature Park to the Historic Depot and downtown area.

Also, with input from community's youth and downtown business owners, the need for a skate park facility was identified in 2005. This is discussed and illustrated as part of the Scheid Park inventory. The planning process for these new items involved two meetings with citizens and four workshop meetings with the prime consultant that assisted the Village in a Plan amendment. The required public hearing was utilized for additional citizen input. Since then, both the Riverwalk Park and the Skate Facility have been constructed.

For the 2007-2011 plan update, two types of planning methods were used that continued and built on the amendment input process: (1) a focus group consisting of Village Parks and Recreation Committee members and several citizens held two meetings and (2) the plan was presented at a community workshop held on February 27, 2007. Based on this process, the final plan was presented in a public hearing held on March 12, 2007. A committee follow up meeting was held on March 23, 2007 to discuss public input received. Notices were published in general circulation over two weeks in advance of the workshop and local leaders were contacted directly to invite them to participate in the process

This current plan builds upon the past planning efforts and updates with four types of planning methods:

- 1.) Committee meetings
- 2.) On-line survey (also made available in hard copy)
- 3.) Public meeting on February 20, 2012
- 4.) Social media via Facebook.

These were used to verify the ongoing objectives to the past plans and identify new opportunities and current needs.

The community wide survey that was distributed both electronically via web and through paper media was combined with the 2012 master plan survey to reach a wider range of residents and interest groups.

Based on this process the final plan was adopted on February 20, 2012. All public notices were published in general circulation in advance of the meetings. **(see Appendix B)**

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The formulation of community goals and objectives for the provision of recreation is a vital component. The goals and objectives represent the purposes for a community's role in providing recreation to its residents as well as outlining the direction that community's efforts should take in the long term. Goals are the general targets for which a community aims for while objectives are the specific steps that can be taken towards that goal. A recreation plan identifies those actions that can be undertaken to implement the objectives and fulfill the community's goals. Critical to establishing valid objectives and attainable goals is an understanding of the community's social and economic limitations and assets. Providing recreational opportunities for all is a top objective.

Goal 1

To enhance the quality of life in the Village by providing recreational facilities responsive to the needs of *all* residents with high quality recreational facilities that efficiently utilize available resources.

Objectives

- A. Provide opportunities for the involvement of Village residents in the identification, selection, and development of recreational facilities.
- B. Develop a variety of recreational facilities that reflect the changing and diverse needs of the Village residents with an emphasis on universal access and barrier free facilities.
- C. Improve existing recreational facilities to more effectively fulfill the needs of Village residents and to encourage regular use of these facilities.
- D. Develop certain recreational facilities as identified by the survey and needs assessment and establish priorities for their development.
- E. Whenever feasible, take advantage of other resources for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities, such as non-local funding sources or the inclusion of concessions.
- F. Utilize design, construction, and maintenance practices that maximize the benefits provided for the resources expended.
- G. Plan improvements that offer both active and passive recreation opportunities.
- H. Develop unique recreational opportunities for elderly and physically challenged citizens.
- I. Provide play areas that are in conformance with the "Playground Equipment Safety Act".
- J. Provide and enhance pedestrian linkage to parks and community assets.

Goal II

To promote the coordination and cooperation of other public agencies, private enterprise, citizen groups, and other interested organizations in the improvement of recreational opportunities for Village residents.

Objectives

- A. Encourage the participation of volunteers in the development of recreational facilities.
- B. Utilize public and private sector cooperation in the promotion of recreation and the improvement of recreational opportunities.
- C. Coordinate recreational projects with the school system.
- D. Solicit public input as part of recreation planning and programming.
- E. Be an active participant in the regional rail-trail network.

Goal III

To provide recreational opportunities that preserve and protect the natural and historical features within the Village.

Objectives

- A. Identify and inventory those natural and historical features that reflect the unique character of the Village.
- B. Minimize the impact of recreational activities on the integrity of the Village's natural and historical resources.
- C. Take advantage of the extensive Grand River frontage for recreational development.
- D. Purchase waterfront or green space properties as opportunities arise.

Goal IV

To continually improve the quality of and the opportunities for recreation in the Village by reassessing community recreation needs, trends, and characteristics.

Objectives

- A. Periodically update this Recreation Plan.
- B. Monitor the effectiveness of the Village's efforts in fulfilling identified goals and objectives by providing opportunities for Village residents to evaluate the progress of recreational development.
- C. Facilitate regular meetings of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

ACTION PROGRAM

A variety of factors, including community characteristics, population trends, existing recreation facilities, and identified recreation needs, contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for plan implementation. These specific recommendations represent the actions that can be undertaken to achieve the objectives that have been directed towards a community's recreation goals. These recommended actions also represent the substance and purpose of a recreation plan - the development of a strategy for effectively closing the gap between existing recreation opportunities and recreation needs.

The following recommendation and capital improvement schedule outlines and assigns relative priorities to activities and projects that can be implemented in both the short-term and long-range future to improve recreational opportunities in the Village of Saranac. Those activities and projects that can be undertaken during the five-year planning period (2012-2016) have been summarized in a Capital Improvement Program Schedule (**Table 4**). This schedule includes cost estimates as well as possible funding sources for each suggested project. **Figure D** identifies the location of these projects within the Village.

While these projects are recommended for implementation during the planning period, they are highly dependent upon financial and administrative feasibility. It is also suggested that the Village take advantage of any unscheduled opportunities that may arise. Such opportunities can be evaluated and included in this plan as an amendment to the schedule.

Updating this plan with continued public involvement is critical to achieving the improvements proposed below.

Improvement To Existing Scheid Park

Because Scheid Park is the Village's sole activity oriented recreational facility (excluding the schools), it continues to be the focus of many recommended improvements. Based upon a focus previously established in earlier planning efforts, it is intended that Scheid Park should continue to provide Village residents with a variety of close-to-home recreational opportunities than can be conveniently utilized by individuals as well as by families and community groups.

The Village of Saranac has conducted research into the additional needs and desires of the community for Scheid Park. To broaden the appeal and attract more residents to the Park, the Village concluded that its resources would be utilized to the greatest benefit by building a skate park within the current boundaries of Scheid Park. The skate park constructed in 2006 now provides for skateboarding activities, in-line roller blade and BMX Biking activities. The area is equipped with structures for skateboarding acrobatics. In the winter, the area is kept free of snow allowing it to be utilized during the entire year. This new improvement to the Park provides an alternative to skating in the commercial areas of town, thus providing a benefit to local merchants as well. The facility has proven to be popular and highly utilized.

The highest priorities for improvement to Scheid Park are:

1. Improved restrooms.
2. Replace tot-lot play equipment with barrier-free facilities.
3. Trail link to Nature Park and Fred Meijer Rail-Trail

Other future improvements include improvements to the existing picnic shelters (maybe even replacement), the construction of trail looping, and landscaping to screen the DPW garage, which occupies the center of the park property. (**See Figure E**)

Improvements to the Saranac Village Nature Park

The 63 acres of land provides tremendous opportunities for passive and moderately active recreational activities. **(See Figure F)** Extensive river frontage, wetland area, ponds, woods, and open space are present on the site.

The Village started and finished the Phase I development of this facility in 2003. It was constructed with grant assistance from the MDNR Trust Fund. Phase I improvements included: A parking area for 40 cars, 12 acres of open space/picnic area, a river overlook which provides direct access for fishermen, one mile of paved pedestrian trails, a vault toilet facility and numerous wetland educational opportunities. Phase I created a multi-purpose park that can be enjoyed by the entire community. It has successfully created an environmentally friendly area that offers activities for both those looking for active and passive activities. The park's location along the Grand River, make it ideal for observing wildlife or studying the environment. In addition there are picnic tables available, and scenic views of the river. For the more actively inclined, the paved surfaces allow for jogging and the open area is available for informal soccer and football games.

Phase II and future phases look to carry on the success of Phase I. The popularity of the trails has created a need to expand the trail system consistent with the master plan. Structures to provide shelter from inclement weather would enhance the year round use of the park. The goal of Phase II is to evolve the Nature Park into a more complete recreation area for the entire community and add even more educational access to the extensive wetland resources. Expansion of the internal trail system is a top priority with emphasis on access to the river and wetland areas.. The Village sees this as a multi-phased project that may take 5-10 years to fully develop.

The highest priorities for improvement to the Saranac Village Nature Park are:

1. Installing security cameras.
2. Wetland boardwalks.
3. More trail loops.

Riverwalk Park Development

In 2004, the Village was presented with opportunity to acquire five acres of property along the Grand River. This property was considered an important acquisition. It is situated along 1400 feet of prime Grand River frontage and it links the 1600 feet of paved trails to the Saranac Village Nature Park, Historic Depot and downtown areas. This property provides for a gradual transition from the downtown area to the natural surroundings of the Nature Park. The property also allows for barrier free access to the Nature Park. Construction completed in 2006 included trails, and a river overlook. The Village acquired this property without grant financial assistance. In the opinion of the Village, the opportunity that was presented was far too critical to wait for the grant process. Linking this park to the adjacent Boat Launch Park has been identified as a top priority **(See Figures G and H)**

The highest priorities for improvements to the Riverwalk Park are:

1. More river over-looks.
2. More trail loops.

Senior Citizen Recreational Facilities

There continues to be substantial need for the provision of outdoor amenities oriented toward the senior citizen population residing at the Senior Citizen Complex in Saranac. The Village DPW has been mowing pathway through the property. These paths are being used.

Because space needs are not great, it is suggested that land owned by the Village be utilized to support such improvements as picnic areas, trails and benches and develop a new park facility. It is the Village's intent to assist in the coordination of such improvements and to gain the financial support of local service organizations and apply for a MDNRTF grant in the near future. (See Figure I)

The highest priorities for improvement to the property are:

1. Paved paths.
2. Bench seating.
3. Gazebo shelter

Boat Launch Park

In 1989, the Village was presented with opportunity to acquire this site along the Grand River. This property was considered an important acquisition. Construction completed in 1989 included a boat launch and parking. The Village acquired and developed this property with MDNR grant financial assistance. It is situated in the center of town along prime Grand River frontage next to the Historic Depot and downtown areas. This property provides a gradual transition from the downtown area to the natural surroundings of the Grand River with boater access, and offers a unique opportunity to create a Village Green /community center. Linking this park to the County-wide trail system has been identified as a top priority. Recently, the Village has been presented with an opportunity to acquire an adjacent parcel of land to the south that will provide a direct connection to the Fred Meijer Rail-Trail. (See Figures G, H and J) Acquisition of this parcel is top priority and will allow for:

The highest priorities for improvement to the Boat Launch Park are:

1. Community restrooms – Requires land acquisition.
2. Trail link to Riverwalk Park and west loop to Village limits and Fred Meijer Rail-Trail. Requires land acquisition
3. Picnic shelter.

TABLE 4
Capital Improvement Schedule

Priority	Year	Project	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
1	2012	Land acquisition to Boat Launch Park, Trail link between Riverwalk and Boat Launch Parks, Tot-lot at Scheid Park.	\$160,000	General Fund, MNRTF and Donations
1	2013	Renovate restrooms at Scheid Park	\$15,000	General Fund
2	2015	Restrooms & shelter at Boat Launch Park	\$215,000	General Fund, MNRTF and Donations
3	2016	Senior Citizen Park improvements	\$100,000	General Fund, MNRTF and Donations

MNRTF - Local government must provide a minimum of 25% of the total project cost. The maximum financial assistance is \$300,000.

Financing Mechanisms

The following paragraphs briefly outline existing sources of funds for financing the future recreational improvements in the Village of Saranac.

1. General Funds

The Village's general fund has been the primary source of funds for operating and maintaining Scheid Park and the Boat Launch Facility. Future site improvements, acquisition, and development will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities. Consequently, recreation planning has to be coordinated with the yearly budgeting process for the Village's general funds.

2. Donations and Gifts

The availability of donated land, labor, equipment, and funds from individuals and organizations is an attractive and effective way to improve recreational opportunities in Saranac. Over the past few years, several groups and individuals have contributed significantly. Such support should be encouraged to continue.

3. Non-local Financial Assistance

Many communities seek outside sources of funds to supplement their local sources when providing recreational improvements. There are several programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that can provide some financial assistance to local recreation projects. Funding amounts available to communities vary from year to year depending on Federal support and State legislative agendas.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** and the **Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** programs are administered by the MDNR. The MNRTF program utilized the royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and the development of outdoor recreation facilities.

Any unit of government, including school districts, may apply for grants to develop or acquire land(s) for public recreation or resource protection purposes. Application forms are available on February 1 of each year. The application deadlines are on or about April 1st of each year. The MDNR submits a list of recommended projects to the legislature the following January and funds are available after legislative appropriation, usually the following fall/winter.

All local units of government must provide a local match of at least 25 percent of total project costs. For **MNRTF** development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000, and the maximum is \$300,000. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. Outdoor recreation support buildings and other facilities are eligible for development funding, as is the renovation of existing recreation facilities.

The **LWCF** utilizes the same application process as the **MNRTF** but requires a minimum match of 50%.

All applicants must have a current DNR-approved community recreation plan, documenting the need for project proposal.

In addition, any private individual may nominate land for public acquisition under this program. All nominations are reviewed by the MDNR for possible acquisition and the landowner is not required to be the person nominating a parcel of land for public acquisition. Nomination forms are available at any time from the DNR Recreation Division, and may be submitted to the Department year round.

Organizations with an interest in developing fishing conditions in their areas maybe able to get financial assistance from a program established through the ***State Game and Fish Protection Fund***.

This fishing development grant is offered through the MDNR and can be as much as \$200,000 annually, in cash or in-kind services. Projects eligible for funding include: culvert modifications for improved stream flow; livestock or sheet erosion control projects; the development of spawning riffles, fish cover structures, or spawning reefs; and the construction of fishing piers and rough fish barriers.

The MDNR accepts grant proposals from organized fishing groups and local units of government. In all cases, projects are able to approach other sources such as the federal government for additional matching funds.

The ***Historic Preservation Grant Program*** is administered by the Department of State with funds made available through the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. The intent of the program is to conduct surveys of architectural, engineering, archaeological, and historic resources, to identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and to plan for the protection of those cultural/recreational resources.

The funds for this program are apportioned by the National Park Service directly to the State which, in turn, allocates funds on a project-by-project basis to local governments, organization, and individuals.

In Michigan the Historic Preservation Grant program is administered by the Michigan Department of State. The amount of assistance is up to 50% of the project expenses. Grantees are reimbursed at the completion of the project for work done within the days of a contract between the Department of State and the grantee. **EXPENSES INCURRED PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT ARE NOT ALLOWABLE PROJECT COSTS AND WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED.**

The **Inland Fisheries Grant Program** offers grants up to \$30,000 for projects that enhance the state's aquatic resources. This program may be applicable to the scenic overlook fishing platforms and educational kiosks proposed along the Grand River banks in the Scheid Park expansion project.

The Village of Saranac is committed to review all available funding sources and prepare the necessary plans, reports, cost estimates, and funding applications, to achieve the goals of this recreation plan.

APPENDIX A – MAPS & FIGURES

FIGURE A - REGIONAL LOCATION AND PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

FIGURE A1 – MIDWEST REGIONAL RAIL-TRAIL NETWORK

FIGURE A2 – FRED MEIJER GRAND RIVER VALLEY RAIL-TRAIL, PHASE 1 PLAN

FIGURE B - COMMUNITY MAP

FIGURE C – RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE (page 4)

FIGURE D – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT SITES

FIGURE E – SCHEID PARK

FIGURE F – SARANAC VILLAGE NATURE PARK

FIGURE G – RIVERWALK PARK

FIGURE H – BOAT LAUNCH PARK

FIGURE I – PROPOSED SENIOR PARK

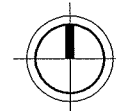
FIGURE J – BOAT LAUNCH / WEST TRAIL LOOP

APPENDIX B – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Notices documenting the plan adoption and the public meetings, transmittals to regional plan commissions, survey results, plan check list and supporting resolutions are shown in the following attachments.

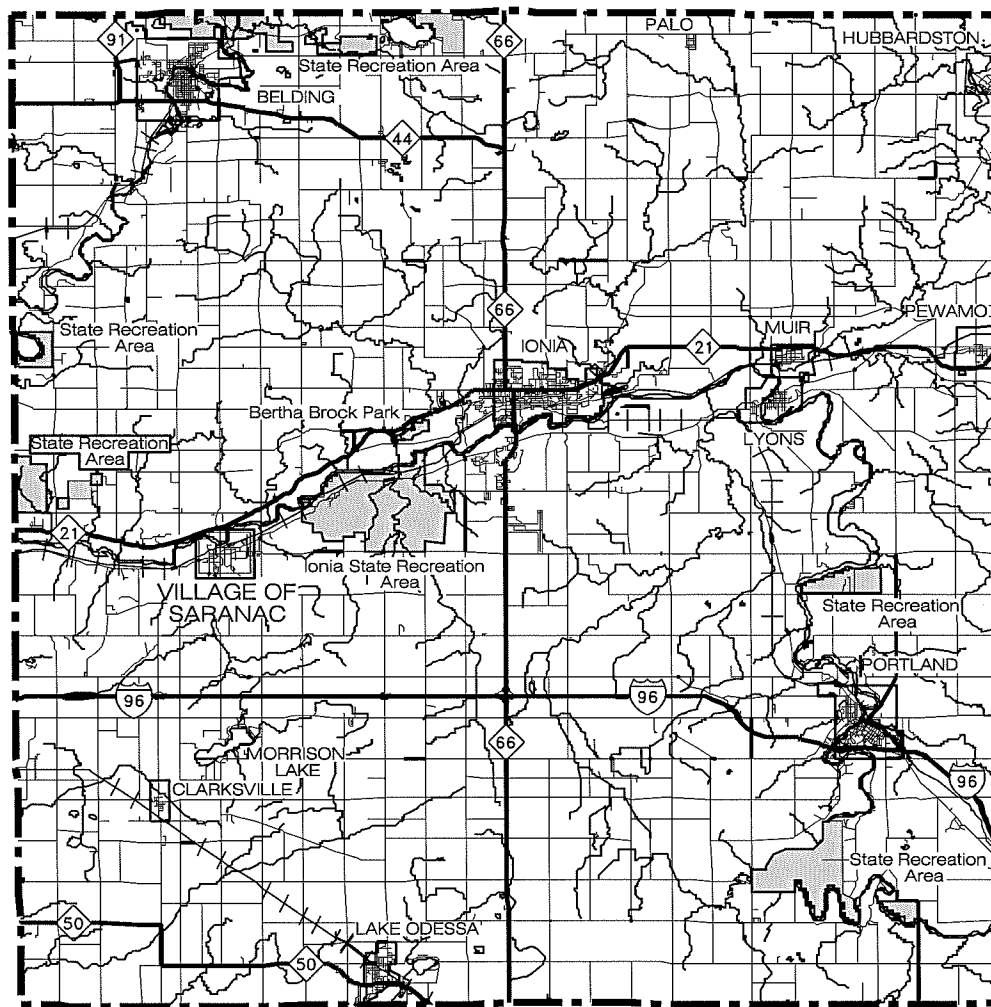
APPENDIX A

MAPS & FIGURES



NORTH

IONIA COUNTY,
VILLAGE OF
SARANAC



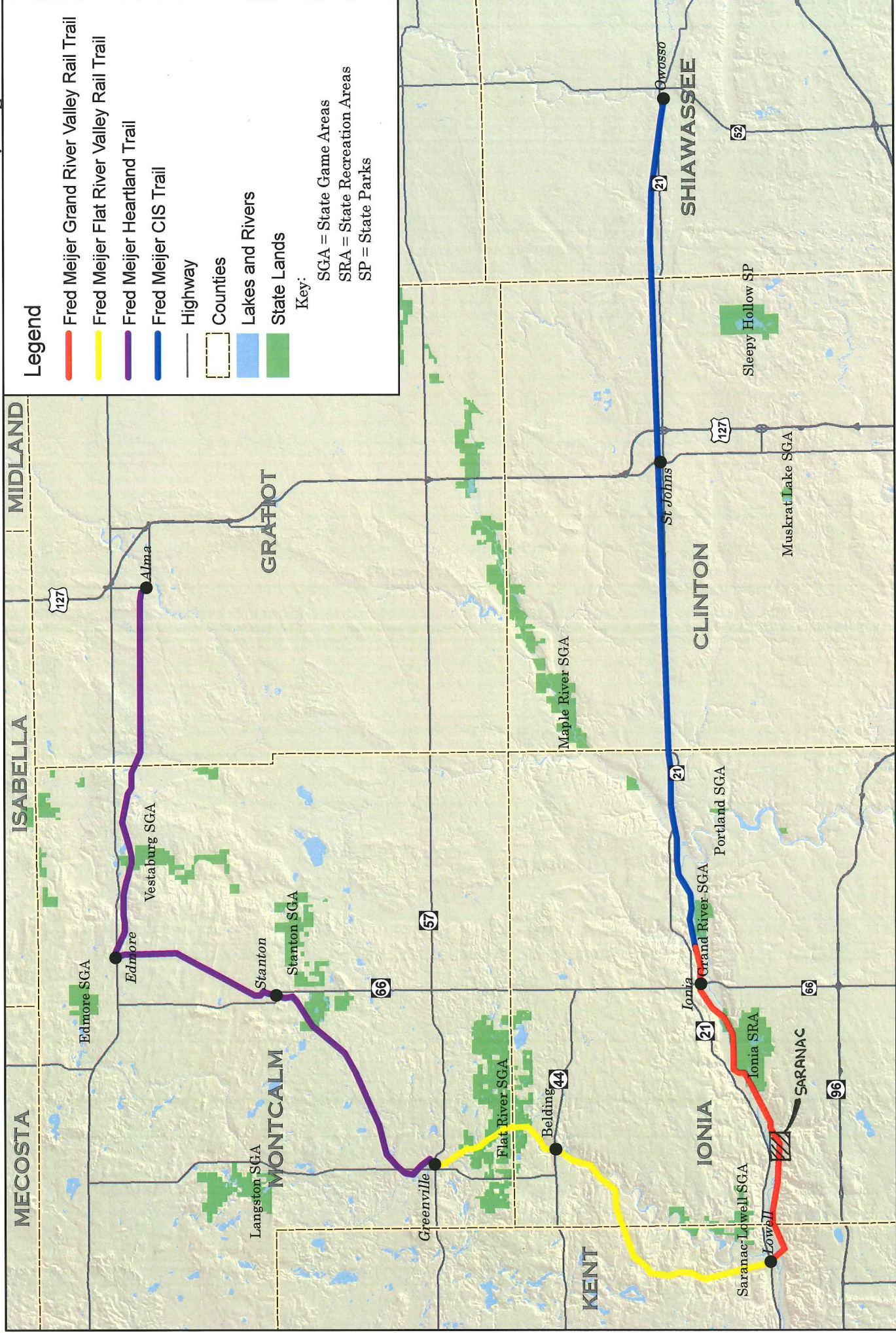
VILLAGE OF SARANAC
IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

REGIONAL LOCATION & PUBLIC
RECREATION FACILITIES

FIGURE A

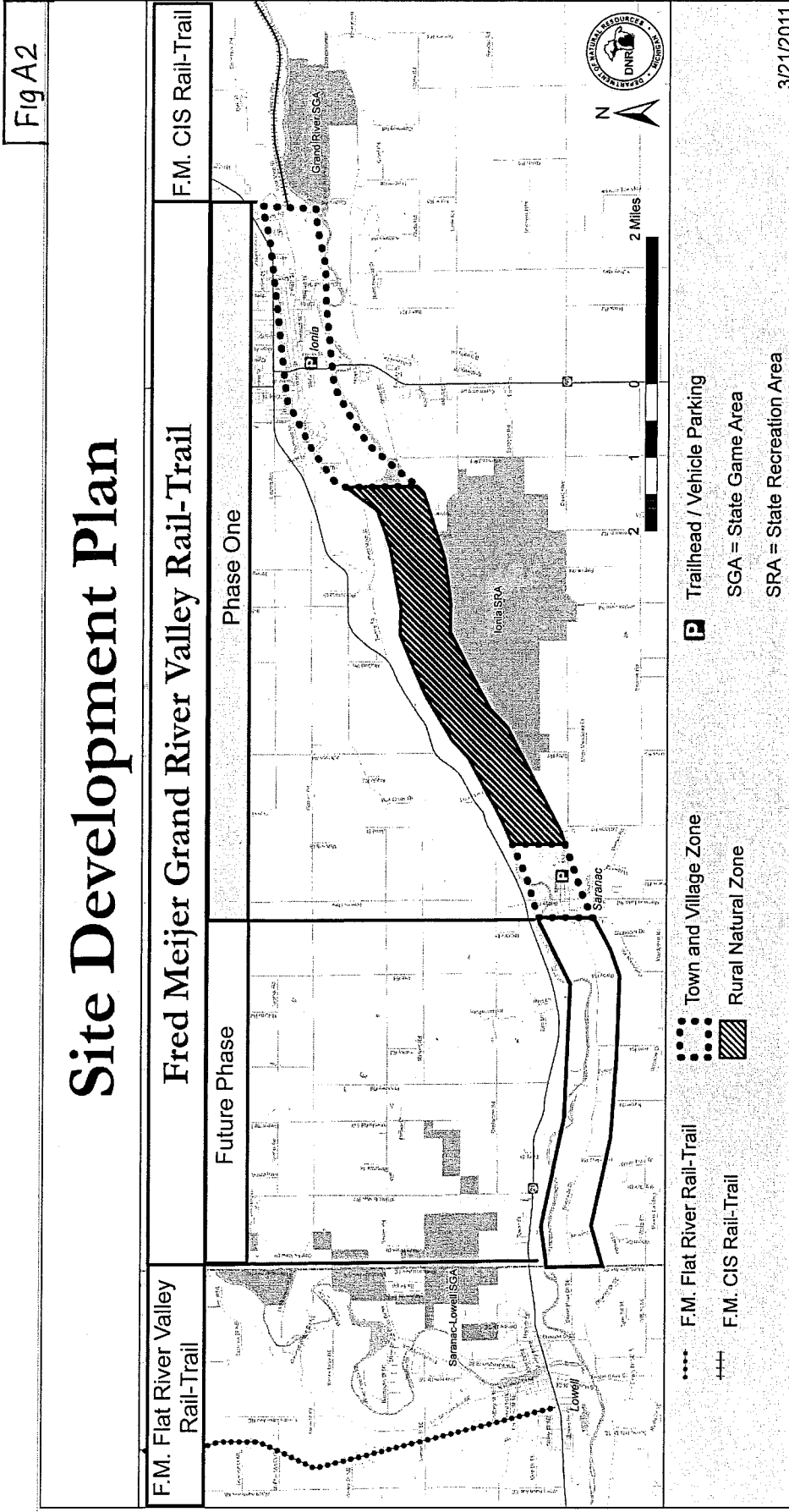
MIDWEST REGIONAL RAIL-TRAIL NETWORK

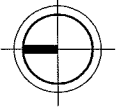
Fig. A1



Phase One Construction – 2012

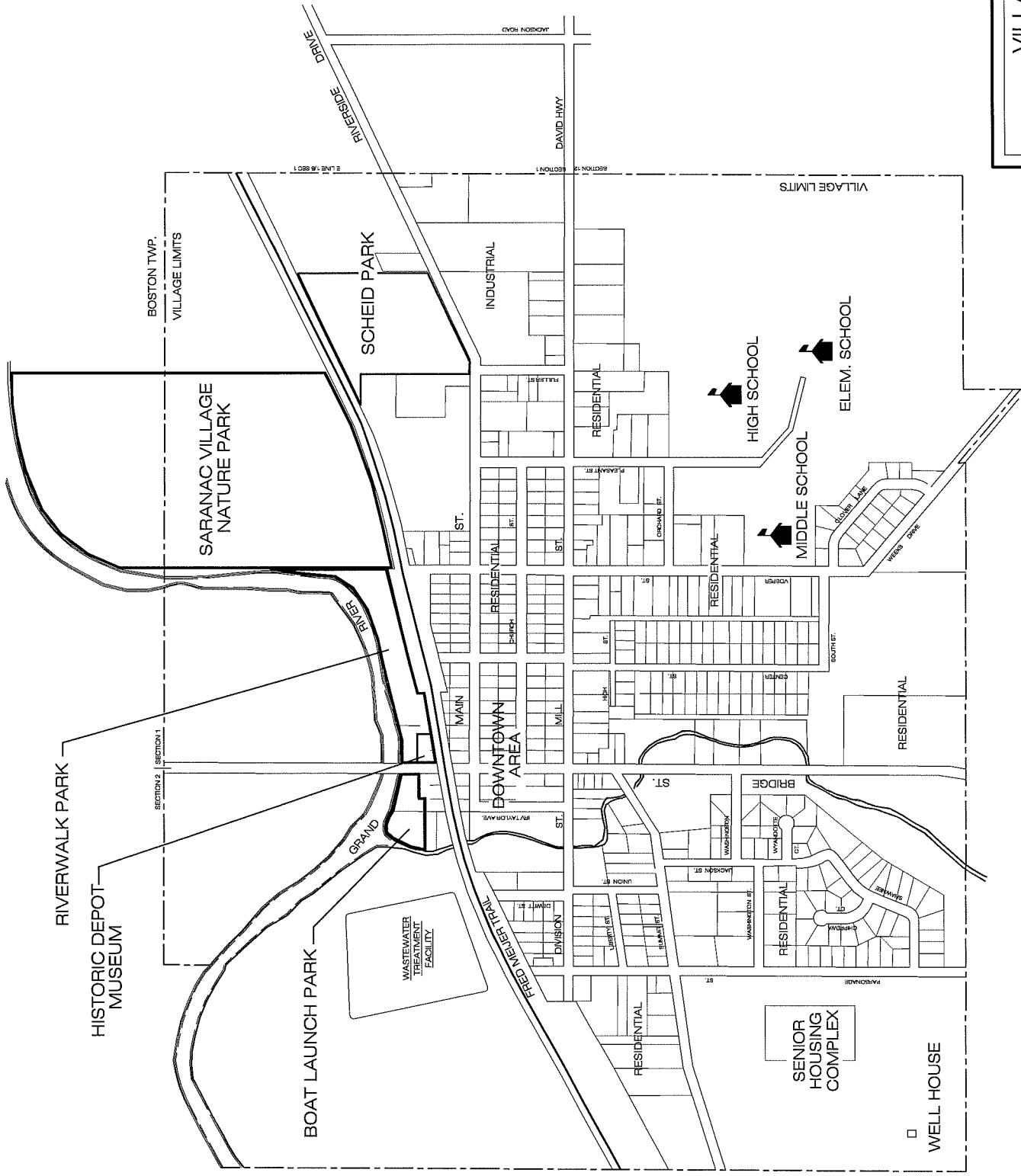
Ionía to Saranac





NORTH

0 500 1000
SCALE IN FEET

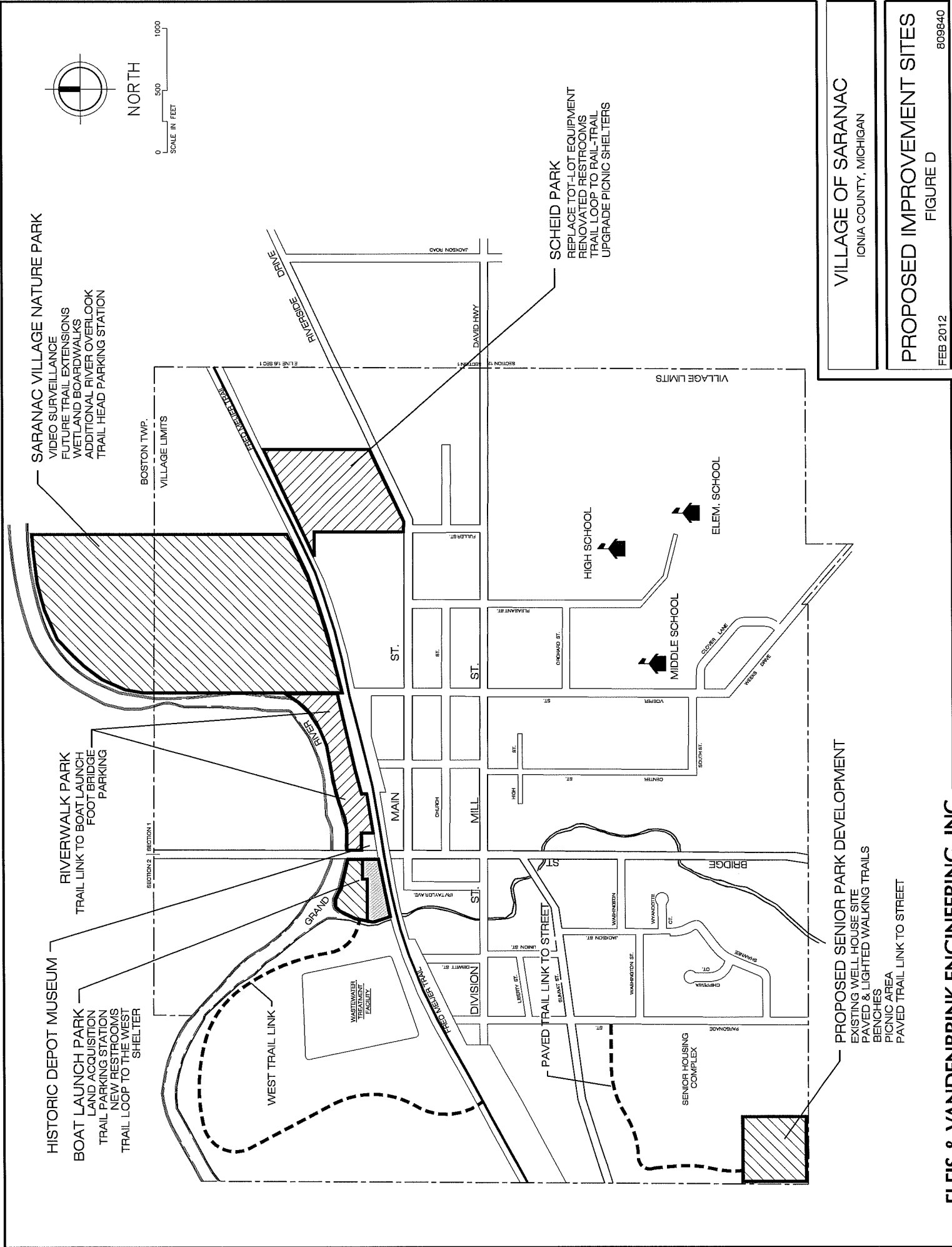


VILLAGE OF SARANAC
IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

COMMUNITY MAP
FIGURE B

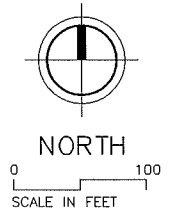
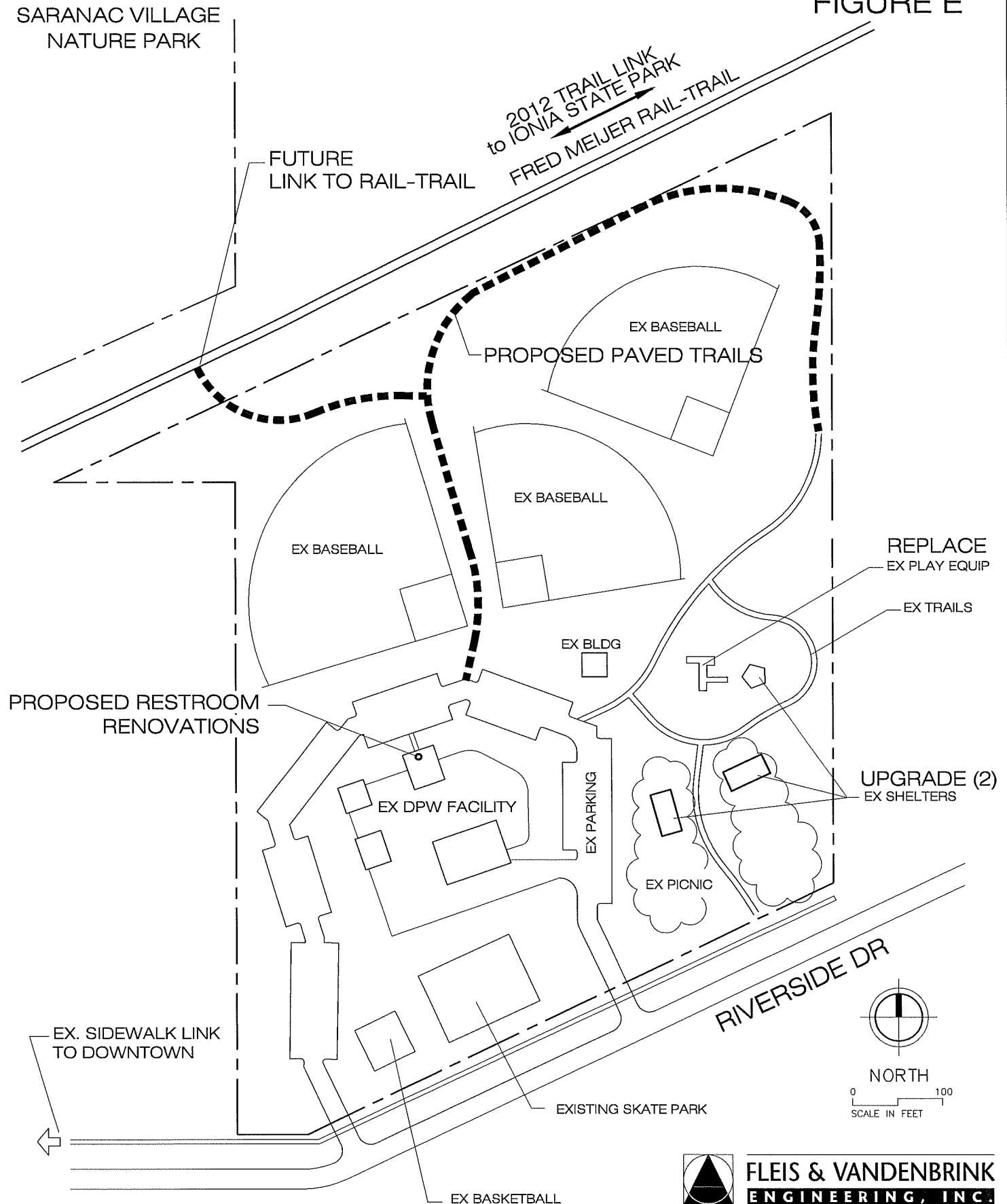
FEB 2012

809840



Village of Saranac 2012 Recreation Plan

SCHEID PARK FIGURE E



**FLEIS & VANDENBRINK
ENGINEERING, INC.**

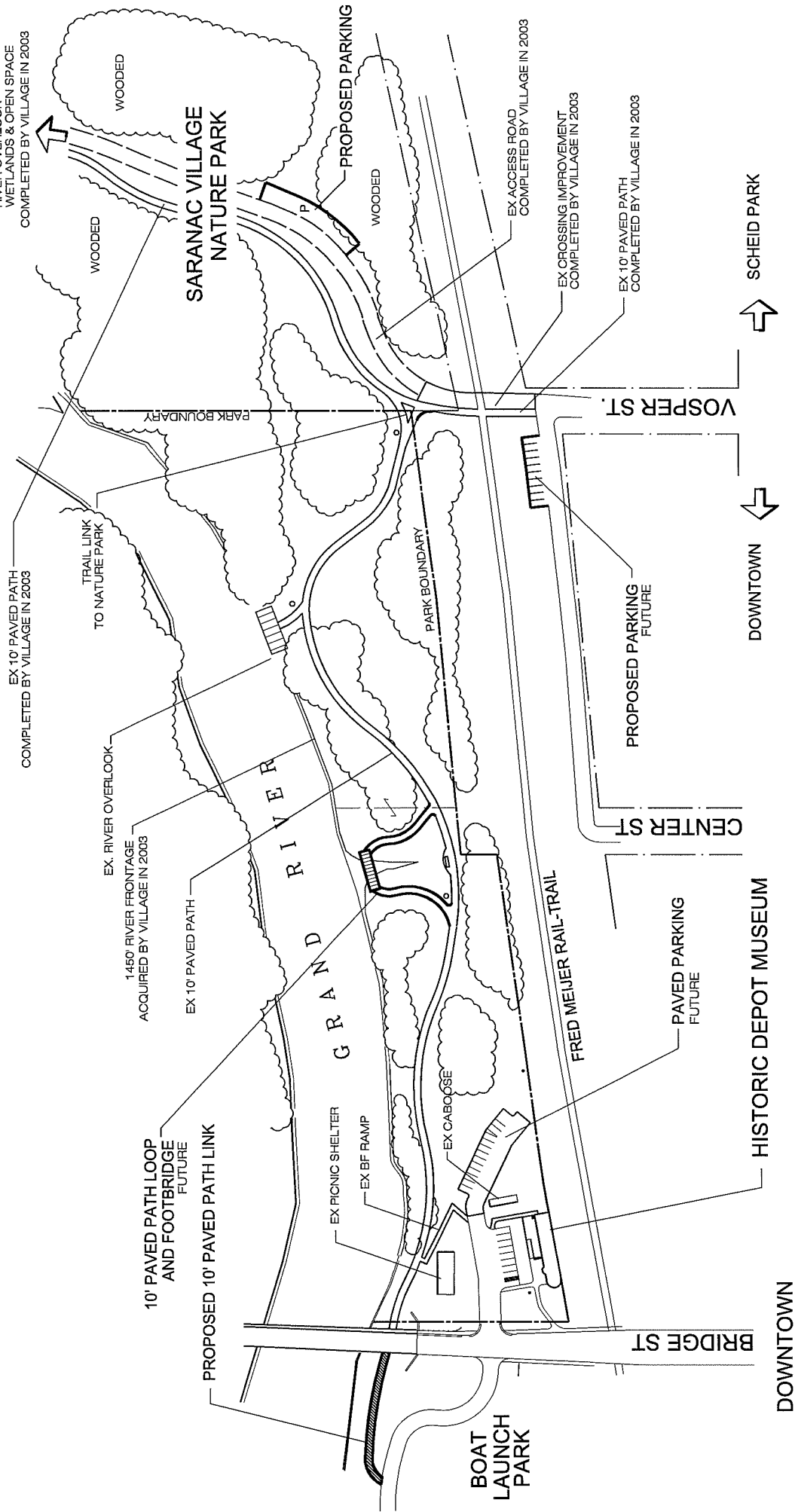
2960 Lucerne Drive SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
Phone: (616) 977-1000 Fax: (616) 977-1005

FIGURE F



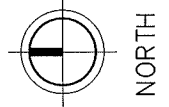
2960 Lucerne Drive SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
Phone: (616) 977-1000 Fax: (616) 977-1005

TO EXISTING:
5000' PAVED PATHS
PARKING AREA
RIVER OVERLOOK
WETLANDS & OPEN SPACE
COMPLETED BY VILLAGE IN 2003



VILLAGE OF SARANAC RIVERWALK PARK

FIGURE G



02.13.2012

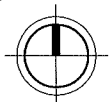
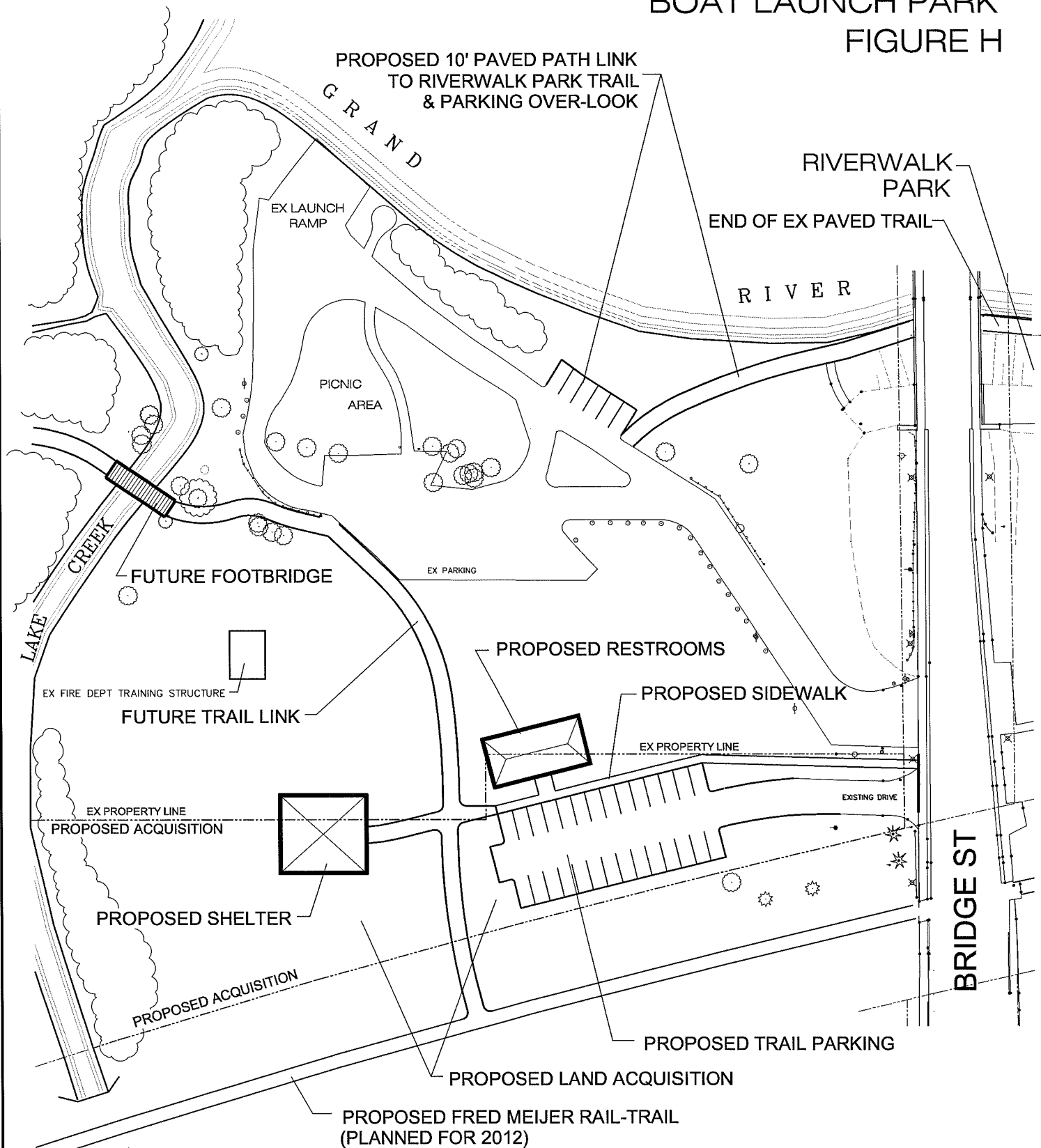
DOWNTOWN

DOWNTOWN



Village of Saranac 2012 Recreation Plan

BOAT LAUNCH PARK FIGURE H



NORTH

0 100 100

SCALE IN FEET



FLEIS & VANDENBRINK
ENGINEERING, INC.

2960 Lucerne Drive SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
Phone: (616) 977-1000 Fax: (616) 977-1005

EX. TRAIL LINK TO SENIOR HOUSING
AND PUBLIC STREETS

EX. PAVED SERVICE DRIVE

SENIOR HOUSING PROPERTY

VILLAGE PROPERTY LINE

TRAIL LIGHTS

PAVE EXISTING GRASS TRAIL

BENCH SEATING

PICNIC
AREA
EX. WELL HOUSE

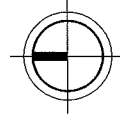
PICNIC
AREA

SHELTER

WEST VILLAGE LIMITS

400'

400'



NORTH

0 50 100
SCALE IN FEET

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PROPOSED SENIOR PARK

FIGURE I

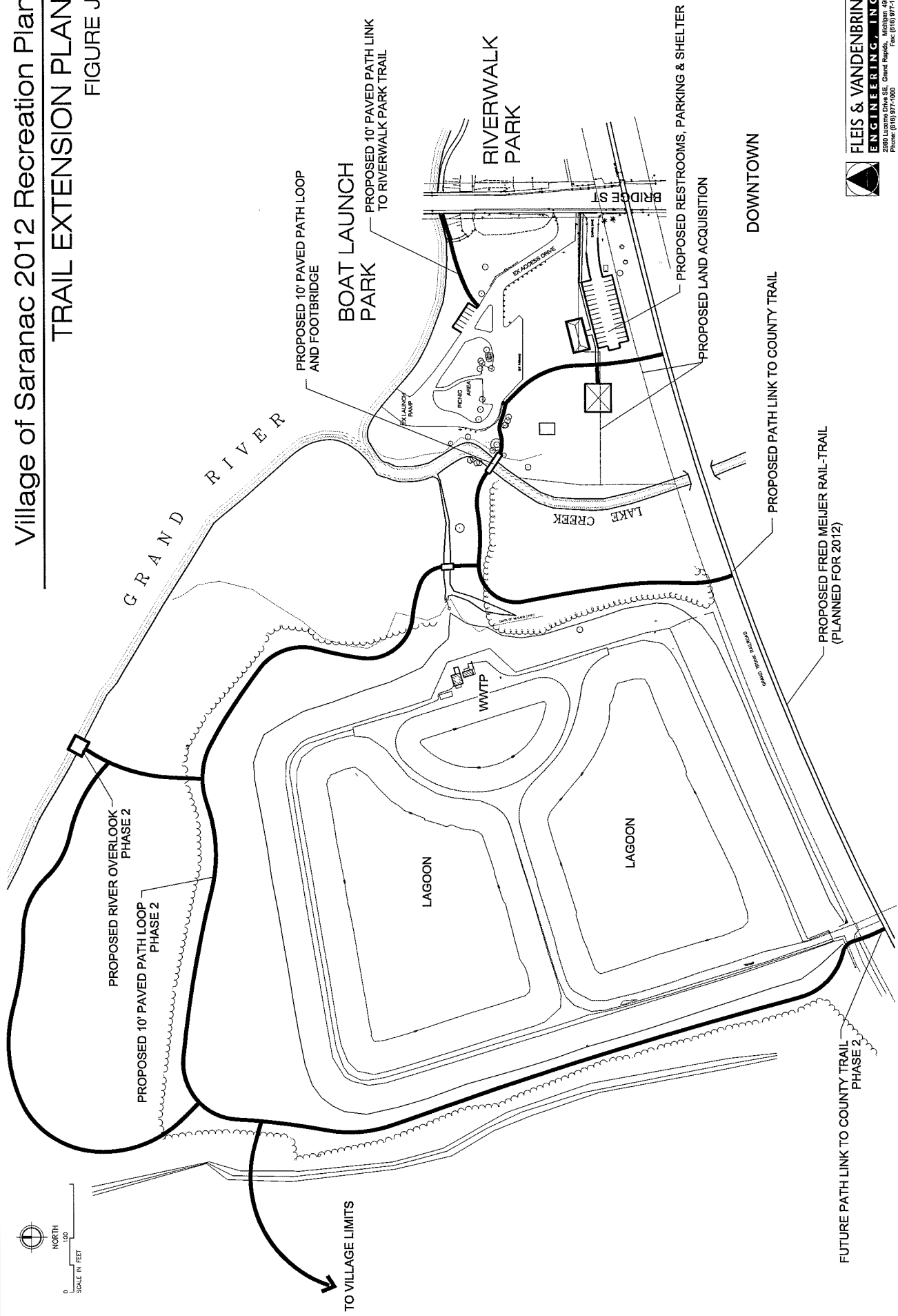
FEB 2012

809840

Village of Saranac 2012 Recreation Plan

TRAIL EXTENSION PLAN

FIGURE J



APPENDIX B

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

TRANSMITTALS

NOTICES

AGENDAS

SURVEY RESULTS

RESOLUTION

Village of Saranac 2012 Master Plan and 2012 Parks and Recreation Survey

*The Village of Saranac is in the process of preparing both our
**2012 Master Plan and
2012 Parks & 2012 Parks and Recreation Plan.***

As part of the Master Plan effort we are seeking the opinions of community residents and property owners about several quality of life related goals and long range planning ideas.

As part of the Parks and Recreation Plan we want to know your thoughts about some specific improvement ideas for each of the Village's existing and proposed facilities.

Please complete the following survey and click submit or, if completing a paper copy, please return the form to our Village Office at 27 Bridge Street.

*To be considered all responses must be submitted/returned by **December 31, 2011***

Please Check each of the boxes that applies to you

- ☐ I am a resident of the Village
 - ☐ I own Property in the Village
 - ☐ I am the owner of a business located in the Village
 - ☐ I am a Park user
 - ☐ None of the above
-

Master Plan Goals Survey

1) Do you think the Village should create a plan for developing a "village square" environment for outdoor gatherings and events?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2) In order to optimize the potential economic benefits created by the rail to trail pathway, the entire Village should be made more bicycle friendly by providing bicycle racks downtown and creating well marked bicycle routes to businesses and other key destinations?

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion

3) Should the Village get involved in the creation of WiFi system (wireless internet) throughout the Village?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion

4) To help revitalize the downtown area, the Village and Township should offer financial incentives such as tax breaks to businesses that commit to upgrading their buildings or to moving downtown.

- ☐ Agree
☐ Disagree
☐ No Opinion

5) Do you support making a public investment in the development of a designated "trail head" for the rail to trail pathway within the Village?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

6) Many communities adopt design standards to promote architectural compatibility and historic continuity when buildings are remodeled or redeveloped. In your opinion, is preserving and enhancing the historical character of Saranac's downtown area important enough to warrant the adoption and enforcement of design standards?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

7) The Village should establish a goal and a 10 to 20 year plan to systematically extend the sidewalk system to virtually all areas of the Village.

- ☐ Agree
☐ Disagree
☐ No Opinion

8) The Village should establish a goal and a 20 year plan to systematically replace all overhead utility lines throughout the Village with buried cable.

- ☐ Agree
☐ Disagree
☐ No Opinion

Parks & Recreation Survey

SCHEID PARK - located north of Riverside Drive

What improvements would you like to see at this park?

- ☐ new soccer/multi-use field
☐ new playground equipment
☐ more parking
☐ improved rest rooms
☐ improve/expand existing trails
☐ improve existing picnic shelters
☐ Other

VILLAGE NATURE PARK - located north of the old railroad with access off of Vosper St

What improvements would you like to see at this park?

- ☐ additional river overlooks
- ☐ additional trail loops
- ☐ more parking
- ☐ boardwalk through wetlands
- ☐ playground equipment
- ☐ picnic shelters

☐ Other

RIVERWALK PARK - located north of the old railroad between Bridge St and Vosper St

What improvements would you like to see at this park?

- ☐ additional river overlooks
- ☐ additional trail loops
- ☐ more parking

☐ Other

BOAT LAUNCH PARK - located along river on west side of Bridge St

What improvements would you like to see at this park?

- ☐ upgrade to barrier free boat launch (universal access)
- ☐ playground equipment
- ☐ trail link to other trails
- ☐ more parking
- ☐ picnic shelter
- ☐ band shell/amphitheater
- ☐ rest rooms

☐ Other

PROPOSED SENIOR PARK - located southwest of Senior Housing Complex

What improvements would you like to see at this park?

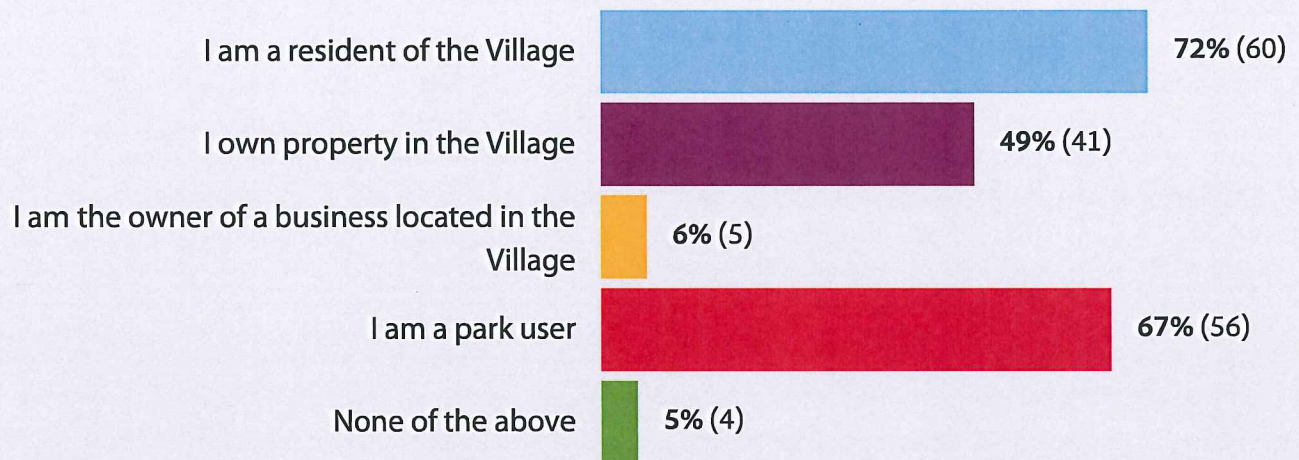
- ☐ paved pathway
- ☐ benches
- ☐ picnic shelter
- ☐ rest rooms

☐ Other

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION

Village of Saranac 2011 Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Survey Results

Please Check each of the boxes that applies to you



* Total Responses: 83, 95% of submissions

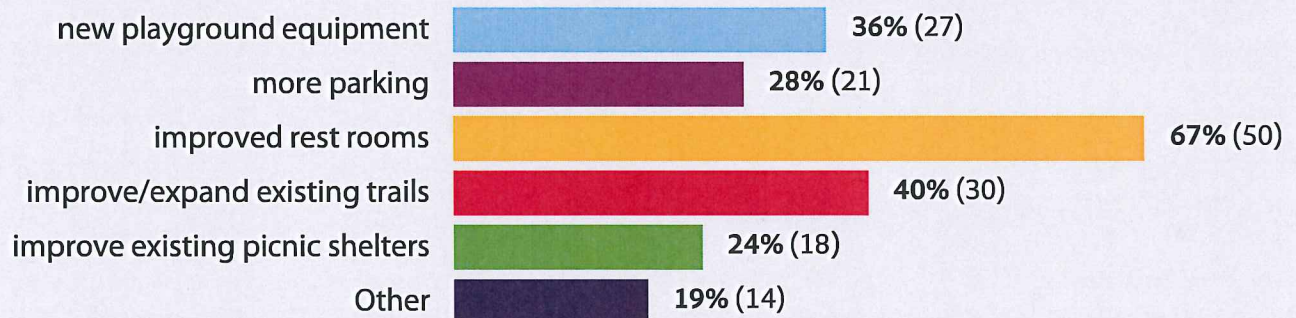
Do you support making a public investment in the development of a designated "trail head" for the rail to trail pathway within the Village?



* Total Responses: 82, 94% of submissions

SCHEID PARK - located north of Riverside Drive

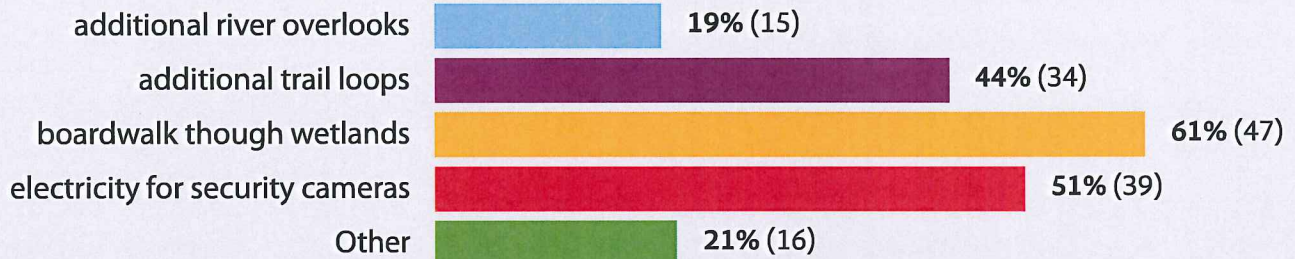
What improvements would you like to see at this park?



* Total Responses: 75, 86% of submissions

VILLAGE NATURE PARK - located north of the old railroad with access off of Vosper St

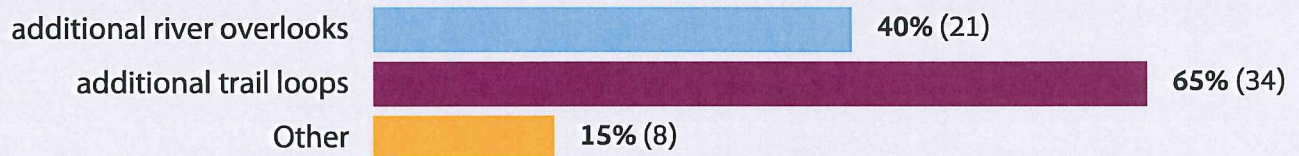
What improvements would you like to see at this park?



* Total Responses: 77, 89% of submissions

RIVERWALK PARK - located north of the old railroad between Bridge St and Vosper St

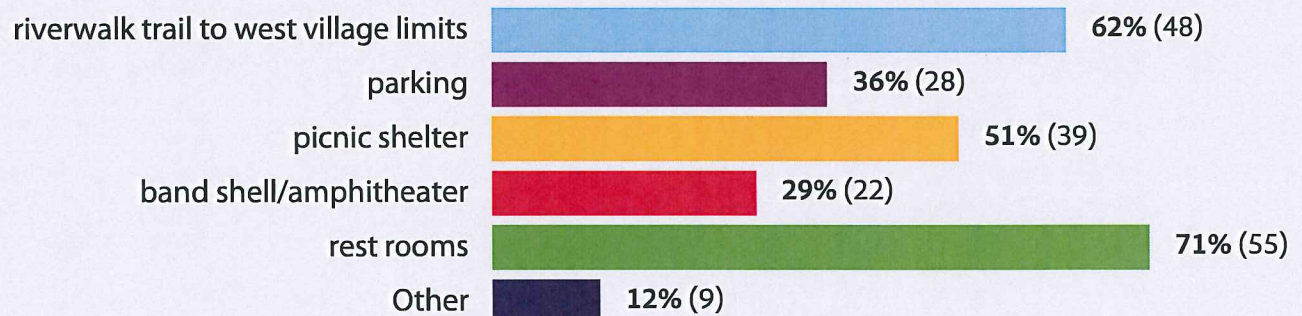
What improvements would you like to see at this park?



* Total Responses: 52, 60% of submissions

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD - (a.k.a. Boat Launch Park) - located near river on west side of Bridge St

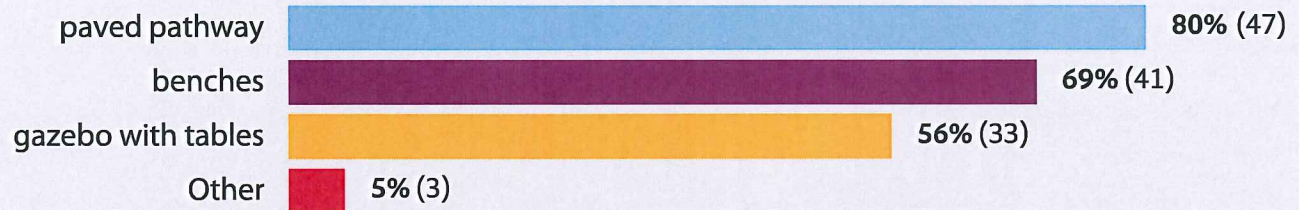
What improvements would you like to see at this park?



* Total Responses: 77, 89% of submissions

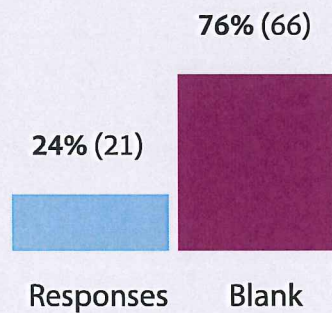
PROPOSED SENIOR PARK - located southwest of Senior Housing Complex

What improvements would you like to see at this park?



* Total Responses: 59, 68% of submissions

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION



* Total Responses: 21, 24% of submissions

Saranac Parks and Recreation Survey

January 2012

Additional comments by participants

SCHEID PARK – located north of Riverside Drive.

Other suggestions to “What improvements would you like to see at this park?”

- 1) community built wooden structure oke the one in Lake Odessa
- 2) ice skating
- 3) improvements to the skate park
- 4) use legion \$ to fix ball fields
- 5) path to nature park & rail heads
- 6) connect park to nature trail
- 7) tennis courts, get rid of skate park
- 8) The plastic "tire" swing is unsafe. My nephew got hit in the head with it, had a seizure the next day, and now has developmental delays which could be caused from the injury/seizure. Also, I saw a very small child fall off the really tall old slide, but luckily did not get hurt, but could have! The playground equipment is old and unsafe.
- 9) A bike path connecting the park to the rail-trail.
- 10) Need Soccer Fields
- 11) Maintain as is, at a minimum. This is a nice, usable park with many nice features and equipment.
- 12) Handicap accessible play area and picnic area
- 13) I do not use this park, no opinion
- 14) tennis courts

VILLAGE NATURE PARK – located north of the old railroad with access off of Vosper St.

Other suggestions to “What improvements would you like to see at this park?”

- 1) plow during winter
- 2) signs regarding folks cleaning up after their dogs, baggie station for waste
- 3) overhead lighting for safety
- 4) fenced area for dog park so they can run free of leash
- 5) grills & picnic tables
- 6) concerned about dead trees hanging over trail & removal of dead trees. let people cut dead wood for firewood (fee based)
- 7) connect to scheid park
- 8) shelters for picnics
- 9) Water source, shelter for picnics.
- 10) parking near river so disabled can enjoy it too! We cant walk that far!
- 11) winter ice skating area would be wonderful!

VILLAGE NATURE PARK – located north of the old railroad with access off of Vosper St.

Other suggestions to “What improvements would you like to see at this park?”

- 12) A boardwalk/bike path connecting to Scheid park.
- 13) Checked boxes above represent long term goals, as these are not good economic times for large public expenditures. Taxes, in general, are too high. I'd prefer this type of investment to replace other, less efficient, spending.
- 14) better lighting & bike cop to patrol
- 15) water fountains
- 16) water fountains

RIVERWALK PARK – located north of the old railroad between Bridge St and f Vosper St.

Other suggestions to “What improvements would you like to see at this park?”

- 1) a river launch area for tubing, tube rental
- 2) maintain existing trail
- 3) easier access for the disabled and benches to rest on
- 4) Extend the bike bath under the river bridge so it connects to Boat Launch Park.
- 5) This is a nice park. Maintain, at a minimum.
- 6) improved area for flood zones
- 7) I do not use this park, no opinion
- 8) continue trail underneath bridge to boat launch

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD – (aka Boat Launch Park) located near river on west side of Bridge St.

Other suggestions to “What improvements would you like to see at this park?”

- 1) drinking fountain
- 2) drinking fountain
- 3) clean up all the dead trees & create a nice landing
- 4) lights
- 5) picnic tables
- 6) Canoe/kayak livery. Branch Adventures may be interested in doing this.
- 7) benches
- 8) See note above regarding use of tax monies.
- 9) tear down tan pole barn. people are breaking into it.

PROPOSED SENIOR PARK – located southwest of Senior Housing Complex
Other suggestions to “What improvements would you like to see at this park?”

- 1) security cameras, restrooms, distance markers on trail
- 2) wheelchair access
- 3) Play equipment...so seniors can go there with grand children. And get around easily. My grandma likes to take my son to the park but takes him out of Saranac because other parks are friendlier to her age.

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION

- 1) save your money for necessary things
- 2) as a taxpayer, how much more in taxes?
- 3) our taxes are too high now compared to others for the same evaluation
- 4) would like to see 4th of July fireworks
- 5) raised flower beds
- 6) Better street lighting
- 7) I hope the rails to trails trail will get paved. How about an ice skating rink like what they have in Lowell?
- 8) Why no space for general comments to master plan?
- 9) Our family would really love more areas for the kids to play and explore (enhancements to Scheid park would be really nice - equipment is getting old and play area is small. We also need to make this little village more bike friendly! We like to bike whenever we can and sometimes we feel unsafe with the traffic that travels way too fast on Main and Mill. The corner by Dollar General is terrible. We need crosswalks and something to make vehicles aware of pedestrian crossings. I worry about our kids riding their bikes around town.
- 10) Having a bike path that goes from the nature park to Scheid Park would be a wonderful addition. It would also allow for a boardwalk over the wet lands.
- 11) Need to have more choices with CABLE COMPANYS!! We pay to much and the service stinks
- 12) It would be nice to have and ice-skating rink for winter park activity, Frisbee golf course in one of the parks and a canoe rental.
- 13) Thank you for the opportunity to offer input.
- 14) Replace the current cable company
- 15) I would like to see our parks become open to all residents of Saranac without barriers keeping children and adults with physical disabilities from enjoying them
- 16) maybe purchase, improve(?) harrington field; pavillion bridge public access
- 17) maybe purchase, improve(?) harrington field; pavillion bridge public access
- 18) If this plan; to replace all overhead utility lines throughout the Village with buried cable goes someplace, then fiber optic cable should be included for cable tv and internet access. Have bike lanes or paths connected to each park.
- 19) please do not build walk way through wetland it would disturb the nesting geese and swans and other wildlife
- 20) We love the nature trail and that it is also kept cleared in the winter months, so people can still walk in there in the winter time. Thank you.
- 21) Connect the nature trail to Scheid Park!